



IMPROVE YOUR **TACTICAL VISION**

Beginner, Intermediate And Advanced Level

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Introduction

Spotting chess tactics is the foundation of every player's skill set. You will not go far in chess if you consistently miss strong moves by your opponent or chances for yourself. Chess is different from other sports in that one single bad move can ruin the entire game immediately. You may play the rest of the game perfectly after that one bad move, but if your opponent does not put a foot wrong, there is nothing you can do. In other sports, you can often come back. Your opponent scored a goal? No problem, you just score one more and win. Not in chess. One mistake and it can be game over. Therefore, it is essential to reduce tactical oversights to become a good chess player.

This book will provide you with a method how to spot tactics and three sets of exercises, split in a beginner, intermediate and advanced section. Enjoy!

How To Find Tactics

Here's my five-step process to scan any position for tactics:

1. **Obtain an overview: Check the material and look for direct threats of your opponent**
2. **Look for your candidate moves**
3. **Intuitively, choose one move and calculate it**
4. **Evaluate the resulting positions**
5. **Slowly double-check your variation**

Now, let's dive into each point more specifically, shall we?

1. Obtain an overview: Check the material and look for direct threats of your opponent

When you first see the exercise position, obtain an overview by checking the material and look for any important, direct threats of your opponent. The latter will tell you if you have time for a quiet move or if everything needs to happen with check. When you are playing a tournament game, you should be (hopefully) already aware of the material balance, but it is always helpful to identify your opponent's threats by asking yourself: **"If it was my opponent's move right now, what would he/she do?"** You want to ask yourself this question early on in your thinking process and make it a habit during your games.

2. Look for your candidate moves

Look at the forcing moves, starting from most forcing to least forcing. These are your candidate moves. The most forceful move in chess is a check as your opponent must react to it. Then, capture moves or move that threaten an opponent's piece are the next most forceful moves. Usually, taking a piece is a more forceful move than threatening a piece as your opponent must take back the piece to not lose material. However, this is not always true. An attack on the opponent's queen is more forceful than taking one of the opponent's pawns. **Make it a habit to scan the position for all moves that give check, capture something or threaten an opponent's piece directly.** The great majority of tactics begin in this fashion. When scanning the position for candidate moves, you can disregard most of them in split-seconds as they do not make any sense, e.g. taking a protected pawn with your queen. Usually, you end up with a few choices that are interesting.

3. Choose one move and calculate it

Use your intuition to start calculating your first candidate move. You simply start with the one that you find most appealing; if possible in the position, this is likely going to be a check or capture move. As it is the case with checks or capture moves, the opponent's choices are typically limited, and you take your time to calculate the different possible replies.

4. Evaluate the resulting positions

At the end of each variation, you need to evaluate whether the final position is an improvement to your current position. If you calculate one line where this is not the case, you can disregard this candidate move for now. Even if you like all the final positions you have calculated, there might be still a better move in the position that leads to an even greater advantage. As the second World Champion Emanuel Lasker said: "When you see a good move, look for a better one." The reason why most players miss moves is because they are not looking. This is why step 2 is so critical.

5. Slowly double-check your variation

Let's say, you went through your candidate moves and are happy with one of them. Before you now commit to the move, double-check it one more time. Here it is helpful to really slow down and check at every move in the variation if your opponent has hidden resources. This step will make sure that you do not run into unpleasant surprises.

There is actually one more step, the most important one. Play your move 😊

Frequent Questions

How should I solve the exercises (computer, printed, board)?

That's completely up to you, whatever you feel most comfortable with. In training, one should always try to simulate the competition situation as closely possible. That means, setting every position up on a board and having a clock next to it ticking down would be optimal. However, setting up each position takes some time and brings you out of the calculation flow.

