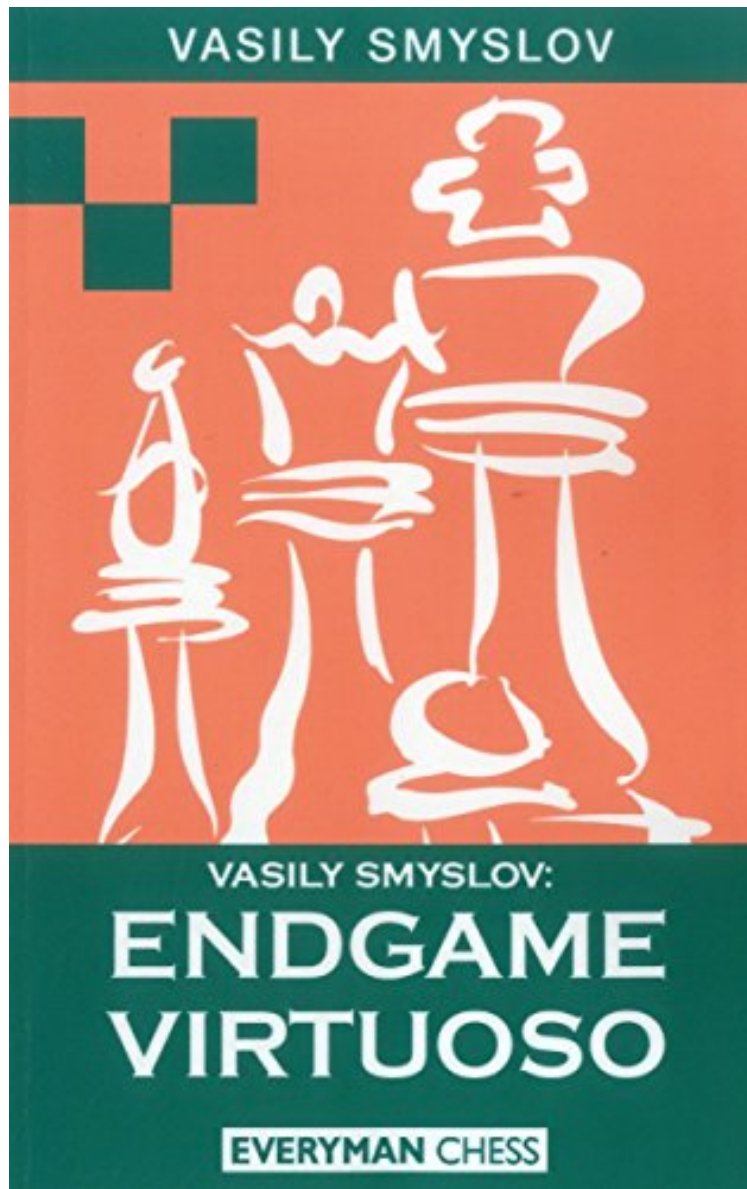


[Ebook free] Vasily Smyslov: Endgame Virtuoso

Vasily Smyslov: Endgame Virtuoso

Vasily Smyslov

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Vasily Smyslov : Vasily Smyslov: Endgame Virtuoso before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vasily Smyslov: Endgame Virtuoso:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great book.By VaziriI learned a lot about end game,great book.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Smyslov Is An Endgame Artist In The Same Calibre As CapablancaBy PRajVassily Smyslov was the World Champion who won the title against the "Iron Man" Mikhail Botvinnik purely on

