

Daily Chess Training

# CHESS TACTICS VOLUME 3

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Sharpen your tactical ability  
daily on your way to mastery



**CARSTEN HANSEN**

Foreword by GRANDMASTER JONATHAN TISDALL

## **Foreword by GM and FIDE Senior Trainer Jonathan Tisdall**

This neat series of tactical manuals began in 2018, and here we are at volume three already. Carsten Hansen is a publishing machine, and he has a simple, but nevertheless very hard to imitate, secret to success: constant, disciplined work. Adopt the same attitude with this book and your tactical ability could grow even faster than Carsten's portfolio of published titles!

Whether you are more at home with books or screens of various sizes, there is one aspect of chess training that links the generations, and that is tactics solving. You can call them 'puzzles', and do them in a rush, or you can see them as 'exercises,' and see them as mental muscle-building - either way, they provide a challenge, satisfaction when they're done, and a rewarding glow of increased strength afterwards.

One thing I can't help noticing - and resenting slightly in crotchety old-timer style - is that newfangled tactical puzzlery ... can suck a bit. Online or app quizzes often lack a human touch, with engines helping to select the positions. They can now be formed and generated without any particular human intervention, and online solving can even involve being told your solution is wrong, because your final mating move wasn't the one chosen in the source game. Not only is this infuriating, but not having a human perspective on study material, or solutions, obviously cannot be an optimal framework for teaching humans to play better, and to beat other humans.

### **Attention-grabbing**

Carsten's series caught my eye where we tend to live our lives these days, online and in social media. It is hard for someone who has spent a considerable chunk of life thinking about chess, and even more time contemplating training methods, to ignore a tactical challenge when it pops up in my timeline on Twitter, or Instagram. All sorts of people publish puzzles regularly, but it didn't take long to notice that Carsten's were very special.

The positions were all coming from recent or even ongoing events, so were clearly being chosen by someone who was glued to the news rather than sorting through existing material. The quality of the positions chosen was uniformly high, so there was no algorithm picking them out, but a thinking human. The solutions were almost never just an obvious one-two punch to the

face, but more practical situations, with relevant sidelines to consider and resolve. Sometimes there were no knockouts at all, just a search for a hidden best move, that provided an even more useful and realistic challenge. Carsten was providing real training moments, with no predictable giveaways, grounded in concrete tactics.

The way Carsten forms these books is a lovely integration of modern online life and old-fashioned tactical training. The material flits through the internet daily, and the author interacts with a range of online solvers. This process hones the material in the book, providing real-world examples of which false paths tempt solvers, and allows for deeper and more useful explanations of the solutions.

The final product has a very neat format, graded by difficulty, with a helpful hint if you need it, but no other categorization to tip the solver off about possible themes or patterns. Just practical, road-tested problems to solve, and useful real-world skills to develop.

### **A bargain**

If you're reading this while thumbing through the book and considering it for purchase, let me provide a simple suggestion - buy it! If the preceding arguments for the value that this volume, and the entire series, provide weren't enough, I have some more.

The cost of a chess book is almost always a bargain compared to the price of even a single hour of a trainer's time. Besides the obvious longer-lasting satisfaction of a book, there are several other reasons it is a steal.

There are many services a teacher or trainer can provide: imparting years of experience in highly compressed time; presenting information in illuminating form that makes it instantly understandable and memorable; or even just providing stacks of useful material for the student to digest.

Carsten's always conscientious search and presentation of tactical material guarantees that he will deliver in several ways and straighten your 'chess posture' as well.

And when I said steal earlier, of course, I meant - buy. Our increasingly digital world has made it harder for authors to get what they deserve for their work, and we need to remember that, to ensure we receive nice things like more of this series in the future.

*Jonathan Tisdall  
Asker, Norway  
February 2020*

# Set 1

## Exercises to Set 1

1.1)



1.2)



1.3)



1.4)



1.1)

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Hint: An invitation to dance

1.3)

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Hint: Not all obvious targets make the best targets

1.2)

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Hint: Deep penetration

1.4)

\*\*

Hint: Different levels of attack

# Solutions to Set 1

1.1)



**20.Nxg7! Kxg7 21.Nh5+ Kg6**

Or 21...Kh8 22.Qg3 Bg4 23.Qxg4 Qxg4 24.hxg4 and White is a clear pawn up with the bishop pair and overall better position in hand.

