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 psrer-* 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 @ T/ roadrunner) if you find any errors, or additional comparison problems. I'll publish updates as needed.

Enjoy!

Dan
Directmates (#4)

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/Rd6/Sc5 2.Qb1/Se3/Rd5/Rf2#
distinct replies to paired, matching shutoffs of Rd7 and Bb6

#2  (9+9)

DM / Chess Life 1984

1.Be6? Ke1!

1.Be8! (zz) Kf3 (Kf1) 2.Bh5! (zz) Ke2 (Ke1) 3.Rg1#
1...Kc1 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/Sc3#
1...Sxd6 2.Qd4+! Bxd4/Rxd4 3.Sxd6/Sc3# ( 1...Rxc3 2.Bd5+ Rxd5 3.Qxc3 )
[ set: 1...Bg1 2.Qe2! ~ 3.Bd5# ]
counting the "avoided by-play" (1... Bd1+ 2.Qd4+Sbd4?), six different units visit d4 with Nowotny effect

#3  (12+8)


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)


Try: 1.Rb6/Ra6? gxh4!

1.Re6! (->) Rg1 2.Sc3+ Kf4 3.Sc2+ Bxc2#
1...gxh3 2.Sf4+ Kxe4 3.Rxe4+ Bxc4# (3.Qxe4+? Ke5!) [line: b4-e4]
1...gxh4 2.f4+ Kxe4 3.Qxc4+ Bxc4# (3.Rxc4+? Kd5!) [line: b6-e1]
1...c3 2.Sb4+ Kf4 3.Sd3+ Bxd3# (2.Sxc3+? Bxb5+1) [line: b5-f1]
	hreefold 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+ Be3 4.Qg3! (zz) f5 5.Se1+ Rxe1#
1...f5 2.Sxb3+! (Se6+?) Rd4 3.Qb6! (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)


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

six bQ corrections met by six wS corrections, plus amenities

s#3  √√√ (√+11)


5.Qg4+ Kd5 6.Qd7+ Sxd7 7.Sb6+ Sxb6#
1...Sg3 2.Qg5+ Sf5 3.Qd2+ Sf4 4.Sc8! (zz) Ke4
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)

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

  i) 2...Bg3/Bh2 3. Rg7/Rh7 ~ 4. Rg5/Rh5 +-
  ii) 3. Rf7? Bxf7! 4. b8Q Bd5+ 5. Qb6 Bc6! =
  iii) 5...Bxe7 6. Kb8 Bd6+ 7. Kc8 +-

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 endame 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
  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
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)
ii) white must prevent Kb4/Kb5 always; black must avoid losing Sc1 with check
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the wQ systematically pursues the bPa3, keeping a close watch on bSc1 at all times


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

1.Sg5 f2 9.Sg4 f1=S 10.Sg4+! /viii Sxg3 11.a5+! (the white pawn queens with a won position)
i) First clearance for the f6 pawn, tries: 1.Sg5/Se5? Re4! =; ii) 1...Re3? 2.Sfe6! ++; iii) Second clearance.
iv) 4.f8=Q Rxh8=; v) 5.Sxa4+; the h-pawn is too slow; vi) 7.Sxf7? f3++; both f3! and d5 draw
vii) 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.Sf4 f1=Q (9...f1=Q 10.Sg3+), and here no sac is needed as the S is too far removed; 10.a6+-
viii) 10.a5? Sc3, 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.Kc7 d5! 17.Sxd5 Ke4! = (Nalimov draw)

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

DM / feenschach 1996

h#2 2.1... (5+2)
DM / Commendation / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1995

1) 1.Kd6 Sf6 2.Be6 Bh2# (B/P)
2) 1.Kc5 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)


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)


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 Re4 2.Bxg7 e5# (R, Pe4)
3) 1.Ke2 Qe4 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.Re4 dxe4#
3) 1.Rh4 d3 2.Re4 dxc4#
4) 1.Be4 d3 2.Be5 dxe4#
5) 1.Kd6 d4 2.Qe5+ dxe5#
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.Kc6 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 Rxex3+ (Sxex3?) 2.Sxex3 Bxg6#
2) 1.Be8 Sxex3 (Rxex3?) 2.Qxex3 Qxd6#