Personally, I like to work on my exercises in printed form. That allows me to write each solution right below the diagram and I can go through them one after the other. Another benefit is that you can sit down somewhere undistracted and dedicate a specific amount of time to your chess training. When trying to solve the tactics on the computer, there is a high likelihood of being distracted. Try out the different training methods and see what suits you best. In the end, it does not matter that much how you do it. *What matters is that you do it.*

The exercises are too easy, what should I do now?

If you're solving every exercise within 30 seconds or so, skip ahead to the next exercise section. If the advanced section is also too easy for you, well, then you are already a pretty decent player. Check out my list of recommended tactic resources at the end of the book.

What should I do if I just can't figure out the solution to an exercise?

That's good. Only through challenges we grow and get better. If you cannot solve an exercise after thinking about it for more than ten minutes, mark it, and go onto the next one. You can then return to it later with a fresh look and might find that the solution suddenly appears. That has happened to me many times. I would like to discourage you though from jumping around one tactic to the next when you are not able to find the solution within one minute. Calculation is work. You need to put in the time and energy to find the right moves.

With some exercises, you might find that even if you have returned to them several times, you cannot figure them out. If you tried hard (and only you know if you really did), go ahead and check the solution and see what you missed. I want to really stress here that tolerating frustration is key to becoming a better chess player. In your tournament game, you don't have the option to take a peak at the solution. You need to work and keep on struggling to find whatever best solution there is for the position. So, become comfortable with your frustration, it's your friend 😊

Anything else I need to know?

One more tip before you begin: Try to do these exercises as seriously as possible. From having done many thousand exercises myself, I know that sometimes one gets into the habit of doing exercises half-heartedly, seeing a move that looks good and saying to oneself "That's gotta be the move!". Don't do this. Make it a habit instead to always try hard to find the best defense for your opponent. This habit will get you lots of points in tournaments, trust me.

Ready to train your tactic skills? The first section of exercises begins on the next page. **It is always the bottom side to move.** So, for the first four exercises on the next page, it is White to move and for exercises 5 and 6 it is Black to move. Oh, one last thing. I am purposefully not telling you for which result to play, so whether your goal is to reach a drawing or winning position in the exercise. In a game, nobody tells you this either, so why should we do so here

