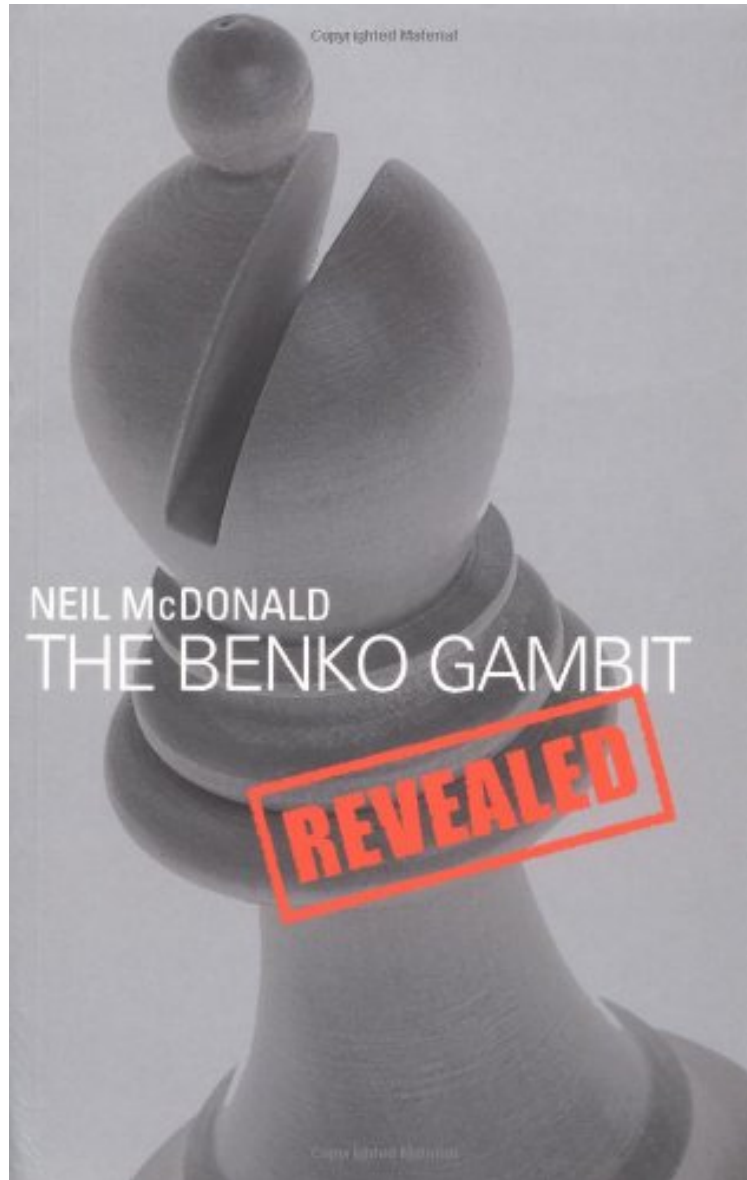


[Mobile ebook] The Benko Gambit Revealed

## The Benko Gambit Revealed

*Neil McDonald*

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**Neil McDonald : The Benko Gambit Revealed** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Benko Gambit Revealed:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent introductory book on the Benko GambitBy RLBellThis is an introductory book on the Benko Gambit. If you are looking for a book to get you started playing the Benko, this book is excellent tutorial for that purpose. Neil McDonald does a better than average job of explaining the

fundamental themes, strategies and reasoning behind the moves of this fun, aggressive yet solid opening. If you find other defenses to 1.d4 to be rather boring or tedious, I recommend giving the Benko Gambit a try. There is nothing boring about this opening; and it provides Black with good chances for launching a strong (typically on the Queenside) attack. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. An excellent start in the Benko By Wallace H. Hannum This book is a great place to start for players wanting to understand this gambit. "The Benko Gambit Revealed" is a fairly quick read but has enough theory for club players to wheel out the Benko with confidence. In particular, McDonald does a very good job of explaining the kind of compensation that black traditionally gets for the gambited pawn. One of the strongest points of this book is that the reader is taught standard tactical motifs as well as the fundamental strategic ideas. This will help the reader understand WHY certain lines are more critical than others. As well as which ideas are more consistent with the philosophy of the opening. Rather than demonstrating long lines, McDonald attempts to explain the unlying ideas behind the theory. This approach often leads to "feel good" books that are one-dimensional. However, McDonald does a good job of maintaining objectivity while being informative enough to keep the book from being too 'light'. Overall, the book is a success because I think the reader comes away from this book with a terrific sense of what the Benko is about. Still, it will be necessary for stronger players to review material from other sources (such as Informator, New In Chess, etc.) in the most critical lines (e.g. Ephishin's 10.Rb1 in the fianchetto line). But for the average chess player there is ample coverage and don't worry in most lines McDonald is able to demonstrate at least adequate compensation for the pawn. Having spent years reading almost every book on the Benko available in English (and trust me, there have been quite a few) this book is the one I would recommend for players looking to start playing this system for Black. It is inspirational and informative. Be sure to pay attention through to the last chapter since that's where most of the theory is listed and serves a good transition into a more rigorous work some players will need to feel completely comfortable. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Worth a look By Johnkr I would agree with the Hannum review in most respects. This 2004 book is a good introduction to the opening for players coming in with limited experience. He inspires the new practitioner with the dynamism of the opening; uses some fun illustrative games, and avoids pedantic lecturing; BUT he might not be systematic enough for some -- no ECO codes. Having spent more time with the book since my first review and spent more time studying the Benko, I feel that the opening is on a bit of shaky ground. The White g3 variation and the king-walk variation are challenging to meet, at least so far as I, as an Expert, can tell. Some recent books among the many Benko books, such as Kasparov's, start right out with level-headed GM opinions saying as much. MacDonald DOES ultimately get to the 'crunch' variations and does honestly portray Black's difficulties, but he does it nearer to the end of the book than the start. There is the occasional annotation gaff. Almond-Palatnik should have seen White keeping his advantage, as you can verify with Fritz. I'd say this book is right for stronger class players up thru experts.

The Benko Gambit, named after the Hungarian player Pal Benko, who pioneered it, has long been a favorite opening of dynamic tournament chess players. This entertaining guide is part of a series that treats openings in a fresh new way. First Moves leads you through the basics as you start the gambit. Tricks and Traps reveals the secrets of catching out your opponent. And Whats Hot divulges the very latest ideas from the champions. A detailed table summarizes the main variations, with assessments.