



Garri Kasparov (Activist)



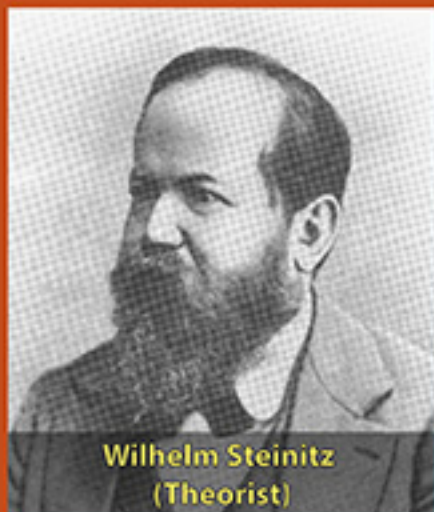
Anatoli Karpov (Reflector)

## **Karsten Müller / Luis Engel** ***The Human Factor in Chess***

**4 types of players with their strengths and weaknesses**



Robert „Bobby“ Fischer  
(Pragmatic)



Wilhelm Steinitz  
(Theorist)

**Karsten Müller / Luis Engel**

# ***The Human Factor in Chess***

***4 types of players with their  
strengths and weaknesses***

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**JBV Chess Books**

# Table of Contents

Explanation of symbols .....	7
Preface by GM Vincent Keymer .....	8
Introduction .....	9
Chapter 1: Activists .....	11
Chapter 2: Theorists .....	76
Chapter 3: Reflectors .....	98
Chapter 4: Pragmatics .....	127
Solutions of the exercises .....	171
Types of players in the current Top 10 .....	225
Different models and quotes .....	227
Index of sources .....	231
About the authors .....	232
Index of players .....	233

# Preface

As part of the preparation for my opponents, I often try to research their typical player characteristics with the help of a database in the shortest possible time. When I try to assign certain significant character traits to them, my main starting point is asking typical questions like the following: Do they like dynamic positions or do they plan their game as strategically as possible? – How do they react in time trouble or under other kinds of pressure? – Do they like to go into endgames? – How high is their willingness to take risks? – In this respect, it can be helpful to draw conclusions about the type of player, and thus about strengths and weaknesses, by looking at the openings they play – or to use the characteristics of certain players to infer the likelihood of which opening lines they might choose.

These and numerous other considerations are presented in this book in a condensed and systematic form. The division of players into four prototypes is extremely helpful not only in terms of game preparation, but also to determine your own characteristics as a player. In addition, the book can serve as a helpful guide for amateurs and chess fans to get a more precise picture of certain players.

I find it interesting and instructive to get insights into the way of thinking of other types of players. Studying the different approaches and the resulting strong and effective characteristics of others is certainly useful for every chess player and can help to expand the own spectrum. From my point of view, one of the important messages of this book consists in the idea that you can actually influence or change your player characteristics through insight, will and training.

I wish all readers not only further interesting insights, but above all lots of fun studying the numerous game examples and solving the exercises.

Vincent Keymer, in August 2020

# Introduction

The topic dealt with in this book (which in our opinion is significantly underestimated) serves to provide a deeper understanding of this special kind of people who are intensively involved with the game of chess. Our representation of the 'player types' is based in principle on the classification that Lars Bo Hansen makes in his excellent book 'Foundations of Chess Strategy' (GAMBIT 2005), in which the author takes – to put it simply – a model from economic theory (which deals with questions of human typology under the umbrella term 'human resources') and transfers it to chess players, or in other words, limits it to this special group of people.

Of course, this model is not the only possible one and of course, the so-called 'stereotyped thinking' generally brings with it all sorts of dangers. However, since I have presented this model at many seminars and training events and was amazed how well it fit, the idea for this book came up at some point.

As a player I belong to the type 'activist' – as a trainer and author, however, I'm a 'theorist'. Since I lack competence in the other two areas, I was very pleased to find a 'pragmatic', GM Luis Engel, as a co-author. Now our team only lacked competence in the area of 'reflectors', although we are confident that our presentation will also provide fascinating insights in this regard.

The goal, of course, should be to become as universal as possible. You usually win with your strengths, but it makes sense to also work on the weaknesses and include the specific strengths and weaknesses of the respective opponent in the decision-making process. In positions where there is only one move, every good player should find it of course. So the different styles of play are especially important in positions where there is a wide range of possibilities. However, also in the kind of positions that you should strive for based on your own style and that of the opponent.

Furthermore, you can of course 'imitate' a style, and against certain opponents this can even be the right strategy. For example, activists and especially hyperactivists have certain extremely outstanding characteristics, and if an opponent can adapt well to them, it's very valuable. An example is Kramnik's victory in the World Championship match in London 2000 against the activist Kasparov. Kramnik managed to always steer the game in the desired direction, so that Kasparov didn't even get an opportunity to show what he is able to do in positions with attack and initiative.

In addition to well-known classics, which we are re-classifying from this point of view, we have also included many of our own examples. We hope that this doesn't seem too presumptuous, since we have done it with good reason. First, of course, we are more familiar with our own games, and second, they are less well known than many of the other examples. Furthermore, we have included

many exercises so that the reader can try to classify his own playing style. And even if you are skeptical about the model itself, the examples and exercises should definitely provide good training material on the various topics.

For chess players, this game is probably so interesting just *because* there are different approaches and styles. If in any given position exactly one ‘best move’ could be found, it would rather put off many players, because it would be too reminiscent of pure mathematics. In this book, distinctions and stereotyped thinking are overemphasized for good reason because this approach leads to clearer images. Fortunately, reality is of course not so one- or four-dimensional. Nevertheless, we hope that it helps to also look at the topic of styles and types from this perspective developed by Lars Bo Hansen.

We would like to thank Vincent Keymer for his preface, Harald Fietz for his good ideas, Robert Ullrich and Thomas Beyer for the layout and the presentation and Lothar Nikolaiczuk for his excellent translation and outstanding work, which went far beyond normal editing.

