

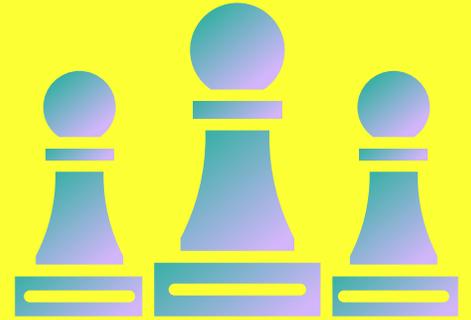
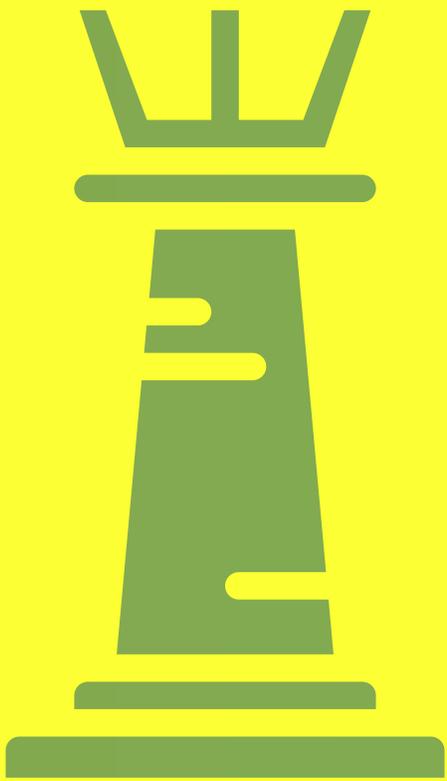


Modern Chess Magazine

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Fortress

The Ultimate Defence

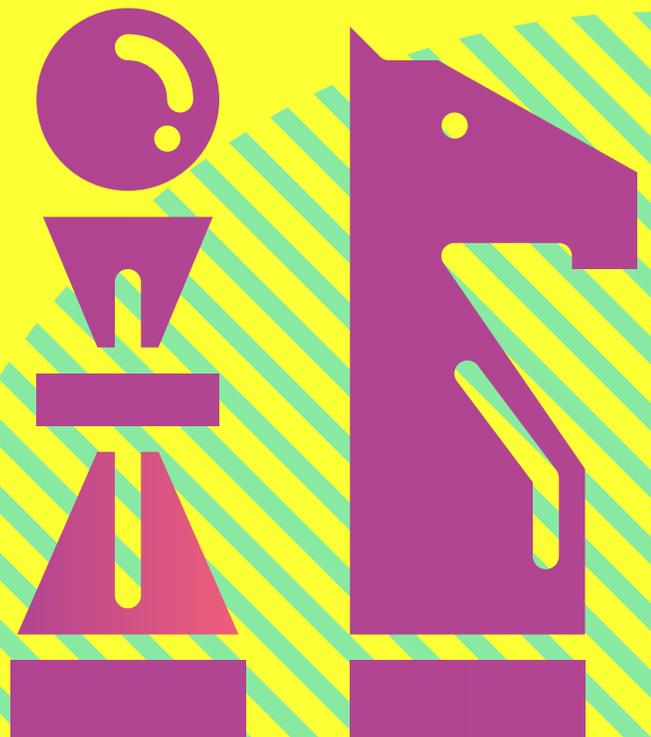


Understand the English Hedgehog **Part 2**

The Danger of Making Natural Moves
Learn to Fight Your Reflexes

Understand the Najdorf Structures **Part 2**

Endgame Series 21
Simplifications in Difficult Endgames



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The Danger of Making Natural Moves - Learn to Fight Your Reflexes



GM Valeriy Aveskulov

All humans are followed by reflexes. Wikipedia names more than 50 reflexes known to modern science. But I know one more reflex that is unknown to Web Encyclopedia. I call it “natural moves” reflex. ABSOLUTELY every chess player has a set of chess instincts that (1) make some moves undoubted or (2) makes some moves not possible for him/her. For every level of players, there is a different set of reflexes. For example, beginners take everything they can or attack the queen whenever he/she can do this. Experienced players already understand that such behavior does not bring dividends and become more flexible. Stronger players know that in the endgame king should go to the center; when you attack you do not need to exchange queens; do not exchange fianchetto bishop when your king is castled to the same side etc. Such a list can be enormous. But in chess every single position is individual. Every single position has own nuances. Even the flap

