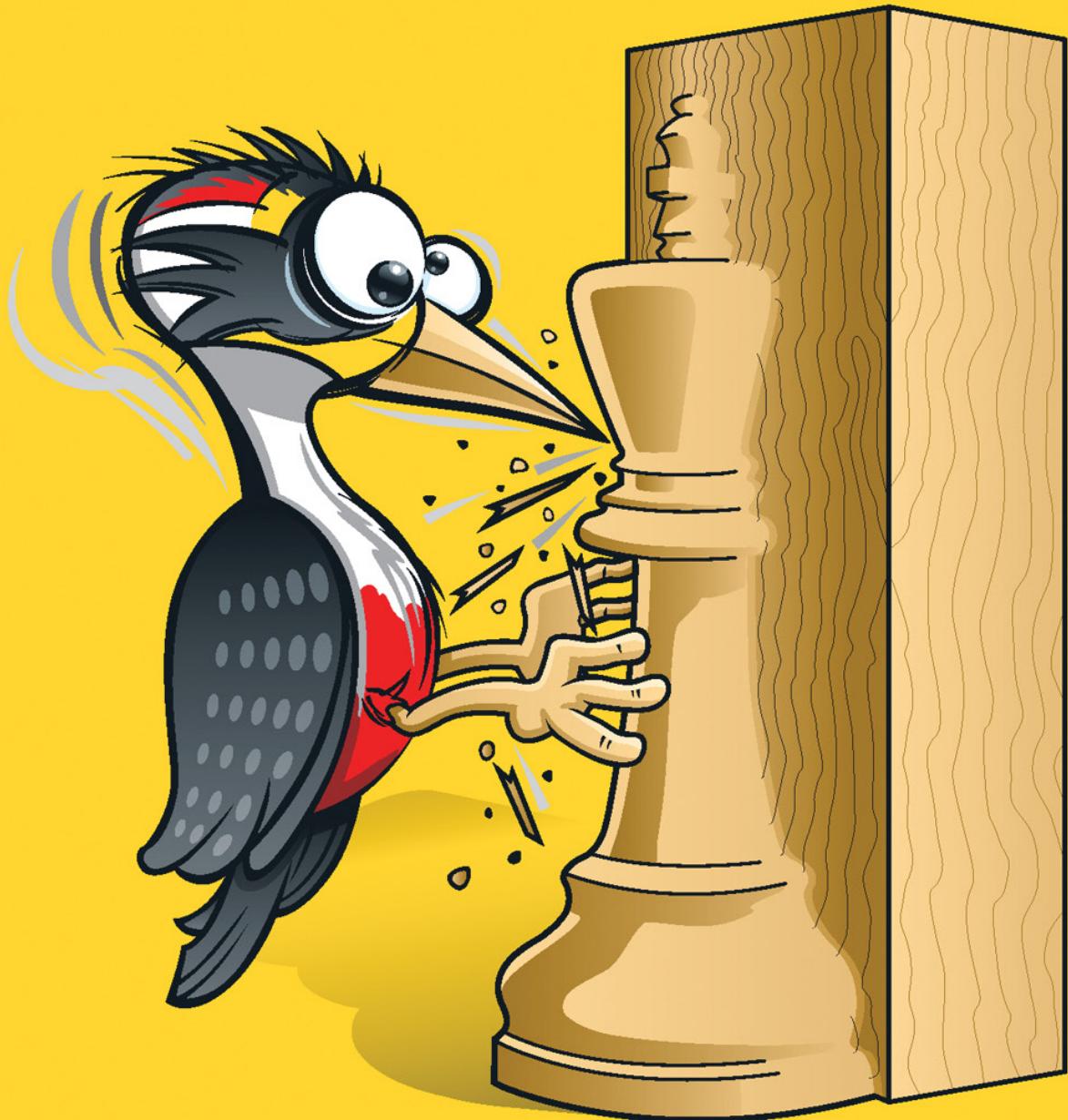


THE WOODPECKER METHOD



BY AXEL SMITH & HANS TIKKANEN

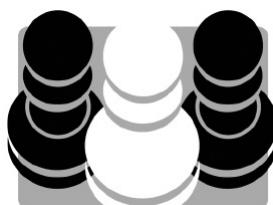
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By

Axel Smith & Hans Tikkainen



Quality Chess
www.qualitychess.co.uk

First edition 2018 by Quality Chess UK Ltd

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THE WOODPECKER METHOD

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Paperback ISBN 978-1-78483-054-0

Hardcover ISBN 978-1-78483-055-7

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Distributed in North and South America by National Book Network

Distributed in Rest of the World by Quality Chess UK Ltd through
Sunrise Handicrafts, ul. Szarugi 59, 21-002 Marysin, Poland

Typeset by Jacob Aagaard

Proofreading by Colin McNab

Edited by John Shaw & Andrew Greet

Cover design by www.adamsondesign.com

Picture credit: Woodpecker © Jon Larter/Dreamstime.com

Author photo of Axel Smith by Ellinor Frisk

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Photo on page 247 by J.M. Mahesh

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Printed in Estonia by Tallinna Raamatutüükikoja LLC

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Key to Symbols used

- +** White is slightly better
- =** Black is slightly better
- +** White is better
- +** Black is better
- +—** White has a decisive advantage
- +** Black has a decisive advantage
- =** equality
- ||** with compensation
- ⇄** with counterplay
- ?** unclear

- ?** a weak move
- ??** a blunder
- !** a good move
- !!** an excellent move
- ??** a move worth considering
- ?!** a move of doubtful value

- ✓** a move which should be seen as part of the solution

Quick Start Guide

So, you want to dive in and start solving without reading any of the introductory text now or even at all? That's the spirit – we encourage everyone to tackle the puzzles as soon as possible and read about the history and philosophy of the method when you wish to take a break. If you favour the Quick Start, you have two main methods of working with this book.

Option 1 – General Solving

If you bought this book to practise exercises in your regular fashion, then turn to page 32 and begin solving the 1128 exercises we have prepared for you. They are assembled in three general levels of toughness. Just a quick word of warning though: as per our personal preference, these are not all “play and win” combinations. The task is to find the best move (and supporting variations) and the best move could, for instance, be to force a draw, gain a slight advantage or even avoid falling for a counter-tactic in a seemingly obvious combination. Good luck and have fun!

Quick Start 2 – The Woodpecker Method

If you wish to train using the Woodpecker Method, as advocated in this book, there are a few things you need to know before starting:

1. The general idea of the Method is to develop intuitive/automatic pattern recognition through repetitive solving of the same exercises in a cyclical fashion.
2. As you may already know, or have guessed from the description above, the Woodpecker Method is quite gruelling and not for everyone. Although we believe that most players could benefit greatly from it, the question is whether the time and energy could be better spent on improving another part of your game. For me (Tikkanen), using this method gave me a tremendous increase in stability in time trouble, improved my tactical vision quite a bit, and significantly reduced my blunder rate. I'm very happy I did it, but I will not repeat it in the foreseeable future – for now, I have done enough. If you decide this method might be for you and wish to give it a go, then we wish you the best – may your results reflect your effort!
3. To get the most out of the your Woodpecker training, please take a quick look at the instructions on page 26 before you start.

Woodpecker History

– by Hans Tikkannen

The name of the Woodpecker Method was not invented by me, but it was influenced by me and invented by my co-author, GM Axel Smith. It comes from a translation I've heard of my Finnish surname, Tikkannen, which is supposed to mean "little woodpecker". Together with the repetitive nature of the method, it seems fitting, although credit for many of the ideas behind the method lies elsewhere.

While developing and using the method, I did not remember where the basic ideas came from. When the method gained a slightly larger audience after I achieved three GM norms and could not resist questions about my training, I was made aware of the similarity to Michael de la Maza and his "Seven Circles" method from the book *Rapid Chess Improvement – A Study Plan for Adult Players*. I recognized the name and had indeed read it during my pre-professional time, when I spent several years reading whatever I could get my hands on about the interactions of the human consciousness, the brain and chess. This was done out of curiosity and also to figure out how it should influence my approach to chess playing and training. I think I forgot about that book due to its exclusive focus on adult players (basically adult beginners), and what I considered to be its overly-certain claims and statements with little or doubtful supporting evidence, and other flaws (a Jeremy Silman review offered an even more harshly worded opinion).

While my fascination for the relatively unknown subject matter of the human consciousness and brain remains (and indeed was a major motivation for ending my intermezzo as a chess professional and starting my studies in psychology), it seems to me to be beyond the scope of a chess tactics book, and highly speculative to boot. Regardless, one conclusion I drew from my reading was that a tremendous amount of activity happens unconsciously, below conscious effortful processing, and that this should reasonably be reflected in my approach to chess. I had previously (on a mostly unconscious level I'm sure!) been quite dismissive of these kinds of thoughts, and indeed my style at the chess board used to be effortful and concrete rather than intuitive. I would now say that I then unconsciously trusted my intuition to find the right moves to consider, but I only believed in the conscious verification process that seemed to me to be all there was. "Calculation, calculation, calculation!" was my motto. With my subsequent reading of psychological literature, I came to realize that there really is such a thing as intuition and I became much more aware of the unconscious parts of my approach.

Putting it all together

Armed with my new insights, I endeavoured to find or develop training and thinking methods for my personal use. The most successful of them was the Woodpecker Method (although I didn't have a catchy name for it then), which I used extensively during the spring of 2010. My own experience with the method might be of interest to some, so here it comes.

First, I decided on the general rules of the method. I would solve a set of a thousand exercises (from various puzzle books) over whatever time period it took. Once I completed the set, I would take a break and then repeat the process again and again, getting faster each time. I checked my answers against the solutions given in the back of the book, and computer-checked in cases when I did not fully buy the solution provided by the author. (The frustration I feel when an exercise does not make sense has served as a great motivator to make the solutions in this book as accurate as possible!)

Being a chess professional, I had very few commitments distracting me from working hard on the solving. Of course, solving exercises in this manner is really hard work, so most days I did not manage a full eight-hour workday; but sometimes I did. Once I reached the end of the set of 1000, I took a well-deserved break, ranging from a full day to over a week. I did no other work on chess during these rest periods, except some playing.

With each cycle of solving, I aimed to halve the total solving time for the thousand exercises from that of the previous cycle. Eventually I was able to solve all of the puzzles within a single day – though not within eight hours. Initially I intended to repeat the whole process every six weeks. Later, however, I decided that “repeat one set of 1000 exercises before a serious tournament” was more realistic.

I hardly need state that the process was a demanding one, but I had a lot of motivation – partly from pent-up frustration due to having blundered away important games, but also because I was trying out of my own method. While it was tough on me, one of the books took even more of a beating – completely falling apart from the repeated solving!

Results of the Training

As mentioned above, I trained with the Woodpecker Method in the spring of 2010. That summer, I achieved three GM norms and surpassed the 2500 barrier, all within a seven-week period. The positive effects did not stop there: the following year, my live rating briefly peaked at 2601.

Such quick results from any type of chess training are rare in my experience, but for me the Woodpecker Method seemed to be just what the doctor ordered! The increased tactical acuity and consistency that came from working so hard with the method significantly decreased my blunders and made me more confident at the board.

Would I have made the same improvement with some other type of training? It’s not impossible – but my playing strength had not taken any significant leap in years, so I had been at a loss as to what to do differently to succeed. Although the Woodpecker Method probably wasn’t the *only* way for me to raise my play, it certainly proved to be *a* way. The intersection of my interest in the human mind and my motivation to stop blundering surely helped me to devote more time and effort than I would have put into my usual training.

After my extraordinary success with the Woodpecker Method, I tried going a step further and sometimes managed to trust in my intuition without the perfectionistic need to always verify it. Maybe someday I will be able to play the sort of beautiful, intuitive chess that some great players are known for – that would really be something...

Sharing the Method with Others

Around that time, there were several dedicated chess players in and around the southern part of Sweden, some of whom were working together, and all of us were naturally interested in each other's improvements and methods. While training with my own method during the spring, I had been quite tight-lipped about what I was doing; not to keep it to myself, but rather to be able to evaluate my experience of it so I could have a more informed opinion to share. After that, for me, glorious summer, I was obviously asked by many people about what I had done to finally take the step from IM to GM.

I described the method and my rationale for adopting it, and several others decided to give it a go. One Swedish trainer has apparently invited his students in the north of our country to work dedicatedly on the method for a while. It has also been mentioned in the Swedish Chess Advent Calendar. Most significantly, the method was given its name in *Pump Up Your Rating* by Axel, who incorporated it into his own training, which you can read about on the next page. From what I have heard, the results of players who trained using the Woodpecker Method have generally been positive, although I have yet to hear of anyone who put as much work into it as I did.

A Final Session

– by Axel Smith

Whereas Hans arranged his sessions to resemble normal working days, mine were more chaotic. Once I was hiking in the mountains the week before the Swedish Championship. Seeing the photos afterwards, I realized that I was staring at the exercise book in most of them. At least the surroundings looked nice in the photos.

Before I travelled to Hungary in December 2015 to chase my last GM norm, I solved the same broken book for the 11th and 12th times. I was determined to do something I had been dreaming of for years: completing a full set of exercises in less than 24 hours. I stayed in a basement room next to the block's laundry and once every full hour I walked around the room. Twice my wife came with freshly-baked bread – and a chance to quit. I was close to quitting when I had a breakdown somewhere towards the end, but the 978th and last exercise finally arrived after 22 hours and 18 minutes.

There are many possible ways to do the Woodpecker. All of them come down to the same thing: working on the exercises. However, it's easier to keep on solving if you have a plan. Hans forbade me from recommending the set-up above, for humanitarian reasons. And indeed, my first thought afterwards was "never again".

With that being said, the last session was not only tactically beneficial – it also made it easy to stay focused during the games in Hungary. You are not locking yourself in for day and night only to ruin everything by walking around when you are supposed to think.

Furthermore, for me, the many exercises are connected to the places where I have solved them: the underground in Berlin; a night train to Bucharest; the mountains where I hiked. So those 22 hours in the basement also contained a trip around Europe.



General Introduction

Tactics, Tactics, Tactics!

Have you ever lost a chess game unnecessarily due to a tactical oversight? You are, to put it mildly, not alone. When we checked a randomized sample of games, we found that more than half of those with decisive results were decided by tactical mistakes. It's not straightforward to describe exactly what constitutes a tactical mistake, or if the game holds a specific decisive moment, but we used the following criteria to define a decisive tactical mistake:

- a) the position was not already lost or seriously worse
- b) the move blundered material or allowed a winning combination
- c) the opponent exploited the mistake to win the game

In preparation for writing this book, we decided to check the games with decisive results which were contested between grandmasters at the 2016 Swedish Championship. With only 19 such games, it's clearly not a big enough sample to draw major conclusions. Nevertheless, we were surprised to find that as many as 42% were decided by tactical mistakes. At lower levels, the frequency gets higher and higher, as the following table shows.

Both players rated – Percentage of decisive games decided by tactical mistakes

GMs	42%
2200-2400	44%
2000-2200	63%
1800-2000	72%

The percentages in the three rating bands below GM level are based on 32 randomly chosen games in each category. This is by no means a comprehensive investigation and it doesn't give the whole picture; time management is also of crucial importance. Another relevant point is that it is harder to avoid tactical mistakes in defensible but passive positions, where the opponent has various attacking ideas and there are fewer decent moves. Nevertheless, it is safe to conclude that tactics have a high priority if you want to score points.

Assuming you have read Hans' *Woodpecker History* on page 6, you already have a rough idea of the kind of training you will be doing with this book. Over the next few pages, we will say a bit more about how we have organized the training material and how to get the most out of it.

The Exercises

We have assembled a total of 1128 exercises, divided into three difficulty levels.

Easy (222 Exercises)

If these exercises are challenging enough for you, then it would seem logical to use the end of this section as your cut-off point, after which you will go back to the beginning for your second cycle. If, on the other hand, you find these puzzles rather easy, then start your set with them anyway! We have deliberately chosen these exercises because they feature simpler tactics than you will find in most puzzle books. A partial benefit of this approach is that it makes the book accessible to a wider audience. However, even if we were designing a Woodpecker program exclusively for players striving for the GM title, we would have started with these puzzles anyway, because they reflect reality. These simple tactics are the kind of things you need to see automatically during your games, rather than having to spend time and energy actively looking for them.

Intermediate (762 Exercises)

To encourage speed, you will also find some relatively easy exercises in this section. There may also be some which you consider hard, but remember that the goal is not to score 100%, especially in early cycles. Even after working with all of the exercises, we each made quite a few errors when solving the draft. Another point worth keeping in mind is that many of the solutions were overlooked by a World Champion.

Advanced (144 Exercises)

We would advise the majority of readers *not* to use this final section for Woodpecker training. Several of the positions are really tricky and more suitable for developing your ability to calculate, which veers slightly away from the main purpose of the Woodpecker Method. That said, we can see this section being useful in a couple of scenarios:

- 1) For the majority of readers, the Easy and Intermediate sections will contain more than enough material to carry out an intensive Woodpecker training plan. But once you have reached the end of it (and hopefully noticed a significant leap in your tactical ability over the board), you will, at some point, want to think about further training. The final section of more challenging exercises would suit this purpose.
- 2) For extremists who are already strong players, and who possess the time, energy and motivation to tackle this book in the most demanding way possible, this final section can be included in the main training plan. Try solving all 1128 exercises in cycles under the time constraints detailed in the *Instructions* section on page 26! To even consider taking on a challenge like this, you should probably be at a level where you are working towards the Grandmaster title.

Speed

Tactical motifs usually appear effortlessly in our minds, but they don't travel alone; we also need to think methodically and work out the variations with some accuracy. So the Woodpecker

Method is not only developing pattern recognition but also calculation, focus, decision-making – and speed.

Once you know certain patterns and motifs, speed is key. The fastest thoughts are those that come to us automatically and while negative automatic thoughts can be a huge problem in psychopathology, automaticity has great benefits as well. The more automatic the search for motifs is, the greater is the chance that you will see enough. We take the view that a good way to develop automaticity is to solve a set of exercises repeatedly, gradually reducing the need for conscious searching. If this sounds somewhat similar to learning to ride a bike, that is because it is.

Other Points about the Exercises

We have long held the view that virtually all books on chess combinations are missing something central to real-game tactics: *red herrings*. When using conventional puzzle books, solving exercises sometimes becomes like watching a certain type of movie – you just know that everything will work out in the end. From a movie, it can detract tension and excitement, while in tactics training it can detract uncertainty and exactness.

We therefore decided it was important to include some red herrings, where the most obvious attempts backfire. By taking away the certainty that even seemingly easy tactical shots are fool-proof, we aim to bring the training experience one step closer to that of an actual game. While there could be an argument that this type of book is not necessarily the best forum for red herrings, we wanted to put our money where our mouths are.

When presenting the exercises, we have avoided giving away any prior information about the position's evaluation or the nature of the tactical motif waiting to be found. Other puzzle books may have their own reasons for including this information, but we want to keep the training as close as possible to a real game.

In some exercises, the task is to finish off a promising position which may be winning even without the tactic. In other cases, there are several winning moves. These are deliberate choices, to reflect different situations which occur during practical play. It's important to be as accurate as possible and to practise decision-making in all scenarios.

A common mistake is to stop too early in a variation, maybe only a single move before there's a crucial tactic. However, narrowing your search down to the critical lines is an important skill for a human player (even computers have to do it!) and trusting your intuition is the best way of doing this. Therefore, after a training session, it might be a good idea to think about *why* you failed certain exercises to see where your intuition misled you. But don't spend too much time dwelling on it – developing pattern recognition is best done on a mostly unconscious level. The good news is that training your tactical pattern recognition will increase the chance that the motif appears in your head while you visualize the position.

A final point about the exercises is that we have not only computer-checked the solutions, but also humanly checked them (thanks to our test solvers, Martin Jogstad and Tom Rydström). This brought to our attention some plausible attempts which the computer instantly dismisses, but which appear tempting to a human. This enabled us to improve the solutions by mentioning some of those variations that *almost* work.

World Champions

Although there was no special reason to set a theme for the exercises, we decided to take our test positions exclusively from games involving all World Champions, from Steinitz to Carlsen (including the FIDE KO World Champions). The champions are on the losing side in about 25% of the games. So sometimes you will do better than them, while other times your task is to play as well – and that's also a fair goal. The featured tactics are not necessarily flashy, and you have probably seen some of the examples before – but that's part of the idea, as repeating the same motifs is an integral part of our method.

As we will see in this book, it's possible to find tactical resources even in worse positions. We were surprised at how many blunders we encountered the move before the combination. True, there are quite a few positions from simuls where the champion faced weaker opponents, but tactical mistakes are also far from unheard of in World Championship matches. As we have strived to check all the available games played by the World Champions, the selection is hopefully quite representative. In each of the three exercise sections (Easy, Intermediate and Advanced) you will find examples involving each champion. Throughout each section, the games of each champion appear in *approximate* chronological order. (We were much more focused on the chess content than on perfect ordering of the games.)

At a FIDE Trainer seminar, a coach claimed that it was important for aspiring players to know the full list of World Champions in order. He was serious and Axel didn't get it right when taking the exam. A few years later, neither of us could recall the list below in order; and trying to write down the years was not even close to possible. You're welcome to improve on our efforts, but you're also free to skip the list, finish the introductory section and start to find combinations like a World Champion.

World Chess Champions

Wilhelm Steinitz (1836-1900)	Austria-Hungary/USA	1886-94
Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941)	Germany	1894-1921
Jose Raul Capablanca (1888-1942)	Cuba	1921-27
Alexander Alekhine (1892-1946)	Russia/France	1927-35 & 37-46
Max Euwe (1901-81)	Netherlands	1935-37
Mikhail Botvinnik (1911-95)	Soviet Union	1948-57, 58-60 & 61-63
Vassily Smyslov (1921-2010)	Soviet Union	1957-58
Mikhail Tal (1936-92)	Soviet Union	1960-61
Tigran Petrosian (1929-84)	Soviet Union	1963-69
Boris Spassky (1937-)	Soviet Union	1969-72
Robert Fischer (1943-2008)	USA	1972-75
Anatoly Karpov (1951-)	Soviet Union/Russia	1975-85 & 93-99
Garry Kasparov (1963-)	Soviet Union/Russia	1985-93 & 93-00 (PCA)
Alexander Khalifman (1966-)	Russia	1999-2000
Vladimir Kramnik (1975-)	Russia	2000-06 (PCA) & 2006-07

Viswanathan Anand (1969-) India	2000-02 & 07-13
Ruslan Ponomariov (1983-) Ukraine	2002-04
Rustam Kasimdzhanov (1979-) Uzbekistan	2004-05
Veselin Topalov (1975-) Bulgaria	2005-06
Magnus Carlsen (1990-) Norway	2013-

An Appeal for the Unconscious

In 1957, the market researcher James Vicary surprised the world with an experiment showing the impact of subliminal advertising. When moviegoers were shown 1/3000-second advertisements for Coca-Cola and popcorn, the product sales increased without anyone being aware of the advert.

Today, it is well researched that humans use subliminal perception to speed up the brain process. When it comes to chess, the reoccurrence of a certain configuration can prime your brain that there may be a combination, a piece manoeuvre or pawn lever. However, finding a move intuitively is sometimes seen as a negative habit: “You have not worked thoroughly enough to deserve credit for the solution.” Nothing could be more wrong, as seen from a scientific viewpoint.

The Woodpecker Method is designed to develop that kind of intuition – so make use of it! Every combination you have ever seen has prepared your chess brain for giving such advice. And after you have followed the Woodpecker Method, it will be ready like never before.

Finding the correct first move always gives one point, but don’t depend solely on your intuition. Every position is unique and requires some supporting calculation – trust the input from your intuition, but always verify it!

A few decades after his study, Vicary revealed that it was all a gimmick. He did not have enough data to support his bold claim, and has failed to replicate it since. But there was a grain of truth in what he was saying, and he inspired Axel’s grandfather to do research where participants were shown subliminal images with scary faces. That made them interpret other images as being frightful as well.

So, it might be possible to put a chess player in an aggressive mode by showing subliminal diagrams where one side has castled long and won with an attack on the king...

Solving Sessions

“Life puzzle” is a Swedish expression which originates from a political campaign and points out the difficulty of organizing work, social media, household work, “quality time” with the family, and “time-when-you-do-things-for-yourself” – another common expression which is shorter in Swedish (just seven letters). The essence is the core of the Swedish mentality: life is a puzzle to be solved, rather than chaos to be endured.

It is not up to us to advise you how *much* time to dedicate to chess. We can, however, say something about the desired *quality* of this study time. Find a quiet place and set a time limit so you are able to focus until the end. Start solving, and do it seriously – as in a tournament game. That means looking ahead to make sure that your solution really works, but still trying to work through the exercises as quickly as possible.

Should a Real Board and Pieces be used?

Whether or not one should solve using a real board is a contentious issue among trainers. Some, especially more old-school trainers, might argue that you always should. Artur Yusupov is one example of a renowned trainer who emphasizes the importance of using a board and pieces in his multi-volume training series (also published by Quality Chess). Others don't see it as being so important. You obviously have to choose for yourself, but we can give you our two cents: neither of us used a board and pieces for our Woodpecker training. There is most likely a generational divide: players of a certain age, who developed their chess skills before the computer era, are more likely to value a board and pieces; whereas those who have spent a significant portion of their formative years studying chess using computers tend not to be put off by the two-dimensional aspect of solving from diagrams in a book (or on a screen, for those who bought the Forward Chess edition).

Obviously you should do what feels right for you. A possible compromise is to take an initial glance at each exercise directly in the book. If you solve it within a few seconds, then move on to the next exercise. On those occasions when you have yet to find the solution within roughly one minute (or whatever timeframe you find most appropriate), set the position up on a board if it helps you to think more clearly. One optional way to get some extra training out of this process is to set the position up from memory as far as possible – but don't forget the main purpose of your training.

Our general thinking is that with the huge amount of positions which we study nowadays from diagrams with computer databases, internet play and so on, solving from the book should mostly use the same neural configurations and thus be similar enough and good enough for these short exercises. True, classical tournament play still involves a physical board and pieces, so an argument could be made for replicating that in training. You may also wish to take into account the extra time invested in setting up the pieces, which adds up to quite a lot when you are dealing with anything up to a thousand exercises. From our point of view, this time could be better spent by solving more exercises (or with loved ones). If we were solving harder exercises requiring ten or more minutes of effort, we would probably use a board, but that's the kind of training used to develop deeper calculation rather than pattern recognition.

There is one absolute advantage that we see in using a board and pieces (apart from the aesthetic/hedonistic one): that is, the possibility of playing the moves out in order to see the final pattern take shape on the board, while possibly developing some muscle memory at the same time. For some players, the process of playing out the solution might negatively impact on their overall speed and ability to focus on the main task, while others might find it helpful having a micro-break for setting up the pieces before moving on to the next exercise. We will repeat our advice for a final time: think about the pros and cons of each approach; experiment with a mixed approach if you need to; and ultimately do what works best for you.

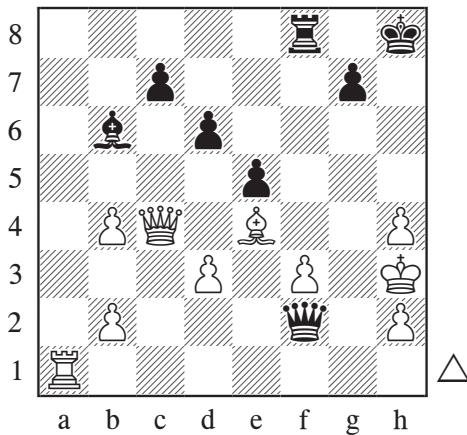
How much do you need to see?

“Enough” is the short answer, but the question is important and deserves further reflection, even though it’s seldom discussed in similar books. As we have already stated, we think that the task of solving should be quite similar to a real game. That’s why we have included certain exercises as red herrings and others which contain several winning moves.

Before you play a move in a game, you only need to make sure that it’s the best. Later decisions can be taken later. Consider the following example:

Vassily Smyslov – William Addison

Palma de Mallorca Interzonal 1970



Black is threatening to take on f3 and there are only two moves that defend. 35... $\mathbb{W}c6$ is not better for White. The two extra pawns don’t matter much – not only because they are doubled and isolated, but also because of the presence of opposite-coloured bishops.

35. $\mathbb{W}f7!$

White defends against the threat and creates two mating threats of his own. In a game, it’s enough to see that 35... $\mathbb{E}xf7$ 36. $\mathbb{E}a8\#$ $\mathbb{E}f8$ 37. $\mathbb{E}xf8$ is mate.

35... $\mathbb{W}f1\#!$

Objectively, the best defence is 35... $\mathbb{W}xh4\#$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}xh4$ $g5\#!$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{E}xf7$ when White has good winning chances according to the principle of two advantages. He will push the h-pawn and try to penetrate with the king to sacrifice the exchange for the c-pawn.

36. $\mathbb{Q}g4!$

A strong move, since 36. $\mathbb{E}xf1$ $\mathbb{E}xf7\pm$ looks like a fortress without a passed h-pawn. But you don’t have to see this in advance, since this fortress is still a better option for White than any other 35th moves. However, we think that you should still notice that 35... $\mathbb{W}f1\#$ exists – we are,

after all, practising tactical motifs and this is a *magnet* (turn to page 22 for a dedicated example of this theme).

36... $\mathbb{W}g2\#$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}h5$

There are no more checks. The rest is not important for our subject, but is a beautiful piece of chess.

37... $\mathbb{E}g8$ 38.f4!

Smyslov won after 38. $\mathbb{E}a8$ $g6\#$! 39. $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ mating.

The text move forces Black's queen to leave the g-file.

38... $\mathbb{W}e2\#$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}e3$ 40.h3!

Defending the g4-square.

40... $\mathbb{Q}xf4\#$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}g6+$

There is no defence against 42. $\mathbb{W}xg8\#$ 43. $\mathbb{E}a8$ mate.

When looking ahead, it's sometimes difficult to decide when to stop and evaluate the position. It's always possible to calculate a move further... Oh, wait – no it's not. We are, after all, only human, so from time to time we need to make an evaluation before the tactical operation is over.

There are the usual clues to help us: whose pieces are better placed? Do more and more options appear when we calculate? Which side needs to prove something? The process of decision-making involves complex concepts such as reliability (how certain is the evaluation?), grading (how important is this decision?) and the trade-off between maximizing our chances and the risks incurred in doing so (is there a safer alternative?).

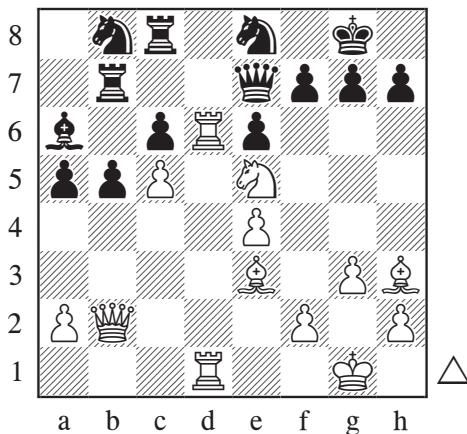
With hindsight, it's easy to say when you should have continued calculating. Explanations like "you had not yet solved the problem with the back rank" sound sensible and almost obvious, but anyone can be wise after the event. It's the same with finding critical moments: they are easy to identify afterwards.

It can be helpful to think about such things and identify useful clues for future reference, but excessive explanations carry a risk of suppressing your intuition – and with it your human strength. The complex concepts mentioned above work best unconsciously. Your intuition may fail from time to time, but it improves with experience.

Here is one example where the position can be evaluated even though there are more lines to calculate.

Boris Spassky – Lothar Zinn

Mariánské Lázně 1962

**24. $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$**

24... $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xd6+-$ does not win back the exchange straight away (Black can pin the knight), but Black's position will soon collapse after 26. $\mathbb{W}e5$.

25. $\mathbb{Q}xe6\#$ $\mathbb{W}xe6$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$

Black has enough material for the queen, and he would be fine if he had time to return with the king to safety. There is a way to stop that.

27. $\mathbb{W}b3\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 28. $\mathbb{W}g8!$

29. $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ is a threat.

28...h6

The game is not technically over, but it's hard to imagine that Black will be able to free himself with all of his pieces stuck on the queenside. It's safe to trust the intuition that White is winning – and it's fair to do so even before seeing 28. $\mathbb{W}g8!$.

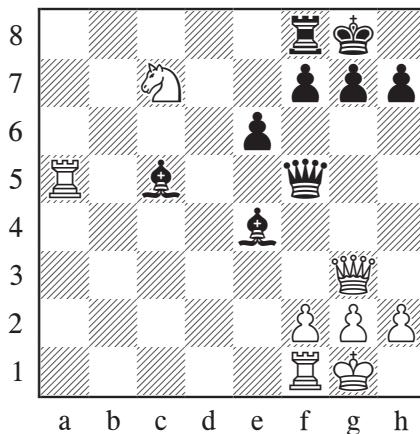
The primary aim of this book is to provide you with the means to develop your pattern recognition and intuition. Trying to calculate every variation until the end with a bookkeeper's mentality would be counterproductive. Trust your intuition, but with care!

Even though it should be similar, a solving session is not exactly a real game. We have extracted critical positions where there are tactical options. By working through them, you will be able to train your pattern recognition skills more efficiently than during a tournament.

Knowing that the position is critical makes it possible to put slightly higher demands on your calculation. If the first move and the opponent's reply are obvious, you should look further.

Jeroen Piket – Garry Kasparov

Linares 2005



Black is an exchange down, but the extra pawn and bishop pair appear to give him decent compensation. However, it's possible to win material with a simple discovered attack.

27... $\mathbb{Q}xf2\#!$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xf2 \mathbb{W}xa5$

So far so good, but White has a counter-tactic.

29. $\mathbb{Q}xe6!$

The rook is threatened and Black is mated if it moves, so he could potentially have tricked himself. If you now note that 29... $\mathbb{Q}d3$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xf8 \mathbb{Q}xf1$ 31. $\mathbb{W}xf1 \mathbb{Q}xf8$ reaches a queen ending with an extra pawn, you are ready to capture on f2. Even though a draw is likely, a risk-free endgame with slight winning chances is an improvement over the rather unclear-looking starting position.

However, since you know that the diagram is a critical position, we expect you to look for alternatives and notice that there is a way to get an ending with not only one but two extra pawns.

29... $\mathbb{Q}xg2!$

0–1

Piket resigned because 30. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ can be met by either 30... $\mathbb{W}a8\#$ or 30... $\mathbb{W}d5\#$.

Moves with ✓ Signs

In the solutions, the moves marked with this 'tick' symbol are those which we think you ought to see before executing the combination in a game. In other words: the ticked move is what you would need to see to be sure that the first move is the best in the position – and sometimes a little more (as with 29... $\mathbb{Q}xg2!$ above). When a move of the opponent is marked with a ✓, you score a point for having noticed it and determined that it's no problem.

It is not always easy to say which moves must be seen in advance to earn the ✓ – we debated this issue in many solutions. If you find yourself strongly disagreeing with our choice in a particular solution, then give yourself full points anyway. Trust your own judgement, but don't fall into the trap of being too kind to yourself. We had a friend who always found an excuse when he didn't see the whole solution: "I knew I had a move there," he said. "During a game I would have found it." But when he blundered during the games he wasn't allowed to take his move back. So apply some common sense: don't cheat against yourself, but don't be too harsh either.

If you have chosen another winning continuation marked in the solution (often with "or"), you also earn full points. We have tried to note all relevant winning methods, but sometimes there are too many; or it may be that you chose to insert an intermediate check or something similar before executing the main combination. Again, use your common sense as to whether or not you found the right idea. If in doubt, you can always check your solution using an engine.

In general, we give the critical moves as the main line. The game continuations are not always mentioned, but when it's smooth we have given it for completeness (as in Smyslov – Addison above).

Since the timescale is a crucial element to the Woodpecker Method, you don't have to check all the variations – especially when working on your second and subsequent cycles. If you are curious about some details, you can always check them some time in between training sessions when the clock isn't ticking.

Finally, let us remind you that your objective in each training session will be to solve as quickly and accurately as possible. Thus, please don't take this book to bed and attempt to solve as you are falling asleep, or in the morning when you have barely woken up. We want to encourage good habits, not bad ones!

Summary of Tactical Motifs

To calculate well, you need to be able to visualize positions in your head, and to know about methods such as blunder-checking, candidate moves, comparison and choosing which move to calculate first. However, you also need to recognize tactical motifs on a more or less unconscious level. That skill is improved by seeing a vast number of them – as will happen in this book.

The human mind is good at decoding and organizing abstract concepts to be able to retrieve them when needed. When we consciously intervene in the process, we risk losing the automaticity. However, there are a few good books that give a theoretical foundation to tactical motifs, and it would do no harm to read one of those books before solving mixed exercises, as in this book. Since learning the different motifs is something that we recommend any serious player should do at least once in his or her career, it seems profitable to do so before training with the Woodpecker Method.

Since this is a workbook and not a full tactical course, we will limit ourselves to a list of the main tactical motifs, with one basic example for each of them. Read carefully – the positions may turn up again.

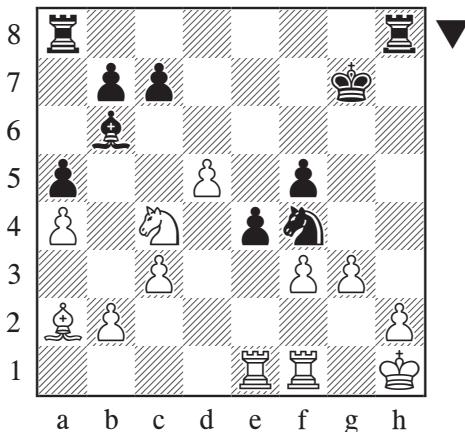
1) Threats

Here are eight of the most prevalent tactical themes which involve threats to the opponent's pieces or king.

Shutting in

Carl Hamppe – Wilhelm Steinitz

Vienna 1860



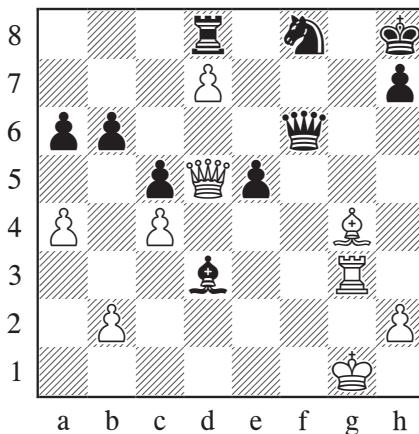
30...♝xh2†! 31.♚xh2 ♜h8 mate

Black would have been lost without this resource.

The Magnet

Ivo Nei – Tigran Petrosian

Moscow 1960

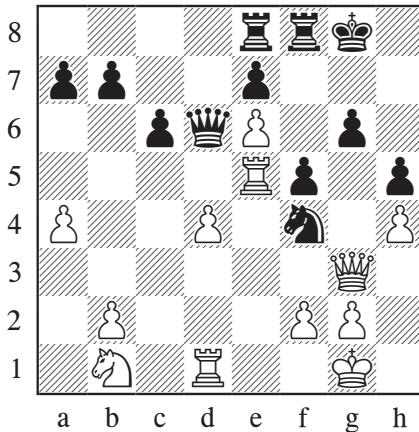


33.♛g8†! ♔xg8 34.♝e6† ♔h8 35.♝g8 mate

Removing the Defender

Max Euwe – Nicolaas Cortlever

Amsterdam 1954

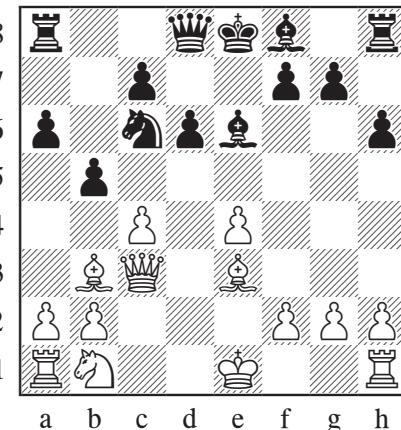


25...♛xe5! 26.dxe5 ♛e2† 27.♚h2 ♛xg3
Black wins material.

Opening Files, Ranks or Diagonals

Josef Noa – Wilhelm Steinitz

London 1883

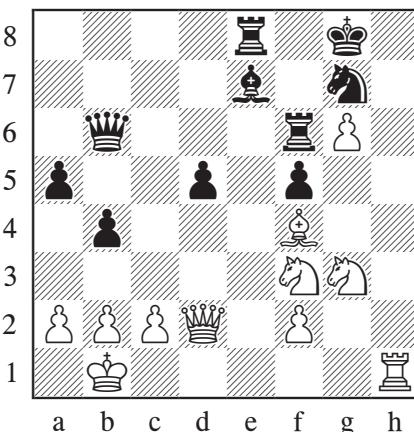


12...d5! opens up for the bishop to land on b4, and wins a pawn to start with.

Gain of Tempo

Mikhail Tal – Rico Mascarinas

Lvov 1981



28.♝c7! The bishop moves with tempo and clears the way for the queen. (This could also serve as an example of line-clearing, as featured in the previous example.) **28...♛xc7**

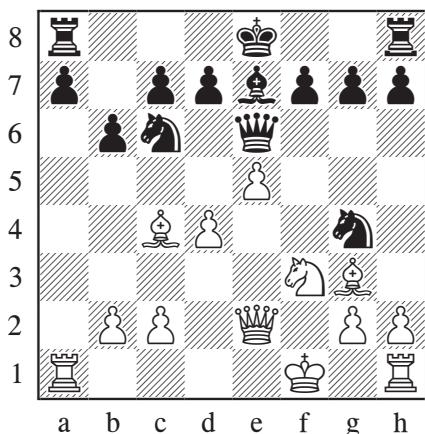
29. $\mathbb{W}h8\#!$ Another example of the magnet as shown earlier. Many tactical combinations feature more than one of the elements under discussion. **29... $\mathbb{Q}xh8$** **30. $\mathbb{W}h6\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}g8$** **31. $\mathbb{W}h7\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}f8$** **32. $\mathbb{W}h8$ mate**

The following three motifs all involve creating threats to more than one enemy piece.

Fork

Wilhelm Steinitz – Johannes Minckwitz

Baden-Baden 1870

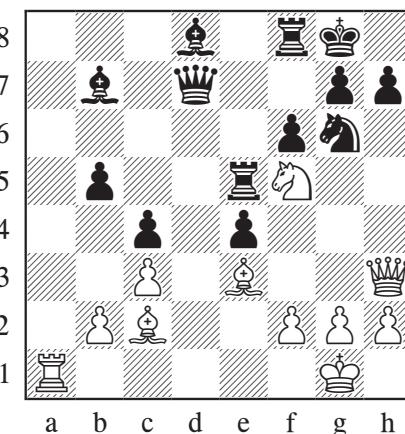


18... $\mathbb{W}xc4!$ 0-1 White resigned, as 19. $\mathbb{W}xc4$ $\mathbb{Q}e3\#$ followed by 20... $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ recaptures the queen, leaving Black a piece up.

Discovered Attack

Joseph Blackburne – Wilhelm Steinitz

Vienna 1882

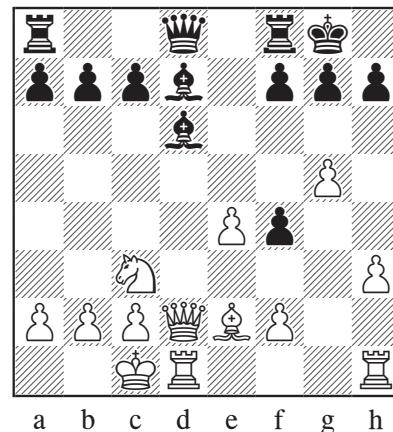


25. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ **$\mathbb{Q}xh6$** **26. $\mathbb{W}xd7$** Black resigned a move later.

Pin

Wilhelm Steinitz – Serafino Dubois

London (2nd match, Game 6) 1862



15. $e5$ White wins one of the bishops.

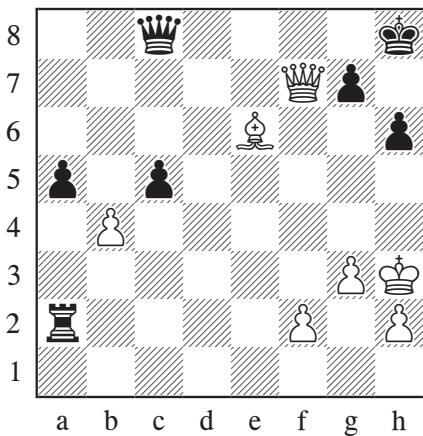
2) Defensive Tactics

Sometimes a tactical nuance can be used to refute an unsound combination or rescue an otherwise difficult situation. Two such motifs are shown below.

Counter-threat

Jose Raul Capablanca – Rasmussen

Copenhagen (simul) 1911

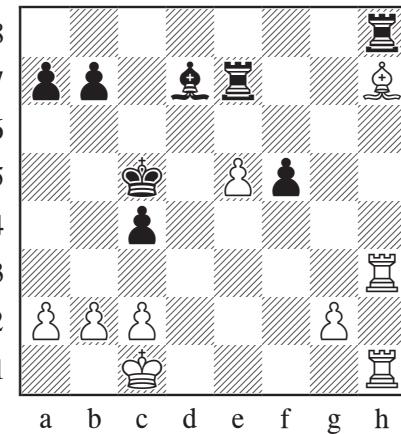


35... $\mathbb{B}xf2!$ This defends against the double threat and after **36. $\mathbb{W}xf2 \mathbb{W}xe6\#$** Black reaches a queen ending with two extra pawns and a safe king.

Lifeline

Max Euwe – H.V. von Hartingsveld

Amsterdam 1922



25. $\mathbb{Q}xf5! \mathbb{E}xh3 26.\mathbb{Q}xh3$ White has won a pawn since the bishop is saved by a lifeline (the e5-pawn was lost anyway).

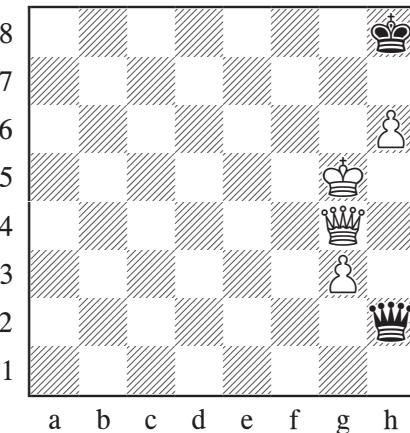
3) Others

Our remaining three motifs usually (though not always) arise in the endgame.

Stalemate

Zoltan Ribli – Boris Spassky

Montpellier 1985

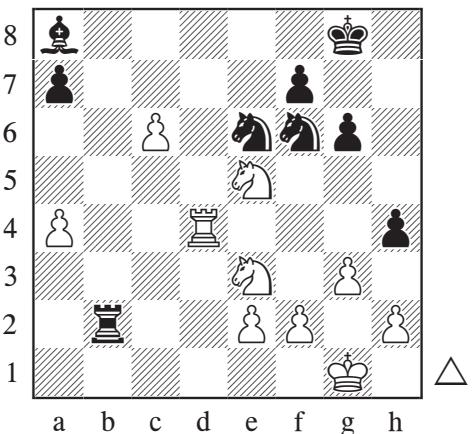


85... $\mathbb{W}xh6\#!$ Black draws, since **86. $\mathbb{Q}xh6$** is stalemate.

Pawn promotion

Dmitry Gurevich – Alexander Khalifman

Moscow (rapid) 1992

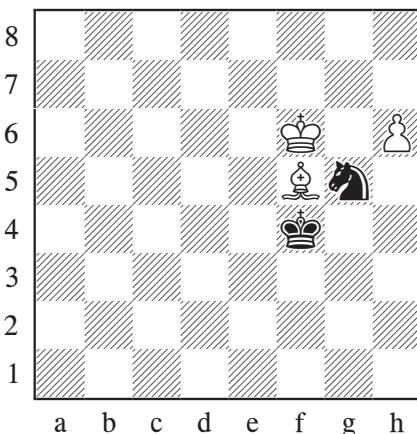


29. $\mathbb{E}d8\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ 30.c7 and Black cannot protect both promotion squares.

Zugzwang

Robert Fischer – Mark Taimanov

Vancouver (2) 1971



87. $\mathbb{Q}g6$ Black is in zugzwang and has to allow the pawn to promote.

For those who wish to learn more about the motifs, a good read is *Chess Tactics from Scratch* by Martin Weteschnik (Quality Chess, 2012).

Instructions

Woodpecker training is hard. To get the maximum benefit from it, we recommend that you follow the methodology described in this short section.

First, a couple of definitions:

Set: The exercises which you will solve before you start all over again.

Cycle: One round of solving the set. Normally you will perform up to seven cycles with one set.

The Woodpecker Method in Five Steps

Step 1

Cycle 1: Solve as many exercises as you can manage in four weeks. These exercises are your *set*; and solving them brings you to the end of your first *cycle*. (The exact time period can be adjusted according to your lifestyle and circumstances, but try not to spend much more than four weeks. If you find yourself taking much longer than four weeks, you have probably either not been putting in sufficient time, or have included too many exercises in your set.)

Step 2

Take a break from chess for at least a clear day, and up to a week if you need it.

Step 3

Cycle 2: Solve the same set of exercises but faster: within two weeks is the target.

Step 4

Repeat steps 2 and 3, and repeat again. Aim to complete each cycle in half the number of days as the previous cycle (rounded up, when dealing with an odd number of days).

Step 5

The Woodpecker Method has been completed when the full set of exercises has been solved entirely in one day – or after the 7th cycle, if you are unable to solve the full set in a day. In the final two cycles, you should focus more on spotting ideas, patterns and motifs at speed, and less on the finer details of calculation.

Customizing the Woodpecker Method

The five-step plan is straightforward enough, but a crucial variable is missing: how much time should you spend solving during the initial four weeks? Since the answer will depend on your level of ambition and life situation, it has to be your decision. Before you begin, we recommend that you set a target timetable with upper and lower limits. Between five and ten hours per week would seem realistic for an amateur player with work and/or family commitments. By setting a loose schedule, you ensure a certain amount of personal accountability for your training, while

also having some leeway for unforeseen events. Life may have a tendency to get in the way; but if chess improvement is *really* important to you, we urge you to set an ambitious schedule and follow it ruthlessly (barring any life-changing events of course).

As an optional extra to setting a target number of hours per week, some players may find extra motivation by choosing the number of exercises beforehand. The appropriate number will depend on one's playing strength, ambition and time available. A reasonable number for a working amateur might be 250. Ultra-ambitious players with significant time and energy to devote to training may go for around 1000 as we did; or even the mega-set of 1128 exercises in this book. Remember to take into account the difficulty level, and be ready to adjust your target as you go along. For instance, if you set a target of 800 positions, but have only solved half that number after four weeks, you probably set the initial target too high.

Other Guidelines

Solve the exercises in order. If you are stuck and unable to find a solution, then choose a move anyway, as you would have to do the same in a game. As time is an important factor, we recommend limiting the time you spend writing down and checking your solutions. Neither of us made any notes, and we only checked the solutions when we were uncertain. However, if you find it at all difficult to remember the lines you have calculated, feel free to write them down, especially for the first one or two cycles. Some players have told us they found it useful to alternate between solving a number of exercises (for example a page) and then checking the relevant solutions before moving on to the next page of exercises. Regardless of which way you prefer, just keep in mind that you should still try to maintain your pace. Compared to later cycles, the first cycle will likely use a larger portion checking the solutions, which is quite alright. Having to check solutions less in later cycles will help you finish the set in the allotted time.

Scoring

After each session, note the time taken and the number of exercises. Counting the number of points you have scored is optional. We consider the score to be less important, and keeping count of it takes up some of your time and focus. We trusted our conscience; if we overlooked too many moves, we slowed down on the next session (or during the current one).

On the other hand, keeping a record of your scores also brings certain benefits. It may serve as a motivator when you know you will be competing with yourself and striving to score more points than in your previous cycle(s). It also provides feedback as to whether you are seeing enough. This is especially important from the second cycle onward, to avoid being satisfied with remembering the first move of the solution.

Unless otherwise specified in the solutions, this book uses the following scoring system:

Finding the correct first move = 1 point

Finding each move marked by a ✓ sign = 1 point

Resources

Sample record sheets have been included at the end of the book on pages 390 and 391. In the first sheet, a couple of sample entries have been filled in for illustrative purposes, showing hypothetical dates, time spent solving, number of exercises, as well as the optional extra information of points scored and percentage score.

The second sheet has been left blank. You may wish to photocopy it or use it as the basis for your own record sheets. Just fill in the ‘Woodpecker Cycle’ number at the top, and record the relevant data for each session. Then begin with a new sheet for your next cycle.

For added convenience, a downloadable Excel record sheet has been made available at:
<http://www.qualitychess.co.uk/ebooks/woodpecker-recordsheet.xls>

The spreadsheet version has been programmed to keep track of total solving time, number of exercises, points and percentage score for a full cycle. This will make it easy to monitor your progress from one cycle to the next.

Motivation

To push yourself, there are at least two types of goals you can set yourself in every training session.

Pace: During your first cycle, aim to solve as least as many exercises as in your previous session (assuming the exercises are of the same difficulty level) in the same amount of time.

Score: If you decide to keep track of your scoring, then aim to increase your percentage as you go along while maintaining your pace.

Beyond the First Cycle

Once you have finished the full set and enjoyed/endured your break, it’s time to start again. Your main goal for the second cycle is to solve more quickly, ideally halving the overall time. With the next cycle, aim to halve your time again, and so on. With every additional cycle, your increased recognition should compensate for the decreasing deadlines.

Although speed is key, **do not** satisfy yourself with spotting only the first move of the solution. Even if you are sure it’s the right move, be sure to calculate the follow-up. The only exception to this rule will come in the sixth and seventh cycles, by which time you should be striving to complete the full set within a single day, or at least get as close as possible.

Reaching the End

The Woodpecker Method has been completed when the full set of exercises has been solved in a single day (or after seven cycles, if one day proves unattainable). Time to celebrate! But where should you go from here? First and foremost, the ideal next step will be able to play

some tournaments and put your improved tactical ability to use. As far as subsequent training is concerned, this will depend on your playing strength and goals. Woodpecker training is hard, so you will probably want to take a break from it for a while, and perhaps train some other aspect of your game. When you are ready though, you may wish to consider one of the following approaches.

If your first bout of Woodpecker training comprised a set of, say, the first 250 exercises from this book, the way to build upon your progress is obvious: after taking a suitable break, begin a new four-week cycle using further exercises from this book. You will now be at the intermediate difficulty level, but you should be well and truly ready for it by now.

Readers who began their Woodpecker training with a high level of playing strength and ambition may have been able to take on a larger set, perhaps comprising the 984 exercises in the easy and intermediate sections, or even the difficult section as well, for a brutal total of 1128 exercises. If you were able to complete a set like this within a day (or over seven cycles) then your tactical ability should have taken a significant leap. To maintain and build upon the gains you have made, it is a good idea to redo the set approximately once every six weeks, or at least as a warm-up before an important tournament. For anyone keen/crazy enough to want to repeat the entire method, there are plenty of other exercise/puzzle books on the market...

Summary of Instructions

- Step 1)** Cycle 1: Solve a set of exercises over approximately four weeks
- Step 2)** Take at least the next day off
- Step 3)** Cycle 2: Solve the same set, but within two weeks
- Step 4)** Repeat steps 2-3, completing each cycle in half the number of days
(rounded up where necessary)
- Step 5)** The method is complete when the set has been solved in one day (or after seven cycles)

Now there's no more text to delay the exercises. Good luck and may the unconscious be with you!
(At least after a while...)

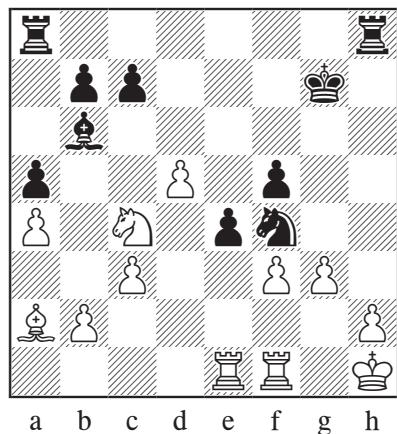
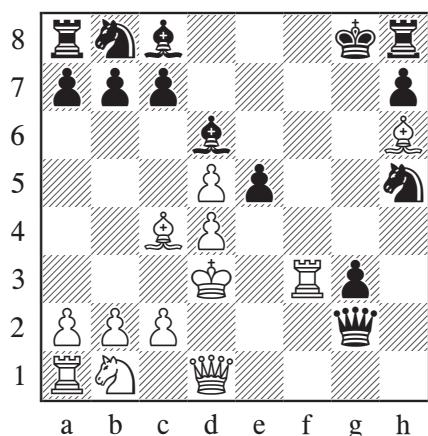
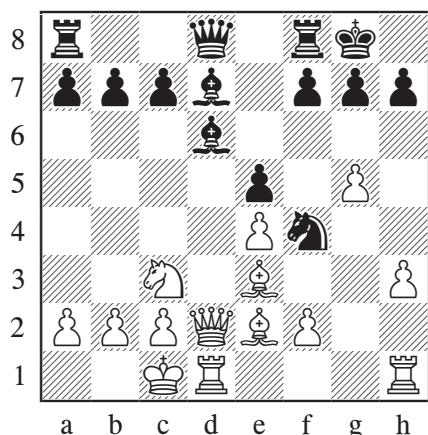
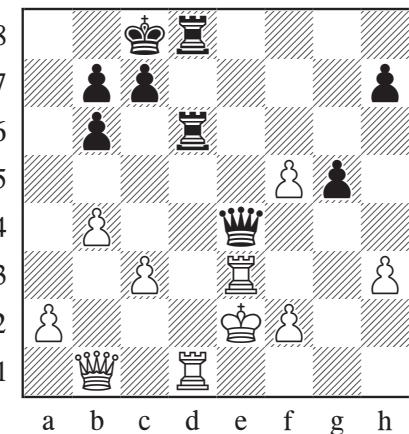
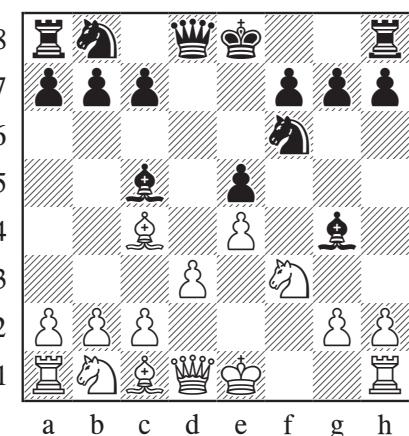
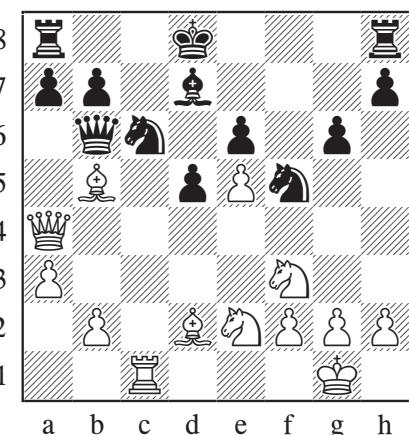
Hans Tikkanen & Axel Smith
Lund, June 2018

Chapter 1

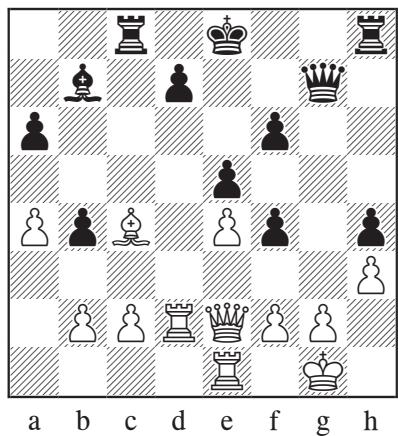
Easy Exercises



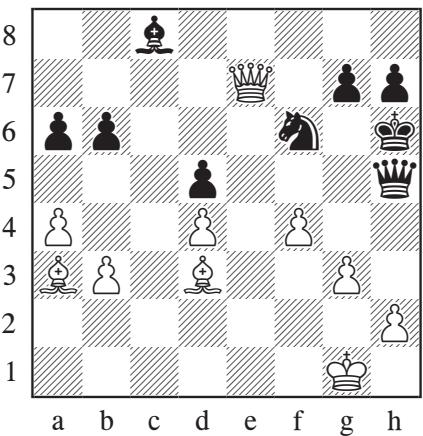
You must take your opponent into a deep dark forest where $2+2=5$, and the path leading out is only wide enough for one. – Mikhail Tal

Hamppe – Steinitz, Vienna 1860**Steinitz – Wilson**, London 1862**Steinitz – Dubois**, London (6) 1862**Green – Steinitz**, London (1) 1864**Steinitz – Barry**, Dublin (simul) 1865**Fraser – Steinitz**, Dundee 1867

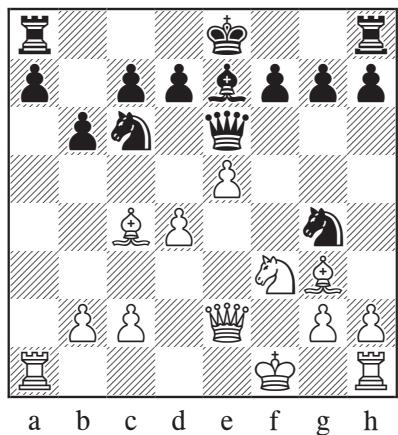
Steinitz – Baker, London (simul) 1868



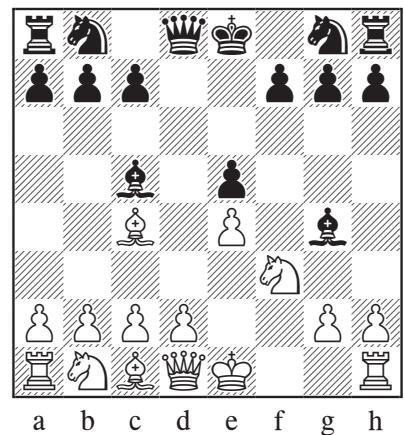
Steinitz – Gelbfuhs, Vienna 1873



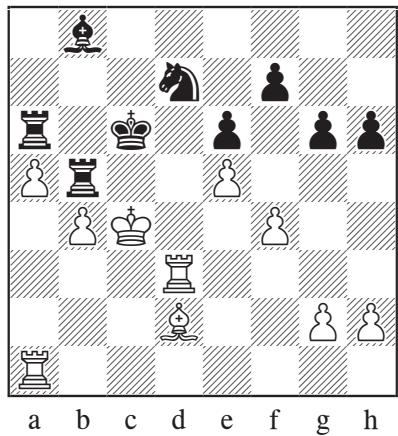
Steinitz – Minckwitz, Baden-Baden 1870



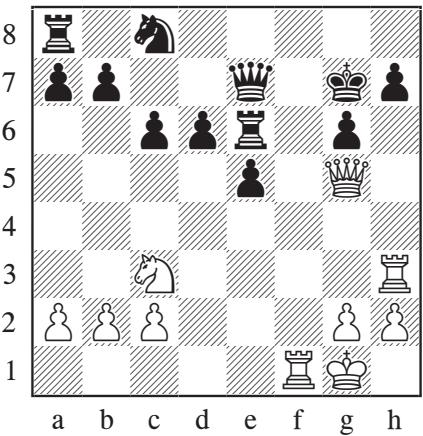
Steinitz – Meitner, Vienna 1882



Steinitz – Fleissig, Vienna 1873

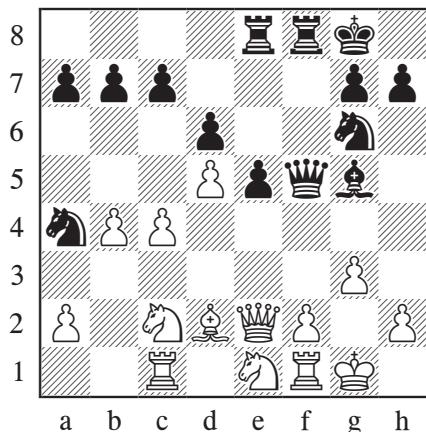


Blackburne – Steinitz, London 1883



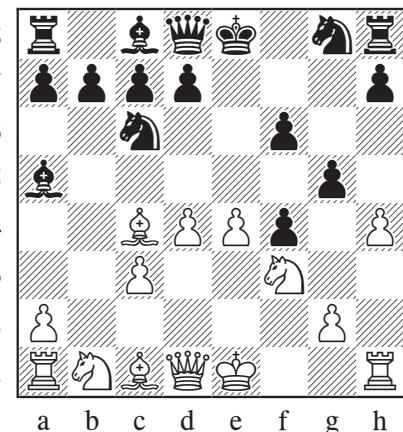
Gunsberg – Steinitz, New York (2) 1890

13



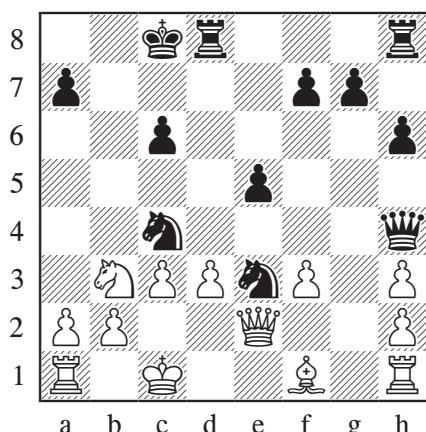
Steinitz – Reyne, Haarlem (simul) 1896

16

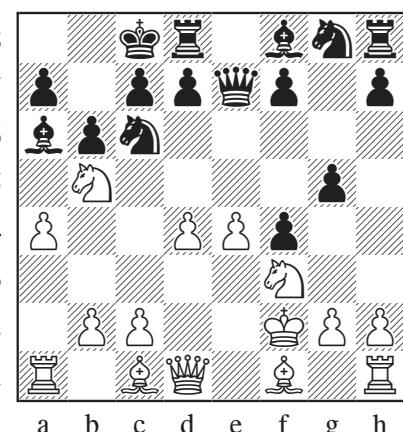


Steinitz – Chigorin, Havana (8) 1892

14

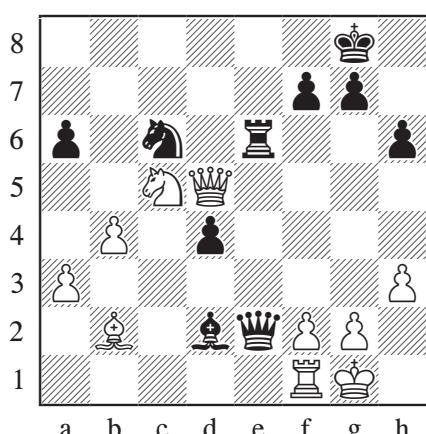


17



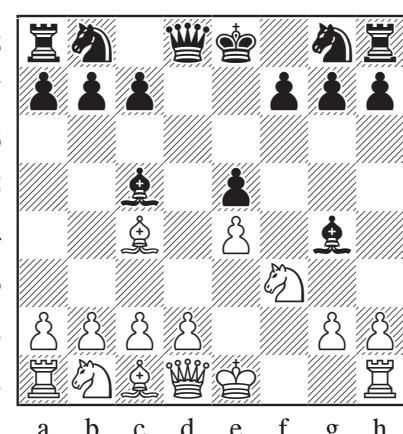
Steinitz – Van Foreest, Haarlem (simul) 1896

15

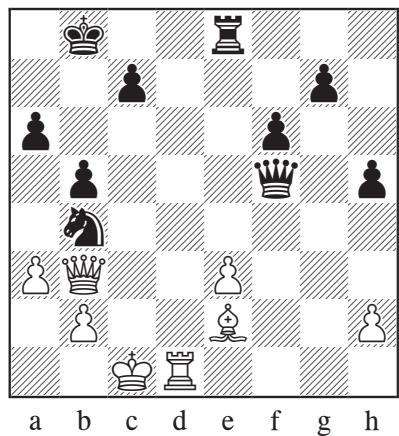


Steinitz – Enderle, Haarlem (simul) 1896

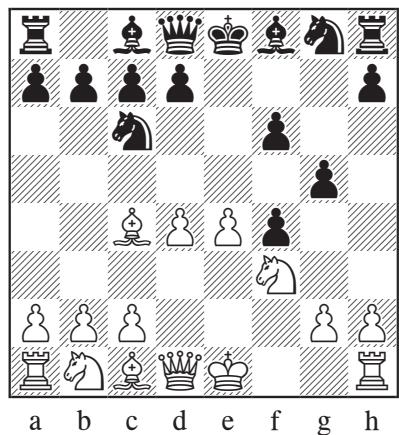
18



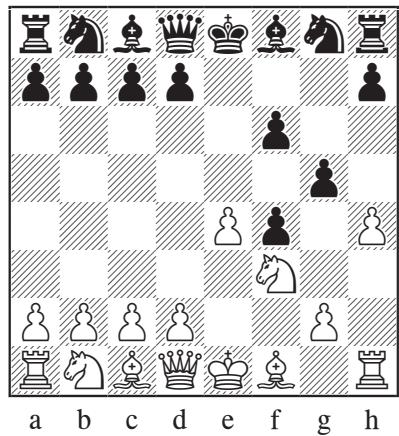
Showalter – Steinitz, Vienna 1898



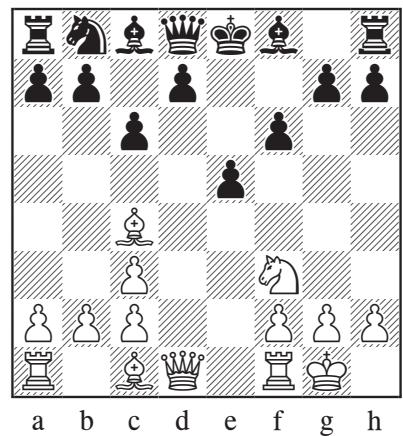
Lasker – McBride, USA (simul) 1902



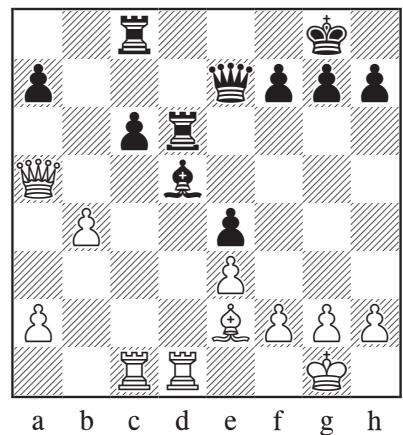
Lasker – Witchard, Gloucester (simul) 1908



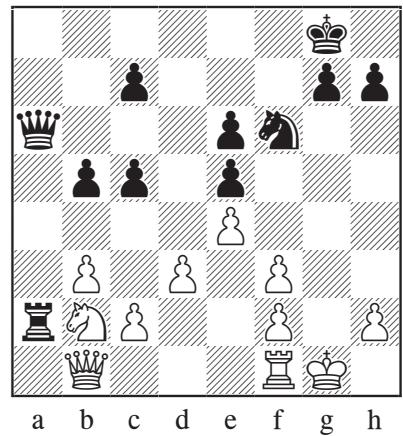
Hartlaub – Lasker, Germany 1908



Lasker – Janowski, Berlin (1) 1910

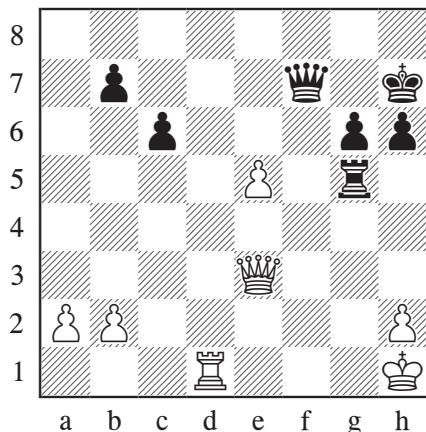


Lasker – Bogoljubov, Atlantic Ocean 1924



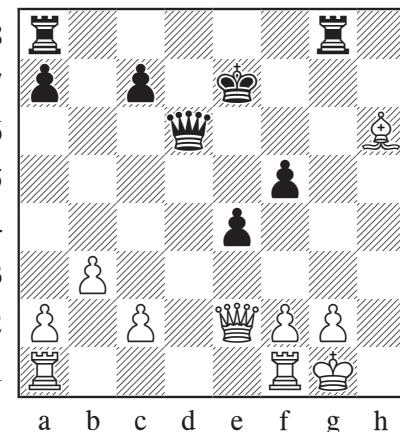
Thomas – Lasker, Nottingham 1936

25



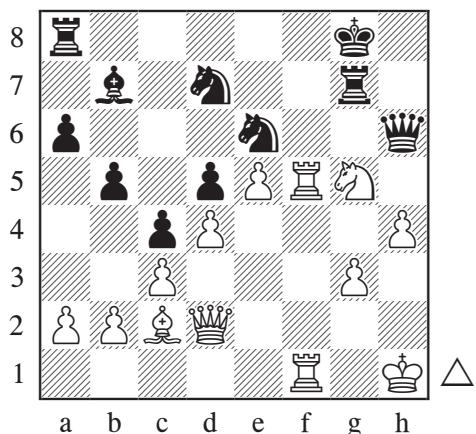
Capablanca – Pomeroy, Saint Louis (simul) 1909

28



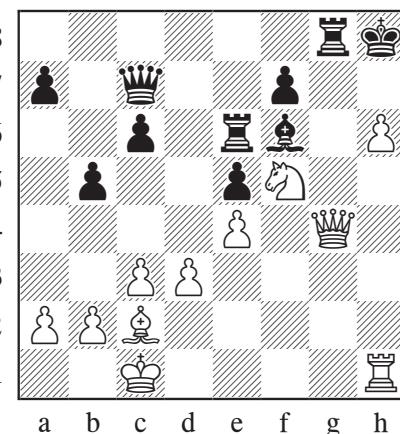
Capablanca – Watson, Schenectady 1909

26



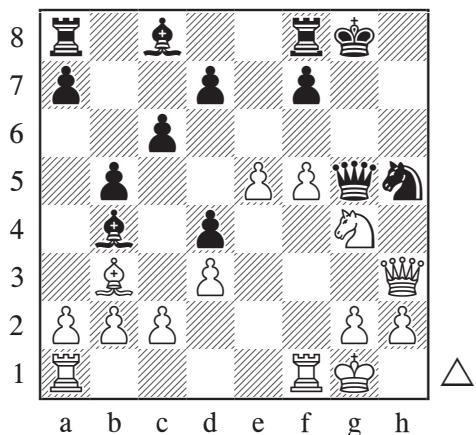
Capablanca – Carter, Saint Louis (simul) 1909

29



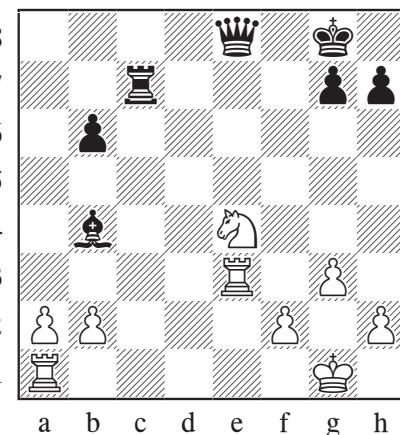
Capablanca – Schrader, Saint Louis (simul) 1909

27

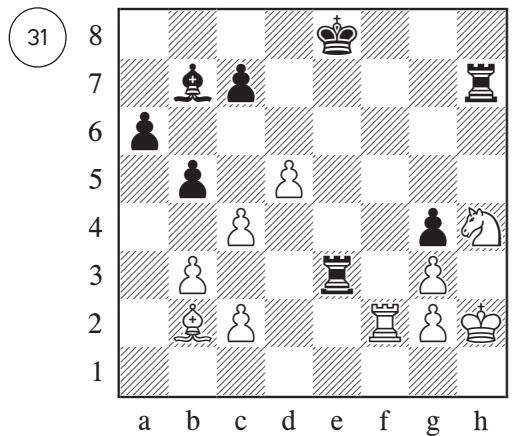


Capablanca – Marshall, New York 1910

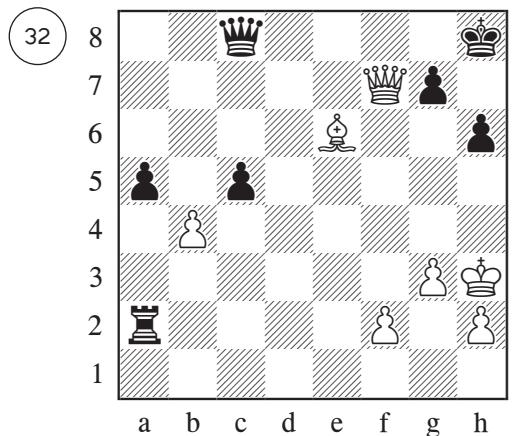
30



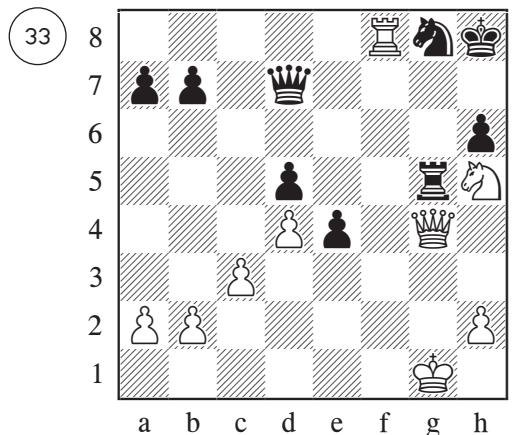
Capablanca – Piazzini, Buenos Aires 1911



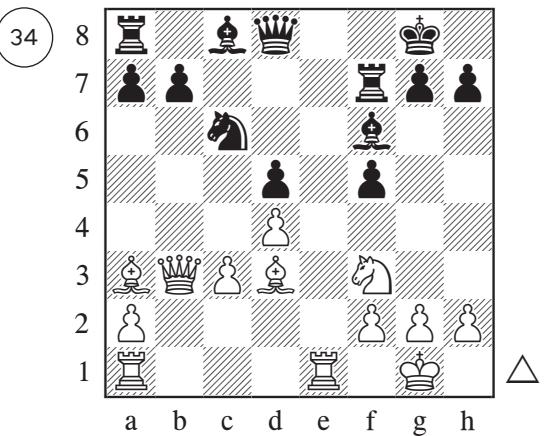
Capablanca – Rasmussen, Copenhagen (simul) 1911



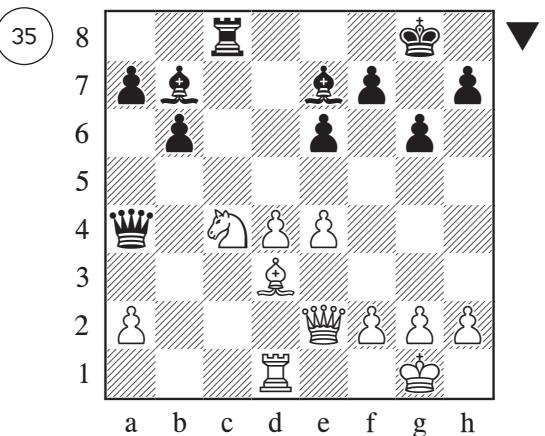
Capablanca – Randolph, New York 1912



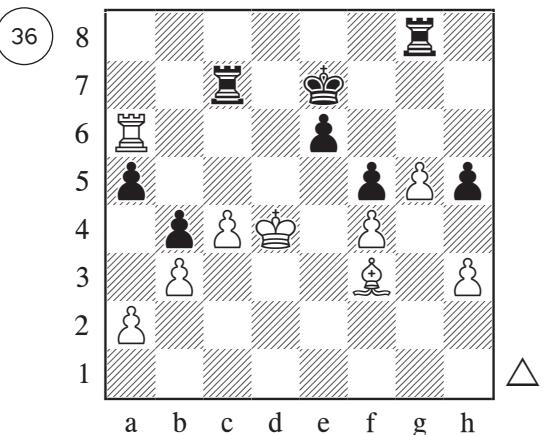
Capablanca – Dunkelsbuhler, London (simul) 1913



Hodges – Capablanca, New York 1915

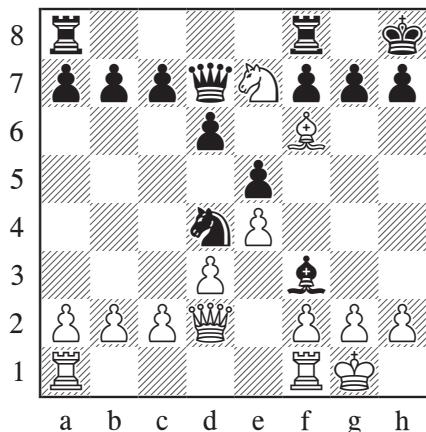


Capablanca – Michelsen, New York (simul) 1915

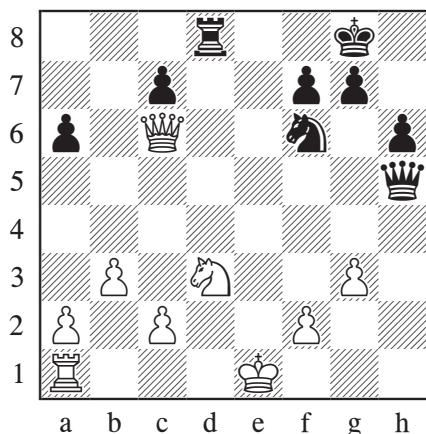


Capablanca – N.N., New York 1918

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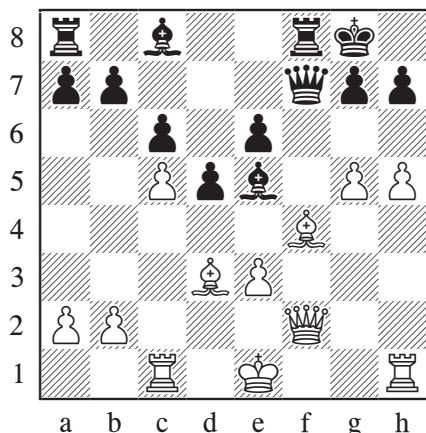


38



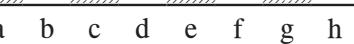
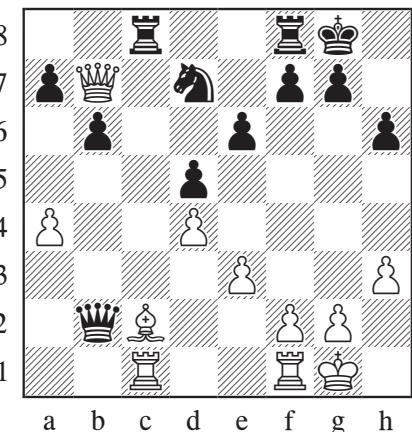
Capablanca – Hadland, Thornton Heath 1919

39



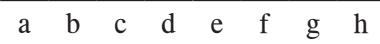
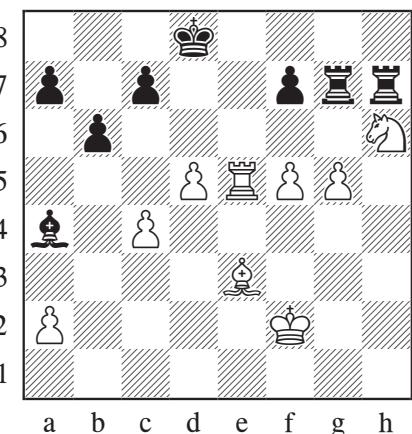
Capablanca – Vidmar, London 1922

40



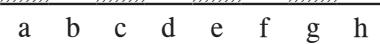
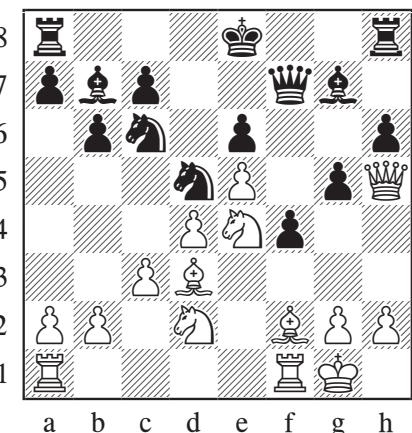
Capablanca – Malowan, New York (simul) 1922

41

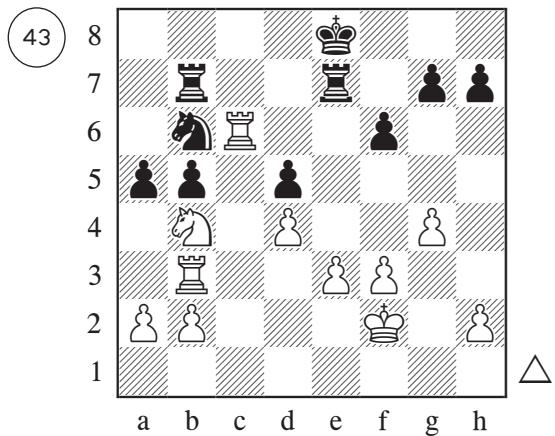


Capablanca – N.N., Moscow (simul) 1925

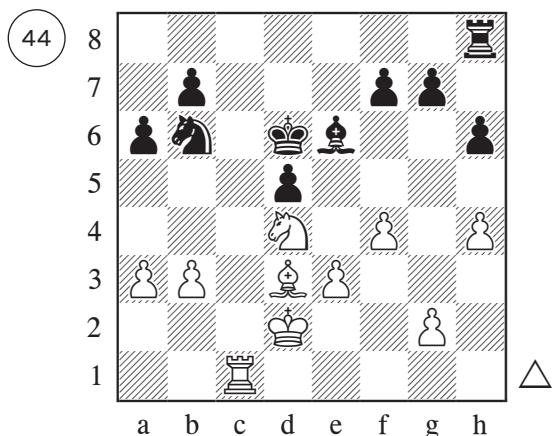
42



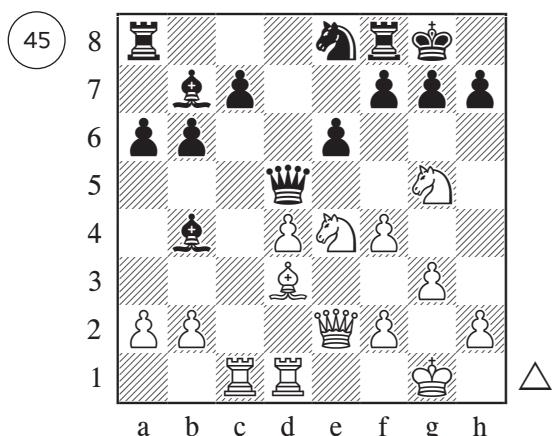
Capablanca – Mieses, Bad Kissingen 1928



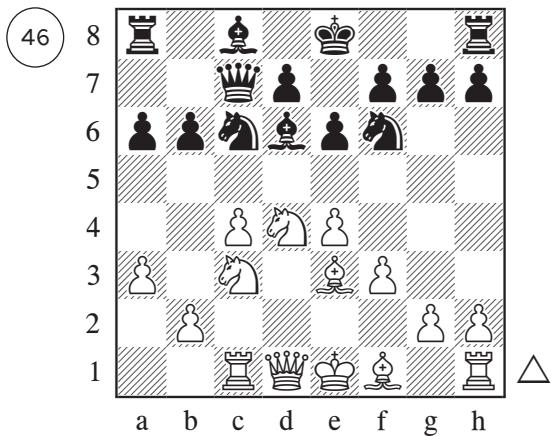
Capablanca – Vajda, Budapest 1929



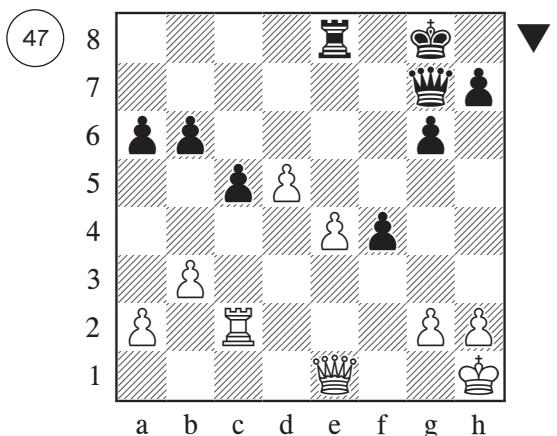
Capablanca – Becker, Karlsbad 1929



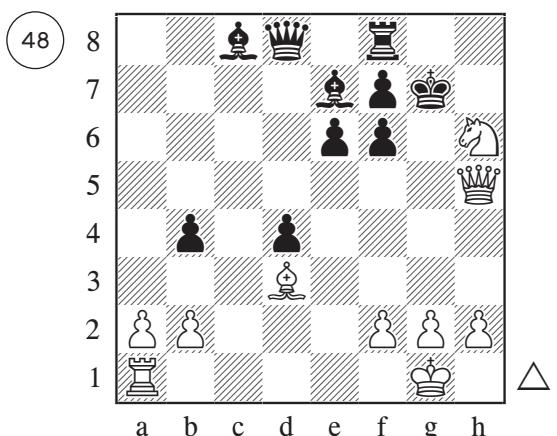
Capablanca – Larrea, Mexico (simul) 1933



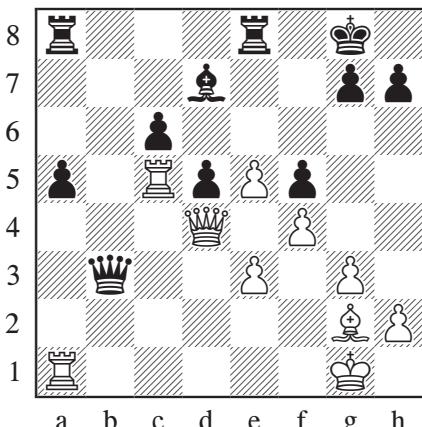
Menchik – Capablanca, Margate 1935



Capablanca – Levenfish, Moscow 1935

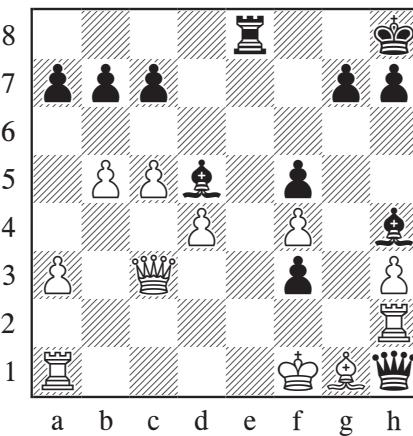


Capablanca – Botvinnik, Moscow 1936



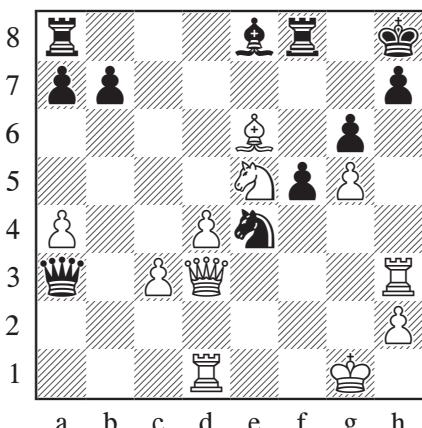
49

Viakhirev – Alekhine, corr. 1906



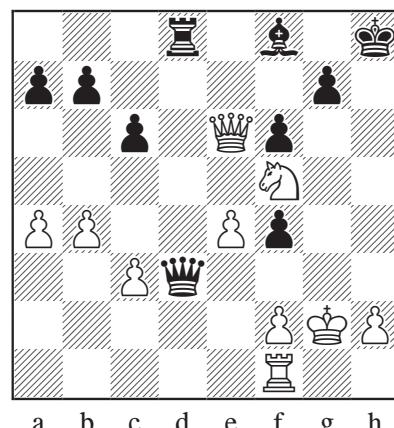
52

Capablanca – Vassaux, Buenos Aires (ol) 1939



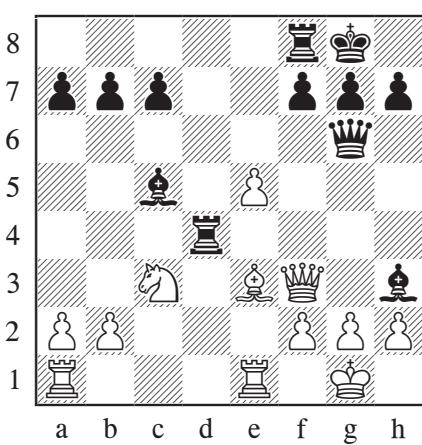
50

Blumenfeld – Alekhine, Moscow (2) 1908



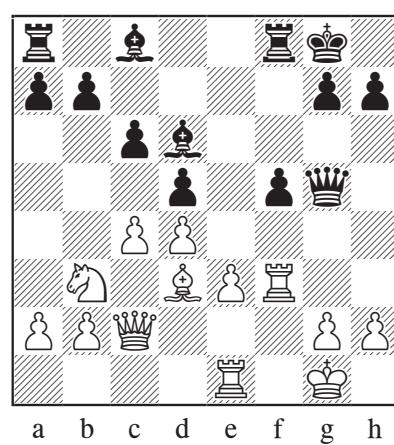
53

Alekhine – Petrov, corr. 1902



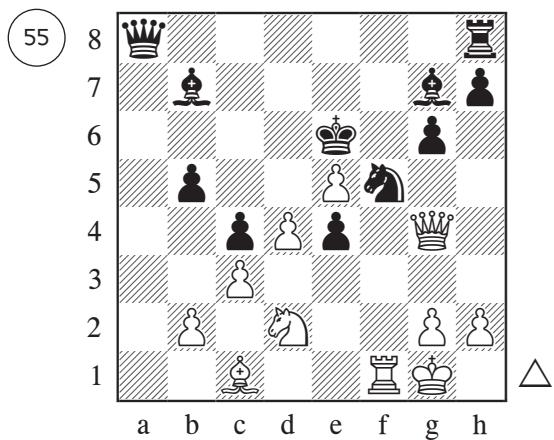
51

Goldfarb – Alekhine, St Petersburg 1909

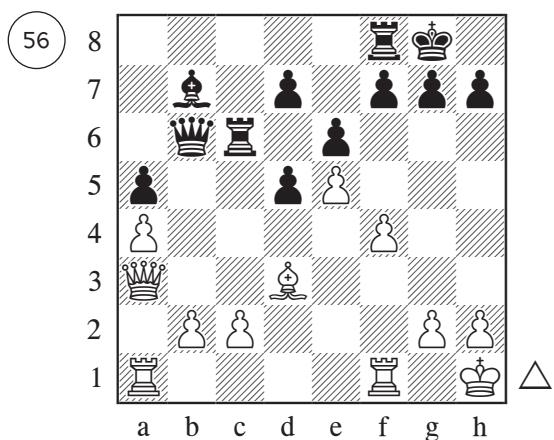


54

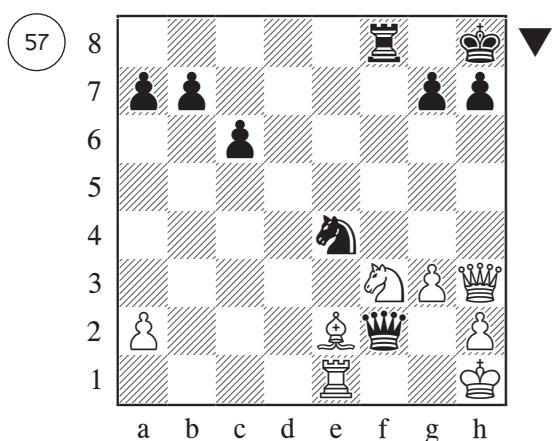
Alekhine – Lyubimov, Moscow 1909



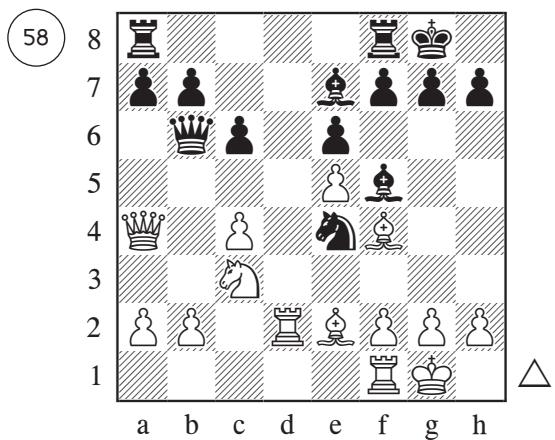
Alekhine – Izbinsky, St Petersburg 1909



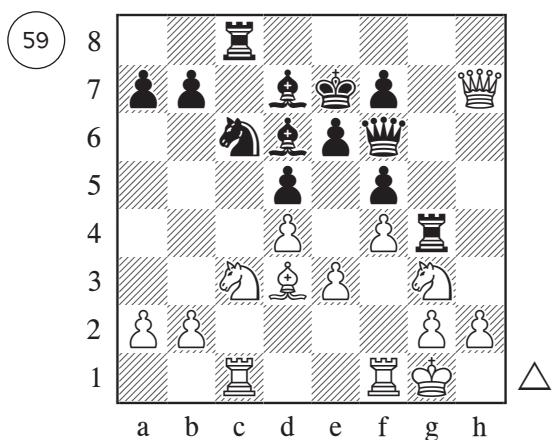
Rozanov/Tselikov – Alekhine, Moscow 1915



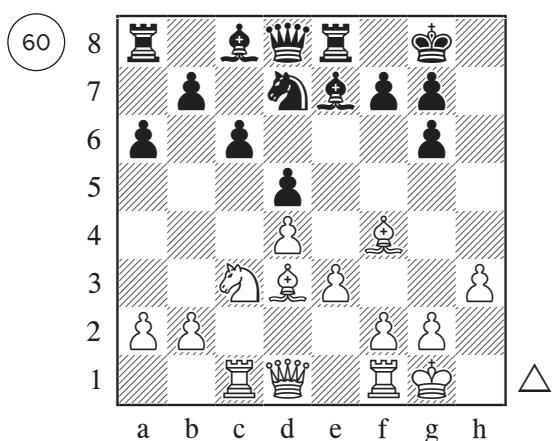
Leif-Jones – Alekhine, London (simul) 1923



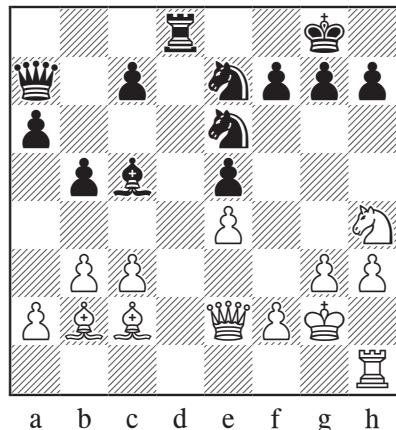
Friedmann – Alekhine, Czechoslovakia (simul) 1925



Alekhine – Yates, Baden-Baden 1925



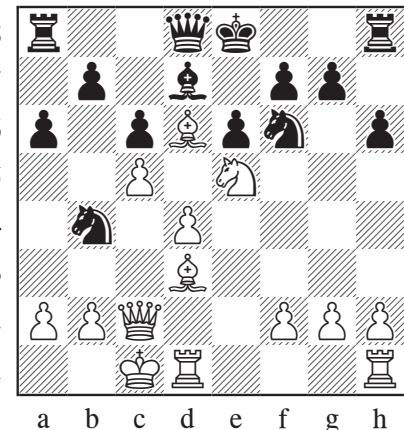
Vajda – Alekhine, Semmering 1926



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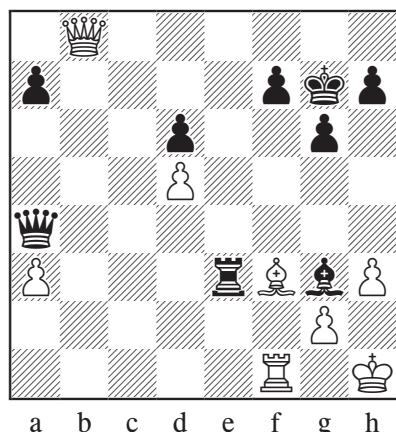
Alekhine – Rumjancev, Sarajevo (simul) 1931



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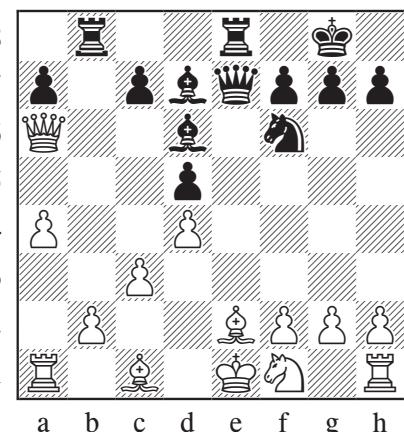
Grau – Alekhine, San Remo 1930



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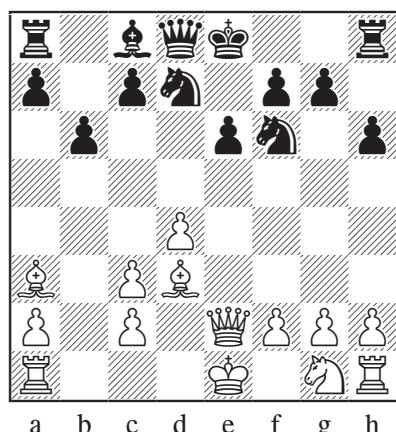
Fink – Alekhine, Pasadena 1932



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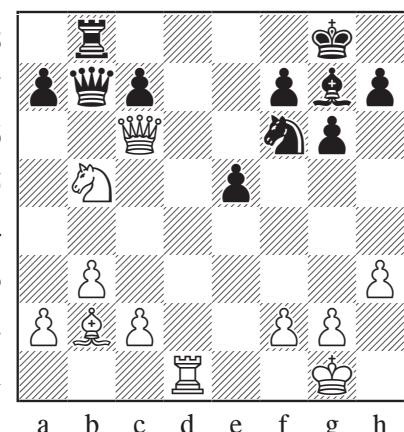
Alekhine – Vasic, Banja Luka (simul) 1931



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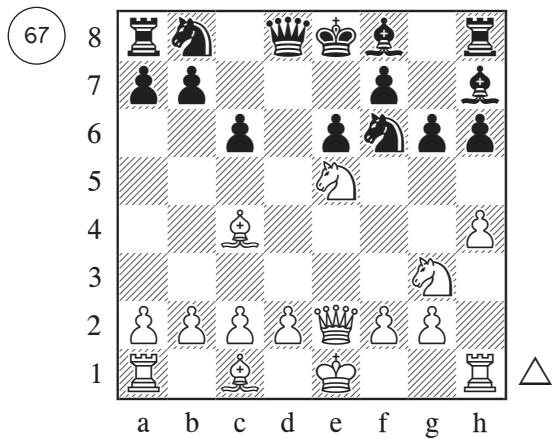
Alekhine – Jobbáhazai, Vienna (simul) 1936



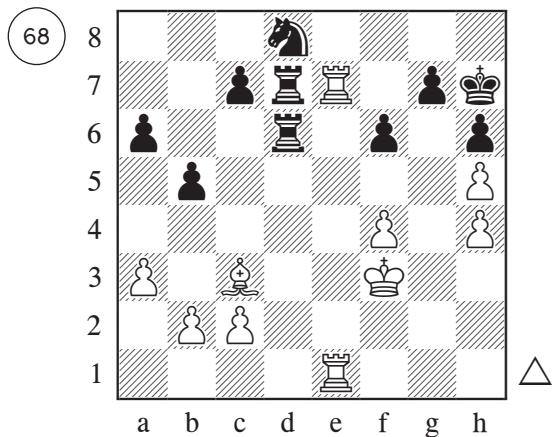
66



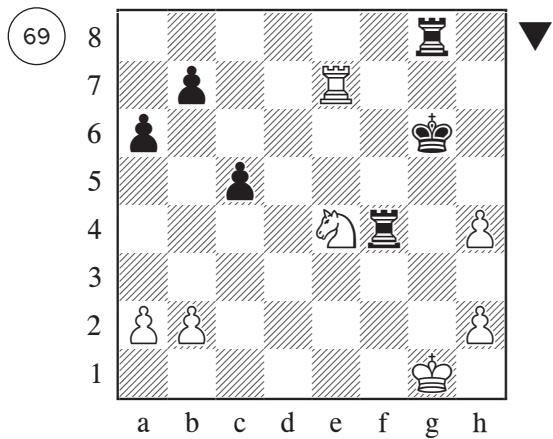
Alekhine – Bruce, Plymouth 1938



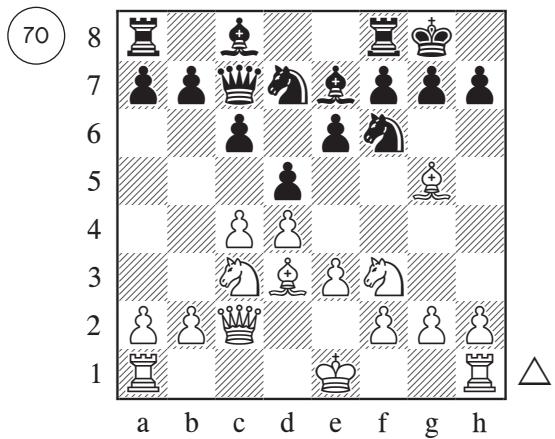
Alekhine – Lopo, Estoril (simul) 1940



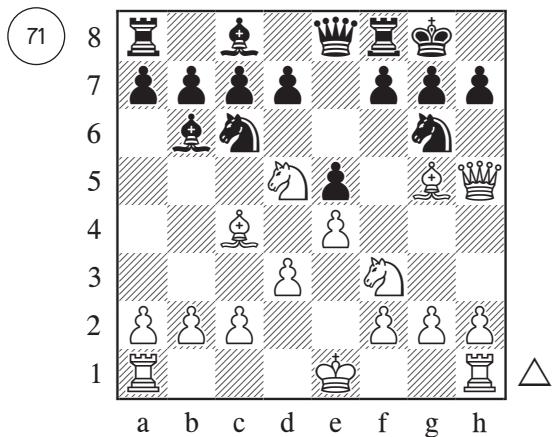
Alekhine – Aragao, Estoril (simul) 1940



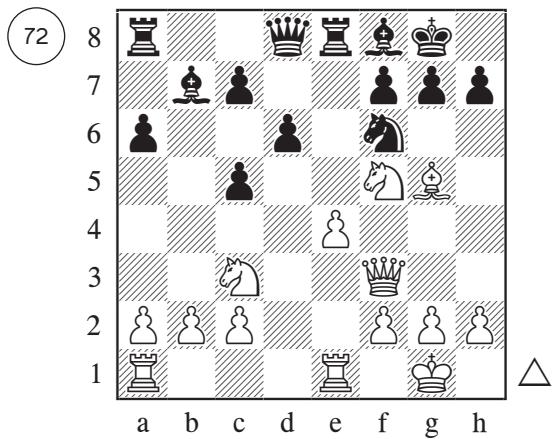
Alekhine – Salvatierra, Madrid (simul) 1941



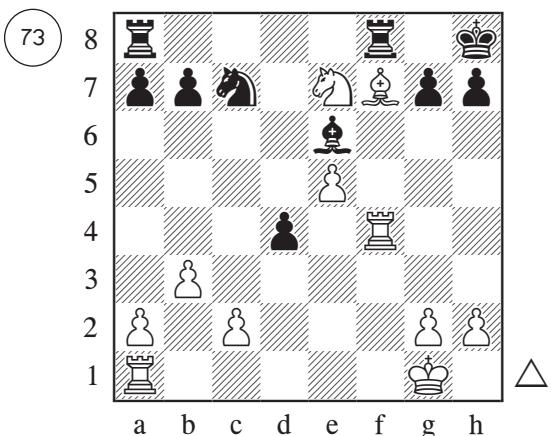
Alekhine – De Cossio, San Sebastian (simul) 1944



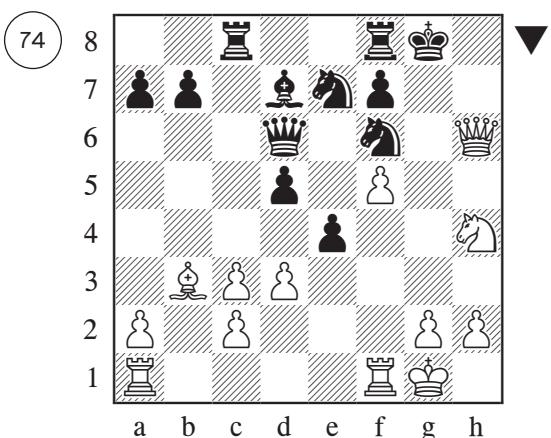
Alekhine – Ricondo, Santander (simul) 1945



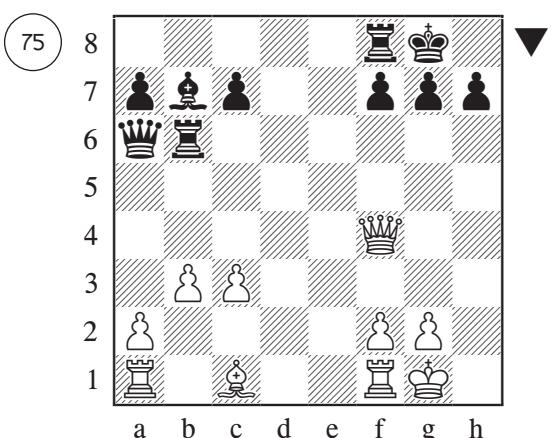
Euwe – Wiersma, Amsterdam 1920



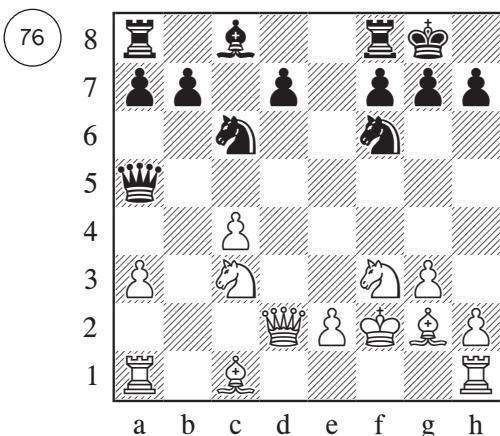
Bigelow – Euwe, Bromley 1920



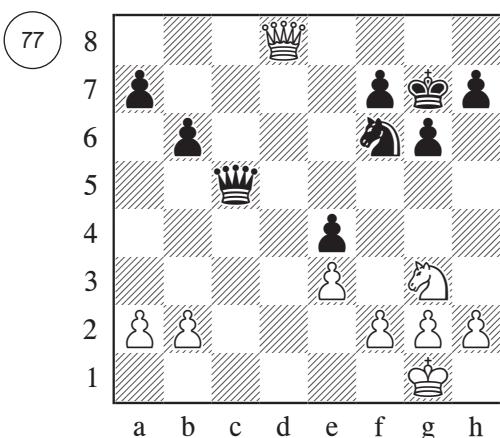
Gruber – Euwe, Vienna 1921



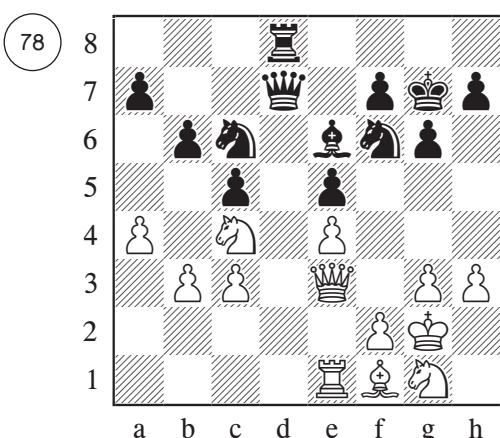
Euwe – Bogoljubov, Maehrisch Ostrau 1923



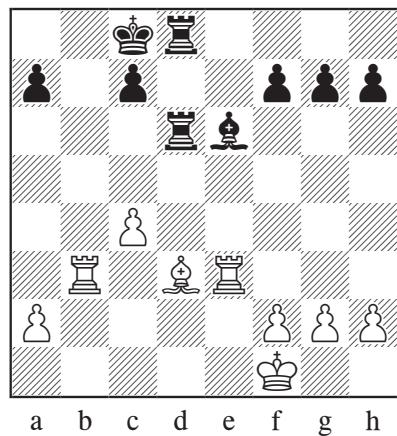
Euwe – Davidson, Amsterdam (1) 1924



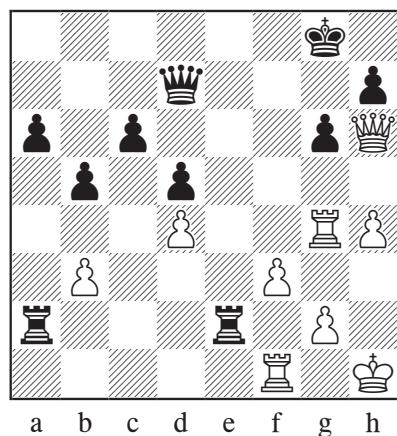
Schelfhout – Euwe, Utrecht 1926



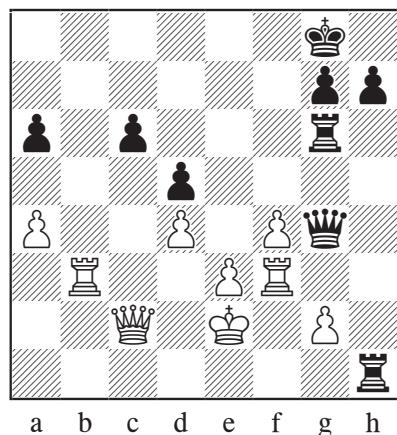
Rasmussen – Euwe, London (ol) 1927



Becker – Euwe, The Hague 1928

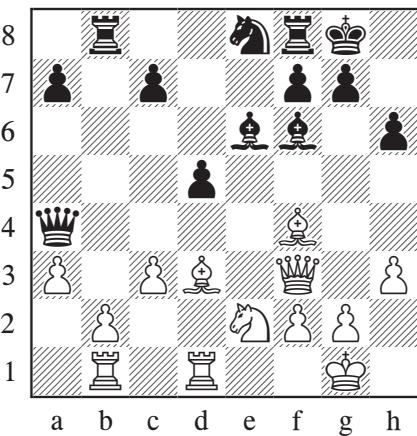


Colin – Euwe, Bern 1932

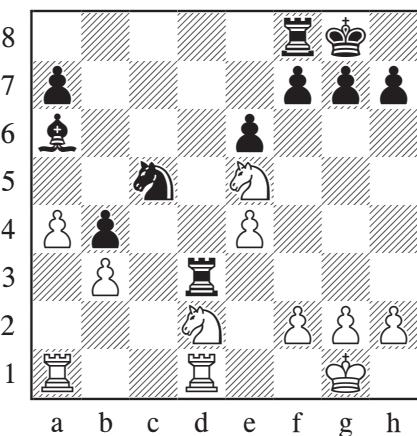


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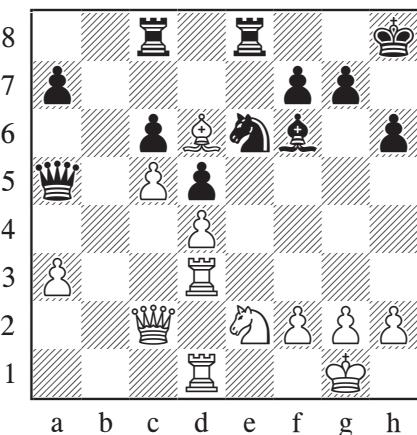
Van Foreest – Euwe, Netherlands 1932



Alekhine – Euwe, Netherlands (23) 1935

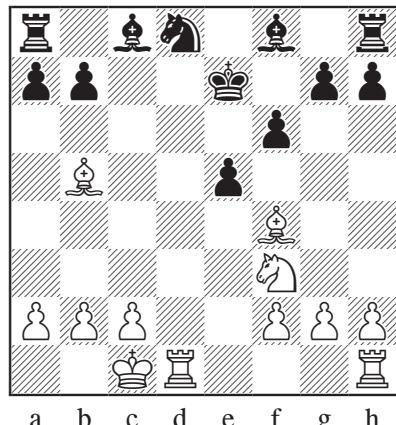


Euwe – Bogoljubov, Bad Nauheim 1937

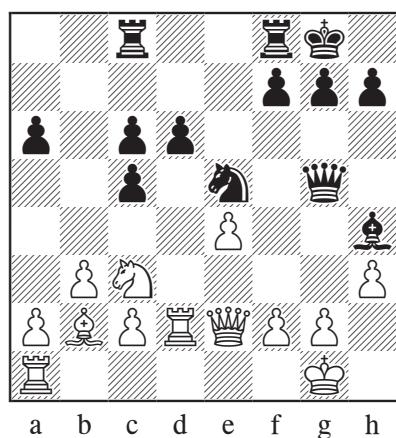


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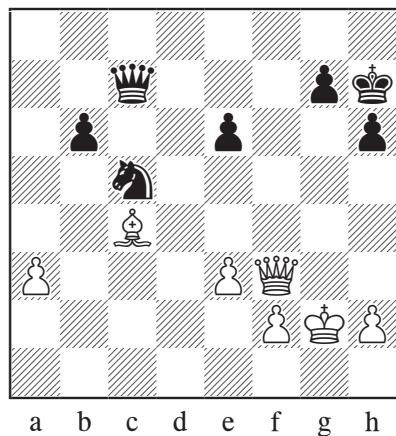
Cortlever – Euwe, Beverwijk 1941



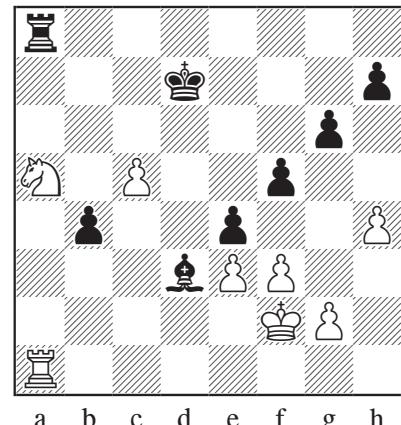
Euwe – Grob, Zurich 1947



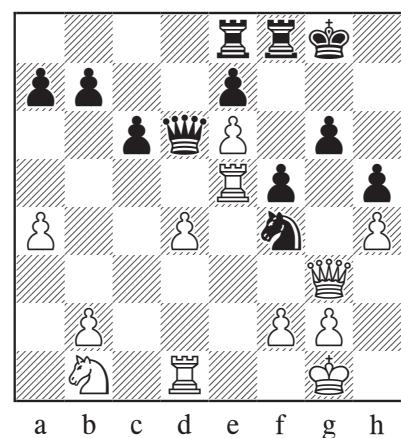
Van Scheltinga – Euwe, Amsterdam 1948



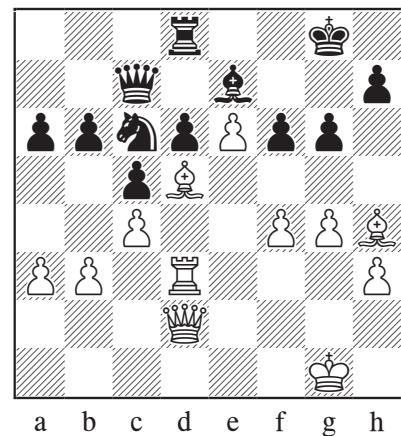
Visser – Euwe, Baarn 1949



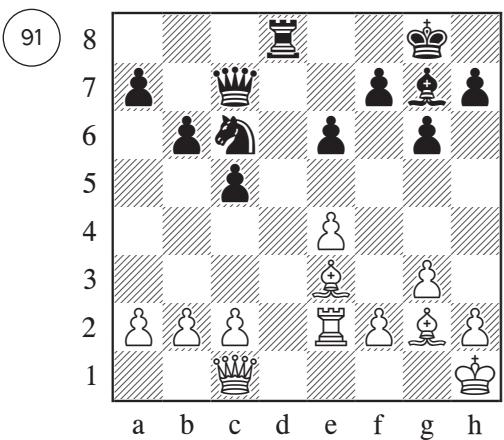
Euwe – Cortlever, Amsterdam 1954



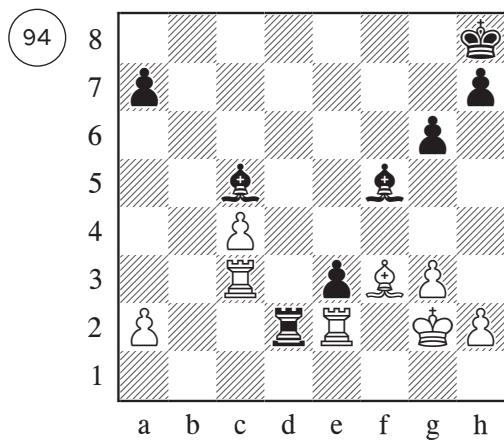
Euwe – Cintron, Munich (ol) 1958



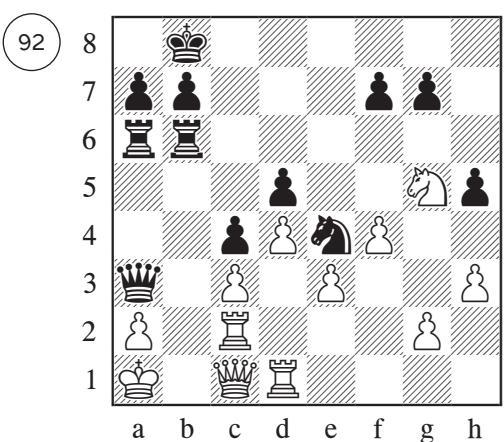
Alexander – Botvinnik, Nottingham 1936



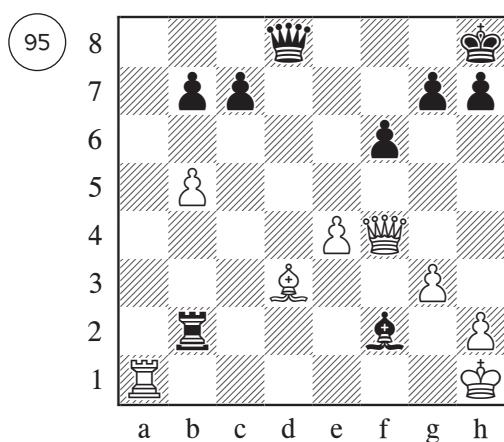
Botvinnik – Petrosian, Moscow 1966



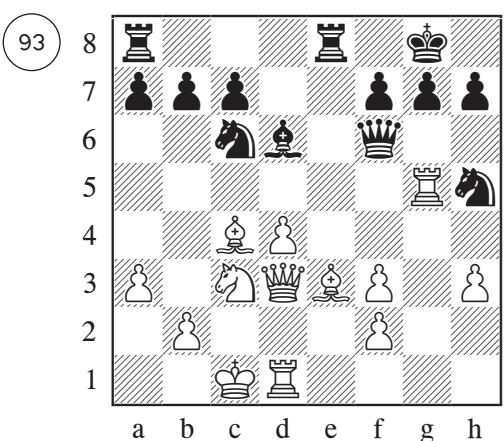
Lilienthal – Botvinnik, Moscow 1945



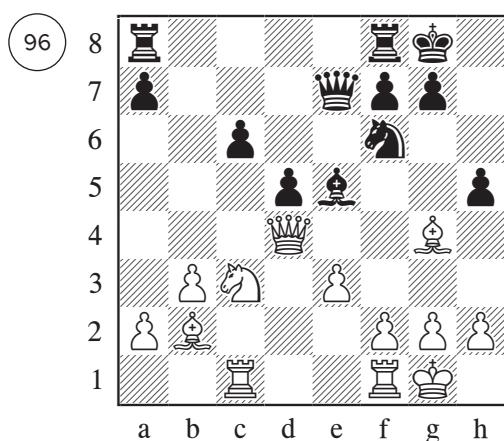
Larsen – Botvinnik, Leiden 1970



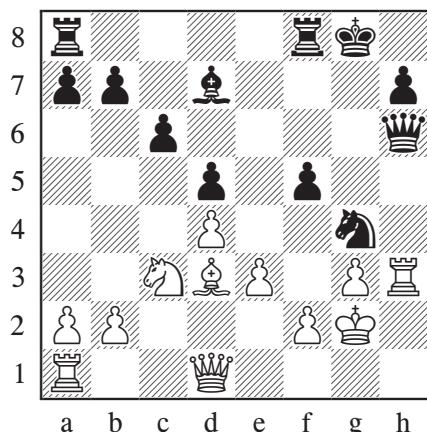
Botvinnik – Pachman, Moscow 1947



Smyslov – Govbinder, Moscow 1967

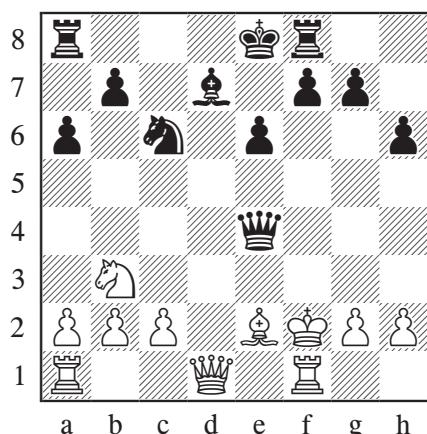


Shenreder – Tal, Riga 1951



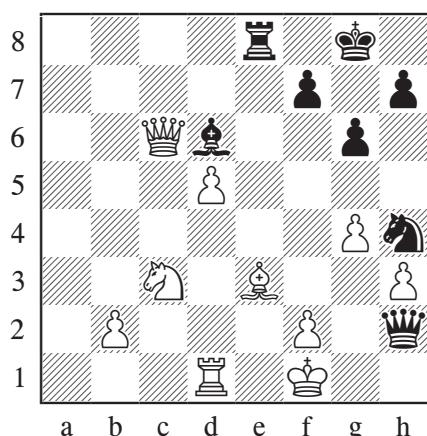
97

Tal – Tringov, Munich (ol) 1958

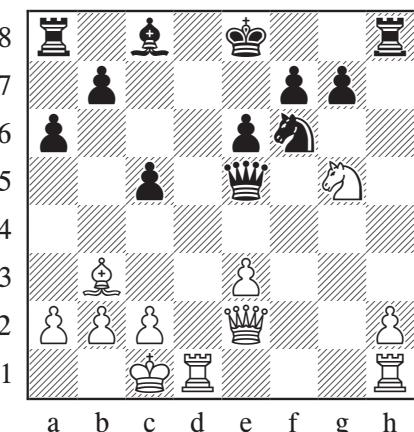


98

Rossetto – Tal, Portoroz 1958



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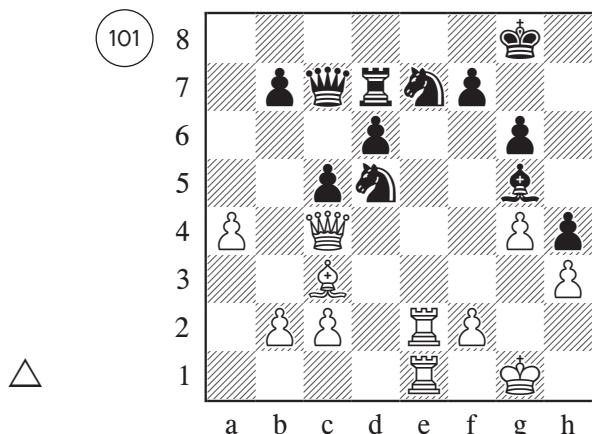


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Tal – Benko, Amsterdam 1964



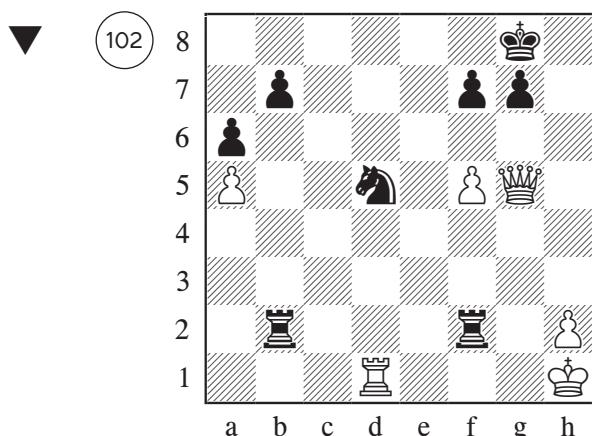
Tal – Levin, Poti 1970



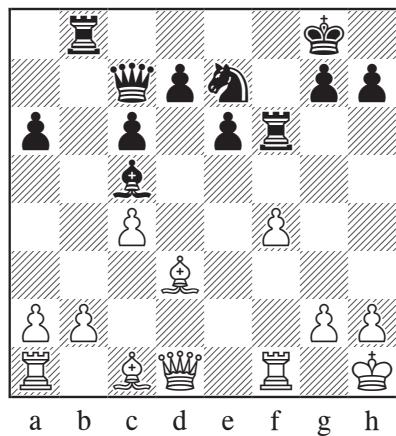
101



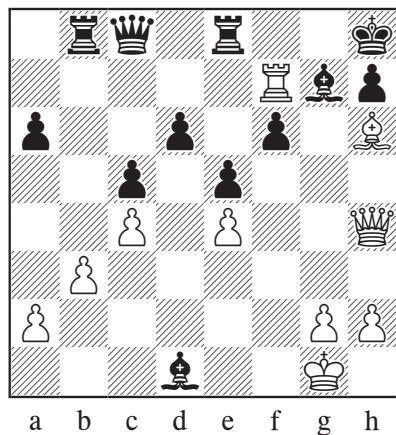
Shmit – Tal, Riga 1971



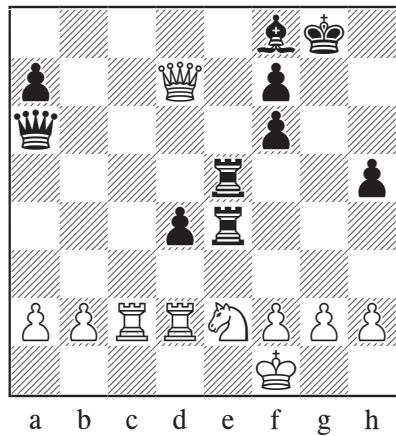
Tal – Kirov, Novi Sad 1974



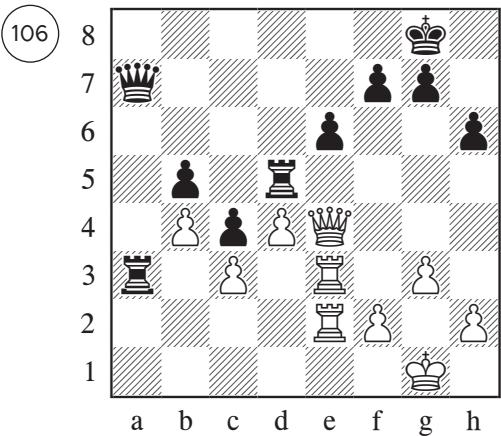
Tal – Rantanen, Tallinn 1979



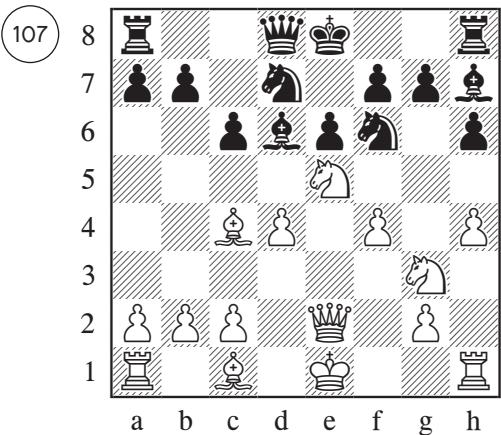
Tal – Grigorian, Yerevan 1980



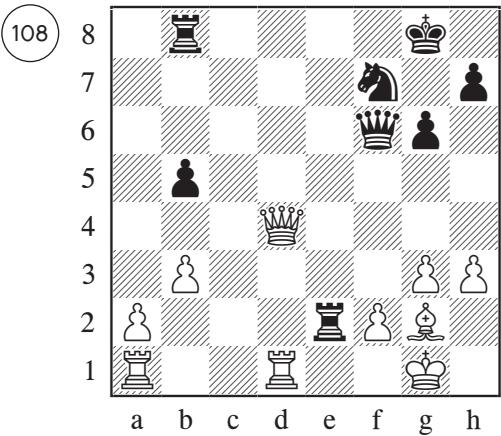
Meduna – Tal, Sochi 1986



Tal – Conway, Boston (simul) 1988

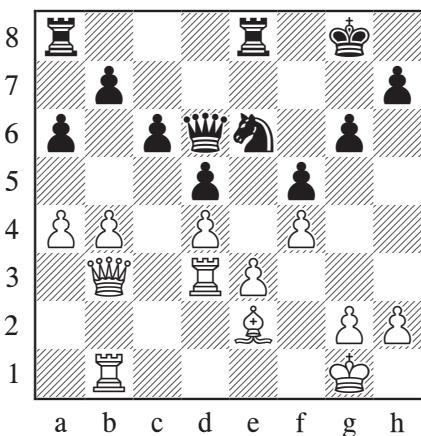


Maus – Tal, Germany 1990



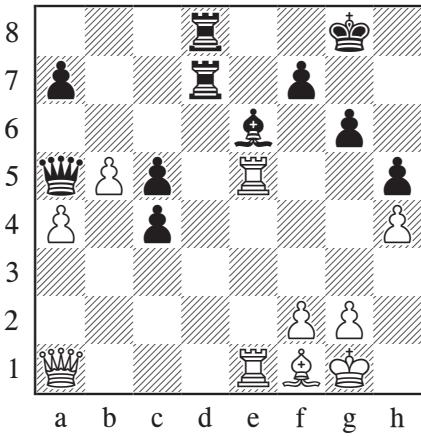
Petrosian – Konstantinopolsky, Moscow 1947

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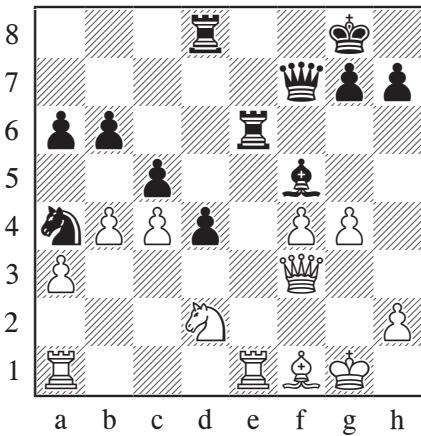
Petrosian – Kasparian, Tbilisi 1949

110



Petrosian – Geller, Moscow 1950

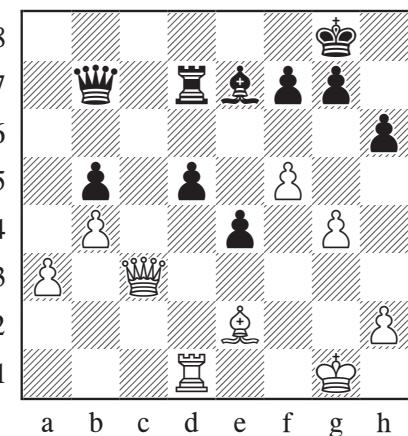
111



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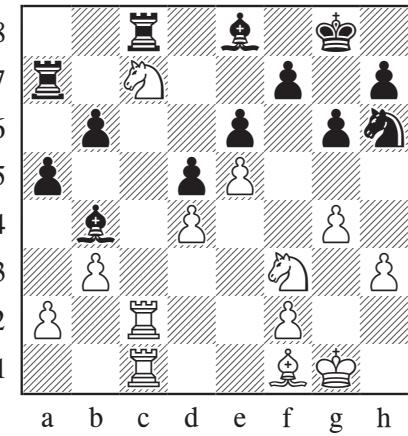
Poliak – Petrosian, Moscow 1951

112



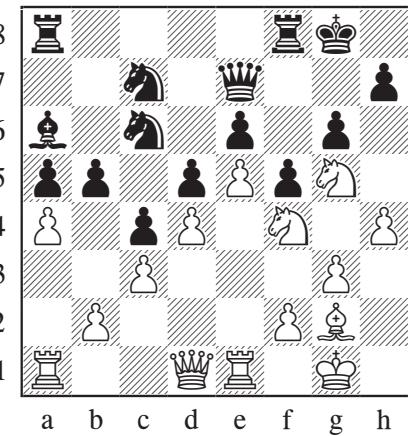
Petrosian – Koliakov, Moscow 1951

113



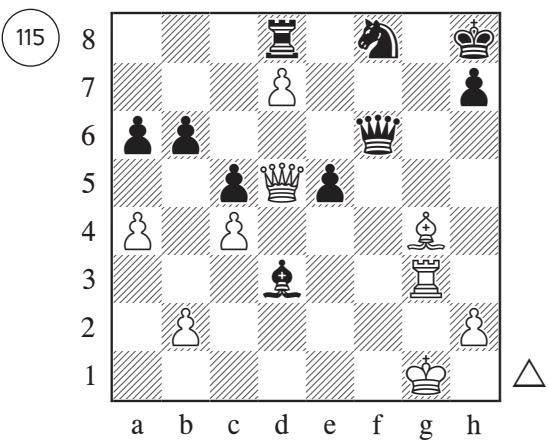
Petrosian – Barcza, Saltsjöbaden 1952

114

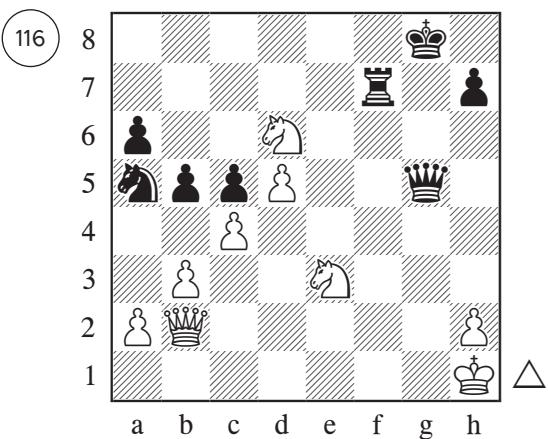


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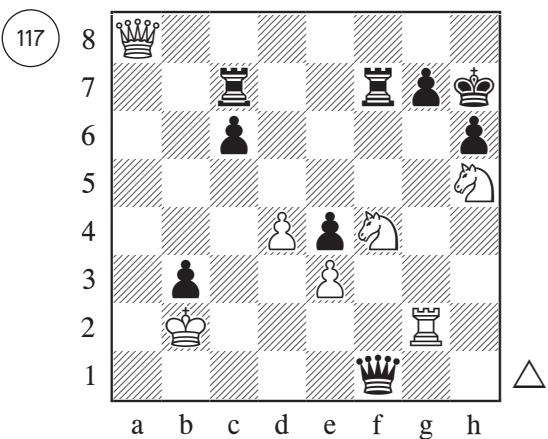
Nei – Petrosian, Moscow 1960



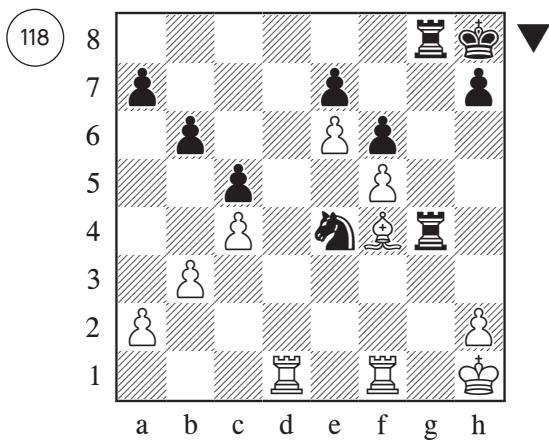
Petrosian – Spassky, Moscow (10) 1966



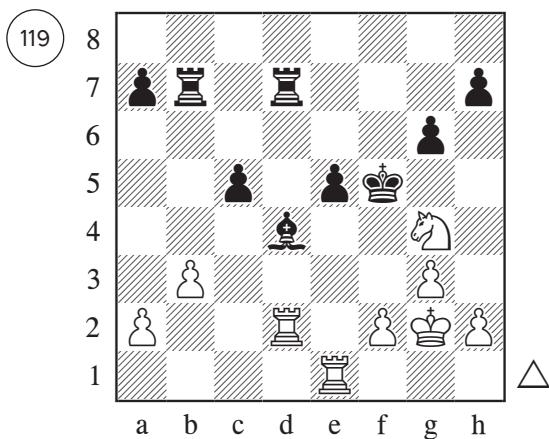
Petrosian – Tomic, Vinkovci 1970



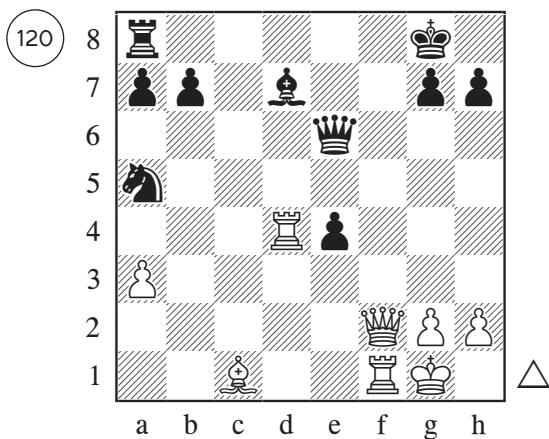
Janosevic – Petrosian, Lone Pine 1978



Petrosian – Ivkov, Teslic 1979

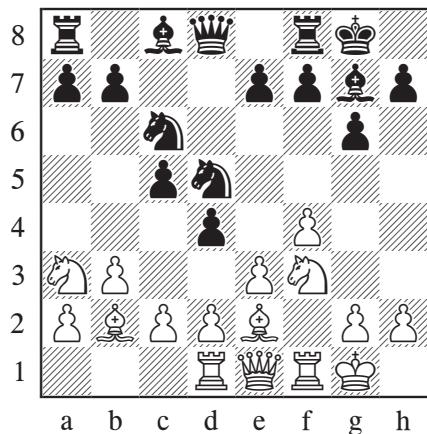


Petrosian – Ljubojevic, Niksic 1983



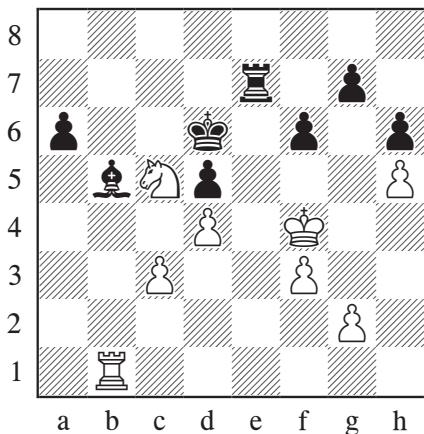
Purdy – Spassky, Antwerp 1955

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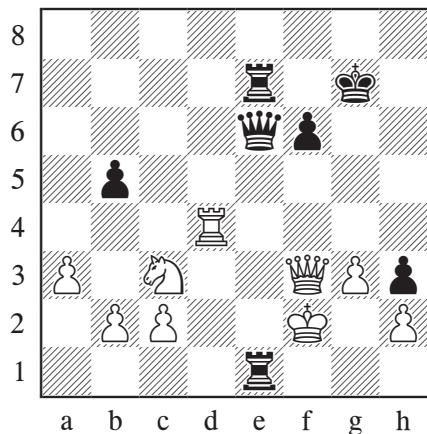
Spassky – Korelov, Yerevan 1962

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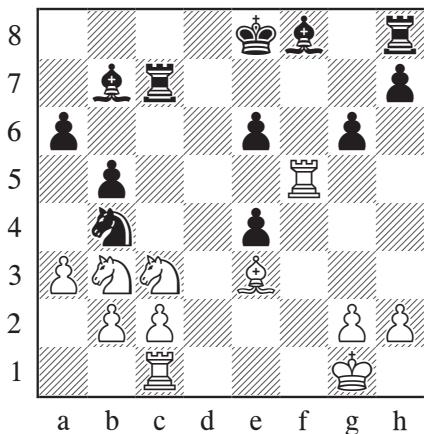
Averbakh – Spassky, Moscow 1961

122



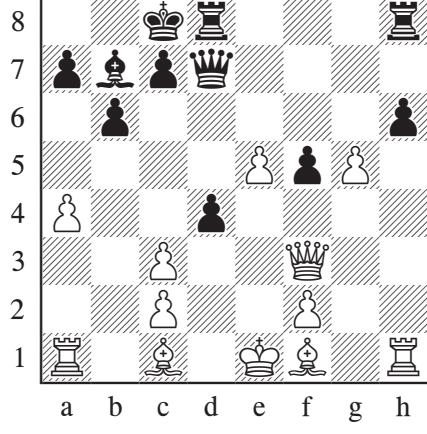
Spassky – Vranesic, Amsterdam 1964

125



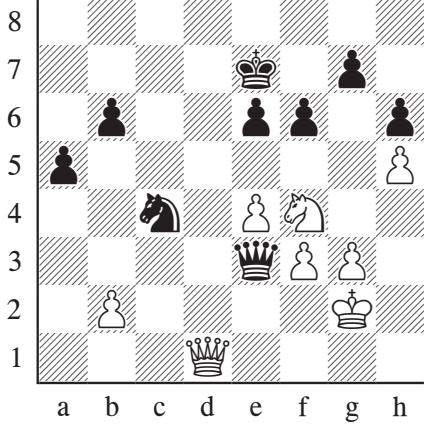
Spassky – Shofman, Leningrad 1962

123

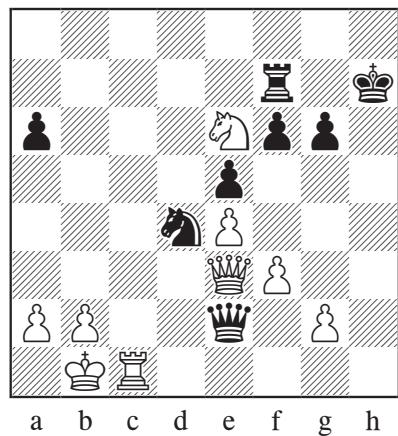


Ivkov – Spassky, Santa Monica 1966

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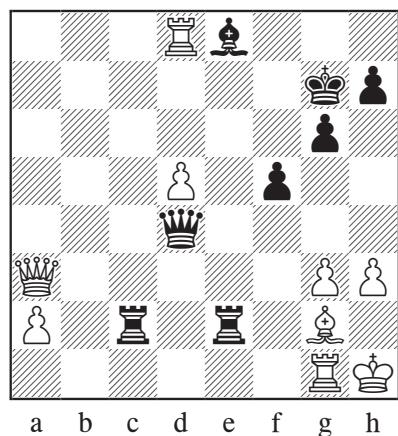
Spassky – Korchnoi, Kiev 1968



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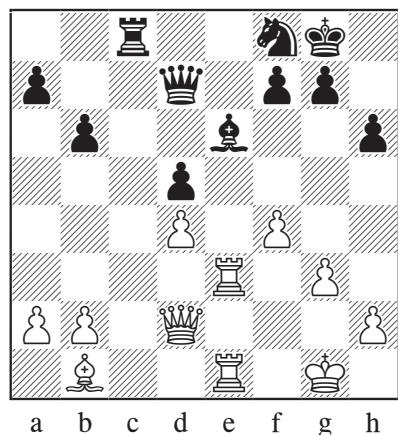
Hartoch – Spassky, Amsterdam 1970



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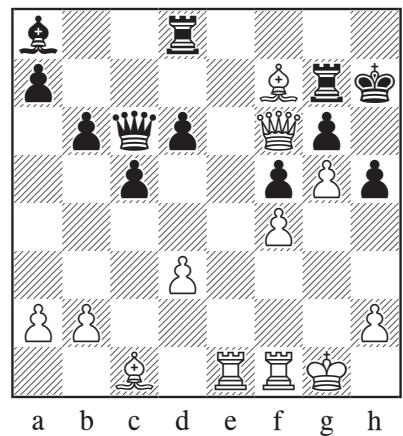
Spassky – Portisch, Geneva 1977



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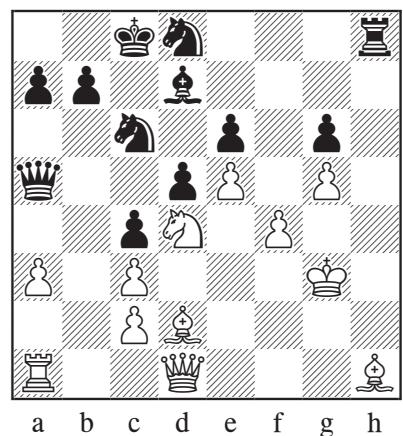
Spassky – Hoffmann, Lugano 1982



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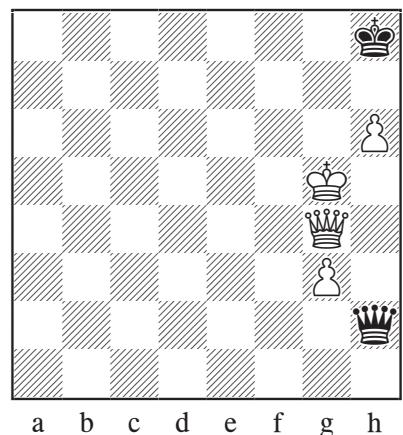
Spassky – Dueckstein, Zurich 1984



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Ribli – Spassky, Montpellier 1985

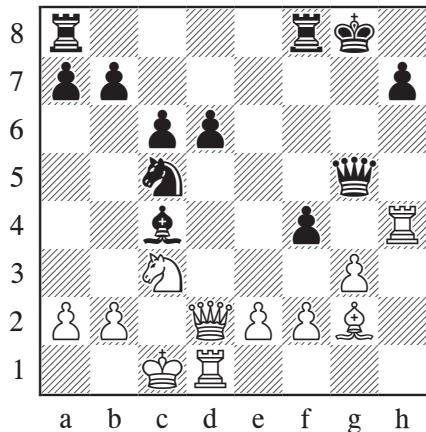


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Spassky – Santo-Roman, Montpellier 1991

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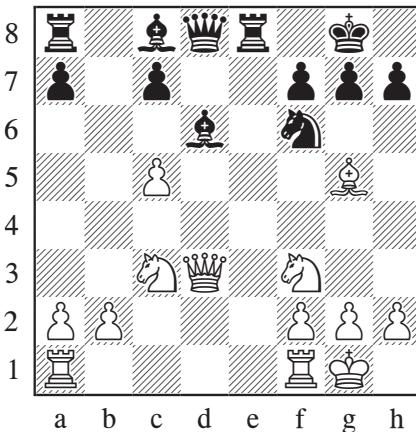


Fischer – Bennett, USA 1957



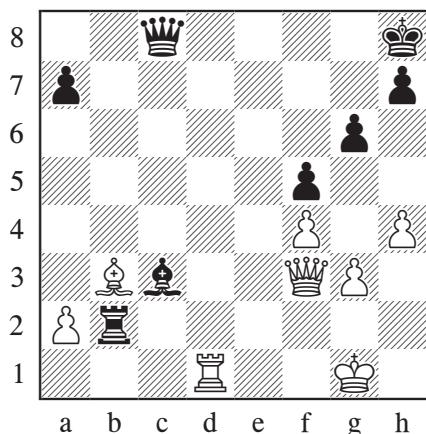
Ghitescu – Fischer, Leipzig (ol) 1960

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Reshevsky – Fischer, Los Angeles 1961

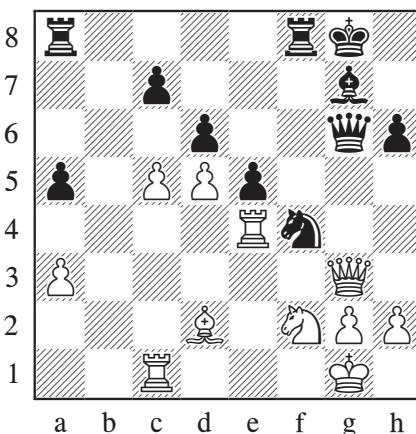
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Buerger – Fischer, Milwaukee 1957

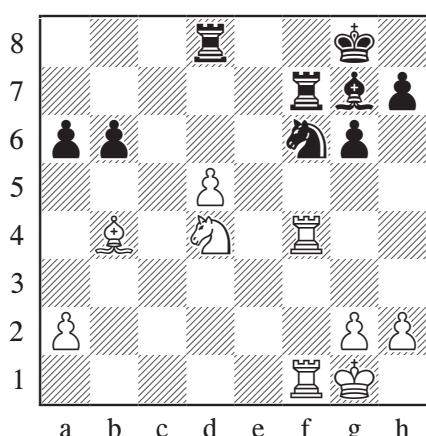


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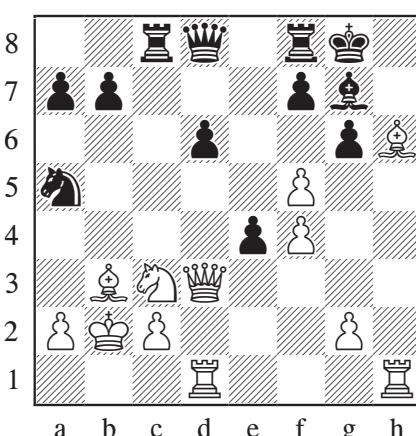


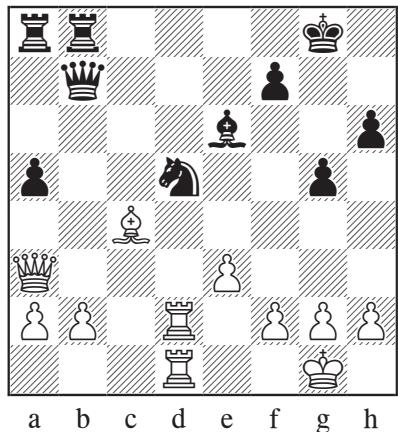
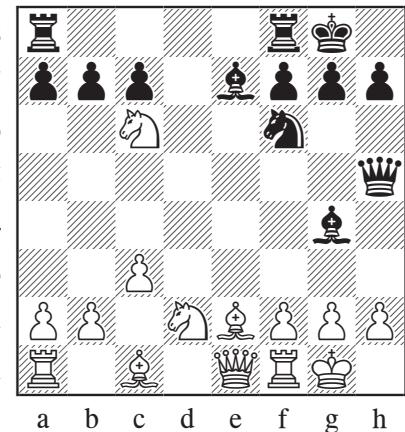
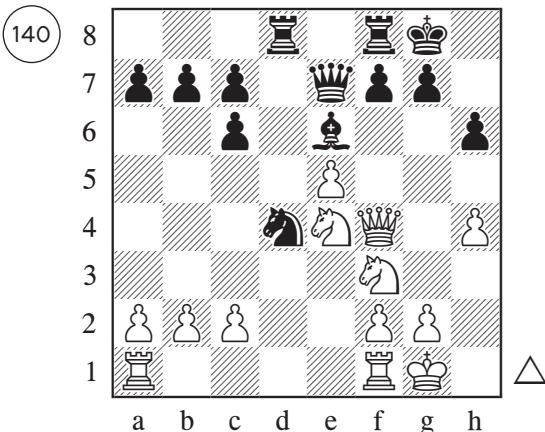
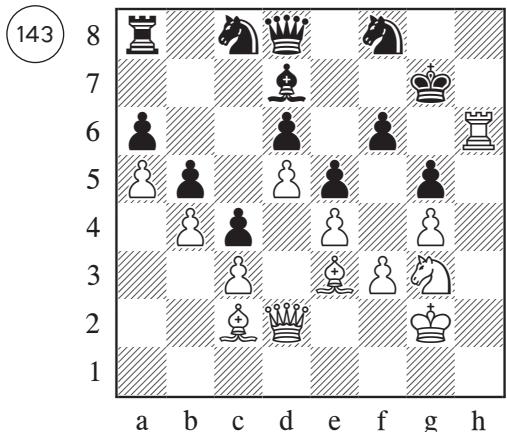
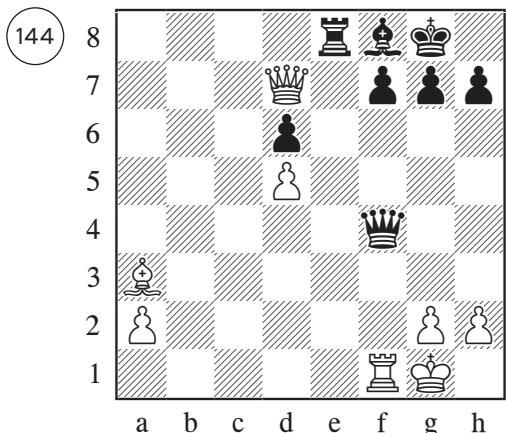
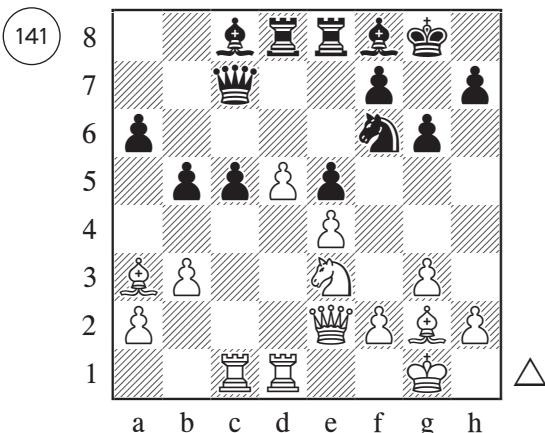
Fischer – Purevzhav, Varna (ol) 1962

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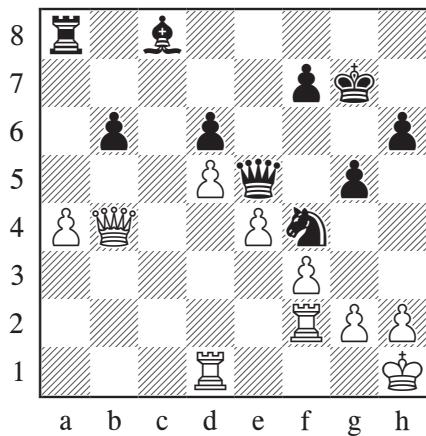
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Bertok – Fischer, Stockholm 1962**Fischer – Fuller**, Bay City 1963**Fischer – Byrne**, New York 1965**Fischer – Gligoric**, Zagreb 1970**Fischer – Richburg**, Detroit (simul) 1964**Reshevsky – Fischer**, Palma de Mallorca 1970

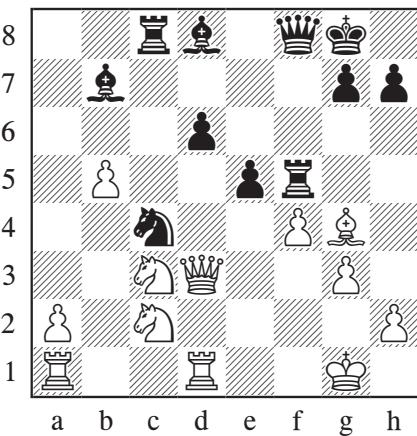
Gligoric – Fischer, Palma de Mallorca 1970

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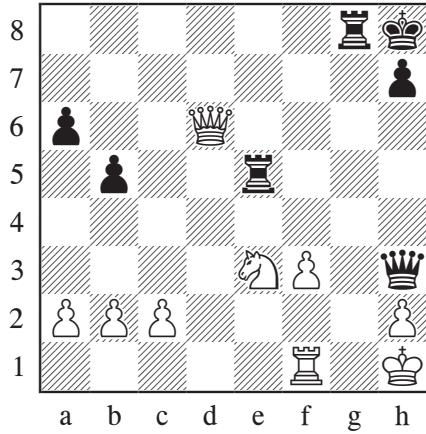
Saren – Karpov, Skopje (ol) 1972

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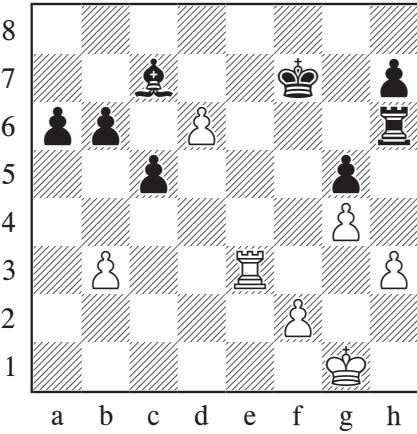
Peresipkin – Karpov, Rostov on Don 1971

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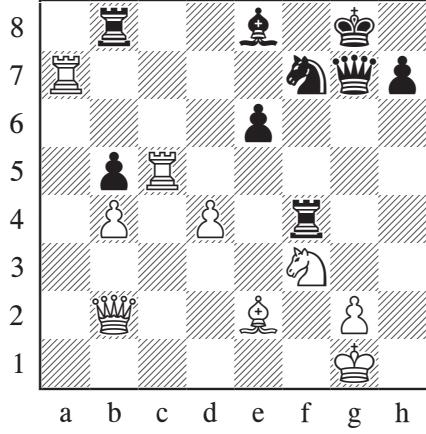
Karpov – Kupreichik, Moscow 1976

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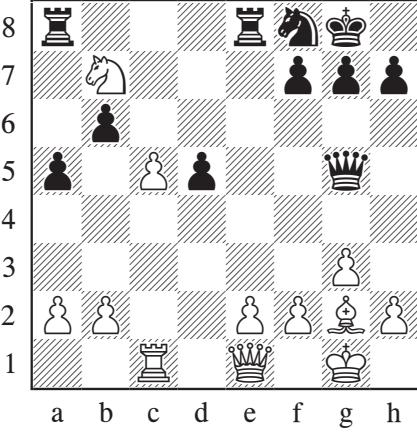
Karpov – Franklin, Hastings 1972

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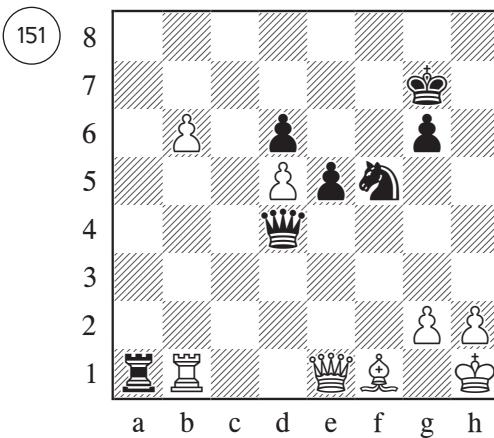


Portisch – Karpov, Moscow 1977

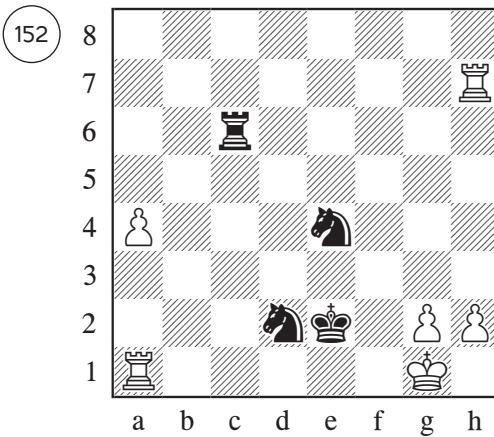
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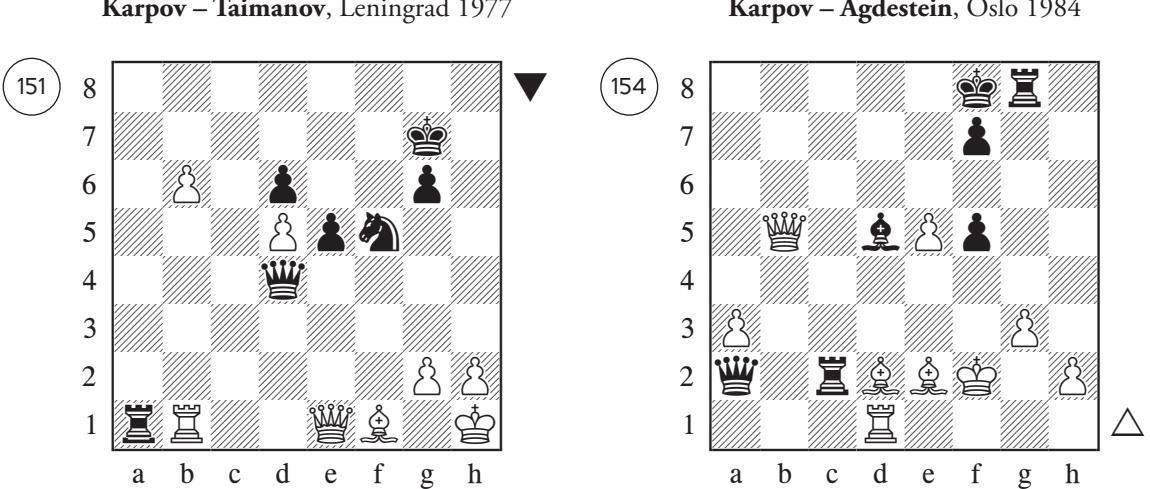
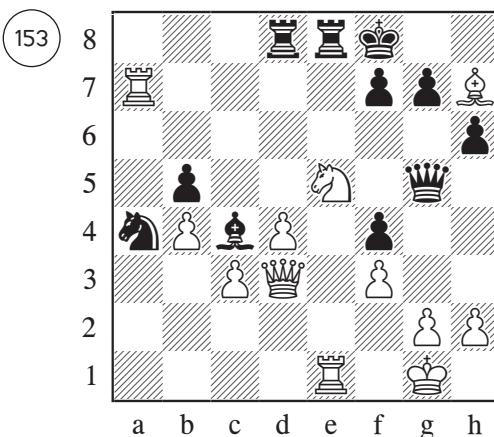
Karpov – Taimanov, Leningrad 1977



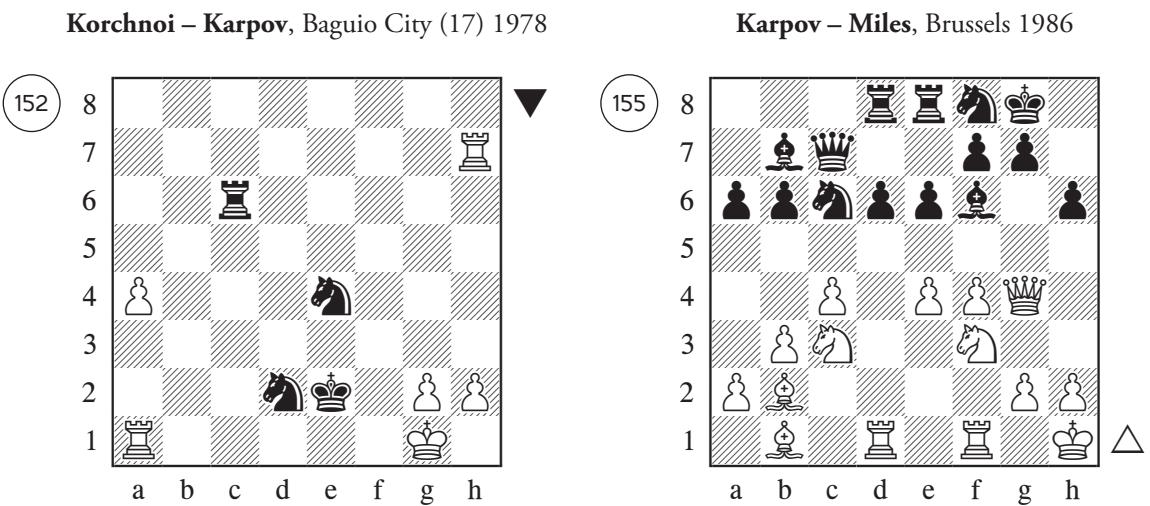
Korchnoi – Karpov, Baguio City (17) 1978



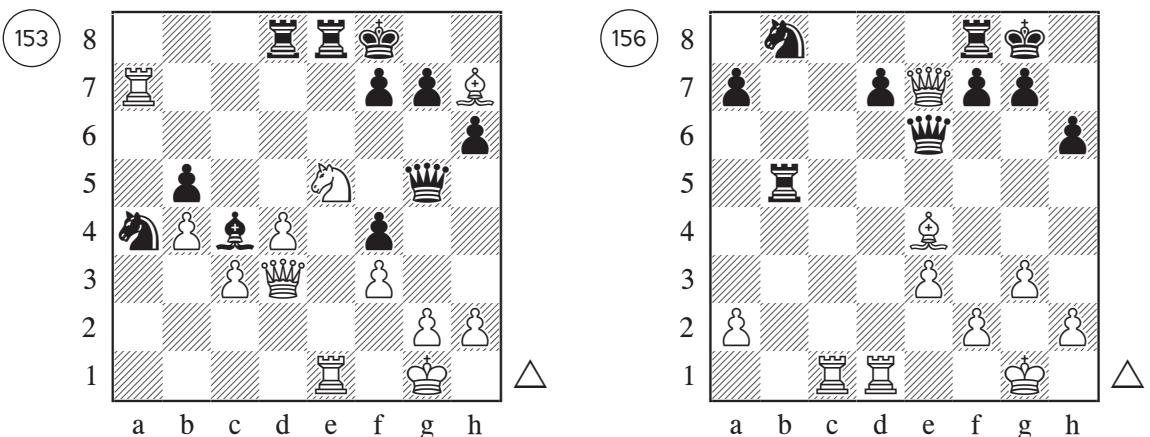
Karpov – Geller, Moscow 1983



Karpov – Agdestein, Oslo 1984

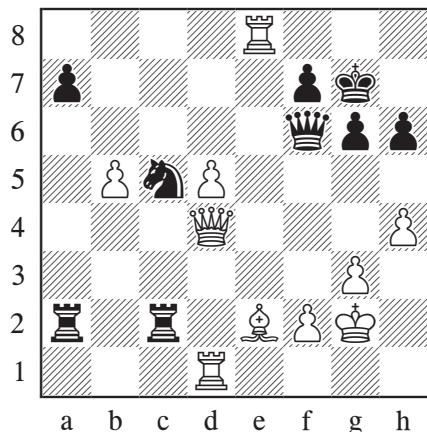


Karpov – Gavrikov, Moscow 1988



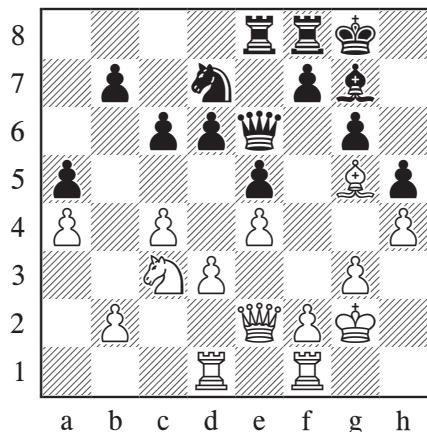
Karpov – Short, Linares (7) 1992

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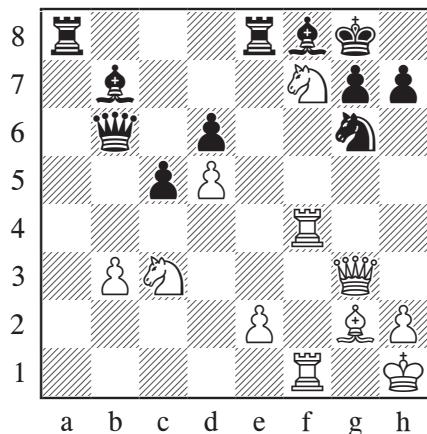
Chernin – Karpov, Tilburg 1992

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Karpov – Salov, Linares 1993

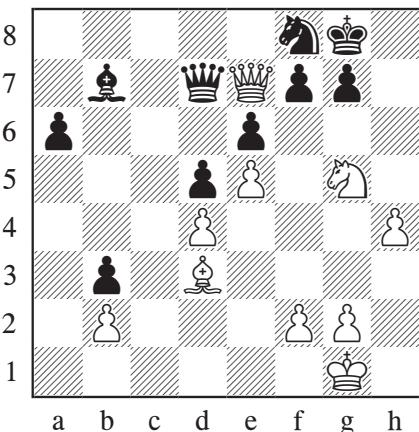
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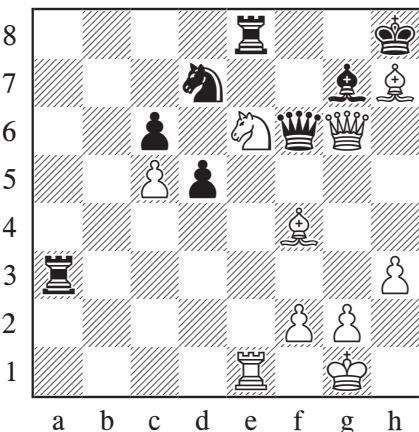
Karpov – Van Wely, Monte Carlo 1997

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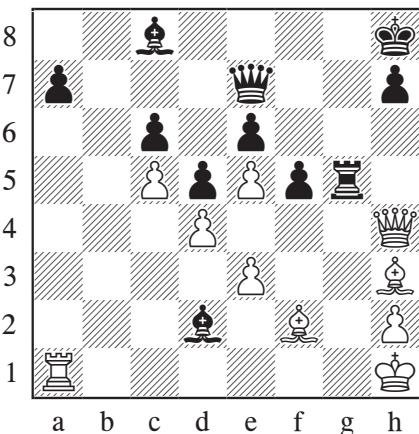
Karpov – Lobron, Frankfurt 1997

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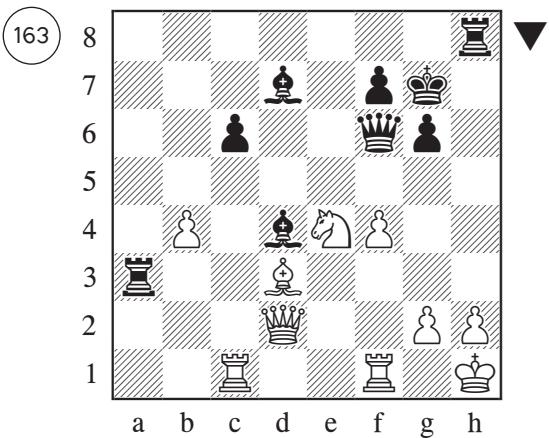
Karpov – Gurevich, Cap d'Agde 2000

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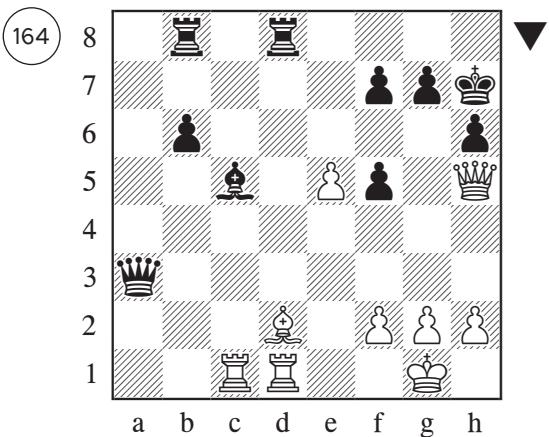


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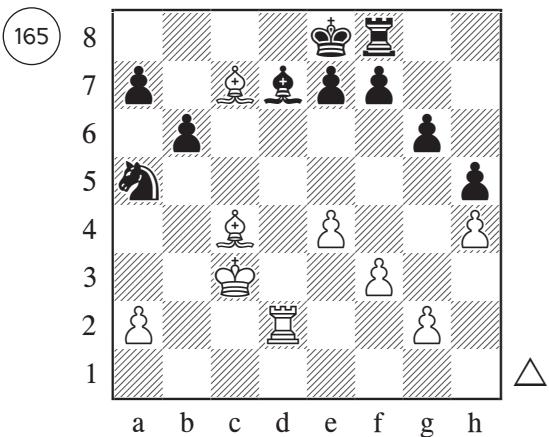
Karpov – Shirov, Bastia (rapid) 2003



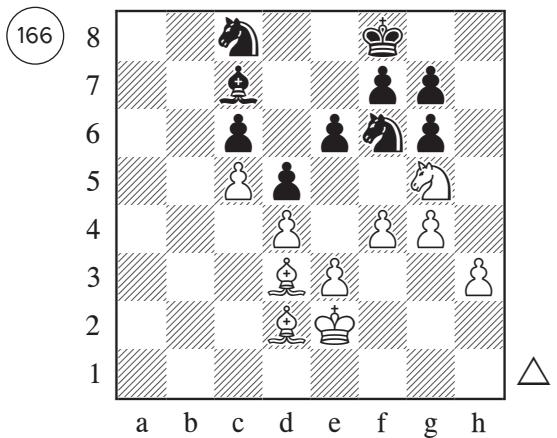
Istratescu – Karpov, Bucharest (rapid) 2005



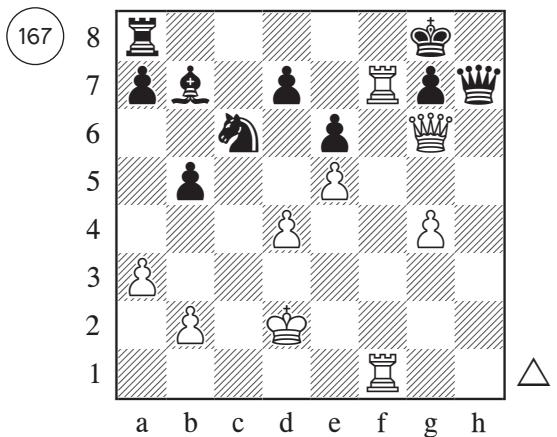
Karpov – Shirov, Tallinn (rapid) 2006



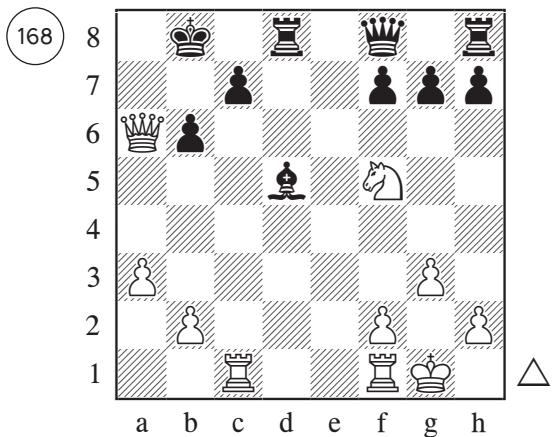
Karpov – Agrest, Tallinn (rapid) 2006



Karpov – Ghaem Maghami, Teheran 2009

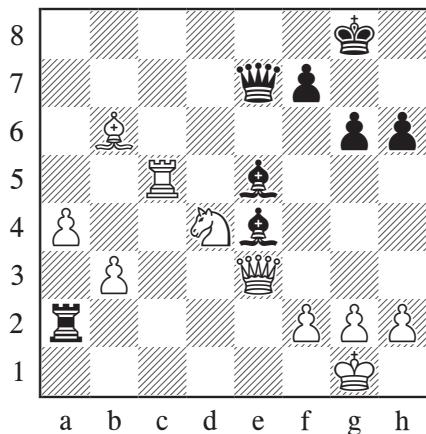


Kasparov – Antoshin, Baku 1980



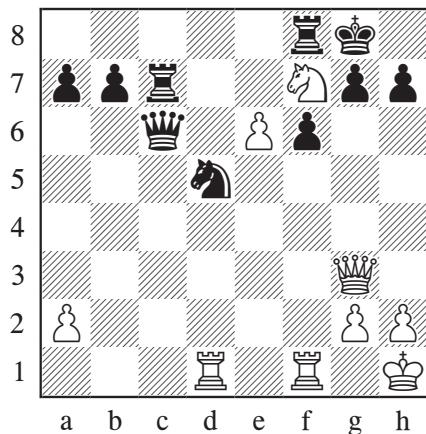
Tukmakov – Kasparov, Frunze 1981

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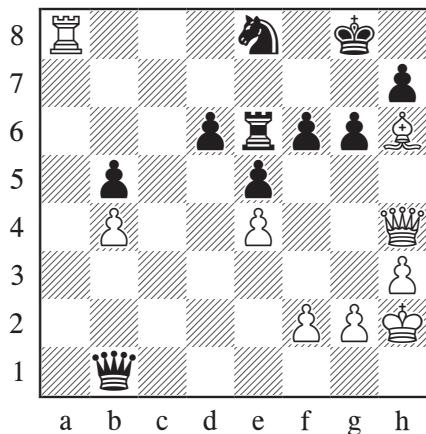
Kasparov – Wahls, Baden-Baden 1992

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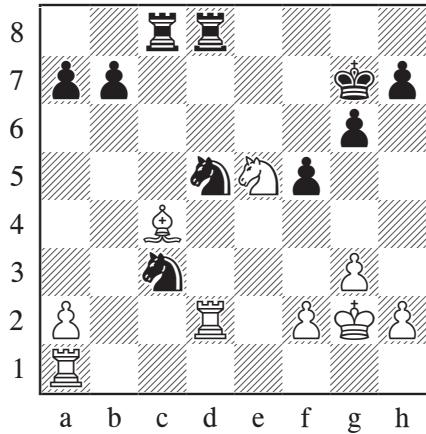
Kasparov – Comp Mephisto, Hamburg 1985

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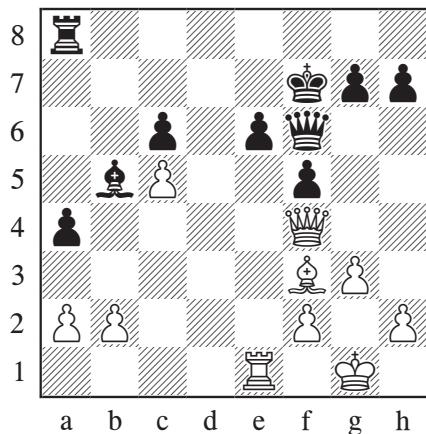


Portisch – Kasparov, Linares 1990

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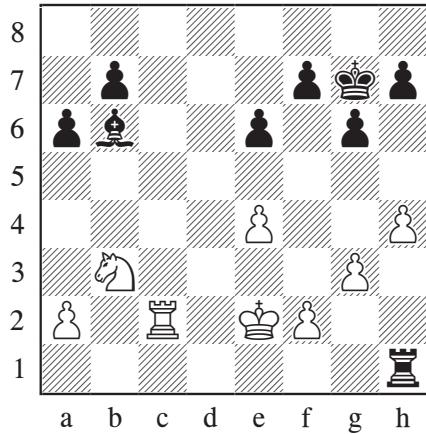


173

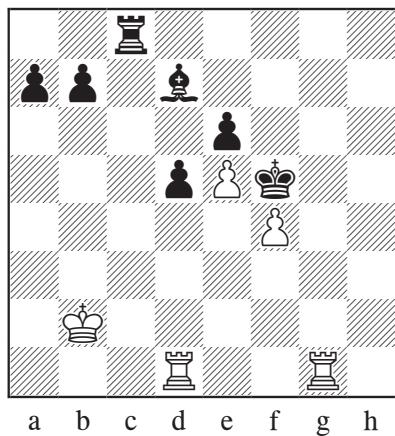


Pelletier – Kasparov, Zurich 2001

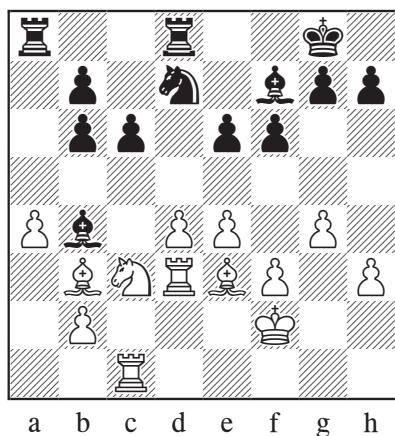
174



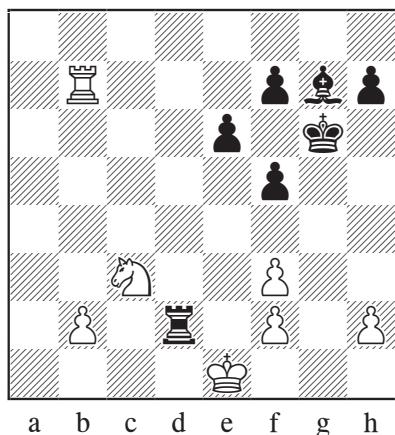
Kasparov – Shirov, Astana 2001



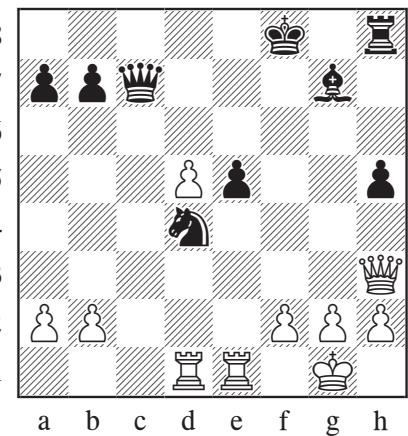
Anastasian – Khalifman, Minsk 1986



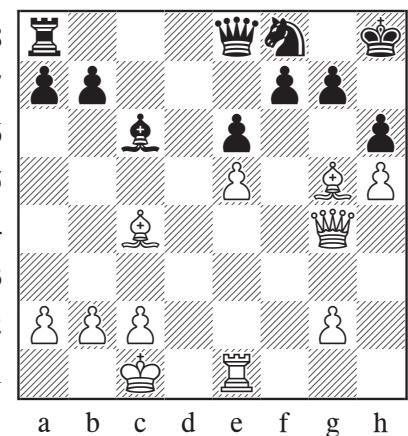
Ehlvest – Khalifman, Rakvere 1993



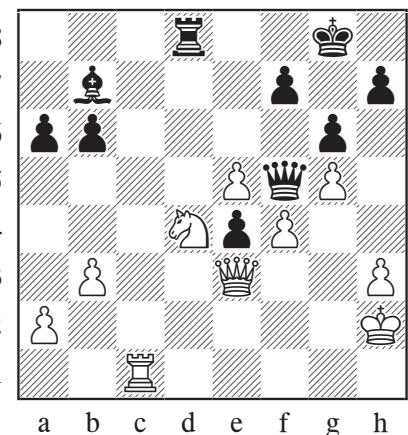
Khalifman – Rashkovsky, Moscow 1995



Khalifman – Sosonko, St Petersburg 1997

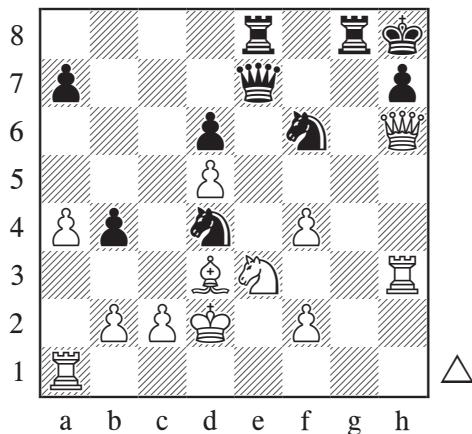


Ptacnikova – Khalifman, Stockholm 1997



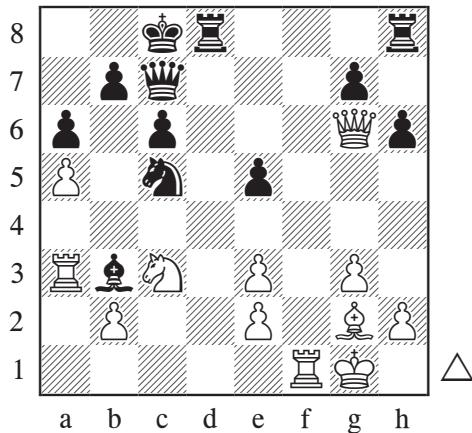
Khalifman – Kupreichik, Stockholm 1997

181



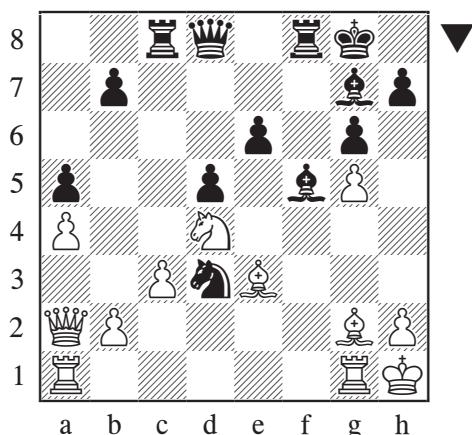
Khalifman – Gabriel, Bad Wiessee 1998

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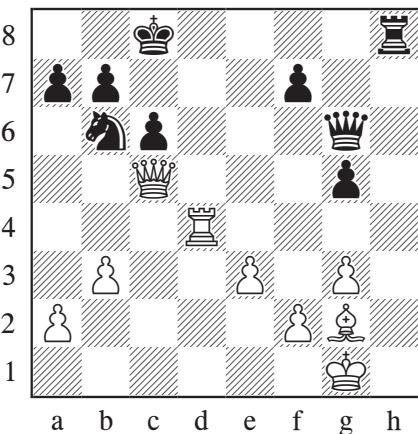


