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Popandopulo mechanism

*This was defined as follows: repeated firing of a direct battery, the rear piece being the same each time, the front pieces **must be different ones, although they may be of the same kind.***

Avenir Popandopulo (b.1920 – d.1988) Russian composer, International Master and Judge. He composed about 300 strategic moremovers.

A. Popandopulo

1st Prize, Deutscher Sch. Bund 1965



11+10

#6

1.Qc4! [2.Sg3~#]
 1...Qd4 2.Se2+ Kxe4 3.Sc3+ Sxc3 4.Sg3+ K~ 5.Se2+ Ke4/Qf4 6.Sxc3/Bxf4#
 1...R8d4 2.Sf5+ Kxe4 3.Sd6+ Sxd6 4.Sg3+ K~ 5.Sf5+ Ke4/Rf4 6.Sxd6/Bxf4#
 1...R1d4 2.Sf1+ Kxe4 3.Sd2+ Sxd2 4.Sg3+ K~ 5.Sf1+ Ke4/Rf4 6.Sxd2/Bxf4#
 1...Bd4 2.Sh5+ Kxe4 3.Sf6+ Sxf6 4.Sg3+ K~ 5.Sh5+ Ke4 6.Sxf6#

More complex is this #7. The mechanism is introduced via d6 or c7, then a sixmover originates in which that choice is expressed. This means that there are two Popandopulo's in the real play of a sevenmover.

1.Re1-e2[2.Rbd2#]
 1...Be1 2.Bc5 [3.Sd6+ **A** Kc3 4.Sxe4+ dxe4 5.Sb5+ Kd3 6.Sd6+ Kc3 7.Sxe4#] Bxf5 **a** 3.Sc7+ **B** Kc3 4.Sxd5+ Sxd5 5.Sb5+ Kd3 6.Sc7+ Kc3 7.Sxd5#
 1...Rd1 2.Bb4 [3.Sc7+ **B** Kd4 4.Se6+ fxe6 5.Sb5+ Kd3 6.Sc7+ Kd4 7.Sxe6#] Bxf5 **a** 3.Sd6+ **A** Kd4 4.Sxf5+ Sxf5 5.Sb5+ Kd3 6.Sd6+ Kd4 7.Sxf5#
 2...Sxb3 3.Sa3+ Kd4 4.S7b5+ Kd3 5.Sc3+ Kd4 6.Rxe4+ dxe4 7.Sc2#

Here is the prototype problem: **1.Bb3!** [2.bxa6 3.Sb5+]
 1. ...Sxb4 2. Sa4 Ke4 3. Sc5 Bxc5 4. Sc3 Kd4 5. Sa4 Ke4 6. Sxc5#
 1. ... Rf7 2. Sb1 Ke4 3. Sd2 exd2 4. Sc3 Kd4 5. Sb1 Ke4 6. Sxd2#
 1. ... c5 2. Sd1 Ke4 3. Sf2 exf2 4. Sc3 Kd4 5. Sd1 Ke4 6. Sxf2#
 1. ... Rxh3 2. Sd5 Ke4 3. Sf6 gxf6 4. Sc3 Kd4 5. Sd5 Ke4 6. Sxf6#

Gustav + (except for some duals in other variants)

The mechanism is enriched with pins in Pankratiev's problem:

Al. Pankratiev

1st Prize, L'Echiquier Belge 1983-84

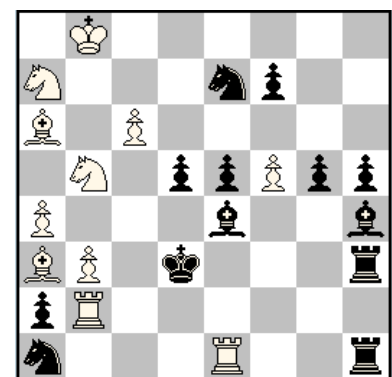


9+11

#6

M. Tribowski

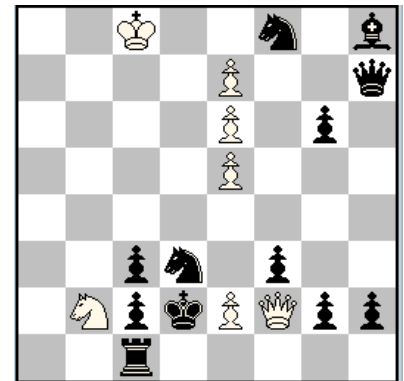
1st Prize, Rehm 50JT 1994



11+13

#7

E. Visserman
3rd Prize, Schach Echo 1973



7+12 Circe #4

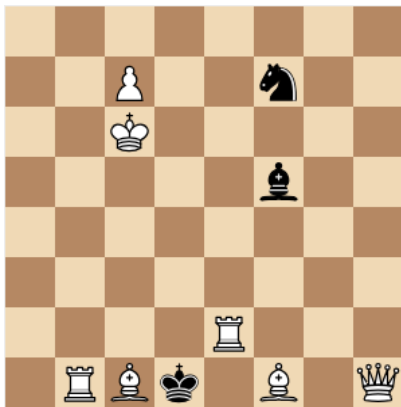
Wonderful idea is shown in the following fairy #4 Circe. The firing pieces are here Pawns:

1.exf3(f7)!

- 1...f×e6(e2) **2.e4+** S×e5(e2) 3.Sc4+ Kd1 4.Qe1#
 2...Q×e7(e2) **3.e×d3(Sg8)+** B×e5(e2) **4.e3#**
 2...B×e5(e2) **3.e3+** Q×e7(e2) **4.e×d3(Sg8)#**
 1...B×e5(e2) **2.e4+** f×e6(e2) **3.e3+** Q×e7(e2) **4.e×d3(Sg8)#**
 Popeye+

Albino with each time a different Pawn is shown. In this composition, the subtleties are in the order of white moves.

P. Raican
The Ural's Problemist 32/2002



7+3 Circe s#14

- Sol.: 1.Rd2+ Ke1 **2.Bd3+** Bxd3[+wBf1] **3.Bh3+** Bf1 4.Qe4+ Be2
 5.Rxe2[+bBc8]+ Kd1 6.Bg5+ Sxg5[+wBc1] 7.Be3+ Kxe2[+wRh1]
 8.Bg4+ Sf3 9.Bb6+ Kd2 10.Rhd1+ Kc3 11.Rd3+ Kc2 12.Rd6+
 Kc3 13.Qc4+ Kxc4[+wQd1] 14.Qd4+ Sxd4[+wQd1]

Popandopulo mechanism where the firing pieces are the Bishops c1 and f1.

