

THE MASTERS

BORIS SPASSKY MASTER OF INITIATIVE

Alexander Raetsky

Maxim Chetverik



EVERYMAN CHESS

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Introduction

Boris Spassky was the first player in chess history considered to be universal in his style: good at attack as well as defence; happy to play tactically as well as positionally. Together with Viktor Korchnoi and Anatoly Karpov, he is the only player to have made it all the way through the candidates matches to play for the World Championship more than once.

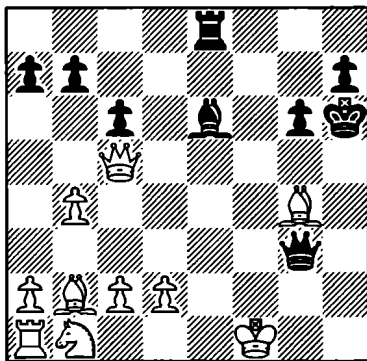
In this book we have selected Spassky's best tactical finishes to give the reader a chance to improve their tactics. Studying the creativity of a great world champion by this method is, we believe, the best way to achieve improvement. For this reason we invite you to study the tactical moments of Boris Spassky's chess career in the form of puzzles. Some will be fairly easy to solve, others rather hard, but all should help to improve your tactical vision and calculating ability.

Those who have read our previous books on Mikhail Tal and Alexander Alekhine will notice a little addition to the format of those. In this book we have added a short chapter entitled 'Missed Opportunities' which includes a few moments in Spassky's career where either he or his opponent failed to spot a tactical chance. We spent a lot of time discussing if we should do this, but eventually decided that it would not be too disrespectful and would also help the reader.

As with the previous books in this series, we have generally given the full gamescore along with the solution to each puzzle. We have done this because we know that a lot of readers like to see how certain positions have arisen. The presentation of the puzzles is again the same and occurs along the following lines:

Kuznetsov-Spassky

Kislovodsk 1960



Black to play. Black's king is unusually placed, but the rest of his pieces are very active. How did Spassky demonstrate that White's king was actually the more vulnerable?

The solution can be found in Chapter Eleven, but there are also tips available (in Chapter Ten) should you get stuck. Here one might read 'look for a way to include all your pieces in the attack'.

While working on this book we have received technical help from Jacob Aagaard and we are very grateful for his assistance.

Maxim Chetverik and Alexander Raetsky,
Voronezh, Russia,
October 2006

Chapter One

Boris Spassky: A Short Biography

On the 30th of January 2007 the tenth World Champion, Boris Spassky, will be 70 years old. His chess career ended a long time ago, but Spassky remains an influential and active figure in the chess world. Spassky's authority stems from the high quality of his champion's title - not the transient title of recent chess history, but a dazzling gold crown from classical chess history. However, even in the ranks of the champions Spassky is distinguished by his unusual approach to chess and by his distinctive personality.

Boris's childhood years were difficult. When he was four years old, the war began. From besieged Leningrad he had to be evacuated; it was during this evacuation that the boy learned to play chess. On his return to Leningrad he, along with his brother and sister, just about survived on the small earnings of his mother. Boris was rescued by Vladimir Zak, his first trainer. Zak not only taught his favourite pupil the subtleties of chess, but also fed him, and in 1948 he secured a state stipend for him. In less than a year the talented young player achieved the 3rd, 2nd and 1st category norms. At the age of 12 he shared first place in the Leningrad Junior Championship and became a candidate master.

As a member of the Leningrad junior team, for three successive years Spassky performed splendidly in the team championship of the country, but until the age of 15 he did not have any significant achievements in individual competitions. In 1952 Boris was unable to break through from the adult Leningrad championship semi-final to the final. However, in order to give his pupil a chance to shine, Zak gave up his place in the final to him. Spassky justified his teacher's hopes - he went through undefeated, finished second, and was awarded the master title.

Zak's joy was overshadowed by his pupil moving over to Alexander Tolush. The practical strength of Spassky's first teacher was no longer sufficient for pro-

ductive work. In addition, Zak's style was rather academic and dogmatic, whereas Tolush was famed for his great imagination in attack. As a result of their joint work, Boris began playing more forcefully. For his age he had a good positional understanding and played the endgame competently. Thus Spassky's play became universal, and this subsequently became his trademark.

Boris Spassky's international debut took place in 1953 in Bucharest. In the very first round the youngster convincingly defeated the great Smyslov. Confident play brought him a share of 4th-6th places with 12 points out of 19. Boris's 16th birthday fell on the closing day of the tournament and he became the youngest international master in the world. It is interesting that his collaboration with Tolush proved to be of mutual benefit - the teacher won the tournament and became a grandmaster.

The young Spassky decided that it was not worth deferring the march to the chess crown. His studies at the Journalism Faculty of Leningrad University were no great burden. The student even found time to practise athletics and, incidentally, to jump a height of 180 centimetres. From the USSR Championship semi-final Spassky broke through to the final, where he finished just half a point behind the winners Geller and Smyslov. Together with Botvinnik, Petrosian and Ilivitsky the young player shared 3rd-6th places and at the first attempt he qualified for the Interzonal Tournament. Before the start of it Spassky easily won the World Junior Championship in Antwerp. Of the future world stars, only Portisch was playing there, but the title, which was being contested for only the third time, was already quite a prestigious one.

In the Interzonal Tournament (Gothenburg 1955) of the 21 participants, ten held the grandmaster title. To qualify for the Candidates Tournament it was necessary to finish no lower than ninth. Not without difficulty (in the last round he had to defeat the experienced Stahlberg with Black), Spassky coped with this task. For his successes he was awarded the title of international grandmaster.

By the age of 18 Spassky's style was largely formed. Later Botvinnik was to comment: 'Spassky is a good psychologist, with a subtle appreciation of the situation, his own strengths, and the strengths of his opponent. He rarely ends up in time-trouble, he is an excellent athlete, and nothing frightens him.' Boris happily went in for sacrifices, although he made a few incorrect sacrifices. As a player he was in general more intuitive than calculating, classical rather than irrational, and practical rather than analytical. In the openings Spassky aimed for diversity, employing both 1 e4 and 1 d4. He had a particular attachment to gambits. In particular, he included in his opening repertoire the anachronistic King's Gambit and achieved brilliant results with it. A position from a splendid win of his with the King's Gambit against Bronstein was even used in the James Bond film *From Russian with Love* (to avoid juridical friction with the author, the film director removed one of the pawns).

Combining fashionable and little-known schemes, Spassky acquired the habit of playing numerous typical positions. It is well known that a player's class depends directly on the number of standard positions that he has mastered. Spassky's progress was restrained only by his laid-back attitude to life and by his dislike for painstaking work at home. Kasparov was to call him 'a Soviet dandy, one of the greatest natural talents in chess history' In the mid-1950s this natural talent still needed to be moulded into shape.

In the 23rd USSR Championship (Leningrad 1956) Spassky shared 1st-3rd places with Averbakh and Taimanov. Moreover, the youngest participant in the championship defeated both his rivals. However, because of illness he was unable to complete his games in the play-off for the gold medal. In the ten-player Candidates Tournament in Amsterdam (1956) after 7 rounds Spassky was in joint last place. But then he improved and in the end he shared 3rd-7th places. Incidentally, Boris inflicted the only defeat on Smyslov, the clear winner of the tournament.

In 1957 the USSR Championship was won by a contemporary of Spassky's - Mikhail Tal. The emergence of the dangerous rival from Riga shook the Leningrad grandmaster's psychological stability, since up till then only players older than himself had finished ahead of him. In 1958, at the USSR Championship in Riga, four qualifying places to the Interzonal Tournament were contested. After 12 rounds, Spassky with 9 points was a point ahead of Petrosian and two ahead of Tal. But in the next five rounds he suffered two defeats with three draws. In the last round a draw with White against Tal would have guaranteed Spassky a match for 4th place with Averbakh, but Boris went in for a determined battle. After missing a winning continuation, his king fell into a mating net and the barrier came down in front of him.

In the 1959 USSR Championship Spassky shared 2nd-3rd places with Tal, but in the next Championship he ended up in the middle of the tournament table. A possible cause of this was the break-up of his marriage with his first wife Zinaida (this marriage produced a daughter Tatiana). Boris was not single for long and he soon made a more successful marriage with Larisa. This happy union lasted for more than ten years and bestowed on the couple a son, Vasily.

Spassky changed not only his wife, but also his trainer. The highly experienced grandmaster Igor Bondarevsky was especially famed for his analytical mastery in the opening and the endgame. Being an authoritative individual, he was able to force his protégé to work seriously and to attune him psychologically. In addition, thanks to his connections with the Committee for State Security, Bondarevsky had significant influence in chess circles. Only thanks to his influential protection was Spassky able to get away with some rather incautious pronouncements.

In the 28th USSR Championship (1961), which had the status of a Zonal Tournament, the story of three years earlier was repeated. After 9 rounds Spassky was

confidently leading. A spectacular attack on Polugaevsky's king should have been crowned by another success, but in the opponent's severe time-trouble Spassky successively missed a win and then a draw. After this he also lost against Simagin, Korchnoi, and in the final round Stein. Again the Interzonal Tournament started without Spassky.

During this ill-fated championship Boris 11 times offered a draw and 11 times received a refusal! Bondarevsky was faced with restoring his pupil's psychological confidence and training him to distribute his efforts correctly in lengthy events. The problem was solved, and Spassky's natural talent displayed itself in all its glory. Later in 1961 Boris won the 29th USSR Championship in Baku with 14½ points out of 19, half a point ahead of Polugaevsky.

In the 30th Championship of the USSR, Spassky was unable to keep his title, finishing in 5th place. Therefore he had to qualify for the 31st USSR Championship from the semi-final in which, incidentally, Spassky defeated Averbakh and denied him a place in the final. This final took place in November and December 1963 in his native Leningrad, which Spassky had now left as he had been granted a flat in Moscow. His result was a share of 1st-3rd places with 5 wins, 14 draws and no losses. Then an additional qualifying event was unexpectedly announced - a double-round Zonal tournament for seven grandmasters with three qualifying places for the Interzonal. Spassky had a discouraging start (just one draw in the first three rounds), but in the next 9 rounds he scored 6½ points and finished in clear first place.

The Interzonal tournament (Amsterdam, May-June 1964) had 24 participants, but FIDE's rules stipulated that among the five winners there could be no more than three Soviet players. In the first round Spassky lost to the modestly-rated German, Darga, and he agreed draws with all his Soviet rivals. With 4 points out of 7 Boris found himself in a difficult situation, but then came eight successive wins! A loss in the penultimate round to Larsen complicated his task, but he again bounced back with a win to share victory with Tal, Smyslov and Larsen.

There were 8 months before the Candidates matches, and Spassky found time to play in several tournaments. Mention should be made of his success in Belgrade, where he finished one and a half points ahead of some powerful rivals, and of the Olympiad in Tel Aviv. As on his Olympiad debut two years earlier, Boris went through undefeated. The regulations for Spassky's quarter-final match with Keres were extremely severe: 10 games, but in the event of a 5-5 score two additional games, and with a 6-6 score the semi-finalist would be decided by the drawing of lots. The Estonian grandmaster had never lost a match, but after an early defeat, Spassky responded with three successive wins. Keres was still able to win the 8th game, but his opponent won the concluding 10th game and went forward to the semi-final.

Spassky's opponent was decided in the Geller-Smyslov match which Geller unexpectedly won by a crushing $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$. The semi-final match in Riga (May-June 1965) ended with the same score in favour of Spassky (wins in the 2nd, 6th and 8th games). Geller was unable to find a successful counter to $1\ e4$, and in the middlegame he played inaccurately in sharp positions. The final of the Candidates was a 12 game match between Spassky and Tal (Tbilisi, November 1965). It was tense one, but Spassky did not allow Tal scope for combinations. After a loss in the 2nd game, Spassky immediately replied with a win in the 3rd, and after a series of draws he won the 9th, 10th and 11th games.

It is quite obvious that by 1966 Boris Spassky had achieved the practical strength of a champion. In his match with Tigran Petrosian he even had tradition on his side as since 1934 a world champion had not won a match against a challenger. However, in the Moscow match this tradition was broken. Spassky proved to be poorly prepared in the opening, while the great strategist Petrosian was in excellent form and he splendidly found his way through any complications en route to a $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $11\frac{1}{2}$ victory.

Spassky quickly restored his mental balance. In a top-class tournament in Santa Monica sponsored by the famous cellist Georgy Piatigorsky he won 5 games (including one against Fischer), drew 13 with no losses, and took clear first place (incidentally, Petrosian scored only 50%). Spassky was also undefeated at the Olympiad in Havana and in tournaments in 1967 in Beverwijk, Sochi and Winnipeg. However, in the ideologically important Moscow tournament, dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution, Spassky's play was uninspired. He lost two games and shared 6th-8th places.

Spassky's qualification for another world championship match proved less tiring than the previous one as he 'only' needed to win three Candidates matches. It is interesting that in all three matches Spassky won by a margin of three points. In the quarter-final against Geller (Suhumi, April 1968), Spassky avoided his opponent's preferred fashionable opening set-ups to win $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$. Larsen was swept aside in the semi-final and then Spassky outplayed Korchnoi (Kiev, September 1968) to win the final $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$.

After this successful completion of the Candidates cycle Spassky gave a somewhat unexpected interview to the Riga magazine *Shakmaty*. He criticized the three-year world championship series and suggested that the title should be defended every year. In addition, he stated that, in the event of his losing to Petrosian, he would not play again in such short Candidates matches (which were favourable for him), because they were 'too exhausting'

In April 1969 the crown still had to be won from Petrosian. Spassky was not as exhausted by the qualifying process as he had been three years earlier, while the \$5000 for winning in Santa Monica allowed him to pay for everything he needed,

including the work of trainers. Thanks to the efforts of these trainers, for the first time in the history of such events the match abounded in theoretical duels. The main testing ground became the Tarrasch Defence, where the challenger demonstrated the viability of positions with an isolated pawn.

Spassky lost the 1st game, but after two draws he won the 4th and 5th. Victories often come in pairs, but after winning the 8th game, in the 9th the challenger squandered an overwhelming advantage after the adjournment. Then Petrosian won two games in succession to equal the scores. Spassky gradually emerged from the crisis: in the next five games he satisfied himself with five draws, twice avoiding a fight with White. Convincing wins in the 17th and 19th games demonstrated that the crisis had been overcome. The World Champion was still able to win the 'white' 20th game, but a defeat in the 'black' 21st game effectively settled the match. The 23rd game was adjourned in a hopeless position for Petrosian, and was due to be resumed on his 40th birthday. He was planning to arrive at the tournament hall to resign the game and the match, but he was forestalled by a telephone call from Spassky offering a draw - in any case the last game would not have been required. This little present to the overthrown champion was accepted.

In the Moscow Estrada Theatre, the field of battle for the champion's title, Spassky was crowned with a laurel wreath. Soviet journalists judged him to be the USSR sportsman of the year, and for the second successive year the chess journalists of the planet awarded him the 'Oscar' as the best player in the world. Spassky made tours giving lectures and simultaneous displays both in his native country and around the world, participated in the promotion of Max Euwe to the post of FIDE President, and gave numerous interviews. All this was to the detriment of his preparatory work and practical play. Spassky recorded the best result on board 1 at the Olympiad in Siegen (1970), but during the years of his reign he played in only two top-class tournaments. His performance in Palma de Mallorca (1969) brought him only 5th place, and in the Alekhine Memorial in Moscow (1971) he finished in a share of 6th-7th places.

In the meantime the American grandmaster Robert Fischer was beginning to threaten the chess crown. He was deservedly awarded the 'Oscar' in both 1970 and 1971. In the Interzonal Tournament (Palma de Mallorca 1970) the American scored 18½ points out of 23! Then in the Candidates matches he knocked out Taimanov (6-0), Larsen (by the same score) and Petrosian (6½-2½). And how did the Spassky prepare for his match with Fischer? First of all he parted with Bondarevsky! The moment chosen for getting rid of the surveillance of his mentor was clearly inappropriate. Spassky clearly underestimated the challenger, since he had beaten him three times with two draws and no defeats, and he even declared: 'I am going on a holiday!'

The 'holiday' became the most famous match for the world championship,

apart perhaps from that between Karpov and Korchnoi (Baguio 1978). Whereas the scandalous fame of the match in Baguio was to the 'credit' of both warring parties, in Reykjavik it was exclusively Fischer who became the centre of attention. First he encouraged an increase in the prize fund to a record level of a quarter of a million dollars. Then he flatly refused to fly to Iceland without police protection. He did not appear on 1st July for the opening of the match, in view of which the FIDE President Euwe deferred the start of the match for two days.

After losing the first game, the American boycotted the second and was defaulted. Fischer demanded that the third game should be moved to a room without spectators. This was a way of putting pressure on the champion: the challenger knew that Spassky sympathized with him and would agree to the demand. Fischer won that game and seized the playing and psychological initiative. He was able to build on his success in the 5th, 6th, 8th and 10th games, and after a loss in the 11th he won the 13th. Spassky spent a long time in thought, got into time-trouble, which was unusual for him, and committed oversights. He managed temporarily to stabilize the situation and make seven successive draws, but the 21st game proved to be the last in the match.

The participants in the 1972 World Championship achieved material gains, but that is all: Fischer disappeared from the chess scene for twenty years and Spassky was given a dressing-down by the authorities. For nine months Spassky was unable to travel abroad, and he partially lost his stipend and almost completely lost the favour of his protectors. In addition, his second marriage collapsed. Spassky's third wife became Marina - a member of the French trade delegation in Moscow, who came from an émigré family. For six months the Soviet authorities did not allow them to marry and in 1976 the couple moved to France. In 1980 a son Boris was born to them, and only in 1984 did Spassky decide to play under the French flag.

But that was later, and in 1973 a revival of the champion occurred. In the exceptionally strong 41st USSR Championship he scored 11½ points out of 17 and took clear first place. A couple of months later, in the Candidates quarter-final match (San Juan 1974), he crushed the American Robert Byrne. Fischer, who had not yet given up the idea of defending his title, named Spassky in an interview as his most worthy challenger. However, the rapidly improving Anatoly Karpov had his own opinion about this. He lulled the vigilance of his opponents with the statement 'this is not my cycle', but convincingly defeated Spassky in the semi-final (Leningrad 1974) by 7-4. Of course, the young player enjoyed incomparably more support from the chess authorities than the ex-champion after his failure in Reykjavik, but the result was mainly determined by Karpov's colossal practical playing strength. Botvinnik was also correct when he commented on the match that 'Spassky wants to win with the minimum of effort; he is not keyed up for intense exertion, and he does not press himself.'

In the strong Alekhine Memorial Tournament (Moscow 1975) Spassky scored 10 points out of 15, finishing behind only the undefeated Geller. In the Interzonal Tournament in Manila the ex-champion was considered the main favourite, but he finished with only 50%. It was not just that he was in poor form, but his nerves had been thoroughly frayed by the matter of obtaining a visa. Spassky moved to France, and obtained dual citizenship and the freedom to travel around the world.

Despite his failure in Manila, Spassky became a Candidate thanks to being a semi-finalist in the previous cycle. In his quarter-final with Vlastimil Hort (Reykjavik 1977), the two players displayed great sportsmanship. In one of the games Spassky agreed to play at what was an uncustomary time for him, and this was his only defeat. With a score of 6-6 the additional games began some three weeks later. Spassky had an operation for appendicitis and Hort refused to claim a win, patiently waiting for his opponent to be restored to health, but in the 15th game the Czech grandmaster lost on time in a winning position.

During his semi-final match with Portisch (Geneva 1977), Spassky twice came from behind and won 8½-6½. The final match against Korchnoi (Belgrade 1978) took an amazing course: Spassky completely collapsed at the start and lost five of the first ten games before winning four games in a row! Unfortunately that comeback wasn't quite enough and Korchnoi held out for victory. Also in 1978, Spassky played in a super-tournament in the small Yugoslav town of Bugojno (1978). He began with a loss, but after that played splendidly, gaining six wins with eight draws which enabled him to share first with Karpov.

The triumph in Bugojno was one of Spassky's last tournament successes before his results began to decline. At the Olympiad in Buenos Aires (1978) the ex-World Champion defeated Portisch, but on the whole he performed rather insipidly. At the double-round 'tournament of stars' in Montreal (1979) he was trailing in last place and only saved his reputation by scoring three successive wins. Spassky's farewell appearance in the Candidates matches took place in 1980 in Mexico against Portisch. Botvinnik considered the clear favourite to be the Hungarian, and the Patriarch's prediction proved correct, although only partially. With the score standing at 7-7 only a win gained with the black pieces took Portisch into the semi-final.

In the 1980s Spassky gradually cut down on his tournament play. The high cost of living in France forced him to play in the German Bundesliga, but it cannot be said, successfully. Little-known German masters not only made draws with him, but also sometimes defeated him. However, at the Interzonal Tournament in Toluca (1982) Spassky finished third, but, as ill luck would have it, for the first time there were only two qualifying places, and then in 1983 Spassky won a strong tournament in Linares.

Spassky's success in Linares gave him reason to hope that in the 1984 USSR v.

Rest of the World match he would be found a place in the Soviet team, but for the Soviet chess authorities he was already a loan wolf. Spassky promptly announced a change of federation and at the Olympiad in Thessaloniki he played for France, but without sparkle.

Surprisingly enough, Spassky also participated in 1992 in a 'return match for the title of world champion'. An unofficial one, it is true, but with a startling opponent - Robert Fischer, who had been absent from chess for twenty years. The two players were tempted by the exceptional prize fund of more than five million dollars, provided by the Yugoslav Vasilevic. The match, in which the winner was to be the first to win ten games, was played first on the island of Sveti-Stefan, and then in Belgrade.

By that time Spassky's chess achievements had become so modest, that Fischer, despite his lack of competitive practice, was considered the favourite. After the 6th game Spassky was leading, but in the next five games he made only one draw. After thirty games the match concluded in favour of the American, who won ten games with five defeats. Spassky had stopped working on the opening and was inferior to the well-prepared Fischer from the very first moves, although the American did not play outstandingly well.

It is curious that, although the result was similar to Reykjavik 1972, on this occasion Fischer benefited less than his opponent. He refused to pay taxes to the American Treasury, he was charged with breaking the USA's embargo of Yugoslavia, and in his advancing years he began wandering from one country to another. Spassky, the loser, was not reproached, and after paying tax was left with a million dollars. He could at last break with the difficult life of a chess professional. Spassky built a substantial house in Grenoble and in 1994-97 he was attracted only by one kind of classical chess event, the splendidly organized and generously sponsored matches between the strongest women players and veterans.

In 1997, after an absence of 15 years, Spassky returned to his native city - no longer called Leningrad, but St Petersburg. For a decade now he has been a frequent visitor to Russia. In 1999 in the Conti Casino he played a rapidplay friendly match with Viktor Korchnoi (the score: 3-5), but most often he has become an honoured guest at various chess competitions and functions. In addition, the veteran makes frequent visits to the regions of Russia, displaying an enviable energy for his age. In 2005 Spassky even became editor of the weekly Russian newspaper *Shakhmatnaya Nedelya*, and he literally dragged it out of a financial hole, since his big name attracted sponsors.

The tenth World Champion's last appearances at the chess board date back to 2002, but those games in France did not add to his fame. The great achievements of the champion remain in the past, but that was a glorious past and a wonderful chapter in the annals of chess. We will now remind ourselves of Spassky's bril-

liance by visiting four of his greatest games. Curiously two come from matches in which he was famously defeated, but we will see plenty of Spassky's wins from his more successful matches in the rest of this book.

Spassky-Bronstein

Leningrad 1960

King's Gambit

1 e4 e5 2 f4

Both Bronstein and Spassky were great fans of the King's Gambit.

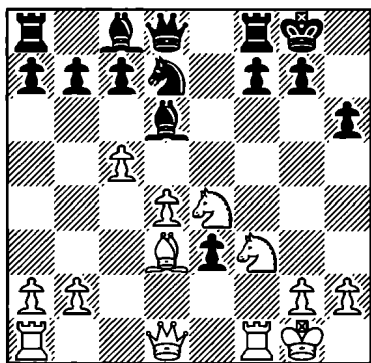
2...exf4 3 f3 d5 4 exd5 d6 5 c3 dxe7 6 d4 0-0 7 d3 d7 8 0-0 h6?!

This seems a good deal too passive. It also weakens the light squares and wastes time. Better was 8...f6 9 e5 dxf5 10 dxd5 dxd5 11 Wh5 g6 12 Wh6 Wf6 and the position is unclear according to Spassky.

9 dxe4!

A nice little pawn sacrifice. If White is allowed to play c4 without any concession he will surely be better.

9...dxd5 10 c4 de3 11 xxe3 fxe3 12 c5!



White has definitely taken the initiative.

12...e7

There was nothing else since after 12...f4? 13 g3 f5 14 h4! fxe4 15 Wb3+ Black is in dire straights, just as he is after 12...f5?! 13 cxd6 fxe4 14 ex4 cxd6 15 Wb3+ gh8 16 Wxe3 df6 17 e2.

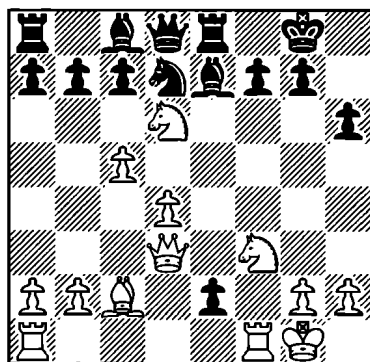
13 e2! e8

After 13...df6 14 Wd3 e8 15 eae1 d5 White has the interesting 16 d6!? exd6 17 Wh7+ gh8 18 cxd6 with a strong attack, based on the point that White wins after 18...Wxd6? 19 e5.

14 Wd3 e2

14...df8 gives White an advantage in several ways: for example, 15 e5 e6 (15...f6? loses to 16 dg5!!) 16 Wxe3 f6 17 df3 c6 18 eb3 (Kasparov) and White is a little better.

15 d6!?



15...f8?

Necessary was 15...exd6 and after 16 Wh7+ gh8 17 cxd6 exf1W+ 18 Wxf1 cxd6! (18...df6? does not work in view of 19 Wh8+ dg8 20 de5 f6 21 eh7! ee6 22 d7!) 19 Wh8+ gh7 20 e1+ de5 21

♖xg7 ♜g8 22 ♖xh6 ♜b6 23 ♔h1 ♙e6 24 dxe5 White has a lot of compensation for the exchange, but maybe not more than enough.

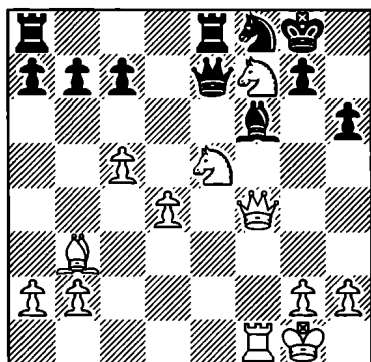
16 ♜xf7! exf1♖+ 17 ♜xf1 ♙f5

Black's position was already beyond repair as shown by both 17...♔xf7 18 ♙e5+ ♔g8 19 ♖h7+!, with mate to follow, and 17...♜d5 18 ♙b3! ♖xf7 19 ♙xf7+ ♔xf7 20 ♜c4+ ♔g6 21 ♖g8 ♙f6 22 ♙h4+! ♙xh4 23 ♖f7+ ♔h7 24 ♖xe8.

18 ♖xf5 ♜d7 19 ♖f4 ♙f6 20 ♙3e5!

White is not distracted by the option to win back material, but prefers a strong attack on the light squares.

20...♖e7 21 ♙b3



21...♙xe5 22 ♙xe5+ ♔h7 23 ♖e4+ 1-0

Spassky-Tukmakov

Moscow 1973

Sicilian Najdorf

1 e4 c5 2 ♙f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♙xd4 ♙f6 5 ♙c3 a6 6 ♙g5 e6 7 f4 ♙bd7 8 ♖f3 ♖c7 9 0-0-0 b5 10 ♙d3 ♙b7 11 ♜he1 ♖b6

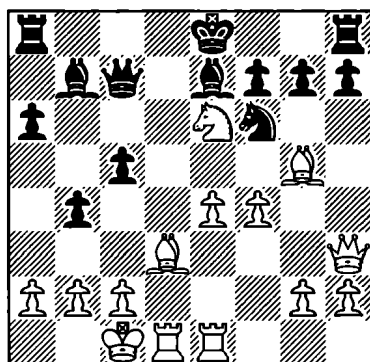
This line was also a hot topic in 2005 when White usually replied with

the sharp 12 ♙d5!?

12 ♙b3 b4 13 ♙a4 ♖c7 14 ♙d4 ♙e7 15 ♖h3 ♙c5?!

This turns out to be an unhappy decision, but 15...0-0? also didn't work since White wins after 16 e5 dxe5 17 ♙xf6! ♙xf6 18 fxe5. Instead Black should have tried 15...0-0-0!? 16 f5 ♖a5 (or 16...e5 17 ♙f3 h6 18 ♙h4 ♔b8 and ...♙c6) 17 b3 e5 18 ♙f3 ♙c6 19 ♙c4 ♜hf8 with chances for both sides.

16 ♙xc5 dxc5 17 ♙xe6!



Spassky never missed such a chance to take the initiative.

17...fxe6 18 ♙c4! ♜d8?

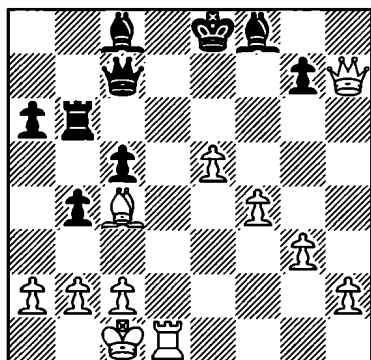
This is already the decisive mistake. Black would also have been in trouble after 18...0-0? 19 ♖xe6+ ♔h8 20 e5 ♙c8 21 ♖xe7!! ♖xe7 22 exf6 ♖c7 23 ♜e7 gxf6 24 ♙xf6+ ♜xf6 25 ♜xc7 and the endgame is winning for White. The only defence was 18...♙c8! when 19 ♙xe6 ♙xe6! (19...♖c6? is wrong because of the brilliant 20 e5 ♙xe6 21 exf6! ♙xh3 22 ♖xe7+ ♔f8 23 fxg7+ ♔g8 24 gxh3 and Black is in some trouble) 20 ♖xe6 ♖c8 21 ♖c4 ♜f8 22 f5 ♜f7 23 ♔b1 ♔f8 24 e5 ♙g8 25 ♙xe7+ ♙xe7 26 g4 ♖c6

(Kasparov) is not entirely clear, although probably easier to play for White.

19 ♖xe6 ♜xd1+ 20 ♜xd1 ♜f8 21 ♙xf6 ♜xf6

Instead 21...gxf6 fails because of the weakness of the light squares: 22 ♖f5 ♙d6 23 ♖h5+ ♚e7 24 e5! and White gains a decisive attack.

22 ♖g8+ ♙f8 23 g3 ♙c8 24 e5 ♜b6 25 ♖xh7



25...♙e6?!

25...♙g4 appears to be better, although still clearly worse for Black after 26 ♜d2.

26 ♖g6+ ♖f7 27 ♖e4 ♖c7 28 h4 ♙xc4 29 ♖xc4 ♖c6 30 b3 g6 31 ♖e2 ♖e6 32 h5 ♜b7? 33 ♖e4! ♜g7 34 hxg6 ♖xg6 35 f5 1-0

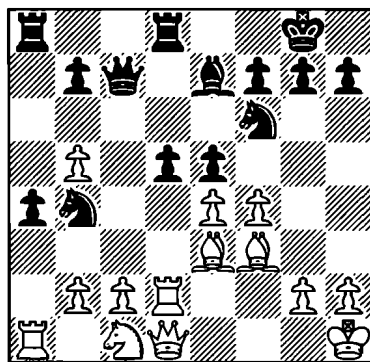
Karpov-Spassky
Leningrad 1974
Sicilian Scheveningen

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e6 6 ♙e2 ♙e7 7 0-0 0-0 8 f4 ♘c6 9 ♙e3 e5 10 ♘b3 a5 11 a4 ♘b4 12 ♙f3 ♙e6 13 ♙h1 ♖c7

Black must be careful. After 13...exf4?! 14 ♙xf4 d5 his position would quickly deteriorate: 15 e5 ♘e8 16 ♘d4 and White has a pleasant edge. **14 ♜f2 ♜fd8 15 ♜d2 ♙c4 16 ♘b5!?**

It was clearly safer to play 16 ♘d5 ♘bxd5 17 exd5 e4 18 ♙e2 ♜dc8 19 ♙xc4 ♖xc4 with even chances.

16...♙xb5 17 axb5 a4 18 ♘c1 d5!



19 fxe5

Forced since White is at least clearly worse after both 19 exd5? e4 20 b6 ♖c8 21 ♙e2 ♘fxd5 22 ♙g1 e3 and 19 c3?! dxe4 20 fxe5 ♖xe5 21 ♙e2 ♘bd5 22 ♙g1 ♖g5.

19...♘xe4 20 c3!

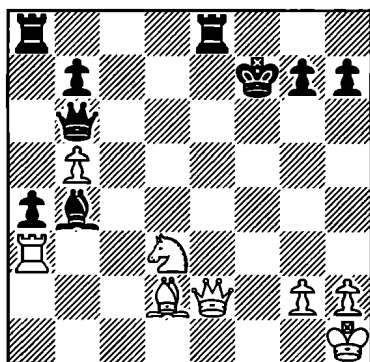
Karpov responds well, whereas 20 ♙e2?! would have allowed a great undermining tactic: 20...a3! 21 ♙d4 (21 ♜xa3 ♜xa3 22 bxa3 ♘c3 and Black wins the exchange) 21...♙c5 22 ♜xa3 ♙xd4 23 ♜xa8 ♜xa8 24 ♖xd4 ♜a1 25 ♖g1 ♖c5 and White has problems protecting his back rank.

20...♘xd2 21 ♙xd2 ♖xe5! 22 cxb4 ♖xb2 23 ♘d3 ♖d4 24 ♜a3 ♖b6 25 ♖e2

Instead 25 ♜xa4 ♖xb5 26 ♜xa8 ♜xa8 27 ♘f4 d4 was just unclear and this

might well have been a better practical course.

25...♖e8 26 ♙xd5 ♙xb4 27 ♙xf7+ ♔xf7



28 ♜f3+?

The only real mistake in this exceptionally well played game. Karpov could have made a draw with 28 ♜h5+! ♜g6 29 ♜f3+ (this kind of minor difference can be hard to appreciate) 29...♜f6 (if 29...♜g8 30 ♙xb4 and Black does not have ...♜e3, unlike in the game) 30 ♙xb4 ♜xf3 31 gxf3 ♜e2 32 ♘c5 ♜d8 33 ♜a1 ♜d4 34 ♙c3 ♜c4 35 ♘xa4 ♜h4 36 ♜g1 ♜hxh2 37 ♙e5! and White appears to be holding.

28...♜g8 29 ♙xb4 ♜xb5 30 h3 ♜ad8 31 ♙d2 ♜d5!

This endgame, though complicated, is winning for Black.

32 ♜f2 b5 33 ♙a5 ♜d7 34 ♘f4 ♜f7 35 ♜f3 ♜c4 36 ♙d2 b4 37 ♜b6 b3

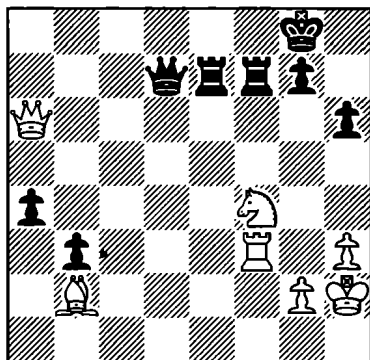
Maybe Spassky's only move that can be criticized. Simpler was the pawn sacrifice 37...a3 38 ♜xb4 ♜xb4 39 ♙xb4 a2 40 ♙c3 ♜c8 41 ♙e5 ♜c5 42 ♙b2 ♜b5 43 ♙d4 ♜b4 44 ♙e5 ♜fxf4 (Kasparov) and Black wins.

38 ♜h2 ♜c2 39 ♙c3! ♜e4! 40 ♜d6 h6

41 ♙b2 ♜c2!

Spassky is playing with great accuracy and now converts most impressively.

42 ♜d5 ♜f5 43 ♜c6 ♜d7 44 ♜g6 ♜ee7 45 ♜a6



45...♜b7! 46 ♜xa4 ♜e4 47 ♜xb3 ♜b4! 48 ♜e6 ♜xb2 49 ♜g3 ♜b6 50 ♜e8+ ♜h7 51 ♜e3 ♜d6 52 ♜c5 ♜c7 53 ♜b4 ♜d7 54 ♘h5 ♜g6 55 ♜xg6 ♜xg6 56 ♘g3 ♜d3 57 h4 ♜h7 58 h5 ♜d7 59 ♜c5 ♜d4 60 ♜e7 ♜g4 61 ♜e5 ♜h4+ 62 ♜g1 ♜d1+ 63 ♜f2 ♜d4+ 0-1

Spassky-Fischer

Reykjavik 1972

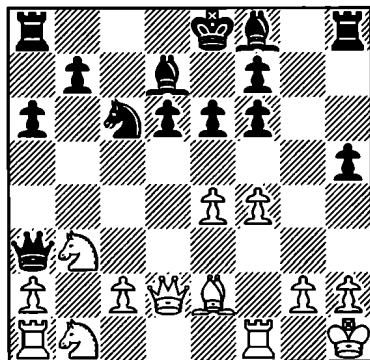
Sicilian Najdorf

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 ♙g5 e6 7 f4 ♜b6 8 ♜d2 ♜xb2 9 ♘b3 ♜a3 10 ♙xf6 gxf6 11 ♙e2

With the idea of 12 ♙h5. Sometimes this is allowed, but more often it is prevented.

11...h5 12 0-0 ♘c6 13 ♜h1! ♙d7 14 ♘b1!!

A very powerful retreat which must have surprised Fischer.



14...♖b4

Time has claimed that this is not the best move, but maybe unfairly. Instead 14...♖a4?! 15 a3! ♕e7 16 ♘c3 ♖c6 17 ♗f3 gives White great compensation, but 14...♖b2 is supposed to be fine for Black. It is definitely the best move, but we think that White can still play for an advantage: 15 a4!? d5! (this appears to be forced and 15...♗c8 16 ♘a3 does not make a lot of sense) 16 exd5 ♘b4 17 dxe6 (for some reason this simple move does not appear in the sources we have seen) 17...♗xe6 18 ♘a3 and the position is very interesting and impossible to evaluate, but we prefer White here. Note that 18...♗xb3? 19 ♗fb1 would trap the queen.

15 ♗e3

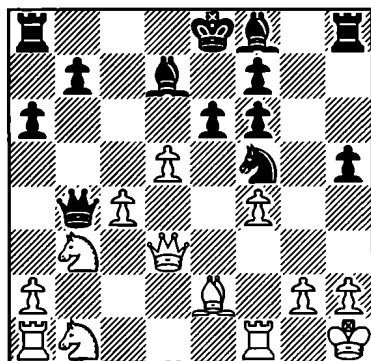
With the plan of a3 and ♘c3, trapping the queen.

15...d5?

This seems to be the decisive mistake. Black had to play 15...♕e7! when 16 a3 (or 16 c4 f5!? 17 a3 ♖a4 18 ♘c3

♖c6 19 ♘d4? ♖c5 20 exf5 ♗g7 21 fxe6 fxe6 22 ♗ad1 ♗xd4 23 ♖xd4 ♖xd4 24 ♗xd4 ♘f5 and Black had the better endgame in Qi-Karpov, Hanover 1983, but 19 ♗ad1 is a clear improvement) 16...♖a4 17 ♘c3 ♖c6 18 ♗ad1 is rather unclear.

16 exd5 ♘e7 17 c4! ♘f5 18 ♖d3!



18...h4?

This gives up the control over the g4-square and loses the game, although even after 18...exd5 19 ♘c3! dxc4 20 ♖e4+ ♖e7 21 ♖xb7 White has a very promising position.

19 ♗g4!

Ouch!

19...♘d6 20 ♘1d2 f5? 21 a3 ♖b6 22 c5 ♖b5 23 ♖c3 fxe6

White would also win after 23...♗g8 24 ♘d4 ♖a4 25 dxe6 ♗xe6 26 ♗d1!.

24 a4!

The queen is trapped.

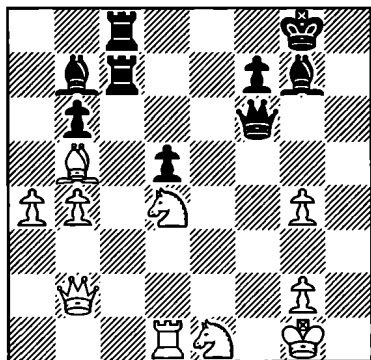
24...h3 25 axb5 hxg2+ 26 ♗xg2 ♗h3 27 ♖f6 ♘f5 28 c6 ♗c8 29 dxe6 fxe6 30 ♗fe1 ♗e7 31 ♗xe6 1-0

Chapter Two

Warming Up

It is well known that talent alone is not enough to take you to the top, but that you need it if you want to get there. There was never any doubt that Spassky had lots of talent, although his ability to work diligently has often been questioned. We shall begin by enjoying Spassky's talent while studying some fairly simple examples of his tactical mastery:

Wirthensohn-Spassky
Zurich 1984



Black has already won the exchange and Spassky neatly concluded:

37...♖c1! 0-1

White resigned because of 38 ♖xc1 ♜xd4+ 39 ♜xd4 ♙xd4+ 40 ♙h2 ♖xc1 when Black emerges a rook ahead.

As Spassky was growing up, he benefited from being trained by Alexander Tolush who was known as a very aggressive player. Indeed, according to legend Tolush wouldn't analyse Spassky's games with him, unless he had sacrificed some form of material in them! This desire to sacrifice undoubtedly helped Spassky become an even better tactician and was to stay with him throughout his career.

Spassky-Barua
New York 1987
Ruy Lopez

**1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙b5 ♘d4 4 ♘xd4
exd4 5 0-0 ♙c5 6 d3 c6 7 ♙a4 ♘e7 8 f4**

**d5 9 f5 dxe4 10 dxe4 0-0 11 ♖b3 ♗d6
12 ♜h5 d3?!**

This seems a little desperate and 12... ♖a5!?, with the idea of 13 ♘d2 ♙e6!?, was worth trying, although White would still have retained a certain advantage.

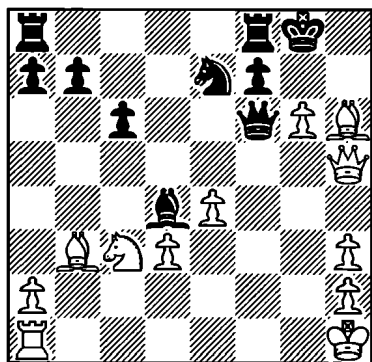
13 cxd3 ♖e5 14 ♜f3 ♙d4+ 15 ♜e3?

White would have had a winning position after 15 ♖h1, but Spassky was evidently determined to create a miniature in the manner of which he had been taught by Tolush.

15... ♖xb2 16 ♜h3 h6 17 ♙xh6 ♙d4+ 18 ♙h1 ♜f2??

Now the tables turn again. Black would have retained a decisive advantage by returning some material: 18... ♖xf5! 19 exf5 gxh6 20 ♖xh6 ♕xf5 and White's attack is over.

19 ♖c3 g6 20 fxg6 ♙xh3 21 gxh3 ♜f6



White is winning and Spassky found the most aesthetic route.

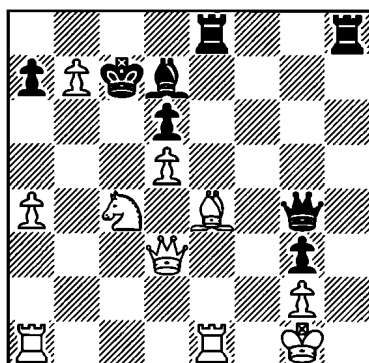
22 ♖e3! 1-0

Black resigned because of 22...♘xg6
23 ♙xd4 ♚xd4 24 ♜xg6+ ♜g7 25 ♜f5
♙h8 26 ♜g1 ♜h6 27 ♜g5 and White
wins the entire opposition army.

In this chapter we shall train ourselves with 20 examples of one-movers. They may not be the most difficult of combinations to find, but less than a 100% score should serve as a good warning about the state of your tactical ability and form. In Chapter Nine we will see a few tactics that even Spassky missed, but he usually seized upon any tactical opportunities that came his way, no matter what state his position was in.

Portisch-Spassky

Budapest 1961



35 ♖d2??

Horrible. White also had to avoid 35 b8♖ ♖h4! 36 ♔f1 ♖f4+, but there were several ways to win, including 35 ♔xd6 ♔xd6 36 ♖a6+ ♔c7 37 b8♖+!, trapping the black king in a mating net.

35... ♖h4 36 ♔f1 ♖f4+ 37 ♖f3 ♕g4!

Spassky finds the clearest path, although Black would also have been winning after 37...♙xd2.

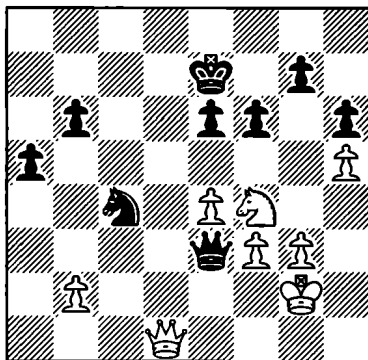
38 ♖xf4 ♔h1# 0-1

Now the time has come for you to prove that you are as good a marksman as Spassky.

Combinations for Solving

Puzzle 1

Ivkov-Spassky, Santa Monica 1966



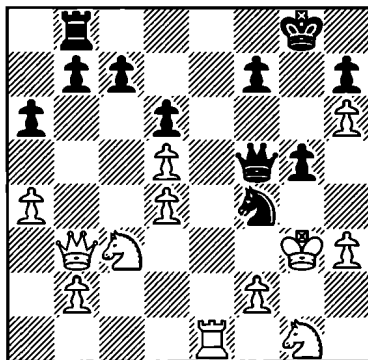
Black to play.

Spassky is very active. Might he actually have an immediate finish?

The tip is on p. 73; solution p. 85.

Puzzle 2

Spassky-Vasiukov, Moscow 1959



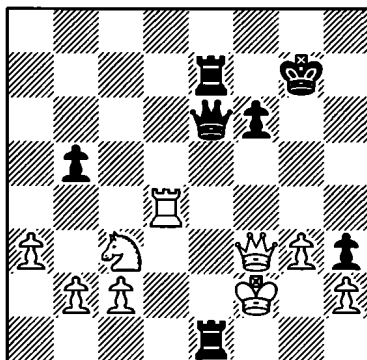
White to play.

Spassky has already won a piece and now found a way to win further material. How?

The tip is on p. 73; solution p. 85.

Puzzle 3

Averbakh-Spassky, Moscow 1961



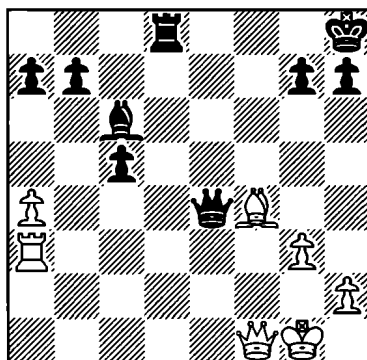
Black to play.

How can Spassky win quickly?

The tip is on p. 73; solution p. 86.

Puzzle 4

Schweber-Spassky, Antwerp 1955



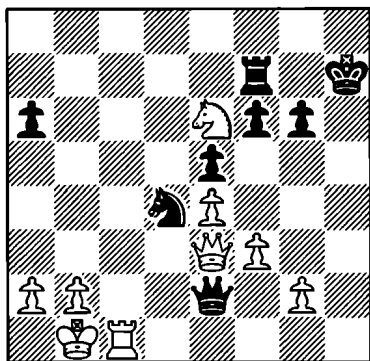
Black to play.

How can Black exploit his strong light-square presence?

The tip is on p. 73; solution p. 86.

Puzzle 5

Spassky-Korchnoi, Kiev 1968



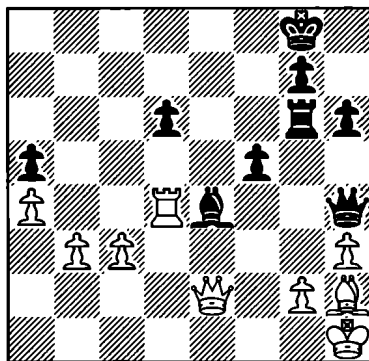
White to play.

Can White win faster than by exchanging queens?

The tip is on p. 73; solution p. 87.

Puzzle 7

Aronin-Spassky, Yerevan 1962



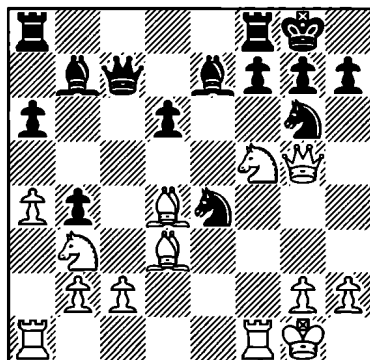
Black to play.

The e4-bishop dominates. How can Black immediately exploit this factor?

The tip is on p. 73; solution p. 87.

Puzzle 6

Spassky-Marsalek, Leningrad 1960



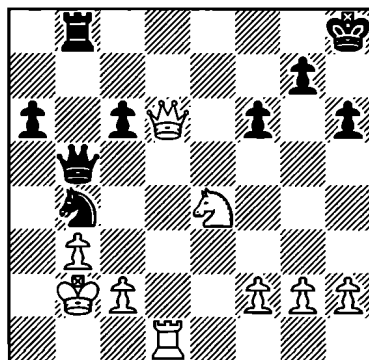
White to play.

Can Spassky do better than retreat his queen?

The tip is on p. 73; solution p. 87.

Puzzle 8

Spassky-Zurakhov, Leningrad 1955



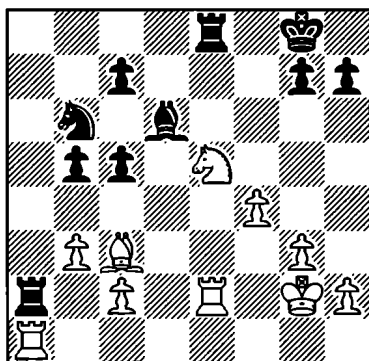
White to play.

Spassky was always good at sensing the moment to strike. How did he do so here?

The tip is on p. 73; solution p. 88.

Puzzle 9

Santo-Roman - Spassky, Paris 2002



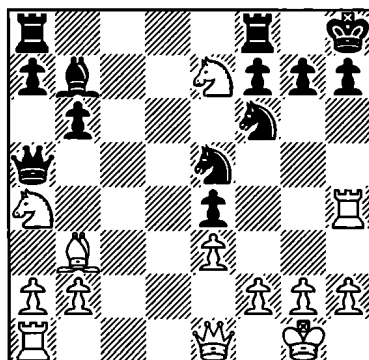
Black to play.

What bolt from the blue did Spassky find?

The tip is on p. 74; solution p. 88.

Puzzle 10

Bronstein-Spassky, Riga 1958



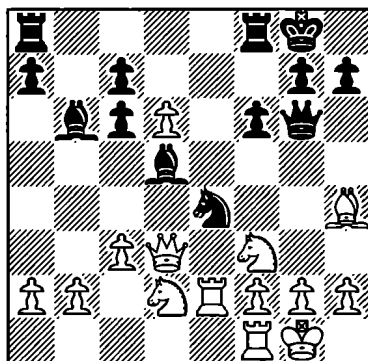
Black to play.

Black is better, but is there a neat way to finish quickly?

The tip is on p. 74; solution p. 89.

Puzzle 11

Gipslis-Spassky, Riga 1959



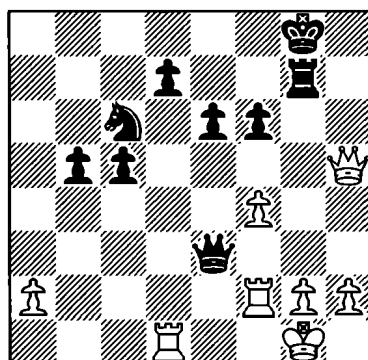
Black to play.

Only just out of the opening and already the game is almost over. How did Spassky win material?

The tip is on p. 74; solution p. 89.

Puzzle 12

Spassky-Posner, Canada 1971



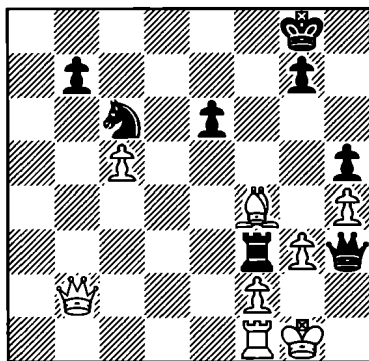
White to play.

White is winning, but it would be nice not to allow any counterplay. How did Spassky achieve an immediate breakthrough?

The tip is on p. 74; solution p. 90.

Puzzle 13

Lengyel-Spassky, Moscow 1971



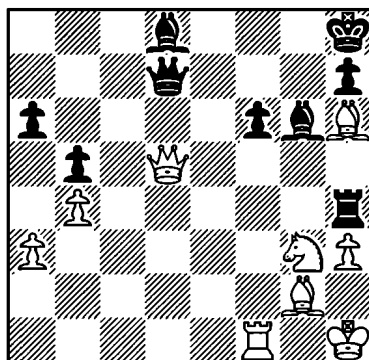
Black to play.

The b-pawn is hanging, but Spassky didn't despair. How did he force a draw?

The tip is on p. 74; solution p. 90.

Puzzle 14

Reshko-Spassky, Rostov on Don 1960



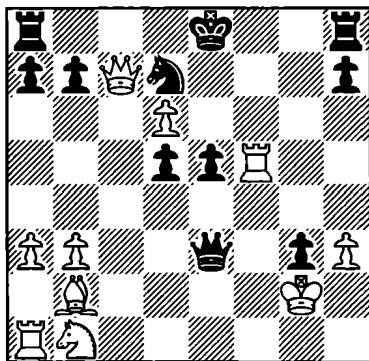
Black to play.

White has just won a piece, but how did Black reveal that he had everything worked out?

The tip is on p. 74; solution p. 91.

Puzzle 15

Spassky-Vilup, Leningrad 1949



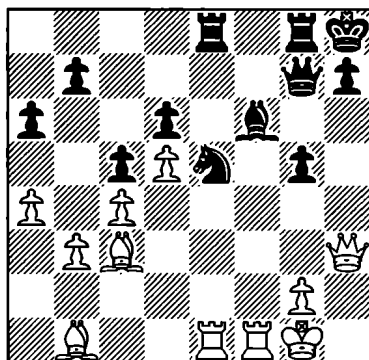
White to play.

The position appears rather messy, but it certainly wasn't after Spassky's next. What did he play?

The tip is on p. 74; solution p. 91.

Puzzle 16

Spassky-Papathanassiou, Kalamata 2002



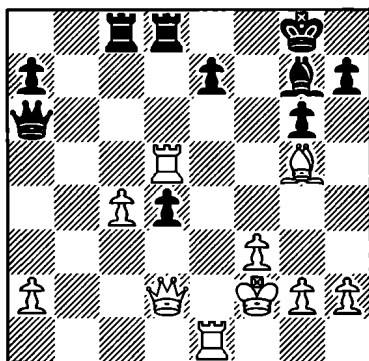
White to play.

Though his position is pleasant, White still needs to prove his advantage. How did he do so?

The tip is on p. 74; solution p. 91.

Puzzle 17

Bauer-Spassky, Paris 2001



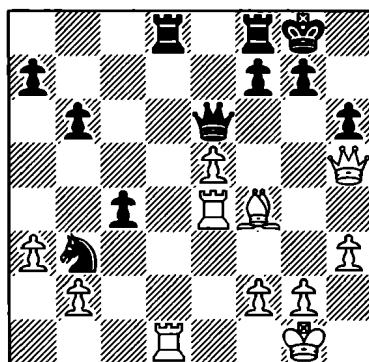
Black to play.

In a complex middlegame Spassky suddenly changed the evaluation from unclear to winning for Black. How did he take control?

The tip is on p. 74; solution p. 92.

Puzzle 18

Zhu Chen-Spassky, Marbella 1999



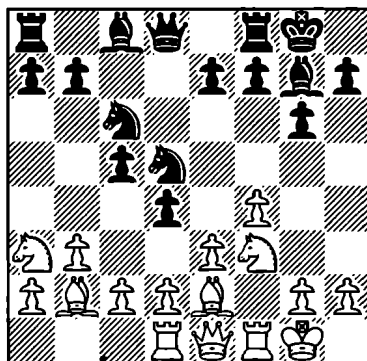
Black to play.

It looks like Black might play ...♘c5-d3. How did Spassky, however, find something even better?

The tip is on p. 74; solution p. 92.

Puzzle 19

Purdy-Spassky, Antwerp 1955



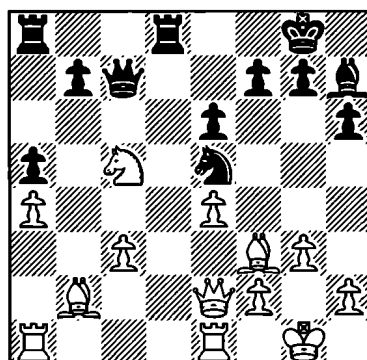
Black to play.

Purdy hasn't handled the opening especially well and was now punished. How did Spassky win material?

The tip is on p. 74; solution p. 93.

Puzzle 20

Hug-Spassky, Bath 1973



Black to play.

White has just captured a bishop on c5, no doubt expecting Black to recapture. What did Spassky find that was much better?

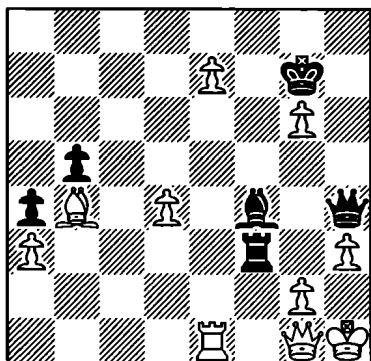
The tip is on p. 74; solution p. 93.

