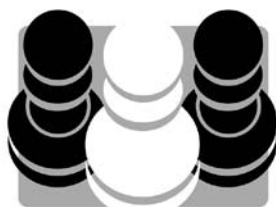


Build Up Your Chess 3 – Mastery

Artur Yusupov



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Build up your Chess 3 - Mastery

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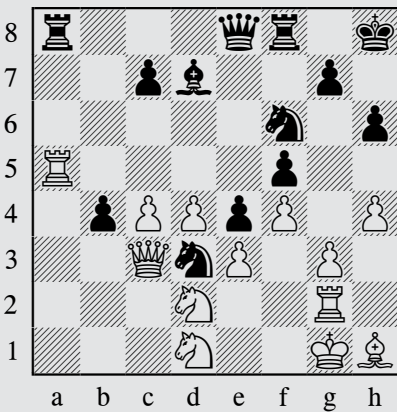
Key to symbols used

△	White to move
▼	Black to move
±	White is slightly better
∓	Black is slightly better
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+−	White has a decisive advantage
−+	Black has a decisive advantage
=	equality
↑	with the initiative
→	with an attack
∞	with compensation
↔	with counterplay
∞	unclear
▷	better is
△	intending
□	only move
⊙	zugzwang
×	weak point
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
!?	a move worth considering
?!	a move of doubtful value
#	mate

Contents

- ✓ The advanced passed pawn in the middlegame
- ✓ Breakthrough
- ✓ Use of an open king position
- ✓ Exchanging defensive pieces
- ✓ Getting rid of a defender
- ✓ Promoting with check

Diagram 1-1



Combinations involving promotion

We shall now take a look at *combinations which involve promotion*. They are often a feature of the endgame, but sometimes you can make use of advanced pawns in the middlegame.

The value of pawns increases dramatically as they approach the queening square.

Frequently a passed pawn can only be stopped at a great cost in material. To clear the path for a passed pawn, even pieces may sometimes be sacrificed. Here are a few spectacular examples.

Diagram 1-1

E. Bogoljubow – A. Alekhine

Hastings 1922

30. ♖xa8

White's position is already very difficult. But after the text move there is a surprise in store for him.

30... ♗xc3!

30... ♖xa8 would not be so strong: 31. ♗b3 ♕a4
32. ♗b1†

31. ♖xe8 c2!

A typical double attack, on the knight along with a simple promotion on c1.

32. ♖xf8† ♕h7 33. ♗f2 c1=♖† 34. ♗f1 ♗e1 35. ♖h2 ♗xc4

Despite the material balance, Black's position is clearly better. The white pieces are too passive and uncoordinated.

36. ♖b8 ♕b5 37. ♖xb5 ♗xb5 38. g4 ♗f3† 39. ♕xf3 exf3 40. gxf5

Or 40. g5 ♗g4+.

40... ♗e2!!

For the second time, Black exploits the strength of an advanced pawn.

41. d5

White is in zugzwang; if 41. ♗h3 or 41. ♖h3, then 41... ♗g4!

41... ♕g8! 42. h5 ♕h7 43. e4 ♗xe4 44. ♗xe4 ♗xe4 45. d6 cxd6 46. f6 gxf6 47. ♖d2 ♗e2!

Diagram 1-2

A pretty finish. Black forces the transition to a won pawn ending.

48.♞xe2 fxe2 49.♔f2 exf1=♞† 50.♔xf1 ♔g7
51.♔e2 ♔f7 52.♔e3 ♔e6 53.♔e4 d5†
0-1

Diagram 1-2

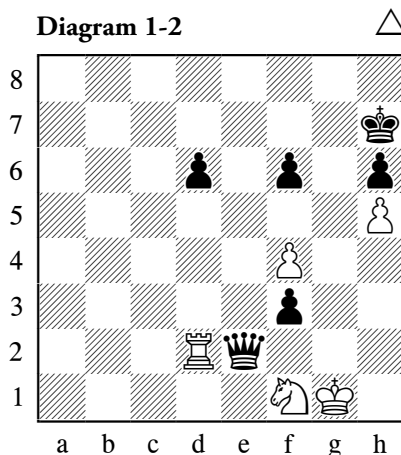


Diagram 1-3

Y. Balashov – A. Yusupov

Minsk 1982

To crack open the white fortress, Black needs a passed pawn.