Slobodjan – Khalifman, Germany 1999

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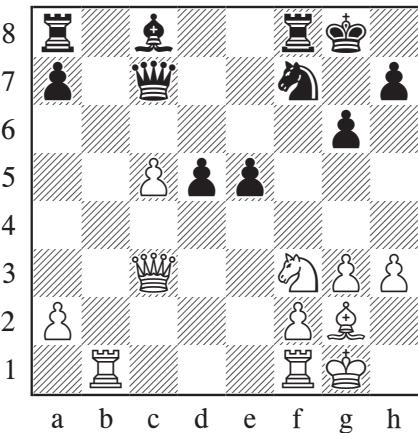


184



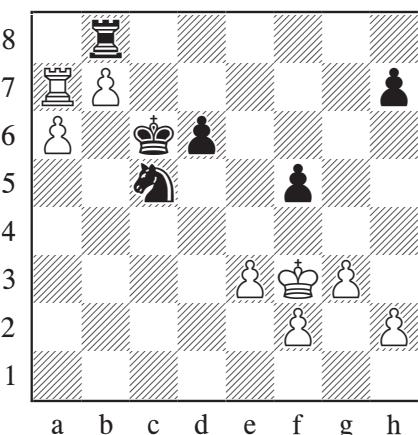
Kramnik – Reinderman, Wijk aan Zee (blitz) 1999

185

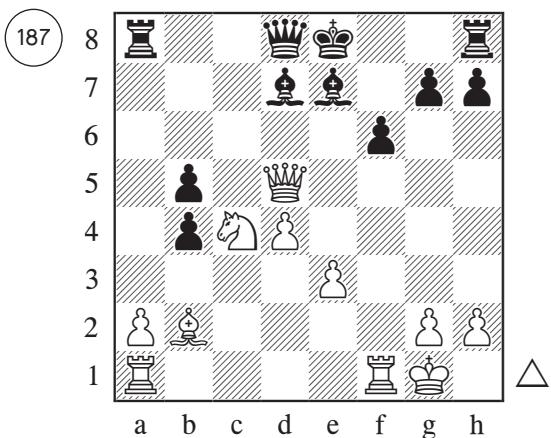


Kramnik – Bacrot, Moscow (blitz) 2007

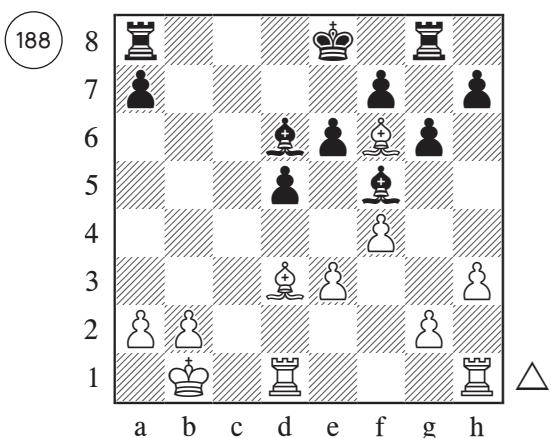
186



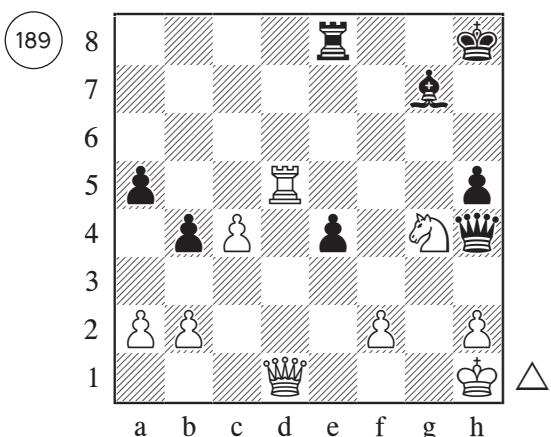
Kramnik – Aronian, Moscow (blitz) 2009



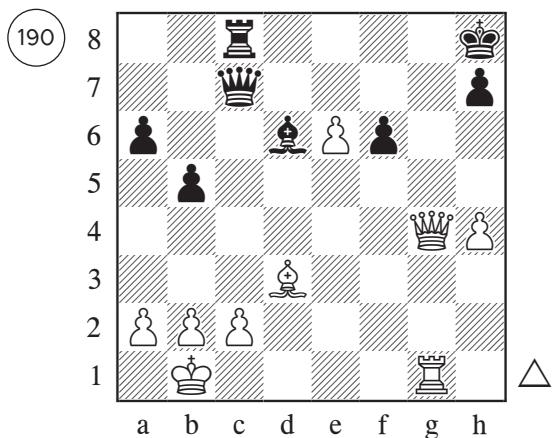
Kramnik – Giri, Leuven (blitz) 2016



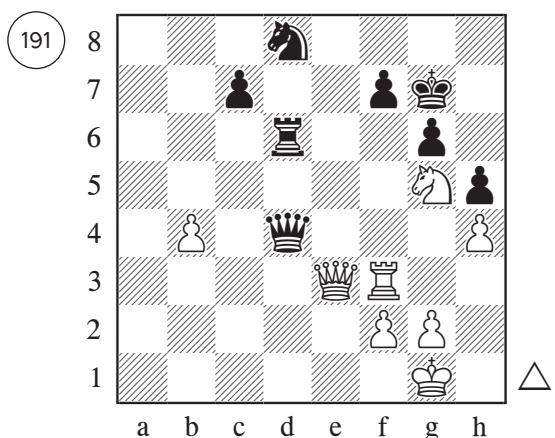
Anand – Lobron, Dortmund 1996



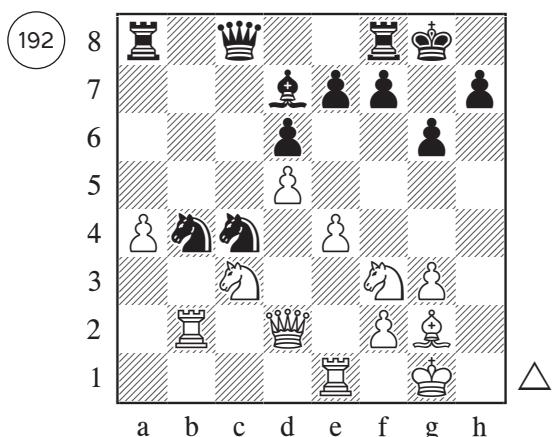
Anand – Ponomariov, Mainz 2002



Anand – Charbonneau, Calvia (ol) 2004

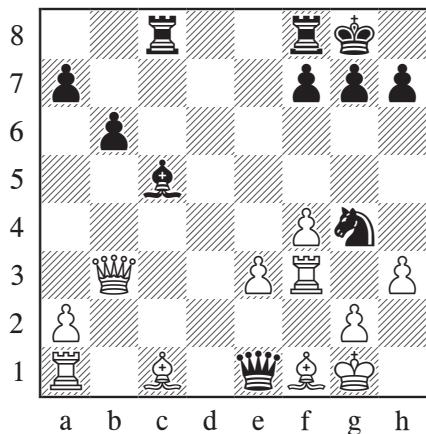


Carlsen – Anand, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006



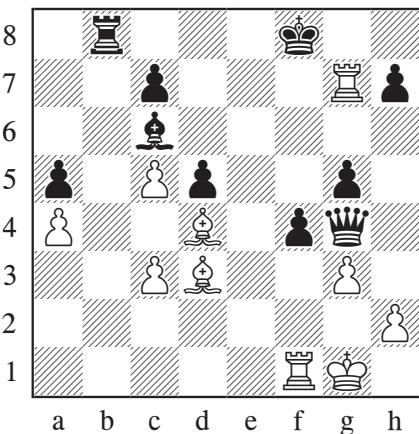
Skomorokhin – Anand, Bastia 2014

193



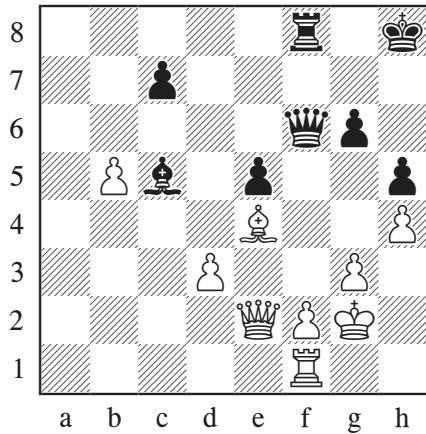
Ponomariov – Bareev, Moscow (4) 2001

196



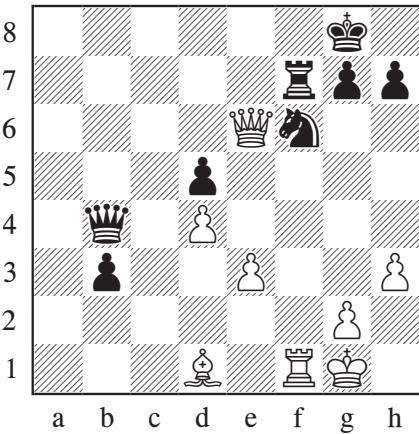
Anand – Hammer, Stavanger 2015

194



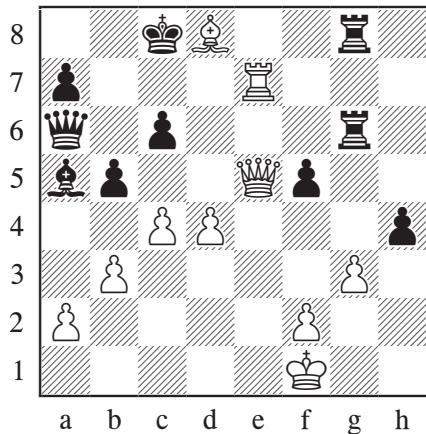
Grachev – Ponomariov, Moscow (blitz) 2010

197



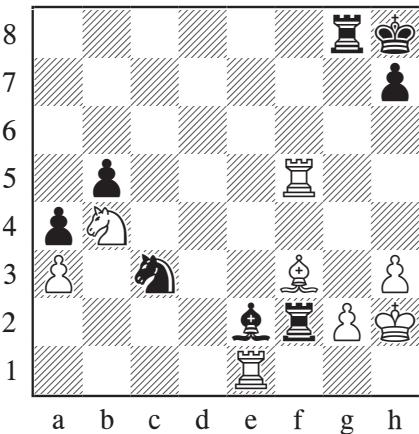
Ponomariov – Conquest, Torshavn 2000

195



Ponomariov – Ivanchuk, Khanty-Mansiysk (2) 2011

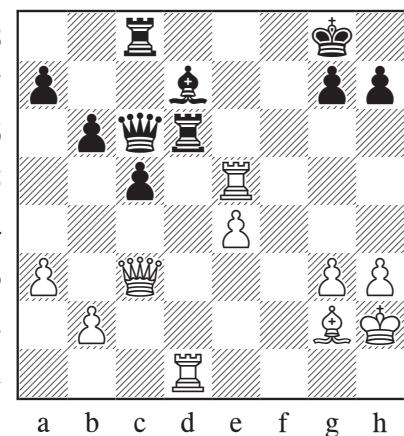
198



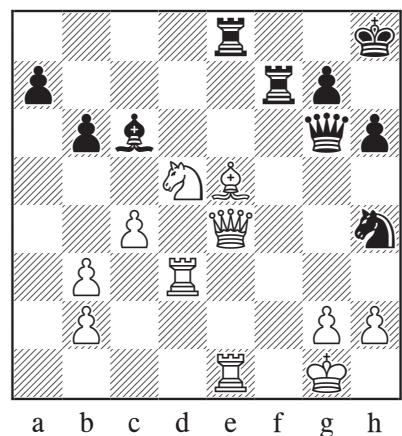
Ponomariov – Rublevsky, Khanty-Mansiysk (blitz) 2013

Matikozian – Kasimdzhanov, Szeged 1994

199



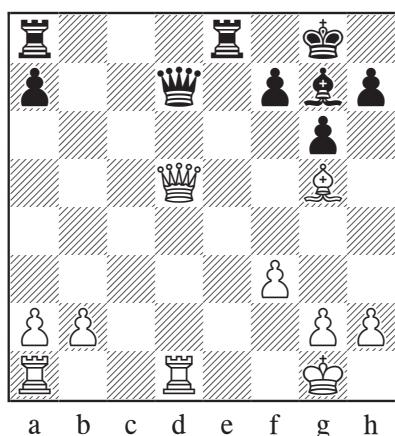
202



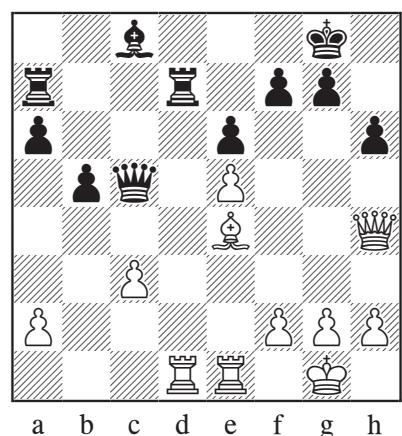
Kasimdzhanov – Kaiumov, Tashkent 1993

Kasimdzhanov – Kalandar Khaled, Macau 1996

200



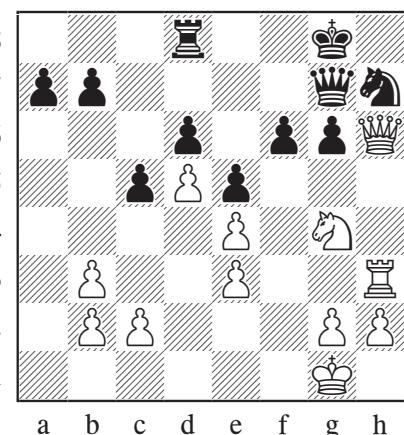
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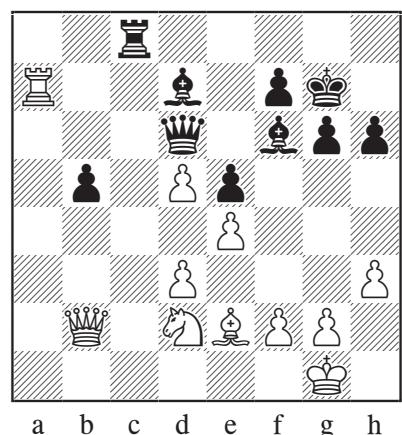
Kasimdzhanov – Grinshpun, Tashkent 1993

Kasimdzhanov – Al Modiahki, Teheran 1998

201

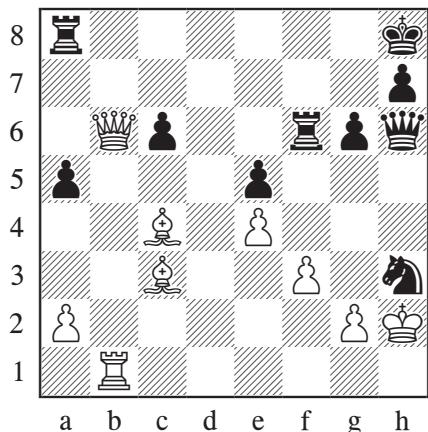


204



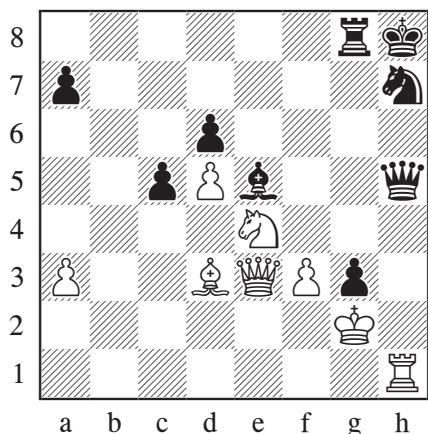
Kasimdzhanov – Golubev, Germany 2002

205



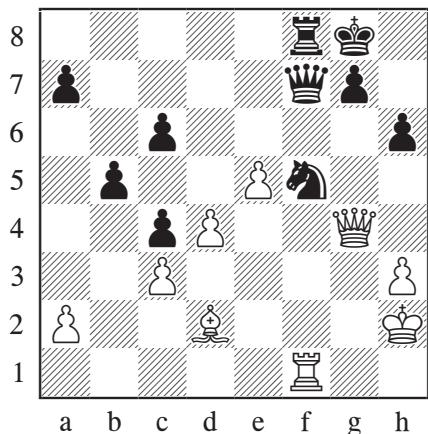
Kasimdzhanov – Volokitin, Germany 2003

206



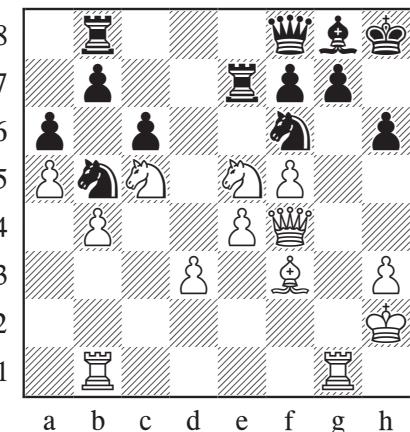
Kasimdzhanov – Mamedyarov, Baku 2005

207



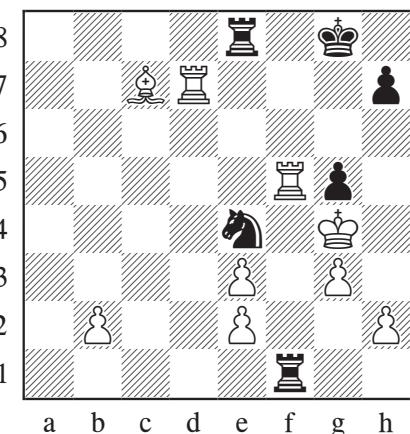
Karjakin – Kasimdzhanov, Tashkent 2014

208



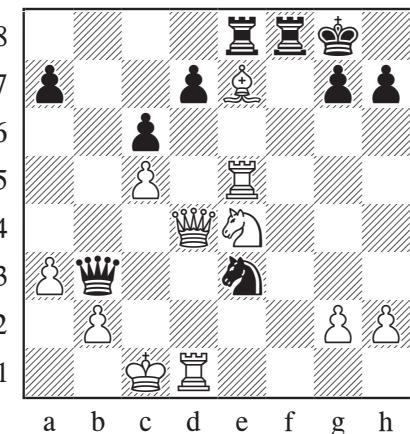
Timman – Topalov, Sarajevo 1999

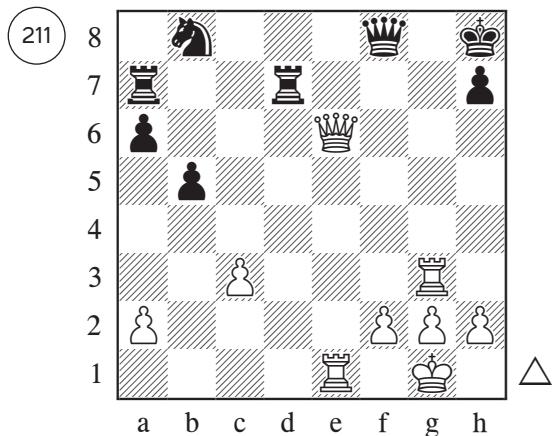
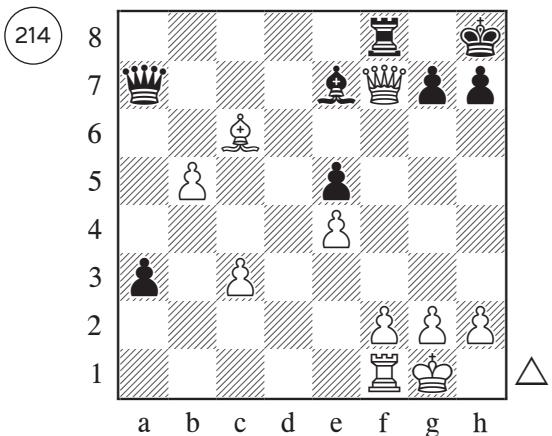
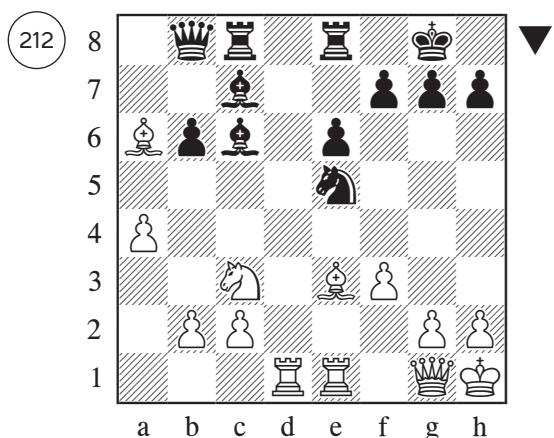
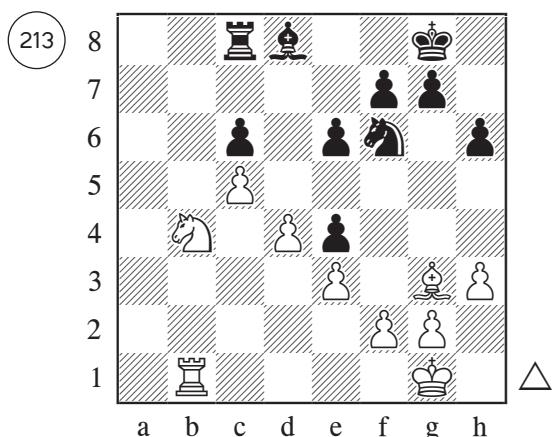
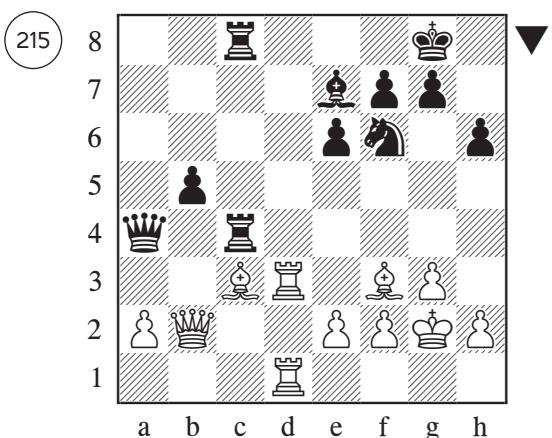
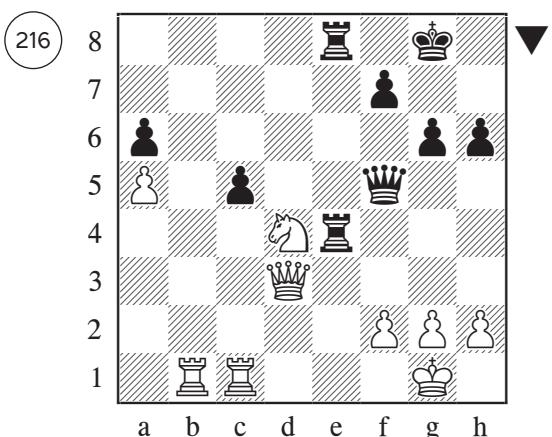
209



Topalov – Illescas, Cala Galdana 1999

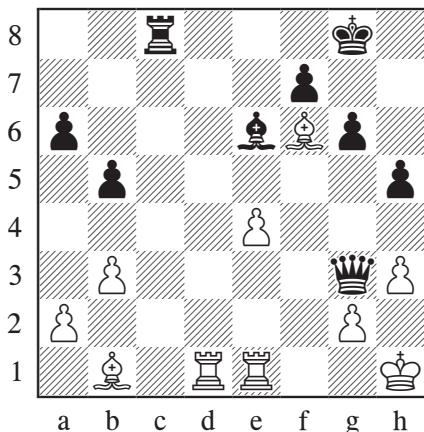
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Topalov – Naiditsch, Dortmund 2005**Kamsky – Carlsen**, Khanty-Mansiysk (2) 2005**Kamsky – Topalov**, Nice (blindfold) 2009**Sokolov – Carlsen**, Hoogeveen 2004**Stefansson – Carlsen**, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006**Erenburg – Carlsen**, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006

Todorovic – Carlsen, Internet 2006

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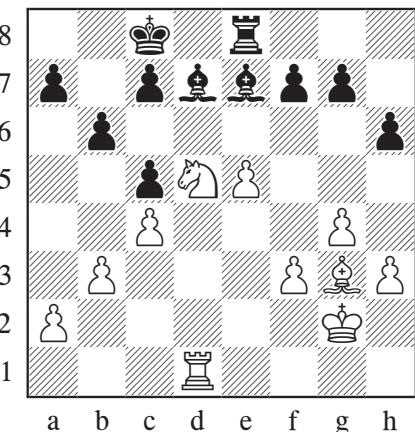


Carlsen – Fressinet, Cap d'Agde 2006

▼

Caruana – Carlsen, Shamkir 2014

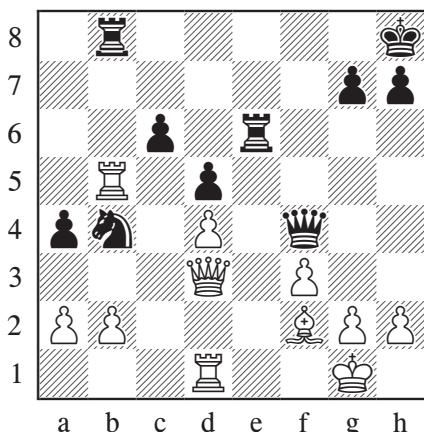
220



△

Carlsen – Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2015

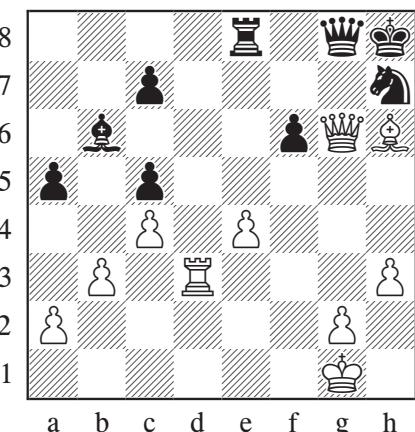
218



△

Ivanchuk – Carlsen, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2011

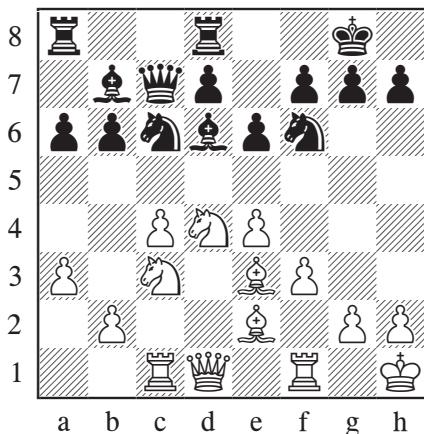
221



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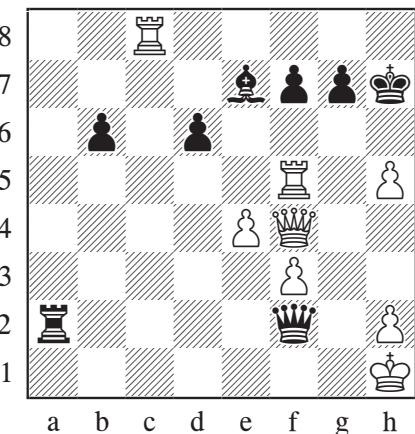
Carlsen – Karjakin, New York (rapid 4) 2016

219



△

222



△

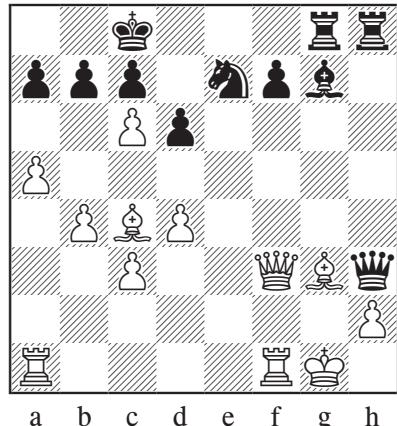
Chapter 2

Intermediate Exercises

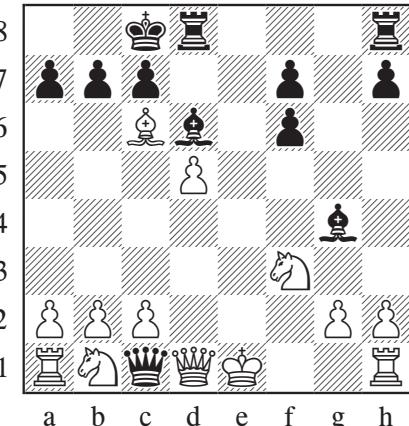


Chess is everything: art, science and sport. – Anatoly Karpov

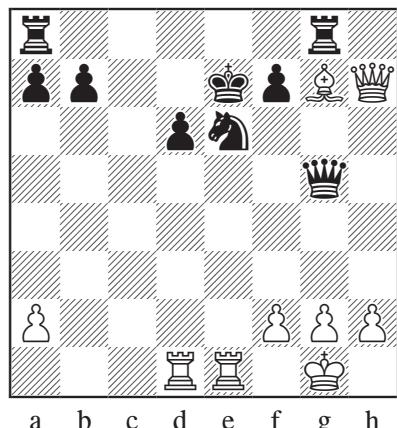
Hamppe – Steinitz, Vienna 1859



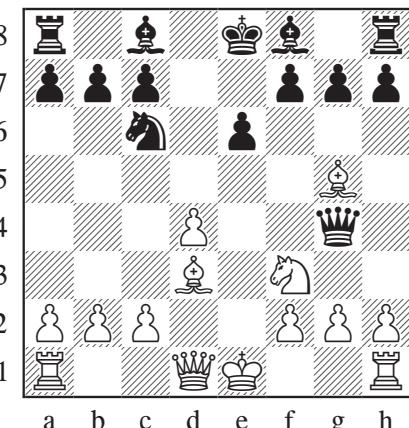
Steinitz – Strauss, Vienna 1860



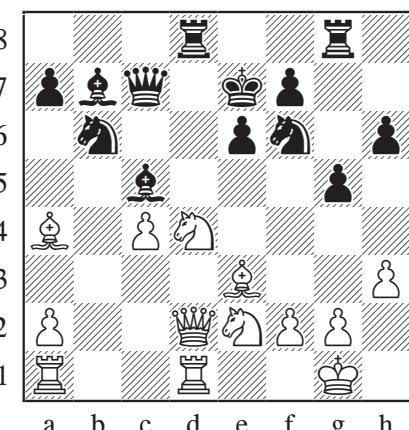
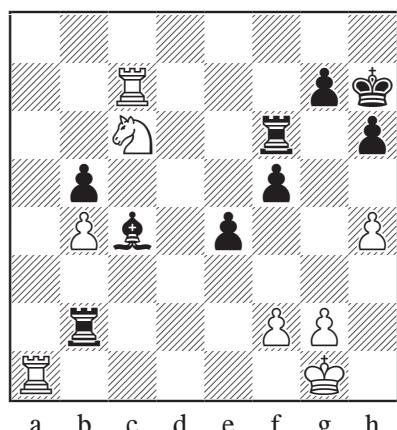
Steinitz – Bird, London (9) 1866



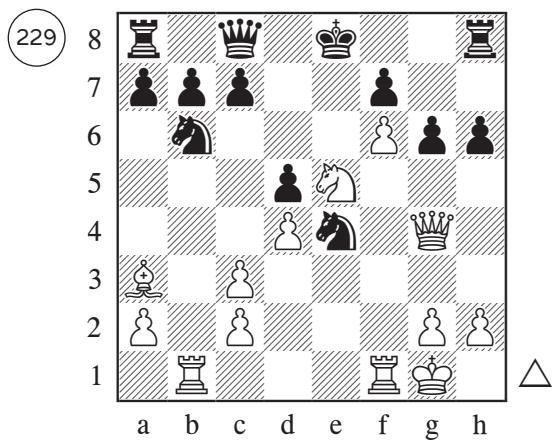
Steinitz – Anderssen, London 1862



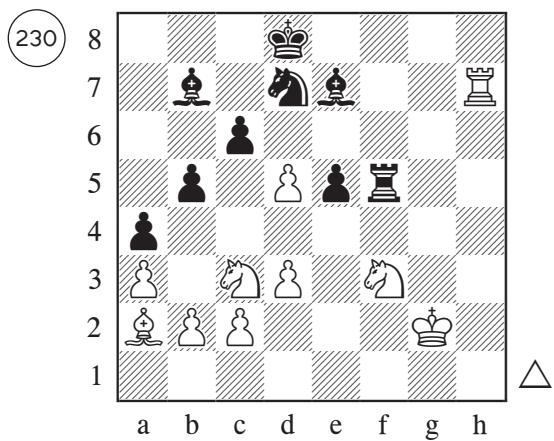
Steinitz – Czarnowski, Paris 1867



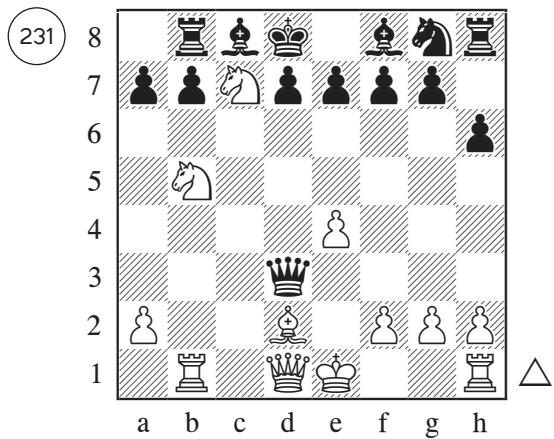
Steinitz – Winawer, Paris 1867



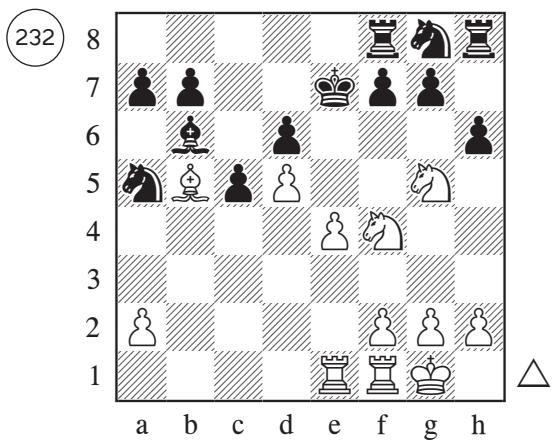
Steinitz – D'Andre, Paris 1867



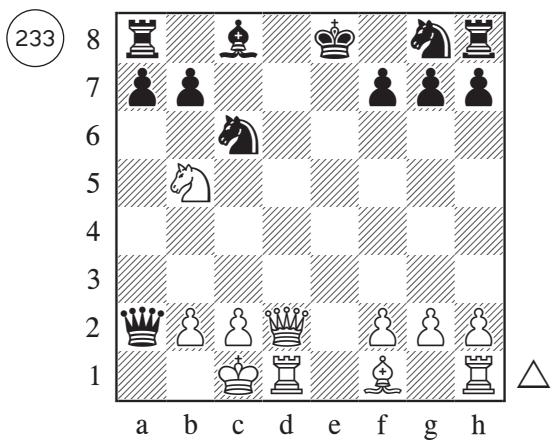
Steinitz – Walsh, London (simul) 1870



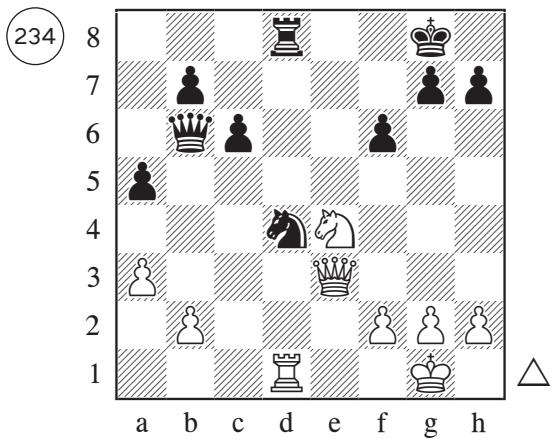
Steinitz – Bird, London 1870



Grimshaw – Steinitz, Vienna 1872

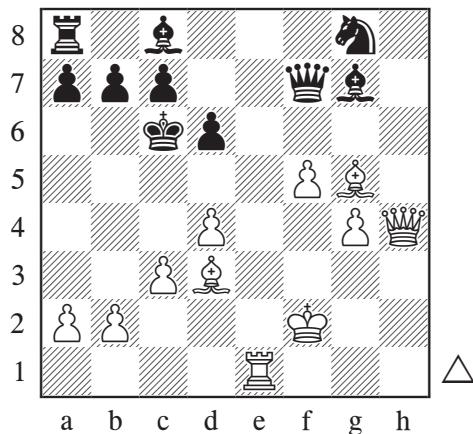


Dupre – Steinitz, The Hague 1873



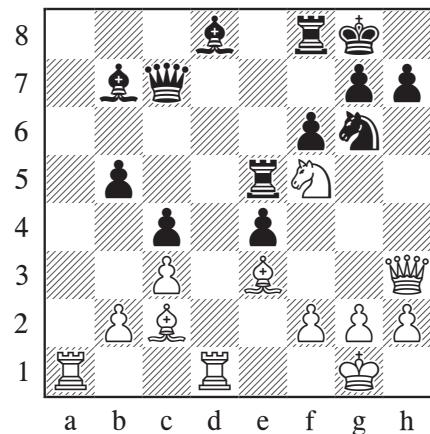
Steinitz – Dufresne, Liverpool 1874

235



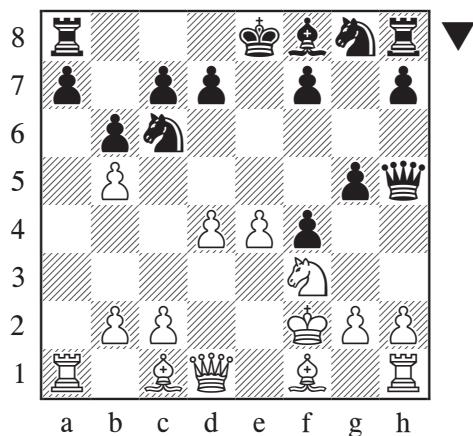
Blackburne – Steinitz, Vienna 1882

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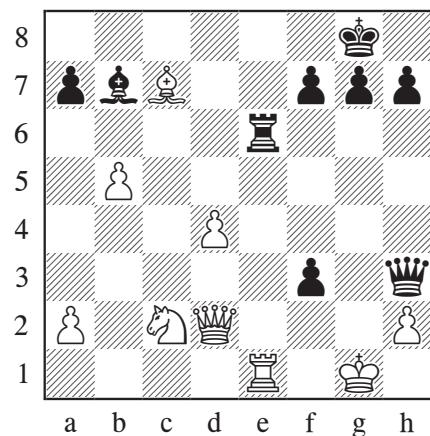
Steinitz – Martinez, Philadelphia (1) 1882

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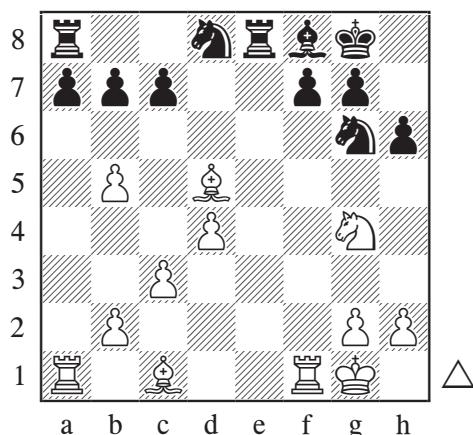
Steinitz – Rosenthal, London 1883

239



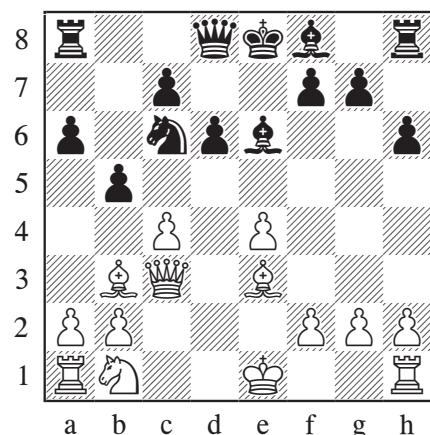
Steinitz – Blackburne, Vienna 1882

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Noa – Steinitz, London 1883

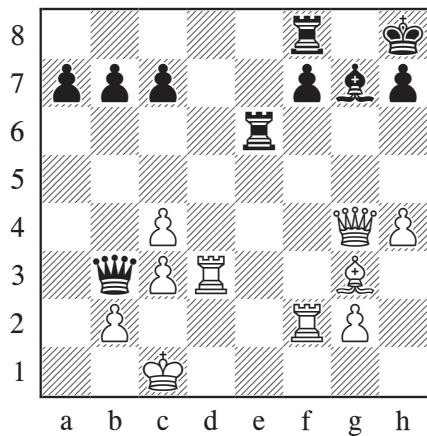
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Thornton – Steinitz, New York 1884

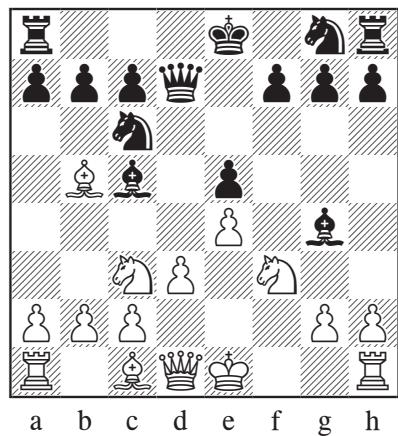
Steinitz – Blackmar, Skaneateles (blind-simul) 1891

241



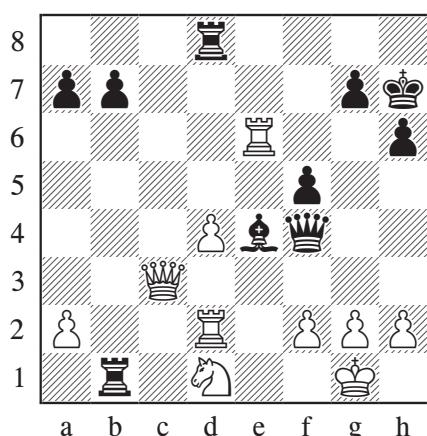
Zukertort – Steinitz, USA (9) 1886

244



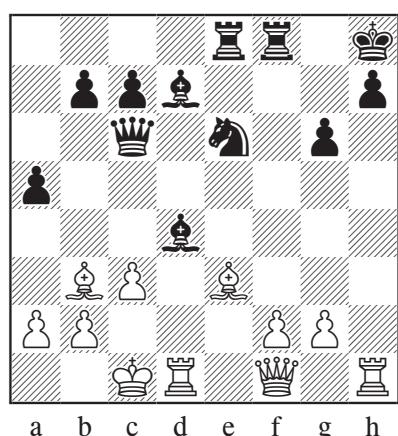
Steinitz – Chigorin, Havana (4) 1892

242



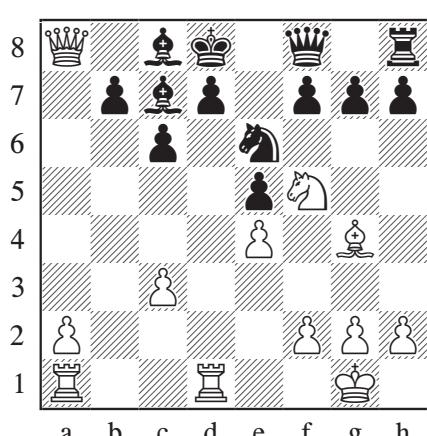
Gunsberg – Steinitz, New York (12) 1891

245

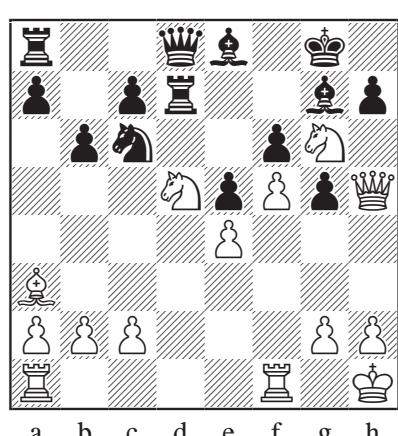


City of Liverpool – Steinitz, corr. 1893

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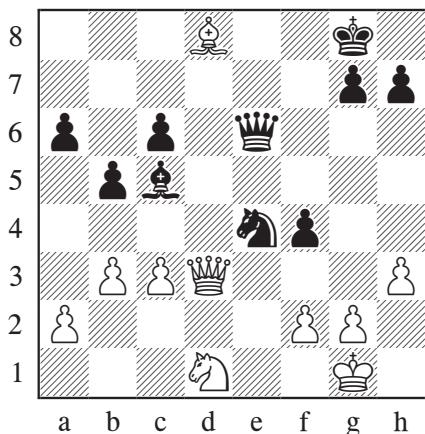


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Walbrodt – Steinitz, Hastings 1895

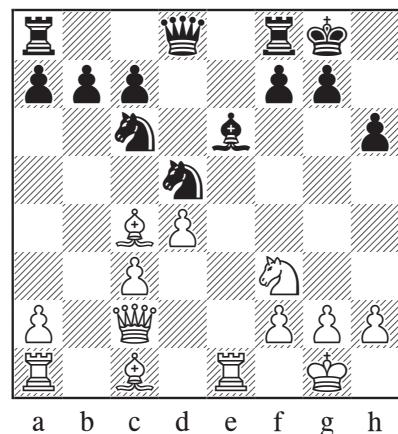
247



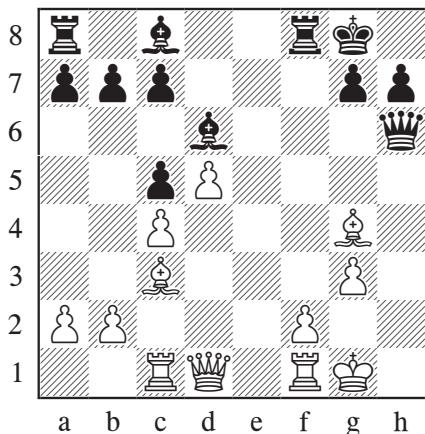
Schiffers – Steinitz, Hastings 1895

**Steinitz – Schiffers**, Rostov on Don (2) 1896

250



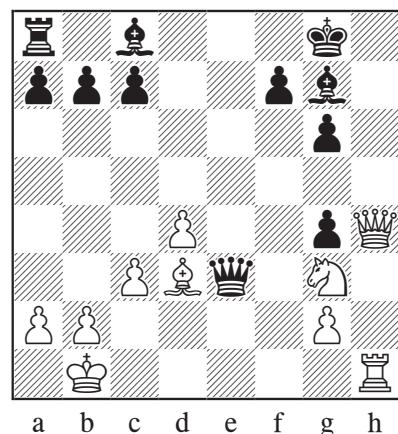
248



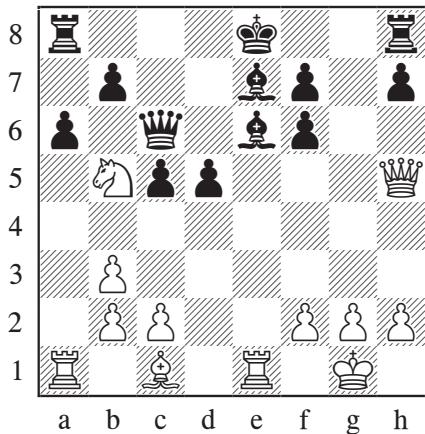
Janowski – Steinitz, Hastings 1895



251

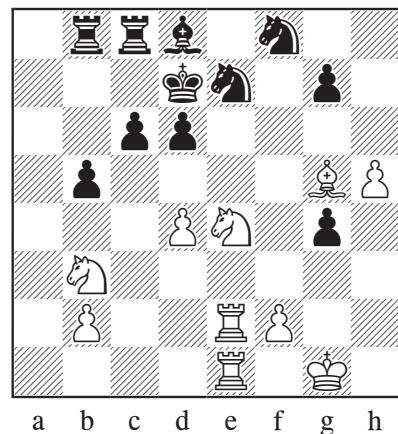


249

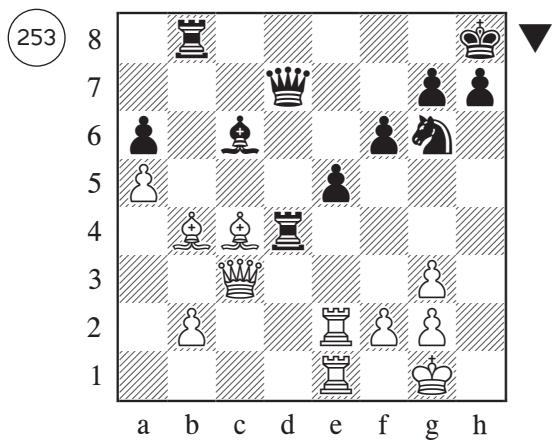


Lasker – Steinitz, Moscow (2) 1896

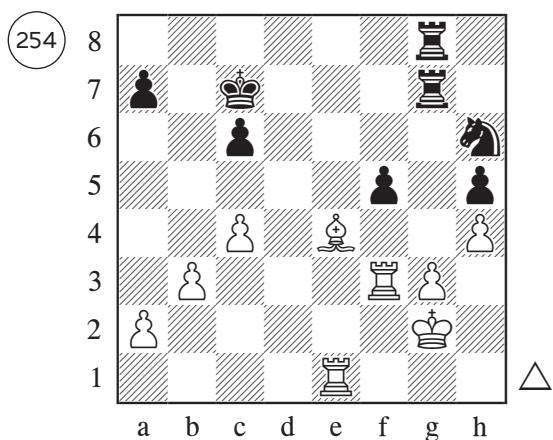
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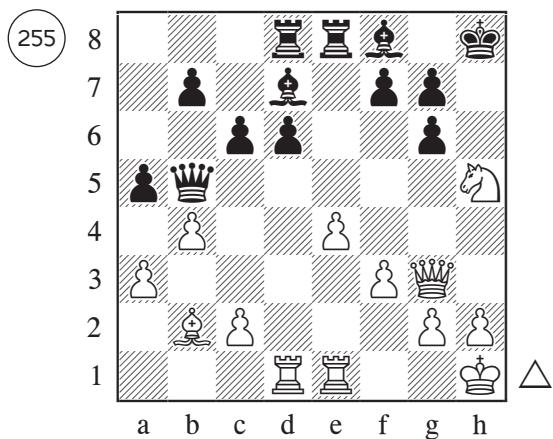
Steinitz – Lasker, Moscow (17) 1897



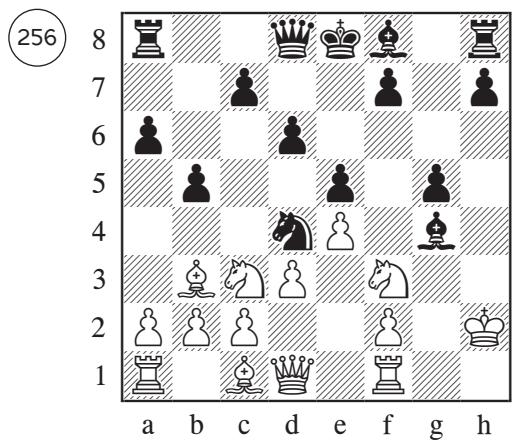
Steinitz – Blackburne, Vienna 1898



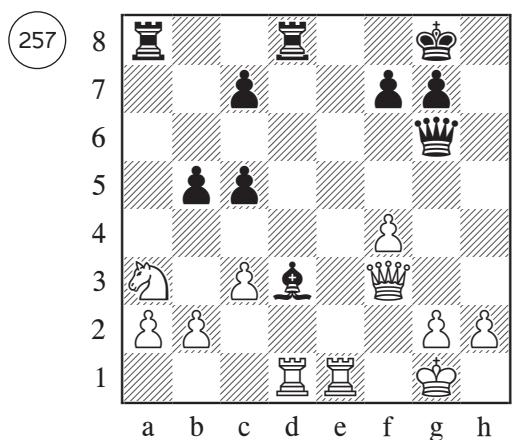
Pillsbury – Steinitz, Vienna 1898



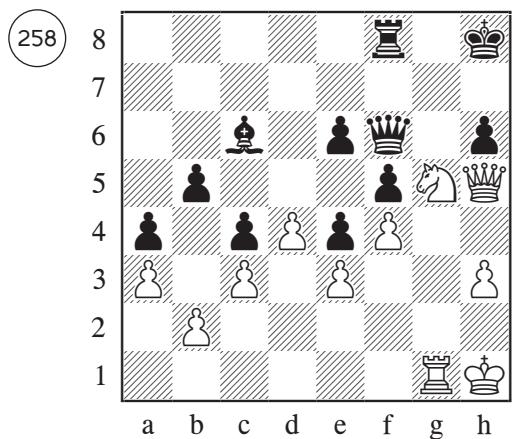
Loman – Lasker, Amsterdam 1889



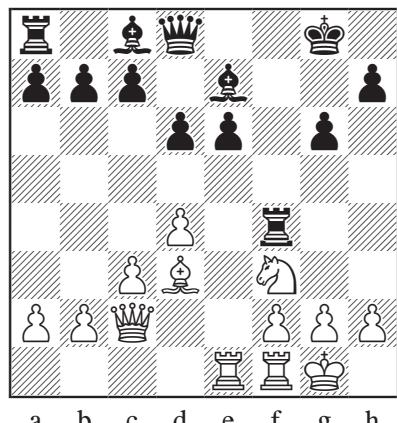
Lasker – Von Scheve, Berlin 1890



Lasker – Reichhelm, Philadelphia (simul) 1892

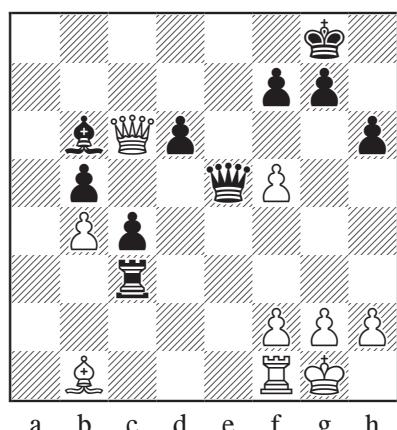


Lasker – Elson, Wakefield (simul) 1892



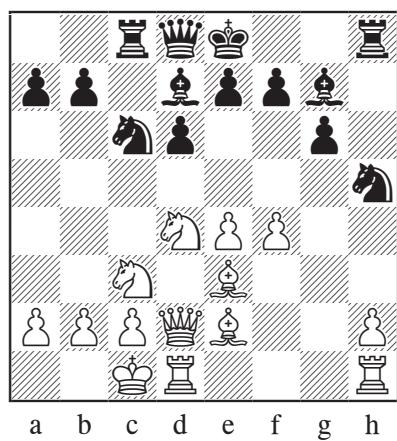
259

Ryan – Lasker, USA (simul) 1893



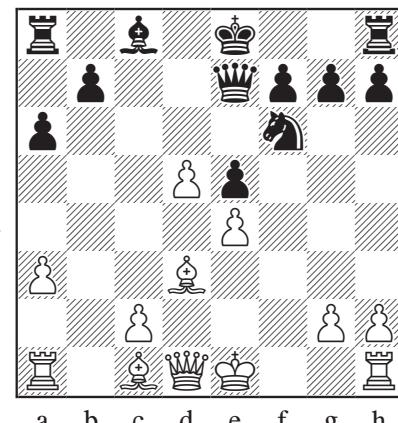
260

Ostalaza – Lasker, Havana 1893



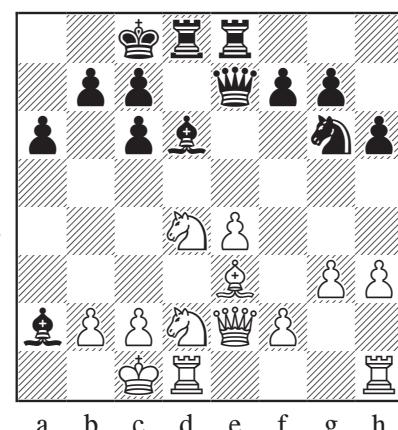
261

Lasker – Celsito, Havana (simul) 1893



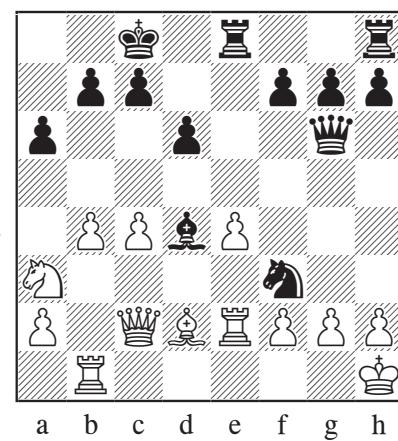
262

Ettlinger – Lasker, New York (1) 1893

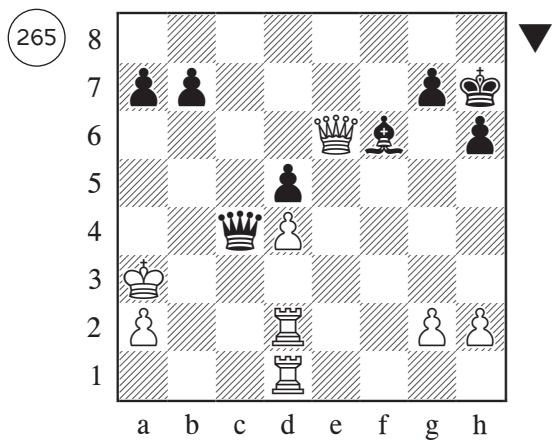
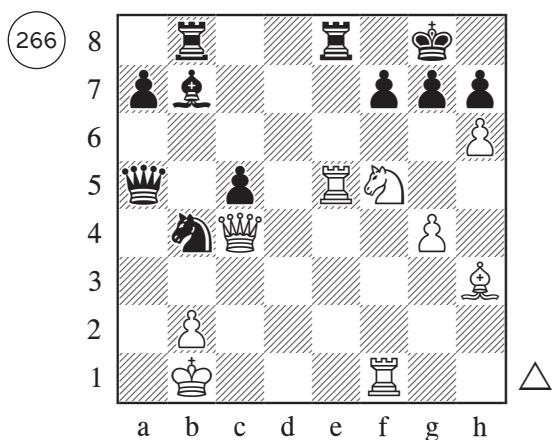
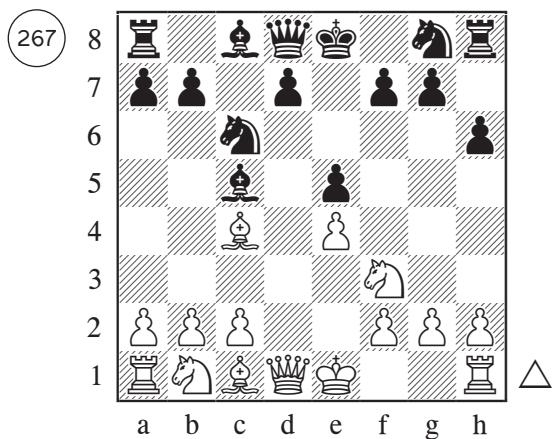
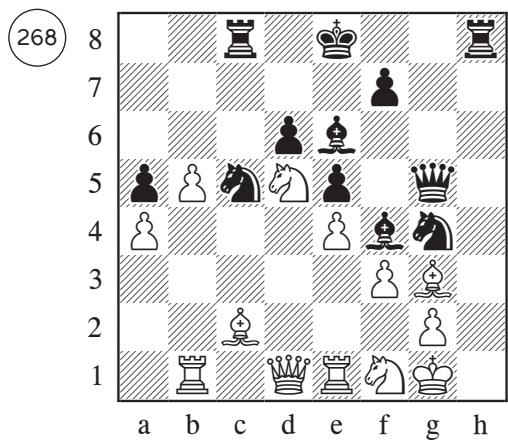
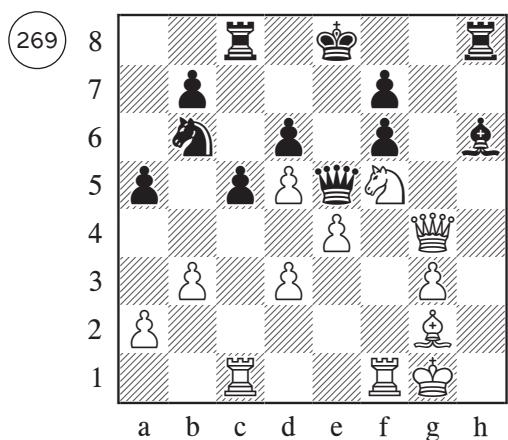
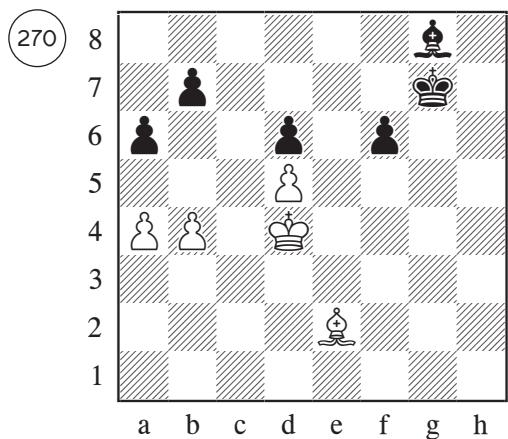


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Lasker – Blackburne, Hastings 1895

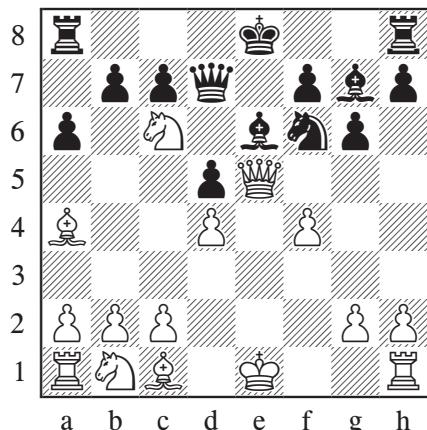


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Pillsbury – Lasker, St Petersburg 1896**Lasker – N.N.**, Berlin (simul) 1897**Lasker – Anderson**, London (simul) 1898**Lasker – Blackburne**, London 1899**Lasker – N.N.**, Great Britain (simul) 1900**Lasker – Lee**, Hereford (simul) 1900

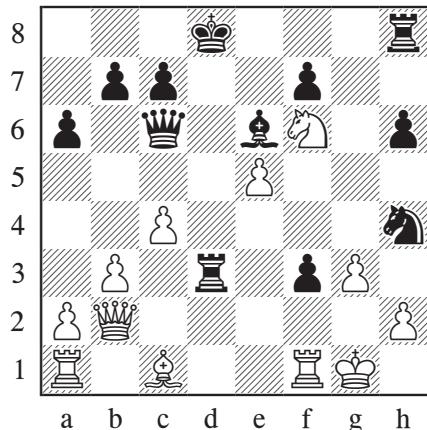
Lasker – Sterling, Paris 1900

271



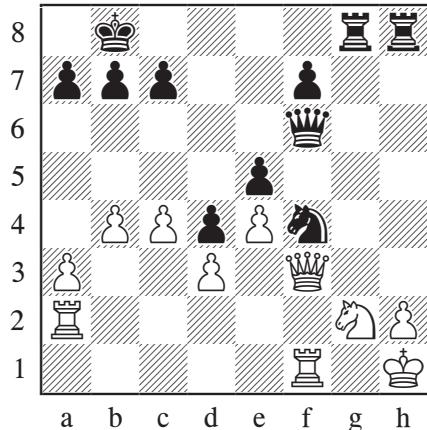
Lasker – Sala, USA (simul) 1901

272



Quinault – Lasker, USA (simul) 1903

273

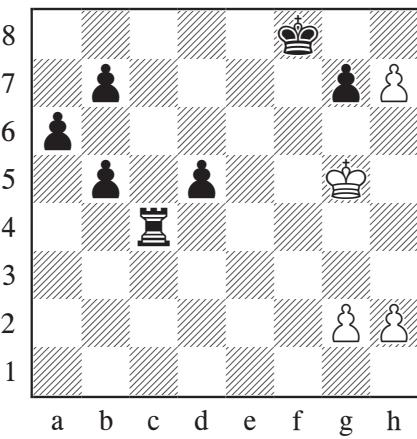


Hymes – Lasker, USA (simul) 1905

274

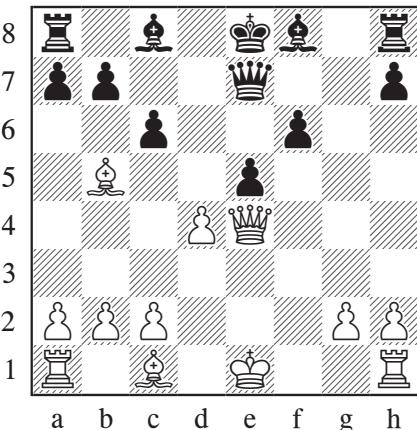
274

Lasker – Loman, USA (simul) 1903



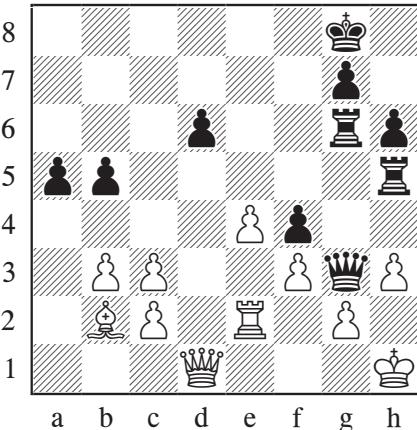
Lasker – Chalupetzky, corr. 1903

275

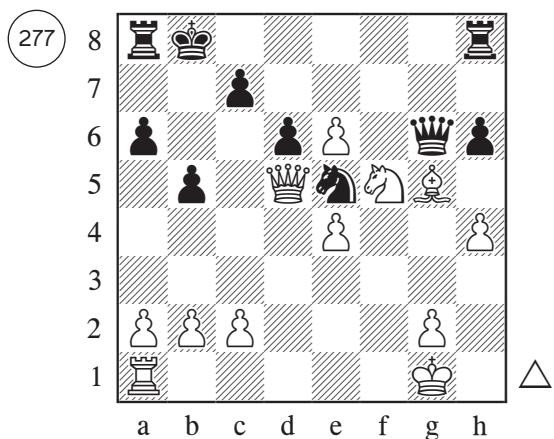


Hymes – Lasker, USA (simul) 1905

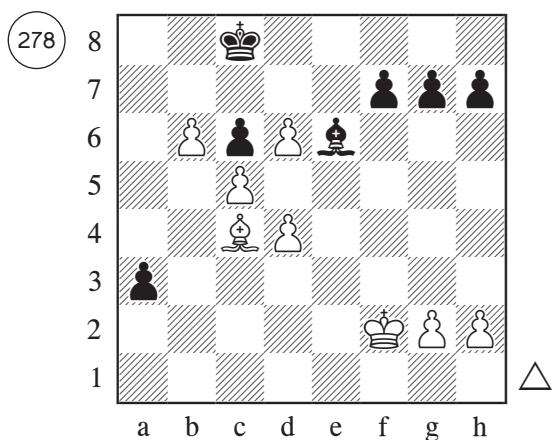
276



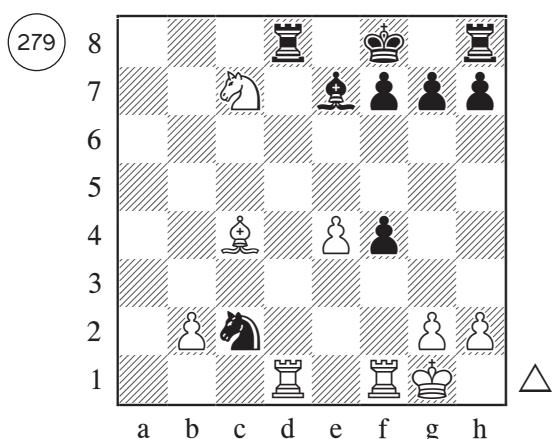
Tarnowski – Lasker, corr. 1908



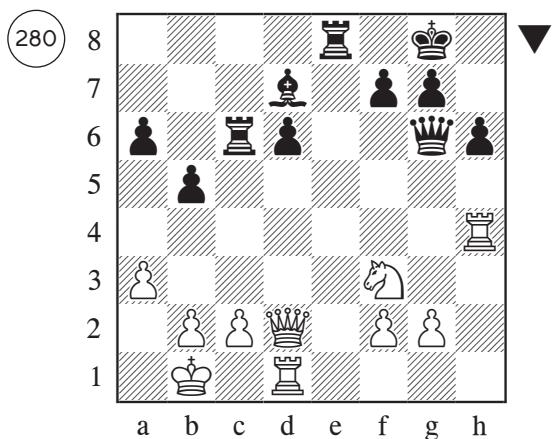
Lasker – Womersley, England (simul) 1908



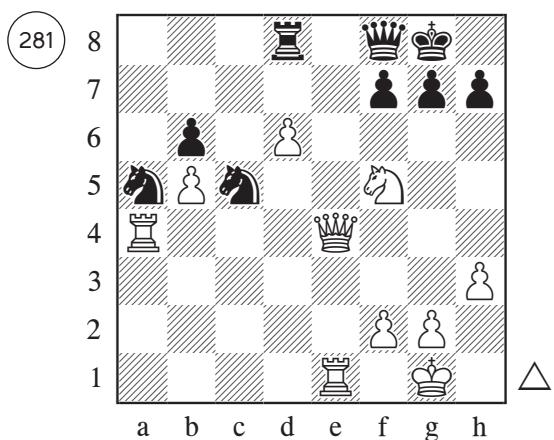
Lasker – N.N., Netherlands (simul) 1908



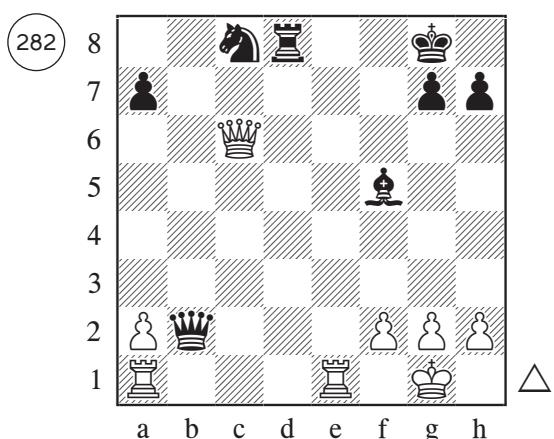
Lasker – Holmes, England (simul) 1908



Lasker – Harreman, Netherlands (simul) 1908

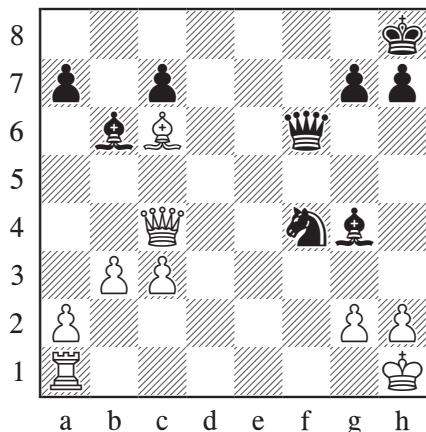


Lasker – Blake, England (simul) 1908



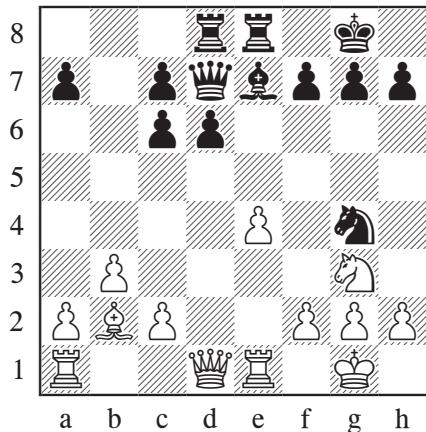
Coates/Wallwork – Lasker, Manchester 1908

283



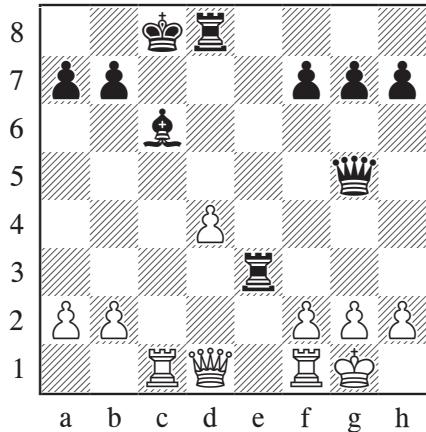
Tarrasch – Lasker, Germany (2) 1908

284



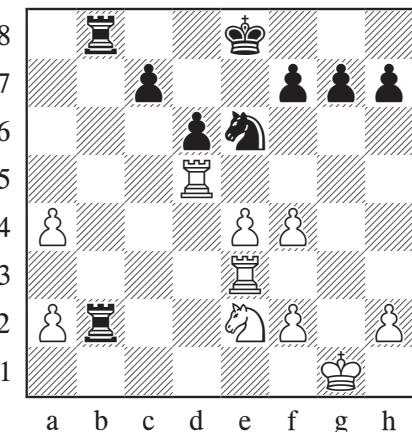
Rubinstein – Lasker, St Petersburg 1909

285



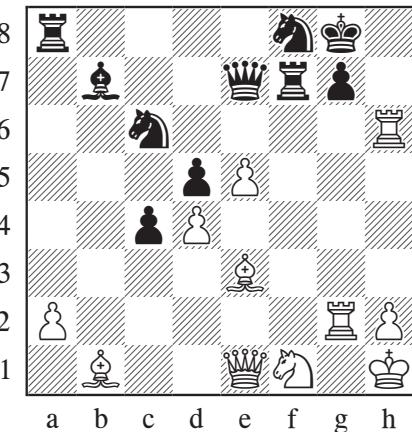
Lynch – Lasker, Buenos Aires (simul) 1910

286



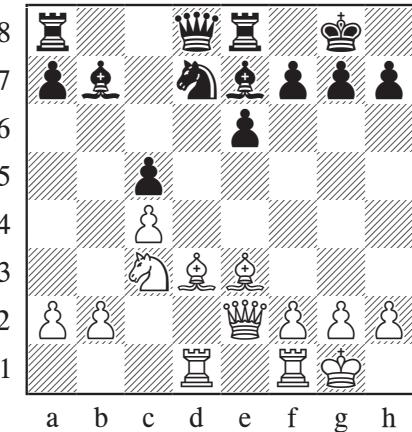
Bar – Lasker, Germany (simul) 1913

287

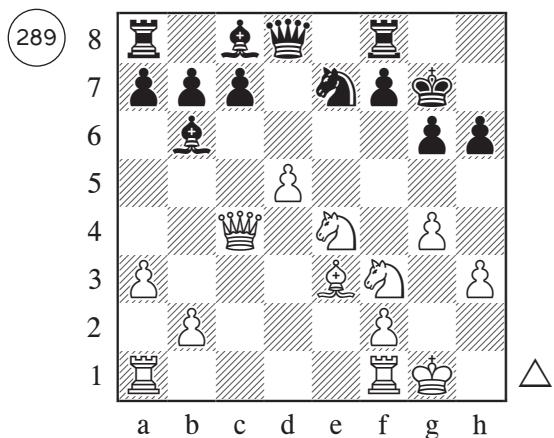


Nielsen – Lasker, Copenhagen (simul) 1919

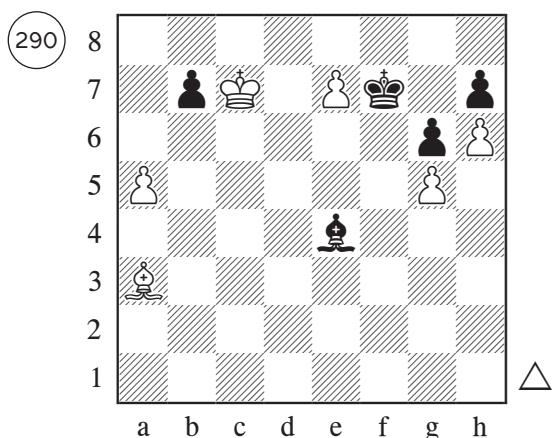
288



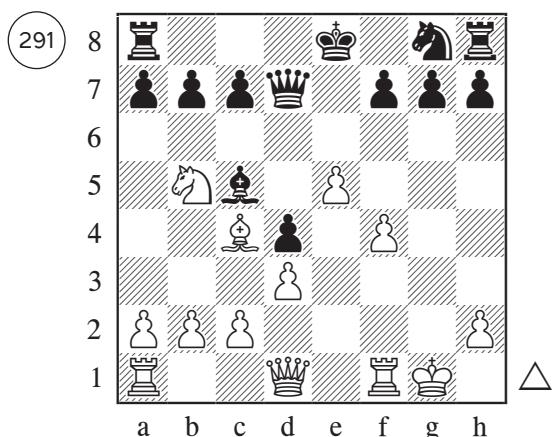
Prusa – Lasker, Prague (simul) 1924



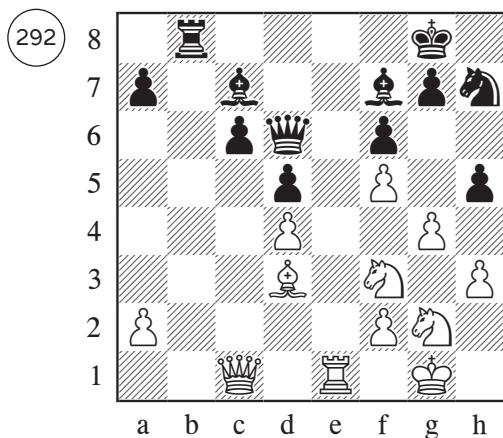
Lasker – Vrbasic, Yugoslavia (simul) 1924



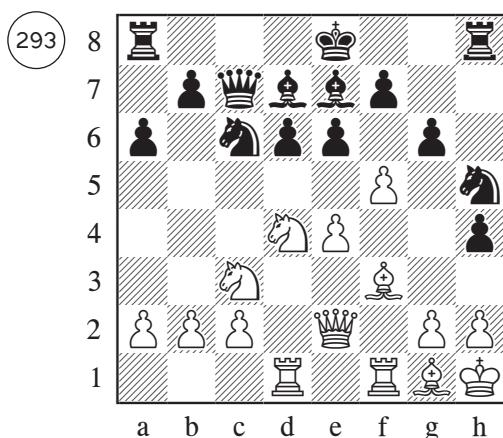
Arnold – Lasker, Prague (simul) 1924



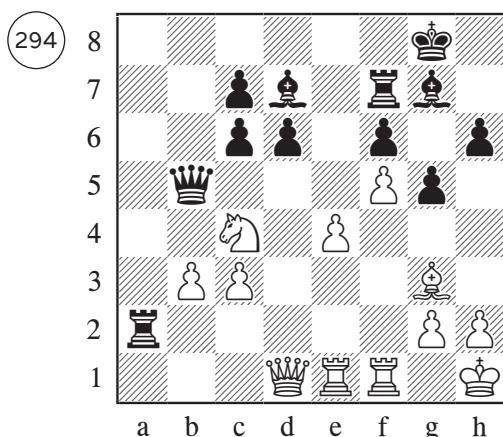
Alekhine – Lasker, New York 1924



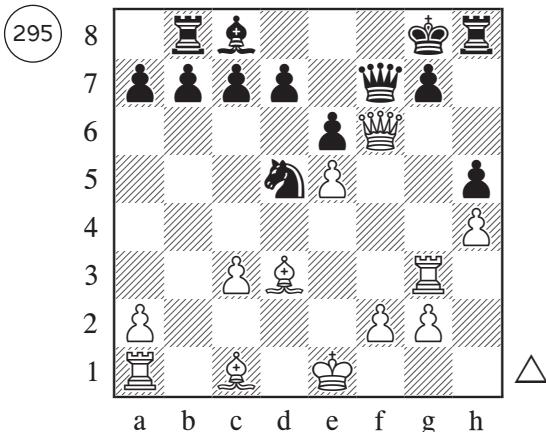
Lasker – Smith, USA (simul) 1926



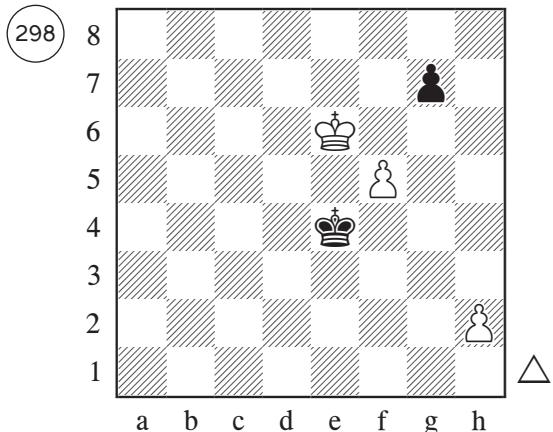
Muehrenberg – Lasker, Copenhagen (simul) 1927



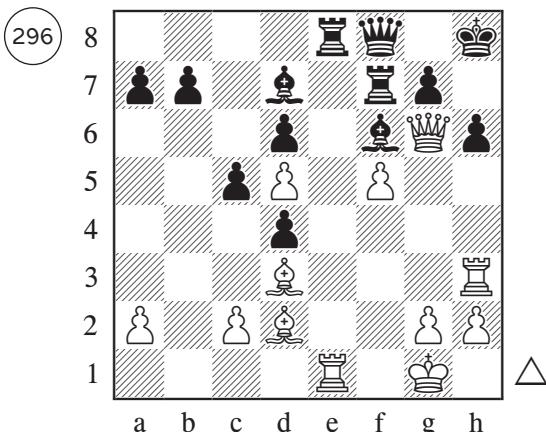
Lasker – Buchholtz, Copenhagen (simul) 1927



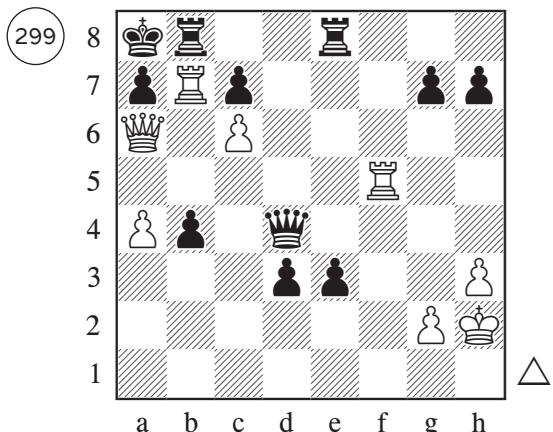
Capablanca – Blanco Jimenez, Havana 1901



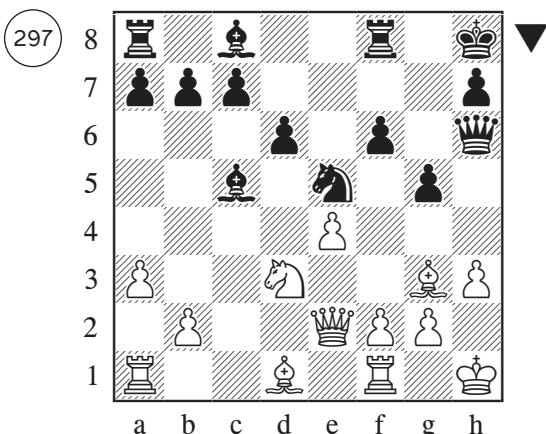
Hartmann – Lasker, Copenhagen (simul) 1927



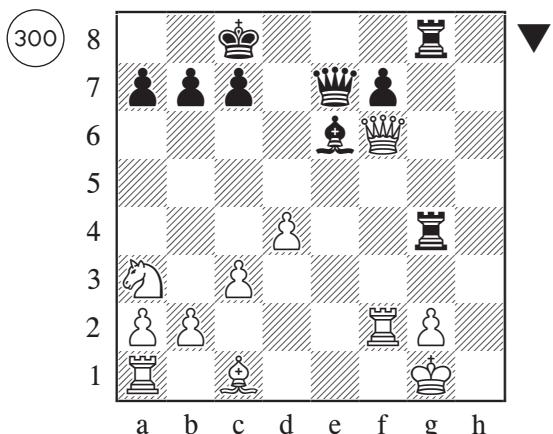
Capablanca – Raubitschek, New York 1906

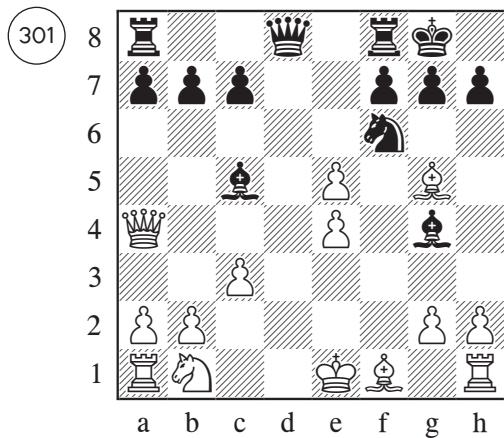
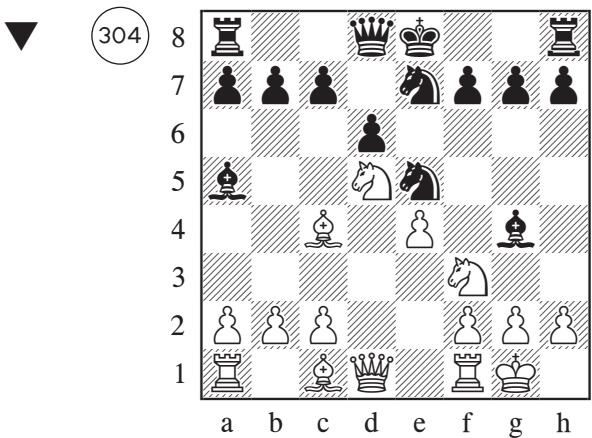
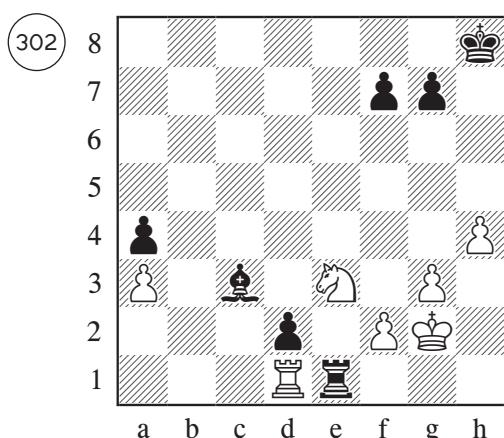
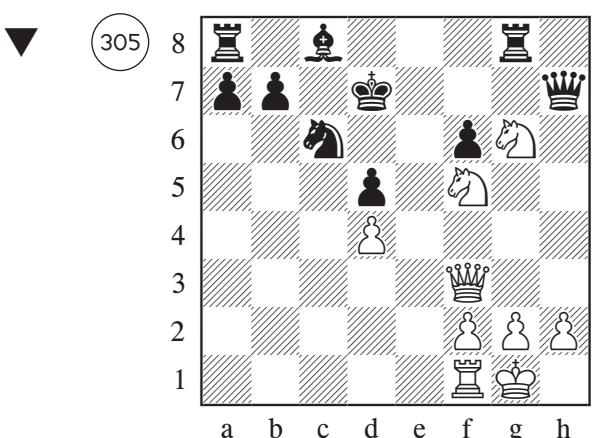
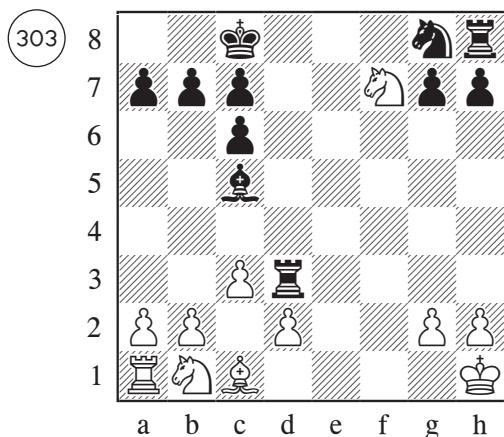
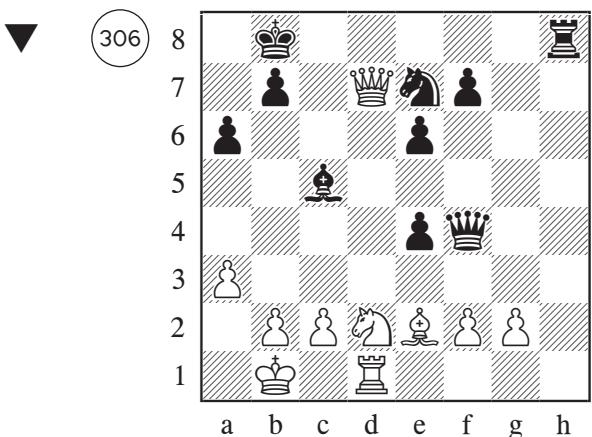


Gavilan – Capablanca, Havana 1901



Raubitschek – Capablanca, New York 1906



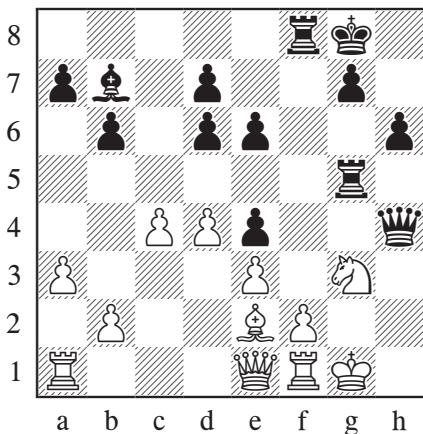
Pulvermacher – Capablanca, New York 1907**301. Capablanca – Adams, Washington DC 1907****Corzo – Capablanca, Havana 1909****302. Capablanca – Pratt, Troy (simul) 1909****Capablanca – Michelsen, New York 1910****Tuka – Capablanca, Prague (simul) 1911**

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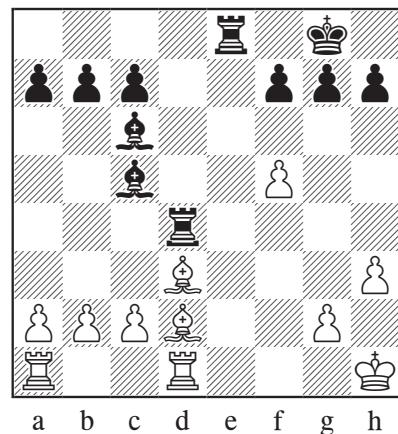
Podhajsky – Capablanca, Prague (simul) 1911

307



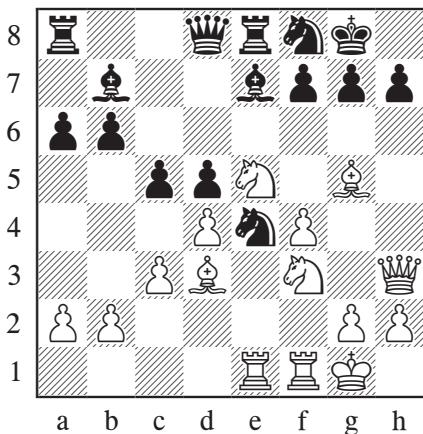
Capablanca – Koksal, Prague (simul) 1911

310



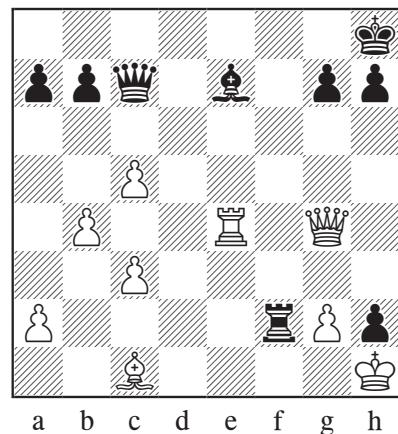
Capablanca – Tennenwurzel, New York 1911

308



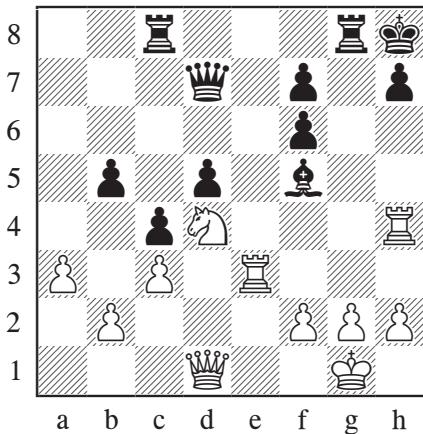
Capablanca – Spielmann, San Sebastian 1911

311



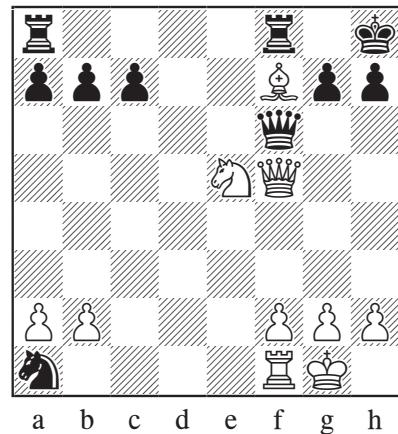
Capablanca – Morris, New York 1911

309

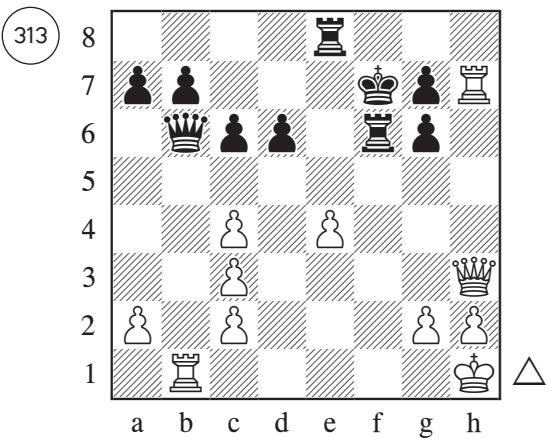


Kluxen – Capablanca, Hamburg (simul) 1911

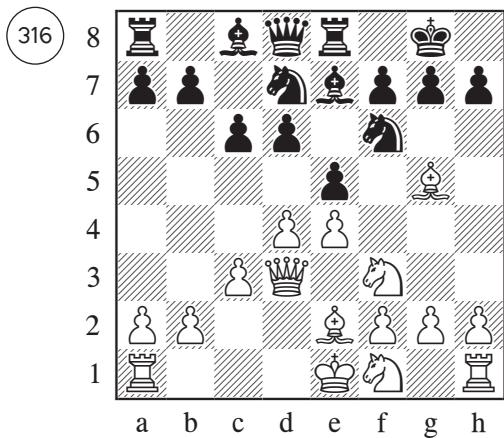
312



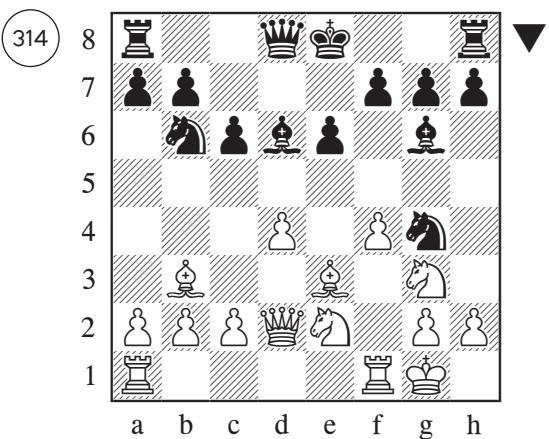
Capablanca – Illa, Buenos Aires 1911



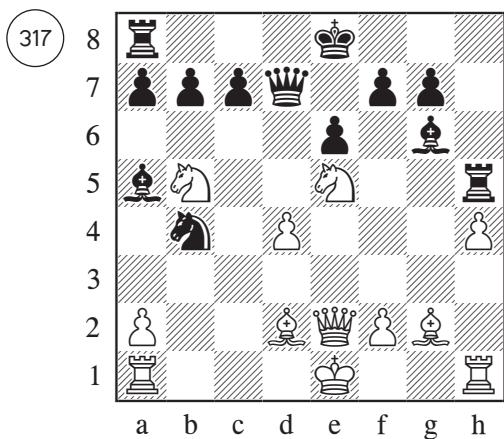
Jaffe – Capablanca, New York 1912



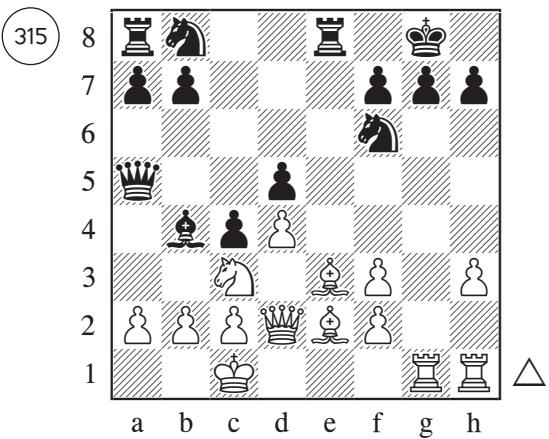
Carranza – Capablanca, Buenos Aires 1911



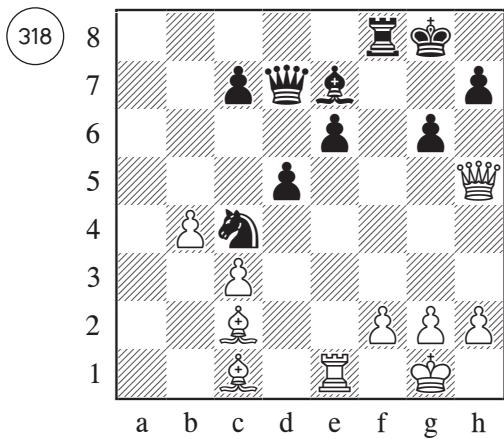
Capablanca – N.N., Louisville (simul) 1912



Weiss – Capablanca, Hamburg (simul) 1911

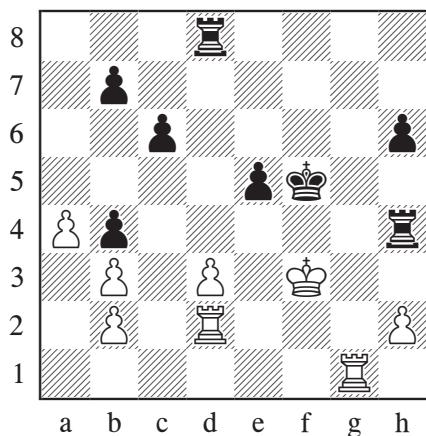


Capablanca – Corzo, Havana 1913



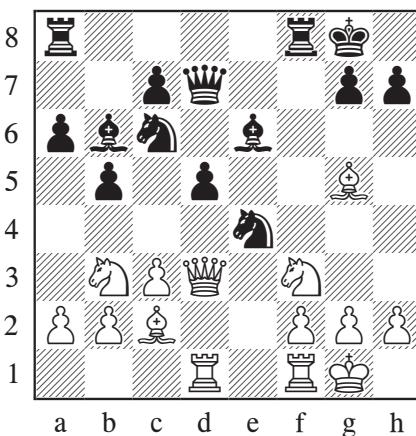
Portela – Capablanca, Havana 1913

319



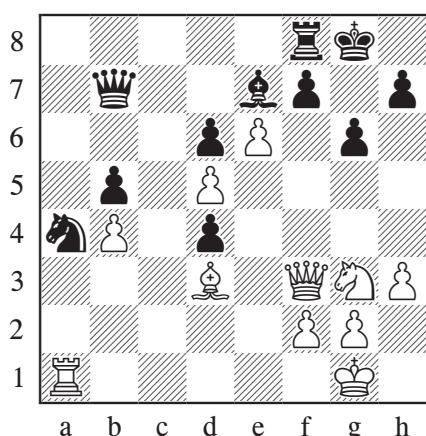
Capablanca – Kalske, Helsinki 1914

322



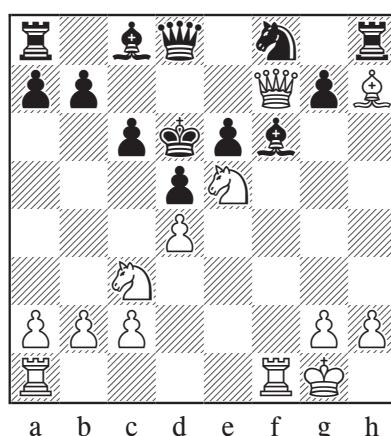
Capablanca – Dus-Khotimirsky, St Petersburg 1913

320



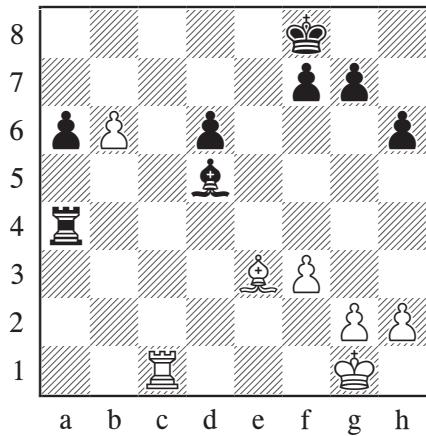
Capablanca – Masyutin, Kiev 1914

323



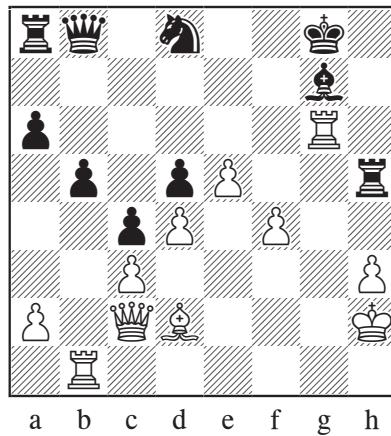
Capablanca – Reti, Vienna 1914

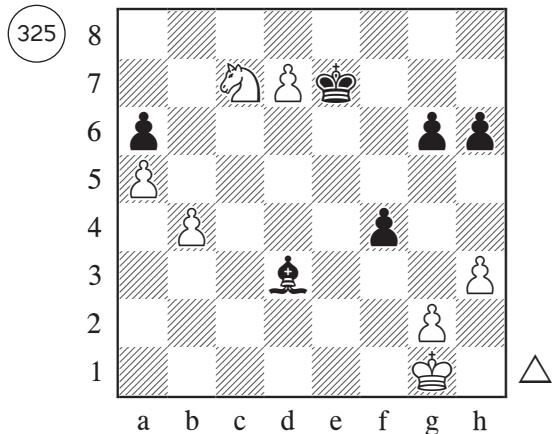
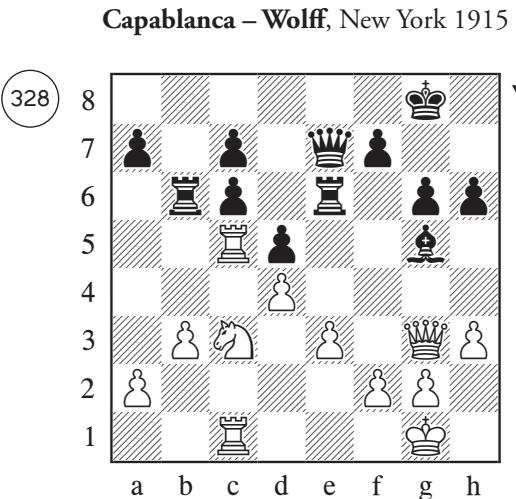
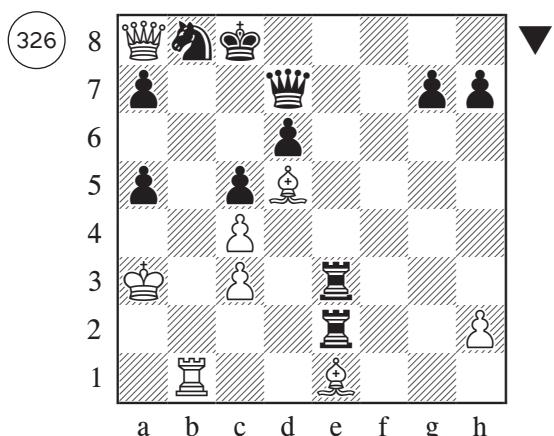
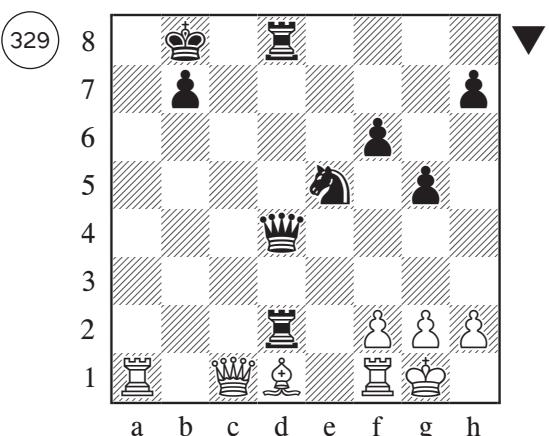
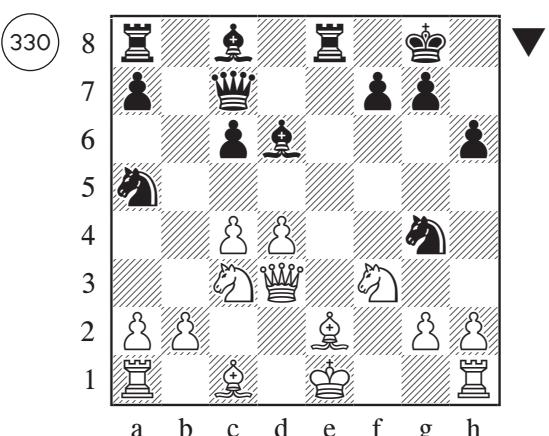
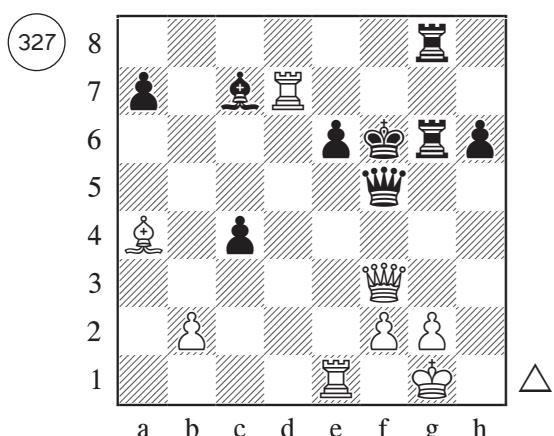
321



Capablanca – Blackburne, St Petersburg 1914

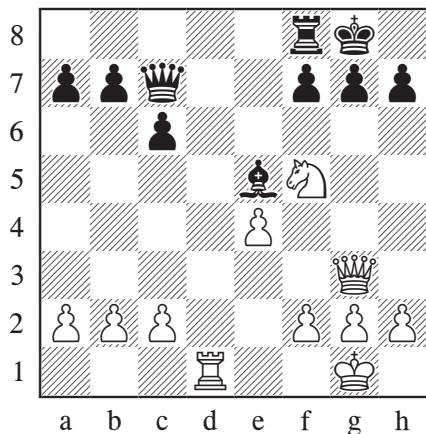
324



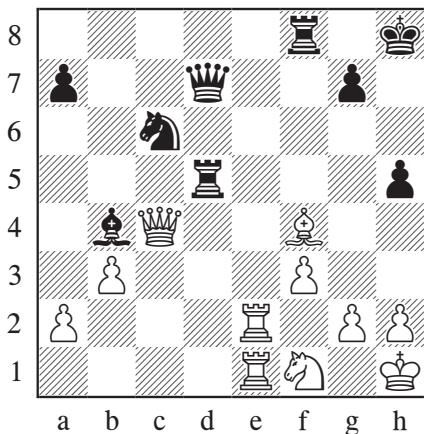
Capablanca – Lynch/Villegas, Buenos Aires 1914**Capablanca – Wolfson, New York (simul) 1915****Shipley – Capablanca, Philadelphia (simul) 1915****Capablanca – Stahr, Chicago 1915****Schroeder – Capablanca, New York 1916**

Capablanca – Fonaroff, New York 1918

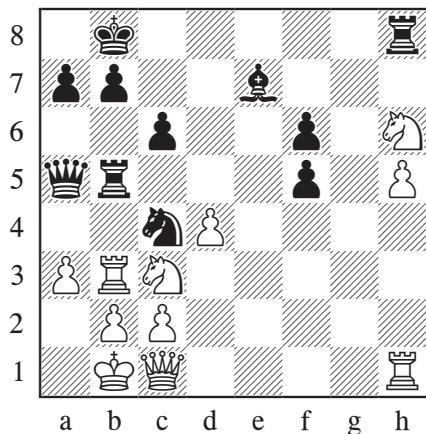
331



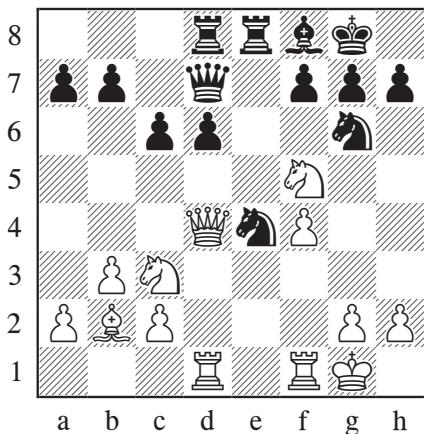
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**Capablanca – Shipley**, Philadelphia (simul) 1918

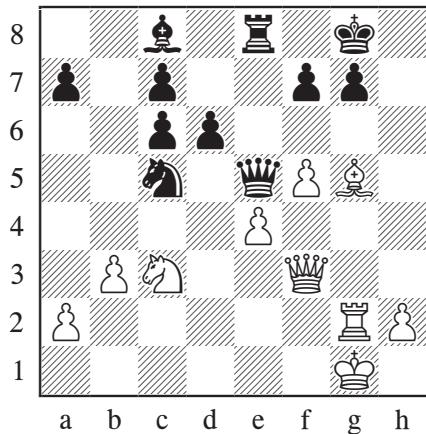
332



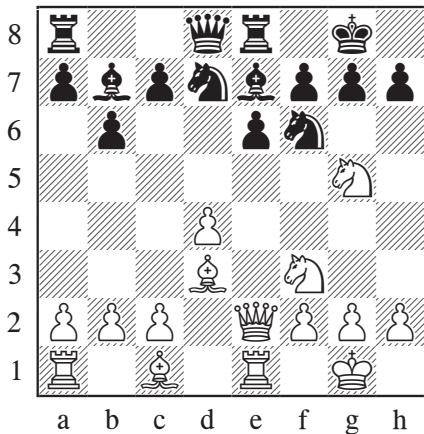
335

**Cole – Capablanca**, Hastings 1919

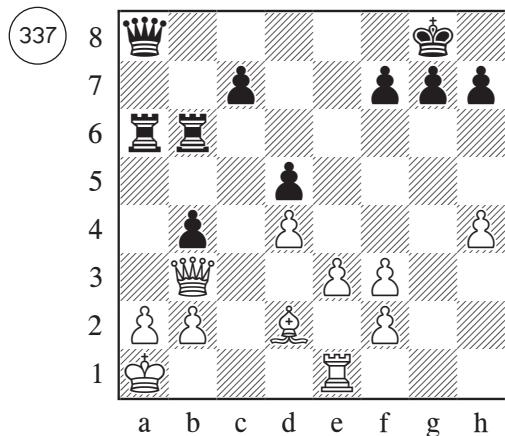
333



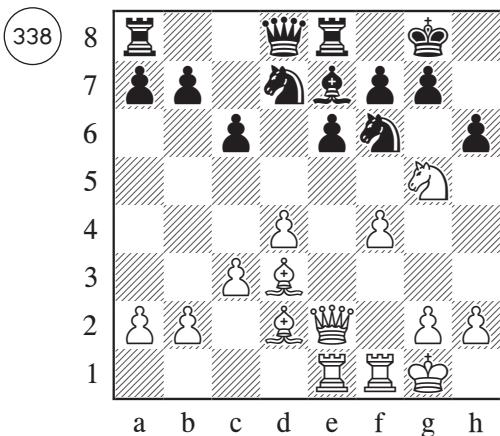
336

**Capablanca – Bray**, Birmingham (simul) 1919

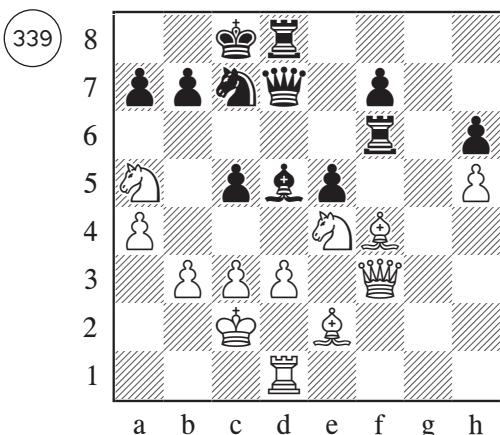
Capablanca – Marin y Llovet, Barcelona (simul) 1920



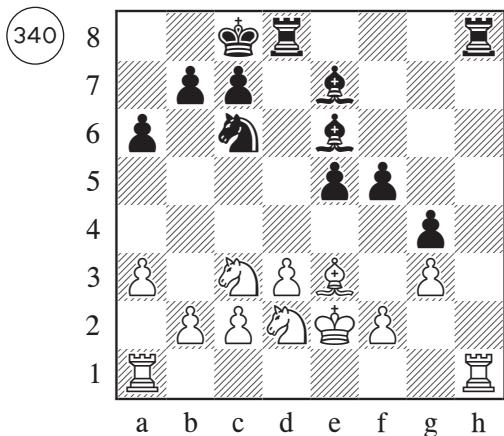
Capablanca – Coll, Barcelona (simul) 1920



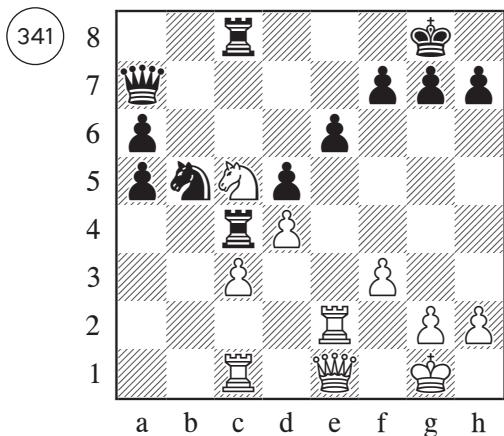
Capablanca – Maddock, New York (simul) 1922



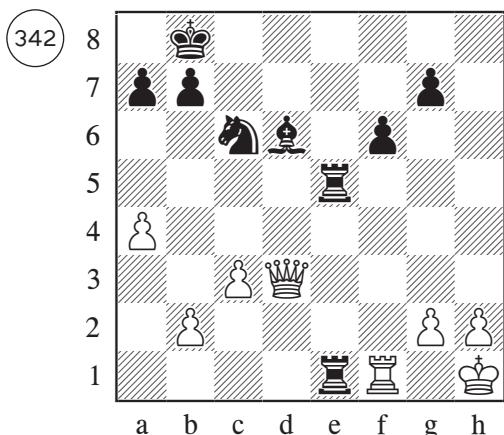
Capablanca – Perkins, New York (simul) 1924



Bogoljubov – Capablanca, New York 1924

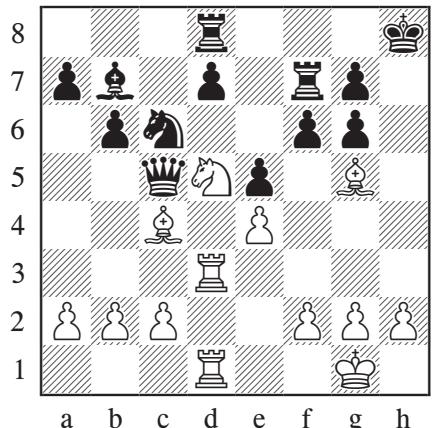


Marshall – Capablanca, New York 1927



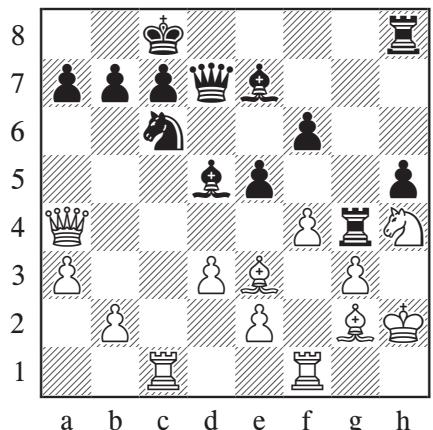
Capablanca – Souza Campos, Sao Paulo 1927

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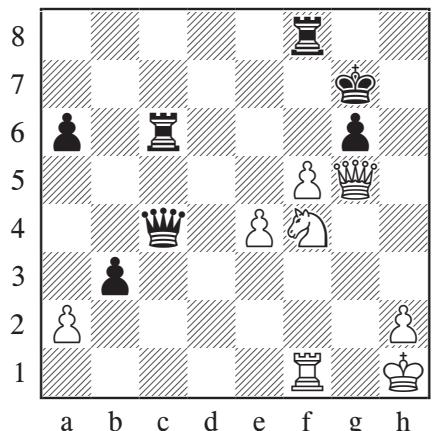
Capablanca – Reid, London 1928

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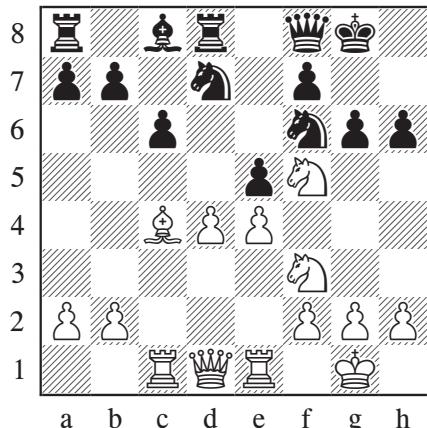
Capablanca – GS Pharmacy, New York (simul) 1931

345



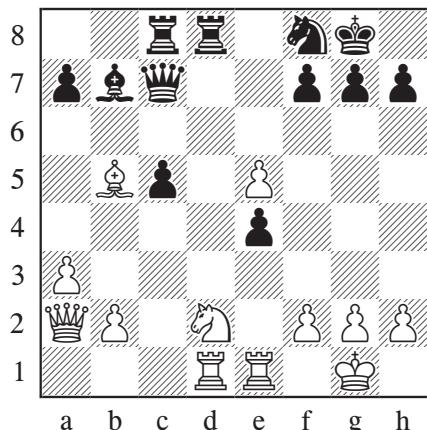
Capablanca – Glicco, Mexico 1933

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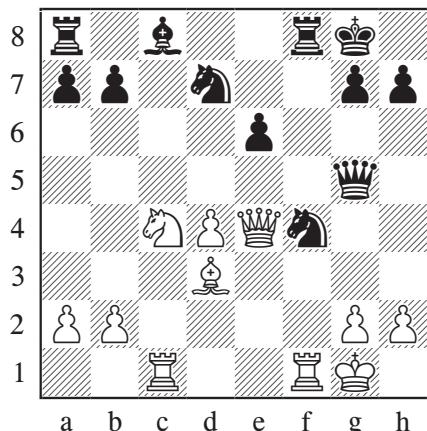
Capablanca – Thomas, Hastings 1934

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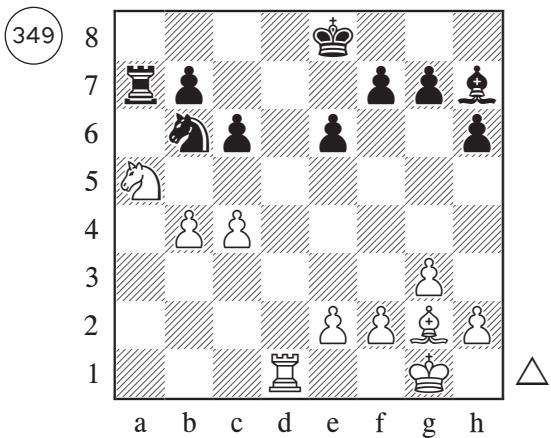


Capablanca – Llusa, Barcelona (simul) 1935

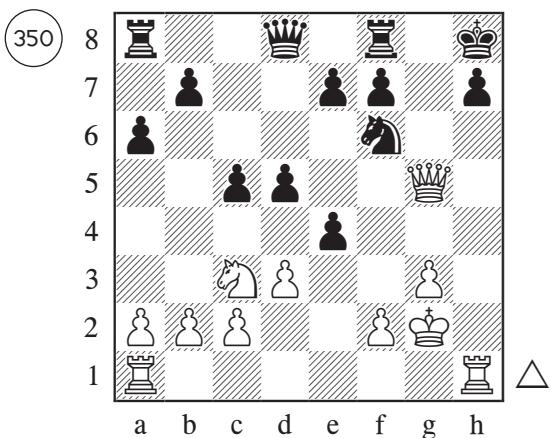
348



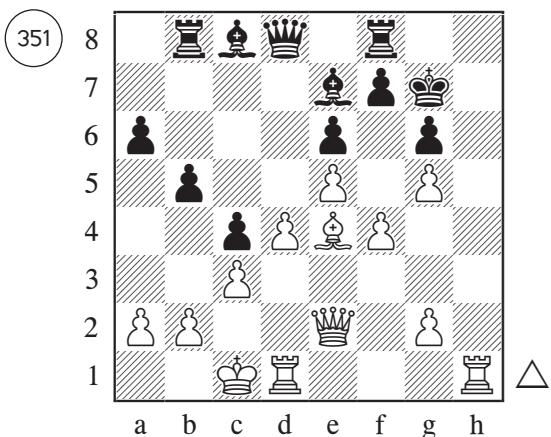
Capablanca – Lilienthal, Moscow 1936



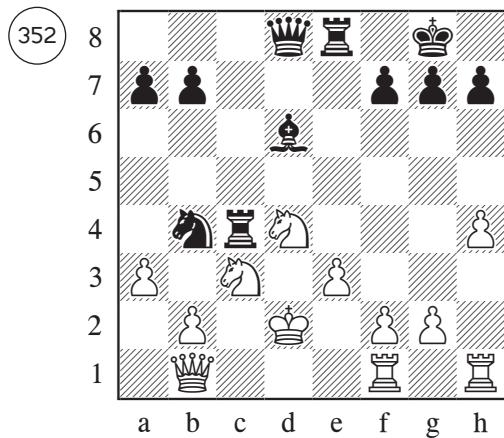
Capablanca – Rather, New York (simul) 1936



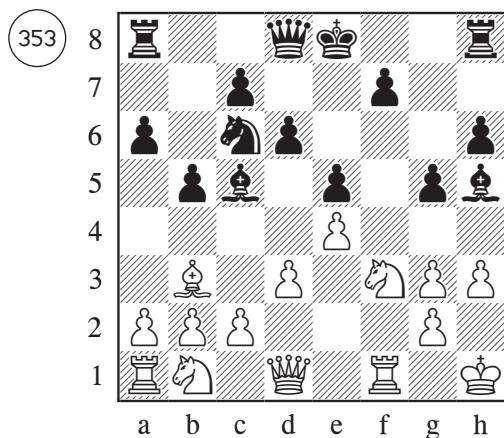
Malkov – Alekhine, corr. 1902



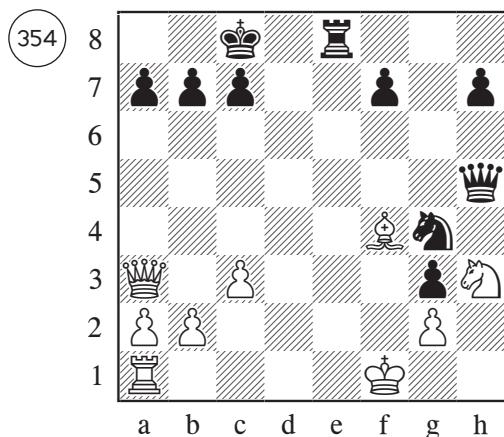
Alekhine – Zubakin, corr. 1902



Alekhine – Antushev, corr. 1903

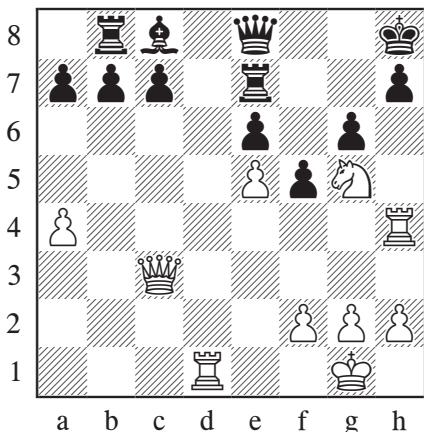


Alekhine – Zhukovsky, corr. 1905



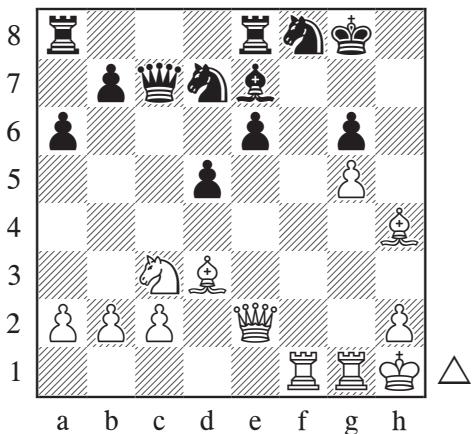
Manko – Alekhine, corr. 1906

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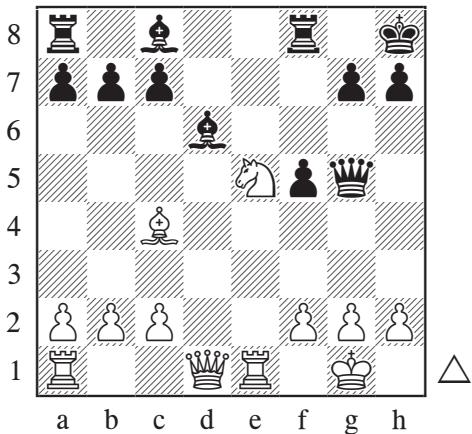
Alekhine – Kunze, Duesseldorf 1908

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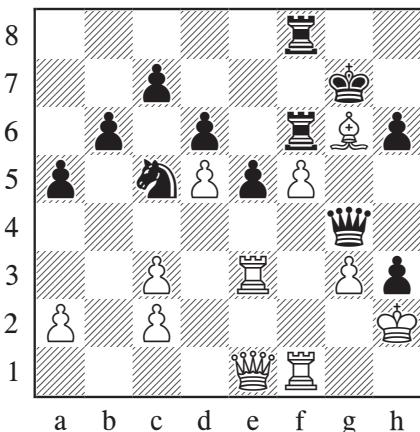
Alekhine – Koehnlein, Duesseldorf 1908

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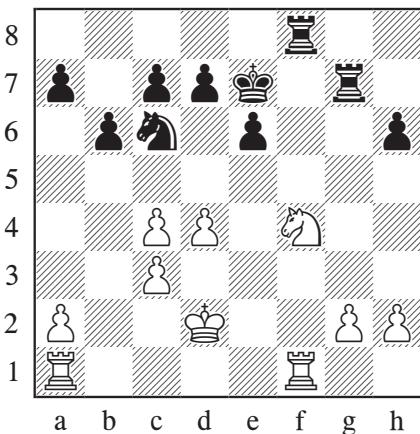
Alekhine – Daniuszewski, St Petersburg 1909

358



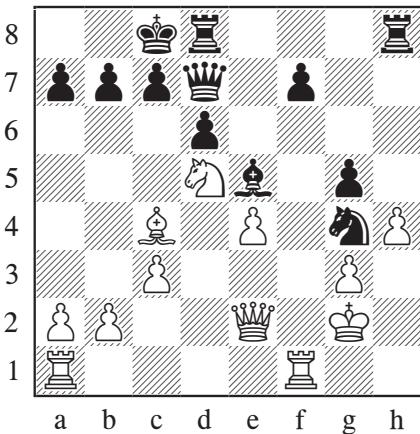
Alekhine – Tartakower, Hamburg 1910

359



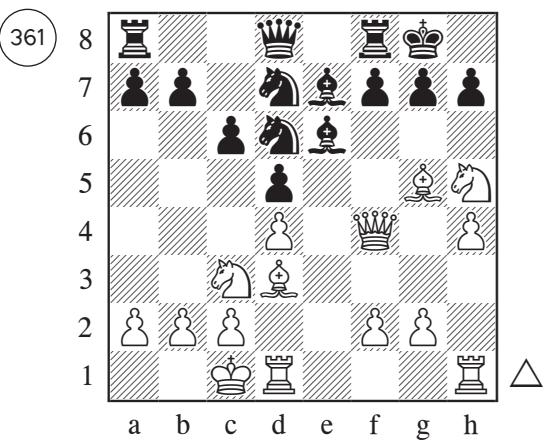
Alekhine – Krotky, Tula (simul) 1910

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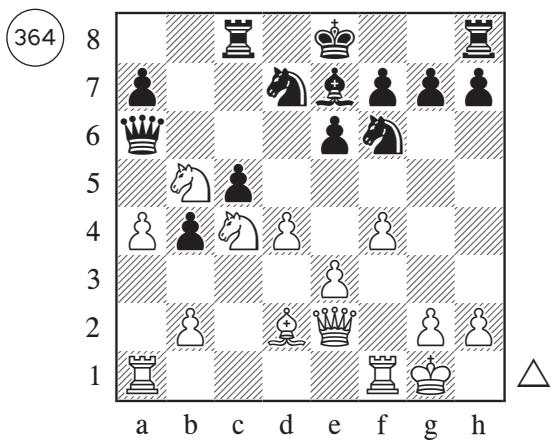


Alekhine – Gutkevitsch, Moscow (simul) 1910

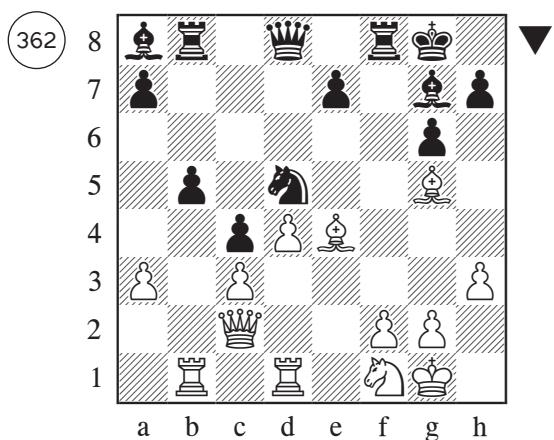
Janowski – Alekhine, Scheveningen 1913



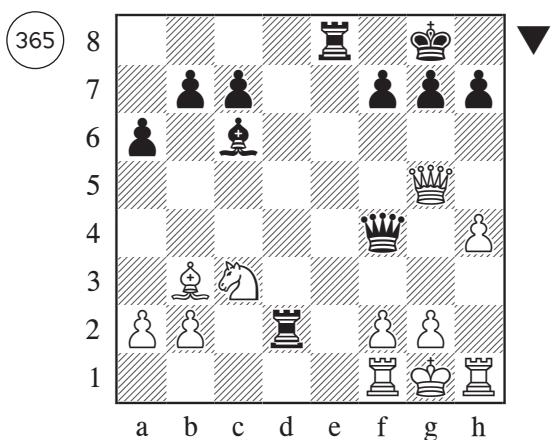
Bernstein – Alekhine, Vilnius 1912



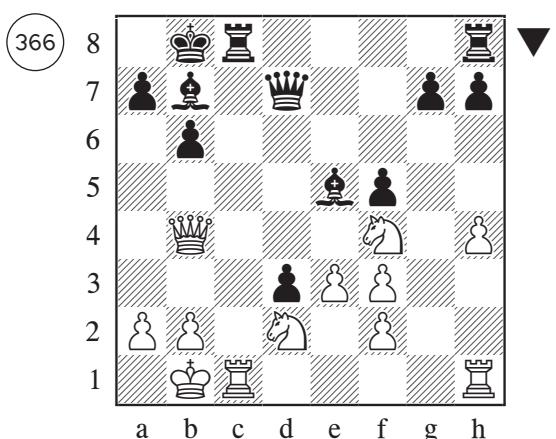
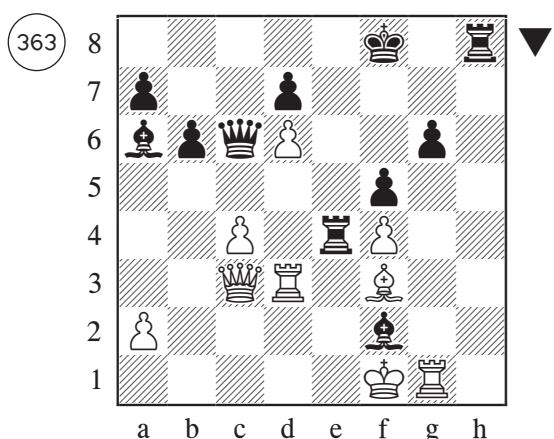
Alekhine – Bogoljubov, St Petersburg 1913



Alekhine – Koyalovich, St Petersburg 1912

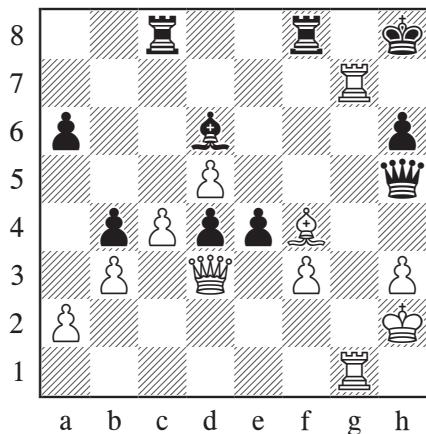


Lebedev – Alekhine, St Petersburg 1914



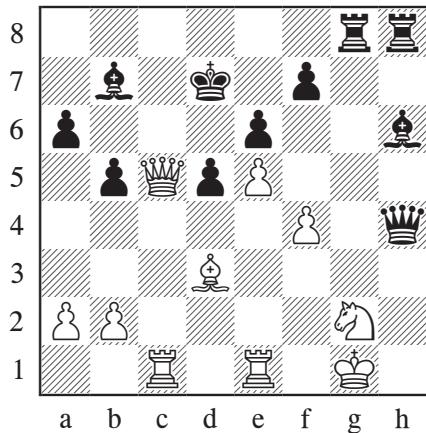
Janowski – Alekhine, Mannheim 1914

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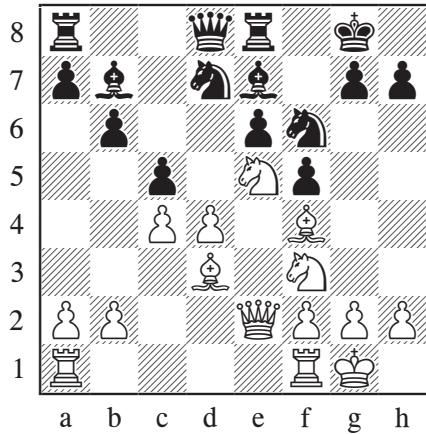
Tselikov – Alekhine, Moscow 1915

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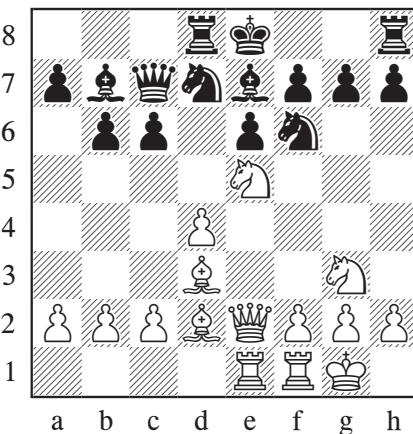
Alekhine – Feldt, Tarnopol (blindfold simul) 1916

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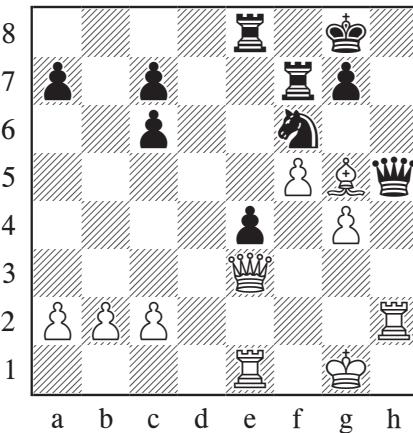
Alekhine – Vasiutinsky, Odessa (simul) 1918

370



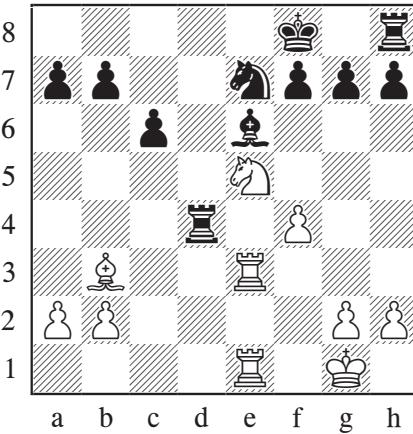
Pavlov-Pianov – Alekhine, Moscow 1919

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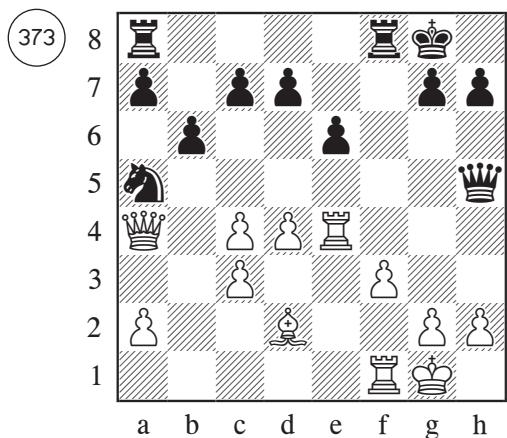


Alekhine – Grigoriev, Moscow 1919

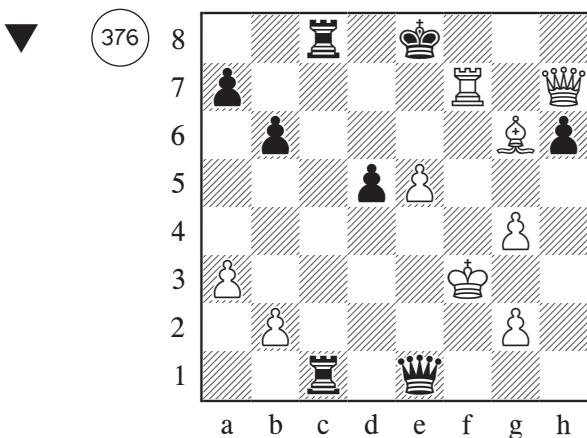
372



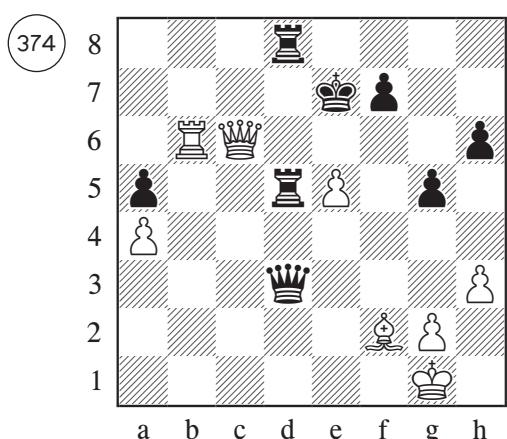
Rabinovich – Alekhine, Moscow 1920



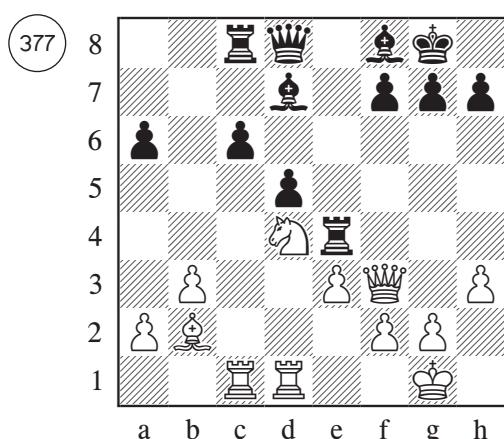
Alekhine – Resser, The Hague (simul) 1921



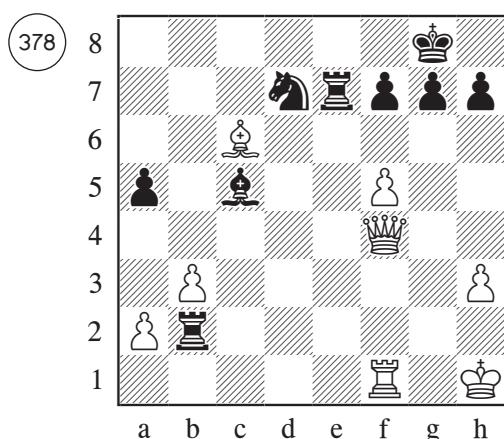
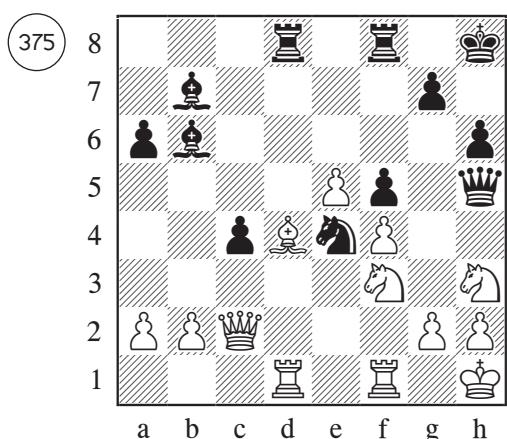
Alekhine – N.N., Berlin 1922



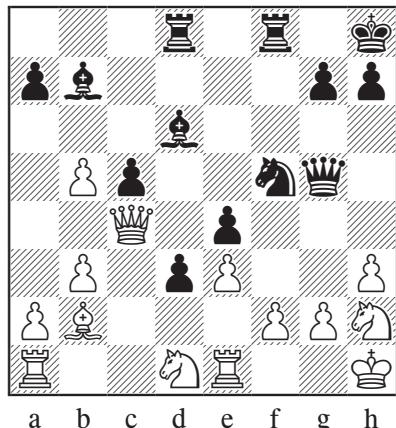
Torres Caravaca – Alekhine, Spain (simul) 1922



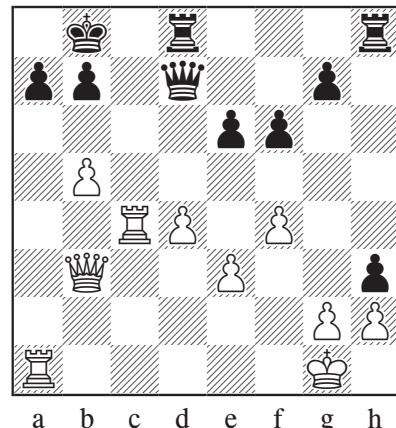
Alekhine – Golmayo de la Torriente, Spain 1922



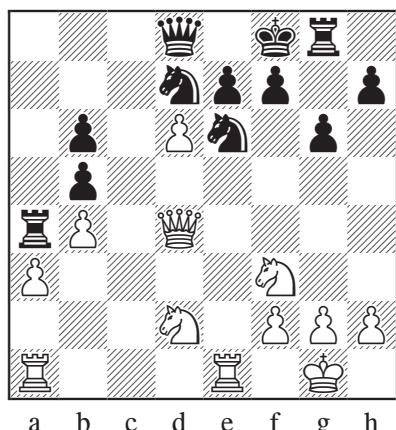
Tarrasch – Alekhine, Bad Pistyan 1922



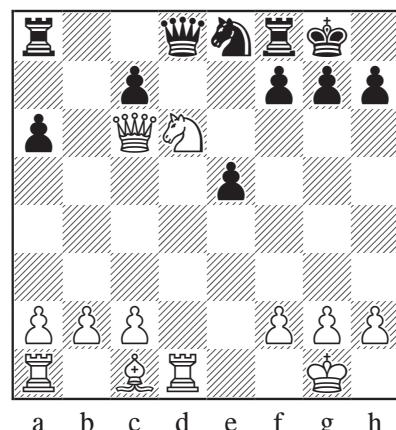
Alekhine – Wolf, Bad Pistyan 1922



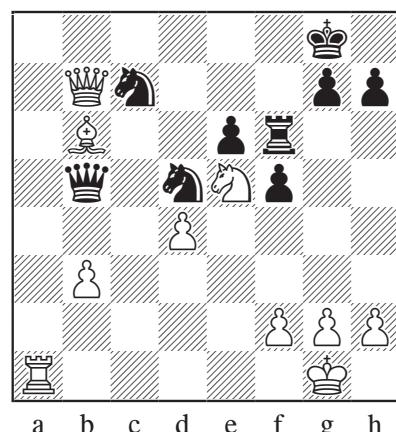
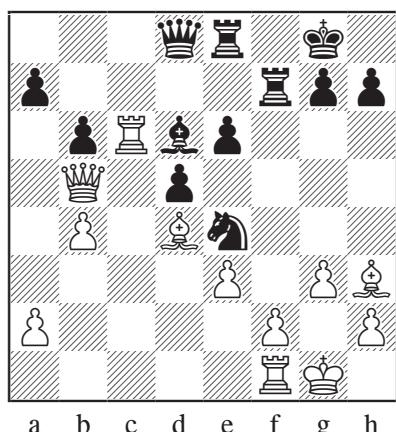
Alekhine – Reib, Prague (simul) 1923



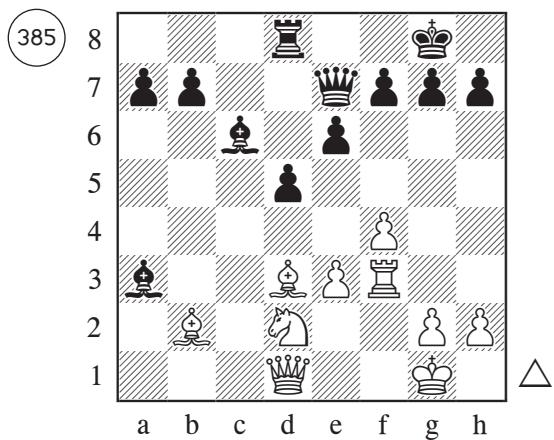
Alekhine – Yates, Portsmouth 1923



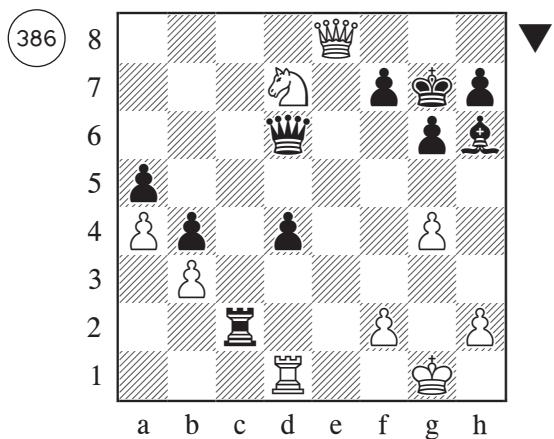
Alekhine – Menzel, Boston (simul) 1923



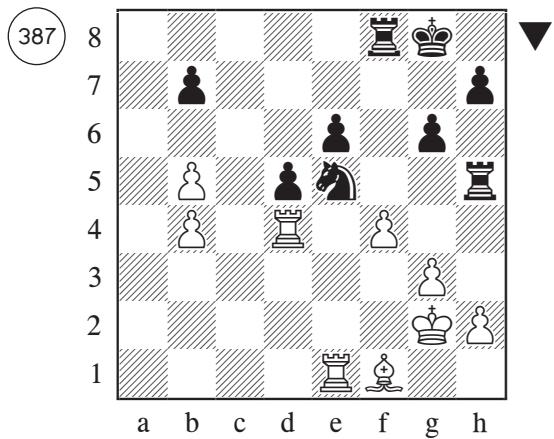
Alekhine – Drewitt, Portsmouth 1923



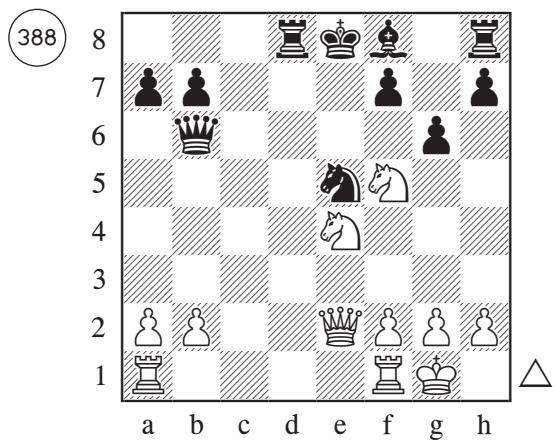
Tarrasch – Alekhine, Karlsbad 1923



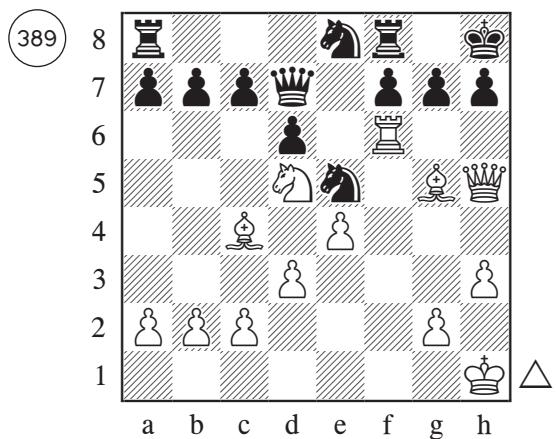
Alekhine – Steiner, New York (simul) 1924



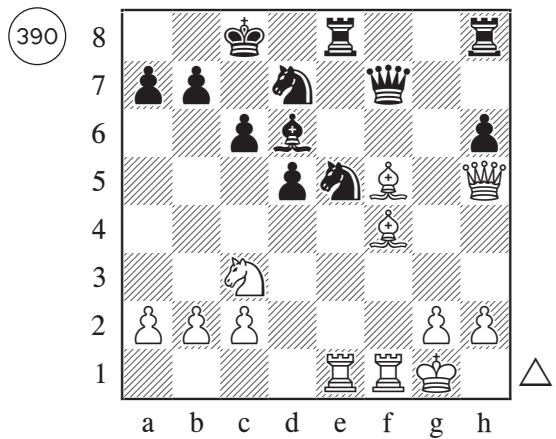
Alekhine – Kussman, New York (simul) 1924



Alekhine – Downman, USA (simul) 1924

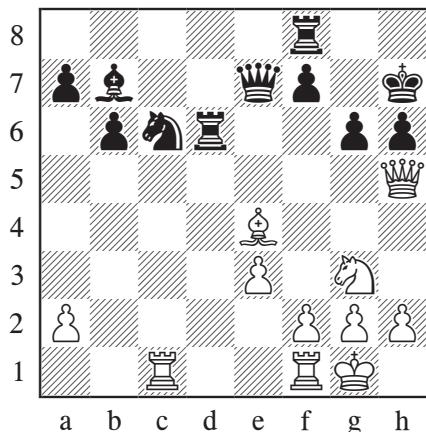


Alekhine – Casciato, USA (simul) 1924



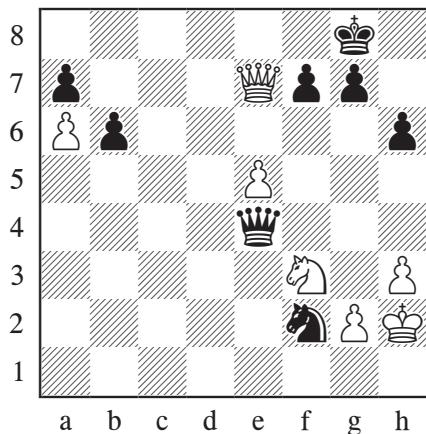
Michel – Alekhine, Basel (simul) 1925

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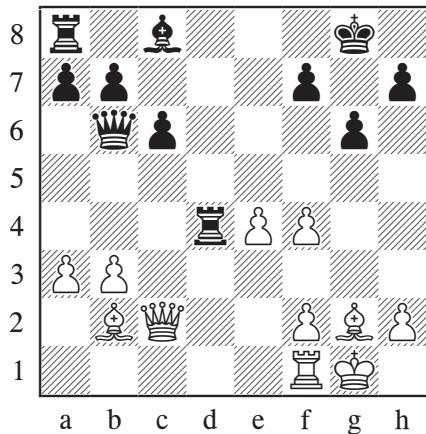
Alekhine – Woher, Amsterdam (simul) 1925

392



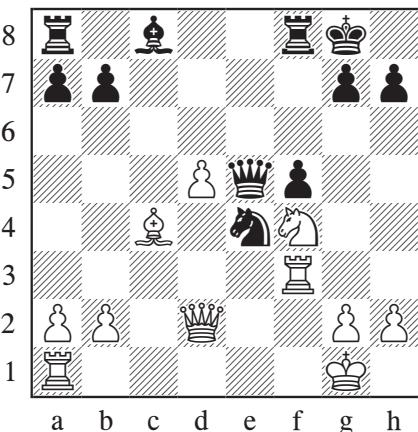
Alekhine – Wap, Rotterdam (simul) 1925

393



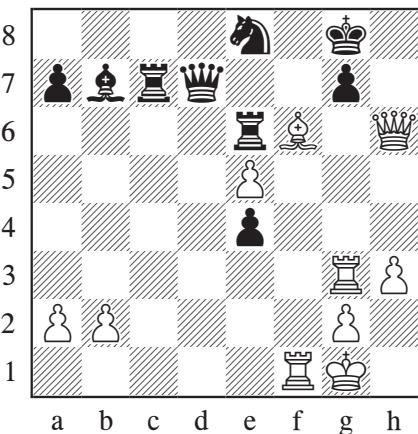
Alekhine – Stephan, Czechoslovakia (simul) 1925

394



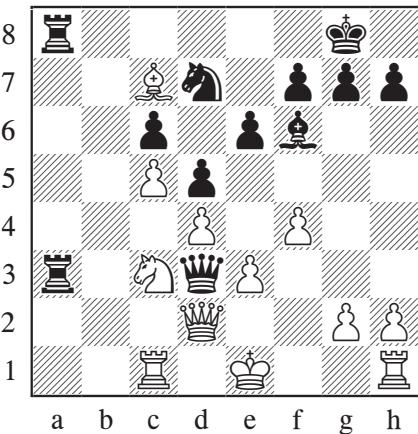
Alekhine – Lommer, Geneva (simul) 1925

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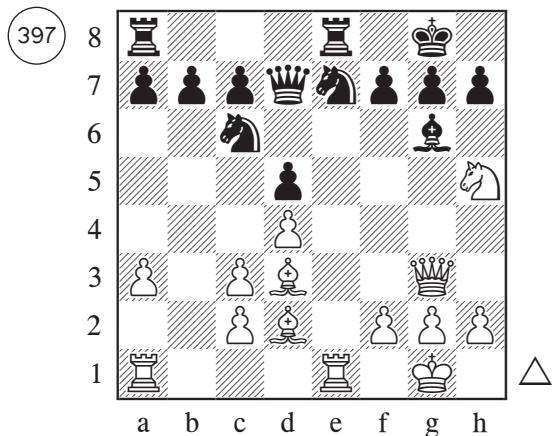


Alekhine – Henneberger, Basel (simul) 1925

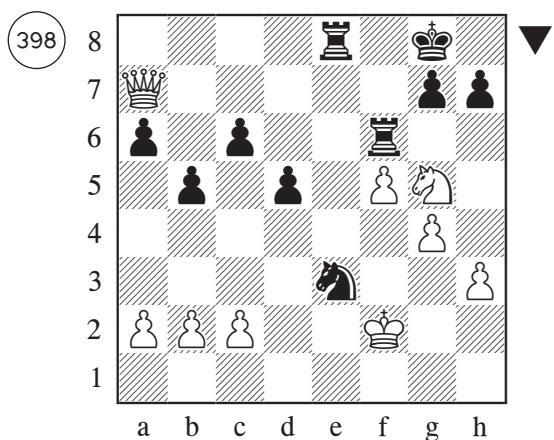
396



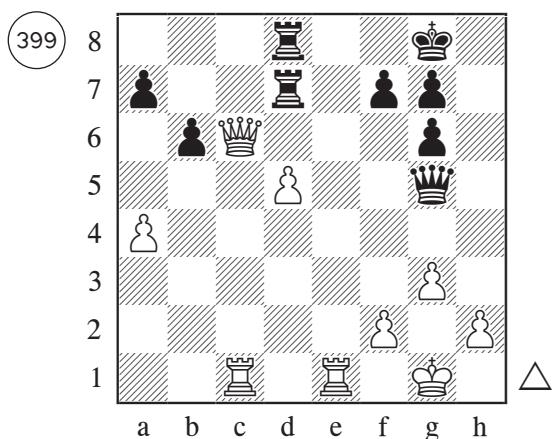
Alekhine – Henneberger, Basel (simul) 1925



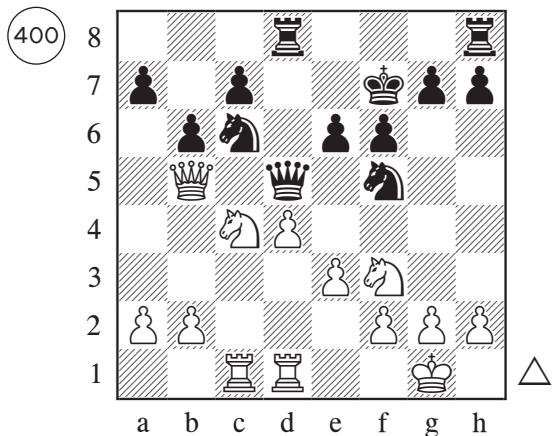
Alekhine – Gilg, Czechoslovakia (simul) 1925



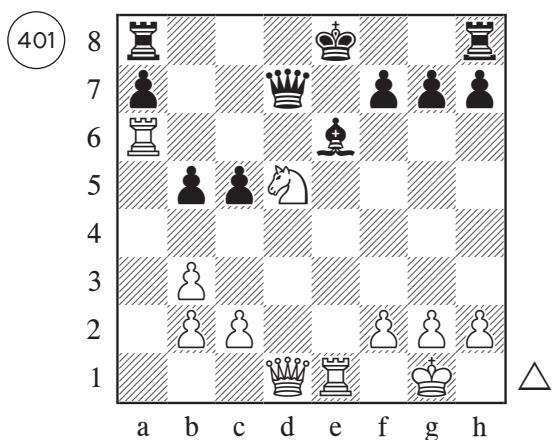
Alekhine – Colle, Paris 1925



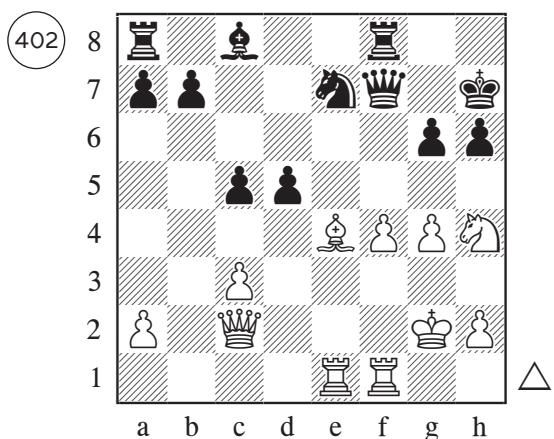
Alekhine – Saint Germain, Paris (simul) 1925



Alekhine – Potemkin, Paris (simul) 1925

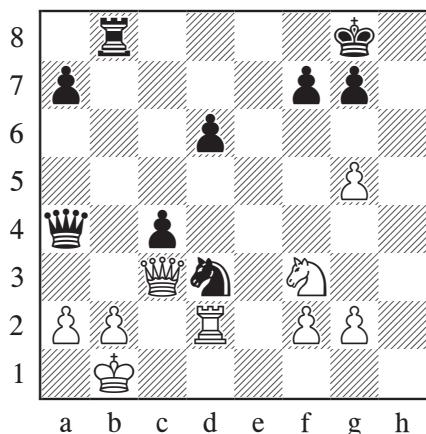


Alekhine – Schwartz, London (simul) 1926



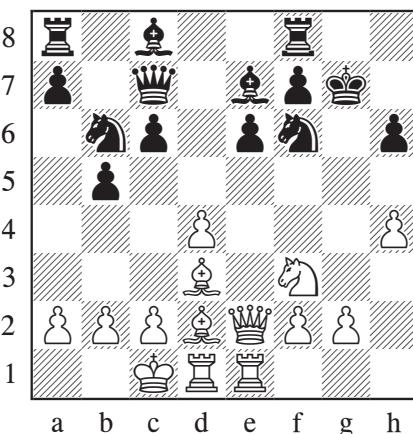
Alekhine – Molina, Buenos Aires 1926

403



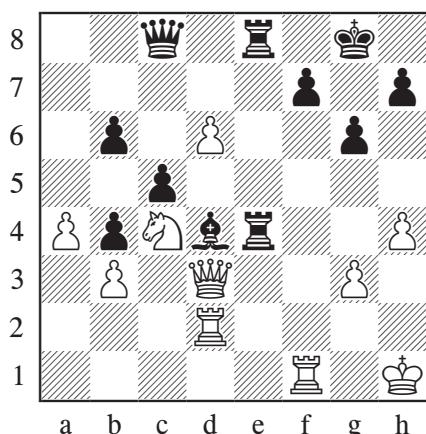
Alekhine – Carmichael, Newcastle (simul) 1926

406



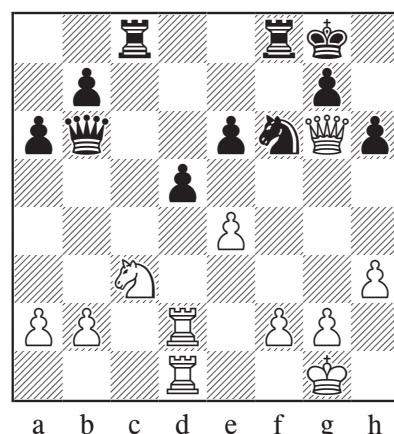
Alekhine – Menendez, Buenos Aires 1926

404



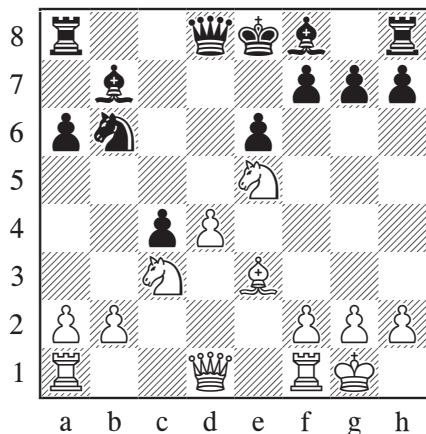
Alekhine – Spielmann, Semmering 1926

407



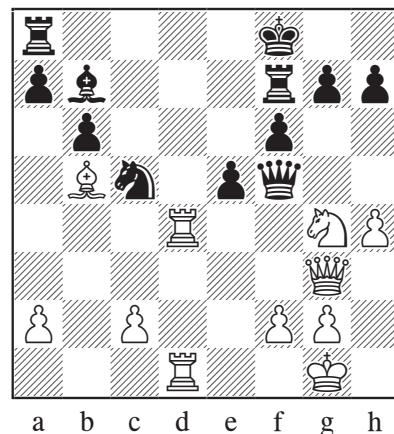
Alekhine – Lerner, Buenos Aires 1926

405



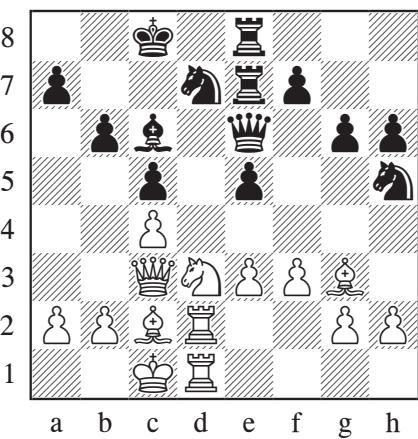
Yates – Alekhine, Kecskemet 1927

408



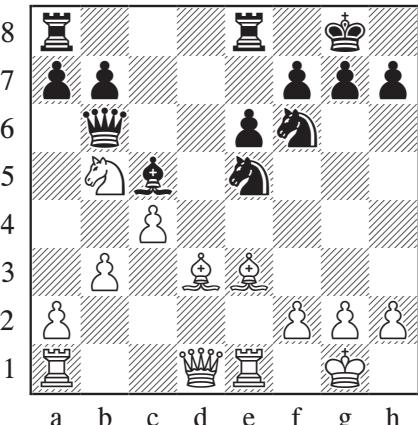
Alekhine – Nimzowitsch, New York 1927

409



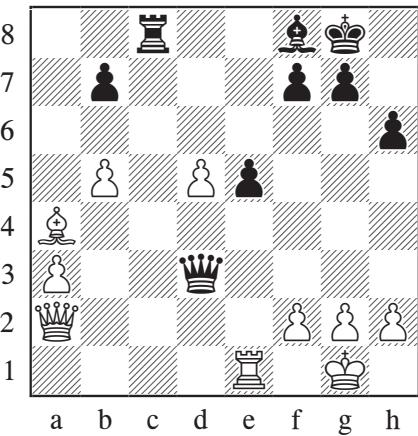
Alekhine – Carbonell, Barcelona (simul) 1928

410



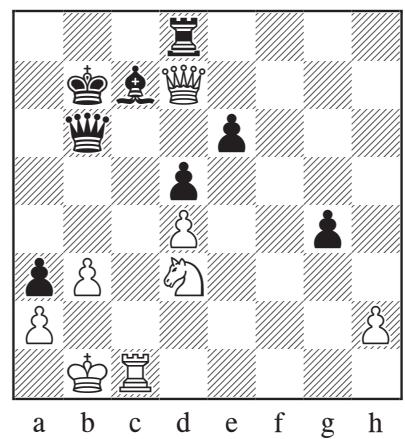
Alekhine – Bogoljubov, Berlin (13) 1929

411



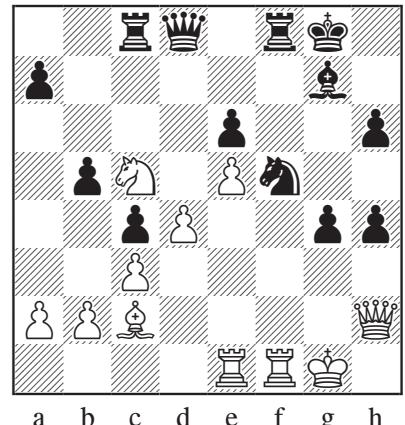
Bogoljubov – Alekhine, The Hague (18) 1929

412



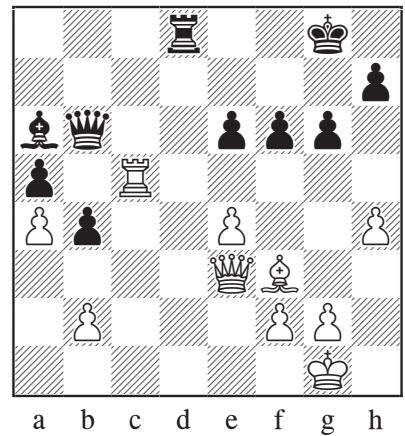
Alekhine – Mayerhofer, Regensburg 1930

413



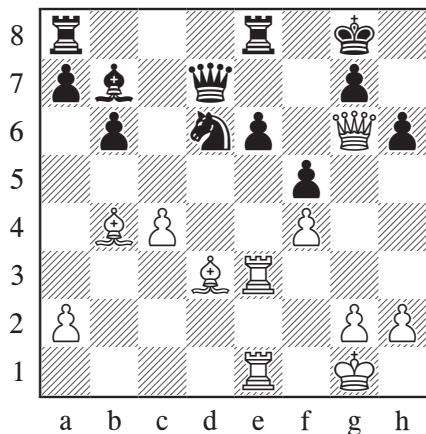
Alekhine – Flohr, Bled 1931

414



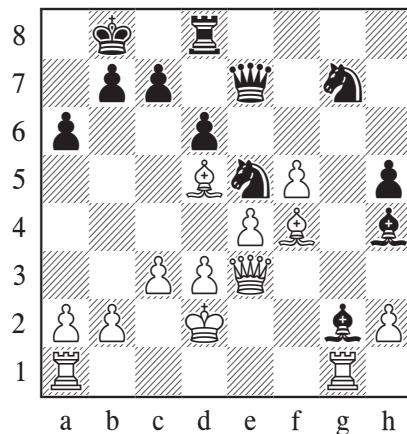
Alekhine – Colle, Bled 1931

415



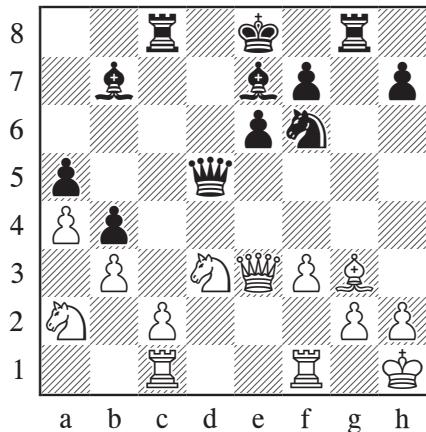
Bueters – Alekhine, Surabaya (simul) 1933

418



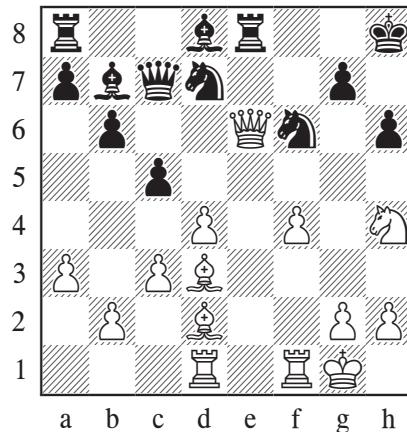
Alekhine – Grossman, New York (simul) 1932

416



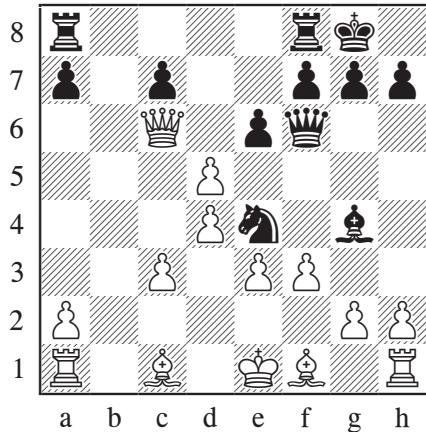
Alekhine – Lista, Bratislava (simul) 1933

419



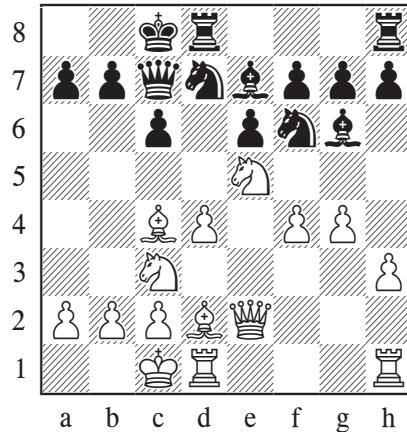
Alekhine – Castaneda, Guadalajara (simul) 1932

417



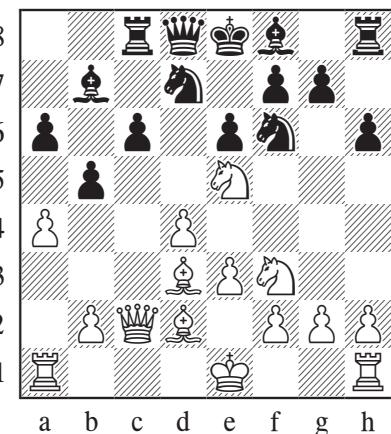
Alekhine – Haeften, Jakarta (simul) 1933

420



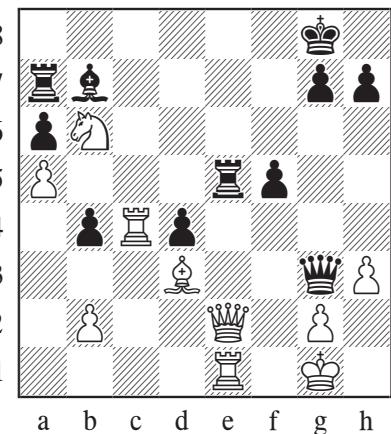
Alekhine – Apsenieks, Folkestone (ol) 1933

421



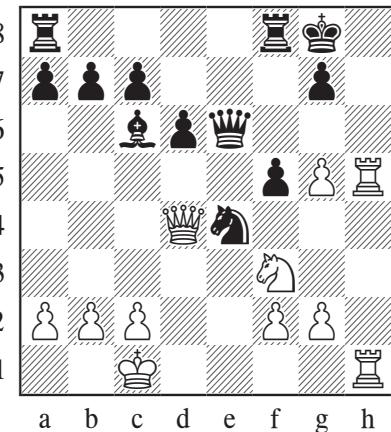
Alekhine – Bogoljubov, Germany (2) 1934

424



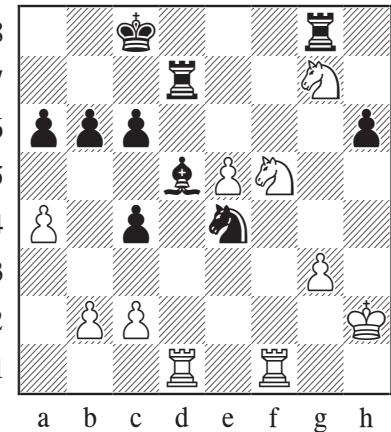
Alekhine – Hoelsder, Amsterdam (simul) 1933

422



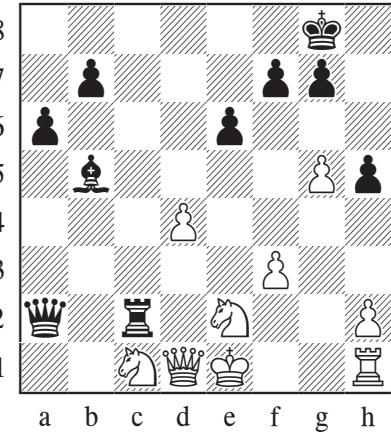
Alekhine – Bogoljubov, Germany (16) 1934

425



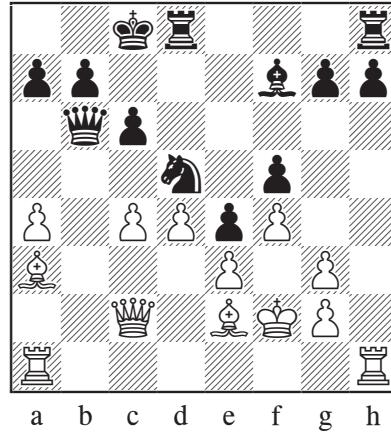
Joss – Alekhine, Zurich 1934

423



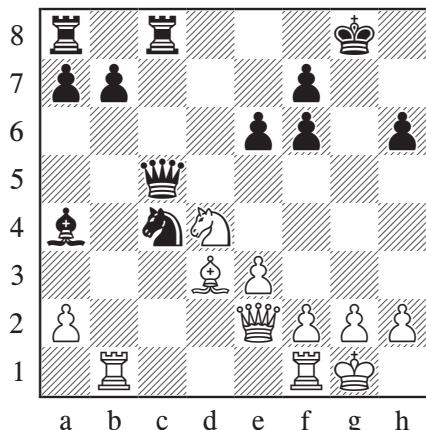
Alekhine – Llorens, Barcelona (simul) 1935

426



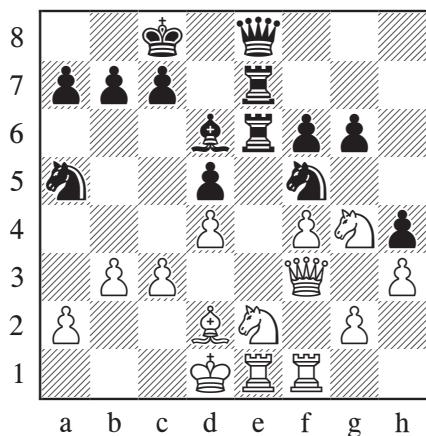
Alekhine – Foltys, Podebrady 1936

427



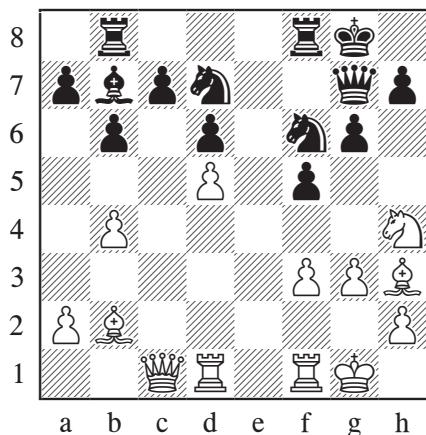
Winter – Alekhine, Nottingham 1936

428



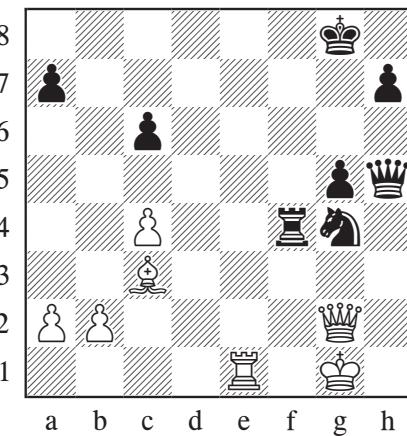
Alekhine – Alexander, Nottingham 1936

429



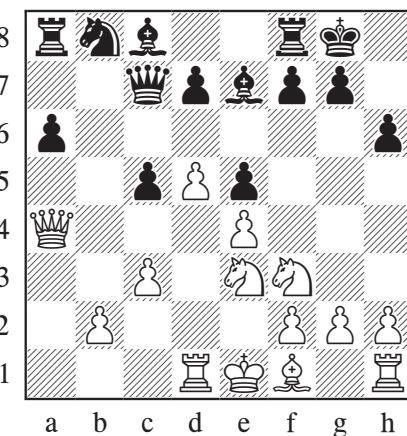
Tartakower – Alekhine, Nottingham 1936

430



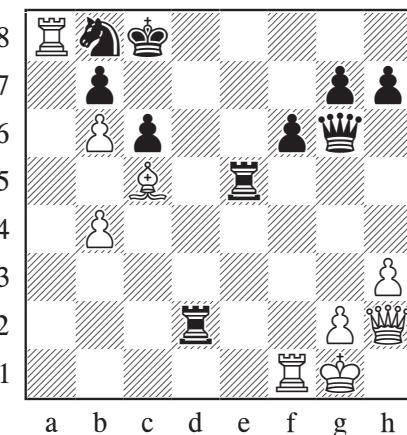
Alekhine – Steiner, Kemer 1937

431

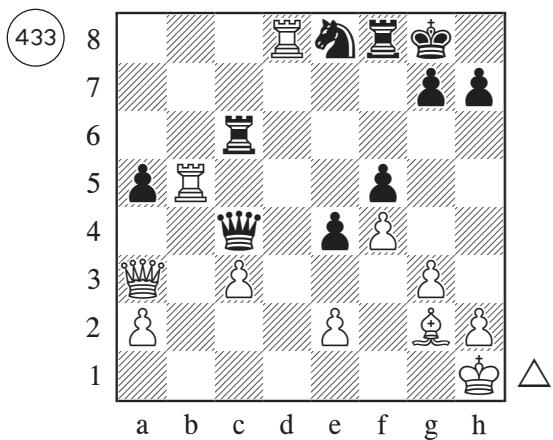


Alekhine – Reshevsky, Kemer 1937

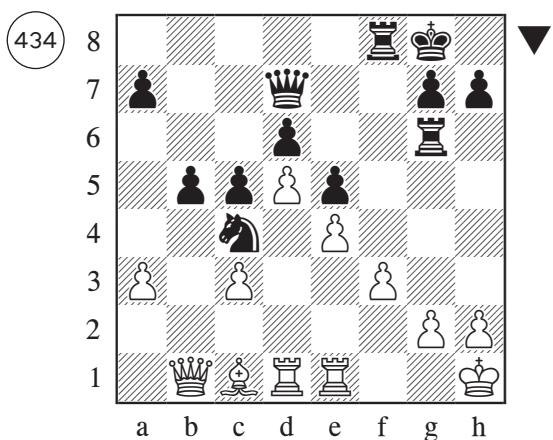
432



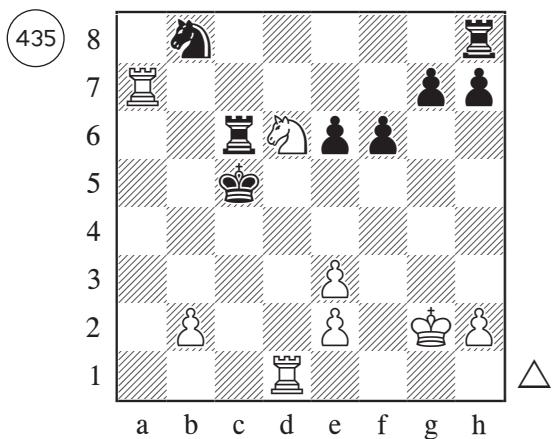
Alekhine – Euwe, Netherlands (14) 1937



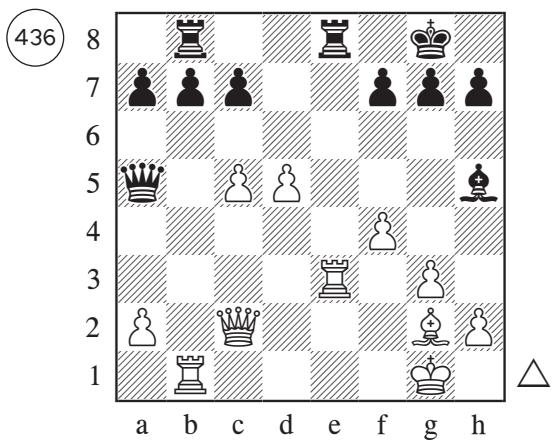
Eliashoff/Kahn/Ros – Alekhine, Nice 1938



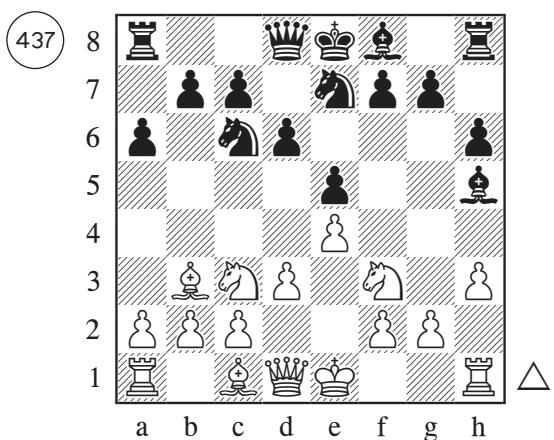
Petros – Alekhine, Margate 1938



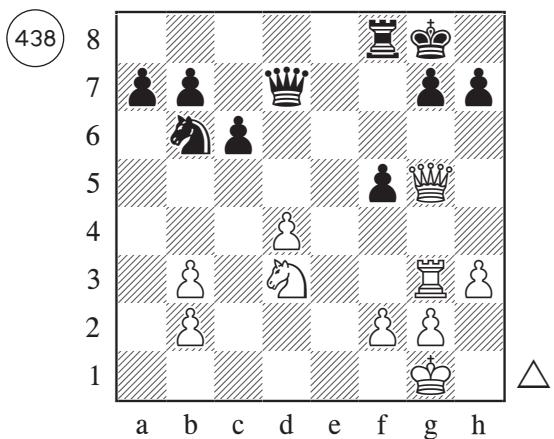
Alekhine – Olivera, Montevideo 1939



Alekhine – Arrais, Lisbon (simul) 1940

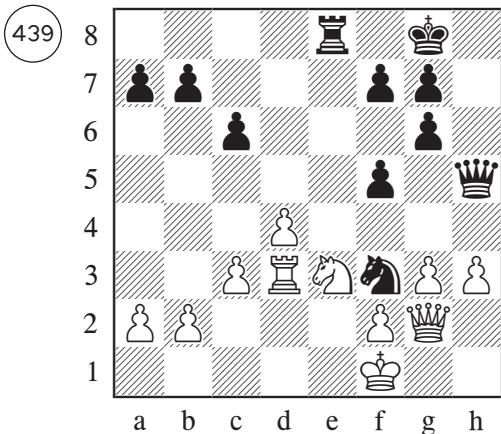


Alekhine – Amores, Lisbon (simul) 1940

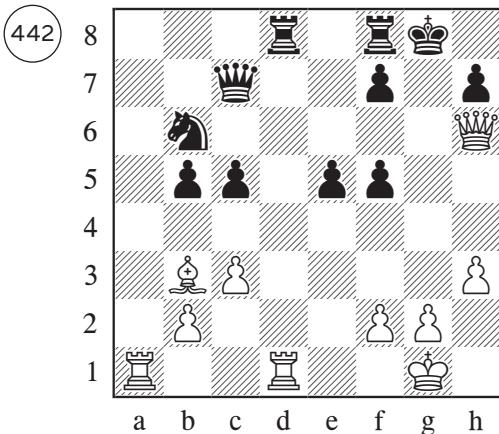


Bluemich – Alekhine, Krakow/Warsaw 1941

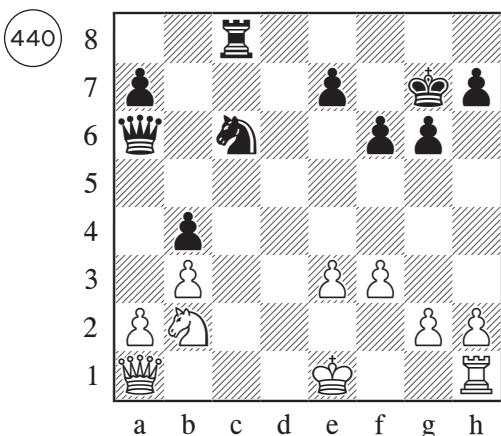
Alekhine – Junge, Lublin/Warsaw/Krakow 1942



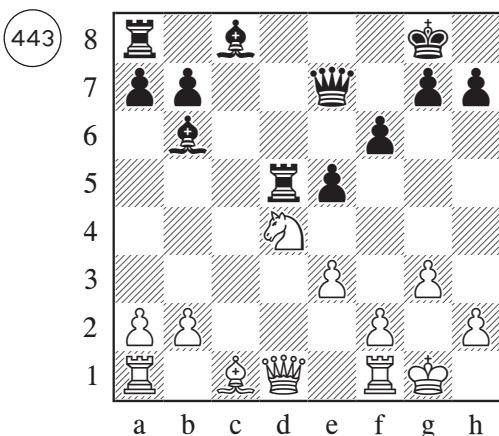
Weil – Alekhine, Lublin/Warsaw/Krakow 1942



