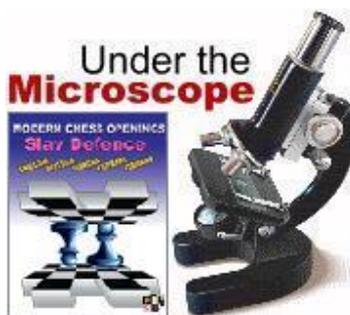


UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: CONVEKTA "Modern Chess Openings. Slav Defence"



review updated on 6.12.2005

Convekta "Modern Chess Openings Slav defence" english CD review

© 6.12.2005 Jovan Petronic. International Master. FIDE Senior Trainer.

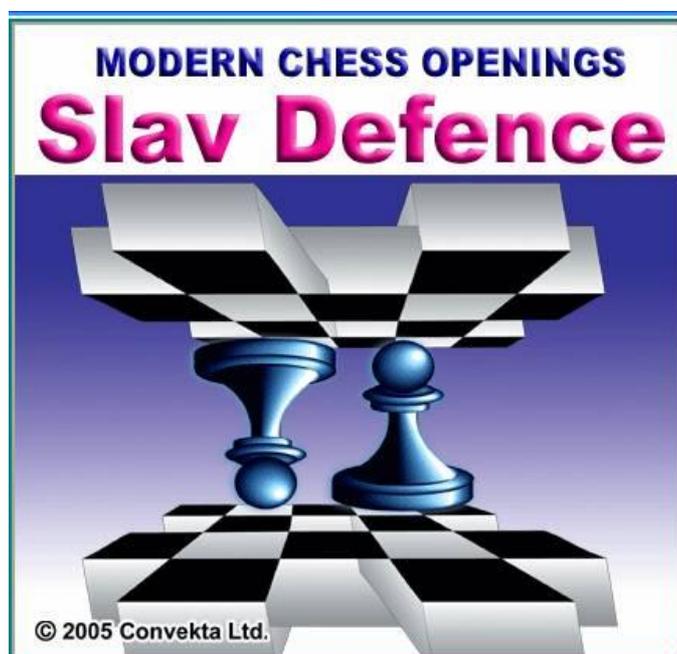
<http://www.jovanpetronic.com>

Test Machine: Intel® Pentium® 4 CPU, 3.00 GHz, 448 MB RAM, Windows XP SP2.

The CD comes wrapped up in a colorful box, with the installation CD and a 39-page instruction booklet. A slightly over burned 719 megabyte CD contains a lot of extra data, with demo versions of many previous Convekta products and Internet Club support.

Highlights:

1. Easy installation. The installation process takes only a couple of minutes, and does not require a restart. The optional online registration makes you eligible for standard announcements about new versions or upgrades.



Remark:

Convekta recommends a 1GHz CPU, 256 MB or more RAM, 1 GB of free disk space, Windows 2000/NT/XP, Super VGA graphics with 16 bit colors and 1024x768 screen mode. I do not advise installing the program on weaker machines, although Convekta's essential requirements are far below the recommended ones.

Also, a sound card is recommendable, as the program features include a variety of sound effects. A wide display screen is helpful, too. Full installation of the program is around 168 megabytes only, CAP data included.

2. Six languages are supported!

Remark:

The CD box title (as the website's CD intro) mentions "only" five available languages: English, German, French, Spanish and Italian. Russian, although supported, seems to be missing from the box cover, but not from the beautifully designed CD label.