GM Dr. Karsten Müller and GM Luis Engel

Hamburg, in September 2020

# Chapter 1 – Activists

Activists among world champions: Alekhine, Tal, Spasski, Kasparov, Anand

Activists among other renowned players: Shirov, Morozevich, Topalov, Pillsbury, Anderssen, Bronstein, Larsen, Taimanov, Aronian, Judit Polgar, Karsten Müller

Hyperactivists: Tal, Neshmetdinov

## Their strengths

Activists rate initiative and attacking options relatively high and material values lower. This is particularly pronounced among hyperactivists who are often ready to make considerable sacrifices in order to get attacking chances. Typical of this is Tal's famous quote, 'There are correct sacrifices – and mine.' They often have a good sense for initiative and dynamics and are also ready to accept static weaknesses. This can of course be disadvantageous, but often provides good entertainment on the board. One of their usual strengths is the concrete calculation of lines based on intuitive evaluation.

## Their weaknesses

Sometimes they make pawn moves that look good at the moment, but do far more harm than good in the long run. They tend to overestimate their own attack on the king while underestimating the opponent's attack. They are significantly less good in defense and often bring intuitive sacrifices that are objectively incorrect.

Sometimes they don't have a good time management and often find themselves in time trouble because they search for too long for something that doesn't exist, especially when their intuitive assessment of the position doesn't correspond to the objective evaluation. Since they are often good at blitz and rapid, they can live with this weakness, but of course it's not really beneficial. As a result, activists often become more pragmatic over time, which can be seen, for example, in the careers of the world champions Tal and Kasparov.

Therefore, Lars Bo Hansen classifies the world champions Alekhine, Spasski and Kasparov as pragmatics, which of course is okay. However, since so many of Kasparov's game examples fit so well in this chapter, it was easy for us to at least classify *him* as an activist. However, the transition of the styles is fluid and even Michail Tal could be placed among the pragmatics from around 1966.

## **Their willingness to take risks**

They often take risks and as a rule try to keep the 3<sup>rd</sup> result (meaning: their own victory) in the game. Therefore, especially with hyperactivists, long series of games without any draw can occur. Under certain circumstances, however, this can be a disadvantage. For example, this phenomenon explains the two legendary 6–0 defeats of Taimanov and Larsen against Fischer in 1971. Both of them simply continued to play for win, instead of switching to damage limitation and striving for a consolidating draw.

## **Their training options**

In addition to trusting one's own strengths by working on the openings and solving tactical exercises, the goal of becoming more pragmatic and universal also comes into question. Also, studying the games of reflectors can be advantageous. Kasparov, for example, has benefited enormously from his world championship matches against Karpov. Or you can study games from Tal's later period (i.e. from his 'year of change' 1966) or those from Kasparov's later career. By doing so, you can understand how these players have managed to become universal and pragmatic without completely losing the fire of their youth.

## **Their opponents**

When activists meet over the board, it often leads to spectacular duels that do not always end as the Elo ratings suggest. Strong reflectors are particularly dangerous opponents for activists, as was shown, for example, in the world championship match 'Carlsen – Anand' and in the first world championship match 'Karpov – Kasparov'. The reason is that in such a constellation, the strengths of the activists don't come into their own, because the reflectors know how to prevent it with their good sense of active prophylaxis.

## **Their openings**

Activists often advance the theory of special lines. For example, Kasparov's 'ChessBase file' with its many spectacular novelties and new assessments was particularly legendary in this regard.

## **Typical openings**

With White, activists prefer 1.e4, sharp lines of the open Sicilian, the King's Gambit and the Evans Gambit.

With Black, they tend to play the Najdorf Variation and the King's Indian.



## 1.1 Hyperactivists

For this type of player, which is rather rare at the highest level, material is a less important evaluation criterion. The young Michail Tal is a prime example and the only hyperactivist who has made it to the world championship throne so far.

Here are some of his characteristic quotes:

There are two sorts of sacrifices: correct ones - and mine.

Centralize and sacrifice!

The opponent can only take one piece per move.

If the opponent attacks one of your pieces, attack two of his.

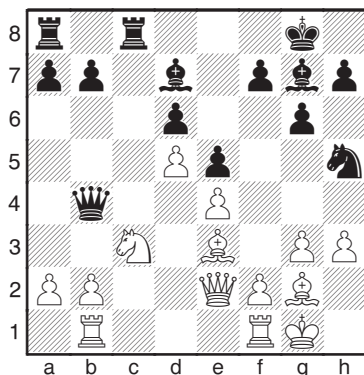
Although this style makes for very entertaining games, exciting or content-rich endgames are of course extremely rare. On the other hand, however, there are lots of spectacular mating attacks and intuitive sacrifices, such as e.g. in the following game.

### 01.01

#### Botvinnik – Tal

Moscow 1960 (6<sup>th</sup> match game)  
E69

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2  
0–0 5.d4 d6 6.♘c3 ♘bd7 7.0–0 e5  
8.e4 c6 9.h3 ♚b6 10.d5 cxd5  
11.cxd5 ♘c5 12.♘e1 ♙d7 13.♘d3  
♘xd3 14.♚xd3 ♜fc8 15.♞b1 ♘h5  
16.♙e3 ♚b4 17.♞e2



### 17...♞c4?!

Objectively, this plan is too ambitious, but it fits Tal's style very well. After all, activity comes first in his (chess) worldview.

– According to the computer, 17...♚c4 is the best choice, but since this approach doesn't fit Tal's style at all, it would not have been a good practical choice.

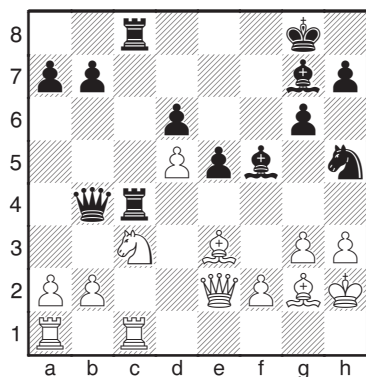
– On the other hand, 17...b5!? came into consideration, because the weakness of the square on c6 naturally doesn't deter a hyperactivist.

