



International grandmaster and trainer Neil McDonald knows only too well the difficulties players have in coping with masses of chess theory: 'Everyone learns variations in the openings, but rarely do they pause to reflect on the connection between the moves played and the underlying strategic demands of the position. Instead it's moves, moves and more moves.'

His solution? Assess each of the openings by its particular pawn formation – which will unfailingly direct you to a compatible course of action. In this essential guide, the author devotes chapters to the various structures – open, closed, symmetrical, exchange – with further discussions on Indian fianchettoes, Sicilian hedgehogs, d5 square dilemmas and Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde isolated queen's pawns.

Over 40 games are covered in depth with the author's trademark move-by-move commentary, showing you how to handle that stage of the game when the opening phase is over, and the time for attack has only just begun...

Neil McDonald is an International Grandmaster and a prolific chess author and trainer. His previous Batsford titles include *The Art of Planning in Chess* and *Chess: The Art of Logical Thinking*.

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