Build Up Your Chess 3 – Mastery

Artur Yusupov

Quality Chess
www.qualitychess.co.uk
## CONTENTS

Key to symbols used 4  
Preface 5  
Introduction 6  

1 Combinations involving promotion 8  
2 Evaluation of the position 20  
3 Pawn endings 34  
4 Rook against bishop 44  
5 Opening repertoire for White with 1.d4 56  
6 The isolated pawn 68  
7 Playing against the isolated pawn 82  
8 Simple tactics 94  
9 The backward pawn 104  
10 Bishop endings 114  
11 French Defence 124  
12 Training with studies 138  
13 Blockade 148  
14 Drawing combinations 160  
15 Opposite-coloured bishops 168  
16 Opening repertoire for White with 1.d4 (Part 2) 178  
17 The elimination method 192  
18 Hanging pawns 200  
19 Playing against hanging pawns 212  
20 Simple tactics 2 226  
21 Doubled pawns 236  
22 Opening repertoire for Black against 1.d4 248  
23 The comparison method 260  
24 Rook against knight 272  
Final test 282  

Appendices  
Index of composers 292  
Index of games 293  
Recommended books 300
Key to symbols used

△ White to move
▼ Black to move

± White is slightly better
≠ Black is slightly better
± White is better
≠ Black is better
+- White has a decisive advantage
-> Black has a decisive advantage
= equality

↑ with the initiative
→ with an attack
⇌ with compensation
⇒ with counterplay
⊕ unclear

△ better is
Δ intending
□ only move
⊙ zugzwang
× weak point

? a weak move
?? a blunder
! a good move
!! an excellent move
!? a move worth considering
?! a move of doubtful value
# mate
We shall now take a look at combinations which involve promotion. They are often a feature of the endgame, but sometimes you can make use of advanced pawns in the middlegame.

The value of pawns increases dramatically as they approach the queening square.

Frequently a passed pawn can only be stopped at a great cost in material. To clear the path for a passed pawn, even pieces may sometimes be sacrificed. Here are a few spectacular examples.

### Diagram 1-1

**E. Bogoljubow – A. Alekhine**

Hastings 1922

30. \( \text{Exa8} \)

White’s position is already very difficult. But after the text move there is a surprise in store for him.

30... \( \text{bxc3!} \)

30... \( \text{Exa8} \) would not be so strong: 31. \( \text{b3 a4} \)
32. \( \text{b1=} \)

31. \( \text{Exe8} \) \( \text{c2!} \)

A typical double attack, on the knight along with a simple promotion on c1.

32. \( \text{xf8}^+ \) \( \text{h7} \)
33. \( \text{f2} \) \( \text{c1=} \)
34. \( \text{f1} \) \( \text{e1} \)
35. \( \text{h2} \)
36. \( \text{xc4} \)

Despite the material balance, Black’s position is clearly better. The white pieces are too passive and uncoordinated.

36. \( \text{b8} \) \( \text{b5} \)
37. \( \text{xb5} \) \( \text{xb5} \)
38. \( \text{g4} \) \( \text{f3}^+ \)
39. \( \text{xf3} \)
40. \( \text{gf5} \)

Or 40. \( \text{g5} \) \( \text{g4}^+ \).

40... \( \text{e2}!! \)

For the second time, Black exploits the strength of an advanced pawn.

41. \( \text{d5} \)

White is in zugzwang; if 41. \( \text{h3} \) or 41. \( \text{h3} \), then 41... \( \text{g4}^! \).