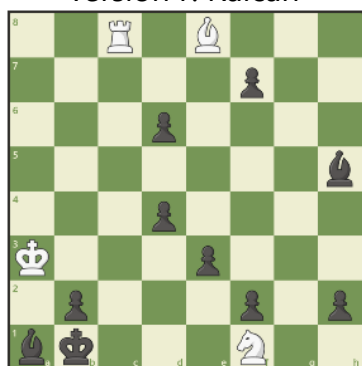
Thanks to the broad definition of the required theme and the extension to the fairy domain, made it possible for the two last problems to arise.

Improving the Great Masters

This article resulted after the verification of a fairly large number of works by masters of composition. It is known that in the 70s and 80s there was no advanced testing technology as there is today. So it is not surprising that many of the works composed then are prone to improvements. Sometimes among the works, many were also found demolished or unsound.

A. Johandl

2Prize, 133TT Probleemblad 1975
version P. Răican



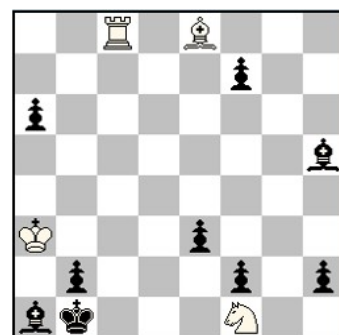
4+10

#17

Cooked in 9 moves: 1.Ba4 Bg4 2.Rc3! Be6 3.Bc6 h1=Q
4.Bxh1 f5 5.Sxe3 Bb3 6.Bd5 f1=Q 7.Bxb3 Qc4 8.Bxc4 and
9.Ba2#

Solution: **1.Ba4!** Bg4 2.Sd2+ exd2 3.Bc2+ Kc1 4.Bf5+ Kd1
5.Bxg4+ Ke1 6.Re8+ Kf1 7.Bh3+ Kg1 8.Rg8+ Kh1 9.Bg2+ Kg1
10.Be4+! Kf1 11.Bd3+ Ke1 12.Re8+ Kd1 13.Be2+Ke1 14.Bc4+ Kd1
15.Bb3+ Kc1 16.Rc8+ Ka2 17.Ba2# Stockfish+

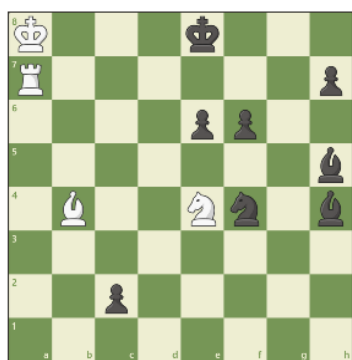
It is strange that this masterpiece by Alois Johandl has not been corrected until now. See the original position below.



Alois JOHANDL
133° T.T. Probleemblad 1975
2° Prix
#15 (4+9) C-

Alois Johandl

Schach-Echo 1972
Version P. Răican



4+8

Draw

Sol:
1.Sd6+ Kf8 2.Sf5+ Kg8 3.Sh6+ Kh8
4. Bf8 Bf3+ 5.Kb8 Sh5 6. Rf7! Bg3+
7.Ka7 Bd6 8.Bg7+! Sxg7 9.Rf8+! Bxf8
10.Sf7+ Kg8 11.Sh6+ Kh8 12.Sf7+
eternal check. Tested by Stockfish.
Another masterpiece by Johandl,
easy corrected by removing two
Pawns.

Next to it we have the original demolished study:

1. Sd6+ Kf8 2. Sf5+ Kg8 3. Sh6+ Kh8 4. Bf8 Bf7! 5.Rxf7 a1=Q+
6.Kb8 Qg1! Black wins

Alois Johandl

Schach-Echo 1972



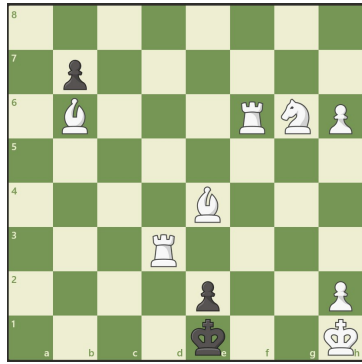
4+10

cooked

Draw

Karlheinz Bachmann

Die Schwalbe 209/2004(version)



8+3 s#17

This selfmate made a strong impression, because a black Pawn originally in b7 must travel the b7-g2 diagonal to give the final checkmate. For this purpose, White uses many times the battery Rf6-X, where X is a different firing unit.

Sol: **1.Bf3!** Kf1 2.Bc6+ Ke1 3. h7 bxc6 4. Bf2+ Kf1 5. Bc5+ Ke1 6.Sf4 Kf1 7.Sd5+ Ke1 8.h8=Q cxd5 9. Bf2+ Kf1 10. Bd4+ Ke1 11. Re6 Kf1 12. Qh3+ Ke1 13. Re4 dxe4 14. Bc3+ Kf2 15. Qg3+ Kf1 18. Rf3+ exf3 17.Qg2+ fxg2#

Gustav 4.2h automatic parameters (16h:36min)

Here is the cooked problem by Bachmann (version published in Die Schwalbe 258/2012).

