The Giant Chess Puzzle Book

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Translated by Phil Adams
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Symbols and Notation

x  capture
+  check
++ double check
#  checkmate
!!  brilliant move
!  good move
!?  interesting move
?!  dubious move
?  bad move
??  blunder
Ch  championship

king
queen
rook
bishop
knight

Algebraic Notation

Moves are shown by giving the piece symbol followed by the destination square. For instance, if a knight moves to the square marked in the diagram, this is written as ♟f3 in algebraic notation. If two pieces of the same type can move to the same square, more information is given. For instance, if there are knights on g1 and e5, then the one on e5 moving to f3 is written as ♟xef3.

For pawn moves, only the arrival square is given (for example, e4 means that a pawn moves to the e4-square). For pawn captures, the file the pawn is leaving is also given. Thus exf4 means that a pawn on the e-file makes a capture that brings it to the f4-square.
Introduction

Solving chess puzzles is one of the most enjoyable exercises available; no chess-player can resist trying to find the answers. Thus when my editor Graham Burgess put forward the idea of creating a huge book of puzzles, similar to John Emm’s *The Ultimate Chess Puzzle Book*, I was immediately filled with enthusiasm.

I have to acknowledge that once this initial feeling of pleasure had passed, the task of finding 1001 original puzzles (original in the sense that they have never appeared in similar books or other collections of chess puzzles) appeared to me to be a very complicated task, and the four-figure number was rather daunting. But it didn’t turn out that way: the process of research and selection took some time, but it was not as immense as I had feared, partly because I found the task so enjoyable.

In order to exclude any very familiar puzzles, I decided that most of them would have to come from two main sources: either tournaments played in the last two years, or else games of my own, or with which I was familiar because I had observed them, or which had made an impression on me. Nevertheless, the book to some extent took on a life of its own, and sometimes seemed to be taking its own decisions. This is particularly relevant in Chapter 7, which features a wholly different source of top-quality examples that will be unfamiliar to most readers.

The games are mainly taken from Mega Database 2009 and the last few years’ editions of *The Week in Chess* and *Chess Today*. The analysis was done with the aid of Fritz 11 and Rybka 3.

The Structure of this Book

Now for a brief description of the chapters:

The first chapter deals with the main tactical ideas, as in the above-mentioned book by Emms, together with some additions and my own personal take on how best to present and explain these basic ideas.

Chapter 2 contains 120 puzzles, the majority of them highly suitable for novices, or as warm-up exercises for club players; the first 60 are supplied with hints to help you find the solution, but for the remaining 60 you receive no help.

Chapter 3 is called ‘On the Attack’ and consists of 100 puzzles, from level 1 to 4 (on a scale where 1 is easiest and 5 most difficult), and the theme is attacking play. There are hints for the first 50.

Chapter 4 is the biggest one, comprising 200 puzzles of levels 1 to 4; for the first 100 I have included hints.

Chapter 5 provides the first of three batches of test positions (Chapters 8 and 10 are the other two). Points are awarded for correct answers, which you can translate into a very approximate evaluation of your Elo rating. It consists of five tests with 16 puzzles in each, i.e. 80 in each of the three chapters, making 240 test positions in total.

Chapter 6 is called ‘Defence and Counterattack’. This aspect of our play is unjustly neglected; every player knows that there is just as much pleasure, or more, to be gained from saving a half-point after a successful defence (especially if one has been made to suffer) as from conducting a successful attack. There are 90 such puzzles, with hints for 40 of them.

Chapter 7 is entitled ‘Mundo Latino’ and is one part of the book which, as I mentioned earlier, took on a life of its own. It comprises 90 puzzles, including 40 with hints; these puzzles are taken from games by Latin players, both European and American, although the majority are from tournaments in Argentina, where there was a great deal of chess activity from the early decades of the 20th century right up to the 1980s. This chapter unexpectedly overflowed into many of the others,
since I found such an abundance of good and little-known material. There are clear reasons for the prevalence of such good examples; there were frequent visits and tournament appearances by the world’s best players to Argentina, principally to Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata. These visits included World Champions such as Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine, Smyslov, Petrosian, Fischer, Spassky and Karpov, together with such outstanding figures as Keres, Bronstein, Korchnoi, Larsen, Reshevsky, Stein, Polugaevsky, Olafsson, and many others. Furthermore, in 1939 the chess Olympiad was being held in Buenos Aires when the Second World War broke out, leading to many masters staying on and making their lives in Argentina, thus raising the already good local standard of chess even higher. To quote just one example: it will probably surprise you to learn that, according to chessmetrics.com, the Argentinean player Julio Bolbochán was the 13th strongest player in the world at several times between 1951 and 1955.

Chapter 9 is called ‘The World of Endgames’ and is made up of 90 endgame puzzles, of levels 1 to 4; the first 40 of these feature hints.

Chapter 11 is the last and the most difficult, comprising 81 puzzles of level 5 and beyond, which even grandmasters will find challenging. The first 30 include hints.

Finally I must thank all my friends, and friends of friends, who suggested material, including Sergio Estremera, Reinaldo Vera, Manel García, Luis Scalise, and many others.

Ponteareas, January 2010

Dedicated to:
“La capital de un imperio que nunca existió”
1 The Most Important Tactical Themes

The learning process in chess is not a rapid one. When we begin to play and we look at games played by masters, the combinations seem almost magical to us. Everything comes as a surprise, based on reasons we are unable to understand, apparently inexplicable, and yet, in master games, it all works!

When we have progressed a little, we see it is not like that; there are in fact reasons for a combination to work and, together with other knowledge, we gradually learn to recognize the features of a position which is ripe for a combination. Nevertheless – and this is one of the great virtues of our game – the fascination evoked by a beautiful combination remains the same throughout our lives.

In this first chapter we shall review the main tactical themes, which will help us get our bearings, because the majority of tactical motifs, in one form or another, come up again and again. We should not forget, however, that often these motifs do not occur in a simple form, but are often combined with others.

Tactical Weakness

One basic concept that we must learn to recognize is that of a tactical weakness, since this is the basis of most combinations.

We can define a tactical weakness as any piece, or collection of pieces, which facilitates a combination; we can say that this is a prerequisite for the tactical motifs to work.

One obvious example would be an undefended (a.k.a. loose) piece. Others might be: having the queen and the king in a position to be forked, having a weak back rank, or having a poorly defended king.

A tactical weakness does not always lose the game, or cause irreparable damage, but it is a defect in the position which deserves to be taken into account.

Other preconditions for a combination to work might include positive elements in one’s own position, such as having very active pieces, or outnumbering the enemy in a particular sector of the board, or having a pawn close to the queening square.

Double or Multiple Attack (Fork)

A double attack occurs when a piece attacks two enemy pieces simultaneously; if it attacks more than two pieces, it is called a multiple attack.

One of the ingredients of a double or multiple attack may also be a threat of mate, which is an attack of equal or greater force.

![Chess Diagram](image)

Leko – Topalov
Amber Blindfold, Nice 2009

The f7-rook is pinned, which means that it can’t move; it would be advantageous to attack it a second time, but then Black in turn would defend it a second time. However, White can create a double attack, on the f7-rook and the black queen, so that there is no time for Black to defend the rook.

24Af4! 1-0
Let’s look at another example.

An undefended piece is always worthy of attention. Here Black’s knight is unprotected, but one could argue that this is not serious, because the c3-knight is also attacked.

However, White carried out a double attack, not only threatening the loose knight (no surprise there), but also containing a more hidden threat against the black king.

22 \(\mathbb{h}5!\)

This move provoked Black’s resignation. The attack on the c5-knight is not so important, because if 23 \(\mathbb{w}xc5\) then 23...\(\mathbb{w}xc3\); however, the second threat (23 \(\mathbb{e}8+)\) is much more serious, since it leads to mate: 23...\(\mathbb{e}xe8\) 24 \(\mathbb{w}xe8+\) \(\mathbb{h}7\), and now there is a typical mating manœuvre: 25 \(\mathbb{g}8+\) \(\mathbb{h}8\) 26 \(\mathbb{f}7+\) \(\mathbb{h}7\) 27 \(\mathbb{w}g8#\).

However, after the defence 22...\(\mathbb{h}7\), 23 \(\mathbb{e}8\)? fails to 23...\(\mathbb{e}xe8\) 24 \(\mathbb{w}xe8\) \(\mathbb{a}1+!\) (so that the white bishop can’t help the queen) 25 \(\mathbb{f}1\) \(\mathbb{w}xc3\), and it is Black who wins.

This defence, 22...\(\mathbb{h}7\), brings us to the next tactical motif, the discovered check.

**Discovered Check, Discovered Attack and Double Check**

A discovered check occurs when a piece moves off a line to reveal an attack by a second piece standing to its rear, which now checks the enemy king.

It is also possible to carry out the same manoeuvre in order to attack some other enemy piece; in this case we call it a discovered attack.

This position could be reached from the previous diagram, after the moves 22 \(\mathbb{w}h5\) \(\mathbb{h}7\) 23 \(\mathbb{w}xc5!\) \(\mathbb{w}xc3\).
Here White wins by giving a check which is simultaneously a discovered attack with 24 \( \text{d3} \), or 24 \( \text{g8} \), winning the black queen.

Let’s examine a classic example which is slightly more complicated:

\[ \text{Réti – Tartakower} \\
\text{Vienna 1910} \]

The situation of the black king, in the centre and with the central files open, is definitely a serious tactical weakness. White exploits this in a spectacular manner by setting up a decisive discovered check: 9 \( \text{d8}+! \) \( \text{xd8} \) 10 \( \text{g5}++ \) and in view of the imminent mate, Black resigned; if 10...\text{c7} then 11 \text{d8#} and 10...\text{e8} is met by 11 \text{d8#}. Indeed, this was not only a discovered check, but a double check, as the bishop also gave check itself in addition to uncovering a check by the rook. A double check is a very powerful and forcing attacking device, since the only way to reply is with a king move.

**The Pin**

In Leko-Topalov above, we saw a demonstration of the dangers that can result from having a piece pinned. In general, a pin occurs when a piece attacks an enemy piece along a line, and if the attacked piece were to move away, then a second piece, of greater value, would be exposed to attack along the same line. The following diagram shows a typical case.

The \text{d5}-bishop appears to be solidly defended by the \text{c4}-pawn. This would indeed be the case were it not for the rook on \text{c1}, but the undefended state of this rook allows 27...\text{xg5}! and Black wins a piece.

\[ \text{Kotov – Botvinnik} \\
\text{USSR Ch, Leningrad 1939} \]

It would be a difficult task for Black to exploit his extra pawn, but the job can be completely simplified by forcing the white queen to be pinned along the long diagonal, with 37...\text{g2}+! 38 \text{gxg2} \text{xe2}, and Black gains a decisive material advantage.

It is noteworthy that seven years later, Kotov himself carried out a very similar combination (see diagram overleaf).

Here too Black forces the white queen into a pin (thus leaving the \text{c2}-rook undefended), this time not on the long diagonal but vertically. With 39...\text{xg2}! Kotov won another pawn, as after 40 \text{gxg2} \text{xe2}, White loses the exchange. After 40 \text{exe8} \text{xe4}+ 41 \text{h2} \text{exe8} Black won quickly.
The Skewer

A skewer is similar to a pin; it occurs when an enemy piece is attacked along a line, and if the attacked piece moves out of the way then a piece situated behind the attacked piece is lost, or, as in the cases that we shall examine, there is even greater damage.

Black now played 14...\textit{\textdagger}xe5? ignoring the threat of 15 \textit{\textdagger}xd8, since the white queen is attacked, and if 15 \textit{\textdagger}xd7+ then 15...\textit{\textdagger}xd7, with an extra pawn. However, with 15 \textit{\textdagger}ad1! White gains a decisive material advantage, since the pinned black queen can’t move aside and if 15...\textit{\textdagger}xa4 then 16 \textit{\textdagger}xd8#.

Destroying the Defence (Removing the Guard)

Let’s suppose that an enemy piece is attacked, and defended by only one other piece. If the defending piece can be dislodged or captured, the first piece is left undefended.

Let’s look at an example:
Here White has three pawns for the piece, which is reasonable material compensation, but in addition his pieces are very active. In particular, the e7-bishop is defended only by the rook.

White played 33 $\texttt{h6}$, when the rook can’t go to h7 on account of 34 $\texttt{xa8}$+ and mate. Thus the rook’s defence of the bishop breaks down, and material losses are unavoidable.

When it is the king’s defenders that are under attack, the damage caused can be much greater; let’s look at an example.

![Diagram 1](image1)

**Kramnik – Radjabov**  
*Amber Blindfold, Nice 2009*

White can 'physically' destroy the defences of the black king, leaving the position wide open: 25 $\texttt{xf6}$! $\texttt{xf6}$ 26 $\texttt{xf6}$! and Black resigned, since after 26...gx6 27 $\texttt{xf6}$+ $\texttt{g8}$ White can bring the other rook decisively into the attack with 28 $\texttt{d3}$.

Let’s look finally at a slightly different case of destruction of the defender (see following diagram).

Black has two pieces in the attack, but on their own they can't achieve anything (e.g., 31...$\texttt{xf1}$+ 32 $\texttt{g1}$), so the passive move 31...$\texttt{e8}$ might appear necessary, to blockade the strong white pawn on e7.

But let’s not give up on Black’s active ideas. How can the rook be included in the attack? There is no direct way, but perhaps after delving deeper into the position we might notice that, if only the h-file were open, Black could play 31...$\texttt{h4}$+ and 32...$\texttt{d1}$+, mating. From there it is an easy step to the solution... 31...$\texttt{g4}$+! and in view of the forced mate White resigned.

![Diagram 2](image2)

**Deflection (Overworked Piece)**

When a piece is performing an important defensive task, forcing it to leave its square or a particular line can have a huge effect. If the defensive task also involves the king, the damage can be even greater, even irreparable.

Let’s look at one of the most well-known and brilliant examples.

![Diagram 3](image3)

**Vaganian – Planinc**  
*Hastings 1974/5*

White is a rook up, so Black needs to achieve something significant, and quickly. The white king is uncomfortable, but there is nothing immediate; if 22...$\texttt{c5}$+ then 23 $\texttt{xc3}$, while the knight check on b3 is defended by the white queen on b7. Perhaps at this moment we notice that if the white queen were not defending b3, then ...$\texttt{b3}$# would be mate, at which point
anyone with any chess training sees the brilliant solution that the Slovenian grandmaster had conceived several moves earlier:

\[ 22...\text{Wc7+!!} \ 0-1 \]

Let’s look at another, more recent example:

\[ B \]

**Petović – Chudinovskikh**  
*European Ch, Budva 2009*

The f1-rook is fulfilling the vital role of defending the back rank. If this rook could be distracted from this task, the black rook could give a deadly check on d1; this is achieved by means of the spectacular \[ 20...\text{Wxf3+!!} \ 0-1 \].

**Attraction (Decoy)**

This tactical theme has similarities to the previous one. The difference is that here an enemy piece is forced to move to a square where it stands worse.

\[ W \]

**Mamedov – V. Popov**  
*European Ch, Budva 2009*

White has the open h-file and a pawn wedge at g6, but he needs to exploit these factors quickly, because Black is threatening 29...\text{Axe}xg6.

The direct 29 \text{Wh5}, threatening mate, fails to 29...fxg6. This should set an alarm bell ringing in the brain and then, by thinking something like “if only I could play \text{Wh5} with a gain of tempo, mate could not be prevented” it becomes easier to find the move 29...\text{Axa}xh8 30 \text{Wh5+} \text{Ae8} 31 \text{Wh7#}.

Let’s look at a more complicated example.

\[ W \]

**Anand – Leko**  
*Amber Blindfold, Nice 2009*

Here the process would be slightly different. Black has several tactical weaknesses, such as his somewhat exposed king, and another important detail is that his queen is undefended on g5. It is also important that the d6-knight is in such an active position. Thus White is able to set up a knight fork by means of two decoy sacrifices: \[ 35 \text{Axf7+!! Axf7} 36 \text{Wh8+!}, \text{and White gains a decisive material advantage following 36...\text{Ah}xh8} 37 \text{Axf7+} \text{Axg5} \].

If further proof were necessary that combinations repeat themselves, it is worth recalling that both in Petrosian-Simagin, Moscow Ch match (game 5) 1956, and also(!) in Petrosian-Spassky, World Ch match (game 10), Moscow 1966, Petrosian was able to carry out a very similar combination to the one in Anand-Leko.

**Vacating a Line or a Square**

This occurs when we move one of our own pieces away from a particular square so that
another piece can occupy it, with decisive effect.

P. Cramling – Shen Yang
Women’s Grand Prix, Istanbul 2009

However, there is no apparent way of sending reinforcements in the manner of the previous example. The b4-rook would not immediately threaten anything serious by moving to h4, whilst the d3-bishop’s diagonal is closed and in any case it is threatened with being exchanged.

The beautiful solution is not very obvious, and in fact it passed unnoticed by both grandmasters on the previous move. By means of a tactical manoeuvre, White succeeds in clearing the b1-h7 diagonal and bringing the power of both the queen and the bishop to bear on h7. We notice that another element is lacking, namely the ability to attack an undefended black piece at the same time. How can we arrange this?

30 Kg4+!! fxg4 31 Kg5+ Kh8 and now the f8-rook is undefended, so that after 32 Wh6 there is no defence against the twin threats of mate.

In-between Move (Zwischenzug)

An in-between move (we also use the German word zwischenzug for this) occurs when, during an apparently forced or logical sequence of moves, a player makes an unexpected move that breaks the natural flow and alters the situation to his advantage.

Let’s look at a rather different example.

Hort – Portisch
Madrid 1973

White stands better; his pieces are more active than their black counterparts, but more importantly the black king is weak, and the white queen occupies a dominant position.

Fischer – Benko
Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade Candidates 1959

White can win the queen with 20 Qhf6+ Qxf6
21 Qxf6+ Qxf6 22 Qxf6, but after 22...Qxa1
23 Qxa1 Qb7 the victory is a long way off, since Black has rook, bishop and a pawn for the queen (once the f4-pawn is captured), but with an in-between move the task becomes dramatically simplified:
20 خذd1!
The black queen does not have many squares from which it can defend g7.
20...@mail_47363
If 20..._piece_b7 then 21 ａc3!, with mate in four.
21 ｃe6+ ｃxf6 22 ｃxf6+ ｆx6 23 ｆx6 ｃc5
Now comes a manoeuvre similar to the one employed by Hort in the previous example; the
ｃ5-knight is undefended, and with another in-between move, White manages to double the
number of undefended pieces...
24 ｆg5+! ｆh8 25 ｆe7! ａa6 26 ｘc5 ｘf1
27 ｘf1 1-0

Let’s look at another example by Fischer on a related theme.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\begin{tikzpicture}
  \node at (0,0) {\textbf{W}};
  \node at (1,1) {\textbf{B}};
  \node at (2,2) {\textbf{Fischer – Petrosian}};
  \node at (3,3) {\textbf{Bled 1961}};
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{array}
\]

The black king is in a very uncomfortable position, but the discovered check with 36 ｆx7+ achieves nothing after 36...ｆxc5. However, there is a preliminary move which prepares the discovery and destroys this defence.
36 ｆd4! 1-0
Mate is unavoidable.

\textbf{Zugzwang}

This German word refers to a situation in which any move worsens the position. Zugzwang is very common in endgames, where positions of reciprocal zugzwang can also occur, in which whoever has to move must worsen his position (see next diagram).

Black is able to deprive White of any useful moves by playing 46...h4! Now the white king
is forced to move, after which the f4-pawn is lost, and with it the game.

Let’s look at a further example of reciprocal zugzwang.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\begin{tikzpicture}
  \node at (0,0) {\textbf{B/W}};
  \node at (1,1) {\textbf{R. Réti (end of study)}};
  \node at (2,2) {\textbf{Münchner Neueste Nachrichten, 1928}};
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{array}
\]

Black loses because he has to move and thus give way to the white king, which can then come to the aid of the rook: 1...ｆe4 2 ｃc6! ｃc3 3 ｃc5 d3 4 ｃc4 d2 5 ｃc3 and White captures the black pawn. Similarly if 1...ｃc4 then 2 ｃe6! d3 3 ｃe5 ｃc3 4 ｃc4 d2 5 ｃc3, and wins.

In contrast, if it were White’s move the game would be a draw. For example, if 1 ｃc7 then
1...ｃc5! (1...ｃc4? loses to 2 ｃd6! d3 3 ｃe5 ｃc3 4 ｃc4, much as in the line we examined above) and White can make no progress, since his king can’t join in the struggle against the
passed pawn; if 2 ♗d7 then 2...♗d5! 1 ♗d2 is equally ineffective, since it allows Black to gain a saving tempo after 1...♗e4 2 ♗d6 ♔e3 3 ♗d1 ♗d3 4 ♗c5 ♔e2, and White will have to give up his rook for the pawn.

Zugzwang usually arises in the endgame; positions of ‘semi-zugzwang’ occur occasionally in the middlegame, when one side has an overwhelming advantage in space. However, there is nothing to rival the ‘Immortal Zugzwang Game’:

\[ \text{Sämisch – Nimzowitsch} \\
\text{Copenhagen 1923} \]

Here Black played 25...h6!, controlling the g5-square, and White resigned, because in a few moves he will be in zugzwang, with almost all the pieces still on the board!

Black has many waiting moves available, such as ...♔h7-g8, whereas once White has used up all his pawn moves he will lose material. If 26 a3 then 26...a5 and nothing is changed, whilst after 26 ♘h2 the g2-bishop is pinned and Black can win by 26...♗xf3. 26 g4 also loses, to 26...♗xf3 27 ♗xf3 ♘h2#; another possibility is 26 ♖c1, which loses the queen after 26...♗e2. Finally, 26 ♖c1 leaves the b1-knight undefended, and thus any and every move loses material.

**Overload**

A piece is overloaded when it has to defend two or more vital squares simultaneously.

The white queen’s most important task here is to prevent the d2-pawn from queening. White is the exchange up and even threatens 31 ♗xd4, because the queen would still be carrying out the task of defending the d1 point. Thus White’s position does not seem so bad, yet in two moves everything becomes clear.

30...♗a6!!

The bishop is immune because the white queen has to prevent the pawn from queening. The pawn is also safe for now because 31 ♗xd2 loses to 31...♗xf3+!. If 31 ♗b1 Black could play 31...♗e3, winning. But what if White captures the knight?

31 ♗xd4

Now Black can exploit the overload on the queen by forcing it to defend another weakness, the back rank, specifically a1 and e1, with...

31...♗e5!!

This beautiful move is decisive; Black’s threat is to mate with 32...♗e1+; if 32 ♗xe5 then 32...d1+., mating, while if 32 ♗xd2 then 32...♖a1+ is decisive.

For this combination to work, several other factors had to be present, such as a second overload: the f2-rook can’t both defend the queen and prevent the fork on f3; another factor was the weakness of the back rank, decisively exploited by 30...♗a6!! controlling f1.

With this splendid example we conclude the introductory chapter, wishing the reader the best of luck in solving the next 1001 positions.
2 Elementary Puzzles

This first chapter of puzzles is the easiest; the solutions generally require calculating only two or three moves ahead. The puzzles gradually increase in difficulty, although without exceeding level 1 in complexity (on a scale of 1 to 5). The majority of them are based on winning material, along with some basic mating combinations and a few straightforward endgames.

There are 120 puzzles, the first 60 with comments or hints to help you find the solution, while for the remaining 60 you are on your own.

1

Black’s king can hardly move; how can this be exploited?

3

Here it is the white king that is being harried by several enemy pieces; how can Black mate quickly?

2

Black is threatening to queen, but White has the upper hand and can simultaneously create two winning threats. How?

4

If 24 $\text{Qg8+}$, the black king escapes via the d-file; how can the king’s escape be cut off?
White is threatening to queen quickly. However, there is a weakness in his position that allows Black to win on the spot. How?

The white king can hardly move, but to take advantage of this Black needs to open some lines — how?

White has an extra piece, but his king is poorly defended. What is the quickest way for Black to mate?

White has a passed pawn close to queening, but it requires support; how can this be arranged?

How should Black exploit the uncomfortable position of the white king?

With 4...e5 Black could win a piece, were it not for 5 dx e5, but what if we take the calculation a move further?
How can White conclude the game quickly, based on the fact that pawn endings with an extra pawn are nearly always won?

This puzzle is similar to number 12; how does Black win material?

Both queens are attacked, but Black can win by eliminating a vital white defensive piece—how?

If the white rook were not defending the knight, both of White’s minor pieces would be lost; make use of this fact!

The white pieces are disorganized, but one of them is particularly vulnerable; can you highlight this by finding a winning move?

The white queen’s defender is highly vulnerable, don’t you think?
Is there an undefended black piece? And how about another one?

Here 61...a2 fails to 62 ♗b2; how can this defence be ruled out?

White's attacking force is small, and just as important as going forward is being able to retreat... What happens here?

The concealed pressure of Black's c6-bishop against g2 can help Black win immediately. How?

White threatens to win by queening with check. How can Black use this same idea to win the game himself?

Black's defence is based on giving a barrage of checks. What is White's most accurate move to overcome this defence?
23

B

Here the f7-rook is undefended and Black can exploit this. How?

26

B

Here White's key defensive piece is his rook, which prevents the black pawn from queening. What can Black do about it?

24

W

The only black piece parrying the deadly threat against h7 is the queen; how can this defence be eliminated?

27

W

After the previous puzzle, this one is very easy, isn't it?

25

B

Decide how best to retreat the black queen, taking into account what White's next move will be.

28

W

White contented himself with a draw by 64 b5?? e1\# 65 xe1 ½-½. What should he have played?
The white pieces appear to be well placed for defence, but Black has a manoeuvre to make the c1-bishop vulnerable. How?

Black's minor pieces are active, but also... exposed.

White can transform this rook ending into a winning pawn ending, thanks to his extra pawn. How?

There is an undefended white piece, and to this we can add another advantage.

Here the c2-bishop is the only thing preventing the triumphal progress of White's h-pawn. How can it be neutralized?

Is there some way of attacking two enemy pieces?
The black king is very cramped, but the d8-rook is standing guard...

How can Black speed up the advance of the h-pawn?

Here, as in the previous puzzle, Black’s back rank is not well defended... How can this be demonstrated?

Loose pieces can bring serious problems, as here; how?

White has a winning advantage. What is the quickest way to conclude the game?

Once again there is an undefended piece; which is it?
And here we can ask ourselves: what is defending the e6-rook?

Here we have another passed pawn trying to queen...

Black's knight has no safe move...

The black king is very cramped. How can this be exploited?

White is a piece up, but his position is very loose. What is defending the white queen?

Black has an extra pawn, but the white pieces are active. How can Black win more material?
47. White played positionally with 12 b4. Can you find something better?

50. Black has one piece which is fatally overloaded. Which is it?

48. Black played 29...a6?, overlooking a much better move. Can you find it?

51. If only the e4-pawn could advance with discovered check!

49. Both sides have loose pieces, but Black has an additional weakness.

52. Here we have another passed pawn which is blocked at the moment...
The white king is unwisely exposed to checks on the long diagonal. How can Black exploit this?

White has neglected his king and his back rank; how can Black take advantage?

Black’s queen is a long away from his king. How can White break through the black king’s defences?

Here Black’s tactical weakness is that his king and the undefended rook on a4 are in range of a knight fork.

Black has three pawns for the bishop, but he also a serious tactical weakness. What is it, and how can White exploit it?

The h6-bishop is indirectly defended since the black queen pins the e3-bishop. How can White get out of this pin?
Here the overloaded piece is the white queen. How can Black demonstrate this?

There are only a few pieces left, but it is always dangerous to have any vulnerable pieces. How can White show this?
Answers for Chapter 2

1) Iturriaga – Kulakov
World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008
30 \( \text{Qd4+} \) 1-0
It is mate next move.

2) Čiçek – Khruschov
Dresden Olympiad 2008
48 \( \text{e6} \) 1-0
There is no satisfactory defence against the twin threats to the queen and the king.

3) Sadvakasov – Molner
Philadelphia 2008
32...\( \text{h}3 \) 0-1
There is no reply to the threat of 33...\( \text{e}1+ \) and 34...\( \text{c}1 \#.

4) Vera – Gild. García
Matanzas 1992
24 \( \text{e5} \) 1-0
And it is mate next move: 24...\( \text{xc}5 \) 25 \( \text{g}8 \#.

5) Janssen – Burmakin
Kavala 2008
57...\( \text{g}1 \) 0-1
The threat is 58...\( \text{h}1 \#. and 58 \( \text{g}4 \) fails to 58...\( \text{hxg}4+ \) 59 \( \text{h}4 \) 59 \( \text{g}2 \).

6) De Ronde – Michel
Buenos Aires 1945
28...\( \text{f}2+ \) 0-1
It is mate after 29 \( \text{h}1 \) 30 \( \text{h}3 \) \( \text{hxh}3 \#.

7) Pachman – Bielicki
Mar del Plata 1962
40...\( \text{d}4! \) 0-1
The threat of 41...\( \text{c}2 \# \) can only be prevented by giving up the bishop. 40...\( \text{e}3 \) 41 \( \text{e}2 \) \( \text{g}2+ \) 42 \( \text{f}1 \) \( \text{g}4 \) also works.

8) Ja. Bolbochán – Piazzini
Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946
17...\( \text{hxh}3! \) 0-1
This bishop is taboo, and now the threat is to give a devastating discovered check; here 18 \( \text{h}5 \) fails to 18...\( \text{hxh}5 \) 19 \( \text{g}5 \) \( \text{g}4 \).

9) D. Howell – Hebden
British Rapid Ch, Halifax 2008
58 \( \text{b}6! \) 1-0
To be followed by 59 \( \text{c}5 \); 58 \( \text{c}7 \) would also work.

10) García Vera – Grau
Rosario 1929
4...\( \text{e}5 \) 5 \( \text{e}3 \)
The point is that 5 \( \text{e}xe5 \) fails to 5...\( \text{wa}5+ \) and 6...\( \text{wx}e5 \).
5...\( \text{exd}4 \) 6 \( \text{xd}4 \) 0-1

11) Lynch – Rauch
Buenos Aires 1945
59 \( \text{xe}5 \) (exchanging the rooks and simplifying the task) 59...\( \text{xe}5 \) 60 \( \text{f}xe5 \) \( \text{e}6 \) 61 \( \text{e}2 \) 1-0.

12) Eliskases – Ju. Bolbochán
Mar del Plata Zonal 1951
30...\( \text{wx}e5 \) 0-1
Black wins a piece.

13) Cruz – Benko
Mar del Plata 1965
36...\( \text{xe}3! \)
This eliminates the defender of the d2-rook and thus wins material.

14) Palermo – Rossetto
Mar del Plata 1965
43...\( \text{xb}4 \) 0-1
Black wins a piece.

15) Balashov – Mecking
Hastings 1966/7
41...\( \text{b}4! \) 42 \( \text{xe}2 \) (if 42 \( \text{xe}2 \) White loses both his minor pieces) 42...\( \text{xe}1 \) and Black won with his material advantage.

16) Tan Lian Ann – Mecking
Manila Interzonal 1976
38...\( \text{f}5+! \) 0-1
Black wins the queen.

17) Franco – Sánchez Aller
Galician League 2007
16 \( \text{a}4! \) 1-0
The queen attacks both the a6-bishop and the g4-knight, winning a piece.

18) Stamenko – Milos
São Paulo 2008
26...\( \text{g}6 \) 0-1
The white queen is trapped.
19) Bezemer – Landa
Vilissingen 2008
39...b1+! 40 axb1 d1++ 0-1
If 41 axb2 then 41...e2+ and 42...xb5.

20) R. Schmidt – Ilincic
Timisoara 2008
61...d1+! 0-1
The pawn queens.

21) Cebalo – Almasi
Reggio Emilia 2008/9
42...xc5! 0-1
If 43 xc5 then 43...xg2+ 44 h1 e2+.

22) G. Jones – S. Grover
Hastings Masters 2008/9
84 b6! 1-0
Now the only check, 84...b4+, fails to 85 b5, exchanging the queens.

23) Suarez Real – Naiditsch
Leon (rapid) 2008
30...xc4! 0-1
Black wins a piece after 31 bxc4 xc4+ 32 g2 xf7.

24) Maderna – Villegas
Mar del Plata 1943
23 g7+! (cutting off the black queen from the defence of h7) 23 xg7 24 xg7 1-0.

25) Saadi – Fischer
Mar del Plata 1960
17...b7! (preventing the only move for White that would not lose material, i.e. 18 b1) 18 a3 xal and Black won.

26) Wang Li – Wang Hao
Chinese Team Ch, Wuxi 2008
56...a3+! 57 g2 e3! 0-1
Black’s passed pawn wins.

27) Vokarev – Benza
Nezhmetdinov Memorial, Kazan 2008
The passed pawn queens after 53 a6+! g7 (if 53...xe7 then 54 xh6) 54 e6! 1-0.

28) Wang Yue – L. Dominguez
Sofia 2009
White can win with the manoeuvre 64 d3! e1w 65 xe1 xe1 66 e3! f1 67 f4.

29) I. Fernandez – Mazzoleni
Villa Gesell 1971
Black wins material by cutting off the c1-bishop from its defender:
29...xf3+! 30 g2
Worse is 30 xf2? xf1+ 31 xf1 h2+.
30...e1+ 31 xe1
If the king moves then 31...xg4(+) and 32...xc1.
31...xg4+ 32 hxg4 xe1 0-1

30) Gdanski – Dziuba
Najdorf Memorial, Warsaw 2008
44 f5+! 1-0
The pawn ending is an easy win after the forced continuation 44 xf5 45 xd6+ xd6 46 xf5.

31) Chirila – Ilincic
Timisoara 2008
The white knight blocks the bishop and the pawn queens after 53 d6+! d5 54 f5 1-0. If 54...e6 then 55 d4+.

32) Matamoros – Sanchez Sotomayor
Seville 2007
White won material with 14 f4!, as 14...xd7 is met by 15 xg4.

33) R. Molina – Valera
Villa Martelli 2008
26...c4! 27 xf3
If 27 bxc4 then 27...xf2, but now the passed pawn wins material by force.
27...c3 28 c1 c2 0-1

34) Belezyky – Suriol
Seville 2008
9 e5! 1-0
After 9...xf3+ 10 xf3 the e5-pawn is still defended and White wins a piece.

35) Timoschenko – C. Foisor
Cappelle la Grande 2008
25 xxd5! 1-0
White wins a rook since if 25...xd5 then 26 e8+ mutes.

36) Fressinet – Macieja
European Ch, Plovdiv 2008
24 xa8! 1-0
The queen is taboo, since 24...xa8 allows 25 e8+ xe8 26 xe8#.
37) Agrest – Ax. Smith
Malmö 2008
42 ∇xh6+! ∇xh6 43 ∇xh4# (1-0)

38) Navara – Kramnik
Rapid match (game 2), Prague 2008
61...b5+ 62 ∇g6 ∇xg5+! 0-1
The black pawn queens.

39) Berczes – P. Prohazka
Budapest 2008
20...♗d4! 0-1
Winning the exchange, since 21 wxd7? fails to 21...♗xe2+.

40) Sulashvili – Svetushkin
Kavala 2008
54...♗xc3! 0-1
55 wxc3 is met by 55...w a6+ and 56...wxc6.

41) Baramidze – Enchev
World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008
20 b3! (deflecting the queen and winning the exchange) 30...wxc3 31 wxe6 ♗f6 32 wxe5 1-0.

42) Palac – Mogranzini
Trieste 2008
28 ♗d1! 1-0
The b4-knight is lost. 28 ♗b1 has a similar idea, but is less accurate.

43) Grecescu – Nevednichy
Romanian League, Eforie Nord 2008
92...wxd1+! 93 wxe6
93 wxe1 loses to 93...w h2+.
93...w f6+ 0-1
94 ♗e3 w f3#.

44) Akopian – G. Georgadze
Spanish Team Ch, Cala Mayor 2008
34 wxe7+! 1-0
The pawn queens after 34...♗xg7 35 c7. Note that 34 ♗b7? ♗c2 35 c7 wxc3 does not win.

45) Córdova – Shulman
Mérida 2008
37 w xa6! 1-0
Now 37...bxa6 loses to 38 ♗b8#.

46) R. Leyva – Franco
Capablanca Memorial, Cienfuegos 1997
20...wxf6 21 ♖fl (not 21 wxf2? ♗g4+) 21...h6 and Black won.

47) R. Szmetan – Nakamura
Buenos Aires 2003
Instead of 12 b4? White could win a pawn with 12 ♞dxe4! (or 12 ♞cxe4! 12...wxe4 13 ♞xe4, since 13...wxe4? is met by 14 ♖f3.

48) Vallejo – Herraiz
Spanish Ch, León 2006
Instead of 29...w a6? Black could continue 29...w xg3+!, winning on the spot.

49) M. Bach – H. Schulz
Hamburg 2007
28 wxe6! h6
After 28...w xcl+ 29 ♖f1 there is no satisfactory defence against the double threat of 30 wxe5 and 30 wxe8+, mating; e.g., 29...w g6 30 wxe8+, or 29...w x6 30 wxb7.
29 wxe5 w xc1+ 30 w h2 1-0

50) Tregubov – Drozdovsky
Odessa 2008
21 wxd2! (winning a piece) 21...wxd2 22 wxc8+ and White won.

51) Fedorchuk – A. Kovaliov
Conegliano 2008
47...w d2! 0-1
If 48 w g1 then 48...e3+ and 49...wxd4 wins.

52) Nisipeanu – Van Wely
Foros 2008
38 ♗b5! (eliminating the defender of the piece blocking the passed pawn’s advance) 38...w xb5 39 w xd8 w c2+ 40 d d3 w xb2 41 w e8 (and the pawn queens) 41...w xb3+ 42 w c4 1-0.

53) V. Elianov – Evdokimov
Elisnore 2008
33...w c4! (33...w d5+! 34 w g1 w x c4 also works) 34 w x e4 w c6+ 35 w g1 w x c4 0-1.

Philippines Ch, Mandaluyong 2008
44 w c5!
It is impossible to defend against the attack by White’s two remaining pieces.
44...w b1+ 45 w g2 w c2+ 46 w h3 w xc5
The resource 46...w c1? fails to 47 w e6+ w h7 48 w h4+.
47 \( \text{xe6} + \text{f8} 48 \text{wxf5+ 1-0} \)
It is mate: 48...\( \text{e7} 49 \text{f7+ d6} 50 \text{d7\#}. \)

55) González Vidal – Czakon
Barberá del Vallés 2008
43 \( \text{xf5!} 1-0 \)
There is no prospect of defence with only two pawns for the bishop, but after 43...\( \text{gxf5} 44 \text{xf5+ g6+} 45 \text{f3! g7} 45 \text{xe6 xg6} 46 \text{e4}, \) White wins the pawn ending.

56) Ionescu – Oleksienko
Romanian League,
Eforie Nord 2008
34...\( \text{xc4!} \)
First the white queen is deflected from the defence.
35 \( \text{xc4 g5}! 0-1 \)
There is no good answer to the threat of 36...\( \text{g2\#}. \)

57) F. Peralta – Steingrimsson
Dresden Olympiad 2008
31 \( \text{xe7!} \) (eliminating both defenders of the c5-square) 31...\( \text{xe7} 32 \text{e5+ c6} 33 \text{xa4} \text{b5} 34 \text{c5}, \) and White won.

58) Benjamin – Christiansen
Internet 2008
9 \( \text{d3} ! \text{xd3} \) (the queen can’t stay on the e-file; if 9...\( \text{e6} \) then 10 \( \text{xd4 e5} 11 \text{c4} \) 10 \( \text{xd3} \) and White won.

59) Inarkiev – Kasimdzhanov
FIDE Grand Prix, Elista 2008
40...\( \text{xd1!} 41 \text{cxd5 \text{xd2} 42 \text{d3} \) (or 42 \( \text{xd2 \text{xb3} \) 42...g5 with an extra pawn.

60) Leko – Gashimov
FIDE Grand Prix, Elista 2008
52 \( \text{xd7! \text{xb7}+} \) (the black rook is lost, with an easy win for White) 53...\( \text{e6} 54 \text{b6+ c6} 55 \text{xf3 a6+} 56 \text{b1 b6+} 57 \text{b2 1-0}. \)

61) Falcón – Montiel
Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946
34...\( \text{xe7!} ) \) (this leads to a forced mate) 34...\( \text{xe7} 35 \text{xf6+ g8} 36 \text{g6+ h8} 37 \text{xh5+ g7} 38 \text{g6+ f8} 39 \text{h8+ 1-0}. \)

62) Grinberg – Franco
Buenos Aires 1975
38...\( \text{d2++!} \) \text{(an unusual way to obstruct the protection of the white queen)} 39 \( \text{xd2} \text{xd5+} 40 \text{c1 b3 0-1}. \)

63) Franco – Casas
Mercedes 1975
29...\( \text{xf1+!} 0-1 \)
Black wins material after 30 \( \text{xf1 \text{h1+} 31 \text{f2 \text{f6+}.} \)

64) Stull – Franco
Haifa Olympiad 1976
23...\( \text{f2+} 0-1 \)
Winning a piece, and gaining a decisive attack after 24 \( \text{xf2 \text{xe2+} 25 \text{c1 \text{xf2}.} \)

65) Franco – Øgaard
Haifa Olympiad 1976
44 \( \text{g7!} 1-0 \)
If 44...\( \text{xe7} \) then 45 \( \text{xe6+} \) and 46 \( \text{xd4}, \) winning.

66) Vera – Dür
World Junior Ch, Innsbruck 1977
19 \( \text{xf7+} \text{xf7 20 \text{e6+ 1-0}.} \)

67) Nogueiras – Vera
Havana 1982
17...\( \text{xc1}! 0-1 \)
18 \( \text{xc1 \text{xe2+} leaves Black with a great advantage in material.} \)

68) Najdorf – Denker
Staunton Memorial, Groningen 1996
23 \( \text{c6} 1-0 \)
Winning the knight, since 23...\( \text{xc6} \) fails to 24 \( \text{e7+.} \)

69) Franco – Granda
Spanish Team Ch, Ponferrada 1997
36...\( \text{xf2+!} 0-1 \)
37 \( \text{xf2 \text{c1#}.} \)

70) Vallejo – Romero
Spanish Ch, Linares 1998
28 \( \text{xd4!} 1-0 \)
If 28...\( \text{xd4} \) then 29 \( \text{f6+} \) wins.

71) Franco – González Bernal
Llucmajor 2000
31 \( \text{h3! \text{xe7} 32 \text{exe7} \text{xe4?} \) (or 32...\( \text{c8} \) 33 \( \text{f7+ \text{xf7 34 \text{xe8} \) 33 \( \text{e6+ 1-0}.} \)
72) A. Needleman – Franco
Mar del Plata 2001
26...\(\text{exg5}\) 27 \(\text{fxg5}\) \(\text{e5}\) 28 \(\text{xf2}\) \(\text{exg5}\) 29 \(\text{xb6}\) \(\text{e5}\) and Black won.

73) Estremera – Geenen
Genoa 2004
42 \(\text{xe1}\) 1-0
42...\(\text{fxe1}\) allows 43 \(\text{xf6}\), while 42...\(\text{xc3}\) is met by 43 \(\text{xe8}\) \(\text{g7}\) 44 \(\text{bxc3}\).

74) Miladinović – Estremera
Genoa 2004
30...\(\text{xc5}\)! 31 \(\text{dxc5}\) (or 31 \(\text{dxc5}\) \(\text{xe3}\)+) 31...\(\text{xd5}\) 32 \(\text{c2}\) \(\text{c5}\) with a winning advantage.

75) Kroencke – Albers
Hamburg 2007
30...\(\text{xc7}\)! wins a piece, since if 31 \(\text{xe7}\) then 31...\(\text{xe4}\) is deadly.

76) Atri – Albers
Hamburg 2007
22 \(\text{xh6}!\) \(\text{xh6}\) (or 22...\(\text{bxh6}\) 23 \(\text{b4}\) \(\text{c5}\) 24 \(\text{xc5}\) \(\text{xc5}\)? 25 \(\text{xf6}\), winning on the spot) 23 \(\text{b4}\) 1-0.

77) Faika – Kroencke
Hamburg 2007
18 \(\text{xd7}\) \(\text{xd7}\) 19 \(\text{d6}\)! (winning a piece)
19...\(\text{exd6}\) 20 \(\text{xb7}\) 1-0.

78) Zierke – Pajek
Hamburg 2007
53...\(\text{g5}\)! 0-1
After 54 \(\text{xg5}\) \(\text{xf6}\) the pawn queens.

79) Cámara – Mena
Seville 2007
21 \(\text{h4}\)! (winning material) 21...\(\text{xd6}\) 22 \(\text{g6}\) 1-0.

80) Karpov – Stojačković
Valjevo 2007
24 \(\text{exh6}+!\) \(\text{gxh6}\) 25 \(\text{g6}\) (1-0)

81) D. Adams – Churm
British League (4NCL) 2008/9
52 \(\text{xf7}+!\) \(\text{h6}\) 53 \(\text{f6}+\) \(\text{h5}\) 54 \(\text{g4}\) (mat-
ing) 1-0.

82) Mirzoev – Redondo
Spain 2008
19 \(\text{c7}+!\) \(\text{xc7}\) 20 \(\text{xe8}\) and White wins. The simple 19 \(\text{ae1}\) is also decisive.

83) Ferrer García – Barriá
Seville 2008
29...\(\text{ad5}\) 0-1
There is no answer to the pin.

84) S. Kasparov – Abatino
Città 2008
17 \(\text{xc6}!\) \(\text{xc6}\) 18 \(\text{b4}\) wins a piece.

85) Babu – Abdulla
Mumbai 2008
25 \(\text{xf2}\) 26 \(\text{xf2}\) \(\text{b2}+\) 27 \(\text{f1}\) \(\text{f4}\)+ mates.

86) Timman – Guliev
Baku 2008
31 \(\text{xc7}\)!
If 31...\(\text{xc7}\), then 32 \(\text{xb6}\) wins.

87) Navara – Kramnik
Rapid match (game 8). Prague 2008
41 \(\text{c7}+!\) (and the pawn queens) 1-0.

88) Liásovich – Ricardi
Argentine Ch, Mendoza 2008
23...\(\text{xe2}+\) 24 \(\text{h1}\) \(\text{c1}\)! (cutting off the al-
rook from its defender and thus winning the ex-
change) 25 \(\text{b7}\) \(\text{xa1}\) 0-1.

89) Mahía – Salguero
Argentine Ch, Mendoza 2008
46 \(\text{xe6}!\) \(\text{xe6}\) 47 \(\text{f6}+\) \(\text{b7}\) 48 \(\text{hxh6}\)
(with a won ending, but the struggle comes to a
quick end after a crude blunder by Black)
48...\(\text{aa8}\)? 49 \(\text{f7}\)+ \(\text{b8}\) 50 \(\text{hxh6}\) (1-0).

90) Cherin – Tomíç
Conegliano 2008
28 \(\text{xf7}+!\) \(\text{g8}\) (28...\(\text{xf7}\) 29 \(\text{d6}\)+) 29 \(\text{xd7}\) \(\text{xe4}\) 30 \(\text{xe4}\) 1-0.

91) Luch – Bozzali
Conegliano 2008
16 \(\text{xe6}\) (winning a pawn, and then an-
other) 16...\(\text{xc5}\) 17 \(\text{fxg3}\) \(\text{fxg6}\) 18 \(\text{xe6}\) \(\text{h7}\) 19
\(\text{xd5}\) \(\text{cxd5}\) 20 \(\text{xe7}\) with two extra pawns.

92) Rombaldoni – Scalció
Conegliano 2008
27 \(\text{xd7}\) \(\text{xd7}\) 28 \(\text{xe5}\)+ 1-0
93) Zablotsky – Gubazhdullin  
*Nezhmetdinov Memorial, Kazan 2008*  
16...\(\text{Nxe7+!} \text{Nxe7} 17 \text{Nxd8+} \text{Nxd8} 18 \text{Nxd8} \) 1-0

94) Arsović – Markus  
*Serbia Cup, Zlatibor 2008*  
25...\(\text{Nxb2} 26 \text{Nxb2} \text{Nxe4!} \) wins material.

95) E. Berg – P. Carlsson  
*Swedish Ch, Växjö 2008*  
33 \(\text{Nxe7+!} \text{Nxe7} (33...\text{Nh6+} 34 \text{Ng3} \text{Nxe7} \) \(35 \text{Nxe7} \text{Nxe7} \) loses to \(36 \text{Nc3+} \text{Nf7} 37 \text{Nc7+} \text{f8} 38 \text{Nh7} \) 34 \(\text{Nxe8+} \) (followed by \(35 \text{Nc3+} \) 1-0.

96) Jay. Gonzales – Sadorra  
*Philippines Ch, Mandaluyong 2008*  
26 \(\text{Nxd3}! \) with a winning position after this double attack.

97) Baklan – Striković  
*Benasque 2008*  
51 \(\text{Nxe4+!} \text{Nxe6} \)  
If 51...\(\text{Nxe6} \) then 52 \(\text{Nc4+} \) is one way to win.  
52 \(\text{Nxd6} 1-0 \)  
After 52...\(\text{Nxe4+?} 53 \text{Nxe4} \text{Nxd6} 54 \text{Nc2+} \text{Nxe4} 55 \text{Nc8+} \text{Nf7} 56 \text{Nf5+} \text{Nxe6} 57 \text{Nxe4} \) further resistance is impossible.

98) Willemze – Krivoruchko  
*Greek Team Ch, Kallithea 2008*  
47 \(\text{Nxb5!} \) (deflecting Black's queen away from the rook) 47...\(\text{Nxb5} \) (if 47...\(\text{Nxb5} \) then 48 \(\text{Nxc8+} \text{Nf7} 49 \text{axb5} \) wins) 48 \(\text{Nxa6} 1-0 \).

99) Ivanisević – Managadze  
*Greek Team Ch, Kallithea 2008*  
33 \(\text{Nxd5+} \text{Nd6} \)  
The pawn is unstoppable after 33...\(\text{Nxe4} 34 \text{Nxe4} \text{Nxe4} 35 \text{Nc5} \) is hopeless) 35 c7.  
34 \(\text{Nc5+} 1-0 \).

100) Miroshnichenko – Harikrishna  
*Greek Team Ch, Kallithea 2008*  
20 \(\text{Nxc6!} \text{Nxc6} 21 \text{e5} \) (regaining the sacrificed material with interest) 21...\(\text{Nac8} 22 \text{Nxc6} \text{Nxc6} 23 \text{exf6} \).

101) F. Ladrón de Guevara – Salgado  
*Padrón 2008*  
17...\(\text{Nxe2!} \) (exploiting the overloaded white queen) 18 \(\text{Nf1} \text{Nxe4} 0-1 \).

102) A. Graf – Meijers  
*Kavala 2008*  
32...\(\text{Nxe3!} 0-1 \)  
33 \(\text{Nxe3} \text{Nf3+} 34 \text{Nh1} \text{Nf2#} \).

103) Pozin – Simacek  
*Olomouc 2008*  
30 \(\text{Nxb7} 1-0 \)  
30...\(\text{Nxb7} 31 \text{Nxe8+} \text{Nf6} 32 \text{Nxf7} \).

104) Dziuba – Panocki  
*Najdorf Memorial, Warsaw 2008*  
26 \(\text{Nxc8} 1-0 \)  
26...\(\text{Nxd5} 27 \text{Nxe7} \).

105) Malakhov – Topalov  
*Vilarrubledo (rapid) 2008*  
45...\(\text{Nxa6!} \) (the e2-bishop is overloaded) 46 \(\text{Nxb5} \) (or 46 \(\text{Nxb5} 47 \text{Nxa6} \text{Nxe4+} 48 \text{Nh2} \text{Nxf3} \) threatening both 49...\(\text{Nxa6} \) and 49...\(\text{Nxf3} \) 46...\(\text{Nxf3+} 47 \text{Nxf3} \text{Nxe4+} 48 \text{Nh3} 0-1 \).

106) Malakhov – Pérez Candelario  
*Vilarrubledo (rapid) 2008*  
33 \(\text{Nc4!} \text{Nxe4} (33...\text{Nf6} \) is answered by 34 \(\text{Nxf4} \) or 34 \(\text{Nf6+!} \text{Nf3} 35 \text{Nxf4} \) 34 \(\text{Nxe8}+ 1-0 \).

107) Kravtsiv – Stupak  
*World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008*  
17 \(\text{Nxc5}! \text{Nxc5} 18 \text{Nc2} \) gaining a decisive material advantage.

108) Zhigalko – Melkumian  
*World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008*  
40...\(\text{Nxe1}! 41 \text{Nxe1} \)  
If 41...\(\text{Nxe1} \) then amongst other things Black can win by 41...\(\text{Nxe1}+ \).
41...\(\text{Nxa5} 42 \text{Nxc4} \text{Nxe1} 43 \text{Nxe3} \text{Nxe1} 44 \text{Nxe1} \text{Nxe1} \text{Nxe6} \)  
Black's passed pawn makes much further resistance futile; the continuation was: 45...\(\text{Nxe4} 46 \text{g3} \text{Nxb2} 47 \text{Nf2} 48 \text{Nf3} \text{Nf3} 0-1 \).

109) Li Chao – Irwanto  
*Kuala Lumpur 2008*  
24 \(\text{Nxe8}! \text{Nxe8} \)  
Black has to defend g6, since 24...\(\text{Nxe8} \) loses to 25 \(\text{Nxe8}+ \text{h8} 26 \text{Nxe8}+ \text{g8} 27 \text{Nxe8} \) e.g., 27...\(\text{Nf7} 28 \text{Nxf7}+ \text{Nxf7} 29 \text{Nh7}+ \text{Nf6} 30 \text{Nxe4} \).
25 \(\text{Nxe8} \) and White is the exchange up.
110) N. Mitkov – R. Burnett

Internet 2008

38 \textit{c7!} 1-0

There is no defence for Black after 38...\textit{g6} (or 38...\textit{d7}?) 39 \textit{g4}+ 39 \textit{b7}.

111) Gulko – B. Smith

Internet 2008

25 \textit{c7!} 1-0

Forcing Black to give up control of f6; if 25...\textit{xc7} then 26 \textit{d6}+.

112) Van Oosterom – Kasimdzhanov

Dutch Team Ch 2007/8

The king in the centre leads to White's defeat. There are several ways for Black to win, but the strongest move is the elegant 21...\textit{d4}!

22 \textit{xd4}? (a blunder, but 22 \textit{b5} a6 was also losing) 22...\textit{xe2}# (0-1).

113) Prohaszka – Nyzhnyk

European Under-16 Ch, Herceg Novi 2008

63...\textit{xf2}+! (gaining a second extra pawn, with an easy win) 64 \textit{xf2} \textit{e4}+ 65 \textit{e3} \textit{fxe6}, and Black won.

114) Carlsen – Movsesian

European Clubs Cup, Kallithea 2008

76...\textit{a8}+! 0-1

Black wins on the spot in the case of 77 \textit{f7} \textit{d6}+, while 77...\textit{e8} \textit{d6} (or 77...\textit{e8}+ 78 \textit{xe8} \textit{d6}+) 78 \textit{xe7} \textit{xe8}+ 79 \textit{xe8} \textit{xe8} 80 \textit{xe8} g5 81 hxg5 \textit{g7} is also winning for Black.

115) B. Socko – Baburin

Dresden Olympiad 2008

39 \textit{xe6}! 1-0

The passed pawn queens after 39...\textit{f6} 40 \textit{c7}.

116) Navara – Kveinys

Dresden Olympiad 2008

35 \textit{e6}! (with a double attack on the queen and the knight) 1-0.

117) T.L. Petrosian – Rødgaard

Dresden Olympiad 2008

39 \textit{xd8}+! 1-0

118) Papiaoannou – Azarov

Dresden Olympiad 2008

32 \textit{h7}+! (winning the exchange) 32...\textit{xh7} (32...\textit{f8}+? 33 \textit{f6}#) 33 \textit{xf7} and White won.

119) Parligras – A. Kovačević

Dresden Olympiad 2008

14 \textit{f5}! \textit{h5}

Black loses after 14...\textit{xe5} 15 \textit{xd8}+ \textit{xd8} 16 \textit{xf6} \textit{c4} 17 \textit{f3} \textit{xe3} 18 \textit{xe3} \textit{b6} 19 \textit{f2}; or 14...\textit{c4} 15 \textit{exf6} \textit{xe3} and now, for instance, 16 \textit{d4} \textit{xc2} 17 \textit{fxe7}.

15 \textit{exd6}

and White won.

120) Geetha Narayanan – Stoček

Dresden Olympiad 2008

28 \textit{xd6}! \textit{xd6} 29 \textit{d4}+ \textit{e7} 30 \textit{xb4} \textit{d7} 31 \textit{d4}+ \textit{c8} 32 \textit{xe5} with an extra pawn and a mating attack.
3 On the Attack

In this chapter we are going to study the attack on the king. There is not always a direct mating attack, but threats to the king always play a vital role in the solution.

There are 100 puzzles in this chapter, the first 50 of which are supplied with hints. The puzzles are in increasing order of difficulty and complexity, ranging from level 1 (the same as the puzzles in the previous chapter) to level 4 (the most difficult level you will find in this book, with the exception of the final chapter and some of the test positions). In puzzle 171 (the first without a hint) we return to level 1.

121 B

The white king is very weak; can you find the quickest win?

123 W

How can White mate the black king quickly, exploiting the fact that it can't retreat?

122 B

White's king is incarcerated and there are latent mating threats on g2 and the back rank. How can Black smash through?

124 W

26 \texttt{\textbf{\textit{x}h6}} would lead to mate, were it not for 26...\texttt{\textbf{\textit{xf6}}}. Therefore...
It is mate in three moves; how?

How can White mate in a few moves?

The black king is in a dangerous position; how can White exploit this?

White has a forced mate. How?

There is a way to bring the game to a swift end; what is it?

White gains a decisive material advantage, thanks to the precarious position of Black’s king. How?
The black king is poorly defended, but how can White feed more pieces into the attack?

It is not easy to attack the black king just by manoeuvring, but there is a direct way of doing it; how?

How can White break down the defences of the apparently safe black king?

‘Opposite-coloured bishops favour the attacker’. How can White demonstrate the power of his unopposed d4-bishop?

There are several ways to win, but only one killer blow – which is...?

After 35...a8+ the white king easily escapes, but what if...
How can White cut off the black king’s escape-route?

A bishop like the one on f6 arouses great hopes of an attack; how can White make use of it?

Exploit the overload on the black queen.

White played 40 $\text{R}f7$ and won the endgame; is there a quicker way?

The move $...h5$ didn’t make Black’s king’s position any more secure; how can this move be exploited?

After 30 $...\text{xg}3+$ 31 $\text{e}2$ Black won the exchange, but not the game. Can you find something better?
White played 43 $g4. Can you find a stronger continuation?

The white king is not as safe as it looks on the long diagonal. How did Black gain a decisive material advantage?

Black played 25...$xa4 and the game ended in a draw; can you find something better?

The black queen exerts pressure down the long diagonal but it is decentralized and the black king is poorly defended...

Play continued 43 $c6? $f7 44 $e8 $xf6 and Black won in the end. Can you find what White missed?

Although White’s pieces are more active than Black’s, his king is weaker and it is this that decides the struggle; how?
149

The black king is in a bad way; how should White coordinate his attack?

152

Even with limited material, king safety is very important. How can the unsafe position of White's king be demonstrated?

150

Why is the typical sacrifice 11 $\text{Qxh7+}$ unsound here?

153

White played 39 $\text{Qxf6}$, which is a good move, but not the best. What was a stronger continuation?

151

After 22 $\text{Qd1?}$ $\text{Qxd1+}$ 23 $\text{Qxd1}$ $\text{Qc5}$ Black stood better. What was the winning line that White missed?

154

Almost all White’s pieces are attacking, but he needs to find a way to break down the black king’s defences. How?
White could defend if he were allowed time to regroup. Find a quick way for Black to conclude matters.

Black is threatening to play both 27...\textit{xf6} and 27...\textit{g5}. Show that White's attack is far from over.

The black king is stuck in the centre, but energetic measures are required to exploit this. How?

White played 26 \textit{a1+} and after 26...\textit{b3} 27 \textit{f3} \textit{xc7} 28 \textit{xc7} \textit{xf6} 29 \textit{xd8} \textit{xd8} Black won. What did White miss?

White opted for 36 \textit{xc8+} \textit{b5} 37 \textit{xe8+} \textit{xe8} 38 \textit{xe8} and won the endgame. Find a quicker win.

Show that White has a winning kingside attack based on his superior forces, the half-open f-file and the f5-square.
The accumulation of forces against Black’s king’s position indicates that White’s attack is coming to a head; how?

Black played 23...\texttt{a}3\texttt{+} 24 \texttt{b}1 \texttt{c}3 but his initiative then began to dissipate. How can Black’s attack be improved?

Black is under unpleasant pressure here, yet he has a way to move onto the offensive. How?

White has an active queen, but his king stands very badly; how does Black win?

White gained only a slight advantage after 23 \texttt{c}e8\texttt{+} \texttt{b}6 24 \texttt{d}d7 \texttt{b}7 25 a5\texttt{+} \texttt{a}7 26 \texttt{x}b7\texttt{+} \texttt{x}b7. What did he overlook?

White dominates the centre and has active pieces. Can you find a way to eliminate one of the enemy’s best defenders?
Here we have another king which has advanced rashly. What is the best way to attack it?
The safety of the black king is an illusion; how can this be demonstrated?

After 27...\texttt{xc3+?!} 28 \texttt{xc3} \texttt{c8} 29 \texttt{c4} White was able to defend. Can you find a more promising line for Black?

33 \texttt{e6} 34 \texttt{f5} \texttt{d7} 35 \texttt{f4} \texttt{d6} led to a repetition of moves. What opportunity did White miss?
Answers for Chapter 3

121) Rossetto – Ju. Bolbochán
    *Mar del Plata 1956*
    36...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}f3!} 0-1

122) Wexler – Bazán
    *Mar del Plata 1960*
    25...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}d1!} 0-1
    25...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}e5!} is also effective.

123) Szabo – Guimard
    *Mar del Plata 1962*
    26 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}b3!} 1-0
    27 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}c1+} follows.

124) Rombaldoni – Iturrizaga
    *World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008*
    26 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}xd5!} 1-0
    26...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}xd5} 27 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}xh6} and mate.

125) An. Rodriguez – Contín
    *Buenos Aires 2008*
    30 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}xf7+!} 1-0
    30...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xf7 (30...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}g8 31 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}e7#) 31 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}e6+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}g8
    32 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}e7#.

126) Kramnik – Short
    *Dresden Olympiad 2008*
    47 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}h1! 1-0
    47...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xc6 is forced, after which \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}a1+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}a5 49 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xa2 wins.

127) Zhukova – Peptan
    *Dresden Women’s Olympiad 2008*
    28 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}f6+! 1-0
    There follows 29 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}h6#.

128) Nepomniashchyi – Salgado
    *Pamplona 2008*
    45 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xc8+! 1-0
    45...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xc8 46 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}e8+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}b7 (46...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}d7 47 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}d8#)
    47 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}b8#.

129) Moskalenko – Panelo
    *Badalona 2008*
    37 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xb7+! \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xb7 38 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}d7+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}c7 39 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}d5+!
    \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}c6 40 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}d7+ 1-0
    40...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}b8 41 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}a7+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}a8 42 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xc6#.

130) Kurnosov – Agdestein
    *Tromsø 2008*
    37 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xf6! \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xf6
    It is mate after 37...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xh7? 38 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xf7+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xf7
    39 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xf7#.
    38 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}h8+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}e7 39 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xe8+ 1-0
    White remains a piece up.

131) Hirnise – T. Hansen
    *Budapest 2008*
    26 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xf7!
    Bringing two fresh pieces into the attack and threatening 27 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}a8+; another way is 26 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xf6.
    26...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}c6
    26...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xf7 leads to mate after 27 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}a8+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}g7
    28 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}g4+.
    27 d5 1-0
    After 27...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}b7 28 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xf6 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}h7 29 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}g4 the mate is delayed but is unavoidable.

132) Hou Yifan – T. Georgescu
    *World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008*
    28 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xg5! \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xg5 29 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xf8+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}g7 30 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}h6! 1-0
    The quickest way, preventing 30...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}h6 and threatening 31 h6#.

133) Safarli – Durarbeiyli
    *World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008*
    26 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xg7+ 1-0
    It is mate after 26...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xg7 27 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}f5+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}f8 28 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}h8#.

134) Semcesen – Palac
    *Schwarzach 2008*
    36 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xh5+!
    Not 36 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}d2? \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}e4.
    36...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xh5
    This loses decisive material, but there was nothing better. 36...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}g7 is met by 37 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}d2, while if 36...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}g8 then amongst other things there is a win with 37 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xe5 dxe5 38 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}h8+ and the a8-rook is lost.
    37 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}d3+ 1-0

135) Dumitrache – Baratosi
    *Romanian League, Eforie Nord 2008*
    38 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xg6! 1-0
    Deciding the game, since it is mate after 38...\textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xg6 39 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}g5+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}h7 40 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}xh5+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}g8 41 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}h8#.

136) Valeanu – Bachmann
    *Bucharest 2008*
    35...\textit{\textit{\textbf{B}}}3! (eliminating the king’s escape-route)
    36 \textit{\textit{\textbf{A}}}a3 \textit{\textit{\textbf{B}}}2 0-1.
**ON THE ATTACK**

137) **Bischoff – Buhmann**  
*Austrian Team Ch 2008/9*

29 \( \text{Nxa}3+ \text{Nxd6} \)
Not 29...\( \text{Nc}8? \) 30 \( \text{Wg}8+ \) mating.
30 \( \text{Nxd6+} \) \( \text{Wxd6} \) 31 \( \text{Qf5!} \)
There is no satisfactory defence to the threats of 32 \( \text{Qxd6} \) and 32 \( \text{Wh}8+ \) followed by mate.
31...\( \text{Qf4+} \) 32 \( \text{Qd1} \) 1-0

138) **Almasi – Babula**  
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

35 \( \text{e}2! \) 1-0

A possible continuation is 35...\( \text{Wc6} \) (35...\( \text{Wa4} \) 36 \( \text{Nxc5} \) \( \text{Nxc5} \) 37 \( \text{Wf8+} \) and 38 \( \text{Wxc5} \) 36 \( \text{Nxc5} \) with an extra piece for White and a winning advantage.

139) **L.B. Hansen – Z. Rahman**  
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

21 \( \text{Qxg6!} \)
Black’s exposed king can’t be defended. 21 \( \text{Qxf7!} \) was also effective.
21...\( \text{fxg6} \) 22 \( \text{Qxg6} \) \( \text{e7} \) 23 \( \text{Wh5} \) \( \text{Qg7} \) 24 \( \text{Nd3} \) \( \text{Qe8} \) 25 \( \text{Qe1} \) \( \text{Qxg6} \) 26 \( \text{Wxg6}+ \)
with a material advantage and the attack.

140) **L. Vajda – Zagorskis**  
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

31 \( \text{Wh5}! \) \( \text{Qxg2+} \) (31...\( \text{gxh5} \) 32 \( \text{Wh5} \) leads to forced mate, after a few spite checks by Black) 32 \( \text{Qxg2} \) 1-0.

141) **Bojković – Zhao Xue**  
*Dresden Women’s Olympiad 2008*

40 \( \text{Qg5!} \) leads to a quick mate; 40...\( \text{Qg8} \) 41 \( \text{Qe5} \).

142) **Franco – Paunović**  
*Zaragoza 1991*

30...\( \text{Qd2!} \) wins more material; e.g., 31 \( \text{Qb6} \) (31 \( \text{Qc3?} \) \( \text{hxg3+} \) is worse) 31...\( \text{Qxg3+} \) 32 \( \text{Qg1} \) \( \text{Qxe1} \).

143) **Topalov – Ponomariov**  
*León (rapid) 2003*

43 \( \text{Qxg6+!} \) \( \text{Qxg6} \) 44 \( \text{Qf6} \) \( \text{Qxe5}+ \) 45 \( \text{dx5} \) wins.

144) **Sax – Gaponenko**  
*Balatonlelle 2008*

25...\( \text{Qxb2!} \) is devastating; e.g., 26 \( \text{Qxa5} \) (or 26...\( \text{Qxb2?} \) \( \text{Qxb2+} \); after 26 \( \text{Qd5} \) \( \text{Qxb5} \) 27 \( \text{axb5} \) \( \text{Qc3} \) 28 \( \text{Qe3} \) \( \text{Qc7} \) followed by 29...\( \text{a4} \), defence is practically impossible) 26...\( \text{Qd4!} \) followed by 27...\( \text{Qxb3}+ \) and a quick mate.

145) **Amin – D. Boros**  
*World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008*

White overlooked a win by 43 \( \text{Qg5!} \) \( \text{Qxf6} \) (43...\( \text{Qf7} \) 44 \( \text{Qxh6+} \) \( \text{Qxh6} \) 45 \( \text{Qxh6+} \) \( \text{Qg8} \) \{45...\( \text{Qxh6} \) 46 \( \text{Qh3#} \) \} 46 \( \text{Qxg6+} \) 44 \( \text{Qxh6+}! \) \( \text{Qxh6} \) 45 \( \text{Qxf6} \).

146) **Beikert – Vallejo**  
*Bundesliga 2008/9*

37...\( \text{Qxe5!} \) 38 \( \text{Qxb5?!} \) (38 \( \text{dx5} \) \( \text{Qxe5} \) 39 \( \text{Qe1} \) b4 is more stubborn, although ultimately insufficient) 38...\( \text{Qg4} \) 0-1.

147) **Timofeev – Svidler**  
*Russian Ch, Moscow 2008*

18 \( \text{Qxf6!} \) \( \text{gx6} \)
The g-file is now open and Black intends 19...\( \text{Qg8} \), but... a tempo is an eternity in this position.
19 \( \text{Qxh7+!} \) 1-0

White mates the black king, thanks to the opening of the g- and h-files; Svidler resigned in view of 19...\( \text{Qxh7} \) 20 \( \text{Wh3+} \) \( \text{Qg7} \) 21 \( \text{Qg4+} \) \( \text{Qh8} \) 22 \( \text{Qe3} \) \( \text{Qe4} \) 23 \( \text{Qh3+} \) \( \text{Qh7} \) 24 \( \text{Wh4} \).

148) **Naiditsch – Dao Thien Hai**  
*Beijing (rapid) 2008*

31...\( \text{Qc3!} \)
Eliminating the last pawn defending White’s king.
32 \( \text{Qxc3} \) \( \text{Qxb3+} \) 33 \( \text{Qa1} \) \( \text{bxc3} \) 34 \( \text{Qf2?!} \)
After 34...\( \text{Qd2} \) \( \text{Qc7} \) the black pieces reach the queenside surprisingly quickly: 35 \( \text{Qa2} \) \( \text{Qa8} \) 36 \( \text{Qdd2} \) \( \text{Qxa2+} \) 37 \( \text{Qxa2} \) \( \text{Qe6} \).
34...\( \text{c2} \) 0-1

149) **L. Domínguez – Morozevich**  
*Blitz World Ch, Almaty 2008*

24 \( \text{Qe5!} \)
Freeing the queen from the defence of the bishop, so as to be able to invade the kingside.
24...\( \text{Qd7} \)
24...\( \text{d6} \) loses to 25 \( \text{Qxd6+} \) \( \text{Qxd6} \) 26 \( \text{Qa8+} \) \( \text{Qg7} \) 27 \( \text{Qf5+} \) \( \text{Qf6} \) 28 \( \text{Qxg8} \) \( \text{Qxf5} \) 29 \( \text{Qxh7+} \).
25 \( \text{Qh5!} \)
Threatening 26 \( \text{Qxh7} \), 26 \( \text{Qh6+} \) and 26...\( \text{Qf5} \).
25...\( \text{d3?!} \)
More tenacious, although insufficient, is 25...\( \text{Qb6} \) 26 \( \text{Qf4} \) d3 27 \( \text{Qd2} \) \( \text{Qg6} \) 28 \( \text{Qf3} \), followed by 29...\( \text{Qf5} \), with a decisive initiative.
26 \(\text{Wh6+!} \text{e8} 27 \text{Whxh7} \text{Mf8} 28 \text{Gh5!} \text{Wa5} 29 \text{Gf6+} \text{d8} 30 \text{Gxd7} \text{xd7} 31 \text{Wxd3+} \text{e8} 32 \text{Wf5+} 1-0

150) Charbonneau – H.A. Hussein
Dresden Olympiad 2008
White played 11 \(\text{axh7?} \text{gxh7} 12 \text{Gg5+} \text{g8} 13 \text{Wh5} \) and now Black can defend with 13...\(\text{Wa5+}! 0-1\) followed by 14...\(\text{Wf5}\.\)

151) de la Riva – Ermenkov
Dresden Olympiad 2008
White wins by 22 \(\text{Gh6!}, \) threatening 23 \(\text{g7} \) and \(\text{h8#}. \) Against the resource 22...\(\text{Gxg2} 23 \text{Wxg2} \text{f5} \) the prettiest line is 24 \(\text{Wxf2!} (24 \text{Gg7} \text{f4+} 25 \text{Gbl} \text{also wins}) 24...\(\text{Wxf2} 25 \text{Gg7} \) with mate in three.

Less clear is 22 \(\text{Hh8+?} \text{hxh8} 23 \text{Wh3+} \text{g8} 24 \text{Wh6} \text{Wxg5+}! 25 \text{Whg5} \text{d4}, \) with advantage to White but nothing decisive.

152) Naiditsch – Nisipeanu
Dresden Olympiad 2008
51...\(\text{f5!} 0-1\)

The threat is 52...f4+ 53 \(\text{xf4} \text{Mf3+}, \) winning the bishop. Now 52 \(\text{f7} \) unprotects the bishop, so Black has 52...\(\text{f3+} \) and the next rook check wins the white bishop. If 52 \(\text{g5} \) instead, then 52...f4+! 53 \(\text{xf4} (53 \text{h2} \text{h1#}) 53...\(\text{f3+} \) wins as indicated.

153) Kramnik – Aronian
Rapid match (game 5), Erevan 2007
There was a forced mate with 39 \(\text{Mf7+!} \text{g8} 40 \text{Mce7!} \text{Mce8} 41 \text{Mg7+} \text{Me8} \) and now the key move is 42 \(\text{h7!}, \) controlling g8, when there is no defance against the threat of \(\text{Mf7#}. \) There is also the simple 42 \(\text{Gxc8}\.\)

154) Perelshteyn – Mikhailovski
Lubbock 2008
35 \(\text{Gg4}!\)

With the inclusion of this fresh attacker, there is no defence for the black king.

35...\(\text{c4}\

If 35...\(\text{xd6} \) then 36 \(\text{Gh6+}! \) wins: 36...\(\text{Gxh6} \) (no better is 36...\(\text{Wf7} 37 \text{Gxf7} \text{xd2} 38 \text{Wh4+} \text{g7} 39 \text{Wh6+} \text{g8} 40 \text{Whh8}, \) or 36...\(\text{f8} 37 \text{Wh8+} \text{e7} 38 \text{Mxe2+} 37 \text{Mxd6} \) with a decisive advantage for White.

36 \(\text{Wxf7+!} \text{xf7} 37 \text{Gh6+} \text{g7} 38 \text{Gxf7} \text{xf1} 39 \text{d7} \text{a6} 40 \text{dxe8W} \)

with a winning advantage.

155) Hillarp Persson – Geetha Narayanan
Dresden Olympiad 2008
36...\(\text{We1+!} 37 \text{Gg2} \text{h3+!} (D)\)

The bishop is taboo on account of the mate on h1, so the white king has to come out into the open and be exposed to danger.

38 \(\text{f3} \text{g4+} 39 \text{e3} \text{Wc1+!} 40 \text{e4} \)

Or 40 \(\text{d3} \text{f5+} 41 \text{f4} \text{Wb1+.} \)

40...\(\text{Wd2} 41 \text{Gg4} \text{hxg4} \)

Threatening 42...\(\text{Wd4#}. \)

42 \(\text{b5} \text{We2+} \)

and mate in two.

0-1

156) Caruana – Korchnoi
Dresden Olympiad 2008
22 \(\text{e5!} \text{Wd8} \)

Or:

a) 22...\(\text{gxh4} 23 \text{exd6} \) is clearly hopeless for Black; e.g., 23...\(\text{Wd8} 24 \text{dxh7}+ \text{e7} 25 \text{xf4+} \text{h8} 26 \text{Whd4}.\)

b) 22...\(\text{h5} 23 \text{xf7+!} \text{d8} (or 23...\(\text{xf7} 24 \text{Whd7} \) and there is no defence; if 24...\(\text{gxh4?} \) then 25 \(\text{exd6} 24 \text{exd6!} \text{e6} 25 \text{we6} \text{gxf4} 26 \text{We8+!}.\)

23 \(\text{exd6} \text{f6} 24 \text{g3} \)

Stranded in the centre, the black king can’t survive in view of the wedge at d6 and the open lines.

24...\(\text{h5} 25 \text{We4} \text{e5} 26 \text{xe5} \text{e8} 27 \text{Wf5} \text{xe5} 28 \text{d7} 1-0\)

157) Cheparinov – Pavasović
Dresden Olympiad 2008
The escape-route can be blocked with 36 \(\text{a4!} \text{We4+} 37 \text{Gh2} \) and mate soon follows; e.g., 37...\(\text{Gf7} 38 \text{Wd6+} \text{b7} 39 \text{b8+} \text{a6} 40 \text{xb6#}.\)
158) Lupulescu – Ki. Georgiev
Dresden Olympiad 2008
27  ♖b5+!  ♖xf8
27...♖xf6 is met by 28  ♗h4+  ♔e6 29  ♗e7+  ♖d5 30  ♕e1+.
28  ♗h4  ♖h5
Or 28...gxh5 29  ♕e1  ♔e4 30  ♕xe4 (or 30  ♕xh6+ first) 30...fxe4 31  ♕xe4  ♕g5 32  ♕h7+.
29  ♕g5  gxh5 30  ♕e1  ♔c6 31  ♕xe5  ♖xe5 32  ♕e1 1-0

159) Franco – Korneev
Dos Hermanas 2003
After 26  ♘b3++! there is no hiding place for the black king:

a) 26...♘xb3? exposes Black to a decisive attack; e.g., 27  ♔a1+  ♖b5 28  ♕a5+  ♕c4 29  ♕c1+  ♕d4 30  ♔e3+  ♕d3 31  ♕f6+, and White wins.

b) 26...♗b5 27  ♘xc4+ and now:

b1) 27...♔xc4 28  ♕f1+  ♖b5 29  ♕xb4+ ♖xb4 (29...♖xb4 30  ♕c4+  ♔a5 31  ♕a1+  ♕b6 32  ♕xb4#) 30  ♕b1+  ♔a4 31  ♕xb7  ♕xb7 32  ♕xb7 with a decisive advantage.

b2) 27...♔a4 28  ♕al+ and the king can’t survive; e.g., 28...♔b3 29  ♕b1+  ♔c2 30  ♔c1+  ♔b3 31  ♕ab1+  ♔a4 32  ♕xb7! ♕xb7 33  ♕c2  ♕a5 34  ♕c7+ and mate next move.

160) Ovod – Zhao Xue
Russian Women’s Team Ch, Dagomys 2008
15  ♕h6! gxh6 (D)

16  ♖f5!
Threatening mate with 17  ♕g3+.

16...♖f8
If 16...♖h7 then White wins with 17  ♕h3!  ♖g8 18  ♕xh6!  ♕xh6 19  ♕xf7+  ♖g8 20  ♕h6  ♕xh7 21  ♕f1+  ♕f6 and it is mate after 22  ♕h7+  ♕f8 (22...♔e6 23  ♕g4+!  ♕xg4 24  ♕f7+  ♕d6 25  ♕c5#) 23  ♕h5  ♕e6 24  ♕h8+  ♕e7 25  ♕g7+  ♕d6 26  ♕c5#

17  ♕g3+  ♕g6 18  ♕xh6+  ♕g7 19  ♕xf7!
19...♕xf7 is answered by 20  ♕h5! ♖g8 21  ♕xe5.
20  ♕d3  ♕d7
20...♖h4 loses to 21  g3, regaining the piece and maintaining the attack.
21  ♕xe4  ♕xd4 22  ♕d3! ♕e3 23  ♕d2! ♕c5
Now White resumes the attack, and this time it can’t be parried.
24  ♕h5! ♕h4 25  ♕f2  ♕e7 26  ♕f4! ♕f5 27  ♕g4+! ♕f8 28  ♕h6 1-0

161) D. Khamrakulov – Yuldashev
Uzbek Ch, Tashkent 2008
28  ♕g6+! ♕xg6 29  ♕f6+!
The correct order of moves. Not 29  ♕c4+ because of 29...♖h8!, winning.
29...♖xf6 30  ♕c4+! 1-0
White regains all the sacrificed material with interest after 30...♖xc4 31  ♕xh8+  ♕g7 32  ♕xg6+  ♕f8 33  ♕xf6+  ♕e8 34  ♕e6+ and ♕xc4.

162) Granda – Fedorchuk
Conegliano 2008
37...♗c7!
...♖g8 is coming, and the action of the rook combined with the c6-bishop will be very dangerous. Other black forces can also join in, as we shall see.

38  ♕h4?!
White should try 38  f4  ♕g8 39  ♕f2, although 39...d4! leaves the c7-knight in surprisingly serious danger; e.g., 40  ♕xc6 (or 40  ♕f1 d3! with the idea of 41...♖h5 and...♖h4) 40...♖xc6 41  edx4 ♕xe5 42  fxex5  ♕xc7 43  ♕g5 with advantage to Black, but White can still fight.

38...♕g8 39  ♕h3 ♕g4! 0-1
If 40  ♕g3 then 40...♖xc7, while Black’s initiative is overwhelming after 40  ♕g1 d4 41  f3  ♕xh4 42  ♕g3  ♕h5, or 42...♖g5.

163) Adhiban – Movsziszian
Sort 2008
23  ♕b5+! is decisive: 23...♖b6 (White’s task is simpler after 23...axb5? 24  ♕d7+  ♖b6 25  ♕xb5+  ♕c7 26  ♕d7+  ♖b6, and now the key idea is 27  a5+! ♕xa5 28  ♕d8+  ♕c6 29  ♕d5+) 24  a5+! ♕xa5 25  ♕e1+  ♕b6 26  ♕xa6+!! ♕xa6
(after 26...\(\text{Nxa6} 27 \text{Nxd8+} \text{Nxd8} 28 \text{Ndx5}, and wins.

164) 
**Note – Laylo**  
*Philippines Ch, Mandaluyong 2008*

Black can exploit the weakness of White's back rank by 23...\(\text{gxe5}! 24 \text{Nxc4} (24 \text{bxc4?} \text{Nxa3+ 25 Qb2? Nc1#}) 24...\(\text{Nf1+ 25 Qb1} (25 Qb2? \text{Nf5+ is worse}) 25...\(\text{Nxa5+ 26 Qb2 Qxd2+ 27 Qc2 Qa2+ 28 Qxa2 Qxc2+ 29 Qb2 Qd1}, followed by 30...\(\text{Nf8} and ...\(\text{Nxf7}.

165) 
**Yusupov – Wang Yue**  
*Amsterdam 2008*

Not 47...\(\text{Nxa2}!!, which only draws after 48 \text{Nxd8+ Qg8} 49 \text{Nh6+ Qg7} 50 \text{Nh8f}+ 51 \text{Qf6}+.

47...\(\text{Nf8}!!

Ruling out White's key defensive idea, and now there is no satisfactory defence against 48...\(\text{Nxa2}.

48 \(\text{Nxa6 Nxa2} 49 \text{Nh6} \text{Nxe4!!} 0-1

166) 
**Vila Gazquez – Krejci**  
*European Under-18 Ch, Herceg Novi 2008*

29 \(\text{Nh4}!!

The c8-rook is vital for the defence; with its absence, the exchange of the other rook on h4 means that White’s attack is winning. 

29...\(\text{Nxe2} 30 \text{Nxa5}

30 \text{Nxf6 Nxf6} 31 \text{Nxe8+ Kh7} 32 \text{Nxe5+} was also strong.  

30...\(\text{Nxe4}??

This loses, but there is no satisfactory defence against the threat of 31 \text{Nxb6}.

31 \text{bxa4 b6} 32 \text{Nxe8+ Nh6} 33 \text{Nc6 c4} 34 \text{Nxf6} 1-0

167) 
**Aronian – Volokitin**  
*European Clubs Cup, Kallithea 2008*

28 \(\text{Nxd5}!! \text{Nxd5} 29 \text{Nxe5}+

And White forces a speedy mate. 

29...\(\text{Nxe4} 30 \text{Nxd5+ f6 31 Nxd5+ Nf6}

Or 31...\(\text{Nf6} 32 \text{Nxd5+ Qf1} 33 \text{Qe2+ Nf8} 34 \text{Qxg5+ Qh1} 35 \text{Nh5#}.

32 \text{Qe2+} 1-0

168) 
**Sashikiran – H. Levyva**  
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

Black's idea was fine, but the correct move-order is 27...\(\text{Nxd4}! 28 \text{exd4} (after 28 \text{Nxd4 exd4 29 Nxd4 Qe5 30 Ne1 Bc8 the f6-pawn is lost, there is pressure on the white king and White has insufficient compensation for the piece) 28...\(\text{Nxc3}+ 29 \text{Nxc3 Nxd5}, attacking the h1-rook, and threatening 30...\(\text{Nc8}.

169) 
**Harikrishna – Svidler**  
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

25 \text{Nxe6!! Nxb8}

Not 25...\(\text{Nxe6} 26 \text{Nxe6+ Qh8} 27 \text{Qf3}! 28 \text{Qd4}

28 \text{Nhe3+ Nf6 29 Qh6+ Nh6 30 Qf5, with a decisive initiative.}

26 \(\text{Qf3} \text{Nc4}?? 27 \text{Qe7}

With several threats, such as 28 \text{Nc7, Qe3}, etc.

1-0

170) 
**Skripchenko – Zatonskikh**  
*Dresden Women's Olympiad 2008*

White missed 33 \(\text{Qxe6}+!:

a) 33...\(\text{Qf8} fails to 34 \text{Qg6 Nxd7} (or 34...\(\text{Qf6} 35 \text{Qxg7}! \text{Qxg7} 36 \text{Qf5}+ and the black queen is lost) 35 \text{Qxg7}! \text{Qxg7} 36 \text{Qf5+ Nh6} 37 \text{Qg4 with the threat of 38 \text{Qh6#, winning.}}

b) 33...\(\text{Qh7} 34 \text{Qxf7}! \text{Qxg3} 35 \text{fxg3 Nh4+} (35...\(\text{Qxd8} 36 \text{Nd8} 37 \text{Nh4} 38 \text{Qg8 38 g4}}

39 \text{g5 with a winning endgame) 36 \text{Qh2 Nh6} 37 \text{Qf3 Nh6} 38 \text{Qh6! Nh7}+ 39 \text{Qf8} 40 \text{Qxf7 Nh5+ Qg8 42 \text{Qxd5+ Nh3 43 Qf5+}} and White captures the c7-pawn with a decisive endgame advantage.

171) 
**D.G. Petrosonian – Arutinian**  
*Armenian Team Ch, Erevan 2008*

Black's material advantage is only temporary, but he can exploit the bad situation of the white king. 

31...\(\text{Qg3}+! 32 \text{Nh2 Qf4+}! 33 \text{Qh3}

33 \text{Qxc3} loses to 33...\(\text{Qe4}+

33...\(\text{Qf5} 34 \text{Qxe1 Qf2} 0-1

35 \text{Nxf2} \text{Qxe5} gives Black an extra rook.

172) 
**Cornette – Lazic**  
*Mulhouse 2008*

29 \text{Nxd5+} 1-0

If 29...\(\text{Qxh8} then 30 \text{Nxf5}, winning.

173) 
**Smikovski – Tuzhik**  
*Tomsk 2008*

After any 'normal' move, the white queen would remain out of play, but now it can receive support: 

23 \(\text{Qg6}! \text{Qh7}

After 23...\(\text{fxg6} 24 \text{hxg6, mate is unavoidable.}
24 \(\text{\textit{x}}\text{x}e5 \text{x}e5 25 \text{x}f7+! 1-0\)

Strongest; the queen regains the piece and gets out of jail after 25...\(\text{x}f7 26 \text{g}6+\).

174) Zhumabaev – Nechepurenko

Tomsk 2008

There are three white pieces attacked, but the main element in the position is the weakness of the black king.

28 \text{w}a3! (D)

\begin{center}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{center}

Threatening to mate or win a lot of material with the discovered check.

28...b4

After 28...\text{x}e2+ 29 \text{f}1 \text{h}3+ 30 \text{e}1 there is no defence.

29 \text{w}xb4 \text{e}8

Now if 29...\text{x}e2+ all three king moves are winning.

30 \text{g}8 1-0

There is no defence; mate on e7 is threatened, and if 30...\text{h}8 (or 30...\text{c}6 31 \text{b}7) then 31 \text{g}6+ wins.

175) Hector – E. Berg

Swedish Ch, \textit{Växjö 2008}

40 \text{h}xh4!

Eliminating the dangers to his own king, while maintaining terrible threats against the black king.

40...\text{x}h4?

40...\text{x}f5 41 \text{x}h7 \text{f}4 42 b3 does not save the game either.

41 \text{e}7 1-0

176) Kariakin – Short

Rapid match (game 1), Kiev 2008

37 \text{w}xf6! 1-0

37...\text{w}x6 38 g4#.

177) Bhat – Burmakin

Benasque 2008

33 \text{w}xc7! 1-0

If 33...\text{x}e7 then 34 \text{d}8+ mates, while after 33...\text{h}3+ 34 \text{g}1 the d1-square is covered.

178) Ubilava – N. Mamedov

Benasque 2008

26 \text{c}3! \text{g}8 27 \text{g}3

and White won. 27 \text{g}7! is quicker, with mate in four.

179) Meijers – Halkias

Kavala 2008

28...\text{w}xb6!

The weakness of the back rank allows Black to win a pawn and bring a fresh piece into the attack. If the white rook moves aside, then 29...\text{x}b2 is possible.