41... \( \text{g8}^! \)
42. \( \text{h5} \)
43. \( \text{e4} \)
44. \( \text{xe4} \)
45. \( \text{d6} \)
46. \( \text{gf6} \)
47. \( \text{d2} \)
48. \( \text{e2}! \)
Combinations involving promotion

Diagram 1-2
A pretty finish. Black forces the transition to a won pawn ending.
48.\(\text{Exe}2\) fxe2 49.\(\text{xf}2\) exf1=\(\text{g}\)† 50.\(\text{xf}1\) \(\text{g}7\) 51.\(\text{e}2\) \(\text{f}7\) 52.\(\text{e}3\) \(\text{e}6\) 53.\(\text{e}4\) d5† 0–1

Diagram 1-3

Y.Balashov – A.Yusupov
Minsk 1982

To crack open the white fortress, Black needs a passed pawn.
74...b4!! 75.axb4 \(\text{xb}2\) 76.\(\text{xb}2\) a3 77.\(\text{d}2\) a2
White now has to give up his rook for the dangerous passed pawn.
78.\(\text{Ea}2\)
Or 78.\(\text{Ed}1\) \(\text{c}2\)† 79.\(\text{e}1\) \(\text{xd}1\)†→.
78...\(\text{xa}2\)† 79.\(\text{e}3\)
After 79.\(\text{f}1\) comes 79...\(\text{c}4\) 80.\(\text{e}2\) \(\text{e}4\)→.
79...\(\text{b}1\)
Threatening ...\(\text{f}1\).
80.\(\text{e}2\) \(\text{c}7\)
If 80...\(\text{g}1\), then 81.\(\text{e}1\).
81.\(\text{e}1\)
Intending to continue with \(\text{g}2\)-e3.
81...\(\text{xb}4\) 82.\(\text{g}2\) \(\text{c}4\)† 83.\(\text{e}1\) \(\text{c}1\)† 84.\(\text{e}2\) \(\text{c}2\)† 85.\(\text{e}1\)
After 85.\(\text{f}1\) there follows 85...\(\text{d}3\)†.
85...f5!→
If 85...\(\text{d}3\), then 86.\(\text{e}3\).
86.\(\text{xf}5\)
86.\(\text{gxh}4\) loses to 86...\(\text{d}3\) (threatening ...\(\text{g}5\)) 87.\(\text{g}2\) (or 87.\(\text{c}2\) \(\text{xh}3\) 88.\(\text{xg}6\) \(\text{h}1\)† 89.\(\text{d}2\) \(\text{h}6\)†) 87...\(\text{c}3\)† 88.\(\text{c}2\) \(\text{fxg}4\) 89.\(\text{hxg}4\) \(\text{c}4\)†.
86...\(\text{xf}5\)
Black also breaks through on the kingside! White resigned, in view of 87.\(\text{g}4\)

Diagram 1-4
87...\(\text{gxg}4\)!! 88.\(\text{hxg}4\) \(\text{h}3\) with the well-known motif: the knight often performs poorly against a rook's pawn.
A far-advanced pawn may control important squares in the opposing camp and can completely disrupt the defence.

**B. Larsen – B. Spassky**
USSR – World, Belgrade 1970

1.b3 e5 2.b2 c6 3.c4 f6 4.f3 e4 5.d4 c5
6.exd6 exd6 7.e3 f5 8.c2 e7 9.e2 0–0–0

**Diagram 1-5**

10.f4

10...

Diagram 1-5

†

And 11.

Diagram 1-6

would be bad due to 11...

Diagram 1-5

†

µ

11...h5!

Now 11...

Diagram 1-6

†

µ

11....h5

12.h3

Once more 12.c3 is met by 12...

Diagram 1-6

†

µ

13...c3 13...c3 (Spassky).

12.h3

13...h4! 13...h4

13...h4 would be no better: 13...h4 14.hxg4 hxg4 15.g1 h1! (or 15...h2++ Larsen) 16.exh1 g2 17.g1 h4† 18.e2 xg4† 19.e1 g3† 20.e2 (20.d1 f2 21.xe4 xg1† 22.c2 f2+) 20...f3† 21.e1 e7† (Spassky).

13...hxg3 14.g1

14.exh8 xh8 15.gxf5 loses to 15...h1† 16.f1 g2.
Combinations involving promotion

Chapter 1

Diagram 1-8

14...h1!! 15.\textit{x}h1

After 15.\textit{g}f1 there follows 15...xg1† 16.\textit{g}xg1 \textit{h}4--+ (Kotov).