the basis of his endgame abilities. Although a gifted tactician, Smyslov curbed his attacking zeal and realized a better strategy against the great Botvinnik would be to exchange Queens early, go for quiet positions and outplay Botvinnik in the endgame. Smyslov's playing style was characterized by simplicity, elegance, clarity and harmony. His games are an excellent teaching tool for players who want to improve their game. As Capablanca once said, "If you want to improve your game start with the endgame". I purchased this little book with great anticipation, and I was not disappointed. The book is by Smyslov himself, not ghost written as is usually the case with Russian chess books. The examples chosen to teach students are outstanding. Smyslov had a clear playing style, always seeking objective truth. This comes across clearly in this book and it is clear that he is very serious about helping students of chess to improve their endgame skills. It is not often you get lessons right from the mouth of a World Champion endgame artist. The price of this slim volume is low compared to the rich benefits any serious student of chess will get from it. Careful study of the positions in this book will raise your playing standard. 39 of 40 people found the following review helpful. Simplicity brings clarity By Andre E. Harding 1900 USCF player. This book was published in the 21st century when Fritz and Rybka, et al have become the ultimate chess authorities. I've never had a use for all of the analysis in books like ON MY GREAT PREDECESSORS because all of that analysis doesn't help me to understand chess any better. I also read reviews of many works where reviewers criticize books for having flaws discovered by computer analysis. Unless the book is a monograph on cutting-edge opening theory, this is besides the point for me: I want to understand the play and how to think. I don't think less of Irving Chernev's books because some engine doesn't agree with all of his analysis. John Nunn's endgame works are computer-checked, but I can't really learn much from them. Having said all of this, let me get to ENDGAME VIRTUOSO. I now understand how Smyslov reached the Candidates Final at 63 years old: the 7th World Champion relied on his feel and understanding of positions to navigate his way through games and tournaments, and one gets the impression that he did not so much think in variations, as much as he used variations to prove his understanding of the events unfolding before him. The book has sections on Pawn Endings, Minor Piece Endings, Rook Endings, Queen Endings, etc. and a section which contains dozens of complete annotated Smyslov games. Each game or game fragment will have some explanatory notes which identify the most important features of the position in question. Smyslov tells us why some positional factors have more significance in the given situation than others, and he will give a (brief) variation or two to illustrate this if necessary. There is no extensive branching of subvariations or the like. Smyslov goes through the fragment/game, anticipating his reader's questions which he answers very simply and elegantly. Smyslov is not attempting to find the absolute truth about the position, rather he is teaching his readers how to PLAY. How one increases pressure, deals with passed pawns (your own or the opponent's), activates the pieces, places the king, etc. This book will help you to think schematically about endgames first of all and it will help develop your intuition. I remember coming across this book years ago, when I was a few hundred points lower rated, and thinking it was "light." Now that I am approaching Expert level, I appreciate it a lot more. Simplicity brings clarity. It's no wonder Kramnik is such an admirer of Smyslov.

The endgame is a subtle phase of the game many ordinary players would like to improve. In taking the reader through over 150 instructive examples, taken mostly from his own games, Smyslov covers a very broad range of positions - and provides an excellent overall insight into the endgame as a whole. Unlike standard endgame manuals, which concentrate purely on the most basic and technical positions, this book has numerous examples with many pieces on the board - the type of endgame you are in fact most likely to reach. By learning from Smyslov's impeccable technique, readers will improve their own endgame ability - and results!

From the Back Cover The endgame is a subtle phase of the game many ordinary players would like to improve. In taking the reader through over 150 instructive examples, taken mostly from his own games, Smyslov covers a very broad range of positions - and provides an excellent overall insight into the endgame as a whole. Unlike standard endgame manuals, which concentrate purely on the most basic and technical positions, this book has numerous examples with many pieces on the board - the type of endgame you are in fact most likely to reach. By learning from Smyslov's impeccable technique, readers will improve their own endgame abilities - and results! Grandmaster Vasily Smyslov is renowned for his artistic mastery of the endgame, and his 1957 World Championship victory over Botvinnik can be largely attributed to his unique gifts in this aspect of the game. The winner of innumerable first prizes in international tournaments, Smyslov became, at 61, the oldest player ever to qualify for the World Championship Candidates Matches. Now in his mid-seventies, he still participates constantly in international events - with remarkable success.