

Looking at the Endgame

With this article I am concluding my introductory series where we have looked at fundamental concepts that I teach, and guide my play (the first three), then some thoughts on attacking (practical tactics), and finally here some thoughts regarding the end game.

If you would like to see more articles, then please let me know what you might like. I write quite a bit as a means for my improvement and to pass on interesting things to the players that I work with to improve their game, too. Simply send an email to me as listed below. Also, if you have had any questions regarding what I have previously wrote, feel free to send them to me.

2019

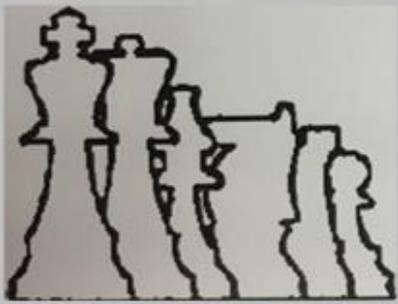
Milestones:

- 51-years-since-my first-USCF-tourney
- 41-years-since-I became-a-Master
- 2018-&-2019 US-Senior-Champ-Age-65-69
- Top-50-in-the-U.S.-Players-over-65

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→ → → → → Indiana-Chess-Hall-of-Fame

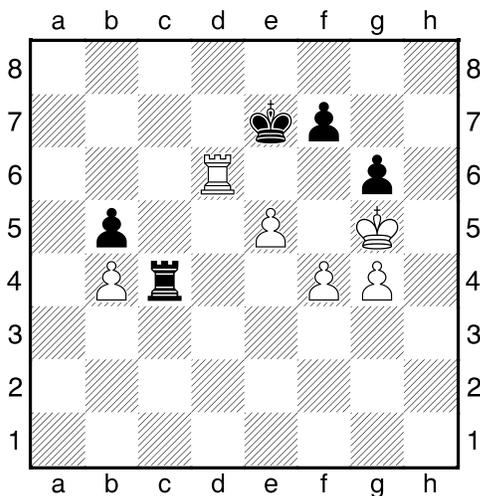


*Instruction
Quality Used Books*

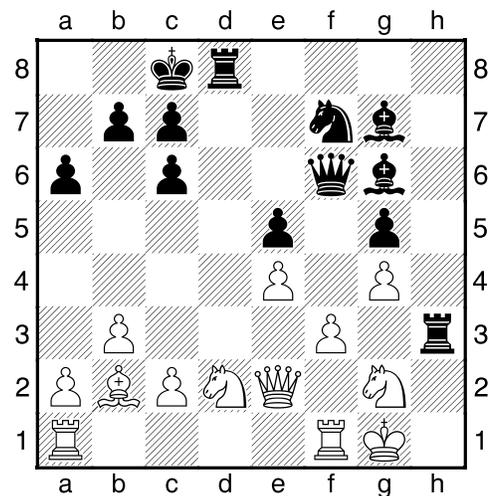
INQUIRIES:
(317) 490-1087
[leave voice mail]
indyfmchess@gmail.com

The quality used books that I have are available only until they're gone. In some sense describing them as used is a misnomer. They were purchased long ago, but some are literally in 'new' condition. You can always ask about any title you see (from the pictures in this and other articles) about the ones you're interested in as to its quality, content, and condition.

Plus, as I've previously mentioned there are many more that I haven't shared. (If you would like a complete listing, then simply contact me. Most of those deal with the openings, or are rare, hard to find titles. Some are sold singly, others as sets.



44. ♖d4-d6+ ♔e6-e7



20. ♘e3-g2

Here are two exercises for you to analyze. Carefully reading on will give you the "answers", but try now for yourself!

Studying the End Game

One of the first things you probably noticed above was that one of the exercises didn't seem like an endgame exercise at all.

Yet, I would say that tactics do not go away just because you're in an end game, and just getting to an end game could easily involve tactics

I have taught a college accredited course on the endgame (ENDGAME FUNDAMENTALS at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute *and* Indiana University) in which I used Reuben Fine's *Basic Chess Endings* as the course text. I used a traditional approach of lecture about typical examples. This was, in part, because of the varied abilities of the class (some practically beginners, and others almost masters).

