

Exeter Chess Club: An ABC of Chess

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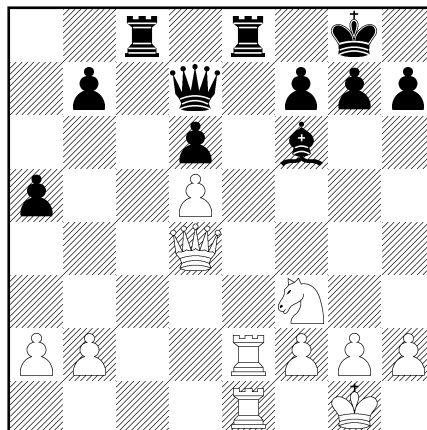
Here's a mental toolkit for the improving chess player.

I think that for each of these elements there are different levels of understanding e.g. *bad Bishop*

- 1) *I've heard of it!*
- 2) *I know what it is and could explain it to a junior.*
- 3) **I understand enough to make use of the idea in a game.**
- 4) *I never fail to notice the feature in a game, and rarely (if ever) make a bad choice of plan based on it.*

I suspect we're all OK at (1) but aren't all at (4) yet. (3) is a fair goal.

Please see also: **Opening guidelines, Middle game guidelines, and Endgame guidelines.**

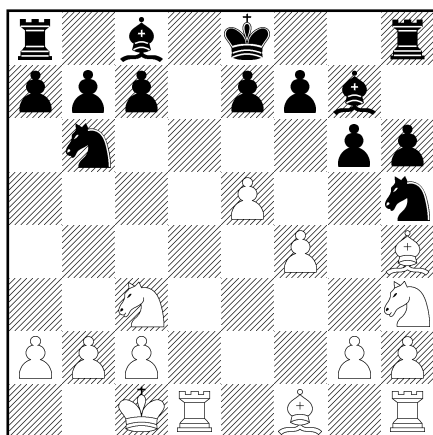


(Adams-Torre): 18. ♖g4 ♜b5 19. ♖c4 ♜d7 20. ♖c7 ♜b5 21. a4 ♜x a4 22. ♜e4 ♜b5 23. ♖x b7 1-0 A striking display which has the appearance of a study.

1 KLM of chess tactics

1.1 K - knight forks

"He jumps so terribly" - Dick van Geet's tiny son



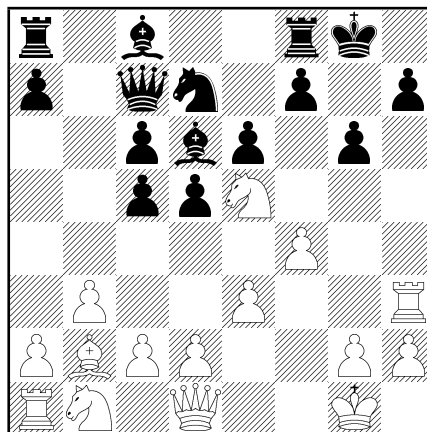
(Fuller - Sakurai, Haifa [B07], 1976) 1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 g6 4.♙g5 ♘bd7 5.f4 h6 6.♙h4 ♙g7 7.e5 ♘h5 8.♘h3 dxe5 9.dxe5 ♘b6 10.♖xd8+ ♚xd8 11.0-0+ Ke8 DIAGRAM 12.♘b5 1-0 The last rank is also vulnerable, making the fork unstoppable.

1.2 L - last rank

"Feet of clay..."

1.3 M - mating pattern

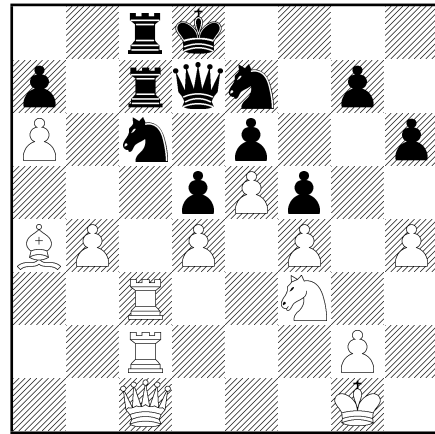
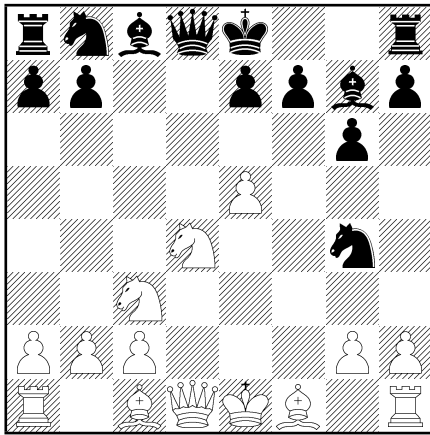
"The game is won by the player who has checkmated his opponent's king." - FIDE rules



