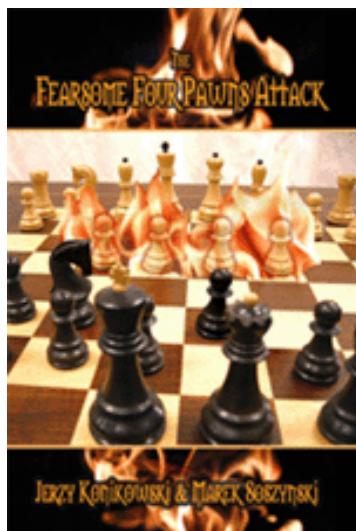




COLUMNISTS

Checkpoint

Carsten Hansen

*Rating Chart*

– A poor book.



– Not very good.



– A useful book.



– A good book.

Reviewed this month:

New In Chess Yearbook, Vol. 82

by Genna Sosonko (ed)

Beating the King's Indian and Grünfeld

by Timothy Taylor

King's Indian Saemisch System (CD)

by Boris Shipkov

How to Play the Queen's Indian (CD)

by Dmitri Oleinikov

*En Passant**My Best Games in the King's Indian (DVD)*

by Alexei Shirov

My Best Games in the Nimzo-Indian (DVD)

by Alexei Shirov

Starting Out: The King's Indian (CD)

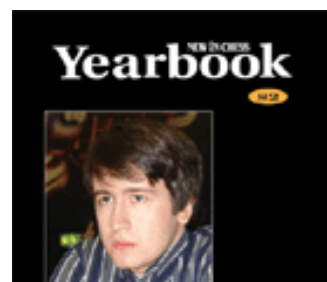
by Joe Gallagher

All Indians

Six of the seven titles reviewed this month deal with Indian systems. Four new releases focus on the King's Indian, plus we'll look at a DVD on the Nimzo-Indian and a CD on the Queen's Indian. The latest volume of the *New In Chess Yearbook* is also available, and its cover article, "Teimour Radjabov, the new champion of the King's Indian," fits in with our theme perfectly.

New In Chess Yearbook, Vol. 82 by Genna Sosonko (ed), Interchess BV 2007, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 246pp., \$28.95

The cover of this volume features a picture of Teimour Radjabov and proclaims him to be "the new champion of the King's Indian," and this is undoubtedly true, based on Radjabov's games from Wijk aan Zee. Other cover articles are:





– An excellent book.

- Old Tal move 12.Ne4 is back in the Poisoned Pawn
- Does Leko's gritty 11.Qf5 render the Alapin Slav toothless?
- Live footage of Mamedyarov's boost of a sharp Breyer line
- Sosonko shows slices of Bronstein's theoretical heritage



Sometimes it takes a little bit of searching to find the survey connected with the headline. So perhaps the publisher might consider printing the page numbers alongside the headlines or on the contents page.

As usual the contents are divided as follows:

- **Forum and Sosonko's Corner**
- Forum (15 submissions - 15 pages)
- Sosonko's Corner (6 pages)
- **Surveys** (31 surveys - 208 pages)
- **Service**
- Book Reviews by Glenn Flear (4 reviews - 5 pages)
- New In Chess Code System (1 page)
- Colophon (1 page)

Given that this is my twenty-sixth review of the *NIC Yearbook*, it is hard to say something new about the series. Nevertheless, the yearbooks are always packed with fresh information, interesting articles, fascinating surveys, and well-written book reviews. The contributors include grandmasters, international masters and well-known opening theoreticians.

This volume features surveys on the Sicilian Defense (7), French Defense (1), Caro-Kann (1), Scandinavian (2), Ruy Lopez (4), King's Gambit (1), Budapest Gambit (1), Queen's Gambit Declined (1), Slav Defense (3), Tarrasch Defense (1), Nimzo-Indian (3), Queen's Indian (2), King's Indian (2), and English Opening (2). As you can see, there are a wide variety of topics to spark your interest, and that's one of the many things I like about these yearbooks, you never know what you will find.

