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ISSUE 7 (DECEMBER 2015)

Pawns Battle
[Painting in Mixed Media on paper, ©Elke Rehder, http://www.elke-rehder.de. Reproduced with permission.]

ORIGINALS

2015 Judge:
George P. Sphicas   (USA)

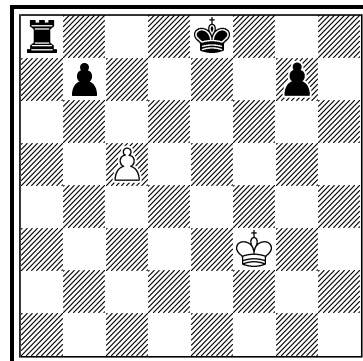**2015 Tourney Participants**:
1. Alberto Armeni   (ITA)
2. György Bakcsi   (HUN)
3. Harald Grubert   (DEU)
4. Michael Grushko   (ISR)
5. L'uboš Kekely   (SVK)
6. Branko Koludrović   (HRV)
7. Václav Kotěšovec   (CZE)
8. Karol Mlynka   (SVK)
9. Sébastien Luce   (FRA)
10. Ladislav Packa   (SVK)
11. Cornel Pacurar   (CAN)
12. Paul Răican   (ROU)
13. Ivan Skoba   (CZE)
14. Adrian Storisteanu   (CAN)
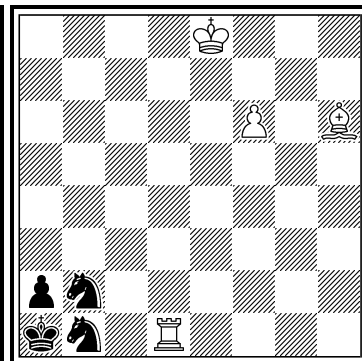15. Arno Tüngler   (DEU)
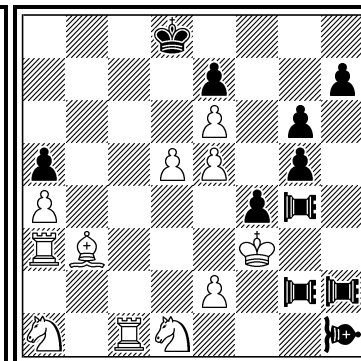16. Kjell Widlert   (SWE)

2015 Informal Tourney

T259
Alberto Armeni

T260
György Bakcsi

T261
Paul Răican

T262
Sébastien Luce
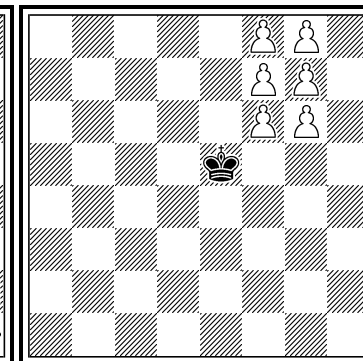
pser-h# 11   (2+4)   ser-h= 12   C+   (4+4)   ser-hs# 112   (11+11)   ser-h# 19   C+   (6+1)
Checkless Chess   Antipodean Circe
🄳 = Triton   No wK
🄽 = Nereide   Promotions to pawn allowed

T259 (Alberto Armeni):
1.g5 2.g4+ Ke3 3.g3 4.g2 5.g1=B+ Kd3 6.0-0-0+ Kc4 7.b5+ c×b6 e.p. 8.Rd4+ Kc5 9.Rd8+ Kc6 10.Bh2 11.Bb8 b7 #
Excelsior, Valladao, Miniature, White minimal (Author).

T260 (György Bakcsi):
1.Sd3 6.K×f6 11.Ka1 12.Sb2 Bg7 =

T261 (Paul Răican):
1.Ke8 6.Kh4 (now, the main plan 7.h5? & 1.Sf2 TRg2-g3# doesn't work because white has Kf3-e4! So, wPd5 must be captured) 7.Kh3 8.TRh4 9.TRh6 11.Kh5 12.TRh4 13.TRh4-g4 21.K×c1 29.Kh5 30.TRg4-h4 31.TRh4-h2 33.Kh3 34.TRh4 35.TRh4-g4 47.K×a3 59.Kh3 60.TRh4 61.TRh6 63.Kh5 64.TRh4 65.TRg4 66.Kh4 ...75.K×a1 ...103.K×b3 105.K×d5 106.K×e5 111.Kh4 112.h7-h5 & 1.Sf2 TRg2-g3 #
TRg4-g3+? or TRh2-h3+? or TRg2-g1+? are forbidden (Checkless Chess condition). Zeller cage, first time with tritons. (Author)

T262 (Sébastien Luce):
1.Kf5 2.K×g6(c2) 3.K×f7(b3) 4.K×g8(c4) 5.Kf7 6.Ke6 7.Ke5 8.Kd4 9.Kc3 10.K×c2(g6) 11.K×b3(f7) 12.Kc3 13.Kd4 14.Ke5 15.K×f6(b2) 16.K×g7(c3) 17.K×f8(b4) 18.Kg7 19.Kh8 f8=Q#
The black king has a long way to clear the path for promotion! (Author)

ORIGINALS

Consequent: This is usual play with the only distinction that all intermediary positions are evaluated independently of the earlier moves (similarly to consequent series-helpmate, where the legality of the position is reconsidered after each move). In series-mover this fairy condition is known as Chess, Consistent. Problem legality of the position is determined after every move. Invented by Michel Caillaud in 1979 [ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHESS PROBLEMS, 2012]

The author explains:

Consequent Type 3: in this type the white king can walk onto squares c4, b4, a4 and there is no need to prove the last black move was indeed b7-b5 or c7-c5 (temporarily paralyzing the bP by Madrasi reason of e.p. capture); we just assume that black's last move was b7-b5 or c7-c5.
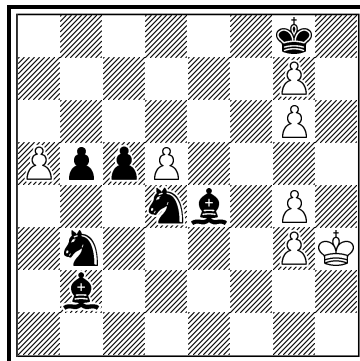
T264-B
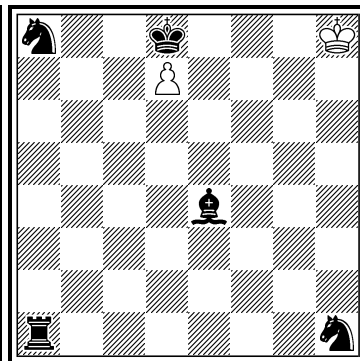**George P. Sphicas**
Ideal-Mate Review
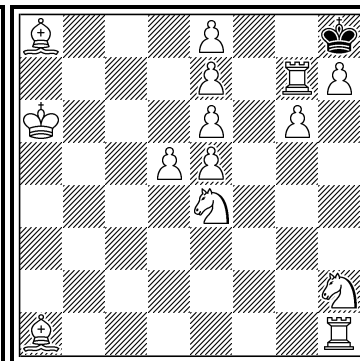**1994**
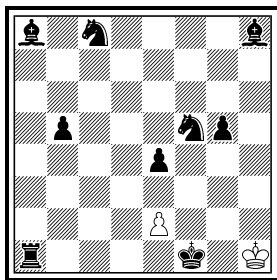
ser-= 36   C+   (2+9)

T263
Ivan Skoba

ser-!= 15   (7+7)
Madrasi   Consequent
2 Solutions

T264
Sébastien Luce

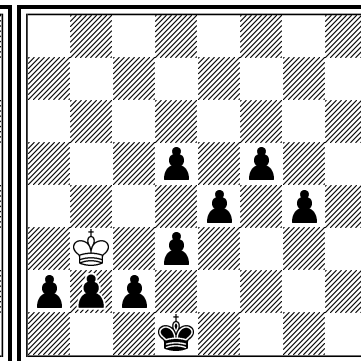ser-= 24   C+   (2+5)

T265
Sébastien Luce

ser-h= 35*   C+   (14+1)
Promotions to pawn allowed

T266
Sébastien Luce

ser-= 28   (1+9)
Equipollents Circe

T263 (Ivan Skoba):
I) 1.Kh4 4.K×e4 8.Ka4 11.d8=B 13.Bh6 14.g5 15.g4 !=
II) 1.g5 4.K×e4 7.Kb4 10.a8=B 11.Bb7! 14.Bh5 15.g4 !=
This composition employs a new type of the *Consequent* condition – in the first solution after 6.Kc4 the King isn't checked by bPb5 because there exists the last black non-checking move b7-b5 (based on the special type of Consequent used here). Similarly after 7.Kb4 or after 8.Ka4. But in the final position white cannot play Ka4-b4, as that would now be self-check! Therefore this is auto-stalemate (ser-!=). Same goes for the second solution. (Author)

T264 (Sébastien Luce):
7.K×a1 11.K×e4 14.K×h1 21.K×a8 24.Kd6 =
Simple but it is the most economical orthodox realization of the King four-corners theme. (Author)

T265 (Sébastien Luce):
Set play: 1...Rg7-f7 =
Solution: 1.Kh8×g7 7.Kg2×h1 8.Kh1×h2 11.Kf3×e4 15.Kb1×a1 19.Kd4×e5 23.Kb8×a8 27.Kd6×d5 28.Kd5×e6 30.Kd7×e8 35.Kg7-h8 e7-e8=S =
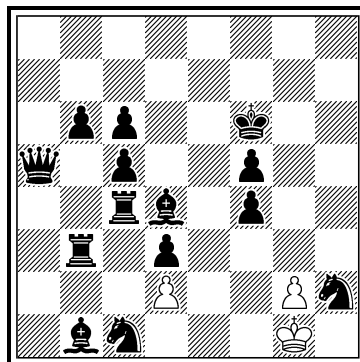Four-corners, this time in ser-h= with set play. The pawn e8 seems 'strange', but it is the point of the problem! It needs to be captured! (Author)

T266 (Sébastien Luce):
1.K×b2(Bb1) 6.K×d5(c4) 7.K×c4(b3) 9.K×b3(b2) 11.K×b2(Rc1) 15.K×f5(g5) 16.K×g5(h5) 17.K×h5 18.K×g4(f3) 20.K×e4(d4) 22.K×d4(c3) 23.K×c3(b2) 24.K×b2(Ra1) 27.K×d3(d2) 29.Kf2 =
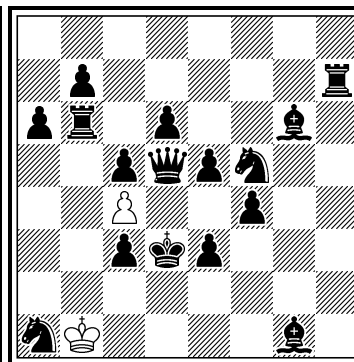
ORIGINALS

T267
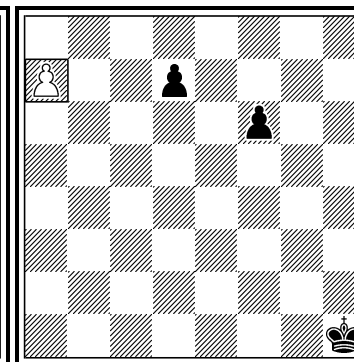**Branko Koludrović**
Paul Răican

T268
Branko Koludrović
Paul Răican

T269
Sébastien Luce

T270
Sébastien Luce

ser-sF 112   C+   (3+14)
Circe

ser-!F 126   C+   (2+16)
Circe

ser-# 17   C+   (1+3)
Equipollents Circe
a7 = Royal Pawn
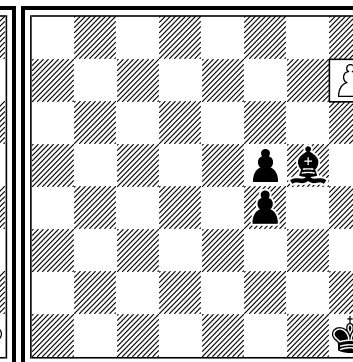
ser-# 23   C+   (1+4)
Equipollents Circe
h7 = Royal Pawn

T267 (Branko Koludrović, Paul Răican):
1.Kh1 2.g4 13.K×c6(c7) 23.K×h2(Sb8) 36.K×c4(Ra8) 53.K×c1 71.K×b3 90.K×b1(Bc8) 109.K×d3(d7) 111.Ke1 112.g5+ K∼ F

T268 (Branko Koludrović, Paul Răican):
5.Ka5×b6[+bRh8] 15.Kf1×g1[+bBf8] 29.Kd8 30.c4×d5 48.Kg5×g6[+bBc8] 65.Kb8×c8 81.Kg4×f5[+bSg8] 100.Ke8×f8
121.Ke6×d6[+bPd7] 122.Kd6×e5[+bPe7] 124.d6×e7 126.Kd6×d7 !F

T269 (Sébastien Luce):
1.a8=rR 2.rRd8 3.rR×d7(d6) 4.rR×d6(d5) 5.rRe6 6.rR×f6(g6) 7.rRa6 8.rRa5 9.rR×d5(g5) 10.rRd8 11.rRg8 12.rR×g6(g4) 13.rRg8
14.rR×g5(g2) 15.rRg7 16.rR×g4(Rg1) 17.rRh4 #

T270 (Sébastien Luce):
1.h8=rS 2.rSg6 3.rSf8 4.rSh7 5.rS×g5(Bf3) 6.rSe6 7.rS×f4(g2) 8.rSe6 9.rSd4 10.rS×f3(Bh2) 11.rSg5 12.rSf7 13.rSh6 14.rS×f5(d4)
15.rSe7 16.rSc6 17.rS×d4(e2) 18.rSb5 19.rSc3 20.rS×e2(Rg1) 21.rSc3 22.rSe4 23.rSf2 #

ORIGINALS

**HC109, Cornel Pacurar (CPB6)**
Solutions:

I) 1.Bh1-g2 Ka1-b1 2.Rg1-h1 Kb1-a1 3.Kf1-g1 Ka1-b1 4.Bg2-f1 Kb1-a1 5.Kg1-g2 Ka1-b1 6.Rh1-g1 Kb1-a1 7.Sf2-h1 Ka1-b1 8.Re2-f2 Kb1-a1 9.Bf1-e2 Ka1-b1 10.Rg1-f1 Kb1-a1 11.Kg2-g1 Ka1-b1 12.Rf2-g2 Kb1-a1 13.Rf1-f2 Ka1-b1 14.Be2-f1 Kb1-a1 15.Rf2-e2 Ka1-b1 16.Rg2-f2 Kb1-a1 17.Bf1-g2 Ka1-b1 18.Rf2-f1 Kb1-a1 19.Sh1-f2 Ka1-b1 20.Bg2-h1 Kb1-a1 21.Kg1-g2 Ka1-b1 22.Rf1-g1 Kb1-a1 23.Kg2-f1

II) 1.Kf1-g2 Ka1-b1 2.Rg1-f1 Kb1-a1 3.Kg2-g1 Ka1-b1 4.Bh1-g2 Kb1-a1 5.Sf2-h1 Ka1-b1 6.Rf1-f2 Kb1-a1 7.Bg2-f1 Ka1-b1 8.Rf2-g2 Kb1-a1 9.Re2-f2 Ka1-b1 10.Bf1-e2 Kb1-a1 11.Rf2-f1 Ka1-b1 12.Rg2-f2 Kb1-a1 13.Kg1-g2 Ka1-b1 14.Rf1-g1 Kb1-a1 15.Be2-f1 Ka1-b1 16.Rf2-e2 Kb1-a1 17.Sh1-f2 Ka1-b1 18.Rg1-h1 Kb1-a1 19.Kg2-g1 Ka1-b1 20.Bf1-g2 Kb1-a1 21.Kg1-f1 Ka1-b1 22.Rh1-g1 Kb1-a1 23.Bg2-h1
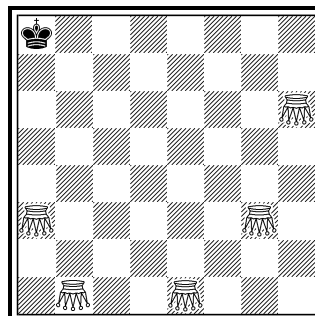
HC116, HC117: C+ WinChloe

Hors Concours

HC116
Václav Kotěšovec
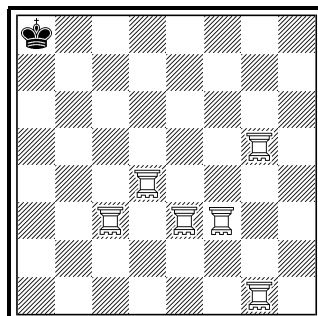
ser-# 30   C+   (6+1)
White Maximummer
No wK
♖ = Rookhopper

HC117
Václav Kotěšovec

ser-# 38   C+   (5+1)
White Maximummer
No wK
♛ = Grasshopper

HC118
György Bakcsi

h=8   C+   (2+9)

HC119
György Bakcsi

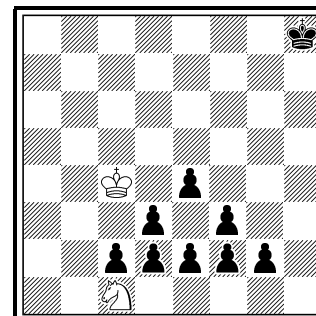h#6   C+   (2+4)
BlackChecks

HC116 (Václav Kotěšovec):
1.RHg6 2.RHhb3 3.RHg3 4.RHa3 5.RHh3 6.RHg2 7.RHg7 8.RHg1 9.RHg8 10.RHg6 11.RHg5 12.RHg4 13.RHc4 14.RHg6 15.RHg4 16.RHh4 17.RHb4 18.RHh5 19.RHh6 20.RHf5 21.RHe5 22.RHd5 23.RHc5 24.RHc6 25.RHb6 26.RHb7 27.RHdb5 28.RHc7 29.RHa6 30.RHa7 #

HC117 (Václav Kotěšovec):
1.Gh3 2.Gh4 3.Gh7 4.Gh2 5.Gh8 6.Gh1 7.Ga1 8.Gh1 9.Gf4 10.Ge5 11.Gf6 12.Ga1 13.Gf3 14.Gf6 15.Gf7 16.Gf2 17.Gf8 18.Gf1 19.Gg1 20.Ge3 21.Ge6 22.Gf3 23.Gf4 24.Gd6 25.Gf2 26.Gf4 27.Gg3 28.Gh4 29.Ge4 30.Ge3 31.Ge5 32.Gg5 33.Gd5 34.Gd6 35.Gc7 36.Gc6 37.Gg2 38.Gb7 #
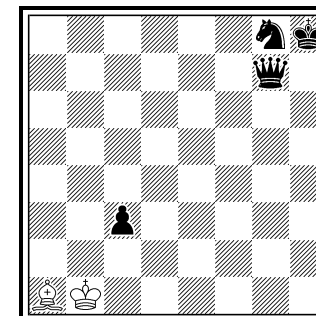
HC118 (György Bakcsi):
1.e3 K×d3 2.Kg7 K×e3 3.Kf6 K×f3 4.Ke5 K×g2 5.Kd4 K×f2 6.Kc3 K×e2 7.Kb2 K×d2 8.Ka1 K×c2=

HC119 (György Bakcsi):
1.c2+ K×c2 2.Qb2+ Kd3 3.Qc3+ Ke4 4.Qd4+ Kf5 5.Qe5+ Kg6 6.Qg7+ B×g7#

ORIGINALS

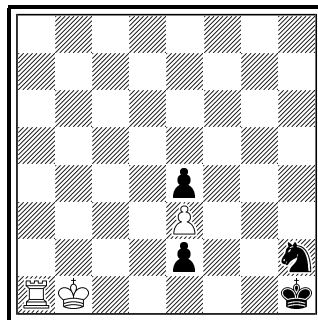**HC120**
György Bakcsi

h#5   C+   (3+4)
BlackChecks

HC121
György Bakcsi
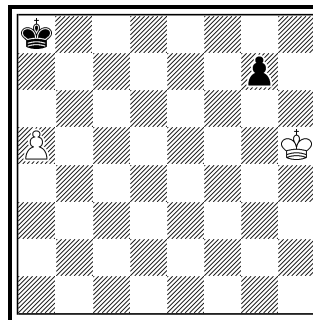
h=11   C+   (2+2)
UltraSchachZwang

HC122
Branko Koludrović

ser-hsZa8 131   C+   (15+1)
Circe

HC123
Branko Koludrović
Paul Răican
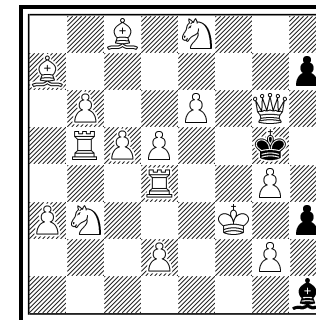
ser-hsZa8 149   C+   (16+4)
Circe

HC120 (György Bakcsi):
1.e1=Q+ Kc2 2.Qb1+ Kd2 3.Qc1+ Ke2 4.Qd1+ Kf2 5.Qg1+ R×g1#

HC121 (György Bakcsi):
1.g6+ Kh4 2.g5+ Kh3 3.g4+ Kh2 4.g3+ Kh1 5.g2+ Kh2 6.g1=B+!! (g1=Q? requires 12 moves) Kg3 7.Bf2+ Kf4 8.Be3+ Ke5 9.Bd4+ Kd6 10.Bc5+ Kc7 11.Bb6+ a×b6=

HC122 (Branko Koludrović):
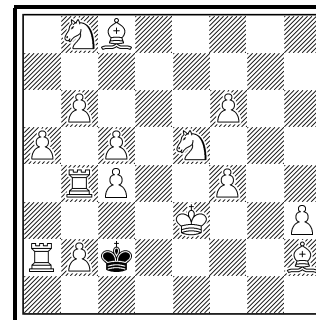5.Kg2×h2 [+wBc1] 15.Kd8×c8 [+wBf1] 27.Kg1×f1 39.Kc8×b8 [+wSg1] 56.Kb1×a2 [+wRh1] 75.Ka6×a5 [+wPa2] 94.Kb1×a2 114.Ka5×b4 [+wRa1] 131.Kc8-b7 Ra1-a8 132.Kb7×a8 z

HC123 (Branko Koludrović, Paul Răican):
1.Kg5-h4 2.h3×g2 8.Ke1-d1 9.h7×g6 23.Kd8×c8 [+wBf1] 35.Kg1×f1 50.Ka6×b5 70.Kb2×a3 [+wPa2] 71.Ka3×a2 72.Ka2×b3 [+wSb1] 92.Kb5×c5 [+wPc2] 111.Kd1×c2 131.Kc5×d4 [+wRa1] 149.Kc8-b7 Se8-d6+ 150.Kb7-a8 z

ARTICLES

Dr. Michael Hudson
[Credit & Copyright: Dr. Michael Hudson]

Dr. Michael Hudson completed his BA and MA at the University of Northern Iowa. He finished a second MA and a PhD at the University of California. Having taught at nearly every level in primary, secondary and higher education, Michael is following in the footsteps of his parents who were both life-long educators. He is currently employed as a lecturer in International Affairs at Khon Kaen University, International College, in Khon Kaen, Thailand.

Storming Fortresses: A Political History Of Chess In The Soviet Union, 1917-1948

A dissertation submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY in HISTORY by Michael A. Hudson, September 2013

Author: Hudson, Michael Andrew
Degree: Ph.D., HistoryUC Santa Cruz
Permalink: http://escholarship.org/uc/item/0s71f0cw
Excerpt: From page 275 to page 288
(part of Chapter Twelve: The Terror of Chess)

Marxism has won its historic significance as the ideology of the revolutionary proletariat because, far from rejecting the most valuable achievements of the bourgeois epoch, it has, on the contrary, assimilated and refashioned everything of value in the more than two thousand years of the development of human thought and culture.

(V. I. Lenin, "*On Proletarian Culture*," in Lenin's *Collected Works*, trans. Julius Katzer, vol. 31 (Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1965), 316.)

[. . .] Although Soviet chess had been unapologetically political since 1924, the 1932 [All-Union Chess] Congress was by far the most frankly political conference to date. In his opening remarks, Krylenko[1] spoke little about chess, but he harangued the delegates on the political significance of their work. Parroting Stalin's line, Krylenko informed the Congress that, "presently socialist building passes through such a stage when, on the one hand, it can rely on the great successes we have attained and on the other it faces very big difficulties, which are in their essence the result of the violent resistance of the remnants of the exploiting classes."[2] Krylenko's opening speech at the Congress also vigorously defended draconian laws punishing grain theft on the collective farms and truancy in the factories. "What," he asked rhetorically, "can all

this mean for a chess organization?"[3] The answer was that chess propagandists must draw their cultural work into the general work of building socialism. Since socialism had not yet been build, and since the remnants of hostile classes were desperately fighting against the establishment of socialism, the cultural revolution must adapt to the changing political struggle. In this spirit, Krylenko suggested the slogan: "to broaden, broaden and once again broaden, and then to deepen, deepen and once again deepen our chess activity."[4]

If Soviet chess was precocious in submitting to central control and embracing a political agenda, it was also in the vanguard in instituting large-scale repression against its own. The initial scrutiny fell on an unlikely group: the problemists. Publication by Soviet problemists in bourgeois magazines had been one of the criticisms made by Social-Democrats in the *Shakhintern* in 1929 as they struggled against Soviet participation (see Chapter Nine). Although Krylenko ridiculed the German charge as trivial, he did not deny it, nor did he defend the Soviet problemists. He may have been unaware of the practice; problemists were a small, marginal, and insular group in the Soviet chess organization.

Since Levman was a problemist–a member of the Problemists' Union of the All-Union Chess Section and occasional participant in problem competitions sponsored by the bourgeois press–the issue was especially tricky. At the Seventh All-Union Chess Congress in 1929, Levman engineered a compromise. The Problemists' Union would leave the Chess Section and reformulate itself as an independent organization, taking on a new name: All-Union Association of Chess Problem and Study Lovers. Now the Social-Democrats in the German Union could no longer use the issue to flail the Chess Section, and the problemists could send their compositions to competitions sponsored by bourgeois publications without fear of embarrassing Krylenko.[5]

But less than a year later, in 1930, Krylenko suddenly and unexpectedly turned savagely on the problemists and their new

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[1] Nikolai Vasil'evich Krylenko (1885-1938)
[2] "VSFK: plenum ob edinennogo sh/sh sektora VSFK SSSR i RSFSR," list 3.

[3] Ibid., list 4.
[4] Ibid., list 5.
[5] Ibid., list 22.

ARTICLES

Lazar Borisovich Zalkind
[Credit: *Wikipedia / 64*]

organization, the All-Union Association of Chess Problem and Study Lovers. Krylenko's chief complaint about the group was that it was illegal . . . because it was not affiliated with his Chess Section. The leader of this small, esoteric group, Lazar Borisovich Zalkind (1886-1945), a well-known problemist with an international reputation, was arrested. He was accused of complicity in a Menshevik plot: the Case of the All-Union Bureau of the Mensheviks.[6] Krylenko became personally involved with Zalkind's case, and he handled the prosecution himself. In March 1931, Zalkind was found guilty and sentenced to eight years in the labor camps. The All-Union Association of Chess Problem and Study Lovers was disbanded, replaced by the Central Composition Committee, which, of course, was attached directly to the Chess Section.[7]

With the disgrace of Zalkind, a dark shadow fell over chess composition. In the summer of 1931, *64* ran a series of articles relating to the developing crisis with the problemists. They were censured for past offenses (unscrupulously submitting their compositions willy-nilly to Western publications), and they were put on notice that this practice would be severely punished. Nine foreign publications that carried chess compositions were designated by the All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (VOKS) as acceptable outlets for Soviet compositions. But problemists desiring to submit works to these publications would now have to make application through the Composition Committee; they were specifically forbidden to deal directly with any foreign publications.[8]

Problemists were also advised that bourgeois themes should be avoided in favor of revolutionary themes. This somewhat puzzling directive actually meant that compositions were required to have a close relationship to practical play; they were not to be fanciful. Composition was justified only when it served the ends of "normal" chess. The demand for practical chess composition was the doctrine of socialist realism applied to chess. "Formalism" (art-

for-art's-sake) in chess composition was officially condemned.

In practice this meant that one-, two- and three-move compositions were out of favor, (they tended to be the most fanciful), while long, complicated problems (properly called studies), requiring analysis of multiple variations with differing numbers of moves, were in favor. The most esoteric areas of composition–"helpmates," "self-mates," and "fairy chess,"[9]–were officially disgraced.[10]

The next issue of *64* had more bad news for problemists; it featured an editorial titled, "The Traitor Zalkind–Out of the Ranks of Soviet Problemists." Signed by three prominent problemists (erstwhile colleagues of Zalkind), the article denounced the disgraced composer as a renegade and a traitor to the workers. Ominously, the authors volunteered that they, too, had deviated in the direction of formalism, and they vowed renewed vigilance to ensure that their future efforts, and those of their comrade composers, would avoid bourgeois themes and would be saturated with political content.[11]

The next year, at the 1932 All-Union Chess Congress, the delegates were unanimous in their condemnation of formalism in chess. Krylenko left no room for interpretation regarding the official position: "We must condemn once and for all the formula 'chess for the sake of chess,' like the formula 'art for art's sake.' "[12] This seemed to be the last word in the controversy, but vestiges of formalism remained entrenched in chess composition.

The debate flared up again in early 1936, this time in the pages of the other official journal, *Shakhmaty v SSSR*. An article co-authored by Botvinnik and the journal's editor, Leontii Feliksovich Spokoinyi (1900-1936), announced a crusade against formalism

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[6]S. Grodzenskii, *Lubianskii gambit* [Lubianka Gambit] (Moscow: Terrasport, 2004), 57.

