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1001 Chess Exercises for Advanced Club Players

Spot Those Killer Moves and Stun Your Opponent

**Second Edition
New In Chess 2024**

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Introduction

Dear reader,

Just like a soccer fan goes wild after seeing a fantastic goal, we, chess players, enjoy a queen sacrifice that leads to checkmate or a subtle move in the middle of a wild attack that leaves the opponent defenceless. In this book, *1001 Chess Exercises for Advanced Club Players*, you will be able to relish an array of surprising moves. After seeing and practising the new patterns presented here, you will also start looking for them in your own games.

This book is created to stimulate, educate and entertain the advanced club player (1800-2300 Elo). However, masters and grandmasters (2300+) can benefit from the explanations and exercises as well.

Expand your horizon

The higher the level you play on, the harder it becomes to win a chess game with tactics. You need to be able to do more than just execute a simple knight fork, for example. An experienced player looks at his options and sees what the other player is about to do. Just like you, your opponent has spent many hours studying and playing chess, and has ingrained many (tactical) patterns into his mind. Not only does he have an extensive internal database, but he also possesses strong calculation skills. Outsmarting him is pretty difficult! Therefore, spotting surprising possibilities is a key ability, and it plays a central role in many of the exercises in this book.

Another way to increase your practical chances in a chess game is by critically evaluating the other player's moves. Playing on autopilot or 'believing' your opponent too quickly can be detrimental. If your opponent sets a trap, calculate what will happen if you fall into it. Check if his idea is correct! Even in high-level chess games, players sometimes stop calculating too quickly and, as a consequence, they miss out on opportunities. In this book, you will encounter many examples of out-of-the-box reasoning and critical questions being asked. Always expect the unexpected!

Structure and content of this book

How is this book organized? As in my previous book, *1001 Chess Exercises for Club Players* (New In Chess, 2019), I have listed the chapters according to their themes and sub-themes. In Chapters 1-10, you will find a sub-theme or a question below each diagram. Within each sub-theme, the exercises are arranged in order of difficulty. Of course, difficulty depends on personal experience and taste, and is therefore subjective. However, I can guarantee that the last exercise in every series is certainly more challenging than the first one.

Chapter 1, 'Main tactics', constitutes the foundation of this book. It deals with the (advanced) application of basic tactics that were also discussed in *1001 Chess Exercises for Club Players*. This chapter might also be regarded as a refresher and a summary for those who have not read my previous book. Since the target audience of the present book is the advanced club player, the exercises are more complex than those of its predecessor. The main tactics will also return in the other chapters.

Chapters 2, 'In-between moves', 3, 'Automatic moves', and 4, 'Surprises and traps', have in common that in them, the most obvious move should not be chosen instantly. For instance, if your opponent captures a piece, take a good look at the position and do not automatically recapture it. Surprising moves are the rule rather than the exception in these chapters.

In Chapters 5, 'Diagonals, ranks and files', and 6, 'The walking king', you are presented with a large number of (mating) attacks. A fruitful interaction between the pieces is essential here, although we can see in Chapter 7, 'Manoeuvres', that making a number of clever consecutive moves with one piece may also suffice!

Chapter 8, 'Special threats and quiet moves', focuses on 'calm work' with quiet moves and long-term threats, while in Chapter 9, 'Calculation and move-order', the reader should look for forcing moves.

In Chapter 10, 'Defence', we learn to arm ourselves by using the weapons that have been discussed. We also learn how to defend against the weapons examined in the previous chapters.

Finally, in Chapter 11, 'Mix', all the topics return one more time. Here you have to find out the critical characteristics of the position by yourself, and determine how you should act on them, because no sub-themes are provided in this chapter.

I have tried to present to you as many unique exercises as possible. The game fragments are from players ranging from club level to top grandmaster level. Whereas many positions are completely original ones from practical games, some examples are derived from analyses and others are slightly adjusted to make them into clean and insightful exercises. Additionally, there are a few positions I have composed myself. All the exercises have been checked with computer engines.

Gratitude

I have thoroughly enjoyed writing this book, and I hope the reader will feel the same going through it. I'd like to express my thanks to New In Chess publishers Allard Hoogland and Remmelt Otten for their confidence in me, and for giving me the opportunity to create a sequel to my first book, *1001 Chess Exercises for Club Players*. Also, I would like to thank the editorial team for moulding the manuscript into a publishable form. Finally, I would like to mention my loved ones, who have supported me all the way through the writing process. I appreciate this immensely.

Have fun, and good luck with the exercises!

Frank Erwich
Leiden, the Netherlands
January 2024

CHAPTER 3

Automatic moves

Sometimes, a good move is so evident that there is no need to pay attention to anything else. Without thinking, you play the logical move. This can be quite handy because it saves you a lot of time which you can use better in future, more complex situations. However, there are situations in which it is not a good idea to play a move automatically, simply because there is a better alternative! Still, since the automatic move is so obvious, it is not easy to decide to consider other options. The situations we will be looking at in this chapter are the following:

- an own piece is under attack;
- an enemy piece can be (re-)captured;
- an enemy piece can be (re-)captured in different ways.

The first two situations are an extension of Chapter 2, as most of the time in-between moves play an important role here.

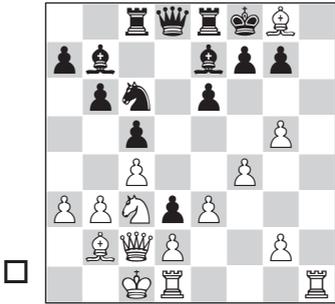
Do not automatically move your attacked piece!

There are several beautiful examples in which an attack on a (valuable) piece is ignored. Very well-known (and published in many books) is ‘The Game of the Century’ in which (in New York 1956) the 13-year-old Bobby Fischer surprised the American master Donald Byrne by leaving his queen en prise and instead counterattacked with 17...♙e6 (check out this game if you are not familiar with it!). Or what about that other ‘Game of the (present) Century’ in which Denis Khismatullin allowed Pavel Eljanov (European Championship, Jerusalem 2015) to capture his unprotected rook with check, without having a direct threat at first sight? More of such extraordinary examples can be found in the next chapter. In this chapter, we will focus on similar cases.