FIDE Album
matched self-pin/unpin keys
accurate sacrifices on c3 to provide a bB/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.Kd4 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.Kc4 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[wGf7] Gg8+[wGf7] 2.Ke5 Ge7[wSf7]#

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 (Re5?) Bb6 2.Be6 Rxe6#
   b) 1.Bxb3 (Be6?) Re7 2.Rc5 Bxe5#

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

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!

DM / 2nd Prize / The Problemist 2002

SS promotions change to QQ
consecutive unpin motif

DM & Gerold Schaffner / Idee und Form 2002

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**.

DM / 2nd Prize / HOTF 2001

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

**HOTF** = 'Helpmates of The Future' tourney
1) 1.Kg3 Se5+ 2.Bf3 Rxf3#
2) 1.Ke4 Sh4+ 2.Rf3 Bxf3#
3) 1.Rf1 Sd4+ 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 / Probleemblad 1998

a)  1....Bh5 2.Ke4 Bh7 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....Be8 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#

b) 1.Rf4 Sa5 2.Sf3 Sc4 3.Bd4 Bc2#

c) 1.Sf5 Sc7 2.Bd4 Sg6 3.Rf3 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 Rxd6 3.Rxa2 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

1) 1.Sf8 Re1 2.Sf5 Se2 3.Ke4 Sg1#
2) 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.Re7 Bc1 2.Rc6 Bd2 3.Bc5 Bf4#
2) 1.Bd7 Rb1 2.Be5 Rd4 3.Rc6 Rd4#

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.Bc5 Bb4#
*2) 1....Rb1 2.Be5 Rd4 3.R5c6 Rd4#
1) 1.Re7 Bc1 2.Rc6 Bd2 3.Bc5 Bf4#
2) 1.Bd7 Rb1 2.Be5 Rd4 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)
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 Rh3 3.Kh3 Bf5#

**FIDE Album**
four double-unpins of white lead to double-check model-mates

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


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.Qe1 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. Frantzov & DM / Die Schwalbe 2000 (v)

- a) 1.Qe3 Sf3+ 2.Ke4 Rd5 3.Sf4 Sd2#
- b) 1.Sc3 Sd2+ 2.Kd4 Bc5 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#

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 Qxh1+ 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)
Vladimir Chernous & DM / 5th Honorable Mention / harmonie 1998

1) 1.Reg6 Sd2 2.Qd1+ Sb3 3.Qg4 Sd4#
2) 1.Rgg6 Sde5 2.Qd4+ Sc4 3.Qf6 Sc3#

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 Kaventsky 90th JT, so perhaps "IK90JT Theme"?

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.


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.

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.
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#  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.Rb7Bg3 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; none rose to the occasion :-)

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

DM / Commendation / Springaren 1995

*) 1....Ra6 2.Re4 Rg6 3.Sd4 Rg3#
1) 1.f6 Bg8 2.Sd4 Bb3 3.Re4 Bc2#

wide-angle version of a familiar set/play idea

h#3*  (3+4)

DM / Suomen Tehtavaniekat 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#
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)


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)
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. :-)

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

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

Umnov theme
mutual bB/bR shutoff ("unit Grimshaw")
reciprocal wS/wS replacements
DM / U.S. Problem Bulletin 1993

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)

DM / The Problemist 1994 (v)

a) 1.Qc3 Bd3 2.Kxb5 Rxc4 3.Qc5 Rb4#
b) 1.Rh1 Rg4 2.Rxb5 Be4 3.e3 Bc2#

unpin/self-unpin preface reciprocal battery formations

h#3 b) bSa3 (5+7)

DM / Honorable Mention / Ideal-Mate Review 1996

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)

