

# *The Magic of Chess Tactics*

## **Intuition, Imagination & Precision**



*Claus Dieter Meyer & Karsten Müller*

*Foreword by Viswanathan Anand*

**The**

# **Magic of Chess Tactics**

# **2**

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& Precision**

**Claus Dieter Meyer  
&  
Karsten Müller**

**Foreword by Viswanathan Anand**



**2017  
Russell Enterprises,  
Inc. Milford, CT USA**

The Magic of Chess Tactics 2  
Intuition, Imagination & Precision  
by Claus Dieter Meyer & Karsten Müller

ISBN: 978-1-941270-81-3 (print)  
ISBN: 978-1-941270-82-0 (eBook)

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Published by:  
Russell Enterprises, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3131  
Milford, CT 06460 USA

<http://www.russell-enterprises.com>  
[info@russell-enterprises.com](mailto:info@russell-enterprises.com)

Cover by Janel Lowrance  
Translated from the German by Jared Becker

Printed in the United States of America



# Table of Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Introduction</b>   | 5  |
| <b>Acknowledgment</b>   | 5  |
| <b>Foreword by Viswanathan Anand</b>                                      | 6  |
| <b>Symbols</b>  | 7  |
| <b>(1) Attacking with the Queen and Knight</b>                            | 8  |
| Exercises   | 18 |
| <b>(2) The Knight on the Attack</b>                                       | 22 |
| (2.1) Dark-square weaknesses on the kingside                              | 22 |
| (2.2) The octopus on f5 or d5   | 29 |
| (2.3) Line-clearance sacrifice of the knight                              | 36 |
| (2.4) Focal point f7  | 46 |
| (2.5) Invasion by enemy forces  | 47 |
| (2.6) Enduring attacks and endgame attacks                                | 49 |
| Exercises   | 59 |
| <b>(3) Attacking with Bishops of Opposite Colors</b>                      | 66 |
| (3.1) Attacking the kingside castled positions along<br>the dark squares  | 66 |
| Exercises   | 76 |
| (3.2) Attacking the kingside castled positions along<br>the white squares | 77 |
| Exercise  | 80 |
| (3.3) Both kings in the crossfire   | 80 |
| Exercise  | 83 |
| <b>(4) Pins</b>   | 84 |
| Exercises   | 92 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>(5) Learn from the World Champions</b>   | 93  |
| (5.1) Magnus Carlsen  | 93  |
| (5.1.1) Positional powerplay  | 93  |
| (5.1.2) Powerplay in the endgame  | 98  |
| Exercises   | 104 |
| (5.2) Garry Kasparov  | 106 |
| Exercises   | 110 |
| (5.3) Viswanathan Anand   | 111 |
| Exercises   | 117 |
| <b>(6) Exchanges &amp; Transformations</b>  | 120 |
| (6.0) Transformations (A few thoughts)  | 120 |
| (6.1) Exchanges   | 122 |
| (6.1.1) Salvation in a drawn endgame  | 122 |
| (6.1.2) Liquidation into rook endings   | 124 |
| (6.1.3) Liquidation into pawn endings   | 125 |
| (6.2) The side with the knight aims for static control,<br>the side with the bishop for dynamic control | 139 |
| (6.2.1) The side with the knight is playing for the win   | 139 |
| (6.2.2) The side with the bishop is playing for the win   | 143 |
| (6.3) Is static play the order of the day,<br>or dynamic transformation?                                | 145 |
| <b>Exercises</b>  | 158 |
| <b>Solutions</b>  | 161 |
| <b>Bibliography</b>   | 187 |
| <b>Index of Players</b>   | 188 |
| <b>Photo Credits</b>  | 191 |
| <b>About the Authors</b>  | 192 |

# Introduction

As in the first English edition of *The Magic of Chess Tactics* this second volume also offers many tactical fireworks. The chess trainer and analyst FM Claus Dieter Meyer from Bremen has again put topical and timeless games, featuring special motifs and themes, under the microscope. The grandmaster from Hamburg Dr. Karsten Müller has selected cornerstones of Meyer's work and added his own examples especially the chapter on the world champions Anand, Carlsen and Kasparov. So these champions take the role of the Magicians in the first edition to which Magician Alexei Shirov had written the foreword. The 15th World Champion Vishy Anand graciously agreed to write the Foreword for this edition.

To be able to present the complex and multifaceted *ChessBase-DVD Magic of Chess Tactics 2* in print, the authors had to limit the number of themes and added fresh examples. The focus is of course still on attacking techniques and transformations, especially: queen and knight in the attack, the attacking knight, attack with opposite-color bishops, pins and transformations.

