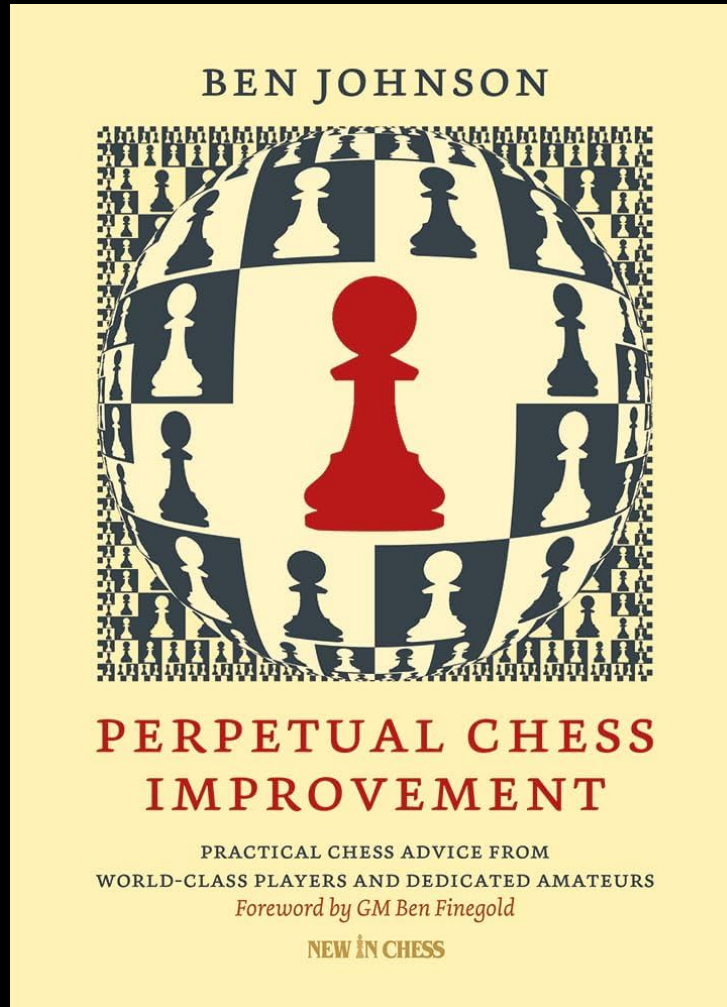


TheOnoZone recommends:

Wordy Chess Books for Adult Improvers

(you can read the accompanying blog post [here](#))