74...b4!! 75.axb4 ♕xb2! 76.♞xb2 a3 77.♞d2 a2

White now has to give up his rook for the dangerous passed pawn.

78.♞xa2

Or 78.♞d1 ♞c2† 79.♔e1 ♞xd1†-+.

78...♞xa2† 79.♔e3

After 79.♔f1 comes 79...♞c4 80.♕e2 ♞e4-+.

79...♞b1

Threatening ...♞f1.

80.♔e2 ♔c7

If 80...♞g1, then 81.♖e1.

81.♖e1

Intending to continue with ♖g2-e3.

81...♞xb4 82.♖g2 ♞c4† 83.♔e1 ♞c1† 84.♔e2
♞c2† 85.♔e1

After 85.♔f1 there follows 85...♞d3†.

85...♔5!-+

If 85...♞d3, then 86.♖e3.

86.gxf5

86.♖xh4 loses to 86...♞d3 (threatening ...g5)
87.♕g2 (or 87.♕e2 ♞xh3 88.♖xg6 ♞h1† 89.♔d2
♞h6†) 87...♞c3† 88.♔e2 fxg4 89.hxg4 ♞c4†.

86...♞xf5

Black also breaks through on the kingside! White resigned, in view of 87.♕g4

Diagram 1-4

87...♞xg4!! 88.hxg4 h3 with the well-known motif: the knight often performs poorly against a rook's pawn.

Diagram 1-3

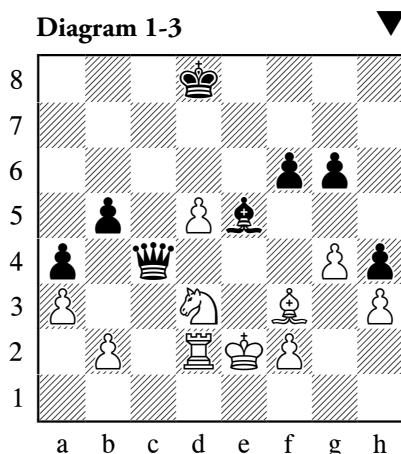


Diagram 1-4 (analysis)

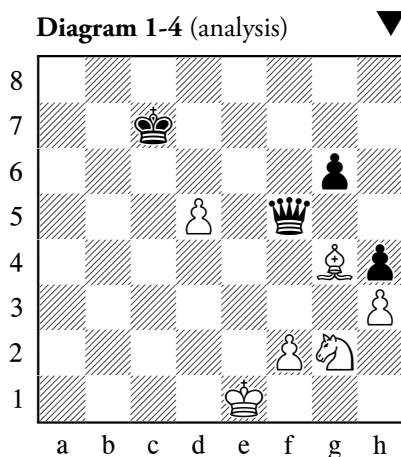


Diagram 1-5

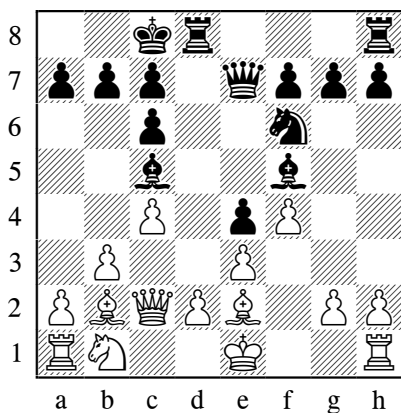


Diagram 1-6 (analysis)

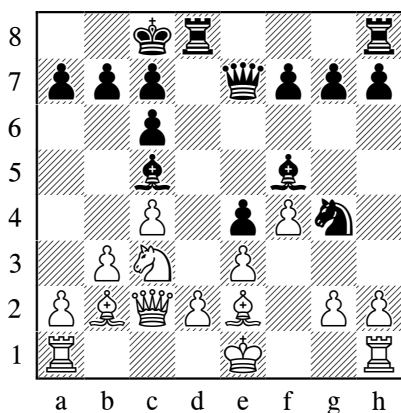
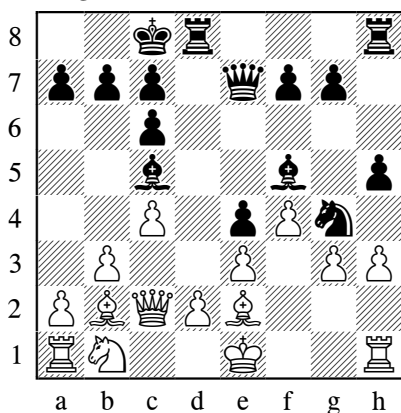


Diagram 1-7



A far-advanced pawn may control important squares in the opposing camp and can completely disrupt the defence.