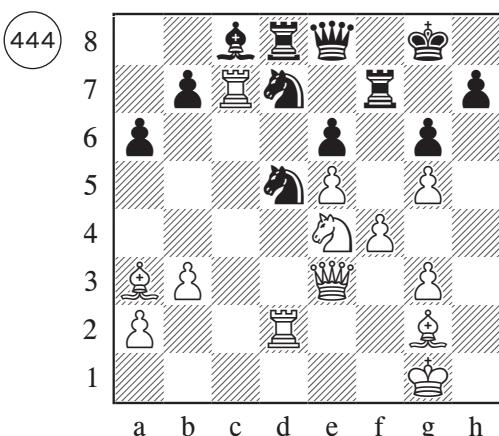
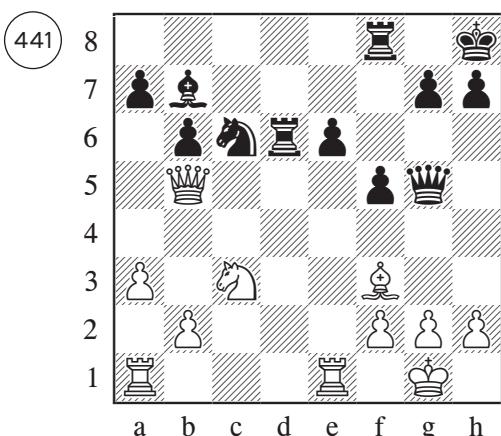
Alekhine – Bogoljubov, Salzburg 1943



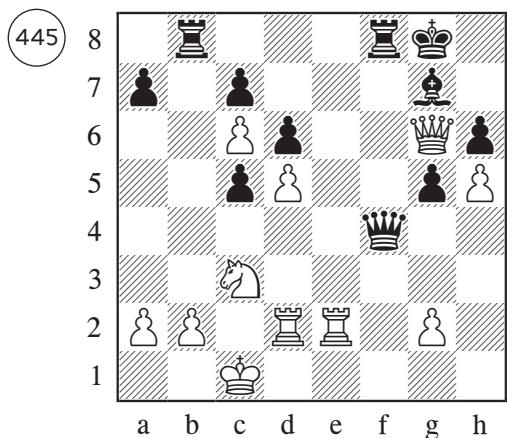
Alekhine – Richter, Munich 1942



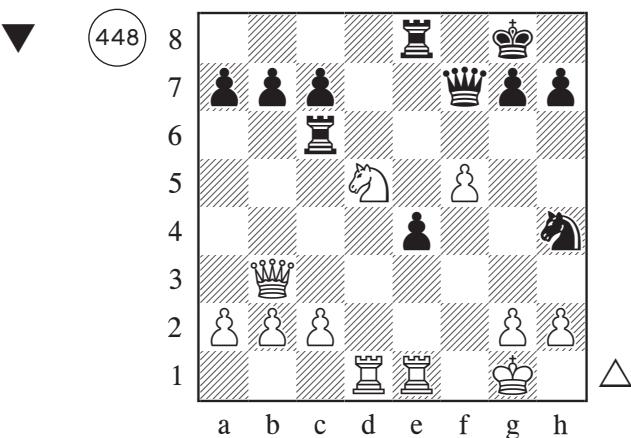
Alekhine – Sucha, Prague 1943



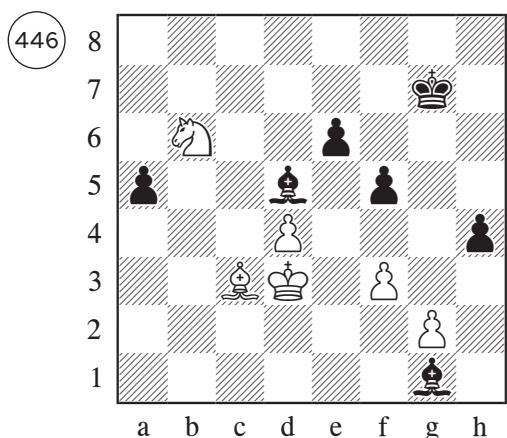
Florian – Alekhine, Prague 1943



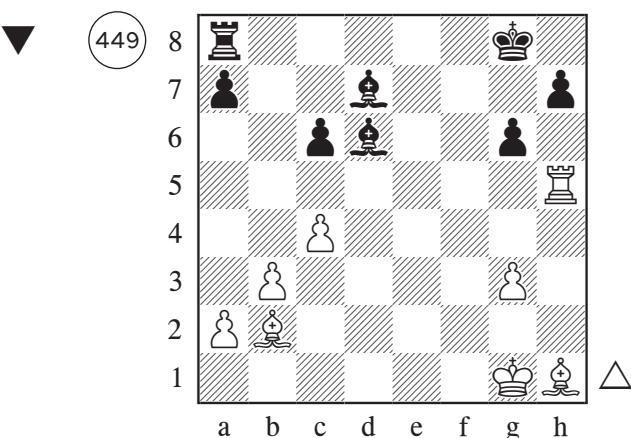
Lupi – Alekhine, Sabadell 1945



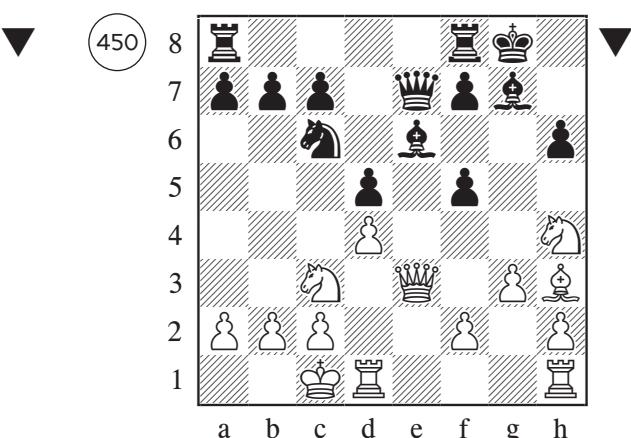
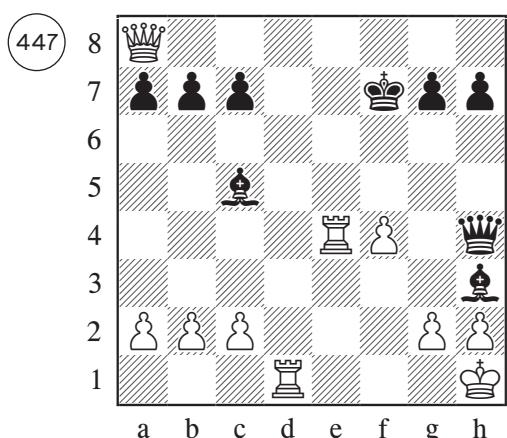
Euwe – Weenink, Amsterdam 1920



Euwe – Reti, Amsterdam (1) 1920

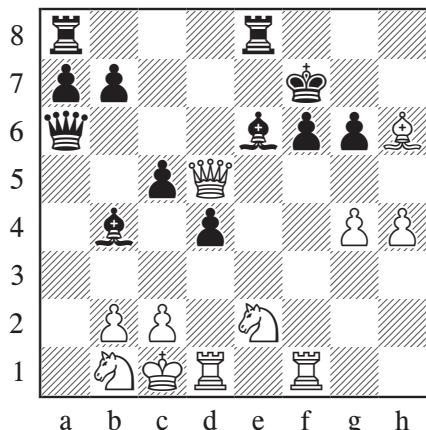


Euwe – Olland, Amsterdam (match) 1921



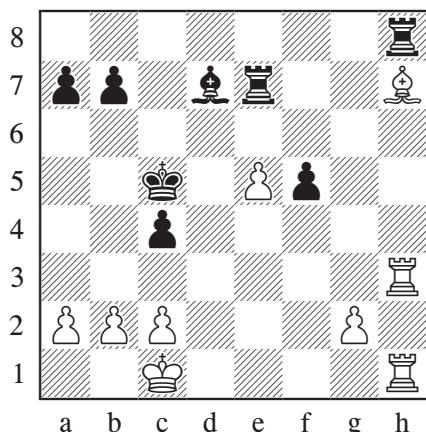
Euwe – Olland, Amsterdam (match) 1921

451



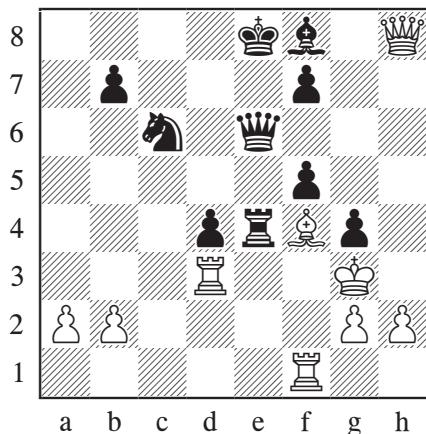
Euwe – Von Hartingsveld, Amsterdam 1922

452



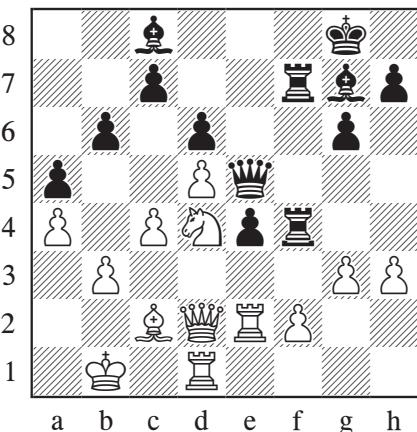
Euwe – Spielmann, Bad Pistyan 1922

453



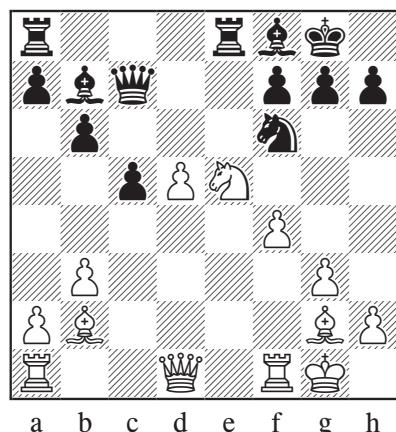
Sturm – Euwe, Amsterdam 1923

454



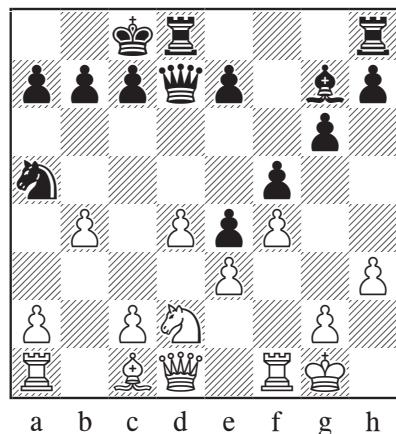
Euwe – Davidson, Amsterdam (9) 1924

455

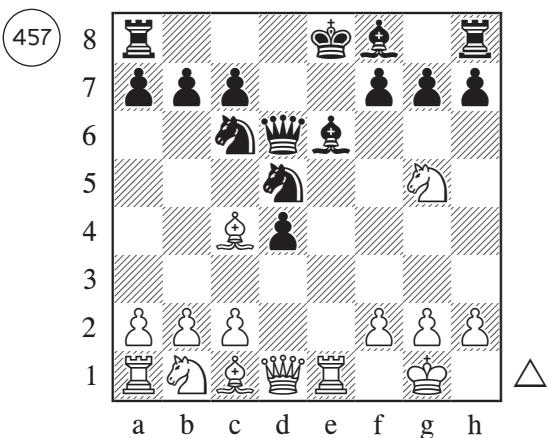


Schelfhout – Euwe, Amsterdam 1927

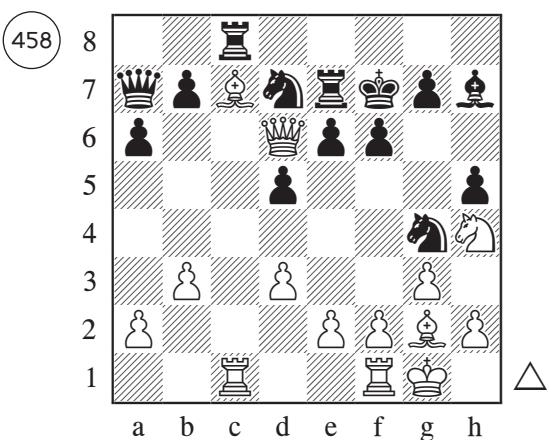
456



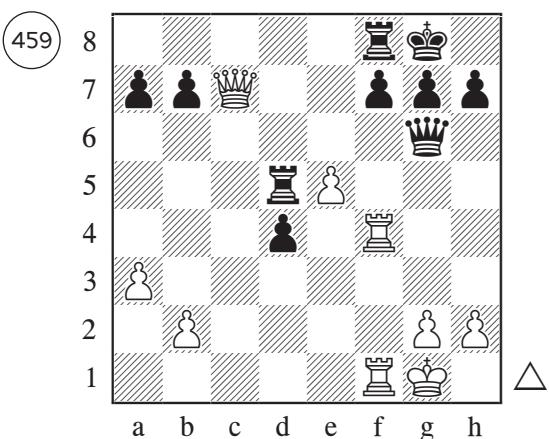
Euwe – Sonnenburg, Amsterdam 1927



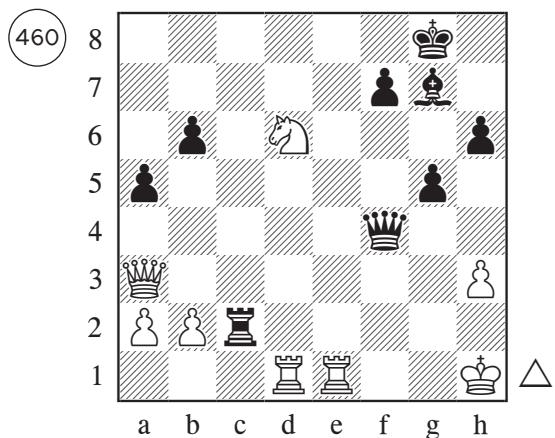
Euwe – Marin y Llovet, London (ol) 1927



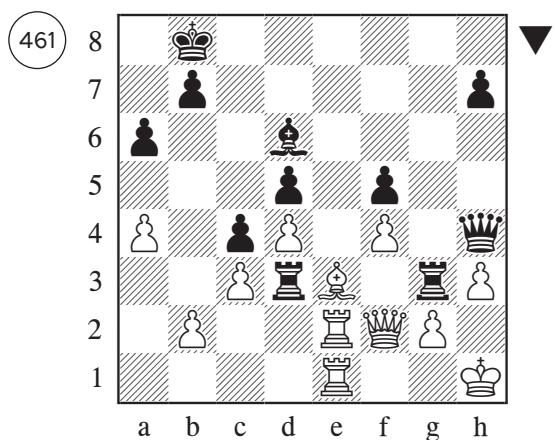
Colle – Euwe, Amsterdam (1) 1928



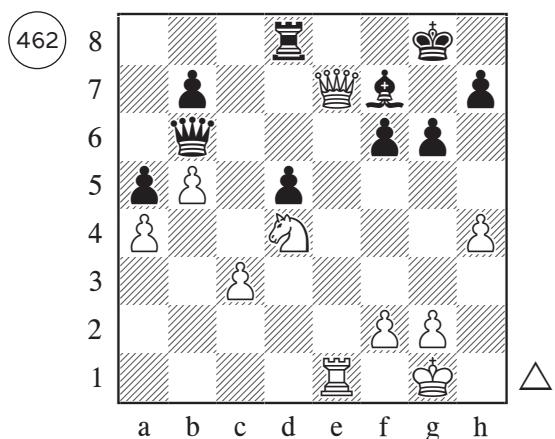
Vidmar – Euwe, Karlsbad 1929



Yates – Euwe, Hastings 1930

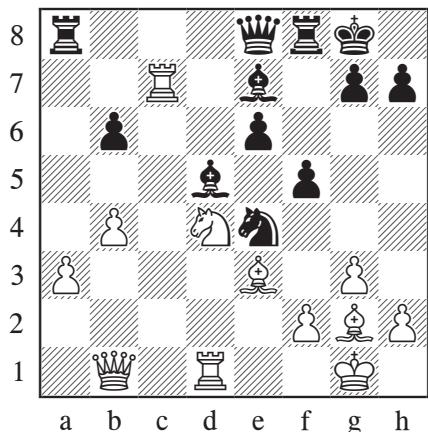


Euwe – Satar, Indonesia (simul) 1930



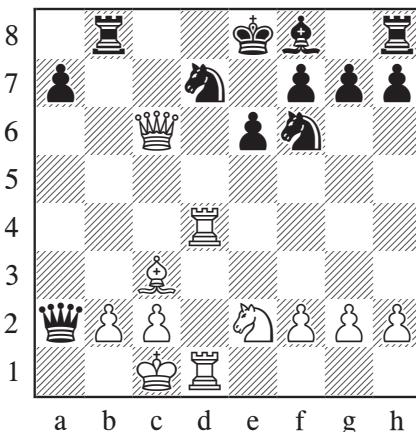
Euwe – Landau, Amsterdam (4) 1931

463



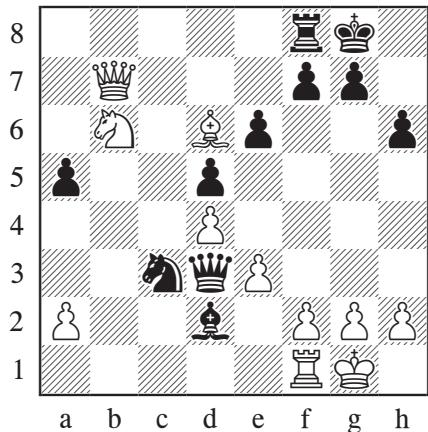
Felderhof – Euwe, The Hague/Leiden/Scheveningen 1933

466



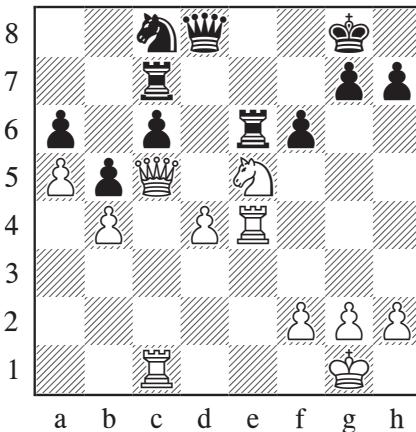
Euwe – Spanjaard, The Hague 1932

464



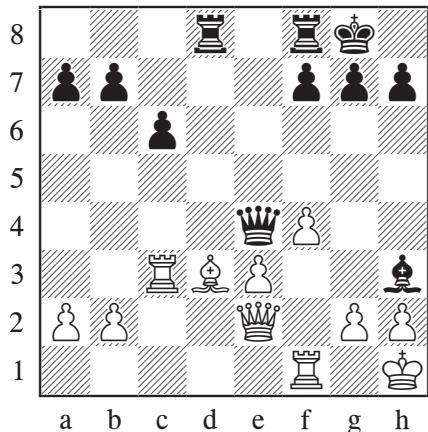
Euwe – Alekhine, Zurich 1934

467



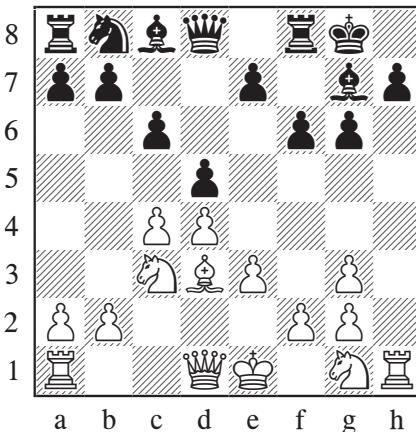
Euwe – Boersma, Rotterdam (simul) 1933

465

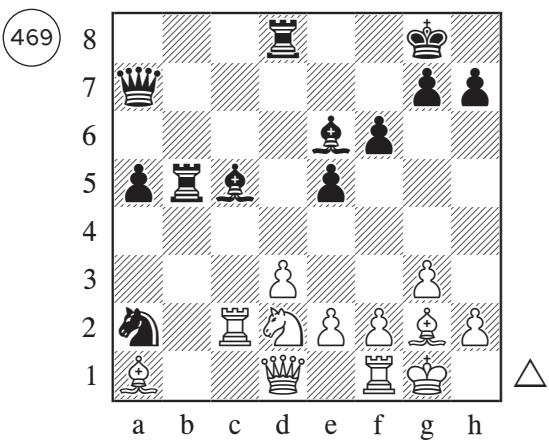


Euwe – Alekhine, Netherlands (14) 1935

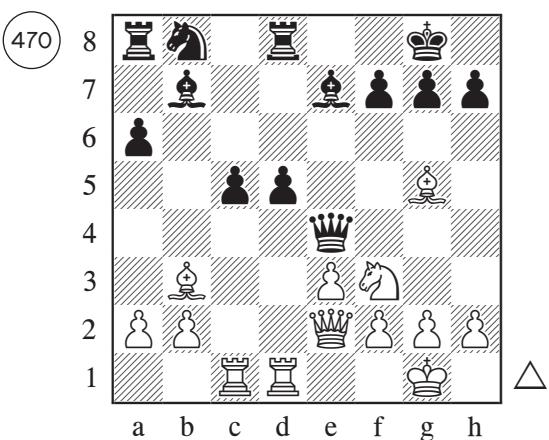
468



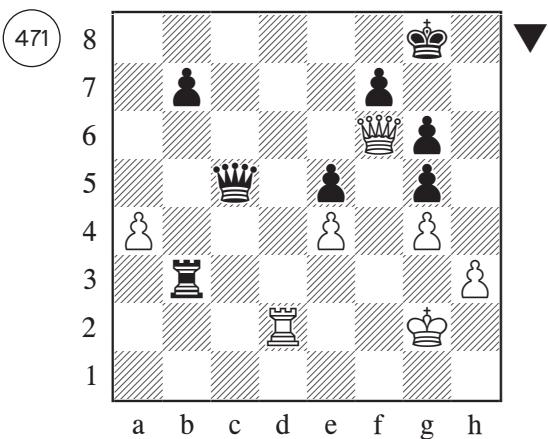
Bogoljubov – Euwe, Zandvoort 1936



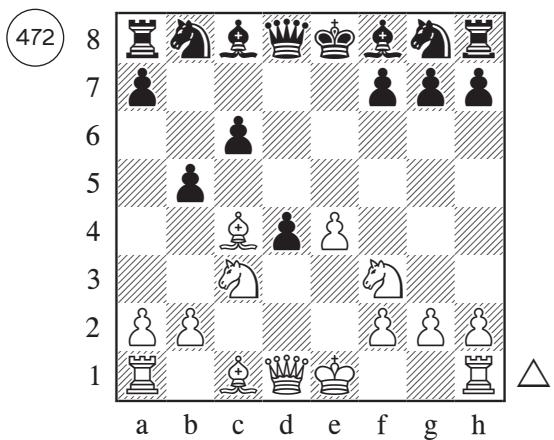
Euwe – Tylor, Nottingham 1936



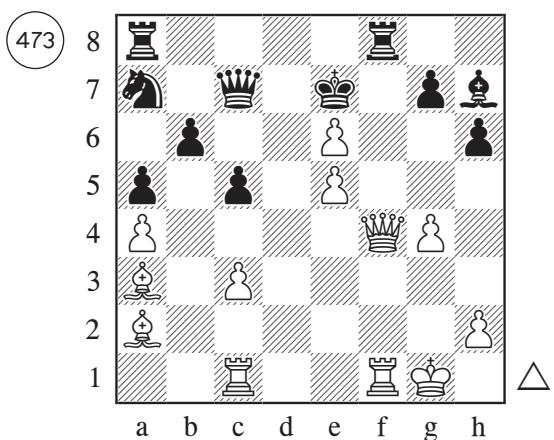
Sämisch – Euwe, Bad Nauheim 1937



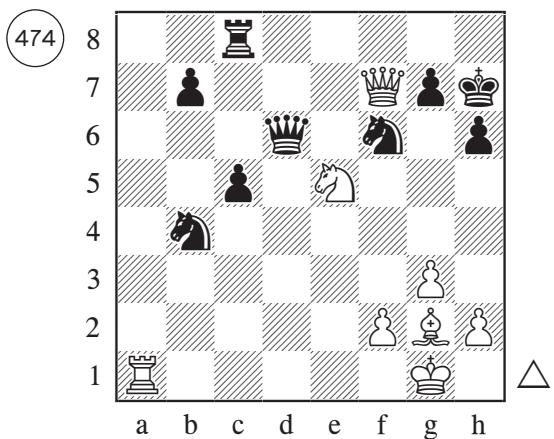
Alekhine – Euwe, Netherlands (6) 1937



Euwe – Van Mindeno, Amsterdam 1938

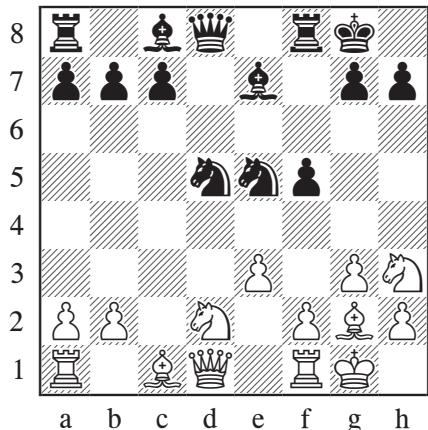


Euwe – Flohr, Netherlands 1938



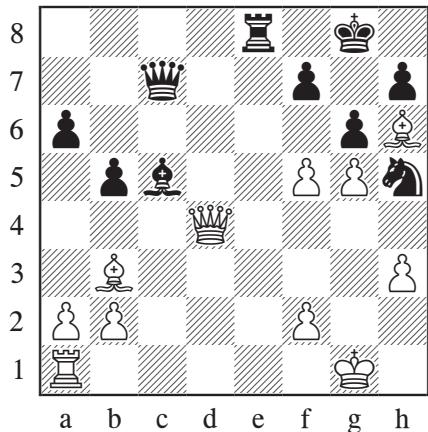
Euwe – Cortlever, Beverwijk 1940

475



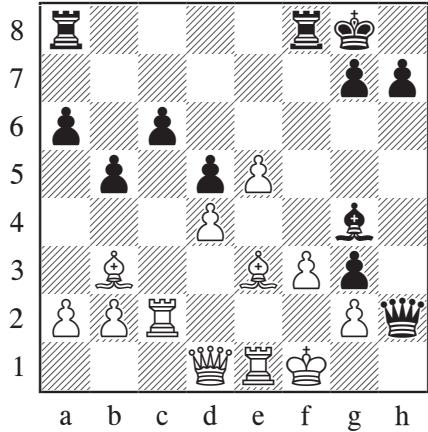
Euwe – Kramer, Netherlands (3) 1941

476



Bogoljubov – Euwe, Karlsbad (5) 1941

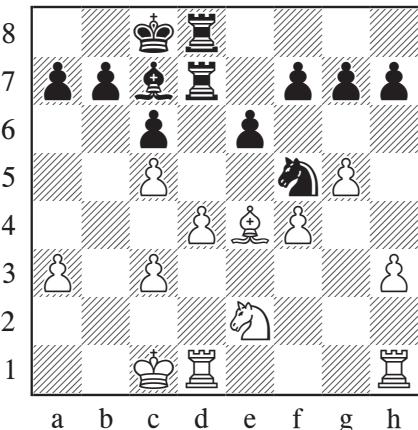
477



Euwe – Thomas, Zaandam 1946

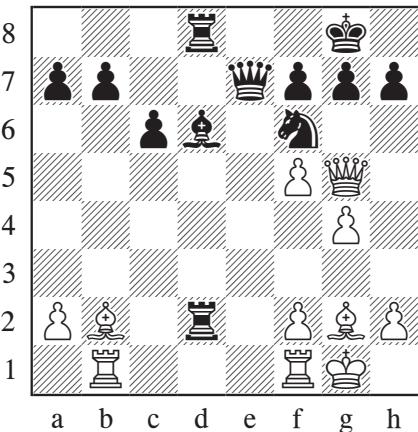
Bogoljubov – Euwe, Karlsbad (1) 1941

478



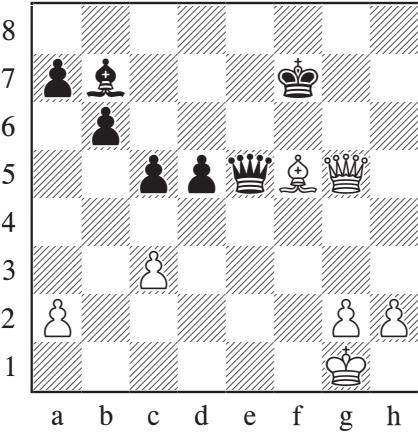
Van den Hoek – Euwe, The Hague 1942

479

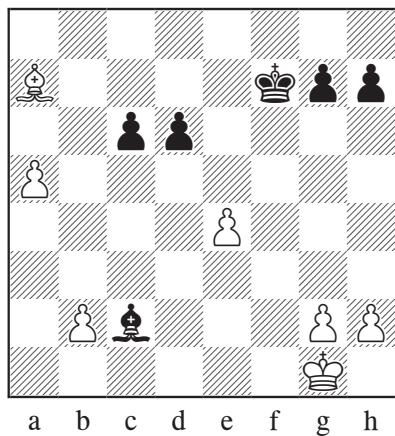


Euwe – Thomas, Zaandam 1946

480

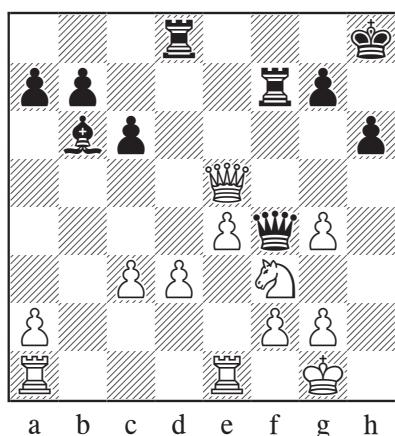


Euwe – Yanofsky, Groningen 1946



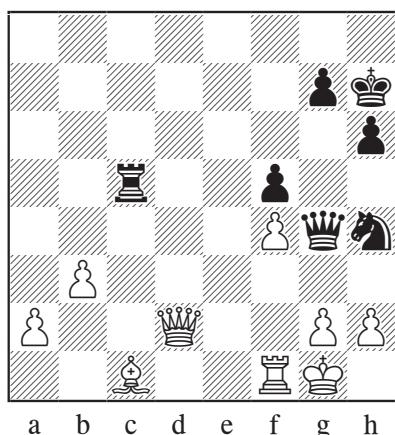
481

Grob – Euwe, Zurich (2) 1947



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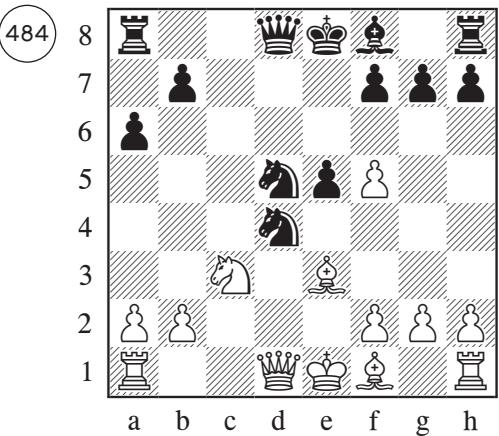
Euwe – Keres, The Hague/Moscow (1) 1948



483



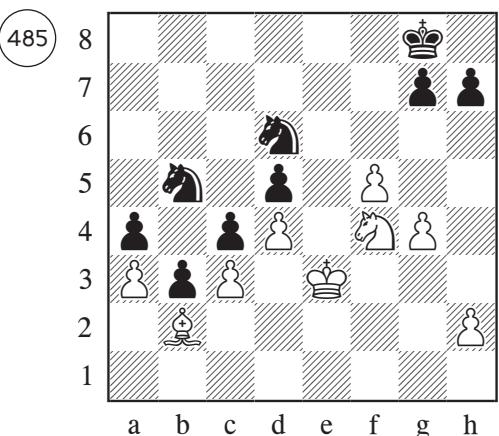
Canal – Euwe, Dubrovnik (ol) 1950



484



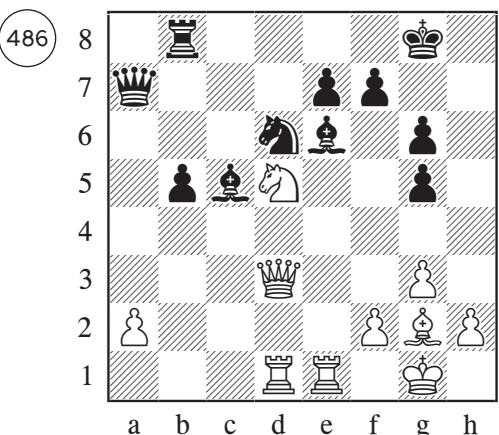
Euwe – Averbakh, Zurich 1953



485



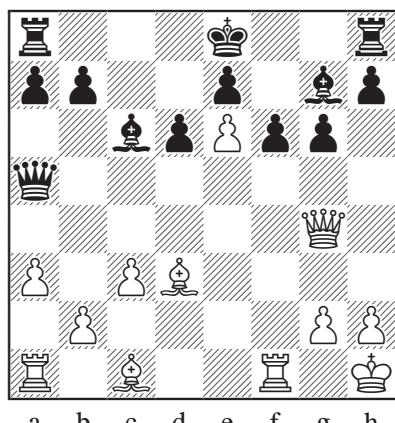
Euwe – Yanofsky, Munich (ol) 1958



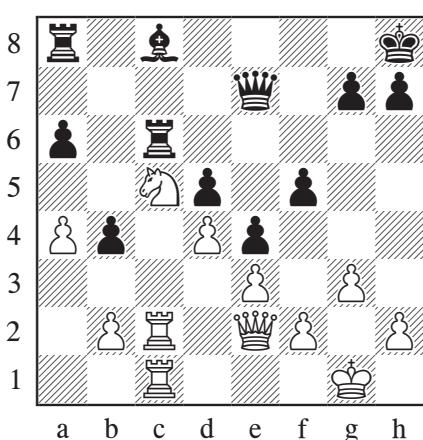
486



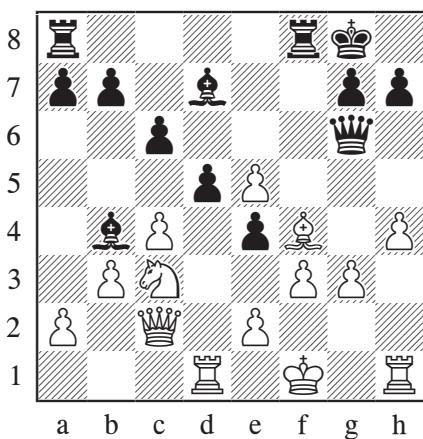
Paoli – Euwe, Chaumont Neuchatel 1958



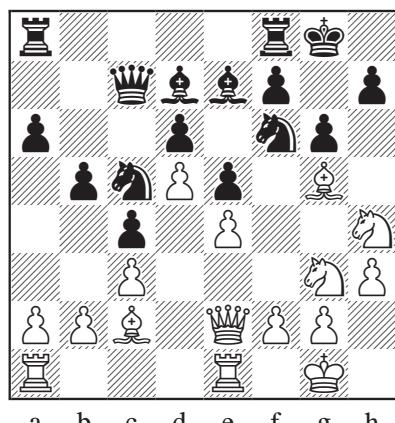
Botvinnik – Kagan, Leningrad 1926



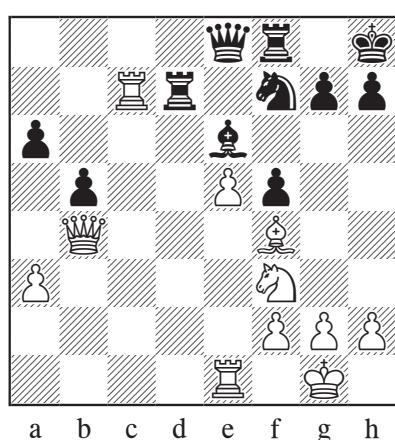
Rabinovich – Botvinnik, Moscow 1927



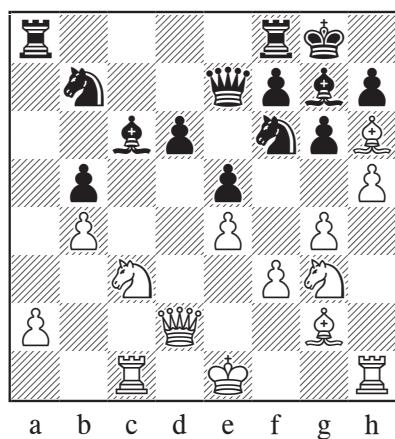
Panchenko – Botvinnik, Leningrad 1927



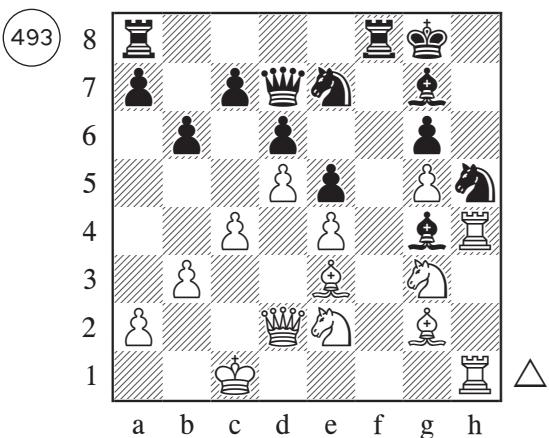
Botvinnik – Pavlov-Pianov, Moscow 1927



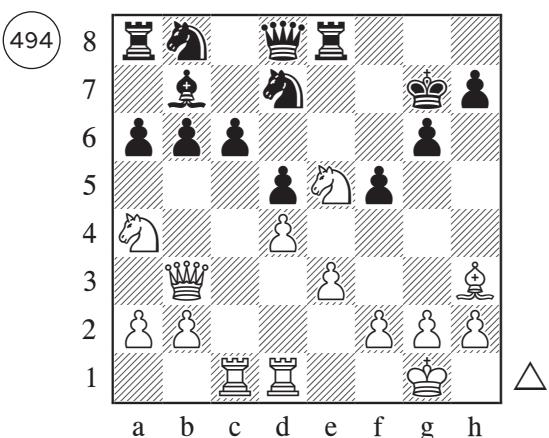
Botvinnik – Breitman, Leningrad 1931



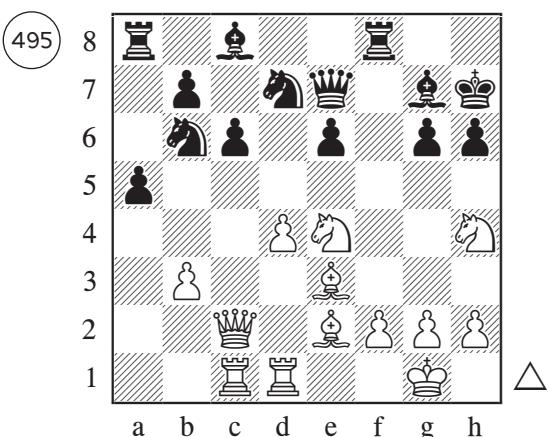
Botvinnik – Alatortsev, Moscow 1931



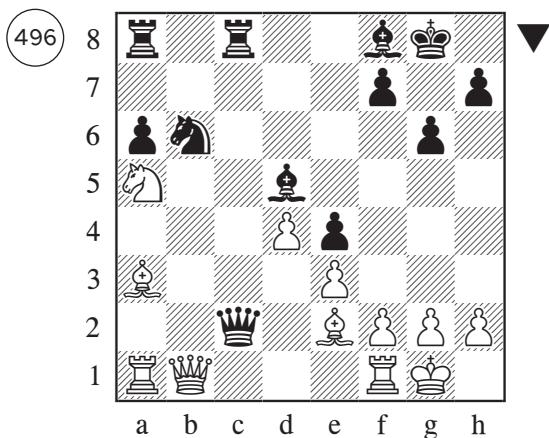
Botvinnik – Alatortsev, Leningrad 1932



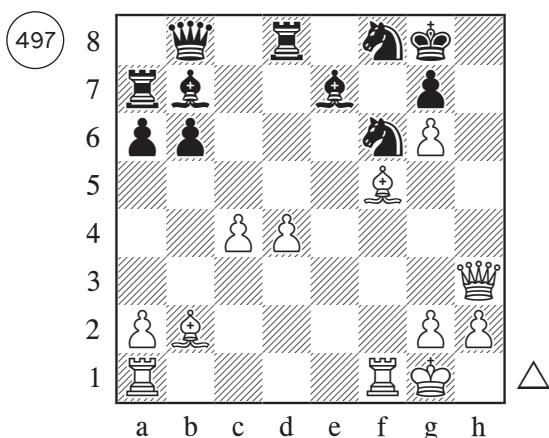
Botvinnik – Yudovich, Leningrad 1933



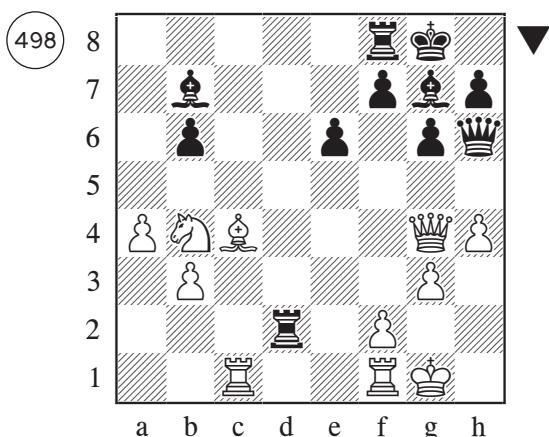
Goglidze – Botvinnik, Moscow 1935



Botvinnik – Chekhover, Moscow 1935

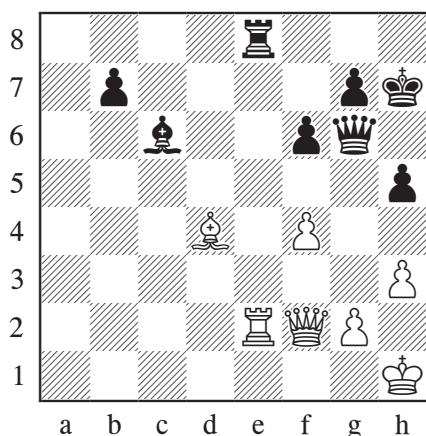


Ragozin – Botvinnik, Moscow 1938



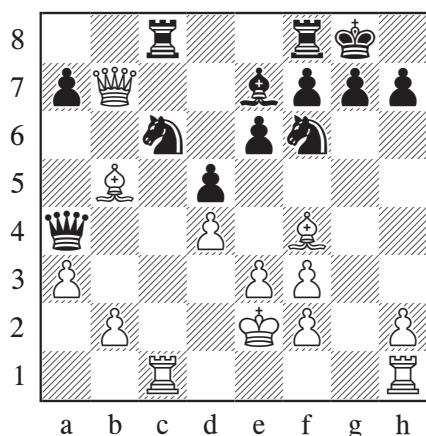
Kotov – Botvinnik, Leningrad 1939

499



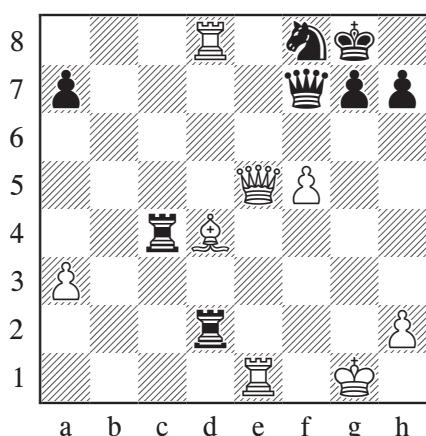
Botvinnik – Ragozin, Moscow 1945

502



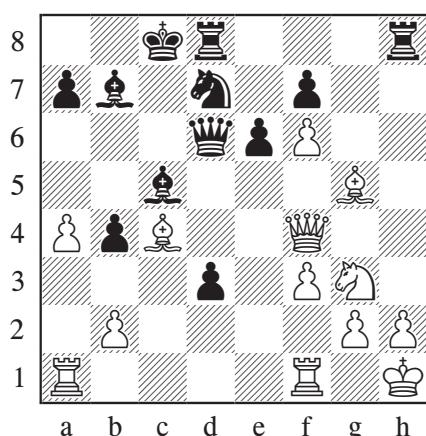
Makogonov – Botvinnik, Moscow 1940

500



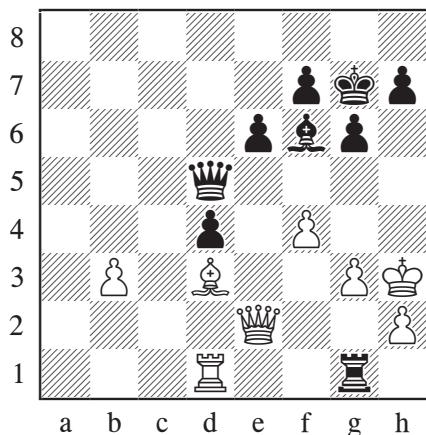
Denker – Botvinnik, Radio Match 1945

503



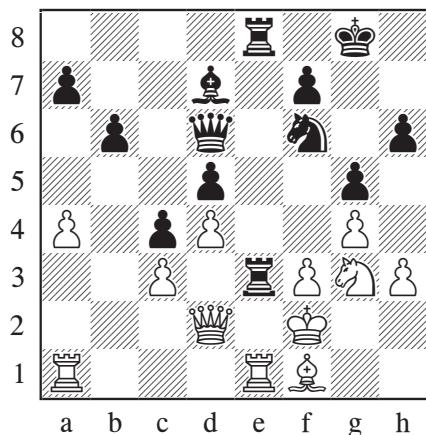
Lilienthal – Botvinnik, Leningrad/Moscow 1941

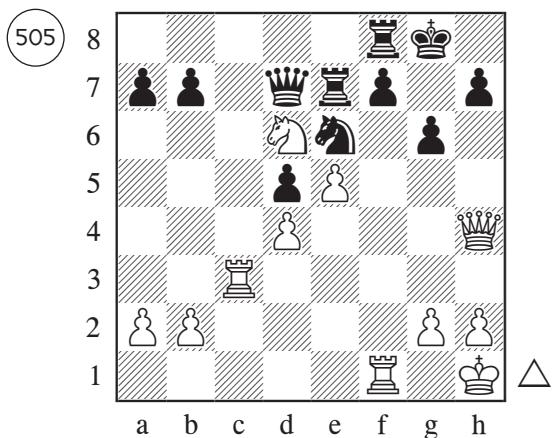
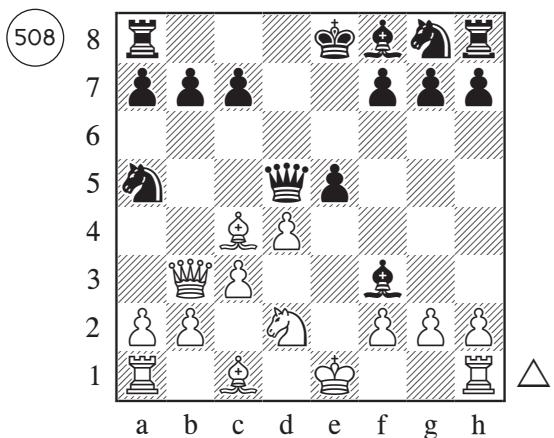
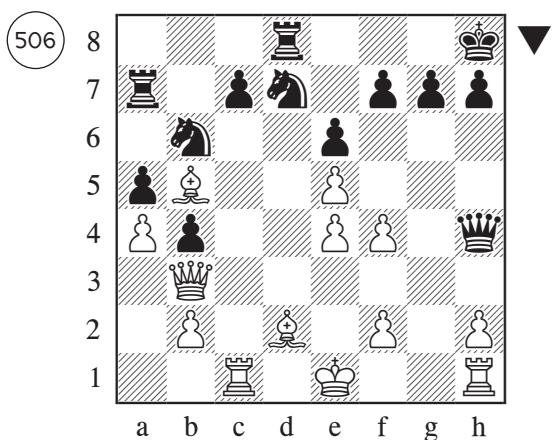
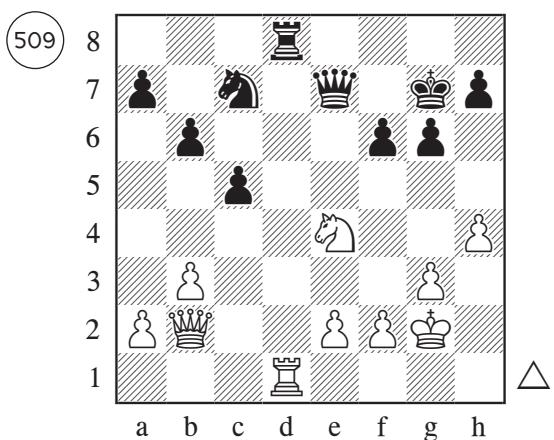
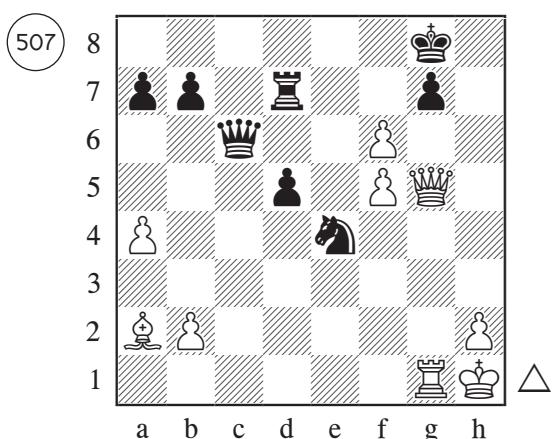
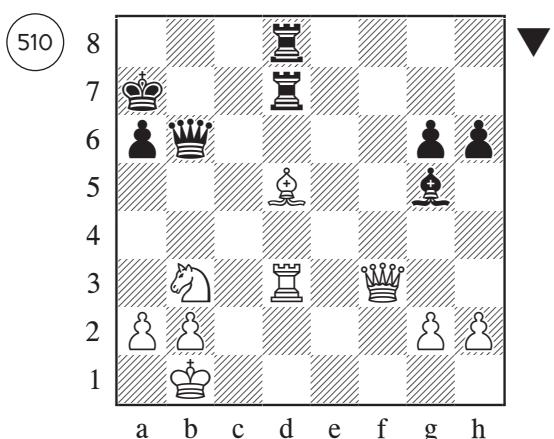
501



Botvinnik – Kotov, Groningen 1946

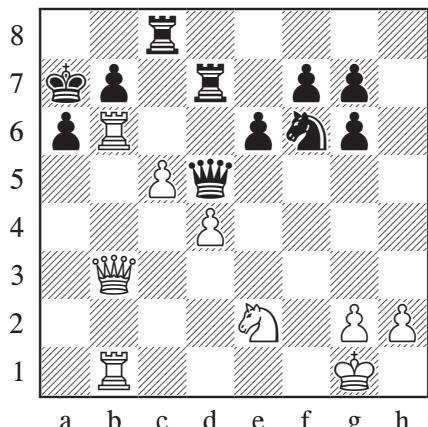
504



Botvinnik – Keres, Moscow 1952**Keres – Botvinnik, Moscow 1955****Botvinnik – Smyslov, Moscow (10) 1954****Botvinnik – Padevsky, Moscow (ol) 1956****Botvinnik – Smyslov, Moscow (12) 1954****Smyslov – Botvinnik Moscow (4) 1957**

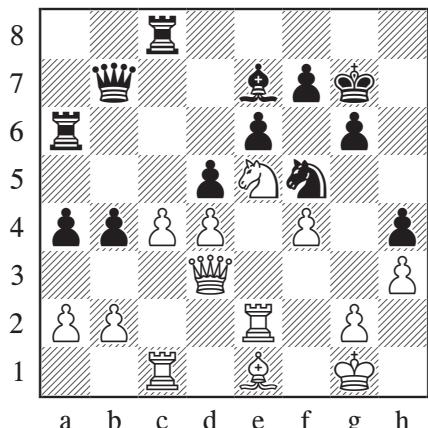
Tal – Botvinnik, Moscow (17) 1960

511



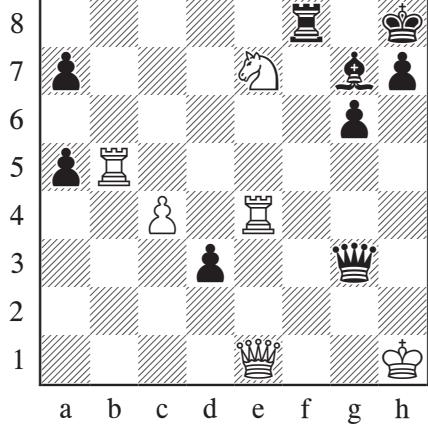
Karpov – Botvinnik, Moscow (simul) 1964

512



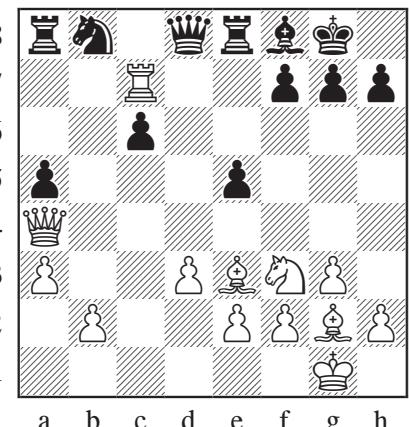
Aloni – Botvinnik, Tel Aviv (ol) 1964

513



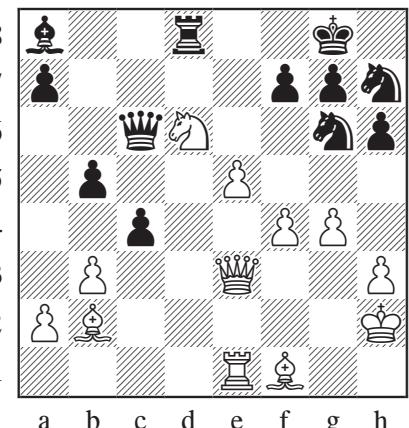
Botvinnik – Portisch, Monte Carlo 1968

514



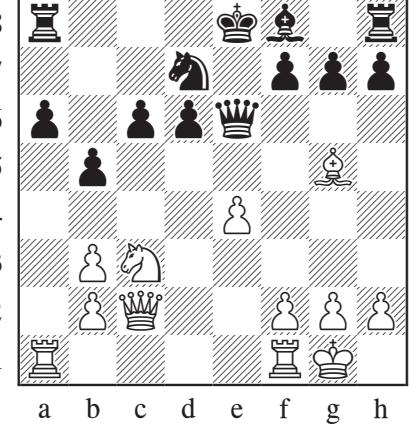
Smyslov – Ragozin, Leningrad/Moscow 1939

515

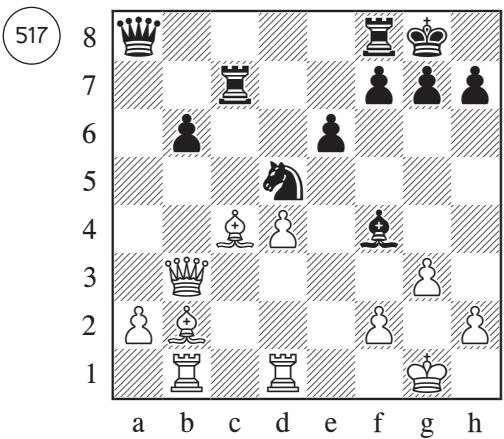


Smyslov – Kirilov, Moscow 1940

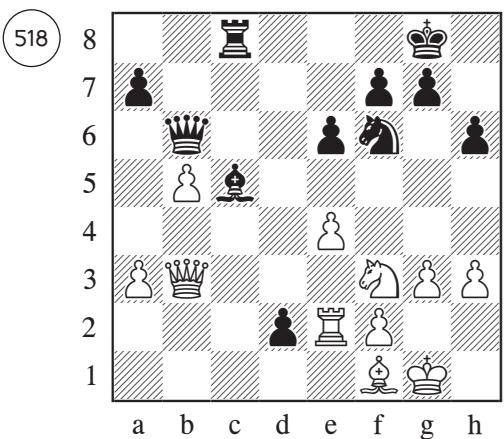
516



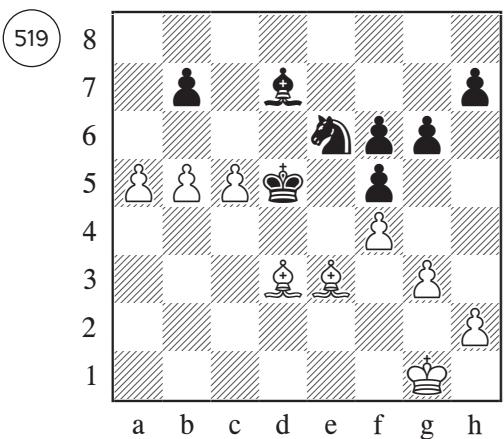
Lisitsin – Smyslov, Moscow 1944



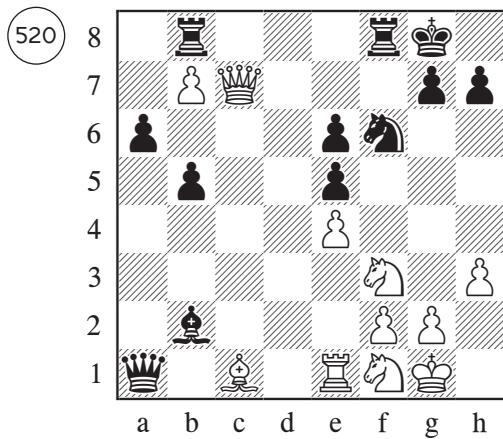
Ravinsky – Smyslov, Moscow 1944



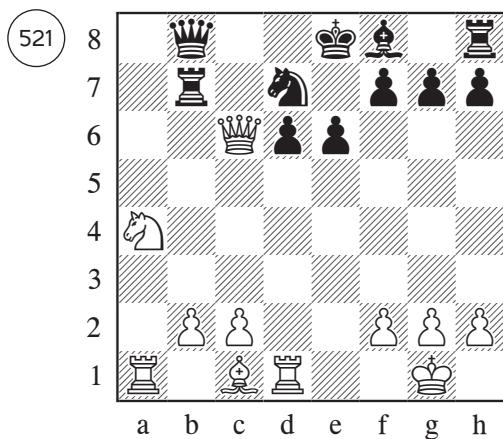
Smyslov – Alatortsev, Moscow 1945



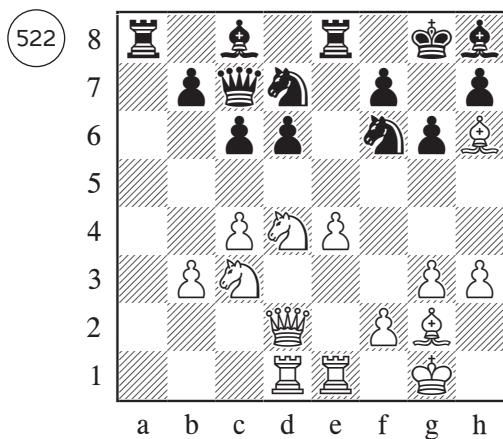
Boleslavsky – Smyslov, Groningen 1946



Smyslov – Kottnauer, Groningen 1946

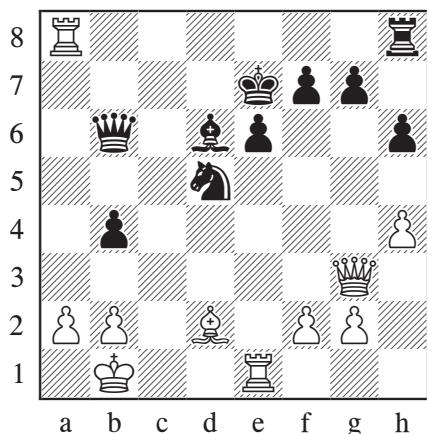


Smyslov – Plater, Moscow 1947



Smyslov – Kasparian, Leningrad 1947

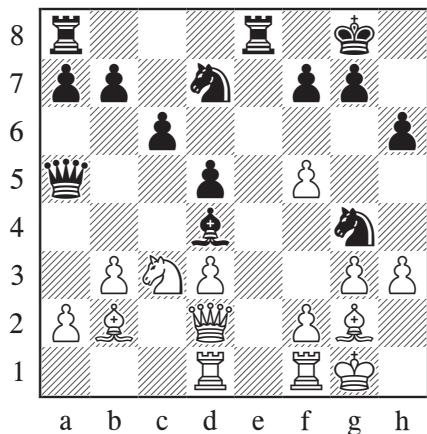
523



Barcza – Smyslov, Budapest 1949



524

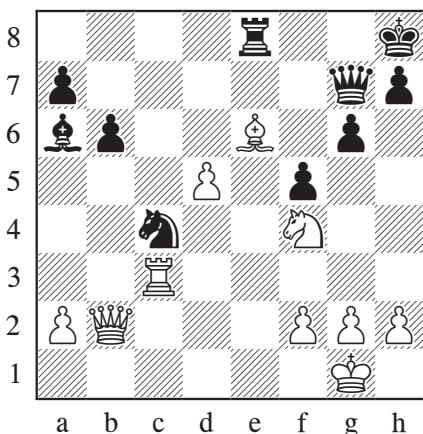


Levenfish – Smyslov, Moscow 1949



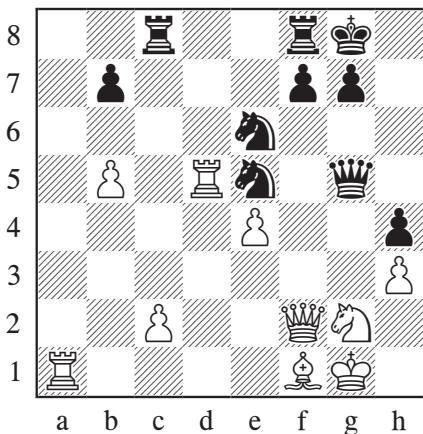
Furman – Smyslov, Moscow 1949

526



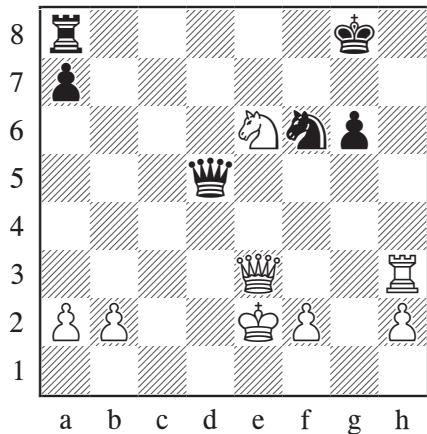
Paoli – Smyslov, Venice 1950

527

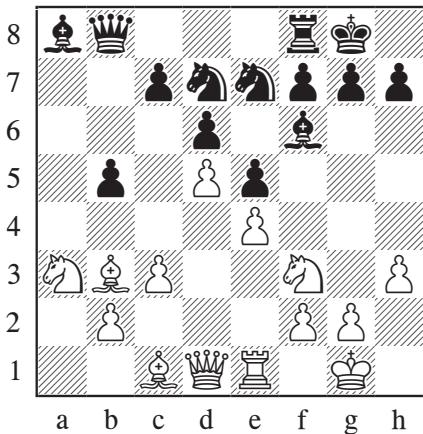


Boleslavsky – Smyslov, Moscow 1950

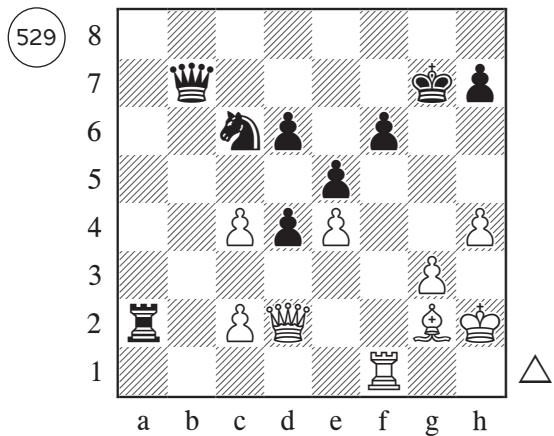
525



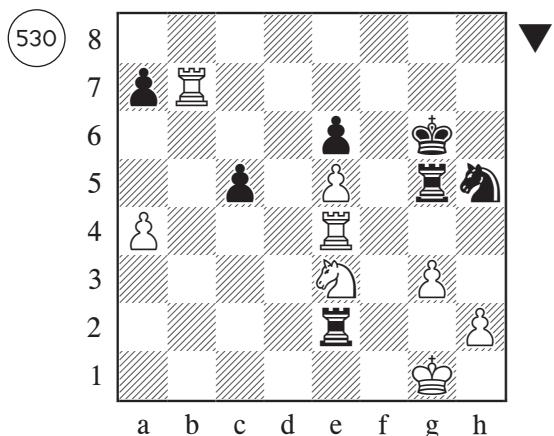
528



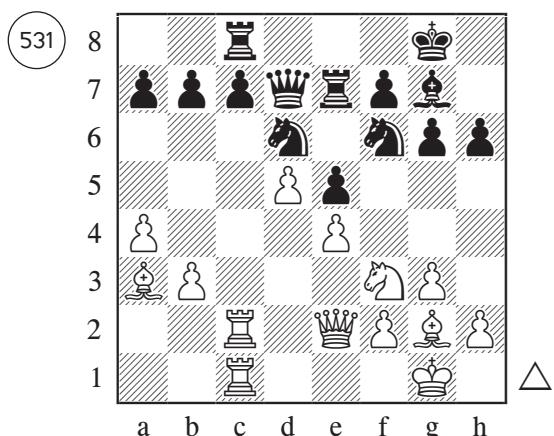
Smyslov – Geller, Moscow 1951



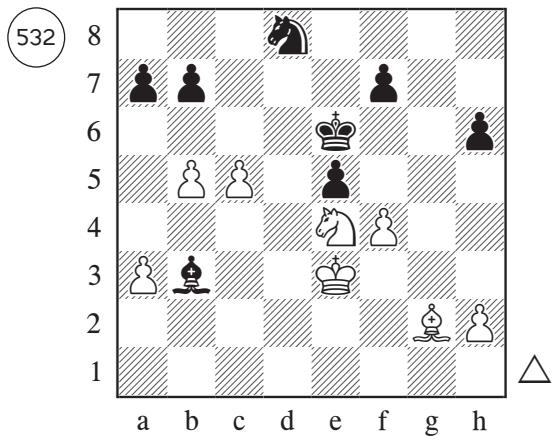
Stahlberg – Smyslov, Stockholm 1954



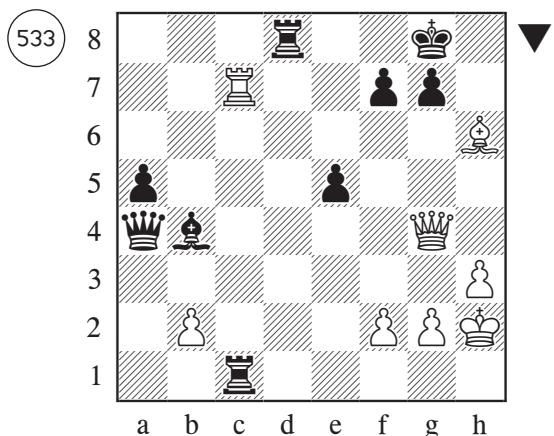
Smyslov – Unzicker, Hastings 1954



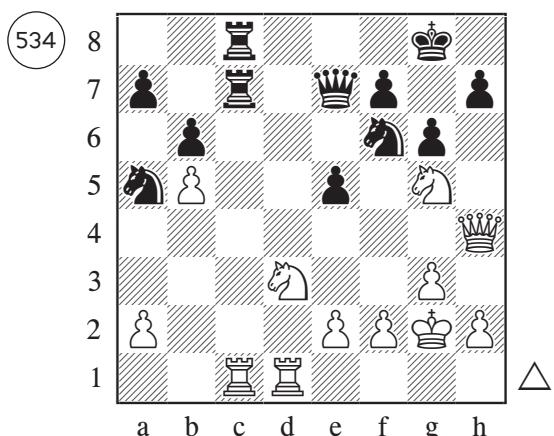
Smyslov – Szabo, Hastings 1954



Keres – Smyslov, Moscow 1955

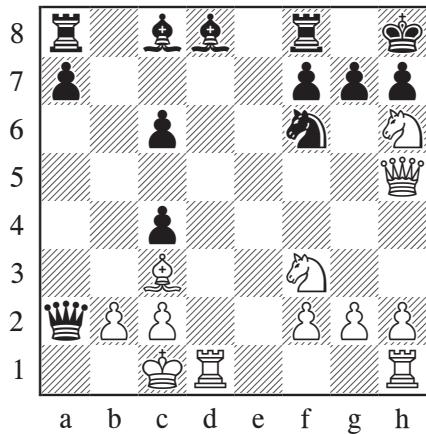


Smyslov – Najdorf, Moscow 1956



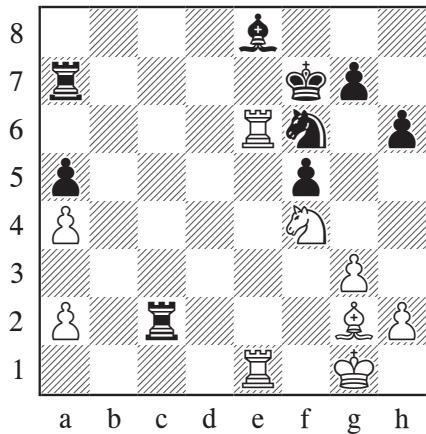
Tal – Smyslov, Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade 1959

535



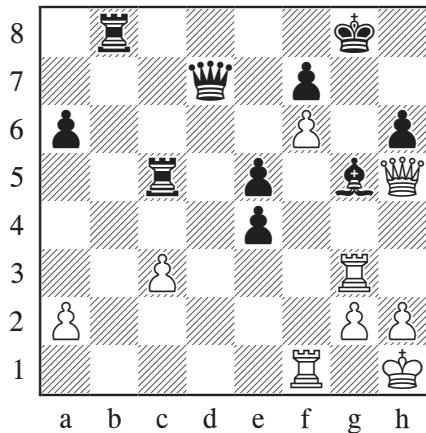
Smyslov – Kholmov, Baku 1961

538



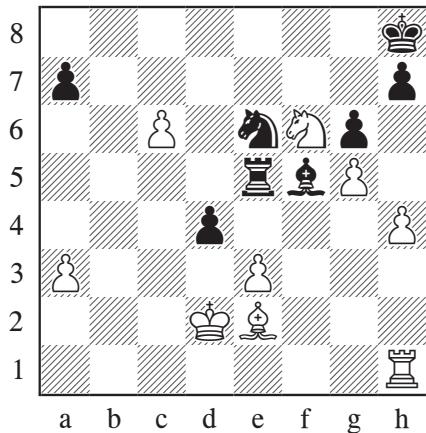
Fischer – Smyslov, Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade 1959

536



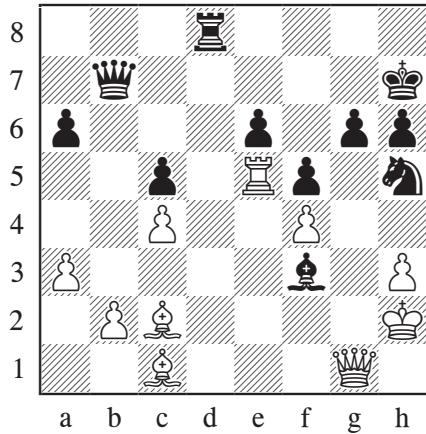
Smyslov – Rossetto, Mar del Plata 1962

539



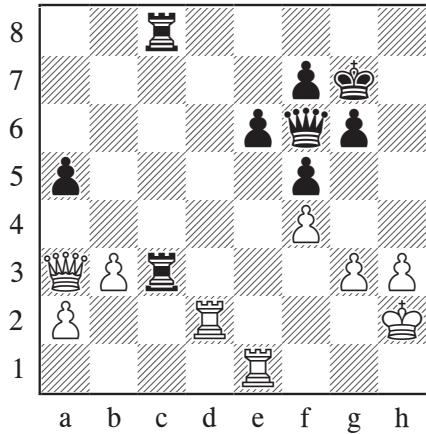
Bakulin – Smyslov, Moscow 1961

537

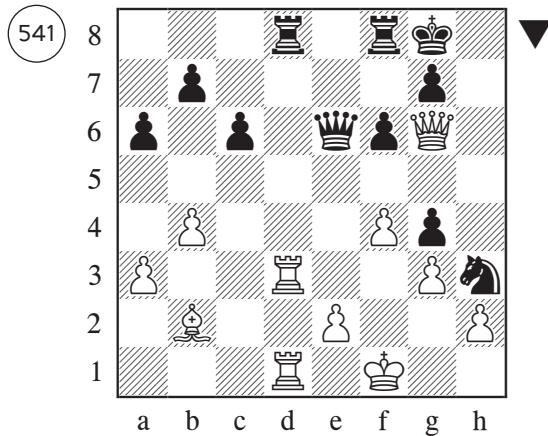


Tringov – Smyslov, Havana 1965

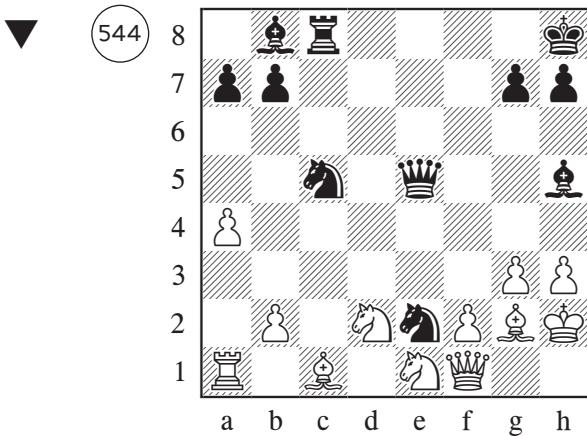
540



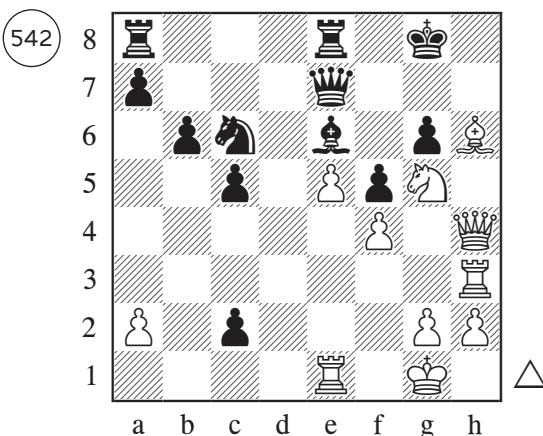
Smyslov – Jimenez Zerquera, Havana 1965



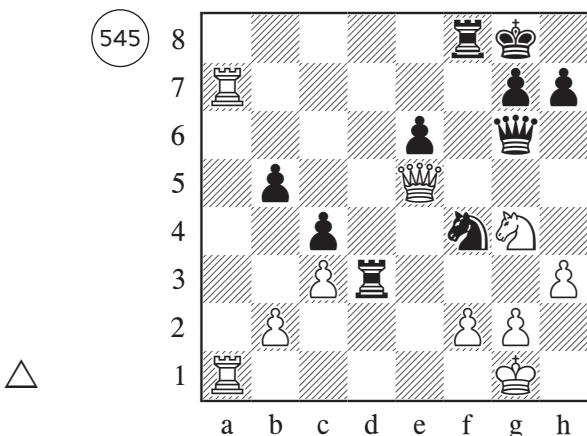
Geller – Smyslov, Moscow 1965



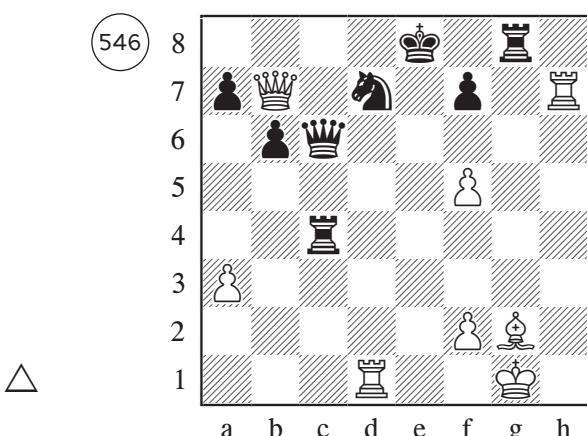
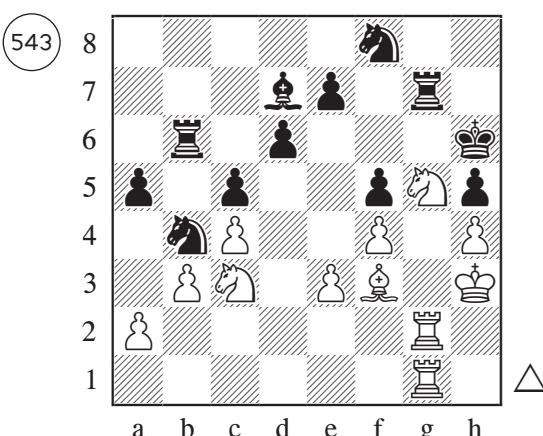
Byrne – Smyslov, Lugano (ol) 1968



Smyslov – Magrin, Lugano (ol) 1968



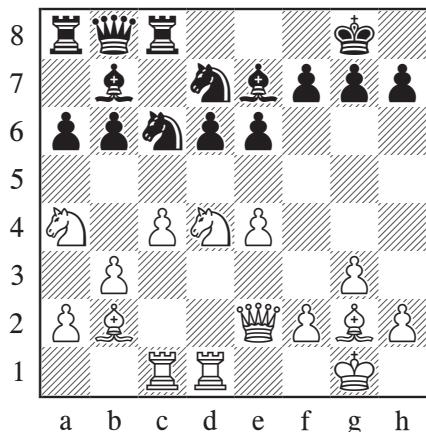
Tal – Smyslov, Herceg Novi (blitz) 1970



Stein – Smyslov, Moscow 1972

Smyslov – Dzindzichashvili, Moscow 1972

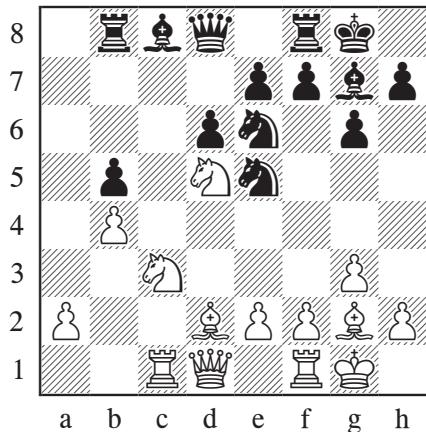
547



Smyslov – Browne, Hastings 1972

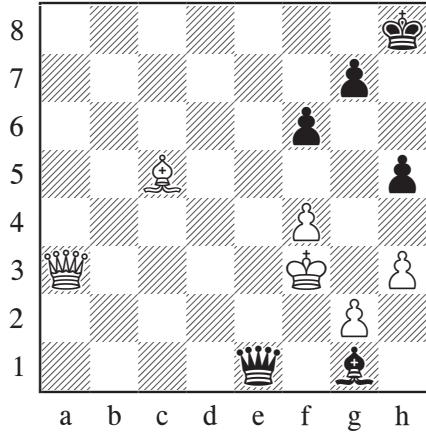


548



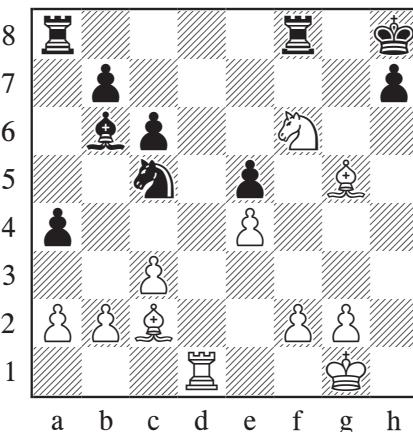
Lebredo Zarragoitia – Smyslov, Cienfuegos 1973

549



Smyslov – Spassky, Moscow 1973

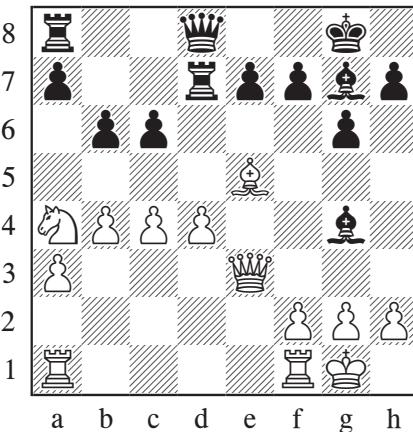
550



Smyslov – Bilek, Venice 1974

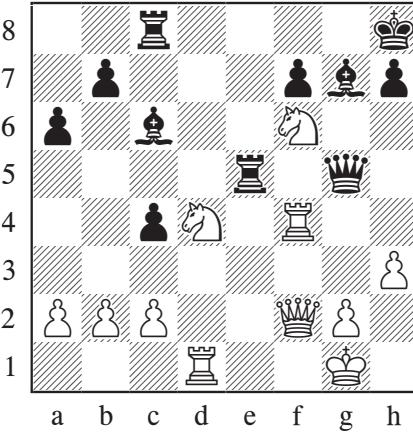


551



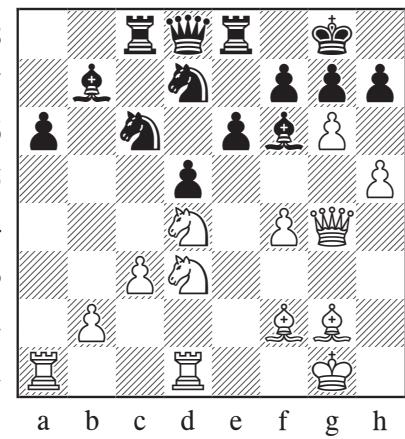
Kasparov – Smyslov, Leningrad 1975

552



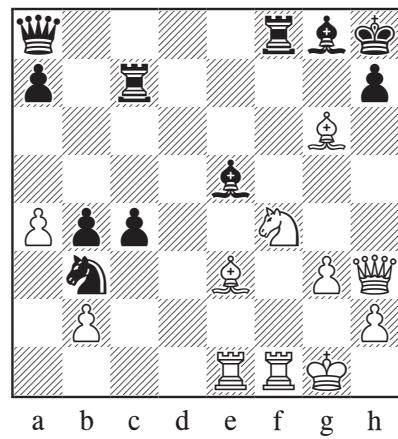
Smyslov – Vogt, Leningrad 1977

553



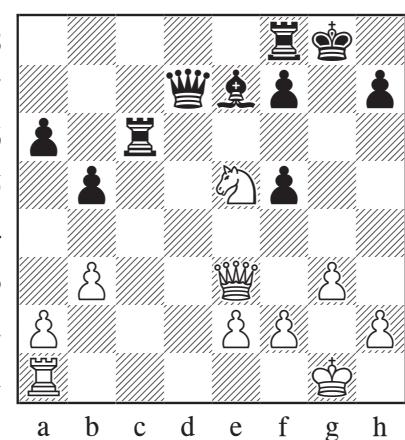
Smyslov – Hübner, Velden 1983

556



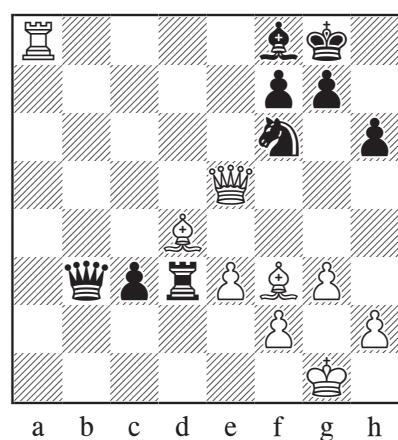
Smyslov – Jingxuan Qi, Buenos Aires 1978

554



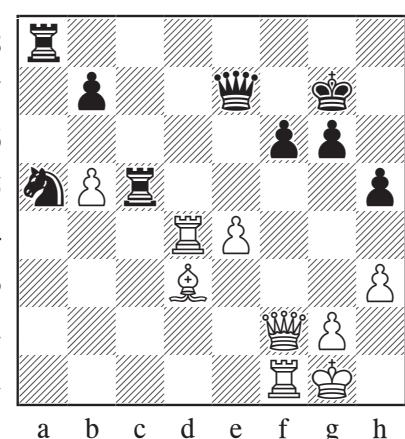
Smyslov – Sosonko, Tilburg 1984

557



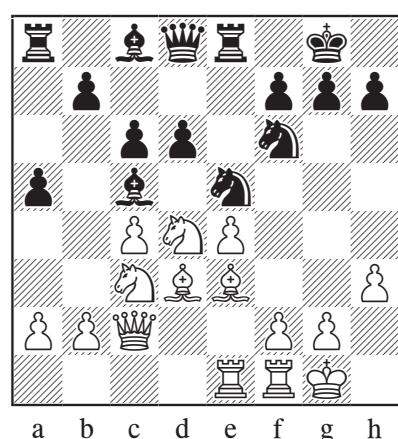
Smyslov – Schmidt, Moscow 1980

555

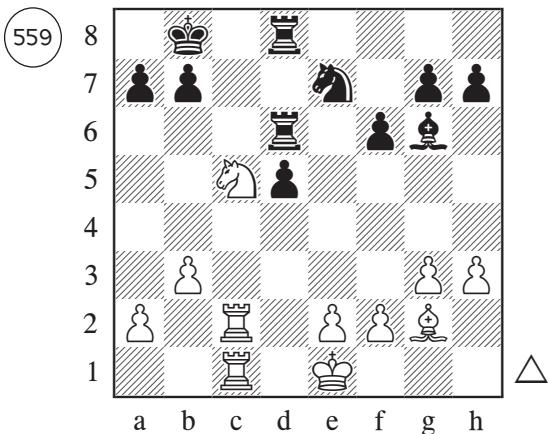


Spraggett – Smyslov, Montpellier 1985

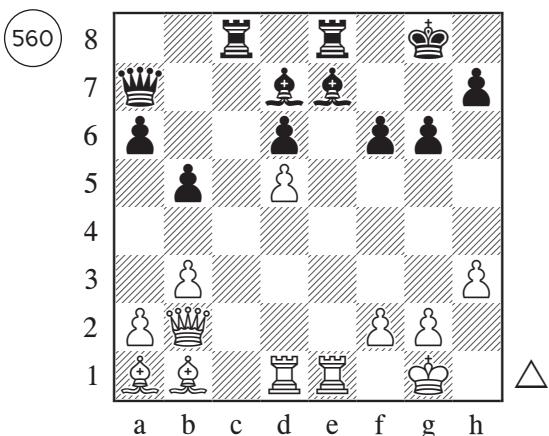
558



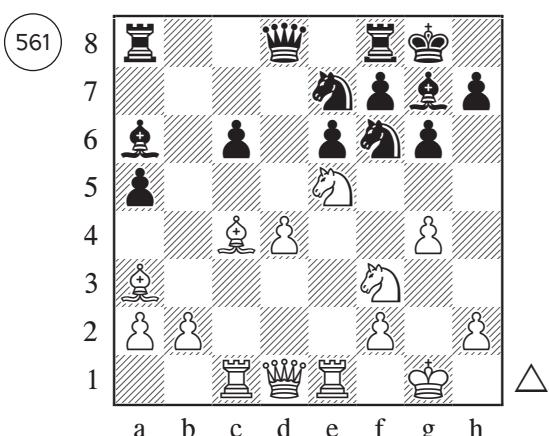
Smyslov – Olafsson, Copenhagen 1985



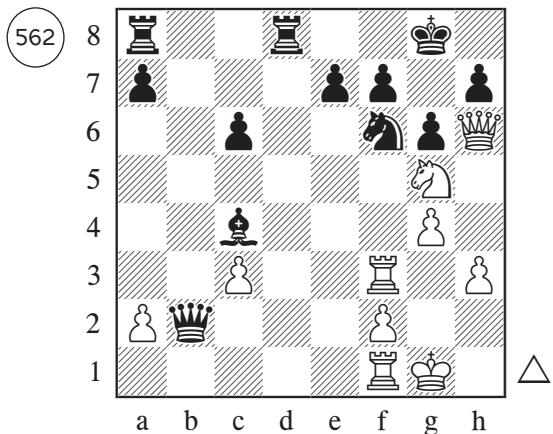
Popovic – Smyslov, Ljubljana 1985



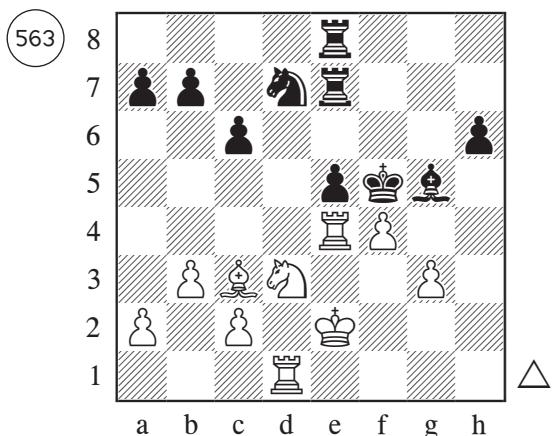
Smirin – Smyslov, Moscow 1988



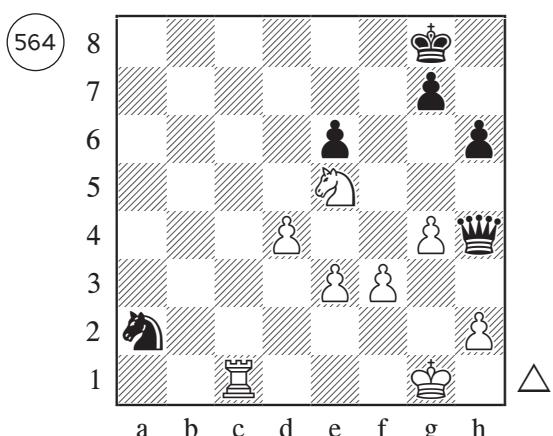
Smyslov – Timman, Moscow (blitz) 1993



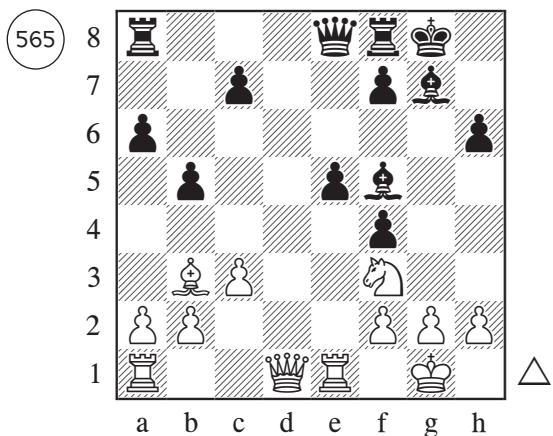
Smyslov – Oll, Rostov on Don 1993



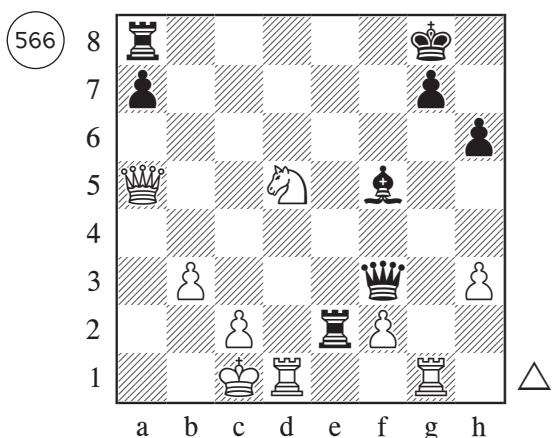
Polgar – Smyslov, Vienna 1993



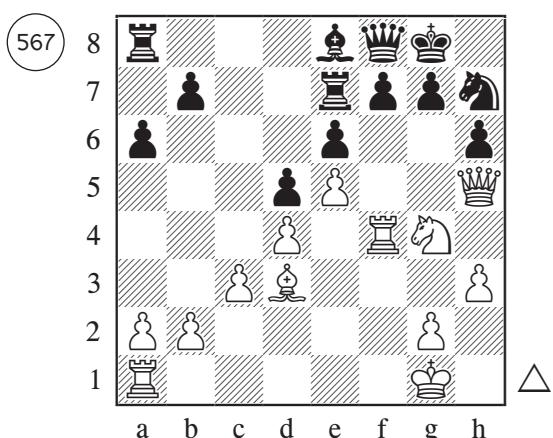
Smyslov – Ingbrandt, Stockholm 1996



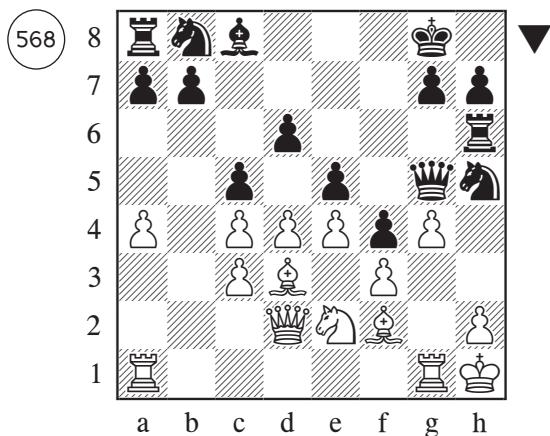
Arakhamia-Grant – Smyslov, London 1996



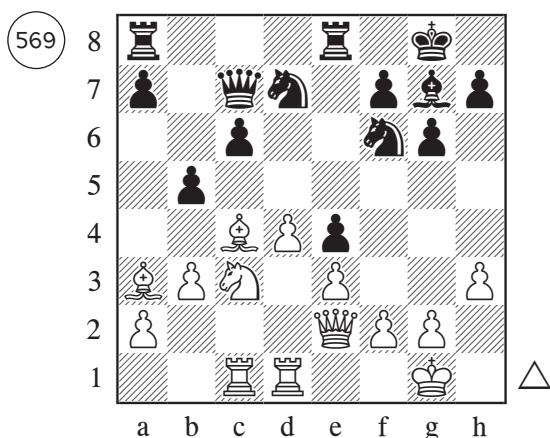
Tal – Leonov, Vilnius 1949



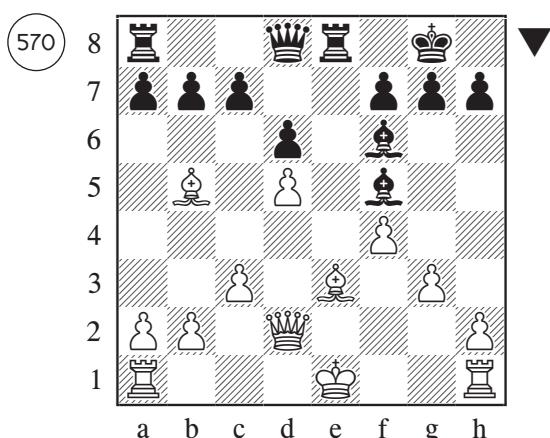
Pasman – Tal, Riga 1952



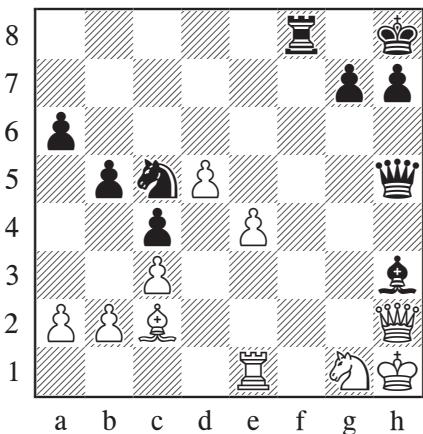
Tal – Darznieks, Riga 1953



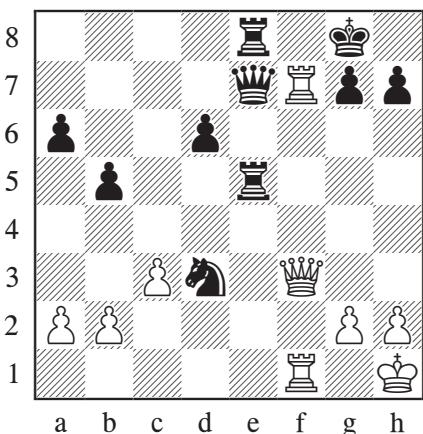
Tal – Saigin, Riga 1954



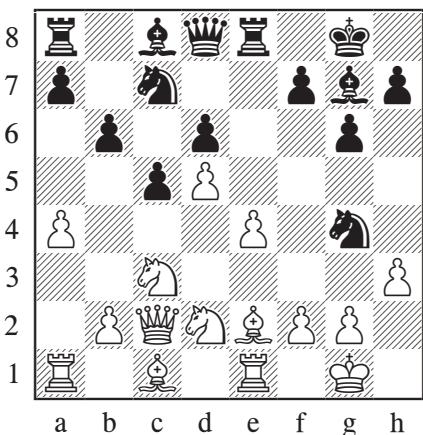
Ostrauskas – Tal, Vilnius 1955



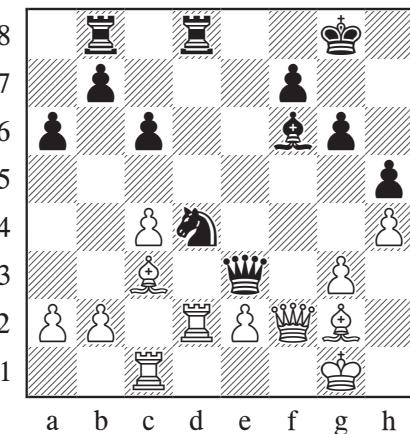
Khasin – Tal, Leningrad 1956



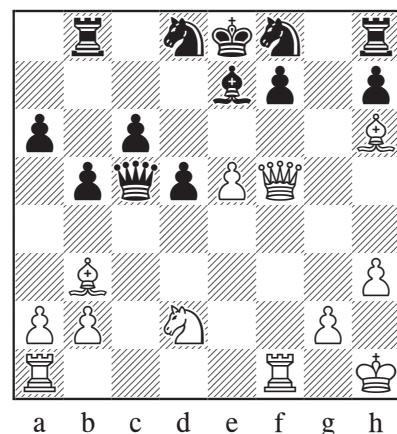
Gurgenidze – Tal, Moscow 1957



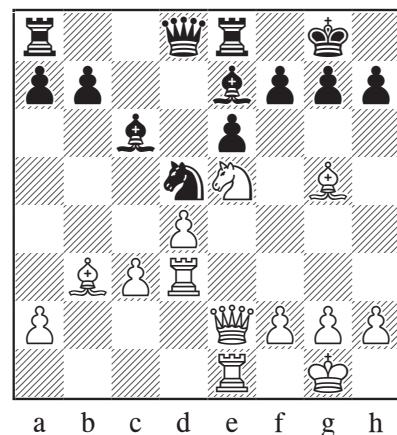
Bannik – Tal, Moscow 1957



Tal – Teschner, Vienna 1957

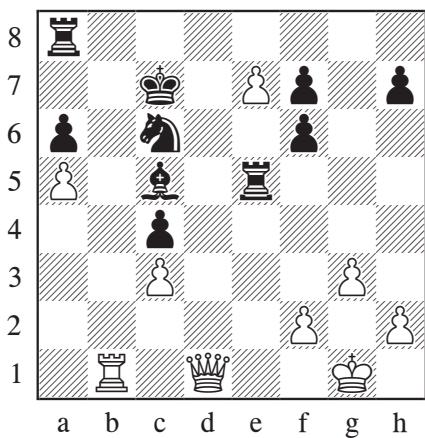


Tal – N.N., Riga (simul) 1958



Tal – Keller, Zurich 1959

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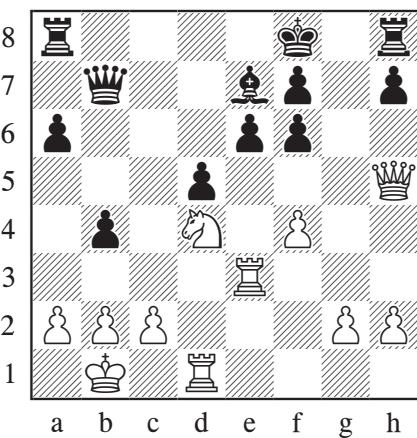


Fischer – Tal, Bled 1959



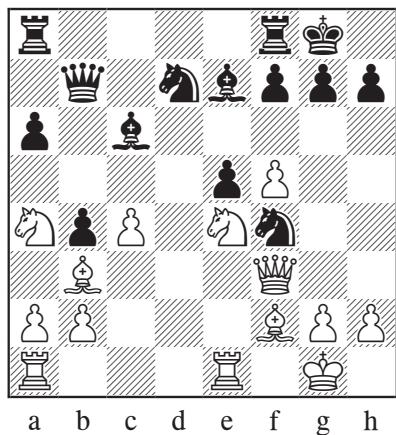
Tal – Johansson, Stockholm 1961

580

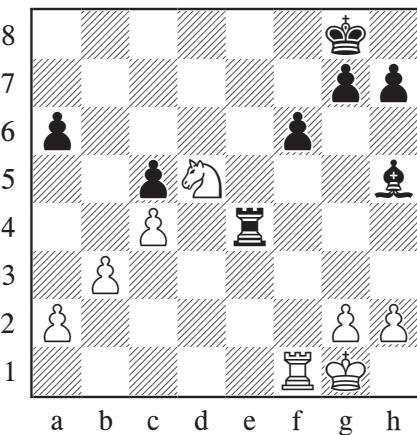


Tal – Book, Stockholm 1961

578

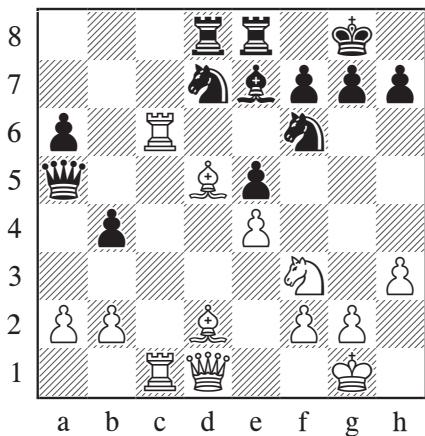


Tal – Unzicker, Stockholm 1960

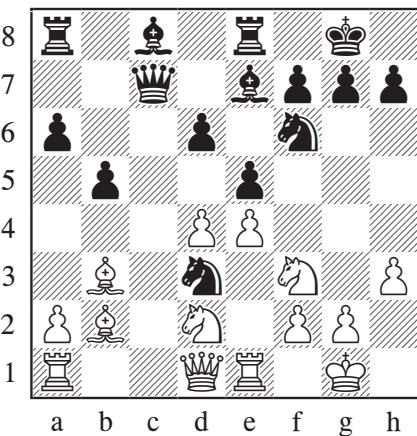


Tal – Gurgenidze, Baku 1961

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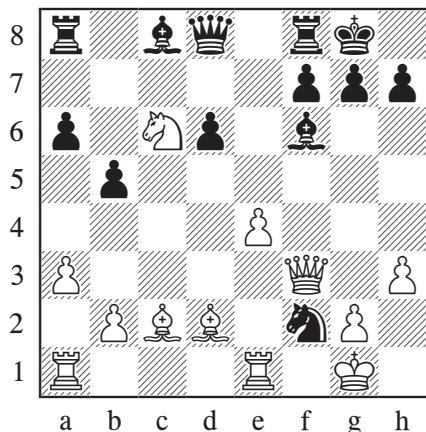


582



Tal – Keres, Curacao 1962

583

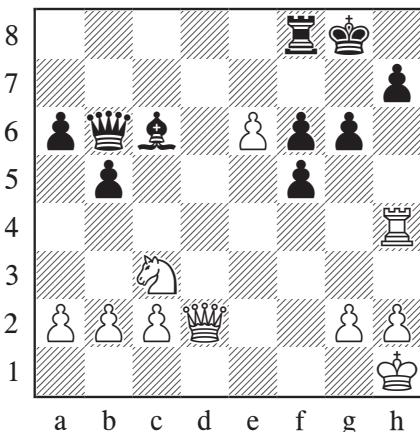


Tal – Matanovic, Moscow 1963

▼

Tal – Ljavdansky, Kiev 1964

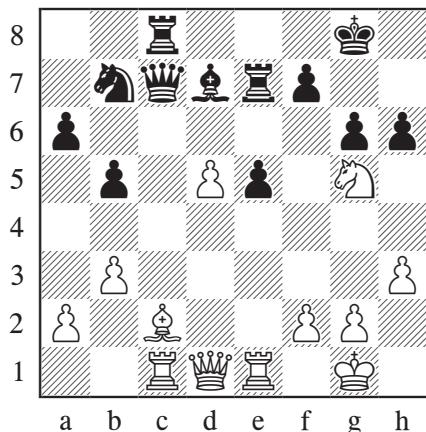
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△

Tal – Gligoric, Reykjavik 1964

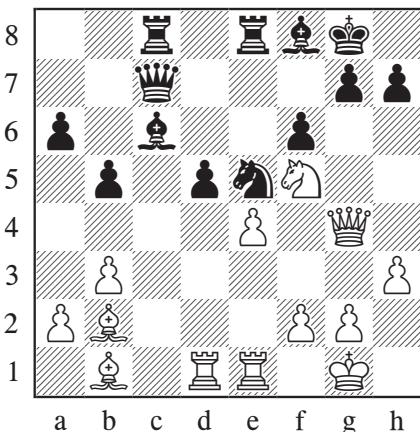
584



Tal – Wade, Reykjavik 1964

△

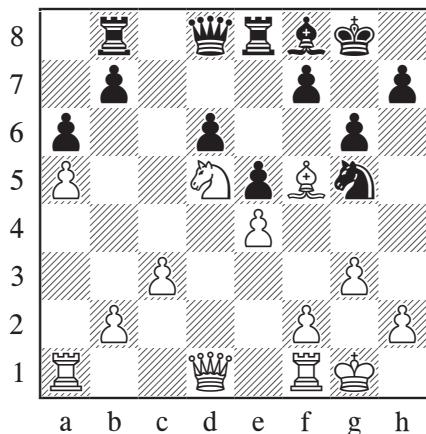
587



△

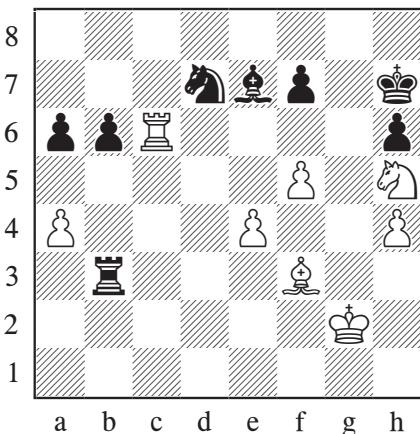
Bykhovsky – Tal, Kislovodsk 1964

585



△

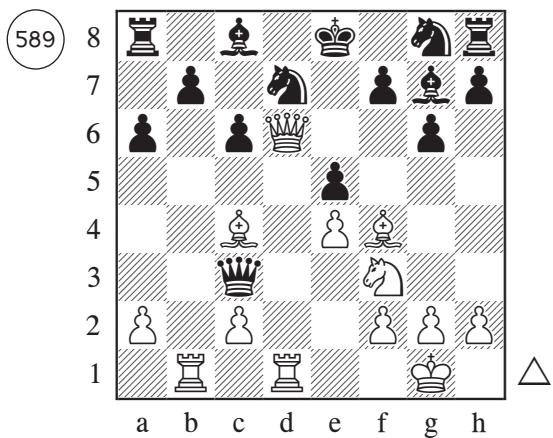
588



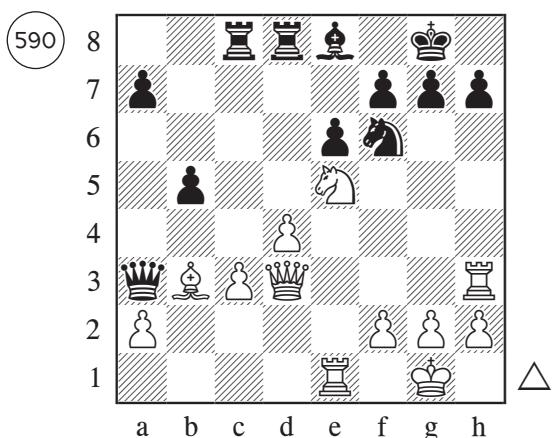
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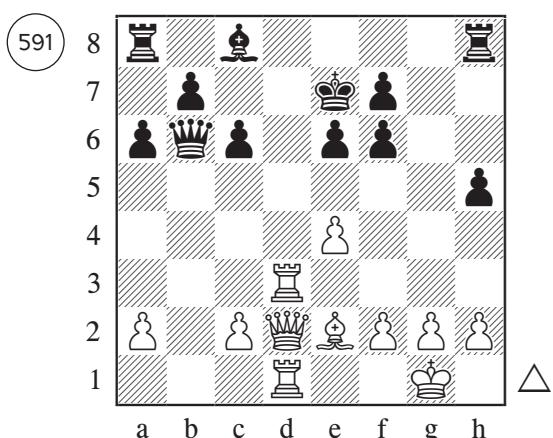
Tal – Tringov, Amsterdam 1964



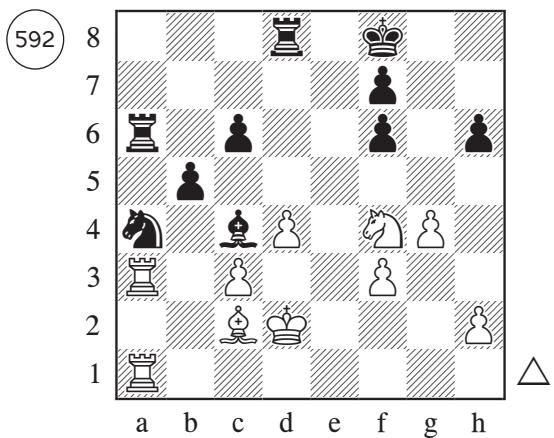
Tal – Schinzel, Warsaw (simul) 1966



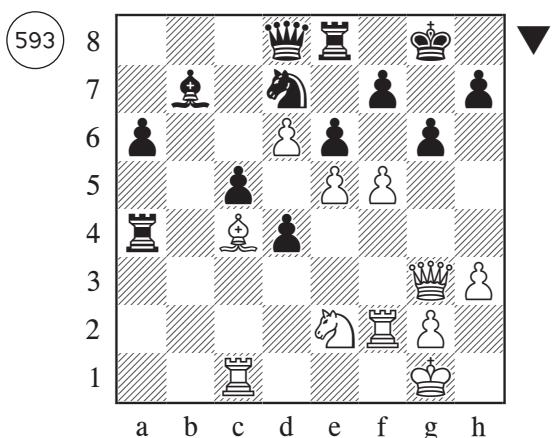
Tal – Hamann, Kislovodsk 1966



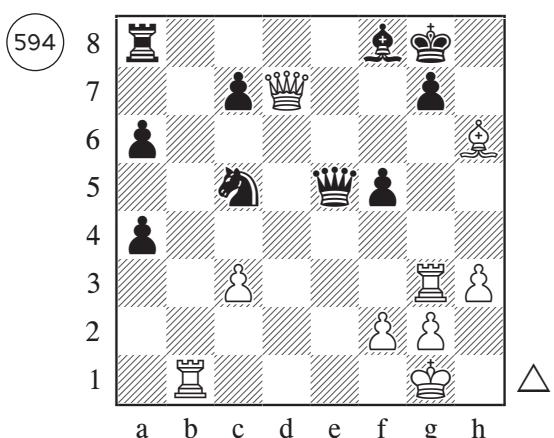
Tal – Damjanovic, Sarajevo 1966



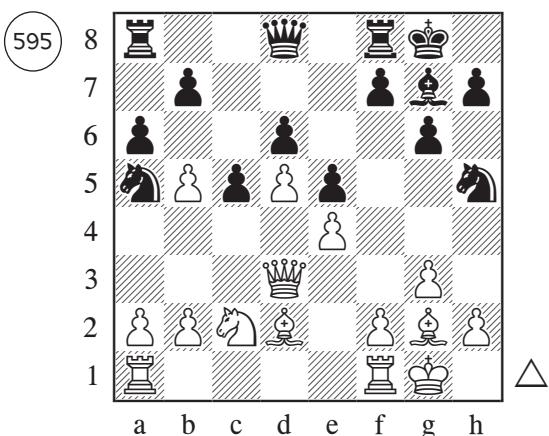
Kristiansen – Tal, Havana (ol) 1966



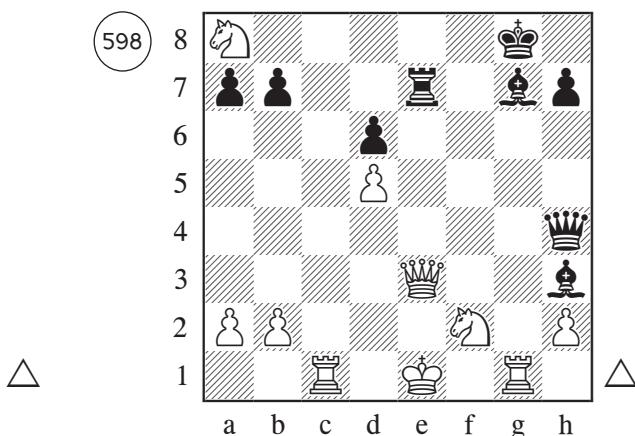
Tal – Gligoric, Budva 1967



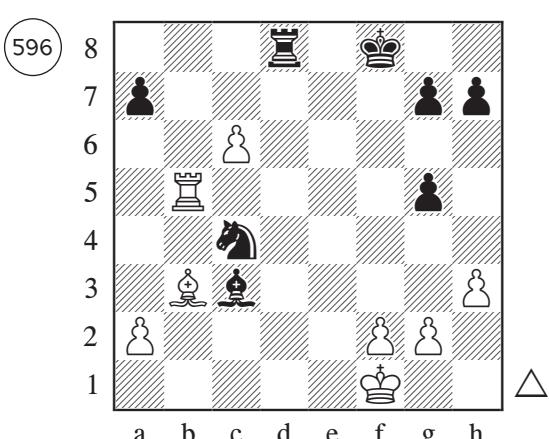
Portisch – Tal, Moscow 1967



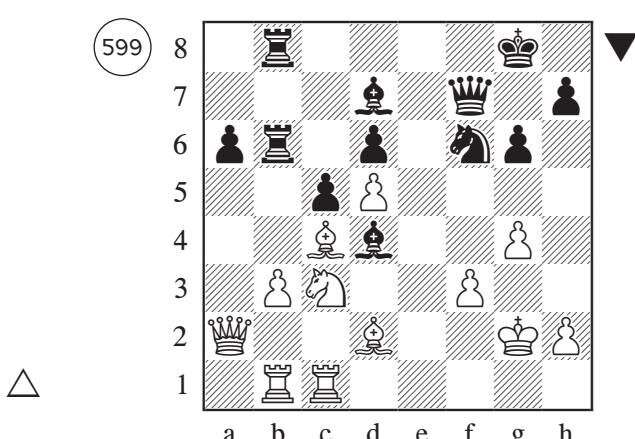
Tal – Vasiukov, Kharkov 1967



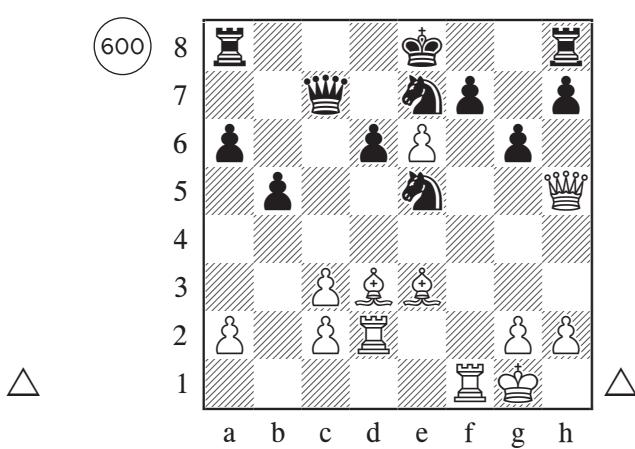
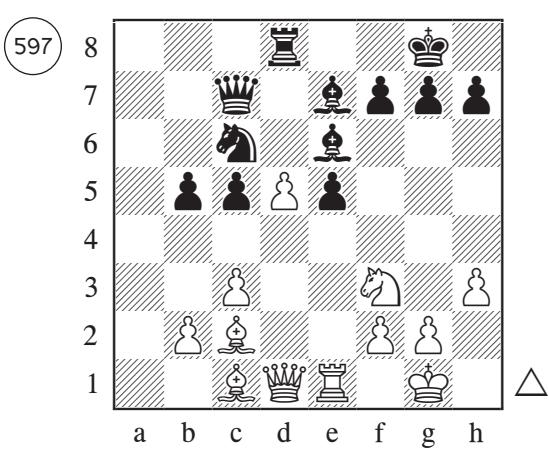
Larsen – Tal, Eersel (5) 1969



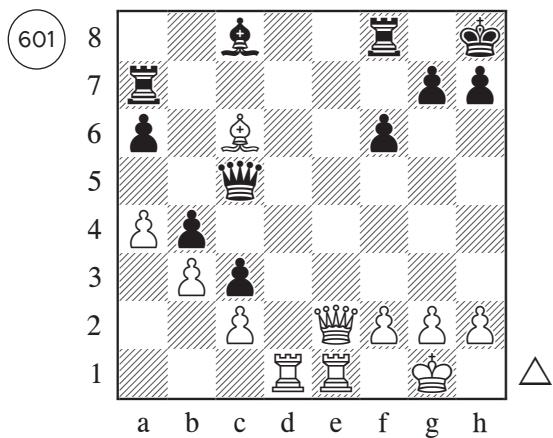
Tal – Cherepkov, Alma-Ata 1968



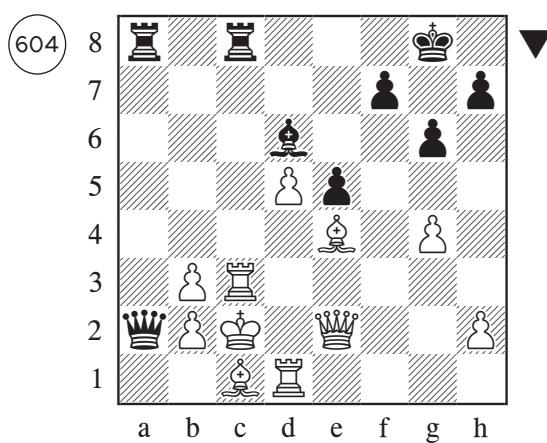
Tukmakov – Tal, Moscow 1969



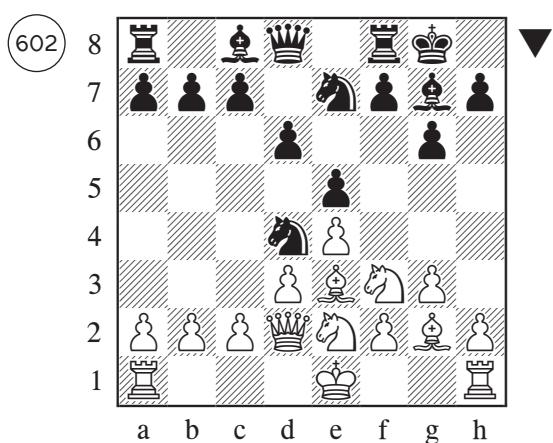
Tal – Korchnoi, Herceg Novi (blitz) 1970



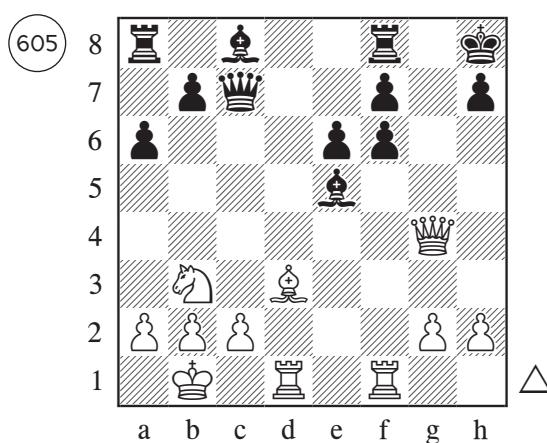
Barcza – Tal, Tallinn 1971



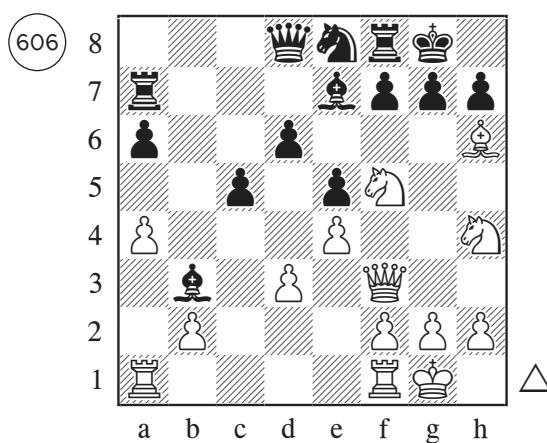
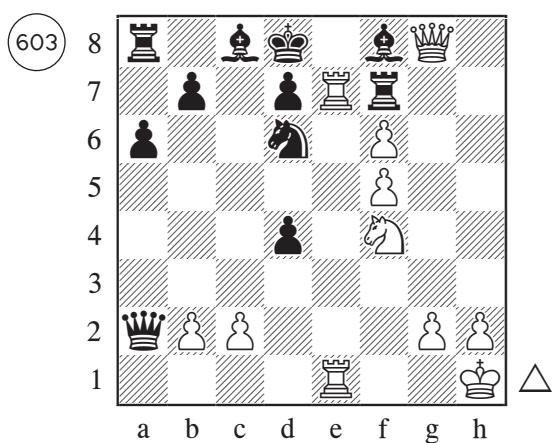
Honfi – Tal, Sukhumi 1972



Tal – Vooremaa, Tallinn 1971

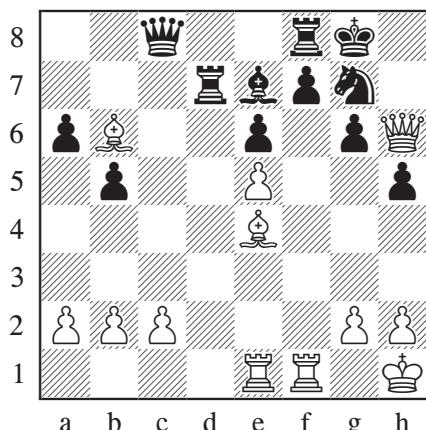


Tal – Korensky, Sochi 1973



Tal – Hartston, Hasting 1973

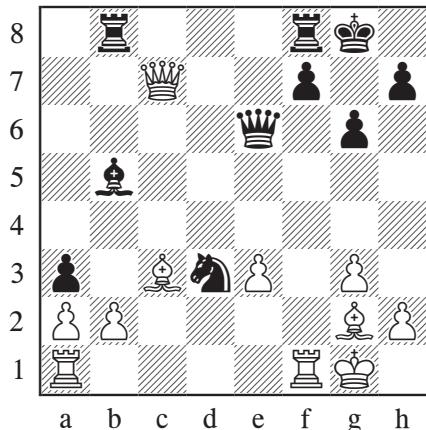
607



Basman – Tal, Hastings 1973



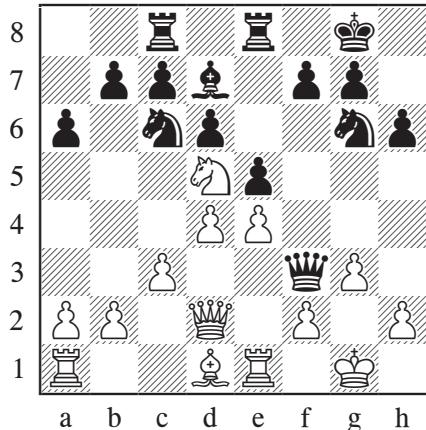
608



Tal – Keres, Tallinn 1973

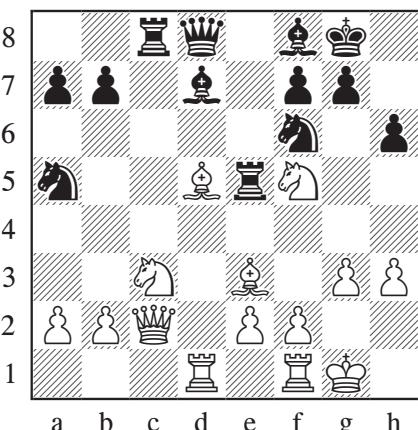


609



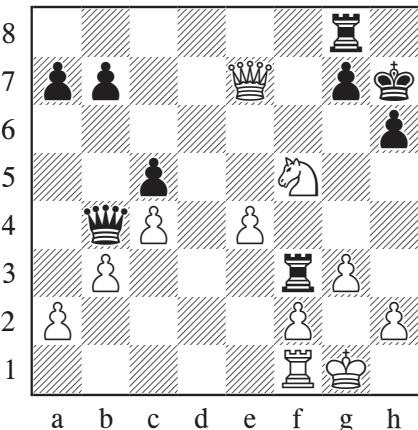
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610



Romanishin – Tal, Tallinn 1977

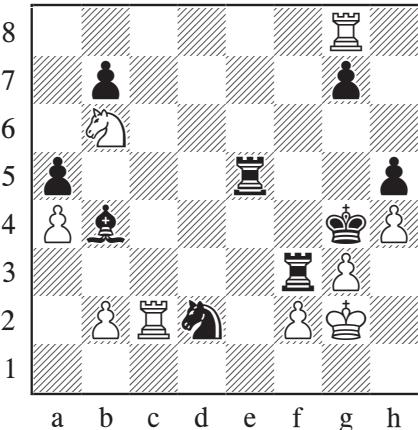
611



Tal – Giorgadze, Minsk 1979

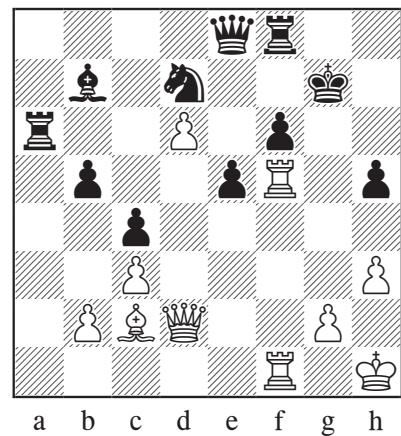


612

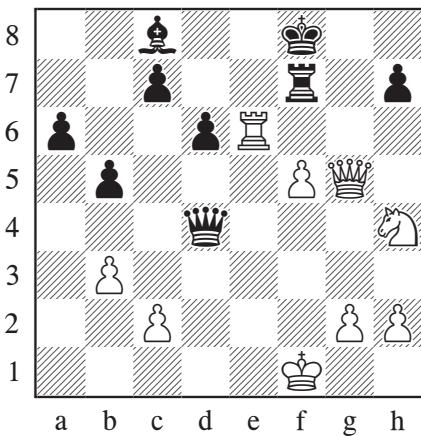


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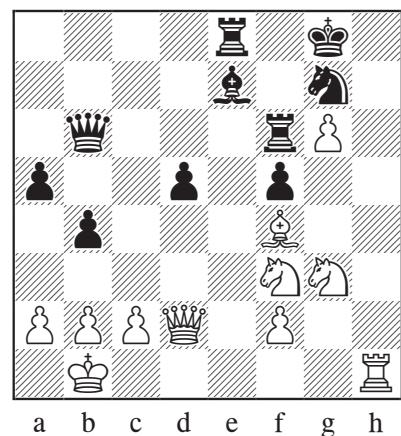
Tal – Spassky, Tilburg 1980



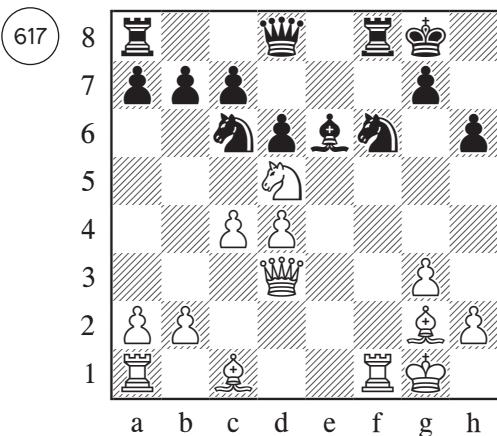
Tal – Bronstein, Tbilisi (simul) 1982



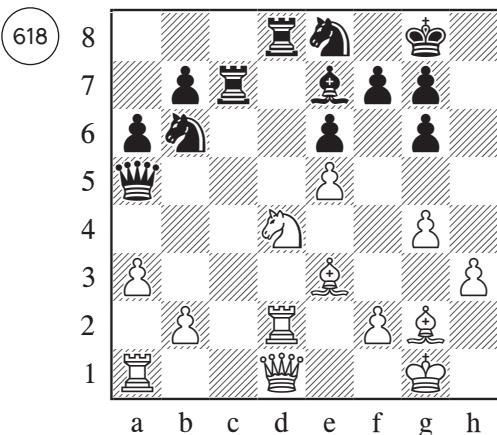
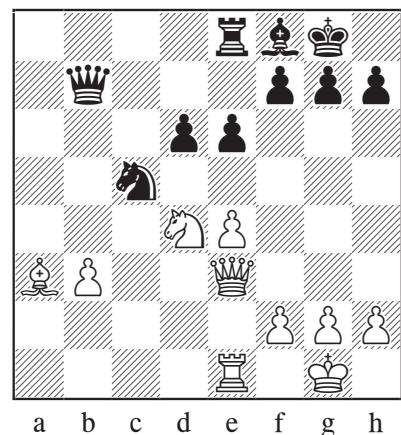
Tal – Mascarinas, Lvov 1981



Ambroz – Tal, Riga 1981

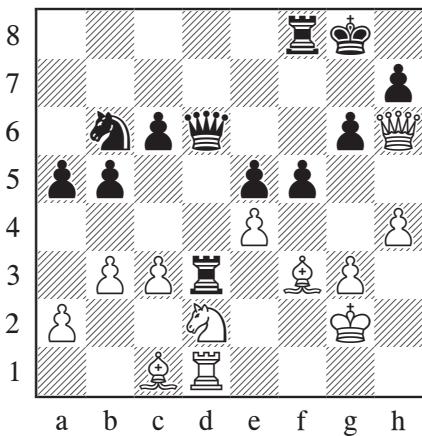


Tal – Shabalov, Jurmala 1985



Ribli – Tal, Montpellier 1985

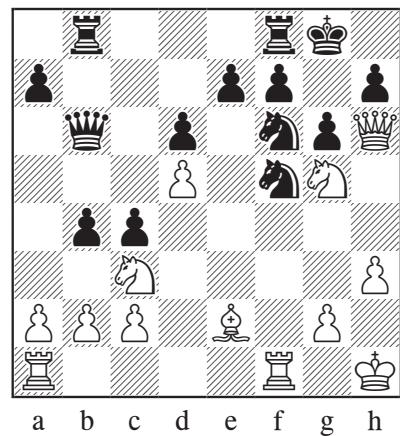
619



Tal – Oll, Riga 1986



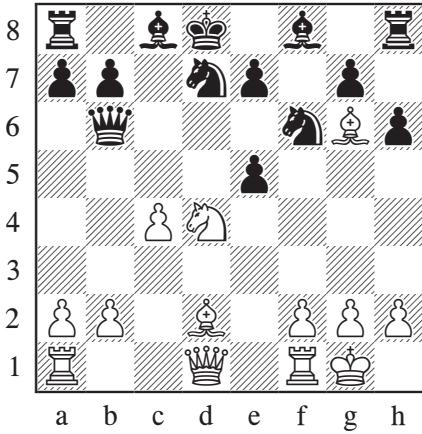
622



Tal – Hjartarson, Reykjavik 1987



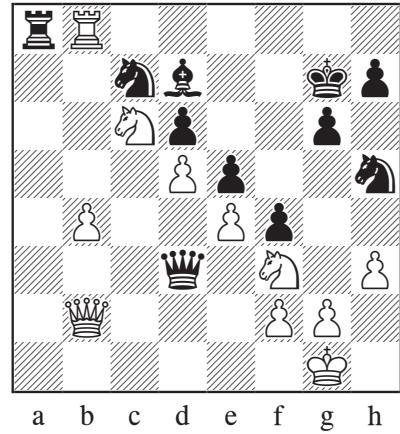
620



Tal – Foisor, Tbilisi 1986

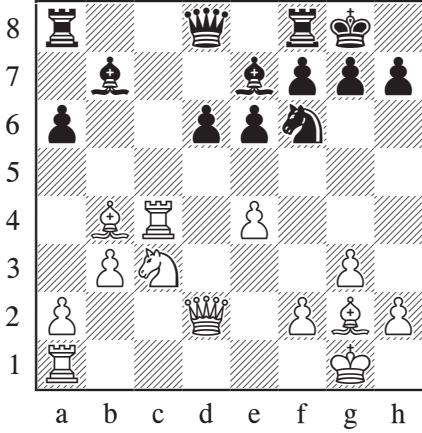


623

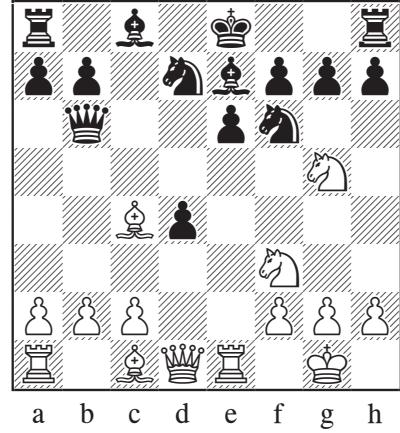


Tal – Meduna, Germany 1989

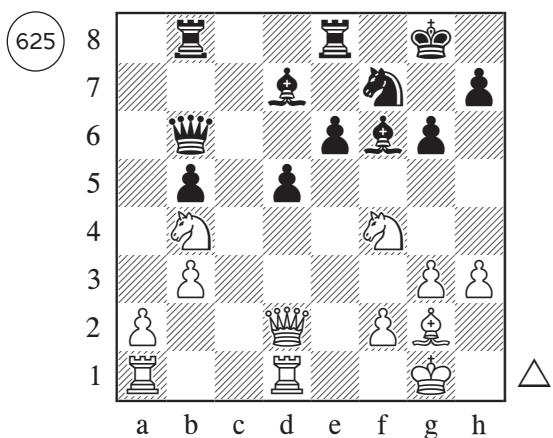
621



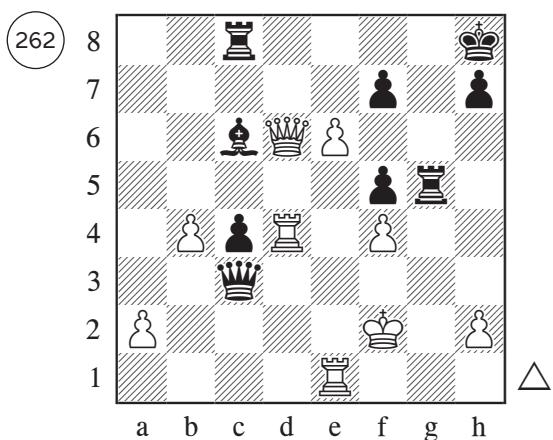
624



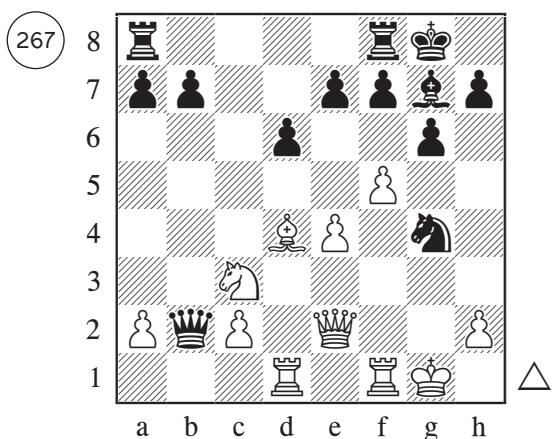
Maus – Tal, Germany 1990



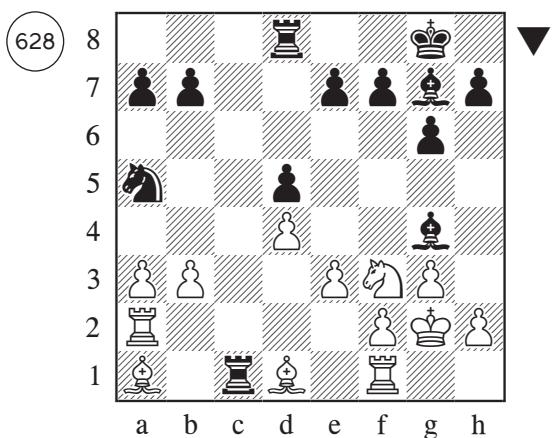
Tal – Akopian, Barcelona 1992



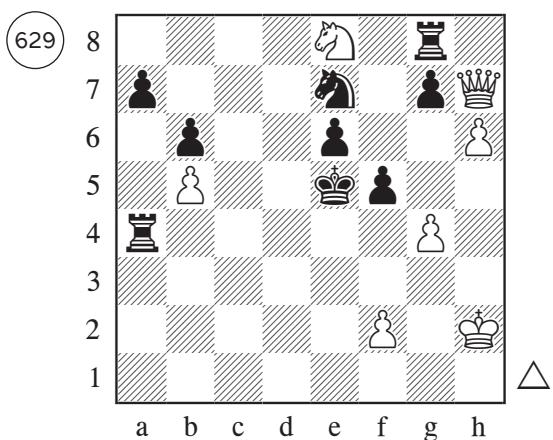
Malashkhia – Petrosian, Tbilisi 1944



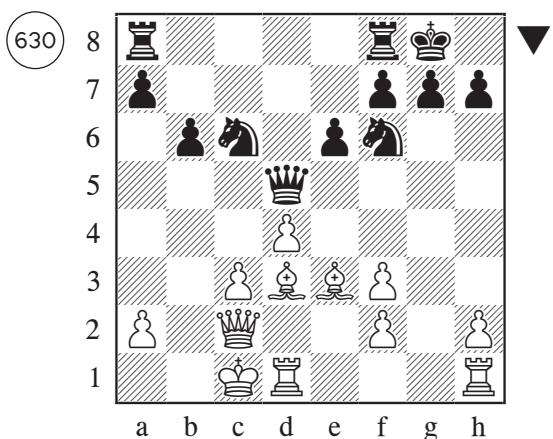
Agamalian – Petrosian, Tbilisi 1944



Vasilchuk – Petrosian, Leningrad 1945

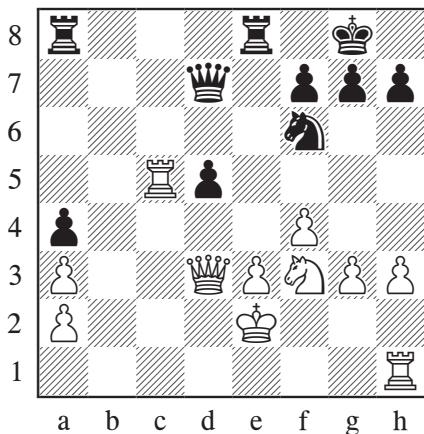


Palavandishvili – Petrosian, Tbilisi 1945



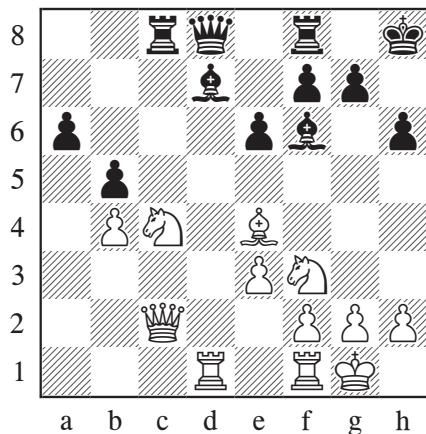
Nersesov – Petrosian, Tbilisi 1945

631



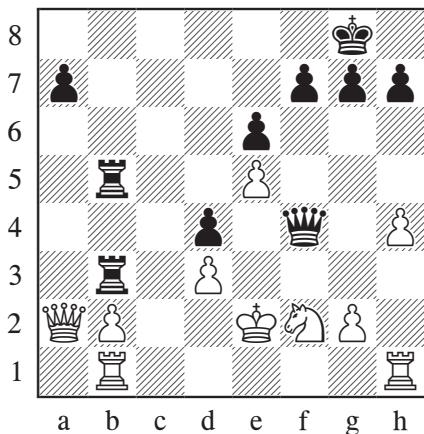
Petrosian – Kotkov, Leningrad 1946

634



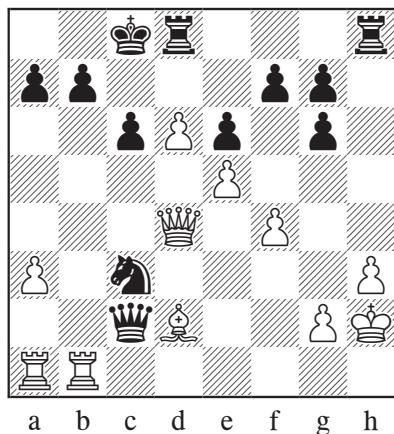
Grigoriev – Petrosian, Tbilisi 1945

632



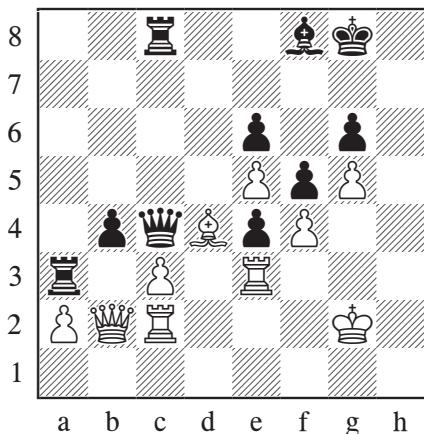
Petrosian – Kasparian, Yerevan (1) 1946

635



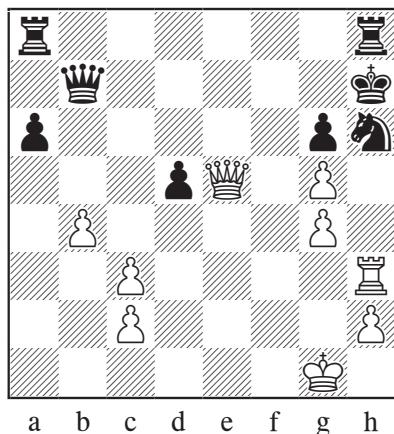
Smilga – Petrosian, Leningrad 1946

633

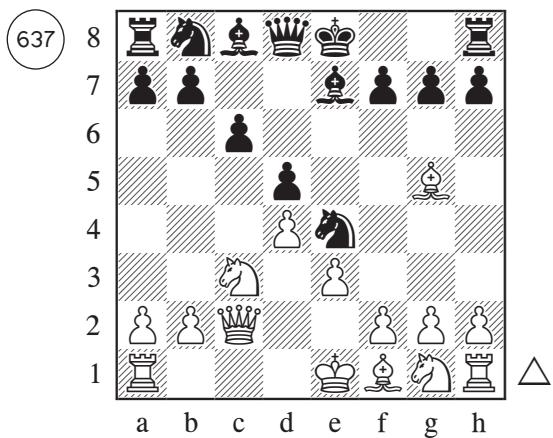


Petrosian – Manoian, Yerevan 1948

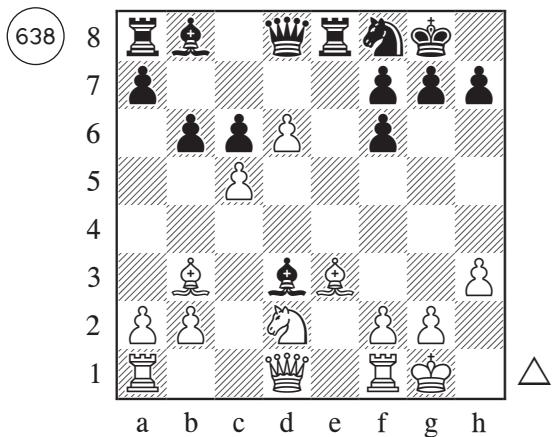
636



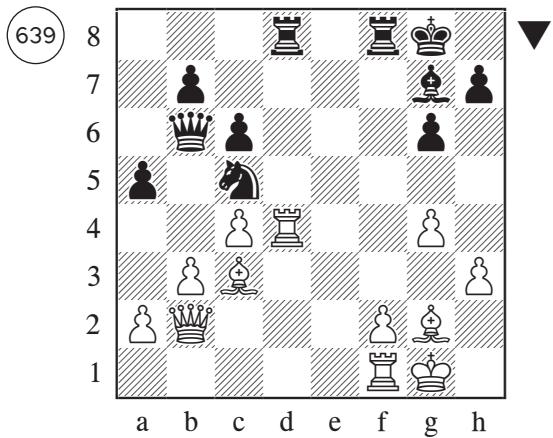
Kotov – Petrosian, Moscow 1949



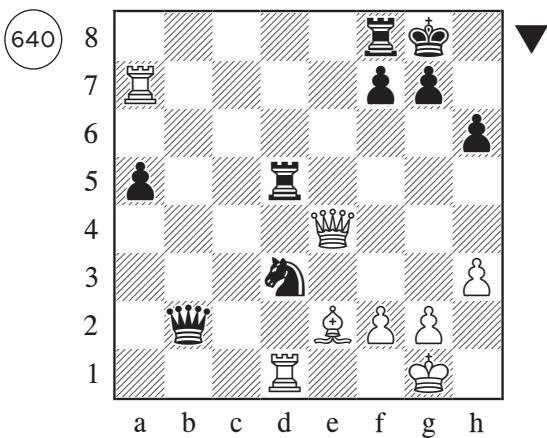
Petrosian – Sokolsky, Moscow 1949



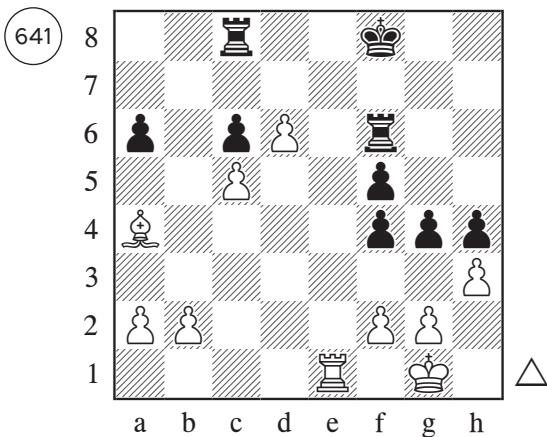
Ratner – Petrosian, Gorky 1950



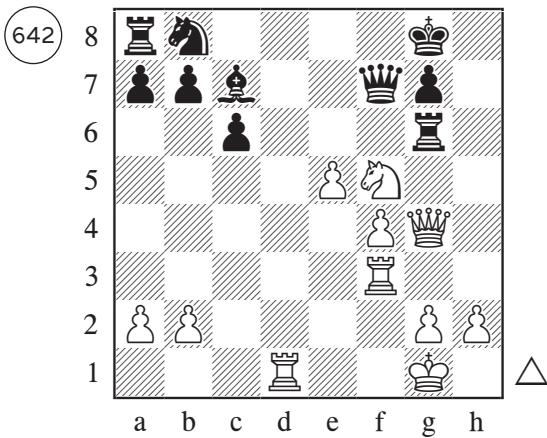
Petrosian – Kholmov, Vilnius 1951



Pilnik – Petrosian, Budapest 1952

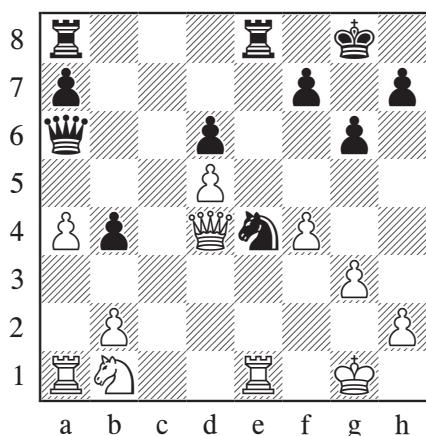


Petrosian – Pachman, Saltsjobaden 1952



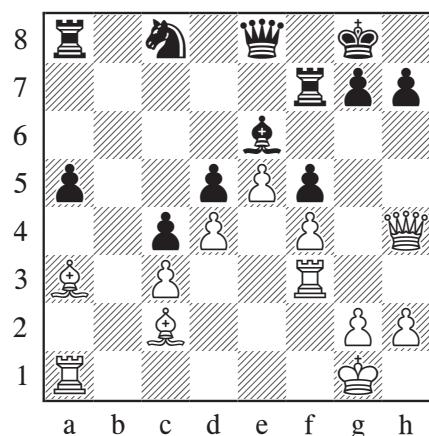
Milev – Petrosian, Bucharest 1953

643



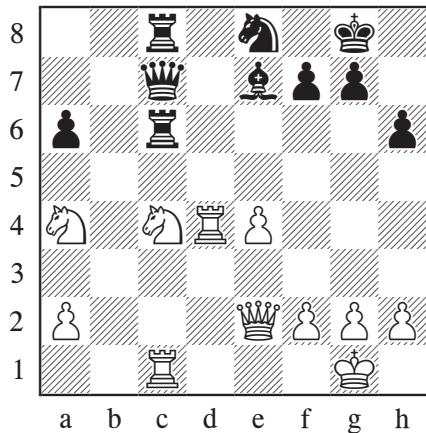
Taimanov – Petrosian, Zurich 1953

646



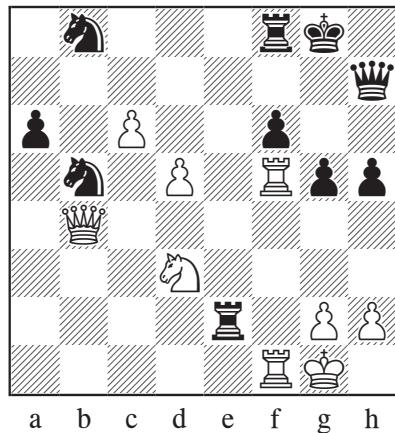
Szabo – Petrosian, Zurich 1953

644



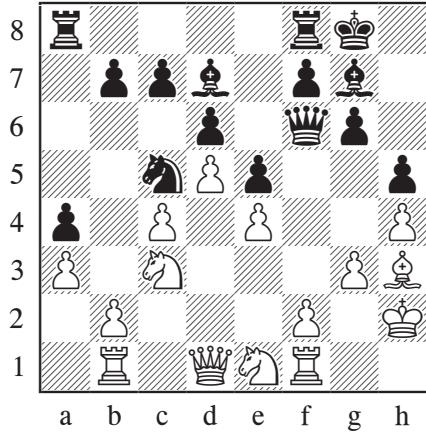
Svetozar Gligoric – Petrosian, Belgrade 1954

647



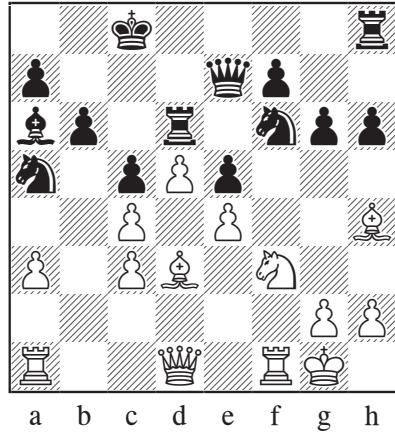
Stahlberg – Petrosian, Zurich 1953

645

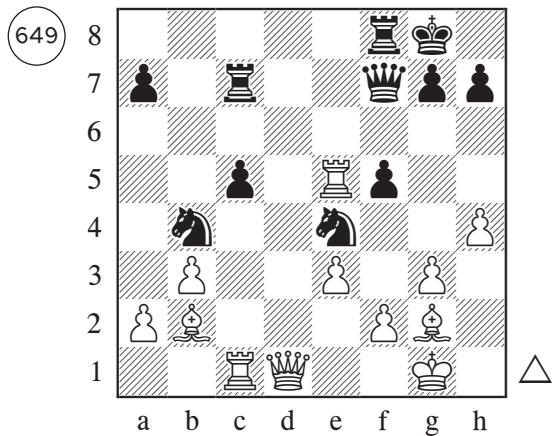


Petrosian – Benko, Budapest 1955

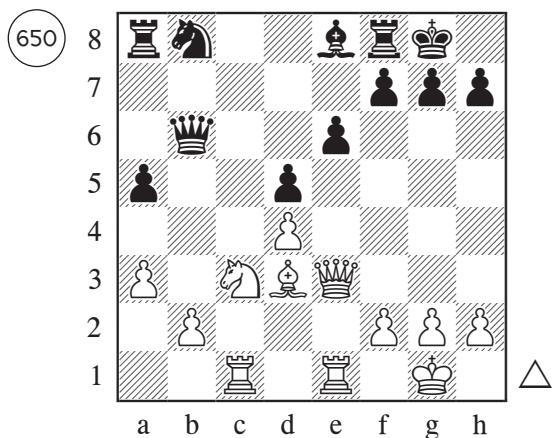
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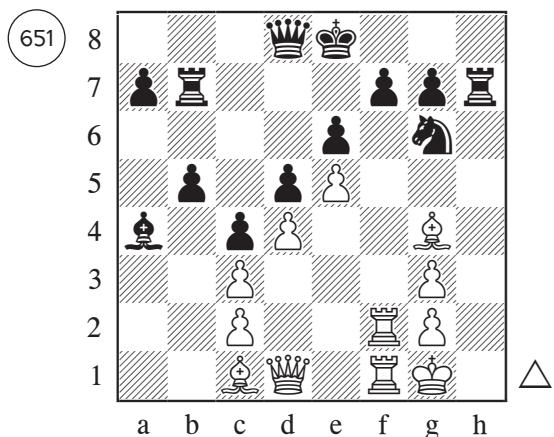
Petrosian – Tolush, Riga 1958



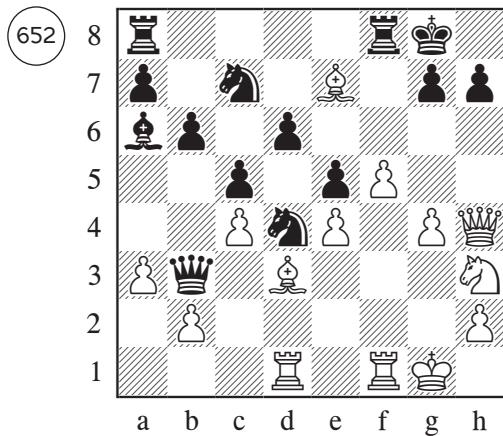
Petrosian – Gufeld, Tbilisi 1959



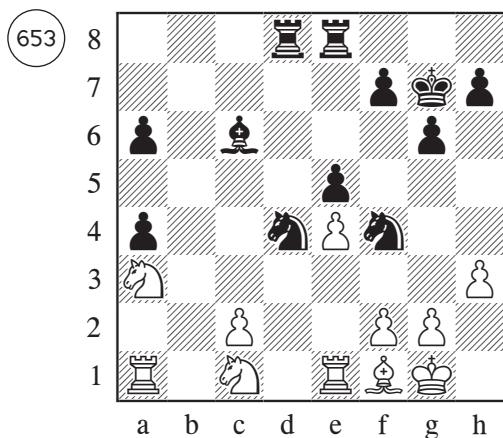
Stein – Petrosian, Moscow 1961



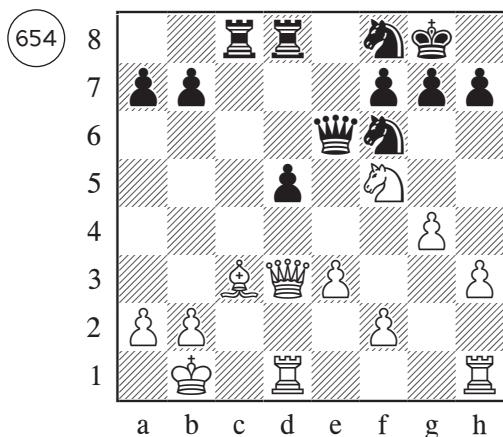
Petrosian – Keres, Zurich 1961

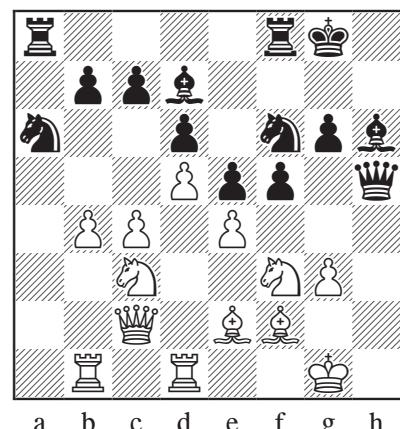
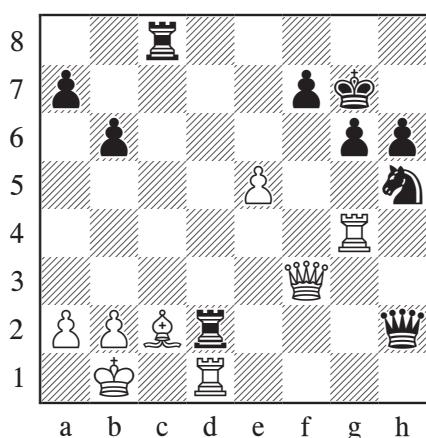
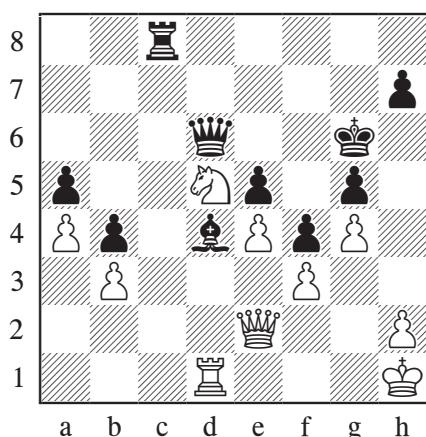
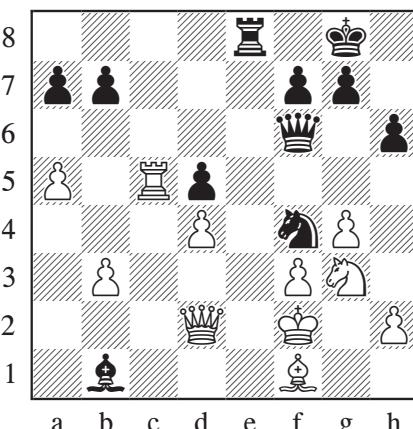
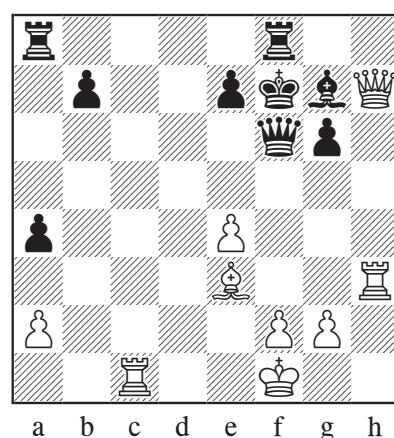
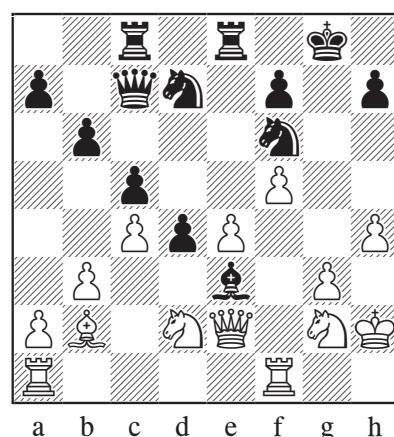


Furman – Petrosian, Moscow 1961

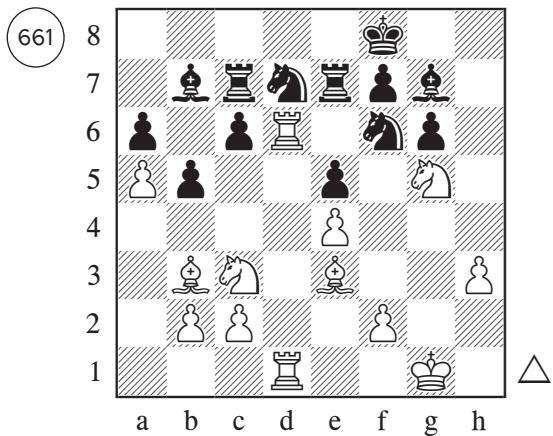


Petrosian – Ilivitzki, Moscow 1964

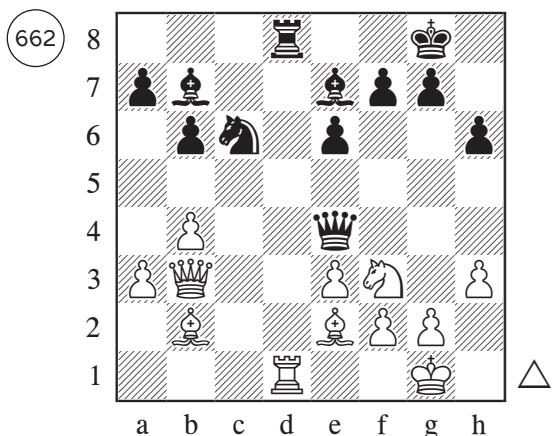


Petrosian – Stein, Moscow 1967**Petrosian – Reshko**, Leningrad 1967**Petrosian – Penrose**, Palma de Mallorca 1969**Petrosian – Spassky**, Moscow (4) 1969**Petrosian – Savon**, Moscow 1969**Polugaevsky – Petrosian**, Soviet Union 1970

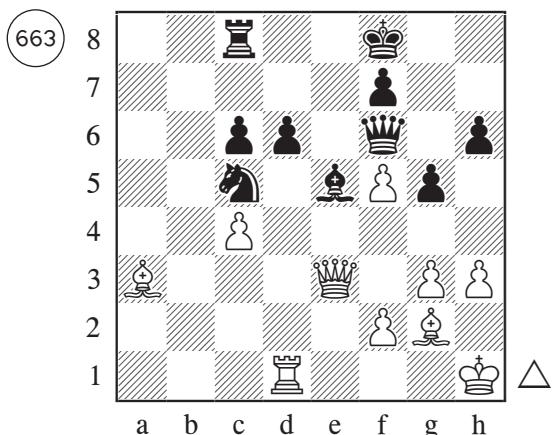
Maric – Petrosian, Vinkovci 1970



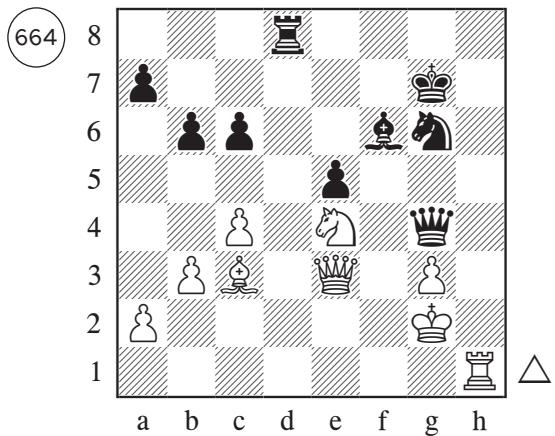
Petrosian – Saidy, San Antonio 1972



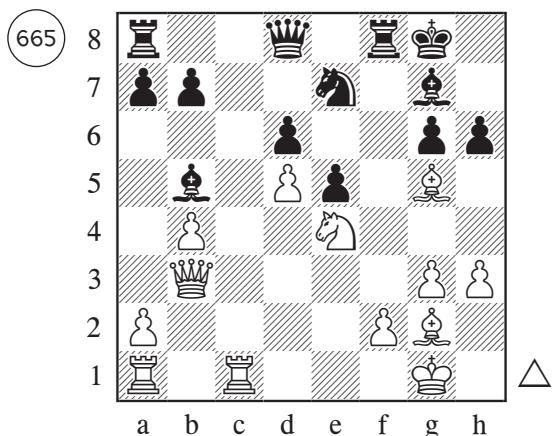
Petrosian – Quinteros, Manila 1974



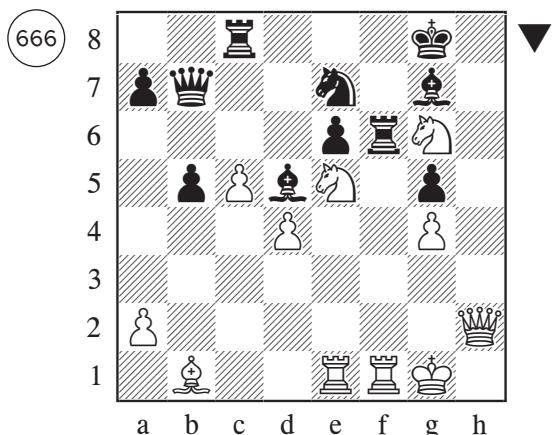
Petrosian – Cardoso, Manila 1974



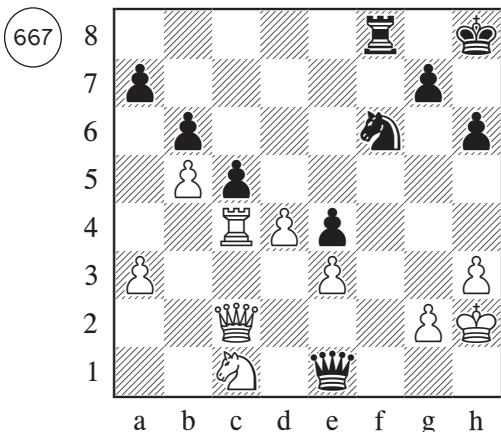
Petrosian – Gurgenidze, Riga 1975



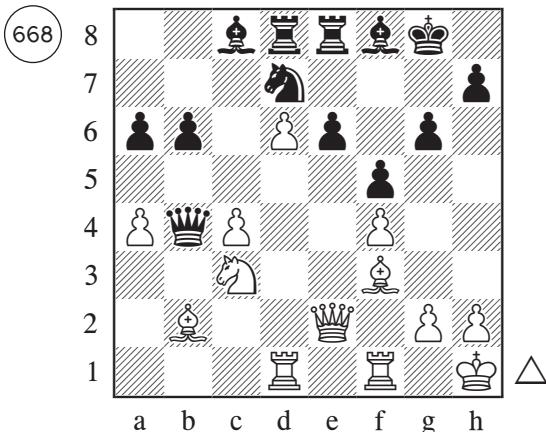
Petrosian – Short, London (simul) 1978



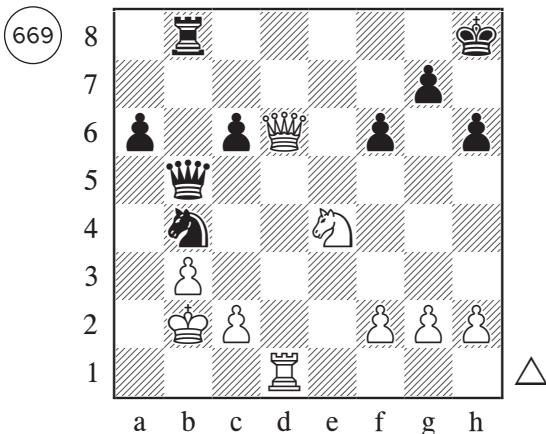
Lebredo Zarragoitia – Petrosian, Vilnius 1978



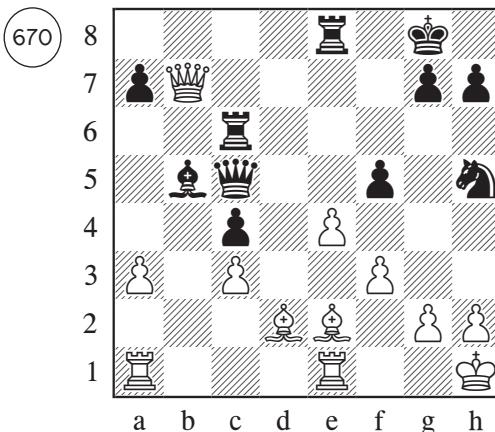
Polugaevsky – Petrosian, Kislovodsk 1982



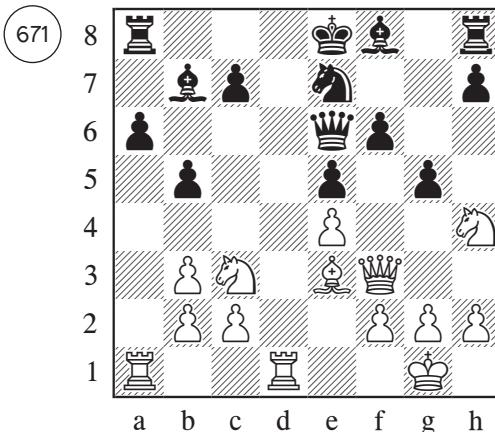
Spassky – Zurakhov, Leningrad 1954



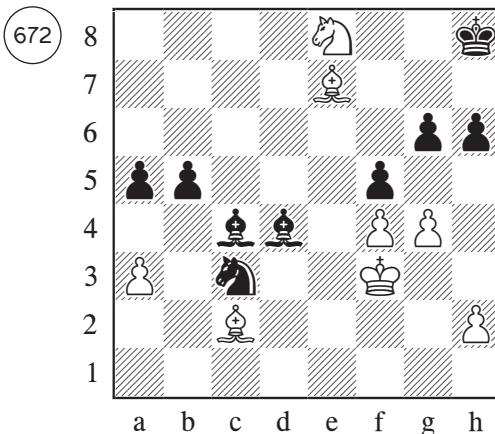
Furman – Spassky, Moscow 1955



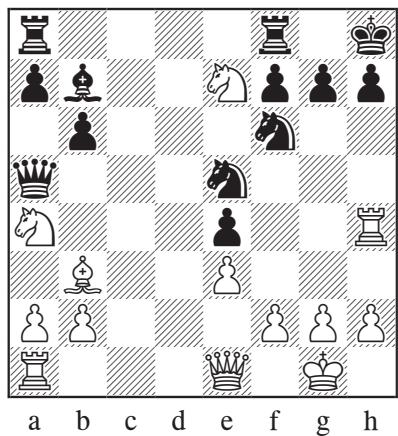
Spassky – Taimanov, Moscow 1955



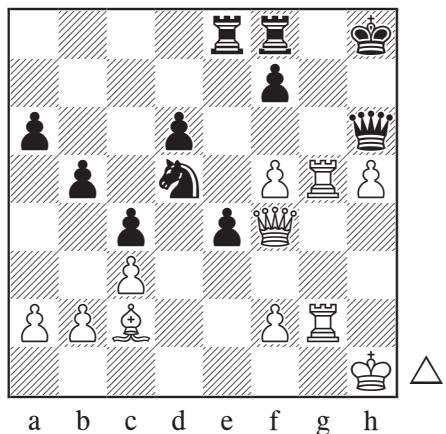
Krogius – Spassky, Leningrad 1957



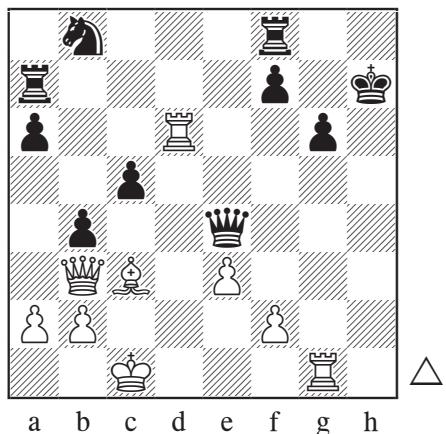
Bronstein – Spassky, Riga 1958



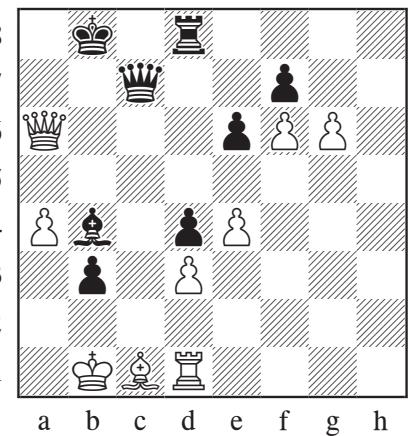
Spassky – Olafsson, Moscow 1959



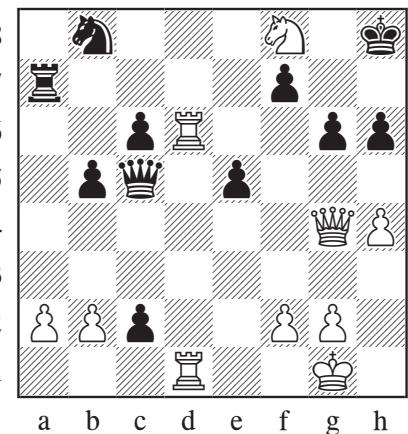
Zaitsev – Spassky, Rostov on Don 1960



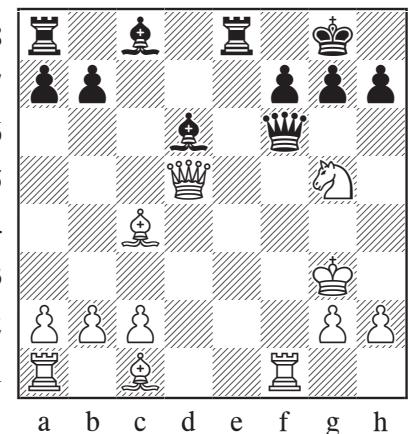
Spassky – Shishkin, Rostov on Don 1960



Spassky – Foguelman, Mar del Plata 1960

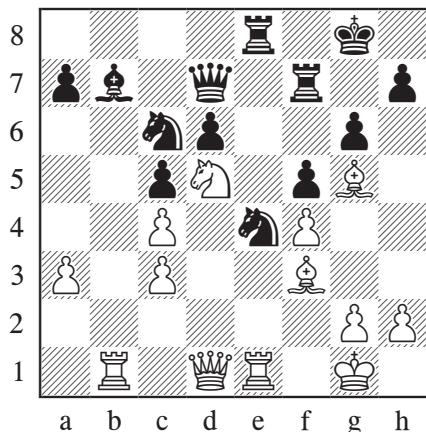


Spassky – Cirić, Mariánské Lázně 1962



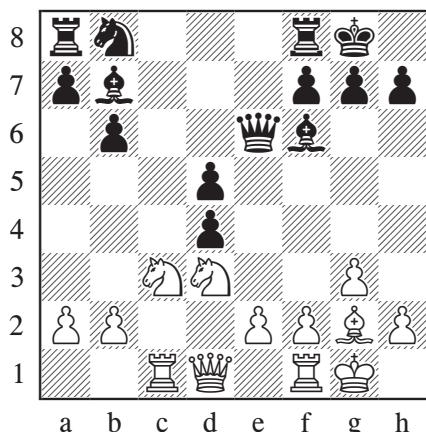
Spassky – Bykov Leningrad 1963

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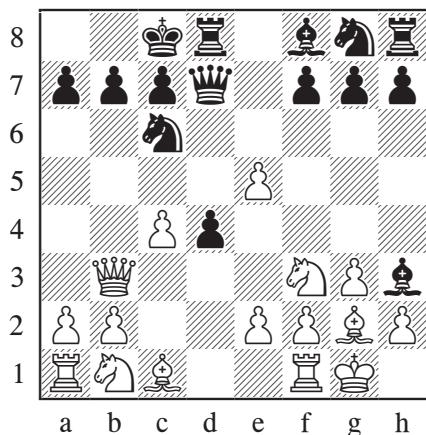
Spassky – Korchnoi, Moscow 1964

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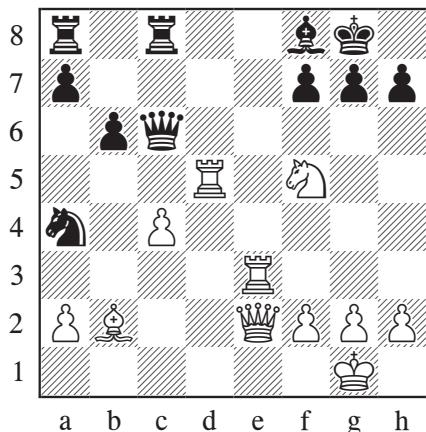
Spassky – Forintos, Sochi 1964

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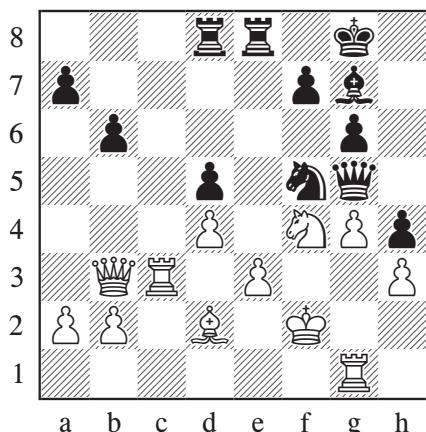


Spassky – Langeweg, Sochi 1967

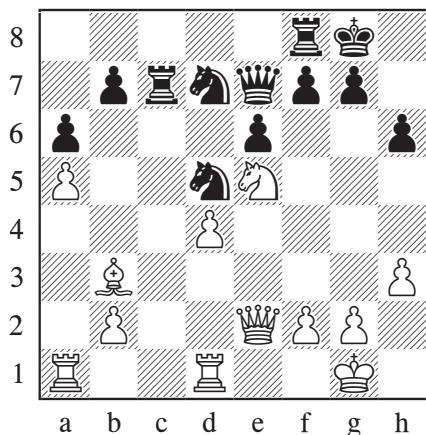
682



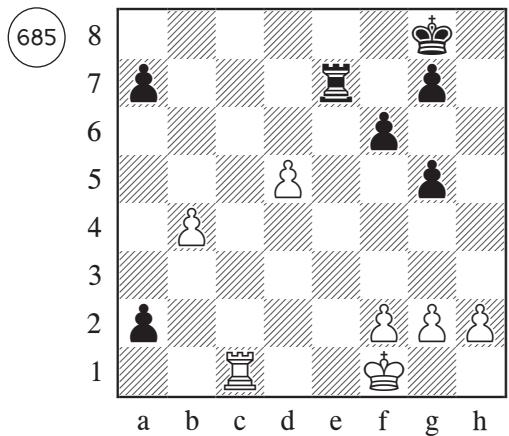
Kagan – Spassky, Winnipeg 1967



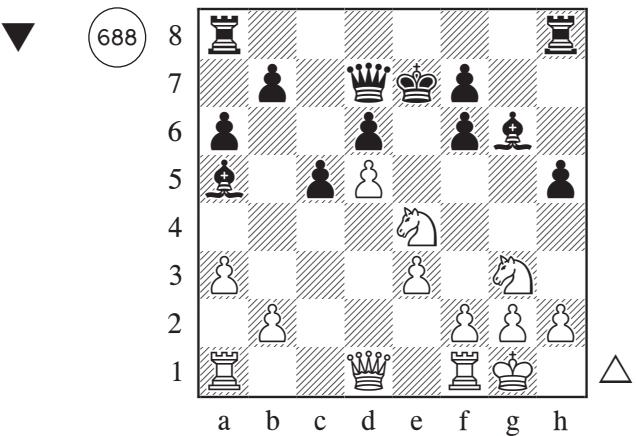
Spassky – Darga, Beverwijk 1967



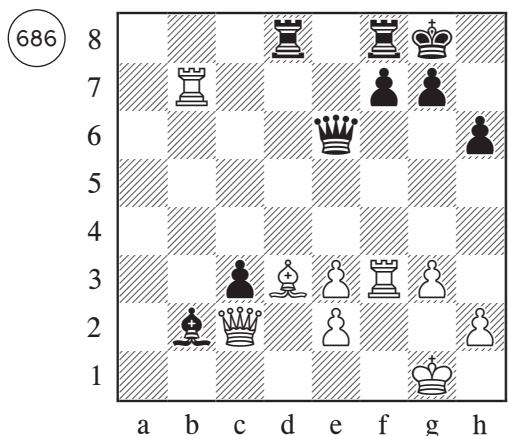
Csom – Spassky, Amsterdam 1970



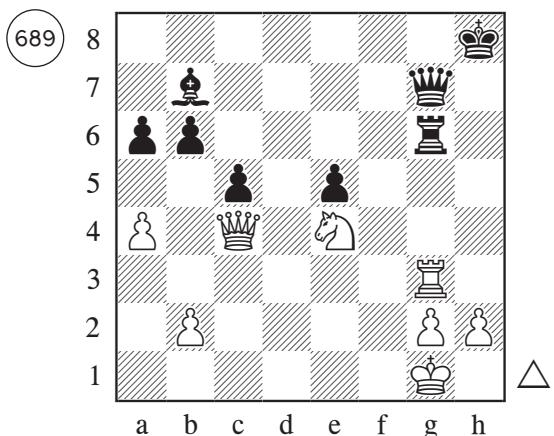
Taimanov – Spassky Rostov on Don 1971



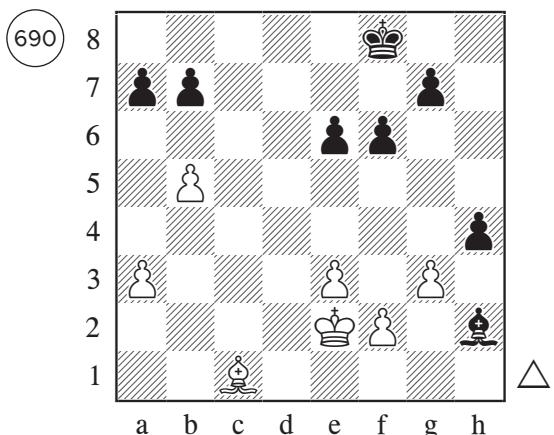
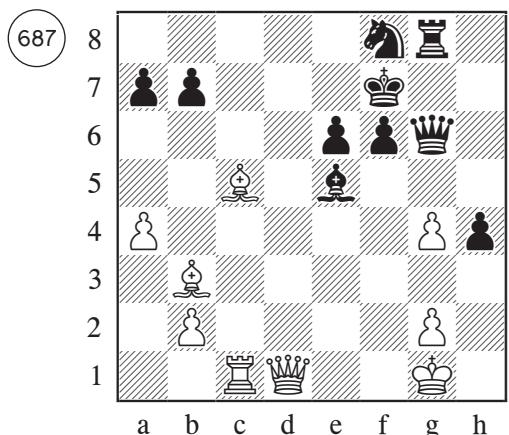
Spassky – Zuk, Vancouver 1971



Spassky – Banks, Vancouver 1971

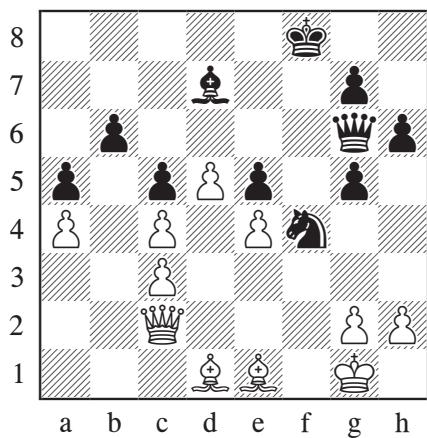


Spassky – Fischer, Reykjavik (1) 1972



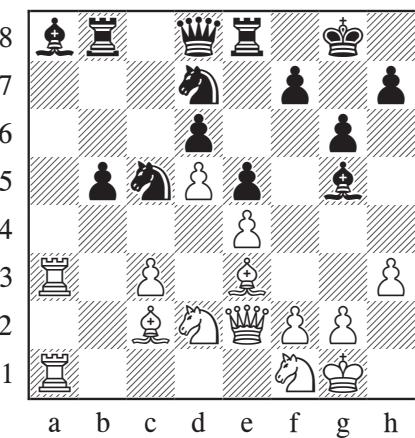
Spassky – Fischer, Reykjavik (5) 1972

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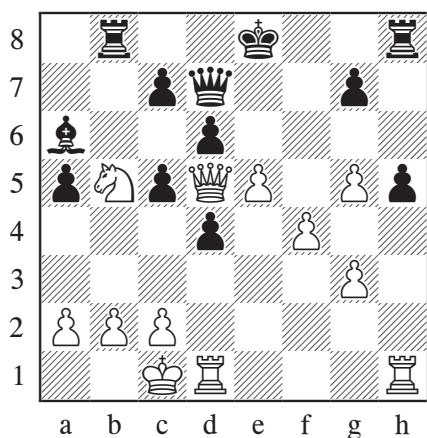
Spassky – Kholmov, Sochi 1973

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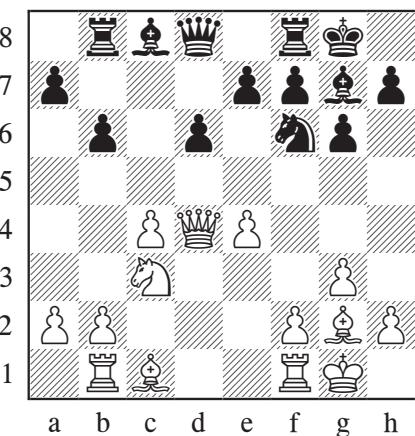


Spassky – Westerinen, Dortmund 1973

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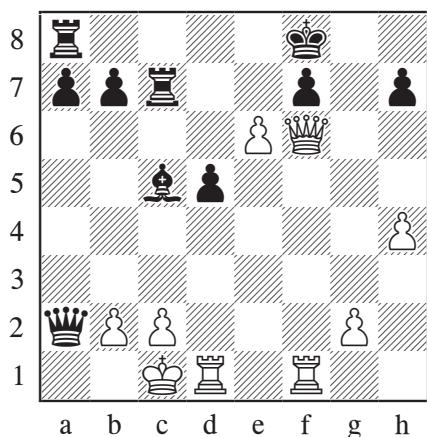


Spassky – Korensky, Sochi 1973

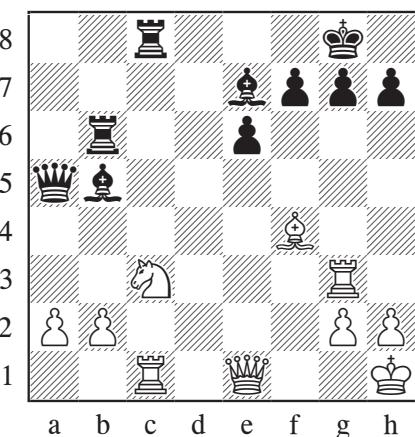


Spassky – Averkin, Moscow 1973

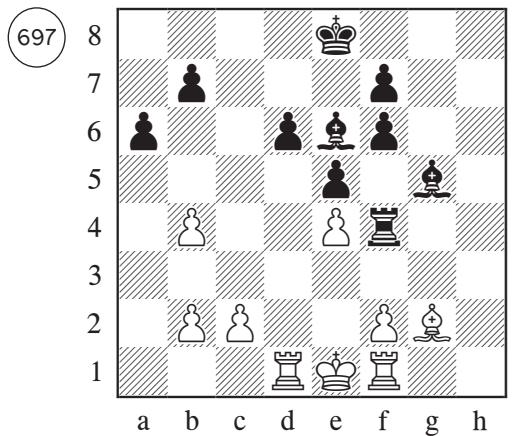
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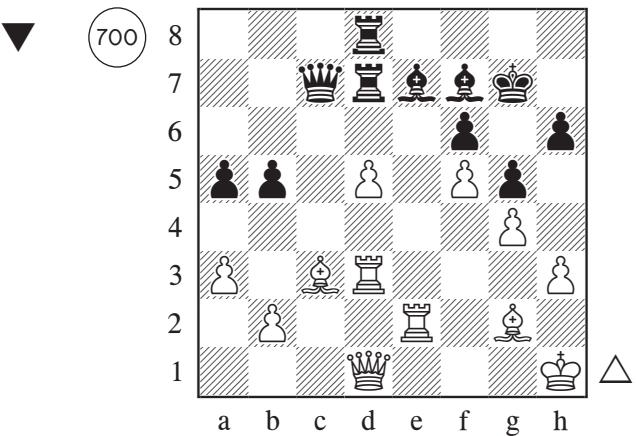
696



