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Endgame table testing of studies - II

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Endgame Table Testing of Studies – II

Harold van der Heijden,
Eiko Bleicher & Guy Haworth

After the EG*180* review of some faulted 'draw studies' found in the study database HHdbIII by routine use of Nalimov's Endgame Tables, the present article deals with faulted 'win studies' found in the same third edition of the same database.

24,669 'win studies' in HHdbIII include at least one of the 294,159 sub-7-man position in their main line. Some 1,479 of these studies have non-win positions. In 163 cases, mistranscribed data was the cause, either an incorrect stipulation or move. In the majority of cases this was checked against the original source or a reliable secondary source such as an author's anthology. In 662 of the remaining 1,316 studies, a previously unreported fault was found.

All cooks found have been noted in HvdH's database and will be present in the upcoming HHdbIV.

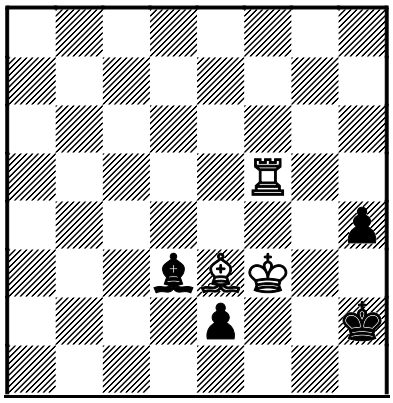
The data-mining process was as in the previous article. GH used CQL, pgn2fen and Microsoft Excel to pick out the sub-7-man positions which were evaluated by EB using Nalimov's EGTs. GH then identified the wrong-value positions and faulted studies, and HH analysed these findings and selected some highlights below.

Here we present some examples of the cooks we spotted. The selection was purely based on study-like cooks without further pretentions.

It is remarkable when a composer overlooks a study-like defence. What about a few of stalemates (H1-H8)?

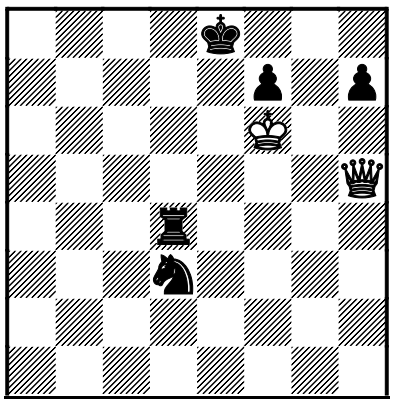
(H.1.) Intended: 1.Re5 Be4+ 2.Rxe4 e1Q 3.Bg1+ Qxg1 4.Rxh4 mate. However: 3...Kh3! because after 4.Rxe1 Black is stalemated (another error: 2.Kxe2 wins).

H.1. S. Radchenko
64-Shakhmatnoye Obozrenie 1992



f3h2 0140.02 3/4 Win

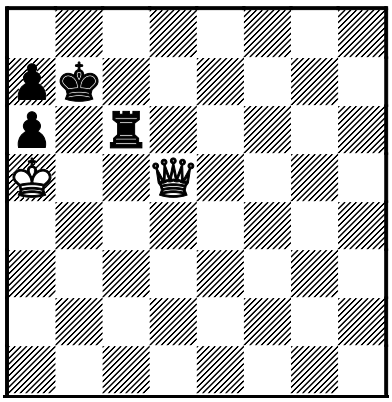
H.2. V. Dolgov
64-Shakhmatnoye Obozrenie 1988



f6e8 1303.02 2/5 Win

(H.2.) Intended: 1.Qb5+ Rd7 2.Qb8+ Rd8 3.Qc7 Rd7 4.Qc8+ Rd8 5.Qc6+ Rd7 6.Qb5 h6 7.Qb8+ Rd8 8.Qc7 Rd7 9.Qc8+ Rd8 10.Qc6+ Rd7 11.Qb5 h5, and similarly: 16.Qb5 h4, 21.Qb5 h3, 26.Qb5 h2 27.Qb8+ Rd8 28.Qc7 Rd7 29.Qxh2 Rd4 30.Qb8+ Rd8 31.Qc7 Rd7 32.Qc8+ Rd8 33.Qc6+ Rd7 34.Qb5 Sf4 35.Qb8+ Rd8 36.Qxf4 wins. Well, what about 36...Rd6+! 37.Qxd6 stalemate? The composer also overlooked the simple 34.Qa8+ Rd8 35.Qe4+ winning.

