

# Dan Meinking's Chess Problem Collection

rev. 9-Sep-2011

{ this free PDF can be downloaded from the **Parry Series & CapZug Hub** page at: <http://parryserieshub.chessproblems.ca> }

This collection presents 236 chess problems created (or co-created) by your humble correspondent over the span of roughly 30 years. Only the best of 400+ published works appear here. Problems are arranged in sections, by genre and length. Each contains brief comments.

I've stored my personal collection in the excellent PDB (Problem Database) software for many years. A number of the selected problems cite predecessors listed on the [PDB](#) website. These references are in the form [Pnnnnnnn](#), where [nnnnnnn](#) is the 7-digit PDB problem-ID. Simply click a particular [Pnnnnnnn](#) link to see that comparison problem. To see all problems of mine on the PDB website, click [here](#).

For those new to chess problems, I recommend the [StrateGems](#) website, in particular the [Beginner's Corner](#) forum which will help explain much of the [terminology](#) used herein. The majority of my problems are [Helpmates](#). A fair number are of the [Series-Movers and Stalemates](#) and [Proof Games](#) genres. And a still smaller group are of the [Two Movers](#), [Three Movers](#) and Endgames varieties.

Thanks to [Reb Orrell](#), who built and continues to maintain the StrateGems website, and to David L. Brown who developed the [chess fonts](#) for the site and this document. For those curious, I have [my own page](#) on the site. You'll find an interesting chess game there as well.

Tournament chessplayers and chess composers are familiar with the World Chess Federation, known as [FIDE](#). One of FIDE's member organizations, the World Federation for Chess Composition ([WFCC](#)) -- replacing the former PCCC -- produces a "FIDE Album" of the best problems published in a specified 3-year period. FIDE Album selections are made by a panel of judges, and must meet strict guidelines.

This collection denotes 25 **FIDE Album** items published up to and including the period 2001-2003. Footnote: I did not submit problems for the 1995-1997 FIDE Album due to politics within the PCCC at the time -- a regrettable decision as this was one of my more prolific periods. I also missed the 2004-2006 and 2007-2009 Album deadlines mainly due to my lack of composing during that time.

**July 1st, 2011:** In April 2009 I discovered a new genre now known as "**Parry Series**", denoted as **pser-\*** and **phser-\***. And in July 2010, I developed a new stipulation dubbed "**CapZug**" (capture-zugzwang), denoted as **xz**. Indeed, most of my recent composing has been in the Parry Series and "Zug Family" realms. Visit the [Parry Series & CapZug Hub](#) for rules and related developments. Be sure to check out Cornel Pacurar's [online forums](#) as well, which have private threads for Parry Series and CapZug collaborations.

For the record...

1975: my first chess tournament  
1977: my first published problem  
1984: U.S. Master of Chess  
1985: U.S. Expert of Chess Composition  
1995: U.S. Master of Chess Composition  
1998: co-founder of "[StrateGems](#)" (**SG**); section-editor through 2003  
2007: [FIDE Master](#) of Chess Composition

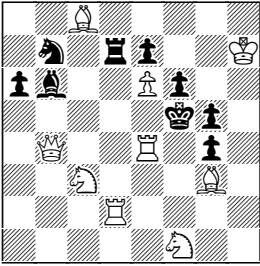
Please contact me (dmeinking /A/T/ roadrunner) if you find any errors, or additional comparison problems. I'll publish updates as needed.

Enjoy!

Dan

Directmates (#1)

DM / Chess Life 1987



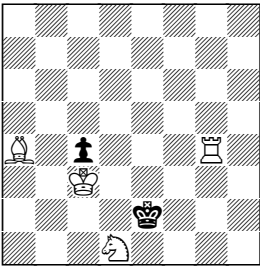
try: 1.Bh2? (random) (>Sg3#) Rd3!  
 try: 1.Bd6? (correction) (>Sg3#) exd6+!  
 try: 1.Re3? (>Qe4#) Rd4! (2.Se3??; 2.Rf2+ Rf4!)  
 try: 1.R4e2? (>Qe4#) Sc5! (2.Rdf2??; 2.Se3+ Kxe6!)

**1.Re1!** (>Qe4#) Bd4/Rd4/Sd6/Sc5 2.Qb1/Se3/Rd5/Rf2#

distinct replies to paired, matching shutoffs of Rd7 and Bb6

#2 (9+9)

DM / Chess Life 1984



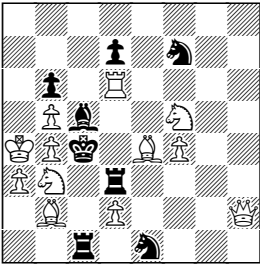
1.Bc6? Ke1!

**1.Be8!** (zz) Kf3 (Kf1) 2.Bh5! (zz) Ke2 (Ke1) 3.Rg1#  
 1...Ke1 2.Rg1+ (Bh5? Kf1!) Ke2 3.Bh5#  
 1...Kxd1 2.Re4 (zz) Kc1 3.Re1#

composed sans voir  
 shocking ambush (and flight-giving) key from a humble miniature

#3 (4+2)

DM / 2nd Honorable Mention (v) / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1993

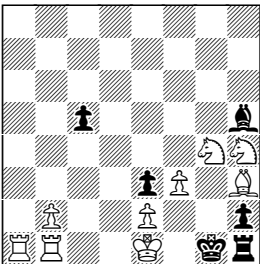


**1.Qh8!** (>) Rc2 2.**Qd4+** Bxd4/Rxd4 3.Bd5/Se3#  
 1...Bg1!? 2.**Bd4!** Bxd4/Rxd4/Sxd6 3.Bd5/Qc8(change)/Sxd6#  
 ( 2.Qd4+/Rd4+/Sfd4/Sbd4? Rxd4/Bxd4/Sxd6/Rxa3+! )  
 1...Rxd6 2.**d4!** Bxd4/Rxd4 3.Sd2/Se3# 1...Sxh8 2.**Rd4+!** Bxd4/Rxd4 3.Sd6/Se3#  
 1...Sxd6 2.Qd4+! Bxd4/Rxd4 3.Sxd6(change)/Se3# ( 1...R1c3 2.Bd5+ Rxd5 3.Qxc3# )  
 [ set: 1...Bg1 2.Qe2! ~ 3.Bd5# ]

counting the "avoided by-play" (1... Bg1!? 2.Sfd4/2..Sbd4?), **six** different units visit d4 with Nowotny effect

#3 (12+8)

DM / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1995-1997 / "after Ian T. Zimmerman"



1.Rc1? (>) c4 2.Rxc4 Bxg4/~ 3.Rxg4/0-0-0#  
 1...Bg6!/Be8 2.???/Rc2!

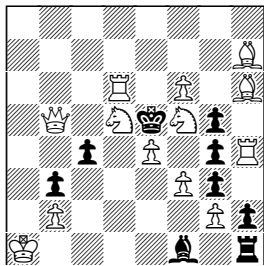
**1.Rd1!** (>) c4 2.Rd4 Bxg4/~ 3.Rxg4/0-0-0#  
 1...Bg6/Bf7/Be8 2.Rd3/Rd5/Rd7! ~ 3.0-0-0#

surprising duel between Rb1 and Bh5

#3 √ (9+6)

## Selfmates (s#n)

DM & David L. Brown / 2nd Honorable Mention / StrateGems 1998



Try: 1.Rb6/Ra6? gxh4!

**1.Rc6!** (>) Rg1 2.Sc3+ Kf4 3.Se2+ Bxe2#

1...gxf3 2.Sf4+ Kxe4 3.Rxc4+ Bxc4# (3.Qxc4+? Ke5!) [line: h4-e4]

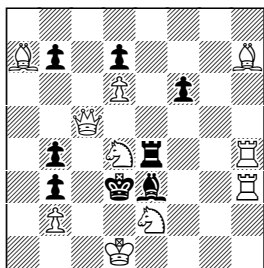
1...gxh4 2.f4+ Kxe4 3.Qxc4+ Bxc4# (3.Rxc4+? Kd3!) [line: h6-c1]

1...c3 2.Sb4+ Kf4 3.Sd3+ Bxd3# (2.Sxc3+? Bxb5+!) [line: b5-f1]

threefold WCCT-5 theme: Black opens a White line, which White closes

s#3 ✓ (13+9)

DM / 2nd Prize / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1994



**1.Qd5!** (zz) b6 2.Sf5+! (Sf3+?) Rd4 3.Qb5+ Rc4 4.Qa6! (zz) b5 5.Sc1+ Rxc1#

1...b5 2.Sf3+! (Sf5+?) Bd4 3.Qxb3+ Bc3 4.Sg3! (zz) f5 5.Se1+ Rxe1#

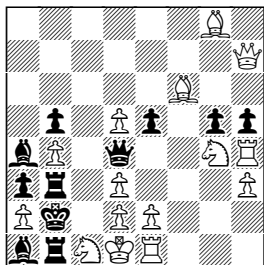
1...f5 2.Sxb3+! (Se6+?) Rd4 3.Bb6! (zz) Rxd5 4.Sc5+ Rxc5 5.Sc1+ Rxc1#

### FIDE Album

secondary zugzwangs in 3 variations accurately tweak the bR and bB

s#5 (10+8)

DM / 1st Honorable Mention / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1995-1997



set: 1...gxh4 2.Bxe5 Qxe5 3.Sxe5 (zz) Rc3#; 2.... Qc3 3.Bxc3+ Rxc3#

try: 1.Bxe5? Qxe5! 2.Sxe5 g4! try: 1.Qc7? (>Qxe5) Rxc1+!/Qxd5 2.???/Qc3+

try: 1.Qf5? (>Qxe5/Bxe5) Qxd5!/Qxd3/Qxb4 2.???/Qxe5+/Bxe5+

try: 1.Qe4? (>Qxe5/Bxe5) Qxd5!/Qxd3/Qxb4 2.???/Qxe5+/Qxb4(change)

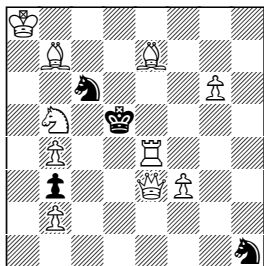
**1.Sxe5!** (zz) Q~/Qxd3/Qxb4/Qxd5/Qf2/Qb6/Qc3 2.S~/Sg6+/Sg4+/Sf7+/Sf3+/Sc6+/Sc4+ Q~ 3.BxQ+ R(x)c3#

1...gxh4/g4 2.Sg4(Sd7 dual)/Sxg4

six bQ corrections met by six wS corrections, plus amenities

s#3 √√√√ (15+11)

DM & David L. Brown / Commendation / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1992



**1.Sd6!** (zz) Sf2 2.Qd2+ Sd3 3.Qg5+ Sde5 4.Sc8! (zz) Ke6

5.Qg4+ Kd5 6.Qd7+ Sxd7 7.Sb6+ Sxb6#

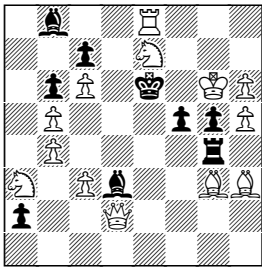
1...Sg3 2.Qg5+ Sf5 3.Qd2+ Sfd4 4.Se8! (zz) Kc4

5.Qe2+ Kd5 6.Qb5+ Sxb5 7.Sc7+ Sxc7#

non-symmetric key leads to symmetric lines

*Dave is responsible for many behind-the-scenes chess developments, including the [fonts](#) used in this PDF!*

s#7 (10+4)



- 1.Sxf5+ Kd5 2.Bg2+ Re4 3.Qxa2+ Bc4 4.Qd2+ Bd3  
5.Kxg5! (5.Qxg5? Bxb5!) Ba7 6.Kg6 Bb8 7.Se7+ Ke6 8.Bh3+ Rg4#

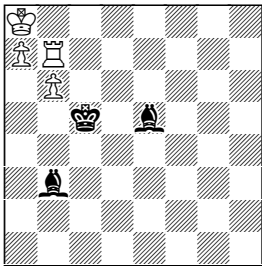
8 switchbacks (4 per side) in minimal time

*This is probably Mark's most widely acclaimed Selfmate: [P1081510](#). "There's no place like home!"*

s#8 (13+9)

Studies (win / draw)

DM / =2nd-3rd Prize & =Best U.S. Entry / Chess Life 1983



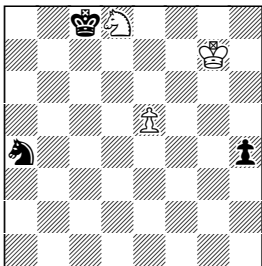
- 1.Rc7+? Kxb6! 2.Rb7+ Kc6 3.Rxb3 Bh2 =  
**1.Re7!** Bd5+ 2.b7 Bf4! /i 3.Rd7! /ii Be4 4.Rf7! Bd6 5.Re7! Bf3 /iii 6.Rd7 Bh2 7.Rd3! /iv Be4 8.Re3 Bd5 9.Rh3 Bc7 10.Rh5 +-  
i) 2...Bg3/Bh2 3.Rg7/Rh7 ~ 4.Rg5/Rh5 +- ii) 3.Rf7? Bxf7! 4.b8Q Bd5+ 5.Qb7 Bc6! =  
iii) 5...Bxe7 6.Kb8 Bd6+ 7.Kc8 +- iv) 7.Rd2? Bc7! 8.Rc2+ Kb6 =

wR methodically dominates the bB pair; black avoids forced trade/loss at all costs

*This shared honors with another gem by compatriot [Richard Becker](#), a top modern endgame composer.*

+ (4+3)

DM / Chess Life 1984 (v)



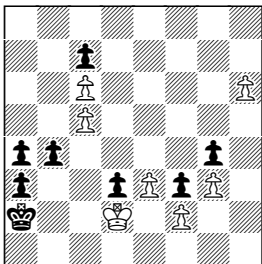
- 1.e6!** h3 2.e7 h2 3.e8=Q h1=Q 4.Sc6+ Kb7 5.Qb8+ Ka6 /i 6.Qa8+! Kb6 7.Qa5+ Kb7 8.Qa7+ /ii Kc8  
9.Qb8+ Kd7 10.Qd8+ Ke6 11.Sd4+! Ke5 12.Qf6+ Kd5 13.Qc6+ (+)

- i) ...Kxc6 must be avoided due to Qa8+ +-  
ii) if 8.Qb5+? Sb6 =

the taboo wSc6 helps white lasso the bK  
added bSa4 to stop dual on White's 8th

+ (3+3)

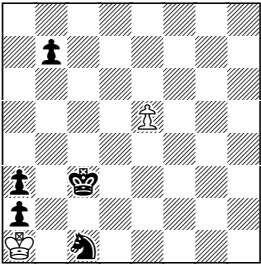
DM / Chess Life 1982 (v)



- 1.h7 b3! 2.h8=Q b2 3.Qg8+ Ka1 4.Qg7 Ka2 5.Qf7+ Ka1 6.Qf6 Ka2 7.Qe6+ Ka1 8.Qe5 Ka2 9.Qd5+ Ka1  
10.Qd4 Ka2 11.Qc4+ Ka1 12.Qxa4! Ka2 13.Qc4+ Ka1 14.Qb3! a2 15.Qc3 Kb1 16.Qxd3+ Ka1 17.Qd4 Kb1  
18.Qe4+ Ka1 19.Qe5 Kb1 20.Qf5+ Ka1 21.Qf6 Kb1 22.Qg6+ Ka1 23.Qg7 Kb1 24.Qh7+ Ka1 25.Qh8! Kb1 26.Qh1#

descending and ascending staircase maneuvers

+ (7+8)



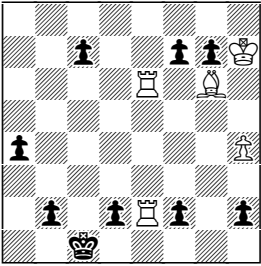
- 1.e6 b5!**/i 2.e7 b4 3.e8=Q b3 4.Qe1+!/ii Kc2/iii 5.Qf2+ Kd3 6.Qf1+!/iv Kd2 7.Qf4+!/v Ke2 8.Qc4+! Kf3 9.Qc6+!/vi +-  
 i) 1...Sb3+ 2.Kxa2 Sc1+ 3.Kxa3 b5 4.e7 b4+ 5.Ka4 b3 6.e8=Q b2 7.Qg6! (7.Qe4? Sd3 8.Qb7?? Sc5+) Sd3 8.Qb6! Kd2 9.Ka3 +-  
 ii) white must prevent Kb4/Kb5 always; black must avoid losing Sc1 with check iii) see comments below! black must avoid losing a3  
 iv/v) eyeing the bSc1 stops the K from crossing the c-file vi) black cannot avoid losing Pa3 in 2 more moves

the wQ systematically pursues the bPa3, keeping a close watch on bSc1 at all times

*The position after 4...Kc2 matches: DM, 4th HM, Chess Life 1983.*

+ (2+5)

DM / 3rd Prize / George Koltanowski 70JT 1983

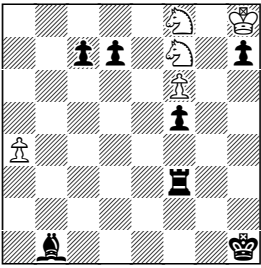


- 1.Rc6+** Kd1 2.Bh5 g6! 3.Bg4 f5! /i 4.Re1+! Kxe1 5.Re6+ Kf1 6.Bh3+ Kg1 7.Rxg6+ Kh1 8.Bg2+ /ii Kg1  
 9.Bc6+! Kf1 10.Bb5+ Ke1 11.Re6+ Kd1 12.Bxa4+ Kc1 13.Rc6+ Kb1 14.Bc2+! Kc1 15.Bxf5+! Kd1 16.Bg4+ Ke1  
 17.Re6+ Kf1 18.Bh3+ Kg1 19.Rg6+ Kh1 20.Bd7! (Bf5?) f1=Q! 21.Bc6+ Qg2 22.Rxg2! b1=Q+ 23.Rg6+ Qe4 24.Bxe4#  
 i) 3...f1=Q!? 4.Re7+! Qe2+ 5.Bxe2+! Ke1 6.Bb5+ Kf2 7.Rxf7+ Ke3 8.Rf1 +- is easiest  
 ii) 8.Bxf5? f1=Q 9.Be4+ Qg2 10.Rxg2 b1=Q! -+

after subtle introductory moves, white pushes the bK to-and-fro through the maze; my first awarded problem!

+ (5+9)

DM & Steven B. Dowd / 3rd Honorable Mention / StrateGems 2008



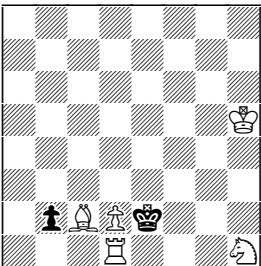
- 1.Sd8!** /i Ba2 /ii 2.Sfe6! /iii Bxe6 3.Sxe6 Rb3! 4.f7 Rb8+ 5.f8=Q /iv Rxf8+ 6.Sxf8 f4 /v 7.Sxh7 /vi f3 /vii  
 8.Sg5 f2 9.Se4 f1=S 10.Sg3+!! /viii Sxg3 11.a5 +- (the white pawn queens with a won position)  
 i) First clearance for the f6 pawn, tries: 1.Sg5/Se5? Rf4! =; ii) 1...Re3? 2.Sfe6! +-, iii) Second clearance.  
 iv) 4.f8R? Rxa4=; v) 6...h5 7.a5 +-, the h-pawn is too slow; vi) 7.Sxd7? f3=; 7.a5?, both f3! and d5 draw  
 vii) If 7...d5 white must switch gears: 8.Sf6! when the threat of taking on d5 wins (8.Sg5? c5! =); on 7...c5?  
 8.a5! f3 9.Sg5! f2 10.Se4 f1S (9...f1Q 10.Sg3+), and here no sac is needed as the S is too far removed; 10.a6 +-  
 viii) 10.a5? Se3, the position is still = with careful play: 11.a6 Sc4 12.a7 Sb6 13.Kg7 Kg2 14.Sf6! Kf3 15.Kf7 Sa8!  
 (15...d5 loses to 16.Sxd5!) 16.Ke7 d5! 17.Sxd5 Ke4! = (Nalimov draw)

rare Phoenix promotion after (2) Knight sacs; the matching promotion is spoiled by the decoy 10.Sg3+

+ (5+7)

**Helpmates in Two (h#2)**

DM / feenschach 1996



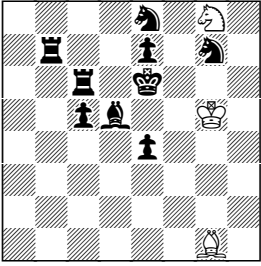
- 1) 1.b1=R Rf1 2.Re1 Rf2#  
 2) 1.b1=B Bf5 2.Bd3 Bg4#

composed sans voir  
 underpromotions and mixed clearances in a model-mate miniature

*I later found a 3-promotion setting, and published it simultaneously ([P0507363](#)). Although that version garnered 4th Honorable Mention, I still prefer this 2-solution form with matched clearances.*

h#2 2.1... (5+2)

DM / Commendation / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1995

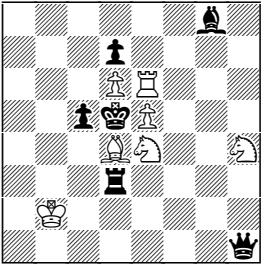


- 1) 1.Kd6 Sf6 2.Be6 Bh2# (B/P)
- 2) 1.Ke5 Sh6 2.Re6 Sf7# (R/B)
- 3) 1.Kf7 Bxc5 2.e6 Sh6# (P/R)

'cyclic Grimshaw' after Y-flights

h#2 3.1... (3+9)

DM / 1st Prize / U.S. Problem Bulletin, 1995-1997

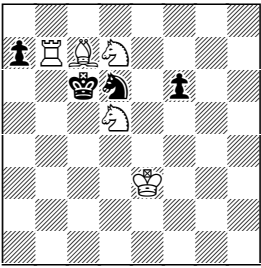


- 1) 1.Kxd4 Sd2 2.Qd5 Sf5# (BS)
- 2) 1.Kxe4 Rg6 2.Bd5 Rg4# (SR)
- 3) 1.Kxe6 Bc3 2.Rd5 Sg5# (RB)

cycle of white-removals (B1) and line-opening withdrawals (W1)

h#2 3.1... (7+6)

DM / Commendation / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1995-1997

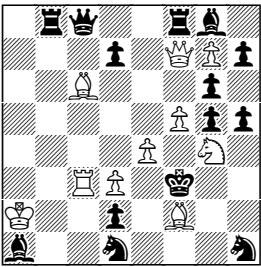


- 1) 1.Kxb7 Sc3 2.Ka6 Sc5# (R,Sd5,Sd7)
- 2) 1.Kxd5 Sf8 2.Ke5 Rb5# (Sd5, Sd7, R)
- 3) 1.Kxd7 Rxa7 2.Kc8 Sb6# (Sd7, R, Sd5)

Zilahi with cycle of functions: capturee, flight-guard, mate

h#2 3.1... (5+4)

DM / 15th Place / WCCT-5, 1993-1995

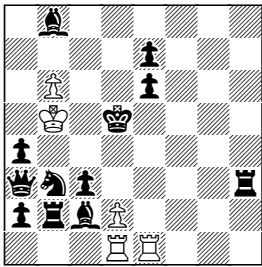


- 1) 1.Kxg4 Bxd7 2.Qxc3 fxg6# (B,Pf5)
- 2) 1.Kf4 Rc4 2.Bxg7 e5# (R, Pe4)
- 3) 1.Ke2 Qc4 2.Rf7 d4# (Q, Pd3)

cyclic change of front and rear battery partners with unusual flight pattern

h#2 3.1... (10+14)

Vasil Ljubcenko, Sergey N. Tkachenko & DM / 2nd Prize / The Problemist 1993

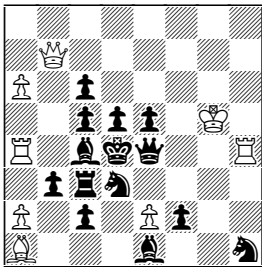


- 1) 1.Qb4+ Kxb4 2.Kd4 dxc3#
- 2) 1.Kd4 Rxe6 2.Re3 dxc3#
- 3) 1.Rh4 d3 2.Rc4 dxc4#
- 4) 1.Be4 d3 2.Be5 dxe4#
- 5) 1.Kd6 d4 2.Qc5+ dxc5#
- 6) 1.Be5 d4 2.Kd6 dxe5#