29 \text{d}1

29 \text{b}6? allows a forced mate by 29...\text{e}1+ 30 \text{h}2 \text{g}1+ 31 \text{h}1 \text{f}2+.

29...\text{e}5 30 \text{g}1 \text{h}2+ 31 \text{f}2 \text{d}4+ 32 \text{f}3 \text{e}5! 0-1

180) Kuhn – Motylev

Mainz (Chess960) 2008

21...\text{x}g2?

The white pieces are unable to come to the aid of the king, which will be mated.

22 \text{g}xg2 \text{g}4+ 23 \text{h}1 \text{xf}3+ 24 \text{xf}3 \text{xf}3+ 25 \text{g}1 \text{h}4 0-1

181) Ju. Bolbochán – Rossetto

Argentine Ch match (game 5), Buenos Aires 1948

44 \text{d}3! 1-0

There is no satisfactory defence against 45 \text{e}7#.

182) Gorini – Ju. Bolbochán

Remedios de Escalada 1949

54...\text{c}8! (another incarcerated king) 55 \text{a}7+ \text{f}6 56 \text{x}d6+ \text{f}5 0-1.

183) Rossetto – Najdorf

Mar del Plata 1955

28...\text{e}3!

The rook is taboo, while Black’s threat is 29...\text{x}g3+.

29 \text{h}2 \text{f}4! 30 \text{f}3 \text{fxg}3+ 31 \text{g}2 \text{w}e6!

Black continues to play with great energy and the attack is unstoppable.
32 hxg5 \text{ex}e2+ 33 \text{Qxg}3 \text{Wd}6+ 34 \text{f}4 \text{Gg}2+ 35 \text{h}3 \text{We}6+ 36 \text{f}5 \text{xf}5 37 \text{e}1 \text{f}3++ 0-1

184) Bronstein – Marini  

Mar del Plata 1960  
40 \text{Qg}5! 1-0  
Threatening mate on h7, and if 40...\text{Wg}7 then the simple 41 \text{Wxg}7+ \text{Qxg}7 42 \text{Qxe}6++ leads to a winning endgame. Even worse are 40...\text{Wxh}6 41 \text{Qf}7# and 40...\text{We}7 41 \text{Qxh}7 \text{Wxh}7 42 \text{Wf}6+.

185) Guimard – Najdorf  

Mar del Plata 1962  
31...\text{Qe}2+! (incarcerating the white king on the h-file) 32 \text{Qh}2 \text{Qf}4 0-1.

186) Goldshtein – Degraeve  

La Ferne 2008  
23...\text{Qdxe}3!  
23...\text{Wh}2+ 24 \text{Qf}1 achieves nothing tangible and now if 24...\text{Qdxe}3+? 25 \text{Qxe}3 \text{Qxd}4 26 \text{Qxd}4 \text{Qc}1+ 27 \text{Qe}2 Black even stands worse.  
24 \text{fxe}3  
Here 24 \text{Qxe}3 \text{Qxd}4! 25 \text{Qxd}4? \text{Qc}1+ leads to mate.  
24...\text{Wh}2+ 25 \text{Qf}1 \text{Wh}1+ 26 \text{Qe}2 \text{Wg}2+ 27 \text{Qd}1 \text{Wxe}4  
with an attack and a material advantage.

187) Gozzoli – Meijers  

La Ferne 2008  
35 \text{Qe}4++!  
Beginning a fierce attack.  
35...\text{Qg}7 36 \text{Qxf}6! \text{Qxf}6 37 \text{Qe}5+ 37 \text{Qd}5 was another way to win.  
37...\text{Qxe}5 38 \text{Qd}5+ \text{Qf}6 39 \text{Qf}5+ \text{Qg}7 40 \text{Qg}5+ 1-0  
After 40...\text{Qh}8 41 \text{Wh}6+ \text{Qg}8 42 \text{Wh}7+ White mates.

188) Staniszewski – A. Grigorian  

Najdorf Memorial, Warsaw 2008  
23...\text{Qf}3+!!  
Decisively weakening White’s castled position, after which the white king will be unable to survive the attack.  
24 \text{gxf}3 \text{ex}e2! 25 \text{Wxe}2 \text{Qg}3+ 26 \text{Qh}1 \text{Wxh}3+ 27 \text{Qg}1 \text{Qc}7! 28 \text{f}4 \text{Qf}4 0-1

189) Ab. Gupta – Caspi  

World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008  
38 \text{Wxh}8++!

The only move, but it wins. If 38 \text{Wg}5? then 38...\text{Wxe}4, while 38...\text{Qf}4? is harmless after 38...\text{Qe}8 39 \text{Wg}3 \text{ex}e3 and 40...\text{Wf}5.  
38...\text{Qh}8 39 \text{Qd}4 \text{Wxe}4  
Or 39...\text{Qg}7 40 \text{Wxf}6.  
40 \text{Qxe}8 41 \text{Qg}7 41 \text{Qxf}6+ \text{Qxf}6 42 \text{Qc}7+ \text{Qh}6  
43 \text{Qh}7+ \text{Qg}5 44 \text{Qxf}6 1-0.

190) Ronchetti – Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son  

World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008  
31...\text{Qxg}2! 32 \text{Qxg}2  
Or 32 \text{Wd}1 \text{Qe}3 33 \text{Qxe}3 \text{Wh}3 34 \text{Qe}b2 \text{fxe}3 and Black wins.  
32...\text{Qxg}2 33 \text{Qxg}2 \text{Qg}6+ 34 \text{Qf}2 \text{Wh}3 35 \text{Qxf}4 \text{Qg}2+ 36 \text{Qe}3 \text{Qg}1+ 0-1

191) Can – Leôn Hoyos  

World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008  
32 \text{f}8\text{Q}+!  
The quickest, forcing mate.  
32...\text{Qxf}8 33 \text{Qxf}8+ \text{Qxf}8 34 \text{Qxf}8+ \text{Qg}7 35 \text{Qf}7++ 1-0  
35...\text{Qh}8 36 \text{Qh}7+ \text{Qg}8 37 \text{Qf}6+ \text{Qf}8 38 \text{Qf}7#.

192) Amin – Sengupta  

World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008  
25 \text{Qxe}7!  
Sacrificing an exchange in order to expose the black king even more.  
25...\text{fxe}4  
25...\text{Qxe}7 is met by 26 \text{Qxf}5.  
26 \text{Qg}4+ \text{Qf}7 27 \text{Qg}6+ \text{Qxe}7 28 \text{Qg}7+ \text{Qe}8 29 \text{Qh}8+ \text{Qf}8 30 \text{Qxh}4  
and White won.

193) Brkić – Amin  

World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008  
47 \text{Qg}3+!  
Black is a rook down, so he has to act very quickly. Not 47...\text{Qd}2? on account of 48 \text{Qg}1+.  
48 \text{Qxg}3 \text{Qd}2 0-1.

194) Nedev – Stojcevski  

Macedonian Team Ch, Struga 2008  
44...\text{Qg}2+ 45 \text{Qxg}2 \text{Qa}1+ 46 \text{Qg}1 \text{Qxg}1+! 0-1  
The endgame is an easy win for Black after 47 \text{Qg}1 \text{Qf}3+ and ...\text{Qxe}5.

195) Charbonneau – Kudrin  

Internet 2008  
47 \text{Qxe}4!!
Eliminating a vital defender. 47 \( \text{h}5? \text{d}6 \) is better for Black.

47...\( \text{w}xe4 \)

If 47...\( \text{d}xe4 \) then 48 \( \text{c}4 \text{w}e7 \) 49 \( \text{d}1! \) (the threat is 50 \( \text{x}f7 \) and 51 \( \text{d}8+ \), winning the black queen) 49...\( \text{d}8 \) and now 50 \( \text{d}6! \) is an elegant way to bring the rook into play with decisive effect. A possible continuation is 50...\( \text{e}c8 \)
51 \( \text{h}6+ \) e8 (or 51...\( \text{g}8 \) 52 \( \text{x}xf6 \) 52 \( \text{x}f7+ \) \( \text{w}xf7 \) 53 \( \text{xf6} \) \( \text{g}8 \) 54 \( \text{e}6+ \) \( \text{d}7 \) 55 \( \text{g}6 \).

48 \( \text{h}5 \) e7 49 \( \text{x}f6+ \) \( \text{g}8 \) 50 \( \text{d}8+ \) \( \text{g}7 \)
51 \( \text{xc}7+ \) \( \text{h}6 \) 52 \( \text{d}6+ \) 1-0

196) Erenburg – Sammour Hasbun

Internet 2008

22 \( \text{d}3! \)

Heading for h3.

22...\( \text{f}8 \)

22...\( \text{c}8 \) gives up control of d5 and is punished by 23 \( \text{d}5 \) \( \text{e}7 \) 24 \( \text{xe}5 \) dxe5 (24...\( \text{f}xe5 \) 25 \( \text{g}3 \) \( \text{f}8 \) 26 \( \text{d}3 \) also wins) 25 \( \text{h}5! \), while 22...\( \text{xd}3+ \) 23 \( \text{xd}3 \) leaves Black defenceless; e.g., 23...\( \text{d}8 \) 24 \( \text{h}7+ \) \( \text{f}8 \) 25 \( \text{h}8+ \) \( \text{e}7 \) 26 \( \text{f}5! \).

23 \( \text{h}3 \) e7 24 \( \text{xf}6 \)

With the f-file now also open, the attack is easier.

24...\( \text{d}7 \) 25 \( \text{h}6 \) \( \text{f}5 \) 26 \( \text{h}8+ \) \( \text{f}7 \) 27 \( \text{f}1 \)
1-0

197) Dudzinski – Mielczarski

Ustron 2008

24 \( \text{xe}6! \)

A typical demolition of the castled position, followed by a swift invasion.

24...\( \text{hxg}6 \) 25 \( \text{h}4 \) \( \text{f}8 \) 26 \( \text{h}8+ \) \( \text{f}7 \) 27 \( \text{xe}6+! \) \( \text{g}6 \)

27...\( \text{xe}6 \) 28 \( \text{h}7\# \).

28 \( \text{h}5+ \) 1-0

28...\( \text{g}7 \) 29 \( \text{g}3+ \) leads to a quick mate.

198) L. Domínguez – Buhmann

Dresden Olympiad 2008

39 \( \text{h}6+! \)

Another way to win is 39 \( \text{h}5+! \) gxf5 40 \( \text{h}6+ \) \( \text{h}6 \) 41 \( \text{xf}6+ \) \( \text{h}7 \) 42 \( \text{xf}5 \), bringing the b4-rook into play.

39...\( \text{h}6 \) 40 \( \text{f}6 \) \( \text{h}7 \)

Or 40...\( \text{g}8 \) 41 \( \text{h}5+ \) \( \text{h}7 \) (41...\( \text{f}5 \) 42 \( \text{xf}5+ \) \( \text{h}7 \) 43 \( \text{b}7 \) mates quickly, since the black queen has to stay on d1 to defend against \( \text{h}4+ \)) 42 \( \text{h}4+ \).

41 \( \text{b}7 \) \( \text{d}7 \) 42 \( \text{c}3! \) 1-0

Threatening 43 \( \text{g}5+ \) and mate in three, and if 42...\( \text{c}1 \) then 43 \( \text{f}7+ \) \( \text{h}6 \) 44 \( \text{e}2! \) \( \text{c}5 \) 45 \( \text{f}8+ \) \( \text{h}7 \) 46 \( \text{g}5\# \).

199) Navara – Gi. Hernández

Dresden Olympiad 2008

49 \( \text{h}3! \) \( \text{xb}5 \)

Or 49...\( \text{g}xh3 \) 50 \( \text{f}5+ \) \( \text{g}5 \) 51 \( \text{g}4+ \) \( \text{h}4 \) 52 \( \text{g}3\# \), while 49...\( \text{xd}6 \) does not defend against the main threat of 50 \( \text{f}5+ \) \( \text{g}5 \) 51 \( \text{hxg}4 \).

50 \( \text{e}5 \)

Renewing the threat.

50...\( \text{g}5 \) 51 \( \text{hxg}4+ \) \( \text{xf}4 \) 52 \( \text{f}5+ \) \( \text{g}5 \) 53 \( \text{h}3+ \) \( \text{g}6 \) 54 \( \text{e}6+ \) \( \text{h}5 \) 55 \( \text{f}7+ \) \( \text{g}6 \) 56 \( \text{g}4+! \) 1-0

200) Stefansson – A.R. Salem

Dresden Olympiad 2008

26...\( \text{f}4! \) 27 \( \text{xe}6 \)

If 27 \( g4 \) then 27...\( \text{c}7 \), followed by...\( \text{xe}5 \), is good enough.

27...\( \text{f}g3+ \) 28 \( \text{g}1 \)

28...\( \text{h}3 \) is met by 28...\( \text{xf}2 \) (with the threat of 29...\( \text{h}2+ \) and...\( \text{f}4\# ) 29 \( \text{d}5 \) (or 29 \( \text{f}5 \) \( \text{xf}5 \), with a material advantage and the attack) 29...\( \text{h}2+ \) 30 \( \text{g}xg3 \) \( \text{f}2+ \) 31 \( \text{g}4 \) \( \text{h}4\# ) .

28...\( \text{xf}2 \) 29 \( \text{d}3 \) \( \text{h}2 \) 0-1

It is soon mate; e.g., 30 \( \text{f}1 \) \( \text{h}1\# .

201) Bagheri – Stević

Dresden Olympiad 2008

12...\( \text{a}3! \)

With the threat of 13...\( \text{xe}3 \).

13 \( \text{e}3?! \)

13...\( \text{f}3 \) \( \text{c}3 \) + 14 \( \text{d}2 \) \( \text{xb}4 \) was better, but still unpleasant.

13...\( \text{xe}3\) 14 \( \text{fxe}3 \) \( \text{xe}3+ \) 15 \( \text{e}2 \) \( \text{a}6 \) with a material advantage and the attack.

202) Mamedyarov – Adly

Dresden Olympiad 2008

23 \( \text{h}7! \)

White opens the h-file and Black soon has to give up material to avoid mate.

23...\( \text{h}7 \) 24 \( \text{f}8+ \) \( \text{g}8 \) 25 \( \text{xe}7 \) \( f5 \)

Worse is 25...\( \text{xe}7 \) 26 \( \text{g}4+ \) \( \text{f}8 \) 27 \( \text{h}8\# .

26 \( \text{xd}6 \) \( \text{xd}6 \) 27 \( \text{xf}5 \)

And White won.

203) Bacrot – Leko

FIDE Grand Prix,

Elista 2008

31 \( \text{h}7+! \) 1-0
Black is mated after 31. ♦xh7 (or 31...f8 32 ♦b4+) 32 hxg7+ ♦g8 33 ♦h8#.

204) Moskalenko – L. Rojas
Montcada i Reixac 2008
35...♦f7!
The e8-rook joins in the attack and there is no satisfactory defense.
36 ♦f2 ♦h8+ 37 ♦g1 ♦h4
Winning a pawn, and allowing the knight to assist in the attack.
38 ♦c2 ♦xf4 39 e6+ ♦xe6 40 ♦c6+ ♦e7 41 ♦e7+ ♦f6 42 ♦c2 ♦h3+ 43 ♦f1? ♦d1# (0-1)

205) S. Kovačević – Granda
Benasque 2008
48...♦xf3+! 49 ♦xf3
49 ♦f2 is likewise met by 49...♦h3.
49...♦h3+ 50 ♦e2 ♦xh2+ 51 ♦e1
Or 51 ♦f3 ♦xd2 52 ♦xc4 ♦f4+ 53 ♦g2 ♦xe4+ 54 ♦g3 ♦xc4.
51...♦h4+ 52 ♦d1 ♦g1+ 53 ♦e2 ♦f2+ 54 ♦d1 ♦f3+ 0-1
If 55 ♦e2 then 55...♦d4+.

206) Franco – Pogorelov
Albox (rapid) 2001
1 ♦xe6! 1 ♦xe5? ♦b7 achieves nothing.
1...g6?
Weakening the king, after which the attack will be decisive. Instead, 1...fxe6 brings about an endgame: 2 ♦xe6+ ♦h8 3 ♦e5 h6 (3...f8 4 ♦f7+ ♦f7 5 ♦xe5 ♦d5 6 ♦xd5 (6...f5+ ♦h8 7 ♦f1 is another favourable endgame) 6...h6 (6...hx5 is not playable: 7 cxd5 ♦f6 8 ♦e4 ♦xf6 9 ♦f2 ♦e7 10 ♦f3 ♦d6 11 ♦e4) 7 ♦g2, with an extra pawn and a great advantage. White’s c-pawn is stronger than Black’s d-pawn, and the white king is safer, as well as able to come into play.
2 ♦f6 fxe6 3 ♦xe6+
Even stronger is 3 ♦g5.
3...g5
No better is 3...f8 4 ♦e5 ♦a7 5 ♦f6+ ♦e8 6 ♦h8+ ♦f7 7 ♦xh7+ or 3...h8 4 ♦f6+ ♦g8 5 ♦g5.
4 ♦e7+ ♦h6 5 ♦e5 ♦g8 6 ♦g4+ 1-0

207) Marin – A. Graf
Spanish Team Ch, Sanxenxo 2004
24 e4!
Opening the d-file, after which all the white pieces can join in the attack.
24...c3
If 24...hxg4 then 25 ♦d3 ♦xe5 (or 25...a5 26 ♦c5 ♦b6 27 ♦c7 ♦b5 28 ♦g2, winning) 26 ♦d4!.
The retreat 24...c5 is refuted with 25 ♦xb6 ♦xc4 26 ♦d3 ♦xa4 27 ♦e3 ♦e7 28 ♦xc4 ♦d1 29 ♦b5+ ♦f8 30 ♦e5.
25 ♦xd7!
Stripping the black king of all his armour.
25...hxg4 26 ♦xf7+ ♦e8 27 ♦e3 ♦xe5
27...hxg4 loses to 28 hxg4+ ♦xg4 29 ♦d3 ♦e7 30 ♦e1 1-0
Avoiding the last trap: not 31 ♦f1? ♦h1+! with a draw.

208) Svidler – Vitiugov
Russian Ch, Moscow 2007
21 ♦xb6!
Queen and knight are a fearsome attacking force. The rook is sacrificed to weaken the defences.
21...c4
If 21...axb6 then 22 ♦b5+ ♦d8 23 ♦xb6+ ♦d7 24 ♦xb7+ ♦e6 25 ♦f4+.
22 ♦e7+ ♦e6 23 ♦f4+ 24 ♦d4 25 ♦xd4 26 ♦c3+ ♦c7 27 ♦e5 28 ♦c6+ ♦d5 29 ♦xe6+ ♦e4 30 ♦g2+ 27 ♦e1 ♦e8 28 ♦e7+ ♦xh7 29 ♦e3+.
1-0
Although Black could struggle on for a few more moves, there is no hope after 24...hxg4 25 ♦d2 ♦h6+ 26 ♦f1! ♦g2+ 27 ♦e1 ♦e8 28 ♦f3 ♦e7 29 ♦e3+.

209) Sashikiran – Ponomariov
Zafra (rapid) 2007
28 ♦e1!
The queen is defending the two key points, preventing the entry of the white queen on f7, while also controlling e5. Now it has to give up the defence of one of these squares.
28...hxg4
28...hxg4 and 28...hxg4 are both met by 29 ♦f7! with the unstoppable threat of 30 ♦g7+ followed by ♦e8+.
If 28...hxg4 then the main idea is 29 ♦e5! fxe5 30 ♦xe5+ ♦g7 31 ♦f6! with threats of 32 ♦e8+ and 32 ♦xg7+, followed by ♦e8+.
29 ♦e5! 1-0
210) **Santiago – Milos**  
*Brazilian Ch, Rio de Janeiro 2007*  
18...\(\text{axc2!} 19 \text{f4}\)  
19 \(\text{axc2}\) is met by 19...\(\text{wa4+} 20 \text{d2} \text{xc4+}\)  
21 \(\text{xe1} \text{xe3.}\)  
19...\(\text{wd4} 20 \text{fxe5} \text{dc8}\)  
Threatening 21...\(\text{AXB2+}.\)  
21 \(\text{dc1} \text{dx5}\)  
Now the e7-bishop comes into the game.  
22 \(\text{g1} \text{b3!} 23 \text{axb3}\)  
23 a3 fails to 23...\(\text{AXB2+!}.\)  
23...\(\text{xc1}+ 24 \text{xc1} \text{xe4+} 25 \text{d3} \text{xc1+!}\)  
0-1  
If 26 \(\text{xc1}\) then 26...\(\text{wa1+}.\)  

211) **Van Ketel – Sandipan**  
*Leiden 2008*  
25...\(\text{h5!}\)  
With a few accurate moves, Black succeeds in activating all his forces against the white king.  
26 \(\text{hx5} \text{wh1+!} 27 \text{xe2} \text{wh5+} 28 \text{e1}\)  
\(\text{wh1+} 29 \text{xe2} \text{h4!} 30 \text{xc7+} \text{f8} 31 \text{xc7}\)  
After 31...\(\text{d4, the simple 31...\text{f3+} 32 \text{fl} \text{xd4 is good enough.}\)  
31...\(\text{f3+} 32 \text{fl} \text{d1+} 33 \text{e1} \text{wh1+} 34 \text{e2} \text{xe1#} (0-1)\)  

212) **Valerga – Lemos**  
*Argentina Ch, Mendoza 2008*  
21 \(\text{e4!} \text{gc7}\)  
White is better after 21...\(\text{fxe4}\)  
22 \(\text{xe4} \text{e8}\)  
23 \(\text{wh7+} \text{f8} 24 \text{dxe6+} \text{xe6}\)  
25 \(\text{dxe6} \text{xd1}\)  
26 \(\text{xd1} \text{xe4}\) 27 \(\text{xe4}, with a material advantage and the initiative.\)  
22 \(\text{g5}\)  
23 \(\text{dxe6} \text{hxg5}\)  
24 \(\text{e7} \text{xe5}\)  
and White won. 25...\(\text{xe5}\)  
26...\(\text{we7+}\)  
25...\(\text{we7+}\)  
26...\(\text{we6+}\)  
27...\(\text{wh7}\)  
28...\(\text{wh8}\)  
29...\(\text{wh8}\)  
30...\(\text{wh6+}\)  
31...\(\text{b3!! (to force the queen away from the control of d7) 31...\text{wb4 (31...\text{d4?} 32 \text{xc7+) 32 \text{wh7+}}}\)  

213) **Brjenč – Ivanisević**  
*Zlatibor 2008*  
25 \(\text{xc7+!}\)  
The shortage of black defensive pieces, such as the queen, means that White has many attacking resources and will at least recover the sacrificed material.  
25...\(\text{xc7}\) 26 \(\text{xe6+}\) 27...\(\text{wh8}\)  
More complicated, although equally advantageous for White, is 26...\(\text{we6} 27 \text{we5!} \text{xe6}\)  
28...\(\text{wh6+}\) 29...\(\text{wh8}\)  
30...\(\text{xf7+}\) 31...\(\text{wh7}\) 32...\(\text{wh8}\)  
33...\(\text{wh5+}\) 34...\(\text{gl+}\) 35...\(\text{f6+}\)  
36...\(\text{we6+}\) 37...\(\text{wh5+}\) 38...\(\text{wh6}\)  
39...\(\text{we7}\) 40...\(\text{wh5+}\) and the b8-rook is lost.  
27...\(\text{xf6}\) 28...\(\text{we6+}\) 29...\(\text{we7}\) 30...\(\text{wa7}\) 31...\(\text{wh5}\) 32...\(\text{wh4}, followed by 33...\(\text{we5}, is quicker.\)  
29...\(\text{wh8}\) 30...\(\text{wc7}\) 31...\(\text{wc4! 1-0}\)  

214) **Fedorchuk – Guilleux**  
*Paris 2008*  
17...\(\text{we6+!}\)  
Opening lines against the black king, to the benefit of White’s very superior development.  
17...\(\text{xf6}\) 18...\(\text{xf6}\)  
Or 18...\(\text{xf6}\) 19...\(\text{d7} \text{we8}\) 20...\(\text{h5}\) 21...\(\text{we8+} 22 \text{xe8}\)  
23...\(\text{xe8+} 24 \text{xe8}\)  
19...\(\text{d7} \text{we6}\)  
If 19...\(\text{we8}\) then 20...\(\text{h5}\) 21...\(\text{we6}\)  
22...\(\text{we6} 23 \text{xe8+} 24 \text{we8} 25 \text{we6}\)  
20...\(\text{h5} \text{we8}\)  
Equally hopeless is 20...\(\text{e8}\) 21...\(\text{wh6+}\) 22...\(\text{we7+}\)  
23...\(\text{f8}\) 24...\(\text{d6}\) 25...\(\text{e6}\), while 20...\(\text{h6}\) 21...\(\text{we6}\)  
22...\(\text{we6}\) is similar to the game.  
21...\(\text{wh6+} 22 \text{we7}\) 23...\(\text{we7+}\)  
24...\(\text{we7}\) 25...\(\text{we7}\)  
22...\(\text{we7}\) 23...\(\text{we7}\) 24...\(\text{we7}\)  

215) **Vera – García Martínez**  
*Cuban Ch, Las Tunas 2001*  
20...\(\text{we6!}\)  
The typical exchange sacrifice.  
20...\(\text{xb2}\)  
20...\(\text{gxf6}\) is met by 21...\(\text{h5!} \text{we8}\) 22...\(\text{xf6}\)  
23...\(\text{wd6}\) (or 22...\(\text{c6}\) 23...\(\text{f1}\) with the idea of \(\text{wh5}\) 23...\(\text{e5} \text{we7}\)  
24...\(\text{xc1! (not 24...\(\text{wh5}\) \(\text{we2!}\) 24...\(\text{xc1+} 25 \text{exe1} \text{xe1+} 26 \text{f2 with the ever-present threat of wh5.}\)  
21...\(\text{f5!} \text{we8}\)??\)  
Black could have avoided mate with 21...\(\text{g6}, although after 22...\(\text{xb2}\) \(\text{gxf6}\) 23...\(\text{f5}\)  
24...\(\text{we4}\! White retains a valuable extra pawn.\)  
22...\(\text{f1} \text{c4}\) 23...\(\text{g4}\) 24...\(\text{e6+}\) 25...\(\text{e7+}\)  
26...\(\text{we6}\) 1-0  

216) **S. Vega Gutiérrez – Bellón**  
*León 2006*  
22...\(\text{g6+!??}\)  
22...\(\text{we4!}, setting up deadly threats on the fourth rank, is even stronger. Then 22...\(\text{we7}\) 23
\( \text{\textcopyright} f6+! \) leads to a forced mate, which your
analysis engine can show you, while 23 \( \text{\textcopyright} a3+ \)
followed by \( \text{\textcopyright} d6 \) is a strong and more ‘human’
choice.
22...\( \text{\textcopyright} x f6 \) 23 \( \text{\textcopyright} g5+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} g7 \) 24 \( \text{\textcopyright} e7+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} h6 \) 25 \( \text{\textcopyright} x b4 \) exd4 26 \( \text{\textcopyright} x d4 \)
with a winning advantage that White converted in 53 moves.

217) \text{Akopian – Kuzubov}
\textit{Gibraltar 2007}

18 \( \text{\textcopyright} x c6+! \)
It is surprising that this sacrifice is so effective. White manages to strip the black king of
his defences with a lightning attack, based on a few tactical points.

18...\( \text{\textcopyright} x c6 \)
It is more tenacious to accept the loss of a pawn with 18...\( \text{\textcopyright} x d1+ \) 19 \( \text{\textcopyright} x d1 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} c5 \) 20 \( \text{\textcopyright} d4 \).

19 \( \text{\textcopyright} d5! \)
The occupation of this square with gain of tempo is possible because the knight is immune
from capture. The knight will have a decisive influence.

19...\( \text{\textcopyright} e8 \)
Not 19...\( \text{\textcopyright} x d5? \) 20 exd5+ \( \text{\textcopyright} d7 \) 21 \( \text{\textcopyright} b5+ \),
mating.

20 \( \text{\textcopyright} a6! \)
This is the second key move; the black king will be unable to find a way back to safety.

20...\( \text{\textcopyright} f8 \)
Other unsuccessful defences are:

a) 20...\( \text{\textcopyright} h6 \) 21 \( \text{\textcopyright} x h6 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x h6 \) 22 \( \text{\textcopyright} x a 7 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x d 5 \)
23 exd5+ \( \text{\textcopyright} x d 5 \) 24 \( \text{\textcopyright} y d 5 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x d 5 \) 25 \( \text{\textcopyright} x b 6 \) and the black king is defenceless.

b) 20...\( \text{\textcopyright} x d 5 \) 21 exd5+ \( \text{\textcopyright} x d 5 \) 22 \( \text{\textcopyright} x d 5 ! \)
\( \text{\textcopyright} x d 5 \) 23 \( \text{\textcopyright} d 1+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} e 6 \) (23...\( \text{\textcopyright} c 6 \) 24 \( \text{\textcopyright} a 4+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} b 7 \)
25 \( \text{\textcopyright} d 7+ \) ) 24 \( \text{\textcopyright} c 4+! \) \( \text{\textcopyright} c 7 \) 25 \( \text{\textcopyright} b 4+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} e 6 \) 26 \( \text{\textcopyright} c 4+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} e 5 \) and here there are several ways to
win, such as 27 \( \text{\textcopyright} d 5+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} e 7 \) 28 \( \text{\textcopyright} x e 5 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x e 5 \) 29 \( \text{\textcopyright} d 6+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} f 7 \) 30 \( \text{\textcopyright} f 1+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} f 6 \) 31 \( \text{\textcopyright} f 6 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} g 8 \) 32 \( \text{\textcopyright} d 1 \).

21 \( \text{\textcopyright} x a 7 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} c 5 \) 22 \( \text{\textcopyright} b 4! \) \( \text{\textcopyright} d 7 \) 23 \( \text{\textcopyright} a 6 \) 1-0

218) Fluvia – J. García
\textit{Spanish Team Ch, Melilla 2008}
40 \( f 6!! \)
Clearing the f5-square!
40...\( \text{\textcopyright} x f 6 \) 41 \( \text{\textcopyright} x h 6+! \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x h 6 \) 42 \( \text{\textcopyright} f 5+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} g 6 \) 43 \( \text{\textcopyright} h 3+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} g 7 ? \)
43...\( \text{\textcopyright} g 8 \) is better, although White is winning after 44 \( \text{\textcopyright} x h 8+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x h 8 \) 45 \( \text{\textcopyright} x e 5+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} h 7 \) 46 \( \text{\textcopyright} e 7 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} c 6 \) 47 \( \text{\textcopyright} f 7+ \).

44 \( \text{\textcopyright} x e 5+ \) 1-0

219) A. Evdokimov – Volokitin
\textit{Aerofoil Open, Moscow 2008}
17...\( \text{\textcopyright} x h 2! \)
Black has already sacrificed a piece and now with this pseudo-sacrifice he decisively weakens
the white king.

18 \( \text{\textcopyright} g 5 \)
Obviously not 18 \( \text{\textcopyright} x h 2? \) \( \text{\textcopyright} h 4 \). If 18 \( \text{\textcopyright} d 1 \) then 18...\( \text{\textcopyright} h 4 \) 19 \( g 3 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x h 3 \) 20 \( \text{\textcopyright} g 5 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x g 3 \), while after 18 \( g 3 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} f 1 \) 19 \( \text{\textcopyright} x f 1 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} f 5 \) 20 \( \text{\textcopyright} d 3 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x e 4+ \) 21 \( \text{\textcopyright} x e 4 \) \( f 5 \) the black pieces decisively invade
White’s camp: 22 \( \text{\textcopyright} f 3 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} e 1+ \) 23 \( \text{\textcopyright} h 2 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} f 8 \); this is the other strong way to bring the queen into
play.

18...\( \text{\textcopyright} f 1 \) 19 \( \text{\textcopyright} x f 1 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} a 1 \) 20 \( \text{\textcopyright} d 2 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} f 8! \) 21

\( \text{\textcopyright} a 3 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} h 6+ \) 22 \( \text{\textcopyright} h 3 \)
Or 22 \( \text{\textcopyright} h 3 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x h 3 \) 23 \( \text{\textcopyright} x h 3 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x f 4 \), followed by...\( \text{\textcopyright} e 8 \), with a material advantage and the
initiative.

22...\( \text{\textcopyright} x h 3 \) 23 \( \text{\textcopyright} x h 3 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} h 5 \) 24 \( \text{\textcopyright} h 2 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} d 1 \) 0-1

220) Kramnik – Anand
\textit{Amber Rapid, Nice 2008}
The tempting 42...\( \text{\textcopyright} h 1+ \) ? 43 \( \text{\textcopyright} x h 1 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} h 2+ \) 44 \( \text{\textcopyright} f 1 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x h 1+ \) 45 \( \text{\textcopyright} e 2 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} c 4+ \) 46 \( \text{\textcopyright} d 2 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} d 4+ \) 47 \( \text{\textcopyright} e 2 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} e 4+ \) only yields a draw.

42...\( \text{\textcopyright} f 3!! \) 43 \( \text{\textcopyright} x b 7+ \) \( \text{\textcopyright} f 5! \)
Not 43...\( \text{\textcopyright} g 5 ? \) 44 \( \text{\textcopyright} x f 3 \) \( g x f 3 \) 45 \( \text{\textcopyright} w d 8+! \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x d 8 \)
46 \( \text{\textcopyright} c 3 \) and White manages to draw; for example,
46...\( \text{\textcopyright} d h 8 \) 47 \( \text{\textcopyright} x f 3 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} h 1+ \) 48 \( \text{\textcopyright} g 2 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x c 1 \) 49
\( \text{\textcopyright} a 5 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x e 5 \) 50 \( a 6 \) \( a 5 \) 51 \( \text{\textcopyright} c 3 \) \( \text{\textcopyright} x a 6 \) 52 \( \text{\textcopyright} c 8 . \)
0-1
4 Intermediate and Complex Puzzles

This is the longest chapter, with 200 puzzles, with hints or other instructions for the first 90. For the remaining 110 you are just given the position and told who is to move, presenting you with the ‘real-game’ situation of simply deciding what you should play next. Choose carefully, as the result of the game may well be hanging in the balance.

From 221 to 310 the puzzles increase in difficulty from level 1 to level 4. In puzzle 311 (the first without a hint) the level goes back down to level 1 and then begins to rise again, up to puzzle 420.

221
W
The e3-knight is lodged in White’s camp, but what is protecting it?

223
W
Black is short of space, and this can be exploited immediately.

222
W
What is the quickest way to finish off the black king?

224
W
The black king is boxed in. How can this be used to force checkmate?
How can White take advantage of the dominant position of his queen?

There is one particularly weak square in the white king’s position... namely?

The black king is vulnerable to many different mating patterns. How can this best be demonstrated?

What is the quickest way to convert White’s great advantage?

Here it is the white king whose position is fatally weak on the light squares. How can Black exploit this?

Black’s kingside is weakened and White has two tremendous bishops aimed in that direction. How can White exploit this?
White is two exchanges down, but the black king is curiously hemmed in. How can White take advantage?

232

White wins material by making the black queen a tactical weakness.

233

There are three white pieces attacking the black king, and very few defenders. How can White take advantage of this?

234

How can White exploit the fact that the black king is still in the centre?

235

The way in which Black is defending the key invasion squares, such as f8, d8 and g7, seems artificial, don't you think?

236

The white king lacks adequate shelter; prove that the black king is even worse off.
There is a black piece which is overloaded; which one is it?

Something extra is needed to break down the black king’s defences. How can White add another attacker?

How can the inadequate defence of the black king be exploited?

The black king has no moves – a motif with which we are now familiar. How can White exploit this?

How can White make use of the tremendous force he has accumulated on the kingside?

How can White demonstrate that the black king is poorly defended?
There are several tempting continuations for White, but only one of them wins on the spot. What is it?

How can White forcefully occupy the g-file with a rook?

Once again there are many attacking pieces and few defenders. Demonstrate a way to win.

There are two tactical weaknesses in White's camp; what are they?

White is the exchange up and has many threats. What would you play here as Black to make sure your attack strikes first?

Speed is essential, before Black rallies his defense.
We have another poorly defended king; how can this be exploited?

We have a powerful bishop on c5, and White's kingside is very weak. How can we take advantage of this?

It is true that the black queen is defending the king, but can you demonstrate that this defence is inadequate?

The g5-bishop is undefended and is a tactical weakness. How can this be demonstrated?

Black's kingside is only sparsely defended, and White has some half-open files... How can White exploit this?

How can Black show that the white king is the weaker of the two? Must he attend to his own defence first?
Black has three extra pawns, but this doesn’t matter as White can create unstoppable threats to the black king.

Now 20 $\text{Qd}1? \text{Qe}4 21 \text{Qd}3 \text{Qd}4?! 22 \text{g}5?! \text{Qe}6 23 \text{Qb}1 \text{Qd}5 24 \text{Qd}1 \text{Qa}4! left Black on top. How should White defend?

White played 28 $\text{Qxd}3?$ and after 28...$\text{Qxd}3 29 \text{f}6 \text{a}4, Black gained counterplay. What better option did he have?

Black’s queen is far from the kingside and the b7-knight needs a tempo to reach d6. How can White exploit these fleeting advantages?

After 33 $\text{Qd}1 \text{Qe}6 34 \text{Qxc}5 \text{Qxc}5 35 \text{Qxc}5 \text{Qd}5 the game soon ended in a draw. What strong continuation did White miss?

Now 38...$\text{Qf}4? 39 \text{Qe}4 \text{Qa}5 40 \text{Qg}1 \text{Qc}7 gave White the better prospects. What better continuation did Black miss?
Here 33 \( \textit{xe}7+ \textit{xe}7 \) 34 \( \textit{we}4+ \) left White only a little better. How could he have done far better?

White has a lot of pieces aimed at the black king, and Black has a loose piece. How can White exploit these elements?

White played 21 \( \textit{wa}7 \) and after 21...\( \textit{xe}2 \)? 22 \( \textit{xe}2 \) \( \textit{w}c6+ \) 23 \( \textit{e}4 \) went on to win. How could Black have refuted 21 \( \textit{wa}7 \)?

White’s lead in development and the poor state of the black king allow White to deliver a devastating blow. What is it?

Black’s defence is based on the pin on the c-file. How can White defend the c1-rook in an aggressive manner?

What is the quickest and most effective way for the white rook to come into play?
Pins generally exert unpleasant pressure, but can sometimes prove a liability for the pinning side...

You might be wondering whether the black queen is in danger, so deep in White's camp. Can you prove it?

Black is a piece down, but the white king's defences do not appear to be very trustworthy. How can Black exploit this?

White appears to be losing material, and with it the game, but the opposite is the case. Why?

How can a pin and a back-rank mate be combined?

A king in the centre and facing open lines is not usually a good sign. How can Black demonstrate this?
The endgame would not be pleasant for Black; what alternative is there?

What does Black have that is better than 32...e6?! 33 b1 g5 34 d3 e6 35 d2 h3+ 36 g1 e4 37 e1 here?

We have a typical winning combination here; are you familiar with it and/or can you work it out?

Which white piece is overloaded?

A knight on f5 combined with control of the long diagonal looks very promising. Turn this into something tangible.

Another very advanced pawn, but it is not a passed pawn...
After 35 $d4$ $e6$ 36 $g7+$ $e7$ 37 $xh6$ White won only a pawn. What stronger continuation was there?

The game went 40 $g4$ $h3!$ and ended in a draw. How could White's play be improved?

The $e6$-pawn is a powerful wedge and Black's king's position has been weakened. How can White take advantage?

White has a strong bishop on $b2$ and a lot of pieces in attacking positions. How does White win?

White played 44 $f5+$ and after 44...$xf5$ 45 $xf5$ $f4$ Black won. What opportunity did White miss?

White has a material disadvantage, while in compensation the black king is weak. Show that the latter is more important.
The game ended here, prematurely, in a draw. What was the great opportunity that White missed?

Is the zwischenzug 19...\texttt{\textcopyright}xh3+ sound?

Now 24 f3 \texttt{\textcopyright}e2 25 \texttt{\textcopyright}xf7+ \texttt{\textcopyright}xf7 26 \texttt{\textcopyright}f5+ \texttt{\textcopyright}e7 led to perpetual check. How could White have gained a huge advantage?

The ending after 42 \texttt{\textcopyright}xd5 is a long way from being a white win. How can White reach a more favourable endgame?

Black played 27...\texttt{\textcopyright}xe2 28 \texttt{\textcopyright}xe2 \texttt{\textcopyright}d8 29 \texttt{\textcopyright}g1, which gave him no advantage. What stronger possibility did he miss?

Evaluate 27 \texttt{\textcopyright}xe5. Is it winning or losing, or does it lead to an ending where Black can draw with accurate defence?
With 31...f5 32 e2 f4 33 f3, Black gained a slight advantage which gradually disappeared. What was a better way to play?

How is it possible to exploit the weakness of White's king?

White played 34 h1? and with 34...xd4 Black gained an advantage. Find a better move for White.

The game concluded in perpetual check after 31...b3+ 32 db1 d2+ 33 a1 b3+. How could Black's play be improved?

White has the advantage; is 27 xe4 a way to crystallize it?

The game went 24 hxg3 xd2 25 xe2 ad8 and Black won in the end. How could White have defended better?
White has various moves that should lead to victory. Is 45 g2 one of them?

Is it better to take on d3 immediately or to exchange queens first?

White played 51 a7 and after 51...xf3 a draw was agreed. How could White have won?

Here 45 e7 e2 46 f8 e1+ 47 a2 h8 48 f7 xe7 49 xe7 xf8 only led to a draw. What should White have played?

The white king is facing strong threats, but the black king is not as safe as it appears. How can White demonstrate this?

Black's position deteriorated rapidly after 36 d7 e1! b8 38 x a5 bxa5 39 x a5. How can Black defend better?
Black is four pawns up, but is not substantially better, since White’s passed pawn is dangerous. How should Black defend?

After 26...\texttt{xf6}+ 27 \texttt{gf3} \texttt{xc4} 28 \texttt{g2}! \texttt{cc6} 29 \texttt{we} 4 the worst was behind White. What better line did Black have?

White is in the lead in the race to attack. What is the most effective continuation?

The position is a critical one, with the a3-pawn about to drop off. What trumps does Black have here?

Black played 36...\texttt{af5}, but then his advantage started to dissipate. How could Black have played better?

If Black can safely play 20...\texttt{ag8}, he will be on top. How can White create counterplay before Black secures his king?
White has active pieces, but one great problem, which is...?

There are several unusual features in the position, but a vital one is not obvious – what is it, and how can it be exploited?
Intermediate and Complex Puzzles

Answers for Chapter 4

221) Maderna – Dodero
Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1954
29 ∆d4! 1-0
The queen can’t defend the knight.

222) Vera – Lesiège
Montreal 2003
28 ∆xg6+! 1-0
28...fxg6 29 ∆xe6#.

223) Ju. Bolbochán – Shocron
Mar del Plata 1953
32 a5 1-0
After 32...b7 33 ∆a6! Black loses not the exchange but a piece.

224) Ju. Bolbochán – Rocha
Rio Hondo Zonal 1966
29 ∆g8+! 1-0
White mates after 29...∆xg8 30 ∆c3+. 29 ∆c3 is also very strong, based on the same ideas, but 29...∆f6 prevents a checkmate any time soon.

225) Vera – Becerra
Capablanca Memorial,
Cienfuegos 1996
37 ∆h5! 1-0
37...gxh5 allows 38 ∆g1#.

226) Radjabov – Anand
Blitz World Ch, Rishon Le Zion 2006
16 ∆f6+! 1-0
It is mate in two: 16...∆xf6 17 ∆c7+ ∆e7 18 ∆d6#.

227) Wiese – H.J. Schulz
Hamburg 2007
23...∆d1! 24 ∆c1 ∆d5+! 25 f3 (if 25 ∆g1 then 25...∆h3 wins) 25...∆xf3+ 26 ∆g1 ∆d8d2
27 ∆xf3 ∆xf3 0-1.

228) Deshmukh – B. Thipsay
Mumbai 2008
15...∆xf2! 16 ∆xf2
It is better to accept the loss of the pawn with 16 ∆f1, but White’s position is difficult after 16...∆xf5 17 ∆xf5 exf5 18 ∆f1 ∆g5.
16...∆xh2
Black’s position is already winning, with the threat of 17...∆f8+.
17 ∆h1? ∆h4+ 0-1

229) Ju. Bolbochán – Dantas
Mar del Plata Zonal 1951
32 ∆f6! 1-0
There is no defence against the threat of 33 ∆xf5+ ∆h5 34 ∆g5#.

230) Franco – Alawieh
Seville 1992
21 ∆e6! (there is no satisfactory defence against 22 ∆xg6+ 21...d4 22 ∆xd4 ∆e5 23 ∆xe5 ∆xd4 24 ∆xd4 1-0.

231) Vallejo – Gómez Esteban
Elgőiár 1997
37 ∆c5!
Threatening 38 ∆f8+ and mate. 37 e5 is also strong.
37...∆e3?
Also losing is 37...∆a6 38 e5 ∆b7 39 exf6.
38 ∆f8+ 1-0

232) Milos – Kudrin
Buenos Aires 2003
39 ∆xe7+! (preparing the discovered attack)
39...∆xe7 40 ∆f5+ ∆xc5 41 ∆xf3 e4 42 ∆g7+ ∆e6 43 ∆h3+ ∆f5 44 ∆xa7 and White won.

233) Vallejo – Van der Stricht
French Team Ch, Mulhouse 2005
26 ∆f6+! gxf6 27 ∆xf6 1-0

234) Arencibia – Bruzón
Cuban Ch, Santa Clara 2005
19 ∆xc6+ 1-0
With this move White makes two enemy pieces lose and wins the game on the spot: 19...∆xc6 20 ∆e5, with a double attack.

235) Sammalvuoto – Maki
Finnish Team Ch 2006/7
22 ∆f6! 1-0
White threatens 23 ∆g5# and if 22...∆xf6 then 23 ∆xf6+ ∆xf6 24 ∆d8+ mating.

236) Franco – Guerra Bastida
Galician League 2007
26 ∆xc7+!
26 ∆g1 is another way.
26...\h8
26...\xf7 is decisively met by 27 \h5+ \g8 28 \f7+.
27 \xe8
and White won.

237) Estremera – J. Cisneros
Palma de Mallorca 2007

The overloaded piece is the black queen: 38 \xb5! \xb5 39 \xh7 (now the whole of Black’s kingside is annihilated) 39...\e7 40 \xe7 41 \xg6+ \d7 42 \xf5+ \d8 43 \d6+ \e8 44 \g6+ \f8 45 \f6+ 1-0.

238) Caruana – Major
European Ch, Arvier 2007

35 \xf6!
Forcing an entry at h7, and taking advantage of the fact that the black queen is undefended. One loose piece can decide a game, especially if that piece is the queen.
35...\xg6 36 \h7+ \f8 37 \xe6+ \xe6 38 \xe6 fxe6 39 \xc7 1-0

239) Prijissaers – Kabos
Leiden 2008

22 \xh7+! 1-0
After 22...\xh7 23 \h4+, forcing 23...\xh4. White wins easily (if 23...\g8 then 24 \f7#).

240) Critelli – Boulafta
Leiden 2008

28 g4!
This little pawn move ends all resistance; the simple threat is 29 gxf5.
28...\xg4 29 \xg4 \g7
29...\h6 fails to 30 \d1 \g5 31 \hf4.
30 \f4 1-0

241) Stefanova – M. Gurevich
Gibraltar 2008

31 \g8+! 1-0
White forces mate after 31...\xg8 (31...\xg8 32 \f6+) 32 \g3+. 31 \f61 was another way.

242) Topalov – Shirov
Morelia/Linares 2008

30 \xg6! \xg6 31 \xg6+ \h8 32 \f6+ \h7 33 \f7+ \h8 34 \f4! 1-0
Once the defenders have been destroyed, the inclusion of a fresh attacker terminates all resistance. After 34...\g8, 35 \h5+ \g7 36 \g6+ leads to a quick mate.

243) Kleijn – Jaracz
Deizisau 2008

28 \xc4!
28 \f5 \xd3 is less conclusive; 28 bxc4 is the second best option, winning material after, e.g., 28...\xe5 29 \xf8+ \xf8 30 \f7+ \g8 31 \xe5.
28...bxc4 29 \f5! 1-0
It is mate in three.

244) Ponkratov – A.N. Panchenko
Nezhmetdinov Memorial, Kazan 2008

26 \b6!
Forcing the queen to move in range of a fork. Also good is 26 \xf6! \xf6 27 \b6.
26...\d7 27 \xf6 \e7 28 \f5
Black’s position is hopeless.

245) Gosić – Bogosavlijević
Zlatibor 2008

46...\g2+! and Black forces mate: 47 \xg2 \xc2+ 48 \e2 \xe2+ 49 \f1 \f2+ 50 \e1 \a1+ 0-1.

246) Letelier – Najdorf
Buenos Aires 1964

18 \xh6! 1-0
This move, opening the h-file and preparing \g1, is absolutely crushing; e.g., 18...\h6 (if 18...\g8 then 19 \h5) 19 \h4+ \g7 20 \g1+ and mate in two.

247) A. Rivera – Vallejo
Capablanca Memorial, Havana 1999

26...\f6!
The double threat against b2 and g3 wins material.
27 \e2 \g3+ 28 \e1 \xh2 0-1

248) Estremera – Bruned
L’Estarrit 2006

33 \xd4!
The clearest and most convincing move; 33 \h6+ was another way.
33...\xd4 34 \f6+! \xf6 35 \h6 1-0
Mate is unavoidable.

249) Rod – Milos
São Paulo 2008

27...\xh3! 28 \xd5
28 \xh3 is met by 28...\xh3+! 29 \gxh3 \e2+.
28...\xf6 29 \xh3 \e2 30 \g1 \xb5 0-1
Material is equal and there are no immediate threats, but White is lost. He is paralysed and will be unable to tolerate the rook on the seventh rank or defend his king against ...\texttt{xf5}, followed by ...\texttt{xe8}. For instance, 31 \texttt{c3 \texttt{d6 32 cxd4 \texttt{xf5 33 \texttt{h1 \texttt{xe8 34 \texttt{f1 \texttt{xd5 and now the prettiest finish comes after 35 \texttt{g5 \texttt{xf5! 36 \texttt{xf5 \texttt{h3+! 37 \texttt{gxf3 \texttt{h2}.}}}}}}}}}}

250) Molchanova – Raeva

*European Women’s Ch, Plovdiv 2008*

33 \texttt{xf6 34 \texttt{h5}

The natural 34 \texttt{xf6 \texttt{g5 35 \texttt{f5} is also very strong.

34...\texttt{d6 35 \texttt{xf6+ \texttt{xf6 36 \texttt{xf6}}}

Now White has a material advantage as well as an attack.

36...\texttt{g5 37 \texttt{h4! \texttt{g3 38 \texttt{h5 \texttt{d6 39 \texttt{f4 \texttt{e8 40 \texttt{xe8+ \texttt{xe8 41 \texttt{h2 \texttt{e6 42 \texttt{f5 \texttt{xc5 43 \texttt{f7+ \texttt{h8 44 \texttt{f8+ 1-0}.}}}}}}}}}}}}}}

251) A. Ivanov – L. Kaufman

*USA Ch, Tulsa 2008*

29 \texttt{xh7!}

Opening more lines, even though the immediate cost is very high.

29...\texttt{h7 30 \texttt{h1+ \texttt{h5 31 \texttt{xh5}} does not change the situation.

30 \texttt{g6+ \texttt{h8 31 \texttt{e4+ \texttt{e5 32 \texttt{xe5 c5 33 \texttt{e2 c4 34 \texttt{g1 1-0.}}}}}}}}}

252) Zablotsky – Ponfilenok

*Nechzmedinov Memorial, Kazan 2008*

19...\texttt{xe3! 20 \texttt{xe3}

Black wins material in a similar way to the game after 20 \texttt{xe3 \texttt{g5+ 21 \texttt{h2 \texttt{h4+ 22 \texttt{h3 \texttt{xf3 23 \texttt{g2 \texttt{f2.}}}}}}}}

20...\texttt{h4+ 21 \texttt{h3 \texttt{xf3 22 \texttt{g2 \texttt{f2 0-1}}}}}

253) Lafuente – Shirov

*León (rapid) 2008*

17...\texttt{xf6! 18 \texttt{xf6}

Or 18 \texttt{xf6 \texttt{xe4+ 19 \texttt{f1 \texttt{xe5,}}}

18...\texttt{d1 19 \texttt{xd1 \texttt{xf6 20 \texttt{f8 with a decisive advantage.}}}}}

254) Zhou Yang Fan – Gordon

*Hastings 2008/9*

35...\texttt{xf6!}

Here it is essential to strike first. The timid 35...\texttt{hg6} loses the advantage after 36 \texttt{g5!}

\texttt{xf5 37 \texttt{xf5 \texttt{xf2 38 \texttt{xf5+ \texttt{f7 39 \texttt{g3, followed by 40 \texttt{b5.}}}}}}

36 \texttt{g7+ \texttt{h7 0-1}

White resigned in view of 37 \texttt{xf6 \texttt{xf6 38 \texttt{h2+ 39 \texttt{e4 40 \texttt{xf4 and 40...\texttt{xc1.}}}}}}

255) Inarkiev – Shirov

*Poikovsky 2009*

31 \texttt{f1! is the only move, and wins due to the threat of 32 \texttt{xf7+ and 33 \texttt{h3}.}}

256) Marini – Ju. Bolbochán

*Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946*

28 \texttt{exf6! \texttt{g7 (no better is 28...\texttt{xf6 29 \texttt{f6+ \texttt{xe6 30 \texttt{e4+ and now 29 \texttt{fxe6+ \texttt{xe6 31 \texttt{xd3, winning a piece, is one way to win.}}}}}}}}

257) P. Martín – Ju. Bolbochán

*Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946*

33 \texttt{d1!, hitting the rook and the b6-bishop, wins the exchange for insufficient compensation. White secures a decisive advantage after 33...\texttt{xd4 34 \texttt{xe4 \texttt{ec3 35 \texttt{xf6 \texttt{xf6 36 \texttt{b6}}}}}}

258) Marini – Gádía

*Mar del Plata 1960*

Black’s pressure on the long diagonal is very strong, but a pawn on the seventh is not something to be spurned without a very clear reason, and after 20 \texttt{xb7! \texttt{e4 21 \texttt{b3 \texttt{xf4 22 \texttt{e1 White would have a reasonable position.}}}}}

259) R. Sanguineti – Bielicki

*Mar del Plata 1962*

35 \texttt{xe7!}

A devastating blow.

35...\texttt{xe7 36 \texttt{f5+ \texttt{g8 37 \texttt{xe6 \texttt{d7 38 \texttt{e3!}}}}}

Powerful reinforcements arrive.

38...\texttt{h7}

38...\texttt{e8 39 \texttt{g3+ \texttt{f7 40 \texttt{g7+ \texttt{e8 41 \texttt{exf6 is winning; e.g., 41...\texttt{xe7 41...\texttt{xe7 42 \texttt{e7+! \texttt{d8 43 \texttt{xd7++ \texttt{xe7 44 \texttt{e7#}}}}}}}}}}}

39 \texttt{g3+ \texttt{g5 40 \texttt{xf6 1-0.}}}

260) Behrens – Cruz

*Mar del Plata 1965*

38...\texttt{xf3! is devastating and the counterattack 39 \texttt{g6 is ineffective: 39...\texttt{h3+ 40 \texttt{h2}}
\texttt{\texttt{xh2+ 41 \texttt{\textbullet} xh2 \texttt{\textbullet} d4 (or 41...e4) 42 \texttt{\textbullet} xh5+ \texttt{\textbullet} g7. No better is 39 \texttt{\textbullet} h2 \texttt{\textbullet} f4+ or 39 \texttt{\textbullet} d7 \texttt{\textbullet} d4 40 \texttt{\textbullet} d1 \texttt{\textbullet} xd1 41 \texttt{\textbullet} xdl \texttt{\textbullet} f1+ 42 \texttt{\textbullet} xf1 \texttt{\textbullet} xf1+ 43 \texttt{\textbullet} h2 \texttt{\textbullet} f4+ 44 \texttt{\textbullet} h3 \texttt{\textbullet} h1+, mating.}}

261) \texttt{\textbf{Matamoros – Pérez Candelario}}
\texttt{Capablanca Memorial, Havana 2001}
\texttt{33 \texttt{\textbullet} xd7!} wins, since 33...\texttt{\textbullet} xd7? allows 34 \texttt{\textbullet} f8#. If 33...\texttt{\textbullet} c1+ then 34 \texttt{\textbullet} f1 \texttt{\textbullet} f1+ 35 \texttt{\textbullet} xf1 \texttt{\textbullet} c1+ 36 \texttt{\textbullet} g2 \texttt{\textbullet} xal 37 \texttt{\textbullet} f7! with a quick mate.

262) \texttt{\textbf{Gretarsson – R. Alonso}}
\texttt{Capablanca Memorial, Havana 2002}
\texttt{21...\texttt{\textbullet} c6! cuts off the queen’s retreat and threatens 22...\texttt{\textbullet} a8, winning material.}

263) \texttt{\textbf{F. Peralta – Estremera}}
\texttt{Las Palmas 2005}
\texttt{23 \texttt{\textbullet} e3! 1-0}

Threatening both 24 \texttt{\textbullet} h7+ and 24 cxd5, against which there is no defence.

264) \texttt{\textbf{Motylev – Humpy Koneru}}
\texttt{Wijk aan Zee 2006}
\texttt{16 \texttt{\textbullet} xe7! \texttt{\textbullet} xe7 17 \texttt{\textbullet} h6!}

There is no satisfactory way to defend both g7 and h7.
\texttt{17...f5}

17...\texttt{\textbullet} f6 loses to 18 \texttt{\textbullet} xg7+! \texttt{\textbullet} xg7 19 \texttt{\textbullet} g1.
\texttt{18 \texttt{\textbullet} h5 1-0}

265) \texttt{\textbf{Estremera – Souleidis}}
\texttt{Baleares Team Ch 2006}
\texttt{25 \texttt{\textbullet} e3! \texttt{\textbullet} f3}

After 25...\texttt{\textbullet} xe3 26 \texttt{\textbullet} xhe7 White wins a piece.
\texttt{26 \texttt{gf3} \texttt{\textbullet} e3 27 \texttt{\textbullet} xxe7 1-0}

266) \texttt{\textbf{Van der Weide – Kroencke}}
\texttt{Hamburg 2007}
\texttt{21 \texttt{\textbullet} a3!! \texttt{\textbullet} x3}

Or 21...\texttt{\textbullet} xa3 22 \texttt{\textbullet} f1+ \texttt{\textbullet} e8 23 \texttt{\textbullet} xg7 \texttt{\textbullet} c5+ 24 \texttt{\textbullet} h1 \texttt{\textbullet} e7 25 \texttt{\textbullet} g8+ \texttt{\textbullet} d7 26 \texttt{\textbullet} f7.
\texttt{22 \texttt{\textbullet} f1+ \texttt{\textbullet} e8 23 \texttt{\textbullet} xg7 1-0}

There is no defence against 24 \texttt{\textbullet} g8+ and 25 \texttt{\textbullet} f7(+), with an easy win.

267) \texttt{\textbf{Wilms – Atri}}
\texttt{Hamburg 2007}
\texttt{14...\texttt{\textbullet} e4! 15 \texttt{\textbullet} xd8}

After 15 \texttt{\textbullet} xe4 \texttt{\textbullet} xh4 Black threatens mate and the bishop, and if 16 f4 then 16...\texttt{\textbullet} c5+ wins.
\texttt{15...\texttt{\textbullet} xd2 16 \texttt{\textbullet} a5 \texttt{\textbullet} xf1 0-1}

268) \texttt{\textbf{Quesada Aguilera – Cámara}}
\texttt{Seville 2007}
\texttt{30...\texttt{\textbullet} g4!}

Threatening 31...\texttt{\textbullet} xe2, and 31 \texttt{\textbullet} d2 fails to 31...\texttt{\textbullet} f3+!.
\texttt{31 \texttt{\textbullet} xg7+}

31...\texttt{\textbullet} xe2? \texttt{\textbullet} f1+ 32 \texttt{\textbullet} xf1 \texttt{\textbullet} xf1#.
\texttt{31...\texttt{\textbullet} xg7 32 \texttt{\textbullet} xg7+}

Also hopeless is 32 \texttt{\textbullet} c7+ \texttt{\textbullet} f7 33 \texttt{\textbullet} c4 \texttt{\textbullet} xe2 34 \texttt{\textbullet} xe2 \texttt{\textbullet} xe2 35 \texttt{\textbullet} xe2 \texttt{\textbullet} f1+ 36 \texttt{\textbullet} g1 \texttt{\textbullet} af8, followed by 37...e4.
\texttt{0-1}

White resigned without waiting for 32...\texttt{\textbullet} h8.

269) \texttt{\textbf{Aronian – Gelfand}}
\texttt{FIDE Grand Prix, Sochi 2008}
\texttt{26 \texttt{\textbullet} e5! 1-0}

If 26...\texttt{\textbullet} xd7 White mates with 27 \texttt{\textbullet} e8+.

270) \texttt{\textbf{Therrien – Baburin}}
\texttt{British League (4NCL) 2007/8}
\texttt{23 \texttt{\textbullet} xh3! \texttt{\textbullet} xh3 24 \texttt{\textbullet} f1 \texttt{\textbullet} e2 25 \texttt{\textbullet} a2 1-0}

271) \texttt{\textbf{Innumerable – Pasalić}}
\texttt{Chicago 2008}
\texttt{32 \texttt{\textbullet} xh5!! \texttt{\textbullet} xh4}

32...\texttt{\textbullet} xh5 allows mate in four: 33 \texttt{\textbullet} xg7+ \texttt{\textbullet} h8 34 \texttt{\textbullet} xg8+ \texttt{\textbullet} g7 35 \texttt{\textbullet} f7+ \texttt{\textbullet} h6 36 \texttt{\textbullet} h7#.
\texttt{33 \texttt{\textbullet} xh4}

with a decisive advantage.

272) \texttt{\textbf{Flores – Felgaer}}
\texttt{Argentine Ch, Mendoza 2008}
\texttt{19...\texttt{\textbullet} xe3!}

The white king is forced to take a walk.
\texttt{20 \texttt{\textbullet} dxe3 \texttt{\textbullet} xe3+ 21 \texttt{\textbullet} d2 \texttt{\textbullet} xc3! 22 \texttt{\textbullet} xd5}

On 22 \texttt{\textbullet} xc3 there follows 22...\texttt{\textbullet} b3+ 23 \texttt{\textbullet} c2 \texttt{\textbullet} d4.
\texttt{22...\texttt{\textbullet} c5 23 \texttt{\textbullet} d3 \texttt{\textbullet} h2+ 24 \texttt{\textbullet} d1 \texttt{\textbullet} a4+! 25 \texttt{\textbullet} e1 \texttt{\textbullet} a5+! 0-1}

26...\texttt{\textbullet} d1 is met by 26...\texttt{\textbullet} d5.

273) \texttt{\textbf{Genna – Inkiov}}
\texttt{Concegliano 2008}
\texttt{40...\texttt{\textbullet} xd3!}

This exchange sacrifice leads to a winning attack; the white king is short of defenders.
\texttt{41 \texttt{\textbullet} xd3 \texttt{\textbullet} x3+ 42 \texttt{\textbullet} a1}

42 \texttt{\textbullet} c2 \texttt{\textbullet} a4 is no better.
\texttt{42...\texttt{\textbullet} h5! 43 \texttt{\textbullet} fe2?!}

After 43 \texttt{\textbullet} b1 \texttt{\textbullet} xe4+ 44 \texttt{\textbullet} xe4 \texttt{\textbullet} d3+ 45 \texttt{\textbullet} c2 \texttt{\textbullet} xe4 46 \texttt{\textbullet} xae6 \texttt{\textbullet} c7 47 \texttt{\textbullet} e2 the simplest is 47...\texttt{\textbullet} xc2+ (47...\texttt{\textbullet} h1+ is also good) 48 \texttt{\textbullet} xc2
280) D. Fridman – Suba
León (rapid) 2008
19...\textit{g3!} \textit{xe6}
Losing material, although there was scarcely anything better. After 19...\textit{d4} 20 \textit{xe4} \textit{dx e4}
21 \textit{xd6} \textit{we8} 22 \textit{xf8} \textit{xf8} 23 \textit{wh3} \textit{g8} 24
\textit{gxf5} Black’s position is untenable due to White’s huge pawn on \textit{e6} and the many weaknesses in the
black camp. If 19...\textit{d8}? then 20 \textit{xf6}.
20 \textit{xd6} \textit{fe7} 21 \textit{xf8} \textit{xf8} 22 \textit{h4} \textit{h6} 23
\textit{hxg5} \textit{hxg5} 24 \textit{fg4} 25 \textit{fg5} and White won a few moves later.

281) A. Hoffman – Timman
León (rapid) 2008
44 \textit{xe3!} is possible, creating unanswerable threats. The rook is taboo because Black would be
mated (44...\textit{xe3}? 45 \textit{f5+} \textit{g8} 46
\textit{g6+}, etc., or 44...\textit{xe3}? 45 \textit{xd7}+) and if 44...\textit{d3} there are several ways to win, such as
45 \textit{xe5} \textit{xe5} 46 \textit{f5+} \textit{g8} 47 \textit{f8+} \textit{h7} 48
\textit{f6}.

282) Ståhlberg – Lynch
Buenos Aires 1945
There is a win with 40 \textit{xa3!} \textit{d1}+ 41 \textit{e1}
\textit{xe1}+ (41...\textit{h7} 42 \textit{b4} \textit{g5} {42...\textit{h4} 43
\textit{e3}) 43 \textit{f1} with an extra piece) 42 \textit{f2}
\textit{h4+} (if 42...\textit{b1} or 42...\textit{d1}, then 43 \textit{a8+}
\textit{h7} 44 \textit{g8+} \textit{g6} 45 \textit{e8+} wins; for example,
45...\textit{g5} 46 \textit{f4+} \textit{g4} 47 \textit{h3} 48 \textit{g3+})
43 \textit{g3} \textit{xb2}+ 44 \textit{xe1} \textit{xb3}+ 45 \textit{d2}.

283) Harikrishna – Mamedyarov
Foros 2006
25 \textit{h6+}! \textit{gxh6} 26 \textit{d4}
Threatening mate in two with 27 \textit{wh8}+ and
\textit{g7}. 26...\textit{e6}
26...\textit{e5} 27 \textit{gx e5} \textit{dx e5} 28 \textit{we5} only
delays the end.
27 \textit{wh8}+
27 \textit{axe6} \textit{hxg5} 28 \textit{xe1} also wins; for example,
28...\textit{e5} 29 \textit{axe5} \textit{f8} 30 \textit{e1} \textit{f7} 31 \textit{f1}
\textit{f5} 32 \textit{g4}.
27...\textit{f7} 28 \textit{xf5+} \textit{xf5} 29 \textit{f6+} \textit{g8} 30
\textit{xf5} \textit{f8} 31 \textit{d5+} \textit{f7} 32 \textit{e7}+ 1-0
This ends all resistance; after 32...\textit{xd5} 33
\textit{g7}+! \textit{h8} 34 \textit{cx d5} the discovery is deadly.

284) Elianov – Inarkiev
FIDE Grand Prix, Elista 2008
39 \textit{g4+!}
39 \( \text{wg}^3 + \text{h}^7 \) 40 \( \text{wb}^3 + \) (not, of course, 40 \( \text{xd}^2 \) ? \( \text{xf}^4 \)) 40... \( \text{f}^8 41 \text{h}^4 \) is also strong.
39... \( \text{h}^7 \)

Or 39... \( \text{f}^7 40 \text{wh}^5 + \text{g}^8 41 \text{wg}^6 + \) transposing to the game. With 39... \( \text{h}^6 \) we have a familiar situation of a king trapped on the edge of the board, allowing 40 \( \text{f}^5 \text{g}^5 41 \text{h}^4 \) and if 41... \( \text{h}^7 \)?? 42 \( \text{gxg}^5 \) mates.

40 \( \text{wh}^5 + \text{g}^8 41 \text{wg}^6 + \text{g}^7 \)

After 41... \( \text{f}^8 42 \text{h}^4 \text{f}^7 \) it is finally possible to play 43 \( \text{xd}^2 \).

42 \( \text{we}^8 + \text{f}^8 43 \text{xf}^6 \text{we}^7 44 \text{xf}^8 + \text{xf}^8 \)
45 \( \text{xf}^8 + \text{xf}^8 46 \text{xd}^2 \)

with a winning endgame.

285) \( \text{Ja. Bolbochán – P. Martín} \)

\( \text{Argentine Ch. Buenos Aires 1946} \)

White gains a decisive advantage with 24 \( \text{ac}^2 \! . 
\)

a) 24... \( \text{h}^6 25 \text{ag}^3! \text{xe}^5 \) (if 25... \( \text{h}^8 \) then 26 \( \text{ag}^7 ! \) wins: 26... \( \text{ag}^7 27 \text{g}^3 + \text{h}^8 28 \text{wd}^3 \) mating) 26 \( \text{wh}^6 f^5 27 \text{we}^6 + \text{f}^7 28 \text{h}^3 ! . 
\)

b) 24... \( \text{g}^6 25 \text{h}^6 ! \text{xe}^5 26 \text{h}^3 \text{e}^8 \) (after 26... \( \text{h}^2 \) ? Black loses more quickly: 27 \( \text{hxh} 2 \text{e}^8 28 \text{ag}^6 ! \text{fxg}^6 29 \text{wh}^7 + \text{f}^8 30 \text{wh}^6 ! \text{h}^2 31 \text{h}^7 ) 27 \text{dxe}^5 ! \) opening the d-file, and postponing \( \text{wh}^7 + \) so that Black is unable to strengthen his defences by playing ...\( \text{ag}^5 \). Now the attack is irresistible; for example, 27... \( \text{wc}^7 28 \text{wh}^7 + \text{f}^8 29 \text{ag}^6 ! \), with two extra pawns and a very strong attack.

286) \( \text{Ja. Bolbochán – Rossetto} \)

\( \text{Argentine Ch. Buenos Aires 1946} \)

White gains an overwhelming advantage with 24 \( \text{e}^8 \! . \) when Black has nothing better than 24... \( \text{ag}^2 + 25 \text{ag}^2 \text{xc}^2 \), but after 26 \( \text{ag}^3 \) White is two pawns up in an ending and has a winning position.

287) \( \text{Maderna – Marini} \)

\( \text{Argentine Ch. Buenos Aires 1946} \)

With 27... \( \text{we}^6 ! \) Black attacks both of White’s minor pieces and after 28 \( \text{f}^3 \text{xd}^5 29 \text{xd}^5 \) (or 29 \( \text{g}^1 \text{e}^5 ) 29... \( \text{xd}^5 30 \text{xe}^4 \text{we}^4 + \), Black is very close to winning.

288) \( \text{Golombek – Ju. Bolbochán} \)

\( \text{Amsterdam Olympiad 1954} \)

Yes, 19... \( \text{exh}^3 \) ! wins: 20 \( \text{h}^2 20 \text{h}^1 \) loses to 20... \( \text{ag}^4 ! ; \) e.g., 21 \( \text{we}^3 \text{xe}^3 22 \text{fxe}^3 \text{f}^2 + 23 \text{ag}^1 \text{xd}^1 , \) followed by 24... \( \text{xe}^4 \)

20... \( \text{we}^5 + 21 \text{wg}^3 \text{xf}^2 \) and Black, two pawns up, won.

289) \( \text{Franco – Larrosa} \)

\( \text{Galician League 2007} \)

White wins by getting rid of the opposite-coloured bishops and also the knight, which might become a strong blocking piece:

42 \( \text{xc}^3 \text{xf}^3 43 \text{h}^6 + \text{hx}^6 44 \text{xf}^3 \)

White’s passed pawn is decisive, since the black king can’t effectively join in the defence.

44... \( \text{ag}^5 45 \text{d}^5 \text{f}^5 46 \text{d}^6 \text{e}^8 47 \text{xf}^5 + \text{exg}^4 48 \text{xf}^8 \text{e}^6 49 \text{f}^2 \text{f}^1 - 0 \)

290) \( \text{Emma – Rossetto} \)

\( \text{Mar del Plata 1959} \)

The third option is correct: with best play, Black is fighting (successfully) for a draw. However, after 27... \( \text{xe}^5 ! \) \( \text{xe}^5 \), the game ended 28... \( \text{f}^4 ?! \) 29... \( \text{e}^5 ! \) 0-1. White should play 28... \( \text{e}^5 ! \), when in the pawn ending after 28... \( \text{h}^4 ! 29 \text{ag}^5 \) \( \text{xc}^3 30 \text{xe}^6 \text{g}^6 31 \text{c}^4 \text{xb}^3 32 \text{ag}^3 \) Black’s counterplay in lines like 32... \( \text{f}^5 33 \text{h}^2 \text{ag}^7 34 \text{d}^3 \text{f}^6 35 \text{g}^3 36 \text{h}^4 \text{g}^5 37 \text{xc}^3 \text{h}^4 38 \text{d}^4 \text{hxh} 39 \text{e}^4 \text{ag}^3 40 \text{h}^4 \text{f}^2 41 \text{ag}^4 \text{e}^2 \) is sufficient.

291) \( \text{Rossetto – Franco} \)

\( \text{Mercedes 1975} \)

31... \( \text{ag}^3 ! \) leads to an ending a pawn up: 32 \( \text{ag}^3 \text{ag}^3 + 33 \text{ag}^3 \text{e}^5 + ! 34 \text{h}^3 (34 \text{f}^3 ? \text{h}^5 + ) 34... \text{e}^4 . 
\)

292) \( \text{Franco – Letelier} \)

\( \text{La Falda 1977} \)

Instead of remaining with the h2-bishop ‘dead’, White can gain the advantage with 34 \( \text{xf}^4 \) \( \text{xf}^4 35 \text{xf}^4 \) and after, e.g., 35... \( \text{e}^6 36 \text{d}^8 + \text{e}^8 37 \text{xe}^8 + \text{xe}^8 38 \text{xf}^7 + \text{xf}^7 39 \text{g}^5 \) he has a winning endgame.

293) \( \text{Panno – Franco} \)

\( \text{Los Polvorines 1980} \)

No, after 27... \( \text{we}^4 ? \) 28... \( \text{f}^5 28 \text{f}^4 \text{g}^5 29 \text{wd}^4 \text{f}^3 + \) Black has the advantage.

294) \( \text{I. Ivanov – Vera} \)

\( \text{Capablanca Memorial, Cienfuegos 1980} \)

25... \( \text{h}^5 ! 26 \text{f}^3 \)

This prevents 26... \( \text{f}^3 + . \) If 26 \( \text{e}^3 \) there are several favourable moves, such as 26... \( \text{f}^3 + 27 \text{g}^1 \text{c}^5 ! (27... \text{we}^4 28 \text{we}^7 \text{xb}^2 \) is also good), seeking to eliminate the e4-knight which
is preventing the transfer of Black’s rooks to his third rank; e.g., 28 \( \text{a}c5 \text{a}c5 29 \text{a}a1 \text{d}d6! 30 \text{c}xd6 \text{a}xf2+ 31 \text{a}xf2 \text{a}xf2+.

26...\( \text{e}1+ 27 \text{h}1 \text{c}xf3 28 \text{h}3 \text{f}5 0-1

295)  
Bruzón – Franco  
Linares 2001

31...\( \text{c}2! gives Black a decisive advantage: 32 \( \text{a}d3 33 \text{a}b3+ 33 \text{a}xb3 \text{a}xd1+ 34 \text{a}xd1 \text{w}xd1+ 35 \text{a}a2 \text{c}1 and wins.

296)  
Barrero – Matamoros  
Dos Hermanos 2001

24 \text{f}d1! is a better defence. After 24...\( \text{xd}1 25 \text{xd}1 White wins material, since the g3-knight has no good move: 25...\( \text{xe}4 26 \text{a}xe4 \text{d}7 27 \text{c}3 \text{xd}1+ 28 \text{xd}1.

297)  
Franco – Paunović  
Orense 2005

No, after 45 \( \text{g}2? Black has 45...\text{xa}7! and White loses his biggest trump, since 46 \text{a}a7 \text{g}3+ 47 \text{h}2 \text{f}1++ 48 \text{h}1 \text{g}3+ is a draw.

298)  
Illescas – Ibarra  
Spanish Ch, Cuta 2008

51 \( \text{f}4! (threatening 52 \text{a}7) 51...\text{a}7 52 \text{d}5! \text{b}8 (or 52...\text{b}6 53 \text{xf}7+) \text{xf}7 54 \text{xf}7 \text{f}5 55 \text{d}5 \text{f}2 56 \text{xf}2 \text{xf}2 57 \text{g}2 \text{c}5 58 \text{g}5, followed by the transfer of the king to b7, winning the black bishop) 53 \text{c}2! \text{f}8 54 \text{c}7.

299)  
Malakhatko – Pérez Felipe  
La Laguna 2008

20 \text{d}5+! \text{g}6

20...\text{xd}5 loses to 21 \text{h}6+ \text{f}5 22 \text{h}5+ \text{e}4 23 \text{f}3+ \text{d}4 24 \text{f}6+.

21 \text{d}3+! 1-0

Winning the queen, since 21...\text{xd}3 leads to mate after 22 \text{g}3+ \text{f}6 23 \text{g}5#.

300)  
Van Wely – Shirov  
Foros 2008

The game went 25...\text{xc}6? 26 \text{xc}6 \text{xd}3 and here by playing 27 \text{f}3! (instead of 27 \text{f}4?) 27...\text{xa}3 28 \text{c}3 White would have been only slightly worse.

Instead, with 25...\text{xd}3! Black threatens to capture the knight, as well as to play 26...\text{c}8. Black wins after, e.g., 26 \text{c}3 (26 \text{g}3 \text{c}8) 26...\text{c}8 27 \text{b}7 \text{xc}3 28 \text{b}8+ \text{c}8!.

301)  
Bernasek – Talla  
Brno 2008

White could have won with 45 \text{f}8! \text{xf}8 46 \text{xf}8 \text{e}5 47 \text{e}7 \text{e}4 48 \text{g}8! \text{e}1-+ 49 \text{a}2 \text{a}6 50 \text{g}7+ \text{a}7 51 \text{xe}5 \text{xe}5 52 \text{e}8\text{w}.

302)  
Jui. Bolbochán – Lipniks  
Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946

Black could have broken out by 36...\text{xd}6!, after which the advantage lies with him; e.g., 37 \text{c}1 \text{f}8! (37...\text{d}7 38 \text{xa}5 \text{bxa}5 39 \text{xa}5 \text{c}8 and now 40 \text{e}1! leaves the g7-bishop very passive – but not 40 \text{xc}5? \text{f}8 41 \text{a}5 \text{b}4, followed by 42...\text{c}5) 38 \text{xa}5 (no better is 38 \text{a}a5 \text{d}3! 39 \text{xd}3 \text{xd}3 40 \text{a}a7 \text{xf}3 with a winning position) 38...\text{xf}3 39 \text{xf}3 \text{f}3 40 \text{xf}3 \text{f}3 41 \text{e}2 \text{e}3 42 \text{f}2 \text{e}5 and Black regains his piece and remains several pawns up.

303)  
Corte – Piazzini  
Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946

The game continued 32...\text{xd}4? (this allows White to shield the c-pawn) 33 \text{xd}4 \text{b}2+ (or 33...\text{c}4 34 \text{c}4) 34 \text{c}5! \text{b}8 35 \text{c}7 \text{e}8 36 \text{c}6 \text{g} 37 \text{b}7 \text{xc}7+ 38 \text{xc}7 1-0. The black pawns are not dangerous.

Black should have played 32...\text{b}2+!:

a) 33 \text{b}3 a5+! 34 \text{a}a5 puts the rook on the e1-a5 diagonal, which suits Black: 34...\text{c}2 35 \text{c}5 (35 \text{c}5? \text{c}3+) 35...\text{e}5 and only Black can play for a win.

b) 33 \text{c}5 \text{e}7+ 34 \text{c}4 \text{b}4+ 35 \text{d}3 \text{b}8 36 \text{d}7 \text{f}6 37 \text{c}7 (37 \text{a}a7?! \text{c}5 38 \text{a}a6 \text{e}7) 37...\text{c}8 (intending 38...\text{c}5 and...\text{b}6) 38 \text{c}4 \text{d}8?! (38...a5?! 39 \text{b}5 a4 40 \text{c}6 39 \text{xd}8 \text{xc}7+ and Black’s problems are over.

304)  
Pachman – Pilnik  
Mar del Plata 1959

25 \text{xf}6!  
Eliminating the biggest obstacle to White’s kingside attack.

25...\text{xf}6

After 25...\text{x}b2 the most elegant win is 26 \text{h}6! \text{xb}6+ 27 \text{h}6 \text{g}7 28 \text{x}g7+ \text{x}g7 29 \text{h}7+ \text{f}6 30 \text{g}7 \text{f}7 31 \text{g}8\text{w} \text{xe}8 32 \text{g}8\text{w}.

26 \text{h}3!

26 g7 \text{c}xg7 27 \text{h}3 was another way.

26...\text{d}7

26...\text{x}b2 can be met by 27 \text{c}6+ \text{f}8 28 \text{g}7+! \text{x}g7 29 \text{h}8\text{w} \text{h}8 30 \text{g}8\text{w} \text{e}7 31 \text{x}g5+ \text{f}6 32 \text{g}7+, mating quickly.
27 \texttt{Wf2}
There are other wins, such as 27 \texttt{Wh6} \texttt{Bh3}
28 \texttt{g7} \texttt{Qxg7} 29 \texttt{Bxh3}.

27...\texttt{Rf8} 28 \texttt{g7}! \texttt{Qg5}+
Or 28...\texttt{Qxg7} 29 \texttt{Bxg7}+ \texttt{Qxg7} 30 \texttt{Qg1}+, mating quickly.

29 \texttt{Qxg5} \texttt{Bxf2} 30 \texttt{Qe6}+ 1-0
30...\texttt{Bxe6} 31 \texttt{Bh8}+ \texttt{Qf7} 32 \texttt{g8W}+ followed by mate.

305) \textbf{D. Byrne – Penrose}
\textit{Mar del Plata 1962}

Here 36...\texttt{g5}! is very strong: 37 \texttt{Qe1} (37 \texttt{hxg5} \texttt{Bh5}+ 38 \texttt{Qg1} \texttt{Qe2}+ 39 \texttt{Qf2} \texttt{Bd4}+ 40
\texttt{Qe1} \texttt{Qc3}+ 37...\texttt{Bh4} 38 \texttt{Qb8} (38 \texttt{hxg5} \texttt{Bxf4}!
39 \texttt{gxh4} \texttt{Qf3}! 40 \texttt{Bxf3} \texttt{Wh3}+ 41 \texttt{Qg1} \texttt{Qd4}+)
38...\texttt{Bxh4} 39 \texttt{Bxe4} \texttt{Qf1}+ 40 \texttt{Qf1} \texttt{Bxe4}+ 41
\texttt{Qg2} \texttt{Qf3} 42 \texttt{Bxf3} \texttt{Qxf3}+ 43 \texttt{Bh2} \texttt{hxg3}+, with
two extra pawns and the white king very exposed.

306) \textbf{Foguelman – Cruz}
\textit{Mar del Plata 1962}

Reversing the move-order with 26...\texttt{Bxc4}!!

\textbf{a)} Now 27 \texttt{Qxc4} is answered by 27...\texttt{Bf6}+!
28 \texttt{Bxf3} \texttt{Bxc4} 29 \texttt{Wxc4} \texttt{Bxf3}+ 30 \texttt{Qg2} \texttt{Qf2}+!
31 \texttt{Bxf2} \texttt{Wh2}+ 32 \texttt{Qf3} \texttt{Qe5}+ 33 \texttt{Qe4} \texttt{Qxc4},
with the plan of...\texttt{f5}+. Black has a material advantage, two
connected passed pawns and a strong attack.

\textbf{b)} 27 \texttt{Bf3} \texttt{Bc3} (or 27...\texttt{Bf4}) 28 \texttt{Bb1} \texttt{Qe3}+ 29
\texttt{Bxe3} \texttt{Bxe3} followed by 30...\texttt{g4}, winning.

307) \textbf{Rublevsky – Grischuk}
\textit{Candidates match (game 7), Elista 2007}

29...\texttt{Qxh4}!

Black captures a vital pawn, so that in many lines
the black h-pawn can become passed. The tactics favour Black, thanks in part to the activity
of its rooks and the weak position of the white king.

30 \texttt{Bxb2}

This makes it easy for Black. Let’s examine some other lines:

\textbf{a)} 30 \texttt{Bxa3} \texttt{Bxb1}+ 31 \texttt{Bxb1} \texttt{Bxb1}+ 32 \texttt{Bxb1}
\texttt{Qxg2} 33 \texttt{Qc5} \texttt{Bxf4} 34 \texttt{Qc2} h4 (this pawn is
decisive; the white king is too far away and the
bishop is helpless to stop it) 35 \texttt{Qf2} h3 36 \texttt{Bg3}
\texttt{Qe2} 37 \texttt{Bf2} \texttt{Qd4}+ 38 \texttt{Bc3} \texttt{Bf3}, queening.

\textbf{b)} 30 \texttt{g3} \texttt{Qf5} 31 \texttt{Bxa3} \texttt{Bxb1}+ 32 \texttt{Bxb1}
\texttt{Bxb1}+ 33 \texttt{Bxb1} \texttt{Qxg3} 34 \texttt{Bc5} h4 35 \texttt{Qf2} \texttt{Qf5}
36 a4 h3 37 \texttt{Qg1} \texttt{Qd4} (or 37...\texttt{Qh4}+ 38 \texttt{a5} \texttt{Qf3}
39 a6 \texttt{Qxg1} 40 a7 h2 41 a8W+ \texttt{Qf7}, with an
extra piece soon.

\textbf{c)} 30 \texttt{Bbg1} \texttt{Bxg2} 31 \texttt{Bxh5} \texttt{Bc2}! 32 \texttt{Bh2}
(if 32 \texttt{Bd4} then 32...\texttt{Qe1}!) 32...\texttt{Bbb2} 33 \texttt{Bxa3}
\texttt{Bxa2}+ 34 \texttt{Bb1} \texttt{Bxa3} 35 \texttt{Bxg2} \texttt{Bxg2} 36 \texttt{Bxg2} 37
\texttt{Bxd3} 37 \texttt{Bc2} \texttt{Bf3} 38 \texttt{Bxc7} \texttt{Bxf4} 39 \texttt{Bec7}
\texttt{Be4}+ 40 \texttt{Bc2} \texttt{Bd6}.

30...\texttt{axb2}+ 31 \texttt{Bb1} \texttt{Bxg2} 32 \texttt{f5} \texttt{Qf4} 33
\texttt{fxe6} \texttt{Qxd3} 34 \texttt{Bc3} \texttt{Bxe5} 35 \texttt{Bc2} \texttt{Bc4} 36
\texttt{Be5} \texttt{Bd2} 37 a4 \texttt{Bf6}+ 38 \texttt{Bxb1} \texttt{Bxb1} 39 a5
\texttt{Qb5} 0-1

308) \textbf{Bromberger – Kremenietsky}
\textit{Gausdal 2008}

20 \texttt{Bxf6}!! \texttt{Bxf6}!

Now a storm hits the black king, but just
accepting the loss of the pawn was not satisfactory either. After 20...\texttt{Bxf8} there are several
interesting lines, such as 21 \texttt{Bh6} or 21 \texttt{Bd3}, but
the simplest one also seems very good: 21 \texttt{Bxf8}
\texttt{Bxf8} 22 \texttt{Bg5}+ \texttt{Bf7} and now after 23 \texttt{Bc1},
with the plan of...\texttt{h6},...\texttt{Bf4}+ and...\texttt{Bf1}, the attack
looks very strong. Let’s not forget that there are
three somewhat useless black pieces on the
queenside.

21 \texttt{Bf1}+! \texttt{Qg7}
21...\texttt{Qe7} leads to mate with 22 \texttt{Bg5}+ \texttt{Bf8}
23 \texttt{Bh5}+. 
22 \texttt{Bh6}+! \texttt{Qg8}
22...\texttt{Bhxh6} 23 \texttt{Bf6}.
23 \texttt{Bf6} \texttt{Bxe4} 24 \texttt{Bf1}! 1-0

There is no satisfactory defence against 25
\texttt{Bf8}+.

309) \textbf{Kasimdzhanov – Gelfand}
\textit{FIDE Grand Prix, Nalchik 2009}

25...\texttt{Bd8}!

Suddenly White can’t get out of the pin.

26 \texttt{Bd2}

No better is 26 \texttt{Bxh6}, to which the simplest reply is 26...\texttt{xd5}!.
The simplification 26 \texttt{Bxe5} \texttt{Bxe5} does not help either. Finally, the resource
26 \texttt{Bg5} haxg5 27 \texttt{Bh5} leaves Black with only
one move, but it is sufficient: 27...\texttt{Bh6}! 28
\texttt{Qe7}+ \texttt{Bh8} and everything is defended.

26...\texttt{c3}!

Controlling the d2-square; not the immediate
26...\texttt{xd5}? on account of 27 \texttt{Bd2} and White
hangs on.

27 \texttt{Bf3} \texttt{Bxd5} 28 \texttt{Bd3} \texttt{Bxd3}! 0-1

Black escapes from the pin with the threat of
29...\texttt{Qf2}+, retaining an overwhelming material
advantage.
310) Radjabov – Cheparinov  
FIDE Grand Prix, Sochi 2008  
35 f3!!  
The crucial element here is the passed pawn that will be created on a6, after a fresh sacrifice of material. Not 35 \( \text{ex}b6? \text{axb6} 36 a7 \) in view of 36...\( \text{Wc}4! \), which is the move that 35 f3!! is designed to prevent.  
35...\( \text{Wh}5 36 \text{ex}b6! \text{Wh}1+ 37 \text{Gg}1 \text{Exd}6 38 \text{exd}6 1-0  
The pawn can’t be stopped after 38...\( \text{axb}6 39 \text{a}7 \).

311) Lynch – Ju. Bolbochán  
La Plata 1944  
47...\( \text{Xc}5! \) (the simplest, liquidating to a winning endgame) 48 \( \text{Xc}5 \text{Rc}8+ 49 \text{Xc}8 \text{Xc}8 0-1.