I would say that simply reading text books on the endgame (Fine, Dvoretsky, Euwe, Averbakh, Keres, Portisch, Silman, Mueller, et al) could be a very tedious and dull way of learning this phase of the game. I have always had a fondness for Fine's book, perhaps because it was "the" book when I was young (even Botvinnik always took his copy with him to tournaments!) and then there were the stories... (Did you know that Dave Whitehouse read BCE cover to cover and went from 1800 to 2000, and then master...)



**The Reuben Fine Collection
Sold as a set.**

Then there is the legendary, "Best Trainer Ever!", Mark Dvoretsky. He wrote an entire series of books, and they dealt with much more than the end game. Grand Masters studied his books, or with him, and became stronger. Perhaps his strongest, and most famous, pupil was Artur Yusupov, a player I had a privilege to play and draw against, when he was #3 in the world.

His books are supposed to be hard to work with, and they are unless you use a proper approach with a good coach, or even a good "chess circle of study buddies".

Looking at the Endgame



The Dvoretsky Collection

Sold as a set: These are “like new”

In this article we are actually going to look at material from one of his books, supplemented by a few other sources, along with my commentary.

The basis is upon looking at several inter-related games and themes.

Dvoretsky, Mark - Smyslov, Vassily V [C68]

URS-ch42 First League Odessa, 10. 1973

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙xc6 [The exchange variation against the Ruy Lopez. It was first popularized by Lasker, because, as he explained to Siegbert Tarrasch, "I couldn't find a suitable continuation against your line [The Open Ruy Lopez with 5. ... ♘f6xe4]"

Later Bobby Fischer revitalized it in the 60's against many prominent GM's.

In another one of his books, Dvoretsky recalls attending a lecture by Yuri Razuvaev detailing famous and instructive games in this variation by those two giants (along with Capablanca and others)."

There were hardly any variations given", but the ideas were so clear cut and well explained that I began to play the line myself.]

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4...dxc6 5.0-0 ♖e7 6.d4

[6.b3?! ♕g4 7.h3 ♕h5 8.♕b2 f6 9.d3 ♖h6
10.♖bd2 g5! ♜ 11.g4 ♕g6 12.d4 ♖f7
13.dxe5 fxe5 14.♖c4 ♕g7 15.♖fd2 0-0-
0 ♜ 16.♖e2 h5 17.♖e3 hxg4 18.hxg4 ♖f6!
19.f3 ♜h3! Smyslov: There was nothing
better than: 20.♖g2

a) 20.♖g2 ♖f4 21.♖xh3 ♜h8+;

b) 20.♖g2 ♖f4 21.♖d5 (21.♖xh3 ♖xe3+
22.♜f2 ♜xd2 23.♜af1 ♜xc2 24.♖g2 ♜xf2+
25.♜xf2 ♕f8; 21.♖f5 ♜dh8 22.♖e7+ ♖b8
23.♖xg6 ♖e3+ 24.♜f2 ♜h1+) 21...♜xd5
22.exd5 ♜g3;

20...♕f8 21.♖f2 ♜xd2 22.♖xd2 ♖xf3+
23.♖e1 ♖xe4+ 24.♖e2 ♕b4+ 25.c3
(25.♖d1 ♖d5+ 26.♖c1 ♜h2 27.♜g1 ♕c5)
25...♖xe2+ 26.♖xe2 ♕d3+ 27.♖d2 ♕xf1
28.♜xf1 ♕c5-+ 29.b4 (29.♜xf7 ♜h2)
29...♜h2 30.bxc5 ♜xg2+ 31.♖d3 ♖d8
32.♕c1 ♜xg4 33.♜f5 e4+ 34.♖d4 ♖d7
35.♕e3 ♖e7 36.♜f1 ♖f7 37.♜b1 ♖e6
38.♜xb7 ♖h6! 39.♖c4 ♖f5 40.♕d4 e3
41.♖d3 ♜g2 42.♜b1 ♜d2+ 0-1 (42)
Gheorghiu,F-Smyslov,V Petropolis 1973]

6...exd4 [6...f6? 7.b3]

