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**ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF
CHESS
COMBINATIONS**

For players up to 1600 Elo

I



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PREFACE

This encyclopedia is designed as a guide to the world of chess combinations for players who wish to improve their rating and deepen their chess understanding. It is intended for all players rated up to 1600 who have mastered the basics and want to learn how to recognize tactical motifs.

Through carefully selected positions, the book guides the reader step by step. The encyclopedia contains 1471 positions drawn from games played by chess players of various levels.

In the book, you will find 13 tactical themes that form the foundation of chess calculation and combinational play. Each example has been chosen to help the player practice spotting tactics and executing them independently in practical games.

The examples demonstrate both successful and missed opportunities. Most of the exercises are taken from games played by titled players, but there are also examples from amateurs, old masters, and my students.

The students of my chess school were my main inspiration for this book, the first of three encyclopedias guiding players through the world of tactics and combinations.

I believe that solving these exercises will develop and enhance the tactical vision and calculation skills of every chess player.

FIDE SENIOR TRAINER
Grandmaster Branko Tadić

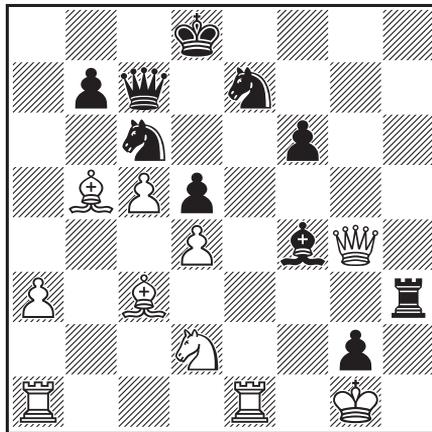
VII

CLEARANCE

The tactical motif of CLEARANCE is one of the key elements in conducting an attack. Its essence lies in creating open squares for one's own pieces and removing obstacles that restrict their activity. This motif is most often realized by sacrificing material to reposition pieces or forcing the opponent to give up important lines, diagonals, and squares.

Understanding and applying the motif of Clearance enables better coordination of pieces, which can lead to winning material or opening paths toward the opponent's king.

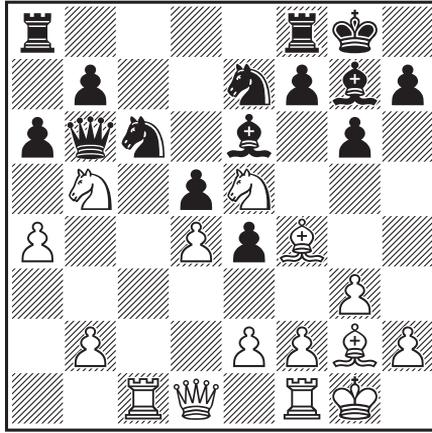
In the game A. Grischuk – F. Caruana (**Example 935**), a simple combination involving the tactical motif of Clearance was employed to launch a mating attack.



1. ♖e3+!!

By moving his bishop with tempo, Black clears the path for his queen, opening the critical diagonal toward h2, which leads to an unstoppable mating attack.

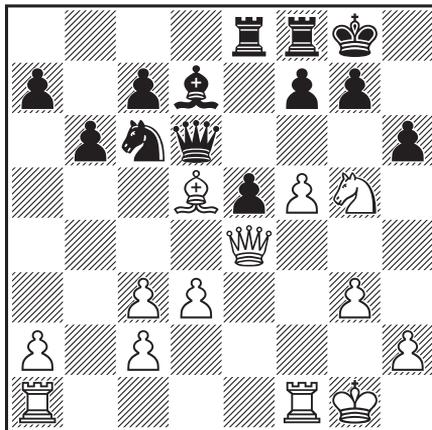
The following position arose in the game N. Yakubboev – N. Ibrayev (**Example 856**), in which White employed the tactical motif of space clearance to win material:



1. Nd7!!

With a striking tactical blow, White clears the diagonal for his dark-squared bishop, aiming to trap Black's queen with the move Bc7!

The power of the tactical motif of Clearance was clearly demonstrated in the game Y. Arkhipkin – D. Prodanov (**Example 868**).

