

best chess books on tactics

best chess books on tactics are essential resources for players looking to improve their game by mastering tactical motifs and combinations. Tactics form the backbone of practical chess, allowing players to seize opportunities and capitalize on their opponent's mistakes. This article explores some of the most highly regarded chess literature focused specifically on tactics, aiming to guide players at various skill levels. From beginner-friendly introductions to advanced tactical manuals, these books offer comprehensive exercises, clear explanations, and proven methods to enhance calculation skills. Understanding the strengths and unique approaches of each book will help players choose the most suitable materials for their improvement journey. The following sections cover top recommended titles, key features to look for in tactical chess books, and tips on effectively studying tactics through these resources.

- Top Recommended Best Chess Books on Tactics
- Features of Effective Chess Tactics Books
- How to Use Chess Tactics Books to Improve
- Additional Resources for Chess Tactics Training

Top Recommended Best Chess Books on Tactics

Identifying the best chess books on tactics involves evaluating their instructional quality, range of exercises, clarity of explanations, and suitability for different skill levels. The following books have consistently been praised by coaches and players alike for their effectiveness in teaching tactical awareness and calculation techniques.

"Chess Tactics for Champions" by Susan Polgar

Written by former Women's World Chess Champion Susan Polgar, this book is ideal for club players aiming to build a solid foundation in tactical play. It covers basic tactical themes such as forks, pins, skewers, discovered attacks, and double attacks. The book offers well-structured lessons combined with numerous practice problems, encouraging gradual skill development. Its clear language and systematic approach make it one of the best chess books on tactics for intermediate players.

"The Art of Attack in Chess" by Vladimir Vukovic

This classic work is considered a masterclass in attacking play, with a significant emphasis on tactical patterns involved in offensive strategies. Although it targets more advanced readers, its insights into sacrifices, mating attacks, and dynamic combinations are invaluable. The book's detailed examples from grandmaster games demonstrate how tactical motifs integrate into broader attacking plans, making it essential for serious students of chess tactics.

"1001 Chess Exercises for Beginners" by Franco Masetti and Roberto Messa

Designed as a practical workbook, this collection provides a vast array of tactical exercises that gradually increase in difficulty. The abundance of problems helps reinforce recognition of common tactical patterns and improves calculation speed. It is particularly useful for beginners and intermediate players who wish to practice regularly and build confidence in spotting tactics during games.

"Winning Chess Tactics" by Yasser Seirawan

Yasser Seirawan's instructional style blends clear explanations with engaging examples, making tactical concepts accessible to a wide audience. The book covers essential tactical ideas and includes numerous exercises to test understanding. As one of the best chess books on tactics, it is praised for its balance between theory and practice, helping players develop both conceptual knowledge and practical skills.

"Sharpen Your Tactics: 1125 Brilliant Sacrifices, Combinations, and Studies" by Anatoly Lein and Boris Archangelsky

This advanced tactics compilation offers a rich selection of challenging problems that focus on sacrifices and complex combinations. The book is suited for players seeking to elevate their tactical prowess to higher levels. Each exercise is accompanied by detailed solutions and instructive commentary, providing deep insights into calculation methods and tactical intuition.

Features of Effective Chess Tactics Books

When selecting from the best chess books on tactics, it is important to consider certain features that enhance learning and retention. Effective tactical books share common characteristics that contribute to their success as educational tools.

Structured Progression of Concepts

A well-organized tactics book introduces themes progressively, starting from basic motifs and advancing to complex combinations. This incremental approach prevents overwhelm and builds confidence by reinforcing foundational skills before tackling difficult problems.

Variety and Quantity of Exercises

Ample practice problems covering a wide range of tactical patterns are crucial. Quality books include puzzles of varying difficulty, ensuring consistent challenge and engagement. Regular practice helps internalize patterns and improves calculation speed during actual gameplay.

Clear Explanations and Solutions

Detailed explanations accompanying each exercise allow players to understand the reasoning behind the solution, not just memorize moves. Annotated solutions with alternative lines and strategic insights deepen comprehension and encourage analytical thinking.

Illustration of Real Game Examples

Incorporating examples from master-level games demonstrates how tactics arise naturally in practical play. This contextual learning bridges the gap between isolated exercises and applying tactics in competitive situations.