**22.Qg3+ Ng5 23.f4**

White could play even stronger with 23.h4! Be7 (or 23...f6 24.f4 exf4 25.Nxf4+ Bxf4 26.Bxf4 Kh7 27.hxg5 fxg5 28.Bxc7 Rb7 29.Bd6 and Black is completely busted) 24.f4 exf4 25.Nxf4+ Kh7 26.Nd5! and White wins back the sacrificed piece along with having a winning position.

**23...exf4 24.Nxf4+ Kh7 25.e5+ Bf5 26.Qf2**

White can do even better with 26.Bxf5+ Qxf5 27.exd6 cxd6 28.axb5 axb5 29.Rf1 and White has a positionally won position.

**26...Be7 27.e6 fxe6 28.h4 Kh8 29.hxg5 Bxg5 30.c4 Bxc2?!**

30...Ne7 was a better chance. Starting with the text move, Black is taking himself back into severe trouble.

**31.Bb2+ e5 32.Rxe5 Nf6?? 33.Nd5!**

33.Qxc2! is probably even stronger, but the text move more than suffices.

**33...Bg6 34.Rxg5 hxg5 35.Nxf6 Qf5 36.Nd7+ Kh7 37.Qd4 Qf7 38.Nxb8 Rxb8 39.Ra3 Bh5 40.Rh3 1-0**

**J.Van Foreest (2612) – I.Sokolov Dutch ch (Amsterdam) 2019**

1.2)



**25.Nh4!**

This is a nasty move that threatens Nxg6 but overall is very tricky to defend against. In the Facebook group, at least initially, several were tempted by 25.Bxf7+?? Rxf7 26.Ne5 but after 26...Qc7!, Black is better.

**25...g5?!**

Black hands over the f5-square to White, basically handing him a positionally won position, perhaps in the hope that White, a very young - only 12 years-international master would not be able to handle the pressure and carry it to a win. However, the alternative is very unpleasant for Black, e.g., 25...Kf8 26.Bxf7! Rxf7 27.Nxg6+ Kg8 28.Nf5 Be8 29.Nf4! (this is stronger than 29.Rb7 Nd7, when White again will have to find 30.Nf4 Kh8 31.Reb1 with a large, probably winning, advantage; 29.Nf4 threatens a variety of forks involving Ne6) 29...Qd7 30.Nxg7

Kxg7 31.e5 and White wins back the sacrificed material with interest; Black is completely busted

### 26.Nhf5 Rc7

Or 26...Rea7 27.Bc4 Bf8 28.Rb6 Bb5 29.e5 Bxc4 30.Qxc4 Nd5 31.e6 (31.Nxh6+ is also winning for White) 31...Nxb6 32.axb6 Qxb6 33.e7 and Black can resign.

### 27.Bc4! Bb5

If 27...Qf8 then 28.e5 Ne8 29.e6 fxe6 30.Rxe6 Kh8 31.Rb6 and Black is disaster.

### 28.e5! Bxc4 29.Qxc4 Nd5 30.Nh5 Bh8 31.e6

Black's position is entirely collapsing at this point, and he doesn't hang in there for much longer.

### 31...fxe6 32.Rxe6 Rd7 33.Rbe1 Qxa5 34.Ne7+ 1-0

**V.Murzin (2418) – V.Nozdrachev (2481)** Russian ch Higher League (Yaroslavl) 2019

## 1.3)



### 19.h5!

This is clearly strongest; White needs to open a path to the black king to reveal just how vulnerable it is. The alternatives are:

19.Qc5!? Be6 20.b4 Qd8 21.gxf5 (or 21.Ne7 Qb6 and Black is okay) 21...b6 22.Qc6 Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Qc7 (23...Qe7 24.f6! wins for White) 24.Qxc7 Nxc7 25.Rd7 axb5 26.Rxc7 bxa4 27.Rd1 and White has the better chances in the endgame.

Or 19.b4 Qd8 20.Bd3 (20.Qa7 Be6 21.Ne3 Qe7 22.gxf5 axb5 23.fxe6 Qxe6 24.axb5 Nb6 is messy and from what I can see, probably quite alright for Black; 20.Qc5 Be6 transposes to 19.Qc5 above) 20...Nb6 21.Bxf5 Nxd5 22.Qxd5 Qe8 23.Rd4 Qxa4 24.Kb2 which, while better for White, is still playable for Black.

