

**Thinkers' Chess Academy**  
**WITH GRANDMASTER**  

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**THOMAS LUTHER**

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Volume 2  
From Tactics to Strategy  
– Winning Knowledge!

by  
Thomas Luther



[www.thinkerspublishing.com](http://www.thinkerspublishing.com)

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*Thinkers' Chess Academy with Grandmaster Thomas Luther. Volume 2: From Tactics to Strategy — Winning Knowledge!*

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ISBN 978-94-9251-089-1  
D/2020/13730/28

All sales or enquiries should be directed to Thinkers Publishing, 9850 Landegem, Belgium.

e-mail: [info@thinkerspublishing.com](mailto:info@thinkerspublishing.com)  
website: [www.thinkerspublishing.com](http://www.thinkerspublishing.com)

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# KEY TO SYMBOLS

!	a good move
?	a weak move
!!	an excellent move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
□	only move
=	equality
∞	unclear position
∞	with compensation for the sacrificed material
±	White stands slightly better
∓	Black stands slightly better
±	White has a serious advantage
∓	Black has a serious advantage
+−	White has a decisive advantage
−+	Black has a decisive advantage
→	with an attack
↑	with initiative
↔	with counterplay
△	with the idea of
▷	better is
≤	worse is
N	novelty
+	check
#	mate



# DEAR READER!

This is the second book of the Thinkers' Chess Academy series. In the first book we started at a beginner's level with checkmates in 1, 2 or 3 moves and the most common tactical motifs. If you have already worked with the first book you will now be much more experienced and ready for some more difficult lessons.

We will start with 50 combinations to refresh our memory of the motifs from the first book. The chess friends who have not read the first book can treat it as a kind of self test. If you cannot solve many of the examples it may be better to go back and work through the first book again. It's not a good idea to leave basic knowledge out. It will certainly hinder your progress if you do so.

In this book we will not only show you more tactical motifs, but we will also give you an introduction to the basics of chess strategy. You'll learn the most important elements of strategy which will help you to find better plans and to understand positions better.

At the end of the book a chapter with 50 checkmates of 5+ moves will show you techniques of how to attack or hunt the opponent's king and also how to improve your calculation skills and your imagination at the chessboard.

Now enough of the prologue, let's go to work and learn lots about chess tactics and strategy!

Have a lot of fun while studying chess and enjoy your improvement!

Yours,  
Thomas Luther  
Grandmaster and FIDE senior trainer





# CHAPTER 1. 50 MIXED COMBINATIONS

FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD  
AND FROM PLAYERS OF ALL CATEGORIES

The tactical motifs here are often hidden behind a preparatory move or an exchange. But that should not deceive you. After working through Volume 1 you are now able to sniff out every common motif and put it into action!

The motif will appear within two to four moves, but its complete execution may need some more moves.

The positions below are taken from games played during the writing of this book.

You'll probably solve some combinations made by masters or even grandmasters, whereupon you can rightly be proud!

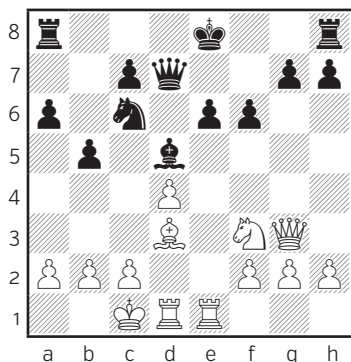
Don't be upset if you miss some solutions — it's perfectly normal.

1. ○

□ John M. Burke [2563]

■ S. Arun Prasad [2501]

Cherry Blossom Classic  
Dulles USA 2019

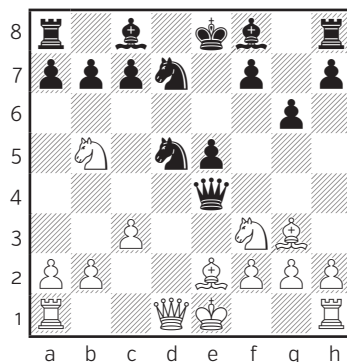


2. ○

□ T. Thiel [2271]

■ O. Hoyer [1821]

Bodensee Open  
Bregenz AUT 2019



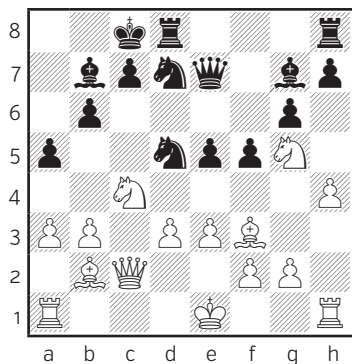
3. ○

□ J. Herrera Reyes [2366]