In Chapter 2, we saw that moving away an endangered piece with gain of tempo can be beneficial as an in-between move. This chapter shows that it can also pay off to leave an attacked piece en prise! See the following example:

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov 2782
Sergey Karjakin 2791

St Louis blitz 2018 (7) (analysis)



Black is hitting the white queen. The obvious thing to do is to retreat Her Majesty, but this brings White no benefits. He will lose the g8 ♕ and although he certainly has compensation for the piece, this is not what White is looking for. White is attacking, and in such a situation, every tempo counts! Instead of worrying about his queen, White goes for the black king!

20. ♖d5!!

Just leaving the queen en prise! The idea is to clear the a1-h8 diagonal for the bishop as well as to control the e7-square. Also good was immediately 20. ♖h8, creating a counterthreat, although here Black can escape to a (very bad) position with one pawn minus: 20... ♕xg5 (20... dxc2? 21. ♕h7#) 21. ♕h7+ ♖e7 22. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 23. ♗xd3 (23. ♕xd3 ♕xf4 allows complications but is still an interesting option for White).

If Black captures the queen, mate is inevitable:

20... dxc2

After 20...exd5 21. ♗xd3 White has a winning attack, e.g. 21...d4 (White threatened 22. ♕xg7+ ♖xg7 23. ♗h7+ ♖f8 24. ♗xf7#) 22.g6 (22. ♖h8 is the simple way to play) 22...♖xg8 23. ♗f5! ♕f6 24. ♖h8+! ♖xh8 25.gxf7 and 26. ♗h5# or 26. ♖h1+ is coming.

21. ♖h8!

Again, White ignores the fact that one of his pieces is under attack. The rook can even be captured with check, but it doesn't matter! White just wins. In this book, we will encounter more such special situations.

21...cxd1 ♗+ 22. ♖xd1



White is a queen and a rook down, but his next move will be 23. ♕h7# !

Above we saw **an attack on a piece being countered by a mating threat.**

Another way is **answering such an attack with a counterattack on another piece.** It will come as no surprise that the motto of one of the most creative players among the elite grandmasters, Danill Dubov, is: 'When you're attacked, attack something else.'

You can see how Dubov puts this into practice in Exercises 197 and 231. However, you should be aware that this method is not always without risk. In

the two examples given below, we see that **the counterattacked piece can utilize a desperado tactic**. Also, we see a **counterattacked piece escaping with gain of tempo** (24.♚b8+ in Gurevich-Buchal).

Mikhail Gurevich 2644
Stephan Buchal 2347

Germany Bundesliga 2004/05 (7)



22...♖dxd6!

Black ignores the attack on his queen and instead captures the bishop with a counterattack on the white queen.

22...♗exd6? comes with a similar idea but this is the wrong execution:

23.♚xd6 ♚xf5 24.♚xd8+ – check!

23.♚xd6!

A desperado! 23.♚xg5 is nothing special, e.g. 23...♚d8 24.e5 h6! (counterattack!)

25.♚f4 ♗d4! 26.♚f1 ♖g6!–+.

23...♚xc3!

Black must go for a desperado as well, otherwise he is an exchange and a pawn down.

23..♚xf5? appears to be the smarter desperado, as Black grabs more valuable material – a rook instead of a knight.

However, it turns out that White is the cleverest: 24.♚d8+! (or 24.♚b8+; in-between check!) 24...♗e8 25.♚xe8+ (a desperado in the shape of an in-between check) 25...♖xe8 26.exf5+–.

24.♚b8+!

The in-between check 24.♚d8+ is a worse version of the text: 24...♗e8 25.♗xc3 ♗xd8 26.♗cf3 ♗d1+!–+, and this is why the queen has to give check on b8.

24...♗e8



Black has to continue attacking the white queen, otherwise the black queen can be taken for free.

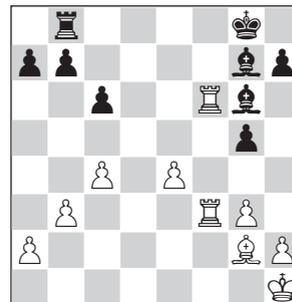
25.♗xc3

The desperado 25.♚xe8+ does not work this time as after 25...♗xe8 the queen on c3 can be recaptured by the bishop: 26.♗xc3 ♖xc3 27.♗xg5+ ♖g6–.

25...♗xb8 26.♗cf3!

White wins back two pieces for a rook. After a sequence of only moves, we can assess the remaining position as equal:

26...♖g6 27.♗xf6



27...♖xf6

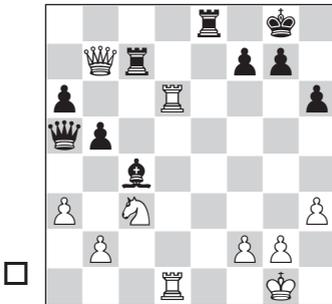
27...♖xe4 28.♗d6 ♖xf3 29.♖xf3 was played in the game, and although Black should hold this, White has the easier play and eventually won the game.

28. ♖xf6 ♜d8

And Black's activity compensates White's extra pawn.

Markus Ragger 2689
Justin Tan 2446

Gibraltar 2016 (2)



There is nothing wrong with 28. ♖f3, but in that case it will not be easy to win this game. Instead, Ragger decides to complicate things:

28. ♖xa6!?

Ignoring the attack on his queen.

28... ♜xa3!

Like in the previous example, Black can choose how to 'desperado', and again, capturing the least valuable piece is the right thing to do here. Black must keep an eye on the white rook.

With 28... ♜xc3? Black removes the defender of the c7-rook himself: 29. ♜xc7 or even the intermediate 29. ♖a8.

29. ♛xb5!

White continues the desperado sequence, but by doing this, he puts his queen in a skewer.

29... ♛e7

After 29... ♛f8 White can defend against the skewer with 30. ♛b6, although after 30... ♛e7 he still has a very long way to go to convert his extra pawn.



Black keeps both his rooks protected, but on e7 the queen is in forking distance of the knight.

30. ♛a4!

Keeping an eye on the e8 ♖.

30. ♛a5? ♜c5! and 31... ♙xa6 next, but even 30... ♙xa6 31. ♘d5 ♛e2! wins.

30... ♙xa6 31. ♘d5! ♛d7?

Black should have played 31... ♛e4! 32. ♛xe4 ♜xe4 33. ♘xc7 to fight for a draw.