Category 1: General Chess Improvement Tips

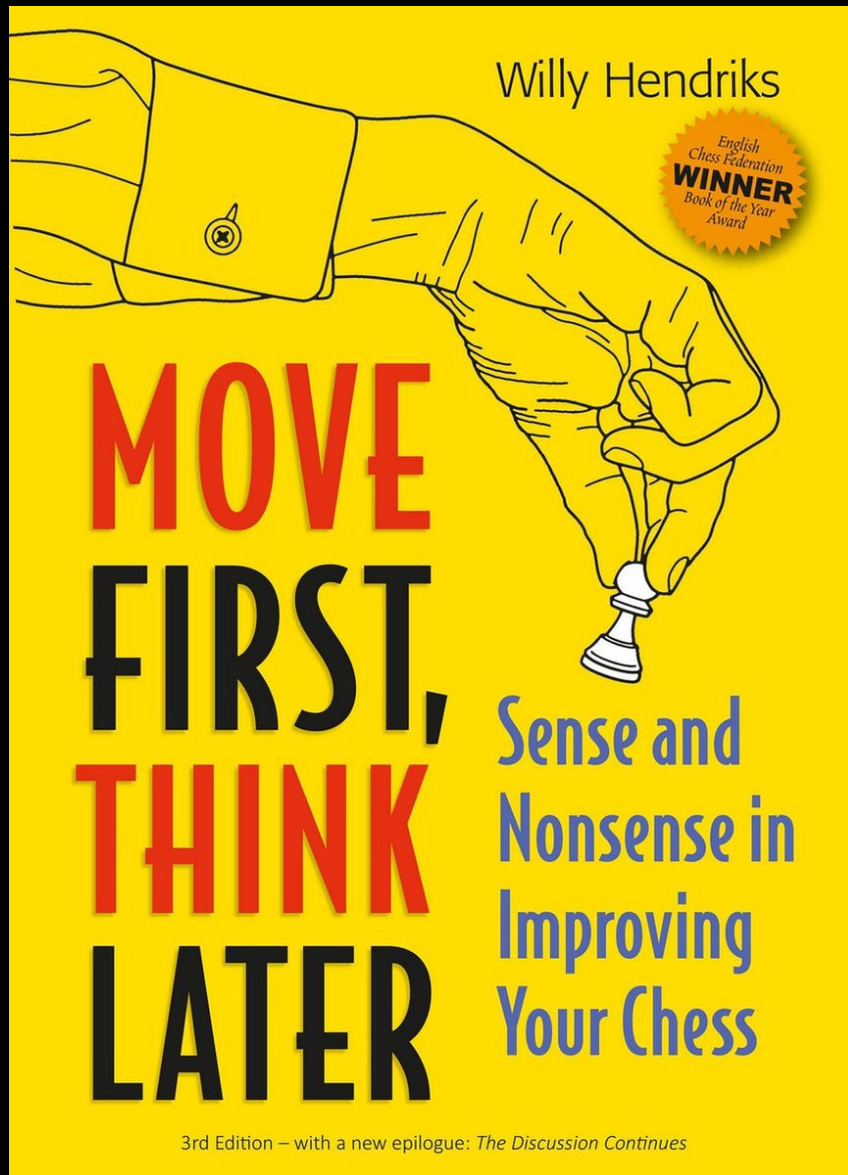


Perpetual Chess Improvement

Practical Chess Advice from World-Class Players and Dedicated Amateurs

by NM Ben Johnson

NM Ben Johnson ([formerly interviewed by yours truly](#)) shares the best chess improvement wisdom from titled players, authors and accomplished Adult Improvers, selected from over six years of weekly shows from everyone's favourite chess podcast: Perpetual Chess. The book isn't out yet, but I have had a sneak peek. The book is an excellent compilation of study advice and philosophical chess anecdotes that stick with you due to their personal nature.



