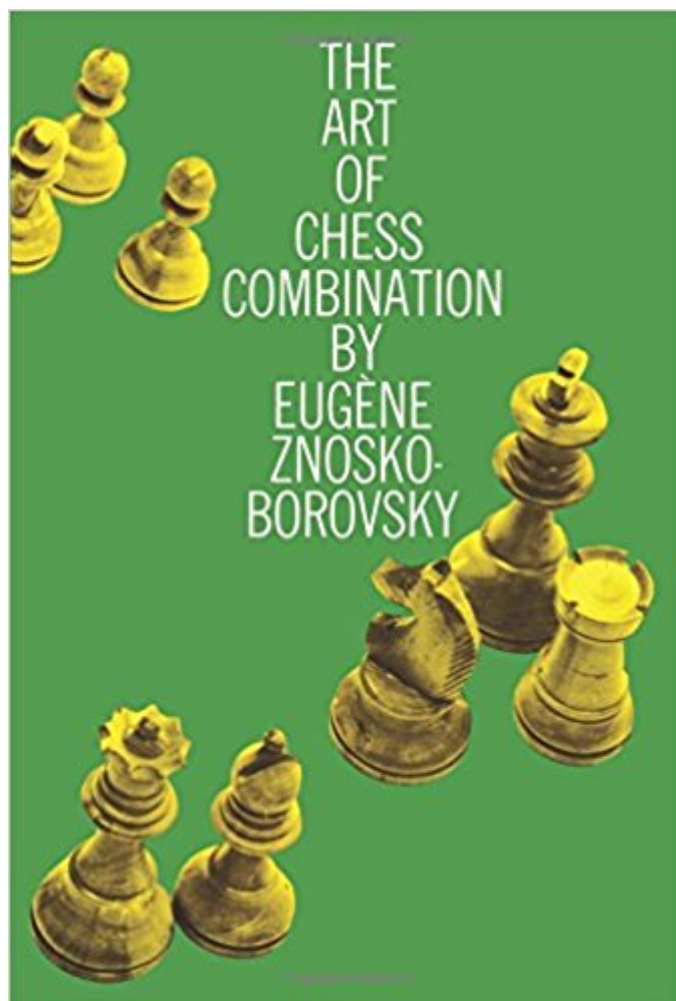


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# The Art Of Chess Combination (Dover Chess)



## Synopsis

What, really, is a chess combination? It is a maneuver generally employing surprise and a sacrifice, in which pieces work together to bring about a sudden advantage. It is perhaps the most aesthetically satisfying and successful technique in the game. Some players believe that the combination is a spontaneous creation with no guiding laws; the possibility springs up in the mind like a flash of genius. In this classic work, however, Znosko-Borovsky proves that combinations can be studied. He demonstrates conclusively that they need not be a haphazard occurrence, but may be prepared for as an integral part of a player's game. The great modern teacher begins by examining the games of master players, including Capablanca, Alekhine, Rubinstein, Nimzovich, Tarrasch, Reti, Mason, Morphy, Bird, Euwe, Emanuel Lasker, etc. The games are grouped according to common features, and perceptively analyzed to determine what conclusions may be drawn. Znosko-Borovsky shows that every combination, however complicated, begins in a simple idea, such as an undefended piece, the bad position of the hostile king, the promotion of a pawn, or a discovered check. The Art of Chess Combination will improve the game of anyone who knows how to move individual pieces but finds it hard to plan many moves ahead to make the pieces work together. The exposition is easily understood; technical terms are almost completely avoided but clarity and precision remain. "In the teaching of chess he may claim to have no superior." — Philip W. Sergeant.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book should be in every serious chessplayers library. No idea why anyone would not buy this

because its in descriptive notation. What does it take...like 5 minutes to learn? The only complaint would be the diagram positions don't say who's move it is, only the exercises at the end of each chapter, but I'll still give it 5 stars since its not really a book on tactics per se, but combinations.Great read.

