

TACTIC WORKBOOK

Informant's Collection
of Instructive Tactics
and Studies



Chess Informant
SINCE 1966

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SYSTEM OF SIGNS

±	white stands slightly better	↗	diagonal
∓	black stands slightly better	⊕	centre
±	white has the upper hand	»	king's side
∓	black has the upper hand	«	queen's side
+-	white has a decisive advantage	×	weak point
-+	black has a decisive advantage	⊥	ending
=	even	♖♗	pair of bishops
∞	unclear	♖♗	bishops of opposite color
∞	with compensation for the material	♖♗	bishops of the same color
⊙	development advantage	oo	united pawns
○	greater board room	o-o	separated pawns
→	with attack	♚	double pawns
↑	with initiative	♚	passed pawn
↔	with counter-play	>	advantage in number of pawns
⊙	zugzwang	⊕	time
#	mate	75/199	Chess Informant
!	a very good move	E	12 Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings
!!	an excellent move	♚	3/b Encyclopaedia of Chess Endings
?	a mistake	N	a novelty
??	a blunder	(ch)	championship
!?	a move deserving attention	(izt)	interzonal tournament
?!	a dubious move	(ct)	candidates' tournament
△	with the idea	(m)	match
□	only move	(ol)	olympiad
△	better is	corr.	correspondence game
↔	file	RR	editorial comment
		R	various moves
		└	with
		┘	without
			etc
		—	see

Foreword

Dear readers, the book you're holding in your hands is a logical continuation of our efforts to provide you with the most topical and instructive material for self-study, or for preparation of chess lectures. Last year we published two extremely successful tomes on tactics (Puzzle Quest) and endgames (Endgame Maze). Those two books combined offered current training material covering middlegame and endgame positions of greatest practical importance.

However, we decided to make some changes in this Workbook, offering the most instructive exercises in one single volume, while covering all the phases of the game. Additionally, we added an appendix which contains 42 most entertaining and beautiful studies composed in 2021. We are convinced that solving chess studies enriches every player's understanding of piece coordination and game as a whole.

Of course, the book is aimed at motivated amateur and club players, all the way up to the grandmaster level, since the main objective is to teach diligent evaluation of any given position, meticulous calculating, and overall decision making. We kept the organization of the exercises according to their relative level of difficulty (one * indicating the simplest exercises, ***** indicating the most difficult positions), since it is proved to allow smooth browsing through the material. However, exercises are not organized in sections according to any particular type of tactical motif or combination, since our intention is to create puzzles which are able to mimic a real game of chess. Therefore, in some examples the solution consists of a devastating sacrifice that leads to swift mate, while some other examples may require finding the correct strategic plan and most efficient way of execution.

To summarize, "Tactic Workbook" consists of 500 most instructive middlegame and endgame examples (puzzles) from the games played during 2021 and 42 prizewinning studies which complement the puzzle section thus making this manual truly comprehensive and indispensable.

We hope that you will find the material of great practical value and useful for your chess progress. Last but not least, we wish you many pleasant hours while solving the exercises and also many happy returns to this book!

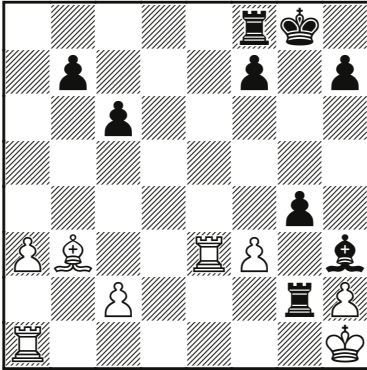
CLASSIFICATION

- ★ - Simple
- ★ ★ - Moderate
- ★ ★ ★ - Advanced
- ★ ★ ★ ★ - Difficult
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ - Expert

CHAPTER

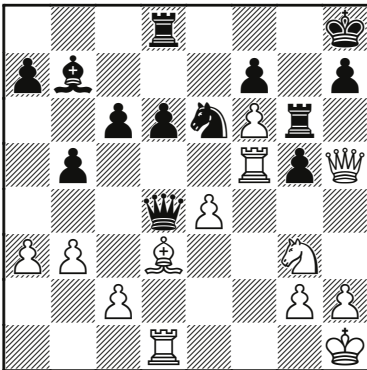
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1. JORDEN VAN FOREEST 2671 - ANISH GIRI 2764
Wijk aan Zee 2021 - 147/90
★★★