B.Larsen – B.Spassky

USSR – World, Belgrade 1970

1.b3 e5 2.♙b2 ♘c6 3.c4 ♗f6 4.♗f3 e4 5.♗d4 ♙c5
6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.e3 ♙f5 8.♖c2 ♕e7 9.♙e2 0-0-0
10.f4

Diagram 1-5

10...♗g4! 11.g3

After 11.0-0 there follows 11...♖h4 12.h3 h5 with an attack (Euwe).

If 11.♙xg4, then simply 11...♖h4♠ (Larsen).

And 11.♗c3

Diagram 1-6

would be bad due to 11...♙xd2! and then 12...♙xe3 (Florian).

11...h5!

Now 11...♙xd2 is not so clear, because of 12.♗xd2 ♗xe3 13.♖c3 (Spassky).

12.h3

Once more 12.♗c3 is met by 12...♙xd2!-+. If 13.♖xd2 (or 13.♗xd2 ♙xe3♠), then 13...♙xe3 14.♖d1 (14.♖c2 ♙f2♠ nets the white queen after either 15.♗f1 15...♗e3♠ or 15.♗d2 e3♠) 14...♗f2-+ (Alexander).

Spassky now starts a brilliant attack. His queen and the strong pawns play the decisive role.

Diagram 1-7

12...h4! 13.hxg4

13.♙xg4 would be no better: 13...♙xg4 14.hxg4 hxg3 15.♖g1 ♖h1! (or 15...♖h2-+ Larsen) 16.♖xh1 g2 17.♖g1 ♖h4♠ 18.♗e2 ♖xg4♠ 19.♗e1 ♖g3♠ 20.♗e2 (20.♗d1 ♖f2 21.♖xe4 ♖xg1♠ 22.♗c2 ♖f2-+) 20...♖f3♠ 21.♗e1 ♙e7-+ (Spassky).

13...hxg3 14.♖g1

14.♖xh8 ♖xh8 15.gxf5 loses to 15...♖h1♠ 16.♙f1 g2.

Diagram 1-8

14...♖h1!! 15.♖xh1

After 15.♖f1 there follows 15...♖xg1† 16.♔xg1 ♖h4+ (Kotov).

15...g2 16.♖f1

Or 16.♖g1 ♖h4† 17.♔d1 ♖h1 18.♖c3 ♖xg1† 19.♔c2 ♖f2 20.gxf5 ♖xe2 21.♗a3 and now 21...♕b4!-+ is the neatest finish, although 21...♖d3† 22.♖xd3 exd3† 23.♔c3 ♕xe3 24.dxe3 d2 25.♖d1 ♖h8 is also winning.

16...♖h4† 17.♔d1 gxf1=♖†

White resigned, in view of 18.♕xf1 ♕xg4† 19.♔c1 ♖e1† 20.♖d1 ♖xd1#.

Combinations can sometimes appear out of an almost clear blue sky. Who would believe that the d4-pawn in the position in the next diagram would have such a fantastic career?

Diagram 1-9

A.Kotov – V.Ragozin

Moscow 1949

1.b5! c5

1...♖ac7 would not be much better: 2.bxc6 ♗xc6 3.♕b5 ♗xd4 4.♖xc7 ♗xc2 5.♖xc8+.

2.dxc5!! ♖xe5 3.cxb6 ♖xc3 4.bxa7!

The point of the combination.

4...♖xc2 5.♖xc2

And Black cannot stop the passed pawn.

1-0

If our pawn is already very far advanced, then we can often base all the play on the said pawn.

Diagram 1-10

H.Kmoch – A.Alekhine

Kecskemet 1927

27...dxc3!

The decisive combination, very accurately calculated by Alekhine.