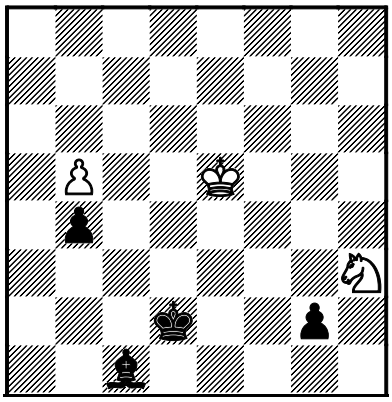
H.3. W. Henkin
1962



a5b7 1300.02 2/4 Win

(H.3.) In this interesting theoretical ending White is supposed to win by: 1.Qe4 Kb8 2.Qe7 Ka8 3.Qf7 Kb8 4.Qd7 Rb6 5.Qd8+ Kb7 6.Qe7+ Kb8 7.Qd7 and the bR has no good move. Well, he has: 7…Rc6! 8.Qxc6 stalemate.

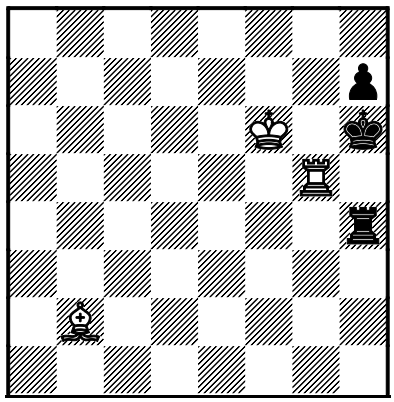
H.4. B. Chorazuk
Szachy 1961



e5d2 0031.12 3/4 Win

(H.4.) 1.b6 Bb2+ 2.Ke4 Bd4 3.Kxd4 g1Q+ 4.Sxg1 b3 5.b7 b2 6.b8R! wins, while 6.b8Q? b1Q 7.Qxb1 is stalemate. It is hard to believe that the composer did not see that Black should wait with his sacrificial promotion until White promoted to queen: 3...b3! 4.b7 b2 5.b8Q g1Q+! 6.Sxg1 b1Q 7.Qxb1 stalemate. Of course, if White tries 5.b8R here, Black has 5...Kc2 (Kc1) drawing.

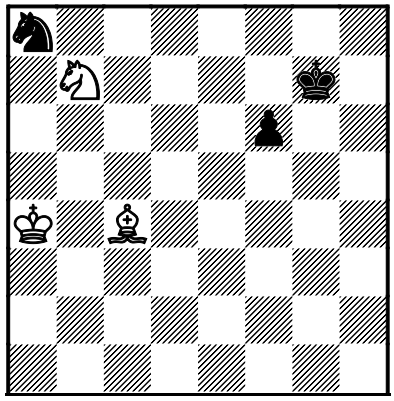
H.5. E. Richter
Práce 1951



f6h6 0410.01 3/2 Win

(H.5.) 1.Rf5 Rc4 2.Ba3 Rc6+ 3.Kf7 Rc7+ 4.Be7 Ra7 5.Rf6+ Kh5 6.Rf4, with a winning manoeuvre we remember from 0410.00 theory. But with an extra pawn Black has a surprising defence: 2...Rc5! as both 3.Rxc5 and 3.Bxc5 are stalemate. If the wR plays on the f-file, Black plays 3...Rc6+ since after 4.Kf7 the wR does not cover the 5th line anymore and the bK escapes.

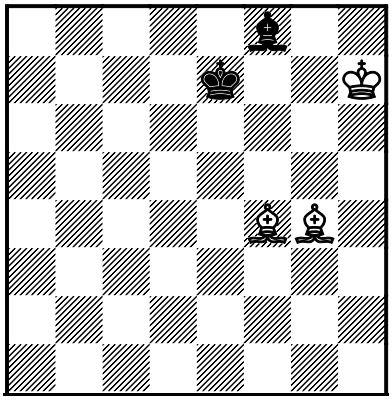
H.6. E. Paoli
La Scacchiera 1950



a4g7 0014.01 3/3 Win

(H.6.) 1.Kb5 Sc7+ 2.Kc6 Se8 3.Kd7 Kf8 4.Sc5 Sg7 5.Kd8 Sf5 6.Se6+ Kf7 7.Sd4+ and wins the knight: Kg6 8.Bd3. Black should not bother about that knight: 7..Kf8! 8.Sxf5 stalemate!