15...g2 16.\textit{f}1

Or 16.\textit{g}1 \textit{h}4† 17.\textit{d}1 \textit{h}1 18.\textit{c}3 \textit{x}g1† 19.\textit{c}2 \textit{f}2 20.\textit{x}xf5 \textit{xe}2 21.\textit{a}3 and now 21...\textit{b}4!–+ is the neatest finish, although 21...\textit{d}3† 22.\textit{xd}3 \textit{exd}3† 23.\textit{c}3 \textit{xe}3 24.dxe3 \textit{d}2 25.\textit{d}1 \textit{h}8 is also winning.

16...\textit{h}4† 17.\textit{d}1 \textit{gx}f1=\textit{h}†

White resigned, in view of 18.\textit{xf}1 \textit{xe}4† 19.\textit{c}1 \textit{e}1† 20.\textit{d}1 \textit{xd}1#.

Combinations can sometimes appear out of an almost clear blue sky. Who would believe that the d4-pawn in the position in the next diagram would have such a fantastic career?

Diagram 1-9

A.Kotov – V.Ragozin

Moscow 1949

1.b5! c5

1...\textit{ac}7 would not be much better: 2.bxc6 \textit{xc}6 3.\textit{b}5 \textit{xd}4 4.\textit{xc}7 \textit{xc}2 5.\textit{xc}8+–.

2.dxc5!! \textit{xe}5 3.cxb6 \textit{xc}3 4.bxa7!

The point of the combination.

4...\textit{xc}2 5.\textit{xc}2

And Black cannot stop the passed pawn.

1–0

If our pawn is already very far advanced, then we can often base all the play on the said pawn.

Diagram 1-10

H.Kmoch – A.Alekhine

Kecskemet 1927

27...dxc3!

The decisive combination, very accurately calculated by Alekhine.

28.\textit{xd}7 \textit{xd}7 29.\textit{xd}7

The main variation was 29.\textit{e}8† \textit{h}7 30.\textit{xd}7 \textit{e}4!! (the point) 31.\textit{xf}7 (or 31.\textit{d}5 \textit{xd}5
To clear the way for the passed pawn, you often have to swap off opposing pieces.

Diagram 1-11
L.Lengyel – B.Brinck Claussen
Varna 1962

1...hxh3! 2.gg1 wwa1!!→ 3.ee2 c3 4.ee2 wxf1†!
Intending 5.wxf1 wxf1 6.wxf1 c2.
0–1

In the strictest sense of the term, this was not a combination, because Black did not have to sacrifice anything. But the next example fits 100%.

Diagram 1-12
R.Barstatis – A.Vooremaa
Riga 1978

1...wxc3!!
Black clears the way for his b-pawn.
2.bxc3 eexd3 3.eexd3 wa1†
3...b2? 4 ed1 wa1 is not good, on account of 5.wd8!!––.
4.eh2 b2 5.ed8 b1=wa
Now Black has an advantage in material. What is important here is that the black major pieces are ready to take part in the counterattack on the white king.
6.wc7
Or 6.wxf8† eh8 7.wd8† eg7 8.wf6† eg8 9.wd8† eh7–+.
6...wg1† 7.eh3 wce3†
And Black will be the first to mate.
0–1
The new queen can very effectively enter the attack. Look also at the following example.

Diagram 1-13

J.Kotrc – N.N.
Vienna 1907

1.\texttt{e8}^† \texttt{a7}
   
   If 1...\texttt{c7}, then 2.\texttt{a5}^† \texttt{b6} 3.\texttt{e5}^† \texttt{d7} 4.\texttt{e7}^#.

2.\texttt{a8}^† \texttt{b6}
   
   Or 2...\texttt{xa8} 3.\texttt{c8}^† \texttt{a7} 4.\texttt{xb7}^#.

3.\texttt{a5}^† \texttt{xa5} 4.\texttt{xb7}^† \texttt{b6} 5.b\texttt{b8}^= \texttt{c5} 6.\texttt{a5}^† \texttt{d4} 7.\texttt{xf4}^†

1–0

Now you are ready for the test. Some of the exercises are difficult and you must invest a considerable amount of time in this test. Of course, it will be helpful that you know the motif behind the combinations (promotion). And just remember: you only get the maximum number of points for complete solutions.
Exercises

Ex. 1-1

Ex. 1-2

Ex. 1-3

Ex. 1-4

Ex. 1-5

Ex. 1-6

Chapter 1
Exercises
Solutions

Ex. 1-1

A.Alekhine – E.Bogoljubow

World Championship, Germany (16) 1934

30.e6!