28.♖xd7 ♖xd7 29.♖xd7

The main variation was 29.♖e8† ♔h7 30.♖xd7 ♖e4!! (the point) 31.♖xf7 (or 31.♖d5 ♖xd5

Diagram 1-8

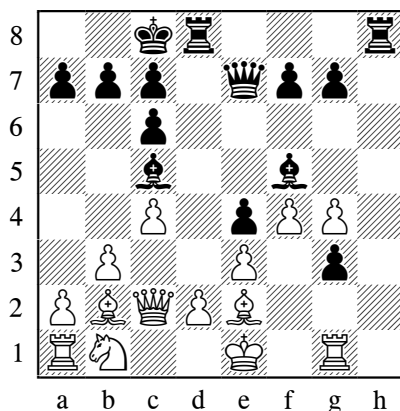


Diagram 1-9

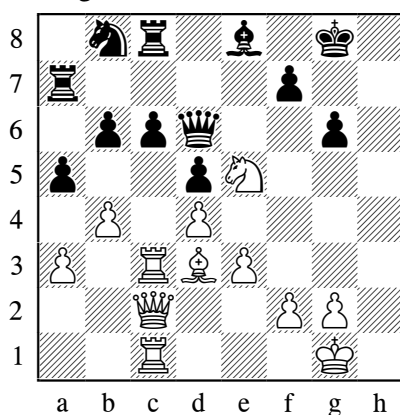
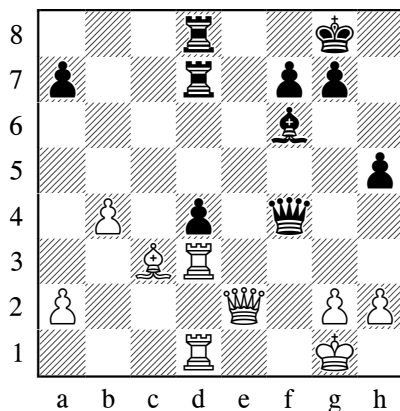


Diagram 1-10



32.♖xd5 c2! 33.♞c5 ♘d4†→) 31...c2 32.♞xh5† ♔g8
33.♞f1 c1=♞! 34.♞xc1 ♞e3† and Black wins.

29...♘d4† 30.♔h1

30.♞xd4 ♞xd4† 31.♔f1 ♞f4† 32.♔e1 ♞xb4→+
30...♞c1†→+

0-1

To clear the way for the passed pawn, you often have to swap off opposing pieces.

Diagram 1-11

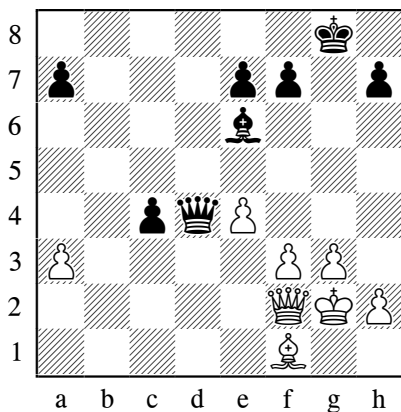


Diagram 1-11

L.Lengyel – B.Brinck Claussen

Varna 1962

1...♘h3†! 2.♔g1 ♞a1!!→+ 3.♞e2 c3 4.♔f2 ♞xf1†!

Intending 5.♞xf1 ♘xf1 6.♔xf1 c2.

0-1

In the strictest sense of the term, this was not a combination, because Black did not have to sacrifice anything. But the next example fits 100%.

Diagram 1-12

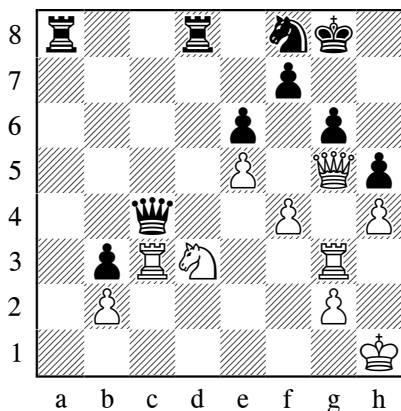


Diagram 1-12

R.Barstatis – A.Vooremaa

Riga 1978

1...♞xc3!!

Black clears the way for his b-pawn.

2.bxc3 ♞xd3 3.♞xd3 ♞a1†

3...b2? 4 ♞d1 ♞a1 is not good, on account of
5.♞d8!→.