312) R. García – Averbakh  
Mar del Plata 1965  
26...\( \text{Qb}2! \) (with a double attack, winning an exchange) 27 \( \text{Xb}2 \) (if 27 \( \text{Qd}6 \) then 27...\( \text{Xc}6 \)) 27...\( \text{Xxb}2 \).

313) Cvetić – Andonov  
Senta 2007  
17...\( \text{Xxe}4! \)  
Owing to the bad position of the white king and the lack of coordination between the white pieces, there are several favourable lines for Black, but this is definitely the best. The threat is mate in two with 18...\( \text{Qf}2+ \) or 18...\( \text{Qg}3+ \).  
18 \( \text{Xxe}4 \) \( \text{Xxe}4 0-1 \)

314) Nayer – Ulko  
Moscow 2007  
43 \( \text{g}8+! \text{Xg}8 44 \text{Xe}5+ 1-0  
44...\( \text{g}7 45 \text{Xb}8+ \) leads to mate.

315) Grau – Guimard  
Buenos Aires 1935  
18 \( \text{Xxb}5! \text{Xxb}5 19 \text{Xxe}6 \text{we}8 20 \text{Xxa}6 \)  
with an extra pawn and the better position.

316) Emma – Ja. Bolbochán  
Mar del Plata 1959  
29 \( \text{Xxe}8+! \text{Xxe}8 30 \text{a}8 1-0 \)

317) Wexler – Fischer  
Mar del Plata 1960  
One very well placed piece, such as the white knight on e4, is not enough to compensate for other defects in the position. With 26...\( \text{g}4! \)  
Black gains the advantage: 27 \( \text{fxg}4 \) (27 \( \text{ed}2 \) allows the \( g7 \)-bishop to become active after 27...\( \text{h}3 28 \text{fc}1 \) and now 28...\( \text{e}4 \) or 28...\( \text{f}6 \) followed by 29...\( \text{g}5 \)) 27...\( \text{Xf}1+ 28 \text{g}2 \text{g}6 29 \text{g}f2 \text{a}1 \) with advantage to Black.

318) Eliskases – Letelier  
Mar del Plata 1960  
31...\( \text{b}3! \)  
Exploiting the passed pawn is more important than saving the bishop.  
32 \( \text{Xg}6 \text{hxg}6 33 \text{Xc}4 \)  
33 \( \text{e}1 \text{b}2 34 \text{e}4 \) does not help, since Black can win by bounding the white rook: 34...\( \text{b}4 35 \text{d}1 \text{b}3! 36 \text{f}1 \text{a}2 37 \text{b}1 \text{c}4! 38 \text{d}1 \text{e}2.  
33...\( \text{b}2 34 \text{e}4 \text{xe}3+ 0-1 \)

319) Gheorghiu – Behrensens  
Mar del Plata 1965  
16 \( \text{d}5! \text{x}e1 \)  
If 16...\( \text{c}5 \) then 17 \( \text{f}2. \)  
17 \( \text{xe}7+ \text{c}7 18 \text{xe}1 \text{de}8 19 \text{b}4 \)  
and White won.

320) Rubinetti – Uhlmann  
Mar del Plata 1966  
24...\( \text{xf}3! 25 \text{xf}3 \text{g}5 \) and White loses a piece: 26 \( \text{h}2 \text{h}8 27 \text{g}1 \text{g}8. \)

321) M. García García – Martín Gracia  
Catalonian Ch 1982  
20 \( \text{Xg}6! \)  
Not the only way to win, but definitely the strongest.  
20...\( \text{Xg}6 21 \text{xf}5+! \text{xf}5 22 \text{g}1+ 1-0 \)

322) Züger – Estremera  
European Ch, Dresden 2007  
30...\( \text{e}7! \)  
There is no adequate response to the threat of 31...\( \text{e}2+. \)  
31 \( \text{g}3 \)  
31 \( \text{e}1 \) is met by 31...\( \text{d}3+. \)  
31...\( \text{e}2+ 32 \text{xe}2 \text{wd}4+ 33 \text{f}1 \text{xe}2+ 34 \text{xe}2 \text{d}1+ 35 \text{e}1 \text{d}3+ 0-1 \)

323) Gutman – Bakker  
Leiden 2008  
19 \( \text{h}4! \) (and there is no satisfactory defence against 20 \( \text{h}5) 19...\( \text{c}8 20 \text{h}5 \text{f}6 21 \text{hxg}6 \text{fxe}5 \)  
22 \( \text{dxe}5 \text{b}5 23 \text{b}3 \text{c}7 24 \text{h}3. \)
324) Karim – Paunović
         Seville 2008

35...\$e4! 0-1
There is no defence against the threat of 36...g4; e.g., if 36...f5 37 \$g3 f4+ 38 \$g2 h5 39 gxh5 g4.

325) Steingrimsson – Kritz
         European Ch, Plovdiv 2008

34...\$e4+! 0-1
There are other ways to win, but this is the most convincing. The d7-pawn will never become a queen. There would follow 35 \$xc1 (or 35 \$g1 \$xa4) 35...\$f1+ 36 \$g1 \$xg2#.

326) Ivanchuk – Kramnik
         Dortmund 2008

49 \$d4! 1-0
There is no way to defend f7, since if 49...f6 then 50 \$d5+ wins.

327) Kariakin – Mamedyarov
         FIDE World Cup, Khanty-Mansiisk 2009

50 \$f4! (White seeks to create some cover for the king, freeing his rook with lethal effects for Black’s king) 50...\$f2 (after 50...gxh4 51 \$e5! Black has no checks and there is no defence) 51 \$xd5+ \$c8 52 \$e7! 1-0. Black is mated after 52...\$e2+ 53 \$e5 \$xe5+ 54 fxe5 g4 55 e6 g3 56 \$f8 g2 57 e7 \$g1 58 e8=\$f#.

328) Gaponenko – A. Graf
         Kavala 2008

33...\$ee8!
Defending the rook on d8.
34 \$ed1 \$d4! (D)

\[Diagram\]

W

35 \$xf3
Or 35 \$ac1 \$xe2 36 \$e4 \$e4.

35...\$xa1
Black has a decisive advantage.

329) Luther – Brunner
         Chambéry 2008

47 \$d4+! 1-0
Winning the exposed bishop after 47...\$b7 (or 47...\$b8 48 \$xa6+) 48 \$e4+.

330) D. Boros – A. Gupta
         World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008

21...\$xd4! 22 \$xd4 \$xb2 23 \$ad1 \$xc3 with a decisive advantage.

331) I. Sokolov – Striković
         León (rapid) 2008

30 \$xe4! Not 30 \$c2? axb3 31 axb3 \$xb3, nor 30 \$d1? \$xd3.
30...\$xd2+ 31 \$xd2 axb3 32 axb3 with an extra pawn.

332) Bareev – Timman
         León (rapid) 2008

30 \$g6+! 1-0
After 30...hxg6 31 \$h3+ White forces mate next move.

333) Bareev – Granda
         León (rapid) 2008

38 \$d8+! 1-0
A decisive liquidation, forcing 38...\$h7 39 \$d3+ \$e4 40 \$xe4+ \$xe4 41 \$d7 with a winning endgame.

334) Montiel – Lipniks
         Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946

35...\$d3! (preparing 36...\$a1+, to which there is no good reply) 36 \$xf7+ \$g7 37 \$g3 \$a1+ 38 \$g2 c1=\$f 39 \$f3 \$h1+ 0-1.

335) Rossetto – R. Sanguineti
         Mar del Plata 1962

28 \$xg4!
The e6-bishop proves to be surprisingly overloaded.
28...\$f2
Not 28...\$xg4? 29 \$b5+.
29 \$xf2 \$xb2 30 \$g8+ \$d7 31 \$e3 1-0

336) Cruz – Palermo
         Mar del Plata 1965

20...\$xb2!
This bishop is taboo because there is an unexpected mating-net.

\[21 \mathbf{g}5\]
\[21 \mathbf{xb}2? \mathbf{c}3+ 22 \mathbf{e}1 \mathbf{d}1#.
\[21...\mathbf{c}3+\]
with a decisive material advantage.

337) Khalifman – Vaganian

*Bazna 2007*

\[19 \mathbf{g}3!\]
Threatening both to capture the e5-knight and to play 20 \mathbf{g}5.

\[19...\mathbf{ef}3+\]
If 19...\mathbf{g}4+ then 20 \mathbf{xh}4 g5 21 \mathbf{hxg}5! \mathbf{wxg}5 22 \mathbf{ae}5 \mathbf{df6} 23 \mathbf{ae}1 (or 23 g5 \mathbf{h}8 24 \mathbf{g}1), with an extra pawn and a crushing position.

\[20 \mathbf{gxf}3 \mathbf{xf}3+ 21 \mathbf{g}2 1-0\]

338) Milos – Sunye

*São Paulo Zonal 2007*

\[24 \mathbf{xe}6! 1-0\]
A possible line is 24...\mathbf{xe}6 25 \mathbf{xf}5 \mathbf{g}6 26 \mathbf{xd}5+ \mathbf{xd}5 27 \mathbf{xc}8+ \mathbf{xf}8 28 \mathbf{xf}8+ \mathbf{xf}8 29 \mathbf{xd}5, with a decisive material advantage.

339) Pogonina – Godena

*Solin 2007*

\[28 \mathbf{a}4!\] with the threat of 29 \mathbf{bh}3 winning the exchange, against which there is no defence.

340) Tomashevsky – Svidler

*Russian Ch, Moscow 2007*

\[30 \mathbf{a}5!\] (exploiting the lack of an escape-square for the black king) 30...\mathbf{xa}5 31 \mathbf{xc}7 1-0.

341) Le Quang Liem – Nepomniashchchy

*Moscow 2008*

\[63...\mathbf{b}2+!\]
White will be unable to cope with two hostile passed pawns on the seventh rank and therefore Black will win material.

\[64 \mathbf{xb}2 \mathbf{xb}2 65 \mathbf{c}2 f2 66 \mathbf{c}7+ \mathbf{xc}7 67 h8\mathbf{w}! b1\mathbf{w}+! 68 \mathbf{xb}1 f1\mathbf{w}+ 0-1\]

342) Jepson – Hillarp Persson

*Elsinore 2008*

\[33 \mathbf{e}5!\]
Did you spot the tactical weakness of the two black rooks? 33 \mathbf{g}5+ \mathbf{g}7 34 \mathbf{e}5 was also good.

\[33...\mathbf{dxe}5 34 \mathbf{g}5+ \mathbf{g}8 35 \mathbf{e}4 1-0\]

343) Almasi – Seyb

*Mainz (rapid) 2008*

\[42 \mathbf{xf}7+ 1-0\]
A striking combination of a pin, a knight fork and a double attack. If 42...\mathbf{xf}7 then 43 \mathbf{g}5+.

344) Senador – Dzhumaev

*Kuala Lumpur 2008*

\[23...\mathbf{a}1+! 24 \mathbf{d}2 \mathbf{a}5+ (winning a piece)\]
\[25 \mathbf{xc}3 \mathbf{xc}3+ 26 \mathbf{bxc}3 \mathbf{xb}5 0-1\]

345) K. Georgiev – Jobava

*Barcelona 2008*

\[59 \mathbf{e}8+! \mathbf{f}7 60 \mathbf{g}8+ 1-0\]
Black resigned in view of 60...\mathbf{g}7 61 \mathbf{xf}6 \mathbf{xf}2+ 62 \mathbf{g}5, with a decisive material advantage.

346) Guseinov – Ezat

*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

\[30 \mathbf{e}7+ \mathbf{g}8 31 \mathbf{e}8+! 1-0\]
\[31...\mathbf{f}8 32 \mathbf{wc}6.\]

347) Ju. Bolbochán – Hounie Fleurquin

*Mar del Plata 1947*

\[32 \mathbf{xb}3! \mathbf{f}4\]
After 32...\mathbf{xb}3 33 \mathbf{xc}7 there is no defence against 34 \mathbf{wc}8.

\[33 \mathbf{xc}4 \mathbf{xe}4 34 \mathbf{xc}4 1-0\]

348) Panno – Najdorf

*Buenos Aires 1965*

\[26 \mathbf{xd}6! 1-0\]
26...\mathbf{xd}6 27 \mathbf{xf}6+ \mathbf{g}8 28 \mathbf{wh}6 and White mates.

349) Revilla – M. García García

*Catalonia Ch 1982*

\[33...\mathbf{f}3+!\]
Making good use of the passed pawn.

\[34 \mathbf{g}2 \mathbf{xc}1 35 \mathbf{xc}1\]
If 35...\mathbf{xc}1 then 35...\mathbf{e}1+.

\[35...\mathbf{xd}2 0-1\]

350) Gelfand – Morozevich

*World Ch, Mexico City 2007*

\[29 \mathbf{h}3!\]
White will emerge the exchange up and with a passed h-pawn – a decisive advantage. Not 29 \mathbf{xf}6?? \mathbf{g}4 and the g2-bishop is pinned.

\[29...\mathbf{g}4+ 30 \mathbf{g}2 \mathbf{d}8 31 \mathbf{xf}6 \mathbf{xd}5\]
\[32 a3 \mathbf{b}5 33 \mathbf{h}4\]
and White won. Even better was 33 \( \text{d}4 \), pointed out by Gelfand.

351) M. García García – Marull  
* Catalonian Team Ch 2007  
\[ 16 \text{dxd6}! \text{exd6} \]  
16...a4 17 \( \text{wb}4 \) does not change the situation.  
17 \( \text{exd6 wc7} \) 18 \( \text{d7} 1-0 \)  
18...\( \text{wb}7 \) is forced (18...\( \text{ wc6} \) 19 \( \text{dxd6+ wc8} \)  
20 \( \text{exd8+ wxd8} \) 21 \( \text{xf7#} \) ) but after 19 \( \text{xd7}+ \) \( \text{wd8} \) Black’s king can’t be defended owing to the passivity of his pieces, and he will suffer serious loss of material; e.g., after 20 \( \text{d1}+ \) \( \text{e8} \)  
21 \( \text{wb6} \) Black is practically in zugzwang.

352) Bente – Estremera  
* European Ch, Dresden 2007  
\[ 24...\text{wxe3}! 25 \text{dxe3 } \text{d6} \]  
This bishop dominates the position, and the main victim will be the white king.  
26 \( \text{g1}?! \)  
The relatively best move, 26 \( \text{c3} \), is met by  
26...\( \text{d4} \) 27 \( \text{d2} \) \( \text{dxe3} \) 28 \( \text{fxe3 } \text{dxd3}+ \) 29 \( \text{dxd3 } \text{d4} \) 30 \( \text{g2 } \text{d2}+ \)  
26...\( \text{fxe4} \) 27 \( \text{g2} \) \( \text{xe3}++ \) 28 \( \text{f2} \)  
Or 28 \( \text{fxd3 } \text{c4} \) !  
28...\( \text{d2} \) 29 \( \text{b3 } \text{e3}+ \)  
with a decisive material advantage.

353) Estremera – Galiana  
* Magaluf 2008  
15 \( \text{e5}! \)  
The position will be opened up and the black king will be unable to reach safety.  
15...\( \text{fxe5} \) 16 \( \text{exd6 } \text{d5} 17 \text{c1}+ \text{e6} \)  
After the miserable move 17...\( \text{f8} \) White could play 18 \( \text{a3} \), followed by \( \text{c7} \).  
18 \( \text{c6}+ \text{d7} \) 19 \( \text{g5}! \) \( \text{w} \) \( \text{c8} \) 20 \( \text{w} \) \( \text{e4} \) 21 \( \text{d7}+! \) 22 \( \text{ac1} \)  
If Black could only castle, he would escape the worst, but this is not going to happen.  
22...\( \text{wb8} \) 23 \( \text{d4} \) \( \text{d8} \) 24 \( \text{c7} \) \( \text{w} \) \( \text{c8} \) 25 \( \text{d6} \)  
\( \text{w} \) \( \text{d8} \) 26 \( \text{c7} \) \( \text{wc8} \) 27 \( \text{a5} \) \( \text{w} \) \( \text{d8} \) 28 \( \text{ac7} \) \( \text{w} \) \( \text{g8} \)  
29 \( \text{w} \) \( \text{h7} \) 30 \( \text{a6}+! \) \( \text{fxe6} \) 31 \( \text{a5}+ \)  
with mate in five.

354) Sakaev – Timofeev  
* Russian Ch, Moscow 2007  
15...\( \text{c4} \)  
This wins material, but in fact in just a few moves he will have to give up the exchange, although for tremendous compensation.

355) Beliavsky – I. Khramakulov  
* Pamplona 2007  
27...\( \text{we4}! \) 0-1  
White resigned in view of 28 \( \text{f4} \) \( \text{c1}+ \) 29 \( \text{f2} \) \( \text{f1} \) +.

356) Ignacz – Esteveira  
* Pamplona 2007  
19...\( \text{b6} \) !  
Surprisingly, although White is the exchange up, he is unable to hold the position after this double attack on \( \text{f2} \) and \( \text{b2} \).  
20 \( \text{w} \) \( \text{c2} \)  
Or 20 \( \text{h2} \) \( \text{w} \) \( \text{xb2} \) 21 \( \text{d3} \) \( \text{c3} \).  
20...\( \text{xf2}+ \) 21 \( \text{xf2} \) \( \text{xf2}+ \) 22 \( \text{h2} \) \( \text{xc3} \)  
22...\( \text{g3}+ \) 23 \( \text{g1} \) \( \text{f2} \) is another way to win.  
23 \( \text{d3 } \text{yg2} \) 24 \( \text{xf2} \)  
Or 24...\( \text{xe4} \) 25 \( \text{xc2} \) \( \text{xf3} \), with a decisive advantage.  
24...\( \text{xf3} \) 25 \( \text{d2} \) \( \text{xf3} \) 0-1.

357) Butti – Kropff  
* Paraguayan Ch, Asunción 2008  
11 \( \text{xa6} \) !  
This sacrifice is thematic; the e6-square needs to be well protected by Black, which is not the case here.  
11...\( \text{xe6} \)  
11...\( \text{fxe6} \) loses to 12 \( \text{xe6} \) \( \text{wa5} \) 13 \( \text{wd5} \).  
12 \( \text{xf7}+? \)  
An attractive sacrifice to expose the king.  
12...\( \text{xf7} \) ?  
12...\( \text{xf7} \) is a slight improvement but after 12...\( \text{e6} \)! (or 13 \( \text{w} \) \( \text{h5}+ \) \( \text{g8} \) 14 \( \text{yg5} \), and White is a pawn up with an attack) 13...\( \text{xe6} \) 14 \( \text{w} \) \( \text{d5}+ \) \( \text{e7} \) 15 \( \text{yg5}+ \) \( \text{f6} \) 16 \( \text{wa8} \) there is no defence.  
13 \( \text{xe6 } \text{xe3} \) ?  
If 13...\( \text{w} \) \( \text{a5} \) 14 \( \text{yg5 } \text{f6} \) then 15 \( \text{wd5}+ \) wins. Or 13...\( \text{w} \) \( \text{e7} \) 14 \( \text{yg5} \) and the rook can’t retreat because White has 15 \( \text{wd5} \).  
14 \( \text{exe8 } \text{xf2+} \) 15 \( \text{w} \) \( \text{e2} \) \( \text{e5} \) 16 \( \text{xf7} \) \( \text{g4}+ \) 17 \( \text{xf2} \) 1-0
358) Kononenko – Zhao Zong Yuan

Seville 2008

The game went 44 g4? c4 45 gxf5 h5! and Black was able to defend.
44...f3! is an improvement, threatening to capture the d3-bishop as well as to play 45 g3++; then if 44...c4? White wins with 45 g3+ h6 46 f4+ h5 47 f3#.

359) Kononenko – Korneev

Seville 2008

26...f4!
Not only is the white queen a long way from the centre, it is also a tactical weakness.
27 exf4
If 27 g4 then 27...h5!, while on 27 h1 comes 27...d3.
27...xd4+ 28 f1 xd2
with an extra pawn and the attack.

360) Golubev – Buchenau

Internet 2008

18 f1!
The pin on the e-file wins.
18...c5
The alternative was 18...f4, but after 19 xex3 d4 20 c4! xe1+ 21 xe1 xd2+ 22 xd2! dxc3 23 e8+ f8 24 e4! it will end quickly in mate.
19 d1!
winning a piece.

361) Inants – Batsanin

Russian Team Ch, Dagomys 2008

22...d3! (exploiting two pins) 23 d4 xd4
24 f3 xe4! 0-1.

362) Kariakin – Inarkiev

FIDE Grand Prix, Baku 2008

42 xb5!
Better than 42 xe5 f6 43 g3 e6, which allows Black a degree of activity.
42...d1
42...xb5 43 xe5 f6 44 xb5 is hopeless for Black.
43...e3 1-0

363) Gladyszev – Naumkin

Curo 2008

28...d2+!
After the exchange of queens, Black can invade the seventh rank and paralyse White.
29 xd2 d3+ 30 b1 xd2 31 d1 d3
31...xd2!? 32 e4 d2+ is also good.
32 e4
Or 32 g1 f2 and White is almost in zugzwang.
32...xd2
and Black wins material while retaining a positional advantage.

364) Ivanchuk – Bu Xiangzhi

Sofia 2008

9...xb5+! axb5 10 xb5
And there is no satisfactory defence against 11 c7+.
10...e6
Or 10...a6? 11 e6+ d7 12 xd7.
11 c7+ e7 12 xax8
with a decisive material advantage.

365) Strobel – Saltaev

Hamburg 2008

29...c5!
In contrast 29...xa7? 30 c8+ h7 31 f5+ g6 32 xf6 is nothing special, and 29...xa7? is inferior on account of 30 e8+!.
30 d7 e6
This does not lose the whole of Black’s advantage, but 30...xb4 is better, as is 30...xf3!
31 gxf3 d1+! (to defend the f6-bishop) 32 g2 a7 33 e8+ h7 34 f5+ g6.
31 xe6 xe6 32 b7 c8 33 xc8+ xc8 and Black won the endgame.

366) Rowson – Granda

Pallau 2008

28 b4! 1-0
Now 28...d7? loses to 29 c8+ d8 30 xg6+ e7 31 h7+, mating. On the other hand, 28 xg6+ is less convincing, although still better for White, after 28...d8 29 b4 d7 30 f1.

367) Salguero – F. Peralta

Argentina Ch, Mendoza 2008

The game went 33...xf4+? 34 gxf4 e6 35 d5 and the strong centre pawns provided good protection for the white king; White went on to win.

The tactical weakness arising from White’s queen and king both being in range of a knight fork could have been exploited with 33...xb1! 34 xb1 xd4+, or even in the reverse order 33...xd4+! 34 xd4 xb1, with an overwhelming advantage for Black in both cases.
368) Flores Ríos – Zambrana

Santos 2008

28 \( \text{Qxe5} \)

Surprisingly, the d4-knight constitutes a tactical weakness.

28...\( \text{Qxe5} \)

There is no time for 28...\( \text{Qh5} \) on account of 29 \( \text{Qxd3} \) \( \text{Qc3} \) 30 \( \text{Qc5}+ \), while 28...\( \text{Qxb3} \) 29 \( \text{cxb3} \) \( \text{Qxe5} \) 30 \( \text{Qd3}+ \) costs Black material.

29 \( \text{Qd3}+ \) \( \text{Qd6} \) 30 \( \text{e5}+ \) \( \text{Qxe6} \) 31 \( \text{Qxb4} \) \( \text{Qxc2} \)

32 \( \text{Qxa6} \) \( \text{Qxa6} \) 33 \( \text{Qxf6} \) 1-0

369) Ikonnikov – Cherin

Conegliano 2008

19 \( \text{Qe7} \)

This simplification displaces the black knight and leads to a win, since White is now able to exploit his domination of the e-file and his ability to invade on e7.

19...\( \text{Qd8} \) 20 \( \text{Qxb7} \) \( \text{Qxb7} \) 21 \( \text{Qd5} \) \( \text{Qf7} \)

21...\( \text{Qac8} \) loses to 22 \( \text{Qe7} \) \( \text{Qf7} \) 23 \( \text{Qxf7} \) \( \text{Qxf7} \)

24 \( \text{Qc7} \) and 25 \( \text{Qd4}+ \).

22 \( \text{Qxc7}+ \) \( \text{Qg8} \)

If 22...\( \text{Qxc7} \) then 23 \( \text{Qe8}+ \).

23 \( \text{Qxe8} \) 1-0

370) N. Mamedov – Kovaliov

Sort 2008

34 \( \text{Qe7} \)!!

Black’s queen and bishop are overloaded.

34...\( \text{Qg6} \) 35 \( \text{Qxe6} \) \( \text{Qxg2} \) 36 \( \text{Qxg2} \) d5 37 \( \text{Qe8} \)

1-0

371) Rozentalis – Lalić

Paris 2008

29...\( \text{Qxe6}! \)

Winning a piece; if 30 \( \text{Qxe6} \) then 30...\( \text{f5}! \) and the e4-rook can’t retreat in view of 31...\( \text{Qf4}+ \).

372) Ipatov – Cuartas

Barberá del Valles 2008

Black is almost paralysed; neither the rook nor the knight can move, so all White needs to do is attack them.

43 \( \text{e4!} \) \( \text{dxe4+} \) 44 \( \text{Qxe4} \) \( \text{Qxf4} \) 45 \( \text{Qe5} \)

and White gains a decisive material advantage.

373) Miezis – Wells

Treffor 2008

20 \( \text{Qxe6}! \)

Opening the e-file and the h3-c8 diagonal, which will prove fatal.

20...\( \text{Qxe6} \)

If 20...\( \text{Qxg4} \) then 21 \( \text{Qd6}+ \) \( \text{Qc2} \) 22 \( \text{hxg4} \) \( \text{bxc5} \) 23 \( \text{Qxf5} \) \( \text{Qh4} \) 24 \( \text{Qf6} \) \( \text{Qxf6} \) 25 \( \text{Qh5} \).

21 \( \text{Qxc5+} \) \( \text{bxc5} \) 22 \( \text{Qxe6} \) \( \text{Qxe6} \) 23 \( \text{Qe2}+ \)

24 \( \text{Qxf5} \) 1-0

374) E. Berg – Rozentalis

Najdorf Memorial, Warsaw 2008

38 \( \text{Qe5}! \) 1-0

The threat of 39 \( \text{Qb8+} \) enables White to remain a rook up. Other moves such as 38 \( \text{Qg5} \) or 38 \( \text{Qd5} \) would also win in the long run, but are much less effective than the move in the game.

375) Euler – Almasi

Mainz (rapid) 2008

21...\( \text{Qxe4}! \) 0-1

Winning a piece, since if White plays 22 \( \text{Qxe4} \) or moves his knight away then 22...\( \text{Qf3}+ \) wins.

376) Ovetchkin – Pushkov

Sukhumi 2008

17...\( \text{Qc4}! \)

There is no good way to defend d4 because of problems with the white queen.

18 \( \text{b3} \)

Not 18 \( \text{Qf3?} \) \( \text{Qc7} \) 19 \( \text{Qb3} \) \( \text{Qc2} \).

18...\( \text{Qc7} \) 19 \( \text{bxc4} \) \( \text{Qxb5} \) 20 \( \text{cxb5} \) \( \text{Qc7} \)

with a winning position.

377) Laznicka – Hou Yifan

World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008

52...\( \text{Qc3}! \)

With this precise manoeuvre, Black wins quickly. 52...\( \text{Qc6} \) 53 \( \text{c8} \) \( \text{Qxc8} \) 54 \( \text{Qbb7} \) is less clear.

53 \( \text{Qh4} \) \( \text{Qh8+} \) 0-1

It is mate after 54 \( \text{Qg5} \) \( \text{Qf6+} \) 55 \( \text{Qh6} \) \( g5+ \) 56 \( \text{Qh5} \) \( \text{Qg6#} \).

378) Nakamura – Altounian

Internet 2008

31 \( \text{f5}! \)

Decisively opening up the black king’s defences.

31...\( \text{exf5} \) 32 \( \text{Qe4+} \) \( \text{g7} \)

Now instead of the move played, 33 \( \text{Qe5} \), which was quite good, even better is 33 \( \text{Qe7}! \), threatening to mate by 34 \( \text{Qg8+} \), and winning more quickly than in the game, since 33...\( \text{Qxe7} \) is met by 34 \( \text{Qxe7+} \) \( \text{Qh8} \) 35 \( \text{f7}, \) mating.
379) Hou Yifan – Kosteniuk
*Women’s World Ch match (game 1), Natchik 2008*

37...\(\text{a}xg4!\)
A beautiful blow which regains the piece, leaving Black ahead on material.
38 \(\text{W}f2\) \(\text{d}1\) \(\text{W} 39 \text{c}x\text{d}1 \text{c}x\text{d}1 40 \text{W}e1 \text{f}3+ 41 \text{g}1 \text{f}5!\)
As well as the extra pawn, Black has an attack, and the rest was easy.

380) Arizmendi – I. Khamrakulov
*Ceuta 2008*

14 \(\text{W}e1!\)
Now the a7-pawn is lost.
14...\(\text{W}x\text{e}1\) 15 \(\text{W}x\text{e}1\) \(\text{d}7\)
Not 15...\(\text{a}6?\) 16 \(\text{c}\text{c}7\) \(\text{b}8\) 17 \(\text{a}7\).
16 \(\text{c}\text{c}7\) \(\text{f}8\) 17 a4
White is a pawn up for nothing.

381) Nakamura – Vachier Lagrave
*C. d’Agré (rapid) 2008*

24 \(\text{c}\text{c}8!\) f5?
24...f6 is more tenacious but after 25 \(\text{b}4+\) d6 26 \(\text{c}\text{c}7+\) \(\text{d}7\) 27 \(\text{x}\text{d}7\) \(\text{x}\text{d}7\) 28 \(\text{f}2\), although Black has avoided loss of material, White’s two passed pawns on the a- and b-files will be decisive.

If 24...\(\text{f}6\) then 25 \(\text{f}4!\) \(\text{d}4\text{e}4\) 26 \(\text{b}4+\) d6 27 \(\text{c}\text{c}7+\) 27 \(\text{d}7\) 28 \(\text{x}\text{d}7\) \(\text{x}\text{d}7\) 29 0-0 (or 29 \(\text{d}2\)), intending 30 \(\text{e}1+\), and 29...\(\text{d}8\) is met by 30 \(\text{a}5!\).
25 \(\text{b}4+\) d6 26 \(\text{x}f8\)
26 \(\text{e}8+\) \(\text{f}7\) 27 \(\text{x}f8+\).
26...\(\text{x}f8\) 27 \(\text{x}d6+\) \(\text{f}7\) 28 \(\text{x}e5\)
and with two extra passed pawns, the rest was easy.

382) Godena – Akopian
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

31...\(\text{a}xg3+!\) 32 \(\text{g}2\)
Not 32 \(\text{a}xg3?\) \(\text{x}e3+!\).
32...\(\text{c}x\text{c}4\) 33 \(\text{c}x\text{c}4\) \(\text{h}4\) 34 \(\text{h}d6\) \(\text{e}4\) 35 \(\text{e}3\) \(\text{a}4\)
and with an extra pawn, Black won.

383) Svetushkin – S. Kristjansson
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

39 \(\text{d}4!\)
A beautiful move.
39...\(\text{x}d4\)
39...\(\text{x}e5\) loses to 40 \(\text{c}6+\) c7 41 \(\text{x}e5+!\) \(\text{a}e5\) 42 \(\text{d}xe5\).
40 \(\text{x}f6\)
Threatening deadly discovered checks.
40...\(\text{d}1+\) 41 \(\text{h}2\) 1-0
After 41...\(\text{c}7\) 42 \(\text{f}8+\) White wins with a deadly pin: 42...\(\text{c}7\) 43 \(\text{f}7\) or 42...\(\text{e}8\) 43 \(\text{f}8\).

384) Kveinys – Nisipeanu
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

33...\(\text{f}d1+!\) 34 \(\text{e}1\)
Or 34 \(\text{g}2\) \(\text{d}5+\) and 35...\(\text{xf}7\).
34...\(\text{d}3+\) 35 \(\text{e}2\) \(\text{d}5!\) 0-1
Attacking the rook as well as threatening mate on h1.

385) Topalov – Zhitkalo
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

39 \(\text{xd}5!\)
A beautiful way to unblock the position.
39...\(\text{ex}d5\) 40 e6 1-0
If 40...\(\text{e}6\) then 41 \(\text{xc}6+\) \(\text{xc}6\) 42 \(\text{e}7+\) wins. 40...\(\text{e}6\) is no better; e.g., 41 \(\text{xc}6+\) \(\text{xc}6\) 42 \(\text{e}7+\) \(\text{e}8\) 43 \(\text{xf}6\) \(\text{xf}6\) 44 \(\text{f}8+\) \(\text{h}7\) 45 \(\text{f}7+\) \(\text{b}8\) 46 e7.

386) Shulman – Baramidze
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

32 \(\text{c}2\) 1-0
Exploiting the weakness of Black’s back rank, White launches an attack which will either mate or gain a decisive material advantage. 32...\(\text{b}4\) is met by 33 \(\text{c}8+\) \(\text{f}8\) 34 \(\text{xf}6\), mating quickly; e.g., 34...\(\text{xf}6\) 35 \(\text{xf}6\) \(\text{xc}8\) 36 \(\text{g}6!\) \(\text{xe}5\) 37 \(\text{f}7+\) \(\text{h}8\) 38 \(\text{h}7\#.

387) Aleksandrov – J. Polgar
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

30...\(\text{g}4!\)
Better than 30...\(\text{xe}4\); in order to defend the e2-rook White has to clear the d-file, which proves fatal.
31 \(\text{e}1\) \(\text{f}4!\) 32 \(\text{ex}f4\) \(\text{xd}1\) 0-1

388) Zhao Xue – Hagarova
*Dresden Women’s Olympiad 2008*

53 \(\text{b}1?\)
The right way to try to penetrate with the rook was via the e-file with 53 \(\text{h}4+!\) \(\text{g}7\) 54 \(\text{e}1\) when, in order to put a stop to the mating attack, Black has to exchange queens. After 54...\(\text{f}2\) 55 \(\text{xf}2\) \(\text{xf}2\) 56 \(\text{x}a1\) \(\text{f}6\) 57 \(\text{xa}3\) the white king is a long way from the queenside, but since Black is unable to take advantage of this, the
white king has time to become centralized, after which the material advantage decides the game; e.g., 57...\textit{xe}6 58 g3 (58 \textit{a}a2 \textit{d}d4 59 \textit{g}g3 and 58 g4 are the alternatives) 58...c4 59 \textit{g}g2 \textit{a}c5 60 \textit{a}a6+ \textit{d}d5 61 \textit{f}f3 \textit{d}d4 62 \textit{e}e2 \textit{b}b6 63 \textit{a}a3 64 \textit{d}d2.

53...\textit{e}e6 54 \textit{f}f1
54 \textit{h}h4+ \textit{g}g7 55 \textit{e}e1 is now answered with 55...\textit{e}e3!.

54...a2
This leads to a forced repetition of moves.

55 \textit{f}f8+ \textit{g}g7 56 \textit{d}d8 \textit{d}d4 57 \textit{f}f8+ \textit{g}g7
58 \textit{d}d8 ½-½

389) Spraggett – Komljenović
Seville 2007

18 \textit{b}b1!
Now the black queen can no longer defend d6.

18...\textit{c}c4 19 \textit{f}f2!
And now White’s queen makes a decisive invasion of the black camp, exploiting the awkward placing of Black’s forces.

19...\textit{b}b2 20 \textit{a}a7! \textit{e}e7 21 \textit{b}b8 1-0

390) Tahirov – J. Houska
Hastings 2007/8

32 \textit{x}xe5! \textit{b}x\textit{c}5 33 \textit{d}d3 \textit{c}d4
If 33...\textit{w}e8 the two bishops show their power with 34 \textit{g}xg7! \textit{w}d7 (or 34...\textit{g}xg7 35 \textit{f}f5+ \textit{h}h7 36 \textit{x}xf6 with a mating attack) 35 \textit{d}df5.

34 \textit{xe}4 \textit{dxe}4 35 \textit{xd}d4 1-0

391) Medina Carrasco – M. Röder
Seville 2008

36 \textit{g}g7+ \textit{f}f8
Not 36...\textit{h}h8? on account of 37 \textit{xe}1 \textit{xe}1 38 \textit{g}g8+, winning.

37 \textit{g}g8+ \textit{f}f7 38 \textit{d}d7+
Of course, the best that White can hope for now is a draw, and this he duly achieves.

38...\textit{e}e7 39 \textit{g}g7+! \textit{f}f6 40 \textit{d}dxe7 \textit{a}xg1+ 41 \textit{g}xg1 \textit{h}h5 42 \textit{g}g2 \textit{c}c5 43 \textit{g}f7+ \textit{g}g6 44 \textit{g}g7+ \textit{f}f6 45 \textit{g}g7+ ½-½

392) Naumkin – Codenotti
Conigliano 2008

29 c5!
With this unpinning move, White gains a decisive advantage. In contrast, 29 \textit{w}xg4 \textit{x}xf2 30 \textit{x}xf2 \textit{e}e3 does not work.

29...\textit{xf}2
29...\textit{d}xe5? loses to 30 \textit{xf}f5.

30 \textit{cxb}6! \textit{xe}2 31 \textit{xf}8+ \textit{xf}8 32 \textit{bxc}7 \textit{xe}4 33 \textit{c}c8 1-0

393) Short – Timman
Staunton Memorial, London 2008

White played 19 \textit{b}b3? and after 19...\textit{xb}3 20 \textit{axb}3 \textit{c}c8 21 \textit{a}xa7 was somewhat better, although he didn’t win.

With 19 \textit{d}d6!! \textit{xd}6 (or 19...\textit{xd}6 20 \textit{df}7+) 20 \textit{xc}x6+ White can secure a decisive advantage.

394) A. Horvath – Erdos
Harkany 2008

27...\textit{f}f5!
Threatening to win with 28...\textit{h}h5.

28 \textit{h}h3?!
28 \textit{f}f1 was better, although after 28...\textit{h}h5 29 \textit{g}g1 \textit{b}b5+ 30 \textit{e}e1 \textit{a}a3! 31 \textit{b}xa3 \textit{c}c4 32 \textit{g}g3 \textit{xc}x3 White is lost, since his king is exposed in the centre and his pieces are poorly co-ordinated. Black’s centre pawns will decide the game.

28...\textit{f}f7 0-1

395) Najdorf – Luckis
Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1949

18 \textit{f}f5!!
Black is forced to capture this piece to prevent 19 \textit{h}h6#.

18...\textit{xf}5
18...\textit{f}f6? fails to 19 \textit{xf}6 \textit{xf}6 20 \textit{c}c7+.

19 \textit{h}h5!!
Taking advantage of this newly available square.

19...\textit{g}g7
Defending against 20 \textit{xf}5; it loses, but there was nothing better. 19...\textit{wc}6 fails to 20 \textit{xf}5 \textit{wh}6 21 \textit{wd}7, regaining the piece with a decisive advantage.

20 \textit{xc}xg7 \textit{xc}xg7 21 \textit{xf}5 \textit{wd}8 22 \textit{wh}xh7+ \textit{f}f6 23 \textit{wh}6+!!
It is forced mate.

23...\textit{xf}5
If 23...\textit{e}e5, then amongst other things White has 24 \textit{dd}4 \textit{g}g5 25 \textit{f}f4+ \textit{xf}4 26 \textit{xf}4#.

24 \textit{dd}4+ \textit{e}e4 25 \textit{wf}4# (1-0)

396) Visser – Bosboom Lanchava
Staunton Memorial, London 2006

18...\textit{Ed}8!!
Setting up a winning discovered attack. The order of moves definitely matters in this case:
18...\(\mathcal{g}\)h3 19 gxe3 \(e\)ad8 20 \(e\)d7 is still better for Black, but not so decisive.
19 \(w\)xd8
If 19 \(w\)c7 then 19...\(\mathcal{d}\)d2 20 \(\mathcal{g}\)g1 \(\mathcal{d}\)d4, mating quickly.
19...\(\mathcal{g}\)xh3 20 \(\mathcal{g}\)xh3 \(\mathcal{g}\)xd8
and Black won.

397) Van Wely – Yakovenko

Foros 2007
25 c5! (D)

Cutting off the black queen (and the bishop) from the defence.
25...\(\mathcal{g}\)g8 26 \(\mathcal{g}\)e7+!
Another way is 26 \(\mathcal{x}\)xf6 gxf6 27 \(\mathcal{g}\)e7+! \(\mathcal{g}\)f7
(or 27...\(\mathcal{g}\)xe7 28 \(w\)g6+ \(\mathcal{g}\)g7 29 \(\mathcal{d}\)d8#) 28 \(w\)h7+ \(\mathcal{g}\)e6 29 \(\mathcal{d}\)d6+ \(\mathcal{g}\)e5 30 \(f\)4#.
26...\(\mathcal{g}\)xe7
Or 26...\(\mathcal{g}\)xf7 27 \(\mathcal{x}\)xf6 \(\mathcal{x}\)xe7 28 \(\mathcal{g}\)c3+.
27 \(\mathcal{x}\)xf6 \(\mathcal{g}\)d7
27...\(\mathcal{x}\)xc5 is met by 28 \(\mathcal{d}\)d8+! \(\mathcal{g}\)f7 29 \(\mathcal{g}\)e5#.
28 \(w\)g6! 1-0

Shirov – Yakovenko

FIDE World Cup, Khanty-Mansiysk 2007
White has an extra piece, but problems with the coordination of his forces.
29 \(\mathcal{d}\)d1!
The correct choice of rook is important here; not 29 \(\mathcal{d}\)ad1?? \(\mathcal{d}\)de8 30 \(w\)xh3 \(\mathcal{g}\)xe1+ 31 \(\mathcal{g}\)xe1 \(w\)xd2.
29...\(\mathcal{x}\)xb2 30 \(w\)xh3 \(w\)xd4+
If 30...\(\mathcal{x}\)xd4 then 31 \(\mathcal{g}\)f1 is possible.
31 \(\mathcal{g}\)h1 \(\mathcal{d}\)d5 32 \(w\)f1 \(\mathcal{g}\)fd8 33 \(\mathcal{a}\)ac1 \(w\)d3 34 \(w\)e1!
With this series of precise moves, White succeeds in unpinning and is able to exploit his extra piece.

34...\(h\)h6 35 \(\mathcal{d}\)g2! \(w\)a3 36 \(\mathcal{d}\)b1
and White won.

399) Brkić – Stefanova
Solin 2007
26...\(\mathcal{d}\)xe4! 27 \(\mathcal{d}\)f1
27 \(w\)xe4 is met by 27...\(\mathcal{d}\)xc3! 28 \(w\)xe6 fxe6, attacking the f5-rook and thus retaining the extra pawn.
27...\(d\)d5 28 \(\mathcal{g}\)xf7 \(\mathcal{d}\)d6! 29 \(\mathcal{g}\)h4
Or 29 \(\mathcal{c}\)c1 \(\mathcal{g}\)g3+.
29...\(\mathcal{g}\)d2
and Black won.

400) Movsziszian – León Hoyos
Salou 2008
21 \(\mathcal{d}\)xd5! \(\mathcal{g}\)f4
After 21...\(\mathcal{d}\)xd5 22 \(\mathcal{g}\)xd5+ \(\mathcal{g}\)e6 23 \(w\)xe5 \(\mathcal{g}\)xd5 24 \(w\)xd5+ White wins back the exchange and remains two pawns up; for example, 24...\(w\)g7 25 \(\mathcal{g}\)xe8 \(\mathcal{g}\)xe8 26 \(w\)d7+ \(\mathcal{g}\)f8? 27 \(\mathcal{g}\)h6+.
22 \(\mathcal{g}\)xd7 \(\mathcal{g}\)h6 23 \(h\)5
With an extra pawn and an attack.
23...\(g\)7 24 \(h\)xg6 \(h\)xg6 25 \(\mathcal{d}\)h3 \(\mathcal{g}\)f7 26 \(\mathcal{g}\)xe6 1-0

401) Ivanchuk – Anand
León (rapid) 2008
Here a previous game had gone 15 \(\mathcal{d}\)xd5?! and after 15...\(w\)xe2 16 \(\mathcal{g}\)xf6+ gxf6 17 \(\mathcal{g}\)xe2 White stood only a little better.
15 \(\mathcal{d}\)d4!!
Loose pieces require care. With this move White is exploiting the fact that the b4-bishop is unprotected, which, combined with the threat against the a8-rook, decides the game.
15...\(w\)g6
15...\(w\)xe2 16 \(\mathcal{g}\)xe2 costs Black material.
16 \(\mathcal{g}\)h4! 1-0
After 16...\(w\)h5 17 \(w\)xh5 \(\mathcal{g}\)xh5 18 \(\mathcal{g}\)xd5 White wins a piece.

402) Truskavetsky – Shvyriov
Alushta 2008
White played 29 \(w\)e7? and the game ended in a draw.
He missed a winning shot with 29 \(\mathcal{d}\)d5+! and if 29...\(\mathcal{g}\)xe4 then 30 \(w\)xd4 (threatening 31 \(\mathcal{g}\)c3) 30...\(w\)g7 (30...\(w\)xc4 is met by 31 \(w\)f6!) 31 \(\mathcal{d}\)d5! (preparing 32 \(\mathcal{c}\)c3 and 33 \(\mathcal{g}\)e8+) 31...\(h\)5 32 \(\mathcal{c}\)c3 \(w\)f8 (32...\(f\)f8? fails to 33 \(\mathcal{g}\)xf5! \(w\)xd4 34 \(\mathcal{x}\)xf8+) 33 cxd5, with a decisive advantage, as
403) **Volokitin – Kariakin**  
_Foros 2008_

30 e5+!!
In contrast, 30 axb3? cxb3 31 e5+ d7! was nothing for Black to fear.

30...d7
Forced; if 30...ex5? then 31 axb3 cxb3 32 d3+, while 30...c7? loses to 31 axb3.

31 f3!
With a double threat.

31...axb2 32 axb7 1-0

404) **Lalić – Trent**  
_British Ch, Liverpool 2008_

21 wxc7!
Winning a pawn for nothing. At first sight it looks as if it loses the exchange, but White has seen a move further.

21...hc8?!
It was better to accept the loss of a pawn with 21...ex4 22 wxd7.

22 wxd7 xc1 23 xc1 wxc1+ 24 h2
Winning the knight.

24...xb2 25 xdx6 fx8 26 xxb7 w6 27 wc6 1-0

405) **Akshayraj – Le Quang Liem**  
_World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008_

White found nothing better than perpetual check with 35 ef7+ ef5 36 ef7+ h5 2-2. Instead, 35 b4!, breaking the coordination between the black rooks, even at the price of granting Black a pawn on the sixth rank, is very advantageous: 35...axb3 (35...c8? loses to 36 g7 g8 37 ef7+ ef5 38 ef8) 36 xc3 c8 37 g7 g8 38 ef7, with a big advantage.

406) **M. Rodshtein – Lin Chen**  
_World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008_

24 e5!
This thematic break is stronger than usual because ...h5 has weakened Black’s king’s position.

24...dxe5 25 f5 f6
If 25...f8 then 26 fxg6+ fxg6 27 ef4 ef6 28 g1! h8 29 xf6 xf6 30 dh4 df8 31 xe5 and White’s domination of the position is crushing.

26 fxg6+ fxg6 27 h4 e4 28 wg3 cce8 29 wg6+ h8 30 xe4 1-0

407) **L’Ami – I. Sokolov**  
_Staunton Memorial, London 2008_

White played 26 wxa3?! but after 26...ex4
27 ed4?! we5 he had achieved very little.
Instead White gains a decisive material advantage with 26 df6+! ef7 (26...ef8 is met by the simple 27 wxa3) 27 h5 and now 27...dc4? fails to 28 wb7+ mating, while after 27...b4 28 wb7+ ef8 29 wd7+ ef8 30 wd8 White forces mate.

408) **Dreev – Galić**  
_European Clubs Cup, Kalithea 2008_

29 wxe6! wxe6 30 e2+ ef7 31 ef7+ eg8 31...ef8 is met by 32 dh4.

32 we3
Even a rook down and with the g2-knight out of play for the moment, White is winning, because Black is almost completely paralysed.

32...dh7 33 we6+! eh8 34 dh4!
Now White’s numerical superiority on the kingside is just too great.

34...eg8 35 dgx6+ ghx6 36 eg8+ 1-0

409) **B. Socko – Naiditsch**  
_Dresden Olympiad 2008_

Black didn’t succeed in converting his advantage into anything tangible after 32...dh4?
33 edx2 ef5+ 34 dh4 edx2 35 df1 g3 36 dh5! f4 37 df5! f6 38 ef6, when the white king was able to assist the defence and the game was drawn. Instead, 32...f4+!, creating a tactical weakness based on a possible fork on d3, wins; e.g., 33 xf4 (33 dh2 g3+ 34 dg1 od3!) 33...edx2! 34 edx2 od3+ 35 egx4 odx1 36 ec1 od2 xa2.

410) **Cmilyte – J. Houska**  
_Dresden Women’s Olympiad 2008_

51...e3!
51...e4 is also good.

52 df6
After 52 gxf4 Black wins with 52...d3+ 53 dc6 ec3+ 54 cd5 gxf4 55 cd4 ec1 as she emerges the exchange and a (passed) pawn up. The rook move has the idea of replying to 52 c8w with 52...d3+ 53 dc6 ec3+ 54 cd7 ecx8 55 ecx8 f3 f6 b6 a4 and a black pawn queens; 52 c8d f3 53 dh6+ dg6 is no good either.

52...ec3 53 xc5 f3 54 be3 ed3+ 0-1
411) **Landa – León Hoyos**  
*Reggio Emilia 2008/9*  

30...\e1! 31 \e3  
31 \x7xc4? loses to 31...\e1+.  
31...\xc7 32 \xb4 \xb8  
with an extra exchange.

412) **M. Rodshtein – T.L. Petrosian**  
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*  

23 \xe4!  
The priority is to open lines against the black king.  

23...\xd4+ 24 \h2 f6  
If 24...\x4 then 25 f6! wins; e.g., 25...\h7 (or 25...\xa1 26 \xg5+! \h8 27 \g8+ \xg8 28 \g4+ and mate next move) 26 \x5 \g8  
(26...\xa1 27 \g6+ \g8 28 \xh6 forcing mate) 27 \c4 \xa1 28 \xf7, threatening 29 \g6+, is similar to what we have already seen.  

24...\xa1 also runs into mate: 25 \xg5+ \h7 26 f6 \g8 27 \c3+ \g6 28 \xg6 \fgx6 29 \c7+.  
25 \hxg5 \hxg5  
25...\f5 loses to 26 \d6! \f7 27 \xh6 \h8 28 \xg5+ \g7 29 \xg + \xg7 30 \e6+ \f8 31 \d6 \h8+ 32 \g3 \g7+ 33 \f3.  
26 \xf6+ \xf6 27 \xg5+ \xf7 28 \c7+  
1-0

413) **Rossetto – Euwe**  
*Buenos Aires 1947*  

25...\g1+?!  
It is tempting to win the queen, but in fact this dissipates a great deal of Black’s advantage. It is much better to play 25...\h3!, threatening a quick mate with 26...\xh2+ and 27...\xc3+. Then:  

a) Not 26 \e1? \g1+ 27 \d2 \xc3#.  
b) 26 \xa5 \xh2+ 27 \e1 \h1+ 28 \d2 \xb1 leaves Black the exchange up and threatening 29...\b2+. Now if 29 \e3 \f1 30 \f3 the simplest is 30...\xd6 31 \xd6 \e8 with a decisive material advantage.  
c) 26 \b4 \d8 and the white king can’t escape.  
26 \xg1 \xe2 27 \xa5 \g4+ 28 \f1 \c4+ 29 \g1 \g4+ 30 \f1 \e4! 31 \b4 \h1+ 32 \e2 \xd6??  
The lack of an escape-square will lead to disaster. Black can retain the advantage with 32...\h6! 33 \c5 \xb7 34 \xb7 \x7 35 \xc7 \c4+ 36 \f1 f6.  
33 \a8! 1-0  

Black overlooked that 33...\xa8 is met by 34 \b8+ \xb8 35 \xb8#.

414) **Franco – Sánchez Aller**  
*Mondariz 2003*  
The game went 30...\d6 and after 31 \e6! White gained a winning passed pawn: 31...\xe6  
32 \dxe6 \d6 33 \d7+ \d7 34 exd7.  
In contrast, after 30...\f8! the pressure on f2 allows Black to defend; e.g., 31 \x7d7+ \f7  
32 \xf7+ \xf7 33 \d6 \f6 34 \d7 \xd7 35 \xd7+ \g8 and the struggle goes on.

415) **Haba – P. Nikolić**  
*Bundesliga 2004/5*  

28 \xf6!!  
A brilliant way to recover the sacrificed piece. 28 \e8+? \d8 29 \xe8+ is unclear: 29...\f8 30 \h6+ \g7 31 \xf5+ \xf5 32 \e3 f6.  
28...\h7  
28...\xf6? allows mate by 29 \e8+ \g7 30 \h6#, while 28...\xf6 is punished with 29 \e8+ \f8 30 \xf6+ \g7 31 \g4.  
29...\e7  
White is three pawns up with an attack, so the rest is easy.  

29...\h5 30 \h6+ \h6 31 \xh6 \d8 32 \e5! 1-0  
Forcing the black queen to give up control of f6; now if 32...\c2 then 33 \f6 wins.

416) **Kotronias – S. Grigoriants**  
*European Ch, Budva 2009*  
The position is chaotic, with several white pieces attacked.  

20 \w3!!  
A brilliant proof that the most important factor here is the bad position of the black king. After this knockout blow, the result is never really in any doubt.  

20...\d6  
The queen is immune, since 20...\xb3 allows mate by 21 \c6+ \c7 22 \d8++ \xc6 23 \d7#.  
If 20...\xg2 White executes one of several threats with 21 \e6+! \xe6 22 \xe6  
25 \c5+ 23 \x5 \xc5+ 24 \xg2, threatening 25 \b4, and the black queen will soon be forced to give up control of b6 and e7; after both 24...\c2+ and 24...\xg5+ White plays 25 \h1 and Black is defenceless. 24...\f8 is met by 25 \f8+ \xf8  
26 \f1 \c5 27 \e8+ \c7 28 \xa8.
The most convincing reply to 20...\(\text{\textit{xf7}}\) is 21 \(\text{\textit{xf7}}\), threatening 22 \(\text{\textit{c6+}}\) and 22 \(\text{\textit{e6#}}\).

21 \(\text{\textit{xe3}}\)

Here there is more than one way to win; 21 \(\text{\textit{c1}}\) is also sufficient.

21...\(\text{\textit{xa}}\)4 22 \(\text{\textit{e6+}}\)

It is more convincing to bring the a1-rook into play with 22 \(\text{\textit{c1!}}, \) but the bad position of Black’s king is irreparable in any case.

22...\(\text{\textit{xe6}}\) 23 \(\text{\textit{b6+ \textit{c7}}}\) 24 \(\text{\textit{xe6 \textit{d4+}}\) 25 \(\text{\textit{h1 \textit{e5}}}\) 26 \(\text{\textit{h3}}\)

Black has avoided a snap checkmate, but has no way to improve his position substantially.

26...\(\text{\textit{b8}}\)

26...\(\text{\textit{wxg5}}\) offers White a wide choice of winning continuations, such as 27 \(\text{\textit{xe4 \textit{b8}}}\) 28 \(\text{\textit{af1}}, \) with an extra pawn and the attack.

27 \(\text{\textit{af1}}\) 28 \(\text{\textit{g6}}\) 1-0

28 \(\text{\textit{c1}}\) is more direct, but this move does not affect the outcome.

417)  
Kamsky – Ponomariov

Sofia 2006

36 \(\text{\textit{e6+}}\)

The queen transfers to the kingside with gain of tempo, and the defending forces find themselves badly outnumbered.

36...\(\text{\textit{b1+}}\) 37 \(\text{\textit{h2}}\) \(\text{\textit{fxe6}}\) 38 \(\text{\textit{h5!}}\)

Threatening both 39 \(\text{\textit{wxg8+}}\) and 39 \(\text{\textit{f7+}}\).

38...\(\text{\textit{xd6}}\)

38...\(\text{\textit{xf8}}\) loses to 39 \(\text{\textit{g4}}\).

39 \(\text{\textit{xd4 \textit{xf3}}\) 40 \(\text{\textit{gxg7+ \textit{f8}}}\) 41 \(\text{\textit{h6}}\) 1-0

418)  
Movsesian – Short

Sarajevo 2007

27 \(\text{\textit{a1}}\!\)

A move in the style of Réti, whose purpose here is to induce an important weakness in Black’s kingside.

27...\(\text{\textit{f6}}\?)

Black is understandably reluctant to weaken the long diagonal with 27...\(\text{\textit{g6}}, \) since after 28 \(\text{\textit{g4}}\) Black has to open up his king’s position even more with 28...\(\text{\textit{f5}}\) (28...\(\text{\textit{xe7}}\) loses a pawn after 29 \(\text{\textit{h8}}!\) f6 30 \(\text{\textit{xf6}}\)) 29 \(\text{\textit{e5}}\) \(\text{\textit{xe2+}}\) 30 \(\text{\textit{gxf8}}\) 31 \(\text{\textit{f3}}, \) (even better than 31 \(\text{\textit{h8}}\) \(\text{\textit{xe7}}\) 32 \(\text{\textit{f3}}\), with advantage) 31...\(\text{\textit{exd5}}\) 32 \(\text{\textit{dxex1}}\) \(\text{\textit{f6}}\) 33 \(\text{\textit{c3}}\) with stifling pressure.

If 27...\(\text{\textit{g6}}\) then 28 \(\text{\textit{f5}}\)! (28 \(\text{\textit{f2}}\) is also interesting) and the best that Black can do is sacrifice the exchange by 28...\(\text{\textit{e5}}\) 29 \(\text{\textit{dxex5 \textit{dxe5}}}\) 30 \(\text{\textit{dxe5}}, \) with advantage to White.

28 \(\text{\textit{e5}}\!\)

There is no satisfactory defence against the threat of 29 \(\text{\textit{d5}}, \) winning material.

28...\(\text{\textit{b5}}\)

Worse is 28...\(\text{\textit{h8}}\) 29 \(\text{\textit{exd6 \textit{exe2}}}\) 30 \(\text{\textit{dxe2}}\) \(\text{\textit{dxe6}}\) and White won.

419)  
Sachdev – B. Savchenko

Elsinore 2008

32...\(\text{\textit{xd4}}\!\)

After the disappearance of the pawns, the white king will be exposed to a very strong attack, which will prevent him from exploiting the passed h6-pawn.

33 \(\text{\textit{xd4?}}\)

More complicated and more tenacious is 33 \(\text{\textit{h7 \textit{exf5}}}\) 34 \(\text{\textit{h8\textit{+a7}}}\) 35 \(\text{\textit{exe2}}, \) although Black’s attack is very strong after 35...\(\text{\textit{e3?!}}\) 36 \(\text{\textit{exe3 \textit{a3}}}, \) threatening 37...\(\text{\textit{e1+; e.g., 37 \text{\textit{exe3 \textit{c1+}}\) 38 \text{\textit{fxf3 \textit{xf5+}}\) 39 \text{\textit{fxf3 \textit{d2+}}\) 40 \text{\textit{e2 \textit{e4}}} 41 \text{\textit{h5 \textit{e3+}}\) 42 \text{\textit{e1 \textit{axa4},}} and Black wins.

33...\(\text{\textit{b4+}}\) 34 \(\text{\textit{d2}}\)

34 \(\text{\textit{d1}}\) is answered with 34...\(\text{\textit{b1+}}\) 35 \(\text{\textit{d2 \textit{b2}}}\) 36 \(\text{\textit{d1 \textit{xf1}}}\) 37 \(\text{\textit{xf1 \textit{g2}}}, \) forcing 38 \(\text{\textit{gw2}}, \) when Black wins by 38...\(\text{\textit{gxg2}}\) 39 \(\text{\textit{exe6}}\) 40 \(\text{\textit{exe3 \textit{h1+}}}\) and 41...\(\text{\textit{hxh6}}\).

34...\(\text{\textit{xc4 \textit{f1}}}\)

Or 35 \(\text{\textit{xf4 \textit{g1+}}}\) 36 \(\text{\textit{fx2 \textit{f1+}}}\) 37 \(\text{\textit{exe3 \textit{h3+}}}\) 38 \(\text{\textit{exe4 \textit{exe1}}}\) 39 \(\text{\textit{exe1 \textit{exe6}}}\) 40 \(\text{\textit{exe1 \textit{g4}}}\) 41 \(\text{\textit{h7}}\).

35...\(\text{\textit{e3 \textit{exe3}}}\) 36 \(\text{\textit{exe3 \textit{d4}}}\) 37 \(\text{\textit{c3 \textit{d5}}}\) 0-1

420)  
Antunes – Flear

Pau 1988

24 \(\text{\textit{wa8+}}}\) 25 \(\text{\textit{f7 \textit{exf6}}}\)

Not 25 \(\text{\textit{g5+}}}\) \(\text{\textit{e7}}\) 26 \(\text{\textit{f6+ \textit{fxf6}}}\) 27 \(\text{\textit{exe6}}\) and Black wins.

25...\(\text{\textit{c7}}\)

25...\(\text{\textit{exe6}}? \) walks into mate: 26 \(\text{\textit{we8+}}}\) 27 \(\text{\textit{exe3 \textit{f1}}}\) 28 \(\text{\textit{f7+}}}\) 29 \(\text{\textit{g4 \textit{h4}}}\) 30 \(\text{\textit{g3#}}\).

26 \(\text{\textit{exe3 \textit{f1}}}\) 27 \(\text{\textit{wg8! \textit{e1+}}}\) 28 \(\text{\textit{fxf4}}} \textit{1-0}

After 28...\(\text{\textit{e4+}}\) (or 28...\(\text{\textit{g5+}}}\) 29 \(\text{\textit{e3}}} \textit{and there is no adequate defence against 30 \(\text{\textit{f7+}}, \) mating) 29 \(\text{\textit{g3 \textit{exe6}}}\) 30 \(\text{\textit{wxg7+}}, \) White has an extra piece.
This chapter contains the first set of five tests (there are five more tests in Chapter 8 and a further five in Chapter 10). Each test is of roughly equal difficulty, and contains 16 different puzzle positions. Of these positions, two are of level 1 difficulty, four are of level 2, six are of level 3, two are of level 4 and two are of level 5.

Your task is simply to find the best continuation. The number of points available varies from puzzle to puzzle, depending on the difficulty level. 1 point is the maximum for a level 1 puzzle, 2 points for a level 2 puzzle and so on until 5 points is the maximum for level 5. Therefore each test has a maximum number of 46 points on offer.

The number of points given for each puzzle depends on how much you have discovered. Generally if you are able to spot the first move of the solution then you will receive at least half the number of points available for that puzzle. However, more credit will be given if you have seen the key variations to the very end.

I have tried to minimize the number of alternative solutions and have endeavoured to point them out when they exist.

There is no specific time limit for these tests. You should continue until you are satisfied that any more thought will not be of any benefit. As a rough guide, I would say that each set of 16 puzzles should take between one and two hours. In order to obtain realistic test conditions, you should not, of course, move the pieces or use the help of a computer.

Below there is a points score to Elo rating conversion table. To obtain a fairer reflection of your performance, you may wish to take your average mark over a few tests.

**Test Score to Elo Points Conversion Chart**

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Test 1

421
W

422
W

423
W

424
B

425
W

426
W

427
W

428
B
Test 3

453
W

457
W

454
W

458
W

455
W

459
W

456
B

460
W
Test 4

469
W

470
B

471
B

472
W

473
W

474
B

475
W

476
W
Test 5
Answers for Chapter 5

Test 1 Answers

421)  Ja. Bolbochán – Grau  
_ Argentine Ch match (game 7),_  
_Buenos Aires 1936_  
33 \( \text{Wh6}\) 0-1  
Unfortunately for White, just as he was making this winning move, he lost on time. 33...\( \text{Ae7} \) is forced, when 34 \( \text{Axe7 Axe7} \) 35 \( \text{Aa7}! \) wins. 1 point for 33 \( \text{Wh6}\).

422)  Piazzini – O’Donovan  
_Buenos Aires Olympiad 1939_  
48 \( \text{C7} \)  
There are several winning moves, but this is the quickest. A player must never lower his guard; here the nonchalant 48 h6?? would walk into mate in two: 48...\( \text{Ah5}+ \) 49 \( \text{Gg1 Gd1#} \). 48...\( \text{Axc7} \) 49 \( \text{Axc7 f3} \)  
Or 49...\( \text{Ad5} \) 50 \( \text{Axc3 Axh5+} \) 51 \( \text{Ah3 Aa5} \) 52 \( \text{Axf3} \). 50 \( \text{g4 Axd2} \) 51 \( \text{Ag3 Axa2} \) 52 \( \text{Axc3} \)  
and White won. 1 point for 48 \( \text{C7}! \).

423)  Grau – Gudmundsson  
_Stockholm Olympiad 1937_  
35 \( \text{Ab3} \)  
Continuing to dominate d5. 35 \( \text{Xg4+? Ag5} \) 36 \( \text{Wf3} \) \( \text{cxd5} \) gives no advantage, but it is tempting to play 35...\( \text{Xh7+ Afl} \) (35...\( \text{Xh7}+ \) 36 \( \text{We+ Afl} \) 37 \( \text{dxe6} \) wins for White) 36 \( \text{Xg4} \) \( \text{Af6} \) 37 \( \text{C2} \), which is also good for White, but not as strong as the move in the game. 35...\( \text{cxd5} \) 36 \( \text{Axd5+ Ah8} \)  
After 36...\( \text{cxd5} \) 37 \( \text{Axd5 Ah8} \) (if 37...\( \text{Ae6} \) one way to win is 38 \( \text{Xh5 Ab3} \) 39 \( \text{Xhx6} \) 38 \( \text{Cc3+ Xg7} \) 39 \( \text{Xg7+ Xg7} \) 40 \( \text{Axd7} \) White is a pawn up with a winning position. 37 \( \text{Ah7} \)  
and White won. 2 points for 35 \( \text{Ab3} \); if you chose 35...\( \text{Xh7+} \), you receive 1 point.

424)  Grau – Palau  
_Buenos Aires 1939_  
57...\( \text{Ag5+!} \)  
Not 57...\( \text{Ag6?} \) 58 \( \text{Ag8+ Ah5} \) 59 \( \text{Xg4 Xg4} \) 60 \( \text{d6} \) h5 61 e5 h4 62 e6, and White queens first, with a winning endgame. 58 \( \text{d6 Ag6?} \)  
White can’t win after 58...\( \text{Aa5!} \); for example, 59 \( \text{Xf7+ Ag6} \) 60 \( \text{f8} \) 61 \( \text{e7 Aa7}+ \) 62 \( \text{e6 Aa6+} \) 63 \( \text{e5 Aa5+} \) 64 \( \text{f4 Aa4} \). 59 \( \text{e5 Ah5} \) 60 \( \text{Ag8+ Ah5} \) 61 \( \text{e6 Axf6} \) 62 \( \text{e7} \) and White won. 1 point for 57...\( \text{Ag5+!} \) and 1 point extra if you found 58...\( \text{Aa5!} \).

425)  Maderna – Rebizzo  
_Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1953_  
27 \( \text{Ah7} \)  
Forcing the black rook to leave the back rank. 27...\( \text{Ac7} \) 28 \( \text{Ac6}! \) 1-0  
Now there is a double threat of back-rank mate and capturing the c4-bishop, so White wins. 1 point for 27...\( \text{Ah7} \) and 1 point for 28 \( \text{Ac6} \).

426)  Bronstein – Álvarez del Monte  
_Mar del Plata 1960_  
44 \( \text{h6} \)  
First White creates a passed pawn. 44...\( \text{Gxh6} \) 45 \( \text{c4!} \)  
And now he prevents the black bishop from coming back to defend; the threat is 46 \( \text{g7} \). 45...\( \text{Xe7} \)  
After 45...\( \text{bxc4} \) 46 \( \text{Axc4} \) White can’t be prevented from queening. 46 \( \text{d5} \) 47 \( \text{d6} \) 48 \( \text{Ae4} \) 1-0  
If the bishop retreats, then White continues 49 \( \text{c5} \), while after 48...\( \text{Axe4} \) 49 \( \text{d7} \) \( \text{e7} \) 50 \( \text{g7} \) the pawns can’t be stopped. 1 point for 44 \( \text{h6} \) and 1 point for 45 \( \text{c4} \).

427)  Maderna – Luckis  
_Mar del Plata 1942_  
33 \( \text{Ae5+!} \)  
The queen infiltrates the black camp, and the missing white pawn becomes less important than the weakness of the black king. 33...\( \text{Axe5} \) 34 \( \text{Wh7+ Af6} \) 35 \( \text{Xe5} \) 36 \( \text{Ah8} \) 37 \( \text{Xa7} \) 38 \( \text{Wh7} \) 39 \( \text{f4} \) is no good either. 36 \( \text{Xa7} \)  
and White won. With 36 \( \text{f4} \)! White could have won more quickly; for example, 36...\( \text{Ah7} \) (it is important that 36...\( \text{Ah7} \) is refuted by 37 \( \text{Af5+! exf5} \) 38 \( \text{Xe7}+) \) 37 \( \text{fg5+ hXg5} \) 38 \( \text{Afl+} \). 3 points for 33 \( \text{Af5+} \!).
428) L. Cámara – Najdorf
Buenos Aires 1948
29...g4+! 30 hxg4 Wh6+ 31 g3 xg4+
32 Whf3 Wh5!
and White is facing a great loss of material.
2 points for 29...g4+!, and 1 point for
32...Wh5!.

429) Maderna – Shocron
Mar del Plata 1953
36 Whf5!
A strong zwischenzug which wins material.
The black queen has to move to a square from which it still defends both the rook and the knight. Instead, if White ‘routinely’ retreats his queen with 36 Whb1 or 36 Whb2, then Black plays 36...dxc4, with equality.
36...Whc7
After 36...Whb5 37 Whd6 Whc5 38 cxd5 Black is a pawn down without compensation.
37 Whb2!
The point of his previous move: as well as defending the c2-rook the queen attacks g7.
37...d4 38 Whd4
and White won.
2 points for 36 Whf5 and 1 point for 37 Whb2!.

430) Lundin – Ju. Bolbochán
Amsterdam Olympiad 1954
28...f5!
The white knight is a tactical weakness which does irreparable harm to White’s cause.
29 e3
29 Whc3 Whb3 and Black wins material; e.g.,
30 Whc6 (30 Whx7 loses to 30...Whx7 31 Whb1
Whd2+) 30...Whxd1+ 31 Whxd1 Whd2+.
29...Whb3 30 Whx7 Whx7 31 Whb1 Whd3!
Terminating all resistance.
32 bxc5 bxc5 33 Whg1 fxe4 34 Whxe4 Whc3
and Black wins.
2 points for 28...f5! and 1 point for 31...Whd3!.

431) Panno – Spassky
Gothenburg Interzonal 1955
28 Whxe5!
The distant white queen finds a way to join in the attack. Reversing the move-order with 28
Whxe4! and 29 Whxe5! also works.
28...fxe5 29 Whxe4! Whxe4 30 Whh7+ Wh8 31
Whh7+ Whg8 32 Whh8+! Whxh8 33 Whxe5+ 1-0
2 points for 28 Whxe5! and 1 point for 29
Whxe4; making the moves in the reverse order also receives 2 and 1 point(s) respectively.

432) Ju. Bolbochán – Miranda
Rio Hondo Zonal 1966
23 Whxf7!
The most energetic way to take advantage of White’s superior dynamism. The black king is very poorly protected, and this is not the only way through; another possibility, just as strong as the move in the game, is 23 c6!! and then, e.g.,
23...Whxg5 24 Whd7 Whc8 25 Whxf7+ Whf8 26 Whxe7+
Whxf7 27 Whd3.
23...Whxf7 24 Whf8+ Whg8
Or 24...Whf8 25 Whd3 Whc5 26 bxc5! bxc5 27
Whxg6 Whg8 28 Whh7+ Whf8 29 Whg6 followed by
30 Whf7, with forced mate.
25 Whd7 Whc8 26 Whd3 Whc5 27 bxc5 bxc5 28
Whxe7 1-0
3 points for 23 Whxf7!. Also 3 points if you chose 23 c6!!.

433) Spielmann – Mieses
Match (game 8), Regensburg 1910
32 Whc7!!
Allowing a piece to be captured with check!
White threatens to mate with 33 Wha5! or 33
Whb7#.
32...Whf1+ 33 Wha2 Wxc4+ 34 b3 Whb5 35 Wha4
Forcing the clearance of the f1-a6 diagonal.
35...Whb6 36 Wxd3+ Wha5 37 Whc5 Whc5
If 37...Whb4 then 38 Wxd4+.
38 Whxb7!!
Deflecting the white queen once again, this
time from the defence of c5.
38...Whg2+
38...Wxf2+ is similar.
39 Wxa3 Whg4
39...c2 is hopeless; amongst other things
White has 40 Wxa7+ forcing mate: 40...Wxa7
41 b4+ Wxb6 42 Wxf5+ Whb7 43 Whe4+ Whb8 44
Whxf8+ Whc7 45 Wd7 Whc8 46 Wf5+ Whb7 47
Whd8+ Wxb7 48 Wc4+ Wa6 49 b5#.
40 Whxb6 1-0
Winning material and soon mating: 40...axb6
41 Wc7 Wa8 42 Wc6 and mate next move.
4 points for 32 Whc7!!.

434) Grau – Teller
The Hague Olympiad 1928
39...d4?
It was essential to exchange with 39...Wxd2+!, and after 40 Wxd2 it is safe to play 40...Wha8!, since 41 Whh6 can be met by 41...Whc2+ 42 Whh3
(not 42 Whg1 Wha7+) 42...Whf8. If 41 Whh3 then
41...Whc3, while 41 Whh4 gives Black time to
counterattack by 41...d4+ 42 \textit{h}2 d3 43 \textit{w}xd3 \textit{c}1, with advantage to Black.

40 \textit{w}h6!

There is no way for Black to get his queen to f8.

40...\textit{a}8+!

After 40...\textit{xd}2+ 41 \textit{h}3 Black can’t prevent mate.

41 \textit{g}1 1-0

If 41...\textit{xc}1+ then 42 \textit{f}2! wins.

2 points for 39...\textit{xd}2+! and 2 more points for 40...\textit{a}8! (after 40 \textit{xd}2).

435)

Grau – Bensadón

Argentine Ch, La Plata 1938

49 \textit{c}1!!

This is the only move that defends against perpetual check and yields a decisive advantage, since it prepares a winning attack. Queenin the pawn does not win; after 49 b8\textit{w}? Black draws by 49...\textit{c}1+ 50 \textit{g}2 \textit{c}4+ 51 \textit{f}1 \textit{h}1+ 52 \textit{c}2 \textit{f}3+ (or 52...\textit{g}2+) 53 \textit{c}1 \textit{h}1+ 54 \textit{d}2 \textit{g}2+ 55 \textit{d}1 \textit{f}1+ 56 \textit{c}2 \textit{d}3+.

49...\textit{f}3+

It was important to calculate the consequences of 49...d3; once again White has only one good continuation, 50 \textit{h}6+! (forcing the knight to retreat; not 50 b8\textit{w}? when White gets mated after 50...\textit{f}3+ 51 \textit{h}1 \textit{h}4+ 50...\textit{g}6 51 \textit{d}2! and if, e.g., 51...\textit{d}4+ (after 51...\textit{e}5 52 b8\textit{w} \textit{f}3+ 53 \textit{f}2 White soon mates) 52 \textit{f}1 \textit{h}6 then 53 \textit{h}7 (threatening 54 \textit{xd}3) 53...\textit{h}5 54 \textit{d}7! wins; 54 \textit{h}4 is also good.

50 \textit{f}2 \textit{g}5 51 b8\textit{w} \textit{f}3+

51...\textit{h}3+ loses to 52 \textit{f}1 \textit{h}1+ 53 \textit{c}2 \textit{e}4+ 54 \textit{c}2 \textit{e}3+ 55 \textit{c}2.

52 \textit{c}1 \textit{e}4+ 53 \textit{d}1 \textit{h}1+ 54 \textit{c}2 \textit{d}3+ 55 \textit{b}1 1-0

3 points for 49 \textit{c}1!!, and 1 point each for seeing 50 \textit{h}6+! and 51 \textit{d}2! in the line with 49...d3.

436)

Shirov – Yakovenko

Foros 2008

41 \textit{g}2!!

Defending against a possible entry by the black rook, but it is also an attacking move, as we shall see. Objectively 41 \textit{c}2! is also favourable to White, but not as strong as the move in the game; Black has to play 41...b5 (41...\textit{h}2+?! 42 \textit{d}2 \textit{xd}2+ 43 \textit{xd}2 [threatening 44 \textit{h}4 and \textit{h}2] 43...\textit{e}8 44 \textit{d}1! \textit{d}8 45 \textit{a}1+ \textit{g}8 46 \textit{h}2 leads to mate) 42 \textit{xb}5 \textit{h}2+ 43 \textit{d}2 \textit{xd}2+ 44 \textit{xd}2, and Black can try to hold this position.

41...\textit{a}6

There is no hope for Black after 41...\textit{c}6 42 \textit{h}1 \textit{h}1 43 \textit{h}1 \textit{e}6 44 \textit{h}6+ \textit{g}8 45 f5 \textit{xf}5 46 g6 f6xg6 (if 46...\textit{xg}6 then 47 \textit{g}6+ \textit{xf}6 48 \textit{xd}6+) 47 \textit{d}4 \textit{f}7 48 \textit{h}7+ \textit{f}6 49 \textit{h}8+ \textit{e}7 50 \textit{h}4, nor after 41...\textit{e}8 42 \textit{c}2 \textit{d}8 43 \textit{b}1, as Shirov pointed out.

42 \textit{b}2+!

This is one of the points of 41 \textit{g}2!!; the queen is very effective on the long diagonal.

42...\textit{g}8 (D)

43 \textit{c}2!

A beautiful retreat, which completes the transfer of the king to a safe position, and threatens the d6-bishop.

43...\textit{h}2+

Or 43...b5 44 \textit{xd}6 \textit{h}2+ 45 \textit{d}2 \textit{xd}2+ 46 \textit{xd}2 bx\textit{c}4 and now both 47 \textit{h}2! and 47 \textit{f}6! win; e.g., 47...\textit{xb}3+ 48 \textit{b}2 c4 49 \textit{h}2 \textit{c}3+ 50 \textit{b}1 c2+ 51 \textit{c}1 b2+ 52 \textit{xb}2.

44 \textit{d}5\textit{d}2 \textit{xd}2+ 45 \textit{d}2 \textit{b}5 46 \textit{f}6! 1-0

5 points for 41 \textit{g}2!!, 3 points for the prosaic but effective 41 \textit{c}2!.

Test 2 Answers

437)

Villegas – Grau

Mar del Plata 1928

52...d4! 0-1

Winning a piece, since on any move of the knight, 53...d3+ wins. 1 point for 52...d4!!.

438)

Grau – Balogh

The Hague Olympiad 1928

47 \textit{g}6+!
Not $47 \heartsuit h7$?, which would be a serious error on account of $47...\heartsuit f7$ with equality.

$47...\heartsuit xg6$ $48 \heartsuit xg6$ $\heartsuit f6$ $49 \heartsuit h7$ $\heartsuit g7$ $50 \heartsuit d2$

1-0

Heading for e6, followed by $h8\heartsuit +$ and $\heartsuit f7$.

1 point for $47 \heartsuit g6$+.

439) Mecking – Jokšić (variation)

Vršac 1971

26 $\heartsuit xh5$! (this typical sacrifice, followed by another one, wins) $26...g xh5$ $27 \heartsuit f6+$.

1 point for 26 $\heartsuit xh5$! and 1 point for 27 $\heartsuit f6$+.

440) Bilek – Panno

Palma de Mallorca 1972

61...$\heartsuit c3+$! 62 $\heartsuit e3$ $\heartsuit xg7$!

The dangerous white pawn is eliminated, and the black h-pawn is decisive.

63 $\heartsuit e1+$

63 $\heartsuit xg7+$ loses to 63...$\heartsuit f1$ 64 $\heartsuit h7$ $\heartsuit g1$ 65 $\heartsuit g7+$ $\heartsuit g2$.

63...$\heartsuit h3$ 64 $\heartsuit xg7$ $\heartsuit xc4$ 65 $\heartsuit d3$ $\heartsuit e4+$! 66 $\heartsuit xe4$

If 66 $\heartsuit d2$ then one way to win is $66...\heartsuit g4$! 67 $\heartsuit f2+$ $\heartsuit g3$ 68 $\heartsuit xg4+$ $\heartsuit xf2$ and the h-pawn queens.

66...$\heartsuit h1+$ 67 $\heartsuit e3$ $\heartsuit a1$

and Black won.

1 point for finding 61...$\heartsuit c3+$! and 1 point for 62...$\heartsuit xg7$!.

441) Mecking – Timman

Bazna 2008

40 $\heartsuit xb5$!

Creating a passed pawn on the queenside.

40...$\heartsuit x b 5$ 41 $c6$ 1-0

Black resigned after 41...$\heartsuit e8$ 42 $g5$!

White creates another passed pawn on the kingside.

1 point for 40 $\heartsuit xb5$! and 1 point for 42 $g5$.

442) Galić – Minasian

European Clubs Cup, Kallithea 2008

34...$\heartsuit g3+$?

This move should lose; 34...$\heartsuit g3+$! is essential and after 35 $\heartsuit e3$ $\heartsuit xd5$! 36 $d4$ $f2+$ (after 36...$\heartsuit f4+$ 37 $\heartsuit d3$ $f2+$ 38 $\heartsuit e2$ $\heartsuit g5$ 39 $d5$ White can defend) 37 $\heartsuit e2$ $\heartsuit g4+$ 38 $\heartsuit xf2$ $\heartsuit f4+$ 39 $\heartsuit e2$ $\heartsuit xe4+$ 40 $\heartsuit d2$ $\heartsuit xd4$, the game ends in a draw with 41 $\heartsuit f8+$ $\heartsuit h7$ 42 $\heartsuit f7+$.

35 $\heartsuit e3$ $\heartsuit g5+$ 36 $\heartsuit f4$??

The capture 36 $\heartsuit x f 3$! wins; $f8$ is covered and if, e.g., 36...$\heartsuit d6$ then White has 37 $\heartsuit g1$, among other things.

36...$\heartsuit f4$# (0-1)

1 point for 34...$\heartsuit g3+$! and 1 point for 35...$\heartsuit xd5$.

443) Zuckerman – Pomar

Malaga 1968

21...$\heartsuit b 5$! 0-1

White is mated after 22 $c4$ $\heartsuit xc4$ 23 $\heartsuit xc4$ $\heartsuit x f 3+$! 24 $\heartsuit x f 3$ $\heartsuit g1$#.

Both 21...$\heartsuit b 5$! and 21...$\heartsuit a6$ receive 3 points.

444) Lautier – Illescas

Linares 1995

32...$\heartsuit xe2$! 33 $\heartsuit xe2$ $\heartsuit d 5$!

The key move, complementing the previous one. The threat is 34...$b 6$, and if 34 $b5$ $\heartsuit x b 5$ 35 $a x b 5$ $\heartsuit d 6$ 36 $\heartsuit d 2$ $b 6$ 37 $\heartsuit c 6$ $\heartsuit x c 6$ 38 $b x c 6$ $\heartsuit x c 6$ Black wins easily.

0-1

2 points for 32...$\heartsuit xe2$! and 1 point for 33...$\heartsuit d 5$.

445) Gelfand – Illescas

Madrid 1996

18...$\heartsuit g6$!

Beginning a fierce attack and threatening 19...$\heartsuit h 3+$ and 20...$\heartsuit ex f 2$+.

19 $\heartsuit h 1$ $\heartsuit h 3$! 0-1

Black wins a lot of material.

2 points for 18...$\heartsuit g6$! and 1 point for 19...$\heartsuit h 3$.

446) J.P. Gomez – Heberla

Calvia 2006

21 $\heartsuit b 1$!

Forcing a serious weakening.

21...$h 6$

The alternative defence with 21...$g 6$ is impossible on account of 22 $\heartsuit x g 6$! $x g 6$ 23 $\heartsuit x g 6$+$ $h 8$ and now, e.g., 24 $\heartsuit e 5$ $f x e 5$ 25 $\heartsuit x e 5$, with a decisive attack. 21...$g 5$ does not lose material right away, but weakens the position irreparably, and White could then play 22 $\heartsuit f 5$ followed by $h 4$.

22 $\heartsuit h 7+$ $\heartsuit h 8$ 23 $\heartsuit h 4$!

Exploiting the hole created at $g 6$.

23...$g 5$

This loses, but there is nothing better.

24 $\heartsuit g 6+$ $\heartsuit g 7$ 25 $\heartsuit f 8$!
Note the important role played by the b4-bishop.

25...\text{xf}8 26 \text{g}6+ \text{h}8 27 \text{xf}8 \text{xh}7 28 \text{xf}6+
winning quickly.

2 points for 21 \text{b}1! and 1 point extra if you saw 23 \text{h}4!.

447) Magalashvili – Lajthajm
Kavala 2008

68 \text{f}5?
After this move the game should end in a draw. Instead, 68 \text{e}6! wins; it is important that 68...\text{h}6? loses to 69 \text{f}7! \text{g}7+ (69...\text{xd}6? 70 \text{h}5+) 70 \text{xg}7 \text{xd}6 71 \text{g}5. Also losing is 68...\text{e}3+ 69 \text{e}5+ \text{xe}5+ 70 \text{xe}5 \text{h}6+ 71 \text{d}7 c3 72 d6, followed by 73 \text{c}5.

68...\text{d}3+ 69 \text{e}6?
69 \text{g}4! \text{d}1+ 70 \text{f}5 draws.
0-1
White resigned without waiting for 69...\text{h}6+ 70 \text{d}7 \text{xd}6+ 71 \text{xd}6 c3.
2 points for 68 \text{e}6! and 1 point for 69 \text{f}7!.

448) Navara – Svidler
FIDE Grand Prix, Sochi 2008
48 h3! (preparing the stalemate) 48...\text{e}8 49 \text{xb}3! \text{xb}3 ½-½.
2 points for 48 h3! and 1 point for 49 \text{xb}3!.

449) Villegas – Pulcherio
Mar del Plata 1928
29...\text{dxc}3?
Now White wins. Instead, 29...\text{fxg}6! is an adequate defence: 30 \text{f}7+ \text{f}8 31 \text{f}xe8 \text{++} \text{xe}8 32 \text{b}3 \text{c}7! (the only good way to protect f7, so it is important to have seen this) 33 \text{f}8+ \text{d}7 34 \text{f}7+ \text{e}6! 35 \text{xe}7 \text{xf}8 36 \text{xb}7 \text{dxc}3 37 \text{xe}7 (if 37...\text{f}3) 37...\text{d}8 38 \text{xe}6+ \text{e}5, and Black’s active king, plus the threat of 39...\text{d}1+ followed by 40...\text{d}2+ or 40...\text{a}1, depending on White’s next move, gives him good drawing chances.

30 \text{xe}7+ \text{h}8 31 \text{h}7+! \text{xb}7 32 \text{f}5+ \text{h}6 33 \text{h}3+ \text{g}6 34 \text{g}3+ \text{h}6 35 \text{g}7+ 1-0
3 points for 29...\text{fxg}6! and 1 point extra for 32...\text{xc}7!.

450) Bronstein – Bazán
Mar del Plata 1960
37 \text{f}5!
Forcing a winning pawn ending.

37...\text{fe}8 38 \text{fxe}6+ \text{xe}6 39 \text{xe}6 \text{xe}6 40 \text{f}3 \text{e}7
After 40...\text{xe}3+ 41 \text{xe}3 \text{e}7 42 \text{e}4 \text{e}6 43 a4, followed by 44 d5, White is able to advance his king, and after playing b5 to deflect the black king, White’s king can invade the kingside and capture the black pawns, as would have happened in the game had Black not resigned.

41 \text{xe}7+ \text{xe}7 42 \text{e}4 \text{e}6 43 a3 \text{f}7 1-0
Let’s look at a few lines to illustrate the above commentary: 44 d5 cxd5+ (or 44...\text{e}7 45 d6+ \text{xe}6 46 \text{f}4 \text{f}7 47 \text{f}5 and 48 \text{g}6) 45 \text{xd}5 \text{e}7 (45...\text{g}6 is met by 46 a4 f5 47 \text{gx}f5 \text{gxh}5 48 \text{b}5 \text{h}4 49 \text{e}4) 46 a4 \text{d}7 47 b5 axb5 48 axb5 \text{e}7 49 c6.
4 points for 37 \text{f}5!.

451) Rossetto – Pilnik
Buenos Aires 1947
46 \text{d}3! \text{c}2+
46...\text{xe}5 is not a worry, since White can then play, for instance, 47 \text{xa}3 \text{d}4 48 \text{a}5 \text{g}6 49 \text{c}6.
47 \text{b}3?
Here 47 \text{c}4! equalizes, as after 47...\text{xe}5 48 \text{c}3! the knight can’t escape: if 48...\text{d}4 or 48...\text{c}1 then 49 \text{e}3+, while 48...\text{c}1 is met by 49 \text{a}3.

47...\text{xe}5 48 \text{xc}2 \text{xc}5 0-1
White didn’t want to defend the difficult ending a pawn down after 49 \text{b}3 (49 \text{d}2? \text{d}5) 49...\text{g}5; with his king over on the queenside he has little hope.
3 points for 46 \text{d}3! and 2 points for 47 \text{c}4!!.

