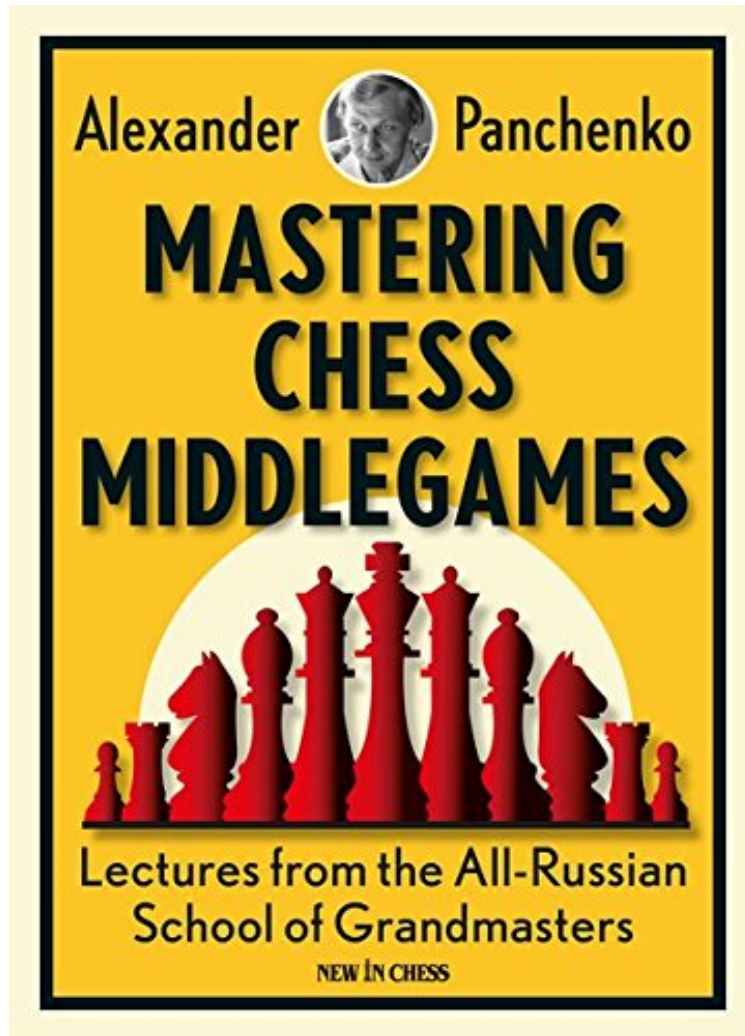


## Mastering Chess Middlegames: Lectures from the All-Russian School of Grandmasters

Alexander Panchenko

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#328412 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2016-01-07 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.21 x .69 x 6.651, 1.10 #File Name: 9056916092240 pages Author: Alexander Panchenko Pages: 240 Pages Publication Years: 2015 | File size: 79.Mb

**Alexander Panchenko : Mastering Chess Middlegames: Lectures from the All-Russian School of Grandmasters** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mastering Chess Middlegames: Lectures from the All-Russian School of Grandmasters:

26 of 27 people found the following review helpful. A Great Stepping Stone By Xavier J. Caro, M.D. As I am a chess aspirant with precious little time to devote to study of the King's game I am glad to have moved beyond the "simpler" books of this sport. In my attempt to transition to tougher learning material I thought this might be a reasonable

stepping stone. After all, "Russian lectures" about mastering the middle game; what more could one ask for? Well, be prepared for an E ticket ride for sure, though it will be different than you might think. First, the "lectures" are actually rather sparse and too general to be considered much more than passing remarks. The heart of the book rests on the annotated games which have been carefully chosen and organized to emphasize particular points, and on the "Positions for Solving" and "Position for Playing" at the end of each chapter. And, with regards to these "Positions," it's worth mentioning that I have never liked chess puzzles, as I find them a bit artificial and too much like a "test." But, these "Positions" are not aimed toward those ends, but instead to demonstrate how a chess master would think and proceed in the given position. It is exciting and satisfying to gradually comprehend the underlying concepts in this book and put them to use in one's own games. All I can say about those Russians is that they may be short on the talk, but they are definitely long on the "doing."

