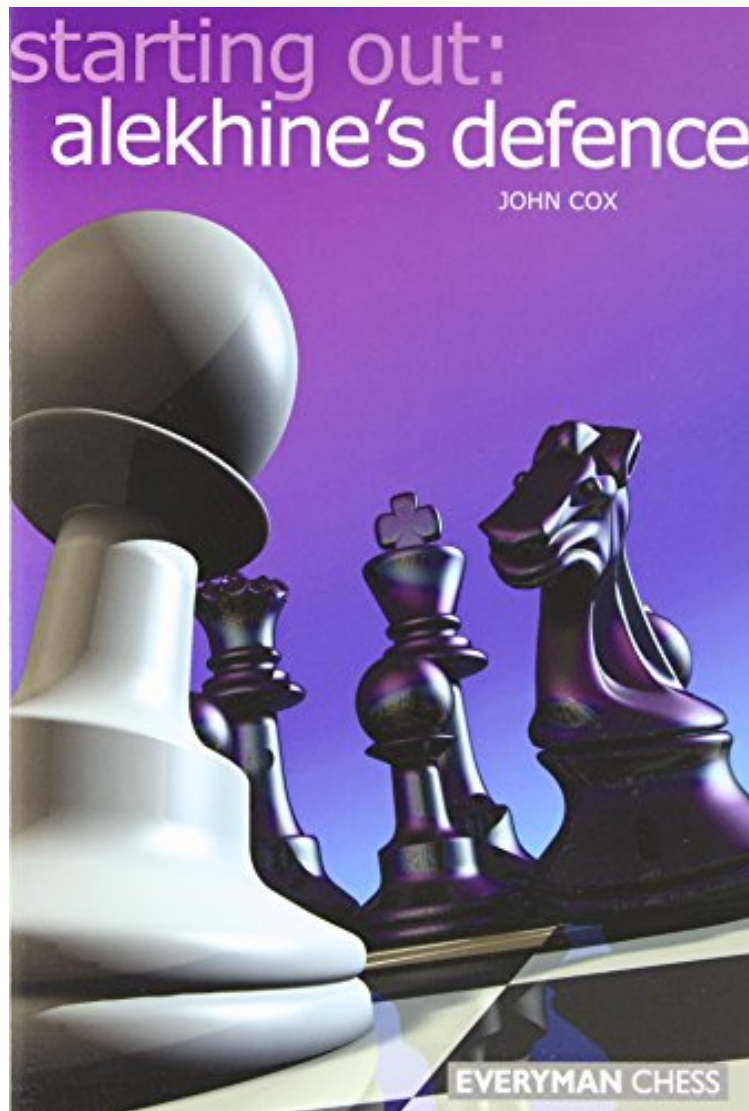


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Starting Out: Alekhine Defence (Starting Out - Everyman Chess)

John Cox

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John Cox : Starting Out: Alekhine Defence (Starting Out - Everyman Chess) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Starting Out: Alekhine Defence (Starting Out - Everyman Chess):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent intro to the Alekhine that's showing some age By Christopher J. Falter I wanted to try a sound defense to 1. e4 that would give me dynamic play (so I could play for a win against weaker players), but not be super fashionable (so I could hope to ambush a stronger player). As an 1. e4 player myself, I always found the Alekhine a tough nut to crack. Now matter how hard I have tried to throw a wet

blanket over the black position, my opponent always seems to find active play. Moreover, elite GMs like Carlsen, Svidler, Ivanchuk, and Ponomarev have played the black side in the past few years. So I bought Cox's book to help me start playing it--and have not been disappointed. Cox starts the book by offering suggested repertoires for both white and black, based on their style of play (non-theoretical, positional, or tactical). The remainder of the book is well-analyzed illustrative games, divided into chapters corresponding to the major white systems against the Alekhine (Exchange, Chase, Modern, Four Pawns, and unorthodox approaches like 2. Nc3). The book is chock full of useful advice, like the importance of castling queenside for black in the Miles Variation (1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 dxe5 5. Nxe5 c6) if white trades queens. Because the book is too short to include a sample game for every major idea in the Alekhine, Cox covers these ideas in the analysis of the early moves of the sample games. Since his analysis is sufficiently brief, I did not feel like I was getting lost in an overgrown thicket of lines and evaluations. As I was investigating some of Cox's analysis, I came to the realization that subsequent analysis has overturned some of his suggestions. For example, against Kasparov's gambit in the Miles Line (1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 c6 5. Be2 dxe5 6. Nxe5 Bf5 7. g4 Be6 8. c4 Nb6 9. b3 f6 10. Nd3) he opines that black comes out on top by accepting the gambit pawn on d4 (10...Qxd4). However, take a look at Cheparinov - Narciso Dublan 2009 and you will see white sac the exchange on top of the pawn--and crush black. Of course one expects that subsequent play will turn up shortcomings in an opening book published 8 years ago, so I do not blame Cox per se. In spite of its age, I can recommend Cox's book for club players who want an introduction to the Alekhine, since the repertoire suggestions are useful, and you will learn the big ideas behind the Alekhine Defense. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nicely written By R. J. Cova I have been playing the Alekhine for a long time and Cox's book has really helped my updating on the subject, and view the opening from different angles. Its friendly, easy reading format is most suitable for us blokes with little time to study chess. I find the first pages particularly helpful, where non-theoretical, positional, tactical and solid repertoires are suggested. I recommend studying this book together with other books on the Alekhine, as Cox frequently refers to them. For example, I have previously gone through Nigel Davies' "Alekhine's Defence", where he recommends 4...c6 as a side-stepping variation for the Kengis: 1e4,Nf6. 2e5,Nd5. 3d4,d6. 4Nf3,c6. I fancied this line. In contrast, Cox does not recommend such choice (page 28)...(I ended up agreeing with Cox on this one! A lovely book. Five stars. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good Collection of Master Games - but occasional sidelines have errors and outright blunders By ForkeyHorsey This is a good masters' game reference for the main lines of the Alekhine Defense, but some of the sidelines presented have errors in notation (what really is being said?) or the sideline presented has an outright blunder even though it is recommended as a playable line: (page 24 13. Qxa7 is -playable- but then Qxe2#). Sort of disappointing for a "starting out" book; I want to know about the sidelines to fully understand the reasons the masters played the lines that they did.

In this easy-to-read guide, openings expert John Cox goes back to basics, studying the essential principles of Alekhine's Defence and its numerous variations. Throughout the book there are an abundance of notes, tips, and warnings to guide improving play

From the Back Cover Alekhine's Defence is a sharp and controversial opening in which Black attacks from the very first move, provoking White into lunging forward in the center. White is often able to construct an impressively large central pawn formation, but Black's hope is that this becomes over-stretched and disintegrates in the face of a vicious counterattack. Unsurprisingly, Alekhine's Defence has always been a favorite amongst uncompromising players such as Fischer and Alekhine himself, while more recently it's been utilized by the likes of Ivanchuk and Short. In this easy-to-read guide, openings expert John Cox goes back to basics, studying the essential principles of Alekhine's Defence and its numerous variations. Throughout the book there are an abundance of notes, tips and warnings to guide the improving player, while key strategies, ideas and tactics for both sides are clearly illustrated. *User-friendly lay out to help readers absorb ideas *Concentrates on the key principles of Alekhine's Defence *Ideal for the improving player