452) Foguelman – F. Olafsson
Mar del Plata 1960
The game continued 35 \text{h}7+? \text{f}8 36 \text{b}3 and with 36...\text{gx}g2 Black gained a decisive advantage and went on to win.
Instead 35 \text{xe}6!! wins, stripping away the black king’s defences; then 35...\text{fxe}6? loses to 36 \text{xe}6+ \text{h}8 37 \text{e}8+, matting. And if 35...\text{f}5, then after 36 \text{e}8+ \text{f}7 (or 36...\text{xe}8 37 \text{c}4+ \text{e}6 38 \text{xe}6+ \text{f}8 39 \text{h}8+ \text{e}7 40 \text{xf}5+ \text{d}6 41 \text{d}8+ 37 \text{e}4+ \text{d}5 38 \text{xd}5+ \text{xd}5 White has many winning moves, among which the most convincing is 39 \text{f}8+! \text{g}6 (39...\text{xf}8 loses more quickly; 40 \text{h}8+= \text{f}7 41 \text{e}8+= \text{f}6 42 \text{e}6#) 40 \text{e}6+ \text{f}6 41 \text{xf}6+ \text{gx}6 42 \text{g}8+.
5 points for 35 \text{xe}6!!.
Test 3 Answers

453) Ju. Bolbochán – Iliesco
Mar del Plata 1941

19...\textit{\&g5?!} \textit{\&xf7}
19...\textit{\&b6?} loses to 20 \textit{\&f6#}.
20 \textit{\&xd8}
and White won.
1 point for 19 \textit{\&g5}!.

454) Maderna – Villegas
La Plata 1944

14 \textit{\&h5!} \textit{\&xb5}
Black is forced to give up his queen, since
14...\textit{\&b8} is met by 15 \textit{\&xd6} \textit{\&xd6} 16 \textit{\&b4}.
15 \textit{\&xc7}
with a decisive material advantage.
1 point for 14 \textit{\&b5}!.

455) Reca – Palau
Buenos Aires 1921

18 \textit{\&e6!}
Since White is a piece down, 18 \textit{\&xd7}?
\textit{\&xf7} would be a bad deal.
18...\textit{\&h5}
Not 18...\textit{\&f8}? 19 \textit{\&h6!} \textit{\&xh6} 20 \textit{\&xh6#}.
19 \textit{\&e5+} \textit{\&h8} 20 \textit{\&xd7} \textit{\&xg5} 21 \textit{\&f7+} \textit{\&g8} 22 \textit{\&xg5}
with two extra pawns and an attack.
2 points for 18 \textit{\&e6}!.

456) Da Cunha – Grau
Montevideo 1925

14...\textit{\&a5!} 15 \textit{\&c5}
15 \textit{\&d5?} \textit{\&xd5} attacks the e3-bishop.
15...\textit{\&b3} 16 \textit{\&d1} \textit{\&xa1} 17 \textit{\&xb6} \textit{\&c2} 18
\textit{\&f2} \textit{\&xb6} 19 \textit{\&d3} \textit{\&xd3} 20 \textit{\&xd3} \textit{\&xa3} 21
\textit{\&a1} \textit{\&b6}
with a material advantage; 21...\textit{\&b5!} 22 \textit{\&xa3}
\textit{\&b4} was even stronger.
2 points for 14...\textit{\&a5}!.

457) Rauch – F. Benko
Buenos Aires 1945

20 \textit{\&e7+!}
Not 20 \textit{\&xh6+?} \textit{\&g7} 21 \textit{\&h4} \textit{\&h8}, with ad-

tantage to Black.
20...\textit{\&h7} 21 \textit{\&f3}
and White soon won.
2 points for 20 \textit{\&e7+}!.

458) F. Benko – De Ronde
Buenos Aires 1945

22 \textit{\&xf7}!
The quickest; 22 \textit{\&h3} and 22 \textit{\&xf6+} are also
good but not as strong as the move played.
22...\textit{\&xf7} 23 \textit{\&xh6+} \textit{\&h7} 24 \textit{\&xf6+} \textit{\&g7}
25 \textit{\&h3}
and White won.
2 points for 22 \textit{\&xf7}! 1 point for 22 \textit{\&h3} or
22 \textit{\&xf6+}.

459) Najdorf – Frenkel
Lodz 1928

18 \textit{\&e6!}
Threatening mate.
18...\textit{\&xg7}?!?
18...\textit{\&d5} offers more resistance, although after
19 \textit{\&e7+} \textit{\&xf7} 20 \textit{\&g5} \textit{\&xg7} 21 \textit{\&e1} \textit{\&c7}
22 \textit{\&h6} \textit{\&g8} 23 \textit{\&h7}, the black king stranded
in the centre will be hunted to death by the white
pieces. 18...\textit{\&xg4} loses to 19 \textit{\&xf7+} \textit{\&d7} 20
\textit{\&ad1}+, followed by 21 \textit{\&xd8} and White queens.
19 \textit{\&fx7!} \textit{\&hxg4}
If 19...\textit{\&xg7} then one way to win is 20 \textit{\&xg6}
\textit{\&d6} 21 \textit{\&f1}.
20 \textit{\&xg7} \textit{\&f8} 21 \textit{\&xg6} 1-0
White mates after 21...\textit{\&b6} 22 \textit{\&xb6} \textit{\&d5}
23 \textit{\&f1}+.
3 points for 18 \textit{\&e6}!.

460) Ju. Bolbochán – Villegas
Mar del Plata 1944

31 \textit{\&xe7}! 1-0
It is mate after 31...\textit{\&xe7} 32 \textit{\&xf8+} \textit{\&xf8} 33
\textit{\&d8+} \textit{\&e8} 34 \textit{\&c5+}.
3 points for 31 \textit{\&xe7}!.

461) Ju. Bolbochán – R. Sanguinetti
La Plata 1945

41 \textit{\&h6}! 1-0
The f6-pawn is decisive; after 41...\textit{\&g6} 42
\textit{\&xf8+!} White wins a rook.
2 points for 41 \textit{\&h6}! and 1 point extra if you saw
42 \textit{\&xf8+}!.

462) Beretta – Lipinkis
Argentine Ch. Buenos Aires 1946

23 \textit{\&f6}! 1-0
Not 23 \textit{\&h6?} on account of 23...\textit{\&f6}. In con-
trast, now there is no defence against 24 \textit{\&h6}.
3 points for 23 \textit{\&f6}!.

463) Eliskases – Najdorf
Buenos Aires 1947

45...\textit{\&b6}!!
The rook defends Black's third rank and threatens 46...$\text{f6}$.  
46 $\text{xe}8$? loses to 46...$\text{xd3}$+.  
46...$\text{h7}$ 47 $\text{xe}2$  
47 $\text{gxg2}$ $\text{xd8}$ 48 $\text{xd8}$ $\text{g6}$+ 49 $\text{h2}$ $\text{xfg1}$  
50 $\text{xe1}$ $\text{xe6}$ leads to a winning endgame.  
47...$\text{he6}$  
and Black went on to won.  
Better was 47...$\text{xb2}$+! 48 $\text{xe3}$ $\text{h2}$! 49 $\text{g3}$  
($49 \text{wxh2}$ $\text{xd8}$ is easy for Black) 49...$\text{xe4}$+!  
50 $\text{xe4}$ $\text{c4}$+ 51 $\text{e3}$ $\text{h3}$, with a decisive advantage; e.g., 52 $\text{wh3}$ $\text{hxh3}$ 53 $\text{dg8}$ $\text{wd4}$+  
54 $\text{e2}$ $\text{c4}$.  
3 points for 45...$\text{b6}$!!.

464)  
L. Cámara – Ståhlberg  
Buenos Aires 1948

23 $\text{wb5}$?!  
White has a big advantage after 23 $\text{xf7}$+!  
$\text{xf7}$ (if 23...$\text{h8}$ then simply 24 $\text{b1}$) 24  
$\text{xf7}$+ $\text{h7}$ 25 $\text{f5}$+ $\text{g8}$ 26 $\text{b1}$.  
23...$\text{xe1}$+ 24 $\text{xe1}$ $\text{xe1}$+ 0-1  
25 $\text{f1}$ $\text{h2}$+ is winning for Black.  
2 points for 23 $\text{xf7}$+! and 1 point for 25  
$\text{wxf5}$+!.

465)  
Ju. Bolbochán – Reinhardt  
Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1960

57 $\text{xd4}$!  
This exchange is the start of a winning manoeuvre to exploit the extra pawn.  
57...$\text{xd4}$ 58 $\text{d1}$!  
Zugzwang: Black has to move either the g-pawn or the king; in the latter case White plays  
59 $\text{g6}$ and $\text{g5}$, winning easily.  
58...$\text{g6}$+ 59 $\text{h6}$!  
But not 59 $\text{fxg6}$?? $\text{g7}$ 60 $\text{g5}$ $\text{f5}$, and now it  
is White who is in zugzwang; if 61 $\text{a4}$? then  
61...$\text{e2}$ and mate next move!  
59...$\text{gxf5}$ 60 $\text{g5}$!  
The passed pawn wins.  
60...$\text{fxg5}$ 61 $\text{hxg5}$ $\text{f4}$ 62 $\text{g6}$+ $\text{f6}$  
If 62...$\text{g8}$ then 63 $\text{g4}$ $\text{f3}$ 64 $\text{e6}$+ $\text{xe6}$  
65 $\text{dxe6}$ $\text{f2}$ 66 $\text{e7}$ $\text{f1}$ $\text{w7}$ 67 $\text{e8w}$+ $\text{w8}$+ 68 $\text{xf8}$+  
$\text{wxh7}$.  
63 $\text{g4}$! $\text{f3}$ 64 $\text{g7}$ $\text{f2}$ 65 $\text{g8w}$ $\text{f5}$+ 66 $\text{xf5}$  
1-0  
3 points for 57 $\text{xd4}$! and 1 point for 58  
$\text{d1}$!!.

466)  
Amado – Scnabino  
Buenos Aires 1963

18...$\text{xc3}$!  
White has an extra piece, but his king is  
very exposed. All Black's pieces are active,  
and there is a devastating finish.  
19 $\text{w-e1}$  
19 $\text{wxc3}$ is met by 19...$\text{xe4}$+.  
19...$\text{xe3}$!  
19...$\text{wxe3}$?? 20 $\text{f1}$ is a less convincing  
continuation.  
20 $\text{f1}$ $\text{w-f6}$+ 21 $\text{f2}$ $\text{xe2}$! 0-1  
22 $\text{xe2}$ $\text{w6}$+ and mate.  
2 points for 18...$\text{xc3}$! and 2 points for  
19...$\text{xe3}$!.

467)  
Tukmakov – Panno  
Buenos Aires 1970

21 $\text{e6}$!! 1-0  
The uncomfortable position of Black's king  
and the aggressive deployment of the white  
pieces combine to produce this elegant finish. If  
21...$\text{exd}$ then 22 $\text{xd}$ $\text{f6}$ 23 $\text{xf6}$ $\text{xf6}$ 24  
$\text{h7+}$ $\text{g8}$ 25 $\text{gxf6}$+ $\text{h7}$ 26 $\text{g7}$+ $\text{h8}$  
27 $\text{h7}$+ $\text{g8}$ 28 $\text{h8}$, while 21...$\text{xe6}$ is  
punished by 22 $\text{gxf6}$+ $\text{h7}$ 23 $\text{f6}$+ $\text{f6}$  
(worse is 23...$\text{f7}$ 24 $\text{h5}$) 24 $\text{xf6}$+ $\text{f8}$ 25  
$\text{xe7}$+, with a decisive material advantage and  
an attack.  
Also winning was 21 $\text{h7}$+ $\text{h7}$ 22  
$\text{wxe4}$+ $\text{f5}$ 23 $\text{h4}$+ $\text{h6}$ 24 $\text{xe7}$.  
5 points for 21 $\text{e6}$!! and 4 points for 21  
$\text{h7}$+!.

468)  
Fischer – García Palermo  
Buenos Aires (simul) 1971

12...$\text{xe4}$!!  
An amazing winning move; Black's deadly  
threats of 13...$\text{w2}$ and 13...$\text{h4}$ are  
an answerable.  
13 $\text{d7}$+  
13 $\text{wxe4}$ allows 13...$\text{h4}$+ 14 $\text{g3}$ $\text{g3}$+ 15  
$\text{f1}$ $\text{f2}$#, while if 13 $\text{xb7}$ there is only one  
move, but it wins: 13...$\text{b8}$!  
13...$\text{xd7}$ 14 $\text{xd7}$+ $\text{xd7}$ 15 $\text{xe4}$ $\text{c6}$  
0-1  
5 points for 12...$\text{xe4}$!!.

Test 4 Answers

469)  
Ju. Bolbochán – R. Sanguinetti  
La Plata 1944

21 $\text{xe6}$! 1-0  
With a decisive material advantage.  
1 point for 21 $\text{xe6}$!.
470) Falcón – Guimard  
*Buenos Aires 1945*

24...\(\text{fxe}2\) 25 \(\text{wx}e2\) f3 0-1  
26...\(\text{wh}3\) is coming next.  
1 point for 24...\(\text{fxe}2\)!

471) Maderna – Najdorf  
*Buenos Aires 1945*

28...\(\text{ff}4!\) 29 \(\text{wd}3\)  
The capture 29 \(\text{gxf}4\) leads to a win for Black after 29...\(\text{g}4+\) 30 \(\text{hh}2\) \(\text{wxh}4+\) 31 \(\text{gg}2\) \(\text{xf}4\).  
29...\(\text{e}4\) 30 \(\text{wd}7\)  
30 \(\text{dd}4\) offers more resistance but after 30...\(\text{xd}4\) 31 \(\text{xd}4\) e3! 32 \(\text{gxf}4\) \(\text{g}4+\) 33 \(\text{hh}2\) \(\text{exd}2\) 34 \(\text{xd}2\) \(\text{xb}4+\) 35 \(\text{gg}1\) \(\text{xf}4\) Black has an extra pawn and an attack.  
30...\(\text{xd}7\) 0-1  
31 \(\text{xd}7\) is met by 31...\(\text{xf}2\)!.  
2 points for 28...\(\text{ff}4\)!

472) Czerniak – Hand  
*Buenos Aires 1945*

41 \(\text{h}4+?!\) only draws.  
41...\(\text{h}4+\) 1-0  
White’s attack is quicker: 41...\(\text{g}6\) 42 \(\text{g}6+\) \(\text{g}8\) 43 \(\text{hx}e4\) \(\text{g}5\) 44 \(\text{h}h6+\) \(\text{ah}8\) 45 \(\text{g}7\). No better is 41...\(\text{g}5\) 42 \(\text{xf}4\), while if 41...\(\text{g}5\) then 42 \(\text{f}x\) threatens both 43 \(\text{xf}6+\) and 43 \(\text{f}e7+\), and now, for example, 42...\(\text{e}3\) 43 \(\text{h}6+\) \(\text{g}7\) 44 \(\text{h}7+\) \(\text{f}8\) 45 \(\text{h}8\).  
2 points for 41 \(\text{h}4+\)!

473) Maderna – Michel  
*Buenos Aires 1945*

30 \(\text{xd}5+!\)  
Not only winning a centre pawn but also bringing another piece into the attack and opening lines against the black king.  
30...\(\text{f}8\) 31 \(\text{e}4\) \(\text{c}3\)  
31...\(\text{xe}4\) 32 \(\text{xe}4\) \(\text{xd}4+\) 33 \(\text{f}1\) does not help, since \(\text{g}7\) is still under attack, while 31...\(\text{h}7\) is met by 32 \(\text{h}4\).  
32 \(\text{bxc}3\) \(\text{bxc}3\) 33 \(\text{h}4\) \(\text{g}6\) 34 \(\text{f}6+\) 1-0  
2 points for 30 \(\text{xd}5+\)!

474) Ju. Bolbochán – Rossetto  
*Argentine Ch match (game 7), Buenos Aires 1948*

35...\(\text{xe}2\)! gains a decisive material advantage: 36 \(\text{xe}2\) \(\text{xd}5+\) 37 \(\text{f}3\) \(\text{xf}3+\) 38 \(\text{xf}3\) \(\text{xd}4\) 0-1.  
2 points for 35...\(\text{xe}2\)!

475) Najdorf – Guimard  
*Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1949*

31 \(\text{h}5+!\)  
It is forced mate; 31 \(\text{e}8+\) also wins.  
31...\(\text{xe}2\)  
31...\(\text{gxh}5\)  
31...\(\text{gxh}5\) is met by 32 \(\text{h}6+\) \(\text{h}6\) 33 \(\text{f}8\)#, while if 31...\(\text{h}7\) it is mate in seven, as Najdorf demonstrated after the game: 32 \(\text{f}7+\) \(\text{xf}7\) 33 \(\text{f}7+\) \(\text{g}8\) 34 \(\text{g}8+\) \(\text{h}4\) 35 \(\text{f}7+\) \(\text{f}6\) 36 \(\text{f}6+\) \(\text{e}8\) 37 \(\text{g}6+\) \(\text{f}8\) 38 \(\text{f}8\)#.  
32 \(\text{f}8+\) \(\text{h}7\) 33 \(\text{f}7+\) \(\text{xf}7\) 34 \(\text{f}7+\) \(\text{e}8\) 35 \(\text{f}8+\) 1-0  
It is mate after 35...\(\text{g}7\) 36 \(\text{g}6+\) \(\text{f}8\) 37 \(\text{f}1+\).  
3 points for 31 \(\text{h}5+!\); also 3 points if you chose 31 \(\text{e}8+\)!

476) Najdorf – de Souza Mendes  
*Mar del Plata 1959*

28 \(\text{h}3!\)  
With the elimination of Black’s most effective defensive piece, all resistance is brought to an end.  
28...\(\text{xd}3\) 29 \(\text{g}6+\) \(\text{f}8\) 30 \(\text{g}xh3\) \(\text{d}7\)  
Or 30...\(\text{c}7\) 31 \(\text{h}6+\) \(\text{e}7\) 32 \(\text{g}7\) \(\text{f}8\) 33 \(\text{g}6+\).  
31 \(\text{xd}7+\) 1-0  
3 points for 28 \(\text{h}3!\).

477) R. Sanguinetti – Pachman  
*Mar del Plata 1959*

68...\(\text{d}5!\)  
Preparing to force the white king away; now 69 \(\text{xe}3?\) loses to 69...\(\text{f}5+\) 70 \(\text{f}4\) \(\text{e}5+\).  
69 \(\text{a}8\) \(\text{f}5+\) 70 \(\text{g}2\) \(\text{f}2+\) 71 \(\text{g}1\) \(\text{f}1+\)!  
0-1  
The quickest way.  
3 points for 68...\(\text{d}5!\).

478) Ju. Bolbochán – German  
*São Paulo Zonal 1960*

37 \(\text{e}8!\)  
White seems to have problems, but with this move he begins a winning manoeuvre. If now 37...\(\text{xe}4\) then 38 \(\text{xc}4+\) wins the exchange.  
37...\(\text{a}5\) 38 \(\text{c}7+\) \(\text{f}8\)?  
38...\(\text{d}8\) loses to 39 \(\text{e}5+!\) \(\text{xe}4\) 40 \(\text{xc}4+\).  
39 \(\text{f}6#\) 1-0  
2 points for 37 \(\text{e}8!\) and 1 point for 38 \(\text{c}7!\).

479) Van Ketel – Pavlović  
*Leiden 2008*

35...\(\text{g}4+!\)
Much less appropriate is 35...\texttt{a}a1? since after 36 \texttt{a}xb4! matters are far from clear, but 35...\texttt{e}e5+! is also good; e.g., 36 \texttt{e}xe5 \texttt{x}xe5 37 \texttt{x}xe5 (or 37 \texttt{xf}x6 \texttt{xf}x6 38 \texttt{xf}x6 \texttt{c}c5! and the black pawns are much more advanced and will prove decisive) 37...\texttt{g}g4+ 38 \texttt{hx}xg4 \texttt{x}xe5+ 39 \texttt{g}3 b3.

36 \texttt{hx}xg4

If 36 \texttt{g}g3 then 36...\texttt{e}e5+ 37 \texttt{x}xg4 \texttt{xf}3+ 38 \texttt{x}f3 \texttt{dx}d6, and Black wins.

36...\texttt{e}e5+ 37 \texttt{exe}5 \texttt{exe}5+ 38 \texttt{exe}5 \texttt{exe}5 39 \texttt{f}f6 \texttt{c}c5 0-1

Once again the black pawns will have the final say.

3 points for 35...\texttt{g}g4+!. Also 3 points if you chose 35...\texttt{e}e5+!, which has a similar outcome via a different move-order.

480) Roktim – Vishnu

\textit{Indian Ch, Chennai 2008}

19 \texttt{d}d4!

Black has an extra piece at the moment. However, this move threatens to win material and also prepares an attack on the black king, and it is not possible to parry both threats. 19 \texttt{f}f6+ \texttt{e}e7 20 \texttt{d}d4! is also good, but not as strong.

19...\texttt{e}e7

If 19...b5 then 20 \texttt{hd}1, winning at least a rook: 20...\texttt{f}6 (20...\texttt{b}7?? walks into a mate: 21 \texttt{xf}6+ \texttt{e}e7 22 \texttt{d}d7#) 21 \texttt{xf}8 \texttt{xf}8 22 \texttt{d}d8+ \texttt{f}7 23 \texttt{xf}8+ \texttt{g}7 24 \texttt{d}d8.

20 \texttt{xf}8 \texttt{d}d7 21 \texttt{xe}7 \texttt{xe}7 22 \texttt{xc}4 with a decisive advantage.

3 points for 19 \texttt{d}d4!. 2 points if you chose 19 \texttt{f}f6+ \texttt{e}e7 20 \texttt{d}d4!.

481) Najdorf – R. García

\textit{Mar del Plata 1965}

39...\texttt{exe}1+?

There is no hurry to take the queen. Black can gain the advantage with 39...c3!

a) 40 \texttt{c}c7? is bad, because it puts the knight out of play. Therefore Black plays 40...c2 since now 41 \texttt{f}f1 does not threaten anything and Black continues 41...\texttt{e}e4 42 \texttt{g}g8+ \texttt{h}6 43 \texttt{e}e5+ \texttt{h}6!, when his mating attack strikes first.

b) 40 \texttt{d}d6 c2 (threatening to queen) 41 \texttt{f}f1 and now Black must take the queen, but the bishop is loose after 41...\texttt{exe}1 (this time 41...\texttt{e}e1? walks into mate after 42 \texttt{e}e8+ \texttt{g}7 43 \texttt{e}e5+ \texttt{h}6 44 \texttt{h}8+ \texttt{g}7 45 \texttt{xe}7#) 42 \texttt{exe}1 \texttt{b}3! 43 \texttt{c}c1 \texttt{b}1 44 \texttt{xc}2 \texttt{xf}1+ 45 \texttt{g}g2 \texttt{f}4, or 45...\texttt{d}d1, and Black can play for a win.

40 \texttt{exe}1 c3 41 \texttt{c}c7 c2 42 \texttt{c}c1 \texttt{xh}3 43 \texttt{xc}2

and White won.

4 points for 39...c3!.

482) Mecking – Kavalek

\textit{Sousse Interzonal 1967}

52 \texttt{a}a7+!

It is the right moment to counterattack.

52...\texttt{h}6

If 52...\texttt{g}8 then 53 \texttt{b}8+ \texttt{g}7 54 \texttt{c}7+ and Black has to play 54...\texttt{h}6, since 54...\texttt{g}8 55 \texttt{d}8+ is winning for White; for example, 55...\texttt{g}7 56 \texttt{e}7+ \texttt{g}8 57 \texttt{xf}6, with a mating attack.

53 \texttt{w}e7! 1-0

The knight can’t be defended, and 53...\texttt{g}4+ loses to 54 \texttt{xf}4!, in view of 54...\texttt{hx}4? 55 \texttt{h}7#.

2 points for 52 \texttt{a}a7+! and 2 points for 53 \texttt{w}e7!.

483) Mahía – Quinteros

\textit{Los Polvorines 1980}

24 \texttt{g}g6!!

Two pieces down(!), White finds this brilliant move, which prevents the black queen from defending the h7-square. The continuation is forced.

24...\texttt{xf}6 25 \texttt{xf}6

Threatening 26 \texttt{xf}h7+.

25...\texttt{e}e7 26 \texttt{xf}7!

Not the only way to win, but definitely the prettiest and the quickest.

26...\texttt{xf}7 27 \texttt{g}8+! \texttt{xf}8 28 \texttt{xf}h7+ 1-0

It is mate in three.

4 points for 24 \texttt{g}g6!! and 1 point extra for 26 \texttt{xf}7!.

484) Dreev – Mukhutdinov

\textit{St Petersburg 1993}

39 \texttt{xc}3!

At first sight this appears to lose; 39 \texttt{xd}6!?

\texttt{cxd}6 40 \texttt{xc}3 \texttt{d}d1+ 41 \texttt{g}1 should also win, but Black can still fight.

39...\texttt{d}d1+ 40 \texttt{g}1 \texttt{f}f1 41 \texttt{e}5+! 1-0

This is the point: White will mate with 42 \texttt{h}3+.

4 points for 39 \texttt{xc}3! and 1 point extra for 41 \texttt{e}5+!. 3 points choosing 39 \texttt{xd}6?!.
Test 5 Answers

485) Lynch – Michel
Buenos Aires 1945

25...h4!
This pin is decisive.
26...xh8 27 d1 xd2+ 0-1
1 point for 25...h4!.

486) Najdorf – Hand
Buenos Aires 1945

34 h8+! d8
Losing the a7-pawn, but there is no alternative; 34...e7? loses to 35 c6+ e6 36 c8+ d5 37 d4+ f4 38 g3#.
35 xd8+ xd8 36 c6+ e7 37 xxa7
c6 38 g3 d6 39 c8+ e7 40 e7 1-0
1 point for 34 h8+!

487) Guimard – Najdorf
Buenos Aires 1948

41...xf3! 0-1
After 42 gxh3 d6+ 44 h1 g3+ 45 g1 h2+ 46 f1 xf2#.
2 points for 41...xf3!.

488) Iliescu – Guimard
Buenos Aires 1948

27...h5!
Threatening 28...f8#.
28 e5 f8+ 29 e4 d2+ 30 d3 xf1 0-1
2 points for 27...h5!.

489) Maderna – García Vera
Santa Fe 1948

34 w3!
There is no satisfactory defence against the
queen invasion at h7.
34...d2
34...g6 loses to 35 xf7! xf7 36 xg6+ f8 37 d7.
35 w7+ f8 36 w8+ e7 37 c8+ xxc8
38 xc8 1-0
2 points for 34 w3!.

490) Agdestein – Aagaard
Dresden Olympiad 2008

76...f3+!
The pawn ending is won.
77 xf3 gxf3 78 xf3 h6!
The only way to win.
79 g4 g6 0-1
1 point for finding 76...f3+! and 1 point for 78...h6!.

491) Panchanathan – Sundararajan
Badalona 2008

17...xe4!!
The most elegant and most convincing way.
17...g6?! is also strong, while 17...g4?! had
been played successfully in an earlier game.
18 xe4 wh4 19 g2 g4!
19...f1!, with the idea of 20...g4, was
also strong.
20 df 0-1
The threats of 21...xh3 and 21...xc2, with
a quick mate, are unanswerable.
3 points for 17...xe4!! and 2 points for
17...g6?! or 17...g4.?

492) Dziuba – Onischuk
Najdorf Memorial, Warsaw 2008

38...xh3!
This should win.
39 g1
39 xh3 loses to 39...wh3+ 40 g1 xc3
41 xc3 g4+.
39...g4?!
There is a win with 39...xg2! 40 xc2
wh4+ 41 f2 xc3 42 xc3 xd1.
40 df g3?!
Black’s best at this point is 40...d7!.
41 xh5
with complications.
2 points for 38...xh3! and 1 point for
39...xg2.!

493) Xiu Dushun – Laylo
Kuala Lumpur 2008

51...d3+!
Setting up the next move.
52 a2 fxc3!
And the passed pawn decides.
53 e5 d4 54 se3 g2 55 e4 g1 56
g4+ xg4 57 fxg4 f4
and White resigned a few moves later.
2 points for 51...d3+! and 1 point for
52...fxg3!.

494) Laylo – Sermek
Kuala Lumpur 2008

27 d6!
Winning material, but White has to see the
follow-up.
27...d4
27...\texttt{ex}e4 28 \texttt{dx}e4 \texttt{ax}e4 fails to 29 \texttt{wc}3! \texttt{ag}8 30 g3, with a decisive advantage.
28 \texttt{df}5+! \texttt{gx}f5 29 \texttt{xf}5+ \texttt{ag}8 30 \texttt{x}d4 \texttt{cx}d4 31 \texttt{ax}e6
White has a big material advantage and Black’s king is left weak.
2 points for 27 \texttt{dx}d6! and 1 point for 28 \texttt{df}5+!.

495) \textbf{Cmilyte – Borić}
\textit{European Clubs Cup (women), Kallithea 2008}
23 \texttt{xc}c6! \texttt{bxc}6
23...\texttt{ax}a1 is met by 24 \texttt{d}d8!, planning a deadly discovery by the d5-rook.
24 \texttt{dd}7! 1-0
After this elegant move there is no defence; 24...\texttt{xb}3 leads to mate after 25 \texttt{hg}7+ \texttt{bh}8
26 \texttt{hx}g6+.
2 points for 23 \texttt{xc}c6! and 1 point for 24 \texttt{dd}7!.

496) \textbf{Janković – Trent}
\textit{Harkany 2008}
41 a6!
The first task is to create a passed pawn.
41...\texttt{bx}a6
After 41...\texttt{ef}8 42 \texttt{ax}b7 \texttt{bb}8 43 \texttt{cc}4 \texttt{xb}7 44
\texttt{sc}5, the b6-pawn wins the game.
42 \texttt{b}7 \texttt{ff}8 43 \texttt{aa}4!
Now White needs to bring his king to the aid of the passed pawn; not 43 \texttt{sc}4?! \texttt{bb}8 44 \texttt{bb}1
\texttt{dd}6! and White’s king can’t get through to support the pawn.
43...\texttt{bb}8 44 \texttt{bb}1 \texttt{ee}5
Seeking to counterattack against the white pawns. Passive defence fails: after 44...\texttt{dd}6 45
\texttt{aa}5 \texttt{cc}7 46 \texttt{xa}6 \texttt{ff}8 (46...\texttt{h}5 47 \texttt{ff}1!) 47
\texttt{sa}7 \texttt{bb}8 and now one way to win is 48 \texttt{bb}6, threatening 49 \texttt{xc}6+.
45 \texttt{aa}5 \texttt{ee}4 46 \texttt{xa}6 \texttt{xe}3 47 \texttt{sa}7 \texttt{ff}8 48
\texttt{bh}8 \texttt{bb}8 49 \texttt{xb}8 \texttt{ff}3 50 \texttt{bb}3+ \texttt{gg}4 51
\texttt{bb}6 g5 52 \texttt{cc}5
The king arrives and White wins easily.
52...\texttt{h}5 53 \texttt{dd}4 \texttt{e}5+ 54 \texttt{ee}4 \texttt{ee}4 55 \texttt{cc}3 \texttt{h}4 56
\texttt{gx}h4 \texttt{gx}h4 57 \texttt{ee}3 \texttt{gg}3 58 \texttt{ee}2+ \texttt{gg}2 59
\texttt{xc}4 \texttt{h}3 60 \texttt{gg}4+ \texttt{hh}2 61 \texttt{ff}2 1-0
White mates after 61...\texttt{hh}1 62 \texttt{gg}3 \texttt{h}2 63
\texttt{mm}4.
2 points for 41 a6! and 1 point for 43 \texttt{aa}4!.

497) \textbf{Torán – O’Kelly}
\textit{Palma de Mallorca 1967}
24 \texttt{gg}4!
Threatening 25 \texttt{hh}3 \texttt{ff}8 26 \texttt{hh}6, mating.
24...\texttt{gg}8 25 \texttt{h}h7+!!
This was another of the ideas behind 24 \texttt{gg}4. 25...
\texttt{hx}h7 26 \texttt{hh}3+ \texttt{hh}4 27 \texttt{hx}h4+ \texttt{gg}6 28
\texttt{hh}6+ \texttt{gg}5 29 \texttt{f}4+ 1-0
2 points for 24 \texttt{gg}4! and 2 points for 25
\texttt{hh}7+!!.

498) \textbf{Puiggros – Pedrosa}
\textit{Buenos Aires 1972}
14 \texttt{gg}6!
First it is necessary to weaken f7.
14...\texttt{hx}g6 15 \texttt{ff}7+!
This is the idea.
15...\texttt{xf}7 16 \texttt{cc}4+ \texttt{ff}8 17 \texttt{hh}6! 1-0
And this is the final blow.
2 points for 14 \texttt{gg}6!, 1 point for 15 \texttt{ff}7+! and
1 point for 17 \texttt{hh}6!.

499) \textbf{Gi. Hernández – Gulko}
\textit{Torre Memorial, Yucatán 1999}
24 \texttt{wd}6! \texttt{gg}2+ 25 \texttt{gg}1!
This move prevents Black’s queen from coming to the aid of the king by means of a check on d5. If 25 \texttt{gg}2? then 25...
\texttt{ee}8 26 \texttt{ff}6 \texttt{dd}5+ 27
\texttt{gg}3 (27...\texttt{ff}7? loses to 27...\texttt{xe}2+! 28 \texttt{xe}2
\texttt{gg}2+ and the h6-bishop is lost after 29 \texttt{dd}3
(29 \texttt{dd}1 \texttt{gg}1 + 30 \texttt{dd}2 \texttt{hx}h2+) 29...\texttt{h}3+ and
30...\texttt{hx}h6) 27...\texttt{ee}5+ 28 \texttt{xe}5 \texttt{xe}5 29
\texttt{dd}4 \texttt{f}6, with advantage to Black.
25...\texttt{ee}8 26 \texttt{ff}6 \texttt{gg}1+ 27 \texttt{dd}1! \texttt{ee}1+ 28
\texttt{ff}2! \texttt{ff}1+ 29 \texttt{ee}2 \texttt{d}3+ 30 \texttt{cx}d3 1-0
3 points for 24 \texttt{wd}6! and 2 points for 25
\texttt{gg}1!.

500) \textbf{Zapata – de la Paz}
\textit{Capablanca Memorial, Havana 2001}
37...\texttt{hh}5+!
Here 37...\texttt{hh}5+? loses to 38 \texttt{hh}4, among other things.
38 \texttt{gg}1 \texttt{ee}3+??
Black achieves equal play with 38...\texttt{f}6! and the white queen is trapped; a possible continuation is 39 \texttt{ff}2 \texttt{ff}2+ 40 \texttt{ff}2 \texttt{hh}6 41 \texttt{ff}6, with an equal endgame; e.g., 41...\texttt{a}5 42 \texttt{ff}2
\texttt{gg}7 43 \texttt{ff}7+ \texttt{gg}6 44 \texttt{hx}b7 \texttt{hh}1. 38...\texttt{f}5! is similar.
39 \texttt{ff}2 1-0
Black overlooked this move, after which 40
\texttt{gx}f7+ will win.
3 points for 37...\texttt{hh}5+! and 2 points for 38...\texttt{f}5! or 38...\texttt{f}6!.
6 Defence and Counterattack

This chapter consists of 90 puzzles on the theme of defence and counterattack. The first 40 are supplied with hints.

As in Chapter 3, the puzzles increase in difficulty from level 1 to level 4, dropping back to level 1 in Puzzle 541.

There is just one good move for Black, but it promises a winning counterattack.

What is the best defence against the threats on the long diagonal?

Black has several tactical ideas available; how can he end the struggle immediately?

Does Black have to think about defending, or is it possible to counterattack successfully?
505
B
White has a strong and direct threat; what is the best defence?

508
B
‘Opposite bishops favour the attacker’, especially considering the clumsy g3-bishop. How can Black take advantage?

506
W
Is it the right moment for White to use his king aggressively, or is it preferable to retreat?

509
W
Can White play for a win?

507
B
White’s three pieces are all working with maximum energy; it is essential for Black to reduce White’s attacking power.

510
B
Black’s position is on the verge of collapse; how can he save the game?
White is threatening 63 \text{Q}g5\#, but Black has three pawns for the piece and is close to a draw; how can he achieve this?

You need to be more cautious than the player with the white pieces was here; where does the king have to go?

The black king is under attack from several white pieces, but discovering a key idea enables Black to repel the attack.

Black’s a5-bishop is out of play, and White threatens 30 \text{A}xa5; is there anything better than 29...\text{f}8?

The white king is uncomfortable on the h-file; how can Black exploit this to win material?

After 37...fxe5? 38 \text{Q}c4! \text{W}e7 39 \text{Q}xe5+ \text{h}6 40 a4, Black was in difficulties. Find a better defence.
White's attack looks very strong, but what is wrong with his position?

Is the counterblow 23...e5 correct?

White chose 36 ™e1?, allowing the black queen to protect her king following 36...¬d2+. Find a better defence for White.

Does the combination 15...£fxe4 work?

After 34...£e7? 35 ™g3 ™e8 36 ™hg2 Black lost quickly. What should Black play instead?

Black's pieces are active but his king is exposed. How can White exploit this to defend successfully?
After 27...\texttt{Wd6}? 28 \texttt{d4 c5 29 \texttt{c3 xc4 30 g3} Black's position collapsed. How could he have defended better?

Should Black defend with 53...\texttt{e7}, exchange the rooks, or go over to the counterattack?

Is the capture 26 \texttt{xa6} advisable?

After 34...\texttt{e6}? 35 \texttt{c5+ f7 36 xb4} Black was lost and resigned. How could he have defended better?

What is the best move for the black queen?

Black played 31...\texttt{b4} and after 32 \texttt{xd3 e4 33 d1} he resigned. How can his defence be improved?
529

Should Black become active with 23...\texttt{\textit{W}f2}, or should he think about defence first?

530

The game went 23...\texttt{\textit{W}xe5} 24 \texttt{\textit{Q}xe6 f5}?! 25 \texttt{\textit{Q}g7}!! \texttt{\textit{Q}e4} 26 \texttt{\textit{W}h6} \texttt{\textit{f4}} 27 \texttt{\textit{W}f6}! 1-0. How could Black have improved his defence?

531

27...\texttt{\textit{W}f6}? ran into 28 \texttt{\textit{W}g4}!, threatening both \texttt{\textit{R}xe6} and mate on h5. How can Black defend better?

532

White is a rook up. Can he play for a win or does he have to content himself with a draw after 23 \texttt{\textit{R}g2} \texttt{\textit{Wh3}+} 24 \texttt{\textit{Rf3}?

533

White gave perpetual check with 37 \texttt{\textit{W}d8+} \texttt{\textit{Rf7}} 38 \texttt{\textit{W}d5+} \texttt{\textit{Rf8}} 39 \texttt{\textit{W}a8+} \texttt{\textit{Rf7}}. What better continuation did he have?

534

Black lost quickly after 23...\texttt{\textit{R}g8}? 24 \texttt{\textit{R}xh4!} \texttt{\textit{R}xg2} 25 \texttt{\textit{W}xg2} \texttt{\textit{R}xg2}+ 26 \texttt{\textit{R}xg2}. What should he have played?
White’s king position is very weak, but there is a way to escape unscathed; how?

How can Black defend against the multiple threats against his king’s position?

White exerts some pressure on the kingside, which was shown by 25...\textit{Ee}5? 26 \textit{Wg}6! 1-0. How should Black defend?

White has a material advantage but his king is exposed, and his queen is a long way away. How should White defend?

White is a pawn up, but the black pieces are very active and White’s king position is weak. How should White defend?

Your task here is to find a highly plausible but disastrous move for White, and show what is wrong with it.
Answers for Chapter 6

501) Álvarez del Monte – Spassky
*Mar del Plata 1960*

24...\(\text{Wf}2\)! 0-1

This threatens 25...\(\text{Me}1+\) as well as the f5-bishop, and if 25 g4 then, amongst other things, Black has 25...\(\text{Me}1+\) 26 \(\text{Exe}1\) \(\text{Exe}1+\) 27 \(\text{g}2\) bxc3 28 bxc3 \(\text{Mb}8\).

502) Naiditsch – Anand
*Dortmund 2003*

33...\(\text{Me}8!\) 0-1

The queen has no escape.

503) Caristestd – Bracker
*Hamburg 2007*

36...\(\text{Af}1+!\) 37 \(\text{xf}1\) \(\text{b}5+!\) 38 \(\text{g}2\) \(\text{xc}3\) 0-1

504) Gómez – Lorenzo
*Monforte de Lemos 2008*

35...\(\text{Wf}2!\)

Counterattack! The black king does not need extra protection.

36 \(\text{h}8+\) \(\text{g}6\) 37 \(\text{xc}4\) \(\text{xf}3+\) 38 \(\text{g}1\) \(\text{g}4\)

39 \(\text{d}4\) \text{axb}4 40 \(\text{g}8\) \(\text{f}6\) 41 \text{axb}4 \(\text{Ka}2\)

and Black won quickly.

505) Caruana – Sashikiran
*Pamplona 2008*

30...\(\text{xd}5!\)

Dealing with the threat of 31 \(\text{d}8+\). Black’s great advantage in material is now decisive.

31 \(\text{xd}5\)

If 31 \(\text{xh}8\) Black can play 31...\(\text{c}5\), simplifying.

31...\(\text{exd}5\) 32 \(\text{e}5+\) \(\text{f}8\) 33 \(\text{xh}8\) \(\text{d}4+\) 0-1

506) Konguvel – Abbasov
*La Fere 2008*

62 \(\text{c}5?\)

Walking into a mating-net. Necessary and satisfactory was 62 \(\text{c}3!\) \(\text{c}6\) 63 \(\text{f}5\).

62...\(\text{g}6!\) 63 \(\text{b}5\) \(\text{a}5!\) 64 \(\text{f}5\)

Or 64 \text{b}6 \(\text{c}6+\) 65 \(\text{b}5\) \(\text{d}6+\) and 66...\(\text{xd}3\).

64...\(\text{d}6!\) 0-1

507) Berczes – Ilinčić
*Budapest 2008*

42...\(\text{a}1!\)

42...\(\text{g}5?\) loses to 43 \(\text{xf}7\) \(\text{xf}7\) 44 \(\text{e}5+.\)

43 \(\text{xa}1\) \(\text{xc}7\) 44 \(\text{f}6+\) \(\text{g}6\) 45 \(\text{g}6+\)

46 \(\text{xc}6\) \(\text{c}1+\) 47 \(\text{h}2\) \(\text{h}4+\) 48 \(\text{h}1\) \(\text{d}4\)

with a slight advantage to Black.

508) Donaldson – Becerra
*Internet 2008*

32...\(\text{e}6!\)

Threatening not only to capture on g2 and then invade on f3, but also played with the idea of infiltrating via c4.

33 \(\text{d}7\)

33 \text{b}3 \(\text{h}1\) 34 \(\text{d}4\) loses to 34...\(\text{b}5!\) planning to take on g2 but first preventing \(\text{c}4;\) this is better than 34...\(\text{g}2\) 35 \(\text{d}3+\) g6 36 e4 \(\text{xe}4\) 37 \(\text{c}4\).

33...\(\text{c}4\) 34 \(\text{e}2\) \(\text{d}3\) 35 \text{b}3 \(\text{e}4\) 0-1

509) Bahamonde – Corte
*Argentina Ch, Buenos Aires 1946*

Both sides should be content with a draw, but the game went 36 \(\text{b}8+\) \(\text{h}7\) 37 \(\text{xb}7\) \(\text{g}4+\) 38 \(\text{g}3\) \(\text{g}3+!\) 39 \text{fxg3} \(\text{g}3+\) 0-1.

White should have played 37 \(\text{h}2+\), when Black’s best is to acquiesce to the draw with 37...\(\text{g}8\) 38 \(\text{b}8+\), but not 37...\(\text{g}6?\), which allows White to defend and create a winning counterattack by 38 \(\text{h}4+\) \(\text{f}6\) 39 \(\text{d}6+\) \(\text{e}6\)

40 \(\text{d}8+\) \(\text{e}7\) 41 \(\text{xb}6+\) \(\text{e}6\) 42 \(\text{d}4+\) \(\text{e}5\) 43 \(\text{b}1\).

510) Pachman – Pilnik
*Mar del Plata 1962*

55...\(\text{g}7!\) 56 \(\text{g}7\) \(\text{d}4+\) 57 \(\text{f}1\) \(\text{g}7\)

and after a long struggle the game ended in a draw.

511) Hector – Brynell
*Swedish Ch, Växjö 2008*

The game went:

62...\(\text{f}5?\)

Black can draw by perpetual check with 62...\(\text{e}2+!\) 63 \(\text{g}3\) \(\text{c}7+\) 64 \(\text{h}3\) \(\text{d}7+\) 65 \(\text{h}2\) \(\text{c}7+\) 66 \(\text{g}3\) \(\text{c}2+\), since 67 \(\text{h}3??\) loses to 67...\(\text{f}5+\).

63 \(\text{xa}3\) \(\text{c}2+\) 64 \(\text{g}1\) \(\text{b}1+\) 65 \(\text{h}2\)

\(\text{b}8+\) 66 \(\text{g}3\) \(\text{d}8\) 67 \(\text{g}7+\)

and White was able to play for a win, which he achieved in the end.

512) Milov – Arnold
*Philadelphia 2008*

21...\(\text{d}6!\)
Preventing White’s key move. 21...fxe6? 22 \(\text{Wxc5} \text{Qxf6} 23 \text{Wxe4} \text{achieves nothing tangible.} 22 \text{Qxf4} \text{Qxe6} 23 \text{Qxe6 fxe6} \) with a material advantage.

513) Pap – Asís
Barbería del Valle 2008
29...\text{Qxg5}! 30 \text{Qxg5} \text{Qxh4+} 31 \text{Qg2} \text{Qxg5} with material superiority.

514) Inarkiev – Wang Hao
China vs Russia, Ningbo 2008
43 \text{Qg3}?
Letting a whole point slip away. White wins with 43 \text{Qe3!} \text{Qxc3}+ 44 \text{Qd3} \text{Qd2}+ 45 \text{Qc3}, followed by 46 \text{Rb8}+ or 46 \text{Qh7}.

43...\text{Qxh3+} 44 \text{Qf4} \text{Qf2+} 45 \text{Qf3}
If 45 \text{Qg5} then 45...\text{Qg2!} 46 \text{Qg4} (or 46 \text{Qh4} g5+ 47 \text{Qh5} \text{Qh3}! 46...\text{Qxg4}+ 47 \text{Qxg4} \text{Qe2}+.

45...\text{Qxf3+} 46 \text{Qe5} \text{Qd7} 47 f7+ \text{Qxe7} 48 \text{Rf8}+ \text{Qxf8} 49 \text{Qxd7} \text{Qf7} 0-1

515) Huschenbeth – Albadri
Dresden Olympiad 2008
Yes, 29...f6! wins a piece: 30 \text{Qg6} e5 31 \text{Qxe5} fxe5 32 \text{Qxe5} \text{Qc5} 33 \text{Qd4} \text{Qc7} 34 \text{Wg4} \text{Qg5}.

516) Hoang Thanh Trang – Le Thanh Tu
Dresden Women’s Olympiad 2008
More tenacious was 37...\text{Qd3}, attacking the c2-rook, and after 38 \text{Qxc2} (38 \text{Qxc7} \text{Qxc2} 39 \text{Qxc6} bxc6 38 \text{Qc1}! \text{Qd2}!), or 38 \text{Qf2} \text{Qxa3}) 38...\text{Qxc6} 39 \text{Qxc6} bxc6 40 \text{Qxe6} \text{Qf5} Black can still fight.

517) Pilnik – Guimard (variation)
Mar del Plata 1962
The problem is not 22...\text{Qg6}? 23 \text{Qh3} \text{Qf8} 24 \text{Wxf6}+ \text{Qg8}, and now there is a choice between 25 \text{Wh6}!, 25 \text{bxa3}! and 25 \text{Qg5}+ \text{Qg6} 26 \text{Wh6}!, all of them winning. The snag is 22...\text{Qxf2}+ 23 \text{Qxf2} \text{Qc5}+ and Black regains the queen with a winning material advantage.

518) Striković – Franco
Cadiz 1991
There is a draw by 36 \text{Qg6}+! hxg6 37 \text{Wh3}+ \text{Qg7} 38 \text{Qd7}+ and the king can’t escape with 38...\text{Qf6} in view of 39 \text{Qxd6}+ \text{Qg5} 40 \text{Qg3}+ \text{Qh6} 41 \text{Wh2}+ \text{Qg7} 42 \text{Qc7}+ and White secures a draw.

519) Milos – Krush
Buenos Aires 2003
Black wins with 34...\text{Qxg5}!. The double check is not to be feared, since after 35 \text{Qf7}+ \text{Qg7} 36 \text{Qxg5} Black wins with 36...\text{Qg4}+.

520) Putzback – Kempinski
Hamburg 2007
23...e5! is correct; the gain of material gives Black the advantage, viz. 24 \text{fxe5} \text{Qxh3} 25 \text{Qxf7}+ \text{Qh8} 26 \text{Qxb7} (26 e6 is refuted by 26...\text{Qxd4}+ 27 \text{Qxd4} \text{Qe3}+ 28 \text{Qh1} \text{Qxd4} 29 \text{Qe7} \text{Qd7} 30 \text{Qxd8} \text{Qxd8} 31 \text{Qe7} \text{Qc6} 26...\text{Qxd3} 27 \text{Qxd3} \text{dxe5} with a decisive material advantage.

521) Ignacz – Estremera
Pamplona 2007
No, there is not enough compensation after 15...\text{Qxe4}? 16 \text{Qxe4} \text{Qxe4} 17 \text{Qxe4} \text{f5} 18 \text{Qxc2} \text{f4} (if 18...e4 White can simply play 19 \text{Qe1}! \text{Qg5} g6 20 \text{Qe4}! \text{Qf5} 20...\text{fxe3} 21 \text{Qf6}+ \text{Qf7} 22 \text{Qxe3}!) 21 \text{Qf6}+ \text{Qg7} 22 \text{Qxe8}+ \text{Qxe8} 23 \text{Qc3}, with a material advantage.
The game went 15...\text{a4}! 16 \text{Qxc5} \text{Qxc5} 17 \text{Qxa4} \text{Qxa4}! 18 \text{Qxa4} \text{Qxe4} 19 \text{Qdd1} \text{Qb6}!, as we saw in Puzzle 356.

522) Zawadzka – Ushenina
Dresden Women’s Olympiad 2008
The game went 32 \text{Qxg6}+? \text{Qd7} 33 \text{Qg7} \text{Qxe4} 34 \text{Qf7} \text{Qb6}+ 35 \text{Qh1} \text{Qd6} 36 \text{Qf1} \text{Qg3}+ 37 \text{Qg1} \text{Qb6}+ 0-1.

It is possible to defend with 32 \text{Qh1}! \text{Qxh3}+ (not 32...\text{Qxc3}? 33 \text{Qg8}+ \text{Qd7} 34 \text{Qd7}+ \text{Qd6} 35 \text{Qd8}+ \text{Qe5} 36 \text{Qh8}+ and White wins) 33 \text{Qh1}! \text{Qf2}+ 34 \text{Qg1} \text{Qd1}+ 35 \text{Qxd1} \text{Qxd1} 36 \text{Qh8}+ \text{Qd7} 37 \text{Qd4}+ \text{Qe8} 38 \text{Qh8}+, drawing.
The move-order 32 \text{Qh8}+! \text{Qd7} 33 \text{Qb1}! also works.

523) Najdorf – Czerniak
Buenos Aires 1945
Not 27...\text{Qxf6} because of 28 \text{Qxh6}, threatening 29 \text{Qg3}+, and if 28...\text{Qg4}, then 29 \text{Qh3} wins.
27...\text{Qxe2}! is very strong: 28 \text{Qxf4} (staying on the c1-h6 diagonal; if 28 \text{Qc3} Black can defend with 28...\text{Qxf6}! 29 \text{Qxf6} \text{Qd6} 30 \text{Qg3}+ \text{Qf8} 28...\text{Qe8}! 29 \text{Qg3} \text{Qh5}! (threatening the rook as well as 30...\text{Qg4}) 30 \text{Qf2} (if 30 \text{Qf1} one way to win is 30...\text{Qf4} 31 \text{Qh3} \text{Qe8} 32 \text{Qc3} \text{Qxg2}, and Black gains a decisive material
advantage) 30...\textit{xf}2 31 \textit{xf}2 \textit{xf}5+, winning.

524) Franco – Romero  
\textit{Spanish Team Ch, Matalascañas 1993}  
Yes, in fact 26 \textit{xa6!} is the best move; the game continued:

26...\textit{e}3  
After 26...\textit{xe}2 27 \textit{e}2! g\textit{xh}2 28 \textit{h}2 \textit{g}4 29 \textit{g}3 White has enough defenders and an extra piece.  
27 \textit{e}1!  
Overprotecting h2.  
27...\textit{xf}1  
If 27...\textit{e}2+ then 28 \textit{xf}2 is playable.  
28 \textit{xf}1 \textit{g}x1  
28...\textit{f}2+ 29 \textit{xf}2 is no better.  
29 \textit{xe}1 \textit{xa}6 30 \textit{h}3  
with a decisive advantage.

525) Visier – Franco  
\textit{Cañete 1994}  
21...\textit{xb}7!  
This sacrifice of queen for rook and piece is winning, since the passed c-pawn is very strong.  
22 \textit{e}6+ \textit{xe}6 23 \textit{xe}7 \textit{e}6 24 \textit{g}2 c3 0-1  
The c-pawn costs White at least a piece.

526) Sandipan – Simutowe  
\textit{Leiden 2008}  
Black lost after 53...\textit{d}2? 54 \textit{c}8+ \textit{a}5 55 \textit{e}6 \textit{a}6 56 \textit{e}4, although here 56 \textit{g}6! leads to a quick mate.

53...\textit{g}x1? loses to 54 \textit{xe}7 (threatening 55 \textit{d}3+, amongst other things) 54...\textit{e}3 55 f5 and Black can’t both defend his king and prevent the advance of White’s passed pawn; e.g., 55...\textit{e}4 56 \textit{e}8+ \textit{a}5 57 \textit{b}7 a6 58 \textit{xe}4! \textit{xe}4 59 \textit{e}3+.  
It is essential to defend the second rank with 53...\textit{e}7!, when White is better but Black can still fight; e.g., 54 \textit{e}8+ (54 \textit{e}1 is interesting) 54...\textit{b}7 55 \textit{e}8 (not 55 \textit{g}7? \textit{d}6) 55...\textit{d}6 56 \textit{g}6 \textit{xe}4!?! 57 \textit{e}6 \textit{d}2 58 \textit{g}6 \textit{xc}2 59 \textit{xd}6 c4 60 \textit{g}3 \textit{cx}3+ 61 \textit{xb}3 \textit{e}7.

527) Hector – Lindberg  
\textit{Swedish Ch, Växjö 2008}  
After 34...\textit{b}2! Black is even a little better; e.g., 35 \textit{c}5+ \textit{e}4 36 \textit{c}4+ \textit{d}3 37 \textit{d}4+ \textit{c}2 38 \textit{c}4 (better than 38 \textit{c}5? \textit{xd}2 39 \textit{c}4+ \textit{d}1 40 \textit{xb}4 {40 \textit{xb}7? \textit{b}3} 40...\textit{g}2+ 41 \textit{g}3 a3) and instead of repeating moves Black can play 38...\textit{b}1 39 \textit{xb}4 \textit{ax}b3 40 \textit{xb}3+ \textit{xa}2 41 \textit{xb}7 \textit{e}2.

528) Tiviakov – Jepson  
\textit{Elsinore 2008}  
Not with 31...\textit{d}4?? 32 \textit{e}8+.  
It is essential to defend the d3-pawn and control e8 with 31...\textit{e}4!, when Black has a good game; e.g., 32 \textit{a}1 (better than 32 \textit{h}3?! \textit{b}4! 33 \textit{a}7 \textit{xd}4+ 34 \textit{xd}4 \textit{e}4 35 \textit{h}xg4 \textit{hx}g4 36 \textit{f}8 \textit{c}3, with advantage to Black) 32...\textit{e}3+ 33 \textit{e}3 \textit{xe}3 34 \textit{f}6+ \textit{g}5 35 \textit{a}5+ \textit{d}5 36 \textit{w}d2+ \textit{e}4 37 \textit{h}4+ (not 37 \textit{f}4? \textit{wxf}4 38 \textit{b}4+ {38 \textit{e}3?? \textit{b}1+} 39...\textit{f}5 39 \textit{xd}3+ \textit{e}4, when Black wins) 39...\textit{e}4 39 \textit{xe}4+ \textit{f}4 39 \textit{w}d3, when the most probable result is a draw.

529) B. Savchenko – Aagaard  
\textit{Elsinore 2008}  
Black played 23...\textit{w}2?!, which walked into 24 \textit{e}6+!, with a decisive advantage to White: 24...\textit{xe}6 25 \textit{h}3+ \textit{e}5 26 \textit{d}5+ \textit{e}4 (no better is 26...\textit{f}6 27 \textit{xe}5 \textit{g}4+ 28 \textit{d}2 \textit{xe}5 29 \textit{w}xe8) 27 \textit{d}3+ \textit{f}4 28 \textit{h}4+ \textit{w}h4 29 \textit{f}3# (1-0).  
Black needs to overprotect e6 with 23...\textit{d}8!  
24 \textit{d}3 (24 \textit{xe}6 allows 24...\textit{g}5!, showing another virtue of 23...\textit{d}8) and now one possible line is 24...\textit{f}2?! 25 \textit{d}2 \textit{g}3 with a balanced game, since 26 \textit{xb}6?! can be answered with 26...\textit{xd}3 27 \textit{xd}3 \textit{g}7!, followed by 28...\textit{g}5, winning the exchange.

530) Werle – Wells  
\textit{Staunton Memorial, London 2008}  
With 23...\textit{w}5!:  
a) If 24 \textit{xe}6 it is now possible to play 24...\textit{c}5! and Black is not worse; e.g., 25 \textit{w}h6 \textit{xe}6 26 \textit{w}a1+ 27 \textit{w}e2 \textit{xa}2+ 28 \textit{f}1 \textit{f}7 (or 28...\textit{b}1+) 29 \textit{g}7+ \textit{w}b1+ 30 \textit{w}e2 \textit{f}5 (or 30...\textit{d}5) 31 \textit{f}1 with a draw.

b) 24 \textit{g}6 \textit{e}4 25 \textit{xe}4 \textit{xe}4 26 \textit{e}3 \textit{xb}4 27 \textit{xe}6 \textit{c}8 28 \textit{xd}7 \textit{c}1+ 29 \textit{w}e2 \textit{g}4+ 30 \textit{f}3 \textit{wc}4+ 31 \textit{d}3 \textit{we}4+ with a draw.

531) Tkachev – Svidler  
\textit{Blitz World Ch, Almaty 2008}  
Black can resist by expelling the e5-rook from its strong position and bringing the knight across to defend with 27...\textit{d}7!. After 28 \textit{g}5 \textit{e}6! (not 28...\textit{f}7?, which loses to 29 \textit{d}5!)
exd5 30 \text{\text{Be}}7) 29 h5 \text{\text{Wf}}7 Black has no serious problems. Things are easier for Black if the white rook releases its pressure on e6; e.g., 28 \text{\text{Bb}}5 \text{\text{Bb}}6?! (or 28... \text{\text{Qf}}8) 29 h5 \text{\text{Wf}}6 30 \text{\text{Bc}}3+ \text{\text{Wh}}7 31 \text{\text{Bf}}5 \text{\text{Wf}}8, or 28 \text{\text{Bb}}5 \text{\text{Wf}}7.

532) \quad \text{Buhmann – Shirov}  
\text{Dresden Olympiad 2008}

White should be content to draw. The game went 23 \text{\text{Qe}}3? and Black’s attack won:

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\text{23...Wxe4+ 24 \text{\text{Bd}}2 Wxd4+ 25 \text{\text{Bc}}2 \text{Wxf2}+!} \\
\text{26 \text{\text{Bd}}1}
\end{array} \]

No better is 26 \text{\text{Bd}}3 \text{Wf}5+ 27 \text{\text{Bc}}3 \text{Qe}4+! 28 \text{\text{Bxe}}4 \text{Bf}6+ 29 \text{\text{Bd}}4 \text{Wf}3+ 30 \text{\text{Bc}}2 \text{\text{Bxb}}+ 31 \text{\text{Bxb}}3 \text{\text{Bxd}}4; neither is 26 \text{\text{Bd}}2 \text{axb}6 27 \text{\text{Bxe}}7? \text{\text{Wc}}5+.

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\text{26...Wd}4+ 27 \text{\text{Bd}}2 \text{axb}6
\end{array} \]

Black has four pawns for the exchange and furthermore the white king is in difficulties.

\[ \begin{array}{c}
\text{28 \text{\text{Bxe}}7 \text{\text{Bh}}1+ 29 \text{\text{Bc}}2 \text{\text{Bxa}}1 30 \text{\text{Bc}}3 \text{\text{Ba}}2+ 31 \text{\text{Bc}}1 \text{\text{Bxd}}2 0-1
\end{array} \]

533) \quad \text{Fedorov – Wang Hao}  
\text{Dresden Olympiad 2008}

\text{37 \text{\text{Bh}}3! is practically winning:}

a) After 37...\text{\text{Wxe}}1+ 38 \text{\text{Bb}}1 the black queen is unable to protect the b4-bishop, and following 38...\text{\text{Bxb}}1+ 39 \text{\text{Bxb}} e4 40 \text{\text{Bd}}4 White will soon win another pawn, with a won ending.

b) It is more tenacious to play on a piece down, although after 37...\text{\text{Bc}}5 38 \text{\text{Bh}}4! \text{\text{Wxg}}4 39 \text{\text{Bb}}8+ (or 39 \text{\text{Bg}}3 \text{\text{Bd}}4 40 \text{\text{Bb}}1 \text{\text{Wf}}2 41 a4 e4 42 \text{\text{Bc}}2, when White should gradually be able to exploit his material advantage) 39...\text{\text{Wf}}7 40 \text{\text{Bb}}7+! \text{\text{Bf}}6 41 \text{\text{Wg}}2 \text{\text{Bh}}5 42 \text{\text{Wxg}}4+ \text{\text{Bxg}}4 43 \text{\text{Bg}}3 e4 44 \text{\text{Bb}}1 White should win.

534) \quad \text{Caruana – Kveinys}  
\text{Dresden Olympiad 2008}

Black should reduce White’s attacking potential with 23...\text{\text{Bxe}}6! and after 24 \text{\text{Bxh}}4 \text{\text{Wd}}7 25 \text{\text{Bxh}}6 \text{\text{Wxe}}6 26 \text{\text{Bh}}3 \text{\text{Bd}}7?! the greatest dangers have disappeared and Black is fine.

535) \quad \text{Halkias – Arakhamia}  
\text{Dresden Olympiad 2008}

White can defend successfully, retaining his material advantage, with 28 \text{\text{Bf}}7+! \text{\text{Wxf}}7 29 \text{\text{Bg}}3 \text{\text{Wh}}5 30 \text{\text{Bd}}2 \text{\text{Bxc}}3 31 \text{\text{Bxc}}3 \text{\text{Bxd}}5 32 \text{\text{Bxf}}3+ \text{\text{Bg}}8 and now he has a choice between 33 \text{\text{Bf}}2, 33 \text{\text{Bf}}4 and 33 \text{\text{Bxf}}6 34 \text{\text{Bxc}}7, which looks the most promising. Instead he lost after 28 \text{\text{Bc}}3? \text{\text{Bf}}8!.

536) \quad \text{Ståhlberg – Guímar}  
\text{Match (game 1), Buenos Aires 1945}

25...\text{\text{Bh}}8? 26 \text{\text{Bxg}}7! (or 26 \text{\text{Bf}}5) 26...\text{\text{Bxg}}7 27 \text{\text{Bf}}5+ is not the right way.

Instead Black can prevent \text{\text{Bf}}5 and make life difficult for the attacker with 25...\text{\text{Bc}}8!:

a) If 26 h3 Black can play 26...\text{\text{Bh}}8 27 \text{\text{Bf}}1 (27 \text{\text{Bxe}}4 \text{\text{Bxe}}4 28 \text{\text{Bxe}}4 is strongly met by 28...\text{\text{Bc}}7! 29 \text{\text{Bd}}5 f5 30 \text{\text{Bf}}2 \text{\text{Bxe}}3) 27...\text{\text{Wd}}6! 28 \text{\text{Bg}}5 \text{\text{Bf}}7!, evicting the white rook from the kingside.

b) 26 \text{\text{Bh}}4 \text{\text{Wc}}6 27 \text{\text{Bf}}1 \text{\text{Bc}}6! (neutralizing the power of the a2-bishop) 28 \text{\text{Bxe}}4 f5 29 \text{\text{Bxe}}6+ \text{\text{Wxe}}6 30 \text{\text{Bf}}2 \text{\text{Bxf}}2 31 \text{\text{Bxf}}2 \text{\text{Bxe}}3, with a big advantage to Black.

537) \quad \text{Palac – Agrest}  
\text{Dresden Olympiad 2008}

35 \text{\text{Bd}}1? (bringing pieces to the defence is a good idea but it has to work tactically, and here the punishment is immediate) 35...\text{\text{Bxg}}2+ 36 \text{\text{Bxg}}2 \text{\text{Bg}}4+ 37 \text{\text{Bf}}1 \text{\text{Bh}}3+ 38 \text{\text{Be}}2 \text{\text{Bg}}2+ 0-1.  
If 39 \text{\text{Bd}}3 then 39...\text{\text{Bf}}2+.

Instead White can play 35 \text{\text{Bf}}1! since this creates pressure on f7 which helps him defend successfully. If now 35...\text{\text{Bc}}3 then 36 e4?! is interesting, deflecting the black pieces; e.g., 36...\text{\text{Bxe}}4 (or 36...\text{\text{Bf}}4 37 \text{\text{Bc}}1 \text{\text{Bxb}}2 38 e6! \text{\text{fxe}}6?? 39 \text{\text{Bd}}4+ \text{\text{Wf}}6 40 e5, or 36...\text{\text{Bxe}}4 37 \text{\text{Bf}}6+ \text{\text{Bg}}8 38 \text{\text{Bd}}8+ with a draw) 37 \text{\text{Bd}}4 \text{\text{Bc}}8 (37...\text{\text{Bxg}}2+ only draws) 38 \text{\text{Bxe}}8 \text{\text{Bxe}}8 39 \text{\text{Bc}}1. Worse is 35...\text{\text{Bg}}4?! 36 \text{\text{Bc}}1 \text{\text{Bc}}2 37 \text{\text{Bf}}7! \text{\text{Wf}}6 38 \text{\text{Bxe}}6 \text{\text{fxe}}6 39 \text{\text{Bd}}3, with a good endgame for White.

538) \quad \text{Gajewski – Mazé}  
\text{Dresden Olympiad 2008}

37...\text{\text{Wf}}1+!

By counterattacking! Black exploits tactical weaknesses in White’s attacking set-up, such as the potential fork on the white queen on h5 and king (after a future \text{\text{Bxg}}2).

38 \text{\text{Bh}}2 \text{\text{Bxg}}2+ 39 \text{\text{Bc}}1

If 39 \text{\text{Bxg}}2 then, as mentioned, Black has 39...\text{\text{Bxg}}2+ 40 \text{\text{Bc}}2 \text{\text{Bxf}}4+ and this constitutes the main point of this exercise. Black had no better way to defend his position than by counterattacking, and now he has the advantage. 

39...\text{\text{Bc}}6 (D)

39...\text{\text{Bd}}5! seems better, although at the board it would be almost impossible to grasp the difference. Let’s examine a sample variation: 40
\( \square f7 \) \( \square x e 6 \) 41 \( \square h 6 + \) \( \square h 8 \) 42 \( \square d 4 + \) \( \square e 5 \) 43 \( \square f 7 + \) \( \square g 7 \) 44 \( \square x e 5 + \) \( d x e 5 \) 45 \( \square h 6 + \) \( \square f 6 ! \) 46 \( f x e 5 + \) \( \square e 7 \) 47 \( \square g 5 + \) \( \square x f 7 \) 48 \( \square f 6 + \) \( \square e 8 \) and Black wins. But with the bishop on \( c 6 \) this line would fail to 49 \( \square x c 6 + \).

40 \( \square x h 7 ? \)
40 \( \square f 7 \) gives White much better practical drawing chances. Although after 40...\( \square x e 6 \) 41 \( \square h 6 + \) \( \square g 7 \) 42 \( \square d 4 + \) the move 42...\( \square f 6 ! \) seems to favour Black to some degree, the variations are messy, and anything could have happened if this had arisen over the board.

40...

White resigned in view of 41 \( \square x e 2 \) \( \square x h 7 + \) 42 \( \square h 3 \) \( \square x h 3 + \) 43 \( \square x h 3 \) \( \square x h 7 \) 44...

539) Cámpora – Safin

*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

The game went 37 \( \square e f 2 ? \) \( \square e 2 ! \) and White was lost—the mismatch of forces on the kingside is too great. 38 \( \square h 2 \) (38 \( \square b 3 \) \( \square x f 1 \) 39 \( \square x b 7 + \) \( \square f 7 \) is no improvement for White) 38...

540) McNab – Mastrovasilis

*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

The game went:

38 \( \square e 2 ? \)

Here 38 \( \square g 2 \) \( \square x e 4 + \) 39 \( \square f 3 \) \( \square f 5 \) 40 \( b 5 \), 38 \( \square g 1 \), or even 38 \( \square e 1 \), all lead to a balanced position, but not the move in the game, on account of...

38...

39 \( \square g 1 \)

39 \( \square e 1 \) is met with the same response.

541) Bielicki – Wexler

*Mar del Plata 1960*

37...

Taking on \( h 6 \) loses, but now there is no defence against 38...\( \square x h 2 \)#!, among many other threats.

542) Bahamonde – Piro

*Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946*

61...

A serious miscalculation; instead, the passed pawn is very strong after 61...\( c 3 \), and White should give perpetual check with, for example, 62 \( \square g 3 + \) \( \square f 6 \) 63 \( \square g 5 + \) \( \square e 6 \) 64 \( \square f 5 + \) \( \square d 6 \) 65 \( \square c 5 + \) \( \square d 7 \) 66 \( \square a 7 + \). Black can also simply retreat his king with a move such as 61...\( \square g 7 \), making \( \square x b 4 \) a real threat. Then White may also have nothing better than giving perpetual check.

62...

65 \( b 7 \) 66 \( \square d 2 \) 1-0

543) Wilms – Fraas

*Hamburg 2007*

43...

Defending against the mate threat and preparing a decisive counterattack.

44...

544) Jacoby – Faika

*Hamburg 2007*

54...

In order to advance the \( b \)-pawn quickly; the game continued:

55...

with an easily tenable endgame that ended in a draw.

545) Kuran – Estremera

*Cesenatico 2007*

21...

Exchanging a pair of rooks reduces White’s pressure.

22...


White is a pawn down, so the endgame after 22 \( \texttt{Wxe6} \ \texttt{xf1+} \ 23 \texttt{xf1} \texttt{fxe6} \) is worse for him.

22...\( \texttt{xf1+} \ 23 \texttt{xf1} \\
Or 23 \texttt{xf1} d5 mobilizing the centre pawns.

23...\( \texttt{g7} \\
Returning the pawn in order to go over to the counterattack.

24 \texttt{xb7} \texttt{c4+} \texttt{25 d2} d5 \texttt{26 d2} \texttt{g5} \\
27 \texttt{xc1} \texttt{d3} 28 \texttt{hxg5} \texttt{hxg5} 29 h3 \texttt{h4}! \\
and Black's greater activity proved decisive.

546) D. Cramling – Mekhitarian

\( \texttt{Santos 2008} \)

42...\( \texttt{xc5!} \\
Equalizing the game; the discovered check is nothing to be afraid of in contrast 42...\( \texttt{e7?!} \) loses to, among other things, 43 \( \texttt{d4!} \ a5 44 \texttt{a3}. \)

43 \( \texttt{b3+} \texttt{c6} 44 \texttt{xc5} \texttt{xb3} 45 \texttt{xf8} \\
\( \texttt{xd1} 46 \texttt{g3} \texttt{d7} \) \( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \)

547) Azarov – Sharafiev

\( \texttt{Nezhmetdinov Memorial, Kazan 2008} \)

After 37...\( \texttt{xf7?} \ 38 \texttt{c4+} \texttt{g6} 39 \texttt{xd4} \) it was White who had big advantage.

Instead, 37...\( \texttt{xf7!} \) is both necessary and good. After 38 \( \texttt{c4} \texttt{b6} 39 \texttt{xd8+} \texttt{xd8} \) Black has a slight plus.

548) Banikas – Kosić

\( \texttt{Dresden Olympiad 2008} \)

61...\( \texttt{g4+} 0 \texttt{1} \\
Preventing 62 \texttt{g6#}. Now Black queens and wins after 62 \texttt{xe4} \texttt{h1} \texttt{h} or 62 \texttt{xe4} \texttt{d1}. \)

549) R. García – Mecking

\( \texttt{Rio Hondo Zonal 1966} \)

27...\( \texttt{e8!} \\
The c7-rook is trapped.

28 \( \texttt{a3} \texttt{d8} 29 \texttt{xe5} \texttt{xc7} \\
and Black won.

550) Zelčić – Franco

\( \texttt{Montecatini Terme 1998} \)

40...\( \texttt{g6!} \) \( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \)

The only way to save the game; after the forced move 41 \texttt{xe6} Black draws by perpetual check with 41...\( \texttt{xe6+} 42 \texttt{g1} \texttt{e1+} 43 \texttt{g2} \texttt{h2} \texttt{h4+}. \)

551) Franco – Amonatov

\( \texttt{Turin Olympiad 2006} \)

46 \( \texttt{h2}! \\
"Playing to win" with 46 \( \texttt{fl??} \) walks into a surprise mate with 46...\( \texttt{e1+!} 47 \texttt{xe1} \texttt{g1#}. \)

46...\( \texttt{g5} 47 \texttt{xd3} \texttt{h5+} 48 \texttt{g2} \texttt{g5+} 49 \texttt{h2} \texttt{h5+} 50 \texttt{g2} \texttt{g5+} 51 \texttt{h2} \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \)

552) van der Weide – Engelbert

\( \texttt{Hamburg 2007} \)

In the game, 22...\( \texttt{g6} 23 \texttt{xe7} \) gave Black no compensation for the piece, and he lost after 23...\( \texttt{exe3} 24 \texttt{gxe3} \texttt{1-0}. \)

Instead, 22...\( \texttt{f8} \) was both necessary and good: 23 \( \texttt{xd6} \texttt{g6} 24 \texttt{xe6} (24 \texttt{f4?} \texttt{xc2} sacrifices another pawn and if 25 \texttt{d4} \texttt{b7} 26 \texttt{e5} then 26...\( \texttt{g8}! \), followed by 27...\( \texttt{d4}, \) is good for Black) 24...\( \texttt{h6} 25 \texttt{xc8} \texttt{xc8} \) with a slight advantage for Black.

553) Jaracz – Estremera

\( \texttt{Porto San Giorgio 2006} \)

16...\( \texttt{e4}! \\
Not 16...\( \texttt{d4?} \) 17 \( \texttt{xe7} \texttt{xe7} 18 \texttt{d4} \texttt{b4} \) with advantage to White; the e8-knight stands badly.

17 \( \texttt{xe4} \texttt{dxe4} 18 \texttt{xe7} \texttt{xe7} 19 \texttt{h3?! exd3} \\
20 \texttt{xd3} \texttt{f8} 21 \texttt{c3} \texttt{xd1} + 22 \texttt{xd1} \texttt{c8+} \\
with advantage to Black.

554) Huerga – Estremera

\( \texttt{Melilla 2008} \)

18...\( \texttt{bxa4}! \\
Retreating with 18...\( \texttt{d6?} \) is better for White after 19 \texttt{c5}. \)

19 \( \texttt{fxe4} \\
19 bxa4 is met by 19...\( \texttt{c4}. \)

19...\( \texttt{fxe4} 20 \texttt{a3} \texttt{exd3} 21 \texttt{xd3} \texttt{g6} \\
Black has an extra pawn; furthermore the white pieces are badly coordinated.

555) Sega – Bachmann

\( \texttt{Santos 2008} \)

27...\( \texttt{d3!} \\
The black knight's entrance into play refutes White's attack.

28 \( \texttt{e3} \\
Intending to meet 28 \texttt{xe7} ? with 28...\( \texttt{xf2+} 29 \texttt{g2} \texttt{f4+}, \) while 28 \texttt{xe7 dxf2+} 29 \texttt{g2} \texttt{a2} is no better than the game.

28...\( \texttt{d4} 29 \texttt{xf4} \texttt{xf4} 30 \texttt{h4} \texttt{c4} 31 \texttt{g3} \texttt{d3} \texttt{0-1} \)

556) Coelho – Zambrana

\( \texttt{São Paulo 2008} \)

25...\( \texttt{gxh5!} \\
Forced, but winning.
26 \text{\textit{W}}xh5 \textit{B}xf6! 27 \textit{g}xf6 \textit{E}e3!
Controlling the vital squares g5 and h6.
28 \textit{Q}d5 \textit{W}xe4+ 29 \textit{B}f2 \textit{W}d4+ 30 \textit{Q}e1 \textit{Z}e8+
31 \textit{Q}e7+ \textit{Z}xe7+ 32 \textit{fxe7} \textit{W}e3+ 0-1

557)  Epishin – Cherin

\textit{Coniegiano 2008}

26 \textit{W}h6!
This counterattack is decisive.
26...\textit{Qxd4}
Also insufficient is 26...\textit{Qe8} 27 \textit{W}xh7! \textit{Q}d3 (not 27...\textit{Qxd4} 28 \textit{W}h8+) 28 \textit{W}xg6+ \textit{Q}f7 29
\textit{W}h6! and Black is the exchange down without any compensation and, with a weak king as well, his prospects are bleak.
27 \textit{W}xh7+ \textit{Q}f6
Or 27...\textit{Qe6} 28 \textit{W}g8+ \textit{Q}f6 29 \textit{W}h8+.
28 \textit{W}h8+
White wins another exchange.

558)  Santacaterina – Lavrić

\textit{Coniegiano 2008}

After 20 \textit{Qf1}? \textit{Qxf2}+! White resigned in view of 21 \textit{Qxf2} \textit{W}g3+ 22 \textit{Qf1} \textit{B}f8+ 23 \textit{Q}f3
g4 24 \textit{Q}e3 \textit{h}4!, with ideas of 25...\textit{Q}f4 or 25...\textit{Q}g3.
20 \textit{Q}h1! is necessary, with good play after 20...
\textit{Q}ae8 21 \textit{Q}xe6+ \textit{Q}xe6 (not 21...\textit{Q}h7? 22
\textit{W}g4 \textit{Q}f6 23 \textit{W}h3+ \textit{Q}h5 24 g4) 22 \textit{Q}xe6 \textit{Qxf2}
23 \textit{Q}e2.

559)  S. Sokolov – Kharlov

\textit{Nezhmetdinov Memorial, Kazan 2008}

The game featured 30 \textit{Q}xd4? \textit{Q}xd4 31 \textit{exd4}
\textit{Q}e8! followed by 32...b5, winning material.
30 \textit{Q}xa3 is better for White, with the idea of
\textit{Q}c2 and developing the c1-bishop; for example, 30...

560)  Bogner – Wirig

\textit{Mulhouse 2008}

27 \textit{W}b2?
It was essential to protect the back rank by 27
\textit{W}c1!, with a playable position after 27...\textit{Wxb4}
28 \textit{Q}g2.
27...\textit{Q}g5! 0-1
Black wins after 28 \textit{Q}xg5 \textit{Q}e1+ 29 \textit{Q}g2
\textit{Q}f1+.

561)  Kliuner – Gutman

\textit{Dortmund 2008}

38...\textit{Q}h3!
The c4-pawn is lost and White’s position collapses.
39 \textit{Q}e4
Or: 39 \textit{W}xd7 \textit{Q}xd4 40 \textit{W}xd4 \textit{W}c4; 39 \textit{W}xd7
\textit{W}c4 leads to mate.
39...\textit{Q}d2 40 \textit{h}5 \textit{Q}xe4 41 \textit{Q}f6 \textit{W}c4 0-1

562)  Franco – Rossetto

\textit{Villa Gesell 1980}

27...\textit{W}a4!
A winning zwischenschlag, attacking the c4-
bishop. In contrast, the immediate 27...\textit{Q}xf7? allows White to seize the initiative with 28 f5.
28 \textit{Q}d3 \textit{Q}xf7 29 \textit{Q}d7
Now if 29 f5, Black has 29...\textit{Q}h6+! 30 \textit{Q}d1
\textit{Q}bl+ 31 \textit{Q}e2 \textit{Q}f4+.
29...\textit{Q}f8! 30 \textit{g}5
30 \textit{Q}xe6 loses to 30...\textit{Q}xf4+ 31 \textit{Q}d1 (worse
is 31 \textit{W}d2 \textit{W}f1+ 32 \textit{W}d1 \textit{Q}h6+) 31...\textit{Q}bl+ with a decisive attack.
30...\textit{Q}d4 1-0

563)  Jonkman – Estremera

\textit{Cesenatico 2004}

35...\textit{Q}c6! \textit{f}2-\textit{f}1/2
An elegant way to defuse the strong threat of
36 \textit{Q}xf6; a possible continuation is 36 \textit{Q}xf6
\textit{Q}xf3+ 37 \textit{Q}g2 \textit{Q}xf4+ 38 \textit{Q}xe6! \textit{Q}xe6 39 \textit{Q}xb7
\textit{Q}c4 with a drawn endgame.

564)  Estremera – Tregubov

\textit{Gibraltar 2005}

37 \textit{Q}e5!
This counterattack solves White’s problems; in contrast, 37 \textit{W}xb6? \textit{Q}xc2 38 \textit{Q}f1 \textit{Q}xe4 is
better for Black.
37...\textit{Q}xc2
37...\textit{Q}g4+? 38 \textit{Q}f1 is better for White, who will win the b6-knight.
38 \textit{Q}xg7+ \textit{Q}xg7 39 \textit{Q}e7+
It’s a draw by perpetual check.
39...\textit{Q}g8 40 \textit{Q}e6+ \textit{Q}f8 41 \textit{Q}f6+ \textit{Q}e8 42
\textit{Q}e6+ \textit{Q}f8 1/2-1/2

565)  Franco – Miljanić

\textit{European Ch, Saint Vincent 2000}

21...\textit{Q}g7?!
21...\textit{Q}xe4? is bad because of 22 \textit{Q}c3 \textit{Q}g6
23 \textit{Q}xc4 d5 and now 24 \textit{Q}e2, intending to meet
24...\textit{Q}g7? with 25 \textit{Q}e6+.
22...dxe5 is met by 22...\textit{g}xg2+ 23 \textit{g}xg2 \textit{g}g4+ 24 \textit{h}1 \textit{w}f3+ 25 \textit{g}g1 \textit{w}g4+.

22...\textit{d}xe4! 23 \textit{c}c3 \textit{f}7

and Black is slightly worse, but he held out successfully.

566) \textit{Franco – Mateo}
\textit{Capablanca Memorial, Havana 2001}

29...\textit{w}c5+?

After 29...\textit{x}x3! the game ends in a draw by perpetual check; White has nothing better after 30 \textit{x}x7+ \textit{f}8 31 \textit{h}8+ \textit{x}x7 32 \textit{x}x6+ \textit{d}7 33 \textit{g}7+ \textit{d}6! 34 \textit{f}6+ \textit{d}7!.

30 \textit{h}1 \textit{e}f6

If 30...\textit{c}7 then one way to win is 31 \textit{a}a1; e.g., 31...\textit{d}d6 32 \textit{x}xe7+! \textit{e}e7 33 \textit{d}f6! \textit{xf}6 34 \textit{xf}6+ \textit{e}f6 35 \textit{h}4+ \textit{f}7 36 \textit{g}1.

31 \textit{d}7! \textit{d}xg2 32 \textit{a}xg2 \textit{w}xc3 33 \textit{a}xe7+ 1-0

567) \textit{Svidler – Shirov}
\textit{León (rapid) 2004}

10 \textit{w}d2?

This allows Black to regroup. Instead, 10 \textit{c}4! (threatening 11 \textit{c}5) is very strong, and Black then has to find the best way to give back some material; e.g., 10...\textit{c}c6 (10...\textit{d}xc4? 11 \textit{a}a3! \textit{a}6 12 \textit{a}xc4 \textit{w}a7 13 \textit{d}d6+ \textit{e}e7 14 \textit{w}d2; 10...\textit{e}h6 11 \textit{a}xh6 \textit{g}xh6 12 \textit{c}5 \textit{xb}4 13 \textit{xf}2 and the piece outweighs the pawns) 11 \textit{c}5 \textit{xb}4 12 \textit{xf}2 with advantage to White after 12...\textit{h}6 13 \textit{a}xh6 \textit{g}xh6 14 \textit{g}3.

10...\textit{h}6! 11 \textit{d}3?

The position is still complicated after 11 \textit{a}4!, when 11...\textit{g}g4? loses to 12 \textit{a}5 \textit{w}c7 (12...\textit{c}c3 13 \textit{h}3) 13 \textit{g}5!; similarly after 11 \textit{c}4. But now White is lost.

11...\textit{g}g4! 12 \textit{w}g5 \textit{h}b5! 13 \textit{c}4 \textit{g}g3! 0-1

After 14 \textit{w}2 \textit{d}4 \textit{d}c4 15 \textit{h}xg3 \textit{c}c6 16 \textit{d}c3 \textit{c}xd3 White’s position is in ruins.

568) \textit{Guerra – Franco}
\textit{El Ferro 2009}

Black is a rook up, but the threats on f6 are so strong that he has to find a way to save the game.

35...\textit{d}d3?

This returns the material but does not enable Black to escape. Also insufficient is 35...\textit{f}8? 36 \textit{w}a3+! \textit{w}7 37 \textit{a}x6, when White has a strong initiative and soon regains all the sacrificed material with interest. The only satisfactory way is 35...\textit{a}xd5! 36 \textit{a}xf6 (36 \textit{c}xd5?

allows 36...\textit{e}e5) 36...\textit{f}8! 37 \textit{f}4 (not 37 \textit{g}6?? \textit{f}3+ 38 \textit{g}2 \textit{e}5+) 37...\textit{f}3+! 38 \textit{xf}3 \textit{xf}3 39 \textit{w}xh8+ \textit{e}7 40 \textit{w}f6+ \textit{d}7 41 \textit{xf}3 \textit{e}8 42 \textit{xf}7 \textit{a}1+ 43 \textit{h}2 \textit{wa}5, and the most probable result is a draw.

36 \textit{w}xd3 \textit{w}xd3 37 \textit{g}g4+! \textit{f}8 38 \textit{a}a3+ \textit{e}e7 39 \textit{c}xd5

The material is left equal, but the strong passed pawn and the bad placing of the black king make defence impossible.

39...\textit{e}e8 40 \textit{a}xe7 \textit{c}xe7 41 \textit{d}6+ \textit{f}8 42 \textit{d}7 1-0

569) \textit{Ivkov – A. Kovačević}
\textit{Zlatibor 2008}

18...\textit{exf}5!

Not fearing ghosts!

19 \textit{d}d5 \textit{d}xe5?

The extra pawns form a wall, so White has to make further sacrifices.

20 \textit{w}x5

Or 20 \textit{w}x5 \textit{gxf}5 21 \textit{w}f5 \textit{d}d6 22 \textit{h}5 \textit{f}5 23 \textit{g}5 \textit{d}7 24 \textit{xe}7 \textit{xe}7, and Black retains a material advantage.

20...\textit{c}e8! 21 \textit{h}6 \textit{d}x5 22 \textit{xf}5 \textit{gxf}5 23 \textit{d}f1 \textit{f}4 24 \textit{d}2 \textit{e}8 25 \textit{h}5 \textit{w}e6

and now White has no compensation.

570) \textit{Hebden – Höf}
\textit{Oslo 2008}

42...\textit{c}6?

It is more important to contest the g-file and prevent White’s following manoeuvre with 42...\textit{h}8! 43 \textit{c}c7 (the idea is to answer 43 \textit{g}3? with 43...\textit{g}8) 43...\textit{h}f7 44 \textit{xb}7 \textit{c}6 45 \textit{b}6 (45 \textit{c}7? \textit{b}5) 45...\textit{c}8 46 \textit{c}1 \textit{b}7 47 \textit{f}4, with a possible draw.

43 \textit{g}3+ \textit{h}7 44 \textit{g}4 1-0

571) \textit{Brunello – Elinov}
\textit{Elsinore 2008}

28 \textit{w}e4?

It is essential to restrain the strong d4-knight by pinning it with 28 \textit{w}e3!, and if 28...\textit{a}a5 then 29 \textit{b}1.

28...\textit{xe}1! 29 \textit{xe}1

29 \textit{xe}1 is met by 29...\textit{xb}3.

29...\textit{f}5 30 \textit{e}2 \textit{w}f2

with an overwhelming advantage for Black.

572) \textit{Karjakin – Short}
\textit{Rapid match (game 9), Kiev 2008}

41...\textit{d}4?
Black can stay in the game with 41...g6! 42
\( \text{Rxg6} + \text{hxg6} \) 43 \( \text{Rxb2} \) a4 44 \( \text{Ba8} + \text{f7} \) 45 \( \text{e8} \) c2, and the struggle continues.

42 \( \text{Rxb2} \)

The simplest; the artistic 42 \( \text{d5}! \) also wins.

42...\( \text{Bxf5} \) 43 \( \text{Bh8} + \text{h7} \) 44 \( \text{e4} \)

and White wins.

573) Salgado – Camacho Collados

Padrón 2008

44...\( \text{a6} \)?

Almost equivalent to resigning; 44...\( \text{g5}?! \) is no good either, since 45 \( \text{h4} +! \) \( \text{hxh4} \) 46 \( \text{xf4} \) threatens mate with 47 \( \text{hxh6} \), but after 46...\( h5 \) 47 \( \text{gxh5} \) the passed pawn on h5 is decisive.

The best defence is 44...\( \text{f6} \), solving the problem of the unsafe king, and after 45 \( \text{xf4} + \text{g7} \), followed by ...\( \text{d1} \), Black has excellent defensive chances.

45 \( \text{xf4} + \text{g6} \) 46 \( \text{xc6} \)

White has two extra connected passed pawns; the rest was easy.