Chapter Three

A Greater Depth

Having solved some of the simpler tactics that Spassky got to execute, it's time for something a little more challenging. Spassky would no doubt classify the positions in this chapter as being quite easy, but they are still worth solving, especially if done at a fair speed. Some will certainly help to expand your tactical vision:

Spassky-Korchnoi
Moscow 1955



Many moves win, but nothing can

be compared to the concept Spassky found.

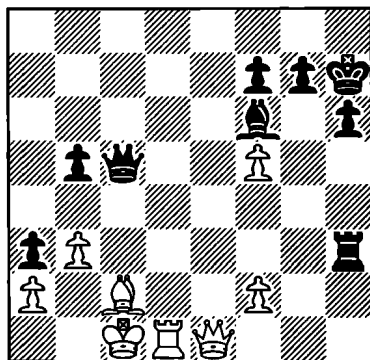
41 ♖h2!! 1-0

White's queen sacrifice sufficiently slowed down the black attack to ensure that after queening it would be White who had the mating attack.

These puzzles will require some concentration to be solved, but should not need too much calculation. Beginning by searching for good candidate moves may well help, and quite possibly that was how Spassky spotted some quite unexpected opportunities:

Hulak-Spassky
Toluca 1982

Black is winning in many ways, but would like to find the clearest win. Indeed Spassky more or less always took his chance when he had it, so as not to have to work harder later on because of any sloppy play.



35...Bxb3!

After this Black is threatening both 36...g5+ and 36...Bb2, but ...

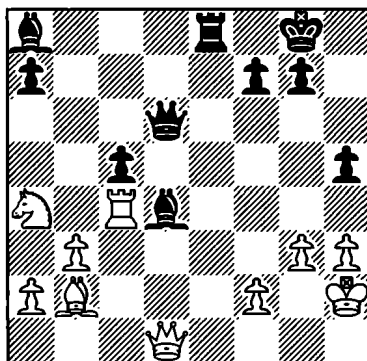
36 axb3 a2 0-1

...saw the a-pawn triumphantly march forwards.

As a player progresses, he becomes more focussed and ready to solve problems which require more than just a move or two of calculation. The puzzles in this chapter should help to take your calculating ability to a greater depth.

Larsen-Spassky

Bugojno 1984



Against one of his greatest rivals, Spassky has gained a large advantage due to his unopposed light-squared bishop. Determined not to relax too soon, he quickly calculated his way to a forced win:

31...Wd5 32 f3

32 Wf1 Bb1! would also have been all over, but now White is mated.

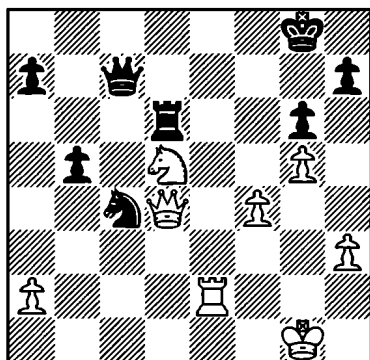
32...g1+! 0-1

After these enjoyable appetizers, it's time to get down to work.

Combinations for Solving

Puzzle 21

Spassky-Fischer, Siegen 1970



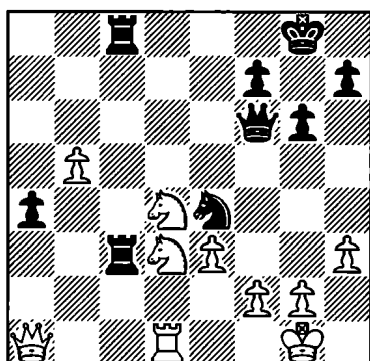
White to play.

Spassky is facing his later nemesis and is much better, but how did he immediately conclude proceedings?

The tip is on p. 74; solution p. 94.

Puzzle 22

Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969



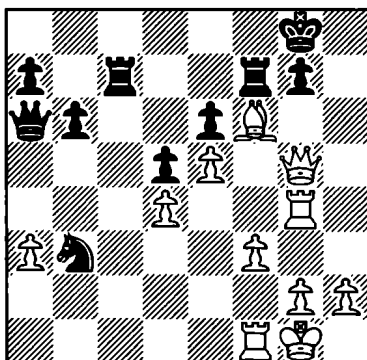
Black to play.

Can you spot Spassky's killer blow?

The tip is on p. 75; solution p. 94.

Puzzle 23

Spassky-Brunner, Solingen 1986



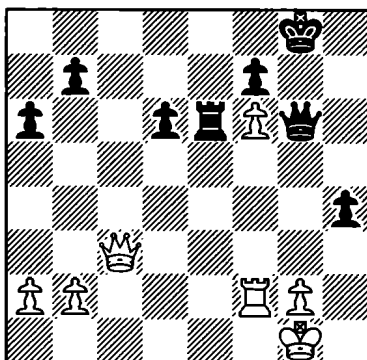
White to play.

White is winning, but how did he finish off at once?

The tip is on p. 75; solution p. 95.

Puzzle 24

Spassky-Larsen, Palma de Mallorca 1969



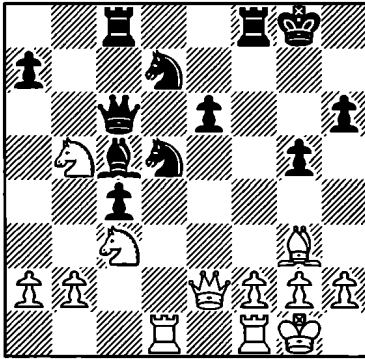
White to play.

In an otherwise bad position Spassky was given a chance. How were the tables now turned?

The tip is on p. 75; solution p. 95.

Puzzle 25

Spassky-Kostro, Siegen 1970



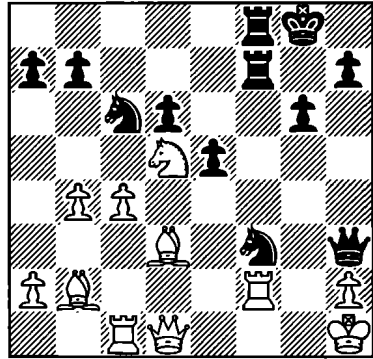
White to play.

White has a clear advantage no matter what, but with a single stroke he managed to knock Black out. How?

The tip is on p. 75; solution p. 96.

Puzzle 27

Furman-Spassky, Moscow 1957



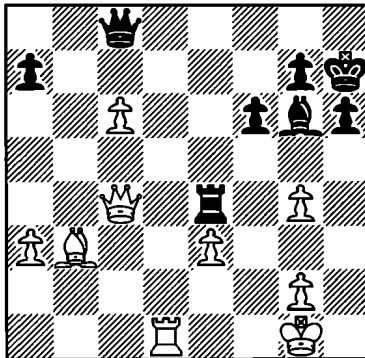
Black to play.

Spassky has sacrificed a piece to get close to the white king. How did he finish Furman off?

The tip is on p. 75; solution p. 97.

Puzzle 26

Spassky-Ghitescu, Sofia 1958



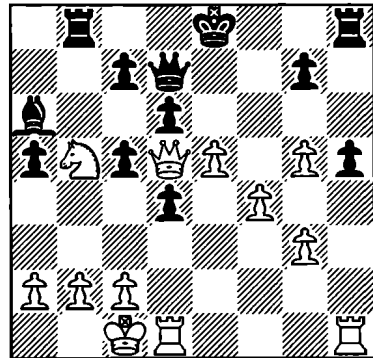
White to play.

How did Spassky force a winning endgame?

The tip is on p. 75; solution p. 96.

Puzzle 28

Spassky-Westerinen, Dortmund 1973



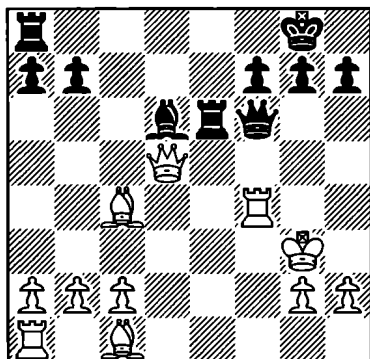
White to play.

White has a clear positional plus, but how did he quickly convert it?

The tip is on p. 75; solution p. 97.

Puzzle 29

Spassky-Ciric, Marianske Lazne 1962



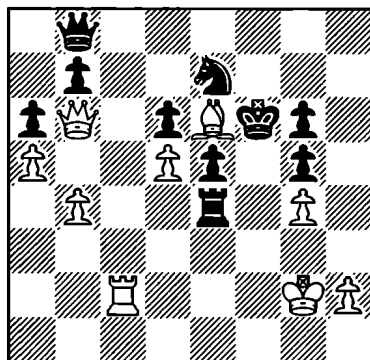
White to play.

White has accepted a piece sacrifice, but Black appears to have some active compensation. How did Spassky now alter the position in his favour?

The tip is on p. 75; solution p. 97.

Puzzle 30

Spassky-Ragozin, Leningrad 1956



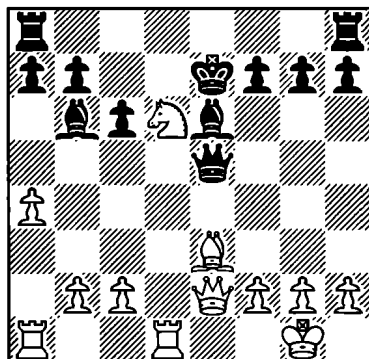
White to play.

How did the white rook join in the action with decisive effect?

The tip is on p. 75; solution p. 98.

Puzzle 31

Spassky-Sanguinetti, Sofia 1958



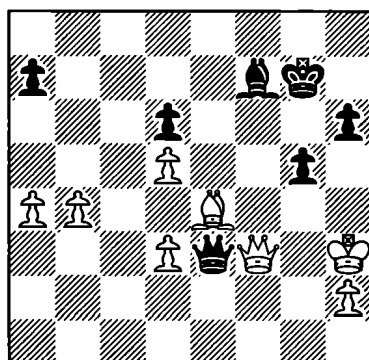
White to play.

White is better and now forced a king hunt after some inaccurate defence. How did that attack begin?

The tip is on p. 75; solution p. 98.

Puzzle 32

Larsen-Spassky, Linares 1981



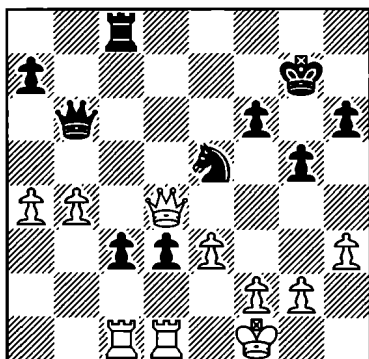
Black to play.

Spassky here clinically wrapped up yet another game, but how?

The tip is on p. 75; solution p. 99.

Puzzle 33

Spassky-Pachman, Havana 1962



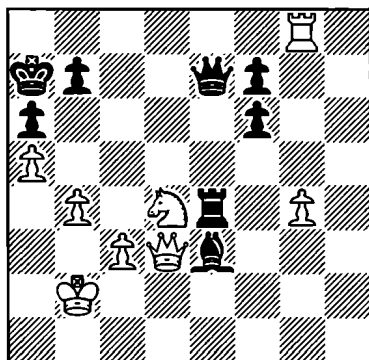
White to play.

How was Pachman's counterplay fully eliminated?

The tip is on p. 75; solution p. 99.

Puzzle 34

Spassky-Petrosian, Moscow 1967



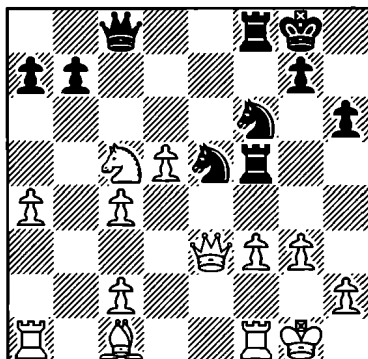
White to play.

For once Petrosian's king is rather vulnerable. How did White take full advantage?

The tip is on p. 75; solution p. 100.

Puzzle 35

Hodgson-Spassky, Brussels 1985



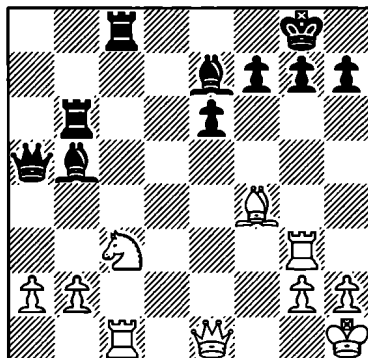
Black to play.

Spassky had played incorrectly, but the young Englishman did not find the correct defence. Suddenly there was a tactical chance for Spassky, but where?

The tip is on p. 76; solution p. 100.

Puzzle 36

Spassky-Averkin, Moscow 1973



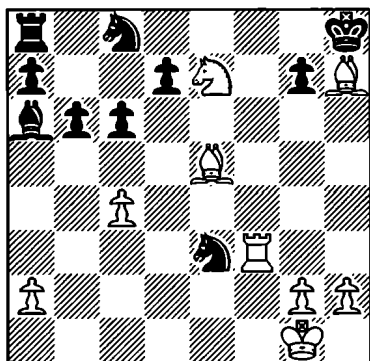
White to play.

In this fairly innocent looking position Spassky produced one of his most famous tactics. What was it?

The tip is on p. 76; solution p. 101.

Puzzle 37

Spassky-Hübner, Munich 1979



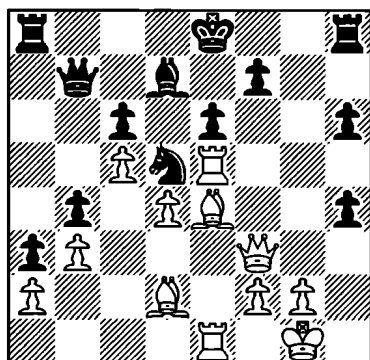
White to play.

Spassky found a very clear and logical solution in this murky-looking position. Can you follow his path?

The tip is on p. 76; solution p. 101.

Puzzle 38

Spassky-Perez, Tel Aviv 1964



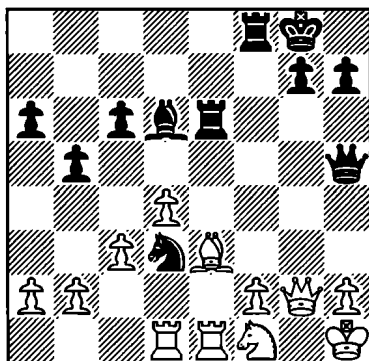
White to play.

White is doubled on the e-file, but how did Spassky make great use of his rooks?

The tip is on p. 76; solution p. 102.

Puzzle 39

Boucchechter-Spassky, Tel Aviv 1964



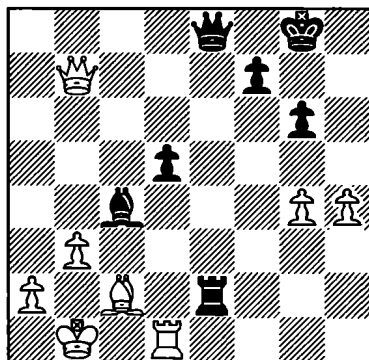
Black to play.

This arose from one of Spassky's favourite openings, the Marshall Attack. How did he quickly finish White off on the kingside?

The tip is on p. 76; solution p. 102.

Puzzle 40

Timman-Spassky, Bundesliga 1982



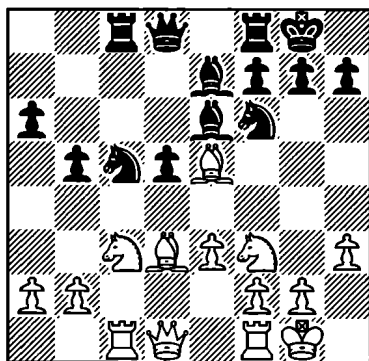
Black to play.

Spassky has thrown away his advantage, but can still salvage a draw. How did he do just that?

The tip is on p. 76; solution p. 103.

Puzzle 41

Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969



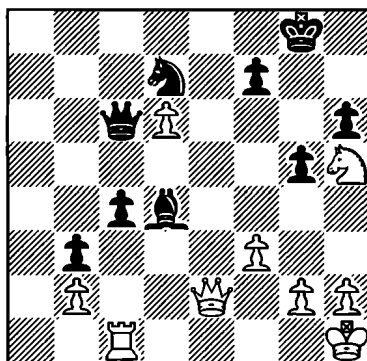
Black to play.

In this seemingly quiet position, how did Spassky suddenly deliver an explosive surprise?

The tip is on p. 76; solution p. 103.

Puzzle 43

Ioseliani-Spassky, Copenhagen 1997



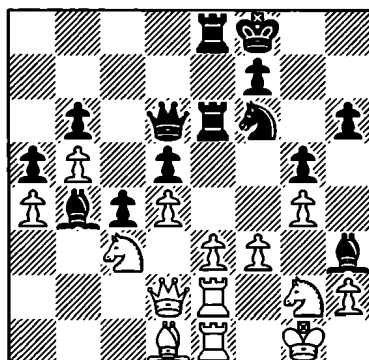
Black to play.

Does Black have time to defend c4 before capturing on d6?

The tip is on p. 76; solution p. 104.

Puzzle 42

Zhu Chen-Spassky, Roquebrune 1998



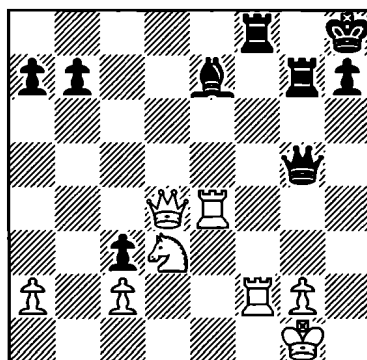
Black to play.

How did Spassky transform this promising position into a winning one?

The tip is on p. 76; solution p. 103.

Puzzle 44

Spassky-Fischer, Mar del Plata 1960



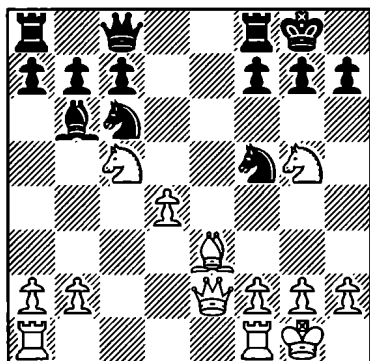
White to play.

Fischer had been doing well on the dark squares, but has suddenly allowed Spassky an unexpected opportunity. How did White seize his chance?

The tip is on p. 76; solution p. 105.

Puzzle 45

Deiseach-Spassky, Antwerp 1955



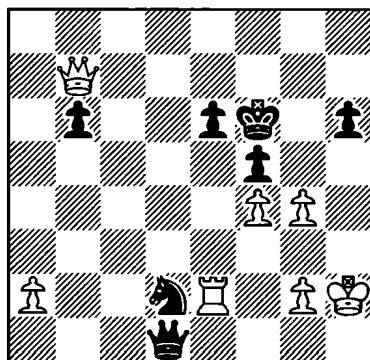
Black to play.

White is relying on his d4-pawn being indirectly defended, but is it?

The tip is on p. 76; solution p. 105.

Puzzle 46

Spassky-Schmidt, Lugano 1968



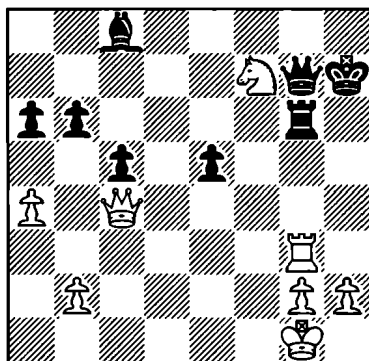
White to play.

Spassky has once again won material, but Black has some real counter-chances against the white king. How did White finish accurately?

The tip is on p. 76; solution p. 105.

Puzzle 47

Spassky-Zuk, Vancouver 1971



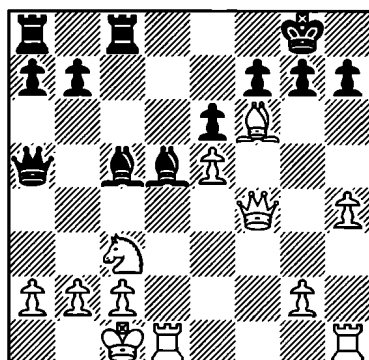
White to play.

Another clinical finish from Spassky, but just how did he exploit the exposed black king?

The tip is on p. 76; solution p. 106.

Puzzle 48

Spassky-Korensky, Sochi 1973



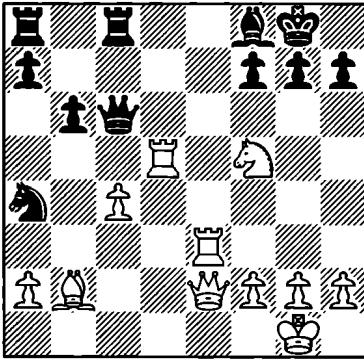
White to play.

White has a promising attacking position, but how does he make the most of it?

The tip is on p. 77; solution p. 106.

Puzzle 49

Spassky-Langeweg, Sochi 1967



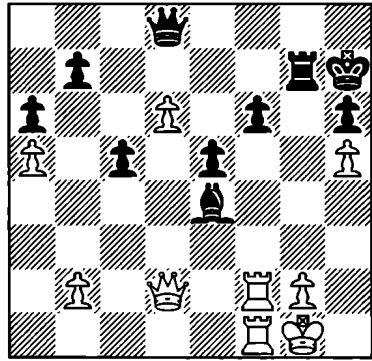
White to play.

Another attacking position for Spassky. How did the attacking genius break through?

The tip is on p. 77; solution p. 107.

Puzzle 50

Spassky-Filip, Gothenburg 1955



White to play.

Black was hoping that Spassky couldn't capture on f6, but could he?

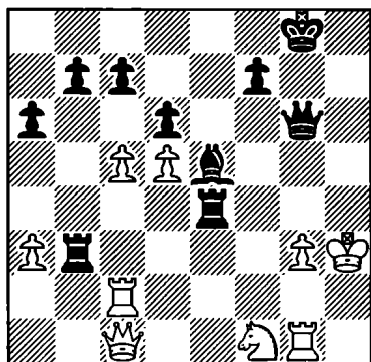
The tip is on p. 77; solution p. 107.

Chapter Four

It's Time to Calculate

So far we've dealt with several basic but important tactical motifs, albeit without overtaxing the reader's calculating ability. It's now time to help improve that with some more challenging exercises. These will require a bit more calculation as well as some imagination.

Somers-Spassky
Antwerp 1955



Black has a completely winning position and Spassky again found a classy

way to finish.

34...♖h4+! 35 ♕xh4

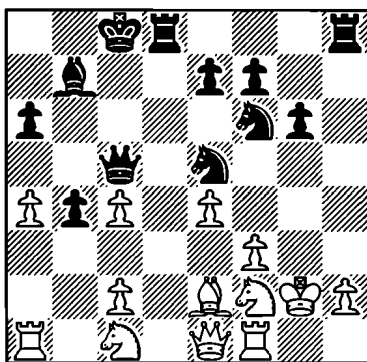
White is mated after 35 ♕g2 ♜e4+ 36 ♕f2 ♜f3+ 37 ♕g2 ♜ff4.

35...♜h7+ 36 ♕g5 f6+ 37 ♕g4 f5+ 38 ♕g5 ♕g7!

With unavoidable mate in two.

39 ♜h2 ♜h6+ 0-1

Borgo-Spassky
Italy 1995



24...♜xf3!

Not the only way to win, but defi-

nitely the most elegant.

25 ♖xf3

25 ♖xf3 would have quickly led to mate after 25...♗xe4+! 26 ♜xe4 ♗f5+! 27 ♖e3 ♗xe4+ 28 ♖f2 ♗xh2+.

25...♗g5+ 0-1

The key idea behind the combina-

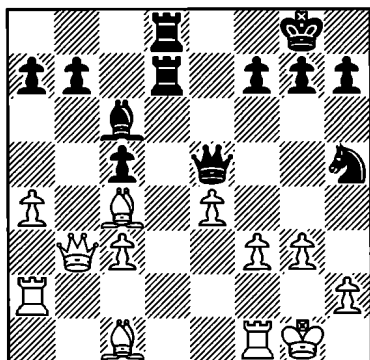
tion was 26 ♖h1 ♗f4 when White cannot defend his kingside for long: for example, 27 h3 ♗xf3+ 28 ♖g1 ♗g3+ 29 ♖h1 ♜xe4 and mate is imminent.

After 50 'warm-up' exercises, it's time to move on to the real challenges.

Combinations for Solving

Puzzle 51

Portisch-Spassky, Geneva 1977



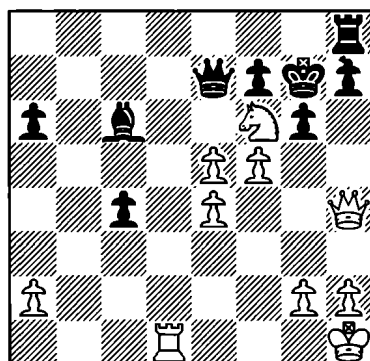
Black to play.

Spassky decided that he was a little worse and that now was a good time to force a draw. How did he do so?

The tip is on p. 77; solution p. 107.

Puzzle 52

Spassky-Garcia Gonzales, Sochi 1964



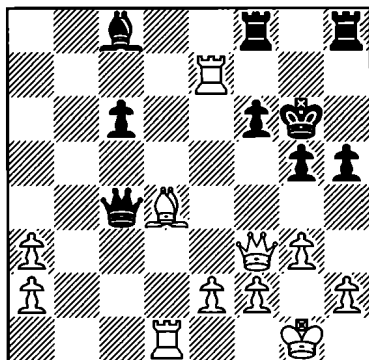
White to play.

White has a lot of pressure, but what precise finish did he find?

The tip is on p. 77; solution p. 108.

Puzzle 53

Spassky-Forintos, Sochi 1964



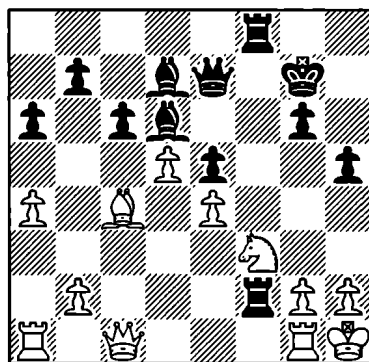
White to play.

White is winning in many ways, but he can decide the game at once. How?

The tip is on p. 77; solution p. 108.

Puzzle 54

Vizantiadis-Spassky, Siegen 1970



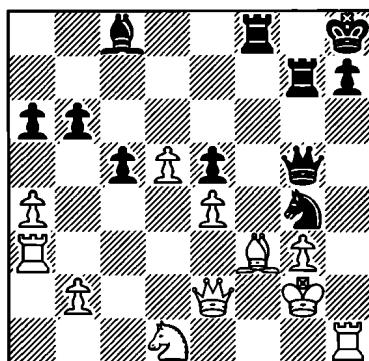
Black to play.

Black has a nice position and would like to exploit the position of his rook on the seventh. Can he do so?

The tip is on p. 77; solution p. 109.

Puzzle 55

Danenhower-Spassky, Canada 1971



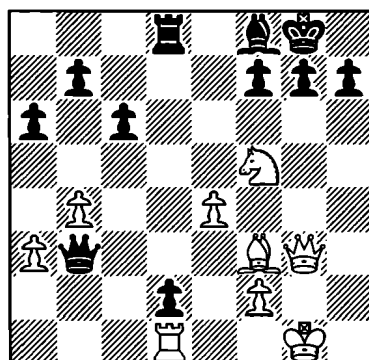
Black to play.

Spassky has organized his pieces in a manner that paves the way for an attack. What did he do next?

The tip is on p. 77; solution p. 109.

Puzzle 56

Spassky-Portisch, Budapest 1967



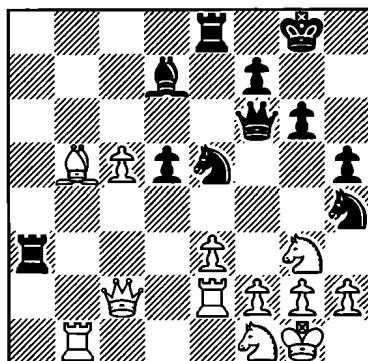
White to play.

Black has sacrificed a piece to gain several pawns, including a seemingly useful passed d-pawn. How did Spassky respond?

The tip is on p. 77; solution p. 110.

Puzzle 57

Andruet-Spassky, Bundesliga 1988



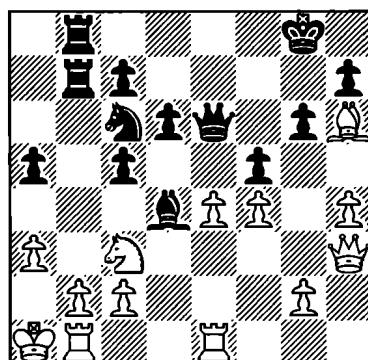
Black to play.

White is winning on the queenside, but how did Spassky demonstrate that the other flank was the more important?

The tip is on p. 77; solution p. 110.

Puzzle 58

Timman-Spassky, Linares 1983



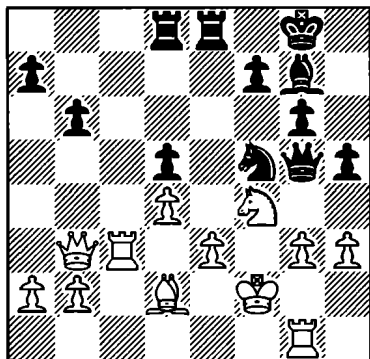
Black to play.

Spassky has again built up a promising attack. How did he break through?

The tip is on p. 77; solution p. 111.

Puzzle 59

Kagan-Spassky, Winnipeg 1967



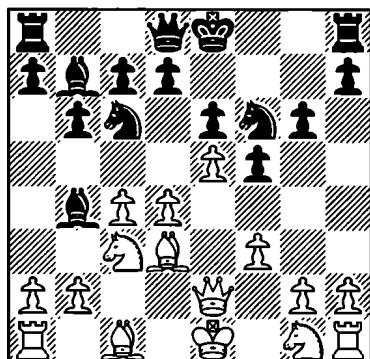
Black to play.

Black has a great position, but how did Spassky make good use of a little calculation?

The tip is on p. 77; solution p. 111.

Puzzle 60

Adorjan-Spassky, Toluca 1982



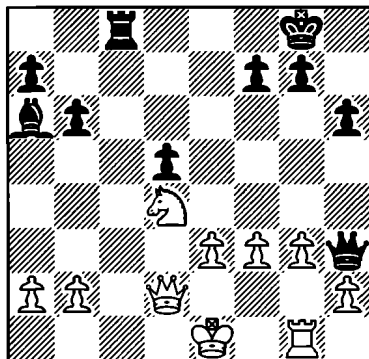
Black to play.

The English Defence is a provocative opening. How did Spassky now demonstrate that White had already overextended?

The tip is on p. 77; solution p. 112.

Puzzle 61

Torre-Spassky, Bugojno 1984



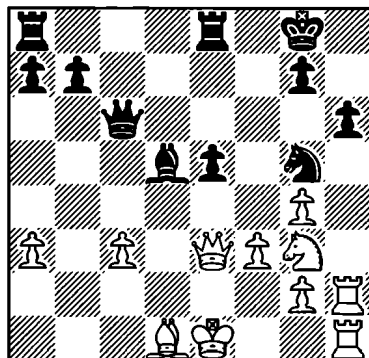
Black to play.

Black has a pleasant position, but has he a tactical breakthrough?

The tip is on p. 78; solution p. 112.

Puzzle 62

Aizenshtadt-Spassky, Riga 1951



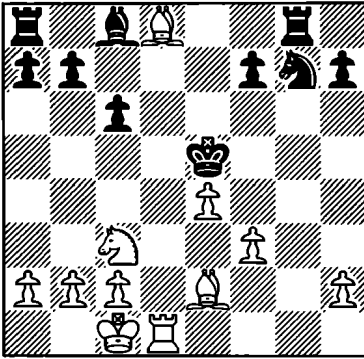
Black to play.

The white rooks are rather optimistically placed. How did Spassky take full advantage?

The tip is on p. 78; solution p. 113.

Puzzle 63

Spassky-Eliet, French League 2002



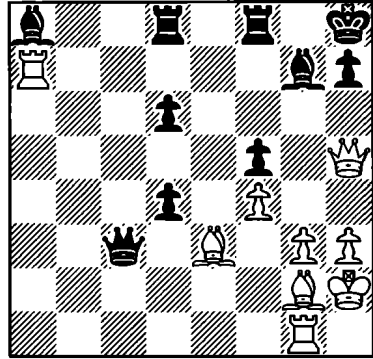
White to play.

Spassky has sacrificed the exchange to control the dark squares. What happened next?

The tip is on p. 78; solution p. 113.

Puzzle 65

Spassky-Gipslis, Baku 1961



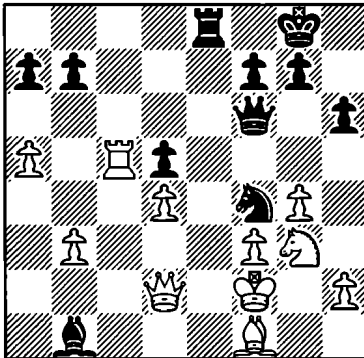
White to play.

Black has just captured a pawn on d4. What threat had Gipslis overlooked?

The tip is on p. 78; solution p. 114.

Puzzle 64

Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969



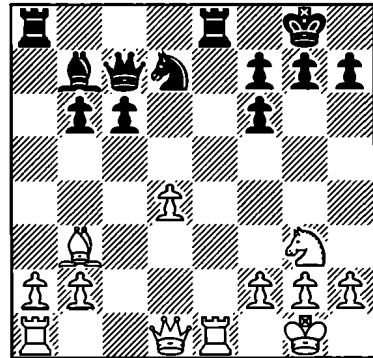
Black to play.

En route to becoming World Champion, how did Spassky show that he was tactically at the top of his game?

The tip is on p. 78; solution p. 114.

Puzzle 66

Spassky-Pfleger, Munich 1979



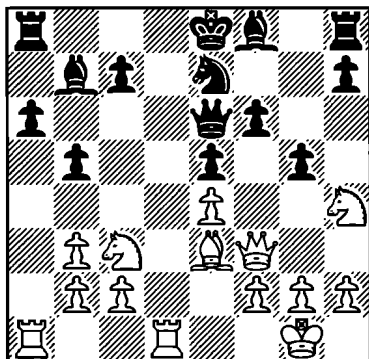
White to play.

The side with an IQP must usually attack. How did Spassky do so?

The tip is on p. 78; solution p. 115.

Puzzle 67

Spassky-Taimanov, Moscow 1955



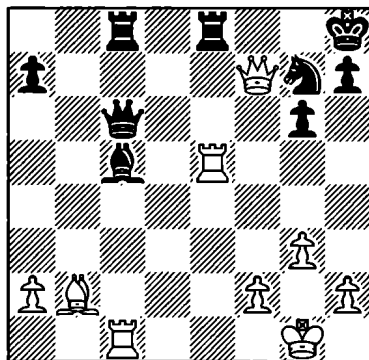
Black to play.

Taimanov hoped that he had events on the kingside under control, but Spassky found a fabulous strike. Where did the blow fall?

The tip is on p. 78; solution p. 115.

Puzzle 68

Portisch-Spassky, Santa Monica 1966



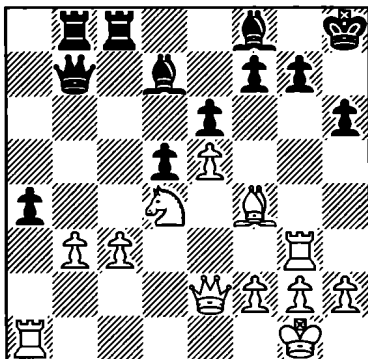
Black to play.

It appears that Black is in dire straights, but he saved the day with a tactic. Can you also avoid defeat here?

The tip is on p. 78; solution p. 116.

Puzzle 69

Spassky-Prie, Montpellier 1991



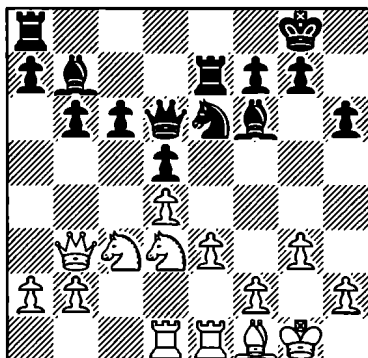
White to play.

Spassky could always create an attack out of almost anything. How did he do so here?

The tip is on p. 78; solution p. 116.

Puzzle 70

Vaganian-Spassky, Moscow 1975



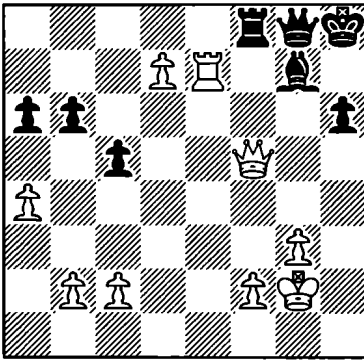
Black to play.

When manoeuvring, never forget to calculate! What had Vaganian evidently overlooked?

The tip is on p. 78; solution p. 117.

Puzzle 71

Spassky-Taimanov, Leningrad 1963



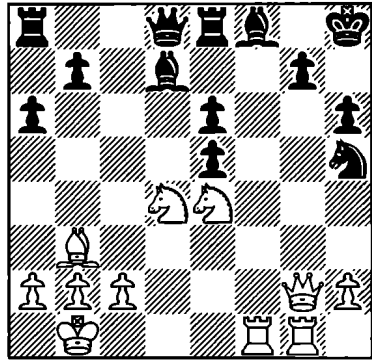
White to play.

Spielmann said that he could find all Alekhine's combinations, only he could not get his positions. Spassky also frequently built up deadly attacking positions. How did he finish here?

The tip is on p. 78; solution p. 117.

Puzzle 73

Spassky-Petrosian, Moscow 1969



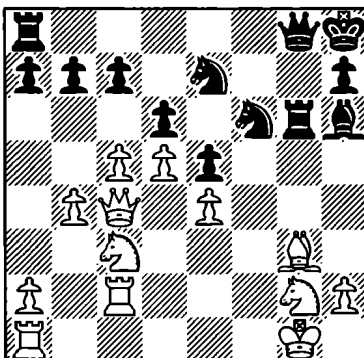
White to play.

Spassky was also a key figure in the development of 6 ♔g5 against the Najdorf. Using that weapon, how did he here kill off one of his biggest rivals?

The tip is on p. 78; solution p. 118.

Puzzle 72

Szabo-Spassky, Bucharest 1953



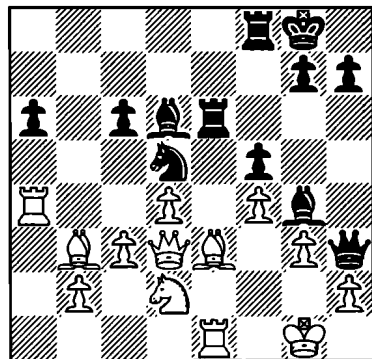
Black to play.

Spassky has built a powerful attack with the King's Indian. What now?

The tip is on p. 78; solution p. 118.

Puzzle 74

Novopashin-Spassky, Leningrad 1963



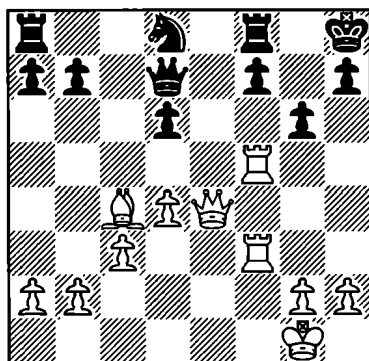
Black to play.

Spassky's Marshall Attack has worked a treat. How did he finish quickly?

The tip is on p. 79; solution p. 119.

Puzzle 75

Spassky-Kholmov, Moscow 1964



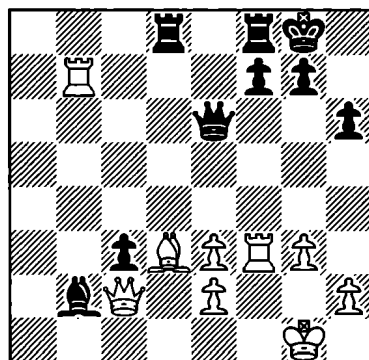
White to play.

Black is a little cramped and White can take full advantage. How?

The tip is on p. 79; solution p. 119.

Puzzle 76

Taimanov-Spassky, Rostov on Don 1971



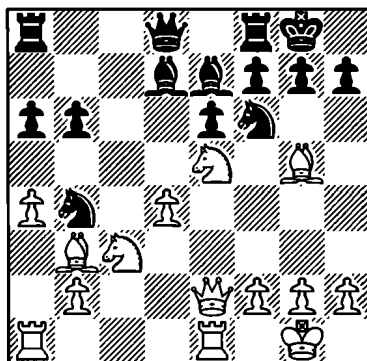
Black to play.

It looks as if White has managed to set up a fortress, but how did Black show that the apparent fortress wasn't fully secure?

The tip is on p. 79; solution p. 120.

Puzzle 77

Spassky-Lengyel, Tallinn 1975



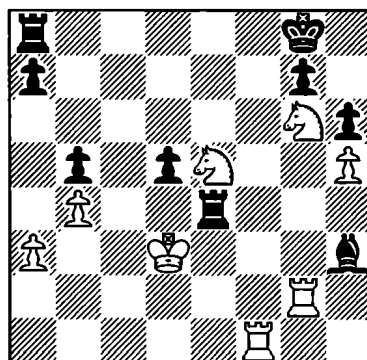
White to play.

How did Spassky demonstrate that he was a master of IQP positions?

The tip is on p. 79; solution p. 120.

Puzzle 78

Spassky-Yusupov, Belfort 1988



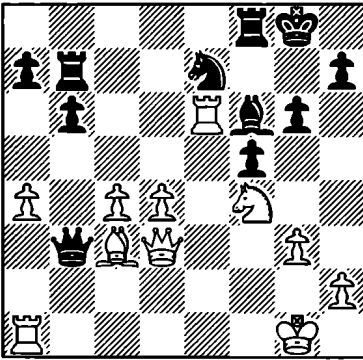
White to play.

Can White do better than lose back an exchange?

The tip is on p. 79; solution p. 121.

Puzzle 79

Spassky-Gufeld, Wellington 1988



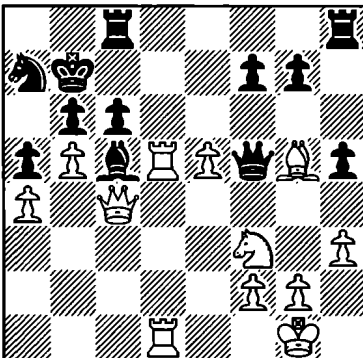
White to play.

The black queen is a long way from the defence of her king. How did White take full advantage?

The tip is on p. 79; solution p. 121.

Puzzle 80

Spassky-Bikert, French League 1994



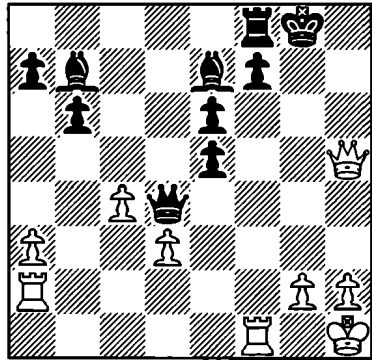
White to play.

White is winning, but can you find a spectacular direct win?

The tip is on p. 79; solution p. 122.

Puzzle 81

Spassky-Tal, Moscow 1971



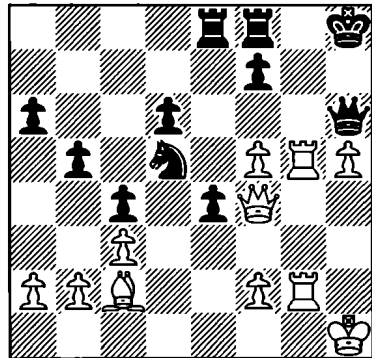
White to play.

White has overextended, but can anything be salvaged?

The tip is on p. 79; solution p. 122.

Puzzle 82

Spassky-Olafsson, Moscow 1959



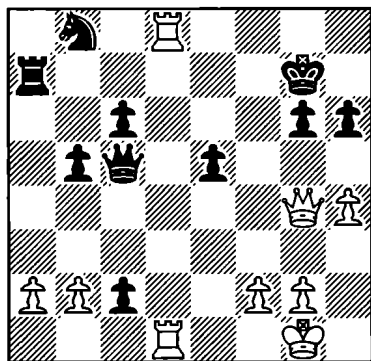
White to play.

Spassky was the first world champion referred to as an all-rounder. Here he crowned a beautiful positional game with a neat combination. What was it?

The tip is on p. 79; solution p. 123.

Puzzle 83

Spassky-Foguelman, Mar del Plata 1960



White to play.

Can White win quickly or must he try to round up the c2-pawn?

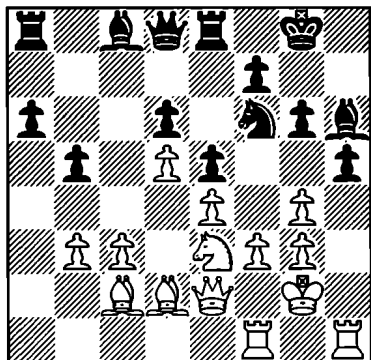
The tip is on p. 79; solution p. 123.

Chapter Five

Up Another Level

We have already witnessed many examples of Spassky's tactical ability, but he was also a master of the initiative. It became clear to us whilst writing this work that if you ever gave Spassky the initiative, you were likely to suffer. That much should be clear from Spassky's four fabulous victories in Chapter One, as well as from the following examples:

Spassky-Unzicker
Santa Monica 1966



36 ♖f5!

A great move as Black cannot allow the knight to live, but taking it merely opens lines for Spassky's attack.

36...♙xd2 37 ♜xd2 gxf5

Most resistance was offered by 37...♘h7 38 ♜h6 ♙xf5 39 exf5 ♜g5 40 ♜xg5 ♘xg5 and Black can continue to struggle on.

38 ♜h6! fxe4

After 38...f4 39 g5 ♘g4 40 fxe4 ♙xe4 41 ♙d1! Black cannot defend h5 and White wins quickly.

39 fxe4 ♙xe4 40 ♜xf6 ♜e7 41 ♜g5+ ♙f8 42 ♙d1! ♙xd1 43 ♜xd1 ♜ec8 44 ♜df1 ♜xc3 45 ♜xh5 ♜c2+ 46 ♙h1 1-0

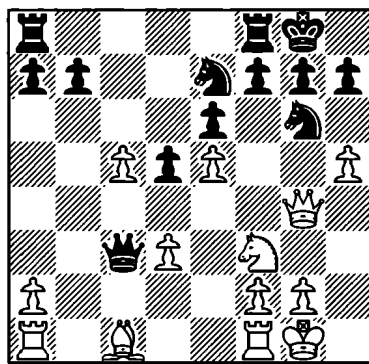
In many ways Spassky's attacking play was quite simple: aim as many pieces as possible at the opponent's king! However, it is not just brute force which makes Spassky's attacks stand out; they were also conducted with great vision and with a fine ability to co-ordinate all the attacking pieces.

Spassky-Paschaian

Leningrad 1954

French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 ♙b4 4 e5 c5 5
 ♚g4 ♜e7 6 dxc5 ♙xc3+ 7 bxc3 0-0 8
 ♜f3 ♜bc6 9 ♙d3 ♜g6 10 ♚h5 ♜ce7 11
 h4 ♚a5 12 0-0 ♙d7 13 ♚g4 ♙b5 14 h5
 ♙xd3 15 cxd3 ♚xc3

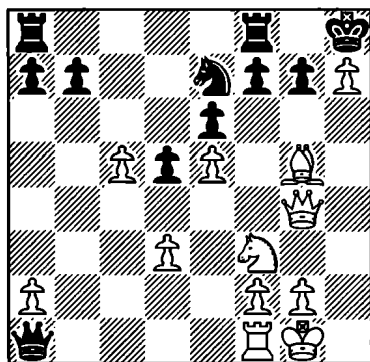


16 hxg6! ♚xa1 17 gxh7+! ♙h8

White also wins after 17...♙xh7 18

♚h5+ ♙g8 19 ♜g5 ♜fc8 20 ♚xf7+ ♙h8
 21 c6! bxc6 22 ♙a3.

18 ♙g5!



18...♚xf1+

Desperation. Spassky's main idea is revealed after 18...♚xa2 19 ♙xe7 ♜fc8 20 ♙f6! forcing mate.

19 ♙xf1 ♜f5 20 ♙f6! ♜ac8

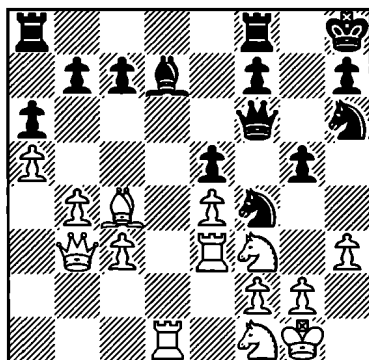
Black is mated after 20...gxf6 21 exf6 ♙xh7 22 ♚h5+ ♙g8 23 ♜g5.

21 ♜d4! gxf6 22 exf6 1-0

Combinations for Solving

Puzzle 84

Armas-Spassky, Bundesliga 1990



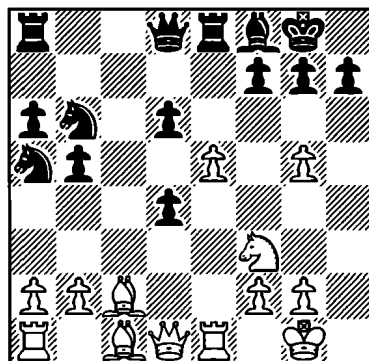
Black to play.

How did Spassky make good use of his forces gathered on the kingside?

The tip is on p. 79; solution p. 124.

Puzzle 85

Spassky-Geller, Riga 1965



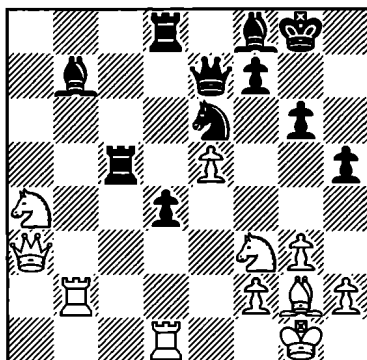
White to play.

As we have seen, Spassky rarely missed a tactical opportunity. How did he strike here?

The tip is on p. 79; solution p. 124.

Puzzle 86

Timman-Spassky, Hilversum 1983



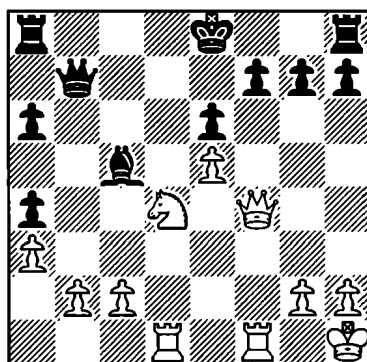
Black to play.

A typical tactical theme is that of unprotected pieces landing up in trouble. How did that happen here?

The tip is on p. 79; solution p. 125.

Puzzle 87

Spassky-Darga, Varna 1962



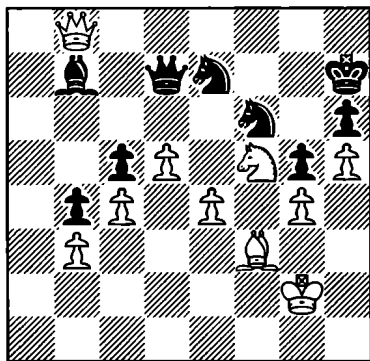
White to play.

Black is about to castle, but should White stop him?

The tip is on p. 80; solution p. 125.

Puzzle 88

Spassky-Penrose, Palma de Mallorca 1969



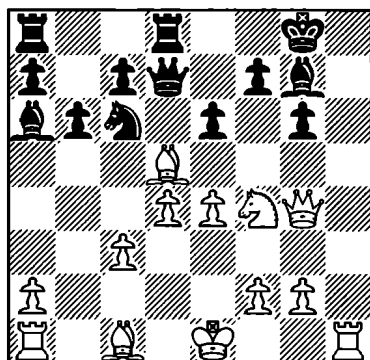
White to play.

White has an overwhelming position and now increased his advantage with a tactical blow. How?

The tip is on p. 80; solution p. 126.

Puzzle 89

Spassky-Timman, Amsterdam 1977



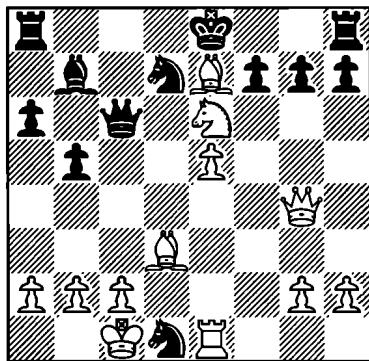
White to play.

There is a chance you already know this game, as it is one of Spassky's most famous victories. But if not, can you see how Spassky broke through?

The tip is on p. 80; solution p. 126.

Puzzle 90

Spassky-Rashkovsky, Moscow 1973



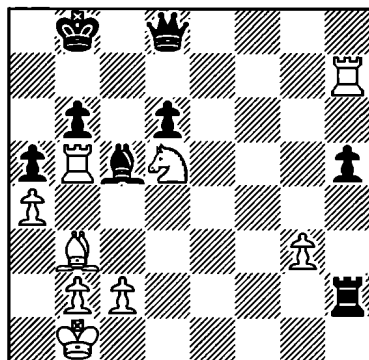
White to play.

Some of Spassky's games could be mistaken for being played by his contemporary, Mikhail Tal. How did White continue here in Tal-like fashion?

The tip is on p. 80; solution p. 127.

Puzzle 91

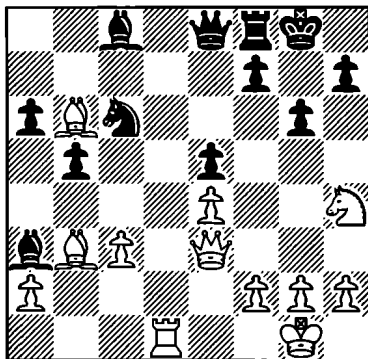
Spassky-Zhukhovitsky, Leningrad 1957



White to play.

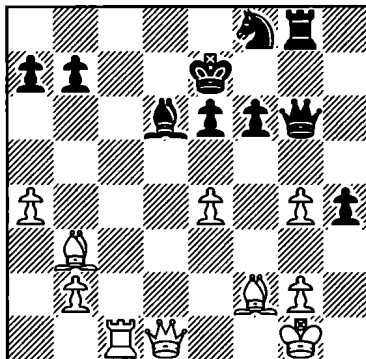
White's queen sacrifice may appear speculative. How did Spassky show that it was actually rather promising?

The tip is on p. 80; solution p. 128.

Puzzle 92**Spassky-Beliavsky, Reykjavik 1988***White to play.*

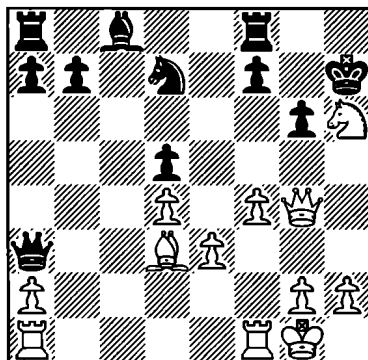
Spassky had been provoked by having his early draw offer rejected. How did he now leave Beliavsky wishing he'd accepted it?

The tip is on p. 80; solution p. 128.

Puzzle 94**Spassky-Banks, Canada 1971***White to play.*

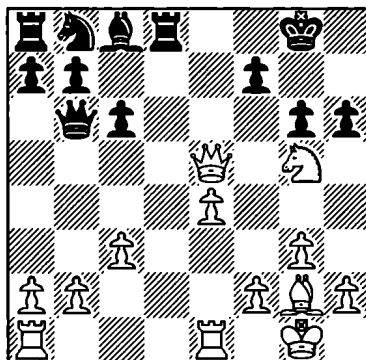
The black king is trying to flee from the queenside to the kingside. How can White prevent it from completing its journey?

The tip is on p. 80; solution p. 130.

Puzzle 93**Spassky-Kinnmark, Gothenburg 1971***White to play.*

Spassky has employed his favourite 4 ♖g5 against the Nimzo-Indian. White has a strong attack, but how to continue?

The tip is on p. 80; solution p. 129.

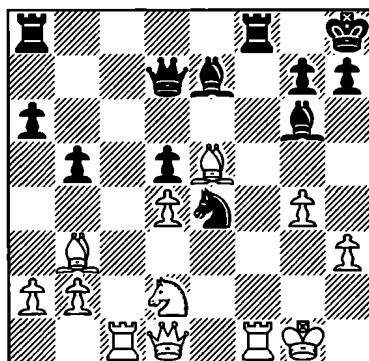
Puzzle 95**Spassky-Bronstein, Moscow 1961***White to play.*

The black king lacks piece protection, but can White take advantage?

The tip is on p. 80; solution p. 130.

Puzzle 96

Geller-Spassky, Moscow 1964



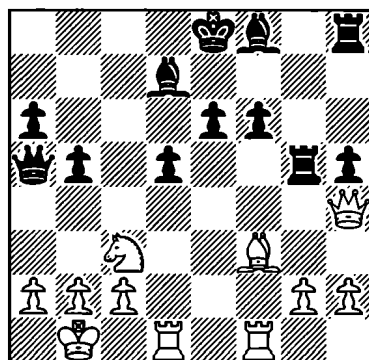
Black to play.

White clearly has weakened his kingside. How did Spassky exploit it?

The tip is on p. 80; solution p. 131.

Puzzle 97

Spassky-Bilek, Moscow 1967



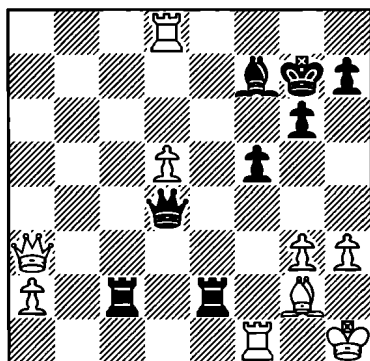
White to play.

Spassky has already sacrificed a pawn for the initiative, but how did he continue?

The tip is on p. 80; solution p. 132.

Puzzle 98

Hartoch-Spassky, Amsterdam 1970



Black to play.

