Boost Your Chess 3
Mastery
By
Artur Yusupov

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It was a pleasure to have Artur Yusupov working as my second, both personally and professionally. It is therefore an honour for me to write the preface to this series of books.

This book was created by expanding and improving the original online lessons from the Chess Tigers University. As an honorary member of the Chess Tigers, it has given me great pleasure to see this logical follow-up take concrete form and meet the twin challenges of being both a valuable textbook and a bedside book.

It was in 1994 that I met Artur Yusupov in the semi-finals of the Candidates’ cycle in Wijk aan Zee. I managed to come out ahead by 4.5–2.5, but I recognized that Artur harboured great potential, both in his chess knowledge and extensive match experience.

Artur’s systematic and professional approach to analysing games was the decisive factor in having him as my second in the World Championship Finals in New York 1995 and Lausanne 1998. His mastery of the methods of the Russian chess school was very helpful in the preparation for the matches, as well as during the matches themselves. It was his idea that I should play the Trompovsky in the last game in Lausanne. I was 3-2 down, but was able to level the match at 3-3 and thus force a play-off.

I am still very grateful for everything that Artur did for me.

Artur’s vast experience as a trainer convinced him that there is a considerable need for better tuition for amateurs. Matching the level to the needs of the student is perhaps not too difficult, but the masterstroke is structuring the information in such a way that makes it immediately useful for amateurs. I am naturally enthusiastic about the rich variety of material in this series, which can help beginners become top amateurs.

I wish Artur Yusupov all the best with the publication of this series of books. Making this work available in English means that even more people who are keen to learn can enjoy it to the full.

World Champion, Viswanathan Anand
Realizing an advantage

In this chapter we shall deal with the most important principles for realizing an advantage. (See also *Boost Your Chess 2*, Chapter 20.)

**The correct psychological attitude**
If we have an advantage, we must *raise our level of concentration*. If we can solve the next problems to arise, then the game may come to a quick end and we will not have to make any further effort!

**Technique**

1) **Do not allow any counterplay**
The most important principle! You can often (but unfortunately not always) control the game when you have a better position and deprive your opponent of his final chances of becoming active. When you have the better position you don't want to allow him any counterplay.

2) **Do not hurry**
This principle comes into play when the opponent has no counterplay left. The first thing to do is to improve your position as much as possible (or to make your opponent’s position worse) and only then turn to making active changes in the position.

If your opponent does have some ideas to improve his position, or if by chance you see an opportunity, then you have to hurry!

3) **The principle of two weaknesses**
This is an important strategic concept. If your opponent has one weakness, then normally he will be able to protect it sufficiently well. But you can break down his defence by provoking a fresh weakness, as far away as possible from the first one. You then attack the two weaknesses turn about and the attacking side’s superior lines of communication will play a decisive role.

4) **Capablanca’s principle – the correct exchanges**
You should retain only those pieces (or pawns!)

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**Contents**

- The correct psychological attitude
- Technique
  - Do not allow any counterplay
  - Do not hurry
  - The principle of two weaknesses
  - Making the correct exchanges
which you require to win the game! You should try to swap off any superfluous pieces. A perfectly played positional game is finished off with a won ending.

There is a rule of thumb: the side with the advantage in material strives to exchange pieces, the side which is behind tries to swap off pawns!

The following examples will illustrate these principles of technique.

**A.Yusupov – L.Christiansen**

Las Palmas 1993

1.d4 d6 2.e4 dı f6 3.f3 e5 4.dxe5

After the exchange of queens White obtains a small, but safe, advantage.

4...dxe5 5.ffd8† ę f8 6.d4 ę e6?!

This exchange damages the pawn structure. 6...ę e8? would be better, or even 6...ę e7? preparing...

7.dxe6 fx e6

**Diagram 2-1**

8.ę h3?!±

The first goal is to attack the weakness on e5. For that reason, the white knight wants to go to d3.

8...ę c5 9.ę f2 ęxf2† 10.ęxf2†

This exchange is also good for White, because his dark-squared bishop will be slightly stronger than the opposing knight.

10...ę c6

10...ę bd7?!

11.d3 ę e7

**Diagram 2-2**

12.ę a3?!