20 of 21 people found the following review helpful. It is a very good book with great example games but if you're quite ...By curious reading I'm not sure this book is for a beginning player. It is a very good book with great example games but if you're quite new to chess there are probably better options. The author focuses on a theme for a particular chapter and follows the chapter with a series of problems in which you must follow similar motifs to those corresponding with the specific games given throughout the section and with the chapter overall. This seems a viable way to learn, though a certain rating, I think, is taken for granted in understanding moves and the depth at which one must calculate. It often seemed the case that in order to rip open a position and take advantage of a given structure the examples called for a player to see 5, 6, 7, even more moves in advance. This required calculation, in conjunction with the necessary understanding of positions in order to recognize combinations makes the puzzles difficult for one who has not attained a certain level of play prior to studying this book. I do not know what the rating criteria I speak of would be for this book but I am quite new (approximately 1450 ELO) and I struggled to solve many of the puzzles. Another thing I thought could be improved is the layout of the puzzle solving portion. The author basically gives you a position and says "white to play, spend 45-90 minutes." I do not think this method is inherently bad and it probably cultivates a good deal of learning and positional understanding but if we have a motif or position which is expected to be solved by players of a skill rating of 1800 or higher and the reader is 1400 or 1500, or even lower, I believe there are other books which may be a bit more fruitful with respect to improving play. Overall, this was an excellent book. I am just not sure it is the best book for lower-rated, new players. I gave it five-stars because I felt it was unfair to judge the book on something it does not try to be. It probably isn't the best thing for a new player, and I don't think it is aimed at them. Other than that issue, the book is excellent.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Chess Book By God of Thunder This is an excellent chess book. Will have to thru it carefully to pick up all the info on the various positions.

Grandmaster Alexander Panchenko (1953-2009) was one of the most successful chess trainers in the Soviet Union, and later in Russia. Panchenko ran a legendary chess school that specialised in turning promising players into masters. The secret of his success were his dedication and enthusiasm as a teacher combined with his outstanding training materials. Panchenko provided his pupils with systematic knowledge, deep understanding and the ability to take practical decisions. Now, Panchenko's classic *Mastering Chess Middlegames* is for the first time available in translation, giving club-players around the world access to this unique training method. The book contains a collection of inspiring lessons on the most important middlegame topics: attack, defence, counterplay, realising the advantage, obstructing the plans of your opponent, the battle of the heavy pieces, and much more. In each chapter, Panchenko clearly identifies the various aspects of the topic, formulates easy-to-grasp rules, presents a large number of well-chosen examples and ends with a wealth of practical tests. The brilliance of Alexander Panchenko's didactic method shines through in this book. It is hard to give better advice for ambitious chess players than to follow this tried-and-tested and highly instructive road towards mastering the chess middlegame.

"The deeper I went into the book, the more fresh and fascinating material I found (...) There is a lot of highly instructive material crammed into this book, which can be used for self-improvement and by trainers and coaches also." (Sean March *CHESS Magazine*) "After the positions to solve are given, a selection of positions to play out is given as well. This is something Panchenko was renowned for: having students play out positions against one another during training sessions (...) it's certainly one of the best training manuals I have cracked open in quite some time (...) Not only should those seeking to improve their own game purchase this book, but coaches should as well." (Chris Wainscott *ChessIQ*) "I really enjoyed this book. It provides you with a very systematic way of looking at chess middlegames (...) Extremely instructive, with many fresh examples." (Daniel King, Grandmaster) "The best theoretical work and practical advice on the subject of the middlegame." (Artyom Timofeev, Grandmaster) "Wonderful (...) highly instructive." (Elburg Chess s) "An instant classic." (B.H. Wilders *Nederlands Dagblad*) "The author uses examples where there is no obvious way to think of the right move. A glorious queen sacrifice followed by checkmate in two is not available but a sly pawn or king move is often the answer which makes you think (...) I can happily endorse Panchenko." (Gary Lane, *International Master Chess Moves Magazine*)