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Progressive Tactics: 1002 Progressively Challenging Chess Tactics

PROGRESSIVE TACTICS

1002 PROGRESSIVELY
CHALLENGING CHESS TACTICS



DAVE COUTURE



Synopsis

The purpose of this book is simple – it is intended to raise your rating (or just greatly improve your game if you're not a rated player). Rather than go into a lengthy explanation of why practicing tactics is so critical to improvement, I'll just tell you about my own experience. I started playing tournament chess in the 1980s and spent about 20 years rated in the 1500-1650 range while I studied opening books, endgame books, and strategy books to no avail (you can see my rating graph here: http://main.uschess.org/datapage/ratings_graph.php?memid=12413721). Over the years I had read occasional comments about the importance of focusing on tactics above all else, but it never really sunk in. Sometime in 2007, I read a column by the outstanding instructor Dan Heisman about the importance of tactics, that was so well written and persuasive, that it finally sunk in that I needed to try focusing on tactics. Well, suffice it to say that it worked. I started working on tactics in the excellent book "Sharpen Your Tactics" by Anatoly Lein (almost) every day and my rating rose to a peak of 1845. Then sometime in 2009 I gradually got away from working on tactics for various reasons and my rating plummeted back to 1600. In 2012 I started studying tactics once more and peaked at 1858 at which point I started working on this book and stopped doing my daily tactics practice and my rating plummeted again. Since finishing the book, I've gotten back to daily tactics practice and my rating has again started climbing. So why THIS tactics book as opposed to others. First of all, it contains tactics from real amateur games – the kinds of tactics you're likely to see in your own games! Second, it has large board diagrams that you can touch to see the answer and explanation with an arrow showing the solution move already made which one reviewer called "a great help for beginners with a low visualization capability". There's no flipping back and forth like you have to do in other tactics books! I think you'll find this book to actually be fun! So buy this book, enjoy it, and watch your rating rise!

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Customer Reviews

What a terrific book! I think David. Couture did an excellent job of picking out instructive tactics from his games. These patterns are not "made up" stuff but positions that occur in games on a regular basis. I already won a blitz game online because of a tactic I learned here in this ebook. Highly recommended for all Class players who want to improve quickly.

As you can see in the free sample, the diagrams are clean and neat, easy to look at on a Kindle Fire HD. The solutions are in the following page, where you can see the final position, a green arrow showing the last move, a great help for beginners with a low visualization capability. Not only the basic usual tactics, but also some problem that is easy only if you know the pattern: #73, three ways to capture a Rook, only one wins the endgame K+B+P vs. K, you should know (and if you do not, you will learn) that a Rook-pawn and a Bishop not on the color of the queening square is a draw. #106, King and pawns endgame with basic opposition, #190, trapping a Knight with a Rook in diagonal opposition

I think this book is one of the best tactic training books there is on the market. I believe Dave is a great chess player that shows in both of his books. I also want mention that he uses great strategy in his games. As an author and a player. I believe he would make great coach/ trainer. He has good games and challenges all opponents with a chance to win, lose or draw charisma that all us chess players have in us that no matter the circumstances are up for the challenge. This is a great book and I appreciate Dave Couture and for the book. Another treasure for my collection. All the work that went into this book has an excellent finished product and I highly recommend getting this book. This book I give 5 stars and I give the author Dave Couture 5 stars. This is a must have tactics book that I believe should not only be put in your kindle but this is a must read book. This is a good book and you will learn and improve your chess games and improve your sense of knowing

the chessboard.

I really like this book with one caveat. It has the same flaw that all such books have. You know that there is a tactic in the position. This is different from a chess game. There you don't get forewarned that a tactic is lurking in the position. But as a book to use for warming up and learning chess tactics this book is excellent. It is on the same level as Tim Brennan's stuff and as such should help improve your chess. I think the idea of going over the puzzles several times is very applicable to this type of book.

This is one of the best chess ebooks I have bought. I love the nice big board images and that you touch the screen once for the answer and explanation - as opposed to many other chess ebooks where you have to skip to the last chapter to find the answer, which is very annoying and unwieldy, and in doing so you can't help seeing the answer to the next problem! Highly recommend this one.

I downloaded Progressive Tactics through KU, having known the author for over a decade. I'm not a chess player, so I fall outside the intended audience of the problems, but I will say that I believe even chess newbies or people who like logic puzzles will find the chess tactics problems entertaining. I loaded the 500 puzzles on my iPhone through Kindle's app and find during downtime it's entertaining to work out a few puzzles. The author gears his responses toward veteran chess players who want to improve their ranking, so sometimes a beginner can get lost, but honestly it doesn't happen that often. Anybody who likes logic puzzles (such as Theseus and the Minotaur) and who at least knows how the horse goes will find the puzzles in this book enjoyable.

This is a great book for learning tactics. In addition to a well-graded set of problems from real games, the format is well thought out with a single problem or solution to a page on a Kindle device. The diagrams are clear and the solutions are helpful. On the Kindle cloud app the problem-per-page layout is bit broken, but this is the fault of the cloud app. A lot of the time I find this book much more convenient than online tactics training (ChessTempo) or one of the large paperbacks such as Polgar's Chess Tactics for Champions.

I am at quiz # 300 and enjoying this ebook. Quite a good choice of games and excellent comments. Recommended for the intermediate player.

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