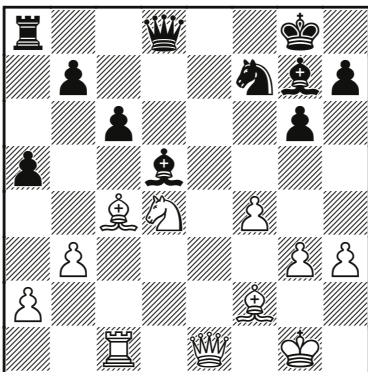
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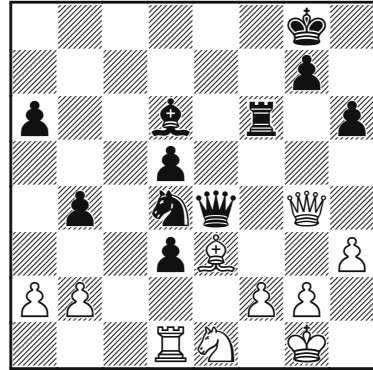
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3. DAVIT SHENGLIA 2543 - ROBERT MARKUŠ 2592
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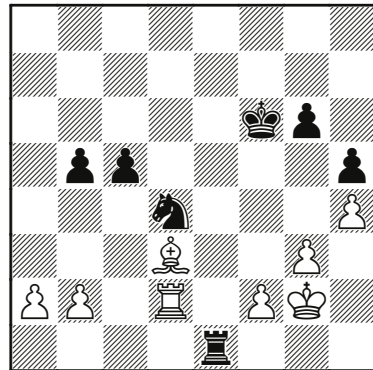
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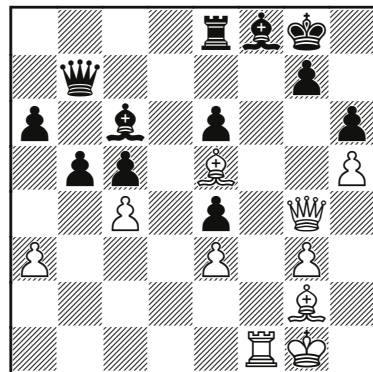
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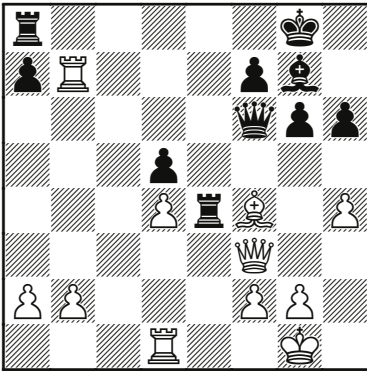
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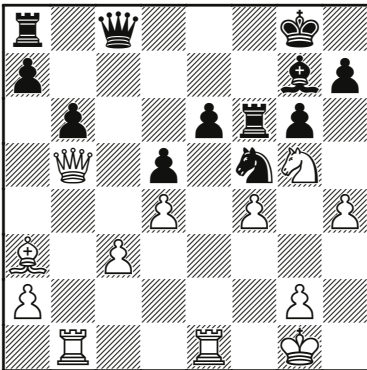
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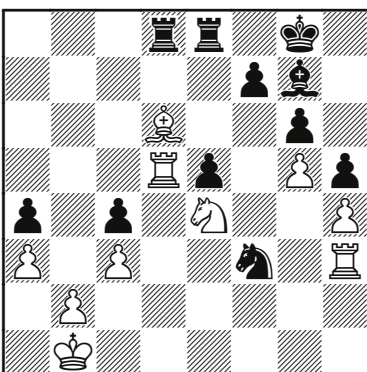
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8. MARCOS LIANES GARCÍA 2374 -
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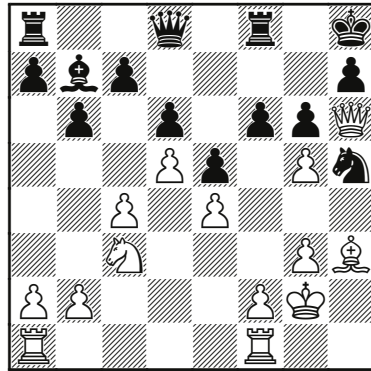
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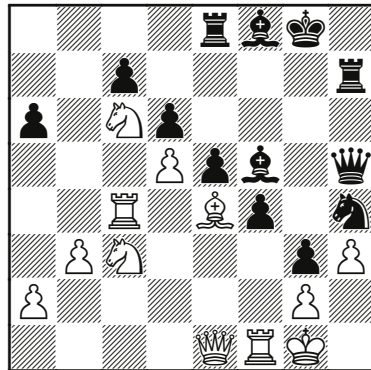
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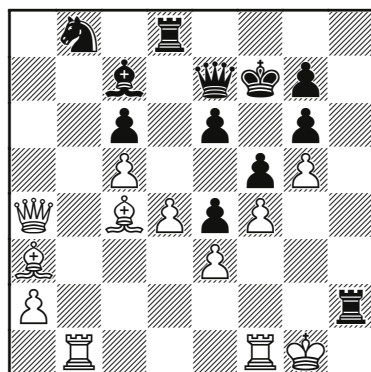
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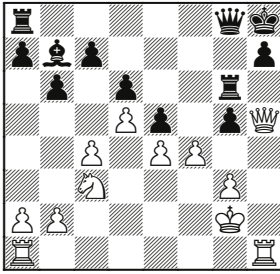


1...? +

12. CRISTÓBAL HENRÍQUEZ VILLAGR 2600 -
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1.? +

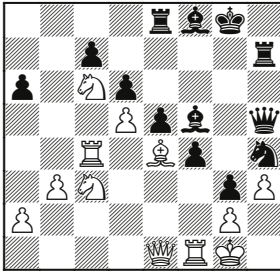


6.f5! The f-passer wins the game! **6...♖f6** [6...♗g7 7.♗e2 ♗f8 8.♗c3 ♗f6 9.♗e2+-] **7.♗h2+-**



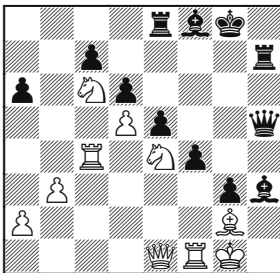
11. BRANDON JACOBSON 2491 - ANTON KOROBOV 2692

★★



In a typical King's Indian position White has some edge on the queenside, while Black builds up the attack on the kingside. Eventually, Black wins the game by executing a thematic piece sacrifice in order to boost his deadly mating attack!

1...♗xg2! 2.♗xg2 ♗xh3 3.♗e4 [3.♗d2 ♗g4 4.♗e4 ♗h6+-]



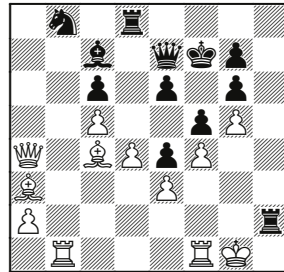
3...♗g7! [3...♗h8! 4.♗f6 ♗h6 5.♗xe8 (5.♗xh7 ♗f5 6.♗f3 ♗h2+ 7.♗f1

♗h3 8.♗xh3 ♗xh3+ 9.♗e2 ♗g2+-) 5...♗xg2 6.♗xg2 ♗h3+ 7.♗f3 g2+ 8.♗e2 ♗e3+ 9.♗d1 ♗d3+-+] **4.♗d2** [4.♗xg3 fxg3 5.♗xg3 ♗xg2 6.♗xg2 e4+-] **4...♗g4 5.♗fc1 ♗h2+ 6.♗f1 f3 7.♗xf3 ♗xf3** **0 : 1**



12. CRISTÓBAL HENRÍQUEZ VILLAGR 2600 - MAHEL BOYER 2307

★★★★



Apparently, Black is having a decisive attack, but White overlooks the chance to win the game by means of an astonishing counter-blow!