White retains various options for the knight: b5, c4 or (after c2-c3) the c2-square.

12...a6 13.c3 ę hd8

The more active 13...ę ag8?!± (Δ...g5) might be a better attempt to create some worries for White.

14.ę e2 h6?!

Black is just weakening his position with pawn moves.

If 14...b5, then 15.ę c2±.

15.ę c2 ę d7
The main problem in the position is the question of exchanging. What shall we do with the open file: should we exchange all the rooks on it, should we avoid exchanges or should we exchange only one pair of rooks?

16.\( \text{hd1} \)

The correct answer is to exchange one pair of rooks, in order to reduce any possible counterplay. White needs to keep one rook to prepare his own active operations.

16...\( \text{ad8} \)

If 16...\( \text{xd1} \) 17.\( \text{xd1} \) \( \text{d8} \), then 18.\( \text{g1} \) is correct.

17.\( \text{xd7} \)

17...\( \text{xd7} \)?

18.\( \text{e1}! \)

White regroups his pieces in order to attack the e5-pawn. In doing so, White wants to tie the black knight down on c6, where it is not so well placed and where it can later become a target (after b4, a4 and b4-b5).

18...\( \text{d8} \)

18...\( \text{d8} \) 19.\( \text{d3} \) \( \text{f7} \) 20.\( \text{c5} \)

19.\( \text{d3} \) \( \text{d6} \)

Diagram 2-4

The position of the bishop is also improved; it goes to g3, to exert even more pressure on e5.

20...\( \text{b6} \)?

Black wants to protect the c5-square, but once more he weakens his own position with the pawn move.

21.\( \text{g3} \) \( \text{f7} \)

Better is 21...\( \text{f6} \).

22.a4 \( \text{a5} \)

White needs a second weakness to attack. It now makes sense to play on the queenside.

23.\( \text{c1} \+ \)

Intending b2-b4. Before undertaking any active operations, White first improves his position as much as possible. After 24.b4 the rook will be very well placed here.

The over-hasty 23.b4? gives the opponent counterplay: 23...\( \text{xb4} \) 24.\( \text{xb4} \) \( \text{d4} \)
23...\textit{\textcolor{red}{f6}} 24.\textit{\textcolor{red}{b4}} \textit{\textcolor{red}{d8}}

24...\textit{\textcolor{red}{axb4}} 25.\textit{\textcolor{red}{cxb4}} \textit{\textcolor{red}{d4}†} is no longer dangerous; after 26.\textit{\textcolor{red}{e3}} c6 27.a5 White is clearly better. For example: 27...\textit{\textcolor{red}{bxa5}} 28.\textit{\textcolor{red}{bxa5}} \textit{\textcolor{red}{a7}} 29.\textit{\textcolor{red}{xe5}!} \textit{\textcolor{red}{dx5}} 30.\textit{\textcolor{red}{xe5}†} \textit{\textcolor{red}{xe5}} 31.\textit{\textcolor{red}{e5}†}+

25.\textit{\textcolor{red}{b5}} \textit{\textcolor{red}{e7}}

\textbf{Diagram 2-6}

26.\textit{\textcolor{red}{f2}!}

Preparing \textit{\textcolor{red}{c4-c5}}. Once more White must pay attention. The immediate 26.\textit{\textcolor{red}{c4}} allows counter-chances after 26...\textit{\textcolor{red}{c5}!} 27.\textit{\textcolor{red}{bxc6} \textit{\textcolor{red}{xc6}}}

26...\textit{\textcolor{red}{xb8}}

After 26...\textit{\textcolor{red}{xc8}} White continues 27.\textit{\textcolor{red}{c4}} \textit{\textcolor{red}{c5}} 28.\textit{\textcolor{red}{bxc6} \textit{\textcolor{red}{xc6}} 29.e5 bxc5 30.\textit{\textcolor{red}{dx5} \textit{\textcolor{red}{xc6}} 31.\textit{\textcolor{red}{xe5} \textit{\textcolor{red}{c6}} 32.\textit{\textcolor{red}{b7}†} and Black cannot protect the \textit{\textcolor{red}{a5}}-pawn often enough.