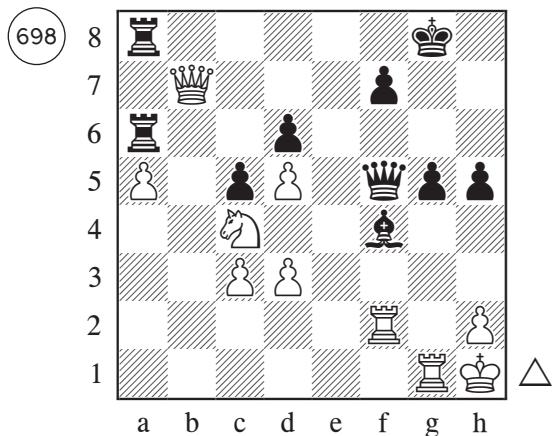
Kurajica – Spassky, Solingen 1974



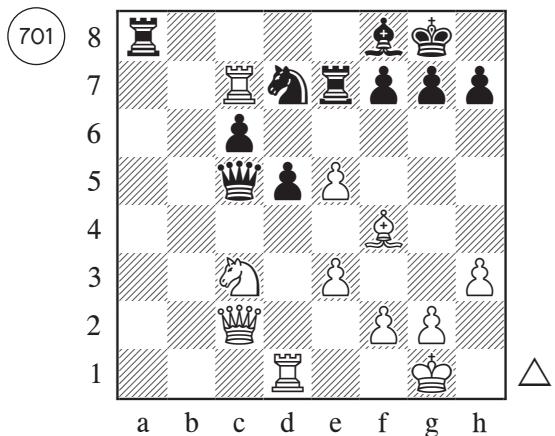
Geller – Spassky, Moscow 1975



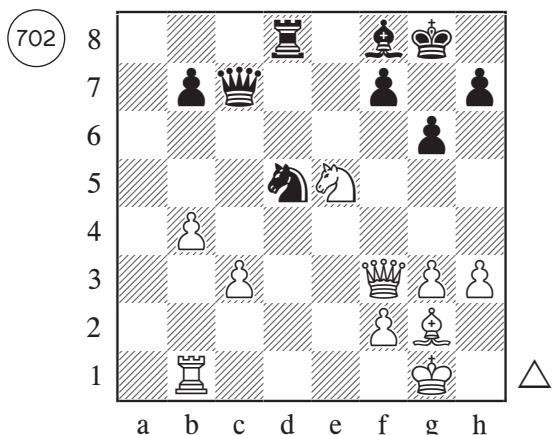
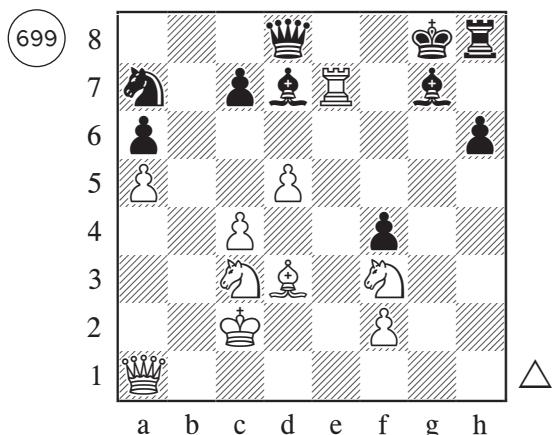
Larsen – Spassky, Montreal 1979



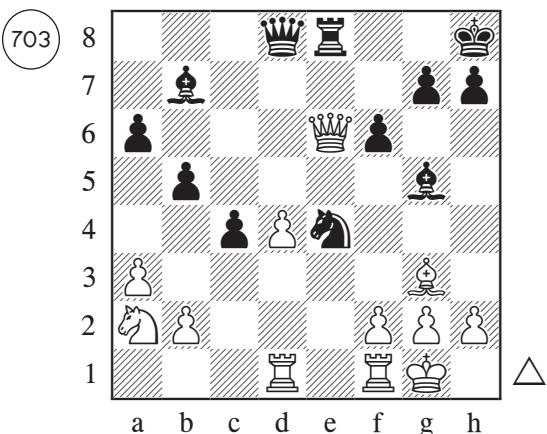
Spassky – Sanz Alonso, Montilla 1978



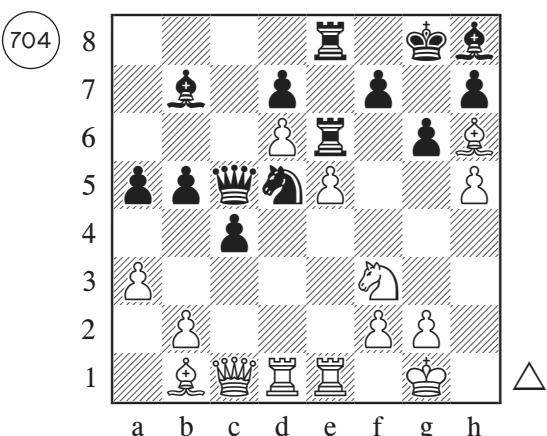
Spassky – Borik, Germany 1982



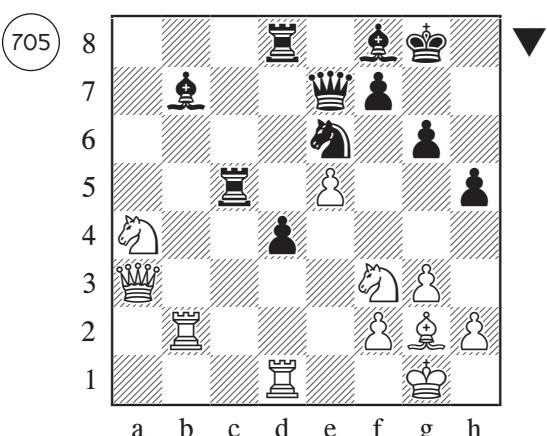
Portisch – Spassky, London 1982



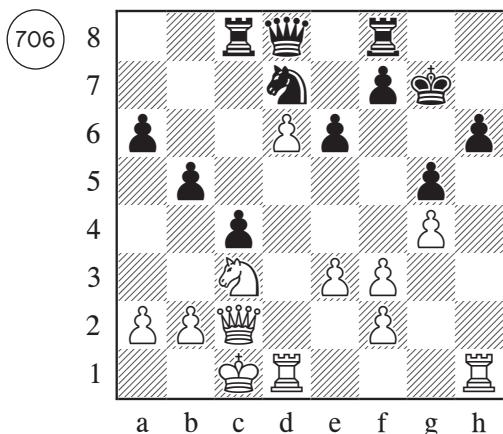
Timman – Spassky, Hilversum (1) 1983



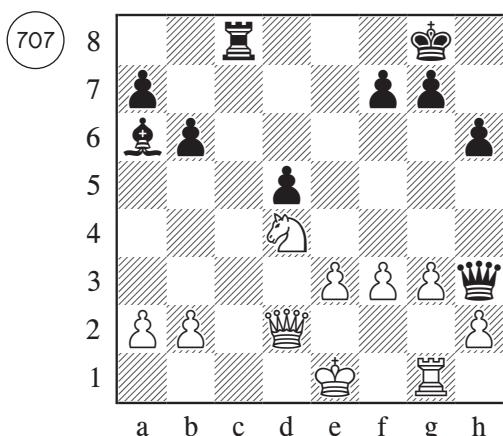
Timman – Spassky, Hilversum (3) 1983



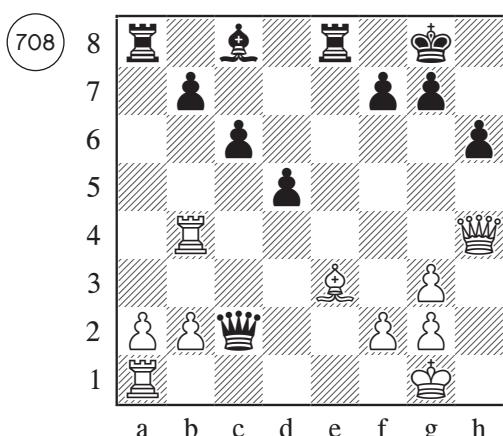
Haik – Spassky, Paris (3) 1983



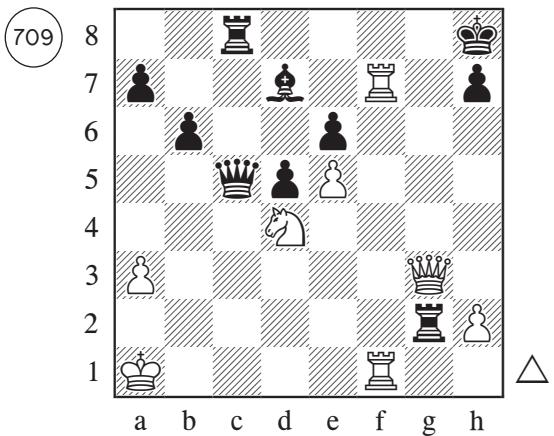
Torre – Spassky, Bugojno 1984



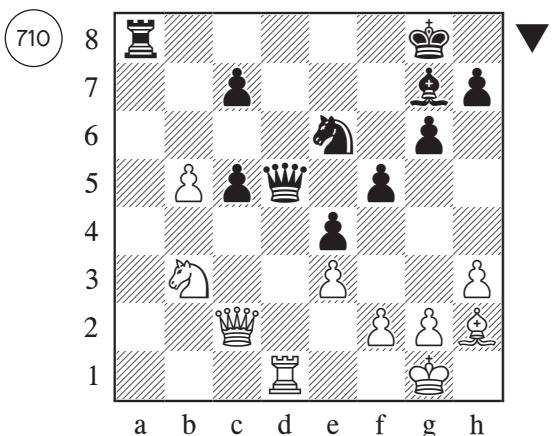
Ady – Spassky, London 1984



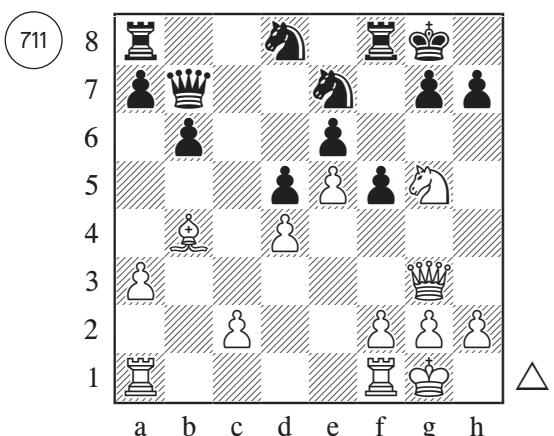
Spraggett – Spassky, Montpellier 1985



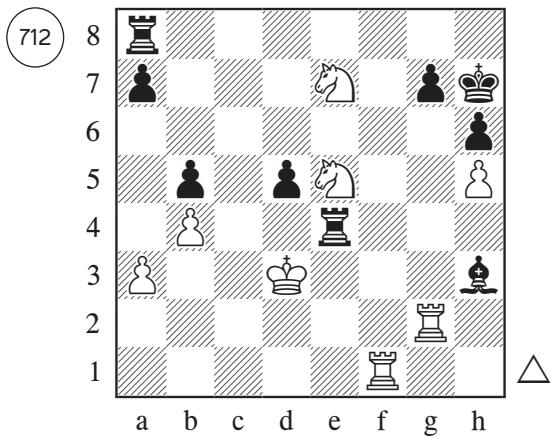
Portisch – Spassky, Montpellier 1985



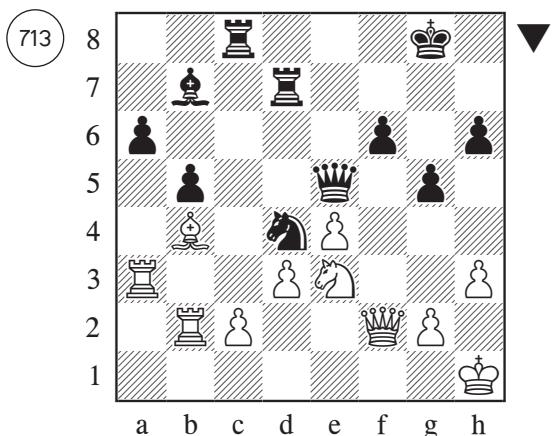
Spassky – Brunner, Solingen 1986



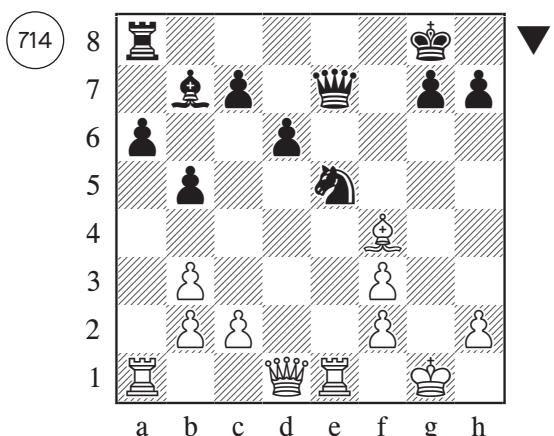
Spassky – Yusupov, Belfort 1988



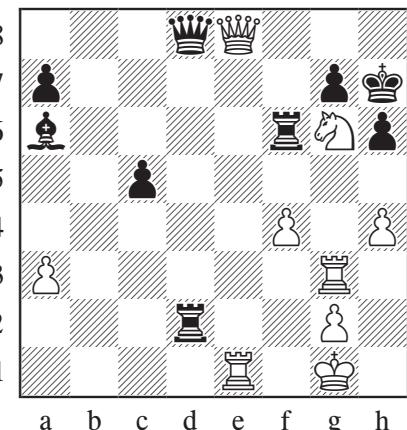
Spassky – Timman, Cannes 1990



Spassky – Yusupov, Linares 1990

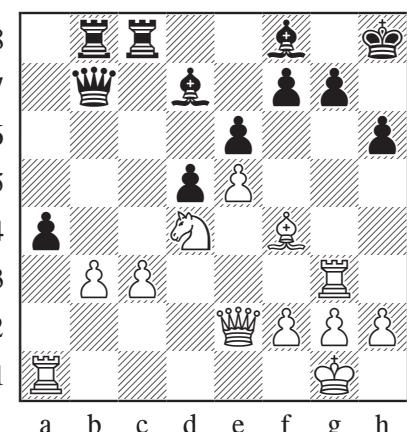


Beliavsky – Spassky, Linares 1990



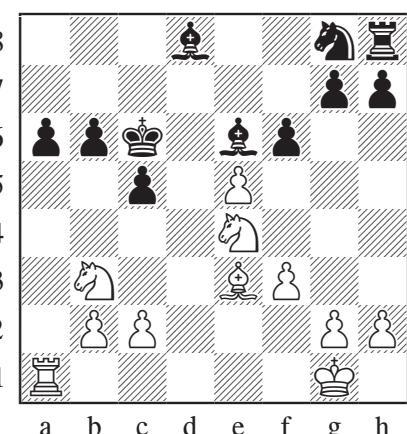
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Spassky – Prie, Montpellier 1991



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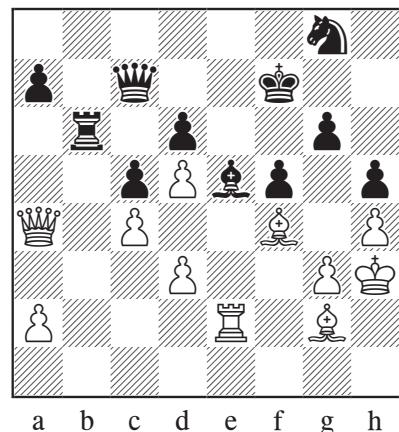
Fischer – Spassky, Belgrade (9) 1992



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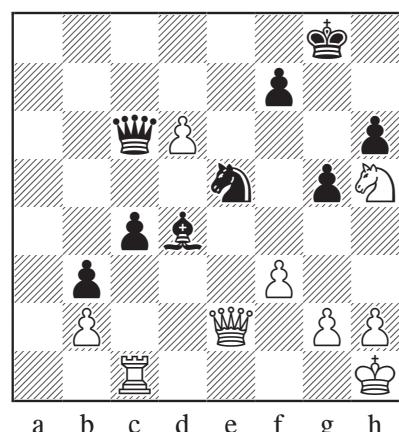
Fischer – Spassky, Belgrade (19) 1992

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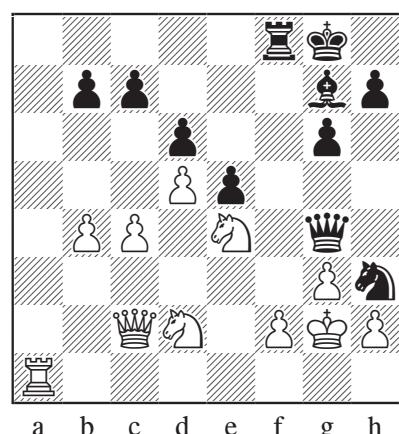
Ioseliani – Spassky, Copenhagen 1997

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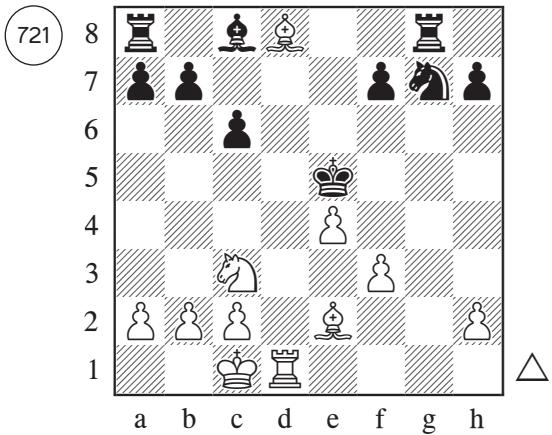
Spassky – Korchnoi, St Petersburg (5) 1999

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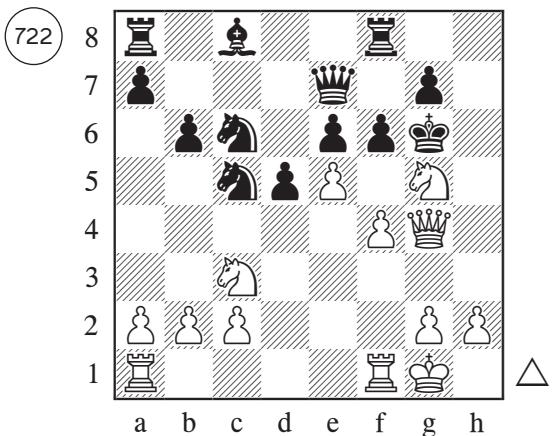


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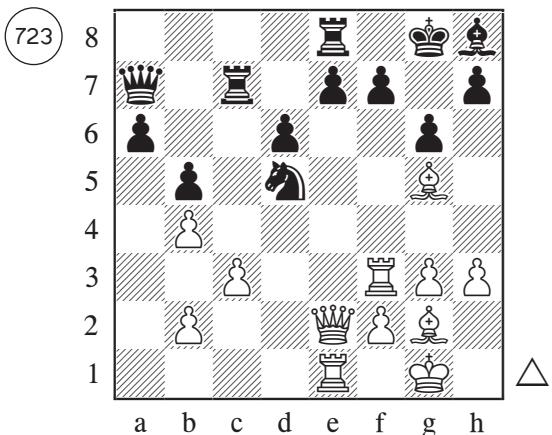
Spassky – Eliet, France 2002



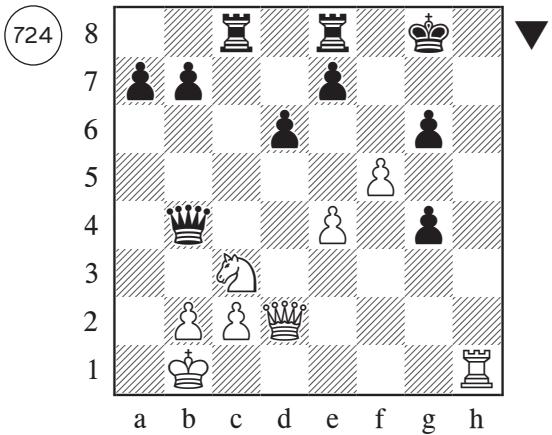
Spassky – Coleman, Reno (simul) 2004



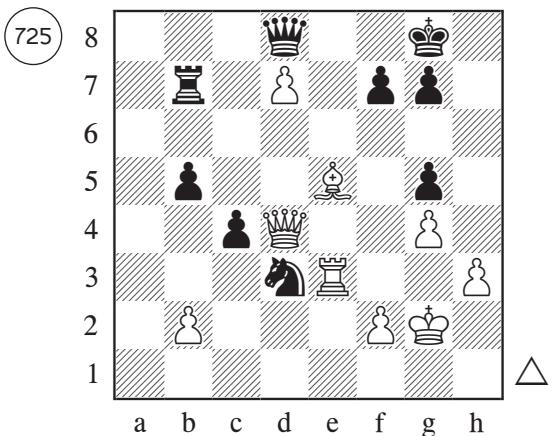
Spassky – Christensen, Reno (simul) 2004



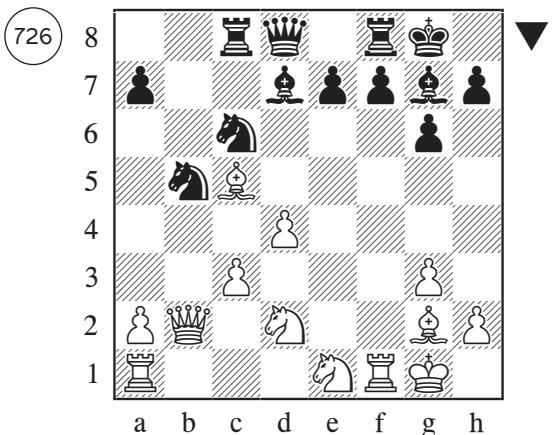
Fischer – Matthai, Montreal 1956



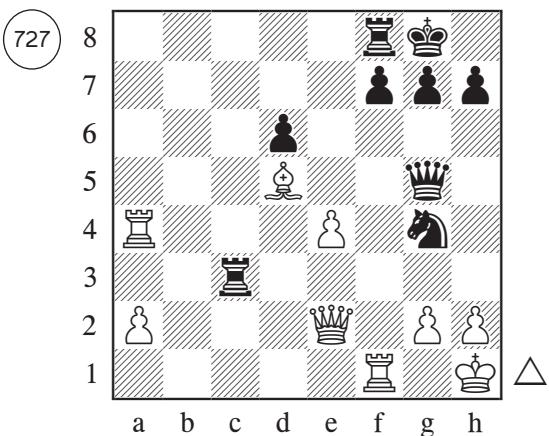
Fischer – Di Camillo, Washington DC 1956



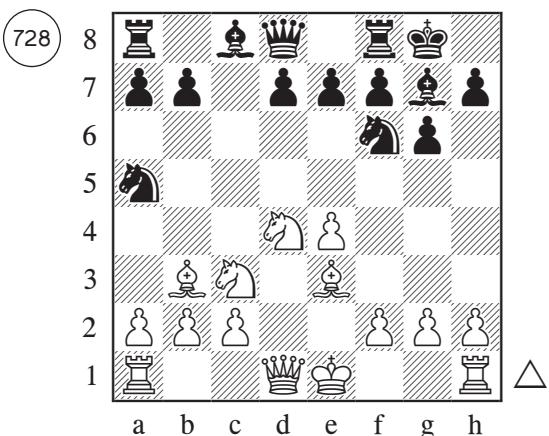
Kramer – Fischer, New York 1957



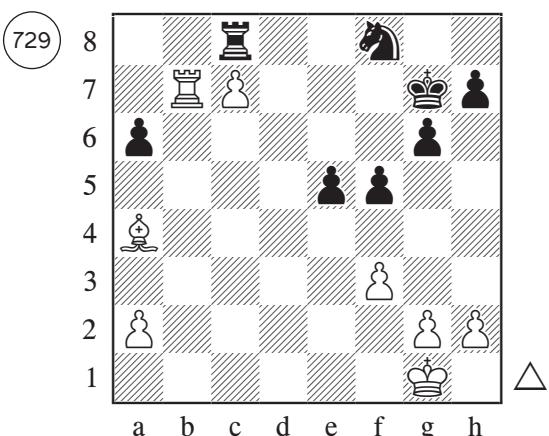
Fischer – Sherwin, New York 1957



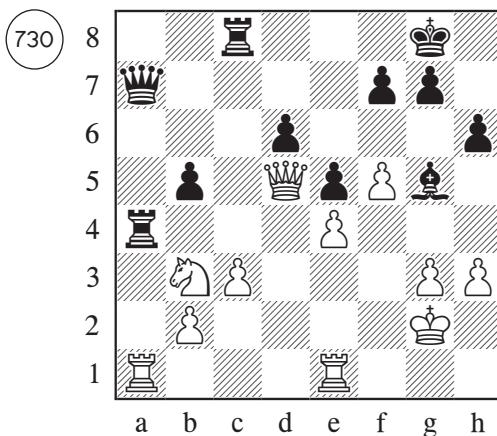
Fischer – Reshevsky, New York 1958



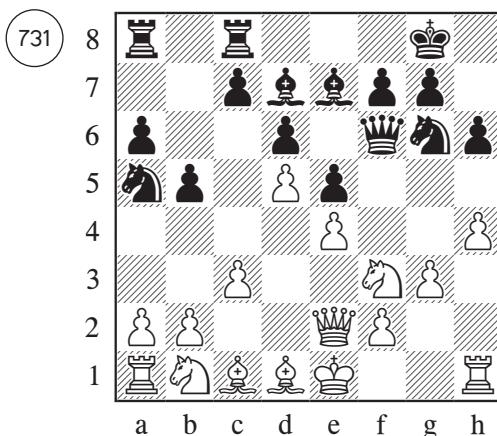
Fischer – Rossetto, Mar del Plata 1959



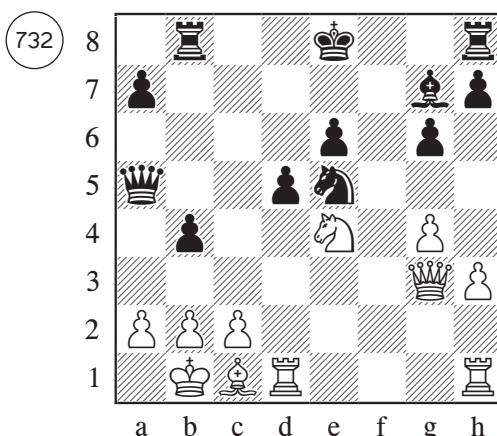
Unzicker – Fischer, Varna (ol) 1962



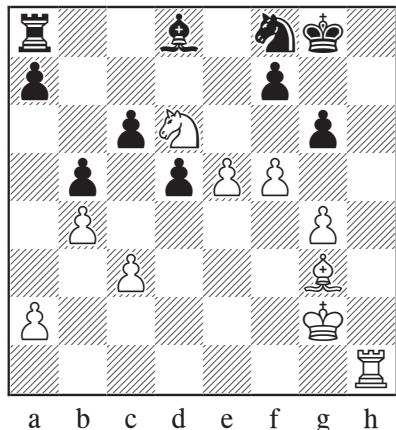
Fischer – Ciocaltea, Varna (ol) 1962



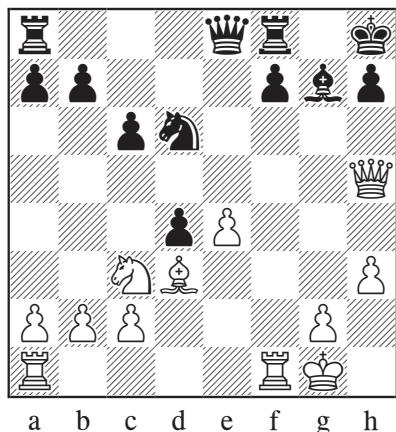
Fischer – Beach, Poughkeepsie 1963



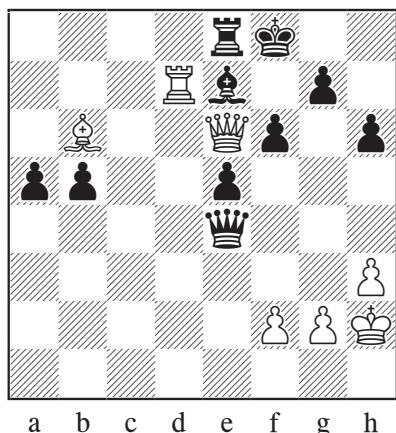
Fischer – Bisguier, New York 1963



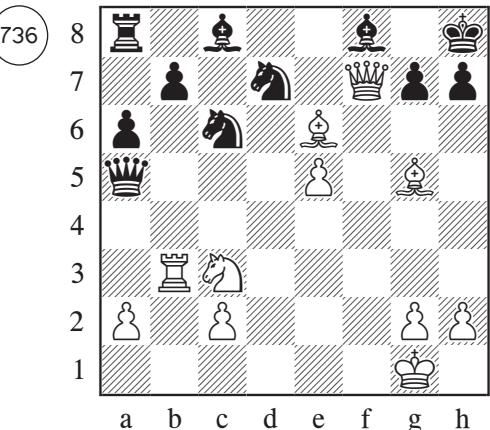
Fischer – Benko, New York 1963



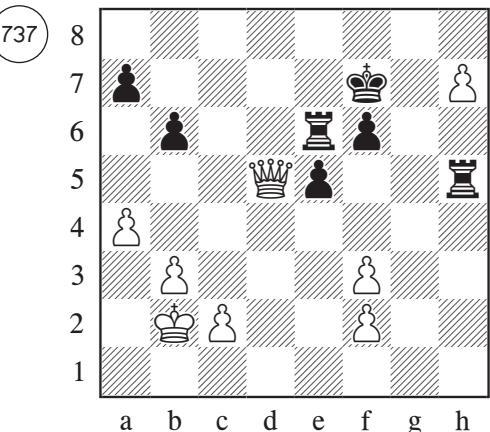
Fischer – Walters, San Francisco (simul) 1964



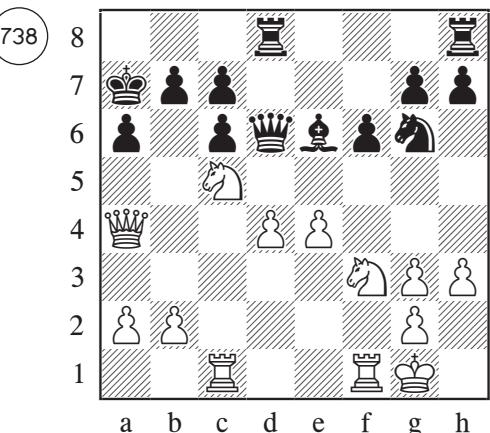
Tringov – Fischer, Havana 1965



Fischer – Bilek, Havana 1965

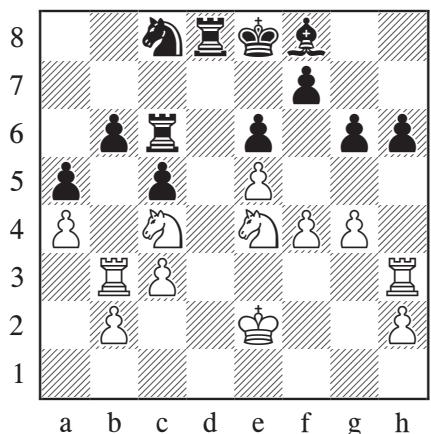


Fischer – Gligoric, Havana (ol) 1966



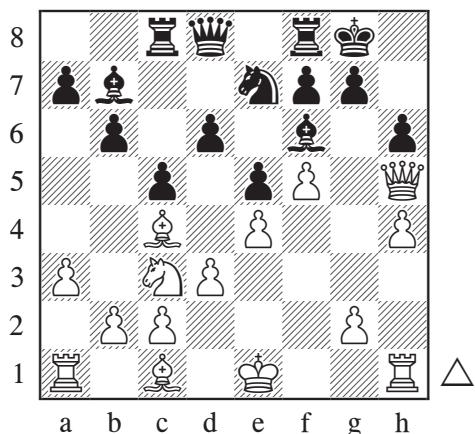
Fischer – Durao, Havana (ol) 1966

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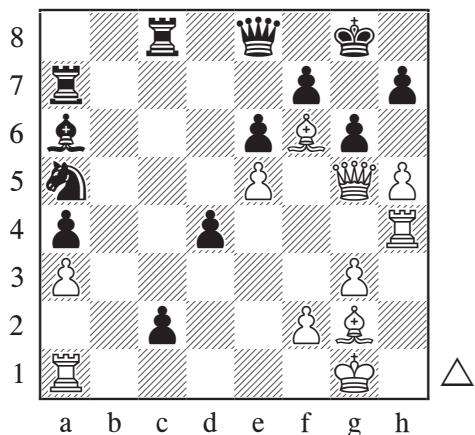
Fischer – Naranja, Manila 1967

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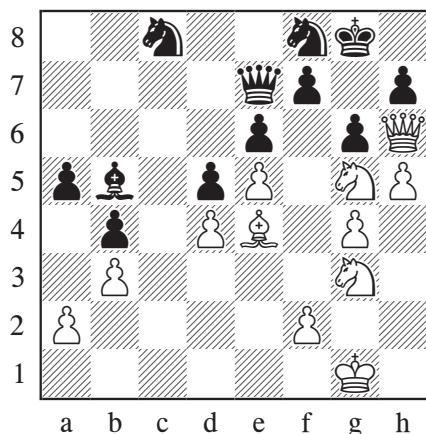
Fischer – Myagmarsuren, Sousse 1967

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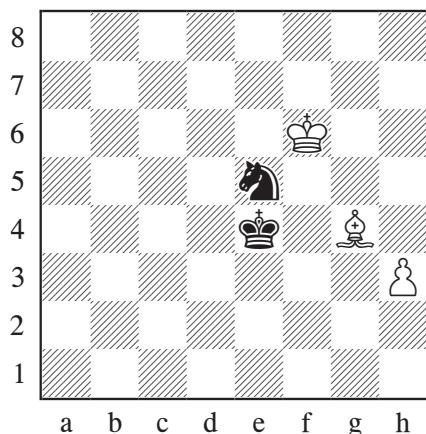
Fischer – Panno, Buenos Aires 1970

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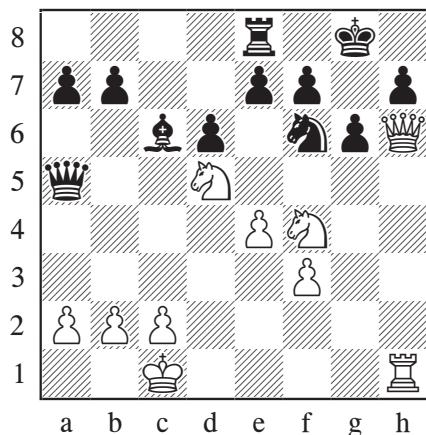
Fischer – Taimanov, Vancouver (2) 1971

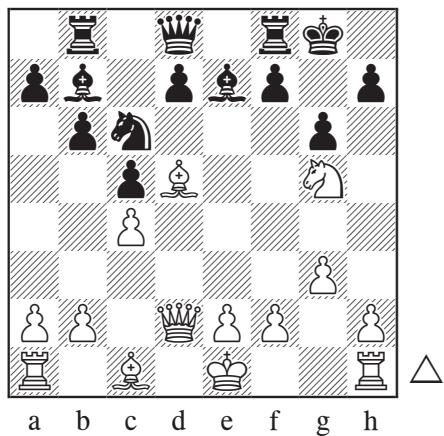
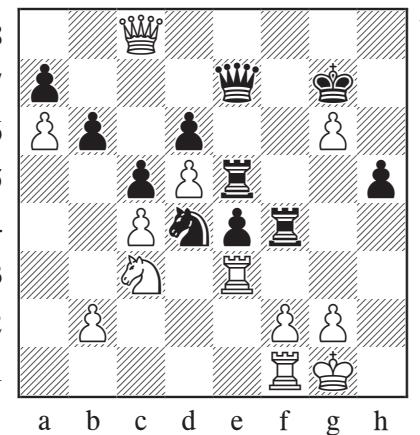
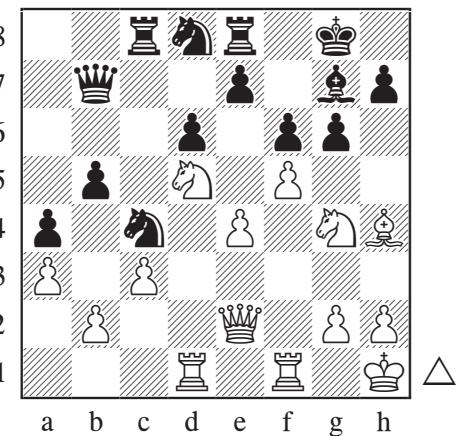
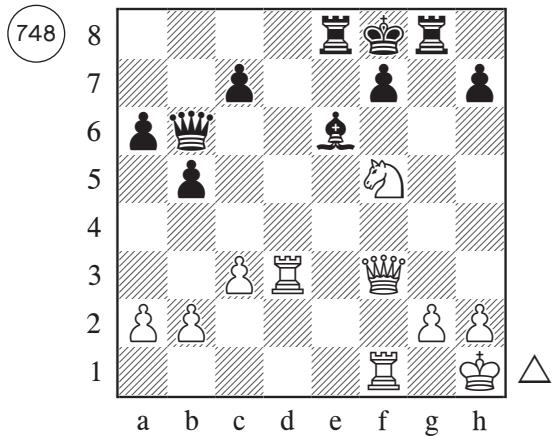
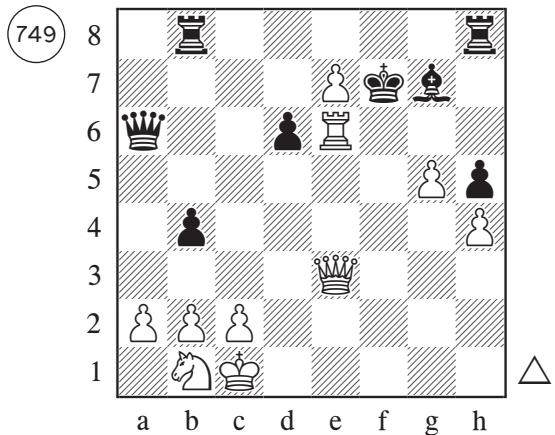
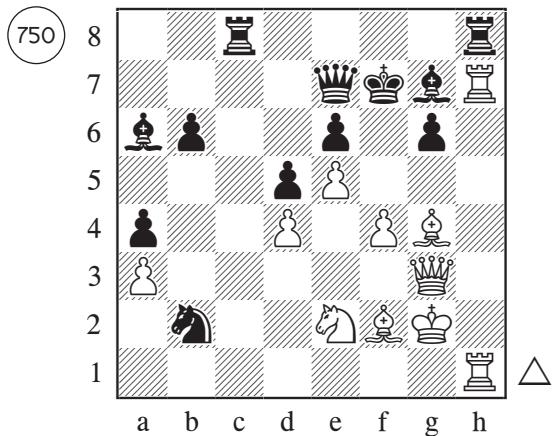
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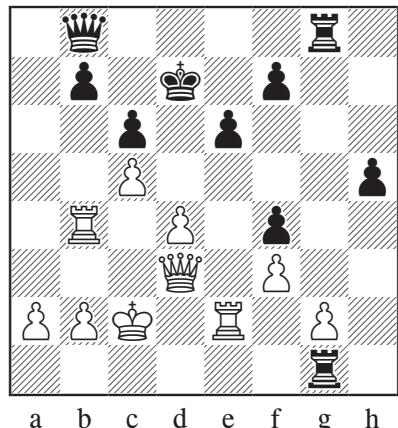
Karpov – Korchnoi, Moscow (2) 1974

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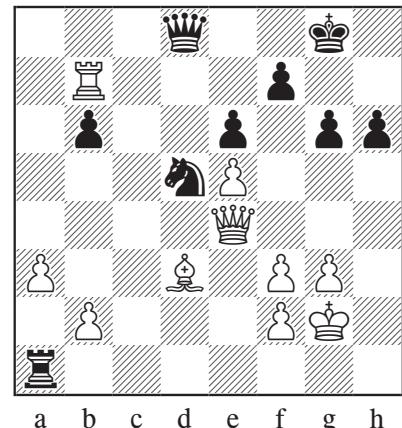
Korchnoi – Karpov, Moscow (21) 1974**Karpov – Suling**, Bremen (simul) 1977**Karpov – Martin Gonzalez**, Las Palmas 1977**Karpov – Korchnoi**, Baguio City (8) 1978**Karpov – Van der Wiel**, Amsterdam 1980**Karpov – Quinteros**, Buenos Aires 1980

Karpov – Larsen, Amsterdam 1980

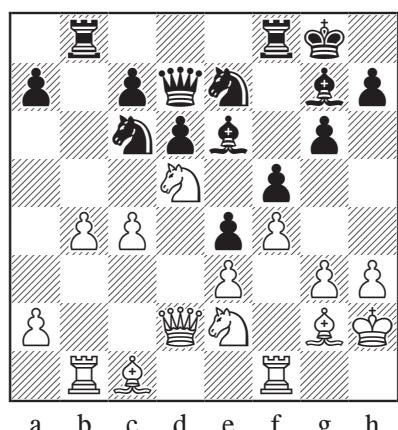


Ribli – Karpov, Tilburg 1980

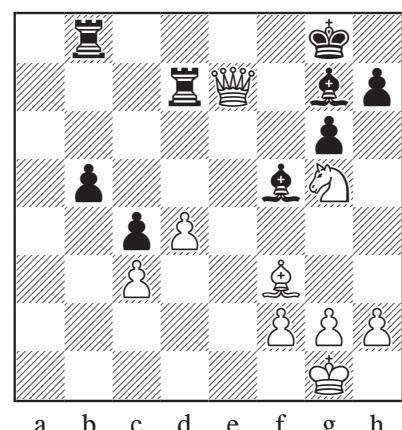
Karpov – Geller, Moscow 1981



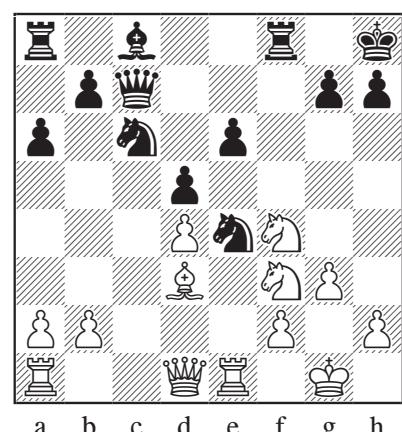
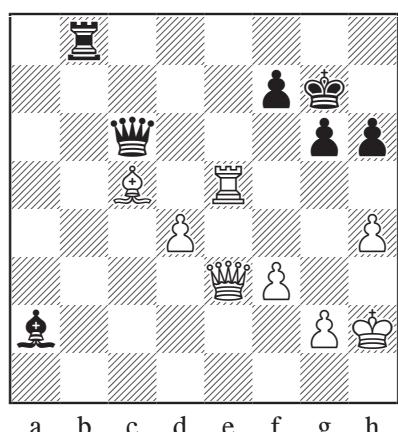
Karpov – Angioni, Turin (simul) 1982

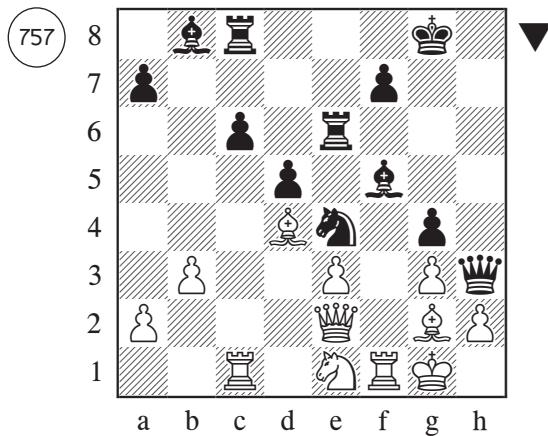
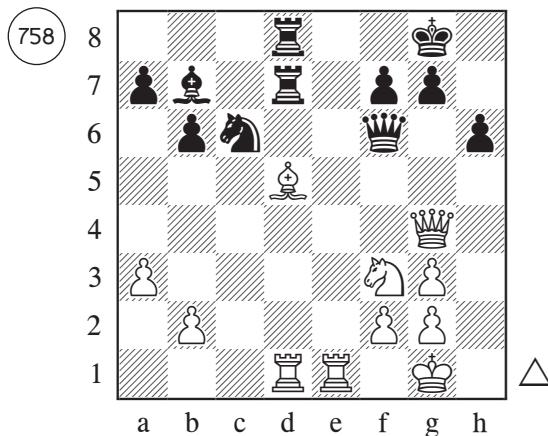
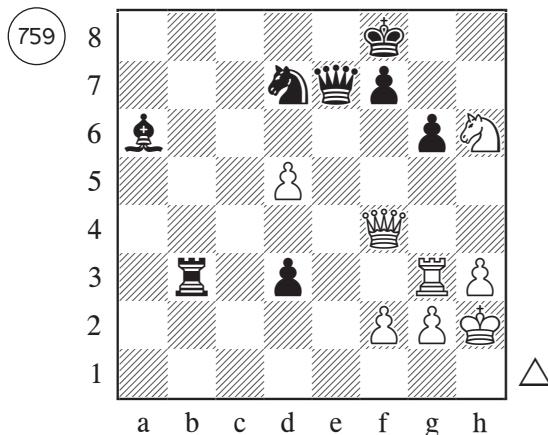
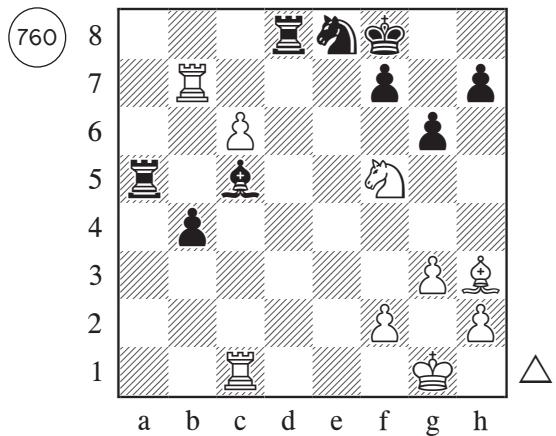
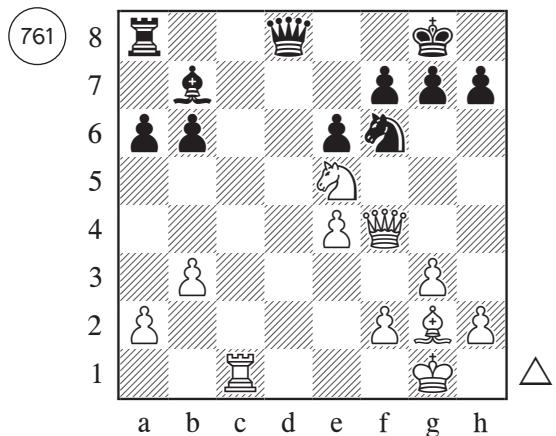
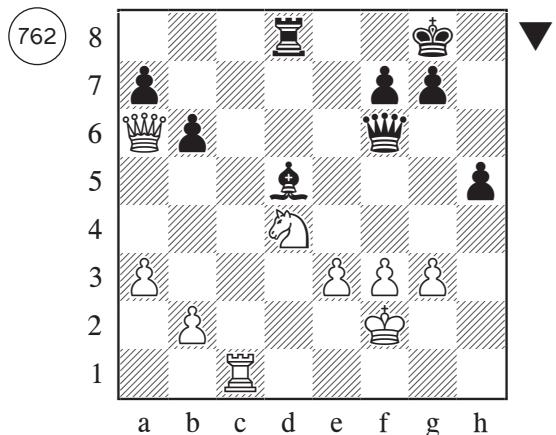


Karpov – Miles, Amsterdam 1981



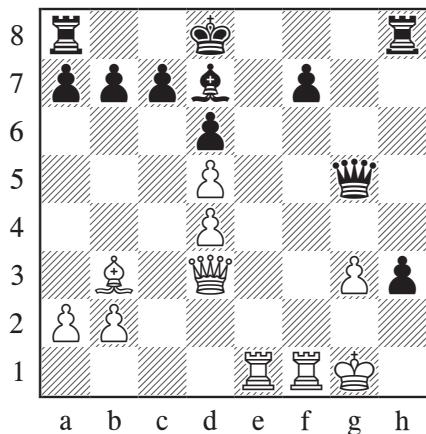
Karpov – De Chen, Hannover 1983



Karpov – Chandler, Bath 1983**Kasparov – Karpov**, Moscow (11) 1985**Kasparov – Karpov**, Leningrad (16) 1986**Beliavsky – Karpov**, Brussels 1988**Karpov – Hansen**, Thessaloniki (ol) 1988**Seirawan – Karpov**, Rotterdam 1989

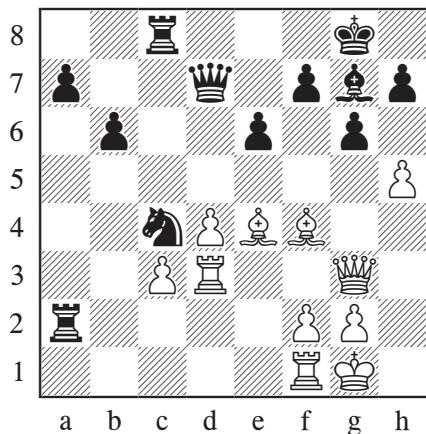
Speelman – Karpov, Roquebrune 1992

763



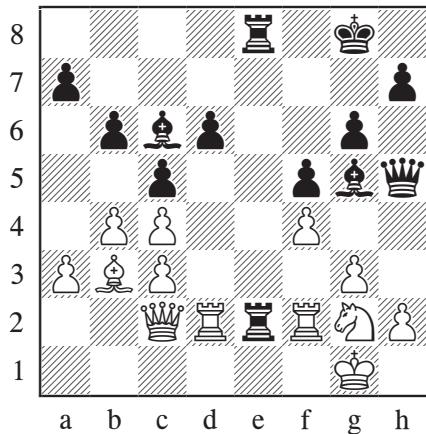
Morozevich – Karpov, Moscow (rapid) 1992

764



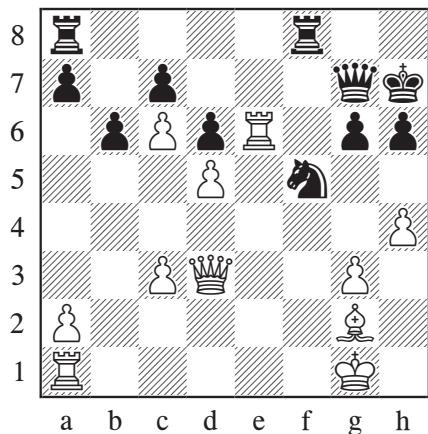
Ljubojevic – Karpov, Linares 1993

765



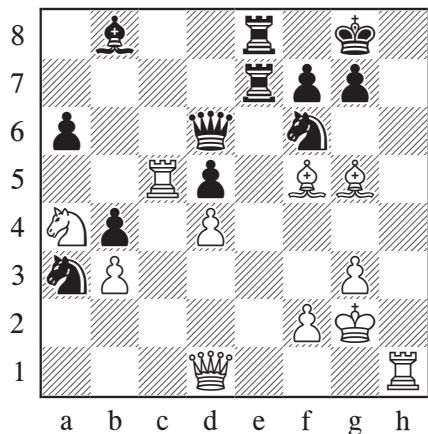
Karpov – Polgar, Las Palmas 1994

766



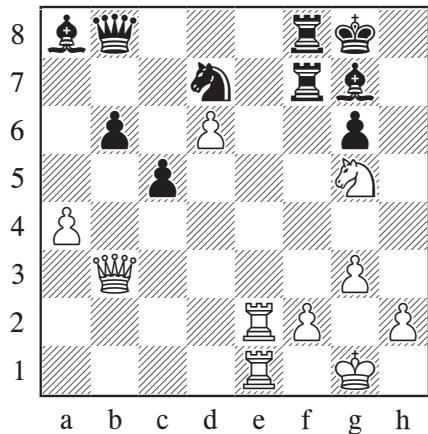
Karpov – Morovic Fernandez, Las Palmas 1994

767

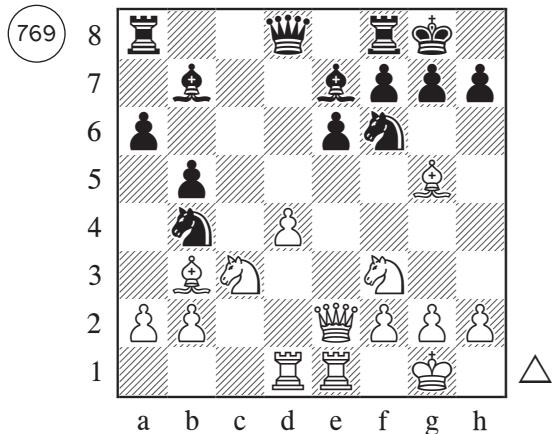


Karpov – Georgiev, Tilburg 1994

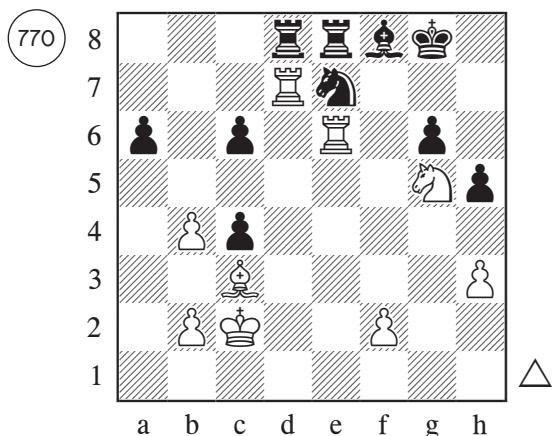
768



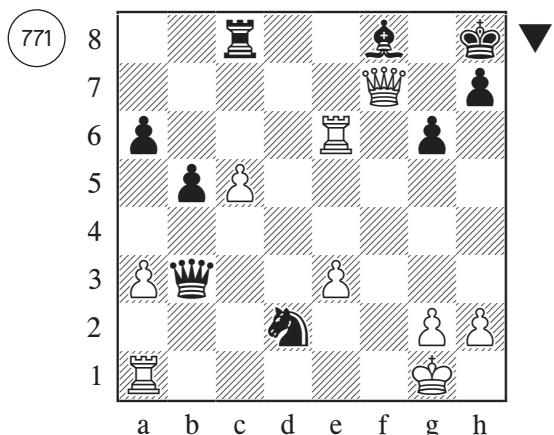
Andersson – Karpov, Nykoping (rapid 2) 1995



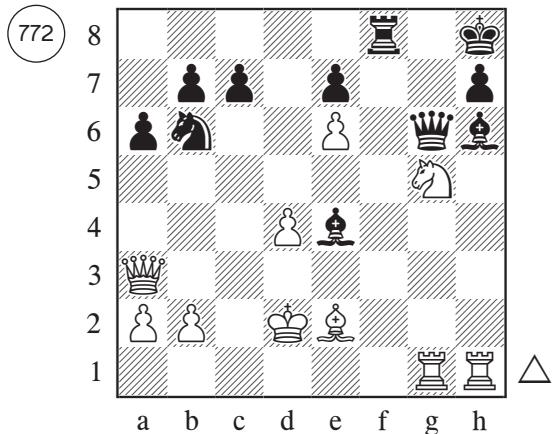
Polgar–Karpov, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1996



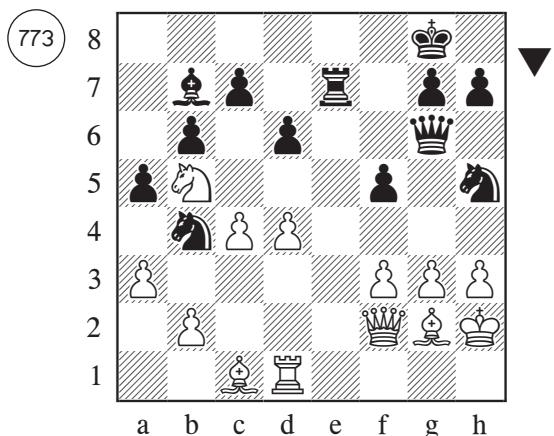
Onischuk – Karpov, Biel 1996



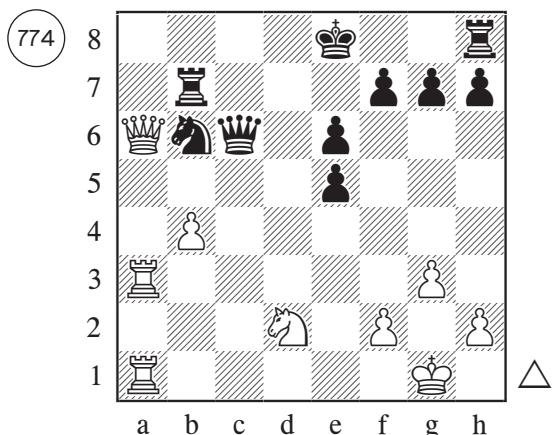
Karpov – Leko, Tilburg 1996



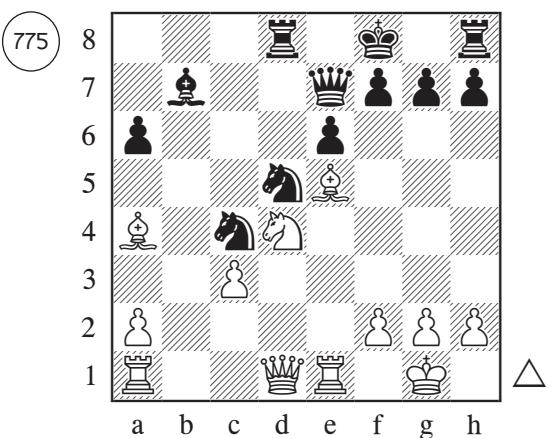
Karpov – Szymanski, Koszalin (simul) 1997



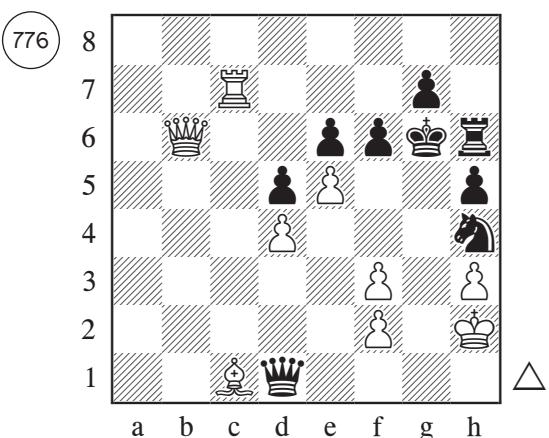
Salov – Karpov, Wijk aan Zee 1998



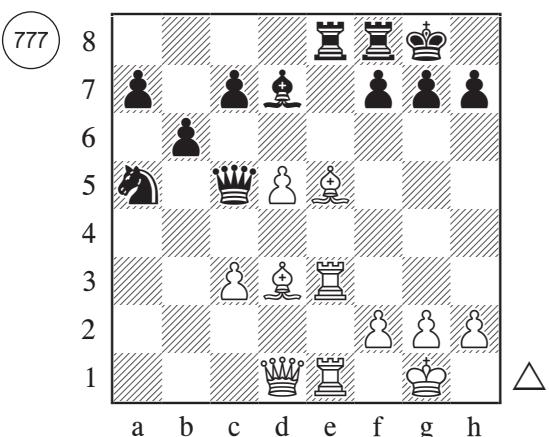
Kramnik – Karpov, Frankfurt 1999



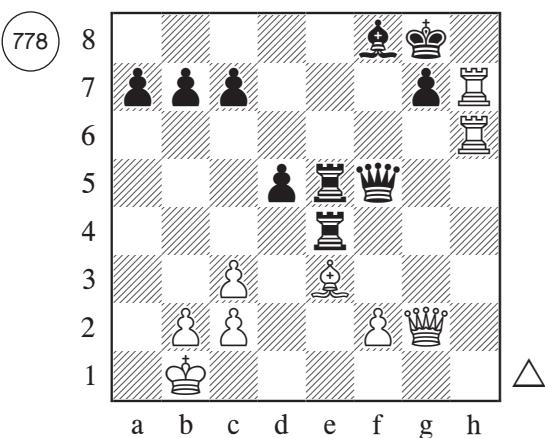
Shirov – Karpov, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2001



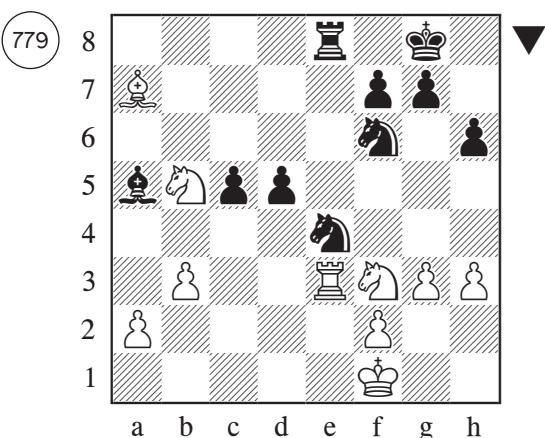
Polgar – Karpov, Hoogeveen 2003



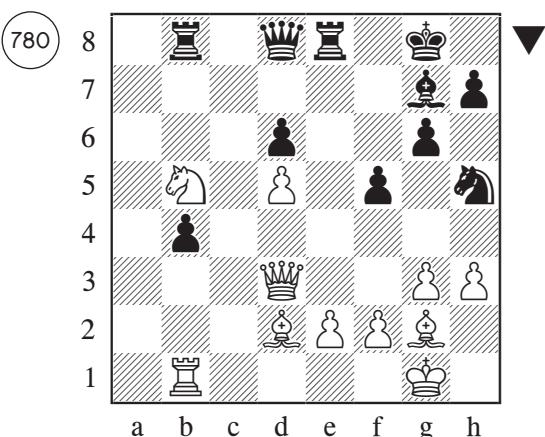
Istratescu – Karpov Bucharest (3) 2005



Polgar – Karpov, Moscow (blitz) 2009

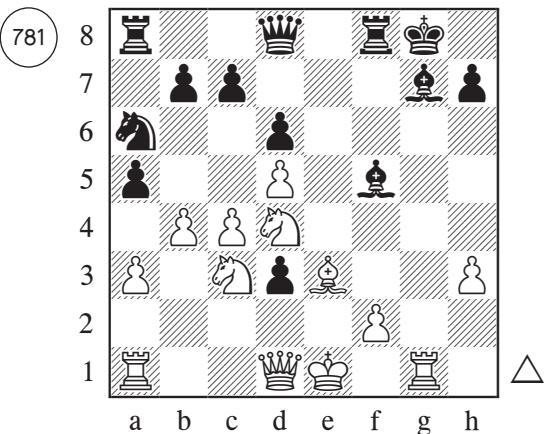


Karpov – Naiditsch, Kiev (rapid) 2013

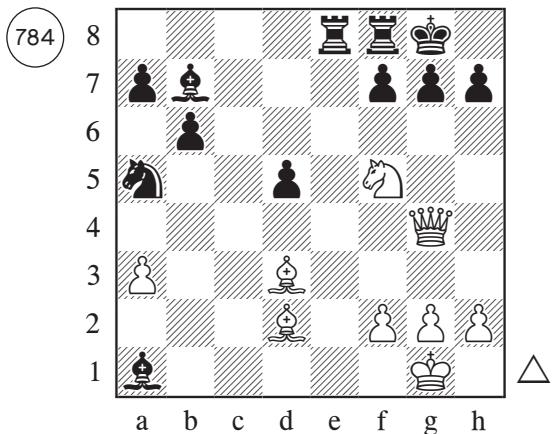


Karpov – Sepp, Puhajarve (rapid) 2013

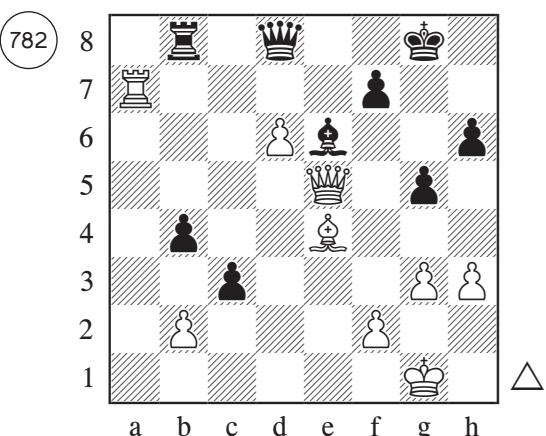
Kasparov – Najdorf, Bugojno 1982



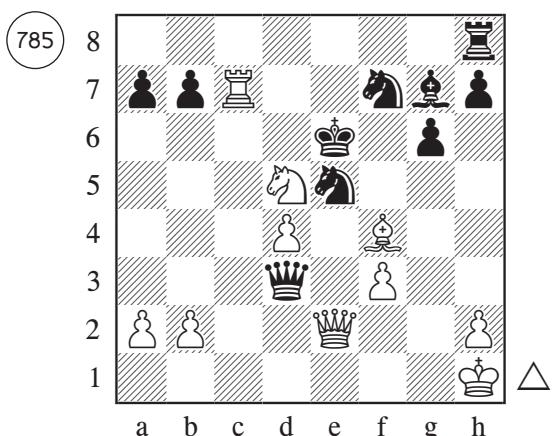
Kasparov – Browne, Banja Luka 1979



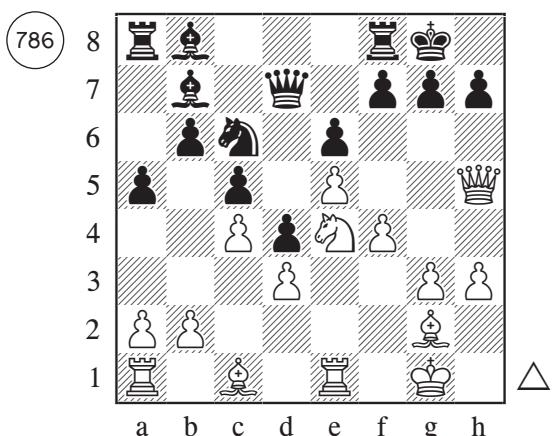
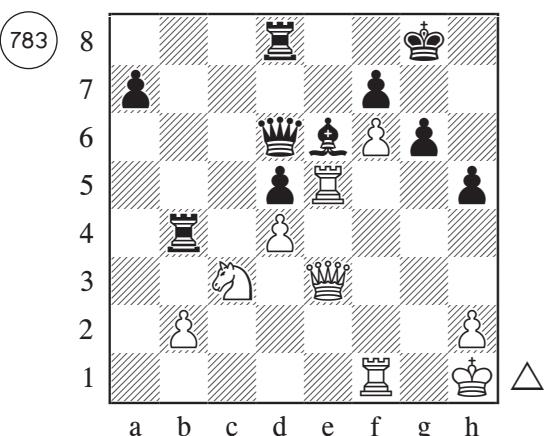
Wahls – Kasparov, Hamburg (simul) 1985



Kasparov – Yurtaev, Moscow 1981

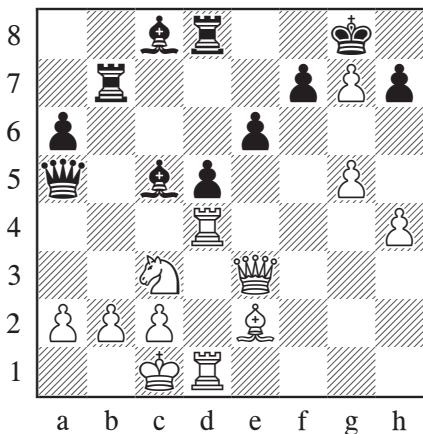


Kasparov – Meph Exclusive, Hamburg (simul) 1985



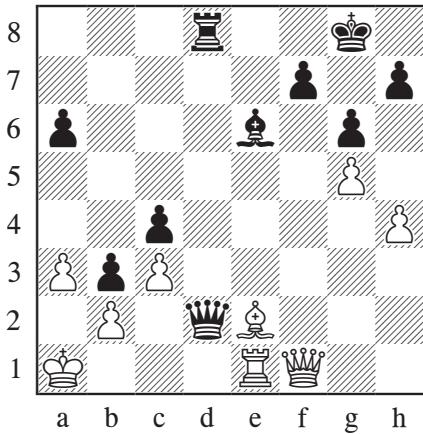
Short – Kasparov, Belfort 1988

787



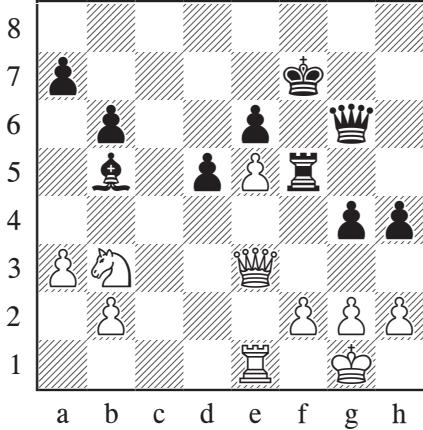
Ljubojevic – Kasparov, Belfort 1988

788

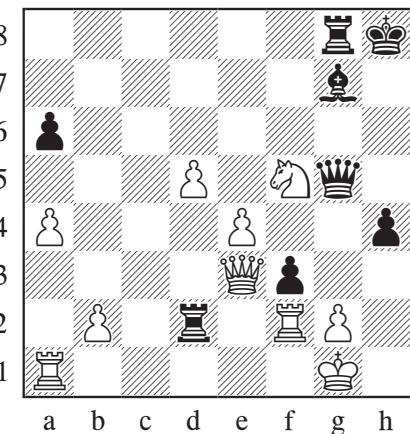


Kamsky – Kasparov, New York 1989

789

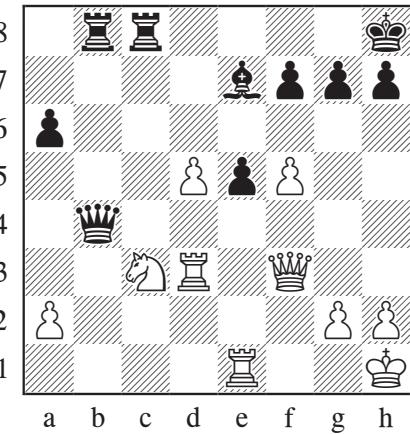
**Shirov – Kasparov**, Manila (ol) 1992

790



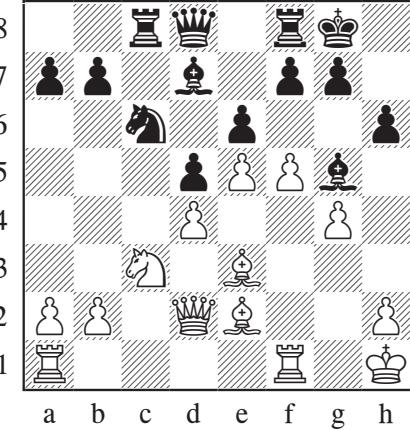
Short – Kasparov, London (rapid 2) 1993

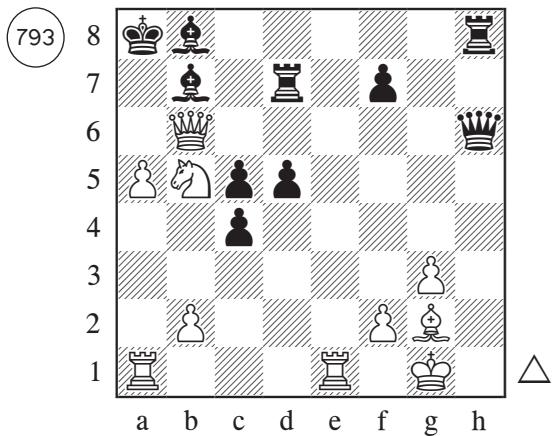
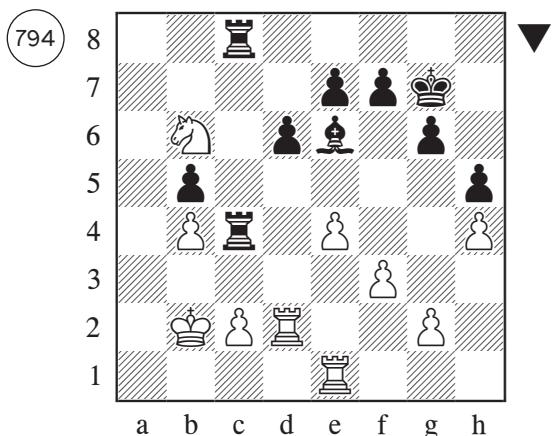
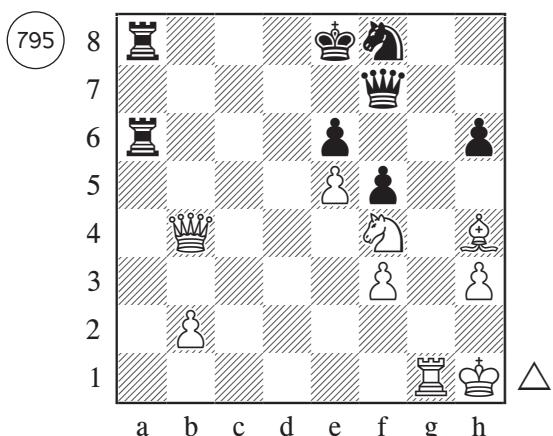
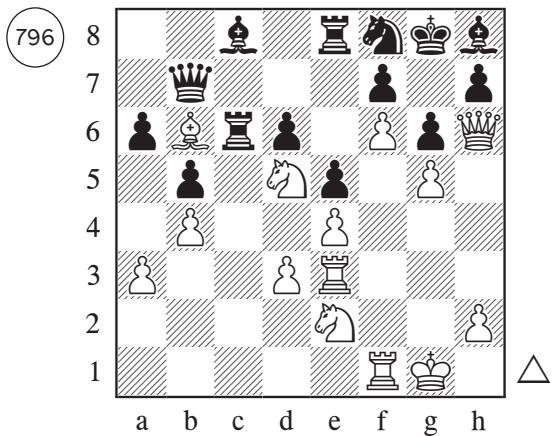
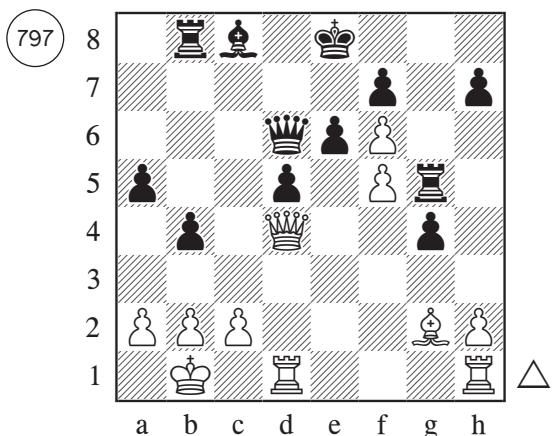
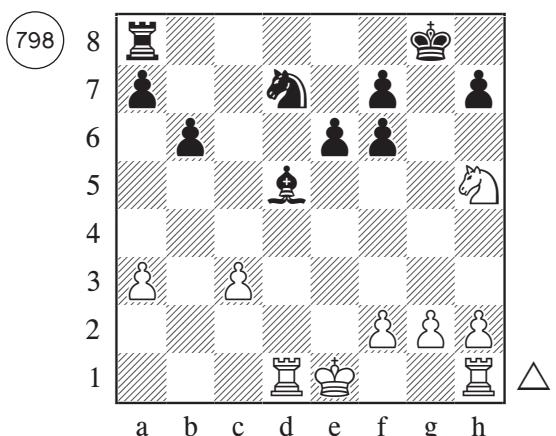
791



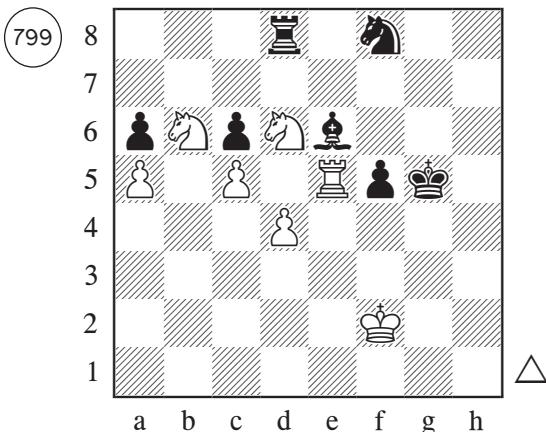
Kasparov – Klimczok, Katowice (simul) 1993

792

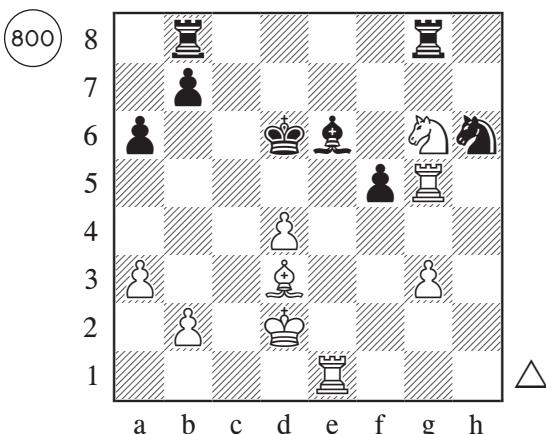


Kasparov – Ivanchuk, Linares 1994**Anand – Kasparov**, New York (11) 1995**Kasparov – Seirawan**, Amsterdam 1996**Kasparov – Anand**, Moscow (rapid) 1996**Kasparov – Hracek**, Yerevan (ol) 1996**Kasparov – Timman**, Prague 1998

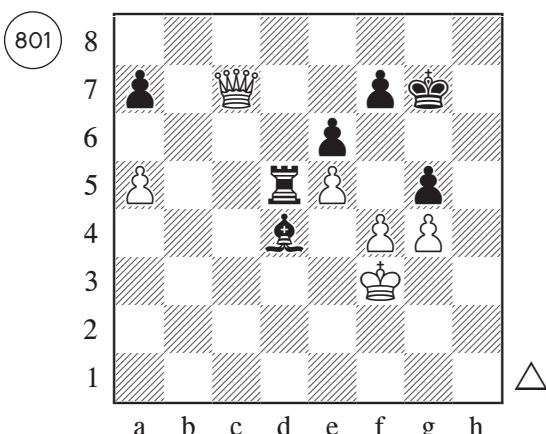
Kasparov – Kramnik, Moscow (blitz 1) 1998



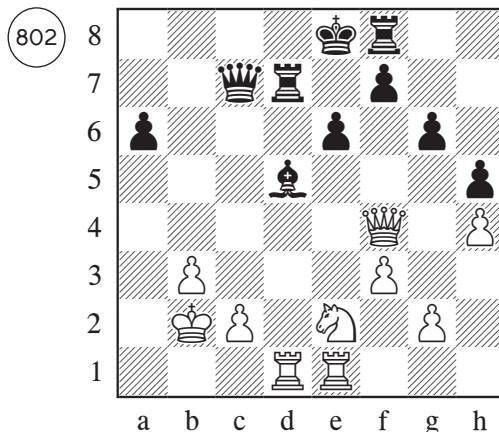
Kasparov – Kramnik, Moscow (blitz 18) 1998



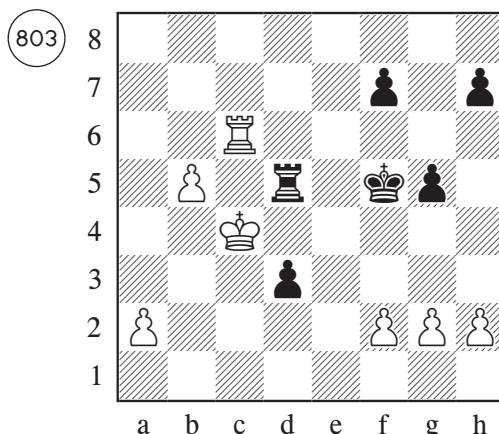
Kasparov – Kramnik, Moscow (blitz 19) 1998



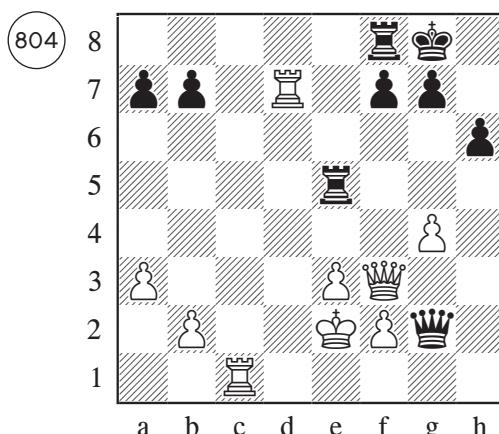
Kasparov – Kramnik, Frankfurt 1999



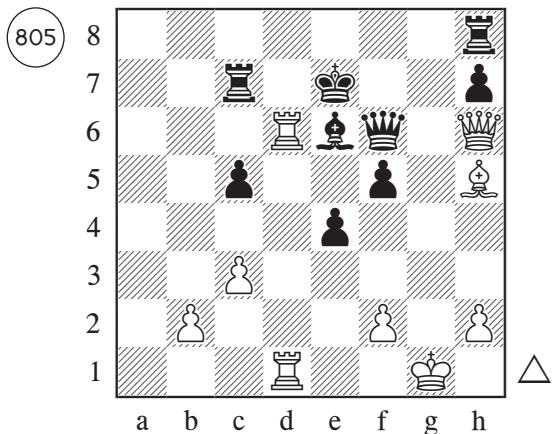
Kasparov – Timman, Wijk aan Zee 2000



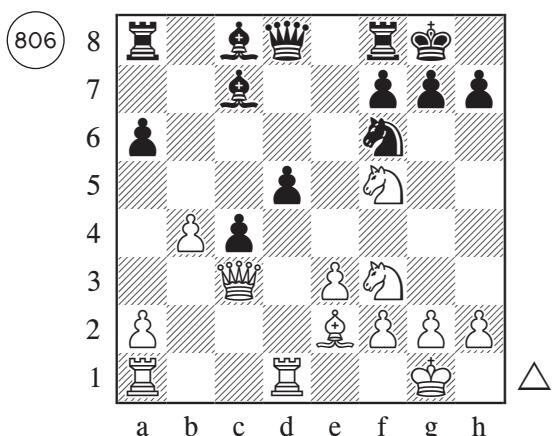
Dao – Kasparov, Batumi (rapid) 2001



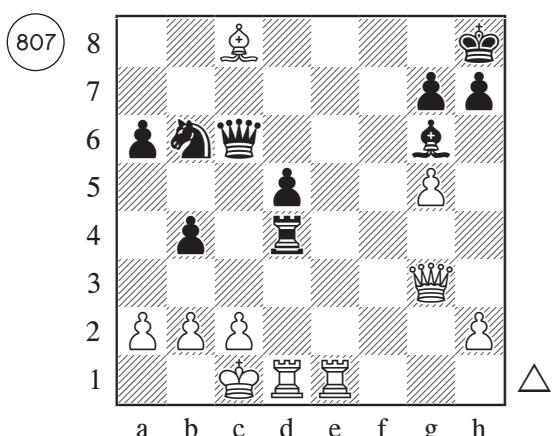
Kasparov – Ponomariov, Linares 2002



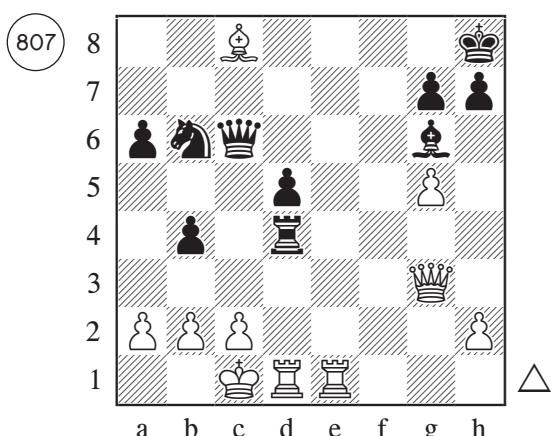
Huzman – Kasparov, Rethymnon 2003



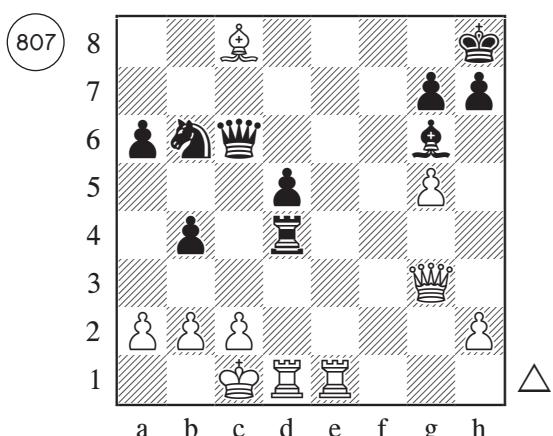
Khalifman – Ehvest, Lvov 1985



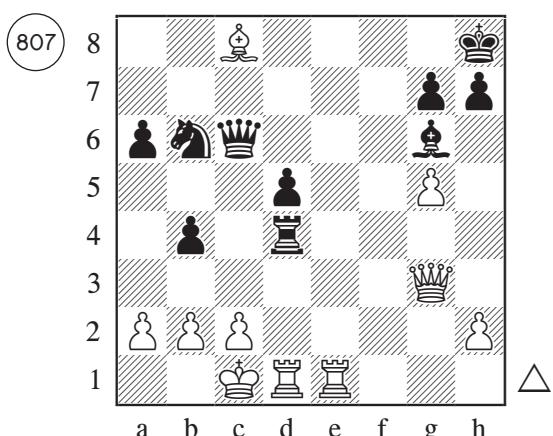
Khalifman – Mikhalkishin, Kuibyshev 1986



Balashov – Khalifman, Minsk 1985



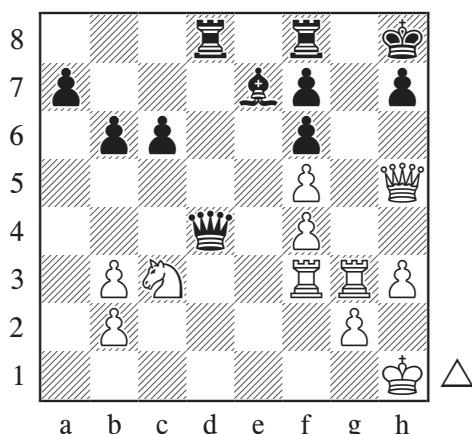
Khalifman – Mikhalkishin, Kuibyshev 1986



Khalifman – Huzman, Tashkent 1987

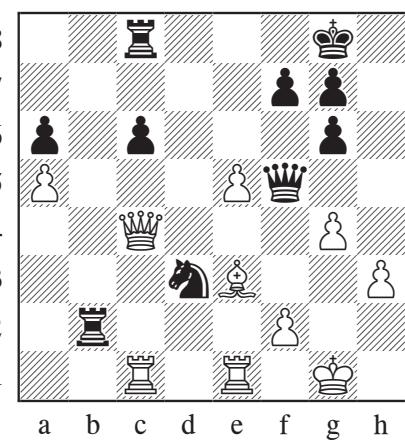
Ljubojevic – Khalifman, Reykjavik 1991

811



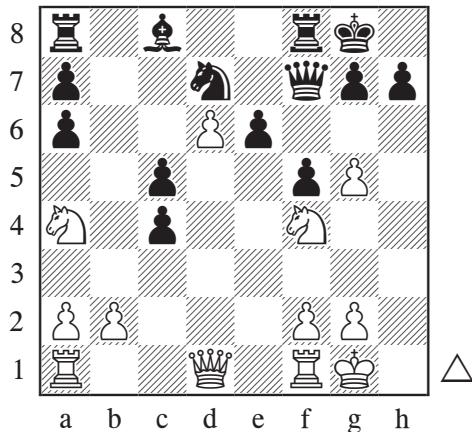
Khalifman – Ulibin, Sochi 1989

814



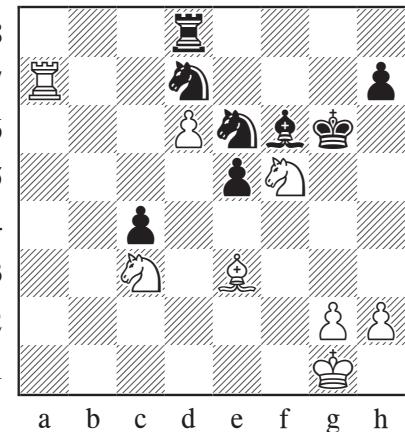
Khalifman – Larsen, London 1991

812



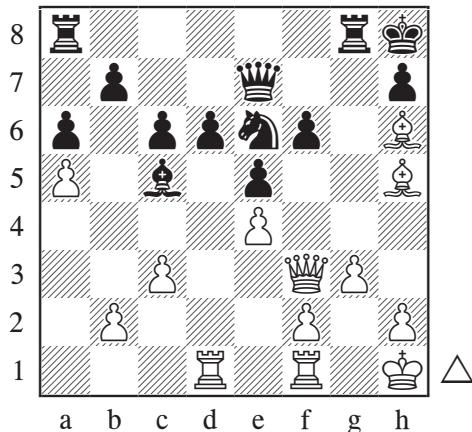
Khalifman – Inkirov, Moscow 1989

815

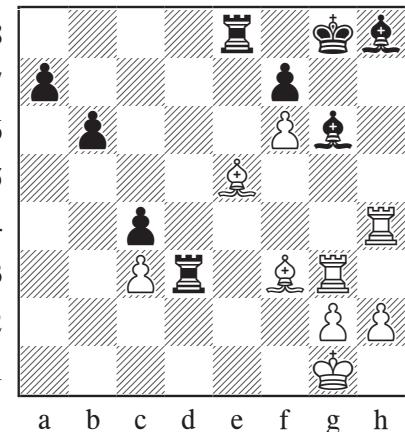


Khalifman – Sokolov, Wijk aan Zee 1991

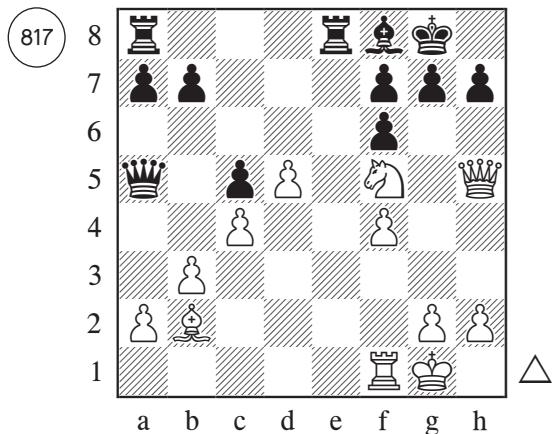
813



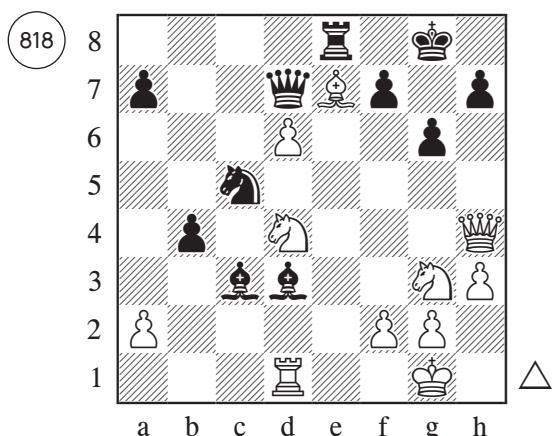
816



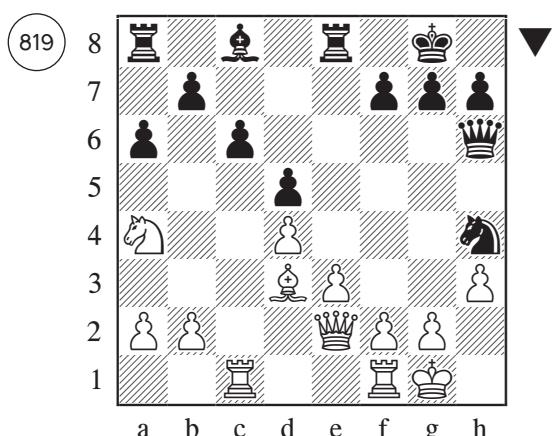
Khalifman – Seirawan, Wijk aan Zee 1991



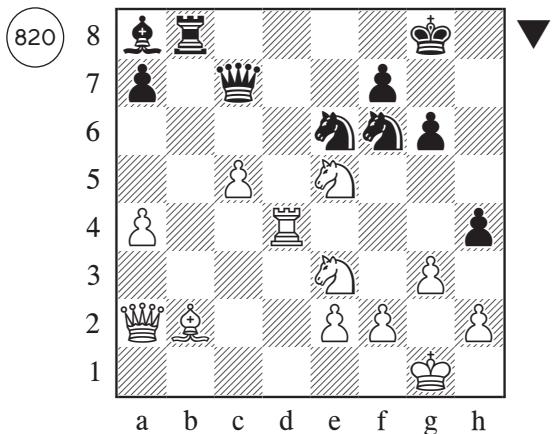
Khalifman – Maus, Hamburg 1991



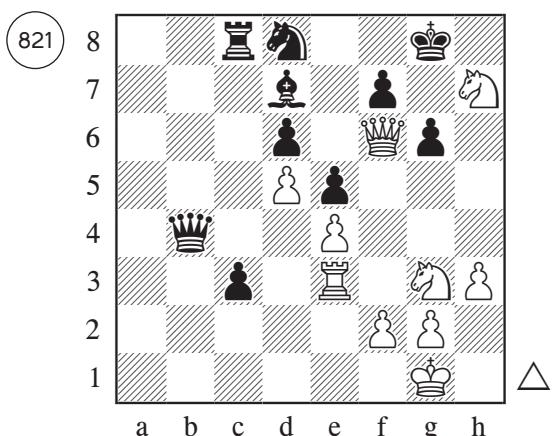
Hertneck – Khalifman, Germany 1992



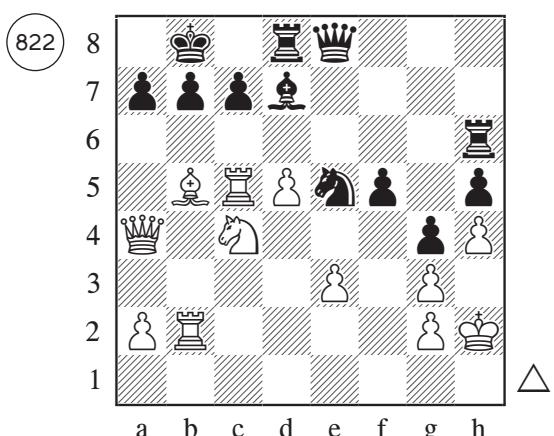
Gurevich – Khalifman, Moscow (rapid) 1992



Khalifman – Gschnitzer, Germany 1993

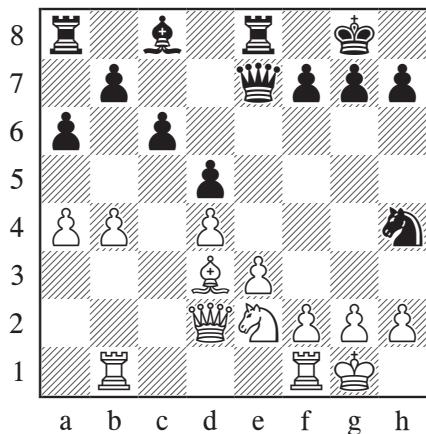


Khalifman – Serper, St Petersburg 1994



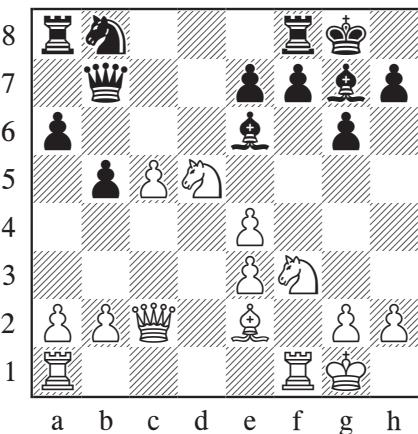
Fehmer – Khalifman, Eupen 1994

823



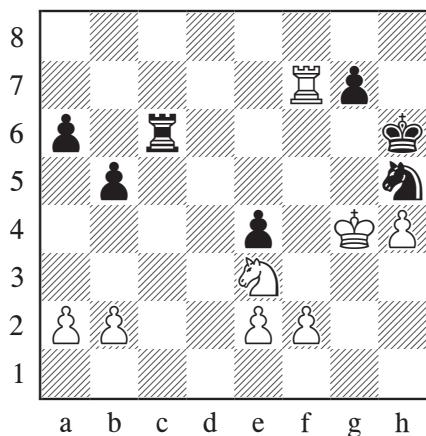
Khalifman – Bareev, Moscow 1995

826



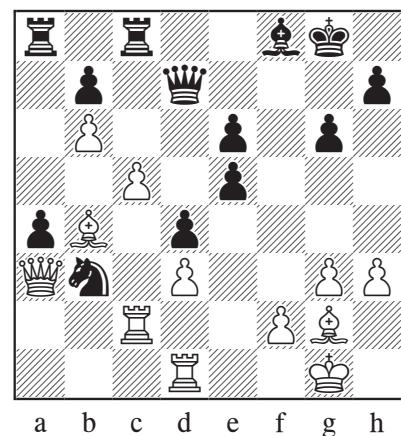
Khalifman – Sehner, Germany 1994

824



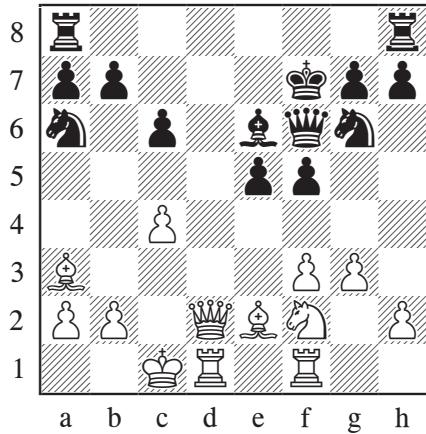
Pfleger – Khalifman, Germany 1996

827



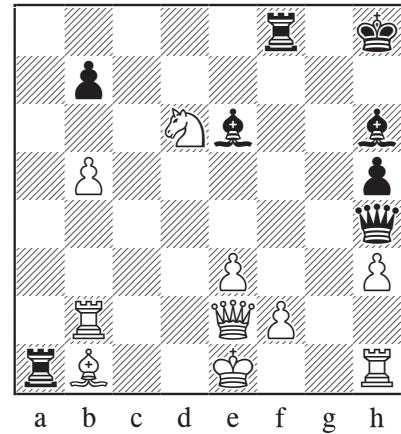
Khalifman – Filippov, Kazan 1995

825

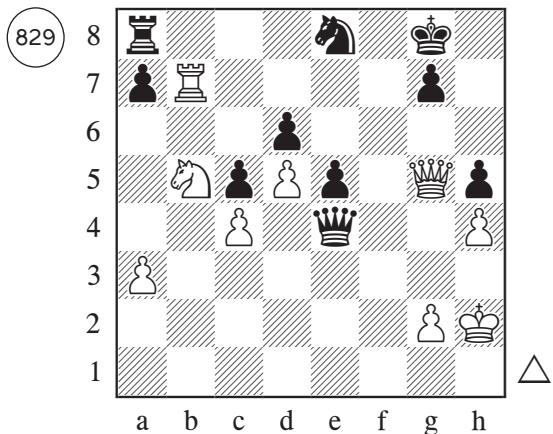


Loginov – Khalifman, St Petersburg 1996

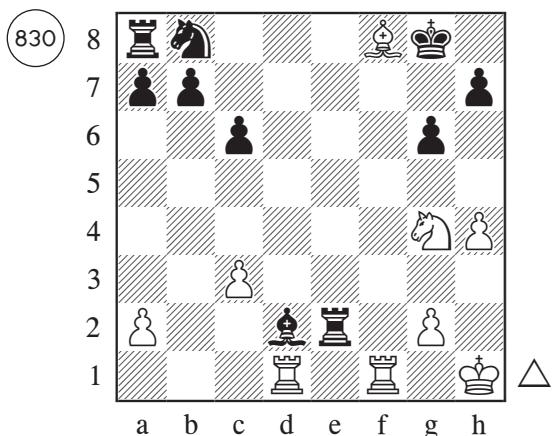
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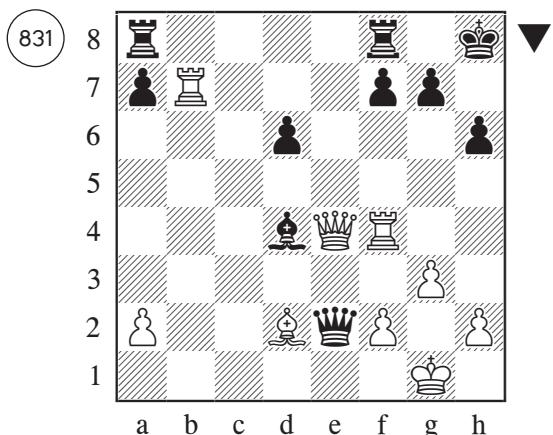
Khalifman – Casper, Germany 1997



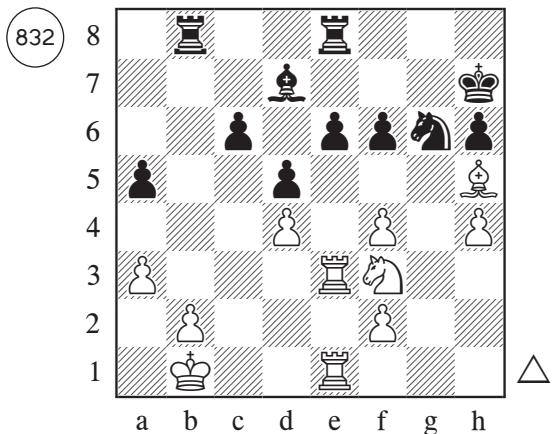
Khalifman – Fishbein, New York 1998



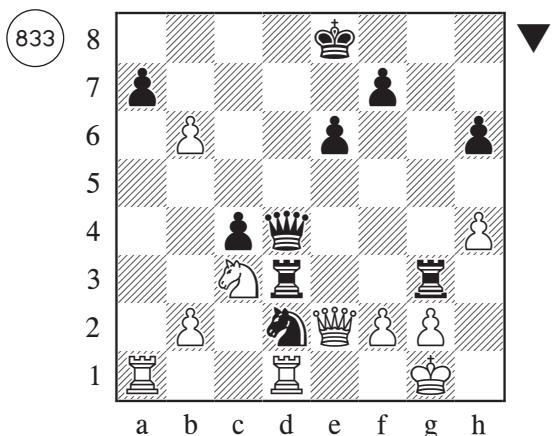
Unger – Khalifman, Bad Wiessee 1998



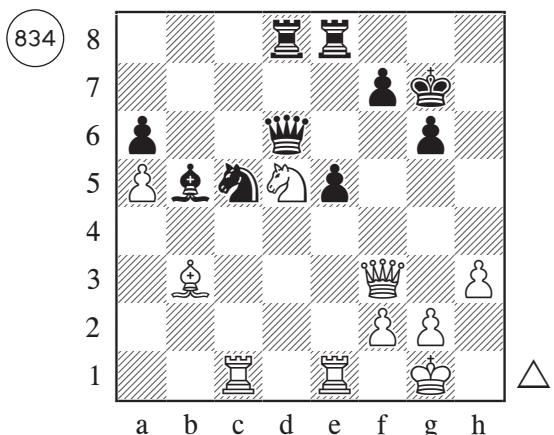
Huzman – Khalifman, Bugojno 1999



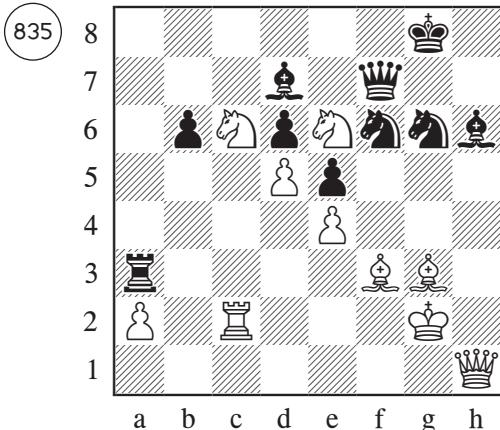
Khalifman – Acs, Hoogeveen 2002



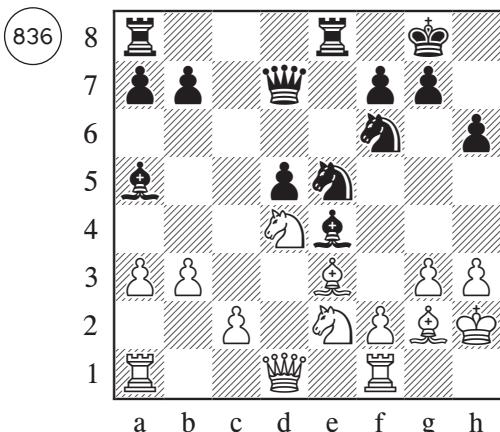
Khalifman – Sargissian, Internet 2004



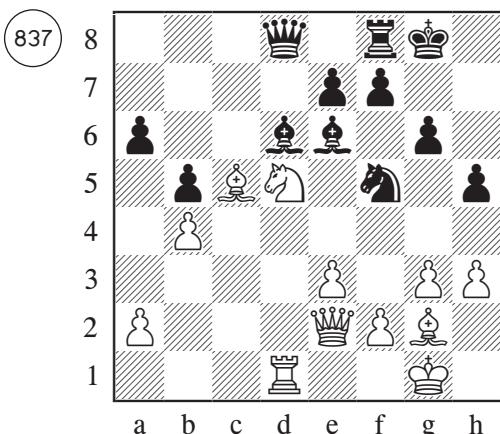
Khalifman – Inarkiev, Khanty-Mansiysk (3) 2005



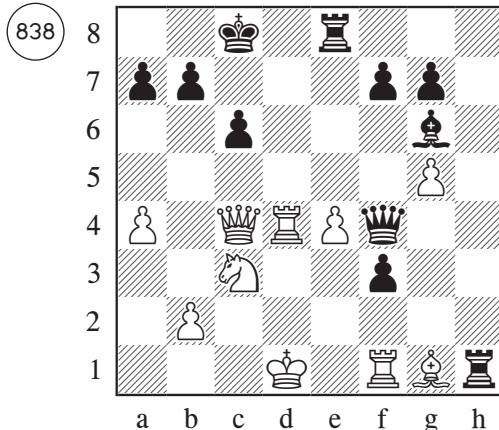
Popov – Khalifman, Aix les Bains 2011



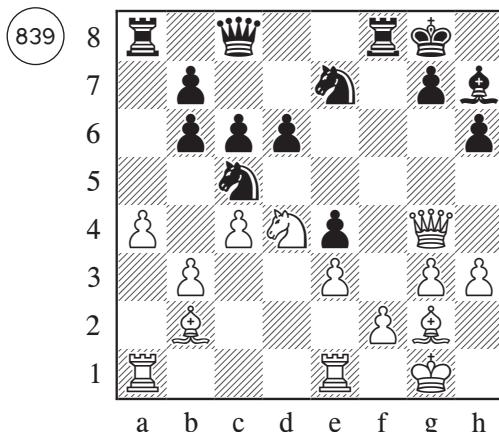
Khalifman – Duzhakov, St Petersburg 2012



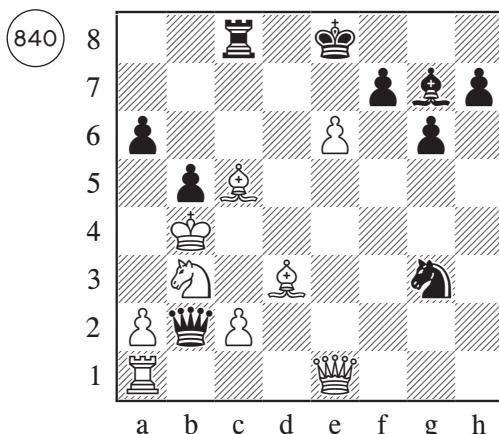
Khalifman – Kostin, Voronezh 2014



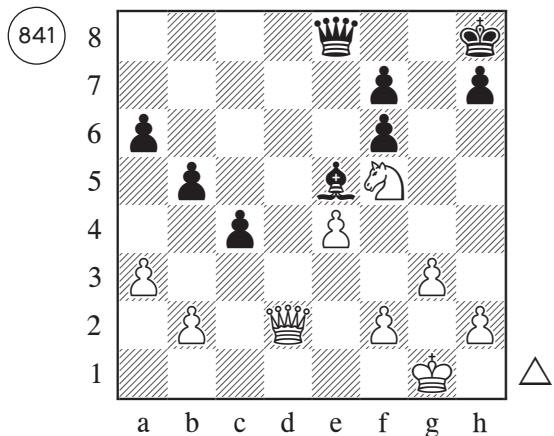
Khalifman – Grishchenko, Sochi 2014



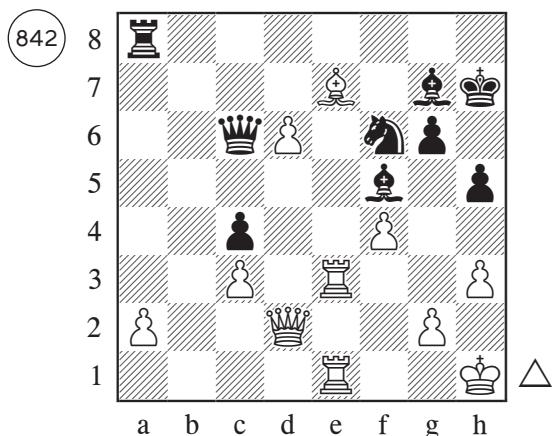
Topalov – Kramnik, Belgrade 1995



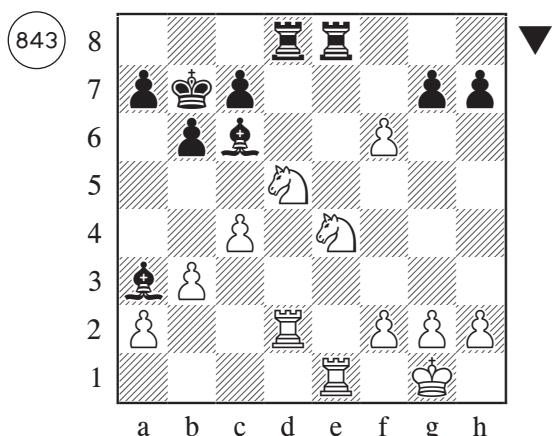
Piket – Kramnik, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1999



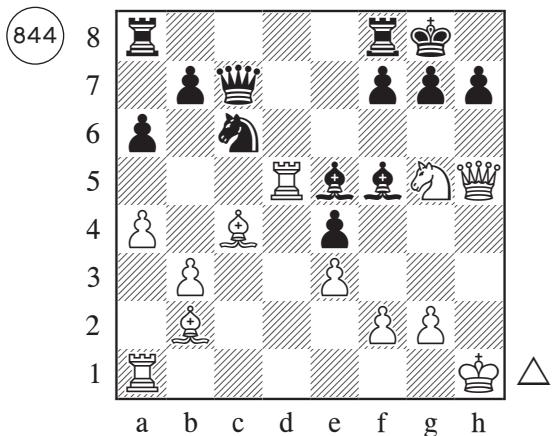
Kramnik – Ljubojevic, Monaco (rapid) 2000



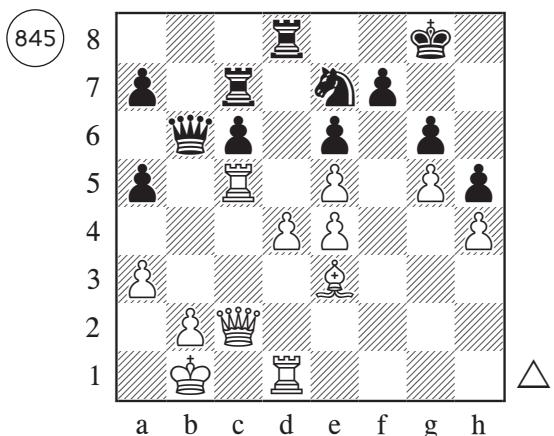
Leko – Kramnik, Budapest (4) 2001



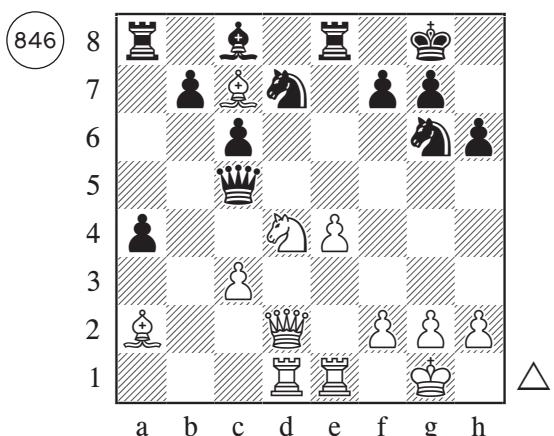
Kramnik – Sadvakasov, Astana 2001



Kramnik – Volkov, Moscow 2005

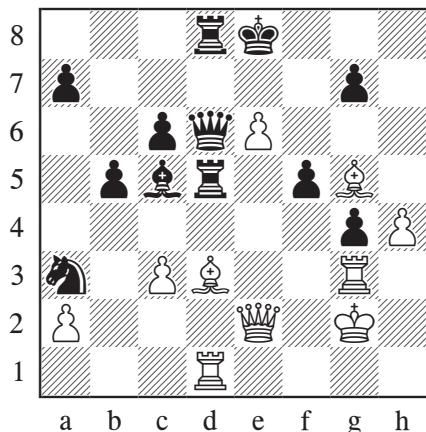


Kramnik – Bruzon, Turin (ol) 2006



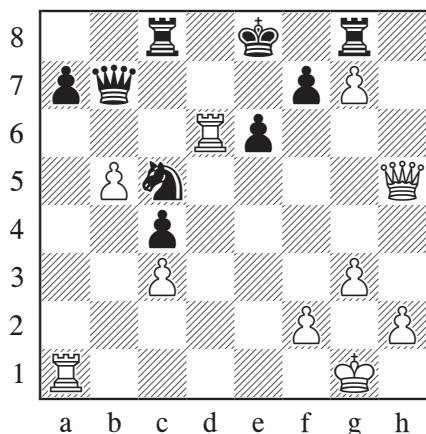
Topalov – Kramnik, Elista (3) 2006

847



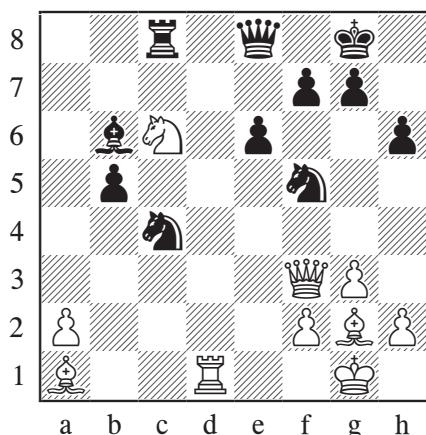
Kramnik – Carlsen, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2007

848



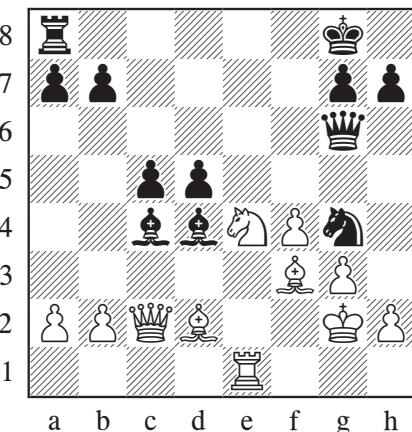
Gelfand – Kramnik, Moscow 2008

849



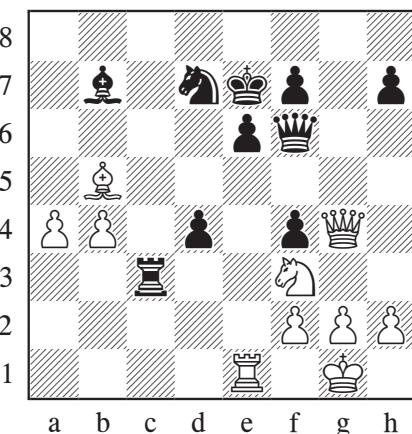
Kramnik – Svidler, Moscow (blitz) 2008

850



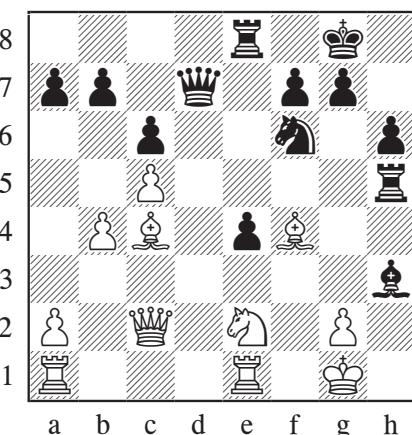
Kramnik – Anand, Bonn (5) 2008

851



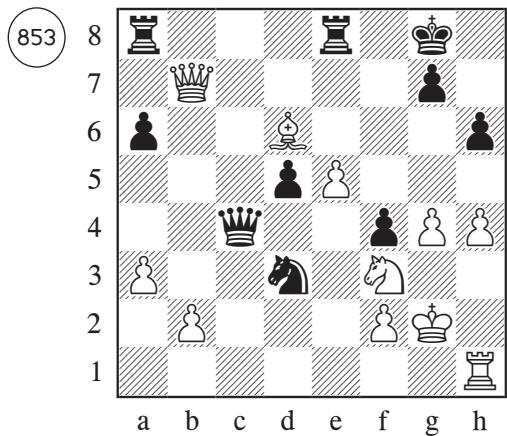
Naiditsch – Kramnik, Dortmund 2009

852

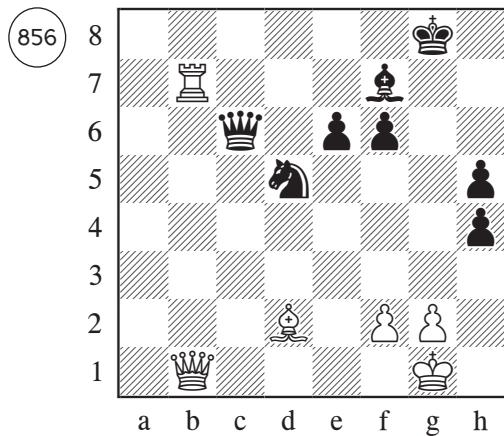


Morozhevich – Kramnik, Moscow 2009

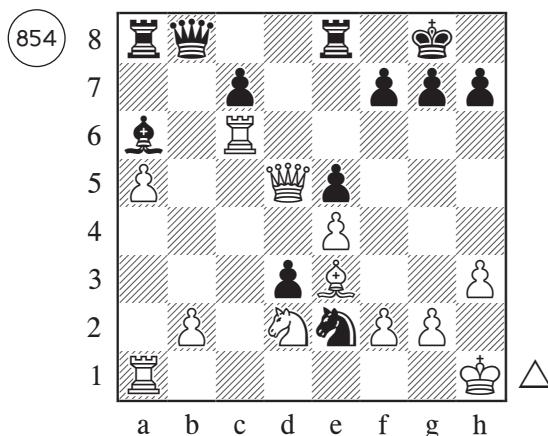
Kramnik – Korobov, Tromsø 2013



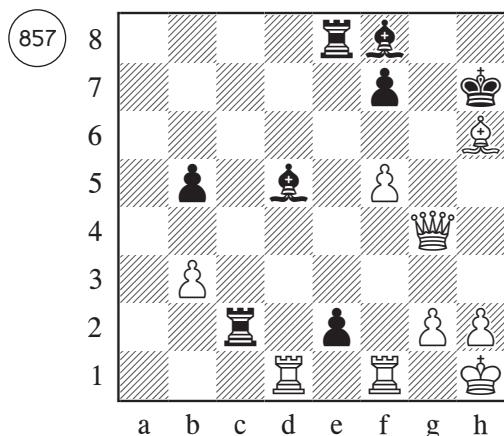
Anand – Kramnik, Zurich 2013



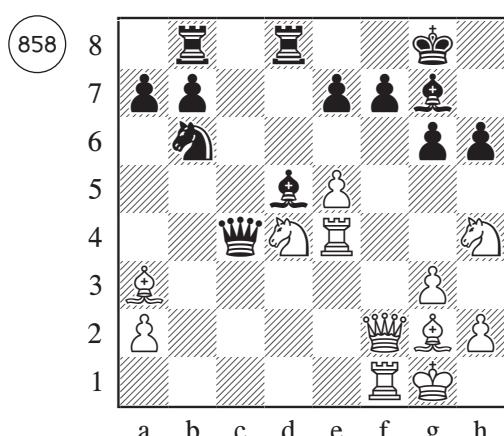
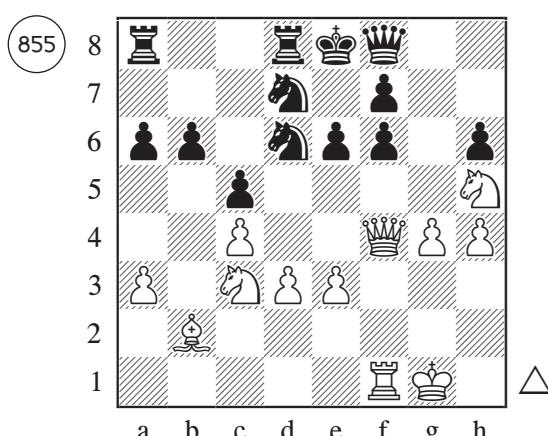
Kramnik – Aronian, Khanty-Mansiysk (2) 2014



Kramnik – Fridman, Dortmund 2013

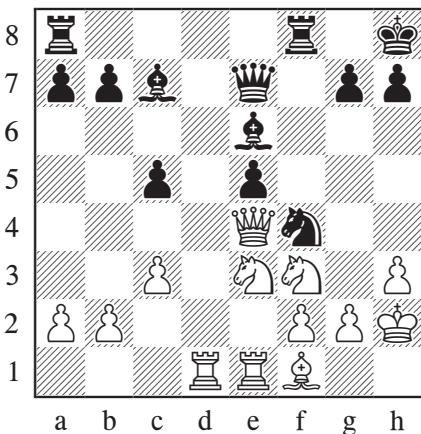


Kramnik – Svidler, Sochi 2015



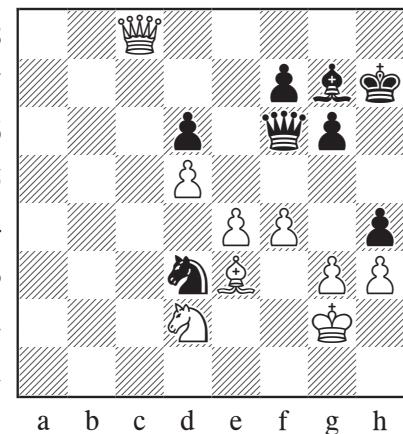
Fressinet – Kramnik, Paris (rapid) 2016

859



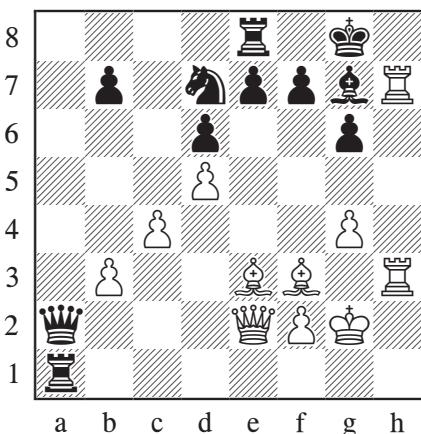
Anand – Illescas Cordoba, Leon (3) 1997

862



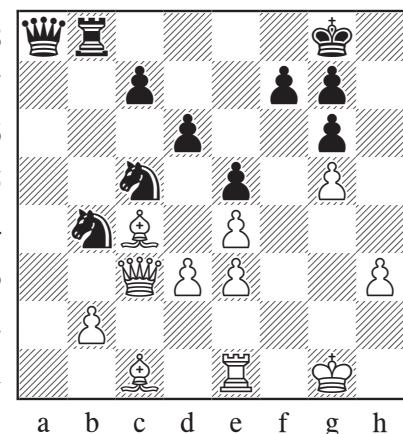
Ivanchuk – Anand, Buenos Aires 1994

860



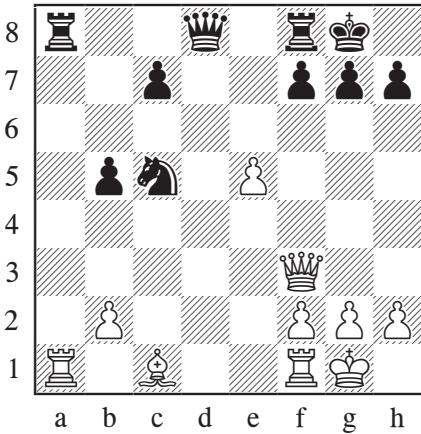
Kovacevic – Anand, Belgrade 1997

863



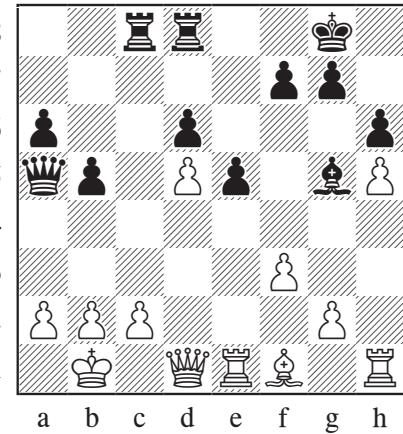
Topalov – Anand, Dos Hermanas 1996

861

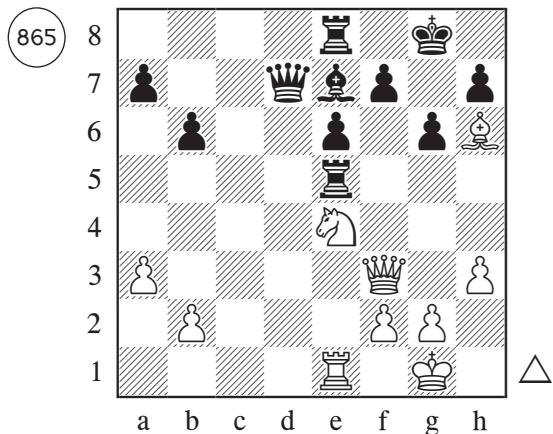


Ivanchuk – Anand, Linares 1998

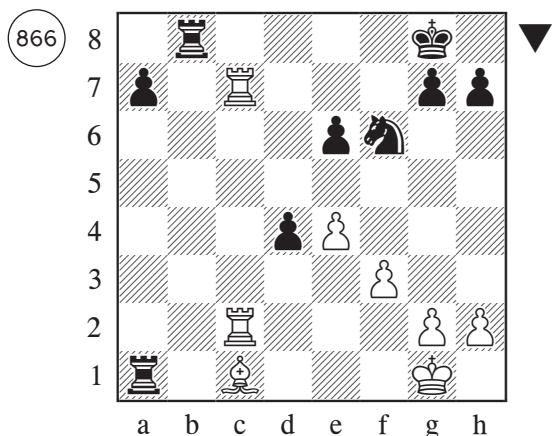
864



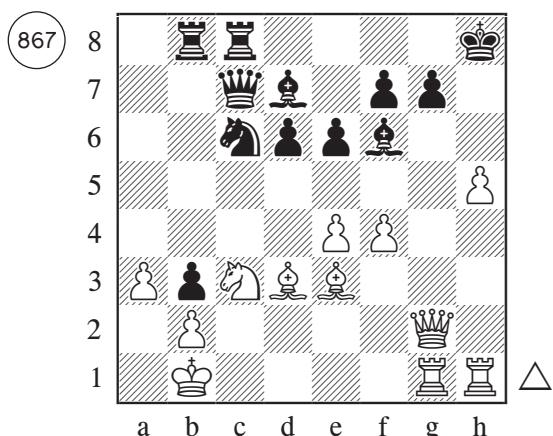
Arizmendi – Anand, Villarrobledo (rapid) 1998



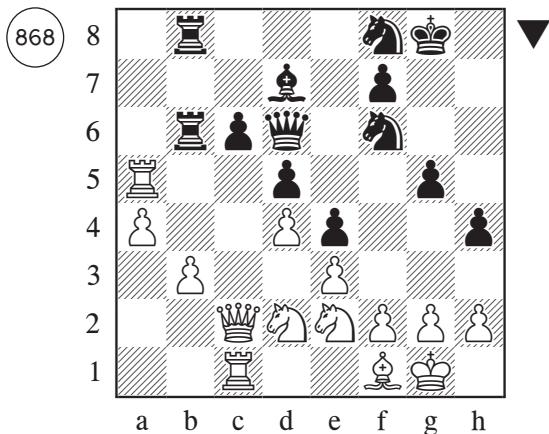
Van Wely – Anand, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1999



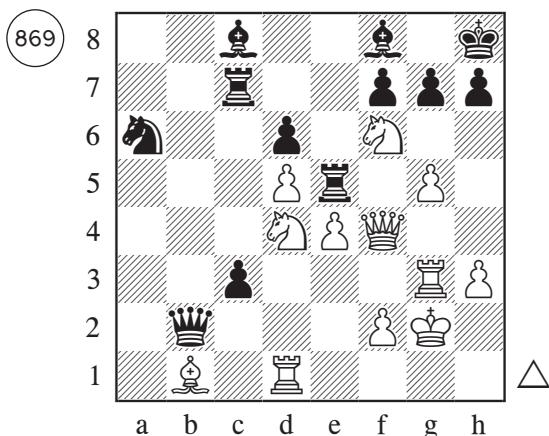
Anand – Ljubojevic, Monaco (blindfold) 2000



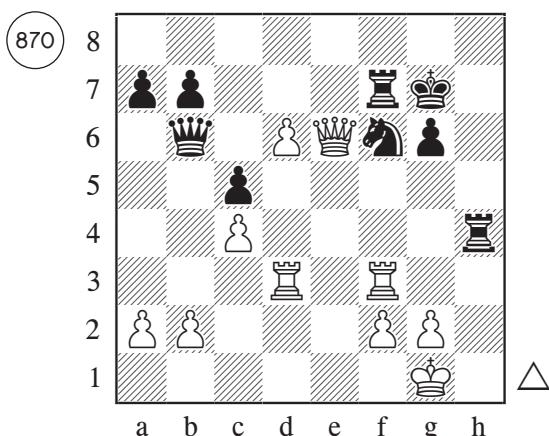
Drazic – Anand, Bastia 2000



Anand – Bologan, New Delhi (2) 2000

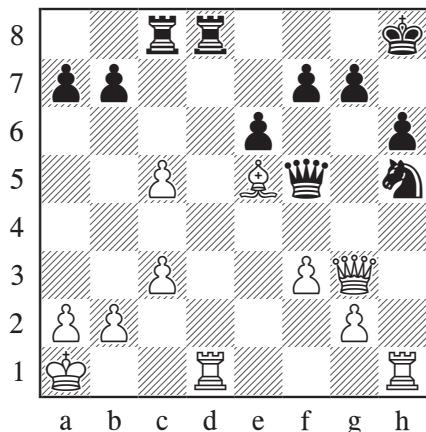


Anand – Ubilava, Villarrobledo (rapid) 2001



Anand – Dreev, Moscow (2) 2001

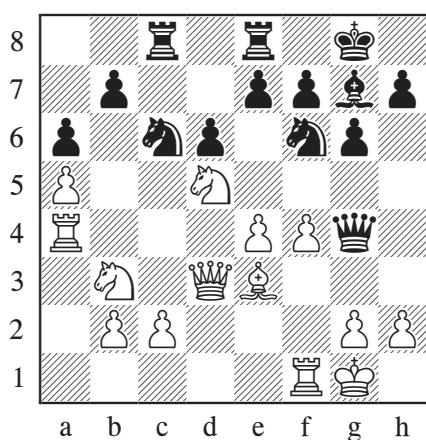
871



Short – Anand, Dubai 2002



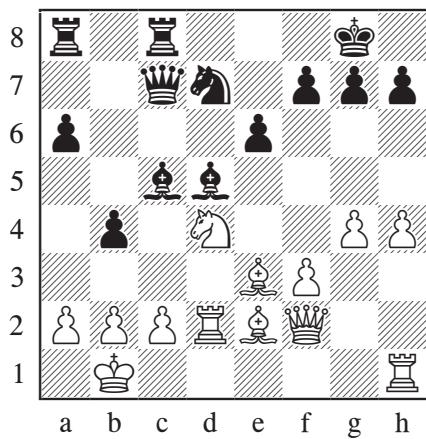
872



Anand – Polgar, Cap d'Agde 2003

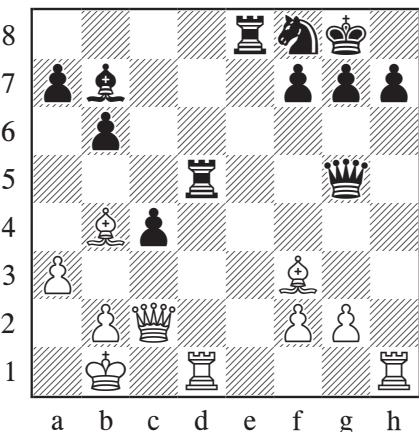


873

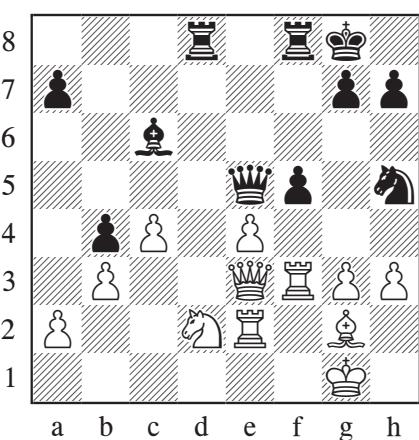


Cebalo – Anand, Bastia 2003

874

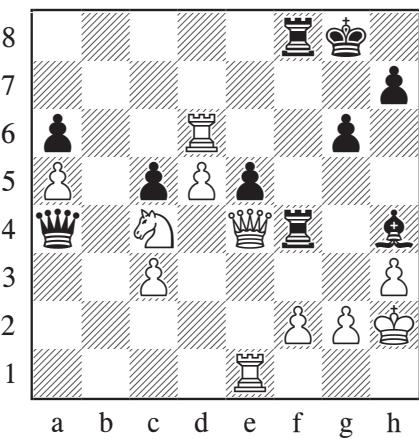


Miroshnichenko – Anand, Porz 2004

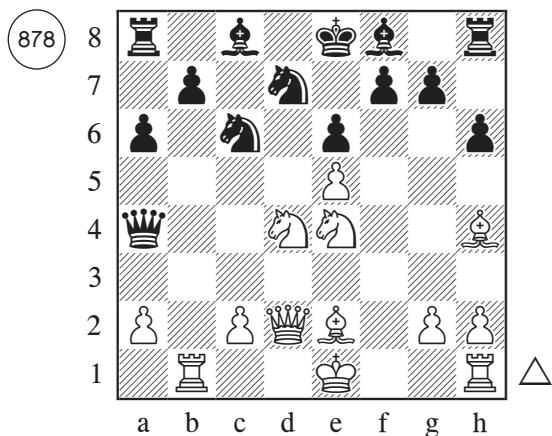


Anand – Hjartarson, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006

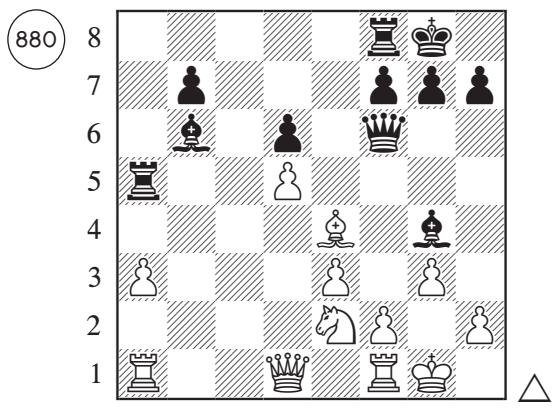
876



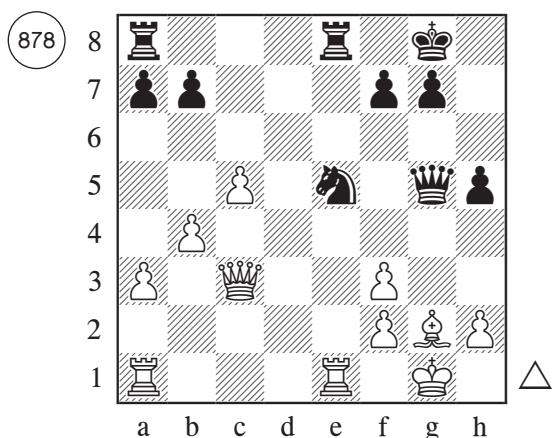
Radjabov – Anand, Rishon Le Zion (blitz 5) 2006



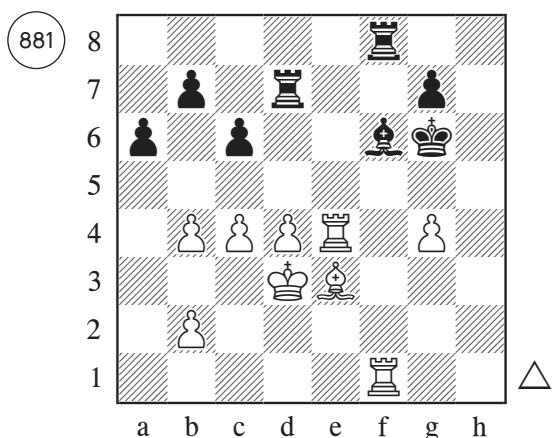
Carlsen – Anand, Nice (rapid) 2008



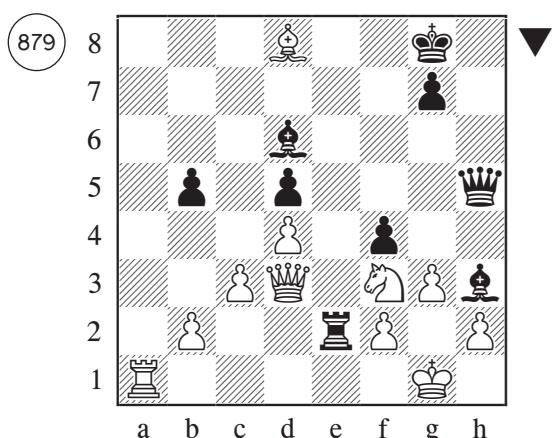
Ivanchuk – Anand, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2007



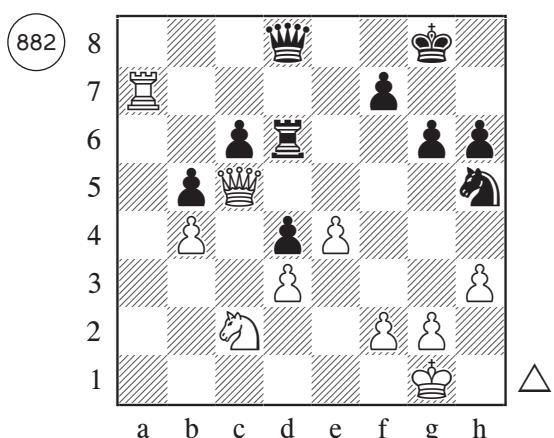
Anand – Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2013



Anand – Aronian, Morelia/Linares 2008

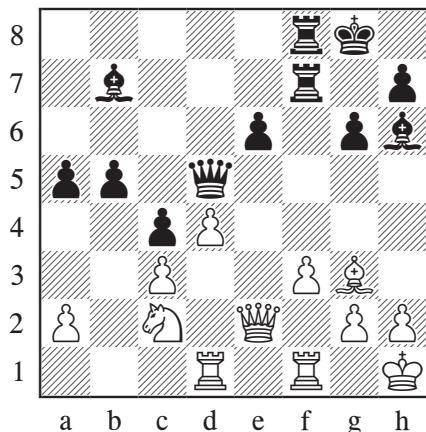


Anand – Wei Yi, Leon 2016



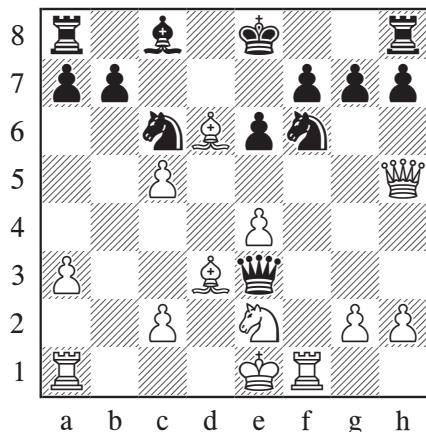
Ponomariov – Vokarev, Briansk 1995

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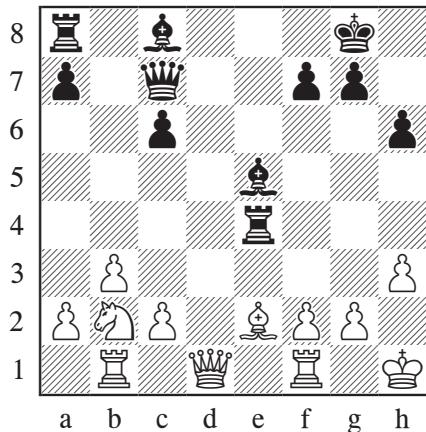
Azarov – Ponomariov, Artek 1999

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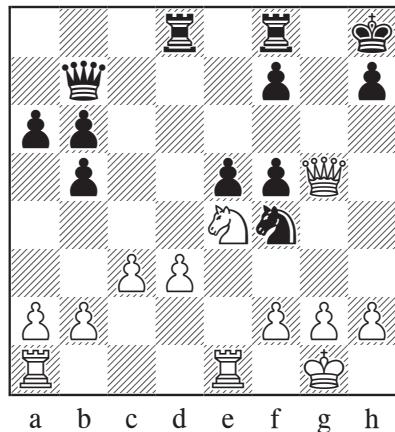
Ponomariov – Ponomariov, Alicante 1997

884



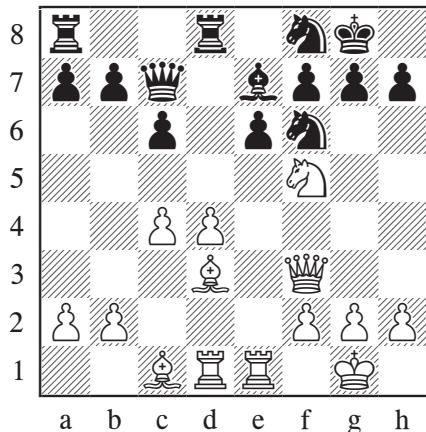
Tiviakov – Ponomariov Moscow (4) 2001

875



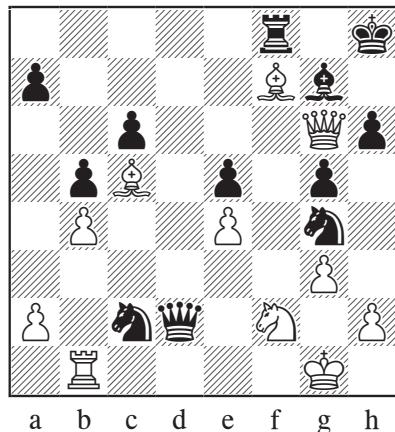
Ponomariov – Malikgulyew, Zagan 1997

885

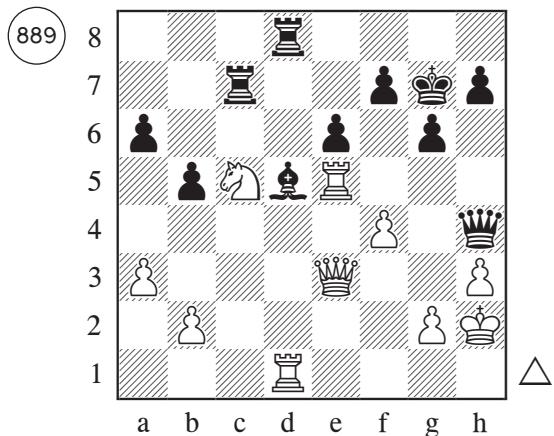


Ponomariov – Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2003

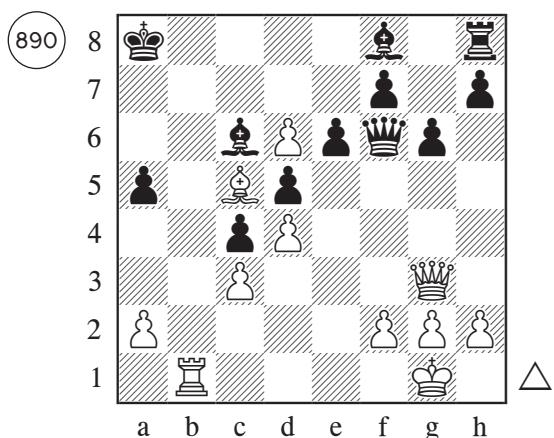
888



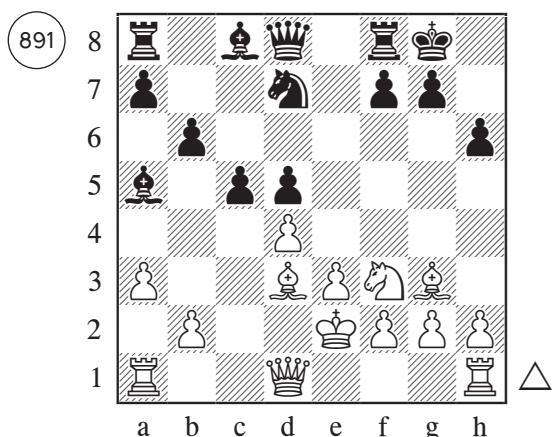
Ponomariov – Dovramadjiev, Internet 2004



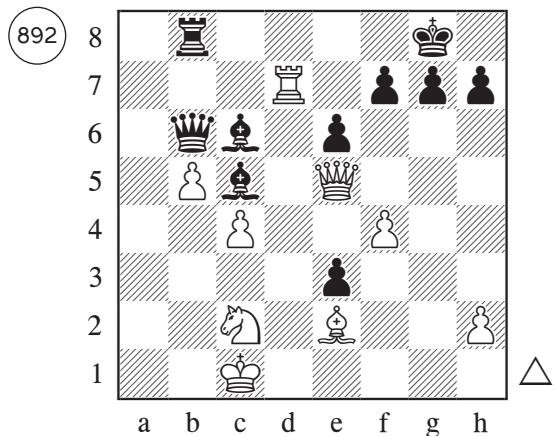
Comp Hydra – Ponomariov, Bilbao 2005



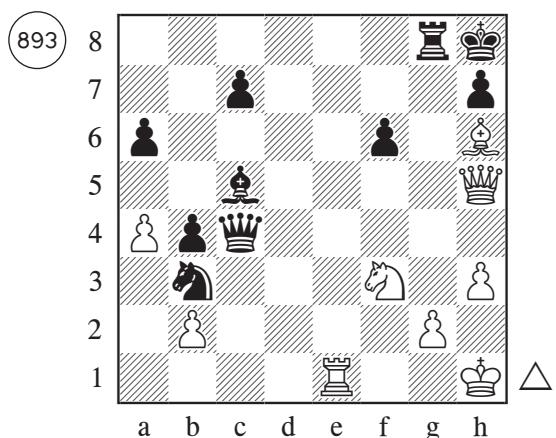
Aronian – Ponomariov, Khanty-Mansiysk (3) 2005



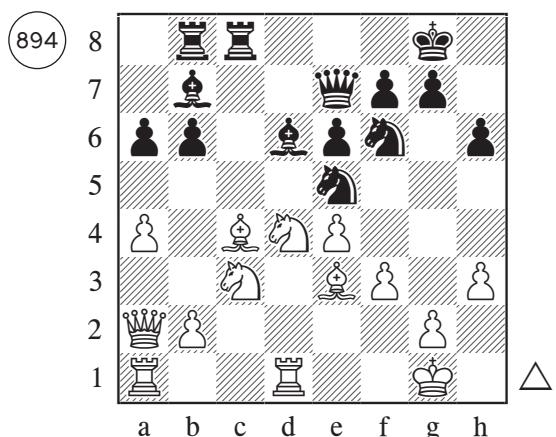
Ponomariov – Grischuk, Sochi 2006



Sasikiran – Ponomariov, Zafra 2007

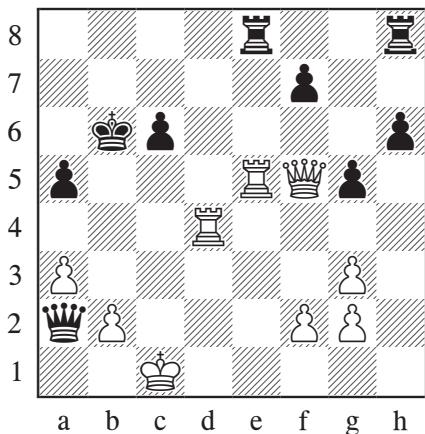


Ponomariov – Leko, Moscow (blitz) 2007



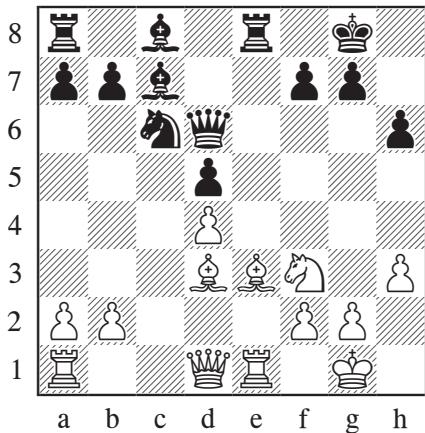
Tregubov – Ponomariov, Odessa 2008

895



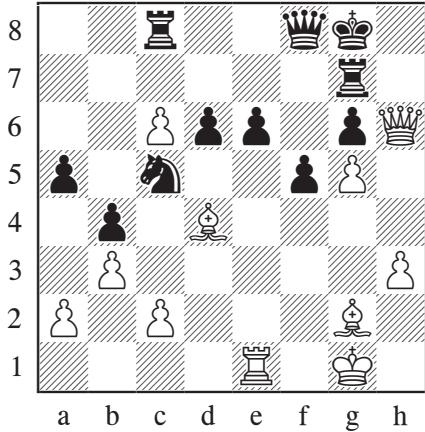
Tkachiev – Ponomariov, Moscow (blitz) 2008

896



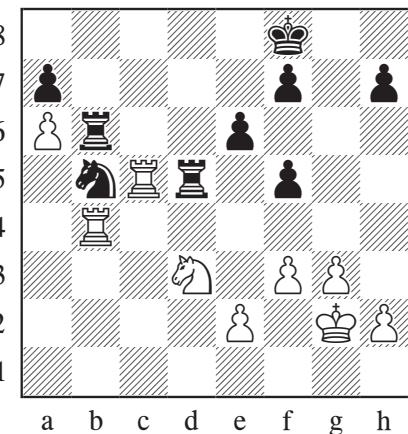
Carlsen – Ponomariov, Moscow (blitz) 2008

897



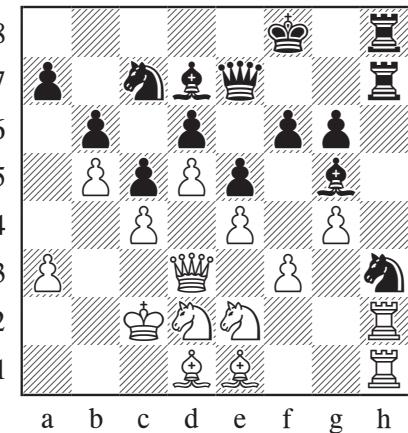
Gelfand – Ponomariov, Khanty-Mansiysk (6) 2009

898



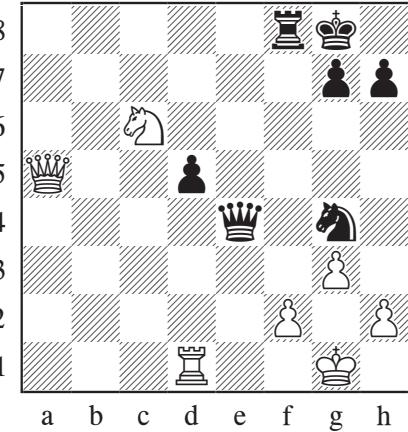
Ponomariov – Jobava, Kharkov 2010

899



Vallejo Pons – Ponomariov, Spain 2011

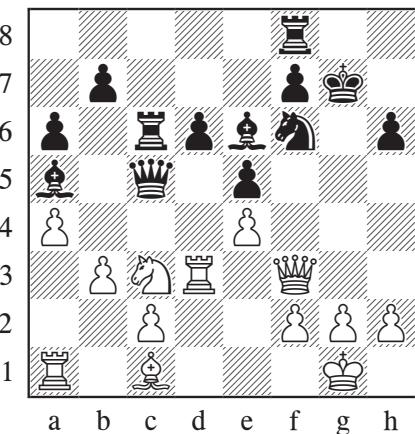
900



Fedorchuk – Ponomariov, Spain 2011

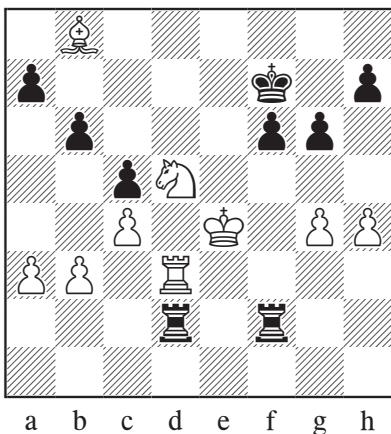
Deshun Xiu – Ponomariov, Danzhou 2014

901



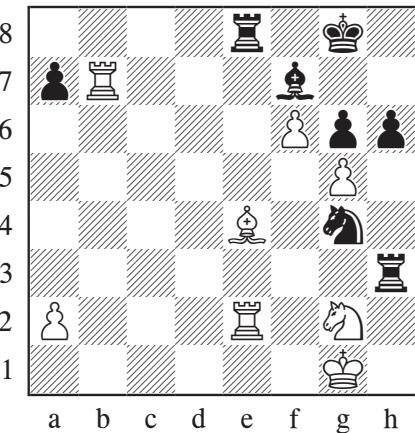
Svidler – Ponomariov, Eilat (1) 2012

904



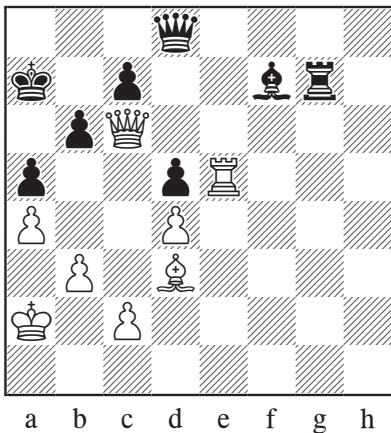
Caruana – Ponomariov, Dortmund 2014

902



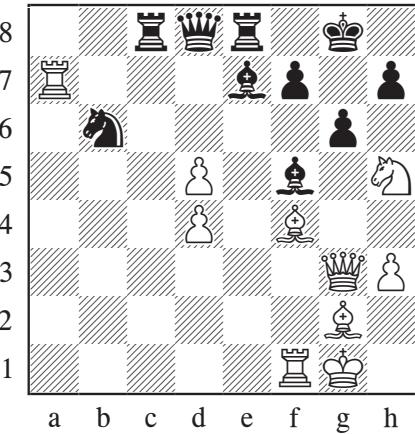
Ponomariov – Dominguez Perez, Tashkent 2012

905

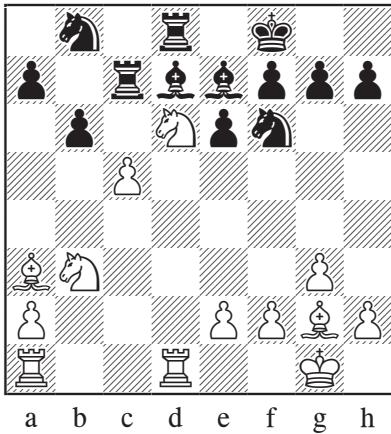


Cheparinov – Ponomariov, Tromsø (ol) 2014

903

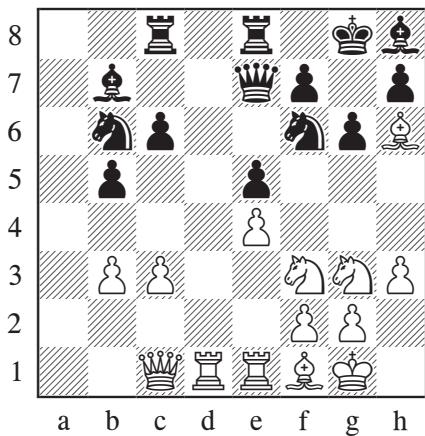


906



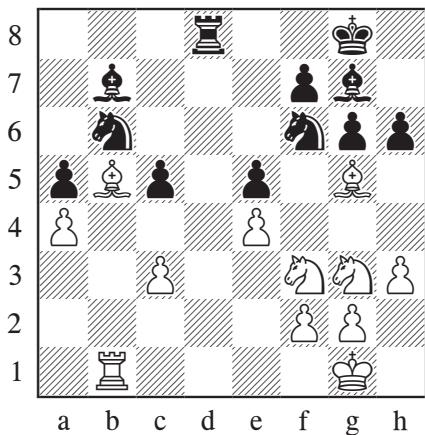
Ponomariov – Borisek, Berlin (blitz) 2015

907



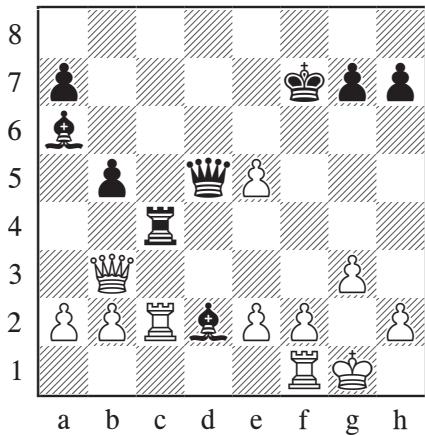
Ponomariov – Bachmann, Berlin (blitz) 2015

908



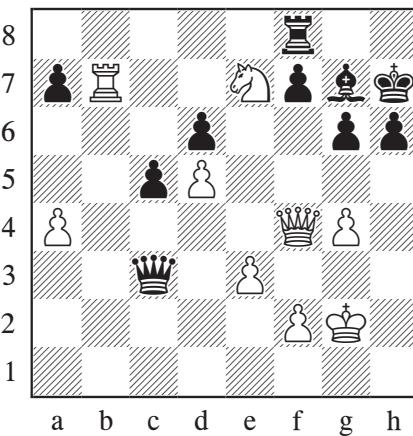
Ponomariov – Vallejo Pons, Madrid 2016

909



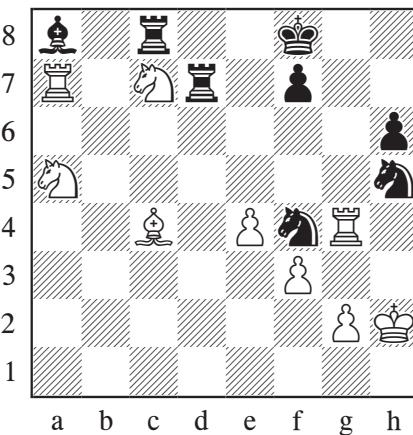
Kasimdzhanov – Verdier, Corsica (rapid) 1997

910



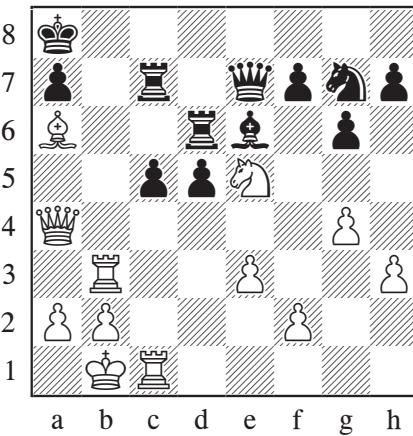
Kasimdzhanov – Bakhtadze, Yerevan 1999

911



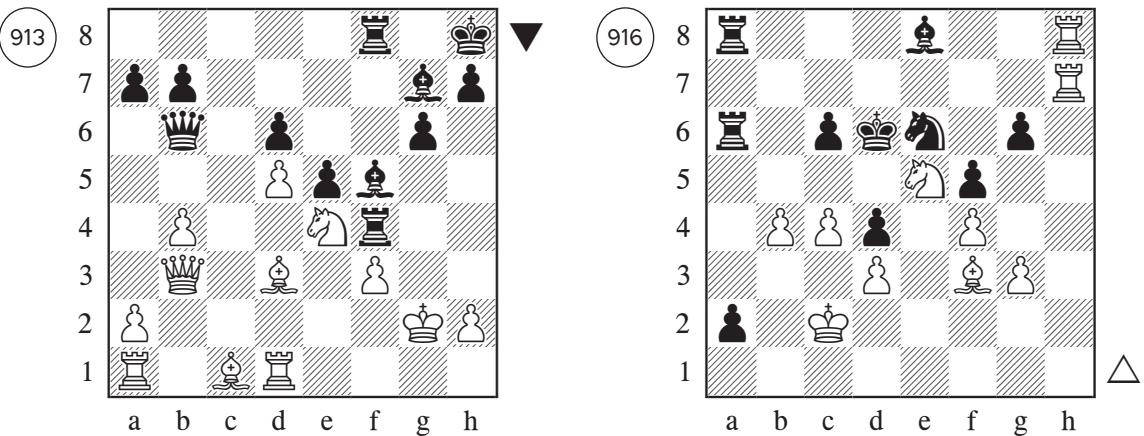
Kasimdzhanov – Hertneck, Germany 2001

912

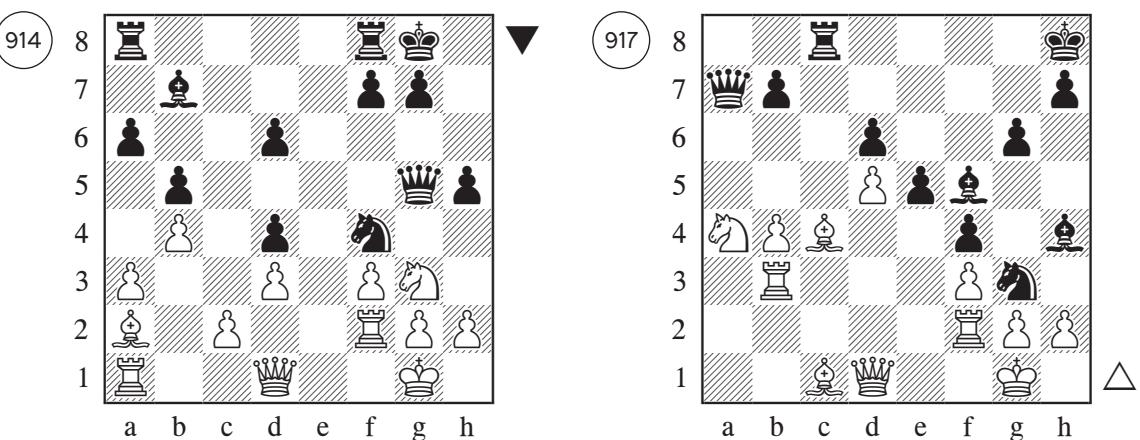


Bacrot – Kasimdzhanov, Moscow 2002

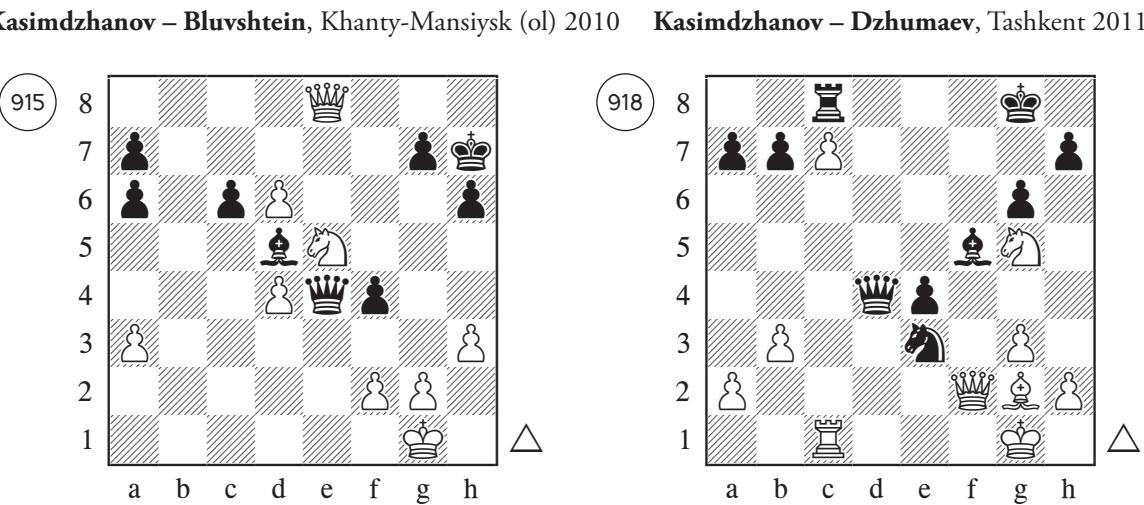
Kasimdzhanov – Khademi, Mashhad 2011



Luther – Kasimdzhanov, Mainz 2003

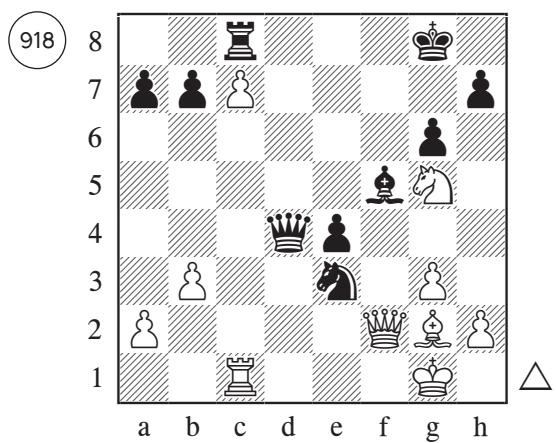
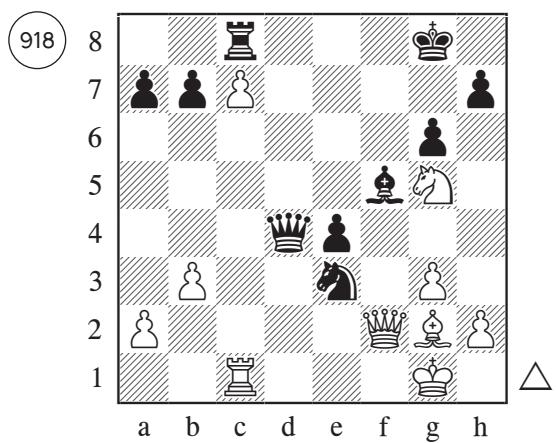


Kasimdzhanov – Nisipeanu, Rogaska Slatina 2011



Kasimdzhanov – Bluvshtein, Khanty-Mansiysk (ol) 2010

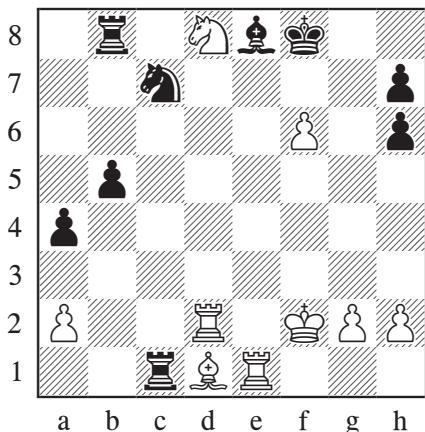
Kasimdzhanov – Dzhumaev, Tashkent 2011



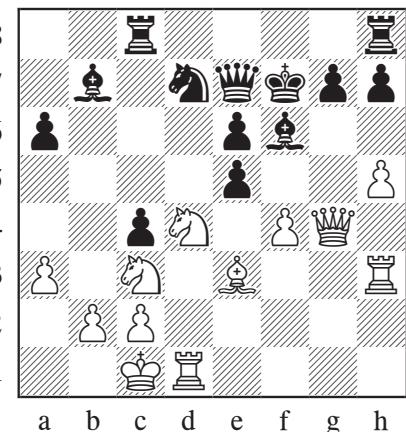
Kasimdzhanov – Teske, Germany 2011

Kotronias – Topalov, Kavala 1990

919



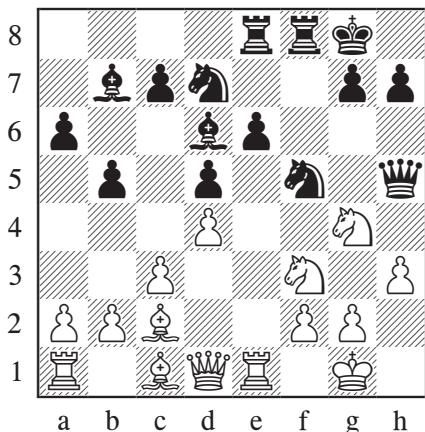
922



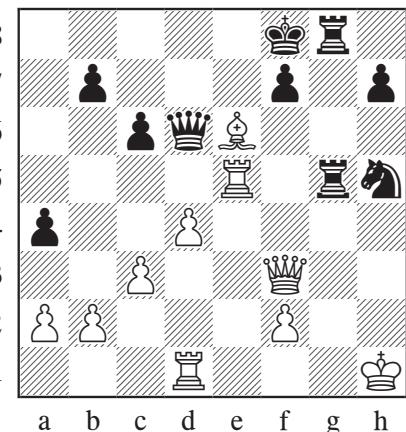
Donchev – Topalov, Sofia 1989

Topalov – Jensen, Copenhagen 1991

920



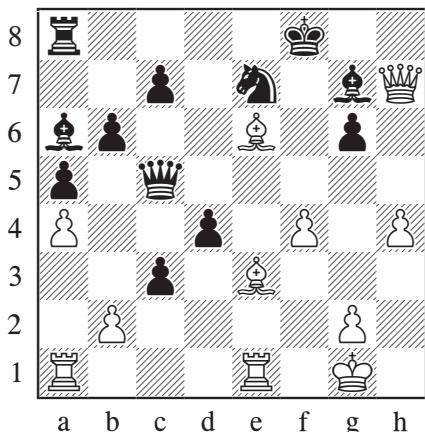
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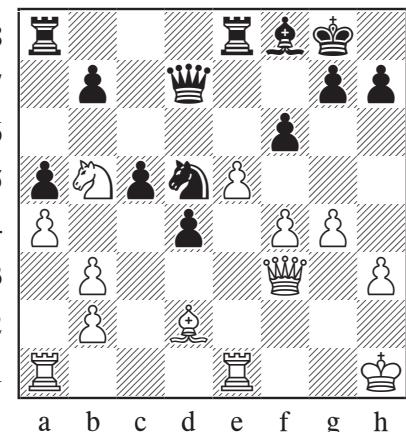
Liss – Topalov, Singapore 1990

Topalov – Mellado Trivino, Terrassa 1992

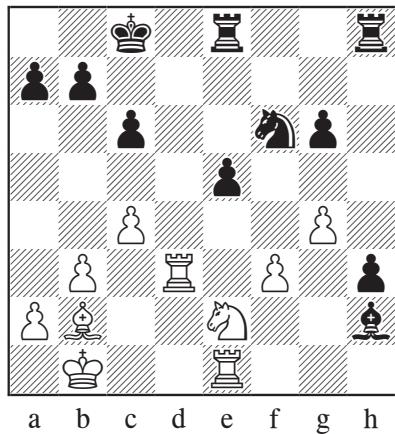
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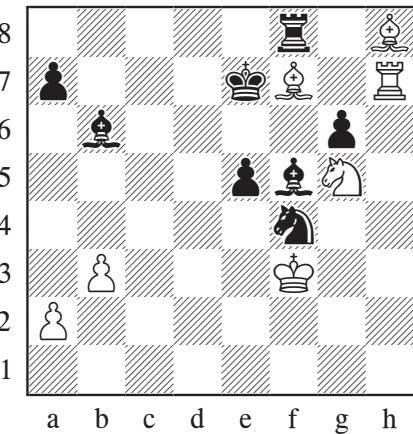
924



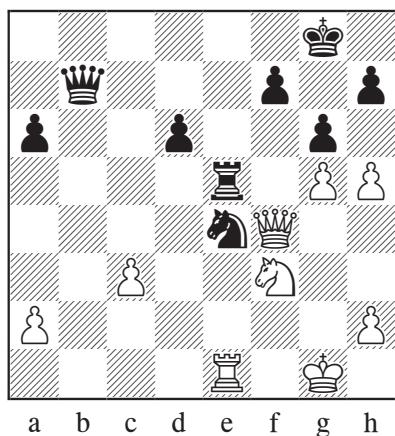
Nedobora – Topalov, Candas 1992



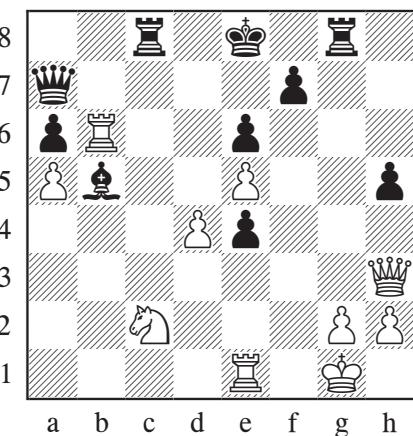
De la Villa – Topalov, Pamplona 1994



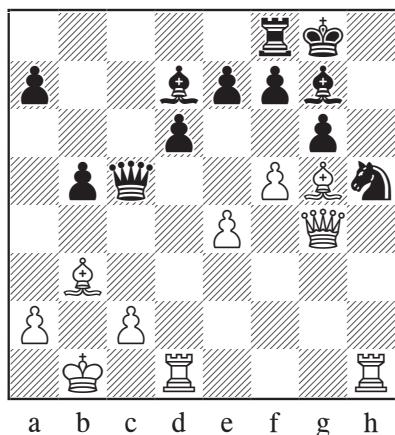
Iruzubieta Villaluenga – Topalov, Elgoibar 1992



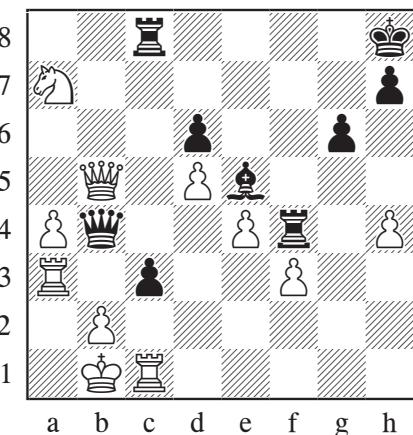
Topalov – Polgar, Novgorod 1996



Topalov – Romero Holmes, Leon 1993

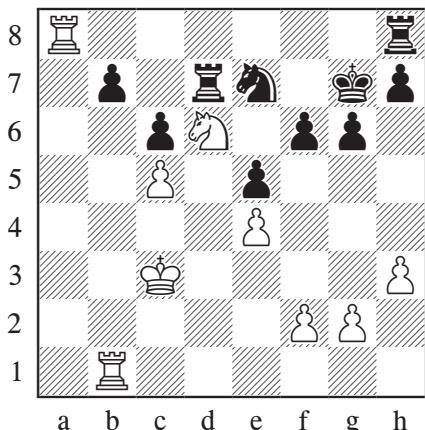


Van Wely – Topalov, Antwerp 1997



Van Wely – Topalov, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 1997

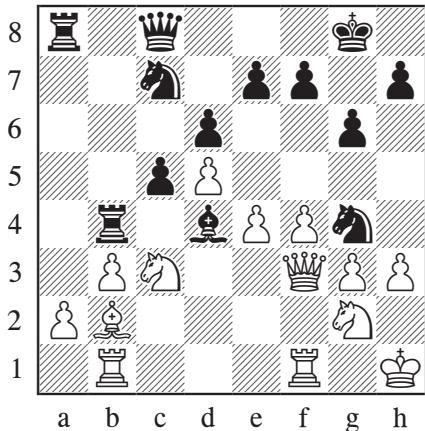
931



Nikolic – Topalov, Linares 1997

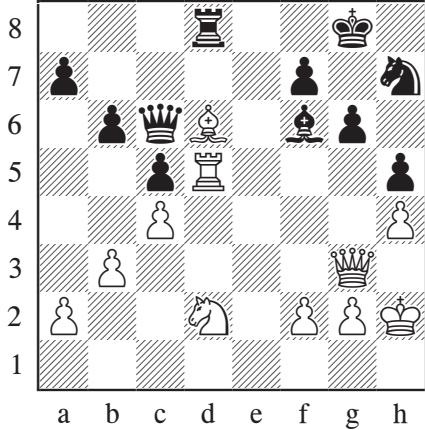


932



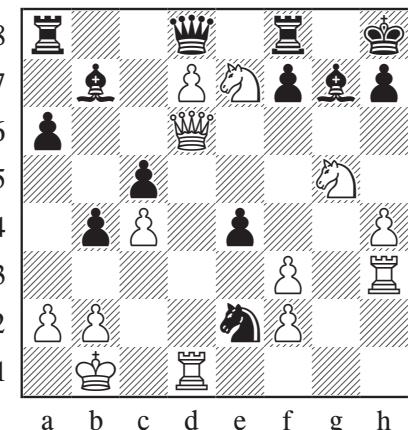
Topalov – Timman, Elista (ol) 1998

933



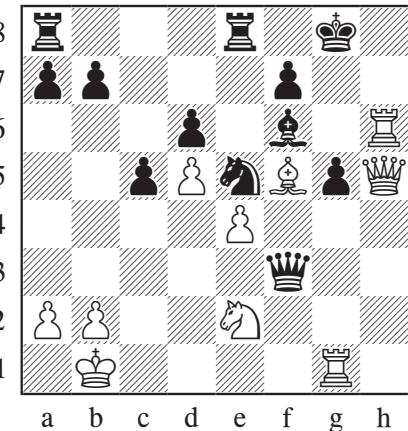
Shirov – Topalov, Sarajevo 2000

934



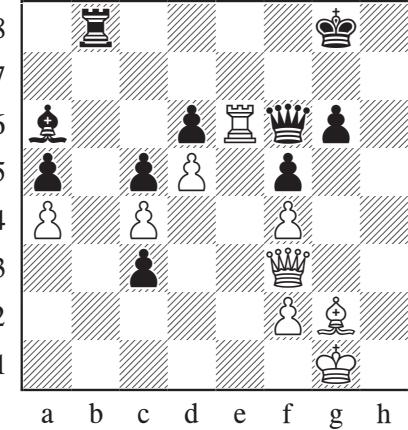
Vallejo Pons – Topalov, Barcelona 2000

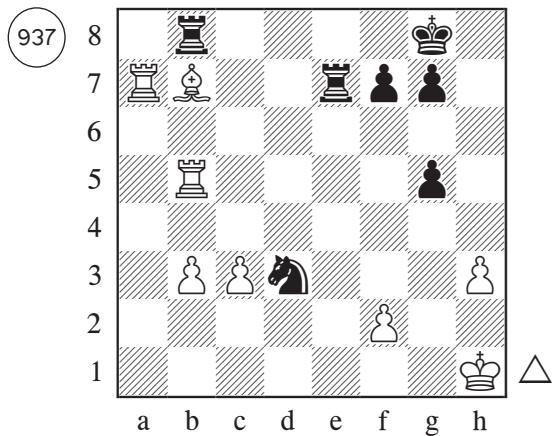
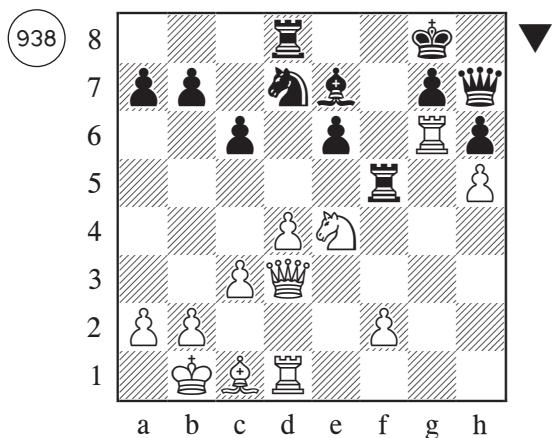
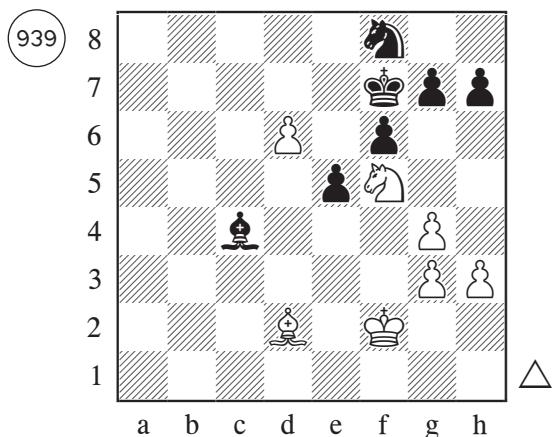
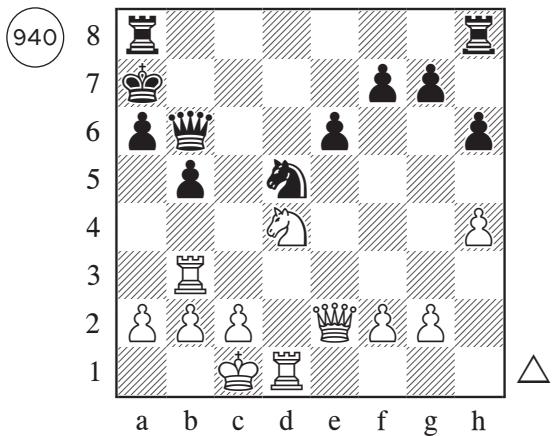
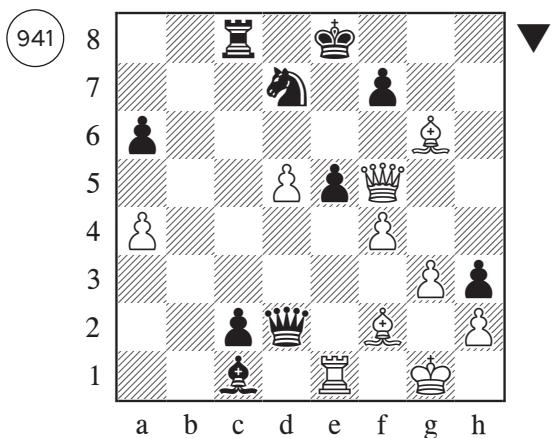
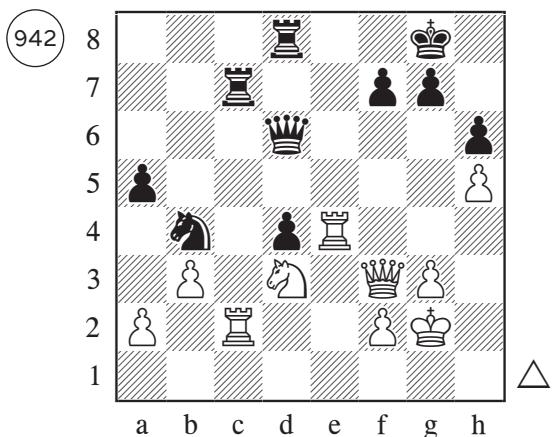
935



Vaganian – Topalov, Istanbul (ol) 2000

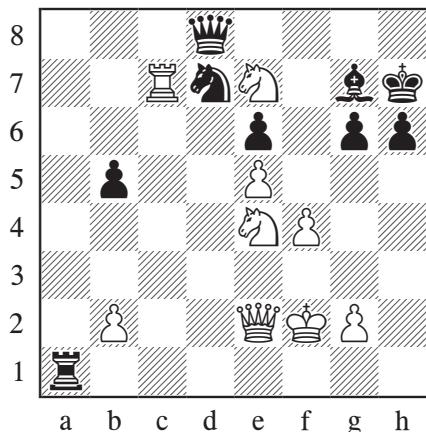
936



Topalov – Morozevich, Cannes 2002**Topalov – Leko**, Dubai 2002**Shirov – Topalov**, Prague 2002**Topalov – Bareev**, Dortmund (2) 2002**Topalov – Vallejo Pons**, Morelia/Linares 2006**Topalov – Kamsky**, Sofia 2009

Carlsen – Topalov, Sofia 2009

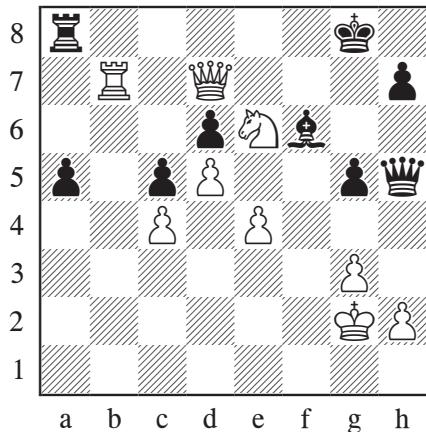
943



Georgiev – Topalov, Novi Sad 2009

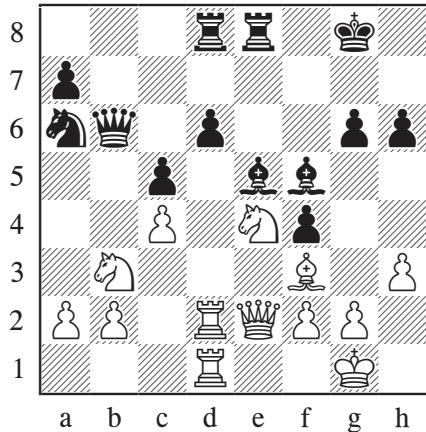


944



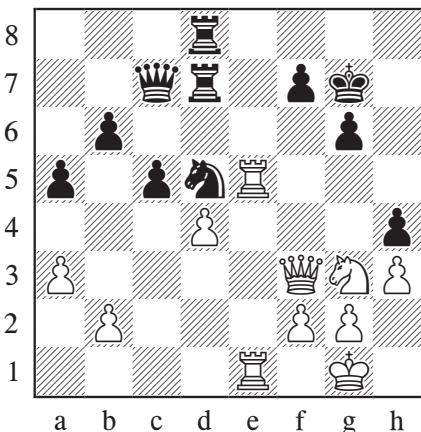
Bluvshtein – Topalov, Khanty-Mansiysk (ol) 2010

945



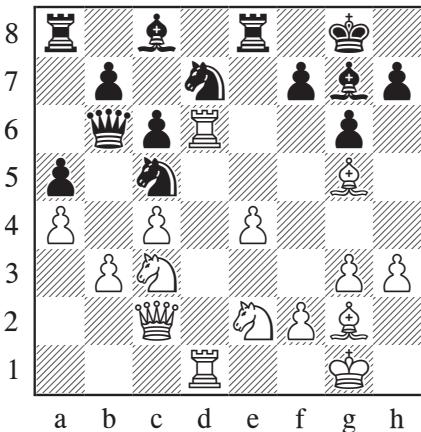
Topalov – Carlsen, Astana (rapid) 2012

946



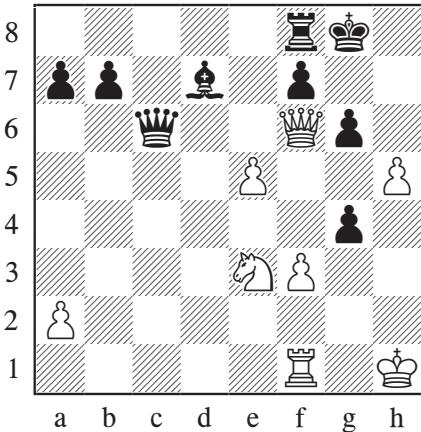
Wang Hao – Topalov, Stavanger (blitz) 2013