7.♖xd4

[7.♖xd4 ♕d7 8.♖c3 0-0-0 9.♖b3 ♖f6
10.♖e2 g6 11.f3 ♖h5 12.♕e3 f5 13.♜ad1
♕g7 14.♖c5 ♖f4 15.♖c4 ♕e5 16.♖xd7
♜xd7 17.♜xd7 ♖xd7 18.♖c5 ♕xc3 19.bxc3
b6 20.♖c4 ♖e6 21.♖xa6+ ♖b8 22.♜b1 c5
23.♖c4 ♜d8 24.a4 f4 25.♕f2 ♖c6 26.a5
♖b7 27.axb6 cxb6 28.♜a1 ♜a8 29.♜xa8
♖xa8 30.♖d5 ♖xd5 31.exd5 ♖c7 32.c4
♖e8 33.♕h4 ♖d6 34.♕g5 ♖xc4 35.♕xf4
♖b7 36.♖f1 ♖a3 37.c3 b5 38.♖e2 ♖c4
39.♖d3 ♖b6 40.♖e4 b4 41.cxb4 cxb4
42.♖e5 b3 43.♕c1 ♖c7 44.♖e6 ♖d8
45.d6 ♖d7 46.♖f7 ♖e5+ 47.♖g7 ♖d3
48.♕a3 ♖e1 49.♖xh7 ♖xg2 50.♖h6 ♖d7

51.♖g5 ♖e1 52.f4 ♖f3+ 53.♖xg6 ♖xh2
54.f5 ♖g4 55.f6 ♖xf6 56.♖xf6 ½-½ (56)
Barreras,A-Smyslov,V Cienfuegos 1973]

7...♕g4

[7...♖f6 8.♖a4 (8.♖xf6 ♖xf6 9.♕f4 is given
by Dvoretzky as leading to an advantage
for white) 8...♕g4 9.e5 ♖g6 10.♖g5±]

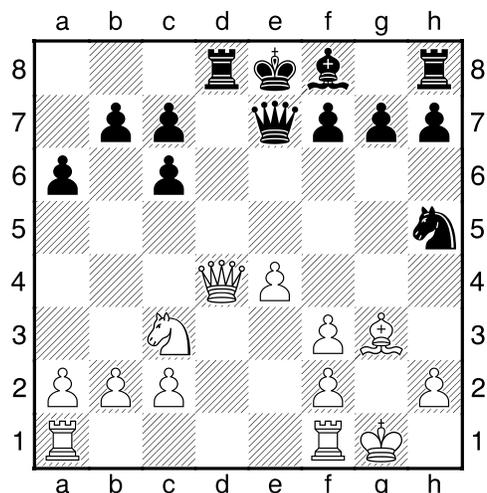
8.♕f4

[8.♖bd2 ♜d8 9.♖a7 ♖b4 10.♖b3 ♕xf3
11.gxf3 ♖e7 12.♕f4 ♖c8 13.♖e3 ♕d6
14.♜ad1 0-0 15.♜d4 ♕xf4 16.♜xb4 ♕xe3
17.fxe3 b6 18.♜d4 c5 19.♜dd1 ♖d6
20.♖d2 f6 21.c4 ♖f7 22.♖f2 ♖e5 23.♖e2
♜d6 24.b3 ♜fd8 25.f4 ♖d3 26.♖b1 b5
27.♖c3 bxc4 28.bxc4 ♖b2 29.♜xd6 cxd6
30.♜b1 ♖xc4 31.♖d3 ♖a3 32.♜b6 a5
33.♜a6 c4+ 34.♖d2 ♜b8 35.♜xa5 ♖b1+
36.♖c2 ♖xc3 37.♖xc3 ♜e8 38.♖xc4
♜xe4+ 39.♖d3 d5 40.a4 ♖f7 41.♜a7+ ½-
½ (41) Garcia Palermo,C (2385)-
Smyslov,V (2575) Buenos Aires 1978]

8...♕xf3

[8...♜d8 9.♖e3 h6 10.♖c3 g5?! 11.♕g3
♖f6 12.♜ad1 ♜xd1 13.♜xd1 ♕g7 14.♖a7
♕c8 15.♖b8± Schneider-
Pachmann,Reggio 1975]

9.gxf3 ♖f6 10.♖c3 ♖h5 11.♕g3 ♜d8



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[Gheorghiu, in his commentary to his game above, gave it all up to here, and stated that white had no advantage.

Smyslov, in his notes, also gave this line as from his game vs Bednarski (see below) and stated that the chances were equal.]