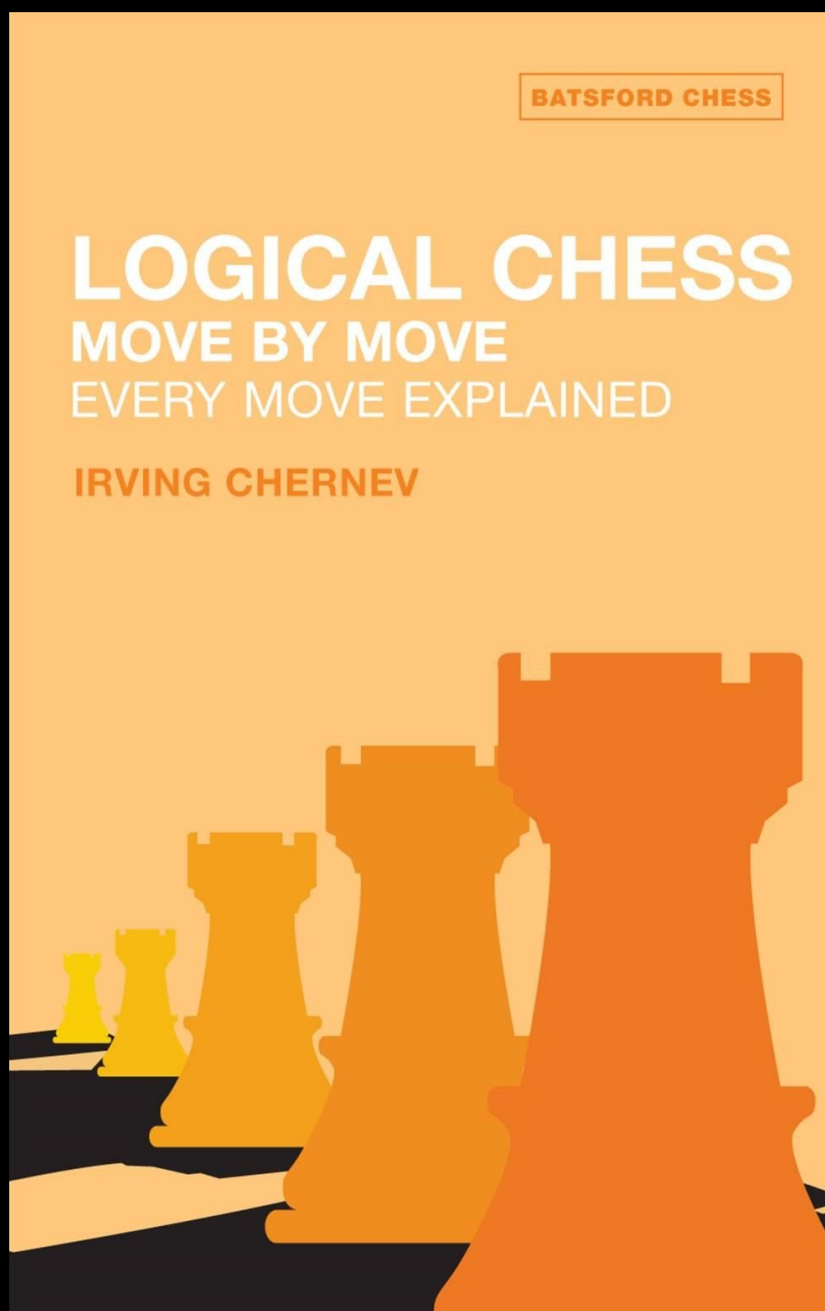
Move First, Think Later

Sense and Nonsense in Improving Your Chess

by IM Willy Hendriks

A philosophical approach to the way we think at the board, but you definitely don't need to set one up to read this book. There are a couple of puzzles at the start of each chapter, but you can read this on a train as well. The infrequent chess diagrams between the mostly text-filled pages are there to illustrate points and elevate the text nicely.