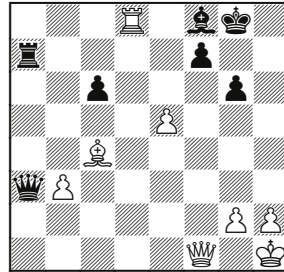
1.♗xe6+! After this beautiful move the game is decided in White's favour!

[1.♗xh2?? ♗xg5+-; 1.♗xb8 ♗xb8 2.♗xc6 ♗dh8 3.d5 ♗h1+ 4.♗g2?? ♗h2+ 5.♗g3 ♗xg5#; 4.♗f2= Cristóbal Henríquez Villagr - Mahel Boyer] **1...♗xe6 2.♗b3+ ♗d5** [2...♗d7? 3.♗xh2 ♗xg5 4.♗f7+ ♗e7 5.♗xg6+-] **3.♗xh2 ♗xg5 4.♗b2+-**

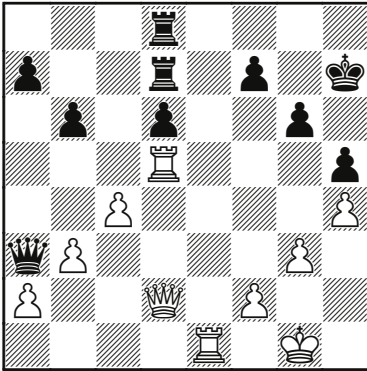


13. KAREN H. GRIGORYAN 2666 - ALEX GARRIDO OUTON 2379

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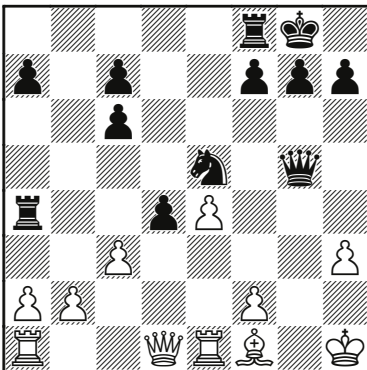


- 283.** ŠTĚPÁN ŽILKA 2577 –
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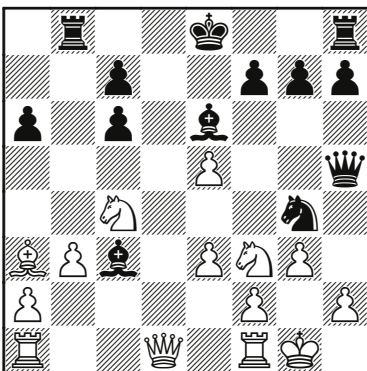
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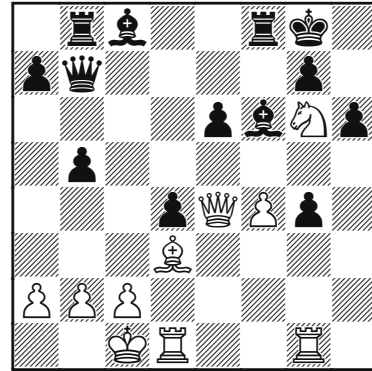
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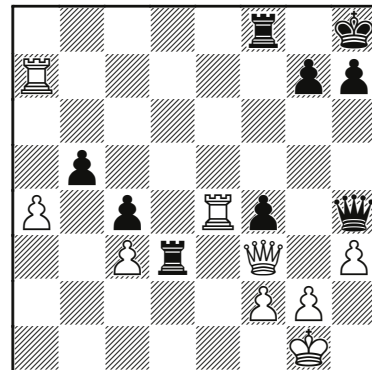
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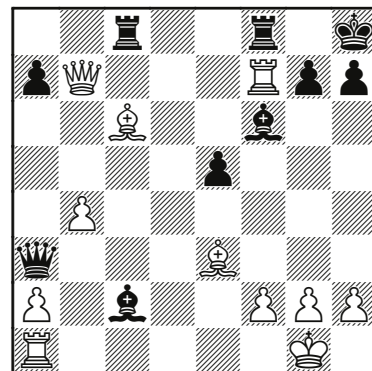
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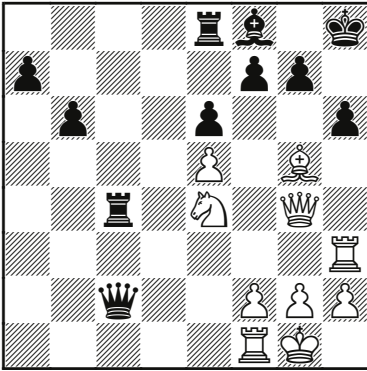
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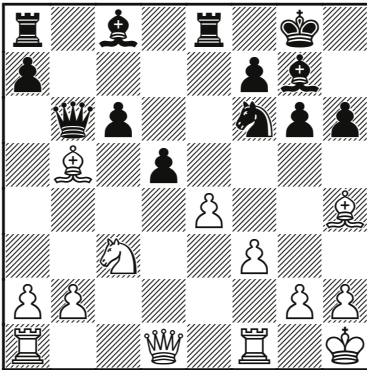
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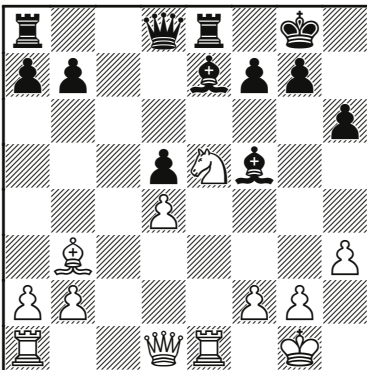
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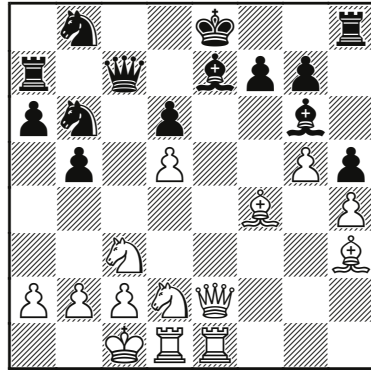
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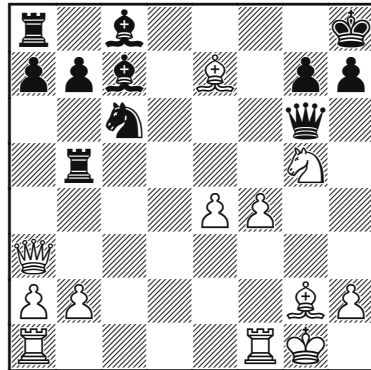
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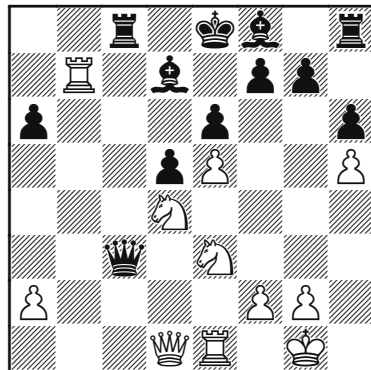
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293. VAHAP SANAL 2557 –
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294. ABHIMANYU SAMEER PURANIK 2580 –
RAVI HARIA 2440
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1. ? +-

