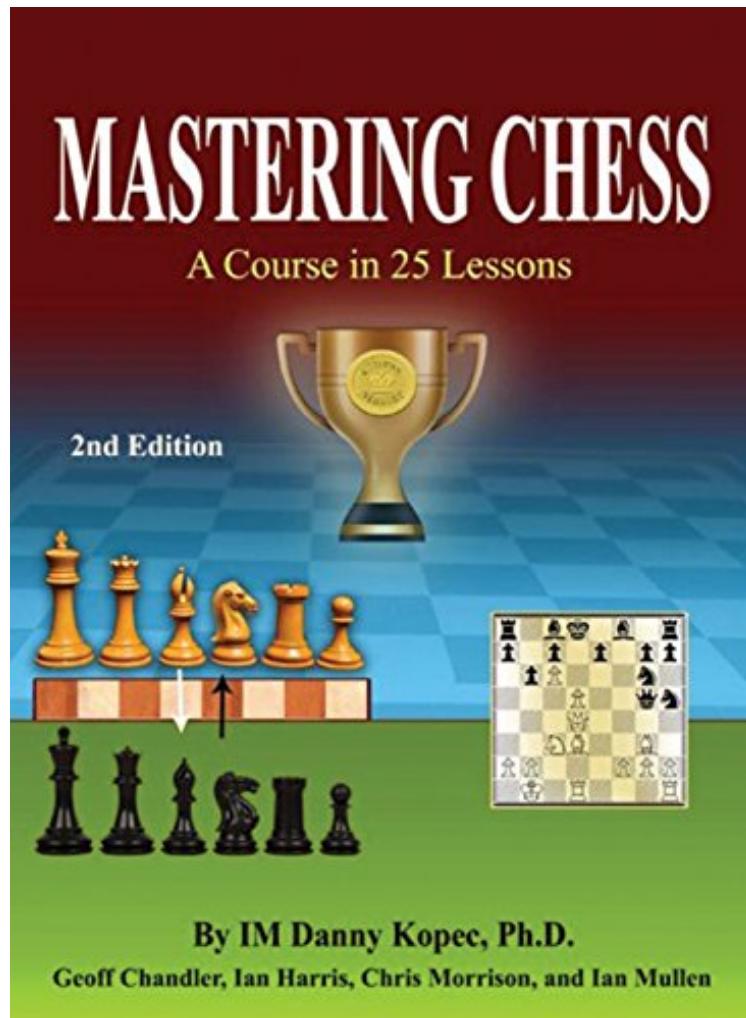


## Mastering Chess: A Course in 25 Lessons

Danny Kopec

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#1981534 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2014-12-01 2014-12-15 Original language: English PDF # 1  
10.00 x .69 x 8.00l, 1.19 #File Name: 1491277475270 pages Author: Danny Kopec Pages: 348 Publication  
Years: 2013 | File size: 25.Mb

**Danny Kopec : Mastering Chess: A Course in 25 Lessons** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mastering Chess: A Course in 25 Lessons:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good for beginners or someone new to the game. By voltron This reminds me of the book 'Idiot's Guide to Chess', but in a lecture format that covers a bit more topics. This book is probably best suited for Chess coaches who teach at the scholastic level and want a guide. .or a self learner who is learning about chess for the first time, It will cover all essential knowledge beginners should know, like basic tactics, combinations, pawn structures, development. The chapter has exercises at the end and also has move by move discussion of a game. My only real issue with the book is the font. The book I have is 2013 version but it uses a dot matrix font which makes it harder on the eyes, so I deducted a star for quality of the print. Overall nice book for