DM / 4th Commendation / diagrammes 1997

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

\[ \text{a) 1.Rg7 (Rd7?) Re2 2.Ke5 Kxg4 3.Rd5 (Qd5?) Bxg7#} 
\[ \text{b) 1.Be2 (Qe2?) Bg7 2.Kc4 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

\[ \text{1) 1.Kf5 Sxe5 2.Bxe5 Kg7 3.Bxe3 Sxe3#} 
\[ \text{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

\[ \text{a) 1.Bxd7 c8=Q 2.Bg4 Qf5 3.Be2 Sg2# (4.Rxg2??)} 
\[ \text{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

\[ \text{1.Bd5 c8=B 2.Qf4 Ba6 3.Re5 Bd3#}  \quad \text{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....Re6 2.Kf3 Bxa6 3.Kg2 Bb7 4.Kh1 Rxb6#
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....Re4 2.Kd5 Ra4+ 3.Ke4 Ra3 4.Kf3 Bd5#
2) 1....Be4 2.Ke5 Be2+ 3.Kb4 Bd1 4.Ka4 Re4#

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

2) 1....Sgf4  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#


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 Rh3 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 Kg4#

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"

2) 1.Sxd4 Kc7 2.Sxf3 Rd7 3.Sg5 Rd3 4.Sxh3 Rxd3#
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)


1) 1.Bh3 Se7 2.Rg4 Sxe6 (Se8?)  3.Kg3 Sg7 4.Kh4 Sf5#
2) 1.Rh1 Sd5 2.Re1 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.Kg7+ 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

2. Sb4 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#

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.Kc2 Qf1+ 3.Kd2 Qe2+ 4.Kc1 Qc1#

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.Ka4 Rd4#  
2) 1....Ra4 2.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=RxR 2.a1=B Rh8! 3.Bg7 hxg7 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 hK 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 Bd7 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"


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.f1=B Bc2 4.Bh3 Bf1 5.Bf5 Bg2#

( not 1...Bf1? 2.f2 Be2 3.f1=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.Qb7+ 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


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

h#5 (3+2)

DM / Commendation / StrateGems 2004


inchworm movements of wK and wB

h#5 (3+3)

DM / MatPlus Forum 2011

1. Kd2 Kf7 2. Qe1 Ke6 3. Qe1+ Kd5 4. Rd1 Kd4 5. e1=S Rb2#

unblock, block, unblock of the eventual promotion square (e1)

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.Qxh8 Be8 4.Qd7 Rh8 5.Qa7 Be6#
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.
Mark Kirtley & DM / Honorable Mention / Ideal-Mate Review 1997


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 rundlaufs 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.Sc7 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


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


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


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


paradoxical bK switchback allows 2 blocking clearances to operate

h#6 (2+9)
DM / Chess Life 1983


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 Ke5 2.Sg6+ Kd4 3.Sf4 Ke3 4.Sc2+ 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.Sb8 gxh8Q 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


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


**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" AUW. 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


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 cxd7 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 Vukcevich"

1.h2 Bf5 2.h1=Q+ Bh3 3.Qa1 Bf1 4.Kc6 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=Q+ 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"


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.Rb4 Kb3 3.Kc4 Kc4 4.Kf3+ Kd5 5.g5 Ke6 6.Kg4 Kg7+ 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 (PGnn)

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


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

shortest proofgame ending in CapZug, to my knowledge; find the Good Zugo Tourney 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


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"


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 b5 5.Bb5 h4 6.Bc6 hx6 7.b7 Rh5 8.bxc8=B Rd5 9.Ba6 Qc8

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


6-unit 'centipede' on the h-file

PG15 (15+13)

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


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


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"


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)
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!

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!