We finish this chapter with the crème de la crème. What win did Black find with some accurate calculation?

The tip is on p. 80; solution p. 132.

Chapter Six

The Very Best of Spassky

Like all world champions, Spassky produced some quite brilliant games. We've already seen four of the best in Chapter One and it's now time to see some more, including the following beautiful win which was instrumental in helping to dethrone Petrosian:

Spassky-Petrosian

Moscow 1969

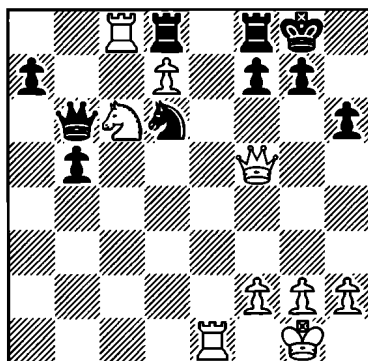
Queen's Gambit

1 c4 ♘f6 2 ♘c3 e6 3 ♘f3 d5 4 d4 c5 5 cxd5 ♘xd5 6 e4 ♘xc3 7 bxc3 cxd4 8 cxd4 ♙b4+ 9 ♙d2 ♙xd2+ 10 ♚xd2 0-0 11 ♙c4 ♘c6 12 0-0 b6 13 ♖ad1 ♙b7 14 ♖fe1 ♖c8

Spassky had studied this with Polugaevsky, and their preparation later enabled Polugaevsky to crush Tal with the now well-known 14...♘a5 15 ♙d3 ♖c8 16 d5! exd5 17 e5 ♘c4 18 ♚f4 ♘b2 19 ♙xh7+!! ♙xh7 20 ♘g5+ ♙g6 21 h4. 15 d5! exd5 16 ♙xd5 ♘a5 17 ♚f4 ♚c7 18 ♚f5 ♙xd5 19 exd5 ♚c2 20 ♚f4 ♚xa2 21 d6 ♖cd8 22 d7 ♚c4 23 ♚f5 h6

24 ♖c1 ♚a6 25 ♖c7 b5 26 ♘d4 ♚b6 27 ♖c8 ♘b7

Also losing are 27...♚xd4? 28 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 29 ♖e8+ and 27...b4 28 ♖e8! ♚xd4 29 ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 30 ♖xf8+ ♙xf8 31 ♚c5+!. 28 ♘c6 ♘d6



29 ♘xd8!

A famous decision, although 29 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 30 ♘e7+ ♙h8 31 ♘c8 would also have won.

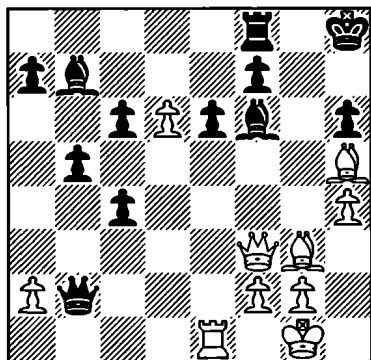
29...♘xf5 30 ♘c6! 1-0

It is tactical achievements like this that you will have to solve here.

Combinations for Solving

Puzzle 99

Spassky-Pachman, Moscow 1967



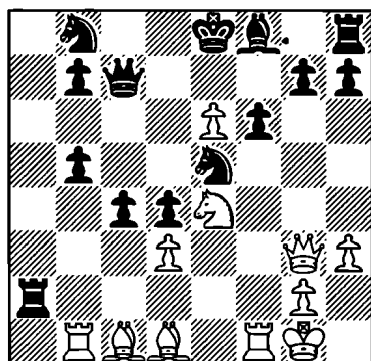
White to play.

Black is two pawns up, but White has useful trumps of his own. How did Spassky put them to good effect?

The tip is on p. 80; solution p. 133.

Puzzle 100

Spassky-Reshko, Leningrad 1959



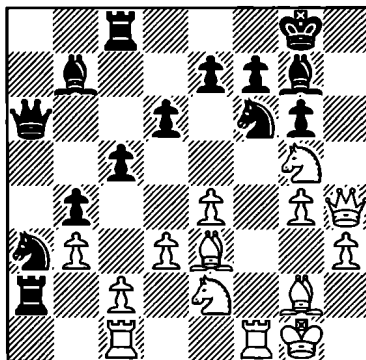
White to play.

How did Spassky make great use of his e-pawn's advanced position?

The tip is on p. 81; solution p. 133.

Puzzle 101

Spassky-Geller, Suhumi 1968



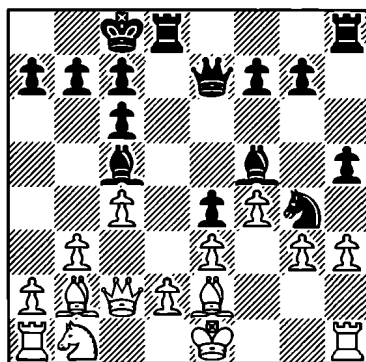
White to play.

Spassky has built up a strong attack. How did he break through?

The tip is on p. 81; solution p. 134.

Puzzle 102

Larsen-Spassky, Belgrade 1970



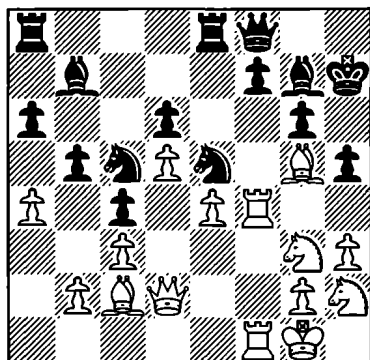
Black to play.

White's early play has been rather provocative. Now he was hoping to force the black knight to retreat. Did it?

The tip is on p. 81; solution p. 134.

Puzzle 103

Spassky-Portisch, Geneva 1977



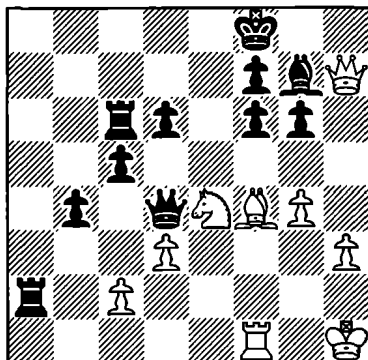
White to play.

White has a lot of firepower gathered on the kingside, but how did Spassky make the best use of it?

The tip is on p. 81; solution p. 135.

Puzzle 105

Spassky-Geller, Suhumi 1968



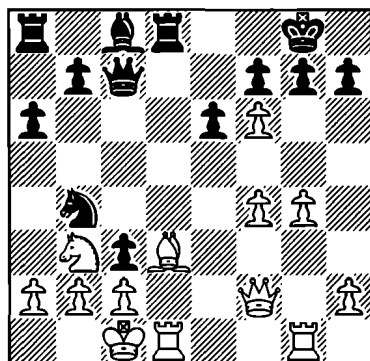
White to play.

Geller has just cracked in another Closed Sicilian. How did Spassky take advantage?

The tip is on p. 81; solution p. 136.

Puzzle 104

**Spassky-Capelan Guenter,
Solingen 1974**



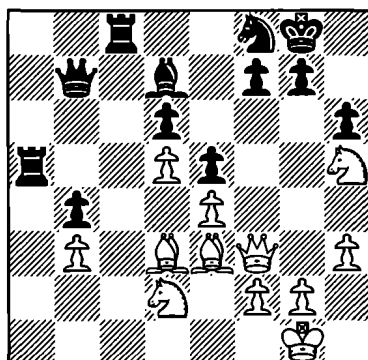
White to play.

Both sides have pursued their respective attacks, but how did Spassky show that White's was the stronger?

The tip is on p. 81; solution p. 135.

Puzzle 106

Spassky-Arutiunian, USSR 1965



White to play.

Spassky has sacrificed two exchanges for a very active position. How did he continue the attack?

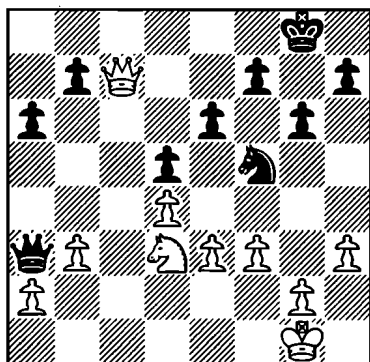
The tip is on p. 81; solution p. 137.

Chapter Seven

Endgame Legacy

Spassky is chiefly known as a superb attacking player, but he was also highly able in every area of the game. Here we will enjoy some fine endgame technique from him, while observing that tactics can still play a large part in the final stages of the game.

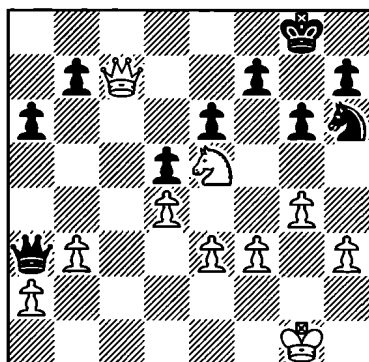
Spassky-Larsen
Malmö 1968



White is clearly better and now made good use of some calculation.
29 g4!! ♖h6

Instead 29...♞xe3 didn't work because the knight would have been ingeniously trapped after 30 ♞e5 ♜f8 (or 30...f5 31 ♜f7+ ♔h8 32 ♜f6+ ♔g8 33 ♜xe6+ ♔g7 34 ♜f7+ ♔h8 35 ♜c7! and White wins) 31 ♜c1!. The only way to then defend the knight is 31...♜h6, but that allows White a decisive attack after 32 ♞d7.

30 ♞e5



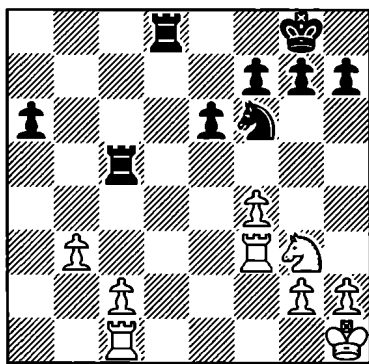
30...♜b4

Possible is 30...♜xa2, but after 31 ♞d7 ♜a3 32 ♜b8+ ♔g7 33 ♜e5+ ♔g8 34

♖g2 b5 35 h4! White still wins as g5 and ♕f6+ will begin a mating attack.

31 ♖d7 ♜e1+ 32 ♖g2 ♜e2+ 33 ♖g3 ♖f5+ 34 gxf5 ♜e1+ 35 ♖f4 ♜h4+ 36 ♖e5 ♜g3+ 37 f4 ♜xe3+ 38 ♖f6 ♜xd4+ 39 ♖e5 1-0

Suetin-Spassky
Kharkov 1963



25...♞d2

The endgame slightly favours Black

and Spassky now instructively out-plays his opponent.

26 c4 a5 27 ♖g1 ♖f8 28 ♞f2 ♞d3 29 ♞f3 ♞d2 30 ♞f2 ♞d7 31 h3 ♖e7 32 ♞f3 h5!

Creating further weaknesses.

33 ♖e2 h4 34 ♖c3 ♞f5 35 ♖f1 ♞d2 36 ♖e2 g5 37 fxg5 ♞xg5 38 c5? ♞xc5!

A neat combination, winning a pawn while exchanging rooks.

39 ♞xc5 ♞d1+ 40 ♖f2 ♖e4+ 41 ♖e3 ♖xc5

Black is completely winning as White is rather disorganized.

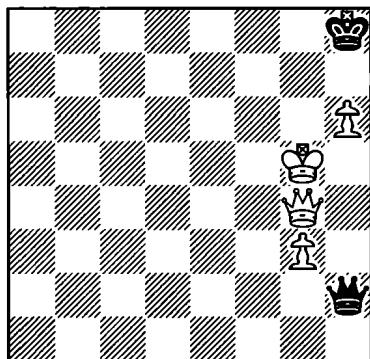
42 ♞f4 ♞d3+ 43 ♖f2 ♞xb3 44 ♞xh4 a4 45 ♞c4 ♖d6 46 ♞d4+ ♖e5 47 ♞c4 ♖d6 48 ♞d4+ ♖c7 49 ♞d1 ♖e4+ 50 ♖e1 ♞b2 51 ♞a1 a3 52 ♖c1 ♞xg2 53 ♖f1 ♞h2 54 ♞xa3 ♞h1+ 55 ♖g2 ♞xc1 56 ♞a7+ ♖d6 57 ♞xf7 ♞c2+ 58 ♖h1 ♞c3 0-1

We will start with something light and slowly move on to the more spectacular.

Combinations for Solving

Puzzle 107

Ribli-Spassky, Montpellier 1985



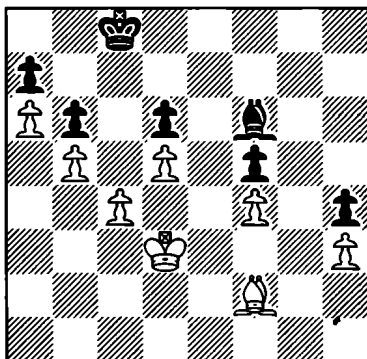
Black to play.

After tough challenges in Chapter Six, it's time for something a easier. How did Spassky save the game?

The tip is on p. 81; solution p. 137.

Puzzle 109

Spassky-R.Byrne, San Juan 1974



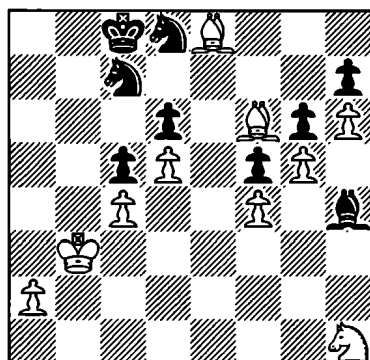
White to play.

Black appears to have a blockade, but Spassky found a way through. How?

The tip is on p. 81; solution p. 139.

Puzzle 108

Spassky-Fischer, Belgrade 1992



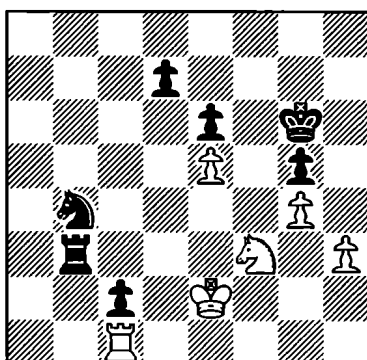
White to play.

Spassky here exploited his huge space advantage. How?

The tip is on p. 81; solution p. 138.

Puzzle 110

Seirawan-Spassky, USA 1990



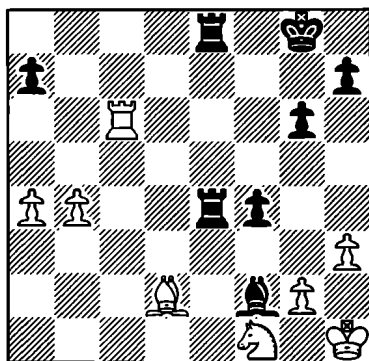
Black to play.

Black is in complete control, but how did he quickly force resignation?

The tip is on p. 81; solution p. 140.

Puzzle 111

Timman-Spassky, Bugojno 1986



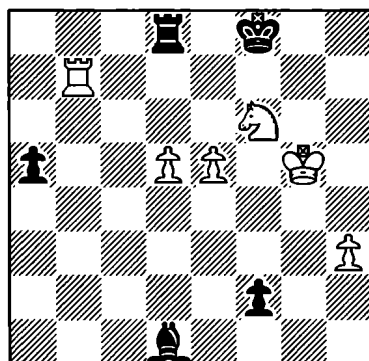
Black to play.

Even though there are few pieces left, there are still plenty of tactical patterns in play. How did Spassky make use of a standard one here?

The tip is on p. 81; solution p. 140.

Puzzle 112

Spassky-Larsen, Malmö 1968



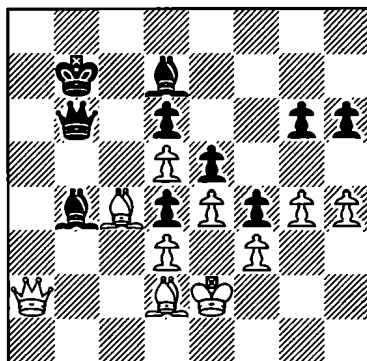
White to play.

How did Spassky show that his superior co-ordination was more important than the dangerous f2-pawn?

The tip is on p. 81; solution p. 141.

Puzzle 113

Spassky-Zhu Chen, Roquebrune 1998



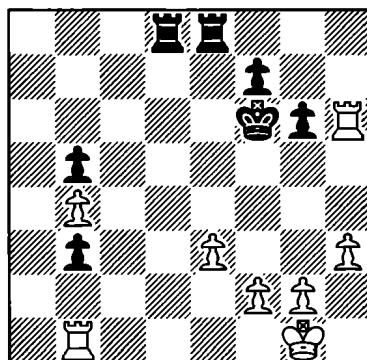
White to play.

After a long struggle Spassky finally got a chance. What did he find?

The tip is on p. 82; solution p. 141.

Puzzle 114

Larsen-Spassky, Lugano 1968



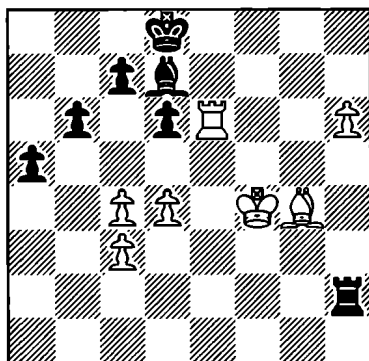
Black to play.

Though the endgame was probably Spassky's least strong area, he still had pretty good technique. How was that employed here?

The tip is on p. 82; solution p. 142.

Puzzle 115

Spassky-Polugaevsky, Baku 1961



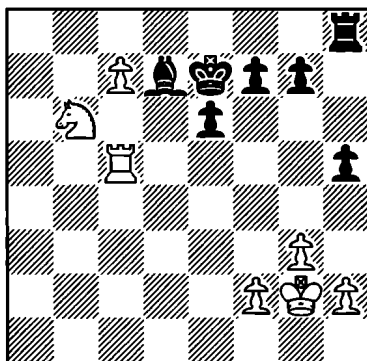
White to play.

Boleslavsky made Spassky train by solving lots of studies, but before they began to work together Spassky could already find study-like finishes. How did White win this one?

The tip is on p. 82; solution p. 142.

Puzzle 116

Korchnoi-Spassky, Belgrade 1977



Black to play.

The 1977 match against Korchnoi was a particular dirty affair. Spassky did everything he could to knock Korchnoi off balance, including finding an amazing resource in this first matchgame. What did he spot?

The tip is on p. 82; solution p. 143.

Chapter Eight

Retaliation

It is impossible, of course, for even the greatest players to go through their career without defeats. Some champions like Capablanca and Karpov were notoriously hard to beat, but others like Alekhine, Spassky and Tal suffered many defeats due to their style of play. Quite simply, if you take lots of chances and play for complications, you will both win and lose more games. We've already enjoyed many of Spassky's spectacular victories, but he also suffered a number of spectacular defeats.

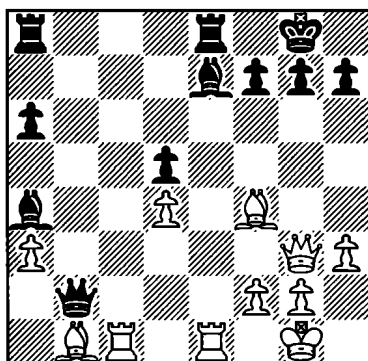
Miles-Spassky

Buenos Aires 1978

(see following diagram)

23 ♖xh7+! ♜xh7 24 ♜xe7! ♜xe7 25 ♜h4+ ♜g8 26 ♜xe7

The outcome of this tactical operation has left Black both badly coordinated and vulnerable on the dark squares.



26... ♜xd4 27 ♖e5 ♜b6

Also possible was 27... ♜d2 28 ♜c7 ♜d1+ 29 ♜h2 ♜h5 when Black still faces an uphill struggle.

28 ♜g5 ♜h6 29 ♜xh6 gxf6 30 ♜c3

It requires good technique to win this endgame, but Miles was more than equal to the challenge.

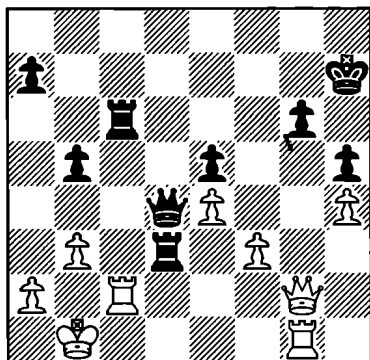
30... ♜f8 31 ♜c5 ♜d8 32 ♖f6 ♜d6 33 ♜c8+ ♖e8 34 ♖d4 ♖e6 35 ♜d8 ♜g8 36 ♜xd5 ♖e1+ 37 ♜h2 ♜d1 38 ♜d8 ♜h7 39 g4 ♜d3 40 f4 h5 41 f5 1-0

It's zugzwang.

Combinations for Solving

Puzzle 117

Spassky-Hübner, Venice 1989



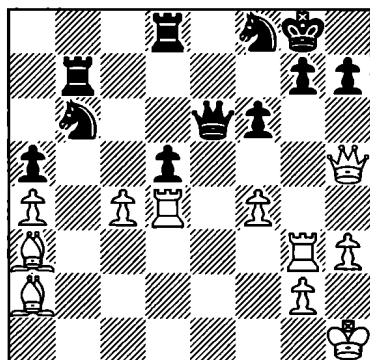
Black to play.

Black is well centralized. How did Hübner exploit his major pieces?

The tip is on p. 82; solution p. 143.

Puzzle 118

Spassky-Xie Jun, Copenhagen 1997



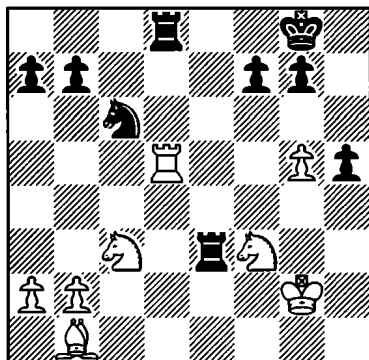
Black to play.

Xie Jun is a national icon in China. How did she show us here that she has always possessed excellent calculation?

The tip is on p. 82; solution p. 144.

Puzzle 119

Geller-Spassky, Moscow 1967



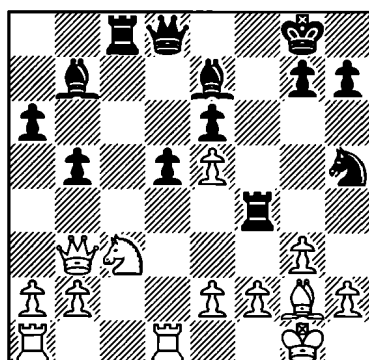
White to play.

Spassky has just offered an exchange of rooks. Why was that a blunder?

The tip is on p. 82; solution p. 144.

Puzzle 120

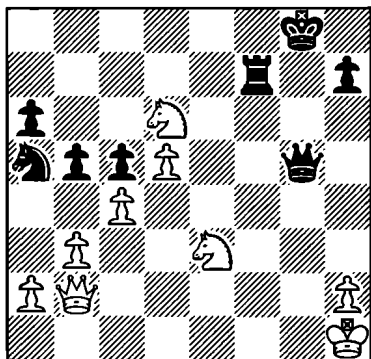
Van Wely-Spassky, French League 2002



White to play.

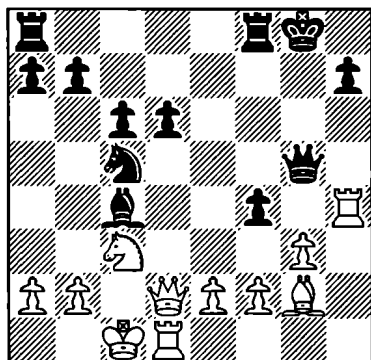
Spassky has just offered the exchange on f4, but must White accept?

The tip is on p. 82; solution p. 145.

Puzzle 121**Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1966***White to play.*

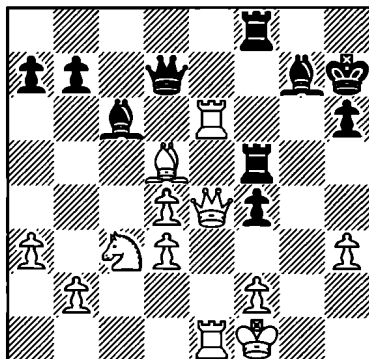
This famous finish is probably known to you, but if not how did Petrosian emerge material ahead?

The tip is on p. 82; solution p. 145.

Puzzle 122**Spassky-Santo-Roman,
Montpellier 1991***Black to play.*

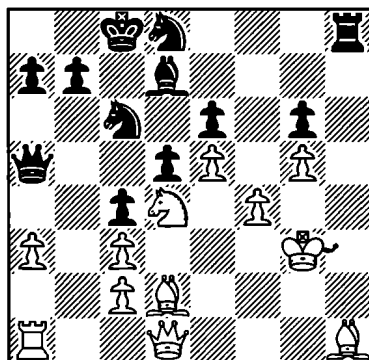
We are all susceptible to blunders – even world champions. How did Black exploit a rare Spassky blunder?

The tip is on p. 82; solution p. 146.

Puzzle 123**Ljubojevic-Spassky, London 1982***White to play.*

Any attacking hopes of Spassky's have been left high and dry. How did Ljubojevic quickly put him out of his misery?

The tip is on p. 82; solution p. 146.

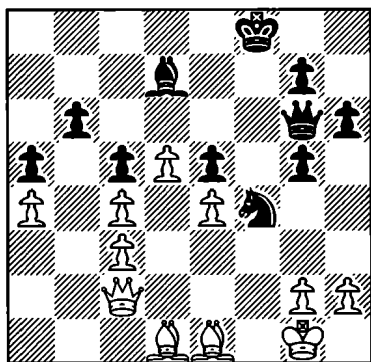
Puzzle 124**Spassky-Duckstein, Zurich 1984***Black to play.*

How did Black demonstrate that Spassky had indeed overextended?

The tip is on p. 82; solution p. 147.

Puzzle 125

Spassky-Fischer, Reykjavik 1972



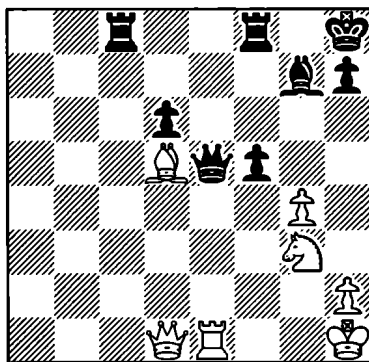
Black to play.

Thrown by the turbulent start to the match, Spassky has just produced a howler. How did Fischer take full advantage?

The tip is on p. 82; solution p. 147.

Puzzle 127

Spassky-Sax, Clermont-Ferrand 1989



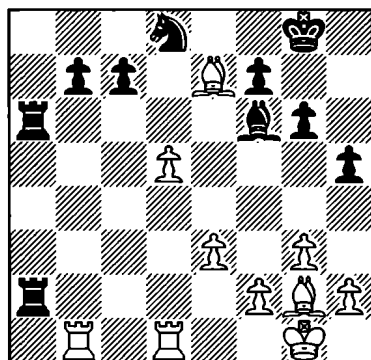
Black to play.

White was possibly hoping to still scrape a draw here, but Black's next ended any such hopes. What was Sax's powerful blow?

The tip is on p. 83; solution p. 148.

Puzzle 126

Najdorf-Spassky, Gothenburg 1955



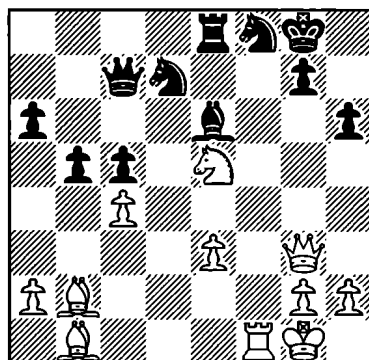
White to play.

How did the famous Argentinean win material against a young Spassky?

The tip is on p. 83; solution p. 148.

Puzzle 128

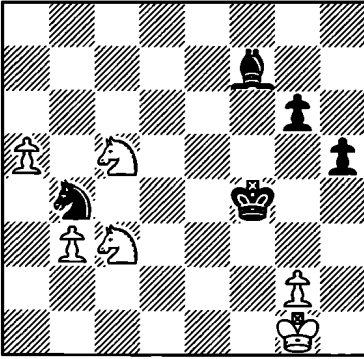
Keres-Spassky, Gothenburg 1955



White to play.

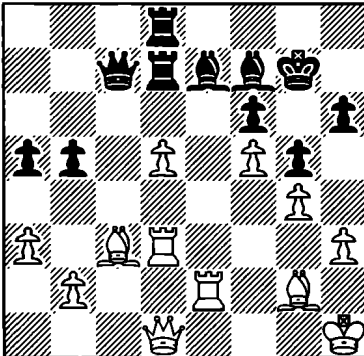
How did the talented Estonian exploit his raking bishops?

The tip is on p. 83; solution p. 149.

Puzzle 129**Anand-Spassky, Cannes 1989***White to play.*

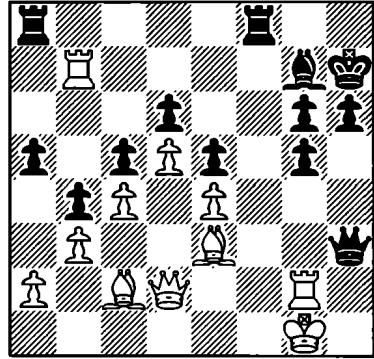
Black has been struggling for a long time, but how did Anand quickly wrap up proceedings?

The tip is on p. 83; solution p. 149.

Diagram 130**Karpov-Spassky, Montreal 1979***White to play.*

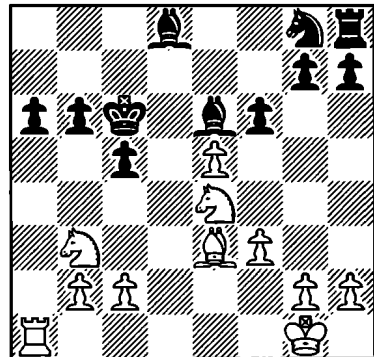
Karpov has completely outplayed Spassky and now finished most efficiently. How?

The tip is on p. 83; solution p. 149.

Puzzle 131**J. Polgar-Spassky, Budapest 1993***White to play.*

The young Judit has won a piece, but converting it does not look especially easy. How did she, however, actually show that it was?

The tip is on p. 83; solution p. 150.

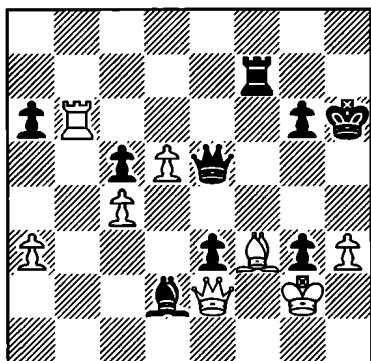
Puzzle 132**Fischer-Spassky, Sveti-Stefan 1992***White to play.*

Spassky is in some trouble against Fischer's Ruy Lopez Exchange. How was he quickly finished off?

The tip is on p. 83; solution p. 150.

Puzzle 133

Spassky-Simagin, Moscow 1961



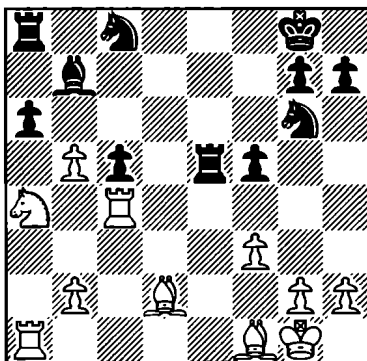
Black to play.

Simagin is a strong Soviet player who is little unknown in the West. Here he has outplayed Spassky and has a chance to finish him off. How?

The tip is on p. 83; solution p. 151.

Puzzle 135

Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969



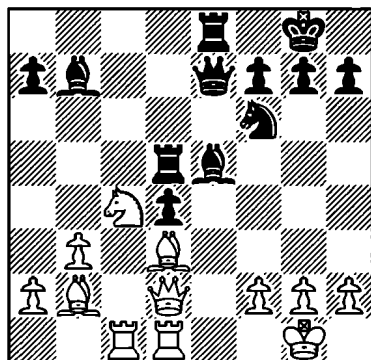
White to play.

Petrosian might have been expected to grind out a win in the endgame, but he actually found a way to win material. How?

The tip is on p. 83; solution p. 152.

Puzzle 134

Spassky-Tal, Montreal 1979



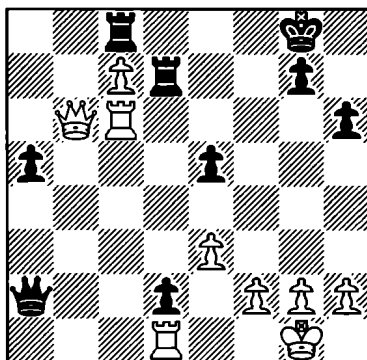
Black to play.

The black pieces are poised to strike and Tal loved such positions. How did he decisively co-ordinate his forces?

The tip is on p. 83; solution p. 152.

Puzzle 136

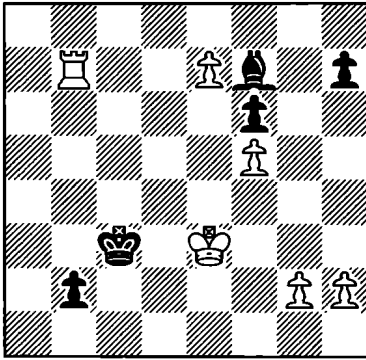
Korchnoi-Spassky, Belgrade 1977



White to play.

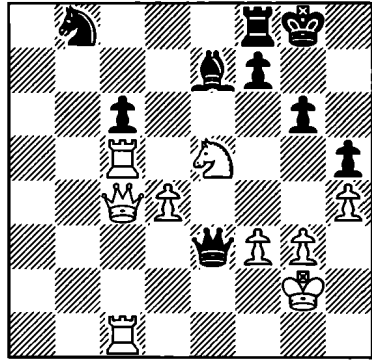
The position looks rather messy, but is actually winning for White. How did Korchnoi accurately demonstrate that?

The tip is on p. 83; solution p. 153.

Puzzle 137**Fischer-Spassky, Sveti-Stefan 1992***White to play.*

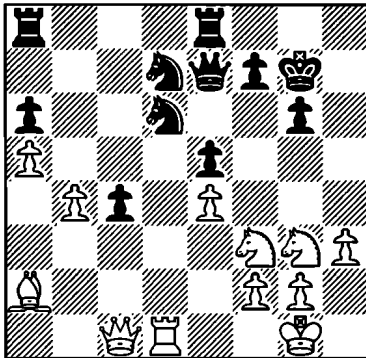
White is going to have to ditch his rook for the passed b-pawn, but he can still win with some accuracy. How did Fischer do so?

The tip is on p. 83; solution p. 154.

Puzzle 139**Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969***White to play.*

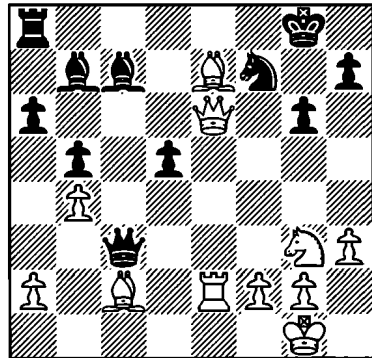
Against a lesser player than Petrosian, Black might have had some drawing chances. How did Iron Tigran close out the game?

The tip is on p. 84; solution p. 155.

Puzzle 138**Karpov-Spassky, Moscow 1973***White to play.*

Spassky's knights appear a little vulnerable down the d-file, but can White take advantage?

The tip is on p. 83; solution p. 154.

Puzzle 140**J. Polgar-Spassky, Hoogeveen 1998***White to play.*

White has missed several wins in the scramble, but can still claim the full point. How did Judit do so?

The tip is on p. 84; solution p. 155.

Chapter Nine

Missed Opportunities

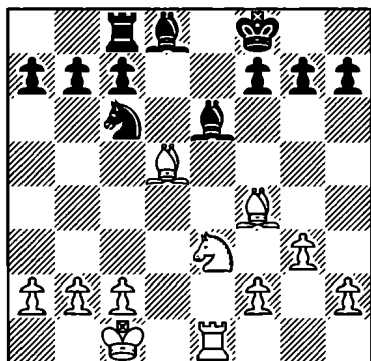
In our search for combinations in Spassky's games we stumbled over some fine tactics that were never actually played. Including them is not really

in line with the concept behind this series, but we present them all the same. They all contain a tactical twist and we hope that the reader will enjoy them.

Combinations for Solving

Puzzle 141

Spassky-Fressinet, Paris 2001



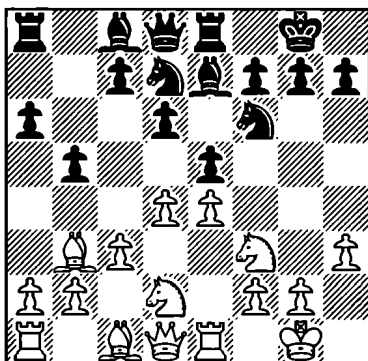
Black to play.

This seemingly innocent position was soon drawn. Should Black have done better?

The tip is on p. 84; solution p. 156.

Puzzle 142

J.Polgar-Spassky, Budapest 1993



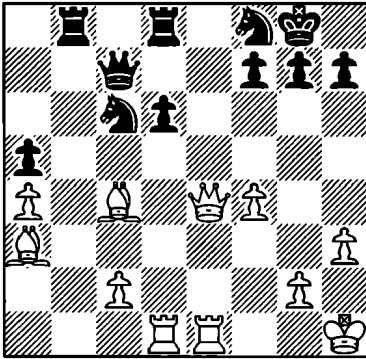
White to play.

Spassky has mixed up his move order. How should he have been punished?

The tip is on p. 84; solution p. 156.

Puzzle 143

Spassky-Xie Jun, Copenhagen 1997



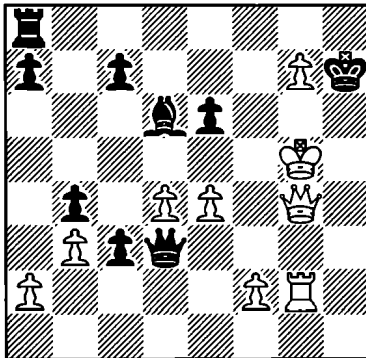
White to play.

Spassky actually went on to lose this game, but how should he have done much better at this point?

The tip is on p. 84; solution p. 156.

Puzzle 144

Spassky-Polugaevsky, Moscow 1961



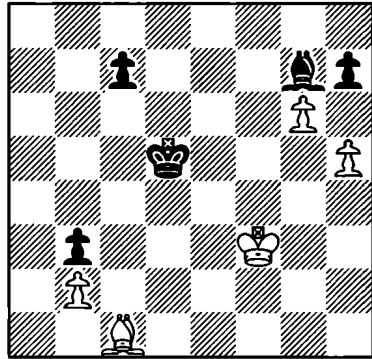
White to play.

Spassky has already missed several wins, but still has one last chance. What did he miss?

The tip is on p. 84; solution p. 157.

Puzzle 145

Spiridonov-Spassky, Sochi 1973



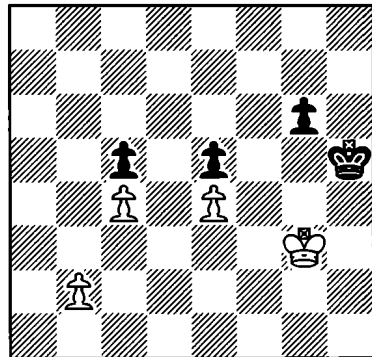
Black to play.

How can this endgame be won?

The tip is on p. 84; solution p. 157.

Puzzle 146

Weih-Spassky, Bundesliga 1983



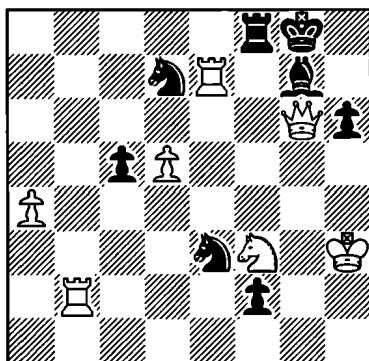
White to play.

Black has played well to gain an advantage, but White can still hold. How?

The tip is on p. 84; solution p. 158.

Puzzle 147

Korchnoi-Spassky, St Petersburg 1999



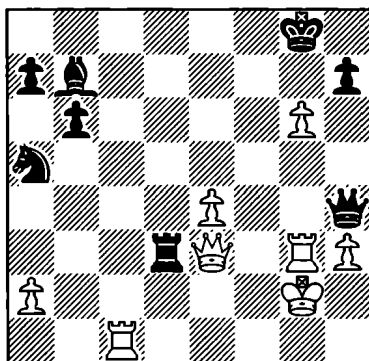
Black to play.

With some accuracy Spassky could still have drawn this tricky position. How?

The tip is on p. 84; solution p. 158.

Puzzle 149

Spassky-Stein, Moscow 1971



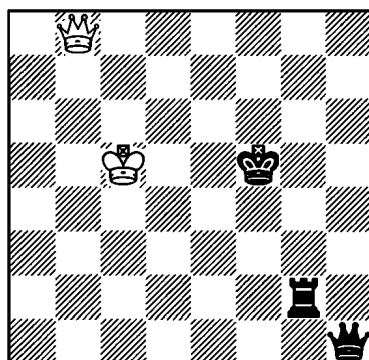
White to play.

Spassky missed a win here. Finding it is far from easy, but can you do any better than our hero?

The tip is on p. 84; solution p. 159.

Puzzle 148

Spassky-Filip, Bucharest 1953



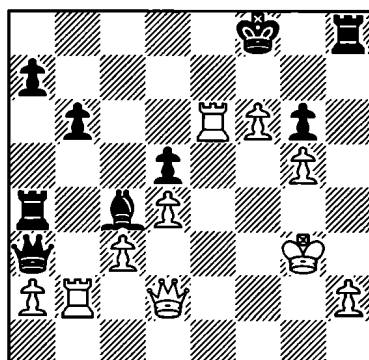
White to play.

This is a really difficult exercise. White needs to deliver perpetual check, but how should he do so?

The tip is on p. 84; solution p. 159.

Puzzle 150

Spassky-Panno, Lucerne 1985



Black to play.

Panno has a brilliant defence at his disposal, but what is it?

The tip is on p. 84; solution p. 160.

Chapter Ten

Tips

Puzzle 1) Ivkov-Spassky, Santa Monica 1966

Involve the black knight in the attack.

Puzzle 2) Spassky-Vasiukov, Moscow 1959

Is Black really threatening anything?

Puzzle 3) Averbakh-Spassky, Moscow 1961

Advance the black queen!

Puzzle 4) Schweber-Spassky, Antwerp 1955

Black must make the most of his alignment on the diagonal.

Puzzle 5) Spassky-Korchnoi, Kiev 1968

Go straight for the black king.

Puzzle 6) Spassky-Marsalek, Leningrad 1960

Attack the opponent where he is weakest.

Puzzle 7) Aronin-Spassky, Yerevan 1962

It is all about the correct move order.

Puzzle 8) Spassky-Zurakhov, Leningrad 1955

White can make good use of the seventh rank.

Puzzle 9) Santo-Roman - Spassky, Paris 2002

Black actually has a choice rather than just a forced move.

Puzzle 10) Bronstein-Spassky, Riga 1958

Think family forks to begin with.

Puzzle 11) Gipslis-Spassky, Riga 1959

Undefended pieces are like magnets for combinations.

Puzzle 12) Spassky-Posner, Canada 1971

There's a more elegant finish than ♖f1.

Puzzle 13) Lengyel-Spassky, Moscow 1971

Try brute force.

Puzzle 14) Reshko-Spassky, Rostov on Don 1960

The white king looks fragile, doesn't it?

Puzzle 15) Spassky-Vilup, Leningrad 1949

White must act swiftly.

Puzzle 16) Spassky-Papathanassiou, Kalamata 2002

How to exploit Black's weakest square?

Puzzle 17) Bauer-Spassky, Paris 2001

Black needs to activate a rook.

Puzzle 18) Zhu Chen-Spassky, Marbella 1999

It is useful to have a solid grip on the only open file.

Puzzle 19) Purdy-Spassky, Antwerp 1955

Has White an undefended piece?

Puzzle 20) Hug-Spassky, Bath 1973

Recapturing would not make it an exercise, would it?

Puzzle 21) Spassky-Fischer, Siegen 1970

How to win the hanging black queen?

Puzzle 22) Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969

It's time to remove a key defender.

Puzzle 23) Spassky-Brunner, Solingen 1986

Involve the big guns!

Puzzle 24) Spassky-Larsen, Palma de Mallorca 1969

Black has just been rather careless ...

Puzzle 25) Spassky-Kostro, Siegen 1970

Think interference.

Puzzle 26) Spassky-Ghiteșcu, Sofia 1958

That's a very useful passed pawn, isn't it?

Puzzle 27) Furman-Spassky, Moscow 1957

Invite everyone to the party!

Puzzle 28) Spassky-Westerinen, Dortmund 1973

Can any of the black pieces be overloaded?

Puzzle 29) Spassky-Ciric, Marianske Lazne 1962

White can emerge material ahead.

Puzzle 30) Spassky-Ragozin, Leningrad 1956

What move has Black hoped he's prevented?

Puzzle 31) Spassky-Sanguinetti, Sofia 1958

Though he can run, Black's king will not be able to hide.

Puzzle 32) Larsen-Spassky, Linares 1981

We should always look first at the simplest combinational motifs.

Puzzle 33) Spassky-Pachman, Havana 1962

A timely check is important.

Puzzle 34) Spassky-Petrosian, Moscow 1967

Play for mate!

Puzzle 35) Hodgson-Spassky, Brussels 1985

Black has a sudden strike.

Puzzle 36) Spassky-Averkin, Moscow 1973

If you do not have time, you will have to make time!

Puzzle 37) Spassky-Hübner, Munich 1979

Keep the black king cornered.

Puzzle 38) Spassky-Perez, Tel Aviv 1964

White can unleash a skewer.

Puzzle 39) Boucchechter-Spassky, Tel Aviv 1964

Which square would Black like to control the most?

Puzzle 40) Timman-Spassky, Bundesliga 1982

Black would prefer not to retreat.

Puzzle 41) Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969

Sometimes it's best to attack the opponent's strongest point.

Puzzle 42) Zhu Chen-Spassky, Roquebrune 1998

That knight on g2 looks rather badly placed, does it not?

Puzzle 43) Loseliani-Spassky, Copenhagen 1997

Look out for deflection tactics from White.

Puzzle 44) Spassky-Fischer, Mar del Plata 1960

The black pieces can be overloaded.

Puzzle 45) Deiseach-Spassky, Antwerp 1955

Try to look deeper than White has.

Puzzle 46) Spassky-Schmidt, Lugano 1968

Try to keep attacking.

Puzzle 47) Spassky-Zuk, Vancouver 1971

A winning tactic does not always have to include a sacrifice.

Puzzle 48) Spassky-Korensky, Sochi 1973

How to open paths for White's major pieces?

Puzzle 49) Spassky-Langeweg, Sochi 1967

Where are all of your pieces pointing?

Puzzle 50) Spassky-Filip, Gothenburg 1955

Perhaps the f2-rook isn't tied to the defence of g2 ...

Puzzle 51) Portisch-Spassky, Geneva 1977

Can Black cut off the key defensive a2-rook?

Puzzle 52) Spassky-Garcia Gonzales, Sochi 1964

The f6-square is key.

Puzzle 53) Spassky-Forintos, Sochi 1964

Maybe the h-pawn will play a part ...

Puzzle 54) Vizantiadis-Spassky, Siegen 1970

Detonate the white kingside!

Puzzle 55) Danenhower-Spassky, Canada 1971

Attack the opponent where he is weakest.

Puzzle 56) Spassky-Portisch, Budapest 1967

The passed pawn is actually weak!

Puzzle 57) Andruet-Spassky, Bundesliga 1988

The f3-square is tempting, but for which piece?

Puzzle 58) Timman-Spassky, Linares 1983

Don't get too focussed on the b-file.

Puzzle 59) Kagan-Spassky, Winnipeg 1967

How to undermine the white position?

Puzzle 60) Adorjan-Spassky, Toluca 1982

The second move is key.

Puzzle 61) Torre-Spassky, Bugojno 1984

Black's queen would like to take on h2 ...

Puzzle 62) Aizenshtadt-Spassky, Riga 1951

Look at where the white king is placed.

Puzzle 63) Spassky-Eliet, French League 2002

The black king must be forced forwards and then backwards.

Puzzle 64) Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969

There's a lethal communication cutter available.

Puzzle 65) Spassky-Gipslis, Baku 1961

White needs to involve his g1-rook.

Puzzle 66) Spassky-Pfleger, Munich 1979

White doesn't need to be especially clever.

Puzzle 67) Spassky-Taimanov, Moscow 1955

Open a second front!

Puzzle 68) Portisch-Spassky, Santa Monica 1966

Black desperately needs to remove the b2-bishop.

Puzzle 69) Spassky-Prie, Montpellier 1991

Simple will do!

Puzzle 70) Vaganian-Spassky, Moscow 1975

There's nothing wrong with reaching a winning endgame.

Puzzle 71) Spassky-Taimanov, Leningrad 1963

White shouldn't begin with a flashy move.

Puzzle 72) Szabo-Spassky, Bucharest 1953

Remove White's key defensive piece.

Puzzle 73) Spassky-Petrosian, Moscow 1969

Might Black actually be vulnerable down the h-file?

Puzzle 74) Novopashin-Spassky, Leningrad 1963

Black needs to open a file on the kingside.

Puzzle 75) Spassky-Kholmov, Moscow 1964

White can improve his queen with some effect.

Puzzle 76) Taimanov-Spassky, Rostov on Don 1971

All Black is after is a winning ending.

Puzzle 77) Spassky-Lengyel, Tallinn 1975

Remember it's an IQP position.

Puzzle 78) Spassky-Yusupov, Belfort 1988

How many pieces does it take to mate a naked black king?

Puzzle 79) Spassky-Gufeld, Wellington 1988

Could White make good use of his dark-squared bishop?

Puzzle 80) Spassky-Bikert, French League 1994

The a7-knight is rather short of squares.

Puzzle 81) Spassky-Tal, Moscow 1971

Try to involve the a2-rook.

Puzzle 82) Spassky-Olafsson, Moscow 1959

Sometimes simplicity is the simplest way forward!

Puzzle 83) Spassky-Foguelman, Mar del Plata 1960

There's a much more vigorous move than ♖c1.

Puzzle 84) Armas-Spassky, Bundesliga 1990

The f4-knight is powerfully placed.

Puzzle 85) Spassky-Geller, Riga 1965

Think of a classic sacrifice and make it work.

Puzzle 86) Timman-Spassky, Hilversum 1983

The white pieces can be overloaded.

Puzzle 87) Spassky-Darga, Varna 1962

White must strike before Black castles.

Puzzle 88) Spassky-Penrose, Palma de Mallorca 1969

White is trying to invade round the back.

Puzzle 89) Spassky-Timman, Amsterdam 1977

The open h-file will eventually prove rather useful.

Puzzle 90) Spassky-Rashkovsky, Moscow 1973

Some checks might be useful.

Puzzle 91) Spassky-Zhukhovitsky, Leningrad 1957

A further sacrifice will be necessary.

Puzzle 92) Spassky-Beliavsky, Reykjavik 1988

All the pieces are well placed and so it's time to strike.

Puzzle 93) Spassky-Kinnmark, Gothenburg 1971

White can blow open the kingside.

Puzzle 94) Spassky-Banks, Canada 1971

White would like to involve both his bishops ...

Puzzle 95) Spassky-Bronstein, Moscow 1961

Spassky never liked to retreat!

Puzzle 96) Geller-Spassky, Moscow 1964

It's all happening on the dark squares.

Puzzle 97) Spassky-Bilek, Moscow 1967

The black pawn shield must be broken.

Puzzle 98) Hartoch-Spassky, Amsterdam 1970

Remember to also look out for your opponent's options.

Puzzle 99) Spassky-Pachman, Moscow 1967

How to combine White's attack with pushing his passed d-pawn?

Puzzle 100) Spassky-Reshko, Leningrad 1959

Calculation, my dear Watson! Only some tough calculation will suffice ...

Puzzle 101) Spassky-Geller, Suhumi 1968

There will have to be more than one sacrifice.

Puzzle 102) Larsen-Spassky, Belgrade 1970

Black must try to exploit his superior development.

Puzzle 103) Spassky-Portisch, Geneva 1977

Try to make use of all the white pieces.

Puzzle 104) Spassky-Capelan Guenter, Solingen 1974

Some deep calculation is required to find the sting in the tail.

Puzzle 105) Spassky-Geller, Suhumi 1968

White must try to break through on f6.

Puzzle 106) Spassky-Arutiunian, USSR 1965

It's now or never for White.

Puzzle 107) Ribli-Spassky, Montpellier 1985

The position of the black king is important.

Puzzle 108) Spassky-Fischer, Belgrade 1992

A passed pawn will decide.

Puzzle 109) Spassky-Byrne, San Juan 1974

The a6-pawn is key.

Puzzle 110) Seirawan-Spassky, USA 1990

There's a neat way to finish.

Puzzle 111) Timman-Spassky, Bugojno 1986

The key is the third move.

Puzzle 112) Spassky-Larsen, Malmö 1968

Mate can still play a part even in the endgame.

Puzzle 113) Spassky-Zhu Chen, Roquebrune 1998

Not all opposite-coloured bishop endgames are drawn.

Puzzle 114) Larsen-Spassky, Lugano 1968

The h6-rook isn't especially happy.

Puzzle 115) Spassky-Polugaevsky, Baku 1961

The black rook can be driven away.

Puzzle 116) Korchnoi-Spassky, Belgrade 1977

Perhaps White's threat can be ignored.

Puzzle 117) Spassky-Hübner, Venice 1989

Black should not neglect simple exchanges.

Puzzle 118) Spassky-Xie Jun, Copenhagen 1997

Black can make good use of her active queen.

Puzzle 119) Geller-Spassky, Moscow 1967

Might the e3-rook actually be offside?

Puzzle 120) Van Wely-Spassky, French League 2002

Which square is all the white pieces focussing on?

Puzzle 121) Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1966

Knights are tricky creatures!

Puzzle 122) Spassky - Santo-Roman, Montpellier 1991

The c5-knight is rather well placed.

Puzzle 123) Ljubojevic-Spassky, London 1982

That pin looks rather useful, does it not?

Puzzle 124) Spassky-Duckstein, Zurich 1984

Black can play on two fronts.

Puzzle 125) Spassky-Fischer, Reykjavik 1972

Is the white queen possibly overloaded?

Puzzle 126) Najdorf-Spassky, Gothenburg 1955

Involve as many pieces as possible.

Puzzle 127) Spassky-Sax, Clermont-Ferrand 1989

The d5-bishop is only defended by the queen ...

Puzzle 128) Keres-Spassky, Gothenburg 1955

The b2-bishop is rather powerful.

Puzzle 129) Anand-Spassky, Cannes 1989

The quiet third move is actually the star of the show.

Diagram 130) Karpov-Spassky, Montreal 1979

White can immediately exploit his passed pawn.

Puzzle 131) J.Polgar-B.Spassky, Budapest 1993

The g2-rook can be activated with some effect.

Puzzle 132) Fischer-Spassky, Sveti-Stefan 1992

What are you waiting for? A direct assault is needed!

Puzzle 133) Spassky-Simagin, Moscow 1961

The real challenge is to anticipate White's counterplay.

Puzzle 134) Spassky-Tal, Montreal 1979

Basic motifs can require accurate executions!

Puzzle 135) Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969

White can win quickly with a good use of tactics.

Puzzle 136) Korchnoi-Spassky, Belgrade 1977

Creating some luft might well be useful.

Puzzle 137) Fischer-Spassky, Sveti-Stefan 1992

No time must be lost!

Puzzle 138) Karpov-Spassky, USSR 1973

Black is in trouble down the d-file.

Puzzle 139) Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969

Always try to improve your worst placed piece.

Puzzle 140) J.Polgar-Spassky, Hoogeveen 1998

White needs to involve both bishops in the attack.

Puzzle 141) Spassky-Fressinet, Paris 2001

Never underestimate the little guys.

Puzzle 142) J.Polgar-Spassky, Budapest 1993

Black has just blundered with 11...♗e8.

Puzzle 143) Spassky-Xie Jun, Copenhagen 1997

The third move in the line is cute and devastating.

Puzzle 144) Spassky-Polugaevsky, Moscow 1961

King safety can sometimes be paradoxical.

Puzzle 145) Spiridonov-Spassky, Sochi 1973

Black should keep things simple.

Puzzle 146) Weih-Spassky, Bundesliga 1983

Don't fall for the trap!

Puzzle 147) Korchnoi-Spassky, St Petersburg 1999

Black can do much better than immediately promote.

Puzzle 148) Spassky-Filip, Bucharest 1953

White must be very accurate.

Puzzle 149) Spassky-Stein, Moscow 1971

White might force mate with just his rooks.

Puzzle 150) Spassky-Panno, Lucerne 1985

Black is currently a piece up ...

Chapter Eleven

Solutions to Puzzles

Puzzle 1

Ivkov-Spassky, Santa Monica 1966

Queen's Indian Defence

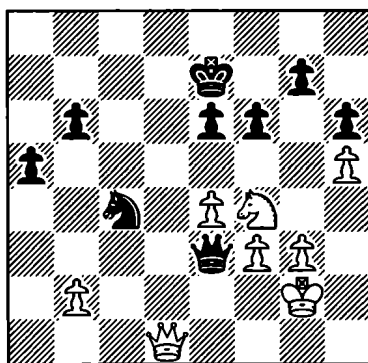
1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘f3 b6 4 g3 ♙b7 5
 ♙g2 ♙e7 6 0-0 0-0 7 ♘c3 ♘e4 8 ♘xe4
 ♙xe4 9 ♘e1 ♙xg2 10 ♘xg2 d6 11 e4
 ♘d7 12 ♙e3 ♗c8 13 ♘f4 c6 14 ♗c1 ♗e8
 15 ♘d3 c5 16 f3 ♗a6 17 a4 ♙f6 18 ♘f2
 cxd4 19 ♙xd4 ♙xd4 20 ♗xd4 ♘c5 21
 ♗xd6 ♗xa4 22 ♗d1 ♗b4 23 ♗c2 ♗ed8
 24 ♗fd1 h6 25 ♗xd8+ ♗xd8 26 ♗d1
 ♗xd1+ 27 ♘xd1 ♗e1+ 28 ♙g2 a5 29 h4
 ♙f8 30 h5 ♙e7 31 ♘f2 ♗e3 32 ♗d1 f6
 33 ♙f1 ♘b3 34 ♙g2 ♘d2 35 ♘h3 ♘xc4
 36 ♘f4

(see following diagram)

Black spotted the potential knight fork on e3 and exploited it with a standard clearance sacrifice.