4.♔h2 b2 5.♞d8 b1=♞

Now Black has an advantage in material. What is important here is that the black major pieces are ready to take part in the counterattack on the white king.

6.♞e7

Or 6.♞xf8† ♔xf8 7.♞d8† ♔g7 8.♞f6† ♔g8
9.♞d8† ♔h7→.

6...♞g1† 7.♔g3 ♞e3†

And Black will be the first to mate.

0-1

The new queen can very effectively enter the attack. Look also at the following example.

Diagram 1-13

J.Kotrc – N.N.

Vienna 1907

1. ♖e8† ♕a7

If 1... ♖c7, then 2. ♗a5†! b6 3. ♗e5† ♕d7 4. ♗e7#.

2. ♖a8†! ♕b6

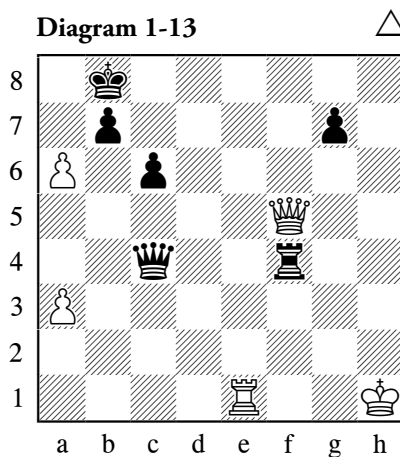
Or 2... ♖xa8 3. ♗c8† ♕a7 4. ♗xb7#.

3. ♗a5†!! ♕xa5 4. axb7† ♕b6 5. b8=♗† ♕c5 6. ♖a5† ♕d4 7. ♗xf4†

1-0

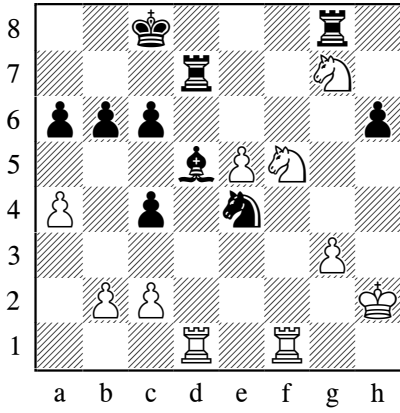
Now you are ready for the test. Some of the exercises are difficult and you must invest a considerable amount of time in this test. Of course, it will be helpful that you know the motif behind the combinations (promotion). And just remember: you only get the maximum number of points for complete solutions.