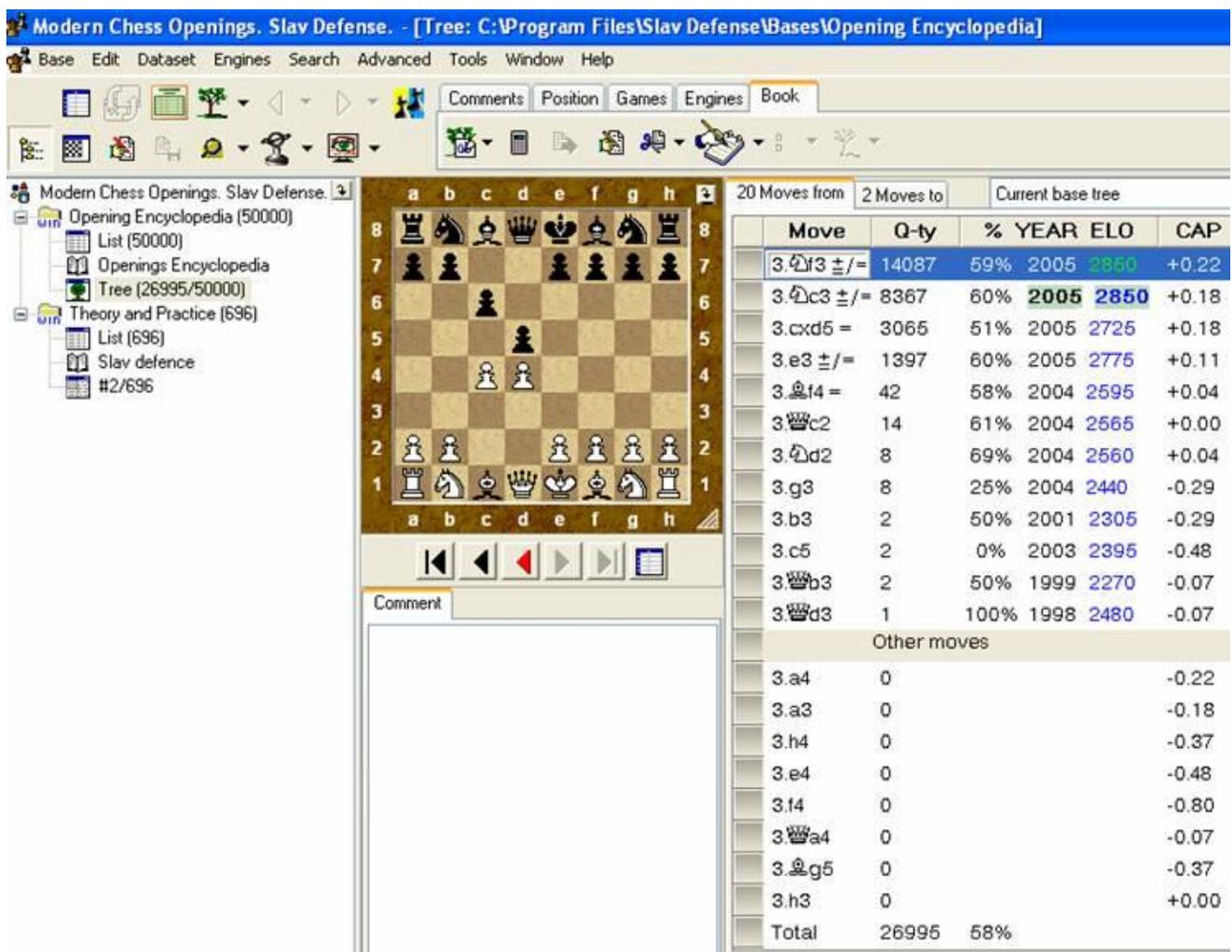
3. CAP (Computer Analysis Project) data is included as a free and optional add-on.

Remark:

When inserted into the CD drive, an automatic launch offers installation of the program and an optional installation of CAP data (3.000.000 analyzed positions). In the booklet manual, however, the CAP data is said to have 15.000.000 positions analyzed!

The CAP data project is a revolutionary one, opening new frontiers in computer position analysis. One should not get too distracted with this professional innovation, but concentrate more on mastering the Slav Defense.

Below is an example from the main screen, with visible CAP data information, among other details:



The screenshot displays the 'Modern Chess Openings. Slav Defense.' software interface. The main window shows a chessboard with a Slav Defense position. To the right of the board is a table of moves and their statistics. The table has columns for Move, Q-ty, % YEAR, ELO, and CAP. The top move listed is 3. Qf3 ±/= with 14087 Q-ty, 59% YEAR, 2005 ELO, and +0.22 CAP. Other moves include 3. Qc3 ±/=, 3. cxd5 =, 3. e3 ±/=, 3. Qf4 =, 3. Qc2, 3. Qd2, 3. g3, 3. b3, 3. c5, 3. Qb3, and 3. Qd3. A section for 'Other moves' lists 3. a4, 3. a3, 3. h4, 3. e4, 3. f4, 3. Qa4, 3. Qg5, 3. h3, and Total. The Total row shows 26995 Q-ty and 58% YEAR.