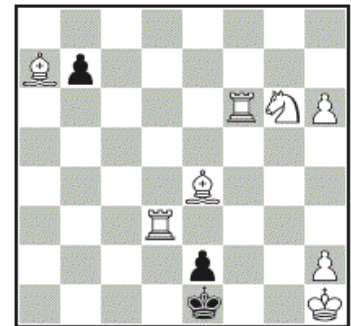
Cook (partially described): 1.h7 b5 2. h8=Q b4 3. Rf2 b3 4. Bf3 b2 5. Rxe2+ Kf1 6.Tf2+ Ke1 7.Rf1+ Kxf1 8.Qe5 b1=S 9.Qa1 Ke1 10. Se5 Kf1 11.Ra3 Ke1 12. Kg1 Kd2 13.Ra2+ Kc1,Ke1 14. Bh1 Kd1 15.Be3 Ke1 16.Rg2 Kd1 17.Qa4+ Ke1 18.Bd2+ Sxd2 19. Sf3+ Sxf3#

8. ... b1=Q 9. Be2+ Ke1 10. Bg4+ Kf1 11.Qf5+ Ke1 12.Qe4+ Kf1 13.Be2+ Ke1 14.Bf1+ Kxf1 15.Qf3+ Ke1 16.Bf2+ Kf1 17.Rd1+ Qxd1 18.Bg3+ Qxf3#

P1263672

Karlheinz Bachmann

Die Schwalbe 209/2004(v)



8+3 cooked s#19

Petko Petkov (†)
feenschach 1981 (v)



10+8 s#8

A masterpiece by the late master (b.1942 – d.11.08.2024)

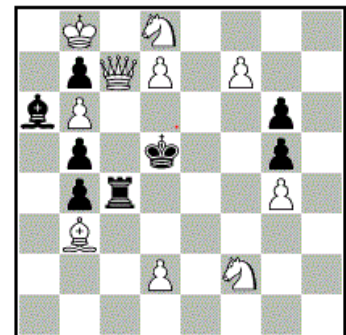
1.f7! Kd4 2. Se6+ Kd5 3. Kd8 Kxe6 4. Ke8 Kf6 **5. f8=Q+** Ke6 6. **d8=B** Kd5 7.Qcc5+ Ke6 8. Qxb5 Bxb5# 4. ... Kd5 **5. d8=R+** Ke6 **6. f8=S+** Kf6 7. Se4+ Rxe4+ 8.Qe7+ Rxe7# Gustav+

AUW in two variants.
I changed the key move.

5 - P1081996

Petko A. Petkov

3363 *feenschach* 10/1981
Arno Tüngler gewidmet
2. Preis



(10+8) cooked s#8

The original problem is cooked: 1.Sc6! bxc6 2.d8=Q+ Kc5 3. Q8e7+ Kd4 4. Qed7+ Kc5 5.d4+ Rxd4 6. Qe5+ Rd5 7.Sd3,Se4 Kxb6 8.Qd8+ Rxd8#
1. ... Kc5 2. f8=Q+ Kd5 3. Qe7 bxc6 4. Qe4+ Kc5 5. d4+ Rxd4 6. Q7e5+ Rd5 7. Sd3+ Kxb6 8.d8=Q+,B+ Rxd8#

Petko Petkov (†)

Die Schwalbe 1986 (v)



12+7

s#5

Another gem by the Bulgarian composer:

1.c8=B! [2.Rd6+ Kxd6 3.Sb7+ Kc6 4.Bd7+ Kc7 5.Qe5+ Bxe5#]

1. ... Kd4 2.Qd7+ Ke5 3.Re6+ Kf5+ 4.Re5+ Kxe5 5.Qd6+ Kxd6#

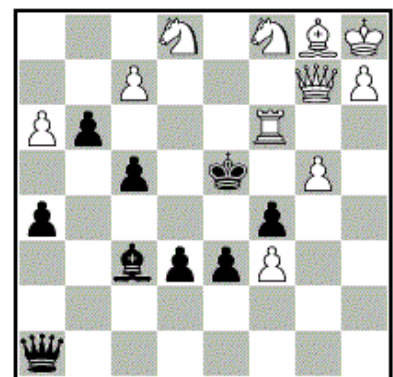
1. ... b5 2.Qc7+ Kd4 3.Rd6+ Ke5 4.Rd4+ Kxd4 5.Qxc5+ Kxc5#

Gustav+

Minor promotion followed by threat and two variants.

Petko Petkov (†)

Die Schwalbe 1986



11+9

s#5

The original problem (P1103451) has a dual at move 2.

Dual: 1 ...b5 **2.Qd7** [3.Re6+ Kf5+ 4.Re5+ Kxe5 5.Qd6+ Kxd6#]

2. ... Qa2 3.Sf7+ Qxf7 4.Rf5+ Qxf5 5.Qd6+ Kxd6#

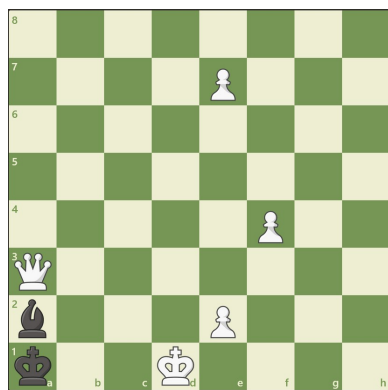
These corrections are a small tribute to the one who was Petko P. Petkov.

George P. Spicas

mpk-Blätter 10/2011

Münchner Selbstmatt-Turnier 2011 (v)

2Comm



5+2

s#20

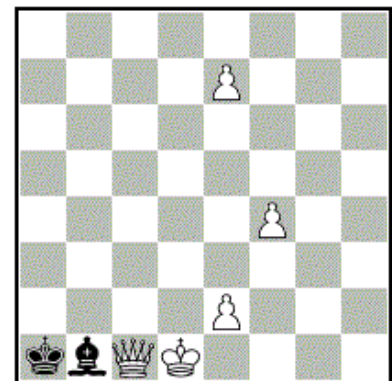
1.e8=Q Kb1 3.Qg6+ Ka1
4.f5 Kb1 5. f6+ Ka1 6.Qc1+
Bb1 7.e3 Ka2 8.Qg8+ Ka1
9.f7 Ka2 **10.f8=B+** Ka1
11.Qg6 Ka2 12.Qa6+ Kb3
13.Qcc4+ Kb2 14.Ba3+ Ka1
15.Qd4+ Ka2 16.Bc1+ Kb3
17.Qda4+ Kc3 18.Qf6+ Kd3
19.Qf1+ Kc3 20.Qe1+ Kd3
21.Qc2+ Bxc2#

George P. Spicas

mpk-Blätter 10/2011

Münchner Selbstmatt-Turnier 2011

2Comm



5+2

s#21

The author's position is an s#21: 1.Qa3+ Ka2 2.e8=Q Kb1 3.Qg6+ ... But White has also 1.e8=Q (Gustav).

The correction is a simple example when a cooked problem can be fixed by shortening the solution.