Accessibility for Target Skill Levels

The best chess books on tactics cater to their intended audience, whether beginners, intermediate players, or advanced competitors. Choosing a book

that matches the player's current ability ensures effective learning without frustration or boredom.

How to Use Chess Tactics Books to Improve

Merely reading the best chess books on tactics is not sufficient for improvement; strategic study methods enhance the learning experience and maximize results.

Consistent Daily Practice

Routine practice with tactical exercises sharpens pattern recognition and calculation skills. Allocating dedicated time each day to solve puzzles from these books helps build momentum and reinforces learning.

Active Problem Solving

Engaging actively with each exercise by attempting to find the solution independently before reviewing answers is essential. This approach encourages deeper analysis and prevents passive reading.

Reviewing Mistakes Thoroughly

Analyzing errors in solving tactics problems reveals gaps in understanding and calculation weaknesses. Revisiting difficult puzzles and understanding the correct solutions fosters improvement and prevents repeating mistakes.

Integrating Tactics into Game Play

Applying learned tactical motifs during actual games consolidates knowledge. Reviewing one's own games to identify missed tactical opportunities further reinforces learning.

Balancing Theory and Practice

Combining study of theoretical concepts with practical exercises ensures comprehensive development. Reading explanations before attempting related

puzzles helps internalize patterns and principles efficiently.

Additional Resources for Chess Tactics Training

Besides the best chess books on tactics, several supplementary resources can enhance tactical training through diverse formats and interactive learning.

Online Chess Platforms

Many websites offer tactical puzzles, timed exercises, and adaptive difficulty levels. These platforms provide instant feedback and track progress, complementing traditional book study.

Chess Software and Apps

Specialized chess training programs include extensive libraries of tactical problems and allow users to customize training sessions according to skill level and thematic focus.

Chess Coaches and Study Groups

Working with a coach or joining study groups provides personalized guidance and motivation. Discussing tactics and solving problems collaboratively deepens understanding and encourages disciplined study habits.

Chess Magazines and Periodicals

Regular publications often feature tactical exercises, annotated games, and instructional articles that keep players engaged and exposed to current chess trends.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What are the best chess books on tactics for beginners?

Books like "Chess Tactics for Beginners" by Convekta and "Winning Chess Tactics" by Yasser Seirawan are excellent for beginners to build a strong tactical foundation.

Which chess book is considered the most comprehensive for tactics?

"The Complete Chess Workout" by Richard Palliser is often regarded as one of the most comprehensive books focusing on a wide range of tactical exercises and themes.

Are there any chess books specifically dedicated to tactical motifs?

Yes, "Chess Tactics for Champions" by Susan Polgar breaks down key tactical motifs like forks, pins, and skewers in an easy-to-understand manner.

Can "My System" by Aron Nimzowitsch help improve chess tactics?

While "My System" is a classical book focusing on positional play, it also covers important tactical ideas but is more suited for intermediate to advanced players rather than pure tactics training.

What is a good book to improve chess tactics quickly?

"1001 Chess Exercises for Beginners" by Franco Masetti and Roberto Messa offers a large number of tactical puzzles designed to improve calculation and pattern recognition rapidly.

Are there any modern chess books focusing on tactics?

Yes, books like "Sharpen Your Tactics" by Anatoly Lein and Boris Archangelsky and "Chess Tactics from Scratch" by Martin Weteschnik are modern resources that provide structured tactical training.

How does "Bobby Fischer's Outrageous Chess Tactics" help players?

This book showcases some of Bobby Fischer's brilliant tactical combinations, helping players learn by example and understand practical application of tactics in real games.

Is "The Art of Attack in Chess" a good book for learning tactics?

While "The Art of Attack in Chess" by Vladimir Vukovic mainly focuses on attacking strategies, it includes many tactical themes essential for launching successful attacks.

What chess book should intermediate players read to improve tactics?

"Chess Tactics for Intermediate Players" by A. Korn is tailored for players looking to move beyond beginner level and understand more complex tactical ideas.

Do puzzle books count as good resources for improving chess tactics?

Absolutely. Puzzle books like "Chess Tactics from Scratch" and "1001 Brilliant Chess Exercises" provide practical problem-solving experience that is crucial for mastering tactics.

