Chess Evolution 1
The Fundamentals

By

Artur Yusupov

Quality Chess
www.qualitychess.co.uk
CONTENTS

Key to symbols used 4
Preface 5
Introduction 6
1 Combinations involving bishops 8
2 Diagonals 18
3 Queen sacrifices 28
4 Realizing a material advantage in a pawn ending 36
5 Realizing a material advantage 46
6 Attacking with queen and knight 56
7 The open games 66
8 Attacking with queen and rook 76
9 Forced Variations 86
10 Attacking with queen and bishop 96
11 Positional advantages 106
12 Bishop against pawns 118
13 Attacking with queen and pawn 126
14 Attacking 134
15 Attacking with rook and bishop 146
16 Knight against pawn 158
17 Attacking with rook and knight 168
18 Semi-open games 176
19 Combinations involving promotion 188
20 Mate in three moves 198
21 Mating nets in the endgame 206
22 The passed pawn 216
23 Combinations involving files 226
24 Queen against rook 236
Final test 245
Index of composers 255
Index of games 256
In this chapter we shall study combinations in which the strongest piece is sacrificed. Such queen sacrifices are relatively rare, because it takes extremely well-coordinated pieces to be able to mount a mating attack without the queen. If we are contemplating a queen sacrifice, we have to check the variations very carefully. We must try to make the play as forcing as possible, in order to prevent the opposing queen from successfully leading a counter-attack. We should be aware that although the queen is very strong, it does not show itself at its best in defence; to a certain extent this is because it is so valuable.

Diagram 3-1

G. Rotlew – A. Rubinstein
Lodz 1907

1...\(\text{h}4\)!
Black brings his queen into the attack.
1...\(\text{c}x\text{h}2\)! is also very strong. If 2.\(\text{h}5\) then simply 2...\(\text{xe}4\)–+ kills all hope.

2.\(g3\)
2.\(h3\) is met by 2...\(\text{xc}3\)! and now:
   a) 3.\(\text{xb}7\) \(\text{h}3\)† 4.\(\text{xh}3\) \(\text{h}3\)† 5.\(\text{h}2\) \(\text{xh}2\)#
   b) 3.\(\text{xg}4\) \(\text{xh}3\)† 4.\(\text{xh}3\) \(\text{xh}3\)† 5.\(\text{gxh}3\) \(\text{xe}4\)† 6.\(\text{h}2\) \(\text{d}2\)† 7.\(\text{g}3\) \(\text{g}2\)† 8.\(\text{h}4\) \(\text{d}8\)† 9.\(\text{h}5\) \(\text{g}6\)#
   c) 3.\(\text{xc}3\) \(\text{xe}4\) 4.\(\text{xg}4\) (or 4.\(\text{xe}4\) \(\text{g}3\)–+)
4...\(\text{xg}4\) 5.\(\text{xh}4\) \(\text{d}3\)! The threat of mate on \(\text{h}3\) nets Black a material advantage. 6.\(\text{h}2\) \(\text{xc}3\)–+
5.\(\text{xc}3\)!
All of Black’s pieces are attacking. To speed up his attack along the long diagonal, Black sacrifices his queen.

3.\(\text{gh}4\)
White cannot really decline the sacrifice:
   a) 3.\(\text{xc}3\) \(\text{xe}4\)† 4.\(\text{xe}4\) \(\text{xh}2\)#
   b) 3.\(\text{xb}7\) \(\text{g}3\) 4.\(\text{f}3\) (4.\(\text{f}3\) \(\text{h}2\)–+) 4...\(\text{xf}3\)
   5.\(\text{xf}3\) \(\text{f}2\)† 6.\(\text{g}1\) (nor is 6.\(\text{g}2\) any better, in view of 6...\(\text{h}3\)† 7.\(\text{g}1\) \(\text{e}4\)† 8.\(\text{h}1\) \(\text{g}3\)#) 6...\(\text{e}4\)† 7.\(\text{f}1\) \(\text{d}2\)† 8.\(\text{g}2\) \(\text{xf}3\) 9.\(\text{xf}3\) (9.\(\text{xf}3\) \(\text{h}5\)–+) 9...\(\text{d}2\)† White’s situation is hopeless.
3...£xd2!

