

27 chess puzzles to solve with a pencil

A free sampler from the Pencil & Pawn books

Why write your moves down?

When you solve a puzzle in your head, it's easy to feel you've found the answer after just the first move. Writing the line down makes you work it through: your move, your opponent's reply, and what you play next.

It also gives you an honest record of your thinking. You can't change your line after looking at the answer, and you can see exactly where you went wrong. That's often where you learn the most.

It's good practice for playing over the board, too. You can't move the pieces around to test your ideas, so you need to work out the line before you play. And if you play in over-the-board tournaments, writing your moves down here is good practice for recording your games.

That's why I've made the Pencil & Pawn books this way: clear boards, room to write, and answers close by so you can check your line against the solution.

How to use this booklet

Every puzzle comes from a real game and is shown from the side to move. An open circle next to the number means White to play; a filled circle means Black to play.

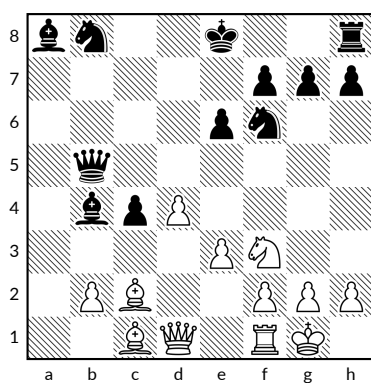
○ White to play

● Black to play

Write down the whole line, including your opponent's replies. Put White's moves on the left and Black's on the right. Every puzzle has the same number of rows, so you won't get clues from the space provided.

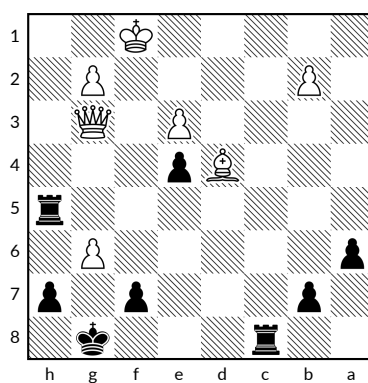
The answers are on page 5. Each shows the puzzle's difficulty (one to five dots), the tactical ideas involved, and which Pencil & Pawn book it comes from.

1 ○



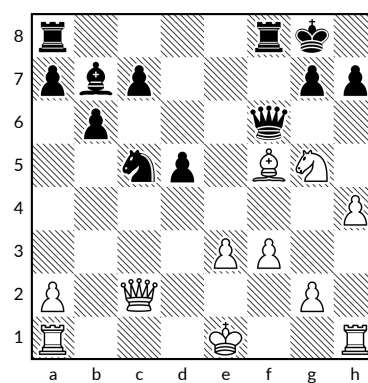
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2 ●



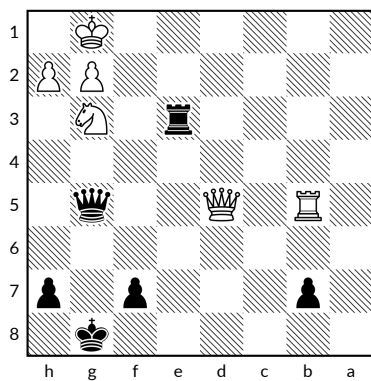
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3 ○



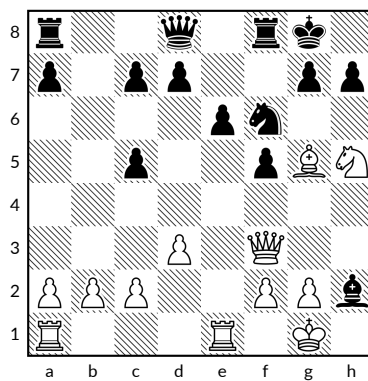
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4 ●



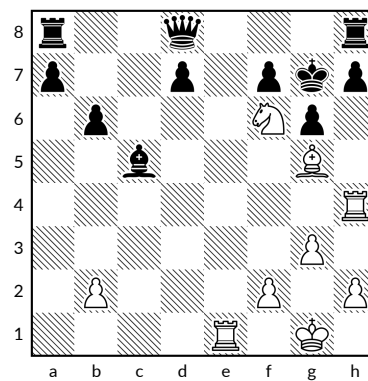
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