Additional Resources

1. Chess Tactics for Champions

This classic book by Susan Polgar offers a comprehensive introduction to chess tactics, suitable for players of all levels. It covers essential tactical motifs such as forks, pins, and discovered attacks, providing clear explanations and numerous exercises. The book is praised for its structured approach and practical examples drawn from real games.

2. Winning Chess Tactics

Authored by Yasser Seirawan, this book presents tactical patterns in an accessible and engaging manner. It includes a variety of puzzles designed to sharpen your calculation skills and improve your ability to spot tactical opportunities. Seirawan's clear writing style helps players grasp complex ideas with ease.

3. Sharpen Your Tactics

Written by Anatoly Lein and Boris Archangelsky, this book is ideal for intermediate players aiming to enhance their tactical vision. It features a

wide range of problems that emphasize pattern recognition and quick thinking. The solutions are detailed, helping readers understand the reasoning behind each tactic.

4. *1001 Chess Exercises for Beginners*

This extensive collection by Franco Masetti and Roberto Messa offers a vast array of tactical exercises that progressively increase in difficulty. It's perfect for beginners looking to build a solid foundation in chess tactics. Each exercise is designed to reinforce common tactical themes with clear, concise explanations.

5. *Understanding Chess Tactics*

Martin Weteschnik's book breaks down tactical motifs into easy-to-understand segments, making it suitable for players who want a deeper conceptual grasp. It explains not just how tactics work, but why they work, encouraging strategic thinking alongside tactical awareness. The examples are well-chosen and instructive.

6. *Chess Tactics from Scratch*

By Martin Weteschnik, this book is known for its methodical approach to teaching tactics from the ground up. It emphasizes fundamental principles and pattern recognition, helping players internalize tactical ideas. The book combines theory with practical exercises that reinforce learning effectively.

7. *Comprehensive Chess Tactics*

This title by John A. Bain covers an extensive range of tactical themes, making it a valuable resource for players looking to broaden their tactical knowledge. It includes instructive examples from grandmaster games and self-test exercises. The book aims to improve calculation skills and tactical intuition.

8. *Practical Chess Exercises*

Guido Kern's book focuses on real-world tactical problems that players are likely to encounter in their games. It offers a practical approach with varied problems that challenge your ability to find winning combinations. The explanations are straightforward, making it accessible for club players.

9. *Art of Attack in Chess*

Though primarily about attacking strategies, this book by Vladimir Vuković is indispensable for understanding tactical attacks. It delves deep into the methods of launching successful assaults and exploiting tactical opportunities during attacks. The timeless examples and detailed analysis make it a must-read for serious students of tactics.

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best chess books on tactics: Chess Tactics and Combinations Workbook Todd Bardwick, 2019-05-31 Chess Tactics and Combinations Workbook presents hundreds of tactical patterns and combinations from significant master and grandmaster games in this book in the Chess Detective® Workbook series. Learn the fundamentals of how to identify, execute, and defend against tactical themes to improve your game. Cover basic tactics in detail from pins, skewers, forks, and discoveries, to more advanced tactical motifs like removing the guard, clearance, and interference. Avoid pitfalls and learn how to think during the game. Two hundred problems with a comprehensive answer key at two skill levels: Basset Hound (novice to intermediate) and Chess Detective (intermediate to advanced).

best chess books on tactics: *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Chess, 3rd Edition* Patrick Wolff, 2005-05-03 Written by a U.S. Chess Champion, International Chess Grandmaster, and longtime instructor, this book includes information for both novice and expert, including over 400 illustrated chessboards and photos; over 20 pages of detailed answer key notes; a completely new chapter on new evidence about chess and its impact on brain power; a guide to the art of chess collectibles; and more. - Foreword by Larry Evans, former International Grandmaster and author of 20 highly acclaimed chess books and a popular monthly advice column in Chess Life - For the beginner or the champ, and for young and old

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best chess books on tactics: *My First Book of Chess Tactics* David MacEnulty, 2015-06-29 My First Book of Chess Tactics is a thorough introduction to this vital aspect of playing winning chess. Tactics are the tricks and techniques you use to surprise and ambush your opponent. The more you know about tactics, the better you'll play the game and the more games you will win. In My First Book of Chess Tactics you will: • Learn the ideas behind tactical patterns and how to name them • See how to focus on a position to find tactical patterns • Practice tactics by solving realistic puzzles • Recognize not only what you can do to your opponent, but what your opponent can do to you.