The following moremove is not a correction but a simplified position:

1. Rg5! Rxd5 2.h4 Rg1 3.Rg6 Rxd6 4.h5 Rg1 5.h6 ~ 6.Qg7+ Rxd7 7.hxg7# Gustav 4.2h
Three units were saved.

Stefan Schneider (b.1908 – d.1980)
Austrian composer and International Master.

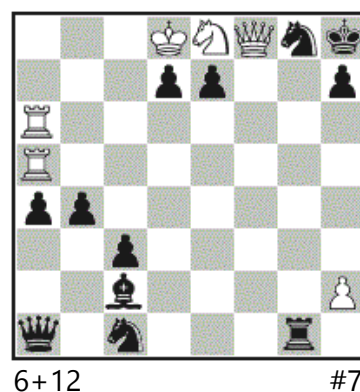
Stefan Schneider

Deutsche Schachblätter, 1969 (v)
2 HM



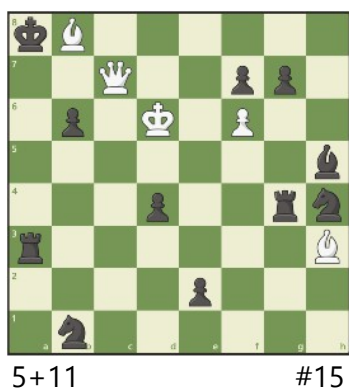
Stefan Schneider

D. Schachblätter, 1969
2 HM



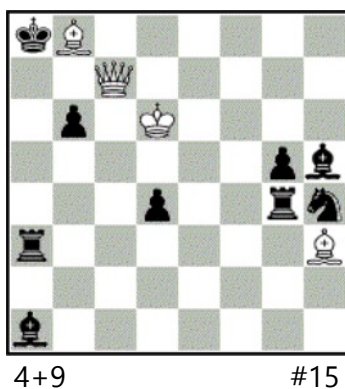
Josif Krikheli

Schach-Echo 1981
version P. Raican



Josif Krikheli

Schach-Echo 1981



Josif Krikheli (b.1931 – d.1988)
Georgian composer and Grandmaster. He composed in many genres, but he became famous thanks to his helpmates and moremoves.

In this moremove from 1981, the wKd6 has a bad position. If 1.Ba7? Rxa7 2.Qc8#, but 1. ...Sf5+! Then wK must go elsewhere:

1.Qc8! Rb3 (1...Sf5+ 2.Kd7) 2.Bc7+ Ka7 3.Kc6! Rc3+ 4. Kd7 Rb3 5. Bb8+ Ka8

Now, the Knight h4 must change its position: 6.Bg3+! (close the line of Rg4) Ka7 7.Bg2! Sxg2 8.Bb8+ Ka8. The Knight is no more at h4, but if 9.Qc7? Ra3 10.Ba7 Rxa7 and wQ is pinned. Then wK must go back at d6:

9.Bc7+! Ka7 10.Kc6 Rc3+ 11.Kd6! Rb3 12. Bb8+ Ka8 13. Qc7 Ra3

This is almost the original position, but with wSh4 at g2. This allows: 14.Ba7! Rxa7 15.Qc8#
Stockfish+

A complex moremove which fully deserved a reconstruction.

The original position (see the next diagram) is cooked in 11 moves: 1.Qc6+ Kxb8 2.Qxb6+ Ka8 3.Qc6+ => #11

Josif Krikheli

3 Prize, Loschinski MT 1981-82

Version P. Raican



5+11

#14

Another interesting problem is this #14:

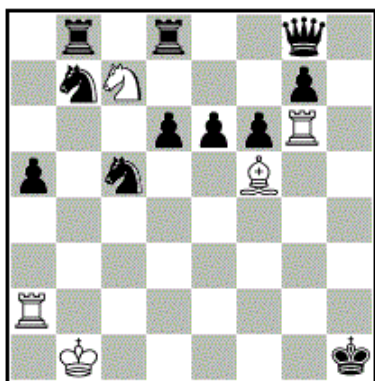
1.Rag2? exf5!

Solution: **1.Bg4!** Kg1 2. Bh3+ Kh1 3. Bg2+ Kh2+ 4. Bf1+ Kh1 5. Be2 Kh2 6. Sd5! exd5. Now, the black Pawn become inoffensive and wB goes back to f5: 7. Bf1 Kh1 8. Bg2+ Kg1 9. Bh3+ Kh1 10. Bg4 Kg1 11. Bf5+ Kh1 12. Rag2 Bh7 13. Rg1+ Kh2 14. R6g2#

A problem with a strong artistic impression.

Josif Krikheli

3 Prize, Loschinski MT 1981-82



5+11

#14

And here is the original cooked position:

Dual: 4.Bf3+ Kh3 2.Be2 Kh2 3.Sd5 etc.

It must be said that there was another attempt to correct the problem in Die Schwalbe 279/2016 but uneconomical (Sc7→e7, +bBc7)

Josif Krikheli

2nd Prize, Themes 64/1970 (v)



6+7

#19

The problem classified 2nd at Themes 64/1970 has the solution:

1.Bf7? Ra7+ 2.Kb3 Rb7+ 3.Kc2 Rb2+

Solution: **1. f6!** Ra7+ 2.Kb3 Rb7+ 3.Kc2 Rb8 4.Bf7 Rb2+ 5.Kc1 Rh2 6.Bg6 Rh1+ 7.Kc2 Rh2+ 8.Kb3 Rb2+ 9.Ka3 Rb8 10.Bf7 Ra8+ 11.Kb3 Rb8+ **12.Ka4!** Rb4+ 13.Ka5 Rb2+ 14.Ka6 Rh2

(14. ...Rxa2+15.Kb7 Rh2 16.Bg6 Rb2+ 17.Kc8) 15.Bg6 Rxa2+ 16.Kb7 Rb2+ 17.Kc8 Rb8+ 18.Kxb8 ~ 19.Re8# Tested by Stockfish

An amazing problem.

The original position (next diagram) has the cook 1.Rh5+ Kg8 Re5, #18.

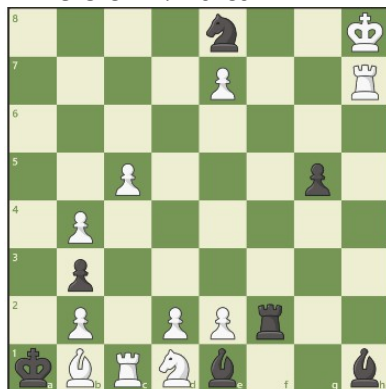
I simply changed the key.