(1 point)

30...exd5 first is not so strong: 30...cxd5 and now 31.e6 (1 consolation point) can be met by 31...c7 32.e7 d7.

30...dxg7

If 30...c7, then 31.e7 d7 32.e1 (or 32.e4 f6 33.exd5) 32...xg7 33.exd5 g8 34.e4++.

31.xg7 xg7 32.xd5!!

(another 1 point)

32...cxd5 33.f8+ c7 34.f7++

(1 point)

34...d6

Black loses the exchange. If 34...xf7, then 35.exf7 wins.

35.xg7 xe6 36.g6+ e5 37.g2 b5 38.a5 d4 39.xa6 b4 40.f3 c3 41.bxc3 bxc3 42.e6+! xe6 43 xe4

1–0

Ex. 1-2

A.Alekhine – E.Bogoljubow

World Championship, Germany (4) 1934

52.xe7+!!

(1 point)

52.xd4+ is not so good: 52...f7 53.c4 d5=.

52...xe7 53.f7

Threatening f6.+

53...f7

After 53...ed7 there comes 54.xd8 d8 55.xe7++.

54.xe7 xe7 55.xf7+ d7 56.f6+!!

(1 point)

56...e8

56...d8 loses to 57.f7. After 56...e6 comes 57.f5+–.

57.g6+!!

This is even better than 57.f7+ xf7 58.g6 d5 (also 1 point).

57...d8 58.f7

(another 1 point for the whole variation)

58...xe7 59.f8= xf f3 60.xb4 d6 61.d3

1–0

Ex. 1-3

M.Ortuerta Esteban – J.Sanz Aguado

Madrid 1934

1...xb2!!

(1 point)

2.b2 c3 3.xb6!

If 3.d3, then 3...c4+! 4.xb6 cxd3+ or 4.f1 cxd3 5.e1 c2 6.e2 g3+–.

(1 point for these side lines)

3...c4!

(1 point)

The threat is ...c2. Of course 3...xb2 would be bad, due to 4.d3–+.

4.b4

If 4.xc4, then 4...c2–+.

4...a5!

(another 1 point)

5.d4

5.xc4 loses to 5...xb2. After 5.d1 there follows 5...c2–+.

5...xb4

0–1

Ex. 1-4

M.Vidmar – N.N.

1.f5+!

(1 point)

Of course not 1.d2? b3+ 2.h4? because of 2...g5+ 3.xg5 fxg5 4.h5 h3+.

1.gxf5 2.xf5+ d6

After 2...f7 or 2...xh5 comes 3.c7–+.

3.xb4!!

3.c5+ is less precise: 3...xc5 4.xb1 xc6 5.f3±.
Solutions

Ex. 1-5

1. Weltmander – L. Polugayevsky
Sochi 1958

1...\(\text{g}3!!\) 2. fxg3 \(\text{f}6!!\), 3. \(\text{f}2\)
Or 3. \(\text{g}1\) \(\text{xe}1\) 4. \(\text{h}2\) \(\text{d}4\)–+
3...\(\text{xe}1\)!! 4. \(\text{xe}1\) \(\text{xf}2\) 5. \(\text{xf}2\) \(\text{c}2\)
0–1

(1 point)

Ex. 1-6

G. Bonner – A. Medina Garcia
Haifa Olympiad 1976

1...\(\text{c}3!!\) 2. \(\text{bxc}3\)
If 2. \(\text{xc}3\), then 2...\(\text{dxc}3\) 3. \(\text{bxc}3\) \(\text{a}4\)–+
2...\(\text{a}4!\) 3. \(\text{cxd}4\) \(\text{xd}4\)
But not 3...\(\text{a}3??\) due to 4. \(\text{c}3\)–+
4. \(\text{c}3\)
Or 4. \(\text{bxa}4\) \(\text{bxa}4\) 5. \(\text{b}2\) \(\text{a}3\)–+
(1 point)