27.\textit{\textcolor{red}{c4}} \textit{\textcolor{red}{c5}}

\textbf{Diagram 2-7}

28.\textit{\textcolor{red}{dx5}?!}

The sacrifice on \textit{\textcolor{red}{c5}} is very tempting. Unfortunately White spotted his opponent’s defensive idea too late and gave up the wrong piece. 28.\textit{\textcolor{red}{dx5}!} would have been even better: 28...\textit{\textcolor{red}{bxc5}} 29.\textit{\textcolor{red}{dx5}†}+

28...\textit{\textcolor{red}{bxa5}} 29.\textit{\textcolor{red}{dx5} \textit{\textcolor{red}{d8}?!}}

There is no hope after 29...\textit{\textcolor{red}{xc8}} 30.\textit{\textcolor{red}{b6} \textit{\textcolor{red}{d6}} 31.c5}+

29...\textit{\textcolor{red}{b7}} is simply met by 30.\textit{\textcolor{red}{a3}±}.

30.\textit{\textcolor{red}{d6} \textit{\textcolor{red}{b7}} 31.\textit{\textcolor{red}{d1}!}}

It was only here that I understood that Black wants to return the piece. 31.\textit{\textcolor{red}{c5}?!} is answered by 31...\textit{\textcolor{red}{ec6}∞, and the white bishop on \textit{\textcolor{red}{d6}} finds itself offside.}

31...\textit{\textcolor{red}{dc6}?!} 32.\textit{\textcolor{red}{bxc6} \textit{\textcolor{red}{xc6}} 33.\textit{\textcolor{red}{c5}}

Now the bishop can join the play again. But the mistake on move 28 has given Black good defensive chances.

33...\textit{\textcolor{red}{b2}†} 34.\textit{\textcolor{red}{d2} \textit{\textcolor{red}{b3}} 35.\textit{\textcolor{red}{d6} \textit{\textcolor{red}{d7?}}}

Black misses his chance. 35...\textit{\textcolor{red}{d4}†?!} is correct: 36.\textit{\textcolor{red}{xd4} exd4 37.\textit{\textcolor{red}{xd4} (37.\textit{\textcolor{red}{a6}?!±) 37...\textit{\textcolor{red}{b4}}}}

36.\textit{\textcolor{red}{b6} \textit{\textcolor{red}{g6}}

\textbf{Diagram 2-8}

37.\textit{\textcolor{red}{xa5}}

White calculated a long variation and decided to force matters. His passed pawns will be too dangerous. After the technical 37.g3! Black could still reply 37...\textit{\textcolor{red}{b4}}.
37...\(\text{f4}^+\) 38.\(\text{d2}\) \(\text{d}x\text{g2}\) 39.\(\text{c}5\) \(\text{e}3\) 40.\(\text{d}8^+\) \(\text{f}7\) 41.\(\text{d}3^+\) \(\text{c}4^+\) 42.\(\text{c}2\) \(\text{b}8\)

The point is 42...\(\text{x}d3\) 43.\(\text{x}d3\) \(\text{b}2^+\) 44.\(\text{c}2\) \(\text{a}4\) 45.\(\text{b}6^+\) and White forces a won pawn ending.
43.\(\text{c}6\) \(\text{e}8\) 44.\(\text{c}7\) \(\text{a}8\)

Diagram 2-9

\[\text{Diagram 2-9}\]

45.\(\text{c}3\)

Just before the winning post White begins to lose his concentration. Fortunately he was not punished for it in the game: his opponent’s resistance was already broken.

45.\(\text{c}3^+\) would be better: 45...\(\text{b}6\) 46.\(\text{b}4^+\)
45...\(\text{b}6\) 46.\(\text{a}5\)

Nor is this move the best. 46.\(\text{b}3^+\) is correct: 46...\(\text{d}7\) 47.\(\text{a}5^+\)
46...\(\text{x}a5\)

Or 46...\(\text{c}8\) 47.\(\text{c}5^+\).

47.\(\text{e}8^+\)

Black resigned, slightly prematurely. After 47...\(\text{a}2^+\) I would still have had to find the variation 48.\(\text{b}3\) \(\text{x}c8\) 49.\(\text{x}c8\) \(\text{h}2\) 50.\(\text{f}6^+\) \(\text{d}7\) 51.\(\text{x}e5^+\).

