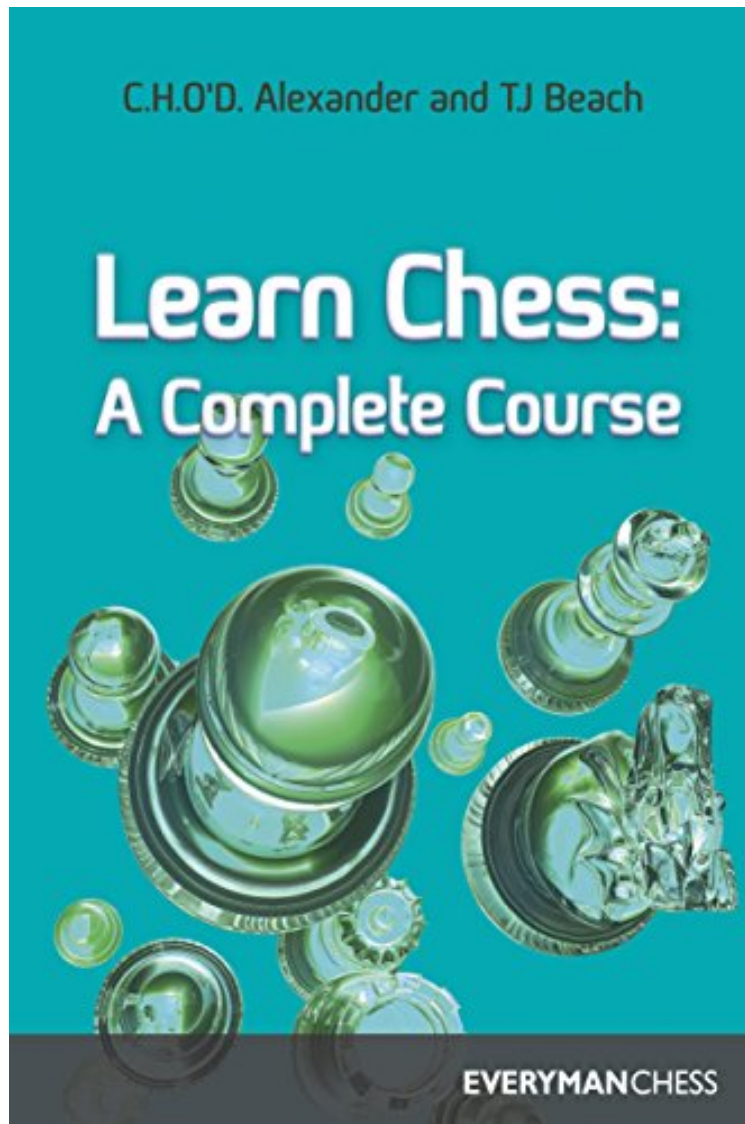


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Everyman Chess : Learn Chess: A Complete Course before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Learn Chess: A Complete Course:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book for chess beginners to intermediate players By h-bondI first came across this book when I was in graduate school, about 30 years ago. At the time I was a perennially hapless beginner who lost to nearly everyone. My rating was under 1200. After completing the book my rating increased to 1700, which is just above average for a tournament player. The reason for my success was the completeness of the topics in this book and the sound pedagogy. The book covers the obvious beginners topics in

volume 1(both volume 1 and 2 are contained in this volume). It includes notation, the moves and value of the pieces, elementary mates, and elementary tactics, and introduction to the opening, and elementary endgames. Volume 2, winning methods, explores each of these topics, but especially tactics and endgames, in greater depth. Of course many books cover these topics. What makes this book especially valuable is the teaching method. Instead of simply writing a long text with examples, the book is broken into small sections in which one or two brief topics are covered, followed by 15 or so different problems which help the student learn and master the topic. Chapters are ended with larger sets of problems that combine the various subtopics taught in the smaller sections. This approach makes it easier to learn the material. (Note that it is best to read this book with a chess board in front of you (pieces, too), although it is not absolutely necessary. Since I first used this book I've developed a chess library of over 200 volumes, but still haven't found a better for beginners and lower level intermediate players. Highly recommended. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This Book is Full of Exercises! Wow! By Denise Borum, JDI am very happy that I purchased this book. I have already practiced FEN and algebraic notation. I'm just learning both methods. I recently purchased a chess set, so I can use it to practice the plethora of problems in this book. I learned a long time ago that you have to practice often in order to master a subject, hobby, etc. You will get LOTS of practice with this book! The answers to the problems are provided. You will really improve your game with this book. I look forward to having my cup of coffee, my chess set, and this book by my side. I am going to complete every problem in the two volumes that are included in this book. Then I'll really play chess! You will be happy with your purchase. 17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. An excellent but tedious book By John Salerno Many years ago when I was a child I bought some random book on how to play chess and I learned two things from it: 1) how the pieces move, and 2) that it's often good to open with e4. I was too young at the time to really want to study it, but ever since then I've always felt the desire to learn how to really play and not just move the pieces around the board. Finally, I decided to put some effort into it and I chose Learn Chess: A Complete Course as my "first" book to learn from. (That old book is somewhere in my bedroom at home, but I consider this book my first real attempt to learn strategy and tactics.) So I'm evaluating this book from a beginner's point of view -- someone who basically knew how the pieces moved and that's all. Having said that, I would highly recommend this book for a beginner. It begins with how the pieces move, of course, and how to read and write chess notation, but these chapters are short and to the point and very quickly you'll be learning how to play. The book is divided into two volumes (which were originally two separate books): the first volume explains the basics, such as what your goals should be during the opening, how to attack, and how to win at the endgame. I think the most enlightening part of this volume for me was the explanation of the value of the pieces. This was something I had always wondered about and this book tells you (even in mathematical terms) what the value of each piece is relative to the pawn (and to one another); the second volume delves much deeper into strategy and tactics. You'll learn about forks, pins, skewers, and more. You'll also learn some opening lines and variations, and how to play some endgame scenarios. For all these reasons, it's an excellent book that really seems to cover everything (and more) that a beginner needs to know. But I must explain the second half of my review's title. This book is often very tedious to get through because it's not a book you can just sit and read. Granted, maybe most chess books aren't because they need to use examples to show you certain ideas, but this book is *loaded* with examples such that the body of the text for pages at a time is chess notation. There are, of course, diagrams as well, but following along with all of these (especially if you are a beginner) gets very tiring. So as thin as the book is, it requires a great deal of study and care when going through it. Also somewhat frustrating are the examples that say something like "Now imagine the rook on a8 is instead on b8." Well, unless you set up all these positions over and over on a chess board, you'll have to do a lot of imagining and keep a lot in your head. I'm good at doing that, but still, it just felt like a burden at times. I suppose what I wanted was a book I could read straight through so I would at least have all the basics down, and *then* I could go through examples to reinforce these basics. But this book is slow-going, and as I mentioned above, you won't even get to some pretty important ideas (pins, skewers, etc.) until the second volume. So all in all, if you are prepared to sit down and study with this book, I highly recommend it.

Learn Chess: A Complete Course provides everything you need to know to get started in chess. The first part is devoted to first principles, explaining the rules and basic strategies, whilst the second develops a thorough understanding of the various winning methods, and includes a systematic study of openings, an introduction to attacking techniques, and a guide to fundamental endgame themes.

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