(Plachetka - Zinn, Decin [A04] 1974) 1.♘f3 c5 2.b3 ♘f6 3.♙b2 ♘c6 4.e3 d5 5.♙b5 e6 6.♘e5 ♖c7 7.0-0 Bd6 8.♙xc6+ bxc6 9.f4 0-0 10.♙f3 ♘d7 11.♙h3 g6 DIAGRAM 12.♖h5 1-0

1.4 N - network nobbled (Nterference)

"Parting is such sweet sorrow" - Shakespeare



(Crotto - Hindle, Haifa [B71] 1976) 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 c×d4 4.♘×d4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.f4 ♙g7 7.e5 d×e5 8.f×e5 ♘g4 DIAGRAM 9.♙b5+ ♙d7? 10.♚×g4 ... 1-0

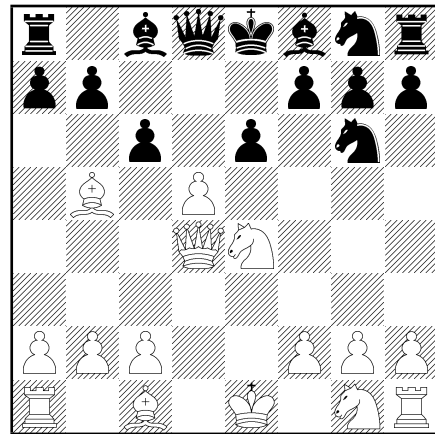
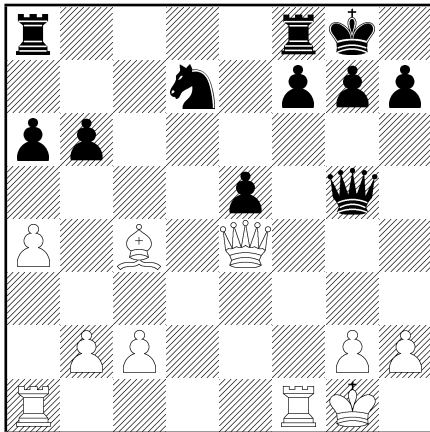
(Alekhine - Nimzovitch, San Remo [C17] 1930) 30. ..., ♚e8 31.b5 1-0

1.5 O - overloading

1.7 Q - queening

"Every Pawn is a potential Queen" - Mason

"The straw that broke the camel's back" - Proverbial



17.♚×f7 ♙h8 18.♚×d7 1-0

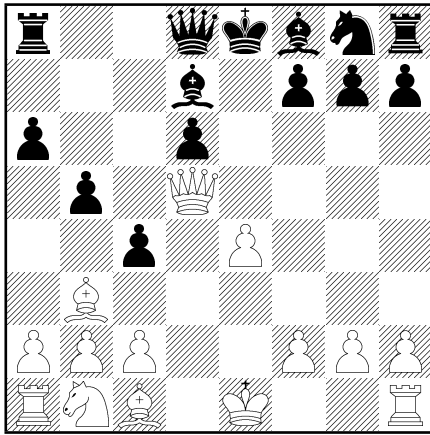
1.e4 ♘c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 d×e4 4.d5 ♘e5 5.♚d4 ♘g6 6.♘×e4 e6? 7.♙b5+ c6 DIAGRAM 8.d×c6 ♚×d4 9.c×b7+ ♙d8 10.b×a8Q 1-0