Diagram 2-10

\[\text{Diagram 2-10}\]

A.Yusupov – J.Hall

Bundesliga 1999

White is better. He controls the a-file and has an advantage in space. Black has the b6-pawn as a weakness, but it is hard to attack and relatively easy to defend. Despite that, it is worth first forcing your opponent onto the defensive and tying down some of his pieces.
46.\(\text{d}1^+\)

Planning \(\text{d}2^\text{-c}4\), so as to put further pressure on b6.
46...\(\text{e}8\) 47.\(\text{d}2\) \(\text{c}8\) 48.\(\text{c}4\) \(\text{f}8\)

In order to make progress, White must undertake something on the kingside (the principle of two weaknesses). Since Black has absolutely no counterplay, White manœuvre for quite a long time, aiming to first bring his pieces to their optimal positions. These waiting tactics are rather unpleasant for his opponent.
49.\(\text{d}2\) \(\text{e}8\) 50.\(\text{g}3\) \(\text{d}8\) 51.\(\text{a}8\) \(\text{b}8\) 52.\(\text{a}4\)
Realizing an advantage

White is still not sure whether he wants to exchange the rooks.

52...\(\text{Eb}7\)

**Diagram 2-11**

53.f4!

There is no way to make progress without this breakthrough. 53.\(\text{Ce}3\) achieves nothing after 53...\(\text{Ce}7\).

53...\(\text{Ee}8\)

Also after 53...exf4†? 54.\(\text{Ef}4\) \(\text{Ee}8\) 55.\(\text{Ef}3\) \(\text{Ee}5\)† (or 55...\(\text{Eg}5\)† 56.\(\text{Exg}5\) \(\text{fxg}5\) 57.\(\text{Ce}3\)±) 56.\(\text{Exe}5\) \(\text{dxe}5\) 57.\(\text{Ea}8\)± the position remains very unpleasant for Black.

54.\(\text{Ef}3\) \(\text{Ef}8\) 55.\(\text{Ea}8\) \(\text{Eb}8\) 56.\(\text{Ea}6\) \(\text{Eb}7\) 57.\(\text{Ee}2\)

The waiting game continues.

57...\(\text{Ee}8\) 58.\(\text{Ed}3\) \(\text{Eh}8\) 59.\(\text{Ee}3\) \(\text{Ee}8\) 60.\(\text{Ea}8\) \(\text{Eb}8\)

**Diagram 2-12**

Having gained some time for thought, White now realized that he could profit from the black rook having left its position on h8.

After 64...\(\text{Eh}8\)!!? there follows 65.\(\text{Ea}6\)± and the black pieces are even more tied down. Not so good is 65.\(\text{Exe}5\) \(\text{Ee}5\)† 66.\(\text{Exe}5\) \(\text{dxe}5\) with a solid position for Black.

65.\(\text{Exb}8\)

White exchanges the superfluous rook. One rook is all he needs for his active play (as in the previous game). In addition he obtains better possibilities of activating his king.

65...\(\text{Exb}8\)

**Diagram 2-13**

66.g5!

The principle of two weaknesses.

66...\(\text{Exg}5\)

66...exf4 67.gxf6 gxf6 68.\(\text{Exf}4\) \(\text{Ee}5\)† 69.\(\text{Exe}5\) \(\text{fxe}5\) 70.\(\text{Eg}1\) \(\text{Ef}3\)† 71.\(\text{Ed}2\) \(\text{Eh}3\) 72.\(\text{Eg}6\) \(\text{Exh}5\) 73.\(\text{Exd}6\) \(\text{Exd}6\)± is also to White's advantage.

67.\(\text{Exg}5\) \(\text{Exg}5\) 68.\(\text{Exg}5\) \(\text{hxg}5\) 69.\(\text{Eg}1\) \(\text{Eh}8\) 70.\(\text{Exg}5\) \(\text{Eh}7\)

The result of the operation is very pleasing for White. Black has a clear second weakness on g7, the white king can now come quickly into play, and the d6-pawn also becomes a serious target.
Positional play 1

71. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( e2! ? \)

71. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( e3 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( e7 \) 72. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( f5 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( xf5 \) 73. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( xf5 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( c7 \) 74. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( e4 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( d7 \) 75. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( g6 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( e7 \pm \) would be less clear.

