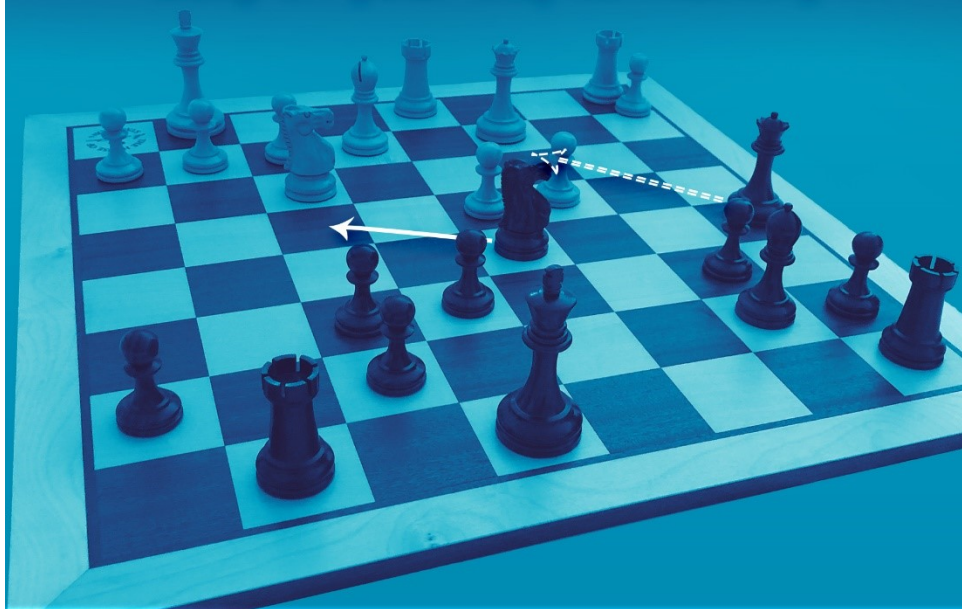


Daily Chess Training

# CHESS TACTICS VOLUME 2

Sharpen your tactical ability  
daily on your way to mastery



**CARSTEN HANSEN**

FOREWORD BY CYRUS LAKDAWALA

# Set 1

## Exercises to Set 1

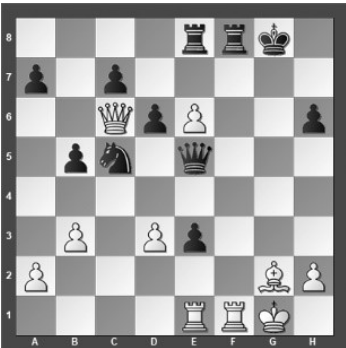
1.1)



1.2)



1.3)



1.4)



1.1)

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Hint: The positional attack

1.2)

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Hint: Time to count

1.3)

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Hint: Overburdened defenders  
make the best targets

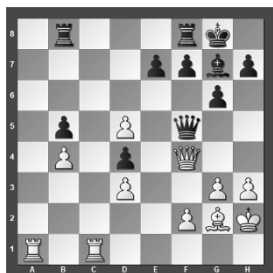
1.4)

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Hint: Inject force to the attack

## Solutions to Set 1

1.1)



**26.Qxf5! gxf5 27.d6!**

A positional pawn sacrifice that opens the scope for the light-squared bishop. This radically changes the nature of the position, putting Black very much on the defensive. This is a theme worth paying attention to.

**27...exd6 28.Ra7!?**

White can also consider 28.Bd5!?

**28...Rbc8?**

Inaccurate, but also 28...Bh6 29.f4! (or 29.Rcc7 Bd2 30.Bd5 Kh8 with a clear advantage for White) 29...Rbe8 30.Rb7 Re3 31.Rd1 with a clear advantage for White - note the difference between the two bishops.

**29.Rxc8 Rxc8 30.Bd5 f4 31.gxf4 Bh6 32.Rxf7 Rc3?**

Another error. The best chance was 32...Kh8 33.Rb7 when White has a very clear and obvious advantage but Black is by no means lost yet.

