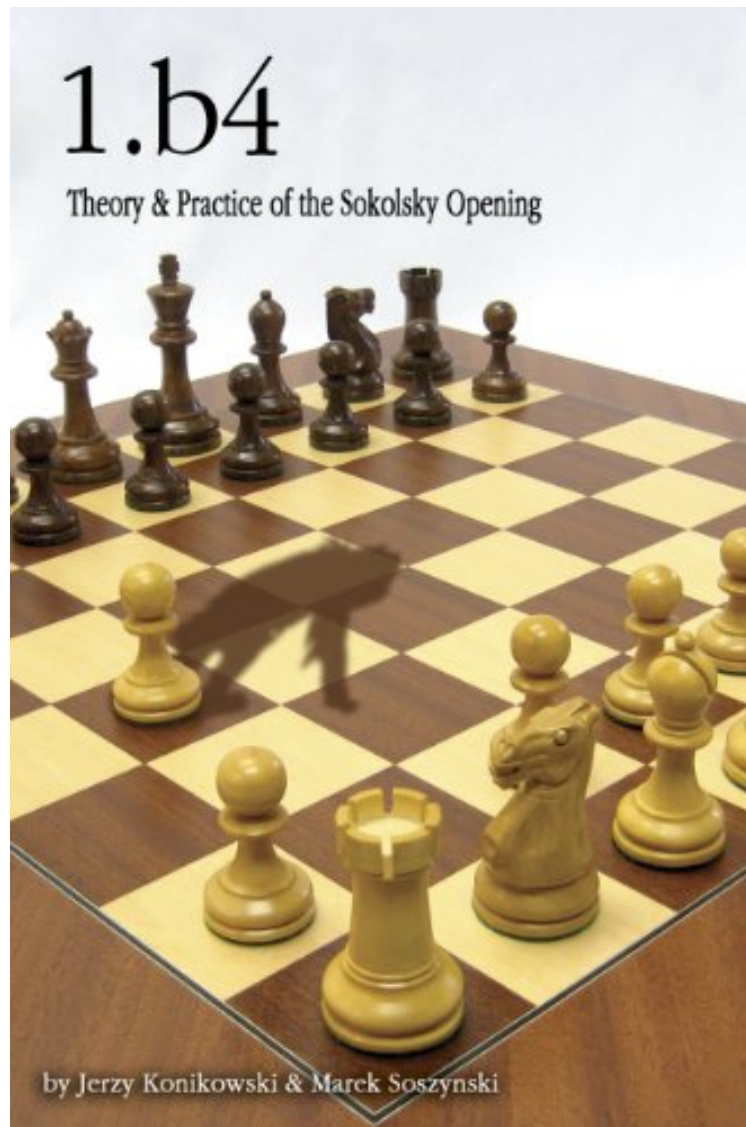


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1.b4: Theory and Practice of the Sokolsky Opening

Jerzy Konikowsky

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Jerzy Konikowsky : 1.b4: Theory and Practice of the Sokolsky Opening before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 1.b4: Theory and Practice of the Sokolsky Opening:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good Book loaded with alternate lines By volttron Good Book and loaded with alternative lines. I play unorthodox openings a lot as a surprise weapon, mainly during games under 30 and more often in Blitz (i know blitz is under 30) . What I have noticed is that many are not booked up in the opening, and find themselves in uncharted waters. This has several advantages, one is psychological since your opponent is in new territory, they wont have memorized lines and have to play with their creativity, and because many are not

booked up they kill more time thinking giving you a time advantage. The book is well written and has many many alternate line, you learn from the annotation the ideas of the plans, where to attack, where weaknesses exist and traps. But if you are new to this opening i would not start with this book. I would say this should be the third book in your armamaterium in mastering this opening. The reason being is all the alternate lines this book has can be time consuming and can get confusing unless your already comfortable with the main and routine lines. Three books I used to master this opening are Adrew Soltis book (first book you should study if you are new) it is a short book concise and you can learn many lines in a week and have a good understanding of the opening (only drawback is that it is dated and in descriptive notation, dont let the dated part scare you bc most are never prepped on this opening) The second book I would use is the everymanchess book. This book is intermediate, it cover the lines a little deeper and offers more common alternate lines and is well written and annotated. By the time you are done with these two books you will have a really good grasp of the opening and getting lots of wins. Now your ready to take on Really strong opponents 2200 and above, thats when this book works well. With the other two books you will have already mastered the main lines and alternates ans that makes using this book real easy bc you can now focus on the not so often alternates lines that they may throw at you. Overall a good book, but not really for someone new, the book is good for one that has a good understanding of the opening already and wants to take it to the next level.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ... a 1680-rated player and find this opening to be terrific if you looking for both offbeat and soundBy Diane S.I am a 1680-rated player and find this opening to be terrific if you looking for both offbeat and sound. The book "1. b4" has a wealth of analysis for almost every side-line you can think of. The Everyman book "Play 1.b4" is OK, but not as useful. BTW, black's best try is to just develop normally and then try to open the center. BUT, the positions reached are non-standard. The reader of the book will usually have an advantage. The move 1.b4 and (and often later b5) keeps the queen knight misplaced. White can hold this advanced pawn with e3, c4, and Nc3. Even if the pawn falls, Black cannot keep his extra (doubled) pawn on that side of the board. This opening is much fun for the prepared.21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Not bad at allBy E. J. ChamberlainThis book is one of only a handful of resources on this opening. The only other available sources I've been able to find so far are a series of archived articles on [...], an article floating around somewhere by Andrew Martin, another short article by Martin on the Jeremy Silman site, some mentions in various general unorthodox openings books, and another recent book that came out by Yuri Lapshun and Nick Conticello. I actually preferred the game annotations in the Lapshun book, but I found that this book covered some ground that wasn't in that book, with more detailed investigations into several lines. They are both great complementary resources. One of the great things about this opening is that there seems to be alot of "refutations" floating around in the chess community that are not as strong as the club players who play them think they are such as 1...c6, 1.b4 d5 2. Bb2 Qd6, and 1. b4 e5 2. Bb2 d6 3. c4 f5 (all three of these lines are well covered here) The mainline of this opening is also well covered, being broken up into two chapters with a wonderful explanation of the tactical issues surrounding the more dangerous territory that white can choose to enter with 4.c4.

Weird and wacky or safe and sound? The Sokolsky Opening is both. Sometimes the play is truly deviant both sides initial few moves all on the a-b-c files and the first pieces exchanged a pair of rooks at other times 1.b4 becomes merely a roundabout route to a respectable English, Reti, King s Indian or reversed French position. This book, packed with fresh analysis and 95 illustrative games, clearly shows that White can look forward to a rewarding albeit complex or unusual struggle. There s no need to dwell on the usual platitudes applied interchangeably to unorthodox openings, like a good psychological choice to get your opponent into unfamiliar territory. The Sokolsky, otherwise known as the Orangutan or the Polish Attack, is an independent opening whose merits are due to chess analysis not psychoanalysis. 1.b4 is sound, the refutations don t work, assessments are disputed, printed theory till now has been inadequate, White s aims are clear, and the practitioners have been world class. So what are you waiting for? Get out there and hit your opponents with the b-pawn!

About the AuthorJerzy Konikowski is one of the most prolific chess authors in the world, with dozens of publications n several languages to his credit. He holds the FIDE Master title as well as titles in correspondence chess and chess composition.