😊 **Good luck!**

Beginner Exercises

Exercise 1



Exercise 2



Exercise 3



Exercise 4



Exercise 5



Exercise 6



Exercise 7



Exercise 8



Exercise 9



Exercise 10



Exercise 11



Exercise 12



Exercise 13



Exercise 14



Exercise 15



Exercise 16



Exercise 17



Exercise 18



Exercise 19



Exercise 20



Exercise 21



Exercise 22



Exercise 23



Exercise 24



Exercise 25



Exercise 26



Exercise 27



Exercise 28



Exercise 29



Exercise 30



Exercise 31



Exercise 32



Exercise 33



Exercise 34



Exercise 35



Exercise 36



Exercise 37



Exercise 38



Exercise 39



Exercise 40



Exercise 41



Exercise 42



Exercise 43



Exercise 44



Exercise 45



Exercise 46



Exercise 47



Exercise 48



Solutions to Beginner Exercises

1. **1.Ng6+ Kg7** [1...Nxc6 2.Rxh7#] **2.Nxe7**
2. 1.Rxg7+ Qxg7 2.Rg1
3. 1.Nf7+ Kg8 2.Nh6+ Kh8 3.Qg8+ Rxg8 4.Nf7#
4. **1.Qh7 Nxh7** [1...Re7 2.Qh8+ Ng8 3.Qxg8#] **2.Rxf7#**
5. 1...Rxf2+ 2.Kxf2 Ne4+ 3.Kf1 Nxc5
6. 1...Bxf2+ 2.Kxf2 Ne4+ 3.Kg2 Nxc3
7. 1.Qxf5 Qxf5 2.Ne7+ Kh8 3.Nxf5
8. 1.Qxc6 Qxc6 2.Ne7+ Kf8 3.Nxc6
9. **1.Nd6+ Kf8** [1...Qxd6 2.exd6] **2.Nxe6+ Kg8 3.Nxc7**
10. 1.Nf6
11. 1.Rxg7+ Kxg7 2.Nxe6+ Kf7 3.Nxc7
12. 1...Rxc3 2.bxc3 Ne2+ 3.Kd2 Nxc1 4.Nxc1 Bxe5
13. 1...Rd1+ 2.Kh2 Qb8+ 3.g3 Qxa7
14. 1.Nf6+ gxf6 2.Qg4+ Kh8 3.Qxd7
15. 1...Rgf3+ 2.Ke1 Qg1+ 3.Kd2 Qxh2
16. 1...Rxa1+ 2.Bxa1 Bxg2+ 3.Kxg2 Qa8+ 4.Kg3 Qxa1
17. 1.Bb5+ c6 2.Bxc6+ bxc6 3.Qxc6+ Qd7 4.Qxa8+
18. 1...Nf2+ 2.Kg1 Nh3+ 3.Kg2 Qe4+ 4.Kxh3 Qxb1
19. **1...Bxd4+ 2.Nxd4?** [2.Kh1 Bxa1] **2...Qe1#**
20. **1...Bc4+ 2.Kg1** [2.Rxc4 Rb1+] **2...Bxa6**
21. 1...Rxd6 2.Rxd6 Be5 3.Rd2 Bxg3
22. **1.Rxd7 Qxd7** [1...Qxc4? 2.Qxg7#] **2.Bxe6+**
23. **1...e3 2.fxe3 Bxe3+ 3.Rxe3** [3.Kf1 Bxd2] **3...Rxe3**
24. **1.Nxe4 Rxe4 2.Nxc6 bxc6? 3.Bxc6**
25. 1.Qd2+ Kh7 2.Rd7+
26. 1.Nh6+ Kh8 2.Qxd7

27. **1.Bxe5 Rd8** [1...Bxe5? 2.Rc8+] **2.Bxf6 gxf6 3.Rc6**
28. 1...Qxf3 2.exf3 f5
29. 1...Qd3+ 2.Qxd3 exd3 3.Nb4 d2
30. 1...Bxe3
31. 1.Nxf6 Qxf6 2.Re7+ Kf8 3.Qxf6+
32. 1.Rh7+ Ke8 2.Bb5
33. **1.Rf1 e4** [1...Qd6 2.g5] **2.g5**
34. 1.Qxe5 dxe5 2.Rxd7
35. **1.Qc8+** [1.Rd7? Re1+ 2.Ng1 Rxc1+ 3.Kxc1 Qe1#]
36. **1.Qh5+ Kd8** [1...g6 2.Bxc6+] **2.Ba5**
37. **1.Ra8 Rxa8** [1...Qg5 2.Rxd8+ Bxd8 3.Rf8+; 1...Bb8 2.Rxb8 Rxb8 3.Qe5+ Kg8 4.Qxb8+] **2.Qxa8+ Kg7 3.Qf8#**
38. **1.Qf8+ Qxf8** [1...Kh7 2.Bg8+ Kh8 (2...Kg6 3.Qf5#) 3.Be6+ Qxf8 4.Rxf8+ Kh7 5.Bf5+ g6 6.Bxe4] **2.Rxf8+ Kh7 3.Bd3**
39. 1...Bxc5+ 2.bxc5 Qxf4
40. 1.Nxd7 Nxd7 2.Qxe6+ Rf7 3.Rxd7
41. 1...Nb4+ 2.cxb4 Rxh3
42. 1...Nb3 2.axb3 Rxa1
43. **1...Rxc3 2.bxc3** [2.Qxc3 Bb4] **2...Qxb1+**
44. **1...Rxc4** [1...Bxc4? 2.Rc1!] **2.Rxc4 Bxc4 3.bxc4? Rxb1**
45. 1.Nxb6 cxb6 2.Rxc8+ Rxc8 3.Rxc8+ Bxc8 4.Qxc8+
46. **1...Bh5 2.Bxh5? Qxh2+ 3.Kf1 Qf2#**
47. **1.Nd5** [2.Qf8# 2.Qxc7] [1.Nc6 2.Nxb8 2.Qf8#]
48. 1.Ngf6+ gxf6 2.Bxf5