[7]S. Grodzenskii, "*Iz vospominanii: Lazar Zalkind*" [From Memories: Lazar Zalkind], *64-Shakhmatanoe obozrenie*, August 1989, 24-25.

[8]V. E. Eremeev and E. M. Rossel'e, "*Vnimaniiu Sovetskikh problemistov ot shakhcektora VSFK SSSR*" [Attention Soviet Problemists from the Chess Section VSFK USSR], *64. Shakhmaty v rabochem klube*, June 30, 1931, 181.

[9]In help-mates, both sides cooperate to mate black in a specified number of moves. Self-mates differ in that white must find moves that compel black to mate the white king. Fairy chess involves problems using imaginary pieces with unusual moves and powers.

[10]A. Guliaev, "Trevozhnyi signal" [Disturbing Signal], *64. Shakhmaty v rabochem klube*, June 30, 1931, 181-183.

[11]N. V. Proskurnin, A. O. Gerbstman, and E. I. Umnov, "Predatelia Zalkinda–von iz riadov Sovetskikh problemistov!" [The Traitor Zalkind–Out of the Ranks of Soviet Problemists!], *64. Shakhmaty v rabochem klube*, July 15, 1931, 221-222.

[12]Souvarine, *Stalin*, 575.

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Mikhail Mikhailovich Barulin
[Credit: Grigory Popov]

Arvid Ivanovich Kubbel
[Credit: *Wikipedia* / Hans Schaffer]

in chess composition, paralleling a concurrent campaign against formalism in the arts. The article argued that since the basis of political chess was practical application, composition played only a subordinate role, and it was only useful insofar as it helped to develop practical play. In the same way that chess was subordinate to the task of building socialism, existing only to serve the needs of the workers, composition was subordinate to practical chess, existing only to serve the needs of chess players. Composition for its own sake, however, had no utility and therefore could not justify its existence. Thus, any composition that did not serve competitive chess was branded as formalism, and formalism in chess composition was a grievous and unacceptable ideological error. Any composition not grounded in practical play was from this point onward "defined in two words –formalistic trickery." [13]

A socially useful composition, argued Botvinnik and Spokoinyi, had three distinctive features. First and foremost, it should center on a practical theme. A practical theme was based on a situation that might occur in practical play. Second, the solution should be challenging to discern; it should not be obvious. Third, and perhaps least important, the idea should be expressed artistically.[14]

But instead of following these simple guidelines and thus serving a practical political purpose, many Soviet composers, the article charged, were engaging in all manner of decadent bourgeois themes. Small wonder that Soviet problemists had been so fond of publishing in the West; the West was home to the discredited concept of art-for-art's-sake. Formalism in composition had become a habit that too many Soviet problemists appeared unwilling to renounce. But now official patience was exhausted; it was time for Soviet composers to "make a sharp turn back toward practical chess." [15]

A brave problemist, the director of the composition department at *64*, Mikhail Mikhailovich Barulin (1897-1943), answered Botvinnik and Spokoinyi, writing in defense of himself and his fellow composers. Barulin's main counter-argument was that chess competition and chess composition were completely

different enterprises. Botvinnik's argument–that competition parented composition and therefore the child must be subservient to the parent–was ridiculed. Composition, argued Barulin, also had a long history with its own laws of development, "schools," and aesthetic standards. It had every right to this heritage, and it was a violation of composition's autonomy to require it to serve competition. Composition was an art form in itself, and it existed in an autonomous, not subordinate, relationship with competitive chess.[16]

Further, Barulin found no objective reason to favor competition over composition. Chess itself was not and could not be a science, and therefore such arguments about objectivity were moot. Science was dependent on immutable laws derived from nature. The laws of chess were arbitrary and based on nothing–entirely abstract. All chess, therefore, was guilty of the imagined offense of formalism. But in an attempt to cover his ideological bases, Barulin concluded by arguing that composition was, in its own right, a powerful tool for elevating the masses. Forcing composition into a subservient role to competition interfered with composition's ability to make its own, small contribution to building socialism.[17]

If Barulin's plan was to initiate reasonable discourse, he was quickly disillusioned. The official response, again co-authored by Botvinnik and Spokoinyi, was immediate and harsh. Barulin was forcefully reminded that the practice of art for its own sake had already been denounced in all areas of Soviet culture, and chess had been in the vanguard of that movement. Therefore, Barulin's use of the discredited concept of art-for-art's-sake to mount a defense of formalism in chess composition was nothing short of a provocation. Furthermore, if Barulin really believed that composition was self-contained enough to somehow enjoy immunity from serving the purposes of the Soviet state, then "so much the worse for comrade Barulin and other like-minded composers, who are good for nothing." [18] Botvinnik and Spokoinyi ended their piece with a plea for support for their position from

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[13]M. M. Botvinnik and L. F. Spokoinyi, "Sumbur v kompozitsii" [Confusion in the Composition], *Shakhmaty v SSSR*, March 1936, 71-72.
[14]Ibid., 72.
[15]Ibid.

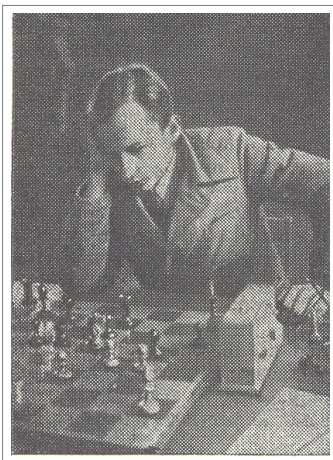[16]M. M. Barulin, "Sumbur v mysliakh" [Confusion in the Mind], *Shakhmaty v SSSR*, July 1936, 199-200.
[17]Ibid., 200.
[18]M. M. Botvinnik and Lev Spokoinyi, 'O stat'e t. Barulina" [About the Article of Comrade Barulina], *Shakhmaty v SSSR*, July 1936, 200.

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Mikhail Nikolaevich Platov
[Credit: *Nuestro Círculo*]

Sergei Mikhailovich Kaminer
[Credit: *Wikipedia* / R. M. Kofman]

Krylenko and the Chess Section.[19] They did not have to wait long. Support came–officially and unconditionally–in early 1937.

A meeting of the executive committee of the Chess Section was called in January 1937 to address the controversy. After debate, a special resolution regarding chess composition was passed. It was resolved that chess composition was not a separate art form as Barulin claimed, but rather a component of competitive chess. As such, composition must contribute to the chess movement, which was based on competition, the chosen expression of the masses. Chess composition, therefore, must align itself with chess realism. There was no room for ambiguity in the final resolution: "Trickery, devoid of ideology, and disregard for the needs of the chess masses should be done away with once and for all." [20]

The latter stage of the struggle against deviation in chess composition was framed, of course, by the Great Terror. The infamously broad Article 58 of the Soviet penal code, enacted in 1927, set the stage. It was intended to enhance and systematize the repression and prosecution of suspected counter-revolutionaries by broadly defining counter-revolutionary activity. Article 58 was subsequently revised several times, updated by sub-articles that multiplied and clarified proscribed offenses. When Kirov, the popular Leningrad Party boss was mysteriously murdered in 1934, his death was the pretext for Stalin's escalation repression of Party dissidents, referred to as the Great Terror. The Terror peaked in the second half of the 1930s, at the same time that the struggle against deviation in composition was reaching a climax.

Arvid Ivanovich Kubbel (1889-1938) was a Soviet problemist with an international reputation. In 1937 he became a victim of Article 58. A specialist in self-mates and help-mates, he became increasingly frustrated with his inability to have his compositions published. Finally, he chose the incredibly reckless path of sending his compositions directly to the German chess magazine, *Die Schwalbe*, bypassing the Chess Section's Central Composition Committee (see above). Arrested in 1937, he was sentenced to ten years at labor without right to correspondence; he died on route to a Siberian prison camp.'[21]

Mikhail Nikolaevich Platov (1883-1938) was the co-author (with his brother) of a composition published in 1910 that was probably the most famous composition in Soviet Russia, reproduced numerous times before 1937 in the Soviet press. The reason for its fame was not the first prize it won in a Riga contest. Rather, the problem caught the eye of Lenin when it was republished in a German paper. In a letter to his brother, Lenin commented on the problem (see Chapter Three), which he described as a "beautiful bit of work." [22]

Platov was arrested in October 1937. The exact charges were not publically specified; there was no trial. He was sentenced under Article 58 to ten years in a labor camp. Platov, however, survived only a few months in the camp, dying in early 1938.[23]

Sergei Mikhailovich Kaminer (1908-1937?) was a problemist who once accomplished an almost unheard of feat: he defeated Botvinnik in three consecutive games. Botvinnik was thirteen at the time; Kaminer was sixteen. There were no hard feelings, and the two boys became good friends.[24]

Thirteen years later, during Botvinnik's 1937 match with Levenfish in Moscow (see Chapter Eleven), Botvinnik had a distraught visitor in his room at the National Hotel: his old friend, Kaminer, now a well-known problemist. Kaminer specialized in helpmates, which the Botvinnik and the Chess Section had condemned as formalism. Kaminer, fearing imminent arrest, thrust into Botvinnik's hands his notebooks full of finished and unfinished compositions. When Botvinnik balked at the unexpected and unwelcome gesture, Kaminer hurriedly explained that he feared that the notebooks, his life's work, would be lost if Botvinnik refused them. Kaminer was arrested a few days later and subsequently swallowed up by the gulag. Botvinnik claimed to have sent the notebooks to Kaminer's relatives, but the books,

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[19]Ibid.

[20]"Plenum Ispolbiuro Vsesoiuznoi Shakhsektsii" [Plenum of the Central Committee All-Union Chess Section], *Shakhmaty v SSSR*, March 1937, 69.

[21]Grodzenskii, *Lubianskii gambit*, 90-91.

[22]Lenin to his brother, Paris, February 17, 1910, in *V. I. Lenin Collected Works: Letters to Relatives 1893-1922*, trans. George H. Hanna, vol. 37 (Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1967), 455.

[23]Grodzenskii, *Lubianskii gambit*, 101-103.

[24]M. M. Botvinnik, *K dostizheniiu tseli* [Achieving the Aim] (Moscow: Molodaia gvardiia, 1978), 11-12.

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Pavel Efimovich Neunyvako
[Credit: Alexander Nikitin]

like their author, have disappeared.[25]

Pavel Efimovich Neunyvako (1897-1940) was a hero of the Civil War. He learned chess during his service in the Red Army, but he was attracted more to composition than competition. He published a number of his studies in the 1920s, while simultaneously rising in the Ukrainian Party organization. He became chairman of the All-Ukrainian Chess Section in 1933, and when the controversies over formalism in composition flared, he used his position to defend Ukrainian problemists. Neunyvako was arrested in 1938 and exiled to Alma-Ata, where he continued to compose. He was rearrested and shot in 1940.[26]

Mikhail Barulin, the author of the response to Botvinnik and Spokoinyi (see above), was a problemist who had found a comfortable niche in the Soviet chess organization. After the arrest of L. Zalkind and the dissolution of the All-Union Association of Chess Problem and Study Lovers (see above), Barulin became the executive secretary of the new Central Composition Committee. When the Chess Section, which now firmly controlled chess composition, established the title of "Master of Sport of Chess Composition," Barulin was its first recipient. He was subsequently honored with the post of problems editor for both of the official journals, *64* and *Shakhmaty v SSSR*.[27]

In 1936, when Botvinnik and Spokoinyi published the article in *Shakhmaty v SSSR* that launched the attack on formalism in chess composition, Barulin rashly jumped to the defense of his fellow problemists (see above), and Botvinnik and Spokoinyi answered with threats against Barulin. Probably this episode sealed Barulin's fate, although he was not immediately arrested.

Barulin's home was the meeting place for a chess composition circle. According to Barulin's daughter, one of the members of that circle was arrested in early 1941, and he reportedly told his interrogators that the circle was often the occasion for anti-Soviet jokes. One by one the other members of the circle were taken, until only Barulin remained. He was finally arrested in November 1941, but refused to sign a confession or denounce other problemists. He died in prison in 1943.[28]

Significantly, Botvinnik never disavowed the 1936 *Shakhmaty v SSSR* article (see above) that signaled the subsequent purge of the problemists, not even later when it would have been safe to do so. Instead, Botvinnik always justified himself, claiming that Spokoinyi had written the ideological parts of the article, while he (Botvinnik) had been only responsible for the sections dealing specifically with chess.[29] However the two components (ideology and chess) were so closely intertwined in the article as to render this claim dubious. Further, Botvinnik also claimed: "the article's criticism about composition now [in 1986] seems to me quite principled and reasonable."[30]

[. . .]

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[25]Grodzenskii, *Lubianskii gambit*, 115.
[26]Ibid., 125-127.
[27]S. Grodzenskii, "Ne podpisav nichego" [Signing Nothing], *64-Shakhmatnoe obozrenie*, November 1989, 24.

[28]Ibid., 26.
[29]M. M. Botvinnik, *Analiticheskie i kriticheskie raboty 1928-1986* [Analytical and Critical Works 1928-1986] (Moscow: Fizkul'tura i sport, 1987), 306-307.
[30]Ibid., 306.

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Wenigsteiner in Proca Retractor AntiCirce — by Vlaicu Crişan & Eric Huber

What can be more challenging for a solver than a Proca Retractor AntiCirce with maximum 4 pieces on the board and minimum 10 moves? Such problems are rare, but provide a lot of satisfaction, as the following selection will hopefully prove.

The pioneer of this field was Wolfgang Dittmann. He started his systematic research in 2003 and won the prestigious *Wenigsteiner of the Year* prize for two of his compositions. The first one, which established the common method for many future problems is quoted below:

WP1
Wolfgang Dittmann
feenschach 2003
1st Prize
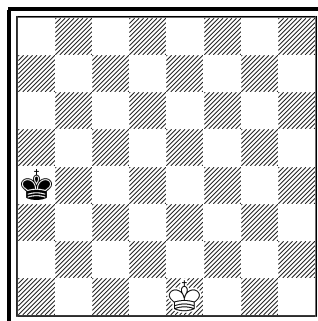
1.Ke1×pd2[Ke1]	d3-d2+
2.Ke1×Rd1[Ke1]	Rd2-d1+
3.Kf2×Sf1[Ke1]	Rd1-d2+
4.Ke1-f2	Rd2-d1+
5.Kf3×Bg2[Ke1]	Bh3-g2+
6.Kf2-f3 Rd1-d2+	7.Ke1-f2
Rd2-d1+	8.Kd7×Se8[Ke1]
Bg2-h3+ 9.Kc6-d7	Bh3-g2+
10.Kc5-c6 & 1.Kb4#	

-10 & #1   (1+1)
Proca Retractor AntiCirce

The white king returns to e1 several times for different purposes. First it uncaptures a bP. This pawn restricts the freedom of a subsequently uncaptured bR and allows the white king to go further. The uncapture of the bS is again meant to restrict the freedom of a bB that is subsequently uncaptured. Only after all these pieces are in place, white can safely uncapture a black piece on e8, ensuring it has the tempi needed to get close to bK.

This wonderful composition remained unequalled in terms of economy and length for a long time. In the same year, the German master has shown the same idea with the black King on the other edge of the board.

WP2
Wolfgang Dittmann
Schachmatnaja
Komposizija 2003
1st Prize

1.Ke1×pf2[Ke1]	f3-f2+
2.Ke1×Rf1[Ke1]	Rf2-f1+
3.Kd2×Sd1[Ke1]	Rf1-f2+
4.Ke1-d2	Rf2-f1+
5.Kb2×Bb3[Ke1]	d2-d1=S+
6.Kc1-b2 d3-d2+	7.Kd2-c1
Rf1-f2+	8.Ke1-d2 Rf2-f1+
9.Kf7×Se8[Ke1]	Ba4(c2)-b3+
10.Kf6-f7 & 1.Kg5#	
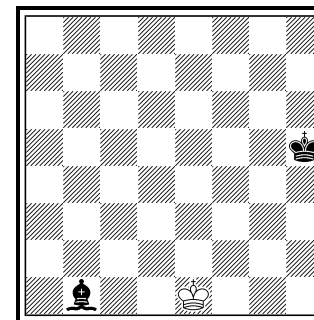
-10 & #1   (1+2)
Proca Retractor AntiCirce

This time the uncapture of the bS is used to force an unpromotion. As in the previous problem, the purpose of bBb3 is to ensure the tempo needed for wK after uncapturing bSe8. A careful solver may wonder what is the bBb1 used for. Without this bishop, white would be able to uncapture the bB on a2 instead of b3. Such dualistic uncaptures create overwhelming difficulties for those brave composers daring to compose Proca Retractors with AntiCirce.

WP3
Andreas Thoma
Probleemblad 2012

1.Ke1×pd2[Ke1]	d3-d2+
2.Ke1×Rd1[Ke1]	Rd2-d1+
3.Kf2×Sf1[Ke1]	Rd1-d2+
4.Ke1-f2	Rd2-d1+
5.Kh2×Bh3[Ke1]	f2-f1=S+
6.Kg1-h2 f3-f2+	7.Kf2-g1
Rd1-d2+ 8.Ke1-f2	Rd2-d1+
9.Kd7×Be8[Ke1]	Kc8-b7+
10.Kd6-d7 & 1.Kc7#	

-10 & #1   (1+2)
Proca Retractor AntiCirce

Vlaicu Crişan & Eric Huber
(Wageningen, 2006)

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Defensive Retractor: A retractor problem in which black is defending by trying to retract the moves that will prevent (or delay) the achievement of white's goal. The canonical example of a defensive retractor is the Proca Retractor stipulation.

Proca Retractor: A Proca Retractor in, say, 5 asks for white to retract 5 moves and then mate in 1 with a forward move. After every white retraction (but the last) black retracts whatever he wants, trying to defend against the forward mate. White retractions must end in a forward mate against any defensive retraction by black. As in direct problems, white is allowed to mate forward in 1 at any time (after a retraction), and this may happen if black picks a poor defense. Also, black may defend by mating white through a forward move if such an opportunity exists after one of his retractions (this is called a "Forward Defense").

More recently, Andreas Thoma continued the research and tried to show how the black king can be diverted to the edge before getting mated. In **WP3** the wK is placed under a double check from two bBs, hence forcing the bK to move to c8. The bPc6 is needed in order to prevent the dual 10.Kc6-d7.

In an attempt to create longer problems, Paul Răican placed the black king on the first rank. This placement requires more tempi for wK after uncapturing the black piece on e8.

WP4
Paul Răican
Phénix 2006
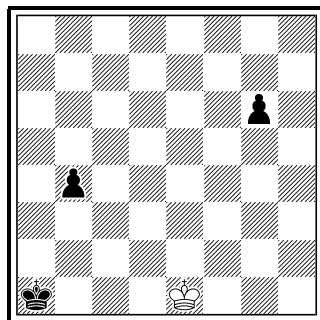
-12 & #1   (1+3)
Proca Retractor AntiCirce

1.Ke1×pf2[Ke1]   f3-f2+
2.Ke1×Rf1[Ke1]   Rf2-f1+
3.Kd2×Sd1[Ke1]   Rf1-
f2+   4.Ke1-d2   Rf2-f1+
5.Ke3×Bf4[Ke1]   Bb8-f4+
6.Kd2-e3   Rf1-f2+   7.Ke1-
d2   Rf2-f1+   8.Ke6×Bf7[Ke1]
Be8-d7+   9.Ke5-e6   Ba7-b8+
10.Kd4-e5 Bb8-a7+ 11.Kc3-d4
b5-b4+ 12.Kc2-c3 & 1.Kb1#

Here the wK wins a tempo by uncapturing the bB on f7 instead of e8, as bPg6 forces its retraction on bK rebirth's square. Two other tempi are provided by the bB pendulum between b8 and a7, while the third is given by the other bP. An additional finesse appears at the end: with the bR on the 2nd rank, wK can't mate on a2 or b2, so only b1 is convenient.

In **WP5** the essential tempo is provided thanks to a draw pendulum. The key position appears after black retracts its fifth move. After the second repetition of the same position, black has no choice but play 9...c7-c6+, since 9...Bd7-e8+?? would be illegal. Interestingly, no bR is uncaptured. Another point is that white can't mate on b2 with, say, bBd2 because the bB can play on wK's rebirth square in the forward play. Therefore, the bB must be on c1 – an active selfblock exploited in the forward mate. An outstanding composition for its highly original conception!

WP5
Paul Răican
diagrammes 2006
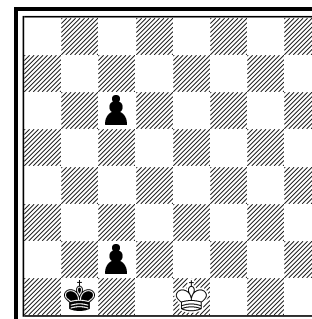
-12 & #1   (1+3)
Proca Retractor AntiCirce

1.Ke1×pf2[Ke1]   f3-f2+
2.Ke2×Bd2[Ke1]   f4-f3+
3.Ke1-e2 Bc1-d2+ 4.Ke1×Bd2
[Ke1]   Be3-d2+   5.Kd5×Be6
[Ke1]   Bd7-e6+   6.Ke6-d5
Be8-d7+   7.Kd5-e6   Bd7-e8+!
8.Ke6-d5   Be8-d7+   9.Kd5-e6
c7-c6+   10.Kd4-d5   Bd2-e3+
11.Kc3-d4 Be3-d2+ 12.Kb3-c3
& 1.Ka2#

WP6
Andreas Thoma
Die Schwalbe 2012
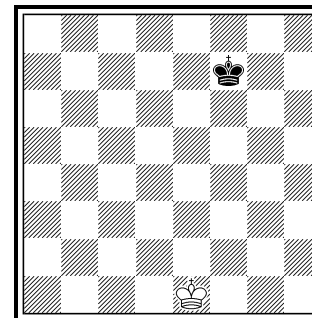
-12 & #1   (1+1)
Proca Retractor AntiCirce

1.Ke1×pd2[Ke1]   d3-d2+
2.Ke1×Rd1[Ke1]   Rd2-
d1+   3.Kf2×Sf1[Ke1]   Rd1-
d2+   4.Ke1-f2   Rd2-d1+
5.Ke3×Bf4[Ke1]   Bb8-f4+
6.Kf2-e3   Rd1-d2+   7.Ke1-f2
Rd2-d1+   8.Kg3×Bh3[Ke1]
Kf8-f7+   9.Kf2-g3   Rd1-
d2+   10.Ke1-f2   Rd2-d1+
11.Kd7×Se8[Ke1]   Bg2-h3+
12.Ke6-d7 & 1.Kf7#

Nine years later Dittmann's economy record was equalled by Andreas Thoma. This time, the bK is close to the 8th rank, so it is clear it must be decoyed to a rebirth square. The key point of the solution appears after the 8th move, when the wK is checked by the bB, but 8...Ba7-b8 is not possible because bSf1 would check the wK. Another fine point is that the bB must be uncaptured on h3 and not on g4, otherwise black could defend by playing 11...Bh5-g4! Although most of the motives have been shown by forerunners, this superb display of effects deserves recognition.

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AntiCirce: The capturing piece is reborn on its initial square. The captured piece disappears from the board. The rebirth square must be empty or the capture is illegal. There are two types: Type Cheylan: captures on the rebirth square are illegal (i.e. a white rook can't capture on a1). Type Calvet: captures on the rebirth square are legal.

One more thematic composition by P. Răican:

Paul Răican
Phénix 2014
2nd Prize WJP 2014

-15 & #1   (1+3)
Proca Retractor AntiCirce

1.Ke1×Pf2! f3-f2+ 2.Ke1×Rf1 Rf2-f1+ 3.Kd2×Sd1 Rf1-f2+ 4.Ke1-d2 Rf2-f1+ 5.Ke3×Bf4 Bb8-f4+ 6.Kd2-e3 Rf1-f2+ 7.Ke1-d2 Rf2-f1+ 8.Kg4×Pf5 Sg7-e6 9.Kf4-g4 Ba7-b8+ 10.Ke3-f4 Bb8-a7+ 11.Kd2-e3 Rf1-f2+ 12. Ke1-d2 Rf2-f1+ 13.Ke6×Rd7! Se8-g7+ 14.Kd6-e6 Rc7-d7+ 15.Kc5-d6 & 1.Kb4#

After three problems with 10 moves and three problems with 12 moves, one might believe the limit has been reached. However, the next two astonishing compositions go beyond the 15 moves threshold.

WP7
Andreas Thoma
Strategems 2015

-17 & #1   (2+2)
Proca Retractor AntiCirce

1.Ke1×pd2[Ke1]   d3-d2
2.Ke1×Rd1[Ke1]   Rd2-d1+
3.Kf3×Bg2[Ke1]   Bh3-g2+
4.Kf2-f3   Rd1-d2+   5.Ke1-
f2 Rd2-d1+ 6.Kg4×Sf5[Ke1]
Bg2-h3+ 7.Kf3-g4 Bh3-g2+
8.Kf2-f3 Rd1-d2+ 9.Ke1-f2
Rd2-d1+   10.Kh4×Bg3[Ke1]
Bb8-g3+ 11.Kg3-h4 Sd6-f5+
12.Kf2-g3 Rd1-d2+ 13.Ke1-
f2 Rd2-d1+ 14.Kd7×Be8[Ke1]
Sc8-d6+ 15.Kc7-d7 Ba7-b8+
16.Kb6-a7 Bb8-a7+ 17.Kc5-b6
& 1.Kb4#

We recognize the same kings pattern as in **WP1**, so the same mate is expected to occur. However the bSa2 must be first neutralized. Apparently this can be easily done, but the presence of wSf1 hinders the uncapture of a bS on this square, so another one must be found. After the uncapture of the bS on the surprising square f5, there occurs another surprising uncapture of a bB on g3, decoying the bB on b8, respectively the bS on d6. White uncaptures another bB on e8, exposing again the wK to a double check as in **WP3**, hence forcing the bS to further move on c8. A magnificent concept!

The absolute length record in Wenigsteiner Proca Retractor AntiCirce is held by **WP8**. Please note the similarities with **WP4**: the mate must be delivered on b1, the Bishop pendulum is created thanks to the uncaptures of bSd1 and bBf4, and the bP is used to provide an extra tempo retraction. Now let's focus on the original motives: white must decoy bBb3 to block e8. First bP uncapture on g6 fails, as black is not yet

forced to play 8...Bf7-b3+. The second uncapture on g6 on the 13th move leaves black no choice but to retract its B to f7. This Bishop is then forced to occupy e8 on the 16th move.

WP8
Paul Răican
Phénix 2007

-18 & #1   (1+3)
Proca Retractor AntiCirce

1.Ke1×pf2[Ke1]   f3-f2+
2.Ke1×Rf1[Ke1]   Rf2-f1+
3.Kd2×Sd1[Ke1]   Rf1-
f2+   4.Ke1-d2   Rf2-f1+
5.Ke3×Bf4[Ke1]   Bb8-f4+
6.Kd2-e3 Rf1-f2+   7.Ke1-
d2 Rf2-f1+ 8.Kf5×pg6[Ke1]
g7-g6+   9.Kf4-f5   Ba7-b8+
10.Ke3-f4 Bb8-a7+ 11.Kd2-
e3 Rf1-f2+ 12.Ke1-d2 Rf2-
f1+ 13.Kf5×pg6[Ke1] Bf7-b3+
14.Ke5-f5 Ba7-b8+ 15.Kd4-e5
Bb8-a7+ 16.Kc4-d4 Be8-f7+
17.Kb3-c4 a5-a4+ 18.Kc2-b3
& 1.Kb1#

Let's hope some inspired readers will be able to break the 20-move length for a Proca Retractor AntiCirce in Wenigsteiner!

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Scene from *The Prisoner*, a British TV series from the late 1960s
[Credit: writeups.org & Roy Cowan]

Messigny et Ventoux, Côte d'Or, Burgundy
[Copyright: Christophe Finot]

"By hook or by crook, we will."
— (The new) Number Two, *The Prisoner*

Pawn:* Excelsior by Pr⌀xy.

Six. Adrian Storisteanu

ser-h=13 messigny
pwc anti-supercirce

In regard to Number Six (above): the question how can black manipulate (by its one-sided self) the passive (and hence quite reluctant) white pawn and king has, in fact, already been answered (right at the top) (It applies to all the numbers.):

1.**Ka8↔Kc8** 2.Kc8-d7 3.Ke6 4.Kf5
5.Kg4 6.Kh3 7.Kh3xh2[bKh2→h4][+wPh3]
8.Kh4xh3[bKh3→h5][+wPh4]
9.Kh5xh4[bKh4→h6][+wPh5] 10.Kh6xh5[bKh5→h7]
[+wPh6] 11.Kh7xh6[bKh6→h8][+wPh7]
12.Kh8xh7[bKh7→g7][+wPh8=R]
13.Kg7xh8[bKh8→c8][+wRg7] **Ka8↔Kc8** =

The bK drags the unresponsive wK and wP around – choreographing a kind of dance of the dead – by means of the suitable fairy condition for each: by hook (messigny) and by crook (pwc) respectively; the anti-supercirce provides an extra measure of expediency.

It does not really matter which side you are on. The problem can be restated as a (less common) series auto-stalemate, by turning both colours and board upside-down – **Ka1 / Kc1 ph7** (1+2) ser-!=14 messigny pwc anti-supercirce.

Rook:* Many happy Returns.

