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R.C. Griffith, P.W. Sergeant, Reuben Fine : Modern Chess Openings before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Modern Chess Openings:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy marc j.The supplier's description was perfect. The book showed up on time. No complaints.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ClassicBy Jean BGot it for my husband - a chess coach at a local high school.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Databases cannot replace this book, IMOBy Bullwinkle495I have the Chessbase database of 5 million games. I have Fritz's Livebook and Checknow. There are also websites that have openings based upon frequency of play. But sometimes too much information is a bad thing! You just played a variation of the French Winawer, and felt confused in the opening, and you want to know what the best move is. Nothing wrong with the Chessbase database or Livebook (which are probably more up-to-date), but there's something about having a single, vetted variation with references to grandmaster games that makes me feel all warm and tingly inside. Besides, with databases, a lot of weaker games are included (to beef up the numbers) so you have to be careful to check the average rating of the variation each time, which is annoying. Sure, I know Shirov or Short might vary from the variation, and create their own sublines. But this book is a great authority on tried-and-true opening variations, giving dozens of (some over a hundred) solid variations for each major opening. Each variation is numbered, so you never get lost. The notes are very helpful and explanatory. The tabular form is easy to follow. Unlike the 15th edition, the spine is still intact (better bookbinder); this is important for a heavily-used tome like this. Yes there are some typos, but you can usually figure them out. I have Horowitz's "Chess Openings: Theory and Practice" which is great, but it's a bit old (1962 I think), and it's in descriptive notation

(which is a bit bothersome when you're so used to mentally calculating using algebraic). But I'll still keep that, because old lines are still sometimes played! Oh, and in the MCO all the main variations of the openings are explained in terms of strengths and weaknesses. Highly recommended.

Chess instructions and competitive moves