



Chess 027

Rook Endgames for Tournament Players



Course Syllabus



Part 1: Course Information

Faculty Information

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Textbook and Course Materials

Required Text: *A Practical Guide to Rook Endgames* by Nikolay Minev.

Available at many online retailers such as Amazon: <http://goo.gl/OVNRX1>

Course Requirements

Computer, internet access, and proficiency in written English required. Chess.com diamond membership recommended (not necessary for lectures, but useful for some of the study guide assignments).

Course Structure

Rook Endgames for Tournament Players was taught live from November 2015 to January 2016 and has now been made available as a recorded course. All of the material including video recordings have been organized in a user-friendly manner.

There are over **11 hours of recorded video lessons** that cover topics outlined below. Annotated PGN files of the examples covered in the recorded classes is also provided for review along with at least two pages of **written summaries**.

The course include **homework exercises** based on the lesson and two **study guides** (PDFs) that compile resources from Chess.com and other relevant websites to provide additional homework. After completing the course, students can work through our **final exam** to determine which topics they have mastered what they still need to work on and review.

Part 2: Course Objectives

By studying in this course, you will:

- ✓ Learn to play rook endgames better than 95% of players below 1800 Elo.
- ✓ Master the most important technical rook endgames.
- ✓ Learn must-know strategic and tactical rook endgame patterns.
- ✓ Improve at contemplating whether or not to enter a rook endgame by assessing winning chances.
- ✓ Improve key chess skills such as calculating, evaluating, basic planning, etc.
- ✓ Get better at playing chess!

This course is designed to teach students the most important technical positions they must know to handle rook endgames with confidence. At the same time, we will discuss typical ideas (tactical as well as strategical), patterns, and thinking techniques that are applicable to an even broader range of positions. Many rook endgames require precise calculation of variations. This fact will allow us to train the students' general calculation skills.

Did you know that rook and pawn endgames are the most common type of endgames in chess? They are also among the most difficult endgames to master since even deceptively simple-looking positions can turn out to be quite complex. In fact, John Nunn wrote an entire book solely devoted to cases with rook versus rook and only one pawn! In this course, we will meet this challenge by focusing on key positions that regularly arise in practice. Special emphasis will be on borderline cases where the outcome hinges on one seemingly small detail. By mastering these positions, students will gain the ability to evaluate many less critical positions correctly on their own.

What we are offering is a training-based course that emphasizes learning by doing. Naturally, the class assignments will be engaging and will require effort from the students. Possessing endgame knowledge is beneficial, but unless you are able to apply it and develop endgame technique, the knowledge doesn't come in handy. Being able to apply principles and improve skills such as visualization, calculation, evaluation, analysis, and planning, is vital for improving at chess.

After studying in this course, students will have a new level of understanding in rook endgames and positions where rook endgames are on the horizon.

Part 3: Course Topics and Schedule

Chapter 1: Introduction

(thinking about kings, rooks, and pawns; typical tactics and strategies)

Chapter 2: Rook versus Pawn(s)

(simple cases, typical ideas, special pawns, far-advanced pawn, two or more pawns)

Chapter 3: Rook and Pawn (b-g) versus Rook, Part 1

(Lucena position, Philidor defense, failed Philidor, passive defense, king on short side, Kling & Horwitz defense)

Chapter 4: Rook and Pawn (b-g) versus Rook, Part 2

(defending king cut off along rank or file(s): frontal defense, Grigoriev's method)

Chapter 5: Rook and Rook's Pawn versus Rook

(easy defenses, standard win, pawn on sixth rank defended by king, Vancura defense, frontal defense)

Chapter 6: Rook and two Pawns versus Rook

(doubled pawns, connected pawns, isolated pawns)

Chapter 7: One Rook Each with Several Pawns, Part 1

(one pawn each, two pawns versus one, extra pawn with more pawns)

Chapter 8: One Rook Each with Several Pawns, Part 2

(complex practical games)

Chapter 9: Final Exam

Part 4: Frequently Asked Questions

As this is now a video recorded course, students are able to go through the materials at their **own pace**. Students who purchase this course through the shop will **instantly receive access** to the course materials.

Course Materials Organizer and Checklist

Task #	Description	Complete?
1	Read Syllabus	
2	Watch Demo Video	
3	Watch Chapter 1 Video	
4	Review Chapter 1 PGN	
5	Watch Chapter 2 Video	
6	Review Chapter 2 PGN	
7	Watch Chapter 3 Video	
8	Review Chapter 3 PGN	
9	Watch Chapter 4 Video	
10	Review Chapter 4 PGN	
11	Work Through Study Guide #1	
12	Read Summary #1	
13	Work Through Exercises #1	
14	Read Exercises #1 Solutions	
15	Watch Chapter 5 Video	
16	Review Chapter 5 PGN	
17	Watch Chapter 6 Video	
18	Review Chapter 6 PGN	
19	Watch Chapter 7 Video	
20	Review Chapter 7 PGN	
21	Watch Chapter 8 Video	
22	Review Chapter 8 PGN	
23	Work Through Study Guide #2	
24	Read Summary #2	
25	Work Through Exercises #2	
26	Read Exercises #2 Solutions	
27	Take Final Exam	
28	Read Final Exam Solutions	