Josif Krikheli

Probleemblad 1974

Version P. Răican



11+7

#8

Solution: **1.Bc2+!** Ka2 2.Rh3 [3.Bxb3#] with two variants:

a) 2. ...Rf3 3.Bb1+ Ka1 **4.Bf5+** Ka2 5.Rh6 Rh3 6.Bb1+ Ka1 **7.Bh7+** Ka2 8.Ra6#

b) 2. ...Bf3 3.Bb1+ Ka1 **4.Be4+** Ka2 5.Rh6 Bxe2 (5. ...Sd6 6.e8=Q Sf7+ 7.Kg7) 6.Bb1+ Ka1 **7.Bd3+** Ka2 8.Ra6# Novotny. A black Pawn g5 was added (Gustav+)

Another exquisite problem.

The original position (without bPg5) is unsound: 2. ...Bf3! 3.Bb1+ Ka1 4.Be4+ Ka2 5.Rh6 Sd6! 6.e8=Q Sf7+ 7.Kg7 Rg2+!

Josif Krikheli

3 Prize, Z. Birnov MT 1977-78

Version P. Răican



7+10

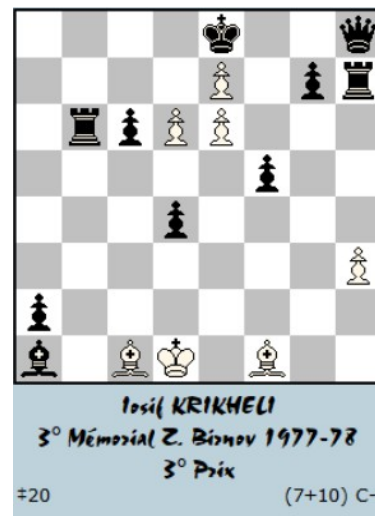
#17

We have a spectacular solution in this #17:

Solution: **1.Bg5!** [2.d7#] Rb2+ 2.Kg1 Rb7 3.Bg2! Rb1+ **4.Kf2** Rb2+ 5.Ke1 Rb1+ 6.Kd2 Rb2+ 7.Kd1 Rb1+ 8.Bc1 Rb6 9.Ba3! c5 10.Bxc5 Rb1+ Now, wK must go back to g1: 11.Kd2 Rb2+ 12.Ke1 Rb1+ 13.Kf2 Rb2+ 14.Kg1 Rb1+ 15.Bf1 Rb7 16.Bb5+Rxb5 (Rd7) 17.d7# (Bxd7#)

The original position is unsound: 1.Bg5 Rb1+ 2.Kd2 Bc3+! 3.Kd3 Rxb3+ 4.Kc4 Rb4+ 5.Kc5 Rb7! (see the next diagram)

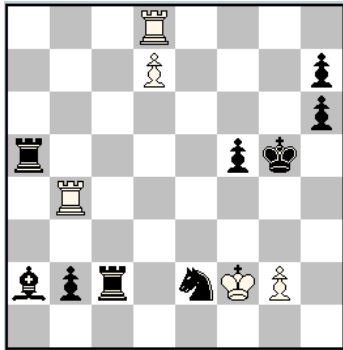
Searching for old problems of the masters was a very interesting experience for me. I hope that it was also a delight for the readers to follow and understand this compositional treasure trove.



Selection made by P. Răican.

Original problems Studies

**E4) P. Răican
RO**



5+9

win

**E5) Em. Dobrescu &
V. Nestorescu
2nd Prize, springaren 1993**



7+6

draw

**E6) Paul Farago
Magyar Sakkvilag 1944**



9+5

draw

Proof Games

**R7) M. Parrinello &
J. Michielsen (I/NED)**

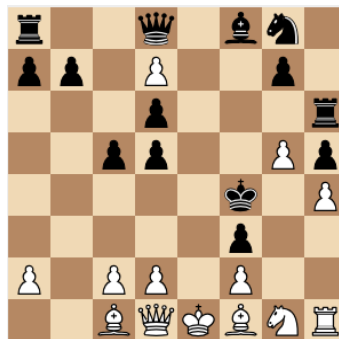


15+14

PG12

FaceToFace

**R8) P. Răican
RO**



13+14

PG18

Duel

**R9) Joost Michielsen
NED**



15+16

PG11.5

FaceToFace

**R10) J. Hambros
Austria**



16+16

PG18.5

FaceToFace

Solutions are on the last pages.

Send please originals:

Endgames to

Vladislav Tarasiuk

<vladchess@ukr.net> and

Proof games (fairy or orthodox) to

Joachim Hambros

<joachim.hambros@hotmail.com>

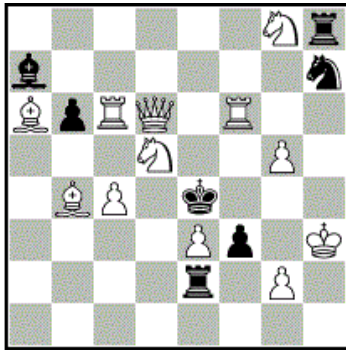
FaceToFace - When a white piece is just below a black piece, they exchange their steps.

Checkmate with a battery in Selfmates

If we examine the vast category of Selfmates, we won't find many problems that end in checkmate given by a battery. Here are some examples.