Two. Adrian Storisteanu
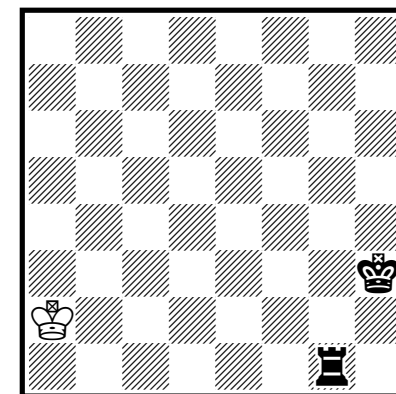
ser-!=11 messigny
pwc take&make

1.Ka2↔Kh3 2.Kh3-h2 3.Kh2xg1-g3[+bR*h2*]
4.Kg3xh2-f2[+bR**g3**] 5.Kf2↔Ka2 6.Ka2-a1
7.Ka1↔Kf2 8.Kf2xg3-g1[+bR**f2**] 9.Kg1xf2-
h2[+bR**g1**] 10.Kh2xg1-c1[+bR*h2*] 11.Kc1↔Ka1 !=

Here it is the bR that's being pushed. The wK brings

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This short so-called article, its problems, and any of its intended and particularly unintended references are all works of fiction. Any thematic similarities or vague parallels to any subject matter in *Storming Fortresses* and other articles and compositions elsewhere in this magazine are purely coincidental. The problems are original for the *Bulletin*.
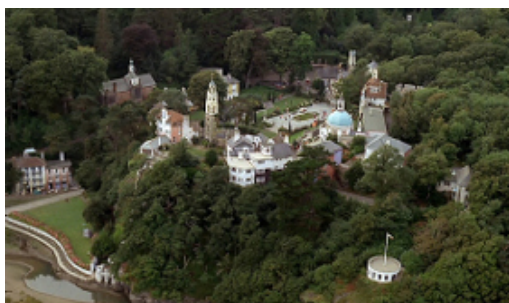
The Village, location unknown
[Credit: writeups.org & Roy Cowan]

a resigned R to its final spot h2 early in the solution, but then, in a change of mind, it gives it an extra, full spin... A whirly twirly ripply bRook rundlauf.

This setting was for the keen solver. Its essence can be distilled – the other Number Two (below) – for the minimalist (or, perhaps, more pragmatic) composer:

Two. Adrian Storisteanu
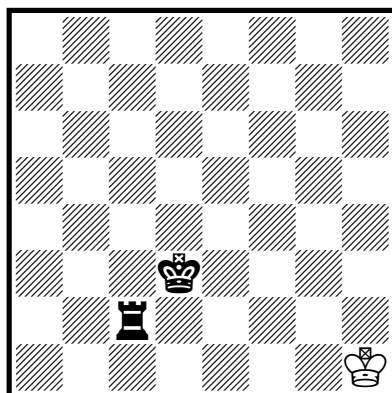
ser-!=6   messigny
pwc take&make

1.Kh1↔Kd3 2.Kd3xc2-e2[+bR**d3**]
3.Ke2xd3-d1[+bR**e2**] 4.Kd1xe2-c2[+bR**d1**]
5.Kc2xd1-f1[+bR**c2**] 6.Kf1↔Kh1 !=
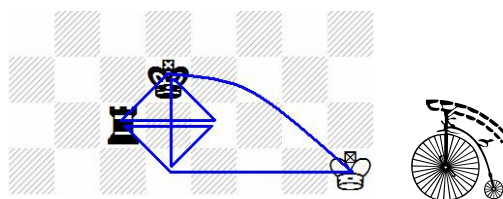
a. Rundlauf by c-Rook, to facilitate rundlauf by wK;
b. for the fan of somewhat longer rides, there is also bK→h7, ser-!=10 messigny pwc anti-supercirce;
and c. for the rover, it is possible to go quite a bit farther. The tally: *ho*, eleven moves (or even twelve,

as a ser-!= with the colours reversed)! *Twice!* Here's Number One, in the series finale:

One. Adrian Storisteanu
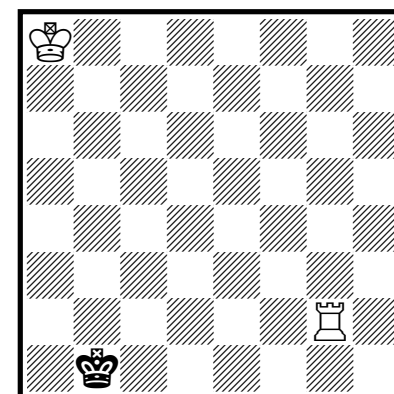
ser-h=11 messigny
pwc take&make
two solutions

1.Ka1 2.Ka1↔Ka8 3.Ka8-b7 4.Kc6 5.Kd5 6.Ke4
7.Kf3 8.Kf3xg2-e2[+wR**f3**] 9.Ke2xf3-f1[+wR**e2**]
10.Kf1xe2-g2[+wR**f1**] 11.Kg2xf1-c1[+wR**g2**]
Ka1↔Kc1 =

1.Kc1 2.Kd1 3.Ke1 4.Kf1 5.Kf1xg2-e2[+wR**f1**]
6.Ke2xf1-d1[+wR**e2**] 7.Kd1xe2-c2[+wR**d1**]
8.Kc2xd1-b1[+wR**c2**] 9.Kb1xc2-a2[+wR**b1**]
10.Ka2xb1-b3[+wR**a2**] 11.Kb3xa2-a6[+wR**b3**]
Ka8↔Ka6 =

Two distinct wR itinerary patterns: first a merry-go-round, and then a zigzag (*"Where am I?!"*…). Corner chameleon echoes.

Be seeing you,

Adrian Storisteanu

[Filed, stamped, numbered, etc.:
December 2015. *In Toronto.*]

(*"We're all pawns, m'dear."*)
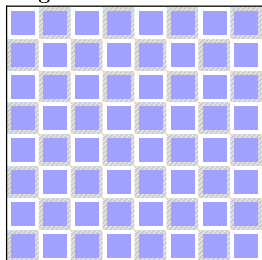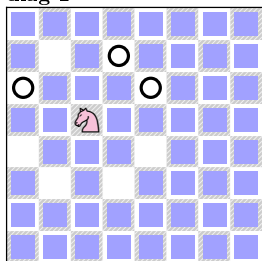
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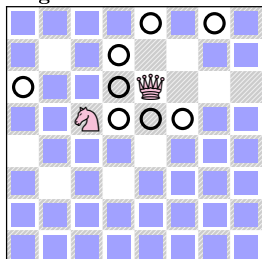
Ataques Igualitarios: Computer Records   by François Labelle

The previous *Bulletin* had an article on the *Ataques Igualitarios* challenge, which consists of 363 separate tasks, several of which were not even attempted. I was wondering if the tasks could be solved by a computer. I knew that enumerating every possible diagram would be too slow, but I had an idea for a program which I thought had a chance of working in a reasonable amount of time. I wrote the program to try it, and after some tweaking I was able to find optimal diagrams for all tasks with 1 unit type in 1.4 minutes, and for all tasks with 2 unit types (excepted QK-*-1 and QK-*-2) in 2.4 days. Among all 72 tasks with 1 unit type, I confirmed 30 records, improved 9 records, and created 23 new records (solved tasks that weren't attempted). Among all 106 tasks with 2 unit types, I confirmed 19 records, improved 22 records, and created 58 new records.

Each task description consists of a set of allowed unit types and an "attack number", for example SQ and 5. The goal is to place the maximum number of allowed units on the board such that the number of empty squares that each unit attacks is equal to the attack number. Furthermore, for 2 unit types or more, the number of units of each type must be equal. My program works on one task at a time. Before I describe my search algorithm, I need to define two special pieces that I'll use in addition to the regular chess pieces. One represents a "piece of unknown type", and the other represents a "square with unknown content" (which means a piece of unknown type or an empty square). The search proceeds in a tree fashion. The root is a board entirely filled with "squares with unknown content" (**diag 1**). Then, while there is still at least one special piece on the board, I pick one and "expand" it. Expanding means setting it to every possible allowed chess piece (or empty), and in the case of a piece, setting the squares with unknown content that it attacks to every possible combination of "piece of unknown type" and "empty square" that leads to the correct number of empty squares (**diag 2**). The resulting chessboards become children in the search tree and are expanded recursively (**diag 3**). The search is exhaustive, so the records that are found are optimal.

When picking a special piece to expand, any one will do, but with a careful choice the search will terminate much sooner. In general, one should expand close to squares that have already

been set to a piece or to an empty square, so that constraints and contradictions can be discovered early in the search. A good expansion order is to give priority to "pieces of unknown type" over "squares with unknown content", and to give priority to squares at the top of the board to trigger filling the board from top to bottom. Top-to-bottom is better than bottom-to-top because white pawns attack one rank higher, and it's helpful if the attacked squares have already been set to pieces or to empty.

Below are the records found (RQ-10-14 was found by Cornel slightly earlier). For each task, I report a solution with the maximum number of pieces, and in the case of a tie, a solution with the most symmetries. I've interrupted the searches for QK-*-1 and QK-*-2 which were taking too long. I've confirmed that QK-*-1 is impossible with some human reasoning, and with a computer proof that K-x-1 is impossible for an even x.

50 of the 176 tasks that were analyzed have a unique solution up to symmetry. 8 of them have maximal symmetry, so asking for P-24-2, B-24-5, R-20-4, Q-24-7, Q-16-8, Q-12-16, SQ-16-6, or RQ-16-11 are problems with a unique solution (without having to add "up to symmetry"). 8 others have no symmetry, even if for each square we only consider the presence or the absence of a piece and ignore its type. I find this fascinating because these positions are oddly shaped, and yet they're the only solution up to symmetry: Q-9-17, Q-9-18, Q-5-23, PR-34-2, SR-26-5, SK-14-7, BQ-14-9, and BQ-12-10.

Tasks with 3 unit types or more take much longer to solve with my program. I'm currently running the analysis with a timeout of 14 days for each task, and will report on the results in an upcoming issue of the *Bulletin*.

Sidebar:

diag 1: Root board, aiming for SQ-*-5.

diag 2: One possible expansion of diag 1: we choose to put a knight at c5, and choose which 5 empty squares it will attack.

diag 3: One possible expansion of diag 2: we choose to put a queen at e6, and choose which 5 empty squares it will attack.

diag 1

diag 2

diag 3

▦ Square with unknown content
◯ Piece of unknown type

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François Labelle
Original

S-16-5
François Labelle
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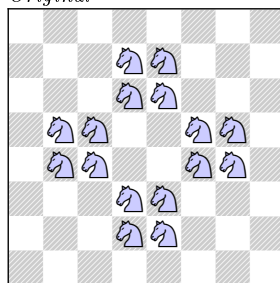
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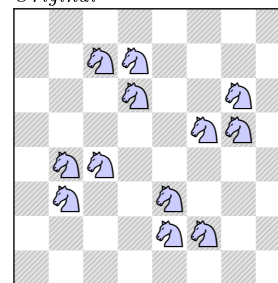
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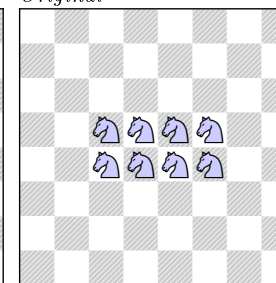
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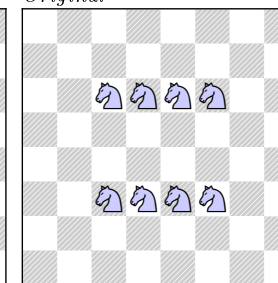
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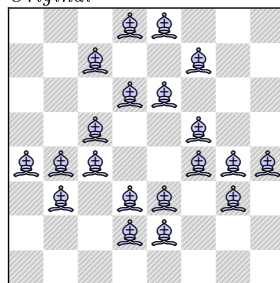
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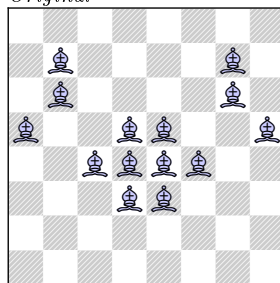
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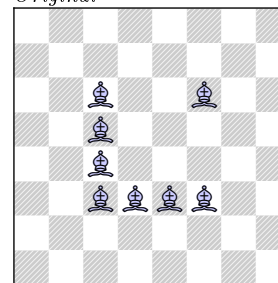
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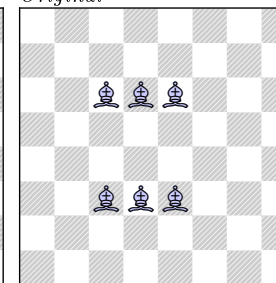
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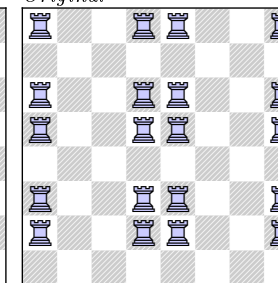
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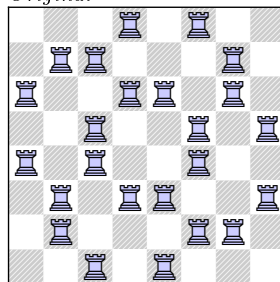
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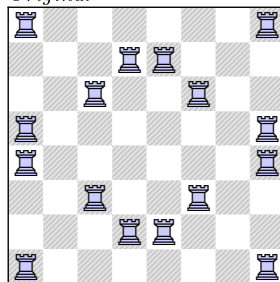
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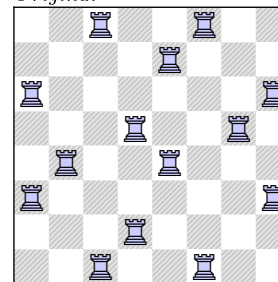
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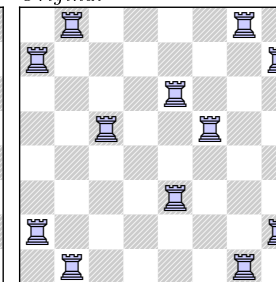
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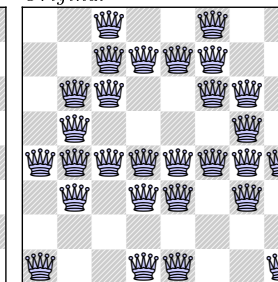
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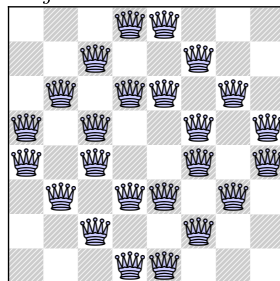
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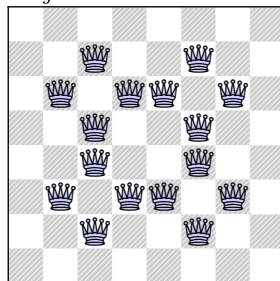
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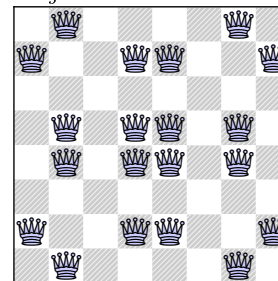
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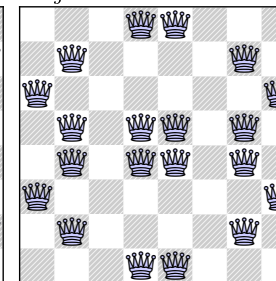
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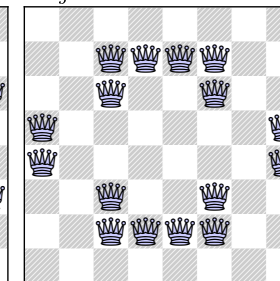
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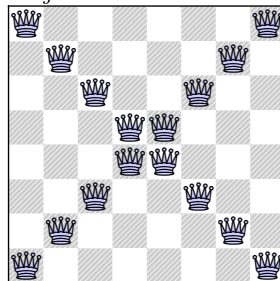
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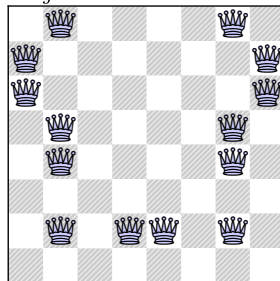
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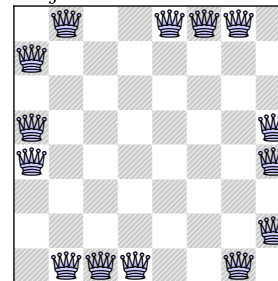
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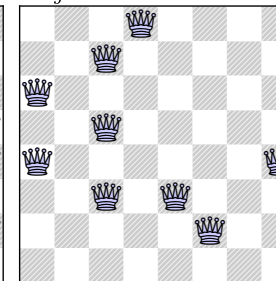
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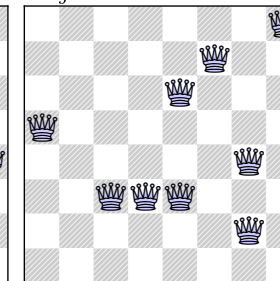
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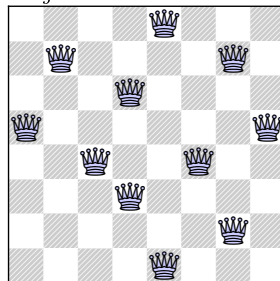
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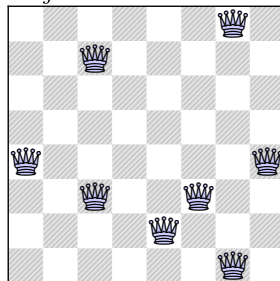
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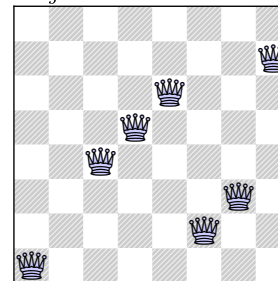
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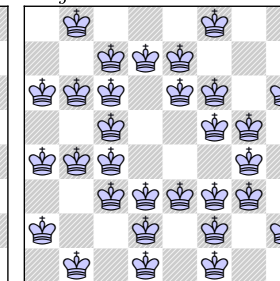
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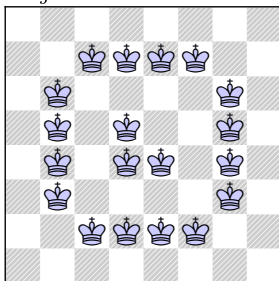
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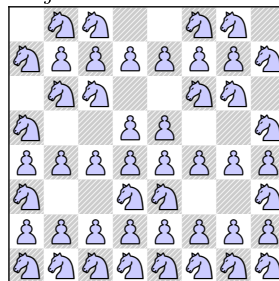
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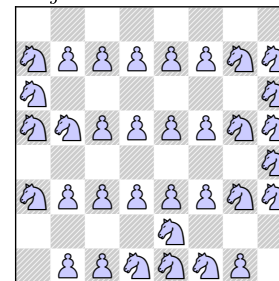
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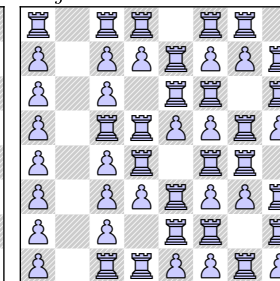
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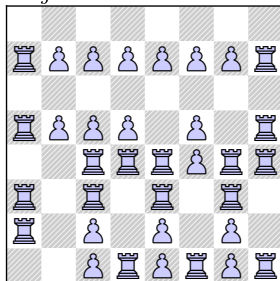
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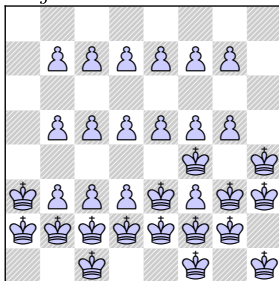
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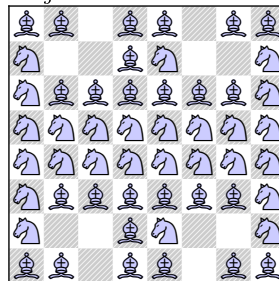
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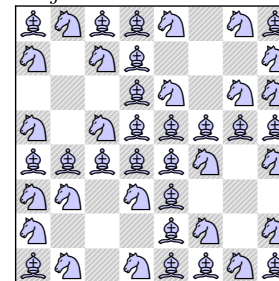
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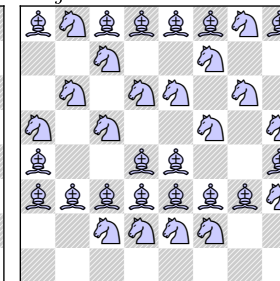
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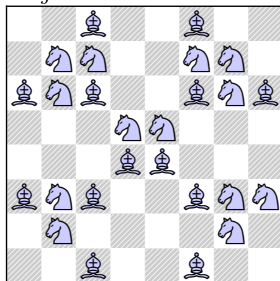
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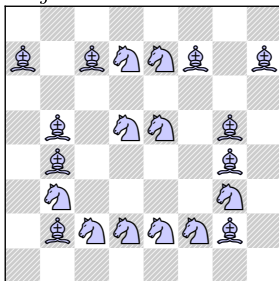
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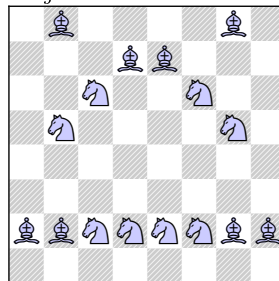
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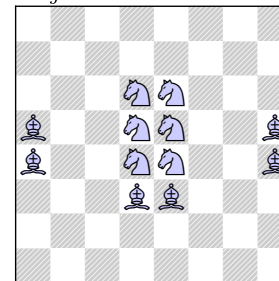
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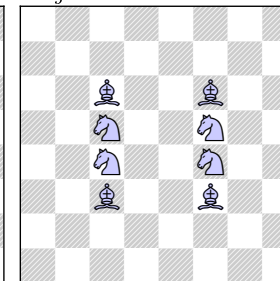
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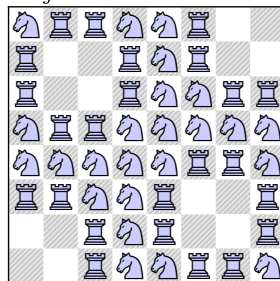
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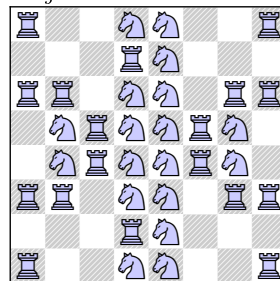
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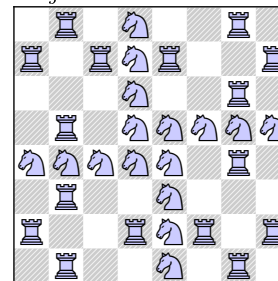
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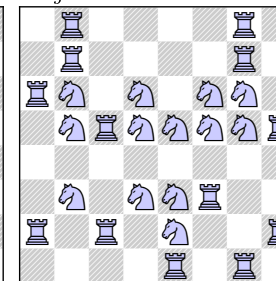
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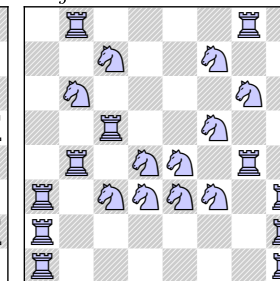
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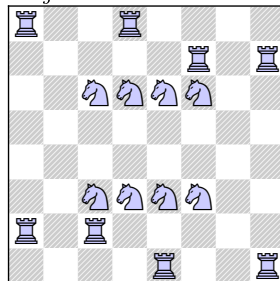
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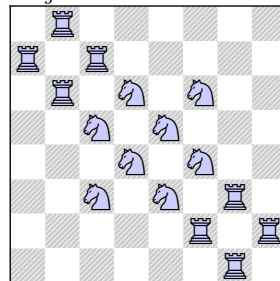
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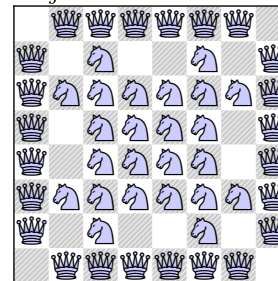
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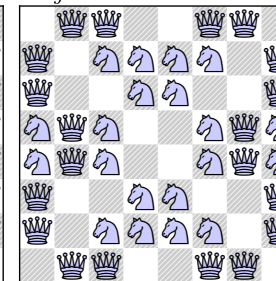
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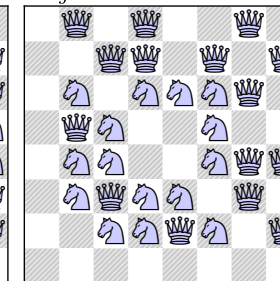
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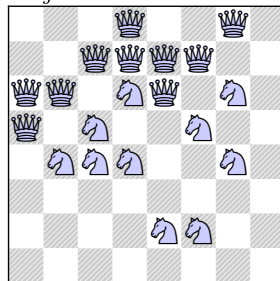
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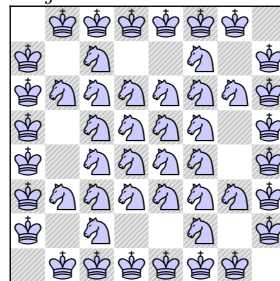
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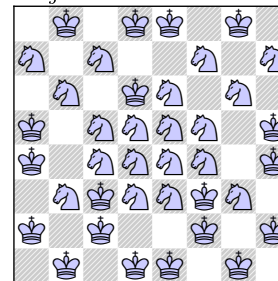
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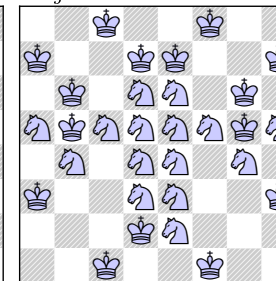
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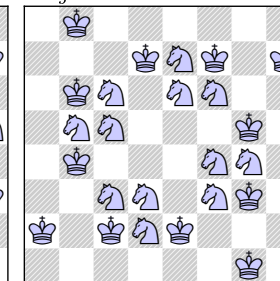
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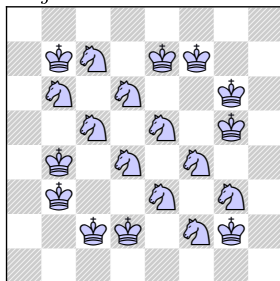
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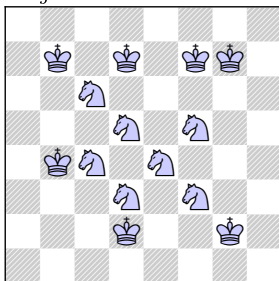
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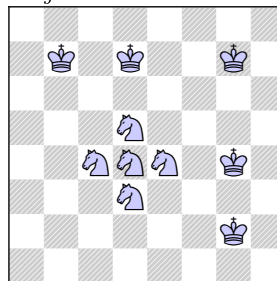
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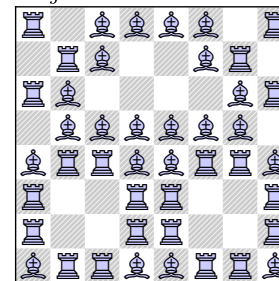
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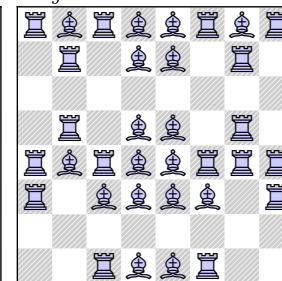
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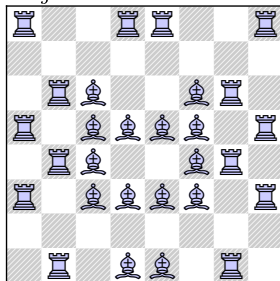
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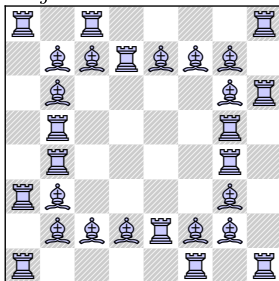
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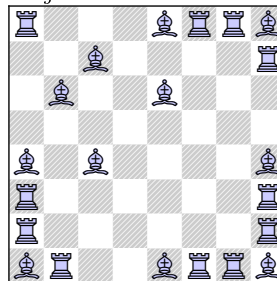
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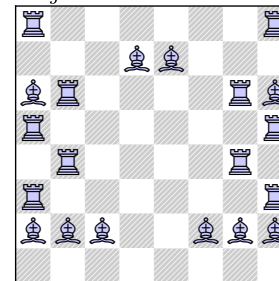
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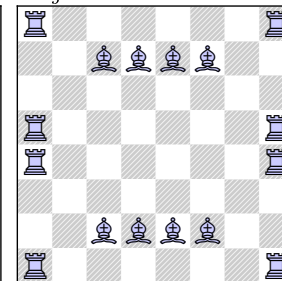
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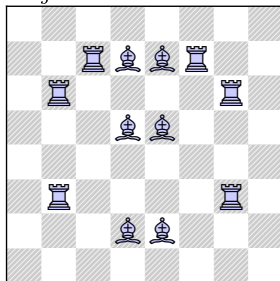
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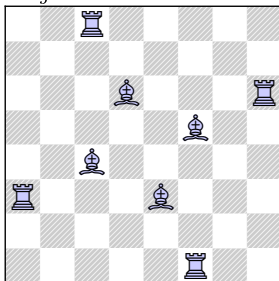
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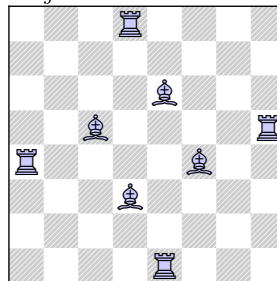
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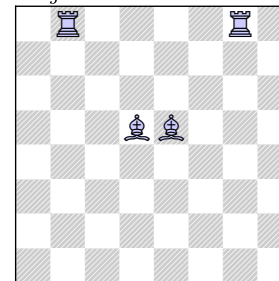
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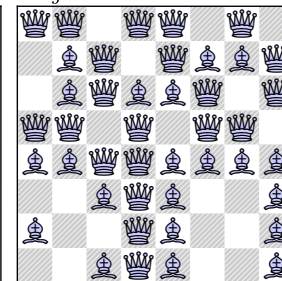
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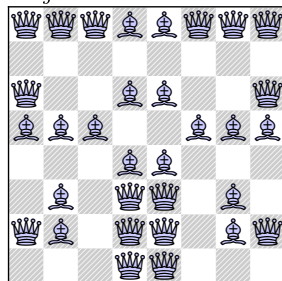
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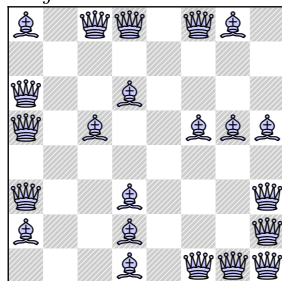
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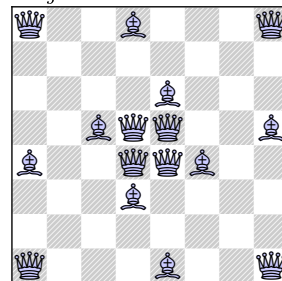
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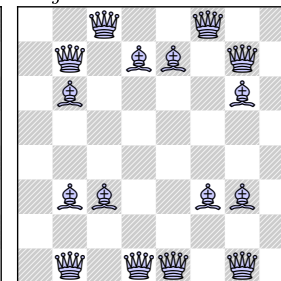
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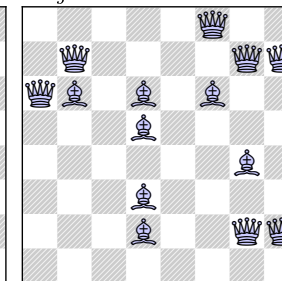
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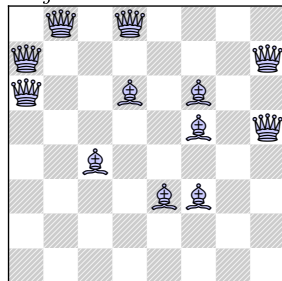
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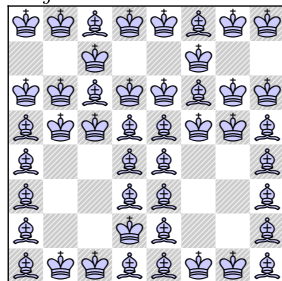
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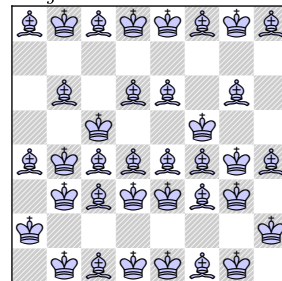
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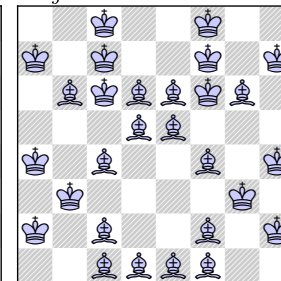
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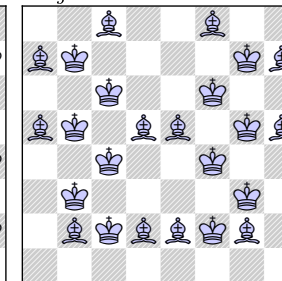
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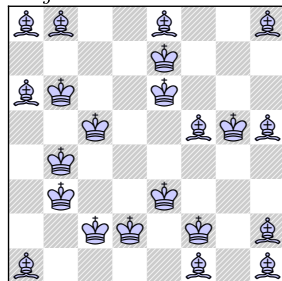
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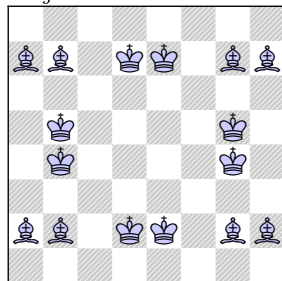
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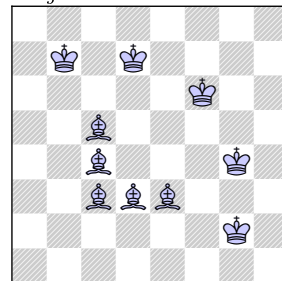
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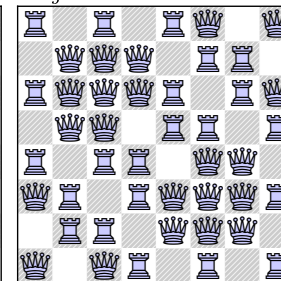
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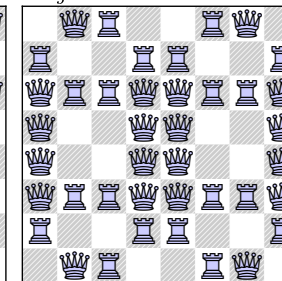
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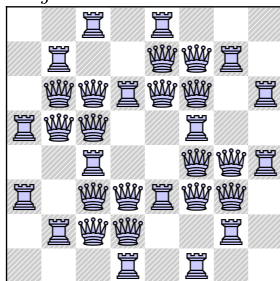
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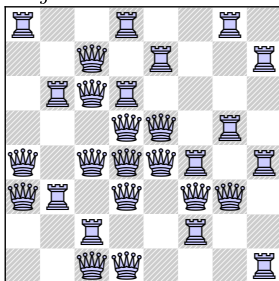
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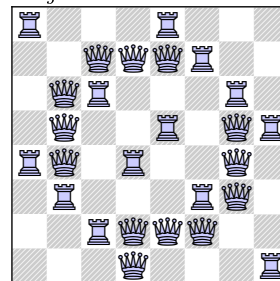
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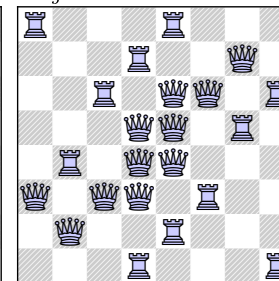
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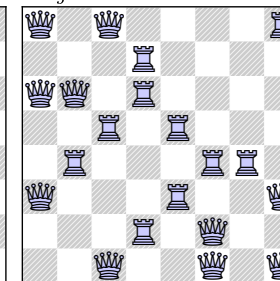
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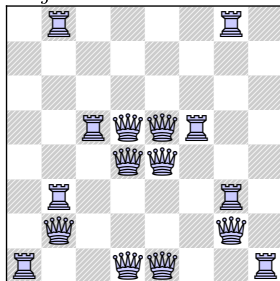
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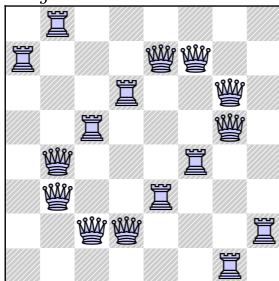
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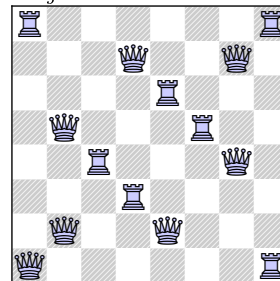
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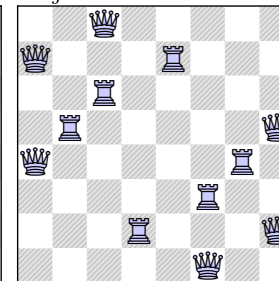
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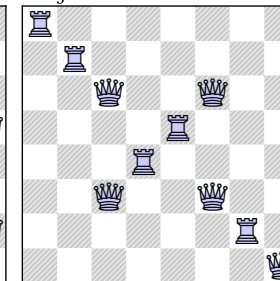
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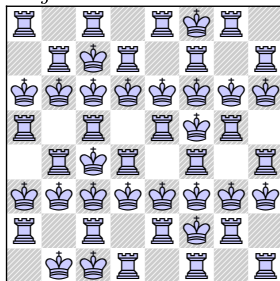
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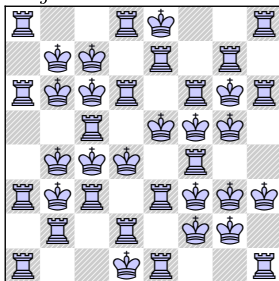
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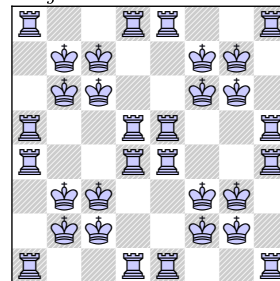
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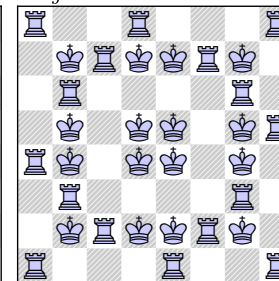
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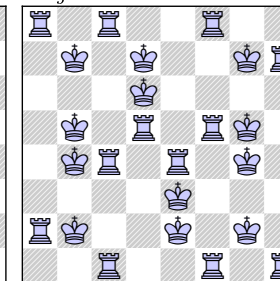
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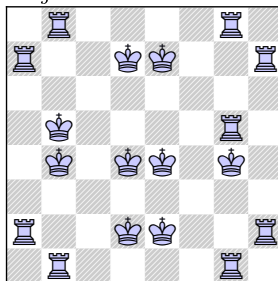
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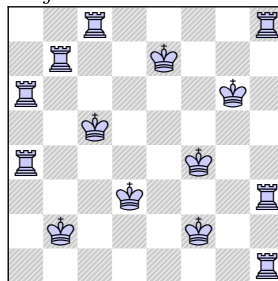
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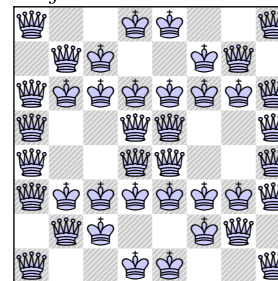
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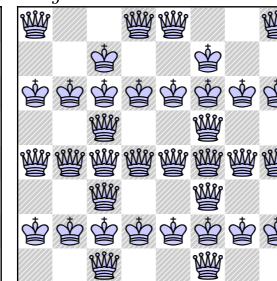
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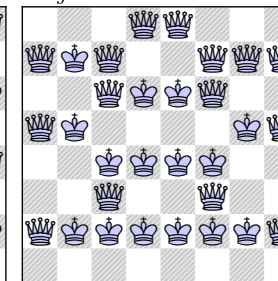
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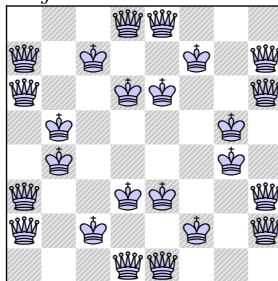
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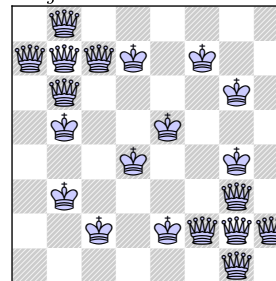
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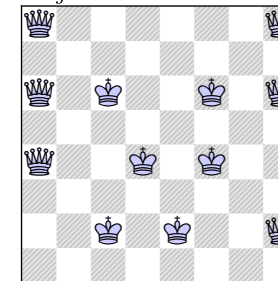
ARTICLES