■ A. Rasmussen [2552]

8<sup>th</sup> Lluçmajor Open

Lluçmajor ESP 2019



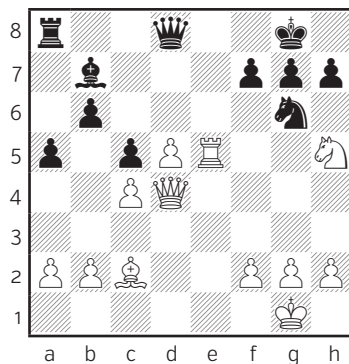
4. ○

□ A. Kosteniuk [2546]

■ A. Zatonskih [2424]

chess.com

Women's Speed Championship 2019



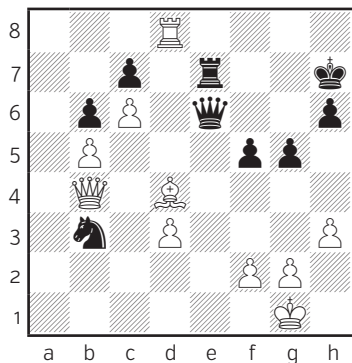
5. ○

□ I. Nepomniachtchi [2773]

■ A. Grischuk [2772]

Moscow FIDE Grand Prix

2019



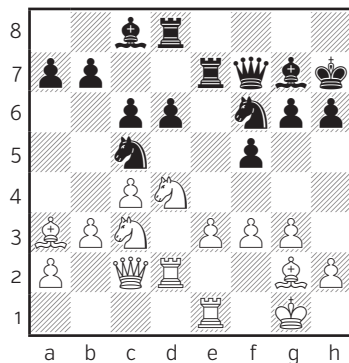
6. ○

□ A. Krstulovic [2368]

■ K. Geher [2113]

Laszlo Barczay Mem.

Zalakaros HUN 2019



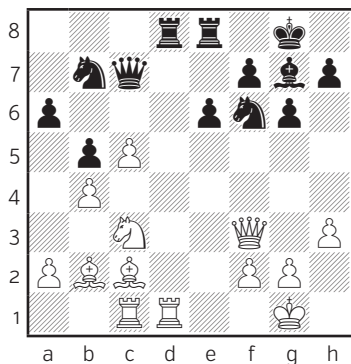
7. ○

□ C. Blanco [2342]

■ J. Torrado Macias [1878]

XXXI Dos Hermanas Rapid

Dos Hermanas ESP 2019



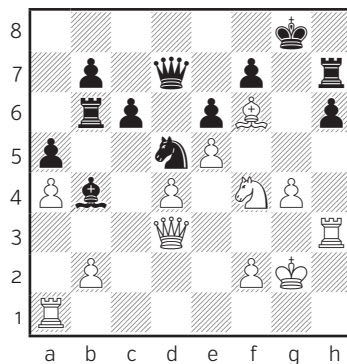
8. ○

□ M. Devereaux [2342]

■ M. Jacobsen [2319]

Fredericia IM

DEN 2019



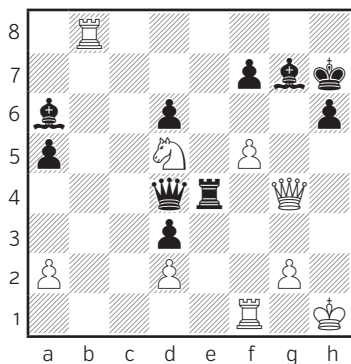
9. ○

□ B. Thorfinnsson [2451]

■ S. Bergsson [2124]

Icelandic Open

Akureyri ISL 2019



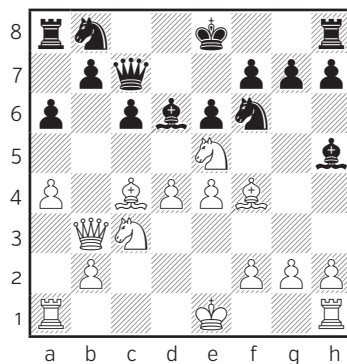
10. ○

□ M. Oganian [2415]

■ I. Martinovici [2367]