"Hyper-Albino" (judge David L. Brown), the firing of a wP/wR battery on 6 different squares

h#2 6.1... (5+12)

DM / 3rd Prize / The Problemist 1994



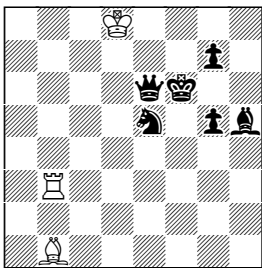
- 1) 1.Sf4 Qh7 2.Qd3 Qxd3# (RBS pinned)
- 2) 1.Sb4 Qb5 2.Bd3 Qxd3# (QRS pinned)
- 3) 1.Sb2 Qxb3 2.Rd3 Qxd3# (QBS pinned)
- 4) 1.bxa2 Qb1 2.c1=R Qxd3# (QRB pinned)

fourfold cycle of triple-pin mates, with distinct wQ routes to d3

*I was surprised to learn of this award, 10 years later, through unrelated correspondence with Chris Feather.*

h#2 4.1... (8+14)

DM / 2nd Commendation (v) / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1986

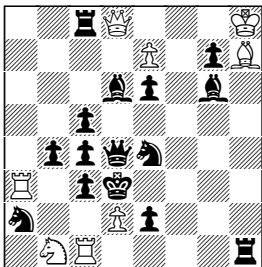


- 1) 1.Bg4 Rd3 2.Kf5 Rf3#
- 2) 1.Qf7 Rd3 2.Kg6 Rd6#
- 3) 1.Kf7 Ba2 2.Qg6 Rf3#
- 4) 1.Qf5 Ba2 2.Ke6 Rb6#

plus-flights by K+Q  
2 pairs of R/B batteries

h#2 4.1... (3+6)

Joe Youngs, DM & Newman Guttman / 7th Prize / Orbit 1999



- 1) 1.Bh2 Rxc3+ (Sxc3?) 2.Sxc3 Bxg6#
- 2) 1.Be8 Sxc3 (Rxc3?) 2.Qxc3 Qxd6#

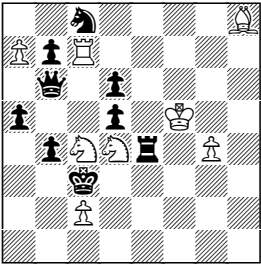
**FIDE Album**

matched self-pin/unpin keys  
accurate sacrifices on c3 to provide a bS/bQ "dumping" square

*A great Album collaboration! Check out these fine solos from Joe ([P0536989](#)) and Newman ([P0572474](#)).*

h#2 2.1... (8+15)

DM / 3rd Commendation / StrateGems 1998

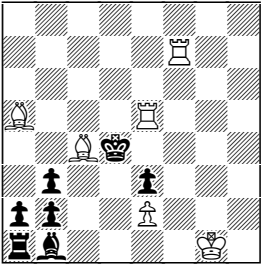


- 1) 1.Qc6 Sxc6+ 2.Kxc4 Sd4#
- 2) 1.Re5+ Sxe5+ 2.Kxd4 Sc4#
- 3) 1.Qxa7 Sc6+ 2.Kxc4 Sxa7#
- 4) 1.Rxg4 Se5+ 2.Kxd4 Sxg4#
- 5) 1.Qb5 Sc6+ 2.Kxc4 Sxa5#
- 6) 1.Re3 Se5+ 2.Kxd4 Sf3#

sixfold WCCT-5 theme (changed front/rear battery units) in 3 thematic pairs

h#2 6.1... (8+9)

DM / 6th Honorable Mention / The Problemist 1996

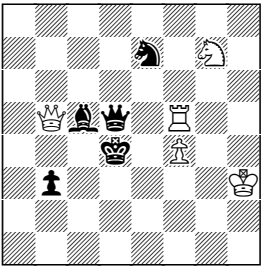


- \*1) 1...Rf4+ 2.Kxe5 Bc7# (a/b)
- \*2) 1...Bc3+ 2.Kxc4 Rc7# (c/d)
- 1) 1.Kxe5 Bc7+ 2.Ke4 Rf4# (b/a)
- 2) 1.Kxc4 Rc7+ 2.Kd4 Bc3# (d/c)

double reciprocal changes of W1/W2 between set and play

h#2\*\* 2.1... (6+7)

DM / 10th Honorable Mention / The Problemist 1997



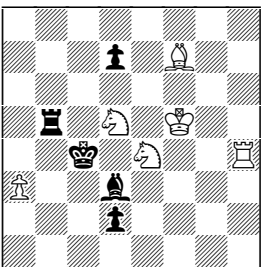
- 1) 1.Qe4 Rf8 2.Kd5 Rd8#
- 2) 1.Bb4 Qa6 2.Kc5 Se6#

interesting W withdrawal keys

*Fact: Editor CJF helped 'polish' this! I believe the original had 11 units. Pawn saved = Pawn earned.*

h#2 2.1... (5+5)

DM / Orbit 2000

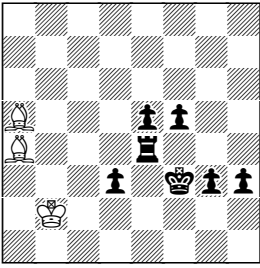


- 1) 1.Bc2 Bh5 2.Kd3 Sf2#
- 2) 1.Ra5 Rh6 2.Kb5 Sdc3#

white shuns direct batteries for indirect  
black Umnov+unpin motif

h#2 2.1... (6+5)



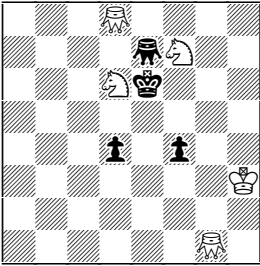


- 1) 1.Ke3 Bb3 2.Kd4 Bb6#
- 2) 1.Rf4 Bb6 2.Ke4 Bc6#
- 3) 1.Rg4 Bc6+ 2.Kf4 Bd2#
- 4) 1.Rh4 Bd2 2.Kg4 Bd1#
- 5) 1.Kg4 Bd1+ 2.Kh4 Bd8#

3+2 consecutive echo models

h#2 5.1... (3+7)

Newman Guttman & DM / Honorable Mention / Good Companions 1st Theme Tourney 2000



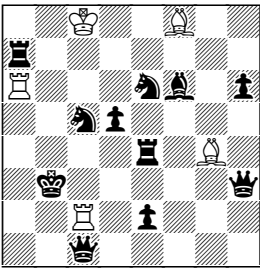
- a) 1.Gg7[bSf7] Gg8+[wGg7] 2.Ke5 Ge7[wSf7]#
- b) 1.Gc5[bSd6] Gb6+[wGc5] 2.Kf5 Ge7[wSd6]#

theme: change the changer

**Andernach Grasshopper:** *A unit which moves like Grasshopper, but changes the hurdled unit's color.*

h#2 b) bPd4→g6 (5+4) Andernach Grasshoppers

DM / 2nd Place / USA-Macedonia 2000-2001



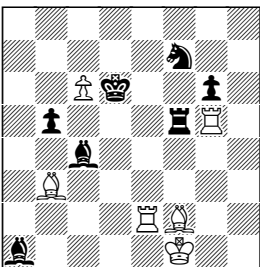
- a) 1.Sd4 Bd7 2.Sce6 Ba4#
- b) 1.Sb7 Rc7 2.Sec5 Rg7#

tourney theme: black's first move pins a white unit  
pristine line play with model/pin-model mates

*The judge noted that the promoted bQ could be avoided, but I prefer this setting with its pure mates.*

h#2 b) bK→g6 (5+11) promoted bQ

DM / 21st Place / WCCT-6 1996-2001

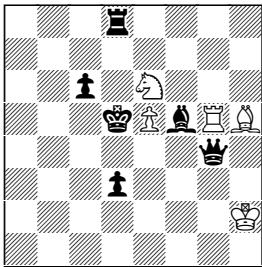


- a) 1.Rxg5 (Rc5?) Bb6 2.Be6 Rxe6#
- b) 1.Bxb3 (Be6?) Re7 2.Rc5 Bxc5#

tourney theme: a move fails due to a line-closing (for opposing side)  
sparkling correspondence between the twins, including removals of the superfluous wR/wB

h#2 b) bPc6 (6+7)

Arpad Molnar & DM / Suomen Tehtavaniekat 2001



- a) 1.Qd1 Bxd1 2.Be4 Bb3#
- b) 1.Qg1+ Rxc1 2.Rd5 Re1#

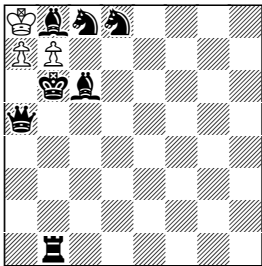
having no good place to hide, the bQ jettisons herself twice  
diagonal play changed to orthogonal, although perhaps not quite a true "ODT"

**ODT** is short for **Orthogonal/Diagonal Transference**, a feature employed in a fair number of my problems.

Here's a great, early rendering of a third-pin cycle ([P0576319](#)) by the Master craftsman!

h#2 b) bK→e4 (5+6)

DM / 2nd Prize / The Problemist 2002

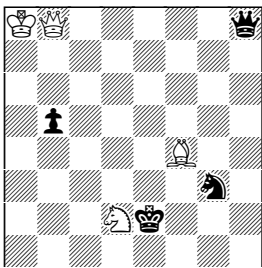


- a) 1.Bb5 bxc8=S+ 2.Ka6 axb8=S#
- b) 1.Qd5 axb8=Q 2.Kc6 bxc8=Q#

SS promotions change to QQ  
consecutive unpin motif

h#2 b) -Bc6 (3+7)

DM & Gerold Schaffner / Idee und Form 2002



- 1) 1.Qa1+ Qa7 2.Qd1 Qe3#
- 2) 1.Qh1+ Qb7 2.Qe1 Qf3#

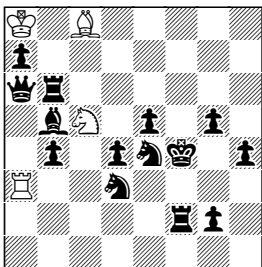
Q/Q unpins with corner-to-corner routes

compare [P0532808](#) (Mihalek)

I recently had the pleasure of awarding 1st Prize to both of these Schaffner gems: [P1076354](#), [P1079021](#).

h#2 2.1... (4+4)

DM / 2nd Prize / HOTF 2001



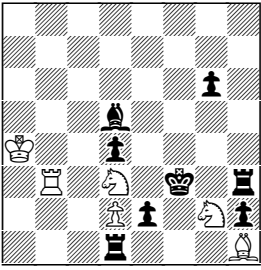
- a1) 1.Sb2 Rh3 2.Sc4 Sd3#
- a2) 1.Kf3 Sb3 2.Sf4 Sxd4#
- b1) 1.Sd8 Bh3 2.Sc6 Se6#
- b2) 1.Kg4 Sd7 2.Sf4 Sf6#

**FIDE Album**

Brasil Theme and battery mates combined in 2x2 format (HOTF theme requirement)

**HOTF** = 'Helpmates of The Future' tourney

h#2 2.1... b) bSd3→e6 2.1... (4+14)



- 1) 1.Kg3 Se5+ 2.Bf3 Rxf3#
- 2) 1.Ke4 Sh4+ 2.Rf3 Bxf3#
- 3) 1.Rf1 Sdf4+ 2.Kf2 Sxh3#
- 4) 1.Rxd2 Sgf4+ 2.Ke3 Sxd5#

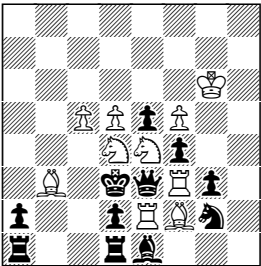
**FIDE Album**

HOTF pairs featuring key batteries

4 different mating squares

h#2 4.1... (6+8)

Ricardo Vieira, Almiro Zarur & DM / 3rd Prize / Gabor Cseh MT 2002



- \*) 1...Ba4 2.Qxf3 Bb5#
- 1) 1.Kxd4 Sg5 2.Qxf2 Se6#
- 2) 1.Kxe4 Se6 2.Qxe2 Sg5#

**FIDE Album**

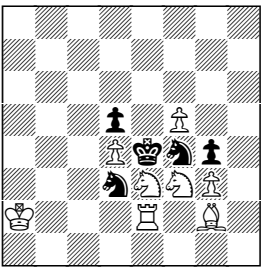
thrice the bQ captures her pinner, opening lines for the 2 remaining thematic W units (cycle)

Zilahi and reverse wS paths occur in the play

*Two more sparkling examples from my co-authors: [P0520166](#) (Vieira) and [P0517849](#) (Zarur).*

h#2\* 2.1... (10+11)

DM / StrateGems 2003 / "dedicated to SG Helpmates Contributors"



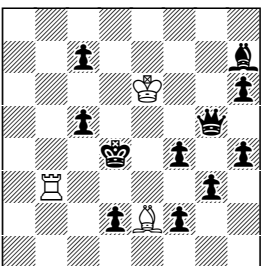
- \*) 1...Sc2+ 2.Sxe2 Sh4#
- 1) 1.Sxg2 Sh4 2.Sge1 Sc2#

changed annihilation (Zilahi) and reciprocal white move-order

h#2\* (8+5)

**Helpmates in Three (h#2½ / h#3)**

DM, Rolf Wiehagen & Christer Jonsson / 2nd Commendation / Problemblad 1998



- a) 1...Bh5 2.Kc4 Bf7 3.Qe5+ Kxe5#
- b) 1...Rb8 2.Ke3 Re8 3.Qd5+ Kxd5#

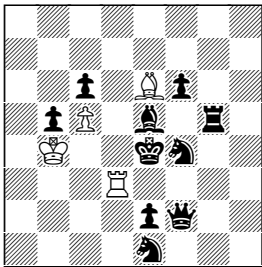
round-the-back maneuvers build King batteries

compare [P0578375](#) (Meinking/Wiehagen/Jonsson)

*My collaborators here have some 150 (!) joint problems on [PDB](#), including the brilliant [P1070392](#).*

h#2½ b) bPh4->g6 (3+11)

DM / Commendation / Die Schwalbe 1999

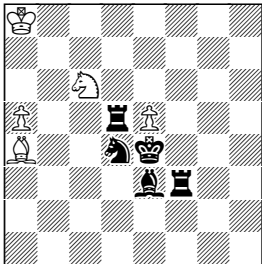


- 1) 1...Ra3 2.Rg4 Bb3 3.Kf3 Bd5#
- 2) 1...Ba2 2.Bd4 Rb3 3.Kd5 Re3#
- 3) 1...Rd8 2.Qe3 Bd7 3.Kd3 Bf5#
- 4) 1...Bc8 2.Sg6 Rd7 3.Kf5 Rd4#

paired white Indian + Grimshaw with bK star-flights  
 bQRBS each blocks twice (once passively, and once actively)  
 compare [P0578673](#) (Wiehagen)

h#2½ 4.1... (4+10)

DM / Honorable Mention / harmonie 9th TT 1997



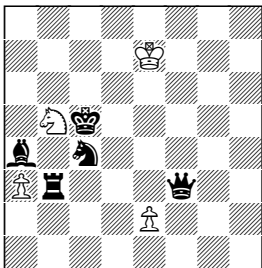
- a) 1.Bf4 Bd1 2.Re3 Bh5 3.Sf3 Bg6#
- b) 1.Rf4 Sa5 2.Sf3 Sc4 3.Bd4 Bc2#
- c) 1.Sf5 Se7 2.Bd4 Sg6 3.Rfe3 Bc6#

e3/f3/d4 Umnov cycle dictates the mating picture

*The tourney required 3-line h#3's with two-thirds of a cycle in each. Grubert's Prize entry: [P0513896](#).*

h#3 b) Pa5→h5 c) Rd5→d3 (5+5)

DM / Prize / Ideal-Mate Review 1996

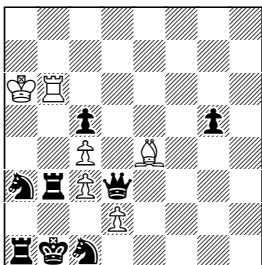


- 1) 1.Qd5 Sc3 2.Bc6 e3 3.Rb5 Sa4#
- 2) 1.Qc6 Sd4 2.Rb6 e4 3.Bb5 Sb3#

wS/bR and wS/bB platzwechsels  
 cyclic shift of guard/block of 5 flight squares  
 critical Grimshaw  
 ideal-mates

h#3 2.1... (4+5)

DM / 1st Honorable Mention / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1992

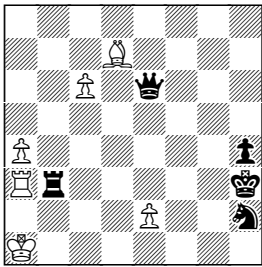


- 1) 1.Qc2 Rb8 2.Rb7 Bxb7 3.Qa2 Be4#
- 2) 1.Rb2 Bh7 2.Qg6 Rxc6 3.Rba2 Rb6#
- 3) 1.Rb5 Bc6 2.Qxc4 Bxb5 3.Qa2 Bd3#
- 4) 1.Sa2 Rd6 2.Rxc3 Rxd3 3.Rc1 Rb3#

mixed clearances  
 2 thematic pairs of solutions (HOTF form) produce blocks on a2

h#3 4.1... (6+8)

DM / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1993

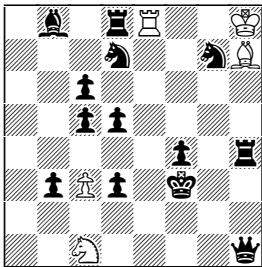


- 1) 1.Qf5 (tempo) Be6 2.Qg4 Bxb3 3.Qg2 Be6#
- 2) 1.Qg4 Bf5 2.Rd3+ Bxd3 3.Qg2 Bf5#
- 3) 1.Rf3 (tempo) Re3 2.Rg3 Rxe6 3.Rg2 Re3#
- 4) 1.Rg3 Rf3 2.Qf5 Rxf5 3.Rg2 Rf3#

quadrupling of Loshinsky magnet

h#3 4.1... (6+5)

DM / 2nd Honorable Mention / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1993



- a) 1.Sf8 Re1 2.Sf5 Se2 3.Ke4 Sg1#
- b) 1.Sh5 Bb1 2.Se5 Sd3 3.Ke4 Se1#

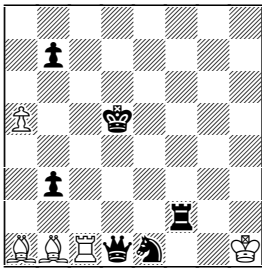
**FIDE Album**

each solution has B/B + B/W + W/W + W/B line-closures, including unpin and anticipatory self-pin

*The judge remarked that the twinning "trivialized" the solutions. Even now I don't see it that way.*

h#3 b) Pd3→e3 (5+13)

DM / 5th Prize / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1994



- 1) 1.Rf3 Rc2 2.Ke4 Be5 3.Qd5 Re2#
- 2) 1.Rf4 Rc3 2.Ke5 Bf5 3.Qd6 Rc5#
- 3) 1.b5 Bc2 2.Kc6 Be5 3.Qd7 Be4#
- 4) 1.Kd6 Bc3 2.Kc7 Bf5 3.Qd8 Be5#

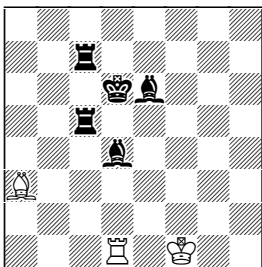
**FIDE Album**

two white Grimshaws in a twinless Meredith; bQ blocks d5,d6,d7,d8; four different mating squares

*Sadly, I had to withdraw my own [P0521864](#) (also published: USPB 1994) upon learning of [P0500580](#) (Ott).*

h#3 4.1... (5+6)

DM / =1st/2nd Prize / Chess Life & Review 1985



- \*1) 1....Bc1 2.R5c6 Bd2 3.Be5 Bb4#
- \*2) 1....Rb1 2.Be5 Rb4 3.R5c6 Rd4#
- 1) 1.Re7 Bc1 2.Rc6 Bd2 3.Bc5 Bf4#
- 2) 1.Bd7 Rb1 2.Be5 Rb4 3.Rd5 Rb6#

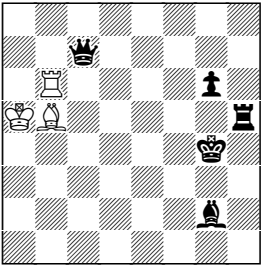
**FIDE Album**

composed sans voir

*Thomas Maeder chose this as his favorite Helpmate of all time! (per article in Idee & Form, 1993)*

h#3\*\* 2.1... (3+5)

DM / 1st Prize / Chess Life & Review 1986



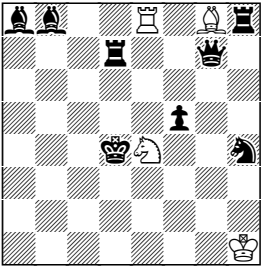
- 1) 1.Qg3 Re6 2.g5 Bd7 3.Bf3 Re4#
- 2) 1.g5 Bc4 2.Qg3 Rb4 3.Bf3 Be6#
- 3) 1.Qh2 Re6 2.Rh4 Bd7 3.Kh3 Re3#
- 4) 1.Rh4 Bd3 2.Qh2 Rb3 3.Kh3 Bf5#

**FIDE Album**

four double-unpins of white lead to double-check model-mates

h#3 4.1... (3+5)

DM / 1st-2nd Prize / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1995-1997

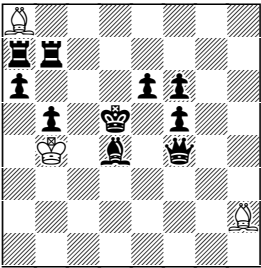


- 1) 1.Bc6 Re6 2.Kd5 Bf7 3.Qd4 Re7#
- 2) 1.Bf4 Be6 2.Ke5 Re7 3.Rd4 Bf7#

white Grimshaw  
reciprocal bQ/bR roles (block/guard)  
reciprocal wR/wB roles (mate/valve)

h#3 2.1... (4+8)

DM / 1st Prize / diagrammes 1998 / "dedicated to Mark Kirtley"



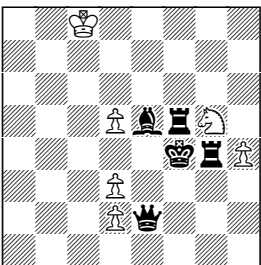
- a) 1.Qc1 Bb8 2.Qc7 Bxb7+ 3.Ke5 Bxc7#
- b) 1.Rg7 Bh1 2.Rg2 Bxf4+ 3.Kd5 Bxg2#

bK 'returns' twice  
sweeping line sequences

*Mark is a long-time friend and among the handful of composers I hope to meet in person one day. Here's a rare direct-stalemate by Mark ([P1102582](#)), showing Four Officers captured by AUW promotees!*

h#3 b) bK→e5 (3+10)

DM / 4th Honorable Mention / The Problemist 1998

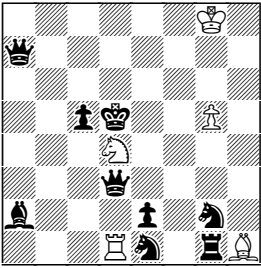


- a) 1.Rg3 Se4 (Sf3?) 2.Qg4 Sc3 (Sxg3?) 3.Rf3 Se2#
- b) 1.Bd4 Sf3 (Se4?) 2.Qe5 Sg1 (Sxd4?) 3.Be3 Se2#

the black play forces accurate wS routes to e2

h#3 b) Pd2→g2 (6+5)

Georgi M. Frantsov & DM / Die Schwalbe 2000 (v)



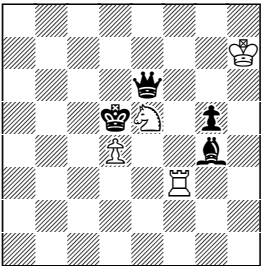
- a) 1.Qe3 Sf3+ 2.Ke4+ Rd5 3.Sf4 Sd2#
- b) 1.Se3 Sd2+ 2.Kd4+ Bd5 3.Qc3 Sf3#