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you can understand them and put them into practice in your own game. From Castling to Zugzwang, from Underpromotion to Zwischenzug. Written in a clear and informative style, the book features a large section with Illustrative games from past chess masters and grandmasters which show the relevant chess definition in action. Plus there are exercises that illustrate the tactic defined - these test you on your ability to recognize the tactics learned, as that is how they will appear in a match. The exercises teach you how to seize the opportunities before they disappear as well as avoiding traps your opponent may leave. Useful for all chess players, this is an essential read for those looking to improve and understand the game better.

best chess books on tactics: Idiot's Guides: Chess, 3rd Edition Patrick Wolff, 2005-05-03
Written by a U.S. Chess Champion, International Chess Grandmaster, and longtime instructor, this book includes information for both novice and expert, including over 400 illustrated chessboards and photos; over 20 pages of detailed answer key notes; a completely new chapter on new evidence about chess and its impact on brain power; a guide to the art of chess collectibles; and more. - Foreword by Larry Evans, former International Grandmaster and author of 20 highly acclaimed chess books and a popular monthly advice column in Chess Life - For the beginner or the champ, and for young and old

best chess books on tactics: Winning Chess Tactics Bill Robertie, 2002

best chess books on tactics: *Weapons of Chess: An Omnibus of Chess Strategies* Bruce Pandolfini, 2013-02-26
From America's foremost chess coach and game strategist for Netflix's *The Queen's Gambit*, Bruce Pandolfini brings us the most accessible and easy-to-use chess strategy book ever. Written for beginning and intermediate players, *Weapons of Chess* is the first encyclopedia of chess strategies that doesn't rely on the usual baffling chess notation. There are no symbolic chess moves, no charts or sequences in chess notation: every move is explained in words. Arranged alphabetically for easy use and based mainly on pawn formation, the incredibly detailed and thorough entries in this book talk a player through dozens of common strategic dilemmas, such as doubled pawn, bishops vs. knights, and hanging pawn pair. Diagrams illustrate the terms, first showing the basic position and then strategically moving to more complicated versions of it. Players will learn how to formulate plans once they have reached a middlegame, enabling them to make wiser strategic decisions after the first few moves of the game. Designed for use as a ready reference during actual practice games, and usable without a chess board, *Weapons of Chess* is a unique and invaluable resource for any developing chess player.

best chess books on tactics: Killer Chess Tactics,

best chess books on tactics: *Endgame Tactics Training Magnus Carlsen* Frank Erwich, 2018-04-30
Magnus Carlsen (1990) became World Champion in 2013 by winning the World Championship Match against Viswanathan Anand with 6,5 - 3,5. In 2014 Carlsen defended his title by defeating the Indian again (6,5 - 4,5) And in in 2016 Carlsen retained his crown prevailing over Sergey Karjakin. Their match ended in a 6-6 tie, but Carlsen won the rapid tiebreak. On January 2010 Carlsen became the youngest ever chess player to claim the first spot in the World Rankings. Since July 2011 he never let go. Carlsen's fabulous endgame technique is without doubt one of the key reasons for his success. The World Champion regularly tops the best players in the world in objectively equal endgames as if it were a piece of cake. British chess grandmaster Daniel Gormally, after another endgame victory by Carlsen in Tata Steel Chess 2018: 'If there was an Endgame World Championship Carlsen would be World Champion for the next fifty years.' To improve your endgame skills, several things can be done. For instance, there are a number of known theoretical positions you can study and play out until you have mastered the technique which is necessary to overcome your opponent. For sure, this can be a good method, but it is certainly not the only way to become an endgame specialist. GM Andrew Soltis, author of *What it Takes to Become a Chess Master*, has this advice: 'You don't have to know esoteric, technical positions. Just work out the tactics. In fact, one of the best ways to improve your winning technique is to work on endgame tactics.' Looking at the games of Magnus Carlsen, Soltis seems to have a point. Tactics do play an important role in his endings! In this training book, positions are selected from Magnus' games in the period 2001 -