beginners, and chess instructors looking for a guide. Stronger players may not like this book. I have attached a picture of the font used in the book. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An Outstanding Chess Course! By Lenny MASTERING CHESS, by IM Danny Kopec et al., is indeed in its second edition, but it is also in the fourth printing thereof. As of this writing, I actually possess both the latest rendition and the earlier second printing. I am delighted to report that some of issues identified with the earlier release/releases have indeed been addressed, beginning with the dot matrix font to which Voltron alluded in his earlier review below. Moreover, the book has also been expanded somewhat to 288 pages. Of course, a single volume cannot possibly teach everything one needs to know about chess, yet Kopec and his colleagues do an admirable job presenting so much vital material tactics, strategy, and even specific theoretical principles for openings and endgames. The material is presented clearly, with precise explanatory comments and excellent illustrations from either contrived positions or specific games. Moreover, the authors provide a set of exercises at the end of each chapter, including four new tests added for the second edition. The problems cover a vast range in difficulty, from tactics I could solve at a glance to various positions that perhaps even grandmasters may not have understood as well as they should have. [Having flubbed one set miserably, I shall obviously need to study to those chapters more carefully!] While I find the entire work most valuable, I must call specific attention to Lessons 17-21 of Chapter 4, which address the problem of How To Formulate A Plan. So many club players reach tolerably good positions but suddenly come to the realization they don't have any idea how to proceed. I heartily recommend this section to those who have ever stared at the board and felt utterly clueless! All told, I am completely satisfied with this latest printing of the second edition. Problems with the print or font have been addressed, and the material is absolutely excellent. IM Kopec is perhaps too modest in his Introduction, in which he suggests the work is geared toward the club player (1450-1750). I would extend that rating strength through Class A (1999 USCF rating). I truly wish I had had such a text 50-odd years ago!

Mastering Chess is a unique book in that it covers the essentials which every aspiring chess player must know well (from Novice to Expert) to reach the chess Master level. The first edition was popular for some 20 years (from 1985 - 2005) while in print with four different publishers. It has been rated one of the five best chess books of its kind. Each Chapter of this new edition has new material added and the book has essentially doubled in size. Each Chapter includes new Exercise positions with solutions. Besides being a self-study self help book, it was designed for chess teachers and chess courses. First there is a spritely written 1st Chapter on Tactics and Combinations by Geoff Chandler of Edinburgh Scotland. Mr. Chandler has updated his popular work with observations of play and missed opportunities from Internet play. The 2nd Chapter introduces a new author (Life Master Ian Harris) and a new approach to how openings can be learned. It presents Dr. Kopec's idea that openings can be learned from the perspective of the following five goals: 1) Development 2) Center Control 3) King Safety 4) Space and 5) Material Balance. Dr. Kopec has been espousing this idea for a number of years in his lectures and chess camps. If effective, it is a novel way of teaching a subject that entails volumes and volumes of books over a number of centuries! Mr. Harris has developed this Chapter spanning some 50 pages in conjunction with Dr. Kopec. Dr. Kopec has added new material to his Chapter 3: How To Analyze a Position including lessons on the topics: The Point Count Method, Grand Central Station, and Don't Believe Everything Your Computer Tells You. New exercises have also been added at the end of this Chapter. Chapter 4 (by Chris Morrison) has also been extended with an additional lesson entitled "Good and Bad Pieces" and number of additional exercises. Chapter 5 (by the late Ian Mullen) has been extended with a lesson entitled "More Advanced Endings". This Chapter has always proven very useful for teachers and courses on the endgame. The material is suitable for players from Novice to Master! There are also additional exercises for this chapter. Finally, there is a new Appendix B: including Mastery Lessons by the World Champions which presents games by World Champions illustrating their skill in at least one of the five Chapters of the book: 1) Tactics and Combinations 2) Opening Principles and Ideas 3) How to Analyze a Position 4) How to Formulate a Plan and 5) Essential Endgame Knowledge.

About the Author Daniel Kopec (1954-2016) was an American chess International Master, author, and computer science professor at Brooklyn College. He graduated from Dartmouth College in the class of 1975. Kopec later received a PhD in Machine Intelligence from the University of Edinburgh. With Ivan Bratko he was the creator of the Bratko-Kopec Test, which was one of the de facto standard testing systems for chess playing computer programs in the 1980s. Kopec was one of the most talented home-bred players in the US. Dr. Kopec was New York High School Champion at 14, National Master at 17, Scottish Champion in 1980, 2nd-equal in the Canadian Closed in 1984, and International Master in 1985. He was an active player, journalist, writer, chess educator and scholar. His competitive results with top-flight chess professionals were remarkable. He delivered many chess courses, lectures, published seven highly recognized chess books, and developed eight highly regarded instructional videos (18.5 hours). Over the past 16 years Kopec's Chess Camp, had become world renowned. In parallel with his chess career, Dr. Kopec had pursued an academic career in computer science with research in artificial intelligence, software methodology, and computer science education. For more than 20 years Kopec tested and evaluated hundreds of human and machine

chess players in the UK, Canada, and US in order to quantify their overall chess strength, their specific deficiencies and definite abilities. In bridging his chess and academic interests, Kopec developed a reputation as perhaps the worlds greatest exponent of chess knowledge.