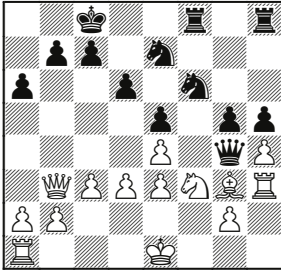
Black sacrifices a piece in order to prepare a powerful double attack and secure the victory.

1...♙xe4! 2.g3 [2.fxe4 ♘g4+!] 2...♗xe2 3.♖xe2 0 : 1



304. MARC ANDRIA MAURIZZI 2488 - RASMUS SVANE 2615

★★



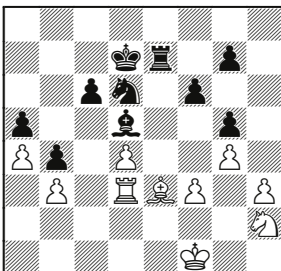
Black takes full advantage of the White's rook awkward position and clinches a full point!

1...♗xe4! 2.♗xe5 [2.dxe4 ♖xf3+] 2...♜f5+ [2...dxe5!?] 3.♗f3 ♗c5 4.♜c4 g4 5.e4 ♜e6 0 : 1



305. BORIS MARKOJA 2447 - MARIN BOSIOČIĆ 2610

★★



Black finds the route for his knight into the enemy territory.

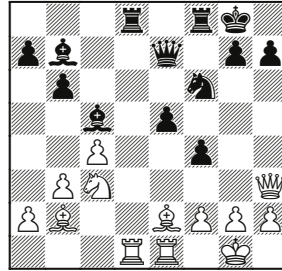
1...♗c4! 2.♙c1 [Of course not 2.bxc4 ♙xc4 3.♙e2 b3 4.♗f1 b2 and the black

pawn cannot be stopped. 5.♗d2 ♖e8+] 2...♗a3 3.♙f2 ♗c2+ 4.♙b2 ♖e8 5.♗f1 ♗e1 6.♖e3 ♖xe3 7.♙xe3 ♗g2+ 8.♗d3 ♙xb3 0 : 1



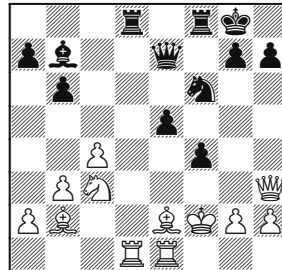
306. SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV 2782 - SAMUEL SHANKLAND 2709

★★★★

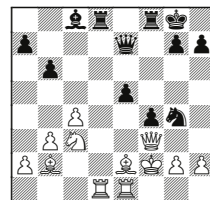


Shankland takes full advantage of the white queen's poor position and wins the game after a brilliant bishop sacrifice.

1...♙xf2+! 2.♙xf2



2...♙c8! 3.♖xd8 [3.♜f3 ♗g4+



a) 4.♙f1 ♗xh2+; b) 4.♜xg4 ♙xg4 5.♙xg4 ♜h4+ 6.♙f3 ♖d3+! 7.♖xd3 ♜xe1 8.♗e4 (8.♙a3 ♖e8 9.♙f5 ♜f1+

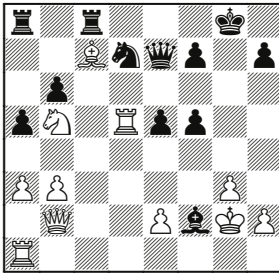
10.♔e4 ♖xg2+ 11.♖f3 ♖c2+ 12.♗d3 g6 13.♗g4 ♖xh2++) 8...♗f1+ 9.♘f2 e4++); c) 4.♔g1 ♖c5+++] 3...♗xd8 4.g4 ♗d2!+- Black wins. 5.♗d1 ♗xg4

0 : 1



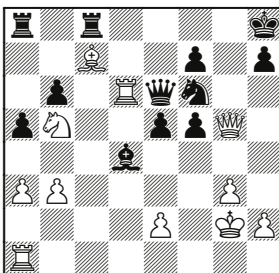
307. PHILIP LINDGREN 2356 - SABINO BRUNELLO 2517

★★★★★

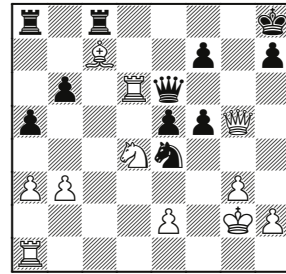


Even though Black has an extra pawn White's piece activity guarantees him an unclear game. However, Black manages to find the best way to reach a better position. After a series of highly demanding moves he gains material advantage!