32. ♘f6+! gxf6 33. ♜xd7 ♜xd7 34. ♛xd7 ♜e1+ 35. ♙h2 ♙g7 36. ♛g4+ ♙h7

37. ♛b4 ♜e2 38. ♛d6 ♜e6 39. ♛f8 1-0

So, answering an attack on a piece with a counterattack on another piece can be a powerful weapon, but also a risky one. Also, you should be on your guard: a **counterattacked piece may be defended with gain of tempo** (see, for instance, 29. ♜ce1! in Exercise 148).

Exercises 193-247 are related to a theme called **moving away an attacked piece is not mandatory!** Often, an attack on a piece can be countered with an attack on another piece, or with a threat (both in the short and long term). In some cases, the attacked piece can also be protected, which means that no in-between moves are involved.

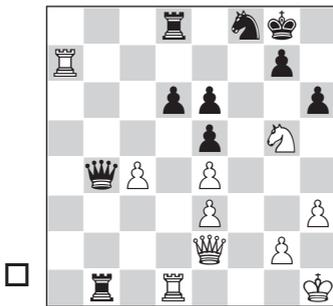
Capturing is not mandatory!

Perhaps the most built-in reaction with chess players is the automatic capture of a piece. This makes sense, as grabbing material is a good thing to do in most cases. Nevertheless, it can be a good idea to sit on your hands for a while in such situations. Chess is not checkers! Capturing a piece is not mandatory. The following example ties in nicely with what we encountered in the previous examples!

Ilia Smirin 2667

Gawain Jones 2665

Wijk aan Zee 2017 (3)



Black just has played 30...h6, expecting the white knight to move. However, by now, we know this is not so self-evident!

31. ♖f3!

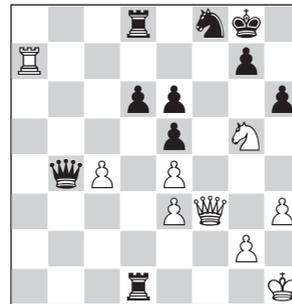
Ignoring the attack on the knight and just answering with a counterthreat.

31... ♜xd1+

Actually, 31...♞b7 is Black's 'best' move. As White's knight is trapped, Black gets a rook AND a knight for the queen, but this should not be enough to hold the position. Still, in hindsight, this means

that 31.♞f2! was more accurate than the text, as after 31...♞b7 32.♞xb7 ♜xb7 the knight can go back to f3.

But why do we talk about this if Black can just capture the rook with check?



32. ♞h2!!

White ignores the rook. Like in the first example of this chapter, White allows the rook to be captured with check, but now he even doesn't recapture (we will encounter more such examples in Chapter 4)! Mate is inevitable, and this is much more important than taking back the rook.

32... ♘d7 33. ♞f7+ ♞h8 34. ♜xd7 ♜g8

35. ♞xg8+ ♞xg8 36. ♜d8#

In this example, the rook was ignored because there was already a serious threat in the position. In the exercises, you will also come across many cases where you first have to create a threat or attack/capture another piece before you (re-)capture. In those cases, in-between moves play an important role. Sometimes the counterattack/-threat is so strong that (re-)capturing is no longer necessary.

Exercises 248-298 are about not automatically (re-)capturing a piece.

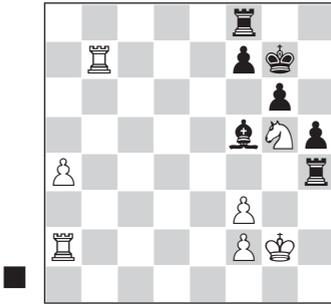
The surprising capture

We will stick to the theme of ‘capturing’ for a while. Often, of course, (re-)capturing a piece is a good idea, but even then, in certain situations, the most evident capture should not be selected too quickly. See the following example.

Hans Plasman 2178

Hugo ten Hertog 2453

Hilversum 2018 (2) (adjusted)



27... ♔h6! 28. ♖xf7

The knight does not have any good squares. Capturing the f7-pawn with check seems logical, but this fails tactically: 28. ♖xf7+ ♖xf7! 29. ♖xf7 ♔e6--.

28. ♖e4 also loses due to a surprising capture: 28... ♖xe4!. Usually, a player will decide to start a sequence of exchanges with the least valuable piece. Here, reversing the move-order (**beginning the sequence of exchanges with the most valuable piece**) wins a piece instead of a pawn: 29. fxe4 ♔xe4+--.

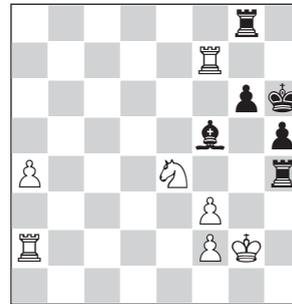
28... ♖g8!

28... ♖a8 29. ♖xf5 gxf5 30. ♖h3 seems holdable for White.

After the text, the knight is still in danger, while White does not have an escape with 29. ♖xf5, as after 29... gxf5 the knight is pinned. This is the point of moving the rook to g8!

The knight is not White’s only problem. The two white rooks are on the same diagonal. From g5, the knight covers the e6-square, but after a retreat, it no longer does.

29. ♖e4



29... ♖xe4!

Even better than 29... ♔e6 30. ♖h7+ ♔xh7 31. ♖g5+ ♔h6 32. ♖xe6.

30. fxe4

30. ♖xf5 gxf5+: discovered check! The rook on g8 is doing a great job!

30... ♔xe4+!

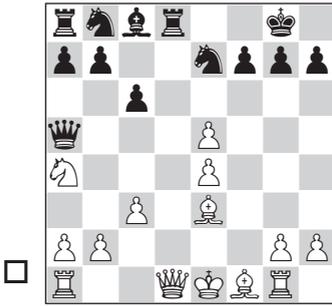
An in-between check!

31. ♔g3 ♔d5+

Black is winning.

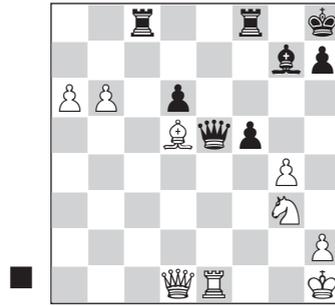
Exercises 299-324 feature a couple of surprising captures. These also include captures you would not usually play for positional reasons.