Intermediate Exercises

Exercise 1



Exercise 2



Exercise 3



Exercise 4



Exercise 5



Exercise 6



Exercise 7



Exercise 8



Exercise 9



Exercise 10



Exercise 11



Exercise 12



Exercise 13



Exercise 14



Exercise 15



Exercise 16



Exercise 17



Exercise 18



Exercise 19



Exercise 20



Exercise 21



Exercise 22



Exercise 23



Exercise 24



Exercise 25



Exercise 26



Exercise 27



Exercise 28



Exercise 29



Exercise 30



Exercise 31



Exercise 32



Exercise 33



Exercise 34



Exercise 35



Exercise 36



Exercise 37



Exercise 38



Exercise 39



Exercise 40



Exercise 41



Exercise 42



Exercise 43



Exercise 44



Exercise 45



Exercise 46



Exercise 47



Exercise 48



Solutions to Intermediate Exercises

- 1...Qh1+ 2.Kxh1 Nxf2+ 3.Kg2 Nxd3 4.cxd3
- 1...Nf4 2.Nf6+ gxf6 3.Bxh7+ Kh8!
- 1...Bxc2 2.Qxc2 Rxf3 3.Kxf3? Nxd4+ 4.Kg2 Nxc2
- 1...Rxb4 2.Rxb4 e1Q+ 3.Kxe1 Nc2+ 4.Kd2 Nxb4
- 1...Re2 2.Qxe2** [2.Qg1 Nc3+ 3.Kc1 Nxd1 4.Qxd1 Re1] **2...Nc3+ 3.Kc1 Nxe2+**
- 1...Qxa3+ 2.Kxa3 a1Q+ 3.Qxa1 Nxc2+ 4.Ka2 Nxa1
- 1.Ng5 Qe8 (1...Nf6 2.Bc6 White is in complete control and picks up the a4-pawn next.) 2.Nxe6+ Ke7 3.Qxe8+ Kxe8 4.Nc7+ Kd8 5.Nxa6
- 1.Nxf7 Rxf7 2.Qxg6+ Kf8 3.Qxd3
- 1...Bxe2 2.Rxe2? Qd3
- 1...Qf5+ 2.Ne4?** [2.Ka1 Qxf6] **2...Nd2+**
- 1...Rxb2 2.Rxb2 Bxc3 3.Qc1 Qd4+ 4.Kh1 Bxb2
- 1...Ndxe5 2.Bxe5 Bxb1 3.Nxb1 Rd1+ 4.Kh2 Rxb1
- 1...e1Q+ 2.Kxe1 Nf3+ 3.Kd1** [3.Kf1 Nd2+ (3...Nxb2+ 4.Kg1 Nf3+ 5.Kh1?? Rh2#)] **3...Rd2+ 4.Kc1 Rxd5**
- 1.d4 Bxd4 2.Bf4 Qg6** [2...Qg4 3.Bh3; 2...Qf2+ 3.Qxf2 Bxf2 4.Kxf2] **3.Ne7+**
- 1.Ra4! a6 2.Bc1 axb5 3.Rxa8 Qc3 [3..Qb4? 4.Ba3] 4.Bxb5
- 1.g4+ Rxc4 2.Qf3 -- [3.Qxc4]
- 1...Re3+ 2.Kxe3 [2.Kf4 Ra3] 2..Bc5+ 3.Kd3 Bxa7 4.Kc2 a1Q
- 1.Nxc5 Rxc5 2.Qa3 -- [3.Rxc5 4.Rc1]
- 1...Bf8 2.Re2 Bb4 3.Re3 Nc2
- 1...Qh3+ 2.Qh2 Qf3+ 3.Rg2 h3
- 1.Bg6 Qxf6 2.Qh7+ Kf8 3.Rf1
- 1...Qxg2+ 2.Qxg2 Rxf1+ 3.Bg1 Kxf7
- 1.Bxf6 Bxf6 2.Bd5 Qc7 3.Qxf6 -- [4.Qxf7]
- 1.Bd1 Rg7 2.fxg4+ Rxc4 3.Rf6 [4.Rf5+ 5.Bxc4]