1.6 P - pins

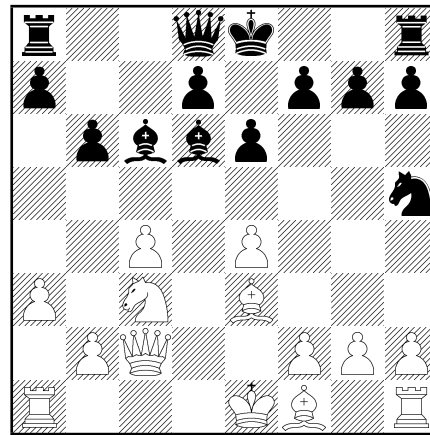
1.8 R - retreat

"The pin is mightier than the sword" - Reinfeld

"What is immobile must suffer violence" - Lasker



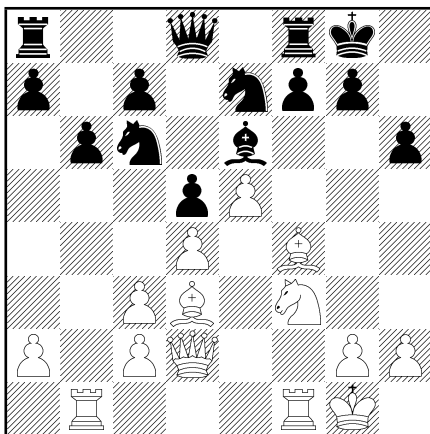
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 d6 5.d4 b5 6.♙b3 e×d4 7.♗×d4 ♗×d4 8.♚×d4? c5 9.♚d5 ♙e6 10.♚c6+ ♙d7 11.♚d5 c4 0-1 The Noah's Ark trap.



(Christiansen - Karpov,1993 [E12]) 1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 b6 4.a3 ♙a6 5.♚c2 ♙b7 6.♗c3 c5 7.e4 c×d4 8.♗×d4 ♗c6 9.♗×c6 ♙×c6 10.♙f4 ♗h5 11.♙e3 ♙d6 DIAGRAM 12.♚d1 1-0

1.9 S - sacrifice at castle gates

"Examine moves that smite!" - Purdy

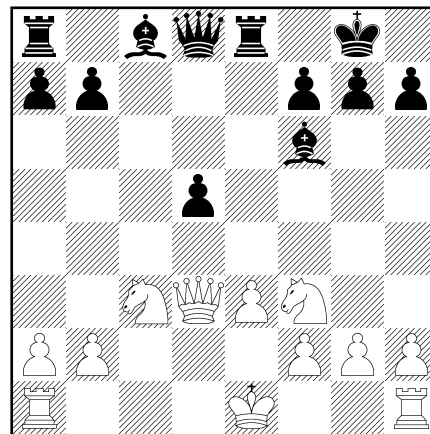


(Blackburne - Blanchard (London) [C30], 1891)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 ♙c5 3.♗c3 ♗c6 4.♗f3 e×f4 ? 5.d4 ♙b4 6.♙×f4 d5 7.e5 ♙×c3+ 8.b×c3 ♙e6 9.♙d3 h6 10.0-0 Nge7 11.♚b1 b6 12.♚d2 0-0 DIAGRAM 13.♙×h6! g×h6 14.♚×h6 ♗g6 15.♗g5 ♚e8 16.♚×f7 ♙×f7 17.♚h7+ ♙f8 18.♚×f7# 1-0

1.11 U - undermining (removing the guard)

"For the want of a horse a rider was lost..." - Franklin.



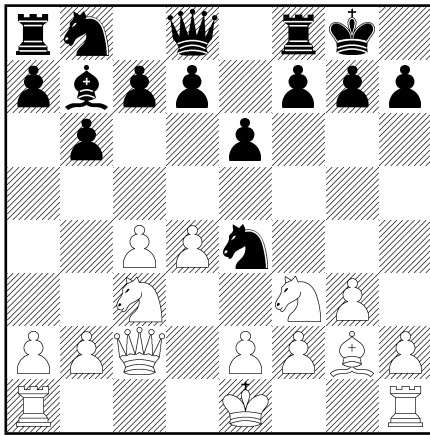
(Legueltel - Studev,Kuortane [D60] 1976) 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♗f6 4.♙g5 ♙e7 5.e3 ♗bd7 6.♗f3 0-0 7.c×d5 e×d5 8.♙d3 ♚e8 9.♚c2 c5 10.d×c5 ♗×c5 11.♙×f6 ♗×d3+ 12.♚×d3 ♙×f6 DIAGRAM 13.♚×d5?? 13. ..., ♙×c3+ 0-1