For the ambitious chess player there are few publications as relevant as this one, and if I wasn't reviewing them in this column, I would buy every issue. Highly recommended.

My assessment of this book: 

New In Chess Yearbook, Vol. 82
by Genna Sosonko (ed)

Beating the King's Indian and Grünfeld by Timothy Taylor, Everyman Chess 2006, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 222pp., \$23.95

In this title, American international master Tim Taylor offers a repertoire book for White against the



King's Indian and Grünfeld. The contents are as follows.

- Acknowledgements (1 page)
- Bibliography (1 page)
- **Part I: Beating the King's Indian Defence**
- Introduction (17 pages)
- 1 The Martz Variation (44 pages)
- 2 Black (or White) avoids the Martz Tabiya (26 pages)
- 3 The Liz Variation (28 pages)
- 4 Black (or White) avoids the Liz Tabiya (11 pages)
- **Part II: Beating the Grünfeld Defence**
- Introduction (3 pages)
- 5 The Knezevic Variation (26 pages)
- 6 Black avoids the Knezevic Tabiya (15 pages)
- 7 The Keres Variation (20 pages)
- 8 Black avoids the Keres Tabiya (21 pages)
- Index of Variations (3 pages)
- Index of Complete Games (2 pages)

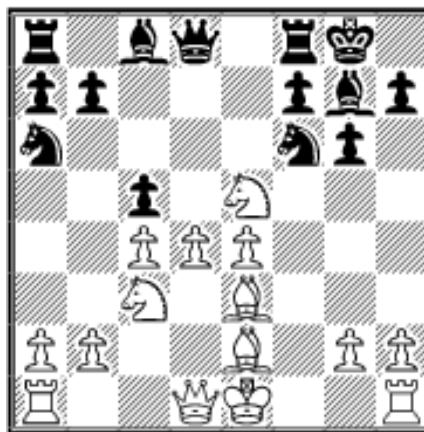


If you have no idea what variations Taylor is referring to, don't worry, neither did I. It seems that he took the liberty to name the lines as he pleases. The first is named after American IM William Martz, who once played the line against Petrosian in the seventies; the next is named after his wife, but he writes that he considered calling it the miniskirt variation, because his wife looks so good in one. Even the Knezevic and Keres variations didn't ring a bell, but then again, I have never really played the Grünfeld as Black.

As you can see, each opening has a separate introduction, but these should have been merged into one. The first, while rather fun and in some measure motivational, reads like it was written by an impressionable amateur. The second doesn't even address the line that he recommends for White. Instead, it relates why you should avoid the main lines as White, because you will need to memorize plenty of theory, and you may end up winning without having to think for yourself!

In the King's Indian Four Pawns, when Black plays the dynamic, yet solid, 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f4 0-0 6 Nf3 Na6, Taylor recommends a line that first made me think "you must be kidding me," but upon further reflection, I was forced to revise my opinion. Yet, even though Taylor may have taken the theory a little step forward, there are still some soft spots. For instance:

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f4 0-0 6 Nf3 Na6 7 Be2 e5 8 fxe5 dxe5 9 Nxe5!?, is supposed to be met by **9...c5 10 Be3**



Now after **10...Nb4**, Taylor recommends **11 Rc1**, and supports it with some reasonably convincing analysis. However, a less accommodating move is 10...Qe7!?. And upon 11 0-0 (or 11 Nf3 Nb4!?, 12 e5 Ng4 13 Bg1 Rd8, and White's position is rather uncomfortable), Black has the untried, but rather strong 11...Rd8!?. This seems to lead to a pleasant game: 12 Rc1 cxd4 13 Bxd4 Rxd4! 14 Qxd4 Nd7 15 Nd5



Qxe5 (or 15...Qh4!?) 16 Qxe5 Bxe5, and I prefer Black.