### 18.♜fc1 ♜ac8?! 19.♙h2?!

– Botvinnik misses the moment to seize the initiative on the queen side with 19.a3!; e.g. 19...♚b3 (19...♚a5?! 20.♙f1+–) 20.♙xa7 ♙h6 (20...b6?! 21.♚c2+–) 21.♙e3±.

– Another interesting option was 19.♙f1!?± (suggested by Dariusz Gorzinski).

19...f5 20.exf5 ♟xf5 21.♖a1



What follows is one of Tal's much-discussed sacrifices. From a practical point of view, it's certainly good, because White can hardly solve his problems over the board. Objectively, however, it's incorrect – true to Tal's motto: There are correct sacrifices – and mine.

21...♟f4!?

21...♟f6 was objectively necessary. However, after 22.a3 ♖b3 23.g4 ♟d7 White had the choice between 24.♟xa7 and 24.♖c2, which Botvinnik would certainly have liked very much.

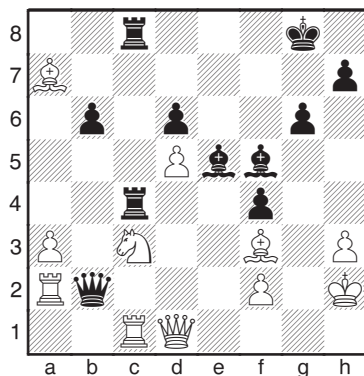
22.gxf4 exf4 23.♟d2?

In fact, the refutation was hidden in move 26 after the correct introduction 23.a3 ♖b3 24.♟xa7 ♟e5.

1) 25.♟f3? is met by the sobering reply 25...♖a8.

At the time, instead, the following line was the subject of heated discussions between the opposing camps.

25...b6? 26.♖d1(?) ♖xb2 27.♖a2



27...♖xc3

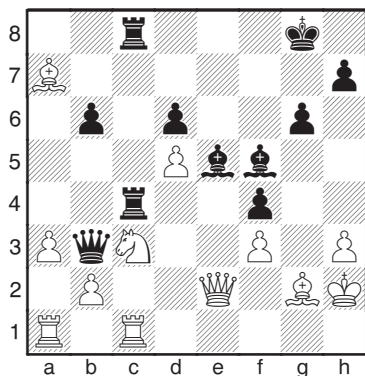
"It's significant that all black moves are of the same kind. With certain restrictions, this can be viewed as indirect proof of the correctness of the combination. Black has an easy game while White has to look for defense resources." (Tal)

28.♖xb2 ♖xc1 29.♖e2

"...here, too, the material deficit after 29...♖8c3 (shown by A. Konstantinowski) is hardly noticeable for the time being." (Tal)

Anyway, Black seems to have enough compensation; e.g. 30.♖xb6 ♟d3 31.♖b8+ ♟g7 32.♖b7+ ♟f8 33.♖d2 ♟e4=.

2) But now back to the above-mentioned refutation after 25.f3 b6.



26.a4!!

At the time, this subtle means of bailing out the bishop had escaped the protagonists and the commentators.

(Tal only gives 26.♖d1(?), which results in a forced draw after 26...♖xb2 27.♖a2 ♖xc3 28.♖xb2 ♖xc1 29.♖d2 ♖xb2 30.♖xb2 ♖b1 31.♖f6 ♖c2=.)

26...♖b4

(– 26...♖xc3? 27.bxc3 ♖xc3 28.♖xc3 ♖xc3 29.♖e1 ♖a5 30.♖e7 ♖a8 31.♖b7+–, Ragozin

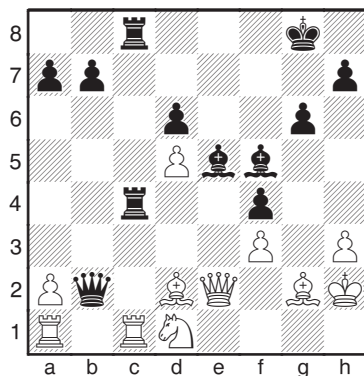
– 26...♖b4 27.♖d1 ♖xc1 28.♖xc1 ♖xa4 29.♖c7±)

27.a5 bxa5 28.♖f2± (Kasparov)

Black should not have enough compensation for the piece, although it will take a very long time until White can untangle and activate his pieces with careful play.

**23...♖xb2?**

23...♖e5 24.f3 ♖xb2 25.♖d1



25...♖xa1!

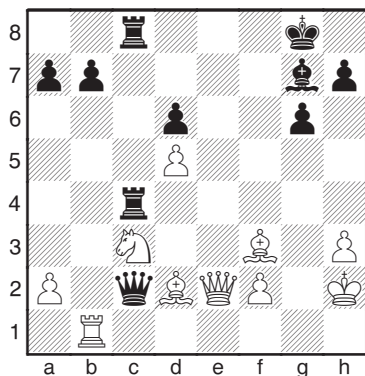
(Kasparov gives 25...♖d4?! 26.♖xc4 ♖xc4 27.♖c1 ♖xc1 28.♖xc1 ♖xd5 29.♖f2 with a slight advantage, but again, the black activity is very considerable.)

26.♖xa1 ♖xa1 27.♖f2 ♖c2 28.♖g4 ♖xg4 29.hxg4 ♖e5 and the black initiative at least compensates for the sacrificed material.

**24.♖ab1 f3 25.♖xb2?**

Botvinnik hopes in vain to relieve himself by swapping queens, and therefore misses the opportunity to launch an activist-style attack himself.

25.♖xf3 ♖xb1 26.♖xb1 ♖c2



27.♔e4!?

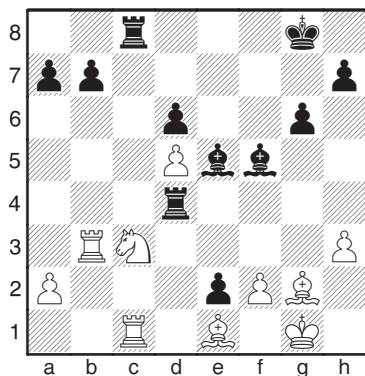
(This is Salo Flohr's solution; 27.♖c1 ♜f5 28.♔g4 also wins.)