Diagram 1-13

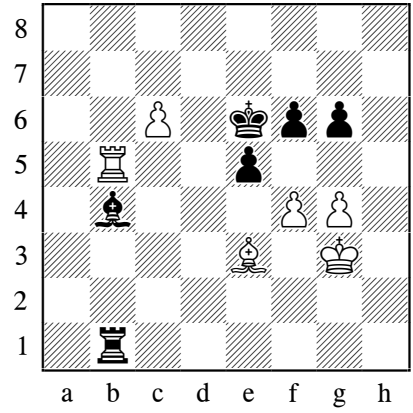


Exercises

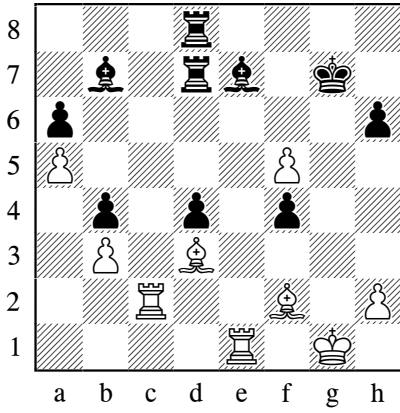
► Ex. 1-1 ◀ ★★★ ◻



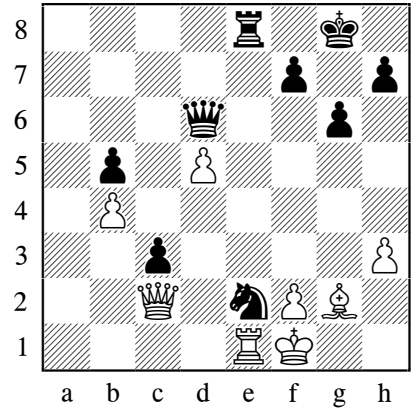
► Ex. 1-4 ◀ ★★ ◻



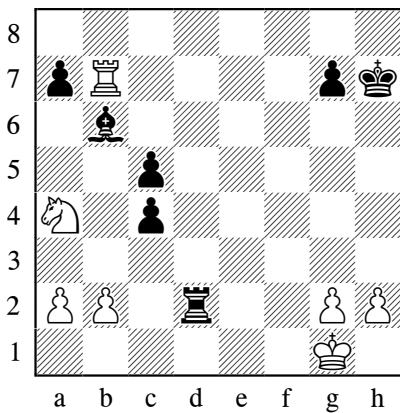
► Ex. 1-2 ◀ ★★★ ◻



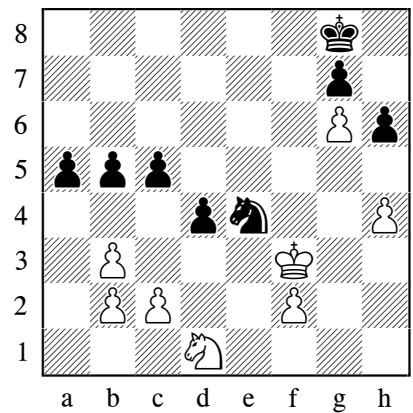
► Ex. 1-5 ◀ ★ ▼



► Ex. 1-3 ◀ ★★★★★ ▼

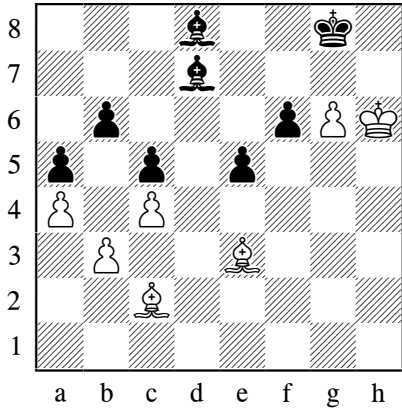


► Ex. 1-6 ◀ ★★ ▼

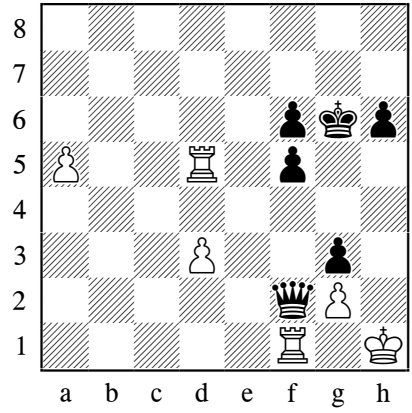


Exercises

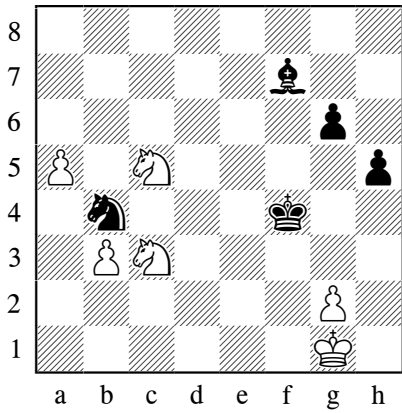
► Ex. 1-7 ◀ ★ △



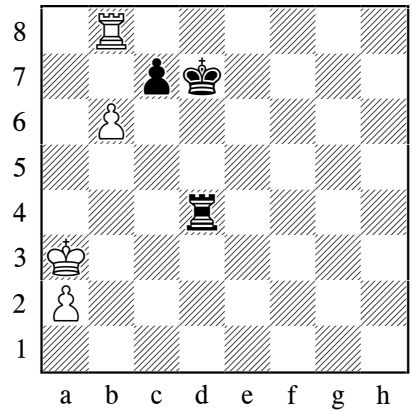
► Ex. 1-10 ◀ ★★ △



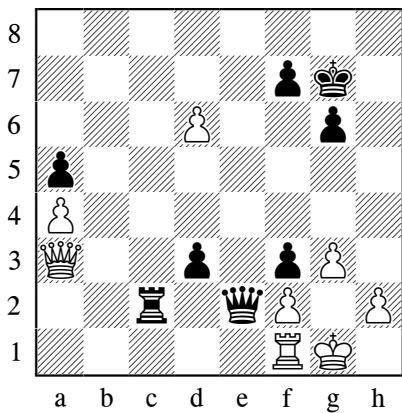
► Ex. 1-8 ◀ ★★ △



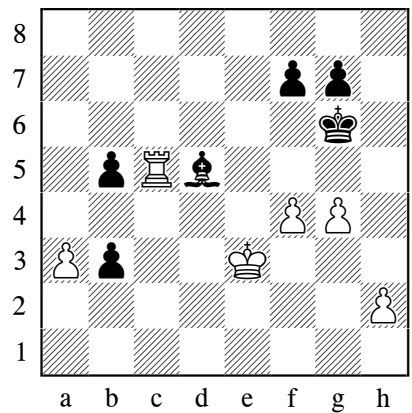
► Ex. 1-11 ◀ ★★★ △



► Ex. 1-9 ◀ ★★★ △



► Ex. 1-12 ◀ ★ ▼



Solutions

Ex. 1-1

A. Alekhine – E. Bogoljubow

World Championship, Germany (16) 1934

30.e6!

(1 point)

30.♖xd5 first is not so strong: 30...cxd5 and now 31.e6 (1 consolation point) can be met by 31...♖c7 32.e7 ♖d7.

30...♗dxg7

If 30...♖c7, then 31.e7 ♖d7 32.♖fe1 (or 32.♖f4 ♖f6 33.♖xc4+) 32...♖xg7 33.♖xe4 ♖g8 34.♖xc4+.

31.♖xg7 ♖xg7 32.♖xd5!!

(another 1 point)

32...cxd5 33.♖f8†! ♖c7 34.♖f7+–

(1 point)

34...♖d6

Black loses the exchange. If 34...♖xf7, then 35.exf7 wins.