**FIDE Album**

matched Q/S blocks complete the mating nets  
reversed white line-openings between the twins, and much more

h#3 b) Sd4→e4 (5+9) promoted bQ

Robert J. Bales & DM / The Problemist 1999



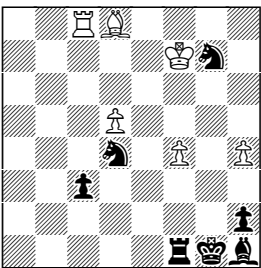
- \*) 1...Rf8 2.Ke4 Sf7 3.Kf5 Sd6#
- 1) 1.Kd6 Sd3 2.Ke7 Sf4 3.Kf6 Sd5#

R+S batteries fire from above and below  
matched K flight-paths

compare [P0555848](#) (V. Sizonenko)

h#3\* (4+4)

DM / Orbit 2000



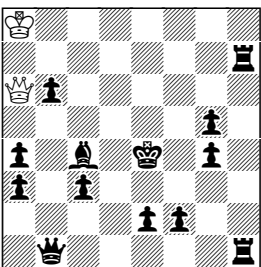
- 1) 1.Sde6 (Sge6?) Rc5 2.Bxd5 Bb6 3.Bh1 Rg5#
- 2) 1.Sgf5 (Sdf5?) Bg5 2.Rxf4 Rg8 3.Rf1 Be3#

two line-opening bS shields help establish white batteries

*Did you spot the Weasel? Only one bS is really necessary! But... can you blame me for using two?? :-)*

h#3 2.1... (6+7)

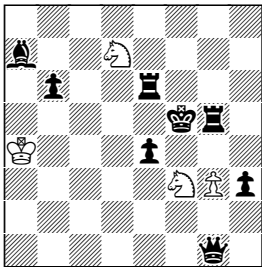
DM / 3rd Honorable Mention / diagrammes 1997



- 1) 1.Kf5 Qb5+ 2.Kg6 Qxb1+ 3.Kh5 Qxh7# (b1/h7)
- 2) 1.Kf3 Qa7 2.Kg2 Qxh7 3.Kf1 Qxh1# (h7/h1)
- 3) 1.Kd3 Qb7 2.Kc2 Qxh1 3.Kb3 Qxb1# (h1/b1)

capture cycle of guarding and occupying units

h#3 3.1... (2+13)



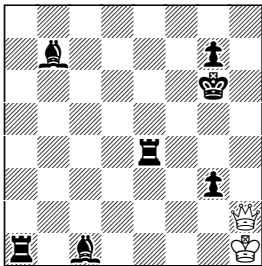
- 1) 1.Reg6 Sd2 2.Qd1+ Sb3 3.Qg4 Sd4#
- 2) 1.Rgg6 Sde5 2.Qd4+ Sc4 3.Qf6 Se3#

Chernous Theme in both lines

The **Chernous Theme** involves this sequence in h#3 or longer: (1) black line-piece **X** gives check; (2) white unit **Y** interferes(self-pin);(3) black piece **X** blocks a flight; (4) white unit **Y** (unpinned) delivers mate. This so-dubbed "Chernous Theme" was required for the Isaac Kavratsky 90thJT, so perhaps "TK90JT Theme"?

h#3 2.1... (4+8)

DM / Commendation / Probleemblad 1996 (v)



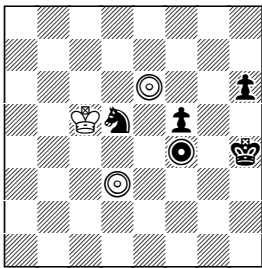
- 1) 1.Bg5+ Qg1 2.Kh6 Qxa1 3.g6 Qh8#
- 2) 1.Rg4+ Qg2 2.Kh5 Qxb7 3.g5 Qh7#

wQ forced to remove her pinner  
distinct blocks and line-openings by Pg7

While certainly no masterpiece, this is a notable improvement over my very flawed original: [P0580382](#).

h#3 2.1... (2+7)

DM / 3rd Commendation / David L. Brown 50JT 1995-1998



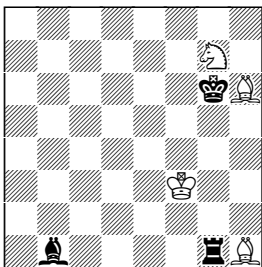
- 1) 1.Sc7 Of2 2.Oh3 Oef4 3.Sd5 O2xh3#
- 2) 1.Sb4 Og7 2.Oh5 Odf4 3.Sd5 O7xh5#

twice we get consecutive Orphan S-chain activations

**Orphan:** A unit which takes on the powers of unit(s) attacking it, including other Orphans.

h#3 2.1... (3+5) Orphans

DM & Michael Neumeier / Honorable Mention / Ideal-Mate Review 1996



- 1) 1.Kxh6 Kf4 2.Bh7 Bf3 3.Rg6 Sf5#
- 2) 1.Kf6 Kf4 2.Rxg7 Bd5 3.Bg6 Bg5#

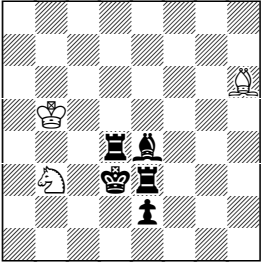
Zilahi + critical Grimshaw + Umnov in an ideal-mate miniature

Mike, a local better known for solving than composing, produced this **Chernous Theme** nugget: [P1006936](#).

h#3 2.1... (4+3)



DM / Honorable Mention / Ideal-Mate Review 1995

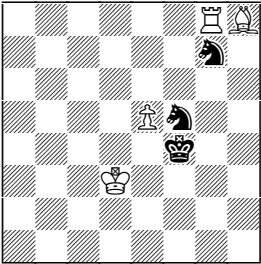


- \*) 1...Bf8 2.e1=S Bb4 3.Sc2 Sc1#  
 1) 1.Kc2! Sd2 2.Rc3 Sf3 3.Kd3 Se1#  
 2) 1.Kc3! Bf8 2.Bc2 Bb4+ 3.Kd3 Sc5#

paradoxical bK keys (and switchbacks) allow the set blockers to relocate

h#3\* 2.1... (3+5)

DM / Honorable Mention / Ideal-Mate Review 1997

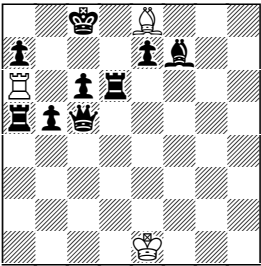


- a) 1.Sh5 Bg7 2.Kg5 Ke4 3.Sh6 Bf6#  
 b) 1.Se6 Rg7 2.Kxe5 Kf3 3.Sd6 Rg5#

strategically equivalent sequences, including white Grimshaw and battery mates

h#3 b) wK→g2 (4+3)

DM / 2nd Prize / Probleemblad 1998

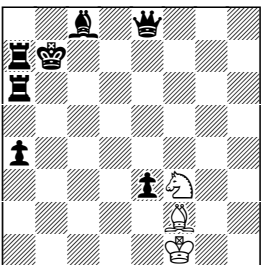


- 1) 1.Kb7 Rxc6 2.Qb6 Bd7 3.Ka6 Bc8#  
 2) 1.Kd8 Bxc6 2.Rd7 Rb6 3.Ke8 Rb8#

the bK occupies squares vacated by white

h#3 2.1... (3+9)

DM / 1st Honorable Mention / Die Schwalbe 1997

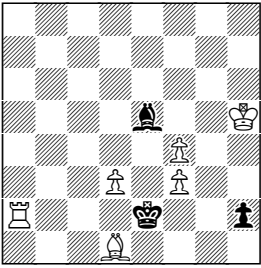


- 1) 1.Kb6 Sd2 2.Ka5 Be1 3.Qb5+ Sc4#  
 2) 1.Ra8 Sd4 2.Ka7 Bxe3 3.Bb7 Sc6#  
 3) 1.Kb8 Se5 2.Rb7 Bg3 3.Ra8 Sc6#  
 4) 1.Kc7 Sg5 2.Kd8 Bh4 3.Rd7 Se6#

fourfold B/S battery formation

h#3 4.1... (3+7)

DM / The Problemist 1997

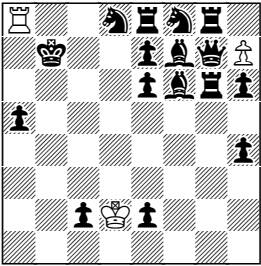


- a) 1.Ke3 Re2+ 2.Kxf3 Re3+ 3.Kxf4 Rf3#
- b) 1.Kf1 Be2+ 2.Kg2 Bf1+ 3.Kh1 Bg2#

paired ODT staircases featuring white Grimshaw  
white checks at every turn (including the diagram position) -- uncommon for a three-move Helpmate

h#3 b) bBe5→g1 (6+3) K-in-check

DM / Special Honorable Mention / Orbit 2000

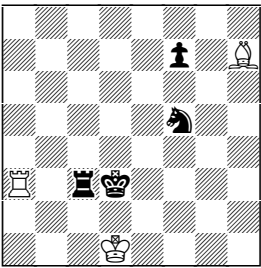


- 1) 1.Rg1 hxg8=Q 2.Qg2 Qg3 3.Qc6 Qb8#
- 2) 1.Ba1 h8=Q 2.Qb2 Qc3 3.Qb6 Qc8#

sweeping ODT double-clearances and echoed Q-routes, spanning the whole board  
challenge to Orbit readers: show this idea w/o promoted unit on g8; noone rose to the occasion :-)

h#3 2.1... (3+16) promoted bR

DM / Commendation / Springaren 1995

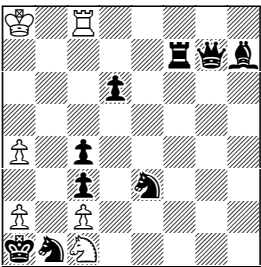


- \*) 1...Ra6 2.Rc4 Rg6 3.Sd4 Rg3#
- 1) 1.f6 Bg8 2.Sd4 Bb3 3.Rc4 Bc2#

wide-angle version of a familiar set/play idea

h#3\* (3+4)

DM / Suomen Tehtavianekkat 1998

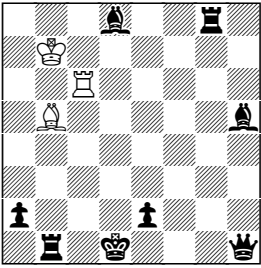


- 1) 1.Sxc2 Re8 (Rb8?) 2.Sb4 Re2 3.Sxa2 Rxa2#
- 2) 1.Rf2 Rf8 (Rb8?) 2.Rxc2 Rf2 3.Rxa2 Rxa2#
- 3) 1.Qg6 Rg8 (Rb8?) 2.Qxc2 Rg2 3.Qxa2 Rxa2#
- 4) 1.Bxc2 Rh8 (Rb8?) 2.Bb3 Rh2 3.Bxa2 Rxa2#

paradox: the wR can never take the 'direct' path to a2 via the open b-file

h#3 4.1... (6+9)

DM / Die Schwalbe 1995



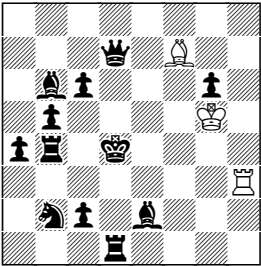
- 1) 1.Qe1 Rc2 2.Bg5 Rb2 3.Bc1 Ba4#
- 2) 1.Rc1 Bd3 2.Rg1 Be4 3.Re1 Rd6#

two unpin/self-unpin sequences

White's second moves close 2 concurrent lines (unpin of mating unit; block of mating line)

h#3 2.1... (3+8)

DM / 1st Prize / Problem-Forum 2001



- 1) 1.Qe6 Re3 2.Kc4 Rxe6 3.Kb3 Re3#
- 2) 1.Bf3 Bd5 2.Kc3 Bxf3 3.Kb3 Bd5#
- 3) 1.Ke5 Ba2 2.Rd6 Rb3 3.Ke6 Re3#
- 4) 1.Ke4 Ra3 2.Bf2 Bb3 3.Kf3 Bd5#

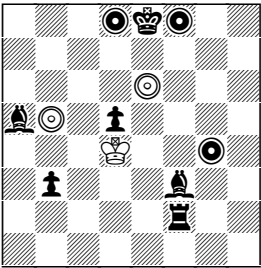
**FIDE Album**

2 pairs of thematic lines (HOTF form)

intense and varied use of the b3, e6, and f3 squares

h#3 4.1... (3+12)

David L. Brown & DM / The Problemist 1995



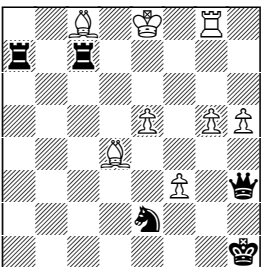
- 1) 1.Bg2 Kd3 2.Bf1+ Ke3+ 3.Re2+ Kd4# (4.R~ is self-check)
- 2) 1.Rf1 Ke3 2.Re1+ Kd3+ 3.Be2+ Kd4# (4.B~ is self-check)

twice the wK threads the knot (reverse rundlaufs) to establish Orphan-specific battery mates  
note the self-pinning Grimshaw on e2 by bR/bB  
minimal movements with maximal effects!

"DLB" is synonymous with his invention, the **Orphan**. Let's not forget his Helpmate portfolio: [P0533097](#).

h#3 2.1... (3+9) Orphans

DM & Kostas Prentos / 4th Honorable Mention / Isaak Kavnatsky 90JT 2001



- a) 1.Qxh5+ (Qxf3?) Rg6 2.Qxf3 Bb7 3.Qg2 Rh6#
- b) 1.Qxf3+ (Qxh5?) Bf5 2.Qxh5 Rh8 3.Qh2 Be4#

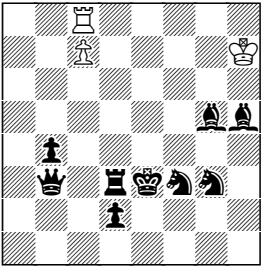
Chernous Theme in each line

immediate checks lift the mating units past the sentinel guards (bRa7/bRc7)

*I had the privilege of serving as director for Isaak's jubilee tourney. We had a blast compiling the awards pamphlet! Click [here](#) to view the complete **IK90JT** awards on the [Chess Composition Microweb](#) website.*

h#3 b) wK→f8 (8+5)

DM / Probleemblad 2001



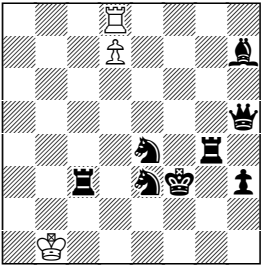
- a) 1.Bd8 (Rd8?) cxd8=B 2.Kd4 Bc7 3.Kc3 Be5#  
 b) 1.Rd8 (Bd8?) cxd8=R 2.Kf4 Rd7 3.Kg4 Rd4#

active sacrifices allow Tweenix replacements for battery building  
 note that every piece is necessary in both twins for the purpose of blocking and/or cook-stopping

*I coined the term "Tweenix" -- in the same spirit as "Prenix" -- to indicate when a piece captured for one side is replaced by a matching promotee for the other. A Tweenix is a Phoenix between the two sides. :-)*

h#3 b) wBc8 (3+9)

DM / Probleemblad 2001

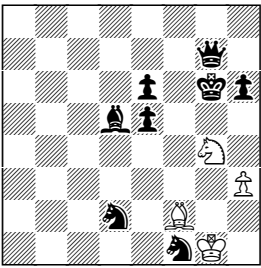


- a) 1.Qe8 dxe8=B 2.Ke2 Bd7 3.Kd3 Bb5#  
 b) 1.Rc8 dxc8=S 2.Kg3 Se7 3.Kh4 Sf5#

original version  
 this time involving a mixed capture-and-promotion scheme: bQ→wB, bR→wS

h#3 b) wBd8 (3+8)

Isaak Kavnaty, Grigoriy Mordukhovich & DM / 2nd Prize / Problemaz 2001

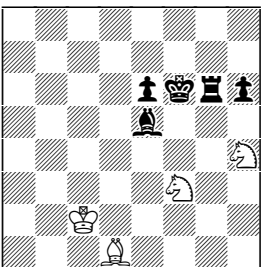


- 1) 1.Se4 Sxe5+ 2.Kh5+ Sg6 3.Sg5 Sf4#  
 2) 1.Be4 Sxh6 2.Kf6+ Bg3 3.Bg6 Bh4#

echoed sequences: white line-opening, self-pin, unpin

h#3 2.1... (4+8)

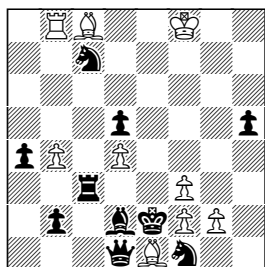
DM / 2nd Prize / feenschach 1998



- 1) 1.Rg5 Sg6 2.Kf5 Kd3 3.Bf6 Sfh4# (4.Bxh4?)  
 2) 1.Bf4 Se5 2.Kg5 Bg4 3.Rf6 Shf3# (4.Rxf3?)

Umnov theme  
 mutual bB/bR shutoff ("unit Grimshaw")  
 reciprocal wS/wS replacements

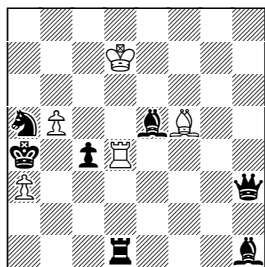
h#3 2.1... (4+5)



- 1) 1.Rc5 Rb5 2.Bxb4 Ba6 3.Bxe1 Rxb2#
- 2) 1.Bf4 Be6 2.Rxf3 Re8 3.Rd3 Bg4#

**FIDE Album**  
echoed ODT masks

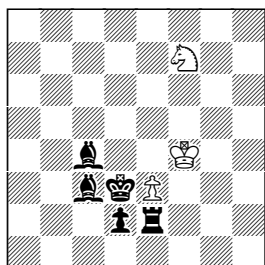
h#3 2.1... (9+10)



- a) 1.Qe3 Bd3 2.Kxb5 Rxc4 3.Qc5 Rb4#
- b) 1.Rb1 Rg4 2.Rxb5 Be4 3.c3 Bc2#

unpin/self-unpin preface reciprocal battery formations

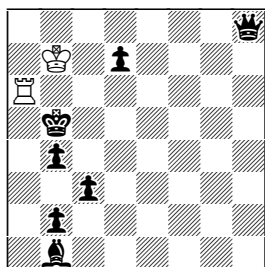
h#3 b) bSa3 (5+7)



- 1) 1.d1=B Sg5 2.Rd2 Sf3 3.Be2 Se1#
- 2) 1.d1=S Sd8 2.Bd2 Sc6 3.Sc3 Sb4#

choice of Black promotion/platzwechsel determines wS routes

h#3 2.1... (3+5)

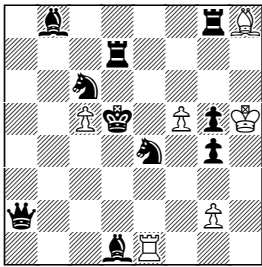


- 1) 1.Kc4 Kb6 2.Kb3 Ka5 3.Ka2 Kxb4#
- 2) 1.b3 Ra7 (Ra8?) 2.Kb4 Ka6 3.Ka3 Kb5#
- 3) 1.Qg8 Ra8 2.Qb3 Ka7 3.Ka4 Kb6#

three echoed K+R batteries

h#3 3.1... (2+7)

DM / =23rd-24th Place / WCCT-7 2002-2004

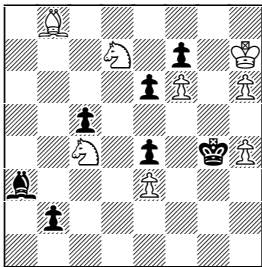


- a) 1.Rgg7 (Rdg7?) Re2 2.Ke5 Kxg4 3.Rd5 (Qd5?) Bxg7#  
b) 1.Be2 (Qe2?) Bg7 2.Ke4 Kxg5 3.Qd5 (Rd5?) Rxe2#

theme: mutual interferences of R+B of opposite colors

h#3 b) bSe4→d3 (6+10)

Toma Garai & DM / 27th Place / WCCT-7 2002-2004



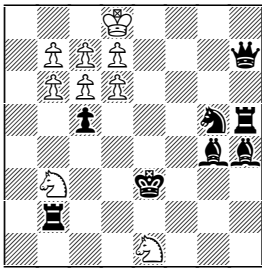
- 1) 1.Kf5 Sxc5 2.Bxc5 Kg7 3.Bxe3 Sxe3#  
2) 1.Kh5 Sxb2 2.Bxb2 Bg3 3.Bxf6 Sxf6#

reciprocal sequence of sacrifices, model mates

*Toma was a staunch supporter of StrateGems, even before "SG" had made its mark. He also gave some great advice which made me a much better h# editor. This, too, was a very kind gesture on his part: [P0583846](#).*

h#3 2.1... (8+7)

DM / 3rd Honorable Mention / The Problemist 2006



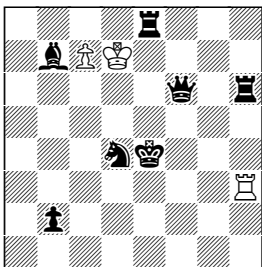
- a) 1.Bxd7 c8=Q 2.Bg4 Qf5 3.Be2 Sg2# (4.Rxg2??)  
b) 1.Rxb6 b8=Q 2.Rb2 Qb4 3.Re2 Sd1# (4.Bxd1??)

twin sequences: clearance, return and Grimshaw interference by Black

*I was surprised by this award since the g4-g5-h5-h4 cluster is moot in part b). Every Weasel has his day. :-)*

h#3 b) wSb3→c3 (9+8)

DM / "for Marlee" / StrateGems 2009



- 1.Bd5 c8=B 2.Qf4 Ba6 3.Re5 Bd3# 1.Re5 c8=R 2.Sf5 Rg8 3.Bd5 Rg4#

published in an article, "**Fresh Squeezed Fairies**" (author: Kevin Begley) in StrateGems 2009  
irony: Gobble Chess logic with no captures

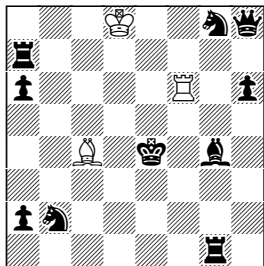
**Gobble Chess:** *A unit which has a legal capture may only move to capture.*

*In the same article, under "**Demotion Chess**", Kevin published this tribute ([P1088683](#)), tracing an "M"!*

h#3 2.1.... (3+7) Gobble Chess

Helpmates in Four or more moves (h#3½ - h#n)

DM / 3rd Honorable Mention / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1994



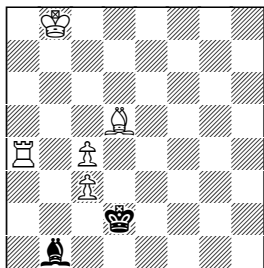
- 1) 1...Bf7 (Bxg8?) 2.Kd3 Rf5 3.Kc2 Bg6 4.Kb1 Rf1#
- 2) 1...Rc6 2.Kf3 Bxa6 3.Kg2 Bb7 4.Kh1 Rxh6#
- 3) 1...Bf1 2.Kd5 Rf3 3.Kc6 Bg2 4.Kb7 Rb3#
- 4) 1...Re6+ 2.Kf5 Re4 3.Kg6 Bd3 4.Kh7 Re7#

**FIDE Album**

'windmill' battery-mates after extended star-flights

h#3½ 4.1... (3+10)

DM / 5th Commendation / The Problemist 1996



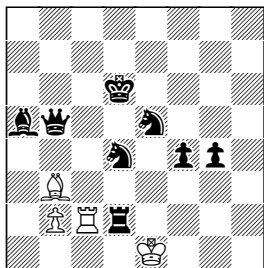
- a) 1...Ra8 2.Kc2 (Kxc3?) Ka7 3.Kb3 c5+ 4.Ka4 Kb6#
- b) 1...Be8 2.Kxg3 (Kh3?) Kf7 3.Kh4 g5+ 4.Kh5 Kf6#

beautifully matched withdrawal keys and Indian theme; the wK and wPc4(g4) fire batteries in each line notice how the wPc3(g3) efficiently determines the bK's paths; bK ends up on the wR/wB starting squares compare [P0521697](#) (Comay)

*The judge branded the twinning as "whimsical". Perhaps, but the play is quite robust for a miniature.*

h#3½ b) shift 4 squares right (5+2)