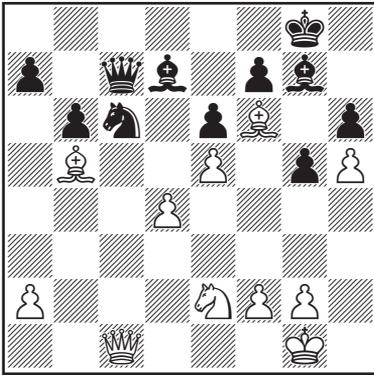


1. f6!!

White clears the diagonal for the queen to enter the attack, leaving the knight en prise. Combinations involving piece clearance are generally very attractive and conclude with striking tactical solutions.

838.

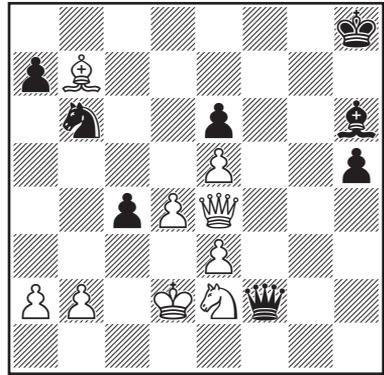
M. CARLSEN –
V. IVANCHUK
Linares 2007



1. ? +-

839.

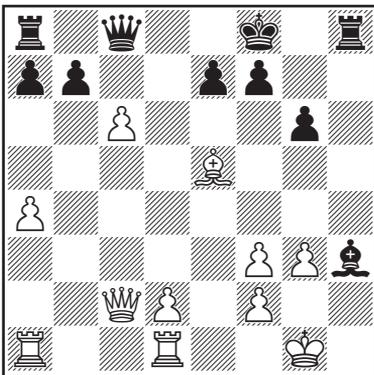
M. CARLSEN –
M. VACHIER LAGRAVE
Internet 2020



1... ? +-

840.

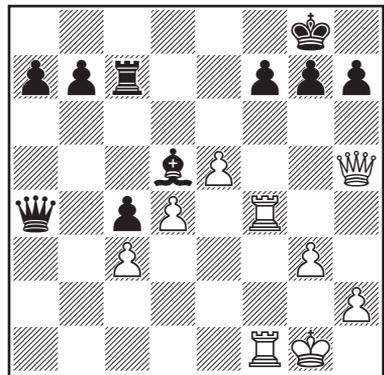
DING LIREN –
D. DUBOV
Internet 2020



1... ? +-

841.

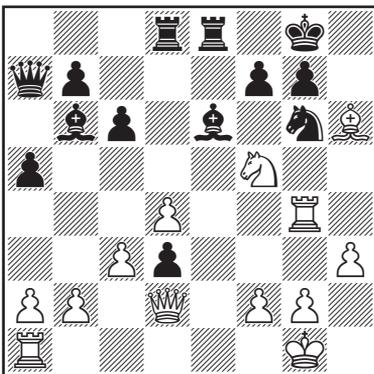
G. KASPAROV –
G. HJORTH
Dortmund 1980



1. ? +-

842.

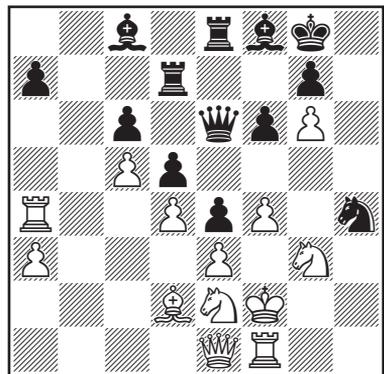
V. ANAND –
DING LIREN
Stavanger 2019



1. ? +-

843.

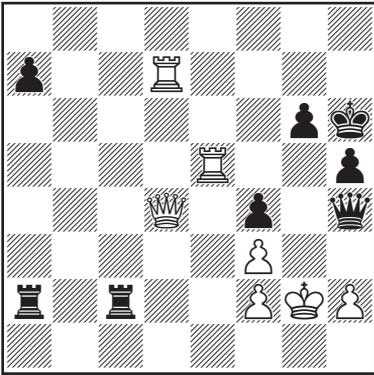
Y. KUZUBOV –
J. BAUM
Eforie Nord 2025



1. ? +-

844.