25. **1...Nxd4 2.Nxd4 Bc5 3.c3 Qf6+ 4.Qf3** [4.Kg1? Rxd4!] **4...Bxd4+ 5.cxd4 Qxd4+ 6.Kf1 Qxb2**
26. 1...Nxe5 2.Nxe5 Qd6
27. **1.e6 fxe6 2.Ne5 Rf4 3.g3** [3.Nxd7? Qh4] **3...Rf7 4.Nxf7**
28. **1...Bh6! 2.Rxh4** [2.Bxh4 Bxd2+; 2.Bxd8 Bxd2+ 3.Kxd2 Rxh1 4.Nxh1 Kxd8; 2.Bxh6 Rxh1 3.Nxh1 (3.Bg5 Rxf1+ 4.Kxf1 f6) 3...Qh4+ 4.Nf2 Qxh6] **2...Bxg5**
29. **1...Nb4+ 2.cxb4** [2.Kd1 Qxa1+; 2.Kb1 Rxe1+; 2.Kb2 Nxd3+ 3.Bxd3 Bxc3+ 4.Kxc3 Qxd3+ 5.Kb4 Rb6+ 6.Ka3 Ra6+ 7.Kb4 (7.Kb2 Qc2#) 7...Rxa1 8.Rxa1 Qd4+ 9...Qxa1] **2...Bxa1**
30. **1.Ra8+** [1.Ra7? Re1+]
31. **1.Ncxe4 Nxe4 2.Nxe4 Qxe4** [2..Bg7 3.Bxg7 Kxg7 4.Qc3+ f6 5.Ng3] **3.Bd3 Qxh1+ 4.Kd2**
32. **1.Qxd3 e4 2.Qe2 exf3? 3.Qxe8+**
33. **1.Nc7** [1.Bg7+ Kg8 2.Bd4+ Kf7 3.Rg7+ Ke8] **1...Nf6 2.Bg7+ Kg8 3.Bxf6+ Kf7 4.Be5 Rxe5 5.Rf2+**
34. 1.Qd8+ Kf7 2.Qc7+ Ke6 3.Qc6+! Ke5 4.b4 Be3 5.Qe8+
35. 1...Bh3 2.Qxg5? Rf1#
36. **1.Nd6 Nxd6** [1...Rxd8 Nxf7] [1...Qf6 2.Qxf6+ Kxf6 3.Ne4+ 4.Rxa8] **2.Qg5#**
37. 1...Nd3+ 2.Kf1 Rxd8
38. 1...Bxf2+ 2.Kxf2 Ng4+ [3...Qxg5]
39. 1.Nd6+ Rxd6+ 2.cxd6 Bxf3 3.d7
40. 1...Bg1 [2...Qxh2 2...Rxd3]
41. **1.e6 f6** [((2.Be5+))] **2.Bf8 Rxf8 3.Rxd8 Rxd8 4.e7** [4...Re8 5.Qf8+]
42. 1.Bxc4 Qxd7 2.Bxf7+ Kf8 3.Bxb3+ Bf6 4.Rxf6+ Kg7 5.Rf7+ Kh6 6.Rxd7 Rxe5 7.Bd5
43. 1...Rc3+ 2.Kd2 Rd3+ 3.Kc1 Rxd4
44. 1...Rxc4 2.Qxc4 b5 [3...Qxa7]
45. 1...Rf2 2.Qxf2 e3+ 3.Kg1 exf2+
46. **1...Rxe4 2.Nxe4** [2.Qxe4 Qxd1+ 3.Ka2 Rxd2] **2...Rxd1+**
47. 1.Rxe7 Qxe7 2.Qg6+ Kh8 3.Qxh6# [3.Qxg7#]
48. **1.Be7! Re8? 2.Bxc5 Rxe3** [2...Qxc5 3.Rxe8+] **3.Bxe3**

