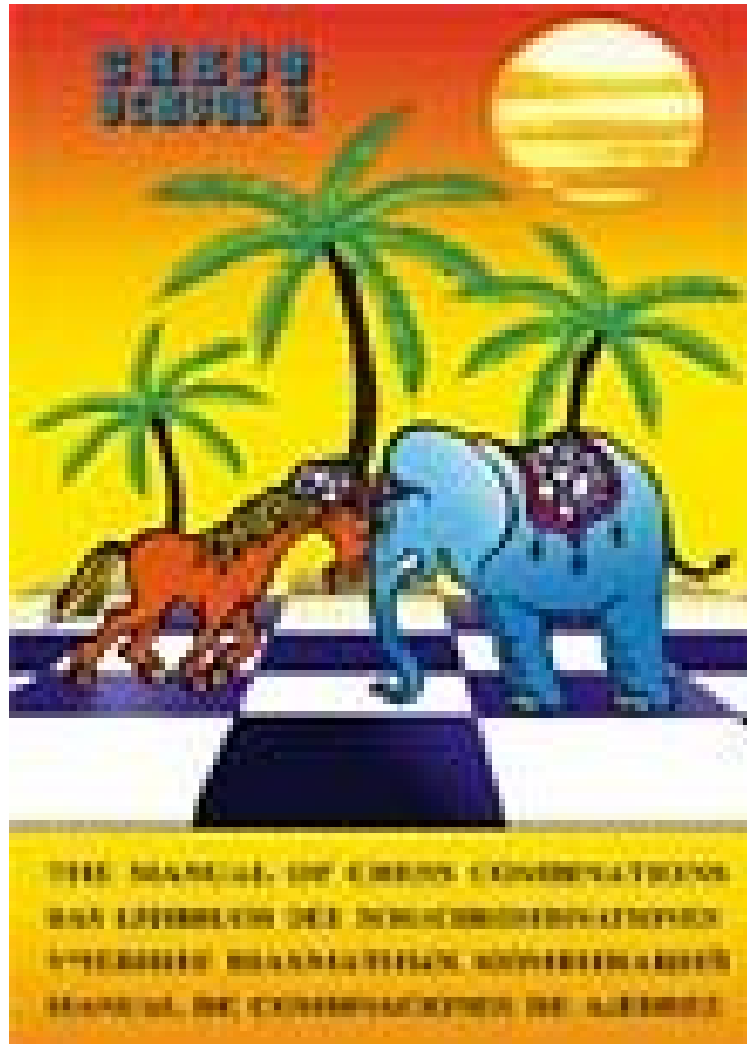


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The Manual of Chess Combinations

Sergey Ivashchenko

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Sergey Ivashchenko : The Manual of Chess Combinations before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Manual of Chess Combinations:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A great book for improving tactics. (by far the best I have seen).By brianA great book for improving tactics. (by far the best I have seen).I like the fact that that the different stages are graded by complexity. Actually by number of moves you need to see ahead. This means you can start at the level you are at and as you master a stage move on to the next one. Mastering any stage adds about 100 rating points (as claimed by the author). The books are good quality and the positions big and very clear.I recommend: 1. Buy chess school 1 b if your rating is 1400-1600. Buy school 2 if rating 1600 or above. School 1 a is very basic.2. Create an excel file and record the position number and Y/N depending on if you solved it. ALSO write a comment on any position you

couldnt solve and why. This allows you to see what you need to improve and to go back over unsolved problems. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The next steps By Musicus This book is a follow up to The Manual 1a, which I strongly recommend beginners to start out with. The level of difficulty in vol. 1b (as in 1a) is gradually increasing, but there are never more than three moves ahead to calculate. Some endgame positions are included. Often are more than one tactic included in one problem: discovered attack followed by fork, for instance. So the problems are too rich to be categorised by tactics involved. I went from ELO 1000 against the computer to ELO 1240, thanks to the study of these two books. Studying tactics is the main road to improvement for beginners; you need very little strategy and only general understanding of openings at this stage, as the games mostly are determined by blunders. After this book I recommend 1000 Checkmate Combinations by Victor Henkin. That one will do something different to your chess tactics. And of course, you should follow up your training with the The Vol. 2 of the Manual. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great combination puzzle book By Fangbing Wu What differentiates this series of puzzle book from others is the progressive level of difficulty and it's small size for kids. I bought my son the BIG black (double) brick size chess puzzle book by Polgar. It basically turned my son off big time and he lost interest in chess for a long time partially due to the intimidation. This "Chess School" books are nicely sized with appropriate level of difficulty that my son (when USCF rating around 1200+) felt both the challenge AND reward after solving the problems. After finishing the book in less than a month, his rating went up by 100+ in the next tournament.

Author's preface: You have already studied The Manual of Chess Combinations I and can solve simple exercises in which the goal can be reached after 1-3 correct moves. It is time now for the next step - to learn and solve more complicated problems, where deeper thought is required. Such combinations and manoeuvres can bring not only victory, but also aesthetic pleasure, and thanks to books and magazines they are stored forever in the treasury of chess. Our new book too includes combinations that have occurred in games by well-known players, including outstanding masters of the past and present. Here there are also many specifically composed positions, not instructional exercises, but artistic compositions called studies. In them, ideas are usually expressed in a cleaner and more memorable form than in practical games. As in our previous book, instructional material is arranged in sections of increasing complexity. The study of each section can be roughly estimated as adding 100 points to your rating. Thus our book should lead you up the rungs of chess mastery from a rating of 1600-1700 which signifies knowledge of the game rudiments, to a solid level of 2200 points or more, which in practice corresponds roughly to that of a candidate master. The book concludes the author's 25-year-long work on the creation of chess tactics manual. Of course with tactics alone you will not defeat all your opponents, but without tactics nothing can be done in chess. Tactics are perhaps the most beautiful and attractive side of chess, particularly at the beginning of your studies. I hope that the study of this book will strengthen your desire to learn chess systematically and bring you real pleasure.

Recommended for tactical training, primarily for players between 1700-2200 ELO. -- Seagaard Chess s, 8/4/2003