Build Up Your Chess with Artur Yusupov 2

Beyond the Basics

By

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## CONTENTS

Key to symbols used .......................... 4
Preface ........................................ 5
Introduction ................................... 6

1 Mating combinations ....................... 8
2 General endgame principles ............... 18
3 Combinations involving the back rank ... 30
4 General opening principles ................. 38
5 The double attack ............................ 48
6 Good and bad bishops ....................... 56
7 Candidate moves ............................. 68
8 The centre .................................. 78
9 The pin and the discovered attack ......... 90
10 Zugzwang .................................. 98
11 Deflection .................................. 108
12 The Greek gift sacrifice .................... 118
13 Evaluating the position .................... 128
14 Planning in chess ........................... 138
15 An opening repertoire for White after 1.e4 e5 150
16 Destroying the castled position ......... 162
17 An opening repertoire against 1.e4 ....... 174
18 Exchanging ................................ 186
19 Priorities when calculating variations ... 198
20 Pawn endings 1 ............................. 208
21 Decoying ................................... 220
22 Time in the opening ....................... 230
23 Improving the position of your pieces 240
24 Pawn endings 2 ............................. 252
    Final test ................................ 263

### Appendices

- Index of composers .......................... 273
- Index of games .............................. 274
- Recommended books ....................... 284
Mating combinations

Mating combinations often come as the crown to a successful attack. You must recognize the underlying mating pattern in good time in order to force the win.

The following positions may be considered as exercises and you can try to solve them yourself. It is very important to consider the active moves: moves which attack or capture something, moves which create threats of mate or which give check. Try to force your opponents into reacting.

When calculating variations, priority must be given to forcing lines.

Try to solve the positions and write down all the necessary variations. If you do not find the winning idea straight away, think for at least 5-10 minutes and look for new possibilities.

If finding the solution is too difficult, then first read the hint before taking another look at the position.

Finally, compare your notes with the solution in the text.

Diagram 1-1

How can you exploit the open h-file? The c2-bishop can also take part in the attack…

1.\textit{\texttt{\textdagger}}f6†!

1.\textit{\texttt{\textdagger}}g3 is also good. But a forced win is always better.

1...\textit{\texttt{\textdagger}}xf6 2.\textit{\texttt{\textdagger}}h7† \textit{\texttt{\textdagger}}h8 3.\textit{\texttt{\textdagger}}g6† \textit{\texttt{\textdagger}}g8 4.\textit{\texttt{\textdagger}}h8†!!+–

Followed by \textit{\texttt{\textdagger}}h5† and \textit{\texttt{\textdagger}}h#.
For the moment only the d1-rook is protecting White's back rank…

1...\( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{Q}}}} \textit{xd1}^{\textcolor{red}{
\textbigr}}!! \) 2.\( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{R}}}} \textit{xd1} \) \( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{Q}}}} \textit{f3}^{\textcolor{red}{
\textbigr}}!! \) 3.\( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{Q}}}} \textit{xf3} \) \( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{K}}}} \textit{e1}^{\textcolor{red}{
\textbigr}}!! \) 4.\( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{Q}}}} \textit{xf1} \) \( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{Q}}}} \textit{xf1}^{\textcolor{red}{\#}} \)

Diagram 1-3

J. Blackburne – J. Schwarz
Berlin 1881

The white bishop has a superb post on f6, but it needs some support…

1.\( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{Q}}}} \textit{xf4}!! \) 2.\( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{R}}}} \textit{xf4} \) 3.\( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{Q}}}} \textit{xf6}^{\textcolor{red}{\#}} \)

Black resigned, since he cannot fend off the threat of \( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{Q}}}} \textit{h8}^{\textcolor{red}{\#}} \).

Diagram 1-4

O. Bernstein – A. Kotov
Groningen 1946

In this open position White has no time for quiet moves. Rapid action is called for…

1.\( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{Q}}}} \textit{h8}^{\textcolor{red}{\#}} \) 2.\( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{R}}}} \textit{g6}^{\textcolor{red}{\#}} \) 3.\( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{Q}}}} \textit{h6}^{\textcolor{red}{\#}} \) 4.\( \textit{\textbf{\textcolor{red}{\textbf{Q}}}} \textit{ag8}^{\textcolor{red}{\#}} \).
The white pieces are very active. But to mate his opponent White will have to get rid of some defenders and open up the castled position…

1. \( \text{xf6} \) \( \text{xf6} \)

Or 1...gxf6 2. \( \text{h5} \) (also good is 2. \( \text{h6} \) followed by 3. \( \text{h5} \)) 2... \( \text{xe5} \) (if 2...fxe5, then 3. \( \text{f5} \)++) 3. \( \text{h7} \) \( \text{g6} \) 4. \( \text{h6} \)++.

2. \( \text{xh7} \)!! \( \text{xh7} \) 3. \( \text{h5} \) \( \text{g8} \) 4. \( \text{g6} \)!!

1–0

---

Attack your opponent!

1... \( \text{f3} \) 2. gxf3

If 2.g3, then 2... \( \text{d2} \)++.

2... \( \text{d2} \)++

0–1

---

Don’t give your opponent a chance to consolidate his position! Look for the forcing way to decide matters!

1. \( \text{e1} \)

Or 1. \( \text{g3} \) \( \text{h8} \) 2. \( \text{e1} \)++.

1... \( \text{d8} \) 2. \( \text{g3} \) \( \text{h8} \) 3. \( \text{h6} \) \( \text{g8} \) 4. \( \text{e8} \)!! \( \text{xe8} \) 5. \( \text{f6} \)!! \( \text{g7} \) 6. \( \text{gx7} \)
Diagram 1-8

J. Rosanes – A. Anderssen
Breslau 1862

The black bishop on f5 is a giant, but it cannot mate White on its own!