Category 2: Game Collections



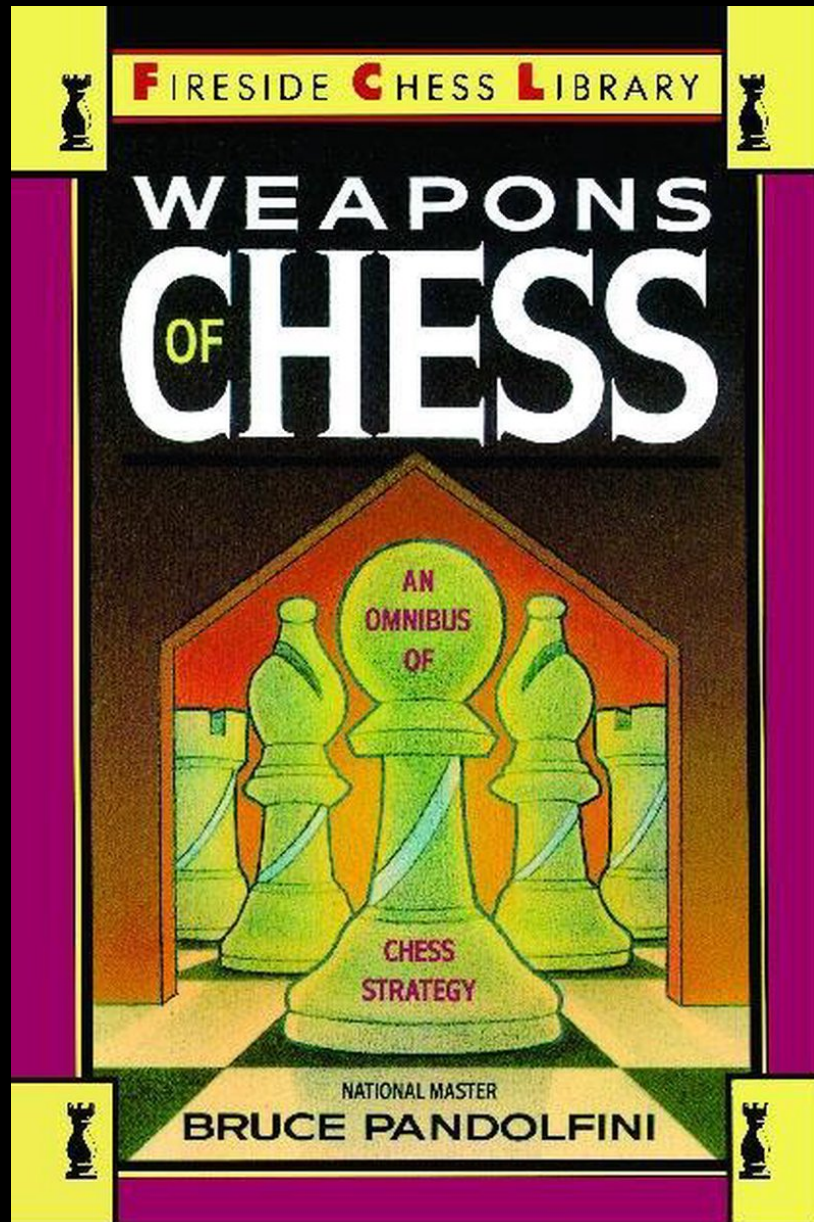
Logical Chess: Move by Move

Every Move Explained

by *Irving Chernev*

There are a lot of diagrams in this book and you'll need the board and pieces to understand them. However, there are words. Lots and lots of words. Clear and easy-to-understand ones. Chernev thinks e4 is a brilliant move, which I don't understand as a d4 player, but you can [ask my friend Nick Visel](#) (who plays the positionally inaccurate e4) for more info on this particular topic.