1.10 T - two for the price of one

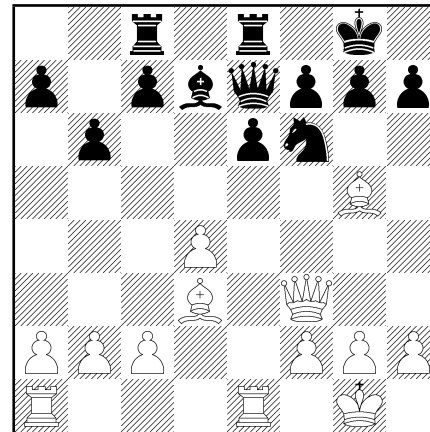
"All combinations are based on a double attack" - Fine

1.12 U2 - unmasking (discovery)

"Behind you!"



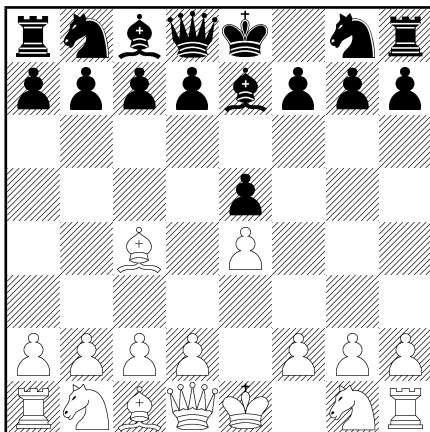
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 b6 4.g3 ♕b7 5.♖g2 ♕b4+ 6.♖d2 ♕×d2+ 7.♞×d2 0-0 8.♗c3 ♘e4 9.♞c2! DIAGRAM 9. ..., ♗×c3 10.♗g5! ♘e4 11.♖×e4 ♖×e4 12.♞×e4 ♞×g5 13.♞×a8 1-0



(Tarrasch - Mieses (3) [C10] (Berlin m.), 1916) 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 d×e4 4.♗×e4 ♘d7 5.♗f3 ♗gf6 6.♖d3 ♖e7 7.0-0 Nxe4 8.♖×e4 ♗f6 9.♖d3 b6 10.♗e5 0-0 11.♗c6 ♞d6 12.♞f3 ♖d7 13.♗×e7+ ♞×e7 14.♖g5 ♜ac8 15.♜fe1 ♜fe8 DIAGRAM 16.♞h3 ♞d6 17.♖×f6 g×f6 18.♞h6 f5? 19.♜e3 ♞×d4 20.c3 1-0

1.13 V - vulnerable f7

"The Achilles' Heel of a chess position..."



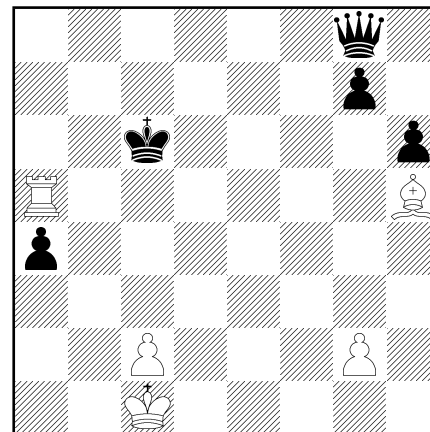
(Paul Roberts - NN [C23] East Devon, 1996) 1.e4 e5 2.♖c4 ♖e7 3.♞h5 ... 1-0

1.14 W - weakening King's-side

"Castles built of sand..."

1.15 X - X-ray (skewer)

"Stap me vitals..."



Skewer frenzy in a Rinck study: 1.♜a8! ♞a2! 2. ♜×a4! ♞g8! 3. ♜a8 ♞h7 4. ♖g6! 1-0

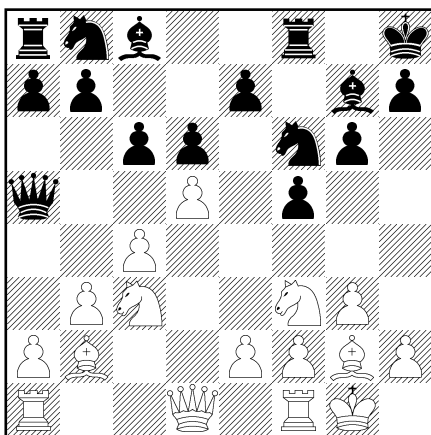
1.16 Y - your move! (defensive play)