193



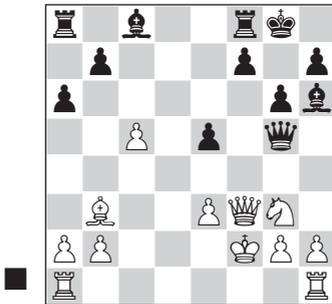
Counterattacking a piece

194



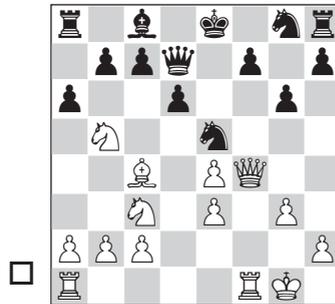
Counterattacking a piece

195



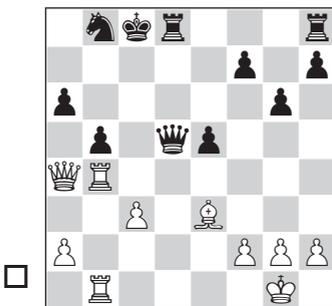
20... ♗g4, yes or no?

196



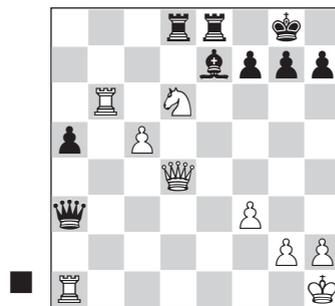
Counterattacking a piece

197



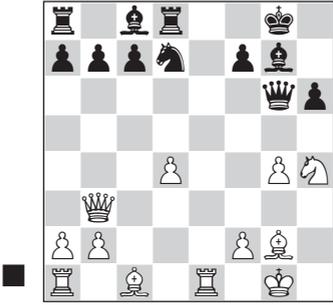
Counterattacking a piece

198



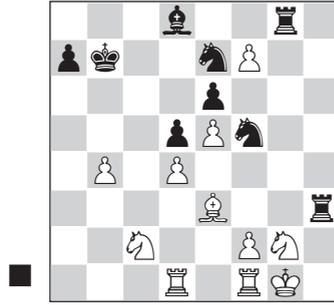
Counterattacking a piece

199



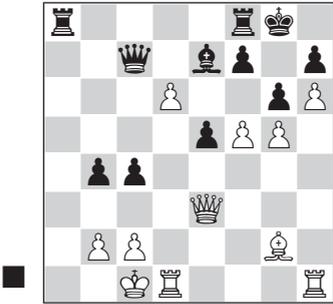
19...♔xg4, yes or no?

