

Alexei Shirov - My best games in the Spanish english DVD review

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FritzTrainer opening

Alexei Shirov

My best games in the Spanish

System requirements:

Pentium Processor at 300 Mhz or higher, 64 mb RAM, Windows 98SE, Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows Media Player 9.0, DVD drive.

DVD contents:

Chessbase 9 Reader with 7 page manuals in German and English language in PDF format.

A readme.txt file.

Chessbase Videos (in Chessbase WMV format):

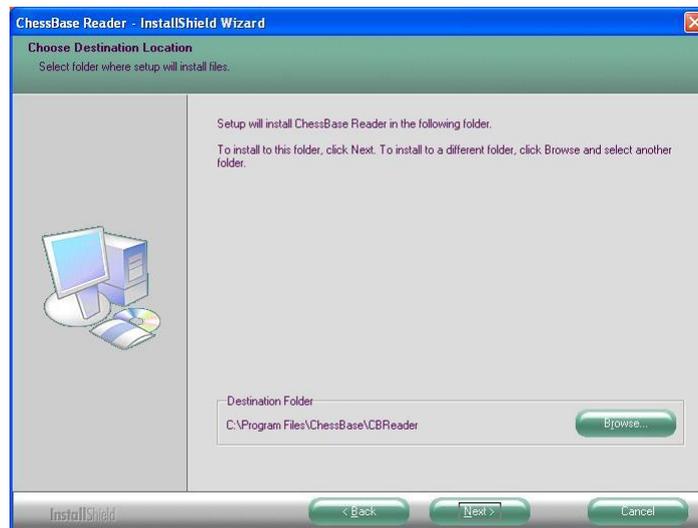
- Introduction (09:04)
- Steinitz Variation (41:10)
- Berlin Defence (37:04)
- Open Spanish (42:08)
- Moeller and Archangelsk Defence (26:22)
- Anti-Marshall- System 1 (32:05)
- Anti-Marshall-System 2 (15:50)
- Marshall Gambit (20:42)
- Modern Chigorin Defence (34:55)
- Flohr / Saitzev Variation (34:06)

Total playing time: approximately 4hrs 30 min.

Total DVD size: approximately 1.140 gigabytes.

Installation:

Installation of the Chessbase Reader is automatic.



After the 1-minute installation is complete, you're prompted to restart your computer.

This DVD comes in a colorful DVD box. It's system requirements are low, ensuring all users can benefit from installing and experiencing Shirov's sessions.

The DVD:

Below is a screenshot of where you start. A mouse click will open a video.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "My best games in the Spanish: 1 Games". The browser's address bar shows "Playchess.com". The page content is as follows:

<u>GM Alexei Shirov: My best games in the Spanish</u>		
Introduction:		
Steinitz Variation:	Shirov - Kuderinov	
Berlin Defence:	Shirov - Levin; Shirov - Rizouk	
Open Spanish:	Shirov - Flear; Kasparov - Shirov	
Moeller and Archangelsk Defence:	Anand - Shirov	
Anti-Marshall-System:	Anand - Shirov	
Anti-Marshall-System:	Shirov - Adams	
Marshall Gambit:	Shirov - Bacrot	
Modern Chigorin Defence:	Shirov - Fritz	

At the bottom of the browser window, there are navigation buttons: "Back", "Forward", and "Home". The status bar shows "ChessBase Reader" and a progress indicator at "0%".

Alexei Shirov starts with “As I happen to be a rather sentimental person, I often think about my past. And in chess it has an interesting effect...”.

Among many other, you will have a useful option of pausing the video and continuing later, during the session. Hitting the “play” or even the “pause” again, will do the task. Rewinding may prove to be somewhat difficult, thus I recommend full concentration.

Below are only a few of the hundreds of interesting questions, answers to which you will find if you decide to experience this exceptional DVD. Shirov's commentary is unique and entertaining.