Sochi GM

RUS 2019



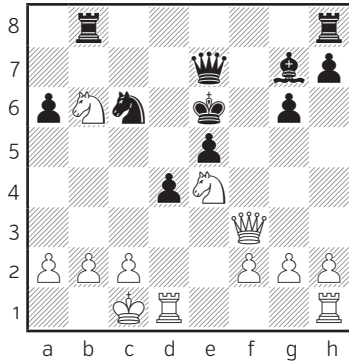
11. ○

□ Liu Guanchu [2425]

■ M. Swicarz [2331]

18<sup>th</sup> Marienbad GMA2

Marianske Lazne CZE 2019



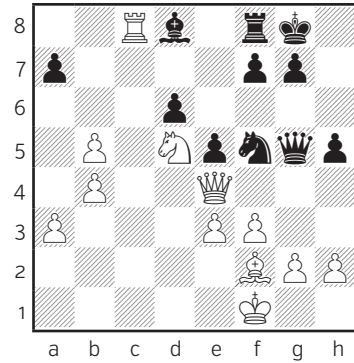
12. ○

□ A. Vaisser [2494]

■ M. Leconte [2246]

TCh-FRA Top 12

Brest FRA 2019



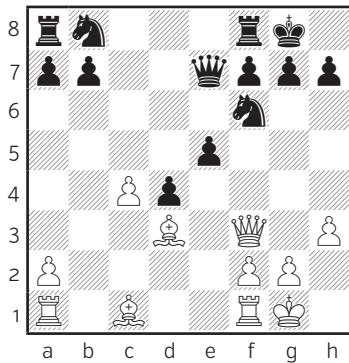
13. ○

□ G. Kjartansson [2454]

■ I. Sokolov [2593]

Icelandic Open

Akureyri ISL 2019



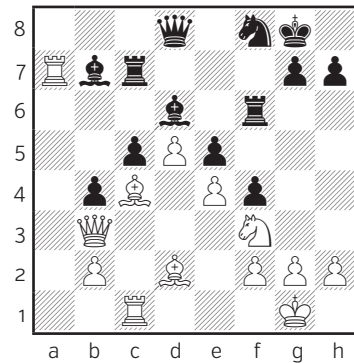
14. ○

□ Vasquez Schroeder [2476]

■ Karthik, Sai Ch [1963]

12<sup>th</sup> KIIT Cat A Open

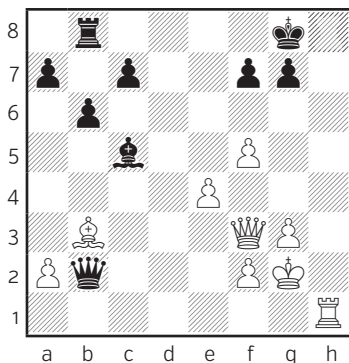
Bhubaneswar IND 2019



15. ○

□ B. Ogunshola [2184]

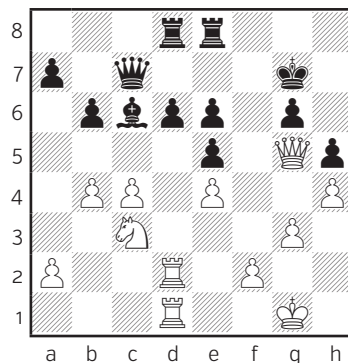
■ S. A. Jones [2128]

2<sup>nd</sup> 4NCL Spring Bank  
Basingstoke ENG 2019

16. ○

□ R. Ruck [2522]

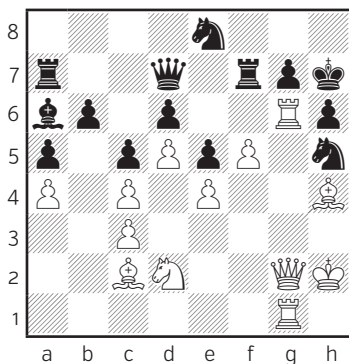
■ C. Daly [2278]

Irish International Open  
Dublin IRL 2019

17. ○

□ C. Hofmann [1951]

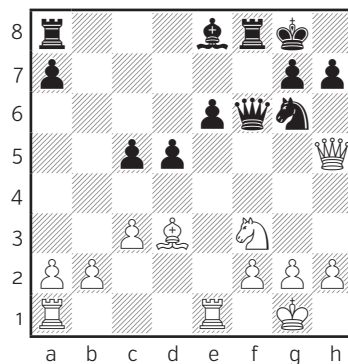
■ F. Pikatz [1707]

11<sup>th</sup> Rheinland-Pfalz Open  
Weilerbach GER 2019

18. ○

□ J. Santos Latasa [2587]

■ J. Arizmendi Martinez [2511]