"ATAQUES IGUALITARIOS"
Table of Records
(as of November 17, 2015)

Yellow: Old records.
Green: *CPB6* records.
Blue: *CPB7* records.

François Labelle
Montréal
November 17th, 2015

Group	UNITS/SQUARES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1 unit type	P	30	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S	-	44	16	24	16	12	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	B	-	32	20	14	24	16	14	8	10	-	6	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	R	40	32	20	20	24	16	18	16	16	14	12	8	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Q	55	-	-	-	28	24	16	20	20	16	16	14	14	12	12	9	9	11	8	7	2	5	-	4	-		1
	K	55	46	37	30	22	19	16	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 unit types	P+S	48	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+B	46	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+R	48	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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	S+Q	56	48	40	30	20	16	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S+K	56	48	38	30	24	20	14	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	B+R	54	44	34	28	28	22	20	16	12	8	8	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	B+Q	54	42	-	32	-	22	16	16	14	12	8	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	B+K	54	46	36	28	24	22	16	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	R+Q	54	44	40	32	28	26	22	20	16	16	16	14	12	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	R+K	54	46	38	32	32	24	18	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Q+K	-	46	40	36	30	24	20	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 unit types	P+S+B	48	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+S+R	51	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+S+Q	51	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+S+K	54	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+B+R	51	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+B+Q	51	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+B+K	51		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+R+Q	51	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+R+K	54	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+Q+K	54	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S+B+R	54	48		24						-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S+B+Q	54									-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S+B+K	54	48		24						-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S+R+Q	54	48		24	24	24				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S+R+K	54		27	24	24	18	12	12		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S+Q+K	-	48	36	24						-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	B+R+Q	54	30								12			6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	B+R+K	54	48		24						-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	B+Q+K	54									-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	R+Q+K	54	48		24			9			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 unit types	P+S+B+R	52		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+S+B+Q	52		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+S+B+K	52		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+S+R+Q	52		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+S+R+K	52		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+S+Q+K	52		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+B+R+Q	52		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+B+R+K	52		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+B+Q+K	52		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+R+Q+K	52		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S+B+R+Q	56									-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S+B+R+K	56									-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S+B+Q+K	56									-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S+R+Q+K	56									-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	B+R+Q+K	52									-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 unit types	P+S+B+R+Q	55		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+S+B+R+K	55		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+S+B+Q+K	55		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+S+R+Q+K	55		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	P+B+R+Q+K	55		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	S+B+R+Q+K	55						10			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 unit types	P+S+B+R+Q+K	54		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

ARTICLES

Series Target Square Tasks   by Arno Tüngler

Here is already the fourth article dedicated to series length records, and this time we will consider no less than three sections – all connected with target square stipulations: Series Direct, Self, and Help Target Square tasks. In *feenschach* 2002, Branko Koludrović and Hans Gruber only covered the direct field. As usual, we are quite sure that more is possible in many of the Circe tasks, especially in the self and help sections. While Branko had for decades been very creative in finding matrices that lead to high numbers, he certainly could not find them all. So you will again see some new ideas mainly in the "new" Circe sections. Please let us know when you find extensions, and feel welcome to participate in further searches on the forum of ChessProblems.ca.

First direct series movers with a target square as goal were already published in the 19th century. See for example the nice puzzle of William A. Shinkman, reprinted in 1880, at PDB/P1185104. Here the wK is explicitly indicated as the "target unit". The idea was again used in 1964 when at least two such long series-movers were published and one of them, **DZ-3**, still remains a length record! The hunt for records in the orthodox realm was - as usual - started in *Problemkiste* in 1984 and was already finished in 1988... Since then only one new length record was discovered: the absolute! In all these problems it is not important which unit occupies the target square.

ser-Z → 'Orthodox' 2–5 units

DZ-1
Theodor Steudel
Problemkiste 1985
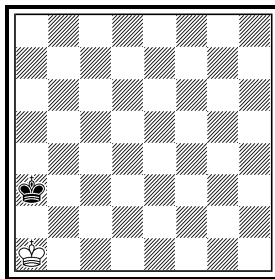
ser-Zh7 7   C+   (1+1)

DZ-1: 1.Ka1-b1 7.Kg6-h7 Z
DZ-2: 1.Kc1-b1 10.Kf4×f3 15.Kb7-a8 Z

DZ-2
Erich Bartel
Problemkiste 1984

ser-Za8 15   C+   (1+2)

DZ-3
Denisson Nixon
Diagramme und
Figuren 1964
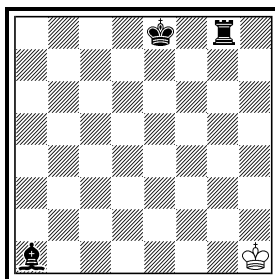
ser-Zh8 22   C+   (1+3)

DZ-3: 1.Kh1-h2 7.Kh7×g8 15.Kb1×a1 22.Kg7-h8 Z
DZ-4: 1.Kf7-e6 16.Kh6×h7 32.Ke6×f6 34.Kg7-h8 Z
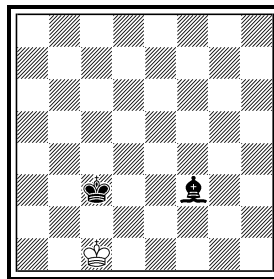
DZ-4
Erich Bartel
Problemkiste 1985
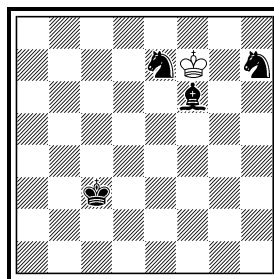
ser-Zh8 34   C+   (1+4)

Circe 3–5 units

DZ-5
Elmar & Erich Bartel
Problemkiste 1992
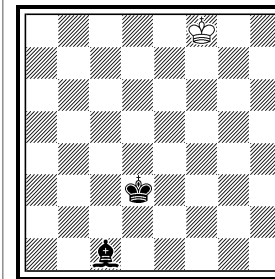
ser-Za3 21   C+   (1+2)
Circe

DZ-5: 1.Kf8-e7 8.K×c1[Bf8] 16.Ke8×f8 21.Ka3 Z

DZ-6
Kari Karhunen
Problemkiste 1992
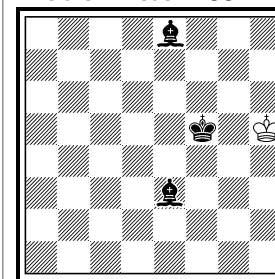
ser-Zc5 26   C+   (1+3)
Circe

DZ-7
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2006

ser-Za8 43   C+   (1+4)
Circe

DZ-6: 1.Kh5-h4 10.Ke7×e8[Bc8] 16.Kd3×e3[Bf8] 23.Ke8×f8 26.Kd6-c5 Z
DZ-7: 1.Ka8-b8 12.Kf1×e1[Sb8] 23.Kc8×b8 39.Kc5×c6[Bc8] 40.Kc6×b5[Sg8] 43.Ka7-a8 Z
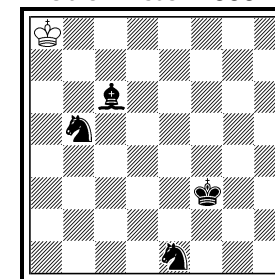
ARTICLES

When you look at "Table of Records" on LengthRecords.ChessProblems.ca you see that it is easier to achieve high numbers with the target square goals. For up to 15 units no other stipulation leads to longer series than the direct target square records. Here you see basic matrices used to their full potential.

Only Paul with his **DZ-13** was able to break one of the direct Circe tasks in our forum. That way all Circe tasks are now longer than the corresponding 'orthodox', and the smallest difference in length is in exactly this problem! Seemingly Branko has worked hard in the field and did not leave much room for improvement... Anyhow, we would be happy if you prove him wrong!

'Orthodox' 6–9 units

DZ-8
Erich Bartel
Problemkiste 1984
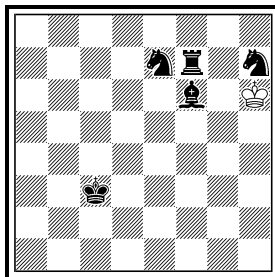
ser-Zh8 49   C+ (1+5)

DZ-8:   1.Kh6-h5   15.Ke6×f7   31.Kh6×h7   47.Ke6×f6 49.Kg7-h8 Z
DZ-9: 1.Ka5-a4 10.Kg4×h5 24.Ke6×f7 40.Kh6×h7 56.Ke6×f6 58.Kg5-h4 Z

DZ-9
Theodor Steudel
Jan Kubečka
after E. Bartel
Problemkiste 1987

ser-Zh4 58   C+ (1+6)

DZ-10
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1997

ser-Zf5 66   C+ (1+7)

DZ-10:   1.Kc8-d7   13.Kd3×c4   28.Kb7×a6   45.Kb4×a4 61.Kb7×b6 63.Kc5×d4 65.Ke5×e6 66.Ke6-f5 Z
DZ-11:   1.Kd3-d2   12.Kd7×c8   29.Kb5×a6   48.Kb8×a8 67.Kb5×b6 68.Kb6×a5 70.Kb4×b3 75.Kf7-g8 Z

DZ-11
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1988

ser-Zg8 75   C+ (1+8)

Circe 6–9 units

DZ-12
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2006

ser-Za8 52   C+ (1+5)
Circe

DZ-12: 1.Ka8-b8 17.Kb3×b4[Sb8] 32.Kc8×b8 48.Kc5×c6[Bc8] 49.Kc6×b5[Sg8] 52.Ka7-a8 Z
DZ-13: 1.Ke8-f8 13.Kd3×d4[Bf8] 25.Kg8×f8 39.Kc5×d6[Sb8] 57.Kc8×b7[Ra8] 58.Kb7×a8 59.Ka8-a7 Z

DZ-13
Paul Răican
Original

ser-Za7 59   C+ (1+6)
Circe

DZ-14
Henry Tanner
Problemkiste 2000
dedicated to Branko Koludrović

ser-Zd7 74   C+ (1+7)
Circe

DZ-14: 1.Ka7-b8 19.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 37.Kc8×b8 56.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 57.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 71.Kb7×a8 72.Ka8×b8 74.Kc8-d7 Z
**DZ-15**: 1.Ke4-e3 6.Kh4×h5[Bc8] 13.Kd8×c8 30.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 48.Kc8×b8   67.Kb5×c6[Ra8]   68.Kc6×c5[Sb8]   82.Kb7×a8 83.Ka8×b8 85.Kc8-d7 Z

DZ-15
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2000
dedicated to Henry Tanner

ser-Zd7 85   C+ (1+8)
Circe

ARTICLES

What is better – to use a black knight or a white pawn on h6 in the records with 11 to 13 units? Seems that the Tomašević duo was not so sure and showed both possibilities, one with really minimal white force and the other with the more economic pawn. For the record hunt such considerations have never played a role, as only the number of units and the question of whether the side to play is in check or not are accepted criteria.

Starting with 8 units most of the Circe tasks have d7 as the target square with a matrix that was widely used for many stipulations. The fact that d7 is in the immediate neighbourhood of the black king and so takes up to two flights has also made it the preferred target square of the wK for other direct goals.

'Orthodox' 10–13 units

DZ-16
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1988

ser-Zg8 78   C+   (1+9)

DZ-16:   1.Kf5-g5   14.Kb5×a6   31.Kd7×c8   50.Ka7×a8
69.Kd7×c7 71.Kb6×a5 73.Kb4×b3 78.Kf7-g8 Z
DZ-17: 1.Ke7-d8 16.Kh4×h5 32.Kd8×e8 49.Kg5×f6 67.Ke8×f8
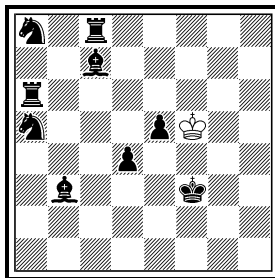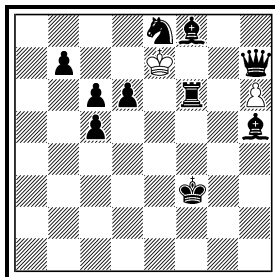87.Ke6×d6 88.Kd6-c5 Z

DZ-17
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1988

ser-Zc5 88 C+ (1+10)

DZ-18
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1988

ser-Zb4   C+   (2+10)
94

DZ-19
Miloš Tomašević
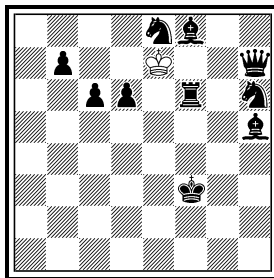**Radovan Tomašević**
Problemkiste 1988

ser-Zb4   C+ (2+11)
99

DZ-18: 1.Ke7-d8 17.Kh4×h5 34.Kd8×e8 52.Kg5×f6 71.Ke8×f8
92.Ke6×d6 93.Kd6×c5 94.Kc5-b4 Z
DZ-19: 1.Ke7-d8 18.Kh4×h5 36.Kd8×e8 55.Kg5×f6 75.Ke8×f8
97.Ke6×d6 98.Kd6×c5 99.Kc5-b4 Z
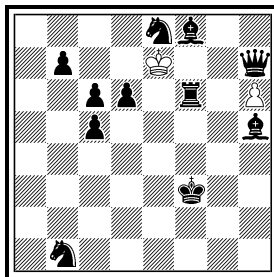
Circe 10–13 units

DZ-20
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2000
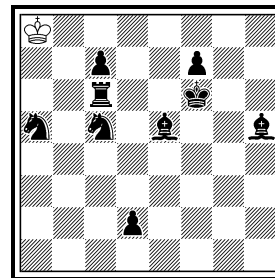
ser-Zd7 88   C+   (1+9)
Circe

DZ-20:   1.Kb5-b4   9.Kh4×h5[Bc8]   16.Kd8×c8   33.Kb4×a5
[Sb8] 51.Kc8×b8 70.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 71.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 85.Kb7×a8
86.Ka8×b8 88.Kc8-d7 Z
DZ-21: 1.Ka8-b8 19.Kb8×a7 38.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 56.Kc8×b8
75.Kb5×c6[Ra8]   76.Kc6×c5[Sb8]   90.Kb7×a8   91.Ka8×b8
93.Kc8-d7 Z

DZ-21
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2000

ser-Zd7 93   C+   (3+8)
Circe

DZ-22
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2001

ser-Zd7 97   C+   (3+9)
Circe

DZ-23
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2001

ser-Zd7   C+   (3+10)
103   Circe

DZ-22:   1.Ka8-b8   15.Kb8-a8   16.f3×e4   38.Kb4×a5[Sb8]
59.Kc8×b8   79.Kb5×c6[Ra8]   80.Kc6×c5[Sb8]   94.Kb7×a8
95.Ka8×b8 97.Kc8-d7 Z
DZ-23: 1.Ke2-f2 20.Kb8×a7 40.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 59.Kc8×b8
81.Kb5×c6[Ra8]   82.Kc6×c5[Sb8]   100.Kb7×a8   101.Ka8×b8
103.Kc8-d7 Z

ARTICLES

All remaining 'orthodox' records utilize the Kemp mechanism but that does not mean that they are all the same. As you see on the diagrams there is quite a variety of squares for the black monarch: d3, e6, c5, and c6! The three problems with the bK on e6 make use very elegantly of the fact that it is impossible for the wP to reach the promotion rank. Thus the wK needs to take the final walk after the black spider in the middle of the net is eliminated.

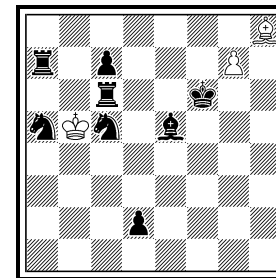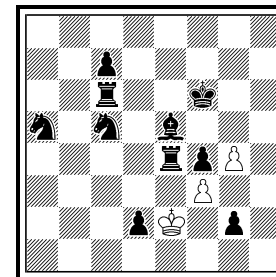**DZ**-29 to **DZ**-31 use a special Circe idea to add moves. The hindering black rook on e4 may only be captured after its rebirth square is occupied by the white king! You will see later this concept used mostly with the black queen.