36... ♗xf4! 0-1

White resigned because of 37 gxf4 ♘e3+.



Puzzle 2

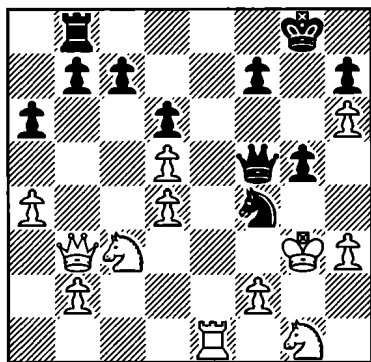
Spassky-Vasiukov, Moscow 1959

Old Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 d6 3 ♘c3 e5 4 ♘f3 ♘bd7
 5 ♙g5 ♙e7 6 e3 0-0 7 ♙d3 ♗e8 8 ♗c2
 exd4 9 exd4 ♘f8 10 h3 ♘d5 11 cxd5
 ♙xg5+ 12 ♙f1 ♙d7 13 g3 ♗c8 14 ♙g2
 a6 15 ♗ae1 ♗xe1 16 ♗xe1 ♙h6 17 ♙f5
 g6 18 ♙xd7 ♘xd7 19 ♗b3 ♗b8 20 a4
 ♘f6 21 g4 ♗d7 22 g5 ♘h5 23 gxf6
 ♘f4+ 24 ♙g3 g5 25 ♘g1 ♗f5

White found a way to exploit the

weakness of Black's back rank to win two pawns.



26 ♖xb7! ♕f8

26...♖xb7 fails completely to 27 ♖e8 mate.

27 ♖xc7 ♖d3+ 28 ♔h2 ♖d2 29 ♘e4! 1-0

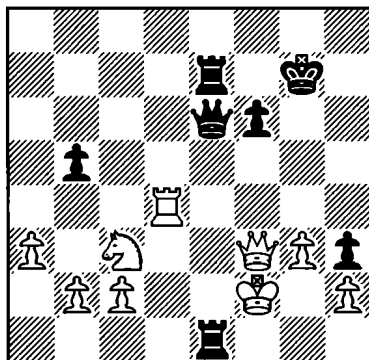
Spassky is tactical to the end. Black now resigned as he would lose his queen or be mated after 29...♖xe1 30 ♖e7!.

Puzzle 3

Averbakh-Spassky, Moscow 1961

Sicilian Scheveningen.

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e6 6 ♙e2 a6 7 0-0 ♖c7 8 f4 ♘bd7 9 ♔h1 b5 10 ♙f3 ♙b7 11 a3 ♖c8 12 ♖e1 ♙a8 13 ♙e3 ♙e7 14 ♖d1 0-0 15 e5 dxe5 16 fxe5 ♘xe5 17 ♙xa8 ♙xa8 18 ♙f4 ♙d6 19 ♘dxb5 axb5 20 ♖xd6 ♖xd6 21 ♙xe5 ♖d8 22 ♙xf6 gxf6 23 ♖h4 f5 24 ♖g3+ ♔h8 25 ♖e5+ f6 26 ♖xe6 ♖d2 27 ♖xf5 ♖ae8 28 g3 ♖e5 29 ♖f2 ♖d7 30 ♔g1 ♖e6 31 ♔g2 ♔g7 32 ♖d1 ♖e8 33 ♖f3 ♖e7 34 ♖d4 h5 35 ♖d2 h4 36 ♖d4 h3+ 37 ♔g1 ♖e1+ 38 ♔f2



Thanks to the extra material Black is winning in many ways, but found a mate in two.

38...♖f1+! 0-1

White resigned because of 39 ♔xf1 ♖e1 mate.

Puzzle 4

Schweber-Spassky, Antwerp 1955

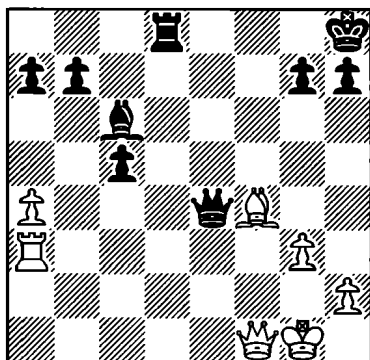
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♙b4 4 e3 c5 5 ♙d3 ♘c6 6 ♘f3 0-0 7 0-0 d5 8 a3 ♙xc3 9 bxc3 dxc4 10 ♙xc4 ♖c7 11 ♙d3 e5 12 ♖c2 ♙g4 13 ♘xe5 ♘xe5 14 dxe5 ♖xe5 15 ♖e1 ♖ad8 16 f3 ♙d7 17 a4 ♙c6 18 e4 ♘d5 19 ♙b2 ♘f4 20 ♙f1 ♖fe8 21 g3 ♘g6 22 c4 ♖e7 23 ♖c3 f6 24 ♙d3 ♘e5 25 ♙c2 ♖d2 26 ♖f1 ♖ed8 27 ♖a3 ♔h8 28 ♙c1 ♖2d4 29 f4 ♘xc4 30 e5 fxe5 31 fxe5 ♖xe5 32 ♙d1 ♖xd1 33 ♖xc4 ♖xf1+ 34 ♖xf1 ♖e4 35 ♙f4

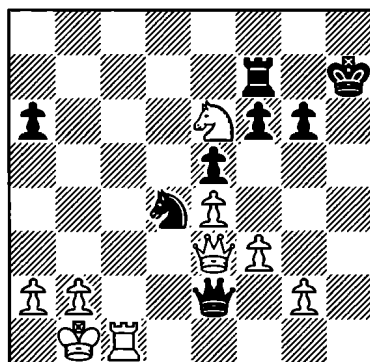
(see following diagram)

35...♖d1! 0-1

Black wins the white queen or forces mate on g2.

**Puzzle 5****Spassky-Korchnoi, Kiev 1968***King's Indian Defence*

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 0-0 6 ♗e3 ♘c6 7 ♗ge2 a6 8 ♘c1 e5 9 d5 ♘d4 10 ♘b3 ♘xb3 11 ♗xb3 c5 12 dxc6 bxc6 13 0-0-0 ♗e6 14 ♗a3 ♘e8 15 h4 f6 16 c5 ♗f7 17 ♗a4 ♗c7 18 ♗c4 ♗xc4 19 ♗xc4 ♗f8 20 h5 dxc5 21 hxg6 hxg6 22 ♗e6 ♗d8 23 ♗xd8 ♗xd8 24 ♗d1 ♗e7 25 ♗xc6 ♘c7 26 ♗b6 ♗g7 27 ♘d5 ♗e6 28 ♗xc5 ♗xc5 29 ♗xc5 ♘b5 30 ♗e3 ♗c6+ 31 ♘b1 ♘d4 32 ♗c1 ♗b5 33 ♘c7 ♗e2 34 ♘e6+ ♗h7



With a queen sacrifice, White was

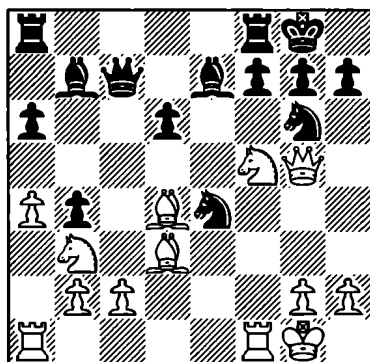
able to draw the black king forwards to his doom.

35 ♗h6+! 1-0

Black resigned because of 35...♗xh6 36 ♗h1 mate and 35...♗g8 36 ♗c8+ ♗f8 37 ♗g7 mate.

Puzzle 6**Spassky-Marsalek, Leningrad 1960***Sicilian Taimanov*

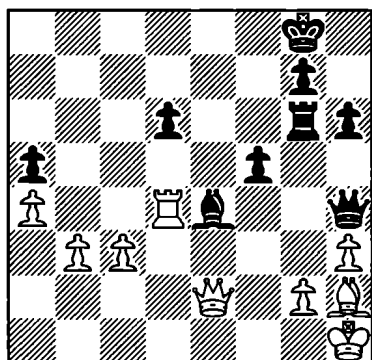
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 ♘c3 a6 4 d4 cxd4 5 ♘xd4 ♗c7 6 ♗d3 ♘c6 7 ♗e3 b5 8 0-0 ♗b7 9 ♘b3 ♘f6 10 f4 d6 11 ♗f3 ♗e7 12 a4 b4 13 ♘e2 e5 14 ♘g3 0-0 15 ♘f5 exf4 16 ♗xf4 ♘e5 17 ♗g3 ♘g6 18 ♗d4 ♘xe4 19 ♗g4 ♘f6 20 ♗g5 ♘e4

**21 ♗h6!! 1-0**

Black cannot avert mate for long. Obvious is 21...gxh6 22 ♘xh6 mate, but also mating is 21...♗f6 22 ♗xf6 ♗b6+ 23 ♘bd4.

Puzzle 7**Aronin-Spassky, Yerevan 1962***Sicilian Taimanov***1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 e6**

5 ♖c3 ♜c7 6 ♙e2 a6 7 0-0 ♜f6 8 ♙g5
 ♙e7 9 ♜d2 h6 10 ♙e3 d6 11 ♜h1 ♜d7
 12 f4 ♜c8 13 ♙d3 b5 14 a4 ♜xd4 15
 ♙xd4 b4 16 ♜e2 e5 17 ♙e3 a5 18 ♜g3
 ♜g4 19 ♙g1 0-0 20 h3 exf4 21 ♜h5
 ♜e5 22 ♜xf4 ♙g5 23 ♜e2 ♙xf4 24
 ♜xf4 ♙c6 25 ♜ff1 ♜fe8 26 ♙a6 ♜b8 27
 ♙b5 ♜e7 28 ♜ad1 ♙b7 29 ♜d4 ♜c8 30
 ♜c1 ♜e6 31 ♙h2 ♜e7 32 ♜d2 ♜g6 33
 ♜d1 ♜h4 34 ♜e2 f5 35 ♙d3 b3 36 cxb3
 ♜xd3 37 ♜1xd3 ♙xe4 38 ♜c3 ♜xc3 39
 bxc3



39...♙xg2+!

39...♜xg2?? would have been a big mistake because of 40 ♜xe4!, although Black is still better after 40...♜xh2+! 41 ♜xh2 fxe4.

40 ♜xg2

Or 40 ♜g1 ♙f3+ and Black again wins White's queen.

40...♜e1+! 41 ♜g1 ♜xg1+ 42 ♙xg1
 ♜xc3 43 b4 ♜xh3+ 44 ♙h2 ♜f3+ 0-1

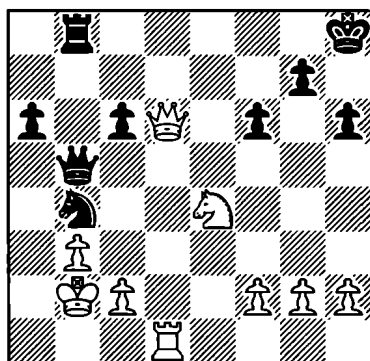
Puzzle 8

Spassky-Zurakhov, Leningrad 1955

Sicilian Najdorf

1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 ♜f6

5 ♜c3 a6 6 ♙g5 e6 7 ♜f3 h6 8 ♙h4 ♙e7
 9 0-0-0 ♜c7 10 ♙e2 ♜c6 11 ♜xc6 bxc6
 12 e5 dxe5 13 ♜he1 0-0 14 ♙d3 ♜b8 15
 ♙g3 ♙d6 16 ♜e2 ♜d7 17 ♙c4 ♜b6 18
 ♜xd6 ♜xd6 19 ♙xe5 ♜c5 20 ♜g4 f6 21
 ♙xe6+ ♙xe6 22 ♜xe6+ ♜h8 23 ♙xb8
 ♜xb8 24 ♜e4 ♜b5 25 ♜d1 ♜d5 26 b3
 ♜b4 27 ♜d6 ♜xa2+ 28 ♜b2 ♜b4



29 ♜xf6!

Besides winning a pawn, White sets up the strong threat of 30 ♜d8+ leading to mate.

29...♜b6

The main point is that Black is mated quickly after 29...gxf6 30 ♜xf6+ ♜g8 31 ♜d7. His only defence was to give another pawn and go in for a hopeless endgame with 29...♜d5 30 ♜xd5 cxd5 31 ♜xd5.

30 ♜d7 1-0

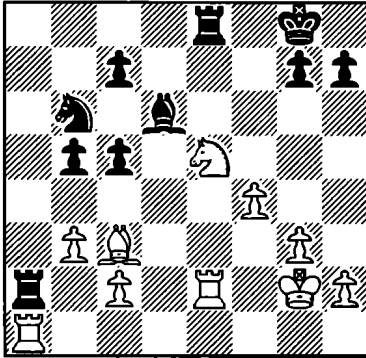
Puzzle 9

Santo-Roman-Spassky, Paris 2002

Scotch Game

1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♜xd4
 ♙c5 5 ♜xc6 ♜f6 6 ♜d2 dxc6 7 ♜c3
 ♜e7 8 ♙d3 ♜f6 9 0-0 ♜g4 10 ♜a4

♖e5 11 ♜f4 ♙d6 12 ♜xe5+ ♜xe5 13
♙e2 f6 14 f4 ♜g6 15 ♙e3 b6 16 ♜ae1
0-0 17 ♜c3 ♙d7 18 ♙d3 ♜fe8 19 ♜d1
♜e7 20 g3 ♙h3 21 ♜f2 ♜f8 22 ♜d2
♜d7 23 ♙c4+ ♙e6 24 ♙xe6+ ♜xe6 25
♜f2 ♜e7 26 ♜de2 b5 27 ♜g2 c5 28 b3
a5 29 ♙d2 a4 30 ♙c3 ♜ee8 31 ♜d3
axb3 32 axb3 ♜b6 33 e5 fxe5 34 ♜xe5
♜a2 35 ♜a1??



Black uses a random chance to win a piece with a nice geometrical combination.

35...♜d5!! 0-1

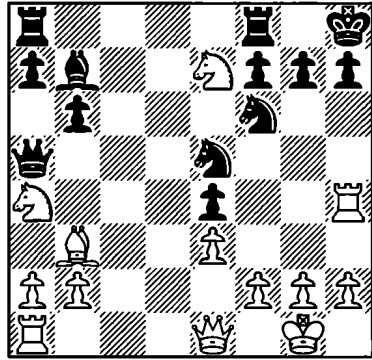
Black wins material by undermining White's defence of his a1-rook. After 36 ♜xa2 ♜xc3 Black emerges a piece ahead.

Puzzle 10

Bronstein-Spassky, Riga 1958

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♜f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♜c3 ♙b4 4 e3 c5 5
♙d3 0-0 6 ♜f3 d5 7 0-0 dxc4 8 ♙xc4 b6
9 ♜e2 ♙b7 10 ♜d1 cxd4 11 ♜xd4 ♜e7
12 ♙d2 ♜bd7 13 ♙e1 e5 14 ♜h4 e4 15
♜d4 ♜e5 16 ♜f5 ♜c5 17 ♜a4 ♜a5 18
♜e7+ ♜h8 19 ♙b3 ♙xe1 20 ♜xe1



20...♜f3+! 21 gxf3 ♜g5+ 22 ♜h1

Black has an extra exchange after 22 ♜g4 ♜xg4 23 fxg4 ♜xe7, but should prefer the more direct 23...♜xg4+ 24 ♜h1 ♜f3+ 25 ♜g1 ♜ae8 26 ♜d5 ♜e5 with a winning attack.

22...♜xh4 23 ♜g1 ♜h5 24 ♜c1 ♜xf3+ 25
♜g2 ♜ad8 26 ♜xf3 exf3 27 ♜c7 ♜d2 28
♜xb7 ♜xf2 29 h3 ♜e4 30 ♜f5 ♜g2 0-1

Puzzle 11

Gipslis-Spassky, Riga 1959

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♙b5 ♜f6 4 0-0 ♙c5
5 c3 0-0 6 d4 ♙b6 7 dxe5 ♜xe4 8 ♜d5
♜c5 9 ♙g5 ♜e8 10 ♜bd2 d6 11 exd6
♙e6 12 ♙xc6 bxc6 13 ♜d4 f6 14 ♜ae1
♜g6 15 ♙h4 ♙d5 16 ♜e2 ♜e4 17 ♜d3

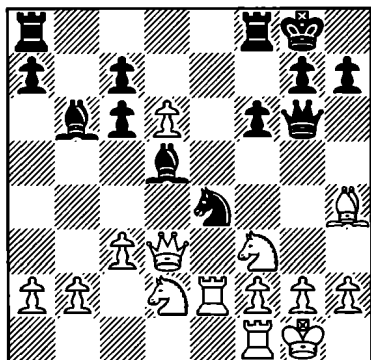
(see following diagram)

17...♜g3!

A simple double threat.

18 ♜a6

Obviously 18 ♜xg6 ♜xe2+ is an important intermediate move, but 18 ♜xd5+!? was worth considering. After 18...cxd5 19 ♙xg3 cxd6 20 ♜b3 White can maybe still offer a little resistance.



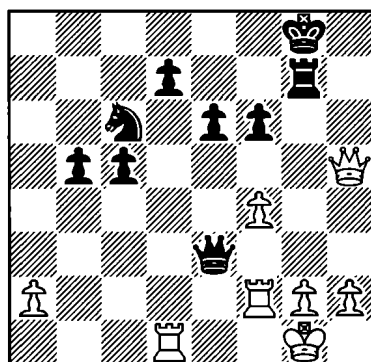
18...♖xf1 19 ♔xf1 cxd6 20 ♔g3 ♜fe8
21 ♔xd6 ♜xe2 22 ♜xe2 ♜e8 0-1

Puzzle 12

Spassky-Posner, Canada 1971

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 ♔b4 4 ♔g5 h6 5
♔h4 c5 6 d5 b5 7 dxe6 fxe6 8 cxb5 ♜a5
9 ♔xf6 gxf6 10 ♜c2 ♕f7 11 e3 a6 12
♔d3 ♔b7 13 ♖ge2 axb5 14 0-0 ♜g8 15
♔e4 ♔c6 16 ♜ad1 ♜a7 17 ♔xc6 ♖xc6
18 ♜h7+ ♜g7 19 ♜xh6 ♔xc3 20 ♖xc3
♜b4 21 ♜h5+ ♔g8 22 ♜e8+ ♔h7 23 f4
♜a8 24 ♜xa8 ♜xb2 25 ♜f2 ♜xc3 26
♜e8 ♜xe3 27 ♜h5+ ♔g8



28 ♜xd7! 1-0

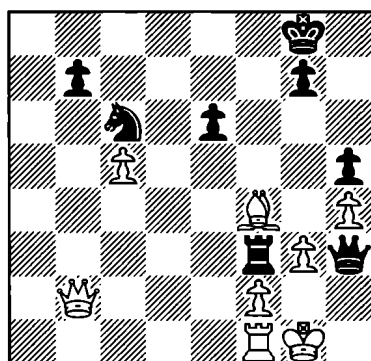
Black resigned as after 28...♜xd7 29
♜e8+ ♔g7 30 ♜xd7+ ♔h6 31 ♜xc6 he
ends up a full rook in arrears.

Puzzle 13

Lengyel-Spassky, Moscow 1971

Dutch Defence

1 ♖f3 d5 2 d4 e6 3 c4 f5 4 g3 ♖f6 5 ♔g2
♔e7 6 0-0 0-0 7 ♜c2 ♖c6 8 a3 a5 9 b3
♔d7 10 ♖c3 ♔e8 11 cxd5 ♖xd5 12 ♔b2
♔h5 13 ♖a4 ♜e8 14 ♖c5 ♔xc5 15 dxc5
♜e7 16 ♔e5 f4 17 ♔e4 ♖xe5 18 ♔xe5
♜g5 19 ♜b2 ♜f7 20 ♔g2 ♜af8 21 b4
axb4 22 axb4 ♜f5 23 ♔d4 f3 24 exf3
♔xf3 25 ♔xf3 ♔xf3 26 ♜e2 ♜g4 27 ♜e5
♖xb4 28 h3 ♜g6 29 ♜xc7 ♖c6 30 ♔e3
h5 31 h4 ♜f7 32 ♜b6 ♜g4 33 ♜b2 ♜h3
34 ♜a4 ♜f3 35 ♜f4 ♜8xf4 36 ♔xf4



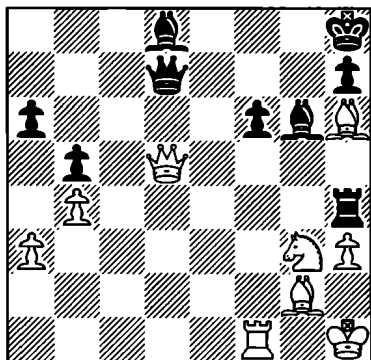
36...♜xf4! 37 gxf4 ♜g4+ 38 ♔h1 ♜xh4+
39 ♔g1 ♜g4+

Black chooses to take the draw
straight away. He could also have
played for a win with 39...♜xf4!?, but
after 40 ♜xb7 ♖d4 41 f3 ♜g5+ 42 ♔h1
♜xc5 43 ♔g1 ♜f8 it looks like a draw.
40 ♔h1 ♜f3+ 41 ♔g1 ½-½

Puzzle 14

Reshko-Spassky, Rostov on Don 1960
Old Indian Defence

1 c4 e5 2 ♘c3 ♘f6 3 g3 c6 4 ♘f3 d6 5 ♙g2 ♘bd7 6 0-0 ♙e7 7 e4 0-0 8 d4 a6 9 d5 cxd5 10 cxd5 b5 11 a3 ♘c5 12 ♙e1 ♙d7 13 ♘d3 ♘xd3 14 ♙xd3 ♙b8 15 b4 ♙c8 16 h3 ♙c4 17 ♙b2 ♙d8 18 ♘e2 ♙a7 19 ♙h2 ♙ac8 20 ♙c3 ♙e8 21 f4 ♙e7 22 fxe5 dxe5 23 ♙f5 ♘d7 24 ♙af1 ♙b6 25 g4 f6 26 g5 ♙g6 27 gxf6 gxf6 28 ♙f3 ♙xe4 29 ♙d2 ♙d6 30 ♙g3 ♙h4 31 ♙e1 ♙cc4 32 ♙d2 ♙h8 33 ♙h1 ♙d8 34 ♙c3 ♘b6 35 ♙xc4 ♙xc4 36 ♘g3 ♙d7 37 ♙h6 ♘xd5 38 ♙xe5 ♙h4 39 ♙xd5



39... ♙xh3+!

This wins quickly, whereas 39... ♙xd5? 40 ♙xd5 ♙xh6 would have left Black a piece down after 41 ♙c1!, intending 41... ♙e7? 42 ♙c8+ ♙g7 43 ♙g8 mate.

40 ♙g1

Instead 40 ♙xh3 ♙xh3+ looks lost. Indeed after 41 ♙g1 ♙b6+ 42 ♙f2 ♙xg3+ 43 ♙h1 ♙h4+ 44 ♙h2 ♙e4+ White loses his queen and is mated.

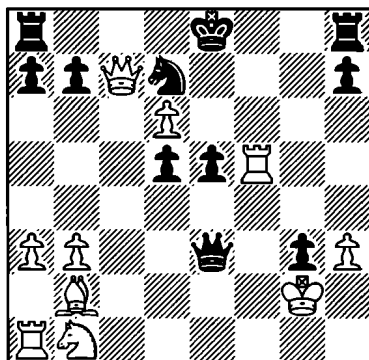
40... ♙b6+ 0-1

After 41 ♙f2 ♙xd5 42 ♙xd5 ♙xg3+ 43 ♙f1 ♙xf2 44 ♙xf2 ♙xa3 Black is winning easily enough.

Puzzle 15

Spassky-Vilup, Leningrad 1949
Dutch Defence

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♘f3 c6 4 e3 f5 5 ♙d3 ♙d6 6 0-0 ♙f6 7 ♙c2 ♘e7 8 b3 ♘a6 9 a3 g5 10 ♘e5 ♘g6 11 f4 ♘b8 12 fxg5 ♙xg5 13 e4 ♙h5 14 g4 fxg4 15 ♘xg6 ♙xg6 16 e5 ♙g7 17 exd6 g3 18 h3 ♙xd4+ 19 ♙g2 e5 20 ♙g6+ ♙d7 21 ♙b2 ♙e3 22 ♙f7+ ♙d8 23 ♙f5 ♙xf5 24 ♙xf5 ♘d7 25 cxd5 cxd5 26 ♙c7+ ♙e8



27 ♙xe5+! 1-0

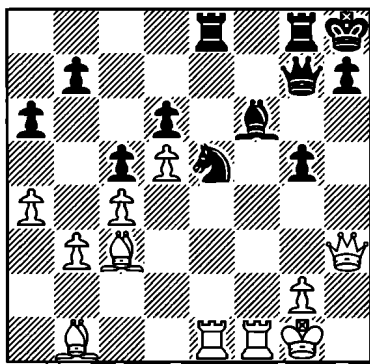
Black must lose his queen since 27... ♘xe5 28 ♙e7 is mate.

Puzzle 16

Spassky-Papathanassiou,
 Kalamata 2002
King's Indian Defence

1 e4 g6 2 d4 d6 3 c4 ♙g7 4 ♘c3 ♘f6 5 f4 0-0 6 ♘f3 c5 7 d5 e6 8 dxe6 ♙xe6 9 ♙d3 ♘a6 10 0-0 ♙g4 11 h3 ♙xf3 12

Wxf3 **Qb4** 13 **Qb1** **Wf7** 14 **a3** **Qc6** 15
Qd3 **Qd4** 16 **Wd1** **a6** 17 **a4** **Qad8** 18
Qd2 **Wfe8** 19 **b3** **Wc7** 20 **Qb1** **Qc6** 21
Qc1 **Qb4** 22 **Qb1** **Wc6** 23 **Wf3** **Qd7** 24
Qh1 **Wf8** 25 **Qd5** **Qxd5** 26 **exd5** **Wc7** 27
f5 **Qe5** 28 **Wf4** **f6** 29 **h4** **Qde8** 30 **Wg3**
Wf7 31 **Qce1** **Qh8** 32 **Qg1** **Qg8** 33 **Qc3**
g5 34 **hgx5** **fxg5** 35 **f6** **Qxf6** 36 **Wf3**
Wg7



White used the theme of deflection to win a piece.

37 Qxf6! 1-0

Puzzle 17

Bauer-Spassky, Paris 2001

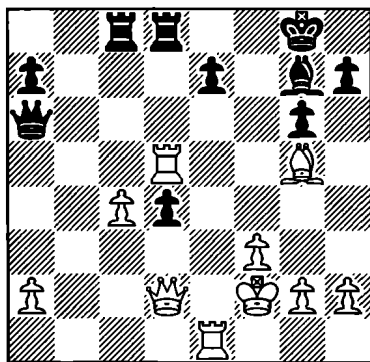
Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6 2 **d4 d5** 3 **f3 g6** 4 **Qc3 Qg7** 5
Qe3 Wb6 6 **Wd2 Wxb2** 7 **Qb1 Wa3** 8
exd5 Qf6 9 **Qc4 O-O** 10 **Qge2 cxd5** 11
Qxd5 Qxd5 12 **Qxd5 Qc6** 13 **Qf2 Qd8**
14 c4 Qe6 15 **Qxe6 fxe6** 16 **Qxb7 Wa6**
17 Qb5 Qxd4 18 **Qxd4 e5** 19 **Qe1 Qac8**
20 Qd5 exd4 21 **Qg5?**

(see following diagram)

21...Qxd5 22 cxd5 d3!

Now a rook can come to the seventh, while Black has also activated his bishop.



23 Wf3!

Giving up the a2-pawn without a fight. The best chance was **23 Qe6**, although after **23...Wc4 24 Qc6 Qxc6 25 dxc6 Qc3 26 Wd1 Qxa2+ 27 Qg3 Wc4** Black should win the endgame.

23...Wxa2+ 24 Qg3 Qxd5 25 Wxe7 a5

Black has an extra pawn and wins comfortably.

26 h4 Qf8 27 Wa7 Qd6+ 28 f4 d2 29 Qd1 Wb3+ 0-1

Puzzle 18

Zhu Chen-Spassky, Marbella 1999

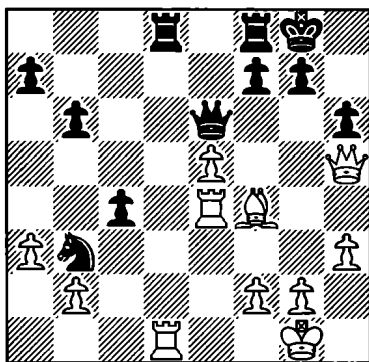
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 **c4 e6** 3 **Qc3 Qf6** 4 **Qf3 Qbd7**
5 cxd5 exd5 6 **Qf4 c6** 7 **h3 Qb4** 8 **Wb3**
Wf7 9 **a3 Qxc3+** 10 **Wxc3 Qe4** 11 **Wc2**
O-O 12 **e3 c5** 13 **Qd3 b6** 14 **Qe5? Qxe5**
15 dxe5 Qf5 16 **Wd1 Qad8** 17 **O-O Qg6**
18 Wg4 Qe6 19 **Qb5 Qf5** 20 **Wf4 h6** 21
Wf5 Qd2 22 **Wfe1 Qb3** 23 **Qad1 c4!**

Winning the exchange with **23...Qc2?!** looks wrong, because the

two bishops supply some compensation after 24 ♖d3! ♙xd1 25 ♜xd1.

24 e4 ♙xe4 25 ♙xc4 dxc4 26 ♜xe4?



26... ♜g6! 0-1

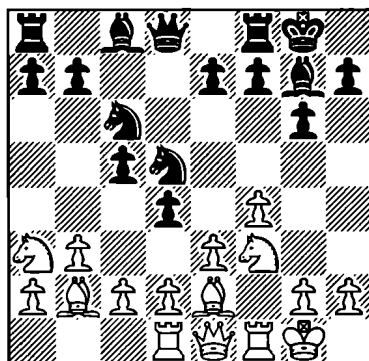
After 27 ♜xg6 ♜xd1+ or 27 ♜e2 ♜xd1+ 28 ♜xd1 ♜xe4 Black wins a rook.

Puzzle 19

Purdy-Spassky, Antwerp 1955

Bird's Opening

1 f4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 b3 ♙g7 4 ♙b2 0-0 5 e3 c5 6 ♙e2 ♘c6 7 0-0 d5 8 ♜e1 d4 9 ♘a3 ♘d5 10 ♜d1??



10...d3!

Black exploits the undefended

bishop on b2 to win a piece.

11 ♙xg7 dxe2 12 ♙xf8 exd1 ♜ 13 ♜xd1 ♜xf8 14 c4 ♘f6 15 d4 ♙f5 16 d5 ♘b4 17 h3 ♜d8 18 g4 ♙d3 19 ♜f2 e6 20 ♘b5 ♘fxd5 21 a3 0-1

Puzzle 20

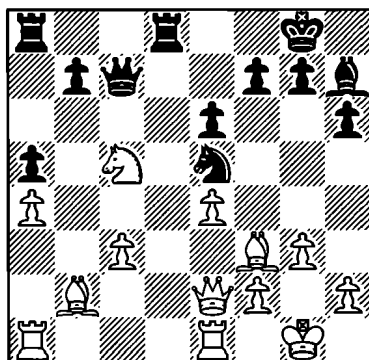
Hug-Spassky, Bath 1973

King's Indian Attack

1 ♘f3 d5 2 g3 c6 3 ♙g2 ♙f5 4 0-0 ♘f6 5 d3 e6 6 ♘bd2 ♙e7 7 ♜e1 h6 8 e4 ♙h7 9 ♜e2 0-0 10 b3 a5 11 a3?! c5!? 12 a4 ♘c6 13 ♙b2 ♜e8 14 ♘e5?! ♘d4! 15 ♜d1 ♜c7 16 ♘ef3 dxe4 17 dxe4 ♜ed8 18 ♜e1 ♘xf3+ 19 ♙xf3 c4!

White does not want to gain a split pawn structure, but otherwise Black plays 20...c3 and wins a piece.

20 bxc4 ♙b4 21 c3 ♙e7 22 ♜e2 ♘d7 23 ♘b3 ♘e5 24 c5 ♙xc5 25 ♘xc5?



25... ♜d2! 26 ♘d3

Obviously 26 ♜xd2 ♘xf3+ was not appealing, and after 26 ♜e3 ♘c4 27 ♜f4 ♜xc5 Black wins because of the threats against both b2 and f2.

26... ♜xe2 27 ♙xe2 ♘c4 28 ♙f1 ♜c6 29 ♙c1 ♙xe4 30 ♘c5 ♙d5 0-1

Puzzle 21

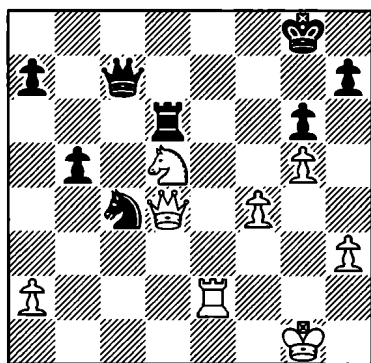
Spassky-Fischer, Siegen 1970

Grünfeld Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♖c3 d5 4 cxd5 ♖xd5
5 e4 ♖xc3 6 bxc3 ♙g7 7 ♙c4 c5 8 ♖e2
♘c6 9 ♙e3 0-0 10 0-0 ♜c7 11 ♜c1 ♞d8
12 h3 b6 13 f4 e6 14 ♜e1 ♖a5 15 ♙d3
f5 16 g4 fxe4 17 ♙xe4 ♙b7 18 ♖g3
♘c4 19 ♙xb7 ♜xb7 20 ♙f2 ♜c6 21 ♜e2
cxd4 22 cxd4 b5 23 ♖e4 ♙xd4 24 ♖g5
♙xf2+ 25 ♜xf2 ♞d6 26 ♜e1 ♜b6 27
♖e4 ♞d4 28 ♖f6+ ♙h8 29 ♜xe6 ♞d6

Instead 29...♞d1 looks like a strong tactic, but White has a stunning riposte in 30 ♜f7!! with a powerful attack. A possible line is then 30...♜xe1+ 31 ♙g2 ♖e3+ 32 ♖f3 ♜c6+ 33 ♙g3 ♞g1+ 34 ♙h4 ♜xg4+ 35 hxg4 ♜h1+ 36 ♙g5 ♖xg4 37 ♙xg4 ♜g1+ 38 ♙f3 ♜h1+ 39 ♙g3 ♞d8 40 ♜b3 and Black is worse, although he retains some drawing chances.

30 ♜e4 ♞f8?! 31 g5 ♞d2 32 ♞ef1 ♜c7
33 ♞xd2 ♖xd2 34 ♜d4 ♞d8? 35 ♖d5+
♙g8 36 ♞f2! ♖c4 37 ♞e2 ♞d6



38 ♞e8+ ♙f7 39 ♞f8+! 1-0

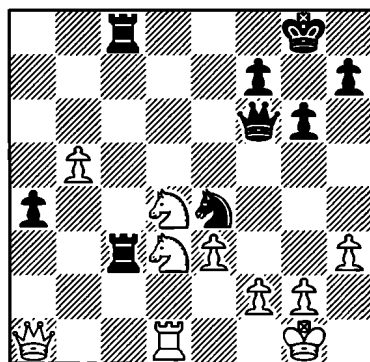
The alternative 39 ♜h8 ♜c5+ 40 ♖e3 also wins, but the move played in the

game is more elegant and picks up the black queen.

Puzzle 22

Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969

The first part of this game can be found in the solution to Puzzle 41 on page 103.



34...♞xd3!

Eliminating the key defender and the attack is strong enough.

35 ♞xd3 ♜xf2+ 36 ♙h2

An important point is 36 ♙h1 ♖g3+ 37 ♙h2 ♖f1+ 38 ♙h1 ♖xe3! and Black wins.

36...♜g3+ 37 ♙g1 ♜f2+

The idea of repeating the position once to show who is in control is actually an idea usually accredited to Petrosian.

38 ♙h2 ♜g3+ 39 ♙g1 ♖f2! 40 ♖c6

Or 40 ♞c3 ♖xh3+ 41 ♙h1 ♖f2+ 42 ♙g1 ♞xc3 43 ♜xc3 ♖g4 and Black wins.

40...♖xh3+ 41 ♙h1 ♖f2+ 42 ♙g1 ♖xd3
43 ♖e7+ ♙f8 44 ♖xc8 ♜xe3+ 0-1

The endgame is hopeless after 45 ♙h2 ♜e5+.

Puzzle 23

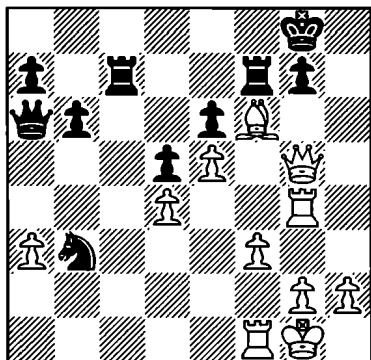
Spassky-Brunner, Solingen 1986

French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 ♙b4 4 e5 c5 5 a3
 ♙xc3+ 6 bxc3 ♘e7 7 ♖g4 0-0 8 ♘f3
 ♘bc6 9 ♙d3 f5 10 ♖g3 ♖a5 11 ♙d2
 cxd4 12 cxd4 ♖a4 13 ♙c3 b6 14 0-0
 ♙a6 15 ♘g5 ♘d8 16 ♙xa6 ♖xa6 17
 ♙b4 ♖b7 18 ♘xh7! ♙xh7 19 ♖h4+
 ♙g8 20 ♙xe7 ♙e8 21 ♙g5 ♙c8 22 c3
 ♖d7 23 ♙d2 ♘c6

Black has some compensation for the pawn, but not enough.

24 ♙g5 ♘a5 25 ♖h3 ♙c4 26 ♙ad1 ♙ec8
 27 ♙d3 ♖c7 28 ♙g3! ♙xc3 29 f3 ♙f8 30
 ♖h4 f4!? 31 ♙xf4 ♘b3 32 ♙g5 ♖c8 33
 ♙f6 ♙c7 34 ♙g4 ♖a6 35 ♖g5 ♙ff7



36 ♙xg7! 1-0

Destroying all Black's defences and intending 36...♙xg7 37 ♖d8+ ♙h7 38 ♙h4+ ♙g6 39 ♖f6 mate.

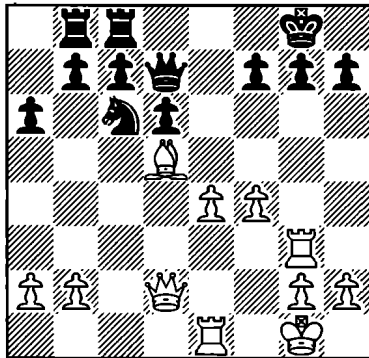
Puzzle 24

Spassky-Larsen, Palma de Mallorca 1969

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙b5 ♘ge7 4 0-0 a6

5 ♙a4 d6 6 c3 ♙d7 7 d4 ♘g6 8 ♙e1 ♙e7
 9 ♘bd2 0-0 10 ♘f1 ♖e8 11 ♙b3 ♙g4 12
 ♘e3 ♙xf3 13 ♙xf3 exd4 14 ♘f5 ♙f6 15
 ♙d2 dxc3 16 ♙xc3 ♙xc3 17 ♖xc3 ♖e5
 18 ♙ac1 ♙fc8 19 ♖d2 ♘ge7 20 f4 ♖f6
 21 ♘xe7+ ♖xe7 22 ♙d5 ♖d7 23 ♙c3
 ♙ab8 24 ♙g3



Out of nothing Spassky has managed to create an attack.

24...♘e7 25 ♖c3 g6 26 ♙b3 c5 27 f5 c4
 28 ♙d1 ♖b5 29 f6!? ♘c6 30 ♖c1 ♖c5+
 31 ♙h1 ♖f2 32 ♙f3!

32 ♙g4!? would win the exchange, but Spassky wants more.

32...♙e8 33 ♙f1! ♖d4 34 e5?

Missing 34 ♙e2! when Black has no defence as 34...♙e6 35 ♙gf3 ♙f8 36 ♙xc4 gives White a winning attack.

34...♖xe5 35 ♙d5 ♘d4 36 ♙xc4 ♘e2 37
 ♙xe2 ♖xe2 38 ♙gf3 ♙h8 39 ♖h6 ♙g8

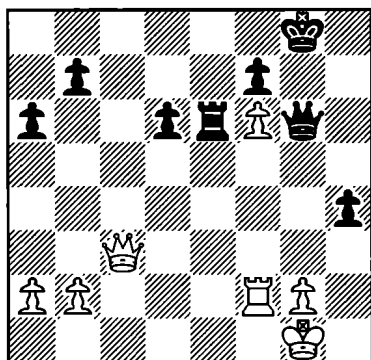
Black has survived and it was now time for White to think about making a draw.

40 ♙1f2 ♖e1+ 41 ♙f1 ♖e2 42 ♙1f2
 ♖e5!? 43 ♙e3 ♖d5 44 h4 ♙bc8 45 ♙e7
 g5! 46 ♙h2 ♙c4 47 hxg5 ♙g4 48 ♙e8
 ♙4xg5 49 ♙xg8+ ♙xg8 50 ♙g1 ♖d1+
 51 ♙f1 ♖d4+ 52 ♙f2 ♖d1+ 53 ♙f1 ♖d4+

54 ♖f2 ♜e3 55 ♜h4 h6 56 ♜c4 ♜e1+ 57
♜f1 ♜e3+ 58 ♜f2 ♜c5 59 ♜g4+ ♜g5 60
♜e4 ♜e5 61 ♜d4 ♜g3 62 ♜d2 h5 63
♜f1 ♜g6 64 ♜g1 ♜e6 65 ♜c3

The endgame looks great for Black
until he commits a grave blunder.

65...h4??



66 ♜c8+ ♜h7 67 ♜xe6! 1-0

There's no defence to 67...fxe6 68 f7
and promotion.

Puzzle 25

Spassky-Kostro, Siegen 1970

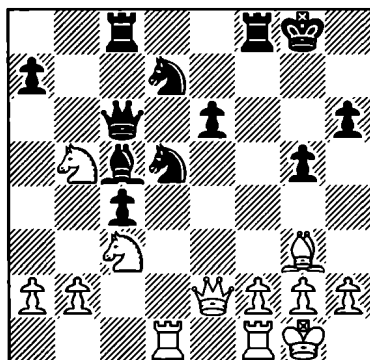
Semi-Slav

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♘f3 ♘f6 4 ♘c3 e6 5
♙g5 h6 6 ♙h4 dxc4 7 e4 g5 8 ♙g3 b5 9
♙e2 ♙b7 10 0-0 ♘bd7 11 d5 cxd5 12
exd5 ♜b6 13 dxe6 fxe6 14 ♘d4 ♙c5 15
♘dxb5 0-0 16 ♙f3 ♙xf3 17 ♜xf3 ♜ac8
18 ♜ad1 ♜c6 19 ♜e2 ♘d5

(see following diagram)

20 ♘d6! ♙xd6 21 ♜xe6+ 1-0

Black's position collapsed with the
loss of e6. After 21...♜f7 22 ♘xd5 ♙f8
23 ♜g4 White wins a pawn and con-
tinues to attack.

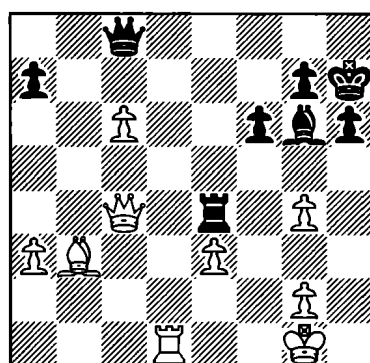


Puzzle 26

Spassky-Ghitescu, Sofia 1958

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♙b4 4 ♘f3 c5 5
e3 0-0 6 ♙d3 d5 7 0-0 ♘c6 8 a3 ♙xc3 9
bxc3 dxc4 10 ♙xc4 ♜c7 11 ♙a2 b6 12
♜e1 e5 13 h3 e4 14 ♘h2 ♙f5 15 ♙b2
♜ad8 16 ♜e2 ♜fe8 17 ♜ad1 cxd4 18
exd4 ♙g6 19 ♘g4 ♘xg4 20 hxg4 h6 21
c4 ♙h7 22 ♜e3 f6 23 c5 bxc5 24 dxc5
♜d3 25 ♜c1 ♘e5 26 ♙xe5 ♜xe5 27 ♜c4
♜d8 28 ♙b3 ♜xd1 29 ♜xd1 ♜c8 30 c6
e3 31 fxe3 ♜e4



32 ♜g8+! ♜xg8 33 ♙xg8+ ♙xg8 34 c7
1-0

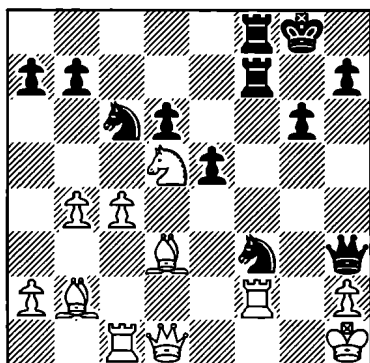
White will easily win the ending an exchange ahead.

Puzzle 27

Furman-Spassky, Moscow 1957

Accelerated Dragon

1 $\text{d}f3$ $c5$ 2 $c4$ $g6$ 3 $e4$ $\text{g}7$ 4 $d4$ $cx\text{d}4$ 5
 $\text{d}x\text{d}4$ $\text{c}6$ 6 $\text{e}3$ $\text{d}h6$ 7 $\text{d}c3$ $0-0$ 8 $\text{e}2$
 $f5$ 9 $ex\text{f}5$ $\text{e}x\text{d}4$ 10 $\text{e}x\text{d}4$ $\text{d}xf5$ 11 $\text{e}c5$
 $d6$ 12 $\text{e}a3$ $\text{d}fd4$ 13 $0-0$ $\text{e}f5$ 14 $\text{f}c1$
 $\text{w}d7$ 15 $\text{d}5$ $\text{f}f7$ 16 $b3$ $\text{f}af8$ 17 $\text{e}b2$ $e5$
 18 $b4$ $\text{e}e6$ 19 $\text{e}d3$ $\text{e}g4$ 20 $f3$ $\text{e}xf3$ 21
 $gxf3$ $\text{d}xf3+$ 22 $\text{c}h1$ $\text{w}h3$ 23 $\text{f}f2$



23... $\text{d}e1!$ $0-1$

Unable to bring his queen to f1, White is defenceless against the attack: for example, 24 $\text{e}f1$ $\text{w}xf1+$ 25 $\text{f}xf1$ $\text{f}xf1$ mate. Note, however, that 23... $\text{d}h4?$ 24 $\text{e}f1!$ was not the way for Black to go.

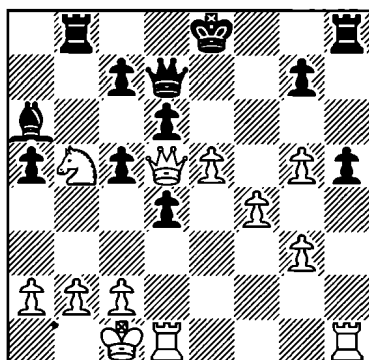
Puzzle 28

Spassky-Westerinen, Dortmund 1973

Ruy Lopez

1 $e4$ $e5$ 2 $\text{d}f3$ $\text{d}c6$ 3 $\text{e}b5$ $a6$ 4 $\text{e}a4$ $d6$ 5
 $\text{e}xc6+$ $bxc6$ 6 $d4$ $f6$ 7 $\text{e}e3$ $a5$ 8 $\text{d}c3$

$\text{d}e7$ 9 $h4$ $h5$ 10 $dx\text{e}5$ $fx\text{e}5$ 11 $\text{d}g5$ $\text{d}g6$
 12 $\text{w}d2$ $\text{e}e7$ 13 $g3$ $\text{d}f8$ 14 $0-0-0$ $\text{d}e6$ 15
 $f4$ $\text{e}f6$ 16 $\text{w}d3$ $\text{w}d7$ 17 $\text{w}c4$ $c5$ 18 $\text{d}b5$
 $\text{e}xg5$ 19 $hxg5$ $\text{d}d4$ 20 $\text{e}x\text{d}4$ $ex\text{d}4$ 21 $e5$
 $\text{e}a6$ 22 $\text{w}d5$ $\text{f}b8$



23 $\text{f}xh5!$

Overloading the h8-rook since 23... $\text{f}xh5$ more or less leads to mate after 24 $\text{w}g8+$ $\text{c}e7$ 25 $ex\text{d}6+$ and 26 $\text{f}e1+$.

23... $\text{f}f8$ 24 $a4$ $\text{e}xb5$ 25 $axb5$ $\text{w}xb5$ 26
 $b3$ $\text{w}d7$ 27 $\text{f}e1$ $\text{c}d8$ 28 $e6$ $\text{w}e7$ 29 $f5$
 $\text{c}c8$ 30 $\text{f}f1$ $\text{w}e8$ 31 $\text{f}hh1$ $\text{w}d8$ 32 $f6$
 $gxf6$ 33 $\text{w}f5$ $1-0$

Puzzle 29

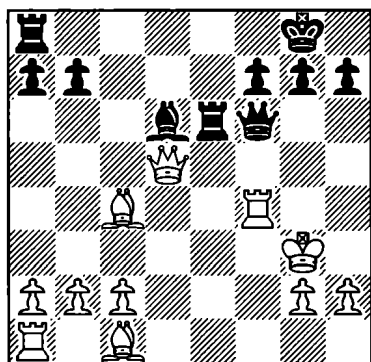
Spassky-Ciric, Marianske Lazne 1962

Nimzowitsch Sicilian

1 $e4$ $c5$ 2 $\text{d}f3$ $\text{d}f6$ 3 $e5$ $\text{d}d5$ 4 $\text{d}c3$ $e6$ 5
 $\text{d}x\text{d}5$ $ex\text{d}5$ 6 $d4$ $\text{d}c6$ 7 $dx\text{c}5$ $\text{e}xc5$ 8
 $\text{w}x\text{d}5$ $\text{w}b6$ 9 $\text{e}c4$ $\text{e}xf2+$ 10 $\text{c}e2$ $0-0$ 11
 $\text{f}f1$ $\text{e}c5$ 12 $\text{d}g5$ $\text{d}xe5$ 13 $\text{w}xe5$ $d5$ 14
 $\text{w}x\text{d}5$ $\text{f}e8+?$

14... $\text{e}g4+$ gives Black a reasonable game according to theory.

15 $\text{c}f3$ $\text{w}f6+$ 16 $\text{c}g3$ $\text{e}d6+$ 17 $\text{f}f4$ $\text{e}e6$
 18 $\text{d}xe6$ $\text{f}xe6$



19 ♖xd6!

An elegant solution. Now White will win two bishops for a rook, or two bishops and a rook for the queen.

19... ♗g6+ 20 ♖g4 ♖e3+ 21 ♙xe3 ♗xd6+ 22 ♙f2

Black has no chance to save this endgame as White has no real weaknesses.

22... ♖e8 23 ♖f4 ♖e7 24 ♙b3 ♗e5 25 ♖e1 g5 26 ♖f3 ♙g7 27 ♖d1 f6 28 ♙g1 g4 29 ♙d4 1-0

Puzzle 30

Spassky-Ragozin, Leningrad 1956

King's Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♙g7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 0-0 6 ♙g5 c6 7 ♗d2 a6 8 ♙d3 e5 9 d5 ♘bd7 10 ♘ge2 ♘c5 11 ♙c2 h6 12 ♙e3 cxd5 13 cxd5 ♙h7 14 b4 ♘cd7 15 0-0 ♘b6 16 ♙b3 ♙d7 17 ♖fc1 ♖c8 18 ♗d3 ♘h5 19 a4 f5 20 exf5 ♙xf5 21 ♘e4 ♘f4 22 ♗d2 ♙xe4 23 fxe4 ♘d7 24 ♖xc8 ♗xc8 25 ♖c1 ♘e2+ 26 ♗xe2 ♗d8 27 a5! ♖f7 28 ♙a4 ♘f6 29 ♙b6 ♗f8 30 g4!?

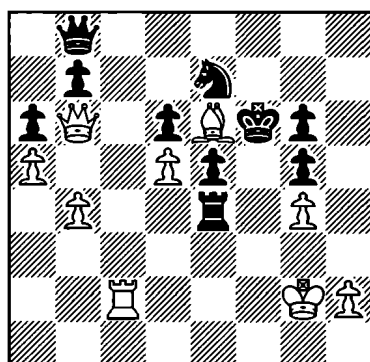
Preventing ... ♘h5, but this move is

quite radical. A simpler route to the advantage was 30 b5 axb5 31 ♙xb5 ♘h5 32 ♖c7.

30... ♘g8 31 ♙e3 ♙f6 32 ♖f1 ♙g5 33 ♙xg5 hxg5 34 ♙d7 ♖f4?!

Possibly a better try was something like 34... ♖xf1+ 35 ♗xf1 ♗e7 36 ♙e6 ♘f6, although White has a clear edge after 37 ♗c4!.

35 ♙e6 ♗d8 36 ♖c1 ♘e7 37 ♗e3 ♙g7 38 ♙g2 ♙f6 39 ♖c2 ♗b8? 40 ♗b6! ♖xe4



41 ♖c8! 1-0

Black resigned because of 41... ♘xc8 42 ♗d8+ ♙g7 43 ♗g8+ ♙h6 44 ♗h8 mate.

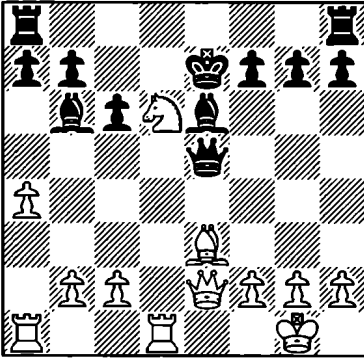
Puzzle 31

Spassky-Sanguinetti, Sofia 1958

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙b5 ♘f6 4 0-0 ♘xe4 5 d4 ♘d6 6 dxe5 ♘xb5 7 a4 ♘bd4 8 ♘xd4 ♘xd4 9 ♗xd4 d5 10 exd6 ♗xd6 11 ♗c3 ♙e6 12 ♘a3 c6 13 ♙e3 ♗b4 14 ♗e5 ♗d6 15 ♗h5 ♗d5 16 ♗e2 ♙c5 17 ♘b5 ♙b6 18 ♖fd1 ♗e5 19 ♘d6+ ♙e7

(see following diagram)



20 ♖c4! ♗xc4?

20...♗c7 21 ♖xb6 axb6 was a better defence, but White is completely winning after 22 a5! bxa5 23 ♗c5+ ♖e8 24 ♗d6 with the threat of ♗xe6.

21 ♗g5+ ♖e6 22 ♗g4+ 1-0

Black is mated after 22...♗f5 23 ♗xc4+ ♖e5 24 ♗c3+ ♖e6 25 ♗b3+ ♖e5 26 ♗g3+ ♖e4 27 ♗d3+ ♖e5 28 ♗d6+ ♖e4 29 ♗e1+ ♗e3 30 ♗xe3.

Puzzle 32

Larsen-Spassky, Linares 1981

English Opening

1 c4 e5 2 g3 ♖c6 3 ♗g2 g6 4 ♖c3 ♗g7 5 d3 d6 6 ♗b1 ♗e6 7 b4 ♗d7 8 ♖f3 h6 9 0-0 ♖ge7 10 e4 ♗g4 11 ♖d5 ♖xd5 12 cxd5 ♖e7 13 ♗e3 f5 14 ♗d2 f4! 15 gxf4 0-0 16 ♖e1 exf4 17 ♗xf4 g5 18 ♗g3 ♖g6 19 f3 ♗h5 20 ♖c2 ♖f4 21 ♖e3 ♗f7 22 ♖f5 ♗xf5! 23 exf5 ♗c3?! 24 ♗c2 ♗xf5 25 ♗xf4 ♗d4+ 26 ♖h1 ♗xf4 27 ♗be1 ♗e5 28 ♗xe5! ♗xe5 29 ♗xc7 ♗f8 30 ♗xb7 ♗e3 31 ♗d7 ♗f6

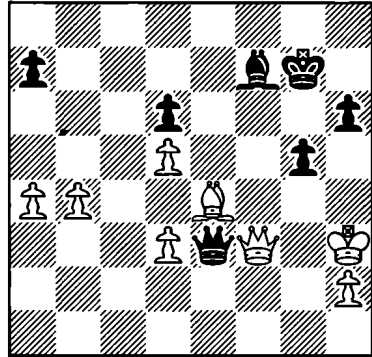
31...♗xf3 didn't work on accord of 32 ♗e6+ ♗xe6 33 dxe6 ♗xg2+ 34 ♖xg2 ♗xf1 35 ♖xf1 ♖g7 36 a4 ♖f6 37 b5 ♖xe6

38 a5.

32 ♗c8+ ♖h7 33 ♗c3 ♗xf3 34 ♗e1 ♗f2 35 a4 ♗f7 36 ♗f1 ♗e3 37 ♗e4+ ♖g8 38 ♗xf7 ♗xf7 39 ♗c8+ ♖g7 40 ♗f5?!

White would have been better after 40 ♗g4, but now Black forces perpetual.

40...♗e1+ 41 ♖g2 ♗e2+ 42 ♖h3 ♗e3+ 43 ♗f3??



43...g4+! 0-1

White must have initially missed 44 ♖xg4 ♗h5+! 45 ♖xh5 ♗g5 mate.