27...♖xe4

(27...♔e5+ 28.♔g2 ♖xe4 29.♘xe4 ♜xb1 30.♘xd6 ♔xd6 31.♜e6+ ♔g7 32.♜d7+ +-)

28.♘xe4 ♜xb1 29.♘xd6 ♖f8 30.♜e6+ ♔h8 31.♘f7+ ♖xf7 32.♜xf7+-

25...fxe2 26.♖b3 ♖d4 27.♔e1 ♔e5+ 28.♔g1



28...♔f4?!

Here Black misses the beautiful and immediately deadly 28...♖xc3!! 29.♖bxc3 ♖d1 30.♖c4 ♔b2-- (Tal).

29.♘xe2 ♖xc1 30.♘xd4 ♖xe1+ 31.♔f1 ♔e4 32.♘e2 ♔e5 33.f4 ♔f6 34.♖xb7 ♔xd5 35.♖c7 ♔xa2 36.♖xa7 ♔c4 37.♖a8+ ♔f7 38.♖a7+ ♔e6 39.♖a3 d5 40.♔f2 ♔h4+ 41.♔g2 ♔d6 42.♘g3 ♔xg3 43.♔xc4 dxc4 44.♔xg3 ♔d5 45.♖a7 c3 46.♖c7 ♔d4 0-1

Before we get to the first exercises, here is a note for readers who like to evaluate their performance in some way – in the given case with regard to the question of what type of player they might belong to. The easiest attempt is obviously based on how many exercises from the respective chapters they can solve.

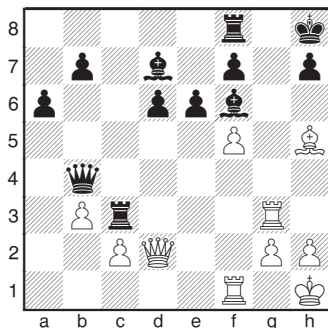
In the exercises 05.01 to 05.16, a specific classification is made which types of players should generally find the solution more easily. Of course, the whole thing is not necessarily clearly applicable, but rather an interesting and playful entertainment.

## Exercises: Attacking like the magicians

### A01.01

**Tal – Platonov**

Dubna 1973



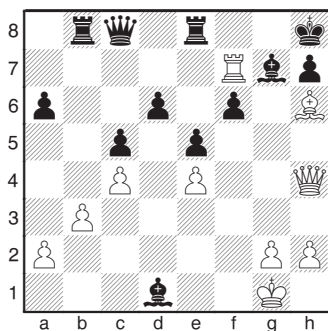
White to move and win

Which magic hammer did Tal shake out of his sleeve?

### A01.02

**Tal (2615) – Rantanen (2460)**

Tallinn 1979



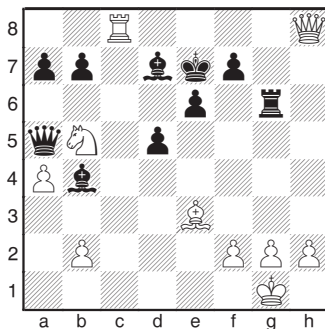
White to move and win

How did Tal justify his generous sacrifices?

### A01.03

**Tal – N.N.**

Riga 1966 (simultaneous exhibition)



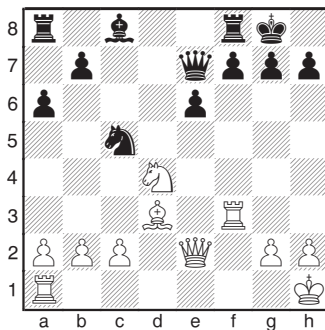
White to move and win

Many roads lead to Rome. But even in a simul, Tal found the most beautiful and most effective. Can you do that too?

### A01.04

**Tal – N.N.**

Berlin 1975 (simultaneous exhibition)



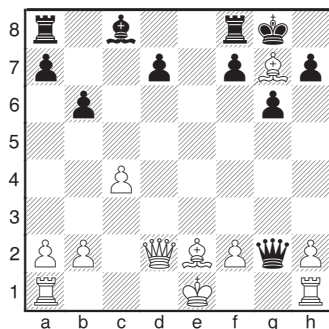
White to move and win

Again, Tal found the most convincing win even in a simul. What about you?

## Exercises: Intuitive sacrifice

### A01.05

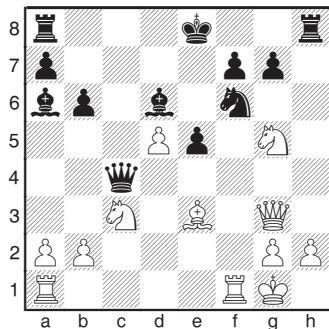
Tal (2635) – Paehtz, T. (2480)  
Halle 1974



Was Tal's brainstorm 16. ♔d4 correct?

### A01.06

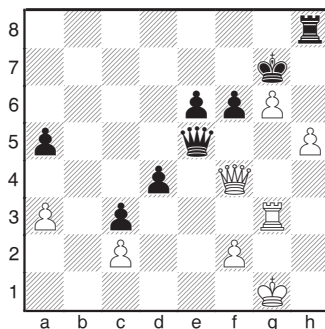
Tal (2565) – Auer (2310)  
Porz 1991



Is 18. ♘e6 the right choice?

### A01.07

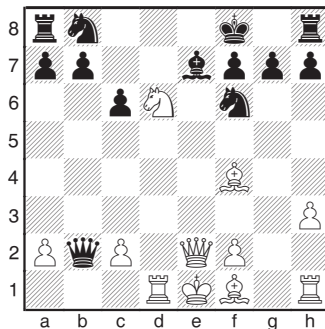
Tal – Korchnoi  
Riga 1958



Is 33. h6+ good? – If not, what should White play?

### A01.08

Tal – Koblenks  
Moscow 1960



Is 14. ♔xe7+ a good choice?

## 1.2 Activists

This type is relatively common and has produced many world champions, while Michail Tal is the only hyperactivist who has made it to the highest chess throne. Many young players start with this style and then become more and more pragmatic over time through experience.