With this new sacrifice, the white queen is deflected from the defence of the e4-bishop.

4.£xd2

White loses in all variations:

a) 4.£xg4 ¥xe4† 5.£f3 £f3–+

b) 4.£xc3 ¥xe2 5.£f2 ¥xe4† 6.£g1 £f2† 7.£f1 £f3 8.£d1 £xh2#

c) 4.£xb7 ¥xe2 5.£g2 £h3–+

d) 4.£ae1 ¥xe4† 5.£xe4 £xh2#

4...¥xe4† 5.£g2 £h3!!–+

Diagram 3-2

0–1

Rubinstein’s Immortal Game! White resigned because of mate in three: 6.£f3 (or 6.£f2 £xf2 7.£xe4 £xh2#) 6...£xf3 7.£d4 £xd4 8.£xf3 £xh2#

Very interesting situations can arise when in return for the sacrificed queen a player obtains some material compensation (often a rook plus a minor piece), along with an attack on the opposing king. This attack can sometimes be combined with threats against the opposing queen.

Diagram 3-3

E.Geller – B.Spassky
Moscow 1964

1...£g5!!

This move prepares a queen sacrifice. Spassky has accurately calculated the required variations and correctly evaluated the position.

2.£c7

2.£xf8† £xf8 3.£c7 is even worse for White:
3...£c3† 4.£h2 £f2† 5.£h1 £xd2 6.£xd7 £e4† 7.£g1 £e2#

2...£xc7!! 3.£xc7 £e3† 4.£g2

The other king move is no better: 4.£h2 £xd2 5.£xf8† £xf8 6.£xd5 £f2† 7.£g2 (7.£g3 transposes to the game) 7...£e4–+

4...£xd2 5.£xf8† £xf8

Spassky has only got a rook and knight for the queen. However, his forces are very well coordinated and are attacking the white king, which has been stripped of defenders.
White has no sensible way to defend against the threat of ...\(f_2\#\).

**Diagram 3-4**

V. Smyslov – M. Tal

Moscow 1964

1...f5!

Black opens up the game and prepares a combination.

2.exf5 \(\text{\textfragile f}e5\) 3.f4

After 3.\(\text{\textfragile x}b7? \text{\textfragile b}7, the threat of ...\(\text{\textfragile f}3\uparrow\) gives Black the advantage.

3...\(\text{\textfragile f}3\uparrow\) 4.\(\text{\textfragile x}f3 \text{\textfragile x}f3\) 5.\(\text{\textfragile e}1\)

**Diagram 3-5**

5...\(\text{\textfragile e}2!!\)

A positional queen sacrifice! Tal only gets a rook for the queen, but he has faith in the strength of his active pieces.

6.\(\text{\textfragile x}e2\) \(\text{\textfragile x}e2\) 7.\(\text{\textfragile c}2\)

Hoping to survive in a worse endgame.

If Smyslov had dared to hang on to the queen with 7.\(\text{\textfragile c}1, then Tal intended to play 7...\(\text{\textfragile g}2\uparrow\) 8.\(\text{\textfragile f}1\) \(\text{\textfragile x}h2\). Black has a very dangerous initiative, and will have at least a perpetual check with ...\(\text{\textfragile h}1-h2\uparrow\) in reserve. A possible continuation is: 9.\(\text{\textfragile e}1 \text{\textfragile d}5\) 10.\(\text{\textfragile b}2 \text{\textfragile h}1\uparrow\) 11.\(\text{\textfragile f}2\)

**Diagram 3-6**

11...\(\text{\textfragile x}f5?\) 12.g4 \(\text{\textfragile c}3\) 13.\(\text{\textfragile g}3\) h5 14.gxh5 gxh5

Black's threats to the white king (such as ...h4\uparrow followed by ...\(\text{\textfragile f}8\)) are overwhelming.