Puzzle 33

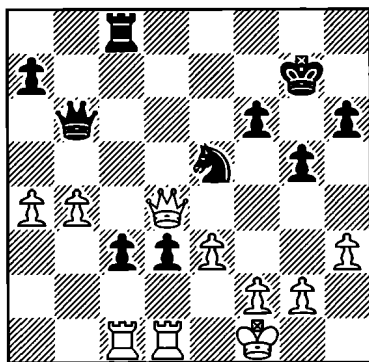
Spassky-Pachman, Havana 1962

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖f3 d5 4 ♖c3 ♗e7 5 ♗g5 0-0 6 e3 h6 7 ♗h4 b6 8 cxd5 ♖xd5 9 ♖xd5 exd5 10 ♗xe7 ♗xe7 11 ♗e2 ♗e6 12 ♖e5 c5 13 0-0 ♗d8 14 ♗c1 f6?! 15 ♖g6 ♗d6 16 dxc5 bxc5 17 ♖f4 ♗f7 18 ♗c2 ♖d7 19 ♗fd1 d4 20 ♗c4 ♗xc4 21 ♗xc4+ ♖h7 22 b4! ♗ac8 23 ♖e6 ♖e5 24 ♗c2+ d3 25 ♖xd8 ♗xd8 26 ♗b2 c4 27 h3 ♗b6 28 a4 g5 29 ♖f1 ♖g7 30 ♗d4?! c3?

30...♗xb4 31 ♗xa7+ ♖f7 was not so

clear, but now White has a simple combination.



31 ♖xd3! ♜xd3 32 ♛d7+ 1-0

White wins easily after 32...♜g6 33 ♛xd3+ f5 34 ♖xc3.

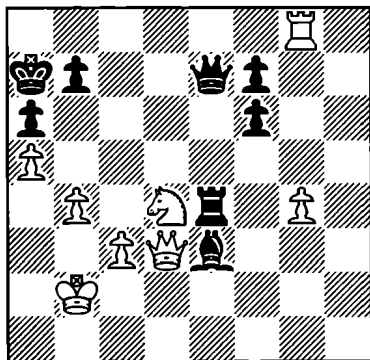
Puzzle 34

Spassky-Petrosian, Moscow 1967
French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♜c3 ♜f6 4 ♟g5 dxe4
5 ♜xe4 ♜bd7 6 ♜xf6+ ♜xf6 7 ♜f3 c5 8
♟b5+ ♟d7 9 ♟xd7+ ♛xd7 10 ♟xf6
gxf6 11 c3 cxd4 12 ♜xd4 ♟c5 13 ♛f3
0-0-0 14 0-0-0 ♛e7 15 ♜b3 ♟b6 16 g4
♖xd1+ 17 ♖xd1 h5 18 h3 hxg4 19 hxg4
♖h2 20 ♜d4 a6 21 ♖d2 ♖h8 22 b4 ♜b8
23 ♜b3 ♖c8 24 ♜b2 ♖c4 25 a4 e5 26 a5
♟a7 27 ♛d3 ♖f4

27...♖xg4!? 28 b5 axb5 29 ♛xb5 ♛e6!
was interesting. The point being that
after 30 ♖d7, Black has 30...♛c6, and
after 30 ♖d8+ ♜c7 31 ♖a8 ♟xf2 32 a6
♟b6! 33 axb7 ♖g2+ he has perpetual
check.

**28 f3 e4?! 29 fxe4 ♖xe4 30 ♖h2 ♟e3 31
♛d5 ♖e5 32 ♖h8+ ♜a7 33 ♛d3 ♖e4 34
♖g8 ♟g5? 35 ♜d4 ♟e3**



36 b5! ♟xd4

There was no defence with the other
try 36...axb5 being mated by 37 ♜xb5+
♜a6 38 ♖a8+.

37 ♛xd4+! 1-0

Puzzle 35

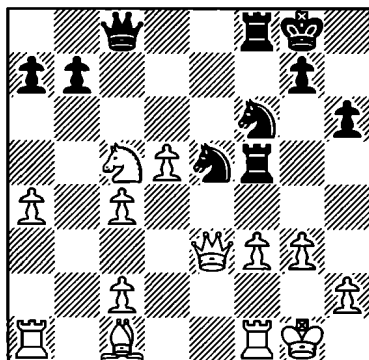
Hodgson-Spassky, Brussels 1985
Four Knights Game

1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♜c3 ♜f6 4 ♟b5
♟b4 5 0-0 0-0 6 d3 ♟xc3 7 bxc3 d6 8
♟g5 ♛e7 9 ♖e1 ♜d8 10 d4 ♜e6 11 ♟c1
c5 12 ♟f1 ♛c7 13 g3 ♖e8 14 d5 ♜f8 15
c4 ♜g6 16 ♟g2 ♟d7 17 a4 h6 18 ♛d3
♖f8 19 ♜d2 ♜h7 20 ♖f1 f5 21 exf5
♟xf5 22 ♟e4 ♛d7 23 ♟xf5 ♖xf5 24
♜e4 ♖af8 25 f3 ♜f6?

This would seem to be an incorrect
combination played from a good position.

**26 ♜xd6 e4 27 ♜xe4 ♜e5 28 ♜xc5!
♛c8 29 ♛e3??**

Suddenly the game is over, whereas
the alternative 29 ♛d4! would have
been excellent for White who has great
compensation after 29...♜xf3+ 30 ♖xf3
♖xf3 31 ♜e6.



29...♟fg4! 30 ♜d4

White has to keep protecting the knight on c5.

30...♞xh2! 0-1

After 31 ♞xh2 ♜h5+ 32 ♞g1 ♜h3 there is no escape from the mate.

Puzzle 36

Spassky-Averkin, Moscow 1973

Sicilian Taimanov

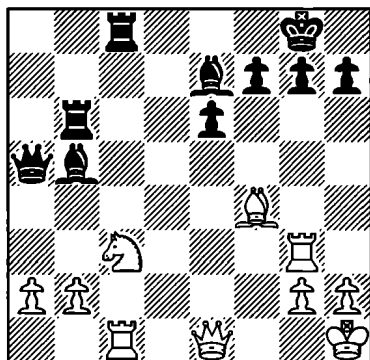
1 e4 c5 2 ♟f3 ♟c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♟xd4 e6
5 ♟b5 d6 6 c4 ♟f6 7 ♟1c3 a6 8 ♟a3
♟e7 9 ♟e2 0-0 10 0-0 ♟d7 11 ♟e3 ♜b8
12 ♜c1 ♞a5 13 f4 ♜fd8 14 ♞d2 ♟e8 15
♜fd1 ♟b4 16 ♞e1 b5 17 ♞h1 ♜dc8 18
cxb5 axb5 19 e5 dxe5 20 fxe5 ♟d7?

This leads to a long forced sequence ending in Black's demise.

21 ♟axb5 ♟xe5 22 ♟f4 ♟ed3 23 ♟xd3
♟xd3 24 ♜xd3 ♟xb5 25 ♜g3 ♜b6

White would have been clearly better after 25...♟c6 26 ♞e5! ♞xe5 27 ♟xe5 and so Black prepares to meet 26 ♞e5 with 26...f6.

(see following diagram)



26 ♟c7!!

A stunning combination.

26...♜xc7

Instead 26...♟c6 27 ♟xb6 ♞xb6 was possible. White can then try another combination with 28 ♟d5 and after 28...exd5 29 ♞xe7 ♞xb2 30 ♜f1 ♟e8 31 a4 he should be winning.

27 ♞e5 g6 28 ♞xc7 ♟h4 29 ♜f3 ♟e8 30 ♜xf7! ♟xf7 31 ♜f1 ♟e8 32 ♞c8 ♞g7 33 ♞xe8 ♟f6 34 ♟e4 e5 35 ♟xf6 1-0

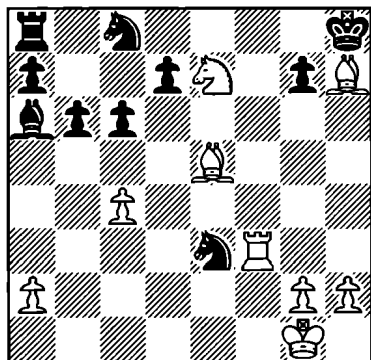
Puzzle 37

Spassky-Hübner, Munich 1979

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♟c3 ♟b4 4 e3 b6 5
♟ge2 ♟a6 6 ♟g3 0-0 7 e4 ♟c6 8 ♟d3
e5 9 d5 ♟a5 10 ♞e2 ♟xc3+ 11 bxc3 c6
12 ♟f5 ♟e8 13 f4 ♞c7 14 fxe5 ♞xe5 15
0-0 f6 16 ♟f4 ♞xc3 17 ♜ac1 ♞a3 18 d6
♟b7 19 ♟e7+ ♞h8 20 e5 fxe5 21 ♟xe5
♟f6 22 ♟xh7 ♟xd6 23 ♞f2? ♟g4!? 24
♞d4 ♞e3+? 25 ♞xe3 ♜xf1+ 26 ♜xf1
♟xe3 27 ♜f3 ♟c8

(see following diagram)



28 ♖g6! 1-0

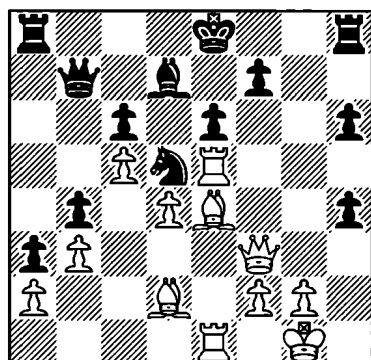
28...♜xe7 29 ♖f7! and mate follows.

Puzzle 38

Spassky-Perez, Tel Aviv 1964

French Defence

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♜c3 dxe4 4 ♜xe4 ♜d7
5 ♖c4 ♜gf6 6 ♜g5 e6 7 ♜e2 ♜b6 8
♖b3 ♜bd5 9 ♖d2 a5 10 c4 a4 11 ♖d1
♜c7 12 ♜1f3 h6 13 ♜e4 ♖e7 14 ♖c2 b5
15 c5 b4 16 ♜xf6+ ♖xf6 17 ♜e4 ♜d5
18 0-0 g6 19 ♜e5 ♜c7 20 ♜fe1 ♖g7 21
♜h4 g5 22 ♜h5 ♜f6 23 ♜f3 ♜d5 24 h4
a3 25 b3 ♖xe5 26 ♜xe5 gxf4 27 ♖e4
♜b7 28 ♜e1 ♖d7?



29 ♜xd5! exd5 30 ♖xd5+ 1-0

Perhaps Black should just have lost a piece, since now 30...♜d8 31 ♜f6+ leads straight to mate.

Puzzle 39

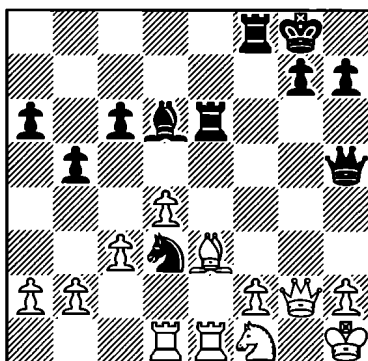
Boucchechter-Spassky, Tel Aviv 1964

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♖b5 a6 4 ♖a4 ♜f6
5 0-0 ♖e7 6 ♜e1 b5 7 ♖b3 0-0 8 c3 d5 9
exd5 10 ♜xd5 11 ♜xe5 ♜xe5 12 d4
♖d6 13 ♜e1 ♜h4 14 g3 ♜h3 15
♖e3 ♖g4 16 ♜d3 ♜ae8 17 ♜d2 ♜e6 18
♖d1 ♖xd1 19 ♜axd1 f5 20 ♜f1 ♜h5 21
♜e2 ♜g6 22 ♜h1

Black already has the upper hand: for example, 22 ♜d3 f4 23 ♜xg6 ♜xg6 and Black wins a piece.

22...f4 23 gxf4 ♜xf4 24 ♜f1 ♜d3 25
♜g2 ♜h5 26 ♜f1



26...♜xe3!

Removing the defender of the dark squares, after which the game is over.

27 ♜xe3 ♜xf2 28 ♜xd3 ♜xg2 29 ♜xg2
♜g6+ 0-1

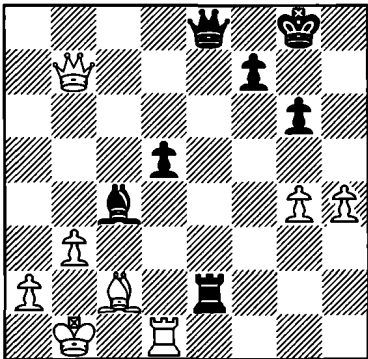
Puzzle 40

Timman-Spassky, Bundesliga 1982
Owen's Defence

1 e4 b6 2 d4 ♟b7 3 ♟d3 e6 4 ♚e2 d6 5
 ♜f3 ♜d7 6 c4 g6 7 ♜c3 ♟g7 8 ♟e3 ♜e7
 9 ♚d2 h6 10 0-0-0 d5?! 11 exd5 exd5 12
 ♞he1 ♟f8 13 c5 ♟g8 14 ♟c2 ♜f6 15
 ♟f4 ♜c6 16 h3 a6 17 ♜e5 bxc5 18 dxc5
 ♜xe5 19 ♟xe5 ♟h7 20 ♚f4 ♞c8 21 ♞e3
 ♞e8 22 ♚d4? ♞xe5! 23 ♚xe5 ♜g4 24
 ♚f4 ♜xe3 25 fxe3 ♟g8 26 ♟b3 c6 27
 ♜e4 ♚e7 28 ♜d6 ♟e5 29 ♚xh6 ♟xd6
 30 cxd6 ♚xd6 31 e4 ♞e8 32 exd5 cxd5
 33 ♚d2 ♞e5 34 g4 ♚e6 35 ♚b4 ♟c6 36
 ♚a5 ♞e2 37 ♚xa6 ♚e3+ 38 ♟b1 ♚e5
 39 ♟c2 ♚e8 40 h4 ♟b5 41 ♚b7 ♟c4

Black has failed to get full compensation for his pawn. Now after the move 42 h5 White appears to be better, but instead Timman blundered into a draw.

42 b3?



42...♞xc2! 43 ♟xc2 ♚e2+ 44 ♟c1

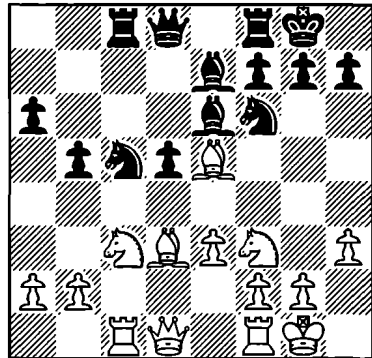
And not instead 44 ♞d2? ♟d3+ 45 ♟c3 d4+ when it is Black who emerges as the winner.

44...♚e3+ 45 ♟c2 ♚e2+ 46 ♟c1 ½-½

Puzzle 41

Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♜c3 ♟e7 4 ♜f3 ♜f6 5
 ♟f4 c5 6 dxc5 ♜a6 7 e3 ♜xc5 8 cxd5
 exd5 9 ♟e2 0-0 10 0-0 ♟e6 11 ♟e5 ♞c8
 12 ♞c1 a6 13 h3 b5 14 ♟d3?



14...d4! 15 ♟xd4 ♜xd3 16 ♚xd3 ♟c4

Black wins the exchange.

**17 ♚b1 ♟xf1 18 ♞xf1 ♜d5 19 ♜e2 ♟f6
 20 ♞d1 ♚c7 21 ♟xf6 ♜xf6 22 ♜fd4
 ♚e5 23 ♚d3 ♞fd8 24 a4 bxa4 25 ♞a1
 ♜e4 26 ♚xa6 ♞a8 27 ♚d3 ♞e8 28 ♜f4
 g6 29 ♚a3 ♚f6 30 ♜d3 ♞ec8 31 ♞d1
 ♞c4 32 b4 ♞ac8 33 b5 ♞c3 34 ♚a1**

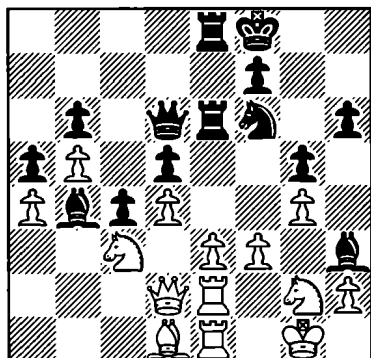
We have now reached Puzzle 22 on page 94.

Puzzle 42

Zhu Chen-Spassky, Roquebrune 1998
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♜c3 ♟e7 4 ♜f3 ♜f6 5
 ♟g5 h6 6 ♟h4 0-0 7 e3 b6 8 ♟e2 ♟b7 9
 ♟xf6 ♟xf6 10 cxd5 exd5 11 b4 c6 12
 0-0 a5 13 b5 c5 14 ♞c1 ♜d7 15 ♚d2 c4
 16 ♜e1 ♟e7 17 g3 ♜f6 18 ♜g2 ♞e8 19

♔c2 ♙b4 20 a4 ♖c8 21 ♙f3 g6 22 ♖fd1
g5 23 ♘a2 ♙a3 24 ♖b1 ♔d7 25 ♙e2
♙g7 26 ♖f1 ♖c7 27 f3 ♙c8 28 ♘c3 ♙b4
29 ♖be1 ♔d6 30 ♙d1 ♙h3 31 ♙e2 ♖ce7
32 ♔d2 ♖e6 33 g4 ♙f8 34 ♖fe1



34...♙xg4!

This simply wins a pawn as White cannot recapture: 35 fxg4? ♘xg4 36 ♘f4 gxf4 37 exf4 ♙xc3 38 ♔xc3 ♖xe2 39 ♖xe2 ♖xe2 40 ♙xe2 ♔xf4 and Black trivially wins the ending.

35 e4 ♙xf3 36 e5 ♔d8 37 ♖e3 ♙xg2?!

37...♘e4 instead was winning easily for Black.

38 ♔xg2 ♘e4 39 ♘xe4 dxe4 40 ♔xe4 ♙xe1 41 ♖xe1 ♔a8?

41...♖f6! would still have won the game with the idea of ...♖f4.

42 ♔g4 ♔d8 43 ♖e4 ♔a8 44 ♔g4 ♔d8
45 ♖e4 ½-½

Puzzle 43

Ioseliani-Spassky, Copenhagen 1997

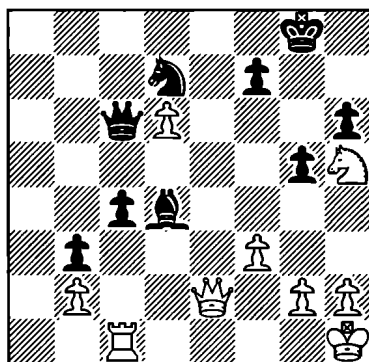
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♙b4 4 ♔c2 d5 5
cxd5 exd5 6 ♙g5 h6 7 ♙h4 ♘bd7 8 e3
0-0 9 ♙d3 c5 10 ♘ge2 c4 11 ♙f5 ♘b6

12 0-0 ♖e8 13 a3 ♙f8 14 ♙xc8 ♖xc8 15
♖ad1 ♖c6 16 ♖fe1 a6 17 ♔d2 g5?! 18
♙g3 ♘bd7 19 f3 b5 20 ♙f2 ♔b8 21
♘g3 a5 22 e4

White has a sizeable initiative in this position.

22...b4 23 axb4 axb4 24 ♘xd5 ♘xd5 25
exd5 ♖cc8 26 ♖xe8 ♖xe8 27 ♔c2 ♘b6
28 ♘h5 ♙g7 29 ♙g3 ♔c8 30 ♙e5 ♖xe5
31 dxe5 ♙xe5 32 d6 b3 33 ♔f2 ♔c6 34
♖e2 ♘d7 35 ♖c1 ♙d4+ 36 ♙h1



36...♘e5??

Instead 36...♔xd6 appears to hold because after 37 ♔xc4 ♙xb2 it will be very hard for White to exploit his advantage.

37 d7!

The pawn is immune and decides the game.

37...♔d6

One can presume that Spassky initially missed White's 37th or the fact that Black is mated after 37...♘xd7 38 ♔e8+.

38 ♖xc4 ♘xd7 1-0

Black resigned before White played 39 ♔d1 ♙e5 40 ♔xd6 ♙xd6 41 ♖d4, winning a piece.

Puzzle 44

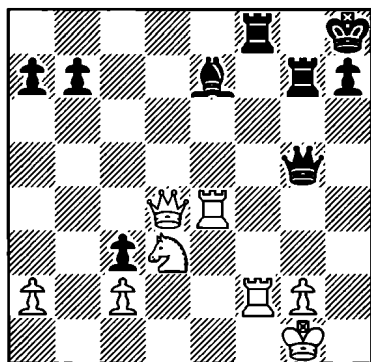
Spassky-Fischer, Mar del Plata 1960

King's Gambit

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 ♖f3 g5 4 h4 g4 5
 ♗e5 ♗f6 6 d4 d6 7 ♗d3 ♗xe4 8 ♙xf4
 ♙g7 9 ♗c3 ♗xc3 10 bxc3 c5 11 ♙e2
 cxd4 12 0-0 ♗c6 13 ♙xg4 0-0 14 ♙xc8
 ♙xc8 15 ♙g4 f5 16 ♙g3 dxc3 17 ♙ae1
 ♙h8 18 ♙h1 ♙g8 19 ♙xd6 ♙f8 20
 ♙e5+ ♗xe5 21 ♙xe5+ ♙g7 22 ♙xf5
 ♙xh4+ 23 ♙g1 ♙g4 24 ♙f2 ♙e7 25 ♙e4
 ♙g5 26 ♙d4

Black has been doing well throughout the game. Here he is only a little better, but his next move is a serious blunder.

26...♙f8??



27 ♙e5!

Now Black cannot defend the e7-bishop. Perhaps Fischer was only counting on 27 ♗e5? ♙xf2 28 ♙xf2 ♙c5! when Black wins.

27...♙d8

Black is also lost after the alternative variations 27...♙h4 28 ♙xf8+ and 27...♙f6 28 ♙d6!.

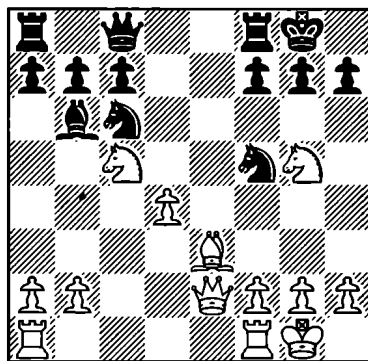
28 ♙e4 ♙h4 29 ♙f4 ♙g3 30 ♙xe7 1-0

Puzzle 45

Deiseach-Spassky, Antwerp 1955

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 ♙b5 ♙c5 4 0-0 ♗ge7
 5 c3 ♙b6 6 d4 exd4 7 cxd4 d5 8 ♗c3 dxe4
 9 ♗xe4 0-0 10 ♙e3 ♙g4 11 ♗c5 ♙c8 12
 ♙e2 ♗f5 13 ♗g5 ♙xe2 14 ♙xe2



14...♗cxd4!

Either knight can actually take on d4; 14...♗fxd4! 15 ♙h5 ♙f5 and Black defends.

15 ♙xd4

15 ♙h5 loses to 15...h6 16 ♗ge4 ♗xe3 17 fxe3 ♗c2 and Black takes it all.

15...♗xd4 16 ♙d3 ♙f5!

Yes, it is really that easy! Now Black is just a pawn up.

17 ♙xf5 ♗xf5 18 ♗d7 ♙fe8 19 ♗xb6 axb6 20 ♙fe1 ♙xe1+ 21 ♙xe1 h6 22 g4 ♗h4 0-1

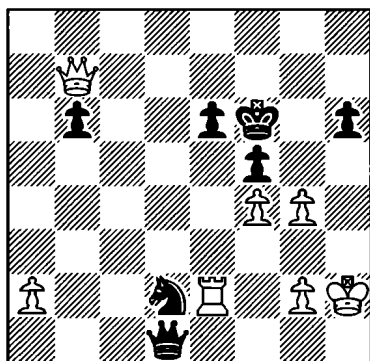
Puzzle 46

Spassky-Schmidt, Lugano 1968

Grünfeld Defence

1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♗c3 d5 4 cxd5 ♗xd5
 5 e4 ♗xc3 6 bxc3 ♙g7 7 ♙c4 c5 8 ♗e2

♖c6 9 ♙e3 0-0 10 0-0 ♜c7 11 ♜c1 b6 12
 f4 ♘a5 13 ♙d3 f5 14 exf5 ♙xf5 15
 ♙xf5 gxf5 16 dxc5 ♜ad8 17 cxb6 axb6
 18 ♙d4 ♖c4 19 ♜e1 ♜d6 20 ♙xg7
 ♙xg7 21 ♖d4 ♜ff6 22 ♜c2 e6 23 ♜f3
 ♜c5 24 ♜e2 ♜g6 25 ♙h1 ♙f7 26 ♜h4
 h6 27 ♜g3 ♙xg3 28 hxg3 ♜xd4 29 cxd4
 ♜xd4 30 ♜h5+ ♙e7 31 ♜f3 ♜d1+ 32
 ♙h2 ♙f7 33 g4 ♖d2 34 ♜b7+ ♙f6



White wins by bringing the black king out into the open.

35 g5+ ♙g6 36 gxh6!

The simplest. The threat is ♜g7+ and ♜g5 mate.

36...♖f1+ 37 ♙h3 1-0

After 37...♜d3+ 38 ♜f3 White wins either the knight or the endgame.

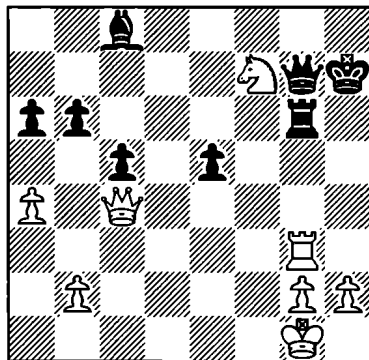
Puzzle 47

Spassky-Zuk, Vancouver 1971

King's Indian Defence

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♖c3 ♙g7 4 e4 d6 5 f3
 0-0 6 ♙e3 b6 7 ♙d3 ♙b7 8 ♖ge2 c5 9 d5
 e6 10 ♙g5 h6 11 ♙h4 exd5 12 cxd5
 ♖bd7 13 0-0 a6 14 a4 ♖e5 15 f4 ♖xd3
 16 ♜xd3 ♜c7 17 ♜ad1 ♜ae8 18 ♙xf6
 ♙xf6 19 e5 dxe5 20 ♖e4 ♙g7 21 f5 ♜d8

22 ♖2c3 gxf5 23 ♜xf5 f6 24 ♜df1 ♜e7
 25 ♜g3 ♙h8 26 ♜h4 ♙xd5 27 ♖xf6 ♙b7
 28 ♜h5 ♜xf6 29 ♜xh6+ ♙g8 30 ♜xf6
 ♙xf6 31 ♜xf6 ♜g7 32 ♜c4+ ♙h8 33 ♜f3
 ♜d6 34 ♜h4+ ♙g8 35 ♜c4+ ♙h8 36 ♖e4
 ♜g6 37 ♜h3+ ♜h6 38 ♜d3 ♜f6 39 ♜g3
 ♜g6 40 ♖g5 ♙c8 41 ♖f7+ ♙h7



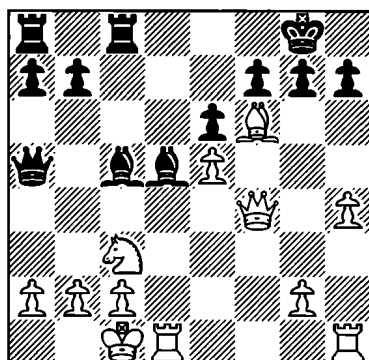
White decided with two natural checks.

42 ♜h4+ ♙g8 43 ♖h6+! 1-0

After 43...♙h8 44 ♖f5+ ♜h7 45 ♜xh7+ ♙xh7 46 ♜xg6 ♙xg6 47 ♖e7+ White picks up the bishop.

Puzzle 48

Spassky-Korensky, Sochi 1973



White won with a direct assault:

18 ♖xg7! ♜xg7 19 ♜f6+ ♜f8

19...♜g8 is in principle more tenacious, but it does not take a lot of calculation to see that White wins after 20 ♜h3 ♜d8 21 ♜g3+ ♜f8 22 ♜h6+ ♜e7 23 ♜g7 when Black has no defence.

20 ♜hf1 ♜c7 21 ♜xd5 exd5 22 e6! ♜xa2

The only attempt at counterplay, but White is too fast.

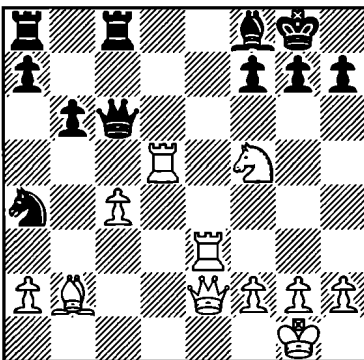
23 e7+! ♜g8 24 ♜xf7+ ♜h8 25 e8♜+ ♜xe8 26 ♜xe8+ ♜g7 27 ♜e5+ ♜g8 28 ♜g5+ 1-0

Puzzle 49

Spassky-Langeweg, Sochi 1967

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 ♟f6 2 ♟f3 d5 3 c4 e6 4 ♟c3 c5 5 cxd5 ♟xd5 6 e3 ♟c6 7 ♟c4 cxd4 8 exd4 ♟xc3 9 bxc3 ♟e7 10 0-0 0-0 11 ♟d3 b6 12 ♜e2 ♟b7 13 ♟b2 ♜d5 14 c4 ♜h5 15 ♟e4 ♜fe8 16 ♜fd1 ♟a5 17 ♟xb7 ♟xb7 18 ♜ac1 ♟f8 19 ♜c3 ♜ec8 20 d5 ♟c5 21 ♜e3 exd5 22 ♜xd5 ♜h6 23 ♟d4 ♟a4? 24 ♟f5 ♜c6



25 ♟xg7! ♜xd5

Both 25...♟xg7 26 ♟e7+ and 25...♜g6

26 ♜g3 were equally hopeless.

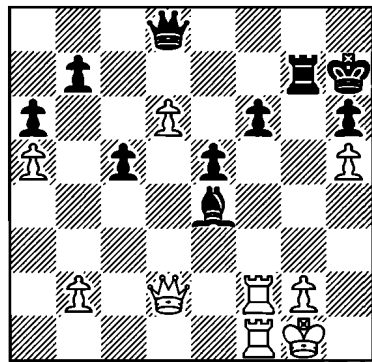
26 ♟h6+! ♜xg7 27 ♜g4+ 1-0

Puzzle 50

Spassky-Filip, Gothenburg 1955

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♟c3 ♟b4 4 ♟g5 h6 5 ♟h4 c5 6 d5 exd5 7 cxd5 d6 8 e3 ♟bd7 9 ♟d3 0-0 10 ♟ge2 ♟e5 11 0-0 ♟xc3 12 ♟xc3 ♟g6 13 ♟g3 ♜e7 14 e4 ♟d7 15 ♜e1 ♟e5 16 ♟e2 g5 17 ♜f1 ♜h7 18 ♜d2 ♟g8 19 f4 gxf4 20 ♜xf4 a6 21 a4 f6 22 ♜af1 ♜f7 23 ♟h5 ♜g7 24 a5 ♜f8 25 ♟d1 ♜g5 26 ♟e2 ♟g6 27 ♜4f2 ♟e5 28 ♟e3 ♜g7 29 ♟xe5 dxe5 30 d6 ♜d8 31 ♟c4 ♟c6 32 ♟f5 ♜g5 33 h4 ♜g6 34 ♟xg8+ ♜fxg8 35 ♟e7 ♟xe4 36 ♟xg6 ♜xg6 37 h5 ♜g7



38 ♜xf6! ♜xg2+ 39 ♜xg2 ♟xg2 40 ♜f8! 1-0

The threat of 41 ♜1f7 is decisive.

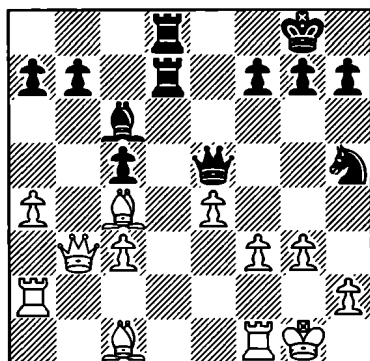
Puzzle 51

Portisch-Spassky, Geneva 1977

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♟c3 ♟b4 4 e3 c5 5

♙d3 d5 6 ♘f3 0-0 7 0-0 ♘c6 8 a3 ♙xc3
9 bxc3 dxc4 10 ♙xc4 ♖c7 11 ♙d3 e5 12
♗c2 ♜e8 13 ♘xe5 ♘xe5 14 dxe5 ♗xe5
15 f3 ♙d7 16 a4 ♜ad8 17 e4 ♙c6 18
♙c4 ♜d7 19 ♗b3 ♜ed8 20 ♜a2 ♘h5 21
g3



21...♘g3! 22 hxg3 ♜d2!

The point. Now the a2-rook will be eliminated.

23 ♙xd2

And not 23 f4? ♗xe4 when Black has a winning attack.

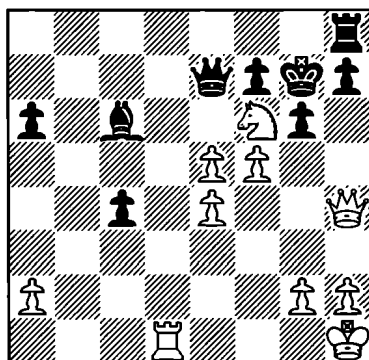
23...♜xd2 24 ♙xd2 ♗xg3+ 25 ♖h1
♗h3+ 26 ♖g1 ♗g3+ ½-½

Puzzle 52

Spassky-Garcia Gonzales, Sochi 1964

Grünfeld Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 d5 4 cxd5 ♘xd5
5 e4 ♘xc3 6 bxc3 ♙g7 7 ♙c4 0-0 8 ♘e2
c5 9 0-0 cxd4 10 cxd4 ♘c6 11 ♙e3 ♘a5
12 ♙d3 b6 13 ♜c1 ♗d7 14 ♙f4 e5? 15
♙xe5 ♙xe5 16 dxe5 ♗e6 17 f4 ♜d8 18
♘c3 ♙b7 19 ♗e2 a6 20 ♖h1 b5 21 ♘d5
♜ac8 22 ♜xc8 ♜xc8 23 ♘f6+ ♖g7 24
♗e1 ♘c4 25 ♗h4 ♜h8 26 f5 ♗e7 27
♙xc4 bxc4 28 ♜d1 ♙c6



29 ♘e8+!

29 ♘h5+! wins in a different way:
 29...♖f8 30 ♜d8+ ♙e8 31 ♘f6! ♗xd8 32
 ♘h7+ and White picks up the queen.

29...♖f8

Instead 29...♗xe8 loses to 30 f6+
 ♖g8 31 ♗h6 ♗f8 32 ♜d8 with mate to
 follow.

30 f6 ♗xe5 31 ♘g7! ♙d7 32 ♗h6! 1-0

Puzzle 53

Spassky-Forintos, Sochi 1964

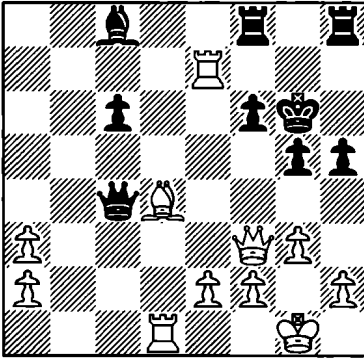
Albin Counter-Gambit

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 d4 4 ♘f3 ♘c6 5
g3 ♙g4 6 ♙g2 ♗d7 7 0-0 0-0-0 8 ♗b3
♙h3?

A famous mistake. 8...h5 is better.

9 e6! ♙xe6 10 ♘e5 ♗d6 11 ♘xc6 bxc6
12 ♗a4 ♗c5 13 ♘a3 ♗b6 14 ♙xc6
♙xa3 15 bxa3 ♘e7 16 ♙b5 c6 17 ♙a6+
♖d7 18 ♙f4 ♗c5 19 ♜ab1 ♙h3 20 ♜b7+
♖e6 21 ♜d1 g5 22 ♙d2 ♗e5 23 c5?! ♖f6
24 ♗b3 ♖g7 25 ♗f3 h5 26 ♙c4
♜df8 27 ♙c1 ♙c8 28 ♜xa7 ♗xc5 29
♙b2! f6 30 ♙xd4 ♗xc4 31 ♜xe7+ ♖g6

(see following diagram)



32 ♖e4+! ♙f5

Or 32...♙h6 33 h4! and the threat of 34 hxg5+ fxg5 35 ♙g7+ is rather powerful.

33 ♜g7+!

The point. The rook is immune in view 33...♙xg7 34 ♙xf6+!.

33...♙h6 34 ♖xf5!

The second point. White sacrifices the exchange for a winning attack.

34...♙xg7 35 ♖xg5+ ♙f7

White also wins after 35...♙h7 36 ♙xf6 ♜xf6 37 ♖xf6 38 ♜d7+.

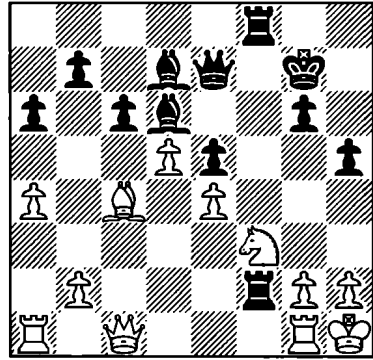
36 ♖xf6+ ♙e8 37 ♖g6+ ♙e7 38 ♙xh8 1-0

Puzzle 54

Vizantiadis-Spassky, Siegen 1970

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 ♖c3 e5 4 d5 a6 5 a4 ♖f6 6 ♙g5 ♖bd7 7 e4 h6 8 ♙xf6 ♖xf6 9 ♙xc4 ♙b4 10 ♖c2 0-0 11 ♖f3 ♙d6 12 0-0 ♖h5 13 ♖e2 ♙g4 14 ♖d2 ♖g5 15 ♖g3 ♖f4 16 ♖b3 h5 17 f3 ♙d7 18 ♙h1 g6 19 ♙g1 f5 20 ♖e2 fxe4 21 ♖xf4 ♜xf4 22 fxe4 ♜af8 23 ♖c1 ♙g7 24 ♙e2 ♖e7 25 ♖d2 c6 26 ♙c4 ♜f2 27 ♖f3



27...♜8xf3! 0-1

The idea is 28 gxf3 ♜xh2+! 29 ♙xh2 ♖h4+ 30 ♙g2 ♙h3+ 31 ♙h2 ♙f1 mate.

Puzzle 55

Danenhower-Spassky, Canada 1971

Modern Benoni

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 g6 4 ♖c3 ♙g7 5 ♖f3 0-0 6 g3 d6 7 ♙g2 e6 8 0-0 exd5 9 cxd5 ♖bd7 10 ♖d2 ♖e8 11 e4 ♖e5 12 h3 f5 13 ♙h2 f4!

Black should not be allowed to play like this.

14 ♖f3 g5 15 ♖e2 ♙h8 16 ♙d2 a6 17 a4 b6 18 ♖d1 ♜a7 19 ♙c3 g4

Now Black is as ready as can be for this.

20 ♖xe5 ♙xe5 21 hxg4 ♖g5 22 ♙xe5+ dxe5 23 ♙f3 ♖f6 24 ♙g2 ♖xg4 25 ♜h1 ♙g7 26 ♜a3?! fxg3 27 fxg3

(see following diagram)

27...♖e3+!

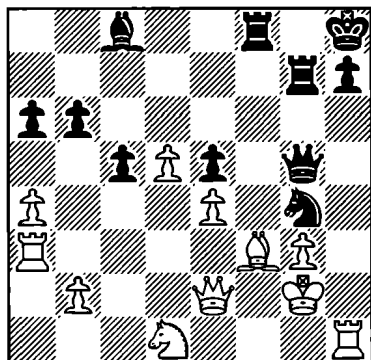
Black wants access to g3, and quickly.

28 ♖xe3 ♖xg3+ 29 ♙f1 ♙g4

Black can also win with 29...♖g7 30 ♙e2 ♜xf3.

30 ♖f2 ♜xf3 31 ♜xf3 ♕xf3! 0-1
























The double threat is terminal.

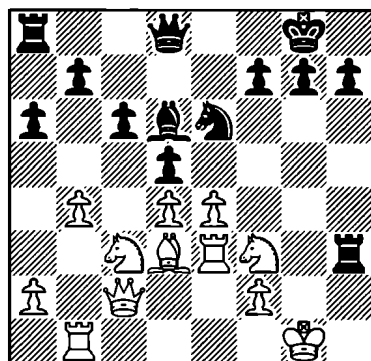


Puzzle 56

Spassky-Portisch, Budapest 1967

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 c3 e7 4 f3 f6 5
g5 0-0 6 e3 bd7 7 c1 a6 8 cxd5
exd5 9 d3 c6 10 0-0 e8 11 c2 f8
12 xf6 xf6 13 b4 e7 14 b1 d6
15 fe1 e6?! 16 e4 h6 17 h3 xh3
18 gxh3 xh3 19 e3 e6



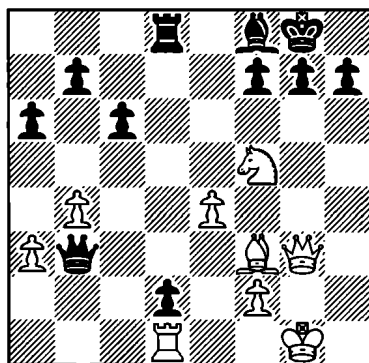
20 f1?

20 ♖e2! would have questioned the

correctness of the attack: 20...♙xf3 (possibly better is 20...♘g5!?, although after 21 ♖g2 ♙xf3 22 ♙xf3 ♘xf3 23 ♖xf3 dxe4+ 24 ♙xe4 ♖h4 25 ♘g3 White is in control) 21 ♙xf3 ♖g5+ 22 ♖f1 ♖h5 23 exd5!! cxd5 (or 23...♙xf3 24 ♙xh7+ ♖h8 25 ♙e4!) 24 ♙xh7+ ♖h8 25 ♖f5 and the extra rook should decide.

20...♟xf3! 21 ♟xf3 ♘xd4 22 ♖d1 ♖g5+
23 ♙g2 ♘xf3+ 24 ♟xf3 d4 25 ♘e2 ♖d2
26 a3 d3 27 ♘d4 ♖c3 28 ♘f5 ♙f8?! 29
♟d1 ♟d8 30 ♖g3! ♖b3 31 ♙f3 d2?

A blunder in a difficult position.



32 ♖xd2!!

32 ♖h6+ ♕h8 33 ♜c7 was also strong, but after 33...♜e8 34 ♜xf7 ♜xf7 35 ♖xf7+ ♔g8 36 ♖g5 ♜e5 37 ♖h3 c5 Black can still resist for a while.

32...♖e8

Black would have been mated after
32...♖xd2 33 ♜h6+ ♔h8 34 ♜b8!.

33 ♖d7 g6 34 ♖xb7 ♗xa3 35 ♔g2 1-0

Puzzle 57

Andruet-Spassky, Bundesliga 1988

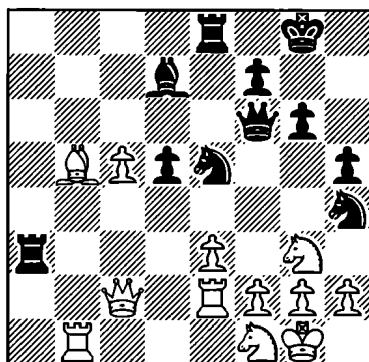
Bogo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘f3 ♚b4+ 4 ♚d2

♖xd2+ 5 ♜xd2 d5 6 ♜c3 0-0 7 e3 ♜e7 8
 ♜c1 ♜d8 9 ♜c2 ♜bd7 10 cxd5 exd5 11
 ♖d3 ♜f8 12 ♜e2 c6 13 0-0 ♜g6 14 ♜g3
 ♜e8 15 ♜c5 ♜d8 16 ♜d2 ♜h4 17 b4 a6
 18 a4 ♖d7 19 ♜b1 ♜g4 20 ♜c2 g6 21
 b5 axb5 22 axb5 h5 23 bxc6 bxc6 24
 ♜fe1 ♜f6 25 ♜df1? ♜a3!

Black is quickly seizing the initiative.

26 ♜e2 c5! 27 dxc5? ♜e5 28 ♖b5?



28...♜f3!! 0-1

After 29 gxf3 ♜exf3+ 30 ♖h1 ♖h3 White cannot defend against ...♖g2 mate.

Puzzle 58

Timman-Spassky, Linares 1983

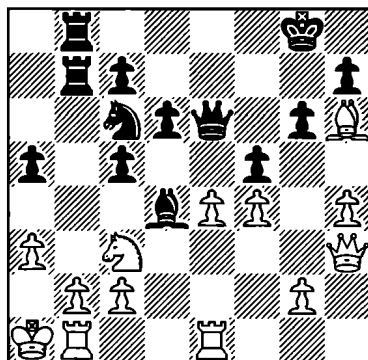
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♖b5 a6 4 ♖a4 d6 5
 ♖xc6+ bxc6 6 d4 exd4 7 ♜xd4 c5 8 ♜d3
 g6 9 ♜c3 ♖g7 10 ♖f4 ♜e7 11 0-0-0 0-0
 12 ♜d2 ♜e8 13 ♖h6 ♖h8 14 h4 ♜b8 15
 a3 ♖e6 16 ♜g5 ♜c8 17 ♜xe6 ♜xe6 18
 ♖b1?

18 h5 was necessary, but perhaps Timman did not want to allow 18...♜a2!? 19 ♜xa2 ♖xb2+ 20 ♖b1 ♖c3+

with a draw.

18...♜b7 19 ♖a1 ♜eb8 20 ♜b1 ♜c6
 21 f4 ♖d4 22 ♜d3 a5 23 ♜h3 f5 24
 ♜he1



24...♜b4!!

The double threat of 25...♜xc2 mate and 25...♖xc3 decides.

25 axb4 axb4 26 ♜a4

Black mates quickly after the alternative knight move 26 ♜a2 with 26...♜a8 27 ♜b3 ♜xb3 28 cxb3 ♜xa2+! 29 ♖xa2 ♜a7 mate.

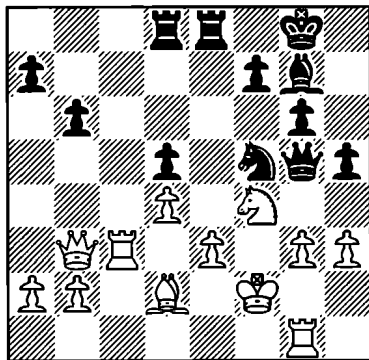
26...♜a7 27 ♜b3 c4 28 ♜a2 ♜ba8 29 exf5 ♜xa4 0-1

Puzzle 59

Kagan-Spassky, Winnipeg 1967

English Opening

1 c4 e5 2 ♜c3 d6 3 g3 ♜c6 4 ♖g2 g6 5
 e3 ♖g7 6 ♜ge2 ♜ge7 7 ♜b1 ♖e6 8 ♜d5
 0-0 9 d3 ♖g4 10 f3 ♖d7 11 0-0 ♜xd5 12
 cxd5 ♜e7 13 f4 c6 14 dxc6 ♖xc6 15
 ♜b3 ♖xg2 16 ♖xg2 ♜d7 17 ♖d2 h5 18
 h3 d5 19 ♜bc1 ♜fe8 20 fxe5 ♖xe5 21
 d4?! ♖g7 22 ♜f4 ♜ad8 23 ♜c5 b6 24
 ♜c3 ♜f5 25 ♜fc1 ♜e7 26 ♖f2 ♜g5 27
 ♜g1



27...h4!

Another way is 27...d6!? 28 c7 e4+ 29 e2 f5 with the threat of ...g5, but the text is quicker.

28 g4 e3! 29 e3 e3 30 e3 xf4+ 0-1

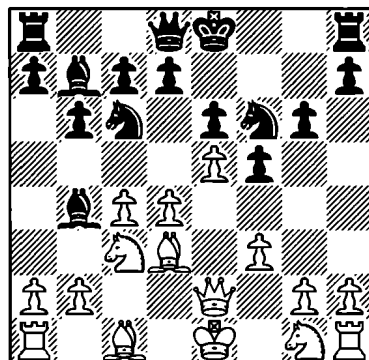
31 g2 e4 and Black will regain the exchange with two extra pawns.

Puzzle 60

Adorjan-Spassky, Toluca 1982

English Defence

1 c4 b6 2 d4 e7 3 c3 e6 4 e4 e4 5 e3 f5! 6 h5+ g6 7 e2 f6 8 f3 c6 9 e5?



9...d4!

Black takes the bait.

10 f2 h5!

White had probably missed this.

11 xd4?!

This loses feebly as now the white queen is trapped. Instead 11 g4!? was worth a try, although after the accurate 11...fxg4! 12 xd4 h4+ 13 d1 c5 14 xg4 xg4 15 fxg4 xh1 16 gxh5 xg1 Black's extra exchange will tell.

11...c5 12 xc5 bxc5 13 e3 h4+ 14 g3 xg3 15 f2 f4 16 e4 0-0-0 17 0-0-0 e2+ 18 gxe2 xf2 19 hf1 e3+ 20 d2 d5 21 d1 xd2+ 22 xd2 dxe4+ 23 c2 g5 0-1

Puzzle 61

Torre-Spassky, Bugojno 1984

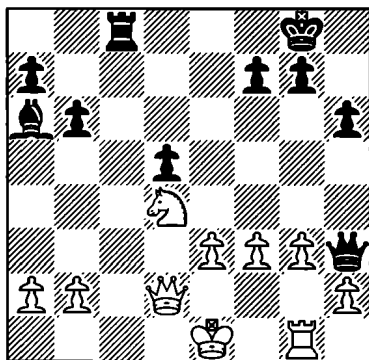
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 f6 2 c4 e6 3 c3 d5 4 g5 e7 5 e3 h6 6 h4 0-0 7 c1 b6 8 cxd5 xd5 9 xd5 exd5 10 xe7 xe7 11 e2 c5 12 f3 cxd4 13 xd4

It seems that White can play against the isolated pawn, but actually he is now on the verge of being worse because of his awkwardly placed bishop on f3. Instead 13 e2!? was probably better when 13...b4+ 14 f1 a6 15 xd4 xd4 16 exd4 e8 17 e1 leads to a rather level position.

13...e7 14 e2 c6 15 d2? e5 16 d4 xf3+ 17 xf3 a6! 18 d4 a8 19 xc8 xc8 20 f3 h4+! 21 g3 h3 22 g1

(see following diagram)



22... ♖c1+!! 23 ♜xc1 ♜xh2 24 g4!

White saves one of his pawns, whereas after 24 ♖f1 ♜xg3+ Black regains his rook with interest.

24... ♜xg1+ 25 ♔d2 ♜f2+ 26 ♔c3 g6 27 ♜d2 ♜g3 28 b3 ♕f1 29 ♔b2 ♕g2 30 ♜e2 ♕h3 31 ♜c2 ♜g2 32 ♜xg2 ♕xg2 33 ♔c3 a5 34 a3 ♔f8!

Spassky knows that he needs to bring the king into play to exploit his advantage.

35 ♔d2 ♔e7 36 ♔e2 ♕h3 37 ♔f2 f5 38 gxf5 ♕xf5 39 ♔g3 ♔f6 40 ♔e2 ♔e5 41 f4+ ♔e4! 42 ♔c3+ ♔d3 43 ♔xd5 b5 44 ♔f2 ♔c2 45 b4 a4 46 ♔c7 ♕d7 47 e4 ♔b3 48 f5 gxf5 49 exf5 ♕xf5 50 ♔xb5 ♕d7 51 ♔a7 ♔xa3 52 b5 ♕e6 53 ♔c6 ♔b2 54 b6 ♕c8 55 ♔a7 ♕a6 56 ♔b5 ♔b3 57 ♔e3 ♔b4 58 ♔c7 ♕b7 59 ♔d3 a3 60 ♔c2 ♕e4+ 61 ♔c1 ♔b3 0-1

Puzzle 62

Aizenshtadt-Spassky, Riga 1951

(see following diagram)

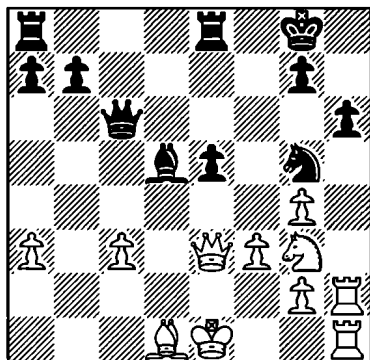
30...e4!

Opening lines against White's king.

31 f4 ♔f3+!

The point. Black wins the exchange.

32 ♔f2 ♔xh2 33 ♖xh2 ♖ac8 0-1



Puzzle 63

Spassky-Eliet, French League 2002

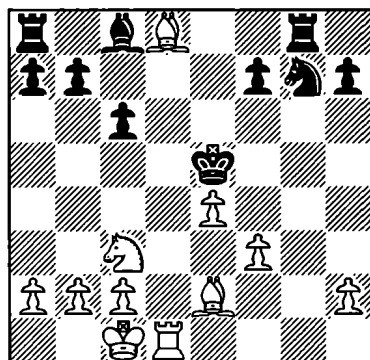
Irregular Opening

1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♔f6 3 ♔c3 ♔bd7 4 f4 e5 5 dxe5 dxe5 6 fxe5 ♔xe5 7 ♜xd8+ ♔xd8 8 ♕g5 c6 9 ♔f3 ♕d6 10 0-0-0 ♔c7 11 ♕e2 ♔xf3 12 gxf3 ♔h5! 13 ♖xd6!? ♔xd6 14 ♖d1+ ♔e5?!

Black should be OK after 14... ♔c7 15 ♕e7 ♕d7.

15 ♕e7 g5 16 ♕xg5 ♖g8 17 ♕d8 ♔g7?

17... ♕h3 was forced, covering the f1-square, although 18 ♕c7+ ♔f6 19 f4 still favours White.



18 f4+! ♖xf4

Or 18...♗e6 19 ♖c4 mate.

19 ♜f1+ 1-0

White wins a piece after 19...♗e5 20 ♖c7+ (20 ♖f6+ ♗e6 21 ♖c4+ ♗d6 22 e5+ ♗c7 23 ♖xf7 also wins) 20...♗e6 21 ♖c4+ ♗e7 22 ♜xf7+ ♗e8 23 ♖d6.

Puzzle 64

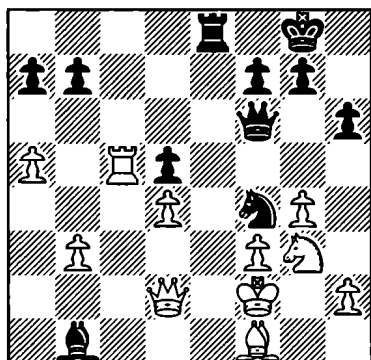
Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 c4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3 c5 4 cxd5 exd5 5 ♖f3 ♖c6 6 g3 ♖f6 7 ♖g2 ♖e7 8 0-0 0-0 9 ♖g5 cxd4 10 ♖xd4 h6 11 ♖e3 ♖g4 12 ♖b3 ♖e6 13 ♜c1 ♜e8 14 ♜e1 ♜d7 15 ♖c5 ♜ac8 16 ♖xe7 ♜xe7 17 e3 ♜ed8 18 ♜e2 ♖g4 19 f3 ♖f5 20 ♜cd1 ♖e5 21 ♖d4 ♖g6 22 ♖h3 ♜c4 23 g4 ♜b4 24 b3 ♖c6 25 ♜d2 ♜b6 26 ♖ce2 ♖h7 27 ♖g2 ♜e8 28 ♖g3 ♖xd4 29 exd4 ♜e6 30 ♜xe6 ♜xe6 31 ♜c1 ♖g6 32 ♖f1 ♖h7 33 ♜f4 ♖f8 34 ♜c5 ♖b1 35 a4 ♖g6 36 ♜d2 ♜f6 37 ♖f2 ♖f4

Black has more or less outplayed his opponent, who now commits a blunder.

38 a5?



38...♖d3!

Cutting the lines of communication without allowing White to take on d3. Instead 38...♖d3+ 39 ♖xd3! ♜xd4+ 40 ♖g2 ♖xd3 was less clear because of 41 ♜c3 ♜e3 42 ♜c8+ ♖h7 43 ♜c7 when Black still has to work for the full point.

39 ♖f5

Or 39 ♜c3 ♜h4! 40 ♖g1 ♖xf1 and White has nothing better than to resign.

39...♜g5! 40 ♖e3

Perhaps 40 ♜d1 was better, although after 40...♖xf5 41 gxf5 ♜h4+ 42 ♖g1 ♜e1 Black has a devastating attack.

40...♜h4+ 41 ♖g1 ♖xf1 0-1

Mate occurs after 42 ♖xf1 ♜e2 43 ♜d1 ♜f2+ 44 ♖h1 ♜g2 mate.

Puzzle 65

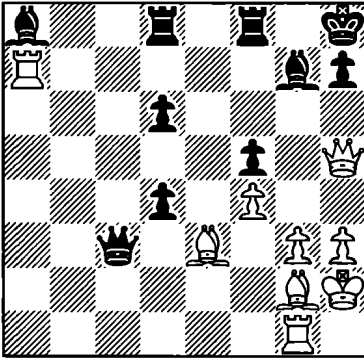
Spassky-Gipslis, Baku 1961

Closed Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 ♖c3 ♖c6 3 g3 g6 4 ♖g2 ♖g7 5 d3 d6 6 ♖ge2 ♖f6 7 h3 0-0 8 0-0 ♖d4 9 ♖xd4 cxd4 10 ♖e2 ♖d7 11 f4 f5 12 ♖h2 ♖h8 13 exf5 gxf5 14 c3 dxc3 15 bxc3 ♜a5 16 ♖e3 ♖c5 17 ♖d4 e5 18 ♖e3 ♖e6 19 ♜b1 ♜ad8 20 d4 ♖e4 21 ♜xb7 ♜xa2 22 ♜b4 ♖d5 23 ♖g1 ♖a8 24 ♜a4 ♜b2 25 ♜b4 ♜a2 26 ♜a4 ♜b2 27 ♜xa7 ♖xc3 28 ♖xc3 ♜xc3 29 ♜h5 exd4??

(see following diagram)

After 29...♜g8 Black remains fully in the game, with a draw the most likely outcome.