1) David A. Durham

Probleemblad 1993



12+7

s#9

1.h8=Q+ Kg6 **2.g8=R+** Kf7 3.Q8f6+ Kxg8 **4.d8=R+** Kh7
5.Q6f5+ Kh6 6.Qh8+ Rh7 7.Qe6+ Kg5 8.Rd5+ Kf4 9.Qd4+ Kf3
10.Q6g4+ **hxg4# Battery R/P**

Tested by Gustav 4.2h brute force (~20min)

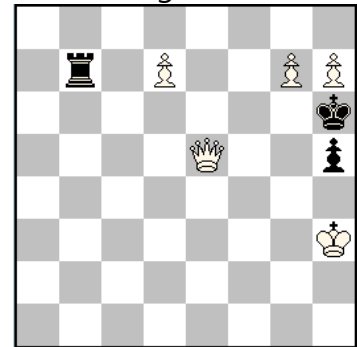
Solution: 1. Sc3+ Kxe3 2. Sd1+ Ke4 3. Qd4+ Kxd4 4. Rcd6+ Ke4! 5. Bb7+ Ke5 6. Rd5+ Ke4 7. Rf4+ Kxf4 8. g3+ Ke4 9. Sf6+

Sxf6# Battery R/S

Gustav+

2) P. Răican

original

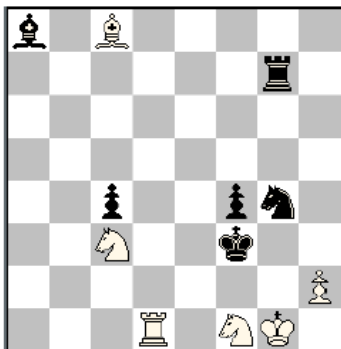


5+3

s#10

3) Stephen Rothwell

4HM Die Schwalbe 1994



6+6

Circe

s#8

This problem is a fairy selfmate:

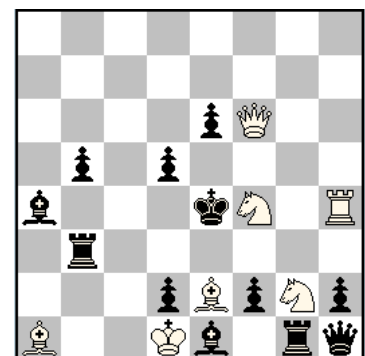
Sol:

1.Sd2+! Ke3 2.Sxc4(c7)+ Kf3 3.Sd2+ Ke3 4.Sf1+! (the square f1 is now occupied, then wB can't reborn there) Kf3 5.Bb7+ Bxb7,c6 6.Sd2+ Ke3 7.Sc4+ Kf3 8.Rf1+ **Sf2#** (Popeye+)

Battery R/S

4) Waldemar Tura

2 Pr Boletim UBP 1985



7+12

s#3

1.Bd4! (2.Qxe6+ Kxd4 3.Qe3+ **Rxe3#**)
1...Qxg2 2.Sxe6+! Qg4 3.Qf3+ **Rxf3#** (2.Sh5+? Qg4 3.Sg3+ Rxg3!),

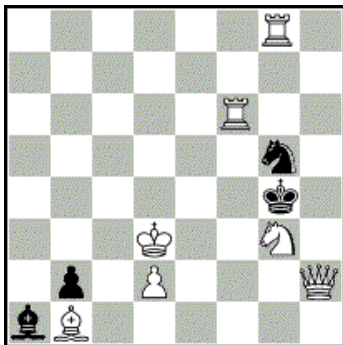
1...Rxg2 2.Sh5+! Rg4 3.Sg3+ **Rxg3#** (2.Sxe6+? Rg4 3.Qf3+ Qxf3!),

(1...f1S 2.Sxe6+ Bxh4 3.Qf3+ Rxf3#, 1...e5 2.Sxd5+ Kxd5 3.Se3+ Rxe3#)

Battery B/R

5) P. Răican

The Problemist 2001



12+7

s#9

Solution: **1. Sf5!** Kf3 2. Sd6+ Kg4 3. Qh1! Kg3 4. Kd4 Kg4 5.Ke5 Kg3 6. d4 Kg4 7. d5 Kg3 8. Rf3+ Kg4 9. Bd3 **b1~#**

Battery B/P

V. Kotesovec: Gustav 3.2h (8 h 43 min)

1.Qg6! (2.Re8+ Be7 3.Rxe7 Kf4 3.Re4+ Bxe4#)

1...Ke6 2.Sg8+ Ke5 3.Qf6+ Ke4 4.Bd3+ **Bxd3#**

1...Rxc6 2.Rd5+ Ke6 3.Sg8+ Kxd5 4.Qf5+ **Bxf5#**

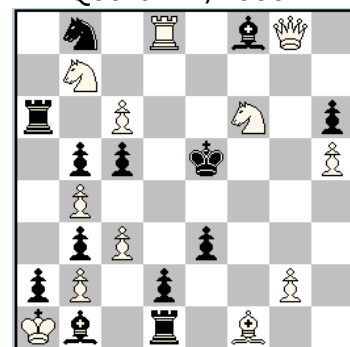
1...Sxc6 2.Sd7+ Kd5 3.Sd7xc5+ Bd6,Sxd8 4.Qe4+ **Bxe4#**
3...Ke5 4.Sd3+ **Bxd3#**

1...Be7 2.Rd5+ Ke6 3.Qg8+ Kxf6 4.Qg6+ **Bxg6#**

Battery R/B (in 5 variants)

6) E. Huber & P. Răican

Quartz 12/2000

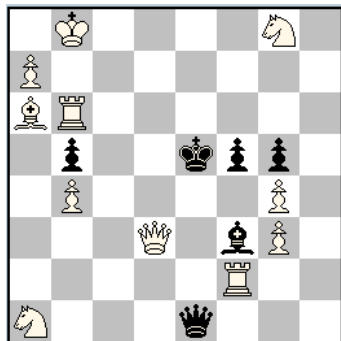


12+13

s#4

7) P. Răican

3HM Phénix 2005



11+6

Circe

s#9

The last problem is another fairy selfmate:

Sol:

1. Re6+! Kxe6[+wRh1] 2. Qxf5[+bPf7]+ Kd6 3. Rh6+ f6
4.Qd7+ Ke5 5.Qd6+ Ke4 6.Qd5+ Ke3 7.Sc2+ Kxf2[+wRa1]
8.Qxf3[+bBc8]+ Kg1 9.Rxe1[+bQd8]+ **Bxa6[+wBf1]#**
3. ... Qe6 4. Qc5+

Battery Q/B (created in solution)

These examples would like to be your inspiration for a thematic tournament.

Quartz TT16

We are able to launch a new thematic tournament, dedicated to Selfmates in which the checkmate is given by a battery. Two sections are considering:

a) Orthodox Selfmates

b) Fairy Selfmates (any condition/fairy units)

The tourney is informal. Send problems to the judge, until Mars 15, 2025.

Judge for both section: P. Răican, International Judge of the FIDE.