Another example can be found in the so-called Martz Variation. At the beginning of chapter one, Taylor writes:

“I call the Martz Variation, the subject of Chapters 1 and 2 of this book after the American IM William Martz, who played it with success throughout his career. I witnessed one of his upsets: at Lone Pine in the 70s, Martz had White against Petrosian. He whipped out his variation, and Petrosian immediately smelled a very large rat – and offered a draw on, as I recall, either move 10 or 11! Martz politely accepted the ex-World Champion’s offer. Given the big rating difference between them a draw was a success for Martz, but I wonder if perhaps later he regretted not playing on? What sort of position scared Petrosian so much that he had to offer an IM a draw in the opening?”

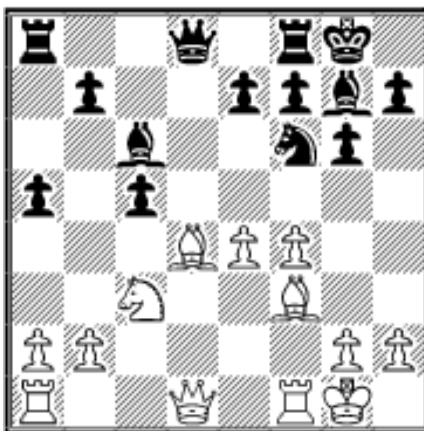
Then Taylor gives the first nine moves of the below game:

William Martz (2410) - Tigran Petrosian (2635)

Lone Pine 1976

1 c4 g6 2 e4 Bg7 3 d4 d6 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Be2 0–0 6 f4 c5 7 Nf3 cxd4 8 Nxd4 Nc6 9 Be3 Bd7 10 0–0 Nxd4 11 Bxd4 Bc6 12 Bf3 a5 13 c5 dxc5 ½–½

First, he could have gotten the full details by spending thirty seconds on a database search. Second, I doubt Petrosian “smelled a very large rat.” The fact is that Petrosian often took a “bye” draw like this in tournaments, especially with black against lower-ranked players. Similar instances include Weinstein – Petrosian, Lone Pine 1976 and Bannik – Petrosian, USSR ch 1961. Lastly, the variation up to and including Black’s twelfth move scores a rather underwhelming 45% for White in my database. I actually prefer Black in the final position:




14 Bxc5 Qc7 15 Be3 e5 16 fxe5 Qxe5 17 Bd4 Qe6 18 e5 (or 18 Qc2 Rfe8 19 Rfe1 Qc4 20 Bf2 Nd7 with better chances for Black) 18...Nd7, and Black is rather comfortable.

Against the Grünfeld, Taylor recommends 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 e3 Bg7 5 Qb3. Yet, he fails to prove anything close to an edge for White. Similarly, in the line 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 e3, he admits that White doesn’t get an advantage:

“... The verdict still stands at the time of this writing as equal. But as I said in the beginning of the chapter, Keres didn’t play this variation to force some sharp theoretical edge: he played it to avoid theory while obtaining a rich middlegame, and this is what we have here.”

So the bottom line is that Black equalizes in the Grünfeld without too many problems, and only gets into trouble in the King’s Indian if he doesn’t know his theory; so much for “beating” the openings.

I don't dislike this book, but it doesn't impress me either. Taylor's discourse can be chatty and filled with irrelevant stories. In the Grünfeld section there are too many bare game scores and not enough analysis to prove his recommendations. It is only King's Indian players who may find merit in his suggestions.

My assessment of this book: 

**Order *Beating the King's Indian and
Grünfeld***
by Timothy Taylor

King's Indian Saemisch System (CD) by Boris Shipkov, ChessBase GmbH 2007,
Figurine Algebraic Notation, \$29.95

The topic of this CD is the King's Indian Saemisch System (actually Sämisch variation), which arises after 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f3. The material is divided into twenty-one database texts, featuring 400 annotated games, and a training database with thirty games. Additionally, there is a regular database of almost 30,000 games.