Advanced Exercises

Exercise 1



Exercise 2



Exercise 3



Exercise 4



Exercise 5



Exercise 6



Exercise 7



Exercise 8



Exercise 9



Exercise 10



Exercise 11



Exercise 12



Exercise 13



Exercise 14



Exercise 15



Exercise 16



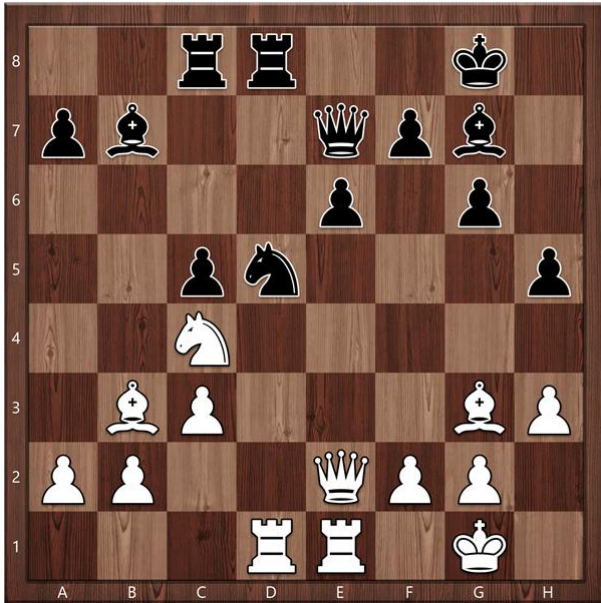
Exercise 17



Exercise 18



Exercise 19



Exercise 20



Exercise 21



Exercise 22



Exercise 23



Exercise 24



Exercise 25



Exercise 26



Exercise 27



Exercise 28



Exercise 29



Exercise 30



Exercise 31



Exercise 32



Exercise 33



Exercise 34



Exercise 35



Exercise 36



Exercise 37



Exercise 38



Exercise 39



Exercise 40



Exercise 41



Exercise 42



Exercise 43



Exercise 44



Exercise 45



Exercise 46



Exercise 47



Exercise 48



Solutions to Advanced Exercises

1. 1.Qxf8+ Kxf8 2.Bh6+ Ke8 3.Ra8+
2. 1.Qf6+ Kg8 2.Qxe5 Qxe5 3.Bc4+ Kh8 4.Nf7+
3. 1...Qg1+ 2.Kxg1 c1Q+ 3.Kf2 Qf1+
4. 1.Nxh7+ Rxh7 2.Qh6+ Rxh6 3.Bxh6#
5. **1...Qf4 2.fxe4** [2.Qxe4 Qc1+] **2...Qg4**
6. **1.Nxe5 Bxd1 2.Bb5+** [2.Bxf7+? Ke7 3.Bg5+ (3.Nc6+ Kxf7 4.Nxd8+ Rxd8) 3...Nf6 4.Nc6+ Kxf7 5.Nxd8+ Rxd8 6.Rxd1] **2...Ke7 3.Bg5+** [3.Nd7+! alternative] **3...f6 4.Ng6+ Kf7 5.Nxh8#**