DM / 1st Prize / Good Companions QCT 2010

PG27 (12+14)  C-


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

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

DM / StrateGems 2011

PG21½ (14+14)


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)


12.Kh1 Kb8 13.Rg1 Ka8 14.Rg6 Rb8 15.Rh6 Qxd6 16.Qg1 g6 17.Qg4! (Qg5?) Bg7 18.Qb4 Bxe5 19.Qd6 Rxd6

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.
DM / MatPlus 2010

1.g4 a5 2.Bg2 Sa6 3.Bc6 bxc6 4.Sh3 Bb7 5.Rg1 Qb8 6.Rg3 Qa7 7.Rf3 Qe5 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)

DM & Gianni Donati / StrateGems 2010

11.Qg3 0-0-0 12.f3 Kb8 13.Qe1 Kd8 14.Qd1 Bxd1 15.Kb1 Rh8 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)

DM / StrateGems 2011

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)

Kostas Prentos & DM / 1st Prize / StrateGems 2002

29.Bf1 Ke1 30.Sd5 Sc8+ 31.Sc7 Kb1 32.d5 Rf3 33.Bg2+

SIX Indians! 3 black: Bh3/Rg4/Kf5/Rf4+  Rg4/Bf4/Kc4/Bh2  Qf6+/Se7/Kd8/Sc8+
2 white: Bd5/Sc3/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.
**Series-Movers (ser-*)**

DM / StrateGems 2002


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


**FIDE Album**
mixed AUW with strategically equivalent lines

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

DM / 4th Prize / StrateGems 2002

13.Sc2  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"


simple grab-and-return executed 3 times

*Reb helped give the "Good Companions" a web presence with the StrateGems website -- a labor of love.*

ser-h=15  (5+8)
DM / 2nd Prize / StrateGems 2003 / "dedicated to SG S&S contributors"


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

1.Rd5! (Ra1? Bb3#) 2.a5 3.a4 4.a3 5.a2 6.a1=Q 7.Qh1 Ka8 8.Rb5#

a) 1.Rd5! (Ra1? Bb3#) 2.a5 3.a4 4.a3 5.a2 6.a1=Q 7.Qh1 Ka8 8.Rb5#
b) 1.Ra1! (Rd5? Re7#) 2.a5 3.a4 4.a3 5.axb2 6.b1=Q 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-h#8 b) wPg4→e5 (8+3)

Stalemates (w=n / s=n / h=n)

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


1.Sb1! (zz) Bg8 2.Qa2+ Kb4 3.Rd4+ Be4 4.Sa3! (zz) Rxb4 5.Rxh4=
1..... Rxb4 2.Qc5+ Kb3 3.Bd5+ Re4 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. Sphicas & Radovan Tomasevic / StrateGems 2010

1.a8=R+ Kb5 2.b8=R+ Kxe6 3.c8=R+ Kb6 4.d8=R+ Kxe6 5.c8=R+ Kxf6 6.f8=R+ Kxg6 7.g8=R+ Kxh7 8.Rg7+ Kxg7

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 Rxfl=

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


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.Bbl2 g8=B  4.c1=B Bd1  5.a1=B Bb3=

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


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.Vukcevich"

2) 1.Qa5 Bd5 (Rd5?) 2.Kc5 Be6+ 3.Kd4 Rd5+ 4.Kc4 Rxax5+ 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 was 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


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)
"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.

Eugeniusz Iwanow & DM / StrateGems 2002

1.Qg1 Kh7 (tempo)  2.g3 Kg8  3.Bf3 Kf7  4.Bh1 Ke6  5.g2 Kd5   6.g4 Ke4  7.Bf4 Kxb3  8.Bh2 Kc3  9.g3 Kd2=

elegantly forced sequence of chameleon echo P+B interplay

DM / StrateGems 2009


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

4...Ka6 4.Be6 5.Rh6 6.Be8#;  4...Ke8 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 pser-* or (for less common types with helpful parries) phser-*. 

pser-#6  ✓  (5+6)  [4 bQ's]
DM / Macedonian Problemist 2010


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

psr-#7  (4+9)

DM / StrateGems 2010


8-point non-stop rundlauf by wS

psr-#8  (3+11)

DM / Probleemblad 2010

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

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

psr-s#7  (9+8)

DM / StrateGems 2009

1. Qc2 2. Sc7 3. e8=Q 4. Qc5+ and now...

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

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

logical progression traps the King on a8
wB returns

pser-s#10 (4+6)