71... \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( c7 \) 72. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( f3 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( e7 \)

72... \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( a7 \) 73. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( a3 \pm \) does not change the situation.

73. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( g4 \)

Black is in zugzwang and has to abandon his defensive line.

73... \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( g6!? \)

Black sets a final trap. 73... \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( g8 \) 74. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( f5 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( f6 \) 75. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( g6 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( xe4 \) 76. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( xh7 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( xg5 \dagger \) 77. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( xg7 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( d7 \) 78. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( h6 \) is hopeless.

74. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( hxg6 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( h1 \)

Diagram 2-14

75. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( f3 ! \)

Mistakes are always possible. 75. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( g7 ? \) is met by 75... \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( g1 \dagger = , \) resulting in a repetition of moves.

75... \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( h3 \dagger \) 76. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( f2 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( xc3 \) 77. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( e3 \pm \)

The g-pawn is too strong.

77... \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( a3 \) 78. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( g7 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( a8 \) 79. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( f5 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( g8 \) 80. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( g6 \)

The second weakness – the d6-pawn – is also attacked.

80... \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( d8 \) 81. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( f3 \) \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( d7 \) 82. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( g4 \)

The threat is 83. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( h5 \) and then 84. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( h6 \). Black tries to obtain counterplay.

82... \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( c4 \)

Diagram 2-15

83. \( \texttt{\textit{\textbullet}} \) \( f3 ! \)

The simplest solution. White's king will simply take this pawn first, before returning to the kingside.

1–0

When you do the exercises, always bear in mind the principles of technique.
Prophylactic thinking

Prophylactic thinking is one of the most important themes in the positional game. Chess players often forget that they are not alone at the board, and that they must also take into account their opponent’s plans.

The habit of always asking yourself what your opponent wants to do, of answering the question correctly and taking into account the information you have gained, is prophylactic thinking.

Prophylactic thinking is for me a philosophy of the chess struggle, which embodies due respect to one’s opponent.

Prophylactic thinking often helps not only to find the opponent’s ideas, but also to work out the solution to the position. **A move which simultaneously improves our own position and blocks our opponent’s plans is usually the optimal solution.**

Prophylactic moves are stronger than purely defensive moves because they improve your own position. Prophylactic moves are also stronger than mere improvements to your own position, because they also hinder your opponent’s game.

There is another important psychological factor in prophylactic thinking which I wish to emphasize: it is extraordinarily difficult to battle against a prophylactic player. Once the plans you have prepared have been thwarted a few times, mistakes often creep in.

Of course we do not always make use of prophylactic thinking. It is when the course of the game is very quiet that prophylactic thinking is most useful. In situations in which we have forcing options, we must first of all calculate variations – we are not interested in our opponent’s intentions if we have a forced mate in three moves!

The following games show how and when we should employ prophylactic thinking.
1.\textit{c4} \textit{\underline{f}e6} 2.\textit{\underline{c}c3} \textit{e6} 3.e4 d5  
An alternative is 3...c5.

4.e5 \textit{\underline{e}4}  
4...d4 is the main variation.

5.\textit{\underline{d}f3}  
5.\textit{\underline{x}e4} dxe4 6.\textit{\underline{g}4} wins the e4-pawn, but Black gets control of the d4-square and develops an initiative. White prefers a quieter set-up.

5...\textit{\underline{c}6} 6.\textit{\underline{e}2}  
After 6.d4!? Black can reply 6...\textit{\underline{b}4}.

6...\textit{\underline{e}7} 7.0–0  
7.\textit{\underline{c}2} is met by 7...\textit{\underline{g}5}!, as in Seirawan – Christiansen, USA Ch, South Bend 1981.

7...0–0 8.d4  
Now White can occupy the centre.

8...\textit{b}6 9.\textit{\underline{e}3} \textit{\underline{xc}3}  
Or 9...\textit{\underline{b}7} 10.\textit{\underline{cx}d5} \textit{\underline{xc}3} (10...\textit{\underline{xd}5} 11.\textit{\underline{e}c1}\pm) 11.\textit{\underline{b}xc3} exd5 12.\textit{\underline{d}d3}\pm.