7. 1...Qxg3+ 2.Kxg3 Be5#
8. 1.Qe6+ Nxe6 2.Nh6#
9. **1...Nf3+** [1...Ng4+—+ alternative] **2.Qxf3 Be5+**
10. 1.Rxd5 Qxa4 2.Re1+
11. **1.Bxh7+ Kxh7** [1...Kh8 2.Qh5] **2.Qc2+ Kg8 3.Rxc8 Rxc8 4.Qxc8+ Bxc8 5.Rxe7**
12. 1.Rxf7+ Rxf7 2.Nh5+ Kf8 3.Qd8#
13. 1.Bg5 Qe5 2.Qxh7+ Kxh7 3.Rh4+ Nh5 4.Rxh5+ Kg7 5.Be7+
14. **1.Qd8+ Qf8 2.Rxh6+ Bxh6 3.Qf6+** [3.Qxf8+! Bxf8 4.Rh1+] **3...Qg7 4.Rh1 Qxf6 5.exf6**
15. **3.Bd4 Nxf3+ 4.Qxf3 e5 5.h6 Qe7** [5...Qc7 6.Qf4] **6.Re2 Rxc5 7.Rxe5** [7.Bxe5+! alternative 7...Kg8 8.Bf4 Qe4 9.Rxe4 fxe4 10.Qf2] **7...Qd6 8.Qg3** [8.Qe3+— Rh5+ 9.Kg2 Qg6+ 10.Kf2 Rh2+ 11.Ke1 Rh1+ 12.Kd2 Qg2+ 13.Qe2] **8...Qxh6+ 9.Qh3 Qd6 10.Kh1**
16. **1.Bd6 Qxc2 2.Qb6 Qxb1+** [2...axb6 3.Ra8+ Nb8 4.Rxb8#] **3.Qxb1**
17. 1...e3
18. **1...Na5 2.Nd4** [2.Qc2 Nxc4] **2...Nxc4 3.Nxe7+ Qxe7 4.Qc2**
19. 1.Nd6 Rxd6 2.Bxd6 Qxd6 3.c4 Bd4 4.cxd5
20. 1...Qxf2+ 2.Kxf2 Bh4+ 3.Kg1 Bf2#
21. 1.Rg5 fxe5 2.Qh8+ Rg8 3.Rf1+
22. **1.Rd7 Nh6 2.Qxg7+** [2.Qh3? Qxd7 3.Qxd7 Rxe1; 2.Rxb7? Nxc4+] **2...Kxg7** [2...Rxc7 3.Rxe8+ Ng8 4.Rxb7 Rxb7 5.Bxf6+] **3.Rxb7 Rxb7 4.Rxe8**
23. **1.Qb1 Be8** [1...Ke7 2.Qb4+ Ke8 3.Nc7+] **2.Qb4+ Kd7 3.Qxf8**
24. 1...Nh3+ 2.gxh3 Ne4+ 3.fxe4 Bh4+ 4.Kf3 Qxe4#