DM / Special Prize / Petko A. Petkov 60th Jubilee Tourney 2002



- 1) 1...Rc4 2.Kd5 Ra4+ 3.Ke4 Ra3 4.Kf3 Bd5#
- 2) 1...Bc4 2.Kc5 Be2+ 3.Kb4 Bd1 4.Ka4 Rc4#

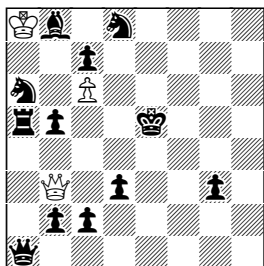
**FIDE Album**

white Grimshaw and roundabout battery-arming in Meredith

*This idea began during a round of Frisbee Golf. Once home, a few minutes with board and PC did the trick.*

h#3½ 2.1... (4+8)

DM / 4th Prize / Die Schwalbe 2002 / "for Ariana"



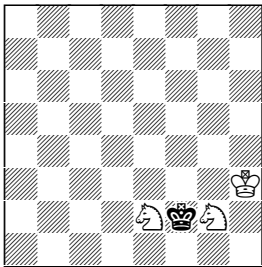
- a1) 1...Qxb5+ 2.Kd6 Qxb2 3.Rc5 Qg7 4.Qe5 Qd7#
- a2) 1...Qxb2+ 2.Ke6 Qxb5 3.Qf6 Qxd3 4.Re5 Qd7#
- b1) 1...Qxb2+ 2.Ke4 Qxb5 3.Qd4 Qh5 4.Re5 Qf3#
- b2) 1...Qxb5+ 2.Kf4 Qxb2 3.Rg5 Qb7 4.Qe5 Qf3#

**FIDE Album**

choice of flight and mating picture determined by traversal of e5 in each line

h#3½ 2.1... b) wPc6→g2 (3+12)

DM / StrateGems 2002



- 1) 1...Kh2 2.Kf1 Se3% 3.Kh1 Sg3%+ 4.Kf2 Sg4%#
- 2) 1...Sg4 2.Ke1 Sd3% 3.Kh2 Kf1 4.Kh1 Sg3%#

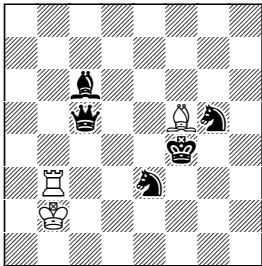
intense K-swapping action in 2 completely different mating schemes

click [here](#) for more Swapping Kings info and examples; % = K-swap

**Swapping Kings:** *Any check causes the Kings to change places (mandatory). Mate is evaluated post-swap.*

h#3½ 2.1... (3+1) Swapping Kings

DM / Probleemblad 1999



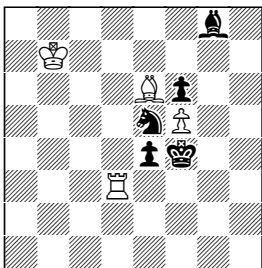
- a) 1...Bd7 2.Ke4 Rb8 3.Kd3 Rd8 4.Be4 Bb5#
- b) 1...Rb5 2.Ke3 Bc8 3.Kd3 Ba6 4.Qe3 Rd5#

Tries: a) 1...Bc8? 2.Ke4 Rb5 3.Kd3 Ba6 4.Be4 Rd5# ?? b) 1...Rb8? 2.Ke3 Bd7 3.Kd3 Rd8 4.Qe3 Bb5# ??

preparatory screens anticipate the final-move departures  
strong ODT flavor with matching thematic tries, and only 8 units

h#3½ √ b) bSe3→e4 (3+5)

DM / StrateGems 2005 / "for Alethea"



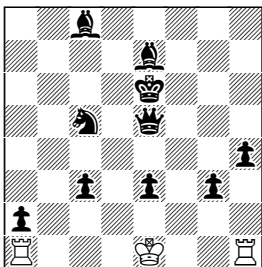
- 1) 1...Ba2 2.Kxf5 Rb3 3.Ke6 Kb6 4.Kd5 Rd3#
- 2) 1...Rd8 2.Ke3 Bd7 3.Kd4 Kb6 4.Kd5 Be6#

the bK is escorted clockwise and counterclockwise 'round the fixed center  
mutual wB/wR Indian maneuvers lead to switchback model mates

compare [P0581936](#) (Meinking) and [P0581961](#) (Meinking)

h#3½ 2.1... (4+5)

DM / 6th Commendation / Orbit 2003 / "dedicated to Marko Ylijoki"



- 1) 1...0-0-0 2.Qf4 (Bf6?) Rd6+ 3.Ke5 Rhd1 4.Se4 R1d5#
- 2) 1...0-0 2.Bd6 (Qd4?) Rf8 3.Ke7 Raf1 4.Se6 R1f7#

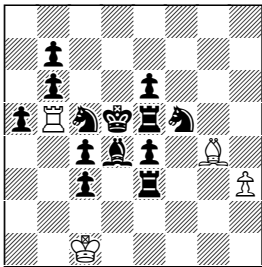
castling on both sides, where wK movement is a clearance  
wR echoed paths

*While I served as judge for the SG5AT (SG 5th Anniv. Tourney), Marko graciously submitted a collection of 90 predecessors -- an invaluable aid! He also published this original and clever dedication: [P1099604](#).*

h#3½ 2.1... (3+10)



DM / 4th Prize / StrateGems 2003 / "in memoriam Alexander Toger"



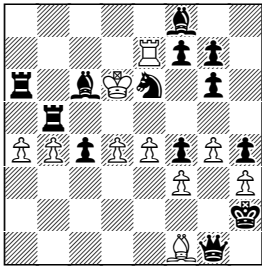
- 1) 1...Rb3 2.cxb3 Bh5 3.Kc4 Be8 4.Kd3 Bb5#
- 2) 1...Bf3 2.exf3 Rb2 3.Ke4 Rg2 4.Kf4 Rg4#

Zilahi offerings help bring the bK into the open  
key-moves are also mutual unblocks for the other key-piece

*Alexander was a regular contributor to the SG h# section. I was flattered to receive this tribute: [P1002915](#).*

h#3½ 2.1... (4+13)

DM / 7th Honorable Mention / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1995 / "dedicated to David L. Brown"



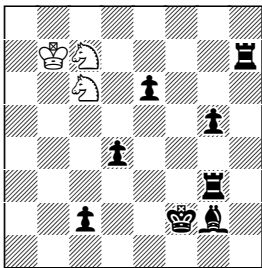
- 1) 1.Bxe4+ Kd7 2.Bxf3 Rxe6 3.Bg2 Re3 4.Bxh3 Rxh3#
- 2) 1.Sxd4 Kc7 2.Sxf3 Rd7 3.Sg5 Rd3 4.Sxh3 Rxh3#
- 3) 1.Rxb4 Ke5 2.Rb3 Rb7 3.Rxf3 Rb3 4.Rxh3 Rxh3#
- 4) 1.Rxa4 Kxc6 2.Ra3 Ra7 3.Rxf3 Ra3 4.Rxh3 Rxh3#

four distinct self-unpin flights and unique wR routes to h3

*Dave was my first mentor. He once chided "You're kicking a dead horse!" after several failed h# revisions. :-)*

h#4 4.1... (10+13)

DM & Edgar Holladay / 3rd Prize / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1995-1997



- 1) 1.Bh3 Se7 2.Rg4 Sxe6 (Se8?) 3.Kg3 Sg7 4.Kh4 Sef5#
- 2) 1.Rh1 Sd5 2.Rc1 Sxd4 (Se5?) 3.Ke1 Sf3+ 4.Kd1 Sc3#

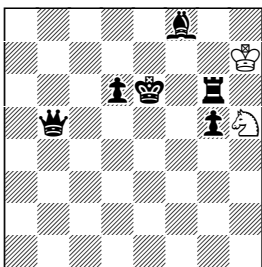
**FIDE Album**

twice the sequence: unpin + self-unpin + self-pin + self-unpin

*Edgar produced a vast wealth of material throughout his career. He was quite fond of this one: [P0501102](#).*

h#4 2.1... (3+8)

DM / 3rd Prize / The Problemist 1999

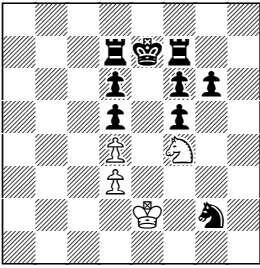


- a) 1.Bg7 Kg8 2.Be5+ Kf8 3.Qd5 Ke8 4.Rf6 Sg7#
- b) 1.Rg7+ Kh6 2.Qe5 Be8 3.Rd7+ Kg6 4.Be7 Bf7#

Grimshaw and 'unit-Grimshaw'

h#4 b) wBh5 (2+6)

DM / 1st Commendation / The Problemist 1998

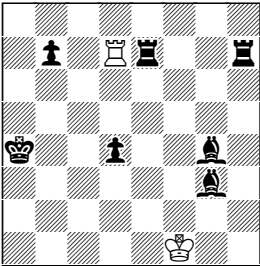


- 1) 1.Se3 Sxd5+ 2.Ke6 Se7 3.Sd5 Sxg6 4.Se7 Sf4#
- 2) 1.Sh4 Sxg6+ 2.Ke6 Se7 3.Sg6 Sxd5 4.Se7 Sf4#

letter "R" shape  
reciprocal wS rundlaufs, directed by bS

h#4 2.1... (4+9)

DM / 5th Honorable Mention (v) / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1995-1997



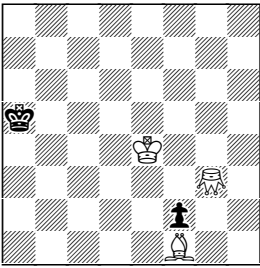
- a) 1.Be6 Ke2 2.Bf7+ Kd3 3.Re6 Kc4 4.b6 Ra7#
- b) 1.Be5 Ke1 2.Bg7+ Kd2 3.Re5 Kc3 4.b5 Ra7#

two black Grimshaws (e5/e6)  
black line-closing on every move  
bP one-two

*In the original ([P0576771](#)), I foolishly chose bSc4→c3 twinning, leading to ugly ...KxS captures. Ten years later, I came to my senses and switched to the proper bPd4→d3 version -- and have slept better since. :-)*

h#4 b) bPd4→d3 (2+7)

DM / Honorable Mention / Ideal-Mate Review 1997



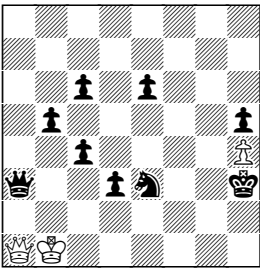
- \*) 1...Bb5 2.f1=R Kd5 3.Rf4 Ge5 4.Rb4 Kc6#
- 1) 1.Kb4 Ge1 2.Kc3 Ge5 3.Kd2 Be2 4.Ke1 Kd3#

echoed G+K batteries ending in ideal-mate

**Grasshopper:** *A unit which hurdles over a single unit on Q-lines to the square beyond; hurdle required.*

h#4\* (3+2) Grasshopper

DM / 1st Honorable Mention / The Problemist 2000



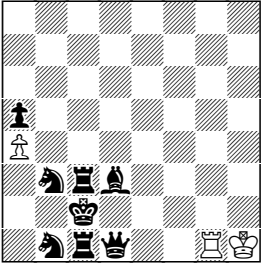
- 1.Qa8 Qa6 2.Kg4 Qxc6 3.Kf5 Qg2 4.Qe4 Qg5#

mutual B/W and W/B clearances  
the initial position gives the illusion of "freedom of movement" for both Queens

compare [P0506689](#) (Nieroba/Queck)

h#4 (3+9)

DM / Suomen Tehtavaniekat 1997

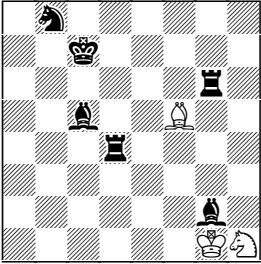


- 1) 1.Sc5 Kh2 2.Sxa4 Rg4 3.Sc5 Ra4 4.Sb3 Ra2#
- 2) 1.Rc4 Kh2 2.Rxa4 Rg5 3.Rc4 Rxa5 4.Rc3 Ra2#
- 3) 1.Bb5 Kh2 2.Bxa4 Rg4 3.Bb5 Ra4 4.Bd3 Ra2#
- 4) 1.Qg4 Kh2 2.Qxa4 Rg5 3.Qg4 Rxa5 4.Qd1 Ra2#

two pairs of double-switchbacks granting wR entry  
some repetition, but W2 dual-avoidances compensate

h#4 4.1... (3+8)

DM / Problemesis 2003

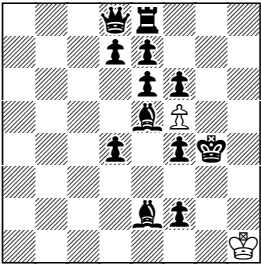


- 1.Bb7+ Sg3 2.Rc6 Sf1 3.Rd8+ Se3 4.Bd6 Sd5#

two Chernous Theme sequences in a pawn-free Meredith

h#4 (3+6)

DM / 1st Commendation / Best Problems 2002

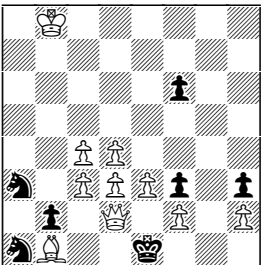


- a) 1.Kf3 fxe6 2.Qa8 exd7 3.Rc8 dxc8=Q 4.Qe4 Qh3#
- b) 1.Kh3 exf6 2.Rh8 f7 3.Qg8 fxg8=Q 4.Rh4 Qg2#

matched shielding keys and mutual bQ/bR clearances

h#4 b) wPf5→e5 (2+12)

DM / StrateGems 2005 / "for Colleen"

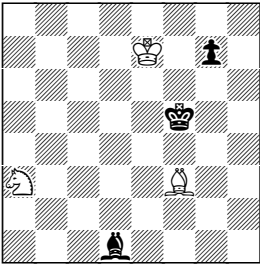


- 1.Kf1 Qc1+ 2.Ke2 Qf1+ 3.Kd2 Qe2+ 4.Kc1 Qe1#

EHMT-theme key  
subtle point: the bK and wQ occupy the exact same 5 squares

h#4 (10+7) bK-in-check

DM / Ideal-Mate Review 1999

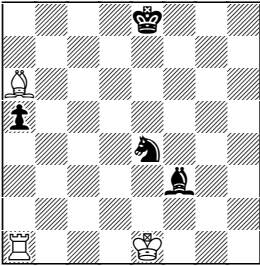


1.Ba4 Sc4 2.Be8 Se5 3.Bh5 Sf7 4.Kg6 Be4#

simple bB roundabout with ideal-mate

h#4 (3+3)

DM / StrateGems 2003 / "in memoriam Luigi Vitale"



1) 1...Be2 2.Kd7 0-0-0+ 3.Kc6 Rd3 4.Kb5 Kb2 5.Ka4 Rd4#

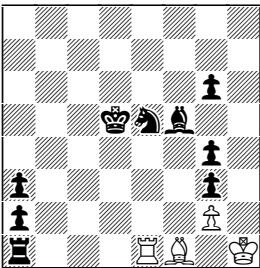
2) 1...Ra4 2.Sg5 Kf2 3.Kf7 Kg3 4.Kg6 Bd3+ 5.Kh5 Rh4#

two "Pythonesque" lines of play

*In my SG h# editing days, Luigi was a frequent 'guest'. And in his comments on SG originals, he'd always find something positive, even for the most lackluster problems! A little-known Vitale gem: [P1002860](#).*

h#4½ 2.1... (3+4)

DM & Rolf Wiehagen / 2nd Prize / Fadil Abdurahmanovic 60 JT 1999



1) 1...Re2 2.Kc4 Rxa2+ 3.Kb3 Rf2 4.Bb1 Be2 5.Ka2 Bc4#

2) 1...Be2 2.Ke4 Bxg4+ 3.Kf4 Bd1 4.g5 Re2 5.Kg4 Re4#

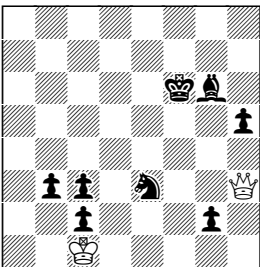
**FIDE Album**

Grimshaw + Kniest + Indian themes in both solutions

*I had the honor of serving as director for Fadil's jubilee. Click [here](#) to see other awards from the FA60JT. Of his many masterpieces, Fadil took great pride in finding this "double reciprocal Umnow": [P1087508](#).*

h#4½ 2.1... (4+9)

Reinhardt Fiebig & DM / 4th Honorable Mention / StrateGems 2002



1...Qxh5 2.g1=R+ Qd1 3.Kg5 Qe1 (tempo) 4.Kh5 Qf1 5.Rg5 Qh3#

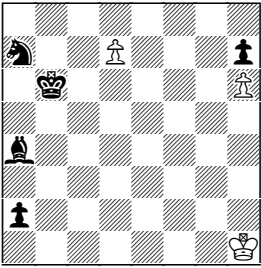
Kniest + Chernous + Schwalbe themes

5-point wQ rundlauf

*I was grateful to receive and publish this tremendous dedication ([P1003065](#)) from Reinhardt.*

h#4½ (2+8)

DM / MatPlus Forum 2011 (v) / "for the MPF 5th!"



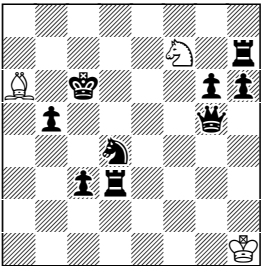
1...d8=R 2.a1=B Rh8! 3.Bg7 hxc7 4.Kb7 g8=B 5.Ka8 Bd5#

an interesting (and hopefully original) under-promotion idea  
click [here](#) to see the original MatPlus Forum setting, and related dialogue

*I prefer this version with its stronger promotion and check-avoidance logic.*

h#4½ (3+5)

DM / 7th Commendation / Die Schwalbe 2007 / "for Thomas"



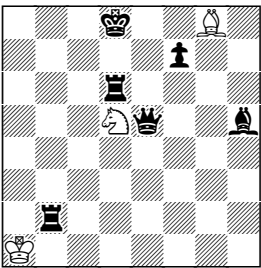
1...Sh8! 2.b4 Bc4 3.Qc5 Bg8 4.Kb5 Sf7 5.Kc4 Sd6#

Knight-to-the-corner key!  
EHMT theme: wB occupies the eventual mating square (c4), then leaves and later delivers mate

**EHMT** (*Edgar Holladay Memorial Tourney*) required the sequence: (1) white piece **X** visits unoccupied square **Y**; (2) later, the bK is mated on square **Y** by unit **X**. Click [here](#) to see **EHMT** awards on [PDB](#).

h#4½ (3+9)

DM / Die Schwalbe 2007 / "for Grady"



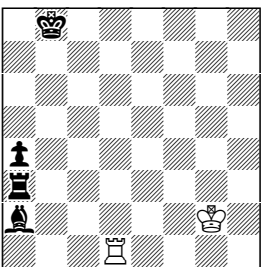
1.f5 Be6! 2.Be8 Bf7 3.Kd7 Bg6 4.Ke6 Bh7 5.Bd7 Bg8#

EHMT theme with tempo-key by White  
5-point rundlauf by wB

*Fact: Thomas and Grady are biological cousins. Their respective tributes are also related. :-)*

h#5 (3+6)

DM / 1st Commendation / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1994

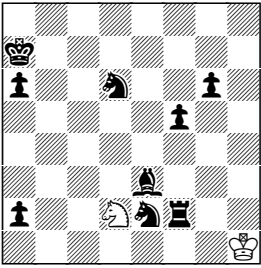


1.Bb3 Kf3 2.Ba2+ Ke4 3.Rb3 Kd5 4.Rb7+ Kc6 5.Ra7 Rd8#

black Grimshaw with switchback in miniature

h#5 (2+4)

DM / The Problemist 2001 / "dedicated to Isaak Kavnatsky"



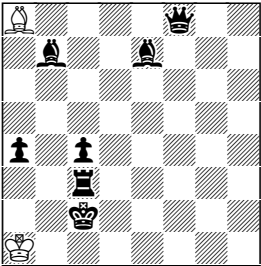
1.a1=Q+ Sf1 2.Qh8+ Sh2 3.Qa8+ Sf3 4.Sb7 Se5 5.Bb6 Sc6#

double Chernous Theme sequence with corner-to-corner play

Isaak countered with this tasteful tribute ([P0582761](#)) which, no surprise, shows a double **Chernous Theme!**

h#5 (2+9)

DM / Prize / Ideal-Mate Review 2001 / "in memoriam Gabor Cseh"



1.Be4 Bd5 2.Ba3 Bxc4 3.Qb4 Bd3+ 4.Kb3 Bb1 5.Bc2 Ba2#

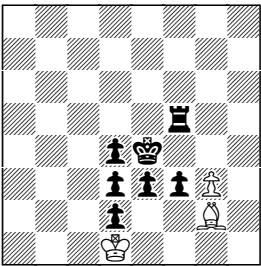
**FIDE Album**

three mutual clearances in a single-line ideal-mate helpmate

*I still recall hearing the tragic news of Gabor's passing, at age 26. His insuperable [P0583702](#) stands out as the best h# I ever received as an editor. Click [here](#) to see awards from his memorial tourney on [PDB](#).*

h#5 (2+7)

DM / StrateGems 2002



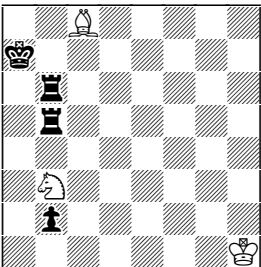
1.Re5 Bh3 (tempo) 2.f2 Bg4 3.fl=B Be2 4.Bh3 Bf1 5.Bf5 Bg2#

( not 1...Bf1? 2.f2 Be2 3.fl=B ??? and white is stuck )

5-point wB tempo-rundlauf to avoid interfering with the bP/bB

h#5 (3+7)

DM / 2nd Commendation / Isaak Kavnatsky 90JT 2001



1.b1=Q+ Sc1 2.Qh7+ Bh3 3.Ka6 Sd3 4.Qa7 Bf1 5.Ra5 Sc5#

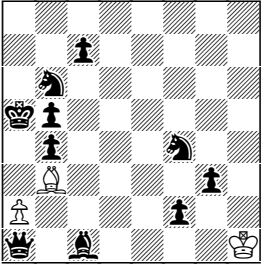
double Chernous Theme in a single line with two(!) thematic white units

the first four half-moves all have a "surprise" element; miniature; double-check model-mate moves like 1...Sc1 (away from the bK) and 2...Bh3 (away from the bK) are pure gold for the solver

*This was the first problem 'born' out of my favorite chess set -- a superb, magnetic traveling set that has been a faithful companion for many years. In fact, this problem was finalized while vacationing in Vermont!*

h#5 (3+4)

DM / 5th Honorable Mention / StrateGems 2002



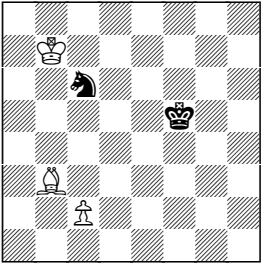
1.Ba3+ Bd1 2.Qh8+ Bh5 3.Qa8+ Bf3 4.Ka4 Bd5 5.Qa5 Bb3#

triple Chernous Theme and wB rundlauf

*This was primarily composed while laying on a table, during my first therapy session at the Chiropractor's office. When I got home -- armed with chessboard and computer -- I reached a sound setting in no time.*

h#5 (3+10)

DM / Ideal-Mate Review 2002

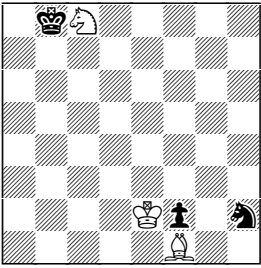


1.Se7 c4 2.Ke6 c5+ 3.Kd7 c6+ 4.Ke8 Ba4 5.Kd8 c7#

two B+P batteries in a single-line ideal-mate

h#5 (3+2)

DM / Commendation / StrateGems 2004

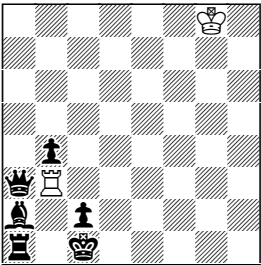


1.Kb7 Kd3 2.Ka6 Be2 3.f1=B Kc4 4.Bg2 Bd3 5.Bb7 Kb4#

inchworm movements of wK and wB

h#5 (3+3)

DM / MatPlus Forum 2011

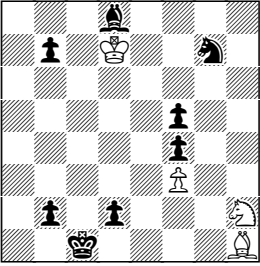


1.Kd2 Kf7 2.Qc1 Ke6 3.Qe1+ Kd5 4.Rd1 Kd4 5.c1=S Rb2#

unblock, block, unblock of the eventual promotion square (c1)

h#5 (2+6)

DM / 3rd Prize / StrateGems 2006 / "for Owen"

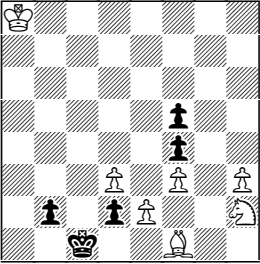


1. d1=R+ Kc8 2. Rd3 Sf1 3. Rxf3 Sd2 4. Rf1 Be4 5. Rd1 Sb3#

promoted bR does a rundlauf back to its coronation square; first of its kind  
the Rook draws a small letter "O", for Owen!

h#5 (4+8)

DM / original

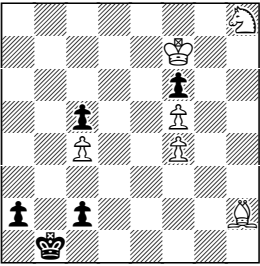


1. d1=R Bg2 2. Rxd3 Sf1 3. Rxf3 Sd2 4. Rf1 Be4 5. Rd1 Sb3#

bR promotion and rundlauf, original version #2

h#5 (7+5)

DM / original

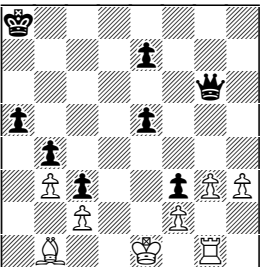


1. c1=R Sg6 2. Rxc4 Se5 3. Rxf4 Sc4 4. Rf1 Be5 5. Rc1 Sa3#

bR promotion and rundlauf, original version #3

h#5 (6+5)

DM / 1st Prize / StrateGems 2001 / "dedicated to Chris Feather"



1) 1. Qxc2 Rh1! 2. Qh7 Bg6 3. Qxh3 Be8 4. Qd7 Rh8 5. Qa7 Bc6#  
2) 1. Qxg3 Ba2! 2. Qg8 Rg6 3. Qxb3 Rc6 4. Qg8 Bd5 5. Qb8 Ra6#

**FIDE Album**

the first and only ODT h#5 extant, my best Helpmate to date!

