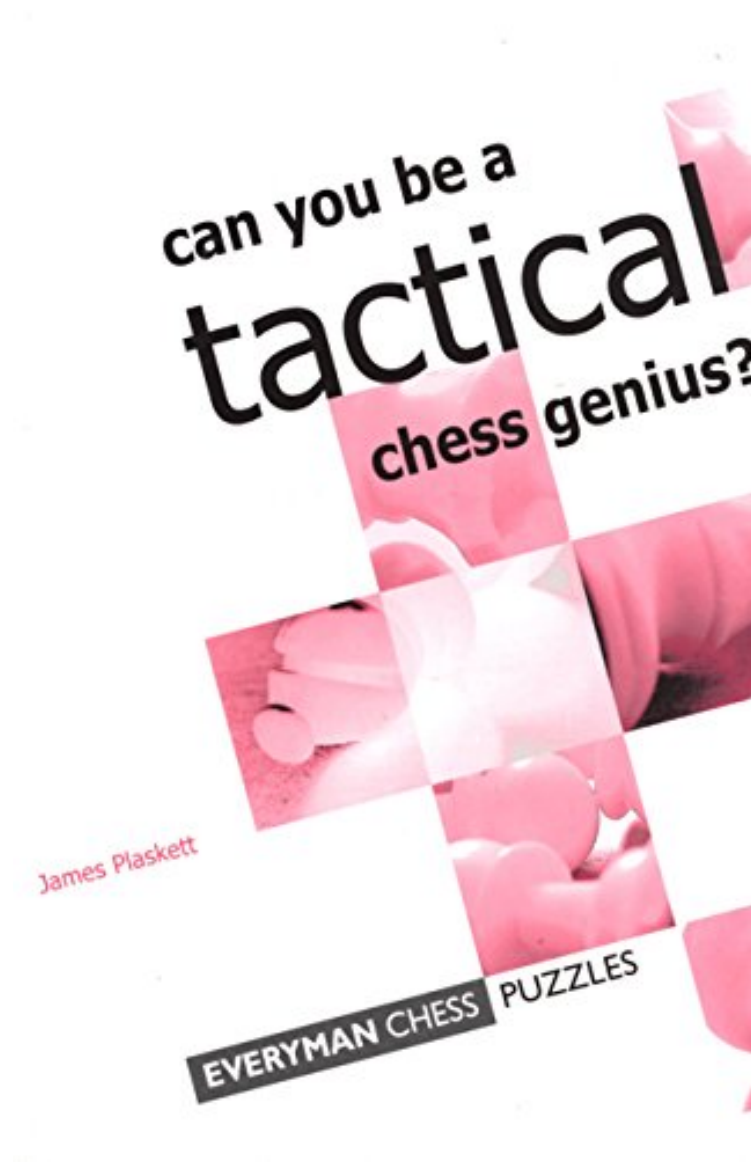


(Mobile library) Can You Be a Tactical Chess Genius?

Can You Be a Tactical Chess Genius?

James Plaskett

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James Plaskett : Can You Be a Tactical Chess Genius? before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Can You Be a Tactical Chess Genius?:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Puzzles, Yet Lacking in InstructionBy TWThe book is full of puzzles, some very good ones at that. Yet this is pretty much the entirety of the book. Each puzzle includes scoring that helps you to determine how you rate as a chess tactician. Each puzzles also contain a hint if necessary, the use of

which is factored into scoring. James Plaskett is an international Grandmaster thus it's safe to say he is qualified to assess how any of us rate. I can say firsthand that the value of doing puzzle after puzzle eventually shows up in your rating as you end up recognizing key patterns in games. But surely tactical improvement is not solely limited to puzzles and answers. What this book is missing is any insight offered that might help one be more inclined to answer these puzzles correctly. As one last bit of annoyance that doesn't speak to the material but definitely affects the experience with this book is its presentation. The puzzles are presented in groups, and then the clues and answers are spread about the back of the book. The result is a significant amount of back and forth among the pages to determine if you are on the right track, if you are correct, and what your scores are. Surely Plaskett could have had a little faith that the reader could resist cheating if the answers were put a little closer to the puzzles eliminating the need to relentlessly go back and forth in the book, something that quickly gets annoying. To reiterate, the value of the puzzles alone are high quality. When you can aptly handle puzzles of this quality (they flow from relatively easy to extremely difficult) you are likely at a level where you can start contending in open tournaments. But there are many books that offer great puzzles, many of which also offer more insight and analysis leaving me to conclude that this book is at best average among tactical chess books.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. More Assessment than Instruction
By E. M. Hodge "Can you be a Tactical Chess Genius" by British Grandmaster James Plaskett is an interesting selection of tactical puzzles arranged in a test format complete with a scoring system. In all, there are 12 tests of 15 puzzles each for a total of 180 puzzles. Each test is arranged from easy to difficult, with the more difficult puzzles being worth the most points. After the puzzles, there's a section called "Ask a Grandmaster", which will give the reader hints as to the solution of the puzzle at the cost of some points. Then there's solutions, and that's it. The book is almost absurdly thin. When I first got it, I couldn't help but think, "That's it?" There's a lot crammed into this concise work, though, and Plaskett doesn't waste time with flowery text or overly long descriptions of tactical theory. It's puzzle after puzzle after puzzle, then hints, then solutions. For this reason, I consider the book to be more of an assessment than an actual instruction. It is best used to determine where you stand in your understanding of tactics and where to go from there. I would have liked more content and description, but all in all it was an acceptable book to study.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nice text, for training... hard puzzle
By Norberto Martel Gutierrez how does the book work? This kind of book is just to keep in shape trying to resolve the problem. This helps for lines calculation.. If you want to improve skill, resolved chess puzzles About the puzzle there are all level, Every Text has 15 puzzle, increasing the difficulty. According to your analysis it gave points. There are nice diagrams and nice quality paper. About the author? Not famous, but is a strong player, in the book are few games against Miles and Short that he won with tactical hit. Beginner player try to find the moves, even if you scored not too many points, try to remember the moves according to the approach, not memorized. And you could enjoy this item. Intermediate player or higher... Just Go for it. Try to resolve puzzles how many you can and enjoy it.

Test your tactical chess skills with a quiz book with a difference! Grandmaster James Plaskett, a player of distinguished tactical ability, has carefully assembled an abundance of tactical chess puzzles to test players of all levels.

From the Back Cover Test your tactical chess skills with a quiz book with a difference! Grandmaster James Plaskett, a player of distinguished tactical ability, has carefully assembled an abundance of chess puzzles to test players of all levels. At the beginning of each chapter the puzzles are relatively easy, worth five points for a correct solution. However as you move on they become more and more difficult, soon becoming worth ten points and eventually 15. If you get stuck, do not despair as help is at hand! You can "ask a grandmaster" to obtain the guidance you need. However, use this option carefully, as it will cost you some of your hard-earned points. You can also obtain points for finding the basic idea of the solution without necessarily working out all the refinements. Either on your own or with friends, this book will provide hours of brain-teasing enjoyment. (6 1/4 x 9 1/4, 144 pages, diagrams)