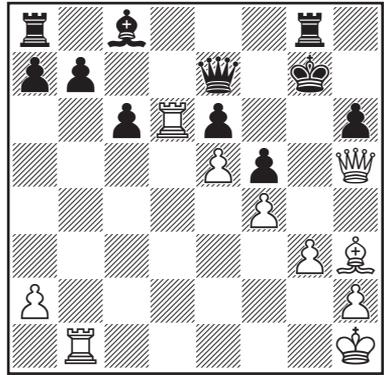
H. NAKAMURA –
A. TARI
Internet 2024



1. ? +-

845.

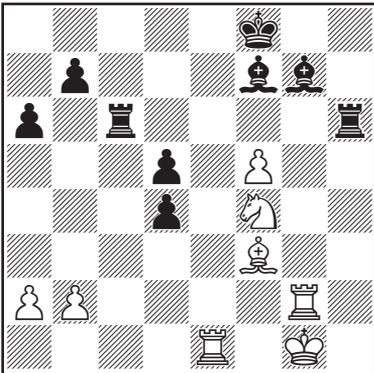
G. KASPAROV –
V. KORCHNOI
Horgen 1995



1. ? +-

846.

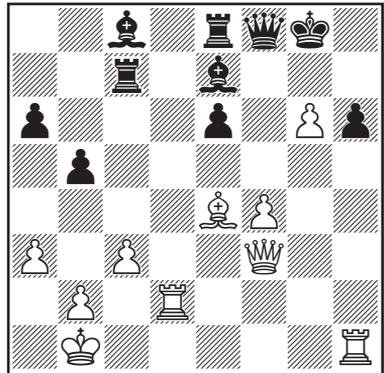
P. HARIKRISHNA –
A. FIROUZJA
Wijk aan Zee 2021



1... ? +-

847.

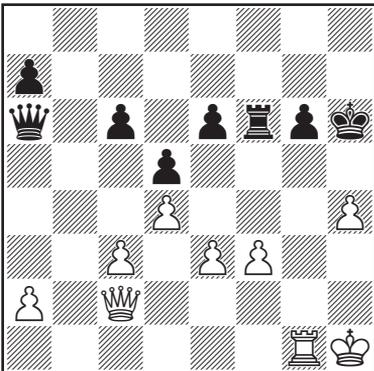
P. SVIDLER –
A. KOROTYLEV
Russia 2004



1. ? +-

848.

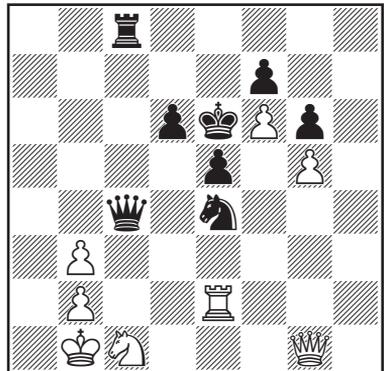
P. ELJANOV –
R. MAMEDOV
Tromso (Ol) 2014



1. ? +-

849.

N. GRANDELIUS –
A. GIRI
Doha 2015



1... ? +-

Solutions

838. 1. d5! exd5 2. ♖d4! ♙xf6
3. exf6 ♜d6 4. ♙xc6 ♜xf6 5. ♙xd7
♜xd4 6. g3+-

839. 1... c3+! 2. bxc3 [2. ♖xc3
♜xe2+-; 2. ♖d3 cxb2 3. ♖c3 ♖a4 4.
♖b1 ♜f1+ 5. ♖c2 ♜c4+ 6. ♖d2 ♜c1+ 7.
♖e2 ♜xb1 (7... ♖c3+ 8. ♖xc3 ♜xc3+-)
8. ♜xb1 ♖c3+ 9. ♖d3 ♖xb1 10. ♖c2
♖c3 11. ♖xb2 ♖d5+-] 2... ♖c4+ 3.
♖d3 ♖b2+ 4. ♖d2 ♙xe3+-