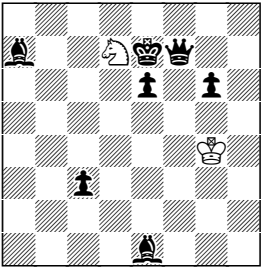
bQ pries open 4 lines for wB/wR; the mysterious-looking White first moves have subtle motives

*While I was SG h# editor, "CJF" kindly scrutinized and advised on dozens of unpublished submissions. Later he took the reigns as my successor. This tribute ([P1072251](#)) appeared concurrently with the above rundlaufs.*

h#5 2.1... (8+8)



Mark Kirtley & DM / Honorable Mention / Ideal-Mate Review 1997



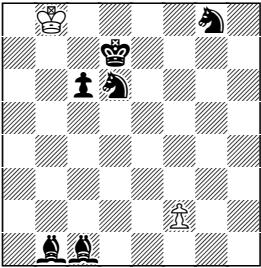
1....Sf6 2.Bd4 Se4 3.Bg7 Sxc3 4.Kf6 Sa4 5.Bb4 Sb6 6.Be7 Sd7#

wS hex-orbit with key-arrival on the mating square  
echoed angular Bishop movements  
ideal-mate

*Mark is a wilderness lover and avid hiker. I affectionately refer to these treks as "rundlaufs", eg.: "Have you done any rundlaufing lately?". :-) Check out this ultimate S-rundlauf tribute from Mark: [P0576790](#).*

h#5½ (2+7) promoted bB

DM / Honorable Mention / Ideal-Mate Review 1999 / "dedicated to Edgar Holladay"



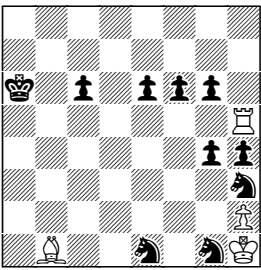
1....f3 2.Bg5 f4 3.Bg6 f5 4.Bd8 f6 5.Be8 f7 6.Se7 f8=S#

wP tempo-Excelsior with underpromotion  
four times the Bishops move to stay ahead of wP  
ideal-mate

*After meeting Edgar for the first time at the 1985 Good Companions Meeting, he took me under his wing, and we developed a memorable relationship over the years. Here's a patent Holladay 'asymmetric': [P1097343](#).*

h#5½ 0.1... (2+6)

DM / 2nd Special Prize / Orbit 2001

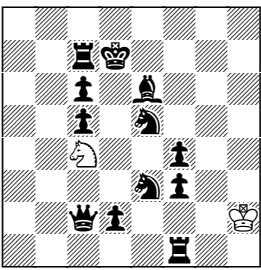


1....Bf5 2.Kb5 Bxg6+ 3.Kc4 Rf5 4.Kd3 Rxf6+ 5.Ke2 Bf5 6.Kf1 Bd3#

three times a wB and wR interfere on one square in a single-liner -- apparently a first challenge to Orbit readers: show the intent (only) without promoted forced; no takers!

h#5½ (4+10) promoted bS

Mark Kirtley & DM / StrateGems 1998

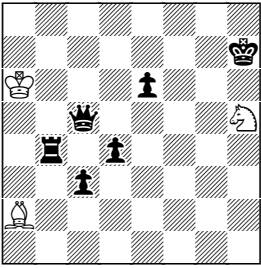


1....Sd6 2.Sd5 Sf7 3.Qh7+ Sh6 4.Qe7 Sg4 5.Kd6 Se3 6.Sd7 Sc4#

captureless wS rundlauf with Chernous Theme

h#5½ (2+12)

DM / Ideal-Mate Review 2002

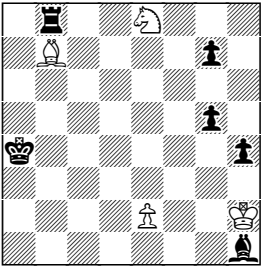


1...Sg7 (Sf4?) 2.Kg6 Sxe6 3.Kf5 Sd8 (Sg5?) 4.Ke4 Bg8 5.Kd3 Sf7 6.Kc4 Se5#

since the wS is 'diagonally opposed' to f7, it must capture e6 en route  
idea enhanced by dual-avoidances

h#5½ (3+6)

DM / 3rd Commendation / Suomen Tehtavaniekat 2002-2003

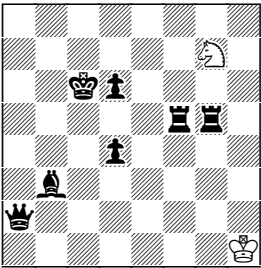


1...Bf3 2.Kb5 e4 3.Kc6 e5+ 4.Kd7 e6+ 5.Kc8 Bg4 6.Bb7 e7#

a more elaborate version of the previous problem  
consecutive wB/wP battery formation  
critical key move

h#5½ (4+6)

DM / Die Schwalbe 2001



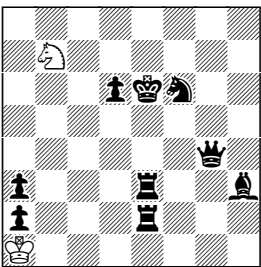
1...Sh5 2.Be6 Sg3 3.Qc4 Kg2 4.Rc5 Kf3 5.Rge5 Sf5 6.Kd5 Se7#

original (ideal-mate) version -- published concurrently with the solutions for the next problem  
wS shield and 'uninterrupted' clearances add flair

*Although this lacks the bK departure-and-return paradox (as in the one below), there's a fair argument to be made as to which version is "better". In the realm of ideal-mates, this one is a top-tier candidate.*

h#5½ (2+7)

DM / 5th Honorable Mention / Die Schwalbe 2001

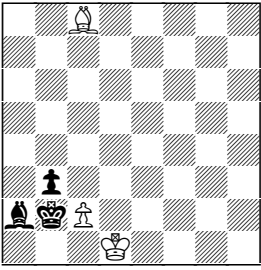


1.Kd5 (Kf7?) Sd8 (Sc5?) 2.Re7 Sf7 3.R2e5 Kxa2 4.Qd7 Kb3 5.Ke6 Kc4 6.Bf5 Sg5#

paradoxical bK switchback allows 2 blocking clearances to operate

h#6 (2+9)

DM / Chess Life 1983 (v)



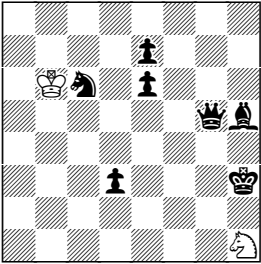
1.Bb1 c4 2.Bf5 c5 3.Bxc8 c6 4.Bf5 c7 5.Bb1 c8=Q 6.Ba2 Qc1#

composed sans voir  
bB triple-switchback

*This 'version' is merely a reflection of the original ([P0570382](#)), for better light-square coordination.*

h#6 (3+3)

DM / The Problemist 1997

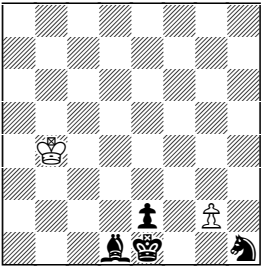


1.Se5 Kc5 2.Sg6+ Kd4 3.Sf4 Ke3 4.Se2+ Kf2 5.Sg3 Kg1 6.Qh4 Sf2#

paradox: Knight shuts off the Queen three times, then she moves!

h#6 (2+7)

DM / Honorable Mention / Ideal-Mate Review 2001



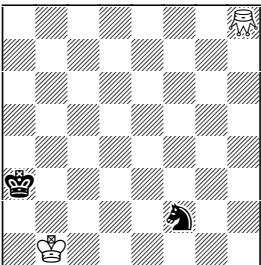
1.Sf2 g4 2.Se4 g5 3.Sd6 g6 4.Sf7 g7 5.Sh8 gxh8=Q 6.Kd2 Qc3#

( not: 3.Sf6? g6 4.Sh7 gxh7 5.Kd2 h8Q 6.??? Qc3# )

bS corner-to-corner tempo trek  
white Excelsior  
ideal-mate

h#6 (2+4)

DM / Ideal-Mate Review 2002

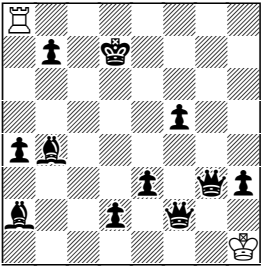


1.Sg4 Kc1 2.Sh2 Gh1[+wSh2] 3.Kb3 Sf3 4.Ka2 Ge4[+bSf3] 5.Sd4 Gc4[+wSd4] 6.Ka1 Sb3#

several moves of interest, 3 thematic S color changes, ideal-mate

h#6 (2+2) Andernach Grasshopper

DM & Mark Kirtley / 4th Prize / Petko A. Petkov 60th Jubilee Tourney 2002

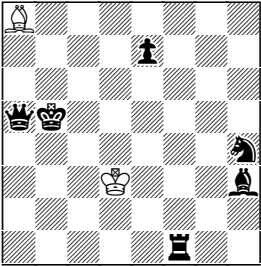


- 1) 1.Qd6 Rg8 2.d1=R+ Rg1 3.Rc1 Rd1 4.Rc7 Rd5 5.Kc8 Ra5 6.Qd7 Ra8#
- 2) 1.Qg7 Ra6 2.Kc8 Rg6 3.d1=R+ Rg1 4.Rd7 Rg6 5.Rc7 Ra6 6.Qd7 Ra8#

captureless 6-move rundlauf and triple-switchback by one wR  
Chernous Theme sequence in each line  
distinct routes for wR/bQ/bR

h#6 2.1... (2+11) promoted bQ

DM / 5th Prize / StrateGems 2001 / "dedicated to Rolf Wiehagen"



- 1....Bf3 2.Qd8+ Ke4 3.Kc6 Bg4 4.Sf3 Kf5 5.Kd7 Kg6+ 6.Ke8 Bh5 7.Bd7 Kg7#

**FIDE Album**

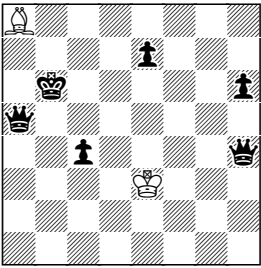
white Indian interferences on 3 adjacent lines

compare [P0582958](#) (Abdurahmanovic/ellinghoven)

*Rolf was one of my "secret weapons" while editing the SG h# section. He tirelessly screened submitted originals against his personal collection. Here's one of his better-known solos, a "star" A UW: [P0500663](#).*

h#6½ (2+6)

DM / StrateGems 2001



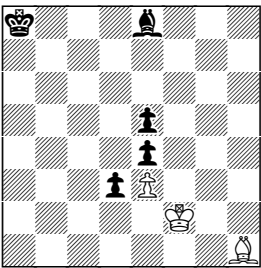
- 1....Bf3 2.Qh3 Ke4 3.Kc6 Bg4 4.Qd8 Kf5 5.Kd7 Kg6+ 6.Ke8 Bh5 7.Qhd7 Kg7#

original version

white Indian on 3 consecutive lines, but with more interesting K routes

h#6½ (2+6) promoted bQ

DM / 1st Commendation / diagrammes 2002



- 1....Kg3 2.Kb7 Kg4 3.Kc6 Kf5 4.Bd7+ Kxe4 5.Bf5+ Kf3 6.Kd5 Kg2 7.Ke4 Kf2#

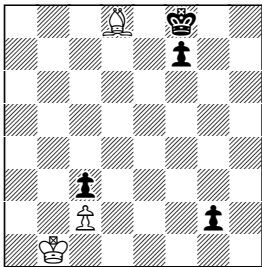
Kniest Theme with a King as the clearing agent; 7-point wK rundlauf

*Perhaps the longest Helpmate with only King moves for white?*

compare [P0527622](#) (Ott/Rehm) and [P0548607](#) (Ott/Rehm)

h#6½ (3+5)

Aurel M. Karpati & DM / Thema Danicum 1998



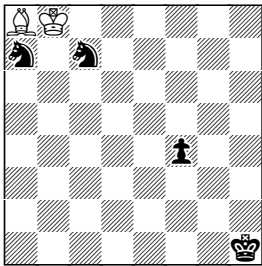
1.g1=B Bg5 2.Bd4 Bd2 3.cxd2 c4 4.d1=B c5 5.Bg4 c6 6.Bd7 exd7 7.Bg7 d8=Q#

two Bishop promotions  
bB+wB self-sacrifices  
three echoed angular Bishop movements

*The profound keys in this Karpati pillar ([P0523486](#)) left a life-long impression.*

h#7 (3+4)

DM / Prize / Ideal-Mate Review 2000

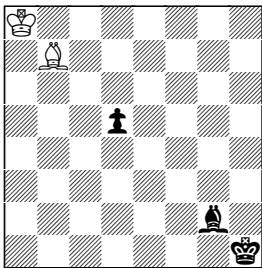


1.Sc6+ Kc8 2.Sd5 Kd7 3.Se5+ Ke6 4.Sf3 Kf5 5.Se3+ Kxf4 6.Sg2+ Kg3 7.Sg1 Bxg2#

tripled sequence of self-pin/self-unpin in a single-line ideal-mate mini

h#7 (2+4) K-in-check

Eugene Albert & DM / Honorable Mention / Ideal-Mate Review 1999



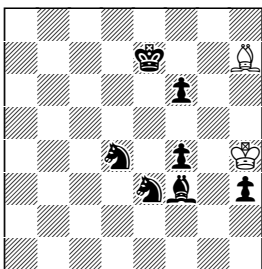
a) 1.d4 Kb8 2.d3 Kc7 3.d2 Kd6 4.d1=S Ke5 5.Sf2 Kf4 6.Sh3+ Kg3 7.Sg1 Bxg2#  
b) 1.f6 (tempo) Ka7 2.f5 Kb6 3.f4 Kc5 4.f3 Kd4 5.f2 Ke3 6.f1=S+ Kf2 7.Sh2 Bxg2#

routes of the promoted Knights determine wK paths  
bP tempo-Excelsior in part b)

*This ideal-mate classic ([P0509880](#)) is, for obvious reasons, among Gene's personal favorites. :-)*

h#7 b) bPd5→f7 (2+3)

Gianni Donati & DM / Springaren 2002 / "dedicated to Milan Vukceovich"



1.h2 Bf5 2.h1=Q+ Bh3 3.Qa1 Bf1 4.Ke6 Bc4+ 5.Kf5 Bf7 (tempo) 6.Se6 Bg8 7.Qe5 Bh7#

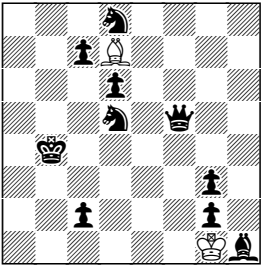
**FIDE Album**

7-move captureless, no-repeat wB rundlauf; task?  
Chernous Theme with bQ promotion  
many points of interest

*Gianni and I tried at length to achieve an 8-move rendering. Perhaps some reader out there will find a way?*

h#7 (2+7)

DM / Orbit 2002

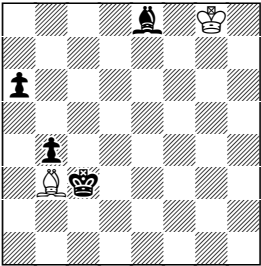


1.Kc5 Bc8 2.Kc6 Ba6 3.c1=R+ Bf1 4.Rc5 Be2 5.Qb1+ Bd1 6.Qb6 Bh5 7.Sb7 Be8#

quasi-rundlauf by wB  
double Chernous Theme

h#7 (2+10)

DM / StrateGems 2004 / "in memoriam Edgar Holladay"



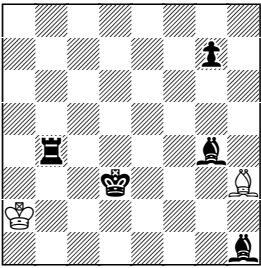
1.a5 Kf8 2.a4 Ke7 3.a3 Ba4 4.Bf7 Be8 5.Kb3 Kd7 6.Ka4 Kc6 7.Bb3 Kb6#

wB/bB platzwechsel  
bK follows the wB through b3 and a4

*Edgar was an admitted "computer miner" in his latter years. And he panned his share of jewels: [P0542742](#).*

h#7 (2+4)

Rolf Wiehagen & DM / feenschach 2001



1.Bc8 Bd7 2.Rh4 Kb3 3.Ke4 Kc4 4.Kf3+ Kd5 5.g5 Ke6 6.Kg4 Kf7+ 7.Kh5 Be8 8.Bg4 Kg7#

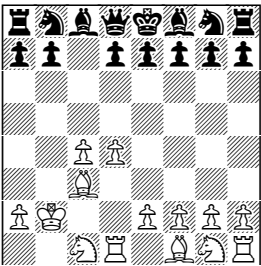
3 Indians plus peri-Indian, mixed clearance, and switchback

compare [P0582958](#) (Abdurahmanovic/ellinghoven)

h#8 (2+5) promoted bB

**Proof Games (PGan)**

DM / Honorable Mention / Gianni Donati 50JT 2002 / "after Satoshi Hashimoto"



1.d4 c5 2.Sd2 e4 3.Sb3 c3 4.Bd2 cxb2 5.Qc1 bxc1=B 6.c4 Ba3 7.Bc3 Bd6 8.0-0-0 Bf4+ 9.Kb2 Bc1 10.Sxc1

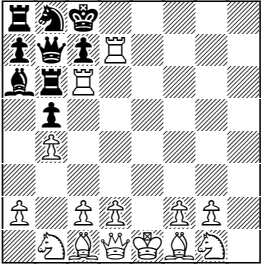
captureless and continuous rundlauf by the promoted bB (which is then removed), in minimal time

See the full **GD50JT** awards on Chessville: [Introduction & Prizes](#); [Honorable Mentions](#); [Commendations](#)

compare [P1000452](#) (Hashimoto)

PG9½ (14+15)

DM / MatPlus Forum 2010 / "to the GZT participants!"



1.e4 b5 2.e5 Ba6 3.e6 Qc8 4.exf7+ Kd8 5.fxg8=R Qb7 6.Rxg7 Kc8 7.Rxh7 Bg7 8.b4 Bxa1 9.Rxe7 Rxh2  
10.Rxd7 Rh6 11.Rh3 Bc3 12.Rxc3 Rb6 13.Rc6 xz

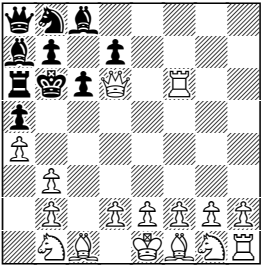
shortest proofgame ending in CapZug, to my knowledge; find the **Good Zug T**ourney awards [here](#) (page 48)

compare to these proofgames which end in **stalemate**:

[P1003999](#) (Meinking), [P1004131](#) (Tomasevic/Prentos), [P1004135](#) (Prentos), [P1004002](#) (Elkies),  
[P1067996](#) (Heinonen), [P0001605](#) (Pronkin/Frolkin)

PG12½ (14+9)

DM / StrateGems 2002



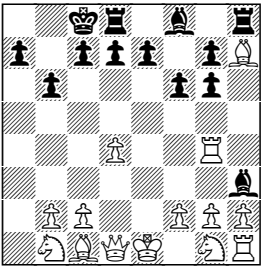
1.a4 c6 2.Ra3 Qb6 3.Re3 Kd8 4.Rxe7 Kc7 5.Re8 Bc5 6.Rxg8 a5 7.Rxg7 Ra6 8.Rxh7 Qa7 9.Rxf7 Rh3 10.Rf6 Rb3  
11.exb3 Qa8 12.Qc2 Ba7 13.Qd3 Kb6 14.Qd6

my first published proofgame, with an original stalemate finale

*I issued a challenge to SG readers to show a shorter/better PG ending in stalemate. These fine examples were published in SG afterwards: [P1004131](#) (Tomasevic/Prentos), [P1004135](#) (Prentos), [P1004002](#) (Elkies).*

PG13½ (16+10)

DM / 2nd Commendation / Phenix 2003 / "dedicated to Gianni Donati"



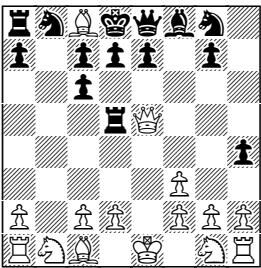
1.a4 b6 2.a5 Ba6 3.Ra4 Bxe2 4.a6 Bg4 5.Bc4 f6 6.Bxg8 Bh3 7.Rg4 Qc8 8.d4 Qb7 9.axb7 Sc6 10.b8=S Se5!  
11.Sc6 Sg6! 12.Se5 0-0-0 13.Sxg6 hxg6 14.Bh7

the bSb8 must be coy (for a time) to preserve castling rights

*I remember the date 31-Dec-2003, the day Gianni and I "scrambled" non-stop to complete his **GD50JT** awards, and post them online to preserve the "publication year" -- for Album qualification purposes. :-)*

PG13½ (14+13)

DM / Honorable Mention / Gianni Donati 50JT 2002 / "after Satoshi Hashimoto"



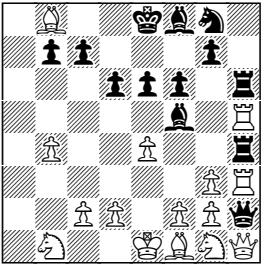
1.b4 f5 2.b5 f4 3.b6 f3 4.exf3 h5 5.Bb5 h4 6.Bc6 bxc6 7.b7 Rh5 8.bxc8=B Rd5 9.Ba6 Qc8  
10.Bf1 Qa6 11.Qe2 Qd3 12.Qe5 Qg6 13.Ba6 Kd8 14.Bc8 Qe8

Phoenix Bishop taps the home square then returns to the promotion square

compare [P1000007](#) (Hashimoto)