8...\(\text{\textfragile x}e2\) 9.\(\text{\textfragile b}2\) \(\text{\textfragile x}f5!\)

Black is better (see Boost Your Chess 2, Ex. 17-5).
Exercises

Ex. 3-7

Ex. 3-8

Ex. 3-9

Ex. 3-10

Ex. 3-11

Ex. 3-12

32
Solutions

Ex. 3-1

J. Bolbochan – L. Pachman
Moscow Olympiad 1956

1. $\text{xf7}!! \text{xf7} 2. \text{xe6}$

(1 point)

Ex. 3-2

S. Urusov – Kalinovsky
St Petersburg 1880

1. $\text{g5}!! \text{fxg5}$

1... $\text{f7}$

2. $\text{g7}$

3. $\text{e7}$

(1 point)

Ex. 3-3

E. Lasker – W. Steinitz
St Petersburg 1895

1. $\text{xf4}!!$

White can play his moves in a different order. You also get 1 point for: 1. $\text{f6}! \text{e7}$

2. $\text{xf4} 2. \text{f6}!!$

(1 point)

2... $\text{e6}$

The black queen cannot flee: 2... $\text{b5}$?

3. $\text{f7}$

(another 1 point for this variation)

If 2... $\text{h6}$ then 3. $\text{xd7} \text{hxg5} 4. \text{f6}!!$.

3. $\text{xd7}!!$

Ex. 3-4

Variation from the game

S. Tarrasch – S. Tartakower
Berlin 1920

1. $\text{xc4}!!$

1... $\text{xc4} 2. \text{f5} \text{d6}$

2. $\text{c6}$ is more resilient: 3. $\text{ex6} \text{fxe6}$

4. $\text{c6} \text{xd7} 5. \text{c5} \text{exe5} 6. \text{xe5} \text{d8}$

7. $\text{xd7} \text{xd7} 8. \text{xd4}!!$

3. $\text{e8} \text{d8} 4. \text{e5}$

(another 1 point)

4. $\text{xf8}$ is just as good: 4... $\text{xf8} 5. \text{xd7} \text{d8} 6. \text{c5}$

4... $\text{b5}$

4... $\text{c7} 5. \text{xd7} \text{b8} 6. \text{xd8} \text{xd8}$

7. $\text{c6} \text{a8} 8. \text{xd8}!!$

5. $\text{c1} \text{c5} 6. \text{xd7} \text{c8} 7. \text{b6}$

Ex. 3-5

K. Emmrich – B. Moritz
Germany 1922

In the game, Black went on to lose after missing the forced mate:

1... $\text{h2}!! 2. \text{h2}$

3. $\text{g4}!! 4. \text{g1}$

4... $\text{f8} 5. \text{xd7} \text{d8}$

6. $\text{c6} \text{h3}!!$

7. $\text{f1}$

8. $\text{h2}!!$

Ex. 3-6

M. Tal – Miller
Los Angeles 1988

1. $\text{h4}!!$

(2 points)

Of course not 1. $\text{xe5??}$

1... $\text{g3}$

If 1... $\text{xe2}$ then 2. $\text{xc7}$.

2. $\text{d1}!!$

(another 1 point)

Threatening both $\text{xd5}$ and $\text{d3}$.

2... $\text{f2}$

2... $\text{c6}$ is met by 3. $\text{d3} \text{b8} 4. \text{f3}!!$.