"A man does not die of threats" - Proverb

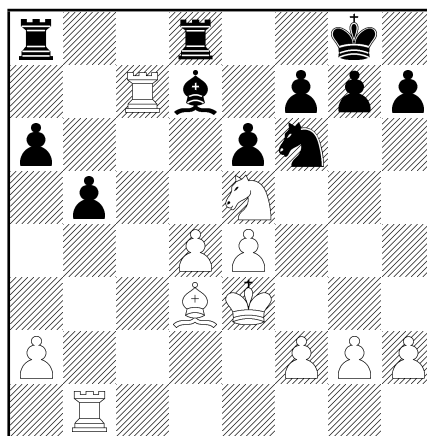
2 ABC of chess strategy

2.1 A - activity

"The most important feature of the position" - Stean



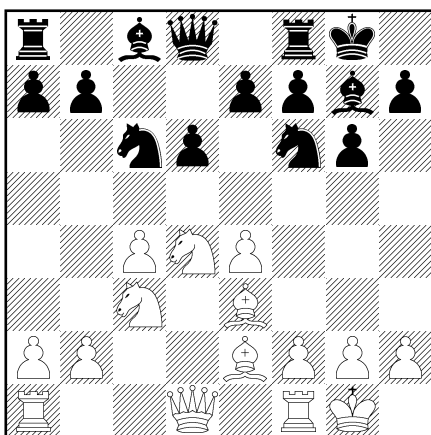
(Robatsch - Jansa, Sochi [A10] 1974) 1.c4 f5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.g3 g6 4.b3 ♗g7 5.♗b2 0-0 6.♗g2 d6 7.d4 c6 8.0-0 Kh8 [8. ... , ♚c7] 9.d5 ♚a5 10.♘c3 DIAGRAM 10. ... , ♘×d5? 11.c×d5 ♗×c3 12.♚d2 ♚×d5 13.♚×c3+ e5 14.♘×e5 1-0



(Rubinstein-Schlechter, San Sebastian 1912): White's active pieces give him the advantage.

1.17 Z - Zwischenzug

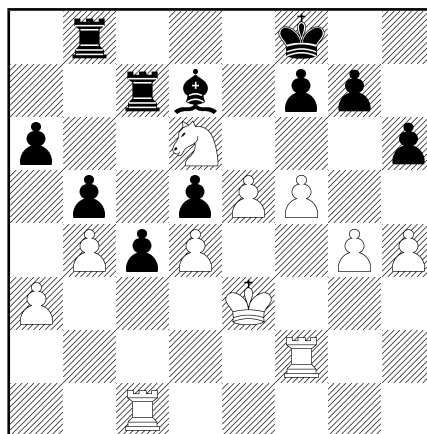
"When you see a good move, stop - there may be a better one" - Lasker



(Spasov - Kritiansen, Kringsja [E91], 1976) 1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.♗e2 c5 7.0-0 cxd4 8.♘×d4 ♘c6 9.♗e3 DIAGRAM 9. ... , ♘g4 10.♗×g4 ♗×g4 (10.♚×g4 ♘×d4) 11.♘×c6 ♚d7 12.♘×e7+ ♗h8 13.f3 1-0

2.2 B - better pieces - bad bishop, offside piece, coordination

"Quality, not quantity"