The database texts include:

- 01. KI Saemisch General Introduction
- 02. Basic Strategic Ideas
- 03. Rare Lines
- 04. Byrne Variation 5...c6
- 05. Lines 5...0-0 6.Bd3 and 6.Nge2
- 06. Lines 6.Bg5 a6, 6...c6, 6...h6
- 07. Lines 6.Bg5 Nbd7 and 6...Nc6
- 08. Line 6.Bg5 c5
- 09. Lines 6.Be3 Nfd7, 6...Na6, 6...a6, 6...c6
- 10. Line 6.Be3 c5
- 11. Line 6.Be3 Nbd7
- 12. Line 6.Be3 b6
- 13. Panno Variation 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Qd2
- 14. Panno Variation 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Nge2
- 15. Panno Variation 7.Nge2 a6 8.Qd2 Rb8
- 16. Panno Variation 7.Nge2 a6 8.Qd2 Rb8 9.Nc1
- 17. Line 6.Be3 e5
- 18. Line 6.Be3 e5 7.d5
- 19. Line 6.Be3 e5 7.d5 Nh5
- 20. Line 6.Be3 e5 7.d5 c6
- 21. KI Saemisch. Conclusion

I have been critical of Shipkov's previous opening CDs, and it would seem that old habits are indeed difficult to break. These include linking to unannotated games or games with only German commentary. This just doesn't make sense, as the student will not be able to appreciate why the author picked these games, or which were the critical moments, or why they are even instructive. Another issue is that

even the most recent games on the CD are already one year out-of-date. All this makes the theoretical presentation look like database dump.

Still, the annotated games, the database texts, and the training database all show some effort from the author. There is plenty of good material on the CD, and if you have an interest in the Sämisch, as Black or White, you may find it worthwhile. I just don't understand why the folks at ChessBase allow Shipkov to cut so many corners.

My assessment of this CD: 

King's Indian Saemisch System (CD)
by Boris Shipkov

How to Play the Queen's Indian (CD) by Dmitri Oleinikov, ChessBase GmbH
2006, Figurine Algebraic Notation, \$29.95

This CD is exactly what it purports to be, a guide on how to play the Queen's Indian. However, the focus is on instruction, rather than theory, and it is geared towards those who really want to understand the fundamentals of this opening.



The material is divided as follows:

- 01. Contents
- 02. How to use this CD
- 03. Introduction
- 04. Getting acquainted with the QID: Queen's Indian Defence
- 05. A dozen Black brilliancies
- 06. A dozen White brilliancies
- 07. Essential tactics through opening traps
- 08. Strategy: typical pawn structures
- 09. Strategy: Piece behaviour
- 10. Theory in brief: necessary explanations
- 11. Theory in brief: The Central system 4.e3
- 12. Theory in brief: The Fianchetto system with Bb7 (Classical main line)
- 13. Theory in brief: The Fianchetto system with Ba6 (Modern main line)
- 14. Theory in brief: The Petrosian line 4.a3
- 15. Theory in brief: Sidelines
- 16. Useful additional information

In the above database texts, there is a link from each of the "Theory in brief" sections to a "game" where Oleinikov reviews the most essential theory for each line. Yet, in comparison with the overall volume of the subject and the amount of games played in this opening, it is almost mind-blowing how little theory is discussed on this CD.

In addition to the texts, there are databases on strategy (33 games and 54 training questions); on Tactics and Traps (also 33 games and 55 training questions); and a traditional database with 78,000+ games. I wholeheartedly recommend this to those who want to play this opening as Black or learn how to meet it as White.

