

Franco Masetti and Roberto Messa

# **1001 chess exercises for beginners**

**The tactics workbook that explains  
the basic concepts, too**

**New In Chess 2012**

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# Introduction

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*Chess is 99% tactics!*

If this celebrated observation is true for the master, how much more so for the beginner and club player.

By far and away, the quickest and most effective way to improve your chess performance is to increase your tactical skill so that at a glance you are able to see the typical mating patterns and material-winning tactical motifs that so often decide a game. There is no doubt that the best way to acquire good tactical vision is to do exercises that teach you to recognise the tactical building blocks that make up every combination. This book focuses on the crucial positions that every chess player must know. It cannot be stressed enough that a knowledge of strategy is of little use if you have not first mastered the fundamentals of tactics.

This book starts with hundreds of essential mating positions that train immediate visual recognition; first there are the easier mate in one or two move exercises; then there are exercises for various crucial tactical motifs that must be mastered by any aspiring chess player; these are followed by more demanding positions where these various motifs are often combined.

While the easier problems can be solved without a chess board, we suggest that for the more difficult ones you set up the positions on a board and try to find the solution as if you were playing a real game. You should therefore not touch or move the pieces before having made your decision, perhaps writing down the possible variations before you check the solutions at the back of the book.

The introductions to each chapter are particularly instructive. It is here that we explain the ideas behind crucial tactical motifs such as double attack, the pin and skewer, as well as pawn promotion, drawing techniques, etc.

This book is intended not only for personal use, but also as a course text book. We have thus consulted leading teachers and masters with extensive training experience working in chess academies and club courses so as to best identify the most productive positions and exercises to use.

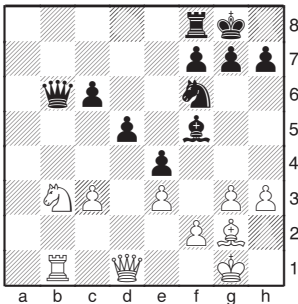
*Franco Masetti and Roberto Messa*

# Discovered attack

White to move

Solutions on page 128

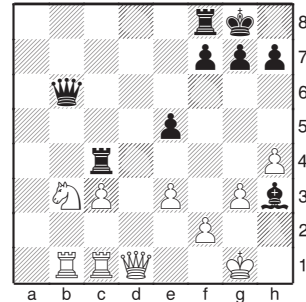
A discovered attack is a form of double attack where one piece moves to attack another, unmasking an attack by a second piece.



In the above position, the knight can jump to d4, unleashing an attack on the black queen. Black is forced to choose the lesser of two evils, and accept the loss of the bishop on f5.

As always, things do not necessarily work out as we plan, and we must always check carefully that our

opponent does not surprise us with an 'acrobatic' defence.

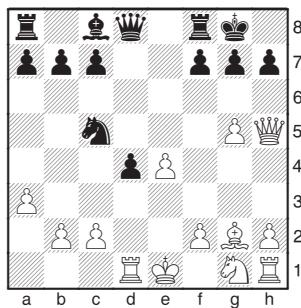


In the example above White can play 1.  $\text{N}d2$ , with a discovered attack that threatens both queen and rook. However, the strong reply of 1...  $\text{W}c6!$  solves Black's problems; thanks to the threat of mate on g2, Black has sufficient time to save the rook, for example: 2.  $e4 \text{ R}xc3$ .

Yet another example of how time and geometry are the fundamental building blocks of chess tactics.

