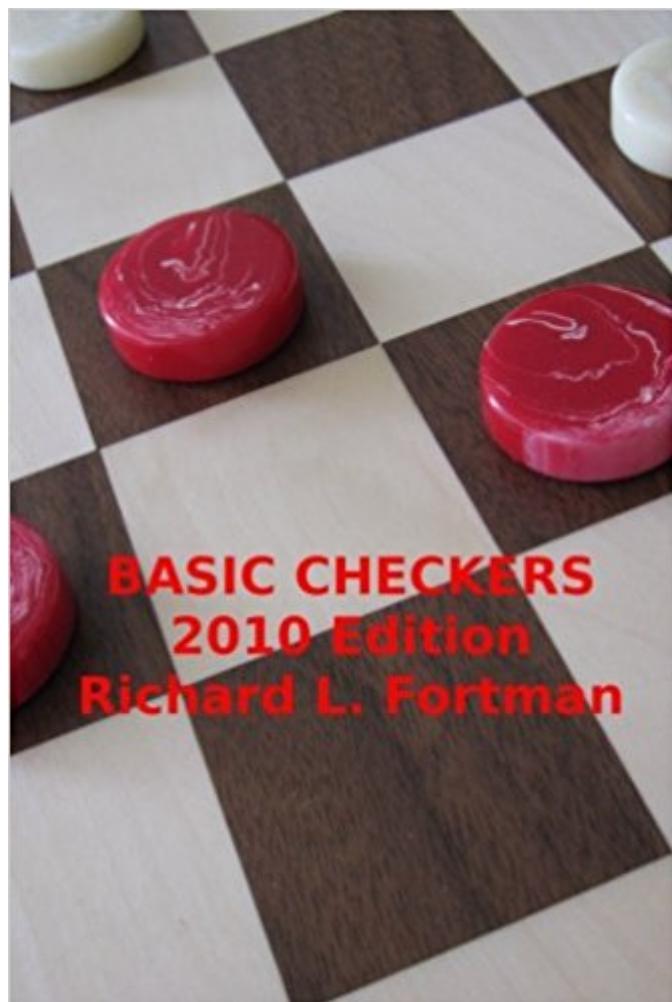


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Basic Checkers: The First Twenty Moves



Synopsis

Richard L. Fortman's classic 3-move checkers textbook revolutionized tournament and match play, and is still a standard reference for the serious player three decades later. This special reissue corrects typos in the original, using modern typesetting tools not available to Mr. Fortman in his day to achieve a clean and readable presentation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richard L. Fortman was born on February 8, 1915, in Springfield, Illinois, the city in which he was to live virtually all his long life. From humble beginnings, Mr. Fortman rose to become a six-time Illinois State Champion, and twice World Postal Champion. He passed away on November 8, 2008, in the same city, at the age of 93. He was the last of the legendary checkerists and his passing marked the end of an era.

Let me first admit that I am a contributor to this edition of Basic Checkers. Fortman's Basic Checkers is one of the classics of the game of checkers, along with Anderson's Second Edition, Lees' Guide, Kear's Encyclopedia, and Boland's ending books. Although it contains more material than a beginner can expect to absorb, I think it is primarily targeted toward beginners, with the most popular opening moves, as well as many comments on checkers reasoning. But, the book is also studied by the Masters. It is an amazing book.

Richard Fortman struck gold with this book. It's a history of the game of checkers in the form of a guide to three-move openings, a collection of anecdotes about famous players, matches, positions

and games, a compilation of first-rate analysis, and a labor of love. Written over 5 years on a manual typewriter, printed in a set of seven xeroxed booklets and sold for next to nothing, it became an instant classic. Fortman was one of the great historians and analysts of the game and used every source available to him at the time and did it all without the use of any computer analysis (this was the Flintstone era - decent checker playing programs were years away). Jim Loy and Bob Newell have produced a beautiful modern edition. Fortman's analysis has not been updated but Jim Loy plans to publish his corrections in a supplement to appear later. Thirty years of master play and computer analysis have shown a few errors since Basic Checkers first appeared, but the quality and breadth of the play is amazing. Every serious player should own this book, and if you're even mildly curious about what the game has to offer, this might get you hooked.

You need to know the true basic of the game before ordering this book. I am still trying to get to all the basic.

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