My assessment of this CD:



How to Play the Queen's Indian (CD)

by Dmitri Oleinikov

My Best Games in the King's Indian (DVD) by Alexei Shirov, ChessBase GmbH 2007, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Running Time: more than 5 hours, \$39.95

As with his previous DVDs, Shirov presents his material with disarming honesty. He states several times that he is not an expert in the King's Indian, and tells the viewer to look at Korchnoi's games in the Classical King's Indian (6 Be2) as White, and examine Radjabov's games when studying Black. It's rather curious that someone who has played the opening as both black and white for more than a decade, against the strongest players in the world, is so modest about his own expertise.



The contents are as follows:

- Intro and Kramnik-Shirov (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f3)
- Gyimesi-Shirov (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 h3)
- Shirov-Yurtaev (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 exd4)
- Shirov-Nunn (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 Ne1)
- Shirov-Lanka (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 Ne1)
- Dreev-Shirov (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 Ne1)
- Shirov-Zarnicki (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 Nd2)
- Gelfand-Shirov (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 Nd2)
- Shirov-Babula (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 b4)
- Kramnik-Shirov (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 b4)
- Shirov-Radjabov (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 b4)

Even though Shirov has produced a number of these DVDs, he still seems shy and rarely looks directly at the camera. His notes are based on analysis he did shortly after the games were played, and he often stops and disagrees with himself! Shirov no longer plays the King's Indian as black, and he rarely plays 1 d4 as White, so the material is not theoretically relevant. Still, I enjoyed Shirov's presentation, and I imagine most others will as well.

My assessment of this DVD:    

Order *My Best Games in the King's Indian*
(DVD)
by Alexei Shirov




My Best Games in the Nimzo-Indian (DVD) by Alexei Shirov, ChessBase GmbH 2007, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Running Time: more than 4 hours, \$39.95

The title of this DVD is somewhat misleading as the contents comprise four Nimzo-Indians, two Queen's Indians and two Catalans. Once you start watching the segments, you will find that the following games and lines are covered:

- Intro
- Eljanov-Shirov (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Qc2 0-0 5 a3 Bxc3+ 6 Qxc3 b6)
- Shirov-Naiditsch (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Qc2 0-0 5 a3 Bxc3+ 6 Qxc3 b6)
- Shirov-Volokitin (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Qc2 0-0 5 a3 Bxc3+ 6 Qxc3 b6)
- Shirov-Onichuk (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Qc2 0-0 5 a3 Bxc3+ 6 Qxc3 b6)
- Shirov-Leko (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nf3 b6 4 a3 Ba6 5 Qc2 Bb7)
- Shirov-Karjakin (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nf3 b6 4 g3 Ba6 5 b3 Bb4+ 6 Bd2 Be7)
- Shirov-Topalov (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nf3 d5 4 g3 Bb4+ 5 Bd2 Be7)
- Shirov-Vaganian (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nf3 d5 4 g3 Be7 5 Bg2 0-0 6 0-0 Nbd7)



For the most part, the material is of the same high quality as on the other DVDs in this series. However, the overall impression of the introduction is poor. Shirov seems tense and his English is substandard, as several sentences go unfinished. I also found it disappointing that the Nimzo games are essentially all from the same variation, and that a broader spectrum of opening lines was not represented. Therefore, this is not one of the better DVDs in this series.

My assessment of this DVD:   

Order *My Best Games in the Nimzo-Indian*
(DVD)
by Alexei Shirov

Starting Out: The King's Indian (CD) by Joe Gallagher, Everyman Chess 2007, Figurine Algebraic Notation, \$23.95

Everyman Chess has begun releasing some of their



more popular titles on CD. While I prefer a book any day of the week, I can certainly see the merit of this format, as the material is easily accessible and simple to use.

The contents of the CD are identical to the book, the review of which can be found in my July 2002 [column](#). I enjoyed navigating the material, and benefiting from the compatibility with ChessBase, which allows you to apply all the regular tools, such as analysis engines, etc.

I will explore this in greater detail next month, when I review several other new releases in this series.



My assessment of this CD:

[Order](#) *Starting Out: The King's Indian*
(CD)
by Joe Gallagher

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