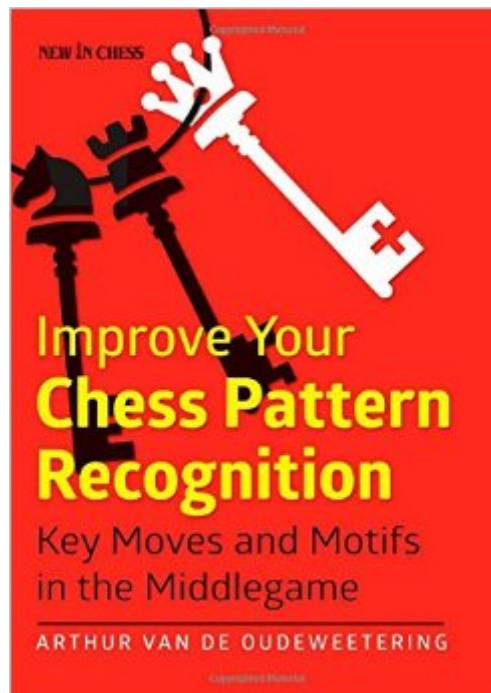# Improve Your Chess Pattern Recognition: Key Moves And Motifs In The Middlegame

Synopsis

Pattern recognition is one of the most important mechanisms of chess improvement. This is well known. But what does pattern recognition actually mean? And how can you improve at it?If you realize a position has similarities with something you have seen before, you are recognizing a pattern. This helps you to get to the essence of a position quickly and find the most promising continuation. To get better at recognizing chess patterns, knowing which positions are worth remembering will save lots of time and energy.In this book IM Arthur van de Oudeweetering supplies building blocks for your chess knowledge. In short chapters he presents lots of well-defined subjects, easy to remember because of their specific elements. After working with this book you will experience something wonderful: your mind and memory will be triggered much easier and more frequently. An increasing number of positions, pawn structures and piece placements will automatically activate your chess knowledge. As a result, you will simply find the right move more often and more quickly!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Chess masters see more possibilities on a chess board than I, an amateur. Why is that? Unlike the chess engines, we humans think in patterns, and the limited pattern "vocabulary" of the amateur makes him blind to the possibilities that the master can spot. In fact, an interesting blog post on "The Science of Chess: Fernand Gobet and the Einstellung effect" (Google it!) cites several studies where amateurs are unable to spot optimal continuations that grandmasters quickly see.Oudeweetering, an IM and excellent writer, has crafted a terrific instructional text that helps you

learn to see more possibilities on the board. Many of the 40 patterns challenge the conventional thinking that helped you become a competent player, but hold you back from mastery. Double my pawns on the a-file? No way! But pattern 19 shows that you can acquire many advantages from accepting doubled a-pawns: queenside pressure, a lead in development, the bishop pair.... A knight on the rim is often dim, but sometimes it can sharply restrict an enemy bishop (chapter 4). A seemingly undeveloped bishop on c8 can possess enormous dynamic potential, such that Kramnik once exchanged a beautifully centralized knight to rid his opponent of the loitering prelate on c8 (Kramnik-Dreev, Linares 1997, in chapter 12). Some of Oudeweetering's patterns are more conventional (a knight on f5 is a terrific attacking piece, chapter 2), but these are more the exception than the rule.In each chapter the author provides 7 or 8 examples of the theme from grandmaster play, with ample diagrams and analysis. Oudeweetering frequently cites brief examples from games not in the book, but present in a PGN database downloadable from the publisher's website.

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