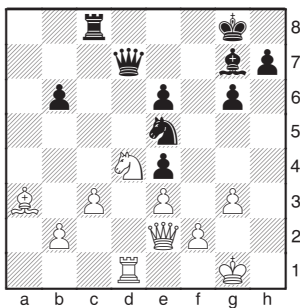
Discovered attack

253



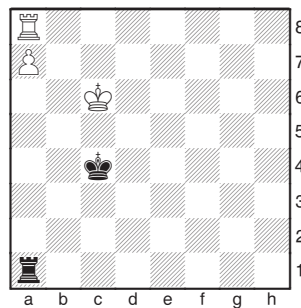
One small step

254



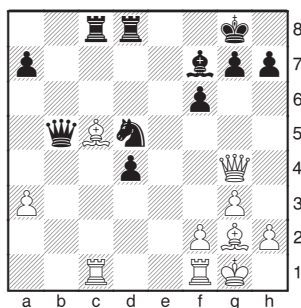
Discovery then double attack

255



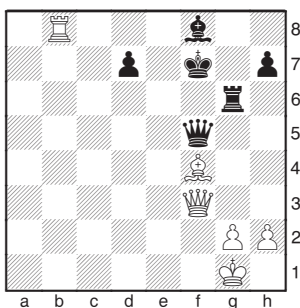
How to advance the pawn?

256



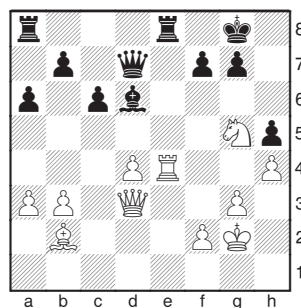
Discovery then double attack

257



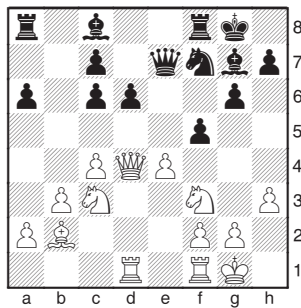
A couple of checks

258



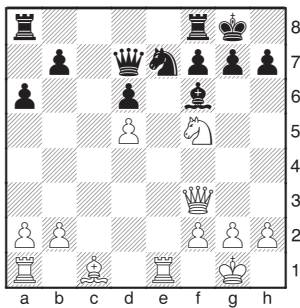
Freeing the diagonal

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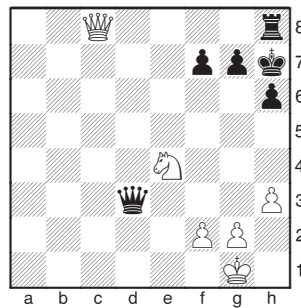
The long diagonal is weak