PG14 (15+14)

DM / Special Honorable Mention (v) / StrateGems 2002

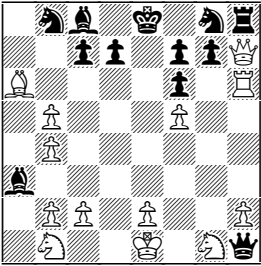


1.b4 Sa6 2.Bb2 Sc5 3.Bd4 Se4 4.Bxa7 Sg3 5.Bb8 Rxa2 6.hxg3 Ra6 7.Rxh7 Rh6 8.Ra5 d6 9.Rh5 Bf5  
10.e4 e6 11.Qg4 Qh4 12.Qh3 f6 13.Qh1 Qh2 14.Rh3 Rh4 15.Rh5 Rh6

6-unit 'centipede' on the h-file

PG15 (15+13)

Mark Kirtley & DM / Commendation / Gianni Donati 50JT 2002



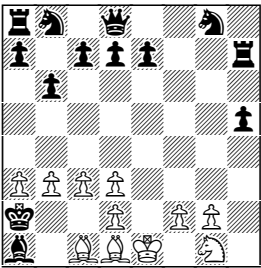
1.a4 b5 2.axb5 a6 3.Rxa6 h5 4.Rh6 Ra3 5.f4 Rc3 6.dxc3 h4 7.Qd3 h3 8.Qh7 hxg2 9.f5 gxh1=Q  
10.Bg5 Qa8! (tempo) 11.Bf6 exf6 12.Bg2 Ba3 13.Bb7 Qe7 14.Ba6 Qb4 15.cxb4 Qh1

pure bQ corner-to-corner tempo

*I was amazed when Mark turned this S-chain "shortie" ([P1067982](#)) into a fantastic double-chain ([P1003985](#)).*

PG15 (13+12)

DM & Kostas Prentos / Special Prize / StrateGems 2003



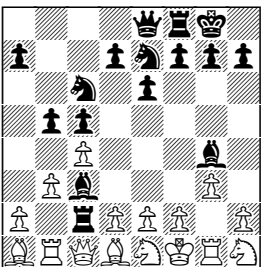
1.h4 b6 2.h5 Ba6 3.h6 Bd3 4.hxg7 h5 5.gxf8=S Rh7 6.Se6 fxe6 7.Sc3 Kf7 8.Sd5 exd5 9.Rh4 Ke6 10.Rc4 dxc4  
11.c3 Kd5 12.Qb3 cxb3 13.a3 Kc4 14.Ra2 bxa2 15.exd3+ Kb3 16.Be2 a1=B 17.Bd1+ Ka2 18.b3

6-step "inchworm" by bP and bK  
Phoenix

*Kostas is best known as a PG artist, but his ingenuity also spawned h# master-works like this: [P1003055](#).*

PG17½ (11+13) C-

DM / Commendation / Probleemblad 2003 / "for Cecelia"



1.Sc3 b5 2.Se4 Bb7 3.Sg3 Bf3 4.c4! Bg4 5.Sf3 e6 6.Rg1 Bb4 7.Sh1 c5 8.g3 Sc6 9.Bg2 Rb8 10.Kf1 Rb6  
11.Se1 Ra6 12.Be4 Ra3 13.Bc2 Rc3 14.b3 Sge7 15.Bb2 0-0 16.Qc1 Qe8 17.Bd1 Rc2 18.Rb1 Bc3 19.Ba1

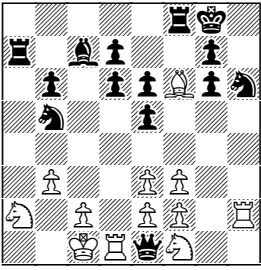
first rank "cyclic platzwechsel" without capture!  
a1→b1→h1→g1→e1→f1→d1→c1→a1

*Upon receiving this, the **Probleemblad** editor replied that he thought there must be a "diagram error". But I reassured Mr. van den Heuvel that the problem was indeed C+. :-)*

PG18½ (16+16)



DM / 1st Prize / StrateGems 2002



1.a4 Sc6 2.Ra3 Sd4 3.Rg3 Sb5 4.Rg6 hxg6 5.b3 Rh3 6.Bb2 Re3 7.Bf6 e5 8.dxe3 Be7 9.Qd6 cxd6 10.a5! Qxa5+  
13.Sfd2 Bf3 14.gxf3 Bd8 15.Bh3 Bc7 16.Be6 fxe6 17.Kc1 Kf7 18.Rd1! Rf8! 19.Sf1 Qe1 20.h4 a5 21.h5 a4  
22.h6 a3 23.h7 a2 24.h8=R a1=R 25.Rh2 Ra7 26.Sc3 Sh6 27.Sa2 Kg8

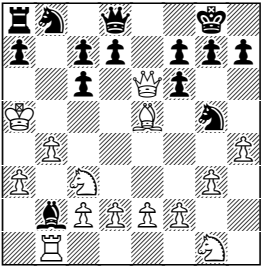
**FIDE Album**

double "false castling", with coordinated coronations by both sides

*When I explained this problem to 2 local OTB masters, and asked them to name 2 moves which they were sure were played, they immediately blurted out "castles". Too bad I didn't wager dinner, ala Sam Loyd!*

PG27 (12+14) C-

DM / 1st Prize / Good Companions QCT 2010



1.h4 Sf6 2.Rh3 Se4 3.Rf3 Sg5 4.Rf6 exf6 5.g3 Ba3 6.b4 0-0 7.Bb2 Re8 8.Be5 Re6 9.Sc3 Ra6 10.Qb1 Bc1 11.Qb3 Ra3 12.Qe6 Rb3  
13.Bg2 Ba3 14.Bc6 Rb2 15.0-0-0 Rb1+ 16.Kxb1 Bb2 17.a3 bxc6 18.Ka2 Ba6 19.Kb3 Bc4+ 20.Ka4 Ba2 21.Ka5 Bb1 22.Rxb1

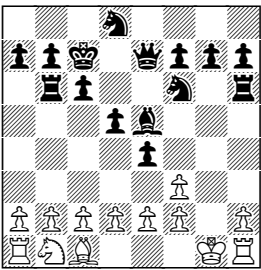
**GCQCT theme:** "A unit makes a 'significant journey' without capturing, and then is captured."

the bR and bB wind their way to b1 to be captured: 8- and 4-move treks, respectively  
19...Bb5? fails due to 20.Rb1 Ba4+ 21.Kxa4 ??? 22.Ka5 as there's no good waiting move  
note that 16...Bc1? (temporizing for a later 19...Bb5?) would make 20.Rd1-b1?? impossible

PG21½ (14+14)

Click [here](#) to see all GCQCT proofgames. Full PDF available on the [Hub](#) page, posting of February 2010.

DM / StrateGems 2011

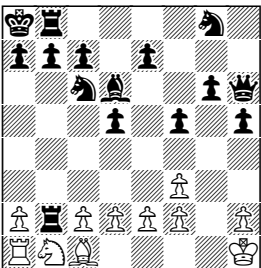


1.Sf3 d5 2.Se5 Bg4 3.Sd7 Bf3 4.gxf3 e5 5.Bh3 Bd6 6.Bf5 Qe7 7.Bd3 e4 8.Bb5 Be5 9.Bc6 Sxc6 10.Kf1 0-0-0  
11.Sb8! Rd6 12.Kg1 Rh6 13.Qf1 Sf6 14.Qg2 Rd8 15.Qg5 Rd6 16.Qe3 Sd8 17.Qb6 Rxb6 18.Sa6 c6 19.Sc7 Kxc7

**GCQCT theme** with 3 (!) thematic pieces: wB (5-move trek), wS (6) and wQ (5)  
the star move is 11.Sb8!, which links the initial wB journey to the subsequent wQ foray  
not 11.Sf6? (closing d6-h6), nor 11.Sf8? (closing h8-d8), nor 11.Sc5? (closing e3-b6)

PG19 (13+15)

DM / StrateGems 2011 (original version)

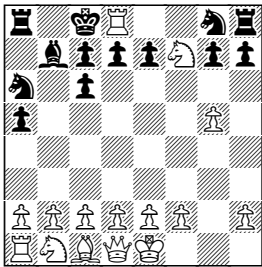


1.Sf3 d5 2.Se5 Bg4 3.Sd7! Bf3 4.gxf3 h5 5.Bh3 Rh6 6.Bf5 Rb6 7.Bd3 Rxb2 8.Bb5 f5 9.Bc6 Sxc6 10.Se5! Qd6 11.0-0 0-0-0  
12.Kh1 Kb8 13.Rg1 Ka8 14.Rg6 Rb8 15.Rh6 Qxh6 16.Qg1 g6 17.Qg4! (Qg5?) Bg7 18.Qb4 Bxe5 19.Qd6 Bxd6

**GCQCT theme** with 4 (!) thematic pieces: wB (5-move trek), wS (4), wR (4) and wQ (4)  
the switchback 10.Se5! compels the wQ to coil her way to d6

*I prefer the published 3-unit version (above) due to the stronger connection between the thematic journeys. The intros are too similar to warrant two 'originals'. Also, this version has the non-thematic Rxb2 capture.*

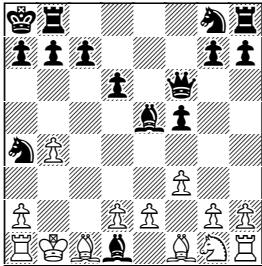
PG19 (11+15)



1.g4 a5 2.Bg2 Sa6 3.Bc6 bxc6 4.Sh3 Bb7 5.Rg1 Qb8 6.Rg3 Qa7 7.Rf3 Qc5 8.Rxf7 Qh5 9.Sg5 Kd8 10.Rxf8+ Qe8  
11.Sf7+ Kc8 12.g5 Qd8 13.Rxd8#

**GCQCT theme:** 6-point captureless rundlauf by the bQ, then she disappears on her home square checkmate finale

PG12½ (15+13)

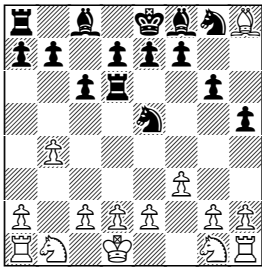


1.Sc3 Sa6 2.Sd5 Sc5 3.Sxe7 Sa4 4.Sf5 Bd6 5.b4 Be5 6.Ba3 d6 7.Qb1 Bxf5 8.Kd1 Bxc2+ 9.Kc1 f5 10.Qb3 Qf6  
11.Qg3 0-0-0 12.f3 Kb8 13.Qe1 Ka8 14.Qd1 Bxd1 15.Kb1 Rb8 16.Bc1

**GCQCT theme:** 5-point captureless rundlauf by the wQ back to home base, then she is captured

*Although this version was published first, the above setting was composed prior to the GCQCT deadline. I chose to withhold that setting for a time because it was not the complete presentation I sought. See the next problem, which I consider by far the most potent of the three "Queen-rundlauf-home" concoctions.*

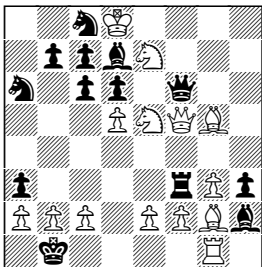
PG15½ (13+15)



1.b4 h5 2.Bb2 Rh6 3.Qc1 Rd6 4.Kd1 g6 5.Bh8 Sc6 6.Qa3 Se5 7.Qg3 c6 8.f3 Qb6 9.Qe1 Qf2 10.Kc1 Qxf1  
11.Qd1 Qxd1+ 12.Kxd1

**GCQCT theme:** 5-point captureless rundlauf by the wQ, then she's captured on her home square the ultimate rendering of this idea: the capturing Q is also captured, leaving no trace of what transpired!

PG11½ (14+15)



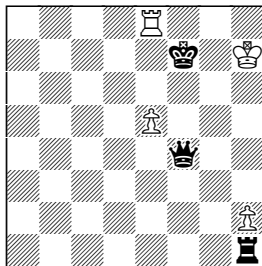
1.h4 a5 2.h5 a4 3.h6 a3 4.hxg7 Ra4 5.Rh6 Sa6 6.Rc6 dxc6 7.gxh8=S Bh3! 8.Sxf7 Rg4! 9.Sd6+ exd6 10.d4 Kf7  
11.Kd2 Bh6+ 12.Kd3 Bf4 13.Ke4 Kg6 14.Qd3 Kh5 15.Kf5 Bh2 16.Ke6 Qf6+! 17.Kd7 Se7 18.Bg5! Rf4+ 19.Kd8 Bd7  
20.g3 Kg4 21.Bg2 h5 22.Bd5! h4 23.Sf3 Kh3 24.Qf5+ Kg2 25.Se5+ Kf1 26.Bg2+ Ke1 27.Sc3+ Kd2 28.Rg1! h3  
29.Bf1 Kc1 30.Sd5 Sc8+ 31.Se7 Kb1 32.d5 Rf3 33.Bg2+

SIX Indians!      3 black:      Bh3/Rg4/Kf5/Rf4+      Rg4/Bf4/Ke4/Bh2      Qf6+/Se7/Kd8/Sc8+  
                         2 white:      Bd5/Sf3/Kg2/Se5+      Rg1/Bf1/Kc1/Bg2+  
                         1 mixed:      Bg5/Rf4/Kd2/Rf3

PG32½ (14+13) C-

*A pity that this landmark proofgame was somehow overlooked in the 2001-2003 FIDE Album selections.*

DM / StrateGems 2002

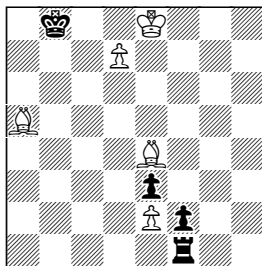


2.Rg5 4.Kh5 5.Rg4 8.Kg2 13.h8=Q 14.Qh2 17.Kh5 18.Rg5 20.Kh7 22.Re8 23.Qh5+ Rxb5#

rich miniature featuring mutual K/P + Q/K + K/Q clearances  
the 3 white units return to their initial posts

ser-s#23 (4+3)

DM / 2nd Prize / StrateGems 2002



a) 1.Rb1 2.f1=S 3.Sd2 4.Sc4 5.Sb6 6.Sa8 7.Rb6 8.Kc7 d8=R =

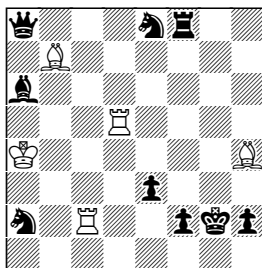
b) 1.Rc1 2.f1=B 3.Bh3 4.Be6 5.Bd5 6.Ba8 7.Rc6 8.Kb7 d8=Q =

**FIDE Album**

mixed AUW with strategically equivalent lines

ser-h=8 b) wRa5 (5+4)

DM / 4th Prize / StrateGems 2002



1.Rf3 2.Sf6 3.Qh8 4.Bd3 (Bb5?) 5.Bf5 6.Bh3 7.Sg4 8.Qa1 9.Qh1 10.Sc1 (Sc3?) 11.Se2 12.Sg1

13.e2 14.f1=B Rg5=

**FIDE Album**

my first published series problem -- a good start

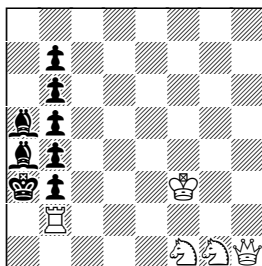
three black zigzags (Q+B+S), including 4-corner Queen trek

note the four uses of the "idle" wK: (1) 1-3.Bd3+?; (2) 4.Bb5+?; (3) 1-9.Sc1? [Qa1+]; (4) 10.Sc3+?

triple-pin model-stalemate

ser-h=14 (5+9)

DM / 2nd Prize / StrateGems 2005 / "dedicated to Reb Orrell"



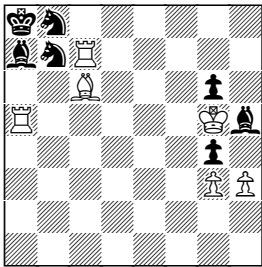
1.Kxb2 2.Ka3 3.b2 4.b3 5.b4 6.Bb5 7.Bxf1 8.Bb5 9.Ba4 10.b5 11.Bb6 12.Bxg1 13.Bb6 14.Ba5 15.b6 Qb1=

simple grab-and-return executed 3 times

*Reb helped give the "Good Companions" a web presence with the [StrateGems](http://StrateGems.com) website -- a labor of love.*

ser-h=15 (5+8)

DM / 2nd Prize / StrateGems 2003 / "dedicated to SG S&S contributors"

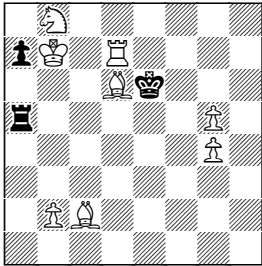


1.Sa6 2.Bb8! (Bg1?) 4.Kb6 6.Sb5 13.Kxh3 20.Kb6 22.Sb7 24.Ka8 25.Ba7 26.Sb8 Rc8=

the stalemate 'box' is disassembled so the bK can safely grab h3  
the move 2...Bb8! is especially nice as the King must traverse the entire a7-g1 diagonal

ser-h=26 (6+7) C-

DM & Petko A. Petkov / StrateGems 2011



a) 1.Rd5! (Ra1? Bb3#) 2.a5 3.a4 4.a3 5.a2 6.a1=Q 7.Qh1 Ka8 8.Ra5#  
b) 1.Ra1! (Rd5? Re7#) 2.a5 3.a4 4.a3 5.axb2 6.b1=B 7.Ba2 Ka8 8.Bd5#

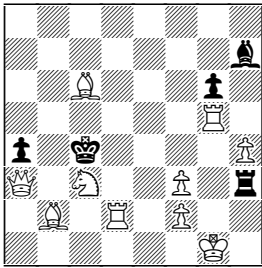
interesting help-reflex scheme with black playing the series

*This problem was sparked by IGM Petkov's related article in the April 2011 issue of StrateGems. Click [here](#) to see his bio page on the [SG](#) website. This epic "PAP" h#2 ([P0518934](#)) is a must-see.*

ser-hr#8 b) wPg4→e5 (8+3)

Stalemates (-n / s-n / h-n)

DM / Honorable Mention / Edgar Holladay 70JT 1995-1998



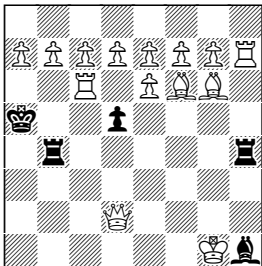
1.Sb5? (zz) Bg8! 2.Qa2+ Kb4 3.Rd4+ Ka5! (Bc4? 4.Sa3! zz)  
1.Sxa4? (zz) Rxh4! 2.Qc5+ Kb3 3.Bd5+ Kxa4! (Rc4? 4.Sc3! zz)

**1.Sb1!** (zz) Bg8 2.Qa2+ Kb4 3.Rd4+ Bc4 4.Sa3! (zz) Rxh4 5.Rxh4=  
1..... Rxh4 2.Qc5+ Kb3 3.Bd5+ Rc4 4.Ba3! (zz) Bg8 5.Bxg8=

bB and bR reciprocally quiesced by pin (on c4) or by capture (on h4/g8), in logical fashion  
common try errors grant extended K-flights

=5 √√ (10+5)

DM, George P. Spiccas & Radovan Tomasevic / StrateGems 2010



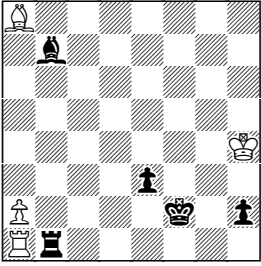
**1.a8=R+** Kb5 2.b8=R+ Kxc6 3.c8=R+ Kd6 4.d8=R+ Kxe6 5.e8=R+ Kxf6 6.f8=R+ Kxg6 7.g8=R+ Kxh7 8.Rg7+ Kxg7  
9.Qg5+! Kh7 10.Rb7+ Rxb7 11.Rc7+ Rxc7 12.Rd7+ Rxd7 13.Re7+ Rxe7 14.Rf7+ Rxf7 15.Rh8+ Kxh8 16.Qg8+ Kxg8=

task: 7 wR promotions in a self-stalemate  
notice how the b8-g8 Rooks clear a path for 15.Ra8-h8+  
model stalemate

*This task was nearly 8 years in the making. George and I published an unsound setting back in 2002, then a cooked 'correction'. Several years later, we resurrected the idea and, with Rasa's help, finished the job.*

s=16 (14+5)

DM / 3rd Honorable Mention / StrateGems 2000 / "dedicated to Alex Markevitch"

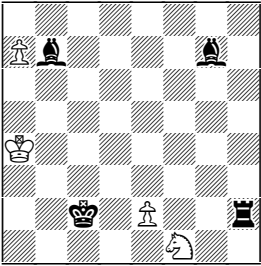


- 1) 1.Rh1 Re1 2.Bg2 Re2+ 3.Kg1 Bxg2=
- 2) 1.Bh1 Bf3 2.Rf1 Be2 3.Kg2 Rxf1=

two pairs of mixed clearances with corner incarceration motif

h=3 2.1... (4+5)

DM / Honorable Mention / Ideal-Mate Review 2001



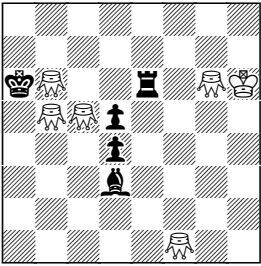
- 1...a8=Q 2.Bh1 Qxh1 3.Rh8 Qxh8 4.Ba1 Qxa1=

mainly composed to humor: 3 clearances setup the 4-corner sweep

*A bit of composing "luck" (constructionally) in that 2.Bc8? Qxc8+ is check, mandating the intended routes.*

h=3½ (4+4)

DM & Newman Guttman / 1st Commendation / Probleemblad 2000

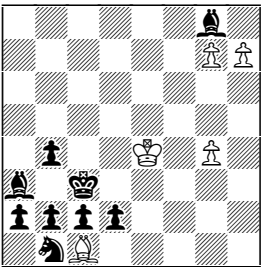


- 1) 1....Gxd4 2.Re4 Gd6 3.Rc4 Gxd5 4.Be4 Gdb5 5.Bc6 Gb6=
- 2) 1....Gxd5 2.Be4 Gd3 3.Bc6 Gxd4 4.Re4 Gdb6 5.Rc4 Gb5=

Gb6 and Gb5 trade rundlauf and switchback duties

h=4½ 2.1... (6+5) Grasshoppers

DM / 2nd Prize / StrateGems 2006 / "for Colin"

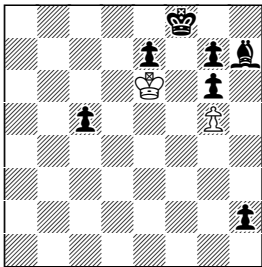


- 1....hxg8=B 2.bxc1=B Bb3 3.B1b2 g8=B 4.c1=B Bd1 5.a1=B B8b3=

five Bishop promotions freeze the southwest matrix  
Prenix + Phoenix

h=4½ (5+9)

DM / 2nd Honorable Mention / StrateGems 2001 / "for Sebastian"



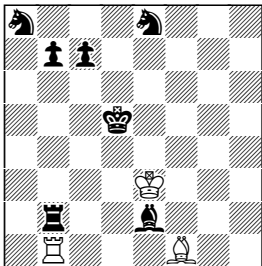
- a) 1.h1=R Kd5 2.Bg8+ Kxc5 3.Rh8 Kc6 4.Bh7 Kd7 5.Kg8 Kxe7=  
 b) 1.h1=Q Kxe7 2.Qa8 Kd6 3.Kf7 Kxc5 4.Qh8 Kd6 5.Kg8 Ke7=

solver comments:

"Charming present for Sebastian." (C.Frankiss)  
 "Thanks to Sebastian who inspired this splendid problem!" (L.Vitale)  
 "Young Sebastian already plays hide and seek!" (I.Tzur)

h=5 b) bK→g8 (2+7)

Ryan McCracken & DM / 5th Honorable Mention / StrateGems 2001



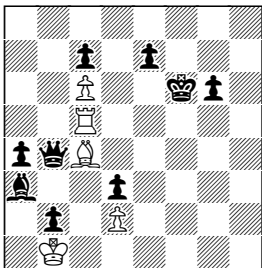
- 1.Ba6 Bb5 2.Sd6 Ba4 3.Rb6 Rb5+ 4.Kc6 Rd5+ 5.Sb5 Ke4=

rich line play through b5, including mixed clearances  
 the bS seals the Slipknot ← subtle musical reference here :-)