January 2018. Positions are without queens or with the queens and, at most, one piece for each side. Try this training book and see if you are able to play the same winning moves as the World Champion did. You will face 110 Endgame Tactics, in which Carlsen turned the game into his favour. The puzzles start at a moderate level and gradually get more difficult. We have selected 100 new puzzles. Ten bonus exercises appeared earlier in New in Chess' Magnus Carlsen Tactics Training. By solving the exercises, you will not only improve your tactical abilities but also your endgame skills!

best chess books on tactics: Chess Handbook Todd Bardwick, 2020-07-10 Chess Handbook is a comprehensive book for beginners learning the rules and basics of the royal game and the intermediate player looking to improve by gaining a better understanding of chess fundamentals. Learn basic tactics and strategies with hundreds of suggestions and tips for players wishing to increase their knowledge of the game and see rapid improvement. Chess Handbook has three sections: Rules, Tactics, and Strategy. Chess Handbook goes into details well beyond other beginner chess books and provides a solid foundation for the intermediate player.

best chess books on tactics: The Grand Tactics of Chess Franklin Knowles Young, 1898

best chess books on tactics: Chess Strategetics Illustrated Franklin Knowles Young, 1919

best chess books on tactics: Tactics Training - Magnus Carlsen Frank Erwich, 2016-02-02 Have you always wanted to play chess like a World Champion? This tactics training book gives you the opportunity to make the same winning moves as Carlsen did in his games. One hundred training exercises are offered here. You only have to find the move that Carlsen played! The puzzles start at a moderate level and gradually get more difficult. Can you be as sharp as the current World Champion?

best chess books on tactics: Tactics Training Alexander Alekhine Frank Erwich, Casper Schoppen, 2018-06-20 Alexander Alekhine (1892-1946) was the 4th World Champion in the history of chess. In 1927 he defeated Jose Raul Capablanca in a World Championship Match by 18,5 - 15,5 (the winner was the first to win six games). Apart from a short intermission - in 1935-37 he lost his world title to the Dutchman Max Euwe - Alekhine held his title until his death in 1946. Alekhine was one of the greatest attacking players and for mere mortals it seemed he could produce combinations out of nowhere. The man of the 'complex combinations' was known for his dynamic play and produced many beautiful games. Alekhine was quite clear about his tactical skills: 'I have had to work long and hard to eradicate the dangerous delusion that, in a bad position, I could always, or nearly always, conjure up some unexpected combination to extricate me from my difficulties.' Even in this age of computer chess, many of his ideas are still alive. Besides being a tactical genius, Alekhine showed wonderful opening preparation, incredible imagination and positional understanding. Do you want to adopt Alekhine-like thought processes in your own games? In this tactics training book you will get the opportunity to play the same good moves as the former World Champion did. This book offers you one hundred training exercises, in which Alekhine turned the game in his favour. The puzzles start at a moderate level and gradually get more difficult. Are you up for the challenge?

best chess books on tactics: Tactics Training - Anish Giri Frank Erwich, 2016-09-02 Anish Giri (1994) is a Russian-born Dutch grandmaster. He achieved the grandmaster title at the age of 14 years and 7 months. In 2016 he is one of the elite grandmasters in the top-10 of the world rankings. He is also one of only ten players who have broken the 2800 Elo rating barrier. Giri's career high is 2802.8, achieved in February 2015. Giri won the Dutch Championship four times. Other tournament wins include the Wijk aan Zee B-Group in 2010, a shared first place in Malmö 2011 and a victory in Reggio Emilia 2011/12. In 2014 Giri shared second place in Wijk aan Zee. He won the individual bronze medal for his first-board performance for the Dutch team at the 41st Chess Olympiad in Tromsø in Norway. He finished second at the strong Qatar Masters Open. In 2016 he qualified for the Candidates Tournament in Moscow, where he ended on 50%, with fourteen draws. Giri has an all-round playing style and a strong technique. He likes to fight until the end in seemingly harmless positions, trying to squeeze blood from a stone. But whenever he sees an opportunity, he can be a very sharp tactician as well. Try this training book and play the same winning moves as Anish Giri.