10.\textit{\underline{bx}c3} dxc4  
10...\textit{\underline{a}6}?! (Bagirov)

11.\textit{\underline{xc}4}\pm \textit{\underline{a}5} 12.\textit{\underline{d}d3} \textit{\underline{b}7}  
\textbf{Diagram 12-1}

Black prepares ...c5. Here White has a typical regrouping of his pieces to prepare the attack on the kingside.

13.\textit{\underline{d}d2}! c5 14.\textit{\underline{g}4}! g6  
Not 14...\textit{\underline{xd}4}? 15.\textit{\underline{h}6}\pm.

15.\textit{\underline{e}4} \textit{\underline{xd}4}  
If 15...\textit{\underline{xe}4}? 16.\textit{\underline{xe}4} \textit{\underline{c}8}, then comes 17.d5\pm.

16.\textit{\underline{cx}d4} \textit{\underline{c}6}  
\textbf{Diagram 12-2}

Black probably should have preferred 16...\textit{\underline{xe}4} 17.\textit{\underline{xe}4} \textit{\underline{c}8}\pm.

With the game move, Black has the tactical threat of ...\textit{\underline{xe}5}. This threat can easily be parried if White puts his rook on d1. It is more difficult to do anything against his opponent’s positional idea of bringing his knight via b4 to d5. But one logical move takes into account both ideas.

17.\textit{\underline{fd}1}!  
Why not the other rook? In the variation 17.\textit{\underline{ad}1}?! \textit{\underline{b}4} 18.\textit{\underline{h}6} (18.\textit{\underline{b}1} \textit{\underline{c}8}?) 18...\textit{\underline{xd}3}! 19.\textit{\underline{xf}8}
\[ \text{Positional play 2} \]

Chapter 12

\[ \text{136} \]

Diagram 12-3

White can be content. The exchange of bishops was not bad for him. But it is once more time for some prophylactic thinking. What does his opponent want to do here? Probably ...\( \text{b4-d5} \) again! White can protect the \( b4 \)-square with \( a3 \). But the prophylactic move played in the game is much better.

\[ 21. \text{\( \text{e} \)ab1}\]

White develops his rook and aims to bring it into the attack by \( \text{b}3-f3 \)(or \( h3 \)). At the same time he prevents the move ...\( \text{b4} \).

\[ 21... \text{\( \text{d} \)d5}\]

After White has twice thwarted his plans, Black reacts nervously and loses a decisive tempo.

\[ 21... \text{\( \text{e} \)b4}\]

is followed by 22.\( \text{\( \text{e} \)xb4}! \text{\( \text{xb4} \) 23.\( \text{\( \text{f} \)f6}\)\)}\]

But 21...\( \text{\( \text{c} \)c8}\) would have been better.

\[ 22. \text{\( \text{f} \)f4}\]

The threat is \( \text{f6}\). The black queen must retreat.

\[ 22... \text{\( \text{d} \)d8} 23.\( \text{\( \text{e} \)b3} \text{\( \text{c} \)c8} 24.\( \text{h} \)h4\]

Also good is the simpler 24.\( \text{f3} \text{\( \text{xf8} \) 25.\( \text{xf}8\)\)}\]

\[ 24... \text{\( \text{e} \)c7}\]

24...\( \text{\( \text{x} \)h4} \) is followed by 25.\( \text{\( \text{f} \)f3} \) (or 25.\( \text{d6}\)?)

\[ 25... \text{\( \text{c} \)c7} 26.\( \text{g} \)3\]

Diagram 12-4

As Tal showed me after the game, White has a pretty way to win here: 25.\( \text{d5}! \text{\( \text{e} \)x5} 26.\( \text{g6d5} \text{\( \text{xf5} \) 27.\( \text{xf6}\)\)}\]

But if 25...\( \text{\( \text{x} \)h4}, \) then simply 26.\( \text{g3}\).

\[ 26. \text{\( \text{xf8} \) \text{\( \text{xf8} \) 27.\( \text{d5}! \text{\( \text{e} \)x5} 28.\( \text{\( \text{xf}8 \) 29.\( \text{e} \)e3}\)\)