574) E. Lund – Tiviakov

Rønne 2008

The game ended 62 \( \text{g3}? \) \( \text{xe5} + \text{63} \) \( \text{xe5} \) \( \text{d2} \) 64 \( \text{wd5} \) (64 \( \text{e2} \) \( \text{e1} + 65 \) \( \text{h2} \) \( \text{e7}?! \) changes nothing) 64...\( f4 +! \) 65 \( \text{xf2} \) \( \text{e1} \) (0-1). White should play 62 \( \text{h2} \) \( \text{e6} \) 63 \( \text{e3} \), when Black can draw with 63...\( \text{xb6} \) 64 \( \text{xb6} \) d5 65 \( \text{h8} \) \( \text{h8} \) 66 \( \text{xb8} \) \( \text{b7} \) 67 \( \text{xe6} + \text{xe6} \) 68 \( \text{g5} \) \( \text{g5} \) 69 \( \text{e5} \) 70 \( \text{f4} \) \( \text{f6} \) or 63...\( \text{d2}?! \) 64 \( \text{xf6} \) 65 \( \text{xe6} \) \( \text{xe6} \) 66 \( \text{e4+} \) \( \text{f6} \) 67 \( \text{xe8} + \text{h7} \) 68 \( \text{wxf7} + \text{g7} \) 69 \( \text{f5} + \text{h8} \) 70 \( \text{h5} + \text{g7} \) 71 \( \text{c6} \) \( \text{h2} \) 72 \( \text{h2} \) \( \text{d6} +! \).

575) Oleksienko – Margvelashvili

Kavala 2008

38...\( \text{h5} \)?

Missing a good chance; 38...\( \text{xf4} +! \) 39 \( \text{xf4} \) 40 \( \text{e3} \) 41 \( \text{xd4} \) 41 \( \text{e4} \) 42 \( \text{d7} \) a4 and Black is not worse.

39 \( \text{d2} \)

With a big material advantage to White.

576) Navara – Kamsky

FIDE Grand Prix, Sochi 2008

37...\( \text{e3} !? \)

Putting pressure on the c3-bishop, which leaves White with little room to manoeuvre.

38 \( \text{h6} + \)

38 \( \text{xf2} \) \( \text{e6} \) 39 \( \text{h2} \) is met by 39...\( \text{g7} \), guarding for now all the squares to which the g4-knight might jump. Then after 40 \( \text{wh4} \) \( \text{xd6} \) (or 40...\( \text{f5} \)?) White has insufficient compensation for exchange and pawn. Or if 38 \( \text{f6} + \) then 38...\( \text{h8} !. \)

38...\( \text{h8} \) 39 \( \text{xf7} + \text{g7} \) 40 \( \text{h6} \)

Or 40 \( \text{g5} \) \( \text{b5} \) 41 \( \text{wh4} \) \( \text{e1} + 42 \) \( \text{h2} \) \( \text{g3} + 43 \) \( \text{wxd4} \) \( \text{f3} + 44 \) \( \text{wxd4} \) \( \text{xf7} \).

40...\( \text{g6} \) 0-1

There is no satisfactory defence against 41...\( \text{e1} \).

577) Vehi – Muñoz Pantoja

Badalona 2008

41 \( \text{b7} \)?

'The king is a strong piece'; White must play 41 \( \text{f2} \) 42 \( \text{xd2} \) \( \text{d3} \) 43 \( \text{b7} \) \( \text{b1} \) 44 \( \text{a2} \) \( \text{f6} \) 45 \( \text{a3} \) and it is White who is playing for a win.

41...\( \text{e1} \) 42 \( \text{b8} \) \( \text{xd1} + 43 \) \( \text{g2} \) \( \text{g1} + ! = \) 44 \( \text{wxd1} + 45 \) \( \text{g2} \) \( \text{f3} + 46 \) \( \text{h3} \) \( \text{h5} \) 0-1

578) Sandipan – S. Ernst

Vlissingen 2008

18...\( \text{h4} \)?

Preventing 19 \( \text{g3} + \), but straying too far from the squares f6 and g7. It is possible to defend with 18...\( \text{f6} \) 19 \( \text{g3} + \) (not 19...\( \text{e4} \) 20 \( \text{g7} \) \( \text{f5} \) followed by 21...\( \text{d7} \) 19...\( \text{g7} \) 20 \( \text{wd1} \) 21 \( \text{e5} \) \( \text{f5} \) 22 \( \text{h6} \) \( \text{h7} \) 23 \( \text{b5} \) \( \text{b}4 \) 24 \( \text{d7} \) 25 \( \text{d3} \) \( \text{f6} \) 26 \( \text{xd7} \) \( \text{wxd7} \) 27 \( \text{wxf6} \) \( \text{d1} + \) and perpetual check.

19...\( \text{e4} \)!

Threatening both to take the h4-bishop and to play 20 \( \text{g3} + \) \( \text{g7} \) 21 \( \text{f6} + \).

19...\( \text{d8} \)

After 19...\( \text{f5} \) 20 \( \text{wh4} \) \( \text{fxe4} \) 21 \( \text{w}7 \) !, threatening 22 \( \text{g3} + \) \( \text{h8} \) 23 \( \text{h3} + \) mating.

20 \( \text{wxd4} \) \( \text{d1} + 21 \text{e1} \)

With an extra pawn, an advantage in development and the black king exposed.

579) Dziuba – Desczynski

Najdorf Memorial, Warsaw 2008

41...\( \text{f6} \)?

Instead, 41...\( \text{e3} \) is decisive, threatening both to queen and to play 42...\( \text{wxg1} + \), mating. If 42 \( \text{f8} + \) then 42...\( \text{h5} \) 43 \( \text{e1} \) \( \text{f2} \), while 42 \( \text{g6} + \) is met by 42...\( \text{h5} \) 43 \( \text{h6} + \) \( \text{whxh6} \) (and not 43...\( \text{h6} \) 44 \( \text{f8} + \) \( \text{h5} \) 45 \( \text{f7} + \) with perpetual check) 44 \( \text{we8} + \) \( \text{g6} \), winning.

42 \( \text{d4} \) \( \text{wd4} \)
Or 42...Af1 43 We8! Wxd4 44 Wf8+ Wg7 45 Wf4+! Wg5 46 We6+ Wh6 47 We7 Wf5 48 Wg3, with the idea of Wh1-f2.
43 Wf8+ Wh5 44 Wc7! 1-0

580) Y. Vovk – Gritsak
Najdorf Memorial, Warsaw 2008
27 exd6?
White can draw with 27 Wh6+! Wh8 28 We6+ Wh8 (after 28...Wh7?! the black king remains exposed, so 29 exd6! and now 29...Wh3+? 30 Wh1 Whc2 loses to 31 Whc4+) and then 29 Wh6+, but not 29 exd6? transposing to the game.

27 Wh3+ 28 Wh1 Whc2
Now White has no satisfactory way to meet the threat of 29...Wg2#.

29 Wf2
29 Wh2 loses to 29...Wxc2 30 Whf2 Wf3+.
29...Wf3+ 30 Wh1 Wxc2! 31 Whf2 Wxd6+
32 Wh2 Wxd6
with an extra piece.

581) Tomczak – Ragger
World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008
62...a7!
Before moving his queen onto the long diagonal, Black evades a possible check on c6. Not 62...Wc5? right away in view of 63 Wc6+ a7 64 Wd7+ a6b8 65 Whb5+, drawing.

63 Wh6?
Black pays the price for his bishop being loose on a8 after 63 Wc2 Wxc6 64 Wc1 Wxe8, with advantage to Black.

63 Wh4
Now it is forced mate.
64 b4 axb4 65 b3 Wh3+ 66 Wc2 b3+ 67 Wc3 Whb4# (0-1)

582) Jobava – Hernández Carmenates
Barcelona 2008
34 Whf6??
It is necessary to move the king away with 34 Whg6! and then if 35 Wh7 Whf6! 36 Whg8 Black can remind White that his own king is not safe either by playing 36...a3.
35 Whf1+! 1-0

583) A. Rasmussen – Postny
Dresden Olympiad 2008
51 Whf1!
A strong zwischzug which deflects the white queen. After 51...exd4? the e3-bishop is activated and there is no more than a draw: 52 Wxd4+ f6 (not 52...Wh7? 53 Whf6 53 Wxf6+ Wh8 54 Whh8+ Whf7 55 Whh7+ Whc8 56 Whxf6 Wxf3 57 Whh8+ Whd7 58 Whg7+, etc.

52 Whg3
52 Whf5+ is not dangerous either: 52...Wxf5 53 Whc3+ Wh8, or even 53...Wf6, and White has no serious threats.

52 exd4
Now this is winning.

53 Whd4+
53 Whf4 Whd4 54 Wxf4 also loses after 54...Wxe2 55 Whg4 Whf2+ 56 Whg2 Whf4+ 57 Whh1 Whc1+.

53...Wh7 54 Whc3 Whc2 55 Whd3 Whf4 56 Whxf4 Whg1# (0-1)

584) Leko – Carlsen
Morelia/Linares 2007
28 g4!!
This surprising move prevents the check on h3, which is the priority. Even though it weakens White’s king position (which is missing the d3-bishop) and looks inadvisable, it gives White the advantage, mainly thanks to Black’s weak back rank, not forgetting that White is also a pawn up.

28...Whxh1+ 29 Whxh1 Wxf8 30 h3
Now White must solidify his pawn-structure.

30 Whd8 31 Whd4
The bishop returns to g2 to guard the king.

31...Whb6?! 32 Whg2 Whg6 33 Whf1 Whg7 34 Wxc7 and White combined his extra pawn with an attack on the king.

585) P. Carlsson – Timman
Malmö 2007
23 Whh4!!
A decisive counterattack, attacking the rook and covering the e7-square, so that he threatens 24...Wxf2. Now 24 Whh7+ is no use because 24...Wxe7 defends h7. Instead, 23...hxg6?? leads to mate after 24 Wb6+ Wh8 25 Wxb6+ Wh8 26 Whf6+ Whf6 27 Whh7#.

24 Whxe6?
24 Whc2 is better, with the possible continuation 24...Whb5! (but not 24...Wxf2? 25 Whg4! with advantage to White), winning material after 25 Whxh8 Whxe2 26 Whxe2 Whf8.

24...Wxf2! 25 Whf1
25 Whf2 Whf2 26 Wxf2 Wxf2+ costs White more material.

25...Whf1+! 26 Whf1 Whd4+ 0-1
586) Kogan – Babaev  
Sort 2008

42...\f8?
A losing blunder, whereas with 42...f6! Black is better. After the forced line 43 hxg7+ hxg7 44 fxg8+ hxg8 45 \g5+ he can play for a win with 45...fxe6 46 fxe6+ \xg6.

43 \d5+ \g6 44 \f6+ f2 45 \xe7+ \xg8 46 f7+! \xf7 47 \c5+ 1-0

587) Nijboer – Diamant  
Vlissingen 2008

38...\xa2+?
It is necessary to play 38...\xa4+! to prevent the white king from escaping via d3 and e2: 39 \xc1 (not 39 \xd3? \xd1+ 40 \xe4 \xe8! and Black wins) 39...\xa3+ 40 \xc2 (40 \xd1? c2+) 40...\xa4+ with a draw.

39 \xd3 \xb1+ 40 \xe2 \xc2+ 41 \e1 \xb1+ 42 \f2 \xb2+ 1-0

White plays 43 \g3 and there is no answer to the threat against the two black pieces.

588) Caprio – Tahirović  
Conigeliano 2008

17...\h6?
The right move is 17...\d8!, preventing mate and defending the d5-square:

a) After 18 \xh7+ \f8 19 \h8+ \c7 Black is winning material and the sacrifice 20 \xf7 does not work; e.g., 21 \f1+ \e6 22 \h3+ \d6 23 \e4+ \c6.

b) 18 \e1 gx\f6 19 \h6 is met by 19...\f5!, threatening to complete his development. White cannot draw by 20 \xe5 \xe5 21 \f5+ \f8 22 \xd8+ in view of 22...\xe8! 23 \d6+ \e7 24 \xd4 \e1+, and Black wins.

18 \d5
The knight’s entrance into the game is decisive.

18...\xf6
18...\d8 loses to 19 \e4 g6 20 \xe5.

19 \e4 \f5 20 \xf5 g6 21 \xf6 1-0

589) Recuero – Salgado  
Padrón 2008

11...\e7!
The natural 11...\f6? loses to 12 \g6! fxg6 13 \xg6+ \e7 14 \e1+ \d6 15 \d3+ \d5 16 \f4+ \c5 17 \b5+ \d4 18 \e5#, while 11...\d6?! leaves the black pieces very awkwardly placed after 12 \d3.

12 \xe4 d6 13 \f4 dxe5 14 \xe5 \f6 15 \g6+ \f7 16 \xf7+ \xf7 17 \xc7 \f5 18 \c3 \g5
with good compensation for the pawn.

590) Morozevich – Kamsky  
Tal Memorial, Moscow 2008

54 \h5?
White can draw by 54 \xf4! gx\f4 55 \g4 \g5 56 \d5! f3 (56...\exd5 57 \xg5! also leads to a draw: 57...f3 58 \e6 \f8 59 \h6 \f2 60 \g7+ \e7 61 \g8\f7) 57 \xf3 \exd5 58 \g4 \h6 59 \f5 \f8 60 \e6 \g7 61 \h4 \e7 62 \h5 d4 (not 62...\d6?? 63 \h6! \xe6 64 \e6 and White wins) 63 \e4 \xe6 64 \h6 \e5 65 \g7 with a draw; the black king can make no progress.

54...\h4+! 55 \xe4 \gxh4 56 \d4 \g7 57 \h3 (D)
The idea of exchanging pawns on d5 to reach the ending of bishop and ‘wrong’ rook’s pawn does not work, since after 57 \f3 \xg6 58 \e4 \g5 59 \d5 \exd5+ 60 \xe5 \g4 the white king is unable to reach h1.

\begin{center}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{center}

57...\d8 58 \f4 \b6
58...\xg6 59 \e4 \g5 60 \d5 \exd5 \f4, as in the previous note, also wins.

59 \e4 \xd4!
Prettier than 59...\xg6, which also wins.

60 \xd4 \xg6 61 \e4
Or 61 \c5 \g5! 62 \e6 \f4! 63 \d6 \f5.

61...\g5 62 \e3 \f5 63 \f3 \xe5 64 \g4 \e4! 65 \xe4 \xf4! 66 \h5 \e5 67 \h4 \e4 68 \g6 \e3 \h5 \e2 0-1
This chapter consists of 90 puzzles which, following the pattern of Chapters 3 and 6, are of increasing difficulty, from levels 1 to 4. The first 40 have hints, and the difficulty level drops back to 1 at the start of the 50 puzzles where you are given no clues.

The winners (or at least the ‘heroes’) are all from Latin countries, whether European or American. Many of the games are from the early and middle decades of the 20th century, as during this period there were a lot of excellent players in South America whose games will not be familiar to many readers.

To begin, we have here a well-known tactical theme in the hands of its creator.

There are too many tactical weaknesses in Black’s camp, don’t you think? What is the clearest win?

The white pieces are uncoordinated and his king is weak; what is the quickest way to win?

The position of the white king will help you to solve the problem of the two attacked black pieces.
How can White take advantage of the pin on the d-file?

There are several satisfactory ways to defend against the mate on g7, but which is the best?

White is the exchange down, but has a quick way to win. How?

How can White crystallize the superiority of his forces on the kingside?

What is the quickest way for White to exploit his passed c-pawn?

Can you see Black’s tactical weakness?
How can Black neutralize White’s pressure on the d-file?

White is a piece down, but the black king is weak; which is the most effective way to attack?

Black’s pieces are more active and better coordinated, and his king is safer. Put these advantages to use.

Black has two rooks for the queen, but there is a more important factor here; what is it?

Mating patterns and overloaded pieces are the themes of this puzzle.

Both sides have a rook that is out of play, but the key factor is the black king in the centre. How can this be exploited?
The b4-bishop is misplaced, don’t you think?

The black king will require many moves to reach a safe haven. How does White win?

How can White demonstrate that one of the black pieces is badly placed?

For the exchange White has a pawn and some kingside pressure, but one move changes everything.

Find the tactical weakness in the black camp.

In the game White played 28 wxa6?. How could Black have punished this careless move?
White's queen and b2-bishop are inactive at the moment; how can they be brought into play?

Can White create any winning chances?

White's advantage is not in doubt, but what is the killer blow in this position?

Is there an overloaded white piece?

There is just one way to win, which is...

White wins material; how?
Has White's desperado rook saved the game?

White is a rook down, his bishop is attacked, and his king is unsafe... so he must come up with something quickly!

Demonstrate that White's attack has not yet come to an end.

What is the quickest way to make something tangible of Black's advantage?

Is there anything better than 31 hxh7 gxh5 32 gxh5 f5 33 f7, etc.?

Is it appropriate to exchange on e3?
625

Black has strong threats, but it is White to move and he can transform the situation; how?

628

Black has a passed pawn; how can he exploit it?

626

White is attacking, but Black can defend; what is his best course?

629

How can Black take advantage of his centralized pieces and the fact that White’s queen and knight are out of play?

627

If there is nothing better than 23 fx e7, Black can hold his position without any problems; show how White can do better.

630

The position seems unclear, because the f7-pawn is very strong; how can Black clarify the situation in his favour?
Answers for Chapter 7

591) 
NN – Greco  
1620  
15...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}f2+} 16 \textcolor{blue}{\textbf{c}e1} \textcolor{green}{\textbf{d}d3++} 17 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{d}d1} \textcolor{blue}{\textbf{w}e1+}!  
18 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{x}e1} \textcolor{red}{\textbf{f}f2#} (0-1)

592)  
O'Hanlon – Grau  
Paris Olympiad 1924  
26...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{w}e2}! 0-1  
27 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{w}g2} is forced and then 27...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{w}xg2}+ 28 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{h}xg2} \textcolor{green}{\textbf{a}e3+} wins, while 27 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{h}h5} allows mate:  
27...\textcolor{green}{\textbf{d}d1}+ 28 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{x}xd1} \textcolor{red}{\textbf{w}xd1}+ 29 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g2} \textcolor{red}{\textbf{w}e2}+ 30 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g1} \textcolor{red}{\textbf{w}f2}+ 31 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{h}h1} \textcolor{red}{\textbf{w}f1#}.

593)  
Grau – Szabo  
Stockholm Olympiad 1937  
19 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{d}d4}! 1-0

594)  
C. Poulsen – Grau  
Stockholm Olympiad 1937  
23...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}d4}! 0-1  
Since 24 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{e}xf5}? allows 24...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}d2#}.

595)  
Grau – Pilnik  
Argentine Ch, La Plata 1938  
34 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{b}4}! 1-0  
There is no defence against 35 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{b}b3}.

596)  
Guimard – S. Graf  
La Plata 1944  
49 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}d1}+ \textcolor{green}{\textbf{e}f7} 50 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{f}f6}+! 1-0

597)  
Foguelman – Keres  
Buenos Aires 1964  
51 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{a}e5}! 1-0  
After 51...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}d4}+ 52 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g2} \textcolor{green}{\textbf{a}xa7} comes 53 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{b}b7}.

598)  
Cherta – Guimard  
Barcelona 1946  
41...g5! 0-1  
Threatening mate on h4, and after 42 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{f}xg6} \textcolor{green}{\textbf{c}e6}+ the game is decided.

599)  
Rossetto – Ju. Bolbochán  
Argentine Ch match (game 2), Buenos Aires 1948  
32 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g7}!  
Weakening the king's position and winning at least a pawn.  
32...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{e}e7}

32...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}d2} 33 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{x}xd2} \textcolor{red}{\textbf{x}g7} 34 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{w}f4} changes nothing.  
33 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{f}f6}+ \textcolor{green}{\textbf{h}h7} 34 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{a}xa6} \textcolor{red}{\textbf{w}a7} 35 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{e}e5}! \textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}d2} 36 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{e}e4}+ \textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g8} 37 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{w}f5} \textcolor{red}{\textbf{f}f6} 38 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{e}xf6} \textcolor{red}{\textbf{w}c7} 39 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g2} 1-0

600)  
Schweber – Teschner  
Stockholm Interzonal 1962  
20 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{e}xf7}+! \textcolor{green}{\textbf{e}xf7} 21 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{e}e6}+ \textcolor{green}{\textbf{h}h7} 22 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}d8}  
with a decisive material advantage.

601)  
Conway – Philidor  
London (blindfold) 1790  
21...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}e5}! 22 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{f}xe5} \textcolor{green}{\textbf{d}d5}  
The file has been closed and now the e5-pawn will be indefensible.  
23 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{e}e1} \textcolor{green}{\textbf{e}f8} 24 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}d3} \textcolor{red}{\textbf{f}f5} 25 \textcolor{green}{\textbf{b}3}  
Not 25 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}d3}? d4.  
25...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{x}xb3} 26 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{x}xb3} \textcolor{green}{\textbf{x}e5}  
and Black won with his extra pawn.

602)  
Montalbán – Grau  
Mar del Plata 1928  
35...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}xf2}! 36 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}xf2} \textcolor{green}{\textbf{g}xg3} 37 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{f}f1} \textcolor{red}{\textbf{w}xg2}  
With the deadly threats of 38...\textcolor{green}{\textbf{h}h3} and 38...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g4} followed by ...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g3}.  
38 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}d2}  
After 38 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{b}b3} \textcolor{green}{\textbf{h}h3} 39 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}d2} \textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g3} there is no defence against 40...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g4} or 40...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{f}f2}, depending on White's reply.  
38...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{h}h3} 39 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{e}e6}+ \textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g8} 0-1

603)  
Villegas – Portela  
Buenos Aires 1929  
41...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{d}d3}! 0-1

604)  
Lynch – Falcón  
Buenos Aires 1931  
21 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g1}!  
The knight is taboo and there is a threat of mate in two moves. 21 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{e}e3}! is another way, threatening 22 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g1}+, and we already know the power of a knight on f5.  
21...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g7} 22 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{h}h6}+ \textcolor{red}{\textbf{f}f8} 23 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{a}xa6}! \textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g7} 24 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{f}f5}+  
The above-mentioned deadly knight appears, and now it is mate in a few moves.  
24...\textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g6} 25 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{g}g4} 1-0

605)  
Palau – Grau  
Argentine Ch, La Plata 1938  
The important factor is the bad position of the white king, which succumbs to a mating attack:
26...g1#! 27 h4
27...f5 is met with the same winning reply.
27...e6! 0-1

606) Maderna – Szabo
Mar del Plata 1948
16 Wh5! Wa5
Upon 16...Qg6, or indeed any other knight
move, 17 Qb5! is decisive.
17 f4! Qc4 18 Wxh7 Qg4
Or 18...Qf8 19 Qh6 and White wins.
19 Wh8+ Qe7 20 Qh6 e5 21 Qf8+! Qd7 22
Qb3 Qxa2 23 Qf6 1-0

607) Maderna – Rossetto
Mar del Plata Zonal 1951
29 f1! 1-0
Mate can only be prevented at great material
loss; if 29...Qd7? then 30 Qxd7 Qxd7 31 Qh2.

608) Pilnik – Pachman
Saltsjobaden Interzonal 1952
26 Qd5! (D)

\[ Diagram \]

Threatening 27 Qc3, incarcerating the queen.
26...e4 27 Qe3 Qb2 28 Qb1 Qxc2 29 Qxb8
Qf7 30 dxc4
with a winning position.

609) Ju. Bolbochán – Cruz
Rio de Janeiro 1952
20 Qxc6!
Or in reverse order: 20 Qxf6! Qxf6 21
Qxc6!.
20...bxc6 21 Qxf6!
Two black pieces are in range of a knight
fork.
21...Qxf6 22 Qe4 Qxb2 23 Qb1 Qed8
If 23...Qe2 then 24 Qf1.

24 Qxd2
and White won.

610) Ju. Bolbochán – Evans
Helsinki Olympiad 1952
25 Qf5! 1-0
There is no defence against the mating attack
after 25...f6 (25...Qc7 loses to 26 Qc5+! Qe8 27
Qb6!) 26 Qc5+ Qe8 27 Qe6+ Qe7 28 Qa1!,
with the idea of 29 Qa8+ Qxa8 30 Qxe7#.

611) Geller – Cuellar Gacharná
Stockholm Interzonal 1962
38...Qc5!
After the rooks are exchanged, Black’s d8-
rook comes into play and the game is over.
39 Qxc5 dxc5 40 Qxc5 Qd2+ 41 Qh3 Qf1+
42 Qh4 Qxh2# (0-1)

612) Karpov – Antunes
Tilburg 1994
Both sides missed 28...b3!! 29 axb3 (if 29
Qc8 then simply 29...bxa2 wins) 29...Qb4,
with an extra exchange and a winning position.

613) Maderna – Molina
Buenos Aires 1935
20 Qxg6! hXg6 21 Qxg6 Qd8 22 fxe5 dx5
23 Qxe5 Qd6
After 23...Qxe5 24 Qxe5 Black loses at least
the f6-knight.
24 Qc6 Qde4 25 Qxd8 Qxc3 26 Qxc3
and Black soon resigned.

614) Maderna – Luckis
Warsaw Olympiad 1935
Yes, White can gain very good winning
chances:
42 f4! Qxf4 43 Qxf4 f5
The key is that 43...Qxd5? 44 f5+ Qxf5 45
Qxd5 is winning for White.
44 Qb4 Qe4 45 h6 Qf3 46 Qd3 Qb7 47
Qe5 Qc8 48 Qg6! Qa6 49 Qf8+ Qf7 50
Qxh7 Qg6 51 Qf8+ Qxh6 52 Qe5
and White won with his extra pawn.

615) Grau – Fine
Warsaw Olympiad 1935
32 Qg5!
Attacking the d8-rook and threatening 33
Qf6+.
32...Qd7 33 Qxd7 1-0
616)  E. Andersen – Grau  
Warsaw Olympiad 1935

Yes, the c3-bishop is overloaded, although the position of the e8-rook on the half-open file helps exploit this: 13...\(\text{Qxd4!} (13...\text{Qxd2??} 14 \text{Qxd2 Qxd4 15 exd4 Qxe2 16 f4} f4 \text{is much less strong}) 14 \text{exd4} (14 \text{Qxd4} ? \text{Qxd2}) 14...\text{Qxc3} 15 \text{Qxc3 Qxe2 16 Qf3} c6 with a healthy extra pawn.

617)  Grau – L. Steiner  
Warsaw Olympiad 1935

55 h4! e5
Or:
  a) 55...h5 56 gxh5 gxh5 also loses after 57 f5! e5 (57...exf5+ 58 Qxf5 Qe7 59 Qg6 or 59 Qe5) 58 f6 Qe6 59 f7 Qxf7 60 Qxe5.
  b) 55...Qd7 56 Qe5 Qe7 57 h5! and the white king infiltrates after 57...gxh5 58 gxh5 Qf7 (or 58...Qd7 59 Qf6) 59 Qd6.

56 f5 1-0
Further resistance is impossible after 56...g5 57 h5 or 56...gxg5+ 57 Qxf5.

618)  Grau – Monticelli  
Warsaw Olympiad 1935

20 Rh5!
More or less forcing the rook to move in range of a fork.

20...Qf8
If 20...g6 then 21 Qxf7! (or 21 Qxg6!), when 21...gxh5?, allows mate following 22 Qg6+ Qf8 23 Qxh6.

21 Qd7 Qd6 22 Qxf8  
with a decisive material advantage.

619)  Corte – Ju. Bolbochán  
Argentine Ch, La Plata 1938

No, Black can win:

46...Qg5 47 Bh5+ Qf6 48 Qf5+ 48 Bh6+ is met by 48...Qg2, when there are no more stalemate possibilities.

48...Qe7 49 Qe5+ Qd7 50 Qe7+ 50 Qxd5+ Qe6 destroys the stalemate because now White's d-pawn can move.

50...Qxe7 0-1

620)  Ju. Bolbochán – Fenoglio  
Argentine Ch, La Plata 1938

26 Qxf7! g5
If 26...Qxf7 then 27 Qh8+! Qg8 28 Qf6+ Qf7 29 Bh8#, while 26...Qxf7 loses to 27 Qe7+!.

27 Qh5 Qxh7 28 Qxh7  
with an extra pawn.

621)  Ju. Bolbochán – Corte  
Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946

31 g5! 1-0
Creating a winning passed pawn; for example, 31...fxg5 32 f6 Qd8 and now 33 Qxh7 is one of several ways to win. Even after 31 Qxh7 gxf5, White can still retain excellent chances by 32 h4!.

622)  Marini – Rossetto  
Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946

34 Qf4!
King safety overrides all other factors. The threat of mate forces Black to give up his queen.

34...Qxf7 35 Qxf7  
Black has two rooks for the queen but the black king is still poorly defended and the game is decided.

35...Qg2+  
Or 35...Qh7 36 Qxg6+! Qxg6 37 Qg5+ Qf7 38 Qxh5+ Qe7 39 Qxe2.

36 Qf1 Qh7 37 Qg5  
Somewhat stronger is 37 Qxg6+! Qxg6 38 Qf6+ Qh7 39 Qf5+, as above.

37...Qe4 38 Qxg6+ Qxg6 39 Qxg2  
and White eventually won.

623)  Liogky – Vallejo  
French Team Ch 2003

29...Qe1! 0-1 30 Qxe1 allows 30...Qxh2#.

624)  Atwood – Philidor  
London (blindfold) 1794

36...Qxe3!  
Yes, this exchange brings about a winning pawn ending.

37 Qxe3 h4 38 Qf2 e4  
One of the pawns will queen; the 'rule of the common square' states that if two passed pawns define a square that includes the eighth rank, the enemy king cannot hold them back.

39 Qg2 e3 40 Qh3 e2 0-1

625)  Grau – Euwe  
Paris Olympiad 1924

42 Qe4! Qd4
If 42...Qxa2 then naturally 43 Qxd1.

43 Qg5+!
43 \textit{f6}+! is also effective.
43...\textit{g6} 44 \textit{xe6!} \textit{e3}+
After 44...\textit{fxe6} the quickest way is 45 \textit{xe6+} \textit{g5} 46 \textit{f6}!
45 \textit{fxe3} \textit{d2}+ 46 \textit{h3} \textit{d7} 47 \textit{g4}+ 1-0

626) J. Martínez – Guimard
\textit{Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1948}
21...\textit{d6}!
This tremendous counterattacking move tips the struggle in Black’s favour; 21...\textit{d4}! 22 \textit{f6} \textit{e5} 23 \textit{xg7}+ \textit{h8} is also advantageous, but less so.
22 \textit{h5}
Or 22 \textit{b3} \textit{xb2} 23 \textit{g3} \textit{h1}+ 24 \textit{e2} \textit{h5}+ 25 \textit{f1} \textit{g5} 26 \textit{f6} \textit{e4}! 27 \textit{xg7}+ \textit{h8} with unanswerable threats.
22...\textit{xb2} 23 \textit{xf7}+ \textit{h8}! 24 \textit{f1} \textit{g5} 25 \textit{c4}
There is no defence; e.g., if 25 \textit{g6} then 25...\textit{h3}! 26 \textit{b4} \textit{c5}! (better than 26...\textit{d3}+ 27 \textit{e2} \textit{d2}+ 28 \textit{xd2} \textit{xd2} 29 \textit{d1} 27 \textit{d2} \textit{f3}+ 28 \textit{e2} \textit{g4} and Black wins.
25...\textit{d6} 0-1
The threat of mate gains a decisive material advantage for Black after 26 \textit{xc2} \textit{xf7}.

627) Pomar – Geller
\textit{Stockholm Interzonal 1962}
23 \textit{f3}!
Before taking on \textit{e7}, White threatens 24 \textit{wh7+}, as well as 24 \textit{h3}, forcing Black to weaken his king’s position even more.
23...\textit{g5} 24 \textit{fxe7} \textit{ae8} 25 \textit{w6}+ \textit{g7} 26 \textit{e5}! \textit{d5}
Or 26...\textit{xe5} 27 \textit{d1} and 28 \textit{d8}.
27 \textit{e6} \textit{f6} 28 \textit{we5} \textit{wc8} 29 \textit{xf7} 1-0

628) Eliskases – Pleci
\textit{Warsaw Olympiad 1935}
36...\textit{xf3}+!!
If Black plays 36...\textit{a4}? right away then in addition to 37 \textit{d2}, when the black king can’t escape perpetual check because there are no defensive pieces available, White has the immediate 37 \textit{f6}+! \textit{gx6} 38 \textit{we4}+ \textit{g7} 39 \textit{we7}+, drawing.
37 \textit{xf3} \textit{xf3} 38 \textit{xf3} \textit{a4} 39 \textit{gxh6} \textit{a3}! 0-1
Not 39...\textit{gxh6}? 40 \textit{f6}+! followed by 41 \textit{d5} and 42 \textit{b4}.

629) Balparda – Ja. Bolbochán
\textit{Buenos Aires 1936}
19...\textit{f3}!
Black takes advantage of the white queen’s absence to weaken the position of the white king and then attack it with irresistible force.
20 \textit{xc8}
20 \textit{fxe3} \textit{g5} is similar.
20...\textit{xe8} 21 \textit{f3} \textit{g5} 22 \textit{f2}
Or 22 \textit{c4} \textit{e3}+ 23 \textit{f1} \textit{xb3}.
22...\textit{wxd2} 23 \textit{w1} \textit{g1}+ 24 \textit{d2} \textit{d8}+ 25 \textit{d3}
25 \textit{c2} is met by 25...\textit{e4}+ 26 \textit{d3} \textit{c8}+ 27 \textit{d2} \textit{f2}+.
25...\textit{f2}+ 26 \textit{c1} \textit{xe3}+ 27 \textit{d2} \textit{e1}+ 28 \textit{d1} \textit{c8}+ 29 \textit{c2} \textit{e3}+ 30 \textit{d2} \textit{e4}! 31 \textit{b3} \textit{xc2}+
and Black won.

630) Larsen – Quinteros
\textit{Mar del Plata 1982}
42...\textit{c3}!
With the exchange of rooks, the passed pawn will deflect White’s pieces, and Black’s two remaining pieces will be able to combine with devastating force.
43 \textit{xc3}
If 43 \textit{f2} then 43...\textit{xb3}.
43...\textit{bxc3} 44 \textit{d1} \textit{d3}! (D)

45 \textit{f3}??!
Allowing the decisive entrance of the black queen, but the alternatives were not substantially better.
45...\textit{g5}+ 46 \textit{h2} \textit{d2}+ 47 \textit{g3} c3 48 \textit{xc2} \textit{xc2} 49 \textit{b4} \textit{f4} 0-1

631) Cuéllar Gacharná – Korchnoi
\textit{Stockholm Interzonal 1962}
54 \textit{f4}+! \textit{xf4}
54...\textit{f5} is met by 55 \textit{g4}+.
55 \textit{gxh4} \textit{f5} 56 \textit{we6}+ 1-0
632) García Palermo – Karpov  
*Mar del Plata 1982*

57...\(\text{xf5}+!\) 1-0
57...\(\text{xf5}\) 58 \(\text{xf5}\) \(\text{xf5}\) 59 e8\(\text{w}\).

633) Shabalov – Granda  
*Buenos Aires 2005*

53...\(\text{d3}!\) 0-1
Shielding the third rank; if now 54 \(\text{g1}\) then 54...\(\text{b2}\), followed by 55...\(\text{a2}\).

634) Euwe – Ju. Bolbochán  
*Mar del Plata 1947*

33...\(\text{f3}!\) 0-1
There is no defence against 34...\(\text{xf1}\)+ 35 \(\text{xf1}\) \(\text{h2}\).

635) Foguelman – Mazzoleni  
*Buenos Aires 1959*

22...\(\text{xg3}!\) 23 \(\text{g2}\)
23...\(\text{xe2}\)? allows mate in two: 23...\(\text{h2}+24\)
\(\text{f1}\) \(\text{h1}\).
23...\(\text{xf2}+0-1\)

636) Ju. Bolbochán – Hoen  
*Havana Olympiad 1966*

37 \(\text{xf5}!\) 1-0
If 37...\(\text{xf5}\) then 38 \(\text{e4}\).

637) Mecking – Rocha  
*Mar del Plata Zonal 1969*

23 \(\text{d4}+!\) \(\text{xd4}\) 24 \(\text{xc6}\#) (1-0)

638) Quinteros – Tukmakov  
*Leningrad Interzonal 1973*

40 \(\text{xd6}+!\) 1-0
40...\(\text{cx6}\) 41 \(\text{g}5+\) \(\text{e6}\)? 42 \(\text{e7}\#.

639) Quinteros – Adorjan  
*Wijk aan Zee 1973*

68 \(\text{g4}+!\) 1-0
68...\(\text{e3}\) 69 \(\text{g3}\).

640) Balashov – Sunye  
*Rio de Janeiro Interzonal 1979*

27...\(\text{gxf2}+!\) (eliminating White’s pressure on the g-file) 28 \(\text{gxf2}\) \(\text{xf2}+29\)
\(\text{xf2}\) \(\text{xf6}\) 0-1.

641) Miles – Bernat  
*Buenos Aires 1979*

36...\(\text{e4}!\) 37 \(\text{f1}\) \(\text{e3}+\) 38 \(\text{f2}\) \(\text{xd5}\)
Black has an extra exchange and duly won.

642) Polugaevsky – Quinteros  
*Biel Interzonal 1985*

19...\(\text{g5}+!\)
Winning the exchange, since 20 \(\text{b1}\)? fails to 20...\(\text{g5}\), and if 20 \(\text{f5}\) then 20...\(\text{xf5}\)+
21 \(\text{d2}\) \(\text{f8}\) 21 \(\text{d2}\) \(\text{e3}\) \(\text{xd2}+22\)
\(\text{xd2}\) \(\text{f6}\) and Black won.

643) Kariakin – Vallejo  
*Cuernavaca 2006*

34...\(\text{g5}!\) 0-1
Black wins after 35 \(\text{g2}\) \(\text{g2}\) 36 \(\text{g2}\)
\(\text{e1}\).

644) Robson – Hernández Guerrero  
*Chicago 2008*

32...\(\text{e2}!\) 33 \(\text{xe1}\) (D)
If 33 \(\text{xe4}\) then 33...\(\text{xe4}+\).

645) Ju. Bolbochán – R. Sanguinetti  
*Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946*

32 \(\text{xh6}!\) \(\text{xh6}\)
32...\(\text{gxf6}\) is also answered with 33 \(\text{xd7}\).
33 \(\text{xd7}\)
White is a pawn up without compensation.

646) Ju. Bolbochán – Bauzá  
*Mar del Plata Zonal 1951*

31 \(\text{g7}+!\) 1-0
If 31...\(\text{g7}\) then 32 \(\text{xe6}\) \(\text{b7}\) 33 \(\text{xb7}\)
\(\text{xb7}\) 34 \(\text{d6}\) \(\text{a7}\) 35 \(\text{h4}\), with a winning endgame. In contrast, 31 \(\text{xb4}\)?! \(\text{xb4}\) 32 \(\text{xe6}\)
\(\text{dxe6}\) 33 \(\text{c7}\) \(\text{c4}\) 34 \(\text{xc6}\) \(\text{f7}\) is also advantageous but less clearly so.
647) Ju. Bolbochán – Medina
Mar del Plata 1953
28 \( \text{Qxh6+!} \) gxh6 29 \( \text{Qxg6} \) fxg6 30 \( \text{Qxe6+} \) 1-0
Winning at least another pawn while maintaining a strong attack.

648) Ju. Bolbochán – Pachman
Moscow Olympiad 1956
22 \( \text{Qxf7+!} \) 1-0
22...\( \text{Qxf7} \) 23 \( \text{Qxe6#} \).

649) J. Ingolotti – O. Benítez
Pan American Team Ch, Tucumán 1971
32 \( \text{Qxh7+!} \) \( \text{Qxh7} \) 33 \( \text{Qh6+} \) \( \text{Qh8} \) 34 \( g6 \) 1-0

650) Brond – R. Sanguineti
Mar del Plata 1976
26 \( \text{Qh8+!} \) 1-0
26...\( \text{Qxh8} \) 27 \( \text{Qxh8+} \) \( \text{Qxh8} \) 28 \( \text{Qh4+} \) and 29 \( \text{Qxe7} \).

651) Bareev – Granda
Groningen (PCA qualifier) 1993
25...\( \text{Qxe6!} \) 26 \( \text{Qxd5} \)
26 \( \text{Qxd6} \) is met by 26...\( \text{Qxd6} + \) and 27...\( \text{Qxd1} \).
26...\( \text{Qxd5} \) 27 \( \text{Qxd5} \) \( \text{Qxd5} \) 28 \( b4 \) \( \text{Qc7+} \) 29 \( \text{Qg1} \) \( \text{Qb5} \) 30 \( \text{Qd4} \) \( \text{Qc6} \) 31 \( f4 \) \( \text{Qg6} \) 0-1

652) Vallejo – Radjabov
Spanish Team Ch, Sant Lluis 2005
56 \( \text{Qh8+!} \) 1-0
56...\( \text{Qh7} \) 57 \( \text{Qxh7+!} \) \( \text{Qxh7} \) 58 \( \text{Qg5+} \).

653) Vallejo – Seel
Bundesliga 2005/6
25 \( \text{Qb1!} \)
White's counterattack is decisive.
25...\( \text{Qxf2} \) 26 \( \text{Qg8+} \) \( \text{Qf8} \)
Not 26...\( \text{Qd7} \) 27 \( \text{Qd7#} \).
27 \( \text{Qf6!} \) \( \text{Qb2} \) 28 \( \text{Qb3!} \) \( \text{Qf4} \) 29 \( \text{Qxb2} \) \( \text{Qxh4+} \)
30 \( \text{Qg1} \) 1-0

654) Korneev – Cámpora
Deifontes (rapid) 2005
16...\( \text{Qxe4!} \) 17 \( \text{Qxe4} \) \( \text{Qxh4} \) 18 \( c4 \)
If 18 \( a3 \) then 18...\( \text{Qb7} \).
18...\( \text{Qe7} \)
with an extra pawn.

655) Pilnik – Stein
Mar del Plata 1966
32 \( \text{Qxe6} \) \( \text{Qe8} \)

White's passed pawn is unstoppable after
32...\( \text{Qxb1} \) 33 \( \text{Qxb8} \) \( \text{Qc3} \) 34 \( b7 \).
33 \( \text{Qd6} \)
The quickest way.
33...\( \text{Qxb1} \)
33...\( \text{Qd7} \) loses to, amongst other things, 34 \( \text{Qxe8} \) \( \text{Qxe8} \) 35 \( b7 \) \( \text{Qxb7} \) 36 \( \text{Qxb7} \) \( \text{Qxe8} \) 37 \( \text{Qxh7} \).
34 \( \text{Qxe8} \) 1-0
White threatens 35 \( b7 \) and remains a piece up after 34...\( \text{Qc8} \) 35 \( \text{Qd6} \) \( \text{Qa6} \) 36 \( \text{Qxb1} \).

656) Pilnik – Szabo
Amsterdam Candidates 1956
52 \( \text{Qe7!} \)
The task is not so simple after 52 \( \text{Qe7} \) \( \text{Qg8} \).
52...\( \text{Qe6} \) 53 \( \text{Qxh7+!} \) \( \text{Qg8} \) 54 \( \text{Qg7+} \) \( \text{Qh8} \) 55 \( \text{Qg6!} \) \( \text{Qf5} \)
Or 55...\( \text{Qf5} \) 56 \( \text{Qxe6} \) \( \text{Qxe6} \) 57 \( \text{Qd8+} \) and 58 \( \text{Qxe8} \).
56 \( \text{Qc6} \) 1-0
Ending with a mating-net.

657) Razuvaev – García Palermo
Dortmund 1985
25...\( \text{Qe6+!} \)
Not 25...\( \text{Qhe8??} \) 26 \( \text{Qxh6+} \) drawing.
26 \( \text{Qf2} \) \( \text{Qhe8} \) 27 \( \text{Qc4} \) \( \text{Qf5+} \) 0-1

658) Cámpora – Portisch
Sarajevo 1986
28 \( \text{Qd4!} \) 1-0
The rook can't move on account of 29 \( \text{Qxe8} \),
and if the queen defends the rook, then simply
29 \( a7 \).

659) Milos – Fedorowicz
Buenos Aires 1991
37 \( \text{Qc6!} \)
And surprisingly the \( c8 \)-bishop is lost.
37...\( \text{Qg7} \)
37...\( \text{Qb7} \) loses to 38 \( \text{Qd7+} \).
38 \( \text{Qxc8} \) \( \text{Qd6} \) 39 \( \text{Qg8+} \) \( \text{Qf6} \) 40 \( \text{Qf8+} \) 1-0

660) Kolev – Granda
Burgas 1993
31...\( \text{Qb1+!} \)
With a precise manoeuvre, Black eliminates
the danger to his kingside and brings his queen
to the defence.
32 \( \text{Qg2} \) \( \text{Qf1+!} \) 33 \( \text{Qxf1} \) \( \text{Qxb2} \) 0-1
After 34 \( \text{Qf2} \) \( \text{Qxe5} \) White is three pawns
down without compensation.
661)    Illescas – Gelfand  
Wijk aan Zee 1993
30  \( \text{e}7! \text{e}8 \) 31  \( \text{xd}6! \) (D)

31...\( \text{wx}d6 \)
31...\( \text{xd}6 \) 32  \( \text{xe}5+ \) leaves Black two pawns down.
32  \( \text{xd}6 \text{xd}6 \) 33  \( \text{d}1 \)
with a decisive material advantage.

662)    Illescas – Lautier  
Linares 1994
25  \( \text{xf}4! \)
Threatening the weak d5-pawn, amongst other things.
25...\( \text{xf}4 \)
25...\( \text{xf}4 \) loses to 26  g5  \( \text{c}6 \) 27  \( \text{h}5+ \).
26  \( \text{xf}4 \)
and White won.

663)    Illescas – Korchnoi  
Madrid 1996
27  \( \text{xg}6! \) 1-0
Black resigned in view of 27...\( \text{xg}6 \) 28  \( \text{xg}5+ \)  \( \text{h}7 \) (or 28...\( \text{xf}5 \) 29  \( \text{g}4+ \)  \( \text{g}5 \) 30  \( \text{xf}5 \) 29  \( \text{h}5 \) 30  \( \text{g}6+ \)  \( \text{h}8 \) 31  \( \text{fxe}6. \)

664)    Milos – Murshed  
FIDE Knockout, Groningen 1997
26  \( \text{d}1! \text{c}3 \) 27  \( \text{f}3 \text{e}1+ \)
After 27...\( \text{b}2 \) 28  c3 the f6-rook can’t be defended.
28  \( \text{x}1 \text{x}f3 \) 29  \( \text{x}f3 \text{c}6 \) 30  \( \text{h}4+ \)  f6 31
\( \text{h}7+ \)  \( \text{d}6 \) 32  \( \text{g}7 \) 33  h4 1-0

665)    Calzetta – Jackova  
European Team Ch (Women),
Gothenburg 2005
18  \( \text{xf}5! \)

There is no satisfactory defence against 19  \( \text{f}3 \), since the c7-rook has to defend f7.
18...\( \text{e}6 \)
If 18...\( \text{g}5?! \) White can play 19  \( \text{xf}7+ \text{xf}7 \) 20  \( \text{xf}7 \text{xf}7 \) 21  \( \text{f}3 \text{h}5 \) 22  \( \text{xe}5+. \)
19  \( \text{xe}6 \text{fxe}6 \) 20  \( \text{f}3 \)
White went on to win.

666)    An. Rodriguez – Shabalov  
Buenos Aires 2005
66  \( \text{c}7! \) \( \text{e}2 \)
White’s task after 66...\( \text{xc}7 \) 67  \( \text{xe}3 \)  \( \text{f}4 \)
68  \( \text{e}7 \text{d}5 \) 69  \( \text{f}7+ \)  \( \text{e}4 \) 70  \( \text{g}4 \) is simple, as it is also after 66...\( \text{fxe}2 \) 67  c8\( \text{w} \) \( \text{f}1 \) \( \text{w} \) 68  \( \text{xe}6+. \)
67  \( \text{xe}6! \) 1-0
67...\( \text{xe}6 \) 68  c8\( \text{w} + \)  \( \text{d}5 \) 69  \( \text{c}3. \)

667)    Pavlovic – Caruana  
Moscow 2008
30  \( \text{xe}3+! \) 31  \( \text{fxe}3 \) \( \text{g}3+ \) 32  \( \text{g}1 \) \( \text{xe}3+ \)
33  \( \text{g}2 \) \( \text{g}2+ \) 34  \( \text{f}1 \) \( \text{g}3+ \) 35  \( \text{g}1 \) \( \text{g}2+ \) 36
\( \text{f}1 \) \( \text{xf}2+ \) 37  \( \text{xf}2 \) \( \text{g}3+ \) 38  \( \text{g}1 \) \( \text{xd}4 0-1 \)
If 39  \( \text{xd}4 \) then 39...\( \text{axa}5. \)

668)    Mariotti – Gligoric  
Venice 1971
33  \( \text{g}6! \) \( \text{we}4 \)
33...\( \text{gxf}6 \) loses to 34  \( \text{g}6+ \)  \( \text{h}8 \) 35  \( \text{xh}6+ \)
\( \text{g}8 \) 36  \( \text{xf}6 \) (threatening 37  \( \text{g}5+ \) 36...\( \text{g}7 \)
37  \( \text{g}5! \) \( \text{xf}5 \) 38  \( \text{d}8+ \)  \( \text{h}7 \) 39  \( \text{xf}5 \) \( \text{g}6 \) 40
\( \text{g}7+ \), mating quickly.
34  \( \text{g}6!! \) (D)
35...\text{gx}g3 36 \text{fx}g3 \text{\&e}6 37 \text{\&d}6 \text{\&xa}2 38 \text{\&xb}6 leads to a lost ending.
36 \text{\&d}6 \text{\&f}7 37 \text{\&xb}6 \text{\&c}4
37...\text{\&xe}7 38 \text{\&e}3.
38 \text{\&h}7
and White won.

669) \textbf{Savon – Mecking}

\textit{Petropolis Interzonal 1973}

18...\text{\&b}3+! 19 \text{\&b}1
19...\text{\&xb}3 loses to 19...\text{\&xc}2+ 20 \text{\&b}1 \text{\&xe}2+ 21 \text{\&a}1 \text{\&xh}1.
19...\text{\&xd}4 20 \text{\&xd}6 \text{\&xh}1
Black has a decisive material advantage.

670) \textbf{Maderna – Piazzini}

\textit{Argentine Ch match (game 14), Buenos Aires 1940}

47 \text{\&h}2!
The only move to win, since 47 \text{\&h}3? allows 47...\text{\&g}4+ 48 \text{\&h}2 \text{\&f}1+ 49 \text{\&g}2 \text{\&e}3+ 50 \text{\&h}2 with a draw, while 47 \text{\&h}1? \text{\&f}3+ 48 \text{\&h}2 (not 48 \text{\&g}1?? \text{\&d}5+) 48...\text{\&g}4+ 49 \text{\&h}3 \text{\&f}2+ 50 \text{\&h}2 \text{\&g}4+ is also a draw.
47...\text{\&e}5
47...\text{\&g}4+ loses to 48 \text{\&h}3! \text{\&xf}2+ 49 \text{\&g}2.
48 \text{\&c}8+ \text{\&f}7 49 \text{\&d}8+ \text{\&g}8
The h8-knight is lost after 49...\text{\&e}7 50 \text{\&c}6+ \text{\&d}6 51 \text{\&xe}5.
50 \text{\&c}6+ \text{\&h}7 51 \text{\&xe}5 \text{\&xe}5 52 \text{\&g}4 \text{\&g}6 53 \text{\&c}5 1-0

671) \textbf{Pilnik – Foguelman}

\textit{Mar del Plata 1965}

34 \text{h}5+! \text{\&xh}5
Also losing is 34...\text{\&g}5 35 \text{\&a}5+! \text{\&g}4 36 \text{\&c}4+ and the king can’t survive the onslaught by the three white pieces; e.g., 36...\text{\&h}3 37 \text{\&h}1+ \text{\&h}2 38 \text{\&c}3+ \text{\&g}2 (or 38...\text{\&g}3 39 \text{\&xh}2+ \text{\&xh}2 40 \text{\&c}2+ \text{\&h}3 41 \text{\&e}3) 39 \text{\&g}4+! \text{\&xh}1 40 \text{\&c}1+ and mate.
35 \text{\&h}3+ \text{\&g}5 36 \text{\&d}5+ \text{\&f}6 37 \text{\&e}6# (1-0)

672) \textbf{Ju. Bolbochán – Foguelman}

\textit{Mar del Plata 1965}

32 \text{\&xf}6!! \text{\&xd}5
32...\text{\&d}4 loses to 33 \text{\&h}6+ \text{\&h}7 34 \text{\&xh}7+! \text{\&xh}7 35 \text{\&b}7+.
33 \text{\&xd}5 \text{\&h}7
The advanced pawns mean that the defence 33...\text{\&b}7 fails to 34 \text{\&h}6+ \text{\&h}7 35 \text{\&gh}3 \text{\&e}7 36 \text{\&xh}7+! \text{\&xh}7 37 \text{\&xh}7+ \text{\&xh}7 38 \text{\&xh}7 \text{\&xh}7 39 \text{\&e}7.

34 \text{\&f}7 \text{\&f}8 35 \text{\&h}3+ \text{\&g}8 36 \text{\&g}3+ \text{\&h}8 37 \text{\&e}7 \text{\&h}6 38 \text{\&h}3 \text{\&xh}3 39 \text{\&xf}8\text{\&w}+ 1-0

673) \textbf{Mecking – Panno}

\textit{Buenos Aires 1967}

41 \text{\&h}3!
The queen’s entrance ends all resistance. Penetrating the queenside with the queen by 41 \text{\&f}7?! \text{\&xf}7 42 \text{\&c}2 \text{\&g}6 43 \text{\&c}7+ \text{\&e}8 44 \text{\&c}8+ \text{\&e}7 achieves nothing.
41...\text{\&xb}2
Or 41...\text{\&xf}6 42 \text{\&e}6+ \text{\&g}7 43 \text{\&e}7+ \text{\&g}8 and there are many ways to win; e.g., 44 \text{\&f}6 \text{\&g}4 45 \text{\&f}5 \text{\&xf}3+ 46 \text{\&xf}3 \text{\&xf}3 47 \text{\&g}1!.
42 \text{\&e}6 1-0
After 42...\text{\&bb}8 the quickest win is the unusual 43 \text{\&g}4! threatening 44 \text{\&xg}5+ \text{\&xg}5 45 \text{\&f}5+, against which there is no satisfactory defence.

674) \textbf{Mariotti – Korchnoi}

\textit{Rome 1982}

26 \text{\&xg}7! \text{\&xg}7
If 26...\text{\&xe}1 White wins by 27 \text{\&xf}8 \text{\&xd}3 28 \text{\&c}5!! \text{\&xc}5+ 29 \text{\&b}5 \text{\&xf}3+ 30 \text{\&g}2 \text{\&xc}5 31 \text{\&xf}3.
27 \text{\&g}5+ \text{\&h}8 28 \text{\&d}8 \text{\&d}7 29 \text{\&e}8 \text{\&d}4+ 30 \text{\&g}2 \text{\&g}7 31 \text{\&e}7 \text{\&g}8 32 \text{\&xd}7 1-0

675) \textbf{Granda – Oil}

\textit{Groningen (PCA qualifier) 1993}

27 \text{\&xf}6! \text{\&xf}6
White wins after 27...\text{\&xf}6 28 \text{\&g}5! (or 28 \text{\&h}6), followed by 29 \text{\&c}5.
28 \text{\&c}5! \text{\&xc}5 29 \text{\&e}5 \text{\&xe}5 30 \text{\&d}5 1-0

676) \textbf{Illescas – J. Polgar}

\textit{Moscow Olympiad 1994}

35 \text{\&h}5!!
This looks like a blunder but is actually the start of a winning manoeuvre; it defends the a7-rook and prepares the subsequent blow.
35...\text{\&xd}2
If 35...\text{\&d}4 then White still plays 36 \text{\&g}4, while after 35...\text{\&d}6 White wins with 36 \text{\&f}5.
36 \text{\&g}4! \text{\&xa}7
The line 36...\text{\&e}7 37 \text{\&xe}7 \text{\&g}8 38 \text{\&f}5 offers Black no hope.
37 \text{\&xa}7 \text{\&f}6 38 \text{\&f}5+ \text{\&h}8 39 \text{\&g}6 \text{\&dxe}4
40 \text{\&f}5 \text{\&g}8 41 \text{\&e}8!
The final offensive, with all White’s pieces in the attack, is unanswered.
41...\text{\&xd}5
41...xf8 42 xf7 followed by 43 Qce7 leaves Black defenceless.
42 Qxd6 1-0

677) Illescas – Karpov
Villarrobledo (rapid) 1997
37 f6+! xg5
If 37...e4 White wins by setting up two passed pawns: 38 e6+ f3 39 c6 f4 40 xg6 g4 41 xf6 e4 42 e6+ f5 (42...f3 43 g6) 43 d5! followed by 44 e5, or 44 g6, depending on what Black plays.
38 c6 f4
Neither 38...e3 39 d6 xd4 40 xd4 h1 41 b5! c1 42 c4 nor 38...h1 39 d3! f4 40 xf4! xf4 41 c7 is any better.
39 d5!
Threatening 40 xf4 xf4 41 e3, when the c-pawn queens.
39...c7
If 39...h2 then 40 f2, while 39...h1 fails to halt the c-pawn after 40 xf4 xf4 41 c7 c1 and now 42 c5 wins.
40 f7 x8 41 c7 1-0

678) Salov – Milos
FIDE Knockout, Las Vegas 1999
35...d3! 36 b6
After 36 xe7 the black queen infiltrates decisively by 36...wxe7 37 f1 (or 37 xd3 w1+ 38 h2 e5+ and Black wins) 37...e1 38 d5 w2.
36 xe2 37 d7
37 xe2 loses to 37...xe2 38 b7 d7 f2+.
37...f2+ 0-1

679) Vallejo – Nysret
European Clubs Cup, Izmir 2004
29 xf6! e8
29...gx6 loses to 30 xf6+ g7 31 xg7 xg7 32 e7 xg7 32 e5! xg3+ 33 h2 g8 34 xd8 dxe5 35 f6 e4 36 e5.
30 xg7! xg7 31 xg7 xg7 32 e5 1-0
There is no way to defend h7.

680) R. Sanguineti – Donoso
Fortaleza Zonal 1975
18 xg6! hxg6!
If 18...exd5 then any discovery by the g6-bishop wins, such as 19 e4+.
19 f4 (D)

19...Wb4?
With 19...c5! Black can still fight on; the key is that his queen can now reach the kingside with...Wg5. Then:

a) The tempting 20 dxg6?! yields no advantage for White after 20...f6! 21 e7+ (21 e5+ g7 22 dxg7 Wxe7! 23 xfg8 wh8 24 xg7+ xg7 25 d3 c5! 26 hxg1 c6 is even less convincing) 21...h7 22 xf6 xf6 23 Wh4+ g7, and White has no more than a draw.

b) White retains the better chances after 20 d7! Wg5 (If 20...c7 then 21 dxg6! does now win; e.g., 21...f6 22 xf6+ gxf6 23 xg7 xg7 24 xf6) 21 h3 (threatening 22 Wh4#) 21...g7 22 xh7, with advantage to White, but with everything still to play for.

20 dxg6! f5
If 20...f6 it is mate in a few moves with 21 e7+ h7 22 Wh5+ g7 23 xg5+ h7 24 xf6 xf6 25 d4!.
21 xh7+ h7 22 xg6+ xe7 23 xg5+ 1-0
This chapter contains the second set of five tests (the final batch is in Chapter 10). Each test is of roughly equal difficulty, and contains 16 different puzzle positions. Of these positions, two are of level 1 difficulty (i.e. novices should have a good chance of solving them), four are level 2, six are level 3, two are level 4 and the final two feature our top difficulty rating, level 5, and are designed to prove taxing even for the very best players.

Your task is to find the best continuation. The number of points available varies from puzzle to puzzle, depending on the difficulty level. 1 point is the maximum for a level 1 puzzle, 2 points for a level 2 puzzle and so on until 5 points is the maximum for level 5. Therefore each test has a maximum number of 46 points on offer.

The number of points given for each puzzle depends on how much of the critical line(s) you have found. Identifying the correct initial move will grant you at least half the total number of points available for each puzzle, but additional credit will often be given for good supporting analysis.

There is no specific time limit for these tests. You should tackle the positions as if you had to choose the next move in an important competitive game. In general, it is rare for additional reflection after the first 20 minutes to improve the quality of the decision, though of course in the level 5 mega-puzzles, you may need extra time to analyse the complications. Thus as a rough guide, each test of 16 puzzles should take between 1 and 2 hours. Remember that you should not move the pieces or use the help of a computer.

**Test Score to Elo Points Conversion Chart**

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<td>2600 or above</td>
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Test 6

681
W

685
B

682
W

686
W

683
W

687
W

684
B

688
W
Test 7
Test 8

713  
B

717  
W

714  
B

718  
B

715  
B

719  
B

716  
W

720  
B
Test 9

729 W

730 B

731 W

732 B

733 B

734 W

735 B

736 B
Answers for Chapter 8

Test 6 Answers

681) Mecking – Najdorf

Mar del Plata 1971

37 \textsf{wxh7+! \textsf{g}xh7 38 \textsf{b}h3+ 1-0}

1 point for 37 \textsf{wxh7+!}.

682) Najdorf – de Ronde

Buenos Aires 1945

37 \textsf{xf8+! \textsf{fxf8 38 d6+ 1-0}}

White is a rook up and mates in a few moves.

1 point for 37 \textsf{xf8+!}.

683) Falcon – Rauch

Buenos Aires 1945

33 \textsf{f1?}

This loses; 33 \textsf{h1! is essential and after 33...\textsf{h3} 34 \textsf{f5 \textsf{g}xh3 35 \textsf{xf7 \textsf{g}xg7 36 \textsf{g}h3! Black has no more than a draw. 33...\textsf{h3} 34 \textsf{g}xe1 \textsf{d}d8 35 \textsf{g}g5 \textsf{g}xg5}

and Black won.

2 points for 33 \textsf{h1}.

684) F. Benko – Maderna

Buenos Aires 1945

17...\textsf{hxg6! 18 fxe6 \textsf{g}xg4+ 19 \textsf{h}1 \textsf{h}4}

Repelling the attack, and retaining an extra piece.

2 points for 17...\textsf{hxg6}.

685) Schaefer – Lipiniks
corr. 1955-62

18...\textsf{g}xg4! 19 \textsf{d}xe6?

This doesn’t work, but there is hardly anything better; if 19 \textsf{d}xg4? \textsf{xe4+ White loses the house.

19...\textsf{d}xe6 20 \textsf{d}xg4 \textsf{d}xg4+ 21 \textsf{f}1 \textsf{xe4}

22 \textsf{d}e2 \textsf{d}xf2 23 \textsf{d}xf2 \textsf{d}e8+ 0-1

24 \textsf{d}xe8 \textsf{d}xe8+ 25 \textsf{d}f1 \textsf{d}d3+ 26 \textsf{g}2 \textsf{d}e2 is hopeless for White.

2 points for 18...\textsf{g}xg4.

686) Ju. Bolbochán – Perez Alcocer

São Paulo Zonal 1960

25 \textsf{e}5+! \textsf{g}7

No better is 25...\textsf{g}8 26 \textsf{xf5! \textsf{xc}2 27 \textsf{xe6+! and Black must give up his queen, since 27...\textsf{f}8? allows 28 \textsf{h}8#.

26 \textsf{xe6 1-0}

2 points for 25 \textsf{e}5+!.

687) Falcon – Lynch

Buenos Aires 1945

Going forward with 40 \textsf{e}6? looks suicidal, and is; the quickest way for Black to win is 40...\textsf{f}8! 41 \textsf{d}5 \textsf{xc}6+ 42 \textsf{e}5 \textsf{e}8+. The game went 40 \textsf{d}f4? \textsf{e}7+ 0-1. It is mate after 41 \textsf{e}6+ \textsf{f}7 and ...

40 \textsf{d}5! is the only move to prevent mate, after which White should win; for example, 40...\textsf{xc}6 (or 40...\textsf{e}8+ 41 \textsf{d}6 and White wins) 41 \textsf{xc}e3, with a decisive material advantage.

3 points for 40 \textsf{d}5!.

688) Vidmar – Guimard

Staunton Memorial, Groningen 1946

30 \textsf{b}1?

White can defend successfully with 30 \textsf{b}3!, e.g., 30...\textsf{h}3+ (after 30...\textsf{f}3+ 31 \textsf{d}4 {or 31 \textsf{f}2} 31...\textsf{xb}2 32 \textsf{x}e6 \textsf{xf}1 33 \textsf{c}8+ \textsf{g}7 34 \textsf{g}4+, the exposure of Black’s king guarantees the draw) 31 \textsf{a}4! and now 31...\textsf{d}7 fails to 32 \textsf{e}6+!.

30...\textsf{h}3!

Ensuring that the bishop, as well as the rook, can take part in the attack.

31 \textsf{e}5 \textsf{f}1+ 32 \textsf{e}2 \textsf{f}5+ 0-1

It’s mate after 33 \textsf{d}2 \textsf{d}3#.

3 points for 30 \textsf{b}3!.

689) Maderna – Castillo

Mar del Plata 1948

44...\textsf{h}6+?

Black can achieve a draw with 44...\textsf{xf}3!; e.g., 45 \textsf{e}7+ \textsf{g}8! (45...\textsf{f}7 leads to mate after 46 \textsf{e}6+ 46 \textsf{e}8+ \textsf{g}7 (or 46...\textsf{h}7 47 \textsf{e}6+ \textsf{f}7) and there is nothing better than 47 \textsf{e}7+, since 47...\textsf{h}5+ loses to 47...\textsf{h}6 48 \textsf{xf}6 \textsf{f}1#.

45 \textsf{h}5 \textsf{f}1+ 46 \textsf{h}4 \textsf{h}1+ 47 \textsf{g}5 \textsf{g}6+

48 \textsf{g}xg6 \textsf{h}6+ 49 \textsf{xf}5 \textsf{hxg6} 50 \textsf{e}5 1-0

3 points for 44...\textsf{xf}3!.

690) Reinhardt – Ju. Bolbochán

Mar del Plata Zonal 1951

33...\textsf{e}1+! 34 \textsf{e}1 \textsf{b}4! 35 \textsf{g}3+

Opting for the endgame with 35 \textsf{g}3+ \textsf{f}7 36 \textsf{xb}4 \textsf{e}1+ 37 \textsf{xe}1 \textsf{xe}1+ 38 \textsf{g}1 d4 39

h3 (if 39...\textsf{d}3? then 39...\textsf{e}4!) 39...\textsf{d}1 is no better.

35...\textsf{h}8 0-1

White could have fought on, but he has a lost game; e.g., 36 \textsf{f}2 \textsf{e}1 \textsf{w}+ 37 \textsf{xe}1 \textsf{xe}1+ 38
\( \text{\textcopyright 2023} \)

691) **Salo – Ju. Bolbochán**  
*Moscow Olympiad 1956*

\[ 33 \text{\textcopyright f1?} \]
White needs to head for perpetual check with \( \text{\textcopyright d8+} \) and \( \text{\textcopyright f6} \) by playing \( 33 \text{\textcopyright g5!} \); e.g., \( 33...\text{\textcopyright c2+} 34 \text{\textcopyright h3}! \) \( d2 \) (or \( 34...\text{\textcopyright x c6} 35 \text{\textcopyright d8+} \) \( \text{\textcopyright h7} 36 \text{\textcopyright x d3} \), with a probable draw) \( 35 \text{\textcopyright d8+} \) \( \text{\textcopyright h7} 36 \text{\textcopyright f6} \) \( d1 \text{\textcopyright f} 37 \text{\textcopyright x f7+} \) \( \text{\textcopyright h6} 38 \text{\textcopyright f8+} \) \( \text{\textcopyright h7} 39 \text{\textcopyright f7+} \). White could also reverse the move-order, starting with \( 33 \text{\textcopyright h3!} \), meeting \( 33...\text{\textcopyright c2} \) with \( 34 \text{\textcopyright g5} \) or \( 34 \text{\textcopyright f1} \).  
\[ 33...d2 34 \text{\textcopyright e8 f5!} 35 \text{\textcopyright d7} \text{\textcopyright c2} \]
Not \( 35...\text{\textcopyright d1??} 36 \text{\textcopyright e6+}! \) and White turns the tables.  
\[ 36 \text{\textcopyright x e6+} \text{\textcopyright g7} 37 \text{\textcopyright b3} \text{\textcopyright x b3} 38 \text{\textcopyright x a6} \]
\( d1 \text{\textcopyright f} 39 \text{\textcopyright f6+} \text{\textcopyright g8} 40 \text{\textcopyright x g6+} \text{\textcopyright f8} 41 \text{\textcopyright x f5+} \text{\textcopyright e7} 0-1 \]
The black king escapes.  
\[ 3 points for 33 \text{\textcopyright g5!} \text{and also 3 points for 33 \text{\textcopyright h3!} with the idea of 34 \text{\textcopyright g5}.} \]

692) **Panno – A. Martinez**  
*Buenos Aires 1957*

\[ 31 \text{\textcopyright d5!} \text{wins material by force: 31...\text{\textcopyright x d5} 32 \text{\textcopyright x d5} \text{\textcopyright f5} 33 \text{\textcopyright g4!} \text{\textcopyright c2} 34 \text{\textcopyright x f6} 1-0}. \]
\[ 2 points for 31 \text{\textcopyright d5!} \text{and 1 point for 33 \text{\textcopyright g4!}.} \]

693) **Portisch – R. Sanguineti**  
*Biel Interzonal 1976*

\[ 27...c3! \]
Black must act quickly, before the h3-knight comes into play.  
\[ 28 \text{\textcopyright bxc3} \text{\textcopyright a2} 29 \text{\textcopyright c1} \text{\textcopyright b3!} \]
And the passed pawn is winning.  
\[ 30 \text{\textcopyright c4} \text{\textcopyright c2} 31 \text{\textcopyright a1} \text{\textcopyright x c4} 32 \text{\textcopyright a8+} \text{\textcopyright f8} 33 \text{\textcopyright a4} \text{\textcopyright e8} 34 \text{\textcopyright b1} \text{\textcopyright h8} 35 \text{\textcopyright f4} \text{\textcopyright g8} 36 \text{\textcopyright f1} \text{\textcopyright c3} 0-1 \]
\[ 3 points for 27...c3! \text{and 1 point for 29...b3!}. \]

694) **Galego – Belaviisky**  
*Bled Olympiad 2002*

\[ 31 \text{\textcopyright a6!} \]
The saving move, unpinning. Instead, after the passive \( 31 \text{\textcopyright g2?} \) White remains paralysed by the pin; e.g., \( 31...\text{\textcopyright x d4} 32 \text{\textcopyright x d4} \text{\textcopyright f7!} \) and there is no satisfactory defence against \( 33...\text{\textcopyright c7}. \)
\[ 31...\text{\textcopyright d7} \]

Not \( 31...\text{\textcopyright x a6?} \) because after \( 32 \text{\textcopyright x a6 \text{\textcopyright x b1} 33 \text{\textcopyright x c5} \text{the passed pawn is strong}. \)
\[ 32 \text{\textcopyright e4} \text{\textcopyright x b1} 33 \text{\textcopyright x b1} \text{\textcopyright b7} 34 \text{\textcopyright d3 \text{\textcopyright cxd4} 35 \text{\textcopyright cxd4} \text{\textcopyright d7} 36 \text{\textcopyright a4} \text{\textcopyright d6} 37 \text{\textcopyright f1} \text{\textcopyright b6} 38 \text{\textcopyright a2} \text{\textcopyright b3} 39 \text{\textcopyright g2} \text{\textcopyright c7} 1/2-1/2 \]
\[ 4 points for 31 \text{\textcopyright a6!}. \]

695) **Paunović – Dzhumaev**  
*Orense 2005*

\[ 27...\text{\textcopyright f3!!} \]
Black makes cunning use of his queen’s potential attack on the h3-pawn.  
\[ 28 \text{\textcopyright x f3} \]
After \( 28 \text{\textcopyright f6+} \text{\textcopyright x f6} 29 \text{\textcopyright x f3} \) (29 \text{\textcopyright h x f6} \text{\textcopyright x d2} 30 \text{\textcopyright x d7} \text{\textcopyright x d7} \text{is equally hopeless}) \( 29...\text{\textcopyright e5} 30 \text{\textcopyright g4} \text{\textcopyright x g4} 31 \text{\textcopyright x g4} \text{\textcopyright f3}, \text{Black’s attack is irresistible}. \)
\[ 28...\text{\textcopyright e4!} \]
Clearing the way.  
\[ 29 \text{\textcopyright g3} \text{\textcopyright x f3+} 30 \text{\textcopyright x f3} \text{\textcopyright f3} 31 \text{\textcopyright d4} \text{\textcopyright x h3+} 32 \text{\textcopyright g1} \text{\textcopyright g4} 33 \text{\textcopyright g2} \text{\textcopyright d4+ 0-1} \]
\[ 4 points for finding 27...\text{\textcopyright f3!!} \text{and 1 point for 28...\text{\textcopyright e4!}.} \]

696) **Korbut – T. Kosintseva**  
*Russian Women’s Ch, Gorodets 2006*

\[ 38 \text{\textcopyright b7!! (D)} \]

\[ B \]

‘Charge!’ Although the white king is left exposed, the black queen is too far away to exploit this and the fierce f3-knight is sufficient defence for his king.  
\[ 38...\text{\textcopyright a2+} \]
\[ 38...\text{\textcopyright g6 loses to 39 \text{\textcopyright x h7+!} \text{\textcopyright x h7} 40 \text{\textcopyright x f6+} \text{\textcopyright g8} 41 \text{\textcopyright x e6+} \text{\textcopyright f8} 42 \text{\textcopyright x h4!.} \text{Of course 38...\text{\textcopyright x b7??} allows mate in two with 39 \text{\textcopyright x f6+} \text{\textcopyright g8} 40 \text{\textcopyright h6#, while if 38...\text{\textcopyright d7 then 39 \text{\textcopyright x d7!} \text{\textcopyright a2+ 40 \text{\textcopyright h1} \text{\textcopyright a1+ 41 \text{\textcopyright g2} \text{\textcopyright a2+ 42 \text{\textcopyright d2!} \text{\textcopyright x d2+, and now 43 \text{\textcopyright f3} \text{\textcopyright f2+ 44 \text{\textcopyright g4} \text{\textcopyright g6+ 45}}}}}}}}\]

\[ \text{xg6 hgx6 46 } \text{h4 g5 47 } \text{f5, with the idea of } \text{h5-g6.} \]

39 \text{h1 a}+ 40 \text{g2 a}+ 41 \text{h1 a}+ 42 \text{g1!!}

This is the key: White prevents the perpetual check by allowing his knight to be captured with check, in order to displace the black rook; 42 \text{e1!} also works.

42...\text{g1+ 43 h2 g6 44 xh7+! xh7 45 f8+ 1-0}

With mate after 46 \text{xf6+}.
5 points for 38 \text{b7!!}.

\text{Test 7 Answers}

697) \text{Ju. Bolbochán – Najdorf}
Argentine Ch match (game 3), Buenos Aires 1949

28 \text{g5!}
The black rook can’t maintain its defence of the d6-bishop.

28...\text{c5}
28...\text{d7 loses to 29 a4 \text{b}5 30 \text{xa6.}}
29 \text{b6 \text{d}4 30 \text{x}d8}
and White won.
1 point for 28 \text{g5}.

698) \text{Ju. Bolbochán – de Souza Mendes}
Mar del Plata Zonal 1951

22 \text{xf5! x}d1 23 \text{xe6+ h}7 24 \text{x}d1
and White won.
1 point for 22 \text{xf5}.

699) \text{Wexler – Saadi}
Mar del Plata 1960

26 f6+!
White opens lines and all his pieces burst in on the unprotected black king.

26...\text{xf6 27 xf6 g}4
Declining the sacrifice, and even giving up a piece himself, but there is no defence. 27...\text{xf8 loses to 28 h5+ g8 29 g7 h7 30 f6+ and if 27...\text{xf6, then 28 g5+ g7 29 e7+ wins.}}

28 \text{g4 f5 29 g5 e3 30 e7+ xg6 31 xc6+}
and White mates quickly.
2 points for 26 f6+!

700) \text{Eliskases – Wexler}
Mar del Plata 1960

42...\text{h1+!}
Simplifying to a knight ending in which Black’s two passed pawns will be decisive.

43 \text{xh1 f2+ 44 g2 xg4 45 f3 e3 46 b6}
46...\text{xe3 dxe3 47 xxe3 xg6 wins for Black; while the white king is rounding up the a5-pawn, Black captures all the white pawns and retains his own e-pawn.}

46...\text{xg6 47 e2 g5 48 d3 g4 49 a4 xg3}
and Black soon won.
2 points for 42...\text{h1+}.

701) \text{Eliskases – Bielicki}
Mar del Plata 1962

28 \text{xf6+! x}f6
White’s attack is winning after 28...\text{xf6 29 xg6+ h8 30 xh6+ g8 31 g6+ h8 32 x}f6; e.g., 32...\text{e5 (or 32...\text{g}7 33 \text{x}h5+ \text{h}7 34 \text{g}6) 33 \text{h}6+ g8 34 g6+ f7 35 \text{h}7+ with mate in three.}

29 \text{xf6 xf6 30 xg6+ g7 31 d6 x}b2
32 \text{xc5}
and White won.
2 points for 28 \text{xf6+}.

702) \text{R. Garcia – R. Sanguineti}
Buenos Aires 1965

17 \text{wh7+! 1-0}
Resignation is perhaps a little premature, but Black is lost after 17...\text{h7 18 g5+ g8 19 x}xe6, with an extra pawn and the better position.
2 points for 17 \text{wh7+}.

703) \text{Eliskases – Szabo}
Mar del Plata 1962

51...a3!
Beginning a series of energetic moves to clinch victory.

52 \text{d1}
52 \text{d1} is met by 52...\text{b}2, winning the b3-pawn.

52...\text{a}4! 53 \text{c2}
If 53 \text{e}2 Black wins with, amongst other things, 53...\text{a}1! 54 \text{e}1 (neither 54 \text{c}2 \text{wh}1 nor 54 \text{d}2 \text{xb}3 55 \text{x}b3 \text{wh}1 56 \text{c}2 \text{wh}1 is any better) 54...\text{x}b3 55 \text{x}b3 \text{w}b2+.

53...\text{c}3 54 \text{xc}3 \text{bxc}3 55 \text{d}1 \text{a}2! 56 \text{bxa4} \text{xc}2+ 57 \text{e}3 \text{g}2 0-1
2 points for finding 51...a3! and 1 point for 52...\text{a}4!

704) \text{Smyslov – Guimard}
Mar del Plata 1962
28 cxb6!
‘Falling for’ the trap.
28...\texttt{K}e1+
After 28...\texttt{W}xb5 29 \texttt{B}xb5 axb6 White should play 30 \texttt{Q}g2, followed by 31 a7, but not 30 a7? \texttt{K}e1+ 31 \texttt{Q}g2 \texttt{B}a1.
29 \texttt{B}xe1! \texttt{W}xb5 30 bxa7 \texttt{W}c6 31 \texttt{B}b1 \texttt{Q}h7
32 \texttt{B}b8 1-0
3 points for 28 cxb6!.

705) \textbf{Klein – Marcussi}
\textit{Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1963}
23 \texttt{Q}f5+! \texttt{gx}f5 24 \texttt{gx}f5+ \texttt{Q}h7 25 \texttt{W}xh6+!
There are several other ways to win, such as 25 \texttt{B}d4, but this is the quickest and most elegant.
25...\texttt{Q}xh6 26 \texttt{B}d3 1-0
3 points for 23 \texttt{Q}f5+!.

706) \textbf{Illescas – Vallejo}
\textit{Spanish Team Ch, Mondariz 2002}
30 \texttt{W}e7!
Exploiting the absence of the black queen, White begins a fierce attack.
30...\texttt{Q}xe4
If 30...\texttt{Q}e8 then White wins with 31 \texttt{Q}h7 or 31 \texttt{B}xe8 \texttt{W}xb5 32 \texttt{Q}h7, while 30...\texttt{Q}g7 fails to 31 \texttt{Q}c6+.
31 \texttt{B}c8 1-0
It is mate in a few moves.
2 points for 30 \texttt{W}e7! and 1 point for 31 \texttt{B}c8!.

707) \textbf{Agdamus – Rubinetti}
\textit{Buenos Aires 1970}
18...\texttt{B}xe3+!!
Here we have another beautiful example of ‘extraction’ of the king.
19 \texttt{Q}xe3 \texttt{B}d4+ 20 \texttt{Q}f4 e5+ 21 \texttt{Q}f5 \texttt{B}c6
21...\texttt{B}c5! forces mate, as your analysis engine will demonstrate.
22 \texttt{Q}e4 \texttt{B}c8+ 23 \texttt{Q}g5 h6+ 24 \texttt{Q}h4 g5+ 25 \texttt{Q}xg5 \texttt{B}xg5+ 26 \texttt{Q}xg5 \texttt{Q}h7+ 27 \texttt{Q}h5 \texttt{B}xh3?
An error that takes some of the gloss off the triumph; amongst other things, 27...\texttt{B}g7 wins, since 28 \texttt{Q}xc8? allows 28...\texttt{B}h6+ 29 \texttt{Q}g4 \texttt{Q}f6+ 30 \texttt{Q}f5 \texttt{B}h5#.
28 \texttt{c}3?
After 28 g4! the struggle could continue.
28...\texttt{B}d6 0-1
3 points for 18...\texttt{B}xe3+!!.

708) \textbf{Trois – Amado}
\textit{Mercedes 1975}
34...\texttt{B}d8!
Now there is no defence against 35...\texttt{Q}d1; 34...\texttt{Q}e3? is a mistake in view of 35 \texttt{Q}e5! and White comes back to life.
35 \texttt{Q}g5 \texttt{Q}d1! 36 \texttt{Q}f7+ \texttt{Q}g8 0-1
3 points for 34...\texttt{B}d8!.

709) \textbf{Kogan – Arencibia}
\textit{Capablanca Memorial, Havana 2002}
25 \texttt{W}xc4+! \texttt{Q}f7 26 \texttt{W}xf7+!! \texttt{Q}xf7 27 \texttt{B}xh7+ \texttt{Q}e8
If 27...\texttt{Q}f8 White wins with 28 dxe7+ \texttt{Q}e8 29 exd8\texttt{W}+ \texttt{Q}xd8 30 \texttt{B}xd8+ \texttt{Q}xd8 31 \texttt{Q}c7+.
28 \texttt{B}xe7+ \texttt{Q}f8 29 \texttt{B}g7+ \texttt{Q}g8 30 \texttt{B}h1 1-0
2 points for 25 \texttt{W}xc4+! and 2 more points for 26 \texttt{W}xf7+!!.

710) \textbf{Illescas – Nakamura}
\textit{Pamplona 2003}
54 \texttt{Q}d7+!
To deflect the f8-knight.
54...\texttt{Q}xd7 55 \texttt{B}xg6! 1-0
This is the key; after 55...\texttt{Q}f8 56 \texttt{Q}xd7+ \texttt{Q}xd7 57 \texttt{Q}f6 h5 58 g7 \texttt{B}xg7 59 \texttt{B}xg7 h4
White’s king can stop the pawn with 60 \texttt{Q}e3. In contrast, 55 \texttt{Q}xd7+ \texttt{Q}xd7 56 \texttt{B}xg6 \texttt{Q}e6 does not win.
2 points for 54 \texttt{Q}d7+! and 2 points for 55 \texttt{B}xg6!.

711) \textbf{Xu Yuhua – Ushenina}
\textit{FIDE Women’s Knockout, Ekaterenburg 2006}
24 \texttt{B}c3!
First White removes the dangers to her own king, threatening both the queen and the knight, so Black’s reply is forced.
24...\texttt{W}b5 25 \texttt{B}xd7?
And the key defender is eliminated.
25...\texttt{Q}h8
There is no defence. 25...\texttt{Q}xd7 loses to 26 \texttt{B}xg7! \texttt{B}xg7 27 \texttt{Q}f6+, while 25...\texttt{B}xc3 26 \texttt{B}xc3 is also insufficient for Black.
26 \texttt{Q}xf7 1-0
Black resigned in view of 26...\texttt{B}xf6 27 \texttt{Q}h7+! \texttt{Q}xh7 28 \texttt{B}xf6+ \texttt{Q}h8 29 \texttt{B}g8#.
3 points for 24 \texttt{B}c3! and 2 points for 25 \texttt{B}xd7!.

712) \textbf{K. Berg – Jacoby}
\textit{Hamburg 2007}
28 \texttt{B}xe6?
This tempting sacrifice ought not to win. The correct move-order is 28 \texttt{B}f4+! \texttt{Q}g7 (forced)
29 \( \text{Wd}4+! \text{Wh6} \) (if 29...\( \text{g8} \) then 30 \( \text{xe}6! \) is good, threatening mate on e8: 30...\( \text{xe}6 \) 31 \( \text{Wd}8+ \text{g7} 32 \text{Wxe}7+ \text{h6} 33 \text{Wf}8+ \text{h5} \) 34 \( \text{g4#} \) 30 \( \text{h4+! g7} 31 \text{g5!} \) (31 \( \text{xe}6 \) also wins) 31...\( \text{xf}2 \) 32 \( \text{Wh7+} \) 33 \( \text{e}4+ \) 34 \( \text{h}4+ \) and White wins.

28...\( \text{fxe}6 \)?
After 28...\( \text{xf}2 \), which White could have ruled out with the precise series of checks mentioned above, White is forced to give perpetual check with 29 \( \text{g}5+ \) \( \text{g7} \) 30 \( \text{f}6+ \) (if 30 \( \text{e}7 \) then 30...\( \text{xf}3 \), while 30 \( \text{f}6 \) is answered by 30...\( \text{h6} \) 30...\( \text{h6} \) 31 \( \text{f}4+ \) 32 \( \text{g7} \) 32 \( \text{d}4+ \), etc.)

29 \( \text{g}5+ \) \( \text{g7} \) 30 \( \text{e}7+ \) \( \text{h6} \)
After 30...\( \text{g8} \) 31 \( \text{xe}6+ \) the black rook is lost.

31 \( \text{f}8+ \) 1-0
3 points for 28...\( \text{h}4+ \), 1 point for 29...\( \text{d}4+ \) and 1 point for 30...\( \text{h}4+ \).

Test 8 Answers

713) Madeira de Ley – Ju. Bolbochán
Rio de Janeiro 1952

23...\( \text{h}5! \) 0-1
Black wins an exchange after 24 \( \text{c}3 \) \( \text{h}xg4 \).
1 point for 23...\( \text{h}5! \).

714) García Toledo – Riego
Mar del Plata Zonal 1969

56...\( \text{e}1+! \) 57 \( \text{h}2 \) \( \text{g}3+ \) 58 \( \text{h}1 \) \( \text{xh}3+ \) 0-1
After 59 \( \text{g}1 \) \( \text{xg}4+ \) the d7-rook is lost.
1 point for 56...\( \text{e}1+! \).

715) Pilnik – Panno
Mar del Plata 1965

23...\( \text{x}b3! \)
White's back rank is inadequately defended.

24 \( \text{d}6\) \( \text{c}1 \)
Or 24 \( \text{xd}8 \) \( \text{xd}8 \) 25 \( \text{xb}3 \) (25 \( \text{xe}5 \) is better but still losing) 25...\( \text{xc}3 \) threatening 26...\( \text{d}1+ \) and mate.

24...\( \text{d}4 \)
White resigned a few moves later.
2 points for 23...\( \text{x}b3! \).

716) Stein – Pilnik
Mar del Plata 1965

29 \( \text{c}3! \)
This simplification enables White to keep his extra pawn, as well as better pieces and superior structure.

29...\( \text{xe}1+ \) 30 \( \text{xe}1 \) \( \text{d}1 \) 31 \( \text{f}2 \) \( \text{c}5 \) 32 \( \text{xb}4 \) \( \text{xc}1 \) 33 \( \text{c}2+ \) 34 \( \text{xe}3 \) \( \text{xb}2 \) 35 a4 \( \text{g}2 \)
If 35...\( \text{g}3 \) then 36 \( \text{a}8+ \) \( \text{g}7 \) 37 \( \text{b}8 \) \( \text{a}2 \) (or 37...\( \text{e}2 \) 38 \( \text{xb}6 \) \( \text{xb}3+ \) 39 \( \text{c}4 \), with two passed pawns and a big advantage) 38 \( \text{xb}6 \) \( \text{xa}4 \) 39 \( \text{e}4 \) and White is a (passed) pawn up.

36 \( \text{f}3 \) \( \text{c}2 \)
36...\( \text{a}2 \) is met by 37 a5.
37 a5 \( \text{a}4 \)
37...\( \text{bxa}5 \) loses to 38 \( \text{xe}5 \) \( \text{xc}3+ \) 39 \( \text{e}3 \).

38 a6 \( \text{b}2 \) 39 \( \text{b}7 \) \( \text{xc}3 \) 40 a7 \( \text{d}5 \) 41 \( \text{d}6 \) 1-0
2 points for 29 \( \text{c}3! \).

717) Uhlmann – Ju. Bolbochán
Mar del Plata 1966

26 \( \text{d}6! \) \( \text{xf}3 \)
After 26...\( \text{xd}6 \) 27 \( \text{ex}d6 \) \( \text{wd}7 \) 28 \( \text{xb}7 \) \( \text{xb}7 \) 29 d7 White wins.

27 \( \text{xe}8 \) \( \text{b}8 \)
There is nothing better; 27...\( \text{xe}6 \) loses to 28 \( \text{xb}8 \) \( \text{xd}8 \) 29 \( \text{fxe}3 \), while if 27...\( \text{wb}8 \) then 28 \( \text{d}6! \) also wins a piece.

28 \( \text{d}6+! \)
Even better than 28 \( \text{d}7 \).

28...\( \text{fx}6 \) 29 \( \text{ex}f6 \) \( \text{eb}8 \)
White has a winning position, thanks to his extra pawn on f6, which paralyses Black. Let's follow the game a little further.