5 ○



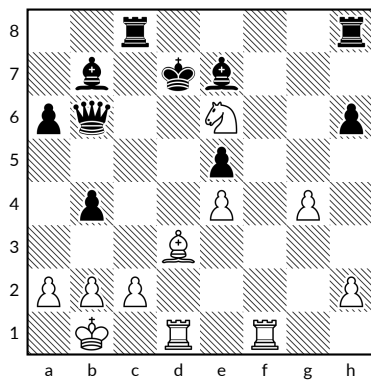
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

6 ○



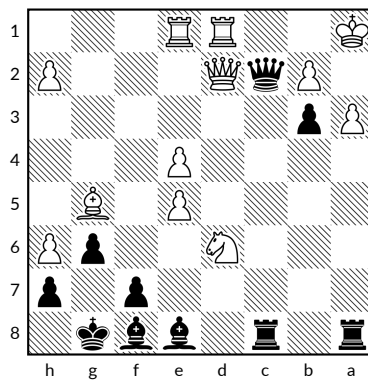
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

7 ○



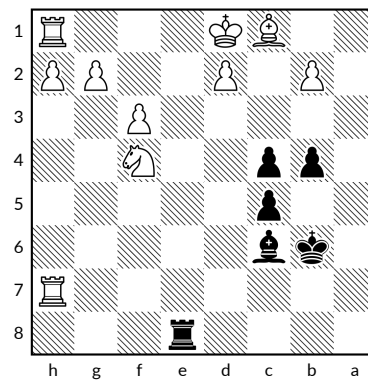
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

8 ●



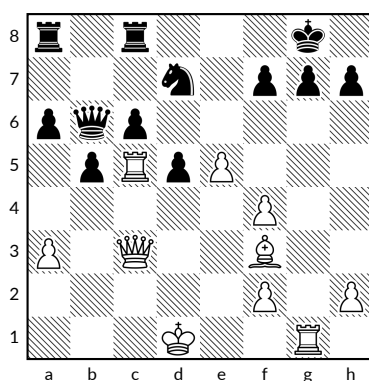
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

9 ●



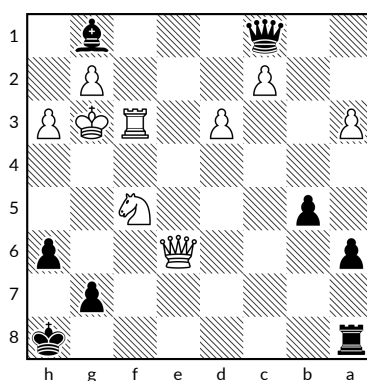
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

10 ○



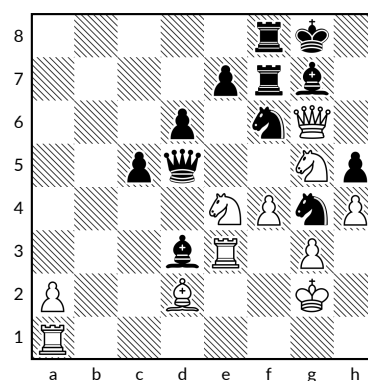
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

11 ●



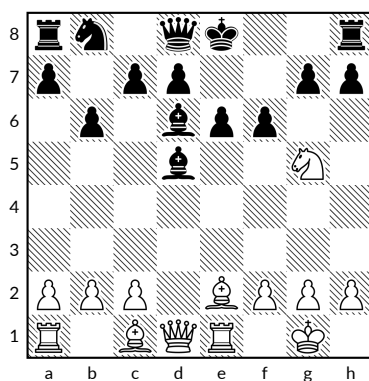
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

12 ○



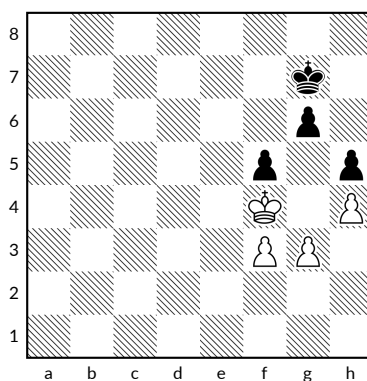
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

13 ○



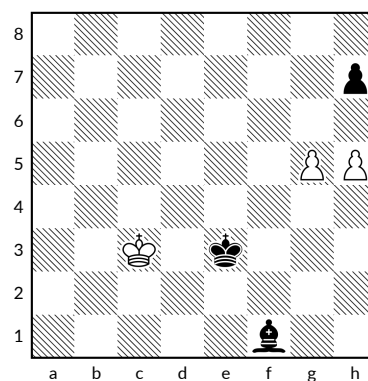
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