200



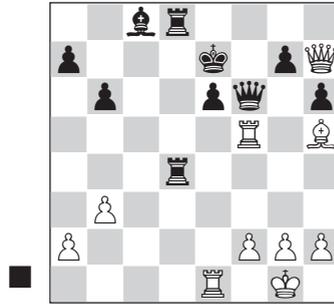
Counterattacking by mating threat

201



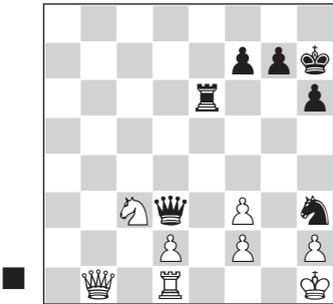
Counterattacking by mating threat

202



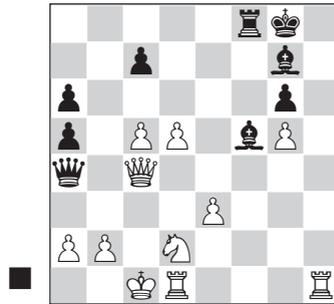
Counterattacking by mating threat

203



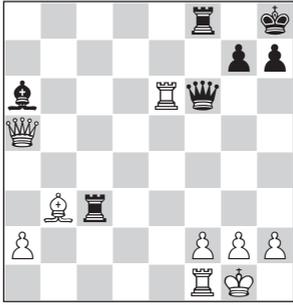
Counterattacking by mating threat

204



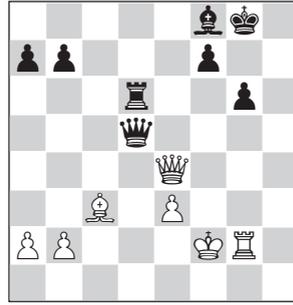
Counterattacking by mating threat

205



Counterattacking by mating threat

206



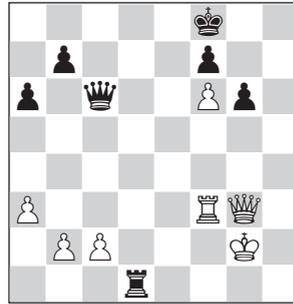
Counterattacking by mating threat

207



Counterattacking by mating threat

208



Counterattacking by mating threat

209



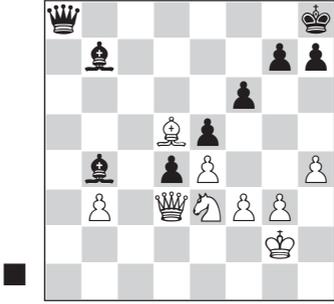
Counterattacking by mating threat

210



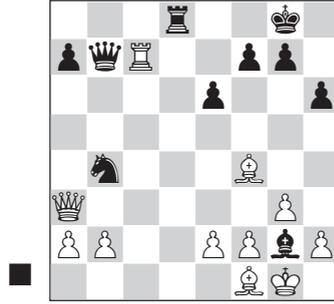
Counterattacking a square

211



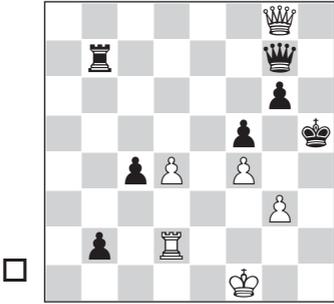
Counterattacking a square

212



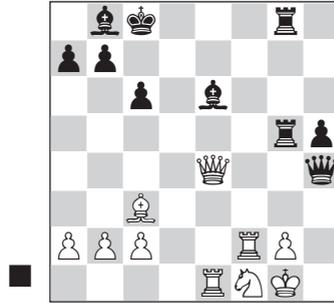
'Long'-term threat + mate

213



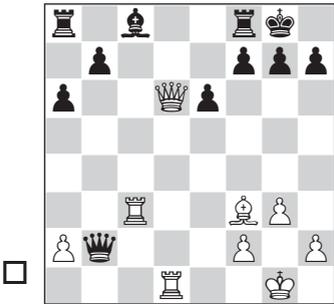
'Long'-term threat + mate

214



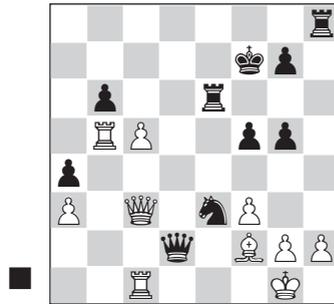
'Long'-term threat + mate

215



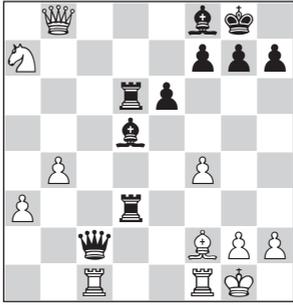
'Long'-term threat + mate

216



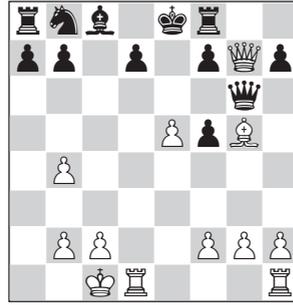
'Long'-term threat + mate

217



'Long'-term threat + mate

218



'Long'-term threat + mate

219



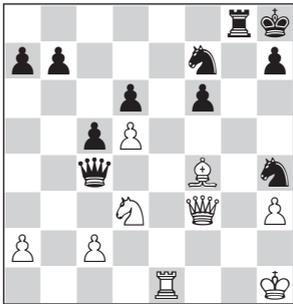
'Long'-term threat + mate

220



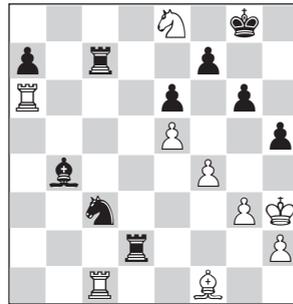
'Long'-term threat + mate

221



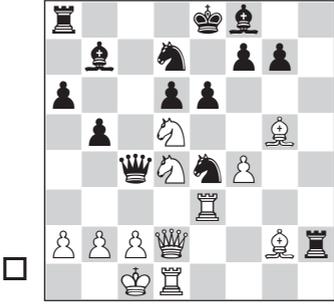
'Long'-term threat + mate

222



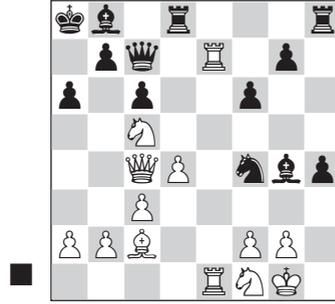
'Long'-term threat + mate

223



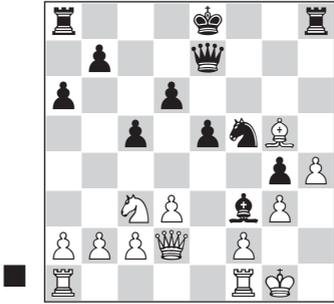
'Long'-term threat + mate

224



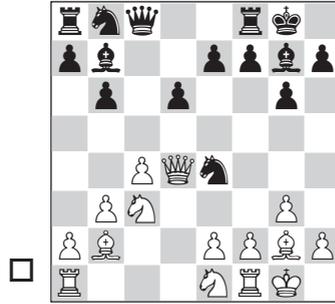
'Long'-term threat + mate

225



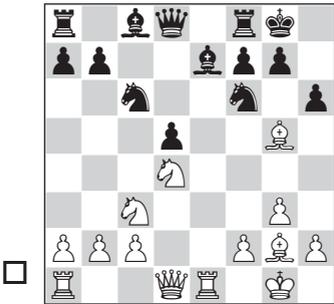
'Long'-term threat + mate

226



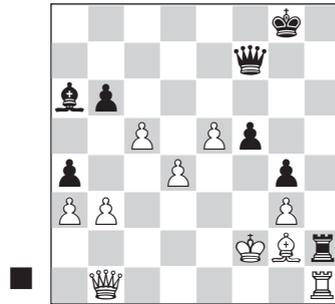
'Long'-term threat + material

227



'Long'-term threat + material

228



'Long'-term threat + material

192 50...d3! Clearing the a7-g1 diagonal. After 50...♟fxe4 51.♞xe4 ♞a5, White has the intermediate move 52.♞e7! and compared to the game (see the analysis of 52.♞xe4), Black has no intermediate check on the a7-g1 diagonal: 52...♞g3+ 53.♞g2+-, **51.cxd3** 51.♙xd3 ♞c5+ (or 51...♞b6+) 52.♙h2 ♙d5 53.♞d8 ♟f2+ 54.♙g3 ♞e3+ 55.♞xe3 ♟g2#. **51...♟fxe4! 52.♞xe4** The game Zlatanovic-Antic, Serbia tt 2017, continued 52.dxe4 ♞a5 and Black won after managing to trap the queen. **52...♞a5 53.♞e7 ♞c5+** Or 53...♞b6+-; not 53...♞g3+? 54.♞g2+-.

193 11.♙b6! 1-0 Beerdsen-Berkovich, Groningen 2013; 11...♞xd1+ 12.♞xd1 and White wins back the queen due to the back-rank mating threat. White emerges a rook up.

194 30...♞c1! 31.♞xc1 31.♞xe5 ♞xd1+ 32.♙g2 ♙xe5 (or 32...dxe5+-); 31.a7 ♞xe1+-, **31...♞xd5+ 32.♙g1 ♙d4+ 33.♞e3** 33.♙f1 ♞f3#. **33...f4-** Spassky-Sax, Clermont-Ferrand 1989 (adjusted).

195 No! **20...♙g4? 21.h4!** ♙xf3 21...♞d8 22.♞xg4 ♞d2+ 23.♞e2 ♙xe3+ 24.♙f3+-, **22.hxg5 ♙xg5 23.♙xf3/gxf3+-** Van der Hagen-Hilwerda, Groningen jr tt 2017 (analysis).