**33.f5** Black resigned on account of 33.f5 Rxd3 34.f6 and Black cannot prevent mate in the long run, e.g., 34...Kh8 35.Rb7 Bf4+ 36.Kg2 h5 37.Rb8+ Kh7 38.Be4+ Kh6 39.h4!

**1-0**

**M.Carlsen (2835) – I.Salgado Lopez (2629)**, World Rapid (St Petersburg) 2018

1.2)



**25...Qxh2+!**

The white king gets extracted to get mated.

**26.Kxh2**

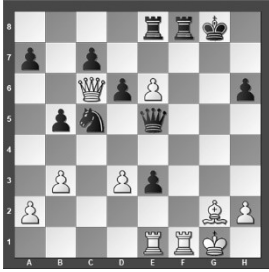
Or 26.Kf1 Bf3 is similarly game over.

**26...Rxxh4+ 27.Kg3 Rh3+ 28.Kf4 Rf3+ 29.Ke5 Rg6** and with mate looming on the next move, White resigned.

**0-1**

**P.Svidler (2737) – D.Andreikin (2719)**, World Rapid (St Petersburg) 2018

1.3)



**26.d4!**

Very strong, but also the only move to offer White an advantage. The black queen gets pulled away from the e-pawn. Alternatively, 26.Rxf8+ Rxf8 27.d4 Qf6 28.Rf1 e2 29.Rxf6 e1Q+ 30.Rf1 Rxf1+ 31.Bxf1 Nxe6 and Black has the better chances.

**26...Qxd4**

Or 26...Qg5 27.dxc5 Rxe6 28.Rxf8+ Kxf8 29.cxd6 cxd6 30.Qc8+ and White is winning.

**27.Rxf8+ Kxf8**

Or 27...Rxf8 28.e7 Nd3 29.Qd5+ and White is winning.

**28.Rf1+ Kg7 29.Rf7+ Kg6 30.Qxe8 e2+ 31.Kh1 Kg5**

Or 31...e1Q+ 32.Rf1+ and game over.

**32.Qg8+** and Black resigned.

**1-0**

**Al.Reshetnikov (2492) – VI.Fedoseev (2719)**, World Rapid (St Petersburg) 2018

1.4)



**29...Qd8!!**

If Black didn't have this move, he would be in trouble, but at the same time it is incredibly strong. The queen switches from the queenside to the kingside to attack the white king. White's problem is that he doesn't have a good response to this plan because he cannot get his pieces from queenside in time to put a defense together. When first looking at this position, it may be tempting for Black to look at 29...fxg2? 30.Kxg2 Qxe3 31.fxe3 Bxh3+ 32.Kxh3 Rxf1 33.Nc6 with chances to both sides, despite Black's nominal material advantage; the white queenside pawns will eventually make up for this deficit. However, 30...Qd8! once more is better for Black, e.g., 31.Ra3 Qg5+ 32.Qg3 Bxh3+! 33.Kxh3 Qh5+ 34.Kg2 Rg4 and Black has a significant material advantage. Nevertheless, White can improve on this line with the cool-headed 30.Re1! Qxe3 31.Rxe3 Bd4 32.Nc6 Bxe3 33.fxe3 Rf8 34.Kxg2 and White has an improved version of the line given above and has a clear advantage.

**30.Nc6**

Or 30.g3 Qg5 (Black's plan is really simple: Queen to h5, capture on h3 and mate on g2) 31.Nc6 Qh5 32.Nxe5 dxe5 (of course not 32...Qxh3?? is met by 33.Nxf3 and the attack is over) 33.Ra7 (there isn't a move that can stop Black from capturing on h3, so this is really just a desperate move) 33...Qxh3 34.Rxg7+ (intended to be the

first of many checks, but eventually they run out)  
34...Kxg7 35.Qxe5+ Rf6 36.Qe7+ Kg8! 37.Qd8+ Rf8  
38.Qg5+ Kf7 39.Qf4+ Kg6 40.Be8+ Rxe8 41.Qxf3 and  
White has stopped the mate but is a rook and bishop  
down, but, in fact, Black can avoid all of this with the  
simple 34...Kh8! and the checks stop there.