840. 1... ♙g2! 2. g4 [2. ♙xh8
♜h3+-] 2... ♙xf3+-

841. 1. e6! ♙xe6 2. d5 ♜b5
[2... ♜c5 3. ♜xf7!+-; 2... g6 3. ♜h4+-]
3. ♜h4!+-

842. 1. ♙xg7! ♙xf5 2. ♜h6!
♜e6 3. ♙h8!+-

843. 1. f5! ♖f3 [1... ♜e7 2. ♜h1
♖f3 3. ♜h8+ ♖xh8 4. ♜h1+-; 1... ♖xf5
2. ♖f4+-] 2. fxe6 ♖xe1 3. exd7 ♖d3+ 4.
♖g2 ♙xd7 5. ♖f4+-

844. 1. ♜xh5+! ♜xh5 [1... gxh5
2. ♜g7#; 1... ♖xh5 2. ♜h8+ ♖g5 3.
♜d5#] 2. ♜h8+ ♖g5 3. ♜d5+ ♖h4 4.
♜xh5+ gxh5 5. ♜f6#

845. 1. ♙xf5! ♜f7 [1... exf5 2.
♜g6+ ♖f8 3. ♜f6+-] 2. ♜xf7+ ♖xf7 3.
♙xe6+! ♙xe6 4. ♜xb7+-

846. 1... d3! 2. ♖xd3 ♙d4+ 3.
♖f2 [3. ♖f1 ♜h3!+-] 3... ♜c2 4. ♖f1
♜xb2+-

847. 1. g7! ♜xg7 [1... ♜f6 2.

♜h5 ♙d7 3. ♜xd7!+-; 1... ♜f7
2. ♜xh6 ♙g5 3. ♜h8+ ♖xg7 4.
♜h7+-] 2. ♜g2 ♙f6 [2... ♙g5 3.
fxg5 hxg5 4. ♜h5+-] 3. ♜xh6+-

848. 1. h5!! gxh5 [1... ♜f5 2.
♜xg6+ ♖h7 (2... ♖xh5 3. ♜g2+-) 3.
♖g2+-] 2. ♜g2+-

849. 1... ♜xe2!! 2. ♖xe2 ♖d2+
3. ♖a2 ♜a8+-

850. 1. ♜h8+!! ♖xh8 2. ♜h1
♖g8 3. ♙xf6 ♜xg3+ 4. fxg3 ♜e2+ 5.
♖h3 gxf6 6. ♖g4!+-

851. 1... ♖f3+!! 2. gxf3 ♜e2
3. ♖h4 ♜g8+ 4. ♖h1 ♜cc2+-

852. 1. ♖c6! ♙xc6 [1... ♜e8
2. ♙xf6+-] 2. ♙xf6 g6 3. hxg6 fxg6 [3...
♙xf6 4. g7!+-] 4. ♜e6+ ♜f7 5. ♜xh7!+-

853. 1... d4! 2. ♙xd4 [2. ♜xd4
♙xf3+ 3. gxf3 ♜c2+ 4. ♙d2 ♜xe5+-] 2...
♜af8 3. ♜b3 ♜xf3 4. gxf3 ♙xf3+
5. ♖d3 [5. ♖e3 ♜b7 6. ♙d3 ♙xh1+-]
5... ♜b7 6. ♖c2 [6. ♜g1 ♙e4+ 7. ♖e2
♜a6+ 8. ♖e3 ♜f3+ 9. ♖xe4 ♜b7+-]
6... ♙xh1+-

854. 1... ♖h4+! 2. gxh4 [2.
♖h1 ♜xf2+-] 2... ♜xf2+ 3. ♖g1 ♜h3+-

855. 1. ♜xf6! gxf6 2. ♖c6! [2.
♜xd5? fxe5∞ S. Narayanan – S. Kourkoulos]
2... ♜d7 3. ♜xf6+-

856. 1. ♖d7!! ♙xd7 2. ♙c7+-

857. 1. ♖g4! fxg4 2. ♜xf6 ♙f8