### 19...Qd8

Accepting the piece sacrifice is too dangerous 19...axb5 20.h6 Qxa4 (or 20...g6 21.e6+ f6 22.e7 and it is game over) 21.hxg7+ Kxg7 22.Qe3 Qa1+ 23.Kd2 Qa5+ 24.Ke2 Qa6 25.Nf6 and Black will get mated within a few moves. Blocking the advance of White's h-pawn also does not help, for instance, 19...h6 20.g5! axb5 21.gxh6 Qxa4 22.hxg7+ Kxg7 23.Rdg1+ Kh8 24.b4 Nc7 (or 24...Be6 25.Qf4) 25.e6+ f6 and now Black is mated by force: 26.Rg8+ Rxg8 27.Qxf6+ Kh7 28.Qxf5+ Kh8 29.Qe5+ Kh7 30.Nf6+ Kh8 31.Nxg8+ Kxg8 32.Rg1+ Kf8 33.Qf6+ Ke8 34.Rg8#. Beautiful.

### 20.h6! Qg5+ 21.Kb1

21.Rd2 also wins, but White saw no reason to let his rook be pinned.

**21...axb5 22.hxg7+ Qxg7 23.Nf6 fxe4 24.Qe4** and Black resigned; there is no way to stop from getting mated. **1-0**

**1.4)**



**27...Rxb4!**

After this straight-forward shot, Black penetrates with deadly effect.

**28.cxb4 Qb2+ 29.Kg1**

Or 29.Kh3 Rc2 and preventing the mate will cost White the queen.

**29...Rc1+ 30.Rf1 Qf2+!** and White resigned. **0-1**  
**M.Swicz (2341) – V.Kozia (2473) Lazy 2019**



# 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

2.2)

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Hint: Hidden attack

2.3)

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Hint: Missing defenders

2.4)

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Hint: Distract the right piece

## Solutions to Set 2

2.1)



23...d4?

This seems logical, opening the diagonal for the bishop on b7, but it is actually a significant mistake. Instead, Black should play 23...Qc3! which seems to be refuted by 24.Rc1, intending to follow up with Rxc8+ and Qd8#. Here Black, however, has the clever response 24...Nxc2!! 25.Rxc3 (or 25.Kxg2 Qb2+ 26.Rc2 Rxc2+ 27.Bxc2 Qxc2+ 28.Kf1 Qd1+ and Black has won a pawn) 25...Nxc4 26.Rxc8+ Bxc8 with an extra pawn for Black in the endgame.

Another option, but not as strong, is 23...Nxc2!? 24.Kxg2 d4+ (or 24...Qc3 25.Qg3 g6 (25...d4+ transposes to 24...d4+) 26.Qxc3 Rxc3 27.Nd4 Kg7 28.Bxg6 Kxg6 29.Kf2 Rd3 30.f5+ exf5 31.Rg1+ Kh5 32.Ne2 with a sharp ending that is difficult to accurately assess) 25.Kg1 Qc3 26.Qg3 Bf3 27.Rf1 Qe3+ 28.Qf2 Qxb3 29.Qxf3 Qxf3 30.Rxf3 g6 31.Kf1 Kg7 32.Bxg6 Kxg6 33.f5+ exf5 34.Rg3+ Kh6 with a complex endgame that is somewhat better for Black.

24.Rc1 Qd7?

A further mistake. Black had two alternatives: 24...Qxc1+ 25.Nxc1 Rxc1+ 26.Kf2 Ke8 with good compensation for the queen, but objectively speaking, White is better, or 24...Qe7 25.Rxc8+ Bxc8 26.Qxe7+ Kxe7 27.Be4 f5 28.Bd3 Nd5 29.Nxd4 Nxf4 with completely equal chances.

25.Rxc8+ Qxc8 26.Be4 Qc7??

This loses on the spot. Instead 26...Kg8 27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Qh8+ Ke7 29.Qxc8 Bxc8 30.Nxd4 would have left Black a pawn down but with some drawing chances.

27.Bxb7 Black resigned. 1–0

**E.Romanov (2577) – A.Shimanov, A (2615)** Russian ch Higher League (Yaroslavl) 2019

2.2)



26.Bb3!

Tempting, but less accurate, is 26.Ne3 Qd8! (but not 26...Qd6?? 27.Bb3!, transposing to the note after Black's 26th move in the game whereas 27.Rxg7 Kxg7 28.Qh3! Qe6 29.Nf5+ Qxf5 30.Qxf5 Rxc3 31.Bb3 also gives White an advantage but nothing like after 27.Bb3) 27.Qh3 Nh7 28.Rxg7 Kxg7 29.Nf5+ Kh8 and Black has excellent chances of a successful defense.

A strong alternative, albeit not as strong as our game continuation, is 26.Nxf7+ Rxf7 27.Ne5 Bc5 28.Nxf7+ Qxf7 29.dxc5 Qf8 30.Rd1 Rxc5 31.Rd8 Qxd8

32.Qxc5 and White has a large, probably decisive, advantage.

