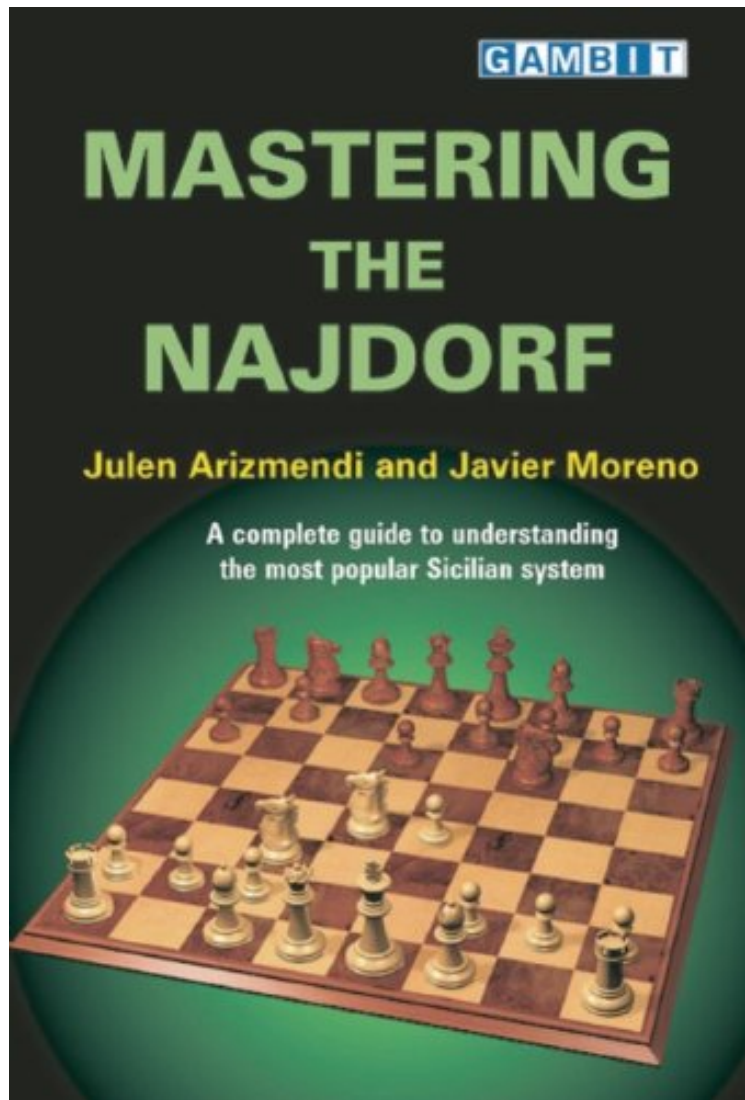


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## Mastering the Najdorf

*Julen Arizmendi, Javier Moreno*  
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**Julen Arizmendi, Javier Moreno : Mastering the Najdorf** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mastering the Najdorf:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Must have book for learning the Najdorf By Wayne I think anyone who is attempting to learn the Najdorf should get this book. There are a lot of insights into some of the variations that I haven't seen from other sources. 14 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Mastering What? By Johnathan Ok, moving past the title... this book is great attempt at providing a repertoire for Black based around playing 6...e5 for all of Whites main alternatives to 6.Bg5 and 6.Bc4. I feel like this could also have been a nice excuse to trim

the book down a little (a la, transpositions to earlier chapters in the book). After 6.a4 it would seem that 6...Nc6 would be a more pertinent line to follow but, 6...e5 does the trick even if at times leading to somewhat drawish positions. In the english attack (6.Be3 or 6.f3) 6...e5 is the only move covered. This was somewhat disappointing to me as I have been fascinated by the move 6...Ng4 for some time now. This move however, is covered extensively in Sammaivuo's book "The English Attack" which I have just recieved and also recommend. Another important decision in the book was to recommend 7...Qc7 after 6.Bg5,e6 7.f4, thereby avoiding the dense poisoned pawn variation. This is just fine with me and I have since come to appreciate the pawn structure that arises after 8.BxN so much so that I will also try for these positions in a Classical Sicilian or other variations. I would guess that this book is best suited for amateur players who have some time for serious study. This book helped me to realize how little I knew about the Najdorf. Part of the problem is that most people I play (online blitz or even class C or B players at the club) don't follow any critical lines. Another book that has helped me "polish the stone" in this regard is Rogozenko's "Anti-Sicilians: A Guide for Black", as I run into these systems more and more. I'm at 1567 USCF. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Mastering the Najdorf Review By Paul Edvalson This book is really good however, it is a bit deep and complex. If you put in the time though you can be get decent results. It has excellent chances of a win against white. White has to play accurate and aggressive to play for a win even in the endgame, black has chances. Fischer, John Nunn, and Kasparov has used the Nadjorf. this book is really good showing about 55 games with the possible strategic and tactical themes. Even good players can lose against the Najdorf if its played right.

The Najdorf is the most popular line of the Sicilian Defence for a very good reason: Black can play for a win without taking undue risks. The Najdorf's fundamental soundness has been confirmed in countless top-level games, and in particular by Garry Kasparov's successful use of it throughout his career. White has tried a wide variety of approaches against the Najdorf, including quiet positional lines and the traditional main line with 6 Bg5. Recently the idea of a rapid kingside pawn advance has found favour. The Najdorf's landscape changes rapidly, and this presents its devotees with a complex task: they must not only keep up-to-date with sharp theoretical lines, but must also have a firm grasp of the strategies that underpin the main systems, both old and new. This book lends a helping hand to those who play the Najdorf or wish to take up this complex opening. Two Najdorf experts from Spain present a flexible repertoire for Black, including a wealth of original analysis of the critical variations. They also explain the key ideas behind the Najdorf, focusing on those plans that are most relevant to modern practice.

From the Publisher Gambit Publications specialises in chess and has an unrivalled reputation for originality and editorial excellence. The company is owned and staffed entirely by leading chess masters and grandmasters. About the Author Julen Arizmendi is a Spanish international master with two grandmaster norms. He is an experienced writer, and part of Jaque and Teora's editorial staff. He represented his country at the 2002 Olympiad. Javier Moreno is a grandmaster from Spain who has worked with Anand and Shirov, and was a member of the Spanish Olympiad team in 2000. He has contributed to the magazines Jaque and Gambito.