196 14.♙e6! axb5 14...♞xe6 15.♙xc7+-; 14...fxe6 15.♞f8#; 14...♞e7 15.♙d5 or first 15.♙xf7+ ♙xf7 (15...♞xf7 16.♞xf7+ ♙xf7 17.♙xc7+-) 16.♙d5+-; 14...♞d8 15.♙xf7+-, **15.♙xd7+** and White won in Gascon-Perez Rodriguez, Havana 2010.

197 21.c4! bxa4 21...♞d3 22.cxb5+-, **22.cxd5** 22.♞xb8+? ♙c7 (22...♙d7? 23.♞xd8+ ♞xd8 24.cxd5+-) 23.♙b6+ (23.cxd5 ♞xb8+-) 23...♙xb8 24.♙xd8+ ♞b7+-, **22...♙d7** 22...♙c7 23.♙b6+-; 22...♙d7 23.♞c1+ or 23.♞c4+-, **23.♙a7** 1-0 Dubov-Mamedyarov, Titled Tuesday blitz 2020.

198 31...♙f6! 32.♞xa3 32.♞xf6 gxf6 33.♞xa3 ♞e1#; 32.♞bb1 ♙xd4 33.♞xa3 ♙xc5 34.♙xe8 ♙xa3+-, **32...♙xd4** 32...♞e1+? 33.♞g1+-, **33.♙xe8** 33.♞b1 ♙xc5 34.♙xe8 ♙xa3+-, **33...♙xc5! 34.♞d6** 34.♞b1 ♙xa3+-; 34.♞a1 ♙xb6+-, **34...♞xe8** 0-1 Carlsen-Aronian, Moscow blitz 2012.

199 Black should take this pawn, otherwise he is worse: **19...♞xg4! 20.♞e4** ♙c5! 20...♞h5 21.♙f3! ♞a5 22.♞e7 ♞f8 23.♙d5+-, **21.♞xg4** 21.dxc5? ♞d1+ 22.♙h2 ♙e5+ 23.♞xe5 ♞xh4+ 24.♙h3 ♞xf2+ 25.♙g2 ♞h4+ 26.♙h3 ♙xh3 27.♞xh3? ♞h1+-, **21...♙xb3 22.♞xg7+ ♙xg7 23.axb3 ♞xd4=** Willemze 2021 (analysis).

200 30...♙h4! 31.fxg8 ♞ ♙f3# 0-1 Pancevski-Michiels, Warsaw Ech tt 2013.

201 26...c3! Black ignores the attack on his queen, rook and bishop, and creates a threat himself: checkmate on the next move! **27.♙xa8** 27.dxc7? ♞a1#; 27.bxc3 bxc3 28.♙xa8 ♞xa8 and mate follows soon. **27...♞xa8** **28.♙b1 ♞a5** and White will be mated on a1, Van Delft-Burg, Netherlands tt 2012/13 (analysis).

202 Black is winning after **1...♞e4!**, attacking the white rook while clearing the a1-h8 diagonal for the queen. When the e1♞ moves on the first rank, the e-pawn is no longer pinned: **2.♞c1** (2.♞xe4 ♞a1+, mating) **2...exf5-** Wolk-Osswald, Stuttgart 1954 (analysis).

203 33...♞g6! 34.♟f1 34.♞xd3 ♙xf2#. **34...♞xf3#** E.Bacrot-Nihal, Capechecs Online Trophy rapid f 2020.

204 29...♞b8! 30.d6+ 30.♞xa4 ♙xb2#. **30...♙f8 31.e4** 31.b3 ♞a3#. **31...♙xb2+** **32.♙b1 ♞xc4** 0-1 Urkedal-Lie, Tromsø ch-NOR 2016; 33.♙xc4 ♙xe4+ 34.♞d3 ♙xd3#.

205 30...♞c1! 30...♞xf2+ 31.♞xf2 ♞c1+ 32.♞e1+-, **31.♞xc1** 31.♞xf6 ♞xf1#; 31.♞xa6 ♞xf2+ 32.♙h1 ♞xf1+ (or 32...♞xf1+, mating); 31.♞e1 ♙xf1 32.♞xc1 ♞xf2+ 33.♙h1 ♞/♙xg2#. **31...♞xf2+ 32.♙h1 ♞f1+ 33.♞xf1 ♞xf1#** Stojanovic-Patrucic, Sarajevo 2011.

206 40.♞h2! f5 40...♞f6+ 41.♙xf6 ♞d2+ 42.♙g3 ♙d6+ 43.♙e5+-; 40...♙g7 41.♞e8+ ♙f8 42.♞h8#; 40...f6 41.♞xg6+ ♙g7 42.♞e8+ ♙f8 43.♞g2+ ♙h7 44.♞g6+ ♙h8 45.♞h2+, mating. **41.♞e8 ♞f6** and now best is **42.♞h8+!** (42.♙xf6+- was played in the game) **42...♙xh8 43.♞xf8+ ♙h7 44.♞xf6** and 45.♞g7/h8# or in case of **44...♞g8, 45.♞h4#** Schermer-Hauwert, Alkmaar 1991.

207 24...♖h3! 25.gxh3 ♘f3+ 26.♙f1 ♘xd2+ 27.♙g1 ♘f3+ 28.♙f1 ♙c4+ 29.♙g2 ♘e1+ 0-1 Pikula-Predojevic, Bosnia and Herzegovina tt 2007.

208 37.♖b8+! ♗e8 38.♖h3! ♖d2+ 39.♙f3 ♖xb8 39...♙g8 40.♖xe8# 40.♖h8# Bartel-Nepomniachtchi, Jerasulem 2015 (adjusted).

209 34...♙h3! 34...♖bb1 was played in the game Giri-Grischuk, Stavanger blitz 2015. 35.♖d5 35.♖xb2 ♖xf1#; 35.♖f4 ♖bb1+-. 35...♖a1 and there is no defence against 36...♖bb1 or 36...♖xf2 37.♙xf2 ♖/♙xf1(+). Even falling for the 'trick' is no problem for Black. After 35...♖xd5 36.♖xb2 ♖d1 37.♖f2 White is caught in an eternal pin. He will slowly run out of moves and/or Black will liquidate to a winning rook endgame.