**26...Qd8**

Or 26...Nh7 27.Ne3 Qd6 28.Bxf7 and White is winning.

**27.Nxf7+ Rxf7 28.Ne5 Bd5 29.Bxd5** Black resigned on the prospect of 29.Bxd5 Qxd5 30.Qxc8+ Kh7 31.Qf5+ Kg8 32.Nxf7! and White is winning. **1-0**

**B.Heberla (2534) – J.Fus (2341)** Warsaw 2019

2.3)



**16...Rxb2!**

Or even simpler 16...Qe5! 17.Nc3 Rxb2 18.Kxb2 Rb8+ 19.Kc1 Qxc3 20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.Rxd3 Qa1+ 22.Kd2 Qxh1 and White can resign.

**17.Kxb2 Rb8+ 18.Kc1 Qxa3+ 19.Kd2 Bxe4 20.Be2 Bxc2! 21.Ra1**

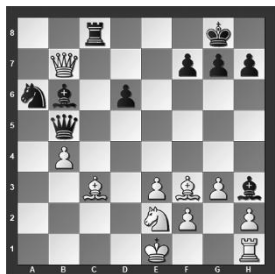
Or 21.Rc1 Nd5 22.Ke1 Rb2 23.Kf1 Qc5 24.Qd2 Qb6 and it is curtains for Black.

**21...Qb4+ 22.Ke3 Qb6+ 23.Kd2 Qd4+ 24.Kxc2 Rb2+ 25.Kc1 Qc3+** and White resigned. **0-1**

**M.Nayhebaver (2473) – M.Hrabusa (2397)**

Ruzomberok 2019

2.4)



**22.Qd5!?**

This is a good move, but White missed the even better 22.g4! Rb8 (after g3–g4, the rook is missing protection and needs to move) 23.Qe4 and now Black is short of a good reply to the threat of Nf4, for instance, 23...Bd8 24.Nf4 Nxb4 25.Be2 Qa4 26.Bd1 Qb5 27.Qxb4 and White is winning.

**22...Qa4 23.Qg5??**

23.Qb7 was better. After the text move, Black is winning, and the bishop on h3 is actually helpful, preventing the White from castling and escaping.

**23...Rxc3! 24.Nxc3 Qxb4 25.Qb5**

Or 25.Kd2 Qb2+ 26.Kd1 Be6! and it is game over.

**25...Qxc3+ 26.Kd1 g6!**

Luft for the king.

**27.Qxb6 Nb4 28.Be2 Be6** and with mate looming, White resigned. **0-1**

**D.Cherednichenko (2304) – I.Yeletsy (2438)**

Voronezh 2019

# 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)

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Hint: The right kind opening

3.3)

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Hint: Structural weaknesses meet violent responses

3.4)

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Hint: Obvious or not so obvious attack

## Solutions to Set 3

3.1)



**28.Rxg6!**

Breaks open Black's shelter. Black has to accept the rook.

**28...Kxg6 29.Re6+ Kg5**

Blocking the check with the bishop doesn't help, e.g., 29...Bf6 30.Ne3 Rdd5 (or 30...Qf4 31.g3 Qg5 32.h4 and the queen is forced away from protecting the rook) 31.Nxd5 cxd5 32.g4 and the rook on g4 drops.

**30.h4+! Kxh4 31.Ne3**

Even faster is 31.Rg6! Rg5 32.Qe4+ Rg4 33.g3+ Kh3 34.Qxf3 and Black can't prevent mate.

**31...Rf6 32.Rxf6 Bxf6 33.Qg6! Rd1+ 34.Nxd1 Bg5**

Or 34...Qe5 35.Ne3 Qg5 36.g3+ Kh3 37.Qd3 and Black is getting mated.

**35.g3+** Black resigned as 35...Kg4 is met by 36.Ne3+.

**1-0**

**V.Nozdachev (2481) – O.Ryckov (2409)** Russian ch Higher League (Yaroslavl) 2019

3.2)



**19...Rd5!**

Interesting but not nearly as strong was the immediate 19...Rxd2!? 20.Kxd2 Rd8+! (alternatively, 20...Bd5 21.Kc1 Re8 22.Bb2 Bxg2 23.Rg1 Bf3 and White is terribly tied up but far from lost or 20...c3+ 21.Ke1 Re8 22.Bxf6 Bxf6 23.Rd1 Qc8 when Black's bishop pair and passed c-pawn will provide Black with more than adequate compensation for the exchange) 21.Kc1 Rd5 22.Bb2 Bf5 23.Qxc4 Qa5 24.Qc3 Qd8! and Black has some akin to a winning position, White's pieces are poorly coordinated, and the king is poorly placed on c1.

