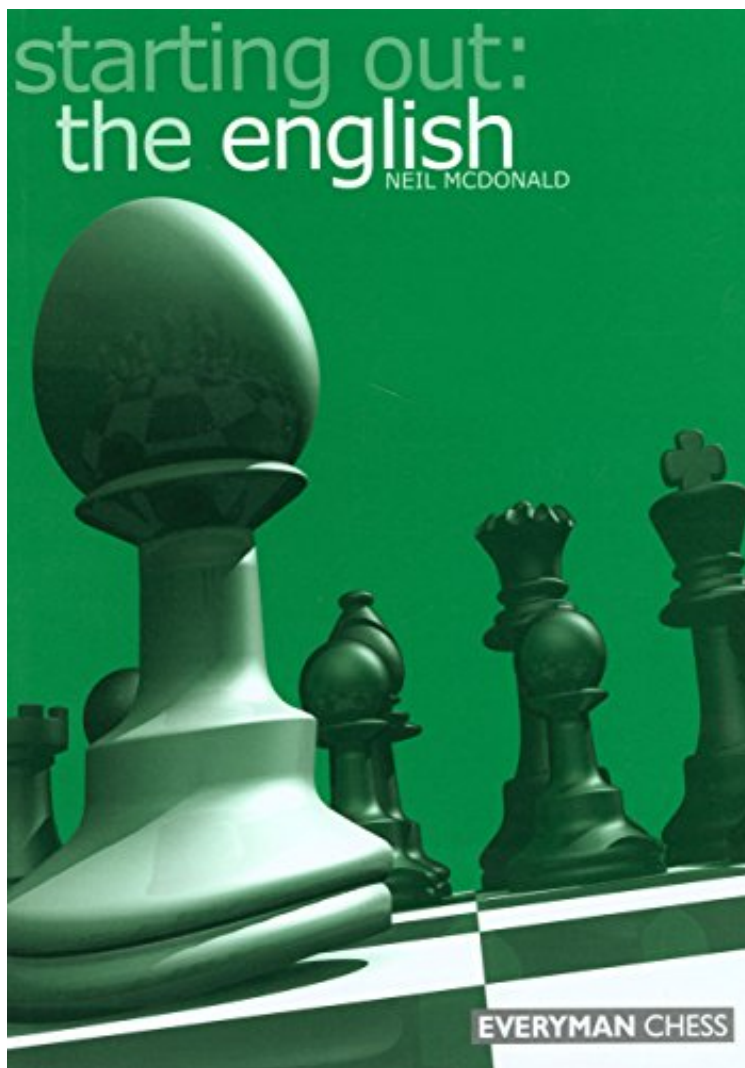


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Starting Out: the English (Starting Out - Everyman Chess)

Neil McDonald

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Neil McDonald : Starting Out: the English (Starting Out - Everyman Chess) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Starting Out: the English (Starting Out - Everyman Chess):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Fantastic Introduction with Practical Examples By David MilliernI am not sure why there are any neutral (non-good) ratings for this book. It is excellent. It is everything you want out of a Starting Out book: it provides the basic theory, ideas behind each variation, contains all the main variations (Stonewall, Classical, and Leningrad) of the Dutch, and it has practical examples from complete games that illustrate the ideas. Plus, this book does a great job presenting the dangers(!) as well as the benefits of the opening. By playing a line thats less drawish, you will open up your chances to win as much as lose, and McDonald gives a hefty dose of

reality to potential players when it comes to this subject. One thing that readers should be aware of is the fact that the organization of the book might confuse you at first, but hang in there; he has good reason for setting up the book in this way. I started playing around with the Dutch in online blitz games, while I was going through the book. There are some very annoying responses that white will play more often than you'd think, and these tricky lines are covered in the first few chapters. If you don't know what to do against these, to begin with, you will be smashed, especially in quick games, because the 1. f5 push weakens the kings. Even if you read the three abovementioned primary lines, these other tricky lines will be devastating, if you don't have some clue about them, one being the Staunton gambit, which Botvinnik, as Dutch specialist, avoided! In sum, I can't think of a thing that this book is missing. My zealous and obsessive study habits allowed me to read and understand the content in 3 days, so I think this book is digestible to most readers in, probably, a two-week period, going at steady pace. Before covering the tricky lines, I went 1-2 with Dutch in online blitz games, afterward, I think I am up to either 8-0 or 10-0, the primary reasons being that I understand the ideas of this opening (thanks to this book) and surprisingly few 1.d4 and 1.c4 players do. (After hearing that a friend, USCF rated 2050, had his only win against a 2300-level player with this opening, I thought it worth looking into; this book has proven a good start.) Additionally, I think that McDonald does a fine job of keeping the writing of the book enjoyable, possessing some flair for expressions and turns of phrase, which is refreshing. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. somewhat eccentric but fun! By sleepless I've been curious about this opening for some time and knew that anything from the Starting Out series would be a comfortable place to start. The three sections are very well explained as the author knows his stuff. I found I had a lot of the book's games that had been annotated by the ChessPub site and it was interesting comparing the comments. It was fun trying the easier Classical Dutch in some club level games against a Reti and an English but the Leningrad will have to wait. Worth a look! 18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Exemplary work on dutch By I. Knezovic I have a few books from Neil McDonald, and they are nice works, especially the book Starting Out: The English. But I was really pleasantly surprised with this title. Chapters are written in best possible order for new Dutch fan to follow, starting with nice introduction, then some offbeat chapters, which are nevertheless funny to follow, especially for the new student to incorporate them for future use, and following are three main parts of the book. In every game of every chapter there is a lot of explanations of plans and warning of possibility of cheap tactics. Book is written out of love for the opening from the author, and that is immediately felt. Unlike many of today's opening books unfortunately. My recommendation.

Ideal for those wanting to understand the basics of the English Opening. The English is a sophisticated and popular opening system that is suitable for all types of players and can lead to both positional and tactical middlegames. Many of the world's top players, including Kasparov and Kramnik, include the English in their openings weaponry. In this groundbreaking book, Grandmaster Neil McDonald revisits the basic principles behind the English and its many variations. Throughout this easy-to-read guide the reader is aided by a wealth of notes, tips and warnings from the author, while key strategies, ideas and tactics for both sides are clearly illustrated. This book is ideal for the improving player. * Written by an openings expert * All the important lines are covered * A back-to-basics look at one of the most important openings

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