28...\( \text{\( \text{d} \)d8}\) would have lasted longer.

\[ 29. \text{\( \text{d} \)d1\]

20.\( \text{\( \text{xf8} \) \text{\( \text{xe} \)6}\) we can clearly see the difference between the two moves.

\[ 17... \text{\( \text{d} \)d4}\]

17...\( \text{\( \text{d} \)d4??} \) is of course bad, on account of 18.\( \text{\( \text{xf8} \) \text{\( \text{xf8} \) 19.\( \text{\( \text{f6}\)\)}\]
Threatening 30.e6.
29...c6 30.d6 xa2 31.a4
1–0
The two prophylactic moves 17.fd1 and 21.ab1 practically decided the game.

A.Yusupov – G.Timoscenko
Kislovodsk 1982

1.c4 c6 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.d4 $\text{c}6$ 5.e3 $\text{c}6$
6.f3 $\text{g}4$ 7.cxd5 $\text{xd}5$ 8.b3 $\text{x}f3$ 9.gxf3 $\text{b}6$
9...e6 is the main alternative.
10.d5! $\text{d}4$ 11.b5†?
White tries to make use of his lead in development.
11.d7 is also possible.
11...xb5 12.b5† d7 13.xd7†

12.a4 e5?
This optimistic move escaped punishment in the game.
12...xf3†! 13.f1† would also have been too risky for Black.
The correct choice was 12...xb5 13.xb5, when White’s initiative should compensate for his pawn weaknesses.
13.dxe6 $\text{xe}6$

Diagram 12-5
Black wants to play ...a6 and release the pin. That should encourage White to seek an active continuation.
14.e3?
14.g5!! (Petrosian) would be correct: 14...xg5 (or 14...xg5 15.0–0–0+) 15.xd7† e7 16.e4!+
14...a6 15.xd7† xd7 16.xd7† xd7±
White wants to exploit the open position of the black king. For that he needs all the central files.
17.0–0? d6
Black has two ways to consolidate the position and bring his king to safety: ...ac8 followed by ...c6, or ...fd8 followed by ...e8.
But it would have been better to begin the first plan with the immediate 17...c8!. Then after 18.fd1† d6 19.e4 c6 20.ac1 d8! (20...hc8? 21.xd6 xc1 22.xc1+) 21.xc6 xc6 22.c1† b5 23.e3† c6 the position remains level.
18. \( \text{d5!} \)

This move activates the knight and prevents both defensive ideas.

As we already know, 18. \( \text{f}d1 \) achieves nothing: 18...\( \text{c}8 \) 19. \( \text{e}4 \) \( \text{c}6 \) 20. \( \text{ac}1 \) \( \text{d}8!= \)

18...\( \text{ad}8 \)

Now Black wants to play \( \text{c}8 \). Therefore...

19. \( \text{ac}1! \)

If 19. \( \text{fd}1 \), then 19...\( \text{c}8 \) 20. \( \text{b}6 \) \( \text{de}8= \).

19...\( \text{c}7 \)

19...\( \text{e}8 \) 20. \( \text{fd}1 \) is also unpleasant for Black.

20. \( \text{b}6\)†

Of course White should keep the pieces on the board.

20...\( \text{e}6 \)

20...\( \text{e}8 \) 21. \( \text{fe}1! \)

Not 21. \( \text{fd}1 \), on account of 21...\( g5! \) followed by \( ...f6 \) and \( ...\text{c}5 \), and Black stabilizes his position.

21...\( \text{f}5 \) 22. \( \text{ed}1 \)

Threatening 23.\( \text{xd}6 \) \( \text{xd}6 \) 24.\( \text{xc}7 \).

22...\( \text{e}6 \)

22...\( \text{e}6? \) allows 23.\( \text{xd}6\)† \( \text{xd}6 \) 24.\( \text{f}4\)†.

23.\( \text{d}5\)† \( \text{f}6 \)

23...\( \text{g}6! ? \) is worth considering, or even 23...\( \text{e}5! ? \) 24.\( \text{d}7 \) \( f6= \).