Transformations is a very important and complex theme. It is about significant changes in the piece or pawn configuration, changes which alter the character of the fight. Most of all, it is about the correct exchange and whether or not you should play statically or dynamically.

The authors believe that the present book will help improve your attacking techniques and your ability to recognize the changing trends of a position.

Claus Dieter Meyer and Karsten Müller  
Bremen / Hamburg  
August 2017

## Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank ChessBase for its cooperation and for allowing us to use the Fritztrainer DVD *Magic of Chess Tactics 2 (Attacking Techniques and Transformations 2013)* as the basis for this work and some members of the SV Werder Bremen Bundesliga chess team for analytical help. Finally, we want to thank Jared Becker for his excellent translation, and the 15th World Champion Vishy Anand for his foreword.

# Foreword

## Magical Tactics and Transformations

Basic tactical motifs are relatively easy to study nowadays and I solve exercises regularly. But it is more difficult to find material on more advanced topics like knight in the attack, attack with opposite-color bishops and transformations. This book deals especially deeply with knight tactics, which is also one of my favorite subjects. It is really valuable to study themes like this to aid recall. I still fondly remember my win against Radjabov (see exercise E01.05).

The mix of training exercises and concepts like Transformation help you see the board in a new light.

Simple combinations are the building blocks of tactics, but this book isn't about them. As Shirov noted, this book is about complicated chess tactics, the kind you sometimes need hours of analysis just to fathom. It is hard to see and calculate perfectly on the board; one needs intuition, imagination and precision. I hope the present book, full of examples and high quality analyses, will help you achieve that objective.

Viswanathan Anand  
15th World Champion  
Bad Soden 2017

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***Der Zauberstab ist mir gegeben. Ich muss ihn  
nur zu gebrauchen wissen.***

***The magic wand has been given to me.  
I must only know how to use it.***

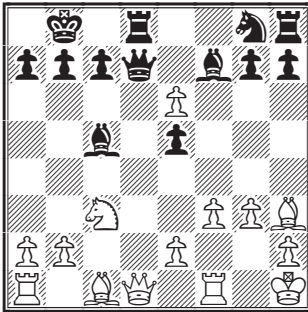
**Leo Tolstoy, Diaries, 1900**

## The Magic of Chess Tactics 2

25.♙xb6 axb6 26.♖a4) 24.♗xf2 b6  
 (24...c5 25.fxg5 ♗xe4 26.♖f4+ ♗d6  
 27.dxe6) 25.♗d4 ♗xe4 26.♗c6+ ♖b7  
 27.♖f3 ♖h7 28.♗xd8+ ♖xd8 29.dxe6;  
 (b2) 20...♖b8 21.dxe6+-;  
 (b3) 20...a6 21.♗c3 ♖b8 22.d6!  
 (22.e5!? exd5 23.♗g2 c6 24.♖c2)  
 22...♖xd6 (22...cxd6 23.e5+-;  
 22...♗xd6 23.e5+-) 23.e5 ♖xd1  
 24.♖xd1+-.

### 14.dxe6

This straightforward move is by no means bad. At the same time, 14.♖b3 comes strongly to mind: 14...♖e7 (14...♗f6 15.dxe6 ♖c8 16.♗g5+-) 15.dxe6 ♗e8 16.♗d5 ♗a4 (16...♖d6? 17.♗g5+-) 17.♗xe7 ♗xb3 18.♗c6+ bxc6 19.axb3+- and White has a solid pawn advantage in a superior position.



14...♗xe6?? A crude misstep that produces instant death. It should be said that the alternatives only stave off the same; e.g.:

(a) 14...♖xd1 15.♖xd1 ♖xd1+ 16.♗d1 ♗g6 17.♗e3! ♗e7 18.♗c4 ♗c6 (18...♗f5 19.♗xf5 ♗xf5 20.♗xe5 ♖c8 21.e4 ♗d4 22.♗e3 ♗xe6 23.♗xc5 ♗xc5 24.♖c1) 19.♗d2 ♖e8 20.b4!±/+-, e.g., 20...♗d4 (20...♗xb4 21.♗xb4 ♗xb4 22.♗xe5) 21.♖c1 ♗d8

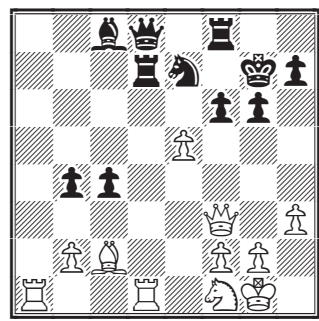
(21...e4 22.f4 e3 23.♗xe3 ♗e4+ 24.♖g1 ♗d5 25.f5) 22.e3 ♗b6 23.♗xe5 ♗xe6 24.e4;  
 (b) 14...♖e7 15.♗d5+- (15.exf7 ♖xd1 16.fxg8♖+ ♖xg8 17.♖xd1+- ♗d4 18.♗e4);  
 (c) 14...♖c8 15.exf7 ♖xd1 16.♖xd1+-.

