



## What others are saying:

“Western players, even those who become quite strong, often have holes in their game because they didn't develop systematically. Exactly how to fix these problems and build a strong foundation isn't so easy. Until now there was no diagnostic tool, but IM Igor Khmel'nitsky, who learned the fundamentals in his native Ukraine, has filled this gap with his new book ***Chess Exam and Training Guide***. I believe this book will prove helpful for students and teachers who want to get an objective idea of their strengths and weaknesses and how to correct them.” **John Donaldson**, International Master, director of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club

“... ***Chess Exam and Training Guide*** offers you an exciting opportunity to accurately check your chess level using an amazing collection of classical and modern examples. Great explanations help you to improve your tactic and strategic understanding while your work your way through the *Test part* of the book. The *Training Guide part* is your golden opportunity of getting the most useful and practical advices... training and book recommendations” – **Boris Alterman**, Grandmaster, former advisor to **Garry Kasparov**, 13<sup>th</sup> World Chess Champion, advisor to **DeepJunior** program.

“**Igor Khmel'nitsky** has a unique ability to take complex chess positions and make them easy to understand” – **Joseph Casey Jr.**, Class C.

"... reading through this book is as close to receiving personal coaching in text form as I have experienced for quite some time, and I highly recommend it." - **Andy Ansel**, *Book Reviews for Chess Today*.

“I have often met **Igor Khmel'nitsky** over the chess board throughout the last decade. He always impressed me with his understanding of the fine intricacies of the game. Now the **secret is revealed**. Read this book and learn how the different aspects of the game - strategy and tactics and knowledge of the endgame - come together to make a good all-around player. With patience and dedication you can travel down the same road.”- **Alex Yermolinsky**, Grandmaster, former US champion, member of the US Olympic team.

“This test is the next best thing to having your **personal chess coach!**” – **Dr. Ivan Misner**, founder and CEO of BNI International, best-selling author, co-author of *Masters of Success*

“What sets this book apart from other chess quiz books or multiple choice books is both the varied level of difficulty of the positions and also the informative statistics showing the distribution of answers by players at all levels. With this data you can immediately spot if a student does not have the required knowledge that others at his level (or the level above!) do. Also, many of the problems are what I would call “indicative” problems which represent some special piece of chess knowledge, and not just “play and win” or “play and draw” situations. In that sense Igor’s book is comparable to **Lev Alburt’s** excellent *Chess Training Pocket Book*.” - **Dan Heisman**, Coach, Author of *A Parent’s Guide to Chess*, host of *The Renaissance Man* on Chess.fm

“***Chess Exam and Training Guide*** is a puzzle book with a twist. All significant aspects of the game are tested in a clear and systematic way. The training ideas and book recommendations are right on the money!” - **Alex Shabalov**, Grandmaster, 3-times US Champion

"The Book is fantastic. I own 100s of chess books and this def. makes the top 10. Maybe top for problem books. ... I finished the book. It predicted my rating to within about 30 points and I learned that I am much better at strategy than I had realized but much worse at calculation and tactics than I thought. So now I'm working my weaknesses and researching strategic openings. " - **Brian Karen**, Expert, admin @ Internet Chess Club (ICC)

“***Chess Exam and Training Guide*** is ideal book for chess players of all levels. Those who like the serious and scientific approach will focus on evaluating their skills via special testing. Others who prefer the lighter approach to studying chess will enjoy the no-nonsense explanations and excellent selection of problems. I am strongly recommending this book to my students.” - **Lev Alburt**, Grandmaster, former US Champion, Best-Selling author, Renown coach.

(Over Please)

"I am enjoying your book, I use it as an instructional book more so than a test. The explanations are great. Probably one of the most instructive books I have - very "meaty"..." - **Mark Knerr**, class B

"...Thanks to the reports I got upon completing the test, it is easy to see where to place my precious chess study time. Now that I know the road to improvement, I'll try to convince my chess students to take this test..." - **Bob Lynch**, Class B, elementary school chess coach

"Take this book seriously and you will get **honest answers** to your most crucial chess questions – where you are at now and in what directions you should be going!" - **Igor Foygel**, International Master, 30+ years of chess coaching in Ukraine and Massachusetts.

"An invaluable book for improvement and probably the best of its kind--no one else is even close. Why? Because Igor places positions and questions on his website and gets thousands of answers. So his stats for your rating are quite good (almost the same as OTB), so his recommendations can carry the weight of a private tutor but at much less expense. Igor will be with us at our Chess Festival IV"– **Bob Long**, Chessco International

"... In addition to showing my weaker areas, also very helpful was a list of specific books and software products to use to help me improve. I highly recommend taking the test..."- **Paul Clift**, Class A

"I can say without exaggeration that if I had to give up all but one chess book of the dozens and dozens in my collection, your book would be the one I would keep, because it provides the most useful learning in the shortest amount of time. ... As a currently unrated player who has been away from tournament chess for more than 30 years, I am using your book to assess my game prior returning soon to active play. It is proving to be a very important tool and is saving me hours and hours of time by quickly zeroing in on the things I need to work on most." - **Bob Newell**, Unrated

"This book clearly shows what parts of the game you may want to improve and then tells you how to do that. I recommend this book to all my students!" - **Jaan Ehvest**, Grandmaster, former World Championship candidate, president of *Ehvest Chess-Gates LLC*

"Excellent work. ... Your book has encouraged me to look so much deeper into each position than I normally did.... I think your format of dual questions for each problem has motivated me to look deeper and get a clearer understanding of what exactly is going on in the position. These problems would not be half as worthwhile if not for your excellent explanations. Short, concise and exactly to the point. There is nothing wasted, nothing added that is not necessary to completely understand each and every problem.... I have an extensive chess library and I feel this book is the best and most cost effective addition I've made. I have gained so much for so little. Thanks so much for your effort." - **Earl Wutt**, Class C.

"I love this book. I may not be a highly rated player but I am a very experienced consumer of chess improvement books ... I know the book is primarily intended to evaluate a players week spots and offer training suggestions, but for me, the test alone has another positive affect. The test problems induce me to analyze deeper than I ever have before.... I am impressed with the problem selection. They are interesting and varied, but most are within my capability to understand. ... I have never played in a rated tournament but I am very close in skill to my friend who has a rating of 1500 USCF ... I really do like this book. I hope you are able to get it out to a wider audience" - **Greg Fiegen**, Unrated

"This book seems very well researched, and delivers on its promise. It will do a good job of judging your chess strength, and more importantly, pinpoint areas where you need improvement." - **Don Aldrich**, *Book Reviews for Chess Today*.

"...I fulfilled, the most seriously I could, the 200 questions and was very impressed by my results. (I must add that I give this test great importance because I have always worked on chess alone through many books.) "Chess Exam" gave me an average Elo between Master-Expert (which is exactly my current French Elo rating) but detected a very weak spot in calculation: here I obtained just middle-class C score. I was not surprised because I suspected this weakness in my play but till this day I had no tools to measure how important it was. Now I know. Therefore the next months to come I want to work very hard to eradicate this weakness which is very awful... Congratulations for "Chess Exam". I possess more than thousand chess books and I can say that, for the first time, I have read one from cover to cover." **Jean-Marie Robiolle**, Expert.