**20.Bb2 Rxd2!!**

A similarly lethal move is the surprising 20...c3! 21.Bxc3 Bf5 22.Qc1 Rxd2 23.Bxd2 Ne4 and White's position is collapsing.

In the game, Black chose the inferior but nevertheless still strong 20...Rad8 21.0-0-0? (White should have played 21.Nxc4 although 21...Bf5 22.Qc1 Bd3 is highly unpleasant for White) 21...cxb3 22.axb3 Bf5 23.Qc4 Qc8 24.Bxf6 Bxf6 25.e4 Rd3 26.Nb1 R8d4 27.Qxc5 Bxe4 28.Rxd3 Rxd3 29.f3 Rd5 30.Qc4 Bg6 31.Nc3 Qf5 32.Ne4 Qf4+ 33.Kb1 Qe5 and White resigned, mate is inevitable. **0-1**

**E.Romanov (2577) – P.Ponkratov (2649)** Russian ch Higher League (Yaroslavl) 2019

### 21.Qxd2

Or 21.Kxd2 Ne4+! (also 21...c3+ 22.Bxc3 Ne4+ 23.Qxe4 Rd8+ 24.Kc2 Qe2+ 25.Kc1 (25.Kb1 Bxc3 and White gets mated) 25...Bxc3 26.Qc2 Bd2+ 27.Kb1 Qxf2 and Black is winning) 22.Ke1 Qa5+ 23.Kf1 Bf5 24.Kg1 c3 and White can resign.

**21...Ne4 22.Qc2 Qa5+ 23.Kf1 Bf5 24.Kg1 c3** and it is game over for White.

### 3.3)



**26...g5!** In the game, Black played 26...b4 27.cxb4 Bb5!? (A beautiful idea, intending to transfer the bishop to c6, targeting the weak light squares around White's king; however, once again 27...g5! is very strong, making a fool of White's rook on h4 which has to keep the d4-pawn protected, e.g., 28.Bxg5 (28.Qg4 f5!) 28...hxg5 29.Qg4 Rh6 and Black is winning) 28.Rf4 Bc6 29.Kf2 g5 30.Rg4 f5 31.Bxg5 fxg4 32.Qxg4 Rg6 33.Qc8+ Kh7 34.Qxa6 Qxd4+ 35.Be3 Qxa1 and White resigned. **0-1 L.Johansson (2480) – T.Hillarp Persson (2562)** Swedish ch (Eskilstuna) 2019

### 27.Rh5

Or 27.Rg4 f5 28.exf6 Re2 and White can resign.

**27...Qe4** and White does not have a good way to stop the lethal ...Bd5.

3.4)



**15...Ne3! 16.fxe3**

White doesn't have an alternative since 16.Bxe3 dxe3 17.Qxd8 exf2+ 18.Rxf2 Rfxd8 leaves Black an exchange up and a winning position.

**16...dxe3 17.Qe1 e2+**

The game continuation was 17...Bxf1 18.a5?! (Here 18.Kxf1 would have been a better choice, e.g., 18...Qf6 19.e5 Qxc6 20.a5 Qc4+ 21.Qe2 Qc3 22.Bb2 Qxb4 23.axb6 axb6 24.Ba3 Qa4 a long line with an advantage for Black at the end but not as clear as our main line.) 18...Bd4?? (An unnecessary mistake. With 18...Qf6 19.axb6 Qxa1 20.Bxe3 Qxe1 21.Nxe1 Bb5!! 22.Bxb5 cxb6, Black could have secured a clear advantage in the unbalanced endgame with an interesting material situation) 19.Nxd4 Qxd4 20.Bxe3 Qf6 21.Bxa7 Rxb4 22.Bc5 Rb2? 23.Qxf1 Qxc6 24.Bxf8 Kxf8 25.a6 Rb8 26.Qf5 h6 27.Rf1 f6 28.e5 Rb2 29.Qg4 h5 30.Qg3 h4 31.Qa3+ and Black resigned. **1-0 N.Yakubboev (2575) – S.Iuldachev (2451)** Uzbek ch (Tashkent) 2019

**18.Rf2 Qf6 19.Bd5 Qxa1 20.Bxc4 Qxa4 21.Qxe2 Bxf2+ 22.Kxf2 Rxb4** and Black has a large advantage.