DM / Commendation / StrateGems 2009 (v)


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

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

DM & Arno Tüngler / feenschach 2010


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

pser-s=10 (7+6)

DM / StrateGems 2010 / "for Paul"


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 pser-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.

pser-r=8 (7+2)

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

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

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)


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

psr-h#6 b) wPb5→d5 (6+8)

a) 1. Kc7 2. Bh3 3. Rg4+ Kf5 4. Rg7+ Ke5 5. Bc8 6. Rd7 Se6#


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+ Ke2 3.Se1+ Kd2 4.Sf3+ Ke2 5.Sg1+ Kf2 6.Sh3+ Kg3 7.Sg1 Sf2#

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 / Macedonian Problemist 2010

a) 1.g2 2.d1=R+ Kf2 3.Rh1! 4.g1=B+ Ke1 5.Be1+ Kd2 6.Be1+ Ke1 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.Sc3+ Ke1 8.Sc2+ 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=Q+ Ke3 3.Qa1 c6 4.h1=Q+ Ke3 5.Qxh3+ Kd2 6.Qd7+ cxd7 7.c3+ Kxc3 8.Qc8+ dxc8=Q 9.Ka4 Qa6#
2) 1.g1=Q+ Ke3 2.Qa1 3.Qa8+ c6 4.h1=Q+ Ke3 5.Qxh3+ Kd2 6.Qd7+ cxd7 7.c3+ Kxc3 8.Qe8+ dxc8=Q 9.Ka4 Qa6#

S+S promotions changed to 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.
1. RHe8 2. RHg8+ Kg4 3. RHg5+ Kg3 4. Gg4+ Kg2 5. BHh1! 6. RHg3+ Kf3 7. Gg2+ Ke4 8. BHf3+ Kd5

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](http://www.ozproblems.com) to visit Geoff's bio page on [OzProblems](http://www.ozproblems.com).*

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 rundlauf

*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](http://www.ozproblems.com).*

pser-h#14 (3+2)

DM / The Problemist 2011


logical progression coaxes the wK and wP forward

pser-h=10 (2+3)

DM / StrateGems 2010

1. 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


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

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

DM / Commendation / StrateGems 2009

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

pser-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.

pser-hs#8 (6+3)

Parry (Help) Series (pser-*)

DM / MatPlus Forum 2010


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 pser- or (for less common types with helpful parries) phser-.

pser-#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+ Kb2 4.nPg8=nQ+ 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

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.Re8+ Kg7 3.Rg1+ Kf7! 4.Rf1+ Sf5 5.Rc7+ Ke6 6.Sc5+ Kd5 7.Rd1+ Sd4 8.e4+ Kc4 9.Sb7+ Kh3
10.Sa5+ Ka2 11.Sc2+ 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

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)

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=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-!=8** (6+4)

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

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-!=13** (8+4) C-

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


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.Re6+ Kxc6 6.e8=Q+ Kd5 7.g8=Q+ Kd4

**phser-!=14** (10+4)
DM / MatPlus Forum 2010


"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


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-pser-*)

DM & Valery Liskovets / StrateGems 2011


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

Legal Parry Series (denoted as legal-pser-*) 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-pser-h#12  (2+9)

DM & Valery Liskovets / StrateGems 2011 (original version)


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

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

**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**)

 Corneli Pacurar & DM / StrateGems 2011


**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, Corneli 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._

**ser-hxz28**  (2+1)

DM / StrateGems 2011


**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**

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

ser-xz53  (2+8)

1....Sa3  2.Rh2 Sc2  3.Rg1 Sc1  4.Bh1 Sg2 xz

three units cross g2 in time for the wS plug there

hxz3½  (3+6)

1.Sb3+  cxb3  2.f2 b4  3.f1=S b5  4.Sc3 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)

1.f1=B  Bg8!  2.Bd3 cxd3  3.g1=B  dxe4  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.
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".

### 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

### Parry Series & CapZug (psert-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

pser-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"

pser-hxz6 (7+9)

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


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.

pser-hxz8 (5+9)