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Chess Tables

By Michael Kanehl

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Where design meets functionality

A well made chess table isn't going to make you a better chess player but it is going to bring a level of class to both your game, and the room that it resides in, that no ordinary chess board can match.

More than a piece of furniture, chess tables make a statement that you are not merely a chess player, you are a chess connoisseur!

As you might imagine, chess tables exist solely for playing chess. They typically are made of solid wood with rosewood, cedar, and mahogany being the most popular. Exotic wood version are also available.

The chess board is generally made of inlaid wood that is integral to the table top. Most tables also provide two felt-lined drawers for storage of pieces and pawns.

Like any other furniture piece, the manufacturing process runs the gamut from mass-produced to one-of-a-kind hand-crafted collector pieces. The prices range widely as well. Expect to pay in the neighborhood of \$500 for a higher-end manufactured piece and \$1500 and up for hand-made pieces. Of course, there are chess tables available for under \$100 as well.

Having a chess table in your game room can be a good way of unsettling your opponent when he or she walks into your game room for the first time. It delivers the same message that a pool player delivers when the custom-made pool cue is unwrapped at the table! You can get your bluff in and, maybe, carry it straight through to the endgame!

Even if mind games aren't your style, there is no denying that chess tables are simply beautiful and functional pieces of furniture that any room in your home would be proud to hold.

When you own chess tables you own a small piece of chess history that dates as far back as the game itself. You deserve something nice, so look at some chess tables and pick one out for your home.

Michael is fascinated by all aspects of the game of chess. – Find more at <http://artofchess.squarespace.com>

Correspondence E-mail or Postal Chess

By Michael Kanehl

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Correspondence Chess or E-mail Chess might be for you if can't spend a lot of time playing without interruptions because you also have a life

E-mail chess is an evolution from the postal chess which was very popular in the late 19th century. Both can be categorized under the term Correspondence Chess

Unlike postal chess where time is measured in days, online e-mail messages can be delivered almost instantaneously

Correspondence chess allows people or clubs geographically distant to play one another without meeting in person. The length of a game played by correspondence can vary depending on the method used to transmit the moves – a game played via server or by e-mail might last no more than a few months, but a game played by post between players in different countries might last several years.

Correspondence chess differs from over-the-board play in several respects. While in OTB chess only one game is played at a time (the exception being in a simultaneous exhibition), in correspondence chess several games are usually played at once. All games in a tournament are played concurrently, and some players may have more than a hundred games continuing at the same time

The time limits in correspondence play are usually between 30 and 60 days for every 10 moves. This allows for far deeper calculation, meaning that blunders are very rare. The use of any kind of assistance including chess databases and chess programs is allowed, although many hobby players voluntarily do without them

The international governing body of correspondence chess is the International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) which organises postal and e-mail events. There are numerous national and regional bodies for postal chess, as well as a number of organisations devoted to organising e-mail play (such as the International Email Chess Group (IECG) and International E-mail Chess Club (IECC)).

Discover all aspects of chess at <http://www.art-of-chess.com>



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