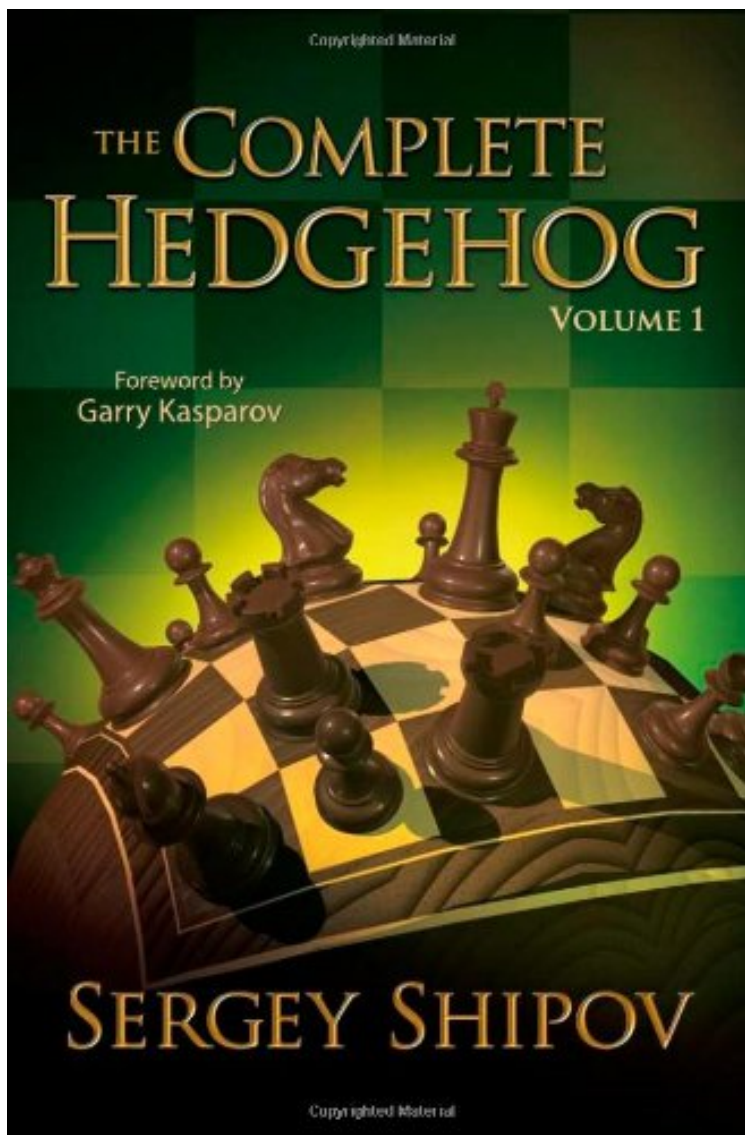


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## The Complete Hedgehog, Volume 1

*Sergey Shipov*

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**Sergey Shipov : The Complete Hedgehog, Volume 1** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Hedgehog, Volume 1:

44 of 44 people found the following review helpful. There aren't enough stars in the universeBy GoosemeyerGood grief it's hot in the kitchen for opening writers these days. If you want to write a best of breed opening manual you are going to have to beat this one. Good luck.This is spectacular. The book you have dreamed of. I hope you like playing or defending the Symmetrical English or you are going to miss a real treat.In one concise, readable, staggeringly well

organized book Shipov has introduced to readers the inner truths of the English Hedgehog. He does this in the best way possible - by showing you the development of ideas in the opening over time so that you can see how the theory developed and why good moves are good and others are inaccurate. In excruciating detail. The games are all deeply annotated (with words) and beautifully chosen to illustrate his points. No stone is left unturned. 7.d4 and 7.Re1 are about equally represented. Shipov loves the Hedgehog and wants you to play it as Black but he teaches it in the context of White's plans, so the book is equally useful for the White side. This is a very reasonable plan because the Hedgehog is a reactive, opportunistic opening and White's successful plans are limited and very deliberate. This book is very very accessible but will doubtless be clutched by many a Master. The production quality of the book is unsurpassed. We have a new top flight publisher it seems. Perhaps the most remarkable and unfamiliar thing about this book is its elegant and engaging prose style. It is a pleasure to read such a wonderful meld of playfulness, passion and precision. It is almost literary in character, reminiscent of but perhaps surpassing Mihail Marin. The author has embraced this project in a spirit of true generosity and his good intentions color every page. This Russian might just have written the most exquisite chess book in the English language!

