



DEFENDING CHAMPION

Practical Part INSTRUCTIONS

The video lessons of the course "Defending Champion" give you a lot of useful knowledge. It's highly recommended that you watch these video lessons **SEVERAL TIMES**. This will help you digest and automate the skills that separate the amateurs from the pros.

Now it is necessary to put the knowledge received into practice. This practical addition to the course will help you do so. I am giving you the training program which accurately explains exactly what you should do.

Remember, **you MUST train and automate these skills (especially your thinking process) before you can use them in real games.**

What will this practical part give you?

- ✓ You will understand the ideas of the course better.
- ✓ You will remember the ideas of the course better.
- ✓ And the main thing: you will start putting the course's ideas into practice. Thus, you will acquire these practical skills fully.

The practical course contains nine tasks. Each of them is in a different folder. A separate instruction accompanies each task. You should carry out all these tasks consistently (from 1st to 9th), following the corresponding instructions.

NOTES:

- In the each task, you will see that it is White's or Black's turn.
- Remember that you should focus on the quality of your training, not on the quantity of work performed.
- Do not use computer engines while performing these tasks. In order to train your skills, you should think yourself.
- If something is not clear to you – study once again the video lessons of the "Defending Champion" course.
- Even if any task seems simple to you – I strongly recommend that you perform it seriously.
- The chess games are in *.pgn format. Any chess program can open this.
- You should think about the every single position for not less than 3 minutes and not more than 15 minutes.
- In most tasks, you will need to find the next move in a given position. Then you will study the answer. While looking at the answer, I recommend you to go over the whole game (not only the first move). These games are very instructive and you can find a lot of useful ideas in them.

Now you should start performing the tasks:

1. **Read the instruction (from the relevant file) for a certain task.**
2. **Go to the folder with chess games/puzzles.**
3. **Go to the folder with chess games/tasks.**

While performing these tasks, you will encounter a lot of positions where you need to find the following move. Please take note of **the main purpose of such training: you should THINK about it, APPLY the general ideas (from the video lessons) and UNDERSTAND more deeply how these ideas work practically.** These ideas can help you find the answers to the puzzle positions.

While you often need to find the best move in a certain position, your main goal is NOT simply to detect the right answer. Your objective is **to train your correct system of thinking.**

Please don't be upset if you can't find the solution to all tasks: after all, "no pain, no gain!" © **The HARDER and SMARTER your training, the GREATER your progress!**

Good luck!
GM Igor Smirnov