8<sup>th</sup> Lluçmajor Open  
Lluçmajor ESP 2019

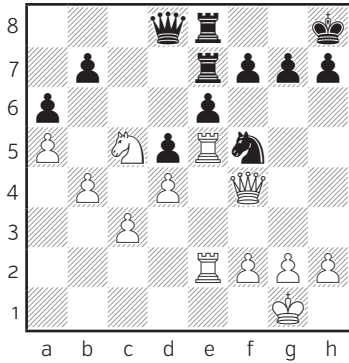
19. ○

□ M. Carlsen [2861]

■ Wei Yi [2736]

Cote d'Ivoire Blitz

Abidjan CIV 2019



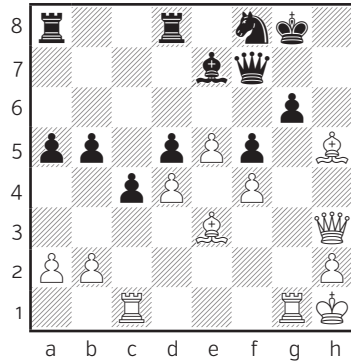
20. ○

□ D. Laylo [2433]

■ A. Bai [2074]

18<sup>th</sup> Asian Continental

Xingtai CHN 2019



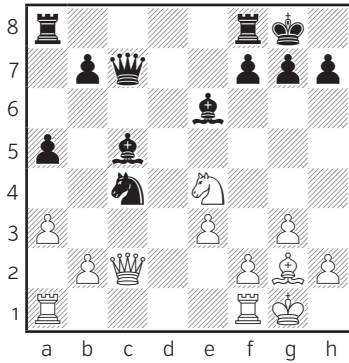
21. ○

□ I. Ke [2332]

■ R. Wu [2184]

Ch-USA Cadet

San Jose USA 2019



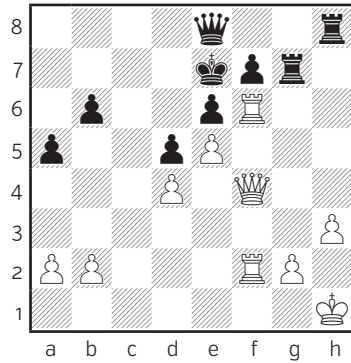
22. ○

□ S. Yudin [2507]

■ M. Mamatov [2223]

World Blitz

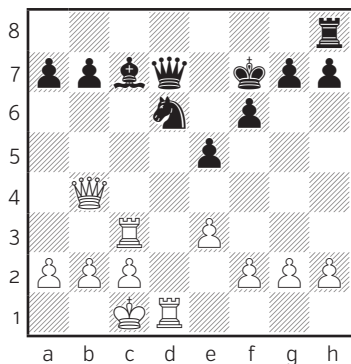
St Petersburg RUS 2018



23. ○

□ L. Brito [2298]

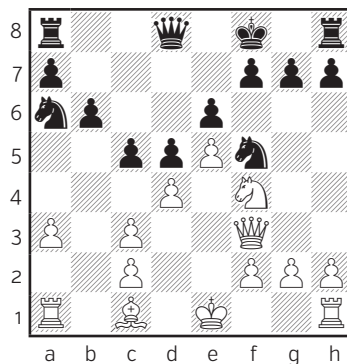
■ M. Baeta [1903]

14<sup>th</sup> American Continental  
Sao Paulo BRA 2019

24. ○

□ V. Murzin [2418]

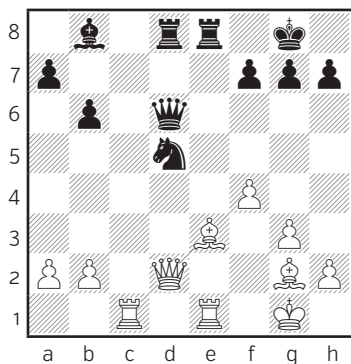
■ R. Yanchenko [2478]

72<sup>nd</sup> Ch-RUS  
Yaroslavl RUS 2019

25. ○

□ A. Neiksans [2566]

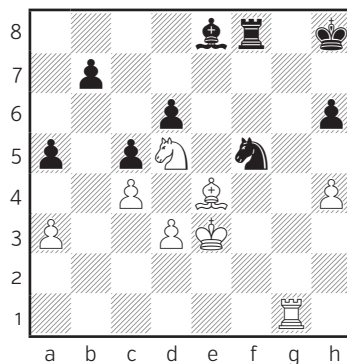
■ B. Jacobson [2486]