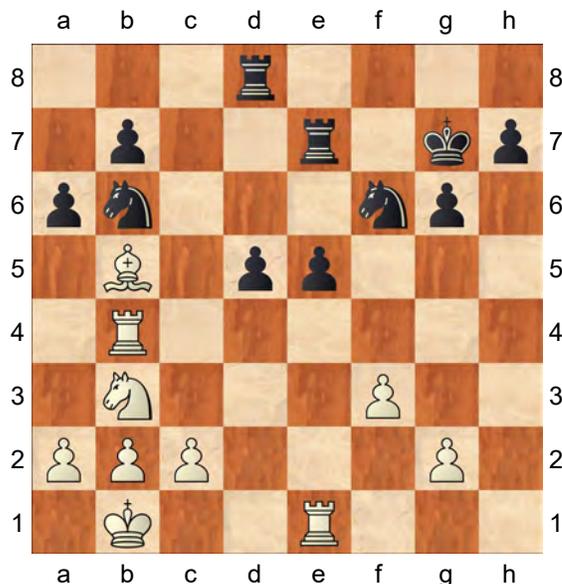
of a butterfly wing on one continent may cause an earthquake on another. Rephrasing this formula of Chaos Theory we can state that a move that was good with the pawn on h2 may be a fatal mistake with a pawn on h3. Definitely, reflexes help us when we are short on time. But if we have enough time on the clock, we need to consider all nuances and to double-check all around do not miss something important that can be out of our reflex system. Now let me show how all this can influence on our play.

Captures

What can be more natural than to take an opponent's piece -especially when he/she took our piece on the last move. One of the first things we learn as chess beginners are how to capture and this reflex goes through all our chess life. Even top players are affected by to-take-instincts. But chess is not draughts and capturing is not compulsory in our game. The first example I would like to share demonstrates the most primitive form of this reflex. You take - I take. Black was my former student who could not handle with own instincts.

□ **Joe Belomo**

■ **Bruce Highcock**

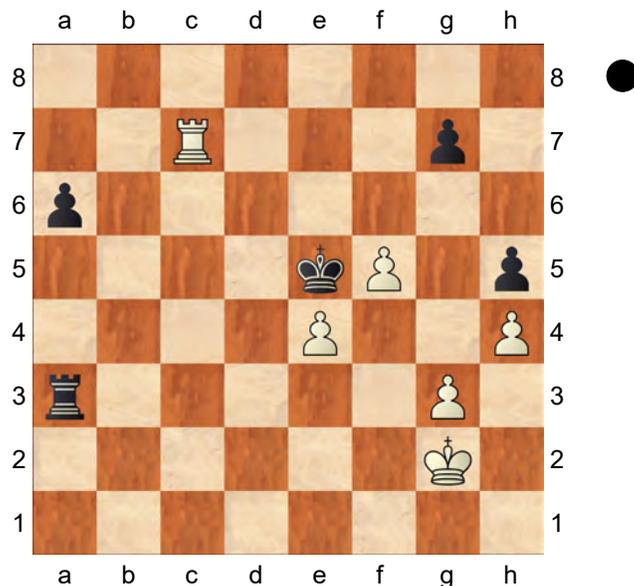


The last move was not the best - a7-a6 -and White confidently take this pawn. **30.Bxa6!** Bruce admits that he made a mistake and without any doubts takes back. **30...bxa6?**

[The best move was out-of-reflexes 30...Rd6! Black defends the knight and forces the bishop to retreat. 31.Bf1 Now Nc8 with idea to exchange White's active rook (by means of Rb6) would hold a balance.]

31.Rxb6± and rapidly Black lost but there is no sense to see the end of this game. We can make two conclusions based on watching this game - one concrete and one general. The concrete conclusion is when the opponent takes something we should not hastily take it back. General rule teaches us that we should always create a list of candidates moves. Even if you see a good move that wins a pawn look around before making the move. Maybe instead you can win a queen and end the game. An influence of natural moves reflex increases when time on the clock is running out. For Fabiano Caruana it happened in the most unsuitable moment - in the first tie-break game of his World Championship match.

☐	Carlsen,Magnus	2835
■	Caruana,Fabiano	2832
	WCh Rapid TB 2018 (1)	2018



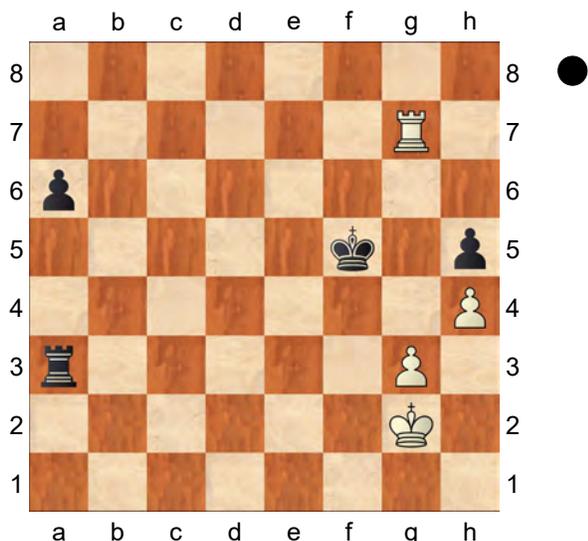
Caruana had had a tough defense from the very opening and in the position on the diagram he had less than a minute on the clock. He calculated the most natural line - take, take, check - and correctly evaluated the final position as drawn. But chess is not draughts; here one is not obliged to take. **37...Kxe4?**

[The correct move order was 37...Ra2+! 38.Kh3 Kxe4 using a bad location of White king Black saves the game. 39.Rxg7 (here check does not help because of 39.Re7+ Kf3 followed by Ra1.) 39...Ra1 with idea of Kf3. 40.Rg5 (or 40.Rc7 Rf1 41.Rc6 Rxf5 42.Rxa6 Rb5=) 40...Kf3 41.Kh2 Ra2+=]

38.Re7+!