### 15.♗xe6+- – Quick and painful! 1-0

#### Brilliant Pins

*Hidden tactical blows, a mighty ♖+♗ duo, the right firing of a battery, transformations*

### 04.03 Timofeev – Svidler Moscow 2011



White to move  
Position after 27...f6?

Hidden behind the scenes is the following tactical gem. First White misses a brilliant win and then even loses his head.

### 28.♗e3?

(I) Unconvincing is 28.♖e3?!, e.g., 28...♖xd1 29.♖xd1 ♖c7 30.♖d6! ♗g8 31.♖d5 ♗e6 32.♖c5 ♖b6 33.exf6+ ♗xf6 (33...♖xf6 34.♗d2±) 34.♖xc4! ♖xe3 35.♖c7+ ♖f7 36.♖xf7+ ♖xf7 37.♗xe3 ♖e7 38.♖f1 ♖d6 39.♖e2 ♖c5± and it is very uncertain whether White can convert his extra pawn in



## Pins



Peter Svidler

view of Black's activity.

(II) 28.♖a7!! is the very promising improvement:

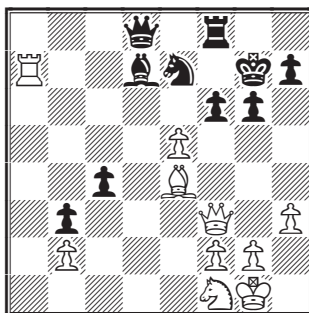
(a) No relief is offered by 28...♖xd1, e.g., 29.♖xd1 b3 (29...♖xd1 30.♖xe7+ ♖f7 31.exf6+ ♖xf6 32.♖xf7+ ♖xf7 33.♖xd1+-; 29...♖e8 30.♖d6+-) 30.exf6+ (30.♖xd8 ♖xd8 31.♖xe7+ ♖f8) 30...♖xf6 31.♖f3+ ♖g7 32.♖c3+ ♖f7 (32...♖f6 33.♖e4 ♖e6 34.♖e3 ♖d6 35.♖d5 ♖f7 36.♖xc4+-) 33.♖xc4+ ♖e6 34.♖f4+ ♖g8 35.♖e3 bxc2 36.♖xe6+ ♖h8 (36...♖f7 37.♖c4 ♖b6 38.♖a8+ [38.♖xe7? ♖xf2+ 39.♖h2 ♖xf1 40.♖c8+ ♖f8 41.♖e6+ ♖h8 42.♖e5+ ♖f6 43.♖xf6+ ♖xf6 44.♖c7 ♖f2 45.b4±] 38...♖g7 39.♖xc2+-) 37.♖e5+! (37.♖xe7?! ♖d4! 38.♖e1 ♖xf2! 39.♖h1 ♖c5 40.♖e8+ ♖g7 41.♖e7+ ♖f7 42.♖xc5 ♖xf1+ 43.♖h2 c1♖ 44.♖xc1 ♖xc1±) 37...♖g8 38.♖c5 ♖d1 39.♖c4+ ♖d5 40.♖c7 ♖d8 41.♖c5 c1♖ 42.♖xc1 ♖xc1 43.♖xc1+-)

(b) 28...b3

(b1) 29.♖xb3 cxb3 30.♖axd7 ♖xd7 31.♖b7 ♖c6 32.♖xd8 ♖xb7 33.♖d7 ♖d5 (33...fxe5 34.♖xb7 Δ ♖xb3±) 34.♖xe7+ ♖f7 35.♖e3!± ♖b7 (35...♖xe7? 36.exf6+ ♖xf6 37.♖xd5+ ♖e6 38.♖xe7 ♖xe7 39.♖f1+-) 36.♖e6 fxe5 37.♖b6 Δ ♖xb3;

(b2) 29.♖axd7 ♖xd7 30.♖xb3 cxb3 transposes to 29.♖xb3/30...♖xd7;

(b3) 29.♖dx7!! Much stronger than ♖xb3 or ♖axd7 in view of: 29...♖xd7 30.♖e4



Now Black cannot get rid of the annoying pin on the seventh rank in a satisfactory manner:

(b31) 30...fxe5 31.♖d1!+-;