### A) Sacrifices for a direct attack on the king

Activists pay more attention to the correctness of their attack combinations than hyperactivists. However, because they often rely on a more intuitive assessment, incorrect sacrifices can occur anyway. (On the other hand, pragmatics would almost never make an objectively bad material sacrifice, because for them correctness is even extremely important.)

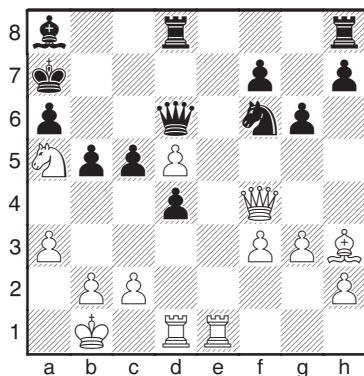
Kasparov's following combination – one of the most impressive in chess history – is objectively correct. He possibly felt it intuitively, without having prepared a concrete refutation for every possible defense.

**01.02**

**Kasparov (2812)**

**Topalov (2700)**

Wijk aan Zee 1999



**24.♖xd4! cxd4??**

After the pointed riposte 24...♔b6!, Black is even slightly better in view of the secure king and the space advantage on the queen side.

**25.♞e7+!!**

After the opponent has 'obeyed', he is immediately presented with the first point of Kasparov's combinatorial fireworks.

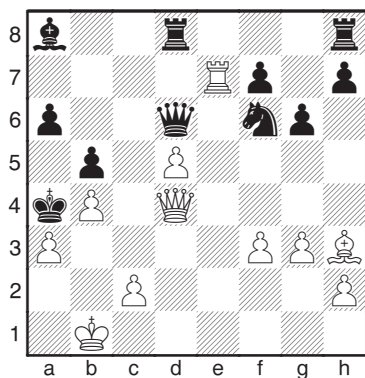
**25...♔b6**

25...♞xe7? (25...♔b8 26.♞xd4+-) 26.♞xd4+ ♔b8 27.♞b6+ ♔b7 28.♞c6+ ♔a8 29.♞a7#

**26.♞xd4+ ♔xa5**

26...♞c5 27.♞xf6+ ♞d6 is followed by the extraterrestrial move 28.♞e6!! with the main threat 29.b4 Δ♞d4+.

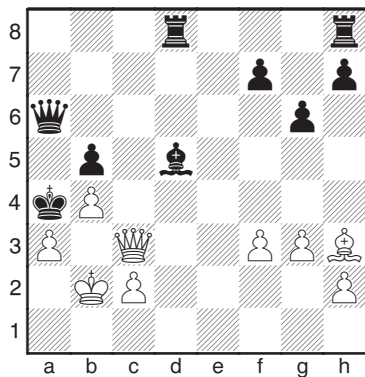
**27.b4+ ♔a4**



## 28.♞c3?!

Here Kasparov misses the ingenious winning move 28.♞a7!! (found by GM Kavalek), which leads to the abyss, as shown in the following lines.

1) 28...♜xd5 29.♞xa6+!! ♞xa6 30.♞b2 ♜c3+ 31.♞xc3 ♜d5 32.♞b2



It's absolutely unbelievable that after this leisurely king move, Black is helplessly exposed to the mating threat 33.♞b3+ ♜xb3 34.cxb3#.

2) 28...♜b7 29.♞xb7

2.1) 29...♜xd5 30.♜d7!!

– 30...♞a8 31.♜xb5+ axb5 32.♞a7+ ♞a6 33.♞xd5 ♞xa7 34.♞b3#

– 30...♞xd7 31.♞b2 ♜c3+ 32.♞xc3 ♞d1+ 33.♜a2 ♞d3 followed by the point 34.♞a7!+-.

2.2) 29...♞xd5 30.♞b6 a5 (30...♞a8 31.♞xf6 a5 32.♜f1+-) 31.♞a6 ♞a8 32.♞e3!! ♞xa6 (32...♞he8 33.♞xa8 ♞xa8 34.♜b2+-) 33.♜b2 axb4 34.axb4 ♞a2+ (34...♜xb4 35.♞c3+ ♜a4 36.♞a3#) 35.♞xa2 ♜xb4+ 36.♜b2 ♞c6 37.♜f1+-

28...♞xd5 29.♞a7

29.♜b2? ♞d4+-

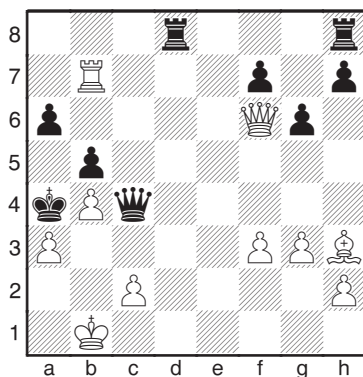
29...♜b7 30.♞xb7

After 30.♞c7? ♞d1+, Black escapes by perpetual check.

30...♞c4!?

30...♞he8?! fails to 31.♞b6 ♞a8 32.♜f1!!+- (Ligterink) 32...♞e1+ (32...♜d7 33.♞d6 ♞e1+ 34.♜b2) 33.♞xe1 ♞d4 (33...♜d7 34.♞b7 ♞xb7 35.♞d1! Greengard) 34.♞d6 ♜d5 35.♞xd5 ♞xd5 36.♞c3 ♞d8 37.♜d3 ♞d7 38.♜e4 ♞c4 39.♞xc4 bxc4 40.♜c6+.

31.♞xf6



31...♜xa3?!



## Activists in the endgame

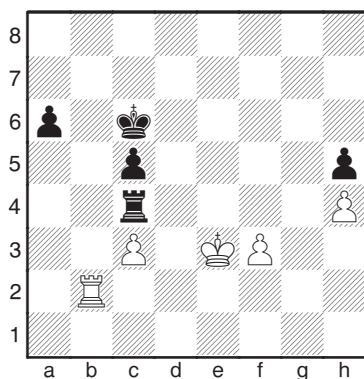
Activists are good at concrete calculations and active options, but less good when it comes to inactive defense or long-term strategic plans. Here are a few scenarios that suit them very well.