Move	Q-ty	% YEAR	ELO	CAP	
3. Qf3 ±/=	14087	59%	2005	2850	+0.22
3. Qc3 ±/=	8367	60%	2005	2850	+0.18
3. cxd5 =	3065	51%	2005	2725	+0.18
3. e3 ±/=	1397	60%	2005	2775	+0.11
3. Qf4 =	42	58%	2004	2595	+0.04
3. Qc2	14	61%	2004	2565	+0.00
3. Qd2	8	69%	2004	2560	+0.04
3. g3	8	25%	2004	2440	-0.29
3. b3	2	50%	2001	2305	-0.29
3. c5	2	0%	2003	2395	-0.48
3. Qb3	2	50%	1999	2270	-0.07
3. Qd3	1	100%	1998	2480	-0.07
Other moves					
3. a4	0				-0.22
3. a3	0				-0.18
3. h4	0				-0.37
3. e4	0				-0.48
3. f4	0				-0.80
3. Qa4	0				-0.07
3. Qg5	0				-0.37
3. h3	0				+0.00
Total	26995	58%			

Here, you can find enough statistical information to last a lifetime!?

As usual, Convekta products come with an excellent built-in help file, offering extensive support for a novice user. Below is an example of help on the "Split Mode" function.

Split Mode

You can move along the list and at the same time replay games and annotations on the chessboard. To do this, select the *Split* command in the local menu or press the [Shift] [F5] key combination. This will divide the list window into two parts.



Use the [Tab] key to switch between the top and bottom parts of the screen. You can work with the list in the top half of the window just as in a normal list window. Many commands, which are available in the modes displaying notations, can be executed in the bottom part of the screen, though some operations (*Report for current position*, *Find novelty in current game*, *Annotate opening in current game*) cannot be accessed in the *Split* mode.

4. The interface is a database management system named "Modern Chess Openings". It is an abridged version of Chess Assistant 7.

Remark: As an abridged version, with literally hundreds of options to explore, many features are unavailable for the user. In the manual, Convekta recommends to it's users to obtain the Chess Assistant program, if wishing to use these.

5. Playing engines Crafty and Dragon are included.

Remark: These engines are more than strong enough for the average user, yet a professional trainer or player may wish to challenge Convekta's evaluations with a more powerful one, within the program itself.

6. The Theory and Practice database includes commented games and those illustrating typical features, methods and principles of play in the selected opening.

Text	# Games
Slav defence	692/
Code System	
Theory	120/
The "Karlsbad" pawn structure	26/
The Schlechter system (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6)	6 (6)
The Meran variation (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6 5. e3 e6 6. e3 e6 7. e3 e6 8. e3 e6 9. e3 e6 10. e3 e6)	15 (15)
The Botvinnik system (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6 5. e3 e6 6. e3 e6 7. e3 e6 8. e3 e6 9. e3 e6 10. e3 e6)	5 (5)
The Moscow variation (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6 5. e3 e6 6. e3 e6 7. e3 e6 8. e3 e6 9. e3 e6 10. e3 e6)	5 (5)
System with d5:c4 (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6)	46/
The Chebanenko system (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6)	17/
Practice	501/
The Exchange variation (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. cd cd)	24 (24)
Systems with the exchange d5:c4 (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6)	103/
Meran variation (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6 5. e3 e6 6. e3 e6 7. e3 e6 8. e3 e6 9. e3 e6 10. e3 e6)	168/
The Schlechter system (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6 5. e3 e6 6. e3 e6 7. e3 e6 8. e3 e6 9. e3 e6 10. e3 e6)	10 (10)
Noteboom variation 1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6 5. a4 a5 6. a4 a5 7. a4 a5 8. a4 a5 9. a4 a5 10. a4 a5	9 (9)
The gambit variation "anti-Noteboom" (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e4)	9 (9)
Chebanenko system (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6)	31 (31)
Anti-Meran variation (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6 5. e3 e6 6. e3 e6 7. e3 e6 8. e3 e6 9. e3 e6 10. e3 e6)	57/
Botvinnik system (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6 5. e3 e6 6. e3 e6 7. e3 e6 8. e3 e6 9. e3 e6 10. e3 e6)	56/
Moscow variation (1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 e6 4. e3 g6 5. e3 e6 6. e3 e6 7. e3 e6 8. e3 e6 9. e3 e6 10. e3 e6)	34/
Test	71 (71)

Remark: The overview starts with an introductory explanation of the basic International ECO Code System signs and symbols.

