

CHESS THE EASY WAY, MADE HARD

1) Please read CHESS THE EASY WAY straight through as if it were a novel, ignoring all chess notation plus the quizzes at the end of each chapter. The idea is to acquire an overall perspective of the game and of Reuben Fine's presentation of the material. Scan the index. You are not to think about or otherwise judge what you read, only present the book to your consciousness.

2) Reread CHESS THE EASY WAY, omitting the quizzes as before, but this time playing over on a board all of the moves in the book, including the diagrams in the text. No thinking. No judging. Just do the work. The mind will do the rest.

3) Read CHESS THE EASY WAY again, playing over the moves, but now you may do so in your mind where you can and only on the board when you can't. To benefit fully from this work you must now memorize the following information:

a) Title, Author, Publisher, Place of Publication, and Date of Publication.

(This is necessary in order to be able to modify or release what you learn from Fine without attachment).

b) The Table of Contents, for short term retention, mostly to apply the part about superior, equal, and inferior positions to middlegame rules eight, nine, and ten.

c) The ten rules of the opening, including the four reasons that a pawn may be

MADE HARD WAY sacrificed successfully (Rule ten).

- d) The ten rules of the middle game, incorporating into Rule one the component parts of a plan in reverse order from that given by Fine in italics, and the five steps of analysis for evaluating middlegame positions.
- e) The ten rules of the end game.

You may at this point solve the diagrams in the quizzes at the end of each chapter. You shouldn't miss any! Again, no thinking, only remembering what to do and when to do it.

4) This time, study CHESS THE EASY WAY as if you were preparing for a written test 100 questions long. You are. So, go through the book with a fine tooth comb and think about everything and its relationship to everything else, and evaluate to your heart's content. When you are really ready, the teacher (or his authorized representative) will appear and you will be tested. To pass this test you must score 100. Thus far, you are the only one to achieve this mastery. Do not disappoint me. Please pay particular attention to Chapter seven and Chapter eight, as fifty of the test questions concern the end game.

5) Let CHESS THE EASY WAY lie fallow for a year or so, and then take the trouble to review the book and refresh your memory annually so that you may complete the circle and teach the gospel according to Reuben Fine to others who volunteer for torture.