### A) The strengths of activists

#### A1) Defending rook endings

Activists are often not that good at defense unless it can be *actively* led. Especially in rook endings, active defense is often 'required by law', and in this domain the strengths of activists can of course contribute significantly to the development of the right strategy.

**01.09**  
**Müller, K. (2500)**  
**Rozentalis (2591)**  
 Germany 2006



(53...♖h1 54.f6 ♜f1 55.♔e6 c4 56.f7  
 ♔c5 57.♖b8=)

54.f6 ♖h1

(54...♔d7? backfires due to 55.♖b8+-  
 . Activists are often 'lucky' because  
 of such options that enable them to  
 keep the 'third result' in play.)

55.♖f2 ♜e1+ 56.♔d4 ♜e8 57.♔xc4=

**51.♖d2+ ♔e6 52.♖g2 ♜xc3+ 53.♔d2**  
**♜f3 54.♖g5 ♜xf4 55.♜xc5 ♜xh4**  
**56.♔e3 ♜h3+ 57.♔e4 ♜h4+ ½-½**

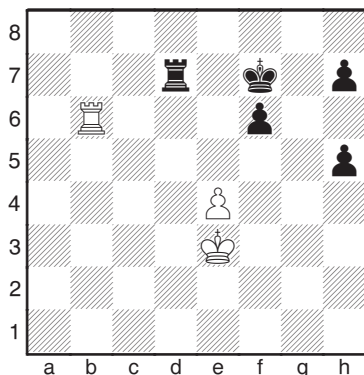
White should either bet everything on  
 his passed pawn – or activate the rook  
 in a favorable way.

**50.f4 ♔d5**

50...♜xc3+ 51.♔e4 ♜h3 52.f5 ♜xh4+  
 53.♔e5 c4

Richard Rapport is a very creative attacking player and this dashing is also evident given the way he defends the following position.

**01.10**  
**Rapport (2540)**  
**Laznicka (2688)**  
 France 2011



**51.e5!?**

White provides his pieces with a maximum of active options, while those of the opponent are forced into complete passivity.

**51...fxe5 52.♔e4 ♚e7**

After 52...h4 53.♔xe5 h3, the continuation 54.♚b3! is the easiest way to reach a draw.

(54.♚h6?! ♚d3 55.♔e4? loses, as after 55...♔g7 56.♚h4 ♚a3 57.♔f5 h5!! the white rook finds itself in a tragicomic situation.)

54...h2 55.♚h3 ♚d2 56.♔f4 ♔g6 57.♔g3 ♚d3+ 58.♔xh2=

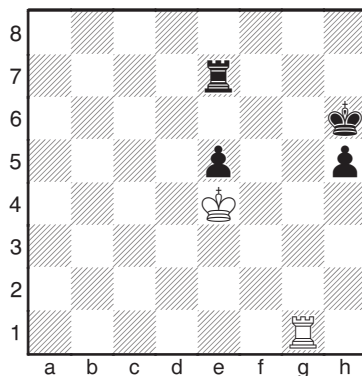
**53.♚h6 ♔g7 54.♚xh5 ♔g6 55.♚h1!**

Now the checking distance between

the rook and the king is big enough.

The transformation into a pawn ending with 55.♚xe5?? ♚xe5+ 56.♔xe5 loses after 56...♔g5 57.♔e4 ♔g4 58.♔e3 ♔g3 59.♔e2 ♔g2 60.♔e3 h5 61.♔f4 h4 62.♔g4 h3+.

**55...h5 56.♚g1+ ♔h6**



**57.♔f5!?**

This is the active solution, but 57.♚h1 is also a draw.

**57...♚f7+**

– After 57...e4 58.♔f6 ♚e8 59.♚g6+ ♔h7 60.♚g7+ ♔h8 61.♚g5, White first wins the h-pawn and then the e-pawn.

– 57...h4 58.♚g6+ ♔h5 59.♚g5+ ♔h6 60.♚g6+ ♔h7 61.♚g4 h3 62.♚h4+ =

**58.♔xe5 h4 59.♔e4 ♔h5 60.♚g8 h3 61.♔e3 ½-½**

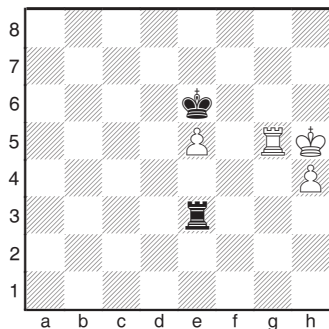
Draw in view of 61...♔h4

– 62.♔e2 (or 62.♚h8+) 62...h2 63.♚h8+ ♔g3 64.♚g8+ ♔h3 65.♚h8+ ♔g2 66.♚g8+ ♔h1 67.♚g6=

– But not 62.♚g6? h2 63.♚h6+ ♔g3 64.♚g6+ ♔h3 65.♚h6+ ♔g2 66.♚g6+ ♔f1 67.♚h6 ♚f2 68.♚h8 ♔g1 69.♚h7 ♚g2+.

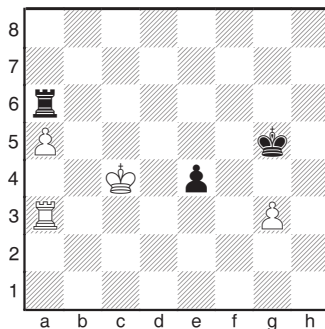
## Exercises: rook endings

**A01.45**  
**Bogdanovski (2430)**  
**Müller, K. (2265)**  
 Pula 1989



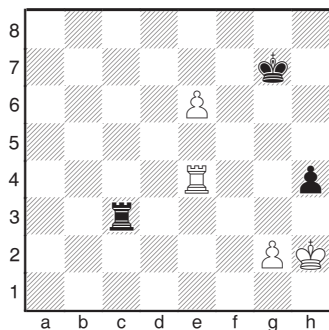
Black has two moves to reach a draw. Try to find at least one of them!