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. should be titled "modern chess strategy" By qiexia This book is worth twice what you'll pay for it even if you never play the hedgehog. It contains the most lucid explanations of advanced strategy I've ever seen, and every facet of strategy spins out of the hedgehog in one place or another - space, the center, well-timed pawn breaks, initiative, king hunts, handling knights, handling rooks, kingside and queenside attacks, forming a plan, what to do when there's nothing to do, and on and on. The writing is as energetic, inspired, and fun as is possible in a chess book. Among other things, white must play c4, d4, g3, and not e3 in order for the line to appear in this book. The depth of treatment is so heavy that only a chess professional (it seems to me) can spend that much time on what can't be more than 20% of their opening repertoire. But the time is well spent if it's seen as studying chess rather than studying the hedgehog. The opening, when it does show up, is quite attractive. I like how it steers the meat of the game to move 35 instead of move 25, and the strange way that black's winning chances often show up as an inevitable consequence of white trying to win.

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. This is a stalker opening By Jerome Lewis I enjoyed this book after reading the first two sections. I will update the star rating when I complete it. This is not a defensive opening that establishes CONTROL of the centre or either wing for Black. You must develop PATIENCE and MANEUVERING ABILITY like Petrosyan...be ready to react when provoked! The Hedgehog defense is a stalking one against e4. Black aligns his pawns and pieces to open up the position with moves b5 or d5. White meanwhile has freedom to command the centre and space majority. The critical point is reached when the decision is made for attacking and counterattacking, which is initiated by white..or black! Words of warning...This defense is not for the faint-hearted or planless player! Black usually only has kingside castling ability and White may castle queenside and parlay all resources on the Black king (see chess books on The English Attack). Shipov provides guidance dealing with this attack and others in this book but, putting this theory into practice will depend on YOUR play! Also the author is adamant about "move-order" tendencies which help Black avoid complications VERY EARLY and convinces White to launch an attack ahead of schedule....to his peril! All in all, this is a very easy opening to learn and leads to very DYNAMIC positions. It is not a guaranteed win for either side (which opening really is?) but makes the struggle arduous (blow for blow) requiring calculation and creativity (who says chess isn't artistic?). This is a theorist/player's dream, full of positional, strategical and tactical variations at each turn and works against whichever opponent you may face. Chessplayers can definitely have some fun after learning the BASIC piece placement and maneuvers (every piece has a specific role and position in the Hedgehog) for this opening. Enjoy ya'll!! More to come later.....

The Hedgehog is a thoroughly modern defense where flexibility and understanding trump rote memorization. Using deeply annotated critical games from international practice, GM Sergey Shipov traces the Hedgehog's development - from its origins as a way to avoid well-trodden paths to its current status as a respected weapon in Black's armory. The Hedgehog has been adopted by the likes of Tal, Larsen, Adams, Kasparov, Kamsky, and Karpov. Drawing on decades of experience playing this defense, Shipov has put together much more than a simple opening manual full of variations. The author meticulously explains strategic themes, typical formations, move-order subtleties, and explores the thorny question: Is the Hedgehog a theoretically sound opening - and does that really matter? Along the way, the reader gets to see the mind of a grandmaster hard at work, and is treated to a lesson on one of the most important skills in chess: how to evaluate a position. Shipov shares his approach to chess and life, and his passion for both, in this entertaining, philosophical, and highly readable work.