'Orthodox' 14–17 units

DZ-24
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1988

ser-Zh5   C+ (2+12)
107

DZ-25
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
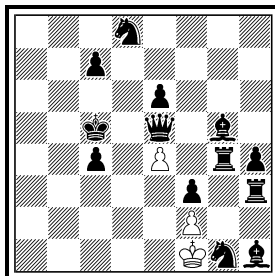**Problemkiste 1988**

ser-Zg3   C+ (2+13)
113
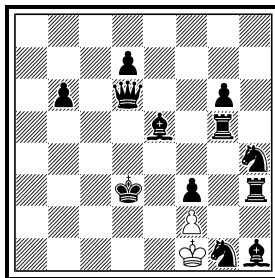
DZ-24: 1.Kf1-e1 18.Kh6×g5 37.Kf1×g1 58.Kg4×h3 59.Kh3×h4 80.Kg1×h1 102.Kg4×f3 103.Kf3-g4 106.f5×g6 107.Kg4-h5 Z
DZ-25: 1.Kf1-e1 19.Kh5×g4 39.Kf1×g1 60.Kg4×h3 82.Kg1×h1 104.Kg4×f3 105.Kf3-e2 107.f4×e5 108.Ke2×e3 111.Kg4×g5 112.Kg5×h4 113.Kh4-g3 Z

DZ-26
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1988

ser-Zg3   C+ (3+13)
115

DZ-27
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1988

ser-Zc1   C+ (2+15)
119

DZ-26: 1.Kf1-e1 20.Kh5×g4 41.Kf1×g1 63.Kg4×h3 86.Kg1×h1 109.Kg4×f3 110.Kf3-g4 111.f2-f4 112.f4×e5 113.Kg4×g5 114.Kg5×h4 115.Kh4-g3 Z
DZ-27: 1.Kf1-e1 19.Kh5×g4 39.Kf1×g1 60.Kg4×h3 82.Kg1×h1 104.Kg4×f3 105.Kf3-e2 107.f4×e5 108.Ke2×e3 115.Kb4×b5 116.Kb5×a4 117.Ka4-a3 118.Ka3×b2 119.Kb2-c1 Z
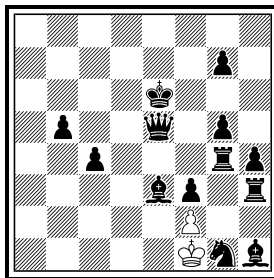
Circe 14–17 units

DZ-28
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2000
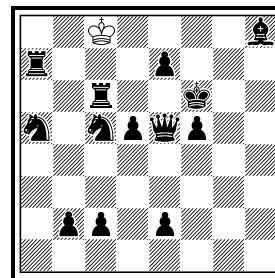
ser-Zd7   C+ (1+13)
115   Circe

DZ-29
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2001

ser-Zd7   C+ (3+12)
121   Circe

DZ-28: 1.Kd8 14.K×c2[Bc7] 30.K×a7 51.K×a5[Sb8] 71.K×b8 92.K×c6[Ra8] 93.K×c5[Sb8] 112.K×a8 113.K×b8 114.Kc8 115.Kd7 Z
DZ-29: 1.Kd6-c7 15.Kd2×c2[Bc7] 32.Kc2-a8 33.f3×e4 55.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 76.Kc8×b8 98.Kd5×c6[Ra8] 99.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 118.Kb7×a8 119.Ka8×b8 121.Kc8-d7 Z

DZ-30
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2001

ser-Zd7 122   (3+13)
Circe

DZ-31
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2001

ser-Zd7 128   (5+12)
Circe

DZ-30: 1.Kd6-c7 15.Kd2×c2[Bc7] 32.Kc2-a8 33.f3×e4 55.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 76.Kc8×b8 99.Kd5×c6[Ra8] 100.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 119.Kb7×a8 120.Ka8×b8 122.Kc8-d7 Z
DZ-31: 1.Kh4-h5 7.Ke8-d8 8.f2×g3 22.Kd2×c2[Pc7] 39.Kc2-a8 40.f3×e4 62.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 83.Kc8×b8 105.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 106.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 125.Kb7×a8 126.Ka8×b8 128.Kc8-d7 Z

ARTICLES
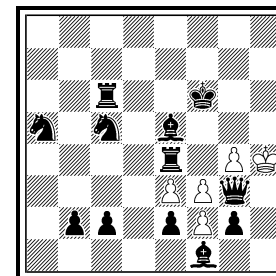
There are four different target squares in the four 'orthodox' tasks to the right – demonstrating the skills of their authors, and yet another important point when looking for length with this stipulation. **DZ-35** and **DZ-40** have the well protected target square b2 that can only be reached by the wK on time although there would be opportunity to promote the pawn and move the promoted unit.

There is no Circe record with 21 units, whereas for 22 units Branko switched to another matrix allowing the use of "his" sluice – a pretty alternative to the Zeller trap that is also adding quite a few additional moves by the penduling white bishop.

'Orthodox' 18–21 units

DZ-32
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1988

ser-Zc1   C+ (2+16)
121

DZ-32: 1.Kh6-h7 19.Kh5×g4 39.Kf1×g1 60.Kg4×h3 82.Kg1×h1 104.Kg4×f3 105.Kf3-e2 107.f4×e5 108.Ke2×e3 116.Kb4×b5 117.Kb5×a4 119.Kb4×c3 120.Kc3 ×b2 121.Kb2-c1 Z

DZ-33
Jan Kubečka
Problemkiste 1988

ser-Zh5   C+ (3+16)
124

DZ-33: 1.Kf1-e1 15.Kb1×c1 31.Kh6×g5 51.Kf1×g1 73.Kg4×h3 96.Kg1×h1 119.Kg4×f3 120.Kf3-g4 123.f5×g6 124.Kg4-h5 Z

DZ-34
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1988

ser-Zg3   C+ (6+14)
125

DZ-34: 1.Kf1-e1 5.Kb1-a1 6.Ba2-b1 22.Kh5-g4 38.Ka2-a1 39.Bb1-a2 45.Kf1×g1 51.Kb1-a1 52.Ba2-b1 69.Kg4×h3 86.Ka2-a1 87.Bb1-a2 94.Kg1×h1 101.Kb1-a1 102.Ba2-b1 119.Kg4×f3 120.Kf3-g4 122.f4×e5 123.Kg4×g5 124.Kg5×h4 125.Kh4-g3 Z

DZ-35
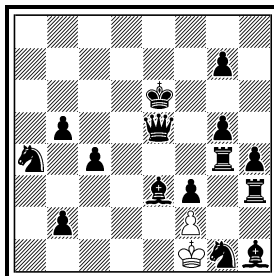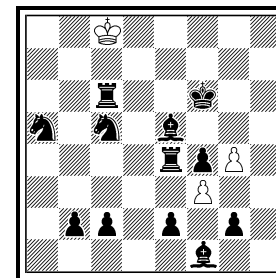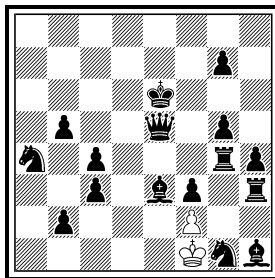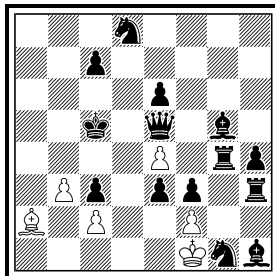**Miloš Tomašević**
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1988

ser-Zb2   C+ (7+14)
126

DZ-35: 1.Kf1-e1 5.Kb1-a1 6.Ba2-b1 22.Kh5-g4 38.Ka2-a1 39.Bb1-a2 45.Kf1×g1 51.Kb1-a1 52.Ba2-b1 69.Kg4×h3 86.Ka2-a1 87.Bb1-a2 94.Kg1×h1 101.Kb1-a1 102.Ba2-b1 119.Kg4×f3 120.Kf3-e4 122.f4×e5 123.e5×d6 124.Ke4×d4 125.Kd4×c3 126.Kc3-b2 Z

Circe 18–22 units

DZ-36
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2001
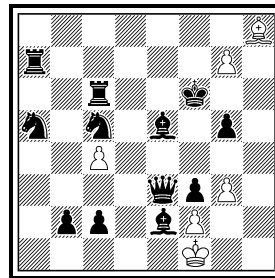
ser-Zd7   C+ (6+12)
132   Circe

DZ-36: 1.Kf1-g1 11.Ke8-d8 12.f2×e3 26.Kd2×c2[Pc7] 43.Kb8×a7 65.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 86.Kc8×b8 108.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 109.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 129.Kb7×a8 130.Ka8×b8 132.Kc8-d7 Z

DZ-37
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2001

ser-Zd7   C+ (5+14)
134   Circe

DZ-37: 1.Kf1-g1 11.Ke8-d8 12.f2×e3 26.Kd2×c2[Pc7] 43.Kb8×a7 65.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 86.Kc8×b8 108.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 109.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 131.Kb7×a8 132.Ka8×b8 134.Kc8-d7 Z

DZ-38
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2001

ser-Zd7 135   (5+15)
Circe

DZ-38: 1.Ke8-f8 3.f3×g4 12.Ke8-d8 13.f2×e3 27.Kd2×c2[Pc7] 44.Kb8×a7   66.Kb4×a5[Sb8]   87.Kc8×b8   109.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 110.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 132.Kb7×a8 133.Ka8×b8 135.Kc8-d7 Z

DZ-39
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2001

ser-Ze7 137   (8+14)
Circe

DZ-39: 1.Kf1-g1 2.h2×g3 13.Kf2-f3 15.Bf2-g1 26.Kc5×d6[Sb8] 37.Kf2-f3 39.Bf2-e1 51.Ke8×d8[Bf8] 53.Ke8×f8 63.Kf2-f3 65.Bf2-g1 76.Kc5×b6 87.Kf2-f3 89.Bf2-e1 103.Kc8 ×b8 117.Kf2-f3 119.Bf2-g1 130.Kc5×c6[Pc7] 131.Kc6×b5[Pb7] 132.Kc5-c5 135.b6×c7 136.c7-c8=S 137.Sc8-e7 Z

ARTICLES

For 24 years those interested in records thought that nothing beyond the 128 moves of **DZ-40** was possible. **DZ-41** was a great combination from three different sources: Branko with his sluice, myself with its formation to an orthodox legal configuration (before it had only been used for Circe tasks), and Cornel combining it with the Kemp mechanism for the final position. Everything is legal, and the fact that you actually need promotions to occur in the "proof game" does not spoil the record as all units in the diagram could well be the original force. Will somebody come up with another genius idea and reach 130 moves or more?

In Circe we now have a gap: no records with 23 and 24 units! Starting with 25 units Branko came up with the Zeller trap again – this time with two white knights that totally close the trap so that there is no way out for the rooks. Thus all these problems are easily computer tested. In this configuration you need at least 15 white pieces and it is inventive how Branko uses the remaining white bishop in these examples to add moves....

'Orthodox' 22 units and Overall Records

DZ-40
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1988

ser-Zb2   C+ (7+15)
128

DZ-41
Branko Koludrović
Cornel Pacurar
Arno Tüngler
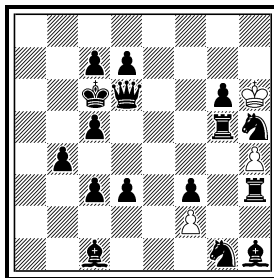**mpk-Blätter 2012**
2nd Sp. Hon. Mention
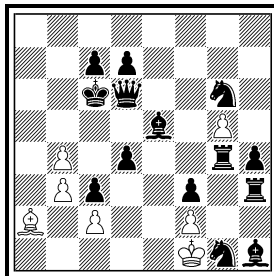

ser-Zh2   C+ (12+11)
129

DZ-40: 1.Kf1-e1 5.Kb1-a1 6.Ba2-b1 22.Kh5×g4 38.Ka2-a1 39.Bb1-a2 45.Kf1×g1 51.Kb1-a1 52.Ba2-b1 69.Kg4×h3 86.Ka2-a1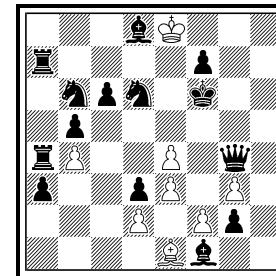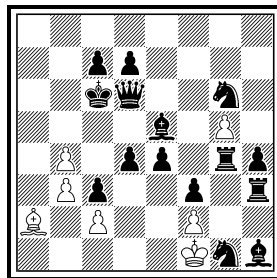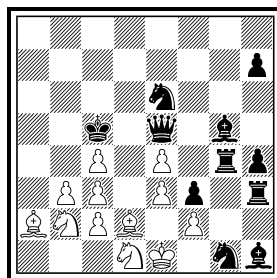 87.Bb1-a2 94.Kg1×h1 101.Kb1-a1 102.Ba2-b1 120.Kf5×e4 121.Ke4×f3 122.Kf3-e4 124.f4×e5 125.e5×d6 126.Ke4×d4 127.Kd4×c3 128.Kc3-b2 Z

DZ-42
Arno Tüngler
Chessproblems.ca 2013
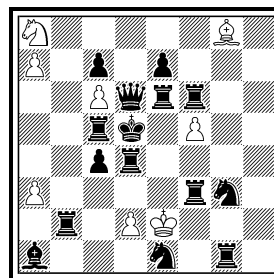*1st Prize*

ser-Ze3   C+ (8+15)
208

DZ-41: 1.Bd2-c1 3.Kd2-d3 5.Bd2-e1 9.Kb1-a1 10.Ba2-b1 22.Kg8×h7 25.Kh5×g4 38.Ka2-a1 39.Bb1-a2 43.Kd2-d3 45.Bd2-c1 49.Kf1×g1 53.Kd2-d3 55.Bd2-e1 59.Kb1-a1 60.Ba2-b1 74.Kg4×h3 88.Ka2-a1 89.Bb1-a2 93.Kd2-d3 95.Bd2-c1 100.Kg1×h1 105.Kd2-d3 107.Bd2-e1 111.Kb1-a1 112.Ba2-b1 126.Kg4×f3 127.Kf3-g2 128.f2-f4 129.Kg2-h2 Z

DZ-42: 1.Ke2-d1 8.Bd3-c2 9.d2-d3 11.Kd2-c3 12.Bc2-b3 14.Kb4-a4 25.Ba6-b5 29.Kb7-c8 38.Be8-d7 40.Kd8-e8 51.Bh5-f7 53.Kf8-g7 54.Bf7-g6 56.Kh6-g5 58.Bh5-g4 60.Kh4-h3 68.Ba4-c2

Circe 25–26 units

DZ-43
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2001
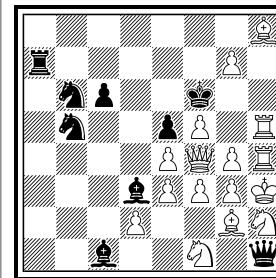
ser-Zd7   C+ (16+9)
140   Circe

DZ-44
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2001
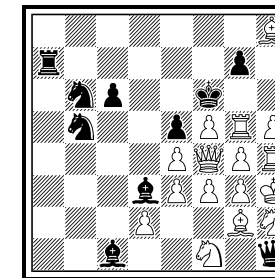
ser-Zd5   C+ (16+10)
141   Circe

DZ-42: (cont.) 70.Kh2×g1 72.Kh2-h3 80.Bh5-g4 82.Kh4-g5 84.Bh5-g6 86.Kh6-g7 87.Bg6-f7 89.Kf8-e8 100.Bc8-d7 102.Kd8-c8 111.Ba4-b5 115.Ka5-a4 126.Bd1-b3 128.Kb4-c3 129.Bb3-c2 131.Kd2-c1 133.Bd1-e2 135.Kd1×e1 137.Kd1-c1 139.Bd1-c2 141.Kd2-c3 142.Bc2-b3 144.Kb4-a4 155.Ba6-b5 159.Kb7-c8 168.Be8-d7 170.Kd8-e8 181.Bh5-f7 183.Kf8-g7 184.Bf7-g6 186.Kh6-g5 188.Bh5-g4 190.Kh4-h3 199.Bd1-e2 201.Kg2×f3 203.Kf2-e1 204.f5×e6 206.Bd1-c2 208.Kd2-e3 Z

DZ-43: 1.Rh5-g5 2.Rh4-h7 5.Kh5-h6 7.Rh5-h3 9.Kh5-h4 11.Th5-g5 18.Ke8-d8 19.Bg2×h1 26.Kh5-h4 28.Rh5-h7 30.Kh5-h6 32.Rh5-g5 40.Kd1×c1[Bf8] 48.Kh5-h6 50.Rh5-h3 52.Kh5-h4 54.Rh5-g5 59.Kg8×f8 64.Kh5-h4 66.Rh5-h7 68.Kh5-h6 70.Rh5-g5 83.Kc5×b6[Sb8] 96.Kh5-h6 98.Th5-h3 100.Kh5-h4 102.Rh5-g5 111.Kc8×b8 120.Kh5-h4 122.Rh5-h7 124.Kh5-h6 126.Rh5-g5 139.Kc5×c6[Pc7] 140.Kc6-d7 Z

DZ-44: 1.h5-h6 2.h6×g7 3.Rh4-h7 6.Kh5-h6 8.Rh5-h3 10.Kh5-h4 12.Th5-g5 19.Ke8-d8 20.Bg2×h1 27.Kh5-h4 29.Rh5-h7 31.Kh5-h6 33.Rh5-g5 41.Kd1×c1[Bf8] 49.Kh5-h6 51.Rh5-h3 53.Kh5-h4 55.Rh5-g5 60.Kg8×f8 65.Kh5-h4 67.Rh5-h7 69.Kh5-h6 71.Rh5-g5 84.Kc5×b6[Sb8] 97.Kh5-h6 99.Th5-h3 101.Kh5-h4 103.Rh5-g5 112.Kc8×b8 121.Kh5-h4 123.Rh5-h7 125.Kh5-h6 127.Rh5-g5 140.Kc5×c6[Pc7] 141.Kc6-d5 Z

ARTICLES

The last problems in the direct field are all Circe - there is no way that additional white force could be used in 'orthodox' series movers. In Circe, however, all these mostly self-blocked positions could be easily played from the orthodox initial array, as captured pieces do not need to disappear but can be reborn over and over again.

You will note that **DZ-46** again differs from the others in the matrix it uses. Yes, again a 'moved Zeller trap' with the bK one square lower, on f5! This allows for another configuration of the black units. However, all the work that went into amending the matrix has only won one additional move... For us, who love to find new records, it is always worth the effort!

Circe 27–28 units

DZ-45
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 1999
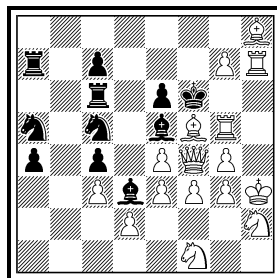
ser-Zd7 143 (16+11)
Circe

**DZ-45**: 1.Kb5-b4 12.Kh5-h6 14.Rh5-h3 16.Kh5-h4 18.Rh5-g5 28.Kb8×a7 38.Kh5-h4 40.Rh5-h7 42.Kh5-h6 44.Rh5-g5 56.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 68.Kh5-h6 70.Rh5-h3 72.Kh5-h4 74.Rh5-g5 83.Kc8 ×b8 92.Kh5-h4 94.Rh5-h7 96.Kh5-h6 98.Rh5-g5 111.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 112.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 124.Kh5-h6 126.Rh5-h3 128.Kh5-h4 130.Rh5-g5 140.Kb7×a8 141.Ka8×b8 143.Kc8-d7 Z

DZ-46
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2001

ser-Zd5 144 (14+14)
Circe

DZ-46: 1.Rh4×h6 2.Rh3-h4 3.Rh4-g4 6.h5×g6[Bc8] 7.Rh6-h2 11.Kh4-h3 13.Rh4-h6 15.Kh4-h5 17.Th4-g4 31.Kc5×d6[Sb8] 46.Kh4-h5 48.Rh4-h2 50.Kh4-h3 54.Rh4-g4 58.Ke8×d8[Bf8] 60.Ke8×f8 65.Kh4-h3 67.Rh4-h6 69.Kh4-h5 71.Rh4-g4 85.Kc5×b6 99.Kh4-h5 101.Th4-h2 103.Kh4-h3 105.Rh4-g4 113.Kd8×c8 114.Kc8×b8 123.Kh4-h3 125.Rh4-h6 127.Kh4-h5 129.Rh4-g4 143.Kc5×c6 [Pc7] 144.Kc6-d5 Z
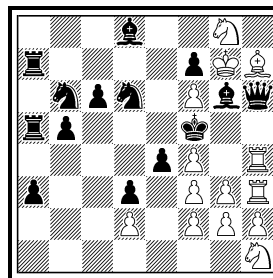
Circe 29–30 units

DZ-47
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2001
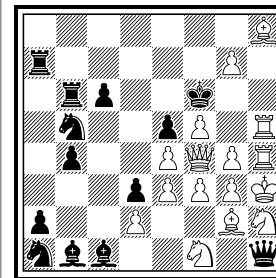
ser-Za5 C+ (16+13)
149 Circe

DZ-47: 1.Rh5-g5 2.Rh4-h7 5.Kh5-h6 7.Rh5-h3 9.Kh5-h4 11.Th5-g5 18.Ke8-d8 19.Bg2×h1 26.Kh5-h4 28.Rh5-h7 30.Kh5-h6 32.Rh5-g5 40.Kd1×c1[Bf8] 48.Kh5-h6 50.Rh5-h3 52.Kh5-h4 54.Rh5-g5 59.Kg8×f8 64.Kh5-h4 66.Rh5-h7 68.Kh5-h6 70.Rh5-g5 80.Kb2×a1[Sb8] 85.Kc5×b6 96.Kh5-h6 98.Th5-h3 100.Kh5-h4 102.Rh5-g5 113.Kc8×b8 120.Kh5-h4 122.Rh5-h7 124.Kh5-h6 126.Rh5-g5 141.Kc5×c6[Pc7] 142.Kc6×b5[Sg8] 147.Kb8×a7 149.Ka6-a5 Z

DZ-48
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2002

ser-Zc3 C+ (16+14)
151 Circe

DZ-48: 1.Rh5-g5 2.Rh4-h7 5.Kh5-h6 7.Rh5-h3 9.Kh5-h4 11.Th5-g5 18.Ke8-d8 19.Bg2×h1 26.Kh5-h4 28.Rh5-h7 30.Kh5-h6 32.Rh5-g5 40.Kd1×c1[Bf8] 48.Kh5-h6 50.Rh5-h3 52.Kh5-h4 54.Rh5-g5 59.Kg8×f8 64.Kh5-h4 66.Rh5-h7 68.Kh5-h6 70.Rh5-g5 80.Kb2×a1[Sb8] 85.Kc5×b6 96.Kh5-h6 98.Th5-h3 100.Kh5-h4 102.Rh5-g5 113.Kc8×b8 120.Kh5-h4 122.Rh5-h7 124.Kh5-h6 126.Rh5-g5 141.Kc5×c6[Pc7] 142.Kc6×b5[Sg8] 147.Kb8×a7 149.Ka6×a5[Pa7] 150.Ka5×b4[Pb7] 151.Kb4-c3 Z

ARTICLES

Circe Overall records

152 moves for the overall record with Circe does not seem much, especially when taking into account that there is a longer 'orthodox' length record for help-stalemate! Here we have even the current maximum of 31 units in a 'legal' position... However, it is not easy to find working matrices with a lot of units because everything needs to be well locked in so that the target square cannot be reached by other pieces.

Please note the combination of different ideas that we already presented earlier in the overall record with promoted force **DZ-50**. You see both the Zeller trap and the Koludrović sluice, the capture of bBf1 before the bR on c8 can be captured, the bQ capture after d8 is occupied by the wK, and only then the annihilation of the well-known North-East configuration including the twice to be captured bSg6. All this is computer tested; Popeye does not even need a minute for it!

DZ-49
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2002

ser-Zc3 152   C+   (16+15)
Circe

DZ-49: 1.h5-h6 2.h6×g7 3.Rh4-h7 6.Kh5-h6 8.Rh5-h3 10.Kh5-h4 12.Th5-g5 19.Ke8-d8 20.Bg2×h1 27.Kh5-h4 29.Rh5-h7 31.Kh5-h6 33.Rh5-g5 41.Kd1×c1[Bf8] 49.Kh5-h6 51.Rh5-h3 53.Kh5-h4 55.Rh5-g5 60.Kg8×f8 65.Kh5-h4 67.Rh5-h7 69.Kh5-h6 71.Rh5-g5 81.Kb2×a1[Sb8] 86.Kc5×b6 97.Kh5-h6 99.Th5-h3 101.Kh5-h4 103.Rh5-g5 114.Kc8×b8 121.Kh5-h4 123.Rh5-h7 125.Kh5-h6 127.Rh5-g5 142.Kc5×c6[Pc7] 143.Kc6×b5[Sg8] 148.Kb8×a7 150.Ka6×a5[Pa7] 151.Ka5×b4[Pb7] 152.Kb4-c3 Z

DZ-50
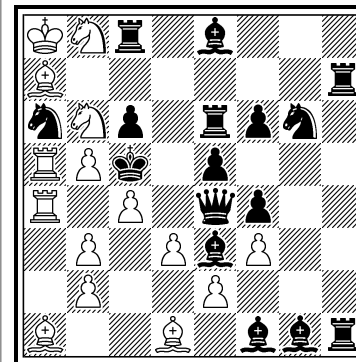**Branko Koludrović**
Arno Tüngler
Problemkiste 03/2012

ser-Zh1 212   C+   (15+16)
Circe

DZ-50:   1.Ra4-b4 2.Ra5-a2 3.b5×c6[Pc7] 5.Kb7×a6[Sg8] 8.Ka4-a3 10.Ra4-a6 12.Ka4-a5 14.Ra4-b4 20.Kc2-c3 22.Bc2-b1 26.Ke1×f1 30.Kc2-c3 32.Bc2-d1 38.Ka4-a5 40.Ra4-a2 42.Ka4 -a3 44.Ra4-b4 49.Kb8×c8[Ra8] 50.Kc8-d8 51.f3×e4 57.Ka4-a3 59.Ra4-a6 61.Ka4-a5 63.Ra4-b4 69.Kc2-c3 71.Bc2-b1 80.Kf5×e6 89.Kc2-c3 91.Bc2-d1 97.Ka4-a5 99.Ra4-a2 101.Ka4-a3 103.Ra4-b4 110.Kd8×e8[Bc8] 112.Kd8×c8 117.Ka4-a3 119.Ra4-a6 121.Ka4-a5 123.Ra4-b4 129.Kc2-c3 131.Bc2-b1 140.Kf5×g6 149.Kc2-c3 151.Bc2-d1 157.Ka4-a5 159.Ra4-a2 161.Ka4-a3 163.Ra4-b4 172.Kf8×g8 181.Ka4-a3 183.Ra4-a6 185.Ka4-a5 187.Ra4-b4 193.Kc2-c3 195.Bc2-b1 204.Kf5×f6[Pf7] 205.Kf6×e5[Pe7] 206.Ke5-f5 209.e6×f7 210.f7-f8=Q 212.Qh6-h1 Z

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'Orthodox' self target square series-movers started to be published in 1987 in *Problemkiste* but it took about 5 years until they were more thoroughly attacked by Miloš Tomašević. These problems have some advantages for construction as you often can chose the target square in a way that the only piece that can be forced to that square remains 'uncapturable' since without it the goal cannot be achieved at all! It seems that this point could still be used more fully, especially in Circe problems.

Length records for this section had not been featured in the above-mentioned article in *feenschach* 2002. The authors showed only the two overall length records of Branko at that time; the one with normal force is still valid (see **SZ-45**) although now with one unit less, while the other was beaten recently. It turned out that even the already published record with 4 units was not the maximum!

The problems with few pieces demonstrate well that you can make good use of zugzwang with this stipulation. Then the only way to go is to capture all black units and force black by zugzwang to the target square. This can be done even with 2 units – but of course without Circe effects!

ser-sZ → 'Orthodox' 2–5 units

SZ-1
Erich Bartel
Problemkiste 1987
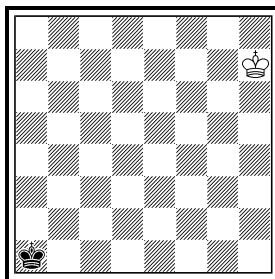
ser-sZa2 5   C+   (1+1)

SZ-1: 1.Kh7-g6 5.Kd3-c2 Ka1-a2 Z
SZ-2: 1.Ka8-b8 7.Kg8×h7 12.Kd3-c2 Ka1-a2 Z

SZ-2
Ralf Krätschmer
Jan Kubečka
Boris Slibčević
Problemkiste 1987

ser-sZa2 12   C+   (1+2)

SZ-3
Hansjörg Schiegl
Problemkiste 1987

ser-sZc2 18   C+   (2+2)

SZ-3: 1.a2-a4 5.a7-a8=Q 6.Qa8-g2 17.Kb5-c5 18.Qg2-c2+ Kc3×c2 Z
SZ-4: 1.Ka8-b7 12.Ka3×a4 23.Kc6×b6 24.Kb6-c5 27.b7-b8=Q 28.Qb8-b1 Kc3-d2 Z

SZ-4
Miloš Tomašević
Problemkiste 1992

ser-sZd2 28   C+   (2+3)
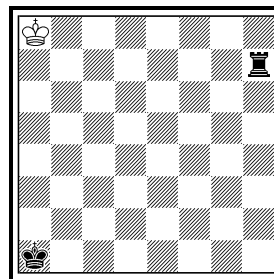
Circe 3–5 units

SZ-5
Theodor Steudel
Hans Gruber
Phenix 1989
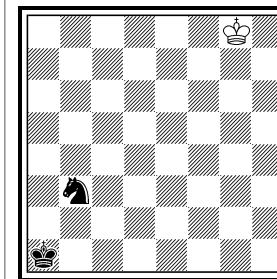
ser-sZb1 15   C+   (1+2)
Circe

SZ-5:   1.Kg8-f7   5.Kc4×b3[Sg8]   10.Kf7×g8   15.Kc4-b3 Ka1-b1 Z

SZ-6
Arno Tüngler
after Yaakov Mintz
ChessProblems.ca
Bulletin 2015
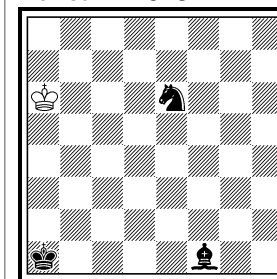
ser-sZb1 23   C+   (1+3)
Circe

SZ-6:   1.Ka6-a5 6.Ke1×f1[Bc8] 14.Kb8×c8 16.Kd7×e6 [Sg8] 18.Kf7×g8 23.Kc4-b3 Ka1-b1 Z
SZ-7: 1.Kh5-h4 3.Kh3×g2 [Ra8] 10.Kb7×a8 16.Ke3×e2 [Bc8] 23.Kb8×c8 25.Kd7×e6 [Sg8] 27.Kf7×g8 32.Kc4-b3 Ka1-b1 Z

SZ-7
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
ChessProblems.ca
Bulletin 2015

ser-sZb1 32   C+   (1+4)
Circe

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SZ-10 was an unexpected find of Cornel for a record hunting challenge of StrateGems, one of the few problem chess journals featuring series-movers in a separate column. It took 20 years to beat the old record with 8 units and it may well be that this is not yet the last word. Such surprises raise the question what else might have been overlooked...