Category 3: Strategy



Weapons of Chess

An Omnibus of Chess Strategy

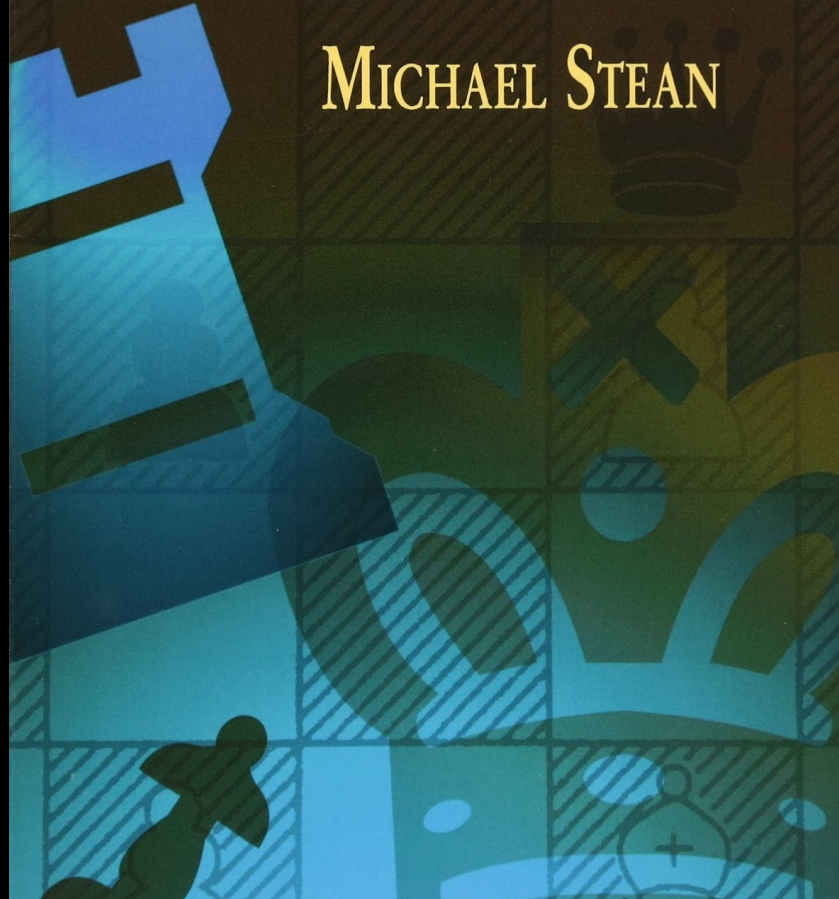
by NM Bruce Pandolfini

This reads like a glossary of strategic chess terms. Great for gathering the strategic vocabulary you need to understand other (more complex) strategy books. This book tells you what a backwards pawn is, so you can identify it. It brushes the surface of how to exploit that weakness, but doesn't go too deep. If terms like the semi-open file, doubled pawns, weak light squares and bad bishops mean nothing to you, then this is a good starting point to learn what those things are. Almost no variations are given, and where they are given, the moves are max. 3-ply and mostly easy to visualise sans-board, book in hand.

SIMPLE CHESS

NEW ALGEBRAIC EDITION

MICHAEL STEAN



Simple Chess

by GM Michael Stean

A small, beautifully written book. The prose on the introduction to space as a strategic concept is worth the cost of the book alone. Each strategic concept has a prose-heavy introduction that translates the chess into English really well.

The annotations in the games are clear and pretty wordy too. If you've got the vocabulary down from Pandolfini, Michael Stean will bring you understanding and a practical use for your new chess words.

THE
AMATEUR'S
MIND
TURNING CHESS
MISCONCEPTIONS
INTO CHESS MASTERY



IMBALANCES PASSED PAWNS MATERIAL TERRITORY/
INITIATIVE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OPEN FILES
OPENINGS ENDGAMES TACTICS TERRITORY