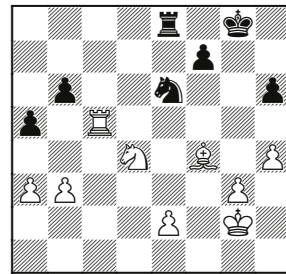
1...♗d4! 2.♖d2 [2.♘xd4? exd4++ and White could not protect his bishop as well as defend himself from the double attack.] 2...♘f6 3.♖g5+ ♔h8 4.♗d7 ♖e6 5.♗d6



5...♘e4! The only way for Black to reach a clearly winning position. [5...♖e7?? 6.♗c1 ♘g8 7.♖xe7 ♘xe7 8.♗d7 ♘g6 9.♘d6+-] 6.♘xd4



6...♖xd6! This move had to be foreseen beforehand. [6...exd4? 7.♗e6 ♘xg5 8.♗c6=] 7.♗xd6 ♘xg5 8.♗xe5+ ♔g8 9.♖f1 ♗c5 10.♖xf5 h6+ 11.h4 ♗e8 12.♗f4?! [12.♗d6 ♖xf5 13.♘xf5 ♘e4+] 12...♘e6 13.♗xc5

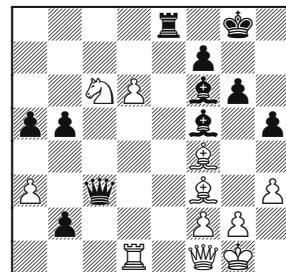


13...♘xf4+! [13...bxc5 14.♘xe6 ♗xe6+-] 14.gxf4 bxc5 15.♘f5 ♗xe2+ 0 : 1



308. LE QUANG LIEM 2709 - ALIREZA FIROUZJA 2759

★★★★★



Black is hoping to queen his pawn, forcing White to find a unique solution. He manag-

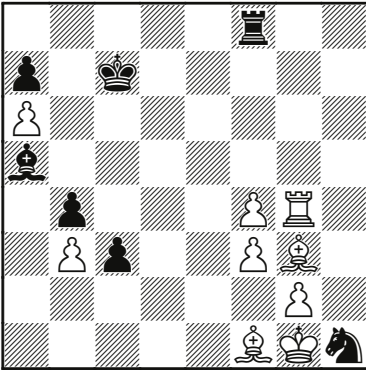
CHAPTER

XIII

Studies

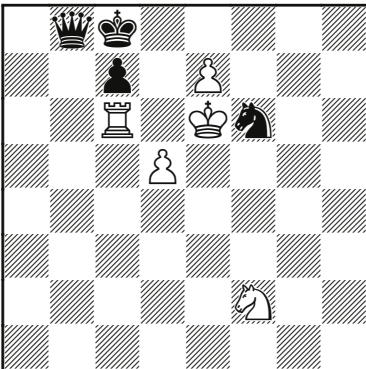
In this additional chapter we will present you our selection of the most interesting and instructive studies composed in 2021. Some of the positions are visually compelling, some of great practical value, while some possess both artistic and remarkable "classical chess" qualities. We are certain that you will enjoy solving these studies, even though some may prove to be rather difficult and complex. So, without any further ado – it's time to crack some serious chess riddles!

1. SERGEI DIDUKH
1.p Chess Artistry Competition 2021



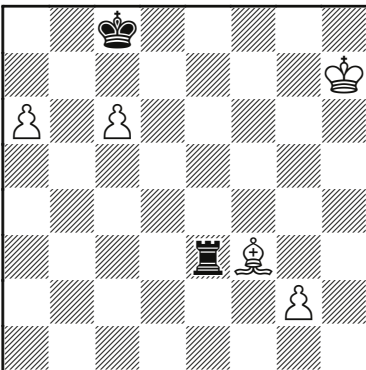
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2. YURI BAZLOV
2.p Chess Artistry Competition 2021



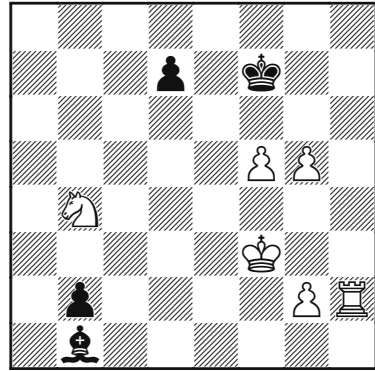
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3. ARAN KOHLER & YOCHANAN AFEK
3.p Chess Artistry Competition 2021



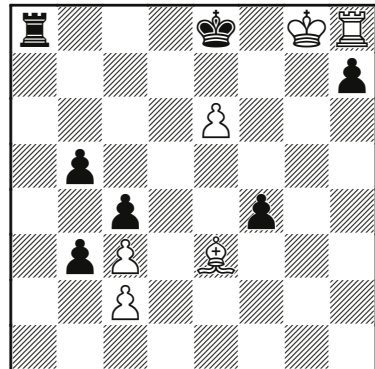
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4. BEN SMOLKIN & MARJAN KOVAČEVIĆ
4.p Chess Artistry Competition 2021



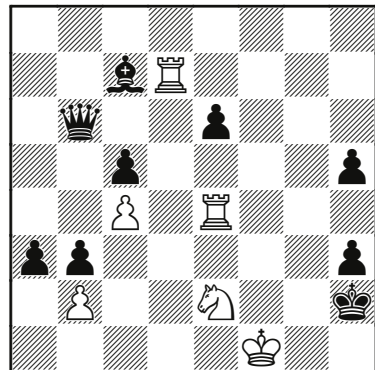
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5. EMIL VLASÁK
5.p Chess Artistry Competition 2021