14 ○



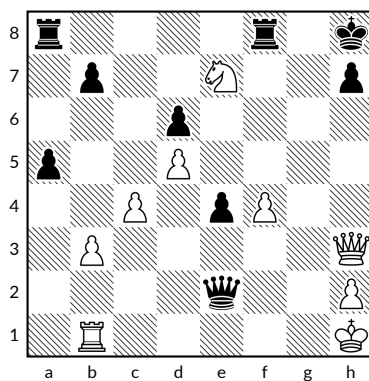
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

15 ○



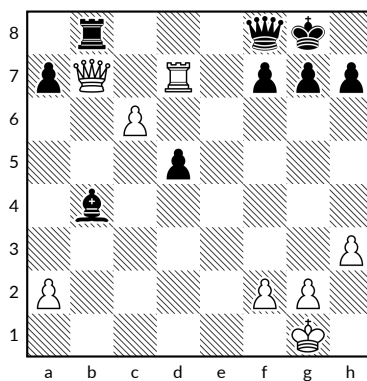
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

16 ○



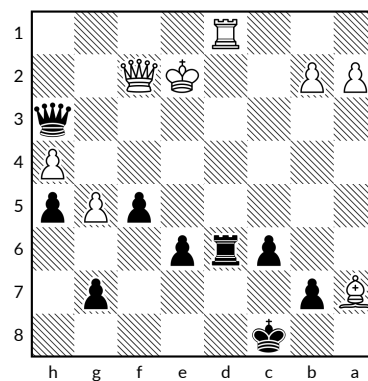
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

17 ○



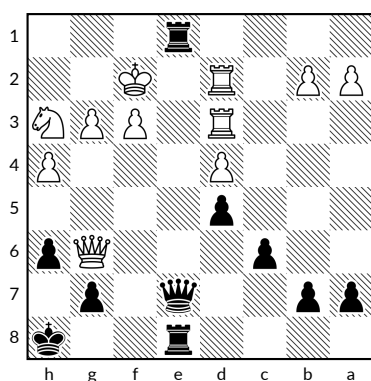
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

18 ●



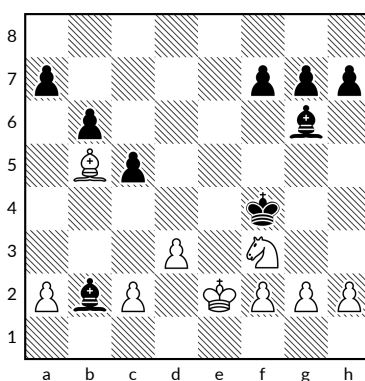
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

19 ●



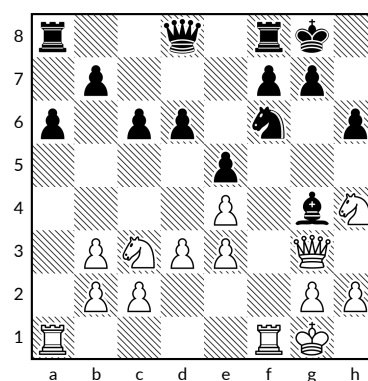
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

20 ○



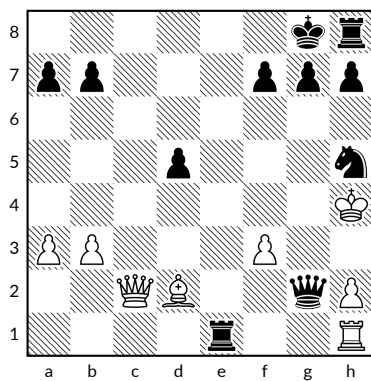
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

21 ○



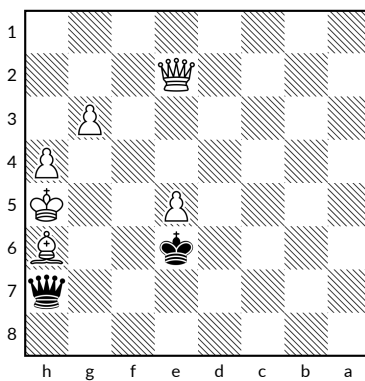
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

