



# Winning Chess Tactics, revised

*Yasser Seirawan , Jeremy Silman*

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The essential guide to the use of tactics, the watchdogs of strategy that take advantage of short-term opportunities to trap or ambush an opponent and change the course of a game in a single move.

## Winning Chess Tactics, revised Details

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# From Reader Review Winning Chess Tactics, revised for online ebook

## Nathan Albright says

As someone who from time to time reads and reviews books on chess [1], I must say that this book was a particularly challenging volume to read, and likely would be for a variety of readers. A large part of this is by design, as the author is not writing for chess novices but rather for people who are committed to some level of advancement through developing tactical skill into highly competitive levels. The author even advises those who fail the tactical test at the end of the book to read the book again because they obviously didn't get the lessons that the author was trying to teach from both his own experience as well as his awareness of chess history and particularly his interest in the great tactical masters of chess. The author appears to have a particular interest in those whose greatness in chess was due to their tactical flair as opposed to their understanding of positional principles, and one might be correspondingly inclined to think that the author would be critical of the contemporary tendency to seek ultra-engine moves rather than seek opportunities to show tactical brilliance of a Tal or Morphy.

The material in this slightly more than 200 page book is divided into three parts and twenty-five chapters. The first part of the book, which takes up more than half of the book's length and thirteen of its chapters, examines various tactics and combinations, some of them going several moves in advance. The authors open with definitions (1) and then move on to the double attack (2), pin (3), skewer (4), king tactics and combinations (5), deflection (6), and battery on an open file or diagonal (7). They also opine on the power of pawns (8), and discuss the decoy (9), clearance sacrifices (10), x-rays and windmills (11), intermediate zwishenzug moves (12), and other kinds of draws (13). The second part of the book examines great tacticians and some of their important games, dealing in a chronological order with such greats as Adolf Anderssen (14), Paul Morphy (15), Rudolf Spielmann (16), Frank Marshall (17), Alexander Alekhine (18), Mikhail Tal (19), and Garry Kasparov (20). The author then concludes in the third part with more tests and solutions, with chapters on basic tactics (21), advanced combinations (22), professional combinations (23) and then chapters on the tests from parts one and two (24) as well as part three (25), which amounts to a test on the reader's mastery of the material in the book as a whole.

Again, it should be noted that this book (and presumably the other books by these authors) are not aimed at the casual or occasional chess player, someone like myself, but rather for someone who actively intends on improving their chess game several levels to the point of aiming at mastery and tournament victory. Now, it may be in the future that I may become involved in that sort of competitive chess world in the future, but at present it has not been easy for me to find the sort of face-to-face chess playing that I enjoyed a great deal in my youth. That said, for those readers who do take their chess very seriously and who have ambitions of improving their FIDE ranking and perhaps even angling towards professionalizing their chess game, this book is definitely helpful and useful in that regard, and is part of a series that is aimed at that sort of progression as well, and so if you want to acquire norms like Fide Master or International Master or perhaps even Grandmaster, this book will definitely be of assistance in these goals and I highly recommend the author's historical approach as well as his difficult combinations and challenging tests.

[1] See, for example:

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2018...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2018...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2018...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2018...>

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### **Owen Lindsell says**

I love this series. Yasser is a good chess author and doesn't get too embroiled in explaining every variation.

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### **Carl Stevens says**

This has definitely helped my game. It is one of those books you don't really read, but rather work through one study at a time. I now see the board in a different way which helps me with Thaddeus Barlow, the wizard detective and author of They Call Me Merlin Sherlock, who has a 133 years more experience with chess than I do.

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### **Carl says**

Winning Chess Tactics is clearly and logically structured, building up through the different tactical techniques through to complex combinations of them at world class level. This is enjoyable to work through and never unnecessarily detailed, with just the right amount of information fed to you for the advice to sink in productively.

It is also attractively presented in a glossy medium-sized paperback format.

I have to recommend this book very highly, due to seeing a definite improvement in my results after reading it and working on the tests and puzzles provided. If you are a reasonable player but want to win more games, this is the book for you.

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### **Pedro says**

An excellent INTRODUCTION to tactics. Clear and easy to understand for those new to chess. I would not recommend the book to intermediate players.

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### **Reza Taheri says**

in my opinion this is the go-to book for anyone who is going to start playing chess seriously. Even for intermediate players a quick look of the puzzles is highly recommended :)

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## **Steve says**

This book has some great tactical training. Well written book from Yasser Seirawan and Jeremy Silman.

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## **Steve says**

Read this with a board in front of you, and when you finish a chapter, take the test positions seriously. Set up positions and try to solve them **WITHOUT TOUCHING PIECES**. Do this through the *\*entire book\** and enjoy how much sharper a chess player you've become.

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## **Ethan says**

A good solid foundation of the tactics of Chess. I have finished reading it, but I still am going to go back and solve all of the problems, many of which I just skipped knowing that I would get back to it soon.

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## **Demian Renzulli says**

Follows Yasser Seirawan's teaching a style in a similar way to its predecessor (Play Winning Chess). It is a great starting point to know the different tactics, with examples.

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## **Dylan says**

A good introduction to the different types of tactics in chess. Some of the reviews of the games require a chess board to easily follow all of the moves and it seems like a video reviewing the games move by move would be much easier to follow.

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## **Murilo Andrade says**

Another nice book by Seirawan. Well written and very easy to digest, even for novice/amateur.

As a passionate by tactics, I appreciated all of it, specially the wide variety of exercises at the end of each chapters and the book.

It is well divided, beginning with commonly Attack Tactics ( skewer, pin, deflection, double attack, battery, etc) and ending with Draws, and more "defensive" tactics.

The second part of the book has some of the great tacticians of all time. Morphy, Tal, Kasparov amongst others are very well represented in 3-4 masterpieces each, in separated chapters.

The third party has more "advanced" tests, even though I don't think they should be called like that, as they mainly contain ideas from the previous chapters, and don't seem to aim to be difficult to solve.

In summary, I'd recommend reading this book as the first of the Seirawan's Winning Chess series, with probably Winning chess Endings being the next one.

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### **Mohamed Al Sayyah says**

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### **Chris MacFadyen says**

This was the first chess book I've read on tactics and I left feeling like I have a great foundation for eyeing tactics now.

The Author, Yasser Seirawan, does a great job of showing simple tactical moves like forks, pins and skewers. Then, he highlights the principle of these moves in more complex, real game positions where the player must evaluate how to make the tactic work for them.

I'd say that this shouldn't be a book to expand your tactical eye, but as a beginning or introductory book to tactics its a great book.

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### **Jim Kennedy says**

An excellent and thorough (it seemed to me) introduction to chess tactics. It has really started me thinking about chess in a far more constructive manner, and my rating is improving because of this.

Next - his book on strategy ... :)

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