35.♖xg7 ♖xe6 36.♖g6† ♖e5 37.♖g2 b5 38.a5 d4 39.♖xa6 b4 40.♖f3 c3 41.bxc3 bxc3 42.♖e6†! ♖xe6 43.♖xe4

1–0

Ex. 1-2

A. Alekhine – E. Bogoljubow

World Championship, Germany (4) 1934

52.♖xe7†!!

(1 point)

52.♖xd4† is not so good: 52...♖f7 53.♖c4† ♖d5=.

52...♖xe7 53.♖h4

Threatening f6†.

53...♖f7

After 53...♖ed7 there comes 54.♖xd8 ♖xd8 55.♖c7+–.

54.♖xe7 ♖xe7 55.♖c7† ♖d7 56.f6†!

(1 point)

56...♖e8

56...♖d8 loses to 57.f7. After 56...♖e6 comes 57.♖f5+–.

57.♖g6†!

This is even better than 57.f7† ♖xf7 58.♖g6 ♖d5± (also 1 point).

57...♖d8 58.f7

(another 1 point for the whole variation)

58...♖xc7 59.f8=♖ f3 60.♖xb4 ♖d6

61.♖d3

1–0

Ex. 1-3

M. Ortuerta Esteban – J. Sanz Aguado

Madrid 1934

1...♖xb2!!

(1 point)

2.♖xb2 c3 3.♖xb6!

If 3.♖d3, then 3...c4†! 4.♖xb6 cxd3+– or 4.♖f1 cxd3 5.♖e1 c2 6.♖d2 ♖e3†+–.

(1 point for these side lines)

3...c4!

(1 point)

The threat is ...c2. Of course 3...axb6? would be bad, due to 4.♖d3+–.

4.♖b4

If 4.♖xc4, then 4...c2+–.

4...a5!!

(another 1 point)

5.♖a4

5.♖xc4 loses to 5...cxb2. After 5.♖d1 there follows 5...c2+–.

5...axb4

0–1

Ex. 1-4

M. Vidmar – N.N.

1.f5†!

(1 point)

Of course not 1.♖d2? ♖b3† 2.♖h4? because of 2...g5† 3.fxc5 fxc5† 4.♖h5 ♖h3†.

1...gxf5 2.gxf5† ♖d6

After 2...♖f7 or 2...♖xf5 comes 3.c7+–.

3.♖xb4!!

