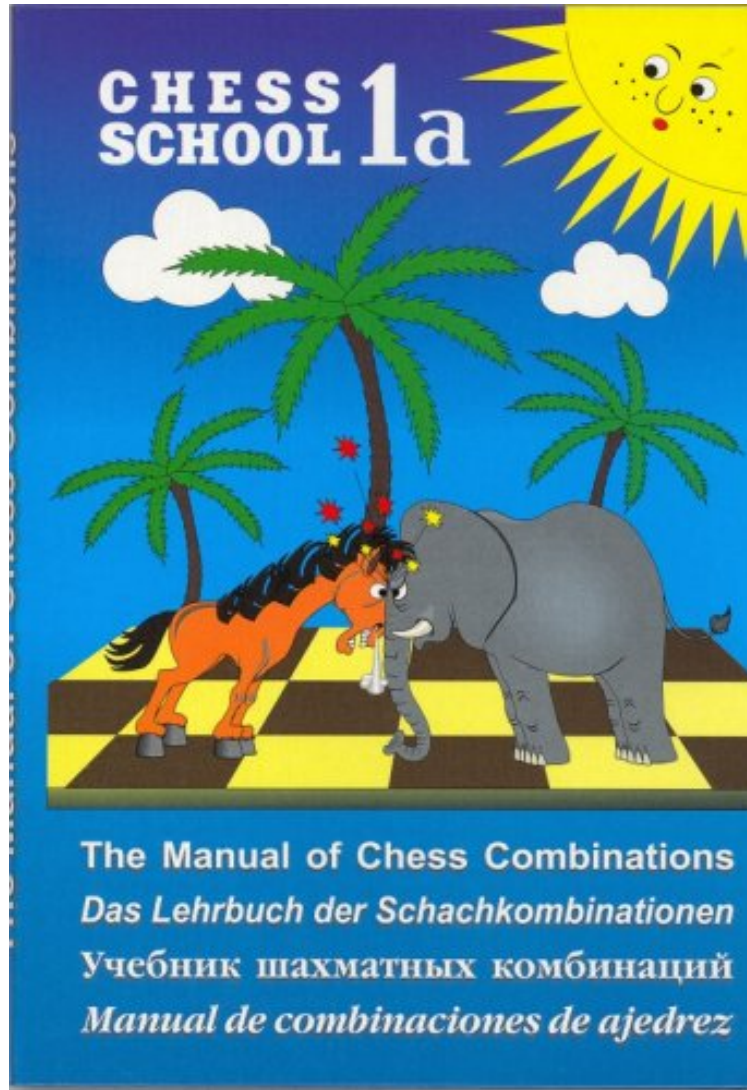


Manual of Chess Combinations, Vol. 1a

Sergey Ivashchenko

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Sergey Ivashchenko : Manual of Chess Combinations, Vol. 1a before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Manual of Chess Combinations, Vol. 1a:

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 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 stepsBy MusicusThis 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 bookBy Fangbing WuWhat 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.

The book is a new edition of a bestseller by an experienced coach Sergey Ivashchenko. Over 250,000 copies of his books were sold in the Soviet Union in the late 1980's. This book is intended for beginners, both children and adults. The themes are: Mate in one, Mate in two, Win a queen, Win a rook, Win a piece, etc. The book designed for chess players with ELO 900-1200 points. Includes more than 700 tactical problems classified according to themes and difficulty. Languages: English, German, Russian and Spanish.

All in all, a very worthwhile addition to an otherwise crowded field of books on tactics for beginners. -- Eugene Manchester, Chess Cafe, February 2006