30...\( \text{f}8 \) 31 \( \text{g}4+ \) \( \text{h}8 \) 32 \( \text{d}6! \) \( \text{d}8 \) 33 \( \text{e}7 \) \( \text{e}8 \) 34 \( \text{h}5 \) \( \text{a}8 \) 35 \( \text{g}3 \) \( \text{h}7 \) 36 \( \text{d}6! \)
\( \text{e}4 \) 37 \( \text{fx}8 \)
and White won quickly.
2 points for 26 \( \text{d}6! \).

718) García Martínez – Ju. Bolbochán
Havana Olympiad 1966

18...\( \text{c}5! \)
The exchange of these bishops brings White's attack, and the game, to an end. Not 18...\( \text{xf}1 \) ? 19 \( \text{g}6 \) \( \text{h}6 \) 20 \( \text{xb}6! \) and White wins.

19 \( \text{f}3 \) \( \text{xe}3+ \) 20 \( \text{xe}3 \) \( \text{ec}5 \) 21 \( \text{d}1 \) \( \text{ad}8 \)
1 point for 18...\( \text{c}5! \).

719) Franco – H. García
Piriapolis 1977

33...\( \text{d}4 \)?
Black can defend, and win, with 33...\( \text{e}5! \); for example, 34 \( \text{xf}7 \) (34 \( \text{fxg}6 \) \( \text{xb}6+ \) forces 35 \( \text{g}3 \), when 35...\( \text{xe}5+ \) 36 \( \text{xb}6 \) \( \text{b}8 \), followed by 37...\( \text{e}2 \), winning.
34 bxc3!

It is important that White is able to eliminate the dangerous pawn with tempo.

34...e5

34...d1+? loses to 35 ef1.

Now White played 35 fxg6?! , but 35 e2! wxc3+ 36 ef1 wins more quickly: 36...wxc3+ 37 wxc3 ef7 is forced and now the quickest way is 38 wh3+ g8 39 f6 we8 40 cxb4!, but not 40 wh6? ef1+ 41 ef2 fd3+ 42 eg3 ef3+ 43 eh4 eh3+!! 44 xh3 xf4+ 45 h4 ef5, and the a5-pawn queens.

3 points for 33...e5!.

720) Franco – Guimard
Villa Gesell 1980

18...wb5!

White is a pawn up but his position is precarious; Black dominates the centre and the lack of coordination among the white pieces is plain to see.

19 dc4 dg4 20 wg3

Here Black played 20...ec2 and eventually won. But even stronger is 20...dxe4 21 ef1 edx5, when Black’s activity is very dangerous; e.g., 22 dxe3 edx2! 23 wxd2 exe3 24 dxe3 wxe2!. Let’s examine this a bit further: 25 dc4 wxd2 26 edx2 ec2 27 ef1 (or 27 ef2 ec5) 27...xf4 with an extra pawn and the bishops-

3 points for 18...wb5!.

721) Vera – Lebredo
Managua 1982

28 xf5+! gxf5 29 h6+! ef7 30 ef6+ g8

30...wxe8 allows mate in three with 31 we6+.

31 wxe6+ 1-0

If 31...wxf7 then 32 wxc8+, while after 31...f7 32 g1+ it is mate in two.

2 points for 28 xf5+! and 1 point for 29 h6+!.

722) Franco – Van Riemsdijk
Morón Zonal 1982

45 e7+!

Winning a vital tempo in the race between the passed pawns.

45...exe7 46 h7 ed1 47 h8 we5

47...a2 loses to, amongst other things, 48 wg7+ we6 49 wg8+ and 50 wxa2.

48 d4 1-0

3 points for 45 e7+!.

723) Vera – Sisniega
Mexico City 1984

27 xb8!

White wins only a rook and a piece for the queen, but he also gains a powerful passed pawn, giving him a big advantage.

27...wxb8 28 xc2 we8

After 28...dc8 29 c6 ec7 30 ecx7 wxc7 31 ed4 and 32 db5 White wins.

29 c6!

The pawn’s advance is decisive.

29...ec5 30 dxe5 xc5+ 31 c7 xc7 32 ecx7 1-0

3 points for 27 xb8!.

724) Sion – Franco
Seville 1989

58...g3+!

The white king will not escape.

59 dc2 ce4+! 60 ec2

Or 60...ec2 wc3+ mating.

60...we2+ 61 d3 wxe3+ 0-1

62 ec4 loses to 62...d6+.

2 points for finding 58...g3+! and 1 point for 59...ce4+!.

725) Topalov – Leko
Morelia/Linares 2006

55 df6!

This sacrifice of the dangerous pawn wins material, and is the only way to gain the advantage.

55...xd6 56 we8+ ef7 57 e2!

This is the key move, with the double threat of taking the b2-knight and playing 58...we8+.

57...ed1 58 xb2

The game is decided, and although Black fought on, hoping for practical chances, Topalov didn’t allow any miracle saves.

3 points for 55 df6! and 1 point for 57 e2!.

726) Kritz – Firman
Cappelle la Grande 2007

12 b4!

The start of a manoeuvre to trap the black queen.

12...xb4 13 a5!

And this is the move that complements White’s last; the black queen now has no safe retreat.

13...ed3?!

13...e5 is preferable, with the possible continuation 14 df1 exe4 15 ef1 edx4 16 edx4
\( \text{\( \text{\( \text{x3c3 } 17 \text{\( \text{wxc3 } 3 \text{exd4, but even then White's advantage is not in doubt.} \\
\text{14 } \text{\( \text{cxd3 } \text{\( \text{wb3 } 15 \text{\( \text{g5!} \\
\text{Preventing the retreat } \text{\( \text{\( w\text{e6.} \\
\text{15...\( \text{\( h6} \\
\text{15...\( \text{\( \text{b4 is met by } 16 \text{\( \text{\( a4 \text{\( \text{wb3 } 17 \text{\( \text{b1.} \\
\text{16 } \text{\( \text{f4 e5} \\
\text{After } 16...\text{\( \text{\( \text{xg5 } 17 \text{fxg5 } \text{\( \text{d7 the move } 18 \text{\( \text{d5 is crushing.} \\
\text{17 \text{\( \text{fb1 } 18 \text{\( \text{xb1 } 19 \text{\( \text{d5 and White won.} \\
3 \text{points for } 12 \text{b4, and } 1 \text{point for } 13 \text{a5!}.
\}
\text{204} \text{ THE GIANT CHESS PUZZLE BOOK}

727) \text{ Lindinger – J. Fries Nielsen} \\
\text{Hamburg 2007}

24...\text{g3!!} \\
\text{Clearing the g4-square for the e5-knight and, in particular, the c8-h3 diagonal for the e8-bishop.} \\
25 \text{\( \text{xe5 } \text{\( \text{h3!} \\
And now there is no defence.} \\
26 \text{\( \text{fxg3} \\
26 \text{\( \text{xg3 is answered with } 26...\text{\( \text{wxg2+} 27 \text{\( \text{e1 h4.} \\
26...\text{\( \text{eg2+} 27 \text{\( \text{e1 h6.} \\
\text{Winning quickly, even though after } 27...\text{\( \text{g4 it is mate in three.} \\
28 \text{\( \text{c4 h6 0-1} \\
3 \text{points for finding } 24...\text{g3!! and } 2 \text{points for } 25...\text{\( \text{h3!}.}

728) \text{ Henrichs – Prusikin} \\
\text{German Ch, Königshofen 2007}

23...\text{\( \text{g4+!!} \\
\text{Quieter methods such as } 23...\text{\( \text{wf5 are ineffective: } e.g., } \text{24 f3 (or } 24 \text{\( \text{xe5 } \text{\( \text{xe5 25 f3, threatening } 26 \text{g4 and if } 25...\text{\( \text{e8 then } 26 \text{\( \text{b1 with equality} } 24...\text{\( \text{exf3 25 \text{\( \text{h1 e4 26 \text{\( \text{xe5 } \text{\( \text{xe5+ 27 } \text{\( \text{xe5 } \text{\( \text{xe5 28 } \text{\( \text{xf3 } \text{\( \text{c3 29 } \text{\( \text{d3 } \text{\( \text{xb1 30 } \text{\( \text{xb1, with equality.} \\
24 \text{\( \text{hxg4} \\
\text{After } 24 \text{\( \text{h1 Black already has one strong piece inside the white camp, and with } 24...\text{\( \text{g3!} he can plant another in White's kingside, after which the pressure becomes intolerable; e.g., } 25 \text{\( \text{\( xg7 (after } 25 \text{\( \text{xf3 } \text{\( \text{e5! Black mates quickly, with his queen and d6-rook combining in the attack) } 25...\text{\( \text{f5 (threatening } 26...\text{\( \text{f6; } 25...\text{\( \text{ge5 is also very strong and after } 26 \text{\( \text{c3 Black has } 26...\text{\( \text{h6, threatening } 27...\text{\( \text{hx3+ and mating quickly.} \\
24 \text{\( \text{g1 is also very strongly met by the same move: } 24...\text{\( \text{f3+! 25 } \text{\( \text{xf3 } \text{\( \text{h2! 26 } \text{\( \text{xe4 (or } 26 \text{\( \text{\( xh2 } \text{\( \text{h6 with mate in three) } 26...\text{\( \text{\( xh3 27 f3 } \text{\( \text{xf3+ 28 } \text{\( \text{xf3 } \text{\( \text{xf3 29 } \text{\( \text{f1 } \text{\( \text{e3+ 30 } \text{\( \text{f2 (if } 30 \text{\( \text{f2 then for instance } 30...\text{\( \text{e4 wins } 30...\text{\( \text{xc3 31 } \text{\( \text{xf7+ } \text{\( \text{h7 and Black wins, since the transfer of the d6-rook to the kingside will be decisive.} \\
The move } 24 \text{\( \text{g3 is also perilous; for example, } 24...\text{\( \text{\( \text{h6 25 } \text{\( \text{d6 f5! 26 } \text{\( \text{e5 (26 } \text{\( \text{d7 can be answered with } 26...\text{\( \text{f4+! 27 } \text{\( \text{xf4 } \text{\( \text{xf4 28 } \text{\( \text{xe5 } \text{\( \text{d8, mating) } 26...\text{\( \text{e5 } 27 \text{\( \text{h2 } \text{\( \text{g3, and the d6-pawn is lost.} \\
24...\text{\( \text{h6+ 25 } \text{\( \text{g1 } 26 } \text{\( \text{xf3 0-1 5 \text{points for } 23...\text{\( \text{g4++.}

Test 9 Answers

729) \text{ Grau – Subira del Rio} \\
\text{Buenos Aires 1923}

17 \text{\( \text{h3! wins a piece for insufficient compensation: } 17...\text{\( \text{h5 18 \text{\( \text{g4 } \text{\( \text{h4 19 \text{\( \text{g6.} \\
1 \text{point for } 17 \text{h3}.}

730) \text{ Nikolić – Illescas} \\
\text{Dubai Olympiad 1986}

34...\text{\( \text{h3+! 0-1} \\
35 \text{\( \text{\( \text{h1 loses to } 35...\text{\( \text{xf4.} \\
1 \text{point for } 34...\text{\( \text{h3+}.}

731) \text{ R. Sanguineti – Ju. Bolbochán} \\
\text{Buenos Aires 1971}

\text{Returning a portion of his extra material with } 24 \text{\( \text{f4!! would grant White some advantage: } 24...\text{\( \text{xf4 (not } 24...\text{\( \text{xf4? 25 } \text{\( \text{g3+! } \text{\( \text{xf4 26 } \text{\( \text{h3+! \text{\( \text{xf4 27 } \text{\( \text{g1 and White wins) } 25 } \text{\( \text{\( e3 26 } \text{\( \text{d6xd6, and now, for example, } 27 } \text{\( \text{\( xe4+ } \text{\( \text{xe4 28 } \text{\( \text{d5+ } \text{\( \text{h8 29 } \text{\( \text{g1 } \text{\( \text{c3 30 } \text{\( \text{e6.} \\
The game went } 24 \text{\( \text{g3? and Black won with } 24...\text{\( \text{\( xe3 25 } \text{\( \text{hf3 } \text{\( \text{h3 0-1. } 26\text{\( \text{g1 allows } 26...\text{\( \text{f2.} \\
2 \text{points for } 24...\text{\( \text{f4}.}

732) \text{ Panno – Mecking} \\
\text{São Paulo Zonal 1972}

26...\text{\( \text{\( xg4} \\
The white queen is overloaded.} \\
27 \text{\( \text{\( xg4 } \text{\( \text{xb2} \\
Gaining a material advantage.} \\
28 \text{\( \text{f1?! } \text{\( \text{\( f4 29 \text{\( \text{f2 } \text{\( \text{xf2+ 30 } \text{\( \text{h1 } \text{\( \text{xc3} \\
and White resigned as soon as the time-control was reached.} \\
2 \text{points for } 26...\text{\( \text{\( xg4}.}
733) Visier – Mecking
Las Palmas 1975
33...hxg7! 34 fxg7+ hxg8
Even better than 34...hxg7, since it allows the black king to advance a little further.
35 w6e+ hxg7 36 w7e+
36 wxd6 loses to 36..g5+ 37 h4 f3+ 38 h3 whxh2+ with mate in two, while after 36 wg4+ wxg4+ 37 hxg4 wg6 38 h4 f6+ 39 f3 Black can play 39...c3, with a winning endgame of good knight versus bad bishop.
36..h6! 37 w4+ g6
and White soon resigned.
2 points for 33...hxg7!.

734) Mecking – Balinas
Manila 1975
38 f5!
Vacating the e6-square with tempo and winning an exchange.
38...xf5 39 oe6+ 40 xf5 1-0
2 points for 38 f5!.

735) Klinger – Franco
Novi Sad Olympiad 1990
31 d7! 0-1
Defending the vital f7-square; after 32 wa6 Black plays 32..e4! (threatening 33...we3+) 33 wa3 xd5! and wins.
2 points for finding 31..d7! and 1 point for 32..g4!.

736) Borges – Vera
Capablanca Memorial, Matanzas 1992
19 d3d3g3! (D)

White’s pieces are badly coordinated and his king is exposed, as this sacrifice highlights.
20 g2

Or 20 hxg3 wg3+ 21 g2 xc4.
20..e2+! 21 xe2 xc4 22 hxh3 xb3
with an extra pawn and the better position.
3 points for 19..g3!.

737) Morovic – Franco
Asunción 1992
The game went 38..f7? 39 xf7 fxf7 40 d8+ h7 41 xf2 with advantage to White.
Instead, with 38..f4! Black can regain the exchange with a reasonable position; e.g., 39 wg4 (or 39 xe7 xc5! 40 xe5 xc5 41 g2 if 41 wg4? or 41 h3? then 41..xf5) 41..xb2 42 xg2 f3+ 39..fxg3 40 xg3 f7.
3 points for 38..f4!.

738) Seirawan – Zarnicki
Buenos Aires 1993
Black has an extra pawn, and if he manages to castle quickly his position will be very good.
13 xed6! xd6 14 e1 w7?
Black wants to keep his material advantage but he will be unable to withstand White’s pressure. More tenacious was 14..d5, when the best way to win back the piece is 15 e4!.
15 f4 w7 16 e5 d7 17 xd7 xd7
18 xc6 xa6 19 xe7 xc8 20 a4
Seirawan pointed out that 20 db8+ is quicker, followed by capturing the a8-rook, but the move in the game is equally effective and very colourfull, leading to a spectacular finale.
20..e7 21 wc3 f6 22 wd6+ w7 23 e5+!
fxe5 24 d7 wd8 25 we6+ w8 26 xe5 g6
27 f6 1-0
3 points for 13 xd6!.

739) Adia – Franco
Santa Cruz de la Palma 1995
53 e3!
Setting up a well-known drawing mechanism, based on perpetual check with a rook and a knight. Perhaps it is insufficient to draw here, but it is Black’s only hope. There is no time for 53..xf3? on account of 54 e7 (threatening 55 d8+, followed by queening) 54..c8+ 55 c1 c3+ 56 d2 c3+ 57 c1 e3+ 58 f2 and White wins.
54 e7 e1+ 55 c2 e2+ 56 c1 c3! 57 d8+
Another promising line is 57 a7! b8 58 a3! cxe7 (58..b5 59 e4! c7 60 f1 b2 61 xg5 makes things easier for White) 59 xec3.
57...\textit{c7} 58 e8\textit{\#}?! 
It is still possible to play a win with 58 \textit{\texttt{c}e}6+ \textit{\texttt{x}e}6 59 e8\textit{\#} \textit{\texttt{x}e}8 60 \textit{\texttt{x}e}8 \textit{\texttt{d}d}6 61 \textit{\texttt{g}g}8.

58...\textit{\texttt{a}a}2+ ½-½ 
3 points for 53...\textit{\texttt{e}e}3!.

740) Vera – Mellado 
\textit{Terrassa 1995}

30 \textit{\texttt{x}f}7!  
Finishing the game with a mating attack.

30...\textit{\texttt{x}f}7 31 \textit{\texttt{w}x}g6+ \textit{\texttt{g}g}8 32 \textit{\texttt{f}f}5 \textit{\texttt{f}f}8 
Or 32...\textit{\texttt{f}f}7 33 \textit{\texttt{h}h}6+ \textit{\texttt{h}h}8 34 \textit{\texttt{f}f}7+ \textit{\texttt{x}f}7 35 \textit{\texttt{x}f}7 and White wins.

33 \textit{\texttt{g}g}6+! 1-0 
It is mate after 33...\textit{\texttt{x}e}6 34 \textit{\texttt{d}d}8+ \textit{\texttt{e}e}8 35 \textit{\texttt{g}g}8+ \textit{\texttt{x}e}8 36 \textit{\texttt{x}g}7#.  
3 points for 30 \textit{\texttt{x}f}7!.

741) Matamoros – Urbina 
\textit{Seville 2007}

39...\textit{\texttt{e}e}3+! 
Black exploits the exposed position of the white king to save the half-point.

40 \textit{\texttt{g}g}2 \textit{\texttt{c}c}3!  
This is the key.

41 \textit{\texttt{c}c}x3 \textit{\texttt{b}b}c3 42 \textit{\texttt{w}x}c3 
42 \textit{\texttt{w}x}e3? \textit{\texttt{w}x}b3 is losing for White.

42...\textit{\texttt{a}a}2+ 43 \textit{\texttt{h}h}3 \textit{\texttt{e}e}2! 
The draw is unavoidable.

44 d5 \textit{\texttt{w}h}5+ 45 \textit{\texttt{g}g}2 \textit{\texttt{w}e}2+ 46 \textit{\texttt{h}h}3 \textit{\texttt{w}h}5+ ½-½ 
3 points for 39...\textit{\texttt{e}e}3+! and 1 point for 40...\textit{\texttt{c}c}3!.

742) Bologan – Yakovenko 
\textit{Poikovsky 2007}

35...\textit{\texttt{x}g}6!  
This sacrifice is based on the far from obvious idea of exploiting the fact that the white rook on g3 is loose.

36 \textit{\texttt{c}c}x6 
36 \textit{\texttt{x}g}6 loses to 36...\textit{\texttt{c}c}e5.

36...\textit{\texttt{b}b}8! 0-1 
With the double threat of capturing the g3-rook and checkmate on b1.

3 points for finding 35...\textit{\texttt{x}g}6! and 1 point for 36...\textit{\texttt{b}b}8!.

743) Andrés González – Avrukh 
\textit{Spanish Team Ch, Burgui{	extquotesingle}los 2007}

20...\textit{\texttt{d}d}4! 
The white queen has insoluble difficulties in defending the bishop.

21 \textit{\texttt{x}d}4 \textit{\texttt{c}c}xd4 22 \textit{\texttt{w}x}d4 \textit{\texttt{d}d}8 23 \textit{\texttt{c}c}4 \textit{\texttt{e}e}8! 
24 \textit{\texttt{d}d}4 \textit{\texttt{c}c}5 0-1 
The f4-bishop is lost.
4 points for 20...\textit{\texttt{d}d}4! and 1 point for 23...\textit{\texttt{c}c}8!.

744) Volkov – Rublevsky 
\textit{European Clubs Cup, Kemer 2007}

29...\textit{\texttt{h}h}4!! (D)

\begin{center}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\node at (0,0) {
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline
& \textit{\texttt{w}h}4 \\
\hline
\textit{\texttt{w}h}4 & \textit{\texttt{w}h}4 \\
\textit{\texttt{w}h}4 & \textit{\texttt{w}h}4 \\
\textit{\texttt{w}h}4 & \textit{\texttt{w}h}4 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{tabular}
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{center}

Making extraordinarily good use of his available resources, Black, who is already the exchange down, sacrifices his remaining rook to gain access to the f4-square for his knight.

30 \textit{\texttt{g}x}h4 \textit{\texttt{d}d}4 
There is no satisfactory defence against the threat of 31...\textit{\texttt{w}g}2\#, thanks to the excellent coordination of the queen and the knight.

31 \textit{\texttt{w}f}2 
Or 31 \textit{\texttt{f}f}2 \textit{\texttt{w}x}d1+ 32 \textit{\texttt{f}f}1 \textit{\texttt{c}c}2 33 \textit{\texttt{f}f}2 \textit{\texttt{g}g}6+! 34 \textit{\texttt{h}h}1 \textit{\texttt{b}b}1+, mating.

31...\textit{\texttt{h}h}3+ 32 \textit{\texttt{g}g}2 \textit{\texttt{d}d}2+ 33 \textit{\texttt{d}d}1 \textit{\texttt{w}d}2! 
Thus Black retained an overwhelming material advantage, and won easily.

5 points for 29...\textit{\texttt{h}h}4!!.

Test 10 Answers

745) Granda – Rivas 
\textit{Capablanca Memorial, Havana 1988}

29 \textit{\texttt{c}c}7! 1-0 
Winning the exchange, since 29...\textit{\texttt{x}c}7? allows 30 \textit{\texttt{e}e}8\#.  
1 point for 29 \textit{\texttt{c}c}7!.

746) Lipniks – R. Gamarra 
\textit{Paraguayan Ch, Asunción 1996}

11 e5!
This forces the sad retreat of the knight to g8, with great advantage to White, since 11...\texttt{\textbf{W}}xe5? loses to 12 \texttt{\textbf{N}}f4.
\textbf{1 point for 11 e5!}.

\textbf{747)} Dubin – Cámora
\textit{Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1976}
28...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}\texttt{d}3! 29 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}\texttt{d}2 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}\texttt{d}4! 0-1
\textbf{1 point for finding 28...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}\texttt{d}3! and 1 point for 29...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}\texttt{d}4!}.

\textbf{748)} Vera – Ro. Hernández
\textit{Bayamo 1981}
41 \texttt{\textbf{N}}xe7! 1-0
41...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}xe7 42 \texttt{\textbf{W}}a8 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}f8 43 a7 and White wins.
\textbf{2 points for 41 \texttt{\textbf{N}}xe7!}.

\textbf{749)} García García – Castells
\textit{Catalonian Ch, Santa Perpetua 1985}
22 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xf7+! \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xf7 23 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h5+ \texttt{\textbf{Q}}g8 24 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xe5 \texttt{\textbf{W}}d8 25 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}f1 1-0
Black is faced with a great loss of material.
\textbf{2 points for 22 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xf7+!}.

\textbf{750)} Vera – A. Hoffman
\textit{Pan American Team Ch, Junín 1987}
16 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xg7! \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xg7
If 16...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}xg7 then 17 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}c7+.
17 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xb6+ \texttt{\textbf{Q}}b8 18 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xf7+ \texttt{\textbf{Q}}g8 19 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xd8 \texttt{\textbf{W}}d8 20 dxe5 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xe5 21 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xd5 with a big material advantage.
\textbf{2 points for 16 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xg7!}.

\textbf{751)} Terán – Dgebudzhe
\textit{León 1996}
27 \texttt{\textbf{N}}xe7! \texttt{\textbf{N}}xc4
27...\texttt{\textbf{N}}xe7 loses to 28 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}d5+, since if 28...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}f8? then 29 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h8!, and inserting 27...\texttt{\textbf{W}}xf2+ 28 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h1 does not improve matters.
28 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}e8+ \texttt{\textbf{Q}}f8 29 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}e4! \texttt{\textbf{W}}d6 30 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h7+! 1-0
\textbf{3 points for 27 \texttt{\textbf{N}}xe7!}.

\textbf{752)} Vallejo – Danailov
\textit{León 1996}
30 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h1!
Clearing the g-file proves decisive.
30...\texttt{\textbf{B}}c2 31 \texttt{\textbf{G}}g1 \texttt{\textbf{B}}g8 32 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xg8+ \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xg8
It is mate in three after 32...\texttt{\textbf{W}}xg8 33 \texttt{\textbf{W}}f6+ \texttt{\textbf{W}}g7 34 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}a8+.
33 \texttt{\textbf{f}}6 \texttt{\textbf{W}}f8 34 \texttt{\textbf{W}}xf8+ 1-0
\textbf{3 points for 30 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h1!}.

\textbf{753)} Franco – Blanco
\textit{Capablanca Memorial, Cienfuegos 1997}
White played 33 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xd4 and gained an advantage, although he didn’t win the game.
Instead, 33 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}c7! is decisive; for example, 33...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}de8 (or 33...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}f8 34 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xd4 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xd4 35 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xd4, or 33...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}ed7 34 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xd7 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xd7 35 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xe5) 34 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}d6 and White gains a decisive material advantage.
\textbf{3 points for 33 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}c7!}.

\textbf{754)} Vallejo – Nikčević
\textit{Mondariz Balneario 1998}
27 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h3! b6
This leads to the destruction of his queenside, but there is no defence; 27...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}xd4? allows the textbook mating combination that we have already encountered: 28 \texttt{\textbf{W}}xa7+! \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xa7 29 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}a3#.
28 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xb6 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xd4 29 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}c7 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xb6 30 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xb6 and White won.
\textbf{3 points for 27 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h3!}.

\textbf{755)} Contín – An. Rodríguez
\textit{Buenos Aires 2006}
32...c4!
Now the queen comes into the game, and all the pieces cooperate in the attack.
33 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xc4 \texttt{\textbf{W}}c5+ 34 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}f2
If 34 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}g2 then simply 34...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}xe4.
34...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}xf5!
The most convincing.
35 \texttt{\textbf{W}}g2 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xe4! 36 \texttt{\textbf{W}}xe4 \texttt{\textbf{W}}xf2+ 37 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h1 \texttt{\textbf{W}}f1+ 38 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h2 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}f2+ 39 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}g3 \texttt{\textbf{W}}g1+ 40 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h4 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}f6+ 41 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h5 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h2+ 0-1
\textbf{2 points for finding 32...c4!, and 1 point for 34...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}xf5!}.

\textbf{756)} Rosmann – Hebbinghaus
\textit{Hamburg 2007}
43...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}g3+! 44 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}g2
44 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}h2 loses to 44...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}f1++! 45 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}g1 \texttt{\textbf{W}}xe6.
44...\texttt{\textbf{W}}xe6 0-1
45 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}xe6 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}e2+.
\textbf{3 points for 43...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}g3+!}.

\textbf{757)} Motylev – Prusikin
\textit{European Ch, Dresden 2007}
28 \texttt{\textbf{W}}g7!
The prettiest; the plainer 28 \texttt{\textbf{W}}f4! was also strong, with the idea of 29 h7 and preparing g4 with 30 \texttt{\textbf{Q}}ag1.
28...\texttt{\textbf{Q}}d7
28...\textit{xg7}?! loses to 29 \textit{hxg7} \textit{wg8} 30 \textit{dh8} \textit{d7} 31 \textit{ah1}, followed by 32 \textit{xg8} and \textit{h8}.
29 \textit{xf8} \textit{gxh8} 30 \textit{ae1}

The dark squares are under White’s complete control and will be the means of winning the game.

30...\textit{zh7} 31 \textit{h7} \textit{d6} 32 \textit{e5}!

Preventing a possible \ldots\textit{e5}.
32...\textit{af8} 33 \textit{e3}

Preparing to penetrate to g7 with the king, via the dark squares.

33...\textit{a4} 34 \textit{d1} \textit{c6} 35 \textit{f4} \textit{a4} 36 \textit{zh6}

Later White finds the winning plan of doubling rooks on the g-file, followed by \textit{g8}.

36...\textit{ce7} 37 \textit{zh3} \textit{g6} 38 \textit{g3} \textit{e8} 39 \textit{zh7} \textit{a4} 40 \textit{zh3} 1-0

A possible continuation is 40...\textit{d7} 41 \textit{zhg3} (or 41 \textit{zh5}) 41...\textit{b6} 42 \textit{zh8} \textit{e8} 43 \textit{xh8} \textit{xh8} 44 \textit{zh7}, intending 45 \textit{zh5}, and if 44...\textit{e8} then 45 \textit{g8} wins.

4 points for 28 \textit{zh7}; 3 points if you chose 28 \textit{f4}!

\textbf{758) Quezada – Pozo}
\textit{Villa Clara 2008}

23 \textit{xe5}+!!

This leads to forced mate, whereas 23 \textit{wh7}? \textit{a1}+ 24 \textit{d2} \textit{xb2} only brings difficulties.

23...\textit{fxe5} 24 \textit{zh4}+! \textit{e6} 25 \textit{zh3}+ \textit{xf7}

Quicker is 25...\textit{e6} 26 \textit{d6}+ \textit{g5} 27 \textit{ez3}+ \textit{g5} 28 \textit{g4}+ \textit{xe4} 29 \textit{h3}+ \textit{f5} 30 \textit{f3}+ \textit{g5} 31 \textit{w4}#.

26 \textit{wh7}+ \textit{e6} 27 \textit{d7}+ \textit{f6} 28 \textit{d6}+!! \textit{g5} 29 \textit{wg7}+ \textit{f5} 30 \textit{g6}+ \textit{f4} 31 \textit{w5}+ \textit{d3}+ \textit{e4} 32 \textit{d3}+ \textit{f4} 33 \textit{w3}+ \textit{g4} 34...\textit{f5} 35 \textit{g4}+ is similar to the previous note.

35 \textit{xe5}+ \textit{f5} 36 \textit{g3}+ \textit{zh5} 37 \textit{g6}+ \textit{zh4} 38 \textit{zh4}+ 1-0

4 points for 23 \textit{xe5}+!!

\textbf{759) Rublevsky – Bacrot}
\textit{Spanish Team Ch, Calvia 2007}

38 \textit{c4}!!

With this fine move the knight defends the b6-pawn, and the two pieces that can take the knight are overloaded, since they have to prevent the white pawn from queening.

38...\textit{wc4}

Obviously after 38...\textit{xc4} 39 \textit{b7} the pawn queens.

39 \textit{xe5}+ \textit{zh6} 40 \textit{b7}

The pawn can’t be prevented from queening, but Black still has a resource.

40...\textit{f1}+?? 41 \textit{h2} \textit{c6}

Threatening both mate on g2 and the pawn on b7; how can White deal with both threats?

42 \textit{e3}+!!

42...\textit{f4}+! \textit{h5} 43 \textit{f3} is also good.

42...\textit{h5}

Or 42...\textit{g7} 43 \textit{w3}+ and the bishop is lost.

43 \textit{f3}! 1-0

With the threat of queening and the no less strong threat of mating in three, starting with 44 \textit{g4}+

5 points for 38 \textit{c4}!!.

\textbf{760) Cheparinov – Navara}
\textit{European Team Ch, Khersonisos 2007}

The rook on a1 is out of the game, and White’s attack lacks firepower. In fact, White’s king is the one in serious danger, but he still has one move to save the game: 31 \textit{h4}, controlling the g5-square, draws; e.g., 31...\textit{g2}+ (31...\textit{h2} 32 \textit{g5}+ \textit{h7} 33 \textit{wh8} forces Black to take the draw by 33...\textit{h1} 34 \textit{f2} \textit{h2}+ 35 \textit{f1} – not 35 \textit{e3}?, which loses to 35...\textit{g2}+) 32 \textit{e1} \textit{e2}+ 33 \textit{d1} \textit{f3} 34 \textit{g5}+ \textit{h7} 35 \textit{f5}+ with perpetual check.

The game followed a different course:

31 \textit{g8}? \textit{g2}+ 32 \textit{e1} \textit{e2}+ 33 \textit{d1} \textit{f3}! 34 \textit{h7}+

34 \textit{c1} is met simply by 34...\textit{e1}+ 35 \textit{d2} \textit{xal}, with a decisive material advantage.

34...\textit{g5}

31 \textit{h4}! would have prevented this escape; now Black forces mate.

35 \textit{a2}

There is nothing after 35 \textit{gxg7}+ \textit{h4}.

35...\textit{h2}+ 36 \textit{e1}

Or 36 \textit{c1} \textit{xd3}+ 37 \textit{cd3} (37 \textit{xd3} \textit{f4}+ with mate) 37...\textit{f4}+ 38 \textit{b1} \textit{h1}+ and Black forces checkmate.

36...\textit{xd3}+ 1-0

Again it is mate: 37 \textit{xd3} \textit{g3}+ 38 \textit{f1} \textit{h1}#.

5 points for 31 \textit{h4}!!.
9 The World of Endgames

This chapter consists of 80 endgame puzzles, ranging in difficulty from level 1 to level 4. Hints are given for the first 30. As usual, the difficulty level rises gradually, only to drop down again to level 1 in Puzzle 791, after which it starts to rise once again.

761 W
White wins with a well-known endgame resource; how?

763 W
How can White simplify the difficult task of exploiting the extra pawn?

762 B
White has played a typical combination to create a passed pawn... or is there a snag?

764 W
White has a winning position, but needs to find a key move to achieve victory.
After 88...exf2+ 89 xf6! Black resigned, as White threatens mate and promotion. How could Black have forced a draw?

White has a big advantage; what is the quickest way to exploit it?

How can White win this apparently equal ending?

The struggle against the bishop-pair promises to be an unpleasant defensive task; how can White simplify matters?

White has sacrificed a piece to create a winning passed pawn; how can he wrap things up?

Black played 80...e1Q, which forced White to resign; why did Black not promote the pawn to a queen?
White’s passed pawns are immobilized; how is it possible to get them moving?

White returned the exchange with 56 \( \text{Kxd5} \) to reach a bishop ending with an extra pawn; was this a good decision?

White needs to find something soon, so that his extra pawn can be converted into something more tangible. What is it?

Black’s powerful passed pawn is running out of energy; how can it be revitalized?

Demonstrate a typical winning method in endgames with passed pawns.

Demonstrate the typical winning manoeuvre in this type of endgame.
Demonstrate your technique and win with a typical manoeuvre.

Choose: a) White is winning; b) White is better; c) the position is balanced. Support your choice with analysis.

Material is equal, but Black has a space advantage and his pieces are more active; how can he increase his advantage?

Black’s passed pawn is going nowhere for now, and he must take action before White’s knight rejoins the battle... but how?

The material is equal; what other factor is decisive here?

White played 42 f3, which led to a draw following 42...\(\texttt{\textit{fx}}\textit{b2}\). How can White improve his play and win?
White has counterplay with the threat of h5, creating his own passed pawn; how can Black take the lead in the pawn race?

There is just one way, not only to save the game, but also to win; what is it?

Black is a pawn up and White's e7-pawn is doomed, so it's an easy win, isn't it?

The game went 63...\texttt{Qe6} 64 \texttt{h7+ Qxg7} 65 \texttt{Qxe6}, and White won. How can Black's defence be improved?

With reduced material there is a fine line between a win and a draw, so precise calculation is required. Demonstrate the win.

Black has a passed pawn and an active rook. White must introduce a new element or his advantage will fade away; what is it?
In this strange position, Black has only one correct way to play; what is it?

White is better, but has no clear path to victory. What is his best winning try?
Answers for Chapter 9

761) Dziuba – Protaziuk
Najdorf Memorial, Warsaw 2008
49 f5!
49 f6! is just as good, of course.
49...d7 50 g6 e6 51 b4! 1-0
Zugzwang.

762) Jay. Gonzales – Kotronias
Dresden Olympiad 2008
Yes, there is a snap:
40...gxh5! 41 g6 g8! 0-1

763) Estremera – Martínez González
Magaluf 2008
87 d5+! 1-0

764) Vallejo – Núñez
Havana 1992
42 b4+! 1-0
Thus Vallejo, then aged nine, stopped the black pawn. White easily after 42...xb4
43 e2! c3 44 d1!, preventing 44...c2.

765) Hillarp Persson – Lindberg
Swedish Ch, Växjö 2008
Black draws by attacking the c-pawn with
88...c2! and every time the white king supports the pawn, threatening both to queen and
to play xf2, Black just checks with the rook; e.g., 89 d7 c2+ 90 c6 c2+ 91 b7 b2+ 92 a7 c2 93 b8 b2+.

Buenos Aires 1958
45 xa5! bxa5
If 45...xe3 White has the winning zwischzug 46 b4+!.
46 xc5 g5 47 e4 1-0
There follows 48 b4, unless Black plays
47...h4. In that case, White must spare a thought for defence, and first prevent 48...g4 with 48 f3!.

767) Svidler – Yakovenko
FIDE Grand Prix, Sochi 2008
Not with 80 g6? f8!, and the pawn can't
queen, but with 80 g7! 1-0. There follows 81
80 g6 and h7, winning easily.

768) Ju. Bolbochán – J.E. Martínez
Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946
42 e8+!
‘The advantage of having two bishops is that
at any moment you can exchange one of them’
is a well-known dictum. Here White can use
this resource to simplify to a winning bishop ending, based on the tremendous position of his
king.
42...xe8
Not 42...e7? 43 xg6.
43 xe6 e7 44 c4 1-0
After 45 g5 White can't be prevented from
breaking in with f6.

769) Franco – Karpov
Spanish Team Ch, Mota del Cuervo 1995
31 d3!
A single bishop is not so dangerous.
31.xd3+ 32 xd3 d5
The exchange of bishops relies on the fact that 32...xf2? loses to 33 d4+.
32 f4 g1 34 f3 c5 35 d2 f5 36 f3
37 g5 h6 38 f3 e7 39 d4 g6 40 f3
cf6 41 h4 xh4 42 gxh4 1/2-1/2

770) Narciso – Krivochuk
European Ch, Plovdiv 2008
80...e1?? runs into 81 g6! g8 82
We8+! xex8 stalemate.
We should note that Black had other ways
to win apart from underpromotion, of which
80...xf4! 81 gxf4 e1++, leading to mate
with checks, is the most direct.

771) K. Lie – Bu Xiangzhi
Dresden Olympiad 2008
42 f5+!
This elegantly breaks the blockade; after
42...gx5 43 g6 the pawn is unstoppable.
42...c7 1-0
Black resigned without waiting for 43 d6+
c6 44 e7 xd7 45 g7.

772) Quezada – Onishchuk
Dresden Olympiad 2008
56 g4!
The exchange of the f3-pawn for the one on
h7 leaves White with two connected passed
pawns, which will win the game.
56...xf3 57 xh7 h3 58 h6! h1
58...f3 delays, but does not avoid, defeat;
e.g., 59 g5 g8 60 f6 b5 61 e8+ f7 62
c7+ g6 63 h6 xg4 64 g7+ f8 65 h7.
59 xh1 xh1 60 g5 e6 61 g7 1-0
773) Onishchuk – C. Balogh
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

The most important point is to avoid 73 c8?? \(\text{c}3+74 \text{d7} \text{x}c8 75 \text{x}c8 \text{f}5 76 \text{g}7 \text{f}4 77 \text{d}7 \text{g}3 78 \text{e}6 \text{f}3 79 \text{e}5 \text{g}2 80 \text{d}4 \text{f}2,\) and this is drawn.

73 \(\text{h}5! \text{1-0}\)

On the fifth rank the rook can shelter the white king from checks; 73 \(\text{d}5! \text{c}3 74 \text{h}6+ \text{e}7 75 \text{c}6 also works.

774) Agdestein – Van Wely
*Wolvega 2008*

56 \(\text{x}d5?\) is a serious error. After 56...\(\text{x}d5 57 \text{c}1 \text{g}5+!\) the ending is a theoretical draw; the black king reaches a8 without any problems.

Instead White can win with 56 \(\text{c}5! \text{c}5 57 \text{x}c5 \text{a}2 58 \text{b}3 59 \text{a}33 \text{f}3 60 \text{a}6,\) and the rest is straightforward.

775) Ftačnik – Aleksandrov
*Dresden Olympiad 2008*

29...\(\text{xc}4! 30 \text{exc}4 \text{xc}4 31 \text{e}1 31 \text{b}1 loses to 31...d2+ 32 \text{g}1 \text{e}2.\)

31...\(\text{xb}3 32 \text{axb}3 \text{a}5 33 \text{f}3\)

Preventing 33...\(\text{a}4.\)

33...\(\text{a}5\)

The first step in creating a second passed pawn.

34 \(\text{d}2 \text{g}4! \text{0-1}\)

A beautiful way to enable his king to support the d3-pawn, in order then to create another passed pawn with ...b5 and ...a4; e.g., after 35 \text{hxg}4 \text{fxg}4 36 \text{f}4+ (or 36 \text{fxg}4) 36...\(\text{e}4.\)

776) Eliskases – Rossetto
*Buenos Aires 1947*

43 \(\text{f}5!\)

White breaks up Black’s defensive structure and reaches a winning endgame by returning the exchange at an appropriate moment.

43...\(\text{xf}5\)

Or 43...\text{gx}f5 44 \(\text{x}h5 \text{d}7 45 \text{g}5 \text{e}6 46 \text{xf}5\) and White wins.

44 \(\text{xf}5 \text{gx}f5 45 \text{h}5 \text{f}8 46 \text{g}5 \text{e}8 47 \text{f}6 \text{1-0}\)

A possible continuation is 47...\(\text{f}8 48 \text{e}6 \text{fxe}6 49 \text{e}6 \text{g}7 50 \text{xf}5.\)

47 \(\text{xf}5 \text{e}7 48 \text{g}4 was also good enough: 48...\text{e}8 49 \text{f}6 \text{f}8 50 \text{g}5! (not 50 \text{e}6? \text{fxe}6 51 \text{xe}6 \text{g}7 52 \text{f}5 \text{f}7 with a draw) 50...\text{e}8 (50...\text{g}8 51 \text{e}7 is similar) 51 \text{g}7 \text{e}7 52 \text{g}8! \text{e}8 53 \text{e}6! \text{fxe}6 54 \text{g}6 \text{e}5 55 \text{g}7 \text{e}4 56 \text{h}7.\)

777) Ju. Bolbochán – Madería
*Match (game 7), Mar del Plata 1953*

52 \(\text{f}7!\)

Of course 52...\text{fxe}7? \text{ex}e7 is a draw.

52...\text{e}6 53 \text{g}7 \text{d}6 54 \text{a}4

54 \(\text{g}8 was quicker, but there is no hurry.\)

54...\(\text{a}3 55 \text{g}8 \text{d}6 56 \text{g}7! \text{c}5\)

Or 56...\text{f}5 57 \text{f}8 \text{f}4 58 \text{c}5 \text{h}6 59 \text{e}3.

57 \(\text{f}8 \text{c}3\)

And now, with a manœuvre that will be familiar to you, White shows that the h6-f8 diagonal is very short.

58 \(\text{b}4 \text{h}6 59 \text{c}3! \text{1-0}\)

778) Porreca – Ju. Bolbochán
*Amsterdam Olympiad 1954*

By seeking to infiltrate with the king via g4, after which there is no defence:

40...\(\text{g}6! 41 \text{h}2 \text{f}3 42 \text{e}1\)

If 42...\text{xf}3 43...\text{e}3 43...\text{g}1 44 \text{f}2 44...\text{g}4 45 \text{e}1 \text{e}5 Black wins easily using the f3-pawn to deflect the white king and penetrate decisively with his own king, when necessary.

42...\text{h}5 43 \text{g}1 \text{g}4 44 \text{h}2 \text{f}4 0-1

45 \text{gx}f4 \text{g}xh4 46 \text{ex}f4 47 \text{g}2 \text{f}3+ 48 \text{h}2 \text{h}3+ 49 \text{g}1 \text{g}3+.

779) Bielicki – Smyslov
*Mar del Plata 1962*

38...\(\text{f}2!\)

Incarcerating the white king, with the idea of 39...\text{h}7 and ...\text{g}6-5. Black achieves nothing with 38...\text{h}7 39 \text{g}3 \text{g}6 40 \text{f}4.

39 \text{g}3

Also losing is 39...\text{g}3 \text{g}3 40...\text{g}3 41...\text{f}4 42...\text{f}6 43...\text{g}5 44...\text{h}5 (44...\text{e}5 45...\text{g}3 46...\text{h}5 does not change the situation) 44...\text{f}5! 45...\text{h}6 46...\text{h}5 47...\text{h}7 48...\text{h}6 49...\text{h}1 \text{h}8 50...\text{e}5+ (or 50...\text{e}5+) 51 \text{g}8 \text{g}6!.

39...\(\text{c}5 40 \text{g}2 \text{h}7 0-1\)

There is no defence against the threat to take the e6-pawn.

780) Franco – Sequera
*Bled Olympiad 2002*

The game went 32...\text{c}2 and Black achieved equality by making his king safe with 32...\text{h}6 33 \text{b}3 \text{e}5 34 \text{d}7 \text{h}5 35...\text{e}3 \text{e}2 3/2-1/2.
Black is able to infiltrate with his queen, and perpetual check is unavoidable.

Instead $32 \text{d}4+$ wins, boxing in the black king, and the threats of mate are decisive after $32...\text{g}8 \text{h}4 \text{c}4! \text{h}7$ (if $33...\text{xb}2$ then $34 \text{e}8+ \text{f}7 35 \text{c}4 \text{ch7}$) $34 \text{c}8$, followed by $35 \text{h}4+$, winning.

781) Delgado – L. Domínguez

Capablanca Memorial, Havana 2005

$34...\text{g}3+! 35 \text{e}3$

The pawn queens after $35 \text{xf}4 \text{xf}4 36 \text{gxf}4 \text{d}2$.

$35...\text{g}4+ 36 \text{e}4 \text{xe}3 37 \text{xe}3$

If $37 \text{f}4$ then $37...\text{e}1+ 38 \text{d}3 \text{d}1+$ and $39...\text{xa}4$.

$37...\text{g}6 38 \text{xd}3 \text{e}1+! 39 \text{d}4 \text{e}5+$ 0-1

$40 \text{c}4 \text{e}2$ is winning for Black.

782) Rublevsky – Ivanchuk

Blitz World Ch, Almaty 2008

$42 \text{b}5!$ wins: $42...\text{xb}2 (42...\text{exe}4 is also met by $43 \text{e}6)$ $43 \text{e}6$ (threatening $44 \text{g}7+$ and $45 \text{h}8+$) $43...\text{g}6 44 \text{g}6 \text{f}2$, and now $45 \text{f}5$ is the most straightforward (but there are other ways to win, such as $45 \text{d}7$): $45...\text{e}8 46 \text{xf}6 \text{d}8 47 \text{d}7+ \text{c}8 48 \text{xd}6+ \text{c}7 49 \text{a}6$.

783) Leniç – Franco

Dresden Olympiad 2008

$51...\text{c}4$!

Forcing White to move his rook into a bad position, if he is not to lose another pawn.

$52 \text{e}5 53 \text{h}5$

This was the idea, but now the bad placing of the white rook allows...

$53...\text{b}3! 54 \text{e}5$

After $54 \text{hxg}6 \text{b}2 55 \text{gxf}7 \text{b}1 \text{w} 56 \text{f}8 \text{w}$, the white king perishes; e.g., $56...\text{wa}2+ 57 \text{e}3 \text{b}3+ 58 \text{f}2 \text{c}2+ 59 \text{g}1 \text{e}3+.$

$54...\text{xe}4$

With the capture of another pawn, the rest is simple.

$55 \text{hxg}6 \text{fxg}6 56 \text{c}3 \text{g}3+ 57 \text{b}2 \text{b}4 0-1$

784) Gadia – Redolfi

Mar del Plata 1960

Black was over-confident and carelessly continued $38...\text{d}7$??, losing the game after $39 \text{h}8!(or 39 \text{g}8)$ $39...\text{xe}7 40 \text{h}7+ \text{d}6 41 \text{xb}7 \text{c}5 42 \text{h}7 \text{b}5 43 \text{hxh}6 1-0$.

Instead, after $38...\text{d}6! 39 \text{h}8 \text{xe}7 40 \text{hxh}6+ \text{c}5$, the advantage lies with Black.

785) Corrales – Abergel

Harkany 2008

$46 \text{hxh}5$ is insufficient for a win: $46...\text{f}3 47 \text{d}1 \text{f}4! 48 \text{xf}3!$ (worse is $48 \text{g}6? \text{f}2 49 \text{e}2 \text{b}4 50 \text{h}5 \text{a}4 51 \text{h}6 \text{b}3 52 \text{axb}3 \text{a}3 \text{h}7 \text{b}2 54 \text{h}8 \text{w} \text{b}1+ 55 \text{f}7 \text{wa}2+$, when it is also a theoretical draw, but it is White who must play accurately to secure it) $48...\text{xf}3 49 \text{g}5 \text{b}4 50 \text{h}5 \text{a}4 51 \text{h}6 \text{b}3 52 \text{h}7! \text{b}2 53 \text{h}8 \text{b}1 \text{w} 54 \text{h}3+ \text{f}2 55 \text{h}2+ \text{f}3 56 \text{f}4+ \text{e}2 57 \text{wa}4 with an extra pawn, but it’s a theoretical draw.

With $46 \text{d}1!$ White wins:

$46...\text{e}4 47 \text{d}h5 \text{f}3 48 \text{g}4 \text{f}2 49 \text{e}2 \text{b}4 50 \text{h}5 \text{e}3$

Or $50...\text{e}5 51 \text{g}5 \text{e}6 52 \text{h}6 \text{f}7 53 \text{c}4+ \text{f}8 54 \text{g}6 \text{f}1 \text{w} 55 \text{xf}1 \text{g}8 56 \text{c}4+ \text{h}8 57 \text{b}3$, and White wins.

$51 \text{f}1 \text{a}4 52 \text{h}6 \text{b}3 53 \text{h}7 \text{b}2 54 \text{h}8 \text{w} \text{b}1 \text{w} 55 \text{c}3+ 1-0$

786) Elliskases – Fischer

Buenos Aires 1960

$56 \text{h}5!! \text{xa}4$

If $56...\text{c}2$ then $57 \text{f}4!$ wins by bringing about a knight ending where White’s extra pawn on the kingside is decisive; e.g., $57...\text{c}3 58 \text{f}4! \text{c}1 \text{f} 59 \text{h}4 \text{b}3 60 \text{d}5+! \text{c}4 61 \text{xb}6+ \text{c}5 62 \text{g}5 \text{hxg}5 63 \text{h}5 \text{g}4 64 \text{h}6 \text{g}3 65 \text{f}3 \text{d}4+ 66 \text{g}2! \text{d}6 67 \text{h}7 \text{f}4+ 68 \text{g}3 \text{g}6 69 \text{g}4 (or 69 \text{a}5 \text{b}5 70 \text{d}4) 69...\text{xb}6 70 \text{g}5 \text{d}5 71 \text{f}5 \text{f}7 72 \text{f}6 \text{h}8 73 \text{g}7. 57 \text{f}4 \text{b}5 58 \text{e}2 \text{c}2 1-0$

The advance of the black pawns is easily contained; for instance, $59 \text{h}4 \text{b}4 60 \text{c}4 \text{b}3 61 \text{c}3 \text{a}3 62 \text{g}5 1 \text{w}+ 63 \text{xc}1 \text{b}2 64 \text{c}2!.$

787) Istratescu – Amin

Dresden Olympiad 2008

The draw is very near after $63...\text{f}1+! 64 \text{e}5 (64 \text{f}xg5 \text{f}1+ 65 \text{f}5 \text{g}6! is an even easier draw) 64...\text{f}3+ 65 \text{c}3 \text{g}7 66 \text{f}6$ and the extra white pawn is not enough to win.

788) Shirov – Topalov

Dresden Olympiad 2008

$30 \text{h}5!$

An elegant way to reinforce the attack with a pawn.
30...gxh5 31 g5!

The h7-rook is not only passive but is also a tactical weakness; the threat is 32 g6.

31...£g2 32 £f5 £e2
32...£e2 is met by 33 f4 £e2 34 £c8+ £e8 35 £xe8+ £xe8 36 £f6! a4 37 g6.

33 £c8+ £e8 34 £xe8+ £xe8 35 £f6!

With our well-known winning idea.

35...h4 36 g6! £h6 37 £xf7 1-0
37...h3 38 £h7! and White wins.

789) Van den Doel – Hellenberg

Leiden 2008

Obviously not 50...£c7? since after 51 £f8+ the black king falls under a mating attack.

The game went 50...£xg7? 51 £xg7 c1£ 52 £f8+ £e6 53 £h6+ £d5 54 £h8 £g5+ (or 54...£g1+ 55 £g6 £a7+ 56 £h6 £e3+ 57 £g5) 57 £f7 1-0.

Black can draw with 50...£g6!!: after 51 £c8 £xg7! 52 £c6+ £f7 53 £xg2 £g1, we reach an ending that is drawn without the pawns at f3 and e5, and even with these pawns the evaluation is unchanged; e.g., 54 £c7+ £f6 55 £c8 £f7 56 £g8 £a1 57 £g7+ £f6.

790) King – Speelman

British League (4NCL) 2007/8

The game concluded 49 £e5? (the passed pawn will make no progress this way) 49...£xb2 50 £c4 £b3+ 51 £h4 £g7 52 g4 £g6 53 £d4 1/2-1/2.

White’s best chance lies in mobilizing his b-pawn by 49...£b8+ £g7 50 b5 £xb2 51 b6. Now:

a) 51...£f6 52 £xf6+ £xf6 53 £b7! £g7 and then:

a1) 54 £f3? is based on a typical idea: White intends to head for £7 with the plan of capturing the e6-pawn, after which Black will be in zugzwang. We shall see this idea in action later. However, this specific move runs into a problem: 54...£b3! and after 55 £e3 £e5! 56 £xe5? £xe5+ 57 £d4 £b5 the capture of the f5-pawn leads to a drawn ending.

a2) Therefore White needs to hang on to his own f-pawn. The best way to do this appears to be 54 £h4!, with the idea of playing g4 and exchanging pawns, thus ruling out the above defensive resource, and then returning to the route that we shall examine below.

b) 51...£b3+ 52 £f2 £b2+ 53 £f3 and then:

b1) If 53...£h7, White wins by 54 £e3 £xg2 55 £h8! £b2 56 £xf7+ £g8 (56...£g6 57 £f6+) 57 £b7 £b4 58 £d3 and the king penetrates via £c5 and £d6.

b2) 53...£b3+ 54 £e2 £b2+ 55 £d3 £xg2. Unlike ‘normal’ positions in which the attacker abandons his kingside, here the defender can’t create a passed pawn, and is therefore lost: 56 £c4 £b2 57 £c5 £f6 58 £xf6+ £xf6 59 £b7 £g7 60 £c6 £c2+ 61 £d6 £b2 62 £xe6 £b5, and now White wins the f5-pawn by means of the above-mentioned zugzwang: 63 £d6 £b2 64 £e5 £b5+ 65 £e6 £h7 66 £f6!.

791) Nogués – Grau

Buenos Aires 1926

41...£g3! 0-1

792) Maderna – Lipniks

Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1954

46 £c2!

With this move, all the pressure on the passed pawn is lifted. 46 £d3+ £g7 47 £c2 also works.

46...£xc2 47 £d3+ 1-0

Furthmore the black bishop is trapped.

793) Najdorf – Redolfi

Mar del Plata 1959

67...£d3+! 1/2-1/2

794) Liberzon – Franco

Haifa Olympiad 1976

56...£b5!

It will still take some moves for the white king to be close enough (for instance on d4, d5 or c3) to prevent this resource from working, but... the sooner the better. 56...£b6 and 56...£d7 are the only other moves that don’t lose.

57 £xb6+

57 a6 is met by 57...£b4, planning 58...£c6 and...£b5, which a white king on one of the above-mentioned squares would prevent. After 58...£c6, if White replies 59 £f2, to prevent...£b5, then Black plays 59...£c7 and...£b8, reaching the safe squares. 57...£b7

with a theoretical draw.

795) Novikov – Franco

Saint Vincent 1999

70...£h4! 1/2-1/2

71 £xf4 is stalemate, and White can’t hope to win by any other means.
796) Perera – Ruiz Jiménez  
**Benasque 2001**

45...\textit{\textbf{d}}e7? allows the white f-pawn to threaten to advance with check after 46 \textit{\textbf{g}}g7! so Black must play 46...\textit{\textbf{e}}e6 (not 46...\textit{\textbf{a}}a4? 47 bxa4 bxa4 48 \textit{\textbf{f}}5! and White wins) 47 \textit{\textbf{g}}g6 \textit{\textbf{d}}e7, with a draw.

The immediate 45...\textit{\textbf{a}}a4! wins easily; after 46 bxa4 b4 Black queens with check; or 46...bxa4 47 f5 \textit{\textbf{a}}a3 48 \textit{\textbf{f}}f6 a2 49 \textit{\textbf{f}}7 \textit{\textbf{e}}e7!, again queening with check.

797) Piazzini – Reshevsky  
**Stockholm Olympiad 1937**

52 \textit{\textbf{d}}xf6!  
The right way; after 52 h5? \textit{\textbf{d}}d4 53 \textit{\textbf{a}}a3 \textit{\textbf{e}}e4 54 h6 \textit{\textbf{e}}e3 Black draws.  
52...\textit{\textbf{d}}d4 53 \textit{\textbf{a}}a5 \textit{\textbf{g}}g3 54 h5  
Black’s king is cut off from the defence, so he loses:  
54...\textit{\textbf{f}}f3+ 55 \textit{\textbf{f}}f5 \textit{\textbf{h}}h3 56 \textit{\textbf{g}}g6 \textit{\textbf{e}}e4 57 \textit{\textbf{g}}g5 \textit{\textbf{a}}a3 58 h6 \textit{\textbf{a}}a6+ 59 \textit{\textbf{h}}h5 \textit{\textbf{a}}a7 60 \textit{\textbf{g}}g8 \textit{\textbf{e}}e5 61 \textit{\textbf{g}}g6 \textit{\textbf{a}}a6+ 62 \textit{\textbf{g}}g5 \textit{\textbf{a}}a7 63 \textit{\textbf{h}}h8+ \textit{\textbf{d}}d5 64 \textit{\textbf{g}}g6 \textit{\textbf{a}}a6+ 65 \textit{\textbf{g}}g7 \textit{\textbf{a}}a7+ 66 \textit{\textit{\textbf{g}}}g8 \textit{\textit{\textbf{a}}}a1 67 h7 \textit{\textit{\textbf{g}}}g1+ 68 \textit{\textit{\textbf{f}}}f7 \textit{\textit{\textbf{f}}}f1+ 69 \textit{\textit{\textbf{g}}}g7 1-0.

798) Pelikan – Guimard  
**Buenos Aires 1945**

56...\textit{\textbf{e}}e3!  
Reversing the move-order does not work: 56...h5+? 57 \textit{\textbf{h}}h4 \textit{\textbf{e}}e3 58 \textit{\textit{\textbf{f}}}f7+! \textit{\textbf{xf}}f7 59 \textit{\textbf{h}}h5.  
57 \textit{\textbf{g}}g7  
After 57 \textit{\textbf{g}}g1 h5+ 58 \textit{\textbf{h}}h4+ \textit{\textbf{h}}h6 there is no satisfactory defence against 59...\textit{\textbf{d}}d8++; if 59 \textit{\textbf{g}}g8 then 59...\textit{\textbf{e}}e5.

57...\textit{\textbf{f}}f7 58 \textit{\textbf{h}}h7 \textit{\textbf{e}}e7  
and Black pressed home his advantage.

799) Falcón – Iliesco  
**Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946**

49...\textit{\textbf{g}}g3! 0-1  
Zugzwang forces the rook to move to an unprotected square, where it perishes; e.g., 50 \textit{\textbf{h}}h8 \textit{\textbf{f}}f3+ 51 \textit{\textbf{h}}h2 \textit{\textbf{f}}f4+ 52 \textit{\textbf{g}}g2 \textit{\textbf{d}}d2+ 53 \textit{\textbf{f}}f1 \textit{\textbf{c}}c1+ 54 \textit{\textbf{g}}g2 \textit{\textbf{b}}b2+.

800) Gligorić – Ju. Bolbochán  
**Mar del Plata 1953**

41...\textit{\textbf{d}}d3!  
Even better than the immediate capture on e4; Black wants to increase the activity of his pieces before capturing any pawns.

42 \textit{\textbf{d}}d2  
Retaining his worse bishop; White’s defence is difficult after 42 \textit{\textit{\textbf{x}}}xd3 \textit{\textit{\textbf{b}}}xb4 43 \textit{\textbf{f}}f2 a5.  
42...\textit{\textbf{b}}b1+ 43 \textit{\textbf{g}}g2 \textit{\textbf{c}}c5  
This is one of the few examples where the pair of knights is far superior to the pair of bishops; White’s damaged structure is the main reason.

44 \textit{\textit{\textbf{b}}}b4 \textit{\textit{\textbf{c}}}c2 45 \textit{\textit{\textbf{c}}}c3 \textit{\textbf{a}}a2  
The e4-pawn is indefensible, and White can only choose between several evils. The rest is easy.

46 \textit{\textit{\textbf{a}}}a5 \textit{\textit{\textbf{x}}}xc4 47 h5 \textit{\textit{\textbf{b}}}b3 48 \textit{\textit{\textbf{d}}}d8 \textit{\textit{\textbf{x}}}xd2 0-1.

801) Pilnik – F. Olafsson  
**Match (game 3), Reykjavik 1957**

62 h6? doesn’t work, since it is Black who wins after 62...e3 63 h7 e2 64 h8\textit{\textit{\textbf{w}}} w1+ 65 \textit{\textit{\textbf{h}}}h5 \textit{\textit{\textbf{h}}}h1+.  
62 \textit{\textit{\textbf{h}}}h3 1-0  
The only move, but it wins; after 62...\textit{\textbf{f}}f3 63 h6 e3 64 h7 e2 65 h8\textit{\textit{\textbf{w}}} w1 66 \textit{\textit{\textbf{f}}}f6+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{e}}}e2 67 \textit{\textit{\textbf{e}}}e5+, White exchanges queens and wins, while 62...e3 63 \textit{\textit{\textbf{g}}}g2 \textit{\textit{\textbf{e}}}e4 64 \textit{\textit{\textbf{f}}}f1! \textit{\textit{\textbf{d}}}d3 65 \textit{\textit{\textbf{e}}}e1 also gives Black no hope.

802) Fischer – Pachman  
**Mar del Plata 1959**

55...\textit{\textbf{x}}xf3+! 56 \textit{\textbf{x}}xf3 \textit{\textit{\textbf{x}}}xf3 0-1  
After 57 \textit{\textit{\textbf{x}}}xf3, 57...b4 wins.

803) Ramírez – Franco  
**Haifa Olympiad 1976**

46...\textit{\textbf{b}}b4!  
46...\textit{\textbf{x}}xa5?? is bad on account of 47 \textit{\textbf{c}}c5 \textit{\textit{\textbf{d}}}d4 48 \textit{\textit{\textbf{d}}}d6 a5 49 \textit{\textit{\textbf{c}}}c7 \textit{\textit{\textbf{b}}}b3 50 \textit{\textit{\textbf{x}}}xf7 a4 51 \textit{\textit{\textbf{f}}}f5 \textit{\textit{\textbf{x}}}xf5 52 e6 a3 53 e7 a2 54 e8\textit{\textit{\textbf{w}}} w1 \textit{\textit{\textbf{w}}} w5+ \textit{\textit{\textbf{c}}}c2 56 \textit{\textit{\textbf{f}}}f5+, with the better ending.

47 \textit{\textit{\textbf{f}}}f5  
White hopes that the black king will take the pawn, making way for the white king.  
47...\textit{\textit{\textbf{h}}}h5!  
The simplest. 47...exf5 is also winning, but the pawn ending in that case requires considerable accuracy.

0-1  
Only after 48 fxe6 fxe6 49 \textit{\textit{\textbf{d}}}d3 does Black play 49...\textit{\textit{\textbf{x}}}xa5, winning.

804) Franco – Quinteros  
**Mar del Plata 1982**

40 \textit{\textbf{d}}d1!  
Preventing ...\textit{\textbf{d}}d4.
40...g8 41 f3 d8
Black has to lose another tempo, as 41...g7? loses to 42 g1+.
1-0

The game was adjourned, and Black resigned without resuming. A possible continuation is 42 e4 g7 43 d5 f6 44 c6 h5 45 d7 g5 46 c7, with an easy win.

805) Spraggett – Franco
Mondariz 1998
51...e3! 0-1

806) Pons Sastre – Franco
Lucmajor 2000
46...f3! 47 xe6 fx2+ 48 e1
48 g1 xe2 is similar.
48...e2+ 49 d1 xe3 50 xf6+ g2 0-1

807) Franco – Quezada
Capablanca Memorial, Havana 2001
87 h4! 1-0
White creates a decisive passed pawn. Now 87...gxh4 88 g7+ is winning for White.

808) Moreno Carnero – Matamoros
Dos Hermanas 2004
61...g4! 0-1
Black wins after 62 hxg4+ xg4 63 g2 d2+ 64 f1 c2.

809) Rustemov – Illescas
Dos Hermanas 2005
28 xe6! fx6 29 c2 e7 30 c3 e7 31 c4 d6 32 b5 c7 33 a6 c6 34 a4!
Up to here everything was forced; White’s spare move now decides the game.
34...g5 35 g4 h6 36 h3 c7 37 a7 c6 38 b8! 1-0
After 38...c5 (38...d6 39 b7 c5 40 c7 transposes) 39 a7 b4 40 xb6 axa4 41 c5 White wins easily.

810) Franco – Lariño
Calvia 2005
62 e7! xe7 63 f6+ c7 64 xd5 with an extra piece.

811) Pajeken – Landa
Hamburg 2007
101...g1+!
101...xg4? allows White to save the game with 102 f1 g8 and now several moves draw, the simplest being to place the rook on the ‘long side’ with 103 a6.
102 f1 xf1+ 0-1
103 xf1 is met by 103...d2.

812) Ivanchuk – Wang Yue
Sofia 2009
47...h4+!!
Now White’s king will be shut in at the edge of the board, and Black will force a win by zugzwang.
The pawn sacrifice is not just the only winning move; it is also the sole way to avoid loss.
For example, 47...hxg4? 48 xg4 xd5 49 h4 e6 50 h5 gxh5+ 51 xh5 f7 52 h6 g8 53 g6 leads to a lost ending for Black.
48 xh4
Otherwise Black can win as he pleases.
48...f3
Now Black is able to stalemate White’s king, eventually forcing a losing pawn advance on the queenside.

49 b4
After 49 a5 Black also wins without any great trouble; for example, 49...b6 50 axb6 (50 b4 b5! is like the game) 50...cxb6 51 c4 a5 and White is fast running out of safe moves. 52 h3 f2 53 h4 g2 54 h3 f3 55 c5 bxc5 56 b4 c4 and the game finishes with ...e1#.
49...b5 50 a5 g2 51 h3 h2 0-1
And mate in six more moves finishing with ...e1#.

813) Wang Yue – Cheparinov
FIDE World Cup, Khanty-Mansiisk 2007
40...d1 e+!
Not 40...d1?? 41 e7+ with perpetual check.
41 e2
After 41 b3 f3+ the queen comes to the king’s defence.
41...e3+ 42 d3 f5
Now it is the knight that comes to the aid of the king, and Black is able to press home his material advantage.
43 fxe5 f3+ 44 d2 f2+ 45 d3 d4+ 46 c2 dxe5 47 c3 f2+ 48 b1 g1+ 49 h2+xh2+
and White resigned a few moves later.

814) Quezada – A. Graf
Mérida 2008
40 h6! gxh6
40...g6 is met by 41 \( \spadesuit h5 \).

41 \( \text{gxh6} \) 1-0

The threat is 42 \( \spadesuit h5 \) followed by \( \spadesuit g6 \). The only way to try to resist is by playing ...c5, so that the black king can go to the kingside, but it doesn’t work; e.g., 41...c5 42 \( \text{dx}c5 \) (42 \( \text{dxc}5 \) is also good enough) 42...\( \text{xe}c5 \) 43 \( \text{dxc}5 \) \( \spadesuit a2 \) 44 \( \spadesuit h5 \) \( \text{xb}3 \) 45 \( \text{g}6 \) \( \text{e}7 \) 46 \( \text{h}xh7 \) \( \text{f}7 \) 47 \( \text{xf}5! \) \( \text{exf}5 \) 48 e6+ \( \text{g}6 \) 49 \( \text{d}4! \) and White queens a pawn.

815) Nuñez Campos – Frois

Monforte de Lemos 2008

41...\( \text{e}4! \)

After the exchange of rooks, Black gains the invasion square f5.

42 \( \text{dx}e4 \) \( \text{fxe}4 \) 43 \( \text{d}2 \) a5 44 \( \text{e}3 \) \( \text{f}5 \) 45 a4 \( \text{e}5 \) 46 \( \text{fxe}5 \) \( \text{xe}5 \) 47 \( \text{f}2 \) \( \text{e}6 \)

47...\( \text{f}5 \), intending 48...\( \text{g}4 \), is also good enough.

48 \( \text{e}3 \)

Or 48 \( \text{e}2 \) \( \text{f}5 \) 49 \( \text{e}3 \) \( \text{g}4 \) 50 \( \text{xe}4 \) \( \text{g}3 \).

48...\( \text{f}5 \) 49 \( \text{f}2 \) \( \text{g}4! \) 50 \( \text{e}3 \) \( \text{g}3 \) 51 \( \text{xe}4 \) \( \text{hxh}4 \) 52 \( \text{f}4 \) \( \text{h}3 \) 0-1

816) Otte – Wohl

Dieren 2008

56 g4? is a serious error since the ending after 56...\( \text{hxg}4 \) 57 \( \text{hxg}4 \) \( \text{f}6 \) is a theoretical draw.

56 \( \text{e}2! \) 1-0

White forces a winning pawn ending; he wins both black pawns while keeping his king in a dominant position: 56...g6 (worse is 56...\( \text{g}6 \) 57 g4 \( \text{hxg}4 \) 58 \( \text{hxg}4 \) 57 \( \text{f}5! \) \( \text{fxf}5 \) 58 \( \text{xh}5 \), followed by 59 \( \text{g}5 \) and \( \text{fxf}5 \). 56 \( \text{e}4! \) is equally good.

817) Sandipan – Slingerland

Leiden 2008

61 \( \text{c}5?? \)

White wins with 61 \( \text{a}6! \) \( \text{bxa}6 \) (or 61...\( \text{f}5 \) 62 a7) 62 \( \text{c}6! \), and the pawn queens, supported by the king and the bishop.

61...\( \text{d}7 \)

Already there is no way for White to exploit his passed pawn, and capturing the b7-pawn only leads to the loss of the d-pawn, after which Black can defend.

62 \( \text{f}4 \) \( \text{f}5 \) 63 \( \text{d}5 \) h4 64 \( \text{c}5 \) 1/2-1/2

There is no time to create a passed pawn; Black’s pawn goes to h3, and his knight retreats and then resumes the attack on the d6-pawn, with a draw.

818) Monokroussos – Yuan Yuanling

Chicago 2008

32...\( \text{xf}4+ \) 33 \( \text{xf}4 \)

No better is 33 \( \text{e}3 \) \( \text{g}4 \) 34 \( \text{fxg}4 \) \( \text{ghx}4 \); e.g., 35 \( \text{e}4 \) \( \text{d}6 \) 36 \( \text{f}5 \) \( \text{d}5 \) 37 \( \text{g}6 \) e4 38 \( \text{dxe}4 \) \( \text{xe}4 \) 39 \( \text{hxh}6 \) c4.

33...\( \text{gx}f4! \)

White is in zugzwang.

34 a3

After 34 b4 \( \text{cx}b4 \) 35 d4 a5 36 dxe5 a4 37 \( \text{d}3 \) \( \text{xe}5 \) the black king penetrates via d4 and either supports his queenside pawns or invades the kingside and captures all White’s pawns.

34...a5 35 a4 \( \text{bxa}4 \) 36 \( \text{bxa}4 \) h5! 0-1

819) Kamsky – Adams

FIDE Grand Prix, Baku 2008

58 h5!

Thanks to this temporary sacrifice, the white king is able to annihilate Black’s kingside. The distance of White’s king from the main field of battle is significant.

58...\( \text{h}3 \) 59 \( \text{e}1 \) \( \text{hxh}5 \) 60 \( \text{h}3 \) 1-0

Black resigned in view of 60...\( \text{b}4 \) 61 \( \text{h}4 \) \( \text{b}5 \) 62 \( \text{h}5 \) \( \text{xe}6 \) 63 \( \text{x}c6 \) \( \text{xc}6 \) 64 \( \text{hxh}6 \) \( \text{d}6 \) 65 \( \text{g}5 \) \( \text{e}6 \) 66 \( \text{g}6! \).

820) Kliment – Hector

Horsholm (rapid) 2008

64...\( \text{g}3?? \)

Black draws with 64...\( \text{h}3! \); e.g., 65 \( \text{b}7 \) g3 66 \( \text{hxg}3 \) \( \text{hxg}3 \) 67 f4 g2 68 \( \text{b}6 \) \( \text{g}4 \) 69 \( \text{e}3 \) g1 \( \text{w} \).

65 \( \text{fxg}3 \) \( \text{hxg}3 \) 66 h4!

Now the pawn is unstoppable.

66...\( \text{f}3 \) 67 h5 g2 68 \( \text{b}6 \) 1-0

821) Vokarev – Azarov

Nezhmetdinov Memorial, Kazan 2008

42 \( \text{f}7?? \)

This tempting capture lets victory slip away. White wins with 42 \( \text{dd}7! \); e.g., 42...\( \text{al}1 \) (42...\( \text{f}2 \) 43 \( \text{xf}7 \) doesn’t work now) 43 \( \text{c}2 \) a2 44 \( \text{a}7 \) \( \text{f}1 \) 45 \( \text{xa}2 \) \( \text{f}2+ \) 46 \( \text{d}2 \). On the other hand, 42 \( \text{a}7 \) \( \text{f}2 \) 43 \( \text{d}2 \) \( \text{b}2+ \) 44 \( \text{c}2 \) \( \text{xf}3 \) 45 b4 \( \text{g}7 \) is not as clear.

42...\( \text{al}+ \) 43 \( \text{c}2 \) \( \text{d}2+ \) 44 \( \text{d}1 \) \( \text{a}1+ \) 45 \( \text{c}2 \)

The reason for the repetition is that the white king can’t move away; if 45 \( \text{e}2 \) a2 46 \( \text{a}7 \) then 46...\( \text{al}1 \), but 46 \( \text{dd}7 \) \( \text{e}1+ \) 47 \( \text{x}e1 \) \( \text{a}1+ \) would be a draw.

45...\( \text{a}2+ \) 46 \( \text{b}1 \) \( \text{a}1+ \) 47 \( \text{c}2 \) \( \text{a}2+ \) 1/2-1/2
822) Akhmadeev – Aleksandrov
Nezhmetdinov Memorial, Kazan 2008
The immediate 86 a8?! doesn’t lead to a win: 86...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{g1+}} 87 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{h3 h1+}} 88 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{g3}} (with the queen on e6, 88 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{g4?}} loses after 88...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{h4+}} 89 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{f5}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{f4#}} 88...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{g1+}} and Black secures a draw.
The game went:
86 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{a2?}}
This fails to prevent the threatened perpetual check. Instead White wins with 86 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{e7!}} (eliminating the mating possibility with the queen on e6) 86...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{h6}} (86...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{g6?}} loses to 87 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{e4+}}) 87 a8?! \textcolor{red}{\texttt{g1+}} 88 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{h3 h1+}} 89 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{g4}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{h4+}} 90 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{f5}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{f4+}} 91 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{e6 e3+}} 92 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{f7 b3+}} 93 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{e6+}}. Black’s own pawn on g5 rules out any possible stalemates.
86...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{g1+}} 87 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{h3 h1+}} 88 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{g3 g1+}} 89 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{h3 h1+}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{1/2-1/2}}

823) T.L. Petrosian – Simonian
Armenian Team Ch, Erevan 2008
40 \texttt{axh5!!!}
40 \texttt{xf4} also appears to win, although more slowly: 40...\texttt{c5} (or 40...\texttt{e7} 41 \texttt{g5} \texttt{d7} 42 \texttt{f6} \texttt{e8} 43 \texttt{g4} \texttt{hxg4} 44 \texttt{xg4} 45 \texttt{f3} \texttt{f3} \texttt{h6} 46 \texttt{e5} \texttt{g5+} 47 \texttt{f6} \texttt{e5} 48 \texttt{f4} \texttt{f4} 49 \texttt{f5} (43...\texttt{e5} 44 \texttt{g4}, obtaining two passed pawns, is simpler) 44 \texttt{d3+} \texttt{g4} 45 \texttt{g6} \texttt{hxg6} 46 \texttt{f6} \texttt{g3} (if 46...\texttt{h5} White can play 47 \texttt{f7} \texttt{g7} 48 \texttt{f4} 49 \texttt{g6} \texttt{hxg6} 46 \texttt{f6} \texttt{g3}) 47 \texttt{h5} \texttt{g4} 48 \texttt{xh5} \texttt{g4} 49 \texttt{g4} \texttt{g4} 50 \texttt{h5} \texttt{f4} 51 \texttt{xe6} \texttt{f3} 52 \texttt{d7}, winning) 47 \texttt{hxh5} \texttt{g2} 48 \texttt{h4}.
40...\texttt{c7}
After 40...\texttt{gxh5}? 41 \texttt{g4} \texttt{hxg4} 42 \texttt{h5}, the pawn is unstoppable.
41 \texttt{e2} \texttt{d8} 42 \texttt{b4} \texttt{e7} 43 \texttt{f4} \texttt{b7} 44 \texttt{g4} \texttt{f8} 45 \texttt{d3} \texttt{e7} 46 \texttt{g5} 1:0
There is no defence; e.g., 46...\texttt{e8} 47 \texttt{h5} \texttt{g8} 48 \texttt{hxg8} \texttt{f8} 49 \texttt{f6} \texttt{f6} 50 \texttt{h6} \texttt{b7} and now one of several ways to win is 51 \texttt{e2} (intending 52 \texttt{e5}) 51...\texttt{xe4} 52 \texttt{xa6}.

824) B. Savchenko – Carlsen
Elsinore 2008
53...\texttt{g8??}
The simplest is 53...\texttt{xe2}, defending against White’s threat to win with 54 \texttt{h8+} \texttt{d7} 59 \texttt{e6+}; for instance, if 54 \texttt{hxh4} then 54...\texttt{e1} is sufficient to draw, while after 54 \texttt{e6} Black should play 54...\texttt{f8}, following the general rule of moving the king to the ‘short side’ (although in this case 54...\texttt{d8} is also playable): 55 \texttt{hxh4}
\texttt{e1} 56 \texttt{h8+} \texttt{g7} 57 \texttt{a8} \texttt{e2} 58 \texttt{d6} \texttt{f7}! 59 \texttt{a7+} \texttt{e8}.
Another possibility is 53...\texttt{f2+!} 54 \texttt{e6} \texttt{f8}! 55 \texttt{hxh4} and there are several moves to draw, but the most logical is to hinder the advance of the white pawn with 55...\texttt{e2}, reaching a theoretically drawn position.
54 \texttt{a7}
54 \texttt{hxh4} also wins here, because Black can’t put his rook on the third rank or get behind the pawn to hinder its advance.
54...\texttt{g2} 55 \texttt{a8+} \texttt{d7} 56 \texttt{e6+} \texttt{d6} 57 \texttt{d8+} 1:0

825) Vedediuc – Ilincic
Timisoara 2008
50 \texttt{a8!}
The clearest, simplifying to an ending with too many passed pawns on both wings.
50...\texttt{xb6 51 a5 (D)}

\begin{center}
\texttt{B}
\end{center}

51...\texttt{xc8}
There is no time to bring the king to the queenside after 51...\texttt{c4} 52 \texttt{a6} \texttt{xb6} 53 \texttt{a7} \texttt{d7} because White creates another passed pawn with 54 \texttt{f4} \texttt{c7} 55 \texttt{g5} and then brings up his king: 55...\texttt{f5} 56 \texttt{fxg5} \texttt{b7} 57 \texttt{g6} \texttt{c8} 58 \texttt{g7} \texttt{e7} 59 \texttt{b6!}, followed by 60 \texttt{h2} and the capture of the \texttt{h4}-pawn.
52 \texttt{b6 1-0}

826) Krush – D. Schneider
Internet 2008
35...\texttt{cxb5}!
Simplifying to an ending of bishop vs knight, where Black soon gains two connected passed pawns.
36 \texttt{axb5} \texttt{b5+} 37 \texttt{xe5+}
If 37...\texttt{g5+} wins more easily.
37...\texttt{hxg5}  
Threatening 38...\texttt{xc4}.

38 \texttt{dx}\texttt{e4}! \texttt{xe5} 39 \texttt{dxc3} \texttt{d5} 40 \texttt{b1} \texttt{b2} 41 \texttt{f4} \texttt{xb5}  
The rest is simple; the passed pawn that White creates is easy to stop, whereas Black’s two passed pawns are unstoppable.

42 \texttt{fxf5}+ 43 \texttt{xf5} e5 44 \texttt{e4} \texttt{xc6} 45 \texttt{e5} a4 46 \texttt{e6} \texttt{d6} 47 \texttt{d2} \texttt{d5} 48 \texttt{e4+} \texttt{e7} 0-1

827)  
\textit{Åkesson – Vallejo}  
\textit{European Ch, Dresden 2007}

59...\texttt{hh1}+ 60 \texttt{c2} \texttt{xb1} 61 \texttt{xb1} \texttt{h5} 62 \texttt{c2} \texttt{xb4} 63 \texttt{d3} \texttt{h3}! 0-1

With this typical manoeuvre, Black captures the f3-pawn and wins; e.g., 64 \texttt{d4} (or 64 \texttt{xe2} \texttt{g2} 65 \texttt{e1} \texttt{xf3}) 64...\texttt{g2}! 65 \texttt{e4} \texttt{g3}.

828)  
\textit{Sashikiran – Shirov}  
\textit{Foros 2007}

36...\texttt{b2}! 37 \texttt{c2}  
Forced; now Black exploits the position of the white king on the c-file, where it is vulnerable to a check, and the fact that the bishop on a6 is loose.

37...\texttt{e6}! 38 \texttt{xe6} \texttt{xc7}+ 39 \texttt{xb2} \texttt{fxe6}  
Black is the exchange up and with the white king cut off, the result is no longer in doubt.

40 \texttt{b3} \texttt{c1} 0-1

829)  
\textit{Adams – Carlsen}  
\textit{FIDE World Cup, Khanty-Mansiisk 2007}

78...\texttt{xc5}+!  
Black is under unpleasant pressure, but with this sacrifice he achieves a draw.

79 \texttt{dxc5}  
79 \texttt{xc5} results in perpetual check after 79...\texttt{d5}+ 80 \texttt{b6} (not 80 \texttt{b4}?? \texttt{c5}+, winning the queen) 80...\texttt{b3}+ 81 \texttt{a7} \texttt{a2}+ (or 81...\texttt{a3}+) 82 \texttt{b8} \texttt{g8}+ 83 \texttt{b7} \texttt{b3}+.

79...\texttt{xe5} 80 \texttt{d7}+ \texttt{e7} 81 \texttt{xc7}+ \texttt{xc7} 82 \texttt{e4} \texttt{d3} 1/2 1/2

830)  
\textit{Peralta – Almirón}  
\textit{Paraguayan Ch, Asunción 2009}

It seems White has two ways to win, 55 \texttt{f4} and 55 \texttt{d4}, but only one of them wins. Did you choose the correct one?

55 \texttt{f4}?  
This move should have lost half a point. 55 \texttt{d4}! leads to an easy win after 55...\texttt{g5} (or 55...\texttt{g7} 56 \texttt{c5} \texttt{f8} 57 \texttt{d6} \texttt{d7} 58 \texttt{d7}, with zugzwang) 56 \texttt{c5}! \texttt{g6} (56...\texttt{xh4} is even worse: 57 \texttt{b6} \texttt{g5} 58 \texttt{xe6} 57 \texttt{d6} \texttt{f5} 58 \texttt{xh5} h4 59 \texttt{g6}).

55...\texttt{h7}?

The saving resource was 55...\texttt{g5}!! 56 \texttt{hxg5}+ \texttt{g6}, when the extra tempo \texttt{g3} is not enough to win: 57 \texttt{g3} \texttt{f7} 58 \texttt{e4} \texttt{g6} and White’s king must return to \texttt{f4}, as he even loses after 59 \texttt{d4}?? \texttt{xg5} 60 \texttt{c5} \texttt{g4} 61 \texttt{d6} \texttt{f5}! (but not 61...\texttt{xg3}! 62 \texttt{xe6}, which is a draw).

56 \texttt{g5} \texttt{g7} 1-0  
57 \texttt{g3}! leads to zugzwang.

831)  
\textit{Britez – Pérez Ferloni}  
\textit{Ciudad del Este 2008}

1...\texttt{d7}! (D)

Black wastes a tempo, placing White in zugzwang. 1...\texttt{b4}+ 2 \texttt{d4} \texttt{b2} is answered by 3 \texttt{d3}! \texttt{xb2} 4 \texttt{c2} a3 5 \texttt{b5} \texttt{d6} 6 \texttt{b6} and the pawns, separated by a knight’s move, in effect defend each other, so the position is a draw.

\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{chess_diagram}

2 \texttt{d4}  
If 2 ...\texttt{c7} Black plays another waiting move, such as 2...\texttt{c7}.

2...\texttt{d6} 3 \texttt{c3}  
In the case of 3 \texttt{g3} it is important that Black has another waiting move with 3...\texttt{f6}!, and so wins.

3...\texttt{xd5}  
with an easy win.

832)  
\textit{Souleidis – Mastrovasilis}  
\textit{Kallithea (rapid) 2008}

49...\texttt{d6}?

This underestimates the difficulties that arise from allowing White too much space. Instead, with 49...\texttt{c4}! 50 \texttt{b6} \texttt{a6} Black forces the white pawns to advance, after which they are
blockaded and their strength drains away; e.g.,
51 \( \text{c}3 \) \( \text{c}8 \) 52 \( \text{g}3 \) \( \text{d}5 \) 53 \( \text{a}6 \) \( \text{xa}6 \) 54 \( \text{g}4 \)
\( \text{c}5 \) 55 \( \text{g}5 \) \( \text{xb}6 \) 56 \( \text{h}4 \) \( \text{e}2 \), and Black has
the two white pawns under control. 49...\( \text{d}5 \)!
is also good enough; e.g., 50 \( \text{a}6 \) \( \text{c}5 \) 51 \( \text{e}4 \)
\( \text{b}6 \) 52 \( \text{f}5 \) \( \text{c}4 \) 53 \( \text{g}5 \) \( \text{xb}5 \) 54 \( \text{h}4 \) \( \text{xa}6 \)
55 \( \text{h}5 \) \( \text{c}5 \) 56 \( \text{h}6 \) \( \text{d}3 \).
\( \text{d}4 \) \( \text{D} \)

Now the pawns can advance, supported by
the king, and will win the game.
50...\( \text{a}4 \) 51 \( \text{c}4 \) \( \text{c}7 \) 52 \( \text{c}5 \) 1-0

There are various ways for White to advance the pawns but he has play with some care; e.g.,
52...\( \text{b}7 \) 53 \( \text{a}6+ \) \( \text{c}7 \) (53...\( \text{a}7 \) can be met by
54 \( \text{c}6 \) \( \text{c}2 \) 55 \( \text{c}7 \) \( \text{e}4 \) 56 \( \text{c}5 \) \( \text{f}3 \) 57 \( \text{b}6+ \)
\( \text{xa}6 \) 58 \( \text{c}6 \)) and here:
a) Let's look at an unsuccessful attempt: 54
\( \text{b}4 \) \( \text{d}1 \) 55 \( \text{c}5 \) \( \text{f}3 \) 56 \( \text{a}5 \) \( g4 \) and now 57
\( \text{c}6 \) fails to 57...\( \text{x}c6 ! \) 58 \( \text{xc}6 \) \( \text{xc}6 \) with a
draw.
b) 54 \( \text{a}7 \) ! is good: 54...\( \text{b}7 \) 55 \( \text{d}6 \) \( \text{d}1 \) (if 55...\( \text{xa}7 \), 56
\( \text{c}7 \) wins; since the b-pawn
queens) 56 \( \text{b}6 \) \( \text{f}3 \) 57 \( \text{c}5 \) \( \text{e}4 \) 58 \( \text{a}7+ \) \( \text{xa}8 \)
59 \( \text{g}7 \) \( g4 \) 60 \( \text{c}6 \) \( \text{xc}6 \) 61 \( \text{xc}6 \) \( \text{bb}8 \) 62 \( \text{b}7 \).

\( \text{B} \)

833) Kogan – Golod
Ronne 2008

42...hxg4?
Black can win with 42...\( \text{e}5+ \) ! 43 \( \text{xe}5 \) (after
43 \( \text{g}5 \) \( \text{hxg}4 \) 44 \( \text{hxg}4 \) \( \text{xf}2 \) the passed e-pawn
gets a decisive tempo in the race) 43...\( \text{hxg}4 \) 44
\( \text{fx}4 \) \( \text{h}3 \) ! 45 \( \text{g}5 \) \( \text{b}5 \) ! (zugzwang; if the pawn
were already on b5, Black would be the one in
zugzwang) 46 \( \text{g}6 \) \( \text{hxh}4 \) 47 \( \text{f}5 \) \( \text{h}3 \) 48
\( \text{f}4 \) \( \text{g}2 \) 49 \( \text{hxg}4 \) (or 49 \( \text{e}3 \) \( \text{f}6 \) ! 50 \( \text{fx}4 \)
\( \text{xf}2 \) 51 \( \text{g}4 \) \( \text{e}3 \), winning easily) 49...\( \text{fx}2 \)
50 \( \text{f}4 \) \( \text{e}2 \) 51 \( \text{e}4 \) \( \text{d}2 \) 52 \( \text{d}4 \) \( \text{c}2 \) 53 \( \text{c}5 \)
\( \text{xb}2 \) 54 \( \text{xb}5 \) \( \text{xa}3 \) 55 \( \text{c}4 \) \( \text{b}2 \), etc.

