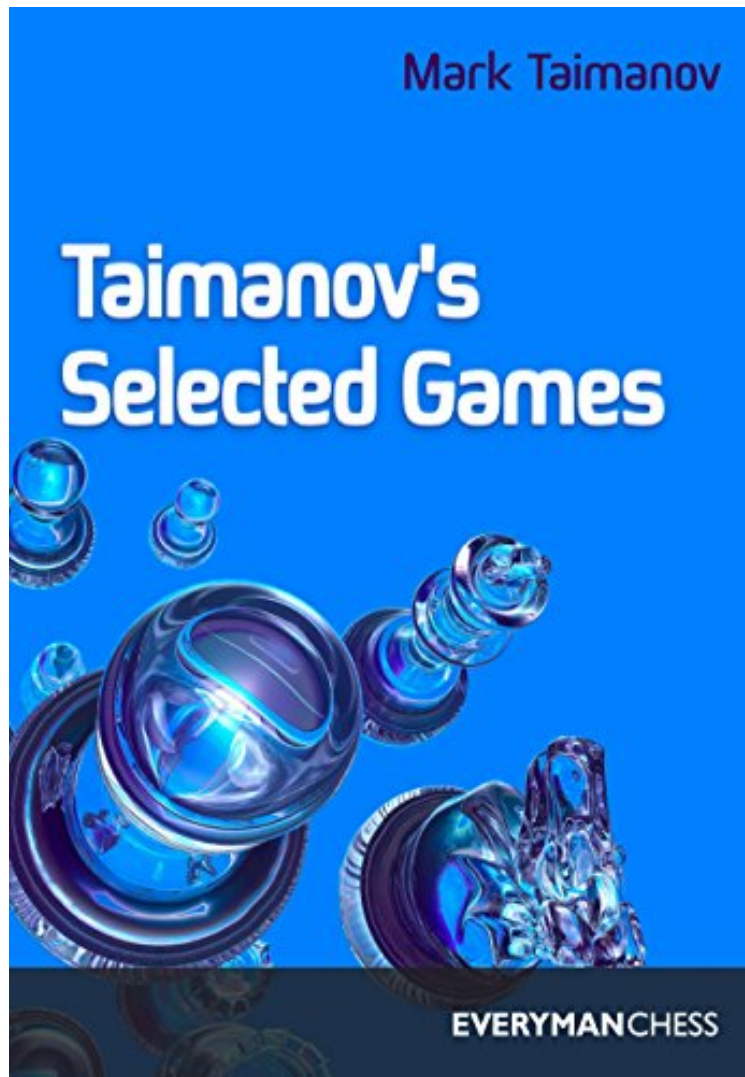


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Taimanov's Selected Games

Mark Taimanov

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Mark Taimanov : Taimanov's Selected Games before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Taimanov's Selected Games:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Mark Taimanov is a chess writer worth discovering By Dan McCourt While I don't play chess in the style of Mark Taimanov, I found his writing to be interesting and very readable. Any chess player looking for a writer who discusses strategy as both a personal and a practical approach to the game will do well to read this book. Information about chess under the Soviet system and about Mark Taimanov as a person and a world-class pianist presents the reader with a bonus. Mark Taimanov and translator Ken Neat have presented chess players with a classic work. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A harmonious blend of

games collection instruction manual
By iman
This is a games collection from one of the top Soviet players opening theoreticians. It stands out from most by avoiding the unimaginative chronological ordering followed by almost every other author. Instead Taimanov arranges them according to themes motifs:
1. Games won... at Home (opening preparation)
2. Strategical concepts in opposition (monographs on the KID, Sicilian, Nimzo)
3. Storming the Royal Fortress (uncastled, castled, attack with reduced forces, counterattack)
4. By Technique Alone
I have heard the instructional value of games collections extolled many times; but this is the ONLY games collection I have ever seen that fulfills this promise. It is much easier to understand themes when they are presented along with their related variations - rather than at random. Why has no one else copied this structure? I would take issue with the classification 'for intermediate or low-end advanced players' - it would be valuable for anyone without a title, and for many with! One insight I'd never come across before - "In positional play the accumulation of advantages usually proceeds via their transformation".
Complementing the structure is the clear concise writing style, somewhat similar to Capablanca's in his Chess Fundamentals. Unlike Capa, Taimanov conveys a range of emotions in his annotations that I have only seen from Tal Bronstein. He writes engagingly of two games against Fischer, but ends by admitting that he does not want to probe deeper, because the memory provokes too much pain.
Overall the book manages to convey the authors theoretical insights, competitive record emotional demons - you could not ask more.
36 of 37 people found the following review helpful.
One of the Best Games Collections I've Read
By Brian W. Kulik
I read this book after I read Tal's "Life and Games" and I was surprised at how much MORE I learned after all of Tal's instructive commentary. Taimanov is a master at the harmonious coordination of pieces, but I was surprised to find his applied to both positional (by grabbing space) AND tactical (by well-coordinated attacks) situations, often following up the former with the latter. The book is divided into thematic chapters, such as various attacks on the king and a clear treatise on technique (i.e. turning a small advantage into a win). Taimanov's comments are crystal-clear without getting bogged down in analyses of variations. It's amazing how someone can, with a few words and a variation of only a few moves, explain a difficult position. Tal can do this (he's the best), and with this book Taimanov shows that he can too. And like Tal, Taimanov (and Kotov, for that matter) can make his excitement for chess contagious. This is one of the best games collections I've ever read.

Grandmaster Mark Taimanov is one of the most consistently successful players of the post-war era. A grandmaster since 1952, he twice qualified as a Candidate for the World Championship and his numerous tournament victories include the Soviet Championship in 1956 and the World Veterans' Championship in 1993. Taimanov has made many significant contributions to opening theory and is the author of numerous openings books. In this highly instructive book, translated by Ken Neat, Taimanov presents an annotated selection of the best games from his long and illustrious career. This title contains 60 deeply annotated games and reveals Taimanov's personal approach to chess. The games are grouped by strategical motif to maximize instructional value.

From the Back Cover
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