A few years ago, I had been playing my electronic chess at level 3 (of 9), and consistantly losing. After reading this book, setting up my own board and following along as strongly recommended, I demolished the computer. I originally bought this book at a used book store. This Holiday I am buying it for my brother, who has lately taken more of an interest in the game. I am a little concerned and feel that I should practice for when he has finished reading it.

good read

This is a real classic of chess literature. As the title indicates, this is a book about combinations, but it is not the typical modern 'puzzle book' of isolated positions. Instead, it is in the form of an instructional textbook with very copious verbal explanations of how combinations are brought about and executed. The examples are far from elementary ones, as they are taken from the play of such luminaries of the board as Capablanca, Botvinnik, Alekhine, Nimzovich, Lasker (both Ed and Emmanuel) and Marshall. Many key combinational ideas such as line opening, line blocking, loose pieces, geometric, overworked pieces, etc are illustrated in depth. Classic methods such as the 2 Bishop sacrifice and attacks on the f7 square are covered. What sets this book apart for me are the extensive verbal explanations and the richness and central importance of the examples chosen. Yes, the writing style is old-fashioned and rather verbose, but Znosko-Borovsky does a really good job of explaining things for the non-expert player. This book has been made a bit more famous by American IM and famous author Jeremy Silman, who while a young player went through this text and added 400 points to his rating!! I can hardly think of a better recommendation. If you have mastered more elementary tactical puzzle books, this is a great way to take your tactics to the next level. Warmly recommended.

Znosko-Borovsky is a brilliant chess teacher; this and his How to Play the Chess Endings are his two best works. For the beginning tournament player, The Art of Chess Combination gives a wonderful, concise introduction to important motifs in attacking (and in some cases, defensive) play. Vukovic's Art of Attack in Chess is a good book, but after reading Znosko-Borovsky's shorter work

felt it did not add that much extra. The author does a tremendous job of introducing important tactical ideas, such "Geometry of the Chessboard," "The Knight's Star," and, what I consider to be the most important part of the book, the section on BxKRP+ sacrifices. This is the most important work I have used to learn kingside attacking methods, and since reading it during my first year of playing tournament chess in 1996 have only supplemented it with some kingside attacking exercises, but not a tremendous amount. With this book, you learn what you need to do, and it sticks. Other sources? Try these (I use quotation marks because I cannot underline and want to highlight the title): "The Art of Attack in Chess" is good for more applications of the Bxh7+ sacrifice, and studying preconditions, other than that, it did not overly impress me. "Play Chess Combinations and Sacrifices" by David Levy, is a good mix of instruction/advice, and exercises for the intermediate player. "The Art of the Middle Game" by Kotov and Keres. In general I don't really like this book, but for the price it is worth the purchase if only for Kotov's chapter on opposite-wing castling attacks. His treatment of the topic is outstanding. (Keres's chapters are OK also). "Attacking Technique" by Crouch (I had to order it from Australia!) is a nice, short book. "Attack Like Mikhail Tal" by Tal and Damsky is excellent, but challenging for non-innate attackers like myself. A more advanced work. Finally, because you need to hone your "hacking" skills somewhat no matter what type of player you are, get tactics workbooks which SPECIFICALLY stress kingside attacks (that would be sacrifices and other combinations). Back to "The Art of Chess Combination." Many people complain about books written in Descriptive Notation. My response is: Get Over It! So many classics of chess literature are written in this language (which I actually like). I used to struggle with DN also, but now I can read it as easily as I can algebraic, and you should be able to also.

If you love Chess and want to get better at it... you need to study it and learn from books like this one. The best results come from playing these examples on a board or computer chess game. Apply what you learn in real live games will also help. Remember when you lose you can always learn from it so don't get discouraged. This book will show you some very important applications that you'll need to learn. It's worth the study..

This is a quite good minor classic. Znosko-Borovsky discusses several themes, such as the standard bishop sacrifice on h7 and combinations against the king in the center. A great number of examples are to the point and I was delighted by the examples from Alekhine and Capa. There is clearly something of value for most of us here. But, in some cases the connection between examples and examples and text are not very clear. There are also a some instances of "... and

white/black wins" where the continuation is not too obvious. With my modest rating (ICC Standard c.2000, handle: johanh) I also found a few examples where white/black does in fact not have a clear win at all and may even be lost if the opponent had defended properly. On the other hand it is always a good exercise trying to prove an author wrong. No-one is perfect and that's the beauty of chess! Spielmann's *The Art of Sacrifice in Chess* is better though - simpler language, complete games and a more dynamic approach (structure vs. the initiative, sacrifices that win material/ lead to mate vs. sacrifices to obtain the initiative or an attack without being able to calculate to the end, etc.). I found Spielmann's book much more charming, revealing and also modern even though it was printed several years before Z-B's book.

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