E-mail: P. Răican <quarpaz1@yahoo.fr>

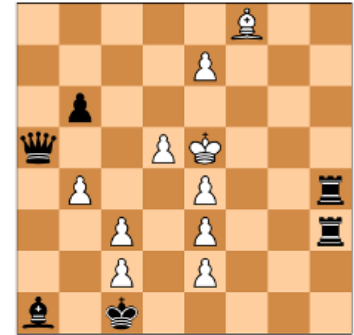
En bref

► We are proud to announce that the next World Chess Composition Congress would be held in **Alba Iulia**, Romania (WCCC n°67). Between July 5 and July 10.

► An unjustly forgotten problem: George Sphecas, Die Schwalbe 205/2004. The version is in Die Schwalbe 209/2004, **but without diagram**. Quartz fixes the mistake by publishing the correction here.

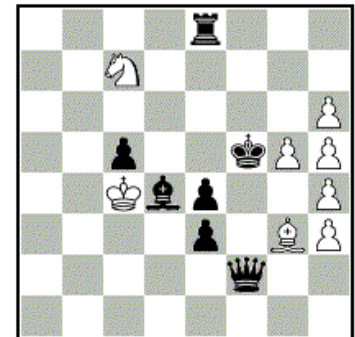
Sol: **1.e8=B** 2.Ba4 3.b5 4.d6 5.d7 **6.d8=R** 7.Rd4 8.c4 9.c5 10.c6 11.c7 **12.c8=R** 13.Rc3 14.Rb3 15.c4 16.c5 17.c6 18.c7 **19.c8=S** 20.Sd6 21.Sc4 22.Sb2 23.Ba3 24.Rdb4 25.Kd4 26.Kc3 27.e5 28.e6 29.e7 **30.e8=B** 31.Bg6 32.Bd3 33.e4 34.e5 35.e6 36.e7 **37.e8=Q** 38.Qe3+ Rxe3= BRRSBQ promotions

George P. Sphecas
Die Schwalbe 205/2004(v)



10+6 ser-s=38

Jan Knöppel
1 Prize, Stella Polaris 1975



8+7 -2 & #1
Proca retractor, No FD

► **A Proca retractor** which deserves to be known:

Jan Knöppel, 1975.

Sol: **1. Kd3-c4** e5-e4+ 2. Se6-c7 & 1.Sg7#

1... d5×Qe4 2.Qe7-e4 & 1.Qh7#

1... d5×Re4 2. Sb5-c7 & 1. Sd6#

1... d5×Be4 2. Bf3-e4+ & 1.Bg4#

1... d5×Se4 2. Bh2-g3 & 1.Sd6#

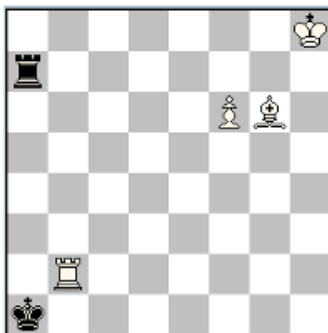
No forward defense must be added (otherwise Black has 1...d5×Se4 & Qd2#). White could not un-capture anything on c4 because all of White's captures were made by Pawns.

► **An interesting stipulation**

In Variantim 93/2024 is published the following problem:

T. Linss

Variantim 93/2024



4+2 reci-hs#8.5*

reci-hs#8.5: 7.5 help moves with black to play for #1 and s#1

Sol:1... ..2.Rc2 Kb1 3.Rb2+ Kc1 4.Rb7 Kd2 5.Be8 Ke3 6.f7 Kf4 7.f8=R+ Kg5 8.Rg8+ Kh6 then **9.Rb6#** & **9.Rh7+ Rxh7#**, 1...Ra6 2.Rb8 Ka2 3.Ra8 Kb3 4.f7 Kc4 5.f8=Q Kd5 6.Qf4 Ke6 7.Bf7+ Ke7 8.Ra7+ Kf8 then **9.Qb8#** & **9.Qh6+ Rxh6#**

The accurate play in this light position is surprising and there's nice unity between the set play and the solution (Paz Einat)

In WinChloe, the stipulation is *Aidé inverse réciproque*.

Arnold Beine believes that the correct stipulation is Grazer-hs# and he remembers the similar 1611 granted 2nd prize at Julia's fairies 2021 (by same author).

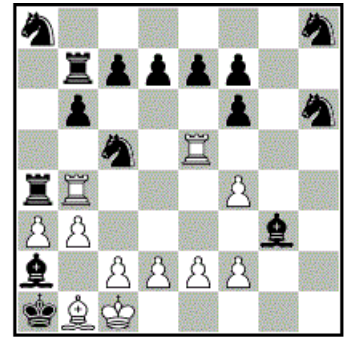
► A proof game from 1987 by **K. Bachmann** (b.1938 – d.2014) is considered the new length record for a fully tested SPG by Stelvio (a strong program for solving PGs):

1. Sf3 a5 2. Sd4 a4 3. Sb3 axb3 4. a3 Ta4 5. Ta2 bxa2 6. Tg1 axb1=S
7. Th1 Sc3 8. Tg1 Sd5 9. Th1 Sb6 10. Tg1 Sa8 11. Th1 b6 12. Tg1 La6
13. Th1 Dc8 14. Tg1 Db7 15. Th1 Df3 16. gxf3 h5 17. Lh3 h4 18. Le6
h3 19. La2 Lc4 20. Lb1 La2 21. b3 Sa6 22. Lb2 Sc5 23. Lf6 gxf6 24.
Kf1 Lh6 25. Kg1 Kf8 26. Df1 Kg7 27. Dg2+ hxg2 28. h4 Kg6 29.
Kh2 g1=S 30. Kg2 Lf4 31. h5+ Kg5 32. h6 Lg3 33. h7 Sh6 34. Th4
Tb8 35. Tb4 Tb7 36. f4+ Kh4 37. h8=T Sf3 38. Tg8 Se5 39. Tg5
Sg6 40. Kf3 Kh3 41. Ke3 Kg2 42. Te5 Kf1 43. Kf3 Ke1 44. Kg2 Kd1
45. Kf1 Kc1 46. Ke1 Kb2 47. Kd1 Ka1 48. Kc1 Sh8.