1...\text{xb3}!!

1...\text{c5} also wins. For example, 2.\text{b2} \text{d3} 3.\text{e1} \text{f2}! 4.\text{e3} \text{xe3}+.

2.\text{xb3} \text{xb3}

Threatening \text{b1#}.

3.\text{e1} \text{c3}!!

And then \text{b1#}.

Diagram 1-9

J. Blackburne – N. N.
Great Britain simultaneous 1871

Black's castled position is too open. The white major pieces can decide the game...

1.\text{f6}!! \text{xb7}

1...\text{h8} 2.\text{xf7†} \text{xf7} 3.\text{xa6}+--; or 1...\text{xf6} 2.\text{h6†} \text{f5} 3.\text{g5#}.

2.\text{h6†} \text{g8} 3.\text{g5†} \text{f8} 4.\text{h6}

Black resigned, on account of 4... f6 5.\text{xf6†} \text{f7} 6.\text{h8#}.

Diagram 1-10

M. Chigorin – M. Davidov
St Petersburg 1874

The white king is too exposed. Only forcing moves should be considered!

1.\text{e6}!! \text{b8}

If 1...\text{xe6}, then 2.\text{d7†}+. But 1...\text{xe6} would be somewhat more stubborn, although 2.\text{wh4} gives White a decisive material advantage.

2.\text{d7†} \text{c8} 3.\text{c5†} \text{b8}

Again 3...\text{xe6} 4.\text{wh4}+ would be the lesser evil. Now Black is mated.

4.\text{a6}!! \text{bxa6} 5.\text{b4#}
Tactics 1

Chapter 1

Diagram 1-11

Mueller – Botew

Correspondence 1989

The white queen and the bishop pair are a strong attacking force. The black king is rather isolated, with only the queen still in a position to be brought into the defence…

1. $\text{xc6}!! \text{xc6}$
   1...$\text{b8}$ 2.$\text{h6} \text{g6}$ 3.$\text{xg6}+–$

2.$\text{h6} \text{g6}$
   2...$\text{d3}+ 3.\text{h1}+–$

3.$\text{xe5}+–$
   And then $\text{g7}#$.

Diagram 1-12

Atkinson – N.N.

Manchester 1929

The position is ripe for the decisive sacrifice…

1. $\text{xe6}!! \text{xe6}$ 2.$\text{g5}!$
   2.$\text{xh7}+ \text{xh7} 3.\text{g5}+ \text{g6}$ 4.$\text{xe6}+–$ is also good, but the game move is even better.

2...$\text{g6}$ 3.$\text{xh7}!! \text{xh7} 4.\text{f7}#$
Ex. 1-1
M.Tal – R.Mascarinas
Lvov 1981

1. c7!! xcx7 2. h8†!!
   (1 point)
   Black resigned, in view of 2...hxh8 3. h6†
   xg8 4. h7† xf8 5. h8#.

Ex. 1-2
Johansson – Ekenberg
Sweden 1974

1... xf3!! 2. gx f3 dg8† 3. g3
3. h1 xf3#

Ex. 1-3
D.Pirrot – G.Hertneck
Bundesliga 1990

1... g4!! (Dxf3†)
   White resigned, on account of 2. xg4 f1†
   3. g1 xg3† 4. hgx3 h1#.

Ex. 1-4
Fridrich – Bantleon
Hanover 1967

1. d7†! xd7 2. xc8†!! xc8 3. e8#
   (1 point)

Ex. 1-5
E.Geller – N.Novotelnov
USSR Ch, Moscow 1951

1. xf8†!! – xf8
   1... xf8 2. h7†+
2. xh8† xf7 3. g6†!
   Black resigned. After 3... xg6 there comes
4. h5#; while if 3... e6, then 4. g8† (or
4. c8† d7 5. f5†++) 4... d7 5. f5†++.
   (1 point)

Ex. 1-6
Kovacs – Beni
Vienna 1950

1. d8†!

Ex. 1-7
A.Anderssen – B.Suhle
Breslau 1859

1. g1!
   You can also start with 1. xc4 (1 point) and
then play the same combination. But it is less
precise, since Black then has an intermediate
move 1...h6.

1... d8†
2. xg7†

Ex. 1-8
J.Rosanes – A.Anderssen
Breslau 1863

1... f1†!!
   1... xd4†?? would be wrong, due to
2. xd4†.
2. xfl xd4† 3. e3 xe3
   And mate on the move cannot be avoided.
4. g1 e1#
   (2 points)
Solutions

Ex. 1-9

A. Anderssen – N.N.
Berlin simultaneous 1866

1...xd7!!
But not 1...e7†? xe7 2.f6†, because of
2...g7!–+
1...xd7 2.g6† h8 3.h4† h6
4.xh6#

(2 points)

Ex. 1-10

C. Göring – E. Schallopp
Leipzig 1877

1...xe1!! 2.xe1 f4†! 3.d2 e1†
4.d1 xd1#

(1 point)

Ex. 1-11

A. Rubinstein – Hirschbein
Lodz 1927

1.xd7!! x xd7 2.f6† f8 3.d5!–+

(1 point)

As a consequence of the double threat wh8# and xe7, Black has to give up his queen.

Ex. 1-12

E. Bogoljubow – Sultan Khan
Prague 1931

1.d5!! xd5
Or 1...a6 2.e8† b7 3.d6† b5
4.d7† a5 5.c5† then mate.
2.e2† a5 3.a7† a6 4 xa6#

(1 point)

Scoring

Maximum number of points is 16

14 points and above → Excellent
12 points and above → Good
9 points → Pass mark

If you scored less than 9 points, we recommend that you read the chapter again and repeat the exercises which you got wrong.