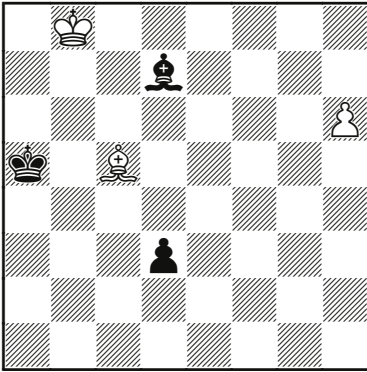
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6. JAN TIMMAN
6.p Chess Artistry Competition 2021



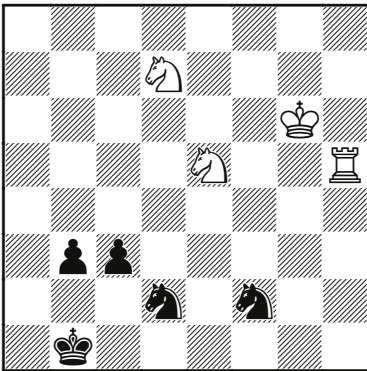
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7. STEFFEN NIELSEN & MARTIN MINSK
7.p Chess Artistry Competition 2021



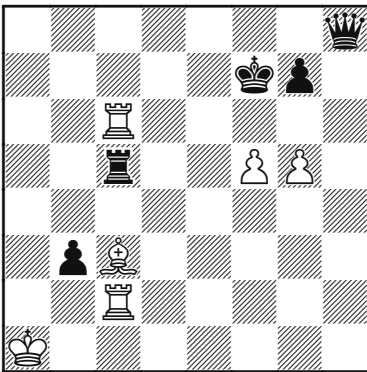
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8. ALBAINA ÁLVARO IGNACIO & LUIS MIGUEL GONZÁLEZ
1.hm Chess Artistry Competition 2021



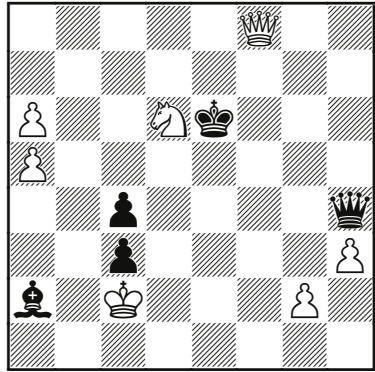
1. ? =

9. AMATZIA AVNI & MARTIN MINSKI
2.hm Chess Artistry Competition 2021



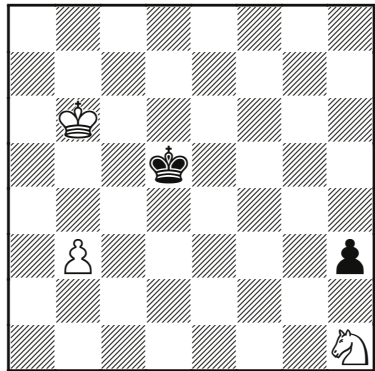
1. ? +-

10. EVGENY KOPYLOV & OLEG PERVAKOV
3.hm Chess Artistry Competition 2021



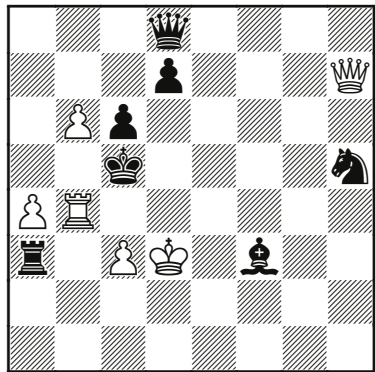
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11. BRANISLAV ĐURAŠEVIĆ
4.hm Chess Artistry Competition 2021



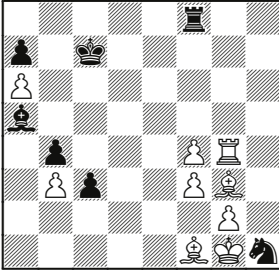
1. ? +-

12. ITAY RICHARDSON
5.hm Chess Artistry Competition 2021



1. ? +-

1. SERGEI DIDUKH



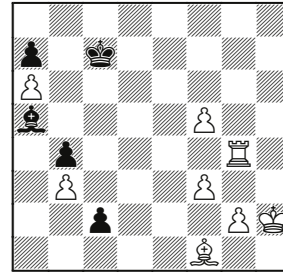
In 2021 Benko Memorial Tourney (Chess Artistry Competition) during Judit Polgár's Global Chess Festival (Budapest, October 2021). Here we present you all the prize-winning studies (prize and honour mention), according to decision of the Tourney Judge, renowned Grandmaster John Nunn.

Judge's comments: "The most original study in the tourney is a worthy winner of the First Prize. In the try and the main line Black attempts to incarcerate a piece to reach stalemate, once on a8 and once on a5. There is a striking parallel between the lateral and diagonal manoeuvres in these two variations. In the main line White defeats the stalemate attempt by the anti-critical move ♙b5 , which gives the black king a square. The lateral stalemate is well-known, perhaps most famously in a study by Zepler, although there are earlier examples, but the combination of two analogous manoeuvres in one study is remarkable. The thematic try is cleanly incorporated, since it's not at all obvious why White cannot take the knight immediately. Despite the relatively heavy material, the initial position is very game-like."

1. ♙h2!