[Carlsen does not follow opponent's plan; before taking on g7 he pushes Black king backward. 38.Rxg7? Ra2+ 39.Kh3 Ra1= as we know leads to a draw.]

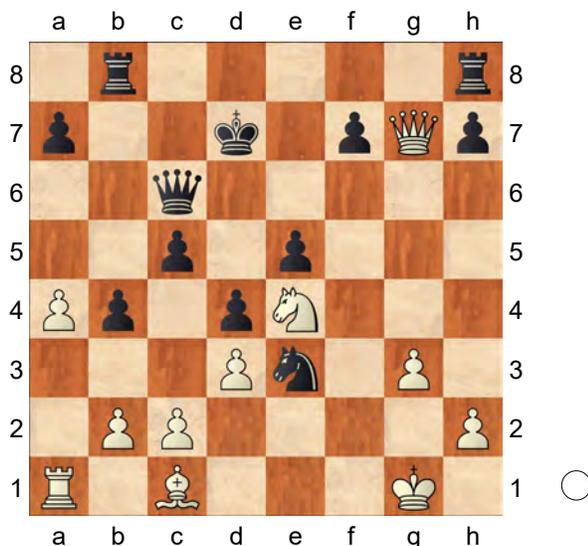
38...Kxf5 39.Rxg7+-



Two connected passed pawns guarantee White a win. 39...Kf6 40.Rg5 a5 41.Rxh5 a4 42.Ra5 Ra1 43.Kf3 a3 44.Ra6+ Kg7 45.Kg2 Ra2+ 46.Kh3 Ra1 47.h5 Kh7 48.g4 Kg7 49.Kh4 a2 50.Kg5 Kf7 51.h6 Rb1 52.Ra7+ Kg8 53.Rxa2 Rb5+ 54.Kg6 Rb6+ 55.Kh5 Black resigned. 1-0

Here is another example on the theme of instinctive capture.

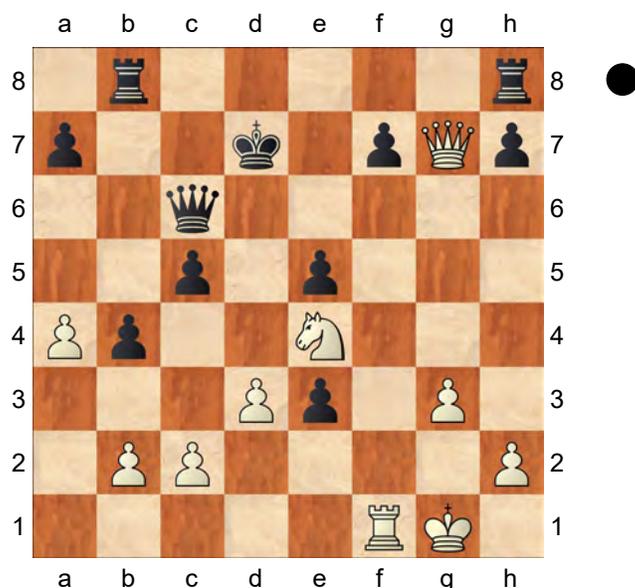
Valenti, Richard 2149
 Lam-Roques, Kalvin 2039
 Chpt de Paris (position from analysis)



I'm pretty sure that many of you would take on f7 with a check - immediately of after previous Bxe3. To take with a check is a reflex of high level - not many players can handle it. But such capture in this situation leaves Ra1 without a job. Development of pieces is supposed to be our primary reflex! **22.Bxe3!**

[After 22.Qxf7+? Kc8 23.Bxe3 dxe3 24.Qxa7 (or 24.Qe7 Rd8∞) 24...Rd8 25.Rf1 (25.Re1 c4!) 25...e2 26.Re1 c4 with double-edged position.]

22...dxe3 23.Rf1!



Three pieces attack the king more effectively than two do. **23...Rbf8** Now it is necessary to block another reflex and do not take on f7. Rooks on f8 and h8 are passive and White pieces can direct own pieces to opponent's king. **24.Rf6 Qd5 25.Rf5**

[25.Rd6+ is also possible Qxd6 26.Nxd6 Kxd6 27.Qf6+ Kd7 28.Qxe5 king stops pawn on e1; should be winning.]