2ND EDITION/EXPANDED
by IM Jeremy Silman

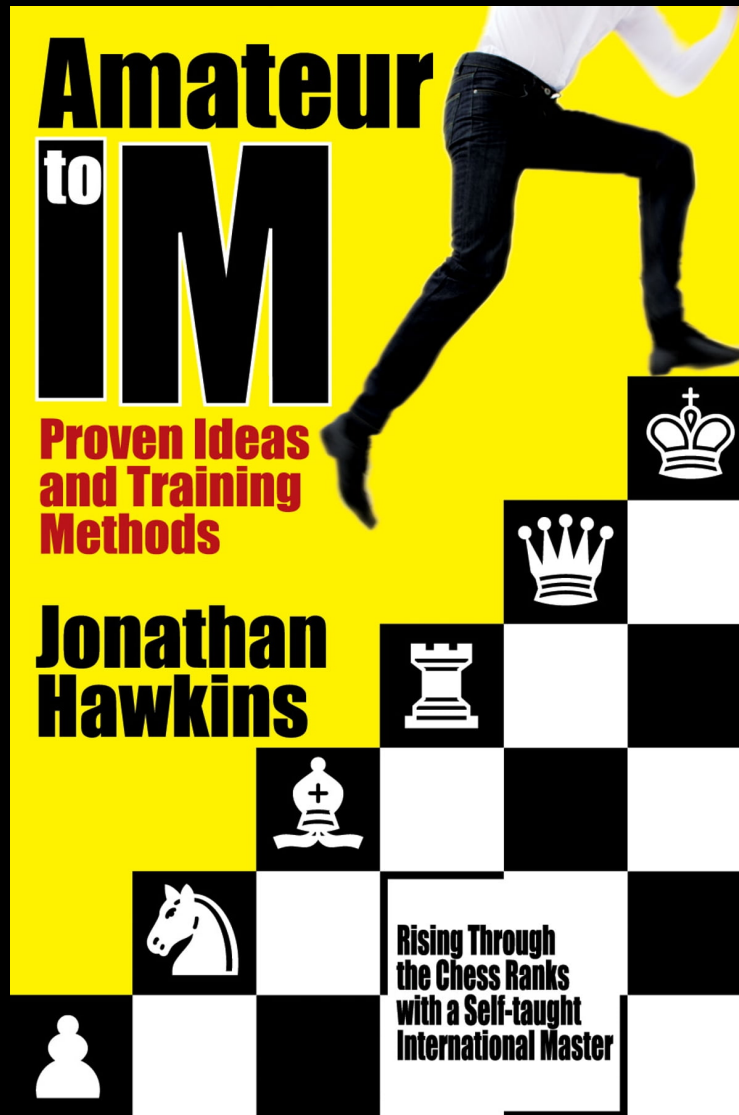
The Amateur's Mind

Turning Chess Misconceptions into Chess Mastery

by IM Jeremy Silman

A step up from Weapons of Chess, you will need a board here to play through games. However, nothing is explained in variations. IM Jeremy Silman has a rare talent for using a universal chess language that can be understood at all chess levels, even if you're just starting out.