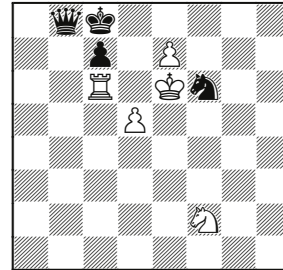
[Thematic try: $1.\text{♙xh1?}$ ♜h8+ with two lines: $2.\text{♙g1}$ ($2.\text{♙h2}$ c2 $3.\text{f5+}$ ♜xh2+! ($3...\text{♙b6?}$ $4.\text{♞c4}$ ♜xh2+ $5.\text{♙g1!}$ ♜h1+ $6.\text{♙f2}$ ♞xf1+ $7.\text{♙xf1}$ c1♚+ $8.\text{♞xc1}$ no stalemate.) $4.\text{♙xh2}$ c1♚ $5.\text{♞c4+}$ ♙b6! $6.\text{♞xc1}$ stalemate.) $2...\text{♙b6+}$ $3.\text{♙f2}$ ♙xf2+ $4.\text{♙xf2}$ c2 $5.\text{f5}$ ♞a8! ($5...\text{♞c8?}$

$6.\text{♙d3}$) $6.\text{♞c4+}$ ♙b8 $7.\text{f6}$ c1♚ $8.\text{♞xc1}$ stalemate.] $1...\text{♜g3!}$ [$1...\text{♞f5}$ $2.\text{♙d3}$] $2.\text{♙xg3}$ The white king stays on g1 to invite the black bishop to b6. $2...\text{♙b6+}$ $3.\text{♙h1!}$ ♞h8+ $4.\text{♙h2}$ c2 $5.\text{f5+}$ ♜xh2+ $6.\text{♙xh2}$ ♙a5! Now White has an extra tempo comparing to the try to prevent stalemate by the anticritical move.



$7.\text{♙b5!}$ [$7.\text{♞c4+?}$ ♙b6 $8.\text{f6}$ c1♚ $9.\text{♞xc1}$ stalemate.] $7...\text{c1♚}$ $8.\text{♞c4+}$ ♙b6 $9.\text{♞xc1}$ No stalemate. +-
♦

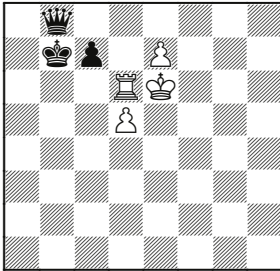
2. YURI BAZLOV



Judge's comments: "A short but spectacular study. Much depends on originality, but neither Harold nor I could find any anticipation, even of the rook promotion. The obvious move is $4.\text{♞d8?!}$, but this allows Black to escape with a rather complicated perpetual check. Instead, the astounding $4.\text{♙f7!!}$ is very hard to see and is followed by an immediate Phoenix rook promotion to defeat Black's cunning stalemate defence."

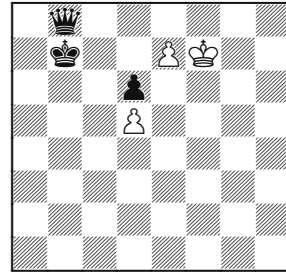
$1.\text{♜e4!}$ ♜e8 [$1...\text{♜xe4}$ $2.\text{e8♚+}$ ♙b7

3. ♖xb8 ♜xb8 4. ♔d7+-] 2. ♜d6+! [And now, as in the false trail, 2. ♜f7? missed the victory. 2... ♖b1 - a move that led to defeat in a false trail. (With the only difference that now 2... ♖b5 (♖b3) 3. ♜xe8 ♖xd5 4. ♜d6+! ♜b8 5. ♔d7 while only gave a draw.) For example: 3. ♜d6+ ♜xd6+ 4. ♖xd6 ♖f5+ (♖h7). Interestingly, with both knight positions - on e4 and g4- after 1... ♜e8 2. ♜f7 equally lost both 2... ♖b4 and 2... ♖b2 3. ♜f6! ♜xf6 4. ♖xf6! This would not have happened if the queen was on b3 (b5) or on b1. Funny chess geometry.] 2... ♜xd6 3. ♖xd6 ♜b7! [3... cxd6 4. e8♖+ ♜c7 5. ♖xb8+ ♜xb8 6. ♔xd6 and the pawn endgame is hopeless for Black.]



4. ♜f7!! [It is not easy to understand this, because after the obvious 4. ♖d8?! ♖a7 5. e8♖ White got a huge advantage in the rook. However, is this enough to win? 5... ♖e3+! (After 5... ♖a6+? 6. ♖c6+ Black should give up.) 6. ♔d7 ♖h3+! 7. ♖e6 It seems that by activating the queen, White has saved his king from annoying persecution. But 7... ♖h7+ 8. ♖e7! ♖f5+! (8... ♖h3+) 9. ♖e6 ♖h7+ 10. ♜e8! ♖h8+! (10... ♖h5+? 11. ♜e7! ♖h7+ 12. ♖f7! ♖h4+ 13. ♖f6!) 11. ♜e7 ♖g7+! 12. ♖f7 ♖e5+! 13. ♜f8 ♖h8+ 14. ♖g8 ♖f6+! (14... ♖h6+? 15. ♖g7! ♖f4+ 16. ♜g8) 15. ♜e8 ♖e5+! 16. ♖e6 ♖h8+! 17. ♜e7 ♖g7+ 18. ♖f7 ♖e5+ 19. ♔d7 ♖d6+! 20. ♜e8 ♖e5+ 21. ♖e6 ♖h8+ and everything starts all over again. A perpetual check, which the white queen is unable to

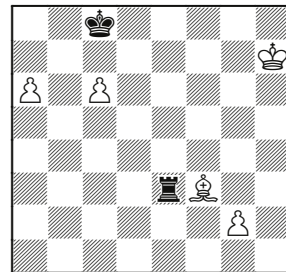
prevent. 4... cxd6 [4... ♖h8 5. e8♖ ♖h7+ 6. ♜f8! ♖h8+ (6... ♖f5+ 7. ♖f7!) 7. ♜e7! ♖h4+ 8. ♖f6 and - a perpetual check, once again.]