947



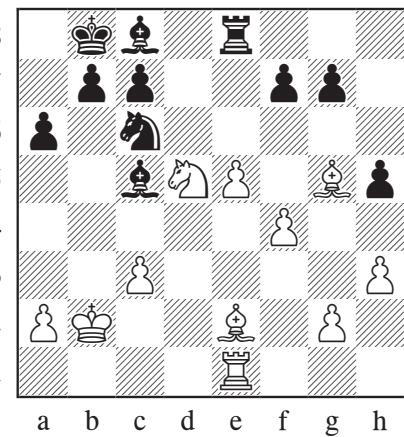
Sulskis – Carlsen, Moscow 2004

948



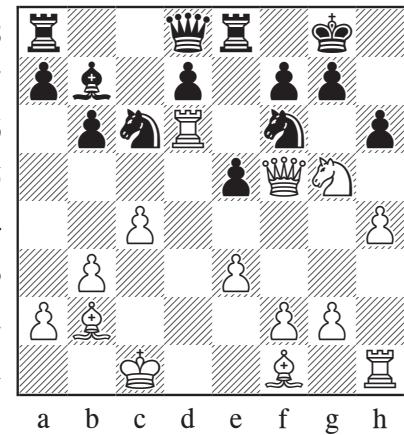
Carlsen – Lie, Trondheim 2004

949



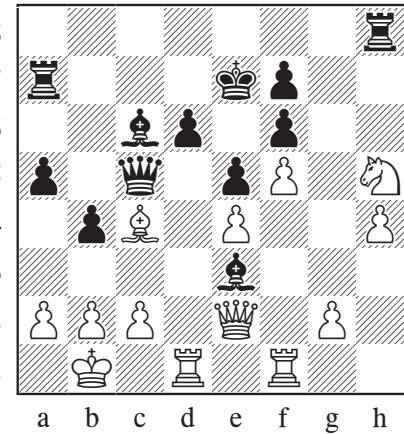
Carlsen – Ibrayev, Calvia (ol) 2004

950



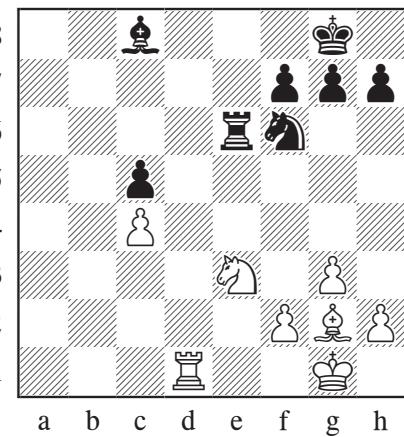
Carlsen – Kotronias, Calvia (ol) 2004

951



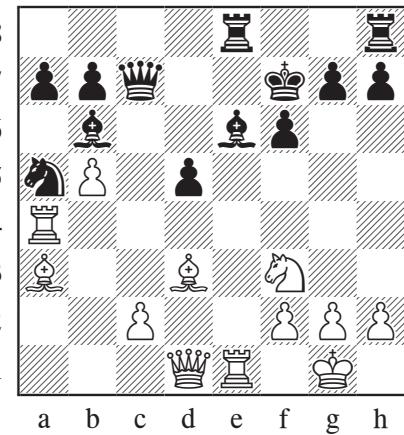
Graf – Carlsen, Sanxenxo 2004

952



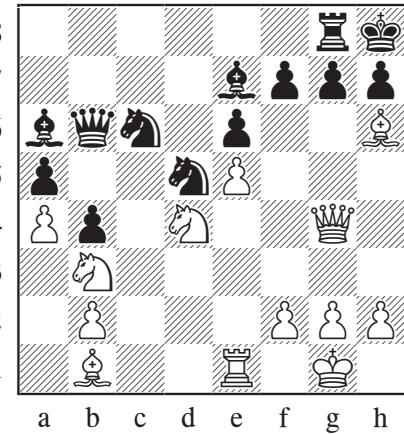
Carlsen – Nikolic, Wijk aan Zee 2005

953

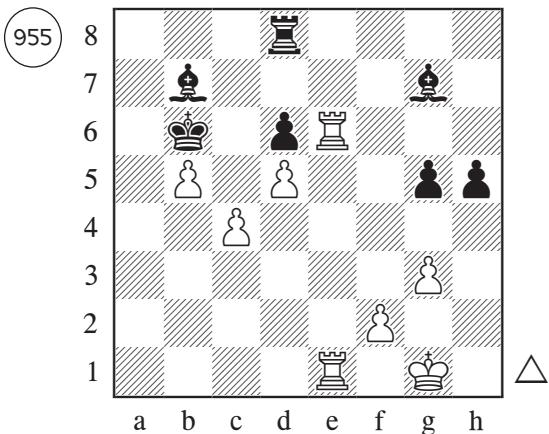


Carlsen – Hole, Gausdal 2005

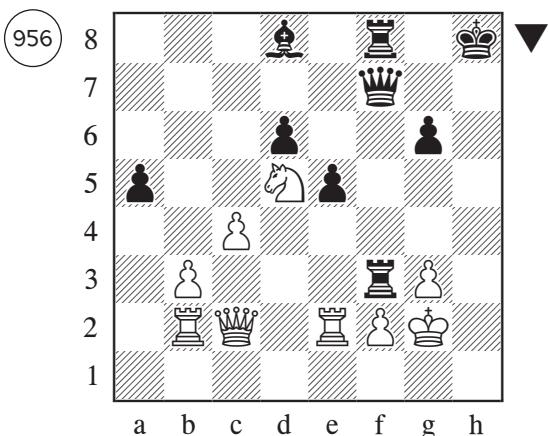
954



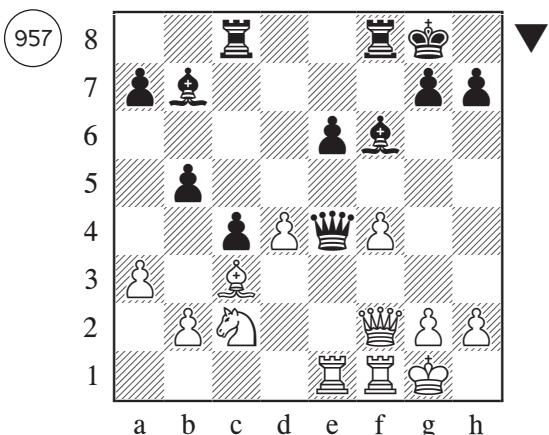
Carlsen – Kamsky, Khanty-Mansiysk (1) 2005



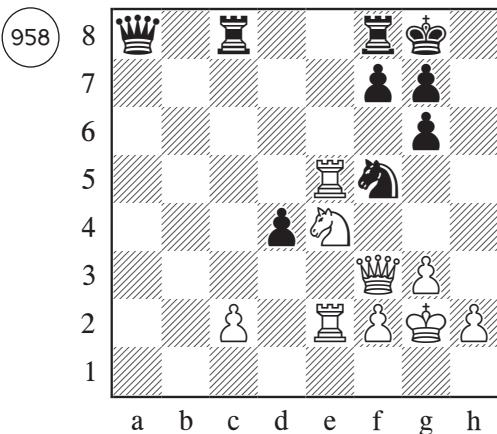
Smeets – Carlsen, Wijk aan Zee 2006



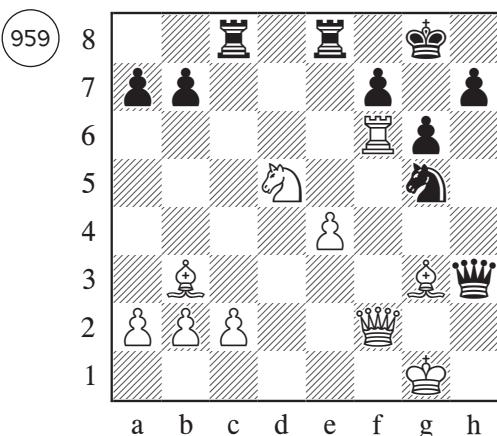
Williams – Carlsen, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006



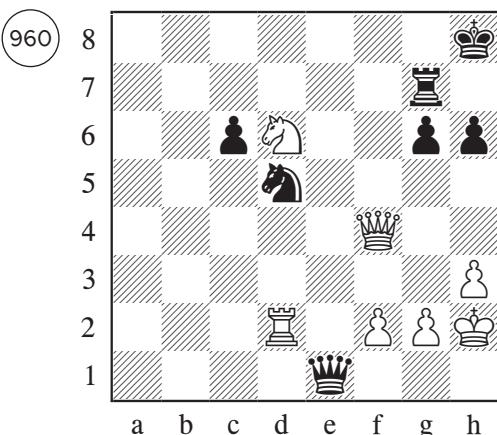
Carlsen – Shipov, Tromsø 2006



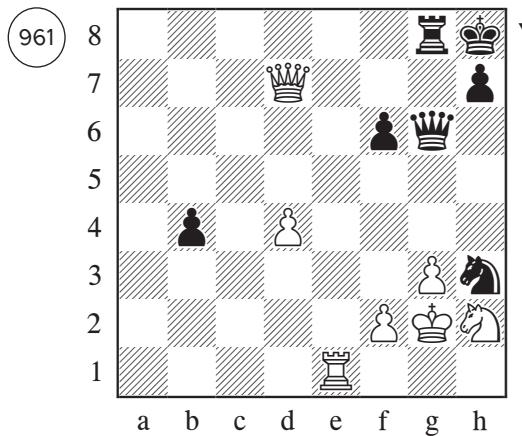
Carlsen – Lie, Moss 2006



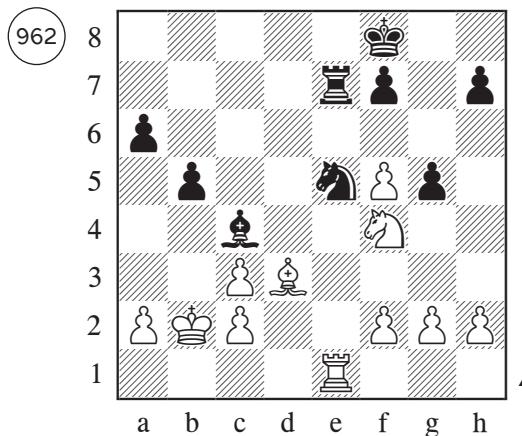
Carlsen – Morozevich, Biel 2006



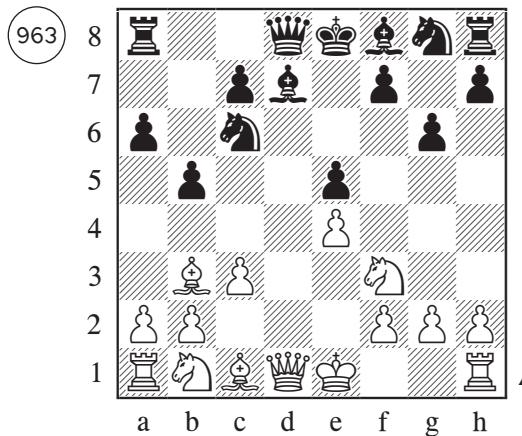
Yusupov – Carlsen, Amsterdam 2006



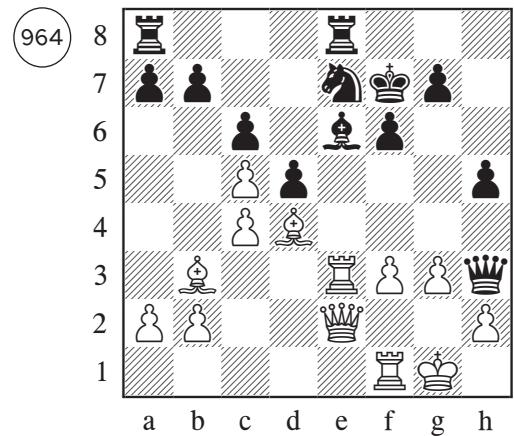
Carlsen – Gurevich, Rishon Le Zion (blitz) 2006



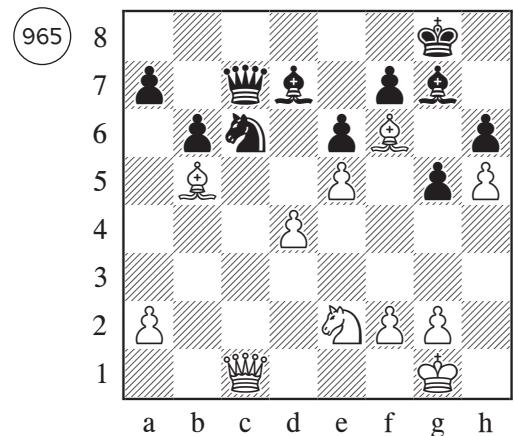
Carlsen – Agdestein, Oslo (4) 2006



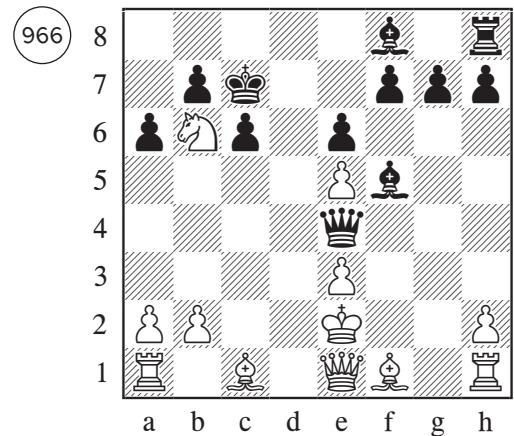
Motylev – Carlsen, Wijk aan Zee 2007



Carlsen – Ivanchuk, Morelia/Linares 2007

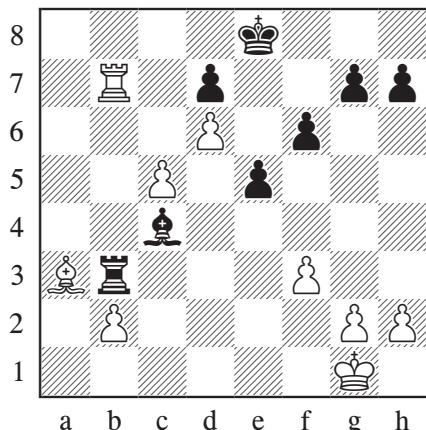


Leko – Carlsen, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2007



Sutovsky – Carlsen, Kemer 2007

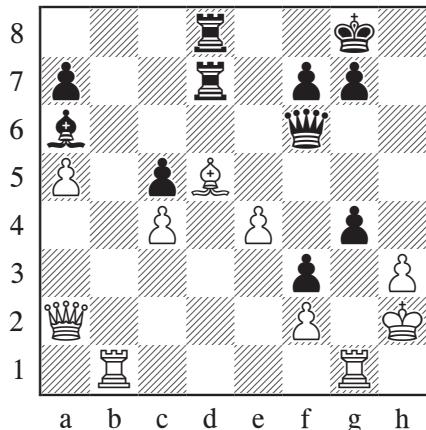
967



Jakovenko – Carlsen, Moscow 2007

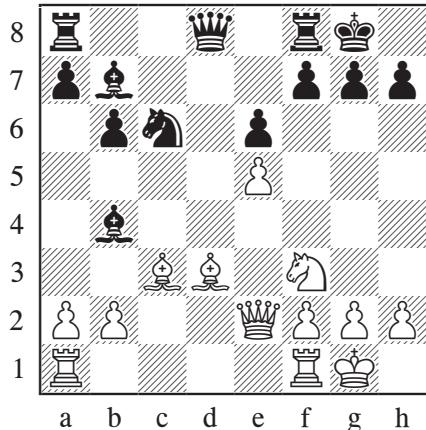


968



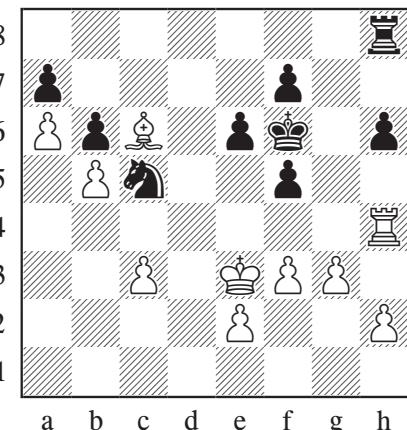
Ivanchuk – Carlsen, Nice (rapid) 2008

969

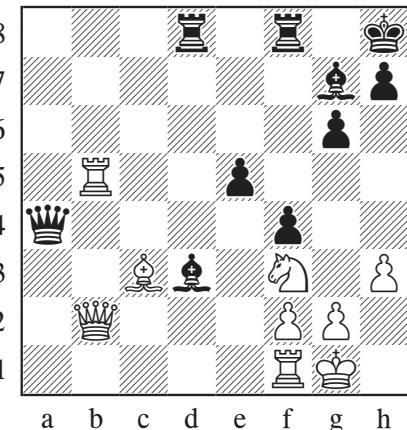


Carlsen – Anton Guijarro, Madrid (simul) 2008

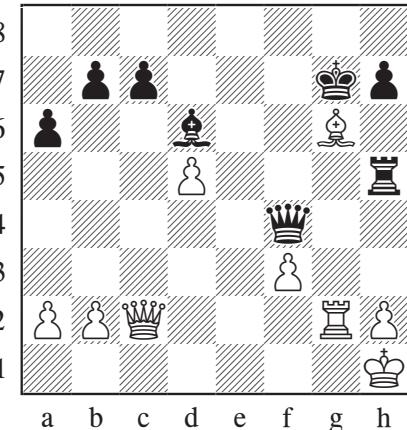
970



Carlsen – Dominguez Perez, Wijk aan Zee 2009

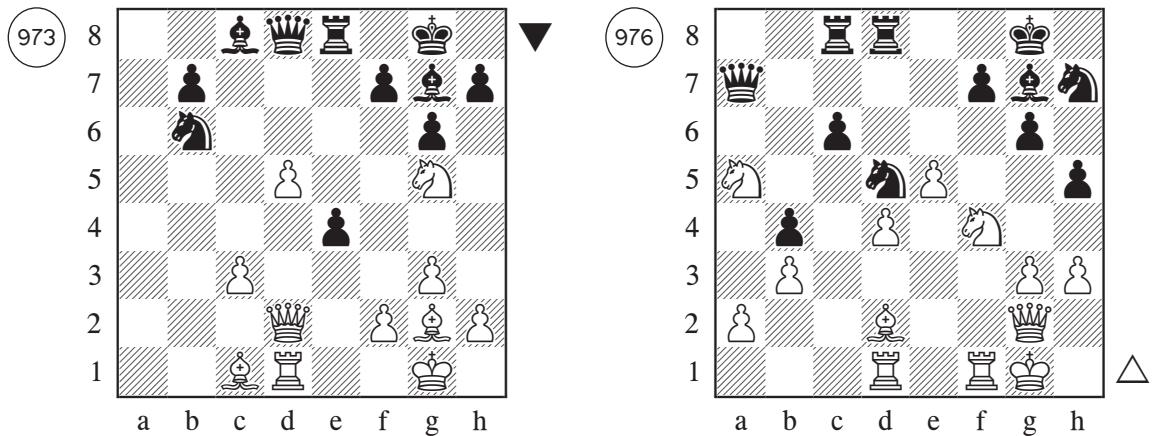


Karjakin – Carlsen, Nice (blindfold) 2010



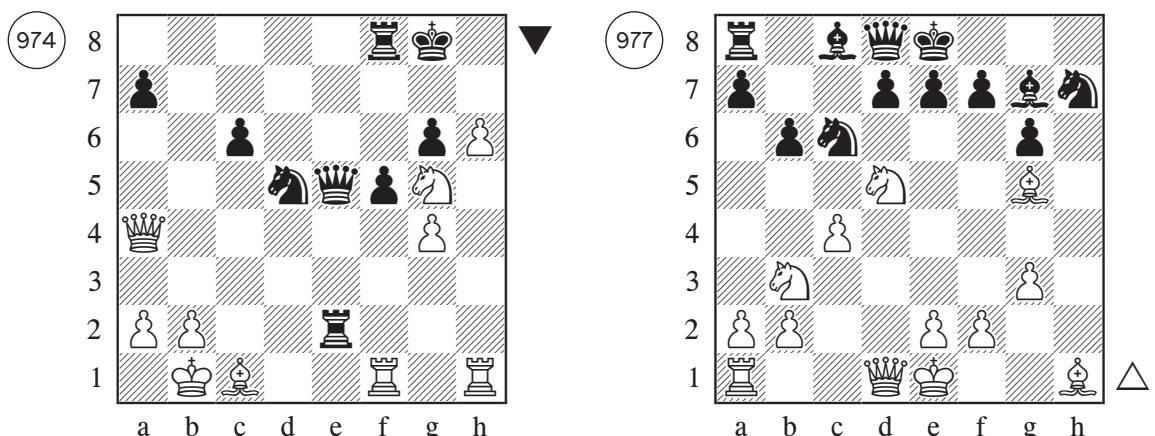
Carlsen – Giri, Wijk aan Zee 2011

Carlsen – Aronian, Wijk aan Zee 2012



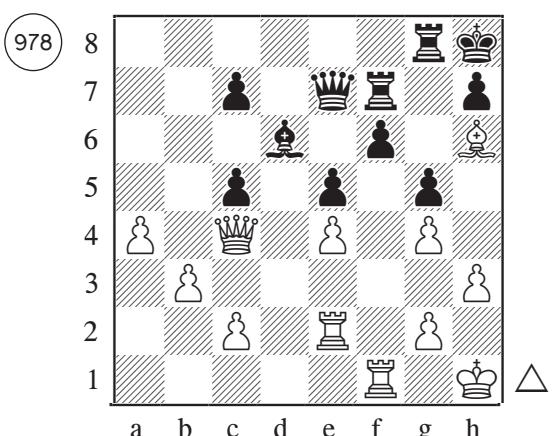
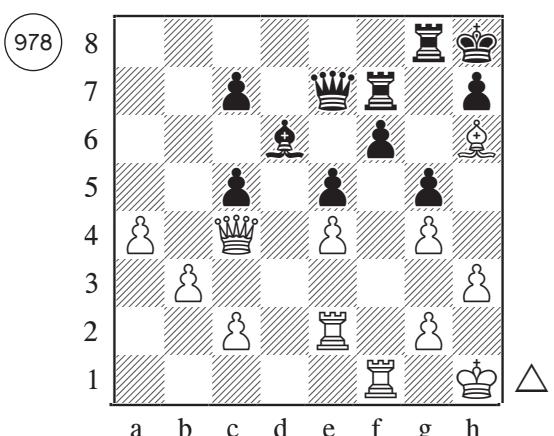
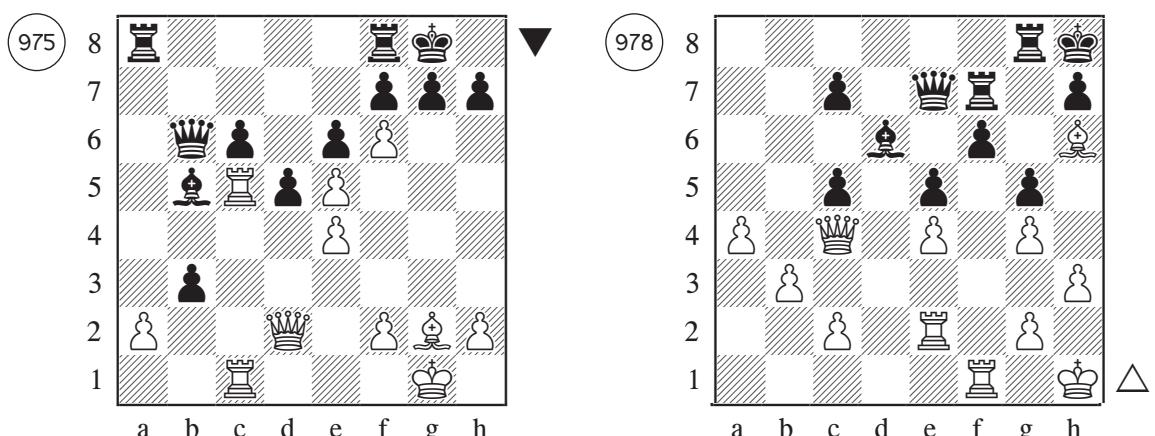
Carlsen – Nakamura, Medias 2011

Tomashevsky – Carlsen, Moscow (blitz) 2012



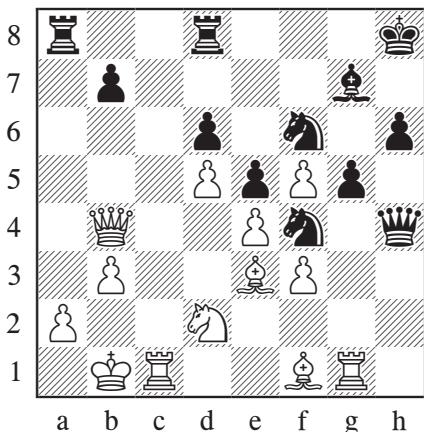
Aronian – Carlsen, Moscow 2011

Carlsen – Radjabov, Astana (blitz) 2012



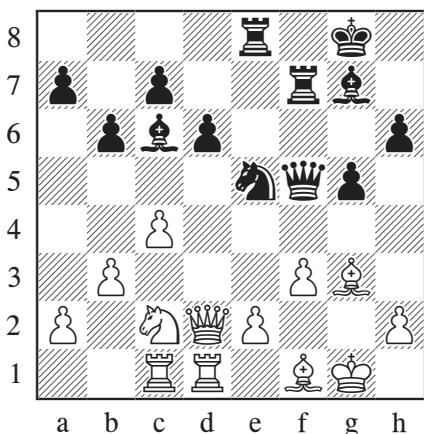
Carlsen – Polgar, Mexico City 2012

979



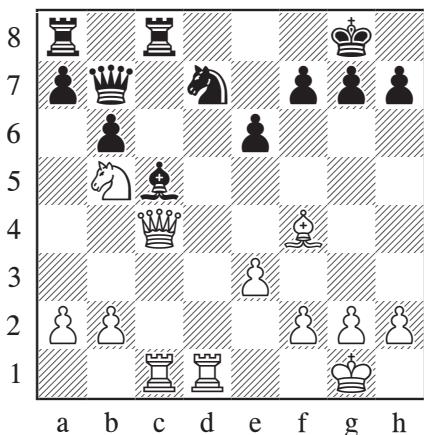
Hammer – Carlsen, Stavanger (blitz) 2013

980



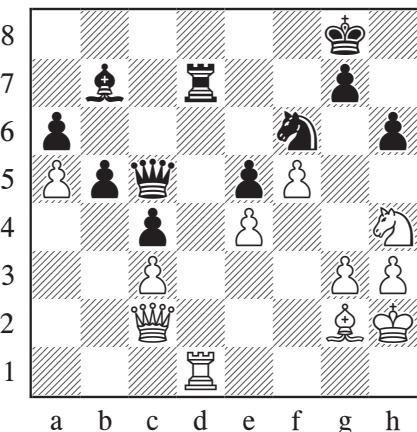
Mamedyarov – Carlsen, Moscow (blitz) 2013

981



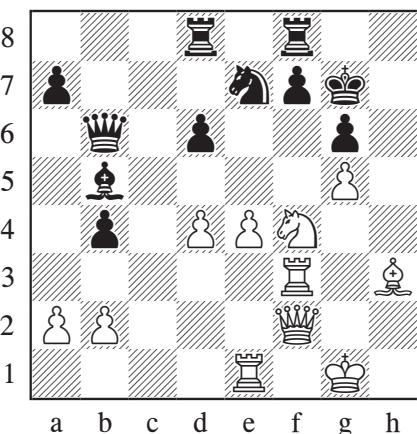
Mamedyarov – Carlsen, Shamkir 2014

982



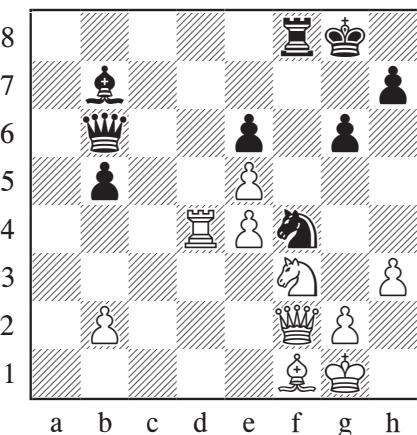
Carlsen – Wojtaszek, Tromsø (ol) 2014

983



Carlsen – Hevia, Internet (2) 2016

984



Chapter 3

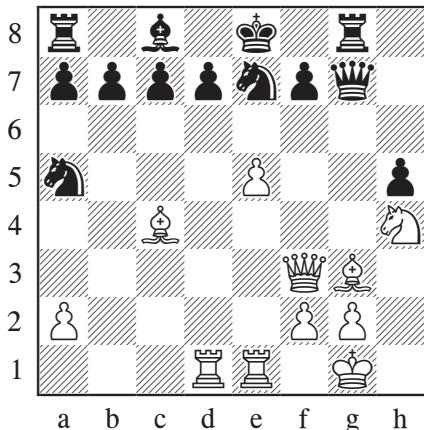
Advanced Exercises



Attackers may sometimes regret bad moves, but it is much worse to forever regret an opportunity you allowed to pass you by. – Garry Kasparov

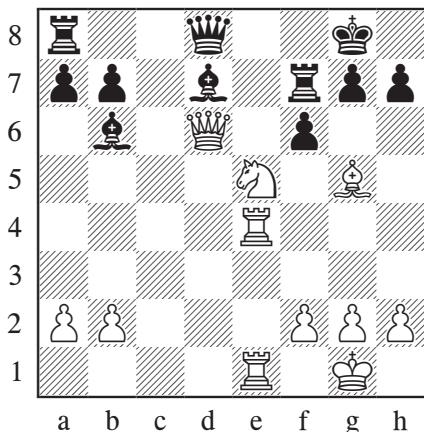
Steinitz – Meitner, Vienna 1859

985



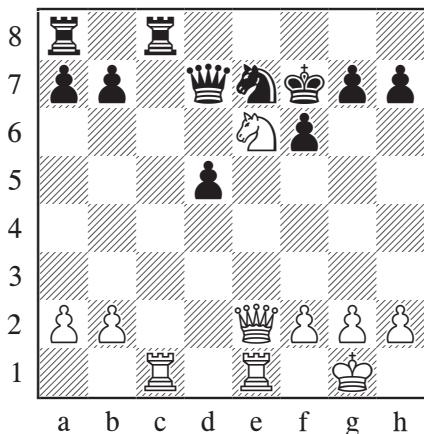
Zukertort – Steinitz, London (1) 1872

986



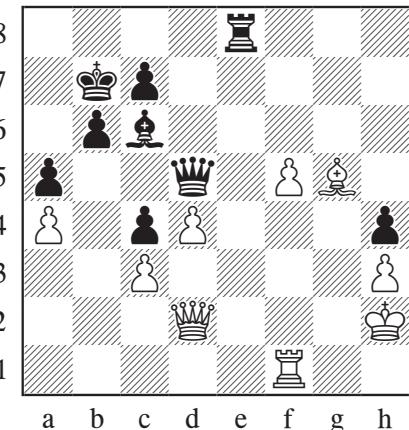
Steinitz – Von Bardeleben, Hastings 1895

987



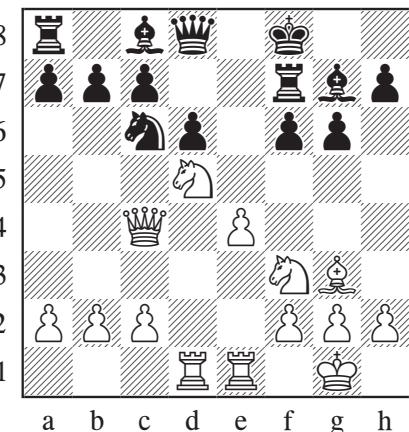
Steinitz – Lasker, Moscow (3) 1896

988



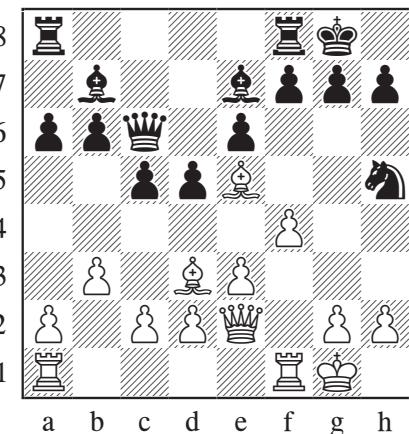
Lipke – Steinitz, Vienna 1898

989

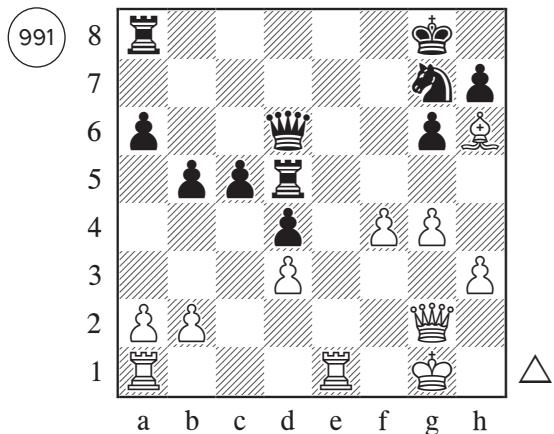


Lasker – Bauer, Amsterdam 1889

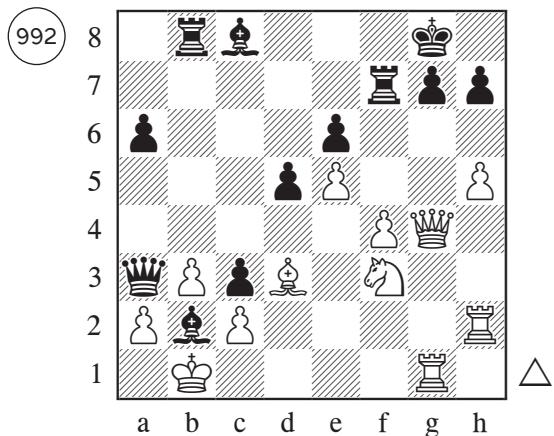
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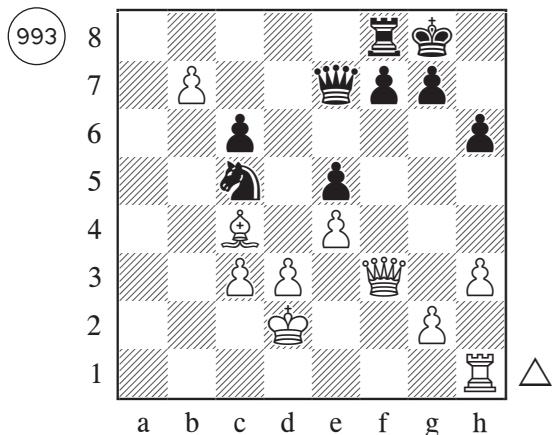
Lasker – Blackburne, London 1892



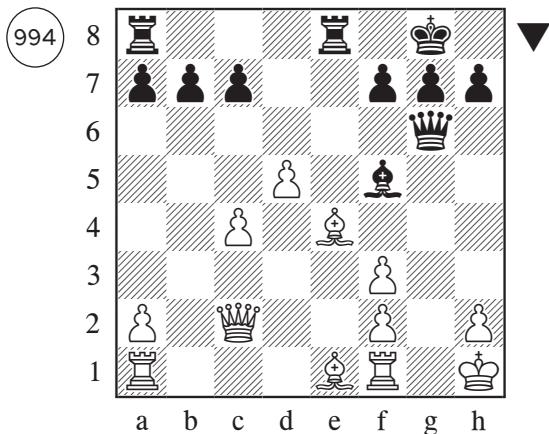
Lasker – Hasselblatt, Riga (simul) 1909



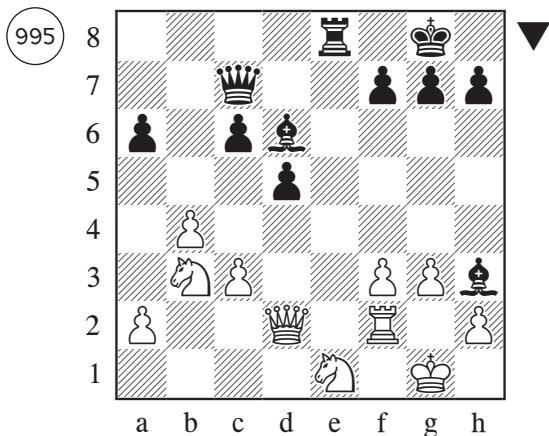
Lasker – Molina, Buenos Aires (simul) 1910



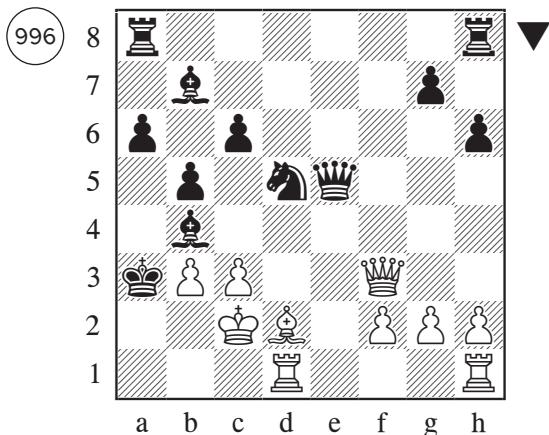
Lasker – Breyer, Budapest 1911



Lasker – Bogoljubov, Zurich 1934

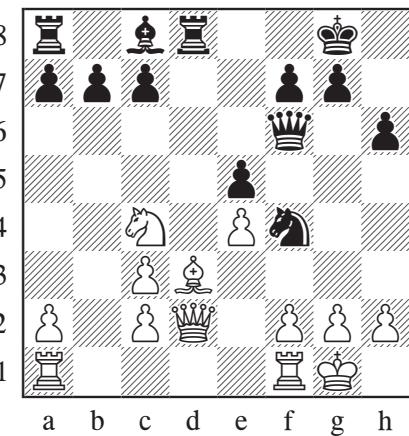


Capablanca – Pagliano/Elias, Buenos Aires 1911



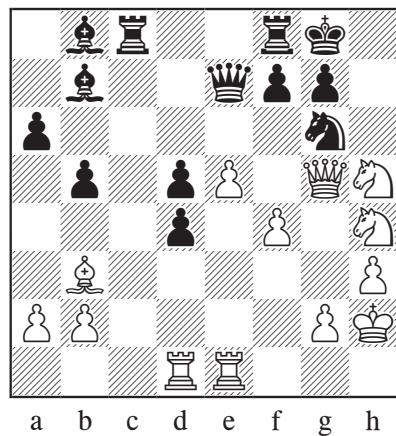
Fernandez Coria – Capablanca, Buenos Aires 1914

997



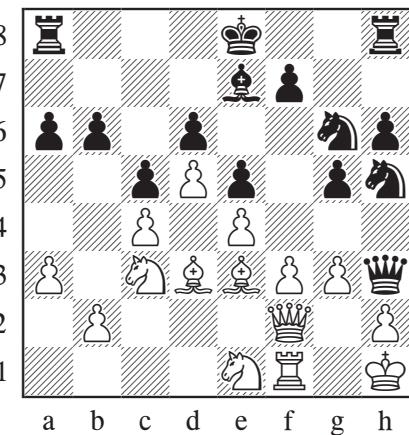
Fridlizius – Alekhine, Stockholm 1912

1000



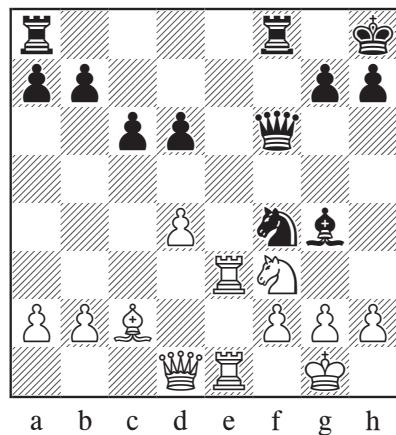
Tereshchenko – Alekhine, St Petersburg 1909

998



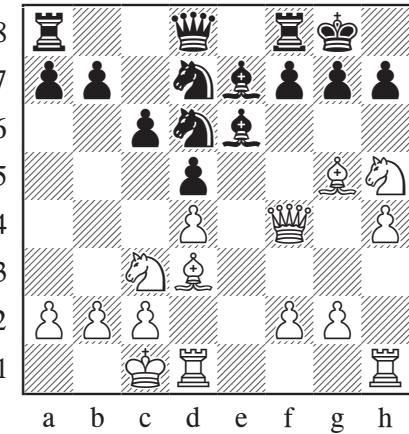
Fleissig – Alekhine, Bern (simul) 1922

1001



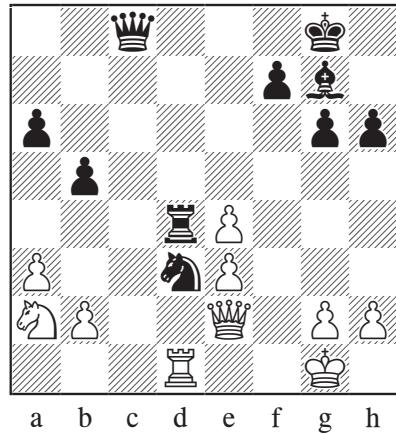
Alekhine – Gutkevitsch, Moscow (simul) 1910

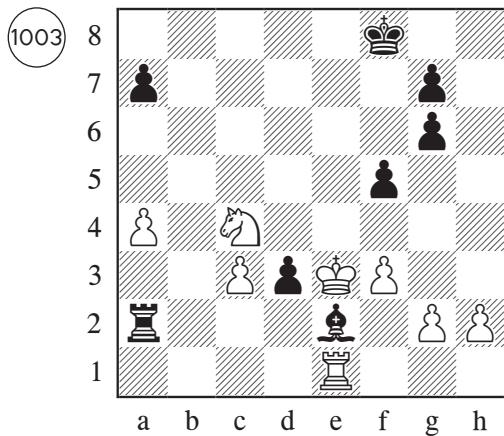
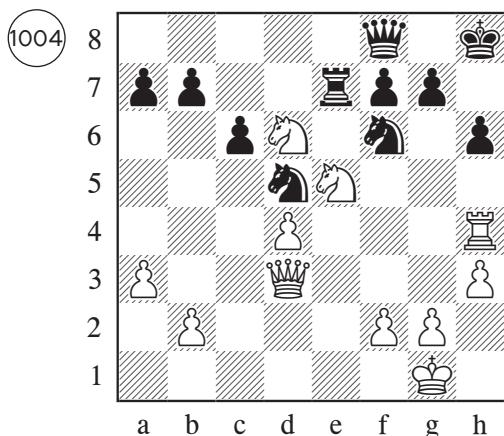
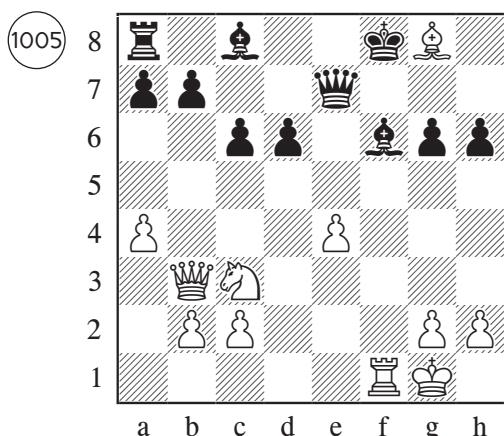
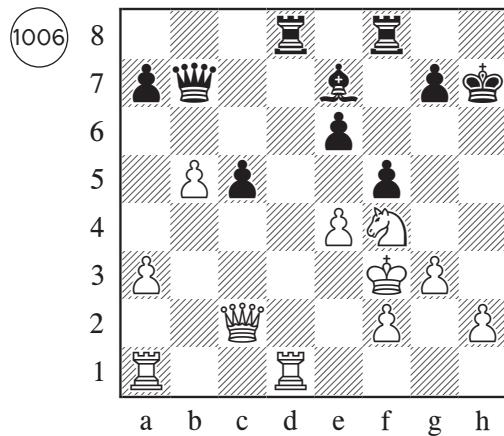
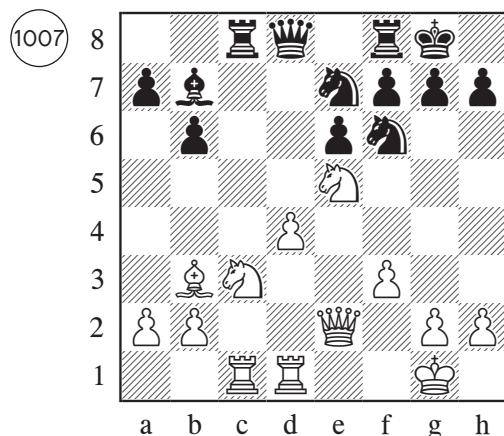
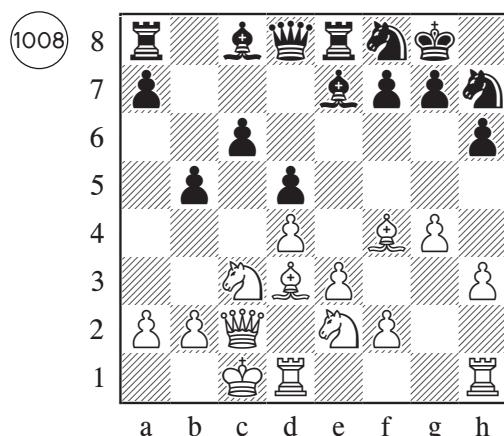
999



Grünfeld – Alekhine, Karlsbad 1923

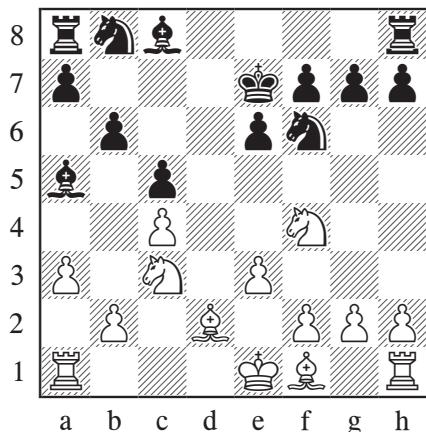
1002



Alekhine – Scholtz, Los Angeles (simul) 1932**Alekhine – Correia Neves**, Estoril (simul) 1940**Alekhine – Mollinedo**, Madrid (simul) 1941**Euwe – Felderhof**, Netherlands 1931**Botvinnik – Batuyev**, Leningrad 1930**Lilienthal – Smyslov**, Leningrad/Moscow 1939

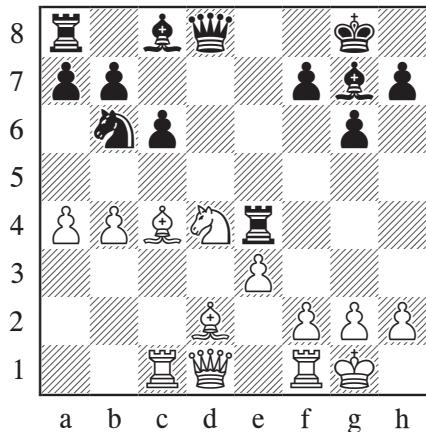
Smyslov – Stoltz, Bucharest 1953

1009



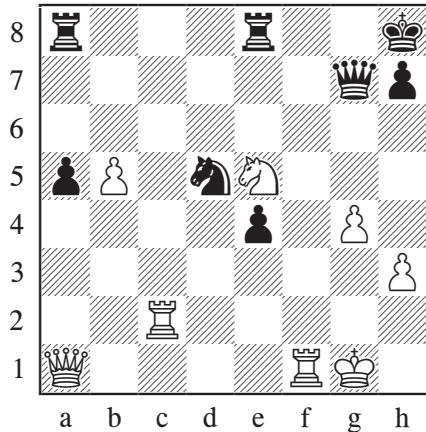
Smyslov – Stein, Moscow 1969

1010



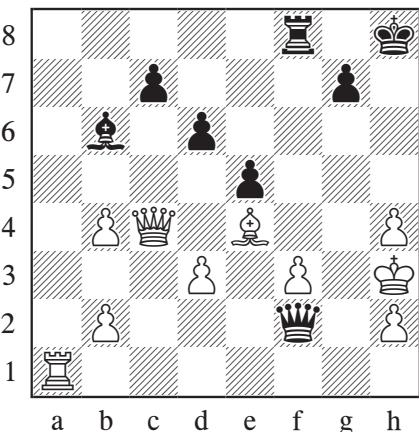
Smyslov – Minic, Kapfenberg 1970

1011



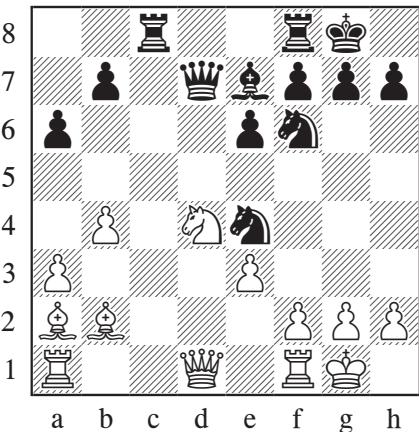
Smyslov – Addison, Palma de Mallorca 1970

1012



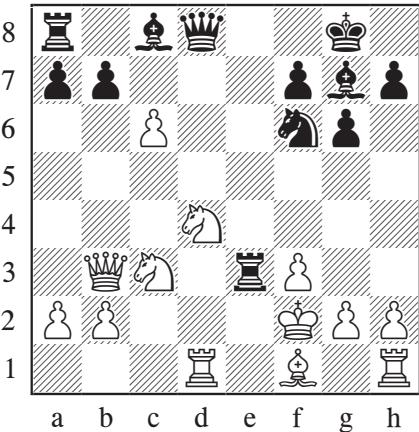
Borisenko – Tal, Leningrad 1956

1013



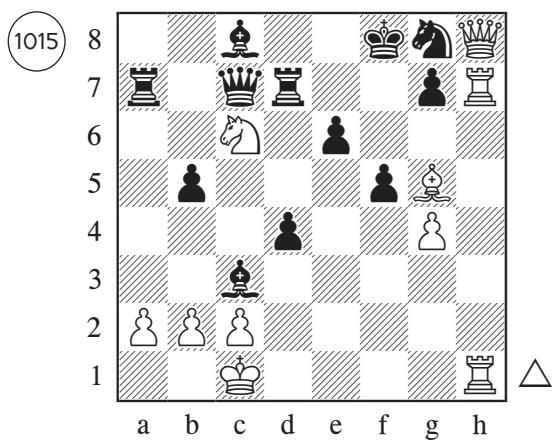
Szukszta – Tal, Uppsala (blitz) 1956

1014

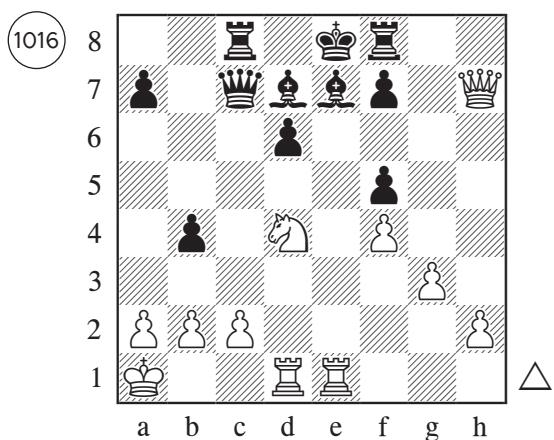


a b c d e f g h

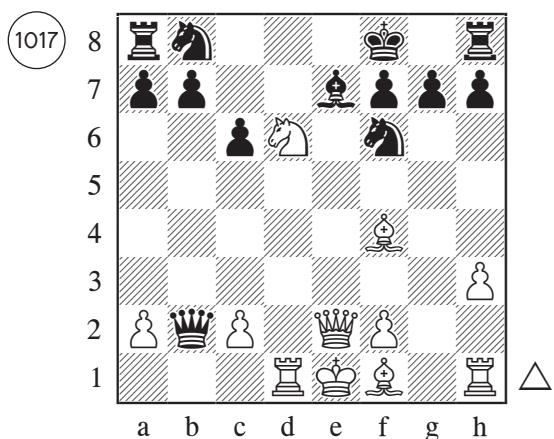
Tal – Koblencs, Riga 1957



Tal – Klaman, Moscow 1957

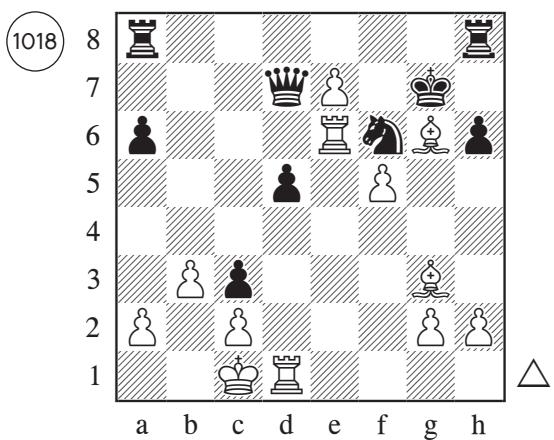


Tal – Koblencs, Moscow 1960

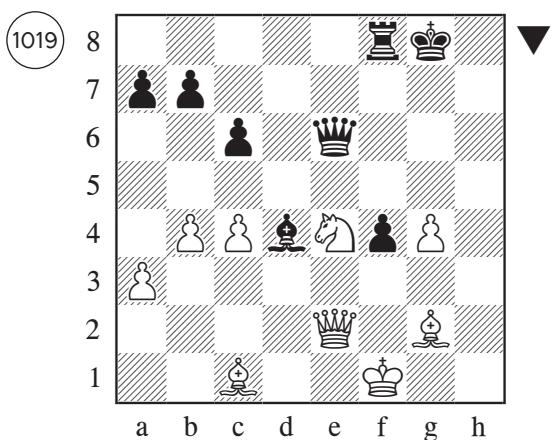


Tal – Koblencs, Moscow 1960

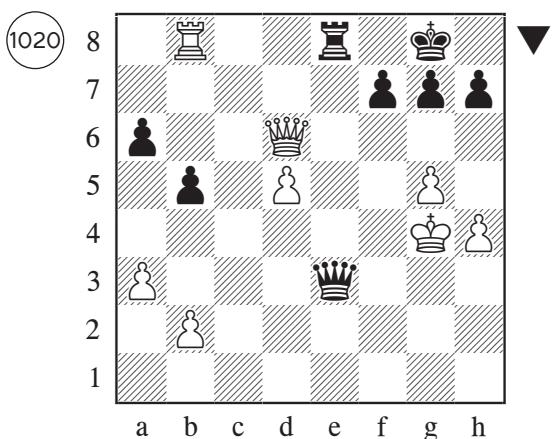
Tal – Koblencs, Riga 1961



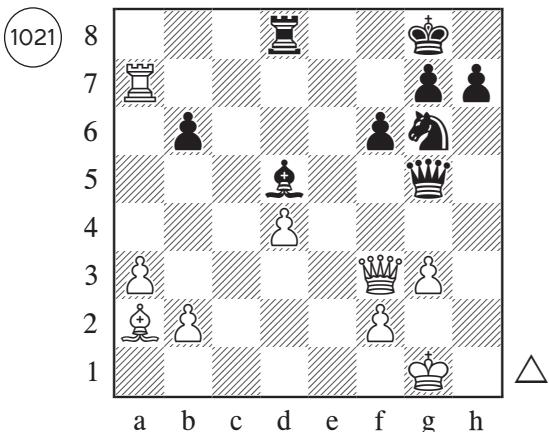
Donner – Tal, Bled 1961



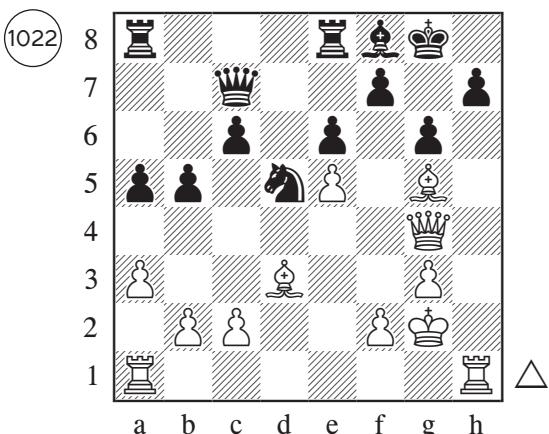
Evans – Tal, Amsterdam 1964



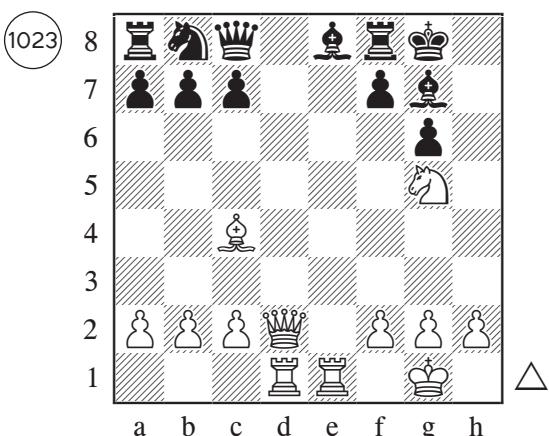
Tal – Brinck Claussen, Havana (ol) 1966



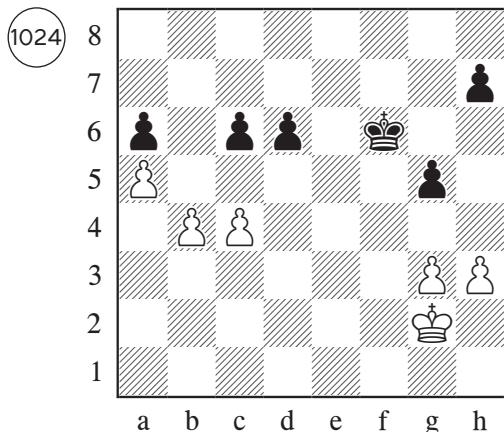
Tal – Gurgenidze, Alma-Ata 1968



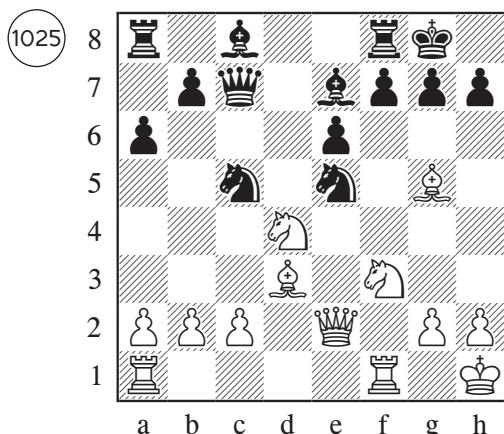
Tal – Petrosian, Moscow 1974



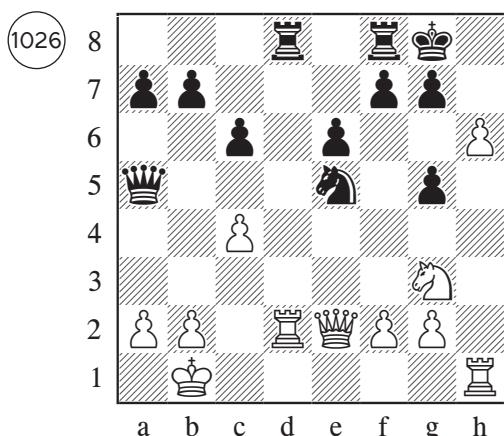
Tal – Hulak, Novi Sad 1974



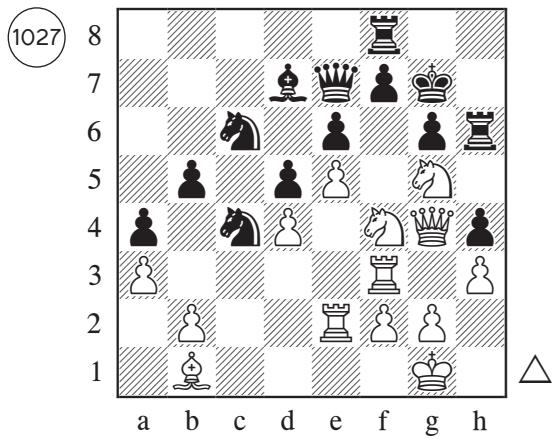
Tal – N.N., East Berlin (simul) 1975



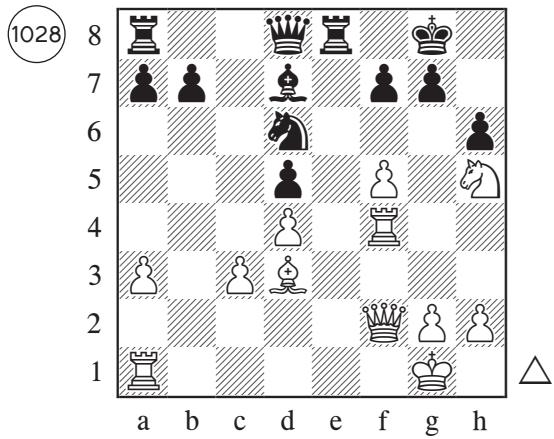
Beliavsky – Tal, Moscow 1981



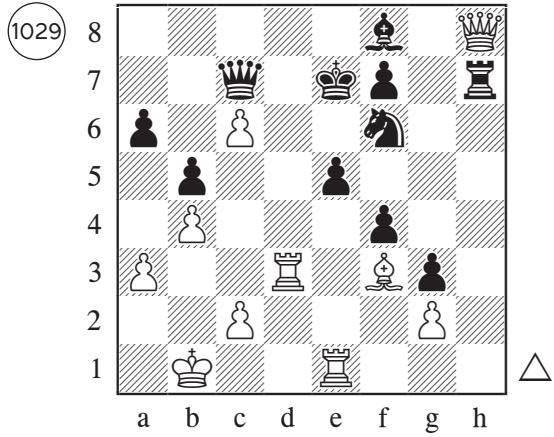
Tal – Schmidt, Porz 1982



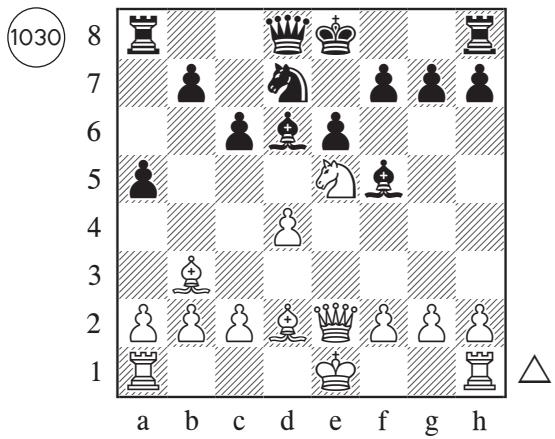
Kasparov – Tal, Brussels 1987



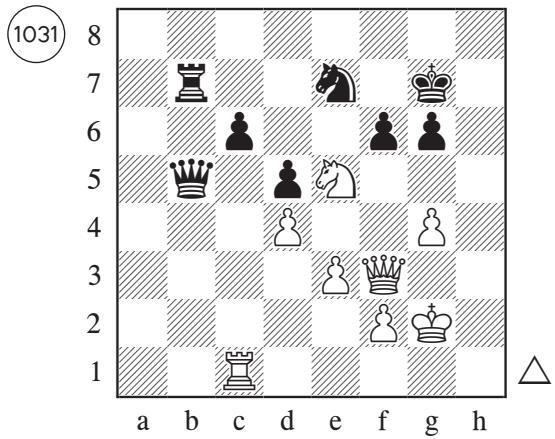
Spassky – Petrosian, Moscow 1955



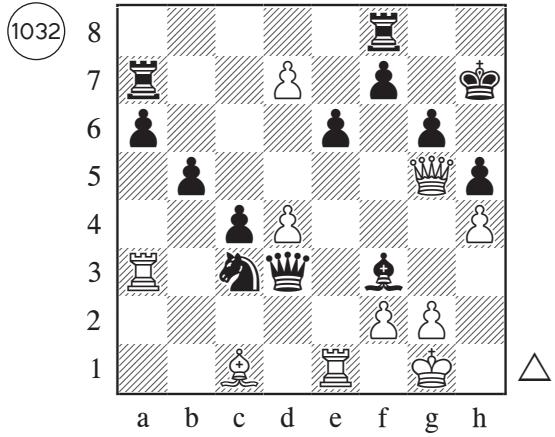
Gligoric – Petrosian, Leningrad 1957



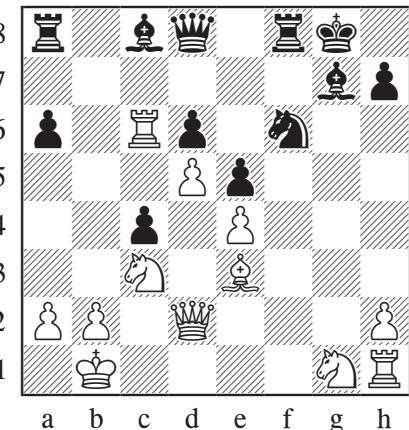
Petrosian – Rossetto, Portoroz 1958



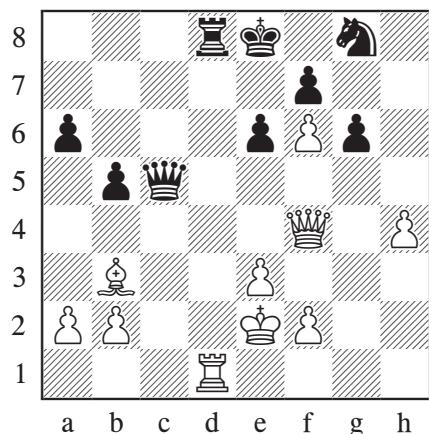
Petrosian – Ignatiev, Moscow 1958



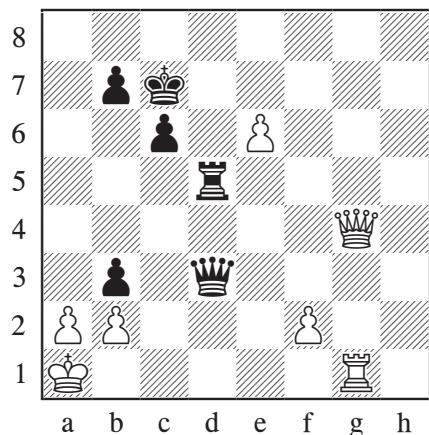
Andersen – Petrosian, Copenhagen 1960



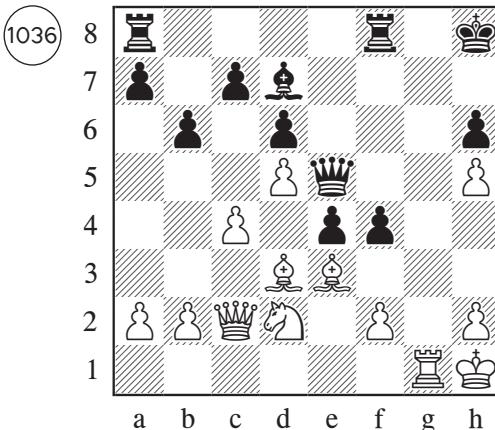
Petrosian – Polugaevsky, Moscow 1963



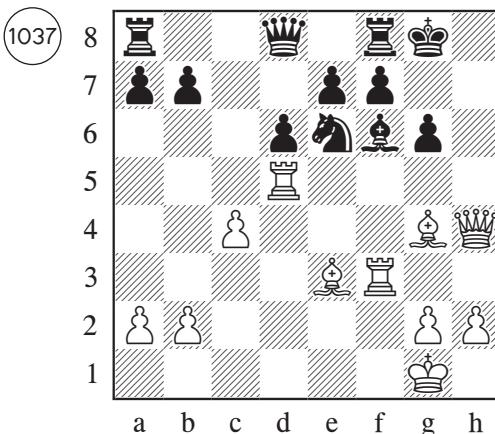
Petrosian – Ivkov, Hamburg 1965



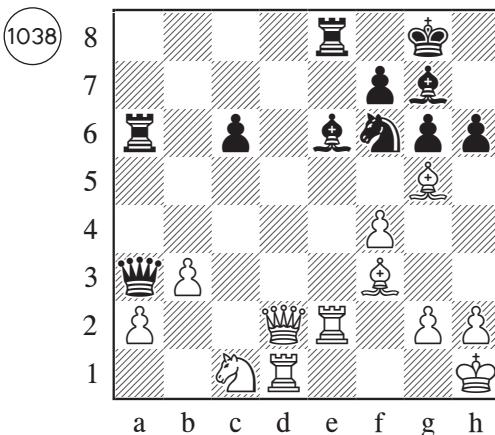
Petrosian – Spassky, Moscow (12) 1966

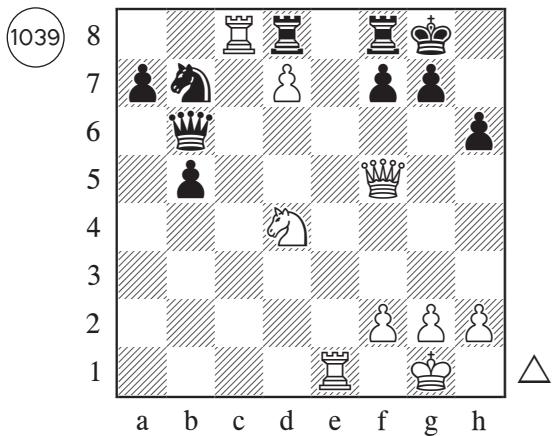
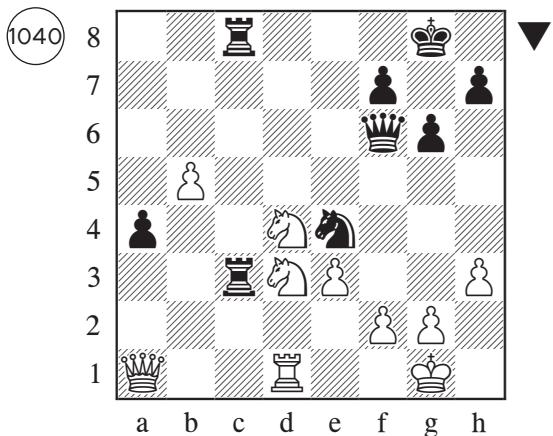
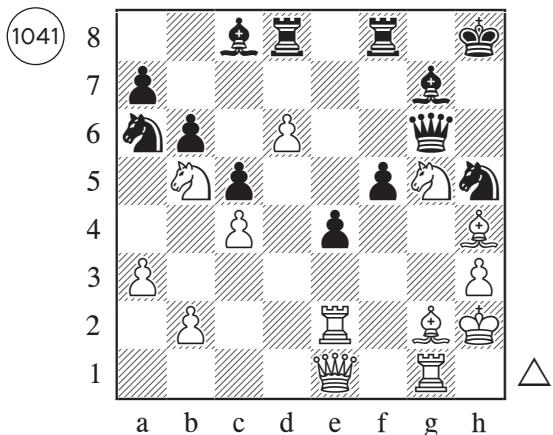
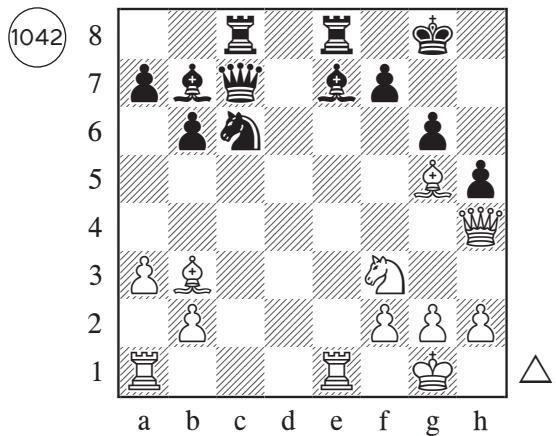
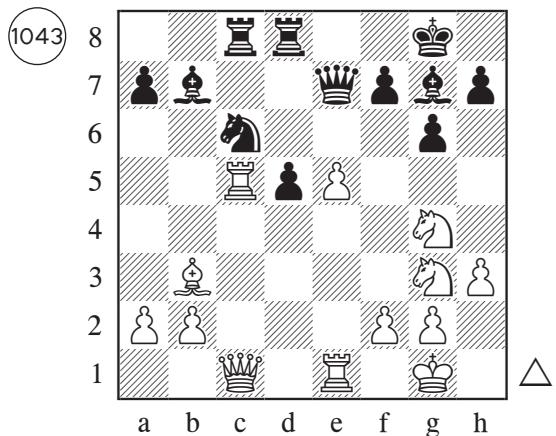
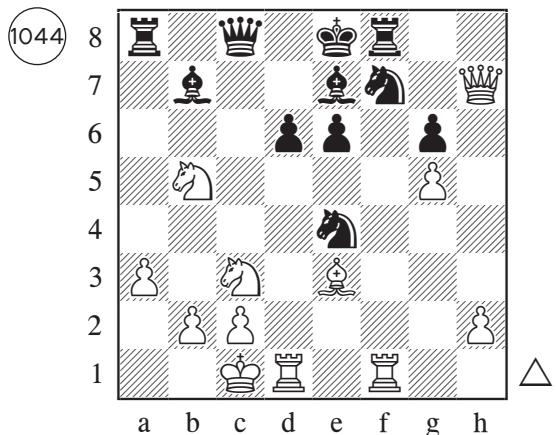


Larsen – Petrosian, Santa Monica 1966

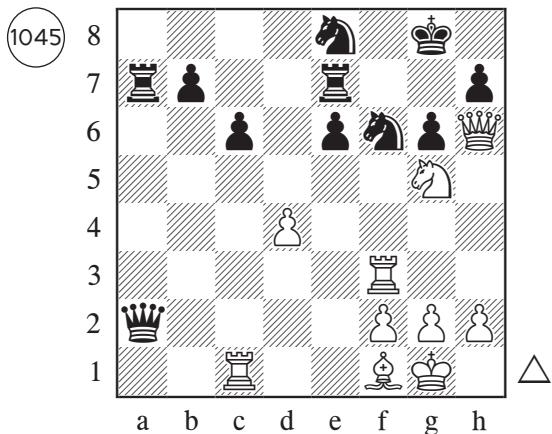


Petrosian – Westerinen, Palma de Mallorca 1968

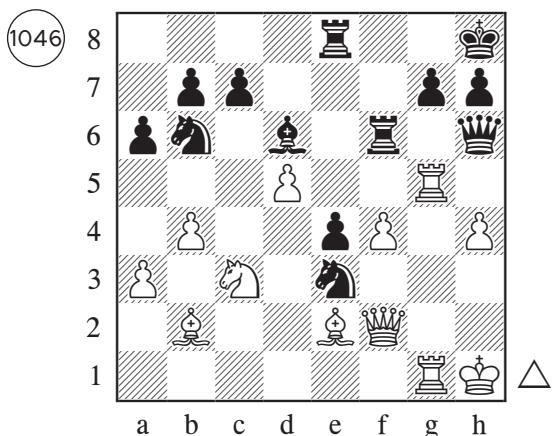


Spassky – Petrosian, Moscow (5) 1969**Petrosian – Spassky, Moscow (8) 1969****Marovic – Petrosian, Amsterdam 1973****Petrosian – Balashov, Soviet Union 1974****Hübner – Petrosian, Biel 1976****Fedorowicz – Petrosian, Hastings 1977**

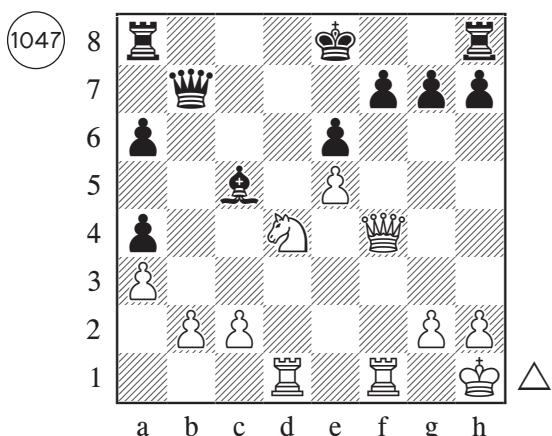
Ivkov – Petrosian, Teslic 1979



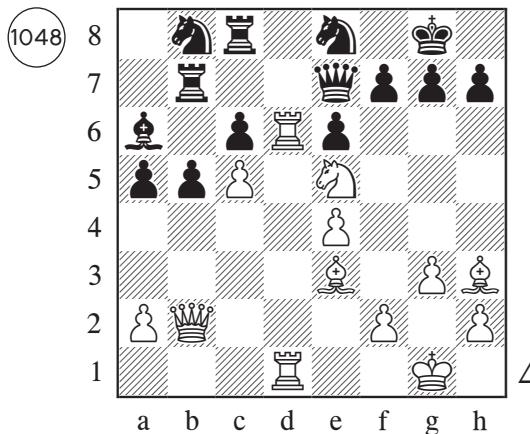
Vvedensky – Spassky, Leningrad 1952



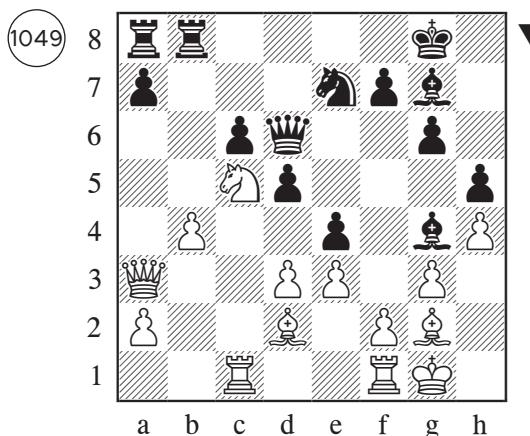
Spassky – Darga, Varna (ol) 1962



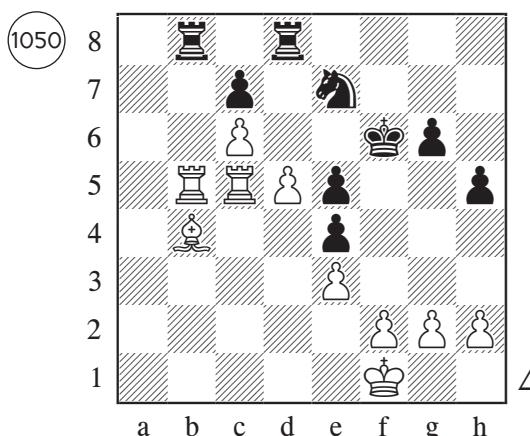
Spassky – Zinn, Marianske Lazne 1962

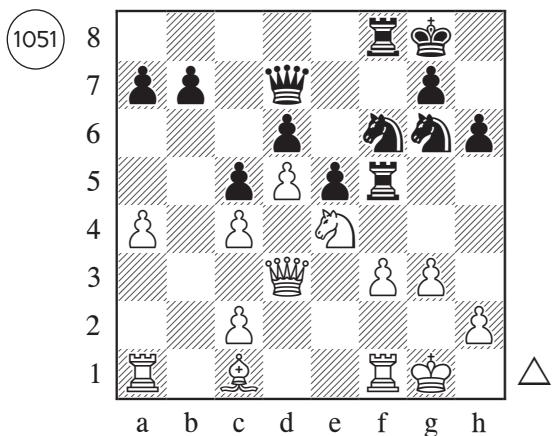
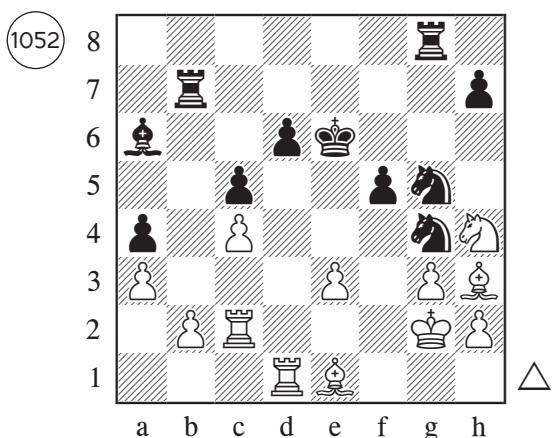
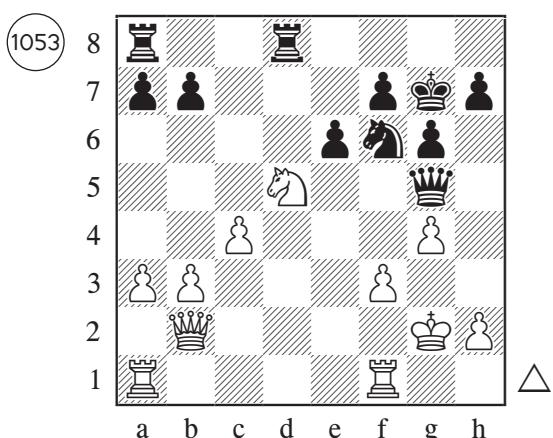
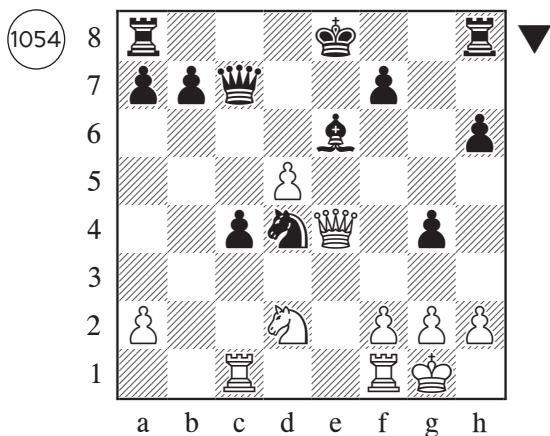
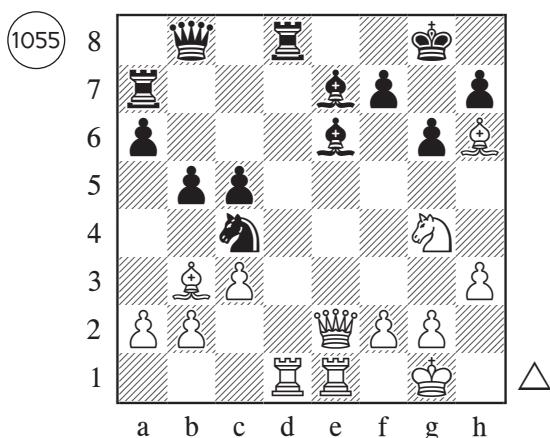
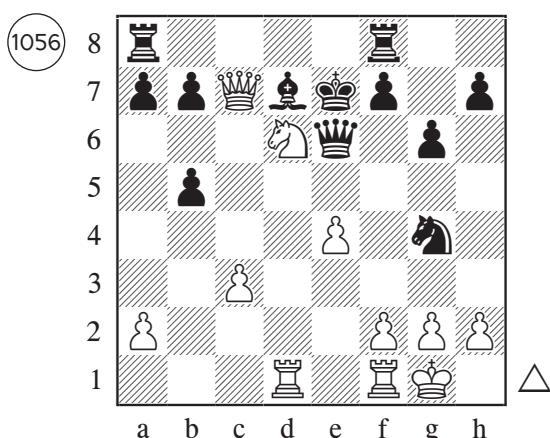


1049. Larsen – Spassky, Malmo 1968

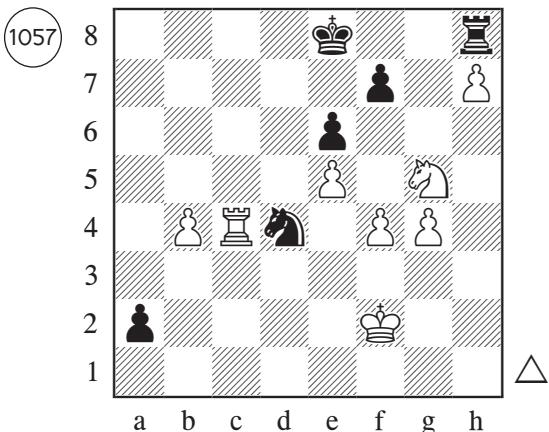


Spassky – Hübner, Solingen (4) 1977

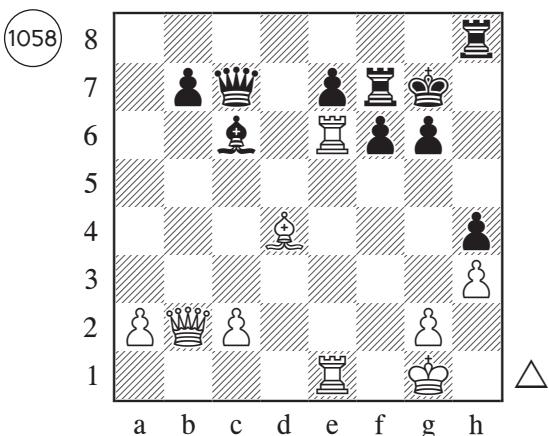


Hodgson – Spassky, Brussels 1985**Cramling – Spassky**, London 1996**Sobel – Fischer**, Montreal 1956**Bazan – Fischer**, Mar del Plata 1960**Fischer – Keres**, Curacao 1962**Fischer – Celle**, Davis (simul) 1964

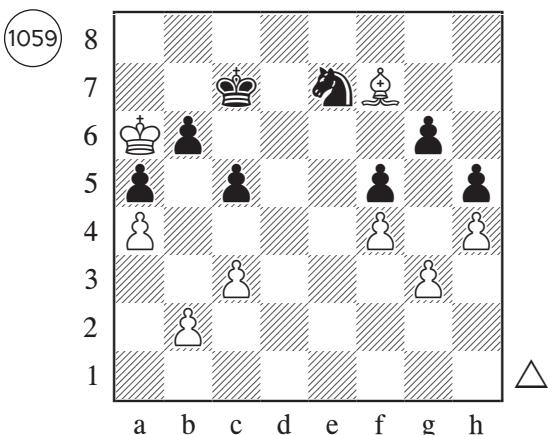
Fischer – Haskins, Denver (simul) 1964



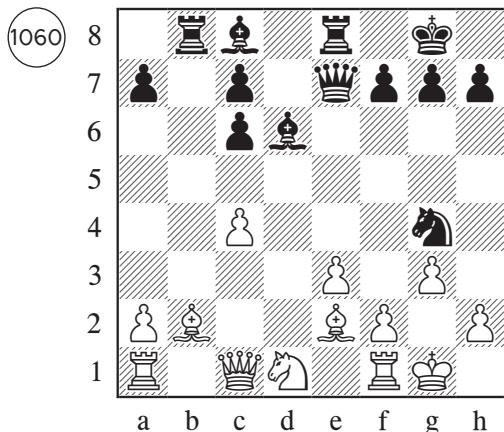
Fischer – Cobo Arteaga, Havana 1965



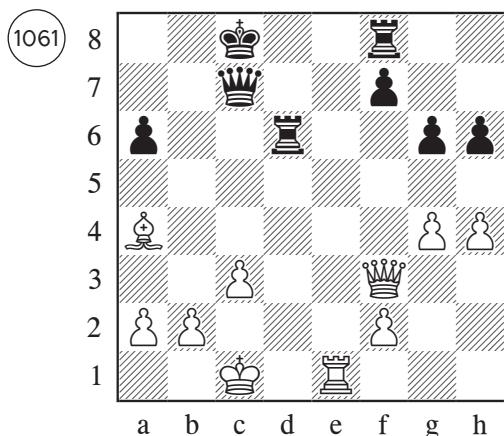
Fischer – Taimanov, Vancouver (4) 1971



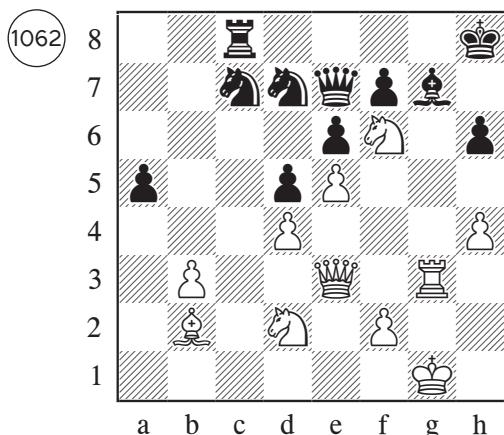
Timman – Karpov, Montreal 1979



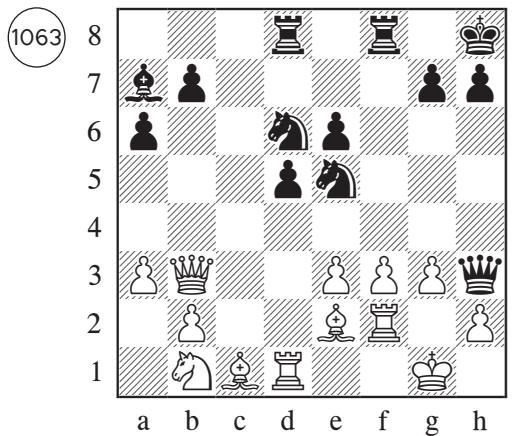
Karpov – Sax, Linares 1983



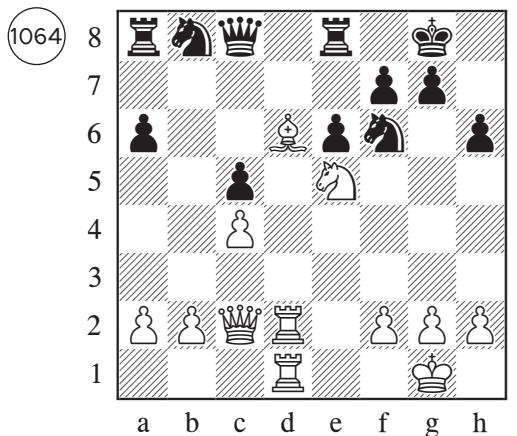
Winants – Karpov, Brussels 1988



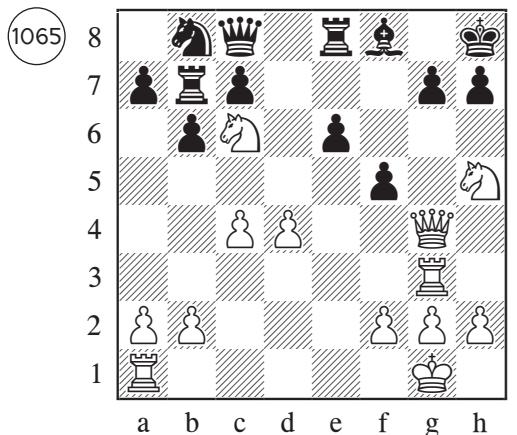
Karpov – Kramnik, Monaco (blindfold) 1997



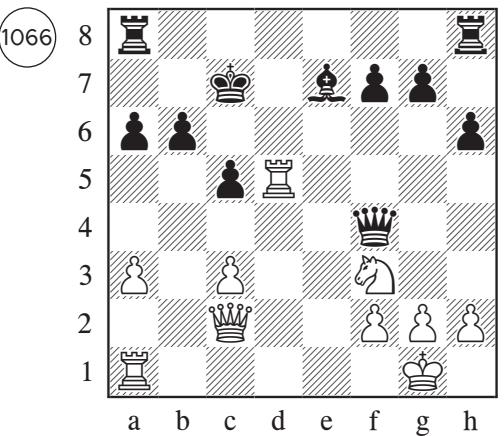
Aronian – Karpov, Hoogeveen 2003



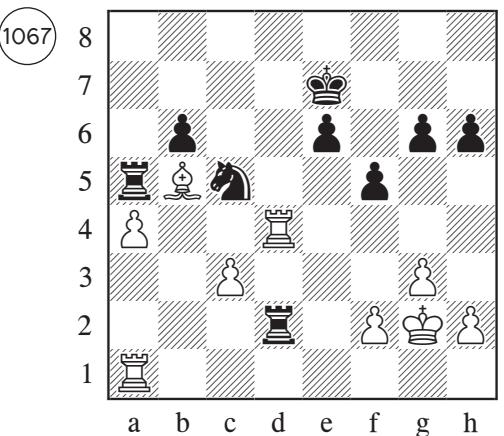
Karpov – Stojanovic, Valjevo 2007



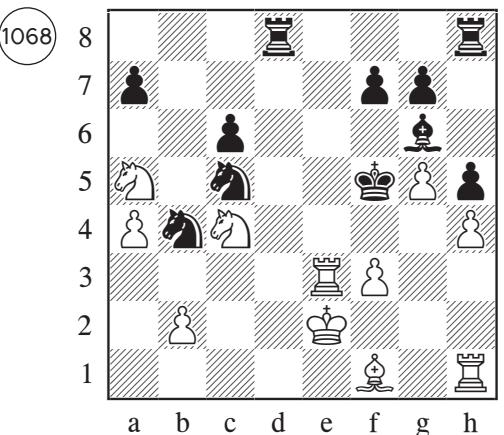
Kasparov – Gheorghiu, Moscow 1982



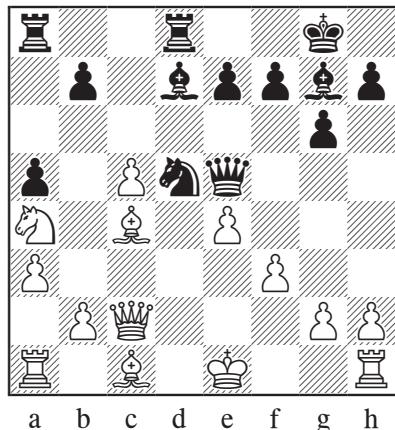
Kasparov – Korchnoi, London (1) 1983



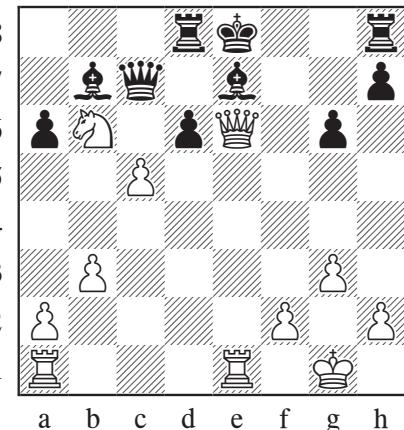
Kasparov – Conquest, London/New York (simul) 1984



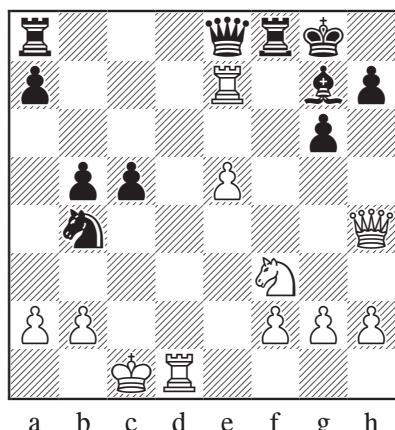
Wegner – Kasparov, Hamburg (simul) 1987



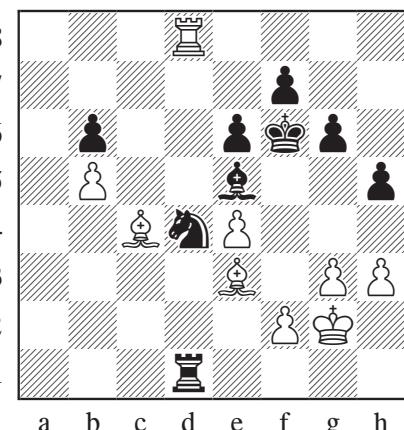
Kasparov – Salov, Barcelona 1989



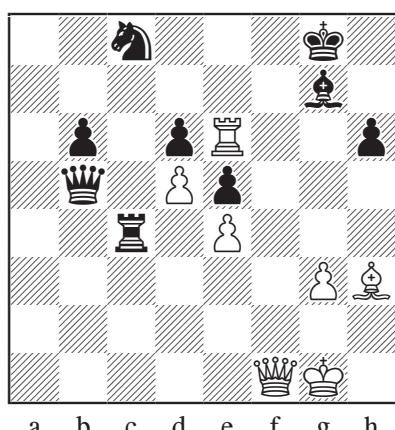
Beliavsky – Kasparov, Belfort 1988



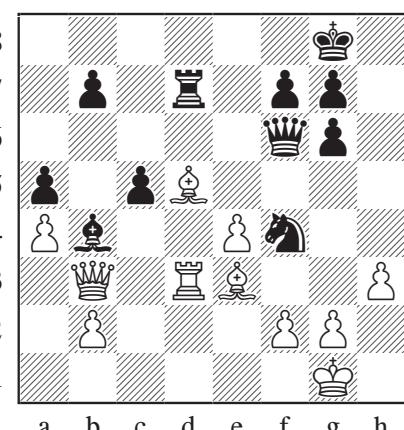
Kasparov – Ivanchuk, Manila (ol) 1992



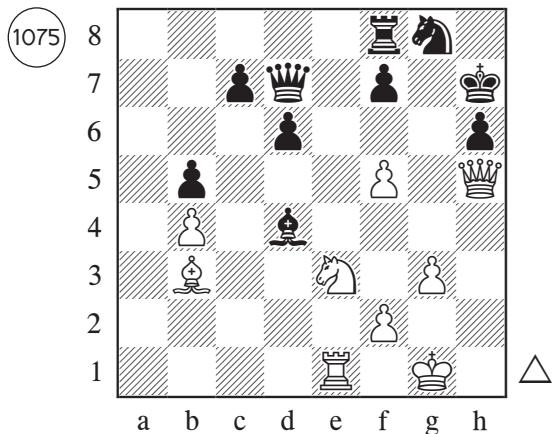
Kasparov – Smirin, Moscow 1988



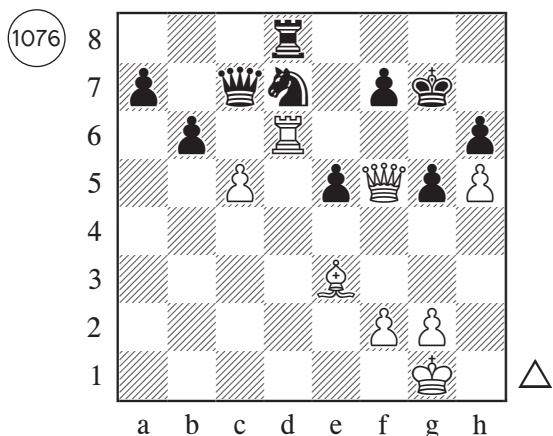
Kasparov – Anand, Linares 1993



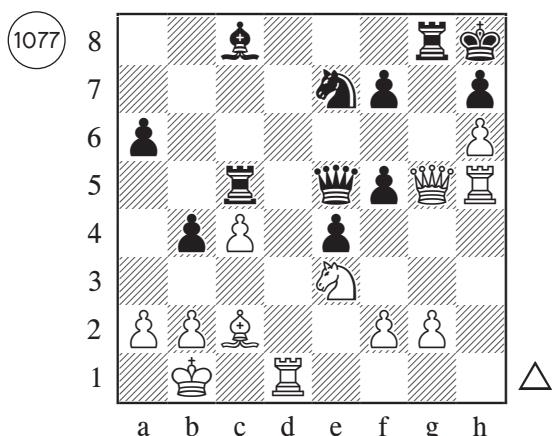
Kasparov – Short, London (7) 1993



Kasparov – Bareev, Novgorod 1994

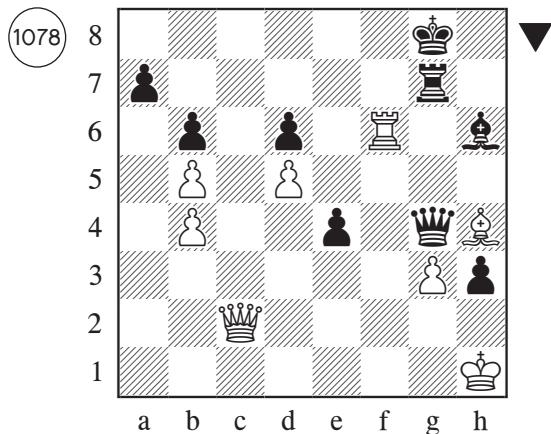


Kasparov – Lautier, Moscow (ol) 1994

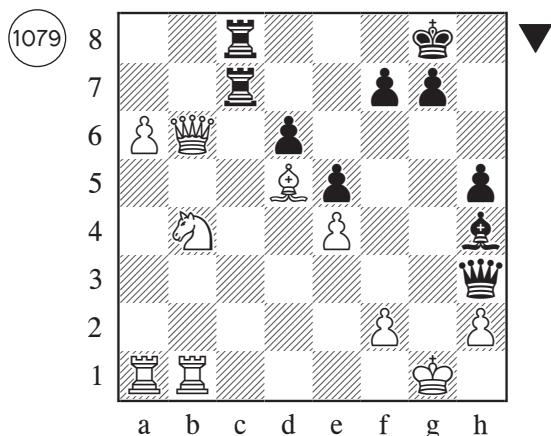


Kasparov – Kramnik, Frankfurt 2000

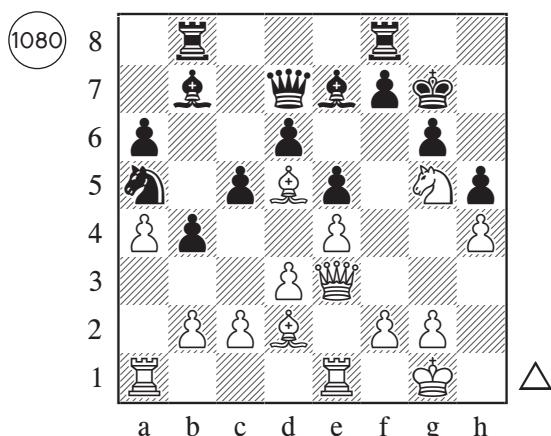
Piket – Kasparov, Linares 1997



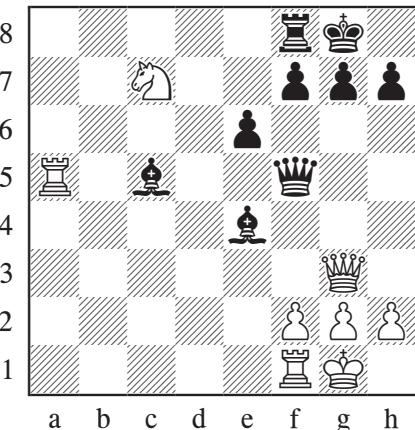
Kasparov – Kramnik, Frankfurt 2000



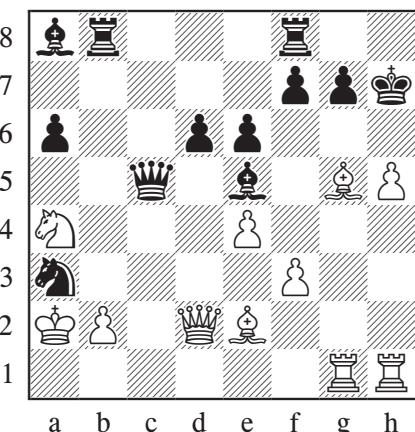
Kasparov – Vladimirov, Batumi (rapid) 2001



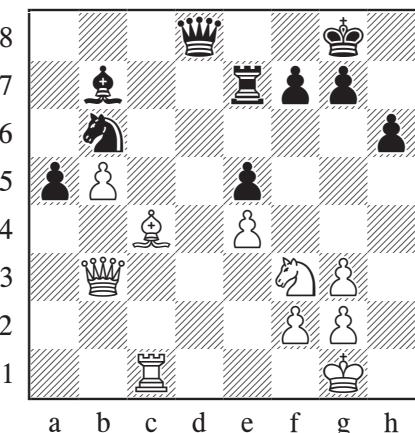
Vallejo Pons – Kasparov, Linares 2005



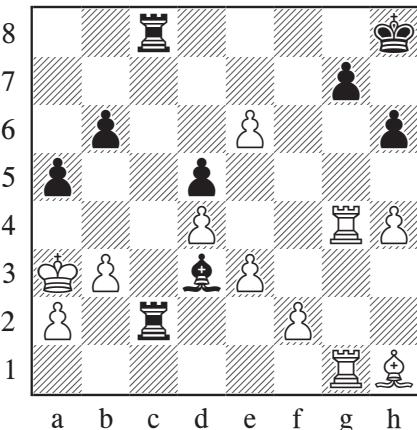
Adams – Kasparov, Linares 2005



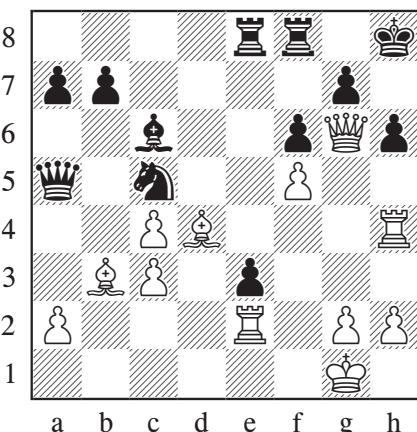
Khalifman – Ubilava, Kuibyshev 1986



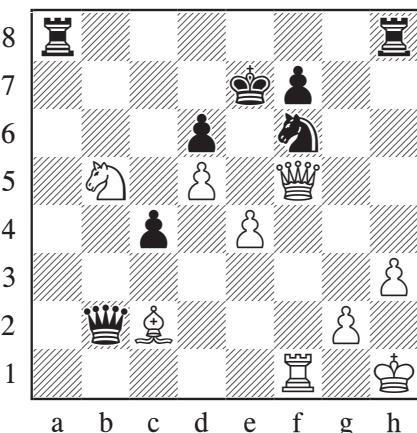
Khalifman – Dolmatov, Minsk 1987



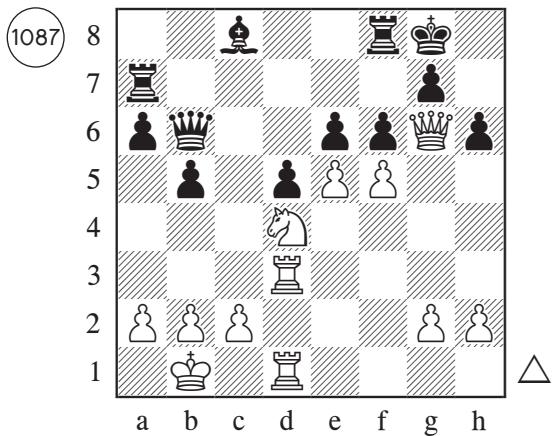
Khalifman – Godena, Vienna 1996



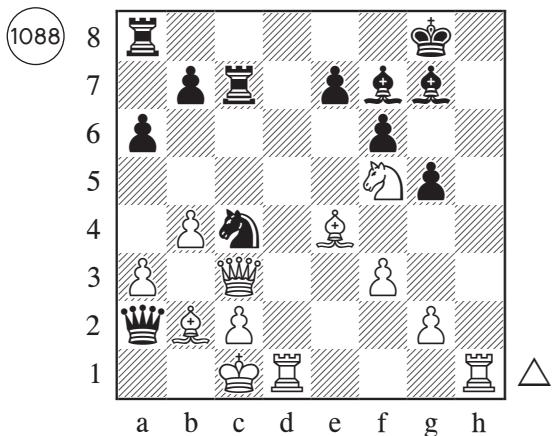
Kramnik – Schneider, Mainz (simul) 2001



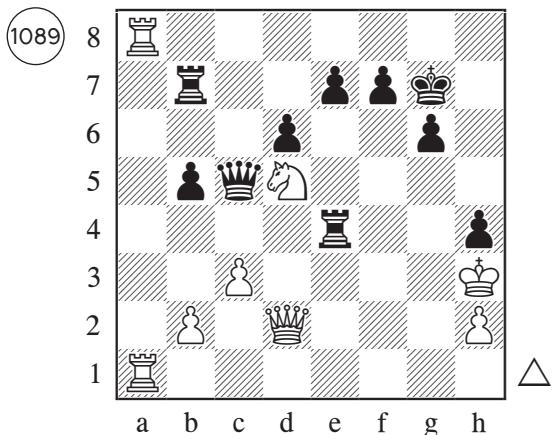
Kramnik – Radjabov, Linares 2003



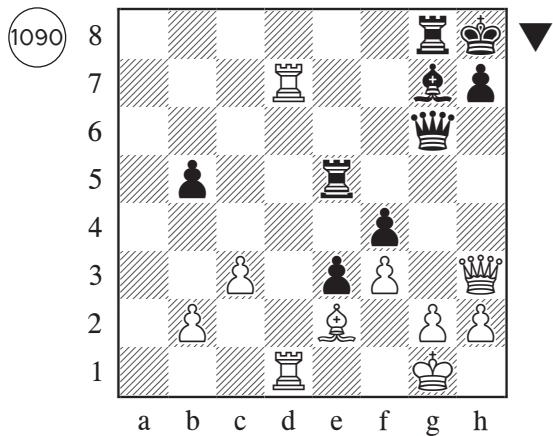
Akopian – Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 2004



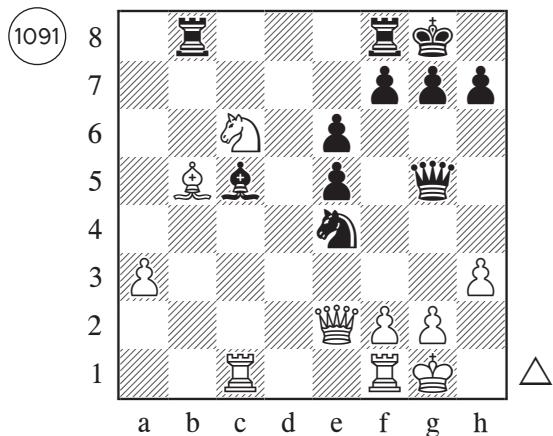
Kramnik – Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2004



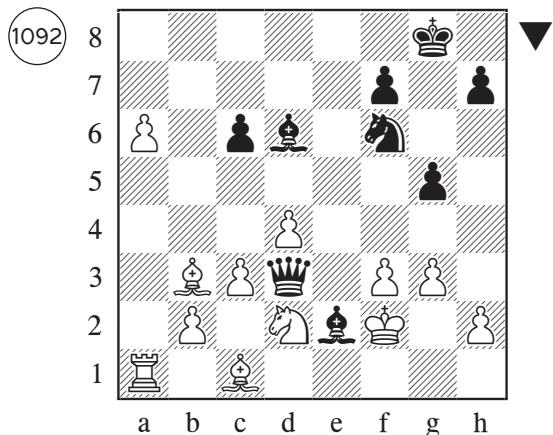
Leko – Kramnik, Linares 2004



Kramnik – Svidler, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2004

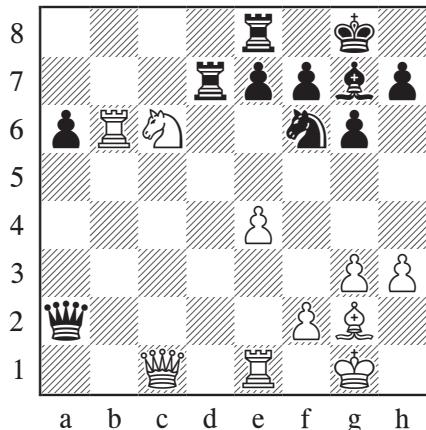


Kramnik – Leko, Brissago (8) 2004



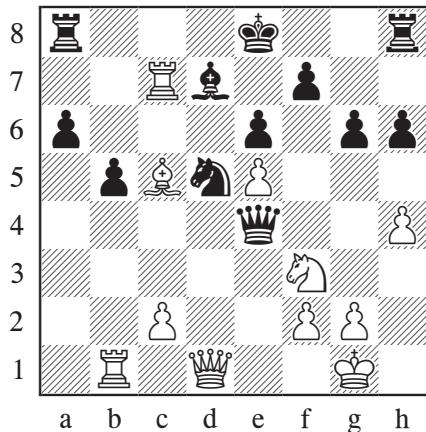
Kramnik – Radjabov, London 2013

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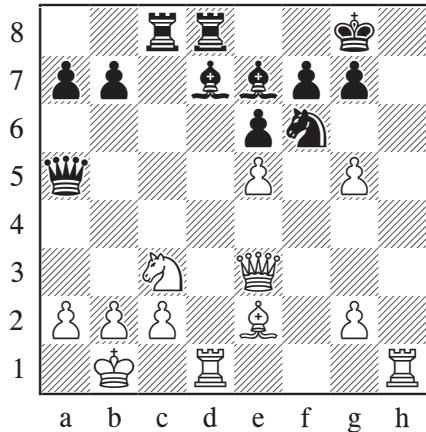
Anand – Nikolic, Groningen (2) 1997

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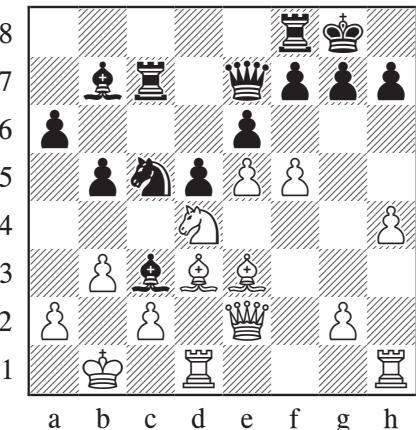
Nijboer – Anand, Wijk aan Zee 1998

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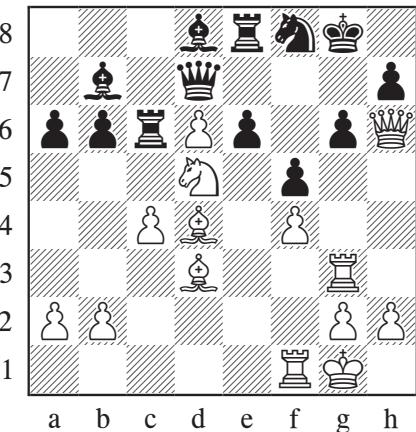
Anand – Shirov, Monaco (rapid) 2000

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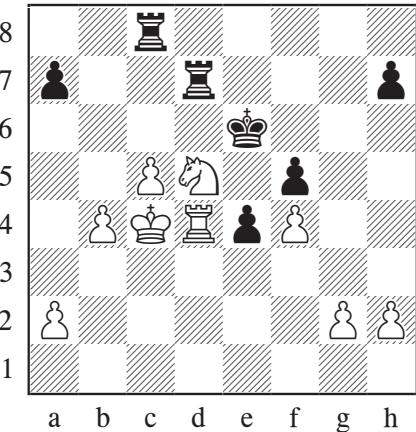
Anand – Polgar, Leon (advanced 1) 2000

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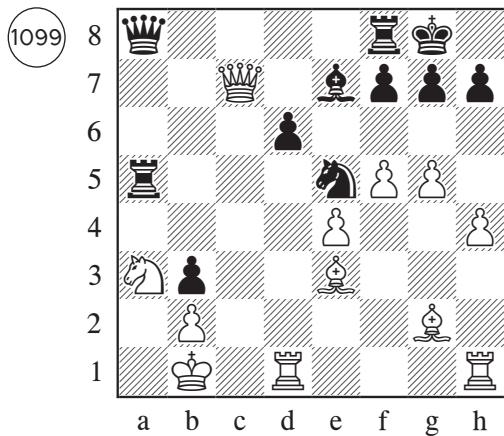


Anand – Bareev, Shenyang (2) 2000

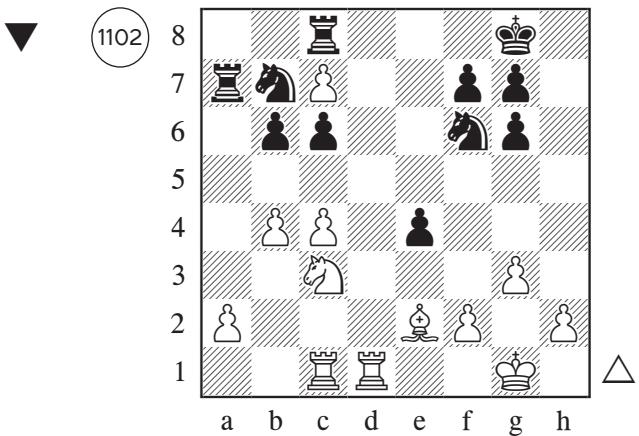
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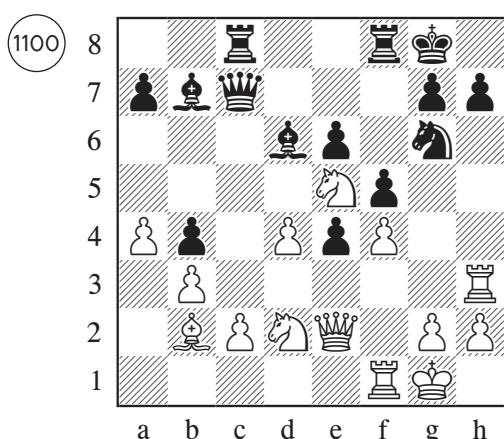
Karjakin – Anand, Wijk aan Zee 2006



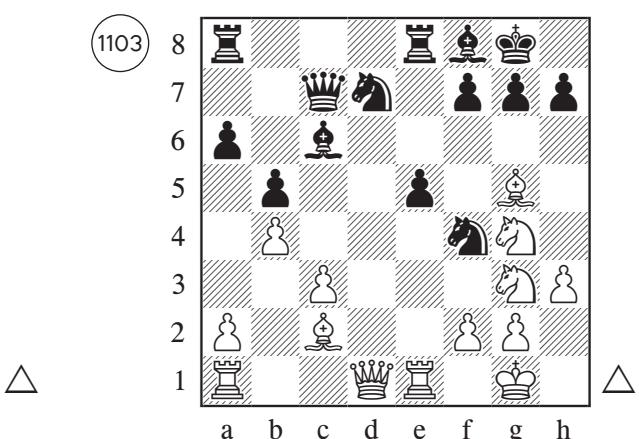
Bruzon – Anand, Leon 2006



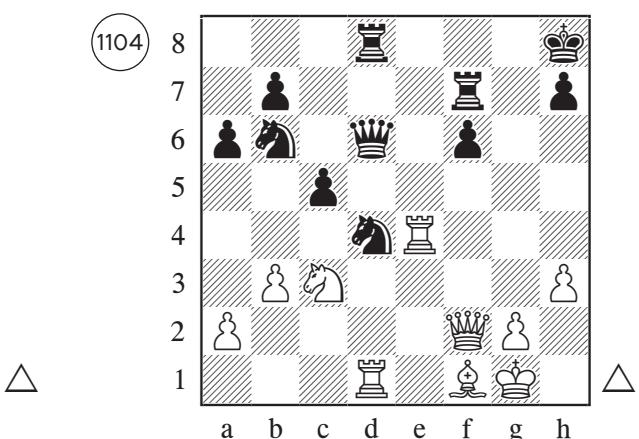
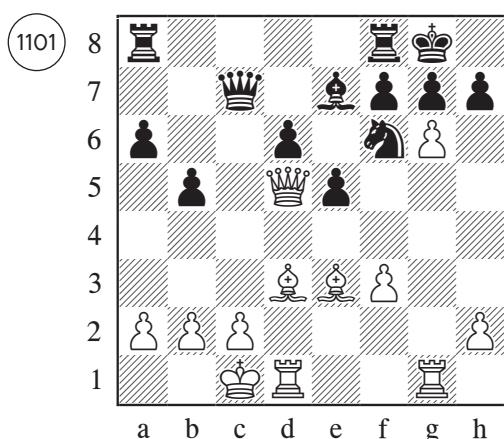
Anand – Carlsen, Nice (blindfold) 2008



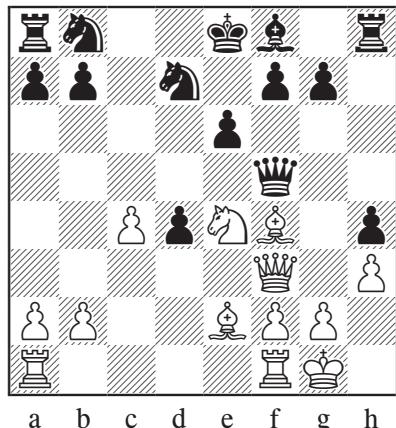
Anand – Van Wely, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2007



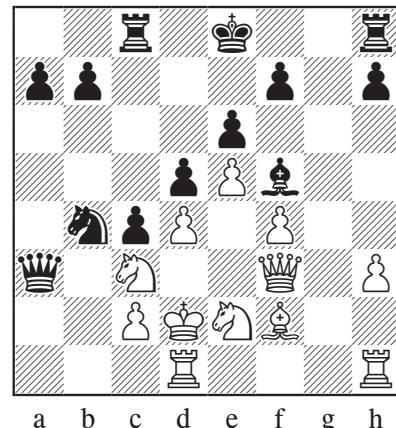
Anand – Svidler, Moscow 2009



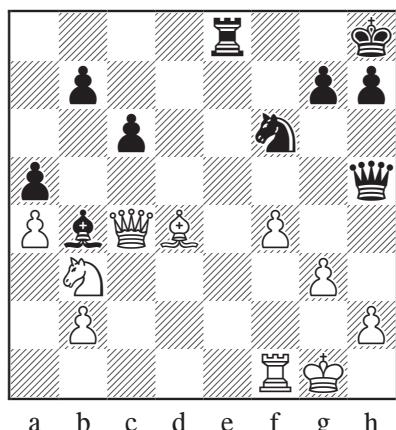
McShane – Anand, London 2013



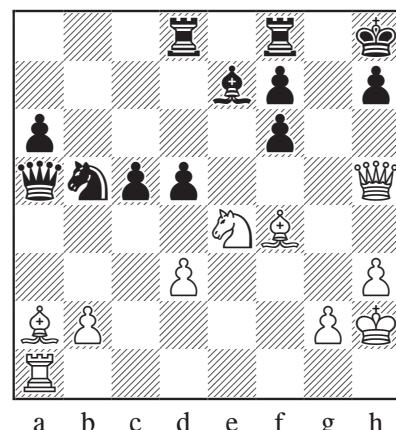
Ponomariov – Delemarre, Siofok 1996



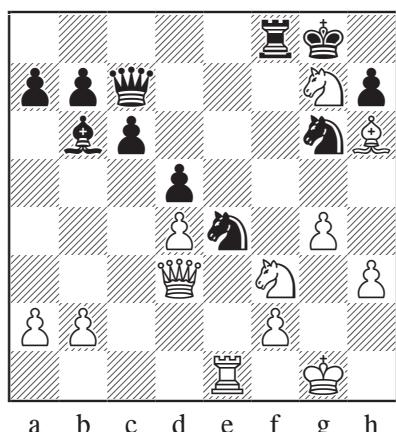
Mamedyarov – Anand, Khanty-Mansiysk 2014



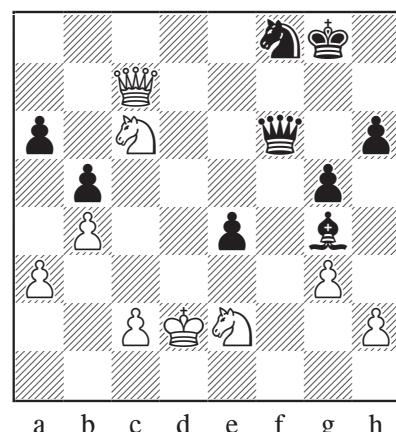
Topalov – Ponomariov, Sofia 2006



Vachier-Lagrange – Anand, Leuven (rapid) 2016

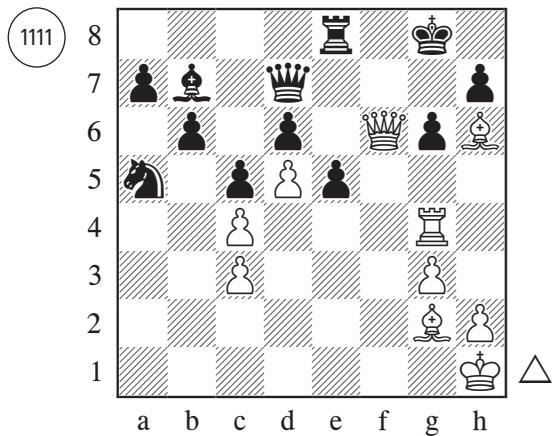


Ponomariov – Ponkratov, Berlin (blitz) 2015

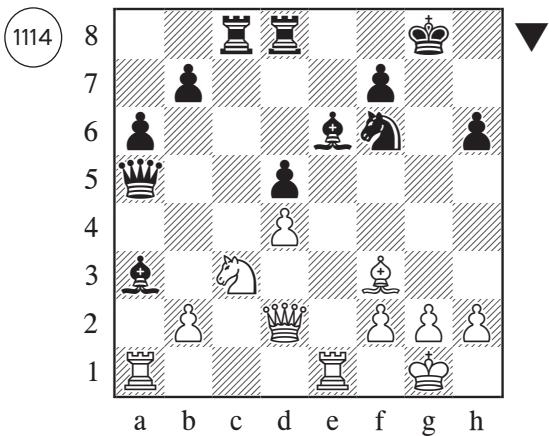


Ponomariov – Short, Madrid 2016

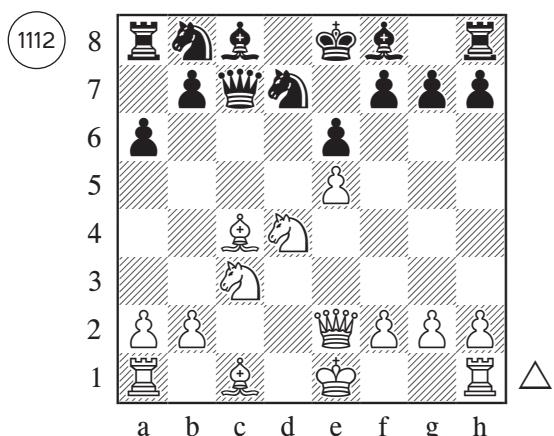
Khenkin – Kasimdzhanov, Moscow (4) 2001



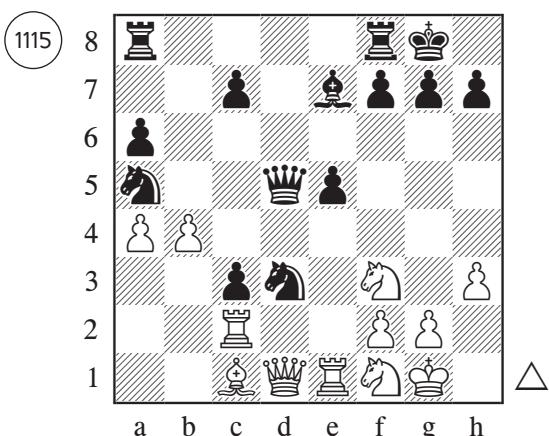
Kasimdzhanov – Lopez Martinez, Yerevan 1999



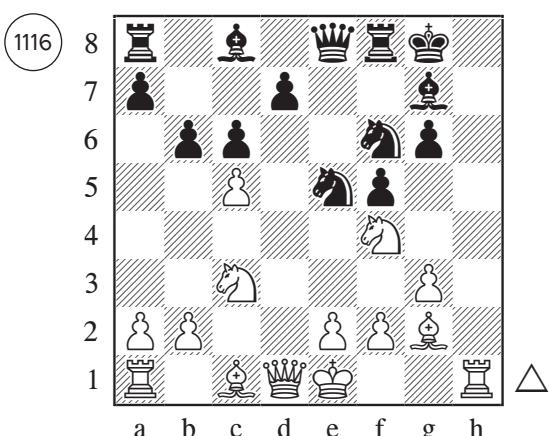
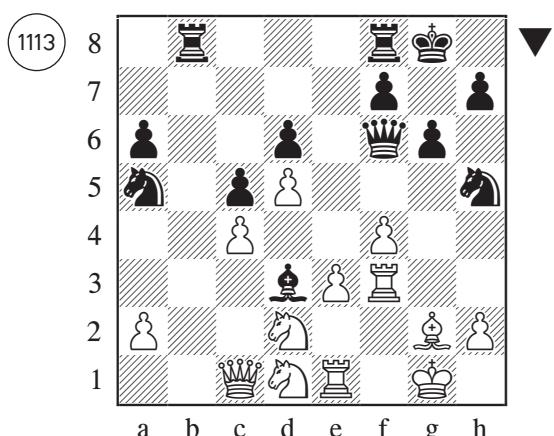
Berelowitsch – Kasimdzhanov, Germany 2005



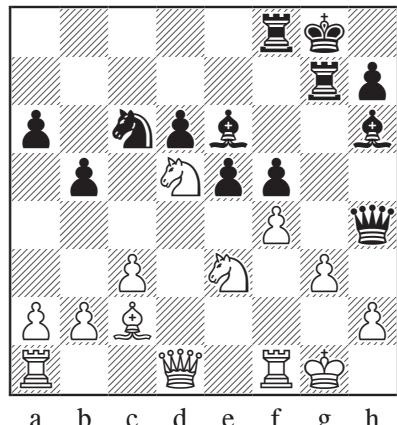
Neverov – Kasimdzhanov, Hoogeveen 1999



Ubilava – Topalov, Ponferrada 1992

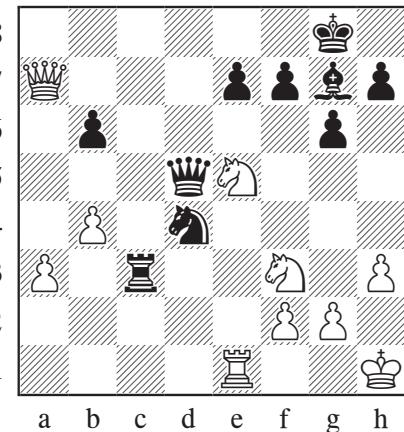


Topalov – Illescas Cordoba, Linares 1995

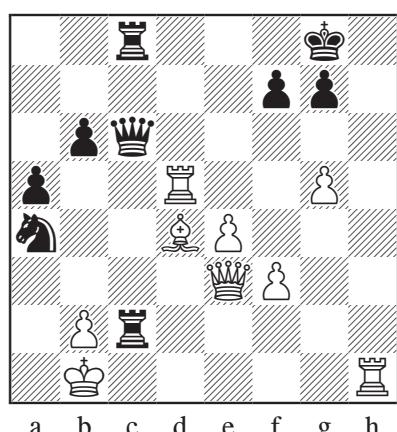


Carlsen – Nielsen, Malmö/Copenhagen 2004

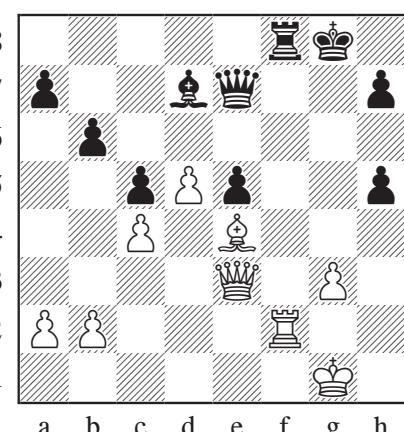
Stokke – Carlsen, Oslo 2006



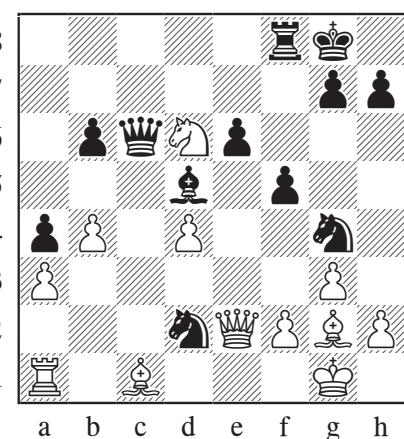
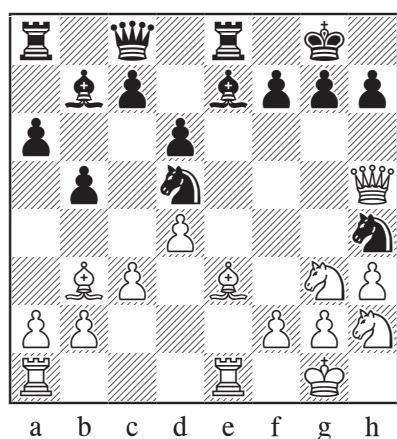
Nielsen – Carlsen, Faaborg (blindfold) 2007



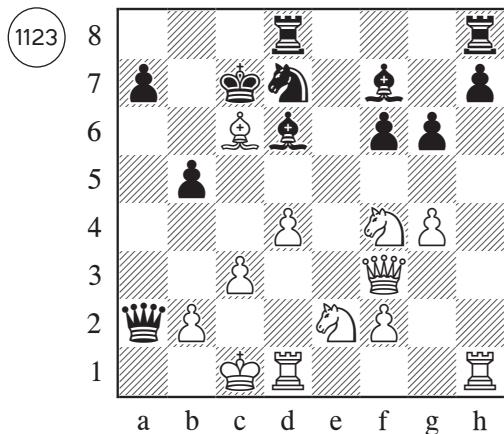
Carlsen – Lagno, Lausanne 2004



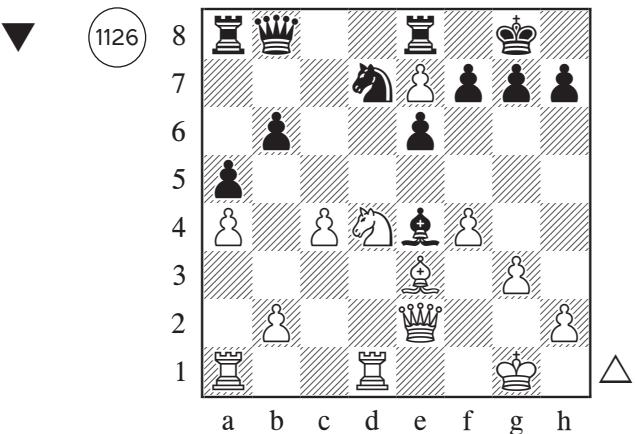
Carlsen – Krasenkow, Gausdal 2007



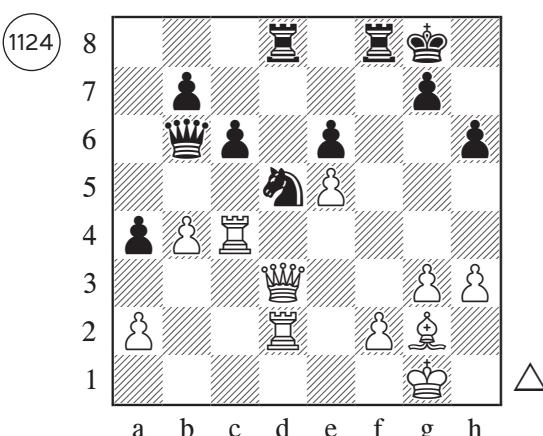
Carlsen – Radjabov, Porto Vecchio (5 Armageddon) 2007



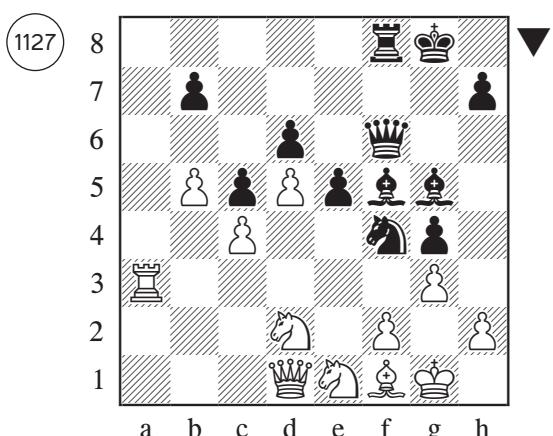
Svidler – Carlsen, Moscow (blitz) 2008



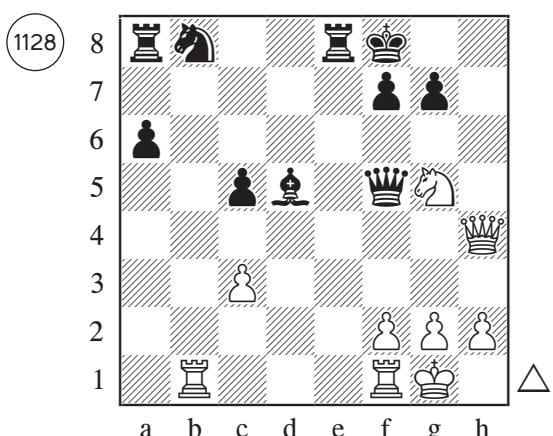
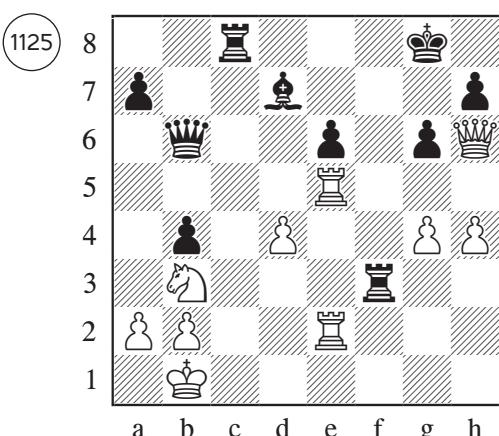
Giri – Carlsen, Paris (blitz) 2016



Dominguez Perez – Carlsen, Linares 2009



Carlsen – So, Internet (blitz 3.32) 2017



Chapter 4

Solutions to Easy Exercises



It is rightly said that the most difficult thing in chess is winning a won position.
– Vladimir Kramnik

Wilhelm Steinitz

*A win by an unsound combination, however showy,
fills me with artistic horror.*

1. Carl Hamppe – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1860

30... $\mathbb{E}xh2\#!$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xh2 \mathbb{E}h8$ mate ✓ Black would have been lost without this resource.

2. Wilhelm Steinitz – J. Wilson, London 1862

18. $\mathbb{E}f8\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 19.d6# $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ mate ✓

3. Wilhelm Steinitz – Serafino Dubois, London (6) 1862

The bishop on d6 is pinned and Steinitz took advantage of that with 14. $\mathbb{Q}xf4!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 15.e5 ✓ which won a piece.

4. Valentine Green – Wilhelm Steinitz, London 1864

31... $\mathbb{E}d2\#!-+$ ✓ The queen loses its defender.

5. Wilhelm Steinitz – George Barry, Dublin (simul) 1865

7. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 8. $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#!-+$ ✓ White has won two pawns after 9. $\mathbb{Q}xg4$.

6. George Fraser – Wilhelm Steinitz, Dundee 1867

19. $\mathbb{E}xc6!$ $\mathbb{B}xc6$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}a5\#-$ ✓ White emerges with a queen and a knight for two rooks.

7. Wilhelm Steinitz – Jonathan Baker, London (simul) 1868

27... $\mathbb{E}f3\#!$ The queen is overloaded and White loses the bishop on c4: 28. $\mathbb{W}xf3$ $\mathbb{E}xc4\#-$ ✓ 27... $\mathbb{E}xc4\#?$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xc4$ f3 29. $\mathbb{W}f1\pm$ is of course not the way to go.

8. Wilhelm Steinitz – Johannes Minckwitz, Baden-Baden 1870

18... $\mathbb{W}xc4\#!$ There is a fork on e3 coming up: 19. $\mathbb{W}xc4$ $\mathbb{Q}e3\#!$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4\#-$ ✓

9. Wilhelm Steinitz – Maximilian Fleissig, Vienna 1873

39. $\mathbb{Q}xd7\#!$ White wins back the piece with a winning advantage. 39... $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 39... $\mathbb{E}xb4\#!$ captures a pawn, but the a-pawn still decides after: 40. $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}b5\#-$ ✓ 40. $\mathbb{Q}xb5\#-$ ✓

10. Wilhelm Steinitz – Oscar Gelbfuhs, Vienna 1873

34. $\mathbb{W}xf6\#!$ Black resigned due to: 34... $\mathbb{G}xf6$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}f8$ mate ✓

11. George Mackenzie – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1882

34. $\mathbb{Q}e4\#!$ The only drawing move, and easy to find, as Black's mate threat means White has no other sensible try. 34. $\mathbb{E}g1\#?$ loses to everything, but is mated most swiftly by 34... $\mathbb{W}xg2\#!$. 34... $\mathbb{W}xe4\#$ Obviously not 34... $\mathbb{Q}xe4\#?$ 35. $\mathbb{W}f8$ mate. 35. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 36. $\mathbb{W}xf6\#!$ ✓ $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ White has a perpetual on f6 and f7.

12. Joseph Blackburne – Wilhelm Steinitz, London 1883

25. $\mathbb{W}h6\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 26. $\mathbb{E}f8\#!$ $\mathbb{W}xf8$ 27. $\mathbb{W}xh7$ mate ✓

13. Isidor Gunsberg – Wilhelm Steinitz, New York (2) 1890

18... $\mathbb{Q}c3$! The queen can't move and keep the bishop on d2 defended, and 19. $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}xc1-$ + ✓ lost an exchange (0–1, 39 moves).

14. Wilhelm Steinitz – Mikhail Chigorin, Havana (8) 1892

20... $\mathbb{E}xd3$! Breaking open the king's position to close out the game. 21. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ Or 21. $\mathbb{W}xd3$ $\mathbb{W}e1\#$ ✓ with mate on the next move. 21... $\mathbb{E}hd8$ There is nothing White can do against the threats to penetrate on d1 or d2. The game ended after: 22. $a4$ $\mathbb{E}d1\#$ 23. $\mathbb{E}xd1$ $\mathbb{E}xd1\#$ 24. $\mathbb{W}xd1$ $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ 0–1

15. Wilhelm Steinitz – Dirk van Foreest, Haarlem (simul) 1896

38... $\mathbb{W}xf1\#$! ✓ Steinitz's previous move, 38. $\mathbb{W}c4-d5$, was a grave blunder. 39. $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ $\mathbb{E}e1$ mate

16. Wilhelm Steinitz – Reyne, Haarlem (simul) 1896

9. $\mathbb{Q}xg5$! Not recapturing would be equivalent to resignation, but Black is mated if he takes the knight: 9... $\mathbb{W}fxg5$ 9... $\mathbb{W}e7-$ and White won after 26 moves. 10. $\mathbb{W}h5\#$ ✓ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ There are several ways to mate or pick up material. The quickest mate is: 11. $\mathbb{W}f7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 12. $e5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 13. $dxe5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 14. $\mathbb{W}d5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 15. $\mathbb{W}xg5$ mate

17. Wilhelm Steinitz – Falk, Moscow 1896

10. $\mathbb{Q}xa7\#$! White wins an important pawn after: 10... $\mathbb{Q}xa7$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}xa6\#$ ✓ (1–0, 25 moves)

18. Wilhelm Steinitz – T.J.D. Enderle, Haarlem (simul) 1896

6. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$! Not the only time Steinitz executed this combination. White wins two pawns after: 6... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 7. $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#-$ ✓

19. Jackson Showalter – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1898

Black is two pawns up, but that doesn't stop him from being precise: 27... $\mathbb{E}xe3$! 28. $\mathbb{W}xb4$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xe3$ $\mathbb{W}c2$ mate ✓ 28... $\mathbb{E}xe2-$ + ✓ White resigned five moves later.

Emanuel Lasker

The combination player thinks forward; he starts from the given position, and tries the forceful moves in his mind.

Lasker's Manual of Chess (1927)

20. Emanuel Lasker – C.R. McBride, USA (simul) 1902

6. $\mathbb{Q}xg5$! Black cannot take back: 6... $\mathbb{W}fxg5$ Black instead allowed a forced mate after 6... $h6$. 7. $\mathbb{W}h5\#$ ✓ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 8. $\mathbb{W}f7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ And for instance: 9. $e5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 10. $\mathbb{W}d5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ mate

21. Emanuel Lasker – E.W. Witchard, Gloucester (simul) 1908

5. ♜xg5! fxg5 6. ♜h5† ♜e7 7. ♜xg5† ✓ ♜e8 8. ♜h5†!

Imprecise is 8. ♜e5†? ♜e7 9. ♜xh8 ♜xe4†+– with some slight counterplay. 8... ♜e7 9. ♜e5†+– White picks up the rook on h8.

22. Carl Hartlaub – Emanuel Lasker, Germany 1908

7. ♜xe5! A surprisingly common theme in Lasker's games. 7... d5 7... fxe5 8. ♜h5† g6 (8... ♜e7 9. ♜xe5 mate) 9. ♜xe5† ♜e7 10. ♜xh8+– ✓ 8. ♜h5† Or just as good is: 8. ♜e1 fxe5 9. ♜xe5† ♜d7 10. ♜g5†+– 8... g6 One source gives this game as played in New York 1911, with 8... ♜e7 9. ♜f7? ♜e8? 0–1 (??) as the final moves, none of which makes any sense. 9. ♜xg6 hxg6 10. ♜xh8 ✓ Or 10. ♜e1† first. 10... dxc4 There are many ways to win and you don't have to decide in advance. Easiest is: 11. ♜e1† ♜f7 12. ♜h6+–

23. Emanuel Lasker – Dawid Janowski, Berlin (1) 1910

20. ♜xd5! ♜xd5 21. ♜xd5+– ✓ White has won a piece, since Black cannot recapture.

24. Emanuel Lasker – Efim Bogoljubov, Atlantic Ocean 1924

19. ♜a4! ✓ The rook is trapped and the c5-pawn is threatened. 19... ♜a3 20. ♜b2 Lasker played 20. ♜xc5± and won after 22 moves, but the text is better. 20... b4 21. ♜xe5± Black loses a second pawn.

25. George Thomas – Emanuel Lasker, Nottingham 1936

38... ♜xe5! 39. ♜xe5 ♜f3† 40. ♜g1 ♜xd1† ✓ 41. ♜f2 ♜d7† It is probably a theoretical draw, but that does not change the verdict during a game between humans (0–1, 55 moves).

Jose Raul Capablanca

Chess is a very logical game and it is the man who can reason most logically and profoundly in it that ought to win.

26. Jose Raul Capablanca – C.E. Watson, Schenectady 1909

White has a minor piece less, but can more than make up for it with the following double threat: **30. ♜f6! ♜xf6 31. ♜xf6 ✓ ♜h5 32. ♜d1** Not necessary, but a luxury White can afford. 32. ♜xe6 and 32. ♜xe6 are also winning. 32... ♜e8 33. ♜xe6+– Black is an exchange up, but since he has no chance against all the pawns and an invasion on the kingside, he resigned now.

27. Jose Raul Capablanca – E.B. Schrader, Saint Louis (simul) 1909

23. ♜xh5! The fork on f6 gains a piece. 23... ♜xh5 24. ♜f6† ♜h8 25. ♜xh5+– ✓

28. Jose Raul Capablanca – D.W. Pomeroy, Saint Louis (simul) 1909

21... ♜xg2†! ✓ White resigned, since he is mated after: 22. ♜xg2 ♜g8† Or 22... ♜g6†. 23. ♜h1 ♜xh6† 24. ♜h5 ♜xh5 mate

29. Jose Raul Capablanca – T.A. Carter, Saint Louis (simul) 1909

28. $\mathbb{Q}g7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xg7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}h8$ mate ✓

30. Jose Raul Capablanca – Frank Marshall, New York 1910

28. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#!$ Black could have resigned here, but continued until move 43. 28... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xe8\#$ ✓

31. Jose Raul Capablanca – Luis Piazzini, Buenos Aires 1911

34... $\mathbb{Q}xh4\#!$ Black can also start by exchanging on c4. 35. $\mathbb{Q}xh4$ $g3\#$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $gxf2\#$ ✓ 37. $\mathbb{Q}xf2\#$ Instead of being an exchange up, Black is a rook up.

32. Jose Raul Capablanca – Rasmussen, Copenhagen (simul) 1911

35... $\mathbb{Q}xf2$! Defending against the double threat and getting a queen ending with two healthy pawns and a safe king. 36. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6\#$ ✓

33. Jose Raul Capablanca – Will Randolph, New York 1912

31. $\mathbb{Q}xg5\#!$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xg8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xg8$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xg8\#$ is another way to do the same thing. 31... $h\times g5$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xg8\#$ Black resigned since he will be a piece down: 32... $\mathbb{Q}xg8$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}xd7\#$ ✓

34. Jose Raul Capablanca – F.S. Dunkelsbuhler, London (simul) 1913

15. $\mathbb{Q}xd5\#$ Black resigned, as he is mated after: 15... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}e8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ mate ✓

35. Albert Beauregard Hodges – Jose Raul Capablanca, New York 1915

24... $\mathbb{Q}xe4\#!$ White's pieces are overloaded and Black won a pawn after: 25. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4\#$ ✓

36. Jose Raul Capablanca – Einar Michelsen, New York (simul) 1915

35. $\mathbb{Q}xe6\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}d5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}xg8\#$ Black's rook is unable to fight against the two passed pawns. The final moves were: 37... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 38. $c5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}d5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}b5$ 40. $g6$ 1–0

37. Jose Raul Capablanca – N.N., New York 1918

14. $\mathbb{Q}xg7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}f6$ mate ✓

38. Jose Raul Capablanca – J. Birch, Glasgow 1919

31... $\mathbb{Q}xd3\#$! 31... $\mathbb{Q}h1\#$? 32. $\mathbb{Q}xh1$ would be a terrible blunder. The game move wins a piece after: 32. $cxd3$ $\mathbb{Q}e5\#$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}xa1\#$ ✓

39. Jose Raul Capablanca – G.H. Hadland, Thornton Heath 1919

21. $\mathbb{Q}xh7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ Or 21... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 22. $g6\#$ ✓ with a fork. 22. $\mathbb{Q}g6$ And White won.

40. Jose Raul Capablanca – Milan Vidmar, London 1922

22. $\mathbb{Q}h7\#!$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ is equal. 22... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xc8\#$ White is an exchange up.

41. Jose Raul Capablanca – W. Malowan, New York (simul) 1922

36. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#?$ looks like a combination and was played in the game, but Black had 36... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 37. g6 $\mathbb{Q}xf5\#!$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ when he collects the g-pawn with a draw. Instead normal moves give two points. A good choice is 36. $f6$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}f4!+-$ when Black's rooks are trapped and he can't sacrifice the exchange in a good way.

42. Jose Raul Capablanca – N.N., Moscow (simul) 1925

17. $\mathbb{Q}d6\#!$ Black resigned due to: 17... $cxd6$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}g6+- \checkmark$

43. Jose Raul Capablanca – Jacques Mieses, Bad Kissingen 1928

31. $\mathbb{Q}xb6!$ Winning a second pawn. 31... $axb4$ Or 31... $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xd5+- \checkmark$ with a fork. 32. $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ 1-0 The endgame is hopeless for Black.

44. Jose Raul Capablanca – Arpad Vajda, Budapest 1929

22. $\mathbb{Q}xa6!$ White wins a pawn due to: 22... $bxa6$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}c6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xb6+- \checkmark$

45. Jose Raul Capablanca – Albert Becker, Karlsbad 1929

17. $\mathbb{Q}xh7!$ f5 Instead 17... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ can be met by 18. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#+- \checkmark$ with a discovered check, or 18. $\mathbb{Q}c3\#+-$. 18. $\mathbb{Q}hg5$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $fxe4$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}c4$ is also winning. In the game, Black resigned due to: 18... $fxe4$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ The bishop on b7 is doomed. (White could also go for the king with 19. $\mathbb{Q}c4\#+-$, forcing Black to give up his queen.)

46. Jose Raul Capablanca – Manuel Lارrea, Mexico (simul) 1933

11. $\mathbb{Q}db5!$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}cb5$ is the same. 11... $axb5$ 12. $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{Q}g3\#!$ Regaining the pawn does little to alleviate the real problems of the black position – his weaknesses on the dark squares (and the b6-pawn) and lack of development. 13. $hxg3$ $\mathbb{Q}xg3\#$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}f2+- \checkmark$

47. Vera Menchik – Jose Raul Capablanca, Margate 1935

30... $\mathbb{Q}xe4!$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}a1\#!$ With back-rank mate.

48. Jose Raul Capablanca – Grigory Levenfish, Moscow 1935

25. $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}h7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}h8$ mate \checkmark

49. Jose Raul Capablanca – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1936

34. $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ White wins a pawn, since 34... $cxd5$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}xd5\#+- \checkmark$ is a fork.

50. Jose Raul Capablanca – Guillermo Vassaux, Buenos Aires (ol) 1939

28. $\mathbb{Q}xh7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}h6$ mate \checkmark

Alexander Alekhine*Combination is the soul of chess.***51. Alexander Alekhine – Sergey Petrov, corr. 1902**

16... $\mathbb{Q}xg2!$ Highlighting the usefulness of the active d4-rook. 17. $\mathbb{W}g3$ 17. $\mathbb{W}xg2$ $\mathbb{B}g4-$ + ✓ pins the queen. 17... $\mathbb{B}g4$ ✓ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{B}xg3$ 19. $\mathbb{fxg3}$ $\mathbb{B}e8-$ +

52. Apollon Viakhirev – Alexander Alekhine, corr. 1906

35... $\mathbb{W}g2\#!$ 36. $\mathbb{B}xg2$ $\mathbb{fxg2}$ mate ✓

53. Benjamin Blumenfeld – Alexander Alekhine, Moscow (2) 1908

31... $f3\#$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{W}xf1\#$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ $\mathbb{B}d1$ mate ✓

54. J. Goldfarb – Alexander Alekhine, St Petersburg 1909

17... $\mathbb{Q}xh2\#!$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xh2$ $\mathbb{W}h4\#$ 19. $\mathbb{B}h3$ $\mathbb{W}xe1\#$ ✓ Undefended pieces...

55. Alexander Alekhine – B. Lyubimov, Moscow 1909

White reduces the material deficit from a piece to an exchange with: 21. $\mathbb{B}xf5!$ $gxf5$ 22. $\mathbb{W}xg7\pm$ ✓ Considering the weak dark squares and exposed king, his position is clearly superior.

56. Alexander Alekhine – Stefan Izbinsky, St Petersburg 1909

19. $\mathbb{Q}xh7\#!$ Forcing the king to leave the defence of the rook. 19... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 20. $\mathbb{W}xf8-$ - ✓

57. V. Rozanov/N. Tselikov – Alexander Alekhine, Moscow 1915

27... $\mathbb{W}xe1\#!$ 27... $\mathbb{B}xf3$ 28. $\mathbb{B}f1$ $\mathbb{W}xf1\#!$ (28... $\mathbb{W}xe2??$ 29. $\mathbb{W}c8\#$ $\mathbb{B}f8$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xf8$ mate) 29. $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ $\mathbb{Q}f2\#$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ is also winning for Black, although it doesn't look so simple with White's king active after 32. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}f5$ (one point). 28. $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ $\mathbb{Q}f2\#$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ $\mathbb{B}e8-$ -+ ✓ 30... $\mathbb{B}xf3$ Black could also have achieved a winning position by going for the a-pawn, but this is simple. 31. $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}g1\#-$ -+ ✓ 31... $\mathbb{Q}g5-$ -+ ✓ 0-1

58. Leifchild Leif-Jones – Alexander Alekhine, London (simul) 1923

15. $\mathbb{Q}xe4!$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 16.c5 A discovered attack, winning the bishop. 16... $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 17. $\mathbb{W}xe4-$ - ✓

59. O. Friedmann – Alexander Alekhine, Czechoslovakia 1925

18. $\mathbb{Q}xf5\#!$ Not 18. $\mathbb{Q}xf5?$ $\mathbb{B}h4$ (18... $\mathbb{B}xg3\#$) 19. $\mathbb{Q}h5$ $\mathbb{W}h8$ and Black wins a piece. 18... $\mathbb{exf5}$ Instead Alekhine tried 18... $\mathbb{Q}f8$, but White has several ways to win, for instance 19. $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{B}h4$ trapping the queen, but to no avail. 20. $\mathbb{W}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{W}xf7$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xf7-$ -+ White has won three pawns (1-0, 42 moves). 19. $\mathbb{Q}xd5\#-$ -+ ✓ It's a fork.

60. Alexander Alekhine – Frederick Yates, Baden-Baden 1925

15. $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ $cxd5?$ Yates avoided this with 15... $\mathbb{Q}d6$, but after 16. $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ ✓ $cxd5-$ - he had no compensation whatsoever for the lost pawn. 16. $\mathbb{Q}c7-$ -+ ✓ The queen is trapped.

61. Arpad Vajda – Alexander Alekhine, Semmering 1926

25... $\mathbb{Q}xf2\#$ White can't take back due to: 26. $\mathbb{W}xf2$ $\mathbb{W}xf2\#$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{Q}d2\#$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{W}xc2+-$ ✓

62. Roberto Grau – Alexander Alekhine, San Remo 1930

37... $\mathbb{Q}xf3!$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 38... $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{W}d1\#$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{W}xf1$ mate ✓ 38... $\mathbb{W}c2$ ✓ 0–1 There is no defence against the mate.

63. Alexander Alekhine – Vasic, Banja Luka (simul) 1931

10. $\mathbb{W}xe6\#$! $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}g6$ mate ✓

64. Alexander Alekhine – Rumjancev, Sarajevo (simul) 1931

19. $\mathbb{Q}g6!$ $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 19... $\mathbb{W}a5$ avoids mate, but Black is completely lost after 20. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ followed by any decent queen move. 20. $\mathbb{W}xg6$ mate ✓

65. Adolf Fink – Alexander Alekhine, Pasadena 1932

14... $\mathbb{Q}b5!$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{W}xe2$ mate ✓

66. Alexander Alekhine – Jobbahazai, Vienna (simul) 1936

20. $\mathbb{Q}d8\#$! 20. $\mathbb{W}xb7$ $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ is also good (White will soon be two pawns up) but only the game move forces resignation. Note that after 20. $\mathbb{W}xb7$ $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ White should avoid pinning the bishop with 21. $\mathbb{Q}d8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}a3$ since Black can struggle on with: 22... $\mathbb{Q}d7!$ Nevertheless, White gets a rook ending a pawn up that looks winning. 20... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 20... $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ 21. $\mathbb{W}xb7+-$ ✓ 21. $\mathbb{W}xf6+-$ ✓

67. Alexander Alekhine – Rowena Bruce, Plymouth 1938

11. $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ Classical destruction of the f7-e6 formation. 11... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 12. $\mathbb{W}xe6\#$ 1–0 Black foresaw 12... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 13. $\mathbb{W}f7$ mate ✓

68. Alexander Alekhine – S. Lopo, Estoril (simul) 1940

31. $\mathbb{Q}xf6\#$! ✓ White wins a pawn since Black cannot take back on f6.

69. Alexander Alekhine – A. Aragao, Estoril (simul) 1940

36... $\mathbb{Q}xe4!$ Finishing off a winning position. 37. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}f5\#$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4+-$ ✓

70. Alexander Alekhine – Salvatierra, Madrid (simul) 1941

9. $\mathbb{Q}xh7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 10. $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ ✓ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4\#$ Alekhine was not worried about giving back the pawn, since he gets a strong centre. If he was worried, he could have started with 9. $cxd5\pm$, which is equally strong. (1–0, 40 moves)

71. Alexander Alekhine – J.M. De Cossio, San Sebastian (simul) 1944

9. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$! $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 10. $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ ✓ 1–0 There is no defence against the mate on g7.

72. Alexander Alekhine – M. Ricondo, Santander (simul) 1945

14. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$! $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}xf6+-$ ✓ White checkmates or wins the queen.

Max Euwe

Strategy requires thought, tactics require observation.

73. Max Euwe – Eelke Wiersma, Amsterdam 1920

19. $\mathbb{Q}g6\#!$ $hxg6$ 20. $\mathbb{E}h4$ mate ✓

74. Horace Bigelow – Max Euwe, Bromley 1920

18... $\mathbb{W}xh2\#!$ Exchanging queens and consolidating the material advantage. 19. $\mathbb{Q}xh2$ $\mathbb{Q}g4\#$
20. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}xh6-$ + ✓

75. Theodor Gruber – Max Euwe, Vienna 1921

19... $\mathbb{Q}xg2!$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{E}g6-$ + ✓ Black wins the queen or the rook on f1.

76. Max Euwe – Efim Bogoljubov, Maehrisch Ostrau 1923

13... $\mathbb{W}xc3$! 14. $\mathbb{W}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}e4\#$ Black wins back his sacrificed piece, leaving him a pawn up. 15. $\mathbb{Q}f1$
 $\mathbb{Q}xc3\#$ ✓

77. Max Euwe – Jacques Davidson, Amsterdam (1) 1924

27. $\mathbb{W}xf6\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xe4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $bxc5$ ✓ The pawn ending is winning, unless Black gets time to collect the queenside pawns. And he doesn't after: 30. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ (or 30. f3)

78. Willem Schelfhout – Max Euwe, Utrecht 1926

25... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 26. $\mathbb{W}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}d5-$ + ✓ If White steps out of the pin with 26. $\mathbb{Q}h2$, there are many moves that keep the pawn: 26... f5, 26... $\mathbb{Q}d5$ or even 26... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xb3$.

79. Birger Rasmussen – Max Euwe, London (ol) 1927

20... $\mathbb{Q}xd3!$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}exd3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ Or 21... $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ first makes no difference. 22. $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}e2-$ + ✓ An extra pawn in a pawn ending wins, unless there are some special circumstances.

80. Albert Becker – Max Euwe, Hague 1928

31... $\mathbb{Q}xg2!$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{W}h3\#$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{W}xg2$ mate ✓ Or 33... $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ mate.

81. B. Colin – Max Euwe, Bern 1932

32... $\mathbb{W}xg2\#$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{W}xf2\#$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{E}h2\#$ And Black takes the queen: 35. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}xc2-$ + ✓

82. Dirk van Foreest – Max Euwe, Netherlands 1932

18... $\mathbb{Q}xb2$! 19. $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd1\#$ ✓ Black has won a pawn.

83. Alexander Alekhine – Max Euwe, Netherlands (23) 1935

24... $\mathbb{Q}xd2!$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}xb3-$ + ✓ The extra pawn is decisive.

84. Max Euwe – Efim Bogoljubov, Bad Nauheim/Stuttgart/Garmisch 1937

26...Qxd4! 26...Qxd4 picks up the pawn, but not the exchange. Black is not clearly winning yet (zero points). **27.Qxd4 Qxd4** White cannot take in any way due to mate on e1: **28.Qxd4 Qe1 mate ✓**

85. Nicolaas Cortlever – Max Euwe, Beverwijk 1941

13.Qxe5! Qe6 13...fxe5 14.Qg5†+– ✓ **14.Qd3!+– ✓** White is not only a pawn up, Black is also far behind in development.

86. Max Euwe – Henry Grob, Zurich 1947

21...Qf3†! Black wins an exchange after: **22.Qxf3 Qxd2+– ✓**

87. Theo van Scheltinga – Max Euwe, Amsterdam 1948

38.Qxe6! Qxe6 Keeping the knight and setting up a blockade on the e-file was not realistic, since White has an f-pawn as well. **39.Qf5†** Or 39.Qe4†. **39...Qh8 40.Qxe6± ✓** White's winning chances should be bigger than Black's drawing chances, although the game ended in a draw.

88. Jan Visser – Max Euwe, Baarn 1949

32...Rxa5! 33.Rxa5 b3+– ✓ White loses the rook.

89. Max Euwe – Nicolaas Cortlever, Amsterdam 1954

25...Qxe5! Removing the defender of the e2-square. **26.dxe5 Qe2† 27.Qh2 Qxg3+– ✓**

90. Max Euwe – Rafael Cintron, Munich (ol) 1958

35.Qxf6! Qxf6 36.e7† Qg7 37.exd8=Q+– ✓ Opposite-coloured bishops normally improve the drawing chances of the player who has sacrificed material, but Black did not sacrifice the exchange here – he lost it. And without active pieces, he cannot create anything on the dark squares. Instead White's active pieces and advantage in terrain give him an even greater advantage.

Mikhail Botvinnik

Chess mastery essentially consists of analysing chess positions accurately.

91. C.H.O'D. Alexander – Mikhail Botvinnik, Nottingham 1936

19...Qxb2! **20.Qxb2 Rd1† 21.Qf1 Rxf1† 22.Qg2 Rd1†+– ✓** Black has won a pawn (0–1, 35 moves).

92. Andor Lilienthal – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1945

29...Qxc3! 30.Qxa3 30.Rxc3 Qxa2 mate ✓ 30...Rxa3+– ✓ (0–1, 37 moves)

93. Mikhail Botvinnik – Ludek Pachman, Moscow 1947

17...Rxe3! **18.Qxe3** Botvinnik played 18.Rxg7†+– and resigned after 45 moves. **18...Qf4+– ✓** There is both a fork and a pin.

94. Mikhail Botvinnik – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1966

34...♝e4 White resigned. **35.♝xe4** **35.♜xd2 exd2+ ✓** and the pawn queens, or **35.♞cxe3 ♜xe3** **36.♜xd2 ♜xf3†** **37.♝xf3 ♜xd2 ✓** and Black is winning. **35...♝xe2†+ ✓** The bishop will have to sacrifice itself for the e-pawn.

95. Bent Larsen – Mikhail Botvinnik, Leiden 1970

37.♛xc7!+– ✓ White wins two pawns due to the back-rank mate (1–0, 47 moves). **37.e5** also looks promising, as it opens up for an attack against h7, but **37...♜d2!** **38.♛f5 g6** **39.♛xf6† ♜xf6** **40.exf6+–** limits White's advantage to *only* a winning endgame.

Vassily Smyslov

*We are delighted by great combinations and
flaws are less important details.
Shakhmatnaya Nedelia (2003)*

96. Vassily Smyslov – Mikhail Govbinder, Moscow 1967

16.♝xd5! Threatening the queen with check. **16...cx d5** **17.♛xe5 ♛xe5** **18.♝xe5+– ✓** White has won a pawn with a dominant position (1–0, 24 moves).

Mikhail Tal

*In my games I have sometimes found a combination intuitively, simply
feeling that it must be there. Yet I was not able to translate my thought
processes into normal human language.*

97. Shenreder – Mikhail Tal, Riga 1951

17...♛xh3†! **18.♝xh3 ♜xf2†** **19.♝g2 ♜xd1** **20.♜xd1+– ✓** It's an exchange and a pawn.

98. Mikhail Tal – Georgi Tringov, Munich (ol) 1958

17.♛xd7†! **♝xd7** **18.♝c5† ♜e7** **19.♝xe4+– ✓**

99. Hector Rossetto – Mikhail Tal, Portoroz 1958

39...♜xe3! **40.fxe3 ♛g2†** **41.♝e1 ♜f3 mate ✓**

100. Mikhail Tal – Pal Benko, Amsterdam 1964

19.♜d8†! **♝e7** The point is **19...♝xd8** **20.♝xf7† ♜e7** **21.♝xe5+– ✓**. **20.♜xh8+– ✓** The game finished with: **20...♛xg5** **21.♛d2 1–0**

101. Mikhail Tal – Naum Levin, Poti 1970

35.♛xd5! **♝xd5** The game move **35...♝f4** is of course hopeless as well (1–0, 41 moves). **36.♜e8† ♜h7** **37.♜h8 mate ✓**

102. Anatoly Shmit – Mikhail Tal, Riga 1971

33...♜xh2†! **34.♝g1 ♜bg2†!** Or **34...♜hg2†.** **35.♛xg2** The game went **35.♝f1 ♜xg5** **0–1.** **35...♜xg2†** **36.♝xg2 ♜e3†** **37.♝f3 ♜xd1+– ✓**

103. Mikhail Tal – Nino Kirov, Novi Sad 1974

20.♕xh7†! 20...♔h5 ♔f5 21.g4 does not win a piece, and even loses after 21...♔h6. 20...♔xh7
 21.♗h5† ♔h6 22.♗xc5+ ✓ White has won a pawn, but it is only a flank pawn.

104. Mikhail Tal – Yrjo Rantanen, Tallinn 1979

27.♗xg7†! ♕g8 28.♗h8! ♔xf7 29.♗xf6† ♕g8 30.♗g7 mate ✓

105. Mikhail Tal – Karen Grigorian, Yerevan 1980

31...♗xe2! 32.♗xe2 d3 33.♗xe5 White resigned after 33.♗c3 dxe2† 34.♔e1 ♕b4. 33...dxc2†–+✓
 Black gets a second queen.

106. Eduard Meduna – Mikhail Tal, Sochi 1986

31...♗xc3! 32.♗xc3 ♕a1† 33.♗g2 ♗xc3–+✓ (0–1, 38 moves)

107. Mikhail Tal – M. Conway, Boston (simul) 1988

12.♗xf7! ♕xf7 12...♔e7 and White won after 30 moves. 13.♗xe6† ♕f8 14.♗f7 mate ✓

108. Soenke Maus – Mikhail Tal, Germany 1990

28...♗e1†! 0–1 White resigned due to: 29.♔h2 29.♗xe1 ♗xd4–+✓ 29...♗xd4 30.♗xd4
 ♗xa1–+✓ The game will appear again later in the book.

Tigran Petrosian

In general I consider that in chess everything rests on tactics. If one thinks of strategy as a block of marble, then tactics are the chisel with which a master operates, in creating works of chess art.

109. Tigran Petrosian – Alexander Konstantinopolsky, Moscow 1947

27...♗xf4! 28.exf4 ♗xe2✓ Black is clearly better, but White managed to hold (41 moves).

110. Tigran Petrosian – Genrikh Kasparian, Tbilisi 1949

38.♗xc4!–+ 38.♗xe6 fxe6 39.♗xc4? (39.♗xe6 ♔h7=) 39...♗xe1†–+ Black cannot take the bishop due to: 38...♗xc4 38...♗d6 39.♗xe6 was just hopeless (1–0, 41 moves). 39.♗e8† ♗xe8 40.♗xe8† ♔h7 41.♗h8 mate ✓

111. Tigran Petrosian – Efim Geller, Moscow 1950

28...♗xg4! 29.♗xg4 Petrosian fought on with 29.♗g3–+ but he regretted 28.g4? for sure (0–1, 38 moves). 29...♗g6–+✓

112. Abram Poliak – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1951

32...d4! 33.♗xd4 33.♗e1 d3–+ and the pawn supported by pieces is too strong. 33...♗b6✓ 0–1 Or 33...♗a7–+, but not 33...♗f6? 34.♗xd7†. If you chose a slower way to advance the pawn on the 32nd move, such as 32...♗f6 or 32...♗a7†, you also get full points.

113. Tigran Petrosian – A. Koliakov, Moscow 1951

29.♕xd5! 29.♔a6?! ♔d8± 29...♜xc2 30.♕f6† Getting out of Dodge before recapturing the rook.
30...♚f8 31.♜xc2+– ✓ In addition to an extra pawn, White's pieces are much stronger, for instance the bishop on e8 is dominated (1–0, 33 moves).

114. Tigran Petrosian – Gedeon Barcza, Saltsjobaden 1952

24.♕fxe6!+– There are a few alternatives with the same idea: 24.♕gxe6+– or 24.axb5 ♔xb5 25.♕gxe6+–. **24...♛xe6** 25.♕xd5+– ✓ Since the c6-knight cannot retreat on account of the a8-rook, White is regaining at least the piece, with a winning position (1–0, 30 moves).

115. Iivo Nei – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1960

33.♗g8†! A magnet sacrifice leading to a quick mate. Black resigned, rather than face: **33...♝xg8** **34.♚e6† ♚h8** 35.♗g8 mate ✓

116. Tigran Petrosian – Boris Spassky, Moscow (10) 1966

30.♗h8†! 30.♗xf7?! ♗xe3!± In the game, Black resigned. He is a piece down after: **30...♝xh8** **31.♗xf7† ♚g7** 32.♗xg5+– ✓

117. Tigran Petrosian – Dragoslav Tomic, Vinkovci 1970

39.♜xg7†! 39.♗e8 eyes the pawn on e4, but wins only because White has the same rook sacrifice later. But not: 39.♗f6†?? ♜xf6+– **39...♜xg7** 40.♗f6 mate ✓

118. Dragoljub Janosevic – Tigran Petrosian, Lone Pine 1978

33...♝g1†! White resigned due to: **34.♜xg1 ♛f2 mate** ✓

119. Tigran Petrosian – Borislav Ivkov, Teslic 1979

35.♜xd4! Black resigned as it's mate: **35...♜xd4** 36.♗xe5† ♛xg4 37.f3 mate ✓ Or 37.h3 mate.

120. Tigran Petrosian – Ljubomir Ljubojevic, Niksic 1983

26.♜xe4! ♗xe4 26...♗g6+– is hopeless for Black when he has lost his only trump, the passed e-pawn (1–0, 28 moves). **27.♗f7† ♚h8** 28.♗f8† ♜xf8 29.♜xf8 mate ✓

Boris Spassky

I had a good feeling for the critical moments of the play. This undoubtedly compensated for my lack of opening preparation and, possibly, not altogether perfect play in the endgame.

121. John Spencer Purdy – Boris Spassky, Antwerp 1955

10...d3! The bishop on b2 is en prise and **11.♜xg7 dxe2+–** ✓ is an intermediate move that wins a piece.

122. Yuri Averbakh – Boris Spassky, Moscow 1961

38...♝f1†! Other moves are obviously also winning, but mate-in-two should be seen and played here. **39.♚xf1 ♗e1 mate** ✓

123. Boris Spassky – Mikhail Shofman, Leningrad 1962

20.♕a6! ♜xa6 Shofman played 20...c6 but was simply a piece down after 21.♗xb7†. **21.♛a8 mate ✓**

124. Boris Spassky – Alexander Korelov, Yerevan 1962

38.♛xa6! Neatly picking up a pawn due to: **38...♜xa6 39.♝b6† ♔d7 40.♜xa6+– ✓**

125. Boris Spassky – Zvonko Vranesic, Amsterdam 1964

21.♜xf8†! ♜xf8 22.axb4+– ✓ The two pieces easily outshine the rook.

126. Borislav Ivkov – Boris Spassky, Santa Monica 1966

36...♛xf4! There is a fork on e3 coming up. **37.gxf4 ♜e3† 38.♝g3 ♜xd1+– ✓**

127. Boris Spassky – Viktor Korchnoi, Kiev 1968

35.♛h6†! Korchnoi did not let his opponent execute the mate: **35...♝xh6 36.♜h1 mate ✓** Or 35...♝g8 36.♜c8† ♜f8 37.♜xf8 mate.

128. Robert Hartoch – Boris Spassky, Amsterdam 1970

Black is winning with many moves, but only one is a forced mate: **32...♛xg1† 33.♝xg1 ♜xg2† 34.♝h1 ♜h2† 35.♝g1 ♜cg2† 36.♝f1 ♜b5† 37.♝e1 ♜h1 mate ✓** Or 37...♜g1 mate.

129. Boris Spassky – Lajos Portisch, Geneva 1977

33.f5! ♜xf5 34.♜e7+– ✓ The queen can no longer defend the bishop.

130. Boris Spassky – A. Hoffmann, Lugano 1982

It's mate in five moves: **30.♛xg6†!** 30.♜e2 is winning as well thanks to the continued threat of ♜xg6†. **30...♜xg6 31.♜e7† ♜g8 32.♛xg6†** Or 32.♛f7† ♜h8 33.♛h7 mate. **32...♛f8 33.♛g7 mate ✓** Or 33.♛f7 mate.

131. Boris Spassky – Andreas Dueckstein, Zurich 1984

29...♜xh1! Black gets two pieces for the rook after: **30.♛xh1 ♜xd4 31.cxd4 ♜xd2+– ✓**

132. Zoltan Ribli – Boris Spassky, Montpellier 1985

85...♛xh6†! 85...♛d2† is the complicated way to draw (zero points). The queen endgame with g- and h-pawns is generally drawn with the defending king in front of the pawns. It surprised the whole Swedish team when we learned this at the 2016 Olympiad in Baku. However, 85...♛d2† should lose in a practical game. First, Black has to find 86.♛f4 ♛d8† 87.♛f6† ♜h7! 88.♛xd8 with stalemate. **86.♛xh6 ✓ ½–½ Stalemate!** 86.♛f5 keeps the game going, but it's an easy draw anyway.

133. Boris Spassky – Marc Santo-Roman, Montpellier 1991

18...♜xa2! White is lost due to: **19.♝xa2 ♜b3† ✓**

Robert Fischer

Tactics flow from a superior position.
My 60 Memorable Games (1969)

134. Robert Fischer – J.S. Bennett, USA 1957

38. $\mathbb{E}d8\#!$ Deflection. But not 38. $\mathbb{E}c1?? \mathbb{Q}d4\#-$. 38... $\mathbb{W}xd8$ 39. $\mathbb{W}xc3\# \mathbb{W}f6$ 40. $\mathbb{W}xf6$ mate ✓

135. E. Buerger – Robert Fischer, Milwaukee 1957

26... $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 27. $\mathbb{E}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4\#$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}xb4-$ ✓ 27... $\mathbb{Q}xf4-$ White resigned after: 28. $\mathbb{E}xf4$ $\mathbb{E}xf4$ ✓ 0–1

136. Theodor Ghitescu – Robert Fischer, Leipzig (ol) 1960

14... $\mathbb{Q}xh2\#!$ ✓ 0–1 Discovered attack.

137. Samuel Reshevsky – Robert Fischer, Los Angeles 1961

28... $\mathbb{W}xe4!$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}e2\#$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}xg3\#$ ✓ Black should be winning with the extra exchange, but failed to convert ($\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$, 57 moves).

138. Robert Fischer – S. Purevzhav, Varna (ol) 1962

21. $\mathbb{Q}xg7!$ $\mathbb{E}xd3$ The game ended after 21... $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ when either White's attack or his extra piece would have been enough on their own. 22. $\mathbb{f}6$ Or 22. $\mathbb{Q}d4+-$. 22... $\mathbb{d}xc2$ 23. $\mathbb{E}h8$ mate ✓

139. Mario Bertok – Robert Fischer, Stockholm 1962

24... $\mathbb{Q}xe3!$ Black is a piece up, but there is still work to be done. Fischer decided the game on the spot. 25. $\mathbb{W}xe3$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{W}xg2$ mate ✓ 25... $\mathbb{Q}xc4-$ ✓ (0–1, 31 moves)

140. Robert Fischer – John Fuller, Bay City 1963

White exploits Black's last move (14... $\mathbb{Q}d4$) with a simple discovered attack. 15. $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#?$ $\mathbb{W}xf6!$ and White has to play 16. $\mathbb{W}xd4\#$. 15... $\mathbb{E}xd4$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#!$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 17. $\mathbb{W}xd4$ ✓ White has a clear advantage and the game ended abruptly after a further blunder by Black: 17... $\mathbb{E}d8$ 18. $\mathbb{W}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}d5?$ 19. $\mathbb{W}xd5$ 1–0

141. Robert Fischer – J. Richburg, Detroit (simul) 1964

22. $\mathbb{Q}xc5!$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ The game saw 22... $\mathbb{W}b8+-$. 23. $\mathbb{b}4+-$ ✓ $\mathbb{Q}d7?$ The only critical move, but it is simply bad: 24. $\mathbb{b}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5?$ 25. $\mathbb{W}c2+-$

142. Robert Fischer – Robert Byrne, New York 1965

12... $\mathbb{Q}d6!$ Moving the threatened piece out of danger with a dangerous threat. Not 12... $\mathbb{b}xc6$ 13. $\mathbb{Q}xg4=$ or 12... $\mathbb{Q}xe2?$ 13. $\mathbb{Q}xe7\#$. 13. $\mathbb{h}3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1+-$ ✓ (0–1, 36 moves)

143. Robert Fischer – Svetozar Gligoric, Zagreb 1970

35. $\mathbb{E}xf6!$ Taking the rook loses the queen, so Black resigned. Instead if White had retreated the rook with, for example, 35. $\mathbb{E}h3$ then he would still have some work to do, although 1–0 does seem the most probable result (no points). 35... $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 35... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}xg5\#+-$ ✓ 36. $\mathbb{Q}h5\#+-$ ✓

144. Samuel Reshevsky – Robert Fischer, Palma de Mallorca 1970

29... $\mathbb{W}d4\#!$ 29... $\mathbb{W}e3\#$ 30. $\mathbb{B}f2$ (30. $\mathbb{Q}h1 \mathbb{W}f2-$) 30... $\mathbb{W}e7\#$ 31. $\mathbb{W}a4 \mathbb{B}a7\#$ will also win. **30. $\mathbb{Q}h1$**
30. $\mathbb{B}f2 \mathbb{B}e1$ mate ✓ 30... $\mathbb{W}f2\#-$ ✓

145. Svetozar Gligoric – Robert Fischer, Palma de Mallorca 1970

29... $\mathbb{Q}d3\#!$ An unexpected fork after White's last move 29. $\mathbb{B}f1-f2?$. **30. $\mathbb{W}xb6$** 30. $\mathbb{B}xd3 \mathbb{W}a1\#$ ✓ mating. **30... $\mathbb{Q}xf2\#-$ ✓** Black is a piece up and has the more active heavy pieces. White resigned a few moves later.

Anatoly Karpov

Blunders rarely travel alone.

146. Vladimir Peresipkin – Anatoly Karpov, Rostov on Don 1971

36... $\mathbb{W}xh2\#!$ The only winning move. **0–1 37. $\mathbb{Q}xh2 \mathbb{B}h5$ mate ✓**

147. Anatoly Karpov – Michael Franklin, Hastings 1972

35. $\mathbb{B}g5!$ Using the fact that the knight on f7 is pinned. **35... $\mathbb{W}xg5$** 35... $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 36. $\mathbb{B}xg7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$
37. $\mathbb{Q}xg5-$ ✓ and White is up too much material. **36. $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ ✓ 37. $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 37.d5 1–0**

148. Ilkka Saren – Anatoly Karpov, Skopje (ol) 1972

28... $\mathbb{Q}b6\#!$ The move order 28... $\mathbb{B}xf4$ doesn't work as well: 29. $\mathbb{Q}e6\#$! $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}d5\#$ Even worse is: 28... $\mathbb{Q}b2?$ 29. $\mathbb{W}xf5\pm$ **29. $\mathbb{Q}f1 \mathbb{B}xf4\#!$** 30.gxf4 $\mathbb{W}xf4\#$ ✓ **0–1** Black has a mating attack.

149. Anatoly Karpov – Viktor Kupreichik, Moscow 1976

38. $\mathbb{B}e7\#!$ The only way to promote the pawn. And not: 38.dxc7? $\mathbb{B}c6\#$ **38... $\mathbb{Q}f8$** 38... $\mathbb{Q}f6$
39.dxc7+- ✓ 39.dxc7+- $\mathbb{B}c6$ 40. $\mathbb{B}d7$ Karpov chose a slower way: 40. $\mathbb{B}xh7 \mathbb{Q}e8$ 41.h4+-
40... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 41. $\mathbb{B}d8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 42.c8=math $\mathbb{B}xc8$ 43. $\mathbb{B}xc8+-$ ✓

150. Lajos Portisch – Anatoly Karpov, Moscow 1977

20... $\mathbb{B}xe2!$ 21. $\mathbb{W}xe2 \mathbb{W}xc1\#$ ✓ Black has opened White's first rank and won a pawn, leaving him up a full exchange, and winning. The game had a quick finish: **22. $\mathbb{W}f1 \mathbb{W}d2$ 23.cxb6? $\mathbb{B}c8$ 0–1**

151. Anatoly Karpov – Mark Taimanov, Leningrad 1977

38... $\mathbb{Q}g3\#!$ White resigned in view of **39.hxg3 $\mathbb{B}a8\#$ ✓** with mate.

152. Viktor Korchnoi – Anatoly Karpov, Baguio City (17) 1978

39... $\mathbb{Q}f3\#!$ 0–1 Mate is coming up: **40.gxf3 $\mathbb{B}g6\#$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}h1 \mathbb{Q}f2$ mate ✓**

153. Anatoly Karpov – Efim Geller, Moscow 1983

31. $\mathbb{W}xc4!$ Black resigned instead of permitting: **31...bxc4 32. $\mathbb{B}xf7$ mate ✓**

154. Anatoly Karpov – Simen Agdestein, Oslo 1984

32. $\mathbb{W}xd5!$ Move order is important here. 32. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ ± 33. $\mathbb{B}xd5?$ (33. $\mathbb{W}b4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 34. $\mathbb{B}d2$ $\mathbb{B}xd2$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ $\mathbb{B}g6\pm$) 33... $\mathbb{B}xe2\#$ =, or 32. $\mathbb{W}b4\#$! $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 33. $\mathbb{W}h4$ $\mathbb{B}e8\#\pm$ still with great chances against Black's exposed king. **32... $\mathbb{W}xd5$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ 33. $\mathbb{B}b4\#$?** $\mathbb{W}c5\#$ = 33... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 34. $\mathbb{B}xd5\#$ ✓ (1–0, 38 moves)

155. Anatoly Karpov – Anthony Miles, Brussels 1986

26. $\mathbb{Q}d5!$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}b5$ is a worse variant since the queen can escape to e7, but it still gives a winning advantage: 26... $\mathbb{W}e7$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xd6\#$ – (full points) **26... $\mathbb{Q}xb2$** 26... $\mathbb{B}xd5$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xd8\#$ ✓ 27. $\mathbb{Q}xc7\#$ ✓ (1–0, 40 moves)

156. Anatoly Karpov – Viktor Gavrikov, Moscow 1988

27. $\mathbb{Q}h7\#$! Deflection. **27... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xf8\#$** ✓ (1–0, 40 moves)

157. Anatoly Karpov – Nigel Short, Linares (7) 1992

39. $\mathbb{B}g8\#$! Deflection. **39... $\mathbb{Q}xg8$ 40. $\mathbb{W}xf6$** ✓ (1–0, 45 moves)

158. Alexander Chernin – Anatoly Karpov, Tilburg 1992

21. $\mathbb{Q}d5!$ Exploiting the claustrophobic queen on e6. **21... $\mathbb{Q}c5$** Black's alternatives are no better: 21... $\mathbb{B}xd5$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xd5\#$ ✓, 21... $\mathbb{B}b8$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}c7\#$ – or 21... $\mathbb{B}c8$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}e7\#\pm$ ✓. **22. $\mathbb{Q}c7$ $\mathbb{W}d7$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xe8\#\pm$** Karpov saved a draw (42 moves).

159. Anatoly Karpov – Valery Salov, Linares 1993

33. $\mathbb{W}xg6!$ 1–0 White was winning anyway, but this is too nice to pass up. **33... $\mathbb{B}h4$ 34. $\mathbb{B}h4$** And 35. $\mathbb{B}h8$ mate ✓ is unavoidable.

160. Anatoly Karpov – Loek van Wely, Monte Carlo 1997

30. $\mathbb{Q}h7\#$! Deflecting the knight or king. **30... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 30... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 31. $\mathbb{W}xf8$ mate** ✓ **31. $\mathbb{W}xd7\#$** ✓

161. Anatoly Karpov – Eric Lobron, Frankfurt 1997

34... $\mathbb{B}xe6!$ Clearing the back rank in order to force the king to h2, so the bishop falls with check. **35. $\mathbb{B}xe6$ $\mathbb{B}a1\#$ 35... $\mathbb{W}xf4\#!$ 36. $\mathbb{B}e8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 37. $\mathbb{W}h5\#$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{W}xf4\#$ –** ✓ (0–1, 46 moves)

162. Anatoly Karpov – Mikhail Gurevich, Cap d'Agde 2000

37... $\mathbb{Q}xe3\#$! Using the fact that pins can sometimes become discovered attacks instead. **38. $\mathbb{Q}xe3\#?$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{B}xf2$ 39. $\mathbb{W}xf2\#$ 38... $\mathbb{B}g1\#$ 39. $\mathbb{B}xg1$ $\mathbb{W}xh4$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{W}e4\#$! 41. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{W}xd4$ ✓** White has no time to move the bishop from g2, since the e5-pawn is hanging. After 42. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8\#$ – there is no good discovered check (0–1, 50 moves).

163. Anatoly Karpov – Alexei Shirov, Bastia (rapid) 2003

29... $\mathbb{B}xh2\#$ White resigned due to: **30. $\mathbb{Q}xh2$ $\mathbb{W}h4$ mate** ✓

164. Andrei Istratescu – Anatoly Karpov, Bucharest (rapid) 2005

25... $\mathbb{B}xd2!$ 26. $\mathbb{B}xd2$ After the game move 26. $\mathbb{W}h4\#$ – Black has simply won a piece, so White resigned in a couple of moves. **26... $\mathbb{W}xc1\#$ –** ✓

165. Anatoly Karpov – Alexei Shirov, Tallinn (rapid) 2006

30.♗b5! The X-ray mate threat wins the bishop. Black resigned instead of allowing: **30...♝xb5**
31.♝d8 mate ✓

166. Anatoly Karpov – Evgenij Agrest, Tallinn (rapid) 2006

40.♝xg6! **♝xf4** 40...fxg6 41.♝xe6† ♜e7 42.♝xc7+– ✓ **41.exf4** Or 41.♝xf7+–, or 41.♝xe6†
 fxe6 42.exf4+–. **41...fxg6** **42.♝xe6†+–** (1–0, 69 moves)

167. Anatoly Karpov – Ehsan Ghaem Maghami, Teheran 2009

26.♝f8†! Deflection. Worse is 26.♛xh7† ♜xh7 27.♝xd7±. **26...♜xf8** **27.♝xf8†** ♜xf8
28.♛xh7+– ✓ (1–0, 42 moves)

Garry Kasparov

Tactics involve calculations that can tax the human brain, but when you boil them down, they are actually the simplest part of chess and are almost trivial compared to strategy.