[11...♘xg3 12.hxg3 ♔c5?! 13.♖ad1 ♔xd4 14.♖xd4 ♘c5 15.♖d3 ♕e7 16.♖fd1±]

[Dvoretzky, in his pre-game preparations disagreed with Gheorghiu's assessment [He says he did NOT know Smyslov's]. He reckoned that after the game continuation (see the next diagram after white's 14th move) that the endgame was better for white.

He consulted with a master (Razuvaev!) and asked if he should play in this manner against Smyslov. The wise sage asked him instead, "... and in what other opening would you be able to achieve such a promising position against Vassily?"]

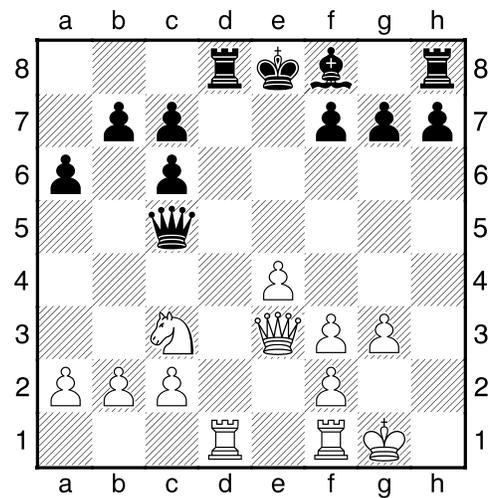
12. ♔e3

[Dvoretzky says he was unaware of this game, until he saw it in Informat#14. After seeing it, he then was able to understand why he won so easily in the main game. Smyslov followed the successful recipe he used against the Pole, and failed to notice the changed circumstances. 12. ♔a4

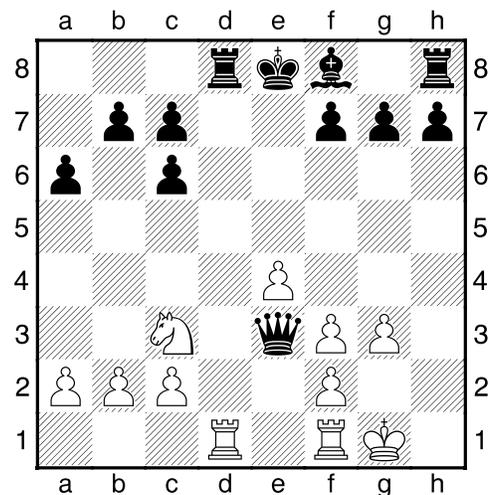
♘xg3 13.hxg3 ♔b4 14.♖ad1 ♔xa4 15.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 16.♘xa4 g6! 17.f4 b5 18.♘c3 ♘g7 19.♕g2 (if 19.e5 Smyslov gave 19...f6 20.♖d1+ ♕c8 21.e6 f5 22.♖d7 ♘xc3 23.bxc3 ♖e8=) 19...♕e7!?

Smyslov (19...♘xc3 20.bxc3 ♕e7!) 20.e5 ♖d8 21.♖d1 ♖xd1 22.♘xd1 ♕e6= 23.♕f3 g5 24.fxg5 ♕xe5 25.♕e3 c5 26.b3 ♘f8 27.♕e2 ♕d4 28.♕d2 ♕e4 29.♕e2 ♕d4 ½-½ (29) Bednarski,J-Smyslov,V Skopje 1972]

12...♘xg3 13.hxg3 ♔c5 14.♖ad1



14... ♔xe3



[Here was his pre-game prep position and he had planned to just take the queen, but

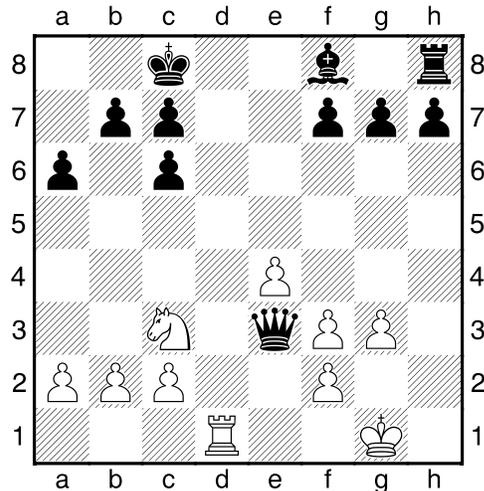
Looking at the Endgame

instead he gave rook checks first...]