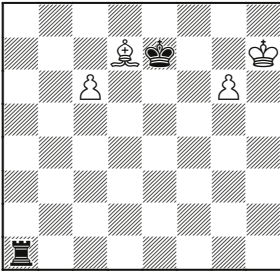
5. e8♖!! [5. e8♖ ♖c7+! 6. ♖e7 ♜a8! 7. ♖xc7 stalemate.] 5... ♖c7+ 6. ♖e7 ♖xe7+ [6... ♜a8? 7. ♖xc7 and there is no stalemate, because the b8-square is available for the king.] 7. ♜xe7 ♜c7 8. ♜e6 Wins. +-



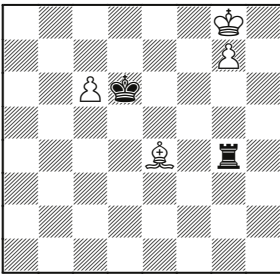
3. ARAN KOHLER & YOCHANAN AFEK



1. ♜g4+ ♜d8! [1... ♜c7 2. ♜d7 ♖g3 3. a7 ♖a3 4. g4 ♖xa7 5. g5 ♖a1 6. g6 ♜d6 7. g7+-] 2. ♜d7 ♖g3 [2... ♖a3 3. g4! ♖xa6 4. g5 transposes.] 3. a7 ♖a3 4. g4! ♖xa7 5. g5 ♜e7 [Main line is 5... ♖a5 6. ♜h6! (6. g6? ♖h5+ 7. ♜g7 ♜e7=) 6... ♜e7 7. g6 ♖a1 8. ♜g4! (8. ♜g5? ♖c1=) 8... ♖h1+ 9. ♜g5 ♖c1 10. g7 ♜f7 11. ♜h6 ♖h1+ (11... ♖xc6+ 12. ♜h7+-) 12. ♜h5+ ♜g8 13. c7 ♖c1 14. ♜f3! ♖xc7 15. ♜d5+ ♖f7 16. ♜xf7+ ♜xf7 17. ♜h7+-] 6. g6 ♖a1



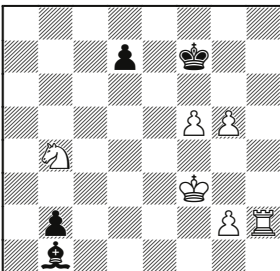
7. ♕g4!! Switch back! **7... ♖h1+ 8. ♖g8!**
 [8... ♖g7? ♖c1 9. ♖h7 ♖c4!=] **8... ♖d6**
 [8... ♖g1 9. c7+-; 8... ♖c1 9. g7! ♖c4 10. c7
 (10. ♕f5) 10... ♖xc7 11. ♖h8+-] **9. g7 ♖g1**
10. ♕f3 [Switch back! ♕f3-g4-d7-g4-f3.
 Rundlauf ("Round trip").] **10... ♖g3 11. ♕e4!**
 [11. ♕d5? ♖e7!=] **11... ♖g4**



12. ♕d5!! With two variations rounding up
 the Excelsior with two different promotions.
12... ♖e7 [12... ♖xd5 13. c7 ♖c4 14. ♖f8
 ♖xc7 15. g8♖+-] **13. ♖h7 ♖h4+**
14. ♖g6 ♖g4+ 15. ♖h6 ♖f6 16. g8♗+!
♖e5 17. c7 Winning. Themes: Excelsior;
 Rundlauf. +-

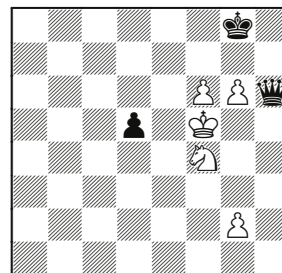


**4. BEN SMOLKIN &
 MARJAN KOVAČEVIĆ**



Judge's comments: "A long study with several phases. White allows Black to take his rook and continues the battle with just a knight and three pawns against Black's queen and pawn. In the end the study reduces to a king and pawn ending in which both sides promote. White finishes off with a knight promotion which has been seen several times in previous studies dating back to the early 1980s (for example, by Kalandadze or by Topko)."

1. g6+ ♖g8 2. f6 ♕e4+ [2... ♕xg6 3. ♖h1]
3. ♖xe4 [Logical try: 3. ♖g3!? ♕xg6= (3...
 b1♖? 4. f7+ ♖g7 5. ♖h8! ♖e1+ 6. ♖h2!
 ♖xb4 7. ♖g8+-) 4. ♖h1 b1♖ 5. ♖xb1
 ♕xb1 6. ♖f4 ♖f7 7. ♖g5 ♕e4 8. g3 d6
 9. g4 ♕f3] **3... b1♖+ 4. ♗d3 d5+** [Perpetual
 or not? 4... ♖b7+ 5. ♖f4 ♖c7+ 6. ♗e5
 (Logical try: 6. ♖f5? ♖xh2! d7-pawn
 guards e6.) 6... ♖c1+ 7. ♖g4! d7-pawn
 prevents perpetual check on the c8-h3 diag-
 onal. 7... ♖d1+ 8. ♗f3+-] **5. ♖f4!** [5. ♖e5?
 ♖xd3! (5... ♖b8+? 6. ♖f5!) 6. f7+ ♖g7
 7. ♖h7+ ♖xg6 8. f8♗+ ♖g5 9. ♗e6+ ♖g4
 10. ♖g7+ ♖h4=] **5... ♖b8+** [5... ♖xd3
 6. f7+ ♖g7 7. ♖h7+ ♖xg6 8. f8♗+! ♖f6
 9. ♗d7+ ♖g6 10. ♗e5+ ♖xh7 11. ♗xd3+-]
6. ♖f5! [Logical try: 6. ♗e5? ♖b4+ 7. ♖f5
 ♖b1+ 8. ♖g5 ♖c1+ 9. ♖g4 ♖c8+! Re-
 moval of d7-pawn allows perpetual check.]
6... ♖xh2 7. ♗f4! Removal of the d7-pawn
 allows attack. **7... ♖h6**



8. g4! [With the g2-pawn still on position
 White may try pawn ending: **8. f7+ ♖f8**