How Life Imitates Chess (2007)

168. Garry Kasparov – Vladimir Antoshin, Baku 1980

22.♝xc7! 22.♝d4 threatens 23.♝b5 with mate, but Black can defend after 22...♛e7 23.♝b5
 c6±. **22...♝xc7** **23.♛a7† ✓** **1–0** With the rook coming to c1, the attack will be deadly.

169. Vladimir Tukmakov – Garry Kasparov, Frunze 1981

29...♛xc5! ✓ The back-rank mate threat means Black has simply won a rook, leaving him easily winning.

170. Garry Kasparov – Comp Mephisto 68000, Hamburg (simul) 1985

36.♝xe8† **♜xe8** Instead Black soon lost after 36...♞f7+–. **37.♛xf6 ✓** White is mating.

171. Lajos Portisch – Garry Kasparov, Linares 1990

27...♝e3† ✓ **0–1** A discovered attack, which could also be executed with 27...♝f4†+–.

172. Garry Kasparov – Matthias Wahls, Baden-Baden 1992

32.♝xd5! **♛xd5** **33.♝xc7+– ✓** **1–0**

173. Garry Kasparov – Jacek Dubiel, Katowice (simul) 1993

32.♝xc6! **♝xc6** **33.♛c7†** **♛e7** **34.♝xc6± ✓** White is a pawn up with good winning chances.

174. Yannick Pelletier – Garry Kasparov, Zurich 2001

31...♝xf2! Winning a second pawn due to: **32.♝xf2** **♝h2†+– ✓**

175. Garry Kasparov – Alexei Shirov, Astana 2001

35.♝d4! ✓ **1–0** Mating. 35.♝g7 is a useless intermediate move that allows Black to defend with 35...♝e8 36.♝d4 ♜g6±.

Alexander Khalifman

Never play for the win, never play for the draw, just play chess!

176. Ashot Anastasian – Alexander Khalifman, Minsk 1986

22... $\mathbb{Q}c5$! The pin allows this fork. 23. $dxc5 \mathbb{E}xd3\# \checkmark$ (0–1, 36 moves)

177. Jaan Ehlvest – Alexander Khalifman, Rakvere 1993

32... $\mathbb{E}xb2$ Picking up a pawn with a small tactic gives Black a winning endgame. 33. $\mathbb{E}xb2$ Instead, White tried to fight with 33. $\mathbb{Q}b5+-$ but in the end it proved fruitless (0–1, 53 moves). 33... $\mathbb{Q}xc3\# \checkmark$

178. Alexander Khalifman – Nukhim Rashkovsky, Moscow 1995

White is obviously much better, but cleanest is: 27. $\mathbb{E}xd4$! Black resigned in view of: 27... $exd4$ 28. $\mathbb{W}f5\# \mathbb{W}f7$ 29. $\mathbb{W}c8\# \mathbb{W}e8$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xe8$ mate \checkmark

179. Alexander Khalifman – Gennadi Sosonko, St Petersburg 1997

26. $\mathbb{Q}f6$! The king is too exposed after: 26... $gxf6$ 27. $exf6 \checkmark$

180. Lenka Ptacnikova – Alexander Khalifman, Stockholm 1997

37... $\mathbb{E}xd4!+- \checkmark$ Black wins back the rook on c1, so he has just won a piece, and will break through easily.

181. Alexander Khalifman – Viktor Kupreichik, Stockholm 1997

26. $\mathbb{W}xf6\#$! Other moves take longer to win. 26... $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 27. $\mathbb{E}xh7$ mate \checkmark

182. Alexander Khalifman – Christian Gabriel, Bad Wiessee 1998

21. $\mathbb{E}xb3$! Black resigned since 21... $\mathbb{Q}xb3$ 22. $\mathbb{W}e6\# \mathbb{Q}b8$ 23. $\mathbb{E}xb3+- \checkmark$ is winning, although it wouldn't have hurt to fight on.

183. Roman Slobodjan – Alexander Khalifman, Germany 1999

26... $\mathbb{W}xg5$! Picking up this pawn increases the advantage considerably. 27. $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ White tried to fight on with 27. $\mathbb{E}ge1$, but resigned a few moves later. 27... $\mathbb{Q}f2$ mate \checkmark

184. Alexander Khalifman – Ivan Bukavshin, Moscow 2011

24. $\mathbb{Q}h3\# \checkmark$ 1–0 If the king moves, 25. $\mathbb{W}e5\#$ picks up the rook on h8 (and mates). If the bishop is taken then 25. $\mathbb{W}f8\#$ mates. And finally, anything put in the way will just be taken. Not 24. $\mathbb{E}d6?$ $\mathbb{W}b1\#$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}f1 \mathbb{W}h7$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}g2 \mathbb{W}b1\#$.

Vladimir Kramnik

*Chess is like body-building. If you train every day, you stay in top shape.
It is the same with your brain – chess is a matter of daily training.*

185. Vladimir Kramnik – Dmitry Reinderman, Wijk aan Zee (blitz) 1999

24. $\mathbb{Q}xe5!$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xd5\#$ – ✓ Winning the rook on a8.

186. Vladimir Kramnik – Etienne Bacrot, Moscow (blitz) 2007

38. $\mathbb{B}a8!$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 38... $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ 39. $\mathbb{B}xa6\#$ leaves White with an easily winning endgame. 39. $a7$ $\mathbb{B}xb7$ 40. $\mathbb{B}c8\#$! ✓ 1–0 The pawn promotes.

187. Vladimir Kramnik – Levon Aronian, Moscow (blitz) 2009

The knight seems to be forced back, but can instead go forward to seemingly protected squares.

20. $\mathbb{Q}e5!$ $\mathbb{B}f8$ (20... $fxe5?$ 21. $\mathbb{W}f7$ mate) 21. $\mathbb{Q}xd7\#$ – ✓ Black can't take back since it would leave the rook on a8 unprotected (1–0, 23 moves).

188. Vladimir Kramnik – Anish Giri, Leuven (blitz) 2016

20. $e4!$ The bishop on d6 becomes exposed. 20... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 20... $dxe4$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}b5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 22. $\mathbb{B}xd6\#$ – ✓ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xe4\#$ – ✓

Viswanathan Anand

In any match, there are few critical moments where there's no second-best decision. The rest of the moves are intuitive.

189. Viswanathan Anand – Eric Lobron, Dortmund 1996

36. $\mathbb{Q}f6!$ 1–0 With winning threats on h5. But not 36. $\mathbb{Q}e3?!$ $\mathbb{Q}e5\pm$. 36... $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 36... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 37. $\mathbb{B}xh5\#$ – 37. $\mathbb{W}xh5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 38. $\mathbb{W}xe8\#$ – ✓

190. Viswanathan Anand – Ruslan Ponomariov, Mainz 2002

38. $e7!$ ✓ 1–0 The only defence against 39. $\mathbb{W}g7$ mate leaves the rook on c8 undefended.

191. Viswanathan Anand – Pascal Charbonneau, Calvia (ol) 2004

34. $\mathbb{B}xf7\#$! 1–0 The variation goes: 34... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}e6\#$ $\mathbb{B}xe6$ 36. $\mathbb{W}xd4\#$ – ✓

192. Magnus Carlsen – Viswanathan Anand, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006

25. $\mathbb{W}h6!$ White removes the queen from danger with a mating threat, leaving the knight on b4 to face the gallows. 25... $f6$ 25... $\mathbb{B}xb2$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ – ✓ with mate. 26. $\mathbb{B}xb4\#$ – ✓

193. Roman Skomorokhin – Viswanathan Anand, Bastia 2014

22... $\mathbb{Q}xe3!$ ✓ 22... $\mathbb{Q}xe3\#$? 23. $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ wins for White. 23. $\mathbb{B}xe3$ Other moves are no better: 23. $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ $\mathbb{W}xa1\#$ – or 23... $\mathbb{Q}xe3\#$ 24. $\mathbb{W}xe3$ $\mathbb{W}xa1\#$ –. White is so tied up that basically any move wins by eventually bringing one rook into the action. 23... $\mathbb{B}fe8$ 0–1

194. Viswanathan Anand – Jon Ludvig Hammer, Stavanger 2015

34.♕xg6! Winning two more pawns, bringing the total to an overwhelming three. **34...♗xg6**
35.♗xe5† ♕g8 36.♗xc5 ✓ 1–0

Ruslan Ponomariov

In general, I grew up as a chess player on books. My first computer appeared when I'd already become a grandmaster.

Chess in Translation (2011)

195. Ruslan Ponomariov – Stuart Conquest, Torshavn 2000

37.♗c7†! **37.♗xf5† ♕b8 38.♗xa5 ♔a8!∞ 37...♔b8 37...♗xd8 38.♗e7 mate ✓ or 37...♗xc7 38.♗xc7 mate ✓. **38.♗xc6† ✓ 1–0****

196. Ruslan Ponomariov – Evgeny Bareev, Moscow (4) 2001

34.♗xf4†! ✓ 1–0 Winning the queen. **34.♗xh7** keeps the threat of **♗xf4†**, but Black can fight on with **34...♗h3±**. **34.♗xh7** allows **34...♗b2!=**.

197. Boris Grachev – Ruslan Ponomariov, Moscow (blitz) 2010

37.♗h5! Exploiting all the pins! **37.♗xf6? gxf6 38.♗h5 ♗b7 39.♗xf7† ♗xf7 40.♗b6±** gives Black good drawing chances in a queen ending a pawn down. **37...g6 37...♗xh5 38.♗xf7† ✓ ♔h8 39.♗e8† ♗f8 40.♗xf8 mate or 37...♗f8 38.♗xf7†+-.** **38.♗xf6 ✓** Or **38.♗xg6 hxg6 39.♗xf6+-**. In the game, Black resigned in a few moves: **38...♗b7 39.♗d1 b2 40.♗e8† ♔g7 41.♗xf7† 1–0**

198. Ruslan Ponomariov – Vassily Ivanchuk, Khanty-Mansiysk (2) 2011

37...♗xf3! Winning the g2-pawn and an exchange. **37...♗gxg2† 38.♗xg2 ♗xf5** is too kind: **39.♗c1† 38.♗xf3 ♗gxg2† 39.♗h1 ♗h2† 40.♗g1 ♗e2† ✓ 0–1**

199. Ruslan Ponomariov – Sergei Rublevsky, Khanty-Mansiysk (blitz) 2013

31.♗e7!+- ✓ Threatening mate, and both defences end up losing the bishop. **31...♗d4 31...♗g6 32.♗xd7+- 32.♗xd4 cxd4 33.♗xd4 1–0** Double attack.

Rustam Kasimdzhanov

Sometimes tactics are born out of need. The strategic character of this position is such that if you do not find something, then strategically you are lost.

The Path to Tactical Strength (2011)

200. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Dmitry Kariumov, Tashkent 1993

19...♗e1†! Deflection. **20.♗xe1 20.♗f2 ♗xd5 21.♗xd5 ♗xa1+- ✓ 20...♗xd5+- ✓ 0–1**

201. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Eduard Grinshpun, Tashkent 1993

33. $\mathbb{W}xh7\#$ $\mathbb{W}xh7$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}xf6\#$ \pm ✓ 1–0 White wins a piece.

202. Andranik Matikozian – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Szeged 1994

29... $\mathbb{B}xe5!$ The white queen is doubly pinned and is needed to protect g2. 30. $\mathbb{W}xh4$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xe5$ $\mathbb{W}xg2$ mate ✓ (or 30... $\mathbb{W}xd3\#$), and 30. $\mathbb{W}xg6$ $\mathbb{B}xe1$ mate ✓ (or 30... $\mathbb{Q}xg6\#$). 30... $\mathbb{B}xe1\#$ Or 30... $\mathbb{W}xd3\#$. 31. $\mathbb{W}xe1$ $\mathbb{W}xd3$ ✓ 0–1

203. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Y.M.A. Kalandar Khaled, Macau 1996

23. $\mathbb{W}d8\#$! An X-ray/reloader theme supported by the strongly-placed bishop on e4. 23... $\mathbb{B}xd8$ 23... $\mathbb{W}f8$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}h7\#$ \pm ✓ 24. $\mathbb{B}xd8\#$ $\mathbb{W}f8$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}h7\#$! Or 25. $\mathbb{B}ed1$ $\mathbb{B}c7$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}h7\#$ \pm . 25... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 26. $\mathbb{B}xf8\#$ ✓ (1–0, 30 moves)

204. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Mohamad Al Modiahki, Teheran 1998

25. $\mathbb{B}xd7\#$ 1–0 Winning another pawn and exchanging some pieces. Too kind is 25. $\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ 26. $\mathbb{B}xg4\#$. 25... $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{W}d8$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ $\mathbb{W}xc8$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xb5\#$ ✓

205. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Mikhail Golubev, Germany 2002

37. $\mathbb{W}b8\#$! The breathing hole on g7 is not enough, neither is either of the two possible blocks on f8. 37. $\mathbb{Q}xe5?$ $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ (38. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4\#$ 39. $\mathbb{B}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}g5\#$) 38... $\mathbb{Q}xf3\#$ \pm 37... $\mathbb{B}xb8$ 38. $\mathbb{B}xb8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 38... $\mathbb{B}f8$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#$ (39. $\mathbb{B}xf8\#$ $\mathbb{W}xf8$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#$) 39... $\mathbb{W}g7$ 40. $\mathbb{B}xf8$ mate ✓ 38... $\mathbb{B}f8$ 39. $\mathbb{B}xf8\#$ $\mathbb{B}xf8$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#$ $\mathbb{B}f6$ 41. $\mathbb{B}xf6$ mate ✓ 39. $\mathbb{B}g8$ mate ✓

206. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Andrei Volokitin, Germany 2003

33... $\mathbb{W}xh1\#$! Forcing a winning endgame. Not 33... $\mathbb{W}h2\#$ 34. $\mathbb{B}xh2$ $\mathbb{B}xh2\#$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{B}g1\#$ 36. $\mathbb{W}xg1$ $\mathbb{B}xg1=\mathbb{W}\#$ 37. $\mathbb{B}xg1\#$. 34. $\mathbb{B}xh1$ $\mathbb{g}2\#$ 35. $\mathbb{B}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}d4$ ✓ With his material advantage and dangerous passed pawn, Black is winning. The game ended swiftly: 36. $\mathbb{W}xd4\#$ $\mathbb{B}xd4$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 0–1

207. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Baku 2005

28... $\mathbb{Q}e3!$ 28... $b4?\#$ 29. $\mathbb{B}xe3$ 29. $\mathbb{B}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xg4\#$ \pm ✓ 29... $\mathbb{W}xf1\#$ \pm (0–1, 34 moves)

208. Sergey Karjakin – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Tashkent 2014

38. $\mathbb{Q}e6\#$ \pm White is clearly better after other moves, but this finishes the game. 38... $\mathbb{B}xe6$ The game try 38... $g5$ is plain hopeless; the game continued 39. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ (39. $\mathbb{B}xf8$ and other moves are winning as well) 39... $gxf4$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}fg6\#$ $\mathbb{B}xg6$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}xg6\#$ and Black resigned. No better is 38... $\mathbb{W}c8$ 39. $\mathbb{B}xg7$ ✓ with mate. 39. $\mathbb{Q}g6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}xf8\#$ \pm ✓

Veselin Topalov

I started to find things for him...
London Chess Classic (2016)

209. Jan Timman – Veselin Topalov, Sarajevo 1999

36... $\mathbb{h}5\#!$ Deflecting the king from the defence of the rook. 36... $\mathbb{Q}f6\#?$ 37. $\mathbb{E}xf6 \mathbb{E}xf6$ and all the pawns make up for the exchange. 37. $\mathbb{Q}xh5 \mathbb{E}xf5 \checkmark 0-1$

210. Veselin Topalov – Miguel Illescas Cordoba, Cala Galdana 1999

22. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#!$ $\checkmark 1-0$ Getting rid of the pesky knight on e3 with tempo, leaving White totally winning.

211. Veselin Topalov – Arkadij Naiditsch, Dortmund 2005

27. $\mathbb{W}f6\#!$ Black resigned. 27... $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 28. $\mathbb{E}e8\# \mathbb{W}f8$ 29. $\mathbb{E}xf8$ mate \checkmark

212. Gata Kamsky – Veselin Topalov, Nice (blindfold) 2009

32... $\mathbb{Q}xf3!$ 33. $\mathbb{g}xf3 \mathbb{Q}xf3\#$ $\checkmark 0-1$ Winning the queen.

Magnus Carlsen

Contrary to many young colleagues, I do believe that it makes sense to study the classics.

213. Ivan Sokolov – Magnus Carlsen, Hoogeveen 2004

White wins a pawn by exploiting the potential pin on the eighth rank, either by: 33. $\mathbb{Q}xc6!$ $\mathbb{E}xc6$ 34. $\mathbb{E}b8 \mathbb{Q}h7$ 35. $\mathbb{E}xd8+-$ $\checkmark 1-0$ Or the almost equally good 33. $\mathbb{E}a1$, threatening $\mathbb{E}a1-a6$, so 33... $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ with the same theme but having given away ... $\mathbb{Q}f6-d5$.

214. Gata Kamsky – Magnus Carlsen, Khanty-Mansiysk (2) 2005

31. $\mathbb{b}6!$ $1-0$ The pawn queens after 31... $\mathbb{E}xf7$ 32. $\mathbb{b}xa7+-$ \checkmark and the threat on the rook leaves White a piece up after 31... $\mathbb{W}xb6$ 32. $\mathbb{W}xe7$ \checkmark .

215. Hannes Stefansson – Magnus Carlsen, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006

24... $\mathbb{E}xc3$ $0-1$ The rook on d3 is overloaded: 25. $\mathbb{E}xc3 \mathbb{E}xc3$ 26. $\mathbb{W}xc3 \mathbb{W}xd1-+$ \checkmark

216. Sergey Erenburg – Magnus Carlsen, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006

34... $\mathbb{E}e1\#$ A discovered attack. 35. $\mathbb{E}xe1 \mathbb{E}xe1\#$ 36. $\mathbb{E}xe1 \mathbb{W}xd3-+$ \checkmark

217. Goran Todorovic – Magnus Carlsen, Internet 2006

35... $\mathbb{Q}xh3!$ $0-1$ Black is up too much material after 36. $\mathbb{g}xh3 \mathbb{W}xh3\#$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}g1 \mathbb{W}g3\#$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}h1 \mathbb{W}f3\#$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}g1 \mathbb{W}xf6$ \checkmark .

218. Magnus Carlsen – Laurent Fressinet, Cap d'Agde 2006

27. $\mathbb{W}f5!$ $\checkmark 1-0$ Black is back-rank mated or loses the rook on e6.

The Woodpecker Method

219. Vassily Ivanchuk – Magnus Carlsen, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2011

14. ♦db5 ✓ 1–0 Winning a pawn, with the bishop pair and d6-square, gives a decisive advantage. Somewhat weaker is winning the b6-pawn with: 14. ♦cb5 ♕b8 15. ♦xd6 ♕xd6 16. ♦xc6 ♕xc6 17. ♕d4+–

220. Fabiano Caruana – Magnus Carlsen, Shamkir 2014

25. ♦xc7! ♕xc7? Instead the game saw 25... ♕d8 26. ♦d5± when White had simply won a pawn, also stabilizing the knight on d5. **26.e6†+– ✓** White's rook will penetrate to the seventh rank with devastating effect.

221. Magnus Carlsen – Teimour Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2015

35. ♕g7†! ♕xg7 36. ♕xe8† ✓ With a winning advantage due to the two pawns, Black's exposed king and the pawn-like bishop on b6. You don't have to see any further.

222. Magnus Carlsen – Sergey Karjakin, New York (rapid 4) 2016

50. ♕h6† ✓ 1–0 What a way to finish a World Championship! It's mate in one however Black takes back.

Chapter 5

Solutions to Intermediate Exercises



There are some aspects of work you need to keep working on and no matter what environment you are in. Continuous learning is very important. It's what I call 'competitive tension', which is about having a competition around. – Viswanathan Anand

Wilhelm Steinitz

Only the player with the initiative has the right to attack.

223. Carl Hamppe – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1859

21... $\mathbb{Q}xd4\#!$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ 22.cxd4 $\mathbb{W}xh2$ mate ✓; Or 22. $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{W}xh2\#$ — when the crucial h2-pawn can be taken as both white pieces are pinned. 22... $\mathbb{B}xg3\#$ — Black won a piece and soon the game.

224. Wilhelm Steinitz – Strauss, Vienna 1860

23. $\mathbb{B}xe6\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 23...fxe6 24. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ — wins the queen. 24. $\mathbb{W}e4\#$ ✓ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ White's position is winning and you don't have to see any further. Steinitz played: 25. $\mathbb{W}xb7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 26. $\mathbb{B}e1\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 27. $\mathbb{W}xf7\#$ 27. $\mathbb{W}e4$ mate! 27... $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 28. $\mathbb{W}f3\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h4$ 29. $\mathbb{W}h3$ mate

225. Wilhelm Steinitz – Adolf Anderssen, London 1862

33... $e3\#$! Black had a dominant position and an extra pawn, so he could win slowly in many ways, but this is the quickest winner. 34.f3 Or 34.fxe3 $\mathbb{B}g6$ quickly forces mate. 34... $\mathbb{B}g6$ ✓ It's still a forced mate. 35.g4 fxg4 36.f4 $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{B}a6$ Pretty, but an even faster mate was possible with the prosaic 37... $\mathbb{B}g2\#$. 38. $\mathbb{B}xa6$ $\mathbb{B}b1\#$ 0–1 White resigned, rather than allow a mate such as: 39. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{B}h1\#$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{B}g1\#$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{B}g2\#$ 42. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{B}g3\#$ 43. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{B}h3\#$ 44. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{B}h1$ mate

226. Henry Bird – Wilhelm Steinitz, London (6) 1866

13... $\mathbb{B}de8\#!$ 13... $\mathbb{B}he8\#!$ comes to the same thing. 14. $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ $\mathbb{B}xe8\#$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{W}e3\#$ Or 15... $\mathbb{Q}c5\#$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{W}h6!$ with a winning attack against the stranded king on g3. 16. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 17.gxf3 $\mathbb{Q}c5\#$! ✓ 0–1 The only move, with forced mate in two moves.

227. Wilhelm Steinitz – Henry Bird, London (9) 1866

9.h3! $\mathbb{W}xg2$ 9... $\mathbb{W}h5$ 10.g4—✓ also traps the queen. 10. $\mathbb{B}h2$ —✓ Bird resigned after: 10... $\mathbb{W}xh2$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}xh2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 12. $\mathbb{Q}b5\#$! 1–0

228. Wilhelm Steinitz – Hieronim Czarnowski, Paris 1867

21. $\mathbb{Q}c6\#!$ $\mathbb{W}xc6$ 21... $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xc5\#$ ✓ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xc6\#$ $\mathbb{W}xc6$ 24. $\mathbb{W}xd8$ mate. 22. $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ 22... $\mathbb{W}xd2$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xc5\#$ —✓ comes with check and wins a rook. 23. $\mathbb{W}b4\#$ 1–0 Other moves were also winning.

229. Wilhelm Steinitz – Szymon Winawer, Paris 1867

White has a winning position, but can push his advantage with 17. $\mathbb{W}xg6\#$ — since Black cannot take back due to: 17...fxg6 18.f7# $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 19.f8=math> \mathbb{W}xf8 20. $\mathbb{B}xf8$ mate ✓

230. Wilhelm Steinitz – Emile D'Andre, Paris 1867

27.d6! White wins a piece after: 27... $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}e6$ —✓

231. Wilhelm Steinitz – Walsh, London (simul) 1870

14. $\mathbb{Q}e6\#!$ The knight cannot be taken due to the discovered attack. 14... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 14...fxe6 15. $\mathbb{Q}a5\#$ —✓ and 14...dxe6 15. $\mathbb{Q}a5\#$ ✓ wins the queen and the game. 15. $\mathbb{Q}bc7$ mate ✓

232. Wilhelm Steinitz – Henry Bird, London 1870

White is a pawn down, so has to create something. **19.♗ge6! fxe6** It would have been better for Black to give up the exchange on f8 with 19...g6±. With a pawn and opposite-coloured bishops for the exchange, Black has some compensation. Note that the bishop on b5 is essential after 19...g5 20.♗xf8 gxf4 21.♗d7! ✓ Now, 21...♗d8 22.e5! is the only winning move, but that's not necessary to see before sacrificing the knight. The point is 22...a6 23.exd6† ♗xd6 24.♗e5!+– threatening a fork on f7. **20.♗g6† ♗f7** The knight would not escape from h8 after 20...♗f6, but White has 21.♗xf8+– ✓. **21.♗xh8† ♗f6** The knight looks trapped, but it has two ways to escape. **22.f4** 22.♗e3 is also good: 22...g5 23.♗f3† ♗g7 24.♗xf8 ♗xf8 25.dxe6± with a safe square on f7. **22...♗e7 23.e5†!+– ♗f5 24.♗d3†! 1–0** Not only can the white knight escape, the black king is mated!

233. Walter Grimshaw – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1872

14.♗c7†! ♗f8 14...♗e7 15.♗d6 mate ✓ 15.♗d6†! Forcing Black to set up a back-rank mate. **15...♗ge7 16.♗d8†!** Not 16.♗xa8? ♗a1† with some compensation for the exchange. **16...♗xd8 17.♗xd8 mate ✓**

234. C.E.A. Dupre – Wilhelm Steinitz, The Hague 1873

28.♗d6! c5 28...♗xd6 29.♗e8 ✓ mate is easy, but 28...♗xb2 ✓ is tricky. White's best is to defend against the back-rank mate and take on d4 with the rook on the next move. Instead 29.♗xd4?! ♗xd4 30.♗xd4 is probably winning, but not easily. **29.♗xd4! ✓ 1–0** The check on e6 is decisive.

235. Wilhelm Steinitz – Jean Dufresne, Liverpool 1874

If only Black had time for 24...b6 and 25...♗b7 – it's not going to happen. **24.d5†! ♗b6 24...♗xd5 25.♗e4 ✓** wins the queen and 24...♗xd5 is not a nice move to play. There are many ways to stop the king from returning to "safety", and the fastest is 25.♗h1† ♗c5 26.♗e3† ♗d4 27.♗xd4 mate. 24...♗d7 is not the direction the king wants to go. However, Black threatens to shut out White's rook with 25...♗e5. Best is 25.♗e6!+– when White continues with 26.f6 or 26.♗b5†. **25.♗e3† 25.♗e4** also wins. Black's king can't go to c7 after 25...c5 26.♗d8†+–. **25...c5 26.♗d8†!** The only winning move. **26...♗c7 27.♗xg8+– ✓** And White won. 27.♗g5 or 27.♗e8 should also win.

236. Wilhelm Steinitz – Dion Martinez, Philadelphia (1) 1882

10...♗xd4!† White loses the queen no matter which way he recaptures. **11.♗xf4** Steinitz played the unchallenging 11.c3. Also no help is 11.♗xd4 ♗c5+– ✓ or 11.♗xd4 ♗xd1+– ✓. **11...gxf4 11...♗xf3?!** 12.♗d5!† creates a pin along the fifth rank and wins back the piece. **12.♗xd4** Black did not win any material (he was a pawn up in the diagram), but destroying White's centre is an achievement. **12...♗h4† 12...♗xd1 13.♗xd1†** is also good. However, due to White's exposed king and undeveloped rook on h1, it's more logical to keep on the queens. **13.♗g1 ♗c5†** Black continues with ...♗e7 or ...♗f6 and ...0–0.

237. Wilhelm Steinitz – Joseph Blackburne, Vienna 1882

23.♗xh6!+– White wins a pawn, since **23...gxh6? 24.♗f6† ♗h8 25.♗xe8 ✓** picks up the rook.

238. Joseph Blackburne – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1882

24... $\mathbb{Q}d7!$ Setting up a discovered attack. 24... $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ 26. $\mathbb{W}xd7$ ✓ Black resigned a move later.

239. Wilhelm Steinitz – Samuel Rosenthal, London 1883

33... $\mathbb{Q}g6\#$! 34. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}xg3\#$! 35. $hxg3$ $f2\#$! 36. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ 36. $\mathbb{W}xf2$ $\mathbb{Q}h1$ mate ✓ 36... $\mathbb{W}g2\#$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}f3$ mate ✓

240. Josef Noa – Wilhelm Steinitz, London 1883

12... $d5!-+$ ✓ Opening up for a pin on b4, winning a pawn to start with. 12... $bxcc4?!$ 13. $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ (or 13. $\mathbb{Q}a4$) 13... $d5$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}b5\pm$ is not the way to exploit the exposed queen.

241. G.H. Thornton – Wilhelm Steinitz, New York 1884

25. $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ White undermines the defence of the rook on e6 while simultaneously defending e1, and doesn't have to worry unduly about the check on f1. 25... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 26. $\mathbb{W}xe6$ ✓ 26. $\mathbb{Q}d8\#$ is about as strong. 26... $\mathbb{Q}f1\#$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xb6\#$!± On account of Black's open king, White should have kept the queens on the board with: 28. $\mathbb{W}e2-+$ 28... $axb6$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}d8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}d7\#$! Better is 31. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ with a winning position. 31... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}e2?$ $\mathbb{Q}g1$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{Q}h1$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}g1$ ½-½

242. Johannes Zukertort – Wilhelm Steinitz, USA (9) 1886

37... $\mathbb{Q}c8!$ 37... $\mathbb{Q}xg2?$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ $\mathbb{W}g4\#$ 40. $\mathbb{W}g3$ $\mathbb{W}xd1$ and Black is better, but not winning. However, White should not win back the pawn with 41. $\mathbb{Q}xh6\#$? $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 42. $\mathbb{W}h4\#$ $\mathbb{W}h5$ 43. $\mathbb{W}xd8$ since the outside pawn majority decides after 43... $\mathbb{W}g5\#$ 44. $\mathbb{W}xg5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xg5$. 38. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 38. $\mathbb{W}xc8$ $\mathbb{W}xd2$ ✓ and the knight will fall, with mate following shortly. 38... $\mathbb{W}xe4$ ✓ 0-1 Black will win even more material, so White resigned. 38... $fxe4?$ 39. $\mathbb{W}xc8$ $\mathbb{W}xd2$ 40. $\mathbb{W}f5\#$ is a perpetual.

243. Isidor Gunsberg – Wilhelm Steinitz, New York (12) 1891

23. $\mathbb{Q}xd7\#$! Black actually has no defence even after 23. $\mathbb{Q}d2-+$ followed by 24. $\mathbb{Q}ad1$. 23... $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}d1\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d4$ 25. $cxd4\#$ +- ✓ There follows one or two lethal discovered checks. But not 25. $\mathbb{Q}xd4\#$? $\mathbb{Q}e7$ with an unclear position.

244. Wilhelm Steinitz – Armand Blackmar, Skaneateles (blindfold simul) 1891

8. $\mathbb{Q}xe5!$ 8. $\mathbb{Q}xc6?$! $\mathbb{W}xc6$ 9. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ 10. $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{Q}xc2=$ 8... $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ 9. $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ Black has no time for 9... $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ since the bishop on c5 is en prise: 10. $\mathbb{Q}xc5-+$ ✓ 10. $\mathbb{Q}xd1\pm$ White is a pawn up.

245. Wilhelm Steinitz – Mikhail Chigorin, Havana (4) 1892

23. $\mathbb{Q}xd4!$ ✓ Steinitz keeps the dark-squared bishop, and can always attack on the dark squares with $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ and a few heavy pieces on the h-file. The position is winning, and the end came quickly in the game. Instead 23. $\mathbb{Q}xd4?$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ is about even. 23... $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xh7\#$ Forcing mate, but not obligatory to see since the alternative is easy enough: 24. $\mathbb{Q}xd4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ and White is winning if the queen hurries towards h6 with a threat along the way. There are three ways: a) 25. $\mathbb{W}b5$ $\mathbb{Q}ef8$ 26. $\mathbb{W}g5+-$, b) 25. $\mathbb{W}d3$ and c) 25. $\mathbb{W}d1$. 24... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 25. $\mathbb{W}h1\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ Or 26. $\mathbb{W}h6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 27. $\mathbb{W}h4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ mate, or 29. $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 30. $\mathbb{W}h6$ mate. 26... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 27. $\mathbb{W}h4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xd4\#$ Or 28. $\mathbb{W}g3\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 29. $\mathbb{W}e3\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 30. $\mathbb{W}f4$ mate. When the queen took on d4, Chigorin resigned instead of allowing 28... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}g4$ mate or 29. $\mathbb{W}f4$ mate.

246. City of Liverpool – Wilhelm Steinitz, corr. 1893

20... $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ **20... $\mathbb{Q}d4?!$** **21. $\mathbb{Q}e7!$** is a nice resource, with the point that White can take back twice on e7 with check – thus not giving Black time to capture on h5. Black has to play: **21...hxg6** **22.fxg6 $\mathbb{W}xe7!$** (not **22... $\mathbb{Q}xg6?!$** **23. $\mathbb{W}xg6 \mathbb{Q}xe7$** **24. $\mathbb{Q}xf6\#$** or **22... $\mathbb{Q}xe7?!$** **23. $\mathbb{W}h7\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}f8$** **24. $\mathbb{Q}xf6\#$**) **23. $\mathbb{Q}xe7\#$** **$\mathbb{W}xe7$** Black is not losing, but probably worse and certainly not winning as in the game. **21.exd5 $\mathbb{Q}d4$** **22. $\mathbb{Q}e7\#$** There is no defence against **22... $\mathbb{Q}xf5$** **23. $\mathbb{W}xf5$** **hxg6 ✓** winning material. **22... $\mathbb{W}xe7 ✓$** It's over, which White soon accepted.

247. Carl Walbrodt – Wilhelm Steinitz, Hastings 1895

29... $\mathbb{Q}xf2!$ **30. $\mathbb{Q}xf2 \mathbb{W}e1\#$** Black has a mating attack. **31. $\mathbb{Q}h2$** **31. $\mathbb{W}f1$** **$\mathbb{Q}xf2\#$** wins the queen and mates. **31... $\mathbb{Q}xf2 ✓$** **32.h4 h5 0–1** Not the only way to mate, but the quickest.

248. Emanuel Schiffers – Wilhelm Steinitz, Hastings 1895

19... $\mathbb{Q}xg3!$ **20.fxg3 $\mathbb{Q}xf1\#$** Including **20... $\mathbb{W}e3\#$** ruins nothing. **21. $\mathbb{W}xf1$** The point of the sacrifice is: **21. $\mathbb{Q}xf1$** **$\mathbb{Q}xg4$** **22. $\mathbb{W}xg4 \mathbb{W}xc1\#$** ✓ **21... $\mathbb{Q}xg4$** **22. $\mathbb{W}f4!$** **$\mathbb{W}xf4$** **23.gxf4#** Black is a pawn up, but the opposite-coloured bishops give White fair hopes of making a draw; Schiffers did not manage though.

249. Dawid Janowski – Wilhelm Steinitz, Hastings 1895

17. $\mathbb{Q}xe6! \mathbb{W}xb5$ **17... $\mathbb{W}xe6$** **18. $\mathbb{Q}c7\#$** ✓ forks king and queen. **18. $\mathbb{Q}h6$** **18. $\mathbb{Q}d2$** and **18. $\mathbb{Q}f4$** are also winning. Black can't move the king without giving up the pawn on f7, and **19. $\mathbb{Q}ae1$** not only threatens the bishop on e7, but also the pawn on f6. **18... $\mathbb{Q}d8$** **19. $\mathbb{W}xf7$** **$\mathbb{Q}e8$** **20. $\mathbb{Q}ae1$** **$\mathbb{W}d7$** **21. $\mathbb{Q}g7$** Black resigned three moves later.

250. Wilhelm Steinitz – Emanuel Schiffers, Rostov on Don (2) 1896

13. $\mathbb{Q}xh6\#$ – Schiffers now accepted that he had lost a pawn. **13...gxh6** The game went **13... $\mathbb{W}d7\#$** – and White won after 41 moves. **14. $\mathbb{Q}xe6!$** The point of the sacrifice. **14...fxe6** **15. $\mathbb{W}g6\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}h8$** **16. $\mathbb{W}xh6\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}g8$** White can choose between picking up the knight on d5 with **17. $\mathbb{W}xe6\#$** ✓ or being more brilliant by continuing the attack with: **17. $\mathbb{W}g6\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}h8$** **18. $\mathbb{Q}g5$** (or **18. $\mathbb{W}h5\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}g8$** **19. $\mathbb{W}g4\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}h8$** **20. $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$**) **18... $\mathbb{W}e7$** **19. $\mathbb{W}h5\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}g8$** **20. $\mathbb{Q}xe6$** There are also other ways to win.

251. Bobrov – Wilhelm Steinitz, Moscow (simul) 1896

25. $\mathbb{W}d8\#$ **$\mathbb{Q}f8$** **26. $\mathbb{Q}h8\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}xh8$** **27. $\mathbb{W}xf8\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}h7$** **28. $\mathbb{W}xf7\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}h8$** **29. $\mathbb{Q}xg6\#$** ✓ **1–0** Black can only avoid the mate by giving up his queen. **29. $\mathbb{W}xg6\#$** also forces Black to give up the queen, but worse is **29. $\mathbb{W}f6\#?$** **$\mathbb{Q}g8$** **30. $\mathbb{W}xg6\#$** when White captures the pawn with check, but Black can fight on after **30... $\mathbb{Q}f8\#$** .

252. Emanuel Lasker – Wilhelm Steinitz, Moscow (2) 1896

35. $\mathbb{Q}ec5\#!$ **35. $\mathbb{Q}bc5\#$** is the same and **35. $\mathbb{Q}xd6$** also wins, but only if White finds: **35... $\mathbb{Q}xd6$** **36. $\mathbb{Q}f4\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}d5$** (**36... $\mathbb{Q}d7$** **37. $\mathbb{Q}c5\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}e8$** **38. $\mathbb{Q}d6\#$**) **37. $\mathbb{Q}e5\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}c4$** **38. $\mathbb{Q}c5!$** White threatens mate-in-three with **39. $\mathbb{Q}c1\#$** and the try **38...b4** **39.b3\#!** **$\mathbb{Q}b5$** **40. $\mathbb{Q}xe7!$** **$\mathbb{Q}xe7$** **41. $\mathbb{Q}xe7\#$** is hopeless (full points if you saw this far). White wins back the exchange after **41... $\mathbb{Q}b6$** **42. $\mathbb{Q}c7$** . White also has a winning position after **35. $\mathbb{Q}f4$** **$\mathbb{Q}f5$** **36. $\mathbb{Q}bc5\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}c7$** **37. $\mathbb{Q}a6\#$** . **35... $\mathbb{Q}xc5$** **36. $\mathbb{Q}xc5\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}d6$** **37. $\mathbb{Q}f4\#$** ✓ **37. $\mathbb{Q}xe7\#$** is also winning and good enough for full points. The text move forces mate in five moves: **37... $\mathbb{Q}d5$** **38. $\mathbb{Q}e5\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}c4$** **39. $\mathbb{Q}cl\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}xd4$** **40. $\mathbb{Q}b3\#$** **$\mathbb{Q}d3$** **41. $\mathbb{Q}c3$ mate** Or **41. $\mathbb{Q}e3$ mate**.

253. Wilhelm Steinitz – Emanuel Lasker, Moscow (17) 1897

35... $\mathbb{Q}xg2!$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{W}c6\#+$ ✓ A double threat, winning back the piece and also another one. 36... $\mathbb{W}b7\#?$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{W}xb4\pm$ only wins one piece. In the game, Steinitz tried to play on an exchange down with 37. $\mathbb{B}e4$ $\mathbb{B}xe4$ 38. $\mathbb{B}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}xe4\#$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}g1$, but in vain (0–1, 59 moves).

254. Wilhelm Steinitz – Joseph Blackburne, Vienna 1898

35. $\mathbb{Q}xc6!$ There is a looming check on e6. 35... $f4$ 36. $\mathbb{B}xf4!$ $\mathbb{B}xg3\#$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}f2$ Or 37. $\mathbb{Q}f1+-$, but not 37. $\mathbb{Q}h2?$ $\mathbb{B}3g4\#$ and Black wins the bishop thanks to the mate on h4 if the rook protects the bishop. **37... $\mathbb{B}h3$** There is no perpetual or anything else compensating for the pawns after: 37... $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 38. $\mathbb{B}e6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 39. $\mathbb{B}xh6$ ✓ $\mathbb{B}g2\#$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}e3+-$ **38. $\mathbb{Q}d5+-$** With a lot of luck, Blackburne held half a point in a long endgame ($\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$, 93 moves).

255. Harry Pillsbury – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1898

25. $\mathbb{Q}f6!$ $\mathbb{gxf6}$ 26. $\mathbb{W}h4\#$ Or 26. $\mathbb{Q}xf6\#$ first. **26... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}xf6+-$** ✓ The double threat against h8 and d8 wins material.

Emanuel Lasker

When you see a good move, look for a better one.

256. Rudolf Loman – Emanuel Lasker, Amsterdam 1889

13. $\mathbb{Q}xe5!$ Loman played 13. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#?$! $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}xg5\#?$ (14. $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#$ $\mathbb{dxe5}$ 15. $\mathbb{W}xg4\#$), but he must have overlooked 14... $\mathbb{W}xg5!$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd1+-$ with a fork on f3 (0–1, 22 moves). **13... $\mathbb{Q}xd1$** 13... $\mathbb{dxe5}$ 14. $\mathbb{W}xg4+-$ ✓ doesn't help. Instead, Black's best try is 13... $\mathbb{Q}xb3$ 14. $\mathbb{W}xg4$ ✓ $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ (14... $\mathbb{Q}xa1$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}xg5!$ $\mathbb{W}c8$ 16. $\mathbb{W}f4$ [or 16. $\mathbb{W}g3]$ 16... $\mathbb{dxe5}$ 17. $\mathbb{W}xe5\#$ $\mathbb{W}e6$ 18. $\mathbb{W}xh8$ with an almost winning advantage for White) White has a great initiative after 15. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\pm$ or he can win material with 15. $\mathbb{Q}f3\pm$. **14. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}d5$ mate** ✓ Or 15. $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ mate.

257. Emanuel Lasker – Theodor von Scheve, Berlin 1890

25. $\mathbb{B}xd3!$ $\mathbb{W}xd3$ 25... $\mathbb{B}xd3$ 26. $\mathbb{W}xa8\#+-$ ✓ **26. $\mathbb{B}e8\#!$ 1–0** Black resigned due to: 26... $\mathbb{B}xe8$ 27. $\mathbb{W}xd3+-$ ✓

258. Emanuel Lasker – Gustavus Reichhelm, Philadelphia (simul) 1892

34. $\mathbb{Q}xe6!$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 34... $\mathbb{W}xe6$ 35. $\mathbb{B}g6+-$ ✓ **35. $\mathbb{B}g6!$** The only move. **35... $\mathbb{W}xg6$ 35... $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 36. $\mathbb{W}xh6\#$** $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}xf8!$ $\mathbb{W}xf8$ 38. $\mathbb{W}xg6\#+-$ ✓ **36. $\mathbb{W}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}xf8\pm$** ✓ White is a pawn up and Black's bishop is a horrible piece, but it is not clear there is a way to force a win, although putting the king on h4 and then pushing the d-pawn seems very promising (1–0, 50 moves).

259. Emanuel Lasker – Franklin Elson, Wakefield (simul) 1892

16. $\mathbb{Q}xg6\#+-$ $\mathbb{h}xg6$ After 16... $\mathbb{W}f8$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}xh7\#+-$ Black later turned the game around (0–1, 62 moves) but that had more to do with the nature of a simul than his actual chances in this position. **17. $\mathbb{W}xg6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 18. $\mathbb{W}h6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 19. $\mathbb{W}xf4+-$** ✓ White picks up the rook.

260. John Ryan – Emanuel Lasker, USA (simul) 1893

28... $\mathbb{Q}xf2\#!$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}h1+-$ Black soon won. Capturing the bishop leads to mate: 29. $\mathbb{B}xf2$ $\mathbb{B}c1\#$ 30. $\mathbb{B}f1$ $\mathbb{W}e3\#$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{B}xf1$ mate ✓ or 29. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{W}e3$ mate ✓.

261. Ostalaza – Emanuel Lasker, Havana 1893

12...Qxf4! **13.Qxf4** The game saw 13.Qb5† (0–1, 35 moves). It's important that 13.Qxc6 Qxe2†+ ✓ comes with check. **13...Qxd4+✓** By opening the c-file, Black creates play against c3 and threatens to win the bishop pair. **13...Qxd4?** **14.Qd5†** is not correct – one pawn is not so much in this type of position; active pieces and attacking chances carry more weight.

262. Emanuel Lasker – Celsito, Havana (simul) 1893

14...Qxe4! **15.Qxe4** 15.0–0 Wc5†! is important, as otherwise White would have great compensation for the missing pawn. **16.Qh1 Qf2† 17.Qxf2 Wxf2†+;** **15.Wf3!?** is a way to play on a pawn down. Another way is the game move **15.Qe3†** (1–0, 34 moves). **15...Wh4† 16.Qf1 Wxe4+✓** Now all talk of compensation can be dismissed.

263. Alfred Ettlinger – Emanuel Lasker, New York (1) 1893

16.Qxc6! bxc6 17.Wxa6† Qd7 18.Wxa2✓ Instead of being a pawn down, White is a pawn up. Therefore, he can bear placing the queen on b1 after: **18...Ra8 19.Wb1!± 19.Wc4?!** Ra1† **20.Qb1 f6±**

264. Emanuel Lasker – Joseph Blackburne, Hastings 1895

20...Qxh2! **20...Wh5!** works as well: 21.h3 Qg1! And White has to give up the exchange since 22.Ree1 Qxh3+– is Game Over. **21.Qxh2 21.Wd3 Qg4+✓** protects the bishop thanks to the mate threat. Or **21...Wh5+.** **21...Wh5† 22.Qg1 Wxe2+–✓**

265. Harry Pillsbury – Emanuel Lasker, St Petersburg 1896

28...Wc3†! **29.Qa4 b5†! 30.Qxb5 Wc4† 31.Qa5 Qd8† 32.Wb6** So far, there was no other way to do it, but now Black has two moves. **32...Qxb6 mate✓** Or **32...axb6 mate.**

266. Emanuel Lasker – N.N., Berlin (simul) 1897

1.Wxf7†! **1.hxg7 Wa2†!** **2.Wxa2 Qxa2** and White is only probably winning. **1...Qxf7 2.Qe7† Qf3 3.Qxf3 mate✓**

267. Emanuel Lasker – Anderson, London (simul) 1898

7.Qxf7†! **7.Wd5?** is a double threat, but **7...We7=** defends. **7...Qxf7 8.Wd5† Qe8 9.Wxc5±✓**

268. Emanuel Lasker – Joseph Blackburne, London 1899

31...Rh1†! **31...Qxg3?** **32.Qxg3 Wh4 33.fxg4 Wxg3** threatens **34...Rb2 35.We2 Wh4** with mate, but **34.Re3†** keeps the disadvantage to a minimum, as does **34.Wf3†.** **32.Qxh1 Qxg3! 33.Qxg3** **33.Re2** and Black has two ways: a) **Wh4† 34.Qg1 Rh2†** (or **34...Qf2+–**) **35.Qh1 Qf2† 36.Qxf2 Qg3† 37.Qg1 Qxf2 mate✓** b) **33...Qf2† 34.Qg1** (**34.Qxf2 Wh4† 35.Qg1 Qxf2 mate**) **34...Qxd1** With an easily winning position. **33...Qf2† 34.Qg1 Qxd1+–✓** White only gets a rook for the queen; there is no way to catch the knight on d1 without losing another piece.

269. Emanuel Lasker – N.N., Great Britain (simul) 1900

25.d4! The queen has no squares and **25...cxd4 26.Rxc8† Qxc8 27.Qxh6+–✓** wins a piece.

270. Emanuel Lasker – R. Lee, Hereford (simul) 1900

1.♕xa6! bxa6 2.b5 axb5 3.axb5+– ✓ White queens. But not 3.a5?? b4+–.

271. Emanuel Lasker – Manuel Marquez Sterling, Paris 1900

12.f5! The pawn sacrifice is good enough even on just positional grounds, but there is also a tactical follow-up. **12...gxh5 13.♕h6!** **13.♕e7 ♕xa4 14.♕xf5 ♕g8!** **15.♕xg7† ♕xg7 16.♕xf6 ♕xc2** gives some counterplay, although Black should not have enough for the piece after **17.♕c3 ♕xg2 18.♕f1±**. **13...0–0 13...♕xh6 14.♕xf6 ✓** is a winning double attack and **13...bxcc6 14.♕xg7+–** was the game (1–0, 28 moves). **14.♕g3** Other moves are interesting as well, so full points if you have seen any of the other lines instead: **14.♕g5 ♕e4 15.♕e7†** is winning, as is **14.♕xg7 ♕xg7 15.g4!**. Even the immediate **14.g4** seems to give White a winning position. **14...♕e8 15.♕e7†! ♕xe7 16.♕xe8 ✓ f6+–** White exchanged the “dead” knight on c6 for Black’s knight and is a piece up.

272. Emanuel Lasker – E.M. Sala, USA (simul) 1901

22...f2†! 23.♕xf2? 23.♕xf2 ♕f3† 24.♕h1 ♕d2† 25.♕g1 ♕xf1† ✓ wins an exchange. **23...♕d1†** Or **23...♕h1† 24.♕xh1 ♕d1†** with mate next move. **24.♕f1 ♕h1†** Or **24...♕xf1† 25.♕xf1 ♕h1†+– 25.♕f2 25.♕xh1 ♕xf1** mate **✓ 25...♕xf1† 26.♕e3 ♕f3 mate**

273. M.R. Quinault – Emanuel Lasker, USA (simul) 1903

24...♕xh2†! 25.♕xh2 ♕h6† 25...♕h8†? 26.♕g1 ♕g6 allows White to almost escape: **27.♕f2 ♕h2 28.♕e1 ♕xg2† 29.♕xg2 ♕xg2 30.♕f2† 26.♕g1 ♕h3†** White must give up his queen, with a losing position. **27.♕h2** Black soon won after **27.♕xh3 ♕xh3 ✓ 27...♕g5†!–+ ✓**

274. Emanuel Lasker – Rudolf Loman, USA (simul) 1903

39...♕h4! A beautiful and classic motif. **40.♕xh4 g5† 41.♕xg5 ♕g7+–**

275. Emanuel Lasker – Ferenc Chalupetzky, corr. 1903

13.♕xc6†? bxc6 14.♕xc6† ♕f7 15.♕xa8 wins an exchange, but White loses: **15...exd4† 16.♕f2 ♕b7** and **17...♕e4+–**. The exercise was a red herring! If he captures on c6, White has to limit the damage with **15.♕d5†! ♕g6 16.0–0†** with two pawns for the piece. But the best move is: **13.♕e2! ✓** To avoid the check on h5, Black should exchange queens with **13...exd4 14.♕xd4 ♕b4† 15.♕xb4 ♕xb4† 16.c3** when White has a slight advantage with fewer pawn islands. Other non-blundering 13th moves also give full points.

276. Edward Hymes – Emanuel Lasker, USA (simul) 1905

36...♕xh3†! Decisively opening up the king’s position. **37.gxh3 ♕xf3†! ✓ 38.♕h2 ♕g3†** Or **38...♕g3** with mate in a few moves. **39.♕h1 f3 0–1** White resigned, as mate is on the way after **40.♕h2 f2**.

277. E. Tarnowski – Emanuel Lasker, corr. 1908

22.♕xd6! **22.♕f4** would not spoil things enough to throw away the win, and **22.♕f1 hxg5 23.♕xd6** still gives White a winning attack. **22...cxd6 23.♕xd6† ♕b7 23...♕c8 24.♕c5†** transposes. **24.♕d5† ✓ 1–0** Black cannot allow **♕e3†**, **♕xe5†** or **♕xa8†**. So the only option was to resign.

278. Emanuel Lasker – Womersley, England (simul) 1908

1.d5! Another move order also works: 1.♕a6† ♜b8 2.d5! ♔d7 3.♔c4+– (or 3.dxc6 ♜xc6 4.♔c4+–) 1...cx d5 1...♜xd5 2.♕a6† and one of the pawns will queen with check (or 2.♜xd5+–). **2.♕a6†** 2.c6 dxc4 3.b7† ♜b8 4.d7+– or 2.♕b3+– or 2.♕a2+– all also win. **2...♜b8 3.c6 ✓ 1–0** White is mating.

279. Emanuel Lasker – N.N., Netherlands (simul) 1908

23.♗e6†! fxe6 24.♗xf4† ♜g8 24...♝e8 25.♗b5†+– ✓ and **24...♝f6 25.♗xd8†+– ✓** both fail to save Black. **25.♗xe6 mate ✓**

280. Emanuel Lasker – N.B. Holmes, England (simul) 1908

23...♝xc2! 24.♗xd6 24.♗xc2 ♜f5+–; After the game move, there are many ways to win. The strongest is: **24...♝c1†!** White loses the queen after: **25.♗xc1 ♜c8†+–** Another winning move is 24...♜e6!+– with two threats: a discovered check on a2 and 25...♝xf2.

281. Emanuel Lasker – H.P. Fortuin Harreman, Netherlands (simul) 1908

29.♗e7†! ♜h8 30.♗xh7†! ♜xh7 31.♗h4 mate ✓

282. Emanuel Lasker – Joseph Blake, England (simul) 1908

White can exploit Black's back-rank problems. **21.♗ad1! ♜f8 22.♗d5†!** 22.♗e8 eventually wins a piece, but the variations are complicated after 22...♝xa2. If you saw a full line of the following you get full points: a) 23.h4 h6 24.♗dd8! ♜xe8 25.♗xe8† ♜h7 26.h5!+– b) 23.h3 (23.f3 is similar) 23...h6 (23...h5 24.♗dd8! ♜xe8 25.♗xe8† ♜h7 26.♗xh5 mate) 24.g4!+– **22...♝h8 23.♗xf5!+– ✓**

283. Coates/Wallwork – Emanuel Lasker, Manchester (simul) 1908

29...♝h3! 30.gxh3 Allowing the check on f2 is no alternative. **30...♞f3†** Or with more flair: **30...♝f3† 31.♝xf3 ♜xf3 mate 31.♝xf3 ♜xf3 mate ✓**

284. Siegbert Tarrasch – Emanuel Lasker, Germany (2) 1908

15.♝xg7! 15.♝h5!± 15...♝xf2! 15...♝xg7 16.♝f5† ♜h8 17.♗xg4+– **16.♗d4!+–** Retaining the bishop for the black knight leaves Black with a weaker king to take care of. The game instead continued 16.♝xf2 ♜xg7 17.♝f5† ♜h8 18.♗d4†! f6±, when White can take on a7. However, the pawn is not the main thing he has achieved, but instead the tremendous difference between the minor pieces. However, Black managed to turn the game around and win, which would have been less likely if White had found the strongest 16th move.

285. Akiba Rubinstein – Emanuel Lasker, St Petersburg 1909

17.♗xc6†! bxc6 18.♗c1± Not 18.♗d2? ♜e5 and the undefended queen on d2 saves Black. In the game, White wins the whole rook and is a pawn up after: **18...♝xd4 19.fxe3 ♜d6 20.♝xf7± ✓**

286. Julio Lynch – Emanuel Lasker, Buenos Aires (simul) 1910

30...♝xe2! 31.♝xe2 ♜b1†! Precise. 31...♝xf4 32.♗e1 ♜xd5 33.exd5† does not win a pawn, even though Black is better due to the pawn structure. **32.♗g2 ♜xf4† 33.♗f3 ♜xe2 34.♗xe2 ♜b2† 35.♗f3 ♜xa2† ✓** White has decent drawing chances and managed to save himself in the game.

287. J. Bar – Emanuel Lasker, Germany (simul) 1913

30... $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#$ Black wins back his pawn, as **31. $dxe5?$ $d4+-\checkmark$** threatens to win not one but both rooks, as well as the bishop. The game continued 31. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ (1–0, 58 moves).

288. Vilhelm Nielsen – Emanuel Lasker, Copenhagen (simul) 1919

White can convert his positional advantage into a material advantage: **15. $\mathbb{Q}xh7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 16. $\mathbb{W}d3\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 17. $\mathbb{W}xd7\pm\checkmark$** (1–0, 41 moves)

289. Prusa – Emanuel Lasker, Prague (simul) 1924

White is much better, and can tactically increase his advantage. **19. $\mathbb{W}c3\#!$ $f6$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xf6!$ $\mathbb{B}xf6$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xh6\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 21... $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}g5\#+-\checkmark$ 22. $\mathbb{W}xf6\#+-\checkmark$ Black cannot challenge White's queen. There are many ways to win, among them the moves in the game: **22... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}f7$ $\mathbb{W}g8$ 24. $g5\#$** The game ended here, and since it is mate-in-three it seems likely the supposed “0–1” result is a mistake.**

290. Emanuel Lasker – Vrbasic, Yugoslavia (simul) 1924

1.a6! bxa6 2. $\mathbb{Q}d7\#$ ✓ 1–0 Black cannot stop the pawn.

291. A. Arnold – Emanuel Lasker, Prague (simul) 1924

15.e6! fxe6 16. $\mathbb{W}h5\#$ $g6$ 17. $\mathbb{W}xc5\#+-\checkmark$ Black is lost and walked into another tactic: **17...0–0–0 18. $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 1–0**

292. Alexander Alekhine – Emanuel Lasker, New York 1924

28... $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ Alekhine's 29. $\mathbb{Q}e5$ fxe5 30. $\mathbb{W}xg5$ e4+✓ lost a piece. **29... $\mathbb{W}h2\#$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $fxg5\#+-\checkmark$** The double threat of 31... $\mathbb{W}xh3$ and 31... $\mathbb{W}h1\#$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}xg2$ decides.

293. Emanuel Lasker – Kenneth Smith, USA (simul) 1926

White will soon regret putting baby in a (tight) corner! **15... $\mathbb{Q}g3\#!$ 16.hxg3 hxg3# ✓** The king is trapped, so White has to give back the bishop, when he will fall apart on the dark squares and h-file. **17. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{B}xh2\#$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}g1\#+-\checkmark$** Black has already won a pawn and wins by moving the next rook to h8, or using the b6-g1 diagonal (0–1, 27 moves).

294. Muehrenberg – Emanuel Lasker, Copenhagen (simul) 1927

23. $\mathbb{Q}xd6!$ cxd6 23... $\mathbb{Q}c8$ was played in the game (1–0, 42 moves). **24. $\mathbb{Q}xd6\#+-\checkmark$** Black's queen cannot defend the bishop on d7 or rook on f7, so he loses an exchange.

295. Emanuel Lasker – Buchholtz, Copenhagen (simul) 1927

21. $\mathbb{W}d8\#!$ $\mathbb{W}f8$ 22. $\mathbb{B}xg7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 23. $\mathbb{W}g5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 24. $\mathbb{W}g6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ ✓ White has a mating attack; the game concluded: **25... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}xf6\#$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 27. $\mathbb{W}xf6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}g6$ mate**

296. Bruno Hartmann – Emanuel Lasker, Copenhagen (simul) 1927

24. $\mathbb{B}e6\#+-\checkmark$ There is no defence against 25. $\mathbb{Q}xh6$; taking on e6 opens up for mate on h7. Instead after 24. $\mathbb{Q}xh6?$ $\mathbb{Q}xe1\#$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{Q}g8!$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{B}fe7$ White has only a perpetual: 27. $\mathbb{W}h7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 28. $\mathbb{W}g6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8=$; 24. $\mathbb{B}xe8?$ $\mathbb{W}xe8$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ is actually losing after: 25... $\mathbb{W}e1\#$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}h4\#+-\checkmark$

Jose Raul Capablanca

I think an important lesson from the game is that once you have made a move, you cannot take it back. You really have to measure your decisions.

297. A. Gavilan – Jose Raul Capablanca, Havana 1901

20... $\mathbb{Q}xh3!$ 21. $gxh3$ $\mathbb{W}xh3\#$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{W}xg3\#$ + ✓ The f2-pawn is pinned and White loses his knight on d3 (0–1, 39 moves).

298. Jose Raul Capablanca – Juan Antonio Blanco Jimenez, Havana 1901

47.h4! The only winning move. **47... $\mathbb{Q}f4$ 48.h5 $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 49. $\mathbb{Q}f7\#$** ✓ Black is not in time to capture both pawns.

299. Jose Raul Capablanca – Rudolf Raubitschek, New York 1906

32. $\mathbb{Q}xa7\#$! $\mathbb{W}xa7$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}a5!$ It's mate on the next move. The game ended: **33... $\mathbb{W}xa6$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ mate** ✓

300. Rudolf Raubitschek – Jose Raul Capablanca, New York 1906

24... $\mathbb{Q}xg2\#$! 25. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2\#$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{W}xf6-$ + wins the queen. **25... $\mathbb{Q}c4\#$ 25... $\mathbb{Q}xf2\#$ 26. $\mathbb{W}xf2$ $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$** is also mating, as is **25... $\mathbb{Q}g1\#$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}c4\#$.** **26. $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ $\mathbb{Q}g1$ mate** ✓

301. Albert Pulvermacher – Jose Raul Capablanca, New York 1907

10... $\mathbb{Q}xe4-$ + Black wins a piece, due to: **11. $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ $\mathbb{Q}f2$ mate** ✓

302. Jose Raul Capablanca – Edward Adams, Washington DC 1907

37... $\mathbb{Q}b4!$ The sacrifice could be postponed a move, but not longer – White's king was on the way to defend with $\mathbb{Q}g2-f3-e4-d3$. **38.axb4** $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ **39. $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ a3** ✓ **0–1** One of the pawns will queen.

303. Jose Raul Capablanca – William Pratt, Troy (simul) 1909

17... $\mathbb{Q}d7!$ 17... $\mathbb{Q}d5?$ 18.g4! and White is only slightly worse. **18. $\mathbb{Q}xh8$ $\mathbb{Q}e7!$** Black wins the bishop on c1, with a devastating pin along the first rank. **19.g3** $\mathbb{Q}e1\#$ **20. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}xc1-$ +** The game continued **21.d4** $\mathbb{Q}d6$ **22. $\mathbb{Q}f7$ h6** **23. $\mathbb{Q}xd6\#$ cxd6** **24. $\mathbb{Q}f2$** and Pratt won by collecting the kingside pawns while Capablanca released his knight (0–1, 43 moves).

304. Juan Corzo y Prinzipi – Jose Raul Capablanca, Havana 1909

9. $\mathbb{Q}xe5!$ 9. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$ is a move order that also works. **9... $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ 10. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$** Or **10... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 12. $\mathbb{Q}h6$ mate** ✓. **11. $\mathbb{Q}ed7\#$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}fd7\#$** also forces Black to give back the queen. **11... $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 12. $\mathbb{Q}xd7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 13. $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$** ✓ White's queen sacrifice won a pawn in the end (½–½, 76 moves). **14.e5** might be slightly stronger, and a few other moves also give a clear advantage.

305. Jose Raul Capablanca – Einar Michelsen, New York 1910

27. $\mathbb{W}xd5\#$! $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 27... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}e1\#$ is Game Over and **28. $\mathbb{Q}d6\#$** also leads to mate. **28. $\mathbb{W}d6\#$!** ✓ White is mating. **28... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}b1\#$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}fe7$ and 29. $\mathbb{Q}ge7$** are also winning. **29... $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 30. $\mathbb{W}a3\#$** Other moves are mating as well. **30... $\mathbb{Q}a5$ 31. $\mathbb{W}d3\#$!** **1–0** The only winning move, before Black creates an escape-square on b7.

306. O. Tuka – Jose Raul Capablanca, Prague (simul) 1911

25. ♜xe4! 25. ♜b3 is also winning for White, again winning either the bishop or the knight. In the game, Black can't take back due to 25... ♕xe4 26. ♜f3+– ✓ and if he doesn't take, then he loses the bishop on c5 or the knight on e7.

307. Jan Podhajsky – Jose Raul Capablanca, Prague (simul) 1911

21... ♘h3!–+ ✓ There is no defence against 22... ♘xf2. Capablanca played 21... ♘f3?! 22. ♜g2 ♘g4 and won after 23. ♘h1 h5!– (0–1, 31 moves). However, 23. ♘g1! h5 24. ♜h2 would have held an equal position. 21... ♘xf2? 22. ♘xf2 ♘xg3† 23. ♘h1 ♘xe3 24. ♘g2 ♘xd4 25. ♘xg5 hxg5∞ leads to a highly unusual position with five pawns for a rook.

308. Jose Raul Capablanca – Edward Tennenwurzel, New York 1911

17. ♜xf7! ♜xf7 **18. ♜xe4!** ♜xe4 Tennenwurzel played 18... ♜c8 ✓ and Capablanca had several ways to win. The easiest is 19. f5, when Black still can't take on g5 or e4, and other moves are just losing. 19... dxе4 (19... ♘xg5 20. ♘h5†+ and White picks up almost everything) 20. ♜c4† ♜e6 21. ♘xh7! Not the only winning move, but the prettiest and strongest. 21... ♘xh7 22. ♜e5† ♜g8 23. ♜xe6† ♜h8 24. ♜g6 mate) **19. ♜c4† ♜d5 20. ♘f5†! ♘g8 21. ♜xd5†** Or 21. ♘xd5†+–. **21... ♜h8** Now, White wins with **22. ♜e5** ✓, either immediately, or after capturing on a8, e7 or e4.

309. Jose Raul Capablanca – William Morris, New York 1911

26. ♘e7! ♘xe7 **27. ♜xf5!–** ✓ White not only threatens the queen, but also 28. ♘xh7† ♘xh7 29. ♘h5 mate.

310. Jose Raul Capablanca – J. Koksal, Prague (simul) 1911

22... ♘xd3! 23. cxd3 ♘e2 The raking bishops together with the active rook give Black a winning attack. **24. d4 ♘xg2†** 24... ♘xd4 25. ♜c3 gives some back-rank problems, but Black wins all the same after 25... ♘xg2†! 26. ♜h2 ♜c6†! 27. ♜g3 ♜f2†! 28. ♜g4 h5† 29. ♘xh5 ♜f3† 30. ♜g5 ♜e3† 31. ♜h4 ♘g2 with ... ♘g5 mate coming. **25. ♜h2 ♜c6† 26. ♜g1** 26. ♜g3 is forced mate: 26... ♜d6† 27. ♜h4 ♘e4† 28. ♜h5 g6† 29. fxg6 hxg6† 30. ♜g5 ♜e7† 31. ♜h6 ♘h4 mate **26... ♘xd4† 27. ♜f1 ♘b5 28. ♜c3 ♘xb2† 0–1**

311. Jose Raul Capablanca – Rudolf Spielmann, San Sebastian 1911

28. ♜f4! Developing with tempo and defending against the mate. **28... ♘d8 29. ♘xe7!–** ✓ Black is mated, even after **29... ♘f8 30. ♘xg7†**, as in the game (mate in 15).

312. Wilhelm Kluxen – Jose Raul Capablanca, Hamburg (simul) 1911

17. ♜g6†! ♘xg6 17... hxg6 18. ♘h3† ♘h4 19. ♘xh4 mate ✓ **18. ♜xg6 ♘xf5 19. ♜xf5!–** ✓ The knight is trapped, so White wins a piece. **19... g6 20. ♜e4 1–0**

313. Jose Raul Capablanca – Rolando Illa, Buenos Aires 1911

25. ♘d7†! ♘e7 **26. ♘xg7†!** ♘xg7 **27. ♘xe7† ♜h6** 27... ♘f7 28. ♘xh7†! ♜xf7 29. ♘xb6 axb6 ✓ White's c-pawns are not impressive, but the outside passed pawn on the h-file secures the win. **28. ♘g1±** ✓ White has collected a second pawn and has good winning chances (1–0, 38 moves).

314. Leopold Carranza – Jose Raul Capablanca, Buenos Aires 1911

12... $\mathbb{Q}xc2!$ Capturing a pawn that's defended twice. 13. $\mathbb{Q}xc2 \mathbb{Q}c4\# \checkmark$ Black wins back the piece with an extra pawn.

315. E. Weiss – Jose Raul Capablanca, Hamburg (simul) 1911

14. $\mathbb{E}xg7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 16. $\mathbb{W}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 17. $\mathbb{E}g1!+ \checkmark$ There is no defence against 18. $\mathbb{Q}g7\#$ followed by 19. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$. Instead, 17. $\mathbb{W}xh5$ is *not* easily winning due to 17... $\mathbb{Q}d7\#$. Even though White gets two pieces for a rook after 18. $\mathbb{W}xf7$ $\mathbb{E}g8$ 19. $\mathbb{W}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 20. $bxc3$ $\mathbb{W}xc3$ 21. $\mathbb{W}xd5\pm$, Black has counterplay against the weak white king.

316. Charles Jaffe – Jose Raul Capablanca, New York 1912

9... $\mathbb{exd}4!$ By opening the e-file, Black prepares 10... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$. 10. $\mathbb{cx d}4$ 10. $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}c5!$ (10... $\mathbb{Q}xf6\# \checkmark$) The knight move threatens to capture the queen with check, and Black wins the e-pawn after 11. $\mathbb{W}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6-+ \checkmark$. 10... $\mathbb{Q}xe4-+ \checkmark$ White has no compensation for the pawn (0–1, 31 moves).

317. Jose Raul Capablanca – N.N., Louisville (simul) 1912

18... $\mathbb{E}xe5!$ 19. $dxe5$ 19. $\mathbb{W}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}d3\#-+ \checkmark$ forks queen and king. 19... $\mathbb{Q}d3 \checkmark$ Black wins the knight and, with the extra pawns and a strong continued attack, he has a winning position. The game continued 19... $\mathbb{Q}d3\#?$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{W}xb5$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xa5$ $\mathbb{W}xa5\#$ when Black is better, with two pawns and a better king for the exchange, but Capablanca later turned the game around (1–0, 42 moves).

318. Jose Raul Capablanca – Juan Corzo y Prinzipi, Havana 1913

24. $\mathbb{Q}xg6!$ $\mathbb{hxg6?}$ Black should have accepted the loss of a pawn after 24... $\mathbb{Q}f6$, but any bishop-retreat (b1, c2 or d3) gives White a huge advantage. For example: 25. $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3?$ 26. $\mathbb{E}xe6!$ and White is winning even more material. 25. $\mathbb{W}xg6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 26. $\mathbb{E}xe6-+ \checkmark$ Black has to give up a piece to prevent the heavy piece onslaught (1–0, 32 moves).

319. R. Portela – Jose Raul Capablanca, Havana 1913

35... $\mathbb{E}xd3\#!$ 36. $\mathbb{E}xd3$ $e4\#$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}e3$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{E}g4\#!$ is important: 38. $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $exd3 \checkmark$ with a winning rook or pawn ending. 37... $\mathbb{E}h3\#!$ 37... $\mathbb{exd}3?$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ $\mathbb{E}xh2\#$ allows counterplay on the queenside. 38. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{E}xd3\# \checkmark$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}c4-+$ and the e-pawn queens if Black keeps the rook on the d-file. 38... $\mathbb{E}xg3\#$ 39. $\mathbb{hxg3}$ $\mathbb{exd}3$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ $\mathbb{Q}g4 \checkmark$ The endgame can be evaluated as won without much calculation. The rest is given anyway, just in case. 41. $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ 41... $b6$ is easier. 42. $\mathbb{Q}c5$ $h5$ 43. $\mathbb{Q}b6$ $h4$ 44. $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $h3$ 45. $a5$ $h2$ 46. $a6$ $h1=\mathbb{W}$ 47. $a7$ $c5\#$ 48. $\mathbb{Q}b8$ $\mathbb{W}h8\#$ 49. $\mathbb{Q}b7$

The remaining moves are strange in ChessBase. There are two ways to win:

- a) 49... $\mathbb{W}g7\#$ 50. $\mathbb{Q}b8$ $\mathbb{W}f8\#$ 51. $\mathbb{Q}b7$ $\mathbb{W}e7\#$ 52. $\mathbb{Q}b8$ $\mathbb{W}e8\#$ 53. $\mathbb{Q}b7$ $\mathbb{W}b5\#$ 54. $\mathbb{Q}c7$ $\mathbb{W}a6$ 55. $\mathbb{Q}b8$ $\mathbb{W}b6\#$ 56. $\mathbb{Q}a8$ $c4!$ 57. $bxc4$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ when White is not stalemated. 58. $c5$ $\mathbb{W}c8$ mate;
- b) 49... $\mathbb{W}xb2$ 50. $a8=\mathbb{W}$ $\mathbb{W}g2\#$ 51. $\mathbb{Q}a7$ $\mathbb{W}xa8\#$ 52. $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ $\mathbb{Q}f4!-+ \checkmark$ (but not 52... $c4??$ 53. $bxc4$ $b3$ 54. $c5$ $b2$ 55. $c6$ $b1=\mathbb{W}$ 56. $c7$ with a draw)

320. Jose Raul Capablanca – Fedor Duz-Khotimirsky, St Petersburg 1913

28.♕f5! fxe6 28...gxsf5 29.♔xf5 ✓ with unavoidable mate. Instead, the best defensive try is 28...♔h8 29.♔e4! (several other moves provide a clear advantage) 29...fxe6 30.♕xe7 ♔xe7 31.dxe6 ♔c3 32.♔xd4† ♔g7, but White is winning all the same. **29.ixe6! ♔c7** 29...♔xf3 30.♕xe7† ✓ wins a piece, but there is no tactical way to finish the game after 29...♔b8. However, there is no need for it; White is winning if he avoids the queen exchange. **30.♔c6!** ✓ Not obligatory, but a precise move that wins the b-pawn (1–0, 47 moves). 30.♔g4/g3 and 30.♕xe7† are also decent enough.

321. Jose Raul Capablanca – Richard Reti, Vienna 1914

33.♖c8†! ♔e7 34.b7 ♕xb7 35.♖c7† ♔e6 36.♖xb7+– ✓ White won easily.

322. Jose Raul Capablanca – U. Kalske, Helsinki 1914

16...♗xf3! The two pieces are winning against the rook after whatever way White takes on f3.
17.♔xf3 ♔xg5+– ✓

323. Jose Raul Capablanca – Masyutin, Kiev 1914

14.♕c4†! Or 14.♗xf6! gxf6 15.♕c4† dxc4 16.♕e4† ♔d5 17.♗xf6† ♔xd4 (17...♔d6 18.♕e4† ♔d5 19.♔h5† with mate) 18.♗d1† winning the queen. **14...dxc4 15.♕e4†** ✓ With a mating attack. **15...♔d5 16.♗f5†** 16.♗xf6+– reaches the line above, and 16.♔h5† wins as well. **16...♔xe4** 16...♔xd4 17.c3† ♔d3 18.♗f3† ♔c2 19.♗f2† ♔d3 20.♗c5† mate **17.♗e1† ♔xd4 18.c3† ♔d3** **19.♗d5** mate

324. Jose Raul Capablanca – Joseph Blackburne, St Petersburg 1914

White is winning after most moves, but can decide the game directly in a few moves: **28.♗xg7†! ♔xg7 29.♗g1† ♔f8** **30.♔g6+–** ✓ White threatens both a mating attack and the rook (which cannot escape or be protected anyway).

325. Jose Raul Capablanca – Lynch/Villegas, Buenos Aires 1914

37.♕e6 ♔xd7 **38.♕c5† ♔c6** **39.♗xd3+–** ✓ And White won.

326. Jose Raul Capablanca – M. Wolfson, New York (simul) 1915

35...♗a2†! **36.♔xa2 ♔a4†** Black resigned, as it's mate: **37.♔b2 ♗e2†** **38.♔c1 ♔c2** mate ✓

327. Jose Raul Capablanca – J.M. Stahr, Chicago 1915

33.♗xe6†! ✓ 33.♔xf5† exf5 34.♗xc7 ♗xg2† is probably winning for White, but he only keeps one of his pawns. Better is giving up a rook for the most important defender of the black position. **33...♔xe6** 33...♔g5 34.♗d5+– pins the queen. **34.♔c6†** 34.♔e2† ♔e5 35.♔xc4† ♔f6 36.♔f7† ♔g5 37.♗xc7 also wins. **34...♔e5** **35.♔d5†** 1–0

328. Jose Raul Capablanca – Christoph Wolff, New York 1915

22... $\mathbb{Q}xe3!$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3\#$ If Black does not keep on the queens, White can safely continue with the counterplay on the queenside without fearing an attack: 23... $\mathbb{W}xe3\#$? 24. $\mathbb{W}xe3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3\#$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}a3$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}a5$ And White's active pieces compensate for the material deficit. 24. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ Black has won two pawns, but Capablanca could have taken one back with 25. $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}xc1\#$ ✓ when White has drawing chances.

329. Walter Shipley – Jose Raul Capablanca, Philadelphia (simul) 1915

31... $\mathbb{Q}xf2!$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{Q}d3$ The queen can't defend both f2 and a1. But not 32... $\mathbb{W}xf2\#$? 33. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{Q}d3\#$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}xc1+-$. 33. $\mathbb{W}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xa1$ ✓ 34. $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}d4\#$ 0–1 White resigned, as he is two pawns down.

330. Manfred Schroeder – Jose Raul Capablanca, New York 1916

16... $\mathbb{Q}g3\#$! 17. $\mathbb{Q}hg3$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}f2+-$ ✓ with a fork. 17... $\mathbb{W}xg3\#$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}f2+-$ ✓ The queen can't defend the rook, and that's only one of White's problems.

331. Jose Raul Capablanca – Marc Fonaroff, New York 1918

20. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$! $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 21. $\mathbb{W}xe5!$ $\mathbb{W}xe5$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#+-$ ✓ Black is mated or loses a piece.

332. Jose Raul Capablanca – Walter Shipley, Philadelphia (simul) 1918

32... $\mathbb{Q}xa3\#$! 33. $\mathbb{Q}xa3$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xa3$ $\mathbb{W}xc3!$ ✓ and White dearly misses his b-pawn. 33... $\mathbb{Q}xb2\#$! The game continued 33... $\mathbb{Q}xa3?$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}xb5!$ $\mathbb{W}xb5\pm$ when Black was a pawn up, but Capablanca showed that the h-pawn is worth more than that. 34. $\mathbb{W}xb2$ $\mathbb{Q}xa3$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}xh6\#$ Now Black is two pawns up, although White has some counter-chances due to Black's misplaced rook. However, note that he can't play: 36. $\mathbb{W}g8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 37. $\mathbb{W}g7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 38. $\mathbb{W}xh6$ $\mathbb{W}b4\#$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}a2$ $\mathbb{W}b2$ mate ✓

333. Harold Cole – Jose Raul Capablanca, Hastings 1919

29... $\mathbb{Q}xf5!$ 29... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}xe4$ 31. $\mathbb{W}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}h6$ leaves White with some hope. 30. $\mathbb{W}xf5$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}exf5$ $\mathbb{W}e1\#$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{W}xc3+-$ ✓ also gives a position with two pawns extra. 30... $\mathbb{W}xc3$ ✓ 0–1 There is nothing dangerous happening on g7 due to the exposed white king, so the material advantage is decisive.

334. Jose Raul Capablanca – Boris Kostic, Havana (3) 1919

White already has two pawns, but Black threatens 29... $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ and 29... $\mathbb{Q}d4$. There is a solution to both of the threats: 29. $\mathbb{Q}e8!$ $\mathbb{Q}d4$ 29... $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xe8\#$ $\mathbb{W}xe8$ 31. $\mathbb{W}xd5$ ✓ wins, since Black can't exploit the first rank. 30. $\mathbb{Q}xf8\#$ Or 30. $\mathbb{Q}e6$. 30... $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}e6$ ✓ White keeps both pawns with a serious advantage. 31. $\mathbb{Q}c1$ is equally strong.

335. Jose Raul Capablanca – Edward Tinsley, London (simul) 1919

17. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$! $\mathbb{Q}gh6$ 17... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xe4+-$ ✓ leaves White a piece up. 18. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ Threatening 19. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$. The only defence is taking it, but after 18... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 19. $\mathbb{W}xe4+-$ ✓ the compensation is clearly insufficient. The black king is open, his pawns are weak, and f4-f5 can be annoying at some point if Black does not further weaken himself with ...f7-f5.

336. Jose Raul Capablanca – T. Bray, Birmingham (simul) 1919

12.♕xf7! 12.♕e5! ♜xe5 13.dxe5 winning a piece, also gives full points, but only if you saw: 13...♝d5 14.♝f1! The knight cannot move due to 15.♝e4 winning the b7-bishop. **12...♝xf3** 12...♝xf7 13.♝g5† ♜f8 (or 13...♝g8 14.♝xe6† ♜h8 15.♝f7† ♜g8 16.♝h6† ♜h8 17.♝g8† ♜xg8 18.♝f7 mate ✓) 14.♝xe6†+– ✓ A fork on the king and the queen. **13.gxf3** Also strong is 13.♝xe6 threatening mate, and 13...♝d5 14.♝xd8† ♜xe6 15.♝xe6 leaves White two pawns up with a positional advantage to boot. **13...♝xf7 14.♝xe6† ♜f8 15.♝c4** ✓ **1–0** There is no defence.

337. Jose Raul Capablanca – Valentin Marin y Llovet, Barcelona (simul) 1920

White has a pawn for the exchange, and with the king on b1 there would be hope. But **26...♜xa2†!** 27.♝xa2 ♜a6–+ is brutal. The game ended: **28.♝xa6 ♜xa6† ✓ 29.♝b1 ♜d3† 0–1**

338. Jose Raul Capablanca – M. Coll, Barcelona (simul) 1920

16.♕xf7! ♜xf7 The game continuation was 16...♝c7 17.♝xe6 ♜f8 18.♝xh6† ♜h8 19.♝g8† ♜xg8 20.♝f7 mate. **17.♝xe6† ♜f8 18.♝g6** ✓ Mate is unavoidable.

339. Jose Raul Capablanca – E.S. Maddock, New York (simul) 1922

25.♕xf6! ♜xf3 **26.♝xf3!** 26.♝xd7 ♜xe2 27.♝xe5 ♜xd1† 28.♝xd1 f6 is only slightly better for White, as the pawn on d3 falls. **26...♞d6 27.♝xe5** ✓ White can also start with 27.♝xb7†. **27...♞b6–+** The point is 27...♝xe5 28.♝xb7† ♜b8 29.♝c6†+– ✓ with a fork. **28.♝xb7?** Easier was 28.♝xb7† ♜b8 29.♝c6† ♜xb7 30.♝xd8† with too many pieces for the queen, and a decisive attack. **28...c4!** Black threatens both 29...♝xb3† and 29...♞f2†, but Capablanca would still have been close to winning if he had played: **29.d4 ♜xb3† 30.♝d2 ♜b2† 31.♝e3 ♜xc3† 32.♝f2** Instead, the game continued 29.♝xd8 (1–0, 37 moves) but here Black could have drawn with 29...♞f2† 30.♝d2 cxd3† 31.♝c1 ♜e1† 32.♝d1 ♜e3† 33.♝d2 ♜e1†.

340. Jose Raul Capablanca – Perkins, New York (simul) 1924

20...f4! 21.♜xh8 21.gxf4 exf4 22.♝xf4 ♜d4† 23.♝e3 and Black picks up an exchange with a winning position after 23...♝xc2† ✓. **21...♜xh8 22.gx f4** 22.♝ce4 fxe3–+ was the hopeless game continuation (0–1, 27 moves). **22...exf4 23.♝xf4 ♜d4†+–** ✓ White loses the rook.

341. Efim Bogoljubov – Jose Raul Capablanca, New York 1924

Black has two not-so-strong pawns extra, but can increase his lead with: **31...♝xd4!** **32.cxd4 ♜xc5!** **0–1** 33.♝xc4 ♜xc4–+ ✓ moves the rook away from the threat, and White loses the rook on c1 after 33.dxc5 ♜xc5† 34.♝f1 ♜xc1–+ ✓.

342. Frank Marshall – Jose Raul Capablanca, New York 1927

31...♝d5! **32.♛f3** 32.♝c4 ♜e5 and the queen can no longer defend the rook on f1. **32...♝e5** ✓ The black pieces swarming around the white king will win the queen in one of several ways, for instance: **33.♞f2 ♜xf1† 33...♝d3 34.♞f3 ♜xf1† 35.♞xf1 ♜xb2** was another way to win. **34.♞xf1 ♜g4!–+** Black threatens 35...♝e3 and 35...♝d1 36.♝xd1 ♜f2†.

343. Jose Raul Capablanca – A. Souza Campos, Sao Paulo 1927

20.♕h3†! ♜g8 21.♗xf6† ♜f8 21...gxgf6 22.♗xf6 ✓ with mate on h8. **22.♕h8† ✓ ♜e7** There are now several ways to mate. **23.♗e8† 23.♗g8† ♜e8 24.♗h6†** followed by 25.♗(x)f7 mate is equally fast. **23...♝xe8 24.♝xd7† ♜f8 25.♝xf7 mate**

344. Jose Raul Capablanca – C.H. Reid, London 1928

17...♝xh4†! The move order 17...♝xg2 works as well, as 18.♗xg2 loses to 18...h4. But 17...♝hg8 18.♗h3! is not as clear, although probably still winning after 18...f5. **18.gxh4 ♜xg2 19.♝xg2** 19.fxe5 was the hopeless game continuation: 19...♝h3† 20.♗g1 ♜xf1 and White resigned. **19...♝g4† 20.♗f2 ♜xh4† ✓ 20...♝d4 21.♗xd4 ♜xf4†** also wins. **21.♗f3** White has to give up several pieces to avoid mate after for example: **21...♝d4† 22.♗e4 f5† 23.♗d5 ♜f6+–**

345. Jose Raul Capablanca – Gracie Square Pharmacy Chess Club, New York (simul) 1931

37.♗f6†! Black has to take on f6 to defend the g6-pawn. **37...♝xf6 38.♗h5† ♜h7?** No better is 38...♝h8 39.♝h6† ♜g8 40.♝g7 mate ✓. Black had to play 38...♝f7 39.♝xf6† ♜xf6 40.♝xf6† ♜e8. Without rooks, he threatens both 41...bxa2 and a lot of checks. The trick is to take on g6, defend the f1-square and the e4-pawn with check, and then take on b3: 41.♝xg6† ✓ ♜d8 42.♝f6† ♜c7 43.♝f4† ♜b7 44.axb3+– **39.♗xf6† ✓** White can take care of the black counter-threats in more than one way, for instance: **39...♝g7 40.♗h5† ♜h7 41.♝e7† ♜h6 42.♝g3+–** The knight moves back to g3.

346. Jose Raul Capablanca – Glicco, Mexico 1933

17.♝xf7†! ♜h7 17...♝xf7 18.♗xh6†+– ✓ A fork. **17...♝xf7 18.♝b3† ♜e8** (or 18...♝d5 19.exd5 gxf5 20.dxc6† ✓ ♜g7 21.cxd7 ♜xd7 22.♗xe5+– with three pawns more) **19.♝e6† ♜e7 20.♝xe7 mate ✓ 18.♝xg6†! ♜xg6 19.dxe5+– ✓** 20.e6 and 21.e7 or 21.♗e5 wins material wherever Black moves the knight.

347. Jose Raul Capablanca – George Thomas, Hastings 1934

24...♝a5+– ✓ A double threat against the bishop and knight. Thomas started with 24...♝xd2?! 25.♝xd2 before playing 25...♝a5. He was winning, and won, but there was little reason to give away the exchange. Perhaps he feared the knight coming to d6, but apart from giving up the exchange when that happens, he could also win with: **25.♝c4 ♜xd1! 26.♝xd1 26.♝xa5 ♜xe1† 27.♝f1 ♜a6+– 26...♝xb5 27.♝d6 ♜d7** When all is well and safe.

348. Jose Raul Capablanca – Llusa, Barcelona (simul) 1935

19.♝xh7† 19.♝xf4? ♜xf4+– 19...♝f7 20.♝xf4†! ♜xf4 21.♝f1 ♜xf1† 22.♝xf1+– ✓ Black has no chance of surviving, with his poor development and weak king. Or 22.♝xf1+–.

349. Jose Raul Capablanca – Andor Lilienthal, Moscow 1936

35.♝xb7! ♜xb7 35...♝xc4! is the best defence. White is a pawn up after 36.♝xc6†± but there is work left to do to convert. **36.♝xc6† ♜d7+– ✓** It is possible to imagine a situation where Black blockades the queenside pawns, but it is not realistic with careful play. Best is the game move: **37.c5** (1–0, 54 moves)

350. Jose Raul Capablanca – J.C. Rather, New York (simul) 1936

18. ♜xd5! ♜xd5 No better are 18... ♜xd5 19. ♜xh7† ♜xh7 20. ♜h1 mate ✓ or 18... ♜g8 19. ♜xf6! ♜xg5 20. ♜xh7 mate ✓. **19. ♜xh7†! ♜xh7** 19... ♜xh7 20. ♜h1† ✓ with mate. **20. ♜xd5+– ✓ 1–0**

Alexander Alekhine

When asked “How is it that you pick better moves than your opponents?” I responded: “I’m very glad you asked me that, because, as it happens, there is a very simple answer. I think up my own moves, and I make my opponent think up his.”

351. V. Malkov – Alexander Alekhine, corr. 1902

21. ♜h7†! ♜xh7 22. ♜h5† ♜g8 22... ♜g7 23. ♜h6† ✓ ♜g8 24. ♜h1 with mate. **23. ♜xg6** There are other ways to win, but this is the cleanest. **23... fxe6 24. ♜xg6† ♜h8 25. ♜h1 mate ✓**

352. Alexander Alekhine – Nikolay Zubakin, corr. 1902

White’s king seems reasonably safe in the centre, but with **19... ♜xd4†!** Black exposes it to the deadly onslaught of his entire army. **20. exd4 ♜f4† 21. ♜d1 ♜xd4† 22. ♜d3 ♜xd3 mate ✓**

353. Alexander Alekhine – S. Antushev, corr. 1903

14. ♜xe5! ♜xd1 The game went 14... ♜xe5 15. ♜xh5+– ✓. **15. ♜xf7† ♜f8 16. ♜xc6** This wins back the queen. Also good is the long but forcing variation 16. ♜d5† ♜e8 17. ♜xc6† ♜e7 18. ♜g6† ♜e6 19. ♜d5† ♜d7 20. ♜f7† ♜c8 21. ♜e7† ♜xe7 22. ♜xe7±. **16... ♜d7 17. ♜e6†± ✓** White is two pawns up and has good winning chances.

354. Alexander Alekhine – V. Zhukovsky, corr. 1905

27... ♜f2! Zhukovsky played 27... ♜b5†? when strongest is 28. c4!∞ to open the third rank for the queen. 27... ♜h2†? 28. ♜g1 ♜f3† also fails to win after: 29. ♜h1 ♜g8! (threatening 30... ♜xh3† 31. hxg3 g2 mate) 30. ♜xg3! ♜xg3 31. ♜f8†= It’s almost a perpetual, and if not then White can defend the knight on h3. **28. ♜g1 28. ♜xg3 ♜xh3! 29. gxh3 ♜f3† ✓** leads to mate, as does 28. ♜xf2 ♜e2† 29. ♜g1 ♜e1† 30. ♜xe1 ♜xe1 mate ✓. **28... ♜xh3†! 29. gxh3 ♜xh3! ✓** White will be mated. 29... ♜e2 30. ♜xg3 ♜e3† 31. ♜h2 ♜f3! 32. ♜e1 ♜d8! is also mating.

355. V.M. Manko – Alexander Alekhine, corr. 1906

25. ♜xh7! 25. ♜xh7†! gives the same result. **25... ♜xh7 26. ♜xh7† ♜xh7 27. ♜xc7† ♜h6 28. ♜d8+– ✓** Or 28. ♜xb8+–, or even 28. h4+–.

356. Alexander Alekhine – Otto Kunze, Düsseldorf 1908

23. ♜xg6! ♜xg6 24. ♜xe6† ♜h8 25. ♜xg6 ✓ White threatens 26. ♜f7 or moving the queen with check followed by g5-g6. It is a forced mate. The game ended with: **25... ♜c6 26. ♜h5† ♜g8 27. ♜f7† ♜h8 28. g6 d4† 29. ♜d5 1–0**

357. Alexander Alekhine – H. Koehlein, Düsseldorf 1908

16. ♜xd6! 16. ♜f7† ♜xf7 17. ♜xf7 ♜d7+– is not quite as good. **16... cxd6 17. ♜f7† ♜xf7 18. ♜e8† ♜f8 19. ♜xf8 mate ✓**

358. Alexander Alekhine – Dawid Daniuszewski, St Petersburg 1909

Black is positionally winning and after 34... $\mathbb{W}xg6!$ 35. $\mathbb{f}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1\#$ ✓ he also wins material. White's queen cannot escape. The double threat with 34... $\mathbb{W}c4$ picks up a pawn, and if you are 100% sure you would win this, you can give yourself full points (hand on your heart!).

359. Alexander Alekhine – Savielly Tartakower, Hamburg 1910

21. $\mathbb{Q}d5\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 21... $exd5$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}ae1\#$ ✓ followed by 23. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$. 22. $\mathbb{Q}xc7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}d5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e8\pm$ ✓ The knight retreats to e3, with or without the exchange on f8.

360. Alexander Alekhine – Krotky, Tula (simul) 1910

20. $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ $\mathbb{W}xf7$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}b6\#$ $axb6$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ ✓ If Black had time to move the knight and take on h4, he would have compensation for the exchange. But there is no hope after: 22... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 23. $\mathbb{h}xg5\#$ –

361. Alexander Alekhine – Gutkevitsch, Moscow (simul) 1910

14. $\mathbb{Q}h6!$ 14... $\mathbb{Q}xg7?$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ is not mating. 14... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 14... $gxh6$ 15. $\mathbb{W}xh6\#$ ✓ threatens mate both on g7 and h7. The best defence was 14... $g6$, since Black gets the bishop pair if White takes the exchange. But 15. $\mathbb{Q}g7!$ puts an end to that dream. 15. $\mathbb{Q}xg7!$ An important move – otherwise 14. $\mathbb{Q}h6$ makes no sense. 15... $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 16. $\mathbb{W}h6\#$ –✓

362. Ossip Bernstein – Alexander Alekhine, Vilnius 1912

21... $\mathbb{Q}xc3!$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 22. $\mathbb{W}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4\#$ –✓ is over, and Black wins an exchange after 22. $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ $\mathbb{Q}xb1\#$ –✓ (not 22... $\mathbb{Q}xd1?$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}f3\#$ and the knight is trapped). After the game move, there are many ways to win: capturing a rook or creating a double threat against g2 and g5. Alekhine chose: 22... $\mathbb{W}d5$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xh7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 24. $f4$ $\mathbb{Q}xb1$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xb1$ $\mathbb{W}xd4\#$ –

363. Alexander Alekhine – Boris Koyalovich, St Petersburg 1912

34... $\mathbb{Q}d4!$ Black defends against 35. $\mathbb{W}f6\#$ or 35. $\mathbb{W}xh8\#$. 35. $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4\#$! 36. $\mathbb{Q}f2$ No salvation is offered by 36. $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ $\mathbb{W}xc4\#$ –✓ or 36. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}f1\#$ –. 36... $\mathbb{Q}h2\#$! The king will be forced to a light square, allowing the bishop to move with check. 37. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}e2\#$ (or 37... $\mathbb{Q}xg2\#$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{Q}f1\#$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ $\mathbb{W}xc3\#$) 38. $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ $\mathbb{W}xg2\#$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{W}xe2$ mate ✓ 37... $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$! The only winning move. 38. $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ $\mathbb{Q}f1\#$! 39. $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ $\mathbb{W}xc3\#$ –✓

364. Dawid Janowski – Alexander Alekhine, Scheveningen 1913

16. $\mathbb{Q}cd6\#$! White wins the exchange or the queen with a discovered attack. 16... $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}c7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xc7$ 18. $\mathbb{W}xa6\#$ –✓

365. Alexander Alekhine – Efim Bogoljubov, St Petersburg 1913

21... $\mathbb{Q}xf2!$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ The two captures are hit hard: 22. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{Q}e1\#$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ mate ✓ and 22. $\mathbb{W}xf4$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ mate ✓. 22... $\mathbb{Q}h8!$ ✓ White is still mated if he captures the rook or the queen, and 23. $\mathbb{Q}d1$ $\mathbb{W}xf7\#$ also gave no hope (0–1, 27 moves). Or 23... $\mathbb{Q}xg2\#$ –.

366. Sergey Lebedev – Alexander Alekhine, St Petersburg 1914

23...♝c2! White has three ways to defend against 24...♝xb2, but none helps. **24.♝xc2**

a) 24.♛c4 ♜xf4 25.exf4 ♜d4!–+ ✓ Black does not have to exploit the pin. Next is 26...♝xf3.

b) 24.♝xd3 ♜xc1† (24...♝d6–+ also wins a piece) 25.♝xc1 a5!–+ ✓ The knight on d2 is lost.

24...dxc2†!–+ 25.♝xc2 Black is not in a hurry, but there is a way to end the game that's easier than the others: **25...♝c8† 26.♝b1** Or 26.♝d1 ♜xf3† mating. **26...a5!–+** The next move is 27...♝xd2.

367. Dawid Janowski – Alexander Alekhine, Mannheim 1914

40.♜g8†! The rook sacrifice ensures that the next moves come with check. 40.♝h7†? ♜xh7 41.♝xe4† ♜f5 42.♝xd6 ♜xf3± gives counterplay with the d4-pawn alive. **40...♝xg8 41.♝xd4†! ♜h7 42.♝xe4† ♜g6** 42...♝h8 and White wins by taking on d6 now or after a few checks. **43.♝xd6!–+** Exchanging first was also winning. The rook is no match for the connected passed pawns supported by the bishop.

368. Nikolay Tselikov – Alexander Alekhine, Moscow 1915

28...♝xg2†! 29.♝xg2 d4†!–+ ✓ 29...♝g8† is also mating in various ways, and 29...♝g4† as well as 29...♝g5 are also winning. **30.♝e4** The point of 29...d4† is shown after **30...♝g8† 31.♝f1 ♜xf4†** when White can't defend the check with ♜f2. One way to end the game is: **32.♝e2 ♜xe4† 33.♝d1 ♜d3 mate**

369. Alexander Alekhine – Feldt, Tarnopol (blindfold simul) 1916

15.♝f7! 15.♛c6 ♜xc6 16.♝xe6† ♜h8 17.♝xc6!–+ wins a pawn (one point). **15...♝xf7 16.♝xe6†! ♜g6** 16...♝xe6 17.♝g5 mate ✓ is over, and Black has to give up too much to avoid mate after 16...♝f8 17.♝g5!–+. **17.g4** 18.♝xf5 mate and 18.♝h4 mate are two threats Black can't defend against. Also mating are 17.♝xf5† ♜h5 18.g4† ♜xg4 19.♝xg4 mate and 17.♝h4† ♜h5 18.♝xf5†, with mate on the next move. **17...♝e4 18.♝h4 mate** ✓

370. Alexander Alekhine – Vasiutinsky, Odessa (simul) 1918

14.♝xf7! Black castled here (1–0, 28 moves). **14...♝xf7 15.♝xe6† ♜f8 16.♝xe7†!–+ ✓**

371. Nikolay Pavlov-Pianov – Alexander Alekhine, Moscow 1919

27...♝xh2†! 27...♝g4† 28.♝g2 ♜xf5† leaves White fighting. **28.♝xh2 ♜xg4† 29.♝g3 ♜xe3!–+** ✓ Black takes on f5 and wins two pawns and an exchange with no counterplay left for White.

372. Alexander Alekhine – Nikolay Grigoriev, Moscow 1919

23.♝xf7! ✓ ♜xf7 White also wins a pawn after 23...♝xf7 24.♝xf7± (24.♝xe7±). **24.♝xe6** 24.♝xe6†± is good enough, but the text move is stronger. **24...♝d5 25.♝e7†!–+ (1–0, 36 moves)**

373. Ilya Rabinovich – Alexander Alekhine, Moscow 1920

17...♝xc4!–+ Black wins a pawn due to: **18.♝xc4 d5 19.♝b5 a6!–+ ✓** The only good move.

374. Alexander Alekhine – G. Resser, The Hague (simul) 1921

35. ♕f6†! ♜e8 36.e6! White does not have to move with check – Black's counterplay is too slow. **36... ♜f5!** A strong defence, forcing White to find the only way to win. **36... ♜g6 37.exf7†** (or **37. ♜h8† ♜e7 38. ♜c5†+–**) **37... ♜xf7 38. ♜e6† ♜f8 39. ♜xh6†+–** And Black must give up the queen for the rook (or **39. ♜h8†+–**). **37.exf7† ♜f8 38. ♜c5†! ♜xc5 39. ♜xd8† ♜xf7 40. ♜b7†! ✓ 1–0** Black will be mated.

375. Joaquin Torres Caravaca – Alexander Alekhine, Spain (simul) 1922

26... ♜xd4 26... ♜xd4 gives the same outcome: **27. ♜xd4 ♜xh3+– 27... ♜xd4 28. ♜xd4 ♜xh3+– 27. ♜xd4 27. ♜xd4 ♜xh3! 28. gxh3 ♜f2† 29. ♜g1 ♜xh3 mate ✓ 27... ♜xd4 28. ♜xd4 ♜xh3! 29. gxh3 ♜f2† 30. ♜g1 ♜xh3 mate ✓**

376. Alexander Alekhine – Frederick Yates, Hastings 1922

Black is *almost* getting mated, and can take a perpetual check, but more can be achieved: **38... ♜e8c3†! 38... ♜c1c3†** makes no difference. **39. bxc3 ♜xc3† 40. ♜d3 ♜f1†! 41. ♜e3 ♜xd3† 42. ♜xd3 ♜xd3† 43. ♜xd3 ♜xf7+– ✓** White's ruined pawn structure makes him a hopeless victim.

377. Alexander Alekhine – N.N., Berlin 1922

18. ♜xc6!± White won a pawn due to: **18... ♜xc6 19. ♜xc6 ♜xc6 20. ♜xe4 dxe4 21. ♜xd8+– ✓**

378. Alexander Alekhine – Manuel Golmayo de la Torriente, Spain 1922

32. f6! 32. ♜xd7? ♜xd7 33. ♜e5 is a triple threat (**34. ♜xb2**, **34. ♜xc5** and **34. ♜e8† ♜f8 35. ♜xd7**) but **33... ♜dd2!=** defends, because of **34. ♜xc5?? ♜h2† 35. ♜g1 ♜bg2 mate**. **32... gxf6 32... ♜xf6 33. ♜b8†+– ✓** is over. After the game move, the open g-file can be exploited in several ways. Alekhine chose: **33. ♜xd7 ♜xd7 34. ♜g4†+–**

379. Siegbert Tarrasch – Alexander Alekhine, Bad Pistyan 1922

24... ♜g3†! 25. ♜g1 Or **25. fxe6 ♜xg3+– ✓** with a decisive double threat. After the king move, White is still not threatening to take on g3, and there are many ways to add fuel to the attack: a) **25... ♜c8+–** followed by **26... ♜xh3**; b) **25... d2+–** wins an exchange, to start with. Alekhine started with **25... ♜d5** and won convincingly (0–1, 38 moves).

380. Alexander Alekhine – Heinrich Wolf, Bad Pistyan 1922

White has a winning position, and can finish the game forcefully: **22. ♜xe6! fxe6 23. ♜g5+– ✓** The threats are too numerous. **23... ♜c5** This defends e6 for the moment, but Black loses the knight when White moves the queen. After **23... ♜c8** or **23... ♜b8**, White has a winning attack with a combination of **24. ♜g5xe6**, **24. ♜e1** and **d6xe7**. There is no need to calculate a concrete variation.

381. Alexander Alekhine – Frederick Yates, Portsmouth 1923

23. f3! Wherever the knight moves, White takes on d6 and e8. The game continuation was: **23... ♜d2 24. ♜xd6 ♜xd6 25. ♜xe8†+– ✓**

382. Alexander Alekhine – Lester Samuels, New York (simul) 1923

26.♕xa7! ♜d5 26...♝xa7 27.♛a3† (or 27.b6† ♜a6 28.♕c5! with mate after 28...♜a8 29.♕b4!) 27...♝b6 28.♕c5† ✓ With mate in a few moves. 27.♛a2! Alekhine played 27.♛a2? ♜c8!±. 27...♝xg2† 27...♝xc4 28.♛a8† ♜c7 29.♝xc4†+- ✓ **28.♝xg2 hxg2 29.♗b6 ♜c8** The only defence against 30.♜c7. **30.♜ca4+-** ✓ To avoid mate, Black has to part with a rook.

383. Alexander Alekhine – Reib, Prague (simul) 1923

17.♝g5! ✓ Black has to take, as otherwise he is a piece down. 17...♝xg5 18.♞e4 18.♝xa8+- wins and 18.♞xf7!+- gains an extra pawn. **18...♛f4 19.♛xa8 ♞d6+-** The knight is lost here, but White is still winning.

384. Alexander Alekhine – Menzel, Boston (simul) 1923

29.♜a8†! ♜xa8 After 29...♞e8 White has two immediate ways to exploit the eighth rank: a) 30.♝c5 ♜xb7 31.♝xe8† ♜f8 32.♝xf8 mate or b) 30.♞d7 with a double threat. Or 29...♝f8 30.♝xf8† ♜xf8 31.♝b8† picks up a piece on c7, as 31...♞e8 32.♝c5†+- wins the queen. **30.♝c8†** Black resigned due to: **30...♝f8 31.♝xe6†! ♜h8 32.♞f7† ♜g8 32...♝xf7** loses to 33.♝c8† ✓ with back-rank mate. **33.♞h6†** Or 33.♞d6†+- winning the queen. **33...♜h8 34.♝g8† ♜xg8 35.♞f7 mate** ✓

385. Alexander Alekhine – John Drewitt, Portsmouth 1923

20.♝xh7†! ♜xh7 21.♜h3† ♜g8 22.♛h5! Simplest and best. The game continued 22.♝xg7?! f6 23.♝h6, which is a more complicated way to win. 23...♝h7 24.♛h5 ♜f8 25.♝g4† ♜f7 26.♝xf8+- wins back the sacrificed piece, keeping the g- and h-pawns. **22...f6 23.♜xa3 ♜xa3 24.♛h8† ♜f7 25.♝xd8 ♜c1† 26.♞f1+-** ✓

386. Siegbert Tarrasch – Alexander Alekhine, Karlsbad 1923

Black has a good position, but faces the threat of 35.♝xd4 ♜xd4 36.♛f8 mate. **34...♝e3! 35.fxe3** Tarrasch played 35.♜f1 but when White is forced into passivity, Black can do whatever he wishes with a winning position (0–1, 54 moves). **35...♝xh2† 36.♞f1 ♜h1 mate** ✓ Or 36...♝f2 mate.

387. Alexander Alekhine – Herman Steiner, New York (simul) 1924

33...♝xh2†! 34.♝xh2 ♜f3† 35.♝g2 ♜xd4† ✓ Black lost despite his extra pawn.

388. Alexander Alekhine – Leon Kussman, New York (simul) 1924

16.♛b5†! ♜d7 16...♝xb5 17.♞f6 mate ✓ **17.♞fe1!+-** ✓ There is no defence against the discovered attack. 17.♞f6† ♜xf6 18.♝ae1† ♜e7 19.♝xe7† ♜f8 20.♛b4! is also winning, as is 17.♝ae1!.

389. Alexander Alekhine – J.Y. Downman, USA (simul) 1924

19.♝h6! gxh6 20.♞f6† White can also play 20.♞f6+- or 20.♝xh6 ♜g8 21.♞f6 ♜g7 22.♝xd7+-.
20...♝xf6 20...♝g8 21.♞e7†+- wins the queen. **21.♞xf6 ♜e7 22.♝xh6 ♜xf6 23.♝xf6† ♜g8+-** ✓ Black has two rooks for the queen but his king has no hope against h3-h4-h5-h6, and he soon resigned.

390. Alexander Alekhine – F. Casciato, USA (simul) 1924

20. ♜xe5! $\square x d 7 \dagger \square x d 7$ $21. \square x e 5$ transposes. **20... ♜xh5 21. ♜xd7† ♜xd7 22. ♜xh5+– ✓** The rook survived with the help of a lifeline – after the exchange on h5 it moves away from the threat.

391. Walter Michel – Alexander Alekhine, Basel (simul) 1925

21. ♜f5! gxh5 21...gxh5 22. ♜xf5† ♜g6 23. ♜xc6 ♜xc6 24. ♜xc6± ✓ gives White an extra pawn, but was Black's only hope. **22. ♜xe7† f5 23. ♜xc6+– ✓** White wins a piece, and he could also have gone for an exchange with $23. \square x f 5 \square e 6$ $24. \square d 6 \dagger \square x e 4$ $25. \square x e 4+–$.

392. Alexander Alekhine – H.A. Woher, Amsterdam (simul) 1925

30... ♜f4†! 31. ♜g1 ♜xh3†! 32. gxh3 ♜g3†! 32... ♜xf3 33. ♜xa7= is only a draw. **33. ♜h1 ♜xf3†+– ✓** After one or two more checks, Black takes on a6. If White then captures on f7, Black picks up the e5-pawn.

393. Alexander Alekhine – A.H.M. Wap, Rotterdam (simul) 1925

19. ♜c3! 19... ♜xd4? ♜xd4 20. ♜d1 ♜f6!∞ 19...c5 20. b4!+– Black's rook is undermined, and he has no time for **20...f6** as **21. bxc5 ✓** comes with a double threat.

394. Alexander Alekhine – Anna Stephan, Czechoslovakia (simul) 1925

19. d6†! ♜h8 19... ♜e6 20. ♜xe6† ♜xe6 21. ♜xe6 ✓ ♜xd2 22. ♜d3+– wins an exchange. **20. ♜g6†! hxg6 21. ♜h3 mate ✓**

395. Alexander Alekhine – Harold Lommer, Geneva (simul) 1925

33. ♜xg7! ♜xg7 33... ♜xh6 34. ♜f8† ♜h7 35. ♜h8 mate ✓ 34. ♜f8†! Alekhine played $34. \square x g 7 \dagger?$ $\square x g 7$ $35. \square x e 6 \dagger =$. White is a piece down, but the open black king is enough to draw the game. **34... ♜xf8 35. ♜h8† ♜e7 36. ♜xg7 mate ✓**

396. Alexander Alekhine – Walter Henneberger, Basel (simul) 1925

22... ♜xc5! 23. dxc5 Alekhine tried to keep the loss to a pawn with **23. ♜d6** but to no avail: **23... ♜xc3! (23... ♜h4† 24. g3 ♜d8 is also winning, while 23... ♜xd2† 24. ♜xd2 ♜b3† 25. ♜c2 ♜xc1 26. ♜xa3 ♜xa3 27. ♜xc1† might be what many would settle for) 24. ♜xc3 (24. ♜xc3 ♜a2!–+) 24... ♜a1†+–** Black has a winning attack. However, you do not have to see all that to take on c5. **23... ♜xc3–+ ✓**

397. Alexander Alekhine – Moriz Henneberger, Basel (simul) 1925

16. ♜h6! ♜f5 16...gxh6 17. ♜f6†+– ✓ with a fork. **17. ♜xf5 ♜xe1† 18. ♜xe1 ♜xf5 19. ♜xg7 ♜xc2+– ✓** Black won his pawn back, but his king position is in ruins.

398. Alexander Alekhine – Karl Gilg, Czechoslovakia (simul) 1925

32... ♜xf5! The only move that gives Black an advantage. **33. ♜xh7 33. gxh5 ♜xf5† 34. ♜f3 ♜ef8+– ✓ 33... ♜f7!–+** Precise, but it was also good enough to take back on h7.

399. Alexander Alekhine – Edgard Colle, Paris 1925

30. ♜xd7! ♜xd7 31. ♜e8† Not **31. ♜c8†?? ♜d8–+.** **31... ♜h7 32. ♜cc8 ✓** There is no defence since the queen cannot safely move with check.

400. Alexander Alekhine – Saint Germain, Paris (simul) 1925

16. $\mathbb{W}xc6!$ $\mathbb{W}xc6$ Black made things worse with 16... $\mathbb{E}d7?$ 17. $\mathbb{W}xd7\#$ –. 17. $\mathbb{Q}ce5\#$ $\mathbb{f}xe5$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#$ $\mathbb{f}6$ 19. $\mathbb{E}xc6$ –✓ White wins a second pawn on c7. 19. $\mathbb{E}xc6$ is equally strong.

401. Alexander Alekhine – Peter Potemkin, Paris (simul) 1925

21. $\mathbb{E}xe6\#$! Or 21. $\mathbb{E}xe6\#$! but not 21. $\mathbb{W}f3?$ 0–0 22. $\mathbb{Q}b6$ $\mathbb{W}d6$ 23. $\mathbb{E}d1$ $\mathbb{W}xb6$ 24. $\mathbb{E}xb6$ $axb6$ when Black is fighting, or 21. $\mathbb{Q}b6?$ $\mathbb{W}xd1$ 22. $\mathbb{E}xd1$ $\mathbb{E}d8!$ 23. $\mathbb{E}xd8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ 24. $\mathbb{E}xa7$ $\mathbb{E}e8$ when White's knight is in trouble. 21... $\mathbb{f}xe6$ 22. $\mathbb{E}xe6\#$! $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 22... $\mathbb{W}xe6$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}c7\#$ ✓ is similar. 23. $\mathbb{E}e7\#$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7\#$ –✓ Black's two rooks are still on their initial squares and White's queen has time to collect a second pawn.

402. Alexander Alekhine – N. Schwartz, London (simul) 1926

25. $\mathbb{Q}xg6\#$! 25. $\mathbb{Q}xg6?$ $dxe4$! 26. $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ is not as good after 26... $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ 27. $\mathbb{W}xe4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{W}xf5$ 29. $\mathbb{W}xb7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8\pm$, even though the extra pawn and the active rooks might be enough. 25... $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 26... $\mathbb{W}xg6$ 27. $\mathbb{E}e7\#$ –✓ wins the queen. 27. $\mathbb{Q}xf8+$ ✓

403. Alexander Alekhine – Raul Molina, Buenos Aires 1926

28... $\mathbb{E}xb2\#$! 29. $\mathbb{W}xb2$ 29. $\mathbb{E}xb2$ $\mathbb{W}d1\#$ 30. $\mathbb{W}c1$ $\mathbb{W}xc1$ mate✓ 29... $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ –✓

404. Alexander Alekhine – Julio Menendez, Buenos Aires 1926

30... $\mathbb{E}e2$! 31. $\mathbb{E}xe2$ $\mathbb{E}xe2$ 32. $\mathbb{W}xe2$ Alekhine gave up a rook with 32. $\mathbb{E}f5$ – (0–1, 37 moves). 32... $\mathbb{W}h3\#$ 33. $\mathbb{W}h2$ $\mathbb{W}xf1\#$ 34. $\mathbb{W}g1$ $\mathbb{W}xg1$ mate✓

405. Alexander Alekhine – Colman Lerner, Buenos Aires 1926

14. $d5\#$ –✓ There is no defence against 15. $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ $\mathbb{W}xb6$ 16. $\mathbb{W}a4\#$, with a winning attack. Alekhine won a pawn with 14. $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 15. $\mathbb{W}a4\#$ $\mathbb{W}d7$ 16. $\mathbb{W}xc4\pm$ but the bishop pair and the long diagonal gave some compensation.

406. Alexander Alekhine – Carmichael, Newcastle upon Tyne (simul) 1926

16. $\mathbb{Q}xh6\#$! $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 16... $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 17. $\mathbb{W}e3\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 18. $\mathbb{W}g5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 19. $\mathbb{W}h6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 20. $\mathbb{E}e5$!✓ with mate. 17. $\mathbb{Q}e5\#$ –✓ Black can't defend against the attack, even though it takes a few moves before it is over.

407. Alexander Alekhine – Rudolf Spielmann, Semmering 1926

23... $\mathbb{E}xc3$! 24. $bxc3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ ✓ 25. $\mathbb{E}d4$ 25. $\mathbb{E}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ 26. $\mathbb{E}d4$ tries to hold onto the exchange, but Black has a winning attack after 26... $\mathbb{W}b1\#$ ✓ (the positional 26... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ is also winning) 27. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{W}h1\#$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{W}e1$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$ and 30... $\mathbb{E}f1$. 25... $\mathbb{E}xf2$!– White cannot defend c3 in a good way. Spielmann played 25... $\mathbb{Q}xc3?\#$ which wins back the exchange or the pawn on f2. Surprisingly, he agreed to a draw a few moves later.

408. Frederick Yates – Alexander Alekhine, Kecskemet 1927

24. $\mathbb{E}d8\#$! Yates started with 24. $\mathbb{Q}h6?$ but it allowed 24... $\mathbb{W}c8$!. Best is now 25. $\mathbb{E}g4\#$ with an initiative. About equal is 25. $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $exd4=$ while the game continuation was 25. $\mathbb{E}d8\#$ $\mathbb{W}xd8$ 26. $\mathbb{E}xd8\#$ $\mathbb{E}xd8$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ (0–1, 75 moves). 24... $\mathbb{E}xd8$ 25. $\mathbb{E}xd8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}h6!$ $gxh6$ 26... $\mathbb{W}xc2$ 27. $\mathbb{E}e8\#$! $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ –✓ 27. $\mathbb{W}g8$ –✓ Black's king cannot escape, so he must give up lots of material to avoid mate.

409. Alexander Alekhine – Aron Nimzowitsch, New York 1927

22. $\mathbb{Q}xc5!$ It doesn't matter how Black takes back. 22... $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}d6+-\checkmark$

410. Alexander Alekhine – Carbonell, Barcelona (simul) 1928

19. $\mathbb{Q}xc5!$ $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 20. $b4!$ The queen cannot keep defending the knight on e5. 20... $\mathbb{W}xb4$
21. $\mathbb{Q}xe5+-\checkmark$

411. Alexander Alekhine – Efim Bogoljubov, Berlin (13) 1929

31... $\mathbb{W}e4!-+$ A double threat against e1 and a4. 32. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}c1\#$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ mate \checkmark

412. Efim Bogoljubov – Alexander Alekhine, The Hague (18) 1929

37. $\mathbb{Q}xc7\#$! 37. $\mathbb{W}xe6$ $\mathbb{Q}xh2$ 38. $\mathbb{W}xg4$ also wins a pawn and should be winning, but Black still has hope. 37... $\mathbb{W}xc7$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}c5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 39. $\mathbb{W}xc7\#$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}xe6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ \checkmark 1–0 It's an easily winning endgame.

413. Alexander Alekhine – Mayerhofer, Regensburg 1930

28... $\mathbb{Q}xd4!$ 29. $cxd4$ Alekhine's 29. $\mathbb{Q}b7$ should not help, but he held a draw. 29... $\mathbb{W}xd4\#-+$ \checkmark
Black takes back the piece and has several extra pawns and the safer king.

414. Alexander Alekhine – Salo Flohr, Bled 1931

28. $e5!$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}c8$ $\mathbb{W}d6$ 29. $e5!$ also wins, but requires some variations: a) 29... $\mathbb{W}f8$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}c7$; b) 29... $\mathbb{W}d7$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}c6$; c) 29... $\mathbb{W}e7$ 30. $exf6$ $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xd8\#$ $\mathbb{W}xd8$ 32. $\mathbb{W}xe6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 33. $\mathbb{W}xa6$ 28... $f5?$ 28... $fxe5$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}c8!$ $\mathbb{W}d6$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}c6-+$ \checkmark and the pawn sacrifice opened up lines for the f3-bishop. 29. $\mathbb{Q}c8!$ The d6-square is no longer available for the queen. 29... $\mathbb{W}xe3$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xd8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 31. $fxe3-+$ \checkmark

415. Alexander Alekhine – Edgard Colle, Bled 1931

31. $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xf5!-+$ \checkmark Black cannot take back on f5, nor can he allow White to penetrate on h7.

416. Alexander Alekhine – Nate Grossman, New York (simul) 1932

25... $\mathbb{Q}xg3!$ 26. $hxg3$ $\mathbb{Q}g4!$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ There is no miraculous rescue after 27. $fxg4$ $\mathbb{W}xg2$ mate \checkmark or 27. $\mathbb{W}f4$ $\mathbb{W}h5\#$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{W}h2$ mate \checkmark . 27... $\mathbb{Q}xe3-+$ \checkmark Black gets two bishops for a rook and is winning no matter how he takes back on d5.

417. Alexander Alekhine – L. Castaneda, Guadalajara (simul) 1932

12... $\mathbb{Q}xf3!$ 12... $\mathbb{W}h4\#$ 13. $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}h5!$ also wins due to the threat of 14... $\mathbb{Q}g3\#$. 13. $gxf3$ $\mathbb{W}xf3$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ 14. $dxe6$ $fxe6$ gives no counterplay. 14... $\mathbb{W}f2\#$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}d1$ $\mathbb{W}g1-+$ \checkmark

418. Schut Bueters – Alexander Alekhine, Surabaya (simul) 1933

28... $\mathbb{Q}xf5!$ The e4-pawn is pinned. Not 28... $\mathbb{Q}f3\#?$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}xg1$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xg1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 31. $\mathbb{W}e2\pm$ and the bishop on g2 is trapped. 29. $exf5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5-+$ \checkmark

419. Alexander Alekhine – Lista, Bratislava (simul) 1933

The knight checks its way to h6: 21. $\mathbb{Q}g6\#$! $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}e5\#$! $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 22... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xe4\#$ \checkmark $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 24. $\mathbb{W}xe8-+$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}f7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xh6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 25. $\mathbb{W}g8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xg8$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}f7$ mate \checkmark

420. Alexander Alekhine – W.J. Haeften, Jakarta (simul) 1933
14.f5! Opening the e-file. **14...exf5 15.Qxg6 fxg6 16.Qxe7+– ✓**

421. Alexander Alekhine – Fricis Apsenieks, Folkestone (ol) 1933

12.Qg6! fxg6 12...Qxe5 13.Qx5 does not change anything since the game move **13...Qc7** could be met by **14.Qa5! ✓** with a winning attack (1–0, 23 moves). **14.Qxf7†**, before or after **a4xb5**, might be winning too. **13.Qxg6† ✓ Qe7** White has many ways to win. **14.Qb4†** The simplest to calculate might be **14.Qf7 Qe8 15.Qxh8+–**. **14...c5 15.dxc5** Black is busted, for example: **15...Qxc5 16.Qf7† Qd6 17.Qxb7+–**

422. Alexander Alekhine – Hoelsder, Amsterdam (simul) 1933

16.Qe5! 16.g6? Qxg6 17.Qe5 is *almost* winning, but Black has: **17...Qxh5! 18.Qxh5 dx5† 16...dxe5 17.g6! 17.Qc4?** would have been a blunder after, for example, **17...Qxc4 18.g6 Qf1† 19.Qxf1 Qe8+–. 17...Qxg6 18.Qc4† Qf7 19.Qh8 mate ✓**

423. Hermann Joss – Alexander Alekhine, Zurich 1934

37...Qxc1! 37...Qb2+– is also winning, but Black has to calculate or find a lot more moves. For instance, all Black's moves in the following line are the only winning ones: **38.Qd3 Qb3! 39.Qdf4 e5! 40.dxe5 Qb4†! 41.Qf2 Qd2! 42.Qxd2 Qxd2+– 38.Qxc1 38.Qxc1 Qxe2 mate ✓ 38...Qg2!+– ✓** The rook has no squares.

424. Alexander Alekhine – Efim Bogoljubov, Germany (2) 1934

White is a piece up, but must solve the threats against e2, e1 and g2. **29.Qc8†! Qf7 29...Qxc8 30.Qxe5+– ✓ 30.Qh5†+– ✓** White's attack is mating, and there are so many ways that it does not make sense to give every line. Two other moves would also have forced immediate resignation: **30.Qc7† Qg6 31.Qxg7† Qxg7 32.Qxe5†+–** and **30.Qf8† Qxf8 31.Qd7†+–**.

425. Alexander Alekhine – Efim Bogoljubov, Germany (16) 1934

30.e6! Qdxg7 31.Qxg7 Qxg7 32.Qxd5! Or **32.Qf8†** first. **32...cxd5 33.Qf8† Qc7 34.Qf7†+–** Black must give up the rook, as **34...Qxf7? 35.exf7 ✓** queens.

426. Alexander Alekhine – Rafael Llorens, Barcelona (simul) 1935

19...Qxe3! 20.Qc3 20.Qxe3 Qxd4 mate ✓ 20...Qg4† Or **20...Qxc4 21.Qxc4 Qxc4** (Instead Llorens played: **21...Qxd4? 22.Qe2±** Black has no good discovered check and Alekhine won after: **22...Qc4? 23.a5+– [1–0, 25 moves]**) **22.Qxc4 Qxd4∞** With about enough pawns for the piece. **21.Qxg4 fxg4∞ ✓** Black keeps the pawn, although the opposite-coloured bishops give White fair compensation. However, Black's best was clearly to take on e3, since it would be so passive to retreat with the knight, when White would have enjoyed a clear advantage.

427. Alexander Alekhine – Jan Foltys, Podebrady 1936

22.Qxe6! 22.Qxb7± is strong enough for half a point. **22...fxe6 23.Qg4† Qh8 24.Qxb7** Black has to give up the knight on c4 to defend against the mate, so White wins a pawn. **24...Qc7 25.Qxc7 ✓ Qxc7 26.Qxc4!+–** Keeping the queens on with the weak black king in mind. However, since the alternative is also good, you do not need to make that decision before playing **22.Qxe6**.

428. William Winter – Alexander Alekhine, Nottingham 1936

26...Qc4! Black gets access to the e3-square with a winning position if White does not take. **27.bxc4 Wa4† ✓** 27...dxc4 and only then ...Wa4† also gives a winning attack. The text move is strongest though. **28.Qc1 Qa3† 29.Qb1 Eb6†** It will soon be mate.

429. Alexander Alekhine – C.H.O'D. Alexander, Nottingham 1936

22.Qxf5! gxf5 The game saw 22...Qh8+– (1–0, 27 moves). **23.Qxf5 Wh8** The only square that doesn't move into a fork. **24.Qh6†** Other moves are also winning, thanks to this weak square. **24...Qg7 25.Wg5 mate ✓**

430. Savielly Tartakower – Alexander Alekhine, Nottingham 1936

29...Qh2! The knight continues to f3 if White does not take. **30.Wxh2 Eg4†** Or 30...Wf3 followed by 31...Eg4†. **31.Qh1 Eh4+– ✓** Black wins the queen.

431. Alexander Alekhine – Endre Steiner, Kemerri 1937

14.d6! Qxd6 15.Qf5!+– ✓ The bishop is trapped.

432. Alexander Alekhine – Samuel Reshevsky, Kemerri 1937

35.Exb8†! Qxb8 36.Wxe5†! ✓ Black resigned, as he will be mated.

433. Alexander Alekhine – Max Euwe, Netherlands (14) 1937

34.Exf5! Exf5 Euwe played 34...Ec6+– (1–0, 52 moves). **35.Exe8† ✓** With a winning attack. After 35...Qf7 the easiest win is: **36.We7† Qg6 37.Exe4+–**

434. Eliashoff/Kahn/Ros – Alexander Alekhine, Nice 1938

25...Exf3!+– Deflecting the important defender on g2. **26.gxf3? Wh3! 27.Eg1 Wxf3† 28.Eg2 Wxg2 mate ✓**

435. Vladimirs Petrovs – Alexander Alekhine, Margate 1938

31.b4†! Qxb4 32.Eb7†! ✓ After two precise moves, there are several ways that lead to mate or a decisive material gain. **32...Qc3 32...Qc5 33.Eb5 mate 33.Qe4† Qc2 34.Ebb1 1–0 35.Edc1** mate is inevitable.

436. Alexander Alekhine – Olivera, Montevideo 1939

22.Exb7!± ✓ White wins a pawn, since Black cannot take a rook without losing the other with check. **22.Exe8† Exe8 23.Exb7** would allow sufficient counterplay after, for instance, 23...g6 with the idea ...Ee2.

437. Alexander Alekhine – Arrais, Lisbon (simul) 1940

9.Qxe5! Qxe5 9...Qxd1 10.Qxf7 mate ✓ 10.Wxh5+– ✓

438. Alexander Alekhine – A. Amores, Lisbon (simul) 1940

28.Qc5! Wf7 28...Wxd4 29.Qe6+– ✓ gives no salvation. **29.Qe6!+– ✓** A double attack on f8 and g7.

439. Max Bluemich – Alexander Alekhine, Krakow/Warsaw 1941

30...f4! Opening the fifth rank for the queen. **31.gxf4** **31.Qc2 Qh4!** (**31...Qh2†** is also strong: **32.Qg1 Wf5–+** picking up the rook, or **32...We2–+**, or even **32...Wb5–+**.) **32.gxh4 We2†!** **33.Qc1 Wxd3–+ ✓ 31...Wb5! 32.c4** **32.Qe2 Wxd3†** (or **32...Qe1!** **33.Qxe1 Wxd3**) **33.Qxd3 Qe1†** **34.Qd2 Qxg2–+ ✓ 32...Wxc4!–+ ✓** The knight is pinned.

440. Herbert Weil – Alexander Alekhine, Lublin/Warsaw/Krakow 1942

22...Qd4! Opening up for the rook to enter on the second rank. **23.exd4** **23.Wd1** loses to **23...Rc1** and other moves. **23...Rc2! 24.Qc4** **24.Qd1 Rxb2–+ ✓**, or **24...We6† 25.Qf1 Rxb2–+**. **24...Rxg2** Or **24...We6† 25.Qe5 Rg2–+** when Black wins back the piece and White's king cannot escape. (Alekhine's **25...fxe5** was even stronger, but only since White couldn't castle – he had already moved his king,) **25.Wd1 Ra1–+ ✓** Or **25...We6† 26.Qf1 Wa6–+.**

441. Alexander Alekhine – Kurt Paul Richter, Munich 1942

20.Qe4! A simple fork, but Black has some counterplay. **20...Wg6!** **20...We7** defends the b7-bishop, but **21.Qxd6 Qd4 22.We5** wins – Black needed the queen on the g-file. **21.Qxd6 ✓ 21.Qh5? Rd5!** **22.Wxd5 exd5 23.Qxg6 fxe4±** with some compensation. **21...Qd4** Time for another exercise: **22.Qxb7!** Also possible is: **22.Qf7†? Wxf7** (**22...Qg8 23.Qe5!±**) **23.We5 Qxf3† 24.gxf3± 22...Qxb5 23.Qxb5–+**

442. Alexander Alekhine – Klaus Junge, Lublin/Warsaw/Krakow 1942

26.Qxf7† Or **26.Wg5† Qh8 27.Wf6† Qg8 28.Rxd8 Rxd8 29.Qxf7†–.** **26...Wxf7** **26...Rxf7** **27.Wg5†–+ ✓** with a fork, while **26...Qxf7 27.Wxh7† ✓** wins the queen. **27.Rxd8 Rxd8** Instead the game ended: **27...Ra4 28.b3 1–0 28.Wg5†–+ ✓**

443. Alexander Alekhine – Efim Bogoljubov, Salzburg 1943

17.Qf5! Qxf5 **17...Rxd1 18.Qxe7† Qf7 19.Rxd1 Qxe7 ✓** wins White an exchange, as does **17...Wf7 18.Wxd5± ✓** (or **18.Qe7†±**). **18.Wxd5†± ✓** ($\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$, 44 moves)

444. Alexander Alekhine – Ruzena Sucha, Prague 1943

28.Rxd5! ✓ exd5 29.Qd6+– The threats against c8, e8, f7 and d5 are too much for Black.

445. Jaromir Florian – Alexander Alekhine, Prague 1943

30...Rxb2! **31.Qxb2** Florian played on a pawn down: **31.We4–+ (0–1, 43 moves)** **31...Wb4†** **32.Qc1 Wxc3† 33.Qc2 Wa1†** Or **33...Rf1†** first. **34.Wb1 Rf1†–+ ✓** Black wins the queen.

446. Francesco Lupi – Alexander Alekhine, Sabadell 1945

37...Qxf3! **38.Qe1** The h-pawn is unstoppable after **38.gxf3 h3–+.** **38...Qxg2 39.Qxh4** Black wins not only a second pawn, but also a third, after (for example) Alekhine's **39...e5–+** which was enough to make White resign.

Max Euwe

Let us repeat once more the methods by which we can increase our combinative skill: (1) by careful examination of the different types and by a clear understanding of their motives and their premises, (2) By memorising a number of outstanding as well as of common examples and solutions, (3) Frequent repetition (in thought, if possible) of important combinations, so as to develop the imagination.

Strategy & Tactics in Chess (1937)

447. Max Euwe – Richard Reti, Amsterdam (1) 1920

19... $\mathbb{Q}xg2\#$! 20. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{W}g4\#$ Or 20... $\mathbb{W}f2\#$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}h3$ $\mathbb{W}f3\#$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}f2\#$ with a mating attack (22... $g5\#$ also mates). 21. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{W}f3\#$ 21... $\mathbb{W}xd1\#$ is also good enough. 22. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{W}f2$ mate ✓

448. Max Euwe – Henri Weenink, Amsterdam 1920

22. $\mathbb{Q}e7\#$! $\mathbb{B}xe7$ Weenink gave up the exchange with: 22... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 23. $\mathbb{W}xf7\#$ (or 23. $\mathbb{Q}xc6+-$) 23... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xc6+-$ ✓ 23. $\mathbb{B}d8\#$ $\mathbb{B}e8$ 24. $\mathbb{B}xe8$ mate ✓

449. Max Euwe – Ernst Grünfeld, Gothenburg 1920

28. $\mathbb{Q}d5\#!$ $\mathbb{B}xd5$ 29. $\mathbb{B}xd5$ White enjoys an extra passed pawn, but with opposite-coloured bishops, he needs to use his king to break the blockade; Black has decent drawing chances. 29... $\mathbb{Q}f5?$ In the game, a draw was prematurely agreed after 29... $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 30. $\mathbb{B}xd6$. 30. $\mathbb{B}xd6$ ✓ $\mathbb{Q}b1\pm$ Black restores the material balance, but it allows White to advance his passed pawn.

450. Max Euwe – Adolf Olland, Amsterdam (match) 1921

15... $f4!$ Black wins a piece. 16. $gxf4$ 16. $\mathbb{W}xf4$ $\mathbb{Q}xh3+-$ ✓ 16... $\mathbb{W}xh4$ ✓ 17. $f5!$ White has some counterplay, but Black is still clearly better.

451. Max Euwe – Adolf Olland, Amsterdam (match) 1921

23. $\mathbb{B}xf6\#$! Opening up the king's position. 23... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 24. $\mathbb{B}f1\#$ Or 24. $\mathbb{W}g5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 25. $\mathbb{W}f4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 26. $\mathbb{W}c7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}g5\#+-$. 24... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 24... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ mate 25. $\mathbb{W}d7\#$ ✓ White has two threats: 26. $\mathbb{Q}g7$ mate and 26. $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}f4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ (27... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ mate) 28. $g5$ mate. It's not possible to defend against both. Instead, Euwe drew after 25. $gxf5?$ $\mathbb{W}xe2$ 26. $\mathbb{W}d6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 27. $\mathbb{W}d5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f6=$.

452. Max Euwe – H.V. von Hartingsveldt, Amsterdam 1922

25. $\mathbb{Q}xf5!$ $\mathbb{B}xh3$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}xh3\pm$ ✓ The bishop is saved by a lifeline, and White won a pawn (the e5-pawn was lost anyway).

453. Max Euwe – Rudolf Spielmann, Bad Pistyan 1922

24... $\mathbb{B}xf4!$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 25. $\mathbb{B}xf4$ $\mathbb{W}e1\#$ 26. $\mathbb{B}f2$ 26... $f4\#+-$ ✓ followed by 27... $\mathbb{W}xf2$ (or 26... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ with a winning attack). 25... $\mathbb{Q}e5\#+-$ ✓ A double threat: 26... $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ and 26... $\mathbb{Q}g6\#$. (There is also nothing wrong with 25... $\mathbb{W}e4\#$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{W}xd3\#$ or 25... $\mathbb{W}d6\#$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $f6\#+-$ winning a rook.)

454. Sturm – Max Euwe, Amsterdam 1923

24... $\mathbb{Q}xf2!$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ Sturm gave up a piece with: 25. $\mathbb{Q}xe4 \mathbb{W}xd4+-$ (0–1, 39 moves) 25...e3
 26. $\mathbb{Q}e2 exd2$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}xe5+-$ ✓ Black has good winning chances after either recapture. White's kingside pawns have no defenders.

455. Max Euwe – Jacques Davidson, Amsterdam (9) 1924

18.d6! $\mathbb{W}b8$ 18... $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xb7 \mathbb{W}xb7$ 20. $\mathbb{W}xd6+-$ ✓ 19.d7 $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}c6!+-$ ✓ White wins an exchange.

456. Willem Schelfhout – Max Euwe, Amsterdam 1927

13... $\mathbb{Q}xd4!$ 14.exd4 $\mathbb{W}xd4\#$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}h2 \mathbb{W}xa1+-$ ✓ Black is an exchange up, and White does not win a piece with 16.bxa5 due to: 16...e3+-

457. Max Euwe – Sonnenburg, Amsterdam 1927

9. $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 10. $\mathbb{W}f3\#$ The king does not want to go to the e-file, but the alternatives are even worse. 10... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ a) 10... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}d3\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 12. $\mathbb{W}xf5$ mate; b) 10... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}xe6!$ $\mathbb{W}xe6$ 12. $\mathbb{W}xd5$ ✓ (mating), or 12. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ (winning). 11. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ ✓ White has a huge advantage due to the exposed black king, but it is not easily winning. The best line for both seems to be 11... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 12. $\mathbb{W}h5 \mathbb{W}xd5$ 13. $\mathbb{Q}xe5 \mathbb{W}c6+-$ when White should develop a piece and then adjust his attacking ideas depending on Black's reply.

458. Max Euwe – Valentin Marin y Llovet, London (ol) 1927

25. $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ exd5 26. $\mathbb{W}xd5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 26... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 27. $\mathbb{W}xh5\#+-$ ✓ wins a piece. 27. $\mathbb{W}xh5$ ✓ There is only one way to defend both the bishop on h7 and the knight on g4. 27... $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}d6!+-$ Black has two pieces for a rook, but fighting against three pawns with a weak king is far too much.

459. Edgard Colle – Max Euwe, Amsterdam (1) 1928

26. $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ $\mathbb{Q}e8\pm$ White is satisfied to restore material equality. Both players have passed pawns, but only White has active heavy pieces, attacking the queenside pawns. White should not trade off his active rook as he did in the game (0–1, 35 moves) and instead either push the e-pawn (best) or take the b-pawn either immediately or after the intermediate 27. $\mathbb{W}e7$. Instead 26... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 27. $\mathbb{W}c8\#$ ✓ is mate.

460. Milan Vidmar Sr. – Max Euwe, Karlsbad 1929

34. $\mathbb{Q}e8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 34... $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 35. $\mathbb{W}d3\#+-$ ✓ wins the rook. 35. $\mathbb{Q}xf8\#$! $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}f5\#$! Euwe resigned here. 36... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}f8\#$! 37. $\mathbb{Q}d8\#?$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}h8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g6!$ and White has to fight for a draw after exchanging queens, for example: 39. $\mathbb{Q}h4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 40. $\mathbb{W}f3\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3\#$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}xb2\#$ 37... $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}d8$ mate ✓

461. Frederick Yates – Max Euwe, Hastings 1930

33... $\mathbb{Q}dxe3!$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}xe3 \mathbb{Q}xh3\#$ The queen is suddenly undefended. 35. $\mathbb{Q}xh3 \mathbb{W}xf2+-$ ✓

462. Max Euwe – A.A. Abdul Satar, Indonesia (simul) 1930

34. $\mathbb{Q}e6!$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}xe6+-$ ✓ Black must give up the queen to avoid mate.

463. Max Euwe – Salo Landau, Amsterdam (4) 1931

26. $\mathbb{Q}xf5!$ White wins a pawn. 26... $\mathbb{E}xf5$ 26... $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}xe4+-\checkmark$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}xd5+-\checkmark$

464. Max Euwe – Eduard Spanjaard, The Hague 1932

29... $\mathbb{Q}e2\#!$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}g3\#!$ 31. $hxg3$ $\mathbb{W}xf1\#-$ \checkmark 32. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{W}xf2!$ Or 32... $\mathbb{Q}e1$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{Q}xf2-$ with the same idea as the game continuation. 32... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 33. $\mathbb{W}e7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 34. $\mathbb{W}xd6$ $\mathbb{W}xf2$ is also winning, but not as convincingly. 33. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3!$ Instead the game turned around after 33... $\mathbb{Q}xf8??$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}d7\#$ when it suddenly is White who gives mate: 34... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 35. $\mathbb{W}c8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}f8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}g6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}e7\#$ 1–0 The capture on e3 forces checkmate, for example: 34. $\mathbb{W}b8$ $\mathbb{W}g1\#$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}h3$ $\mathbb{W}h1\#$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{W}d1\#$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{g}5\#$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}h3$ $\mathbb{W}h5$ mate

465. Max Euwe – G. Boersma, Rotterdam (simul) 1933

18... $\mathbb{Q}xd3!$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 19. $\mathbb{W}xd3$ $\mathbb{W}xg2$ mate \checkmark 19... $\mathbb{Q}xg2\#$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ 20. $\mathbb{W}xg2$ $\mathbb{W}xd3-$ \checkmark Black is a pawn up, and with White's open king, it is a decisive advantage. 20... $\mathbb{Q}xf1\#$ \checkmark 21. $\mathbb{W}xf1-$ White kept control over the d-file, however he can do nothing active since he must defend his e-pawn.

466. William Felderhof – Max Euwe, The Hague/Leiden/Scheveningen 1933

White has dangerous threats against the uncastled black king, so Black gives up a piece to get to safety, and then continue with his own attack. 16... $\mathbb{Q}a3!$ 17. $bxa3$ The best move. In the game, White was too kind with 17. $\mathbb{W}a4?$, as there was no reason to allow Black to keep the piece with 17... $\mathbb{Q}xb2-$. Also bad is 17. $\mathbb{Q}xd7?$ $\mathbb{Q}xb2\#$! 18. $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ $\mathbb{W}xb2\#-$ \checkmark when White does not win anything on d7, since his king will obstruct the d-file. 17... $0-0!\#$ \checkmark Black has a promising attack with threats such as ... $\mathbb{Q}fc8$ and ... $\mathbb{W}xa3\#$.

467. Max Euwe – Alexander Alekhine, Zurich 1934

31. $\mathbb{Q}f7!$ $\mathbb{W}e8$ 31... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 32. $\mathbb{W}h5\#$! $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xe6\#$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}e1\#!$ with forced mate: 34... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 35. $\mathbb{W}c5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 36. $\mathbb{W}f5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 37. $\mathbb{W}e6$ mate \checkmark 32. $\mathbb{Q}xe6!$ $\mathbb{W}xe6$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}d8!$ \checkmark White wins the pawn on c6 with good winning chances.

468. Max Euwe – Alexander Alekhine, Netherlands (14) 1935

10. $\mathbb{Q}xh7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ Alekhine played the unchallenging 10... $f5-$. 11. $\mathbb{W}h5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 12. $\mathbb{Q}xg6-$ \checkmark The only defence against mate is to give up a whole rook.

469. Efim Bogoljubov – Max Euwe, Zandvoort 1936

37. $\mathbb{Q}xa2!$ $\mathbb{Q}xa2$ 38. $\mathbb{W}a4-$ \checkmark A double threat, and the pieces cannot defend each other.

470. Max Euwe – Theodore Tylor, Nottingham 1936

17. $\mathbb{Q}xc5!$ As simple as it looks; the bishop on e7 is pinned. But 17. $\mathbb{Q}c2?!$ $\mathbb{W}e6$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}f5$ $\mathbb{W}d6! \pm$ does not win a pawn. 17... $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ White won smoothly after: 17... $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xd8 \pm \checkmark$ (1–0, 25 moves) 18. $\mathbb{Q}xg5! \checkmark$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}c7 \pm$ is also a pawn up. 18... $\mathbb{W}e7$ A double threat, but there are many remedies. We will give the easiest solution for a human as the main line and three alternatives. 19. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ a) 19. $\mathbb{W}h5$ h6 20. $\mathbb{W}xf7 \dagger$ $\mathbb{W}xf7$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}c7 \dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xd5 \dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xb7 \pm$ — with three extra pawns. b) 19. $\mathbb{W}c2$ $\mathbb{W}xg5$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}cx d5 \pm$ — and Black loses due to the back-rank problems. c) 19. $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ and White continues with a capture on d5, after which the rook on a8 is in trouble. 19... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ (19... $\mathbb{W}xf7$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xd5! \mathbb{Q}xd5$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xd5 \mathbb{Q}xd5$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}c8 \dagger \pm$) 20. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xd5 \dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 22. $\mathbb{W}h5 \dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 23. $\mathbb{W}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}a7$ 24. $\mathbb{W}f5 \dagger$ (but not 24. $\mathbb{W}d8 \dagger?$ $\mathbb{W}e8 \pm$) 24... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 25. $\mathbb{W}c8 \dagger \pm$ 19... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}cx d5 \pm$ — The knight on g5 is defended.

471. Fritz Sämisch – Max Euwe, Bad Nauheim 1937

36... $\mathbb{Q}g3 \dagger!$ 36... $\mathbb{Q}d3$ also defends against the mate, but is a tempo and thus a pawn worse. 37. $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ $\mathbb{W}c2 \dagger$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{W}xd3$ 39. $\mathbb{W}xe5 \dagger$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ $\mathbb{W}e3 \dagger$ Or 37... $\mathbb{W}c3 \dagger$. 38. $\mathbb{W}f3$ $\mathbb{W}xd2 \pm \checkmark$ Black exchanges queens or wins the e4-pawn with check.

472. Alexander Alekhine – Max Euwe, Netherlands (6) 1937

7. $\mathbb{Q}xb5!$ $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 7... $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 8. $\mathbb{Q}d5 \pm \checkmark$ 8. $\mathbb{W}b3 \dagger +$ 8. $\mathbb{W}xd4$ $\mathbb{W}xd4$ 9. $\mathbb{Q}fxd4$ is also good enough – Black can't take on b5 due to the same reason as before, but White should avoid 8. $\mathbb{Q}a3?$ $\mathbb{Q}xa3$ 9. $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ $\mathbb{Q}b4 \pm$. In the game, he is ready to rescue the knight. 8... $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ Euwe played: 8... $\mathbb{W}e7$ 9.0–0 (1–0, 23 moves) 9. $\mathbb{Q}xf7 \dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}d7 \checkmark$ The black king is a decisive factor – no more moves are needed.

473. Max Euwe – Siegfried van Mindeno, Amsterdam 1938

White has a winning advantage after any queen retreat, but can decide the game in a few moves by going the other way. 30. $\mathbb{W}f7 \dagger!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xf7 \dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}d1 \dagger!$ $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xc7 \dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}xc7$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}d7 \dagger \checkmark$ 1–0 The active rook together with the light-squared bishop and passed pawns spells the end.

474. Max Euwe – Salo Flohr, Netherlands 1938

30. $\mathbb{Q}e4 \dagger!$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 30... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ unblocks the route to the f5-square: 31. $\mathbb{W}f5 \dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 32. $\mathbb{W}xc8 \dagger \pm \checkmark$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}g6 \dagger$ 31. $\mathbb{W}xb7$ is also winning. 31... $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}e7 \dagger \pm \checkmark$ White takes on c8.

475. Max Euwe – Nicolaas Cortlever, Beverwijk 1940

11. $\mathbb{Q}c4 \dagger \pm \checkmark$ 1–0 Both black knights are hanging and 11... $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 12. $\mathbb{Q}xd5 \dagger \checkmark$ or 12. $\mathbb{W}xd5 \dagger$ comes with check and picks up the second knight.

476. Max Euwe – Haije Kramer, Netherlands (3) 1941

27. $\mathbb{Q}xf7 \dagger!$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}c1$ would be winning, if it were not for: 27... $\mathbb{W}g3 \dagger!$ (27... $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xf7 \dagger!$ or 27... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}d5 \dagger!$) 28. $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4 \dagger$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}e2 \dagger$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}e3 \dagger$ With perpetual check. 27... $\mathbb{W}xf7$ 27... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 28. $\mathbb{W}d5 \dagger \checkmark$ with mate. 28. $\mathbb{W}xc5 \pm \checkmark$ The point behind White's little combination was to exchange bishops to keep his king safe. He is still a pawn up when Black captures on f5, although the isolated bishop on h6 gives Black compensation. If you evaluated this position as dangerous for White and deliberately allowed the draw, you also get full points.

477. Efim Bogoljubov – Max Euwe, Karlsbad (5) 1941

23... $\mathbb{Q}xf3\#!$ 24. $\mathbb{W}xf3$ 24.gxf3 $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}g2 \mathbb{W}xg2$ mate ✓ 24... $\mathbb{W}h1\#!$ Not 24... $\mathbb{Q}xf3?$ 25.gxf3∞ and Black is happy if the g- and h-pawns hold the balance, since White has rook and two bishops for the queen. 25. $\mathbb{Q}e2 \mathbb{W}xg2\#!$ That's it – Black keeps his bishop. 26. $\mathbb{Q}d3 \mathbb{W}xf3-$ ✓

478. Efim Bogoljubov – Max Euwe, Karlsbad (1) 1941

25... $\mathbb{Q}g3!$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}xg3 \mathbb{Q}xf4\#$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}c2 \mathbb{Q}xg3\#$ Black has won a pawn and White cannot take it back, since 28. $\mathbb{Q}xh7?$ $g6-$ + ✓ loses the bishop.

479. Arnoldus van den Hoek – Max Euwe, The Hague 1942

22... $\mathbb{Q}xb2!$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xb2 \mathbb{W}e5$ A double threat. 24. $\mathbb{Q}fb1 \mathbb{W}xh2\#$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}f1 \mathbb{Q}f4!-$ + ✓ The queen is trapped.

480. Max Euwe – George Thomas, Zaandam 1946

38. $\mathbb{Q}g6\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}f7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 40. $\mathbb{W}d8\#!$ Black resigned due to 40... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}e8\#$ ✓ and he has to part with his queen.

481. Max Euwe – Daniel Yanofsky, Groningen 1946

28. $\mathbb{Q}c5!$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}b8?$ allows 28... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ since 29.a6 $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 30.a7 c5= defends. 28... $\mathbb{Q}d3$ The a-pawn is unstoppable after 28...dxc5 29.a6+-. 29. $\mathbb{Q}xd6\#$ ✓ Black should be able to draw this. 28. $\mathbb{Q}c5$ is nevertheless the best move since it is the only one that has any chance of winning, and in the game it gave Euwe the full point (1–0, 46 moves).

482. Henry Grob – Max Euwe, Zurich (2) 1947

21... $\mathbb{Q}xf2\#!$ 21... $\mathbb{W}xe5$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ and White is clearly better, no matter how Black takes on f2. He has no time for 22... $\mathbb{Q}xf2\#$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}h2 \mathbb{Q}xe1?$ due to 24. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#-$. 22. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xf2 \mathbb{W}xe5-$ + ✓ wins the queen. 22... $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ 23. $\mathbb{W}xf4 \mathbb{Q}xf4-$ +

483. Max Euwe – Paul Keres, The Hague/Moscow (1) 1948

38... $\mathbb{Q}xc1!$ 39. $\mathbb{h}3$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}xc1?$ $\mathbb{Q}f3\#-$ + ✓ wins the queen, so the only move was 39. $\mathbb{W}f2\#$ ✓, to defend the f3-square. The queenside pawns give some hope of survival, even though Black is a piece up. 39... $\mathbb{Q}f3\#-$ + ✓ For some reason, Keres didn't execute the fork but he was still winning after 39... $\mathbb{Q}g3$.

484. Esteban Canal – Max Euwe, Dubrovnik (ol) 1950

11. $\mathbb{Q}xd4!$ $\mathbb{exd}4$ 12. $\mathbb{W}a4\#!$ $b5$ 12... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 13. $\mathbb{W}xd4\pm$ 13. $\mathbb{Q}xb5\#!$ $axb5$ 14. $\mathbb{W}xb5\#$ $\mathbb{W}d7\pm$ It's possible to be exact here, but you don't have to see the move in advance. 15. $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ The game continued 15. $\mathbb{W}xd5?$ $\mathbb{W}xd5$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ when 16... $\mathbb{Q}a5\pm$ wins back one of the pawns. 15. $\mathbb{W}xd7\#?$ is also dubious, since it helps Black to develop the h8-rook one move faster. After 15. $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ (which, we repeat, you don't need to see in advance to earn full points) White manoeuvres the knight to b5 – a better square. He can, for instance, take on d4 after: 15... $\mathbb{W}xb5$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}c7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ $\mathbb{Q}e8\#$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xd4-$

485. Max Euwe – Yuri Averbakh, Zurich 1953

36... $\mathbb{Q}xa3!$ 36... $\mathbb{Q}c7\#$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}xa3$ $\mathbb{Q}b5$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3-$ + ✓ White has to sacrifice the bishop for the a-pawn, and the knight for the b-pawn. 38... $a3?$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}d2=$

486. Max Euwe – Daniel Yanofsky, Munich (ol) 1958

25. $\mathbb{Q}xe6!$ $fxe6$ 26. $\mathbb{W}xg6\#$ ✓ White's attack is so clearly winning that no more variations are needed. Euwe won after: 26... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}d3+$ – 1–0

487. Enrico Paoli – Max Euwe, Chaumont Neuchatel 1958

17. $\mathbb{Q}xg6\#$! $hxg6$ 18. $\mathbb{W}xg6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 18... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 19. $\mathbb{W}f7$ mate ✓ 19. $\mathbb{W}xg7$ Instead of being a pawn down, White is a pawn up. The opposite-coloured bishops give Black full compensation, but that's better than the alternative – to have a position that is clearly worse. 19... $\mathbb{W}h5$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}f4\#$ ✓

Mikhail Botvinnik

Chess cannot be taught. Chess can only be learned.

488. Mikhail Botvinnik – Moisey Kagan, Leningrad 1926

27. $\mathbb{Q}xe4!$ $\mathbb{B}xc2$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xc2+$ – White has won a pawn, since 28... $fxe4$ is met by 29. $\mathbb{W}xc8\#$ $\mathbb{B}xc8?$ 30. $\mathbb{B}xc8\#$ ✓ with back-rank mate.

489. Ilya Rabinovich – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1927

21... $\mathbb{B}xf4$! Not as good is 21... $exf3$ 22. $\mathbb{W}xg6$ $hxg6$ 23. $\mathbb{B}c1$ $fxe2\#$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ when the bishop pair gives a clear advantage. 22. $\mathbb{gxf4}$ $\mathbb{W}g3-$ + ✓ Black's position is simply winning, with 23... $\mathbb{Q}c5$, 23... $e3$, 23... $\mathbb{B}f8$ and 23... $\mathbb{Q}h3$ all being strong moves. 23. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 23. $fxe4$ and among others 23... $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$ 24. $\mathbb{B}xh3$ $\mathbb{W}xh3\#$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3-$ +. 23... $dxe4$ Easy is 23... $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$ 24. $\mathbb{B}xh3$ $\mathbb{W}xh3\#$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $dxe4-$ + with an extra piece. 24. $\mathbb{B}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}c5!-$ + Black checkmates or wins the rook on h1 (0–1, 42 moves). But not 24... $e3??$ 25. $\mathbb{B}xg7\#$ –.

490. Nil Panchenko – Mikhail Botvinnik, Leningrad 1927

19... $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ The Lars Christofersson trap, as we say in the north part of Lund. The knight is saved with a lifeline after: 20. $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7\#$ ✓ (½–½, 48 moves)

491. Mikhail Botvinnik – Nikolay Pavlov-Pianov, Moscow 1927

28. $\mathbb{B}xd7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 28... $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 29. $\mathbb{W}xf8$ mate ✓ 29. $e6!$ White wins a piece, due to: 29... $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 30. $\mathbb{B}xe6$ $\mathbb{W}xe6$ 31. $\mathbb{W}xf8$ mate ✓

492. Mikhail Botvinnik – V. Breitman, Leningrad 1931

23. $\mathbb{Q}f5!$ 1–0 A few other moves also promise White good winning chances. The main point of the text move is that 23... $gxf5$ 24. $\mathbb{W}g5-$ + ✓ forces Black to give up the unprotected queen to avoid mate.

493. Mikhail Botvinnik – Vladimir Alatortsev, Moscow 1931

White obviously has a much better position, but he also has the opportunity to immediately capitalize on Black's set-up. 24. $\mathbb{B}xg4!$ $\mathbb{W}xg4$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}h3$ $\mathbb{W}f3$ 25... $\mathbb{W}h4$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}e6\#$ – 26. $\mathbb{B}f1$ The queen is trapped. 26... $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ 27. $\mathbb{B}xf3$ $\mathbb{B}xf3$ Black gained two rooks in return, but the variation is not over yet. 28. $\mathbb{B}xg3$ $\mathbb{B}xg3$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}e6\#$ ✓ 30. $\mathbb{W}f2\#$ or 30. $\mathbb{W}h2\#$ picks up the rook (or leads to mate).

494. Mikhail Botvinnik – Vladimir Alatortsev, Leningrad 1932

21.e4! White breaks through, as Black cannot allow the check on f7. **21...Qxe5** a) 21...dxe4 22.Qf7† ♜h8 (22...♜h6 23.Qxf5+– followed by a check on g4 or a rook lift to h3.) 23.Qxg6† (23.Qxb6 Qxb6 24.Qxb7+–) 23...hxg6 24.Qxg6+– Black's extra piece, which is hiding on the queenside, can't protect the king. A direct threat is 25.Qxf5 followed by 26.Qc3. b) 21...fxe4 22.Qxd7 (or 22.Qxd7 Qxd7 23.Qxd7 ♜xd7 24.Qxb6+–) 22...Qxd7 23.Qxd7 ♜xd7 24.Qxb6 ✓ and 25.Qxa8+– **22.dxe5 fxe4 23.Qxb6 Ra7+– ✓** More moves are not needed, but one way to win is **24.Qe3** planning a discovered attack against the a7-rook. White chose another good move with 24.e6 (1–0, 31 moves).

495. Mikhail Botvinnik – Mikhail Yudovich, Leningrad 1933

22.Qxg6! There is a second solution: 22.Qg5†! hxg5 23.Qxg6 ♜e8 24.Qxf8†+– **22...Qxg6 23.Qh5†!! 1–0** Black resigned due to 23...Qxh5 24.Qg3†! ✓ ♜h4 25.Qe4† ♜f4 26.Qxf4 mate.

496. Victor Goglidze – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1935

24...Qxa3! 24...Qxe2 25.Qxf8 ♜xf8 26.Qxb6= **25.Qxa3 Qxe2 26.Qxb6 Rab8! 27.Qd6 Qxf1†! Qb1†** Black resigned due to 29.Qe2 Qc2 mate ✓.

497. Mikhail Botvinnik – Vitaly Chekhov, Moscow 1935

29.Qe6† Qxe6 30.Qxe6† Qh8 31.Qh3† White can also start with 31.Qxf6. **31...Qg8 32.Qxf6! Qxf6 33.Qh7†** Or immediately 33.Qe1!+–. **33...Qf8 34.Qe1!+– ✓** Black must give up almost everything to avoid mate (1–0, 43 moves).

498. Viacheslav Ragozin – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1938

25...Qxf2! 26.Qxf2 26.Qxf2 Qd2†! 27.Qe2 and Black wins after 27...Qd4† or 27...f5 28.Qf4 Qd4† ✓. **26...Qxc1†+– ✓** Black has won a pawn and more will come (0–1, 31 moves).

499. Alexander Kotov – Mikhail Botvinnik, Leningrad 1939

37...Qxg2†! 38.Qxg2 Rx e2+– ✓ Black has won an exchange and a pawn.

500. Vladimir Makogonov – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1940

40.Qxf8†! Qxf8 40...Qxf8 41.Qb8† Qe8 42.Qxe8 mate ✓ 41.Qd5† Qh8 41...Qf7 42.Qe8 mate ✓ 42.Qxc4+– ✓ Black resigned a move later.

501. Andor Lilienthal – Mikhail Botvinnik, Leningrad/Moscow 1941

39...Rg2! 40.Qe4 40.Qxg2 Qh5 mate ✓ is clear and 40.Qf1 can be met with 40...Rb2+– ✓ or 40...Ra2+–. White has problems with his king and Black wins the pawn on b3, or plays for more. **40...Rxh2† 40...Qxb3+–** also wins a second pawn (and full points). **41.Qxh2 Qh5† 42.Qg2 Qxd1+– ✓** (0–1, 55 moves)

502. Mikhail Botvinnik – Viacheslav Ragozin, Moscow 1945

Black cannot keep his extra piece, but he can lose it in a clever way. 17... $\mathbb{Q}xd4\#!$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}c2\#!$ Ragozin played 18... $\mathbb{W}xd4?$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ $\mathbb{W}xf4$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}hc1\pm$ (1–0, 40 moves). 19. $\mathbb{Q}d2$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ $\mathbb{W}xc2\#$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xb2+-\checkmark$ 19... $\mathbb{Q}xb2\#!$ 19... $\mathbb{Q}xd2\#$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ $\mathbb{W}xd4\#$ wins another pawn for the exchange and secures a small advantage as well after 21. $\mathbb{Q}c2!$ $\mathbb{W}xf2\#$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}b1.$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xa4$ $\mathbb{Q}xb7\#-\checkmark$ Black is a pawn up and the bishop pair is more than compensated for by the difference in pawn islands.

503. Arnold Denker – Mikhail Botvinnik, Radio Match 1945

22... $\mathbb{Q}xh2\#!$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xh2$ $\mathbb{Q}h8\#-\checkmark$ White loses the queen (0–1, 25 moves).

504. Mikhail Botvinnik – Alexander Kotov, Groningen 1946

23... $\mathbb{W}xg3\#!$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ $\mathbb{Q}e4\#-\checkmark$ A fork and a pin (0–1, 45 moves).

505. Mikhail Botvinnik – Paul Keres, Moscow 1952

30. $\mathbb{Q}f5!$ $\mathbb{Q}ee8$ 30... $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}g3\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 32. $\mathbb{W}f6\#$ is followed by 33. $\mathbb{W}xg7$ mate. The game saw 30... $\mathbb{Q}fe8+-$ (1–0, 37 moves). 31. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 31... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 32. $\mathbb{W}f6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}h3$ mate \checkmark 32. $\mathbb{W}f6\#$ \checkmark $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#-\checkmark$ Or anything else.

Vassily Smyslov

Chess as an art has a divine origin, while chess as a sport (when victory counts at all costs, sacrificing the beauty of the game) springs from the Devil. There is striking evidence of this now. After all, a computer is nothing if not the Devil because it does not create anything... It now appears that the brilliant combinations of Alekhine, Tal and other outstanding players were flawed.

Shakhmatnaya Nedelia (2003)

506. Mikhail Botvinnik – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow (10) 1954

24... $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#-\checkmark$ Black wins a pawn, since 25. $\mathbb{Q}xe5?$ $\mathbb{W}xe4\#-\checkmark$ picks up the rook on h1. Botvinnik postponed resignation with 25. $\mathbb{W}e3$ (0–1, 37 moves).

507. Mikhail Botvinnik – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow (12) 1954

31. $\mathbb{Q}f7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 32. $\mathbb{W}d8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 32... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xd5\#-\checkmark$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xd5\#!$ Forking three pieces! 33... $\mathbb{Q}f2\#$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{W}f6$ Saving the rook, but not the knight. 35. $\mathbb{W}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{Q}xf5\#$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}f3\#-\checkmark$ $\mathbb{Q}f4$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 1–0

508. Paul Keres – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1955

9. $\mathbb{Q}a4\#!$ 9. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xb3$ 10. $\mathbb{Q}xb3$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2=$ 9... $\mathbb{W}d7$ 9... $b5$ 10. $\mathbb{Q}xd5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}bxa4$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}xf3\#-$ and White has three threats: 12. $\mathbb{Q}xa8$, 12. $dxe5$ and 12. $b4$. 10. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 10... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 11. $\mathbb{W}xd7\#-\checkmark$ 11. $\mathbb{W}xd7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 12. $\mathbb{Q}xf3\#-\checkmark$ White is a pawn up and has the bishop pair and safer king to boot (1–0, 27 moves).

509. Mikhail Botvinnik – Nikola Padovsky, Moscow (ol) 1956

23. ♜xf6! ♜f7 23... ♜xd1 24. ♜d5†!+– ✓ wins the queen and 23... ♜d4 is not a safe stopper: 24.e3+– (or 24. ♜g4+–); 23... ♜xf6 24. ♜xf6† ♜xf6 25. ♜xd8+– ✓ **24. ♜xd8** ♜xd8 **25. ♜xh7+–** ✓ White has won two pawns (1–0, 32 moves).

510. Vassily Smyslov – Mikhail Botvinnik Moscow (4) 1957

35... ♜xd5! 35... ♜g1† 36. ♜d1 ♜e3! 37. ♜xe3† ♜xe3 38. ♜e1! ♜xd5 39. ♜xe3+– is the slow way to (probably) win. **36. ♜xd5** ♜g1† 37. ♜c2 37. ♜d1 ♜xd1† 38. ♜xd1 ♜xd1†+– ✓ **37... ♜c8†** **38. ♜d3** ♜b1†! **39. ♜d4** ♜xb2†+– ✓ White will soon have to give up his queen to avoid mate (0–1, 41 moves).

Mikhail Tal*Some sacrifices are sound; the rest are mine.***511. Mikhail Tal – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow (17) 1960**

40. ♜xa6†! bxa6 **41. ♜b6†** ♜a8 **42. ♜xa6†** ♜a7 **43. ♜xc8** mate ✓

512. Anatoly Karpov – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow (simul) 1964

32... ♜xd4! **33. ♜xd4?** Karpov played the better 33. ♜d2+– and managed to draw after 42 moves. **33... ♜c5+–** ✓

513. Yoel Aloni – Mikhail Botvinnik, Tel Aviv (ol) 1964

33... ♜h3†! **34. ♜g1 d2!** **35. ♜xg6†** 35. ♜xd2 ♜f1 mate ✓ **35... hxg6** **36. ♜h4†** ♜g8! **36... ♜xh4?** 37. ♜exh4† ♜g8 38. ♜d5 ♜c3† **0–1** White resigned, since 37. ♜xh3 d1=♕† ✓ wins the queen or mates.

514. Mikhail Botvinnik – Lajos Portisch, Monte Carlo 1968

18. ♜xf7! ♜xf7 The game continued: 18... h6 (1–0, 26 moves) **19. ♜c4†** ✓ 19. ♜g5† is also winning, but it is more difficult since White has to make a non-checking move after 19... ♜e7: a) 20. ♜xc6+–; b) 20. ♜h4+– or c) 20. ♜b3+–. **19... ♜g6** The alternatives lose material on the spot. **20. ♜g4†** Several other moves win as well. **20... ♜f7** **21. ♜g5†+–** Black is mated in four moves if he doesn't give up his queen.

515. Vassily Smyslov – Viacheslav Ragozin, Leningrad/Moscow 1939

31... ♜xf4!–+ The knight takes a pawn and threatens to continue to d3, where it cannot be taken due to the mate on g2. **32. ♜xf4?** 32. bxc4 ♜d3! wins for Black, as does the game move 32. ♜g3 (0–1, 35 moves). **32... ♜h1†** **33. ♜g3** ♜g1† **34. ♜h4** g5†+– ✓

516. Vassily Smyslov – Kirilov, Moscow 1940

16. ♜xa6! ♜xa6 Kirilov played 16... ♜c8+– (1–0, 23 moves). **17. ♜xb5** In a way it is a double threat with 18. ♜c7, since it is both mate and a (triple) fork. **17... cxb5** **18. ♜c8** mate ✓

517. Georgy Lisitsin – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1944

23... $\mathbb{Q}xc4!$ 24. $\mathbb{W}xc4$ $\mathbb{Q}e3!$ A double threat: mate and the queen. **25. $\mathbb{W}f1$ 25.fxe3 $\mathbb{Q}xe3\#$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}f3\#$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{W}f2$ mate ✓ 25... $\mathbb{Q}xf1-$ (0–1, 40 moves)**

518. Grigory Ravinsky – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1944

30... $\mathbb{Q}xf2\#$! 30... $\mathbb{Q}xe4?$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf2\#$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}c3$ (32... $\mathbb{Q}e1$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xe1\#$) is a creative try to promote the pawn, but White can put the queen on d1 or take the bait: 33. $\mathbb{W}xc3$ d1= \mathbb{W} 34. $\mathbb{Q}g4$ g6 35. $\mathbb{Q}c4$ with counterplay. **31. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ Ravinsky played 31. $\mathbb{Q}g2-$ (0–1, 41 moves) when White at least loses the e4-pawn if he takes the pawn on d2. **31... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ ✓ 0–1** Black will pick up material/promote and then mate. 31... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ is also winning, as is 31... $\mathbb{Q}c3$ 32. $\mathbb{W}xc3$ d1= \mathbb{W} -+. (But not 32... $\mathbb{W}xf2\#$? 33. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ d1= $\mathbb{Q}\#$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3=$.)**

519. Vassily Smyslov – Vladimir Alatortsev, Moscow 1945

39.c6! bxc6 40.b6! $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 41.a6 ✓ Black has to give up the bishop and the knight. **41... $\mathbb{Q}d8-$** Trying to sacrifice only the bishop for both pawns. That would still be winning for White, but even stronger is a move such as **42. $\mathbb{Q}f1!$** when White is ready to meet 42...c5 with 43. $\mathbb{Q}g2\#$. Black basically has no moves.

520. Isaak Boleslavsky – Vassily Smyslov, Groningen 1946

25... $\mathbb{Q}xc1!$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ White did not have to take immediately. The only threatening move was 26. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ when 26... $\mathbb{W}d4!$ is best. 27. $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ (27. $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ $\mathbb{W}a7-$) 27... $\mathbb{W}d7$ ✓ (or 27... $\mathbb{Q}e8-$ with a threat against f2) 28. $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ $\mathbb{Q}xb7-$ The two connected passed pawns, supported by the rook and knight, should decide. **26... $\mathbb{Q}xb7-$ ✓** Black enjoys the extra exchange without the compensating passed pawn on b7 (0–1, 34 moves).

521. Vassily Smyslov – Cenek Kottnauer, Groningen 1946

18. $\mathbb{Q}c5!$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 18... $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xd7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}a8-$ ✓ 19. $\mathbb{Q}f4!$ The queen has no squares to keep the rook on b7 defended. Worse is 19. $\mathbb{Q}a8?$ $\mathbb{W}xa8$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7!$ 21. $\mathbb{W}xa8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e7!$ and White can't defend both the king and the bishop (but he can give up the bishop and make a draw by perpetual). **19... $\mathbb{W}xf4$** Instead Black tried: 19... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 21. $\mathbb{W}xd7\#$! 1–0 **20. $\mathbb{W}xb7-$ ✓**

522. Vassily Smyslov – Kazimierz Plater, Moscow 1947

18. $\mathbb{Q}f5-$ + White wins the pawn on d6 (1–0, 23 moves), or: **18... $\mathbb{g}xf5$ 19. $\mathbb{W}g5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 20. $\mathbb{W}xg7$ mate ✓**

523. Vassily Smyslov – Genrikh Kasparian, Leningrad 1947

Black has a double threat against the queen and the rook on a8. **28. $\mathbb{Q}xe6\#$! $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 28... $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 29. $\mathbb{W}xg7$ mate ✓ 29. $\mathbb{W}g4-$ +** White can play for mate, but he can also take on h8 now when the queen has moved away from the threat (1–0, 39 moves).

524. Gedeon Barcza – Vassily Smyslov, Budapest 1949

18... $\mathbb{Q}e3!$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ The game continued: 19. $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1-$ (0–1, 40 moves) **19... $\mathbb{Q}xe3\#$ -+** ✓

525. Grigory Levenfish – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1949

32. ♜h8†! ♜f7 32... ♜xh8 33. ♜h6† ♜g8 34. ♜g7 mate ✓ 33. ♜g5† There is no way to force resignation after 33. ♜xa8?! ♜xa8 34. ♜g5† ♜f8!+–. 33... ♜g7 34. ♜xa8 **1–0** Black resigned, as 34... ♜xa8 35. ♜e7†+– ✓ wins the knight.

526. Semen Furman – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1949

30. ♜xg6†! ♜xg6 30... hxg6 31. ♜h3 mate ✓ 31. ♜xc4† ✓ ♜g7 32. ♜xg7† ♜xg7 White wins a second pawn with 33. ♜c7†+– (1–0, 53 moves) or 33. ♜a4+–.

527. Enrico Paoli – Vassily Smyslov, Venice 1950

32... ♜xc2! 33. ♜xc2 33. ♜xe5 defends against the check on f3, but the problem is the undefended rook on a1: 33... ♜xe5 34. ♜xc2 ♜xa1+– ✓ 33... ♜f3† 34. ♜f2 34. ♜h1 ♜g3 ✓ and 35... ♜h2/ ♜g1 mate. 34... ♜g3†! 35. ♜e2 ♜fd4† Or 35... ♜ed4+–. 36. ♜d1 ♜xc2+– ✓

528. Isaak Boleslavsky – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1950

16. ♜xb5! ♜xb5 Black played: 16... c6+– (1–0, 83 moves) **17. ♜a4±** ✓ There would follow 18. ♜xd7.

529. Vassily Smyslov – Efim Geller, Moscow 1951

31. ♜xf6! ♜xf6 31... ♜e7+– was played in the game (1–0, 48 moves). **32. ♜h6† ♜f7** 33. ♜xh7† ♜f6 34. ♜xb7+– ✓

530. Gideon Stahlberg – Vassily Smyslov, Stockholm 1954

36... ♜xg3! 37. hxg3 37. ♜g4 does not keep the material balance, for example: 37... ♜e4 38. ♜xg5† ♜xg5 39. ♜c4 ♜e4 40. ♜d6 ♜xa4† 37... ♜xg3† 38. ♜f1 ♜exe3 39. ♜xe3 ♜xe3 40. ♜xa7 ✓ White should draw, but Black is pressing. That is quite a difference from the starting position, where White was a pawn up. **40... ♜f5†** (0–1, 64 moves)

531. Vassily Smyslov – Wolfgang Unzicker, Hastings 1954

25. ♜h3! ♜xh3 26. ♜xd6+– ✓ White chooses between the c7- and e5-pawns.

532. Vassily Smyslov – Laszlo Szabo, Hastings 1954

35. c6! Clearing c5 for the knight. **35... exf4†** 36. ♜xf4 bxc6 The only way to stop 37. c7. **37. ♜c5† ♜d6** 38. ♜xb3+– ✓ (1–0, 43 moves)

533. Paul Keres – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1955

31... ♜h1†! Magnet sacrifice. **32. ♜xh1** Keres played 32. ♜g3. Without the rook hanging on c1, Black can play 32... g6+– with an extra rook, or go for a winning attack with 32... ♜d3†. **32... ♜d1†!** 33. ♜h2 ♜xg4 34. hxg4 gxh6+– ✓

534. Vassily Smyslov – Miguel Najdorf, Moscow 1956

27. ♜xh7!± White won a pawn, since 27... ♜xh7? isn't possible: **28. ♜xe7 ♜xe7** 29. ♜xc8†+– ✓ Najdorf fought on with 27... ♜g7 and made a draw.

535. Mikhail Tal – Vassily Smyslov, Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade 1959

19.♕xf7! 19.♗xf7†? ♜g8 20.♗h6† gxh6 21.♗xh6= and White holds the balance after some accuracy. The game move highlights the awkward placement of the black bishops. **19...♛a1†** 19...♝xf7 20.♝xd8† ♜f8 21.♝xf8† mate ✓ **20.♝d2 ♜xf7** 20...♝xd1† 21.♝xd1 (or 21.♝xd1 ♜xf7 22.♝xf7† ♜g8 23.♝xd8+–) 21...♝xf7 22.♝xf7† ♜g8 23.♝xd8+– ✓ **21.♝xf7† ♜g8** 22.♝xa1+–✓ (1–0, 26 moves)

536. Robert Fischer – Vassily Smyslov, Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade 1959

Black has a large material advantage, but is under attack. **32...♛f5!** 32...♝f8 33.♝xg5 ♜d3! 34.♝d1± **33.♝g1** 33.♝d1 ♜xf1† 34.♝xf1 ♜cb5 ✓ regains the queen with a winning material advantage and 33.♝e2 can be met in the same way, or with 33...♝b2 34.♝e1 ♜g6 35.h4 e3+–. **33...♜g6!–+** ✓ Black managed to defend his king, retaining a winning material advantage. **34.♝e2 ♜c6** Even better is: 34...♝cb5! 35.h4 ♜b2 36.♝e1 (36.♝d1 e3+–) 36...e3 37.hxg5 e2+– **35.h4 ♜xf6** Still, Black had enough pawns to win (48 moves).

537. Nikolac Bakulin – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1961

39...♝xb2! **40.♝xb2 ♜d2†–+** ✓ Black wins back the queen, and then both bishops. In the game, 40.♝e2+– limited the loss to a second pawn, but even that was too much (0–1, 41 moves).

538. Vassily Smyslov – Ratmir Kholmov, Baku 1961

33.♝xf6†! ♜xf6 33...gxsf6 shows why the knight had to go: 34.♝d5†! ♜f8 35.♝e6† with beautiful coordination of the white pieces. 35...♝f7 (35...♝e7 going for the d5-bishop does not help because of the bishop on e8: 36.♝d4† ♜d6 37.♝xc2 ♜xd5 38.♝xe8+– ✓) 36.♝d4†! ♜f8 37.♝xc2+– ✓ **34.♝xe8±** ✓ By keeping the rooks on the board, White can play for an attack (1–0, 43 moves).

539. Vassily Smyslov – Hector Rossetto, Mar del Plata 1962

37.e4! 37.exd4 ♜xd4= is a double threat. **37...♝xe4** **38.♝xe4 ♜xe4+–** ✓ By forcing Black's rook to an unpleasant square, while keeping the king away from checks, White has made the c-pawn a winner. Most moves win, among them Smyslov's: **39.♝b1 ♜e3** **40.♝b8† ♜g7** **41.♝c4** 1–0

540. Georgi Tringov – Vassily Smyslov, Havana 1965

37...♝xg3! **38.♝xg3** 38.♝xa5 ♜h4 ✓ 0–1 was the game, with mate. **38...♛c3†** **39.♝f2 ♜xd2†–+** ✓ Black either picks up the f4-pawn with check or forces mate.

541. Vassily Smyslov – Eleazar Jimenez Zerquera, Havana 1965

37...♛e3! **38.♝e1!** The only defence against mate. 38.♝xe3 ♜xd1† 39.♝g2 ♜g1 mate ✓ **38...♜g1†!** **39.♝d2 ♜xd3†!** **40.exd3** 40.♝xd3 ♜xd1†! 41.♝xd1 ♜f2†–+ ✓ **40...♜xh2†** **41.♝c3 ♜xg3–+** It's too many pawns (0–1, 59 moves).

542. Efim Geller – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1965

32.♕f8! White could maybe have postponed the sacrifice for one move, although that would be somewhat weaker – Black had no sufficient defence. **32...♔xf8** **32...♗xf8** **33.♖h7 mate ✓** (or **33.♗h8 mate**) **33.♗h8† ♕g8** **34.♗h7!+– ✓** Taking the queen with the rook is stronger, since there is more to come with e5-e6 and ♗f6†. Geller played **34.♗h7?!** ♔f7 **35.e6† ♗xe6** **36.♗g5† ♕e7** **37.♗xe6 ♕xe6** **38.♗g7† ♔d6+–** when White is probably winning, but not easily (1–0, 60 moves).

543. Vassily Smyslov – Antonio Magrin, Lugano (ol) 1968

34.♗f7†! ♘xf7 **35.♗g5+– ✓** The only defence against **36.♗h5 mate** is to give back the piece, when White still has a winning attack (1–0, 41 moves).

544. Donald Byrne – Vassily Smyslov, Lugano (ol) 1968

24...♗xg3! **25.fxg3 ♗xg3†** **26.♗g1 ♗h2† ✓** Black has a winning attack. **27.♗f2 ♗g3†** There are other moves as well. **28.♗e3 ♗xe1 0–1** It will soon be mate.

545. Mikhail Tal – Vassily Smyslov, Herceg Novi (blitz) 1970

33...♗xh3†! **34.gxh3 ♘xh3** It is not possible to save the knight on g4. **35.♗d4 ♘d3+– (0–1, 39 moves)** Or **35...h5+–**.

546. Leonid Stein – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1972

28.♗h8! The g2-bishop is unpinned and White wins material. Stein executed the same motif with: **28.♗xc6 ♘xc6** **29.♗h8!+– (1–0, 35 moves)** **28...♗xb7** **29.♗xg8† ♕e7** **30.♗xb7+– ✓**

547. Vassily Smyslov – Roman Dzindzichashvili, Moscow 1972

17.♗xe6! fxe6 **18.♗g4** A double threat against g7 and e6. **18...♗f6** **18...♗de5** **19.♗xe6† ♕h8** **20.♗xb6** is similar to the game and **18...♗ce5?** **19.♗xe6† ♕f8** **20.f4+– ✓** wins back the piece. **19.♗xe6† ♕h8** **20.♗xb6± ✓** White gets more than enough for the knights: a rook and three pawns (1–0, 26 moves).

548. Vassily Smyslov – Walter Browne, Hastings 1972

16.♗xb5! **♗xb5** Browne fought on with **16...♗a6± (0–1, 33 moves)**. **17.♗xc8 ♗xc8** **18.♗xe7† ♕h8** **19.♗xc8+– ✓**

549. Gerardo Lebredo Zarragoitia – Vassily Smyslov, Cienfuegos 1973

36...♗f1†! **37.♗g3 h4†** **38.♗g4** **38.♗xh4 ♗xf4†** **39.g4 ✓** Black wins the bishop in several ways, for instance **39...♗g5†+–**. **38...♗xg2† ✓** The king cannot go to the fifth rank due to the queen check on d5 and after **39.♗xh4** there are again several ways to win. Easiest is: **39...g5†** **40.♗h5 gxg4+–**

550. Vassily Smyslov – Boris Spassky, Moscow 1973

27...h6! **27...♗d8?** **28.♗e3†** does not win material. **28.♗h4 ♗d8+– ✓** Smyslov gave up a second exchange and continued for just a few moves (0–1, 33 moves).

551. Vassily Smyslov – Istvan Bilek, Venice 1974

18.♕xg7! A magnet exchange followed by a clearance sacrifice. **18...♗xg7 19.d5!** White threatens 20.dxc6 as well as 20.♗d4† ♗g8 21.♗xg4. **19...♗g8 20.dxc6± ✓** (1–0, 30 moves)

552. Garry Kasparov – Vassily Smyslov, Leningrad 1975

26...♗xf6! **26...♗xg2?** does not work immediately: 27.h4! and the queen cannot keep a connection to both f4 and g2: 27...♗h6 (27...♗g6 28.♗xg2+–) 28.♗xg2+– **27.♗xf6 ♗xg2!** Black wins an important pawn. **28.h4** The game continued: 28.♗h2? ♗e3–+ (28...♗xh3 is also winning) Instead, White should settle for 28.♗f5 ♗xf5 29.♗xf5 ♗xf5 30.♗xf5 ♗xh3±. **28...♗g4+ ✓** There is a threat against d1. Also winning is 28...♗h5.

553. Vassily Smyslov – Lothar Vogt, Leningrad 1977

White efficiently removes the black pawns on d5, e6 and f7: **24.gxf7†! ♗xf7 25.♗xe6! ♗xe6 26.♗xd5 ✓** White wins the whole rook on e6 with a huge material surplus (1–0, 40 moves).

554. Vassily Smyslov – Jingxuan Qi, Buenos Aires 1978

Black is a rook up, but is about to lose it. However, there is a way to keep the bishop. **22...f4! 23.♗xf4 23.gxf4?! ♗g6†!–+ ✓ 23...♗c7 24.♗xc6 ♗xc6± ✓** The queen cannot take on e7 anymore. White later managed to outplay his much lower-rated opponent though (1–0, 74 moves).

555. Vassily Smyslov – Włodzimierz Schmidt, Moscow 1980

35.♗xf6†! ♗xf6 36.♗d7† ♗h6 37.♗xf6 ✓ A pawn and an ongoing attack should be enough to win (1–0, 38 moves).

556. Vassily Smyslov – Robert Hübner, Velden 1983

32.♗xh7! **♗xh7 32...♗xh7 33.♗g6†!–+ ✓** winning the rook on f8. **33.♗g6†** White has a decisive attack. **33...♗g7 34.♗d7†! 34.♗g4!** also wins but 34.♗xf8 ♗xh3 35.♗xa8 is less clear, even though it should be winning eventually. **34...♗f7 35.♗xf7† ♗xf7 36.♗xe5+– ✓** (1–0, 48 moves)

557. Vassily Smyslov – Gennadi Sosonko, Tilburg 1984

30.♗xf8†! ♗xf8 31.♗c5† Black resigned, as White picks up the rook on d3 after: **31...♗g8 32.♗c8† ♗h7 33.♗f5† ♗g8 34.♗xd3+– ✓**

558. Kevin Spraggett – Vassily Smyslov, Montpellier 1985

14...♗xh3! **0–1** White resigned (prematurely). The point is: 15.gxh3 ♗xd4 16.♗xd4 ♗f3† 17.♗g2 ♗xd4± ✓ White is a pawn down and is weak on the dark squares. But it would not hurt to play on with, for instance, 15.♗e2±.

559. Vassily Smyslov – Helgi Olafsson, Copenhagen 1985

23.♗xb7! **♗xc2 23...♗xb7 24.♗c7† ♗b6 25.♗xe7± ✓ 24.♗xd6** The knight is trapped after 24.♗xd8? ♗g6–+. **24...♗xb3 25.♗f7! ♗f8 26.axb3 ♗xf7 27.♗c5!± ✓** White wins a pawn (1–0, 53 moves). 27.♗d1 is also good enough.

560. Petar Popovic – Vassily Smyslov, Ljubljana 1985

28.♕xe7! ♕xe7 29.♗xf6+– ✓ Black is lost on the dark squares and cannot close the diagonal. The game finished: **29...♜e5 29...♝ce8 30.♗h8† ♔f7 31.♗g7 mate 30.♗xd6 1–0**

561. Ilya Smirin – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1988

22.♗xf7! ♕xf7 22...♝xf7 could be met with, among others, 23.♗g5† ♔g8 24.♗xe6 and White wins back the piece (at least) and keeps the pawns. **23.♗xe6+– ✓** Black is unable to deal with 24.♗g5 and 24.♗e5 (1–0, 28 moves).

562. Vassily Smyslov – Jan Timman, Moscow (blitz) 1993

24.♕xf6! exf6 25.♗xh7† ♔f8 Timman may have thought that the king was escaping. **26.♖e1! ♕e6 27.♖xe6! ✓ 1–0** It is mate on f7.

563. Vassily Smyslov – Lembit Oll, Rostov on Don 1993

29.g4†! ♔xe4 29...♝xg4 30.fxg5†+– 30.♗f2† ♕xf4 31.♗g1! The threat is 32.♗d2 mate. **31...e4 32.♗h3 mate ✓**

564. Susan Polgar – Vassily Smyslov, Vienna 1993

Loose pieces, even queens, are in danger of dropping off. **40.♕c8† ♔h7 41.♕h8†! ♕xh8 42.♗g6† ♔h7 43.♗xh4+– ✓** (1–0, 63 moves)

565. Vassily Smyslov – Johan Ingbrandt, Stockholm 1996

21.♗xe5! ♕xe5 22.♗h5+– ✓ The pin along the fifth rank wins back the piece, with numerous threats against the remaining bishop, the queen, the king and the weak pawns – something will drop off. But instead 22.♗d5?! ♜d8 23.♗xe5 ♕xe5 24.♗xe5 ♗g6 is not so much better for White.

566. Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant – Vassily Smyslov, London 1996

29.♗f6†! 29.♗xg7†? ♕xg7 30.♗g1† ♗g6 and White's best is a repetition with: **31.♗c7† ♕f7 32.♗c3† ♔h7 33.♗f6† ♕h8 34.♗h5† ♔h7 35.♗f6† 29...♝f7 29...♝f8 30.♗c5†! ✓** transposes, as 30...♝e7+– moves into a deadly pin. And 29...♝h8 is met by: **30.♗d8† ♜xd8 31.♗xd8† ♜e8 32.♗xe8 mate ✓ 30.♗c7†! ♜e7 30...♝xf6** and Black is mated after 31.♗xg7† ✓ or 31.♗d6†. **31.♗xg7†! ♕xg7 32.♗xe7† ✓** White's position is generally winning, but there is also a mating attack on the way. Black resigned after: **32...♝h8 33.♗g1 1–0 33.♗d7** is also good enough.

Mikhail Tal

To play for a draw, at any rate with White, is to some degree a crime against chess.

567. Mikhail Tal – A. Leonov, Vilnius 1949

22.♗f6†! 22.♗f6? gxf6? 23.♗xh6†+– and 22.♗h4 both retain a huge advantage. 22...♝xf6 After 22...gxf6, White can transpose or use one of the extra options: 23.♗xh7† and 23.♗g4† are both winning. **23.exf6 ♗xf6 23...♝c7 24.fxg7** was the game, and Black resigned on the next move. **24.♗xf6 ♕g7 25.♗xh6 f5 26.♗h4+– ✓** White is a pawn up and can manoeuvre the other rook into the attack.

568. Marks Pasman – Mikhail Tal, Riga 1952

17... $\mathbb{Q}g3\#!$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ f x g 3 (or 18... $\mathbb{Q}xh2\#$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xh2$ f x g $3\#-$, winning the queen) 19. $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{Q}xh2$ mate ✓ 18... $\mathbb{W}h4!$ There are threats against h 3 and h 2 . Not 18... $\mathbb{Q}xg4?$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xg3!$ and White holds on. 19. $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ f x g 3 20.h x g 3 20. $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ $\mathbb{W}xh2\#$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{W}xd2-$ ✓ 20... $\mathbb{W}h2\#$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}f6!-$ ✓ The only way to win after 17... $\mathbb{Q}g3\#$. Black threatens 22... $\mathbb{Q}xf3\#$ and 22... $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ (0–1, 35 moves).

569. Mikhail Tal – Artur Darznieks, Riga 1953

16. $\mathbb{Q}xb5!$ $\mathbb{W}a5$ White loses a piece on the queenside, but is compensated on f 7 and e 8 . 16...c x b $5?$ loses straight away: 17. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xc7-$ ✓ 17. $\mathbb{Q}d6$ Or 17. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xc6-$, or 17.b $4-$. 17... $\mathbb{W}xa3$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xc6-$ White has too many pawns.

570. Mikhail Tal – Vladimir Saigin, Riga 1954

15...c6!# White has to retreat, since 16.d x c $6?$ $\mathbb{W}b6-$ ✓ is a double threat. Tal managed to draw after 16. $\mathbb{Q}c4\#$.

571. A. Ostrauskas – Mikhail Tal, Vilnius 1955

31... $\mathbb{Q}g2\#$! 32. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{Q}f2\#$! 33. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{W}xh2\#$ ✓ 34. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{W}xc2-$ (0–1, 39 moves)

572. Abram Khasin – Mikhail Tal, Leningrad 1956

32... $\mathbb{Q}e1!$ 32... $\mathbb{Q}e1?$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}xe8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ 35.g x f 3 $\mathbb{Q}e2\#$ 33. $\mathbb{W}d5$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1\#$ (33... $\mathbb{Q}8xe7??$ 34. $\mathbb{W}f8$ mate) 34. $\mathbb{W}xf1$ $\mathbb{Q}e7-$ ✓ and the queen cannot be saved. 33... $\mathbb{W}xf7$ 33... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ and 33... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ also win. 34. $\mathbb{W}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1\#$ 36. $\mathbb{W}xf1$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ $\mathbb{Q}e1$ mate ✓ 36... $\mathbb{Q}e1-$ ✓

573. Bukhuti Gургенидзе – Mikhail Tal, Moscow 1957

14... $\mathbb{Q}xf2!$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}xf2?$ White should prefer 15. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 16.b x c 3 $\mathbb{Q}xe4\#$ ✓, although he does not have full compensation for the two pawns. 15... $\mathbb{W}h4\#$ 15... $\mathbb{Q}d4\#$ is pointless after 16. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ even though 16... $\mathbb{Q}e5\#$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{W}h4\#$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}d4$ transposes to the game. 16. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}d4$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}d1$ The only defence against the mate on f 2 . 17... $\mathbb{W}xh3\#$ ✓ 17... $\mathbb{Q}xh3\#?$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}a3\#$ is slower but also gives full points. 18. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{W}h2-$ White is defenceless against ...f $7-f$ 5 , ... $\mathbb{Q}a6$ and ... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$, although that is not so easy to see (0–1, 27 moves).

574. Anatolij Bannik – Mikhail Tal, Moscow 1957

27... $\mathbb{Q}xe2\#$! 28. $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ $\mathbb{W}xc1\#$ Black has won an exchange, but he needs something against the following double threat. 29. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3\#$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ $\mathbb{Q}d4-$ ✓

575. Mikhail Tal – Rudolf Teschner, Vienna 1957

23. $\mathbb{Q}e4!$ ✓ 23... $\mathbb{Q}g7\#?$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}e4$ is worse, since the knight has to check on f 6 instead of d 6 : 24... $\mathbb{W}d4$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 26.f x e 6 $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 27.f x g 7 $\mathbb{W}xg7$ and Black is worse but not lost. 23...**dxe4** Otherwise the knight continues to d 6 , opening up the e-file with devastating effect. I will give one sample line to see some attacking ideas for White: 23... $\mathbb{W}d4$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}d6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 25.exd 6 $\mathbb{Q}fe6$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}ad1$ $\mathbb{W}a7$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}de1$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ f x e 6 29. $\mathbb{W}f6$ Winning the rook with a continuing attack. 24. $\mathbb{Q}ad1-$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ is also winning, as well as many other moves. 24. $\mathbb{Q}ac1$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}cd1$ mating, was the game finish.

576. Mikhail Tal – N.N., Riga (simul) 1958

18. ♜xf7! ♜xf7 19. ♜xe6† ♜f8 20. ♜c1!+– ✓ Black has no defence against 21. ♜f3† ♜f6 22. ♜a3† (1–0, 27 moves). 20. ♜f3†? is a mistake: 20... ♜f6 21. ♜xf6† ♜xf6!+– But 20. ♜f4 gives White a winning advantage, as does 20. ♜xe7†. But to get full points for the last one you have to see all of the following moves: 20... ♜xe7 21. ♜f3† ♜e8 22. ♜f7†! The only move. 22... ♜d7 23. ♜xe7† ♜xe7 (23... ♜xe7 24. ♜e6† [or 24. d5+–] 24... ♜c7 25. ♜f7+– winning the knight) 24. ♜xd5+–

577. Mikhail Tal – Dieter Keller, Zurich 1959

29. ♜b7†! ♜xb7 30. ♜d7† ♜b8 31. e8=♕† ♜xe8 32. ♜xe8† ♜b7 33. ♜d7† ♜b8 34. ♜xc6+– ✓ It was all forced.

578. Robert Fischer – Mikhail Tal, Bled 1959

20... g6! Spotting the trouble on the a8-h1 diagonal. **21. f4xg6** 21.g4 is not a move White wants to play. One way to punish it is 21... gxf5 22. gxf5 ♜h8+–. **21... f5!+– ✓** Or 21... hxg6!+– which might be even stronger as White cannot save the knight anyway because of the weakness on g2.

579. Mikhail Tal – Wolfgang Unzicker, Stockholm 1960

24. ♜xf7†! ♜xf7 25. ♜b3† White can also start with 25. ♜g5†. **25... ♜f8 25... ♜g6** and for example 26. ♜h4† ♜h5 27. ♜f3† ♜xh4 28. ♜g3† ♜h5 29. ♜g5 mate. **26. ♜g5 ✓ 1–0** The threat of 27. ♜f7 mate is decisive.

580. Mikhail Tal – Martin Johansson Sr., Stockholm 1961

Thanks to the weak kingside, White is winning after normal moves, but can decide matters right now. **21. ♜xe6! fxe6 22. ♜xe6† ♜g8 23. ♜d3+– ✓** To avoid mate, Black must give up the bishop and the queen – without getting anything in return.

581. Mikhail Tal – Eero Book, Stockholm 1961

34. ♜xf6!± gxf6? 34... ♜e1† 35. ♜f1± ✓ is Black's best, accepting the loss of a pawn (1–0, 48 moves). **35. ♜xf6† ♜f7 36. ♜xe4+–** White wins a second and a third pawn.

582. Mikhail Tal – Bukhuti Gurgenidze, Baku 1961

17. ♜xf7†! ♜f8 Black has two other moves: a) 17... ♜xf7 18. ♜b3† ♜f8 19. ♜xd3±; ✓ b) 17... ♜h8 18. ♜xe8 ♜xe8 (18... ♜xb2 can be met with either 19. ♜b3+– or 19. ♜b1+–) 19. ♜b3 ♜xe1 20. ♜xe1± **18. ♜xe8 ♜xb2 19. ♜b1!** 19. ♜b3? ♜c4 and White cannot save the e8-bishop since 20. ♜xc4 bxc4 threatens the queen. **19... ♜a4** 19... ♜c4 20. ♜xc4 and the bishop escapes after 20... bxc4 21. ♜a4+– ✓ or 20... ♜xc4 21. ♜c1 ♜a4 22. ♜c6+– ✓. **20. ♜c1+– ✓** The bishop escapes to c6 (1–0, 35 moves).

583. Mikhail Tal – Paul Keres, Curacao 1962

20... $\mathbb{Q}xh3\#!$ 20... $\mathbb{W}b6?$ 21.e5! (21. $\mathbb{W}xf2 \mathbb{W}xc6$ 22.e5!= is also not convincing for Black) 21... $\mathbb{Q}g4\#$ (21... $\mathbb{Q}d3\#?$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}e3+-$) 22. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 23. $\mathbb{B}xe5!$ (23. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 24. $\mathbb{W}xa8$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}a5!=$) 23... $dxe5$ 24. $\mathbb{B}f1\pm$ and White threatens 25. $\mathbb{W}e4$. There is no good defence as the f6-bishop has no square, so Black loses a piece. **21. $\mathbb{Q}h2$** 21.gxh3 $\mathbb{W}b6\#-$ ✓ is a double attack, as is 21. $\mathbb{W}xh3$ $\mathbb{W}b6\#$ 22. $\mathbb{W}e3$ $\mathbb{W}xc6\#-$ ✓. **21... $\mathbb{Q}e5\#$** Weaker is 21... $\mathbb{W}c7$ 22.e5! $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#$ 23. $\mathbb{B}xe5$ ($\mathbb{W}xc2\#-$) 23... $dxe5$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}a5\#$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xc7$ exf3 26. $\mathbb{Q}e7\#-$ when Black has a lot of pawns, but his rooks are not very active. **22. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{dxe5}\#-$ ✓** The bishop on d2 is en prise, and Black keeps the two pawns (0–1, 41 moves).

584. Mikhail Tal – Aleksandar Matanovic, Moscow 1963

24. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{B}xf7$ 24... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xg6\#-$ ✓ wins the queen. **25. $\mathbb{Q}xg6\#-$ ✓** **26. $\mathbb{W}d6$** 25... $\mathbb{W}xc1$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 27. $\mathbb{W}h5\#-$ wins the queen. **26. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$** $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 27. $\mathbb{B}xc8$ $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ **28. $\mathbb{W}c2+-$** A double attack against the bishop and the h7-square. The attack is decisive (1–0, 30 moves).

585. Mikhail Tal – Robert Wade, Reykjavik 1964

21. $\mathbb{Q}d7\#$ The rook is trapped. **21... $\mathbb{B}e6$** 21... $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xd7+-$ ✓ **22. $\mathbb{Q}xe6+-$ ✓** (1–0, 26 moves)

586. Mikhail Tal – Vladimir Ljavdansky, Kiev 1964

29.e7! 29. $\mathbb{Q}d5?!$ almost works: 29... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xd5$ $\mathbb{W}d8!$ and Black defends. White can try the same idea as in the main line: 30.e7? $\mathbb{Q}xg2\#$! 31. $\mathbb{W}xg2$ (31. $\mathbb{Q}xg2?$ $\mathbb{W}b7\#$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{W}xe7+-$) 31... $\mathbb{B}e8$ with the same type of play. However, with the open white king, Black has perpetual checks: 32. $\mathbb{W}d5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 33. $\mathbb{B}xh7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 34. $\mathbb{W}f7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 35. $\mathbb{W}xe8$ $\mathbb{W}f2!=$ 29... $\mathbb{B}e8$ **30. $\mathbb{Q}d5\#$** ! The queen cannot defend f6, so Black must take. **30... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$** 31. $\mathbb{W}xd5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 32. $\mathbb{B}xh7\#$! The queen needs to penetrate to f7. 32... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 33. $\mathbb{W}f7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 34. $\mathbb{W}xe8$ White creates luft for the king with check, and queens. **34... $\mathbb{W}f2$** 35. $\mathbb{W}h8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 36. $\mathbb{h}4\#$! $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 37. $e6=$ $\mathbb{W}+-$ ✓ Black has only a few checks since e1 is covered by the new queen (1–0, 41 moves).

587. Mikhail Tal – Svetozar Gligoric, Reykjavik 1964

27. $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#$ It is also possible to start with 27. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$! 27... $\mathbb{B}xe5$ 27...fxe5 keeps the rook on c8 defended, but Black loses the d-pawn after 28.exd5 ✓ 29.d6 and 30. $\mathbb{Q}h6$ wins. **28. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$** $\mathbb{Q}h8$ **29. $\mathbb{Q}f7\#$** $\mathbb{W}xf7$ **30. $\mathbb{W}xc8+-$ ✓** (1–0, 40 moves)

588. Anatoly Bykhovsky – Mikhail Tal, Kislovodsk 1964

37... $\mathbb{B}xf3\#$ **38. $\mathbb{B}c7$** A double attack, but the pieces can defend each other. 38. $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ loses to: 38... $\mathbb{Q}e5\#$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc6+-$ ✓ **38... $\mathbb{Q}d3\#-$ ✓** Not the other way around: 38... $\mathbb{Q}e5??$ 39. $\mathbb{B}xe7+-$

589. Mikhail Tal – Georgi Tringov, Amsterdam 1964

15. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$! 15. $\mathbb{B}xb7?!$ is the start of a long forced line: 15... $\mathbb{W}xc4$ 16. $\mathbb{B}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 17. $\mathbb{W}xd7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 18. $\mathbb{W}d6\#$! $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 20. $\mathbb{W}xe5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 21. $\mathbb{W}xh8$ $\mathbb{W}xc2\pm$ White has attacking chances with $\mathbb{Q}g5$ or e4-e5-e6. **15... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$** **16. $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$** $\mathbb{Q}e8$ **17. $\mathbb{W}e6\#-$ ✓** **1–0** Black resigned due to: 17... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}f7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 19. $\mathbb{W}d6$ mate

590. Mikhail Tal – Wladyslaw Schinzel, Warsaw (simul) 1966

20. ♜g4! ♜xg4 21. ♜xh7† ✓ ♜f8 White has several ways to continue his winning attack; the famous attacker Tal unsurprisingly chose the strongest one: **22. ♜h8† ♜e7 23. ♜xg7+–** White has threats against e6 and g4 (1–0, 29 moves). **23. ♜xe6 fxe6 24. ♜xg7†** is also winning for White, but not as clearly.

591. Mikhail Tal – Svend Hamann, Kislovodsk 1966

17. e5!+– ✓ White lands first, before Black can put a pawn on e5. It's over – the dark squares are too weak. No variations needed.

592. Mikhail Tal – Mato Damjanovic, Sarajevo 1966

28. ♜xa4! ♜da8 29. ♜xb5! Only like so – otherwise the first move would have been a mistake. **29... ♜xb5 29... ♜xa3 30. ♜xa3 ♜xa3 31. ♜xc4+– ✓ 30. ♜xa6 ✓ ♜xa6 31. ♜xa6 ♜xa6+–** The endgame should be easily winning, at least for a world-class player (1–0, 35 moves).

593. Erling Kristiansen – Mikhail Tal, Havana (ol) 1966

25... ♜xc4! 25... exf5? 26. ♜xf7†! ♜xf7 27. ♜b3† ♜f8 28. ♜xa4† is also strong, but losing the f-pawn is totally unnecessary. **26. ♜xc4 exf5+– ✓** Black wins the pawns on e5 and d6 (0–1, 35 moves).

594. Mikhail Tal – Svetozar Gligoric, Budva 1967

White is an exchange up for a pawn, but if he has to start retreating his pieces, Black will have sufficient counterplay. For that reason, forceful action is called for, taking advantage of the unprotected rook on a8. **27. ♜xg7! ♜xg7 28. ♜xg7† ♜xg7 29. ♜d5† 29. ♜xf5** is also winning, as the knight will have to be sacrificed to avoid losing the rook anyway. **29... ♜h7 30. ♜xa8 ✓** White is clearly winning, but fell for a drawing trick in the end (½-½, 53 moves).

595. Lajos Portisch – Mikhail Tal, Moscow 1967

16. b6!+– ✓ The knight on a5 is trapped and is lost after **17. ♜c3** (1–0, 24 moves).

596. Mikhail Tal – Evgeni Vasiukov, Kharkov 1967

34. c7! 34. ♜xc4± 34... ♜e8! 34... ♜c8 35. ♜b8 ♜b6 36. ♜e6+– ✓ 35. ♜b8 ♜b6 36. ♜a4! ♜c8 37. ♜d7! ✓ 34. c7 would have been bad if this 37th move did not exist (1–0, 40 moves).

597. Mikhail Tal – Alexander Cherepkov, Alma-Ata 1968

22. ♜xh7†! ♜xh7 The game was **22... ♜f8 23. ♜e4±** (1–0, 32 moves). **23. ♜c2† ♜g8 24. dxе6+– fxe6+–** It is only a positional advantage, but it's a great one.

598. Bent Larsen – Mikhail Tal, Eersel (5) 1969

31. ♜xg7†! ♜xg7 31... ♜xg7?? 32. ♜e8 mate ✓ 32. ♜c7! ♜d7! 32... ♜xc7? 33. ♜xc7+– ✓ 33. ♜xd7 The queen on e3 survives – the point of White's double-rook sacrifice. **33... ♜xd7∞ ✓** White should exchange queens to safeguard his king, with an okay position despite the knight in the corner. In the game, White instead went for the greedy **34. ♜xa7?** and lost (0–1, 40 moves).

599. Vladimir Tukmakov – Mikhail Tal, Moscow 1969

27... $\mathbb{Q}xg4!$ 28. $\mathbb{f}xg4$ White instead resigned after 28. $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$. 28... $\mathbb{W}f2\#$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}h3$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{W}f3$ mate ✓ 29... $\mathbb{W}f3\#$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{W}xg4$ mate ✓

600. Mikhail Tal – Alexey Suetin, Tbilisi 1969

20. $\mathbb{W}xe5!$ $dxe5$ 21. $\mathbb{exf7\#}$ 21... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 21... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}h6$ mate ✓ is short, and 21... $\mathbb{Q}d8$ leaves White to choose his preferred route to victory, one being: 22. $f8=\mathbb{W}\#$ 22... $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xf8\#$ 23... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 24. $\mathbb{Qxa8+-}$ 22. $\mathbb{Qf5\#}$! A double check; Black has to give up too much material. 22... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}e4\#$ ✓ 24. $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 24. $\mathbb{Qxd5}$ White wins the queen with a decisive material advantage. 24. $\mathbb{Qxd5\#}$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 25. $\mathbb{Qxa8\#+-}$ is also good enough.

601. Mikhail Tal – Viktor Korchnoi, Herceg Novi (blitz) 1970

23. $\mathbb{W}e8!$ White threatens 24. $\mathbb{Q}d8$. 23... $\mathbb{Q}af7$ 23... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ prepares to escape via f7, but that dream comes to an end after 24. $\mathbb{Q}d5\#$! $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}c4+-$ ✓. 24. $\mathbb{Q}d8+-$ ✓ It is not possible to defend against both 25. $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ and 25. $\mathbb{W}xf7$. Also good enough is 24. $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{W}b6$ 25. $\mathbb{W}xf7+-$, and 24. $\mathbb{W}xf7$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}d8\#$ 25... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}ee8$ g6 27. $\mathbb{Q}xf8\#$ 27... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ wins as well, but is slightly unnecessary.

602. Gedeon Barcza – Mikhail Tal, Tallinn 1971

9... $\mathbb{Q}h3!$ 10. $\mathbb{Q}fxd4$ 10.0–0 allows the most resistance: 10... $\mathbb{Q}xf3\#$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1\#$ But 10. $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3\#$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2\#+-$ ✓ offers no resistance. 10... $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{exd4+-}$ ✓ Black has won a piece (0–1, 23 moves).

603. Mikhail Tal – Andres Vooremaa, Tallinn 1971

27. $\mathbb{Q}e6\#$! The black queen is shut out from the defence of the rook on f7. 27... $\mathbb{dx e6}$ The game ended: 27... $\mathbb{W}xe6$ 28. $\mathbb{fxe6}$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 1–0 28. $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 29. $\mathbb{W}xf8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xf7\#+-$ ✓ The f-pawn queens.

604. Karoly Honfi – Mikhail Tal, Sukhumi 1972

30... $\mathbb{Q}xc3\#$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}b4\#$! 31... $\mathbb{Q}c8\#$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}d2+-$ and the king escapes. 32. $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{W}a6\#$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ $\mathbb{W}xe2+-$ ✓ (or 32... $\mathbb{Q}b8$ mating) 32... $\mathbb{W}a5\#$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{W}a6\#+-$ 0–1

605. Mikhail Tal – Leonid Shamkovich, Baku 1972

20. $\mathbb{Q}xh7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 20... $f5$ 21. $\mathbb{W}h4$ ✓ was quite hopeless (1–0, 26 moves). Both 21. $\mathbb{W}h5$ and 21. $\mathbb{W}h3$ also win, but the latter makes little sense. 21. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ ✓ Mate is on the way. 21. $\mathbb{Q}d3$ also wins.

606. Mikhail Tal – Valeri Korensky, Sochi 1973

20. $\mathbb{Q}xg7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 21. $\mathbb{W}g3!$ 21... $\mathbb{Q}g4?$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}f5$ $\mathbb{Q}e6+-$ pins the knight. 21... $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 21... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}f5+-$ ✓ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $f6$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ White has won a pawn and weakened the enemy's king's position (1–0, 41 moves).

607. Mikhail Tal – William Hartston, Hastings 1973

24. $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 24... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xg6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 26. $\mathbb{W}h7$ mate ✓ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ The best try. 26. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 27. $\mathbb{W}h7\#$ ✓ 1–0 Black loses the queen if he goes to the eighth rank, and is mated after: 27... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ (27... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xh5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 29. $\mathbb{W}h8\#+-$) 28. $\mathbb{Q}f1\#$

608. Michael Basman – Mikhail Tal, Hastings 1973

28. $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 28... $\mathbb{W}xf7$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}d5!$ $\mathbb{W}xd5$ 30. $\mathbb{W}g7$ mate ✓; 28... $\mathbb{W}xe3\#$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xb8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ (30... $\mathbb{W}e8$ 31. $\mathbb{W}xe8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xe8$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}d5$ ✓ should be winning as well) 31. $\mathbb{Q}d5+-$ ✓ The king gets a square and the black rook is pinned. White must still take some care, but he is winning. **29. $\mathbb{W}xb8\#$ ✓ $\mathbb{Q}e8$** 29... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 30. $\mathbb{W}a7$ is important, defending the e3-pawn. **30. $\mathbb{Q}d4!$** Defending against 30... $\mathbb{W}xe3\#$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}f2\#$. **30...axb2±** White is close to winning if he plays accurately, but it's difficult in practical play. Still it's a good outcome from the diagram position. Basman played 31. $\mathbb{Q}d1$, and 31. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ was also a reasonable alternative.

609. Mikhail Tal – Paul Keres, Tallinn 1973

17... $\mathbb{Q}h4!$ The only move that saves the trapped queen. **18. $\mathbb{G}xh4$** 18. $\mathbb{Q}xf3?$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3\#$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2+-$ ✓ wins a piece. **18... $\mathbb{W}h3$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#!$** White had to do something before Black took on h4. **19... $\mathbb{G}xf6!$** 19... $\mathbb{Q}h8?!$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xe8\pm$ was the game (1–0, 45 moves). **20. $\mathbb{W}xh6$ $\mathbb{Exd4}!$** Stopping 21. $\mathbb{E}e3$. **21. $\mathbb{Q}h1!$** 21. $\mathbb{Cxd4}$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 22. $\mathbb{E}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}f5!$ 23. $\mathbb{Exf5}$ $\mathbb{E}xe3\#$ 21... $\mathbb{Q}e5!$ 22. **$\mathbb{E}g1\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g4!$** 22... $\mathbb{Q}g4?$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ 24. $\mathbb{E}g3!+-$ **23. $\mathbb{E}g3!$ a)** White has a narrow way to draw with: 23. $\mathbb{Cxd4}$ $\mathbb{Q}f3!$ 24. $\mathbb{E}g2$ $\mathbb{E}xe4$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}b3!$ $\mathbb{Q}xh4$ 26. $\mathbb{E}g3$ $\mathbb{E}ce8$ 27. $\mathbb{E}ag1!$ $\mathbb{E}e1$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$! $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 29. $\mathbb{W}h7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 30. $\mathbb{W}h8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f=$ b) 23. $\mathbb{Q}xg4?!$ $\mathbb{Q}xg4$ 24. $\mathbb{E}xg4\#$ (24. $\mathbb{E}g3??$ $\mathbb{W}xh2$ mate – this is the reason why White should start with $\mathbb{E}g3$ on the 23rd move) 24... $\mathbb{W}xg4$ 25. $\mathbb{E}g1$ $\mathbb{W}xg1\#$ 23... $\mathbb{W}f1\#$ 24. **$\mathbb{E}g1$ $\mathbb{W}h3=$** Black should have seen about this far before getting his queen trapped on f3, but from the diagram position, Black has no choice but to go for 17... $\mathbb{Q}h4$ and make it up along the way. So you don't need to see anything of this to get full points.

610. Mikhail Tal – Michael Stean, Moscow 1975

18. $\mathbb{Q}xh6\#!$ $\mathbb{G}xh6$ 19. $\mathbb{W}g6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 19... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ ✓ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xh6!$ (21. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ seems almost as strong and simpler: 21... $\mathbb{E}e7$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}d6\pm$) 21... $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}d5!$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ 23. $\mathbb{W}xh6\#$ $\mathbb{W}g7\pm$ With Black's king in mind, White should keep the queens on. **20. $\mathbb{Q}xf7+-$** ✓ There is no defence against 21. $\mathbb{Q}xh6$. If **20... $\mathbb{E}h5$** then White wins by challenging the knight on f6 in some fashion. In the game, Black tried 20... $\mathbb{E}c6$ and was immediately rewarded: 21. $\mathbb{Q}d5?$ $\mathbb{E}xe3!$ (which he didn't play) 22. $\mathbb{fxe3}$ $\mathbb{Q}g7!\infty$ Instead, 21. $\mathbb{Q}f4!$, 21. $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ and 21. $\mathbb{Q}d5$ are all winning.

611. Oleg Romanishin – Mikhail Tal, Tallinn 1977

29. $\mathbb{Q}xh6!$ White gets a third pawn for the exchange with a continuing attack, since **29... $\mathbb{Q}xh6$** **30. $\mathbb{W}h4\#$** wins the rook: **30... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 31. $\mathbb{W}g4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 32. $\mathbb{W}xf3+-$** ✓

612. Mikhail Tal – Tamaz Giorgadze, Minsk 1979

39... $\mathbb{E}xg3\#$! Opening up the second rank to take advantage of the unprotected rook on c2. **40. $\mathbb{fxg3}$ $\mathbb{E}e2\#$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}f3\#+-$ ✓ 0–1** There are several ways to clinch the attack. The fastest is 41... $\mathbb{Q}h3$ with mate coming.

613. Mikhail Tal – Boris Spassky, Tilburg 1980

38. $\mathbb{E}g5\#$! $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 38... $\mathbb{fxg5}$ 39. $\mathbb{W}xg5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 40. $\mathbb{W}h6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 41. $\mathbb{W}h7$ mate ✓ **39. $\mathbb{Q}g6\#+-$** ✓ Tal won the queen (1–0, 46 moves).

614. Mikhail Tal – Rico Mascarinas, Lvov 1981

28.♗c7! The bishop moves with tempo to clear the way for the queen. **28...♕xc7 29.♗h8†** Or **29.♗h6+– 29...♔xh8 30.♗h6† ♔g8 31.♗h7† ♔f8 32.♗h8 mate ✓**

615. Jan Ambroz – Mikhail Tal, Riga 1981

36...♝xe4! 37.♗xe4 37.f3+– was played in the game (0–1, 40 moves). **37...d5† ✓** A double attack regaining the piece with an extra pawn and bishop versus knight.

616. Mikhail Tal – David Bronstein, Tbilisi (simul match) 1982

30.♗g6†! Preparing a square for the rook. **30...hxg6 31.♖d8† ♔g7 32.♖xg6† ♔h7 33.♗g8 mate ✓**

617. Mikhail Tal – Jim Plaskett, Sochi 1984

14.♗xh6! ♕xd5 14...gxh6 15.♗g6† ✓ **♔h8 16.♗xf6+– 15.cxd5 ♜b4 16.♗g6!+– ✓** White has won a pawn and has the bishop pair and more active position (1–0, 24 moves).

618. Mikhail Tal – Alexander Shabalov, Jurmala 1985

26.♝xe6! fxe6 26...♜xd2 27.♗xd2+– ✓ with threats against the queen and rook. **27.♗xd8 ♕xd8 28.♗xd8 ✓** With a clearly winning position for White (1–0, 39 moves).

619. Zoltan Ribli – Mikhail Tal, Montpellier 1985

26...♝xf3! 27.♝xf3 27.♗xf3 ♕d3†!+– ✓ wins the rook on d1. **27...♛xd1+– ✓**

620. Mikhail Tal – Lembit Oll, Riga 1986

14.c5! The move **♝e6** would be mate if it were not for the queen, so White starts harassing Her Majesty. **14...♝xc5** The alternatives lead to mate: **14...♛xc5 15.♝e6 mate ✓** or **14...♛a6 15.♛a5† ♕xa5 16.♝e6 mate ✓**. **15.♛a5!** ✓ Only like so. **15...exd4+–** Or **15...♛xa5 16.♝e6 mate**. In the game, Black had three pieces for the queen, but no development and the king in the centre (1–0, 22 moves).

621. Mikhail Tal – Ovidiu Foisor, Tbilisi 1986

18.e5! ♜d5 18...♝xg2 19.exf6+– ✓ with a double threat. **19.♗xg2** also wins material – either a pawn or an exchange: **19...♝d7 20.exd6 ♜g5± 19.♗xd5** Tal played the weaker **19.♗xd5 exd5 20.♗xd5 ♜g5±** (1–0, 27 moves). **19...exd5 20.♗xd5+– ✓** White won a pawn and will win a second one on d6, or an exchange.

622. Mikhail Tal – Miguel Quinteros, Santiago del Estero (blitz) 1987

21.♗xf5! gxf5 22.♝ce4! 1–0 After **22...fxe4 23.♗f1 ✓** there is no defence against **24.♗xf6 exf6 25.♗xh7 mate.**

623. Mikhail Tal – Johann Hjartarson, Reykjavik 1987

39.♝cxe5! **39.♗xa8 ♜xa8 40.♝cxe5!** avoids the counterplay Black tried in the game, but it is not so easy to evaluate the position after **40...dxe5 41.♗xe5† ♔f8 42.d6**. However, White is winning here too. **39...♛d1† 39...dxe5 40.♗xe5† ♜f6 (40...♝f7 41.♝g5 mate) 41.♗e7†+– ✓** **40.♗h2 ♜a1 41.♝g4†! ♔f7 42.♝h6† ♔e7 43.♝g8†** For aesthetic reasons, Tal could have given up his queen: **43.♗g7† ♜xg7 44.♝g8† ♔f7 45.♝g5 mate ✓**

624. Mikhail Tal – Eduard Meduna, Germany 1989

11.♕xf7! 11.♗xe6 fxe6 12.♗xe6 is also a serious advantage for White. 11...♔xf7 The game went: 11...♝c7 12.♗xe6 (1–0, 20 moves) **12.♜xe6! ✓** 12.♗g5† ♔e8 13.♗xe6+– is also strong enough, even though White has to play some more good moves. **12...♝b4** Or 12...♝xe6 13.♗g5†+–. The b4-square is the only way to escape from the discovered check, but White has many winning moves, among them **13.♜xf6† ♔xf6 14.♝xd4†** with mate.

625. Soenke Maus – Mikhail Tal, Germany 1990

24.♗bx5! Taking advantage of the unprotected bishops and exposed queen. 24.♗fxd5 leads to the same. **24...exd5 25.♗xd5 ♜d6 26.♗xf6† ♜xf6 27.♗xd7+– ✓** White is winning, but blundered on the next move (0–1, 28 moves).

626. Mikhail Tal – Vladimir Akopian, Barcelona 1992

32.♛e5†! White wins with a discovered check on the next move. **32...♝g7 33.♝d8† ♜xd8 34.♛xc3+– ✓** (1–0, 38 moves)

Tigran Petrosian

Strategy is a piece of stone you are working on, and tactics is basically the instrument you use to cut the stone. So we should see tactics as an instrument to help us to achieve what we want to achieve.

627. Malashkhia – Tigran Petrosian, Tbilisi 1944

17.f6! ♜xf6 17...♗xf6 is a better try, but White is much better after 18.♗d5! ♜xa2 19.♗xe7† ♔h8 20.♗xf6± ✓ or 20.♗xf6±. **18.♜xf6! ♗xf6 19.♗d5 ✓ 1–0** Black resigned due to 19...♜xa2 20.♗xe7† ♔g7 21.♗d5 with a deadly attack.

628. Agamalian – Tigran Petrosian, Tbilisi 1944

26...♗xb3! 27.♗b2 27.♗xb3 ♜xf3† ✓ (27...♝xf1?! 28.♗xf1 ♜xf3+– is also good, but it is better to keep control over the c-file) 28.♗g1+– Black is a healthy pawn up with a positional advantage to boot. **27...♝b1!** Black has to stay on the first rank. It seems unnecessary to give away the bishop with: 27...♝xf3† 28.♗xf3 ♜b1+– **28.♗xb3 ♜xf3†** 28...♝xf1 is a tempo worse, but also good enough. **29.♗g1 ♜xf1† 30.♗xf1† ✓** Black is a healthy pawn up (0–1, 56 moves).

629. Yury Vasilchuk – Tigran Petrosian, Leningrad 1945

39.♛xg8! 0–1 Black resigned due to 39...♝xg8 40.h7+– ✓ and the h-pawn queens.

630. Palavandishvili – Tigran Petrosian, Tbilisi 1945

Black is clearly better, but can push his advantage further with: **14...♗b4!** **15.♗b3** 15.cxb4? allows 15...♝ac8+– ✓ or 15...♝fc8+–. **15...♗xd3†+–** Trading off White's bishop pair, which was his only compensation for his many pawn weaknesses.

631. Nersesov – Tigran Petrosian, Tbilisi 1945

Black is clearly better with, for example, 23... $\mathbb{Q}ab8\#$, but he has a way to gain a winning position. **23... $\mathbb{Q}e4!$** All the exposed white pieces make lovely targets for a centralized knight. **24. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$** **24. $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}xg3\#$ –+ ✓ 24... $\mathbb{W}xd5$** Or 24... $\mathbb{Q}xg3\#$ –+. **0–1** White resigned as 25. $\mathbb{W}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}c3\#$ gives Black an extra rook.

632. Nikolay Grigoriev – Tigran Petrosian, Tbilisi 1945

25... $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#$! Abandoning the bind on the queenside to go for the kill. 25... $g6?!$ is not killing. **26. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}d1$ $\mathbb{W}xf2!$ 27. $\mathbb{W}xb3$ $\mathbb{W}e2\#$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}c5\#$ 29. $\mathbb{W}c4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4\#$ –+ ✓ 30. $dxc4$ $d3$ 31. $b4$ $\mathbb{W}c2$ mate **26... $\mathbb{Q}f5!$ ✓ 0–1** Mating.**

633. Kristaps Smilga – Tigran Petrosian, Leningrad 1946

Black is already winning, but has a chance to finish the game quickly. **37... $\mathbb{Q}xa2!$ 38. $\mathbb{W}xa2$ $b3$ 39. $\mathbb{W}b2$ $bxc2$ 40. $\mathbb{W}xc2$** 40. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ can be met in many ways, including 40... $\mathbb{W}xd4$ 41. $cxd4$ $c1=\mathbb{Q}\#$ –+ and 40. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ also allows many wins, including 40... $\mathbb{W}d3$ –+. The queen infiltration is lethal. **40... $\mathbb{W}xd4!–+$ ✓ 0–1** (44 moves)

634. Tigran Petrosian – Yuri Kotkov, Leningrad 1946

White is a piece up, but it looks like he will lose the knight on c4. **19. $\mathbb{Q}xd7!$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}fe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xc2$** is clearly better for White, since he holds onto the minor pieces after: 21... $\mathbb{W}c7$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}c5!$ However, the game continuation is much clearer. **19... $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}b6!$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}ce5\pm$** only gives two pieces for a rook and pawn. **20... $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ 20... $\mathbb{W}c7$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ –+ ✓ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ ✓ $\mathbb{Q}c4$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}d2!–$ – The last difficult move, keeping the b-pawn on the board. **22. $\mathbb{Q}xf8?$! $\mathbb{Q}xe4$** allows Black to win the b-pawn, although White is winning anyway.**

635. Tigran Petrosian – Genrikh Kasparian, Yerevan (1) 1946

28... $\mathbb{Q}xh3\#$! 28... $\mathbb{Q}xb1$ 29. $\mathbb{W}xa7$ and Black cannot defend against White's attack, but he has 29... $\mathbb{Q}xh3\#$ (either now or after 29... $\mathbb{W}b2/\mathbb{W}b3$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}b4$) 30. $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ $\mathbb{Q}h8\#$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{W}b3\#$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{W}d1\#$ (32... $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ 33. $\mathbb{W}a5$ $\mathbb{Q}b8!$ 34. $\mathbb{W}c7\#$ is also a draw) 33. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ with a draw. **29. $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ $\mathbb{W}f5\#$ –+ ✓** and the knight fork on e2 is unavoidable. **29... $\mathbb{Q}xb1$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xb1$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xa7$ $\mathbb{W}xd2\#$ –+ ✓** comes with check, and Black gets the tempo he needs to check the queen to b5 and win. **30... $\mathbb{W}xb1$ 31. $\mathbb{W}xa7$ $\mathbb{W}b5!$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}a5$ $\mathbb{Q}e8!$ –+ ✓** The only winning move, since Black has to be able to protect the rook after $\mathbb{W}a8\#$ (0–1, 39 moves).

636. Tigran Petrosian – Manoian, Yerevan 1948

32... $\mathbb{W}g7?!$ The idea is to be able to play ... $\mathbb{Q}g8$, but the attack is irresistible with the white rook on h6. 32... $\mathbb{Q}g8!–+$ ✓ is the solution, and a type of move that's often overlooked, simply moving the king out of the way in anticipation of a check. **33. $\mathbb{Q}xh6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 34. $\mathbb{W}e6\#$ –+** White has a winning attack (1–0, 40 moves). 34. $\mathbb{W}xd5\#$ –+ also wins.

637. Alexander Kotov – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1949

8. $\mathbb{Q}xe7!$ $\mathbb{W}xe7?!$ 8... $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 9. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $dxe4$ 10. $\mathbb{W}xe4\#$ ± ✓ 9. $\mathbb{Q}xd5!$ Taking full advantage of Black's premature knight jump to e4. **9... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 10. $\mathbb{W}xc8$ –+ ✓** White is winning; Black resigned in a few moves.

638. Tigran Petrosian – Alexey Sokolsky, Moscow 1949

17. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 18. $\mathbb{W}b3\#$ $\mathbb{E}e6$ 19. $\mathbb{W}xd3\pm$ ✓ White has won a pawn ($\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$, 51 moves).

639. Boris Ratner – Tigran Petrosian, Gorky 1950

30... $\mathbb{Q}a4!$ 30... $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xd4\#$ 31. $bxa4$ $\mathbb{W}xb2$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4\#$ ✓ After a series of forced moves, Black is an exchange up for a pawn, but also has much more active play and fewer weaknesses.

640. Tigran Petrosian – Ratmir Kholmov, Vilnius 1951

34... $\mathbb{Q}xf2!$ 35. $\mathbb{E}b7?$ a) 35. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd1\#$ and the pin along the second rank makes Black's day. b) 35. $\mathbb{W}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd1\#$ ✓ and the knight cannot be taken due to 36... $\mathbb{W}b6\#$ picking up the rook, so Black has two extra pawns and an initiative. c) 35. $\mathbb{E}b1!$ was the only move. 35... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 36. $\mathbb{E}xb2\#$ With the rook on a7, White has hopes of attacking a5 or f7. 35... $\mathbb{E}xd1\#$ ✓ Or 35... $\mathbb{Q}xe4\#$. 36. $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ $\mathbb{W}d2\#$ (0–1, 43 moves) 36... $\mathbb{Q}xe4\#$ was also winning.

641. Herman Pilnik – Tigran Petrosian, Budapest 1952

36. $\mathbb{Q}xc6!$ 36. $hxg4?$ $fxg4$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}xc6!$ could be a slight improvement, as White has less to worry about on the first rank. But the game move is good enough. 36... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 36... $\mathbb{E}xc6$ 37. $d7\#$ ✓ queens. After having moved the king, Black threatens 37... $\mathbb{E}xc6$ 38. $d7$ $\mathbb{E}fd6$ 39. $cxsd6$ $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ with drawing chances. 37. $\mathbb{E}e7\#$ ✓ The game continued: 37. $d7$ $\mathbb{E}fc6!$ 38. $dxc8=\mathbb{W}$ $\mathbb{E}xc8$ 39. $b4$ The rook ending should be winning, but it is not over yet (1–0, 50 moves). Instead, checking on e7 is accurate when Black's king cannot go to f6. The two pawns, supported by bishop and rook, are strong enough to gain a winning rook endgame, for instance: 37... $\mathbb{Q}f8?$ 38. $\mathbb{E}e5$ $\mathbb{E}xc6$ 39. $d7$ $\mathbb{E}fd6$ 40. $\mathbb{E}xf5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 41. $\mathbb{E}g5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 42. $cxd6$ $g3$ 43. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{E}xd6$ 44. $\mathbb{E}g4\#$ –

642. Tigran Petrosian – Ludek Pachman, Saltsjobaden 1952

24. $\mathbb{W}xg6!$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}e7\#?$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 25. $\mathbb{W}xg6\pm$ is not as good. With queens on the board, Black has some chances to get his pieces working properly. 24... $\mathbb{W}xg6$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}e7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}xg6\#$ ✓ The minor pieces are no match for so many pawns on the kingside (1–0, 36 moves).

643. Zdravko Milev – Tigran Petrosian, Bucharest 1953

24... $\mathbb{Q}xg3!$ Using the back-rank weakness to create a winning attack. 24... $\mathbb{Q}g5?$ does not work due to the defence 25. $\mathbb{Q}d2\#$ and the knight is trapped on g5. 25. $\mathbb{E}xe8\#$ Instead the game went: 25. $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $bxc3$ 26. $hxg3$ $c2\#$ 25... $\mathbb{E}xe8$ 26. $hxg3$ $\mathbb{E}e1\#$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{W}e2\#$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}h3$ $\mathbb{E}h1$ mate ✓

644. Laszlo Szabo – Tigran Petrosian, Zurich 1953

28... $\mathbb{Q}f6!$ Trying to chase away a defender of c4. 29. $e5$ The only serious move, which White had surely planned in advance. 29... $\mathbb{Q}xe5!$ ✓ But the pinned knight is not an effective defender, as it cannot move! 30. $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$ The rook cannot maintain its defence of c4 and 31. $\mathbb{E}xe5$ $\mathbb{E}xc4$ 32. $\mathbb{E}xc4$ $\mathbb{W}xc4$ 33. $\mathbb{W}xc4$ $\mathbb{E}xc4$ is a decisive double threat. 30... $f6\#$ or 30... $\mathbb{Q}xh2\#$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$ does not spoil anything either.

645. Gideon Stahlberg – Tigran Petrosian, Zurich 1953

17... $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4!$ Simply winning a central pawn; Black is much better. 19. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{W}f5\#$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{W}xe4\#$ ✓ (0–1, 64 moves)

646. Mark Taimanov – Tigran Petrosian, Zurich 1953

24.♕a4! Since the queen needs to remain in control of d8, White wins material. After 24.g4?!, g6± White is still clearly better, but Black has hope. **24...♝d7** Black played 24...♝d7+– (1–0, 40 moves). **25.e6!** Now the queen has to allow the decisive ♜d8†. Instead 25.♝h3?! h6 (25...g6 26.e6 ♜xe6 27.♝e1+–) 26.♝d1, infiltrating the light squares, is also good. **25...♜xe6 26.♜d8†** Or 26.♝e1+–. **26...♜e8 27.♜xe8† ♝xe8 28.♝xe8+–** ✓

647. Svetozar Gligoric – Tigran Petrosian, Belgrade 1954

33.♝xg5†! 33.♝xf6!= 33...♝f7 33...fxg5 34.♝xf8 mate ✓ **34.♝xf6†** Forcing mate, while several other moves also win. The best alternative is 34.♝e5†+–. **34...♝xf6 35.♝xf8†! ♝xg5 36.h4†! 1–0** It's mate: 36...♝xh4 37.♝f4 mate ✓ or 36...♝g6 37.♝f4 mate ✓.

648. Tigran Petrosian – Pal Benko, Budapest 1955

18.♝xe5! Black is surely missing his dark-squared bishop now! **18...♜xe5 19.♝g3 ♜e7 20.e5! ♜d7 21.♝xf6+–** ✓ White is clearly winning – the central pawns and bishop pair reign supreme (1–0, 27 moves).

649. Tigran Petrosian – Alexander Tolush, Riga 1958

29.♝f1! The bishop manoeuvre to the a2-g8 diagonal wins at least the f5-pawn, with a completely winning position. 29.♝h3 tries to provoke ...g6 before manoeuvring the bishop to c4, but Black has 29...♝d7 in between, when the queen has no good square. 30.♝f1 g6 31.♝xe4 fxe4 32.♝xd7 ♜xd7 33.♝c4† ♜f7 34.♝xf7† ♝xf7 35.♝xc5 wins a pawn, but it's not over yet. **29...♝h8 30.♝c4+–** ✓ White is winning; here are some sample lines: **30...♜f6 30...♜d7 31.♝e6 ♜xd1† 32.♝xd1+–; 30...♜g6 31.♝e6 ♝f6 32.♝d6+–** and Black has lost all active counterplay while White's pieces have gained in strength. **31.♝e8 ♝xe8 32.♝xf6+–** (1–0, 37 moves)

650. Tigran Petrosian – Eduard Gufeld, Tbilisi 1959

23.♝xd5! exd5 24.♜xe8+– ✓ The queen cannot be taken, so White has gained a winning advantage with his extra pawn and better pieces (1–0, 30 moves).

651. Leonid Stein – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1961

26.♝xe6! Black resigned. 26.♝xf7? ♝xf7 27.♝xe6 leads nowhere after: 27...♝xf1† 28.♝xf1 ♜e7+– And 26.♝h5 ♝h8!= is equal. **26...fxe6** Or 26...♝h8 when White, among others, has 27.♝g4!+–. **27.♝g4!+–** ✓ The knight cannot move because of ♝f8†, so Black is totally lost.

652. Tigran Petrosian – Paul Keres, Zurich 1961

22...♜xd1! 22...♝f3†? 23.♝xf3 ♜xd1† 24.♝g2± is a lot worse, since White retains attacking chances with the queens still on and has a double attack with the bishop. **23.♝xd1 ♝f3† 24.♝g2 ♝xh4† 25.♝xh4†** ✓ Black's pieces are not impressive, and the d6-pawn is quite useless, so it is not over yet, but winning an exchange is of course a good start (0–1, 50 moves).

653. Semen Furman – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1961

31...♝xh3†! 32.gxh3 32.♝h2 ♝xf2+– was hopeless in the game (0–1, 41 moves). **32...♝f3† 33.♝h1 ♝xe1+–** ✓

654. Tigran Petrosian – Georgi Ilivitzki, Moscow) 1964

White has a clear positional advantage after most moves, but can use his superiority to gain a decisive material advantage. 22.♘xg7! ♔xg7 23.g5+– ✓ White wins an important pawn, or more. The opening of the g-file secures the pawn that will arrive on f6. 23...♗d7 24.♕xd5 1–0

655. Tigran Petrosian – Leonid Stein, Moscow 1967

Sometimes the best you can do is make a draw. 25.♗xe5! 25.♗h2 ♗g4† 25...♔h3 25...♗g4? 26.♗xg4 fxg4 27.♗xd7 ✓ ♕f7 28.e5!± The knight gets out with an extra piece, or White gets a very strong passed pawn on e6. 25...♗g5 should be met with 26.♗f3=, as White is worse after other moves. The challenge with this exercise is to realize that White is satisfied with a draw. 26.♗f1 26.♗xd7? ♕e3!!† 26...♔h5 27.♗e2 White can also play on with 27.♗xd7 ♗xd7 28.exf5= but should probably try the same repetition soon. 27...♔h3 28.♗f1 ♔h5 ✓ ½–½

656. Tigran Petrosian – Aron Reshko, Leningrad 1967

28.♗xg6†! The only move that is not worse for White. 28.♗xd2? ♕xd2 29.♗xg6† allows Black to move the king, as the pawn on h6 is defended. It is also a huge difference that Black threatens to check (and mate). 28...fxg6 28...♔f8? 29.♗xh6† (or 29.♗g8† ♔xg8 30.♗g4† ♔f8 31.♗xc8† ♔e7†, or 29.♗f1†) 29.♗b7† ♔h8 ChessBase gives 29...♔g8? but it seems unlikely, as it allows 30.♗b3† with mate. 30.♗xc8†∞ ✓ The game should end in a draw, but Black made a mistake and lost (1–0, 40 moves).

657. Tigran Petrosian – Jonathan Penrose, Palma de Mallorca 1969

38.♗e7†! 38.♗b5+– is a positional win – White still has the same threat. 38...♔xe7 39.♗a6† ♔g7 40.♗xc8+– ✓

658. Tigran Petrosian – Boris Spassky, Moscow (4) 1969

38...♗d3! The queen is obstructed from the defence of the d-pawn. 39.♗f5 39.♗c3 ♕h4 40.♗g1 ♘xf1! Black wins. 41.♗c8 (no better are 41.♗xf1 ♕h3† 42.♗f2 ♗g2 mate or 41.♗xf1 ♗e2†+) 41...♗b5!–+ ✓ The light-squared bishop does a good job. 39...♗g5! The threats are 40...♗h3† and 40...♗xf5 followed by 41...♗h4†. 39...♗xf5 40.♗xf4 g5 also wins – White has to give up the d- or the g-pawns (also full points). 40.♗e3 ♕h4† 41.♗g1 ♘xf1+– ✓ 0–1 White resigned due to 42.♗xf1 ♗e2 43.♗xf4 ♗f2† 44.♗h1 ♗xf1 mate and 42.♗xf1 ♕h3† 43.♗g1 ♗xf3 with mate coming soon.

659. Tigran Petrosian – Vladimir Savon, Moscow 1969

29.e5! ✓ Preparing a check on f3. But not 29.♗f3? ♕xf3! 30.gxf3 ♕h8=. 29...♔xe5 30.♗h6+– 1–0 There is no defence against 31.♗f3†. Petrosian's 30.♗f3† ♔e6 31.♗xg6† ♔f6 was also winning, but required some more moves (1–0, 37 moves).

660. Lev Polugaevsky – Tigran Petrosian, Soviet Union 1970

23...♗xd2! 24.♗xd2 ♕xg3†! 24...♗xe4† If you saw the queen sacrifice, winning a pawn, but still decided to keep the queens on the board, you get full points. 25.♗xg3 ♗xe4† 26.♗f4 ♗xd2+– ✓ After 27.♗fe1, Black played 27...♗f6 to get the knight out in a good way.

661. Rudolf Maric – Tigran Petrosian, Vinkovci 1970

22. $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ White is better after other moves, but this wins. 22... $\mathbb{B}xf7$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}e6\#$! $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xc7+-\checkmark$
The final moves were: 24... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}e8$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 26. $\mathbb{B}xd7$ 1-0

662. Tigran Petrosian – Anthony Saidy, San Antonio 1972

Black is trying to equalize by trading rooks, but he forgot about his queen. 21. $\mathbb{Q}d3!$ $\mathbb{W}d5$
22. $\mathbb{Q}h7\#$! $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 23. $\mathbb{B}xd5+-\checkmark$ (1-0, 56 moves)

663. Tigran Petrosian – Miguel Quinteros, Manila 1974

38. $f4!$ Driving away the best defender of d6. 38... $\mathbb{g}xf4$ 39. $\mathbb{g}xf4$ $\mathbb{Q}b2$ 40. $\mathbb{B}xd6!$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ $\mathbb{W}xb2$
41. $\mathbb{B}xd6$ $\mathbb{W}b1\#$ 42. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{W}xf5$ 43. $\mathbb{B}xh6+-$ should also win, but it's only a pawn. 40... $\mathbb{W}e8$
40... $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}xc5+-\checkmark$ 41. $\mathbb{B}xf6$ 1-0

664. Tigran Petrosian – Radolfo Cardoso, Manila 1974

36. $\mathbb{B}h7\#$! 36. $\mathbb{W}h6\#?$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 37. $\mathbb{W}h7\#?$ $\mathbb{Q}e6+-$ 36... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}xf6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}xg4+-\checkmark$

665. Tigran Petrosian – Bukhuti Gurgenidze, Riga 1975

19. $\mathbb{Q}xd6!$ White did not have to respond to the threat to the bishop by moving it. 19... $\mathbb{h}xg5$
19... $\mathbb{W}xd6?$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 21. $d6\#$ $\mathbb{W}f7$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}d5+-\checkmark$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xb5+-$ (1-0, 31 moves) 20. $\mathbb{Q}xb7+-$
also wins if White follows up with 21. $d6\#$.

666. Tigran Petrosian – Nigel Short, London (simul) 1978

37... $\mathbb{B}xg6!$ In order to exploit White's weak king, Black needs to get at the d4-pawn with the bishop. So 37... $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 38. $\mathbb{B}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}xg6\#$ is not enough. 38. $\mathbb{W}h5$ Three alternatives:
a) 38. $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4\#+-\checkmark$ b) 38. $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4\#+-\checkmark$ c) 38. $\mathbb{B}f7$ $\mathbb{Q}h6!$ 39. $\mathbb{W}xh6$ $\mathbb{Q}xh6$
40. $\mathbb{Q}h7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 41. $\mathbb{B}xe7$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 42. $\mathbb{Q}g6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 43. $\mathbb{Q}xe7\#+-\checkmark$ is just a piece up for Black (and there
were no good alternatives on the way). 38... $\mathbb{Q}h6!$ 38... $\mathbb{Q}xe5?!$ 39. $\mathbb{W}e5\pm$ 39. $\mathbb{W}f7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8\#$ 0-1
White is a piece down.

667. Gerardo Lebreiro Zarragoitia – Tigran Petrosian, Vilnius 1978

Black can win with many moves, but a mate-in-four should not be missed: 32... $\mathbb{Q}g4\#$! 33. $\mathbb{h}xg4$
 $\mathbb{B}f1\#$ 0-1

668. Lev Polugaevsky – Tigran Petrosian, Kislovodsk 1982

24. $\mathbb{Q}d5!$ $\mathbb{exd5}$ a) 24... $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#+-\checkmark$ wins the queen. b) Black tried to fight on with
24... $\mathbb{W}c5$ but did not last long: 25. $\mathbb{Q}c7\#$ (or 25. $\mathbb{Q}e7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 26. $\mathbb{W}xe6\#+-\checkmark$, or even 25. $\mathbb{W}c2\#$)
25. $\mathbb{Q}xd5\#$ It is mate on the next move.

Boris Spassky

The best indicator of a chess player's form is his ability to sense the climax of the game.

669. Boris Spassky – Vladlen Zurakhov, Leningrad 1954

29.♕xf6!+– Black can't take back, as **29...gxf6 30.♗xf6† ✓ ♕g8 31.♗d7** leads to mate.

670. Semen Furman – Boris Spassky, Moscow 1955

Black is threatening 24...f4 followed by 25...♕g3† 26.hxg3 ♜h6 mate. 24.♗ab1 is better for White, but allows Black to complicate things with: 24...♝b6 25.♗xa7 ♔g3† 26.hxg3 ♜h6† 27.♗xh6 ♛xa7 28.♗xb5 gxh6± So the solution is another move: **24.♗e3! ♗e5 24...♗xe3 25.♗xc4†+– ✓** is a discovered attack and 24...♝c7 25.♗xc5 ♐xb7 26.♗ab1 wins a second pawn with a capture on b5 next. **25.f4+–** White threatens not only the queen, but also the knight on h5.

671. Boris Spassky – Mark Taimanov, Moscow 1955

15.♗xb5! axb5 16.♗h5† Or 16.♗xa8† first. **16...♗f7 17.♗xa8† ♔xa8 18.♗d8†! ♕xd8 19.♗xf7 gxh4 ✓** Black has a rook, a bishop and a knight for the queen, but his pieces are passive and his pawns are falling. White is clearly winning. Spassky took the pawns on f6, e5, b5 and c7, and continued with b3-b4-b5-b6-b7-b8=♛ (1–0, 39 moves).

672. Nikolai Krogius – Boris Spassky, Leningrad 1957

39...♔d5†! 40.♗g3 ♔e2† 41.♗h3 ♔xf4† An even faster move is 41...♔f2 when White cannot defend against both 42...♔xf4 mate and 42...♔xg1 mate. **42.♗g3 ♔e2† ✓ 43.♗h3 ♔g1† 44.♗g3 f4† 45.♗xf4 ♔e2 mate**

673. David Bronstein – Boris Spassky, Riga 1958

20...♗f3†! Black could also start with 20...♗b5+– and execute the winning combination on the next move. **21.gxf3 ♛g5† ✓ 22.♗h1 22.♗g4 ♔xg4 23.fxg4 ♛xe7+–** leaves Black an exchange up, with the safer king. **22...♗xh4+–** Spassky easily converted his material advantage (0–1, 30 moves).

674. Boris Spassky – Fridrik Olafsson, Moscow 1959

34.♗g8†! ♔h7 34...♗xg8 35.♗xh6 mate ✓ 35.♗2g7†! Or 35.♗8g7†. **35...♗xg7 36.♗xg7† ♔xg7 37.f6† 37.♗g5†** gives the same result. **37...♗xf6 38.♗g5† ♔h7 39.♗xf6 ✓** White is winning and Black resigned after: **39...♗e5 40.♗xe4† 1–0**

675. Igor Zaitsev – Boris Spassky, Rostov on Don 1960

23.♗c4! The black queen is overloaded and cannot defend both h1 and h4. **23...♗xc4 24.♗h1† ♔g8 25.♗h8 mate ✓**

676. Boris Spassky – Vladimir Shishkin, Rostov on Don 1960

White's pawns on the kingside are decisive, but first he must defend against the mate. 35.♕f4! ♜xf4 36.♗b6† 36.♗b5† ♖a7 should be winning, but is less clear. 36...♔c8 36...♔a8 drops the rook with check: 37.♗xd8†+– ✓ 37.♗xb4†+– ✓ Now it is the black king that is exposed; there is no defence against 38.♗c1†.

677. Boris Spassky – Alberto Foguelman, Mar del Plata 1960

25.♕xg6†! 25.♗c1 loses to 25...♗xd6, but there is a way to move the rook from d6 with check. 25...fxg6 26.♗d8† 26.♗xg6? cxd1=♕† 27.♗xd1 is not winning after 27...♗f8!=. 26...♔g7 26...♔h7 27.♗c1!+– ✓ 27.♗g8†!! 27.♗c1 also wins. 27...♔xg8 28.♗xg6† ♗g7 Or 28...♔f8 29.♗f6† with mate (and 29.♗d8† also wins). 29.♗d8† ✓ White wins the queen and can pick up the c2-pawn, with a winning material advantage. The game finished: 29...♗f8 30.♗xf8† ♔xf8 31.♗xc2 ♔g8 32.♗c5 1–0

678. Boris Spassky – Dragoljub Cirim, Marianske Lazne 1962

17.♗f4! ✓ There are no other moves that do not lose, so you do not need to see further to get the full score. However, there is a little twist later. Instead 17.♗f4? ♗e3† wins for Black. 17...♔e6 18.♗xe6 ♗xe6 Black threatens 19...g5, but 19.♗xd6! ♗g6† 20.♗g4 is over and out, either with two bishops for a rook, or with 20...♗e3† 21.♗xe3 ♗xd6†+– and White has one piece too many for the queen (1–0, 29 moves).

679. Boris Spassky – Valery Bykov Leningrad 1963

26.♗xe4! ♗xe4 26...fxe4? 27.♗g4 ✓ traps the queen, or 27...♗e6 28.♗xb7!+– when Black will be a piece down. 27.♗xe4 fxe4 28.♗f6† ♗xf6 29.♗xf6+– ✓ Black has lost an exchange (1–0, 40 moves).

680. Boris Spassky – Viktor Korchnoi, Moscow 1964

14.♗xd5! White threatens 15.♗c7 and 15.♗xf6† ♗xf6 16.♗xb7. 14...♗xd5 14...♗d8 15.♗f6† wins an exchange, but 15.♗c7 shows even less mercy; Black loses a piece. 15.♗f4! ♗d6+– ✓ White wins an exchange and the game after either capture on d5. But not 15...♗xg2? 16.♗xe6 ✓ ♗xf1 17.♗xf8 ♗h3 when Black temporarily gets three pieces for the queen, but his luck is short-lived after (among others) 18.♗d3 ♗xf8 19.♗e4+– trapping the rook.

681. Boris Spassky – Gyozo Forintos, Sochi 1964

9.e6! ♗xe6 9...♗xe6 10.♗g5+– ✓ forks the queen and bishop. 10.♗e5! ♗d6 10...♗xe5 11.♗xb7 mate ✓ 11.♗xc6 11.♗f4 is also winning. 11...bxc6 ✓ White gains a winning attack after developing the pieces in almost any way. It would not even help Black if it was his move.

682. Boris Spassky – Kick Langeweg, Sochi 1967

25.♗xg7! ♗xd5 25...♗xg7 26.♗e7†+– ✓ forks king and queen. 26.♗h6† 26.cxd5?! ♗c1† 27.♗f1 ♗xf1† 28.♗xf1 ♗xg7 29.♗g3 should also win in the end, but can be messed up by White for sure (so not full points). But 26.♗e5 forces Black to part with the queen and is good enough to win. 26...♔xg7 27.♗g4† Black is mated in two moves. 27.♗g3† is a longer route to mate. 27...♔f6 28.♗g8 mate ✓

683. Shimon Kagan – Boris Spassky, Winnipeg 1967

This exercise was in the book that Hans Tikkanen used the first time he tried the Woodpecker Method. **28...Qxe3!** **29.Qxe3** **29.Qxe3 Wxf4† ✓ 30.Qe2 Wh2†** wins a piece. **29...Bxe3** **30.Qxe3** **30.Qxe3 Qxd4†! 31.Qxd4 Wxf4†+✓** and Black picks up the rook on g1. **30...Wxf4†** **31.Qe2** Black wins back the exchange with interest after: **31...Wh2†** **32.Qf1 Qxd4+✓**

684. Boris Spassky – Klaus Darga, Beverwijk 1967

21.Qg6! f6g6 22.Qxd5 ✓ Bf6 The only move that holds onto the pawn, but Black has a bad pawn structure and is badly coordinated. Spassky continued with **23.Qac1** and had a clear advantage (1–0, 33 moves). A combination doesn't have to win material.

685. Istvan Csom – Boris Spassky, Amsterdam 1970

31...Bc7! The rook is on the way to b1. **32.Qd1** **32.Qa1 Bc2 ✓ 33.g3 Qf7** wins, as the king picks up the d-pawn and continues to b3. **32...Bc2** **33.d6 Bd2! ✓** Only this move stops White's d-pawn in time. **34.Qc1 Qf7 0–1**

686. Mark Taimanov – Boris Spassky Rostov on Don 1971

31...Bxd3! Setting up a double attack by deflecting the defender of the f3-rook. **32.exd3** **32.Wxd3** loses after **32...Wc8!–✓** followed by **33...c2** (**32...Wc6?** allows **33.Qbx7! Bxf7** **34.Wd8† Qh7** **35.Wd3† Wg6** **36.Bxf7 c2** **37.Qc7 c1=Q†** **38.Qxc1 Qxc1** **39.Qf2** and we will not debate whether this is won or not). **32...Wd5!** The rooks cannot defend each other, and the b-pawn stays alive after the forced capture on b2. But not **32...Wc6?** **33.Qxb2=** **33.Qxb2 cxb2†✓** Black has good winning chances and the game only lasted seven more moves: **34.Qf1 We5** **35.e4 Ba8** **36.Qb3** **Ba1** **37.Qg2 Bc1** **38.Wxf7† Qh7** **39.Qf5 Wd6** **40.e5 0–1**

687. Boris Spassky – Derek Banks, Vancouver 1971

33.Qxe6†! Qxe6 **33...Qxe6** **34.Wd7** mate **✓ 34.Wb3† ✓** White has a tremendous attack that wins in several ways. **34...Qd7** **35.Wxb7†** **35.Qa3** and **35.Wb5†** are also winning. **35...Qe6** **36.Qd1 Wxg4** **37.Wd5† 1–0** Black resigned with **37...Qf5** **38.Qf1† Qg6** **39.Wxg8†+–** in mind.

688. Boris Spassky – Walter Dobrich, Vancouver 1971

17.b4! ✓ Black's pawn structure is undermined. The queen gets access to d4 if he captures, and ...d6xc5 would fatally open his king. **17...h4!** Black is not lost yet, but is in grave danger after **17...Qb6** **18.bxc5 Qxc5** **19.Qf3 f5** **20.Qxc5 dxc5±** and d5-d6 now or later. **18.bxa5 hxg3** **19.Qxg3±** White has won a pawn and Black's counterplay is not impressive at all (1–0, 28 moves).

689. Boris Spassky – Robert Zuk, Vancouver 1971

40.Qg5! Qc8 The only defence against **41.Qh3†**, **40...Bh6** **41.Qf7†+–** and **40...Bxg5** **41.Wh4† ✓** (or **41.Qh3†+–**) are hopeless. However, also after the game move White has a generally winning position. Strongest is **41.We4+–** threatening **42.Qe6** as a decisive discovered attack. Black will have to give up material to survive. **41.a5** is also definitely winning, but not the game move **41.Qf7†?!** as it allows **41...Qg8!** (which was not played) **42.Qxe5† Qe6±** and Black has fighting chances only a pawn down.

690. Boris Spassky – Robert Fischer, Reykjavik (1) 1972

I expect that you recognized the first move, but it would have been a mistake were it not for a critical move later in the variation. 32.♗f3! Putting Black under pressure. Instead 32.gxh4 should be a draw. 32...♝e7 The critical position arises after 32...h3 33.♗g4 ♜g1 34.♗xh3 ♜xf2 when Fischer may have missed that the bishop is trapped after: 35.♗d2!+– ✓ Zero points if you didn't see this move! (Harsh – but on the other hand 32.gxh4 is worth one point.) 33.♗g2 hxg3 34.fxg3 ♜xg3 35.♗xg3 ♘d6 36.a4 ♘d5 37.♗a3 ♘e4?! Fischer lost this famous game. 37...a6! has been analysed to a draw.

691. Boris Spassky – Robert Fischer, Reykjavik (5) 1972

27...♜xa4! 0–1 White resigned, since he is mated after 28.♛xa4 ♜xe4 ✓.

692. Boris Spassky – Heikki Westerinen, Dortmund 1973

23.♗xh5! ♜f8 23...♝xh5 24.♛g8† ♘e7 25.exd6†! ✓ followed by 26.♝e1† decides. Westerinen accepted his fate by not taking back on h5. White can continue forcefully by using the e-file, but Spassky's 24.a4 is also good enough for a win.

693. Boris Spassky – Valeri Korensky, Sochi 1973

23.e7†! Black is mated in one move if he captures the pawn, and loses the f7-pawn with check if he does not. 23.♛h8† ♘e7 24.♝xf7†? (24.♛f6† ♘e8=) 24...♝d6+– is not the way – White's attack is over. 23...♝g8 23...♝xe7 24.♛h8 mate ✓ 24.♝xf7† ♘h8 25.e8=♛† ♜xe8 26.♛xe8†+– ✓ ♘g7 27.♛e5† ♘g8 28.♛g5† 1–0 It's mate in seven moves.

694. Boris Spassky – Ratmir Kholmov, Sochi 1973

27.♜xa8! The queen is removed from the defence of the g5-bishop. 27...♜xa8 28.♜xa8 ♜xa8 29.♝xg5+– ✓ (1–0, 41 moves)

695. Boris Rytov – Boris Spassky, Tallinn 1973

12...♝xe4! 13.♛xe4 ♜xc3 14.♝g5 14.bxc3 ♜f5 and the queen can't defend the rook on b1. It is not over yet though: 15.♛e2 ♜xb1 ✓ 16.g4!† and Black has to sacrifice a pawn to get the bishop out. 14...♝e5† Black is a healthy pawn up.

696. Boris Spassky – Orest Averkin, Moscow 1973

26.♝c7! ♜xc7 27.♛e5 The double threat against c7 and g7 picks up an exchange. 27...♝f8 28.♛xc7± ✓

697. Bojan Kurajica – Boris Spassky, Solingen 1974

23...♝h3! 24.♝h1† Despite being a pawn down, White has decent chances to hold with the opposite-coloured bishops, and Kurajica managed to do so. 24.♗xh3 is met by 24...♜xe4 mate ✓ and 24.♝g1 ♜xg2 25.♝xg2 ♜xe4† wins not only one but two pawns: 26.♝f1 ♜xb4 27.♝xd6 ♜xb2† ✓ Black is much better, although the immobile pawns still give White drawing chances.

698. Efim Geller – Boris Spassky, Moscow 1975

34.♘xd6! 34.♗xg5† ♗xg5 35.♗g2 is also a combination, but not as strong. Black has drawing chances after: 35...♗xg2† 36.♗xg2 ♖xa5 37.♗xa5 ♖xa5± After the knight capture, the threat against f7 and the pins along the f- and g-files force Black to give up the exchange, but he is simply lost after: 34...♗xd6 35.♗xa8†+– ✓ (1–0, 39 moves)

699. Boris Spassky – Francisco Sanz Alonso, Montilla 1978

40.♗xg7†! ♗xg7 41.♗e4† ✓ 1–0 Black resigned, as forks or discovered attacks are unavoidable, for example: 41...♗f7 42.♗e5† ♗e8 43.♗c6+–

700. Anatoly Karpov – Boris Spassky, Montreal 1979

39.♗xe7! White is much better anyway, but this is directly winning. **39...♗xe7 40.d6! ♖c4 41.b3!+– ✓** Driving away the counterattack against d3, and ending up plenty of material ahead. 41.♗xa5 ♖ed7 42.♗xd8 ♖xd8 should also win.

701. Bent Larsen – Boris Spassky, Montreal 1979

22.♗xd5! cxd5 23.♗xc5 ♘xc5 24.♗xd5± ✓ Two rooks are often stronger than a queen and two pawns, but they are weak defenders against pawn storms, and White's plan is to attack on the kingside. Larsen won after: 24...♗ea7 25.♗g5 ♖a1† 26.♗h2 ♖8a2 27.♗f5 ♘e6 28.♗h4 ♖f1? 29.f4 ♖c1 30.♗g4 ♖c4? 31.♗f6† ♘h8 32.♗h5! 1–0

702. Boris Spassky – Otto Borik, Germany 1982

28.♗xf7! Spassky played 28.♗xf7† ♗xf7 29.♗xf7 when 29...♗xc3!± would have limited the material loss to a pawn. **28...♗xf7 29.♗d1† ✓** Exchanging on f7 would have helped the black king to e6, and forced c3-c4 to win back the piece. And that would have left the b4-pawn en prise. The opposite-coloured bishops give Black drawing chances, but fortunately White can keep the rooks on in order to make better use of his advantage.

703. Lajos Portisch – Boris Spassky, London 1982

If the queen moves, Black wins back the exchange with ...♗c8 and/or ...♗d2. **23.♗c7! ✓ ♖a8** The only try. **24.♗h3 24.♗d7** is also clearly better. **24...♗e7± 24...♗c8 25.♗f3±** is no longer a problem, since the knight on e4 is semi-pinned.

704. Jan Timman – Boris Spassky, Hilversum (1) 1983

25.♗f5! Black loses an exchange after **25...gxgf5 26.♗g5† ♖g6 27.hxg6+– ✓** when 28.♗h4 is the most efficient follow-up.

705. Jan Timman – Boris Spassky, Hilversum (3) 1983

33...♗c1! 34.♗d3 34.♗b3 ♘d5+– ✓ only postpones the end and 34.♗xe7 ♖xd1†+– ✓ is no better. **34...♗a3!** The threat is to capture the queen. **35.♗f1 ♖xd1** Also winning is 35...♗xf3 36.♗xc1 ♗xg2 37.♗g2 ♗xa4 with two pieces for a rook. **36.♗xd1 ♘c6!+– ✓** White loses the knight or the rook.

706. Aldo Haik – Boris Spassky, Paris (3) 1983

25.♕xh6!+– Black can't take the rook: **25...♔xh6** **25...♕h8** **26.♕xh8** was the game (1–0, 44 moves). **26.♕h1† ♔g7** **27.♕h7†** With a mating attack. **27...♔f6** **28.f4** The quickest way to mate, but it is also possible to mate with only checks: **28.♕h6† ♔e5** **29.♕h2† ♔f6** **30.♕e4† ♔g7** **31.♕h7** mate

707. Eugenio Torre – Boris Spassky, Bugojno 1984

22...♗c1†! **23.♗xc1 ♕xh2** White can't save the rook. **24.♗f1** **24.g4** is best, but Black is clearly better with his extra pawn. **24...♗xg3†** The rook has to go anyway. **25.♗f2** **25.♗d2 ♕g2† ✓** **26.♗c3 ♕xf1–+** **25...♗g1†–+ ✓**

708. Jonathan Ady – Boris Spassky, London 1984

22...♗xa2! Black wins a second pawn after **23.♗xa2 ♕b1†** **24.♗h2 ♕xa2 ✓** and **25.♗xh6** is not enough for White. Black could play either **25...♗b1†** (0–1, 37 moves) or **25...gxh6** **26.♕xh6 ♕f5** **27.♗f6 ♕e4†**, stopping **♗h4**.

709. Kevin Spraggett – Boris Spassky, Montpellier 1985

35.♗xh7†! ✓ **35.♗xg2?!** **♕xd4†** **36.♗b2 ♗c3!** and White is not better, for example: **37.♗f3 ♗xf3!** **38.♗xd4 ♗xf1† =** **35...♗xh7** **36.♗f7†** **36.♗h3†** is also mating. **36...♗h6** **37.♗f6†** The fastest mate is: **37.♗h4† ♗g6** **38.♗f6† ♗h5** **39.♗h7† ♗g4** **40.♗h4** mate **37...♗h7** **38.♗h3† ♗g7** **39.♗xg2† ♗h7** **40.♗g6† 1–0**

710. Lajos Portisch – Boris Spassky, Montpellier 1985

29...♗a2! Black is a pawn up but cannot allow **29...♗b7?** **30.♗c4** with a decisive pin. **30.♗xd5 ♗xc2–+ ✓** The c-pawn should perhaps be decisive, but Portisch held a draw after 64 moves.

711. Boris Spassky – Lucas Brunner, Solingen 1986

18.♗xh7! ♔xh7 **19.♗h4† ♗g8** **20.♗xe7!± ✓** White should keep the queens on the board, partly to attack Black's king and partly to avoid a light-square blockade (1–0, 36 moves).

712. Boris Spassky – Artur Yusupov, Belfort 1988

39.♗xg7†! ♗xg7 **39...♗h8** **40.♗h7†** postpones the mate by one move. **40.♗f7† ♔h8** **41.♗g6 mate ✓**

713. Boris Spassky – Jan Timman, Cannes 1990

37...♗f3! A double threat: **38...♗xb2** and **38...♗h2** mate. **38.♗xf3 ♗xb2† ✓**

714. Boris Spassky – Artur Yusupov, Linares 1990

18...♗xf3†! **18...♗xf3??** **19.♗xe5** **dxe5** **20.♗xf3+–** **19.♗xf3 ♗xe1†** An intermediate move with check. **20.♗xe1 ♗xf3† ✓** Black has won a pawn, but must keep the rook on the board to have reasonable chances of winning the game.

715. Alexander Beliavsky – Boris Spassky, Linares 1990

34.♕f8†! 34.f5 and 34.h5 should also be winning, thanks to the continuing threat of ♕f8†.
34...♔g8 34...♜xf8 35.♝g6† ♔h8 36.♝xg7 mate ✓ **35.♗d7†!+–** White is a rook up after:
35...♝xe8 **36.♗xf6†** ✓

716. Boris Spassky – Eric Prie, Montpellier 1991

28.♕xh6! gxh6 Prie made a desperate attempt with 28...♜xc3+–. **29.♗g4** ✓ Mate follows on g7 or g8.

717. Robert Fischer – Boris Spassky, Belgrade (9) 1992

19.♗bxc5! 19.♗exc5 does not work: 19...bxcc5 20.♜xa6† ♔b6 21.♗xc5 ♔xb3∞ and Black wins a piece. **19...bxc5** Spassky played 19...♝c8+– and resigned two moves later. **20.♜xa6† ♔d7** **21.♗xc5†** ✓ White wins back the piece with three pawns as interest.

718. Robert Fischer – Boris Spassky, Belgrade (19) 1992

30.♜xe5! 30.♝xe5?! dxe5 31.♜xe5± is too soft – Black has more counterplay with the rooks on the board and it's easier to control a passed d-pawn than an a-pawn. **30...dxe5** **31.♝xe5** **♚e7** **31...♝xe5** **32.♜xa7†+–** ✓ and the rook on b6 is lost. **32.d6!** Black's queen has no squares to defend the a7-pawn, and after the only move **32...♜xd6** White will emerge with an extra passed pawn: **33.♝xd6** **♝xd6** **34.♜xa7†±**

719. Nana Ioseliani – Boris Spassky, Copenhagen 1997

Black would have had compensation for the exchange if he was allowed to pick up the d-pawn for free. **37.d7!** Counterattacking with 37.♞a1 is an interesting option. With the knight on h5, Black should probably seek safety for his king in the centre with 37...♝f8!±. **37...♝d6** **37...♝xd7** **38.♚e8†** ✓ and Black loses the f-pawn, while 37...♝xd7 38.♝f6† ✓ forks the queen. **38.♜xc4** Many other moves were also winning. Black loses one of his pieces due to the pin on the d-file after: **38...♝xd7** **38...♝xc4** **39.♚e8†+–** and White queens. **39.♚d1 1–0**

720. Boris Spassky – Viktor Korchnoi, St Petersburg (5) 1999

25...♝xf2! **26.♜f1** **26.♝xf2** **♝e2!** (26...♝xf2†?! 27.♝xf2 **♝d4†** 28.♝g2 **♝xa1** 29.♝e4 and White has compensation, with firm control over the light squares.) **27.♜f1** **♚h6+–** ✓ Black wins back the piece with an extra pawn and an attack. **26...♝h3†** **26...♝xe4** is also a reasonable advantage for Black. **27.♝g1** **♝g4!** ✓ White's knights are stepping on each other, and Black uses his solo knight for offensive purposes. Black has a clear advantage, but Spassky managed to draw.

721. Boris Spassky – Nicolas Etié, France 2002

18.f4†! The only winning move. 18.♝e7 traps the king, but there is no mate after 18...♝e8±. **18...♝xf4** **19.♝c7†** Spassky's 19.♝f1† induced resignation, as 19...♝e5 20.♝c7† **♝e6** 21.♝c4† **♝e7** 22.♝xf7† **♝e8** 23.♝d6 creates the decisive threat of 24.♝e7† followed by 25.♝xg8 (you need to see this far if you chose 19.♝f1). **19...♝g5** 19...♝e3 20.♝g3 with mate on d3. **20.♝g1†** **♝f6** **21.e5†** Or White can start with 21.♝d6+– although that gives Black some better options than transposing with 21...♝e6. **21...♝e7** **22.♝d6†** **♝d8** **23.♝e4** ✓ The knight on g7 drops after 24.♝f6. And it's equally good to win the knight with 23.♝d3+–.

722. Boris Spassky – Scott Coleman, Reno (simul) 2004

15.♕xd5! A second and more complicated solution is: 15.exf6 ♜xf6 (15...gx f6 16.♕xe6† ♔f7 17.♔h5† ♔xe6 18.♗xd5 mate) 16.♔h4 (or 16.♔h3) 16...♗f5 17.♔h7† You need to see this far. 17...♔f6 18.g4 ♜xg5 19.fxg5† ♔e5 Black is one move from escaping, but does not get enough time: 20.♔g6! ♔a6 (defending against ♔b5) 21.♔f7 ♔e8 22.♗d1!+– White has a crushing attack; ...♔d6 is not possible right now, and all White's pieces are homing in on the black king. **15...exd5 16.f5† ♜xf5 17.♔xf5† ✓ ♔h5 18.♔h7† 18.♗f3** is also quite strong, with mate in one, and there are other ways. **18...♔g4 19.h3† ♔xg5 20.♗f5 mate**

At the start, 15.♕xe6† is a good try but doesn't seem to win straight away. 15...♔f7 Preventing White from capturing on f8 with check. 16.exf6 ♜xe6 (16...♗xf6 17.f5+–) 17.♗xg7† ♔e8 18.♗fe1 ♔e4 19.♕xd5! White sacrifices a third piece! 19...♗xd5 20.♗ad1 ♜f5 21.♗d4! The rook is immune and White wins back at least a piece and a rook. One line given by the engine is: 21...♗xf6 22.♗dxe4† ♔e6 23.♔g8† ♗f8 24.♗xe6† ♜xe6 25.♗xe6† ♔d7 26.g3±

723. Boris Spassky – Craig Christensen, Reno (simul) 2004

27.♗xf7! ✓ ♔xc3 27...♔xf7 28.♔e6† (28.♕xd5† also wins) **28...♔g7 29.♕xd5 Threatening mate on f7.** After 29...♗f8, White is winning after any move that defends the pawn on f2. One efficient way is 30.♗e3 followed by 31.♗d4†. 27...e6? 28.♗xc7 ♔xc7 and at least one of Black's weak centre pawns will be lost, for instance: 29.♔f4 d5 30.♔xc7 ♜xc7 31.♔xd5+– **28.♔e6 1–0** Mate is coming.

Robert Fischer

All that matters on the chessboard is good moves.

724. Robert Fischer – Heinz Matthai, Montreal 1956

25...♗xc3! The only way to avoid defeat. **26.fxg6!?** White has other moves that lead to a draw, among them 26.♗h8†, but not 26.♗xc3? ♜xc3 27.bxc3–+ or 26.♔h6 ♜d4, when Black may have a tiny plus. **26...♗h3!** Also the only move; the threat was 27.♗h8† with mate. **27.♗xb4 ♜xh1†= ✓** ($\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$, 108 moves)

725. Robert Fischer – Attilio Di Camillo, Washington DC 1956

40.♔c7! Blocking the black rook while unblocking the white one! **40...♗f4† 41.♔f1 1–0** 41.♗xf4? ♜xd7!– The game move forced resignation due to: 41...♗xc7 42.♗e8†+– ✓

726. George Kramer – Robert Fischer, New York 1957

19...♗xc3! Totally destroying the seemingly strong dark-square fortification. **20.♗xc3 ♔xd4+✓** White has three loose pieces: a1-rook, queen on c3, and c5-bishop. **21.♗b4 ♔e2†** Stronger is 21...a5! 22.♗a3 ♔b5+– and Black picks up the rook without having to sacrifice on c5. **22.♔h1 ♜xc5 23.♗xc5 ♔xa1** Black is probably still winning, and that was the result nine moves later.

727. Robert Fischer – James Sherwin, New York 1957

30.♕xf7?! The best move. Although it does not lead to a decisive advantage against correct defence, it is best both objectively and practically, as Black can easily go wrong. After 30.♕xf7?? ♜h8+, Black might take over. **30...♝c1†?** Natural but losing. Black had to find: 30...h5! 31.♝c4 (31.♝f5?? ♜h7–+ and White is back-rank mated if he takes the queen) 31...♝xc4 32.♝xf8† ♜xf8 33.♝xc4± **31.♛f1!!** Everything checks out for White. But not 31.♝f1†? ♜h8–+. **31...h5** Three alternatives: a) 31...♝xf1† 32.♝xf1† ♜xd5 33.♝xf8† ♜xf8 34.exd5+–✓; b) 31...♝xf7 32.♝a8†✓ mating; c) 31...♝f2† 32.♝xf2†+–✓ **32.♛xc1! ♜xc1† 33.♝f1† ♜h7 34.♝xc1+–✓**

728. Robert Fischer – Samuel Reshevsky, New York 1958

9.e5! ♜e8 9...♜h5 10.g4+–✓ traps the knight and 9...♝xb3 is met by: 10.exf6! ♜xa1 11.fxg7±✓ **10.♞xf7†!** This is now a well-known trick in this line **10...♞xf7** 10...♞xf7 11.♝e6+– **11.♝e6!! dxе6** 11...♝xe6 12.♝d5†✓ ♜f5 and Black is mated in several ways. **12.♛xd8+–✓** (1–0, 42 moves)

729. Robert Fischer – Hector Rossetto, Mar del Plata 1959

33.♞b3! Black is in zugzwang. Moving the king or the rook allows 34.♝b8, moving the knight allows 34.♞e6. All that remains are a few pawn moves. **33...a5 34.a4 h6 35.h3 g5 36.g4 fxg4 37.hxg4 1–0**

730. Wolfgang Unzicker – Robert Fischer, Varna (ol) 1962

25...♝a2! Going for the b2-pawn and the vulnerable second rank. **26.♞f1** 26.♝xa2 ♜xa2 27.♝e2 ♜xc3!✓ and 26.♝h1 ♜f2!✓ wins (or exchanging on a1 first). **26...♝xc3** With an attack and a material advantage, it's all over. **27.♝xa2** 27.bxc3? ♜f2 mate✓ **27...♝f3† 28.♞e2 ♜f2†✓ 29.♞d3 ♜xa2+–** Or 29...♝c7+–.

731. Robert Fischer – Victor Ciocaltea, Varna (ol) 1962

15.♞g5! Trapping the queen. **15...hxg5 16.hxg5 ♜xg5** 16...♝f4 is a nice try, but after 17.gxf6 ♜xe2 18.fxe7+–✓ the knight is trapped, leaving White a piece up. **17.♛xg5+–✓** (1–0, 26 moves)

732. Robert Fischer – L.W. Beach, Poughkeepsie 1963

21.♞h6! Undermining the centralized knight. **21.♝d6†?!** ♜d7 (21...♞e7? 22.♞h6+–) 22.♞h6? (22.♞f4 ♜xd6 23.♝he1±) This does not work due to: 22...♝xh6 23.♝xe5 ♜c7+ **21...♝c7** a) 21...0–0 22.♝xg7 ♜xg7 23.♝xe5+–✓; b) 21...♝xh6 22.♝f6† (22.♝xe5 0–0 23.♝f6† ♜xf6 24.♝xb8†+– should also be good enough – full point.) 22...♞f7 23.♝xe5+–✓ With a killing attack on the exposed king. **22.♝d6†!✓** There are options. 22.♝c5+– and 22.♝xg7 ♜xg7 23.♝c5+– also give full points. **22...♝d8** 22...♝xd6 23.♝xg7+– **23.♝xg7** 23.♝he1+– **23...♝xd6** 23...♝xg7 24.♝xe5+– **24.♝xe5+–**

733. Robert Fischer – Arthur Bisguier, New York 1963

29.e6! A full-blown attack with only a few pieces and a couple of pawns! White evacuated the e5-square for the bishop. **29...f6+–** Also losing is 29...fxe6 30.♞e5! ♜h7 31.fxg6+–✓ and 29...gxsf5 30.exf7†✓ when White's attack will win material, for instance: 30...♞g7 31.♞e5† ♜f6 32.♝e8†+– **30.♝f7!** With the bishop coming to d6 and the rook to h8, White is winning but other moves were also sufficient (1–0, 36 moves).

734. Robert Fischer – Pal Benko, New York 1963

19.♕f6! Blocking the defensive move ...f7-f5 by drastic means. 19.e5 allows 19...f5!∞. **19...♔g8** 19...h6 20.e5 transposes and there are also other winning moves, while 19...♗xf6 20.e5 ♕xe5 21.♗xh7 mate ✓ is obviously over. **20.e5! ✓ h6 21.♗e2** With a winning attack. 21.♗e4+– or anything else reasonable also wins; Black is quite helpless against White's attack.

735. Robert Fischer – Kevin Walters, San Francisco (simul) 1964

36.♗c5! Simply winning everything on e7. But not: 36.♗xe7?? ♗xe7 37.♗c5 ♔f4† (37...♔b7+–) 38.g3 ♕xf2†!–+ **36...♔f4†** 36...♗xc5 37.♔f7 mate ✓ **37.g3 1–0**

736. Georgi Tringov – Robert Fischer, Havana 1965

19...♔c5† Black has just enough resources to defend, leaving him with a winning material advantage. 19...♗f6? 20.♗xf8† ♗g8 21.♗xg8 mate and 19...♗e7 20.♗xe7+– do not work. **20.♗h1 ♗f6! 21.♗xf6** The game ended: 21.♗xc8 ♗xe5 22.♗e6 ♗eg4 0–1 and 21.exf6 ♗xe6 22.♗xe6 ♗xg5+– ✓ also loses (or 22...♗d4+–). **21...♔xe6+– ✓**

737. Robert Fischer – Istvan Bilek, Havana 1965

35.f4! Exploiting the pins to win the central pawns. **35...f5+–** 35...exf4 36.♗xh5†+– ✓ and 35...♗xh7 36.f5+– ✓ do not help. After the game move, anything reasonable wins. The game concluded: **36.fxe5 ♗xh7 37.♗d7† ♗e7 38.♗xf5† ♔e8 39.f4 ♔d8 40.e6 1–0**

738. Robert Fischer – Svetozar Gligoric, Havana (ol) 1966

18.♗xa6! ♗xh3 Or 18...bxa6 19.♗xc6+– ✓ with a winning attack. For example: 19...♔d7 20.♗xa6† ♔b7 21.♗a7† ♔c8 22.♗a8† ♔b7 23.♗a6 mate. **19.e5** Or simply 19.♗c5† ♔b8 20.♗c3+–. **19...♗xe5** 19...fxe5 20.♗c5† ♔b8 21.♗c3!+– **20.dxe5** The game concluded: **20...fxe5 21.♗c5† ♔b8 22.gxh3 e4 23.♗xe4 ♗e7 24.♗c3 b5 25.♗c2 1–0** Black had had enough.

739. Robert Fischer – Joaquim Durao, Havana (ol) 1966

33.♗xa5! 33.♗f6† ♔e7 34.♗xa5!+– is also good. **33...♗c7** 33...bxa5? 34.♗f6† ♔e7 35.♗b7† ♘d7 36.♗xd7 mate ✓ **34.♗c4+– ✓** White wins a second pawn with a decisive advantage since **34...♗c6 35.a5 bxa5 36.♗f6†** again gives mate.

740. Robert Fischer – Renato Naranja, Manila 1967

This exercise is about making a decision, and avoiding a tempting sacrifice. **14.♗g5!** Bringing the bishop into the attack in the most effective way. Two alternatives: a) 14.g4 looks winning and is winning, even though Black gets some counterplay with 14...d5. White chooses between 15.♗a2 dxe4 16.dxe4 ♗d4 17.g5 ♗xe4 18.♗e2!+– and 15.g5 g6 16.fgx6 fgx6 17.♗g4!+– (full points for both choices on move 15). b) 14.♗xh6?! gxh6 15.♗xh6 ♗g7 16.♗g5 ♗c6! The only way to defend against 17.f6, but now White's best is to exchange queens. That's disappointing, even though White still has a strong attack after 17.♗d5! ♗xg5 18.hxg5±. **14...d5** 14...hxg5? 15.hxg5 ✓ with mate next move. 14...♗c6 defends the bishop but Black's pawn structure will nevertheless suffer after: 15.♗xf6 ♗xf6 16.♗d5 ♗d8 17.f6+– **15.♗xf6 dxc4** 15...gxf6 16.♗xh6 dxc4 17.♗h3+– **16.♗g4!+–** White is totally dominating and will win enough material (1–0, 32 moves).

741. Robert Fischer – Lhamsuren Myagmarsuren, Sousse 1967

30.♘h6! 30.hxg6? fxg6 31.♗xh7 ♗xh7 loses for White, but 30.♗e4! prevents the defensive move ...♗d3 and also seems winning for White (full points if you were clear on why it wins). **30...♗f8** **31.♗xh7†! 1–0** Black resigned due to: 31...♗xh7 32.hxg6† ♗xg6 (32...♗g8 33.♗h8 mate ✓) 33.♗e4 mate ✓

742. Robert Fischer – Oscar Panno, Buenos Aires 1970

29.♗xh7! 29.♗f5! might be even prettier and full points if you saw the following lines: 29...exf5 30.gxf5 gxf5 (30...f6 31.♗xd5†+–) 31.♗xf5 f6 32.♗e6†! Blocking the e-file. (Not 32.exf6 ♗e1† 33.♗g2 ♗f1†! with a perpetual.) 32...♗xe6 33.exf6 ♗d7 34.♗xe6+– (or 34.f7†+–) But 29.♗xd5? exd5 30.♗f5 gxf5 31.gxf5 which does not work, as 31...♗d6 32.f6 ♗f5 defends and wins. **29...♗xh7** **30.hxg6 fxe6** 30...dxe4 31.♗xh7† ♗f8 32.♗h8 mate ✓ **31.♗xg6** Now ♗h5-f6 or ♗xh7 followed by ♗xe6† are on the agenda. **31...♗g5** 31...♗g7 32.♗xh7† ♗xh7 33.♗xe6†+– ✓ and the knight on c8 is en prise, as it also is after 31...♗e8 32.♗xh7† ♗xh7 33.♗xe6†+– ✓. **32.♗h5!** White has enough attacking pieces to finish Black off, but first some checks must be parried. 32.♗g2+– is another way to do that. **32...♗f3†** **33.♗g2!+– ✓** 33.♗h1? ♗h4†+– 33...♗h4† 34.♗g3 ♗xg6 **35.♗f6† ♗f7** **36.♗h7† 1–0** The end was not far away: 36...♗f8 37.♗g8 mate

743. Robert Fischer – Mark Taimanov, Vancouver (2) 1971

82.♗c8! 82.♗f5† ♗f4 83.h4 ♗g4†! is a draw, since the king must keep the bishop protected. 82.♗e6 ♗f3 and the pawn can't advance. **82...♗f4 83.h4 ✓** **84.♗f3** 83...♗g4† 84.♗g7 and the pawn will soon advance. **84.h5 ♗g5 85.♗f5** It is also possible to start with 85.h6. **85...♗f3** **86.h6 ♗g5 87.♗g6** Zugzwang; the pawn promotes. **87...♗f3 88.h7 ♗e5† 89.♗f6 1–0**

Anatoly Karpov

Style? I have no style.

744. Anatoly Karpov – Viktor Korchnoi, Moscow (2) 1974

24.e5! Cutting off the black queen from the kingside. 24.♗e6? fxe6 25.♗xf6† exf6 26.♗xh7† leads nowhere: 26...♗f8 27.♗h8†? (27.b3! still draws by threatening ♗h6) 27...♗e7 28.♗h7† ♗d8+–, while 24.♗xf6†? exf6 25.♗h5 (25.♗xh7† ♗f8†) runs into 25...♗g5†!=. **24...♗xd5** After 24...dxe5 25.♗xf6† exf6 26.♗h5! there is no queen check on g5 so Black loses: 26...gxh5 27.♗g1† ♗h8 28.♗g7 mate ✓ (or 28.♗xf6 mate). **25.exf6 exf6** **26.♗xh7† ♗f8** **27.♗h8† 1–0** Black resigned due to 27...♗e7 28.♗xd5† ♗xd5 29.♗e1†+– ✓.

745. Viktor Korchnoi – Anatoly Karpov, Moscow (21) 1974

13.♗xh7! **♗e8** 13...♗xh7 14.♗h6† ♗g8 15.♗xg6† ♗h8 16.♗h5† (16.♗h6† mates in a slower way, but White should avoid 16.♗xf7? ♗xf7 17.♗xf7 ♗e8†) 16...♗g8 17.♗e4! ✓ with mate. 13...♗d4 14.♗xf8+– ✓ (or 14.♗xb7 ♗xb7 15.♗xf8+–) **14.♗h6** 14.♗f4+– is also winning. **14...♗e5 15.♗g5** Black had to give up the queen to fend off the attack, leaving White with a winning position (1–0, 19 moves).

746. Anatoly Karpov – Dirk Suling, Bremen (simul) 1977

38...Qf3†! **39.Qxf3** **39.Qh1** **Qh4†–+** ✓ wins the queen and **39.gxf3** is met by: **39...Qg5†** (or **39...Qg5†**) **40.Qh1** **Qh4†** **41.Qh3** **Qxh3** mate ✓ **39...exf3–+** ✓

747. Anatoly Karpov – Angel Martin Gonzalez, Las Palmas 1977

27.Qxf6! For no material investment, White opens up the black king for a deadly assault. **27.e5** **Qxe5** **28.Qxf6+–** also works, as does **27.fxg6** **hxg6** **28.Qxf6+–**. **27...exf6** **28.Qgxf6†** **Qxf6** **29.Qxf6†–+** ✓ **Qf8** **30.fxg6** Other moves also retain a winning advantage. The game concluded with: **30...hxg6** **31.Qg4!** Bringing in the queen to finish the job. **31...Qf7** **32.Qxg6** **Qce5** **33.Qh7†** **1–0**

748. Anatoly Karpov – Viktor Korchnoi, Baguio City (8) 1978

25.Qh6! Setting up a mating pattern on f7. **25...Qg7** **26.Qd7!** The bishop is tied to the defence, and Black cannot protect f7 with any more pieces. **26...Qb8** The alternatives also lose: **26...Qxd7** **27.Qxf7†** **Qxf7** **28.Qxf7** mate ✓ and **26...Qe7** **27.Qxe7** (or **27.Qd8†** **Qe8** **28.Qa8** **Qd7** **29.Qe1+–**) **27...Qxe7** **28.Qf6†+–** ✓. **27.Qxf7!** **Qxd7** **28.Qd8†!** ✓ **1–0** White wins material and gives mate.

749. Anatoly Karpov – John van der Wiel, Amsterdam 1980

29.e8=Q†! Not allowing the king to get to relative safety on e8. White needed to avoid **29.Qe4?** **Qf1†+–** and with the help of some checks, Black manages to trade queens, with a winning material advantage. **29...Qbxe8** **29...Qhxe8** does not help either: **30.g6†** **Qf8** **31.Qf4†** (or similarly **31.Qf3†** or **31.Qf2†**) **31...Qg8** **32.Qf7†** **Qh8** **33.Qxe8†** **Qxe8** **34.Qxe8†** **Qf8** **35.Qxf8** mate ✓ **30.g6†** **Qg8** **31.Qxe8†** ✓ **1–0** The attack decides.

750. Anatoly Karpov – Miguel Quinteros, Buenos Aires 1980

32.f5! The g-file is where the weaknesses are, so White forcefully attacks them. Not **32.Qh5?** **Qd3–+** and Black defends. **32...Qxh7** **32...exf5** **33.Qxf5+–** ✓ (or **33.Qf3+–**) **33.fxg6†** **33.Qxh7** **exf5** **34.Qxf5+–** is just as strong. **33...Qg8** **33...Qxg6** **34.Qxe6†** **Qg5** **35.Qf4** mate and **33...Qe8** **34.gxh7+–** lose as well. **34.Qxh7†** **Qh8** **35.Qf4!** **1–0** The g-file is still the target.

751. Anatoly Karpov – Bent Larsen, Amsterdam 1980

34.d5! Opening up the black king. **34...cxd5** **34...exd5** **35.Qf5†+–** ✓ with a winning attack. **35.c6†** **Qxc6** **35...bxc6** **36.Qxb8+–** ✓ **36.Qb5†** **1–0** White picks up the rook on g1: **36...Qd6** **37.Qb6†** **Qe7** **38.Qxg1+–** ✓

752. Zoltan Ribli – Anatoly Karpov, Tilburg 1980

16...Qa5 Exploiting the pin to get at the weak c4-pawn. Black will win this pawn with a serious advantage. **17.Qd4** **17.Qxe7†** **Qxe7+–** ✓ and the pawn is still doomed. **17.Qc2** **Qxc4!** ✓ **18.Qxc4** **Qxd5–+** (or **18...Qxd5–+**); **17.bxa5** **Qxb1+–** ✓ **17...Qxc4+–** ✓ (0–1, 25 moves)

753. Anatoly Karpov – Anthony Miles, Amsterdam 1981

32.d5! **Qxd5** **32...Qf6** **33.Qh5!+–** and White soon won. Other moves are also good enough. **32...Qc8** and other passive queen moves allow White to attack on the long diagonal. Even stronger is starting with **33.h5**. **33.Qd4+–** ✓ A double threat, winning the bishop.

754. Anatoly Karpov – Efim Geller, Moscow 1981

31... $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ + Queen and knight is the usual combo, but here a queen with a bishop wreaks havoc when the king's defending pawns are gone. The fact that the knight on d5 only protects dark squares plays a large part in giving such a free rein to the bishop. Good enough only for a clear advantage are 31... $\mathbb{Q}a4$ and 31... $\mathbb{Q}c4$. **31... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xg6\#$** $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 32... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}g7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}g6$ mate ✓ **33. $\mathbb{Q}xh6\#$ 1–0** Black resigned due to 33... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}b5!+$ ✓ and 33... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}h7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}g6\#$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}h7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}f7$ mate.

755. Anatoly Karpov – Gian Carlo Angioni, Turin (simul) 1982

36. $\mathbb{Q}d5\#$ White is much better after retreating the queen, but winning outright is the way to go. **36... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 36... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}f7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}d8\#$** (or 38. $\mathbb{Q}e5!+$) 38... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}f7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}e8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ mate ✓ **37. $\mathbb{Q}f7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$** ✓ White is clearly winning and the game ended immediately: **38... $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}f7\#$ 1–0** Mate is coming.

756. Anatoly Karpov – De Chen, Hannover 1983

19... $\mathbb{Q}xf4?!$ A common sacrifice in the French, but here it would have been better to abstain from it. 19... $g5!$ is the only move that's not clearly worse for Black. White is slightly better after 20. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $gxf4$ ✓ 21. $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $fxg3$ 22. $fxg3!$. **20.gxf4 $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xe4!$ $dxe4$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}e5!$** Activity brings White a large advantage. **22... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 22... $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}h1\pm$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 24... $\mathbb{Q}g4\#$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}f3\#$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}c1!+$ – **25. $\mathbb{Q}d1!+$ – 25. $\mathbb{Q}d4!–$ 25... $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ 1–0****

757. Anatoly Karpov – Murray Chandler, Bath 1983

Black missed a great opportunity for a serious upset against the reigning world champion. **28... $\mathbb{Q}xh2\#$!** Instead the game went 28... $\mathbb{Q}xg3?$ 29. $hxg3$ $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xf5!–$ (1–0, 36 moves). **29. $\mathbb{Q}xh2$ $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ 29... $\mathbb{Q}xg3\#$?** 30. $\mathbb{Q}g1!–$ **30. $\mathbb{Q}b5$** There is no rescue after 30. $\mathbb{Q}a6$ $\mathbb{Q}e2\#$ ✓, mating on the h-file. **30... $\mathbb{Q}e2\#$ –** ✓ White is forced to give back the queen, leaving Black with a winning position. 30... $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $cxb5$ also wins.

758. Garry Kasparov – Anatoly Karpov, Moscow (11) 1985

23. $\mathbb{Q}xd7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}e8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}e4\#$ ✓ 1–0 White picks up a lot of material for the queen, gaining a winning material advantage.

759. Garry Kasparov – Anatoly Karpov, Leningrad (16) 1986

35. $\mathbb{Q}xg6!$ Threatening mate. **35... $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}g8\#$!** 36. $\mathbb{Q}xe5?$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}xa6$ $d2$ gives Black serious counterplay with the d-pawn. **36... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}d6\#$!** ✓ Picking up the queen with a winning attack. The game finished: **37... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 37... $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}f5\#$** is mating. **38. $\mathbb{Q}e8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 40. $d7$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 1–0**

760. Alexander Beliavsky – Anatoly Karpov, Brussels 1988

37. $\mathbb{Q}h6!$ 37.c7? $\mathbb{Q}c8$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{Q}xc7$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}xc7$ $\mathbb{Q}xc7$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}b3$ and Black has some drawing chances after 40... $\mathbb{Q}xf2\#$. **37... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ No salvation is offered by 37... $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}xf7!–$ ✓ or 37... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 38.c7!–. **38. $\mathbb{Q}xf7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 38... $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ $\mathbb{Q}xd8$ (39... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}e6\#$ – ✓) 40.c7!–** White has a new queen on the way. **39.c7 ✓ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}d7!$** Winning the most material. 40. $\mathbb{Q}b8!$ is also good: 40... $\mathbb{Q}a8$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ $\mathbb{Q}xa8$ 42. $\mathbb{Q}xc5!–$ The game continuation of 40.c8= $\mathbb{Q}?$ $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}xc8$ is probably winning, but also not totally clear (1–0, 60 moves). **40... $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}b8!+–$****

761. Anatoly Karpov – Lars Bo Hansen, Thessaloniki (ol) 1988

20.♘xf7! Picking up a pawn. 20.g4 is also quite strong and if you evaluated 20...♝e7 21.♘xf7 as winning, you get full points. **20...♝d4** 20...♝xf7 21.♗c7† ♘f8 22.♗xb7+– ✓ The check on d1 is not dangerous. **21.♗d6!** Clearly best, but not necessary to see before taking on f7. White tries to get the knight out with tempo, and trade off Black's active queen, but he also attacks the weak pawns. **21...♝b2** 22.♗f1+– 22.♗d1+– is also good enough. Keeping everything protected is best tactically here. The game ended in a few moves: **22...♞e8** 23.♗c7 ♘a8 24.♗g5 h6 25.♗f7† ♘h8 26.e5 1–0

762. Yasser Seirawan – Anatoly Karpov, Rotterdam 1989

30...♜xf3! 30...h4?! 31.♗c8! hxg3† 32.♗xg3= **31.♘xf3** 31.♗f1+– is the best defence, but Black is winning with an extra pawn and an ongoing attack. After the game move 31.♗xa7+–, Black's position is totally winning due to the weak white king (0–1, 42 moves). **31...♝xb2†+–** ✓ Winning the rook. But not 31...♗d2†? 32.♔e1±.

763. Jonathan Speelman – Anatoly Karpov, Roquebrune (blitz) 1992

21...♛b5! Using the fact that the queen is bound to the defence of g3. **22.♗f3** a) 22.♗f5?! ♘xd3 23.♗xg5 h2† 24.♔h1 f5! ✓ and ...♝e4† will decide the game. b) Even quicker is 22.♗xb5 ♜xg3† 23.♔h1 ♜g2 mate ✓. **22...♞xf1+–** ✓

764. Alexander Morozevich – Anatoly Karpov, Moscow (rapid) 1992

24...f5! Surprisingly counterattacking the cluster of white pieces in the centre. **25.♗f3 e5!** **26.dxe5** Alternatives are easy to dismiss: 26.hxg6 exf4+– and 26.♗c1 e4+–. **26...♝xd3+–** ✓ (0–1, 30 moves)

765. Ljubomir Ljubojevic – Anatoly Karpov, Linares 1993

35...♝e1†! **36.♘xe1** Instead, Black gained a winning attack after: 36.♗f1 ♜xf1† 37.♗xf1 ♜xh2+– ✓ Moves that carry a threat, so that taking on h2 can be played soon, are also winning. 38.♗d5 ♘xd5 39.cxd5 ♜xg3 40.fxg5 ♜f3† 0–1 **36...♝e1† 37.♗f1 ♜f3!!** All-out attack with the pieces! **38.♗xe1 ♜h1† 39.♗f2 ♜g2† 40.♗e3 ♜f3 mate** ✓

766. Anatoly Karpov – Judit Polgar, Las Palmas 1994

27.h5! Undermining the knight on f5, which could end up pinned. **27...♝e7** 27...gxh5 28.♗e4+– ✓ **28.♗ae1** ✓ The pressure on e7 and g6 are too much and Black resigned. **28...♝f7** 28...♝ae8 29.hxg6† ♘h8 30.♗e4+– **29.hxg6† ♘xg6** **30.♗xg6 ♜xg6** **31.♗e4+–**

767. Anatoly Karpov – Ivan Morovic Fernandez, Las Palmas 1994

32.♗h8†! White is winning anyway, but this is the fastest way to end the game. **32...♝xh8** **33.♗h1† ♘g8** **34.♗xf6 ♜xg3†** 34...♝xf6 35.♗h7† ♘f8 36.♗h8 mate ✓ **35.fxg3 ♜e2†** **36.♗h3** 36.♗f3 ♜e2e3† 37.♗g4 ♜xg3† 38.♗h4 and White is still winning, but the game line is a much better choice. **36...gxh6** **37.♗g4** 1–0

768. Anatoly Karpov – Kiril Georgiev, Tilburg 1994

32... $\mathbb{E}e8!$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xf7?$! $\mathbb{W}b7$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}d8\#$ $\mathbb{W}d5\pm$ **32... $\mathbb{W}xd6$** 32... $\mathbb{E}xe8$ 33. $\mathbb{W}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 34. $\mathbb{E}xe8\#$ ✓ wins, as do 32... $c4$ 33. $\mathbb{W}xc4$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 34. $\mathbb{E}1xe5$ ✓ and 32... $\mathbb{W}b7$ 33. $\mathbb{W}xf7\#$ ✓. The last variation could continue with 33... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 34. $\mathbb{E}xa8$ $\mathbb{W}xa8$ 35. $\mathbb{W}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 36. $\mathbb{E}e7$, mating. **33. $\mathbb{W}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}e6!$ ✓ 1-0** A winning fork. 34. $\mathbb{E}xa8$ $\mathbb{W}xa8$ 35. $\mathbb{E}e8\#$ $\mathbb{E}xe8$ 36. $\mathbb{W}xe8\#$ is also winning due to the fork on f7.

769. Ulf Andersson – Anatoly Karpov, Nykoping (rapid 2) 1995

14.d5! A well-known tactical theme in this type of position, using rook against queen. **14... $\mathbb{Q}fxd5$** 14... $\mathbb{Q}bx d5$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ (15. $\mathbb{Q}xd5?$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5\#$) 15... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xd5+-$ **15. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$** Or 15. $\mathbb{Q}xe7$, but not 15. $\mathbb{Q}xd5?$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3\#$. **15... $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}xb4+-$** ✓ The game ended after the further: **16... $\mathbb{W}e7$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 1-0** White is simply a piece up for a pawn.

770. Judit Polgar– Anatoly Karpov, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1996

39. $\mathbb{E}dx e7!!$ 39. $\mathbb{E}xe7??$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ and 39. $\mathbb{Q}e4??$ $\mathbb{E}xd7$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ loses for White, but 39. $\mathbb{Q}a7\pm$ is good enough for an advantage. **39... $\mathbb{E}xe7$ 39... $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 40. $\mathbb{E}xg6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}g7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 42. $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 43. $\mathbb{Q}f7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 44. $\mathbb{E}g7$ mate ✓ **40. $\mathbb{E}xg6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 41. $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{E}xg7$** The game ended after 41... $\mathbb{E}e2\#$ 42. $\mathbb{Q}c3+-$ and two more moves. The king could also have moved to b1. **42. $\mathbb{E}xg7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 43. $\mathbb{Q}e6\#+-$** ✓**

771. Alexander Onischuk – Anatoly Karpov, Biel 1996

31... $\mathbb{Q}e4!$ Threatening a fork on g5 while simultaneously cutting off the rook from the defence of the e3-pawn. 31... $\mathbb{Q}xc5?!$ allows enough counterplay for a draw: 32. $\mathbb{E}e8\#$ $\mathbb{E}xe8$ 33. $\mathbb{W}xe8\#$ $\mathbb{W}g8$ (33... $\mathbb{Q}g7?$ 34. $\mathbb{W}e5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 35. $\mathbb{W}xc5+-$) 34. $\mathbb{W}e5\#$ $\mathbb{W}g7$ 35. $\mathbb{W}e8\#$ = Also equal is: 31... $\mathbb{Q}b1?!$ 32.h3. **32.h4** 32. $\mathbb{E}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}g5+-$ ✓ **32... $\mathbb{W}xe3\#+-$** ✓ **33. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{W}d4$ 0-1**

772. Anatoly Karpov – Peter Leko, Tilburg 1996

28. $\mathbb{E}xh6!$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xe7$ $\mathbb{Q}xh1\#$ **28... $\mathbb{W}xh6$** **29. $\mathbb{W}e3!$ 1-0** 29. $\mathbb{W}xe7?+-$ doesn't win a piece, but is still good enough. In the game, Black resigned due to 29... $\mathbb{W}f6$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xe4+-$ ✓ and 29... $\mathbb{Q}c4\#$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ $\mathbb{W}h2\#$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}e1+-$ ✓ (or 31. $\mathbb{Q}e2+-$).

773. Anatoly Karpov – Marcin Szymanski, Koszalin (simul) 1997

26... $\mathbb{Q}d3!$ Pulling the rook to a dangerous square. 26... $f4?!$ 27. $\mathbb{g}4=$ **27. $\mathbb{E}xd3$ $f4$** A double threat against d3 and g3. **28.g4** $\mathbb{W}xd3$ **29.gxh5** White has enough material, but the pin on the second rank decides. **29... $\mathbb{E}e2!$ 30. $\mathbb{W}h4$ $\mathbb{E}xg2\#$** 30... $h6$ creates luft and soon wins on g3/f3. **31. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{W}xf3\#$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{W}g2$ mate**

774. Valery Salov – Anatoly Karpov, Wijk aan Zee 1998

27. $\mathbb{Q}c4!$ Black is too late with his development. The white knight uses the immobility of the black queen and knight to head for a5, b6 or d6, whichever has the deadliest effect. **27... $\mathbb{E}b8$** Three alternatives: a) 27... $\mathbb{W}c7$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xb7$ (or 28. $\mathbb{Q}d6\#+-$) 28... $\mathbb{W}xb7$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}d6\#+-$ ✓; b) 27... $\mathbb{W}xc4$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xb7+-$ ✓; c) 27... $o-o$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}a5+-$ ✓ **28. $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ 0-0** Black also has options here: 28... $\mathbb{W}xb6$ 29. $\mathbb{W}xb6$ $\mathbb{E}xb6$ 30. $\mathbb{E}a8\#+-$ ✓ and 28... $\mathbb{E}xb6$ 29. $\mathbb{W}a8\#+-$ ✓. **29. $\mathbb{Q}c4+-$** ✓ (1-0, 32 moves) 29. $\mathbb{Q}a8+-$ is more convoluted, but should work as well.

775. Vladimir Kramnik – Anatoly Karpov, Frankfurt 1999

20.♕xg7†! 20.♗f5! transposes or wins material straight away. **20...♔xg7 21.♗f5† exf5 22.♗xe7 ♗xe7 23.♗e2!+– ✓** The double attack wins a piece.

776. Alexei Shirov – Anatoly Karpov, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2001

36.♗b1†! 36.exf6 is equal, for example 36...♗xf3† 37.♗g2 ♗h4†=, and 36.♗xg7†? ♗xg7 37.♗xh6† ♗xh6 simply loses for White. **36.♗f5 36...f5** is met by the same theme as in the game. **37.♗xg7†! 1–0** Black foresaw 37...♗xg7 38.♗xh6† ♗xh6 39.♗xd1+– ✓.

777. Judit Polgar – Anatoly Karpov, Hoogeveen 2003

All White's pieces are aimed at a very lonely black king. **25.♗xh7†! 25.♗h5?! f5± 25...♗xh7 26.♗h5† 1–0** Karpov didn't want to see 26...♗g8 27.♗xg7! with the classic double-bishop sacrifice and a neat finish: 27...♗xg7 (after 27...f5 many moves lead to mate, for instance 28.♗g6+–) 28.♗g3† ♗f6 29.♗g5 mate ✓

778. Andrei Istratescu – Anatoly Karpov, Bucharest (3) 2005

31.♗c5! Attacking the defending bishop. 31.♗h8† ♗f7 only gives a clear advantage and 31.♗d4? ♗e1† 32.♗a2 ♗xc2+– is even weaker. **31...♗e7** A desperate attempt to prolong the game, but the outcome should not be in question. But it still offers more hope than 31...♗xc5 32.♗xg7 mate ✓ or 31...♗e1† 32.♗a2 ♗xc2 33.♗h8† ♗f7 34.♗xf8 mate ✓. **32.♗xe7+– (1–0, 74 moves)** Other moves are winning too.

779. Judit Polgar – Anatoly Karpov, Moscow (blitz) 2009

28...♗xg3† 29.♗g2! 29.fxg3? ♗xe3+– ✓ **29...♗ge4+– ✓** Instead, Black let White into the game with 29...♗xe3? 30.fxe3 ♗ge4† and lost in 47 moves. Trading rooks reduces the impact of the previously free d-pawn and gives the white pieces more active possibilities.

780. Anatoly Karpov – Arkadij Naiditsch, Kiev (rapid) 2013

24...♗xg3! 24...♗b6 25.♗xb4† 25.fxg3 25.e3+– basically admitted defeat (0–1, 46 moves). **25.♗xg3 ♗xb5 ✓** also loses. **25...♗b6† 26.♗f1 ♗xb5+– ✓**

781. Anatoly Karpov – Olav Sepp, Puhajarve (rapid) 2013

17.♗xf5! Or 17.♗xg7† ♗xg7 18.♗xf5† transposing. **17...♗xf5 18.♗xg7†! ♗xg7 19.♗g4†+– ✓** White wins back the rook, with an extra piece. **19...♗f6 20.♗e4†** Best, but there are other winning continuations as well. **20...♗e5 21.♗g3 1–0** Or 21.♗g3† ♗xe4 22.♗g4† ♗e5 23.♗d4 mate.

Garry Kasparov

The biggest problem I see among people who want to excel in chess – and in business and in life in general – is not trusting their instincts enough.

782. Garry Kasparov – Walter Browne, Banja Luka 1979

38.♗h7†! ♗xh7 38...♗f8 39.♗h8 mate ✓ 39.♗xe6 ✓ 1–0 White wins f7 with a killing attack.

783. Garry Kasparov – Leonid Yurtaev, Moscow 1981

29.♕xe6! 29.♗h6? ♜f8+ **29...fxe6 30.♗h6+– ✓ 1–0** After 30...♜f8 simplest is 31.♗xg6† ♔h8 32.♗xh5† ♔g8 33.♗g1† mating.

784. Garry Kasparov – Miguel Najdorf, Bugojno 1982

24.♗xg7! 24.♗h4?! g6 25.♗e7†± and White only wins an exchange, while 24.♗h6?? even loses: 24...♝e1† 25.♔f1 ♔a6+– Instead 24.♗h6† ♔h8 25.♗f5 g6 26.♗xf7†? ♔g7 27.♗d7 looks clever, but Black has 27...♝c8+–. **24...♝xg7 24...♝c8 25.♗e6† ♔h8 26.♗f5** also leads to mate. **25.♔h6 ✓ 1–0**

785. Matthias Wahls – Garry Kasparov, Hamburg (simul) 1985

27.♗xe5! 27.♗e7†? ♔xd5+– **27...♛xe2** The critical test. The game instead saw 27...♝b1† 28.♔g2+– ✓ when White has a winning attack. Black resigned after 28...♝xe5 29.♗c3. **28.♗f4† ♔f5 29.♗xf7† ♔g5 30.♗xe2+– ✓** White is simply a piece up.

786. Garry Kasparov – Comp Meph Exclusive S, Hamburg (simul) 1985

17.♗f6†! gxg6 18.exf6 ♔h8 18...♝e7 19.♗g5† ♔g6 20.♗h6+– ✓ Moving the king is the only way to avoid the mate on g7, but Black is mated all the same after: **19.♗e4 ✓ 1–0**

787. Nigel Short – Garry Kasparov, Belfort 1988

24...♝b4! 24...♝xb2? 25.♔xb2 e5 26.♗xe5 ♔a3† wins the knight on c3, but doesn't mate on b2: 27.♔b1 ♜xc3 28.♔xd5+– However, 24...♝b4?! is better for Black. Without the second pair of rooks, White will not have enough compensation for the exchange. **25.b3** Giving up the b2-pawn with, for instance, 25.♗1d3 might be a better idea, but Black is much better. And he wins after 25.♗xb4? ♔xe3† 26.♔b1 ♜xb4. ✓ **25...e5!** Overloading the queen. **26.♛xe5 ♜xc3+– ✓**

788. Ljubomir Ljubojevic – Garry Kasparov, Belfort 1988

38...♝h3! 39.♛g1 39.♜xh3 ♜xe1† ✓ is mating. **39...♝e8! ✓ 0–1** Winning the bishop, and thus the game.

789. Gata Kamsky – Garry Kasparov, New York 1989

36...♝f3! 37.♗c1 37.gxf3? gxf3† 38.♔h1 ♜g2 mate ✓ **37...♜xb3 ✓ 0–1** Black is a piece up, and winning.

790. Alexei Shirov – Garry Kasparov, Manila (ol) 1992

35...♝d4!! The white queen is in the crosshairs of the black queen and bishop. The rook cannot be taken due to the further pin by the bishop, and the knight cannot take the bishop since the queen would drop. And finally a queen trade would allow the intermediate ...♝xf2† winning a rook. Instead the game continued 35...♜xe3 36.♗xe3 ♔d4 37.♖xd2 ♜xe3† 38.♔h2 ♜xd2 39.gxf3 ♜g3!– and Black managed to convert his advantage, although things are far from over. **36.♛xg5** Other moves also lose immediately: 36.♗xd4† ♜xd4+–, 36.♗xd4 ♜xe3+– and 36.♖xd2 ♜xg2 mate ✓. **36...♝xf2†– ✓**

791. Nigel Short – Garry Kasparov, London (rapid 2) 1993

36...e4! **37.♗xe4** **37.♕xe4 ♕xc3 ✓** and the back-rank mate decides. **37...♗xc3** **38.♗xb4** Instead White resigned after **38.♗d4 ♕d6** **39.f6 ♕xf6** since **40.♕e8†** does not mate. **38...♗xb4+ ✓**

792. Garry Kasparov – Krystian Klimczok, Katowice (simul) 1993

17.f6! gxf6 **17...♗xe3** **18.♗xe3+– ✓** Black cannot resist the white attack since he has no defenders against so many attackers. **18.♘xg5!** **18.exf6?!** **♗xf6** **19.♗xh6 ♗xd4!** is rather unclear. **18...fxg5** **19.♗f6! ✓** The weak f6-square is Black's downfall. There are several ways to win from here by playing stuff like **♖af1** and **♗xh6**, as in the game, or simply opening up the kingside with **h4**. **19...♗g7** **20.♗af1** White threatens, among others, **21.♗xh6 ♗xh6** **22.♗f6† ♕xf6** **23.exf6 ♗g8** **24.♗e3** followed by **♗d3** and **♗h3**. **20...♗e7** **21.h4 1–0** Black cannot resist the attack.

793. Garry Kasparov – Vassily Ivanchuk, Linares 1994

30.♗e8! Threatening mate on a7. The idea is to force Black's queen to h2, so he can't take on b6 in case of a5-a6. **30.♗f1** gives a clear advantage and **30.♗e5 ♕c6** **31.♗f3+–** is a complicated win – due to zugzwang! **30...♗h2†** **30...♗xe8** **31.♗xh6+– ✓** **31.♗f1 ♕xe8** **31...♗xg2†** **32.♗xg2 d4†** **33.♗xb7†!** (**33.f3 ♕xe8** **34.a6** also wins, as does **33.♗e4 ♕xe4†** **34.f3** and **33.♗f1 ♕xe8** **34.a6**.) **33...♗xb7** **34.♗xh8+–** **32.a6 ✓ 1–0** White's point, mating.

794. Viswanathan Anand – Garry Kasparov, New York (11) 1995

30...♗xb4† **31.♔a3** **31.♔c1†** After the game move, the rook looks trapped, but Kasparov had seen further. **31...♗xc2!** **0–1** Anand resigned due to: **32.♗xc2 ♗b3†** **33.♔a2 ♗e3†** **34.♔b2 ♗xe1+– ✓**

795. Garry Kasparov – Yasser Seirawan, Amsterdam 1996

31.♘h5! **31.♗g8** prepares to send the knight to g6, but Black has **31...♗a7!** when best is: **32.♘h5 ♕xg8** **33.♘f6† ♘f7** **34.♘xg8 ♘xg8=** **31...♗c7** **31...♗xh5?** **32.♗e7** mate ✓ **32.♗g7** Or **32.♗g8 ♘c1†** **33.♘h2+–** **32...♗a1†** **33.♗g2 ♘c2†** **34.♗f2 1–0** Black resigned due to **34...♗a7** **35.♘f6† ♘d8** **36.♗xf8** mate.

796. Garry Kasparov – Viswanathan Anand, Moscow (rapid) 1996

32.♗d8!+– ✓ Turning the coming **♗e7†** into a deadly threat. The immediate **32.♗e7†?** is met by **32...♗xe7** **33.fxe7 ♕xe7†**. **32...♗e6** **32...♗xd8** **33.♗e7†+–** **33.♗e7† ♗xe7** **34.fxe7 ♕d7** **35.♗h3 1–0**

797. Garry Kasparov – Zbynek Hracek, Yerevan (ol) 1996

22.♗xd5! ♘d7 a) **22...♗xd5** **23.♗f4+– ✓** with a double threat against two undefended rooks. b) **22...exd5** **23.♗e3† ♘d7** **24.♗xg5+– ✓**; c) **22...♗xf5** **23.♗c6† ♘xc6** **24.♗d8** mate ✓ **23.♗he1+– ✓** Also effective is moving this rook to another square, or **♗e3/g1**.

798. Garry Kasparov – Jan Timman, Prague 1998

20.c4! ♘c6 **21.♗xd7!** **♗xd7** **22.♗xf6† ♘g7** **23.♗xd7+– ✓** Black resigned three moves later.

799. Garry Kasparov – Vladimir Kramnik, Moscow (blitz 1) 1998

39.d5! Kasparov played 39.♕xf5† ♜xf5 40.♗f7† ♔f4 41.♗xd8= and Black held a draw after 41...♔e4 42.♗xc6 ♔e6. A critical, but not forced, variation is 43.♗c8 ♜xd4 44.♗d6† ♔d5 45.♗xd4 ♜xd4 46.♗xf5† ♜xc5 when White can't keep the last pawn. **39...cx d5 40.♗b7 ♜e8 41.c6** ✓ The c-pawn and the pin on the e-file win a piece, and thus the game. For example, 41...♔f6 42.♗e1 ♜e7 43.♗c5 followed by ♜xe6 and ♜xd5.

800. Garry Kasparov – Vladimir Kramnik Moscow (blitz 18) 1998

33.♗f4! ♜d7 33...♗f7 34.♗xg8 ♜xg8 35.♗h1+– also wins the f-pawn and 33...♗xg5 34.♗xe6†+–✓ picks up two pieces for a rook. **34.♗h5! ♗g4 35.♗xf5 ♗f6 36.♗h6!+–** A last finesse, leaving White with two healthy extra pawns.

801. Vladimir Kramnik – Garry Kasparov, Moscow (blitz 19) 1998

38.f5! The only way to keep material on the board. **38...♗xe5 39.♗b7!** Keeping the g-pawn. **39.♗xa7?!** exf5 and Black will be able to reach an ending with rook and f-pawn versus queen. **39...♗d6 40.fxe6 ♜xe6 41.♗xa7** Black has to give up the bishop for the a-pawn. With the help of zugzwang, White is probably able to win the g-pawn. But it doesn't matter – it's a fortress anyway. If Black's king stays on g7, White can never sacrifice the queen to get a winning pawn ending. The same ending is reached after: 38...♗xe5 39.♗e7! (39.♗d8? is a double threat against d4 and g5, but 39...♗e3† 40.♗g2 ♜f6= defends) 39...♗e3† 40.♗g2 ♜f6 41.♗xa7 ♜e4 42.fxe6 ♜xe6

So 38.f5 is only a draw, but it's a good try that was rewarded in this blitz game: 38...exf5 39.e6 1–0 The exercise is about decision-making. Calculating all the variations above is not necessary before playing the first move.

802. Garry Kasparov – Vladimir Kramnik, Frankfurt 1999

35.♗xd5! exd5 35...♗xf4 36.♗xf4 ♜xd5 37.♗xd5+– ✓ 36.♗d4† Black resigned, since he is mated after: **36...♔d8 37.♗e6†! fxe6 38.♗xf8 mate** ✓

803. Garry Kasparov – Jan Timman, Wijk aan Zee 2000

35.♗xd5 35.g4† is not a good move order: 35...♗e5 36.b6 d2 37.b7 d1=♗ 38.b8=♗† ♔e4= When there is no mate. **35...d2 36.g4†! 1–0** The rook stops the pawn after: 36...♗xg4 37.♗c4† ♔f5 38.♗d4+– ✓

804. Thien Hai Dao – Garry Kasparov, Batumi (rapid) 2001

23...♗xe3†!! 24.♗xe3 24.♗xe3 ♜e8† 25.♗f4 g5† 26.♗f5 ♜xf3 mate ✓ **24...♗xg4† 25.♗f1 ♜xd7+– ✓** Black has won two pawns.

805. Garry Kasparov – Ruslan Ponomariov, Linares 2002

38.♗xe6† 1–0 It's over: 38...♗xe6 (38...♗xe6 39.♗g7† ♜f7 40.♗xf7 mate ✓) 39.♗d6† ♔xd6 40.♗xf6†+– ✓

806. Alexander Huzman – Garry Kasparov, Rethymnon 2003

21.♗xd5! ♜e8 No better are 21...♗xd5 22.♗e7†+– ✓ or 21...♗xd5 22.♗xg7 mate ✓. **22.♗xc4 1–0** Any other reasonable 22nd move also wins.

Alexander Khalifman (on blitz chess)

It is not my cup of tea, playing with hands. I prefer using my head.
Interview on pogonina.com (2010)

807. Alexander Khalifman – Jaan Ehlvest, Lvov 1985

30.♕f5! But not 30.♗xd4? ♜xc2 mate. White should first defend by blocking and deflecting the bishop. **30...♗xf5 31.♗c7!!** Then an X-ray defence, deflecting the queen and threatening the knight! **31...♗xd1† 32.♗xd1+–** ✓ Black loses a piece (1–0, 42 moves).

808. Yuri Balashov – Alexander Khalifman, Minsk 1985

39.♗hxf6! Deflecting the defence of d6, winning two pawns. White would be better anyway, but this is the win. **39...♗xf6 40.♗xd6† ♜f8 41.♗xb7+–** ✓ (1–0, 49 moves)

809. Alexander Khalifman – Vladimir Dimitrov, Groningen 1985

33.b4! 33.♗xd5 ♜xb5 34.axb5 is nothing. **33...♗xb5 34.bxc5 ♜xa4** A better defence is 34...♗e2 35.♗e1 (or 35.♗d2) 35...bcx5 36.♗xe2 ✓ d4† which is not as clear, but still very promising for White. **35.♗a1** Or 35.♗d4. **35...bxc5 36.♗xa4** ✓ White should win, and did so after 49 moves.

810. Alexander Khalifman – Adrian Mikhalkishin, Kuibyshev 1986

26.♗xf6! Clearing the h-file. **26...♗xf5 26...♗xf6 27.♗xh7† ♜xh7 28.♗h4 mate** ✓ (or 28.♗h3 mate) **27.♗xh7†** ✓ Or 27.♗xh7 ♜g7+–, as in the game. Instead, 27.♗xg8? ♜xg8 28.exf5 ♜xf5± gives Black hope. **27...♗xh7 28.♗xh7 ♜xh7 29.exf5+–**

811. Alexander Khalifman – Alexander Huzman, Tashkent 1987

Black is threatening to protect himself with ...♗g8 and start some counterplay with ...♗c5, so White must be quick with his attack. **28.♗g4!** The slightly odd 28.b4 also wins quickly since after 28...♗g8 29.♗xf7 the counterattack with ...♗c5 is prevented (full points). **28...♗c5 28...♗g8 29.♗fg3 ♜xg4** (29...♗c5 30.♗xh7† ♜xh7 31.♗h4 mate ✓) **30.♗xg4** ✓ and mates. **29.♗xh7†** ✓ **1–0** Mating in two moves.

812. Alexander Khalifman – Mikhail Ulibin, Sochi 1989

17.♗xe6! Removing all the defenders against ♜d5†, picking up the unprotected rook on a8. **17...♗xe6 18.♗e1! ♜xe1† 18...♗f7 19.♗e7 ♜g6 20.♗d5†+–** ✓ **19.♗xe1+–** ✓ (1–0, 24 moves)

813. Alexander Khalifman – Ventzislav Inkiov, Moscow 1989

23.b4! ♜a7 24.♗xd6! ♜xd6 Instead the game continued 24...♗ad8 25.♗fd1 and White won. **25.♗xf6† ♜g7 26.♗xg7† ♜xg7 27.♗xd6+–** ✓

814. Ljubomir Ljubojevic – Alexander Khalifman, Reykjavik 1991

31...♗f3 Since everything else loses the knight, the winning idea is not so hard to spot here, but it could easily be missed when calculating this line earlier in the game. **32.♗xd3 ♜xf2! 33.♗xf2 ♜xd3+–** ✓ (0–1, 40 moves)

815. Alexander Khalifman – Bent Larsen, London 1991

29.♕e7†! Starting a merry hunt for loose black pieces. **29...♔f7** **29...♔h5** avoids the capture on d7 coming with check, but the king is too exposed; White wins with **30.♕e4** or **30.h3**. **30.♕c6!** Forcing away the defender is better than **30.♕e4±**. **30...♝c8** **31.♝xd7† ♔e8** ✓ A counter-trick! **32.♝xe5!** Moving one threatened piece to defend the other by overloading the bishop. **32.♝c7?** **♝xc7** **33.dxc7** **♝xc7** is not better for White, but **32.♝xh7?!** **♝xc6±** has won a pawn compared to the starting position. **32...♝xe5** **33.♝e7† ♔d8** After **33...♔f8** White has a number of ways to win, for instance: **34.♗h6† ♔g8** **35.♗xe6** **♝xc3** **36.d7+–** **34.♗b6† 1–0** Black loses several pieces.

816. Alexander Khalifman – Ivan Sokolov, Wijk aan Zee 1991

32.♝xg6†!– **32.♝gh3?** **♝g7!** **33.fxg7?** (**33.♝xc4** **♝f8** **34.♝ch4** **♝g7=**) **33...♝xe5+–** **32...fxg6** **33.♝xh8†!** **33.f7†?** **♝xf7** **34.♝xh8±** is not over yet. Black can try **34...♝xh8?!** **35.♝xh8** **♝xc3**. **33...♔f7** **33...♝xh8** **34.f7†** **♝xe5** **35.f8=♛†+–** ✓ **34.♝h7†** ✓ The bishops and the dangerous f-pawn decide the game. Black resigned in a few moves. **34.♝xe8+–** also gets the job done.

817. Alexander Khalifman – Yasser Seirawan, Wijk aan Zee 1991

22.♗h6† **gxh6** **22...♔h8** **23.♛xf7!** (**23.♝xf7†?** **♝g8** **24.♝h6†?** **gxh6+–**) **23...gxh6** (if **23...♔d6** then **24.♛g8†!** is not the only move, but it's not acceptable to overlook such a chance...) **24...♝xg8** **25.♝f7** mate ✓ **24.♝xf6†** **♝g7** **25.♛xg7** mate ✓ **23.♛g4† 1–0** Black resigned in view of **23...♝g7** **24.♝xf6** ✓ mating.

818. Alexander Khalifman – Soenke Maus, Hamburg 1991

25.♗h5! **25.♝xd3** **♝xd3** **26.♗h5** is a worse move order since it allows: **26...♝xd4** **27.♛xd4** **gxh5** **28.♛xd3** **♝xe7=** **25...♝xd4** **25...gxh5** **26.♝xd3!** (**26.♝b3** and **26.♛g5†** is probably also winning, but less clear) **26...♝xd3** **27.♛g5†** **♔h8** **28.♝f6** mate ✓ **26.♛xd4** **gxh5** **27.♛xc5+–** ✓ The passed pawn and dark-square domination provide a decisive advantage (1–0, 34 moves).

819. Gerald Hertneck – Alexander Khalifman, Germany 1992

19...♝xg2! **19...♔xh3?** **20.gxh3** **♛g5†** **21.♛g4+–** **20.♝xg2** **♝xh3†** **21.♝g3** **21.♝g1** **♛g5†** **22.♝h2** **♛g2** mate ✓ **21...♜e6** Threatening **22...♛g5†** **23.♝xh3** **♚h6†** mating. Black's attack is winning (0–1, 56 moves). Opening the files will soon decide the game after: **22.f4 g5+–**

820. Dmitry Gurevich – Alexander Khalifman, Moscow (rapid) 1992

26...♛b7? Easily winning, right? **27.c6!** Don't underestimate a passed pawn! **27...♛xb2** **28.♛xb2** Or **28.♝d8†** **♝xd8** **29.♛xb2**. **28...♛xb2** **29.♝d8†!** A standard motif with a pawn on the sixth rank versus a knight. **29...♝xd8** **29...♔h7** **30.♝xa8+–** **30.c7+–** Both promotion squares cannot be protected. **30...♝b1†** **31.♝f1** **♝d1** **32.c8=♛** **♝b7** **33.♝c2** **♝d5** **34.♝xg6** **1–0** So Black should have avoided the tempting mating threat. Stronger was **26...♝xd4=** ✓.

821. Alexander Khalifman – Oswald Gschnitzer, Germany 1993

37.♗h5! Some other moves also win, but the winning idea is still this move. **37...gxh5** **38.♛h6** ✓ Preparing **39.♝f6** mate. **38.♝g3†** **♝g4** **39.♛h6** also works. **38...f6** **39.♛g6†** **♔h8** **40.♝xf6** **1–0** Black is mated, as he also would be after other moves.

822. Alexander Khalifman – Grigory Serper, St Petersburg 1994

27.♘xd7! 27.♗xe5 ♖xe5± counterattacking the b2-rook. There is no way to win after 27.d6 cxd6. 27...♗xd7 27...♗xd7 can be met by, among others, 28.♗xe5 28...♖xe5 29.♗xd7+ ✓ and if Black tries to save the knight with the lifeline 27...♗xd7, White threatens b7 and then picks up the knight on e5. It can be done in three ways: 28.♗cb5+✓, 28.♗b4+- or 28.♗b3+-.

28.♗xb7†! 28.♗xc7?! ♗xc7 29.♗xa7 ♗b8 30.d6† also wins after 30...♗xd6 31.♗xb7† ♗xb7 32.♗xb7† ♗xb7 33.♗xd6† ♗c6 34.♗xe8. But 28.♗cb5?! ♗b6 is *only* an advantage. **28...♗xb7** 29.♗xc7†! ♗xc7 **30.♗xa7† ♗c8 31.d6** ✓ 1–0 Mating next move.

823. Dirk Fehmer – Alexander Khalifman, Eupen 1994

17...♗h3! The fork on f3 decides. **18.♗c2** 18.gxh3 ♗f3†+✓; **18.♗f4 ♗xg2!** 19.♗xg2 ♗f3†+✓ **18...♗xg2**+✓ (0–1, 27 moves)

824. Alexander Khalifman – Norbert Sehner, Germany 1994

Several lines might win slowly, but the easiest is **39.♗f5†! ♗g6 40.♗xg7†!+–** ✓ and the fork on e7 leaves White two pawns up in an endgame.

825. Alexander Khalifman – Valerij Filippov, Kazan 1995

18.♗e4! ✓ 18.♗g4 ♖d8 19.♗c3± **18...fxe4** 18...♗d8 19.♗g5†! with a winning attack (or various other moves with a winning position anyway). **19.fxe4 ♗f4 20.gxf4** Or first 20.♗d6+–. **20...♗hd8 21.♗d6+–** White is dominating and won the game. Weaker is 21.fxe5?! ♗xd2±.

826. Alexander Khalifman – Evgeny Bareev, Moscow 1995

16.c6! The fork on e7 wins a piece or allows the pawn to queen. **16...♗a7** 16...♗xc6 runs into: 17.♗xc6! ♗xc6 (17...♗xd5 18.exd5+–✓ or 18.♗xd5+–) 18.♗xe7† ♗h8 19.♗xc6+–✓ **17.c7! ♗xd5** 17...♗d7 18.♗xe7† ♗h8 19.c8=♗+–✓ **18.c8=♗+–** ✓ (1–0, 36 moves)

827. Helmut Pfleger, – Alexander Khalifman, Germany 1996

36.c6! bxc6 36...♗xb4 37.cxd7!+–✓ (also winning is 37.♗xb4 ♗xc6 38.♗xc6+–) **37.♗xf8 ♗xf8** **38.♗xc6 ♗d8 39.♗xa8**+–✓ (1–0, 42 moves)

828. Valery Loginov – Alexander Khalifman, St Petersburg 1996

Black has a great position, but there is only one crushing continuation. **31...♗a2!** **32.0–0** 32.♗xa2 ♗xb1†+–✓ **32...♗d5** Or the computer preference 32...♗xh3+ or something else. **33.♗g6 ♗g5†** 0–1

829. Alexander Khalifman – Thomas Casper, Germany 1997

36.♗xd6! ♗f4† White delivers mate after 36...♗xd6 37.♗xg7 mate ✓ and 36...♗d4 37.♗xe8 ♗xe8 38.♗xg7 mate ✓. **37.♗xf4 exf4+–** White has a dominating endgame (1–0, 48 moves).

830. Alexander Khalifman – Alexander Fishbein, New York 1998

23.♗xd2! ♗xd2 **24.♗h6†** 1–0 Black resigned due to 24...♗h8 25.♗f7 ♗d7 26.♗g7 mate ✓.

831. Michael Unger – Alexander Khalifman, Bad Wiessee 1998

30...♝xf2†! **31.♝g2** **31.♝h1** **♚f1** mate and **31.♝xf2** **♛xe4** wins the queen. **31...♛e3†!** ✓ Black takes the bishop on the next move (0–1, 44 moves). But **31...♛xe4†** **32.♝xe4** **♝c5†** is not over yet.

832. Alexander Huzman – Alexander Khalifman, Bugojno 1999

30.f5! Opening an additional file for the decisive breakthrough. **30...exf5** **31.♝g1!** **♞f4** **31...♝g8** **32.♝xg6†** **♝xg6** **33.♝e7†+** ✓ was the point of opening the e-file before playing **♝g1**. **31...♝xe3** **32.♝xg6†** ✓ wins for White. **32.♝xe8+–** ✓ With such a useless bishop as the one on d7, Black really cannot claim compensation (1–0, 72 moves).

833. Alexander Khalifman – Peter Acs, Hoogeveen 2002

30...♝xg2†! **30...axb6** **31.♝b5!** and the queen can't keep the pin on the f-pawn while defending the knight on d2. However, Black is clearly better after **31...♛g4** **32.♝xg4** **♝xg4** but unlike the game, White can fight on. And if **30...♞f3†?** **31.♝f1** **♝xg2** he has an equal position after **32.♝xf3!** **♝xf3** **33.♝xd4**. **31.♝xg2** **♛g7†!** **32.♝h2** **32.♝h1** **♝h3** mate ✓ **32...♞f3†** **33.♝xf3** **33.♝h1** **♛g4!** ✓ mating. **33...♝xf3+–** ✓ White resigned in two more moves.

834. Alexander Khalifman – Gabriel Sargissian, Internet 2004

40.♝xc5! **40.♝c7??** **♛xc7** **41.♝xc5** **♝xc5** **42.♝xf7†** **♞h6–+** **40...♛xc5** **41.♝f6†** **♝g8** **41...♝h6** **42.♝e4+–** ✓ (or **42.♝e3+–**) **42.♝e3!+–** ✓ Black cannot defend against the onslaught without taking heavy casualties. **42.♝f4!+–** is even cleaner, and **42.♝b6** wins as well, even though it sends the knight in the wrong direction. Instead the game went **42.♝e7†??** **♝xe7** **43.♝xg6†** when White had nothing better than a perpetual, since the rook on d8 defends against rook lifts.

835. Alexander Khalifman – Ernesto Inarkiev, Khanty-Mansiysk (3) 2005

33...♞xd5! White collapses on the light squares, incurring heavy material losses. **33...♝xf3** **34.♝xf3** **♞xd5†** **35.♝e2** **♛xe6** **36.exd5†** is also a good try, but not clearly winning. **34.♝f2** **34.exd5** **♝xf3†+–** ✓ **34...♞xc6** Not the easiest win. **34...♞df4†+–** is one good move, **34...♞e3†** another. **35.♝xh6** **35.exd5** requires Black to find: **35...♝xf3!** **36.dxc6** (**36.♝xf3** **♝xf3†** [or **36...♞xd5+–**]) **37.♝xf3** **♞xd5†** **38.♝g4** **♝xh1+–**) **36...♝xf2†!** **37.♝xf2** **♛xe6** This is winning, since **38.♝xh6?** runs into **38...♝f4†+–**. **35...♛xe6?!** Now Black starts to drift. Better is **35...♞e3†** **36.♝h2** **♛xe6** winning. **36.exd5** **♝xd5** **37.♝xd5** **♝xd5†** **38.♝h2** Black should still win, but there are difficulties, and in the game he did not play accurately enough (½–½, 62 moves).

836. Valerij Popov – Alexander Khalifman, Aix les Bains 2011

19...♞eg4†! **19...♝fg4†** **20.♝g1** **♞xe3** **21.fxe3†** is less convincing, as here the knight would be better on f6 because of the control over e4 and pressure on e3. **20.hxg4** **20.♝g1** **♞xe3** **21.fxe3** ✓ The e3-pawn can be taken at will, so Black is much better. **20...♝xg4†** **21.♝g1** **♝xg2** **22.♝xg2** **♝xe3†!** ✓ The rook cannot be taken, so Black has won a pawn for no compensation. White collapsed quickly: **23.♝f4** **♝d8** **24.♝h1** **♝e4** **25.♝c1** **♝xf2** **0–1** Another tactic against the white king and queen finished the game. **26.♝xf2** is met by **26...♝xd4** **27.♝xd4** **♝b6** winning the queen.

837. Alexander Khalifman – Ilya Duzhakov, St Petersburg 2012

24.e4! Driving away the defender of the bishop on d6. 24.g4? hxg4 25.hxg4 ♜xd5 26.♗xd5 ♜h4 is not winning – White needs e4-e5. **24...♝g7** 24...♜xc5 25.exf5+– wins a piece, which is preferable to 25.bxc5 ♜g7 26.♗f6†+– winning the queen. **25.♝xe7†! ♜xe7** 25...♝xe7 26.♗xd6+– ✓ **26.♗xd8+– ✓** (1–0, 29 moves)

838. Alexander Khalifman – Konstantin Kostin, Voronezh 2014

29...f2! Clearing the way for the queen to do serious damage. 29...♝xg5 30.♗f2 is equal. **30.♗xf2** ♜xf2 31.♗xh1 ♜f3† 32.♔c2 ♜xh1† ✓ Black has a healthy pawn extra, and won after 41 moves.

839. Alexander Khalifman – Sergey Grishchenko, Sochi 2014

20.♝xc6! There are three tempting options that don't work: a) 20.♝e6?? ♜xe6+–; b) 20.♝f5?? ♜xf5+–; c) 20.♝xg7?? ♜xg7 21.♝f5† ♜g8 22.♝xh6 mate is nice, but the opponent is seldom so helpful. 21...♝g6 22.♝xe7† is also good for White, but 21...♝f7 22.♝xd6† ♜e6 leaves Black a piece up. **20...♝xg4** 20...♝f7± and White has won an important pawn. **21.♝xe7† ♜f7** 22.hxg4 ♜xe7 Instead Black tried 22...♝d3 but his position was hopeless after 23.♝f5 (1–0, 26 moves). **23.♝xg7 ✓** With so many extra pawns, White is winning.

Vladimir Kramnik

Objectivity consists in understanding that the only one who never makes a mistake is the one who never does anything.

840. Veselin Topalov – Vladimir Kramnik, Belgrade 1995

38...♝c3†! There is no follow-up after 38...a5†? 39.♔xb5+–. **39.♝xc3 a5†** The king can no longer protect the queen. **40.♔xb5 ♜xc3 ✓ 0–1**

841. Jeroen Piket – Vladimir Kramnik, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1999

29.♝h6! ♜g8 30.f4! ♜xb2 31.e5! Cutting off the defence. **31...♝g6** 32.♗f8† ♜g8 33.♗e7 Or 33.♗d6. 33...♝g6 34.♗d8† 1–0 Black resigned due to 34...♝g8 35.♗xf6† ♜g7 36.♝xg7 mate ✓.

842. Vladimir Kramnik – Ljubomir Ljubojevic, Monaco (rapid) 2000

30.♝xf6 ♜xf6 31.♗e7†! Sacrificing an exchange to win on the dark squares. **31...♝h6** 31...♝xe7 32.♗xe7† ♜h6 33.♗d4 ♜g8 34.♗f6 ✓ delivers mate, while the d-pawn decides after 31...♝g8 32.♗c7 ✓ (32.d7 is also winning). **32.♗f7!** Still going for the dark squares. **32...♝h4 33.♗d4! ✓** ♜g8 34.♗a7 Strongest, but by now other moves also win. **34...♝h8 35.♗ee7** White is mating. **35...g5 36.♗f6† ♜g6 37.♗xg6† ♜xg6 38.♗e6† ♜f5 39.♗f7 mate**

843. Peter Leko – Vladimir Kramnik, Budapest (4) 2001

22...♝b4! Bad are 22...gx f6 23.♗de2± and 22...♜xd5 23.♗xd5+–. **23.♗f7** 23.♗xb4 ♜xd2 24.♗xd2 ♜xe1†+– ✓ **23...♝xe4!** 23...♜xd2 24.♗xe8=♝ ♜xe8 25.♗e2± 24.♗xe4 ♜xd2 25.♗e7! A nice last trick, but it doesn't save the position. **25...♜xd5 26.♗e8 ♜xf7** 27.♗xd8† ✓ The bishop pair is usually much stronger than a rook and pawn.

844. Vladimir Kramnik – Darmen Sadvakasov, Astana 2001

19.♕xf7! 19.♕xe5 ♕xe5 20.♕xh7 ♕xh7 21.♗xe5 ♗xe5 22.♗xe5± only wins a pawn. **19...♗xf7** **20.♗xf5!** ♘xf5 The game ended after 20...g6 21.♗xe5. 20...♘xb2 21.♗d7! ✓ is also all over. **21.♗d8 mate ✓**

845. Vladimir Kramnik – Sergey Volkov, Moscow 2005

38.d5! Opening the diagonal for a winning discovered attack on the queen. **38...exd5** 38...♗b7 39.d6 is plainly winning for White. **39.♗xd5 ♗xe3 40.♗xd8† ✓ ♘g7 41.♗d3 1–0**

846. Vladimir Kramnik – Lazaro Bruzon, Turin (ol) 2006

26.♗xf7†! ♘xf7 27.♗a2† ♘f8 27...♔e7 28.♗f5† ♘f8 29.♗d6†+–; 27...♔f6 can only be refuted in one way: 28.♗d8†! ♘xd8 29.♗e6† ♘g5 30.♗f3† ♘f4 And now there are several ways to mate in three moves. **28.♗e6† ✓** Also strong is preparing ♘d6† with 28.♗f5+–. **28...♗xe6 29.♗xe6 ♘e7** 29...♗g5 30.♗xd7 ♘xd7 31.♗d6†! ♘e7 32.♗xd7+– **30.♗e3!+–** White is clearly winning and the game ended quickly: **30...♗e8 31.♗f3 ♗h5 32.♗d6 1–0**

847. Veselin Topalov – Vladimir Kramnik, Elista (3) 2006

38.♗xf5! 38.e7 ♘b8= **38...♗xd1** 38...♗xf5 39.♗xd6 ✓ ♘xd6+– and the check on f2 isn't dangerous after 40.♗xg4 or 40.♗d3. **39.♗g6† ♘f8 40.e7† ♗xe7 41.♗xe7† ♘xe7 42.♗d3!+– ✓** This is the only winning move, preventing the black counterplay connected with ...♗d2†, while keeping a rook that it is needed in the attack (1–0, 45 moves).

848. Vladimir Kramnik – Magnus Carlsen, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2007

22.♗c6! Somewhat weaker is: 22.♗h7 ♔e7 23.♗c6! ♘xc6 (23...♗d7 24.♗h4†!+–) 24.♗xg8 ♘c8 25.♗h8+– and 22.♗aa6 ♔e7 (22...♗xa6? 23.♗xe6†+–) 23.♗ac6 ♘xc6 24.♗xc6 ♘xb5 25.♗xc5+–. **22...♘xc6** Instead the game ended after 22...♗d3 23.♗xc8† ♘xc8 24.♗xa7 1–0 **23.bxc6 ♘xc6 24.♗h8** Black doesn't have a second rook on the back rank any more. Also 24.♗h7+– is good enough. **24...♗xh8 25.gxh8=♗†+– ✓**

849. Boris Gelfand – Vladimir Kramnik, Moscow 2008

32...♗ce3? A tempting but bad try that Kramnik fell for. 32...♗f8† ✓ is best, but anything other than the main line that does not seem bad gives full points. Two more alternatives are 32...♗xf2† 33.♗xf2 ♘xc6 34.♗xc6 ♘xc6= and 32...♗fd6†. **33.fxe3 ♗xe3 34.♗d4!** 34.♗d2 ♗d5† 35.♗h1 ♘xc6 with a winning position, was Black's idea. **34...♗xd4 35.♗xd4 35.♗xd4? ♗xd1 36.♗xd1** is winning for Black due to the two pawns and White's unstable knight. **♗xg2 36.♗b4!–** The knight on g2 is trapped, so Black will have to show some care to draw this with some pawns for a knight.

850. Vladimir Kramnik – Peter Svidler, Moscow (blitz) 2008

24...♗f2! Black's tactical threat is 25...dxe4, but the knight might also just continue to d3. Not 24...dxe4? 25.♗xc4†±. **25.♗e3?!** A smart try, but not good enough. **25...♗d3! ✓** Black threatens the rook but also 25...♗a6 followed by 26...dxe4. White's knight can't move due to a discovered attack. Worse is: 25...♗xe3?! 26.♗xe3 ♗d3 27.♗xd3 ♗xd3 28.♗xd3 dxe4 29.♗xe4† **26.♗e2 ♗b4 0–1**

851. Vladimir Kramnik – Viswanathan Anand, Bonn (5) 2008

29.♕xd4?? Take a full point for any non-blundering move, but best seems either 29.♕d2∞ or 29.♕xd7∞. **29...♛xd4 30.♝d1 ♕f6! 31.♝xd4 ♜xg4 32.♝d7† ♕f6 33.♝xb7 ♜c1† 34.♝f1** Maybe White had seen this far and counted on his queenside pawns to decide the game, but it was already time to resign two moves later: **34...♝e3! 35.fxe3 fxe3 0–1**

852. Arkadij Naiditsch – Vladimir Kramnik, Dortmund 2009

22...♜xg2! 22...♝g4? 23.♝g3= **23.♝g3 23.♜xg2 ♛h3† ✓** is mating. For example: 24.♔g1 ♛h1† 25.♚f2 ♛f3† 26.♚g1 ♛h1 mate **23...♛f3! ✓** Black has plenty of pawns for the piece, and a winning attack. Or 23...♝h4?! 24.♜xg2 ♜xf4+–. **24.♛b3** After 24.♝xh5 ♛xh5+– White's king is naked and Black's troops are incoming (or 24...♝g4†). **24...♝h4 25.♜d6 ♛h3 26.♜xf7† ♛h7 27.♛b2 ♜g4 0–1** Mate is coming.

853. Alexander Morozevich – Vladimir Kramnik, Moscow 2009

Black is clearly better, but has a way to break through right now. **30...♝xf2! 31.♝xf2 ♛c2† 32.♝g1 32.♚f1 ♛d3† 33.♝f2 ♛e3†** does not help White. **32...♛d1† 33.♝f2 33.♝g2 ♛e2† 34.♝g1 ♛xf3+– ✓ 33...♛xh1+– ✓ 0–1**

854. Viswanathan Anand – Vladimir Kramnik, Zurich 2013

22.♜xa6! ♜xa6 23.♝xd3 A double threat. **23...♝xb2 23...♛a8 24.♝xe2+– ✓ 24.♝b1 ♜d6 25.♝xe2+– ✓** The game ended swiftly: **25...♛a2 25...♜xd2 26.♝xb2 ♜xe2 27.♝xe2+– 26.♛b5 c6 27.♝b2 1–0** White's two pieces and the passed a-pawn are much stronger than a rook and c-pawn.

855. Vladimir Kramnik – Daniel Fridman, Dortmund 2013

29.♝d5! Opening up the way to the king. **29...exd5 30.♝xf6+– ✓ 1–0** Threatening ♜g7†, and the bishop cannot be taken due to mate. Black chose to resign since trying to create an escape square does not help: **30...♝b8 31.♝g7 ♛e7 32.♝f6†** White wins the queen and the game.

856. Vladimir Kramnik – Anton Korobov, Tromsø 2013

37.♝h6! Threatening 38.♝b8† ♜e8 39.♝g6†. Other moves are better for White, but this is the only winning move. **37.♝b8† ♜g7 38.♝h6†** even loses: **38...♜xh6 39.♝h8† ♜g5+– 37...♝c7 37...f5 38.♛a1! ✓ ♜c3 (38...e5 39.♝xe5 ♜xh6 40.♝b8†+–) 39.♛a8†!** This is the difference between placing the queen on a1 and b2. White wins after 39...♝h7 40.♛f8!. **38.♛b4!** The game continued 38.♝a7 which is also winning: **38...♝b5 39.♛b4 ♜d6 40.♝b8† ♜e8 41.♝e7+– (1–0, 51 moves) 38...♝h7 39.♛f8+–** Black has to give up the bishop on f7 to avoid mate.

857. Vladimir Kramnik – Levon Aronian, Khanty-Mansiysk (2) 2014

35.♝g1! Instead, the game continued 35.♝xf8?! exf1=♛† 36.♝xf1 ♜xg2 37.♝xg2 ♜xg2† 38.♝xg2 ♜xf8± (½–½, 60 moves). White is also slightly better after 35.♝g5 exf1=♛† 36.♝xf1 ♜xg2 37.♝xg2 ♜xg2† 38.♝xg2 ♜h6. **35...♜xh6** Black also loses after 35...exd1=♛ 36.♝xd1! ✓ with a double threat and 35...e1=♛ 36.♝dxe1 ♜xg2 37.♝xg2! (37.♝xg2?? ♜xe1 mate) 37...♝xg2† 38.♝xg2. ✓ **36.♝de1+– ✓** The material advantage is large enough to win.

858. Vladimir Kramnik – Peter Svidler, Sochi 2015

26.♕e6! A nice discovery/closing tactic. Either the king is mated or the queen is lost. 26.e6 is not the way to go: 26...♝xe4 27.♛xf7†? (27.exf7† ♔h7 28.♝xe4 ♜xd4 29.♝xg6† ♔h8 30.♝b2 e5=) 27...♔h8–+ But 26.♝g4?! ♜xa2 27.♝b2+– is also quite strong. **26...♝xe6** 26...♝xe4 27.♛xf7† ♔h7 28.♝xg7 mate ✓ 27.♝xc4+– ✓ (1–0, 30 moves)

859. Laurent Fressinet – Vladimir Kramnik, Paris (rapid) 2016

The bishop on c7 has a nice line of sight to the white king, so Black just needs some smart sacrifices to make full use of it. **22...♝xh3!** 23.gxh3 ♜xf3+– White can't take back: **24.♛xf3?!** e4 ✓ And the queen has to go.

Viswanathan Anand

Grandmasters decline with age... Mistakes will crop in, but you try to compensate for them with experience and hard work.

860. Vassily Ivanchuk – Viswanathan Anand, Buenos Aires 1994

31.♝xg7†! ♔xg7 32.♝d4† f6 32...♝e5 33.♛e3+– is similar. **33.♛e3!+– ✓** The queen penetrating to h6 decides the game; Black tried to prevent the immediate threats, but to no avail. 33.♝xa1 ♜xa1 34.♛e3 should also win, but much more slowly and with some work still to be done. **33...♝f8** 34.♝e4 ♔f7 34...g5 is not a defence with the bishop on d4, due to 35.♜xg5†. **35.♝h8** 1–0 Black resigned in view of ♜h6 with mate following.

861. Veselin Topalov – Viswanathan Anand, Dos Hermanas 1996

18.♝g5! ♜xa1 18...♛e8 19.♝xa8 ♜xa8 20.♝e7! ✓ and White wins an exchange: 20...♜xf3 21.gxf3 ♜d3 22.♝xf8± **19.♝xd8** ♜xf1† **20.♝xf1** ✓ I believe White should win with correct play, but maybe Black can find a fortress. Topalov did not manage to crack Anand's defence.

862. Viswanathan Anand – Miguel Illescas, Leon (3) 1997

White is a pawn up, but Black has some counterplay against the pawns on g3 and f4. **38.e5!** 38.♝f3? ♜b2†=; 38.♛c4?! ♜e1† 39.♝f2 hxg3†? 40.♝xe1 ♜a1† 41.♝e2 g2 42.♛c7! g1=♛ 43.♝xg1 ♜xg1± **38...dxе5** 38...♜f5 loses to 39.♜xf5 gxsf5 40.exd6+– and a passive move is hopeless: 38...♜e7 39.♝e4+– (or 39.♝f3 ♜h6 40.e6+–, or even 39.e6+–) **39.♝e4** ♜f5 40.♝g5† ♔h6 41.♛g8! ✓ 41.♜xf5 gxsf5 42.♝xf7† ♜g6 43.♝xe5† ♜xe5 44.fxe5 ♜xe5 45.gxh4 also wins. **41...♝xf4†** 42.gxsf4 ♜c2† 43.♝f2 1–0 Black is out of constructive ways to protect against the mate.

863. Aleksandar Kovacevic – Viswanathan Anand, Belgrade 1997

29...♝bxд3! **30.♝xd3** Instead the game ended: 30.♝f1 ♜xe4 0–1 **30...♝b3** 31.♛c2 ♜xd3 31...♝xd3? 32.♜xb3 ♜xe1 33.♝d1± **32.♗b4** ♜a4! ✓ 0–1 By trading queens, Black saves both the knight and the rook, leaving him with a winning position.

864. Vassily Ivanchuk – Viswanathan Anand, Linares 1998

22...♝xc2! **23.♝xc2** ♜xa2+– ✓ The threat of ...♝c8† is deadly. The game came to a logical conclusion with: **24.f4** ♜c8† **25.♝d2** ♜xf4† **26.♝e2** ♜xb2† **27.♝f3** ♜c1 0–1

865. Julen Arizmendi Martinez – Viswanathan Anand, Villarrobledo (rapid) 1998

25.♕f6†? White goes for the jugular, but Black can parry the attack and gain a winning position. The only move was 25.♖d1 ✓ when 25...♗c8 26.♕f6† ♕h8 27.♕xe8 ♗xe8 gives White more than enough compensation for the pawn, especially after 28.♗c3! f6 29.♗c7± with a double threat (30.♗d7 and 30.♗xa7). 25...♗xf6 26.♗xf6 ♗xe1† 27.♔h2 ♗d6† 28.f4 ♗f8! 29.♗xf8 ♗xf8–+ (0–1, 40 moves)

866. Loek van Wely – Viswanathan Anand, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1999

22...d3! 22...♗e8 23.♗c8 d3 transposes to 23...♗e8 in the main line. 23.♗c8† 23.♗d2 ♗bb1–+ **23...♔f7!** Full points also for 23...♗e8 24.♗xb8 dxc2 25.♗xe8† ♔f7 26.♗c8 ♗xc1† 27.♔f2 when White's king is close enough to stop the c-pawn, but Black gets a winning pawn or rook ending after 27...a5 28.♗e3 ♗e1†! 29.♗d2 ♗g1. But 23...♗xc8? 24.♗xc8† ♔f7 25.♔f2 is only equal. **24.♗2c7† ♔g6 25.♔f2** 25.♗xb8 d2–+ ✓ **25...♗xc1! 0–1** After 26.♗xc1 d2!–+ ✓ Black wins a rook, remaining a piece up.

867. Viswanathan Anand – Ljubomir Ljubojevic, Monaco (blindfold) 2000

27.e5! dxе5 28.♗e4! ✓ Also full points if your idea was 28.♗e4 ♗d8 29.♗d6–+. **28...♔g8** 28...g6 29.hxg6† ♔g7 30.gxf7† ♔f8 31.♗c5† ♗e7 32.♗g8† ♗xf7 33.♗h7† ♔g7 34.♗xg7 mate **29.♗c5 1–0** The black king cannot escape. Or 29.♗h7† mating.

868. Sinisa Drazic – Viswanathan Anand, Bastia 2000

Black wins by attacking the weak spots h2 and f2: **28...♗g4!** **29.g3** 29.f4 exf3 (Even stronger – full points and almost a bonus point – is attacking f4 with 29...♗e6–+) 30.♗xf3 ♗xe3 (or 30...♗xb3 first) 31.♗d2 ♗xb3–+ ✓ **29...♗f6!–+ ✓**

869. Viswanathan Anand – Victor Bologan, New Delhi (2) 2000

38.g6! Not 38.♗xh7? ♔xh7 39.g6† ♔g8! 40.♗f3 ♗h5!–. **38...fxg6** 38...hxg6 39.♗h4† ♗h5 40.♗xh5–+ ✓ **39.♗d7!** ✓ White crashes through. Also full points for: 39.♗xh7 ♔e7 40.♗f8!–+ **39...♔e7** 39...♗e8 40.♗xf8+– **40.♗xe5 dxе5 41.♗f7 h6 42.♗e8† 1–0**

870. Viswanathan Anand – Elizbar Ubilava, Villarrobledo (rapid) 2001

31.♗xf6! ♗xf6 32.♗e7† ♗f7 33.♗xh4!–+ ✓ 1–0 The d-pawn and Black's weak king are sufficient to warrant resignation.

871. Viswanathan Anand – Alexey Dreev, Moscow (2) 2001

26.♗xd8† 26.♗xg7†? ♔h7–+ White can no longer take on d8 with check. **26...♗xd8 27.♗xg7†? ♔h7** 27...♗xg7 28.♗h4!–+ ✓ wins the rook thanks to the threats along the h-file. **28.♗c7!** ✓ Anand managed to convert his advantage. 28.♗h4 ♗d2 29.♗xh6 ♔xh6 30.g4 ♗g5 31.♗xh5† ♗xh5 32.♗xh5† also scores full points. **28...♗g8 29.♗d4 ♗xg2 30.♗xb7+–**

872. Nigel Short – Viswanathan Anand, Dubai 2002

16...♗xd5! **17.exd5** 17.♗xd5 ♗xb2–+ **17...♗e5! 0–1** Short had no good moves: a) 18.♗d2 ♗c4–+ ✓; b) 18.fxe5 ♗xa4–+; ✓ c) 18.♗d1 ♗xd1 19.♗xd1 ♗g4 (also take a point for 19...♗c4†) 20.♗d4 ♗xc2–+

873. Viswanathan Anand – Judit Polgar, Cap d'Agde 2003

20... $\mathbb{Q}xd4$! 21. $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}xa2\#$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xa2$ After the game move 22. $\mathbb{Q}c1$ many moves are winning.
22... $\mathbb{W}a5\#$ Or first 22... $b3\#$. **23. $\mathbb{Q}b1$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}b3$** and, among others, 23... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ with mate to follow:
24. $\mathbb{Q}xb6$ $\mathbb{Q}c3\#$ 25. $bxc3$ $\mathbb{W}a3\#$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $\mathbb{W}xc3$ mate 23... $b3\#$ 24. $cxb3$ $\mathbb{W}xd2\#$ 0–1

874. Miso Cebalo – Viswanathan Anand, Bastia 2003

22. $\mathbb{Q}xd5?$ A red herring – White should not bite into the bait. 22. $\mathbb{Q}xf8?$ is also bad: 22... $\mathbb{Q}xd1\#$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ (23. $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 24. $gxf3$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8\#$) 23... $\mathbb{Q}e4\#$ Best is 22. $\mathbb{Q}de1\pm$ but any move that does not exchange too many pieces earns a full point. **22... $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}h5?$** White can win the h-pawn with 23. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ but Black's king is safe enough after 24... $f6\#$. 23. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{W}xd5\#$ also leads nowhere. **23... $\mathbb{W}xh5$ 0–1** 24. $\mathbb{Q}xh5$ is met by 24... $\mathbb{Q}e4\#$.

875. Evgeny Miroshnichenko – Viswanathan Anand, Porz 2004

27... $\mathbb{Q}xg3!$ 27... $f4?!$ 28. $gxf4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}ef2\infty$ $\mathbb{Q}d3?$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xd3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ mate **28. $\mathbb{Q}ef2$ Not a critical move, as there is now more than one way to win. The main point is: 28. $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ $f4\#$ ✓
28... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ Or 28... $f4\#$ with the point 29. $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ $\mathbb{W}xf4$ 31. $\mathbb{W}xf4$ $\mathbb{Q}e2\#$. **29. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$** Black should be winning and White soon resigned. But not: 29... $fxe4?$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xf8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xf8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 32. $\mathbb{W}xa7=$ **30. $\mathbb{Q}f4?$ $g5$ 31. $\mathbb{W}g3$ $\mathbb{W}g7$ 0–1****

876. Viswanathan Anand – Johann Hjartarson, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006

34. $\mathbb{Q}xg6\#$! 34. $\mathbb{W}xe5?$ $\mathbb{W}xc4$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}d7$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 36. $\mathbb{W}e6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 37. $\mathbb{W}d6=$ **34... $hxg6$ 35. $\mathbb{W}xg6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$
36. $\mathbb{Q}xe5\#$ ✓ White will get too many and too dangerous pawns for either an exchange or a piece; in either case winning. The game finished: **36... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 37. $\mathbb{W}h6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 38. $\mathbb{W}xh4$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 39. $\mathbb{W}g3\#$ 1–0****

877. Teimour Radjabov – Viswanathan Anand, Rishon Le Zion (blitz) 2006

15. $\mathbb{Q}xe6!$ $g5$ 15... $fxe6$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}h5\#$ $g6$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ mate ✓; 15... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}c7\#$ – **16. $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$! 1–0 Anand did not want to see 16... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}c7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 18. $\mathbb{W}d6$ mate ✓.**

878. Vassily Ivanchuk – Viswanathan Anand, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2007

22. $f4!$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $\mathbb{Q}g6\pm$ 22... $\mathbb{W}xf4$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 1–0 White wins the knight by doubling his rooks on the e-file: **23... $\mathbb{W}f6$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}ae1\#$ ✓**

879. Viswanathan Anand – Levon Aronian, Morelia/Linares 2008

30... $\mathbb{Q}e3!$ 30... $fxg3$ 31. $hxg3$ $\mathbb{Q}xg3$ 32. $\mathbb{W}xe2$ $\mathbb{Q}h2\#$! 33. $\mathbb{Q}xh2$ $\mathbb{Q}f1\#$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe2\#$ and White has good chances to achieve a fortress. **31. $fxe3$ $\mathbb{W}xf3\#$ – ✓ With a winning attack which concluded: **32. $\mathbb{W}c2$ $fxg3$** Or 32... $fxe3$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $e2$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}a8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ with mate. **33. $hxg3$ $\mathbb{W}xg3\#$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 0–1****

880. Magnus Carlsen – Viswanathan Anand, Nice (rapid) 2008

19. $\mathbb{Q}xh7\#$! While not winning any material permanently, the trades that result from this combination release the pressure on White, leaving him a pawn up. **19... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 20. $\mathbb{W}b1\#$ $g6$ 21. $\mathbb{W}xb6\pm$ ✓**

881. Viswanathan Anand – Loek van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2013

36. $g5!$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 36... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}xe7\#$ – ✓ 37. $\mathbb{Q}e6\#$! ✓ 1–0 Not 37. $\mathbb{Q}xf8?$ $\mathbb{Q}c5\#$. In the game, Black resigned in view of lines such as: 37... $\mathbb{Q}f6\#$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}e4\#$

882. Viswanathan Anand – Wei Yi, Leon 2016

32.e5! Winning the c6- or d4-pawns. Anand didn't win the pawn: 32... $\mathbb{Q}a8?$! $\mathbb{W}xa8$ 33. $\mathbb{W}xd6$ $\mathbb{W}a2$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{W}b1\#$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{W}xd3=$ However, he did win the game (1–0, 50 moves). **32... $\mathbb{Q}d5$** 32... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xd7$ $\mathbb{W}xd7$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}xd4+-$ **33. $\mathbb{W}xc6+-$** ✓

Ruslan Ponomariov

I've had situations where I seemed to be studying chess a lot, but without seeing any results. Then at a certain moment something clicks, and the quantity is transformed into quality.

Chess in Translation (2011)

883. Ruslan Ponomariov – Sergey Vokarev, Briansk 1995

27... $\mathbb{Q}xf3!$ **28.gxf3** $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ **29.Qg1** 29. $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{W}xf3\#$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3\#$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ ✓ with an easily winning endgame. **29... $\mathbb{Q}xc3+-$** (0–1, 34 moves) Or 29... $\mathbb{Q}e3!+-$ with the point 30. $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3\#$ 31. $\mathbb{W}xe3$ $\mathbb{W}g2$ mate.

884. Ruslan Ponomariov – Boris Ponomariov, Alicante 1997

21... $\mathbb{Q}xb2?!$ The start of an incorrect combination. Give yourself full points for every other normal move, for example 21... $\mathbb{Q}e6$. It is unclear whether the compensation is 100% there, but it is at least partial compensation. **22.Qxb2 Qxh3?** The immediate double threat 22... $\mathbb{W}e5$ loses to 23. $\mathbb{W}d8\#$. **23.gxh3 We5** Apparently a double attack. **24.c3!+-** But it could be parried! White is winning, and did indeed win in 33 moves. **24.Qf3?** is not good enough: 24... $\mathbb{Q}h4+-$

885. Ruslan Ponomariov – Vepa Malikgulyew, Zagan 1997

16.Wg3! 16. $\mathbb{Q}xe7\#$ is better for White, but does not win material, as is also the case with 16.Qf4±. **16...Wxg3** **17.Qxe7\#** $\mathbb{Q}h8$ **18.hxg3** $\mathbb{Q}e8$ **19.Qxc6+-** ✓ (1–0, 34 moves)

886. Sergei Azarov – Ruslan Ponomariov, Artek 1999

20.Qxf6! 20. $\mathbb{W}h4\pm$ **20...g6+-** 20... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 21.Qf4+- ✓ traps the queen. In the game, Black fought on for a few more moves.

887. Sergei Tiviakov – Ruslan Ponomariov Moscow (4) 2001

23...Qh3\#! 23... $\mathbb{Q}g8?$ 24. $\mathbb{W}f6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 25. $\mathbb{W}xd8\#+-$ **24.gxh3** $\mathbb{Q}g8$ ✓ **0–1** Winning the queen.

888. Ruslan Ponomariov – Teimour Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2003

35...Qce3! Blocking the bishop on c5 while stopping $\mathbb{Q}xg4$. Three alternatives: a) 35... $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ 36.Qxf8 $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$ 37.Qh1 $\mathbb{Q}f2\#$ 38.Qg1=; b) 35... $\mathbb{Q}e1$ 36.Qf1#; c) 35... $\mathbb{Q}d4?$ 36.Qxg4+- **36.Qxe3** $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ ✓ 36... $\mathbb{W}xe3?$ 37.Qf1 is also winning for Black, but not as forcing (full points for that evaluation). The game move is the strongest with ... $\mathbb{W}e2-f3$ as the main winning idea. The game ended after just two more moves: **37.h4** $\mathbb{W}e2$ **38.Wh5** **g4 0–1**

889. Ruslan Ponomariov – Tihomir Dovramadjiev, Internet 2004

30.Qxd5! $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ Instead Black tried 30... $\mathbb{Q}dc8+-$ but could not turn the game around (1–0, 42 moves). **31.Qxd5 exd5** **32.We5\#+-** ✓ Picking up the rook.

890. Comp Hydra – Ruslan Ponomariov, Bilbao 2005

27.d7! Opening up for the queen to join the attack. **27...♝xc5 28.♛c7!+–** ✓ White's threats against the king are too strong. The game ended after the next move. **28...e5 29.dxc5 1–0** White is mating.

891. Levon Aronian – Ruslan Ponomariov, Khanty-Mansiysk (3) 2005

14.b4!! 14.♝d6?! **♝e8 15.b4 cxb4 16.axb4** allows **16...♞f6=**. **14...cxb4 15.♛b3!** White will win back a pawn on either b4 or d5, and retain material-winning threats. **15...♞c5 15...bxa3 16.♛xd5+–** ✓ and the rook cannot be saved. **15...♝e7 16.♛xd5** (16.♚hc1 is also quite strong) **16...♞f6 17.♛xa8 ♜b7 18.♝d6!!** ✓ saves the queen, keeping a winning material advantage. **16.dxc5+–** ✓ (1–0, 73 moves)

892. Ruslan Ponomariov – Alexander Grischuk, Sochi 2006

30.♝c7! Winning one of the bishops. Not **30.bxc6?? ♜b1 mate**. **30...♞f3?!** **31.♝xf3!** **31.♛xc5 ♜xc5 32.♜xc5 ♜xe2 33.♝xe3±** probably also offers decent winning chances. **31...♝d6 32.♜c6 1–0** Black resigned, since White is winning on the queenside after **32...♝xe5 33.♜xb6 ♜xb6 34.fxe5** ✓.

893. Krishnan Sasikiran – Ruslan Ponomariov, Zafra 2007

29.♝e5!! ✓ 1–0 Finding the soft target on f7; Black has no defence.

894. Ruslan Ponomariov – Peter Leko, Moscow (blitz) 2007

19.♝xe6! ♜d8 19...fxe6? **20.♝f5+–** ✓ wins the bishop and the e6-pawn. **20.♝f5+–** White has won an important pawn. **20.f4** is also good, as is the passive **20.♝b3**.

895. Pavel Tregubov – Ruslan Ponomariov, Odessa 2008

28.♜b5†! White gains a mating attack. **28...♝a6+– 28...cxb5 29.♜d6†** ✓ **♝a7** and there is more than one way to mate, for instance **30.♛d7† ♜a8 31.♜a6† ♜b8 32.♜b6† ♜a8 33.♛b7** mate. **29.♜xa5† 29.♝d2** and **29.♝c2** are also winning. **29...♝b6 30.♛c5† 1–0** Mate is nigh.

896. Vladislav Tkachiev – Ruslan Ponomariov, Moscow (blitz) 2008

17.♝f4! ✓ 1–0 Mating on e8 or winning a bishop on c7.

897. Magnus Carlsen – Ruslan Ponomariov, Moscow (blitz) 2008

28.♜xe6!! **28.♝xc5** runs into **28...♛f7†**, but White doesn't have to exchange on c5 before capturing the e6-pawn. **28...♝xe6 29.♝d5 ♜e8 29...♞f7 30.♝xg7!** and White is winning because the rook will be hanging after **30...♝xg7 31.♝xe6†** ✓. **30.c7! ♜f7 31.♝xg7! ♜g8 31...♝xg7 32.♝xe6†** (or **32.♝xg7† ♜xg7 33.♝xe6+–**) **32...♜xe6 33.♝xg7† ♜xg7 34.c8=♛+–** ✓ **32.♝f6!+–** Black is quite tied up and will end up losing a lot of material. **32.h4** is also winning. Instead the game continued **32.♝d4? ♜e7 33.♝b6** when Black could have played **33...♜f8±**.

898. Boris Gelfand – Ruslan Ponomariov, Khanty-Mansiysk (6) 2009

35.♘xd5 exd5 36.♗f4! In order to exploit the pin, the knight needs to attack the b6-rook from d5. 36.♕b2? ♔e7± 37.♔a4?! ♕xa6= 36...♗c7 36...d4 37.♗d5 ♕b8 38.♗c7+- 37.♗xb6 axb6 38.a7+ ✓ The principles of knight endgames are often the same as in pawn endgames, and here the advanced and distant passer on a7, and all the weak black pawns, give White a winning endgame (1–0, 52 moves).

899. Ruslan Ponomariov – Baadur Jobava, Kharkov 2010

30...♗f2! Discovered attack. 30...♗f4? has the same idea but runs into: 31.♗xf4 ♕xh2? 32.♗xg6†+- 31.♗xf2 One point is 31.♗xh7 ♕xh7 32.♗xh7 ♘xd3 33.♗xe7 ♗xe1†!+-✓ when Black has an extra piece. 31...♗xh2 32.♗xh2 ♕xh2+-✓ (0–1, 79 moves)

900. Francisco Vallejo Pons – Ruslan Ponomariov, Spain 2011

32...♔e3! The threat of ...♔g2 mate cannot be stopped except by capturing the knight – a move that decisively opens up the king's position. 32...♗xf2 allows White to draw with 33.♗xd5† or 33.♗d8†. 33.fxe3 ♕xe3† ✓ 34.♗g2 ♕f2† Mating is best, but other moves are winning as well. 35.♗h3 ♕h6† 36.♗g4 ♕g6† 0–1

901. Sergey Fedorchuk – Ruslan Ponomariov, Spain 2011

21.♗xh6†! ♔g6 21...♗xh6 22.♗xf6† ♔h7 (22...♔h5 also runs into mate in several ways. Most direct is 23.♗g3.) 23.♗h4† ♔g8 24.♗g3† ♔g4 25.♗xg4 mate ✓ **22.♗d5!** 22.♗xf8 ♕xc3 23.♗g3† ♔g4 24.♗f1 ♔d4 25.♗f3 And h2-h3 eventually wins the knight and the game (full points). In the game, White had a winning attack. The knight cannot be taken and the game ended in mate in a few moves. **22...♔h7** Both 22...♗xd5 23.♗f5† ♔xh6 24.♗xf6† and 22...♗xd5 23.♗g3† will end up with mate. **23.♗g3† ♔h5 24.♗f6† ♗xf6 25.♗g5 mate**

902. Peter Svidler – Ruslan Ponomariov, Eilat (1) 2012

34.♗d5! Two tries that don't really work are 34.♗xg6? ♕xg6 35.♗g7† ♔f8† and 34.♗xf7?! ♕xf7 35.♗xg6† ♕xg6 36.♗f4† ♔f7 37.g6† ♗xf6 38.♗xe8= 34...♗xe2 34...♗xd5 35.♗xe8 mate ✓ **35.♗xf7†! ♔f8** 35...♔h8 36.♗b8† ♔h7 37.♗g8† ♔h8 38.♗e6† Picking up the knight spells the end of the game. **36.♗xg6!** ✓ White has a winning attack. Black tried to fight on for a few moves, but it proved futile. 36...♗e8 37.♗f7† ♕g8 38.♗g7† ♔h8 39.♗h7† 1–0

903. Ruslan Ponomariov – Leinier Dominguez Perez, Tashkent 2012

33.♗xe7! Eliminating the defence of the dark squares. 33.♗c7?! ♕xc7 34.♗xc7 ♕xc7 35.♗xc7 ♔c8 wins an exchange, but White is only slightly better. **33...♗xe7** 33...♗xe7 34.♗f6† ✓ and as there are many ways to conclude the attack, it's enough to see this far. A few lines: 34...♔h8 (34...♔g7 35.♗g5+- and the queen is coming to h6 with devastating effect) 35.♗h4 h5 36.♗g5 ♕f8 37.♗d6 The defence is collapsing, since both e7 and f5 are hanging. It's over after 37...♗cc7 38.♗xf5+- 34.♗g5! ✓ 34.♔e5?! or 34.d6?! and some other moves are good but not best or most natural. **34...♗e2 35.♗f6† ♔g7 36.♗xe8† ♕xe8 37.♗xf5 1–0** Black has to give up the queen to delay mate after 37...gxsf5 38.♔e7†! ✓.

904. Deshun Xiu – Ruslan Ponomariov, Danzhou 2014

Despite the centralized position, the king is somewhat short of squares and must keep the rook protected. 42...f5†! 43.gxf5 gxf5† 44.♔e5 44.♔e3 ♕de2 mate ✓ 44...♕xd3+✓ (0–1, 50 moves)

905. Fabiano Caruana – Ruslan Ponomariov, Dortmund 2014

How can White exploit the weak light squares around the king? 39.♕e7! First, we must deflect the queen by attacking c7. 39...♛xe7 39...♝b8 40.♚a6✓ is mating. 40.♚a6! And then the king is deflected! White mates. 40...♝xa6 41.♛a8 mate ✓

906. Ivan Cheparinov – Ruslan Ponomariov, Tromsø (ol) 2014

19.♗b5! Pin, discovered check and pawn promotion are on the agenda. 19...♜cc8 The main point is 19...♝xb5 20.♝xd8† ♜xd8 21.cxb6† ♜e7 22.bxa7+–✓ and promotion. 20.♝xa7 ♜c7 21.cxb6 White is winning (1–0, 37 moves).

907. Ruslan Ponomariov – Jure Borisek, Berlin (blitz) 2015

26.♗f5! Using the cramped king to bring the knight to the lovely d6-square, winning an exchange. 26...♛e6 26...gxf5 27.♘g5† ♜g7 28.♘xg7 mate ✓ 27.♘d6+–✓ (1–0, 55 moves)

908. Ruslan Ponomariov – Axel Bachmann, Berlin (blitz) 2015

24.♝xf6 ♜xf6 25.♚a6! Taking advantage of all the unprotected minor pieces. 25...♝xa4 25...♝xa6 26.♝xb6+–✓ wins a piece. 26.♝xb7 White is a piece up (1–0, 55 moves).

909. Ruslan Ponomariov – Francisco Vallejo Pons, Madrid 2016

24.e4! 24.e6† ♜xe6 25.e4 is similar but 24.♝d1? runs into 24...♝b7!–+. 24...♛d4 24...♛xe4 drops the bishop: 25.♝xd2+–✓ 25.♝d1✓ 1–0 Now there is no counterplay, so the pins win the bishop.

Rustam Kasimdzhanov (on Anand)

He sees a lot more than all the others, but that isn't necessarily a strength. In the games he loses he has also seen more than his opponent. Playing chess isn't about what you see. Playing chess is about what you can seize from that. It can also sometimes be a burden when you see so many variations that you can no longer maintain control.