**30...Qg5! 31.g3 Qh5! 32.Nxe5 dxe5 33.h4 Rxh4!** and  
with mate around the corner, White resigned.

**0-1**

**T.Fakhrutdinov (2481) – Al.Reshetnikov (2492),**  
World Rapid (St Petersburg) 2018

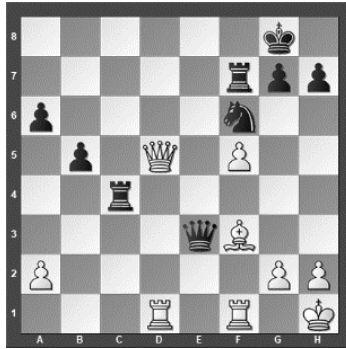
# Set 2

## Exercises to Set 2

2.1)



2.2)



2.3)



2.4)



2.1)

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Hint: Distract the right pieces to allow deadly force

2.3)

\*\*\*

Hint: Exploit the overburdened piece

2.2)

\*

Hint: Poor coordination and structural issues

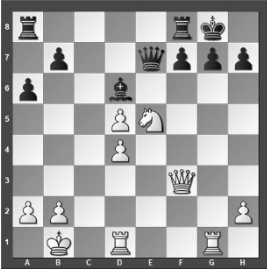
2.4)

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Hint: One defender is more important than the others

## Solutions to Set 2

2.1)



**23.Nd7!!**

A strong move that threatens to win material but also cannot be captured.

**23...Bxh2** Looks at first glance like resignation, but the idea is to take the g1 square away from White's rook if he sacrifices the present rook on g7. The alternatives are:  
 a) 23...Qxd7 24.Rxg7+ Kxg7 (or 24...Kh8 25.Qf6) 25.Rg1+ with mate.

b) 23...g6 24.Nxf8 Rxf8 25.Rge1 Qd7 26.h4 with a clear advantage for White - this is Black's best chance.

c) 23...Rfd8 24.Nf6+ Kh8 25.Rxg7! Kxg7 26.Rg1+ Kh8 27.Qf5 and mate cannot be avoided.

**24.Nf6+! Kh8 25.Rxg7!**

Anyway!

**25...Kxg7 26.Qg4+ Kh6**

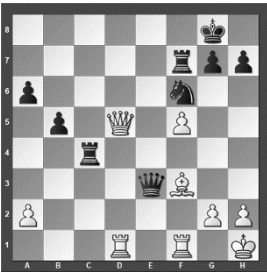
Or 26...Kh8 27.Qh4.

**27.Qh5+ Kg7 28.Qg5+ Kh8 29.Qh6** and Black will have to give up the queen to delay mate.

**1-0**

**F.Amonatov (2614) – A.Sarana (2618)**, World Rapid (St Petersburg) 2018

2.2)



**28.Qa8+?**

Tempting, but not best. White should have played the very strong 28.Qe6!, threatening both Black's queen and Rd8+. After 28...Qxe6 29.fxe6, and now:

a) 29...Re7 30.Rd8+ Ne8 31.Bd5 Rc5 (or 31...g5 32.g3! , preventing the rook from getting to f4, but even other moves like 32.Kg1 would win) 32.Rd7 Rxd5 (of course not 32...Rxd7?? 33.exd7+ Rxd5 34.dxe8Q#) 33.Rxe7 Nf6 34.Ra7 Kf8 (34...Re5?? 35.Ra8+ with mate) 35.g4 (threatening g4-g5 but also giving the king on h1 some "luft" while gaining a tempo) 35...h6 36.Rc1 Ke8 37.Rxg7 and White is winning.)

b) 29...Rf8 30.e7 Re8 31.Rd8 Kf7 32.Bd5+ Kxe7 33.Rxe8+ Nxe8 34.Re1+ Kd8 35.Bxc4 bxc4 36.Kg1 and White has a material advantage that should suffice to win the game.