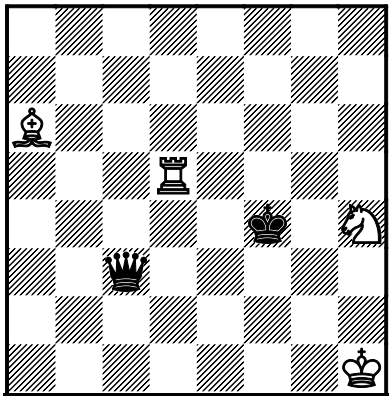
H.7. F. Amelung
Düna Zeitung 1907



h7e7 0050.00 3/2 Win

(H.7.) Intended: 1.Kg8 Ke8 2.Bh5+ Ke7 3.Bg5+ (also 3.Bf7! wins). However: 1...Kd8! 2.Kxf8 stalemate.

H.8. H. Rinck
L'Echiquier 1929

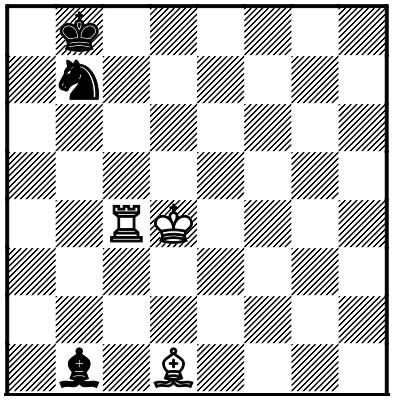


h1f4 3111.00 4/2 Win

(H.8.) 1.Sg2+ Ke4 2.Bb7 and the bQ is dominated. But 1...Kf3 (Kg3)! 2.Rd3+ Kf2 3.Rxc3 stalemate! This is by far the best stalemate cook in this article!

Now follow a couple of interesting bishop sacrifices:

H.9. F. Prokop
Basler Nachrichten 1924

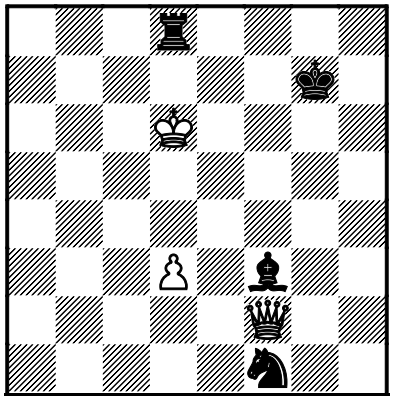


d4b8 0143.00 3/3 Win

(H.9.) 1.Bg4 with two main lines: 1...Ka7 2. Ra4+ Kb8 3.Rb4 B- 4.Bf3, or 1...Bg6 2.Rc6 Bf7 (Bb1; Rb6) 3.Rc8+ Ka7 4.Rc7 B- 5.Rf3 wins.

The composer overlooked that the bB does have a safe heaven: 1...Be4! (and also that White wins by 1.Rc3).

H.10. I. Akobia
64-Shakhmatnoye Obozrenie 2002

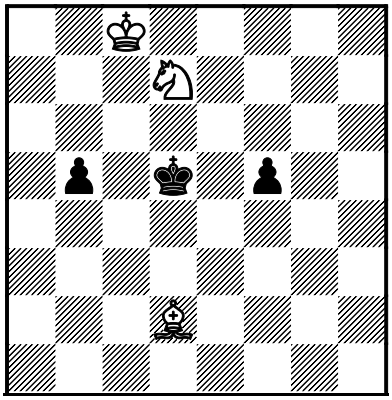


d6g7 1333.10 3/4 Win

(H.10.) 1.Ke7 Rxd3 2.Qg1+ Kh6 3.Qxf1 Rc3 4.Kd8 Kg5 5.Qb5+ Kg6 6.Qe5 Rd3+ 7.Ke7 Bg4 8.Qf6+ Kh5 9.Qh8+ Kg5 10.Qg8+ Kf4 11.Qc4+ wins a piece.