Usually old or often used matrixes are repeated in new fields of exploration and so it is especially rewarding when new ideas are found, like in **SZ-12** with just 6 units. For a h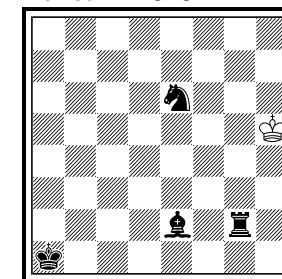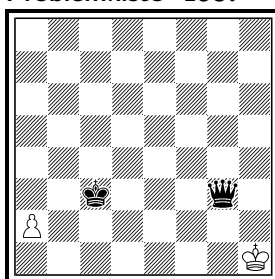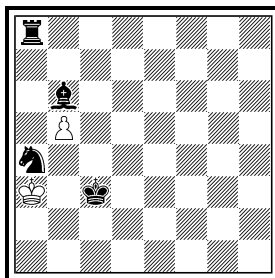uman solver it may take some time to figure out the right order of captures by the wK. Who would think that instead of grabbing the black bishop at move 5 you need to wait another 24 moves in this simple position.

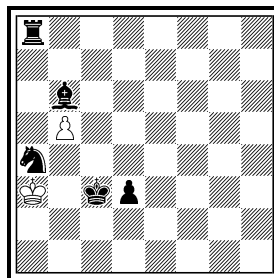## 'Orthodox' 6–9 units

SZ-8
Miloš Tomašević
Problemkiste 1992

ser-sZd2 39 C+ (2+4)

SZ-8: 1.Ka3-a2 11.Kb7×a8 23.Ka3×a4 34.Kc6×b6 35.Kb6-c5 38.b7-b8=Q 39.Qb8-b1 Kc3-d2 Z

SZ-9
Miloš Tomašević
Problemkiste 1992

ser-sZd2 45 C+ (2+5)

SZ-9: 1.Ka3-a2 13.Kb7×a8 27.Ka3×a4 40.Kc6×b6 41.Kb6-c5 44.b7-b8=Q 45.Qb8-b1 Kc3-d2/d3-d2 Z

SZ-10
Cornel Pacurar
StrateGems 2012
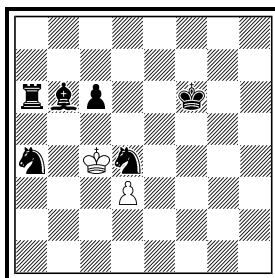
ser-sZe7 62 C+ (2+6)

SZ-10: 1.Kc4-b4 19.Kb7×a6 37.Ka3×a4 53.Kb7×b6 55.Kc5×d4 56.Kd5-e4 59.d5×c6 61.c7-c8=Q 62.Qc8-g8 Kf6-e7 Z

SZ-11
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1997

ser-sZf2 72 C+ (2+7)

SZ-11: 1.Kc8-d7 13.Kd3×c4 28.Kb7×a6 45.Kb4×a4 61.Kb7×b6 63.Kc5×d4 66.Kd6×e6 67.Ke6-f5 70.d7-d8=Q 72.Qe1-f2+ Kf3×f2 Z
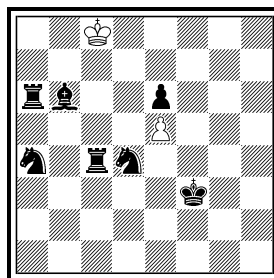
Circe 6–9 units

SZ-12
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
ChessProblems.ca
Bulletin 2015
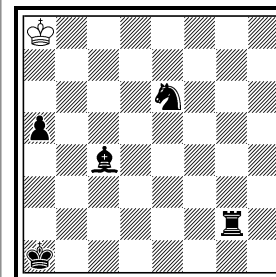
ser-sZb1 43 C+ (1+5)
Circe

SZ-12: 1.Ka8-b7 7.Kf3×g2[Ra8] 14.Kb6×a5[Pa7] 24.Kb7×a8 25.Ka8×a7 29.Kb4×c4[Bc8] 34.Kb8×c8 36.Kd7×e6[Sg8] 38.Kf7×g8 43.Kc4-b3 Ka1-b1 Z

SZ-13: 1.Ka8-b7 7.Kf3×g2[Ra8] 14.Kb6×a5[+bPa7] 27.Kb7×a8 28.Ka8×a7 32.Kb4×c4[Bc8] 35.Ke2×f1[Sg8] 43.Kb8×c8 45.Kd7×e6 47.Kf7×g8 52.Kc4-b3 Ka1-b1 Z

SZ-13
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
Original

ser-sZb1 52 C+ (1+6)
Circe

SZ-14
Branko Koludrović
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
Original
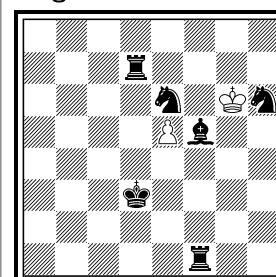
ser-sZc4 63 C+ (2+6)
Circe

SZ-14: 1.Kg6-h5 5.Kg2×f1[Ra8] 14.Kc6×d7 27.Kh5×h6[Sb8] 41.Kb7×a8 42.Ka8×b8 47.Kf6×f5[Bc8] 55.Kb8×c8 57.Kd7×e6[Sg8] 58.Ke6-f5 61.e7-e8=Q 63.Qe1-d2+ Kd3-c4 Z

SZ-15: 1.Kc4-c3 2.d4-d5 10.Kg6×h5[Ra8] 19.Kc3×b2[Rh8] 28.Kg7×h8 36.Kd4×d3[Pd7] 44.Ke7×d7 48.Kg7×g8[Bc8] 59.Kf3×f4[Bf8] 64.Kg8×f8 66.Ke7×d6[Sb8] 67.Kd6-c5 70.d7×c8=Q 71.Qc8×b8 72.Qb8-a7+ Ra8×a7[Qd1] Z
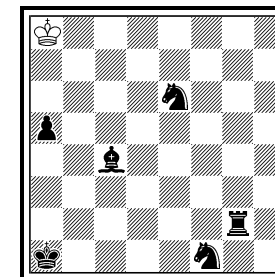
SZ-15
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
Original
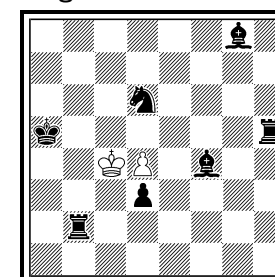
ser-sZa7 72 C+ (2+7)
Circe

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Already in 1992 the Tomašević duo explored well the known schemes that were in use for that stipulation. Note how different the three records with 11 – 13 units are, and each with a significant addition of moves to its predecessor! Tricky is **SZ-17**: the only possibility to force the bK to g2 is by zugzwang. So, the wK must take two additional moves to annihilate the bPd4 on his way to the final capture on e6, as the promoted wQ would need an additional three moves to achieve the same!

As you probably already noted, the wB in the corner in the Circe matrix starting with **SZ-21** is to obstruct the Circe rebirth of the bRa7. However, here and in some later problems that piece becomes also active in the last move when forcing by check the bK to f7. This includes also two fine details: rook promotion, and the non-capture of a pawn on the f-file that would be reborn and block the target square.

'Orthodox' 10–13 units

SZ-16
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1992

ser-sZd5 73   C+   (2+8)

SZ-17
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1992

ser-sZg2 80   C+   (2+9)

SZ-16: 1.Kf6-g5 13.Kc5×b6 28.Ke7×d8 45.Kb7×b8 62.Ke7×d7 64.Kc6×b5 66.Kc4×c3 67.Kc3-d2 72.c7-c8=Q 73.Qc8-g4+ Ke4-d5 Z

SZ-17: 1.Kd3-d2 12.Kd7×c8 29.Kb5×a6 48.Kb8×a8 67.Kb5×b6 68.Kb6×a5 70.Kb4×b3 72.Kc4×d4 75.Kd6×e6 76.Ke6-f5 79.e7-e8=Q 80.Qe8-e1 Kf3-g2 Z
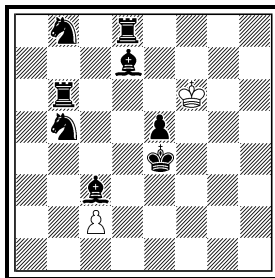
SZ-18
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1992

ser-sZb5 89   C+   (3+9)

SZ-19
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1992

ser-sZg4   C+   (3+10)
97
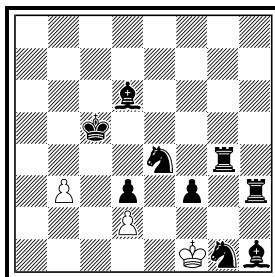
SZ-18: 1.Kf1-e1 14.Kf5×g4 29.Kf1×g1 45.Kg4×h3 62.Kg1×h1 79.Kg4×f3 81.Ke3×d3 82.Kd3-e3 84.d3×e4 88.e7-e8=Q 89.Qe8-b5+ Kc5×b5 Z

SZ-19: 1.Ke7-d8 16.Kh4×h5 32.Kd8×e8 49.Kg5×f6 67.Ke8×f8 87.Ke6×d6 88.Kd6-e5 91.d7-d8=Q 92.Qd8×h8 93.Qh8×h7 94.Qh7-c2 96.h7-h8=R 97.Rh8-h3+ Kf3-g4 Z
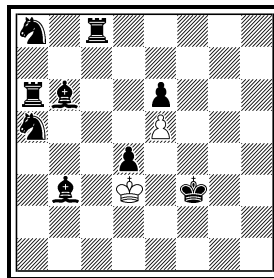
Circe 10–13 units

SZ-20
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
Original

ser-sZa7 75   C+   (2+8)
Circe

SZ-21
Paul Răican
Original
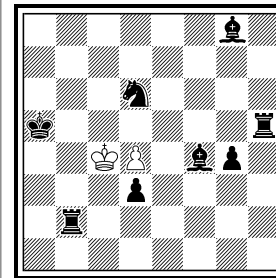
ser-sZg6 83   C+   (2+9)
Circe

SZ-20: 1.Kc4-c3 2.d4-d5 10.Kg6×h5[Ra8] 11.Kh5×g4[Pg7] 14.Kg6×g7 22.Kc3×b2[Rh8] 31.Kg7×h8 39.Kd4×d3[Pd7] 47.Ke7×d7 51.Kg7×g8[Bc8] 62.Kf3×f4[Bf8] 67.Kg8×f8 69.Ke7×d6[Sb8] 70.Kd6-c5 73.d7×c8=Q 74.Qc8×b8 75.Qb8-a7+ Ra8×a7[Qd1] Z

SZ-21: 1.Ka7-b8 9.Kh6×h5[Bc8] 16.Kd8×c8 34.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 53.Kc3×b8 73.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 74.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 76.Kc4×d3[Pd7] 77.Kd3-e4 81.d6×c7 82.c7×b8=Q 83.Qb8×e5[Bf8]+ Kf6-g6 Z

SZ-22
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
Original

ser-sZg5 94   C+   (3+9)
Circe

SZ-23
Paul Răican
Original

ser-sZf7   C+   (4+9)
104   Circe

SZ-22: 1.Kb5-b4 8.Ke3×f3[Pf7] 19.Kb8×a7 38.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 56.Kc8×b8 75.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 76.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 90.Kb7×a8 91.Ka8×b8 93.Kc8-d7 94.Rg7-g5+ Kf6×g5 [Ra1] Z

SZ-23: 1.Kb5-b4 21.Kb8×a7 42.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 62.Kc8×b8 83.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 84.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 100.Kb7×a8 101.Ka8×b8 103.Kc8-d7 104.g7-g8=R+ Kf6-f7 Z

ARTICLES
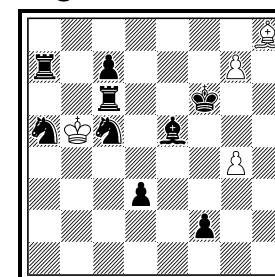
Again we see the inventive duo with these 'orthodox' length records. The huge increase in length by 16 moves is due to two queen promotions on e8! And would you imagine two excelsiors, promotions into knight(!) and queen and the thoughtful non-capture of the bPa4 in **SZ-27**? See also how the three white chessmen artfully cover all flight squares of the bK in an almost Bohemian manner...

There is not much advantage in length for the Circe problems in comparison to their corresponding 'orthodox' tasks with this number of units. It may well be that we still have to discover Circe matrices that will work better for this stipulation!

'Orthodox' 14–17 units

SZ-24
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1993

ser-sZd7   C+   (2+12)
105

SZ-24: 1.Kf1-e1 17.Kf5×g4 35.Kf1×g1 54.Kg4×h3 74.Kg1×h1 94.Kg4×f3 96.Ke3×d3 97.Kd3-d4 99.d3×e4 101.e5×d6 103.d7-d8=Q 105.Qc8-a6+ Kc6-d7 Z

SZ-25
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1993

ser-sZd7   C+   (2+13)
110

SZ-25: 1.Kf1-e1 18.Kf5×g4 37.Kf1×g1 57.Kg4×h3 78.Kg1×h1 99.Kg4×f3 101.Ke3×d3 102.Kd3-d4 104.d3×e4 106.e5×d6 108.d7-d8=Q 110.Qc8-a6+ Kc6-d7 Z

SZ-26
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
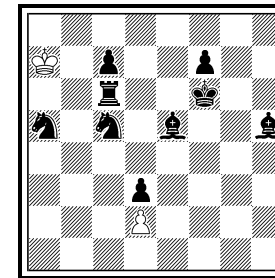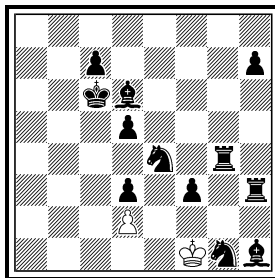**Problemkiste 1992**
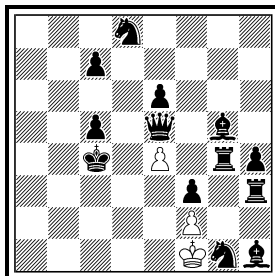
ser-sZe6   C+   (3+13)
122

SZ-26: 1.Kf1-e1 20.Kh5×g4 41.Kf1×g1 63.Kg4×h3 86.Kg1×h1 109.Kg4×f3 110.Kf3-e2 113.f5×e6 115.e7-e8=Q 116.Qe8×e5 117.Qe5-b2 121.e7-e8=Q 122.Qe8-e6+ Sd8 ×e6 Z

SZ-27
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1992

ser-sZa3   C+   (3+14)
126

SZ-27: 1.Ka6-b7 13.Kg1×f1 27.Ka6×b5 45.Kc1×b1 65.Kb4×a3 86.Kb1×a1 107.Kb4×c3 108.Kc3-d2 111.c5×b6 113.b7-b8=S 116.Sd4×f5 118.Sh4×g6 119.Sg6×f4 120.Sf4×e6 124.f6×e7 125.e7-e8=Q 126.Qe8-h5 a4-a3 Z

Circe 14–17 units

SZ-28
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
Original
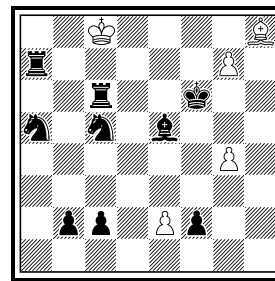
ser-sZf7   C+   (5+9)
113   Circe

SZ-28: 1.Kc8-d8 14.Kd2×c2[+bPc7] 30.Kb8×a7 51.Kb4×a5[+bSb8] 71.Kc8×b8 92.Kb5×c6[+bRa8] 93.Kc6×c5[+bSb8] 109.Kb7×a8 110.Ka8×b8 112.Kc8-d7 113.g7-g8=R + Kf6-f7 Z

SZ-29
Paul Răican
Original
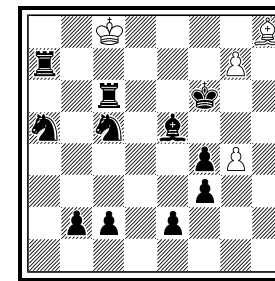
ser-sZf7   C+   (4+11)
121   Circe

SZ-29: 1.Kc8-d8 15.Kd2×c2[+bPc7] 32.Kb8×a7 54.Kb4×a5[+bSb8] 75.Kc8×b8 97.Kb5×c6[+bRa8] 98.Kc6×c5[+bSb8] 117.Kb7×a8 118.Ka8×b8 120.Kc8-d7 121.g7-g8=R + Kf6-f7 Z

SZ-30
Paul Răican
Original
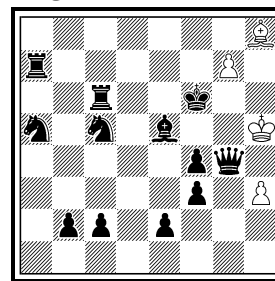
ser-sZf7   C+   (4+12)
127   Circe

SZ-30: 1.Kh5-h6 6.Ke8-d8 7.h3×g4 21.Kd2×c2[Pc7] 38.Kb8×a7 60.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 81.Kc8×b8 103.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 104.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 123.Kb7×a8 124.Ka8×b8 126.Kc8-d7 127.g7-g8=R+ Kf6-f7 Z

SZ-31
Paul Răican
Original

ser-sZf7   C+   (4+13)
132   Circe

SZ-31: 1.Kf1-g1 11.Ke8-d8 12.f2×e3 26.Kd2×c2[Pc7] 43.Kb8×a7 65.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 86.Kc8×b8 108.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 109.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 128.Kb7×a8 129.Ka8×b8 131.Kc8-d7 132.g7-g8=R+ Kf6-f7 Z
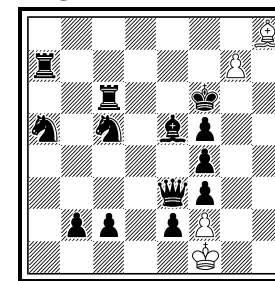
ARTICLES

Radovan Tomašević published in 2005 two new 'orthodox' length records with a stunning long 'endgame' – see the last 22 moves in his **SZ-35**! However, even more was possible...

Starting with **SZ-38** the problems cannot be fully tested because of the possibility for one of the white rooks to escape the Zeller trap. In that case though, the remaining formation in the upper corner with wB, wR, and two wPs destroys all possibilties to force a black move to the target square.

SZ-35:   1.Kf1-e1 5.Kb1-a1 6.Ba2-b1 21.Kh5×g4 36.Ka2-a1 37.Bb1-a2 43.Kf1×g1 49.Kb1-a1 50.Ba2-b1 66.Kg4×h3 82.Ka2-a1 83.Bb1-a2 90.Kg1×h1 97.Kb1-a1 98.Ba2-b1 114.Kg4×f3 115.Kf3-g4 117.f4×e5 118.Kg4×g5 120.Kg6×g7 127.Kc5×d4 128.Kd4×c3 129.Kc3-b4 133.c6×d7 134.d7-d8=Q 135.Qd8×b8 136.Qb8-c7 h4-h3 Z

SZ-39:   1.Ka8-b8 10.Kh5-h4 12.Rh5-h7 14.Kh5-h6 16.Rh5-g5 25.Kc2×b2[Bf8] 34.Kh5-h6 36.Rh5-h3 38.Kh5-h4 40.Rh5-g5 45.Kg8×f8 50.Kh5-h4 52.Rh5-h7 54.Kh5-h6 56.Rh5-g5 66.Kb2×a3 68.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 79.Kh5-h6 81.Rh5-h3 83.Kh5-h4 85.Rh5-g5 94.Kc7×b8 103.Kh5-h4 105.Rh5-h7 107.Kh5-h6 109.Rh5-g5 121.Ka5×a6 133.Kh5-h6 135.Rh5-h3 137.Kh5-h4 139.Rh5-g5 147.Kd8×c8[Sg8] 156.Ke2×e3[Pe7] 157.Ke3-f4 158.Rh3-h6+ Sg8×h6[Ra1] Z

'Orthodox' 18–22 units

SZ-32
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1996
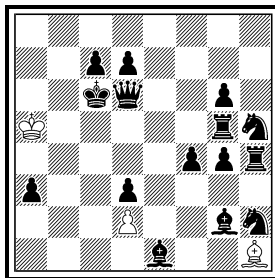
ser-sZb5   C+   (3+15)
128

SZ-32:   1.Ka5-a6 11.Kh6×g5 29.Kd1×e1 48.Kg5×h4 70.Kg1×h2 92.Kg5×g4 113.Kf2×g2 114.Kg2-f3 117.Bf1×d3 125.Ka6-a7 126.Bd3-a6 127.d2-d4 128.Ba6-b7+ Kc6-b5 Z

SZ-34
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1993

ser-sZc7   C+   (5+16)
133

SZ-34:   1.Ka3-a2 2.Ka2-a1 3.Bb1-a2 5.Kb1×c1 7.Kb1-a1 8.Ba2-b1 23.Kh5×g4 38.Ka2-a1 39.Bb1-a2 45.Kf1×g1 51.Kb1-a1 52.Ba2-b1 68.Kg4×h3 84.Ka2-a1 85.Bb1-a2 92.Kg1 ×h1 99.Kb1-a1 100.Ba2-b1 116.Kg4×f3 117.Kf3-g4 119.f4×g5 122.g7-g8=S 123.Sg8×e7 125.Sd5×c3 126.Sc3-d5 128.c4×b5 131.b7-b8=Q 132.Qb8-d8 133.Sd5-c7+ Qe5×c7 Z

SZ-33
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 1993

ser-sZc7   C+ (5+15)
131

SZ-33:   1.Kf1-e1 5.Kb1-a1 6.Ba2-b1 21.Kh5×g4 36.Ka2-a1 37.Bb1-a2 43.Kf1×g1 49.Kb1-a1 50.Ba2-b1 66.Kg4×h3 82.Ka2-a1 83.Bb1-a2 90.Kg1×h1 97.Kb1-a1 98.Ba2-b1 114.Kg4×f3 115.Kf3-g4 117.f4×g5 120.g7-g8=S 121.Sg8×e7 123.Sd5×c3 124.Sc3-d5 126.c4×b5 129.b7-b8=Q 130.Qb8-d8 131.Sd5-c7+ Qe5×c7 Z
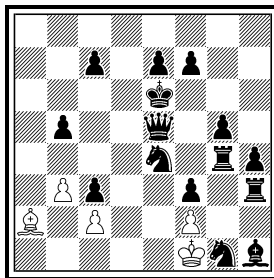
SZ-35
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 2005
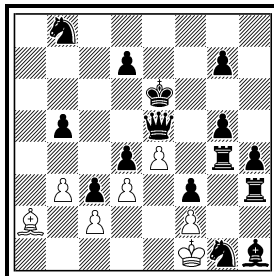
ser-sZh3   C+   (7+15)
136

Circe 18–22 units

SZ-36
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
Original
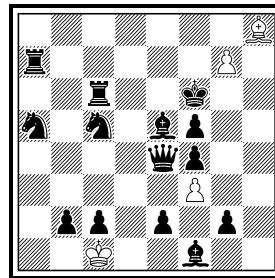
ser-sZf7   C+   (4+14)
135   Circe

SZ-36:   1.Kc1-d2 14.Ke8-d8 15.f3×e4 29.Kd2×c2[Pc7] 46.Kb8×a7 68.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 89.Kc8×b8 111.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 112.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 131.Kb7×a8 132.Ka8×b8 134.Kc8-d7 135.g7-g8=R+ Kf6-f7 Z
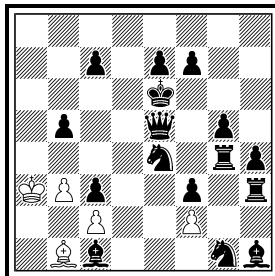
SZ-37
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
Original

ser-sZf7   C+   (5+14)
136   Circe

SZ-37:   1.Kc1-d2 14.Ke8-d8 15.f3×e4 29.Kd2×c2[Pc7] 46.Kb8×a7 68.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 89.Kc8×b8 111.Kb5×c6[Ra8] 112.Kc6×c5[Sb8] 132.Kb7×a8 133.Ka8×b8 135.Kc8-d7 136.g7-g8=R+ Kf6-f7 Z

SZ-38
Branko Koludrović
Arno Tüngler
Original

ser-sZa6 138   (9+12)
Circe

SZ-38:   1.Kf5-g4 11.Ka5-a6 13.Ra5-a3 15.Ka5-a4 17.Ra5-b5 24.Kd8×e8[Bc8] 26.Kd8×c8 31.Ka5-a4 33.Ra5-a7 35.Ka5-a6 37.Ra5-b5 48.Kg4×h5[Sg8] 59.Ka5-a6 61.Ra5-a3 63.Ka5-a4 65.Ra5-b5 74.Kf7×g8 83.Ka5-a4 85.Ra5-a7 87.Ka5-a6 89.Ra5-b5 101.Kh5×h6 113.Ka5-a6 115.Ra5-a3 117.Ka5-a4 119.Ra5-b5 127.Ke8×f8[Sb8] 136.Kd2×d3[Pd7] 137.Kd3-c4 138.Ra3-a6+ Sb8×a6[Rh1] Z

SZ-39
Branko Koludrović
Arno Tüngler
Original

ser-sZh6 158   (9+13)
Circe

ARTICLES

SZ-40 and SZ-41 were lucky finds with the Zeller trap in an 'orthodox' environment with normal force – only the second time after Ott's famous shots in the series-helpmate category. The basis for that small miracle is the 'uncapturable' black pawn on a2 that securely shuts the trap as no other black unit can be forced to a1! The Kemp mechanism in the right part of the board matches very well with that, as it allows its full annihilation including the central bishop and the 4 protecting pawns that are cowardly killed from the back. Amazing how much the white king is running around to achieve the final zugzwang. As you are probably well aware, the 4 different promotions to a1 are no duals whatsoever (likewise the 3 different forced captures on c4 in SZ-42), but just variants after a dual-free white final move. Though in a help-play series-mover such a final multiple last move by the passive side would indeed be a dual ruining the problem.

Up to 21 units the Circe records were growing only very slowly in length, then a sudden jump of 20 moves for one extra unit and even a triple jump with 23 units – a full 33 moves addition for one unit! Indeed, in these complicated Circe structures one piece sometimes makes a huge difference as it may be necessary to capture it twice, running twice through the Zeller trap...