This book offers you one hundred training exercises, in positions where Giri turned the game in his favour. The puzzles start at a moderate level and gradually get more difficult. Don't give up

best chess books on tactics: Tactics Training - Veselin Topalov Frank Erwich, 2016-09-02
Veselin Topalov (1975) is a Bulgarian chess grandmaster, a former #1 in the world rankings and a former World Champion. He is a very energetic player, always looking for interesting moves, complicated positions and fighting chances. He never gives up and plays for a win with both the white and the black pieces. Topalov became the FIDE World Chess Champion by winning the FIDE World Chess Championship 2005 tournament in San Luis, Argentina. He lost his title a year later in a match against Vladimir Kramnik. According to FIDE, which began ranking chess players in 1971, Topalov has been #1 for 27 months (in 2006/2007 and 2008/2010). Only Kasparov, Karpov, Fischer and Carlsen have reigned longer. Topalov has won dozens of tournaments, including Linares 2005 (joint first with Kasparov), Wijk aan Zee 2006 (joint first with Anand) and Wijk aan Zee 2007 (joint first with Aronian and Radjabov), Linares 2010 and Norway Chess 2015. Try this training book and play the same winning moves as Veselin Topalov. This book offers you one hundred training exercises, in positions where Topalov turned the game in his favour. The puzzles start at a moderate level and gradually get more difficult. Don't give up!

best chess books on tactics: Tactics Training - Viswanathan Anand Frank Erwich, 2017-01-30
Viswanathan Anand (1969) was the undisputed World Chess Champion from 2007-2013. In 2007 Anand won a strong eight-player, double round robin tournament in Mexico City. It is highly unusual to become World Champion by winning a tournament instead of a match, but this had to do with the fact that FIDE was looking for a way to reunify the World Chess Championship. Since 1993, there were two World Chess Champions: a Classical World Champion and a FIDE World Champion. At that time the reigning FIDE World Chess Champion, Garry Kasparov, and his Challenger, Nigel Short, decided to abandon FIDE and set up the Professional Chess Association (PCA). They held their own World Championship match. After the World Championship Tournament in Mexico, future World Championships returned to the match format, and there was one single World Champion again. Anand defended his title against Kramnik (2008), Topalov (2010) and Gelfand (2012). In 2013 he lost his title to Magnus Carlsen. Anand once said: When I started out playing chess as a kid I thought I should be world champion. As a kid you have no idea what that means and you only sort of picture it. It is hard to imagine that I waited all those years and it happened in a late stage of my career. At the age of 18, Anand became India's first grandmaster. He won his first World Championship (FIDE) in 2000. In India, Anand is a national hero, and he received several prestigious awards. To name a few: in 1991 and 1992 the 'Tiger of Madras' won the first ever Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, which is put up for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports over a period of four years. In 1998 Anand received the Sportstar Millennium Award for best sportsperson of the millennium. In 2007 he was presented with the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award, for his achievements in chess. He was the first ever sportsperson in India to receive this award. Anand: In a way players at the top should try to promote the game in their own countries as that is the legacy that makes you feel proud. If you have not done that you have failed as a sportsperson. Anand is known for his deep opening preparation, but also for his playing speed and his ability to calculate complicated variations very quickly. It is not a coincidence that tactics play a big role in his games. Try this training book and check out if you can compete with Anand's tactical ingenuity. This book offers you one hundred training exercises, in which the former World Champion turned the game in his favour. The puzzles start at a moderate level and gradually get more difficult. Good luck!

best chess books on tactics: Tactics Training - Anatoly Karpov Frank Erwich, 2016-09-02
Anatoly Karpov (1951) is one of the greatest chess players of all time. The Russian grandmaster was World Champion from 1975 to 1985. He became World Champion when the American Bobby Fischer refused to defend his title. And he was dethroned when he lost a match to Garry Kasparov in 1985. Karpov was ranked the World's number one player for 90 months. He won well over a hundred top-tournaments. Karpov's play was deceptively simple. He always found good moves to glue his his

position together. 'Finding the right plan is the key to success', said Karpov. But he always had a sharp eye for tactical solutions as well. In this training book you don't have to find the right plan, but the right moves! This book will provide you with one hundred training exercises, in positions where Karpov turned the game in his favour. The puzzles start at a moderate level and gradually get more difficult. Don't give up!

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