25. 1.Bxh6 Bxh6 2.Qxh6+ Nxh6 3.Nf6+ Kg7 4.Nxd7
26. **1.R1xc6** [1.Qd6 alternative 1...Kh7 2.R1xc6 dxc6 3.Rxg7+--]
27. 1...Rxf4 2.Kxf4 Bxg5+ 3.Kxg5 Qe7+ 4.Kf4 Rf8+ 5.Kg3 Qg5+
28. **1...Bh3+ 2.Kh2** [2.Kxh3 Qg1] **2...Rh8**
29. 1.Ne5
30. 1.Bxf6+ Rxf6 2.Qa8+
31. 1...c1Q 2.Rxc1 Re2+ 3.Kh1 Re1+
32. 1...Qg1+ 2.Kxg1 Bd4+ 3.Kh1 Rg1#
33. 1...Kh6 2.Bb1 f5
34. 1...Rd8 2.Qe3 Qxc2 3.Kf1 Rd1+
35. 1.Bd2 Qxd2 2.Qc7+ Ke8 3.Qxe7#
36. 1.Re7 Rd7 2.Qe5+ Kf8 3.Qf6
37. 1...Qg1+ 2.Kb2 a3+ 3.Kxa3 Qc1#
38. 1.Rg2 Qd8 2.Qxh7+
39. 1.Qg7+ Nxg7 2.hxg7+ Kxg7 3.Bf6+ Kf8 4.Rh8#
40. 1.Qxh7+ Kxh7 2.Rh3+ Kg6 3.Nxe7+
41. **1...Qf5 2.Re2 Qf3+ 3.Nxf3 gxf3+** [3...exf3+ alternative 4.Kh1 fxe2 5.Ra8+ Kd7--] **4.Kh1 fxe2 5.Ra8+ Kd7**
42. 1...b4 2.Rxb4 b5 3.h5 Bd6 4.Rb3 b4
43. 1.Nxa5 Rc7 2.Nc4 Rb7 3.Rb5
44. 1...Bd6 2.Bxd6 b3 3.Nd5 Nxd5 4.Be5 Nb6
45. 1.a7 Bxf1 2.Qd4 Qa6 3.Qh8+
46. 1.f5 exf5 2.e6 d4 3.Qxd4 Rxd4 4.Rb8+ Nf8 5.e7
47. 1...Nxf3+ 2.gxf3 Rg5+ 3.Kf1 Qxh3+ 4.Ke2 Rg2+ 5.Bf2 Rxf2+ 6.Kxf2 Qh2+
48. 1...Rxh2 2.Kxh2 Rh8+ 3.Bh3 g4 4.Be1 Rxh3+ 5.Kg1 Rh1+

Epilogue

You reached the end of this little tactic book. Congratulations! Give yourself a little pat on the back 😊 Now, of course, tactic training is a never-ending practice. It is the foundation for (almost) all the other chess skills. Just like a boxer needs to have stamina to have a chance in a fight and a singer needs to memorize the lyrics, the chess player needs to have sharp tactical vision to succeed.

Tactical vision is very much like a muscle. The more you train it, the stronger it becomes and the faster you'll spot those little tactics that are hidden in every chess game we play. If you are hungry for more tactics, please see the resource section on the next page.

I would like to thank everybody who contributed to me writing this book. Special thanks goes to Pramod and Fabrice whose help has been invaluable. Also, I would like to thank everybody who tested the book, pointed out mistakes and gave me valuable feedback.

If you wish to continue to improve your chess skills beyond tactics, you might find my YouTube channel with over 700 chess videos in German and English useful: <https://www.youtube.com/user/nichus2012>

I wish you the best of luck in your future chess endeavors!

Niclas

Recommended Resources

Books

"Dvoretsky's Analytical Manual" by Dvoretsky: <http://amaz.to/X87I>

"Grandmaster Preparation" Series by Aagaard: <http://amaz.to/Guwp>

"Perfect Your Chess" by Volokitin & Grabinsky: <http://amaz.to/MFCC>

I have worked with all these books throughout my career. They will keep you busy for a while.

Online Tactic Training

<https://chesstempo.com> (free)

Chesstempo is a free website dedicated completely to tactic training and will probably give you sufficient exercises for a lifetime.

<https://chess24.com/en/learn/tactics-trainer>

<https://www.chess.com/tactics>

The advantage of chess24 and chess.com is that while you need a Premium account to solve an unlimited amount of tactics, you can download their apps and do tactics on the go.

<http://www.chessvideos.tv/blindfold-chess-quiz.php> (free)

This website has some blindfold exercises. This trains your visualization skills which are essential to calculation.

<https://www.facebook.com/niclashuschenbeth>

On my Facebook page, I post one tactic a day. They are a little bit more challenging than the exercises in this book. So, if you'd like to have one exercise pop up on your feed every day, go ahead and like my page 😊

Of course, there are many more tactic trainers on the web and apps out there than those. Just do a google search and see what you find. Those listed are the ones I have worked with.

Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgtWsdylNS02vXiKmUZg2Y8bdtW-xaBlz>

This is a playlist with five videos showing how I go about solving tactics from the chess24 tactics trainer.