**28...Rf8 29.Qxa6!**

Or 29.Rd8 Rxd8 30.Qxd8+ Kf7 when White has an advantage on account of Black's open king, but there is a lot work to be done.

**29...Qc5?!**

A better defense was 29...Rc5! although White is clearly better after 30.Rfe1! (30.Qb6!? Kh8 31.Rd8 Rg8 32.Rfd1 and White has a clear advantage) 30...Qf4 31.Qe6+ Kh8 32.Qe7 Rcc8 33.Qe5 and White has good winning chances.

**30.Be2 Rb4 31.Qe6+ Kh8 32.Rc1 Qa7?? 33.Qd6 1-0**

**M.Matlakov (2700) – A.Mamedyarov (2817), World Rapid (St Petersburg) 2018**

## 2.3)



## 20...b3!!

This clever move wins material for Black, whereas the tempting 20...c5 doesn't have the desired effect after 21.Nb3! Bf5 (or 21...c4 22.Nxa5 b3 23.Nxb3 cxb3 24.Bxb3 Bf5 25.Qd1 Qxd1 26.Bxd1 Rxb2 27.Re1 and White is okay despite his passive pieces) 22.Qc1 Nxb3 23.Bxb3 bxc3 24.Qxc3+ Qd4 with no more than a small advantage for Black.; Alternatively, 20...Qf6 21.b3 is also at best slightly better for Black.

## 21.Bxb3

Also 21.Nxb3 runs into 21...Bf5 22.Qd1 Qxd1 23.Raxd1 Nxb3 and Black is winning.

## 21...Nxb3 22.Nxc6

Or 22.Nxb3 Bf5, winning a piece.

## 22...Nxa1

22...Bf5 is also good.

**23.Rxa1 Qc7 24.Nxb8 Qxb8 25.c4 Qe5 26.a5 Bf5 27.Qd2 Rb8** and White had enough.

**0-1**

**A.Zhigalko (2545) – M.Bosicic (2599), World Rapid (St Petersburg) 2018**



2.4)



**18.Rxa5!**

Sacrificing an exchange for a tempo on the kingside.

**18...Bxa5??**

This looks forced but is, in fact, a losing blunder. Black's only chance consisted in 18...b5 19.Bb3 c4 20.Rxa6 Qb7 21.Ra3 cxb3 22.Rxb3 when White is a pawn up with a good position, but it is far from an easy win. After the game continuation, Black's dark-squared bishop gets pulled away from the defense of the kingside and White's attack crashes through.

**19.Rh4 h6 20.Nf5 Bd8**

20...Bxf5 21.exf5 Bd8 22.Rh3! (White also has 22.Bxh6 Bxh4 23.Bxg7 Nxg7 24.Qxh4 Qd8 25.Nf6+ Qxf6 26.Qxf6 which wins for White) 22...Kh7 23.Bxh6 g6 24.Qxg6+ (24.Qe2! is strictly speaking better, but the our main line is wonderfully flashy) 24...fxg6 25.Bxf8+ Kg8 26.Nf6+ Kxf8 27.Nxd7+ Kg7 28.Nxb8 and White is winning.

**21.Bxh6! Bxh4 22.Bxg7 Nxg7 23.Qxh4 Bxd5**

Or 23...f6 24.Nh6+ Kh7 25.Nf7+ Kg8 26.Nxf6+ Kxf7 27.Nxd7 Bxc4 28.dxc4 and White is winning.

**24.Nh6+ Kh7 25.Ng4+**

**1-0**

**G.Rechlis (2521) – S.Lobanov (2526), World Rapid (St Petersburg) 2018**

# Set 3

## Exercises to Set 3

3.1)



3.2)



3.3)



3.4)



3.1)

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Hint: The right sacrifice can make room for the right pieces

3.2)

\*\*\*

Hint: Where is the most vulnerable point in Black's position?