15. ♖xd8+ ♔xd8 16. ♖d1+

[... and here he realized that black actually had a choice! Black could simply play ♕d2 (or even ♕d4) and he determines the pawn structure!]

16... ♕c8? [



[A major error, leaving the king cut-off from the scene of the coming battle.]

17. fxe3± g6?

[Another mistake, but understandable given the history...]

[17... f6; 17... ♕c5 18. ♔f2 ♖d8±]

18. e5 ♕g7 [18... ♕c5 19. ♔f2 ♖e8 20. f4 f6 21. ♞e4]

19. f4 f6 20. exf6 ♕xf6 21. e4 h5 22. ♔g2 ♕xc3?!

[Once again history causes a mistaken plan that makes white's conversion easier.]

23. bxc3 b5 24. e5 a5 25. ♔h3! b4 26. ♔h4 ♖e8 27. ♔g5 ♖e6 28. ♔h6

[Δ ♔g7–f7 and a decisive invasion]

1–0



**The Averbakh Collection
Sold as a Set.**

Dvoretzky, Mark (2475) - Arencibia Rodriguez, Walter (2555) [C68]

Terrassa op Terrassa (6), 1996

[The rest of the story...After a long hiatus, Dvoretzky chose to play in an open tournament.]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙xc6

[A variation that can be played after a long lapse...]

4...dxc6 5.♘c3!?

[But here Mark plays the 'older' move, because he was worried about how the theory behind Fischer's move 5. O-O had just "exploded" and so he was afraid of getting caught...]

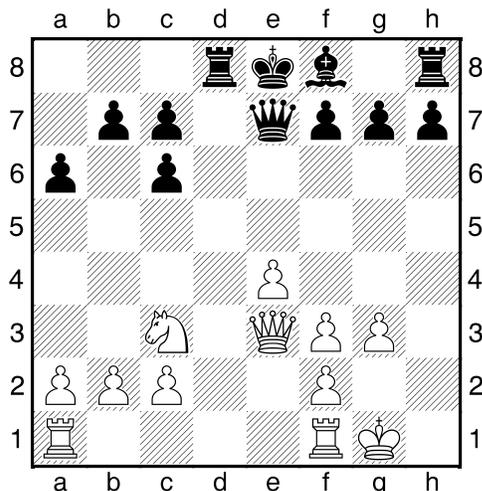
5...♚e7?!

[An aggressive move from the Cuban, but now Dvoretzky realized that he probably could get his Smyslov position after all. He had avoided a potential trap, but now he was the trapper!]

6.d4 exd4 7.♚xd4 ♙g4 8.♙f4! ♙xf3 9.gxf3 ♜d8 10.♚e3 ♘f6

[Dvoretzky 10...♚b4 11.0-0 ♙c5 12.♚e2 ♚xb2 13.♘a4 ♚a3 14.♘xc5 ♚xc5 15.♙xc7 ♜d7 16.♙g3 [Δ 17.♜ad1 with advantage]]

11.0-0 ♘h5 12.♙g3 ♘xg3 13.hxg3



13...♚e6

[Avoiding the queen trade, but Smyslov's move is actually more reliable.

See the previous game for more detailed discussion. Here are the bare reminders...]

[13...♚c5 14.♜ad1 ♚xe3 15.♜xd8+ ♚xd8 16.♜d1+ ♚e7

(16...♚d4 17.♜xd4+ ♚c8 18.e5 ♙c5 19.♜c4 ♙e7 20.♜g4 g6 21.♜d4 ♜e8 22.♘e4 ♜d8 23.♜xd8+ ♚xd8 24.f4 ♚d7 25.c4 ♚e6 26.♘g2 ♚f5 27.♘f3 h5 28.♘d2 g5 29.♘e4 gxf4 30.gxf4 h4 31.b3 b6 32.♘c3 ♙f8 33.♘d1 ♙h6 34.♘e3+ ♚e6 35.♘g4 ♙g7 36.♘e4 f5+ 37.exf6 ½-½

(37) Fronczak, S (1627)-Blaszkiwicz, M (1931) Sekocin Stary 2010;