*Ryan & I share an affinity for drums, but his idol ([Ted Kirkpatrick](#)) and mine ([Dave Weckl](#)) are worlds apart.  
 My next favorite ([Vinnie Colaiuta](#)) is also from another planet -- allegedly. :-)*

h=5 (3+7)

DM / 2nd Honorable Mention / StrateGems 2003 / "in memoriam Milan R.Vukceovich"



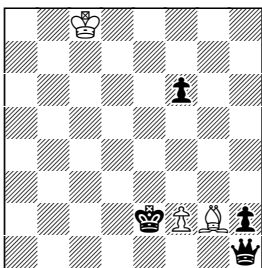
- 1) 1.Qb3 Rd5 (Bd5?) 2.Ke6 Rg5+ 3.Kd6 Bd5 4.Kc5 Bxb3+ 5.Kb4 Be6=  
 2) 1.Qa5 Bd5 (Rd5?) 2.Ke5 Be6+ 3.Kd4 Rd5+ 4.Kc4 Rxa5+ 5.Kb4 Rg5=

key-moves unblock b4 (departure) and prepare for a later self-capture (arrival)  
 the bK's urgency to reach b4 motivates a reciprocal Grimshaws (d5) in each line  
 this is the only five-move two-solution ODT in help-stalemate form that I'm aware of

*Shortly after his passing, I felt inspired by Milan to compose this Grimshaw complex. The idea was crystal clear in my mind, even before looking at a chessboard. Click [here](#) to read one of many tributes to "MRV".*

h=5 2.1... (5+9)

DM / StrateGems 2002

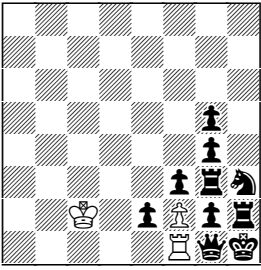


- 1....Ba8 2.Kf1 Kd7 3.Qb7+ Ke6 4.Kg2 Kxf6 5.Kh3 Kg5 6.Qh1 Bxh1=

the 'delayed', full-length, bi-color clearance was (luckily) the only way to do this since bK cannot start at f1  
 ideal-stalemate

h=5½ (3+4)

Gianni Donati & DM / 4th Honorable Mention / StrateGems 2002



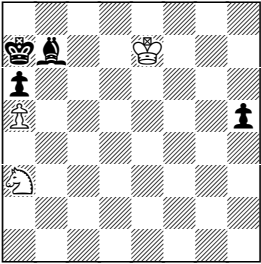
1....Ra1 2.Qb1+ Kd2 3.Sg1 Ra8 4.Qh7 Rh8 5.Qh3 Rh4 6.gxh4 Ke1=

mixed clearance scheme utilizing the whole board  
bQ/bS platzwechsel

*Gianni hasn't ventured often into help-genres (save PGs), though one can't help but admire this: [P1070518](#).*

h=5½ (3+10)

DM / Honorable Mention / Ideal-Mate Review 1999

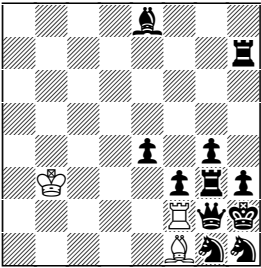


1) 1.h4 Sc4 2.h3 Sd6 3.h2 Sxb7 4.h1=B Sd8 5.Ba8 Sc6+ 6.Kb7 Kd7=

bB Phoenix in ideal-mate

h=6 (3+4)

Kostas Prentos & DM / 3rd Prize / StrateGems 2001



1....Ba6! 2.Bb5 Kc2 3.Bf1 Be2 4.fxe2 Rf8! 5.Rf7 Kd2 6.Rf2 Rf3 7.exf3 Ke1=

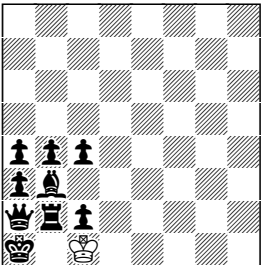
**FIDE Album**

matched critical moves and mixed clearances enable White sacrifices to expedite Rh7→f2

*This joint gem was hatched online, in real-time, via the [Internet Chess Club](#)! I recall that Kostas shared the basic scheme, then we quickly reached this optimal setting. Click [here](#) to see Kostas' bio page on the [SG](#) site.*

h=6½ (3+11)

Gianni Donati & DM / 2nd Commendation / StrateGems 2002



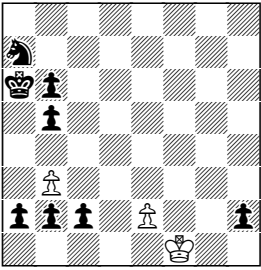
1.Qb1+ Kd2 2.Ba2 Ke3 3.Qe1+! Kd4 4.Bb1 Kxc4 5.Qe6+ Kd3 6.Qa2 Kd2 7.b3 Kc1=

bQ rundlauf and bQ/a2 platzwechsel  
the move 3.Qe1+! is subtly motivated

*Gianni's proofgames usually feature well-concealed "histories", and this one's no exception: [P1070518](#).*

h=7 (1+9)

DM / Commendation / StrateGems 2008 / "to the Palisades Poker Club"



1.c1=B b4 2.Bf4 e3 3.b1=B exf4 4.Bg6 f5 5.a1=B fxg6 6.Bh8 g7 7.h1=B gxh8=Q 8.Ba8 Qxa8=

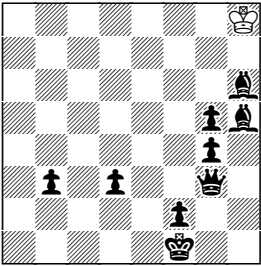
"Quad Jacks with a Queen kicker"

4 bB promotions, 3x cross & capture, 3 corner-to-corners, model stalemate, Meredith, and no cookstoppers!

*The judge classified this as a "task", and downgraded it because there were bigger and better records in existence. But... I'm certain no "task" predecessor employs an excelsior wP which: (1) is free to move in the diagram; and (2) does not move at its first opportunity; and (3) does a single- (rather than a double-) step.*

h=8 (3+8)

Eugeniusz Iwanow & DM / StrateGems 2002

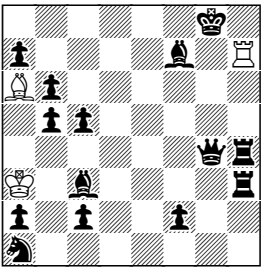


1.Qg1 Kh7 (tempo) 2.g3 Kg8 3.Bf3 Kf7 4.Bh1 Ke6 5.g2 Kd5 6.g4 Kc4 7.Bf4 Kxb3 8.Bh2 Kc3 9.g3 Kd2=

elegantly forced sequence of chameleon echo P+B interplay

h=9 (1+9)

DM / 2nd Honorable Mention / StrateGems 2002



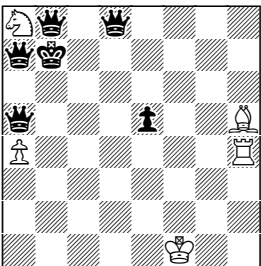
1.Ba5+ Kb2 2.Ra3 Kc1 3.Bb3 Rxa7 4.Qa4 Bb7 5.Kf7 Bg2+ 6.Ke6 Rf7 7.Rb4 Rf3 8.Kd5 Rd3+ 9.Kc4 Bf1=

reciprocal white Indians, and two black clearance sequences  
complex box-forming

h=9 (3+14)

Parry Series (*ps<sub>er</sub>-\**)

DM / StrateGems 2009



1.Re4? 2.Bf3 3.Rb4+ Ka6 4.Rb5 5.Be2 6.Rb6#, but 3...Kc8!

**1.Bf7!** 2.Rh7 3.Bd5+ and now...

4...Ka6 4.Be6 5.Rh6 6.Bc8#; 4...Kc8 4.Rd7 5.Be6 6.Rc7#

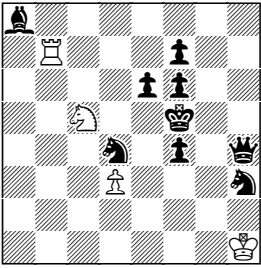
the heavy defensive force requires successive double-checks

*Visit the [Parry Series & CapZug Hub](#) for rules and info re: parry series-movers, which bear the stipulation *ps<sub>er</sub>-\** or (for less common types with helpful parries) *ph<sub>ser</sub>-\**.*

ps<sub>er</sub>-#6 √ (5+6) [4 bQ's]



DM / Macedonian Problemist 2010

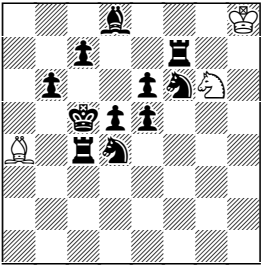


1.Se4! 2.Rb2 3.Rg2 4.Sd6+ Ke5 5.Sb7 6.Rc2 7.Rc5#

rare parry-series direct-mate with self-unpin, self-pin, self-unpin, self-pin, self-unpin sequence  
wR/wS platzwechsel

pser-#7 (4+9)

DM / StrateGems 2010

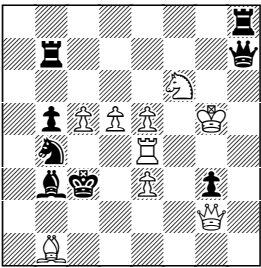


1.Sf4 2.Sd3+ Kd6 3.Sc5 4.Sb7+ Ke7 5.Sd6 6.Sc8+ Kf8 7.Se7 8.Sg6#

8-point non-stop rundlauf by wS

pser-#8 (3+11)

DM / Probleemblad 2010



1.Rh4! 2.Bg6 3.Se4+ and now...

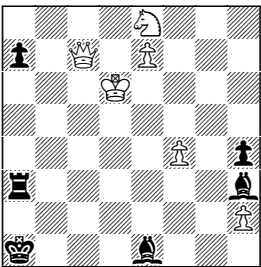
3...Kd3 4.Kf5! 5.Sc3 6.Sd1 7.Ke6+ Qxg6#

3...Kc4 4.Kg4! 5.Sc3 6.Sa4 7.Kh3+ Qxh4#

two nicely matched Parry Series variations in selfmate form  
check (and parry) avoidance motivates White's 4th moves

pser-s#7 (9+8)

DM / StrateGems 2009



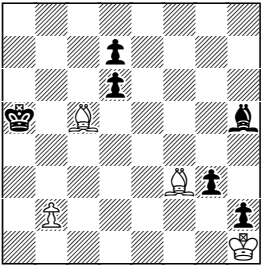
1.Qc2 2.Sc7 3.e8=Q 4.Qe5+ and now...

4...Rc3 5.Qc5 6.Kc6 7.Kb5 8.Ka5 9.Sb5 10.Qa3+ Rxa3#

4...Bc3 5.Ke7 6.Kf6 7.Kg5 8.Kxh4 9.Kg3 10.Qe1+ Bxe1#

check on white's 4th provokes a black Grimshaw -- a "series" novelty  
the switchback captures form double-check model-mates

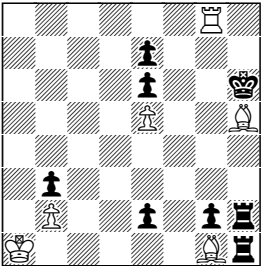
pser-s#10 (6+6) C-



1.Bc6 2.b4+ Ka6 3.Bxd6 4.Bc7 5.b5+ Ka7 6.Bxd7 7.Bc8 8.b6+ Ka8 9.Bg4 10.Bf3+ Bxf3#

logical progression traps the King on a8  
wB returns

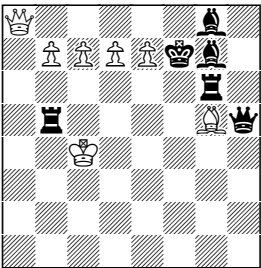
psr-s#10 (4+6)



1.Bg6 2.Bb1 3.Be3+ Kh5 4.Bc1 5.Bd3 6.Bxe2+ Kh4 7.Bd1 8.Be3 9.Bf2+ Kh3 10.Bg1 11.Bh5 12.Rg4 Rxc1#

four self-unpin/self-pin sequences  
systematic nudging of the bK to encase the Rh2  
critical move and shutoff to setup the zugzwang finale  
both Bishops return to their diagram squares

psr-s#12 (6+8) C-

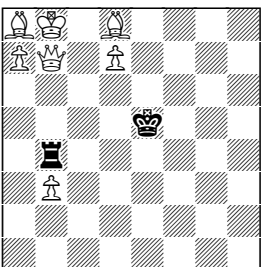


1.b8=R 2.Re8! 3.c8=Q 4.d8=S+ Kxe8+ 5.Sf7+ Kxf7 6.e8=B+ Kf8+ 7.Bf7+ Kxf7 8.Qab7+ Rxb7 9.Kc5 10.Qe8+ Kxe8=

a complete AUW is magically gobbled up by the bK, and not a single cookstopper!  
note the two parry-with-check sequences (4...Kxe8+ and 6...Kf8+)  
some sources list this as "AT & DM"; you make the call :-)

*Arno has shown an uncanny aptitude in both Parry Series and "Zug" genres. This problem was mostly his doing; I just "came along for the ride". :-)* Here's a richly thematic Helpmate specimen by Arno: [P0555632](http://www.p0555632.com).

psr-s=10 (7+6)



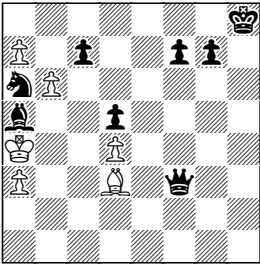
1.Bb6 2.Qf3 3.Be4 4.Qf5+ Kd6 5.Qd5+ Ke7 6.Qa8 7.Bb7 8.Bd8+ Kxd8=

switchback and switch-around with clearance motif

*This modest offering might be construed as 'controversial' by some -- due to the fact that there are no "reflex-tries". Since tries aren't obligatory for direct- or self-mates, I opine: nor are they for reflex-problems. Also, it's not incumbent upon the author to stipulate psr-semi-r\* to imply "no tries exist". Indeed, the semi-reflex form was invented to facilitate otherwise **cooked** reflex ideas -- not to be used as a "no-try" declaration.*

psr-r=8 (7+2)

DM / StrateGems 2009

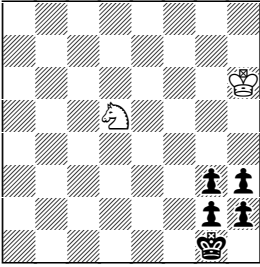


1.a8=R+ Sb8 2.Ra7 3.Rxc7 4.b7 5.Rc8+ Bd8 6.Rc7 7.Rxf7 8.Re7 9.Re8+ Qf8 10.Re6  
11.Ra6 12.Ra5 13.Ba6 14.Kb5 15.a4=

progressive checks along the 8th rank re-deploy the guarding units

psr-!=15 (6+8) C-

DM / StrateGems 2009



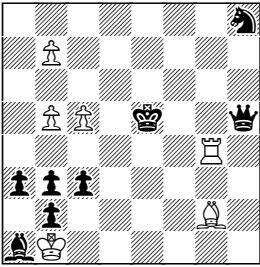
1.h1=Q 2.Kh2 3.Qc1+ Sf4 4.Qc6+ Se6 5.Qc1+ Sg5 6.Qh1 Sf3#

Queen checks guide the wS to f3  
bQ double-switchback

*My first composed Parry Series. The rest is history. :-)*

psr-h#6 (2+5)

DM / StrateGems 2009

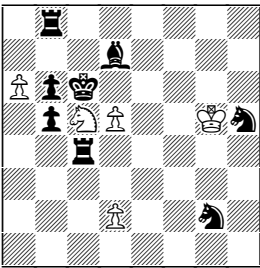


a) 1.Qf5+ Be4 2.Kd4 3.Kxc5 4.Kxb5 5.Ka4 6.Qa5 Bc6#  
b) 1.Qh7+ Re4+ 2.Kxd5 3.Kc6 4.Kxb7 5.Ka8 6.Qa7 Re8#

key checks provoke white Grimshaw interferences  
extended bK treks and wP clearances setup bQ blocks

psr-h#6 b) wPb5→d5 (6+8)

DM / StrateGems 2010



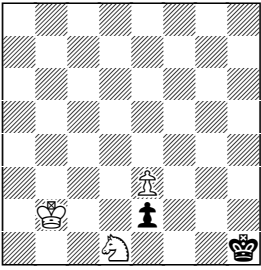
a) 1.Kc7 2.Bh3 3.Rg4+ Kf5 4.Rg7+ Ke5 5.Bc8 6.Rd7 Se6#  
b) 1.Kxc5 2.Rh4 3.Bg4+ Ke4 4.Be2+ Ke5 5.Rb4 6.Bc4 d4#

Tries: a) 1.Kxc5? 2.Bh3 3.Rg4+ Kf5 4.Rb4+ Ke5 5.Be6 (Bf1??) 6.Bc4??  
b) 1.Kc7? 2.Rh4 3.Bg4+ Ke4 4.Bc8+ Ke5 5.Rd4 (Rh7??) 6.Rd7??

twice we get critical moves and interferences in opposite directions on a single axis  
correction of **C0292**, which appeared in StrateGems 2009

psr-h#6 b) wK→f3 (5+8) bK-in-check

DM / 3rd Honorable Mention / StrateGems 2009 / "dedicated to Perry Sill"



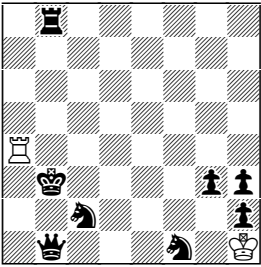
- a) 1.e1=S 2.Sd3+ Kc2 3.Se1+ Kd2 4.Sf3+ Ke2 5.Sg1+ Kf2 6.Sh3+ Kg3 7.Sg1 Sf2#  
 b) 1.e1=B 2.Bc3+ Kc1 3.Bb2+ Kd2 4.Bc1+ Ke1 5.Bd2+ Kf2 6.Bxe3+ Kg3 7.Bg1 Bf3#

twice the promotee matches the twinned unit  
 two bS switchbacks in a)  
 double use for wP in b)

*Fact: The name "Parry" Series was meant as a pun of sorts, to humor my local friend and fellow OTB master!*

psr-h#7 b) wBd1 (3+2)

DM / StrateGems 2009

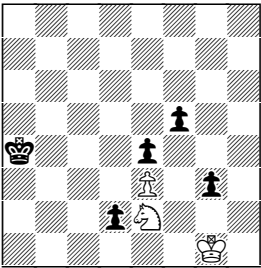


- 1.Sa1 (Sd4?) 2.Qh7 3.Qb7+ Re4 4.Ka2 5.Qb1 6.Rb2 7.Sb3 Ra4#

dual-avoidance, decoy-check, rundlauf, clearance and switchback

psr-h#7 (2+8)

DM / Macedonian Problemist 2010



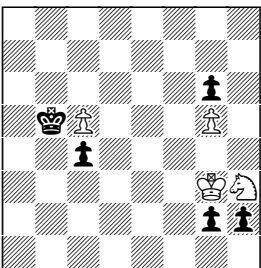
- a) 1.g2 2.d1=R+ Kf2 3.Rh1! 4.g1=B+ Ke1 5.Bf2+ Kd2 6.Be1+ Kc1 7.Ba5+ Kb2 8.Rb1+ Ka2 9.Rb4 Sc3#  
 b) 1.d1=Q+ Kg2 2.Qd2+ Kf1 3.Qa5 4.g2+ Ke2 5.g1=S+ Kd1 6.Se2 7.Sc3+ Kc1 8.Sa2+ Kb2 9.Sb4 Sc3#

split AUW with interesting, distinct wK paths  
 in a), 3.Rh1! is especially hard to find

*I prefer this to the "2 solutions" form with wS→b5, bPf5→d5, bPd2→e2 because the promotees (R/Q) have more freedom of movement, and (with twinning) the wS reaches c3 from different departure squares.*

psr-h#9 b) wSe2→b1 (3+5)

DM / Idee & Form 2010 / "dedicated to Thomas Maeder"



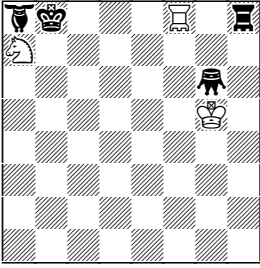
- 1) 1.h1=S+ Kf3 2.g1=S+ Ke4 3.Sg3+ Ke5 4.Sf3+ Kd6 5.Sf5+ Kd7 6.Se5+ Ke8 7.Kc6 8.Kd5 9.Ke6 Sf4#  
 2) 1.g1=Q+ Kf3 2.Qa1 3.Qa8+ c6 4.h1=Q+ Ke3 5.Qxh3+ Kd2 6.Qd7+ cxd7 7.c3+ Kxc3 8.Qc8+ dxc8=Q 9.Ka4 Qa6#

S+S promotions changed to Q+Q(+Q); model-mates in each; the wS is nicely plucked in the second line  
 the diabolically difficult 2nd solution was found by Popeye, an amazing stroke of good fortune

**Thomas Maeder** is one of the lead developers for the [Popeye](#) team. His adding of **psr**-\* and **phser**-\* to Popeye's arsenal helped put **Parry Series** on the map! Here's one of his fabulous Helpmates: [P0506298](#).

psr-h#9 2.1... (4+5)

DM & Geoff Foster / feenschach 2010



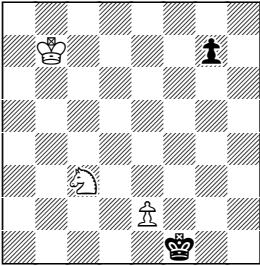
1.RHe8 2.RHg8+ Kg4 3.RHg5+ Kg3 4.Gg4+ Kg2 5.BHh1! 6.RHg3+ Kf3 7.Gg2+ Ke4 8.BHf3+ Kd5  
9.Ge4+ Kc6 10.BHd5+ Kd7 11.Gc6 12.BHb7 13.Ga8 Sc8#

ironically, black must first usher the wK away from the mating scene

*Before collaborating with Geoff in the [Parry Series and CapZug Workshops](#), I was only vaguely familiar with his body of work. But... I'm duly impressed now! Click [here](#) to visit Geoff's bio page on [OzProblems](#).*

pser-h#13 (2+3) hoppers a8 f8 g6 h8

DM & George P. Sphicas / StrateGems 2009



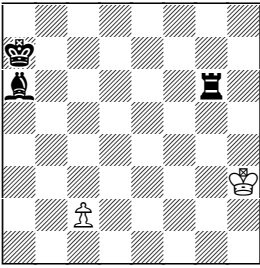
1.g5 2.g4 3.g3 4.g2 5.g1=Q 6.Qg2+ e4 7.Qb2+ Kc7 8.Qh2+ e5 9.Qh7+ Kc8 10.Qf5+ e6  
11.Qc5+ Kd8 12.Qg5+ e7 13.Qg8+ e8=Q 14.Qg1 Qe2#

black and white excelsiors  
bQ and wQ rundlaufs

*During a whirlwind visit to NYC one year, I got to spend about 4 hours with George at his office on campus. We "consumed mass quantities" of problems in short order. Here's a tasty Sphicas AUW morsel: [P1190236](#).*

pser-h#14 (3+2)

DM / The Problemist 2011

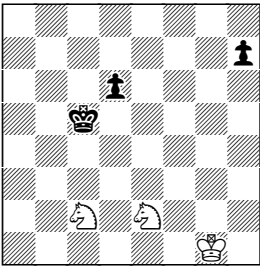


1.Rb6 2.Bf1+ Kg4 3.Rb4+ c4 4.Be2+ Kf5 5.Rb5+ c5 6.Bd3+ Ke6 7.Rb6+ Kd7 8.Ba6 9.Bc8+ Kxc8 10.Ka8 cxb6= (ideal)

logical progression coaxes the wK and wP forward

pser-h=10 (2+3)

DM / StrateGems 2010

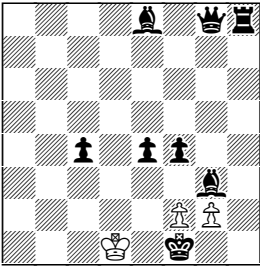


4.h2+ Kf1! 5.h1=Q+ Sg1! 6.Qh3+ Ke2 7.Qg4+ Sf3 8.Qe6+ Se5 9.Qg4+ Kd3 10.Qd4+ Sxd4 11.Kd5 Sd7=

not-so-obvious sequence of checks and parries create a beautiful, "linear" ideal-stalemate tough solver problem

pser-h=11 (3+3)

DM / Commendation / StrateGems 2009

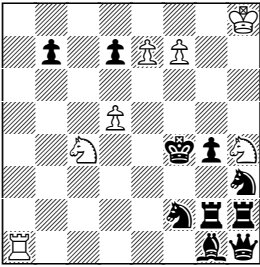


1.Bh2 2.Bh5+ g4 3.fxg3ep+ Kd2 4.Bf3 5.Bh1 6.Qg5+ f4 7.exf3ep+ Kc3 8.Qe3+ Kxc4 9.Qg1  
10.Rc8+! Kd3 11.Rc2 12.Rg2 13.f2 Kd2=

two en passant captures are needed to stifle the heavy force  
the "obvious" 1.Rh1? 2.Bh2 etc. fails as the bR must provoke the final wK parry at the end (10.Rc8+!)  
wK rundlauf

psr-h=13 (3+8) C-

DM / Commendation / StrateGems 2009

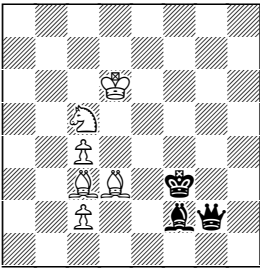


5.b1=R 6.Rb8+ f8=B 7.Rb5 8.Rxd5 9.Rh5+! Bh6+! 10.Rg5 15.d1=Q 16.Qd8+ e8=S 17.Qf6+ Sxf6 18.g3 Rf1=

mixed AUW to setup a large freeze-pack  
note the counter-parry on White's 9th

psr-h=18 (7+10) C-

Geoff Foster & DM / StrateGems 2011 / "dedicated to P.A.P."