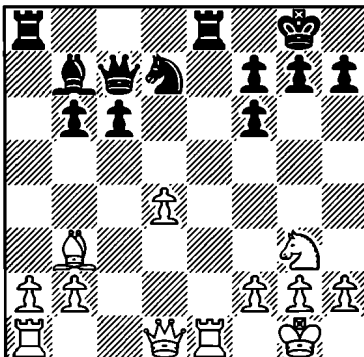
30 ♖xg7! 1-0

After 30...♗xg7 31 ♜c1 Black must lose his queen to prevent mate. Note, however, that 30 ♜c1?? ♜b2! wins for Black. Move order is usually important in any combination.

Puzzle 66

Spassky-Pfleger, Munich 1979
Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 dxe4 4 ♙xe4 ♘d7
5 ♙c4 ♙gf6 6 ♙xf6+ exf6?! 7 ♙e2 ♙b6
8 ♙b3 ♙d6 9 c4 ♙c7 10 ♙f4 0-0 11
♙xc7 ♜xc7 12 c5 ♘d7 13 0-0 b6 14
cxb6 axb6 15 ♙e1 ♙b7 16 ♙g3 ♜fe8?



17 ♙xf7+!

A classic sacrifice. Black will soon find himself torn between king safety and the defence of his rook on e8.

17...♗xf7 18 ♜h5+ g6

Or 18...♗f8 19 ♜xh7 and the threat of ♙f5 decides.

19 ♜xh7+ ♗f8 20 h4! 1-0

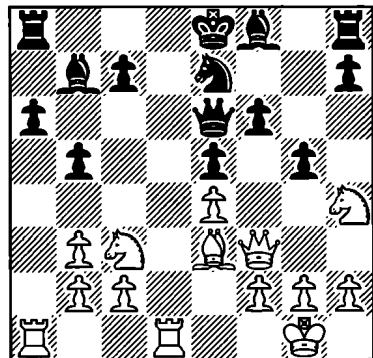
The idea of 21 h5 and 22 ♙f5 is decisive, although White would also have won with 20 ♜xg6.

Puzzle 67

Spassky-Taimanov, Moscow 1955
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♙f3 ♙c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 b5 5
♙b3 ♙a5 6 0-0 d6 7 d4 ♙xb3 8 axb3 f6
9 ♙c3 ♙b7 10 ♙h4 ♙e7 11 dxe5! dxe5
12 ♜f3 ♜d7 13 ♜d1 ♜e6 14 ♙e3 g5?

A blunder which allows White a strong combination. Superior was 14...g6 15 ♙d5 ♙xd5 16 exd5 e4! when White is not necessarily all that much better.



15 ♙xb5!! axb5 16 ♜h5+

White wins the queen.

16...♜f7

Black also loses after 16...♙g6 17

♖xa8+ ♕xa8 18 ♜xg6 hxg6 (or 18...♞f7 19 ♞g4!) 19 ♞xg6+ ♖e7 20 ♙c5+.

17 ♖xa8+ ♕xa8 18 ♜d8+!

White's key idea.

18...♜xd8 19 ♞xf7 gxf4 20 ♞xf6

Materially Black is okay, but he is far too uncoordinated.

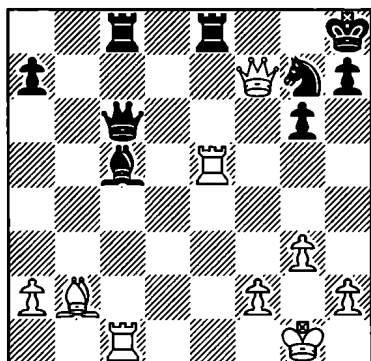
20...♜g8 21 f3 h3 22 g3 ♖e8 23 ♞xe5 ♜g6 24 ♞xb5+ ♙c6 25 ♞b8+ ♖f7 26 ♞xc7 ♜f6 27 ♜g5 ♜e6 28 b4 ♜g8 29 ♞b8 ♜g6 30 ♖f2 ♜e5 31 b5 ♙e8 32 ♙e3 ♙d6 33 ♞c8 ♖f7 34 b6 ♜f6 35 ♙f4 ♙d7 36 b7 ♙e6 37 ♙xe5 ♙xe5 38 b8♞ ♙xc8 1-0

Puzzle 68

Portisch-Spassky, Santa Monica 1966

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♜f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♜c3 ♙b4 4 e3 0-0 5 ♙d3 c5 6 ♜f3 b6 7 0-0 ♙b7 8 ♜a4 cxd4 9 exd4 ♙e7 10 ♜e1 d6?! 11 b4 ♜bd7 12 ♙b2 ♜e8 13 ♜c3 ♙f8 14 d5! e5 15 ♜d2 g6 16 ♜b3 ♜h5 17 g3 ♜g7 18 c5?! dxc5 19 bxc5 ♜xc5?! 20 ♙b5 ♜d7?! 21 ♜e4 ♖h8 22 ♙c6 ♞c7 23 ♜c1 ♙xc6 24 dxc6 ♜c5 25 ♜exc5 bxc5 26 ♞f3 ♜ac8 27 ♜xc5 ♞xc6 28 ♞xf7 ♙xc5 29 ♜xe5



29...♙xf2+! 30 ♞xf2

And not 30 ♖xf2? ♞b6+ when White's king lacks a good square.

30...♞xc1+ 31 ♙xc1 ♜xe5 32 ♙b2 ½-½

White might still have a slight edge, but Black will hold.

Puzzle 69

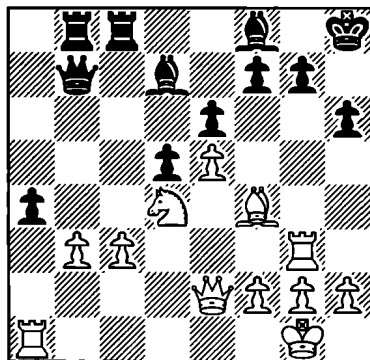
Spassky-Prie, Montpellier 1991

French Defence

1 d4 e6 2 e4 d5 3 ♜c3 a6 4 ♜f3 ♜f6 5 e5 ♜fd7 6 ♙d3 c5 7 dxc5 ♜c6 8 ♙f4 ♜xc5 9 0-0 ♙e7 10 ♜e1 ♙d7 11 ♞d2 b5 12 a3 b4 13 axb4 ♜xd3 14 ♞xd3 ♜xb4 15 ♞d2 0-0 16 ♜e2 ♞b6 17 ♙e3 ♞c7 18 ♜ed4 ♜fc8 19 c3 ♜c6 20 ♙g5 ♙f8 21 ♜xc6 ♞xc6 22 ♜d4 ♞b7 23 ♜e3!

White has consolidated and can therefore start an attack on the king-side.

23...h6 24 ♙f4 a5 25 ♜g3 ♖h8 26 ♞e2 ♜ab8 27 b3 a4



28 ♙xh6!

Not exactly unexpected, but still very effective.

28...♜xc3

Desperation, but 28...gxf6 29 ♞g4!

forces instant mate and 28...axb3 is wiped away by 29 ♖xg7+! ♖xg7 30 ♜g4 ♖h6 31 ♜h3 ♖h7 32 ♜g5 with mate next move.

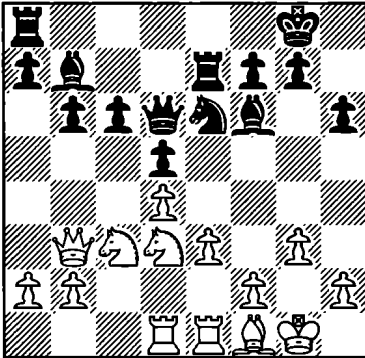
29 ♖xg7+! ♖xg7 30 ♜xc3 ♜b4 31 ♜e3 ♖g8 32 bxa4 ♖xa4 33 ♜ac1 ♜b2 34 ♜g5 ♖f8 35 ♜c7 1-0

Puzzle 70

Vaganian-Spassky, Moscow 1975

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 ♠f3 ♠f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♠c3 d5 4 d4 ♖e7 5 ♖g5 0-0 6 e3 h6 7 ♖h4 b6 8 ♖e2 ♖b7 9 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 10 cxd5 exd5 11 ♜b3 c6 12 0-0 ♜e8 13 ♜ad1 ♠d7 14 ♠e1 ♠f8 15 ♠d3 ♠e6 16 ♜fe1 ♜d6 17 ♖f1 ♜e7 18 g3?



18...♖xd4!

This move changes the situation completely.

19 exd4 ♠xd4 20 ♜a4 ♠f3+ 21 ♖h1 ♠xe1 22 ♠xe1

White is also lost after 22 ♜xe1 ♜xe1 23 ♠xe1 d4 24 ♠e2 c5+ 25 ♖g1 ♜c6 26 ♜xc6 ♖xc6.

22...d4! 23 ♠g2! c5 24 ♖g1 ♜ae8

Black is winning. All his pieces are

better placed than White's, and he has a rook and two against two knights.

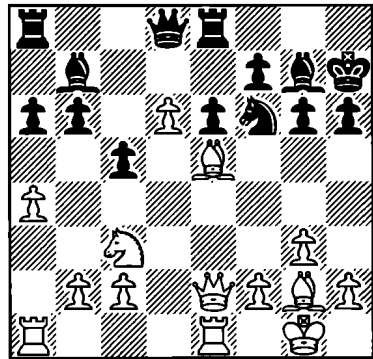
25 ♠b1 a6 26 ♠d2 b5 27 ♜a3 ♜d5 28 b3 ♜e1 29 ♜xe1 ♜xe1 30 f3 ♜d1 31 ♜b2 ♜g5 32 ♠f4 ♜e5 33 ♠e4 f5 34 ♠f2 ♜e3 35 ♠g2 ♜d2 36 ♠xe3 ♜xb2 37 ♠xf5 ♜xa2 38 ♠d3 ♜c2 39 b4 cxb4 40 ♠xb4 ♜d2 41 ♠d3 ♖xf3 42 ♠xd4 ♖d5 43 ♠f5 ♖e4 44 ♠e7+ ♖f7 45 ♠c5 ♖xe7 46 ♠xe4 ♜b2 47 ♠c3 0-1

Puzzle 71

Spassky-Taimanov, Leningrad 1963

King's Indian Defence

1 d4 ♠f6 2 ♠f3 g6 3 g3 ♖g7 4 ♖g2 0-0 5 0-0 d6 6 ♠c3 c5 7 d5 ♠bd7 8 a4 b6 9 e4 a6 10 ♜e1 ♖b7 11 ♖g5 h6 12 ♖f4 ♖h7 13 e5 dxe5 14 ♠xe5 ♠xe5 15 ♖xe5 ♜e8 16 ♜e2 e6 17 d6!



17...♖xg2

17...♜d7 with a slightly worse position was probably better.

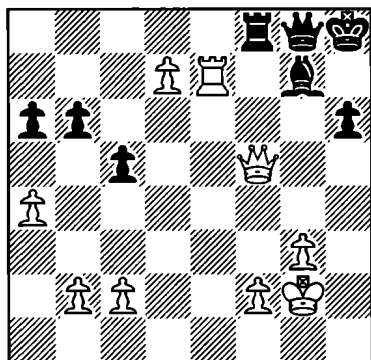
18 ♖xg2 ♠d5 19 ♜f3 f6 20 ♠xd5! exd5 21 ♖f4 g5

White also wins after 21...♜xe1 22 ♜xe1 g5 23 ♜xd5 gxf4 24 d7.

22 ♜xd5!!

Not entirely necessary, but still a brilliant sacrifice.

22...gxf4 23 ♖xe8 ♜xe8 24 d7 ♜g8 25 ♜e4+ f5 26 ♜xf5+ ♔h8 27 ♖e1 ♖d8 28 ♖e7 fxg3 29 hxg3 ♖f8



30 ♜h5!

White breaks the blockade of the d8-square with a precise sequence.

30...♔h7

Otherwise the pawn just queens.

31 ♖e8 ♖f6 32 ♜f5+ ♔g7

And now the key move which you had to see in advance to properly solve the exercise...

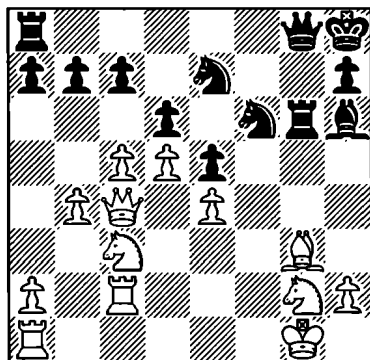
33 ♜xf6+! 1-0

Puzzle 72

Szabo-Spassky, Bucharest 1953

King's Indian Defence

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 d6 3 ♖f3 g6 4 ♖c3 ♖g7 5 e4 0-0 6 ♖e2 e5 7 0-0 ♖c6 8 d5 ♖e7 9 ♖e1 ♖d7 10 ♖e3 f5 11 f3 f4 12 ♖f2 g5 13 b4 ♖f6 14 ♖d3 ♖g6 15 c5 ♖f6 16 ♜b3 ♔h8 17 ♖fc1 g4 18 fxg4 ♖xg4 19 ♖f1 ♖f3 20 ♜c4 ♖xg2 21 ♖xg2 f3 22 ♖e1 fxg2 23 ♖xg2 ♖h6 24 ♖c2 ♜g8 25 ♖g3



25...♖xg3!

Black does not hesitate. With the elimination of this bishop he invades on the dark squares.

26 cxd6 cxd6 27 ♜c7

27 hxg3 ♜xg3 also leaves White helpless. The main problem is ...♖g4 and ...♜h2+, followed by ...♜h1+ winning the knight. White might try to prevent that with 28 ♖d1 ♖g4 29 ♖f2, but then Black wins after 29...♖e3.

27...♖g7 28 ♜xd6 ♖g4 29 ♔h1 ♖d8 0-1

Puzzle 73

Spassky-Petrosian, Moscow 1969

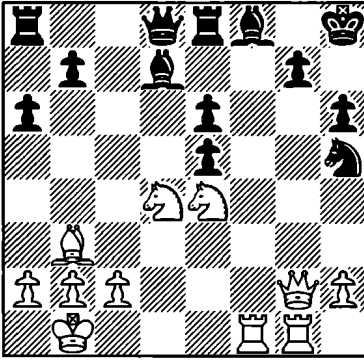
Sicilian Najdorf

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♖f6 5 ♖c3 a6 6 ♖g5 ♖bd7 7 ♖c4 ♜a5?! 8 ♜d2 h6 9 ♖xf6! ♖xf6 10 0-0-0 e6 11 ♖he1 ♖e7 12 f4 0-0 13 ♖b3 ♖e8 14 ♔b1 ♖f8 15 g4!

Time is of the essence.

15...♖xg4 16 ♜g2 ♖f6 17 ♖g1 ♖d7 18 f5 ♔h8 19 ♖df1 ♜d8 20 fxex6 fxe6 21 e5! dxe5 22 ♖e4 ♖h5

Forced in view of 22...♖xe4? 23 ♖xf8+!

**23 ♖g6!!**

A fantastic punch.

23...exd4

Instead 23...♗h4 24 ♘f3! sees White win a piece. A tougher defence was 23...♘f4, but White wins with 24 ♖xf4! exf4 25 ♘f3 (25 c3!? with the idea of ♖c2 also wins) 25...♗b6 (or 25...♗e7 26 ♘fg5 hxg5 27 ♘xg5 and Black must lose his queen) 26 ♖g5! with the idea of 27 ♘f6.

24 ♘g5! 1-0

Mate follows after 24...hxg5 25 ♗xh5+ ♖g8 26 ♗f7+ ♖h8 27 ♖f3.

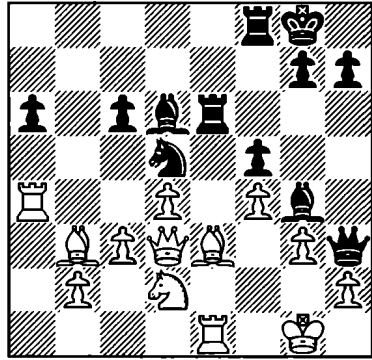
Puzzle 74

Novopashin-Spassky, Leningrad 1963

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♖b5 a6 4 ♖a4 ♘f6
5 0-0 ♖e7 6 ♖e1 b5 7 ♖b3 0-0 8 c3 d5 9
exd5 ♘xd5 10 ♘xe5 ♘xe5 11 ♖xe5 c6
12 d4 ♖d6 13 ♖e1 ♗h4 14 g3 ♗h3 15
♖e3 ♖g4 16 ♗d3 ♖ae8 17 ♘d2 ♖e6 18
a4 bxa4 19 ♖xa4 f5 20 f4

(see following diagram)

**20...♖xf4! 21 ♖f2?**

Losing immediately, but White would also have been done for after 21 ♘f1 ♖f3 22 ♗d2 ♖xg3!! 23 ♘xg3 f4. The best chance was probably 21 ♖xd5 (or 21 gxf4 ♖g6 22 ♖xd5 cxd5, transposing) 21...cxd5 22 gxf4 ♖g6 23 ♖xa6 ♖e2+ 24 ♖xg6 ♖xd3 25 ♖g3 when Black has won a queen, but White can continue to offer some resistance.

21...♖xe1+ 22 ♖xe1 ♖e8 0-1

Black wins after 23 ♗f1 ♖e3+ 24 ♖f2 ♖xf2+ 25 ♗xf2 ♖e2.

Puzzle 75

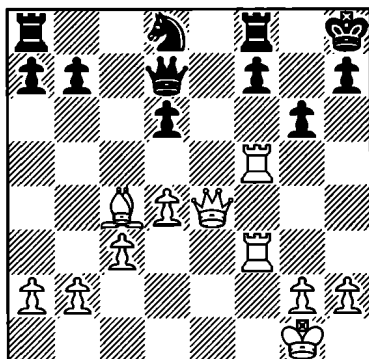
Spassky-Kholmov, Moscow 1964

King's Gambit

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 ♘f3 ♖e7 4 ♘c3 ♘f6
4...♖h4+ is surely the critical line.
5 e5 ♘g4 6 d4 ♘e3 7 ♖xe3 fxe3 8 ♖c4
d6 9 0-0 0-0 10 ♗d3 ♘c6 11 exd6 cxd6
12 ♖ae1 ♖g4 13 ♖xe3 ♖h8 14 ♘d5
♖g5 15 ♘xg5 ♗xg5 16 ♖g3 ♗h5 17
♘e3 ♖d7 18 ♘f5 ♖xf5 19 ♖xf5 ♗h4 20
c3 ♗e7

Or 20...♖ae8 21 ♗f1! f6 22 ♖d3 with a winning attack.

21 ♖e3 ♜d7 22 ♜ef3 ♜d8 23 ♜e4 g6



24 ♜h4!

This direct attack decides immediately.

24...♜g8

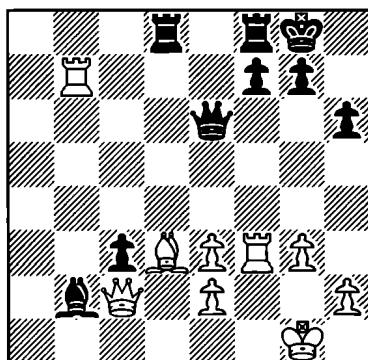
There wasn't anything better: 24...♜xf5 25 ♜xf5 gxf5 26 ♜d3 ♜g8 27 ♜xf5 ♜g7 28 ♜e7 and White wins a lot of pawns; 24...♜e6 25 ♜h3 and h7 cannot be defended; or 24...♜g7 25 ♜h5! ♜h8 26 ♜f6+ ♜g8 27 ♜g3 and there is no defence against ♜xg6+.

25 ♜xf7! 1-0

Puzzle 76

Taimanov-Spassky, Rostov on Don 1971
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♜c3 c5 4 cxd5 exd5 5 ♜f3 ♜c6 6 g3 ♜f6 7 ♜g2 ♜e7 8 0-0 0-0 9 ♜e3 c4 10 ♜e5 ♜e6 11 ♜xc4 dxc4 12 d5 ♜xd5 13 ♜xd5 ♜c8 14 ♜c1 b5 15 a4?! ♜xd5 16 ♜xd5 a6 17 axb5 axb5 18 b3 ♜a3 19 ♜a1 ♜b2 20 ♜a6 ♜b4 21 ♜d6 ♜e7 22 bxc4 bxc4 23 ♜f3 c3 24 ♜d7 ♜e6 25 ♜a4 ♜c6 26 ♜b7 ♜e5 27 ♜e4 ♜c4 28 ♜c2 ♜xe3 29 fxe3 h6 30 ♜f3 ♜cd8 31 ♜d3



31...♜xd3!! 32 exd3

Or 32 ♜xd3 ♜c8! and White has nothing better than 33 ♜b2 cxb2 34 ♜f1 ♜c1 when Black dominates and should win.

32...♜d5 33 ♜xb2 cxb2 34 ♜f1 ♜e5 35 e4?!

Instead 35 ♜b1 ♜b8 would have allowed White to set up a fortress of sorts, although eventually he should succumb.

35...♜a8!

Now the pawn queens.

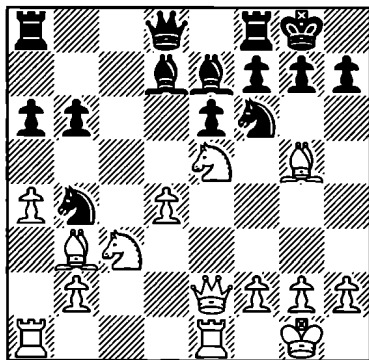
36 ♜b3 ♜a1 37 ♜g2 ♜c1! 38 ♜xf7+ ♜h7 39 ♜f5 ♜d6 40 e5 0-1

Puzzle 77

Spassky-Lengyel, Tallinn 1975
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♜c3 ♜e7 4 ♜f3 ♜f6 5 ♜g5 0-0 6 e3 ♜bd7 7 ♜d3 dxc4 8 ♜xc4 c5 9 0-0 a6 10 a4 cxd4 11 exd4 ♜b6?! 12 ♜b3 ♜bd5 13 ♜e5 ♜b4 14 ♜e1 ♜d7 15 ♜e2 b6

(see following diagram)



16 d5!

A powerful and thematic breakthrough.

16...♖c8

White wins the exchange after
 16...Qxfxd5 17 Qxd5 Qxd5 (or 17...exd5
 18 Qxf7! and wins) 18 Qxd5 exd5 19
 Qxd7.

17 ♖ad1 ♜c7 18 dxe6 ♙xe6?

A blunder, although after 18...fxe6
19 ♖f3 White wins the e6-pawn.

19 ♖xe6 fxe6 20 ♘d7! 1-0

Puzzle 78

Spassky-Yusupov, Belfort 1988

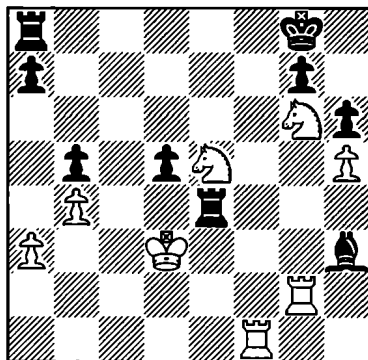
French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖d2 ♜f6 4 e5 ♜fd7 5
f4 c5 6 c3 ♜c6 7 ♜df3 cxd4 8 cxd4 ♖b6
9 h4 f6 10 a3 ♙e7 11 ♙d3 0-0 12 ♜e2
h6 13 b4 ♖h8 14 ♙b1 f5 15 ♙d3 ♖d8
16 h5 ♜b6 17 ♜f2 ♙d7 18 ♖g1 ♜c4 19
g4 b5 20 gxf5 exf5 21 ♖g6 ♙e8 22 ♖g2
♜d7 23 ♖g1 ♙d8 24 ♜g3 ♜xd4?

This is too optimistic. The more circumspect 24...b6 would still have been rather unclear.

25 ♖xd4 ♜b6 26 ♜e3 ♘xe5 27 ♜xf5!

♖g4+ 28 ♙xg4 ♜xg4 29 ♜gf5?! ♜xg2+
 30 ♜xg2 ♙d7 31 ♜h4 ♜xf4+! 32 ♜df3
 ♙xe3+ 33 ♜xe3 ♜e4+ 34 ♜d3 ♙e8 35
 ♜g6+ ♜g8 36 ♜f1 ♙d7? 37 ♜fe5 ♙h3



38 e7+ h7

Instead 38...♖h8 loses to 39 ♜f8+ ♜xf8 40 ♜5g6+ ♖h7 41 ♜xf8+ ♖h8 42 ♜f6g+ ♖h7 43 ♜f2 and there is no good defence to ♜f8-h8 mate.

39 ♖xg7+! 1-0

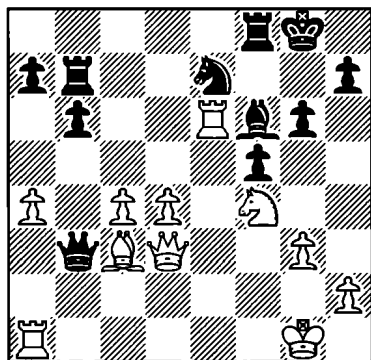
Black resigned in view of 39...♔h8
40 ♖h7+ ♕xh7 41 ♚f7+ ♕h8 42 ♜5g6
mate.

Puzzle 79

Spassky-Gufeld, Wellington 1988

Closed Sicilian

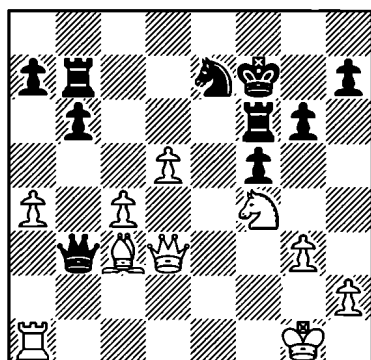
1 e4 c5 2 ♖c3 ♜c6 3 g3 g6 4 ♗g2 ♗g7 5
d3 d6 6 f4 e6 7 ♜f3 ♜ge7 8 0-0 0-0 9
♗e3 ♜d4 10 ♗f2 ♜xf3+ 11 ♗xf3 ♜c6
12 ♗g2 ♜d4 13 e5! dxe5 14 fxe5 ♗xe5
15 ♜e4 f5 16 ♜xc5 ♔d6 17 b4 ♜b8 18
c3 ♜b5 19 d4 ♗f6 20 ♔b3 b6 21 ♜d3
♗b7 22 ♗xb7 ♜xb7 23 a4 ♜c7 24 ♜fe1
♜d5 25 c4 ♜e7 26 ♜f4 ♜c6 27 ♜xe6
♔xb4 28 ♔d3 ♜e7 29 ♗e1 ♔b2 30 ♗c3
♔b3



31 Exf6!!

The elimination of the bishop paves the way for the coming invasion.

31... Exf6 32 d5 cf7



33 de6!

The threats of dg5+ and d8+ win.

33... Exe6 34 dxe6+ cxex6 35 Ee1+ cf7
36 Wd4 Wxa4 37 Wg7+ ce8 38 lf6
 cd8 39 Wf8+ We8 40 Ed1+ Ed7 41
 Exe7+ cc7 42 Wxe8 1-0

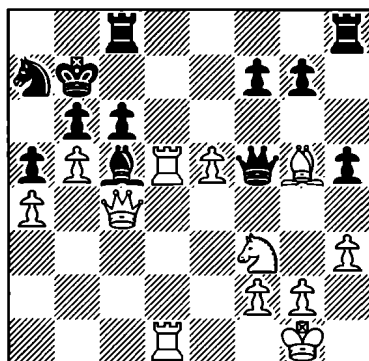
Puzzle 80

Spassky-Bikert, French League 1994

French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 dc3 db4 4 e5 b6 5

df3 da6 6 dxa6 dxa6 7 0-0 Wd7 8
 We2 db8 9 $\text{dd1!?$ dc6 10 c3 df8 11 b4
 dge7 12 a4 h5?! 13 dg5 a5 14 b5 da7
15 de3 0-0-0 16 c4 dxc4 17 Wxc4 cb7
18 Ed1 Ec8 19 d5 dxd5 20 dxd5 exd5
21 dxd5 Wf5 22 Ead1 dc5 23 h3 c6



24 Exc5! bxc5 25 b6! cxb6

Otherwise White has just won material.

26 de3 Ea8 27 Wxc5+ 1-0

Black is wiped off the board after
27... cb7 28 Wb6+ cc8 29 e6! fxe6 (or
29... Wxe6 30 Wa6+ cc7 31 lf4+ and
Black is mated) 30 Wa6+ cc7 31 lf6+ .

Puzzle 81

Spassky-Tal, Moscow 1971

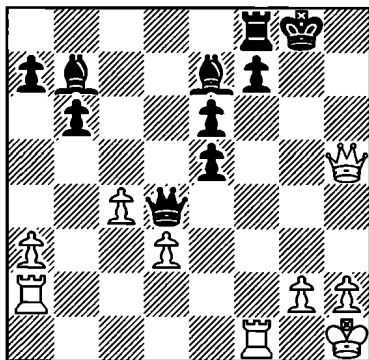
Sicilian Scheveningen

1 e4 c5 2 df3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 dxd4 df6
5 dc3 d6 6 f4 de7 7 ld3 dc6 8 df3 0-0
9 0-0 db4 10 ch1 b6 11 de3 db7 12
 a3 dxd3 13 cxd3 d5 14 e5 d4 15 dxd4
 dd5 16 dg1 dxc3 17 bxc3 Ec8 18 c4
 Ec7 19 f5 Ed7 20 Wg4 h5 21 Wxh5
 Exd4 22 $\text{f6!?$

Forcing a draw rather than get involved in the pretty unclear 22 dxd4

♖xd4 23 fxe6 fxe6 24 ♜xf8+ ♜xf8 25 ♜f1 ♜d7.

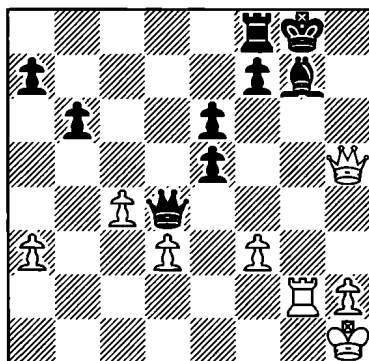
22...gxf6 23 ♜a2 fxe5 24 ♜xd4 ♜xd4



25 ♜f3!

Opening a path for the a2-rook which leads to a perpetual.

25...♜xf3 26 gxf3 ♜f6 27 ♜g2+ ♜g7



28 ♜xg7+ ♜xg7 29 ♜g5+ ½-½

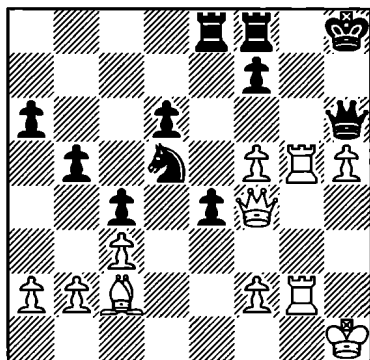
Puzzle 82

Spassky-Olafsson, Moscow 1959

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♜b5 a6 4 ♜a4 ♘f6
5 0-0 ♜e7 6 ♜e1 b5 7 ♜b3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9
h3 ♘a5 10 ♜c2 c5 11 d4 ♜b7 12 d5 ♜c8

13 ♘bd2 c4 14 ♘f1 ♘b7 15 g4! h5! 16
gxh5 ♜xh3 17 ♘3h2 ♘h7 18 ♘e3 ♜g5
19 ♜f3 ♜d7 20 ♜h1 ♜f4 21 ♘f5 ♜xc1
22 ♜axc1 ♜xf5 23 exf5 ♜f6 24 ♜g1
♘c5 25 ♜g2 ♜h6 26 ♜cg1 ♘f6 27 ♘g4
♘xg4 28 ♜xg4 ♜h8 29 ♜xg7 e4 30 ♜g4
♘d7 31 ♜g5 ♜ae8 32 ♜f4 ♘f6 33 ♜1g2
♘xd5



34 ♜g8+! ♜h7 35 ♜2g7+ ♜xg7 36
♜xg7+ ♜xg7 37 f6+

White can also prefer the move order 37 ♜g5+ ♜h7 38 f6.

37...♘xf6 38 ♜g5+ ♜h7 39 ♜xf6 ♜e5

Or 39...d5 40 h6 ♜g8 41 f3 and Black has no defence against 42 fxe4 and 43 ♜xe4+.

40 ♜xe4+! 1-0

Puzzle 83

Spassky-Foguelman, Mar del Plata 1960

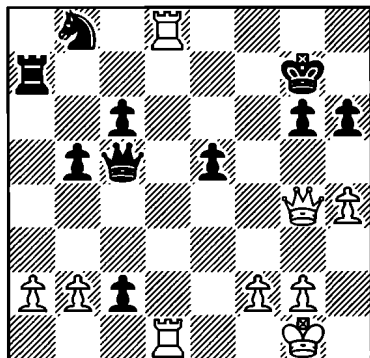
Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 dxe4 4 ♘xe4 ♜f5
5 ♘g3 ♜g6 6 h4 h6 7 ♘1e2 ♘f6 8 ♘f4
♜h7 9 ♜c4 e5 10 ♜e2 ♜xd4 11 0-0 b5
12 ♜b3 ♜c5?! 13 ♜e3

13 ♘fh5! would have been really strong, since after 13...♘xh5 14 ♘xh5

0-0 15 ♖e3 ♜d6 16 ♜ad1 ♜e7 17 ♜g4
Black's position collapses.

13...♜d6 14 ♜ad1 ♜e7 15 ♖xc5 ♜xc5
16 ♜fh5 ♜xh5 17 ♜xh5 0-0 18 ♜g4 g6
19 ♜d3 a5 20 ♜fd1 ♜a7?! 21 ♜d6 ♜h8
22 ♜f6 a4 23 ♜xh7 axb3 24 ♜xf8 bxc2
25 ♜xg6+! fxg6 26 ♜d8+ ♜g7



27 ♜g8+!

27 ♜c1?! should be good enough to win eventually, but the text is much more direct.

27...♜xg8 28 ♜xg6+ ♜g7

Or 28...♜f8 29 ♜f6+! and mate in a few moves.

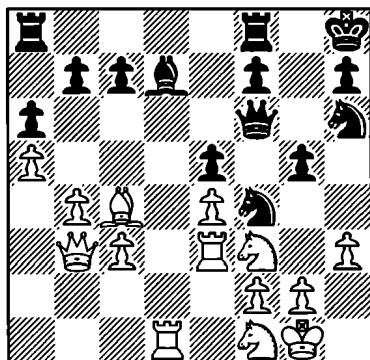
29 ♜d8+ ♜f8 30 ♜xf8+ ♜xf8 31 ♜xc2 ♜g8 32 ♜c5 1-0

Puzzle 84

Armas-Spassky, Bundesliga 1990

Giuoco Piano

1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♖c4 ♖c5 4 c3 ♜f6
5 b4 ♖b6 6 d3 d6 7 a4 a6 8 0-0 0-0 9
♜e1 ♜e7 10 a5 ♖a7 11 ♖e3 ♖xe3 12
♜xe3 ♜g6 13 d4 ♖d7 14 ♜b3 ♜g4 15
♜e1 ♜h8 16 h3 ♜h6 17 ♜bd2 ♜f6 18
♜e3 ♜f4 19 ♜f1 g5 20 dxe5 dxe5 21
♜d1?



21...♖xh3! 22 g4xh3?

Instead 22 ♜xe5 ♜xe5 23 g4xh3 g4!
sees the attack crash through: 24 hxg4
♜xg4 25 ♜g3 ♜h5 and White has no
defence against 26...♜h3+.

22...♜xh3+ 23 ♜g2

Or 23 ♜h1 g4 24 ♜3d2 ♜xf2+ 25
♜g2 ♜h4 and it's all over.

23...g4! 24 ♜g3

White has no defence as shown by
both 24 ♜d2 ♜f4+ and 24 ♜1h2 gxf3+
25 ♜xh3 ♜g8 26 ♜xf3 ♜f5!.

24...♜f4+ 25 ♜f1 gxf3 26 ♜xf3 ♜g4 27
♜e1 ♜h2 0-1

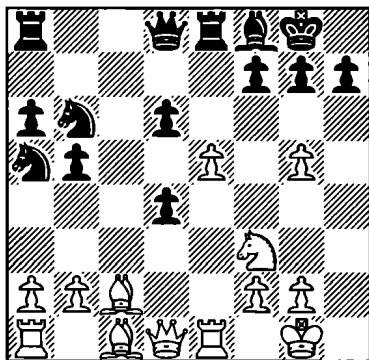
Puzzle 85

Spassky-Geller, Riga 1965

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♖b5 a6 4 ♖a4
♜f6 5 0-0 ♖e7 6 ♜e1 b5 7 ♖b3 0-0 8 c3
d6 9 h3 ♜d7 10 d4 ♖b6 11 ♜bd2 ♖f6
12 ♜f1 ♜e8 13 ♜1h2 exd4 14 cxd4 ♖a5
15 ♖c2 c5 16 ♜g4 ♖xg4 17 hxg4 cxd4
18 g5 ♖e7?! 19 e5 ♖f8?

(see following diagram)

**20 ♖xh7+!!**

A glorious combination, making full use of White's active pieces.

20...♗xh7

20...♗h8 is no better: 21 ♖xd4 with the idea of ♖h4 wins, as does 21 g6! f6 22 ♖g5! and Black is mated.

21 g6+ ♖g8

Instead 21...fxg6 22 ♖g5+ ♖g8 loses as in the game, while 21...♗xg6 22 ♖d3+ is also terminal.

22 ♖g5! fxg6 23 ♖f3 ♖xg5

This is sheer desperation as White wins after 23...♖e7 24 ♖f7+ ♗h8 25 ♖e6.

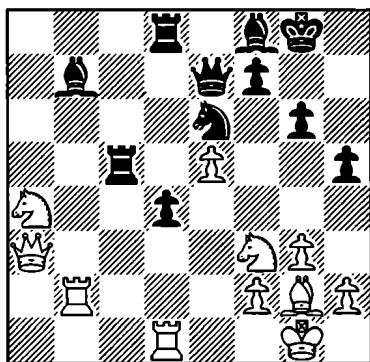
24 ♖xg5 dxe5 25 ♖ac1 ♖a7 26 ♖d3 ♖e6 27 f4 ♖ac4 28 fxe5 ♖xe5 29 ♖xd4 ♖d7 30 ♖e4 ♖e7 31 ♖e3 ♖bc4 32 ♖cd1 ♖xd1 33 ♖xd1 ♖xb2 34 ♖d5 ♖f7 35 ♖b1 ♖bc4 36 ♖f2 g5 37 ♖e1 ♖f6 38 ♖h1 ♖b2 39 ♖e3 ♖bc4 40 ♖e2 ♖d6 41 ♖d4 ♖dc4 42 g4 ♖e7 43 ♖c5+ ♖f7 44 ♖b7+ 1-0

Puzzle 86

Timman-Spassky, Hilversum 1983

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖f3 d5 4 ♖g5 ♖e7 5 e3 0-0 6 ♖c3 h6 7 ♖h4 b6 8 ♖e2 ♖b7 9 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 10 cxd5 exd5 11 0-0 ♖d7 12 ♖b3 c6 13 ♖ad1 ♖e8 14 ♖fe1 ♖f8 15 e4 ♖e6 16 e5 ♖e7 17 a3 ♖f8 18 g3 ♖c8 19 ♖d2 g6 20 ♖f1 h5 21 ♖g2 ♖c7 22 ♖a2 ♖d7 23 b4 ♖e7 24 ♖dd1 a5!? 25 ♖a4 axb4 26 ♖xb6 ♖c7 27 axb4 ♖xb4 28 ♖b1 ♖e7 29 ♖ed1 ♖d8 30 ♖b2 c5! 31 dxc5 d4 32 ♖a3?! ♖xc5 33 ♖a4?

**33...♖c1! 34 ♖d3**

Or alternatively 34 ♖b3 ♖d5! and Black wins.

34...♖a3! 35 ♖f1 ♖xd1 36 ♖xd1 ♖c6! 0-1

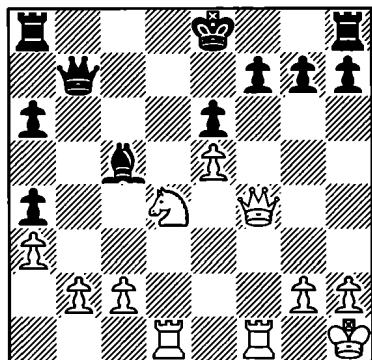
The key point. White now loses a piece for nothing.

Puzzle 87

Spassky-Darga, Varna 1962

Sicilian Taimanov

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 e6 5 ♖c3 ♖c7 6 ♖e3 a6 7 a3 b5 8 ♖e2 ♖b7 9 f4 ♖f6 10 ♖f3 d6 11 0-0 ♖a5 12 ♖e2 ♖c4 13 e5 ♖xe3 14 ♖xe3 dxe5 15 fxe5 ♖d7 16 ♖xb7 ♖xb7 17 ♖f4 ♖b6 18 ♖ad1 ♖a4 19 ♖xa4 bxa4 20 ♖h1 ♖c5



21 ♖xe6!!

Trapping the black king in the centre.

21...fxe6 22 ♖xa4+! ♖b5

White also wins after 22...♗e7 23 ♖h4+ ♗e8 24 ♖g4 ♖c6 25 ♖xg7 ♗f8 26 ♗xf8+ ♗xf8 27 ♖xh7.

23 ♖g4 ♖c6

Or 23...♗f8 24 ♖xe6+ ♗e7 25 ♗xf8+ ♗xf8 26 c4 ♖b7 27 ♗d7 and Black is defenceless.

24 ♖xg7 ♗f8 25 ♗xf8+ ♗xf8 26 ♖xh7 ♗c8 27 ♖g6+ 1-0

Next up is 28 ♗d6.

Puzzle 88

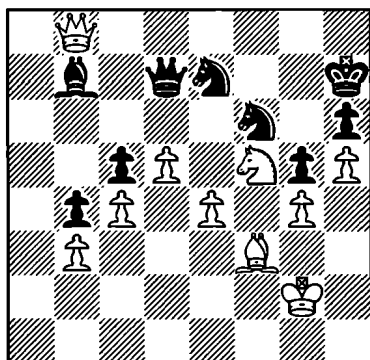
Spassky-Penrose,

Palma de Mallorca 1969

King's Indian Defence

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♖c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 c6 6 ♗e3 a6 7 ♗d3 ♖bd7 8 ♖ge2 b5 9 ♖d2 ♗b7 10 0-0 0-0 11 b3 e5 12 d5 b4 13 ♖d1 c5 14 g4 ♗h8 15 ♖f2 ♖g8 16 ♖g3 ♖h4 17 ♗g2 h6 18 a3 a5 19 ♗a2 ♖df6 20 ♗fa1 ♖h7 21 axb4 axb4 22 ♗xa8 ♗xa8 23 ♗xa8 ♗xa8 24 ♖a2 ♗b7 25 ♖a7 ♖e7 26 ♗e2 ♖hf6 27 f4

exf4 28 ♗xf4 ♖e8 29 ♖b8 ♗d4 30 ♖d3 f6 31 ♗f3 ♖d7 32 h4 ♗h7 33 h5 g5 34 ♗d2 ♗e5 35 ♗e3 ♖e7 36 ♖xe5 fxe5 37 ♗xc5! dxc5 38 ♖xe5 ♖g8 39 ♖b8 ♖ef6 40 ♖f5 ♖e7



41 ♖xh6!

Best, although 41 ♖xe7 ♖xe7 42 e5 was also strong.

41...♖exd5

Sadly forced as White wins after 41...♗xh6 42 ♖f8+ ♗h7 43 ♖f7+.

42 cxd5 ♗xh6 43 ♖f8+ ♖g7 44 ♖xc5

White has a winning position.

44...♖d7 45 ♖d6+ ♗h7 46 e5! ♗h8 47 h6 ♖h7

Or 47...♖xe5 48 ♖xd7 ♖b2+ 49 ♗h3 ♖f6 50 ♖f5 and White will eventually win.

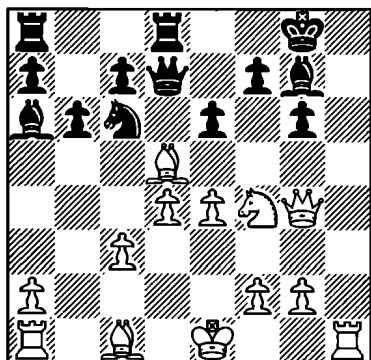
48 e6! ♖c2+ 49 ♗g3 1-0

Puzzle 89

Spassky-Timman, Amsterdam 1977

Grünfeld Defence

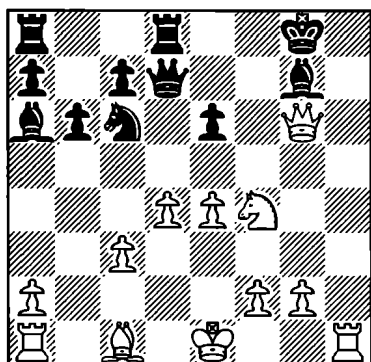
1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♖c3 d5 4 cxd5 ♖xd5 5 e4 ♖xc3 6 bxc3 ♗g7 7 ♗c4 0-0 8 ♖e2 b6 9 h4 ♖c6 10 ♗d5 ♖d7 11 h5 ♗a6?! 12 hxg6 hxg6 13 ♖f4 e6 14 ♖g4 ♗fd8

**15 ♖xe6!!**

A fabulous sacrifice, destroying the entire kingside.

15...fxe6 16 ♜xg6

Black has no defence against ♜h7+ and ♜h3.

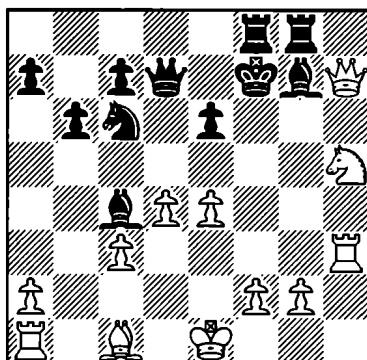
**16...♙c4?!**

Black also loses after both 16...♜f7 17 ♜h8+! and 16...♙e5 17 ♜h7+ ♙f8 18 ♜h3!.

16...♙e7! was the best try. Then White should continue 17 ♜h7+ ♙f8 18 ♙h5 ♜g8 19 ♙h6 and the pressure is too much to withstand: for example, 19...♜c6 (or 19...♜b5 20 0-0-0 ♜a5 21 ♙b1 ♙c4 22 ♜d2 ♜xc3 23 ♜h3!) 20 ♜h3

♜c4 21 0-0-0 ♜xa2 22 ♙xg7 ♜a1+ 23 ♙d2 ♜b2+ 24 ♙e3 ♜e2+ 25 ♙f4 ♙g6+ 26 ♙g5 ♙f8 27 ♜f3+ ♜xf3 28 ♜xg8+ ♙xg8 29 gxf3 ♙e2 30 ♜g1 ♙f7 31 ♙xf8 ♜xf8 32 ♙f4 and White has a winning ending.

17 ♜h7+ ♙f7 18 ♙h5 ♜g8 19 ♜h3 ♜af8

**20 ♙xg7!?**

Good enough, but even better was 20 ♙a3!.

20...♜h8

Or 20...♙xg7 21 ♜f3+ ♙e8 22 ♜xf8+ ♙xf8 23 ♙h6 and White wins.

21 ♜f3+ ♙e7 22 ♙a3+ ♙b4 23 ♙xb4+ c5 24 dxc5! ♜xh7 25 cxb6+ 1-0

Puzzle 90

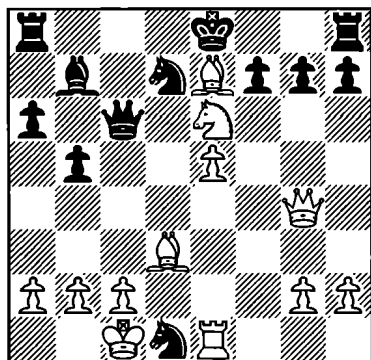
Spassky-Rashkovsky, Moscow 1973

Sicilian Najdorf

1 e4 c5 2 ♙f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♙xd4 ♙f6 5 ♙c3 a6 6 ♙g5 e6 7 f4 ♜c7 8 ♙d3 ♙bd7 9 ♜e2 b5 10 0-0-0 ♙b7 11 ♜he1 ♙e7 12 e5 dxe5 13 fxe5 ♙d5 14 ♙xe7 ♙xc3! 15 ♜g4! ♙xd1 16 ♙xe6! ♜c6?

Necessary was 16...fxe6 17 ♙d6 (17 ♜xe6 ♙d5!! is an important defensive resource) 17...♜b6 when 18 ♜xe6+!

♖d8 19 ♖e7+ ♖c8 20 ♖xg7 ♜d8 21 ♜xd1 ♙e4! 22 ♖g3! gives White a lot of compensation, but Black has reasonable chances of surviving.



17 ♜xg7+!

17 ♙d6! fxe6 18 ♖g5 also looks tempting, but after 18...♜f6!? White must have seen 19 ♙e4!! in advance. Then White wins after 19...♖b6 20 ♙xb7 ♖xb7 21 exf6 0-0-0 22 fxg7 ♜hg8 23 ♖c5+ ♖d7 24 ♜xd1 ♙e8 25 ♙e1 ♖c8 26 ♖d5.

17...♙xe7 18 ♖g5+ f6

Instead 18...♙f8 loses to 19 ♜f5! ♖g6 (or 19...♜c5 20 ♖e7+ ♖g8 21 e6! and wins) 20 ♖e7+ ♖g8 21 ♖xd7 ♖g5+ 22 ♖b1! ♜d2 23 ♜f1!.

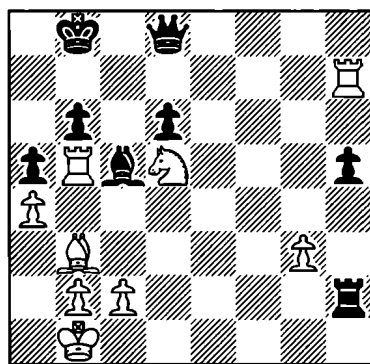
19 exf6+ ♖d8 20 f7+ ♖c7 21 ♖f4+ 1-0

Puzzle 91

Spassky-Zhukhovitsky, Leningrad 1957
Sicilian Classical

1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 ♜f6 5 ♜c3 d6 6 ♙g5 e6 7 ♖d2 a6 8 0-0-0 ♙d7 9 f4 ♙e7 10 ♜f3 h6 11 ♙xf6 gxf6 12 f5 ♖c7 13 ♖b1 0-0-0 14 ♙c4 ♖b8 15 ♙b3 ♜c8 16 ♜e2 exf5 17 exf5

♙xf5 18 ♜c3 ♙f8 19 ♜d4 ♜xd4 20 ♖xd4 ♙g8 21 ♖xf6 ♙g6 22 ♖f2 ♙g7 23 ♜a4 ♙ge8 24 ♜hf1 ♙e4 25 ♜b6 ♜ce8 26 ♜d5 ♖c5 27 ♜f4 ♙d4 28 ♖h4 ♙e5 29 g3 a5 30 a4 ♙b4 31 ♜xg6 ♜xh4 32 ♜xh4 f6 33 ♜f5 h5 34 ♙d5 ♖c7 35 ♙b5 b6 36 ♜e3 ♙d4 37 ♜d5 ♖d8 38 ♜f4 ♙c5 39 ♙xf6 ♙e2 40 ♜f7 ♜f2 41 ♙h7 ♜xh2



42 ♜xb6! ♙xb6 43 ♙d5 ♖c8 44 ♙b7 ♖e8

Or 44...♖f6 45 ♜7xb6 ♖f1+ 46 ♖a2 ♜xc2 47 ♙b8+ ♖d7 48 ♙5b7+ ♜c7 49 ♙e6+ ♙xe6 50 ♜xc7 and White should win the endgame.

45 ♙5xb6 ♖e1+ 46 ♖a2 ♜xc2 47 ♙a6 ♜c7 48 ♙b8+ ♖d7 49 ♙f8 ♖b4? 50 ♙f7+ ♖d8 51 ♙f4 ♖d2 52 ♙f8+ 1-0

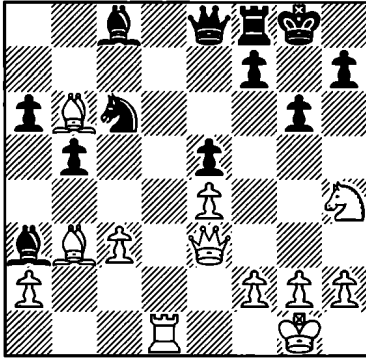
Puzzle 92

Spassky-Beliavsky, Reykjavik 1988
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 ♜f6 5 ♜c3

Another Spassky speciality.
5...b5 6 ♙b3 ♙e7 7 d3 d6 8 ♜d5 ♜xd5 9 ♙xd5 ♙d7 10 c3 0-0 11 d4 ♖e8 12 0-0

**♞d8 13 dxe5 dxe5 14 ♚e2 ♙d6 15 ♜h4
 ♜e7 16 ♙b3 c5 17 ♙e3 c4 18 ♙c2 ♙c8
 19 ♙b6 ♞d7 20 ♞fd1 g6 21 b3 cxb3 22
 ♙xb3 ♙a3 23 ♚e3 ♞xd1+ 24 ♞xd1
 ♜c6?**



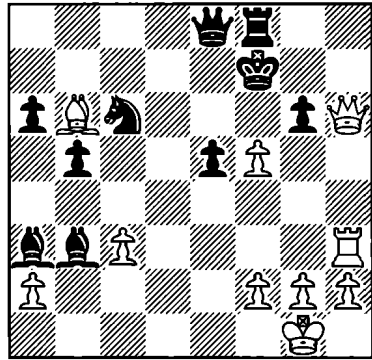
25 ♜xg6! hxg6 26 ♚h6 ♜e7?!

26...♙e6 was clearly the best defence. It turns out that Black has more resources than was thought back in 1988 when the game was first annotated. After 27 ♞d3! f5 28 ♞h3 ♜f7 there are two ways to win, but neither can be described as simple:

a) 29 ♚h7+ ♜f6 30 ♚h4+ ♜g7 (30...♜f7?! is less resistant: 31 exf5 ♙xb3 32 fxg6+ ♜e6 33 ♚g4+ ♜d6 34 axb3 and 35 ♞d3+ decides) 31 ♙xe6 ♚xe6 32 exf5! ♚xa2 33 ♚h7+ ♜f6 34 ♚xg6+ ♜e7 35 g4! ♙d6 36 ♙c7!! (a brilliant blow) 36...♙c5 37 ♞h7+ ♞f7 38 ♞xf7+ ♚xf7 39 ♚xc6 and now that the f5-pawn is protected, White wins trivially.

b) 29 exf5 ♙xb3

(see following diagram)



30 fxg6+! (30 ♚xg6+ ♜e7 31 ♞h7+ ♞f7 is not as clear as previously thought; after 32 axb3 ♞xh7 33 f6+! ♜d7 34 ♚xh7+ ♜e6! the game is rather unclear) 30...♜e7 31 axb3 ♜d7 (or 32 ♚h7+ wins) 32 ♞d3+ ♜c8 33 b4! (the key; now White can invade on the seventh and decide the game) 33...♞g8 34 ♚h7 ♜e7 35 ♞d8+ ♚xd8 36 ♙xd8 ♜xd8 37 g7 and wins.

27 ♙c7! ♜f5 28 exf5

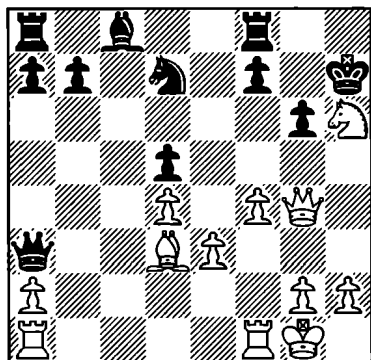
Simple chess, although 28 ♚xg6+ ♜g7 29 ♞d8 was also good enough.

28...♙xf5 29 g4 ♙e4 30 ♞e1 ♙c1 31 ♚xc1 ♚c6 32 ♚e3 ♙h1 33 ♚h3 ♚xc7 34 ♜xh1 ♞e8 35 ♚h6 ♚c6+ 36 ♜g1 ♚f6 37 ♞d1 ♚c6 38 ♞d3 ♚e4 39 ♞h3 ♚e1+ 40 ♜g2 ♚e4+ 41 ♜g3 1-0

Puzzle 93

Spassky-Kinnmark, Gothenburg 1971
Nimzo-Indian Defence

**1 d4 ♜f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♜c3 ♙b4 4 ♙g5 0-0
 5 e3 d6 6 ♙d3 ♙xc3+ 7 bxc3 e5 8 ♜e2
 h6 9 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 10 ♜g3 c6 11 0-0 d5?!
 12 f4 exd4 13 cxd4 ♚e7 14 ♚f3 ♜d7?!
 15 cxd5 cxd5 16 ♜f5 ♚a3 17 ♚g4 g6 18
 ♜xh6+ ♜h7**



19 ♖xf7!!

A brilliant sacrifice.

19... ♜xd3

White wins after 19... ♜xf7 20 ♜xg6+ ♜h8 21 ♜xf7 ♜xd3 22 ♜f3.

20 f5!

The point. Black cannot keep his kingside together.

20... ♜a6

Instead 20... ♜g8 21 ♜g5 ♜g7 22 ♖d6 gives Black no defence to 23 f6+ and 20... gxf5 21 ♜xf5 ♜xe3+ 22 ♜h1 ♖f6 23 ♜h4+ shortly forces mate.

21 ♖g5+ ♜g8 22 ♜h4 ♖f6

Or 22... ♜f6 23 ♜h7+ ♜f8 24 fxg6 and the pawn will queen.

23 fxg6 ♜g7 24 ♖h7! 1-0

After 24... ♜xg6 25 ♖xf8+ ♜f7 26 ♖h7 White wins, as he also does after 24... ♜d7 25 ♖xf6 ♜h8 26 ♖h5+.