'Orthodox' 23 units and Overall Records

SZ-40
Arno Tüngler
StrateGems 2013
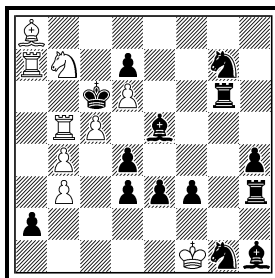
ser-sZa1 140 (9+14)

SZ-40: 1.Kf1-e1 8.Ka5-a6 10.Ra5-a3 12.Ka5-a4 14.Ra5-b5 23.Kf7×g6 32.Ka5-a4 34.Ra5-a7 36.Ka5-a6 38.Ra5-b5 47.Kf1×g1 56.Ka5-a6 58.Ra5-a3 60.Ka5-a4 62.Ra5-b5 74.Kg4× h3 75.Kh3×h4 86.Ka5-a4 88.Ra5-a7 90.Ka5-a6 92.Ra5-b5 102.Kg1×h1 112.Ka5-a6 114.Ra5-a3 116.Ka5-a4 118.Ra5-b5 130.Kg4×f3 132.Ke4×e5 134.Kf6×g7 137.Ke5×d4 138.Kd4×e3 139.Ke3×d3 140.Kd3-c4 a1=∼ Z

SZ-41: 1.Kf1-e1 8.Ka5-a6 10.Ra5-a3 12.Ka5-a4 14.Ra5-b5 22.Ke7×f7 26.Kh6×g5 36.Ka5-a4 38.Ra5-a7 40.Ka5-a6 42.Ra5-b5 51.Kf1×g1 60.Ka5-a6 62.Ra5-a3 64.Ka5-a4 66.Ra5- b5 78.Kg4×h3 79.Kh3×h4 90.Ka5-a4 92.Ra5-a7 94.Ka5-a6 96.Ra5-b5 106.Kg1×h1 116.Ka5-a6 118.Ra5-a3 120.Ka5-a4 122.Ra5-b5 134.Kg4×f3 136.Ke4×e5 138.Kf6×g7 141.Ke5×d4 142.Kd4×e3 143.Ke3×d3 144.Kd3-c4 a1=∼ Z

SZ-41
Arno Tüngler
StrateGems 2013

ser-sZa1 144 (9+15)

SZ-42
Arno Tüngler
ChessProblems.ca
2013
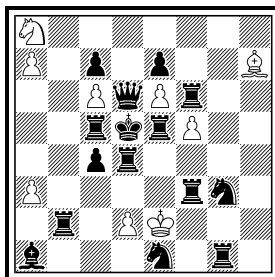
ser-sZc4 C+ (9+15) 202

168.Be8-d7 170.Kd8-e8 181.Bh5-f7 183.Kf8-g7 184.Bf7-g6 186.Kh6-g5 188.Bh5-g4 190.Kh4-h3 198.Ba4-c2 200.Kg2×f3 201.Bc2-a4 202.d3×c4+ Rd4/Rc5/Kd5×c4 Z
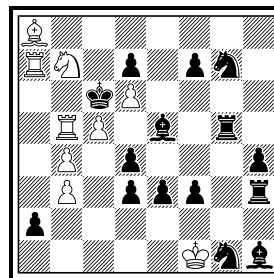
SZ-42: 1.Ke2-d1 8.Bd3-c2 9.d2-d3 11.Kd2-c3 12.Bc2-b3 14.Kb4-a4 25.Ba6-b5 29.Kb7-c8 38.Be8-d7 40.Kd8-e8 51.Bh5-f7 53.Kf8-g7 54.Bf7-g6 56.Kh6-g5 58.Bh5-g4 60.Kh4-h3 68.Ba4-c2 70.Kh2×g1 72.Kh2-h3 80.Bh5-g4 82.Kh4-g5 84.Bh5-g6 86.Kh6-g7 87.Bg6-f7 89.Kf8-e8 100.Bc8-d7 102.Kd8-c8 111.Ba4-b5 115.Ka5-a4 126.Bd1-b3 128.Kb4-c3 129.Bb3-c2 131.Kd2-c1 133.Bd1-e2 135.Kd1×e1 137.Kd1-c1 139.Bd1-c2 141.Kd2-c3 142.Bc2-b3 144.Kb4-a4 155.Ba6-b5 159.Kb7-c8

Circe 23-24 units

SZ-43
Branko Koludrović
Arno Tüngler
Original
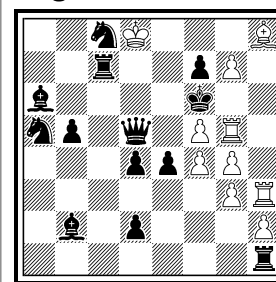
ser-sZh6 191 (10+13) Circe

SZ-43: 1.Kd8-e8 7.Kh5-h4 9.Rh5-h7 11.Kh5-h6 13.Rh5-g5 20.Ke2×d2[Pd7] 27.Kh5-h6 29.Rh5-h3 31.Kh5-h4 33.Rh5-g5 41.Kd8×c7 49.Kh5-h4 51.Rh5-h7 53.Kh5-h6 55.Rh5-g5 64.Kc2× b2[Bf8] 73.Kh5-h6 75.Rh5-h3 77.Kh5-h4 79.Rh5-g5 84.Kg8×f8 89.Kh5-h4 91.Rh5-h7 93.Kh5-h6 95.Rh5-g5 107.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 119.Kh5-h6 121.Rh5-h3 123.Kh5-h4 125.Rh5-g5 134.Kc7×b8 143.Kh5-h4 145.Rh5 -h7 147.Kh5-h6 149.Rh5-g5 162.Ka5×a6 175.Kh5-h6 177.Rh5-h3 179.Kh5-h4 181.Rh5-g5 189.Kd8×c8[Sg8] 190.Kc8-d8 191.Rh3-h6+ Sg8×h6[Ra1] Z

SZ-44
Branko Koludrović
Arno Tüngler
Original

ser-sZh6 195 (10+14) Circe

SZ-44: 1.Rh5-g5 2.Rh4-h7 6.h6×g7 7.Rh7-h3 11.Kh5-h4 13.Rh5-h7 15.Kh5-h6 17.Rh5-g5 24.Ke2×d2[Pd7] 31.Kh5-h6 33.Rh5-h3 35.Kh5-h4 37.Rh5-g5 45.Kd8×c7 53.Kh5-h4 55.Rh5-h7 57.Kh5-h6 59.Rh5-g5 68.Kc2×b2[Bf8] 77.Kh5-h6 79.Rh5-h3 81.Kh5-h4 83.Rh5-g5 88.Kg8×f8 93.Kh5-h4 95.Rh5-h7 97.Kh5-h6 99.Rh5-g5 111.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 123.Kh5-h6 125.Rh5-h3 127.Kh5-h4 129.Rh5-g5 138.Kc7×b8 147.Kh5-h4 149.Rh5-h7 151.Kh5-h6 153.Rh5-g5 166.Ka5×a6 179.Kh5-h6 181.Rh5-h3 183.Kh5-h4 185.Rh5-g5 193.Kd8×c8[Sg8] 194.Kc8-d8 195.Rh3-h6 + Sg8×h6[Ra1] Z

ARTICLES

Circe Overall Records

SZ-45
Branko Koludrović
Version
Problemkiste 2001
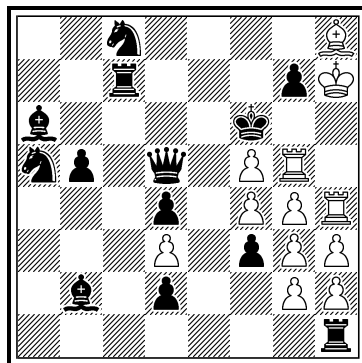
ser-sZh6 196   (12+13)
Circe

SZ-46
Branko Koludrović
Arno Tüngler
Problemkiste 2012

ser-sZa6 226   (12+16)
Circe

Branko's very long overall record with normal force morphed into the version shown here when we observed it closely in the ChessProblems.ca forum dedicated to these Circe length records. The originally published version had the bRh1 on a1 and an additional bPa2 for protection of the a-file. Also the wK stood on g8 and the wRg5 on h5. Thus the current version spares one unit plus the initial position is without black check – making the first move subtler.

SZ-46, with promoted force, is another fine cooperation with Branko. It seems that we are almost the only living problemists who like these monsters and have fun in finding hidden possibilities to add length to them... The former record of Branko published in 2001 had 203 moves (see PDB/P1230434). Here you may like the capture and rebirth of two black pawns just to help the wK crossing lines of the central black queen. And the second queen captured again just at the right moment...

SZ-45: 1.g2×f3[Pf7] 2.Kh7-g8 3.Rh4-h7 7.h6×g7 8.Rh7-h3 12.Kh5-h4 14.Rh5-h7 16.Kh5-h6 18.Rh5-g5 25.Ke2×d2[Pd7] 32.Kh5-h6 34.Rh5-h3 36.Kh5-h4 38.Rh5-g5 46.Kd8×c7 54.Kh5-h4 56.Rh5-h7 58.Kh5-h6 60.Rh5-g5 69.Kc2×b2[Bf8] 78.Kh5-h6 80.Rh5-h3 82.Kh5-h4 84.Rh5-g5 89.Kg8×f8 94.Kh5-h4 96.Rh5-h7 98.Kh5-h6 100.Rh5-g5 112.Kb4×a5[Sb8] 124.Kh5-h6 126.Rh5-h3 128.Kh5-h4 130.Rh5-g5 139.Kc7×b8 148.Kh5-h4 150.Rh5-h7 152.Kh5-h6 154.Rh5-g5 167.Ka5×a6 180.Kh5-h6 182.Rh5-h3 184.Kh5-h4 186.Rh5-g5 194.Kd8×c8[Sg8] 195.Kc8-d8 196.Rh3-h6+ Sg8×h6[Ra1] Z
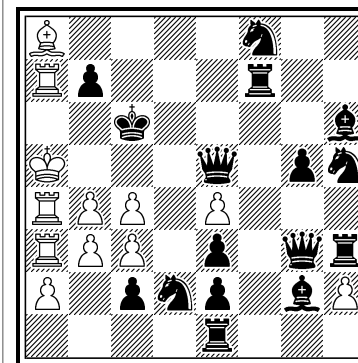
SZ-46: 1.c4-c5 2.Ra7×b7 3.Ka5-a6 5.Ra5-b5 7.Ka5-a4 9.Ra5-a7 11.Ka5-a6 13.Ra5-b5 18.Kb2×c2[Pc7] 23.Ka5-a6 25.Ra5-a3 27.Ka5-a4 29.Ra5-b5 35.Kc8-d8 36.h2×g3 42.Ka5-a4 44.Ra5-a7 46.Ka5-a6 48.Ra5-b5 55.Kd3×e3[Pe7] 62.Ka5-a6 64.Ra5-a3 66.Ka5-a4 68.Ra5-b5 76.Ke8×f7 84.Ka5-a4 86.Ra5-a7 88.Ka5-a6 90.Ra5-b5 99.Kf2×g2(+bBc8) 108.Ka5-a6 110.Ra5-a3 112.Ka5-a4 114.Ra5-b5 119.Kb8×c8 124.Ka5-a4 126.Ra5-a7 128.Ka5-a6 130.Ra5-b5 140.Kg2×h3 142.Kg4×h5[Sg8] 154.Ka5-a6 156.Ra5-a3 158.Ka5-a4 160.Ra5-b5 169.Kf7×g8 178.Ka5-a4 180.Ra5-a7 182.Ka5-a6 184.Ra5-b5 197.Kh5×h6 210.Ka5-a6 212.Ra5-a3 214.Ka5-a4 216.Ra5-b5 224.Ke8×f8[Sb8] 225.Kf8-e8 226.Ra7-a6+ S×a6[Rh1] Z

ARTICLES

As already said, help target square series-mover length records had not been featured in the above-mentioned article in *feenschach* 2002, which didn't include even one example with this stipulation. The only two records that I found in the PDB had 3 and 4 units – and the 4-unit (PDB/P1179615) could even be improved now with **HZ**-**6**!

For me it is always especially rewarding when a small new idea opens a new record with minimal force. So, you can imagine how I felt when, in 1992, after quite a lot of specialists in *Problemkiste* had only found 10 moves as the maximum for 4 units, I came across **HZ**-**3** with an interesting line-clearing king march in the first five moves...

Our **HZ**-**7** is only a re-discovery of Branko's **DZ**-**7** with switched colours. It demonstrates how easy it is in Circe to help white reach the target square: just capture the 'target unit' for rebirth purposes!

ser-hZ → 'Orthodox' 2–5 units

HZ-1
Erich Bartel
Problemkiste 1988
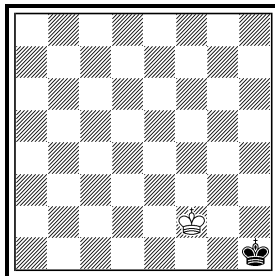
ser-hZg1 2   C+   (1+1)

HZ-**1**: 1.Kh1-h2 2.Kh2-h3 Kf2-g1 Z
HZ-**2**: 1.h7-h5 4.Kh6-g5 Kf7-g7 Z

HZ-2
Erich Bartel
Problemkiste 1988

ser-hZg7 4   C+   (1+2)

HZ-3
Arno Tüngler
Problemkiste 1992
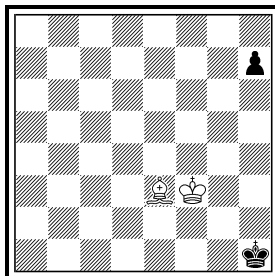
ser-hZe3 12 C+ (2+2)

HZ-**3**: 1.Kh1-h2 5.Kh5-g6 10.h2-h1=R 12.Re1×e3+ Kf3×e3 Z
HZ-**4**: 1.Kh8-g7 13.Kh3×h4 14.Kh4-g5 18.h2-h1=R 20.Rc1-c3+ d2×c3 Z
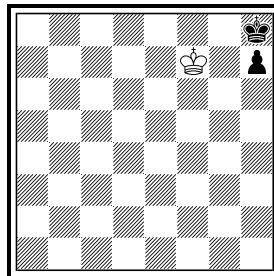
HZ-4
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Mat 1992
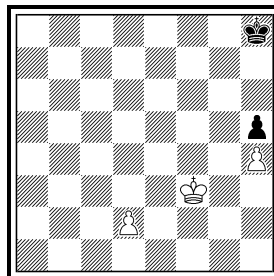
ser-hZc3 20 C+ (3+2)

Circe 3–5 units

HZ-5
Theodor Steudel
Hans Gruber
Phénix 1989
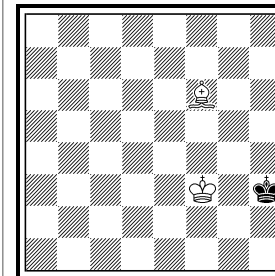
ser-hZh6   C+   (2+1)
10
Circe

HZ-**5**: 1.Kh3-h2 10.Ke6×f6 [Bc1] Bc1-h6 Z

HZ-6
Arno Tüngler
Original

ser-hZe3 22 C+   (3+1)
Circe

HZ-7
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
Original
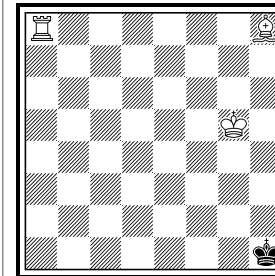
ser-hZh3   C+   (4+1)
40   Circe

HZ-**6**: 1.Kh1-g2 7.Kb7×a8[Rh1] 14.Kg2×h1 22.Kg8×h8Bc1] Be3 Z
HZ-**7**: 1.Ka1-b1 12.Kf8×e8[Sb1] 23.Kc1×b1 39.Kc4×c3[Bc1] 40.Kc3×b4[Sg1] Sg1-h3 Z

ARTICLES

When Cornel attacked in 2009 the 'orthodox' records with this stipulation he was quite successful with the few units – three new records in a row! These achievements triggered a strong interest in the existing records and started the progress that has been made so far. We already have by now 90 new records in this field – will there be 100 soon?

It is amazing how long it takes in **HZ-15** to capture wSb4. The other two officers on the third row need both to be captured twice and so there are four long king circles.

'Orthodox' 6–9 units

HZ-8
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Mat 1992
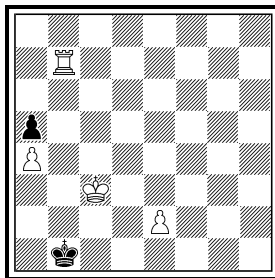
ser-hZf3 28 C+ (4+2)

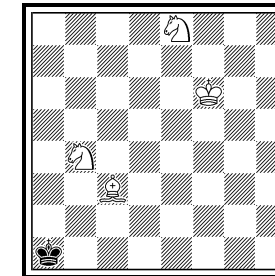**HZ-8**: 1.Kb1-c1 9.Kc6×b7 21.Ka3×a4 22.Ka4-b5 26.a2-a1=R 28.Rf1-f3 e2×f3 Z

HZ-9: 1.Kc3-b4 15.Kd1×c1 31.Kc3×d3 32.Kd3-c3 35.d2-d1=S 36.Sd1-e3+ f2×e3 Z

HZ-9
Cornel Pacurar
Mat Plus Review
2009

ser-hZe3 36 C+ (5+2)

HZ-10
Cornel Pacurar
Mat Plus Review
2009

ser-hZe3 46 C+ (6+2)

HZ-11
Cornel Pacurar
Mat Plus Review
2009

ser-hZg2 C+ (7+2)
60

HZ-10: 1.Kd1-e1 12.Kd6×c5 25.Kd1×c1 41.Kc3×d3 42.Kd3-c3 45.d2-d1=S 46.Sd1-e3+ f2×e3 Z

HZ-11: 1.Kc1-d1 17.Kb4×b3 35.Kc1×b1 55.Kd3×e3 56.Ke3-d3 59.e2-e1=S 60.Se1-g2 Ra2-g2 Z
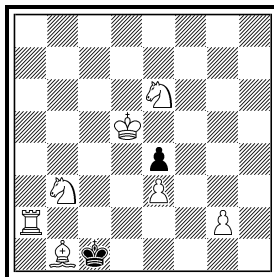
Circe 6–9 units

HZ-12
Branko Koludrović
Arno Tüngler
Original
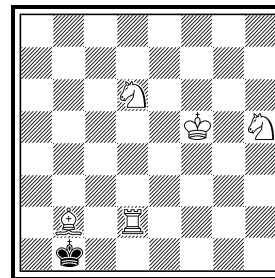
ser-hZh3 C+ (5+1)
46 Circe

HZ-12: 1.Kb1-a2 12.Kh6×h5[Sb1] 24.Ka2×b1 41.Ke1×d2[Ra1] 46.Kc5×d6[Sg1] Sg1-h3 Z

HZ-13: 1.Kd1-e1 14.Kd6×d5[Bf1] 26.Kg1×f1 40.Kc4×b3[Sb1] 58.Kc1×b1 59.Kb1×a2[Rh1] Rh1-b1 Z

HZ-13
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
Original

ser-hZb1 C+ (6+1)
59 Circe

HZ-14
Branko Koludrović
Original
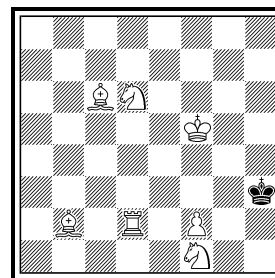
ser-hZh3 C+ (7+1)
60 Circe

HZ-14: 1.Kh3-h4 10.Kc7×c6 21.Kg2×f1[Sb1] 37.Ka2×b1 55.Ke1×d2[Ra1] 60.Kc5×d6[Sg1] Sg1-h3 Z

HZ-15: 1.Kc1-d1 17.Ka4×b3[Sb1] 34.Kc1×b1 52.Kb3×c3[Bc1] 67.Kd1×c1 69.Kb2×a3[Pa2] 70.Ka3×b4[Sg1] Sg1-h3 Z
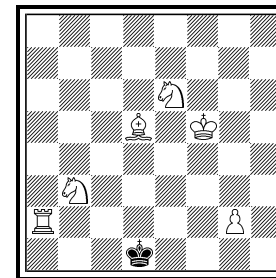
HZ-15
Branko Koludrović
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
Original
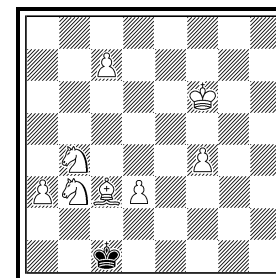
ser-hZh3 C+ (8+1)
70 Circe

ARTICLES

The 'orthodox' records with 10 and 11 units were published after Milos Tomašević's famous brochure was published and Cornel and I discovered the same positions again in 2009. Fortunately, we were informed about this just before Cornel published them in his article about the new tasks in this field in *Mat Plus Review* that same year! On the other hand, Paul's **HZ-18** is one of the latest 'new' records that we discovered. Nice how he managed the last moves starting with the promotion to be exactly determined, with the interesting shifting the border of the board by the wRa1.

With 11 and 12 units Circe records are again shorter than their 'orthodox' twins... As in other sections, this does not make much sense and should lead to new records in the future.

'Orthodox' 10–13 units

HZ-16
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 2006

ser-hZg2   C+   (8+2)
76

HZ-17
Radovan Tomašević
Problemkiste 2006
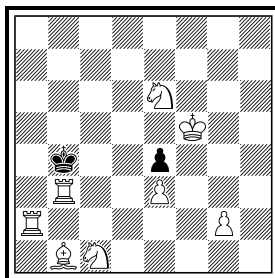
ser-hZg2   C+   (9+2)
82

HZ-16: 1.Kb4-c4 17.Kd1×c1 34.Kc4×b3 52.Kc1×b1 71.Kd3×e3 72.Ke3-d3 75.e2-e1=S 76.Se1-g2 Ra2-g2 Z
HZ-17: 1.Kg3-h4 9.Kd7×d6 23.Kd1×c1 40.Kc4×b3 58.Kc1×b1 77.Kd3×e3 78.Ke3-d3 81.e2-e1=S 82.Se1-g2 Ra2-g2 Z

HZ-18
Paul Răican
feenschach 2013
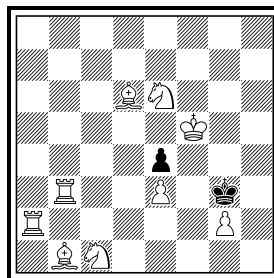
ser-hZa1   C+   (10+2)
84

HZ-19
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Mat 1992
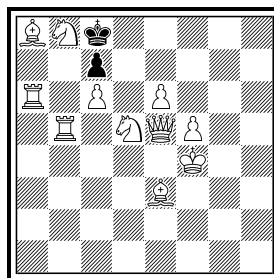
ser-hZe2   C+   (11+2)
90
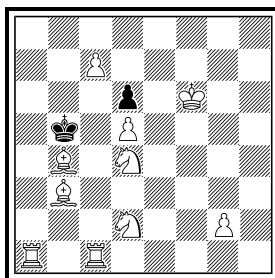
HZ-18: 1.Kb5-b6 14.Ke3×d4 29.Kb5×b4 44.Ke3×d2 60.Kb4×b3 76.Ke4×d5 77.Kd5-e4 82.d2-d1=Q 84.Qa4×a1+ Rc1×a1 Z
HZ-19: 1.Kc8-d8 15.Kc4×b5 31.Kc8×b8 48.Kb5×a6 66.Kb8×a8 84.Kb5×c6 85.Kc6-b7 89.d4×e3 90.e3-e2 Qe5×e2 Z

Circe 10–13 units

HZ-20
Arno Tüngler
Original

ser-hZe3   C+   (9+1)
77   Circe

HZ-21
Paul Răican
Original
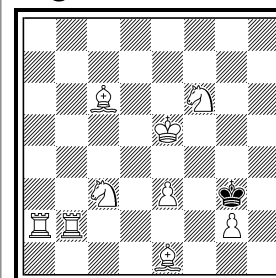
ser-hZd4   C+   (8+3)
78   Circe

HZ-20: 1.Kg3-h2 4.Kf1×e1[Bc1] 16.Kc7×c6[Bf1] 27.Kg1×f1 41.Kc4×c3[Sg1] 54.Kh2×g1 58.Kd1×c1 76.Kd3×e3[Pe2] 77.Ke3-f2 e2-e3 Z

HZ-21: 1.Kb4-b5 19.Kb1×a2 38.Kb5×a4[Sb1] 56.Kc1×b1 75.Kb4×c3[Ra1] 76.Kc3×c4[Sb1] 78.Kc5×d6[Pd2] d2-d4 Z

HZ-22
Paul Răican
Original

ser-hZd4   C+   (9+3)
82   Circe

HZ-23
Branko Koludrović
Paul Răican
Original

ser-hZc3   C+   (12+1)
93   Circe

HZ-22: 1.Kb4-b5 20.Kb1×a2 40.Kb5×a4[Sb1] 59.Kc1×b1 79.Kb4×c3[Ra1] 80.Kc3×c4[Sb1] 82.Kc5×d6[Pd2] d2-d4 Z

HZ-23: 1.Kc1-d1 14.Kd7×c7[Pc2] 30.Kb1×a2 51.Kb5×a4[Sb1] 71.Kc1×b1 92.Kb4×c3[Ra1] 93.Kc3×c4[Sb1] Sb1-c3 Z
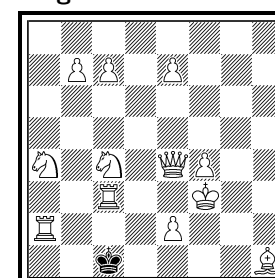
ARTICLES

The bishop pendulum in my **HZ-24** comes surprisingly early as usually it is only used with more units. Here I could make use of the fact that black may not capture wRh7 as it is needed for the final move.

The Circe records with 16 and 17 units finally gain a significant distance from their 'orthodox' counterparts. In **HZ-31** (as also in **HZ-35** on the next page) the wPc6 is the 'uncapturable' unit that helps to keep the king paths very long.

HZ-31: 1.Kh8-h7 5.Kh4×g3[Ra1] 19.Kb5×b4[Bc1] 38.Ke1-d1 39.f5×e4 59.Kc5×d5[Bf1] 77.Kg1×f1 94.Kb5×c4[Sb1] 114.Kd1×c1 136.Kd3×e3[Pe2] 137.Ke3×f4 [Pf2] 139.e3×f2 140.f2-f1=R 141.Rf1×b1 142.Rb1-b7 c6×b7[Ra8] Z

'Orthodox' 14–17 units

HZ-24
Arno Tüngler
StrateGems 2012
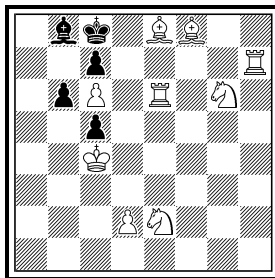
ser-hZb7   C+   (9+5)
91

HZ-24: 1.Bb8-a7 3.Kb8-a8 4.Ba7-b8 12.Kc2×d2 18.Kf5×e6 30.Ka7-a8 31.Bb8-a7 35.Kd8×e8 39.Kb8-a8 40.Ba7-b8 52.Kf5×g6 64.Ka7-a8 65.Bb8-a7 70.Ke8×f8 75.Kb8-a8 76.Ba7-b8 89.Kd6×c6 90.Kc6-d6 91.c7-c6 Rh7-b7 Z

HZ-25: 1.Kd2-e1 18.Ka5×a4 36.Ke1×d1 55.Kb4×c3 75.Kd1×c1 97.Kd3×e3 98.Ke3-d3 101.e2-e1=R 102.Re1×e6 103.Re6-c6 b5×c6 Z

HZ-25
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Mat 1992

ser-hZc6   C+   (12+3)
103

HZ-26
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Mat 1992
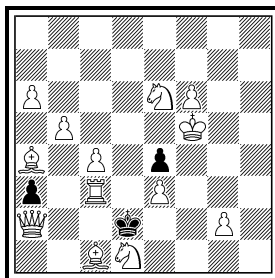
ser-hZc6   C+   (13+3)
108

HZ-26: 1.Kd2-e1 19.Ka5×a4 38.Ke1×d1 58.Kb4×c3 79.Kd1×c1 102.Kd3×e3 103.Ke3-d3 106.e2-e1=R 107.Re1×e6 108.Re6-c6 b5×c6 Z

HZ-27: 1.Ka4-a3 11.Kh3×g4 28.Kd8×e8 46.Kg4×h5 67.Kg8×h7 88.Kg4×g5 108.Kf7×g7 110.Kf6-e5 113.Bd8-c7 d6×c7 Z
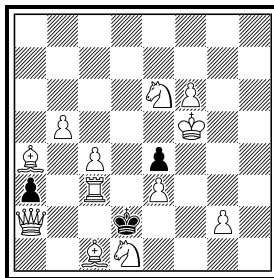
HZ-27
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Mat 1992
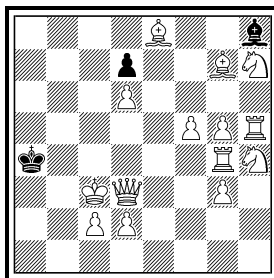
ser-hZc7   C+   (14+3)
113

Circe 14–17 units

HZ-28
Branko Koludrović
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
Original
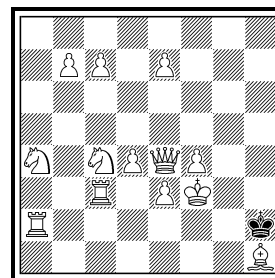
ser-hZb5   C+   (13+1)
101   Circe

HZ-28: 1.Kh2-h3 9.Kd7×c7[Pc2] 25.Kb1×a2 46.Kb5×a4[Sb1] 66.Kc1×b1 87.Kb4×c3[Ra1] 88.Kc3×c4[Sb1] 101.Kh2×h1[Bf1] Bf1-b5 Z

HZ-29: 1.Kc1-d1 14.Kd7×c7[Pc2] 30.Kb1×a2 51.Kb5×a4[Sb1] 71.Kc1×b1 92.Kb4×c3[Ra1] 93.Kc3×c4[Sb1] 106.Kh2×h1[Bf1] Bf1-b5 Z

HZ-29
Branko Koludrović
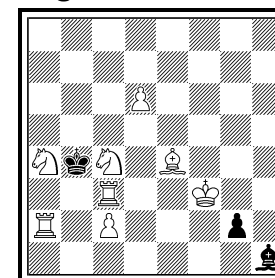**Paul Răican**
Arno Tüngler
Original

ser-hZb5   C+   (14+1)
106   Circe

HZ-30
Branko Koludrović
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
ChessProblems.ca
Bulletin 2015

ser-hZf5   C+   (14+2)
124   Circe

HZ-30: 1.Kb6-a5 3.Ka4×b3[Rh1] 13.Kf8×g8[Bf1] 27.Kc1-d1 28.c5×d4 46.Kg4×g3[Bc1] 63.Kb1×c1 79.Kg5×f4[Sg1] 98.Ke1×f1 107.Ka5×a6[Pa2] 118.Ke3×d3[Pd2] 119.Kd3×c4[Pc2] 121.d3×c2 122.c2-c1=R 124.Rf1-f5 e4×f5[Ra8] Z

HZ-31
Branko Koludrović
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
ChessProblems.ca
Bulletin 2015
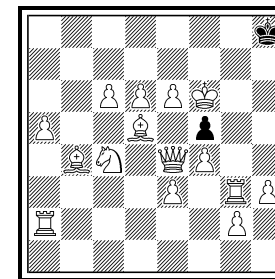
ser-hZb7   C+   (15+2)
142   Circe

ARTICLES

Here, again, three orthodox tasks with many units and totally different matrices! I like very much how the path of the promoted black queen in **HZ**-**34** is artfully determined, and that the black king therefore needs to carefully select his 118th move!

What a huge gap between the two problems in the Circe section! **HZ**-**36** has 10 units more than **HZ**-**35** but is only 8 moves longer! We just did not yet have enough time for a deeper research into the possibilities without the Zeller trap, maybe you can help us?