22 ○



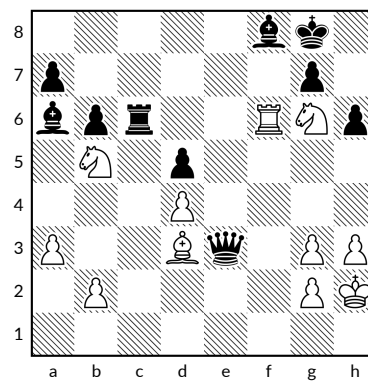
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

23 ●



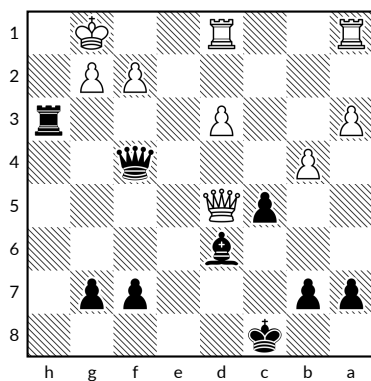
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

24 ○



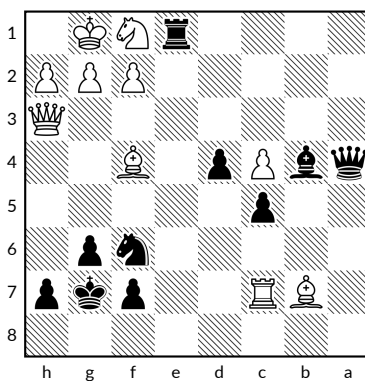
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

25 ●



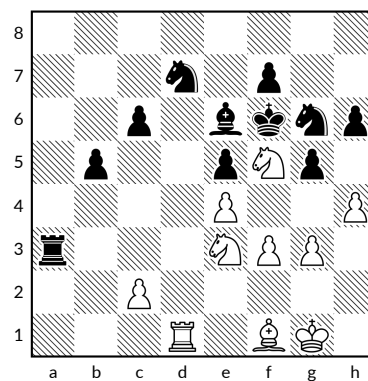
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