210 11.♘c4! axb5 11...♘bd7 12.♘b/cd6+--. 12.♘b6 ♖c6 13.♘xa8 and White won, Haslinger-Afek, Amsterdam 2012.

211 42...dxe3! 43.♙xb7 e2! 44.♖b5 44.♖xe2 ♖xb7+; 44.♙xa8 e1♘+! 45.♙f1 ♘xd3+-. 44...e1♘+! White resigned in Kanmazalp-Naroditsky, Benasque 2015, because after 45.♙f1 ♖f8 he is a piece down.

212 26...♖d1! 27.♖xb7 27.♖c1 ♙xf1 28.♖xd1 ♖g2#. 27...♙h3! and ...♖xf1# is unavoidable. Only a few checks remain for White: 28.♖b8+ ♙h7 29.♖d3+ ♘xd3 0-1 Gharibyan-Dudin, Ech jr Online 2021.

213 62.♖h2+! ♙g4 63.♙g2! g5 63...♖xg8 64.♖h4#. 64.♖e8! ♖f7 64...gxf4 65.♖h5#. 65.♖e2# Caruana-Mamedyarov, Batumi ol 2018 (adjusted).

214 28...♙d5! △ 29.♖xh4 ♖xg2+ 30.♖xg2 ♖xg2+ 31.♙h1 ♖g4+ 32.♖e4 ♙xe4# Sekandar-Ris, Netherlands tt 2016/17 (adjusted).

215 17.♖e7! ♖xc3 18.♖d8 h6 The game M.Haast-M.Blom, Roosendaal 2011, continued 18...♙d7 19.♖xf8#. 19.♖xf8+ ♙h7 20.♖g8+ Or 20.♖xf7+-. 20...♙g6 and now the quickest way to win is 21.♙h5+! ♙xh5 22.♖xf7+ ♙g5 (22...g6 23.♖f4! g5 24.♖f7+ ♙g4 25.h3+ ♙xh3 26.♖h5#) 23.h4+ ♙g4 24.♙g2 ♖f6 25.f3+ ♙f5 26.g4+ ♙f4 27.♖c7+ ♙e3 28.♖c1+ ♙e2 29.♖d2#.

216 31...♖xh2! 0-1 Van Wely-Rapport, Germany Bundesliga final 2019/20, because of 32.♖xd2 (32.♙xh2 ♖xf2 and White cannot prevent both 33...♖xg2# and 33...♖h6#) 32...♖xg2+ 33.♙h1 ♖h6+ 34.♙h4 ♖xh4#.

217 24...♖g3! 25.hxg3 25.♙xg3 ♖xg2#; 25.♖xc2 ♖xg2+ 26.♙h1 ♖g3/4/5/6#. 25...♖e4 0-1 Palliser-Shaw, England 4NCL 2014/15.

218 15.e6! ♖xg7 The game Sipos-Torma, Paks ch-HUN jr 2000, continued 15...d5 16.♖xd5 ♘c6 17.e7 ♘xe7 18.♖d8+! ♙xd8 19.♖xf8+ ♙c7 20.♖xe7+ 1-0; 15...fxe6 16.♖e7#; 15...dxe6 16.♖d8#. 16.exd7+ ♘xd7 17.♖he1+ ♖e5 18.♖xe5+ ♘xe5 19.♖d8#

219 22...♖d2! 23.♙xe7 Zeman-Warmerdam, Riga 2018, continued 23.♖f3 ♖xg2+! 24.♙xg2 ♖e2+ 0-1; 23.♖f2 ♖e1+! 24.♖xe1 ♖xe1+ 25.♖f1 ♖xg2+ 26.♙h1 ♖xf1#; 23.♖g3 and now 23...♖xg2+ 24.♖xg2 ♙xg2 25.♙xe7 ♙xf1, after which Black remains a piece up, is the easiest solution. 23...♖xg2+ 24.♙h1 ♖g4+ 25.♙e4 ♙xe4+ 26.♖f3 ♙xf3#

220 25...♖xd2! 0-1 Uhlmann-Liebert, Gröditz ch-DDR 1976; 26.♙xd2 (26.♖xd2 ♖f3+) 26...♘g5! 27.♖xg5 (27.♖xe2 ♘h3#) 27...♖f3 and ...♖g2/h1# is imminent.

221 34.♙g5! ♘xf3 34...♘/♖/fxg5 35.♖xf6+ ♖g7 36.♖e8#; 34...♖f8 35.♖xf6+ ♙g8 36.♙xh4 ♖xd5+ 37.♙h2+-. 35.♙xf6+ ♖g7 36.♖e8# T.Willemze-Van Wessel, Netherlands tt 2011/12 (adjusted).

222 42...♘e2! 0-1 Shabalov-Robson, St Louis ch-USA 2016, because of 43.♖xc7 (43.♙xe2 ♖xc1+) 43...♘g1+ 44.♙h4 ♘f3+ 45.♙h3 ♖xh2#.

223 16.♘xe6! fxe6 16...♘xd2 17.♘xg7# /♘ec7#; 16...♙xd5 17.♖xd5 (or 17.♘c7+ ♖xc7 18.♖xd5+) 17...♖xd5 18.♘c7#. 17.♙xe4 1-0 Antipov-Schwartz, Gibraltar 2018; 17...♖xd2 (17...♖xe4 18.♖xh2+) 18.♙g6#.

224 34...h3! 35.♖xc7 35.g3 h2+ 36.♘xh2 ♖xh2 37.♖xc7 (37.♙xh2 ♖h8+ 38.♙g1 ♙f3 and mate soon) 37...♙f3 38.♙xh2 ♖h8+ 39.♙g1 ♖h1#. 35...hxg2! 36.♘h2 ♙f3! 0-1 Le Quang Liem-Bersamina, Makati Ach 2018; 37.♙f5 (preventing 37...♘h3#) 37...♙xc7 and White is defenceless against ...♘e2+ followed by ...♙xh2#.