43 \( \text{gxg}4 \) \( \text{e}5 \) 44 \( \text{g}5 \) \( \text{xf}2 \) 45 \( \text{hxg}6 \) \( \text{e}4 \) 46 \( \text{h}5 \)
\( \text{e}3 \) 47 \( \text{h}6 \) \( \text{e}2 \) 48 \( \text{h}7 \) \( \text{e}1 \) 49 \( \text{h}8 \) \( \text{e}4 \) 50 \( \text{f}7 \)
\( \text{e}2 \)
and White should have drawn without much
difficulty.

834) S. Alonso – Lemos
Argentine Ch, La Plata 2008

62 \( \text{d}3 ? \) \( \text{D} \)
This allows the black king to become active.
Instead, 62 \( \text{d}5 \) wins; e.g., 62...\( \text{c}2 \) 63 \( \text{d}3+ \)
\( \text{g}5 \) 64 \( \text{e}3 \) \( \text{h}4 \) 65 \( \text{e}1 \) \( \text{b}8 \) 66 \( \text{d}2 \) and the
c2-pawn will soon drop, whereas White will be
able to hang on to his d4-pawn, with an easy
win.

\( \text{B} \)

62...\( \text{e}4 \)! 63 \( \text{d}1 \)+
63 \( \text{c}2+ \) \( \text{d}3 \) 64 \( \text{e}1+ \) \( \text{xd}4 \) 65 \( \text{h}4 \) was slightly more promising, but White has only
one pawn left and the black pawns are well
advanced; e.g., 65...\( \text{c}4 \) 66 \( \text{h}5 \) \( \text{d}4 \) 67 \( \text{f}3 \) \( \text{b}3 \) 68
\( \text{e}7 \) \( \text{c}2+ \) 69 \( \text{g}4 \) \( \text{c}3 \), and White must force a
draw.
63...\( \text{xe}2+ \) 64 \( \text{xe}2 \) \( \text{xd}4 \) 65 \( \text{f}2 \) \( \text{e}5 \) 66
\( \text{f}3 \) \( \text{f}5 \) 67 \( \text{h}4 \) \( \text{d}4 \) 68 \( \text{d}3 \) 21!

Reducing the mobility of the knight; now the
white king can't support the advance of his
pawn and it's a draw.
69 \( \text{c}1 \) \( \text{e}5 \) 70 \( \text{d}3+ \)
Not 70 \( \text{g}4 ?? \) 71 \( \text{e}4 \) 71 \( \text{h}5 \) \( \text{d}3 \) 72 \( \text{b}3 \) 73
\( \text{xc}1 \) d2 and Black wins.
70...\( \text{f}5 \) 71 \( \text{c}1 \) \( \text{e}5 \) 72 \( \text{d}3+ \) \( \text{f}5 \) ½-½

835) Ashwin – Kravtsiv
World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008

38...\( \text{e}1+ \) ! 39 \( \text{f}1 \) \( \text{e}2 \) !
The clearest; Black simplifies to reach a win-
ing pawn ending in which his extra doubled
pawn will prove decisive.
40 \textit{f2} \textit{xf2}+ 41 \textit{xf2} \textit{xf2} 42 \textit{xf2} f4! 43 \textit{e2} \textit{g6} 44 \textit{d3} \textit{g5} (D)

\textbf{W}

\textbf{B}

Black draws with 64...\textit{gxh3}! 65 \textit{xf4+ \textit{xf5}} 66 \textit{xf3} \textit{f4} 67 \textit{f2+ \textit{f3}} 68 \textit{d4} (or 68 \textit{e5} \textit{xe5}, while 68 \textit{xf3} \textit{g4} (repeats) 68...\textit{g2}! 69 \textit{d3} \textit{h3} 70 \textit{f4+ \textit{f1}} 71 \textit{g3} \textit{g1}!.

65 \textit{f4+ \textit{f5}} 66 \textit{d3} (D)

45 \textit{e4}

White heads for the queenside. He can’t just wait, because Black has a lot of tempo moves, enabling him to invade the kingside; e.g., 45 \textit{e4} h5 46 \textit{e5} f4 47 \textit{e6} \textit{h4} 48 \textit{xf5} \textit{g3} 49 \textit{g5} h4 50 \textit{f5} h3 51 \textit{gxh3} \textit{xf3} 52 h4 \textit{e3} 53 \textit{f5} \textit{f3}.

45...\textit{h4} 46 \textit{xb4} \textit{g3} 47 \textit{a5}

Slightly better, although still hopeless, is 47 \textit{c5} \textit{g}2 48 b4 \textit{xf3} 49 a4 \textit{g4} 50 b5 axb5 51 axb5 f3 52 b6 f2 53 b7 \textit{f1} \textit{w}, with two extra pawns in the queen ending.

47...\textit{g2} 48 \textit{xa6} \textit{xf3}

Now the f4-pawn will queen with check.

49 b4 \textit{e4} 50 b5 f3 51 b6 f2 52 b7 \textit{f1w+} + 53 \textit{a7} \textit{f2+} 0-1

836) \textit{Li Shilong – Causo} \textit{Kuala Lumpur 2008}

64 \textit{e6}!

The race with 64 \textit{e6}? \textit{b5} 65 \textit{f6} \textit{g8} 66 \textit{g7} a5 67 \textit{f7} \textit{c8} 68 \textit{g8} \textit{g8} 69 \textit{xf8} 70 \textit{e6} a3 71 \textit{d5} \textit{b4} only leads to a draw.

64...\textit{h8} 65 \textit{g7} \textit{c8+} 66 \textit{b7} \textit{g8} 67 \textit{g5+! \textit{b4}} 68 \textit{xa6}

And now the white king, helped by the rook on the fifth rank, reaches the critical squares on the kingside before the black king.

68...\textit{d4} 69 \textit{b6} \textit{d4} 70 \textit{c6 \textit{e4}} 71 \textit{d6} 1-0

The white king gets there first: 71...\textit{f4} 72 \textit{g1} \textit{f5} 73 \textit{e7}.

837) \textit{Eingorn – Franco} \textit{Pamplona 1991}

64...f3?

Now 66...\textit{gxh3} loses to 67 \textit{xf2} h2 (67...\textit{f4} is no better: 68 \textit{e3} \textit{g4} 69 \textit{f2} \textit{g3} or 69...\textit{f4} 70 \textit{d4} and the pawns are soon lost) 70 \textit{e4+ \textit{g4}} 71 \textit{d4} h3 72 \textit{e3} h2 73 \textit{g3} \textit{g3} 74 \textit{f2}! (barring the way to the black king) 68...\textit{h3} 69 \textit{d4} h1 \textit{w} 70 \textit{e3} \textit{g4} 71 \textit{e3} and White wins. 66...\textit{g3} loses to 67 \textit{d4} \textit{f2} 68 \textit{xf2} \textit{gxf2} 69 \textit{e4} \textit{f4} 70 \textit{e4} \textit{f3} 71 \textit{e5} \textit{g2} 72 \textit{g5}.

67 \textit{d4} \textit{g3} 68 \textit{d4} 1-0

White easily keeps the black pawns under control; e.g., 68...\textit{f4} 69 \textit{d3} \textit{f3} 70 \textit{e3} \textit{g4} 71 \textit{f4+ \textit{f3}} 72 \textit{d2} \textit{g3} 73 \textit{h3} \textit{f4} + \textit{h2} 75 \textit{f3} with mate in five, helped by the black pawn.

838) \textit{M. Muzychuk – Ju Wenjun}

\textit{World Team Ch (women), Ningbo 2009}

Black has the better king, but this factor is outweighed by White’s ability to create passed pawns on both wings.

52 \textit{g4! \textit{hgx4}}

52...\textit{gxh4} 53 \textit{gxh4} f5 54 h6 \textit{f6} 55 b4 is similar.

53 \textit{h5} \textit{f4} 54 \textit{f4} 55 \textit{f2} \textit{f6}

After 55...\textit{g3}+ 56 \textit{xf3} \textit{g4}+ 57 \textit{g2} the black pawns cannot advance, and after 57...\textit{f6} 58 b4 \textit{axb4} 59 axb4 \textit{g6} 60 c5 White wins.

56 \textit{b4 \textit{axb4}} 57 \textit{axb4} \textit{g6} 58 \textit{c5}

Black gets four passed pawns, but White’s are quicker.

58...\textit{bxc5} 59 \textit{bxc5} \textit{bxc5} 60 \textit{d6} 1-0
839) Illescas – Arizmendi
Spanish Ch, León 2006
48...c5+! (D)
This check wins a decisive tempo and pre-
vents the white king from keeping both black
passed pawns under control; if 48...fxg3? 49
e3 White queens first and wins.

![Chess Diagram]

49 d3

49 e4 fxg3 50 f3 c4 is similar.
49...fxg3 50 e2 c4 51 g6 g2!
To deflect the white king from the c-pawn;
after 51...c3?? 52 g7 c2 53 d2, White wins.
52 f2 c3 53 g7 g1# + 54 xg1 c2 55 g8
c1# + 56 g2 d2+ ½-½

840) Korbut – Tairova
Russian Women's Ch, Moscow 2007
66...gxh2?
Gaining three passed pawns in this way does
not win; nor does 66...g2? 67 xf2 xb4 68
d4 c4 69 xb5! xb5 70 g1, with a theo-
etrical draw. The winning idea is 66...xb4! 67
hxg3 x3 68 xf2 b4, and the white knight
can only stop the b-pawn from queening at the
cost of allowing the h-pawn through: 69 e2
b3 70 d2 h2.
67 xh2 xb4 68 xf2 c3 69 g4! b4
70 e3 h2 71 g2 b3 72 xh2
It is a draw; inevitably the knight must sacri-
fice itself for the pawn.
72...d3 73 d1 c2 ½-½
This chapter contains the final set of five tests. By now you should be familiar with the format: each test is of roughly equal difficulty, and contains 16 puzzle positions (two are of level 1 difficulty, four of level 2, six of level 3, two of level 4 and the remaining two puzzles achieve our top difficulty rating, level 5).

Also as before, your task is simply to find the best continuation, with the total number of points available for each puzzle equal to its difficulty level. Thus you score just 1 point for correctly solving a novice-level puzzle, but a complete solution to an expert puzzle can get you a total of 5 points. But remember that in many cases, some of the points are awarded for seeing important moves in the supporting variations or later on in the main line. Intuition plays a major role in successful chess, so well done if you are able to guess the key move in each case. But if you want to play to your full potential, you need to support your ‘sixth sense’ with solid analysis, and this is the reason for awarding the points in this manner. Many of the more difficult puzzles feature surprising turns and tricky defences.

I suggest that you allow at least an hour or two for each test, but feel free to spend as long as you like thinking about each position – work until you consider that further thought will not improve your decision. But be sure to work under realistic test conditions, akin to those at the board in a competitive chess game: do not move the pieces or use the help of a computer. You may solve from the diagram if you like, but I would recommend setting up the position on a real chessboard.

The points score to Elo rating conversion table below should be taken with a pinch of salt, especially as tactical skill is just one of the ingredients in successful chess, albeit a very important one. Nevertheless, when you have completed all 15 tests, your average score should give you a fair indication of your chess ability.

**Test Score to Elo Points Conversion Chart**

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<th>Score</th>
<th>Elo</th>
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<td>1100</td>
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<td>7-9</td>
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<td>2600 or above</td>
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Test 11

841

842

843

844

845

846

847

848

W

W

B

W

W

W
Test 12

857  B

861  W

858  W

862  B

859  B

863  W

860  W

864  W
Test 13
Test 14

889
W

893
W

890
B

894
B

891
B

895
W

892
B

896
W
Test 15

905
W

909
B

906
W

910
B

907
B

911
W

908
W

912
W
Answers for Chapter 10

Test 11 Answers

841)  Najdorf – Szaprio  
Lodz 1928
18 \textit{\texttt{Exe6! Xxe8 19 \texttt{Xxe8+ \texttt{Xe6 20 \texttt{Xxe6+ \texttt{Wxe6 21 \texttt{Xf8# (1-0)}}}}}
1 point for 18 \texttt{Exe6!}.

842)  An. Rodriguez – Matsuura  
Santos 2001
44 \texttt{Xxg7+! 1-0}
The e2-rook is lost after 44...\texttt{xg7 45 \texttt{Wg4+}.}
1 point for 44 \texttt{Xxg7+!}.

843)  Illescas – Bellón  
Seville 1992
23 \texttt{Xe6!}
Trapping the rook.
23...\texttt{Cxe8}
Or 23...\texttt{exe6 24 \texttt{fxe6 \texttt{Cxe8 (24...\texttt{Xdd8 25
\texttt{Xxd8 leaves the f8-rook overloaded) 25 exd7 \texttt{Cxb6 26 \texttt{Xf6!}.}}}}}
24 \texttt{Xxd7 \texttt{Cxb6 25 fxg6 1-0}}
After 25...\texttt{Cxd7 26 \texttt{Xxd6 Black is defence-
less.}}
2 points for 23 \texttt{Xe6!}.

844)  Wahlis – Vera  
Capablanca Memorial, Cienfuegos 1996
22...\texttt{Wxh2+!}
22...\texttt{Wxh4? 23 \texttt{Xf2 leads to nothing concrete; after
23...\texttt{Cg3 White gives up the exchange, with for instance 24 \texttt{Cxe1, and gains more than
adequate compensation.}}}
23 \texttt{Wxh2}
Worse is 23 \texttt{Wxh2 \texttt{Wxh4+ 24 \texttt{Gg1 \texttt{Wg3+ and
mate next move.}}}}
23...\texttt{Wxe3+ 24 \texttt{Xf2}}
Or 24 \texttt{Wf2 \texttt{Wg5+ mating.}}
24...\texttt{Xh6 0-1}
2 points for 22...\texttt{Wxh2+!}.

845)  Anand – Illescas  
Match (game 3), León 1997
38 \texttt{e5!}
This thematic break, clearing the \texttt{e4-square,}
is winning.
38...\texttt{dxe5}
38...\texttt{Wf5 39 \texttt{Wxf5 gxf5 40 exd6 is hopeless, because this pawn will cost Black a piece.}}
39 \texttt{Ce4 \texttt{Wf5 40 \texttt{Gg5+ \texttt{Xh6 41 \texttt{Wg8! \texttt{Xxf4+}}}}}
Or 41...\texttt{Wxh4 42 \texttt{Wh7+ \texttt{Cg5}}}
42...\texttt{Wxf4 \texttt{Wc2+}}
If 42...\texttt{Wxf4 then 43 \texttt{Xxf7+ and \texttt{Wh7+.}}}
43 \texttt{Xf2 1-0}
2 points for 38 \texttt{e5!}.

846)  Ginzburg – Scalise  
Vicente López 2000
42...\texttt{Wf1+! 0-1}
Mate is forced; 43 \texttt{Xxf1 \texttt{Cxd1+ 44 \texttt{Cc2 \texttt{Cc1#}.}}}
2 points for 42...\texttt{Wf1+!}.

847)  Schweber – Mecking  
São Paulo 1966
Black is a pawn up but White has some of the typical trumps associated with an isolated
queen's pawn, such as a strong knight on e5 and bishops aimed at Black's kingside, combined in
this case with a half-open f-file. The b3-knight has strayed a dangerously long way and will
become a tactical weakness.
22 \texttt{Xxf7!}
The position is ripe for this sacrifice.
22...\texttt{Xxf7 23 \texttt{Wh5+}}
A more precise move-order is 23 \texttt{Xxf6+! \texttt{Wxf6 24 \texttt{Wxf1 \texttt{Wxf1+ 25 \texttt{Wxf1+ \texttt{Cg8 26 \texttt{Wf5 and
White invades at h7 owing to the threat of 27 \texttt{We6+ and 28 \texttt{Xxb3.}}}}}}}
23...\texttt{Xf8 24 \texttt{Xxf6+ gyxf6?}}
This creates new weaknesses which assist
White's attack. The course of the game shows that it is essential to play 24...\texttt{Wxf6 25 \texttt{Wf1
\texttt{Wxf1+ 26 \texttt{Xxf1, still with advantage to White.}}}
25 \texttt{Wxh6+! \texttt{Ce8 26 \texttt{Ce1+ \texttt{Xd7 27 \texttt{Wxh7+ \texttt{Cf6 28 a4!}}}}}
Taking away the escape-square b5 and threatening 29 \texttt{Cb4+.
28...\texttt{Xd7 29 \texttt{Cb5+ \texttt{Cc7 30 \texttt{Xxd7 \texttt{Cg8}}}}}
If 30...\texttt{Wxd7 then 31 \texttt{Ce7.}}
31 \texttt{Ce6+ \texttt{Xb8 32 \texttt{Xxb3}}}
with a decisive advantage.
3 points for 22 \texttt{Xxf7!}.

848)  Morejón – Moreno Ruiz  
Madrid 1998
20 \texttt{Xxd6!}
Taking advantage of the tactical weakness arising from the positions of the black king and
queen.
20...\texttt{exd6 21 \texttt{Xxd5 \texttt{We7}}}
21...\texttt{exd5 allows 22 \texttt{Cf6+}, forking Black's
king and queen.
22 \( \text{Bxc6 d5} \)
Preventing the bishop from being cemented in place with 23 d5.
23 \( \text{Qxc3 Wd6} \)
No better is 23...\( \text{Bxc6 24 Bxd5 Wd8 25 Wxc6 Bb7 26 Bf6+ Bg7 27 Wh5 Wxf6 28 Wxa5} \) with no less than a rook and four pawns for the two bishops.
24 \( \text{Bxd5 Bxc6 25 Bxf7+ Bxf7 26 Wxc3} \)
with a decisive material advantage.
3 points for 20 \( \text{Bxd6} \)!!.

849) Vera – Sadvakasov
Saint Vincent 1999
29 \( \text{Qg6+! Bg6} \)
White wins after 29...\( \text{Bxg6} 30 \text{Wh4+ Bh6 31 Wxh6+ Bh7 32 Wxh7+ Bh7 33 Qxf6+} \).
30 \( \text{Bxg6} e5 31 \text{Bxe5} \)
This is an important move which wins for White, but in fact everything else loses.
31...\( \text{Bxg6} \)
31...\( \text{Bxe5} \) is met by 32 \( \text{Bf7} \).
32 \( \text{Bxe8+ Bg7 33 Bf2 Bf6 34 Be6 1-0} \)
2 points for 29 \( \text{Qg6+} \)!! and 1 point for 31 \( \text{Bxe5} \)!!.

850) Franco – Safranska
Saint Vincent 2000
38 \( \text{Qf5??} \)
Black can draw with 38...\( \text{Bxg4! 39 Bxh4 Bxh2+ 40 Bg1 Bf2+ 41 Bxg2 Bxg2+ 42 Bh1} \) (not 42 \( \text{Bf1?? Bxh2#} \)) 42...\( \text{Bh2} \).
39 \( \text{Bxh4 Bxh2+ 40 Bg1 1-0} \)
3 points for 38...\( \text{Bxg4} \).

851) Korneev – López Martínez
Elgobair 2000
20 \( \text{Rf4!!} \)
A beautiful way to leave Black’s king stuck in the centre.
20...d4
20...\( \text{Bxe4} \) loses to 21 \( \text{Wxg5! Bxg5 22 Bh5+} \); no better is 20...\( \text{Bxe6} 21 \text{Bxf6+ Bxf6 22 Bxf6 Wxf6 23 Wb6!} \) and White wins.
21 \( \text{Bxf6+ Wxf6 22 Wxd4 We5 23 Bf2 Bf5} \)
24 \( \text{Rf3} \)
Stranded in the centre, the black king can’t survive with so many lines open.
24...\( \text{Wf6 25 We3 Bc8 26 b3 Bxf3 27 Bxf3 Be7 28 Bd3 Bxf3 29 gxf3 Be8 30 Bd6 We5} \)
31 \( \text{f4 We1+ 32 Bb2 b4 33 Bxa6 Wf8 34 Wd6+ Wf7+ 1-0} \)
3 points for 20 \( \text{Bf4} \)!!.

852) Oddone – E. Peralta
Carlos Gamarra Memorial, Asunción 2009
1.\( \text{Bxh2?} \)
This automatic move throws away the victory; it is curious that Black is better off leaving the h2-pawn on the board, since it deprives the white king of a vital escape-square in the winning line: 1...\( \text{Wd1+!} 2 Bg2 Be1+ 3 Bf1 (not 3 Bh3?? Wh5#) 3...\( \text{De3+} 4 Bg2 f3+ 5 Bh3 (5 Bxf3 Be1+ 5...\( \text{Bxf2+ 6 Bh4 Wd4+ 7 Bf4} \) (7 \( \text{Wf4} \) loses to 7...\( \text{g5+! 8 Bh5 Bh3+} \)) 7...\( \text{g5+! 8 Wh5 Bh3+} \) 7...\( \text{Wh5}) \).
2...\( \text{Wh5} \)
and the game was later drawn; now 5...\( \text{Be3+ 6 Bg2 Bh5#} \) doesn’t work, because White has 7 \( \text{Wh2} \), winning.
3 points for 1...\( \text{Wd1+} \)!!.

853) Radjabov – Shirov
Morelia/Linares 2008
21 \( \text{b4!} \)
Leaving Black’s d5-rook without any flight-squares and thus threatening 22 \( \text{Bc4} \).
21...\( \text{Bc8 22 a4} \)
The complement to the previous move, controlling b5; now there is no satisfactory defence against 23 \( \text{Bc4} \).
22...\( \text{Bc3 23 Bb2 f5 24 gxf5 Bxd3 25 cxd3} \) and White won.
3 points for 21 \( \text{b4} \) and 1 point for 22 \( \text{a4} \)!!.

854) López Martínez – Narciso
Barcelona 2008
61...\( \text{Bc6+} \)
After 61...\( \text{Bxg5} \) 62 \( \text{Bxe5} \) the two white pawns win easily.
62 \( \text{Bc5 Bc4+! 63 Bxc6 Bxc3} \)
Not 63...\( \text{Bxg5} \) 64 B5, and White wins.
64 \( \text{Bh4} \)
After 64 \( \text{Bxh5 Wh5} 65 Bf7 Bf6 66 Bd5 Be7 it’s an easy draw.
64...\( \text{Bxe2} 65 Bf2 Bg4 66 Bc5 \)
66 b5 h4 67 b6 (or 67 \( \text{Bxh4 Bc4+} \) and 68...\( \text{Bxb5} \) 67...\( \text{h3} 68 b7 h5 69 Bb8 Wh1 Bf8 is also a draw.
66...\( \text{Bh4 67 Bh4 Bh4 68 Bc4} \)
Or 68 Bb5 \( \text{Bc3} 69 Bb6 Ba4++.
68...\( \text{Bc4 69 b5 Bc6 70 b6 Bb8 71 Bxb7} \)
1/2-1/2
3 points for finding 61...\( \text{Bc6+} \)!! and 1 point for 63...\( \text{Bc3} \)!!.
855) F. Peralta – Reinaldo  
 Barcelona 2008

16...e1!

Can this really be a good idea? Forcing the move ...e4, with check?

16...e4+ (D)

17...e4!

This is the reason; the black queen will help the white pieces come into play and prevent the black king from finding a refuge.

17...exf4 18...g5! w5 19...f4 w6+f6

19...xc3 loses to 20...e2+ d7 21...e6+ w6 22...d7+.

20...d5...f8 21...e1

Absolutely all the white pieces are active, and the end is near.

21...h6

21...c6 loses to 22...e7 23...xd7 h6 24...e6.

22...e7! hxg5 23...e5! w6 e6 24...xh5 w7 25...xf7+ wxf7 26...xf7 27...f4!

With this redeployment of the bishop, the game is over.

27...e6 28...c4...d8 29...f6 1-0

4 points for 16...e1! and 1 point for 17...e4!.

856) L. Domínguez – Stellwagen  
 Wijk aan Zee 2009

24...f3?

Black had to play 24...h1!, after which there is nothing decisive: after 25...c4 (25...b6 c7 achieves nothing, and 25...w7 26 w1+ is a draw) 25...g6 26...b6, the counterattack 26...h4! saves Black: e.g., 27...a7+ c7 28...b6+ c6 29...xd8 w4+ 30...xf2...f4+ 31...g1...g3+ 32...h1...f3+, with perpetual check.

25...xb7+!

Now White’s advantage is very clear; for the exchange he has three pawns which will soon begin to advance.

25...xb7 26...xb7+...xb7 27...d3...d5 28...d2

and White won with good technique.

4 points for 24...h1!, and 1 point extra if you saw 25...xb7+!.

Test 12 Answers

857) Jodorovsky – Ingolotti  
 Ciudad del Este 2003

11...d5! 0-1

12...xd5...c5+ and Black wins.

1 point for 11...d5!.

858) Estremera – Rogers  
 Gibraltar 2005

27...h7+!

Saving an otherwise tricky position.

27...h7+ 28...h4+ 1/2-1/2

1 point for 27...h7+!.

859) Ramírez – Ju. Bolbochán  
 Villa Gesell 1970

27...g5! (D)

28...h3

28...e2 is similar.

28...xf1+ 29...xh1...h3 30...w5+

30...e2 loses to 30...xd4+ 31...xd4 w4d4+

32...f2...g3+.

30...hxg5 31...w1

31...xg5...f6 is no better.

31...c3

Black wins.

2 points for 27...g5!.
860) García García – Guevara Pijuan  
Badalona 2001

31...\(\text{h}6\)!
31...\(\text{f}6\)! is also good.
31...\(\text{xe}6\) 32 \(\text{g}6+\) \(\text{g}7\) 33 \(\text{xe}6\) \(\text{wd}7\) 34 \(\text{h}5\)

And the g7-bishop is lost, with a winning position for White.

34...\(\text{b}7\)

The strongest reply to 34...\(\text{f}7\) is 35 \(\text{xg}4\).
35 \(\text{hxg}7\) \(\text{f}7\) 36 \(\text{h}5+\) 1-0
2 points for 31...\(\text{e}6\)! or 31...\(\text{e}6\)!

861) Almeida – Zarnicki  
Capablanca Memorial, Havana 2002

20 \(\text{f}5\)! \(\text{f}8\)
20...\(\text{exf}5??\) loses to 21 \(\text{d}5\).
21 \(\text{xd}6\) \(\text{xd}6\) 22 \(\text{exd}6\) \(\text{bxc}4\) 23 \(\text{bxc}4\) \(\text{h}6\)!

Not 23...\(\text{xc}4??\) 24 \(\text{xd}7\) \(\text{xd}7\) 25 \(\text{xd}7\) \(\text{xc}3??\) 26 \(\text{d}8+!!\).
24 \(\text{f}6\)

with an extra pawn.
2 points for 20 \(\text{f}5\)!

862) Rustemov – Vera  
Spanish Team Ch, Mondariz 2002

14...\(\text{f}4\)!

An unexpectedly strong blow; there is no satisfactory defence against Black’s threat of 15...\(\text{xf}3+\).
15 \(\text{f}4\)

The lesser of the evils, acquiescing to the deterioration of his king’s defensive position and the loss of a pawn.
15...\(\text{xf}3+\) 16 \(\text{gx}f3\) \(\text{xf}4\) 17 \(\text{fx}g4\) \(\text{yg}4+\) with an extra pawn, for which White has no compensation.
2 points for 14...\(\text{f}4\)!

863) Bronstein – Foguelman  
Mar del Plata 1960

34 \(\text{a}4\)!

Decisively weakening the c4-pawn; 34 \(\text{xa}5\) \(\text{e}6\) 35 \(\text{c}6\) \(\text{d}5\) 36 \(\text{a}7\) b4 37 \(\text{b}5\) \(\text{e}5\) is less clear.
34...\(\text{c}7??\)

This loses, although after 34...\(\text{bxa}4\) 35 \(\text{xa}5\) \(\text{c}7\) 36 \(\text{xc}4\) g4 37 \(\text{d}2\), followed by \(\text{d}3\), Black’s position is untenable.
35 \(\text{axb}5\)

Now White has a passed pawn.
35...\(\text{e}6\) 36 \(\text{g}4\)!

Creating another passed pawn, as well as fixing a black pawn on a dark square, i.e. the g5-pawn.
36...\(\text{fxg}4\) 37 \(\text{hxg}4\) a4 38 \(\text{f}3\) \(\text{d}5\) 39 \(\text{e}4+\)
36...\(\text{f}3\) e5 40 \(\text{e}5\) \(\text{d}6\) 41 \(\text{h}3\)

Or 41...\(\text{xe}5\) 42 \(\text{xe}5\) \(\text{xe}5\) 43 b6 \(\text{d}6\) 44 \(\text{e}4\) \(\text{e}6\) 45 \(\text{f}5\) and White wins.
42 \(\text{f}4\) \(\text{xf}4+\) 43 \(\text{xf}4\) \(\text{e}6\) 44 \(\text{g}3\) 1-0

Heading for h5, and if Black defends the h6-pawn with his king he will be unable to stop both passed pawns, while if 44...\(\text{xe}5+\) 45 \(\text{xe}5\) \(\text{xe}5\) 46 \(\text{h}4\) White wins the pawn ending.
3 points for 34 \(\text{a}4\)!

864) Franco – Adad  
Buenos Aires 1973

The game went 11 \(\text{g}5??\) \(\text{e}7\) and White was only slightly better.
11 \(\text{xe}6+\) is very strong; after 11...\(\text{e}7\) White brings his other rook into the game with 12 \(\text{h}6!\) \(\text{axb}5\) (not 12...\(\text{gxh}6??\) 13 \(\text{xd}7+\) \(\text{xe}7\) 14 \(\text{xe}1+\) mating) 13 \(\text{xe}7+!\) \(\text{xe}7\) 14 \(\text{e}1+\) \(\text{d}8\) (not 14...\(\text{d}6\)? 15 \(\text{f}3\), nor 14...\(\text{f}8\) 15 \(\text{g}7+\) \(\text{g}7\) 16 \(\text{g}5+\) \(\text{f}8\) 17 \(\text{h}6+\) \(\text{g}8\) 18 \(\text{e}8#\) and now there is a wide choice: 15 \(\text{g}7\), 15 \(\text{g}5+\) \(\text{f}6\) 16 \(\text{g}7\) \(\text{xe}7\) or 15 \(\text{xf}7\) \(\text{c}6\) 16 \(\text{xg}7\) \(\text{c}7\) 17 \(\text{h}8\), in all cases regaining the rook with an attack and some extra pawns.
3 points for 11 \(\text{xe}6+\)! Only 1 point for 11 \(\text{g}5??\)!

865) Stefansson – Bruzón  
Capablanca Memorial, Havana 2001

21 \(\text{e}4\)!

An essential preparatory move, defending g2.
21...\(\text{c}8\) 22 \(\text{h}5\) 1-0
2 points for 21 \(\text{e}4\)!! and 1 point for 22 \(\text{h}5\)!

866) Pablo – Franco  
Spanish Team Ch, Mondariz 2002

24...\(\text{xd}3\)!

Not 24...\(\text{f}8??\) 25 \(\text{h}5\) 26 \(\text{xh}5\)!, mating quickly.
25 \(\text{xd}3\)

25 \(\text{fx}g7\) \(\text{xf}4\) 26 \(\text{xf}4\) \(\text{e}5\) leaves White with no compensation.
25...\(\text{xe}2\) 26 \(\text{fx}g7\) \(\text{e}5\)!

Not 26...\(\text{c}6??\) 27 \(\text{h}7+\) mating.
27 \(\text{xe}5\)

No better is 27 \(\text{f}1\) \(\text{c}2\) 28 \(\text{a}5\) \(\text{d}5\) and White’s position is riddled with holes on both
wings; Black threatens 29...hxh2, and after 29
xf2 exf2 30 xf2 Wxb2 there is no defence.
27...dxex5 28 e4 w6+ 0-1
2 points for finding 24...xd3! and 1 point
for 25...xe2!.

867) Estremera – Barberi
Cesenatico 2005

18 xg6+!
Now the black king is forced to take a walk.
18...xe6
If 18...xg6 Black is mated after 19 w3+
ff7 20 xg5+ e8 21 g6+ d8 22 e6+ e8 23 e8+.
19 d5+ exd5 20 xh6 1-0
3 points for 18 xg6+!

868) Lazarev – Estremera
Villa San Giovanni 2005

32...we6! (D)

W

Thanks to the overload on the white queen,
Black is able to centralize his own queen.
33 wb1 wd5 34 f1
34 xd2? allows mate in two by 34...xf3+.
34...wc4

And Black won, but 34...d3! is more pre-
cise; e.g., 35 a5 wd7! (threatening 36...w3
37 g1 hxh2+! 38 xh2 xf2#) 36 a2 c4
37 xe1 cxe1 38 wxe1 w3 39 xdx2 cxd2 40
wd1 dxf3 41 wxe2 e4, with a winning position.
2 points for finding 32...we6! and 1 point for
33...wd5?

869) Motylev – Ding Liren
Chinese Team Ch, Wuxi 2008

37 exd5!
The start of a simplification that leads to a
winning pawn ending.

37...wd5 38 wxd5! exd5 39 xf4 gxf4 40
g3!
Now White can’t be prevented from creat-
ing two well-spaced passed pawns on the h-
c-files and, since he can stop Black’s passed
pawns, White wins.
40...fxg3 41 fxg3 hgx3 42 g2 d4 43 xg3
xe6 44 h4 f5
Or 44...f5 45 xf4 xf6 (45...d3 46 e3 is no help) 46 a4.
45 f3 d3 46 a1 1-0
2 points for 37 wxd5!. Additionally, 1 point
for 38 wxd5! and 1 point for 40 g3!.

870) A. David – Danielian
Kavala 2008

31 xh6!
Black’s king’s position comes under heavy
fire; White’s pieces are able to reach the kingside
very quickly.
31...f5
31...gxh6? 32 xf6 a5 33 we4 leads to mate.
32 xg7+!
The culmination of White’s idea.
32...xg7
Or 32...xg7 33 f6 wa5?! 34 wh5, mating
quickly.
33 wh5+ g8 34 g5 a5
34...d7 is met by 35 we8+ f8 36 xe6
f7 37 xf8 xf8 38 wg6+ h8 39 xc6, fol-
lowed by 40 wh6+ and 41 wg6+.
35 wh7+ f8 36 g6 g8 37 h7+ f8
38 xc5 wd7 39 gg6 g8 40 wh7+ f8 41
g6 gg8 42 xe6 we8 43 xf5
With four pawns for the piece and a decisive
initiative.
43...d5 44 d3 f7 45 wg4 d7 46 xdx5
exd5 47 f4 d4 48 f5 dxb2 49 xh3 wxd5 50
c5 w1+ 51 sh2 d4 52 c6 w1 53 f6
we4 54 xg7 xg4 55 hxg4 1-0
3 points for 31 xh6! and 1 point for 32
xg7+!.

871) Solodovnichenko – Efani
Nezhmetdinov Memorial, Kazan 2008

46...xg5?
There is only one, spectacular, winning se-
quence for Black: 46...f4! 47 xex6 (47 xex2 f3
48 xf2 g5+ 49 xh3 xh6, followed by
50 xg5-h4, is simpler) 47...xg5! 48 h7 (or 48
xex2 f3+ 49 xf2 h4+ 50 xg1 h3! and
Black wins) 48...f3+ 49 xh3 (if 49...xe1 then
49...xh4+ 50 xe2 f2 wins) 49...e1?? (the
only move to win) 50...exe1 f2 51...d1 f1+ 52...xf1 exf1+ 53...e4...f6 54...f5...c3 55...g6...c4, and all White’s pawns will fall. 47...xe2...xb6

Not 47...exe3? 48...xe3 and the h-pawn queens.

48...exe6...c1 49...c4...a3 50...f6...e4 51...e3...c5+ 52...f4...b4 ½-½

4 points for 46...f4! and 1 point for 47...g5!.

872) Short – Kariakin

Rapid match (game 4), Kiev 2008

25...d2!

Heading for h6; 25...e3! is just as good, with the same idea.

25...e4

To eliminate White’s powerful bishop; if it remains on the board the strength of White’s idea can be seen after 25...c4 26...h6 f6 27...e6 (27...g5 and 27...xg6 also win) 27...xe6 28...xg6+! hgx6 29...xg6+...h8 30...g1...f7 31...xf6!!), a lovely sacrifice that breaks the coordination of Black’s defence. All three of the black pieces that can take the knight are overloaded and meanwhile White threatens 32...g8+, if 31...xf6, then 32...h6+...h7 33...xf6+!...xf6 34...xf6+...g7 35...xg7#. 26...h6...xd4 27...xe6!...xe6

Or 27...e5 28...xf8...xf8 29...xd4.

28...xg6+!...f7

28...hxg6 allows mate after 29...xg6+...h8 30...g1.

29...g7+...e8 30...xe6...d8 31...xe7+...c7

32...xf8 1-0

4 points for 25...d2! or 25...e3!. 1 point extra for 28...g6+!.

Test 13 Answers

873) Illescas – López Martínez

Spanish Ch, Lorca 2005

22...e7! 1-0

There is no satisfactory way to defend f7 and the black queen is overloaded; if 22...xe7, then 23...d8#. 1 point for 22...e7!.

874) Shirov – Landa

Bundesliga 2008/9

31...xc5! 1-0

31...xc5 32...xg7+...f8 (or 32...h8 33...xf7++) 33...xd7+...xd7 34...xd7...c5 35...gg7.

1 point for 31...xc5!.

875) Cámpora – Cifuentes

Calvia Olympiad 2004

25...b8!

This powerful incarceration of the rook is possible thanks to the exchange of Black’s king; 25...b7+...g6 26...b8! is also good.

25...g6

If 25...xb8 then 26...xa7+ wins.

26...b7...e4 27...c1 1-0

2 points for 25...b8!. Also 2 points if you chose the move-order 25...b7+ and 26...b8!.

876) Estremera – Gutiérrez Jiménez

Seville 2005

29...f6!

The weakness of Black’s king’s position is made more serious by the fact that some of his pieces are a long way away on the queenside.

29...xb5

29...b6 fails to solve the problem; White can put pressure on Black’s king with 30...e7+...h7 31...d5!, when 31...xb5? loses to 32...xf7!.

30...xb5...a8 31...e7+...h8 32...g7+...xg7 33...f5+

This strong knight and the fact that its black counterpart is out of play on a5 are the decisive factors in the position; White wins easily.

33...h8 34...c3+ f6 35...d1...e8 36...xd6

37...xe5 38...xe5...xe5 38...xh6+ 1-0

38...g8 is met by 39...d5+. 2 points for 29...f6!.

877) Vallejo – Leitão

FIDE World Cup, Khanty-Mansiisk 2005

33...f7+!

It is curious that the exchange of queens opens the way for a mating attack.

33...xf7 34...xf7...xf7 35...xg7+...f8 36...e6+ 1-0

White wins easily after 36...xe6 37...xd8+...e8 38...xe8+...xe8 39...g6.

2 points for 33...f7+!.

878) Weiss – Wilms

Hamburg 2007

15...g1!

After protecting g3, White is threatening to win Black’s trapped knight with f3.

15...e8?!

It is better to seek complications with 15...b5.

16...f3...xg5 17...xg5...xg5 18...h5

with an advantage; 18 e4! was even better. 2 points for 15...g1!
879) Kožul – Elianov  
Sarajevo 2005

29...hxal+!

This time the white king is the one ‘taken out for a walk’ and will be unable to defend itself; 29...g5 30 d2 d6 is also good, but less energetic.

30 exa1 exa1+ 31 xf2 xf6 32 ed3 h2+ 33 ef5 xf5

and wins, although 33...g1+ 34 g3 g5# is quicker.

3 points for 29...hxal+! 1 point for 29...g5.

880) Bruzon – Anand  
Match (game 5), León 2006

25 xe6!

White unleashes a fierce attack; 25 ef6+ ef7 26 xe6+! is also good.

25...xe6 26 xf5+ ef7 27 ef7+ ed8 28 e6! 1-0

3 points for 25 xe6! and 3 points for 25 ef6+ and 26 xe6+!

881) E. Chevelevitch – Putzbach  
Hamburg 2007

32 d4!

With the threat of 33 g8+ xg8 34 xg8+ xg8 35 f7#.

32...h6 33 xf4 ec5

Not 33...dxe4? 34 e7, which leads to a quick mate.

34 exd5 xd5 35 xe5

With a big advantage; even better was 35 xxd5! wxd5 36 f7 he7 37 xe5 xe5 38 xxe5 dxe5 39 g8.

3 points for 32 d4!.

882) Landa – Wendt  
Hamburg 2007

24 d4?

Missing the direct 24 xf2!; e.g., 25 xf2 (25 xf2 xh3+ 26 g1 transposes, while 25 xe8 xh3+ 26 h2 g5 is also better for Black, who has more than enough compensation for the exchange in the form of his advanced pawns and the weak white king) 25...hxh3 26 wg3 d2 27 xh3 dxe1 w+ 28 xe1 w+x5, and Black wins.

25 hgx4

Now it is White who has the advantage.

25...hxg4 26 xe8! xf2+ 27 xf2 xe8 28 xe8 1-0

3 points for 24...xf2!.

883) Ardeleanu – Halasi  
Senta 2007

27 a8! (D)

The way to exploit the bad placing of the black rook on d6 is to open another front; if White can exchange Black’s other rook and then occupy the eighth rank, there will be no defence. Not immediately 27 ef4?! on account of 27...xe5, and White has nothing.

884) M. Zelić – Martinović  
Cvitanović Memorial, Split 2007

Black is so far behind in development that his extra piece is no help to his king.

16 a7!

Forcing the rook to a worse square.

16...a8 17 d5! c6 18 xe6! b7 19 f7+ d8 20 b6+ 1-0

2 points for 16 a7! and 1 point for 17 d5!.

885) M. Socko – Dziuba  
Najdorf Memorial, Warsaw 2008

89 g4+!

Before promoting the b-pawn, White must attend to the defence of his king; this is the first step.
89...fxg4
The task is easier after 89...gxg4? 90 w g3+. 90 w c5+?
After this it’s a draw; the correct way is 90
w h2+! g g5 91 b w! and there is no perpetual after 91...wxf2+ 92 h1 w f1+ 93 g1 w h3+ (93...w f3+ 94 g2 w d1+ 95 h2 is similar) 94 w h2 w f3+ 95 w h2.

90...w h4 91 w e7+ w h5 92 w f7+ w h4 93
w e7+ w h5 94 w e8+ w h4 95 w d8+ w h5 96
w e8+ w h4 97 w e7+ ½-½
2 points for 89 g4+! and 2 points for 90
w h2+!.

886) D. Howell – Pruijssers
World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008
31 w xh6!
The c2-bishop is attacked, but White sacrifices his other bishop, and we’ll have yet another demolition of the king’s position, thanks, basically, to the numerical superiority of the attacking forces.

31...wxc2
31...gxh6 32 w xh6 leads to mate.
32 w xg7!
Open lines!
32...f5
32...w xg7 is met by 33 w g3+.
33 w h6 w c4
If 33...f4, to prevent 34 w g3+, then 34 w g6+
w h8 35 w xg5.
34 w g3+ w g4 35 w xg4+ fxg4 36 w g6+ w h8
37 w g5 1-0
3 points for 31 w xh6! and 1 point for 32
w xg7!.

887) Zhigalko – Siugirov
World Junior Ch, Gaziantep 2008
22 w d5! w xc1+
22...w g7 is strongly met by 23 w d6+! (the only way to destroy black king’s defences; instead, 23 w xe6? w xc1+ 24 w h2 w xd2 yields no more than a draw) 23...exd6 24 w xe6+ w d8
25 w xd6+ w e8 26 w xc5+ w d7 27 w c6+ w e6 28 w d5+ w f6. Here the strongest move is 29
h4!, to deprive the black king of the g5-square. After 29...w c1+ 30 w h2, even with an extra rook there is no satisfactory defence against the threat of 31 w d6+ w f3 32 w e6+ and 33 g3#; e.g., 30...w f8 31 w b6+ w g7 32 w a7+ w h6 (or 32...w e7 33 w e5+ w h6 34 w g5+ w g7 35
w xc5+ w h6 36 w xh8) 33 w e3+ w g7 34 w xe5+
w h6 35 w f4+ w g7 36 w h5! mating quickly.

23 w h2 w h6
If 23...wxb2 then 24 w xe6 wxb5 25 w c6+ with a decisive material advantage.
24 w d6+! exd6 25 w xe6+ w d8 26 w c6
w f4+ 27 g3 w g3+ 28 w g2! 1-0
4 points for 22 w d5! and 1 point for 23
w d6+! in the line with 22...w g7.

888) Krapivin – V. Popov
Vladimir 2008
23 w g5!!
A piece down, White must make haste with his attack.
33...w xc4
33...f xg5 allows mate after 24 w e6+ w h8 25
w f7!.
24 w xf6 w d2
24...w f8 is met by 25 w e6+ w h8 26 w xf8+
w xf8 27 w xe7 w f2 (if 27...w a8 or 27...w a8 then 28 w c6 with a quick mate) 28 w e5+ w g8 29
w xe4.
25 w e6+ w h8 26 w f7+ w g7 26...w g8? 27 w h6++ w g7 28 w f6#.
27 w f6+ w f8 28 w h8+ w g8 29 w e5+ 1-0
After 29...w e7 30 w g7+ White mates next move.
4 points for 23 w g5!! and 1 point for calculating 25 w f7! in the line with 23...f xg5.

Test 14 Answers

889) Morozevich – Smeets
Wijk aan Zee 2009
49 w x d5+ 1-0
After 49...w x d5 50 e4+ White wins easily.
1 point for 49 w x d5+!.

890) de la Puerta – Paunović
Seville 2009
21 w x xc2! 22 w xc2?
This loses on the spot, although 22 w e3
w f3+ 23 w xf3 w x b2 was not encouraging either.
22...w x f3+ 0-1
If 23 w g1 then 23...w h3 and mate next move.
1 point for 21...w x c2!.

891) S. Weiss – P. Wiese
Hamburg 2007
43...b6!
Demonstrating that White is over-extended; the b4-pawn will be lost.
44 w c4?
It is necessary to accept the loss of the pawn with 44 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet f2}} \texttt{\textit{\textbulletxb4}}, with advantage to Black; if 44 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet d6}} then 44...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet e6}} and the bishop is trapped.

44...\texttt{\textit{\textbulletxc5}}

White has insufficient compensation for the piece.

2 points for 43...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet b6}}!

892) Kokol – Martinović

\textit{Nova Gorica 2007}

32...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet a4}}!

Driving away the rook from the defence of \texttt{\textit{\textbullet d4}}.

33 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet de1}}

33 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet dd3}} allows a winning attack: 33...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet c1+}} 34 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet f2}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet c2+}} 35 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet g3}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet g1}} 36 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet h3}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet d7+}}.

33...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet xd4}} 34 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet h1}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet f6}}!

Now there will be no escape for the white knight.

35 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet g3}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet g7}} 36 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xf7}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xf7}} 37 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet e6}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet c2}} and Black won.

2 points for 32...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet a4}}!

893) Rodríguez Vila – Soto

\textit{Callao 2007}

24 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet g6!}} 1-0

A knockout blow; if 24...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet xg6}} then 25 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xh6+}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xh6}} 26 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xh6}}#.

2 points for 24 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet g6}}!.

894) Carlsen – Kamsky

\textit{Tal Memorial (blitz), Moscow 2008}

87...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet g8}}!

There is still time to counterattack against \texttt{\textit{\textbullet h3}}.

88 c6 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet g3}}! 89 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xg3+}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet hxg3}} 90 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet b7}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet h2}} 91 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet g2}} 92 c8\texttt{\textbullet g1} 93 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet h4}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet b1+}} 94 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet c7}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet h7+}} \frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}

2 points for 87...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet g8}}!

895) Ljubičić – M. Zelić

\textit{Cvitanović Memorial, Split 2007}

23 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xd4}}!

White establishes overwhelming domination by giving up his queen for a reasonable amount of material: at least a rook, a minor piece and several pawns, one of them passed.

23...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet xd4}} 24 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xd4+}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet e5}}

If 24...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet g7}} then 25 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xe7}}.

25 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xe5}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet g7}}

After 25...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet dx e5}} 26 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xe5}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet g7}} 27 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet c3}}, the discovery by the e5-rook is decisive.

26 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet e6}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet b7}} 27 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet cxb5 \textit{\textbullet e8}}}

And now defending the f3-bishop with 28 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet g2}}, followed by moving the knight somewhere, is devastating.

3 points for 23 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xd4}}!

896) Dizdar – Van der Weide

\textit{Seville 2007}

25 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet f6}}! (D)

With this elegant sacrifice White opens the f-file and the b1-h7 diagonal, which will have a decisive effect owing to the weaknesses in Black’s kingside, the bad a5-knight and the overloaded black queen.

25...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet xf6}}

25...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet xf6}} is met by 26 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet f5}} followed by 27 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet e4}}; and the same after 25...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet h8}} 26 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet f5}}.

26 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet f5! \textit{\textbullet b7}}}

This loses a piece, but there is no defense; if 26...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet f8}}, defending f7 so that the f6-knight can move, then 27 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xe5 \textbullet d7}} 28 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet e4}} mates quickly.

27 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet e4 \textbullet d6}} 28 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xf6+ \textbullet xf6}} 29 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xf6}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xf6}}

30 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xf6}} 31 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xc4}} 31 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet c6}} 1-0

3 points for 25 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet f6}}!

897) Salgado – Huerga

\textit{San Sebastián 2008}

18 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xe5}}!

This dangerous enemy has to be eliminated right away. Instead, 18 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xc7}}? \texttt{\textit{\textbullet c6}} 19 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xe5}}? loses to 19...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet xh2+}}!.

18...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet xe5}} 19 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xc7}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet c6}} 20 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet d4}}!

A key move, preventing both 20...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet e4}} and the threatened mate with 20...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet xh2+}} 21 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet xh2}} \texttt{\textit{\textbullet h6+}}, which can now be answered with 22 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet h4}}.

20...\texttt{\textit{\textbullet e4}} 21 \texttt{\textit{\textbullet d3 \textit{\textbullet xg3+}}?}
21. ... \(\text{Nd}d4\) 22. \(\text{Bx}g6\) doesn’t help a great deal.

22. \(\text{Bx}g3!\)

Winning quickly, but not 22. \(\text{Bx}g3??\) \(\text{Bx}h1+\!\)!

23. \(\text{gxh}1\) \(\text{B}h4++\) 24. \(\text{B}g1\) \(\text{B}h1\)!

2 points for 18 \(\text{Bxe}5\) and 1 point for 20 \(\text{B}d4\)!

**898)**  
Bruzón – Iturriaga  
**Linares 2008**

23. \(\text{Bxe}5!\)

With this strong unpinning move, the black queen is shown to be too far from the centre, for no good reason.

23. ... \(\text{Bx}g2??\)

It is not easy to find a satisfactory defence. White’s attack relies on several ‘only moves’, but they win the game; if 23... \(\text{B}ed5\) then 24 \(\text{B}xf7!\).

24. \(\text{B}xf7!\) \(\text{B}h3\)

Defending \(\text{e}6\) and threatening mate, so the \(\text{f}7\)-knight is lost. However, a surprise awaits Black.

25. \(\text{B}xh6++!\) \(\text{B}h8\)

25... \(\text{B}xh6\) loses to 26. \(\text{B}x\text{g}6+\) \(\text{B}x\text{g}6\) 27. \(\text{B}x\text{e}6+\) \(\text{B}x\text{g}7\) 28. \(\text{B}xh6++\) \(\text{B}xh6\) (no better is 28... \(\text{B}g6\)

29. \(\text{B}x\text{f}8\) \(\text{B}xf8\) 30. \(\text{B}x\text{e}7\) 29. \(\text{B}x\text{f}6+\) \(\text{B}g6\) (or 29... \(\text{B}xh7\) 30. \(\text{B}e4\) 30. \(\text{B}e6\).

26. \(\text{B}f7++\) \(\text{B}xg8\) 27. \(\text{B}e4!\)

Once again this is the only move to win.

27. ... \(\text{B}xe4\)

Or 27... \(\text{B}x\text{e}4\) 28. \(\text{B}x\text{e}4\) \(\text{B}xe4\) 29. \(\text{B}xd8\).

28. \(\text{B}xd8\)

Now it is Black to move and he has several possible discoveries by his \(\text{e}4\)-knight to renew the threat of mate on \(\text{g}2\), but none of them are any use.

28. ... \(\text{B}c5\)

28... \(\text{B}f6\) loses to 29. \(\text{B}xe6+\), while 28... \(\text{B}g5\) is refuted by 29. \(\text{B}d5\) \(\text{B}xd5\) and now, amongst other things, 30. \(\text{B}xd5\).

29. \(\text{B}f3\)

Exploiting the fact that the \(\text{c}5\)-knight is attacked, White gains a decisive material advantage.

29. ... \(\text{B}xd8\) 30. \(\text{B}d5\) 31. \(\text{B}b1\) \(\text{B}b8\) 32. \(\text{B}h2\) \(\text{B}xc5+\) 33. \(\text{B}h1\) 1-0

3 points for 23 \(\text{B}e5!\).

**900)**  
Morozhevich – Ponomariov  
**Tal Memorial, Moscow 2008**

12. \(\text{B}g4!!\)

A brilliant move that decides the game; Black has no satisfactory defence to the threat of 13 \(\text{g}5\).

12... \(\text{e}5\)

12... \(\text{B}d6\) loses to 13. \(\text{g}5\) \(\text{B}xe5\) 14. \(\text{B}xe5\) \(\text{B}d7\) (or 14... \(\text{B}e8\) 15. \(\text{B}g2\) f5 16. \(\text{c}x\text{b}5\) \(\text{c}x\text{b}5\) 17. \(\text{B}c5!\))

15. \(\text{B}xd7\) \(\text{B}xd7\) 16. \(\text{B}d1\) \(\text{B}d8\) 17. \(\text{f}3\), trapping the knight. 12... \(\text{B}d6\) is powerfully met by 13 0-0-0!, while if 12... \(\text{h}6\) then 13 \(\text{h}4\) is logical.

13. \(\text{g}5\) \(\text{B}a5+\) 14. \(\text{B}d4!\) \(\text{c}x\text{b}4\) 15. \(\text{B}xf6\)

Black could resign here with a clear conscience; he is a piece down and has problems with his king.

15. ... \(\text{B}xb7\)

If 15... \(\text{B}xa3+\) then White can play 16. \(\text{B}d2\) \(\text{B}xd2\) 17. \(\text{B}xd2\) \(\text{B}d8\) 18. \(\text{B}g5\) \(\text{g}6\) 19. \(\text{B}x\text{g}2\) \(\text{B}b8\) 20. \(\text{B}h6\), winning more material.

16. \(\text{B}d2\) 1-0

3 points for 12 \(\text{g}4!!\).

**901)**  
Topalov – Ivanchuk  
**Bilbao 2008**

41. \(\text{B}g3!\)

The only defender of the \(\text{d}8\)-rook will have no safe square, and the game will be over.

41... \(\text{B}a4\) 42. \(\text{h}4\) \(\text{B}f6\) 43. \(\text{B}e6!\) 1-0

There is no defence against 44. \(\text{B}xf6\).

3 points for 41 \(\text{B}g3!\) and 1 point for 43 \(\text{B}e6!!\).

**902)**  
Bacrot – B. Socko  
**Dresden Olympiad 2008**

27. \(\text{B}h7++!\)

There are several tempting continuations, but this is the clearest move-order; the king will be worse on \(\text{f}7\).

27... \(\text{B}f7\) 28. \(\text{B}h6!\)
With the threat of 29...\texttt{Rf6+}, 28...\texttt{Rag1}, bringing another piece across, is good but less convincing.

28...\texttt{Qxh6} 29...\texttt{Qxh6} \texttt{Rg8} 30...\texttt{f5}!
Opening the f-file is decisive.

30...\texttt{Qf8}
Or 30...\texttt{Rwb6} 31...\texttt{Qf1}!, winning.

31...\texttt{fxe6} 1-0
2 points for 27...\texttt{Wh7+!} and 2 points for 28...\texttt{Rf6}!

903) L. Vajda – Ki. Georgiev

Montenegro Team Ch, Herceg Novi 2008
16...\texttt{Qg5}!!

This is far more than just an offer to exchange pieces; it contains a beautiful idea. Instead, 16...\texttt{Qf6+?} \texttt{Qxf6} 17...\texttt{Qxf6}+ \texttt{Qe6}, with the idea of 18...\texttt{Qe4} 0-0-0, gives White no advantage.

16...\texttt{Qg5}!!

Better, but still unsatisfactory, is 16...\texttt{Qxe4} 17...\texttt{Qxe7} \texttt{Qxe7} 18...\texttt{Wh4+} \texttt{Qf8} (worse is 18...\texttt{Qg5} 19...\texttt{Qxg5}+! \texttt{Qf8} 20...\texttt{Qad1}; e.g., 20...\texttt{Qc4} 21...\texttt{Qd8}+ \texttt{Qxd8} 22...\texttt{Qxd8}+ \texttt{Qg7} 23...\texttt{Qf6+} \texttt{Qg8} 24...\texttt{Qd1} \texttt{Qd5} 25...\texttt{Qd3}) 19...\texttt{Qxe4} and Black can’t connect his rooks, while his king continues to disrupt his game.

17...\texttt{Qf6}++!

It is understandable that Black overlooked this move.

17...\texttt{Qxf6} 18...\texttt{Qxf6}+

The difference between this line and the one resulting from 16...\texttt{Qf6+?} is that here Black can be prevented from castling; it is amazing that White is better off simply with the c1-bishop removed from the board!

18...\texttt{Qe6} 19...\texttt{Qad1}! (D)

This is the advantage: the a1-rook comes into the game quickly.

19...\texttt{Qf5}
It is more tenacious to give up the queen with 19...\texttt{Qh5} 0-0-0, but this is a hard decision to make.

20...\texttt{Qg7} \texttt{Qf8}
Black is a piece up but is completely paralysed; the a8-rook can’t come into play and the queen is tied down to defending against \texttt{Qxe6}+ followed by \texttt{Qe7}.

21...\texttt{Qh3}!

Threatening 22...\texttt{Qg4} and 23...\texttt{Qxe6}+. Not 21...\texttt{f4??} \texttt{Qc5+}, defending the f8-rook, and after 22...\texttt{Qh1} \texttt{Qd8} Black wins.

21...\texttt{Qh5} 22...\texttt{Qd4}

22...\texttt{Qf4} is possible now, because 21...\texttt{Qh5} has weakened g6, so after 22...\texttt{Qc5}+ 23...\texttt{Qh1} \texttt{Qd8} White has 24...\texttt{Qxe6}+! \texttt{Qxe6} 25...\texttt{Qxg6+} \texttt{Qf7} 26...\texttt{Qxd8+} \texttt{Qxd8} 27...\texttt{Qxf7}, winning.

22...\texttt{Qh4} 23...\texttt{Qf4} c5 24...\texttt{Qdd1} c4 25...\texttt{Qe5} \texttt{Qxe5} 26...\texttt{Qxe5} c3 27...\texttt{bxc3} \texttt{Qxa2} 28...\texttt{Qwh6} \texttt{Qe6} 29...\texttt{Qd2} \texttt{Qhb8} 30...\texttt{Qd4} b6 31...\texttt{Qb4} c5 32...\texttt{Qxb6} 1-0

3 points for 16...\texttt{Qg5}!! and 2 points for 17...\texttt{Qf6}++!

904) Ganguly – Hernández Carmenates

Spanish Team Ch, Sabadell 2008
18...\texttt{Qxe6}!!

The start of a spectacular mating attack; if White begins with 18...\texttt{Qh7}?? then Black can play 18...\texttt{Qxe5} (not 18...\texttt{Qxf7}?? 19...\texttt{Qxe6}) 19...\texttt{Qxe5} \texttt{Qxh7} 20...\texttt{Qh5}+ \texttt{Qg7} 21...\texttt{Qh6}+ \texttt{Qg8}, and White has no more than a draw after 22...\texttt{Qxg6} fxg6 23...\texttt{Qxg6}+

18...\texttt{Qxe6} 19...\texttt{Qxh7}! \texttt{Qf8}

19...\texttt{Qxh7} allows mate with 20...\texttt{Qh5}+ \texttt{Qg8} 21...\texttt{Qxg6+} \texttt{Qf8} 22...\texttt{Qh6}+ \texttt{Qg8} 23...\texttt{Qh7}+ \texttt{Qf8} 24...\texttt{Qh8+} \texttt{Qf7} 25...g6#. The best defence is 19...\texttt{Qxe5}, although after 20...\texttt{Qd4}! \texttt{Qe5} (the alternative 20...\texttt{Qxh7} 21...\texttt{Qxe5} \texttt{Qb6}+!! leads to mate after 22...\texttt{Qg2} \texttt{Qg8} 23...\texttt{Qxg6} \texttt{Qe3} 24...\texttt{Qh5} \texttt{Qd2+} 25...\texttt{Qh1} 21...\texttt{c3}!! (on the other hand 21...\texttt{Qxc5}?! \texttt{Qxc5}+ 22...\texttt{Qg2} \texttt{Qxd3} is ineffective) 21...\texttt{Qxh7} 22...\texttt{Qh5}+ \texttt{Qg8} 23...\texttt{Qxg6} \texttt{Qxg6} 24...\texttt{Qxg6+} \texttt{Qf8} 25...Qg2 (25...\texttt{Qe1} is also strong) 25...\texttt{Qxd4} 26...\texttt{Qxd4}, Black is doing fine in terms of material, but is lost owing to the situation of his king.

20...\texttt{Qh6} \texttt{Qg7} 21...\texttt{Qg4}!

The ‘silent’ transfer of the queen to the h-file is decisive.

21...\texttt{Qc5}

21...\texttt{Qd7} is met by 22...\texttt{Qh3} \texttt{Qb5} 23...\texttt{Qxg6}!! \texttt{Qxg6} 24...\texttt{Qf5}! (to deprive the black king of the f5-square) 24...\texttt{exf5} 25...\texttt{Qxg6+} \texttt{Qxg6} 26...\texttt{Qh6}+

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Test 15 Answers

905) Bosboom – Iturrizaga

Wijk aan Zee 2009

40 h5!
The vital c5-pawn will be lost.

40...f6 41 xg7 g3

On any recapture, such as 41...xg7, 42 xe5 wins.

42 xe5 g6

Black remains a piece down after 42...xf3 43 xf6 xdx3 44 gxf3.

43 f5 1-0

There is no defence after 43...xf5 44 h8+ f7 45 exf5.

1 point for 40 h5!.

906) Matamoros – Gil del Fresno

Seville 2009

28 d5+! cxd5 29 xd5+ g7

Or 29...h8 30 d4+ g7 31 xe7 xce7 32 f7+ g8?! 33 h6+ h8 34 g8#.

30 d4+ h6 31 xe7 1-0

1 point for 28 d5+.

907) D. Johansen – Hernández Carmenates

Dresden Olympiad 2008

38...xc3! 0-1

White resigned, seeing 39 xc3 h1+ 40 xf2 xd1.

2 points for 38...xc3!.

908) L. Domínguez – Morozevich

Wijk aan Zee 2009

35 xf5!
The most elegant way to win.

35...e8

35...xf5 loses to 36 d6+ e7 37 xc7, while 35...xf5 36 b8+ leads to mate.

36 b8! 1-0

If 36...xb8 White mates after 37 d6+.

2 points for 35 xf5!.

909) A. Gupta – Bosboom

Wijk aan Zee 2009

30...f6?

Black had to play 30...e8!, when White has compensation for the piece after 31 f3 g7 32 h3 e6 33 g4 34 e5 dx5 35 f5 e8 36 xg5+ f8 37 d6+ e7, but Black also has chances.

31 xe8+ g7 32 h3! f8

32...f7 loses to 33 xc8!.

33 xc8

White is two pawns up with the better position.

2 points for 30...e8!.

910) Harika Dronavalli – Holzke

Wijk aan Zee 2009

66...h5?

The only move (as 66...g8? loses to 67 e7 and 66...e8? to 67 g7), but good enough to draw. Incidentally, with the white pawn on a5 and the black pawn on a6, the position is a win for White – for the details, look up ‘Bähr’s Rule’ in specialist endgame literature.

67 g5 f7 68 xh5 f6 69 g4 f7 70 d4 f6 71 e4 f7 72 e5 e7 73 d5 f6 74 c5 xf5 75 b5 e6 76 xa5 d7 1/2

The king reaches c8 in time.

2 points for 66...h5!.

911) Morozevich – Svidler (variation)

Russian Ch. Moscow 2008

52 xg6+! fxg6 53 xg7+ f8 54 g8# 54 xd6+! xg7 55 xg6+! works just as well.

54...xg8 55 g7+!

with a draw.

2 points for 52 xg6+! and 1 point for seeing 54 g8# or 54 d6+!.

912) Marin – Dreev

Reggio Emilia 2008/9

58 c5+! xe5 59 fxe5+ xxe5 60 g5!

Not 60 xh4?? f6 61 h5 g7 and the black king reaches the safe corner. Thanks to
zugzwang, White will capture the h4-pawn only when the black king can no longer reach h8.

60...a4 61 a2
Not 61 axa4?? e6 with a draw.

61...a3 62 b3 1-0
After 62...d6 White can finally play 63 exh4, winning after 63...e7 64 g5 f8 65 f6.

2 points for finding 58 e5+! and 1 point for 60 g5!.

913) Gordon – E. Berg
Hastings 2008/9

13...xd4! 14 xd4 xd4! 15 exd4 xd4 0-1
After 16 a2 f4 17 c2 ed3+ 18 f1 e4! there is no defence.

2 points for finding 13...xd4! and 1 point for 14...xd4!.

914) Stellwagen – Van Wely
Wijk aan Zee 2009

The game went 32 a5? but after 32...c5
33 e3 e4 34 b3 c5 35 c3 e4 36 c7 d6, Black held the position.

Instead 32...e3! (threatening 33 wa7) is very strong and now 32...c8 loses to 33 xb8 xb8 34 c5! xf5 (or 34...d8 35 d6) 35 c7.

32...f2!, with the same idea, allows 32...xd4, but this does not solve Black’s problems, since White can play 33 xd4 exd4 34 wh2!, threatening 35 d6+ and 35 c7, as well as 35 xb7 followed by 36 d6+.

3 points for 32...e3!. You also get 3 points for 32...f2!, as long as you saw 32...d4 and its refutation.

915) Werle – Vallejo
Wijk aan Zee 2009

It can’t be good for so many white pieces to be so far away from their king...

27...f4!
27...h3? can be answered with 28 f1.

28 e3?!
28 h1 h3 29 f1 g4! also loses; best is 28 f1 but Black still has a winning attack with 28 g4 29 c3 h3+ 30 h1 h5, followed by 31...g4, when the main threat is...hxh2!.

28...h3 29 f1 g4! 30 xh3 xh3+ 31 f1 hxh2 0-1

3 points for 27...f4!.

916) Hou Yifan – Vallejo
Wijk aan Zee 2009

20 g1!
Forcing the black queen to move into the line of fire.

20...d7
After 20...h4 21 f3 h6 22 h1 the black queen is lost.

21 de6! e7?!
21...b5 22 c3 xd1+ 23 xd1 xe6 24 xc6 was the best option, but White’s advantage is unquestionable.

22 xg7 xg7 23 h5+ bh8
23...g8 loses to 24 h4 g5 25 xf6+! xf6 26 xg5 xg5 27 xg5 27 xg5+.

24 c5! e6
If 24...b5 then 25 h4!.

25 ge1!
Back to e1! The white queen is taboo on account of mate.

25 xe1
25...e5 loses to 26 xe6! xe6 27 xf6, winning a lot of material; e.g., 27...g4 28 xe8 xe8 29 d4 xd1 30 xe5.

26 xf7 xd1+
26...hxh5 is met by 27 xf6+ g8 28 xe1 xe1+ 29 d2 e8 30 d4 and White forces mate.

27 xd1 d4+ 28 d2 a8+ 29 e3
3 points for 20 g1!.

917) Gundavaa – L.B. Hansen
Dresden Olympiad 2008

24...xh3! 25 gxh3?!
White thinks that Black has nothing more than a draw; it is better to resign himself to 25 c2 g4 and a difficult defence.

25...g3! 26 h1 xh3+ 27 g1 g3+ 28 h1 e6!
This move is vital for the soundness of the sacrifice.

29 xe6 xe6 0-1
After 30 fxg5 Black can mate with 30...h4+ 31 g2 xg5+ 32 f3 h5+ 33 g2 g6#.

2 points for 24...xh3! and 2 points for 28...e6!.
918) Carlsen – Kariakin  
Wijk aan Zee 2009

The game proceeded 35 d5? (the power of White’s bishop increases, but tactically it does not work, as we shall see...) 35...ex5 36 d4 wxf6 37 axe5 wxe5 38 dxc6 bxc6 39 dx1 g8 40 w4 d4 xd4 41 exd4 g5 and Black drew the endgame.

Instead, 35 wxg6! is very strong, after which the most tenacious line is 35...hx4+ 36 g2 ed6 (defending against 37 wxf6+ and w4h4). Only now is it the right time to play 37 d5!:

a) 37...cx5 is answered by 38 c1, with the threat of 39 c7; e.g., 38...c8 (38...d5! does not prevent it, so 39 c7! with mate in a few moves after 39...dxe3+ 40 g1!) 39 xc8 xc8 40 f4! followed by d4+, winning.

b) 37...d5 38 c5! wd8 (38...xc5 39 w6f+ h7 40 wxf5+ g8 41 w6f+ followed by mate next move) 39 wxf5 xd5+ 40 wxd5 cxd5 gives White a choice of wins, such as 41 e7.

4 points for 35 wxg6!.

919) Stefansson – Akopian  
Lubbock 2008

34...d6!! (D)

Intending to play 35...g4. The immediate 34...g4?, threatening 35...h1#, would fail to 35 w4h+! g7 36 gh! h3 37 g5!, winning.

35 e1

After 35 xb6 Black need not recapture and indeed now is the right moment for 35...g4!. The only move to prevent a quick mate is 36 e4, which Black answers with 36...wx e4 37 f3 wxf3+ 38 gh1 h3 39 w2 g4+ 40 h1 axb6, when Black has a material advantage and the white king is weak.

In reply to 35 d3 Black has 35...dxa4! 36 gh1 (after 36 d4? wh1+ 37 ed2 b2+ Black mates quickly) 36...g4+ 37 wh1! g2! 38 e1 c4, winning.

35...d4 36 w8+ g7 37 g5

If 37 e3a2 then one way to win is 37...dxe3! 38 fxe3? wxe3+ 39 d1 g4#.

37...g4 0-1

4 points for 34...d6!! and 1 point for 35...d4! in the line with 35 xb6.

920) Bologan – E. Berg  
Dresden Olympiad 2008

This position is a book draw, but it is not easy to remember everything and the constant time-pressure caused by the new time-limits makes it even harder. If the black rook can safely reach its third rank, it is a draw, since Black reaches the Vančura Position.

64...f3+?

The correct move is 64...e5+!

a) If 65 e6, then 65...h5! 66 d7 h6 67 c7 f6 reaches the above-mentioned drawn position; after 68 a7 both the logical 68...e6 and 68...g6 are playable.

b) 65 e4 c5! (Black is heading for the third rank) 66 a7+ (66 d4 c6 is not dangerous) 66...g6 67 b7 a5 68 a7 (or 68 b6+ f7 69 d4 e7 70 c4 d7 71 b4 a1 drawing; e.g., 72 b5 b1+ 73 c5 c1+ 74 d5 a1) 68...f6 69 h7 (if 69 d4 Black can play 69...e6 70 c4 d6 71 b4 and now 71...a1 or 71...c6) 69...g6! (not 69...e6? 70 h6+ d7 71 h8! winning) 70 h7 f6, repeating the position.

65 e5! h3

65...a3 is met by 66 d5 f7 67 c6 e7 and now, with the black king out of position, 68 a7! f7 69 h8 wins. The problem is that 65...f6? loses to 66 g8+.

66 a7+ g6 67 c7 a3 68 a7

Now the white king can’t be prevented from reaching b7.

68...a6 69 d5 f5 70 c5 e5 71 h5 a1 72 c6 e6 73 b7 d6 74 c6+ d7 75 b6 1-0

4 points for 64...a5+! and 1 point for 65...c5! in line ‘b’. 
We have reached the last and most difficult chapter, which should pose a stern challenge to even the very best chess-players. There are 81 puzzles, all of level 5 or higher. There are hints for the first 30 of them.

If you are a club-level player, then you should feel free to tackle these positions, but not be discouraged if you have problems with them. This is intended as a learning experience, and tackling difficult exercises will only benefit your calculating abilities and fire your chess imagination. You should be very pleased if you solve a puzzle completely, seeing all the key points. If you have seen the main idea, but missed a few finesses, then that is an encouraging sign that further work will take you to a higher level of chess mastery.

White can try to repeat moves with $59 \textsc{wa8+} \textsc{d}d7 60 \textsc{wa7+}$; is there any way he can try for more?

What is the logical result of the game, with best play for both sides?

The game went $35...\textsc{f}f6? 36 \textsc{d}f7+! \textsc{g}g8 37 \textsc{d}xe5+ \textsc{e}e6 38 \textsc{d}xg6!$ and White won. How could Black have defended better?

After $50 \textsc{f}f2? \textsc{w}xe4 51 \textsc{d}xe4 \textsc{g}g6 52 \textsc{e}e5 \textsc{x}f7$ Black overcame his difficulties. How could White have played better?
Black resigned here, although there was no need to do so; indicate why.

58 $\text{x}a3$? led to a draw after 58...g2! 59 $\text{xf}3$ (59 $\text{a}1$ $\text{f}1$) 59...g1$\text{w}$ 60 $\text{f}6$ $\text{we}3+$! How can White win?

Black is on the verge of being mated; can you find the only way for Black to prevent mate and gain the advantage?

The game went 23...$\text{x}b7$ 24 $\text{xf}5$ $\text{f}8$ 25 $\text{h}6+$ $\text{h}8$ 26 $\text{xf}7+$ $\text{g}8$ 27 $\text{we}6+$, with advantage to White. Improve Black's play!

The d6-bishop exerts unpleasant pressure, and the h8-knight is passive. How can White exploit these factors?

Black has an extra pawn, and played for simplification with 31...$\text{wb}6$; was this decision correct?
After 19...\texttt{W}d8? 20 d6 \texttt{Q}e6 21 exf6 \texttt{Q}f8 22 \texttt{Q}g3 White was winning. Black could have defended much better; how?

Now for an unusual question: from the practical point of view, what is the best move for Black, and why?

Now 45...\texttt{W}d4 46 \texttt{Q}d5! \texttt{W}xd5 47 exd5 \texttt{W}c4+ 48 \texttt{Q}g1 \texttt{W}xd5 was insufficient for victory. How could Black have won?

Is 20 \texttt{Q}xg7 sound?

The game went 25 \texttt{Q}f6 and Black resigned. Is there any way to defend?

Black played 50...\texttt{Q}a7, and immediately resigned. Was this justifiable? Back up your answer with some variations.
Is there anything more than a draw here with 31 \( \text{f7+ g8 32 h6++ h8 33 f7+?} \)

White has tremendous threats against Black's king, but it is Black to move. How does he strike first?

Black has just played 1...g4; what is the logical result of the game with best play for both sides?

White is a pawn up, but his king is exposed and his queenside pawns are weak. How should Black exploit these factors?

There is only one way to guarantee victory; what is it?

The game went 50...xb5+ 51 a4 b1 52 xh3 1-0. Was there any way for Black to save the game?
Black has two extra pawns, but his king is rather exposed. How can White exploit this?

39 \text{xe6? fxe6 40 } \text{xe6+ f7 41 c5 xxc3 led eventually to a draw. What great opportunity did White miss?}

How can White save himself? The game went 41 \text{f2? d8 42 e1 h4+ 43 d1 d3+ 44 xd3 cxd3 45 xb2 h1+ 0-1.}

How should White continue with the attack before Black regroups?

What is the logical result of this crazy position? Back up your answer with some variations.

There is only one winning move; what is it?
Black has just played 17...\( \text{Qf6-d5} \). Is this combination sound?

After 29...\( \text{Qf5?!} \) 30 \( \text{Wh2} \) \( \text{Wf7?!} \) (30...\( \text{e4} \)) 31 \( \text{e4} \) White was a shade better. How can Black’s play be greatly improved?
Answers for Chapter 11

921) F. Olafsson – Letelier

Mar del Plata 1960

No, this is what he should have played. 59 \( \text{Wg}+6+ \text{Kh}7 60 \text{Wxa}7+ \) and if 60...\( \text{Kh}8 60...\( \text{Kg}8?! \) is dubious due to 61 \( \text{Wg}1! \) and 60...\( \text{Kh}6?! \) 61 \( \text{Kc}3 \) leaves the black king exposed), then 61 \( \text{Wh}8+ \), etc., with a draw. The game went:

59 \( \text{Wg}1? \text{Kxe}5! \)

Although it looks in great danger, the black king will be safe and Black will win, because White is unable to coordinate his two major pieces in the attack.

60 \( \text{Wg}8 \text{Ke}8 61 \text{Wxa}8+ \text{Kd}7 62 \text{Wa}7+ \text{Kg}6 63 \text{Wg}6+ \text{Kd}5! \)

Better than allowing checks with 63...\( \text{Kg}5 64 \text{Wc}5+. \)

64 \( \text{b}4 \)

Another try is 64 \( \text{Wg}7 \text{Wb}8 65 \text{Wh}7+ \text{Kg}6 66 \text{Wh}7+ \text{Ke}5 67 \text{Kf}7+ \text{Kr}5 \) and although for the moment the black king is straying a long way, his defence is more than adequate; for example, 68 \( \text{Wg}7+ \text{Kh}4! 69 \text{Wg}1 \text{Kg}5 70 \text{Wg}3+ \text{Kc}6 71 \text{Wg}6+ \text{Kd}5 72 \text{Wd}7+ \text{Kc}5 73 \text{Wg}1+ \text{Kb}5. \)

64...\( \text{Wxa}7! 65 \text{Wa}2+ \text{Kd}4 66 \text{Wh}b2+ \)

Or 66 \( \text{Wh}b3 \text{f}4 67 \text{Kg}7 \text{Kxe}2+! 68 \text{Kxe}2 \text{Wxe}2+69 \text{Wxe}1 \text{Wd}1+ 70 \text{Kd}1+ \text{Wxd}1+ 71 \text{Wxd}1 \text{f}3. \)

66...\( \text{Kc}4! 0-1 \)

922) Fischer – Incutso

Mar del Plata 1960

Not 35...\( \text{Wg}5?! \), when White wins with 36 \( \text{Kf}7+! \text{Wg}8 37 \text{Kxg}5+ \text{Wf}8 38 \text{Kf}7+ \text{Wg}8 39 \text{Kxe}5+, followed by 40 \text{Wxf}8+ and 41 \text{Kxd}4.

However, after 35...\( \text{Kf}3+! 36 \text{gx}f3 \text{Wxg}5+ 37 \text{Kf}2 \text{Wxc}8 38 \text{Kf}7+ \text{Wg}8 39 \text{Kxe}6 \text{Wxc}4 40 \text{Kd}8+ \text{Wxe}4 41 \text{Wxe}4 \text{fx}3 \) Black is out of danger and has the better prospects.

923) R. Cruz – Stein

Mar del Plata 1965

It should be drawn.

30 \( \text{Wxd}6+ \text{Kxe}1?! \)

This loses. After 30...\( \text{gx}f3! \) White is forced to give perpetual check with 31 \( \text{Wg}6+ \text{Kh}8 32 \text{Wxc}8 \text{Wxf}2+ 33 \text{Kg}2 \text{Wxc}8 34 \text{Wf}6+ \text{Kh}8 35 \text{Wd}6+ \text{Kd}8 36 \text{Wd}6+. \) The line 30...\( \text{Wxf}2+ 31 \text{Khl} \text{Wxc}1+ 32 \text{Wxc}1 \text{Wxc}1 33 \text{Wg}6+ \) is similar.

31 \( \text{Wg}6+ \text{Kr}f8 32 \text{Wh}6+! \)

Pinning the \text{h}5-pawn and thus allowing the bishop to come into play.

32...\( \text{Kh}7 \)

Similar play occurs after 32...\( \text{Wg}8 33 \text{Kxg}4 \text{Wc}7 34 \text{Wd}6+ \text{Kxe}6 35 \text{Wxe}6+ \text{Kf}7 36 \text{Wc}2 37 \text{Wf}7+ (or 37 \text{Wf}5+ \text{ Kg7 38 d7} 37...\text{Wxc}7 38 \text{dxe}7 \text{Wxe}8 39 \text{ex}e2+ 40 \text{Kf}1 \text{Wxe}8 41 \text{Wxe}2 \text{Wxe}4+, leaving White two pawns up.

33 \( \text{Kxg}4! \text{Kh}8 \)

Also losing is 33...\( \text{Wf}6 34 \text{Wxh}5+ \text{g}5 35 \text{Kxf}6+ \text{Wxf}6 36 \text{Wxe}8 \text{Ke}2+ 37 \text{Kf}1. \)

34 \( \text{Wd}6+ \text{Kxe}7 35 \text{Wg}7+ \text{Kd}6 36 \text{e}5+ 1-0 \)

One possible continuation is 36...\( \text{Kc}5 37 \text{Wxc}1+ \text{Kb}6 38 \text{Kxe}8. \)

924) Behrens – Rossetto

Mar del Plata 1965

50 \( \text{Kg}1! \) is very strong, threatening 51 \( \text{Wf}6+. \)

Black has no way to prevent material loss: 50...\( \text{Wg}7 \) (or 50...\( \text{Wxf}7? 51 \text{Kf}6+ \text{Wxf}6 52 \text{Wg}6+ \text{Kd}4+ 53 \text{Kxh}5; or 50...\text{Wxe}4 51 \text{Wxe}4 \text{Wg}7 52 \text{Wf}6+ \text{Kxh}8 53 \text{Kg}6! mating quickly) 51 \text{Wxg}6+ \text{Wxg}6 52 \text{Ke}3+ \text{Kxf}7 53 \text{Kxh}5 \text{Kc}7 54 \text{Ke}1 and the rest is a matter of technique, as they say.

925) Cuasnicú – Rubinstein

Buenos Aires 1972

After 71...\( \text{Nd}4! 72 \text{Kxh}7 \text{c}5!! \) Black can draw; e.g., 73 \( \text{Kg}1 \text{Kxb}3 74 \text{Kxc}5+ (74 \text{Kd}6 \text{b}4 is also a draw, as 75 \text{Kb}2? loses to 75...\text{exa}5 76 \text{Kxh}3 \text{Kb}4) 74...\text{Wxc}4 75 \text{Kb}7 \text{Kd}5 76 \text{Kc}6 77 \text{Kd}8+ \text{Ke}5. \)

926) Mariotti – Benko

Venice 1974

The game went 38...\( \text{Wg}6, \) but this allowed a forced mate: 39 \( \text{Wh}2+! \text{Kg}5 40 \text{Wf}4+ 1-0. \) If 40...\( \text{Kf}5 \) then 41 \( \text{Wh}8+. \)

The correct move is the surprising 38...\( \text{Wf}6!! \) and after 39 \( \text{Wxf}6 \text{Wd}8! \) (better than 39...\( \text{Wc}7 40 \text{Wg}5 \text{Wc}4+ 41 \text{Wxf}2 \text{Wxd}3 42 \text{Wf}8) 40 \text{Wg}5 (40 \text{Ke}6? allows 40...\text{Wf}4! 41 \text{Wh}8 \text{Wh}3+ 42 \text{Wxf}2 \text{Wf}7, with a winning attack) 40...\( \text{Wg}8 41 \text{Wxf}2 \text{a}4 Black has the advantage.

927) Diez del Corral – Portisch

Buenos Aires Olympiad 1978

23...\( \text{Ke}3! \)

Attacking the \text{d}4-knight, which is defending the vital \text{e}6-pawn.

23...\( \text{Ke}2 24 \text{Wxe}2! \)
After this exchange sacrifice Black’s position becomes difficult, owing to the loss of the base-pawn on e6.

24...\textit{\$xe}2 25 \textit{\$xe}6 \textit{\$f}7 26 \textit{\$d}4 \textit{\$a}2

After 26...\textit{\$xd}6 27 \textit{\$xc}2 the material is equal once more but Black’s king is weak and White now has a strong passed pawn.

27 \textit{\$xf}5! \textit{\$xd}6

The capture 27...\textit{\$gx}f5?? leads to mate after 28 \textit{\$g}3+ \textit{\$g}5 29 \textit{\$xg}5+ \textit{\$h}8 30 \textit{\$e}7.

28 \textit{\$xd}6 \textit{\$xf}5

Black is a rook up but there is no defence. If 28...\textit{\$wf}7 then 29 \textit{\$e}7+ \textit{\$f}8 30 \textit{\$e}5 is decisive.

29 \textit{\$g}5+ \textit{\$f}8

Also losing is 29...\textit{\$h}8 30 \textit{\$e}1! \textit{\$f}7 (not 30...\textit{\$g}8?? 31 \textit{\$f}6+ 31 \textit{\$d}7! \textit{\$xd}7 (31...\textit{\$f}8 32 \textit{\$e}1! \textit{\$xe}8 33 \textit{\$xe}8 \textit{\$xe}8 34 \textit{\$g}7#) 32 \textit{\$f}6+ \textit{\$g}8 33 \textit{\$e}7, mating quickly.

30 \textit{\$e}1!

There is no defence against 31 \textit{\$e}7.

30...\textit{\$f}7 31 \textit{\$e}7 1-0

After 31...\textit{\$g}6 White wins with 32 \textit{\$xe}6 \textit{\$hx}g6 33 \textit{\$h}7.

928) Komljenović – Franco

\textit{Ponferrada 1991}

White wins with 58 \textit{\$a}7!! \textit{\$xf}7 (the point of interpolating 58 \textit{\$a}7 is that if 58...\textit{\$h}6 White will queen on f8 with check, in contrast to what happened in the game, viz. 59 \textit{\$xa}3 \textit{\$g}2 60 \textit{\$xf}3 \textit{\$g}1 \textit{\$f}1 61 \textit{\$f}8+ and wins) 59 \textit{\$xf}7+ \textit{\$h}6 60 \textit{\$f}1 \textit{\$g}2 61 \textit{\$g}1 a2 62 \textit{\$f}5 \textit{\$h}7 (or 62...\textit{\$xh}5 63 \textit{\$xg}2! 63 \textit{\$g}4, followed by \textit{\$g}3, capturing both black pawns without any difficulty.

929) Lipnikis – Cubas

\textit{Paraguayan Ch, Asunción 1996}

Black should interpolate 23...\textit{\$h}5!!, ruling out the resource 27 \textit{\$e}6! White’s best now appears to be 24 \textit{\$c}4 but then Black has the spectacular 24...\textit{\$e}5! (the continuation 24...\textit{\$xd}4 25 \textit{\$xd}4 \textit{\$xb}7 {25...\textit{\$xb}5??} 26 \textit{\$xb}7 \textit{\$xd}4 is also advantageous, but less so) 25 \textit{\$f}5 \textit{\$f}8 with a decisive material advantage.

930) Riego – Lipnikis

\textit{Paraguayan Ch, Asunción 1997}

No, it was not.

31...\textit{\$b}6?

This is a blunder; it is better to centralize the king with 31...\textit{\$d}7 and now 32...\textit{\$b}6 is indeed a threat because after the exchange of queens Black would win the d5-pawn. After 32 \textit{\$c}3 \textit{\$b}6+ 33 \textit{\$h}2 \textit{\$f}6 34 \textit{\$c}4 e3 Black retains his great advantage. Another good move is 31...\textit{\$f}6, centralizing the queen. The game continued...

32 \textit{\$b}4?

...returning the favour. After 32 \textit{\$xb}6 \textit{\$xb}6 33 \textit{\$f}2 \textit{\$d}7 34 \textit{\$e}3 \textit{\$d}6 35 \textit{\$xe}4 White is virtually a pawn up and has a decisive advantage; e.g., 35...\textit{\$h}5 36 \textit{\$d}4 b5 37 \textit{\$b}4 b6 38 \textit{\$e}4, and White can just move his king back and forth between d4 and e4 until Black runs out of pawn moves and has to move his king, after which White wins with \textit{\$e}5 and \textit{\$d}6.

32...\textit{\$d}7 33 \textit{\$f}2 \textit{\$xe}5+ 34 \textit{\$bx}e5 \textit{\$b}6!

And Black won; he created an outside passed pawn that drew the white king across to the queenside, whereupon the black king invaded on the opposite flank.

931) Efimov – Franco

\textit{Saint Vincent 1998}

Black is slightly better after 19...\textit{\$xe}5! 20 \textit{\$xe}5 \textit{\$g}4! (not 20...\textit{\$xe}5? 21 \textit{\$g}3 \textit{\$e}8 22 \textit{\$c}7 \textit{\$b}7 23 d6, with a crushing position) 21 \textit{\$xe}4 \textit{\$xe}5 22 \textit{\$xc}8 \textit{\$xc}3! 23 \textit{\$bx}e5 \textit{\$xc}8 and the d5-pawn is lost.

932) Suba – Franco

\textit{Zaragoza 1999}

45...\textit{\$d}1? does not win on account of 46 \textit{\$g}xg5+, but Black can win by attacking on the h-file with 45...\textit{\$d}3! and there is no defence; e.g., 46 \textit{\$c}2? \textit{\$d}1+ or 46 \textit{\$d}5 \textit{\$h}3. 45...\textit{\$d}6! is also good, with a similar outcome.

933) Moreda – Slipak

\textit{Villa Ballester 2001}

Yes, Black can defend with the spectacular 25...\textit{\$f}7!!, when White is forced to give perpetual check with 26 \textit{\$fx}f7 \textit{\$xe}5 27 \textit{\$g}7+ \textit{\$f}8! 28 \textit{\$gf}7+.

934) Slipak – Larsen

\textit{Pinamar 2002}

The simplest is 67...\textit{\$f}1 \textit{\$h}1+, with an extra rook. Instead, the game went:

67...\textit{\$f}1 \textit{\$w}6 \textit{\$h}8+ \textit{\$g}1??

Even here Black could win with 68...\textit{\$h}4! 69 \textit{\$xh}4+ \textit{\$g}1 but this would have been slightly more difficult to win than if he had promoted the pawn to a rook.