Puzzle 94

Spassky-Banks, Canada 1971

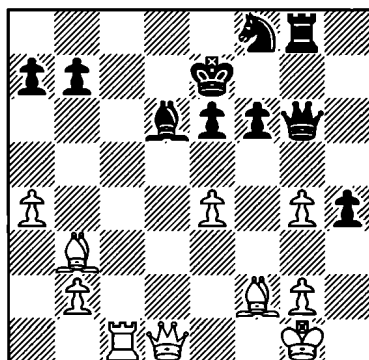
Scandinavian

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 ♖f6 3 ♜b5+ ♜d7 4 ♜c4 ♜g4 5 f3 ♜f5 6 ♖c3 ♖bd7 7 ♖ge2 ♖b6 8 d3 ♖fxd5 9 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 10 ♖g3 ♜d7

11 0-0 h5 12 d4 0-0-0 13 ♜b3 h4 14 ♖e4 e6 15 ♜e2 f6 16 c4 ♖b6 17 ♜e3 ♜e7 18 ♜fd1 ♜e8 19 ♜f2 g5 20 a4 ♜g6 21 h3 g4? 22 hxg4 ♜xe4 23 fxe4!?

Though strong, this misses a good opportunity and 23 c5! would have given White a winning advantage.

23... ♖d7 24 c5 ♖f8 25 d5 ♜g8 26 d6! cxd6 27 cxd6 ♜xd6 28 ♜ac1+ ♜d8 29 ♜xd6+ ♜xd6 30 ♜d1 ♜e7



31 e5!!

The culmination of the attack.

31... ♜xe5

Or 31... fxe5 32 ♜xh4+ ♜d7 33 a5 and 34 ♜a4+ will decide.

32 ♜c5+ ♜f7

32... ♜e8 loses to the simple elimination of a defender with 33 ♜xf8! ♜xf8 34 ♜d7! ♜f7 35 ♜c8+ ♜g7 36 ♜xg8+ ♜xg8 37 ♜xe6 and it's all over.

33 ♜xe6+! ♜xe6 34 ♜b3+ ♜d7 35 ♜xb7+ ♜e6 36 ♜d1 ♜xg4 37 ♜d5+ 1-0

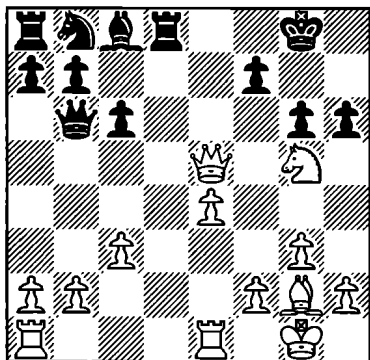
Puzzle 95

Spassky-Bronstein, Moscow 1961

Irregular Opening

1 d4 ♖f6 2 ♖f3 g6 3 g3 ♜g7 4 ♜g2

0-0 5 0-0 d6 6 ♖c3 d5 7 ♙g5 c6 8 ♜e1
 ♜e4 9 ♜xe4 dxe4 10 ♜d2 e3!? 11 ♙xe3
 ♙xd4 12 ♙xd4 ♜xd4 13 c3 ♜c5 14 ♜e4
 ♜b6 15 ♜d2 ♙f5 16 ♜g5 ♜d8? 17 ♜f4
 e5 18 ♜xe5 h6 19 e4 ♙c8



20 ♜xf7! ♜xf7 21 ♜e3 ♙g8

There was nothing better:

a) 21...♜d7 22 ♜f3+ ♙g8 23 ♜e6+
 ♙h8 24 ♜e7 and Black is toast.

b) 21...♜xb2 loses to 22 ♜f3+ ♙g8
 (22...♙f5 23 exf5! is no help) 23 ♜f6
 ♜xa1+ 24 ♙f1 ♜d7 25 ♜xg6+ ♜g7 26
 ♜e8+ ♙h7 27 ♜f8 when Black can only
 delay the mate.

c) 21...♜e8 22 ♜f3+ ♙f5 23 ♜f4 ♜xb2
 24 ♜d1 ♜e2 25 ♜fd3 and White regains
 his piece with mate to follow.

22 ♙f1!

Including another piece in the at-
 tack is thematic, but White is also win-
 ning after 22 ♜f3!.

22...♜d7

Or 22...♜d7 23 ♙c4+ ♙h7 24 ♜e7+
 ♙h8 25 ♜f3 and White wins.

23 ♜e8+ ♙g7 24 ♜f3 ♜c5 25 ♜d1!

Eliminating a key defender.

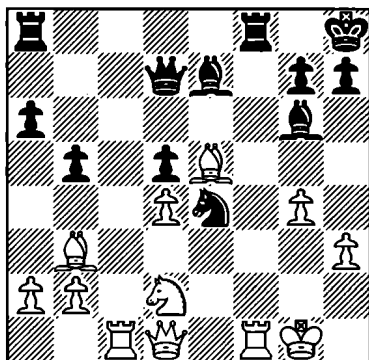
25...h5 26 ♜xd7+ ♜xd7 27 ♜f7+ ♙h6 28
 ♜h8+ ♙g5 29 h4+ 1-0

Puzzle 96

Geller-Spassky, Moscow 1964

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 d6 5
 0-0 ♙g4 6 h3 ♙h5 7 c3 ♜f6 8 d4 b5 9
 ♙b3 ♙e7 10 ♙e3 0-0 11 ♜bd2 d5 12 g4
 ♙g6 13 dxe5 ♜xe4 14 ♜b1 ♜e8 15
 ♜d4 ♜xe5! 16 f4 c5 17 fxe5 cxd4 18
 cxd4 ♜d7 19 ♜d2 f6 20 ♜c1 ♙h8 21
 ♙f4 fxe5 22 ♙xe5



22...♙g5!! 23 ♜c7

If instead White tries 23 ♜xe4 ♙xc1
 24 ♜c5 ♙e3+ then he has only a tiny bit
 of compensation for the loss of the ex-
 change.

23...♜xc7!! 24 ♙xc7 ♙e3+ 25 ♙g2
 ♜xd2 26 ♜xf8+ ♜xf8

The combination is over. White has
 won the queen for knight and rook, but
 he crucially lacks a defence against the
 threats of ...♜f2+ and ...♙e4+.

27 ♙xd5 ♜f2+ 28 ♙g3 ♜f1+ 29 ♙h4 h6
 30 ♙d8

White cannot escape as also shown
 by 30 g5 ♙xg5+ 31 ♙g4 ♙f5+ 32 ♙h5 g6
 mate.

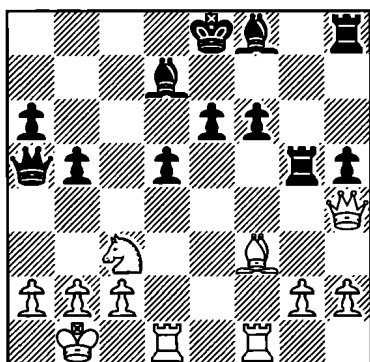
30...♜f8 0-1

Puzzle 97

Spassky-Bilek, Moscow 1967

Sicilian Classical

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6
5 ♘c3 ♘c6 6 ♙g5 ♙d7 7 ♚d2 a6 8 0-0-0
♞c8 9 f4 h6 10 ♙xf6 gxf6 11 ♙e2 h5 12
♜b1 e6 13 ♞hf1 b5 14 ♘xc6 ♞xc6 15
♙f3 ♞c5 16 f5 ♚a5 17 fxe6 fxe6 18 e5!
♞xe5 19 ♚f4 ♞f5 20 ♚g3 ♞g5 21 ♚h4!
d5



22 ♙xd5! exd5

After 22...♙e7 23 ♙b3 White has won a key pawn and retains a strong attack.

23 ♞xf6

White can also choose 23 ♘xd5 ♞xd5 24 ♞xd5 ♙e7 25 ♚e4! and Black has no defence.

23...♞hg8

Instead 23...♞g4 loses directly to the picturesque and highly attractive variation 24 ♞e1+ ♙e7 25 ♞xe7+! ♜xe7 26 ♘xd5+ ♜e8 27 ♞f8+! ♜xf8 28 ♚e7+ ♜g8 29 ♘f6 mate.

24 ♘xd5 ♙g4 25 ♞xf8+ 1-0

After 25...♜xf8 26 ♞f1+ ♜e8 27 ♘f6+ ♜d8 28 ♘g8 White is two pawns up,

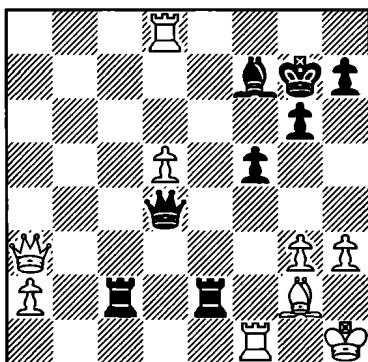
but actually 25 ♞e1+ ♜d8 26 ♞xf8+! was much simpler.

Puzzle 98

Hartoch-Spassky, Amsterdam 1970

English Opening

1 c4 e5 2 g3 ♘c6 3 ♙g2 g6 4 ♘c3 ♙g7 5
♞b1 d6 6 b4 f5 7 b5 ♘ce7 8 e3 ♘f6 9
d4!? e4 10 ♘ge2 ♙e6 11 d5!? ♙f7 12
♘d4 ♘d7 13 f3 exf3 14 ♚xf3 0-0 15 0-0
♘b6 16 ♚e2 c5!? 17 bxc6 bxc6 18 ♙d2
cxd5 19 ♘xd5 ♞c8 20 ♙a5 ♘exd5 21
cxd5 ♙xd4 22 exd4 ♚f6 23 ♙xb6 axb6
24 ♞xb6 ♚xd4+ 25 ♚f2 ♚d3 26 ♞xd6
♞c2 27 ♚f3 ♚d4+ 28 ♜h1 ♞e8 29 h3
♞ee2 30 ♞d8+ ♜g7 31 ♚a3?



31...♙e8!!

A fantastic and decisive move. Instead 31...♞xg2 would have failed to a brilliant counterattack from White: 32 ♚f8+ ♜f6 33 ♚h8+ ♜g5 and now 34 ♞xf5+!!.

32 ♞g1

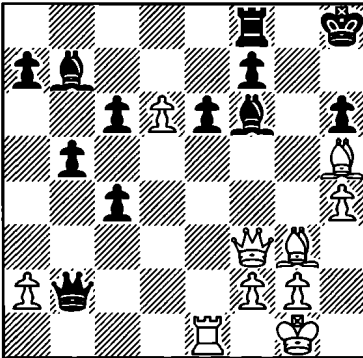
Or 32 ♞b1 ♞xa2 33 ♚b4 ♚xb4 34 ♞xb4 ♞a1+ 35 ♜h2 ♙f7 and there is no defence against ...♞aa2.

32...♚g1+! 0-1

Puzzle 99**Spassky-Pachman, Moscow 1967***Semi-Slav*

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♘f3 ♘f6 4 ♘c3 e6 5
 ♙g5 h6 6 ♙h4!? dxc4 7 e4 g5 8 ♙g3 b5
 9 ♛c2 g4 10 ♘e5 ♛xd4 11 ♙d1 ♛b6 12
 ♙e2 ♘bd7 13 0-0 ♙e7 14 ♘xg4 ♘xg4
 15 ♙xg4 ♙b7 16 e5 ♘c5 17 ♙h5 ♙d8
 18 ♛e2 ♘d3 19 ♛f3 0-0 20 ♘e4 ♛d4 21
 ♙fe1 ♙h8 22 ♘d6 ♘xe1 23 ♙xe1 ♙xd6
 24 exd6 ♙f6 25 h4 ♛xb2

25...♙a8!? was possibly better, although White should still have the edge.

**26 ♙xf7!!**

The beginning of an outstanding combination.

26...♙xf7

Or 26...♛c3 27 ♙e3 ♛a1+ 28 ♙h2 ♙xf7 29 ♛h5! ♙g7 (29...♙g8 30 ♙xe6 gives White a decisive attack) 30 ♙f4! ♙g8 31 ♙xh6 ♛d4 32 ♙g3+ ♙g7 33 ♙xg7 ♙xg7 34 ♙xg7+ ♙xg7 35 ♛g5+ and the d-pawn will promote after 36 ♛e7.

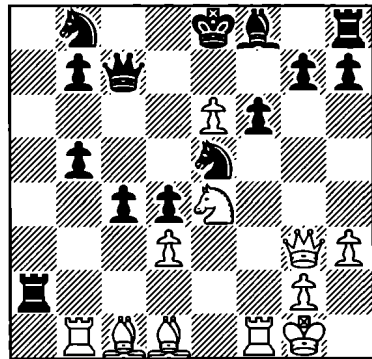
27 ♙e5!! ♛c2?!

White also wins after 27...c5? 28

♛xf6+! ♙xf6 29 ♙xb2, but more stubborn was 27...♙xe5!?. White then has to find a number of high class moves: 28 ♛xf7 ♛c3 (or 28...♙xd6 29 ♛xb7 and White will take the e6-pawn with a crushing attack) 29 ♛f8+ ♙h7 30 ♙xe5!! ♛a1+ 31 ♙h2 ♛xe5+ 32 f4 ♛d5 33 ♛e7+ ♙g6 34 d7 c5 35 f5+!! ♛xf5 (White also wins after both 35...exf5 36 h5+! ♙xh5 37 ♙e8+ ♙g4 38 ♛g6+ ♙f4 39 ♛g3+ ♙e4 40 ♛f3+ and 35...♙xf5 36 ♛f7+ ♙e5 37 ♛h5+) 36 ♛d6! ♛g4 37 ♛g3! and White wins.

28 d7! ♙g8 29 ♛xf6! ♙xd7 30 ♙e3 1-0**Puzzle 100****Spassky-Reshko, Leningrad 1959***Caro-Kann Defence*

1 e4 c6 2 ♘c3 d5 3 ♘f3 ♙g4 4 h3 ♙xf3
 5 ♛xf3 ♘f6 6 e5 ♘fd7 7 ♛g3 e6 8 ♙e2
 ♛c7 9 f4 a6 10 b4!? c5 11 b5 c4 12 ♙b1
 d4 13 ♘e4 axb5 14 0-0 ♙xa2 15 d3!?
 ♙xc2 16 ♙d1 ♙a2 17 f5 ♘xe5 18 fxe6
 f6

**19 ♙xf6!**

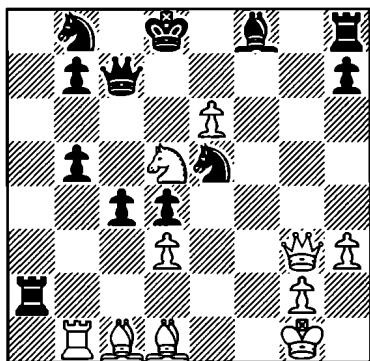
This direct approach turns out to be even better than the also strong 19

♖xb5.

19...gxf6

Instead 19...♖bc6 20 ♖f5! gives White a winning attack: for example, 20...c3 21 ♖f4 c2 22 ♖xc2 ♖xc2 23 ♖a1! ♜c8 24 ♖xe5 ♜xe6 25 ♖xg7 ♜xf5 26 ♜c7! and wins.

20 ♖xf6+ ♜d8 21 ♖d5



21...♜d6

If 21...♖f3+ 22 ♜xf3 ♜g7 23 ♖xb5 ♖g8 24 g4 and White is winning.

22 ♖g5+ ♜c8 23 ♖g4! ♖xg4?!

Black could have put up a bit more resistance with 23...♖g7 24 ♖e7+ ♜c7 25 ♖f5 ♜c5 (instead 25...♜d5 26 ♖xg7 ♜b6 27 dxc4 ♖xc4 28 ♖f3 looks very strong) 26 ♖xg7 ♜b6!, although White is still very close to winning after 27 e7 ♖bc6 28 e8 ♜ ♖xe8 29 ♖xe8.

24 e7! ♖xe7 25 ♜xg4+ ♖d7 26 ♖xe7+ ♜c7 27 ♖f4 ♖e5 28 ♜g7 ♜b6 29 ♖xe5 ♜f6 30 ♖xd4+ 1-0

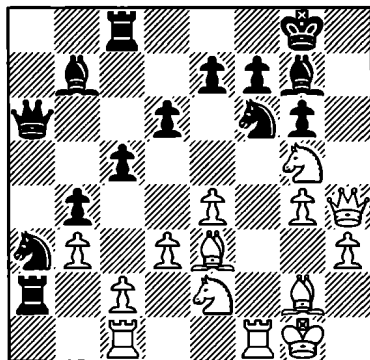
Puzzle 101

Spassky-Geller, Suhumi 1968

Closed Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 ♖c3 d6 3 g3 ♖c6 4 ♖g2 g6 5

d3 ♖g7 6 f4 ♖f6 7 ♖f3 0-0 8 0-0 ♖b8 9 h3 b5 10 a3 a5 11 ♖e3 b4 12 axb4 axb4 13 ♖e2 ♖b7 14 b3 ♖a8 15 ♖c1 ♖a2 16 g4 ♖a8 17 ♜e1 ♖a6 18 ♜f2 ♖a7 19 f5 ♖b5 20 fxg6 hxg6 21 ♖g5 ♖a3 22 ♜h4 ♖c8



23 ♖xf6! exf6 24 ♜h7+ ♜f8 25 ♖xf7!! ♖xc2

Or 25...♜xf7 26 ♖h6 ♖g8 27 ♖f4 ♖xc2 28 ♖f1! g5 29 ♖xg5! and White has an overwhelming attack.

26 ♖h6! ♖xc1+

White was also winning after 26...♜xd3 27 ♜xg7+ ♜e8 28 ♖xc2 (one of several winning moves) 28...♖xc2 29 ♖f4 ♖xe2 27 ♜xg7+ ♜e8 28 ♖g5!.

27 ♖xc1 ♜xf7

White would have pirouetted decisively after 27...♖xh6 with 28 ♖xh6 ♜e8 29 ♖g8! ♜f8 30 ♖e7!.

28 ♜xg7+ ♜e8 29 g5 f5 30 ♜xg6+ ♜d7 31 ♜f7+ ♜c6 32 exf5+ 1-0

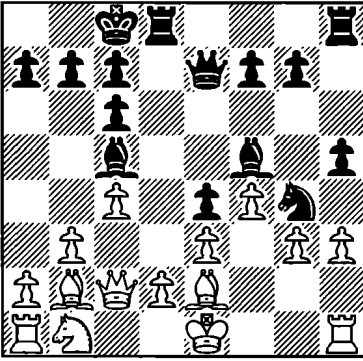
Puzzle 102

Larsen-Spassky, Belgrade 1970

Nimzowitsch-Larsen Attack

1 b3 e5 2 ♖b2 ♖c6 3 c4 ♖f6 4 ♖f3 e4 5

♟d4 ♙c5 6 ♟xc6 dxc6 7 e3 ♙f5 8 ♚c2
 ♚e7 9 ♙e2 0-0-0 10 f4 ♟g4 11 g3 h5 12
 h3



12...h4!! 13 hxg4

Black also wins after 13 ♙xg4 ♙xg4
 14 hxg4 hxg3 15 ♙g1 ♚h1! (15...♚h2!?
 followed by ...♚h4 also works) 16 ♚xh1
 g2 17 ♙g1 ♚h4+ 18 ♙e2 ♚xg4+ 19 ♙e1
 ♚g3+ 20 ♙e2 ♚f3+ 21 ♙e1 ♙e7!.

13...hxg3 14 ♙g1 ♚h1!!

One of the greatest combinations in
 history, at least from an aesthetic point
 of view.

15 ♚xh1 g2 16 ♙f1

Or 16 ♙g1 ♚h4+ 17 ♙d1 ♚h1 and
 Black wins.

16...♚h4+ 17 ♙d1 gxf1♚+ 0-1

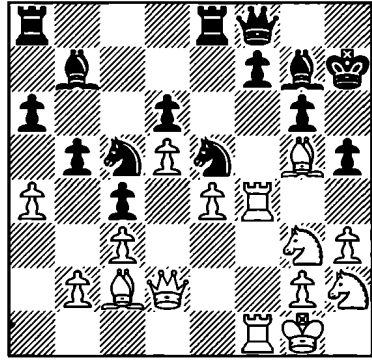
Puzzle 103

Spassky-Portisch, Geneva 1977

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♟f3 ♟c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 ♟f6
 5 0-0 ♙e7 6 ♙e1 b5 7 ♙b3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9
 h3 ♟b8 10 d4 ♟bd7 11 ♟bd2 ♙b7 12
 ♙c2 ♙e8 13 ♟f1 ♙f8 14 ♟g3 g6 15 a4
 c5 16 d5 c4 17 ♙g5 h6 18 ♙e3 ♟c5 19
 ♚d2 ♙h7 20 ♟h2 ♙g7 21 ♙f1 h5 22 f3

♚e7 23 ♙g5 ♚f8 24 f4 exf4 25 ♚xf4
 ♟fd7 26 ♙af1 ♟e5



27 ♟xh5!!

A fantastic blow. Black cannot now
 defend his king.

27...gxh5 28 ♚e2 ♚h8

Instead 28...♙g6 transposes to the
 game, while 28...♙g8 29 ♚xh5 ♟cd7 30
 ♟g4! also wins for White.

29 ♚h4 ♙g6

Or 29...♙g8 30 ♚xh5 and the queen
 is trapped.

30 ♙d1! f5

Black was also lost after both
 30...♙xg5 31 ♚f2! and 30...f6 31 ♚f2!
 ♙f7 32 ♙xh5+ ♙e7 33 ♙xe8 ♚f8 34
 ♙xf6+ ♙xe8 35 ♙xg7 ♚xg7 36 ♟g4.

**31 ♚xf5 ♙f8 32 ♚xh5+ ♚xh5 33 ♙xh5+
 ♙h7 34 ♙f7+ ♙h6 35 ♚xh6+ ♙g7 36
 ♙f6+! ♙xf7 37 ♙xe5+ ♙e8 38 ♚xf8+
 ♙xf8 39 ♙xd6+ ♙g7 40 ♟g4 1-0**

Puzzle 104

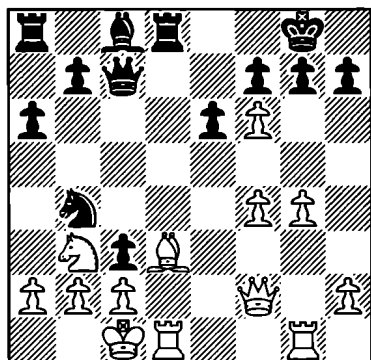
Spassky-Capelan Guenter,

Solingen 1974

Sicilian Kan

1 e4 c5 2 ♟f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♟xd4 a6 5

1 d3 c5 6 b3 a7 7 c3 c6 8 e2
d6 9 e3 xe3 10 we3 f6 11 0-0-0
0-0 12 f4 wc7 13 hgh1 d8 14 g4 d5? 15
e5 d4 16 wf2 dxc3 17 exf6 b4?!



18 xh7+!!

A very deep combination.

18...xh7 19 wh4+ g8 20 wg5 xd1+
21 xd1 cxb2+ 22 xb2 xc2+ 23 a3
wg6

Black was obviously counting on the queen to defend, whereas 23...xa2+ 24 xb4 a5+ 25 c3 would have shortly led to mate. It is here that White's depth of calculation is demonstrated.

24 d8+ gh7 25 wh4+ wh6 26 fxg7!!

White wins the queen and this had to be anticipated nine moves earlier!

26...xg7

Or 26...wxh4 27 g8w+ gh6 28 wh8+
g6 29 g8 mate.

27 g8+! xg8 28 wxh6 c6 29 c5
e7 30 e4 d5 31 g5 1-0

Puzzle 105

Spassky-Geller, Suhumi 1968

Closed Sicilian

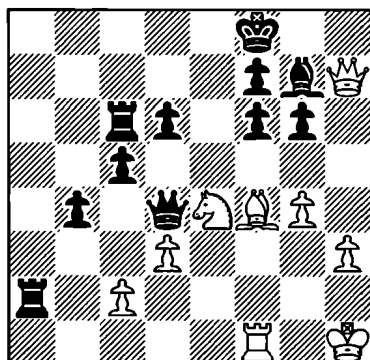
1 e4 c5 2 c3 d6 3 g3 c6 4 g2 g6 5

d3 e7 6 f4 f6 7 f3 0-0 8 0-0 b8 9
h3 b5 10 a3 a5 11 e3 b4 12 axb4 axb4
13 e2 b7 14 d2 a8 15 ab1 a5
16 b3 fc8 17 f5 b6 18 g4 a2 19 c1
a5 20 f2 c7 21 e2 a2 22 bc1
d8 23 f4 e8 24 g5 d4! 25 fxg6
hxg6 26 d5 xb3 27 e5!? xc1

Black also had a win with 27...dxe5
28 xf6+ exf6 29 xb7 xc1 30 xc8
xd3 31 f3 fxg5 32 cxd3 e4 33 dxe4
a3! and there is no good defence.

28 xc1 xd5 29 xd5 dxd5 30 wh4
f6 31 exf6 exf6 32 wh7+ gh8 33 e4
e5 34 f4 wd4+ 35 gh1 c6?!

After 35...d8! White would have
had very little attack left.



36 h6! xh6 37 wh8+ e7 38 xf6!
f4

White also wins after 38...f8 39
e1+ e5 (39...d8 40 wf8+ c7 41
e7+ is simple) 40 d5+! e8 (or
40...e6 41 wf6+ xd5 42 wxf7+ d4
43 wc4 mate) 41 xe5+ dxe5 42 we5+
d7 43 b4! and White wins one of
the rooks.

39 g5! e6 40 we8+ f5 41 wxf7! c7

Black is mated after 41...xg5 42
h4+ xh4 43 wxg6.

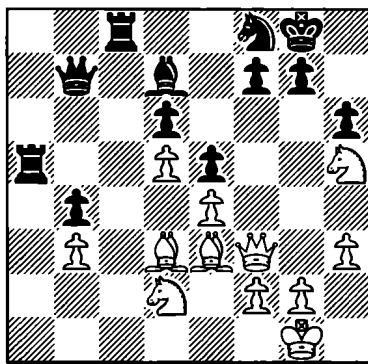
42 ♖xc7 ♜xg5 43 ♖e7! ♖e3 44 ♜e4+ ♜h5 45 ♖h7+ ♜h6 46 ♖d7! ♜f4

White also wins after 46...♜g5 47 ♖g4+ ♜h6 48 h4 ♜f4 49 ♖g1 and Black must part with material.

47 ♜f6+ ♜g5 48 ♜d5 1-0

Puzzle 106

Spassky-Arutiunian, USSR 1965



30 ♜xh6!! ♜h7

Spassky also had to have calculated:

a) 30...gxf6? 31 ♖f6 is mate at once.

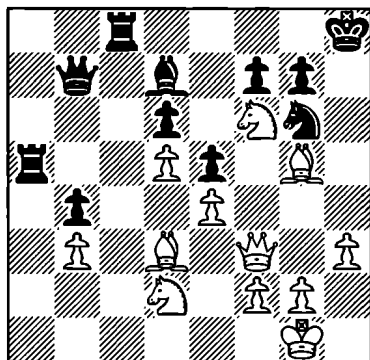
b) 30...♞c3 also does not work, as White has 31 ♜f6+! ♜h8 32 ♜xg7+! (32 ♖h5!? also wins) 32...♜xg7 33 ♜h5+ ♜h6 34 ♖f6+ ♜g6 35 ♖g7+ ♜xh5 36 ♜f3 and Black is shortly mated.

c) 30...f5 31 ♜c4 ♞a1+ 32 ♜h2 f4 (or 32...♞xc4 33 ♜xc4 f4 34 ♜xg7 and Black will not be able to resist the attack) 33 ♜xg7! ♞ca8 34 ♜h5 and there is no defence against ♜f6+ and ♖h5.

d) 30...♞a1+ 31 ♜f1! (31 ♜h2? is wrong, as Black has a neat trick in 31...♞cc1 32 ♜f6+ gxf6 33 ♖xf6 ♞h1+ 34 ♜g3 ♞xh3+!! 35 gxh3 ♞g1+ 36 ♜h2 ♞g6 and the attack has been repelled) 31...♜g6 (White also wins after

31...♜b5 32 ♜f6+ gxf6 33 ♖xf6 ♜e6 34 ♜xb5) 32 ♜xg7 ♜e8 33 ♜h6 ♜h7 34 ♖f6 and White wins.

e) 30...♜g6 loses to the elegant 31 ♜f6+ ♜h8 32 ♜g5!.



Now Black has to try 32...♜g4, but White still wins: 33 ♖xg4! gxf6 34 ♜xf6+ ♜g8 35 ♖h5 ♜f8 36 ♖h7 and Black lacks a defence: for example, 36...♞ac5 37 ♜f3! ♜e8 38 ♖g8+ ♜f8 39 ♜g5 ♖a7 40 ♜h7.

31 ♜xg7! f5

Instead 31...♜h8 32 ♖xf7! ♞f8 33 ♖e7 ♜c8 34 ♖xd6 gives White four extra pawns and a winning attack. The conclusion could not be more conclusive. White also wins after 31...♞a1+ 32 ♜f1 f5 33 exf5 ♜h8 34 ♜h5 ♜b5 35 ♜g7+ ♜g8 36 ♖g4.

32 exf5!?

32 ♜xf5 was possibly even stronger. 32...♜h8 33 ♜h5 ♞g8 34 f6! 1-0

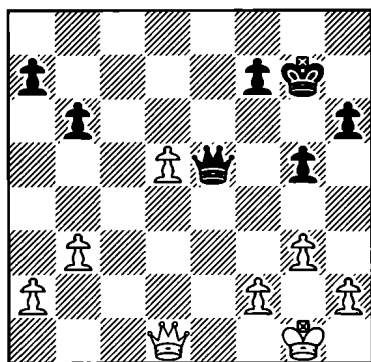
Puzzle 107

Ribli-Spassky, Montpellier 1985

Hedgehog

1 ♜f3 ♜f6 2 c4 b6 3 g3 ♜b7 4 ♜g2 c5 5

♖c3 g6 6 0-0 ♙g7 7 d4 cxd4 8 ♜xd4
 ♜c6 9 ♜f4 ♜c8 10 ♜d1 d6 11 ♙d2 0-0
 12 ♜ac1 h6 13 b3 ♜d7 14 ♙d5 ♜xd5 15
 cxd5 ♙e5 16 ♜xe5 dxe5 17 ♜h4 g5 18
 ♜h5 ♙xd5 19 ♙c3 e4 20 ♙xe4 e6 21
 ♙xg7 ♜xc1 22 ♜xc1 ♙xg7 23 ♜d1 ♜e7
 24 ♙xd5 ♜d8 25 e4 exd5 26 ♜xd5 ♜xd5
 27 exd5 ♜e5 28 ♜d1

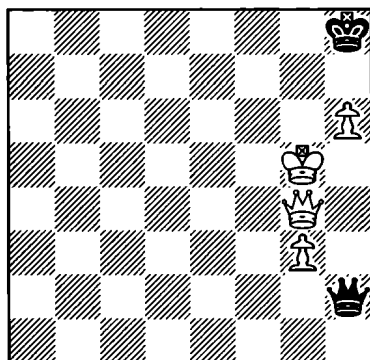


White has won a pawn and now squeezed hard for close to sixty moves before he messed it all up.

28...♙f8 29 ♜d3 ♙e7 30 ♜c4 ♙d6 31
 ♜c6+ ♙e7 32 ♙f1 ♜a1+ 33 ♙g2 ♜e5
 34 h3 ♜e4+ 35 ♙h2 ♜d4 36 ♙g1 ♜d1+
 37 ♙g2 h5 38 a4 g4 39 ♜c7+ ♙f6 40
 ♜f4+ ♙g6 41 ♜e4+ ♙g7 42 h4 a5 43
 ♜e5+ f6 44 ♜f5 ♜d4 45 ♙h2 ♜d2 46
 ♙g2 ♜d4 47 ♜e6 ♜d3 48 d6 ♜f3+ 49
 ♙g1 ♜d1+ 50 ♙h2 ♜f3 51 ♜e1 ♜d5 52
 ♜e7+ ♙g6 53 d7 ♜d4 54 ♜e8+ ♙g7 55
 ♜e3 ♜xd7 56 ♜xb6 ♜d2 57 ♜e3 ♜c2
 58 ♙g2 ♜c6+ 59 ♙g1 ♜d5 60 b4 axb4
 61 ♜e7+ ♙g6 62 ♜xb4 ♜d1+ 63 ♙h2
 ♜c2 64 ♜d4 ♜c7 65 ♜e4+ ♙g7 66 ♜a8
 f5 67 ♜d5 ♜a7 68 ♜xf5 ♜xa4 69 ♜xh5
 ♜e4 70 ♜g5+ ♙h7 71 h5 ♜f3 72 ♜g6+
 ♙h8 73 ♜h6+ ♙g8 74 ♜f4 ♜d1 75
 ♜g5+ ♙h7 76 ♜f5+ ♙g7 77 ♜e4 ♙h8

78 ♙g2 ♙g7 79 f4 gxf3+ 80 ♜xf3 ♜c2+
 81 ♙h3 ♜d2 82 ♜g4+ ♙h8 83 h6 ♜b2
 84 ♙h4?

84 ♜f5! and White is still winning.
 84...♜h2+ 85 ♙g5?!



85...♜xh6+! 86 ♙xh6 ½-½

Puzzle 108

Spassky-Fischer, Belgrade 1992

Benoni Defence

1 d4 ♜f6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 d6 4 ♜c3 g6 5 e4
 ♙g7 6 ♙d3 0-0 7 ♜f3 ♙g4 8 h3 ♙xf3 9
 ♜xf3 ♜bd7?! 10 ♜d1! e6 11 0-0 exd5
 12 exd5 ♜e8 13 ♙d2 ♜e5 14 ♙e2 f5 15
 f4 ♜f7 16 g4! ♜h6 17 ♙g2 ♜c7 18 g5!

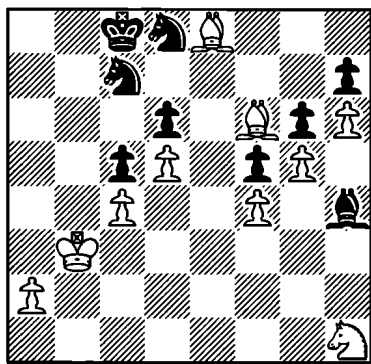
White has a space advantage and one which lasted all the game.

18...♜f7 19 ♜b1 ♜e8 20 ♙d3 ♜b8 21 h4
 a6 22 ♜c2 b5 23 b3 ♜b7 24 ♜be1 ♜xe1
 25 ♜xe1 ♜b8 26 ♙c1 ♜d8 27 ♜e2 bxc4
 28 bxc4 ♜e8 29 h5 ♜e7 30 h6 ♙h8 31
 ♙d2 ♜b7 32 ♜b1! ♜b8 33 ♜g3 ♜xb1 34
 ♜xb1 ♜xb1 35 ♙xb1 ♙b2 36 ♙f3 ♙f8
 37 ♙e2 ♜h8 38 ♙d1 ♙e7 39 ♙c2 ♙d4
 40 ♙b3 ♙f2 41 ♜h1 ♙h4

Instead 41...♙d4 loses to 42 ♙c3
 ♙xc3 43 ♙xc3 because after 43...♙f8 44

♖g3 ♜f7 45 ♔b3, Black cannot prevent the white king from entering on the queenside.

42 ♖a4 ♜c7 43 ♖a5 ♜d7 44 ♖b6 ♜c8 45 ♖c2 ♜f7 46 ♖a4 ♖b8 47 ♖d7! ♜d8 48 ♖c3! ♜a8+ 49 ♖xa6 ♜c7+ 50 ♖b6 ♜a8+ 51 ♖a5 ♖b7 52 ♖b5 ♜c7+ 53 ♖a4 ♜a8 54 ♖b3 ♜c7 55 ♖e8 ♜c8 56 ♖f6 ♜c7



57 ♖xg6!

The h-pawn now cruises to the 8th rank.

57...hxg6 58 ♖xd8 1-0

Puzzle 109

Spassky-Byrne, San Juan 1974

Sicilian Moscow

1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 d6 3 ♖b5+ ♖d7 4 ♖xd7+ ♜xd7 5 c4 e5 6 ♜c3 ♜c6 7 d3 g6 8 a3 ♖g7 9 ♖b1 ♜ge7 10 b4 b6 11 0-0 0-0 12 ♜d5 ♜xd5 13 cxd5 ♜d4 14 ♜xd4 cxd4 15 ♖d2 ♖ac8 16 ♜b3 ♖c7 17 ♖bc1 ♖fc8 18 b5 ♖xc1 19 ♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 20 ♖xc1 ♜c7 21 ♜c4 ♜xc4 22 dxc4

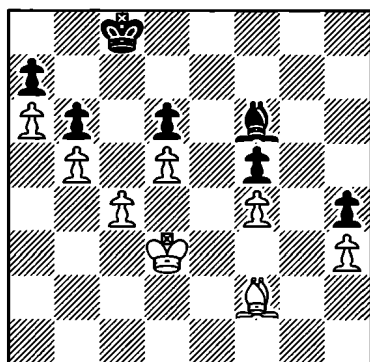
This endgame should be a draw, but it is harder for Black to play.

22...f6 23 ♖f1 ♖f8 24 a4 ♖e7 25 ♖e2

♖f7 26 ♖d2 f5 27 exf5 gxf5 28 ♖d3 ♖f6 29 f3 h5 30 a5! ♖e8 31 a6 ♖d7 32 g3 ♖c7 33 h3 ♖d7 34 ♖a5 ♖c8 35 ♖e1 ♖d7 36 ♖f2 ♖e8 37 ♖e1 ♖f7 38 ♖b4 ♖e7 39 f4! exf4

Black also fails to hold with 39...♖f6 because of 40 ♖xd6 e4+ 41 ♖d2 ♖e7 42 ♖xe7 ♖xe7 43 c5!.

40 gxf4 ♖e8 41 ♖xd4 ♖d7 42 ♖d3 ♖c7 43 ♖e3 ♖f6 44 ♖f3 h4 45 ♖e3 ♖g7 46 ♖d3 ♖f6 47 ♖d2 ♖d7 48 ♖e3 ♖c7 49 ♖f2 ♖c8



50 c5!

This breakthrough was always going to come.

50...dxc5

Or 50...bxc5 51 ♖e1 and White has the winning plan of ♖a5, ♖c4, b6 and ♖b5.

51 d6 ♖d7 52 ♖xc5!

White wins. The point is of course that a pawn queens after 52...bxc5 53 b6.

52...♖d8 53 ♖b4 ♖e6 54 ♖c4 ♖f6 55 ♖c5! ♖d8 56 ♖d4!

Black is in zugzwang.

56...♖xd6 57 ♖e5+ ♖e6 58 ♖b8 ♖d7 59 ♖d5 1-0

Puzzle 110

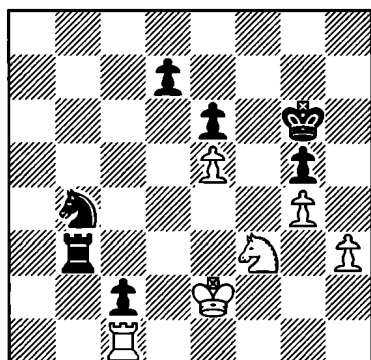
Seirawan-Spassky, USA 1990

Polish Defence

1 d4 b5 2 e4 ♟b7 3 f3 a6 4 c4 bxc4 5
 ♟xc4 e6 6 ♟b3 ♟c8 7 d5 ♟f6 8 ♟e3 a5
 9 ♟c3 ♟a6 10 dxe6 fxe6 11 e5 a4 12
 ♟d1 ♟g8 13 ♟ge2 a3 14 ♟b1 ♟e7 15
 0-0 ♟f5 16 ♟f2 axb2 17 ♟xb2 ♟c5 18
 ♟d2 0-0 19 ♟g3 ♟xf2+ 20 ♟xf2 ♟e7
 21 ♟fb1 ♟c6 22 a4 ♟h8 23 ♟e3 ♟g6 24
 ♟b5 ♟b8 25 ♟ce2 ♟d8 26 ♟c2 ♟d5 27
 ♟c3 c6 28 ♟d3 ♟f4 29 ♟f1 ♟a6 30 ♟b7
 ♟e7 31 ♟b6?! ♟c5+ 32 ♟h1 ♟c4! 33
 ♟xc5? ♟xc5 34 ♟b4 ♟xf1 35 ♟xf1
 ♟cd3 36 ♟e4 ♟c5 37 ♟e3 ♟xa4 38 g3?!
 ♟xc3 39 ♟ex3 ♟d5 40 ♟b3 ♟fb8?!

Black could have won directly with
 40...♟a1 41 ♟g2 ♟e1 42 f4 g5.

41 ♟cb2 ♟xb3 42 ♟xb3 ♟g8 43 ♟b7 c5!
 44 ♟b2 c4 45 ♟c2 c3 46 ♟c1 ♟a2 47 f4
 ♟b2 48 ♟g1 ♟f7 49 h3 h6 50 ♟h2 c2 51
 ♟f2 ♟b4 52 ♟e3 g5 53 fxg5 hxg5 54
 ♟f3 ♟g6 55 g4 ♟b3+ 56 ♟e2



56...♟xf3!

Black is winning in many ways, but
 this terminates matters immediately.

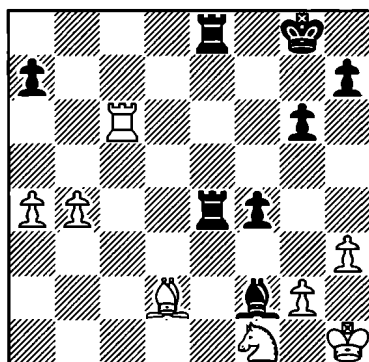
57 ♟xf3 ♟d3! 0-1

Puzzle 111

Timman-Spassky, Bugojno 1986

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♟f3 ♟c6 3 ♟b5 ♟ge7 4 0-0 g6
 5 c3 ♟g7 6 d4 exd4 7 cxd4 d5 8 exd5
 ♟xd5 9 ♟g5 ♟d6 10 ♟e2+ ♟e6 11
 ♟bd2 0-0 12 ♟e4 ♟b4 13 a3 ♟a5 14
 ♟xc6 bxc6 15 ♟e5 ♟ae8 16 ♟ac1 f6 17
 ♟xc6 ♟b6 18 ♟d2? ♟d7 19 ♟b4
 ♟xd4?! 20 ♟c4 ♟e5 21 ♟d3 ♟e7 22
 ♟f3 ♟b5 23 ♟d4 c6 24 ♟g3 ♟d8 25 a4
 ♟a6 26 ♟b4 ♟b6 27 ♟xd5 cxd5 28
 ♟xa6 ♟xa6 29 ♟xd5+ ♟e6 30 ♟xe6+
 ♟xe6 31 ♟c1 f5 32 b4 f4 33 ♟f1 ♟d4 34
 ♟c4 ♟e4 35 ♟h1 ♟fe8 36 h3 ♟xf2 37
 ♟c6



37...♟e1!

The most direct way to exploit the
 advantage. Black now wins two pieces
 for the rook, although there is a little
 point that had to be anticipated.

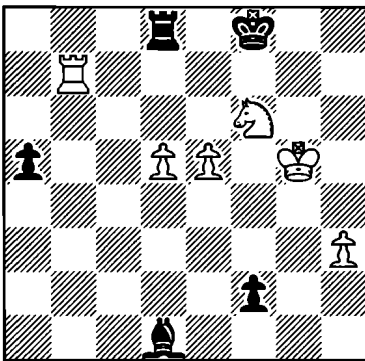
38 ♟xe1 ♟xe1 39 g4 f3!

This small point had to be antici-
 pated in advance since White is sud-
 denly back in the game after 39...♟xf1+
 40 ♟g2.

40 ♟c8+ ♟f7 0-1

Puzzle 112**Spassky-Larsen, Malmö 1968***Closed Sicilian*

1 e4 c5 2 ♘c3 d6 3 g3 g6 4 ♙g2 ♙g7 5
 d3 ♘c6 6 f4 e6 7 ♘f3 ♘ge7 8 0-0 0-0 9
 ♙d2 ♚b8 10 ♚b1 b5 11 a3 a5 12 a4 b4
 13 ♘b5 d5 14 c4 bxc3 15 bxc3 c4 16
 ♙e3 cxd3 17 e5 ♙a6 18 ♚xd3 ♚d7 19
 ♚fd1 ♚fc8 20 ♚d2 ♘f5 21 ♙f2 h5 22
 ♙f1 ♚d8 23 ♙d3 ♚e7 24 ♚e2 ♚b7 25
 h3 h4 26 ♘xh4 ♘xh4 27 gxh4 ♙h6 28
 ♙g3 ♚c5+ 29 ♙h2 ♘e7 30 h5! ♘f5 31
 hxg6 fxg6 32 ♙xf5 exf5 33 c4 d4 34
 ♘d6 ♚xb1 35 ♚xb1 d3 36 ♚xd3 ♙xf4
 37 ♚d5+ ♚xd5 38 cxd5 ♙e3 39 ♙h4
 ♙f4+ 40 ♙g2 ♙d3 41 ♚b6 g5 42 ♙g3
 ♙xg3 43 ♙xg3 ♙c2 44 ♚b2 f4+ 45 ♙g4
 ♙xa4 46 ♙xg5 f3 47 ♘e4 ♙f8 48 ♘f6
 ♙d1 49 ♚b7 f2

**50 e6!**

Ignoring the danger of the black pawn on f2, White is creating a mating net around the black king.

50...♚xd5+ 51 ♙h6!

Only this will do, whereas 51 ♘xd5?? f1♚ would have been an immediate draw. Also worth avoiding

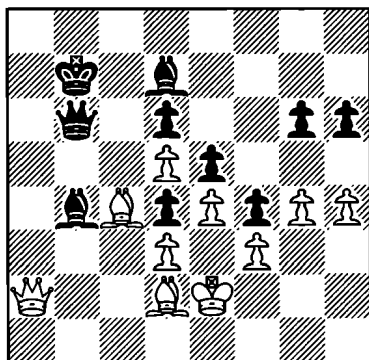
was 51 ♙g6? when after 51...♙h5+!! 52 ♘xh5 ♚g5+ 53 ♙xg5 f1♚ 54 ♚f7+ ♚xf7 55 exf7 ♙xf7 White cannot win the endgame.

51...♙h5+

Instead 51...♙h5 52 ♚b8+?! is winning according to some sources, but this is actually a mistake as Black has 52...♚d8!. Admittedly White still wins after 53 ♚b7 ♚d5 54 e7+, but why not just 52 e7+ immediately?

52 ♙g6 1-0**Puzzle 113****Spassky-Zhu Chen, Roquebrune 1998***English Opening*

1 c4 c5 2 ♘c3 ♘c6 3 g3 g6 4 ♙g2 ♙g7 5
 e3 e5 6 a3 ♘ge7 7 ♚b1 a5 8 ♘ge2 0-0 9
 0-0 ♚b8 10 d3 d6 11 e4 ♙g4 12 f3 ♙e6
 13 ♙d2 f5 14 ♙h3 h6 15 ♘b5 ♙h7 16
 ♘ec3 ♙g8 17 ♘d5 b6 18 ♙h1 ♚d7 19
 b3 ♙h8 20 ♚e2 ♙h7 21 ♚be1 ♘xd5 22
 cxd5 ♘d4 23 ♘xd4 cxd4 24 ♚c1 ♚fc8 25
 ♚xc8+ ♚xc8 26 ♚c1 ♚xc1+ 27 ♙xc1 ♚c7
 28 ♚d1 ♚c3 29 ♙d2 ♚b2 30 a4 ♙g8 31
 ♙f1 ♙f7 32 ♙e2 ♙h7 33 ♙c1 ♚a2 34
 ♙d2 ♙e8 35 h4 ♙d7 36 g4 f4 37 ♙g1
 ♙g8 38 ♙f1 ♙f7 39 ♙e1 ♙f6 40 ♙g1
 ♚b2 41 ♙f1 ♙d8 42 ♙e2 ♙e8 43 ♙f1
 ♙e7 44 ♙g1 ♙d8 45 ♙f1 ♙c7 46 ♙g1
 ♙b7 47 ♙f1 ♙d8 48 ♙g1 ♙a6 49 ♙f1
 b5 50 axb5+ ♙xb5 51 ♙g1 ♙b6 52 ♙f2
 ♙c5 53 ♚d2 ♚a1 54 ♚c2 ♙b6 55 ♙d1
 ♙b7 56 ♙e2 ♙b5 57 ♙d2 ♙b6 58 ♙e1
 ♙d8 59 ♙d2 ♚a3 60 ♙e2 ♙b6 61 ♙d2
 ♙d7 62 ♚b1 ♙c5 63 b4 axb4 64 ♙xb4
 ♚b5 65 ♙c2 ♙c7 66 ♚b3 ♙c5 67 ♙d2
 ♙b6 68 ♚a2 ♚a6 69 ♚b1+ ♚b5 70 ♙b3
 ♙b7 71 ♚a2 ♙b4 72 ♙c4 ♚b6



73 ♖a6+! ♜xa6 74 ♙xa6+ ♔c7

Hoping for a fortress since after 74...♜xa6 75 ♙xb4 all the black pawns will fall.

75 ♙xb4 ♙a4 76 ♔d2 g5 77 h5 ♔d7 78 ♙b7 1-0

Black is in zugzwang after 78...♙b3 79 ♙c6+ ♔e7 80 ♙b5 ♙a2 81 ♔c2.

Puzzle 114

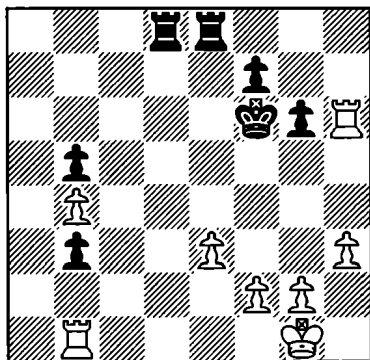
Larsen-Spassky, Lugano 1968
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 ♠f3 ♠f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♠c3 d5 4 d4 ♙e7 5 ♙f4 0-0 6 e3 ♠bd7 7 ♜c1 c6 8 h3 a6 9 a3 dxc4 10 ♙xc4 b5 11 ♙a2 ♙b7 12 0-0 c5 13 d5 ♠xd5 14 ♠xd5 ♙xd5 15 ♙xd5 exd5 16 ♜xd5 ♠f6 17 ♜b7 ♜e8 18 ♜fd1 ♜c8 19 ♜xc8 ♜axc8 20 ♙d6 ♔f8 21 ♔f1 ♠e4 22 ♙xe7+ ♔xe7 23 ♙d5 ♜cd8 24 ♜h5 h6 25 b4 c4 26 a4 ♔f6! 27 axb5 g6 28 ♜xh6 axb5 29 ♠d4?

29 ♜h4! was necessary with chances to hold.

29...♠d2+ 30 ♔g1 ♠b3 31 ♠xb3 cxb3 32 ♜b1

(see following diagram)



32...♜e4!

Otherwise Black has nothing in the position.

33 g3

The main point is that after 33 ♜xb3 ♔g7 the white rook is sensationally trapped.

33...♜xb4 34 ♜h4 ♜xh4 35 gxh4 ♜d3 36 ♔g2 ♔e5 0-1

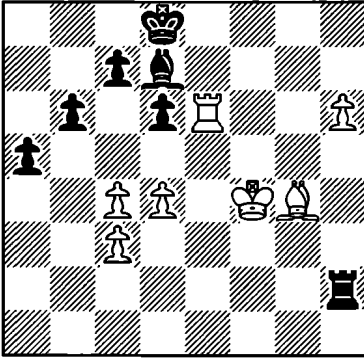
Puzzle 115

Spassky-Polugaevsky, Baku 1961
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♠f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♠c3 ♙b4 4 ♠f3 b6 5 ♙g5 ♙b7 6 e3 h6 7 ♙h4 g5 8 ♙g3 ♠e4 9 ♜c2 ♙xc3+ 10 bxc3 d6 11 ♙d3 ♠xg3 12 fxg3 g4 13 ♠h4 ♜g5 14 0-0 ♜xe3+ 15 ♔h1 ♠d7 16 ♜f4 ♜g8 17 ♜af1 0-0-0 18 ♜1f2 ♜e1+ 19 ♜f1 ♜e3 20 ♜xf7 ♜df8 21 ♜e2 ♜xe2 22 ♙xe2 h5 23 ♔g1 ♙e4 24 ♜xf8+ ♠xf8 25 ♔f2 ♠g6 26 ♔e3 ♙c6 27 ♜f6 ♠xh4 28 gxh4 g3 29 hxg3 ♜xg3+ 30 ♔f4 ♜xg2?! 31 ♙xh5 ♜xa2 32 ♜xe6 a5?

32...♜f2+! would still have kept the balance.

33 ♙g4 ♔d8 34 h5 ♜h2 35 h6 ♙d7



36 ♖g3!!

The h-file is too short and Black cannot control the h-pawn.

36...♞h1

36...♙xe6 loses by force to 37 ♜xh2 ♙g8 38 ♙f5 a4 39 h7 ♙xh7 40 ♙xh7 a3 41 ♙b1 and the bishop is rather useful in the pawn endgame.

37 ♙f3! ♞g1+ 38 ♙g2!

Now White queens his pawn.

38...♞c1 39 h7 ♞xc3+ 40 ♜h2 ♙xe6 41 h8♞+ ♜e7 42 d5 1-0

Puzzle 116

Korchnoi-Spassky, Belgrade 1977

English Opening

1 c4 c5 2 ♘f3 ♘f6 3 ♘c3 ♘c6 4 d4 cxd4 5 ♘xd4 e6 6 g3 ♙c5 7 ♘b3 ♙b4 8 ♙g2 d5 9 cxd5 ♘xd5 10 a3 ♙xc3+ 11 bxc3 0-0! 12 ♞c2 ♞c7! 13 c4 ♘e5 14 ♘d2 b5! 15 c5 ♙b7 16 0-0 ♞ac8 17 ♘b3 a5 18 ♙d2 ♘c4?!

18...♘c6! was better (Korchnoi).

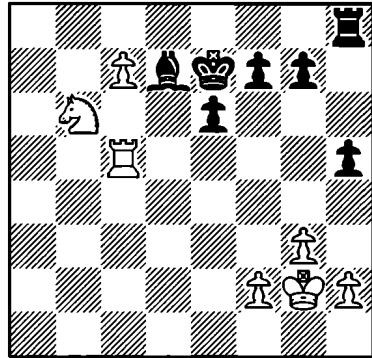
19 e4! ♘e7 20 a4 ♙a6 21 axb5 ♙xb5 22 ♞fc1 ♘c6 23 ♙c3 ♞fd8 24 ♙f1 a4!? 25 ♙xc4 ♙xc4 26 ♞xa4 ♙b5 27 ♞a3 ♞d3 28 ♞aa1 h5 29 ♘d2 ♘d4 30 ♙xd4 ♞xd4

31 ♞c3! ♞cd8 32 ♘b3! ♞xe4 33 ♞a5

White is slowly paving the way for the advance of his c-pawn.

33...♞xa5 34 ♘xa5 ♞a4 35 ♞xa4 ♙xa4 36 c6 ♜f8 37 c7 ♞c8 38 ♞c5! ♜e7 39 ♘c4! ♙d7 40 ♜g2 ♞h8 41 ♘b6??

White loses his patience.



41...♜d6!!

Preparing to trap the knight.

42 c8♞

Play would transpose after 42 ♞c3 ♙c6+! 43 ♞xc6+ ♜xc6 44 c8♞+ ♞xc8 45 ♘xc8 ♜c7.

42...♙xc8 43 ♞xc8 ♞xc8 44 ♘xc8+ ♜c7 45 ♘e7 ♜d7 46 ♘g8 h4!?

46...♜e8 also draws.

47 g4 ♜e8 48 ♜h3 ♜f8 49 ♘h6

Instead 49 ♘f6 gxf6 50 ♜xh4 ♜g7 looks intimidating, but also seems to be a draw.

49...gxh6 50 ♜xh4 ♜g7 51 ♜g3 ♜g6 52 ♜f4 f6 53 h3 ½-½

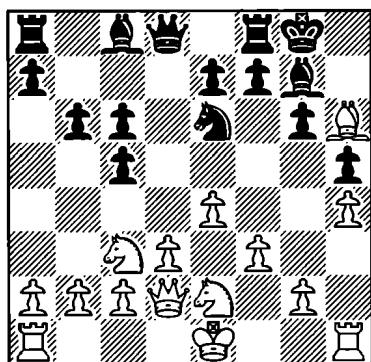
Puzzle 117

Spassky-Hübner, Venice 1989

Sicilian Irregular

1 e4 c5 2 ♘c3 ♘c6 3 ♙b5 g6 4 ♙xc6

**dxc6?! 5 d3 ♖g7 6 ♜ge2 ♜f6 7 ♙e3 b6
8 h3 0-0 9 ♛d2 ♜e8? 10 h4 h5 11 f3
♜c7 12 ♙h6 ♜e6?**



13 0-0-0?

Hübner demonstrated in his analysis that White could have gained a strong attack with 13 g4. Now Black is back in the game.

**13...♜d4 14 ♜xd4 cxd4 15 ♜e2 e5 16
♜dg1 ♛f6 17 ♜b1 ♙xh6 18 ♛xh6 ♛g7
19 ♛d2 ♜h7 20 g4 ♙h6 21 ♙e1 ♙e6 22
♜g3 c5 23 ♜hg1 ♜g8 24 ♜1g2 ♜af8 25
b3 f6 26 ♛g1 b5 27 ♜f2 c4 28 g5 ♛g7
29 gxf6 ♜xf6 30 ♜g5 ♛c7 31 ♛g3 cxd3
32 ♜xd4 ♜d8 33 ♜xe6 ♜xe6 34 ♛h2?**

After a tumultuous game Spassky cracks and so does his position.

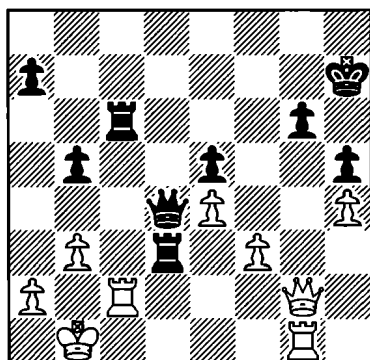
**34...♛c3 35 cxd3 ♜xd3 36 ♜g1 ♜c6? 37
♛g2? ♛d4 38 ♜c2**

(see following diagram)

38...♜d1+

Black can force a winning pawn endgame. We need to remember to always look out for such transitions.