Category 4: Endgame



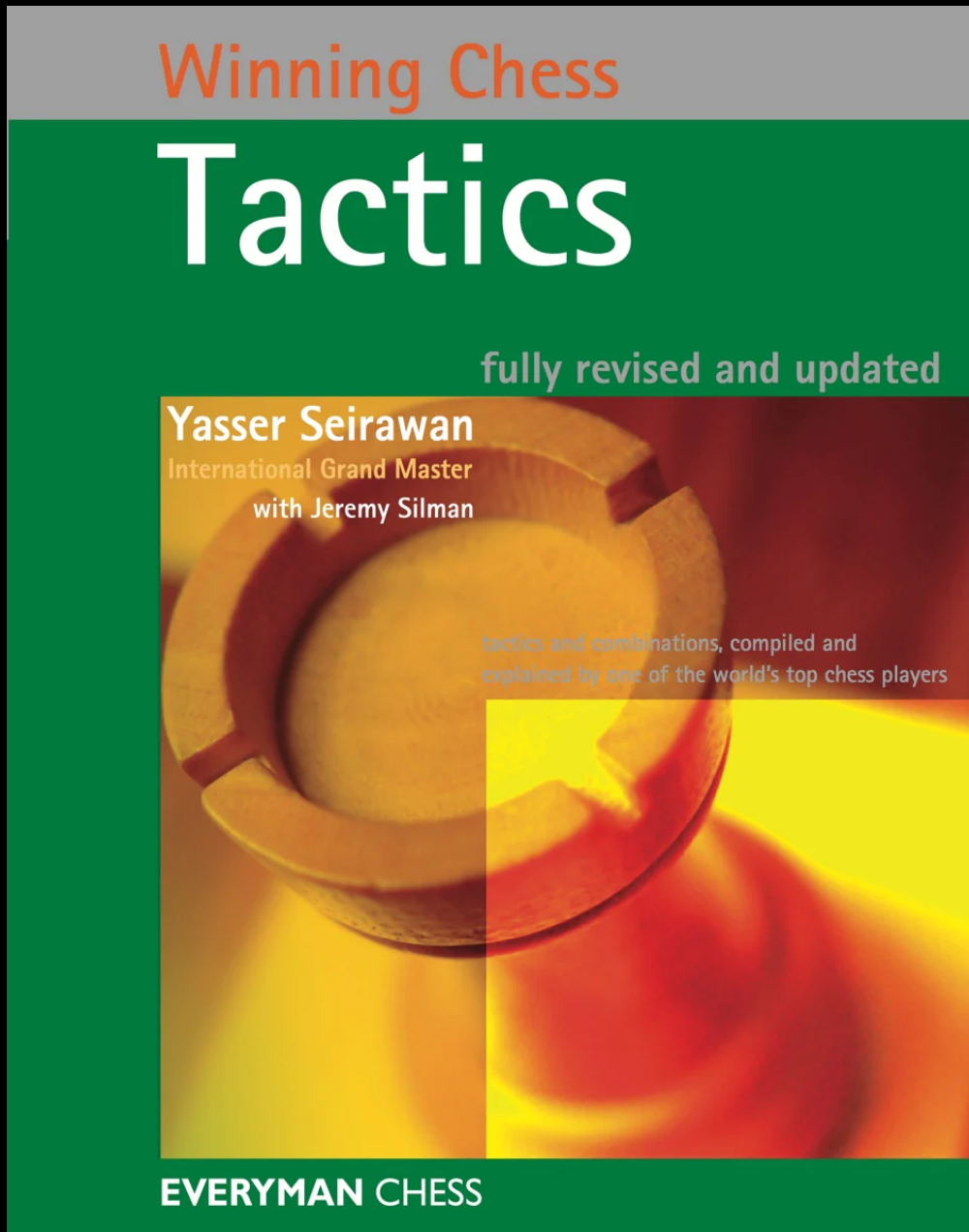
Amateur to IM

Proven Ideas and Training Methods

by IM Jonathan Hawkins

Perhaps because Jonathan Hawkins made the jump from high-level club player to IM as an adult, he uses language that club players can understand. I read 4 endgame books before this one and in each of those there were concepts I repeatedly couldn't get my head around in various theoretical and practical endgames. IM Jonathan Hawkins solved that problem AND most spectacularly explained to me the point of the endgame. I honestly just about cried with the relief of understanding after finishing chapter 2. In five examples, he gave my endgames purpose. This is essential reading for anyone wanting to have the endgame explained to them properly.

Category 5: Tactics



Winning Chess Tactics

Tactics and combinations, compiled and explained by one of the world's top chess players

by GM Yasser Seirawan

Great explanations of what each tactical motif is. What is a pin? What is a fork? Simple. Well written and easy for anyone to understand.