The cook is really study-like: 2...Bg2! 3.Qxg2+ Sg3 draws.

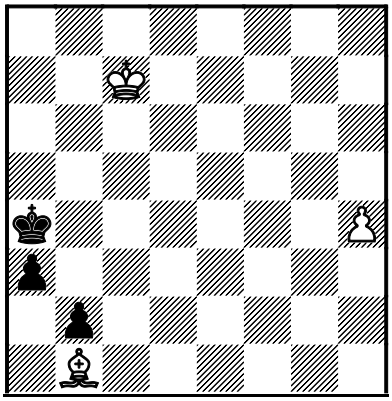
H.11. A. Kuryatnikov & E. Markov
Zadachy i Etyudi 2000



Position after 10...Kc6-d5

(H.11.) This is an interesting symmetrical position in a study which also had an incorrect introduction. The solution ran: 11.Kc7, and Black has to decide which pawn to support: 11...Ke4 12.Sc5+ Kd5 13.Kb6 Kc4 14.Sa6 wins, or 11...Kc4 12.Se5+ Kd5 13.Sf7 Ke4 14.Sd6+ Ke5 15.Sxb5 wins. On every move White has a winning alternative, so this hardly qualifies as a study. But what happens if Black leaves the choice up to White? 11...Kd4! 12.Kd6 Kd3, and 13.Bf4 b4 14.Sc5+ Kc2 15.Kd5 b3 draws, or 13.Bb4 f4 14.Se5+ Ke2 15.Kd5 f3 draws. Both lines without duals. I failed to find a real anticipation of this idea in my database!

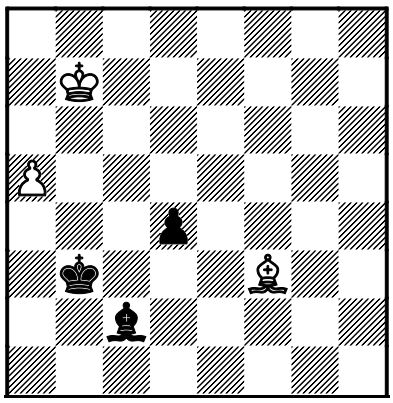
H.12. V. Prinov
Commendation *H-200 AT* 1989



c7a4 0010.12 3/3 Win

(H.12.) 1.Ba2 b1Q 2.Bxb1 Kb3 3.Be4 Kc3 4.Bd5 Kd4 5.Kd6 wins. At first sight the accurate 3rd move nicely prevents the bK from overtaking the pawn 3.Bh7? (Bg6?, Bf5?) Kc3 4.Bg8 (Bf7, Be6) Kd4 5.Kd6 Ke4 draws. However, after 3.Be4, Black has a beautiful Réti-manoeuvre: 3...Kb4!! 4.Bd5 Kc5 5.Ba2 Kd4 6.Kd6 Ke4 7.Ke6 Kf4 draw! Again, no anticipation!

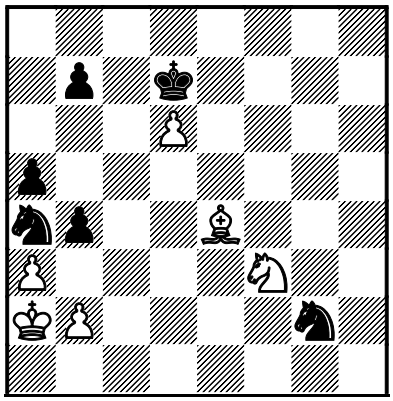
H.13. J. Moravec
2nd hon. mention *UJCS* 1951



b7b3 0040.11 3/3 Win

(H.13.) This is related to the previous study. Intended was 1.a6 d3 2.Kc6 d2 3.Kd5 d1Q+ 4.Bxd1 Bxd1 5.Ke4 Bc2+ 6.Ke3 winning. But 2...Kc4! blocks the wK and saves the day: 3.a7 d2 4.a8Q Be4+ 5.Bxe4 d1Q draw.

