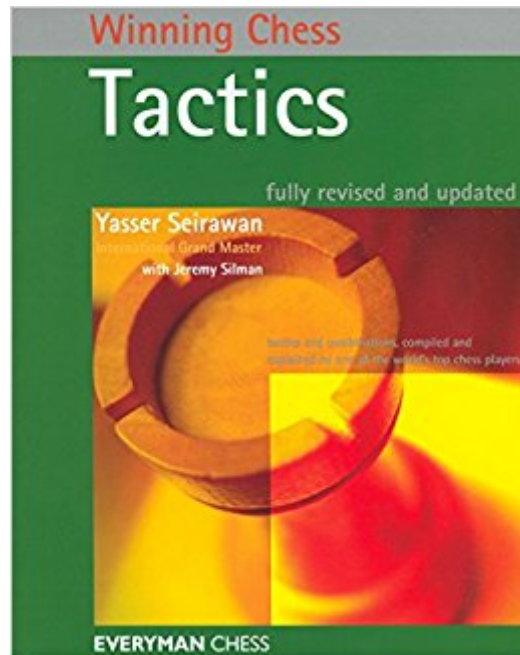




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# Winning Chess Tactics (Winning Chess - Everyman Chess)



## Synopsis

Readers will learn sure-fire tactics and combinations from one of the world's top chess players. Attack? Defend? Swap pieces? Tactics are the watchdogs of strategy that take advantage of short-term opportunities to trap or ambush opponents and quite possibly change the course of a game in a single move. Why should players only hope that opponents will blunder when International Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan can show them how to put the tactics of the world's chess legends to work. Choose from the double attack, the pin, the skewer, deflection, the d'Alcor, x-rays, windmills, and many more time-tested tactics. Using classic board situations arranged in chapters by tactical themes, Seirawan teaches readers how to:

- > Plan the entire game from the very first move
- > Think ahead, step-by-step, anticipating every obstacle opponents can throw their way
- > Position themselves for the smashing combination and endgame they have always dreamed of

Board positions from actual games played by history's great chess tacticians are provided throughout. Review tests for each topic let them track their improvement. In no time they will be playing better, with more confidence than they ever thought possible.

## Book Information

Series: Winning Chess - Everyman Chess

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Everyman Chess; Other edition (May 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1857443861

ISBN-13: 978-1857443868

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 7.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 115 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #307,305 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #211 in Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Board Games #223 in Books > Humor & Entertainment >

Puzzles & Games > Chess

## Customer Reviews

This is the second in Seirawan's four volumes, taking the reader from the very basics of chess through appreciation of advanced play. He does a remarkable job of discussing tactics that usually appear only in books for advanced players and communicating them to anyone with a grasp of playing fundamentals. The first part of the book deals with basic tactics and how they can be used

individually and in combination. In the second part, Seirawan introduces some of the great chess tacticians and their games, further illustrating tactics as they work out in real-life play. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"An excellent book to improve your tactical play."--Chesscorner.com"Seirawan does a remarkable job of discussing tactics that usually appear only in books for advanced players and communicating them to anyone with a grasp of playing fundamentals."--Alude.com"This book is the most thorough treatment of tactics that I have ever seen."--Evan Kreider, ChessPraxis

This is definitely the next book to purchase in this series. After spending some time applying the principles from Seirawan's first book, look here next. His grandiose style can be a little overbearing for some but I find that it adds levity to an otherwise difficult subject. Things have not quite "come together" for me past the opening yet but I do notice that I get further along with better positions against my friends than I used to, and I am now able to predict their responses up to two moves in advance (they are 1500ish players and I am a novice). I agree with his philosophy that for beginners, boldly attacking is the best plan of action at first, and this book shows you why. If a bold attack fails against an advanced opponent, you get to see WHY and how you could have made a better move. The tactical principles outlined herein are helping me to anticipate better moves for a short term advantage, or to (hopefully less often, with time!) immediately see how a move that I just made, though good, may have been better if it were displaced by one square, taken in a different sequence, etc. Wholly recommended!