(German notation)

Stelvio+

P0002277
Karlheinz Bachmann
1HM, Die Schwalbe 104/1987



11+15

PG48

► A serial problem by **Yaakov Mintz** from almost 30 years ago was susceptible to a second stipulation. This was proven with the help of a program for proof games. The output obtained is a quasi-unique game (only the first move has a dual):

a) 1.d4 2.Bh6 3.O-O-O 4.Kb1 5.Rc1 6.Rc6 7.Bb5 8.Ba4 9.Ka1
10.Rb1 11.Rc8+ Rxa4#

Variantim 1995

b) The shorter PG has 13 moves: 1.Sh3(Sf3) g5 2.Sxg5 Sf6 3.Sxh7
Rg8 4.Sxf8 Rxc2 5.Sxd7 Rxf2 6.Sxb8 Rxe2+ 7.Qxe2 Se4 8.Qxe4
Bf5 9.Qxb7 Bxc2 10.Qxc7 Bxb1 11.Qxa7 Bxa2 12.Qxa2 Rxb8 13.Qa8
Rxa8 (~5000 seconds)

It's strange that no one has checked this possibility earlier.

Y. Mintz

Variantim 1995 (v)



8+5

a) ser-s#11

b) Shortest Proof Game

► It was announced **WCCI 2022-24**

<https://www.wfcc.ch/competitions/composing/wcci2022-24/>



Delivered of Prizes for Hornecker MT, Jurmala Aug. 2024. From right to left: Steffen Nielsen, Yochanan Afek, Martin Minski and the judge Paul Răican.

Solutions

E4 (Raican) **1.Rg8+** Kh5 **2.Rh4+!** Kxh4 3.e8=Q+ Kh5 **4.Qe8+** Kh4 5.Qe7+ Kh5 6.Rg5+ Kh4 (6. ...hxg5 7.Qxh7+ Kg4 8.Qh3+ Kf4 9.Qe3+Kg4 10.Qf3+ Kh4 11.Qh3#) **7.Rg7+!** Kh5 8.Qe8+ Kh4 9.Qd8+ Kh5 **10.g4+!** fxg4 11.Qxa5+ Kh4 **12.Qg5+ hxg5** **13.Rxh7#**

E5 (Em. Dobrescu & V. Nestorescu) It is No.133 in the book **Chess Study Composition, Amsterdam 1999**, edited by H. van der Heijden.

The first 9 moves are clear: **1.Qb2 a1=Q** **2.Qxa1 Qd7+** **3.Kc4 Qc8+** **4.Kd3 Sc5+** **5.Ke3 Qh3+** **6.Kf4 Se6+** **7.Ke5 Qh8+** **8.Sf6 Bb3** **9.Sc4! Bxc4**

Now, the authors consider 10.Qb2!? as main line. But Black has 10...Kc6 11.Bh6 (11.Bf4 Qd8 12.Sd5 Qd6+ 13.Kf6 Sxf4) Qxh6! 12.Sd5 Qg7+ and wQ is captured, or 13.Sf6 Qc7#

Fortunately, White has **10.Qb1+!** **Kc6** **11.Bh6!** **Qd8** **12.Sd5 Qd6+** **13.Kf6=** (variant found with Stockfish help)

E6 (Farago) **1.d7! Qb7** (1 ...Qh1+ 2.Kg8 Se7+ 3.Kf7 Qh8 4.g7 Qd8 5.f6= or 2.Kg7=)

A) 2.Kh8? Kh6 3.g7 Se7 4.Sc6 Sg8! 5.Kxg8 Qxd7 wins

B) 2.g7? Se7 3.Sc6 Qxd7 4.Sxe7 Qxe7 5.Kh8 Qxe5 wins

C) **2.e6! Kxf5** (2. ...Kf6 3.Sc6) **3.e7 Kf6** **4.e8=S+!** (4.e8=Q? Qh1+ 5.Kg8 Se7+ 6.Qxe7 Kxe7) **4....Kg5**

(4. ...Ke7 5.g7 Qe4+ 6.Kh6 Qh4+ 7.Kg6 Qg4+ 8.Kh7!)=) **5.Kg7! c4** **6.a4!=**

It is interesting that this study is reprinted in the book **Idei Noi in Sahul Artistic** (Paul Farago, 1956) but without solution. I found by chance the solution (in French language) in **Themes 64, No.64/1971**.

E5 and **E6** are of course not original

R7 (Parrinello & Michielsen) 1.c4 d5 2.Qa4+ Bd7 3.Qa6 Ba4 4.f4 Qd7 5.Sf3 **ag1=Q** 6.Qh6 Qf2+ 7.Bxf2 Qb5 8.Bc5 Sd7 9.d4 O-O-O 10.Sbd2 **hb1=Q** 11.g3 Qc2 12.Bxc2 Sxh6.

QQ Ceriani-Frolkin

R8 (Raican) 1.Sa3 c5 2.Sc4 d5 3.Sd6+ exd6 4.b4 Bd7 5.b5 Bc6 6.bxc6 Sd7 7.cxd7+ Ke7 8.g4 Kf6 9.g5+ Kg6 10.h4 Kh5 11.e3+! Kg6 12.e4 (bK stalemated) f5 13.e5 f4 14.e6 f3 15.e7 Kf5 **16.e8=Q** Kf4 17.Qe6 (bK stalemated) h5 18.Qh6 Rxh6

Q Ceriani-Frolkin

R9 (Michielsen) 1.d4 Sc6 2.d5 Sd4 3.e3 c6 4.Bd3 Qa5+ 5.Ke2 Qa3 6.Kf3 a5 7.Kg4 a4 8.Qf3 Ra5 9.Qf6 Rc5 10.f3 Rxc2 **11.Bf1** Rf2 **12.Bdc1** BB swapping

R10 (Hambros) 1.e4 h6 2.Qh5 he3 3.Qg6 Rh6 4.a4 gh7 5.Qf6 Rg6 6.Ra3 Bh6 7.Rd3 fg7 8.Qe6 Kf8 9.c3 ef7 10.Qb6 Qh4 11.Rd6 de7 12.Rc6 Bh3 13.hg3 cd7 14.Rh2 bc7 15.Qb7 Se8 16.Qa6 ab7 17.Qe2 Ra5 18.a2 ea7 19.Qd1 Cyclic shift of all 8 bPs with Rundlauf by wQ