225 21...♖xh4! **22.**♙xe7 **22.**♙xh4 ♖xh4 (or 22...♗xh4) **23.**gxh4 ♗xh4 with inevitable mate. **22...**♖f5 **22...**♖g6 comes down to the same. **23.**♙h4 ♖xh4 **24.**♗g5 After 24.♗e3 ♖f5 **25.**♗xf3 gxf3 White has prevented mate, but he is still losing. Material is equal, but Black's attack is not over yet. Black will double rooks on the h-file in combination with ...♖d4. In the end, White will have to sacrifice his knight so as not to get mated. **24...**♖f5 **25.**♗g6+ ♖d8 **26.**♗f6+ ♖c7 **27.**♖d5+ ♖c6 0-1 Bartel-Artemiev, European Online CC rapid Playoff A 2021; **28.**♖e7+ ♖b6 **29.**♖d5+ ♖a7.

226 **12.**♖d5! ♙xd4 **13.**♖xe7+ ♖g7 **14.**♙xd4+ f6 **15.**♖xc8 and White won in Vrolijk-Linster, Karlsruhe 2019.

227 **12.**♖xd5! Funnily enough, this position had appeared on the board seven times before, but nobody came up with this idea! **12...**♖xd5 **12...**hgx5 **13.**♖xc6 bxc6 **14.**♖xe7+- **13.**♖xc6 bxc6 **14.**♙xe7 ♖xe7 **15.**♗xd8 ♗xd8 **16.**♗xe7 and White won in Svidler-Samhoury, Tromsø ol 2014.

228 **48...**♗d5! **48...**♗xg2+ was played in the game Lysyj-Fedoseev, Voronezh 2012. **49.**♗xh2 ♗xd4+ **50.**♖e1 ♗g1+ **51.**♖d2 ♗xb1+-

229 **13.**♖c5! axb5 **13...**♖c6 **14.**♖xb7+- **14.**♖xb7 ♗b6 **14...**♖xe5 **15.**♖xd8 and White won in Bok-Rogers, London 2015. **15.**♖d6+ ♖d8 **16.**♖xf7+-

230 **27...**♖xd4! **27...**♗xa7 **28.**♗xc6=. **28.**♗xb6 ♖e2+ **29.**♖f1 ♖xc3 and because of the double threat **30...**♗d1# and **30...**♗xa7, White has to give up her knight, Martinez-E. van Harten, Rotterdam ch-NED jr W 2016 (analysis).

231 **19.**♙a6! gxf3 **19...**bxa6 **20.**♖xc6 (or **20.**♗e2/d3+-) **20...**♙xc6 **21.**♗xc6+- **20.**♙xb7+ ♖b8 **21.**♙xc6+ ♖c8 **22.**♙b7+ ♖b8 **23.**♙xf3+ ♖c8 **24.**♙b7+ **24.**♙e2 was another way to win: ♙b5 **25.**♙xb5 ♗d6 **26.**cxd6+- **24...**♖b8 **25.**♙c6+ ♖c8 **26.**♗b2 1-0 Dubov-Brkic, Gjakova Ech 2016; **26...**♗df8 (**26...**♙xc6? **27.**♗hb1 and mate in three) **27.**♙xd7+-.

232 **30.**♖h5! ♗xa7 The game Harikrishna-Nakamura, Wijk aan Zee 2014, continued **30...**♖g7 **31.**♙xg7 ♗xa7 **32.**♗h6 f5 **33.**♖g5 1-0; **30...**gxh5 **31.**♗g5+ ♖h8 **32.**♗f6+ ♖g8 **33.**♗xf7+ ♖h8 **34.**♗xh7#; **30...**♙xh6 **31.**♗xh6 gxh5 **32.**♗g5+ ♖f8 (**32...**♖h8 **33.**♗f6+ ♖g8 **34.**♗xf7+ ♖h8 **35.**♗g7/xh7#) **33.**♗e7+ and mate in two. **31.**♖f6+ ♖h8 **32.**♙xf8 Clearing the h6-square for the queen.

32...♖e3 **32...**♗xf8 **33.**♗h6+- **33.**♙xd6+- **233** **15...**♙xd4! **16.**♖xd4 16.hxg4 ♙xf2+ **17.**♖h2 ♗c7!+- Black wins back the knight and is two pawns up. **16...**♖xf2 **17.**♗d2 ♖xd4 and Black won in Kerigan-Harika, Vlissingen 2013.

234 **12...**♗xe2+! **13.**♖xe2 The game Raykhman-Heinemann, Germany Bundesliga 2015/16, continued **13.**♖f1 ♗e8! **14.**♗b1 ♖e4! **15.**♙e1 (15.♖xe2 ♖c3+-) **15...**♗xe1+! **16.**♖xe1 (16.♗xe1 ♙xb5+) **16...**♖d2+ **17.**♖g1 ♖xb1 and Black won. **13...**♗e8+! **14.**♖d1 **14.**♖f1 ♙xb5+- **14...**♙xb5 **15.**♗c2 ♙a4+-

235 **42.g4!** A multi-purpose move. White takes away the f5- and h5-squares from the black king, clears the third rank for the rook, and the threat of f4-f5+ can come in handy to lure the king away if the black queen is on f7 or g7. **42.**♙xc5 was played in the game Vandebussche-Dambacher, Netherlands tt 2015/16. **42...**♖xb4 **42...**♗xg4+ **43.**♗g3+-; **42...**f5 **43.**♗h3 ♗g7 **44.**gxf5+ ♙xf5 **45.**♗g3+-; **42...**♗f7 **43.**f5+- **43.**♗g8+ ♗g7 **43...**♖h6 **44.**♗h3# **44.**♗e8+ **44.**f5+ is also winning, but after **44...**♙xf5 White still has to play **45.**♗e8+!+-, otherwise Black will have a chance to get back in the game; e.g. not **45.**gxf5+ ♖h6+ check(!), so White has no time for **46.**♗h3+. **44...**♗f7 **45.**♙xb5+-

236 **20...**♖xe3! **21.**fxe3 ♙xd2 0-1 Unzicker-Smejkal, Germany Bundesliga 1999/00; **22.**♗xd2 (**22.**♖xd2 ♙xd1+-) **22...**♙xf3! **23.**♗c3 (**23.**♗xd8 ♙xc6; **23.**♗xf3 ♗xd2) **23...**♗g5!+-

237 **35.**♗c8+! ♖h7 **36.**♗f5+ 1-0 Giri-Schroer, Hilversum 2008; **36...**g6 **37.**♗xb8! ♗xb8 (**37...**gxf5 **38.**♗xb3+-) **38.**♗xf6+-.