St Louis Summer C  
Saint Louis USA 2019

26. ○

□ J. Colas [2304]

■ A. Shabalov [2528]

28<sup>th</sup> Chicago Open  
USA 2019

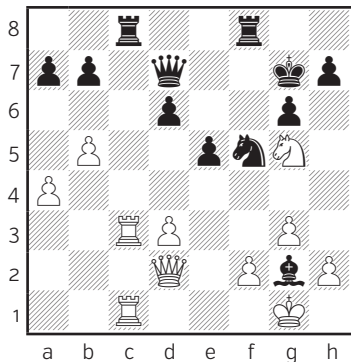
27. ○

□ A. Bivol [2391]

■ O. Matveeva [2189]

72<sup>nd</sup> Ch-RUS Women

Yaroslavl RUS 2019



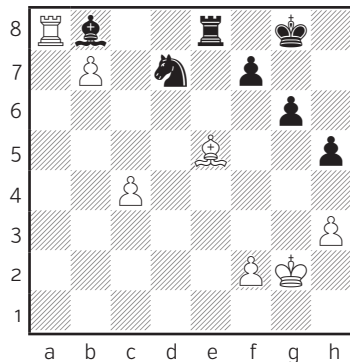
28. ○

□ D. Sharma [2295]

■ A. Gabrielian [2499]

World Rapid

St Petersburg RUS 2018



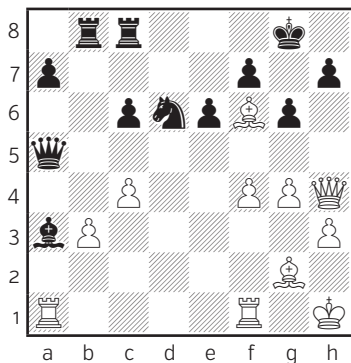
29. ○

□ F. Urkedal [2566]

■ K. Stokke [2336]

Ch-NOR

Larvik 2019



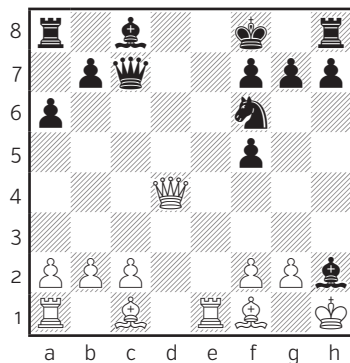
30. ○

□ G. Vazquez [2497]

■ L. Torres Rosas [2320]

28<sup>th</sup> Chicago Open

USA 2019





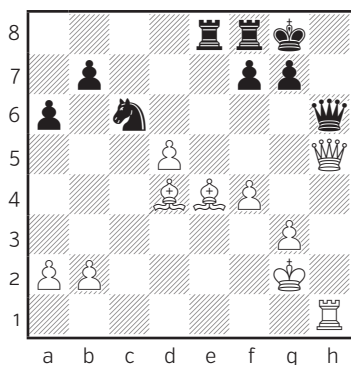
31. ○

□ L. van Foreest [2521]

■ J. Werle [2555]

Ch-NED

Amsterdam 2019



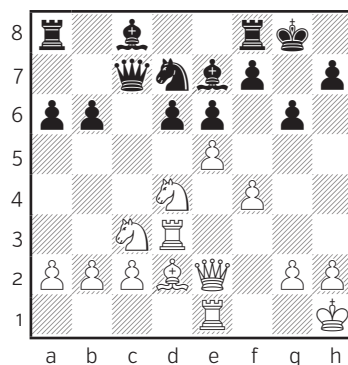
32. ○

□ O. Husbands [2289]

■ D. Kelley [2066]

47<sup>th</sup> Annual World Open

Philadelphia USA 2019



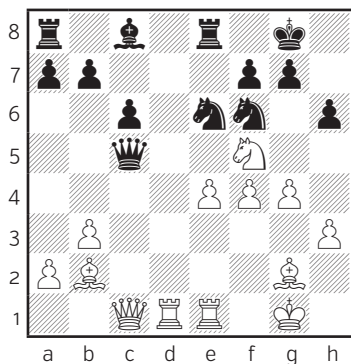
33. ○

□ P. Garcia Cardenas [2443]

■ D. Ikejiri [2004]

14<sup>th</sup> American Continental

Sao Paulo BRA 2019



34. ○

□ S. Shankland [2717]

■ D. Rensch [2402]

Mechanics Institute Rapid

San Francisco USA 2019

