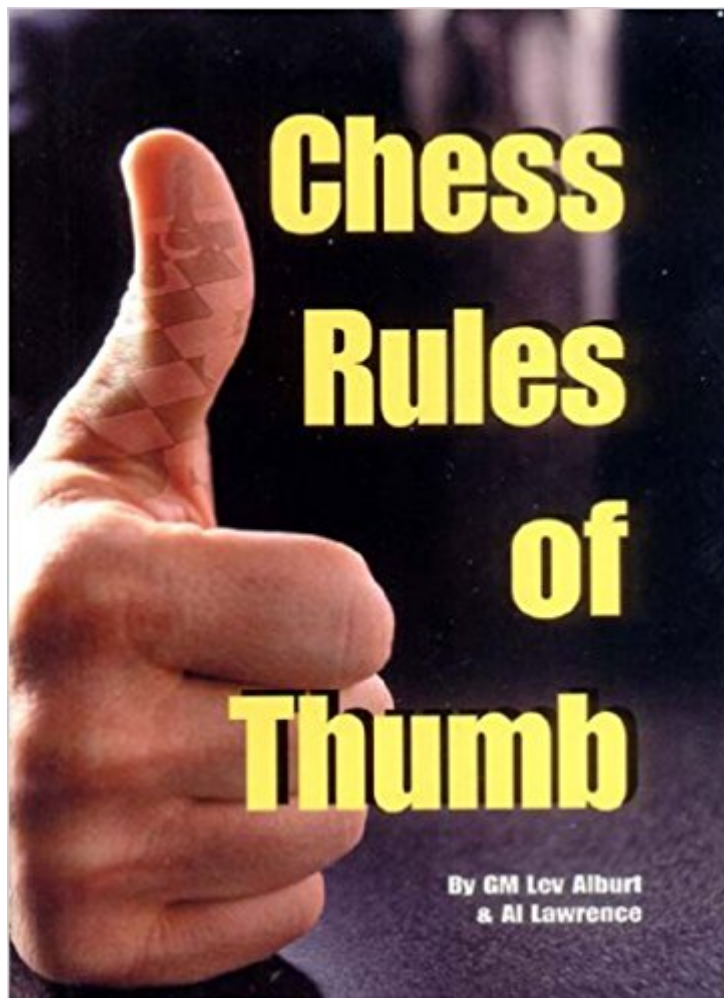


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# Chess Rules Of Thumb



## Synopsis

Chess Rules of Thumb gives you the winning principles of chess in clear, short statements.

Three-time US Champion Lev Alburtt and World Chess Hall of Fame Curator Al Lawrence have put together three centuries of insights from the masters. Fun to browse or to read from cover-to-cover, it's a book that all chess players from beginners to grandmasters will enjoy for a lifetime. Like life, chess has its rules. The difference that your parents probably didn't tell you about chess. Never cross the street before looking both ways. Never discuss portable explosives in the airport security line. Never overthrow the cut-off man. Never download email from someone you don't know. Never take the queen's knight pawn. Save hours of head-scratching and uncertainty in your own games and understand why the masters make the moves they do: The worst square for a White knight is b2. With rook vs. two knights, exchanging queens is worth a pawn. Never capture the b2 pawn with the queen. Rooks united on the seventh are blind pigs. The winner is the one who commits the next-to-last mistake. Backed up with diagrams and illustrations to help you remember key principles, a glossary of essential chess terms and a rundown on all major openings, Chess Rules of Thumb will improve your chess play. And it's great fun to read! Never buy a chess book that isn't fun!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

International Grandmaster Lev Alburtt, three-time U.S. champion and former European champion, is one of the most sought-after chess teachers in the world. He lives in New York. New Yorker Al Lawrence is one of the most popular modern chess authors. A former high school and college teacher with advanced degrees in instructional techniques, he specializes in applying modern

teaching theory to chess. He is also a recipient of the Chess Journalist of the Year award.

As the final rule in the book so clearly states, 'Never buy a chess book unless it is fun' and this book is definitely fun. This book is loaded with at least 300 often pithy comments that have made over the decades by various grandmasters and masters from Philidor's famous comment that 'The pawn is the soul of chess' through to the rather modern comparison of Rooks on the seventh rank acting like blind pigs. Will this book teach you the fine points of the Najdorf Sicilian? Sadly, no. Will this book give you extra insight into Rook and pawn endings? Again, sadly, no. But this book will permit you to sit alongside a board and, in true kibitzer style, offer profound, and occasionally sage, words of advice.

Lev Alburt has done it again. Anecdotal and practical advice from the chess greats at your thumb tips. A must have for your collection.

This is a very nice little book to have and read. If you only have a few minutes, it is easy to read some of the rules of thumb. More available time means you can read more. The endgame stuff is also very good nearer the end of the book.

This would be a decent (but not great) book for 20 cents. I don't see how it's worth twenty dollars. It's full of large-print, pithy advice. Sometimes, the advice is quoted from a well-known master, and those few quotations are easily the best parts of the book. Normally, there are 2 of these per page, but sometimes (at chapter boundaries) none. The last several pages do not even have this much. Instead, they show diagrams of many different openings, with a brief comment. Typically, the diagrams show only a single move; sometimes 2 or 3. I have no idea how this could be valuable to anyone. I would say one star, but I save that for truly horrible books. This book exudes quality in its pages, its binding, its printing, etc. All the advice that I read (and you can read the whole thing standing at the bookstore) was sound, but none of it was supported by example. (Well, maybe a few rare examples.) It does not actually require any thinking by the reader. It is similar to some pretty pop philosophy gift-books I've seen in the bargain bins. I think the book would be most valuable for a chess coach to clip the pages and pin them to a bulletin board. It has absolutely no other value. The author and publisher are certifiably insane if they imagine someone could learn from this. Addendum: I have learned that several quotations are wrongly attributed. This poor research turns a 2-star book into a 1-star book. Avoid.

I'm not sure why this book has been maligned so much by previous reviewers. Some of the ideas in this book are very worthwhile guidelines for the tournament player. I especially like the suggestions regarding modified piece values in various situations. My chief criticism of this work involves the unnecessary repetition of ideas that have been merely reworded from one "rule" to another. For example, once the author has stated that "a knight on the rim is dim," there's no need to mention other rules that cover poor knight placement on the edge of the board. Further, a few rules have contradictory rules elsewhere in the book. For instance, Alburt lists the rule "don't exchange pieces with a patzer." Yet another rule states that beating a patzer becomes easier if you bring the game down to an endgame. How does one move into the endgame without exchanging pieces? Finally, a few of the chess maxims are little too rudimentary; they resemble Fred Reinfeld comments (e.g., "develop your pieces quickly"). I think these detract from a perception of the book as one for advanced players. Since I consider a book worth the purchase as long as I glean one or two good ideas from it, I still recommend this book -- just if it's purchased at a bargain price, not the list price.

This book is crap. Waste less time on it than I have here.

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