Chess24 (2013)

910. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Patrice Verdier, Corsica (rapid) 1997

34.♝xg6! ♛d3 No better are 34...fxg6 35.♛xf8+–✓ or 34...♝xg6 35.♛f5 mate ✓. 35.♝xf8†✓ 1–0 Mate is on the way.

911. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Giorgi Bakhtadze, Yerevan 1999

40.♝e6†! A discovered attack with an added threat to the f4-knight. Black has a fork, but White emerges with a winning position. 40...♝e7 40...♝xe6 41.♝xd7 ♜f6 (41...♝xc4 42.♝xc4 ♜f6 43.♝e5+–✓ or 43.♝a7 ♜xg4† 44.♝g3!–+) 42.♝xe6! (42.♝f4+– is also good enough) 42...fxe6 43.♝f4!+–✓ 41.♝xd7† ♜xd7 42.♝xf4✓ 1–0

912. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Gerald Hertneck Germany 2001

24.♘xc5! Distracting the crucial defender of b7 to a vulnerable square. Worse are 24.♗b5 ♜b6= and 24.♗c6? ♜dxc6 25.♗b7† ♜xb7 26.♗xc6 c4†. **24...♘xc5 25.♗b7† ♜xb7 26.♗xb7 ♜xb7** **27.♗b4†!+– ✓** White wins a rook, with a winning material advantage.

913. Etienne Bacrot – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Moscow 2002

24...♗xf3! 24...♗xe4?! 25.♗xe4 ♜xe4 26.fxe4 ♜f2† 27.♔h1 ♜e2 28.♗g5± is bad for Black and 24...♗h3†? 25.♗xh3 ♜xf3† 26.♗g2 ♜f2† 27.♔h1! loses for him. **25.♗xf3** White tried the non-critical 25.♗c4 when 25...♗g4! is precise, but other moves win too. **25...♗xe4† 26.♗g3** 26.♗xe4 ♜d4 mate ✓ **26...♗f2† ✓ 0–1** Mate is coming.

914. Thomas Luther – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Mainz 2003

21...h4! Chasing away the blocking knight prepares a fork. **22.♗e4 ♜xe4 23.dxe4 ♜h3† 24.♗f1 ♜xf2+– ✓ (0–1, 34 moves)**

915. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Mark Bluvshstein, Khanty-Mansiysk (ol) 2010

34.♗g6†! Trading the attack for a win by promotion. **34...♗xg6 35.♗xg6 1–0** The pawn queens after 35...♗xg6 36.d7 ✓ and 35...♗e6 36.♗f8† is a fork.

916. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Mohammad Miran Khademi, Mashhad 2011

39.♗xe8! 39.c5†? ♜xc5 40.♗c4† ♜e6+– 39...♗a7?! 39...a1=♗† leads nowhere and 39...♗xe8 is met by 40.♗d7 mate ✓. **40.c5†! 1–0** The end was close: 40...♗xc5 41.♗c4 mate ✓

917. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Liviu Dieter Nisipeanu, Rogaska Slatina 2011

29.♗c5! ✓ The only way to get out of the dangerous pin, while only losing one of the hanging pieces. White retains an exchange – a winning material advantage (1–0, 40 moves). No good is: 29.hxg3 fxg3 30.♗c5 gxg2†–

918. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Marat Dzhumaev, Tashkent 2011

24.g4! ♜c2 24...♗xg4 25.♗f7† ♜h8 26.♗xh7 mate ✓ **25.gxf5+– ✓** Kasimdzhanov played another winning move (also full points): 25.♗xd4 ♜xd4 26.♗d1 e3 27.♗xd4 ♜xc7 28.♗d5† 1–0

919. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Henrik Teske, Germany 2011

38.f7! ♜xf7 The game continued 38...♗c6+– when White has several winning options. For example: 39.♗d6 (another is 39.♗f3 ♜xe1 40.♗xc6+– attacking both rooks) 39...♗d5 (39...♗a8 40.♗d7+–) 40.♗xd5! Black resigned in view of 40...♗xd5 41.♗e8† mating. **39.♗xf7 ♜xf7** **40.♗h5†+– ✓** Winning the rook.

Veselin Topalov

I think the solution is to shorten the time control in order to provide more margin for error, since memory would then be less of a factor than now and it would be more important to calculate faster.

Página/12 (2015)

920. Dimitar Donchev – Veselin Topalov, Sofia 1989

18. ♜fe5!! Threatening the d7-knight and preparing a discovered attack on the queen. **18... ♜xe5**
19. ♜h6†! ✓ 1–0 **19. ♜f6†?? ♜xf6–+**

921. Eran Liss – Veselin Topalov, Singapore 1990

28.f5!! White wants to force away the g7-bishop that is blocking the mate on f7. **28...dxe3** The game continued **28... ♜xf5 29. ♜g8†** (other moves also win, but not **29. ♜xf5 dxe3±**) **29... ♜e7 30. ♜f7† ♜d6 31. ♜d7†** and Black resigned, as he was facing mate in a few moves. After **28...gxsf5** White wins with, among others, **29. ♜h6. 29. f6+– ✓**

922. Vasilios Kotronias – Veselin Topalov, Kavala 1990

20. ♜xe6!+– Winning an important pawn and gaining a superb knight on e6. **20... ♜c6 20... ♜xe6** fails to **21. ♜xd7†+– ✓** when the rook is indirectly protected by the queen. **21. f5! e4 22. ♜d4 ♜hg8 23. ♜xe4 ♜xe4 24. ♜xe4 c3 25. b4 1–0** White has a crushing position.

923. Veselin Topalov – Jacob Bjerre Jensen, Copenhagen 1991

28... ♜f4!! What a multipurpose move! Black cuts off the queen from the mate threat, threatens the bishop, opens the h-file for either the queen on h6 or a rook on h5. White is utterly defenceless against so many threats. The game ended the other way after: **28... ♜e7?! 29. ♜h3 ♜xe5 30. dxe5 ♜xe5?? (30... ♜g5=) 31. ♜d8† 1–0** **29. ♜xf4 ♜h5†! 30. ♜xh5 ♜xf4+–**

924. Veselin Topalov – Juan Mellado Trivino, Terrassa 1992

22. ♜d6! Cutting off the defence of d5. **22... ♜b4 22... ♜xd6 23. ♜xd5†+– ✓ 23. ♜xe8+– ✓** White has won an exchange and will gain control of the soon-to-be-open e-file.

925. Mikhail Nedobora – Veselin Topalov, Candas 1992

25...e4! Breaking up White's pawn structure and giving the bishop on h2 a retreat square. **26. ♜e3 26. fxe4 ♜e5!+– ✓** and Black will win on the kingside. **26...exf3+–** The white kingside is collapsing. The game gives some indication of White's troubles here. However, **26... ♜e5+–** is also winning. **27. ♜xf3 ♜e4 27... ♜e5** is still a winning idea. **28. ♜c2 ♜g5 29. ♜f2 ♜e5 30. ♜xe5 ♜xe5 31. ♜h1 ♜e4 32. ♜g1 ♜f3 33. ♜h1 ♜e5 34. ♜d2 0–1**

926. Jesus Maria Iruzubieta Villaluenga – Veselin Topalov, Elgoibar 1992

34... ♜xg5!! ✓ 0–1 **34... ♜b6†?!** allows **35. ♜e3!=** when **35... ♜e3† 36. ♜xe3 ♜xg5? 37. ♜xe5** even wins for White. In the game, White resigned in view of the heavy material losses: **35. ♜xe5 ♜xf3† (or 35... ♜h3†)**

927. Veselin Topalov – Alfonso Romero Holmes, Leon 1993

24.♕h6! Neutralizing all counterplay and getting rid of the supreme defender by exploiting the multiple pins created by White's pieces aimed against the black king. **24...♗c3** **24...♕xh6** **25.♗xg6† ♕g7** **26.♗xh5+–✓** (or **26.♗xh5+–**) **25.♗xg7** ✓ White has a winning attack. **25...♗xg7** **26.♗dg1 1–0** After **26...♗f6** **27.♗xg6+–** it's hopeless.

928. Jesus Maria De la Villa – Veselin Topalov, Pamplona 1994

35...♗xh8! **36.♗xh8 ♔f6!–+** ✓ Gaining a second piece for the rook gives Black a likely winning endgame (0–1, 49 moves).

929. Veselin Topalov – Judit Polgar, Novgorod 1996

33.♗xe6†! **33.d5?** is too slow after **33...♗xc2+–**, but **33.♔a3** preserves an advantage (but is weak compared to the game). **33...♗f8** **33...fxe6** **34.♗xe6†+–✓** and one of the rooks drops. The game move is clever, and gives Black a double threat against c2 and e6, so one has to see further. **34.♔a3†** **34.♗g6?!** is the only other move that wins. The point is still the check on a3: **34...♗xc2** **35.♔a3†** **34...♗g7** **35.♗e7! ♕c7** **36.♗xc7 ♕xc7** **37.♗e3+–✓** The position has stabilized with White a pawn up, with the safer king, better minor piece and more dangerous pawns (1–0, 60 moves).

930. Loek van Wely – Veselin Topalov, Antwerp 1997

33...c2†! **34.♔a2** **34.♗xc2 ♕e1†+–✓** wins the rook. **34.♔a1 ♕xa3 mate ✓** **34...♗d2!** **35.♗f1 ♕d4!** **0–1** There is a double threat against a7 and b2.

931. Loek van Wely – Veselin Topalov, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 1997

26.♗e8†! **26.♗xh8?! ♔xh8** **27.♗e8 ♗g8** and Black defends. **26...♗f7** **27.♗xf6!±✓** (1–0, 39 moves)

932. Predrag Nikolic – Veselin Topalov, Linares 1997

22...♗e5!! 0–1 **22...♗f2†?** **23.♗xf2 ♕xh3†** **24.♗g1±** The knight sacrifice opens up for a discovered attack on the pawn on h3: **23.fxe5 ♕xh3 mate ✓**

933. Veselin Topalov – Jan Timman, Elista (ol) 1998

31...♕xh4! The queen now tried to do too much. **32.♗d3?!** **32.♕xh4 ♕xd6** **33.♕xd6? (33.♔e4+–)** **33...♕xd6†+–** picks up the d2-knight. **32...♗f6!–+** ✓ White can't retain the strong bishop on d6 and faces huge material losses. **33.♗e7 ♕c7† 0–1**

934. Alexei Shirov – Veselin Topalov, Sarajevo 2000

24.♗xc5! Targeting the soft spot on h7 by getting the queen to f5. **24.h5? h6** **25.♗xe4** is somewhat better for White, but nowhere near as convincing as the game continuation. **24...♗f4** **24...f5** is met by **25.♗e6+–✓** or **25.♗xf5+–.** **25.♗f5 ✓ ♗g6** It is now enough to take the exchange, but Shirov was more direct. **26.h5! ♕xe7** **27.hxg6 1–0**

935. Francisco Vallejo Pons – Veselin Topalov, Barcelona 2000

28.♕xf5†! 28.♕xf3? ♜xf3 29.♕xf6 (29.♕g3 ♔g7†) 29...♜xg1 30.♜xg1 is unclear. **28...♝f8** 28...♝xg5 29.♗xg5† ✓ is a key move, after which White's attack is winning in many ways; an evaluation that can be made without calculating further. But here we can afford some supporting variations. (29.♕h8†? ♔g7 30.♕h7† [30.♗h7†? ♔f6+ and the attack is over] 30...♝f6 31.♕xf7†! ♜xf7 32.♗xf3 ♔e5 And White is better, but not winning.) 29...♝g6 (29...♝f8 30.♕h8 mate) 30.♔xg6 fxg6 (30...♝d3† 31.♔a1 ♛d1† 32.♔c1 changes nothing) 31.♗xg6† ♔f7 32.♗g7† ♔f8 33.♗g8† ♔f7 34.♗g7 mate **29.♗xf6+– ✓** White has won a piece, so trading queens is not really in Black's interest, but if he does not, then the attack is winning. The only thing that might be useful to see is that Black runs out of checks after: **29...♝d3† 30.♔c1 ♛e3† 31.♔d1 ♛d3† 32.♔e1 ♛b1† 33.♔f2+–**

936. Rafael Vaganian – Veselin Topalov, Istanbul (ol) 2000

30...♛xe6!+– Giving up the queen to gain the time needed to promote the c-pawn. Worse are 30...♝g7?! 31.♗d3† and 30...c2? 31.♗xf6 c1=♛† 32.♔h2± and 30...♝b1†?! 31.♔f1 ♛h4†. **31.dxe6 c2 32.♛e3 ♛b1† 33.♔h2 c1=♛+– ✓** (0–1, 36 moves)

937. Veselin Topalov – Alexander Morozevich, Cannes 2002

33.♞e4 Double discovery with a threat on the knight *and* taking away the h7-square! Black resigned, since he is mated whichever rook he captures. **33...♝xf2† 33...♝xb5 34.♕a8† ✓** with mate. **34.♗g2 ♕ee8 35.♗xb8 ♕xb8 36.♗xf2+– ✓**

938. Veselin Topalov – Peter Leko, Dubai 2002

22...♝e5! 23.♗g3 23.♗e2 ♜xg6 24.hxg6 ♛xg6+– **23...♝xh5!+– ✓** Something along the h7-b1 diagonal, or the d1-rook, will drop off (0–1, 27 moves). But not: 23...♜xg6? 24.hxg6 ♛h8 25.♗c7+–

939. Alexei Shirov – Veselin Topalov, Prague 2002

40.d7! Clearing a square for a fork while threatening to queen the pawn. **40...♝xd7 41.♝d6† ♔g6 42.♝xc4+– ✓** (1–0, 52 moves)

940. Veselin Topalov – Evgeny Bareev, Dortmund (2) 2002

23.♝xb5†! Exposing Black's king to the white artillery. 23.c4? ♜ac8† is bad, but there are some decent alternatives: 23.♗e5!± and 23.a4! b4±. **23...axb5 24.♝xb5!** The move order is important. 24.♗xd5? exd5 25.♗xb5? ♜he8! wins for Black. **24...♛c6 24...♛a6 25.♗dxd5!** (or the nice-looking 25.♗e3† ♜xe3 26.♗d7†+–) 25...exd5 26.♗e7† ✓ mating. 24...♛c7 defends against the check on e7. A rook lift is winning, as well as 25.♗xd5 exd5 26.♗e3† ♔a6 27.♗b4 ♛a5 28.♗e2† ♔a7 29.♗e7† ♔a6 30.♗b7 mate. **25.♗xd5!** 25.♗d4+– should also be good enough; as is 25.♗d3+–. **25...exd5 26.♗e7† ♔a6 27.♗b3! ✓ 1–0** The threat of 28.♛a3 is decisive.

941. Veselin Topalov – Francisco Vallejo Pons, Morelia/Linares 2006

34...♛xe1†! 34...♝xd5? 35.♗e5†! wins for White and 34...fxg6 35.♗e6† leads to a perpetual after the best moves. **35.♝xe1 ♔e3† 36.♔f1 c1=♛ 37.♗xf7† ♔d8+– ✓** Because the e1-bishop is pinned, White does not have compensation (0–1, 56 moves).

942. Veselin Topalov – Gata Kamsky, Sofia 2009

36.♘xb4! 36.♗xd4? ♗xd4 37.♗xc7 ♘xd3 and the pawn on g7 is defended after 38.♗xf7† ♖h8±. 36...axb4 37.♗xd4! ♗f8?! 37...♗xd4 38.♗xc7± ✓ is not winning, but this is clearly the best White could force from the diagram position. 38.♗xd8 ♗xd8 39.♗xc7 ♗xc7 40.♗a8† ♖h7 41.♗e4† ♖g8 42.♗xb4+- ✓ (1–0, 55 moves)

943. Magnus Carlsen – Veselin Topalov, Sofia 2009

33.♗d3! 33.♗g4? ♗xe7 and 33.♗xg6? ♗xc7 both win for Black. 33...♗xe7 33...♗xc7 34.♗g5†! (34.♗f6†?? ♗xf6 35.♗xg6† ♖h8–+) 34...hxg5 35.♗xg6† ♖h8 36.♗h5† ♖h6 37.♗xh6 mate ✓ 34.♗xd7 Or 34.♗f6†+-.. 34...♗h4† 35.♗f3! ♗h5† 36.♗g3! ✓ 1–0 Black has run out of counterplay, so White is simply mating.

944. Vladimir Georgiev – Veselin Topalov, Novi Sad 2009

37.♗f4! Clearing e6 for the queen while simultaneously threatening the black queen and protecting e2. 37...♗h6 37...gxsf4 38.♗e6† ✓ is mating. 38.♗e6† ♖h8 39.♗h5! ♗f8 40.♗xd6+- ✓ White just needs to take care of some counterplay in order to win quickly. Instead the game went 40.♗f7? ♖g7 41.♗xg7? (41.♗xh6 ♖xh6 42.♗d7 seems to be a slow win) 41...♗xh5 and White had only a perpetual after 42.♗g8†.

945. Mark Bluvshtein – Veselin Topalov, Khanty-Mansiysk (ol) 2010

24.♗xd6! 24.♗xd6? ♖xd6 25.♗f6† ♖f7–+ 24...♖xd6 25.♗xd6! ♗xe2 25...♗xd6 26.♗xe8† ♖g7 27.♗e7† ✓ wins the rook on d6. 26.♗xd8† ♖f7 27.♖xe2+- ✓ White should win and did indeed manage to convert (1–0, 42 moves).

946. Veselin Topalov – Magnus Carlsen, Astana (rapid) 2012

40.♗h5†! gxh5 40...♗f8 41.♗f6+- ✓ (or 41.dxc5 bxc5 42.♗f6+-) A sample line is: 41...♗xf6 42.♗xf6 ♖g8 43.♗e8† ♖h7 44.♗h8 mate **41.♗g5†!** The game move 41.♗xh5?= gives Black the opportunity to bring the knight to g6, with sufficient defensive resources. 41...♗f8 42.♗xh5+- ✓ Now Black cannot parry the mating attack.

947. Wang Hao – Veselin Topalov, Stavanger (blitz) 2013

21.♗d5! ♗xb3 21...♗a7 22.♗e7† or 22.♗c7+-.. 22.♗xb3 ♘xb3 23.♗c7+- ✓ White wins an exchange with a much more active position. 23...♗e5 24.♗xa8 ♗xg5 25.♗xd7 ♖xd7 26.♗xd7 1–0

Magnus Carlsen

Self-confidence is very important... I have always believed in what I do on the chessboard, even when I had no objective reason to. It is better to overestimate your prospects than underestimate them.

948. Sarunas Sulskis – Magnus Carlsen, Moscow 2004

34.♗d5! ♖h7 34...♗xd5? 35.h6+- ✓ mating, is the main idea. Black's best is 34...♗xf6 35.♗xf6† ♖g7 36.♗xd7 ✓ ♗d8± with some drawing chances. **35.hxg6†! fxg6** 36.♗e7† 1–0 If 36...♗g8 then 37.♗f6† wins everything.

949. Magnus Carlsen – Kjetil Lie, Trondheim 2004

33...Qxe5! **34.fxe5** **34.Qh4†** **34...Qxe5** A double threat, winning back the piece while keeping the pawn. **35.Qf4** **35.Qxc7** **Qxg5+–✓** and the knight is trapped on c7. **35...Qxd5+–✓** (0–1, 44 moves)

950. Magnus Carlsen – Nurlan Ibrayev, Calvia (ol) 2004

17.Qxf6! The king cannot escape without heavy casualties. **17...Wxf6** After 17...hxg5 the most direct is 18.hxg5 gxg6 19.gxf6 mating. 17...gxf6 allows mate in two: **18.Wh7† Qf8** **19.Wxf7** mate ✓ **18.Wh7† Qf8** **19.Qe4!** **19.Qa3†** is less precise, but sufficient for a winning position: **19...Qb4** **20.Qxb4† d6+–** And with the e4-square covered, White can't play **Qg5-e4**. **19...We6** **20.Qa3†+–✓**

951. Magnus Carlsen – Vasilios Kotronias, Calvia (ol) 2004

22.Qxf6! White is better after other moves, but this is clearly the strongest continuation. **22...Qxf6** **23.Qxd6†! Qe7** **23...Wxd6** **24.Wxe3** with a double threat against a7 and g5: **24...Qxh4** **25.Wxa7+–✓** or **24...Qd7** **25.Wg5** mate ✓. **24.Qxc6 Wxc6** **25.Wxe3** ✓ With three pawns and Black's exposed king for an exchange, White is at least clearly better, although the game was eventually drawn.

952. Alexander Graf – Magnus Carlsen, Sanxenxo 2004

29.Qc6!!✓ 1–0 Black cannot protect both the bishop and the king against **30.Qd8†**.

953. Magnus Carlsen – Predrag Nikolic, Wijk aan Zee 2005

20.Qg5† fxe5 **21.Wf3†! Qg8** **22.Qxe6!✓ 1–0** Winning the bishop with **22.Qf5+–** is also good enough. The game move gives a winning attack: **22...Qxe6** **23.Wf8** mate.

954. Magnus Carlsen – Oystein Hole, Gausdal 2005

24.Qxh7! Qxh7 **24...Qxd4** **25.Qxg8** (25.Qxd4? Qxh7 26.Qe3 Wh8!) and Black is winning because the queen is protecting e6 and can come to g6 after 27.Qf5 exf5 28.Wxf5† Wg6+– **25...Qf5** **26.Qxf7** **Qxh6** **27.Wxe6** **Wxe6** **28.Qxe6+–✓** White has too many pawns to go with the rook against the two minor pieces. **25.Qe3!** White threatens mate on h5 as well as a discovered attack with the knight. **25...Qh8** **25...g6** **26.Wh3†** (or **26.Qxe6+–**) **26...Qg7** **27.Wh6** mate **26.Qxe6+–✓** White wins the queen. Also good is: **26.Qf5 exf5** **27.Wxf5†+–**

955. Magnus Carlsen – Gata Kamsky, Khanty-Mansiysk (1) 2005

37.c5†! Qxc5 **37...Qxb5** **38.Qe7** should also be winning for White and **37...Qa7** is just too passive; White's pawns and active rooks are decisive in many different ways. **38.Qe7 Qd4** **38...Qc3** **39.Qc7†** (or **39.Qc1**) **39...Qb6** (**39...Qd4** **40.Qd1†+–✓**) **40.Qxc3+–✓** **39.Qxb7+–✓**

956. Jan Smeets – Magnus Carlsen, Wijk aan Zee 2006

35...Qxg3†!! 36.Qxg3 After the game move **36.Qf1** many moves win. Strongest is **36...Wh7+–** when the queen penetrates with deadly effect. **36.fxg3 Wf1†!** (or **36...Wf3†**) **37.Qh2 Qg7** This wins similarly to the main line, although here White is closer to having a defence: **38.Qe4 Wh8†** **39.Qh4 Qxh4+–✓** **36...Wf3† 37.Qh2 Qg7!+–✓** Bringing the rook to the h-file with a devastating attack. **37...Qf7?** **38.Wxg6** **Wh7†** **39.Wxh7† Qxh7∞** is not good enough.

957. Simon Williams – Magnus Carlsen, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006

23...Qh4 Winning an exchange by exploiting the mating threats on g2 and h1. **24.Qxe4** The alternatives do not require long calculation: 24.g3 Wh1 mate ✓ and 24.Wxh4 Wxg2 mate ✓.
24...Qxf2† 25.Qxf2 Qxe4 ✓ Black should be winning.

958. Magnus Carlsen – Sergei Shipov, Tromsø 2006

34...d3! Clearing d4 for a fork. **35.Qe1** The fork is executed after 35.cxd3 Qd4+✓ and 35.Wxd3 Qfd8! 36.Wf3 Qd4+✓. The queen had no safe squares. **35...dxc2+–** White saved the exchange, but at too high a price – the c2-pawn supported by Black's entire army is too much to handle.

959. Magnus Carlsen – Kjetil Lie, Moss 2006

24.Qxf1! Qxf7 The game ended 24...Qxc2 25.Qe7† Qh8 26.Qe5 mate. **25.Qf6† Qf8** 26.Qxe8+–✓ White will win even more material.

960. Magnus Carlsen – Alexander Morozевич, Biel 2006

40.Qxd5! cxd5 41.Wf8† Qh7 42.Qe8! 1–0 With a decisive attack. 42...We5† can be met by 43.f4!✓ followed by 44.Qf6†.

961. Artur Yusupov – Magnus Carlsen, Amsterdam 2006

39...Qxf2! **40.Qxf2** The game went 40.Qf1+–. **40...Wxg3† 41.Qe2 Wxh2†+–✓** Or 41...Ra8+–.

962. Magnus Carlsen – Dmitry Gurevich, Rishon Le Zion (blitz) 2006

23.Qe6†! The only move that doesn't lose material. **23...Qxe6** 23...fxe6 24.Qxe5✓ with a winning endgame. **24.Qxe5**✓ The endgame is winning for White.

963. Magnus Carlsen – Simen Agdestein, Oslo 2006

9.Wd5! Wf6 9...We7 10.Qxe5+– **10.Qxe5!**✓ 10.Qg5 is good, but not as good: 10...We6 11.Qxe5 Wxd5 12.Qxd5 Qxe5 13.Qxa8 Qd3†+– With work still to be done. **10...Qxe5 11.Wxa8†+–✓**

964. Alexander Motylev – Magnus Carlsen, Wijk aan Zee 2007

28.Qe1! 28.g4? Qg6 led to a draw in 44 moves, and 28...hgx4! 29.Qxe6? Qf5 would be embarrassing for White, as suddenly Black is winning: 30.Qxe8 Qxe8 31.Wd2 Qxd4 32.Wxd4 Qe2+– **28...Qf5** After 28...Qg6 the pin on the e6-bishop is decisive. For example: 29.cxd5 cxd5 30.Qxd5+– **29.cxd5!** 29.Qxe6 Qxd4 30.Qe7† Qxe7 31.Wxe7†= **29...Qxd4** 29...cxd5 30.Qxe6 Qxd4 31.Qe7† Qxe7 32.Wxe7† Qg6 is now winning for White due to 33.Qxd5. **30.dxe6†+–✓** White has won a pawn and has a strong attack.

965. Magnus Carlsen – Vassily Ivanchuk, Morelia/Linares 2007

25.d5! A pawn weaker is 25.Qxg7 Qxg7 26.d5 exd5 27.Qd4 Wxe5, but it's still probably winning. **25...exd5 26.Qd4+–✓**

966. Peter Leko – Magnus Carlsen, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2007

16...Wg4†! The game continued 16...Wxh1? 17.Qa5 with a draw later on. Black should not be satisfied with 16...Qxb6+–, however 16...Qe7+– is strong enough (full points). **17.Qf2** 17.Qd2 Qb4 mate ✓ **17...Wh4†! 18.Qe2 Qg4† 19.Qd2 Qb4†+–✓** Winning the queen.

967. Emil Sutovsky – Magnus Carlsen, Kemer 2007

32.c6! dx_c6 33.♗b4!+– ✓ The threat of 34.d7† ♗d8 35.♗a5† is lethal. (The game continuation 33.d7† ♗d8 34.♗b4! ♘xb4 35.♘xb4+– is also sufficient.)

968. Dmitri Jakovenko – Magnus Carlsen, Moscow 2007

32...♘xc4! 32...♔f4† 33.♗h1 ♘xc4 34.♗xc4 ♕d2 also works, but only because 35.♗b2 ♕d1 36.♗b1 is met by 36...♔h6!– when the pinned rook on g1 can't defend from g3. **33.♘xc4** 33.♗xc4 ♕d2! ✓ with a winning attack. **33...♔f4†! 34.♗g3** 34.♗h1 ♕xd5!– ✓ **34...♗xd5** ✓ Black is winning, for instance: **35.♗xd5** 35.♗c1 ♕d2–+ **35...♗xd5** **36.exd5 c4–+**

969. Vassily Ivanchuk – Magnus Carlsen, Nice (rapid) 2008

15.♗xh7†! 15.♗e4 g6 16.♗xb4 ♗xb4 17.♗xb7 ♘xd3∞ **15...♗xh7 16.♗e4† ♗g8** 17.♗xb4 ♗xb4 **18.♗xb7!±** ✓ White has won a pawn, but it didn't stop Carlsen from making a draw. He would have made more after 18.♗xb4? ♗xf3†.

970. Magnus Carlsen – David Anton Guijarro, Madrid (simul) 2008

37.♗c4! Because of the control of a8, White breaks through on the queenside. **37...♗b8** 37...♗b3 38.♗d7!– (or 38.♗b7!– and the rook penetrates to c7) **38.♗xc5 bxc5** **39.♗b7!–** ✓ The next move is 40.b6.

971. Magnus Carlsen – Leinier Dominguez Perez, Wijk aan Zee 2009

33.♗b7! Avoiding 33.♗xe5? ♘xb5 34.♗xg7† ♗g8† and 33.♗b4 ♘c2 34.♗xc2 ♗xc2 35.♗xe5=.. **33...♘c2** 33...♘xf1 34.♗xe5!– ✓ **34.♗b4!** ✓ Or 34.♗a3! also gives a winning attack. The game concluded: **34...♗fe8** **35.♗e1 ♗e2** **36.♗xe5 ♗xe5** **37.♗xe5† ♗xe5** **38.♗xf4 ♗f5** **39.♗h6** 1–0

972. Sergey Karjakin – Magnus Carlsen, Nice (blindfold) 2010

34...♗xh2†! **35.♗xh2 ♘xf3†** **36.♗g1** Best. White loses immediately after 36.♗g2 ♘d1† 37.♗g1 ♘xg1† 38.♗xg1 ♗xh2†!– and 36.♗g2 ♘f1† 37.♗g1 ♘h3† 38.♗h2 ♘xh2 mate ✓. **36...♗xh2†** **37.♗xh2 ♘f4†!** Protecting c7. **38.♗g2 hxg6†**

973. Magnus Carlsen – Anish Giri, Wijk aan Zee 2011

20...e3! **21.♗b2** 21.fxe3 ♘xg5!– **21...♘xg5** Or 21...♗a4 22.♗c2 ♗xc3!–. **22.♗xb6** The game ended: 22.♗xe3 ♘g4 0–1 22...e2! 23.♗e1 ♘xc1 24.♗xc1 e1=♘† 25.♗xe1 ♘xe1† 26.♗f1 ♗h3!– ✓

974. Magnus Carlsen – Hikaru Nakamura, Medias 2011

Black is a piece down, so he has to find something. **32...♗c3†!** **33.bxc3 ♘b8†!** **34.♗b4 ♘xb4†** **35.cxb4 ♘d5!** **36.h7† ♗h8** **37.♗b2† ♘xb2†** ✓ **38.♗xb2 ♘d2†** With a perpetual.

975. Levon Aronian – Magnus Carlsen, Moscow 2011

22...♘xc5! 22...gxf6 23.♗c3 ♘xa2 24.♗f4± **23.a4!** 23.♗xc5 bxa2 24.♗g5 a1=♘† 25.♗c1 ♘xc1† 26.♗xc1 h6!–+ ✓ (or 26...gxf6†) **23...♘xc1†** 23...♘a3 24.♗g5 ♘xc1† transposes. **24.♗xc1 b2!** ✓ Black forces the queen away from the attack on the kingside, with a clear advantage.

976. Magnus Carlsen – Levon Aronian, Wijk aan Zee 2012

30.♘xc6! ♜xc6 31.♗xd5 ♜xd4† After the game move 31...♝c2, White gains a large advantage after several moves: 32.♔h1+–, 32.♗e4+– and 32.♗f2+–. 32.♗e3 ♜xe5 33.♗e7† Or 33.♗f4 first. 33...♜xe7 34.♗xd8† ♜xd8 35.♗xc6+– ✓

977. Evgeny Tomashevsky – Magnus Carlsen, Moscow (blitz) 2012

13.♗xe7? Not 13.♗xe7? ♜xg5+– or 13.♗f4 e5±. 13...♗xe7 14.♗xe7✓ ♜xb2 14...♝b8 15.♗d6± After the game move, White has a positional advantage if he takes on a8, but there are two stronger continuations. 15.♗b1 15.♗xg6 fxg6 16.♗xa8 ♜xa1 17.♗xa1+– 15...♝c3† Black is also lost after 15...♝b8 16.♗d6 and 15...♜xe7 16.♗xa8+– ✓. 16.♗f1+– White is winning, but Carlsen turned the game around (0–1, 26 moves).

978. Magnus Carlsen – Teimour Radjabov, Astana (blitz) 2012

30.h4! The only way not to lose the bishop. It also makes use of the bishop's active position and the pinned f6-pawn. 30...gxh4 31.g5+– ✓ Black is defenceless against the a-pawn and White's pressure on the kingside. 31...♝g6 32.♗ef2 1–0

979. Magnus Carlsen – Judit Polgar, Mexico City 2012

30...♗4xd5! Using the pinned e-pawn to win a piece, as the queen cannot protect the bishop. 31.♗xg5 31.exd5 ♜xb4+– 31...♜xg5! 31...hxg5 32.♗xb7 ♜f4 33.♗c4= and the threat of ♜h1 saves White. 32.♗xg5 ♜xb4+– ✓

980. Jon Ludvig Hammer – Magnus Carlsen, Stavanger (blitz) 2013

26...♜xf3! The only move that decides the game on the spot. A clear advantage is offered by three other moves: a) 26...♗xf3†?! 27.exf3 ♜xf3 28.♗g2 ♜xg2† 29.♗xg2 ♜e2† 31.♔g1 ♜b2 and Black's rook is stronger than White's two pieces. b) 26...h5†; c) 26...♗xf3?! 27.♗d4! ♜g4 28.♗xf3 ♜xf3 29.♗g2† Black has won a pawn. 27.exf3 ♜xf3† 28.♗h1 ♜xd2†+– ✓

981. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Magnus Carlsen, Moscow (blitz) 2013

17.♗c7! Using the fact that the c7-square is indirectly under attack along the c-file. 17...♝xc7 18.♗xc7 ♜xc7 19.b4± ✓

982. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Magnus Carlsen, Shamkir 2014

27...♞xe4! 0–1 28.♗xe4 ♜xd1 29.♗xd1 ♜xe4+– leaves Black a pawn up and much more active, since White's counterattack fails: 30.♗d8†? ♔h7 31.♗g6 ♜f2†✓ 32.♔h1 ♜xg3 mate

983. Magnus Carlsen – Radoslaw Wojtaszek, Tromsø (ol) 2014

31.♗e6!+– ✓ White's attack is now winning in many ways. The threat is to sacrifice the knight and take on f7. 31.♗g4, and others, still leave White much better, but secure no points. 31...♞e8 31...fxe6 32.♗xe6† with mate. 32.♗d5 32.♗h3+– and other moves are also winning. Black has lost connection between his rooks. 32.♗b3 is also a good move, with the threat of checking on e6. 32...♗xd5 33.♗xd5 1–0 ♜f3-h3 followed by ♜f2-f6† is one decisive idea.

984. Magnus Carlsen – Carlos Antonio Hevia, Internet (2) 2016

31...♗xh3†! 32.gxh3 ♜xf3 33.♗xf3 ♜xd4†✓ Black wins a pawn and has the safer king. His advantage is at least bordering on winning (½–½, 41 moves).

Chapter 6

Solutions to Advanced Exercises



Some people think that if their opponent plays a beautiful game, it's OK to lose. I don't. You have to be merciless. – Magnus Carlsen

Wilhelm Steinitz

A sacrifice is best refuted by accepting it.

985. Wilhelm Steinitz – Philipp Meitner, Vienna 1859

20.e6! $\mathbb{d}xe6 \checkmark$ 20... $\mathbb{f}xe6$ 21. $\mathbb{w}xh5\#$ — \checkmark and White picks up the knight on a5. 20... $\mathbb{d}xc4 \checkmark$ and White wins with three moves, of which you should have seen one: a) 21. $\mathbb{d}f5$ and if the queen moves, White takes on f7/d7 and e7. And 21... $\mathbb{d}xf5$ 22. $\mathbb{e}xd7\#$ — is a double check. b) 21. $\mathbb{e}xd7\#$ $\mathbb{d}xd7$ 22. $\mathbb{w}xb7\#$ — is complicated. c) Easiest is 21. $\mathbb{e}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{w}xf7$ 22. $\mathbb{d}f5\#$ — when Black can't defend e7. **21. $\mathbb{d}b5\#$** The move order 21. $\mathbb{w}d3$ $\mathbb{d}ac6$ 22. $\mathbb{d}xc7$ transposes. Full points also for 21. $\mathbb{d}xc7$ $\mathbb{d}ac6$ 22. $\mathbb{w}d3$ f6 when White has a winning position due to the black king, even though it's not over yet. **21...c6** 21... $\mathbb{d}ac6$ 22. $\mathbb{d}f5\#$ — and as the e7-knight is overloaded, White will soon win the knight on c6 (or the rook on a8). **22. $\mathbb{d}c7$** Another winning line is 22. $\mathbb{d}d6$ cxb5 23. $\mathbb{d}xe7$ $\mathbb{d}xe7$ 24. $\mathbb{d}f5\#$ taking the queen. **22... $\mathbb{d}d7$ 23. $\mathbb{d}xa5$ $\mathbb{w}g4!$** Material is equal after 23...cxb5, but White wins with the double threat 24. $\mathbb{w}xb7$ (or 24. $\mathbb{d}xd7$ $\mathbb{d}xd7$ 25. $\mathbb{w}xb7\#$). **24. $\mathbb{w}d3!$** The only winning move; Black doesn't get time to take on h4 for free. **24... $\mathbb{d}d5$ 25. $\mathbb{d}e4\#$ —** White is a piece up.

986. Johannes Zukertort – Wilhelm Steinitz, London (1) 1872

20... $\mathbb{d}xf2\#$! 21. $\mathbb{d}h1$ 21. $\mathbb{d}xf2$ $\mathbb{f}xe5\#$ comes with check, followed by: 22. $\mathbb{d}g1$ $\mathbb{w}xg5\#$ — \checkmark **21... $\mathbb{d}e8!$** Winning a second pawn. Steinitz played: 21... $\mathbb{d}xe1?!$ 22. $\mathbb{d}xf7$ $\mathbb{d}xf7$ 23. $\mathbb{d}d5\#$ (White can keep the queens on after 23. $\mathbb{d}xe1?!$ $\mathbb{d}c6$ 24. $\mathbb{w}e6\#$ $\mathbb{d}g6$ 25. $\mathbb{d}e3\#$, but it would have been a dubious decision. With an extra pawn defending his king, it's Black who may look forward to an attack on the enemy king.) 23... $\mathbb{d}g6$ 24. $\mathbb{d}xe1$ $\mathbb{d}c6$ (It is not possible to hang on to the bishop after 24... $\mathbb{f}xg5$ 25. $\mathbb{d}d1$.) 25. $\mathbb{w}xd8$ $\mathbb{d}xd8$ 26. $\mathbb{d}e3\#$ White has decent drawing chances, but the same can be said about Black's winning chances (0–1, 54 moves). 21... $\mathbb{d}c6$ 22. $\mathbb{d}xf7$ $\mathbb{w}xd6$ 23. $\mathbb{d}xd6$ $\mathbb{d}xe1$ 24. $\mathbb{d}xe1$ $\mathbb{f}xg5\#$ is also a pawn up, and also not full points. **22. $\mathbb{d}xf7$ $\mathbb{d}xf7$ 23. $\mathbb{w}xd8\#$ $\mathbb{d}xd8\#$** Because of the back-rank weakness, White has to move the bishop, after which Black takes on e1 and a2.

987. Wilhelm Steinitz – Curt von Bardeleben, Hastings 1895

20. $\mathbb{w}g4!$ Threatening the pawn on g7, but also a discovered attack. **20...g6** **21. $\mathbb{d}g5\#$! $\mathbb{d}e8$** 21... $\mathbb{f}xg5$ 22. $\mathbb{w}xd7\#$ — \checkmark **22. $\mathbb{d}xe7\#$! $\mathbb{d}f8!$** Black tries to use the twin threats of mate on c1 and ... $\mathbb{w}xg4$ to get out of his troubles. 22... $\mathbb{w}xe7$ 23. $\mathbb{d}xc8\#$ — \checkmark wins a piece and 22... $\mathbb{d}xe7$ 23. $\mathbb{w}b4\#$ (or 23. $\mathbb{d}e1\#$ first) 23... $\mathbb{d}e8$ 24. $\mathbb{d}e1\#$ $\mathbb{d}d8$ 25. $\mathbb{d}e6\#$ — \checkmark wins the queen. **23. $\mathbb{d}f7\#$! 23. $\mathbb{w}xd7??$ $\mathbb{d}xc1\#$** and it's White that gets mated. **23... $\mathbb{d}g8!$ 24. $\mathbb{d}g7\#$! $\mathbb{d}h8!$ 24... $\mathbb{d}f8$ 25. $\mathbb{d}xh7\#$ — \checkmark** and the queen is captured with check. **25. $\mathbb{d}xh7\#$!** Von Bardeleben left the board and didn't come back. He is lost after: **25... $\mathbb{d}g8$ 26. $\mathbb{d}g7\#$! $\mathbb{d}h8$ 27. $\mathbb{w}h4\#$! $\mathbb{d}xg7$ 28. $\mathbb{w}h7\#$ $\mathbb{d}f8$ 29. $\mathbb{w}h8\#$! \checkmark $\mathbb{d}e7$ 30. $\mathbb{w}g7\#$ 30. $\mathbb{d}e1\#$ is also winning. **30... $\mathbb{d}e8$ 31. $\mathbb{w}g8\#$ $\mathbb{d}e7$ 32. $\mathbb{w}f7\#$ $\mathbb{d}d8$ 33. $\mathbb{w}f8\#$! $\mathbb{w}e8$ 34. $\mathbb{d}f7\#$ $\mathbb{d}d7$ 35. $\mathbb{w}d6$ mate****

988. Wilhelm Steinitz – Emanuel Lasker, Moscow (3) 1896

34... $\mathbb{d}g8!$ \checkmark Black has no threats, but White is in a decisive zugzwang! His pieces are all busy protecting the g2-, g5- and h1-squares. **35. $\mathbb{d}e1$ $\mathbb{w}xf5$ 36. $\mathbb{d}e5$ $\mathbb{w}f3$ 37.d5 $\mathbb{w}g3\#$ 38. $\mathbb{d}h1$ $\mathbb{w}xe5$ 39. $\mathbb{d}xc6\#$ $\mathbb{d}xc6$ 0–1**

989. Paul Lipke – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1898

17. $\mathbb{Q}xc7!$ $\mathbb{Q}xc7$ 17... $\mathbb{W}xc7$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xd6\#$ wins the queen. 18. $\mathbb{Q}xd6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ With rook and two pawns for two pieces, White may be better due to the exposed black king, but there is a way to make use of that straight away to gain a winning advantage. 19. $e5!$ The only move that is clearly winning. However, in a game you don't need to see that before taking on c7, since it was the best move anyway. Lipke played 19. $\mathbb{Q}a3?$ $\mathbb{W}e8$ 20. $e5$, but now there was 20... $fxe5$! 21. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$ without mate on f7; Steinitz won the game in the end. 19... $fxe5$ 19... $\mathbb{W}e8$ defends the f7-square in advance, and prepares to offer the exchange of queens one day. 20. $\mathbb{Q}xe7\#$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ (20... $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ and White wins after various moves, for instance 21. $\mathbb{Q}d6!$ 21. $exf6$! $\mathbb{W}xf6$ 22. $h4!$ $h6$ (22... $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 23. $\mathbb{W}c5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}e8$ with a winning attack) Including the moves with the h-pawns avoids ... $\mathbb{Q}h6$ and ... $\mathbb{Q}g7$. There are many ways to continue, among them 23. $\mathbb{W}c5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}e8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 25. $\mathbb{W}c4$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 26. $h5\#$. 20. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 20... $\mathbb{W}e8$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ mate 21. $\mathbb{Q}f7\#$ mate

Emanuel Lasker

Without error there can be no brilliancy.

990. Emanuel Lasker – Johann Bauer, Amsterdam 1889

15. $\mathbb{Q}xh7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 16. $\mathbb{W}xh5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}xg7!$ The classic double-bishop sacrifice! 17... $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 17... $f6$ is easy to handle: 18. $\mathbb{Q}h6$ with mate or 18. $\mathbb{Q}f3$. But 17... $f5?$ is trickier. White has three options: a) 18. $\mathbb{Q}h6?$ does not work. White needs the check on g4 after 18... $\mathbb{W}e8\#$; b) 18. $\mathbb{Q}e5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}f3\#$ The only move that wins, but now it will soon be mate. c) 18. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ also wins, but only if White finds all the following moves: 18... $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}g3\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xg5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 21. $\mathbb{W}h4!$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 22. $\mathbb{W}h7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}g7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}c7\#$ $\mathbb{W}d6$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xb7\#$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}g4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $e5$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$ $\mathbb{W}h6$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xh6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xh6$ Black has enough pieces, but a double threat settles matters: 22. $\mathbb{W}d7\#$

991. Emanuel Lasker – Joseph Blackburne, London 1892

28. $\mathbb{Q}e7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 28... $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 29. $\mathbb{W}xd5\#$ wins the other rook as well. 29. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ If the knight moves, there follows 30. $\mathbb{Q}e8$. 29. $f5\#$, pushing the f-pawn immediately, is even stronger. 29... $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 31. $f5\#$ (1-0, 39 moves)

992. Emanuel Lasker – Hasselblatt, Riga (simul) 1909

Lasker played 27. $\mathbb{Q}xh7\#?$ with the idea 27... $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ 28. $h6\#$. But after 27... $\mathbb{Q}f8!$ he only had one way to avoid being mated after ... $\mathbb{Q}c1/a1$ or ... $\mathbb{Q}b5-a5$. 28. $\mathbb{W}h4!$ (after 28. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ Lasker's opponent missed the mate starting with 28... $\mathbb{Q}b5$) 28... $\mathbb{Q}e8!$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}g6!$ $\mathbb{Q}c1$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xe6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ (31... $\mathbb{Q}c7$? 32. $\mathbb{Q}xg7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 33. $\mathbb{W}d8\#$) 32. $\mathbb{Q}f7\#$ It's a draw, even though not necessarily an immediate repetition.

27. $\mathbb{Q}g6!$ The correct move, but be aware of long lines. 27... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ a) 27... $h6$ 28. $h6\#$ with mate. b) 27... $\mathbb{Q}bb7$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}hg2$ is also a winning attack: 29... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xg7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{W}f8$ 32. $h6\#$ and 33. $\mathbb{Q}g5$. c) 27... $\mathbb{Q}a1$ (or 27... $\mathbb{Q}c1$) 28. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ 29. $\mathbb{W}xg7\#$ gives White a winning attack. 28. $h6\#$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xh7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 29. $h6\#$ This is a possibility now, as Black's rook takes the e7-square for the queen. 29... $g5!$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xg5$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ and White has only a draw. 28... $\mathbb{Q}c1$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xh7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 30. $h6\#$ 31. $g8=\mathbb{W}$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 32. $\mathbb{W}4xe6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}g7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}d4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}xe6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}c7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d4$ 37. $\mathbb{Q}g1\#$ Until this point, it was only only-moves from White! 37... $\mathbb{Q}e3$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}d2\#$ Or 38. $\mathbb{Q}d1\#$ $\mathbb{Q}d2$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}xd2\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ 40. $\mathbb{W}xd2$ mate. 38... $cxd2$ 39. $c3$ mate Piece of cake!

993. Emanuel Lasker – L. Molina, Buenos Aires (simul) 1910

24. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#!$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#?$ $\mathbb{Q}h8-$ + 24... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ A much tougher defence is: 24... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 25. b8= $\mathbb{Q}\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}d1!!$ The only way to defend against the perpetual, but you don't need to see that in advance – since every alternative to taking on f7 leads to a worse position. 27... $\mathbb{Q}a2\#$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}e3$ (28. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ is more passive, but also better for White) 28... $\mathbb{Q}c2$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}d2!$ $\mathbb{Q}c1$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xe5!$ $\mathbb{Q}e1\#$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}e2$ (31. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ is not as good) 31... $\mathbb{Q}c1\#$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{Q}b3\#$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}c4\#$ White is finally out of danger of a perpetual, but it is not clear that he is winning after 33... $\mathbb{Q}a3!$. 25. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 25... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}f1\#$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ 28. b8= $\mathbb{Q}\#$ - ✓ 26. $\mathbb{Q}b1!$ White is winning in several ways, but the most efficient is the game continuation: 26... $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}e8!$ $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ $\mathbb{Q}xb7$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ 1-0 Black is simply two pawns down.

994. Emanuel Lasker – Gyula Breyer, Budapest 1911

19... $\mathbb{Q}xe4!$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}c3$ 20. fxe4 $\mathbb{Q}xe4\#$ - ✓; 20. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ (or 20... $\mathbb{Q}xg1\#$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xg1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe1\#$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ - ✓) 21. $\mathbb{Q}axe1$ $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ - Lasker's move is not threatening, and thus not necessary to consider before taking on e4. 20... $\mathbb{Q}h4!$ 20... $\mathbb{Q}xc4?$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ $\mathbb{Q}d3$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}g4\#$ with a probable draw. The game move threatens to win on the kingside with 21... $\mathbb{Q}h5$, 22... $\mathbb{Q}h3$ and 23... $\mathbb{Q}xf3$. 21. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ Trying to create a counter-threat. 21... $\mathbb{Q}xh2\#!$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xh2$ $\mathbb{Q}h5\#$ Or 22... $\mathbb{Q}h6\#$. 23. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{Q}h4\#$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}h3$ mate

995. Emanuel Lasker – Efim Bogoljubov, Zurich 1934

30... $\mathbb{Q}xg3!$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}e2$ 31. hgx3 $\mathbb{Q}xg3\#$ and Black needs to play some only-moves in the following lines, but it is all straightforward: 32. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ (32. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2!$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{Q}e1\#$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe1\#$ - ✓) 32... $\mathbb{Q}xe1\#$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ $\mathbb{Q}g2\#$; 34. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3\#$; 35. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$; 36. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}h1$ mate ✓ 31... $\mathbb{Q}xh2\#!$ 31... $\mathbb{Q}xe2?$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ $\mathbb{Q}d6\#$ is a pawn worse. 32. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ - There were additional ways to protect against the mate threat without losing a piece (0-1, 39 moves).

Jose Raul Capablanca

In chess, as played by a good player, logic and imagination must go hand in hand, compensating each other.

996. Jose Raul Capablanca – Pagliano/Elias, Buenos Aires 1911

Black's king seems to be in serious danger, but with accurate play it can be saved, with a winning material advantage. 27... $\mathbb{Q}xc3!$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ $\mathbb{Q}b4\#!$ The game continued 28... $\mathbb{Q}xc3?$ after which 29. $\mathbb{Q}xc3!$ would have given White a mating attack. Instead it took additional mutual mistakes before White won (1-0, 51 moves). 29. $\mathbb{Q}b1$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xb4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ - ✓ 29... $\mathbb{Q}c5!!$ ✓ With the last black minor piece joining in, White is lost. 29... $\mathbb{Q}hf8?$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 31. gxf3 and Black has more than enough for the exchange. It's far weaker than the main line, but still gives full points.

997. Valentin Fernandez Coria – Jose Raul Capablanca, Buenos Aires 1914

16... $\mathbb{Q}h3!$ 16... $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$ looks strong, but there is no win after 18. $\mathbb{Q}g3\#$. 17. $\mathbb{Q}e3$ 17. g3 loses an exchange, and even worse is: 17. gxh3 $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}g2$ mate ✓ 17... $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ - 17... $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{Q}f3$ is also good: 19. $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ with mate. 18. $\mathbb{Q}f5$ The point is 18. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{Q}g5$ 19. f3 $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$ - ✓ picking up the queen on d2. 18... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}h3$ mate

Alexander Alekhine

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

998. Nikolay Tereshchenko – Alexander Alekhine, St Petersburg 1909

20...Bg4! **21.gxf4** Black does not win material after **21.Qg1** **Bxd3** **22.Qxd3**, but exchanging the light-squared bishop allows him to open files for the rooks with **22...f5** **23.exf5** **Qxf5+**. **21.Qc2** is more critical. If White gets time for **22.Qg1**, Black would have nothing better than retreating with the knight. Fortunately, Black can use the momentum: **21...Bxg3†** **22.Qxg3** **Qxf1†+ ✓** **21...gxf4** **22.Qd2** **Qg8!** Threatening **23...Bg3†** and then taking the rook with a discovered check. Both **22...Qh4** **23.Qg2** **Bg3†** **24.Qg1** **Qxg2†** **25.Qxg2** **Bxf1** **26.Qxf1** and **22...Bg3†** **23.Qg1** **Bxf1** **24.Qxf1** give unusual piece configurations, with three minor pieces against two rooks. It looks unclear in both cases. **23.Qg2?** **23.Qg1** was the only move. **23...Bg3†!** **24.Qxg3** **fxg3** **25.Qg2** **Qxh2†** **26.Qxh2** **gxh2** **27.Qxh2†** And compared to the previous lines, Black has “exchanged” his pawn on f4 for White’s h2-pawn. That gives a passed pawn, and the possibility of exchanging bishops with ...**Qg5**. **23...Qh4** Or **23...Bg3†** **24.Qg1** **Qh4+–**. **24.Qd1** **24.Qxh4** **Bg3†** **25.Qg1** **Bxf1†+ ✓** **24...Qxf2** **25.Qxf2+–** Three pieces for a queen and a rook is a different story! (0–1, 30 moves)

999. Alexander Alekhine – Gutkevitsch, Moscow (simul) 1910

14.Qh6! **14.Qxg7** **Qxg7** **15.Qh6†** **Qh8†** **14...Qe8** **14...gxh6** **15.Qxh6 ✓** is mating and **14...g6** **15.Qg7+–** is winning – it is much better to trade minor pieces on e6 before collecting the exchange. **15.Qxg7!** An important move – otherwise **14.Qh6** makes no sense. **15...Qxg7** **16.Qh6+– ✓** Again the double mate threats on g7 and h7 decide.

1000. Joel Fridlizius – Alexander Alekhine, Stockholm 1912

32.Qf6†! **gxf6** **33.exf6** White captures on g6 if the queen moves, so Black’s moves are forced: **33...Qxf4†** **34.Qxf4!** **Qxe1** **34...Qxf4+–** and White wins the d4-pawn after capturing on e7. **35.Qxg6!** Not **35.Qh6?** **Qe5†** **36.Qh1** **Qxf6+–**. **35...Qe4** **36.Qe7†! ✓** Setting up a mating attack, and White could also get a winning position by regaining the exchange at some point. **36...Qh8** **37.Qxd4!** Mate is unavoidable. The game finished: **37...Qh7** **38.Qh4** **Qc4** **39.Qxc4** **dxc4** **40.Qxh7†** **Qxh7** **41.Qh4** mate

1001. P. Fleissig – Alexander Alekhine, Bern (simul) 1922

19...Qh3†! **20.Qf1?!** **20.gxh3** **Qxf3+– ✓** forces White to take on f3 to avoid being mated. **20...Qh4** **20...Qh6+–** defends the h-pawn and prepares to make use of the pin with ...**Qg5**. It is also winning, but not as forcing as the text move. However, Black should avoid: **20...Qg5?** **21.Qd3!** **Qxf3?** **22.Qxf3†±** **21.Qe2** **21.Qxh4** **Qxf2** mate ✓ **21...Qh5+– ✓** There is no defence against **22...Qg5** or **22...Qf4** followed by **23...Qxg2**. Also strong is **21...Qxf3** **22.Qxf3** **Qf4+–** picking up the h2-pawn with a continuing attack.

1002. Ernst Grünfeld – Alexander Alekhine, Karlsbad 1923

31...Qf4! **32.exf4** **Qc4!** The threat against the knight on a2 decides, since White cannot take the queen. **33.Qxc4** **Qxd1†** **34.Qf1** **34.Qf2** **bxcc4+– ✓** **34...Qd4†!** **35.Qh1** **Qxf1** mate ✓

1003. Alexander Alekhine – M. Scholtz, Los Angeles (simul) 1932

34...f4†! Other moves could also be winning, but are less clear. **35.Qf2** **35.Qd4** **Qxa4–+** ✓ followed by **36...Bxc4†** **37.Qxc4** **d2†**. **35...Qd1†!** Scholtz played **35...Bxa4** which was good enough to win, but more slowly. **36.Qf1** **Qb3** The d-pawn will soon queen, but note that Black needs to start with a prophylactic move. **37.Qd6** **Qg8–+** **37...d2??** **38.Qe8** mate would be a bad surprise, but **37...Qxa4** is another winning move.

1004. Alexander Alekhine – A. Correia Neves, Estoril (simul) 1940

30.Qdx7†! **Qg8** **30...Bxf7** **31.Qg6†** ✓ with a winning fork. **31.Qh8!±** Alekhine played **31.Qd6** and won after 44 moves, but Black could have trapped the rook with **31...g5!∞**. The corner is a better square for the knight. It cannot be taken and continues to g6. It is also important that **31...Bxe5** **32.dxe5–+** ✓ arrives with a threat on the f6-knight.

1005. Alexander Alekhine – Mollinedo, Madrid (simul) 1941

21.e5! Evacuating the e4-square. **21...dxe5** **22.Qe4** **Qf5** **23.Qxf6** **Wxf6** **23...Qg7** **24.g4** **Wxf6** transposes and **24...Qxg4** was hopeless in the game (1–0, 28 moves). **24.g4** **Qg7** Black threatens the bishop and prepares ...**Wg5** if the bishop moves. **25.Wxb7†–+** ✓ The fork decides.

Max Euwe

Alekhine's real genius is in the preparation and construction of a position, long before combinations or mating attacks come into consideration at all.

1006. Max Euwe – William Felderhof, Netherlands 1931

26...g5! **27.Qxe6** **27.Bxd8** **Bxd8** **28.Qxe6** **Bd2!** is an important move, with a) **29.Wxd2** **Wxe4** mate ✓; b) **29.Wb1** **Bd1!** **30.Wxd1** **Wxe4** mate ✓; c) **29.Wc4** **Bd4!** **30.Qxd4** **Wxe4** mate ✓. Relatively best is **27.Qg2** when Black can take back the pawn with **27...Bd3†** **28.Qe2** **Wxe4†** **29.Qf1** **c4†** or win a pawn with **27...fxe4†** **28.Qe2** **Wxb5†+**. **27...Bd3†!** **28.Qg2** **28.Wxd3** **fxe4†–+** ✓ wins the queen. **28...Wxe4†** **29.Qf1** **Bxd1†** **30.Wxd1** **Wxe6–+** ✓

Mikhail Botvinnik

Yes, I have played a blitz game once. It was on a train, in 1929.

1007. Mikhail Botvinnik – Andrey Batuyev, Leningrad 1930

18.♘xf7! ♜xf7 18...♝xf7 19.♗xe6† (19.♗xe6†?! ♘g6± looks good, but there is no straightforward line) 19...♝e8 20.d5 And there is only one way to stop d5-d6: 20...♜xc3 21.♗b5†! ♔d7 22.♜xc3+– Now there is none. **19.♗xe6 ♜f8** Black has two alternatives: a) 19...♞ed5 20.♗xd5 ♘xd5 (20...♜xc1 21.♗xf6†+– ✓ is an intermediate capture with check) 21.♜xc8+– ✓ (or 21.♗xd5+– first) b) 19...♝e8 20.♗e4! The only winning move, but not something you have to see in advance, since the sacrifice would have been promising anyway. The idea is to send the knight to d6. 20...♝xe4 21.fxe4+– simply gives White pawns that are too strong. **20.♝e1!** Less precise is the game move 20.♗e4?! because 20...♞d8± or 20...♞ed5! would have put up quite some resistance: 21.♗d6?! ♜e8!± **20...♞g6** 20...♜e8 21.♗xf7† ♜xf7 22.♗xf7† ♘xf7 23.♗b5+– **21.♗e4+–** White jumps in with the knight only when Black no longer has the same defence. In order not to lose the full rook on f7, Black will have to give back a piece on d5, leaving White two pawns up.

Vassily Smyslov

My fascination for studies proved highly beneficial, it assisted the development of my aesthetic understanding of chess, and improved my endgame play.

1008. Andor Lilienthal – Vassily Smyslov, Leningrad/Moscow 1939

14.♗xb5? cxb5 15.♗c7 ♜d7 16.♗f5 ♘f6!! The game continued: 16...♝e6?! 17.♗xh7†± ✓ (½-½, 42 moves) **17.♗xd7 ♘xd7!** ✓ Black gains a third piece for the queen, since White is not in time to evacuate the c-file. However, White can get a second pawn via a few different routes. Here is one: **18.♗a5 ♜ac8 19.♗c3 b4 20.f3 bxc3 21.♗xc3∞** You have to decide if you prefer this position to a normal first move. The computer claims a small advantage to White, but it often overvalues the queen.

Any non-losing first move gives 1 point, and anticipating that Black gets a third piece for the queen is enough for full points, regardless of whether you decided to take on b5 or not.

1009. Vassily Smyslov – Goesta Stoltz, Bucharest 1953

11.b4! cxb4 12.axb4 ♜xb4 13.♗cd5†! ♘xd5 14.♗xd5† exd5 15.♗xb4† ✓ ♘f6 Defending the pawn is suicidal: 15...♝e6? 16.cxd5† ♘xd5 17.g3 ♘f5 18.♗g2† ♜e4 19.♗d1† ♘e5 20.f4† ♘f5 21.g4†+– **16.cxd5±** White's initial sacrifice secured the bishop pair in an open, unbalanced position. Also, Black's king would rather have been behind the pawns than in front of them (1-0, 46 moves).

1010. Vassily Smyslov – Leonid Stein, Moscow 1969

16.♗xf7†! ♘xf7 The game went 16...♝h8+– (1-0, 51 moves). **17.♗f3† ♘f5 18.♗xf5 gxf5** **19.♗xf5† ♘g8 20.♗xe4 ♜xd2** ✓ White has two connected passed pawns, while Black is behind in development with an exposed king. White has much better chances, for instance: **21.♗e6† ♘h8 22.a5 ♗d5 23.a6+–**

1011. Vassily Smyslov – Dragoljub Minic, Kapfenberg 1970

35.♕f7! 35.b6! is easily winning and also a practical choice, since it's hard to calculate the variations in the main line. 35...♗xe5 (35...♝xb6 36.♝c7+– with mate) 36.b7 ♜ae8 37.♝c8+– **35...♛xe5** **36.♝f8† ♕g7** 36...♝xf8 37.♝xe5†+ ✓ 37.♝xe5† ♜xe5 **38.♝xa8** Black's passed pawn looks dangerous, but it is possible to neutralize it. However, to steer for this position, you need to see further; note that Smyslov only drew. **38...e3** The slow 38...♝e7 allows White to defend with 39.♝f2 e3† 40.♝e1 ♜f4 41.♝c4!+– and the knight has only one check. **39.b6!** Easiest. 39.♝f1? ♜f4 40.b6 ♜b5 41.♝e2 was the game, with a draw. White can play for checkmate with 39.♝a7†. It wins, but requires deep calculation. 39...♝g6 40.♝c6† ♜g5 (40...♝f6 41.♝f1+–) 41.♝xh7! White threatens to exchange rooks. If you saw this far, you score full points. 41...♝f4 42.♝h5! One of several winning moves. Black is busted: 42...♝e8 43.♝xd5 e2 44.♝c4† ♜e3 45.♝c1+– 39...e2 40.♝xe2 ♜xe2 41.b7 ♜b2 42.b8=♛ ♜xb8 43.♝xb8+– ✓

1012. Vassily Smyslov – William Addison, Palma de Mallorca 1970

35.♛f7! Defending against 35...♝xf3† and threatening 36.♝h5† with a mating attack. **35...♛f1†** ✓ 35...♝xf7? 36.♜a8† ♜f8 37.♝xf8 mate ✓ is easy. 35...♝xh4†?! was a way to force a queen exchange. However, exchanging one of White's doubled h-pawns for the g-pawn is a positional concession. 36.♝xh4 g5†! 37.♝xg5 ♜xf7 and White has good winning chances after 38.♝g6± or 38.♝d5±. One plan is walking the king to the queenside and sacrificing the exchange, because Black is busy taking care of the h-pawn as well. **36.♝g4!** 36.♝xf1 ♜xf7± looks like a fortress. **36...♛g2†** **37.♝h5** There are no more checks. **37...♝g8** 37...♝b8 38.♝f5 forces Black to give up a pawn to exchange queens with 38...g6† 39.♝xg6 ♜xg6† 40.♝xg6+– and 37...g6† is a worse variant of 35...♝xh4†. **38.f4!** The queen cannot stay on the g-file. Smyslov won after 38.♜a8 g6†?! 39.♝xg6 mating. 38.♝d5 ♜d8 39.♜a8 is the same. **38...♛e2†** **39.♝g5 ♜e3** **40.h3!** Only like so. **40...♝xf4†** **41.♝g6** With the g4-square defended, there is no defence against 42.♝xg8† ♜xg8 43.♜a8 mate.

Mikhail Tal

*Quiet moves often make a stronger impression than
a wild combination with heavy sacrifices.*

Learn from Grandmasters (1974)

1013. Georgy Borisenco – Mikhail Tal, Leningrad 1956

17.♝xe6! ♜xd1 17...fxe6 18.♝xd7 ♜xd7 19.♝xe6†+– ✓ wins back the piece, with two pawns more. **18.♝fxd1 ♜c2** ✓ 18...fxe6 19.♝xe6† ♜h8 20.♝xc8± ✓ White has a rook and two pawns for two knights. In this type of open position, especially with no outposts for them, the knights are much inferior to the rook and pawns. Additionally, White will penetrate with a rook on the c-file: 20...♝xc8 21.♜ac1 ♜xc1 22.♜xc1 Black would be okay with the king on d7, but as it is, White penetrates with the rook. **19.♝xf6** A reasonable choice is 19.♝xf8 ♜xb2 20.♝d7 ♜c3! 21.♝xf6† ♜xf6± when White has to give back the exchange. He will be a pawn up in an ending with rooks and opposite-coloured bishops. **19...♝xf6** **20.♝xf8!** Tal gained a blockade after: 20.♝b1?! ♜xf2 21.♝xc2 fxe6 22.♝b3 ♜xd1 23.♝xe6† ♜h8 24.♝xd1± **20...♞xa1** **21.♝xa1** **♝xf8** **22.♝d5±**

1014. Janusz Szukszta – Mikhail Tal, Uppsala (blitz) 1956

14...Qg4†! **15.fxg4 Qxd4!** The king cannot escape from the discovered check. **16.Qd5** The best try. The game went 16.Qxd4 Qxd4 17.Qd5 Qe2† (0–1, 20 moves). **16...Qf6†!** ✓ 16...Qh4† 17.g3 Qxg3†! 18.Qxd4 Qxc3† 19.Qg1 Qe6! gives Black a winning position, with some work left (full points). **17.Qg1 Qd3†** **18.Qxd4 Qxd4 mate**

1015. Mikhail Tal – Aleksandrs Koblencs, Riga 1957

33.Q1h6!! The only move to continue the attack. The threat is 34.Qf6† gxf6 35.Qh6†. **33...d3?** 33...gxh6? 34.Qxh6† Qe8 35.Qxg8 mate ✓ **34.bxc3!** 34.Qf6†?? Qxf6+ 34...d2† **35.Qd1 Qxc6** **36.Qf6†!** **Qf7** 36...gxf6 37.Qh6† Qg7 38.Qxg7† Qe7 39.Qxf6† Qd6 40.Qe5† ✓ White's moves so far have been the only way to win. 40...Qd5 41.Qxa7+– 37.Qxg7†!+– 1–0

Instead, Black should have played 33...Qxc6! straight away, or after taking on b2. 34.Qf6† gxf6 35.Qh6† Qg7 36.Qxg7† ✓ Qe7 White has a few ways to make a draw from here. One is: 37.Qxf6† Qd6 38.Qe5† Qd5 39.Qxa7 Qxb2† 40.Qb1 (40.Qxb2 is a draw by a small margin: 40...Qc3† 41.Qc1 Qe1† 42.Qb2 Black can play for more than a repetition with 42...Qxe5! but after 43.Qxg8 d3† 44.Qb3! d2 45.Qxc8! Qe3† 46.Qc3 Qxa7 47.Qxd2†= it is a draw nevertheless.) 40...Qc3 41.Qb8 (not 41.Qh1†? Qxe5+– or 41.Qxg8? Qa1+–) Moving the bishop threatens to check on e5. 41...Qe1† 42.Qxb2 Qc3† 43.Qb1=

33.Q1h6 was the only move to draw.

1016. Mikhail Tal – Konstantin Klamann, Moscow 1957

24.Qxe7†! **Qxe7** **25.Qe1† Qd8** 25...Qe6 26.Qxe6!+– ✓ and White can at least pick up a free rook on f8. But 26.Qxe6†? Qd7= is not good enough. **26.Qh4†!** **26.Qg7?! Wa5±** **26...f6** **27.Qh6!** **Wa5** **28.Qb3!** The difference compared to 26.Qg7?! is that White wins the pawn on f6 as well. 28.Qxf8†?! Qc7 29.Qxf6? b3!–+ and the rook on e1 is hanging. **28...Qd5** **29.Qxf8† Qc7** **30.Qxf6+–** (1–0, 34 moves)

1017. Mikhail Tal – Aleksandrs Koblencs, Moscow 1960

14.Qxe7†! **14.Qe5** gives full points if you evaluated this position as at least equal (the engines think that it's fair compensation). **14...Qxe7** **15.Qf5† Qe8** 15...Qe6? 16.Qxg7† Qe7 17.Qd6† winning the queen. **16.Qxg7† Qf8** **17.Qd6† Qxg7** 17...Qg8 18.Qg1 Qc3† 19.Qd2 Wa1† 20.Qd1 is a draw. **18.Qg1† Qg4** 18...Qh6? 19.Qf4† Qh5 20.Qe2† with a mating net whatever Black plays: 20...Qg4 21.Qxg4 or 20...Qh4 21.Qg5† Qxh3 22.Qf1. **19.Qxg4† Qf6** **20.Qf4†** ✓ **Qg7 ½–½**

1018. Mikhail Tal – Aleksandrs Koblencs, Riga 1961

White has a promising position after a slow move, but can force matters: **24.Qe5!** **Qxe6!** The only try. **25.fxe6 Qxg6** **26.Qf1!** **Qh7** 26...Qhe8 27.Qxf6†+– is hopeless. **27.Qxh8 Qxh8** **28.Qf8!** A move White must see before playing 24.Qe5. **28...Qxf8** 28...Qxf8 29.e8=Q†+– ✓ 29.exf8=Q Qxf8 **30.e7 Qf7** **31.exf8=Q† Qxf8** ✓ White has an easily winning endgame. **32.Qd1** 1–0

1019. Jan Hein Donner – Mikhail Tal, Bled 1961

32...f3! 33.♗xf3 ♕xg4 White cannot defend the bishop and the mate on g1, so his only chance is a counterattack. **34.♘f6†!** ✓ A move that could be an unpleasant surprise if you haven't seen it in advance. **34...♕xf6 35.♔e8† ♘h7?** 35...♗g7? 36.♗h6† ♘xh6 37.♔h8† ♘g5 38.♗g7† ♘g6 39.♗xg6† leads to a draw. **36.♔e7† ♘g7 37.♗xg7†–** The checks are soon over after 37.♔e4† ♘h8 leaving Black with good winning chances. The same evaluation is valid after the game continuation (0–1, 56 moves).

1020. Larry Evans – Mikhail Tal, Amsterdam 1964

38...h5†! 38...h5†? 39.gxh6 f5† 40.♗xf5 ♘f3† 41.♗g5 ♘f6† uses the same motif as in the game, but White can use the extra h-pawn and draw after 42.♗xf6 gxf6† 43.♗xf6 ♘xb8 44.h7† ♘xh7 45.d6. Now Black has only one move that draws: 45...♗f8†! 46.♗e7 ♘f1 47.d7 ♘e1†= **39.gxf6 h5†!** **40.♘xh5 ♘f3† 41.♗g5 ♘xf6†** The lines are shorter after 41...♗g2†! 42.♗f5 (42.♗h5 ♘h7 [or 42...♗xb8–+] 43.fxg7 ♘e5† 44.♗xe5 ♘g6 mate) 42...g6† 43.♗f4 ♘h2†–+ winning the queen. **42.♗xf6 gxf6† 43.♗xf6 ♘xb8 44.♗e7 ♘b7†!** **45.♗e8 ♘h7 46.d6 ♘xh4 47.d7 ♘e4†** The rook can reach the e-file in several ways and all are equally good. **48.♗d8 ♘f7 49.♗c7 ♘c4† 50.♗b6 ♘e7–+** ✓

1021. Mikhail Tal – Bjorn Brinck Claussen, Havana (ol) 1966

34.♖a8! ♘xa2? Two alternatives: a) 34...♖xa8! 35.♗xd5† (or 35.♗xd5†± which is good, even though White has to worry about a dark-square blockade) 35...♗f8 36.♗xa8± ✓ Black should try to use the h-pawn to open White's king position, but first he must worry about his own. b) If Black starts with 34...♗c1† 35.♗g2 there is no check on c7 after 35...♗xa2 36.♗xd8† ♘f7. White's best is 37.b3!, threatening a check on d5. After 37...♗e1! 38.♗d7†! ♘e7 39.d5! ♘e8! 40.♗d6!, White threatens 41.♗xb6 and 41.♗e6 followed by 42.d6. He should be winning. **35.♗xd8† ♘f7 36.♗c6! ♘e7** The only defence against the mate on e8. **37.♗e8† ♘e6 38.♗c8!** 38.♗d7† ♘f7 39.♗c8 ♘d2 40.♗e8† transposes. **38...♗d5 38...♗d2 39.♗c6†! ♘f5 40.g4†! ♘xg4 41.♗xe7–** The point of sacrificing the g-pawn is that Black does not have a check on h5 after 41...♗d1† 42.♗h2!. **39.♗c3+–** Or 39.♗c7+–. Black is occupied trying (and eventually failing) to defend, and cannot create any counterplay (1–0, 45 moves).

1022. Mikhail Tal – Bukhuti Gurgenidze, Alma-Ata 1968

21.♗xh7! ♘xe5?! The best defence is 21...♗g7! 22.♗f6! ♘xf6! (22...♗xf6 23.exf6 ♘xh7 24.♗h1† ♘g8 25.♗h4 with mate) 23.exf6 ♘xf6 since White does not get time to sacrifice the bishop on g6. 24.♗xg6† fxg6 25.♗xc7± ✓ White wins a pawn on c6 or g6 with good winning chances. **22.♗xf7! ♘xf7** Black's king does at least escape after 22...♗h6! 23.♗xh6 ♘xf7 24.♗xg6† ♘e7 25.♗xe8 ♘e8+–, but again at the cost of a pawn *and* a positional minus. **23.♗xg6†! ♘g8 23...♗xg6 24.♗f4†+–** ✓ wins the queen. **24.♗xe8+–** ✓ Black cannot take back, since White still threatens a discovered check (1–0, 34 moves).

1023. Mikhail Tal – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1974

21.♕f4! On the way to h4, but also pressuring f7. The alternative 21.♗d3?! threatens the pawn on g6. After 21...♗f5 22.♗xf5 gxf5 23.♗xe8 ♗xe8 24.♗xf7† ♕f8 25.♗xe8 ♕xe8 26.♗e6! ♗e5 27.♗e1! White is winning. Full points if you saw this far. **21...♗d7 22.♗xd7!** Capturing the knight that was supposed to defend against the mate on h7. **22...♗xd7 22...♗xd7 23.♗h4** ✓ with mate. **23.♗xf7† 1-0** Black resigned due to 23...♗xf7 24.♗xf7† ♕h8 25.♗xg6 ♕f5 26.♗f7† ♕g8 27.♗h6† ♕h8 28.♗xf5 with a mating attack. Also winning was: 23.♗h4 ♗e8 24.♗xf7†+–

1024. Mikhail Tal – Krunoslav Hulak, Novi Sad 1974

38...d5!! 38...♗e6? 39.b5+– was played in the game. **39.cxd5** 39.b5 dxc4 40.bxa6 c3 41.a7 c2 42.a8=♗ c1=♗± ✓ and the a-pawn is far advanced, but Black should have sufficient counterplay. **39...♗e5!** Or 39...♗e7. **40.dxc6 ♘d6 41.♗f3 ♘xc6 42.♗g4 ♘b5 43.♗xg5 ♘xb4 44.♗h6 ♘xa5 45.♗xh7 ♘b4 46.g4 a5 47.g5 a4 48.g6 a3 49.g7 a2 50.g8=♗ a1=♗±** ✓ A theoretical draw.

1025. Mikhail Tal – N.N., East Berlin (simul) 1975

15.♗xe7! It is possible to start with 15.♗xh7†, but 15.♗f4 ♗cxd3 16.cxd3 f6 17.♗xe5 fxe5 18.♗xe5± only gives a positional advantage. **15...♗xf3 16.♗xf3! ♗xe7 17.♗xh7†! ♘xh7 18.♗h3† 18.♗f5** transposes or wins the queen after: 18...♗g5 19.♗h3† ♘g6 20.♗g3+– **18...♗g8** 18...♗g6 is obviously suicidal: 19.♗h5† ♘f6 20.♗f1 mate. **19.♗f5! ♗g5 20.♗h5!** 1-0 The end could have been: 20...♗xh5 21.♗e7† ♘h7 22.♗xh5 mate ✓

1026. Alexander Beliavsky – Mikhail Tal, Moscow 1981

21.♗d5!! 21.♗c2 g6!– and White has to fight to show his compensation. Even worse is 21.hxg7? ♗xd2 22.♗h8† ♘xg7 23.♗h7† when Black can run to e7 or sacrifice the queen: 23...♗xh7 24.♗h5† ♘g8 25.♗xg5† ♗g6 26.♗xa5 ♗xf2+– **21...♗xd5** 21...cxd5? 22.♗xe5 gxh6 (22...f6 23.♗xe6† ♗f7 and White has many winning moves. One that requires little calculation is 24.h7† ♘h8 25.♗xf7+–.) 23.♗xh6 (or 23.♗h5, mating) 23...f6 24.♗xe6† ♗f7 25.♗h5!+– The pawn on f6 falls and it's Game Over. **22.cxd5 ♗xd5 22...♗g6** does not really defend the king after: 23.hxg7 ♘xg7 24.♗h5† ♘g8 25.♗f3! f5 26.♗e3+– **23.hxg7 ♘xg7** The game was agreed drawn here. **24.♗h5† ♘g6 25.♗f4†! gxf4 26.♗h5† ♘f6 27.♗h4† ♘f5 28.♗h5† ♘e4 28...♗f6 29.♗h4†= 29.♗e2†=** ✓ It's a perpetual, since Black cannot allow ♗d1† winning the queen.

1027. Mikhail Tal – Bodo Schmidt, Porz 1982

39.♗xf7! 39.♗xg6? fxe6† looks tempting, but Black has 40...♗g8 41.♗xf8† ♗xf8 and the knight is pinned, forcing White to find the clever 42.♗h7! ♗xh7 43.♗xg6† ♗g7 44.♗xf8 ♗xg6 45.♗xg6 to be only clearly worse. **39...♗xf7 39...♗xf7 40.♗h5†+–** ✓ White takes the queen and then crashes through on g6. **40.♗xg6! ♗xg6 41.♗xg6†** ✓ White picks up the h4-pawn and will be at least clearly better, although that evaluation is not so easy to make. **41...♗f8 42.♗xf7† ♗xf7 43.♗h6† ♗g7 43...♗e7** loses to 44.♗g6+– and 45.♗xh4†. 43...♗g8! is best, since the king keeps control over the h8-square. White is winning on the kingside after 44.♗xh4, but Black has some hope to get the d4-pawn. 44...♗e7† tries to exchange the defender. **44.♗xh4+–**

1028. Garry Kasparov – Mikhail Tal, Brussels 1987

21.♕xg7! There are a lot of alternatives, but none are as strong: a) 21.♗g3?! ♕g5! 22.♗g4 ♘e3†± b) 21.♗g4 g5! 22.fxg6 ♘xg4 23.gxf7† ♗xf7 24.♗f6† ♘g7 25.♗xg4± c) 21.f6?! g6± 21...♗e4 The main point is 21...♗xg7 22.f6† ♘h8 23.♗h4 ✓ with a winning attack. **22.♗xe4** 22.♗xe4 ♘xe4± and White is a pawn up, but has less of an attack than in the main line. **22...♗xe4** **23.f6+–** White has won a pawn and Black's king is quite exposed. It should be enough to win.

Tigran Petrosian

*They say my chess games should be more interesting. I could
be more interesting – and also lose.*

1029. Boris Spassky – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1955

White is an exchange up and will win back the trapped queen by a rook check on d7. **40.♖d7†!** The game was agreed drawn after 40.♕xh7? ♗xh7 41.♖d7† ♘xd7 42.cxd7. Opposite-coloured bishops favour the player with an active position, which is Black in this case. He will use his kingside majority and has full compensation after 42...♗g7. **40...♘xd7** 40...♗xd7 41.♕xh7+–✓ and the pawn on e5 drops. **41.♗xe5†** If the king moves, White takes on f8 with check, so the following moves are forced. **41...♗e6** **42.♗xe6† fxе6** The queen is still trapped on h8, but will be resurrected by pawn promotion. **43.c7! ♘xh8** **44.c8=♕** ✓ White picks up the queenside pawns and should be winning.

1030. Svetozar Gligoric – Tigran Petrosian, Leningrad 1957

12.♗xf7! 12.g4?! ♘g6 13.h4 ♘xe5 14.dxe5 a4 15.♗c4 ♘b6† and the pawn on c2 is en prise. **12...♗xf7** **13.g4!** White didn't win any material, but he did open the light squares around Black's king. **13...♗f6** Black can't move the bishop: 13...♗g6? 14.♗xe6†+–✓, and 13...a4 leads to the same fate: 14.gxf5 axb3 15.♗xe6† ♘f8 16.♗xd6†±✓ **14.gxf5±** ✓ White's advantage with his light-squared bishop and safer king is significant (1–0, 72 moves).

1031. Tigran Petrosian – Hector Rossetto, Portoroz 1958

36.g5! ♘f5 a) 36...fxe5 37.♗f6†✓ ♘g8 38.♗h1 is mating. b) 36...f5 37.♗h3+– and the h-file decides (other moves also win, but more slowly). c) 36...♗g8 37.gxf6† ♗xf6 38.♗xc6+– with a winning attack. d) 36...fxg5 37.♗f7† ♘h8 38.♗h1 mate✓ **37.gxf6†+–✓** 37.♗f4+– is also strong enough. The game move gives a decisive attack. **37...♗xf6** **38.♗xc6† ♘e7** **39.♗f4** 1–0 The attack will yield further dividends.

1032. Tigran Petrosian – Felix Ignatiev, Moscow 1958

28.♗h6†! a) 28.d8=♕? ♘xd8 29.♗xd8 and White is lost on the queenside, but seems able to fight well enough on the dark squares for a draw. Black can play: 29...♗e2† 30.♗xe2 ♘d1† 31.♗h2 ♘xg2! 32.♗xg2 ♘xe2= b) 28.♗e7? ♘aa8+– c) 28.gxf3? ♘xd7+– d) It is possible to start with 28.♗xc3 and follow up in the same way, but it allows 28...♗xd4 when the h8-square is defended, although White is still winning. **28...♗g8** **29.♗xf8†!** 29.♗g5? ♘xd4† 29...♗xf8 **30.d8=♕†** ✓ **♗g7** **31.♗h6†!** There are other winning moves. **31...♗h7** **31...♗xh6** 32.♗h8 mate **32.♗f6!** 1–0 Mate is coming.

1033. Borge Andersen – Tigran Petrosian, Copenhagen 1960

20...Qxe4! Using the back rank and the light squares weakened due to White missing his light-squared bishop. **21.Qxe4 Qf5!** White would likely have resigned here. Instead 21...Rf1† was played and brought a swift victory; it should be winning, even against a tougher defence than was played, but the main line is stronger. 22.Qc2 Qf5 23.Qg2 (a better defence is 23.Qxc4 Qc8 24.Qd3 although White is in trouble after 24...Ra1!–) 23...Qh4 (or 23...Qa5!–) 24.Qxc4 Qe1!– Black has a winning attack (0–1, 29 moves). **22.Qc2 Qh4! 23.Qxc4 Qac8** White is overloaded. **24.Qf3 Qxc4 25.Qxh4 Qxe4+–** ✓ Black is a rook up.

1034. Tigran Petrosian – Lev Polugaevsky, Moscow 1963

White is clearly better anyway, but also has the chance to force a direct win. **32.Qxd8†! Qxd8 33.Qb8†** 33.Qxe6 Qc2† 34.Qf3 Qc6† and White has to exchange queens and give up the f-pawn. Black can fight for a while after 35.Qe4 Qxe4† 36.Qxe4 Qxf6† 37.Qe5 Qe7 38.Qh3. **33...Qc8 33...Qd7 34.Qxg8+–** ✓ **34.Qxc8† Qxc8 35.Qxe6†!–** The bishop will take all three pawns, since it cannot be taken due to f6-f7-f8=Q.

1035. Tigran Petrosian – Borislav Ivkov, Hamburg 1965

White can force the pawn through with some accurate moves. **35.e7! 35.Qf4†?!** Qc8 (35...Qb6±) 36.Qg8† Qd8± **35...Qe5 35...Ra5 36.Qf4†!** Qd7 (36...Qb6 37.Qb4† Qa6 38.Qxa5†+– ✓) 37.e8=Q† Qxe8 38.Qg8† ✓ The king is checked upwards and Black has to give up the queen to avoid mate. **36.Qg7!–** Two threats: against the rook, and to queen with a discovered check. Not 36.Qf4? Qd6=. **36...Qd6 37.Qxe5†** ✓ 1–0

1036. Tigran Petrosian – Boris Spassky, Moscow (12) 1966

Black has put his faith in the rolling e- and f-pawns winning the dark-squared bishop to keep his king out of danger. **31.Qf3!** Making room for the crucial minor piece to get out of danger and onto the a1-h8 diagonal. Not 31.Qxe4 fxe3 32.Qf3 Qxf3 and Black is not much worse. **31...exd3** White also wins after other moves: 31...exf3 32.Qd2! ✓ followed by 33.Qc3, 31...fxe3 32.Qxe5 ✓ and 31...Qf6 32.Qd4 ✓. **32.Qxd3!** ✓ Instead White went for 32.Qxe5? dxc2 33.Qd4! dx5 34.Qxe5† Qh7 35.Qg7† Qh8, but Black had too much counterplay with the pawn on c2, so White had to make a draw: 36.Qf7† Qg8 37.Qg7† Qh8 38.Qg6† Qh7 39.Qg7† ½–½ **32...Qf5 33.Qe2 33.Qxe5** (33.Qd4 Qxd3 34.Qxe5 transposes) **33...Qxd3 34.Qd4!** also wins: 34...dx5 (34...Qe4† 35.Qf3†!–) 35.Qxe5† Qh7 36.Qg7† Qh8 37.Qxc7† Qg8 38.Qg7† Qh8 39.Qxa7† Qg8 40.Qg7† Qh8 41.Qg3† Qh7 42.Qxd3+– All the pawns for the exchange will decide. **33...fxe3 34.Qxe5 exf2 35.Qg2 35.Qf1** is also good. **35...Qe4 36.Qg6† Qxg6 37.Qxf2+–**

1037. Bent Larsen – Tigran Petrosian, Santa Monica 1966

24.♘h6! Threatening 25.♗xe6 or 25.♗h3. 24.♗xf6? exf6+ gets White nowhere. 24...♗g7
25.♗xg6!! 25.♗h4? is not even a repetition: 25...f5+ 25...♗f4 a) 25...♗c7 is a double threat, but Black gets no time to execute it: 26.♗xg7†! ♘xg7 27.♗g5† ♘h6 28.♗h3 mate ✓ b) 25...fxg6 26.♗xe6† ♘h7 (26...♗f7 and White can transpose to the main line with 27.♗xf7 or get a winning attack after 27.♗xf7† ♘f8 28.♗xg6† ♘f6 29.♗h5) 27.♗h3† ♘h6 28.♗xh6 ♘f5 29.♗xf5! gxh5 30.♗f7!+✓ The threat of 31.♗f8 mate is hard to defend against. White could have captured the f5-pawn first, but there's no point. **26.♗xf4! fxe6** 27.♗e6† ✓ ♘f7 27...♗h7 28.♗h4† is the same as 25...fxg6 26.♗xe6 ♘h6. The only difference is that Black can try 28...♗h6 29.♗xh6! g5 when both moves win: 30.♗xg5†+ and 30.♗xg5 ♘b6† 31.c5!+-. **28.♗xf7!+–** It's over. Also strong is: 28.♗xf7† ♘f8 29.♗xg6† ♘f6 30.♗h5!+– **28...♗h8** 28...♗e5 29.♗f5† ♘h8 30.♗xe5!+– **29.♗g5! b5** 30.♗g3 **1–0**

1038. Tigran Petrosian – Heikki Westerinen, Palma de Mallorca 1968

28.f5! hxg5 a) 28...♗xf5? 29.♗xf6! ♘xe2 30.♗d8† (or 30.♗xe2+–) 30...♗f8 31.♗xf8† ♘xf8 32.♗xg7† (White has two other winning moves: 32.♗xe2 and 32.♗d8† ♘e8 33.♗xg7† ♘xg7 34.♗xe8+–.) 32...♗xg7 33.♗xe2+– b) 28...gxh5 29.♗xh6!+✓ and White is a pawn up, while Black's structure and king's position are in ruins. **29.fxe6 ♘xe6** 30.♗xe6 ✓ **fxe6** 31.♗xg5 White is winning, being a pawn up while Black has many weaknesses and no counterplay (1–0, 41 moves).

1039. Boris Spassky – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow (5) 1969

28.♗c6! 28.♗e5!? maintains a serious advantage. 28...♗d6 29.♗xd6 ♘xd6 30.♗c7! and White is probably winning. But 28.♗e8? ♘xd4!+ should be avoided. **28...♗d6 29.♗xd8!** a) Just as good is: 29.♗e7†! ♘h8 30.♗g6†! ♘g8 (30...fxg6 31.♗xf8† ♘xf8 32.♗xf8† ♘h7 33.d8=♗+–) 31.♗xf8 ♘xf5 32.♗xd8 ♘xd8 33.♗e8+– White enjoys an extra rook after spending a tempo to create luft for the king. b) 29.♗xd8 ♘xd8 30.♗xd8 ♘xf5 and White only wins an exchange. However, that's enough after the precise 31.♗b7! ♘h7 32.d8=♗ ♘xb7 33.g4!+– when the knight is caught. **29...♗xf5 30.♗c6** ✓ **1–0** White queens with an extra rook left on the board. 30.♗b7 would have been similar.

1040. Tigran Petrosian – Boris Spassky, Moscow (8) 1969

34...♗xd3! Black is clearly better and probably winning after simple moves, such as 34...a3 or 34...♗c4, but no points for such cowardice this time! **35.♗xd3 ♘xf2†** 36.♗h2 36.♗h1 ♘g3† 37.♗h2 ♘f1† 38.♗h1 ♘xe3 is straightforward. **36...♗g3†** 37.♗g1 Material is now equal, but Black wins with a fork on f2. **37...♗f2†** Spassky starts with a repetition. **38.♗h2 ♘g3†** 39.♗g1 ♘f2!+✓ Black captures the pawn on h3, with an ongoing attack.

1041. Drazen Marovic – Tigran Petrosian, Amsterdam 1973

33.♕xe4! 33.♗f3 ♜e5†! (33...exf3? 34.♗xf3 creates a double threat of ♜xg6 and ♜xd8. Black is still fine materially, but White's initiative is winning.) 34.♔h1 ♘h6= 33...fxe4 34.♕xe4 ♗e6
a) 34...♜e5† 35.♔h1 ♗e6 threatens mate, so White has to postpone taking on d8. 36.♗e3!– Black can't defend against 37.♗g6 (or 36.♗g4!–).

b) 34...♘h6 35.♗g5! allows the queen to reach h4. After 35...♗e6 36.♗h4! ✓ ♜e5† 37.♗g2! Black must give back the piece: 37...♗xh3† 38.♗xh3 ♜xh3† 39.♗xh3!– Black is lacking coordination: the knights are on the edge, the rook on d8 is threatened and the king can come under attack. And White is also a pawn up.

c) 34...♗f7 35.♗xd8 ♜xd8 and White has a winning attack; strongest seems 36.♗xg7! ♜xg7 37.♗f2 ♗e6 38.♗c3† ♗f6 39.♗g3† ♗g4† 40.♗xg4† ♗xg4 41. hxg4 with a winning endgame.

35.♗xg7! The only winning move in a complicated position. The game continuation 35.♗e3? was considered strong by Petrosian in his commentary on the game, but with a computer we can see that it is not the strongest continuation: 35...♗de8 36.♗e7 ♜e5†! (to prevent ♜c3† after ...♗h6) 37.♔h1 ♜h6 and things are not so clear. 35...♗xg7 ✓ 35...♗xg7 36.♗xd8 ♜xd8 37.♗h4†!– ✓ After the king captures on g7, there are different ways to continue the attack, usually leading to a won endgame. However, it's enough if your intuition evaluated this position as winning.

36.♗xd8 a) 36.♗g2† ♜h8 37.♗c3† ♗f6 (37...♗f6 38.♗g6 ♘xh3† 39.♗xh3 ♜xh3 40.♗xf6† ♘xf6 41.♗xf6!–) 38.♗xf6† ♘xf6 39.♗g5!– b) Or first 36.♗c3† ♗f6 37.♗g2† ♜h8 38.♗xf6† ♘xf6 39.♗g5!–. 36...♗xd8 37.♗g2† ♜h8 37...♗f8 38.♗d5! ♘xe1 39.♗g8 mate 38.♗c3†! ♘f6 38...♗f6 39.♗g6 ♘f8 (39...♗xh3† 40.♗xh3† ♜xh3 41.♗xf6!–) 40.♗h6† ♜g7 41.♗h7† ♜g8 42.♗g3† ♗g4† 43.♗xg4† ♘xg4 44. hxg4!– 39.♗g5! ♘xc3 40.♗xh5† ♜g7 41. bxcc3!–

1042. Tigran Petrosian – Yuri Balashov, Soviet Union 1974

21.♗e4! Bringing the queen into the centre to attack the light squares (g6 and e6). Not 21.♗xf7†? ♜xf7 22.♗c4† ♜g7! 21...♗g7 21...♗xg5 22.♗xg6† ♜f8 23.♗xg5!– ✓ 22.♗xf7! ♜xf7 23.♗h6! Cutting off the king's retreat, threatening ♘e6/c4/d5† with a devastating attack.

23...♗d6 a) 23...♗d4 defends against queen checks, but White is easily winning after 24.♗xd4. b) 23...♗f6 24.♗c4† ♘e6 25.♗xe6 mate ✓ c) 23...♗d8 24.♗e5† with mate. 24.♗c4†! ♜f6 ✓ White's attack is so strong that several moves win. 25.♗ad1 25.♗g5!– with threats against f7 and h7. 25...♗d4 26.♗xd4† ♘xd4 27.♗xd4!– ♘c5 28.h4 1–0

1043. Robert Hübner – Tigran Petrosian, Biel 1976

25.♗f6†! Bad are 25.♗xd5? ♘xd5 26.♗xd5 ♗b4!– and White cannot play 27.♗c5, and 25.♗xd5?! ♘xd5 26.♗xd5 ♗b4 27.♗c4 ♗d3!–. 25...♗h8 25...♗xf6? 26. exf6 ♘xf6 (26...♗f8 27.♗xd5 ♘xd5 28.♗xd5 ♗b4 and the difference compared to the immediate capture on d5 is that the bishop on b7 is undefended: 29.♗xb7! ♘xc1 30.♗xc1!– ✓ White will win the queen back, with an extra piece.) 27.♗xd5 ♘xd5 28.♗xd5 ♗b4 29.♗c5 ✓ With the queen no longer on e7 this defence is possible, with a winning material advantage. 26.♗xd5 ✓ White is clearly better, although Black won the game (0–1, 41 moves).

1044. John Fedorowicz – Tigran Petrosian, Hastings 1977

23.♗xf7! Thanks to some nice geometry, White picks up some material and a good position. 23.♗xg6 ♗xc3 24.♗xd6† ♜xd6 25.♗xd6 ♗e2† 26.♗d1 ♘a6 is unclear. 23...♗xf7 24.♗g8† ♘f8 24...♗f8? 25.♗xe4 ♗xe4 26.♗xd6†!– ✓ 25.♗xg6† ♗d7 26.♗xe4 ♗xe4 27.♗xe4± ✓ White has three pawns for the exchange and a safer king (1–0, 38 moves).

1045. Borislav Ivkov – Tigran Petrosian, Teslic 1979

36.♕e4! Attacking the blocker on f6. Not 36.♕xe6? ♜xe6 37.♗c4 ♜xc4 38.♗xc4 ♜e1 mate. **36...♗d7** White is certainly happy after this retreat, so you don't have to see further. After 36...♗f7, the way for White to break through is to win the e6-pawn with the bishop. 37.♗c4 (or similarly 37.♗xf6† ♜xf6 38.♗c4) 37...♗g4 (37...♗b2 38.♗xf6†! [38.♗xe6? ♜a1 39.♗xf6† ♜h8! 40.♗f1!= with a perpetual] 38...♗xf6 39.♗xe6 ♜a1 and White has enough resources to win material and defend against the perpetual: 40.♗xf7† ♜xf7 41.♗xh7†! ♜e8 [41...♗e6 42.♗e3† ♜d5 43.♗f7† ♜d6 44.♗e7† ♜d5 45.♗e5 mate ✓] 42.♗xg6† ♜d7 43.♗f1 The queen can come back to c2 to defend against checks.) 38.♗g5! ✓ White has too many threats for Black to parry. (38.♗h4?? ♜xc4!± turns the game around, but 38.♗xa2 ♜xh6 39.♗xe6+– is good enough.) 36...♗xe4 37.♗f8 mate ✓ **37.♗g5!** Many moves are winning, for instance 37.♗c4 first or 37.♗c5 going for the f8-square. Ivkov played the slightly cautious 37.h3?! but perhaps it was time trouble, and the win was spoiled a few moves later. 37...♗f7 38.♗c4 ♜b2 39.♗xe6+–

Boris Spassky

A man who is willing to commit suicide has the initiative.

1046. Mikhail Vvedensky – Boris Spassky, Leningrad 1952

27.♘xe4! Not 27.♗xe3? ♜xh4† 28.♗g2 ♜xf4+–, nor 27.♗xg7? ♜xf4+–. **27...♗g6** The point of the knight sacrifice is that White threatens mate after 27...♗xe4 28.♗xg7. Black can try 28...♗xg7 29.♗xg7 ♜xg7 but is mated after: 30.♗g1†! (30.♗g3† also wins, but allows 30...♗f7 31.♗xf6 ♜f5) 30...♗f7 31.♗xf6 (31.♗h5†+– is not as strong, but still good) 31...♗xf6 32.♗g5† ♜f7 33.♗h5†! ♜f8 34.♗f6†! ♜g8 35.♗f7† ✓ ♜f8 36.♗g6† ♜g8 37.♗f7† ♜h8 38.♗xh7 mate. 27...♗xf4 is met most easily by 28.♗xf4 ♜xf4 29.♗xg7† ♜xg7 30.♗xg7 since Black can't take on e4. **28.♗xd6** Vvedensky lost after 28.♗h5? ♜xf4! because 29.♗xf4 ♜xg1†± comes with check. **28...cx d6 29.♗h5** The queen is trapped and cannot escape after trading on g1 due to ♜xg7 mate.

1047. Boris Spassky – Klaus Darga, Varna (ol) 1962

21.♘xe6! fxe6 It is difficult to find a clear-cut win, but as Black's king cannot castle short or long, there should be something. You can actually chose between three winning moves. **22.♗g4!** I think this is most clear-cut, but other moves are also winning. a) 22.♗c4 ♜b6 23.♗xa4† transposes to 22.♗xa4†. b) Spassky played 22.♗xa4† when 22...♗b5 23.♗g4 was similar to 22.♗g4. If Black had defended with 22...♗e7 the best way is 23.♗h4† ♜e8 24.♗g4+– with the same position as 22.♗g4, but without the pawn on a4. It is a little greedy to spend energy on that, but still full points, of course. **22...♗c6** Black has two other ways to try to defend. a) 22...♗e7 deprives the king of its only square: 23.♗xa4† is mating. b) 22...♗f8 23.♗xe6† ♜e7 24.♗xf8† ♜xf8 ✓ 25.♗d7 wins the queen with a winning material advantage, or 25.♗f1† with a winning attack: 25...♗e8 26.♗f7† ♜d7 27.♗d1† ♜c6 28.♗e6† ♜c5 29.♗d7+– **23.♗xg7 ♜f8 24.♗xf8† ♜xf8 25.♗xh7+–** ✓ Black has no active moves, and no defence against 26.♗g6† ♜e7 27.♗d6 ♜c8 28.♗f6† ♜e8 29.♗xe6†.

1048. Boris Spassky – Lothar Zinn, Marianske Lazne 1962

24.♕xf7! ♕xf7 24...♕xd6 ✓ 25.♕xd6+– does not win back the exchange straight away (Black can pin the knight), but with 26.♗e5 to come, Black collapses. **25.♕xe6†** Or 25.♗xe6. **25...♗xe6** **26.♗xe6 ♕xe6 ✓** Black has enough material for the queen, and he would be fine if he had time to return his king to safety. But that dream will not come true. It's fine to evaluate this position intuitively. **27.♗b3† ♕e7** 27...♔f6 28.e5†!+– **28.♗g8!** 29.♗g5† is a threat. **28...h6** **29.♗d6!** Precise, but other moves were also winning. **29...♕xd6** **30.cxd6† ♕d7** **31.♗f7†** It is also possible to start with 31.♗xg7†+–. **31...♕xd6** **32.♗f4† ♕c5** **33.♗f5†+–** The rook on c8 is collected.

1049. Bent Larsen – Boris Spassky, Malmo 1968

20...a5! Not a beautiful combination, but that doesn't make it any less strong! **21.dxe4** Black's idea is: 21.bxa5 ♕b2 22.♗a4 ♕e2†✓ Only like so. Black has serious threats against both d3 and f1. And not 22...♕xc1?! 23.♗xc1 with compensation for the exchange. **21...♕e2!†** A precise move, winning an exchange since the bishop coming to c4 spells trouble for the c5-knight due to the undermining of b4 that was commenced by 20...a5!. 21...axb4 22.♗b3 ♕a3! 23.♗b1 ♕c3 is also advantageous for Black. **22.♗b3** Tougher is giving up the exchange with: 22.bxa5 ♕xf1 23.♗xf1 ♕b2 24.e5! ♕xa3 25.exd6 ♕xc5 26.dxe7† 22...♕c4! 23.♗b1 axb4 **24.♗xb4 ♕xa2** Weaker is 24...♕xf1 25.♗xf1†. **25.♗d3 ♕xb1** **26.♗xd6 ♕xd3+–** (0–1, 48 moves)

1050. Boris Spassky – Robert Hübner, Solingen (4) 1977

35.d6! There is still some work left after 35.♗xb8 ♕xb8 36.♗a5 ♕d8! 37.♗xc7 ♕xd5±. **35...♕a8?!** 35...♕xb5 fails to 36.dxe7 ♕xc5 37.exd8=♕†+–✓ and 35...cxsd6 36.c7 ♕xb5 37.cxd8=♕+–✓ is another route to a new queen. **36.dxe7 ♕a1†** **37.♗e1 ✓** 37.♗e2 ♕a2† makes no progress. **37...♗dd1 38.g3** The threat of promoting to a queen instead of a knight prevents the ...g6-g5-g4 idea, leaving White with a winning endgame. Instead Spassky won after the spectacular but weaker 38.e8=♕†?! ♕f7! 39.g4† (39.g3 g5! forces White to give a perpetual due to the dangerous attack on his king) **38...♗xe1†** **39.♗g2 ♕xe7** **40.♗xe5†+–**

1051. Julian Hodgson – Boris Spassky, Brussels 1985

26.♗xd6! Judging this as too dangerous to play and instead going for a normal move would be a reasonable practical decision (1 point). **26...e4!** 26...♗xd6 27.♗xf5+–✓ is simple. **27.♗xe4! ♕e5!** **28.♗xc5!** 28.♗e2? ♗xe4 29.♗xe4 ♗xf3† and Black wins. **28...♗c8** 28...♗xd3 29.♗xd7+–✓ White will retain two extra pawns. **29.♗d4!** Hodgson played 29.♗e3? and resigned after 29...♗fg4 30.♗d4 ♗xh2!. White is mated after 31.♗xh2 ♗h5† 32.♗g1 ♗h3. **29...♗xf3†** **30.♗xf3 ♗xf3** **31.♗e6!± ✓** The knight stops Black's queen from joining the attack. It is so strong that Black most likely should give up an exchange for it, simultaneously destroying White's central domination. White should remain slightly better. Other moves than 31.♗e6 would make the whole combination unsound, since it would allow Black to attack.

1052. Pia Cramling – Boris Spassky, London 1996

Black seems to have the superior position with his active and useful pieces, but White has a trick up her sleeve. **38.♕xf5!** Capturing a pawn while defending e3. Not 38.♗xg4 fxg4†. **38...♖xh3** 38...♗xf5 and either rook check will force Black's king to leave the knight on g4 en prise: 39.♗f2†+ ✓ or 39.♗d5†+-. **39.e4!** White threatens 40.♗xd6 and 40.♗xh3, but Black has a trick of his own that he unfortunately seems to have missed as the game ended here. **39...♗f4†! 40.♔h1!= ✓** With accurate play, Black can regain one of the pawns and retain an active position. Not 40.gxf4? ♗e3†+-. **40...♗b6 41.gxf4 ♗b7 42.♗e2 ♗xe4†** Black seems to have full compensation, but is no longer better.

Robert Fischer

Chess demands total concentration and a love for the game.

1053. Robert Sobel – Robert Fischer, Montreal 1956

24.h4! Giving away a pawn to get at the vulnerable black configuration. **24...♘xh4 25.♗h1 ♘g5** **26.♗xh7†!** Deflecting the king from the defence of the knight. Not 26.♗xf6?? ♜d2†+-. **26...♗f8** 26...♗xh7 27.♗xf6† ♗g7 28.♗e4†+ ✓ **27.♘xf6!** ✓ White has won a piece for nothing. Again 27.♗xf6?? loses to 27...♗d2†.

1054. Osvaldo Bazan – Robert Fischer, Mar del Plata 1960

Black is a piece up, but two pieces are hanging. **20...♗f4! 21.♗xc4 21.♗xf4 ♗e2† 22.♗h1 ♗xf4** ✓ 23.dxe6 b5!† and Black retains a material advantage, while he is winning after: 21.dxe6 ♘xe4 22.♗xe4 ♗e2† 23.♗h1 ♗xc1 ✓ **21...♘xe4 22.♗xe4 ♗e2† 23.♗h1 f5!** Instead the game went 23...♗d7 24.♗e1† but Black managed to win anyway (33 moves). 23...♗xd5? 24.♗f6† ♗f8 25.♗xd5 is equal. **24.dxe6 fxe4 25.♗xe4 ♗c3†** The knight is alive.

1055. Robert Fischer – Paul Keres, Curacao 1962

White wins a pawn by exploiting the weak black king. **25.♗xd8† 25.♗xc4 bxc4** transposes to the main line (25...♗xd1 26.♗xe6+–). **25...♗xd8 25...♘xd8?** gives up the e5-square to the white queen: 26.♗xc4! ♗xc4 (26...bxcc4 27.♗e5+– ✓) 27.♗f6†! (27.♗e5? is now met by 27...f6=) 27...♗h8 (27...♗xf6 28.♗e8† ♘xe8 29.♗xe8 mate ✓) 28.♗e5+– ✓. The most dangerous threat is 29.♗g7† and the knight is still poisoned. **26.♗xc4! bxc4 27.♗xc4!+– ✓** The pawn plus all the weaknesses are enough for a decisive advantage (1–0, 41 moves).

1056. Robert Fischer – O. Celle, Davis (simul) 1964

20.♗f5†! The sacrifice opens the e-file, but it is not as easy as it may look. **20...gxf5 20...♗e8** 21.♗g7†+– ✓ and 20...♗f6 21.♗d6 gxf5 22.♗xd7†+– wins the queen (but 22.♗xe6†? ♗xe6 is not so clear). **21.exf5 ♗ac8 21...♗xf5 22.♗d6† ♗d8** (22...♗e8 23.♗fe1† ♗e6 24.♗d7 mate ✓) 23.♗xf8† ♗c7 24.♗xa8+– ✓ **22.♗xd7†! ♘xd7 22...♗f6 23.fxe6** (or 23.♗xc8 ♗xc8 24.fxe6+–) 23...♗xc7 24.♗xc7+– **23.f6†!** 23.♗e1† ♗e5! 24.♗xe5† ♗f6 25.♗xd7 ♗xe5+– is not as good, but should still be winning (full points). **23...♗xf6 23...♗e8 24.♗e1† ✓** mates and 23...♗xf6 24.♗xd7 ✓ is over. **24.♗e1† ♗e4 25.♗xe4† ♗f6 26.♗xd7 ✓** White is easily winning and Black resigned on the next move.

1057. Robert Fischer – Marcos Haskins, Denver (simul) 1964

36.♕c8†! 36.♕c1? ♜c2! 37.♕xc2 a1=♕ 38.♕c8† ♔d7 39.♕xh8 ♕d4†! and with the queen close enough to give checks on e1 or g1, it's a perpetual. 40.♔g3 (40.♔g2 ♕d2† 41.♔h3 [41.♔g3 ♕e1†=] 41...♕e3†=) 40...♕g1†= **36...♔d7** 36...♔e7? 37.♕xh8 with the same play as in the game, or simply 37.♕c7† ♔e8 38.♕a7+- 37.♕xh8 a1=♕ 38.♕d8†! ♕xd8 39.h8=♕† ♔d7 39...♔c7 is met in the same way. **40.♔xf7!** Being a simultaneous game, it is excusable for Fischer to miss the win. The game continued 40.♔e4? ♕b2† 41.♔g3 ♕b3† 42.♔h4 which is equal after 42...♕f3† 43.♔h5 ♕c2=, **40...♕b2† 41.♔g3 ✓** The king escapes and the endgame should be winning. 41...♕c3† 42.♔h4 ♕e1† 43.♔g5+-

1058. Robert Fischer – Eldis Cobo Arteaga, Havana 1965

28.♕xe7! ♕g3 a) 28...♕xe7 29.♕xf6†+- ✓ b) 28...♕f4 29.♕xf7† ♔xf7 30.♕b3† with a mating attack. c) After 28...♕d6 the most direct win is 29.♕1e6. **29.♕xf6†!+-** White is a pawn up and Black should lose more material fending off the attack on his weak king. **29...♔h6 30.♕1e4! ✓** Or 30.♕7e4+- or even simply 30.♕1e2+-. Weaker is the game continuation 30.♕c1† g5 31.♕xg5† (31.♕xg5†! ♔h5 32.♕1e2± is not too bad either) 31...♕xg5 32.♕xg5† ♔g7± (1–0, 39 moves).

1059. Robert Fischer – Mark Taimanov, Vancouver (4) 1971

61.♕e8! Black is in zugzwang. **61...♔d8 62.♕xg6!** 62.♔xb6?! ♔xe8 63.♔xc5 ♔d7 and Black will be able to stop the pawns. For example: 64.b4 axb4 65.cxb4 ♜c6 66.a5 ♔c7 67.a6 ♜a7 68.b5 ♜c8= **62...♕xg6 63.♔xb6** White picks up the c5-pawn with a winning position, because Black is unable to create counterplay. The game ended after eight more moves. **63...♔d7 64.♔xc5 ✓** ♔e7 65.b4 axb4 66.cxb4 ♜c8 67.a5 ♜d6 68.b5 ♜e4† 69.♔b6 ♔c8 70.♔c6 ♔b8 71.b6 1–0

Anatoly Karpov

The first great chess players, including the world champion, got by perfectly well without constant coaches.

1060. Jan Timman – Anatoly Karpov, Montreal 1979

15...♜xh2! 16.c5 ✓ A move you should see in advance and make sure you have something against. 16.♔xh2? ♕h4† 17.♔g2 ♕h3† ✓ (17...♔h3† 18.♔h1 ♕e4†! 19.f3 ♕g6! is also winning) 18.♔g1 ♕xg3 Best, but other moves win too by now. 19.fxg3 ♕xg3† 20.♔h1 ♕e4 21.♕f4 ♔h3+- The attack is overwhelming. **16...♜xf1!** Less clear are: a) 16...♜e5?! 17.♕xe5 ♜xf1 18.♕d4† b) 16...♜f4?! 17.♕c3 (17.gxf4 ♕h4+-) 17...♜xb2! 18.♜xb2 ♜e5†! c) 16...♜xg3 17.fxg3 ♜xf1† **17.cxd6 ♜xg3!** It's easy to overlook such a move; the fork trick on e2 gives Black a winning advantage with so many pawns and continuing activity. **18.♕xg3** 18.dxe7 ♜xe2† 19.♔f1 ♜xc1+- **18...♕xd6+-** (0–1, 31 moves)

1061. Anatoly Karpov – Gyula Sax, Linares 1983

Deflecting the queen from her consort's defence. **35.♕e7!** **35.♔a8† ♔b8** gets White nowhere but **35.♗e4** gives a clear advantage. **35...♗d1† 35...♔xe7?** **36.♔a8† ♔c7 37.♔a7† ♔d8** (**37...♔c8 38.♔xe7+– ✓**) **38.♔b8 mate ✓ 36.♗xd1 ♔xe7 36...♗d8† 37.♗d7** (or **37.♗d7†**, but not **37.♗c1? ♔xe7±** and Black's king has the d6-square) **37...♗xd7† 38.♗xd7† ♔xd7†+– ✓** And two pawns up is enough to win. After the game move, you must make sure that you are satisfied with one continuation. **37.♔a8† ♔c7 38.♔a7† ♔d6 39.♔b6† ✓ 1–0** White mates after **39...♔e5 40.♔d4† ♔e6 41.♗b3 mate.**

1062. Luc Winants – Anatoly Karpov, Brussels 1988

The seemingly bad bishop on b2 can become a key attacker. **36.♗c4!** Clearing the c1-h6 diagonal. Also full points for similar solutions: **36.♗xg7! ♔xg7 37.♗de4!** Again, clearing c1-h6. With this move, White protects the f6-knight, rather than preparing a killing ♔a3. **36.♗de4!** is similar to **36.♗c4** and **36.♗xg7**. But do not play like in the game: **36.♔a3? ♔xa3 37.♗xd7 ♔b5= 38.♗f6? ♔a1†+–** Good for a clear advantage is **36.♗h5. 36...♗xf6 36...dxc4 37.♗xg7! ♔xg7 38.♔c1 ♗xf6** (**38...♗h8 39.♗g3† ♔f8 40.♗xh6†! ♗xh6 41.♗g8 mate**) **39.♗xh6† ♔g8 40.exf6 ♔f8 41.♗g5† ♔h8 42.♗h5† ♔g8 43.♔h6!+– ✓** And the bishop manoeuvre to g7 decides the game – a much better use than sacrificing itself for a mere knight. **37.♔a3! ✓ ♔d7 38.♗xf6+–**

1063. Anatoly Karpov – Vladimir Kramnik, Monaco (blindfold) 1997

22...♗e4! 22...♗g4 23.♗g2 and the knight has to retreat. **23.♗xe4 23.♗g2+–** drops the f3-pawn. **23...♗xf2 24.♗xf2 ♔xh2† ✓** The position can be evaluated as generally winning, due to White's horrible coordination, so you don't need to see further. **25.♔e1 25.♔f1 ♔h1† 26.♔f2 ♗f8†** mates. **25...♗f8!+–** Kramnik played **25...♔xg3† 26.♔d2 d4?** (The tricky **26...♗c8!** also seems to win. Serious kudos if you could evaluate this position as winning!) **27.♗c2 ♗g2? (27...d3†=) 28.♗c3 d3† 29.♗b1+–** White was winning, even though the game ended 0–1. After the better **25th move**, Black prepares **26...♗f3† 27.♗xf3 ♗xf3**, mating. There is no way out, as **26.♗d2 ♗c4† 27.♗d3 dxe4†** picks up the bishop on e2 with a winning advantage.

1064. Levon Aronian – Anatoly Karpov, Hoogeveen 2003

27.♔e7! ♕c7 The bishop can't be taken: **27...♗xe7 28.♗d8†+– ✓** And **27...♗c6 28.♗xf6 gxg6 29.♗d7+– ✓** sets up forks and a dangerous attack (and **29.♗xc6** is also good enough for a winning advantage). **28.♗xf6 gxg6 29.♔e4!** Black cannot defend against the attack without heavy material losses. **29.♗g4+–** is also good for White (full points for this too). **29...♔a7 29...♔xe5 30.♔xa8+– ✓ 30.♗g4! ✓ ♔g7 31.♔e3!** There are other ways to win as well. **31...♗h8 32.♗d8! 1–0**

1065. Anatoly Karpov – Mihajlo Stojanovic, Valjevo 2007

22.♔h4! ♕xc6 22...h6 23.♗f6! (**23.♗g6 ♕xc6 24.♗xh6†** is also quite strong, but not clearly winning after **24...♗g8±**) **23...♔e7** The only move that defends against the immediate mate. There are now three ways to win and you have to have seen one of them to get full points.
 a) **24.♗xg7 ♔xg7 25.♗xe7 ♗xe7 26.♗h5† ♔f7 27.♗f6† ♔e8 28.♗h8† ♔d7 29.♗f6† ♔d6 30.♗xc8+–**
 b) **24.♗xe7 ♗xe7 25.♗xg7 transposing to 24.♗xg7 (or 25.♗g8 ♗xg8 26.♗xe7+–).**
 c) **24.♗e5! ♕xf6 25.♗f7† ♔h7 26.♗h5** with a winning attack. **23.♗f6! h6 23...gxg6 24.♗xf6† ♗g7 25.♗xg7 mate ✓ 24.♗xh6† gxh6 25.♗g8 mate ✓**

Garry Kasparov

This is the essential element that cannot be measured by any analysis or device, and I believe it's at the heart of success in all things: the power of intuition and the ability to harness and use it like a master.

1066. Garry Kasparov – Florin Gheorghiu, Moscow 1982

20.♗e1! ♜d6 20...♝f6 21.♝e4+– ✓ and the queen is trapped. 20...♝he8 21.♝de5 (or 21.♝f5 winning the pawn on f7 as in the main line) 21...♝f6 loses to 22.♝e4+– ✓ and other moves, as the bishop will soon be lost regardless. **21.♝f5! ♜c4** **22.♝e4!** 22.♝d2? ♘he8!± 22...♝b5 **23.♝xf7†+– ✓** This position was also reached in Yakovich – Åkesson 16 years later!

1067. Garry Kasparov – Viktor Korchnoi, London (1) 1983

33...♝xd4 **34.cxd4 ♜xa4!** **35.♝xa4** 35.♝xa4 b5+– 35...♝xb5 **36.♝a7† ♜d6!± ✓** Black has good winning chances and won the game. Less strong is the passive 36...♝f6?!. Endgames are generally more about activity than protecting some irrelevant pawn on the wing.

1068. Garry Kasparov – Stuart Conquest, London/New York (simul) 1984

24.♞b7! White diverts the black knight from its control over the e4-square. a) 24.♝b3? has the same idea, but allows Black a few checks with the knights: 24...♞xb3 25.♝e4 ♜c1† 26.♝e3 ♜c2† 27.♝f2 ♜d3† 28.♝g3 ♜h7 And now Black is better, since he protects the e5-square. b) 24.f4? threatens mate, but after 24...♝xf4 25.♝f3† ♜e4 there is nothing killing, though White has strong compensation. c) 24.♝e5†? ♜f4 25.♝xc5 ♜d3!± and Black threatens both rooks – the one on h1 with 26...♝he8† 27.♝d2 ♜f2†. **24...♝d4** 24...♝xb7 25.♝e4! ✓ and mating after 25...♝h7 26.♝h3† ♜g6 27.♝e5 mate. **25.♝f2!** Or 25.f4 ♜xf4 26.♝f3† ♜e4 27.♝xc5† ♜d5 when White doesn't win a piece, but gets an exchange with 28.♝a5 ♜xc5 29.♝b3† ♜d5 30.♝xd4+–. 25.♝xc5?! ♜xc4 26.♝f2 ♜xc5 27.♝e4 threatens mate, but White only has a positional edge after 27...♝h7 28.♝xb4±. **24...♝xc4** 25...♝xb7 26.♝g3! ✓ ♜h7 27.♝h3† ♜g6 28.♝e5 is mate. Also fine is 26.♝g3+– as, to start with, Black must give up a rook to protect against mate. 26.♝d6† ♜f4 27.♝xc4± is not as strong.

1069. Hannu Wegner – Garry Kasparov, Hamburg (simul) 1987

18...♞xa4 **19.♝xa4 ♜c3!** The double threat of ...♞xa4 and ...♝d1† picking up the h1-rook forces White to give up the a1-rook. **20.bxc3 ♜xc3†** **21.♝e2 ♜xa1 ✓** With the king on e2, it is Black who would have the initiative even if he had given up the exchange. But being material up, Black is totally winning and the game ended after only two more moves.

1070. Alexander Beliavsky – Garry Kasparov, Belfort 1988

Black must defend against a rook invasion on d7. **21... $\mathbb{Q}h6\#!$** **21... $\mathbb{W}c8?$** **22. $\mathbb{Q}dd7+$** – is a complete failure. But **21...g5!**? also protects against the attack while maintaining an advantage: **22. $\mathbb{W}xg5$** (**22. $\mathbb{Q}xg5$ $\mathbb{W}g6+$**) **22... $\mathbb{W}g6$** **23. $\mathbb{W}xg6$ $hxg6\#$** White may get three pawns for the piece, but still has a long fight ahead (full points). **22. $\mathbb{Q}b1$** **22. $\mathbb{W}xh6?$** **$\mathbb{W}xe7-$** + ✓ **22... $\mathbb{E}d8!$** Continuing the counterattacking type of defence. **22... $\mathbb{W}c6?$** is also winning (full points) due to **23. $\mathbb{W}xh6$ $\mathbb{W}e4\#$** with smothered mate: **24. $\mathbb{Q}a1$ $\mathbb{Q}c2\#$** **25. $\mathbb{Q}b1$ $\mathbb{Q}a3\#$** **26. $\mathbb{Q}a1$ $\mathbb{W}b1\#$** **27. $\mathbb{E}xb1$ $\mathbb{Q}c2$ mate.** But not **22...g5?** **23. $\mathbb{E}xe8$ $gxh4$** **24. $\mathbb{E}xa8$ $\mathbb{E}xa8$** **25.a3** **$\mathbb{Q}c6$** **26. $\mathbb{E}d6$** and White wins back the piece with equality. **23. $\mathbb{E}d6$** **23. $\mathbb{E}xe8$ $\mathbb{E}xd1$ mate** ✓ The game move seems to trap the queen, but it escapes due to the back-rank mate. **23... $\mathbb{W}c6!$** **24.a3** **24. $\mathbb{W}xh6$ $\mathbb{W}e4\#$** ✓ with mate. **24... $\mathbb{E}xd6$** **25.exd6** **$\mathbb{W}xd6!$** Moving the threatened piece with **25... $\mathbb{Q}d5\#$** is less good, but worth full points if you saw it from the starting position. **26.axb4 cxb4** ✓ Black is a pawn up, and has the much safer king – so it's winning. The game finished soon. **27. $\mathbb{W}e4$ b3** Showing the weakness of the white king. **28. $\mathbb{Q}d4$ $\mathbb{E}f4$** **29. $\mathbb{W}a8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$** **0-1** White's attack is over, and several pieces are hanging.

1071. Garry Kasparov – Ilya Smirin, Moscow 1988

39. $\mathbb{E}xh6!$ **39... $\mathbb{W}g6?$** **40. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{E}c2\#$** **41. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{E}f2-$** + **39... $\mathbb{E}xh6$** **39... $\mathbb{W}c5\#$** **40. $\mathbb{Q}h1!$ $\mathbb{E}c1$** **41. $\mathbb{Q}e6$ mate** ✓ **40. $\mathbb{Q}e6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$** **41. $\mathbb{W}f6\#$** **1-0** Black is mated: **41... $\mathbb{Q}h7$** **42. $\mathbb{W}f7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$** **43. $\mathbb{Q}f5\#$** **Qh8** **44. $\mathbb{W}h5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$** **45. $\mathbb{Q}e6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$** **46. $\mathbb{W}f7$ mate** ✓

1072. Garry Kasparov – Valery Salov, Barcelona 1989

23.c6! **23... $\mathbb{W}f6!$** **24. $\mathbb{W}g7$** is almost winning, with the plan of doubling on the e-file. However: **24...dx5** **25. $\mathbb{E}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}d3!$** is an important defensive idea that is easy to miss. **26. $\mathbb{E}xd3$ $\mathbb{W}xb6$** **27. $\mathbb{E}e1$ $\mathbb{W}f6$** **28. $\mathbb{E}xe7\#$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$** **29. $\mathbb{E}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}e4!$** **30. $\mathbb{W}xe7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$** **31. $\mathbb{E}xe4\#$** ± White may look winning, but rook endings are tricky. **23... $\mathbb{Q}xc6$** **23... $\mathbb{Q}c8$** **24. $\mathbb{W}f6-$** and the pressure on e7 lets White pick up the kingside pawns to start with. (Other moves should also win, for instance **24. $\mathbb{Q}d5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$** **25. $\mathbb{Q}xc7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$** **26. $\mathbb{Q}xe6\#$** –.) **24. $\mathbb{E}ac1!$** ✓ The pressure on the black bishops forces Black to give back some material, leaving White with a winning attack for little investment. **24... $\mathbb{E}d7$** **25. $\mathbb{Q}xd7$** Or **25. $\mathbb{W}e3-$** . **25... $\mathbb{W}xd7$** **26. $\mathbb{W}c4$** **1-0** White's attack is too much for Black to handle.

1073. Garry Kasparov – Vassily Ivanchuk, Manila (ol) 1992

39.f4?! $\mathbb{Q}e7!$ and **39. $\mathbb{Q}e2?!$ $\mathbb{Q}e7!$** do not win. **39. $\mathbb{E}d7!!$** Preventing ... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ which would break the pin that is supposed to win a piece. White is threatening f2-f4. **39...g5?!** **39... $\mathbb{Q}g7$** **40. $\mathbb{Q}xe6\#$** – ✓ (but not **40.f4?** $\mathbb{Q}c2!=$ which is a beautiful trick) **40. $\mathbb{Q}e2!$ $\mathbb{Q}xe2$** **40... $\mathbb{E}e1$** **41. $\mathbb{Q}xh5-$** – ✓ Threatening mate and the knight. **41. $\mathbb{E}xd1-$** – ✓

1074. Garry Kasparov – Viswanathan Anand, Linares 1993

28.e5! **28. $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ $\mathbb{W}xf4$** gives White a dominant position, but not a winning one. **28... $\mathbb{W}f5$** a) **28... $\mathbb{W}xe5$** loses the rook: **29. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{E}xf7$** **30. $\mathbb{E}d8\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$** **31. $\mathbb{W}xf7\#$** – ✓ b) **28... $\mathbb{E}xd5$** **29.exf6** **$\mathbb{E}xd3$** **30. $\mathbb{W}c2$** and White wins the knight or exchange and thus gains a decisive material advantage. c) **28... $\mathbb{Q}e2\#$** **29. $\mathbb{Q}h1!$ $\mathbb{W}e7$** (**29... $\mathbb{W}h4$ **30.e6!–**** ✓) **30. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$** (**30.e6** should be good enough as well) **30... $\mathbb{W}xf7$** **31.e6!–** ✓ **29. $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ $\mathbb{W}xf4$ **30.e6!**** ✓ White's initiative is crushing. Weaker is: **30. $\mathbb{E}f3?!$ $\mathbb{W}xe5$** **31. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h7\#$** ± **30... $\mathbb{E}d8$** **30... $\mathbb{E}e7$** **31. $\mathbb{E}xf7\#$** – and White has several ways to defend against the back-rank mate. **31.e7** **$\mathbb{E}e8$** **32.g3** **32. $\mathbb{E}f3$,** as in the game, is also good. **32... $\mathbb{W}f6$** **33. $\mathbb{E}f3$** If this position had been reached, Black could have resigned in good conscience.

1075. Garry Kasparov – Nigel Short, London (7) 1993

34.♕g4! 34.f6 ♜xf6 35.♔c2† ♔g8 36.♗xh6 ♜e8= The game move prepares: 35.f6 (the threat of 36.♔c2† forces Black to take) 35...♜xf6 36.♗xh6† ♜xh6 37.♗xf6† ♔g7 38.♗xd7 ♜d8 39.♗e7!+– **34...♝g7**

a) 34...♝d8 35.f6! ✓ (35.♔xf7?! ♜g5±) 35...♜xf6 (35...♝xf6 36.♔c2† or 36.♗xh6† ♔g8 37.♔c2+–) 36.♔xf7+– (or the flashy 36.♔c2† ♔g7 37.♔e6!+–)

b) 34...♜f6 runs immediately into: 35.♗xh6†! ✓

35.♗xh6! ✓ **♚f6** 35...♝xh6 36.♗g5† ♔h7 37.♔c2! (less strong is 37.f6 ♔xf2†! 38.♗xf2 ♜f5† 39.♗xf5† ♜xf5 40.♔c2 ♔g6 41.g4±) 37...♝f6 (37...f6 38.♗g6† drops the knight) 38.♗xf6 ♜e8 39.♔e6!! The only move that's clearly winning. 39...fxe6 40.fxe6†+– **36.♔xf7! 1–0** 36.♗g4 is also good enough. The game move provoked resignation, as Black is mated after 36...♝xf7 37.♗g6†.

1076. Garry Kasparov – Evgeny Bareev, Novgorod 1994

a) 35.♗g6† fxe6 36.♗xg6† ♔f8 37.♗xh6† is only a draw as long as Black doesn't voluntarily step into a check from the bishop: 37...♝f7 38.♗g6† ♔f8 39.♗xg5 ♜xc5=

b) The straightforward 35.♗xh6 ♜xh6 36.♗xg5† ♔g7 37.h6† ♔f8 (37...♝g8? 38.♗xd8 ♜xd8 39.♗g4†+– and White queens) 38.♗h7 does not win: 38...♝e8!= 39.♗g8†? ♜f8 40.h7 ♜d1† 41.♗h2 e4† 42.g3 ♜xc5 Defending the knight on f8 and creating a counter-threat against f2. It is Black who wins. (White can improve in this variation with 38.♗h4!, which should win, however it's very difficult to see and calculate. The idea is to attack g7 and e7 with the queen and promote the h-pawn. Congrats if you saw this!)

c) White's position is very good, so even passing over the move wins! Let's try 35.g3 and the logical answer 35...bxcc5: 36.♗xh6 37.♗xg5† ♔g7 38.h6† ♔f8 39.♗h7 ♜e8 40.♗g8† ♜f8 41.h7 ♜d1† 42.♗h2+– And compared to the previous variation, Black's queen doesn't have the c5-square.

d) But nevertheless, White needs a forceful move to break through:

35.♗xg5! hxg5 36.♗xg5† ♔f8 37.h6 ✓ Or 37.c6 ♜xd6 38.♗xd8† ♔g7 39.♗xd7+–. **37...bxcc5 38.h7** White queens and mates.

1077. Garry Kasparov – Joel Lautier, Moscow (ol) 1994

28.♗g4!! ♜e6 28...fxg4 29.♗xe5† ♜xe5 30.♗xe5+– ✓ and 28...♜xg5 29.♗xe5 (29.♗xg5?? ♜c7+–) 29...♜xe5 (29...♝xh5 30.♗d8† ♔g8 31.♗xf7 mate ✓) 30.♗xg5+– ✓ both give White an extra exchange. **29.♗d8!** ✓ White threatens mate on g7. 29.♗f6†?! ♜xf6 30.♗xf6 ♜f8 31.♗xe4± 29...♝g6 29...♝g6 30.♗xe7 fxe4 31.♗xg8† with mate in two. **30.♗xg8† ♜xg8 31.♗d8† ♜f8 32.♗g5†+–** Or also fine are other moves such as 32.♗f6†+–.

1078. Jeroen Piket – Garry Kasparov, Linares 1997

$39...e3!$ $39...g5$ $40.bxg5$ $fxg5$ $41.f4$ $Wxg3$ $42.f8\#!$ leads to stalemate. $40.Qe6$ The e-pawn decides after $40.Qxh6$ $e2-$ and $40.Qxd6$ $e2!$ (or $40...g5$ $41.Qxg5$ $Wf3\#!$ $42.Qh2$ $Wf2\#$ $43.Wxf2$ $exf2$ $44.Qf6$ $f7-$) $41.Qd8\#$ $Qf7$ $42.Qc7\#$ $Qg6$ ✓ when White has only a few more checks. $40...Bc7!$ Kasparov played: $40...Wf3\#?$ $41.Qg1$ ($41.Qh2??$ $Wf2\#$ $42.Wxf2$ $exf2$ $43.Qf6$ $f7-$) $41...f7$ ($41...Bxg3\#$ $42.Bxg3\#$ $43.Qf1$ and Black has only a perpetual) $42.Wg6\#$ $Qg7$ $43.Qe8\#$ $f8$ $44.Qxf8\#$ This was about equal and ended in a draw.

The rook move overloads White's queen, but White has several moves, including two different checks on g6.

- a) $41.Wxc7$ $Wf3\#$ $42.Qh2$ $Wg2$ mate ✓
- b) $41.We4$ $Wd1\#$ ($41...We4\#$ also wins after $42.Qxe4$ $Bc2-$) $42.Qh2$ $Qc2\#$ $43.Qxh3$ $Wf1\#!$ $44.Qg4$ $Bc4-$
- c) $41.Qe8\#$ $Qf8$ $42.Qe4$ And in contrast to the immediate $41.Qe4$, Black can't win by exchanging on e4, but he still has the same pin on c4: $42...Wd1\#$ $43.Qh2$ $Qc2\#$ $44.Qxh3$ $Wf1\#$ $45.Qg4$ $Bc4-$
- d) $41.Wg6\#$ $Wxg6$ $42.Qxg6\#$ $Qh7$ (or $42...Qg7-$) $43.Qe6$ $Bc2-$
- e) $41.Qg6\#$ The move that makes it easy to avoid calculating the rook sacrifice on c7. $41...Qg7$ $41...Qf8$ $42.Qf6\#$ $Qf7!$ also wins and gives full points. $43.Qxf7\#$ ($43.Qxh6$ $Wf3\#$ [or $43...Qf1\#$ $44.Qh2$ $Qf2\#-$] $44.Qh2$ $Wf2\#$ $45.Wxf2$ $exf2-$) $43...Qxf7$ $44.Qc7\#$ $Qg8$ $45.Wd8\#$ $Qf8$ $46.Wg5\#$ $Wxg5$ $47.Qxg5$ $e2-$ $42.Qxg4$ $Bxc2-$ ✓ White can win the bishop on g7, but it doesn't help when he has to give up the rook for the e-pawn.

1079. Garry Kasparov – Vladimir Kramnik, Frankfurt 2000

$31...Wg4\#$ is an immediate repetition if Black wants. White can't run with the king, for example: $32.Qf1$ $Wh3\#$ $33.Qe2$ $Bc2\#-$ Kramnik started with $31...g5$ but soon repeated moves. Note that $32.Qd3$ $Wxd3?$ is losing for Black. The attack has slowed down and White has time for $33.a7$. But Black should not be satisfied with a draw. $31...Bc5!$ ✓ Preventing the queen from coming home to defend the kingside, and threatening to attack f2 with the queen, or take the pawn straight away. Black can also start with a queen check before the rook move. $32.Qd3$ $32.Wxc5$ $dxc5$ $33.Qc2$ $Wg4\#$ $34.Qf1$ $Wf3-$ and White's king can't escape from mate. $32...Wxd3$ $33.Wxc5$ $Bxc5-$ Black is material up and just needs to keep enough pressure on the white king to prevent the promotion of the a-pawn. $34.Qb2$ $34.a7$ $Qxf2\#$ and Black wins. $34...Qxf2\#$ $35.Qxf2$ $Wd4$ $36.Qa3$ $36.Qaa2$ $Bc1\#$ $37.Qg2$ $Wd1-$ $36...Bc2$ $36...Bc7$ should also be winning. $37.Qaf3$ $Wa1\#$ Or $37...Qxf2$ first. $38.Qg2$ $Qxf2\#$ $39.Qxf2$ $Wxa6-$ Black should be able to convert.

1080. Garry Kasparov – Yevgeniy Vladimirov, Batumi (rapid) 2001

$23.Qh7!$ Not $23.Qxf7?$ $Qxd5\#$ or $23.Qe6\#?$ $fxe6$ $24.Wh6\#$ $Qf7$ $25.Wh7\#$ $Qe8$ $26.Wxg6\#$ $Qd8$ $27.Qxe6$ $Wg8-$ $23...Qxd5$ $23...Qxh7$ $24.Wh6\#$ $Qg8$ $25.Wxg6\#$ $Qh8$ $26.Wxh5\#$ $Qg8$ $27.Qe3-$ ✓ (the rook lift can also be delayed with $27.Qh6-$) $24.Qh6\#$ $Qg8$ $25.Qg5$ After $25.exd5-$ (full points), Black must part with an exchange, since $25...Qfd8$ $26.Qg5$ leaves him too exposed. $25...Qxg5$ Black resigned after playing $25...Qxe4$. $26.hxg5$ ✓ $f5-$ White captures on f8 now or after the check on g6.

1081. Francisco Vallejo Pons – Garry Kasparov, Linares 2005

27... $\mathbb{Q}xf2\#!$ A discovered attack, but it's not that simple. 28. $\mathbb{W}xf2$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{W}xa5-$ + 28... $\mathbb{W}xa5$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2\#!$ 29... $\mathbb{Q}d3?$! 30. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ 31. $\mathbb{W}xf1\#$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}xf8$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ ✓ and 30. $\mathbb{W}xg2$ $\mathbb{W}b6\#$ ✓ both win for Black (or 30... $\mathbb{W}xe6$). 30... $\mathbb{W}a8\#$ Or 30... $\mathbb{W}d5\#$. 31. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{W}xe6-$ + ✓

1082. Michael Adams – Garry Kasparov, Linares 2005

25... $\mathbb{Q}c2!$ 25... $\mathbb{W}c2$ 26. $\mathbb{W}xc2$ $\mathbb{Q}xc2-$ + is also good, but not immediately winning (1 point). 26. $\mathbb{Q}b1$ One main point is: 26. $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ mate ✓ The other point is allowing the queen to come closer to the attack: 26... $\mathbb{W}a3$ 0–1 White had had enough, since there is no defence to Black's threats: 27. $\mathbb{W}xc2$ $\mathbb{Q}fc8$ 28. $\mathbb{W}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xa4$ and the b2-pawn will fall with devastating consequences.

Alexander Khalifman

*To make any move in a position, merely so as not to spoil anything –
such a purely practical approach is not for me!*

1083. Alexander Khalifman – Elizbar Ubilava, Kuibyshev 1986

32. $\mathbb{Q}xf7\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 32... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{W}f6$ 34. $\mathbb{W}xf7\#$ (or 34. $\mathbb{Q}xf7-$ +–) 34... $\mathbb{W}xf7$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 36. $\mathbb{Q}c7\#$ +-✓ 33. $\mathbb{B}d1\pm$ (1–0, 40 moves) Slightly stronger than the game continuation is 33. $\mathbb{g}4$!–, keeping up the attack; a pawn is only a pawn, but a strong attack can end the game. White is threatening 34. $\mathbb{Q}g5$, thus forcing Black to further weaken his king position by moving the g-pawn. 33... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}g5\#$ $\mathbb{h}xg5$ 35. $\mathbb{W}h3$ mate is one important point.

1084. Alexander Khalifman – Sergey Dolmatov, Minsk 1987

30... $\mathbb{b}5!$ Weaving a mating net, starting with a threat of 31... $b4\#$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}xa2$ mate. 31. $\mathbb{B}a1$ 31. $b4$ $\mathbb{Q}e8c3$ mate ✓ 31... $\mathbb{Q}f5!$ The bishop needs to be rerouted to the e8-a4 diagonal. To do so with a threat on the rook is of course nice. 32. $\mathbb{B}g2$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ Protecting the d5-pawn on the way! 33. $f4$ White tries to exchange the rook on c2. 33. $\mathbb{Q}g6$ is met by: 33... $\mathbb{Q}d7-$ +✓ 33... $\mathbb{b}4\#$ 33... $\mathbb{Q}c1$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ $\mathbb{Q}xc1$ is much better for Black, but mate is even better. 34. $\mathbb{Q}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}2c5!$ ✓ The threat of ... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ mate is decisive. Or similarly 34... $\mathbb{Q}8c5-$ + or 34... $\mathbb{Q}a8-$ +, but not 34... $\mathbb{Q}d7\#$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}xa5$ when White picks up the pawn on b4 and Black only has a perpetual.

1085. Alexander Khalifman – Michele Godena, Vienna 1996

29. $\mathbb{Q}xh6\#!$ $\mathbb{g}xh6$ 29... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ loses to many things, for instance 30. $\mathbb{Q}h7$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 32. $\mathbb{W}h5$. 30. $\mathbb{W}xh6\#!$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 31. $\mathbb{W}g6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xf6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 33. $\mathbb{W}xf6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 34. $\mathbb{W}g6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 34... $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 35. $f6-$ +✓ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 36. $f7$ (or 36. $\mathbb{Q}c2-$ +) 36... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 37. $\mathbb{W}h6$ mate 35. $f6!$ ✓ With a winning attack. The game concluded: 35... $\mathbb{W}c7$ 36. $\mathbb{W}h6\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 37. $\mathbb{W}g5\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 38. $\mathbb{W}xc5\#!$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}c2\#$ is better. 38... $\mathbb{Q}e5?$ 38... $\mathbb{W}e5!$ would have given Black hope. 39. $\mathbb{W}f8$ $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}c2\#$ 1–0 Mate will be delivered.

Vladimir Kramnik

Chess is so deep, I simply feel lost.
Spiegel Online (2004)

1086. Vladimir Kramnik – Joerg Schneider, Mainz (simul) 2001

35.♘f4! Black can't defend d6 in a good way. The game instead went 35.e5? ♘xe5 36.♗xe5† dxе5 37.d6† ♖e6 38.♕c7† ♖xd6 39.♕xa8. It's a forcing line, winning material, but Black can get counterplay with the c-pawn after: 39...♕d5! (which was not played) 40.♖a1= 35...♘e5 35...♖ad8 does not help: 36.♕xd6 ♕xd6 37.e5+– ✓ 36.♗xe5† dxе5 37.d6† ♖e6 37...♕d7! is a better defence, but 38.♗xf6± ✓ still gives White winning chances. 38.♕c7† ♖xd6 39.♕xa8+– ✓ The pawn on e4 makes a great difference compared to the game.

1087. Vladimir Kramnik – Teimour Radjabov, Linares 2003

23.♗h3! 23.fxe6?! fxe5= 23...fxe5 24.♗xh6 ♗f6 24...exd4 is critical, but Black is busted after: 25.♗h7† (or 25.♗d3 ♘a5 26.a3+–) 25...♗f7 26.f6!+– ✓ 25.♗e8† Or 25.♗h7† ♗f7 26.fxe6† ♘xe6 27.♗xf6† ♗xf6 28.♗f1†+–. 25...♗f8 26.♗h8† ♗xh8 27.♗xf8† 1–0 Black resigned in view of 27...♗h7 28.♗d3 when he would be hopelessly lost.

1088. Vladimir Akopian – Vladimir Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 2004

29.♗h7!! ♘xb2† White's main point is 29...♗xh7 30.♗xe7† ♗h6 31.♗h1† ♗h5 32.g4 ✓ mating (32.♗f5† and 32.f4 are also winning). And 29...♗xb2 allows White to collect a piece: 30.♗xg7† ♗f8 31.♘xb2+– ✓ 30.♘xb2 ♗xb2 31.♗xg7† ♗f8 32.♗h1 1–0 Or 32.♗xb2 e6 and Black gets his piece back, but a pawn and an attack would still be good enough for White to win the game here.

1089. Vladimir Kramnik – Loek van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2004

37.♗h8! f6? 37...♗e3†! ✓ 38.♗xe3 (38.♗xe3 seems to be less practical since White's attack is not dangerous. 38...♗xh8 39.♗a8†?! ♗g7 40.♗g4 is met by 40...g5±.) 38...♗xe3† 39.♗xe3 ♗xh8 40.♗xh4+– This is the toughest defence. White still has difficulties to overcome in order to get the full point. Easier is 37...♗xh8 38.♗h6† ♗g8 39.♗a8† ✓ with mate. 38.♗h6†! ✓ Instead the game continued 38.♗xh4? ♗xh4† 39.♗xh4 when 39...b4!± would have activated the rook and given Black good chances to hold. 38...♗f7 39.♗h7†! Or 39.♗h7†! ♗e6 40.♗xg6+– or 39.♗f1!+–. 39...♗e6 39...♗e8 40.♗xg6+– 40.♗xg6+– The knight is indirectly protected so White is a piece up, and has very dangerous threats.

1090. Peter Leko – Vladimir Kramnik, Linares 2004

32...♗h5! 32...♗c2 33.♗f1= 33.♗7d6 33.♗g4 ♗g5 ✓ 34.♗h3 and Black wins by moving the bishop. Also not saving White is: 33.♗1d6 ♗xd6! 34.♗xh5 ♗xd7+– ✓ 33...♗f6! 33...♗xh3 34.♗xg6 hxg6 35.gxh3= 34.♗xf6 ♗c2!! 34...♗xh3?! 35.♗xg6 ♗xg6 36.♗d8† ♗g7 37.♗d7† ♗f8 38.♗d4 and White will make a draw. 35.♗xh5 ♗xe2 ✓ A winning double attack. 36.g4 ♗f2† 0–1

1091. Vladimir Kramnik – Peter Svidler, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2004

26.♘xe4! Not 26.♗xb8? ♕xf2† 27.♗xf2 ♘xc1†–+ or 26.♗xc5 ♘xc5 27.♗xb8 ♘xb8†. **26...♗xb5**
27.♗c4! Kramnik included 27.h4 ♖d2 but it made no difference after 28.♗c4!± (1–0, 43 moves). 27.a4? wins a piece but 27...♗xf2† 28.♔xf2 ♗b2† 29.♔g1 f5!† forces White to give it back. 27...♗xa3 28.♗xb5 ♘xc1 29.♗c5!± White has a double threat. 29...♗b2 30.♗e7† ♔h8
31.♗g6† hxg6 32.♗xf8†± ✓

1092. Vladimir Kramnik – Peter Leko, Brissago (8) 2004

This game features perhaps the best-known example of opening preparation that turned out to be directly losing. **26...♗xf3!** 27.♗xf3 ♗e4† 27...♗g4† is also winning. **28.♗e1 ♘xc3! 29.bxc3**
♗xc3†–+ ✓ (0–1, 32 moves)

1093. Vladimir Kramnik – Teimour Radjabov, London 2013

Black is a pawn up, but his pieces are uncoordinated at the moment, so it is time to strike. **29.e5!**
29.♗b2?! ♘a3 30.e5 ♘h6!± **29...♗d5** 29...♗h5 30.g4+– traps the knight. **30.♗b2! ♘a4** 30...♗a3
31.♗b8 and the rook on e8 is unprotected since the knight has been forced to move from f6:
31...♗xc1 32.♗xe8† ♘f8 33.♗xc1+– ✓ **31.♗xd5!** ♘xd5 **32.♗b4!** 32.♗xe7†?? ♘xe7 33.♗c8†
♗e8+– **32...♗a2** 33.♗xe7†! ♔h8 33...♗xe7 34.♗c8† ♘f8 35.♗b8+– ✓ **34.♗xd5+– ✓**

1094. Viswanathan Anand – Predrag Nikolic, Groningen (2) 1997

27.♗xd7! 27.♗b4?! ♘xb4 28.♗xb4 ♗xc7 29.♗d2!± **27...♗xd7 28.♗b4!** Winning the queen.
28...♗xb4 After 28...♗f5 29.g4+– the queen is trapped. **29.♗xb4+– ✓**

Viswanathan Anand (on Kasparov's 1996 match victory over Deep Blue)

I'll take my five positions per second any day, thank you.

1095. Friso Nijboer – Viswanathan Anand, Wijk aan Zee 1998

17...♗xc3! **18.♗d3** a) 18.bxc3 ♗d5 19.♗xd5 (19.♗h3 ♗xc3†–+) 19...exd5!–+ ✓ The bishop protects h3 (19...♗xd5?? 20.♗h3 is mating). b) 18.♗xc3 ♘xc3 19.bxc3 is simply winning for Black, since White no longer has any threats on the h-file. **18...♗xd3** Or 18...♗a4!–+. **19.cxd3**
♗g4 20.♗h3 ♗h6+– Black defends and wins, since he can afford to give back one piece.

1096. Viswanathan Anand – Alexei Shirov, Monaco (rapid) 2000

22.f6! 22.♗g4 f6± **22...gxsf6 23.♗xh7†** Also full points for the following line: 23.♗g4† ♔h8
24.♗xh7 fxe5 25.♗h5! f6 26.♗g6† (or similarly 26.♗f5†) 26...♗h7 (26...♗g8 27.♗h3!+)–
27.♗xh7†– **23...♗xh7 24.♗h5† ♔g8 25.♗g4†! 25.♗h3 ♗e4** leads nowhere. **25...♗h7 26.♗g5!✓**
26.♗hf1! fxe5 27.♗f5!–+ is also enough for full points. **26...♗h8 27.♗xf6 ♘f8 28.♗f3!** Bringing the knight into the attack decides the game. Instead, the game went 28.♗h5†?! ♘h6 29.♗xh6†
♗xh6 30.♗xh8 ♗e4±, giving Shirov the opportunity to eventually turn things around, and win.
28...♗h6 29.♗g5 ♘g8 30.♗f4!–+

1097. Viswanathan Anand – Judit Polgar, Leon (advanced 1) 2000

24.♘e1! Other moves are good enough for an advantage, but pinning the e-pawn steps up the pressure and wins. The threat is to take on f5. Not 24.♗f6†? ♜xf6 25.♗xf6 ♖xd6±. 24...♝xd6 24...♝f7 25.♗xf5 ♖xd6 transposes and 24...exd5? runs into: 25.♗xe8 ♜xe8 26.♗g7 mate ✓ 25.♗xf5! White threatens to take on g6 and Black can't defend. 25...♝f7 26.♗xg6! ♗xg6 26...hxg6 27.♗h8 mate 27.♗f5! ✓ e5 28.♗xe5?! Better would have been 28.♗xe5! ♜xe5 29.♗xe5 ♖xd5 30.cxd5 ♖xd5 31.♗xg6† and wins. 28...♝xd5 29.cxd5 ♜xe5 30.♗xe5+– White failed to convert his winning advantage.

1098. Viswanathan Anand – Evgeny Bareev, Shenyang (2) 2000

32.g4! Preparing to dislodge the king from e6, giving White the needed time to get the pawns sufficiently advanced. 32.b5? ♖cd8 33.c6 looks like a tactical solution, but it fails: 33...♝xd5 34.♗xd5 ♖xd5 35.c7 ♔d7 36.♗xd5 e3!+– Another inferior option is: 32.♗e3 ♖xd4† 33.♗xd4 ♖d8† 34.♗c4 ♖d3† 32...♝g7 32...♝f7 33.b5+– 33.♗e3 ✓ A possible way, but not as good, is 33.h3 h5 34.g5. The idea is that 34...♝d7 35.♗d1 ♖cd8 36.c6!± works for White when there is a second passed pawn; White gets a good queen ending. But 33.g5? ♖d7! still gives White problems. 33...fxg4 34.♗d6† 34.♗xe4† also wins. 34...♝f7 35.♗f5! Winning the exchange, when the queenside pawns and the active pieces will decide. The game ended quickly: 35...e3 36.♗xg7 ♘e8 37.♗xe8 e2 38.♗f6† 1–0

1099. Sergey Karjakin – Viswanathan Anand, Wijk aan Zee 2006

25...♝c8! 26.♗xe7 ♔c4! 26...♝xa3? 27.bxa3 ♜xa3 (27...♝c4 28.♗a7+–) 28.♗a7!+– After the knight move, an intuitive evaluation that Black's attack is promising seems reasonable, however there is also counterplay to take care of. 27.g6! 27.♗c5 ♘xa3! 28.♗xa3 (28.bxa3 ♖xc5! with a winning attack, but not 28...♝xa3†? 29.♔c1! ♖xc5† 30.♔d2 ♖c2† 31.♔e3†) 28...♝xa3† 29.bxa3 ♜xa3 Black's attack is decisive. 30.♗d2 b2 (or 30...♝a8+–) 31.♗xb2 ♖d3† 32.♔a1 ♘a8† 33.♔a2 ♜c3† 34.♔b1 ♘b8† With mate. 27...hxg6! ✓ Black loses after 27...fxg6? 28.f6 and 27...♝xa3? 28.gxf7† ♔h8 29.f8=♕† ♖xf8 30.bxa3. Without the rook on c8, White can defend. 28.fxg6 ♔xa3† Also winning is: 28...♝xa3 29.♗xf7† (29.gxf7† ♔h7!+) 29...♔h8 30.bxa3 ♔xa3†+– 29.bxa3 ♘xa3 30.gxf7† ♔h7!+– The point behind exchanging on g6.

1100. Lazaro Bruzon – Viswanathan Anand, Leon 2006

20.♗h5! ♔xe5 20...♝xe5 21.♗xh7† (or 21.fxe5 h6 22.exd6+–) 21...♔f7 22.fxe5 ♘h8 23.exd6 ♘xh7 (23...♝d7 24.♗xh8 ♘xh8 25.♗xh8+–) 24.dxc7+– 21.♗xe5! Not 21.♗xh7†? ♔f7 22.fxe5 ♘h8+– or 21.dxe5?! ♘b6†! 22.♔h1 ♔f7= when Black is ready to capture the knight if it goes to c4. 21...♝xc2 21...♔f7 22.♗c4! ✓ The only winning move, protecting against ...♝xc2 and threatening ♔d6† followed by taking on c8. (22.♗xh7? ♘h8+–) 22...♝cd8 23.g4+– 22.♗xh7†? ♔f7 23.♗g3! 23.♗c4? ♘xc4 is not as clear, and White still needs to find 24.♗g3!±. And 23.♗h6?! ♘e7 24.♗f6† ♔e8 25.♗xg7 ♘g8!± also fails to win. 23...♝xd2 23...♝xb2 24.♗xg6† (24.♗xg6? ♘xd4† 25.♔h1 ♘xe5+–) 24...♔e7 25.♗g5†! ♔e8 26.♗h5†! ♔d8 27.♗xg7 ♘xd4† 28.♔h1 ♘c7 29.♗h4† (29.♗g5† is the same) 29...♔c8 30.♗xc7† ♔xc7 31.♗e7†+– Yes, you need to find all these moves to get a winning position (but not before playing the first move). It's easier after: 23...♝g8 24.♗xg6† ♔e7 25.♔c1+– 24.♗xg6†? ♔e7 25.♗xg7†? (25.♗h7 ♘f7 26.♗xg7 ♘cf8=) 25...♔f7† In the game White concluded his attack in the most efficient way: 24...♝g8 25.♗xe6! ♔xe6 26.♗xf5†! ♔e7 27.♗f7† ♔d8 28.e6! 1–0 It's mate on d7.

1101. Viswanathan Anand – Loek van Wely, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2007

20.gxf7†! ♕h8 20...♜xf7 21.♕xa8†– ✓ 21.♗xg7†! 21.♕e6± 21...♗xg7 21...♝xd5 22.♕xh7 mate ✓ 22.♗g1† ♕h8 23.♗h6! Black cannot protect himself without massive material losses. 23...♝g4?! 23...♝g8 fails to 24.fgx8=♕† ♜xg8 25.♕xg8†! ♜xg8 26.♗g7 mate ✓ and 23...♝xf7 24.♕xf7 ✓ is also plain lost. 24.♗xg4 ♜xf7 25.♕xa8†! 1–0 Not 25.♕xf7?? ♜g5†–+.

1102. Viswanathan Anand – Magnus Carlsen, Nice (blindfold) 2008

The pawn on c7 seems lost, but through powerful play it becomes the star. **27.c5!** 27.f3 ♜xc7 28.fxe4± 27...bxcc5 27...b5?! is simply bad, for instance: 28.a4 bxa4 29.b5+– **28.b5!** cxcc5 28...♜xc7 29.b6+– ✓ **29.♝xb5+–** ✓ The powerhouse on c7 gives White a winning advantage. After 29...♜xa2 strongest is rerouting the bishop to h3 with 30.♗f1.

1103. Viswanathan Anand – Alexander Morozevich, Mainz (rapid) 2008

22.♝xf4! 22.♗h6† gxh6 23.♝xf4± when Black is not forced to take on f4. **22...exf4 23.♝h6†! ♕h8** 23...gxh6 24.♕g4† ♕h8 (24...♝g7 25.♗h5 with mate) 25.♕f5! ✓ To avoid mate, Black must give back the material. 25...♝f6 26.♕xf6† ♜g8 27.♕f5 f6 28.♗h5+– White still has a crushing attack. **24.♝xf7†** ✓ **♝g8 25.♝xh7†!** The game move 25.♝e4± led to victory later, but it is not sufficient for a clear win. However, 25.♜xe8 ♜xe8 26.♝xh7† and 25.♕d3 g6 26.♗b3 both win. **25...♝xh7 26.♝g5† ♕g8 27.♗b3†** Or 27.♜xe8 ♜xe8 28.♗b3†. **27...♝h8 28.♕f7+–** Black cannot put up a satisfactory defence.

1104. Viswanathan Anand – Peter Svidler, Moscow 2009

29.b4! f5 a) 29...♜c8 30.bxc5 ♜xc5 and one clear-cut way to win is: 31.♖exd4 ♜xc3 32.♕d8† ♜xd8 33.♖xd8† ♜g7 34.♕xb6+– b) 29...♜fd7 30.bxc5 ♜xc5 31.♕xf6† ✓ is mating (or 31.♖exd4 ♜xd4 32.♗e2+–). **30.bxc5!** 30.♗h4 ♜fd7± **30...fxe4 31.♕xf7 ♜xc5** Instead the game ended after: 31...♝f3† 32.♕xf3 1–0 **32.♕f6† ♕g8 33.♕xd8†+–** ✓

1105. Luke McShane – Viswanathan Anand, London 2013

19.♝d3! ♜h5 Two alternatives:

a) 19...♝e5 20.♝xe5 ♜xe5 21.♝g5! (not 21.♝f6†? gxf6 22.♕xb7 ♜d6± with some counterplay) 21...♜c7 (21...♝xg5 22.♕xb7+– and since Black's queen had to move, his counterplay is slower) 22.♝g6! fxe6 23.♝xe6+– White has a winning attack with ♜fe1 and ♜d5/g4.

b) 19...♜a5 20.♝g5!– Double threat against b7 and f7. (Instead 20.♝f6†? gxf6 21.♕xb7 e5! gives Black a double threat: to capture the bishop and to defend the rook from b6, as the other knight on b8 isn't hanging anymore. 22.♕xa8 exf4∞)

20.♝f6†! gxf6 21.♕xb7 ✓ White is at least clearly better with the bishops and an extra exchange, although Black managed to turn around this rapid game.

1106. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Viswanathan Anand, Khanty-Mansiysk 2014

26...♝g4! 26...♜e2 27.h3± and Black can't take on h3. **27.♛c2** 27.h4 ♜e3 28.♝xe3 ♜xe3–+ ✓ White's kingside is falling apart. **27...c5!** Driving away one defender or another. **28.♝xc5** 28.♝c3 is met by 28...♝e3–+ ✓ or 28...♝xc3 29.bxc3 ♜e3–+. Nor does 28.♝e5 save White: 28...c4! 29.♝d4 ♜c5+– **28...♝c8+–** ✓ Black wins a piece on c5. Also working is 28...♝xc5 29.♝xc5 ♜c8 followed by ...♜xc5. But note that after 30.♝d1 Black has to start by defending against the back-rank mate: 30...♝f6+–

1107. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave – Viswanathan Anand, Leuven (rapid) 2016

26... $\mathbb{Q}xf2!!$ 26... $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ brings Black nothing: 27. $\mathbb{W}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}h4$ 28. $\mathbb{W}b3\pm$ (or 28. $\mathbb{W}a3\pm$) 27. $\mathbb{Q}xf2$ $\mathbb{W}h2\!\dagger$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{W}g2!$ Keeping control over the second rank. Not 28... $\mathbb{Q}xf3\dagger$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{W}xh3\dagger$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}xh6$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}f5!+-$ or 28... $\mathbb{W}xh3$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}f5!+-$. 29. $\mathbb{W}e2$ With the queen on g2, White can't save himself with 29. $\mathbb{Q}f5$ due to: 29... $\mathbb{H}e8\dagger+-$ ✓ 29. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}e5!$ 30. $\mathbb{W}e2$ (30. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ is simply crushing) 30... $\mathbb{Q}xf3\dagger$ (or 30... $\mathbb{Q}xd4\dagger$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{W}xh3\dagger$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xh6\dagger$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}xf1$ 34. $\mathbb{W}xf1$ $\mathbb{W}xg7$ with a winning endgame advantage) 31. $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4\dagger$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3\dagger$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}d1$ $\mathbb{W}xe2\dagger$ Black has a winning endgame. 29... $\mathbb{Q}xf3\dagger$ 29... $\mathbb{W}xh3$ is the only other decent move, but it offers merely a clear advantage. 30. $\mathbb{W}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}xd4\dagger$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{W}xf3+-$

Ruslan Ponomariov (on how to concentrate)

Drinking some water at a critical moment, when your lips are drying out from the tension, can really help.

Chess in Translation (2011)

1108. Ruslan Ponomariov – Jop Delemarre, Siofok 1996

21. $\mathbb{Q}a1!$ White instead gained a winning position after mutual mistakes: 21. $\mathbb{Q}c1?$ $\mathbb{W}b2?$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}d1$ (22. $\mathbb{Q}a4!+-$) 22... $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 23. $\mathbb{W}e3$ $c3\dagger$ (23... $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xe3$ $\mathbb{Q}xh1\pm$) 24. $\mathbb{Q}exc3$ $\mathbb{W}xc1\dagger?!$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xc1+-$ And he won some moves later. 21... $\mathbb{W}b2$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}hc1!$ White threatens 23. $\mathbb{Q}a4$. Not 22. $\mathbb{Q}hb1?$ $\mathbb{W}xc2\dagger$. 22... $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ a) 22... $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}a2$ $\mathbb{W}b3$ (23... $\mathbb{Q}xa2$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xc2+-$ ✓ and White takes the knight as well) 24. $\mathbb{Q}cxc2$ $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xc2+-$ ✓ b) Black can save his queen with 22... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ but making a passive move when a piece down makes it a hopeless position. 23. $\mathbb{Q}a2$ Or 23. $\mathbb{Q}ab1$ or 23. $\mathbb{Q}cb1$. 23... $\mathbb{Q}xd4\dagger$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ $\mathbb{Q}xf3\dagger$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}e3$ ✓ White is much better. Black will have to give up a pawn immediately to avoid losing the knight, and the queenside pawns cannot all be saved. 25... $d4\dagger$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $dxc3$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}xc3+-$

1109. Veselin Topalov – Ruslan Ponomariov, Sofia 2006

32. $\mathbb{Q}xf6!!$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xd5?$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5+-$ (32... $\mathbb{W}xa1?$ loses to both 33. $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}e4$ and 33. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $fxg5$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}e5\dagger$ $f6$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}e4)$ 32... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 33.d4!! $\mathbb{W}xa2$ There is no other choice against the threat of 34. $\mathbb{Q}b1$. 34. $\mathbb{Q}xa2+-$ ✓ (1–0, 65 moves)

1110. Ruslan Ponomariov – Pavel Ponkratov, Berlin (blitz) 2015

31... $e3\dagger$ 31... $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ $\mathbb{W}f3\dagger=$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe2\dagger$ Instead the game continued 32... $\mathbb{W}f5\dagger?$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xe3?$ $\mathbb{W}f3\dagger$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}d2$ $\mathbb{W}xe2\dagger$ (0–1, 64 moves). However, 33. $\mathbb{Q}c3!$ holds for White, due to the threat of $\mathbb{Q}e7\dagger$. 33. $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ Not taking the knight leaves Black a piece up. 33... $\mathbb{W}f2\dagger$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{W}d2\dagger$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}e4$ $e2$ White will run out of checks. 36. $\mathbb{Q}e7\dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 37. $\mathbb{W}e5\dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 38. $\mathbb{W}f5\dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 39. $\mathbb{W}e5\dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}f7+-$ ✓

1111. Ruslan Ponomariov – Nigel Short, Madrid 2016

24. $\mathbb{Q}xg6\dagger!$ All Black's minor pieces are on the queenside, so an all-out attack should be considered. Not 24. $\mathbb{Q}h3?$ $\mathbb{W}f7+-$. 24... $hxg6$ 25. $\mathbb{W}xg6\dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ White just needs one more piece in the attack, or to get the bishop to f6. 26. $\mathbb{Q}h3!$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}f8=$ 26... $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 26... $\mathbb{W}e7$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}g5!+-$ ✓ (27. $\mathbb{Q}e6$ $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}f7$ is also winning) 27. $\mathbb{W}f6\dagger$ 27. $\mathbb{W}xe8\dagger$ is also mating, but not as quickly (full points). 27... $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}e6\dagger$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 29. $\mathbb{W}f8$ mate ✓

Rustam Kasimdzhanov

*There can also be tactics that do not work, or tactics
which are refuted by other tactics.*

The Path to Tactical Strength (2007)

1112. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Josep Lopez Martinez, Yerevan 1999

10.♕xe6! fxe6 10...♗b4 11.0–0! gives White a winning position (1–0, 41 moves), and the tempting 11.♗xf7†?! ♗xf7 12.e6†± is also quite good. **11.♗xe6 ♘xe5** 11...♘c6 12.♗d5!+– ✓ White's attack is winning. **12.♗c7†+–** ✓ Picking up the rook (or White could do the same thing after first exchanging queens).

1113. Valeriy Neverov – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Hoogeveen 1999

22...♗xc4! **23.e4?!** 23.♗xc4 ♘b1 24.♗d2 ♗xc4† ✓ White has accepted the loss of a pawn, so it's not a critical variation – but it's still possible to be accurate. **23...♗xf4!** 23...♗xd2 and 23...♗d4† are clearly better for Black. **24.♗xc4 ♘d4†!** **25.♗f2** After 25.♗ce3 one winning line is 25...♗xg2 26.♗xg2 ♗xe4. Black has many pawns and White's king is open. **25...♗b1!–+** White's position is falling apart (0–1, 40 moves).

1114. Igor Khenkin – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Moscow (4) 2001

23...♗xb2! Giving up the queen for plenty of other stuff. The alternatives are worse for Black. **24.♗xa5 ♗xc3** Both rooks cannot be protected, and White's counterplay is tamed by Black's continuing threats. **25.♗xh6 ♗xe1!** 25...♗xa5? 26.♗e5+– (26.♗xe6 ♗d2 [26...fxe6 27.♗g6†+–] 27.♗xd2 fxe6±) **26.♗a3?!** 26.♗xf6? ♗xa5+– ✓ is easy, but 26.♗c5 is trickier. Black should play 26...♗e8† to protect the king. **26...♗b4!** ✓ **27.♗b3 ♗f8!–+** 27...♗e7† **28.♗xf6?** ♗c1† 0–1 Mate is coming.

1115. Alexander Berelowitsch – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Germany 2005

19.♗xe5! Winning a centre pawn with tempo is often a good idea. 19.bxa5 ♘ad8 gives Black compensation due to the threats ...♗xe1, ...e5–e4 and ...♗b4 (keeping the pawn). **19...♘d8** 19...♗xe5? 20.♗xd5+– ✓; 19...♗d6 20.♗xa5± ✓ **20.♗xe7!** 20.♗xa5 ♗xb4± is good enough for full points. **20...♗xe7** **21.♗xd3+–** ✓ White's activity and Black's misplaced knight on a5 actually gives White a winning advantage. The game nicely illustrates the hopelessness of Black's position. **21...♗xb4** **22.♗g5 g6** **23.♗xc3 ♘xa4** **24.♗a3 ♘fe8** **25.♗f3** 1–0 The knight on a5 falls if the queen retreats to protect f7.

Veselin Topalov

There was a moment at the beginning when the machines were a positive, but lately we've been passing to the other extreme. Now it seems that a move isn't good unless the machine says so.

1116. Elizbar Ubilava – Veselin Topalov, Ponferrada 1992

13.♗b5! White does not win any material immediately, but **♗d6** followed by **♗b3†** is a winning threat. **13...bxc5** **13...cxb5?** **14.♕xa8+–✓**; **13...♔e7** **14.♗d6+–✓** and such a strong knight will cost an exchange at the very least. **14.♗d6** Or **14.♗c7+–**. **14...♔e7** **15.♕e3!+–** Instead the game continued **15.♗b3†? ♔f7** (**15...c4!=**) **16.♗xf7±** and White won eventually.

1117. Veselin Topalov – Miguel Illescas Cordoba, Linares 1995

20.♗c7! White creates threats against d6 and e6, and the black bishop can't hold both d5 and f5. **20...exf4** White is not afraid of a sacrifice: **20...♗xg3†** **21.hxg3 ♗xg3†** **22.♗g2+–✓** A better try is **20...♗c4?!** **21.♗xf5** (**21.♗xc4? exf4!** with an initiative) **21...♗xf5**, but White seems to be winning after **22.♗xf5**. **21.♗g2!** **♔h3** **21...♔e7** **22.♗xe6 ♗xe6** **23.♗b3+–✓** **22.♗xf4!** A necessary move to make the combination sound. Instead **22.♗xe6? fxg3** **23.hxg3 ♗e3†!** completely turns the tables: **24.♗f2** (**24.♗xe3 ♗xg3†** **25.♗h1 ♗h3 mate**) **24...♗xf2†+–** Also misguided is: **22.♗xf4? ♗xf4** **23.♗xf4 ♗xg3†** **24.hxg3 ♗xg3†** **25.♗h1 ♗h3†** **26.♗g1 ♗f6†** **22...♗xf4** **22...♗xc7** **23.♗h4+–** **23.♗xf4 ♗xg3†✓** **24.♗h1!+–** Wherever the black queen moves, White can play **25.♗cxe6** with a winning position (and there are also other good moves). **24.hxg3?!** may be slightly better for White after **24...♗xg3†** **25.♗g2 ♗e5!** **26.♗xe6 ♗f3†** **27.♗xf3! ♗xf3.**

Magnus Carlsen

Of course, analysis can sometimes give more accurate results than intuition but usually it's just a lot of work. I normally do what my intuition tells me to do. Most of the time spent thinking is just to double-check.

1118. Magnus Carlsen – Peter Heine Nielsen, Malmo/Copenhagen 2004

32.g6! Opening up for the rook on d5 and queen on e3. **32...fxg6**

a) **32...♗xb2†** **33.♔a1 ✓** (**33.♗xb2?? ♗c2†** **34.♔a1 ♗xb2 mate**) **33...♗xg6** **34.♗dh5+–** (or **34.♗g5+–** or a couple of other moves)

b) After the game move **32...f6** White can win in many ways, for instance **33.♗dh5 ♗f8** **34.♗h8† ♗e7** **35.♗xc8 ♗xc8** **36.♔a3†+–**, picking up a piece to start with.

c) **32...♗xg6** **33.♗g5!+–✓** and the attack crashes through on g7, while Black's attack stalled by bringing the queen to g6 (or **33.♗xg7+–** also works).

33.♗h8†! ♗xh8 **33...♗f7** **34.♗f4† ✓** with an attack that mates in several ways. **34.♔h6† ♗g8** **35.♗xg7 mate ✓**

1119. Magnus Carlsen – Kateryna Lagno, Lausanne 2004

21...g6! Removing the threat on d5. **22.♗h6** \square g4 \square xg2+–, or 22... \square xe3+–, or 22... \square xg4 23.hxg4 \square xg2+–. **22...♗xg2!** ✓ Winning a pawn due to the discovered check. **23.♔xg2 ♗f4†!** The game continuation 23... \square f8 24. \square h4 \square xe3† is also winning (0–1, 53 moves). But 23... \square xe3† 24. \square g1 \square f8 25. \square xf7†!– is not so clear. **24.♗g1** 24. \square f1 \square g5!! 25. \square xg5 \square xh3† 26. \square g1 \square g2 mate **24...g5!** 25. \square xf7† \square h8+– Black wins the queen.

1120. Kjetil Stokke – Magnus Carlsen, Oslo 2006

30...♗xe5! **31.♗xe5** 31. \square xe5 \square xf3!–+ ✓ The mating threat makes the queen untouchable, leaving Black a piece up (but not 31... \square c1† 32. \square e1–). **31...♗xh3†!** **32.♗g1 ♗e2†!** ✓ Black's attack is devastating, and 32... \square h5 also gives Black a winning attack. **33.♗f1 ♗f4** **34.♗b8† ♗g7** **35.♗f3 ♗h1†** **36.♗g1 ♗xg1†** **37.♗xg2 ♗xg2 mate**

1121. Peter Heine Nielsen – Magnus Carlsen, Faaborg (blindfold) 2007

26.d6! \square g7 26... \square xd6 27. \square d5†! (27. \square g5†? \square h8 28. \square d2 \square e6=) 27... \square h8 (27... \square e6 and White wins a piece after 28. \square g5†) 28. \square xf8† \square xf8 29. \square xe5† \square g7 30. \square b8† ✓ with mate. **27.♗d5† ♗h8** **28.♗xf8† ♗xf8** **29.♗xe5†** 29. \square g5? h6= was the game. **29...♗g7** **30.♗f4±** ✓ Keeping everything protected and the black queen passive, as it can't go to f6 (without this move, it would not have been good to push the d-pawn).

1122. Magnus Carlsen – Michal Krasenkow, Gausdal 2007

27.♗xe6†! \square xe6 **28.♗xc6 ♗b3** 28... \square d8 29. \square xd2 \square xd6 30. \square xa4 \square xd4 and the bishop pair and an extra pawn gives White at least a clear advantage. **29.d5!** Saving the d-pawn. **29...♗e5** 29... \square xa1 30.dxe6+– ✓ **30.♗b1+–** White is a pawn up and has the bonus of a positional advantage.

1123. Magnus Carlsen – Teimour Radjabov, Porto Vecchio (5 Armageddon) 2007

20...♗xf4†! 20... \square a1† led to a win after 21. \square c2? \square b3† 22. \square d2 \square xb2†+– (0–1, 34 moves). But 21. \square d2! \square xb2† 22. \square e1 \square xf4 23. \square xd7! \square xd7 24. \square xf4†– would have left White still fighting. **21.♗xf4** 21. \square xf4† \square xc6+– **21...♗e5!** Also winning is: 21... \square a1† 22. \square d2 \square xb2† 23. \square e1 \square e5 24.dxe5 \square xd1† 25. \square xd1 \square xc3† 26. \square f1 \square xc6+– **22.dxe5** Moving the queen would have lost the bishop. **22...♗a1†** **23.♗c2 ♗b3†!** **24.♗xb3 ♗a4 mate** ✓

1124. Peter Svidler – Magnus Carlsen, Moscow (blitz) 2008

37.♗g6! A multipurpose move preparing 38. \square g4, 38. \square xe6† and 38. \square e4. However, it's important to keep control over Black's tactical tricks. **37...♗f4**

a) 37... \square fe8 38. \square g4 \square c7 39. \square e4 ✓ with a winning attack. After 39... \square xe5 strongest is bringing the last piece into the attack with: 40. \square d3+–

b) After 37... \square c3 38. \square xe6† (38. \square g4±) 38... \square h7 it is important to kill Black's counterplay with the accurate 39. \square g4! leaving White with a winning position due to: 39... \square xd2 40. \square g6† \square h8 41. \square xg7 mate ✓

38.♗xf4! \square xf4 38... \square xd2 39. \square xe6†+– ✓ **39.♗xd8†** Or even stronger is: 39.gxf4 \square xd2 40. \square e8† \square h7 41. \square e4† g6 42. \square xg6† \square h8 43. \square h7 mate **39...♗xd8** **40.gxf4+–** ✓

The Woodpecker Method

1125. Leinier Dominguez Perez – Magnus Carlsen, Linares 2009

29... $\mathbb{Q}b5!$ 29... $\mathbb{W}a6$ 30. $\mathbb{W}d2=$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}2e3$ 30. $\mathbb{E}e1$ $\mathbb{E}xb3!$ 31. $\mathbb{A}xb3$ $\mathbb{Q}d3\#$ –+ ✓ 30... $\mathbb{E}f2$ –+ ✓ The threats of ... $\mathbb{W}c6$, ... $\mathbb{Q}d3\#$ and ... $\mathbb{E}cc2$ are too much to handle for White in conjunction with the resource ... $\mathbb{E}f1\#$ in some situations. 30... $\mathbb{E}f1\#$? 31. $\mathbb{E}e1$ is only unclear. The game move is also acceptable: 30... $\mathbb{Q}d3\#$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}a1$ $\mathbb{W}xd4?$ (stronger is 31... $\mathbb{E}f2!$ 32. $\mathbb{E}e1$ $\mathbb{E}xb2!$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ $\mathbb{E}c2\#$ 34. $\mathbb{Q}a1$ $\mathbb{W}c6!$ –+ with a double threat: ... $\mathbb{W}c3$ and ... $\mathbb{W}g2)$ 32. $\mathbb{E}xe6$ $\mathbb{E}f1\#$ 33. $\mathbb{E}e1$ Black has a large advantage (0–1, 54 moves).

1126. Anish Giri – Magnus Carlsen, Paris (blitz) 2016

21. $\mathbb{Q}xe6!$ $\mathbb{E}xe7$ 21...fxe6 22. $\mathbb{E}xd7\pm$ ✓ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xg7!$ $\mathbb{W}b7?$ A double threat against f3 and g7 (since the knight on d7 is protected). 22... $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 23. $\mathbb{E}xd7!$ (the move order 23. $\mathbb{W}g4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 24. $\mathbb{E}xd7$ runs into 24... $\mathbb{E}xe3$ or 24... $\mathbb{W}c8)$ 23... $\mathbb{E}xd7$ 24. $\mathbb{W}g4\#$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 25. $\mathbb{E}xd7$ ✓ Regaining the rook, when the two healthy pawns extra and his safer king leaves White winning. 23. $\mathbb{Q}d4!$ –+ ✓ Pinning the e4-bishop so that ... $\mathbb{Q}f3$ is not possible while simultaneously protecting the g7-knight. Here too, White is two pawns up for no compensation. 23. $\mathbb{W}g4$ $\mathbb{Q}f3$ 24. $\mathbb{W}h4$ $\mathbb{E}xe3$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}f5$ is a good try, but Black can defend with 25... $\mathbb{E}e6$ 26. $\mathbb{W}g5\#$ $\mathbb{E}g6\#$ and things are not so clear.

1127. Gadir Guseinov – Magnus Carlsen, Internet (blitz 1.3) 2017

27... $\mathbb{Q}c2!!$ –+ Clearing a path to f2 with tempo. Since the c2-square is defended twice, considering 27... $\mathbb{Q}c2$ as a candidate is the difficult part; after that, the variations are not so difficult to calculate.

a) 27... $\mathbb{Q}g6$ is slow by comparison, but still gains an advantage. For example: 28. $\mathbb{G}xf4$ $\mathbb{W}xf4$ 29. $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{W}xd2$ 30. $\mathbb{W}xd2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2\#$

b) 27... $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ $gxh3\#$ was the game, when White is not yet dead.

28. $\mathbb{Q}xc2$ 28. $\mathbb{W}xc2$ is mated most quickly by 28... $\mathbb{Q}e2\#$ (though 28... $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$ would get there two moves more slowly). 28. $\mathbb{W}xg4$ must be met by: 28... $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$ –+ ✓ Otherwise White is better. 29. $\mathbb{W}xh3$ $\mathbb{W}xf2\#$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{W}xe1$ White will lose masses of material, then get mated. For example: 31. $\mathbb{E}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{E}xf3$ 28... $\mathbb{Q}h3\#$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ Of course 29. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}xf2\#$ is a winning fork. 29... $\mathbb{W}xf2\#$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $gxh3\#$ –+ ✓ When playing 27... $\mathbb{Q}c2$, it was essential to realize this position is winning. The threat of mate on g2 leaves White no time to save the d2-knight. 31. $\mathbb{W}g1$ $\mathbb{W}xd2$ Black is only a pawn up, but it's a forced mate. For example: 32. $\mathbb{E}a2$ $\mathbb{W}e2$ Threatening checks on f3 or e4.

1128. Magnus Carlsen – Wesley So, Internet (blitz 3.32) 2017

24.¤be1!+– Preparing the queen check on h8 by covering the black king's escape route. For White, 24.¤fe1 is the right square and the right rook, though you need to see a few key lines to understand why.

In the game Carlsen tried to do it all with checks: 24.¤h8†? ¤e7 25.¤fe1† ¤e6 The position was messy, but had he played 26.¤h4!± then White would still be a touch better.

Instead, the “wrong rook” move 24.¤fe1? allows 24...¤e6± when, unlike the main line, White cannot lift the e1-rook, as it would leave its colleague on b1 hanging.

24...¤xe1 24...¤e6 is refuted most simply by 25.¤e3!+– ✓ with the idea ¤xe6† ...fxe6, ¤f3 skewering the queen (also winning, but in messier style, is 25.g4+– with the ideas 25...¤xg4† 26.¤xg4 ¤xg4 27.¤h7†! and 25...¤g6 26.f4! threatening f4-f5). **25.¤xe1 ¤e6 26.¤h8†!** ✓ Creating an annoying pin on the b8-knight. The second-best 26.f4± secures an advantage, but is too much weaker than the text move to be worthy of any credit. **26...¤e7 27.h4!+–** Finding this slow move, defending the knight and creating luft, would be a brilliant achievement for a non-computer. 27.¤xg7 is not such a bad move, but Black can fight on after: 27...¤d6! 28.h4+ The obvious 27.¤xe6? throws away all White's advantage after: 27...fxe6 28.¤xg7† ¤d6= 27...¤d5 Trying to unpin the b8-knight. Unlike the 27.¤xg7 line above, 27...¤d6 no longer works for Black: 28.¤xe6 (or the check on d8 first) 28...fxe6 29.¤d8† (29.¤d1† is similar) 29...¤c6 30.¤c8†+– Black is busted after 30...¤b6 31.¤xe6† or 30...¤d6 31.¤d1† ¤e5 32.¤b7 (or many other 32nd moves). **28.¤xg7** 28.c4+– also works. For example: 28...¤d4 29.¤h5 ¤f6 30.¤xe6 fxe6 31.¤d5 is decisive. **28...¤d8** Or 28...¤d6 can be killed most swiftly by: 29.¤xe6! (the obvious 29.h5 should win, just not at once) 29...fxe6 30.c4!+– For example: 30...¤xc4 31.¤g3† ¤e7 32.¤d1 And the attack wins far too much material. **29.h5!+–** The h-pawn is going all the way.

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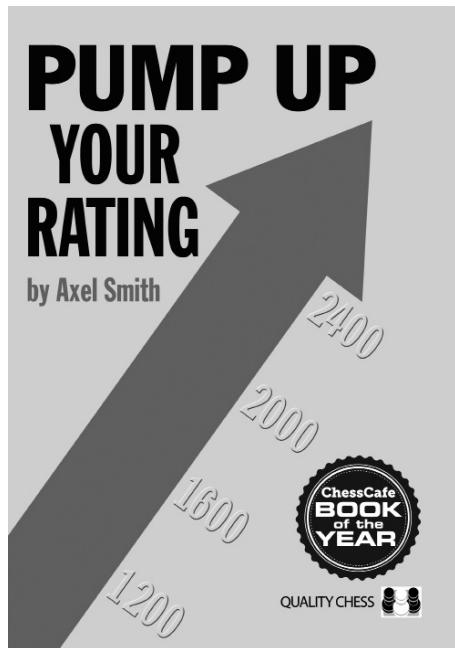
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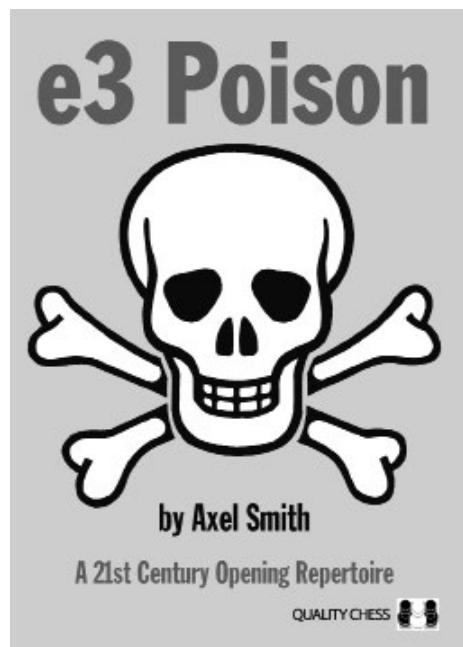
Any man in the street knows how to increase his physical strength, but among most chess players confusion reigns when it comes to improving their playing strength. Axel Smith's training methods have guided his friends, teammates and pupils to grandmaster norms and titles. Hard work will be required, but Axel Smith knows how you can **Pump Up Your Rating**.

Every area of chess is covered – opening preparation, through middlegame play, to endgame technique. Smith delves into both the technical and psychological sides of chess, and shows how best to practise and improve.

Using his methods on himself, in the space of ten years Axel Smith improved from a rating of 2093 to becoming a Grandmaster.

When Axel Smith was chasing his final Grandmaster norm, he decided he needed a change in his White opening repertoire. Instead of his usual approach of memorizing many concrete moves to try to force an advantage, he would focus on pawn structures and typical plans. The result was a repertoire based on a set-up with the moves d4, $\mathbb{Q}f3$, c4 and e3. It helped Axel Smith to the GM title, and led to the creation of **e3 Poison**.

This repertoire can be played using many different move orders, and Smith explains their pros and cons. The reader will not have to memorize many moves, but hard work is still essential to understand the themes, so many exercises are provided to test the reader. Smith shows that a practical repertoire can also be a grandmaster repertoire – it is all about understanding the positional themes and plans.



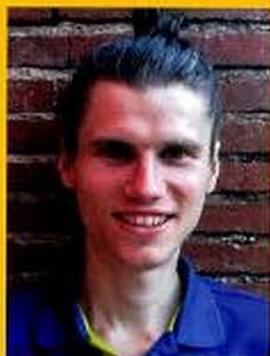
THE WOODPECKER METHOD

BY AXEL SMITH & HANS TIKKANEN

The Woodpecker Method is the name given by Axel Smith to a training system developed by his compatriot and co-author Hans Tikkanen. After training with his method in 2010, Tikkanen achieved three GM norms within a seven-week period.

The quick explanation of the Woodpecker Method is that you need to solve a large number of puzzles in a row; then solve the same puzzles again and again, only faster. It's not a lazy shortcut to success – hard work is required. But the reward can be re-programming your unconscious mind. Benefits include sharper tactical vision, fewer blunders, better play when in time trouble and improved intuition.

This book contains everything you need to carry out your own Woodpecker training. Smith and Tikkanen explain how to get the maximum benefit from the method, before presenting over 1100 puzzles and solutions, all of which have been checked and double-checked for accuracy and suitability.



GM Axel Smith is the award-winning author of *Pump Up Your Rating* and *e3 Poison*, both of which were enthusiastically received by readers and reviewers. Using the Woodpecker as part of his training, as an adult he improved from a rating of 2100 to becoming a Grandmaster.



GM Hans Tikkanen is a four-time Swedish Champion whose live rating peaked over 2600. His interest in chess-improvement methods, and how they work, led him to study for a degree in psychology.

€32.99

ISBN 978-1-78483-055-7



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