H.14. V. Kovalenko
1st commendation *Ribak Primorya* 1982



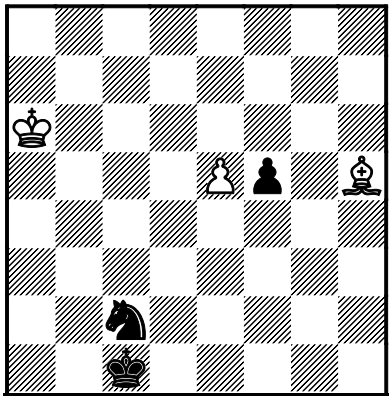
a2d7 0017.33 6/6 Win

(H.14.) 1.Se5+ Kxd6 2.Sc4+ Kc5 3.Bxg2 Kxc4 4.b3+ Kc5 5.bxa4 b5 6.axb5 Kxb5 7.a4+, sacrificing the last pawn, Kxa4 8.Bc6 mate.

However, Black should refuse capturing the pawn as the position is a fortress. 7...Kc4 (Kc5) and even 7...Kb6 (but of course not 7...Ka6 8.Kb3 Kb6 9.Kc4) 8.Kb3 Kc5 9.Bf1 Kd4 (Kd5). A sample line is 10.Bb5 Kd5 11.Kc2 Kd4 12.Kd2 Ke4 13.Ke2 Kd4 14.Kd2 Ke4 15.Bc6+ Kd4 16.Bf3 Kc4 17.Kc2 Kd4;

so the only way to advance seems to be to cover both e4 and c4, e.g. 18.Be2 Ke4 19.Bd3+ Kd4 20.Kd2 Kc5 and now White seems to have conquered the fortress: 21.Ke3. However: 21...b3 draws.

H.15. R. Voja
2nd prize *Bulletin Ouvrier des Échecs* 1952



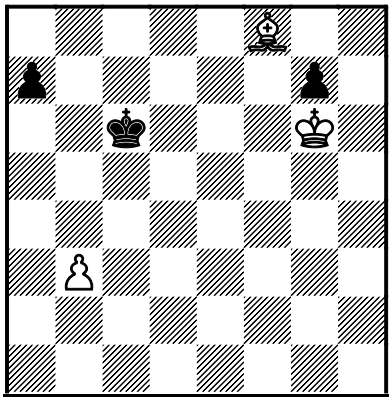
a6c1 0013.11 3/3 Draw

(H.15.) 1.e6 Sd4 2.e7 Se6 3.Kb5 f4 4.Kc4 Sg7 5.Kd3 Kb2 6.Bf3 Kb3 7.Ke4 Kc4 8.Ke5 Kc5 9.Bh5 f3 10.Bxf3 Se8 11.Bd1 Sg7 12.Bh5 wins.

However: 3...Kc2! (or first 3...Sg7) 4.Kc4 Sg7 5.Kd4 f4 6.Ke5 Kd2 and we are in a remarkable zz position. BTM would be losing here: 6...Ke3 (Kd3) 7.Kf6! Sxh5+ 8.Kg6 (this is the square that White needs) winning. However, WTM cannot win. 7.Kxf4 Sxh5+ 8.Kg5 (Kg6 is not possible) 8...Sg7 draws. Other relevant moves by the wK fail to a fork: 7.Kd4 Sf5+, or prettier 7.Ke4 Sxh5 8.e8Q Sf6+. And moves by the wB also have disadvantages: 7.Bf7 (Bg6) f3, or 7.Bg4 Ke3! 8.Kf6 Se8+!.

No anticipation found!

H.16. A. Wotawa
Österreichische Schachzeitung 1952



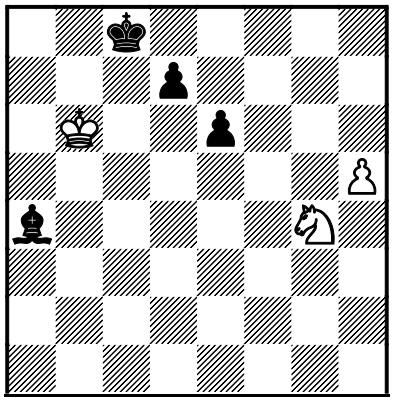
g6c6 0010.12 3/3 Win

(H.16.) Intended: 1.Bb4 Kb5 2.Ba3 a5 3.Kf5 g6+ 4.Kf6 (John Nunn indicated in 2002 that 4.Kf4 wins similarly: 4...Kc6 5.Ke5) Kc6 5.Ke5 g5 6.Kd4 Kb5 7.Kc3 g4 8.Bd6 a4 9.b4 a3 10.Kb3 a2 11.Kxa2 Ka4 12.Kb2 g3 13.Kc3 wins.