The Theory section is divided into six chapters, starting with the essential Karlsbad pawn structure and ending with today's most popular 4... a6 variation, named here after the famous coach and theoretician V. Chebanenko. The Karlsbad section, for example, features 26 textually annotated fragments, giving a simple introduction to the most important elements, including historical data. It is essentially well organized with examples taken from (grand)master game practice, enjoyable for reading for all. The Practice section offers a great deal of data, very well annotated and analyzed. Each section has an introduction, followed by full games from selected master practice.

A 71 example Test database is included.



White to play! This one was very enjoyable to solve. Some tests contain multiple questions as well, amounting to possibly over 200 tasks for solving. There is also a possibility of adjusting many different test options, prior to starting the challenge.

7. A sample games database is included as well, featuring 50.000 selected full games.

Remark: A lot of games contain brief annotations, merged games and CAP data information. I did a quick check to find 127 games in the Slav defense played by Gary Kasparov, 159 games of Anatoly Karpov and even – 14 of my games, among many others! The last game featured is only four months old, giving the user a pretty up-to-date informative package. Convekta emphasizes that more than 500 commented grandmaster games are included!

Below is an illustrative example of one famous Kasparov's recent (2003) loss, with useful additional data provided:

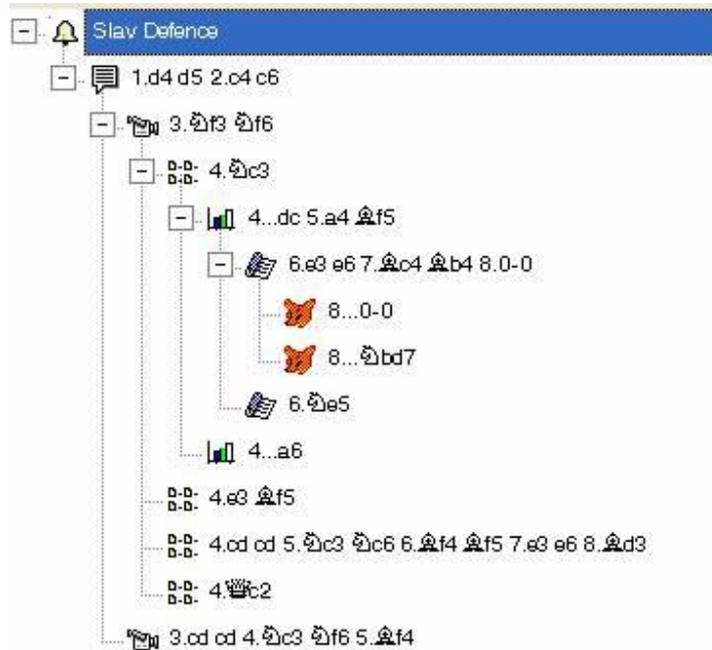
```
[ QUEEN'S gam. SEMI-SLAV def.,D46] Huzman Alexander (ISR) +1 =1 -0 Kasparov Garry (RUS) +1 =0 -0
[...]] 1. d1f3 d5 2. d4 d1f6 3. c4 c6 4. d1c3 e6 5. e3 a6±/= 6. b3
[6. ♖c2 c5 7. cxd5 exd5 8. ♙e2 d1c6 9. O-O ♙e6 10. dxc5 ♙xc5 11. b3 ♜c8 12. ♙b2 O-O 13. ♜ac1
♙a7 14. ♜fd1 ♜e7 15. ♜b1 ♜fd8 16. d1g5 d4 17. d1xe6 ♜xe6 18. ♙c4 ♜g4 19. exd4 1/2-1/2,
Gurevich Mikhail 2605 - Morozevich Alexander 2742 , Moscow 2001 Ch World FIDE (KO-system);
6. c5 d1bd7 7. b4 a5 8. b5 d1e4 9. d1xe4 dxe4 10. d1d2 f5 11. f3 ♜h4 12. g3 ♜h6 13. ♜e2 ♙e7 14. ♙g2
O-O 15. O-O d1f6 16. d1c4 ♙d8 17. fxe4 fxe4 18. d1d6 ♜g6 19. b6 ♙e7 20. d1c4 ♜g5 21. ♙d2 e5 22.
d1xe5 ♙e6 23. ♜f4 ♜h6 24. a3 g5 25. ♜f2 ♜g7 ...1-0, Euwe Max 2670 - Alekhine Alexander A 2700 ,
Netherlands 1935 Ch World (match)]
6... ♙b4
[6... b5 7. ♙d3 d1bd7 8. O-O ♙e7 9. ♜c2 ♙b7 10. e4 b4 11. d1a4 dxe4 12. ♙xe4 ♜c7 13. ♙g5 h6 14.