**A01.47**  
**Kramnik (2754)**  
**Grischuk (2710)**  
 Wijk aan Zee 2005



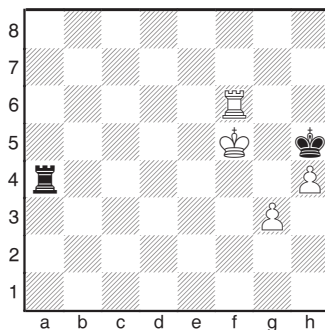
How did Black pull his head out of the noose?

**A01.46**  
**Caruana (2773) – Anand (2780)**  
 Sao Paulo/Bilbao 2012



How did Black pull his head out of the noose?

**A01.48**  
**Solic (2222) – Pruijssers (2443)**  
 Sarajevo 2010



How did Black pull his head out of the noose?

## Players with Black against ...

Adams, Michael

- Leko, Peter A02.12

Adianto, Utut

- Karpov, Anatoli A03.15

Albornoz Cabrera, Carlos Daniel

- Engel, Luis 04.13

Alekhine, Alexander

- Botvinnik, Mikhail 02.03,
- Kan, V. A01.34,
- Reti, Richard A01.63

AlphaZero

- Stockfish 8 03.13

Anand, Viswanathan

- Aronian, Levon 01.07,
- Carlsen, Magnus 01.14,
- Caruana, Fabiano A01.46,

Kasparov, Garri 01.08,

- Kramnik, Vladimir A01.09,
- Polgar, Judit 01.21,
- Shirov, Alexei A01.20,
- Tiviakov, Sergey 01.22,
- Topalov, Veselin A01.32, 01.06

Apsenieks, Fricis

- Alekhine, Alexander A01.33

Asendorf, Joachim

- Orzech, Dominik 02.01

Auer, Martin

- Tal, Mihail A01.06

Baburin, Alexander

- Nielsen, Peter Heine A05.06

Bacrot, Etienne

- Vitiugov, Nikita A05.02

Begun, Sergey

- Kasparov, Garri A01.28

Beliavsky, Alexander

- Karpov, Anatoli A03.03

Bönsch, U.

- Schebler, G A05.08

Bologan, Viktor

- Anand, Viswanathan A01.23

Botvinnik, Mikhail

- Suetin, Alexey A05.10

Bronstein, David

- Spasski, Boris A01.43, A01.44

Bu, Xiangzhi

- Caruana, Fabiano 04.08

Byrne, Robert Eugene

- Spasski, Boris A01.52

Capablanca, José Raúl

- Corzo y Prinziipe, Juan A03.24,
- Nimzowitsch, Aron A03.07

Carlsen, Magnus

- Anand, Viswanathan A01.16,
- Kramnik, Vladimir A02.08,
- Shirov, Alexey A01.64

Caruana, Fabiano

- Carlsen, Magnus 03.12,
- Ponomarev, Ruslan 04.07

Chigorin, Mikhail,

- Steinitz, William A02.16

Chiku–Ratte, Olivier

- Kenta
- Gareev, T. A05.07

Chilingirova, Pavlina

- Polgar, Judit A01.22

Darga, Klaus

- Spasski, Boris A01.42

- Dely, Peter  
– Fischer, Robert James A04.16
- Engel, Luis  
– Kololli, Martin A04.12,  
– Naiditsch, Yuliya 04.12,  
– Papp, Gabor 04.14, A04.10,  
– Petriashvili, Nikoloz A04.07,  
– Van Wely, Loek A04.14
- Euwe, Max  
– Reti, Richard 04.15, A04.03
- Feldt  
– Alekhine, Alexander A01.36
- Fischer, Robert James  
– Addison, William 04.02,  
– Bilek, Istvan A04.21,  
– Byrne, Robert Eugene 04.01,  
– Ciocaltea, Victor 04.06,  
– Gligoric, Svetozar A04.06,  
– Gudmundsson, Arinbjorn 04.05 ,  
– Lombardy, William James  
A04.17,  
– Saidy, Anthony Fred A04.08,  
– Spasski, Boris A05.01,  
– Tal, Mihail A04.13
- Fonaroff, Marc  
– Capablanca, José Raúl A05.05
- Franco Ocampos, Zenon  
– Andersson, Ulf 02.05
- Fridman, Daniel  
– Anand, Viswanathan A01.11
- Ftacnik, L.  
– Karpov, Anatoli A03.14
- Gelfand, Boris  
– Anand, Viswanathan A01.62
- Gledura, Benjamin  
– Vachier  
– Lagrave, Maxime A04.02
- Golod, Vitali  
– Adams, Michael A03.13
- Grischuk, Alexander  
– Kramnik, Vladimir A01.47
- Gurevich, Mikhail  
– Karpov, Anatoli A03.20
- Hammer, Jon Ludvig  
– Anand, Viswanathan A01.26
- Hansen, Lars Bo  
– Polgar, Judit A01.17
- Hickl, Joerg  
– Gabriel, Christian A02.05
- Hofmeister, M.  
– Alekhine, A. A01.37
- Hort, Vlastimil  
– Karpov, Anatoli A03.09,  
– Petrosian, Tigran 03.03
- Hou, Yifan  
– Carlsen, Magnus A03.30
- Howell, David  
– Kramnik, Vladimir A02.10
- Huebner, Robert  
– Karpov, Anatoli A03.29,  
– Leko, Peter A02.09
- Huschenbeth, Niclas  
– Ponomarev, Ruslan 02.06
- Ivanchuk, Vassily  
– Aronian, Levon A05.09,  
– Topalov, Veselin A01.50
- Ivanov, Mikhail  
– Gurevich, Mikhail A02.07
- Jussupow, Artur  
– Karpov, Anatoli A03.10
- Karjakin, Sergey  
– Pantsulaia, Levan 04.11