At first sight it is hard to believe that Black can draw by playing 1...Kb6!! The point is that the position after 2.Ba3 a5 3.Kf5 Kb5 (or 2.Kf5 a5 3.Ba3 Kb5) happens to be a reciprocal zugzwang position with WTM (in the intended solution after 3.Kf5 it was BTM). After, for instance, 4.Ke4 g5 5.Kd3 g4 6.Kc3 g3 White is a tempo short 7.Bd6 a4 8.b4 a3 9.Kb3 g2 8.Bc5 a2 9.Kxa2 g1Q 10.Bxg1 Kxb4. After 4.Kg5!? Black has 4...Kc6! and now White cannot play 5.Ke5. White could try to transfer the move to Black: 4.Kf4!? for if 4...Kc6? 5.Ke5, and 4...g5+? 5.Kxg5, but 4...g6!! 5.Kf3 (5.Ke- g5!; 5.Kg- Kc6) 5...g5! (Kc6?; Ke4) 6.Ke4 (Kf2!? g4, but also 4...Kc6 as wK is too far off) 6...g4 7.Kd3 g3 and the wK is now two tempo's late.

This zz position has not been used in another study.

H.17. P. Leibovici
Revista de Romana de Sah 1947



b6c8 0031.12 3/4 Win

(H.17.) Solution: 1.Se3 Bc6 2.Sf5 Be4 3.Sd6+ Kd8 4.Sxe4 Ke7 5.Kc5 d5 6.Sg3 Kf6 7.Kd4 Kg5 8.Ke5 Kh6 9.Kf4 d4 10.Kg4 d3 11.Se4 (Sf1) wins.

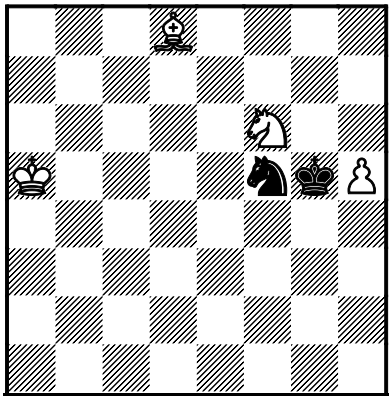
This study, and also the cook, is closely related to the previous study. The wK has to hurry to support his last pawn, while the minor piece must stop the running black pawn. In H16 the most logical move (1...Kb5), i.e.

moving towards the white pawn, fails because Black runs into a ZZ. In H17 Black instead of the "obvious" 6...Kf6 has the refutation 6...Kf7!! since 7.Kd4 (unfortunately, the move 7.Kc4 is not possible) 7...Kf6 is a ZZ position, as is easy to see (7.Kd6 Kf6 also draws, but this is not a ZZ position since BTM: 8...d4).

The composer published a version with an extra bpg5 (also in 1947). Probably the main intention was to extend the solution: 1.Se3 Bc6 2.Sf5 Be4 3.Sd6+ Kd8 4.Sxe4 Ke7 and now 5.Sf2 d5 6.Kc5 Kf6 7.Sg4+ Kf7 8.Kd4 Kg7 9.Ke3 e5 10.Kf3 e4+ 11.Kg3 d4 12.Sf2 e3 13.Sd3 Kh6 14.Kg4 e2 15.Se1 zz wins. We can conclude that zz's are not the author's speciality: 13...Kf6! 14.Kg4 e2 zz 15.Se1 Ke5 16.Kxg5 (16.h6 Kf6 17.Kh5 g4) Ke4 17.h6 d3 draws.