69 \textit{\$h}1+! \textit{\$h}2-\textit{\$h}2
935) **Rodriguez Guerrero – Franco**  
*Dos Hermanas 2004*

No, the sacrifice is not good because it squanders a promising position and the most White can hope for then is a draw:

20...@xe7?? @f5!  
Not 20...@xe7?? 21 @h5+ @h8 22 @f6 @f5 23 @e3!, and wins.

21 @xd5!  
White considered that his best chance now was to complicate the game rather than opt for the endgame by 21 @d4?! @h5 22 @f6 @c6 23 @h5 @xf6 24 @xf6+ @xg7 25 @xd7 @xd7, with advantage to Black.

21...@xg7 22 @e1 @c8?!  
22...@c6!.

23 g4?  
White’s disadvantage is minimal after 23 @c5+ @f6 24 @h5+ @g6 (or 24...@h8 25 @f4 @h7 26 @xh6) 25 @xd6 @xd6 26 @f4+ @f7 27 @xf5 @c5+.

23...@g6 24 @e5+ @h7 25 @d5 @e6 and Black won with his material advantage.

936) **Aronian – Bacrot**  
*FIDE World Cup, Khanty-Mansisk 2005*

Black resigned in a drawn position.

It does look as if Black is lost. White’s bishop paralyses the black king, so the white king goes to b7, he advances his pawn and captures the black bishop, with an easy win. But there is a big hole in this description; after 51 @h4 h5 52 @e4 @e7 53 @d5, the black king is not actually paralysed at all, and after 53...@d7!, for the white king to reach b7 White has to advance his f-pawn, thus weakening it. Black can eventually capture the f-pawn and draw; e.g., 54 @f6+ @e8 55 @e6 h4 56 @e6 h3! 57 @h7 (57 @xh3 is naturally a draw after 57...@f7) 57...@h2 58 @d5 @d4 59 a7 @xa7 60 @xa7 h1@w 61 @xh1 @f7 and it’s a draw.

937) **Engelbert – Zierke**  
*Hamburg 2007*

No, there is no more than a draw. The game went:

31 @f7+ @g8  
Now White should play 32 @h6++ with perpetual check. But he chose...

32 @f5?  
which failed to...

32...g6! 33 @g4

If 33 @xe2, then 33...gxh5 34 @h6+ @h8, followed by 35...@xa3, and Black wins.

33...@e6  
Even stronger is 33...@e2!, but...

0-1

938) **Morínigo – Mernes** (variation)  
*Asunción 2007*

The logical result is a draw, although it is complicated.

Not 2 fxg4?, which loses after 2...hxg4 3 e5+ (of course, 3 h4 fxe4 is a win for Black) 3...@e6 4 h4 (or 4 hxg4 fxg4 5 @c5 @xe5 6 @xb5 d4 7 @c4 @e4 and Black wins easily) 4...f4 5 @xf4 g3 6 @e3 d4+! 7 @f3 d3, and the white king can’t stop Black’s passed pawns.

The ‘rule of the common square’ states that if the imaginary square formed by the two pawns, and extending towards the opponent’s side of the board, reaches the eighth rank, the king can’t  
 prevent one of the pawns from queening, unless it is in a position to capture one of them immediately. When the square extends beyond the eighth rank, as in our case, it is already too late even to capture one of the pawns.

The correct move is:

2 @hxg4  
and after...

2...@f4!  
...the first impression is that White is lost, since the natural 3 @xf4? loses to 3...h4 4 g5 (if 4 @e3 then 4...d4+! 5 @f2 d3 6 g5 d2 7 @c2 h3, with an easy win) 4...dxh4! (4...h3? is bad on account of 5 @g6 @h2 or 5...@e7 6 @xd5! h2 7 d6+ @xd6 8 g7 h1@w 9 g8@w @d1+ and Black has to fight for a draw) 6 g7 h1@w 7 g8@w @d1+ and once again Black has to try to draw) 5 @xe4 h6 6 @e7!, and Black queens but White does not.

3 @exd5!!  
This brilliant resource, allowing Black two connected passed pawns on the sixth and seventh ranks, is sufficient to draw.

3...fxg3 4 @xe3 h4 5 f4 h3 6 @f3 h2  
6...g2 7 @f2 @xd5 8 g5 is similar.

7 @g2 @xd5 8 g5 @e6 9 @f6 10 f5 @g7 11 @h1  
And it’s a draw, since there is no way to make progress. Sometimes in such positions the side with the more advanced pawns can even allow the opponent to queen, in order to rush his king forward in support of a mating attack with his pawns, but here White would queen on the g-file, which rules out this resource.
939) Narciso – Estremera  
*European Ch, Dresden 2007*

50...\

This sacrifice of a whole rook, with check, is the only way to win; the pawns are unstoppable.

**50...\</code>**\<code>xh5+ 51 \</code>g2 f\<code>xg6</code>**

No better is 51..\<code>xg5</code> 52 \<code>xh3 \</code>h5+ 53 \<code>xg4 f\<code>xg6</code> 54 f7 \<code>xh5</code> 55 d7.

52 f7 \<code>xf5</code> 53 d7 \<code>x\</code>f7 54 d8\<code>\</code>\<code>c8</code> 55 \<code>xh7</code> 55 \<code>c8</code>  

Black’s queenside pawns can’t be defended, and White won quickly.

940) Movsesian – Ponomariov  
*San Sebastián 2009*

39...\<code>f1+</code> 40 \<code>b2 a3+!!</code>  

White’s king is dragged into the open.

41 \<code>x\<code>a3</code> \<code>c1+</code> 42 \<code>b4 \</code>x\<code>d2</code> 43 c3  

43...a5!! 44 \<code>xa5 \</code>x\<code>c3</code> 45 \<code>a6 \</code>a8+!! 46 \<code>b6 \</code>x\<code>f4</code> 47 \<code>c7</code>  

g7...\<code>x\<code>c6</code> loses to 47...a6+ 48 \<code>c7 \</code>x\<code>xe6</code> 49 \<code>x\<code>e6</code> \<code>f7</code>. The rest is easy.

47...\<code>d8</code>+ 48 \<code>c6 b6+</code> 49 \<code>c5 \</code>x\<code>e6</code> 50 \<code>x\<code>e6</code> \<code>c5</code> 51 \<code>\</code>c7 \<code>xa2</code> 0-1

941) So – Ivanchuk  
*FIDE World Cup, Khanty-Mansiisk 2009*

33...\<code>xe2</code>!!  

This check helps the defence, while after 33...\<code>f1</code> White can combine an attack on the white king with threats to the queenside pawns, with moves like...\<code>d6</code> and...\<code>g5</code>; e.g.:  

a) 34 g5 \<code>d6</code> 35 f4 \<code>xb2</code> 36 \<code>x\<code>c6</code> \<code>a3</code> 37 \<code>g4 \</code>f8 38 \<code>f3 \</code>xa2 and the a4-pawn is too strong.

b) 34 \<code>f4 \</code>f1+ 35 \<code>g3</code> 36 \<code>e5 \</code>\<code>b4</code> 36...\<code>d6</code> a+ 37 f4 \<code>e1</code> 38 \<code>h3</code> (or 38 \<code>f3 \</code>h1+) 38...\<code>x\<code>f4</code>, winning.

c) 34 f4 g5 35 \<code>g3</code> 254 g5? \<code>d6</code> 35...\<code>d6</code> 36 \<code>f3</code> \<code>xb2</code> 37 \<code>x\<code>c6</code> \<code>g3</code> winning.

34 \<code>g3 \</code>d6+ 35 \<code>f4 \</code>b4 36 \<code>g5</code>!  

Now the king finally gets a safe place, and the game was later drawn.

942) Atalik – Skoberne  
*European Ch, Plovdiv 2008*

Yes, practically by force Black can reach a slightly inferior, but theoretically drawn, queen ending with 50...h2! 51 a8\<code>c8</code> 52 \<code>a4</code> h1 53 \<code>b8</code> 54 \<code>xf7</code> 55 \<code>g6</code> 55 \<code>g6</code> 56 \<code>xal</code> \<code>a1</code> 57 \<code>b6</code> and here you may be surprised (as I was) to learn that it is a draw, not only after Atalik’s suggestion of 57...\<code>c8</code>!, but also after 57...\<code>g1</code>+, 57...\<code>g1</code>, 57...\<code>c2</code> and 57...\<code>c8</code>, and that everything else, including 57...\<code>d4</code>?, loses (as confirmed by the 6-man tablebases).

943) Wang Yue – Yu Shaoteng  
*Chinese Team Ch, WuXi 2008*

29 \<code>b5</code>!!  

Preventing the black king from retreating to c6, and threatening Black’s knight, which can’t move away since it is preventing 30 \<code>x</code>f6+.

29...\<code>xe4</code>??  

This loses a lot of material. After the best defence, 29...\<code>e6</code>, White also wins material, although it requires great accuracy to win after 30 \<code>d1</code>+ \<code>x</code>4 31 \<code>d3</code> \<code>d5</code> 32 \<code>g6+</code> \<code>e4</code> 33 \<code>d6</code> \<code>a4</code> 34 \<code>xh5</code> \<code>x</code>c3 35 \<code>xg4</code> \<code>f8</code>. White has several favourable continuations, such as 36 \<code>x</code>f2 or 36 \<code>x</code>f3+, but the best appears to be 36 \<code>x</code>f8 \<code>x</code>f8 37 \<code>d5</code>, followed by \<code>f4</code>.

The strongest reply to 29...\<code>e6</code> is 30 \<code>g5</code>!! \<code>x</code>g5 31 \<code>x</code>d7+ \<code>f6</code> (31...\<code>x</code>d7? 32 \<code>f6</code>) 32 \<code>x</code>f6+ \<code>d5</code> 33 \<code>e6+</code> \<code>e4</code> 34 \<code>x</code>b7, with an extra piece and a big positional advantage.

30 \<code>e1</code>+ \<code>d5</code> 31 \<code>d1</code>+ 1-0  

After 31...\<code>e4</code> (not 31...\<code>e6</code>) 32 \<code>d3</code>+ \<code>d5</code> 32...\<code>e3</code> is met by 33 \<code>f4</code>!, forcing mate) 33 \<code>xg6</code> Black is unable to win the c-pawn and the pin on the d-file is decisive; e.g., 33...\<code>x</code>e6 34 \<code>xh5</code> \<code>c6</code> 35 \<code>g7</code> \<code>h8</code> 36 \<code>xg4</code>+ \<code>f6</code> 37 \<code>xg6</code>.

944) Degraeve – Ninov  
*La Ferre 2008*

There are two good solutions:

a) 39 \<code>a4</code>! (threatening 40 \<code>d8</code>) wins in elegant fashion: 39...\<code>g8</code> (39...\<code>x</code>c7 40 \<code>x</code>c7 \<code>x</code>g8 41 \<code>c2</code>! with a quick mate) 40 \<code>d8</code>+ \<code>h7</code> 41 \<code>xc2</code>+ \<code>h6</code> 42 \<code>x</code>e6 \<code>f6</code> 43 \<code>f7</code> \<code>g7</code> 44 \<code>b7</code>.

b) 39 \<code>x</code>e6!-fxe6 40 \<code>x</code>e6 \<code>f6</code> 41 \<code>f1</code> \<code>f7</code> 42 \<code>f6</code>!!

945) Dzhumaev – Li Shihong  
*Kuala Lumpur 2008*

It should be a draw, although Black needs to play accurately.

31...\<code>x</code>f8?  

Not 31...\<code>x</code>e8? 32 \<code>d6</code>+ \<code>f8</code> 33 \<code>e6</code>! \<code>xg8</code> 33 \<code>x</code>e6 34 \<code>x</code>c8#) 34 \<code>x</code>f4.

32 \<code>e6</code>+ \<code>x</code>e6 33 \<code>x</code>b4+ \<code>x</code>e8! 34 \<code>e7</code>+ \<code>d8</code>?
Now 34...\x83f8! is essential: 35 \x83xb7+ \x83e8 36 \x83xd6+ (or 36 \x83e7+ \x83f8 37 \x83b7+, but not 37 \x83xe6+? \x83e7 38 \x83e7+ \x83g6 39 \x83g1+ \x83g3! 40 \x83xg3 \x83xb4, and Black wins) 36...\x83f8, and none of the discovered checks by the knight yields more than a draw.

35 \x83d1+ \x83e8 36 \x83d6+ \x83b8 37 \x83e8+ \x83a7 38 \x83b5+ \x83a6 39 \x83a8+ 1-0

946)  
Zhang Xiaowen – Z. Rahman
Kuala Lumpur 2008

With the counterattack 41 \x83f6! \x83xe3 42 \x83f7+ \x83h6 43 \x83a5! \x83xh5! \x83xh5 (or 43...\x83gxh5 44 \x83f6+ \x83h7 45 \x83f7+ \x83h8 46 \x83f6+ \x83g8 47 \x83g6+ \x83f8 48 \x83f6+ and now 48...\x83g8, drawing, but not 48...\x83e8? on account of 49 \x83h8+!) 44 \x83h7+ \x83g4 45 \x83xg6+ \x83xf4 46 \x83h6+ \x83e5 47 \x83g7+ \x83f4 48 \x83h6+, White draws.

947)  
Kotronias – Estremera
European Union Ch, Liverpool 2008

White was unable to discover a way to keep his attack going.

39 \x83g1? \x83c4

Black now threatens, amongst other things, 40...\x83e5, so White has to force a draw.

40 \x83e7+ \x83g8 41 \x83h7+ \x83f8 42 \x83e7+ \x83g8 43 \x83h7+ \x22/2

The right method is 39 \x83h8+! \x83g8 40 \x83e6!, which is difficult to assess correctly, but the a8-rook and the b2-knight are both loose, and this means that White’s combination is winning: 40...\x83xg6 (forced, since 40...\x83e1+ loses to 41 \x83xh2 \x83f4+ 42 \x83g3 \x83h3 43 \x83xf6+ \x83xf6+ 44 \x83h8+ \x83g8 44 \x83h6+ and now by checking appropriately White captures one or other of Black’s two loose pieces or else mates Black’s king: 44...\x83f7 (or 44...\x83e7 45 \x83g5+ \x83d6 46 \x83d2+, winning the knight) 45 \x83f4+ \x83g7 46 \x83d4+ \x83h6 (46...\x83f8 47 \x83b4+ again wins the knight) 47 \x83b6+ \x83g5 48 \x83c5+ \x83f4 49 \x83d4+ \x83g5 50 \x83f4+ \x83h6 (50...\x83g4 51 \x83g5 52 \x83g1 is similar) 51 \x83b6+ \x83h5 (51...\x83g7 52 \x83b7+ wins the rook) 52 \x83f6+ and mate next move.

948)  
Leko – Ivanchuk
Dresden Olympiad 2008

The only move to win is:

124...\x83e3!!

By moving the rook back along the e-file, Black threatens 125...\x83h3+ and 126...\x83e1!, but by putting it specifically on e3 he prevents his king from being harassed by the white rook, which would happen for instance after 124...\x83e7? 125 \x83d3+ \x83f3 126 \x83a3 \x83h7 127 \x83e1 \x83d7 128 \x83a1, with a draw.

125 \x83g8 \x83e7!

Forcing the rook to a worse square, thus preventing it from retreating to the first rank to rescue the king.

126 \x83g5

126 \x83g6 is met by 126...\x83d7.

126...\x83h7

It is too early for 126...\x83d7 on account of 127 \x83e5.

127 \x83e1

After 127 \x83g1 \x83a7 White does not have the saving move \x83f5 available.

127...\x83d7?! 0-1

949)  
D. Fridman – Parliagras
Dresden Olympiad 2008

The combination is unsound, but the reason is not obvious.

18 \x83xd5 \x83xa1

If 18...\x83xb5 immediately then 19 \x83c3 \x83xb3 20 \x83ab1, winning material, so Black exchanges rooks first.

19 \x83xa1?

Now the game levels out. Instead, 19 \x83xa1! wins for White, since there is a hidden pin after 19...\x83xb5 20 \x83b6!, which wins a piece.

19...\x83xb5 20 \x83xb5 \x83xb5 21 \x83exd5 \x83xd4

22 \x83xd4 \x83xd4 23 \x83b4 \x83c8 24 \x83h3

and it ended in a draw.

950)  
Bosboom – Giri
Wijk aan Zee 2009

Black has the winning sacrifice 29...\x83xf3+! and after 30 \x83xf3 \x83xh3 the ‘dormant’ bishop on c7 becomes a tremendous attacking piece. Then:

a) 31 \x83g2 \x83b6+ 32 \x83d4 \x83xg3 and with the twin threats of 33...\x83f2 mating and 33...\x83xh3 Black regains the sacrificed piece with interest.

b) 31 \x83f2 \x83b6+ 32 \x83d4 \x83h2+! 33 \x83e3 (after 33 \x83f1 the strongest line is 33...\x83e4! 34 \x83xe4 \x83h4+) 33...\x83xg3, and there is no satisfactory defence against the threat of 34...\x83xf4+ winning the f3-bishop; e.g., 34 \x83f1 \x83xd4+ 35 \x83xd4 \x83e8+ 36 \x83d3 \x83xd4 37 \x83b3+ \x83h8 and now 38 \x83xd4 loses to 38...\x83d6+.

951)  
Corte – Rossetto
Argentine Ch, Buenos Aires 1946
In the game, White lost as follows: 26 \[d4? \] \[xc2+ 27 \[d1 \] \[b3 28 \[xb4 \] \[d2++ 29 \[e1 \] \[d1# (0-1).

Although it looks scary, 26 \[xb4! is necessary and after 26...\[xb4 27 \[d4! \] \[b2+ 28 \[d1, thanks to Black’s exposed king, amazing there is no more than a draw; e.g., 28...\[xc2 (Black has nothing after 28...\[xc2+ 29 \[e1 either) 29 \[d7+! \[c8 30 \[d8+ \[c7 31 \[d7+.

952) F. Olafsson – Eliskases
Mar del Plata 1960
24 \[xf6++! \[xf6

If 24...\[xf6 then White continues in similar fashion to the game: 25 \[g8+ \[c7 26 \[f7+ \[d6 27 \[f5+ \[c5 28 \[d4+ \[xd4 (or 28...\[xd4? 29 \[c1+, mating quickly, while 28...\[xd4+ is met by 29 \[xf4+ \[c4 30 \[xf4, with a decisive material advantage. 25 \[xf6 \[xf6

25...\[g6 is met by 26 \[f1! with a decisive discovered check. 25...\[xd3 appears to be the most tenacious move, preventing \[f1, but then White has 26 \[f5! \[c4 (worse is 26...\[g6? 27 \[xf4+ \[f7 28 \[xf6, with a crushing advantage) 27 \[xe4 \[xe4+ 28 \[h1 \[g4 29 \[g4 \[c4 30 \[g4, with more material and a considerable advantage.

26 \[g8+ \[c7 27 \[xe4+ \[d6

27...\[c8 is similar: 28 \[c8+ 29 \[f7+ \[d6 and the attack on the black king is winning; e.g., 30 \[c5 31 \[d4+ \[d4 32 \[f6+ \[c5 33 \[c1+ \[c4 34 \[xc4+ \[b5 35 \[f1, and White wins.

28 \[e5+! \[c5

If 28...\[xc5 then 29 \[f5+! \[c5 30 \[c1+ \[c4 (or 30...\[b5 31 \[xc7 \[xc7 32 \[xc6) 31 \[c4+ \[b5 32 \[xc6+ \[a6 (or 32...\[xc6 33 \[a4+) 33 \[b5+ wins, while 28...\[c5 loses to 29 \[c1+ \[c4 30 \[xc4+ \[b5 31 \[xc6+.

29 \[d4+! \[xd4

After 29...\[xd4 30 \[d1+ \[c3 31 \[c1+ White forces mate.

30 \[c7+ \[xf7 31 \[xf7 \[d8 32 \[e1+ \[d6 33 \[xf6 \[c8 34 \[e5+ \[d7 35 \[h3 1-0

953) Torán – Filip
Skopje Olympiad 1972
21 \[e1!

The idea is to infiltrate via the weakened dark squares on the kingside, which Black is unable to defend satisfactorily, and then attack Black’s king, which is more or less stuck in the centre.

21...\[d5 22 \[h4 \[b7

22...\[h5 fails to hold up the queen’s progress: 23 \[g5.

23 \[h6! \[g8

After 23...\[xg2 24 \[g7! \[xf1 25 \[h8+ \[xf8 26 \[xf8+ \[d7 the quickest way to mate starts with 27 \[xe6+ \[c7 28 \[c1+.

24 \[xh7 \[c7 25 \[xe6 1-0

If 25...\[xe6 (or 25...\[xe6 26 \[xe7#, 26 \[xe6 soon forces mate.

954) Polugaevsky – Ree
Amsterdam 1981
70 \[c2??

This is the decisive error. Now the king remains merely vulnerable, whereas on a3 the king at least had chances to defend actively with an eventual \[b4 when Black moves his king. White draws with 70 \[a6! (or 70 \[a5!); e.g., 70...\[c2 71 \[h6! (switching to defending with checks from the side) 71...\[g3+ 72 \[b4 (72 \[a2 is also good enough, and simpler) 72...\[c3, and now? The tablebase indicates that the only move to draw is 73 \[a3!!; for example, 73...\[g2 74 \[a2.

70...\[c2

Now the a8-rook can’t move because of the mate, and the white king is unable to help the defence, so there is nothing to prevent Black from reaching the winning Lucena position.

71 \[a1 32 \[a2 \[h7 73 \[a6 \[d7 74 \[a8 \[d2 0-1

955) Høj – Gulko
Thessaloniki Olympiad 1988
25 \[g7+? \[xg7

25...\[xg7 is met by 26 \[xe6 f5 27 \[xe7+ \[xg7 28 \[g1+ \[f7 29 \[f6 70 \[xe6!, with threats of 31 \[e1, 31 \[g7+ or 31 \[xf5, with a winning attack.

26 \[xh6+!

Better than 26 \[g1+ \[f8 27 \[h6+? (27 \[e3! is still better for White) 27...\[h7 28 \[g5+ \[f8.

27...\[f5

27...\[f4 loses to 28 \[d5! f5 29 \[w3.

28 \[w3+ \[f4

Or 28...\[h7 29 \[g5 \[g3+ 30 \[xg3 \[g8 31 \[h5+ \[g7 32 \[g4+ with a decisive attack.

29 \[xd6++ \[xd6
Black gets mated after 29...fxe3? 30 Qf7# or 29...Qg3+ 30 Qxg3 fxe3 31 Qf7+ Kh5 32 Qg5#.

30 Wd3 Qf8
30...Qg3+ loses to 31 Qxg3 Qf8 32 Qg6+ Kh5 33 Qf6 Wc7 34 Qxf8 Wg7 35 Qxe8 Qxe8 36 Wxb5+ and 37 Wxe8.

31 Wh7+ 1-0
31...Qxh7 allows 32 Qg6#. A brilliantly conducted attack, don’t you think?

956) Illescas – Short
Linares 1995

30 Qxe7!
30 Wb4 is ineffective on account of 30...Qc6!
31 Qxc6 bxc6 32 Qxc4 dxc4 33 Qxc6 Qc7.

30...Qxe7
If 30...Qxd2 White plays 31 Qc7 Qe4 32 f3, eliminating the defender of f6, and wins.

31 Qxc4 dxc4 32 Qxe4 Wxa3 33 Qc7
Material is now level, and Black will create a dangerous passed pawn, but White has a winning position because the enemy king is unprotected, and his only remaining task is to discover the most effective way of attacking it.

33...Wf8
After 33...Qg8 the white queen decisively joins the attack with 34 Qf6+ Qf8 35 Qh7+ Qg8 36 Wd1!!.

34 Wa2
The tempting 34 Wb4?? fails to 34...Wxb4 35 Qf6 Wb1+ 36 Qh2 f4, and the queen controls h7.

34...a3
After 34...Qg8 there are many good lines, such as 35 Wxa7 Qf7 36 Qc6 Qc7 37 Qf6+ Qh7 38 Qxe6.

35 Qf6 Qf7 36 Wxe6 a2 37 Wxf7! 1-0
Mate is unstoppable.

957) Granda – Kamsky
Donner Memorial, Amsterdam 1996

23 Qh4!
After this queen manoeuvre, the concentration of forces against Black’s kingside is overwhelming and there is no defence.

23...e5
Trying to gain some activity by increasing the scope of the queen and the c8-bishop. If 23...Qd7 Granda pointed out the following finish: 24 Qxd7! Qxd7 25 Qe7+ Qh8 26 Qxg7+ Qxg7 27 Qg5+ Qh8 28 Qf6#. 23...Qd7 is no better and is refuted with a standard manoeuvre:

24 Qxf6 gxf6 25 Qxf6 Qc6 26 Qd4! h5 27 Qg5+, mating quickly.

24 Qe5 Qd7
After 24...Qg4 White has a different winning manoeuvre: 25 Qe7+ Qh8 26 Qc6, while 24...Qe6 is met by 25 Qd6 Qg4 26 Qxf6! Qxh4 27 Qe7+ Qh8 28 gxh4 Qh4 29 Qxc8 Qxf6 30 Qxf6+ Qg8 31 Qxa7, with a decisive material advantage.

25 Qxf6 gxf6 26 Qe4 h6 27 Qxd7! Qxd7 28 Qxh6 f5 29 Qxf5! 1-0

958) P. Rodríguez – Franco
Capablanca Memorial, Cienfuegos 1997
19...Qxd5!
Black rids himself of his passive knight and occupies the e-file advantageously, in addition to leaving White’s structure damaged, with several weak pawns.

20 Qxd5 e4 21 Qf1
21 Qxe4 Qxe2 22 Qf1 is also insufficient to equalize after 22...Qe8 23 Qg6 (23 Qxe2 Qxe4 24 h3 {or 24 Qxg6 Qxg4+ 25 Qf2 hxg6} 24...Qae8 25 Qf2 Qxf5 26 gxf5 Qae5) 23...hxg6 24 Qxg6 Qxe3 25 Qf2 Qd3!, winning material in every case.

21...Qxf3 22 Qf4 Qxf5 23 Qxf5 Qe8
Threatening 24 Qe5.

24 Qf6 Qa4! 25 Qd1 Qe2 26 Qf2
26 Qd2 is met by 26...Qg4+! 27 Qh1 Qe4.

26...Qxd1
and Black won.

959) Michenko – Hagara
Trinec 1998

23 Qf8!!
This spectacular move wins for White, who threatens mate on g7. After 23 Qf1? Black draws with 23...Qxg2! and now the only move is 24 h4!, with a draw after 24...Qxh4 25 Qxg2 Qxg2+ 26 Qxg2 Qg5+ 27 Qh2 Qh5+.

23...Qe5
Black is forced to reduce the pressure on g2; after 23...Qe5? White wins with 24 Qe2 Qxc3 25 Qxe2 Qxe2 26 Qxh3 Qxf8 27 Qe8, and now both 28 Qd1! and 28 Qf1! win. 23...Qe5? loses to 24 Qxe2, and 23...Qf8 to 24 Qh8+ Qe7 25 Qxe2+, and finally 23...f6 to 24 Qc4+.

24 Qd6! Qe3
Now White played 25 Qf4?! and went on to win, but a cleaner solution was 25 Qd2, defending the first and second ranks and threatening 26 Qf4. White is then clearly winning.
960) **Vallejo – Draško**  
*Saint Vincent 1999*

21 h5!  
This exchange sacrifice gives White a very strong attack.

21...\(\boxplus d2\) 22 \(\boxplus f2\)!

The apparently more direct 22 \(\boxplus g4\)?! fails to 22...\(\boxplus c8\)!, and after 23 \(\boxplus f5\) \(\boxplus x f1\) 24 \(\boxplus x f1\) \(\boxplus x f5\) 25 \(\boxplus x f5\) \(\boxplus f8\) Black’s king’s position is solid and he has the advantage.

22...\(\boxplus f8\)

If 22...\(\boxplus x f1\) 23 h\(\times\)g6 \(\boxplus x e5\) 24 fxe5 \(\boxplus x g3\)?! then 25 gx\(\times f7\) \(\boxplus x f7\) 26 \(\boxplus x h7\)!! \(\boxplus f8\) 27 \(\boxplus x g3\), with a winning position for White on account of the situation of the black king.

22...\(\boxplus h8\) is likely to be a computer’s choice, but 23 \(\boxplus h4\) f6 24 \(\boxplus x g3\) \(\boxplus x f1\) 25 \(\boxplus x f1\) \(\boxplus c7\) 26 \(\boxplus g4\) gives White a strong attack. After 26...\(\boxplus f7\) 27 \(\boxplus f5\), intending \(\boxplus g3\), the threats against the black king are highly potent.

23 \(\boxplus h4\) f6 24 \(\boxplus x g3\) \(\boxplus x f1\)

After 24...\(\boxplus c7\) 25 \(\boxplus x d2\) fxe5 26 fxe5 \(\boxplus e7\) 27 \(\boxplus x e7\) \(\boxplus x e7\) 28 \(\boxplus f5\) White is easily winning, with a material advantage and the attack.

25 \(\boxplus x f1\) \(\boxplus c7\)

25...\(\boxplus c8\), controlling f5, is met by 26 \(\boxplus f3\) \(\boxplus b7\) 27 \(\boxplus h6\), with an attack that more than compensates for the sacrificed material.

26 \(\boxplus f5\)!

26...\(\boxplus x f6\) 27 \(\boxplus x e5\) or 26...\(\boxplus x f5\) 27 \(\boxplus x e5\) is also possible.

26...\(\boxplus x e5\) 27 \(\boxplus x e5\)

For the moment Black is a whole rook up, but it is impossible to maintain it.

27...\(\boxplus e7\)

If 27...\(\boxplus x e5\) 28 dxe5 \(\boxplus x e5\)?? then 29 \(\boxplus x g3\) is devastating. For instance, 29...\(\boxplus x e8\) 30 \(\boxplus x f6\)!! \(\boxplus x e7\) 31 \(\boxplus x e7\) \(\boxplus x e7\) 32 \(\boxplus x e7\) \(\boxplus x e7\) 33 \(\boxplus x h8\) 28 \(\boxplus b8\). Also, after 26...\(\boxplus h8\) 27 \(\boxplus f7\) \(\boxplus e6\)?

Almost out of time, Black allows a mate. After the forced 29...\(\boxplus x h6\) 30 \(\boxplus f6\) \(\boxplus x f6\) 31 \(\boxplus x c7\) \(\boxplus e7\) 32 \(\boxplus d6\) \(\boxplus g5\) Black is worse but can still fight.

30 \(\boxplus g8\)!! 1-0

961) **Castillo Gallego – Ruiz Jiménez**  
*Mancha Real 2001*

22...\(\boxplus e5\)?

Black needs to keep a cool head and play 22...\(\boxplus x e5\)!, which opens lines but allows the queen to assist the defence; e.g., 23 \(\boxplus x c6\) (or 23 \(\boxplus g6\) \(\boxplus d8\)!! 24 \(\boxplus f1\) \(\boxplus x e1\)!! 25 \(\boxplus x a3\) and White, behind on material, has to fight for a draw, which can be achieved with 26 \(\boxplus d1\) \(\boxplus c7\) 27 \(\boxplus d3\) \(\boxplus x d8\) 28 \(\boxplus g3\)!! \(\boxplus b7\) 29 \(\boxplus x c3\) 23...0-0 24 \(\boxplus x d7\) (or 24 \(\boxplus x c1\) \(\boxplus x a3\) 25 \(\boxplus x e5\) \(\boxplus x e5\) 26 \(\boxplus e6\) \(\boxplus f7\) 27 \(\boxplus x g6\) \(\boxplus h8\) 28 \(\boxplus x f6\) drawing) 24...\(\boxplus x a3\) 25 \(\boxplus x a3\) \(\boxplus x a8\), and the passed pawn gives Black some advantage.

23 \(\boxplus x c6\)+

Another way is 23 \(\boxplus x c5\) \(\boxplus x c5\) 24 \(\boxplus d1\), threatening 25 \(\boxplus g6\) \(\boxplus f8\) 26 e6. Now 24...\(\boxplus b4\), with the idea of...\(\boxplus f4\), loses to 25 \(\boxplus f4\), amongst other things.

23...\(\boxplus f7\) 24 \(\boxplus x c5\) \(\boxplus x c5\)?

Now mate is forced, but 24...\(\boxplus x c5\) also loses, to 25 \(\boxplus e6\) \(\boxplus f6\) 26 \(\boxplus d1\) \(\boxplus e5\) 27 \(\boxplus e7\) \(\boxplus e6\) 28 \(\boxplus x c5\).

25 \(\boxplus g6\) \(\boxplus f8\) 26 e6 1-0

962) J. González – Almagro  
*Mancha Real 2001*

The black king is badly placed and White, a pawn up, is threatening mate, but with so little material left on the board Black has enough defensive resources...

69...\(\boxplus g4\)?

...but not after this move, which results by force in a lost ending. Instead, 69...\(\boxplus e4\)!! allows Black to steer the game towards a draw. After 70 \(\boxplus d7\) (if 70 \(\boxplus f7\) then 70...\(\boxplus f4\) 71 \(\boxplus b5\) \(\boxplus a4\) regains the pawn) 70...\(\boxplus a4\)!! 71 \(\boxplus x d8\) \(\boxplus x a5\) Black manages to exchange the remaining pawns, reaching a drawn endgame of rook and knight against rook; e.g., 72 \(\boxplus c3\) \(\boxplus a8\) or 72 \(\boxplus d6\) \(\boxplus e5\) (72...\(\boxplus a3\) 73 \(\boxplus e4\) \(\boxplus g4\) is also good) 73 \(\boxplus c7\) \(\boxplus d3\).

70 \(\boxplus h7\) \(\boxplus g5\) 71 \(\boxplus g7\) \(\boxplus h5\) 72 \(\boxplus x g6\) \(\boxplus x g4\) 73 \(\boxplus x g4\) \(\boxplus x g4\) 74 \(\boxplus a6\) \(\boxplus b6\) 75 \(\boxplus d6\) \(\boxplus f4\) 76 \(\boxplus d5\) \(\boxplus a7\) 77 \(\boxplus c8\) 1-0

The pawn queens after 77...\(\boxplus f2\) 78 \(\boxplus c6\) \(\boxplus e5\) 79 \(\boxplus d6\).

963) M. Gurevich – Vallejo  
*Spanish Team Ch, Mondariz 2002*

With 30 \(\boxplus h1\)!! White can aspire to no more than equality: 30...\(\boxplus g3\)!! 31 \(\boxplus f1\) (31 \(\boxplus h2\) \(\boxplus h5\)!! 31...\(\boxplus e2\), while if 30 \(\boxplus h2\)?? Black can play 30...\(\boxplus g6\) 31 \(\boxplus f6\) \(\boxplus h8\) 32 \(\boxplus x e8\) \(\boxplus x e8\), when 33 \(\boxplus g5\)?? loses to 33...\(\boxplus x d6\).

The game continued 30 \(\boxplus x e2\)? \(\boxplus x e2\)!! (not 30...\(\boxplus x e2\)?? 31 \(\boxplus f6\) \(\boxplus x f6\) 32 \(\boxplus x f6\) \(\boxplus e6\) 33 \(\boxplus x g5\) \(\boxplus g6\) 34 \(\boxplus x c5\) 35 \(\boxplus f4\) \(\boxplus e6\) 32 \(\boxplus x e6\) \(\boxplus f6\) 33 \(\boxplus x d6\) \(\boxplus h8\) 0-1.

Instead, the unusual 30...\(\boxplus f2\)!! gives White a big advantage, threatening 31 \(\boxplus f6\) \(\boxplus h8\) 32
This ending is a draw, but Black's defence would be simpler if he didn't have his h-pawn, as we shall see.

81...g6+?

This check loses. Although it is hard to believe, the clearest way to draw is by 81...g7! 82 a8+ g8 (if the black king emerges from its prison immediately with 82...h7?? it walks into a mate after 83 e4+ h6 84 f6!) and now if, for instance, 83 a4 g4 84 e4, then 84...g7 and the king escapes from its precarious position.

82 f5 d6

After this, Black's rook remains separated from its king and White wins easily, but now the position is lost in any case: if 82...g7 then 83 f7! keeps the king incarcerated; e.g., 83...h7 84 f6 h6 85 a5 and the black pawn rules out the typical stalemate defence with 85...g6+.

83 e6 b6 84 f6 b1 1-0

967) Kožul – Bologan

Sarajevo 2005

43...a1??

This logical move loses, as do 43 c8? wxe7, 43 c1? xh3+ 44 gxh3 xh3+ 45 g1 g4+ 46 h1 e2 and 43 f1? xh3+! 44 gxh3 xh3+ 45 g1 g3+ 46 h1 h4+ 47 g2 g4+ 48 h2 e2! 49 f3 and now the simplest win is 49...h5!, threatening 50...g1+ 51 h3 h1#.

The correct path for White is 43 h2!! f2 44 h1! and the game is drawn after 44...h4 or 44...xh3+ 45 gxh3 f3+.

43...xh3+!! 44 gxh3 xh3+

The cooperation between the queen and the knight is very powerful and there is no defence.

45 g1 g4+ 46 h1

Or 46 f2 f3+ 47 g1 e2+ 48 h2 g3+ 49 h1 h3#.

46...f3 0-1

968) A. Zubarev – Lechtynsky

Pardubice 2006

22 h5!!

With this wonderful move White is able to highlight the fact that the black king is poorly defended. The threat is 23 xh7+.

22...gxh5

If 22...g8 then 23 xg6+ hxg6 24 xg6+ h8 25 h5+ g8 26 g4 and it will be mate
in a few moves; White is threatening, for instance, 27 \(\text{h}6+ \text{x}h6 28 \text{g}6+\) with a forced checkmate.

23 \(\text{d}1!\)

This is the key; the bishop fulfils the same function as the queen, thanks to the knight on f5 and the rook on g3. Once again mind triumphs over matter, something that does not happen often, but when it does, it fills the chessboard with its beauty.

23...\(\text{xd}5\)

There is no way out with 23...\(\text{g}7 24 \text{h}xg7+ \text{x}f8\) on account of 25 \(\text{h}6\), threatening \(\text{g}3+\) and \(\text{x}h5\#.

24 \text{exd}5 1-0

Despite his great superiority material, Black is completely lost.

969) Mamedyarov – I. Sokolov

Hoogeveen 2006

49 \(\text{c}4?\)

This logical-looking move throws away the win. The correct option is 49 \(\text{f}5!\) gxf5 (or 49...\(\text{xd}7 50 \text{h}5\) with a final sequence similar to the main line) 50 gxf5 b3 51 \(\text{c}3 \text{xd}5\) and now the h-pawn is the one to queen after the manoeuvre 52 e6! fxe6 53 f6! gxf6 54 h5, and Black's pawns act as a barrier to their own king.

49...\(\text{b}3 50 \text{xb}3 \text{d}5 51 \text{g}5 \text{e}6 52 \text{c}4 \text{e}7 53 \text{b}5 \text{f}6?\)

The way to draw is with 53...\(\text{e}6! 54 \text{c}5 \text{e}7, and White is unable to create a passed pawn or infiltrate with his king.

54 gxf6+ gxf6 55 \(\text{c}5\)

But now White has a passed pawn once again.

55...\(\text{e}6 56 \text{d}4 \text{d}7\)

Or 56...\(\text{f}5 57 \text{d}5\).

57 \(\text{d}5 \text{e}7 58 \text{e}6 \text{d}8 59 \text{d}6 \text{e}8 60 \text{e}7\)

1-0

The finish might be 60...f5 61 \(\text{e}6 \text{g}5 62 \text{f}xg5 \text{f}4 63 \text{g}6 \text{f}3 64 \text{g}7 \text{f}2 65 \text{g}8\#.

970) Y. Vovk – Bobras

Cappelle la Grande 2007

Black has two possible ways to win: one is by capturing the white pawns, but since he has the ‘wrong’ bishop with respect to the queening square of the pawn, he has at the same time to prevent the white king from reaching h1.

The other way to win is to stalemate White’s king, thus forcing him to play g5 whereupon Black’s h-pawn turns into a g-pawn, while also releasing the stalemate. To illustrate this, let’s imagine a position with the black king on c4, the bishop on b4, and the white king on a4. With White to play, White would be in zugzwang, but if it were Black’s turn the game would be a draw.

One of the famous examples of successful defence in this type of endgame is Korchnoi- Karpov, World Ch match (game 5), Baguio City 1978.

85...\(\text{c}5!\)

The natural 85...\(\text{d}5?\) allows White to find a route to safety:

a) The above explanation becomes clearer if White errs with 86 \(\text{d}7??, which loses after 86...

87 \(\text{e}4 87 \text{e}6 \text{f}4 88 \text{d}5 \text{g}4 89 \text{e}4 \text{c}5!\) (cutting off the white king’s route to h1) 90 \(\text{d}3 \text{xh}5 91 \text{e}2 \text{g}4 92 \text{f}1 \text{f}3 and again the white king remains outside the drawing zone and so the h-pawn queens.

b) The correct path is 86 \(\text{b}6! 87 \text{d}5 \text{c}6 88 \text{c}4 \text{d}3 89 \text{d}3 \text{c}5 90 \text{d}2 \text{e}3+ 91 \text{d}3 and White has made no progress, as the tablebases confirm.

86 \(\text{d}7 \text{d}5! 87 \text{e}7 \text{e}4 88 \text{c}6 \text{f}4 89 \text{d}5 \text{g}4 90 \text{d}4\)

If 90...\(\text{e}4\) then 90...\(\text{c}5!\) and the white king can’t reach h1.

Returning to the game, now the immediate 90...\(\text{xh}5?\) allows the king to get back without any problems: 91 \(\text{e}3 \text{g}4 92 \text{f}2, and draws.

90...\(\text{c}5+!\) 0-1

This pretty sacrifice prevents the white king from reaching the safe zone: 91 \(\text{x}c5 (91 \text{e}4 \text{b}6! leaves the white king in zugzwang; e.g., 92 \text{d}3 \text{xh}5 93 \text{e}2 \text{g}4 94 \text{f}1 \text{f}3) 91...\text{xh}5 92 \text{d}4 \text{g}4 93 \text{e}3 \text{e}3 94 \text{f}2, and Black wins.

971) Shomoev – Kurnosov

Russian Ch, Krasnoiarsk 2007

Black should have resigned many moves ago, but he kept playing, and White assumed, prematurely, that the point was in the bag. It is a relatively simple win in fact, but the position is not one where ‘anything wins’, as we shall see.

73 \(\text{f}7??\)

The only way to win is 73 \(\text{h}6!, with the possible continuation 73...\(\text{f}2+ 74 \text{e}6 \text{e}2+ 75 \text{d}6 \text{d}2+\) (since White is threatening to win by moving his rook to the eighth rank, all Black can do is either keep checking or move his own rook to his back rank) 76 \(\text{c}5 \text{d}8 77 \text{f}7 \text{e}8+ (if 77...\(\text{g}8\) then there is the nice shot 78
h7+! 8xh7 79 8f8) 78 8d6 8d8+ 79 8c7, followed by 80 8f8, and White wins.
73... 8f2+! 74 8e8 8g8!
White was threatening to win with 75 8f7.
75 8h6
75 8d7 8h2 is a draw.
75... 8f6 76 h7+ 8xh7 77 8f7 8a6 1/2-1/2

972)  S. Novikov – Yakovenko
Moscow 2007
With correct defence by White, the game reaches a position analysed by Keres, one of reciprocal zugzwang. After an exhausting defence under enemy pressure, White succeeded admirably in finding the only moves to defend.
74 8b4!
The nervous check 74 8b2+? loses after 74... 8f3, followed by 75 8e2+.
74... 8h4? 75 8f4+
A vital zwischenschach. Here 75 8xg4? is bad on account of 75... 8xg3+ 76 8h3 8f3!, and White loses, because now any rook move along the g-file is answered by 76 8f6 or 76 8f7, as appropriate; e.g., 77 8g8 8f7! and Black wins. Note that the attacked stalemate with 77 8f4 loses here to 77...g2+.
75... 8f3 76 8xg4 8xg3+ 77 8h3
We have reached the same position as at move 76 in the previous note, but this time with Black to move; as we shall see, this makes a big difference. Now Black tries a couple of waiting moves, before going back to the f-file.
77... 8e3 78 8g8 8d3 79 8g7 8f3 80 8g4!
The only move, bringing about the same position as at move 77.
80... 8f8
and here, thanks to 80 8g4, Black has 81 8f4+!
Exactly according to Keres’s analysis.
81... 8xf4 1/2-1/2

973)  Morozevich – Aronian
Morelia/Linares 2007
Black is two pawns up, but his pieces are dangerously distant from the kingside.
It is the eternal struggle between an enduring advantage, such as extra material, and a temporary advantage, such as an attack, which is ephemeral and has to be exploited right away.
38 8f3?!
White misses his first chance. He can win with a beautiful but well-hidden manoeuvre: 38 8d8+ 8g7 39 f6+ 8h6 40 8h4! (by using the king as an attacking piece, White prevents the black king’s escape via g5 or h5 and threatens 41 8f8#). 40... 8xd4+ 41 g4 8b4 (to prevent 42 8f8#, but...) 42 8f8+!! 8xf8 43 8g5#.
38... 8f1? 39 8xg6?
There is not always a second chance, either in life or on the chessboard. White misses this one too. It is still possible to play 39 8d8+ 8g7 40 f6+ 8h6 and here the same idea, which possibly was what Morozevich overlooked: 41 8h4!! 8e1+ 42 8g3 8e4+ 43 8g4 8e1+ 44 8g3 and there is no satisfactory defence against 45 8f8#.
39... 8xf3+ 40 8xf3
40 gxf3 hxg6 is similar to the game, in that the exposed position of the white king, and Black’s three pawns for the piece, prevent any serious winning attempt.
40... 8e1+
Not 40... 8xd4?? 41 8xf7+ 8h8 42 8h7#. 41 8f4
41 8h2 8e5+ 42 8g3 hxg6 is not very promising either.
41... 8xg6 42 8xd5 8f2+ 43 8f3 1/2-1/2
In view of 43... 8xg2, a draw was agreed. The same result is reached after 43 8e5 8g3+ 44 8f6 8h4+ with perpetual check, or 43 8g4 a4.

974)  Franco – Sánchez Aller
Villagarcía 2007
White’s position seems to be on the verge of defeat. His extra pawn matters less than Black’s two passed pawns on a4 and d4. The threat is, amongst other things, 58...d3, followed by ...d4+, ...8xf3+, etc., while 58 8xg7 loses to 58...a3 and the a-pawn is the one to queen.
58 8d1!
The only move to hold the position, found by elimination. It prevents the main threat of 58... 8c2!, after which one of the black pawns would queen, making any other consideration of secondary importance.
58... 8g6?
Black is reluctant to accept a draw, since this is a team competition and he has to win, but he can’t see how and so he ends up losing. The obvious 58...d3! is the most dangerous try, but not enough to win after 59 c88+ 8xc8 60 8xg7 d2 61 8h6! (not 61 8xf6+?! 8d3, when Black threatens both 62... 8b7 and to queen the a-pawn, and wins after 62 8g5 a3 63 8xd2 a2) 61...a3 62 8xd2+ 8b3 63 8e3 8c3 and now
64 \( \mathcal{d}2+ \) is best, with a draw. Instead, 64 \( \mathcal{c}1? \) a2 65 \( \mathcal{d}4+ \mathcal{x}d4 66 \mathcal{b}2 \) provides losing chances only; e.g., 66...\( \mathcal{e}5 67 \mathcal{h}4 \mathcal{xb}6 68 \mathcal{g}5 \) (or 68 \( \mathcal{h}5 \mathcal{e}6 69 \mathcal{h}6 \mathcal{g}8 70 \mathcal{f}4 \mathcal{h}7! 71 \mathcal{g}5 \) 71 \( \mathcal{f}5 \) loses to 71...\( \mathcal{e}7 72 \mathcal{g}5 \mathcal{f}x\mathcal{g}5 73 \mathcal{f}6 \mathcal{d}7 \), arriving just in time) 71...\( \mathcal{f}5 \) and Black wins) 68...\( \mathcal{f}5 69 \mathcal{h}5 \mathcal{f}4 70 \mathcal{g}6 \mathcal{e}5 71 \mathcal{a}xa2 \mathcal{c}5.

58...\( \mathcal{d}3 \) does not work either: 59 \( \mathcal{e}7g7 \) a3 60 \( \mathcal{c}1 a2 \mathcal{b}2 \mathcal{e}2 62 \mathcal{xf}6 \mathcal{d}3 63 \mathcal{g}5 \mathcal{d}2 64 \mathcal{xd}2 \mathcal{xd}2 65 \mathcal{g}5, \) and White wins.

Finally, 58...\( \mathcal{xf}3? \) even leads to a win for White after 59 \( \mathcal{c}1 \mathcal{b}7 60 \mathcal{a}g7 a3 61 \mathcal{b}1 \mathcal{d}3 62 \mathcal{xf}6+ \mathcal{b}3 63 \mathcal{g}5 \mathcal{c}3 64 \mathcal{h}4.

59 \( \mathcal{c}7 \mathcal{f}5?! \)

This makes White’s task easier, but by now there is no defence.

60 \( gxf5 gxf5 61 f4 \mathcal{d}3 \)

If 61...\( d3, 62 \mathcal{f}6+! \) wins.

62 \( \mathcal{b}4 \mathcal{e}4 63 \mathcal{h}5 1-0 \)

975)  J. Polgar – Bareev

Candidates match (game 5), Elista 2007

25 \( \mathcal{e}7g7! \)

White exploits the fact that the black queen is a long way from the kingside to launch a quick mating attack. It is noteworthy that the knight on c3 takes no direct part in the struggle but does in fact contribute indirectly, both by obstructing the black queen’s defence of e5 and also, as we shall see, by controlling the bl-square.

25...\( \mathcal{e}7g7 26 \mathcal{h}6+ \mathcal{g}8 \)

After 26...\( \mathcal{f}7 27 \mathcal{b}1 \) Black must give up his queen, a testament to the c3-knight’s supporting role in the attack.

27 \( g6! \mathcal{hxg}6 28 \mathcal{h}6+ \mathcal{h}8 29 \mathcal{h}1! \)

This is the last important move that White needs to calculate; the knight can’t attack, but bringing the rook into play proves decisive.

29...\( \mathcal{f}4 \)

29...\( \mathcal{d}2 \) loses to 30 \( \mathcal{hxh}5+ \mathcal{g}7 31 \mathcal{g}1+ \mathcal{f}6 32 \mathcal{f}5+ \mathcal{e}7 33 \mathcal{g}7+ \mathcal{d}6 34 \mathcal{h}7+ \mathcal{e}5 35 \mathcal{e}x\mathcal{e}5+, \)

30 \( \mathcal{hxh}5+ \mathcal{g}8 31 \mathcal{g}1+ \mathcal{f}8 32 \mathcal{h}8+ \mathcal{f}7 \)

33 \( \mathcal{g}7+ 1-0 \)

If 33...\( \mathcal{e}8 \) then 34 \( \mathcal{e}x\mathcal{e}5+ \) wins quickly.

976)  Salinas – Fariña

Asunción 2007

1 \( \mathcal{xf}8+! \)

1 \( \mathcal{h}6? \) only leads to a draw: 1...\( \mathcal{f}1+! 2 \mathcal{xf}1 \mathcal{xf}1+ 3 \mathcal{g}2 \mathcal{e}2+ 4 \mathcal{h}3 \mathcal{e}6+. \)

1...\( \mathcal{xf}8 \)

1...\( \mathcal{g}7 \) prevents mate, but Black remains a piece down after 2 \( \mathcal{e}8. \)

2 \( \mathcal{h}6+ \mathcal{e}8 \)

2...\( \mathcal{e}7 \) is no better, since 3 \( \mathcal{d}7+ \mathcal{e}8 \) transposes to the next note.

3 \( \mathcal{e}1+? \)

White fails to find the win that is available with 3 \( \mathcal{d}8+!! \) \( \mathcal{xd}8 \) (or 3...\( \mathcal{e}7 4 \mathcal{f}8# \) 4 \( \mathcal{f}8+ \mathcal{c}7 5 \mathcal{c}7+ \mathcal{b}6 \) (5...\( \mathcal{b}8 \) 6 \( \mathcal{d}8# \) is shorter) 6 \( \mathcal{d}8+ \mathcal{b}5 7 \mathcal{a}5#. \)

3...\( \mathcal{e}6 \)

And Black won quickly.

977)  Ljubojević – Smets

Amsterdam 2007

There are two moves which draw, and a ‘normal’ move which is in fact bad.

85 \( \mathcal{e}5? \)

White plays the ‘normal’ move, which is to approach with his king, but it loses. White can draw with 85 \( \mathcal{d}7! \) and after 85...\( \mathcal{x}c5 86 \mathcal{h}1! \) White prevents the black king from advancing; if now 86...\( \mathcal{h}7+ 87 \mathcal{e}6 \mathcal{h}6+, \) White has to go back with 88 \( \mathcal{d}7!, \) and Black is unable to make progress. Similarly, 85 \( \mathcal{c}7! \) also draws.

85...\( \mathcal{x}c5 86 \mathcal{e}4 \)

If now 86 \( \mathcal{b}1 \) Black cuts off the white king and shelters his king from checks with 86...\( \mathcal{h}4! \)

87 \( \mathcal{c}1+ \mathcal{c}4 88 \mathcal{b}1 \mathcal{b}4 89 \mathcal{c}1+ \mathcal{b}5, \) etc. We can see clearly from this that the white king fulfills no positive function on e5, as it would on \( d7 \) or c7.

86...\( \mathcal{e}4! 87 \mathcal{e}3 \mathcal{c}3 \)

Another typical method is to cut off the defending king horizontally with 87...\( \mathcal{h}2 88 \mathcal{b}1 \mathcal{c}2! \) followed by...\( e5, \) but not 88...\( c5?? \) 89 \( \mathcal{e}1+ \mathcal{b}4 90 \mathcal{d}3, \) with a draw.

88 \( \mathcal{e}7 \mathcal{e}6+ 89 \mathcal{f}4 \mathcal{e}4! 90 \mathcal{f}5 \mathcal{h}6 91 \mathcal{e}4 \mathcal{c}5 \mathcal{y}3 \mathcal{d}6 93 \mathcal{e}2 \mathcal{h}4 94 \mathcal{b}7+ \mathcal{c}3 95 \mathcal{b}1 \mathcal{c}2 96 \mathcal{a}1 \mathcal{e}6+ 97 \mathcal{f}3 \mathcal{c}4 0-1 \)

978)  Illescas – Narciso

Barcelona 2007

In order to win, White must either win the a2-pawn, or capture the rook with check, which White manages to do with a series of precise moves.

46 \( \mathcal{c}3+! \mathcal{f}6 47 \mathcal{f}5+! \)

But not 47 \( \mathcal{g}3+? \) \( \mathcal{e}6 \) and White must get perpetual check with 48 \( \mathcal{e}3+ \mathcal{g}6 49 \mathcal{d}3+ \mathcal{g}7 50 \mathcal{g}3+. \)

47...\( \mathcal{g}6 \)
74...\hbox{h}7 only delays the outcome: 48 \hbox{w}c7+ (48 \hbox{g}4 is also good enough) 48...\hbox{g}6 49 \hbox{h}4+ \hbox{h}6 50 \hbox{w}f4+ \hbox{g}7 51 \hbox{g}3+ \hbox{f}7 52 \hbox{w}c7+ \hbox{e}6 53 \hbox{w}c4+ and 54 \hbox{w}xa2.

48 \hbox{h}4+ \hbox{g}7 49 \hbox{w}g3+ \hbox{h}7

49...\hbox{f}7 is met by 50 \hbox{w}c7+ \hbox{e}6 51 \hbox{w}c4+.

50 \hbox{w}g6+ \hbox{h}8 51 \hbox{w}xf6+ 1-0

If 51...\hbox{g}8 then 52 \hbox{w}e6+ and 53 \hbox{w}xa2.

979) Ibarra – Illescas
Spanish Ch, Ceuta 2008

48 \hbox{f}8?!

Although White is still better after this, he misses a clear win by 48 \hbox{d}d7!, with three pieces in the attack, to which there is no defence:

a) If 48...\hbox{g}7 White wins with 49 \hbox{g}5+ \hbox{g}6 (49...\hbox{h}7 50 \hbox{w}f8) 50 \hbox{w}g8+ and the black king is caught in a mating-net; e.g., 50...\hbox{xf}5 51 \hbox{h}7+ \hbox{g}5 52 \hbox{b}4+ \hbox{h}5 53 \hbox{w}xf7+ \hbox{h}4 54 \hbox{d}3, soon mating.

b) 48...\hbox{g}7 49 \hbox{f}5 (49...\hbox{e}4+ and 49...\hbox{xf}7 are also strong) 49...\hbox{xf}2 50 \hbox{g}7 \hbox{g}6 51 \hbox{w}b7.

48...\hbox{g}7 49 \hbox{w}xf7 \hbox{d}6 50 \hbox{w}d5 \hbox{w}xf2 51 \hbox{w}e4+ \hbox{g}8 52 \hbox{f}5 \hbox{f}8 53 \hbox{w}e5?

White can still play for a win with 53 \hbox{d}3!.

53...\hbox{f}3! 54 \hbox{g}1 1/2-1/2

980) Velasco – Bachmann
Dresden Olympiad 2008

27...\hbox{g}3?

After 27...\hbox{xf}6? the sacrifice 28 \hbox{xe}6+! is sufficient to draw: 28...\hbox{xe}6 29 \hbox{d}8 30 \hbox{w}f6+ \hbox{c}8 31 \hbox{e}6+ \hbox{c}7 32 \hbox{e}7+ \hbox{c}6 33 \hbox{e}4+ \hbox{b}6 34 \hbox{e}3+! \hbox{b}7 35 \hbox{e}7+ with perpetual check.

Black’s best course is to play 27...\hbox{xf}6! and only after 28 \hbox{xe}4 to sacrifice with 28...\hbox{g}3! 29 \hbox{hx}3 (29 \hbox{xe}6+ \hbox{g}7 is winning for Black) 29...\hbox{hx}3 30 \hbox{g}1 \hbox{hx}3 31 \hbox{g}h3 \hbox{g}7 (preventing 32 \hbox{g}2? because of 32...\hbox{f}5) 32 \hbox{f}5 \hbox{d}5, with a big advantage; if 33 \hbox{fx}6 then 33...\hbox{f}5!.

27...\hbox{g}3+! is also better than the move in the game and after 28 \hbox{hx}3 \hbox{hx}3 29 \hbox{h}7 \hbox{d}8! 30 \hbox{h}4+ (better than 30 \hbox{h}6? \hbox{d}5 31 \hbox{g}1 \hbox{c}7 32 \hbox{e}3 \hbox{f}5) 30...\hbox{c}8 31 \hbox{g}1 \hbox{g}7 32 \hbox{e}3 \hbox{a}7!, Black has the safer king.

28 \hbox{hx}3 \hbox{d}g3+?

Black should play 28...\hbox{hx}3 29 \hbox{xe}4 \hbox{hx}3+ 30 \hbox{gx}3 \hbox{f}5 31 \hbox{g}2 \hbox{fx}4 32 \hbox{xe}4 \hbox{d}7, and although White has the advantage, Black can still fight on, with possibilities of success.

29 \hbox{h}2 \hbox{xe}2 30 \hbox{g}4!!
This move refutes Black’s idea.

30...\hbox{xf}4 31 \hbox{w}f4
and White won.

981) Riazantsev – Yandemirov
Moscow 2008

25 \hbox{d}8!!

A lovely move, designed to disrupt the defence and deflect the black rook to an unfavourable square. In order to discover this solution it is essential to delve deeply into the position. 25 \hbox{g}7? does not win: 25...\hbox{xd}1+ 26 \hbox{h}2 \hbox{f}5 (defending the g7-square) 27 \hbox{gxh}8 \hbox{w}++ (after 27 \hbox{h}5? \hbox{hx}5+ 28 \hbox{hx}5 \hbox{g}7 Black has a big material advantage) 27...\hbox{hx}8 28 \hbox{h}5 (28 \hbox{w}f6+ \hbox{g}8 is not an improvement) and here there is only one saving move, viz. 28...\hbox{f}6!!.

Then:

a) 29 \hbox{ex}6? is bad: 29...\hbox{w}d6+ 30 \hbox{g}7 31 \hbox{g}7+ \hbox{g}8 and the discovered check is not only harmless, but it does not even save the position.

b) Also bad is 29 \hbox{g}7+? \hbox{g}8 30 \hbox{xf}6+ \hbox{f}7 and Black remains a piece up.

c) After 29...\hbox{xf}6 Black can draw by 29...\hbox{w}d8 30 \hbox{c}e8 \hbox{w}e8 31 \hbox{w}f6+ \hbox{g}8 with perpetual check.

d) 29...\hbox{xf}6+ is a forced draw after 29...\hbox{g}8 30 \hbox{g}5+ \hbox{f}7! 31 \hbox{w}f6+ \hbox{g}8 32 \hbox{g}5+, with perpetual check.

25...\hbox{xd}8 26 \hbox{g}7! \hbox{d}1+?!

This places the rook out of harm’s way but also weakens Black’s back rank. 26...\hbox{d}1+ 27 \hbox{h}2 \hbox{f}5 is preferable, although now White wins by 28 \hbox{gx}h8 \hbox{w}++ 29 \hbox{hx}8 29 \hbox{h}5 \hbox{f}6 30 \hbox{g}7+ \hbox{g}8 31 \hbox{hx}6+ \hbox{f}7 32 \hbox{xd}8, with a strong attack; this shows one of the points of 25 \hbox{d}8!!.

27 \hbox{h}2 \hbox{f}5 28 \hbox{gx}h8 \hbox{w}++ 29 \hbox{hx}8 29 \hbox{h}5 \hbox{f}6 30 \hbox{w}f6+ \hbox{g}8 31 \hbox{f}8# (1-0)

982) Groetz – Segers
Leiden 2008

12 \hbox{f}5?

This is a typical sacrifice in the Sicilian, in this case designed to open both the diagonal of the b3-bishop and the e-file, where a white rook is already situated. The immediate 12 \hbox{w}xg7?! fails to 12...\hbox{g}8 13 \hbox{w}h6 b4 14 \hbox{a}4 \hbox{g}6 15 \hbox{w}h3 \hbox{cxe}4, while after 12...\hbox{d}5, another typical sacrifice, capturing with 12...\hbox{ex}d5?, is bad in view of 13 \hbox{w}xg7 \hbox{g}8 14 \hbox{c}xd5!, winning
material, but after 12...\(\text{b7 White has no good follow-up.}\)

12...\(\text{exf5?!}\)

Perhaps 12...\(\text{b4 is more tenacious, although after 13...e5! (to open the d-file) 13...dxe5 14...\text{g7+} \text{dxd8 (14...\text{f8} 15...\text{h6}) 15...\text{a4, White is clearly better, since the black king is in a bad way; alternatively 12...\text{dxb3 13...\text{g7+} d7 14...cxb3! is very unpleasant for Black.}\)}}\)

13...\(\text{g7 f8} 14...\text{xf5 d8}\)

Or 14...\(\text{dxb3 15...cxb3 d8 16...\text{g5 g8} (if 16...\text{g7 White wins with 17...\text{g5 g8 18...xf6! gxf6 19...h8+ e8 20...xe8+ xe8 21...c7+, and 16...\text{c6 17...g5 g8 is no better, since now 18...xf7 is possible) 17...c7 g7 18...xa8, and White wins.}\)}}\)

15...\(\text{g5 g8} 16...\text{xf6! xg5}\)

Or 16...\(\text{xf6 17...xf6+ d7 18...e7+ c6 19...d5+ b6 20...c7 c7 21...xa8.}\)

17...\(\text{h8+! d7 18...d5 1-0}\)

983) An. Hernández – Patriarca

Paraguayan Ch, Ciudad del Este 2008

White appears to have a won game with his two unstoppable connected passed pawns, but there is a precedent, Keres-Eliskases, Noordwijk 1938, knowledge of which helped Black to achieve a draw:

45...\(\text{f4! 46 g7}\)

Insufficient to win is 46...\(\text{f7+ e5 47 h7 h1+ 48...g5 f1+ 49...h5 h1+.}\)

46...\(\text{f5}\)

Preventing queening by threatening mate.

47...\(\text{h4 e1+!}\)

Black can’t continue in the same vein, since 47...\(\text{f4?}\) loses to 48...\(\text{h3 f3 49...f7+ and 50...g8+}\).

48...\(\text{xe1 xe1 49 h7}\)

Not 49...\(\text{g3? f6! and Black wins.}\)

49...\(\text{f4!}\)

Now this works.

50...\(\text{h3 f3 51...h2 e2+!}\)

This check is vital for achieving the draw.

52...\(\text{h3 e1 1/2-1/2}\)

984) Kramnik – Aronian

Wijk aan Zee 2008

103...\(\text{f7?}\)

Exhausted by having to conduct a lengthy defence, Black makes a decisive error. The immediate 103...\(\text{a7?}\) loses to 104...h7 \(\text{h7 105...c6.}\)

In order to draw Black needs to deflect the white king with 103...\(\text{a5+!}, and after 104...\(\text{c6, only then 104...\(\text{a7!}, with the plan of ...\(\text{f7 and ...\(\text{g6; if the white king moves to the centre, Black draws by checking from the side.}\)}}\)

104...\(\text{h1! a5+ 105...c4 a4+ 106...b5}\)

107...h7 \(\text{h8 108...h6}\)

Now Black can hardly move, so the white king is able to move across to support the f6-pawn, winning.

108...\(\text{b8+ 109...c6 c8+ 110...d6 1-0}\)

985) Ivanchuk – Topalov

Sofia 2009

Black can draw by perpetual check with 40...\(\text{e2+ 41...b3 c4+}, but he found something much stronger:

40...\(\text{b3+!}\)

Cutting off the white king’s escape-route.

41...\(\text{d2}\)

Or 41...\(\text{xb3 e2+ followed by ...xf1+.}\)

41...\(\text{d8+ 42...e1 d1+ 43...d1 xf1+ 44...d2 f4+ 45...d1 bxa2 (D)}\)

This pawn gives Black a winning position. First he improves the position of the queen.

46...\(\text{c8+ f7 47...d7+ f6}\)

The black king will reach a safe position in the enemy camp.

48...\(\text{d8+ f5 49...f8+ e4! 50...a8+ d3}\)

51...\(\text{a6+ c4 52...a7}\)

After 52...\(\text{d6+ e4 the checks run out.}\)

52...\(\text{g3 53 b3}\)

53...\(\text{h3 g4+ 54...c1 g5+ leads to mate.}\)

53...\(\text{h3+ 54...e1 c2 0-1}\)

986) Gashimov – Grischuk

Grand Prix, Baku 2008

22...\(\text{h7!}\)

The decisive move; it is important to control the h-file. For example, 22...\(\text{g7?}\) fails to
22...\( \text{g4!} \) 23 \text{exd5} \text{w}d4+, and now 24 \text{h1}? loses to 24...\text{xg5}, while after 24 \text{h2}? \text{xg5} 25 \text{w}xg5 (25 \text{f}f1?? \text{w}h4+ 26 \text{g}g1 \text{xe}3+ and mate next move) 25...\text{h}h8+ 26 \text{g}g3 \text{xa}6 White's king is in a very precarious position, so White has to take a draw with 24 \text{f}f2 \text{w}d1+ 25 \text{f}f1 \text{w}d4+.

22...\text{g4} 23 \text{exd5} \text{w}d4+
23...\text{xg5} is met by 24 \text{a}7+! \text{xa}7 25 \text{w}x7+, when Black must give up his queen to prevent mate.

24 \text{h1} \text{xg5} 25 \text{f}a1 \text{c}e3 26 \text{a}7+ \text{xa}7 27 \text{xa}7+ \text{xa}7 28 \text{g}4 \text{f}f8 29 \text{g}5 \text{f}f2 30 \text{w}e4 \text{f}f1+ 31 \text{h}2 \text{f}4

Black's position is already lost, but this allows a neat finish. Black loses in similar fashion after 31...\text{g}1 32 \text{g}5 \text{g}5 33 \text{h}3 (intending 34 \text{h}4) 33...\text{f}2 and now, for instance, 34 \text{g}4.

32 \text{w}x{f4!} \text{xf4} 33 c3 1-0

987) Garcia Palermo – Naumann

Mitropa Cup, Olbia 2008

30 \text{c}x{d7??!}

This squanders White's advantage for very little reward, 30 \text{e}1? also achieves nothing after 30...\text{d}2!, forcing 31 \text{f}f1 \text{x}f2! 32 \text{xf}2 \text{c}1+ 33 \text{f}1 \text{e}3+ with a draw, but there is a win with 30 \text{f}f1!! (overprotecting f2) 30...\text{f}7 (30...\text{d}5?? allows mate with 31 \text{h}5+) 31 \text{xf}3 \text{f}5. Now there are two white pieces attacked, but Black's pieces are also weak, and with the manoeuvre 32 e5! \text{d}7 (32...\text{xf}3 loses to 33 \text{xb}8) 33 \text{f}4, White keeps his material advantage while the black king remains very weak.

30...\text{c}x{d7} 31 \text{d}4 \text{f}5 32 \text{e}1 \text{d}5 33 \text{h}4?

It is better to simplify by 33 \text{g}7? \text{f}3 34 \text{f}1, with equality.

33...\text{f}3! and Black won.

988) Wang Hao – Rublevsky

Poikovsky 2008

White sacrificed a piece to reach this attacking position, and we stand at a critical moment.

22 \text{xf}8+?

This combination is unsound, and yields a draw at best. The strongest move was 22 \text{f}f5!, threatening 23 \text{xg}5+. Then:

a) 22...\text{xg}2+?! 23 \text{xg}2 \text{xg}2 24 \text{xg}2 \text{e}7 (24...\text{c}5 25 \text{c}7!) 25 \text{f}3 and Black is paralysed.

b) 22...\text{e}7?! 23 \text{xg}5! \text{w}xg2+ 24 \text{xf}7 \text{w}xg5 25 \text{xc}7 \text{d}5 (25...\text{x}h3 is similar) 26 \text{f}8+ \text{xf}8 27 \text{x}f8+ \text{g}7 28 \text{x}f7+ \text{g}8 29 \text{x}b4 \text{xe}6 30 \text{a}6 \text{c}8 31 \text{c}5 d3 32 \text{f}2 \text{g}7 33 \text{e}3 \text{d}8 34 \text{d}6 and White emerges two pawns up.

c) Black does not seem have anything better than 22...\text{h}7 23 \text{xb}4! \text{g}7 (23...\text{xb}4? loses to 24 \text{xf}5+ \text{h}8 25 \text{g}7) 24 \text{w}f2!, and the threat of mate starting with 25 \text{w}f8+ forces Black to give back the piece, with advantage to White after 24...\text{xf}6 25 \text{xb}7, although Black can continue to fight.

22...\text{xf}8 23 \text{xf}8+ \text{xf}8 24 \text{w}f2+ \text{e}8 25 \text{f}7+ \text{d}8 26 \text{e}7+ \text{e}8 27 \text{f}8+?

It is still possible to seek a draw in the endgame after 27 \text{e}8+ \text{e}8 28 \text{w}e8+ \text{c}7 29 \text{w}e7+ \text{b}6 30 \text{d}6+ \text{wd}6 31 \text{exd}6 a5 32 \text{e}5 h4 33 \text{d}5 h3 34 \text{xg}5 0-1

989) Salgado – A. Hernández

Padrón 2008

The game is in a critical phase: White has sacrificed two pawns for activity and to deprive the black king of a safe refuge anywhere on the board.

How should Black conduct the defence? There are two main possibilities, either to try to weather the storm or to try to counterattack, even though at the moment Black has fewer forces in play.

23...\text{w}7?

Black opts for retreat, although this gives a free hand to White, and now he will be unable to defend against White’s offensive. 23...\text{g}8! is worth considering; e.g., 24 \text{xf}6 \text{xf}6 25 \text{c}4 \text{g}2 26 \text{xd}6+ \text{e}7 27 \text{f}1 \text{e}6 and now 28 \text{c}5! \text{xc}2 29 \text{f}5+ \text{e}8 30 \text{d}6+ \text{e}7 31 \text{f}5++ leads to a draw. However, it is more promising to insert 23...\text{b}7! in order to open up the white king’s defences; e.g., 24 \text{xb}3 (24 \text{xb}3 sidetracks the knight and Black has good play after 24...\text{d}6 25 \text{d}2 a3 26 b3 d5) and now 24...\text{g}8, when the black pieces are very active; 25 \text{xf}6? loses to 25...\text{xe}6 26 \text{c}4 \text{g}2! 27 \text{f}1 (or 27 \text{xd}6+ \text{e}7 28 \text{d}5 \text{xe}2) 27...\text{axb}3 28 \text{cxb}3 \text{e}4+. 24 \text{c}4

24...\text{g}5!? may be even better. If 24...\text{d}5, threatening both 25...\text{xg}5 and 25...\text{c}3+, White has the strong reply 25 \text{c}4!. 1-0
24...e4?! 25 b6

Now White has a big advantage, since there are too many weaknesses in Black’s camp.

25...a5 26 e4 Qg5 27 xb4 xb6 28 axg5 b5 29 c4 xb2+ 30 xb2 xb6+ 31 a1 axg5 32 xf7+ xd8 33 g7 1-0

990) Jakubowski – V. Onischchuk

Najdorf Memorial, Warsaw 2008

71 Kg3?

Now White’s rook will remain passive and the black king will be able to come into play and win the game. Instead, White can draw with 71 c4! b3 (after 71...d2+ 72 d1 b3 73 c7 a8 White defends by expelling the black king with 74 b7+ c4 75 c7+ d4 76 d7+ c4 77 c2) 72 c7 c8 (Black gains nothing with 72 c8 73 b7+ c4 74 a7! b8 75 c7! b7 76 c7+! d1 (now 73 b7+? can be answered with 73...a4! 74 a7+ b5) 73...b4 74 b7+ c4 (74...a5 75 c7) 75 c7+ b3 76 c7 b2?! 77 b7+ a3 78 a7+ 79 b7+.

71...d2+ 72 d1 b2! 0-1

This is the big difference: Black’s king comes into the game and decides the struggle.

991) Kramnik – Grachev

Tal Memorial (blitz), Moscow 2008

55...h1+?

An unnecessary check that leads to Black’s defeat. Instead, there is a draw with 55...c1! 56 e8+ xc8 57 xc8 d5!, shouldering away the white king, and now Black has a draw by advancing his f-pawn; for example, 58 f8 c4 59 c5 f3 60 c4 c3 61 c3 f2 62 c2 c2.

56...xa5 a1+

Now 56...c1 fails to 57 e8+ xc8 58 xc8 e5 59 f8 e4 60 b4 (this route is a very fast one) 60...f3 61 c3 e3 62 e8+ f2 63 d2, and White wins.

57 b4 a1+ 58 a3 c1 59 e8+ xc8 60 xc8 d5 61 b3 d4 62 c2 e3 d1 f2 64 f8 f3 65 f7 1-0

992) Ivanchuk – Shirov

Spanish Team Ch, Motril 2008

White is a rook and a piece up and it is even his move, but the path to victory is not a simple one. The position is very complicated and the white king is unsafe; there are many false trails and only one that leads to victory.

There is no advantage in 29 xa3 xg1 30 wa8+ e8 31 d5 (or 31 b2 xc1!, which can transpose) 31 xc1+ 32 d1! 33 xc2 xd5 34 xd5 g6 35 xe4 (35 xb7 e5) 35...g7 36 xb7 d4, with enough counterplay to equalize.

29 c3 xg1 30 xc2 also leads to nothing special after 30...g6, despite the fact that Black has only two pawns for the piece; the white king remains vulnerable and the black pieces are ready to attack.

29 d5?

White can win with 29 wa8+ e8 30 xa3 xg1 and only now 31 d5!; White doesn’t lose his knight and remains with a winning position, albeit with ‘only’ one extra piece.

29...xg1 30 wa8+?

And this check even loses the game for White; 30 xa3! is forced and after 30...e8 (30...xc1+ gives no advantage after 31 h2 d1 32 wa8+ e8 33 xe8+ e8 34 xc2, etc.; White’s bishop is very strong) 31 a5 xc1+ 32 xc1 d8 33 cc2 xa5 34 d5! g6 35 xb7, we reach an endgame that is difficult to assess.

30...e8 31 wa3

After 31 xe8+ e8 White will be mated.

31...d5 0-1

Black is threatening mate, starting with 32...e5+ and he is now the exchange up.

993) Barsov – Flores

Dresden Olympiad 2008

White’s material advantage is huge, but his king is very weak. In serious time-pressure, Black overlooked the winning manoeuvre.

29...b6+?

Black wins by 29...c5+! 30 h1 e1+! (30...xd5+ 31 xd5 f3 32 e8+! e8 33 g2 d4 34 f1 c1+ 35 xe1 xe1 36 xd4 c3 37 c4 e2+ is another way) 31 g2 g1+! 32 h3 h8+ 33 ad7 xd7, with a decisive advantage.

30 d4 d2 31 xe5+?

The final sequence contains several blunders caused by time-pressure; here 31...h1 is better.

31...xd4 32 wa5++ d1+ 33 g2 d2+?

After 33...xa5! Black can still fight.

34 xd2 1-0

994) H. Leyva – Al Hadarani

Dresden Olympiad 2008

30 b4??
Very logical, bolstering the c5-knight, but White’s back rank is very poorly defended and this will be punished brilliantly. The correct move is 30...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh3}}! with the same idea. Then White will make decisive material gains; note that 30...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Hh4}} fails in view of 31 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxf6+ Hxf6}} 32 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxh6+ Kg1}}.

30...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh4}}!! 31 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxf8+ Hxf8}} 32 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxh6+ Ff1+ 0-1}}

After 33 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh2}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxe5+}} White is mated.

995) S. Haslinger – Savchenko (variation)

*Palma de Mallorca 2008*

GM Haslinger analysed this very interesting variation in *Jaque* magazine (January 2009).

21 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxe7?! Fxe7}} 22 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fg5+ Fh8}} 23 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Hh5+!}}

Placing the queen on its ideal square before playing e5. If 23 e5 then 23...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxc5+}} 24 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh1}}, and now Black can use his queen to assist the defence by exploiting the placing of the white queen with 24...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fec8}}. After 25 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff4}} Black can play 25...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff2+}} 26 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh2}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fg4+}} 27 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh1}} (or 27 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxf4}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxe5+}} 28 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxe5+}} dxe5 and Black has no problems) 27...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff2+}} with a draw. 23 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh4+?}} is not as strong, since it does not attack f7, and after 23...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fg7}}, 24 e5? fails to 24...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff6}} 25 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh1}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh8}}, and Black wins.

23...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fg8}}

Now 23...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fg7?}} loses to 24 e5! f5 (the difference is that if 24...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fec5+}} 25 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh1}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh8}} then 26 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxf7+ Fg8}} 27 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh7+}} mates) 25 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxf6+ Fxf6}} 26 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxf6+ Fxe6}} (26...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxf6}} loses to 27 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fg6+}}) 27 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff1+ Ff7}} 28 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff7+}} with mate in a few moves.

24 e5! \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fec5+}}

24...f5 is met by 25 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fg6+ Fh8}} 26 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff3}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fec5+}} 27 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff1+ Fh2}} 28 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff2}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{xex5+}} (28...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxf3}} loses to 29 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh1+}}) 29 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxe3}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fg7}} 30 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh3+ Fg8}} 31 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh4+}}, and White wins.

25 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh1}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff5}} 26 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fg6+}}

Not 26 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff3? Fd7}}! and Black wins, while 26 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fb4 Fd7}} is inconclusive.

26...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh8}} 27 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh4!}}

Threatening 28 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxg4}}, and better than 27 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff3}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff2+}} 28 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxf2}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fd7}}, when Black can defend.

27...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxa7}} 28 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxg4+ Hh7+}} 29 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxh7+!! Fh7}} 30 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff3+}}

There is no satisfactory defence against the threat of 31 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh3#}}.

996) Grischuk – Elianov

*FIDE Grand Prix, Elista 2008*

Jesús de la Villa writes about this ending as follows: "to defend this ending it is not enough to know that it is drawn; not even to know the best defensive set-ups, or the Rook + Pawn vs Rook endings that may arise on the board at any time. Of course, all this is necessary, but not enough. You will also need patience, tenacity and constant alertness." Here we have a perfect demonstration of this. Elianov has been defending this uncomfortable inferior ending precisely for many moves but here, even with his Elo rating of 2720, he tires and makes a decisive error.

67...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh5??}}

The rook has to remain ‘distant’, so that it can check both from behind and from the side, as the situation demands. On h5, the rook is too close to prevent the decisive manoeuvre that follows in the game. Instead, 67...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fg1}}, 67...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh2}}

and 67...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh3}} all draw, according to the tablebase, but not 67...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff1?!}}, which brings the rook too close to the white king for checks from the side to be effective.

68 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fb5!}}

Now Black is unable to check from a distance on the b-file, and White can reach a winning position, since both his pawns are able to reach the sixth rank.

68...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh7}} 69 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fd5}}

Necessary, in order to play c6.

69...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh1}} 70 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fd7+ Fb8}} 71 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fb6}}

This is a known theoretical position; there is no defence.

71...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fb1+}} 72 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fc5 Fc1+}} 73 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fb6 Fb1+}} 74 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fc5 Fc1+}} 75 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fd6}} 76 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff7}} 77 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fd8+}} 78 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh7}} 79 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fg6}}

Followed by 80 c7, and there is nothing to be done; White reaches the well-known ‘Lucena Position’.

997) Caruana – Vallejo

*Pamplona 2008*

28...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff5!!}}

There is no time for 28...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff4}}? \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff7}} and now 29 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff5}} is met simply by 29...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh7}}.

28...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxf5}} 29...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff4}}

But now the knight comes into the game with a gain of tempo.

29...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff45}} 30...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff6}}

Not 30...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff5}} allowing Black to defend with 30...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff6}} and the attack is repelled.

30...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff4}}

Or 30...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff6}} 31 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxf5}} f4 (if 31...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff8}} then one way to win is 32 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxe7+ Ff8}} 33 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fh5}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff5}} 34 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff4}}) 32 \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff4}}.

31...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxf4}} \textcolor{red}{\texttt{Fxf4}} 32...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff7+ Fh3}} 33...\textcolor{red}{\texttt{Ff5!}}
Now White is threatening 34 \texttt{wh5+}, followed by 35 \texttt{exg3+}.
33...\texttt{g6} 34 \texttt{e7+ wh7} 35 \texttt{f5} \texttt{g6} 36 \texttt{f1}
\texttt{g5} 37 \texttt{h4}!

The killer blow; the way is cleared for the white queen and there is no defence.
37...\texttt{f6}
Or 37...\texttt{wh5} 38 \texttt{e7+ wh6} 39 \texttt{f6+},
38 \texttt{g4+ wh7} 39 \texttt{wh5+ \texttt{g8}} 40 \texttt{h6+ 1-0}

\textbf{998) Ibrahimov – Ezat}
\textit{Manama 2009}

75...\texttt{d5}!

Forced, because it is essential to prevent 76 \texttt{f5}. Even so, Black still seems to be losing, but in fact there is a key defensive resource.
76 \texttt{xc3 \texttt{f7} 77 \texttt{c7+ \texttt{g8}?}}

Missing his chance. As Golubev pointed out in \textit{Chess Today}, Black has a beautiful saving manoeuvre available: 77...\texttt{xf6}! 78 \texttt{wh7 \texttt{d4+}}! 79 \texttt{g3} (no better is 79 \texttt{f3 \texttt{g5} 80 \texttt{g7+ \texttt{h4}}) and now 79...\texttt{d6}! 80 \texttt{xb6+} (80 \texttt{xb4}
\texttt{c5 is not promising either, since 81 \texttt{g7 \texttt{b6}}
82 \texttt{g6 \texttt{xa6} 83 \texttt{hxg6 \texttt{xf6 84 \texttt{h5 \texttt{g7 draws}}}
80\ldots\texttt{g5}! 81 \texttt{xd6 stalemate.}
78 \texttt{g7+ \texttt{h8} 79 \texttt{g6 \texttt{h7} 80 \texttt{f7 \texttt{d7}}}

After 80...\texttt{d8 White must only avoid 81 \texttt{g8?? since Black can then save himself, thanks to the fact that his king is in a stalemate position, with 81...\texttt{d4+}! 82 \texttt{e5 \texttt{d5+}}!.
81 \texttt{f8\texttt{c7+ 1-0}}

\textbf{999) Beliavsky – Kotronias}
\textit{Gibraltar 2009}

41 \texttt{b6! \texttt{d8}}
The point of the previous move is that if
41...\texttt{d4+ White wins with 42 \texttt{c5}! (not 42 \texttt{b5? \texttt{xa4} 43 \texttt{xa4 e3} 44 \texttt{b7} 2.45 \texttt{b8\texttt{e1},
with advantage to Black) 42...\texttt{xa4 43 \texttt{b7 \texttt{a5+}}
and now a ‘staircase’ manoeuvre that is reminiscent of the famous ‘Saavedra position’ from 1895: 44 \texttt{c4! (not 44 \texttt{b4? \texttt{a1}) 44...\texttt{a4+ 45 \texttt{c3 \texttt{a3+ 46 \texttt{b2}.}}
42 \texttt{c5}!

Now the b-pawn will cost Black his rook, and the black pawns will not be dangerous. White has several ways to win.

42...\texttt{c8+ 43 \texttt{d6 \texttt{d8+ 44 \texttt{c7 \texttt{d2} 45 \texttt{xe4 \texttt{tg2} 46 \texttt{b4 \texttt{c2+} 47 \texttt{d6 \texttt{d2+ 48 \texttt{xe5 \texttt{e2+} 49 \texttt{d6 \texttt{d2+} 50 \texttt{c6 \texttt{c2+ 51 \texttt{b5 \texttt{c8} 52 \texttt{b7 \texttt{b8} 53 \texttt{c6 1-0}}

\textbf{1000) Speelman – Ripari}
\textit{Gibraltar 2009}

63...\texttt{f5?}

This natural move loses; 63...\texttt{e6? also loses, to 64 \texttt{f5+! \texttt{xf5 65 \texttt{h7}. The only way to draw is 63...\texttt{h7! 64 \texttt{f7 \texttt{f5 65 \texttt{f6 \texttt{h4 66 \texttt{f5 \texttt{f3}
and after 67 \texttt{g6+ \texttt{h6 68 \texttt{g7 \texttt{h7 69 \texttt{f7}
Black has 69...\texttt{e5+! 70 \texttt{f8 \texttt{d7+.}
64 \texttt{f8 \texttt{h7 65 \texttt{f7!}

As Babuin pointed out in \textit{Chess Today}, this is a position of reciprocal zugzwang.
65...\texttt{h4 66 \texttt{f6 \texttt{g6}}
If 66...\texttt{f3, 67 \texttt{g6+ \texttt{h6 68 \texttt{f7? now wins}}
(but not 68 \texttt{g7? \texttt{h7 69 \texttt{f7 in view of the surprising resource 69...\texttt{g5+! with a draw by}
stalemate after 70 \texttt{xf5}).
67 \texttt{f5 \texttt{h4 68 \texttt{g6+ 1-0}}

Now after 68...\texttt{h6 69 \texttt{g7 \texttt{h7 70 \texttt{f7, compared to the note at move 63 Black is a tempo short to play the saving move ...\texttt{e5+}.}

\textbf{1001) D. Byrne – Fischer}
\textit{Rosenwald Trophy, New York 1956}

Probably you recognized this position, but having already worked through 1000 tricky puzzles, you may have been able to work out this spectacular combination on your own.

It is a marvellous work of art, created when he was only thirteen years old by possibly the best chess-player of all time, who died at the start of 2008.

You can find this game well annotated in numerous places, which is why the game is presented here without comment, up to the point where the combination leaves no doubt as to the result.

11...\texttt{d4!! 12 \texttt{wa3 \texttt{xc3} 13 \texttt{bxc3 \texttt{xe4} 14 \texttt{xe7 \texttt{wb6} 15 \texttt{c4 \texttt{xc3}} 16 \texttt{c5 \texttt{fe8+ 17 \texttt{e6!! 18 \texttt{xb6 \texttt{xe4+ 19 \texttt{g1 \texttt{e2+ 20 \texttt{f1 \texttt{xd4+ 21 \texttt{g1 \texttt{e2+ 22 \texttt{f1 \texttt{d3+ 23 \texttt{g1 \texttt{xb6 24 \texttt{wb4 \texttt{a4 25 \texttt{xb6 \texttt{xd1

and Fischer mated on move 41.}
You may use the following score-chart to keep track of your performance in the fifteen tests in this book. For each test, fill in your score and the corresponding Elo rating, which can be derived using the conversion table reproduced on pages 117, 187 and 233. As a rough guide, a rating of 1600 represents an average club player, while a strong club player would be around 2000, and aspirations to an international title would be justified by a rating much over 2200. At a higher level, 2500 is roughly grandmaster strength and the world number one is normally over 2800.

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Tactical skills are paramount in chess. More than anything else, a player's ability to find tactical solutions determines how successful he is over-the-board. No endgame scheme, opening idea or strategic plan, however brilliant a concept it may be, is of any value unless it is accurately calculated and implemented.

The best way to develop tactical skills is to practise them by tackling new and challenging positions. This book provides a wealth of chess puzzles to test just about every facet of your tactical ability. It is very unlikely that even those who have read many other chess puzzle books will recognize more than a handful of these positions. Franco has searched recent events and used powerful computers to seek out previously unpublished puzzles, and has also drawn extensively upon Latin American sources that he has been scouring for brilliant examples over the last three decades.

Following the pattern of Gambit's hugely successful Ultimate Chess Puzzle Book (by John Emms), the book begins with more than 100 relatively easy positions suitable for novices, and ends with a selection of extremely tough puzzles, which provide a mind-bending challenge even for grandmasters. There are 1001 puzzles in all, including themed sections and graded tests, all with detailed computer-verified solutions and verbal explanations of the main instructive points.

Zenon Franco is a grandmaster from Paraguay who now lives in Spain. He is an experienced chess trainer, his most notable pupil being Paco Vallejo, now one of the world's top grandmasters. He has written six previous books for Gambit, including Chess Self-Improvement and Grandmaster Secrets: Counterattack!