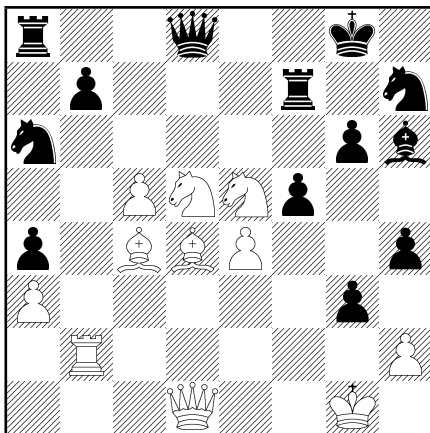


Tarrasch - Noa [c11] Hamburg, 1885

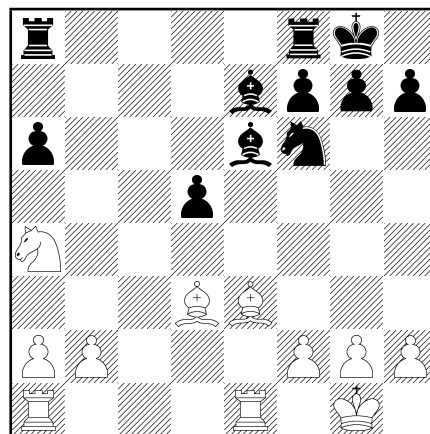
White's great Knight and Black's dismal Bishop are the key to this position. 38.g5 h5 39.♚cf1 ♗g8 40.g6 f6 41.♚e2 ♗c6 42.♚fe1 ♚d8 43.♗f4 f×e5+ 44.♚×e5 ♗f8 45.♘f7 ♚e8 46.♘g5 ♚ce7 47.♘h7+ 1-0

2.3 C - centre and space

"I'm the King of the castle..."



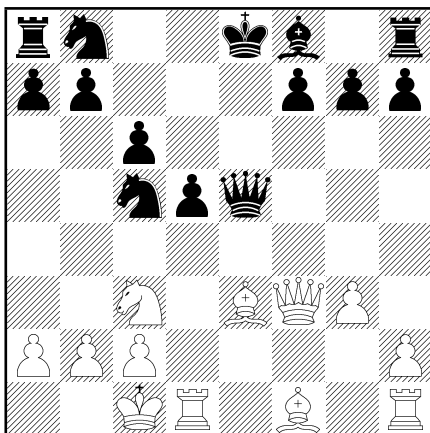
(Georgadze-Kupreichik, 1979) An extraordinary piece of centralisation: despite the exchange less, and the King's-side attack, White soon won.



(Fischer-Petrosian, seventh match game 1971) 16. ♖c5! Not an easy one to spot, but once seen, easy to appreciate: White removes the defender of the dark squares, leaving Black with a crummy light-squared Bishop.

2.4 D - development

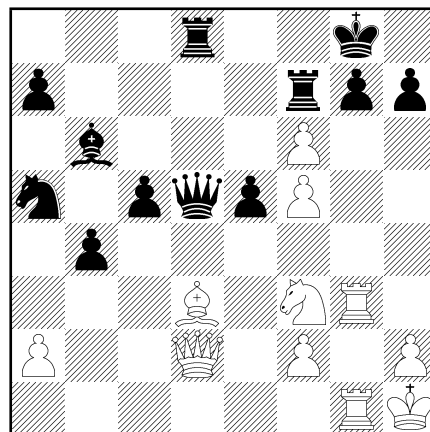
"The early bird catches the King!"



(Spielmann - Flamberg, Mannheim [C29], 1914) 1.e4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.f4 d5 4.f×e5 ♘×e4 5.♘f3 ♙g4 6.♚e2 6. ... , ♘c5 ? [6. ... , ♘×c3] 7.d4 ♙×f3 8.♚×f3 ♚h4+ 9.g3 ♚×d4 10.♙e3 ♚×e5 11.0-0-0 c6 DIAGRAM Black is fighting with only half the army. *Sortez les pieces!* 12. ♘×d5 c×d5 13. ♚×d5 ♚e6 14. ♙c4 ♚e4 15. ♙×c5 1-0

2.6 F - files, ranks, diagonals (lines)

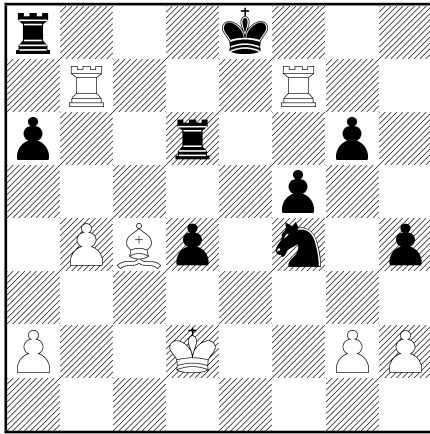
"Let a Lord once own the happy lines, How the wit brightens!" - Pope



