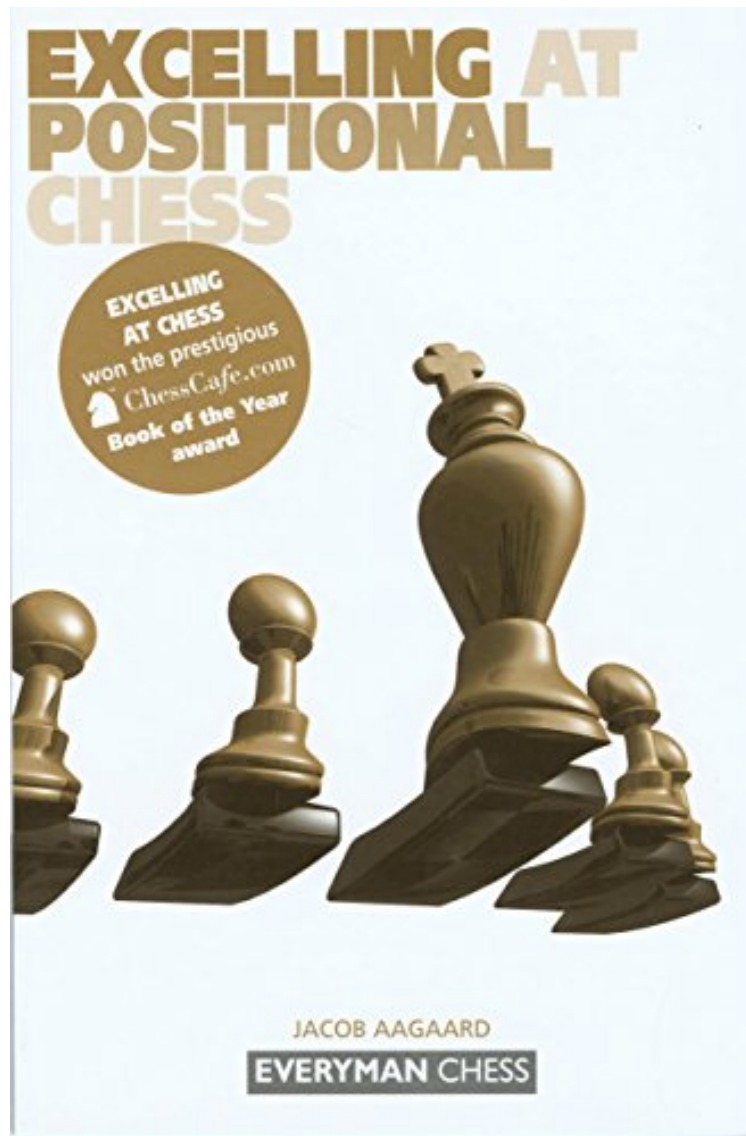


[Download] Excelling at Positional Chess (Everyman Chess)

Excelling at Positional Chess (Everyman Chess)

Jacob Aagaard

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Jacob Aagaard : Excelling at Positional Chess (Everyman Chess) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Excelling at Positional Chess (Everyman Chess):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Takes you to the next level By Mr. Get Real The author, Jacob Aagaard discusses his quest for more advanced instructional chess books: But wherever I looked for such tools I found only outdated ideas. Of course a good place to start is a Nimzowitsch classic, but the nature of positional chess seems to me to be far more complicated than the great father of the Danish chess tradition had envisioned. (page 26). This