Seirawan's Winning Chess Tactics, part of the Winning Chess series, is essential for anyone who has never had a great introduction to basic tactics. I highly recommend the book to any average club player or relative beginner. Tactics are first defined and specifically what characteristics of the position to look for when determining whether a tactic exists should be carefully noted. Tactics in the book are broken down into sections based on a defining feature, such as double attack, pin, skewer, deflection, and there are plenty of tests along the way with solutions in the back of the book. In total there are over a hundred tests with clearly explained solutions in addition to all the explanation and examples throughout the book. At the end are 45 final tests in ascending difficulty, which should prove challenging for anyone reading the book, and will be of great benefit to anyone who follows the author's advice of sitting down with paper and pen and writing down your solution to the tactic and any relevant variants. In terms of accuracy, the book's analysis is extremely good, but not

perfect. Only on some of the more difficult tests at the end of the book did I find any discrepancy between the published analysis and computer analysis, which in fact was relevant to my solutions of the tests. Possible spoiler alerts: On test 102, there is an equally good solution that isn't mentioned (which was my solution, and in my opinion is more obvious). On test 115, Black has a clearly winning position, but the analysis claims it is a solid mate in 4, where in fact the position is clearly winning but complicated, with Houdini claiming only a mate in 9. The problem is that the opponent's best response on his first move is overlooked. The solution I saw as winning reverses the order of the first two key moves in the published analysis, and Houdini agrees that it is a win with a mate in 10, so I gave myself full credit for that response as well. On test 123, the published analysis says mate in 3, when in fact the key first move allows a mate in 4. The main problem is though, is that the published second move ignores the best response, which if played would not allow for any mate in the immediate future (though a clearly winning position). My own solution to the problem has a completely different first key move, and is a confirmed mate in 6. On test 126, my own solution to the problem included a FAR superior second move (confirmed by Houdini, though both positions are winning). It is at first frustrating but then rewarding to think that you got the problem incorrect and then realize a great success! The main reason this is the case is that again the best response to the second move in sequence is overlooked (and subsequently the best response to the third move in sequence as well). These discrepancies may at first seem significant, but they are not. I only mentioned them to put them on record for the curious. They are only minor inconsistencies that don't affect the nature of the positions in the tests, and definitely don't affect the utility of the book as a whole! This book still gets 5 stars from me.

The second installment of International Grand Master Yasser Seirawan and International Master Jeremy Silman's three part series for chess amateurs, "Winning Chess Tactics" was the easiest of the three to read. Having read "Play Winning Chess" and having a pretty solid grasp of chess fundamentals already, the learning curve for "Winning Chess Tactics" wasn't nearly as steep. All the old favorites are here: Forks, skewers, pins and discovered attacks; along with some more advanced tactics that amateurs don't usually see, like Zwischenzug. Each of them is presented, explained, dissected and incorporated into play in their own chapter with tests and puzzles liberally peppered throughout. After all the tactics are out of the way, Seirawan and Silman present selected games from some of the greatest chess tacticians of the last 150 years. Each game is presented with annotations and commentary from Seirawan and Silman to help the reader understand the tactical mind of chess masters and grand masters. The games are very illustrative of the sort of

tactical ideas the top chess players use. Lastly the book finishes off with more tests and puzzles that can be used to increase the reader's understanding of the concepts detailed previously. While I thoroughly enjoyed "Winning Chess Tactics", and it was probably my favorite of the series, I was a little unhappy with the layout and writing style. I'm convinced that Seirawan is writing for children, and that can be a little off putting. Having read some of Silman's other work, I don't think that his writing style is represented in "Winning Chess Tactics" nearly as much as in the other two books in the series. Putting the solutions to the puzzles of part 1 in part 3 also threw me off a little, because part 3 has its own series of puzzles also. I had to go back and forth between three different sections to find the solutions and see if I was right. It didn't detract from the overall book that much, it just made enjoying the book a little more difficult. Overall, though, I think "Winning Chess Tactics" is an excellent addition to the serious chess amateur and enthusiast. Players from 1000 Elo to about 1400 Elo will probably get the most out of this book. Too far below that and you probably won't understand the concepts being presented. Too far above that and you probably won't need the information this book has.

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