1.Qg6+ Se6 2.Bg3+ Kd5 3.Qg5+ Bf5 4.Qd2+ Bd4 5.Qa5+ c5 6.Qa2+ c4 7.Qg2 Bg4+ 8.Kxg4#

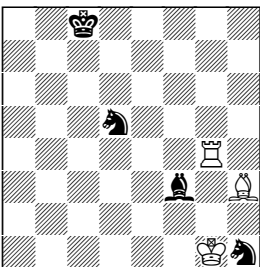
composed after Petko's article appeared (SG, Apr-2011) on help-selfmates with black playing the series  
except for the bQ and wK moves, all moves open and close a line  
bQ 6-point rundlauf

*Fact: Geoff once wrote a program, **WOMBAT**, to help construct "sliding block" problems, like [P1007791](#).*

psr-hs#8 (6+3)

Parry (Help) Series (psr-\*)

DM / MatPlus Forum 2010



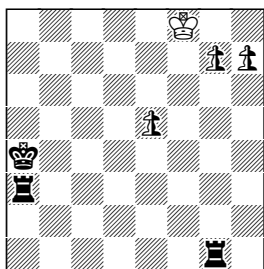
1.Bf1 (1.Rc4+?) 2.Rc4+ (2.Ba6+? ???) Sc7 3.Rg4 4.Ba6+ Bb7 5.Bf1 6.Bh3 7.Rg8#

the fun switchback motif puts the blockers in place  
White must disarm, then re-arm, the double-check

Visit the [Parry Series & CapZug Hub](#) for rules and info re: parry series-movers, which bear the stipulation  
*psr-\** or (for less common types with helpful parries) *phser-\**.

phser-#7 (3+4)

DM / feenschach 2010 / "dedicated to Cornel Pacurar"



- 1) 1.nPe6 2.nPe7 3.nPe8=nB+ Kb3 4.nPg8=nB+ Kc2 5.nBb3+ Kb1 6.nBg6+ Ka1 7.nPh8=nB#
- 2) 1.Ke7 2.nPh8=nQ 3.nQa8+ Kb3 4.nQb8+ Ka2 5.nPg8=nQ+ Rb3 6.nQg2+ Rb2 7.nQxb2#

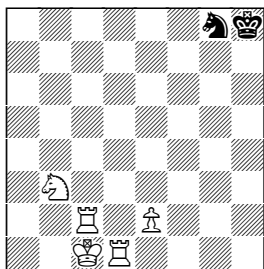
cool shift from nB to nQ promotions -- my first and (so far) only foray into 'neutral' territory  
 confession: the 2nd line was found by Popeye!

Cornel published an entertaining parry-series '*Vielvater*' article in *feenschach* f185; click [here](#) to view it

**neutrals:** Units available to either side at any given moment; can capture (or be captured by) either side.

phser-#7 2.1... (1+3+3) neutrals e5 g7 h7

DM / MatPlus Forum 2010



- 1.Rh1+ Sh6 2.Rc8+ Kg7 3.Rg1+ Kf7! 4.Rf1+ Sf5 5.Rc7+ Ke6 6.Sc5+ Kd5 7.Rd1+ Sd4 8.e4+ Kc4 9.Sb7+ Kb3
- 10.Sa5+ Ka2 11.Rc2+ Ka1 12.Sb3+ Sxb3#

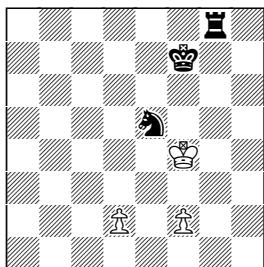
wS/wR/wR all return to their diagram squares

precise play including 3...Kf7! is needed to establish the selfmate finale

*It has been suggested that an all-checks parry-series (like this) could -- and should -- be re-stipulated as an UltraSchachZwang (USZ), or "must-check". See my [16-Jul-2010](#) post on why that notion is incorrect.*

phser-s#12 (5+2) C-

DM & Radovan Tomasevic / StrateGems 2010



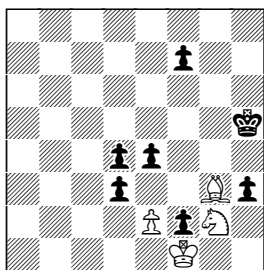
- 1.d4 2.d5 3.d6 4.d7 5.d8=S+ Kg7 6.Kg5 7.f4 8.f5 9.f6+ Kh8 10.Kh6 11.f7 12.f8=R
- 13.Rf5 14.Rh5 15.Sf7+ Sxf7#

2 excelsior underpromotions and a timely counter-parry  
 correction of **C0322**, which was published in *StrateGems* 2009

*Rasa is the current editor for StrateGems' [S&S](#) section. Here's an example of his series creativity: [P1188067](#).*

phser-s#15 (3+3)

DM / feenschach 2010 (v)



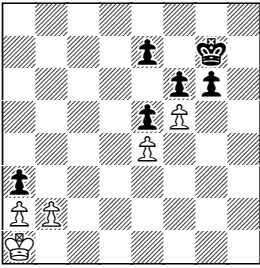
- a) 1.Bf4 2.Be3 3.Sf4+ Kg5! 4.Sxd3+ dxe3 5.Se5 6.Sxf7+ Kg4 7.Sh6+ Kg3 8.Sf5+ Kh2 9.Sg3 (zz) Kxg3=
- b) 1.Bd6 2.Sf4+ Kh4! 3.Bxe7+ f6 4.Sg2+ Kg4 5.Se3+ Kf4 6.Bd6+ Kxe3 7.Bg3 8.Bh4 9.Bg5+ fxg5=

in a), black needs to play Px(B)e3, and the only way is to fire a battery-check with the Bishop on e3  
 in b), white coaxes Kx(S)e3 while the Bishop sets up the finale; notice the 3 switchbacks  
 almost every unit serves a dual-purpose; note that one s=1 is forced by zugzwang, and the other by check

*This was my best solo original (version) from the "Parry Series Chronicles" article in [feenschach f181](#).*

phser-s=9 b) Pd3→e7 (4+7)

DM / StrateGems 2011 / "to the PSW!"



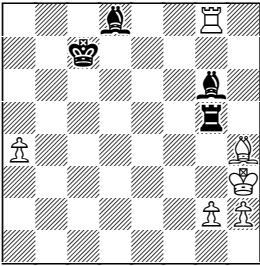
5.b8=R! 6.Rg8+ Kh6 7.Rh8+ Kg5 8.Rh5+ Kf4 9.Rh4+ Ke3 10.Rh3+ Kd2 11.Rh2+ Kc1 12.Rb2 axb2#  
( 5.b8=Q? 6.Qg8+?? Kh6 7.Qxg6# )

12-point capture-free no-repeat rundlauf

The Parry Series Workshop is one of several private composing forums at [Cornel Pacurar's site](#).

phser-r#12 (5+6)

DM / Die Schwalbe 2010

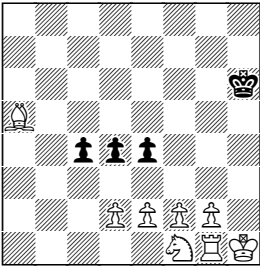


1.Rg7+ Bf7 2.Bg3+ Kb6 3.Bf2+ Rc5 4.Rg6+ Be6+ 5.Rg4 6.a5+ Kxa5 7.Be1+ Rc3+ 8.Bg3 !=

the wR/wB twice pin the bB/bR, but the resulting cross-checks allow both pins to be reversed

phser-l=8 (6+4)

DM / MatPlus Forum 2010 / "to the GCQCT participants!"



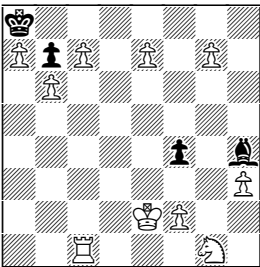
1.Kh2 2.Rh1 3.Kg1+ Kg5 4.f4+ exf3ep 5.Bd8+ Kf5! 6.e4+ dxe3ep 7.Sg3+ Ke5 8.d4+ cxd3ep 9.Bf6+ Kf4  
10.Se2+ dxe2 11.Be5+ Kg4 12.Bh2 13.g3=

three en passant captures are needed to close the net  
the move 5...Kf5! allows 7.Sg3 to land with check, saving time  
all units move in the course of the solution, highly unusual given the nature of the problem

**GCQCT** = *Good Companions Quick-Composing Tourney 2010*; find the awards PDF on the [Hub](#) page.

phser-l=13 (8+4) C-

DM / StrateGems 2010 (correction) / "for Rasa"



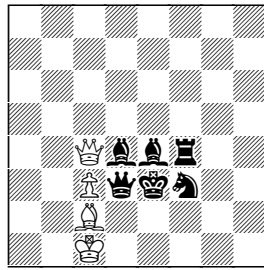
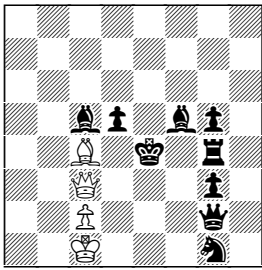
1.c8=B 2.Bxb7+ Kxb7 3.a8=B+ Kxb6 4.Bh1 5.Kf3! 6.Rc6+ Kxc6 7.e8=B+ Kd5 8.Bc6+ Kc4 9.g8=B+ Kd3 10.Bc4+ Kc2  
11.Bf1 12.Ke2 13.Bcg2 14.f3=

four wB promotions in a single-line Parry Series

*Note that the wSg1 is needed to prevent (eg.): 3.a8=Q+ Kxb6 4.Qa3! 5.Rc6+ Kxc6 6.e8=Q+ Kd5 7.g8=Q+ Kd4 8.Qc3+ Kxc3 9.Qg3+ f3+ 10.Kf1/Kd1 (tempo) 11.Qg6 12.Qd3+ Kxd3 13.Qe2+ fxe2+ 14.Ke1 !=, with a pinned wPf2.*

phser-l=14 (10+4)





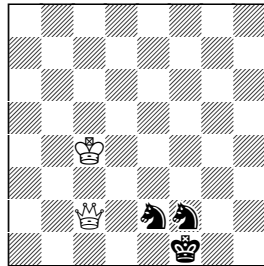
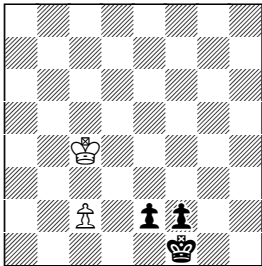
1.Bb3 2.Qc4+ Bd4 3.Qxd5+ Ke3 4.Qe5+ Be4 5.Qxg5+ Rf4 6.Qxg3+ Sf3 7.Qe1+ Qe2  
8.Qc3+ Qd3 9.Qc4 10.c3 11.Bc2 a→b

"M" to "P" transformation

posted online as a **Thank You** to the MatPlus magazine staff  
wQ rundlauf (plus 1), and cyclic platzwechsel of c2/c3/c4 units

phser-a→b11 (4+9) (4+6)

DM / ChessProblems.ca 2011 Series Tourney



1.Kd5! 6.c8=Q 7.Qh3+! (7.Qc1+?) Ke1 8.Qh1+ f1=S 9.Qh4+ Sg3 10.Qb4+ Kf1 11.Qb1+ e1=S  
12.Qb5+ Sd3 13.Kc4! 14.Qf5+ Sf2 15.Qd3+ Se2 16.Qc2 a→b

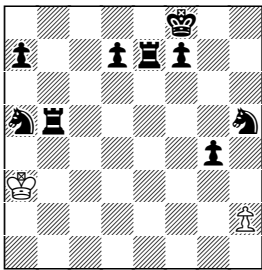
switchbacks by both Kings, initiated by the surprising key-move  
14-point no-repeat rundlauf by wP/wQ; platzwechsel by bP/bS units

*This and the previous are apparently the first shape-to-shape transformations  
(a→b form) utilizing Parry Series -- a promising field for future exploration.*

phser-a→b16 (2+3) (2+3)

**Legal Parry Series (legal-pscr-\*)**

DM & Valery Liskovets / StrateGems 2011



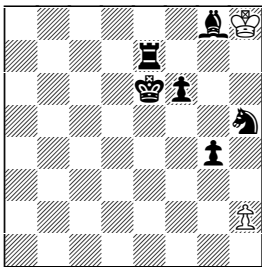
1.Rb3+ Ka4 2.Ra3+ Kb5 3.Re5+ Ka6 4.Rb5 h4! 5.Rh3 6.Sg3 h5! 7.Rh4 h6! 8.Rh5 9.Rg5 10.Sh5 h7! 11.Rge5 12.Re7 h8=Q#

well-concealed platzwechsel of the Rooks  
neat R/S interplay provoke an Excelsior

**Legal Parry Series** (denoted as **legal-pscr-\***) is similar to Parry Series except that the "idle-side" moves when in check and when they have no prior move! The latter scenario is a "legal parry". **LPS** was invented by **Valery Liskovets** of Belarus. See the [Hub](#) page, posting dated **September 2010**, for more details.

legal-pscr-h#12 (2+9)

DM & Valery Liskovets / StrateGems 2011 (original version)

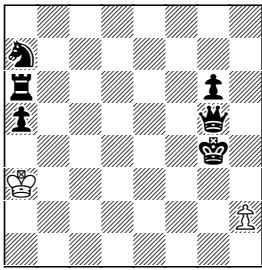


1.Kf7 h4! 2.Re3 3.Rh3 4.Sg3! h5! 5.Rh4 h6! 6.Rh5 7.Rg5 8.Sh5! h7! 9.Re5 10.Re7 hxg8=Q#

shorter, more economical version of the above setting, with bR rundlauf rather than R/R platzwechsel

legal-pscr-h#10 (2+6)

DM / StrateGems 2011 (correction) / "dedicated to Valery Liskovets"



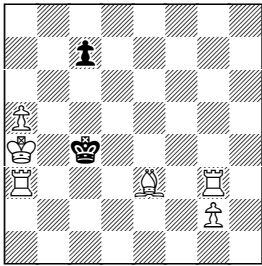
1.Rb6 2.Rb3+ Ka4 3.Sb5 h4! 4.Kh3 5.Qg3 h5! 6.Kg4! 7.Qh4 h6! 8.Qg5! 9.Kh5 h7! 10.Kh6 h8=Q#

elegant play between bK and bQ usher the wP forward

*The original setting was cooked by "rawbats". This beta program was developed by **Mario Richter** to solve "fully" or "partially defined helpgames" (FDH / PDH) -- an amazing piece of computer engineering!*

legal-pser-h#10 (2+6)

DM / MatPlus Forum 2010



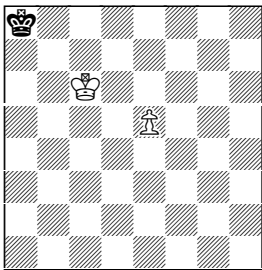
1.Bc5 2.Rgd3 3.g4 4.g5 5.g6 6.g7 7.g8=R 8.Rg5 c6! 9.Rdb3 10.Rb5 cxb5#

Legal Parry Series with a selfmate aim, a rare combination

legal-pser-s#10 (6+2)

Zug Family: CapZug (xz)

Cornel Pacurar & DM / StrateGems 2011



6.Kxe5[+wPe6] 8.Ke7 9.Kxe6[+wPe7] 11.Ke8 12.Kxe7[+wBe8] 13.Kxe8[+wBe7] 15.Ke6 16.Kxe7[+wBe6] 18.Ke5 19.Kxe6[+wBe5] 20.Kf5 21.Ke4 22.Kd3 23.Kc4 24.Kb4 25.Ka5 26.Ka6 27.Ka7 28.Ka8 Bb8 xz

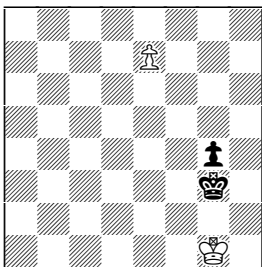
bK and wP return to their diagram squares; shifting wP→d3 extends it to 36 moves, but we prefer this version

*Without overstating the obvious, Cornel has been instrumental in furthering Parry Series & "Zug" causes, as anyone who has visited his [private forums](#) can attest. I like this CP h# ([P1093532](#)) with its surprising bQ play.*

*The state of **CapZug** (denoted as **xz**) is achieved when the side on-move: (1) has one or more legal captures; and (2) has no legal non-captures; and (3) is not in check. See the [Hub](#) page for more details and examples.*

ser-hxz28 (2+1)

DM / StrateGems 2011



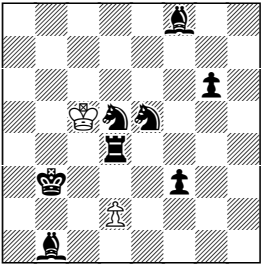
a) 1.e8=B! 2.Bc6 3.Bf3 4.Bxg4[+bPf3] 5.Bh3 6.Bg2 7.Bh1! 8.Bxf3[+bBh1!] 9.Bg2 10.Bxh1[+bBg2] xz  
b) 1.e8=R! 2.Rh8 3.Rh4 4.Rxf4[+bPh4] 5.Rf2 6.Rh2 7.Rh1! 8.Rxh4[+bSh1!] 9.Rh2 10.Rxh1[+bSh2] xz

Wenigsteiner twins with perfect correspondence

**PWC** is short for **PlatzwechselCirce**: a captured unit is reborn on the capturing unit's departure square.

ser-!xz10 b) bPg4→f4 (2+2) PWC

DM / Mat Plus 2010

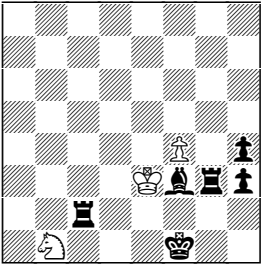


7.Kxf8 15.Kxd4 33.Kxb1 52.Ke4 53.d4 !xz

to my knowledge, still the longest series-auto-CapZug

ser-!xz53 (2+8)

DM / MatPlus Forum 2010

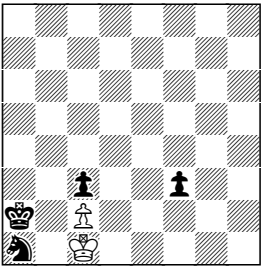


1....Sa3 2.Rh2 Sc2 3.Rg1 Se1 4.Bh1 Sg2 xz

three units cross g2 in time for the wS plug there

hxz3½ (3+6)

DM / MatPlus Forum 2010

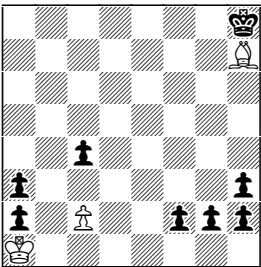


1.Sb3+ cxb3 2.f2 b4 3.f1=S b5 4.Se3 b6 5.Sc2 b7 6.Sa1 b8=R 7.c2 Rb3 xz

Phoenix theme with promoted bS reoccupying the original's diagram square excelsior

hxz7 (2+4)

DM / MatPlus Forum 2010



1.f1=B Bg8! 2.Bd3 cxd3 3.g1=B dxc4 4.Bb6 c5 5.h1=B cxb6 6.Ba8 b7 7.h2 bxa8=Q 8.h1=B Qg2 xz

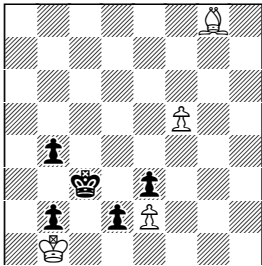
four black Bishop promotions in a single-line CapZug excelsior

Compare this to its help-stalemate predecessor: do a search for the word "**Palisades**" to locate it.

hxz8 (3+8)

## Zug Family: StalemateZug (=z)

DM / Original 2011



1.d1=B Bb3! (tempo) 2.Bxb3 f6 3.Bg8 f7 4.Kb3 fxg8=B+ (Phoenix) 5.Ka3 Bb3 =z

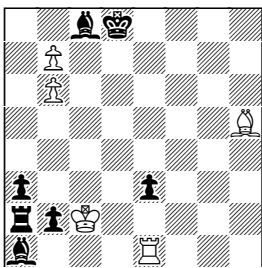
playful interaction by the Bishops, including tempo and Phoenix

*The state of **StalemateZug** (denoted as =z) is achieved when the side on-move: (1) has one or more legal stalemating moves; and (2) no legal non-stalemating moves; and (3) is not in check. See the post of **10-Apr-2011** on the [Hub](#) page, which includes the PDF article "**Zug Family Preview**".*

h=z5 (4+5)

## Parry Series & CapZug (psr-hxz)

DM / MatPlus Forum 2010

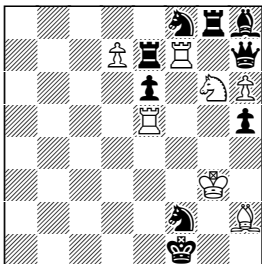


1.Bg4 2.Bd1+ Bxd1! 3.e2 4.exd1=B+! Kb1 5.Bg4 6.Bc8 bxc8=B! xz

double Phoenix with pseudo-switchback motif

psr-hxz6 (5+7)

DM, Guy Sobrecases & Arno Tüngler / diagrammes 2010

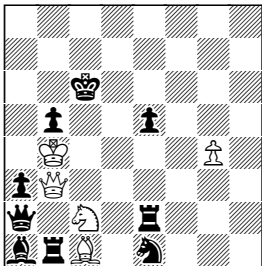


1.Bg7 2.h4+ Sxh4 3.Qd3+ Rf3 4.Qh7 5.Bh8+ Sg6 6.Reg7 Rf7 xz

switchbacks by "four Officers" (bB, wS, bQ, wR) in minimal time published as "*Dedie a Bojan, Cornel et Geoff*"

psr-hxz6 (7+9)

DM & Guy Sobrecases / diagrammes 2010 / "to the CZW!"



1.Bb2! 2.Sd3+ Qxd3 3.Re4+ Sd4+ 4.Kd5 5.Re2 6.Ba1+ Qb3+ 7.Ke4 8.Reb2 Sc2 xz

wQ/bR/bB/wS switchbacks timed perfectly to inch the bK into place; two parry-with-check sequences dedicated to the **CapZug Workshop** crew; published as "*Dedie a Arno, Bojan, Cornel et Geoff*"

*The CapZug Workshop is one of several private composing forums at [Cornel Pacurar's](#) site.*

*Guy exploits a key-move "zug" exquisitely in this Helpmate treasure: [P1084998](#).*

psr-hxz8 (5+9)