26 ●



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

27 ○

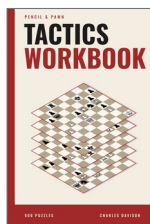


1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. 1.Ba4 Bc6 2.Bxb5
 PIN OPENING
 <i>From Tactics Tower</i></p> <p>2. 1...Rh1+ 2.Ke2 Rc2#
 MATE IN 2 ENDGAME
 <i>From Tactics Tower</i></p> <p>3. 1.Be6+ Rf7 2.Bxf7+
 KINGSIDE ATTACK MIDDLEGAME
 <i>From Puzzles by Piece</i></p> <p>4. 1...Re1+ 2.Nf1 Qe3+ 3.Kh1 Rxf1#
 MATE IN 3 BACK-RANK MATE
 <i>From Puzzles by Pattern</i></p> <p>5. 1.Kxh2 Ng4+ 2.Qxg4 fxg4 3.Bxd8
 HANGING PIECE MIDDLEGAME
 <i>From Puzzles by Pattern</i></p> <p>6. 1.Bh6+ Kxf6 2.Rf4#
 MATE IN 2 PILLSBURY'S MATE
 <i>From Tactics Workbook</i></p> <p>7. 1.Bb5+ Kxe6 2.Bd7#
 MATE IN 2 MORPHY'S MATE
 <i>From Tactics Workbook</i></p> <p>8. 1...Rxa3+ 2.bxa3 b2+ 3.Ka2 b1=Q#
 MATE IN 3 DISCOVERED CHECK
 <i>From Tactics Workbook</i></p> <p>9. 1...Ba4+ 2.b3 Bxb3#
 MATE IN 2 ENDGAME
 <i>From Pocket Chess Puzzles: Endgames</i></p> <p>10. 1.e6 g6 2.exd7
 ADVANCED PAWN MIDDLEGAME
 <i>From Tactics Workbook</i></p> <p>11. 1...Qg5#
 MATE IN 1 EPAULETTE MATE
 <i>From Pocket Chess Puzzles: Beginner</i></p> <p>12. 1.Rxd3 Qxd3 2.Nxf6+ exf6 3.Qxd3
 DISCOVERED ATTACK EXPOSED KING
 <i>From Puzzles by Pattern</i></p> <p>13. 1.Bh5+ g6 2.Qxd5
 PIN OPENING
 <i>From Pocket Chess Puzzles: Advanced</i></p> <p>14. 1.Kg5 Kf7 2.Kh6
 ZUGZWANG PAWN ENDGAME
 <i>From Puzzles by Piece</i></p> | <p>15. 1.g6 hxg6 2.h6
 BISHOP ENDGAME
 <i>From Tactics Tower</i></p> <p>16. 1.Qc3+ Rf6 2.Qxf6#
 MATE IN 2 ENDGAME
 <i>From Pocket Chess Puzzles: Expert</i></p> <p>17. 1.Qxb8 Qxb8 2.c7
 SACRIFICE ADVANCED PAWN
 <i>From Pocket Chess Puzzles: Intermediate</i></p> <p>18. 1...Qg4+ 2.Qf3 Qxf3+ 3.Kxf3 Rxd1
 EXPOSED KING ENDGAME
 <i>From Pocket Chess Puzzles: Intermediate</i></p> <p>19. 1...Qe2+ 2.Rxe2 R8xe2#
 MATE IN 2 BLIND-SWINE MATE
 <i>From Tactics Tower</i></p> <p>20. 1.Bd7 Bf5 2.g3+ Kg4 3.h3+
 QUIET MOVE ENDGAME
 <i>From Pocket Chess Puzzles: Endgames</i></p> <p>21. 1.Rxf6 Qxf6 2.Qxg4
 REMOVING THE DEFENDER MIDDLEGAME
 <i>From Puzzles by Pattern</i></p> <p>22. 1.Qc8+ Re8 2.Qxe8#
 MATE IN 2 MIDDLEGAME
 <i>From Puzzles by Piece</i></p> <p>23. 1...Qf7+ 2.Kg4 Qf5#
 MATE IN 2 DOVETAIL MATE ENDGAME
 <i>From Pocket Chess Puzzles: Endgames</i></p> <p>24. 1.Rxf8+ Kh7 2.Rh8#
 MATE IN 2 KINGSIDE ATTACK
 <i>From Pocket Chess Puzzles: Advanced</i></p> <p>25. 1...Rh1+ 2.Kxh1 Qh2#
 MATE IN 2 ATTRACTION ENDGAME
 <i>From Pocket Chess Puzzles: Endgames</i></p> <p>26. 1...Rxf1+ 2.Kxf1 Qd1#
 MATE IN 2 ATTRACTION
 <i>From Pocket Chess Puzzles: Beginner</i></p> <p>27. 1.Ng4#
 MATE IN 1 MIDDLEGAME
 <i>From Puzzles by Piece</i></p> |
|---|---|

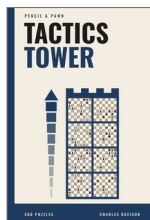
Enjoyed these?

Every puzzle in this booklet comes from a Pencil & Pawn book, with thousands more to try in the full range. The positions have been carefully selected from real games, and every solution has been checked with the Stockfish chess engine. There's room to write your moves down in every book.



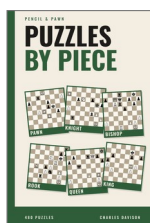
Pencil & Pawn: Tactics Workbook

500 mixed tactics, with no hints about the theme. Just like in a game, you have to work out what the position calls for.



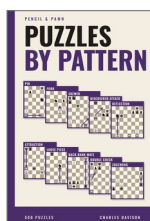
Pencil & Pawn: Tactics Tower

500 puzzles that get harder as you climb through the levels. Keep score and see how far you can get.



Pencil & Pawn: Puzzles by Piece

480 puzzles, with a chapter for each piece from pawn to king. See the different tactics each piece can play a part in.

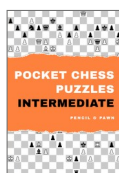
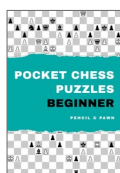


Pencil & Pawn: Puzzles by Pattern

500 puzzles covering pins, forks, skewers, discovered attacks, mating patterns and more, with a chapter for each theme.

Pocket Chess Puzzles

Pocket-sized books with 200 puzzles across five levels: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert and Endgames.



Find them all at

pencilandpawn.com



Sixty-Four
Press

Free to print and share. Published by Sixty-Four Press. Five percent of the royalties from every Pencil & Pawn book go to lichess.org.