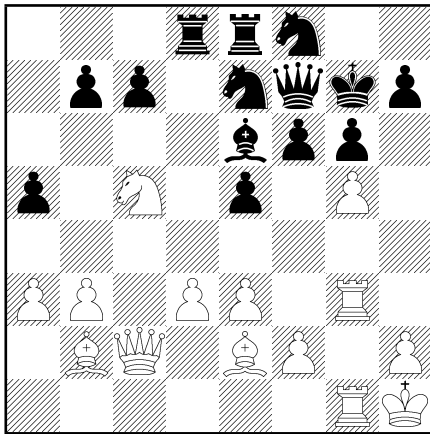
2.5 E - exchanges

"Fair exchange is no robbery"

(Anderssen-Zukertort, Barmen 1869): the file



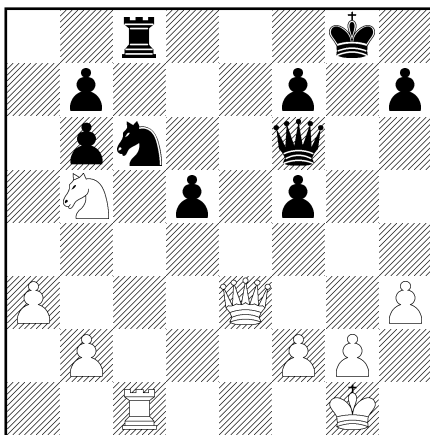
(Fischer-Petrosian, seventh match game, 1971): the rank



(Fischer-Anderssen, Siegen 1970): the diagonal

2.7 G - good and bad pawns

"Pawns are the soul of chess" - Philidor

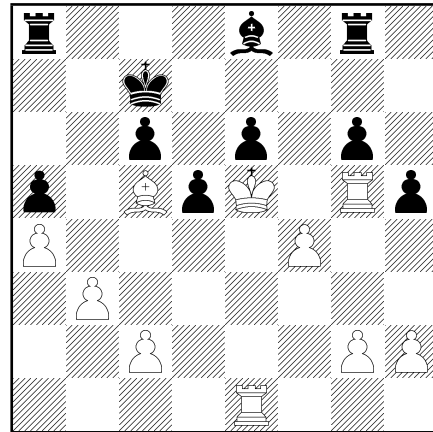


(Deep Blue-Kasparov, m1 1996): just hideous:

every Black Pawn is isolated and most doubled! Black tried a King's-side hack but it was desperation and he knew it.

2.8 H - holes and weak complexes

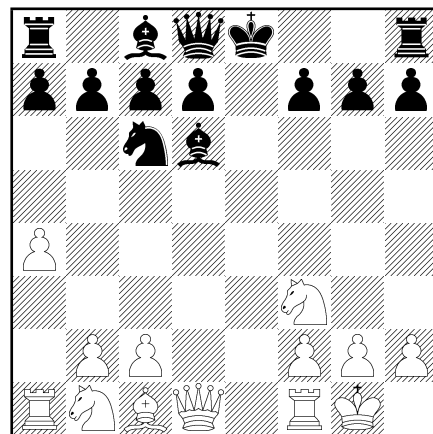
"Perils of both wind and limb" - Butler



(Bernstein-Mieses, 1921) - That is, perils of both the dark-square holes and the backward Pawns on White squares.

2.9 I - initiative, tempo

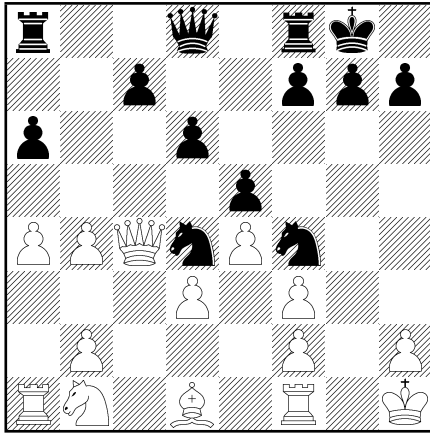
"Thou shalt not shilly-shally!" - Nimzo



(Alekhine-Poindle (simul.), 1936) 9.♘g5! White plays the one move that stops Black getting on with normal development.

2.10 J - jumping-off points (outposts)

"Give me a place to stand, and I will move the Earth" - Archimedes



(Pegaroro-Scheipel) The Knights are worth a Rook each, I reckon!

This is a list long enough to get you started comfortably. There are a few other ideas, like “coordination”, which you may come to later, and through Nimzovitch we learn about themes like “overprotection” and “prophylaxis”.