♙h4 d1xe4 15. ♙xe7 c5 16. d5 exd5 17. cxd5 ♙xd5 18. ♜ad1 ♜c6 19. ♙xc5 d1exc5 20. d1d4 ♜g6
21. ♜fe1 ♙e4 22. f3 O-O 23. fxe4 1/2-1/2, Yakovich Yuri 2610 - Zakharov Alexander S 2360 ,
Krasnodar 1997 Cup Russia (open)]
7. ♙d2 O-O
[7... d1bd7 8. ♙d3 O-O 9. O-O ♙d6 10. e4 dxc4 11. bxc4 e5 12. c5 ♙c7 13. d1a4 exd4 14. h3 ♜e8 15.
♜e1 h6 16. ♜b1 d1h7 17. ♙c4 ♜f6 18. ♜b3 d1hf8 19. ♙c1 d1g6 20. d1xd4 d1de5 21. ♙f1 ♜d8 22.
♙b2 d1h4 23. ♜ee3 ♜g5 24. g3 d1hg6 25. ♜c2 h5 26. ♙g2 h4 27. f4 ...1-0, Kasparov Garry 2770 -
Gelfand Boris 2665 , Linares 1991 It (cat.17)]
8. ♙d3 d1bd7 9. ♜c2
[9. O-O ♙d6 10. e4 dxc4 11. bxc4 e5 12. c5 ♙c7 13. d1a4 exd4 14. h3 ♜e8 15. ♜e1 h6 16. ♜b1 d1h7
17. ♙c4 ♜f6 18. ♜b3 d1hf8 19. ♙c1 d1g6 20. d1xd4 d1de5 21. ♙f1 ♜d8 22. ♙b2 d1h4 23. ♜ee3 ♜g5
24. g3 d1hg6 25. ♜c2 h5 26. ♙g2 h4 27. f4 d1xf4 28. gxf4 ♜xf4 ...1-0, Kasparov Garry 2770 - Gelfand
Boris 2665 , Linares 1991 It (cat.17)]
9... ♙d6 +0.21 CAP
[9... ♜e8 10. O-O e5 11. dxe5 d1xe5 12. d1xe5 ♜xe5 13. cxd5 cxd5 14. d1e2 ♙d6 15. d1g3 ♙d7 16.
♙c3 ♜c8 17. ♜b2 d1g4 18. ♙xe5 ♙xe5 19. ♜d2 d1xh2 20. exh2 ♜h4 21. og1 ♜c6 22. ♜ac1 ♜h6
23. f4 ♙f6 24. ♜f3 ♜h2 25. of1 ♜h3 26. ♜f2 d1xg3 27. ♜xg3 ♙h4 28. ♜h3 ♙xh3 29. ♜xh4 ...1-0,
Korotylev Alexey 2430 - Hofman Ron 2235 , Groningen 1994 It (open)]
10. d1e2N
[10. d1g5 h6 11. ♙h7 oh8 12. h4 e5 13. O-O-O e4 14. ♙f5 g6 15. d1xf7 ♜xf7 16. ♙xg6 ♜g7 17. h5
d1f8 18. f3 d1xg6 19. hxg6 ♜xg6 20. c5 ♙c7 21. ♜df1 ♜e8 22. fxe4 d1xe4 23. d1xe4 dxe4 24. ♙c3
oh7 25. ♜d2 ♙e6 26. d5 ♙xd5 27. ♜d4 ♜e7 28. ♜f5 ♜e8 29. ♜fh5 ♜f8 ...0-1, Biebinger Gerhard
2370 - Thesing Matthias 2365 , Germany 1990 Bundesliga 1989/90;
10. O-O e5 11. cxd5 cxd5 12. e4 (12. dxe5 d1xe5 13. d1xe5 ♙xe5 14. ♜ad1 ♙g4 15. f3 ♙h5 16. d1e2
♜c8 17. ♜b1 ♙g6 18. ♜c1 ♜e7 19. b4 b5 20. d1f4 ♙xf4 21. exf4 ♜xc1 22. ♜xc1 ♜a7 23. of1 ♜d4
24. ♜c3 d1e4 25. fxe4 dxe4 26. ♜e1 exd3 27. ♜e7 ♙h5 28. g3 ♜d5 29. og1 ♙g4 ...0-1, Arlandi Ennio
2455 - Godena Michele 2420 , Reggio Emilia 1995 It) 12... exd4 13. d1xd5 d1xd5 14. exd5 d1f6 15.
♜ae1 h6 16. d1xd4 d1xd5 17. ♙c4 d1b6 18. ♙a5 ♙c7 19. ♙xb6 ♙xb6 20. d1f5 ♙d4 21. d1e7 oh8 22.
♜e4 ♜b6 23. d1d5 ♜a7 24. ♜d1 ♙c5 25. d1f4 b5 26. ♙d3 g6 27. ♜e5 og8 28. d1d5 ♙d4 29. d1e7
oh7 ...1-0, Yevseev Denis 2541 - Dzhakaev D 2401 , St. Petersburg 2001 Memorial M.Chigorin
(open)]
10...c5 11. O-O b6 12. cxd5 exd5 13. d1g3 ♙b7 14. d1f5 ♙c7 15. dxc5 bxc5 16. b4? -0.47
[16. ♙c3 g6 17. d1g3 ♜c8 18. ♜e2 +0.70]
16...c4 17. ♙e2 d1e4 18. ♙c3 d1xc3 19. ♜xc3 d1f6 20. ♜fd1 ♙c8? +2.00
[16... ♜d7 21. ♜c2 g6 22. d1g3 ♙d6 -0.81]
21. ♜xd5 ♜e8 22. ♙xc4 +2.00
```