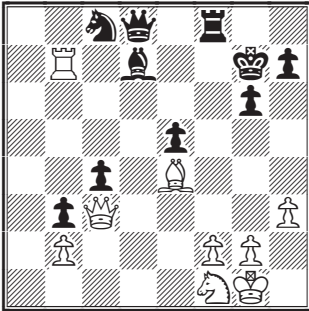
(b32) 30...f5 31.♖d5 ♖b5 32.♖c3! ♖h6 (32...♖xd5 33.e6+ ♖h6 34.♖xe7+-) 33.♖xc4+-;

(b33) 30...♖e6 31.exf6+ ♖xf6 32.♖c3 This painful diagonal pin is another central theme. There may follow: 32...♖d6 (32...♖f7 33.♖b4! Δ 34.♖e3-d5 [33.♖e3] 33...♖f4 34.♖d2 Δ ♖f3! 34...♖h4 [34...h6 35.g3 ♖f6 36.♖f3 ♖f8 37.♖h4 ♖e8 38.♖a8 ♖c8 39.♖xc4+-] 35.♖f3 ♖xe4 [35...♖h5 36.g4 ♖xh3 37.♖g5+-] 36.♖g5+-) 33.♖e3! h5 (33...♖f7 34.♖xc4+-) 34.♖d5!+-;

(b34) 30...♖c8 31.♖b7 fxe5 (31...♖e7? 32.♖d1 [32.♖c6] 32...♖d8 33.♖c6+-) 32.♖c3! (D)

(b341) 32...♖d6 33.♖xe5+ ♖f6 34.♖a7 (Δ ♖c6+-) 34...♖c8 (34...♖xe4 35.♖xe4 ♖f7 36.♖d4+ ♖g8 37.♖e3!+- This brings the mighty queen and knight duo decisively into action, Δ ♖g4 and/or ♖xc4.) 35.♖a6

## The Magic of Chess Tactics 2



28...b3 29.♙e4?! ♜c7?! 30.♞dc1? ♞d4 31.♜g3? f5 32.♙f3 f4 33.♜h4 h6 34.♚g4 ♚f5 0-1

In the following example, Kramnik makes effective use of the pins:

### Invasion on the Queenside

*Sacrifice for gain, converting one advantage into another*

#### 04.04 Kramnik – Aronian

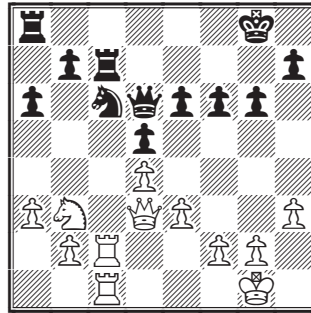
Istanbul 2012

(This increases the pressure against the ♞f6. The pin will be Black's undoing. Among other threats, White wants to play 36.♜d4 ♚b6 37.♚e3 ♜c7 38.♜xf6+ ♜xf6 39.♚d5+ with a final knight fork.) 35...♜e7 (Useless is 35...♜f7? because of 36.♙d5+ ♜g7 37.♙xc4+-) 36.♜d4 ♚b5

(b3411) 36...♙e6 37.♚e3!+- (37.g4 37...c3 (37...♜f7 38.♚d5) 38.♜xc3 ♚d6 39.♜c5 ♙f7 40.♚g4 ♞e6 41.♜d4+ ♜f8 42.♜h8+ ♙g8 43.♙d5; (b3412) 36...♚d6 37.♞a7!+- Δ ♙c6 with a deadly diagonal or horizontal pin. 37.♞a5 ♜b4 38.♞a8 ♜d6 39.♜c3 ♚b6 40.♞a7+ ♜g8 (40...♙d7 41.♚e3+-; 40...♚d7 41.♚e3+-) 41.♚e3 ♞f7 (41...h5 42.♙d5+) 42.♞xf7 ♜xf7 43.♜h8 Δ ♚h7+-, etc.;

(b342) 32...♞f7 33.♙d5 (33.♜xe5+?? ♜f6) 33...♞e7 (33...♚d6 34.♜xe5+ ♜f6 35.♜xf6+ ♜xf6 36.♞b6+- ♞g7 37.♙xc4 ♜e5 38.♙xb3) 34.♜b4! ♙e8 35.♙xc4 ♚d6 (35...♙c6 36.♞e7+ ♜xe7 37.♜b8 ♙d7 38.♙xb3+-) 36.♞e7+ ♜xe7 37.♚e3 Δ ♙xb3+-.

In this game, Peter Svidler was the lucky winner after some confusion (probably in time trouble) – and ultimately also won the Russian championship the sixth time.



White to move  
Position after 21...♞c8-c7?

Apparently Black had discounted his opponent's queenside pressure as he now falls prey to a vigorous attack.

**22.♚a5!** For all intents and purposes, Black is already lost!

**22...♞ac8** The following alternatives are no better, e.g.:



Vladimir Kramnik