16...♚c8 17.fxe3± g6 18.e5 ♙g7 19.f4 f6 20.exf6 ♙xf6 21.e4 h5 22.♚g2 ♙xc3 23.bxc3 b5 24.e5 a5 25.♚h3 b4 26.♚h4 ♜e8 27.♚g5 ♜e6 28.♚h6 1-0 (28)

Dvoretzky, M-Smyslov, V Odessa 1973 EXT 1999 [ChessBase])

17.fxe3 g6 18.e5 ♚e6 19.♜d8 ♚xe5 20.♜e8+ ♚f6 21.♜b8 ♚e6 22.♘e4 b6 23.♜e8+ ♚d7 24.♘f6+ ♚d6 25.e4 c5 26.e5+ ♚c6 27.f4 h5 28.♚g2 ♙g7 29.♜e7 ♙xf6 30.exf6 ♜d8 31.♜xf7 ♜d7 32.♜g7 ♚d6 33.f7 1-0 (33) Brynell, S (2445)-Hector, J (2500) Gothenburg 1996]

14.♜ad1 ♜xd1 15.♜xd1 h5?!

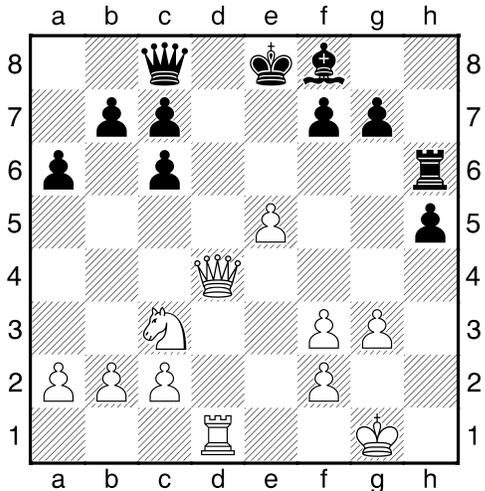
[Playing on white's turf is fraught with danger.]

[Δ15...♙e7]

16.♚a7! ♚c8 17.♚d4 ♜h7□ [[otherwise 17 ♚e5+]]

Looking at the Endgame

18. e5 ♖h6 [



19. ♘e2!

[The ♘ would look *real* good on e4, but it would not control the game like it will soon do from d4.]

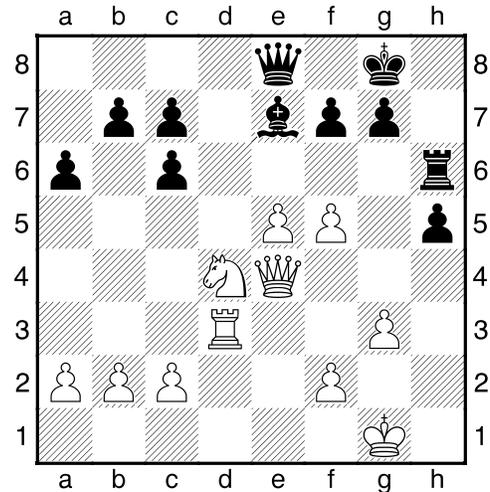
Finding the CORRECT squares for our pieces at ANY stage in the game is a key skill.

One of the best ways to do this is to play, put the piece in your hand and just look for its best square.

It is important to not confine yourself to only squares that are currently accessible to it, or even if the best square is currently occupied by one of your (or your opponents!) pieces. Such as it is here.]

19... ♕e7 20. ♖e4! ♔f8 21. ♘d4 ♕d7?!
22. ♖d3 ♖e8 [22... ♕d5 23. ♖f5]

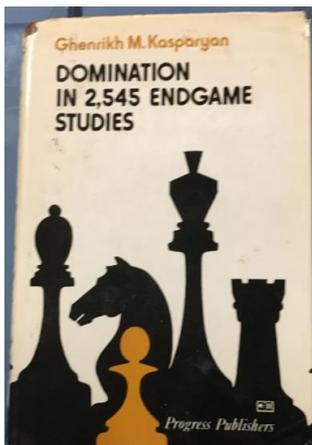
23. f4 ♔g8 24. f5 [



[Reducing black's mobility. In such situations, the opponent will often just get an idea... To do something, and often you can simply play the B.U.G. and take advantage.]

