



The New York Times/Jack Manning

Chess game in progress at Chess House, 143 West 72d Street. In foreground are handcarved Spanish pieces.

Fischer Furor Sparks Big Run on Chess Sets

Bobby Fischer may have created controversy in Iceland, but in chess stores and studios he is also creating sales. According to store buyers and studio managers, the world championship match has generated increased demand for chess books, sets and lessons. Here is a rundown on some of the items most widely recommended by the experts:

CHESS SETS: A broad range of styles and sizes are available, from inexpensive pocket-sized magnetic travel sets to \$1,000 hand-carved gold-and-silver-inlay pieces from Italy.

For tournament play, the chessmen must be those of the classic Staunton pattern. Named after the 19th-century English master, Howard Staunton, the pattern includes a king with the familiar crown and cross at the top, a queen with an abbreviated coronet, a knight in the shape of a horse's head and a rook resembling a castle's tower.

Best-selling magnetic sets include the T119 set, \$4.50 plus tax (available by mail from the United States Chess Federation, 479 Broadway, Newburgh, N. Y. 12550); Traveling Set, \$3.50 (Macy's) and Wallet Set, \$2.75 (Chess Studio, 191 Sullivan Street).

Among standard-sized sets, the leaders include the Classic Staunton 1425, \$5.50, and the William F. Druke Company's Players Choice, \$9.50 (both available by mail from the United States Chess Federation); French boxwood set, \$19 (Macy's); the Peter Max Set, \$10 (Brentano's).

CHESS BOARDS: Experts say the best boards are not the red and black ones but the softer cream or buff, contrasted with green or brown squares. For tournament play, a board with squares between 2 and 2½ inches is used. The finish should be nonglossy to minimize glare.

Best sellers include a \$4 plastic board (Chess Studio), a \$33 Anri wooden board (United States Chess Federation) and a \$10 Italian wooden board (Macy's).

CHESS BOOKS: One expert contends there are "enough chess books to stretch from here to Reykjavik and back, six deep." Those listed here are generally available in bookstores and chess studios and are the ones most often mentioned by the experts.

For novices, there are "Chess in 10 Easy Lessons," by Larry Evans (\$2, Wilshie Book Company); "Chess in a Nutshell," by Fred Reinfeld (\$4.50, Doubleday, and 95 cents, Pocket Books); "Chess the Easy Way," by Reuben Fine (\$1.25, Cornerstone); "The Collier Quick and Easy Guide to Chess," by Richard Roberts (\$1.95, Collier); "An Invitation to Chess," by Irving Chernev and Kenneth Harkness (\$5.95 and \$1.95, Simon & Schuster).

For players seeking to improve their game, some well-regarded titles include "My System," by Aron Nimzovich (\$2.95, McKay); "Chess Openings: Theory and Practice," by I. A. Horowitz (\$5.95, Simon & Schuster); "Chess Master vs. Chess Amateur," by Dr. Max Euwe and Walter Meiden (\$7.95, McKay), "Chess Companion," by Irving Chernev (\$7.95, Simon & Schuster); "The Game of Chess," by Edward Lasker (\$8.95, Doubleday).

Games of the two world championship contestants are recounted in "My Sixty Memorable Games," by Bobby Fischer, (\$6.95, Simon & Schuster) and "Boris Spassky," by Andrew Soltis (\$2.70, United States Chess Federation).

PLAYING FACILITIES: There are membership chess clubs throughout the metropolitan area. The United States Chess Federation will provide the name of one nearby. In addition there are three places in Manhattan where non-members can play for an hourly fee, board and chessmen included, with their own partners or those available at the club. Each facility also sells chess equipment.

The Chess House, 143 West 72d Street, with 40 boards, is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The fee is 60 cents an hour a person, or \$1 for the day for students under 16.

The Chess Studio, 191 Sullivan Street, with 18 boards, is open 1 P.M. to 1 A.M. daily. The fee is 40 cents an hour a person.

The Chess and Checker Club of New York, 212 West 42d Street, is open noon to 3 A.M. daily. The fee is 30 cents an hour a person.

LESSONS: Chess masters at various private and open clubs teach both beginning and advanced chess at rates from \$5 an hour. All lessons are individual; details available from clubs.