Would Kasparov have lost this game, if this CD was available at the time of the game played, I wonder? The CAP data suggests Black went wrong pretty early!?

Don't worry about some font misinterpretations in the screenshot, as the PC I used for reviewing, had Greek Windows installed.

8. The standard Convekta database with Master Evaluations is included as well. It is of invaluable help in determining position evaluations, when uncertain. An abridged version of the Direct Tree is included as well.

9. An Opening Encyclopedia © Chess Assistant ends the major highlights. It is divided into thirteen major sections:



All sections include a detailed theoretical overview, seemingly done very, very well.

9.	Q-ty	% YEAR	ELO
♗e2 =	843	56%	2005 2805
♗h4 ±/=	331	57%	2005 2805
♗b3 ±/=	103	57%	2005 2700
h3 =	34	53%	2005 2585
♗e2 =	21	31%	2003 2590
♗d3 =	18	42%	2004 2510
♗e5 =	17	53%	2005 2510
♗d2 =	14	39%	2005 2550
♗a2 =	6	58%	2002 2415
♗d2	1	100%	1997 2375
♗e1	1	50%	1986 2205
♗c2	1	50%	2000 2650
Other mc			
♗d2	0		
Total	1390	55%	

Openings

9. ♗e2 QUEEN'S gam. SLAV def. (D19)

As any classical Encyclopedia of Chess Openings, Convekta's version offers multiple choices (as seen above) for Black. As in any good opening such as the Slav, many positions contain more than one equally good possibilities, and one can choose an individually appropriate one (positional or tactical). For an opening this size, this may prove to be a good (and of course – time consuming) choice.

A new feature enables the user to modify the material on the CD.

Conclusion:

Convekta offers its users an exceptional CD, featuring a basic and advanced overview of one of the most popular openings (defenses) practiced by Grandmasters and World Champions.

It is not restricted to mastering the defense as Black only, but offers a perspective from White's angle as well.

All users will benefit from studying this CD, without any doubt. Be, however, prepared for months of enjoyable study!?

Brief instructional textual approaches bring the novice Slav Defense user a step closer to understanding the moves being played.

The new Encyclopedia does not aim to challenge sometimes oversized book encyclopedias, instead offers a brief overview of the most important lines, enough to get a very good start and the opening equalization aiming towards an advantage.

The Slav Defence is essentially a gigantic opening, with which this CD tackles more than well enough.

After approximately 4 hours of browsing (typing included), I evaluate it as highly recommendable study material and recommend it to FIDE instructors, FIDE Trainers and players FIDE rated 1700 and above and/or above 13 years of age, on the average.

As an opening choice against 1.d4, the Slav Defense is recommendable for - all!

Product link: https://secure.chessassistant.com/Soft_Jovan_Petronic.htm

Secure Chess Web Store: https://secure.chessassistant.com/Jovan_Petronic.htm