3.3)

\*\*\*

Hint: Structural weaknesses meet violent responses

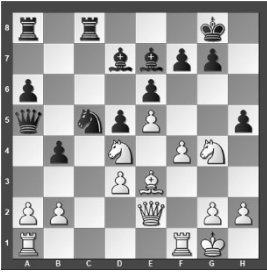
3.4)

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Hint: Exploit lead in development by attacking weaknesses

## Solutions to Set 3

3.1)



**19.Nf6+**

This looks good but the better option is 19.Nh6+! gxf6  
20.Qxh5 Bf8 (running away with the king doesn't improve the situation: 20...Kf8 21.Qxh6+ Ke8 22.Qh8+ Bf8 23.f5 followed by Bh6 when White wins back the piece with ongoing attack and extra material) 21.Rf3 Bg7 22.Rg3 Kf8 23.f5! (23.Rxg7 is also playable but the text move is even better) 23...Bxe5 24.fxe6 Bxe6 25.Qxe5 Qc7 26.Qf6 and White is winning.

A tempting alternative is 19.f5 but it is definitely inferior to the two knight moves: 19...exf5 (or 19...hxg4 20.f6 Bf8 21.fxg7 Bxg7 22.Bg5 Qb6 23.Qxg4 Ne4 24.Be3 Qc7 25.dxe4 Qxe5 with a complicated position and chances to both sides) 20.Nxf5 Bxf5 21.Nh6+ gxf6 22.Rxf5 Qb6 23.Raf1 d4 24.Bxd4 Qg6□ with a position where White has some compensation for the piece but it is far from clear that it is enough.

**19...gxf6??**

Capturing with the bishop and thus creating a permanent dark-square weakness around his king is obviously not appealing to Black, but in this case it would actually be the way to go, e.g., 19...Bxf6 20.exf6 g6 21.Rfc1 Qd8 22.Nf3 Nb7 when White should have the better chances but Black is not seriously worse and may well pull off a successful defense. After the text move however, it is soon over for Black...

**20.Qxh5 Qd8**

Or 20...Bf8 21.exf6 Qd8 22.Qg5+ Kh7 23.Rf3 e5 24.f5 and it is curtains for the black king.

**21.Rf3! Qf8 22.Rg3+**

This wins the queen but 22.f5! was even stronger, e.g., 22...Qg7 23.Bh6! Qh7 24.Rg3+ Kh8 25.Bg7+ Kg8 26.Bxf6+ and the queen drops free of charge.

**22...Qg7 23.Rxg7+ Kxg7 24.f5 Rh8 25.Qg4+**

White is winning.

**25...Kf8 26.fxe6 Nxe6 27.Rf1 Ke8 28.exf6 Bd6 29.h3 Nxd4 30.Qxd4 Be6 31.Qb6 Rd8 32.Qc6+ Kf8 33.Bb6 1–0**

**E.Najer (2670) – L.Sokolin (2508), World Rapid 2018 (St Petersburg) 2018**

### 3.2)



Black has sacrificed a pawn in order to build a big center and gain a dominating space advantage. Unfortunately for Black, he has some structural weaknesses that White can attack.

**21.dxe4 fxe4 22.Rxe4!!**

White sacrifices a rook to bring the bishop on a2 back to life and all of a sudden, the light squares around Black's king become terribly weak.

**22...dxe4**

After 22...Ng6 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Ne3, White is simply up two pawns and should win without too many problems.

**23.Bxf7+!**

This is essential for White's idea to fully work. After 23.Qxf7+ Kh7 24.Qh5+ Bh6 25.Qf7+, White has no more than a perpetual check.

**23...Kh7??**

A big blunder. He should have played 23...Kf8 24.Bxe8+ Kxe8 25.Qxe4 Qf5 26.Qe3 Qe5 27.Re1 Qxe3 28.Nxe3 when White has four pawns for a piece and should be clearly better in the endgame.

**24.Qh5+ Bh6**

It looks like Black has warded off White's attack, but now comes the next wave.

**25.Rd1!**

Another essential move for White's idea to work. If you saw White's Rxe4, did you see this move at the time?