24.\( \text{cd}1 \) \( \text{c}7 \) 25.\( \text{d}7\)† \( \text{c}7 \)

Diagram 12-7

White retains the initiative. Now he strengthens the pressure on the queenside.

26.\( \text{b}4! \)

If 26.\( \text{c}5? \) \( \text{xc}5 \) 27.\( \text{xc}5 \), then 27...\( \text{xd}5 \) 28.\( \text{xd}5 \) \( \text{d}8 \) 29.\( \text{xd}8 \) \( \text{xd}8 \) 30.\( \text{xb}7? \) \( \text{b}6= \) and the knight is trapped.

26...\( \text{f}6 \) 27.\( \text{a}4 \)

Intending \( \text{b}5-\text{b}6 \).

27...\( \text{g}5! \)

Black wants to control the \( \text{f}4 \)-square, but he voluntarily weakens his \( \text{f}6 \)-pawn.

27...\( \text{he}8?! \) followed by \( ...\text{f}7 \) was sounder.

28.\( \text{c}1?! \)

The bishop wants to go to \( \text{b}2 \) to attack the \( \text{f}6 \)-pawn.

If 28.\( \text{b}5 \), then 28...\( \text{axb}5 \) 29.\( \text{axb}5 \) \( \text{hg}8= \).

A decent alternative is 28.\( \text{d}4?! \) \( \text{xd}4 \) (28...\( \text{xd}7? \)
29.\( \text{xd}7\)† \( \text{xd}7 \) 30.\( \text{xf}6\)†++) 29.\( \text{d}1\) \( \text{d}4 \), although
Black can hold the position after 29...b6 30.\(\text{\#e4}\) \(\text{\#f7}\) 31.\(\text{\#e6}\) 32.\(\text{\#xf6}\) \(\text{\#xh2}\)† 33.\(\text{\#xh2}\) \(\text{\#xd5}\)=.

### Diagram 12-8
![Diagram 12-8](image)

28...\(\text{\#f4}\)†!
This move has more drawbacks than pluses.
28...\(\text{\#hg8}\)† would have been better: 29.b5±

29.\(\text{\#xf4}\) \(\text{\#xf4}\)†
Better is 29...gx\(\text{\#f4}\)±.

### Diagram 12-8
![Diagram 12-8](image)

30.\(\text{\#xf6}\)!
This tactical blow brings White a clear advantage.

30...\(\text{\#e8}\)?!  
Of course not 30...\(\text{\#xf6}\) 31.\(\text{\#xd8}\)†–.
But 30...\(\text{\#xd5}\) (or 30...\(\text{\#d6}\)?) 31.\(\text{\#xd5}\)† \(\text{\#e6}\) 32.\(\text{\#xf4}\)† gxf4 33.\(\text{\#d4}\)± would have been more resilient.

31.\(\text{\#h5}\)?!  
31.\(\text{\#h7}\)† is also possible, but in time trouble White chooses a safer continuation.

31...\(\text{\#c7}\) 32.\(\text{\#e1}\)† \(\text{\#f7}\) 33.\(\text{\#d7}\)† \(\text{\#g6}\) 34.\(\text{\#g7}\)†
Threatening mate in one.

34.\(\text{\#d8}\)
34...\(\text{\#hf8}\) 35.\(\text{\#e6}\)† \(\text{\#f6}\) 36.\(\text{\#xf6}\)† \(\text{\#xf6}\) loses to 37.\(\text{\#xc7}\)! \(\text{\#xc7}\) 38.\(\text{\#e8}\)†.

35.\(\text{\#xb7}\)†–
White has a large material advantage, which he was able to convert into the full point.

Black’s mistake on move 29 was not a matter of mere chance. With his prophylactic decisions on moves 18, 19 and 21, White hindered his opponent’s desired consolidation of the position and developed a dangerous initiative. Mistakes in such situations are almost preprogrammed and prophylactic play provokes them.

“The development of the capacity for prophylactic thinking brings the chess player a powerful step forward and clearly raises his playing strength.” – Mark Dvoretsky

In the test which follows, we shall train this ability. First ask yourself what the other side wants to do, and note that down in your answer. Try to prevent it and, if possible, to improve your own position at the same time.