260



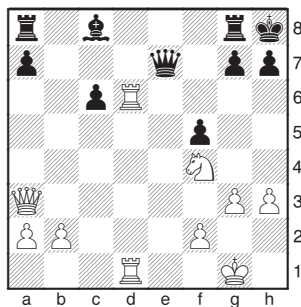
This is a classic

261



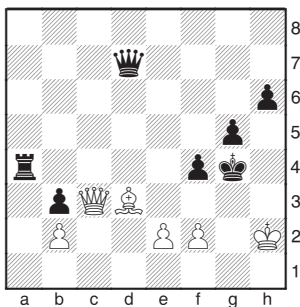
The queen is a goner

262



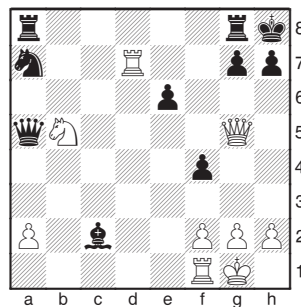
A most unpleasant choice

263



Double trouble

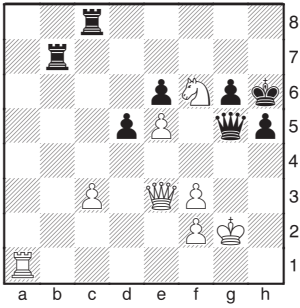
264



The queen or smothered mate

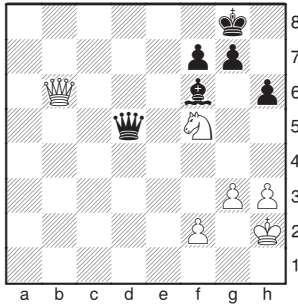
Mixed motifs: White

535



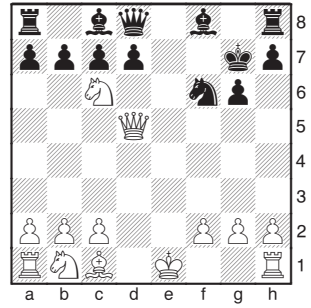
H-bomb

536



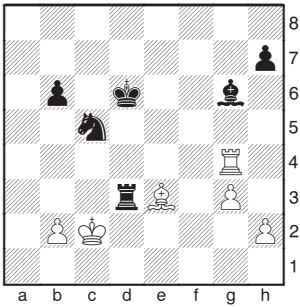
One thing prevents it

537



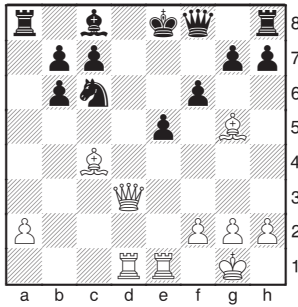
Gain some time and gain the ♔

538



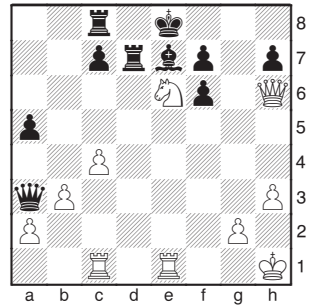
Which defender first?