- Karpov, Anatoli
- Alterman, Boris A03.25,
  - Bouaziz, Slim 03.11,
  - Korchnoi, V. A03.16,
  - Ljubojevic, Lj. A03.19,
  - Pelletier, Yannick 03.02
- Kasimdzhanov, Rustam
- Anand, Viswanathan 01.12
- Kasparov, Garri
- Beliavsky, Alexander A05.04,
  - Karpov A. 01.56, 03.07,
  - Kasimdzhanov, R 01.03,
  - Kholmov, Ratmir 01.18,
  - Kramnik, Vladimir 01.16, 01.17, A01.54,
  - Magerramov, Elmar A01.30,
  - Short, Nigel 01.19,
  - Vallejo Pons, Francisco A01.10
- Koblencs, Aleksandrs
- Tal, Mihail A01.08
- Korchnoi, Viktor
- Tal, Mihail A01.07
- Kramnik, Vladimir
- Ivanchuk, Vassily A02.01,
  - Kamsky, Gata A02.13,
  - Kasparov, Garri A01.31, A01.57,
  - Nakamura, Hikaru 02.07
- Lasker, Emanuel
- Blackburne, Joseph Henry A04.05
- Lautier, Joel
- Anand, Viswanathan A01.13,
  - Karpov, Anatoli A03.23,
  - Shirov, A 01.13
- Laznicka, V.
- Rapport, R. 01.10
- Lechtynsky, Jiri
- Tisdall, Jonathan A02.11
- Leko, Peter
- Kramnik, Vladimir A02.02
- Lutz, Chistopher
- Müller, Karsten 01.20, A01.61
- Marshall, Frank James
- Capablanca, José Raúl A03.05
- Mieses, Jacques
- Capablanca, José Raúl A03.06
- Müller, Karsten
- Almasi, Zoltan A01.59,
  - Bogdanovski, V. A01.45,
  - Hausner, I. 01.11,
  - Kunsztowicz, U. A01.58
- Myagmarsuren, Lhamsuren
- Fischer, Robert James A04.01
- N.N.
- Tal A01.03, A01.04
- Nakamura, Hikaru
- Adams, Michael A03.11,
  - Vitiugov, Nikita A05.16
- Paehtz, Thomas
- Tal, Mihail A01.05
- Petrosian, Tigran
- Kasparov, Garri A05.11, A05.12,
  - Polugaevsky, Lev A03.22,
  - Reshevsky, Samuel Herman A03.21,
  - Spasski, Boris 03.09,
  - Troianescu, Octavio 03.08
- Platonov, Igor
- Tal, Mihail A01.01
- Polgar, Judit
- Karpov, Anatoli A03.18,
  - Lobron, Eric A01.14,
  - Motylev, Alexander 01.04,
  - Shirov, Alexey 01.05

Ponomarev, Ruslan  
 – Caruana, Fabiano A04.04

Portisch, Lajos  
 – Karpov, Anatoli A03.02, A03.04

Prujssers, R.  
 – Solic, K. A01.48

Radjabov, Teimour  
 – Kramnik, Vladimir A01.55

Ragozin, V.  
 – Botvinnik A02.15

Rantanen, Yrjo  
 – Tal, Mihail A01.02

Ribli, Zoltan  
 – Kramnik, Vladimir A02.06

Robatsch, Karl  
 – Andersson, Ulf 02.04

Rogers, Ian  
 – Kasparov, Garri A01.15,  
 – Polgar, Judit A01.21

Rossolimo, Nicolas  
 – Capablanca, José Raúl A03.01

Rozentalis, Eduardas  
 – Müller, Karsten 01.09

Rubinstein, Akiba  
 – Alekhine, Alexander A01.38

Salemgariev, Tagir  
 – Engel, Luis 04.03

Salov, Valery  
 – Kasparov, Garri A01.19

Schurade, M.  
 – Müller, Karsten A01.29

Seirawan, Yasser  
 – Karpov, Anatoli A03.26

Sellack, H.  
 – Müller, Karsten A01.65

Sethuraman, S.P.  
 – Engel, Luis 04.10

Shirov, Alexey  
 – Kasparov, Garri A01.18, A05.03,  
 – Topalov, V A01.51

Short, Nigel D.  
 – Kasparov, Garri A01.12

Sielecki, Christof  
 – Müller, Karsten A01.66

So, Wesley  
 – Vachier  
 – Lagrave, Maxime 04.09,  
 – Vitiugov, Nikita A05.13

Sofrevski, Jovan  
 – Fischer, Robert James A04.11

Spasski, Boris  
 – Andruet, Gilles A01.39,  
 – Karpov, An 03.01,  
 – Larsen, Bent A01.41,  
 – Petrosian, T. 03.04

Stahlberg, Gideon  
 – Botvinnik, Mikhail A02.14

Steinitz, William  
 – Englisch, Berthold 02.08

Stockfish 8  
 – AlphaZero 03.06, 03.10

Svidler, Peter  
 – Karpov, Anatoli A03.28

Taimanov, Mark  
 – Spasski, Boris A01.40

Tal, Mihail  
 – Botvinnik, Mikhail 01.01,  
 – Fischer, Robert James A04.15,  
 – Medina Garcia, Antonio Angel  
 A01.49

- Tarrasch, Siegbert
- Harmonist, Max A02.03,
  - Richter A02.04
- Tkachiev, Vladislav
- Karpov, Anatoli A03.27
- Topalov, Veselin
- Anand, V. A01.25, A01.53,
  - Karpov, Anatoli A03.17,
  - Kasparov, Garri 01.02
- Torre, Eugenio
- Larsen, Bent 01.15
- Travadon, Loic
- Engel, Luis A04.09
- Unzicker, Wolfgang
- Karpov, Anatoli 03.05
- Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime
- Carlsen, Magnus 04.04,
  - Leko, Peter A04.20,
  - Navara, David A04.18
- Van Foreest, Lucas
- Engel, Luis A04.19
- Van Mindeno, A.
- Alekhine, A. A01.35
- Van Wely, Loek
- Kasparov, Garri A01.24,
  - Morozevich, Alexander A01.60
- Van der Wiel, John
- Karpov, Anatoli A03.08
- Vitiugov, Nikita
- Caruana, Fabiano A05.14,
  - Savchenko, Boris A05.15
- Von Bardeleben, Curt
- Steinitz, William 02.02
- Waitzkin, J.
- Müller, Karsten A01.67
- Wilhelmi, C.
- Müller, Karsten A01.68
- Xie, Jun
- Karpov, Anatoli A03.12
- Zagrebelny, S.
- Müller, Karsten A01.27