**25...Qc8**

25...Qf5 or 25...Qc7 26.Bxe8 and White is up three pawns and easily winning.

**26.Rd6** This rook lift ends Black's resistance, there is no way to defend the bishop on h6. **1-0**

**V.Nozdrachev (2486) – S.Pogosyan (2365) World Rapid 2018 (St Petersburg) 2018**

### 3.3)

**24.g4!**

This is clearly the strongest move but White can also achieve a large advantage with 24.Qg5!? Nd7 25.g4! Qd8 26.Qxd8 Rxd8 27.Bb5 Rc7 28.c6 Nb8 29.gxh5 Nxc6 30.hxg6+ and White has a large advantage. Alternatively, 25.Be3 Rh8 26.Qh6+ Kg8 27.Qf4 allows Black to survive; also 25.Qe7 Nxc5 26.Rxe6 Nxd3+ 27.Kb1 (but not 27.Rxd3?? Qa3+ 28.Kb1



Qc1#) 27...Qc7 28.Qxc7 Rxc7 29.Re2 Nc5 30.Rc1 Rac8 31.Rec2 Ne6 32.Rxc7 Rxc7 33.Rxc7 Nxc7 34.Bxa7 Kg7 when White despite being a pawn down has the slightly better chances.

**24...hxc4**

Or 24...fxg4 25.Qg5 when the threat of Qf6 more or less leads to a forced mate.

**25.Qg5!**

A dual threat of Qf6 and Qh4+ and Black can't prevent both moves except with 25...Qd8 after which 26.Bf6 wins easily for White.

**25...Nd7 26.Qh4+** Black resigned before he would get mated. **1-0**

**A.Muzychuk (2569) – B.Khotenashvili (2479),**  
World Rapid Women (St Petersburg) 2018

### 3.4)



#### 16.Nxe4!?

The most accurate continuation is 16.Nxe6! fxe6 (or 16...Qc8 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.f5 fxe6 19.Bh5+ Ke7 20.fxe6 Nce5 21.exd7 and Black is done) 17.Bh5+ g6 (17...Ke7 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.f5 Nce5 20.Qb3 transposes to the game continuation) 18.Nxe4 gxh5 19.Qxh5+ Ke7 20.f5 Qe8 21.Qh4+ Kf7 22.fxe6+ Kxe6 23.Rad1 Qg6 24.c4! and it is over, e.g., 24...dxc4 25.Qh3+ Ke5 26.Bf4+ Kxe4 27.Qe3+ with mate.

#### 16...dxe4?

Now things transpose back into lines mentioned above. Black should have given preference to 16...Nxd4! 17.Qxd4 dxe4 18.Qxe4 Qc7 19.Bh5 Qc6 20.Qxc6 bxc6 21.Rad1 Nf6 22.Bf3 Rc8 with a large positional advantage for White but Black is still alive.

#### 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Bh5+ Ke7 19.f5 Nce5 20.Qb3! exf5 21.Rxf5 Qc7 22.Bf7??

White is winning after 22.Rd1! Qc4 (or 22...Re8 23.Bxe8 Kxe8 24.Qe6+ Be7 25.Rxe5 Nxe5 26.Bb6 Qb8 27.Rd8+ Qxd8 28.Bxd8 Kxd8 29.Qxe5) 23.Bc5+ Ke6 (also 23...Kd8 24.Rxe5 Bxc5+ 25.bxc5 Qxb3 26.axb3 g5 27.Red5 Rh7 28.Bg4) 24.Bf7+! and Black is toast.

#### 22...Qc6 23.Rd1 g6 24.Rf4 Rc8?

A better chance was 24...Bg7!? when everything is still up in the air.

#### 25.Rxe4??

White would still have been winning after 25.Bd4 b5 26.Bd5 Qd6 27.Bg8!

#### 25...Bg7 26.Rd5??

Now White simply loses.

#### 26...Rh8 27.Bc5+ Nxc5 28.Rxc5 Qb6 0-1

**K.Kulaots (2555) – A.Gholami (2488) Stockholm 2018**