539



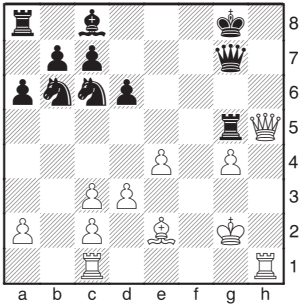
Opening lines: diagonals

540



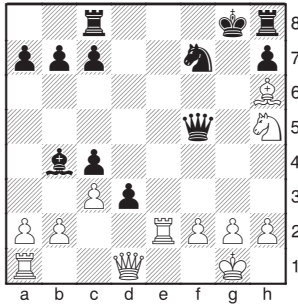
Decoy and double check

541



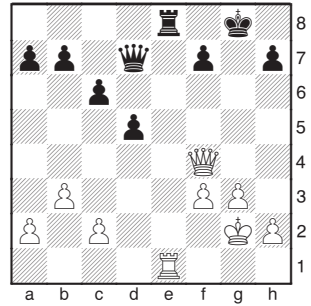
9 for the price of 5

542



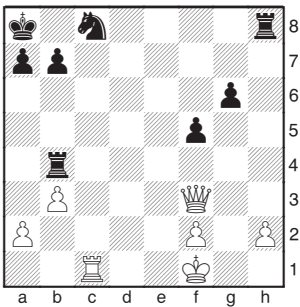
Deflection

543



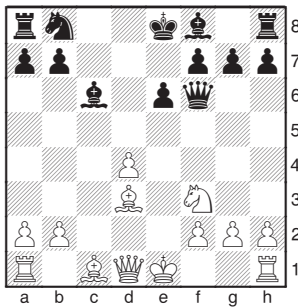
Intermediate check

544



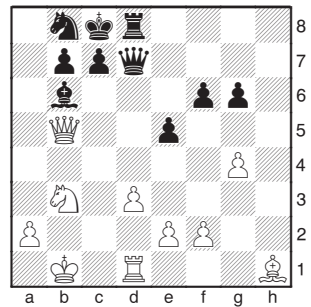
Double threat

545



Easier than you would think

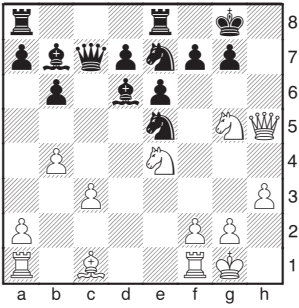
546



A pin makes it possible

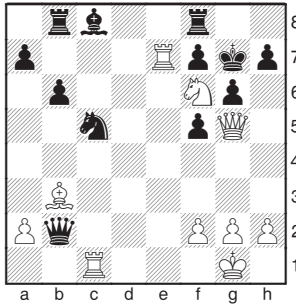
Mate in 4

967



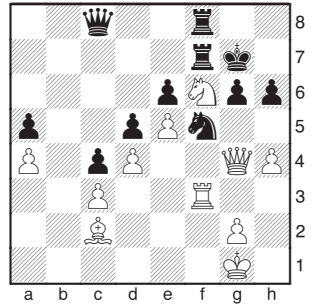
Queen and bishop mate

968



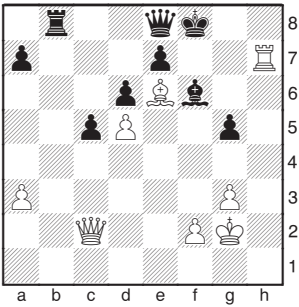
Back rank opportunities

969



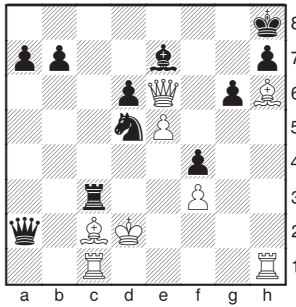
White's aggression pays off

970



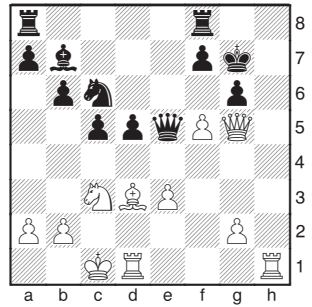
Nowhere to go

971



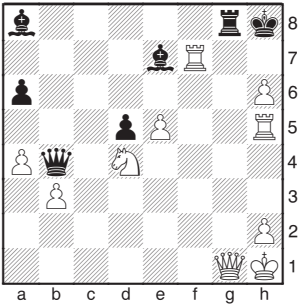
The first move is the key

972



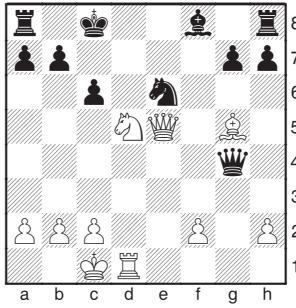
Marshall mate

973



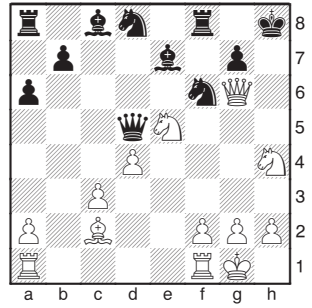
Decoy then mate

974



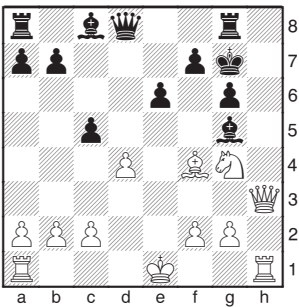
Maximum piece coordination

975



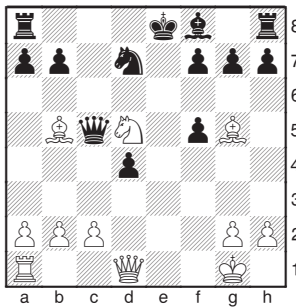
Noble knights

976



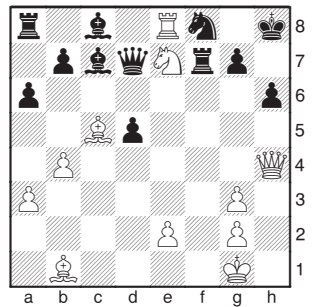
The path to victory

977



Not so hard really

978



2 bishops are sufficient