

Chessbase **Junior 10** DVD review  
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Chessbase's newest Junior 10 is the reigning Computer Chess World Champion 2006! At the 14<sup>th</sup> World Computer Chess Championship, held as a side event of the Chess Olympiad in Turin '06, Junior 10 scored 9/11 to win this prestigious title.

For more details, see <http://www.chessbase.com/newsdetail.asp?newsid=3153>

Junior's programmers have revealed the secret of their success, emphasizing highly increased understanding of "compensation". The program is advertised as a "particularly attractive chess partner".

Junior 10 offers you 12 months of free access to the Playchess.com server!

Grandmaster B. Alterman, member of the Junior team, has improved the existing openings book, which now has more than 280 megabytes in size.

The DVD package includes the Junior 10 DVD and a 44-page manual, titled "First Steps with Junior 10", in English and German. A unique serial number is provided.

Inserting the DVD automatically starts the installation procedure

Setup languages are offered in Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish.

A "Custom install" offers spoken notation in German, English, Spanish and French! 3D, sounds, databases with test positions for chess engines, midi files for background music, detailed maps, database, bonus engines, special giveaway and Chess960 engines and an opening book are among the installation choices.

The installation runs pretty fast and requests installation of DirectX 9.0 Runtime (included). Computer restart is necessary for the changes to take effect, after which a nice icon appears on your desktop.

“Play Junior” or “Playchess.com” are your choices then.



Junior’s authors claim that the version 10 of the program and its engine is different from all other - in its search strategies and evaluation functions. Dynamic and sharp positions, sacrifices and avoiding them, are among the feature highlights.

The 3D board is truly remarkable programming. “Full Screen 3D” works very well (I recommend turning off the “Coach” while in full-screen playing mode).

An extensive built-in help file includes First Steps, General Operation, Reference and the FIDE Chess Rules.

Junior’s playing style is unique, as compared to other chess programs and thus certainly deserves to be a part of your software library, especially if you enjoy attacking chess.

Hundreds of interface options to explore will keep you busy for a very long time, especially if you are new to Chessbases’s software.



The database included is a selection of over one million games (1625-2005), with the SuperKey Openings classification, with Themes, Tactics, Strategy and Endgames classified separately for convenient and fast access.

In less than a second (! – see the clocks on the screenshot below), the Junior 10 engine evaluated a remarkable queen sacrifice played by white!

**Petronic - Petrovic, YUG-chT (Women) 2000 B06, 1-0**

File Edit View Insert Game Engine Tools Window Help

0:00:00 0:00:00

Notation Score sheet Openings Book

**Petronic, Sanja 2303 - Petrovic, Marija 2231 1-0**  
B06 YUG-chT (Women) (4) 14.12.2000

1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♗g7 3.♖c3 d6 4.f4 e6 5.♗f3 b6  
6.♗c4 ♗d7 7.0-0 ♗b7 8.f5 gxf5 9.exf5 ♗xf3  
10.fxe6 ♗xd1 11.exf7+ ♗e7 12.♗d5+ ♗e6  
13.♗xc7+ ♗e7 14.fxg8♗ ♗xg8 15.♗g5+ ♗f6  
16.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 17.♗xg8 ♗axg8 18.♗axd1 ♗g6  
19.♗d2 ♗d7 20.♗df2 ♗g4 21.♗f7+ ♗c6  
22.♗f3 ♗h6 23.♗e7 d5 24.♗e8 ♗b5 25.♗b3+  
♗c4 26.♗c3+ ♗xd4 27.♗c7 a6 28.♗e6+ ♗e5  
29.♗f8+ ♗d6 30.♗d7+ ♗e5 31.♗xg6+ hxg6  
32.♗h3 b5 33.♗a7 ♗f5 34.♗xa6 ♗g5 35.♗d6  
♗a8 36.♗g3+ ♗f4 37.♗dxg6 ♗f5 38.♗f3+ ♗e5  
39.♗g5 ♗xa2 40.♗xf5+ ♗e4 41.♗e5+ ♗f4  
42.♗f2  
1-0

**Junior 10** 10.-- Stop

1. +- (3.59) Depth=18

1. +- (3.59): 10.fxe6 ♗xd1  
2. +- (2.69): 10.♗f3 d5  
3. +- (2.65): 10.♗f3 ♗xd4+  
4. ± (0.47): 10.gxf3 d5

B06: Modern Defence 5/40+5/40+5/40

How about that “compensation”?



I must admit being stunned by an immediate Junior's reaction to one of the most famous positional sacrifices ever made, in the famous game Reshevsky - Petrosian, Candidates tournament 1953. Not even a second of thought for 25... Re7-e6!!

Two randomly chosen examples above should illustrate well the power of Junior 10.



Polgar - Sokolov, 10th Essent Hooegeveen NED 2006 C83, 1-0

File Edit View Insert Game Engine Tools Window Help

0:00:31 0:00:00

Notation Score sheet Openings Book

Polgar,Ju 2710 - Sokolov,Iv 2670 1-0  
C83 10th Essent Hooegeveen NED (1) 22.10.2006

♙d8 37 ♜d2 ♙xh4 38 ♜xh5 ♜b6 39 ♜d2  
♙g3 40 ♜e2 ♜a7 41 ♙e4 ♜h8 42 ♙d5 ♜g7  
43.e6 ♜e7 44 ♜e5 ♜h4 45.♜e2 h5 46.♙e4  
♜g8 47 ♜d7 ♜h1 48 ♙d2  
1-0

Junior 10 43.e6 Stop

1. = (-0.04) Depth=16

1. = (-0.04): 43.e6 ♜5  
2. ♜ (-0.44): 43.♙e4 ♜e7 44.♜d2 ♜e8 45.e6  
3. ♜ (-0.44): 43.♙c6 ♜e7  
4. +- (-1.64): 43.♜c2 ♜d8 44.♜e2 ♙f5 45.e6  
5. +- (-1.68): 43.♜b2 ♜5  
6. +- (-1.92): 43.♙b2 ♙f5  
7. +- (-1.92): 43.♜d4 ♜5  
8. +- (-1.92): 43.♜d2 ♙f5  
9. +- (-2.90): 43.♙d2 ♜5  
10. +- (-3.35): 43.♙xc4 bxc4 44.♜d5 ♜e8 45

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7 5/40+5/40+5/40

Brief analysis of the final blows show that the last six moves were the 1<sup>st</sup> choices of Junior 10 as well, with Judit Polgar hinting that there is still “hope for mankind”...

Junior 10 is yet another software masterpiece, and I can highly recommend it all.