Now it is time for some fine refutations in which a bS plays a major role:

H.18. V. Chekhover
Shakhmatni Bulletin 1957



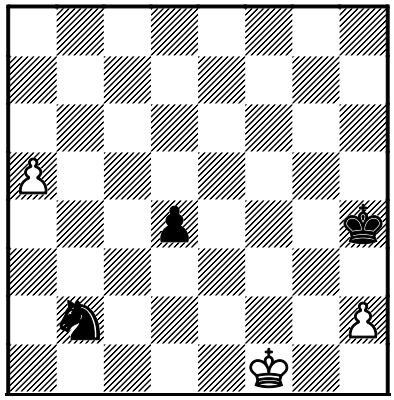
a5g5 0014.10 BTM, Win

(H.18.) 1...Sd4 2.Kb6 Se6 3.Be7 Kh6 4.Bd6 Kg5 5.Be5 and wins.

However 3...Sg7! cooks. This seems to cost Black a piece: 4.Se8+ Kxh5 5.Sxg7+ Kg6 6.Se6 (Se8) but by a double attack Black regains the piece: 6...Kf7 drawing.

(H.19.) 1.a6 d3 2.Ke1 d2+ 3.Kxd2 Sc4+ 4.Ke2 Kh3 5.a7 Sb6 6.Kd3 Kxh2 7.Kd4 Kg3 8.Kc5 wins. The pretty 4th move is impressive (other K-moves allow the pawn to be blocked by bS on b5, c6 or c8; e.g. 4.Kd3? Se5+ 5.K-Sc6, or 4.Kc2 Sa3+ 5.K- Sb5. Or 4.Kc3? Sd6! 5.Kb4 (a7 Sb5+;) Sc8.

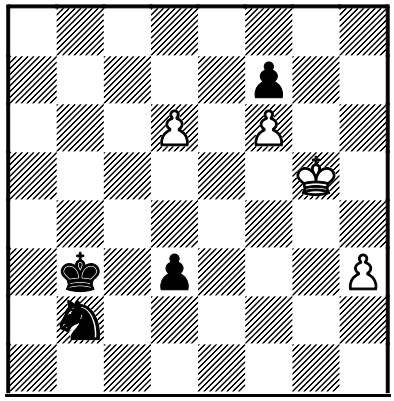
H.19. L. Mitrofanov
Leningradskaya Pravda 1988



f1h4 0003.21 3/3 Win

But: 1...Sc4 (Sa4)! 2.a7 Sb6 3.Ke2 and now the fantastic 3...Sa8!! 4.Kd3 Sc7 defending the d-pawn: 5.Kxd4 Sb5+.

H.20. E. Pogosiants
Shakhmaty v SSSR 1982



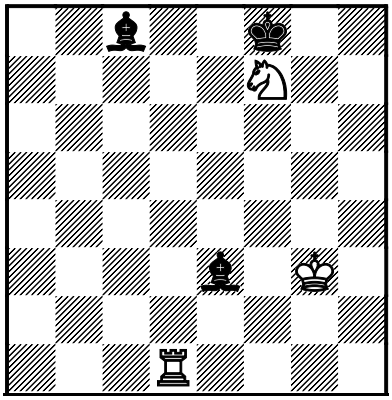
g5b3 0003.32 4/4 Win

(H.20.) 1.d7 d2 2.d8Q d1Q 3.Qxd1+ Sxd1 4.Kh6 Sf2 5.h4 Sg4+ 6.Kg7 Se5 7.h5 Kc4 8.h6 Kd5 9.h7 Sg6 10.Kxf7 Sh8+ 11.Ke7 Sg6+ 12.Ke8 Ke6 13.f7 wins.

At first sight 5...Se4! does not pose any problems for White. 6.Kg7 Sd6 7.h5 Kc4 8.h6 but now that the bS is on d6 instead of e5, Black has 8...Sf5+ leaving the wK without a good square (9.Kxf7 Sxh6+; 9.Kh7 Kd5 and Black even wins since wK is obstructing the pawn).

We finish off with a nice B-move refutation

H.21. V. Gandolfi
L'Italia Scacchistica 1931



g3f8 0161.00 3/3 Win

1.Sd6 Be6 2.Re1 Ke7 3.Se4 and wins bBe3 has to move, allowing either Sg5 or Sc5 and White wins a piece.

Well: 3...Bd4! 4.Sg5 Kf6 5.Sxe6 Be5+ and 6...Kxe6 draws.