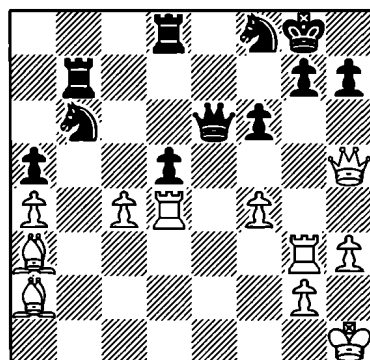
**39 ♜xd1 ♛xd1+ 40 ♜b2 ♜xc2+ 41 ♛xc2
♛xc2+ 0-1**



White resigned since the h-pawn queens after 42 ♙xc2 g5!.

Puzzle 118

Spassky-Xie Jun, Copenhagen 1997



36...♛e1+! 37 ♜h2 ♛f2!

An elegant double threat.

**38 ♙xf8 ♛xd4 39 ♙b1 ♙xf8 40 ♛xh7
♜f7 41 ♙g6 ♛xf4 42 ♙xf7 ♜xf7 43
♛xg7+ ♙e6 44 c5 ♜c4 0-1**

Puzzle 119

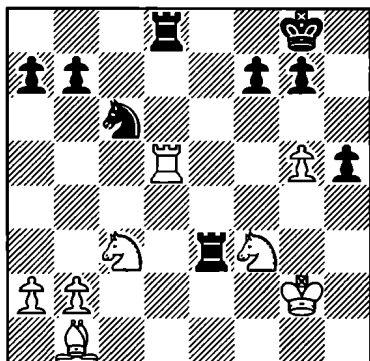
Geller-Spassky, Moscow 1967

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♜c3 ♙e7 4 cxd5 exd5

5 xf4 c6 6 e3 xf5 7 g4 e6 8 h3 f6 9 f3 0-0 10 d3 c5 11 f1 c6 12 g2 cxd4 13 xd4 d6 14 xd6 xd6 15 ce2 fe8 16 c1 d7 17 b1 ad8 18 b3 b8?! 19 hd1 h5!? 20 g5 e4 21 f3 hxh3+! ? 22 hxh3 xf2+ 23 g2 xd1 24 xd1 c5 25 xd5?! xe3 26 xe3 xe3 27 c3 d8??

A grave blunder. After 27... e7 Black would have been fine in the end-game.



28 xd8+! xd8 29 e4!

Spassky had obviously missed this move, which traps his rook.

29... f8 30 f2 xe4 31 xe4 e7 32 e3 e6 33 f4 d5 34 d3+ c4 35 e4 d6 36 d5 f5+ 37 gxf6 gxf6 38 xf6 h4 39 g4 b4 40 e3+ c5 41 hxh4 1-0

Puzzle 120

Van Wely-Spassky, French League 2002
Catalan Opening

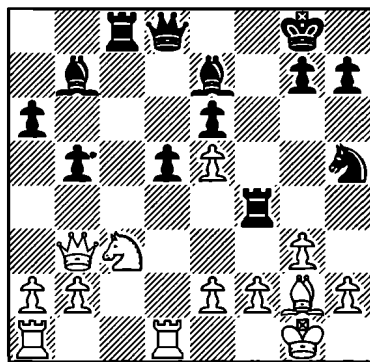
1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 f3 f6 4 g3 b4+ 5 d2 e7 6 g2 0-0 7 0-0 b7 8 c2 c6 9 d1 b6 10 f4 b7 11 c3 c8 12 e5 h5 13 c1 f5!? 14 a4 xe5 15

dxe5 a6 16 b3 b5 17 cxd5 cxd5 18 e3 f4

18... c4 with a level position was much more prudent.

19 xf4 xf4?

Now the game is decided by a combination any world champion, no matter what age, would normally spot far in advance.



20 xd5! xd5

White also wins after 20... f8 21 d6+ .

21 xd5 exd5 22 xd5 f8 23 d8+ h8 24 xf8+ xf8 25 d1 c4 26 d7 c5 27 e3 g6 28 d1 g7 29 b3 c3 30 d5 f5 31 b7 c1+ 32 g2 c2 33 hxh7+ g8 34 c7 xe3+ 35 h3 fxf2 36 c8+ f8 37 e6+ h8 38 xc2 xc2 39 xg6 e3 40 h5+ 1-0

Puzzle 121

Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1966
King's Indian Defence

1 f3 f6 2 g3 g6 3 c4 g7 4 g2 0-0 5 0-0 c6 6 c3 d6 7 d4 a6 8 d5 a5 9 d2 c5 10 c2 e5?! 11 b3 g4 12 e4 f5

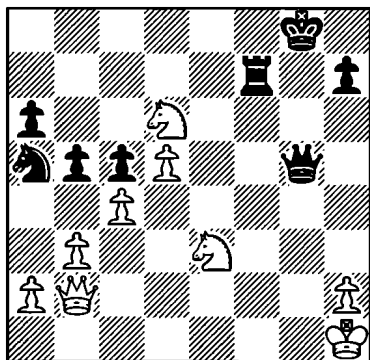
13 exf5 gxf5 14 ♖d1! b5 15 f3? e4! 16 ♙b2 exf3 17 ♙xf3 ♙xb2 18 ♚xb2 ♖e5 19 ♙e2 f4! 20 gxf4 ♙h3?

This allows Petrosian to play one of his legendary exchange sacrifices. Better was 20...♙xf4 21 ♖e3 ♚g5+ 22 ♙h1 ♙xf1+ 23 ♖dxf1 ♙a7 with chances for both sides.

21 ♖e3! ♙xf1 22 ♙xf1 ♖g6 23 ♙g4 ♖xf4?

The last try to keep Black on the board was 23...♚f6 24 ♙e6+ ♙h8 25 ♚xf6+ ♙xf6 26 f5 ♖e5 27 ♖e4! with a clear edge for White.

24 ♙xf4! ♙xf4 25 ♙e6+ ♙f7 26 ♖e4 ♚h4 27 ♖xd6 ♚g5+ 28 ♙h1 ♙a7 29 ♙xf7+ ♙xf7



30 ♚h8+! 1-0

A very famous and picturesque finish.

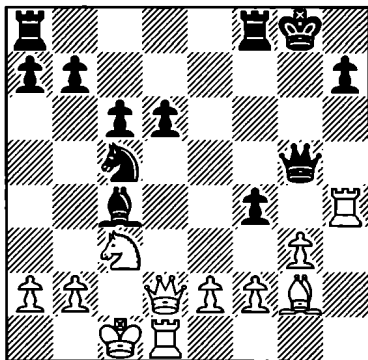
Puzzle 122

Spassky - Santo-Roman,
Montpellier 1991
Dutch Defence

1 d4 f5 2 g3 ♖f6 3 ♙g2 g6 4 ♖h3 ♙g7 5 c4 0-0 6 ♖c3 d6 7 d5 ♖a6 8 ♖f4 e5 9

dxex6 c6 10 h4 ♖c5 11 h5 gxh5 12 ♖xh5 ♖xh5 13 ♙xh5 ♙xe6 14 ♙h6 ♙xh6 15 ♙xh6 ♚g5 16 ♙h4 f4 17 ♚d2 ♙xc4 18 0-0-0??

A strange blunder in a rather unclear position.



18...♙xa2! 19 ♚xd6 fxg3+

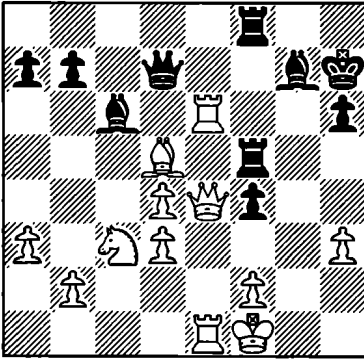
The obvious 19...f3+ was even simpler.

20 f4 ♚xh4 21 ♚xc5 ♙b3 22 ♙f1 ♙xf4 23 ♙h1 ♚f6 24 ♖e4 ♙xe4 25 ♙xe4 ♚f4+ 0-1

Puzzle 123

Ljubojevic-Spassky, London 1982
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♙b5 ♖d4 4 ♖xd4 exd4 5 0-0 c6 6 ♙c4 g6 7 c3 ♙g7 8 ♚f3 ♚e7 9 d3 ♖f6 10 cxd4 d5? 11 exd5 cxd5 12 ♙b5+ ♙f8 13 ♖c3 ♙e6 14 a3 h6 15 ♙f4 ♙g8 16 ♙fe1 ♙h7 17 ♙e5 ♙hd8 18 h3 ♙ac8 19 ♙a4 ♖g8 20 ♙b3 ♚d7 21 ♙a4 ♚e7 22 ♖e2 ♙d7 23 ♙b3 ♙c6 24 ♖c3 ♚d7 25 ♙e3 f6 26 ♙h2 ♖e7 27 g4 g5 28 ♙ae1 ♖g6 29 ♙g3 f5 30 gxf5 ♖f4 31 ♙xf4 gxf4 32 ♙e6 ♙g8 33 ♙f1 ♙cf8 34 ♙xd5 ♙xf5 35 ♚e4 ♙gf8



36 ♖xc6!

White was, of course, winning anyway, but this nets a further piece.

36...bxc6 37 ♖e6 1-0

Puzzle 124

Spassky-Duckstein, Zurich 1984

French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3 ♖b4 4 e5 c5 5 a3
 ♖xc3+ 6 bxc3 ♖e7 7 ♖f3 ♖a5 8 ♖d2
 ♖bc6 9 ♖e2 c4 10 0-0 ♖d7 11 ♖e1
 0-0-0 12 ♖f1 f6 13 g3 ♖g6 14 h4 fxe5
 15 dxe5

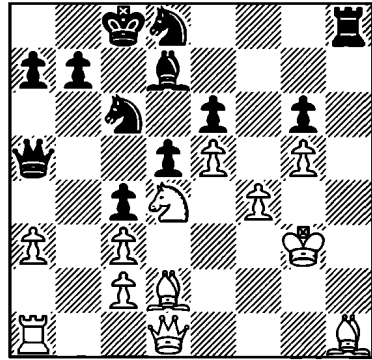
Maybe White should have tried 15 h5!? e4!? 16 ♖g5 ♖ge7 17 ♖f7 ♖hf8 18 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 with unclear play.

15...♖hf8 16 ♖h3 ♖de8 17 h5 ♖h8 18 ♖d4 ♖f7 19 f4 g6 20 ♖f3 ♖g8

Black has taken over the initiative and suddenly the white king is in trouble.

21 ♖h2 ♖g7 22 hxg6 hxg6 23 g4?! ♖h8
 24 ♖g3 ♖gh7 25 ♖g2 ♖e7 26 ♖d4 ♖c6
 27 g5 ♖fd8 28 ♖h1? ♖xh1 29 ♖xh1

(see following diagram)



29...♖xh1!

A simple tactic, winning material.

30 ♖xh1 ♖xd4 31 ♖d1

Black also wins after 31 cxd4 ♖xd2.

31...♖f5+ 32 ♖g4 ♖a4 33 ♖c1 ♖c5 34 ♖e1 b6 35 ♖h3 ♖c6 0-1

Puzzle 125

Spassky-Fischer, Reykjavik 1972

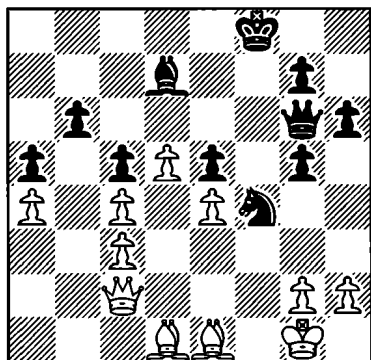
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 ♖b4 4 ♖f3 c5 5
 e3 ♖c6 6 ♖d3 ♖xc3+ 7 bxc3 d6 8 e4 e5
 9 d5 ♖e7 10 ♖h4 h6 11 f4 ♖g6! 12
 ♖xg6 fxg6 13 fxe5 dxe5 14 ♖e3 b6 15
 0-0 0-0 16 a4 a5 17 ♖b1 ♖d7 18 ♖b2
 ♖b8 19 ♖bf2 ♖e7 20 ♖c2 g5 21 ♖d2
 ♖e8 22 ♖e1 ♖g6 23 ♖d3 ♖h5 24
 ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 25 ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 26 ♖d1 ♖f4
 27 ♖c2??

(see following diagram)

27...♖xa4! 0-1

White is mated after 28 ♖xa4? ♖xe4
 29 ♖f2 ♖d3+ and Black wins the house
 following 28 ♖d2 ♖xd1 29 ♖xd1 ♖xe4
 30 ♖d2 ♖xg2.



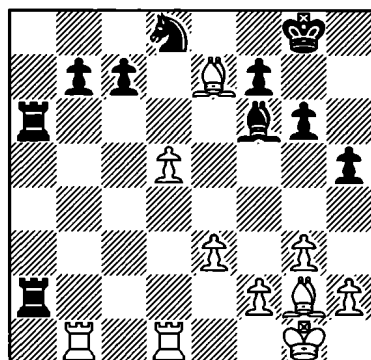
Puzzle 126

Najdorf-Spassky, Gothenburg 1955
King's Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 c4 ♗g7 4 g3 0-0 5 ♗g2 d6 6 0-0 ♘c6 7 ♘c3 ♗f5 8 b3 ♗e4 9 ♗b2 ♘xc3 10 ♗xc3 ♗e4 11 ♗c1 d5 12 e3 a5 13 ♗e2 e6 14 ♗fd1 a4 15 ♗f1! axb3 16 axb3 ♗e7 17 ♗e1 h5 18 ♘d3 dxc4 19 bxc4 ♗xd3 20 ♗xd3 ♗a7 21 ♗b1 ♗fa8 22 ♗g2 ♘d8 23 ♗b4 ♗d7 24 ♗e4 ♗a2 25 d5 exd5 26 cxd5

White is positionally winning.

26... ♗b2 27 ♗b1 ♗f6 28 ♗f4 ♗g7 29 ♗g5 ♗a6 30 ♗e7 ♗xe7 31 ♗xe7 ♗f6



32 d6!!

A pawn sacrifice to open the d-file.
32... ♗xd6 33 ♗xf6! ♗xf6 34 ♗xd8+ ♖g7 35 f4 b6 36 ♗d7 ♗c2 37 ♗d5 c6 38 ♗g2 g5 39 fxg5 ♗f5 40 ♗e4 1-0

Puzzle 127

Spassky-Sax, Clermont-Ferrand 1989
Closed Sicilian

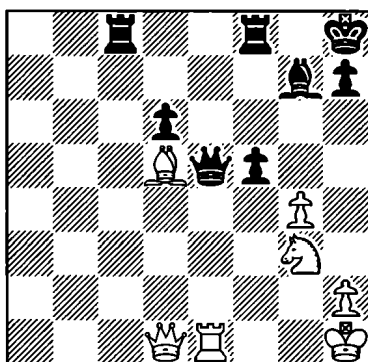
1 e4 c5 2 ♘c3 ♘c6 3 g3 g6 4 ♗g2 ♗g7 5 d3 d6 6 ♘ge2 e6 7 a3 ♘ge7 8 0-0 0-0 9 ♗b1 b6 10 b4 ♗b7 11 ♗d2 ♗d7 12 f4 ♗ac8 13 bxc5 bxc5 14 g4 f5! 15 ♘g3 ♘d4 16 ♗xb7?!

An understandable try, but probably incorrect.

16... ♗xb7 17 exf5 ♗b2 18 fxe6 ♘xc2 19 ♘ce2 c4 20 dxc4 ♘xa3 21 ♗e3?

21 f5!, with the idea of 22 ♗g5, was much better.

21... ♘xc4 22 ♗xa7 ♗a3 23 ♗f2 ♘e3 24 ♗xe3 ♗xe3+ 25 ♖h1 ♗xe6 26 f5 ♗e5 27 ♘f4 gxf5 28 ♘d5 ♘d5 29 ♗xd5+? ♖h8 30 ♗e1

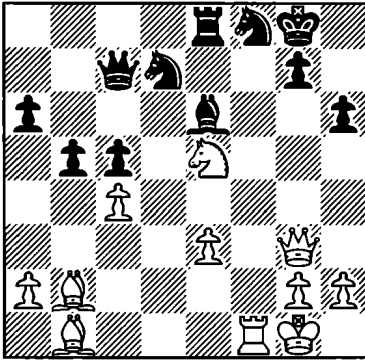


30... ♗c1!! 0-1

Either White loses a lot of material or is mated after 31 ♗xc1 ♗xd5+ 32 ♖g1 ♗d4+.

Puzzle 128**Keres-Spassky, Gothenburg 1955***Queen's Indian Defence*

1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♟f3 b6 4 e3 ♟b7 5
 ♟d3 ♟e7 6 0-0 0-0 7 b3 d5 8 ♟b2 ♟bd7
 9 ♟c3 c5 10 ♟e2 dxc4 11 bxc4 ♟c7 12
 ♟ad1 ♟ad8?! 13 d5 a6 dxe6 fxe6 15
 ♟g5 ♟c6 16 f4 h6 17 ♟f3 ♟c7 18 ♟h4!
 ♟d6 19 ♟b1 ♟fe8 20 ♟f2 ♟f8 21 ♟g3
 ♟h5 22 ♟h3 ♟f6 23 ♟g6 e5? 24 ♟d5
 ♟xd5 25 fxe5! ♟xe5 26 ♟xe5 ♟e6 27
 ♟g3 ♟xd1 28 ♟xd1 b5 29 ♟f1 ♟6d7?

**30 ♟xg7+! 1-0**

White wins too much material after
 30...♟xg7 31 ♟xd7+ ♟g8 32 ♟f6+ ♟f7
 33 ♟d5+.

Puzzle 129**Anand-Spassky, Cannes 1989***Ruy Lopez*

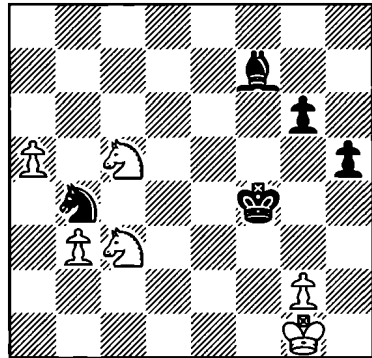
1 e4 e5 2 ♟f3 ♟c6 3 ♟b5 a6 4 ♟a4 ♟f6
 5 0-0 ♟e7 6 ♟e1 b5 7 ♟b3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9
 h3 ♟b8 10 d4 ♟bd7 11 c4 c6 12 a3 bxc4
 13 ♟xc4 d5 14 exd5 cxd5 15 ♟a2 e4 16
 ♟e5 ♟b7 17 ♟c3 ♟b6 18 f3 ♟c8 19
 ♟b3 ♟a8 20 ♟g5 ♟c7 21 ♟c1 ♟fd7 22

♟f4 ♟g5 23 ♟xg5 ♟xg5 24 fxe4 dxe4
 25 ♟g4 ♟xg4 26 ♟xg4 g6 27 ♟f2 ♟e8
 28 d5 ♟g7 29 ♟fxe4 ♟xd5 30 ♟d6
 ♟xe1+ 31 ♟xe1 ♟5f6?! 32 ♟e7 ♟c6 33
 ♟xf7+ ♟h6 34 ♟c4 ♟e6 35 ♟f2 ♟g5 36
 ♟c2 ♟c6 37 ♟d2 h5 38 ♟b3 ♟e5 39
 ♟a7 ♟eg4+ 40 hxg4 ♟xg4+ 41 ♟f1
 ♟e3+ 42 ♟g1 ♟xc2 43 ♟xa6 ♟d7 44
 ♟xe6 ♟xe6 45 ♟c5

White has excellent winning chances with his extra pawn, but the outcome is still not fully decided.

45...♟c4 46 a4 ♟f4 47 a5?! ♟b4 48 b3
 ♟f7?

48...♟a6 was forced, after which Black could still struggle.

**49 ♟d3+!!**

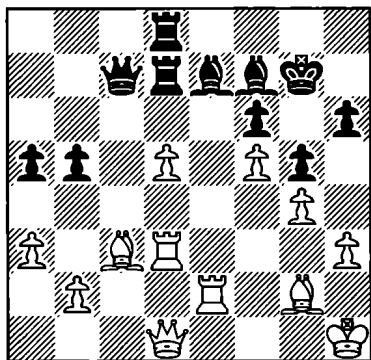
Now the a-pawn cannot be stopped.

49...♟xd3 50 a6 ♟e8 51 ♟d5+ 1-0

Diagram 130**Karpov-Spassky, Montreal 1979***Queen's Gambit Declined*

1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♟f3 d5 4 ♟c3 ♟e7 5
 ♟f4 0-0 6 e3 c5 7 dxc5 ♟c6 8 ♟c2 ♟a5
 9 a3 ♟xc5 10 ♟d1 ♟e7 11 ♟d2 ♟d7 12
 ♟e2 ♟fc8 13 0-0 ♟d8 14 cxd5 exd5 15

♖f3 h6 16 ♖e5! ♙e6 17 ♖xc6 ♜xc6 18
 ♙f3 ♜b6 19 ♙e5! ♖e4 20 ♜e2 ♖xc3 21
 ♙xc3 ♜d8 22 ♜d3 ♙cd6 23 ♜fd1 ♜d7
 24 ♜1d2 ♜b5 25 ♜d1 b6 26 g3 ♙f8 27
 ♙g2 ♙e7 28 ♜h5 a6 29 h3 ♜c6 30 ♖h2
 a5 31 f4 f6 32 ♜d1 ♜b5 33 g4 g5 34
 ♖h1 ♜c6 35 f5 ♙f7 36 e4 ♖g7 37 exd5
 ♜c7 38 ♜e2 b5



39 ♜xe7!

The final blow. White wins a piece as Karpov concludes a fine game.

39...♜xe7 40 d6 ♜c4 41 b3! 1-0

Puzzle 131

J. Polgar-B. Spassky, Budapest 1993

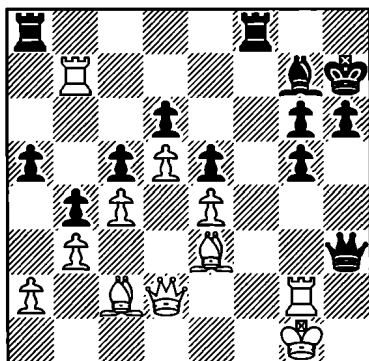
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 ♖f6
 5 0-0 ♙e7 6 ♜e1 b5 7 ♙b3 0-0 8 c3 d6 9
 h3 ♖b8 10 d4 ♖bd7 11 ♖bd2 ♙b7 12
 ♙c2 ♜e8 13 ♖f1 ♙f8 14 ♖g3 g6 15 b3
 ♙g7 16 d5 ♙f8 17 ♙g5 h6 18 ♙e3 c6 19
 c4 a5 20 ♜d2 ♖h7 21 ♖h2 b4 22 ♖g4
 ♖xg4 23 hxg4 ♜h4? 24 g5 c5 25 ♖f1 f6
 26 g3! ♜h3 27 f3!!

White suddenly has a tremendous attack.

27...fxg5 28 ♜e2 ♖f6 29 g4 ♜xf3 30

♖h2 ♜h3 31 ♜f1 ♖xg4 32 ♜f7+ ♙g7 33
 ♖xg4 ♖xg4+ 34 ♜g2 ♜h3 35 ♜xb7 ♜f8



36 ♙xg5!

White eliminates a few black pawns and ends a full piece up.

36...hxg5 37 ♜xg5 ♜h6 38 ♜xh6+!

This was the point, whereas 38 ♜h2? ♜f1+! would have been an unfortunate mistake.

38...♖xh6 39 ♜h2+ ♖g5 40 ♜xg7 1-0

Puzzle 132

Fischer-Spassky, Sveti-Stefan 1992

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙xc6
 dxc6 5 0-0 f6 6 d4 exd4 7 ♖xd4 c5 8
 ♖b3 ♜xd1 9 ♜xd1 ♙g4 10 f3 ♙e6 11
 ♖c3 ♙d6 12 ♙e3 b6 13 a4 0-0-0 14 a5
 ♖b7 15 e5! ♙e7 16 ♜xd8 ♙xd8 17 ♖e4
 ♖c6?

17...♙xb3 was a sad necessity.

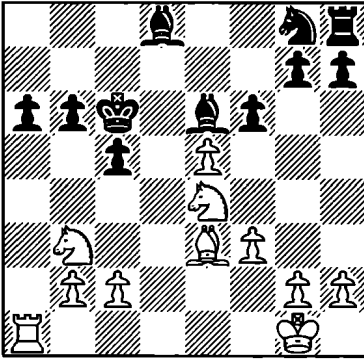
18 axb6 cxb6

(see following diagram)

19 ♖bxc5!

This is the correct sacrifice: 19

♖exc5? bxc5 20 ♖xa6+ ♗b6 21 ♗xc5
♗xb3 would have cost White a piece.



19...♗c8

Black collapses, but White would have won material after 19...bxc5 20 ♖xa6+ ♗b6 21 ♗xc5.

20 ♖xa6 fxe5 21 ♖b4+ 1-0

Puzzle 133

Spassky-Simagin, Moscow 1961

Closed Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 ♖c3 ♖c6 3 g3 g6 4 ♗g2 ♗g7 5
d3 d6 6 ♗ge2 ♖f6 7 ♗e3 0-0 8 h3 e5 9
0-0 ♗e6 10 f4 ♖d4 11 ♗d2 ♖e8 12 fxe5
dxe5 13 ♖d5 ♗xd5 14 exd5 ♖xe2+ 15
♗xe2

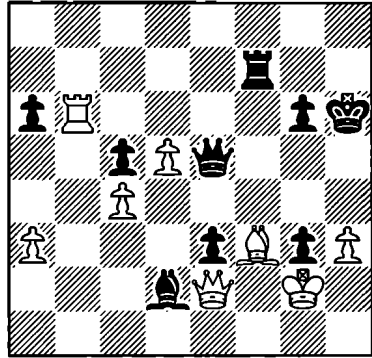
Another very successful Closed Sicilian for Spassky. The two bishops should account for a slight edge.

15...b6 16 ♖ab1 ♖d6 17 a3 ♖c8 18 c4
♖e8 19 ♖be1 ♗d7 20 ♗h2 ♖f5 21 ♗f2?
♖xe3 22 ♖xe3 f5 23 ♖ee1 ♗d6 24 ♗h1
♖f8 25 ♗f3 ♖c7 26 ♗g2 h5 27 ♗d1 ♗f6
28 ♗a4 ♖cf7 29 ♗e2 ♗g7 30 ♖f3 ♖e7
31 ♗g2 ♗g5 32 ♖ff1 ♖ef7 33 ♗e2 ♖e7
34 ♗g2 a6 35 ♗c6 ♖ef7 36 b4 ♗d8 37
bxc5 bxc5 38 ♖b1 ♗c7 39 ♗a4 e4! 40

dxe4 fxe4 41 ♖xf7+ ♖xf7 42 ♗d1 e3 43
♗f3 h4 44 ♖f1 hxg3 45 ♗e2 ♗e5 46
♗g2 ♗a5 47 ♖b1 ♗h6?!

Black misses a simple win with 47...♖xf3! 48 ♗xf3 (or 48 ♗xf3 ♗f5+) 48...e2, winning a piece.

48 ♖b3 ♗d2 49 ♖b6



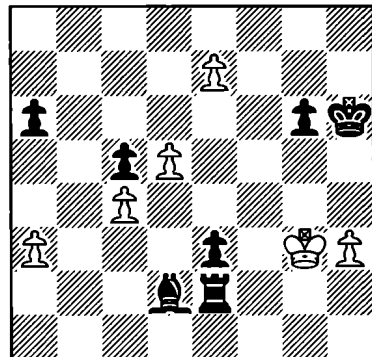
49...♖xf3!! 50 ♖e6!

Spassky does not go down without a fight. We certainly hope that you anticipated this defence, especially because both 50 ♗xf3 ♗h5+ and 50 ♗xf3 e2 were all over on the spot.

50...♗xe6! 51 dxe6 ♖f2+ 52 ♗xg3!

Again the best defence.

52...♖xe2 53 e7



53...♖g2+!!

Otherwise White escapes with a perpetual.

54 ♖xg2 e2 55 e8 ♖e1 ♖

Now there is no perpetual because Black's queen covers the e7-square.

56 ♖f8+ ♖h5 57 ♖xc5+ ♖g5 0-1

Puzzle 134

Spassky-Tal, Montreal 1979

Queen's Indian Defence

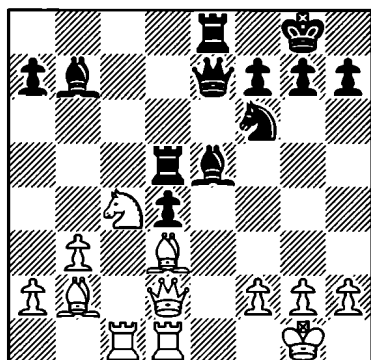
1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘f3 b6 4 e3 ♖b7 5 ♖d3 d5 6 b3 ♖d6 7 0-0 0-0 8 ♖b2 ♘bd7 9 ♘bd2 ♖e7 10 ♖c1 ♖ad8 11 ♖c2 c5 12 cxd5 exd5 13 dxc5 bxc5 14 ♖c3 ♖fe8 15 ♖fd1

White has played the opening less than perfectly, inviting Black to play a classic break.

15...d4!? 16 exd4 cxd4 17 ♖a5?

17 ♘xd4!? was the critical move, but Spassky apparently found it risky. However, had he known how the game would continue, he would probably have found it worth the risk.

17...♗e5 18 ♘xe5 ♖xe5 19 ♘c4 ♖d5 20 ♖d2



20...♖xh2+!

The famous Greek gift sacrifice, but here with a twist!

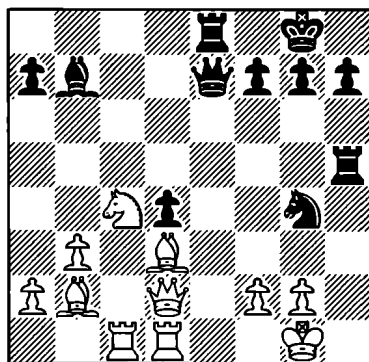
21 ♖xh2 ♖h5+!

Spassky had missed this beautiful detail. It was thought at the time that after 21...♗g4+ White could defend with 22 ♖g3!, but actually Black still has a winning attack with 22...♖g5 or 22...♗xf2! 23 ♖xf2 ♖c7+ 24 ♖g4 ♖h2! and White has no defence against ...h5+.

22 ♖g1

22 ♖g3 now loses to 22...♗e4+ 23 ♖xe4 ♖h4+ 24 ♖f3 ♖xe4+ 25 ♖g3 ♖h4 mate.

22...♗g4 0-1



The end could be 23 f3 ♖h1+ 24 ♖xh1 ♖h4+ 25 ♖g1 ♖h2+ 26 ♖f1 ♖h1 mate.

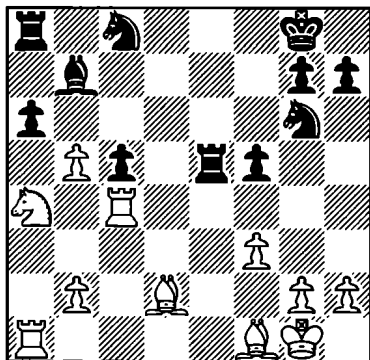
Puzzle 135

Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♖b4 4 e3 0-0 5 ♖d3 b6 6 ♘ge2 d5 7 0-0 dxc4 8 ♖xc4 ♖b7 9 f3 c5 10 a3 cxd4 11 axb4 dxc3 12

♖xc3 ♜c6 13 b5 ♜e5 14 ♙e2 ♜c7 15 e4
 ♜fd8 16 ♜e1 ♜c5+ 17 ♜f2 ♜e7 18 ♜a3
 ♜e8 19 ♙f4 ♜g6 20 ♙e3 ♜d6 21 ♜fa1
 ♜c8 22 ♙f1 f5 23 exf5 exf5 24 ♜a4 ♜e8
 25 ♙d2 ♜c5 26 ♜xc5 bxc5 27 ♜c4 ♜e5
 28 ♜a4 a6



29 ♖xc5!

White has a solid advantage after 29 bxa6, but in the game he manages to win two pieces for a rook.

29...axb5 30 ♖xb7!

The point.

30...♜xa1 31 ♜xc8+ ♜f7 32 ♜d8+ ♜e7
 33 ♜c6+ ♜d7 34 ♜xe5+ ♜xc8 35 ♜xg6
 hxg6 36 ♙c3 ♜b1 37 ♜f2 b4 38 ♙xg7
 1-0

Puzzle 136

Korchnoi-Spassky, Belgrade 1977

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 c4 e6 2 ♜c3 d5 3 d4 ♙e7 4 ♜f3 ♜f6 5
 ♙g5 0-0 6 e3 h6 7 ♙h4 b6 8 ♜c1 ♙b7 9
 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 10 cxd5 exd5 11 b4 c6

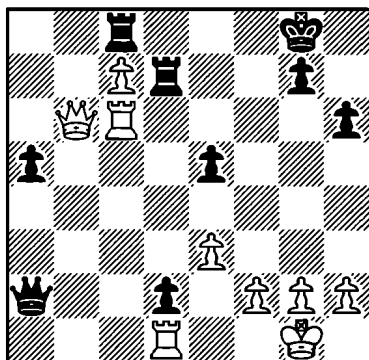
This set-up was very successful for Spassky, and later for Beliavsky, Short and Kramnik.

12 ♙e2 ♜d7 13 0-0 a5 14 b5 c5 15 dxc5

♖xc5 16 ♜d4 ♜d6 17 ♙g4!? ♜fd8 18
 ♜e1 ♜e6 19 ♙xe6!? fxe6 20 ♜c6! ♙xc6
 21 bxc6 ♙xc3 22 ♜xc3 ♜ac8 23 ♜c2
 e5!? 24 c7 ♜d7 25 ♜c1 d4 26 ♜c6 ♜d5
 27 ♜b1!!

Korchnoi has seen far ahead.

27...d3 28 ♜xb6 d2 29 ♜d1 ♜xa2



30 h3!!

Very well calculated. Instead 30 ♜b7 ♜a4!! (30...♜a1? 31 ♜xc8+ ♜h7 loses to a most beautiful double sacrifice: 32 ♜h8+! ♜xh8 33 ♜xh6+! gxh6 34 c8♜+ and White wins) 31 ♜xc8+ ♜h7 has been given by most sources as winning for Black, but White can actually still draw with 32 h3!! ♜xc6! 33 ♜xd2! ♜c1+ 34 ♜h2 ♜xd2 35 ♜b8 ♜xc7 36 ♜xc7.

30...♜a4

Instead 30...♜h8 31 ♜b7 ♜g8 was the best try, although White should still win, such as after 32 ♜a6 ♜dxc7 33 ♜xc7 ♜xc7 34 ♜xa5 ♜d8 35 ♜xd2.

31 ♜xd2!

The decider.

31...♜xd2 32 ♜b7 ♜dd8 33 cxd8♜+
 ♜xd8 34 ♜c7!

Forcing Black to part with his cru-







cial e-pawn.

34... ♖a1+ 35 ♙h2 e4 36 ♜xe4 ♜f6 37
f4 ♜f8 38 ♠a7 ♜c5 39 ♜b7 ♜c3 40 ♜e7
♠f8 41 e4 ♜d4 42 f5 h5 43 ♜xa5 ♜d2
44 ♜e5 ♜g5 45 ♠a6 ♠f7 46 ♠g6 ♜d8 47
f6 h4 48 fxg7 1-0

Puzzle 137

Fischer-Spassky, Sveti-Stefan 1992

Sicilian Rossolimo

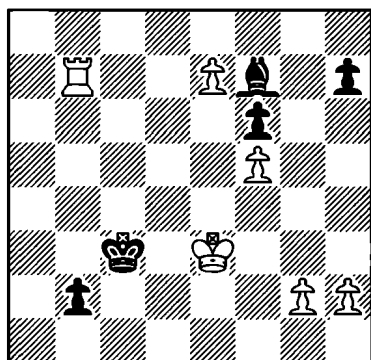
**1 e4 c5 2 f3 c6 3 b5 g6 4 xc6
bxc6 5 0-0 g7 6 e1 e5**

Later in the match Spassky introduced 6...♘h6!.

7 b4!? cxb4 8 a3 c5 9 axb4 cxb4 10 d4
exd4 11 ♙b2 d6 12 ♜xd4 ♚d7 13 ♜d2
♙b7 14 ♜c4 ♜h6 15 ♜f5! ♙xb2 16
♜cxd6+ ♙f8 17 ♜xh6 f6 18 ♜df7 ♚xd1
19 ♚axd1 ♙e7 20 ♜xh8 ♚xh8 21 ♜f5+!

This tactic decides the game.

21...gxf5 22 exf5+ ♙e5 23 f4 ♜c8 24
fxe5 ♜xc2 25 e6 ♙c6 26 ♜c1 ♜xc1 27
♜xc1 ♙d6 28 ♜d1+ ♙e5 29 e7 a5 30
♜c1 ♙d7 31 ♜c5+ ♙d4 32 ♜xa5 b3 33
♜a7 ♙e8 34 ♜b7 ♙c3 35 ♙f2 b2 36 ♙e3
♙f7



37 g4!!

Now it's zugzwang! The main point is, of course, that White needs to do something useful before Black plays ...♖c2 and queens his pawn.

37...♔c2 38 ♖d4 b1♗ 39 ♖xb1 ♔xb1 40 ♔c5

And not 40 g5? ♔c2! when Black holds.

40...♔c2 41 ♔d6 ♔d3 42 ♔d7 ♔e4 43 e8♗+ ♔xe8+ 44 ♔xe8

We can now see why it had to be 37 g4!; the f5-pawn is defended and White wins.

44...♔f4 45 ♔f7 ♔g5 46 ♔e6 1-0

Puzzle 138

Karpov-Spassky, USSR 1973

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♟f3 ♜c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 ♟f6
5 0-0 ♙e7 6 ♚e1 b5 7 ♙b3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9
h3 ♜b8 10 d3 ♙b7 11 ♜bd2 ♜bd7 12
♟f1 ♚e8 13 ♜g3 ♜c5 14 ♙c2 ♙f8 15 b4
♜cd7 16 d4 h6 17 ♙d2 ♜b6 18 ♙d3 g6
19 ♜c2 ♟fd7 20 ♚ad1 ♙g7 21 dxe5!
dxe5 22 c4 bxc4 23 ♙xc4 ♜e7? 24
♙b3!! c5 25 a4 c4 26 ♙a2 ♙c6 27 a5
♙a4 28 ♜c1 ♜c8 29 ♙xh6 ♙xd1 30
♜xd1 ♜d6?

30...♖a7 31 ♙xg7 ♔xg7 32 ♚xc4
with a clear plus for White was favour-
able to what now occurs.

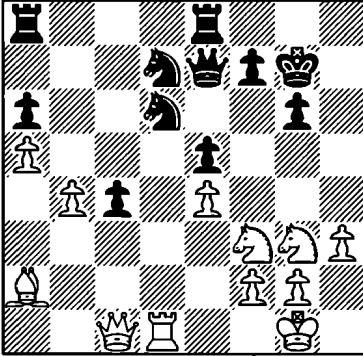
31 ♖xg7 ♔xg7

(see following diagram)

32 🖐️pg5!!

Exploiting the fact that it is hard to defend the two knights, especially after 32...♗xg5 33 ♜xg5.

32...f6 33 ♖g4 ♘h7 34 ♜h4! 1-0



Spassky resigned since White wins after both 34...♜f8 35 ♜xg6! ♜xg6 36 ♖h5+ ♘g7 37 ♖xd6 and 34...♖g8 35 ♖xd6 ♖xd6 36 ♜hf5.

Puzzle 139

Petrosian-Spassky, Moscow 1969

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 c4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘f3 ♙e7 4 ♜c3 ♘f6 5 ♙g5 0-0 6 e3 h6 7 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 8 ♖d2 b6 9 cxd5 exd5 10 b4 ♙b7 11 ♖b1 c6 12 ♙d3 ♘d7 13 0-0 ♖e8 14 ♖fc1 a5 15 bxa5 ♖xa5 16 ♙f5 ♖a6 17 ♖b3 g6 18 ♙d3 ♖a7 19 ♖cb1 ♙g7 20 a4 ♖e7 21 ♙f1 ♙a6 22 h4 ♙xf1 23 ♖xf1 h5 24 ♖e1 ♖aa8 25 g3 ♖d6 26 ♘g2 ♘f8 27 ♖eb1 ♘g8 28 ♖d1 ♙f8 29 ♖b2 ♙g7 30 ♖c2 ♖a7 31 ♖bc1 ♘b8?! 32 ♘e2 ♖c7 33 ♖d3 ♖a7 34 ♖b3 ♖a6 35 ♘f4

White has been allowed to build up an edge. Now Black should probably hurry up with an exchange sacrifice in order to hold.

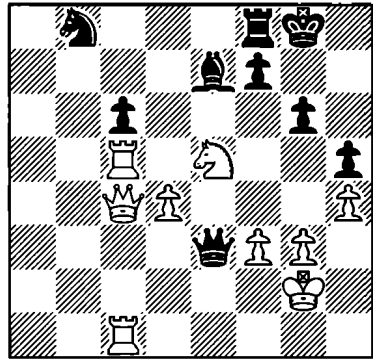
35...♖d8?! 36 ♘d3 ♙f8 37 ♘fe5 ♖c8 38 ♖c3 ♙e7 39 ♘f4 ♙f6 40 ♘ed3 ♖a5 41 ♖xb6 ♖xa4 42 ♖c5! ♖a6 43 ♖xd5! ♖xf4

44 ♖xa6 ♖e4+ 45 f3 ♖e6 46 ♖c4 ♖xe3 47 ♘e5 ♖f8 48 ♖c5

48 ♖d6 was again simpler.

48...♙e7

It looks as if White has gone and thrown it all away, but he still has one resource:



49 ♖b1!! ♙xc5

White also wins after 49...♙d6 50 ♘xg6 ♙xc5 51 ♘xf8.

50 ♖xb8! 1-0

Black resigned due to 50...♘h8 51 ♘xf7+ ♘g7 52 ♖b7.

Puzzle 140

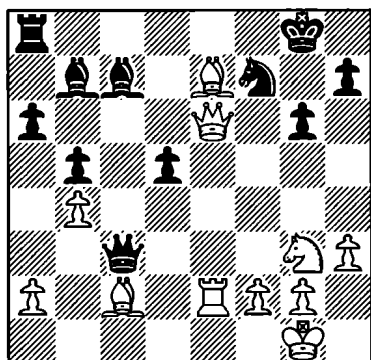
J.Polgar-Spassky, Hoogeveen 1998

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙b5 a6 4 ♙a4 ♘f6 5 0-0 ♙e7 6 ♖e1 b5 7 ♙b3 d6 8 ♘c3 0-0 9 h3 ♘b8 10 d4 ♘bd7 11 ♘bd2 ♙b7 12 ♙c2 ♖e8 13 ♘f1 exd4 14 cxd4 d5 15 e5 ♘e4 16 ♘3d2 ♘xd2 17 ♙xd2 c5 18 ♘e3 g6 19 ♘g4 ♙f8 20 dxc5 ♙xc5 21 ♘h6+ ♘g7 22 ♖f3 f6 23 e6 ♘f8 24 b4 ♙b6 25 e7 ♖xe7 26 ♖xe7+ ♖xe7 27 ♖e1 ♖d8 28 ♘g4 ♘d7 29 ♖f4 ♘f7 30 ♖h6 ♖g8 31 ♖h4 ♖h8 32 ♘h6+ ♘f8 33 ♖g4

33 ♖f4! was the first of several faster wins which Polgar misses.

33...f5 34 ♖xf5 ♖f6 35 ♙g5 ♖c3 36 ♜e2 ♙c7 37 ♖g3 ♖e5 38 ♖e6 ♖f7 39 ♙e7+?! ♙g8



40 ♖h5!! ♙xh5?!

The toughest defence, 40...♙e5!, is met by the surprising 41 ♖f1! and Black has no defence against the threat of ♙xg6, so he has to go in for 41...♖c6 42 ♜xe5 ♖xe6 43 ♜xe6 ♙xh5 44 ♙c5 when he is completely dominated and about to lose various pawns. Instead 40...♖c6 loses to 41 ♖f6+ ♙g7 42 ♖xh7! and White wins because of 42...♖xe6 43 ♜xe6 ♙xh7 44 ♜xg6!.

41 ♙f6! 1-0

After 41...♖c6 42 ♙xh7+! Black is mated.

Puzzle 141

Spassky-Fressinet, Paris 2001

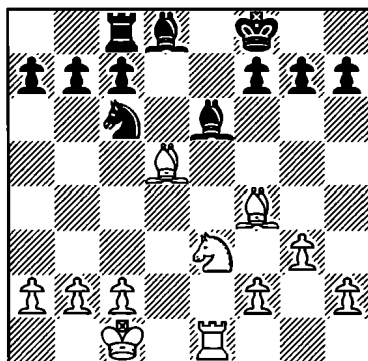
(see following diagram)

18...♙xd5??

Black missed the decisive punch 18...g5! 19 ♙xc6 ♙xf4, winning a piece

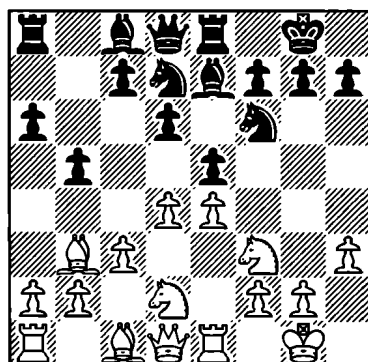
due to the double threat.

19 ♖xd5 ♖e7 20 ♖xe7 ♙xe7 ½-½



Puzzle 142

J. Polgar-Spassky, Budapest 1993

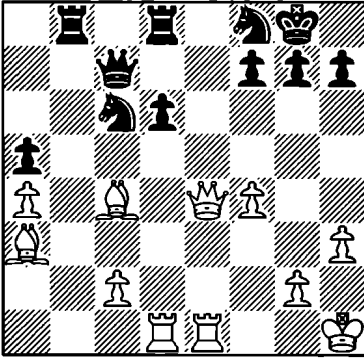


Spassky has badly mixed up his move order in this Ruy Lopez. The game actually returned to normal lines after 12 ♖f1? ♙b7, but 12 ♙xf7+! would have won instantly, since 12...♙xf7 13 ♖g5+ ♙g8 14 ♖e6 traps Black's queen.

Puzzle 143

Spassky-Xie Jun, Copenhagen 1997

(see following diagram)

**28 c3?**

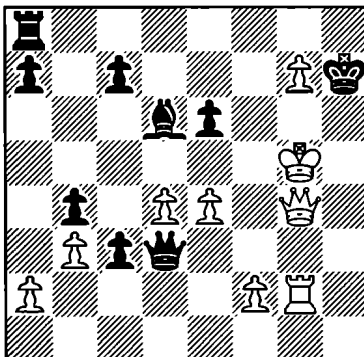
Spassky missed a fabulous detail: 28 ♙xf7+!! ♜xf7 (or 28... ♙xf7 29 ♜d5+ ♙f6 30 ♙xd6 and White wins) 29 ♜xc6 ♜bc8 30 ♙xd6!! (the most elegant win, although 30 ♜d5 is probably also good enough) 30... ♜xc6 31 ♙xd8 and White reaches a winning ending.

28... ♙a7 29 ♙d4 ♙c8 30 ♜f5 ♙b6 31 ♙a2 ♜b7 32 ♜e3 ♜c6 33 ♜g3? d5 34 c4 ♜e6 35 ♜g5 f6 36 ♜h5?

The rest of the game can be found under Puzzle 118 on page 144.

Puzzle 144

Spassky-Polugaevsky, Moscow 1961

**34 ♖h5??**

White was winning immediately with 34 ♙f6! ♜xd4+ 35 ♙f7 when his king is actually quite safe.

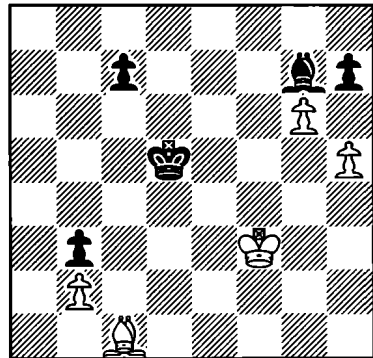
34...♜b5+! 35 ♖h4?

After 35 e5! ♜e8+ 36 ♖h4 ♙e7+ 37 ♖h3 ♙g8! 38 ♖h2! ♜f7 39 ♜h3 ♜f4+ 40 ♖g1 ♜c1+ (Kasparov) Black has no more than a perpetual.

35... ♙e7+ 36 ♖h3 ♜g5! 37 ♜xg5 ♙xg5 38 ♙xg5 ♙d8 39 f4? ♙g8 40 ♙c5 ♙xd4 41 ♙xc7 ♙xe4 42 ♖g4 e5 43 a3 ♙xf4+ 44 ♖g5 a5 45 ♖g6 ♙g4+ 46 ♙f6 ♖h7 47 g8♜+ ♖xg8 48 ♖xe5 ♙g1 49 ♙f6 ♙f1+ 50 ♖e5 ♙b1 0-1

Puzzle 145

Spiridonov-Spassky, Sochi 1973



Even great players violate the rules when their calculation tells them that doing so makes sense, but here Black should have avoided generating a weakness on h6.

35...h6??

35... hxg6! was the correct move. Black wins after 36 hxg6 c5 37 ♙e2 c4 38 ♙f3 (38 ♙d2 no longer works; after 38... ♙xb2 39 ♙h6 ♙e6! Black will win

the g-pawn and the game) 38...♖d4 39
 ♖e2 ♖e4 40 ♖d2 ♖f5 41 ♖e3 ♗f6 42
 ♖f3 ♗d4 43 ♖e2 ♖xg6 44 ♖f3 ♖f5 45
 ♖e2 ♖e4 46 ♖d1 ♖d3.

36 ♔e2 c5 37 ♖d2!

Probably missed by Spassky. Now
White draws without great trouble.

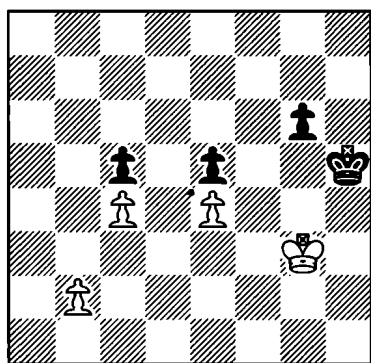
37...c4

37...♙b2 38 ♖xh6 ♕e6 is not the same as before, as White has two pawns instead of one! After 39 ♖d3 ♙d4 40 ♙c1! b2 (40...♗f6 41 ♖c4 is an immediate draw) 41 ♙b2 ♙b2 42 ♖c4 ♙d4 43 h6 ♗f6 44 g7 White cannot win back the piece, but Black also cannot make progress.

38 ♖c3! ♜xc3 39 bxc3 ♔e6 ½-½

Puzzle 146

Weih-Spassky, Bundesliga 1983



This exercise is tricky as the solution is to do nothing - that is until the black king enters via g4 or h3. In the game White panicked and went straight into a lost queen endgame.

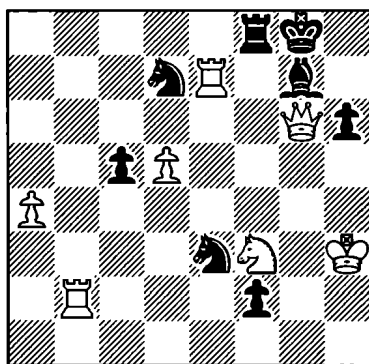
42 b4??

Correct was 42 ♔f3 g5 (42...♔h4 43 ♔f2 ♔g4 44 b4! is quite similar) 43 ♔g3

g4 44 ♖h2 ♕h4 45 ♖g2 g3 and then the great waiting move 46 b3!!.. Then 46...♖g4 47 b4! works, with a complete draw arising from 47...cxb4 48 c5 b3 49 c6 b2 50 c7 b1♖ 51 c8♖+ ♕f4 52 ♖f5+ ♖e3 53 ♖xe5 ♖xe4+ 54 ♖xe4+ ♕xe4 55 ♕xg3. 42...cxb4 43 c5 b3 44 c6 b2 45 c7 b1♖ 46 c8♖ ♖d3+ 0-1

Puzzle 147

Korchnoi-Spassky, St Petersburg 1999



30...f1♠+?

It feels so unfair, but queening with check is the decisive mistake. Black should only have done so after first removing the key defensive f3-knight: 30...♟f3+! 31 ♔h2 (31 ♔h4? would be bad because of 31...♞f5+ 32 ♜g4 ♞g3+ 33 ♜xf5 ♔1♖+ and Black wins) 31...♞h3+!! 32 ♜xh3 ♔1♖+ 33 ♜h2 ♜f4+ 34 ♜g1 (or 34 ♜h3?! ♜f3+ 35 ♜h2 ♞g4+ 36 ♜g1 ♜d1+ 37 ♜g2 ♜xd5+ and Black has the initiative in this unclear position) 34...♜f1+ and neither side can safely deviate from the perpetual.

31 ♔h2 ♘f5 32 ♖g2

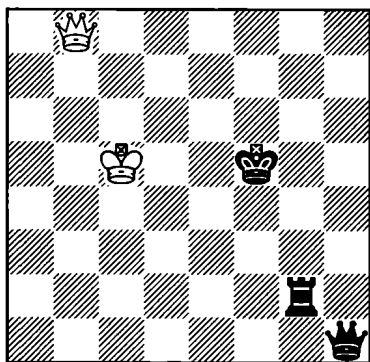
Black cannot defend g7. He therefore has to give up his newly-acquired

queen after which he is quite lost.

32... ♖xg2+ 33 ♔xg2 ♜xe7 34 ♜e6+
 ♜f7 35 ♜xd7 ♜f5 36 ♜c8+ ♜f8 37 ♜e5
 ♜g7+ 38 ♜h3 ♜d6 39 ♜e6+ ♜h7 40
 ♜d7 ♜e7 41 ♜xc5 1-0

Puzzle 148

Spassky-Filip, Bucharest 1953



Giving perpetual check in positions like this is very difficult. Here a very young Boris Spassky failed to do so:

68 ♜f8+?

The only draw was 68 ♜c8! when Black cannot get out of the checks: 68... ♜g5 69 ♜d8+ ♜f4 70 ♜b8+ ♜e3 71 ♜b3+ ♜f2 72 ♜b2+ ♜g1 73 ♜a1+ ♜h2 74 ♜h8+ with a picturesque finish.

68... ♜e4 69 ♜a8+ ♜e3 70 ♜a3+ ♜f4!

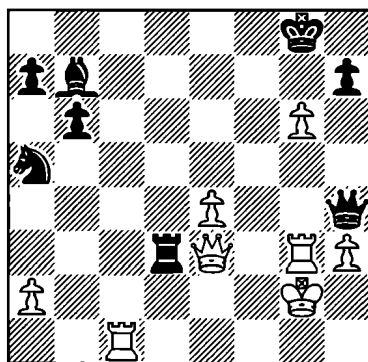
This is the great difference from the line given above, since White can no longer answer ... ♜f4 with ♜b8+.

71 ♜b4+ ♜g5 72 ♜b5 ♜h3 0-1

Puzzle 149

Spassky-Stein, Moscow 1971

White now squandered his brilliant position with a few bad moves.



28 ♜c8+?!

Another sub-optimal option was 28 ♜d3?!, although after 28... ♜xe4+ 29 ♜h2 ♜xd3 (Black has a heavy material lead, but the g-pawn still has potential and White the advantage) 30 ♜c8+ ♜g7 31 ♜c7+ ♜f6 32 g7 ♜f4 33 g8 ♜ ♜xc7 34 ♜g5+! ♜e6 35 ♜e3+ White emerges an exchange ahead and should, with good technique, win the endgame.

The strongest move was 28 gxf7+! after which 28... ♜xh7 29 ♜c7+ ♜h8 reaches a critical position. Originally Kotov gave 30 ♜xd3? ♜xe4+ 31 ♜f3 ♜g5+ 32 ♜h2 ♜xd3 33 ♜f8+, but after 33... ♜g8 the endgame is a draw. Then 30 years later Kasparov turned on Fritz and found 30 ♜f3!! ♜xe4 31 ♜h2!! which leads to a decisive attack.

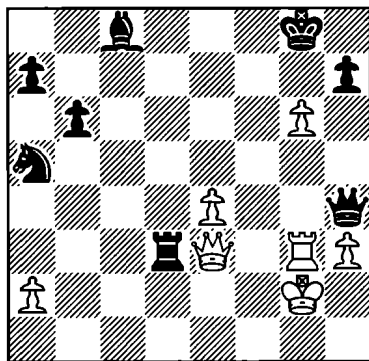
28... ♜xc8

(see following diagram)

29 gxf7+?

White could still have won according to the computer with 29 ♜xd3! hxg6 30 ♜d5+ ♜g7 31 ♜c3 ♜xh3+ 32 ♜xh3 ♜g4+ 33 ♜g3 ♜e2+ 34 ♜h3 ♜f1+

35 ♖g4 ♜e2+ 36 ♖g5 ♜h5+ 37 ♖f4 ♜h4+ 38 ♖f3 and the checks will soon be over.



29... ♖xh7 30 ♜xd3 ♜f6 ½-½

A great defensive move after which Black can defend, although his position probably remains a little uncomfortable.

Puzzle 150

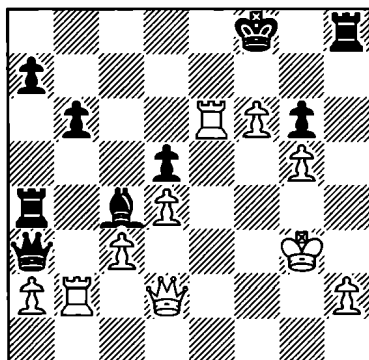
Spassky-Panno, Lucerne 1985

(see following diagram)

42... ♙d3?

This loses fairly straightforwardly, but 42... ♙f1! was a much better defence. After 43 h4 ♙xd4!! 44 ♜xd4 ♜xb2 45 ♜xd5 (45 ♜e8+ ♖xe8 46 f7+ is only a draw) 45... ♜xc3+ 46 ♖f2 ♜c5+! 47 ♜xc5+ bxc5 48 ♖xf1 ♙xh4 Black has reasonable chances in the rook endgame.

43 ♜f4! ♙f5 44 ♜be2 ♜xc3+ 45 ♖g2 1-0



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