book does a great job of directly addresses a critical void that I am very aware of in my own games the point where you are out of the opening and it is time to commit to a middle game plan of action. I realize that many of the classics actually address these questions, but it is often difficult to fully transfer general principles to the specifics into your own games. That is exactly where this particular book comes to the rescue. The second half of this book presents you with 108 diagrams in the form of positional exercises. And it is in those positional exercises that you will gain the most out of this book. Why? Because instead of passively reading about theory the exercise format here forces you to do that analysis on your own just as if you were sitting across from an opponent during a tournament. The idea is that you work through the positions on your own and then flip the page to find out if you were on the correct path. I tend to spend about 30 minutes on each one. I typically can identify at least two or three potential candidate moves, but it is often not clear which one is the best or why. Other times I am not even close to the best plan and learn I was not even looking in the right place! Jacob Aagaard provides excellent explanations for why a particular move or idea is the best. Each and every time I come away with a very CLEAR UNDERSTANDING of what the best plan is and WHY. I cannot over emphasize the value of this. I can walk away with new found knowledge that sticks with me because of the real time spent struggling with an actual position - not just theory, but real-life application. I can actually see myself grow as I work through the exercises. This is exactly where my game needed guidance. and there are 108 of these exercises! That is a lot of potential growth!!! I realize that there are many other books that offer exercises similar to this one i.e. what is whites next move, etc. The difference is the quality of the explanations. With Mr. Aagaard you are getting first-rate Grandmaster advice coupled with very focused, concise and articulate annotations not too much information and not too little just the right blend. In any case, it works for me. This is what I was looking for. After this book I want to get all the other books in this series. I look forward to a lot of improvement. Some reviewers suggest that this book might be too advanced for some players. I do not see that at all. You just have to pay attention. Passively reading and flipping pages is not the way to approach this book. You will need to work through all the positions several times. Aagaard always gives you enough information, but does expect you to struggle and work at it in order to learn, otherwise what would be the point? In any case, I have yet to come across a comment or annotation in this book that could not be understood with some reasonable effort. You don't want an "easy" book, but one which will stretch you in the right places.=====Addendum:I have since acquired the two "Attacking Manual" books by Aagaard. These are also excellent. He expands upon the ideas presented in this book in regard to specific mating attacks. I suggest you check out this series as well. Good stuff! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One of the clearest books on strategy! By JekyllHydeClub I assumed previously that strategy is all tedious and my little 1600 brain would never be able to get "it". But Silman's articles warmed me up to the subject by showing connections between strategy and tactics and I started looking for a good book. I had to reject most candidates, Dvoretzky went over my head, most of the others did not reach the middle level to my mind. But here is a different solid approach combining elements of positional theory with some practical and realistic positions on the board. I don't know if I understand Aagaard fully yet, but it is certainly fun trying and applying the ideas to my own games. Even during blitz, which happens to be my weakest spot, I found myself playing more solid moves, the kind that doesn't lose right away as a I tend to do under the pressure of time. If you want in on the fun, this is probably one of the best guides on strategy for mid levels you are going to find, well, anywhere! 74 of 75 people found the following review helpful. Very Good, but Very Advanced By Damon Slye About one-third of the book is positional instruction by the author. I enjoyed this portion. It includes some good insights into the game. The heart of this book is 108 positional exercises. I like these types of books. I have found that chess puzzles, whether tactical or positional, are the most effective way to improve my playing strength. There are unfortunately not many chess books with positional puzzles (as opposed to tactical). Among the ones I know of, this book is certainly the most advanced. I believe the puzzles are geared toward players with a playing strength of 2100 USCF/FIDE and over. For example, some of the problems are from Grandmaster games in which the GM failed to find the solution! My major complaint with this book is that the problems are not organized by difficulty. So some of them will be fairly simple, while others may stump Grandmasters. This can make training with the book difficult, because I don't know how long to devote to a particular exercise. I don't want to waste 30 minutes on a single puzzle if it's one of the GM stumpers. If you are looking to improve your positional play in chess, I would recommend selecting a book based on your playing strength: 1400-1600: "It's Your Move", by Chris Ward 1500-1900: "The Reassess Your Chess Workbook", by Jeremy Silman 1700-2100: "Can You be a Positional Chess Genius", by Angus Dunnington (this one is my personal favorite!) 1900-2300: "Test Your Positional Play", by Robert Bellin and Pietro Ponzetto 2100-2700: "Excelling at Positional Chess", by Jacob Aagaard (the book reviewed here) So, for advanced tournament chess players looking to improve their positional playing strength, I recommend this book.

Positional chess remains a mystery to many and yet an understanding of the finer points of the game so often makes the difference between two equally matched players. Improve your positional play and you will see chess in a totally new dimension! In this unique book, International Master Jacob Aagaard selects many original examples of positional chess, the crme de la crme of those that he uses for training and study. Aagaard also delves deeply into the ideas of

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