

Chess Tactics for Kids

Murray Chandler



THE SKEWER

GAMBIT

First published in the UK by Gambit Publications Ltd 2003

Reprinted 2004

Copyright © Murray Chandler 2003

The right of Murray Chandler to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out or otherwise circulated in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

A copy of the British Library Cataloguing in Publication data is available from the British Library.

ISBN 1 901983 99 4

DISTRIBUTION:

Worldwide (except USA): Central Books Ltd, 99 Wallis Rd, London E9 5LN.

Tel +44 (0)20 8986 4854 Fax +44 (0)20 8533 5821. E-mail: orders@Centralbooks.com

USA: BHB International, Inc., 302 West North 2nd Street, Seneca, SC 29678, USA.

For all other enquiries (including a full list of all Gambit Chess titles) please contact the publishers, Gambit Publications Ltd, P.O. Box 32640, London W14 0JN.

E-mail: info@gambitbooks.com

Or visit the GAMBIT web site at <http://www.gambitbooks.com>

Edited by Graham Burgess

Typeset by Petra Nunn

Printed in Great Britain by The Cromwell Press, Trowbridge, Wilts.

1 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Dedication: better be to my Mum! Plus, of course, her grandchildren: Alex, Sam, Ben, and Lara, Matthew and Olivia.

Acknowledgements: David Stanley (cover), Helen Milligan (proofreading and suggestions).

Illustrations: Cindy McCluskey

Gambit Publications Ltd

Managing Director: GM Murray Chandler

Chess Director: GM John Nunn

Editorial Director: FM Graham Burgess

German Editor: WFM Petra Nunn

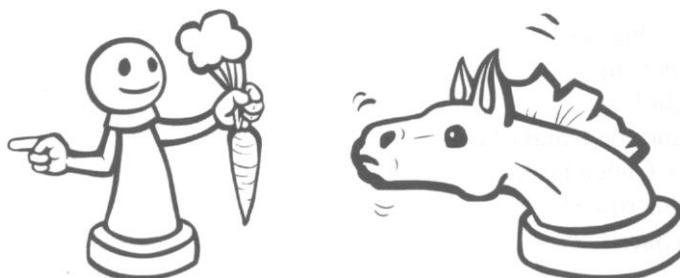
Contents

Introduction	5
Algebraic Notation	6
How to Study Tactics	8

The 50 Tricky Tactics

1) Forks	14
2) Knight Forks	16
3) Queen Forks	18
4) Pins (1)	20
5) Pins (2)	22
6) The Skewer	24
7) Decoy Sacrifices	26
8) Deflections	28
9) Overload	30
10) Discovered Attack	32
11) Discovered Check	34
12) Double Check	36
13) The ♖c8 and ♗e7+ Trick	38
14) The ♙xf7+ and ♘g5+ Trick	40
15) The Cunning Caro-Kann Trap	42
16) The ♙xf7+ and ♗e5+ Trick	44
17) Pinning the Queen (1)	46
18) Pinning the Queen (2)	48
19) The Zwischenzug	50
20) More Knight Forks	52
21) The King and the Knight Fork	54
22) The ♙xh7+ Queen Fork	56
23) Clearance Sacrifices	58
24) Desperado Sacrifices	60
25) Stalemates	62
26) Rook Endgame Stalemates	64
27) The Rampant Rook	66
28) The Kamikaze Queen	68

29) Kamikaze Queen <i>and</i> Rampant Rook	70
30) The ♖g5 & ♗b7 Trap	72
31) The Deadly d-File Discovery	74
32) The Old ♖d5 Trick (1)	76
33) The Old ♖d5 Trick (2)	78
34) The Old ♖d5 Trick (3)	80
35) The Rook Endgame Skewer	82
36) Perpetual Checks	84
37) The ♜g5-f6 Perpetual	86
38) The ♖h6-f7 Perpetual	88
39) The ♗b5 & ♖c7+ Crusher (1)	90
40) The ♗b5 & ♖c7+ Crusher (2)	92
41) Queen Sacrifice & Knight Fork (1)	94
42) Queen Sacrifice & Knight Fork (2)	96
43) Queen Sacrifice & Knight Fork (3)	98
44) The ♗h6 and ♖f6+ Combo	100
45) An 'Elastic Band' Trap	102
46) The ...♖xe4 Zwischenzug	104
47) Breaking the Pin with ...♖xe4 (1)	106
48) Breaking the Pin with ...♖xe4 (2)	108
49) The ♗c7 Queen Trap	110
50) Far-Advanced Pawns	112
Test Your Motif Recognition	114
Test Your Tactics	116
Test Solutions	126



DEFLECTION

Introduction

The best way to confound and confuse a chess opponent is by using *tactics* - a forcing sequence of moves that gain an advantage. This book aims to help you do this, by showing combinations that arise from typical piece formations. Recognizing these patterns will improve your tactical ability, enabling you to win your opponent's pawns and pieces with ease when such possibilities arise.