24... c5 25. ♘e2 ♕b5? 26. ♖b3 ♕a5
27. ♖xb7 ♖e1+ 28. ♔g2 h4 29. ♖b8+ ♔h7
30. f6+ g6 31. gxh4

1-0



The book at Left by Kasparyan is often mentioned on the Perpetual Chess Podcast as a favorite book to study by GM's (especially European and Russian). In an 'endgame' format (few pieces, and no superfluous ones) exact calculation to find the correct (and often well hidden!) idea is emphasized.

The books on the next page are also sold singly and are more entertaining ways of picking up endgames. My favorite among them is Griffith's *Exploring the Endgame*, while Speelman's *Analysing the End Game* is possibly the most entertaining one.

I learned an awful lot from those two books.

Looking at the Endgame



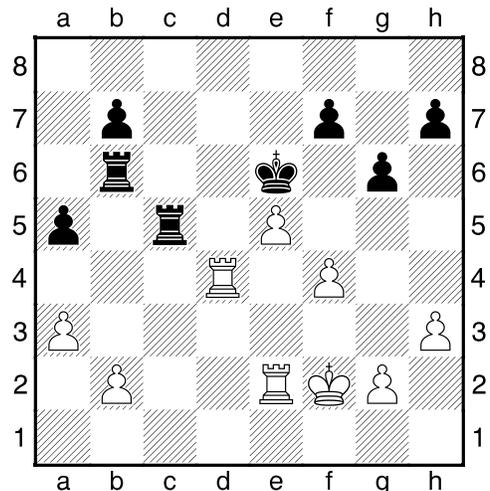
Dolmatov, Sergey (2610) - Sosonko, Gennadi (2525) [B22] Cannes op Cannes, 1994

[Dolmatov is a strong Dvoretsky disciple.]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 ♖xd5 4.d4 ♘f6
5.♙e3 cxd4 6.cxd4 e6 7.♘c3 ♗d8 8.♘f3
♙e7 9.♙d3 ♘c6 10.a3 0-0 11.♗c2 ♙d7
12.0-0 ♖c8 13.♖ad1 ♗a5 14.♗e2 ♖fd8
15.h3 ♙e8 16.♖fe1 ♘d5 17.♙d2 ♗b6
18.♘xd5 exd5 19.♙f4 ♙d7 20.♙b1 ♖e8
21.♘e5 ♘xe5 22.dxe5 ♙e6 23.♙e3 ♙c5
24.♙xc5 ♖xc5 25.♗d3 g6 26.♗d4 ♖b5
27.♗xb6 ♖xb6 28.♖e2 ♖c8 29.♙a2 ♖c5
30.f4 ♘f8 31.♘f2 ♘e7 32.♖dd2

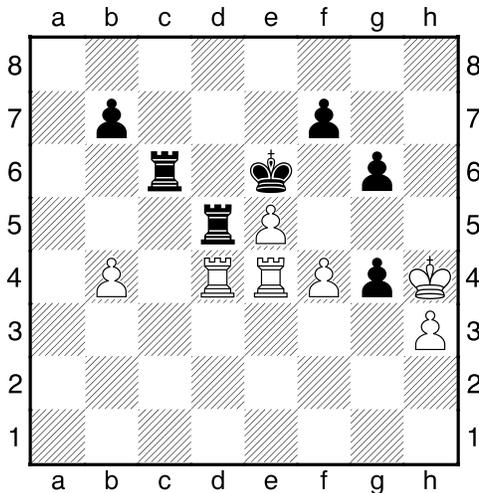
[White completely clamps down, and now black "twitches", as Dvoretsky described Arenciba's play towards the end of the previous game.]