3. $\text{xf2}!!$

(another 1 point)

3. $\text{xc7}!!$ also wins: 3. $\text{xc7} 4. \text{b5} \text{c6}$

5. $\text{xd5} \text{f6} 6. \text{xf6} \text{gxf6} 7. \text{d3} \text{b4} 8. \text{d8} \text{c7} 9. \text{h7}!! \text{xd8} 10. \text{c7} \text{e8} 11. \text{g7}!!$

3. $\text{xf2}$

3... $\text{xf2} 4. \text{xc7} \text{f8} 5. \text{c7}!!$

4. $\text{xd5}!!$


Solutions

Chapter 3

Ex. 3-7

A.Tolush – G.Mititelu
Warsaw 1961

1.\text{\texttt{xf6!! gxf6}} 2.\text{\texttt{ge4†}}

(1 point)

2...\text{\texttt{h8}} is met by 3.\text{\texttt{x6}}, not only threatening mate on \texttt{g8}, but also attacking the queen on \texttt{d7}.

1–0

Ex. 3-8

Based on the game

Syversen – J.Podgorny
Correspondence game 1933

1.\text{\texttt{a5†!! 2.\texttt{xa5 e2† 3.b4 a5#}}}

(1 point)

Ex. 3-9

H.Westerinen – G.Sigurjonsson
New York 1977

1.\text{\texttt{xg7†!! xg7}} 2.\text{\texttt{d8†!}}

(1 point)

2...\text{\texttt{h8}}

2...\text{\texttt{f7}} 3.\text{\texttt{h5#}} or 2...\text{\texttt{h6}} 3.\text{\texttt{h3#}}.

3.\text{\texttt{g8†!}}

But not 3.\text{\texttt{f6?? xf6}} 4.\text{\texttt{g8† xg8--+}}.

3...\text{\texttt{xe8}} 4.\text{\texttt{f6† g7}} 5.\text{\texttt{g7† g8}}

6.\text{\texttt{x4†+}}

(another 1 point)

Ex. 3-10

V.Alatortsev – I.Boleslavsky
USSR Ch, Moscow 1950

1...\text{\texttt{xf1!}}

(1 point)

2.\text{\texttt{xe5 xe2}} 3.\text{\texttt{c3 g2--}}

(another 1 point)

The bishop is very well placed on the long diagonal.

3...\text{\texttt{h3}} (also 1 point) is not bad either, although White can struggle on with \texttt{g4†}.

Ex. 3-11

Vogel – Barlov
West Germany 1981

1.\text{\texttt{b5!}}

(1 point)

1.\text{\texttt{b5±}} is less clear.

1.\text{\texttt{a4 a8}} 2.\text{\texttt{c6 c8}} leads to a repetition of moves.

1...\text{\texttt{c6}} 2.\text{\texttt{d6!}}

(another 1 point)

2...\text{\texttt{c5}}

2...\text{\texttt{c7}} is met by: 3.\text{\texttt{xd7† xd7}} (3...\text{\texttt{d8}}

4.\text{\texttt{f7#}}) 4.\text{\texttt{xd7† d8}} 5.\text{\texttt{f4 b6}} 6.\text{\texttt{d1+-}}

3.\text{\texttt{c7†--}}

Ex. 3-12

G.Salwe – A.Rubinstein
Lodz 1907

1...\text{\texttt{e1†!!}}

(1 point)

The less spectacular 1...\text{\texttt{xd5}} (1 point) also wins.

2.\text{\texttt{xe1}}

2.\text{\texttt{e1 h6†}} 3.\text{\texttt{h1 (3.\texttt{h2 f2!--) 3...f2†!}}}

4.\text{\texttt{fx2 h1#}}

2...\text{\texttt{f2†}} 3.\text{\texttt{xe4 xe1†}} 4.\text{\texttt{g2 xd2†}}

(1 point)

White will quickly be mated.

0–1
Scoring

Maximum number of points is 22

19 points and above ➞ Excellent
15 points and above ➞ Good
11 points ➞ Pass mark

If you scored less than 11 points, we recommend that you read the chapter again and repeat the exercises which you got wrong.