What impact does analysis of his past games in detail have on Shirov's chess improvement?
When writing a book, what should you concentrate on?
Does Shirov prepare openings for every tournament he plays?
Can you see ideas in outdated games that may be useful for modern times?
Can Shirov learn himself, while teaching the chess audience?
How much is modern chess theory developed?
Does one have to analyze opening lines even up to move 40?
Are all Shirov's line analysis of interest to the general audience?
Can the Ruy Lopez be played based on general principles of understanding?
When did Shirov start to play regularly the Ruy Lopez opening?
Is the Latvian gambit a correct opening?
What does Shirov think about the King's gambit?
Can White hope to "more than equalize" in the King's gambit?
What does Shirov think about the Italian game?
How long did it take Shirov to master the strategical lines in the Spanish?
Is it possible to perceive the whole Ruy Lopez opening just with strategical ideas?
Is it possible to memorize all the variations in the Ruy Lopez?
Is it possible to make the right combination of strategical lines and the most important lines in the Ruy Lopez?
What is Shirov's task for this video?
How old is the Ruy Lopez opening?
When did Shirov start learning chess history?
What is the "Spanish torture"?
What is White's aim in the Spanish opening?
What are Shirov's private plans for the future? Will he stay in Spain or return to Latvia?
Is 3...a6 as a response to 3.Bb5 played almost exclusively?
What is the status of the Berlin defense?
What is the "Berlin wall"?
Are there underestimated moves as a reply to 3.Bb5?
Is it better or not to avoid rapid tie-breaks in a knock-out World Cup?
With modern databases, is it always possible to guess what your opponent will play?
How does Shirov react when faced with a line where he had unpleasant experiences?
Play against the pieces or play against the opponent?
What's Shirov's view on artificial castling?
When faced with complicated decisions to make, how much time does Shirov need?
"Stupid" pieces?
What impact does post-game computer analysis have on Shirov's game conclusions?
Can computer analysis generally be trusted in certain positions?
What is the "eternal conflict" every chess player has during the game?
What is a game "mental rest"?
Will playing "natural moves" bring success, or are they not enough?
When in a winning position, will Shirov look to find the "pretty solution"?
Can you find new interesting ideas and solutions in the Ruy Lopez, just based on your general knowledge?
Which was Shirov's "pet line" as Black in the Spanish?
What is the "New Archangelsk variation"? Will it be played often in the forthcoming months?
Are all Shirov's games recorded in the databases?
Exchanging a lot of pieces – can it be a sign of tiredness?
What repeatedly surprises Shirov in the Ruy Lopez opening?
Can the ideas behind the Ruy Lopez be placed in common frames?
How much study time is necessary to play the Marshall attack?
Do you need a special "frame of mind" to play the Marshall attack, either with White or Black?
Has Shirov ever entered the Marshall as White?
Which are the three principle systems in avoiding the Marshall attack?
Can a final conclusion of a game variation, starting after move nine, be made?
Have all the strong players, without exception, played to avoid the Marshall attack?
What impact did Zigurds Lanka have on Shirov's choice of moves in the Ruy Lopez, as White?
Are there players who can say more than Shirov about some Ruy Lopez positions?

Conclusion:

Unlike in the DVD "My best games in the Sicilian", Shirov gives much space to annotating and explaining exact ideas behind the opening moves and variations in the Ruy Lopez (Spanish) opening, offering even new ones for serious study. His game brilliances are not restricted to his wins only, but contain defense mechanisms, which even the NBA players might find useful to implement in their game strategy.

If you're a Spanish aficionado, either playing it with Black or White, this DVD can directly help you achieve better positions and wins with White, and help you to easily equalize and even create better chances when playing with Black! At least, until all your future opponents have seen and listened to Shirov's video training lessons.

What is probably most important is that these sessions with Shirov will undoubtedly raise your understanding not only of the Spanish opening, but of the game of chess in general. As is proven and often quoted, understanding positions on a higher level, is mainly what distinguishes amateurs from professionals and weaker players from stronger ones.

Personally I can confirm that I have benefited directly from watching this DVD, after only a few minutes. A question I have been asking myself for a couple of months, on why White spends time on seemingly not very useful three pawn moves in the early stage of the game in one modern and popular variation, Shirov comments and explains in superb detail!

Chessbase's new video recording technology, even as I have seen it so often, continues to amaze me with its precision and flawlessness.

I can strongly recommend this DVD to all chess friends and professionals alike.