This collection of 50 Tricky Tactics deals with tactical manoeuvres (such as forks and pins), and also with thematic combinations that win material. It is written as a complementary sequel to my previous book, *How to Beat Your Dad at Chess*, which covered checkmating patterns. From the amazing reception the DAD book received, it seems the coverage of pattern recognition has really touched a chord amongst ordinary players. There is no reason why juniors, home or club players can't learn these patterns, and so make the same - sometimes astonishing - mental shortcuts that the top masters do.

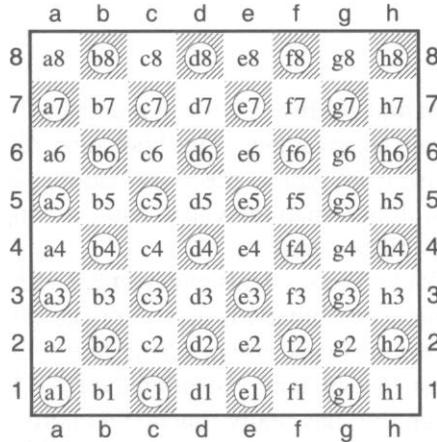
Only themes which arise fairly frequently in actual practice have been included¹. Before too long I'm sure that you will be springing many of these tactical traps on your friends and club mates, or perhaps even on your long-suffering Dad.

Murray Chandler



¹ OK, I confess to one exception, Tricky Tactic 29 (Kamikaze Queen and Rampant Rook). This motif is rare, but is so fantastic I just couldn't resist putting it in.

Algebraic Notation



The chess notation used in this book is the simple, algebraic notation in use throughout the world. It can be learnt by anyone in just a few minutes.

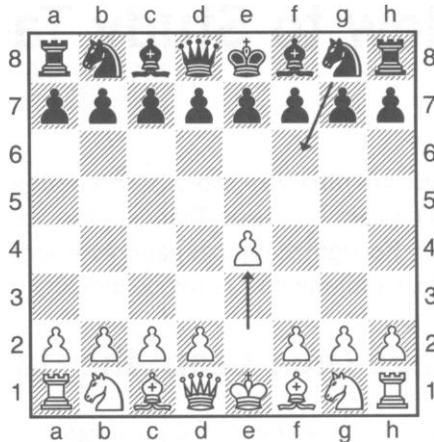
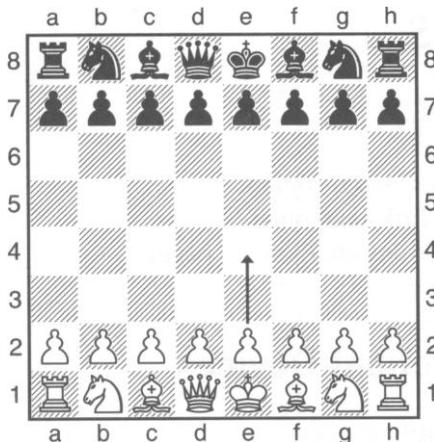
As you can see from the chessboard above, the files are labelled a-h (going from left to right) and the ranks are labelled 1-8. This gives each square its own unique reference point. The pieces are described as follows:

- Knight = 
- Bishop = 
- Rook =  
- Queen = 
- King = 

Pawns are not given a symbol. When they move simply the *destination square* is given.

The following additional symbols are also used:

- Check = +
- Double Check = ++
- Capture = x
- Castles kingside = 0-0
- Castles queenside = 0-0-0
- Good move = !
- Bad move = ? =



In the left-hand diagram above White is about to play the move **1 e4**. The **1** indicates the move number, and **e4** the destination square of the white pawn.

In the right-hand diagram White's **1 e4** move is complete. Black is about to reply **1... Nf6** (moving his knight to the **f6-square** on his *first move*).



THE PIN

How to Study Tactics

There are three key stages to becoming a master chess tactician:

- 1) Learn the Basic Tactical Devices (such as forks and pins).
- 2) Recognize typical patterns where combinations are likely to occur.
- 3) Combine motifs to outcalculate the opponent.