32...d4 33.♙xe6 ♘xe6 34.♖xd4 a5



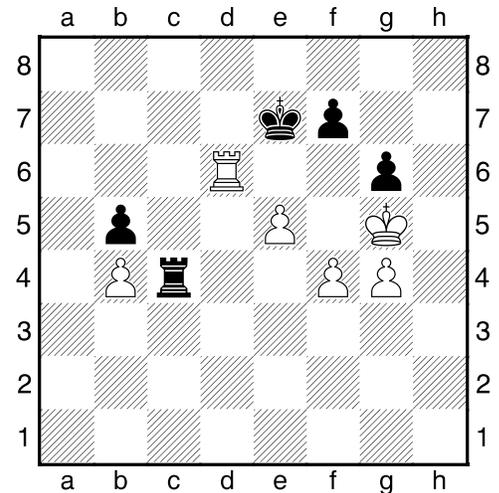
35.b4 axb4 36.axb4 ♖cb5 37.♖ee4 h5
38.♘g3 ♖d5 39.♘h4 ♖c6 40.g4 hxg4

Looking at the Endgame



41. hxg4 **b5**
42. ♔g5 **♖xd4**
43. ♖xd4 **♖c4**
44. ♖d6+ **♔e7**

And this brings us
 to our exercise.
Did you find it??



45. ♖f6!!

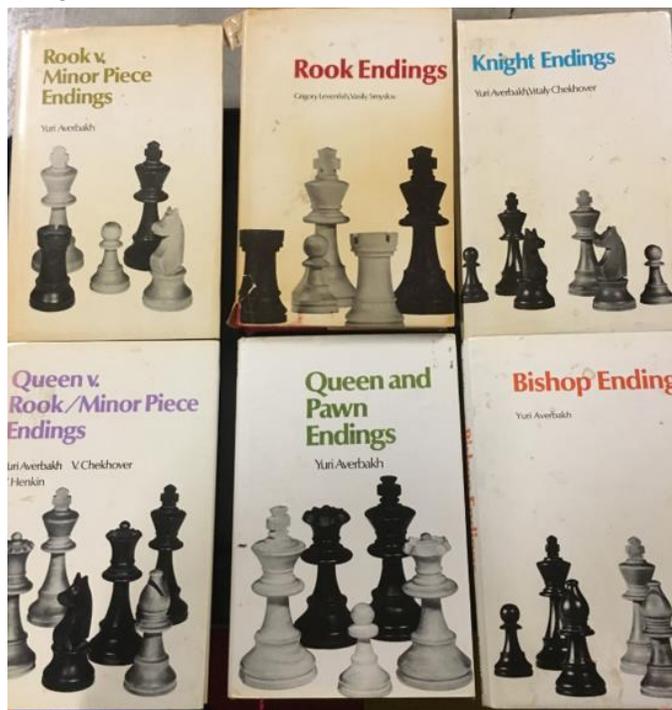
[*The only way.* White transfers the king to g7.]

[45. ♖b6? ♖xb4 46. f5 gxf5 47. gxf5 [Δ48 ♖b7+ ♔e8 49 ♔f6+–] 47... ♖d4! 48. ♖xb5 (48. ♖b7+ ♖d7) 48... f6+! 49. exf6+ ♔f7 50. ♖b7+ ♔f8=; 45. f5? gxf5 46. gxf5 ♖xb4 (46... ♖e4!?) 47. f6+ ♔e8 48. ♖b6 ♖b1 49. ♖b8+ ♔d7=]

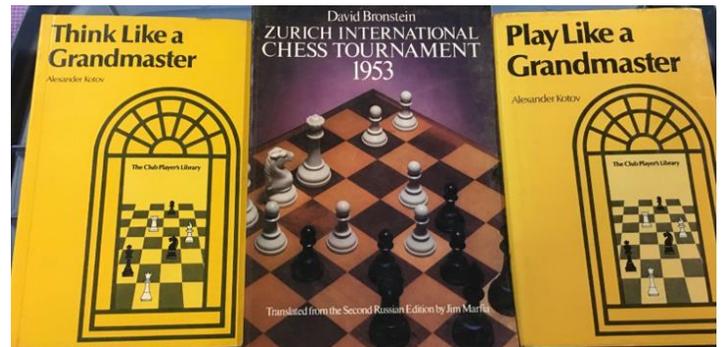
45... ♖xb4 46. ♔h6! ♔e8 [46... ♔f8 47. e6]

47. ♔g7 g5 48. f5 ♖xg4 49. ♖xf7 ♖e4 50. e6 g4 51. ♔f6

1–0



**These Classic Hardcover
End Game Books: Sold as a Set**



Here are three more 'Classic' Chess Books. For these, I can sell singly or as a package set.

I have more than one copy of these, some hard back even.