

Chess Course **Understanding.Plan**



Playing for complications is an extreme measure that a player should adopt only when he cannot find a clear and logical plan.

Alexander Alekhine

It is better to follow out a plan consistently even if it isn't the best one than to play without a plan at all. The worst thing is to wander about aimlessly.

Alexander Kotov

I continue the series of courses intended for development of chess understanding. First of all, it should be noted that I believe only in a practical way of training. Any theoretical lesson can be good and useful, but you won't achieve better results without practice. It is precisely this method of grandmasters' trainings that is used in the Russian chess school.

This course is aimed at choosing the right move and searching the plan. More often this complicated choice between the possible moves and game plans comes with difficulty. Especially for inexperienced chess players.

In the basis of move's choice are some principles of the game, following which you can easily find a right way and win. What is more, you can learn this skill!

How to find a Plan?

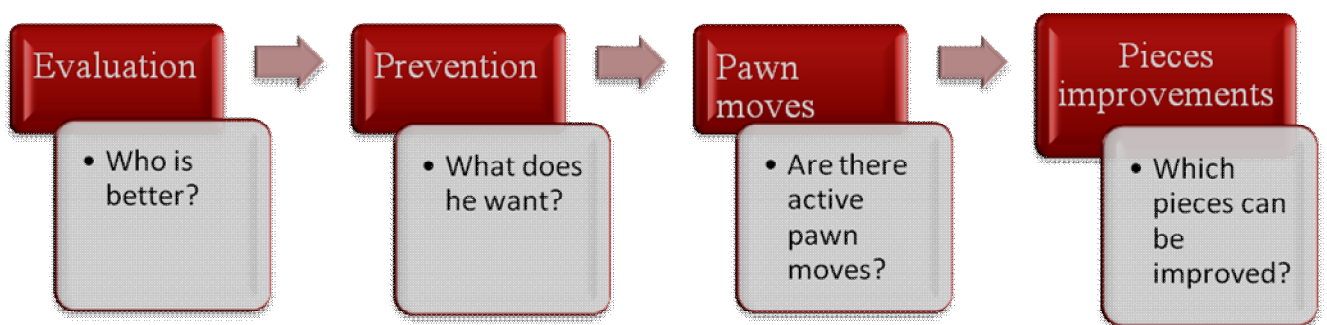
4 steps

1. Evaluation.
2. Prevention.
3. Pawn moves.
4. Pieces improvements, maneuvers.

Key questions

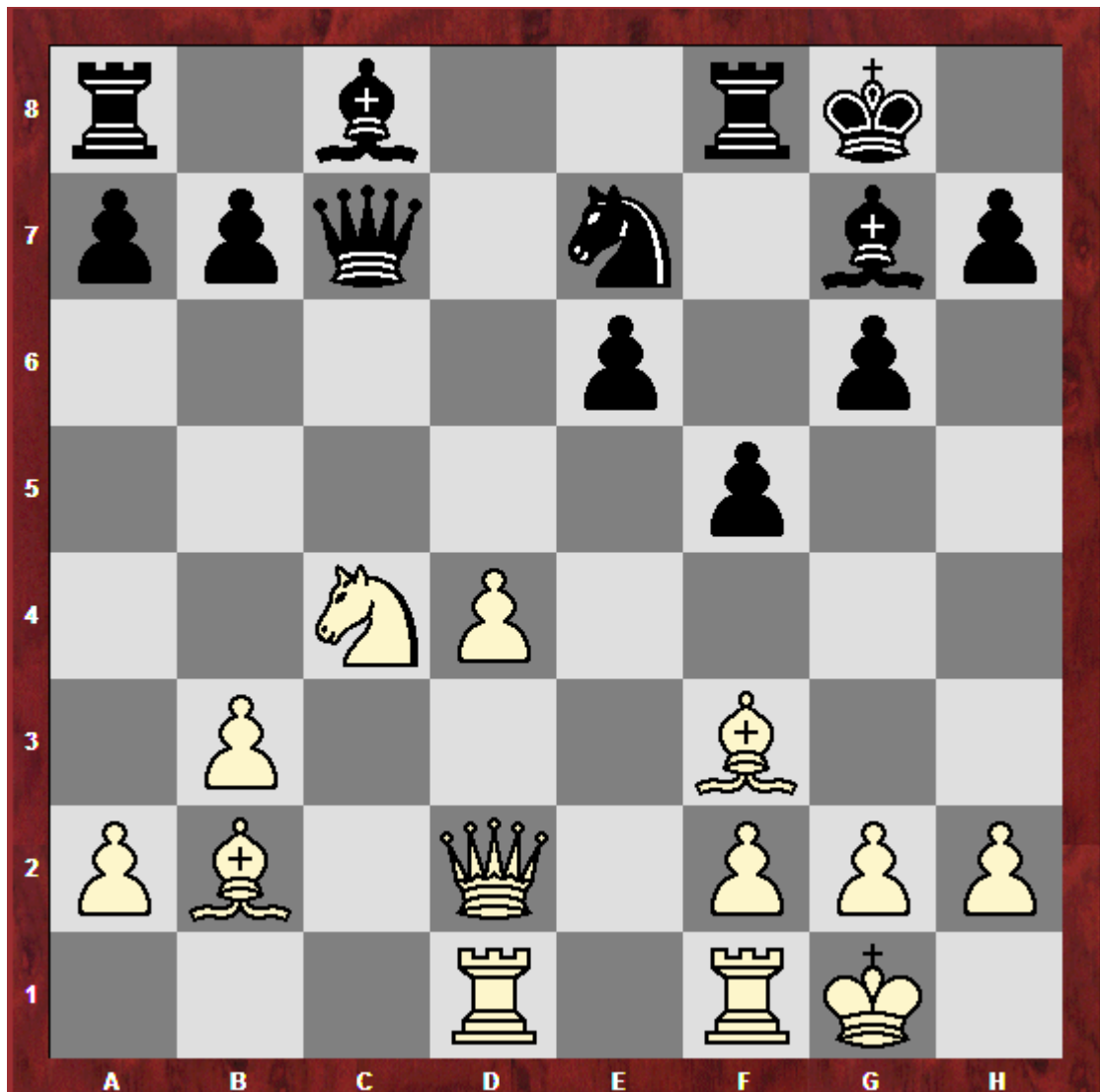
1. Who is better?
2. What does he want? (Strategy and Tactic threats)
3. Are there active pawn moves?
4. Which pieces can be improved?

Mind Map



Example #1

White to move



Key questions

1. White is better. Black has bad development.
2. Play Nd5 (d5 is a strong blockade square).
3. d5, h4-h5.
4. Rfe1, Ba3.

1. d5 – We open position and use bad development of black pieces.

Note. This is one of a typical plan of play with isolated pawn. Push it forward, while pieces of opponent are badly-placed.

Example #2

Black to move



Key questions

1. Equal position.
2. Play f4 or b4.
3. d5, b5.
4. Bf8; Nd7 to d4.

1...Ne5 – With idea Nc6 and Nd4.

Note. Square d4 is a strong square for the knight.

Recommendations!

To achieve the maximum results follow these recommendations:

1. Solve tasks on a real chessboard.
2. Solve each position in not less than 10-15 minutes.
3. Try to solve practical tasks 30-60 minutes a day.
4. Solve tasks using 4 steps and then check your answers.