Martin Weteschnik

Chess Tactics from Scratch

Understanding Chess Tactics
2nd edition



QUALITY CHESS 

Chess Tactics from Scratch

Understanding Chess Tactics

by FM Martin Weteschnik

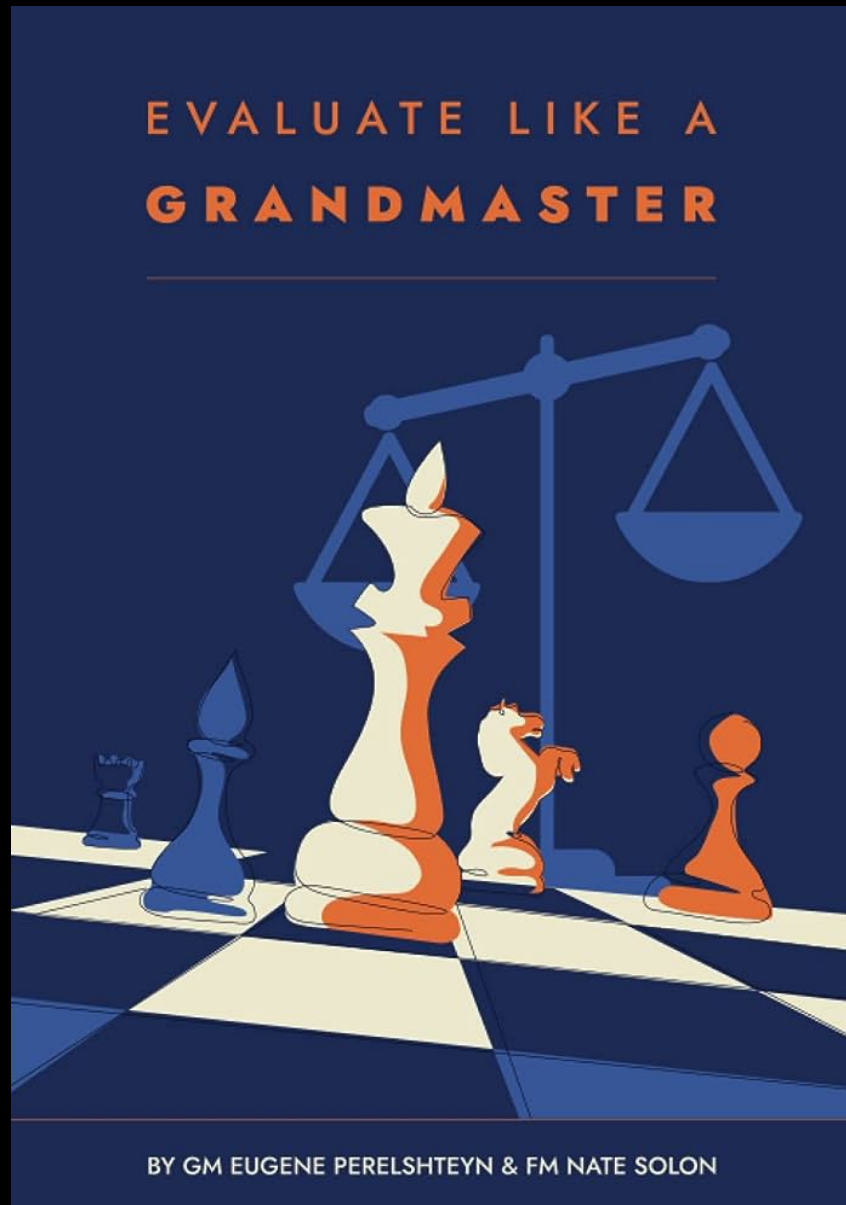
At a level above 'Winning Chess Tactics', this beautiful book explains the ideas *behind* the tactics. Most tactics books are puzzles and solutions. This book bridges the gap with incredible explanations of the 'why' behind every solution.

www.TheOnoZone.com

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Adult Improver Chess Coach

Category 6: Evaluation



Evaluate Like a Grandmaster

by GM Eugene Perelshteyn & FM Nate Solon

This is the ultimate book to travel with. You look at a position. Think about it. Decide what you think are the most relevant factors in the position using the evaluation criteria outlined at the start of the book. Decide who is better and what move you want to play. Then you check your answer and are greeted by an excellent explanation of why one side is better and why the next move is a good one. There is a concrete bit of new chess knowledge to be learned from every example and the chess words are easily understandable, perhaps because the authors have spent enough time hanging around club players on Twitter to speak at our level.

More chess stuff from TheOnoZone

If you'd like some structure to get through all these chess books, you can grab my [Chess Study Plan Template](#) for free.

Besides being a chess content creator, I'm also an Adult Improver coach for chess players rated <1100 FIDE (<1600 Lichess rapid/classical, <1300 chess.com rapid).

[You can read more about my coaching here.](#)

You're welcome to hop on a Zoom call for a [free chess trial lesson](#).

In 60 minutes, I'll give you specific pointers on the next steps for your chess improvement, based on 3 of your actual games. I don't do one-size-fits-all approaches, you'll get a personalised chess lesson prepared just for you, for no cost at all.

[Book your free trial lesson directly in my schedule.](#)

You can also get in touch with me about anything chess at info@theonozone.com, [on Twitter](#) or [message me on Lichess](#).

Enjoying my free chess content and want to support me? [You can sign up for my Patreon community](#) and get access to exclusive content, Zoom hangouts with me and awesome chess guests, and more.

Thanks for reading & wishing you all the chess,

Ono