3.♖c5† is less precise: 3...♖xc5 4.♖xb1 ♖xc6 5.♖f3±.

Solutions

3...♖xb4 4.♙c5†!!

(another 1 point)

4...♗xc5 5.c7

1-0

Ex. 1-5

I. Weltmänder – L. Polugaevsky

Sochi 1958

1...♗g3†!! 2.fxg3 ♖f6†! 3.♖f2

Or 3.♗g1 ♖xe1† 4.♗h2 ♖d4-+.

3...♖xe1†! 4.♗xe1 ♖xf2† 5.♗xf2 c2

0-1

(1 point)

Ex. 1-6

G. Bonner – A. Medina Garcia

Haifa Olympiad 1976

1...♗c3!!

(1 point)

2.bxc3

If 2.♗xc3, then 2...dxc3 3.bxc3 a4-+.

2...a4! 3.cxd4 cxd4

But not 3...a3?? due to 4.♗c3+-.

4.c3

Or 4.bxa4 bxa4 5.♗b2 a3-+.

(another 1 point for this variation)

4...a3

0-1

Ex. 1-7

A. Hennings – G. Walter

East Germany 1964

1.♙g5!!

(1 point)

But not 1.g7? because of 1...f5.

1...♙e7

If 1...fxg5, then 2.g7 followed by ♗h7† wins.

2.g7!+-

The threat is 3.♗h7† ♗f7 4.g8=♖#.

2...f5 3.♙xe7

1-0

Ex. 1-8

V. Anand – B. Spassky

Cannes 1989

1.♗d3†!!

(1 point)

1.a6? is not so good: 1...♗xa6 2.♗xa6 ♙xb3±.

1...♗xd3 2.a6

Threatening a7-a8=♖.

2...♙e8□ 3.♗d5†!

(another 1 point)

After 3...♗e5 comes 4.♗e7. White then controls the c6-square and Black cannot stop the passed pawn.

1-0

Ex. 1-9

E. Ermenkov – G. Sax

Warsaw 1969

1.d7!

(1 point)

1.♖a1† f6 2.d7 achieves nothing, on account of 2...♖e7 3.♖d4 ♖e2!= and Black threatens ♖xf1†.

1...♖xf1†

After 1...d2 comes 2.♖a1†+-.

2.♗xf1 d2 3.♖xf3 ♖c1† 4.♖d1!!

(another 2 points)

4...♖xd1† 5.♗e2

Black resigned, in view of 5...♖b1 6.d8=♖ d1=♖† 7.♖xd1 ♖xd1 8.♗xd1+-.

Ex. 1-10

A. Alekhine – Shishkov

1919

1.♖xf2!

(1 point)

But not 1.♖a1? due to 1...f4 2.a6 f3 3.♖g1 fxg2† 4.♖xg2 ♖f1† 5.♖g1 ♖h3#.

1.♖xf5 ♖d4± is not so clear (1 consolation point).

Solutions

1...gxf2 2...xf5!! ♖xf5 3.g4†! ♖xg4 4.♖g2

1-0

(another 1 point for this variation)

Ex. 1-11

J.Moravec

1925

1.♖d8†!! ♖xd8 2.b7

(1 point)

2...♖b4! 3.♖xb4 c5†

(another 1 point for this defence!)

4.♖b5!

If 4.♖xc5, then 4...♖c7=.

4...♖c7 5.♖a6! ♖b8

After 5...c4 there follows 6.♖a7+-.

6.♖b6! c4 7.a4 c3 8.a5 c2 9.a6 c1=♖

10.a7#

(1 point for the whole variation)

Ex. 1-12

B.Gelfand – J.Lautier

Belgrade 1997

In the game, Black missed the boat and played 39...♖c4?? and after 40.♖d2 he resigned.

The correct move would be:

39...b4!!

(1 point)

And suddenly Black is winning: 40.♖xd5 (or 40.axb4 b2-+) 40...bxa3-+ (also winning is 40...b2).

Scoring

Maximum number of points is 27

24 points and above → **Excellent**

20 points and above → **Good**

14 points → **Pass mark**

If you scored less than 14 points, we recommend that you read the chapter again and repeat the exercises which you got wrong.



Joel Lautier was France's top
player for a decade before leaving chess to
pursue a business career