Stage One: Learn the Basic Tactical Devices

In this book we cover the most basic tactical motifs in chess:

Forks

Pins

Skewers

Decoys

Deflections

Overloads

Discovered Attacks

Discovered Checks

Double Checks

Desperado Sacrifices

Stalemates

Zwischenzugs

Perpetual Checks

Breaking the Pin

Being familiar with these motifs is helpful when it comes to finding combinations. In fact these themes are quite easy to learn, and even beginners will already have encountered some of the ideas. Each of these themes is explained and covered as a Tricky Tactic in this book.

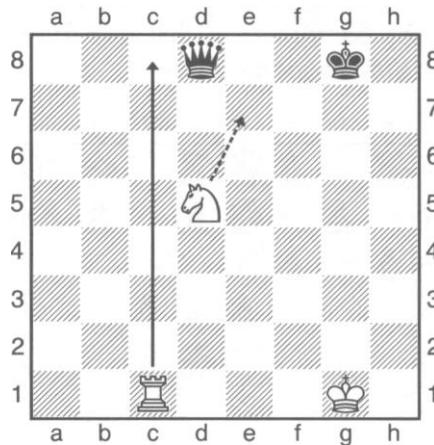
Stage Two: Recognize Typical Patterns

Perhaps the biggest secret to becoming an expert at chess tactics is to *recognize positions where combinations are likely to occur*. Strong players know that certain piece formations make some tactical combinations much more common.



REMOVING A
DEFENDER

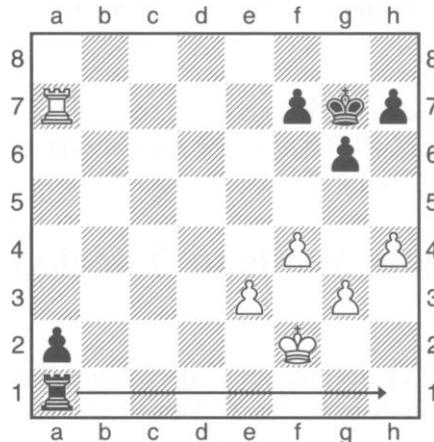
Here is a typical example, giving the bare minimum of pieces to illustrate the theme:



1) White moves

Experienced players will instantly spot that White wins the black queen with 1 ♖e8 ♚xc8 2 ♞e7+ . This rook decoy sacrifice, followed by a knight fork, is easy to see, as the key pieces form a known pattern. You can see similar combinations in Tricky Tactic 13.

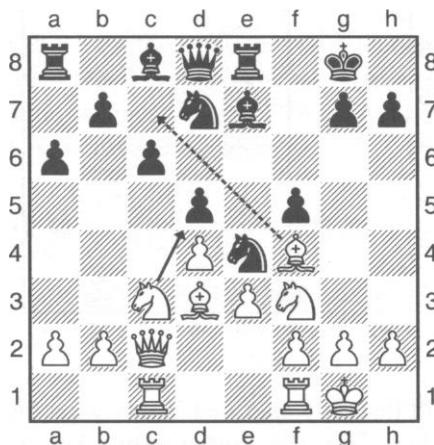
There are many such recurring tactical traps amongst the 50 Tricky Tactics in this book. One of the simplest, yet most elegant, is the Rook Endgame Skewer (Tricky Tactic 35):



2) Black moves

The win goes $1... \text{♞h1}$ (threatening to promote the pawn) $2 \text{ ♖xa2} \text{ ♚h2+}$ winning the white rook. Even if you do not get to play such a combination on the board, knowing the theme could be important when deciding whether or not to enter certain rook endings.

Chess Tactics for Kids is intended to show themes, not specific traps. However, a number of the Tricky Tactics do feature some very devious traps that occur via specific openings, due to the pawn or piece formations that arise. However, all of these traps can be sprung/ram a variety of different positions.



3) White moves

1 ♖xd5 wins, due to 1...cxd5 2 ♕c7 trapping the black queen.

This idea (from Tricky Tactic 49) typically arises from a Queen's Gambit Declined. Over the years, players of the black pieces have found wonderfully inventive ways to fall victim to this ♖xd5 motif! Therefore I regard this combination as a motif, rather than an opening trap.

Any of the previous three combinations could snare an inexperienced or unwary opponent. However, you might wonder how two alert, strong players, playing each other, could use a tactic to win. This question takes us on to our third stage.

Stage 3: Combining Motifs to Outcalculate the Opponent

Outcalculating a good chess-player requires a deep combination. The key is to combine several different tactical motifs in the one combination. Actually, most combinations - even simple ones - already feature more than one theme. Some brilliant and well-disguised combinations can contain a fantastic mixture of themes, making the trap easy to miss - until it is too late.

Here is a combination played in a United States Amateur Team competition. The question is: was the pawn capture with 1 ♖xe5 a good move?