Ex. 1-7

A. Hennings – G. Walter
East Germany 1964

1. \(\text{g}5!!\)
But not 1. \(\text{g}7??\) because of 1...\(\text{f}5\).
1...\(\text{c}7\)
If 1...\(\text{fxg}5\), then 2. \(\text{g}7\) followed by \(\text{h}7\)–+
wins.
2. \(\text{g}7!!\)
The threat is 3. \(\text{c}7\) 4. \(\text{g}8\)–+
2...\(\text{f}5\) 3. \(\text{xe}7\)
1–0

(1 point)

Ex. 1-8

V. Anand – B. Spassky
Cannes 1989

1. \(\text{d}3!!\)
(1 point)
1. \(\text{a}6??\) is not so good: 1...\(\text{xa}6\) 2. \(\text{xa}6\) \(\text{xb}3\)–+
1...\(\text{d}3\) 2. \(\text{a}6\)
Threatening \(\text{a}7\)–\(\text{a}8\)–+
2. \(\text{c}8\) 3. \(\text{d}5!!\)
(1 point)
After 3...\(\text{e}5\) comes 4. \(\text{c}7\). White then controls the c6-square and Black cannot stop the passed pawn.
1–0

Ex. 1-9

E. Ermenkov – G. Sax
Warsaw 1969

1. \(\text{d}7\)
(1 point)
1. \(\text{a}1?\) \(\text{f}6\) 2. \(\text{d}7\) achieves nothing, on account of 2...\(\text{e}7\) 3. \(\text{d}4\) \(\text{e}2!\)–+ and Black threatens \(\text{xf}1\)–+
1...\(\text{xf}1\)
After 1...\(\text{d}2\) comes 2. \(\text{a}1!!\)–+
2. \(\text{xf}1\) \(\text{d}2\) 3. \(\text{xf}3\) \(\text{c}1\) 4. \(\text{d}1!!\)
(1 point)
4...\(\text{xd}1\) 5. \(\text{e}2\)
Black resigned, in view of 5...\(\text{b}1\) 6. \(\text{d}8\)–+
\(\text{d}1\)–\(\text{f}1\) 7. \(\text{xd}1\) \(\text{xd}1\) 8. \(\text{xd}1\)–+

Ex. 1-10

A. Alekhine – Shishkov
1919

1. \(\text{xf}2\)
(1 point)
But not 1. \(\text{a}1??\) due to 1...\(\text{f}4\) 2. \(\text{a}6\) \(\text{f}3\) 3. \(\text{g}1\)
\(\text{fxg}2\) 4. \(\text{xf}1\) 5. \(\text{g}1\) \(\text{h}3\)–#
1. \(\text{xf}5\) \(\text{d}4\)–+ is not so clear (1 consolation point).
Solutions

Ex. 1-12

B. Gelfand – J. Lautier
Belgrade 1997

In the game, Black missed the boat and played 39...c4?? and after 40.d2 he resigned.

The correct move would be:

39...b4!!

(1 point)

And suddenly Black is winning: 40.xd5 (or 40.axb4 b2++) 40...bxa3++ (also winning is 40...b2).

Ex. 1-11

J. Moravec
1925

1.d8†!! xd8 2.b7

(1 point)

2...b4! 3.xb4 c5†

(another 1 point for this defence!)

4.b5!

If 4.xc5, then 4...c7=.

4...c7 5.a6! b8

After 5...c4 there follows 6.a7++.

6.b6! c4 7.a4 c3 8.a5 c2 9.a6 c1=£

10.a7#

(1 point for the whole variation)

Scoring

Maximum number of points is 27

24 points and above — Excellent

20 points and above — Good

14 points — Pass mark

If you scored less than 14 points, we recommend that you read the chapter again and repeat the exercises which you got wrong.
Joel Lautier was France’s top player for a decade before leaving chess to pursue a business career.