'Orthodox' 18–21 units

HZ-**32**
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Mat 1992
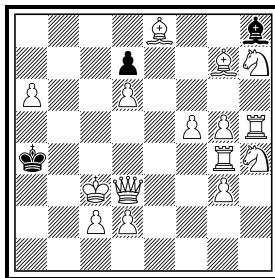
ser-hZc7   C+ (15+3)
118

HZ-**32**:   1.Ka4-a3   11.Kh3×g4   29.Kd8×e8   48.Kg4×h5 70.Kg8×h7 92.Kg4×g5 113.Kf7×g7 114.Kf6-e5 118.Bd8-c7 d6×c7 Z

HZ-**33**: 1.Kf1-e1 15.Kh7-h8 16.Bg8-h7 19.Kf8×e8 22.Kg8-h8 23.Bh7-g8 38.Kc5×d6 53.Kh7-h8 54.Bg8-h7 58.Ke8×d8 62.Kg8-h8 63.Bh7-g8 78.Kc5×b6 93.Kh7-h8 94.Bg8-h7 99.Kd8×c8 104.Kg8-h8 105.Bh7-g8 122.Ke6×f6 123.Kf6-e6 124.f7-f6 Ra7-h7 Z

HZ-**33**
Arno Tüngler
StrateGems 2012

ser-hZh7   C+ (13+6)
124

HZ-**34**
Miloš Tomašević
Radovan Tomašević
Mat 1992
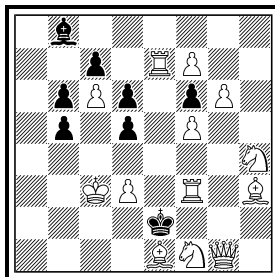
ser-hZb7   C+ (13+8)
126

HZ-**34**:   1.Ke2-d1   10.Ka7-a8   11.Bb8-a7   15.Kd8×e7 19.Kb8-a8   20.Ba7-b8 30.Kd1×e1 40.Ka7-a8 41.Bb8-a7   50.Kh5×h4   59.Kb8-a8 60.Ba7-b8 71.Ke2×f3 82.Ka7-a8   83.Bb8-a7   93.Kh4×h3 103.Kb8-a8   104.Ba7-b8 117.Kf4×f5   118.Kf5-e5 123.f2×g1=Q   126.Qc8-b7 c6×b7 Z
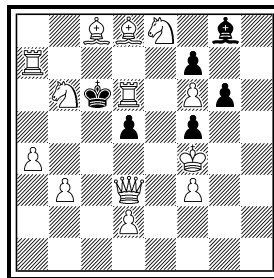
Circe 18–28 units

HZ-**35**
Branko Koludrović
Paul Răican
Arno Tüngler
ChessProblems.ca
Bulletin 2015
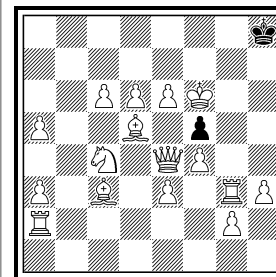
ser-hZb7   C+ (16+2)
146   Circe

HZ-**36**
Branko Koludrović
Paul Răican
Original

ser-hZf1   C+ (13+15)
154   Circe

HZ-**35**: 1.Kh8-h7 5.Kh4×g3 [Ra1] 21.Kb3×c3[Bc1] 42.Ke1-d1 43.f5×e4 63.Kc5×d5[Bf1] 81.Kg1×f1   98.Kb5×c4[Sb1] 118.Kd1×c1 140.Kd3×e3[Pe2] 141.Ke3×f4[Pf2]   143.e3×f2 144.f2-f1=R   145.Rf1×b1 146.Rb1-b7 c6×b7[Ra8] Z

HZ-**36**:   1.Ke8-d8 7.Ka4-a3 9.Ra4-a6 11.Ka4-a5 13.Ra4-b4   21.Ke1×f2   29.Ka4-a5 31.Ra4-a2 33.Ka4-a3 35.Ra4-b4 43.Ke8×f8[Bc1] 51.Ka4-a3   53.Ra4-a6   55.Ka4-a5 57.Ra4-b4 62.Kb1×c1 67.Ka4-a5   69.Ra4-a2   71.Ka4-a3 73.Ra4-b4   85.Kg5×h4[Sg1] 97.Ka4-a3 99.Ra4-a6 101.Ka4-a5   103.Ra4-b4   112.Kf2×g1 121.Ka4-a5   123.Ra4-a2 125.Ka4-a3   127.Ra4-b4 140.Kh4×h3 142.Kg2×f1[Sb1] 154.Kb7×a8[Rh1] Rh1-f1 Z

ARTICLES

I already wrote in my article in *Bulletin* Issue 2 (see page 49) about my appreciation for the great way that Tomislav Petrović managed length in his absolute record with normal force, and every time I look at the solution I feel the same again... Everything works perfectly together and is really enjoyable in my mind.

The Circe overall records are very similar to the direct ones - just with switched colours. Hopefully ideas will come up in the future of how to make better use of an 'uncapturable' unit!

Arno Tüngler
Bishkek, December 19th, 2015

'Orthodox' Overall Records

HZ-37
Tomislav Petrović
Mat 1993
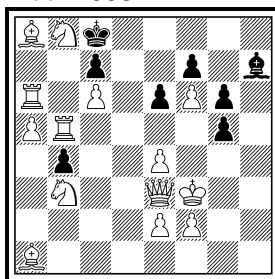
ser-hZh8   C+   (14+8)
127

HZ-37: 1.Kc8-d8 5.Kg8-h8 6.Bh7-g8 22.Ka4×b5 38.Kh7-h8 39.Bg8-h7 45.Kc8×b8 51.Kg8-h8 52.Bh7-g8 69.Kb5×a6 86.Kh7-h8 87.Bg8-h7 94.Kb8×a8 101.Kg8-h8 102.Bh7-g8 119.Kb5×c6 120.Kc6-d6 123.c4-c3 125.Ke5×f6 126.Kf6-e7 127.c3-c2 Ba1-h8 Z

HZ-38
Arno Tüngler
Julia's Fairies 2013
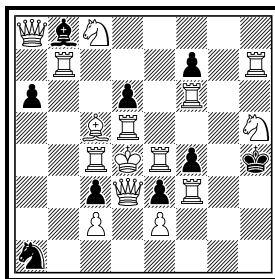
ser-hZe2   C+   (15+9)
205

HZ-38: 1.Bb8-c7 8.Be1-g3 10.Kh3-g2 11.Bg3-f2 13.Kf1-e1 24.Bc1-d2 26.Kd1-c1 35.Ba5-b4 39.Ka4-a5 50.Bd8-b6 52.Kb5-c6 53.Bb6-c7 55.Kd7-d8 66.Bf8-e7 70.Kg8×h7 74.Ke8-d8 85.Ba5-c7 87.Kd7-c6 88.Bc7-b6 90.Kb5-a5 101.Ba3-b4 105.Kb2-c1 114.Be1-d2 116.Kd1-e1 127.Bh4-f2 129.Kh3-g2 130.Bf2-g3 132.Kh3-g4 134.Bh4-g5 135.Kg4×h5 136.Kh5-g4 138.Bh4-g3 140.Kh3-g2 141.Bg3-f2 143.Kf1-e1 154.Bc1-d2 156.Kd1-c1 165.Ba5-b4 169.Ka4-a5 180.Bd8-b6 182.Kb5-c6 183.Bb6-c7 185.Kd7-d8 196.Bf8-e7 200.Kg7×f6 201.Kf6-g7 203.f5×e4 204.e4×f3 205.f3×e2 Qd3×e2 Z

Circe Overall Records

HZ-39
Branko Koludrović
Problemkiste 2012
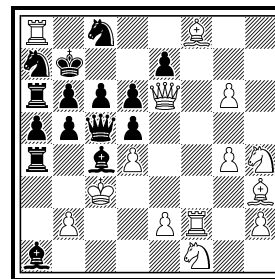
ser-hZf1   C+   (14+15)
156   Circe

HZ-40
Branko Koludrović
Arno Tüngler
Problemkiste 2012

ser-hZh7 213   (16+15)
Circe

HZ-39: 1.Ra4-b4 4.a3×b2 5.Ra6-a2 9.Ka4-a3 11.Ra4-a6 13.Ka4-a5 15.Ra4-b4 23.Ke1×f2 31.Ka4-a5 33.Ra4-a2 35.Ka4-a3 37.Ra4-b4 45.Ke8×f8[Bc1] 53.Ka4-a3 55.Ra4-a6 57.Ka4-a5 59.Ra4-b4 64.Kb1×c1 69.Ka4-a5 71.Ra4-a2 73.Ka4-a3 75.Ra4-b4 87.Kg5×h4[Sg1] 99.Ka4-a3 101.Ra4-a6 103.Ka4-a5 105.Ra4-b4 114.Kf2×g1 123.Ka4-a5 125.Ra4-a2 127.Ka4-a3 129.Ra4-b4 142.Kh4×h3 144.Kg2×f1[Sb1] 156.Kb7×a8[Rh1] Rh1-f1 Z

HZ-40: 1.Ra5-b5 2.Ra6×a4 3.Ra4-a7 4.b4×c3[Pc2] 6.Kb2×a3[Sg1] 9.Ka5-a6 11.Ra5-a3 13.Ka5-a4 15.Ra5-b5 21.Kc7-c6 23.Bc7-b8 27.Ke8×f8 31.Kc7-c6 33.Bc7-d8 39.Ka5-a4 41.Ra5-a7 43.Ka5-a6 45.Ra5-b5 50.Kb2×c1[Ra1] 51.Kc1-d1 52.f6×e5 58.Ka5-a6 60.Ra5-a3 62.Ka5-a4 64.Ra5-b5 70.Kc7-c6 72.Bc7-b8 81.Kf4×e3 90.Kc7-c6 92.Bc7-d8 98.Ka5-a4 100.Ra5-a7 102.Ka5-a6 104.Ra5-b5 111.Kd1×e1 [Bc1] 113.Kd1×c1 118.Ka5-a6 120.Ra5-a3 122.Ka5-a4 124.Ra5-b5 130.Kc7-c6 132.Bc7-b8 141.Kf4×g3 150.Kc7-c6 152.Bc7-d8 158.Ka5-a4 160.Ra5-a7 162.Ka5-a6 164.Ra5-b5 173.Kf1×g1 182.Ka5-a6 184.Ra5-a3 186.Ka5-a4 188.Ra5-b5 194.Kc7-c6 196.Bc7-b8 205.Kf4×f3[Pf2] 206.Kf3×e4[Pe2] 207.Ke4-f4 210.e3×f2 211.f2-f1=Q 213.Qh3×h7 Rh2×h7[Qd8] Z

ARTICLES

A hitting game. After having last played very well in 1993, the Blue Jays, Toronto's pro baseball* team since 1977 (the first non-US team to win a World Series**, in 1992), did very well in September 2015 too.

* A non-timed bat-and-ball game played between two teams of nine players each, who take turns batting, fielding, and hanging around

** *World* Series. Seriously?

Hope is the thing with bats and balls. A month later the thrill was gone. The Jays were out from whatever was going on***: "The Kansas City Royals beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-3 on Friday night in Game 6 of the AL Championship Series, sending the Royals to the World Series and eliminating the Blue Jays."

*** "the playoffs"

(In spite of his ignorance, the author does a decent job of depicting the short-lived but dramatic rise and fall: see arrangement of the diagrams. Moreover, in **2** an echo twin is possible: b) bKa1→a7 h#3 – 1.Gb1×b3[+wGb1, bGb3→b7] Gb5-b8 2.Gb2×b8[+wGb2, bGb8→c7] Gb2-b8 3.Ka7×b8[+wGa7, bKb8→a8] Ga7×c7[+bGa7, wGc7→h1]#.)

Useful references:
explainxkcd.com/wiki/index.php/1593: Play-By-Play
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toronto_Blue_Jays
cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/blue-jays-season-ends-1.3287101

October blues

THE BLUE JAYS – A TRIPLE

We are not at all clear how this baseball thing functions (we remember counting bases once, but in a totally different context). There are big bats involved. Quite a lot of beer too. In any case, it has been very difficult to ignore the general October-fest/ive enthusiasm (while it lasted – until the 23rd, to be exact). We too felt inspired...

2. **Wow!**

1.

3.

h≠2   PWC, anti-supercirce

h=4.5

ser-h=20   PWC

1. – 1...Gd3-f5 2.Kf6 Ge5-g7 3.Kf7 Ge3-e5 4.Kg8 Ge5-g5+ 5.Kh8 Ge4-g6=.
The four wGs end up in their original, home-base pattern.

2. – 1.Gb1xb3 [+wGb1, bG*b3*→*b3*]   **a**
     Gb5xb2 [+bGb5, wGb2→h2]   **B**
  2.Gb5-b2   **b**
     Gb1xb3 [+bGb1, wGb3→h8]≠. **A**
Two G switchbacks. (The motto actually alludes to the (roughly) palindromic solution.)

3. – 1.Kf6 2.Kg5 3.Kf4 4.Kxe4[+wGf4] 5.Kf5 6.Kf6 7.Kxe5[+wGf6] 8.Kf5
9.Kg4 10.Kxf4[+wGg4] 11.Kxe3[+wGf4] 12.Kf2 13.Kg3 14.Kxf4[+wGg3]
15.Kf5 16.Kg6 17.Kxf6[+wGg6] 18.Kf7 19.Kg8 20.Kh8 Gg4-g7=.
The bK runs around, all the way down to f2, to rearrange the wGs for the grand finale on h8.

Adrian Storisteanu
Toronto, October 2015

RECENTLY HONOURED CANADIAN COMPOSITIONS

The following eighteen Canadian compositions were awarded over the past eigth months (since April 15th, 2015). Their distribution is as follows:

François Labelle – Montréal, QC	(1)
Thierry Le Gleuher – Montréal, QC	(3)
Charles Ouellet – Montréal, QC	(8)
Cornel Pacurar – Toronto, ON	(3.5)
Adrian Storisteanu – Toronto, ON	(2.5)

C72, C73, C74:
Award published in *Phénix* 248, in June 2015

C75:
Award published in *feenschach* 211, January-February 2015

C76:
Award published in *Problem Observer* in April 2015

C77:
Award published in *Problem Observer* in June 2015

C72
François Labelle
Phénix 2012-2013 – Retros
6th Commendation
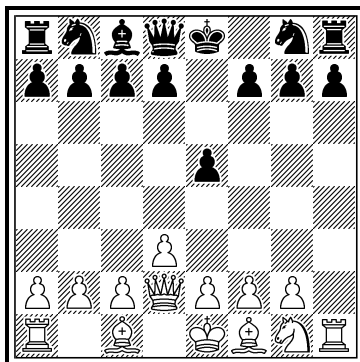
PG 5.0   C+   (14+15)
2 Solutions

C73
Thierry Le Gleuher
Phénix 2012-2013 – Retros
2nd Prize
à la mémoire de Denis Blondel   **C73-B**
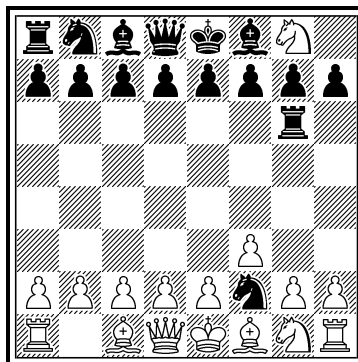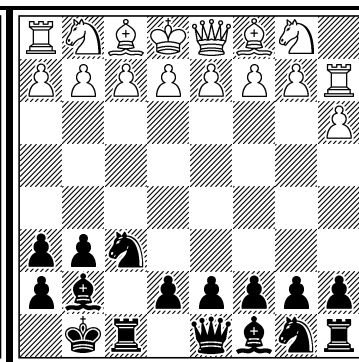
Blitz à 4   A   (16+16)   B   (16+16)

C74
Thierry Le Gleuher
Phénix 2012-2013 – Retros
5th Honourable Mention
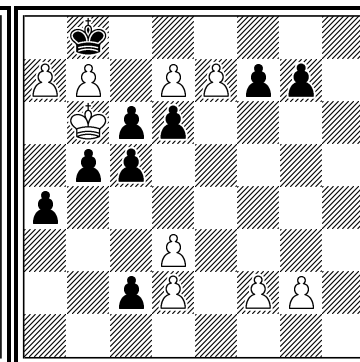
10 derniers coups   (9+9)
simples

C75
Thierry Le Gleuher
Millour-70JT 2015
2nd Prize   **C75-B**
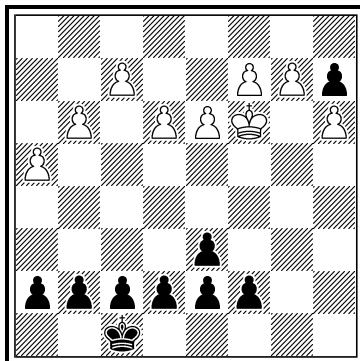
A→B 23.5   A   (9+9)   B   (5+9)
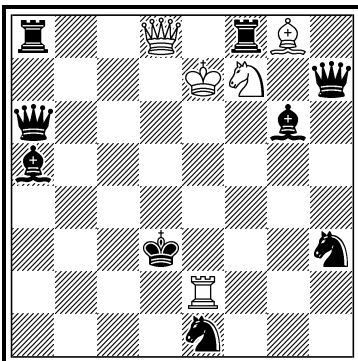
C76
Charles Ouellet
Problem Observer 2013-14
5th Commendation

#3   C+   (8+11)
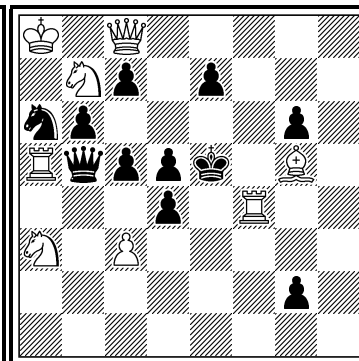
C77
Charles Ouellet
Problem Observer 2014
2nd–3rd Commendation e.a.

#2   C+   (8+7)

RECENTLY HONOURED CANADIAN COMPOSITIONS

C78
Charles Ouellet
after Bengt Ingre
StrateGems 2014
1st Commendation
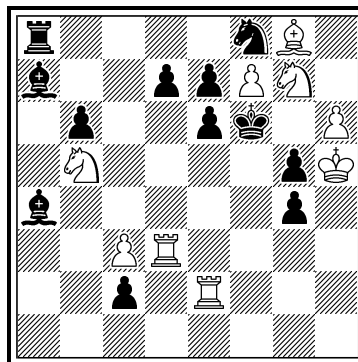
#3   C+   (9+12)

C79
Charles Ouellet
Problemist Ukrajiny 14TT 2015
2nd Honourable Mention
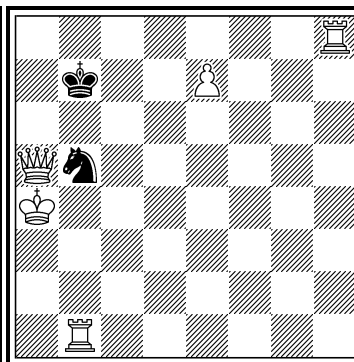
#2   C+   (5+2)
b) ♞b5→♝b2

C80
Charles Ouellet
Problemist Ukrajiny 14TT 2015
4th Honourable Mention

#2   C+   (4+3)
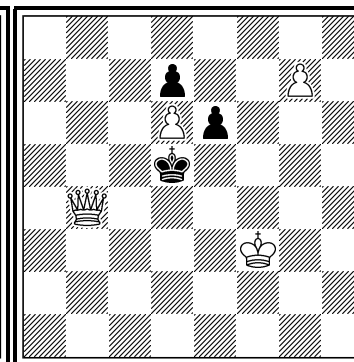
C81
Charles Ouellet
Problemist Ukrajiny 14TT 2015
4th Honourable Mention
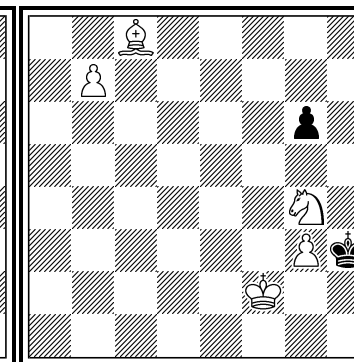
#3   C+   (5+2)

C82
Charles Ouellet
Problemist Ukrajiny 14TT 2015
5th Commendation
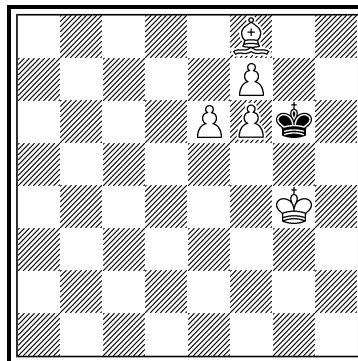
#3   C+   (5+1)

C83
Charles Ouellet
Problemist Ukrajiny 14TT 2015
2nd Prize
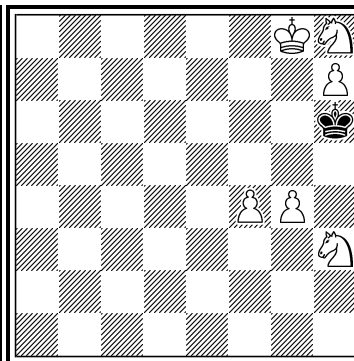
#4   C+   (6+1)

C84
Cornel Pacurar
Phénix 2012-2013 – Retros
2nd Commendation
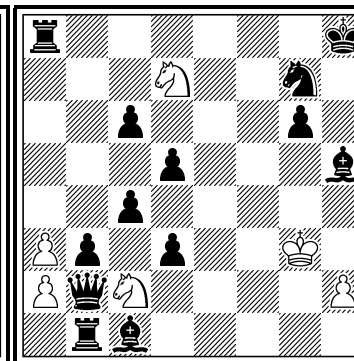
-6 & #1   (6+13)
Proca Retractor
Circe Assassin

C85
Cornel Pacurar
Julia's Fairies 2014/III
2nd Prize
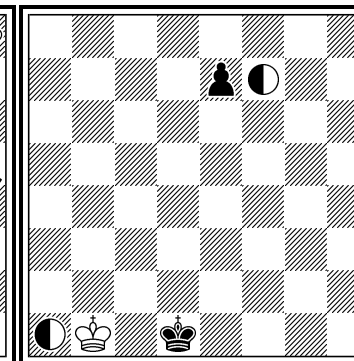
ser-h# 24   C+   (1+2)
◐ = Imitator

RECENTLY HONOURED CANADIAN COMPOSITIONS

C86:
Award published online on September 22, 2015

C87:
Award published online on August 12, 2015

C88:
Award published online on August 9, 2015. Section A/3 of the award (A = no fairy conditions, 3 = the others, i.e., not direct/self mates).

C89:
Award published in *Quartz* 42, November 2015

C86
Cornel Pacurar
Julia's Fairies 2014/III
4th Honourable Mention

C87
Cornel Pacurar
Adrian Storisteanu
Julia's Fairies 2013/III
(miniatures)
2nd Commendation
Plus c'est la même chose, plus ça change...
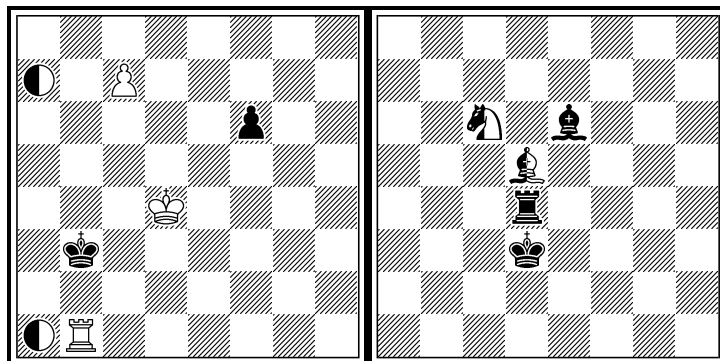
ser-h# 26   C+ (3+2)

◐ = Imitator

h#2.5   C+ (0+3+2)
Anti-Supercirce
PWC
2 Solutions

C88
Adrian Storisteanu
Blondel MT, Section A 2014
6th Commendation
en passant, captures

h#2   C+ (3+5)
2 Solutions
🜚 = Locust

C89
Adrian Storisteanu
Quartz TT9 2013
2nd Commendation
Itsy Bitsy Spider
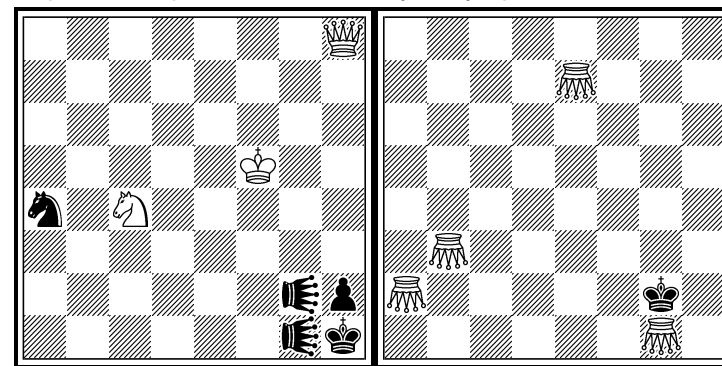
phser-= 11   C+ (4+1)
🜚 = Grasshopper

(Judge: Andreï Frolkin)
* notation des horloges en secondes après chaque série [A(Blancs), A(Noirs) ; B(Blancs),B(Noirs)]
A : 1.Sc3 Sf6 2.Se4 S×e4 [2,2 ; 4,0]*
B : 1.(+wSh6) g×Sh6 [4,2 ; 5,1]
(2 secondes d'attente pour les Blancs de l'échiquier A)
A : 3.(+wSh6) S×f2 [5,3 ; 7,1]
(2 secondes d'attente pour les Blancs de l'échiquier B)
B : 2.(+g7) Sf6 3.g×Rh8=S Bg7 4.Sg6 f×Sg6 [11,3 ; 10,4]
A : 4.(+f3) Rg8 5.S×Rg8 (+sRg6) [13,5 ; 14,4] (le Cavalier promu redevient un Pion à la passation)
B : 5.a3 (+sRh8) 6.Ra2 0-0 [17,5 ; 16,6] (comme en Circé, une Tour replacée sur sa case d'origine est considérée comme n'ayant pas bougée).
(solution détaillée *phénix* 224-225, p.9127, janvier-février 2013).

C72 (François Labelle):
Une agréable partie justificative dont la composition est assistée par ordinateur, avec deux solutions dont une montre un Cavalier imposteur tandis que l'autre inclut la perte d'un tempo du PBh.
(Judge: Andreï Frolkin)
I) 1.h3 e5 2.h4 Q×h4 3.d3 Bb4+ 4.Sd2 B×d2+ 5.Q×d2 Qd8
II) 1.d3 e6 2.Sd2 Bd6 3.Sdf3 B×h2 4.Qd2 B×g1 5.S×g1 e5

C73 (Thierry Le Gleuher):
<u>Enoncé :</u> A cet instant les horloges indiquent exactement les temps écoulés suivants : A(Blancs = 17 s, Noirs = 5 s) - B(Blancs = 16 s, Noirs = 6 s). Sachant que les joueurs ont toujours joué des coups légaux et qu'il faut exactement 1 seconde (pas plus ni moins) à chaque joueur pour jouer un coup dès qu'il en mesure de la faire, quel a été le déroulement exact de la partie ?
Une excellente partie justificative en "Blitz à quatre" avec un raisonnement logique parfait impliquant un timing strict dans les coups et les passations de pièces entre les deux échiquiers.

C74 (Thierry Le Gleuher):
Un cas inattendu d'investigation dans un rétro ne contenant que des Pions.
Solution : Les ♟ ont pris les sept pièces blanches manquantes, donc le ♙ ont capturé deux fois pour croiser les ♟ a et ♟ b qui ont dû jouer dans l'axe. Les ♙ ont alors capturé sept fois en tout

C74:
On note que le ♙h ne peut pas fermer le passage de la ♖h, car elle sera remise en jeu avec le ♟h aprés avoir bloqué le ♗f1 sur sa case d'origine. (Judge)

C75:
For full comments and analysis please see *feenschach* 211, January-February 2015, p.5-6.

C79, C80:
Theme: Twomovers. Miniatures with at least one changed mate, which also includes at least one changed white promotion in the thematic variant(s).

C81, C82:
Theme: Treemovers. White promotion in the solution. The promotion can appear in the first, the second or the third move.

dont e2×Xd3 car le ♟c2 vient de h7 ! Le ♙h en e7 tandis que le ♙c a capturé une fois pour aller en d7. Aprés la reprise du dernier coup a6-a7#, les Noirs n'ont pas d'autre rétro-coup que a5-a4 fermant définitivement la cage des Rois. Cette cage ne pourra s'ouvrir qu'en reprenant e7×Xd6 en ayant pris soin de ramener le ♝ en f8. Mais le ♗f1 n'a pas été capturé par le ♟ en c2 (à cause de l'ouverture e2×Xd3), ni par le ♟e7 (capture sur case noir). Il a donc été pris par le ♟d sur case blanche. Donc le ♗c1, qui n'a pas été pris par le ♟d ni par le ♟h (captures sur cases blanches), a forcément été pris par le ♟e en d6 ! L'échec au ♚ qui interviendra sera fatal si l'on n'a pas positionné un écran en c7 ! (Judge: Andreï Frolkin)
Rétro : 1.a6-a7# a5-a4 2.f6×Be7 Bf8-e7 3.g5×Sf6 Se8-f6 4.g4-g5 Sc7-e8 5.g3-g4 e7×Bd6 puis 6.Be5-d6 Se6-c7 7.Bb2-e5+

C75 (Thierry Le Gleuher):
16 promotions, much more than in the previous problem [NB: 1st Prize], but clearly less mysterious because 12 new pieces are visible in position B. Here 23 black moves force precise paths implying that 4 bPs have to change their file and this forces the sacrifice of 4 promoted wPs.
The A→B stipulation facilitates things but, with twice the 4 white promotions and twice the 4 black ones, thematically speaking this problem is motivating. (Judge: René J. Millour)
1.f8=S a1=R 2.Sg6 h×g6 3.a6 g5 4.a7 g4 5.a8=Q g3 6.Qa2 g2 7.Qb1+ c×b1=Q 8.h7 Ra8 9.h8=S Qh7 10.b7 b1=B 11.b8=R Bg6 12.Rb1+ Kc2 13.Re1 d×e1=B 14.c8=B Ba5 15.Ba6 e1-S 16.Bf1 e2 17.e7 e×f1=Q 18.e8=R Qa6 19.Re2+ Kd3 20.Ke7 f1=R 21.d7 Rff8 22.Sf7 g1=S 23.g8=B Sh3 24.d8=Q+

C76 (Charles Ouellet):
1.Qg8! (2.Qg7+) 1...Qe8+/Qd7/Qc6 2.Q×e8/c×d4+/Sc4+
The last variation ends with a third pin-mate (P.Michael). Plenty of variety (Dr. C.Grupen). Complex 3 mover (C. A. Grassano).

C77 (Charles Ouellet):
1.Q×e7? (2.Qa3/Qb4) S×c6/Sc4/R×e3 2.Qa3/Qb4/Bd1 but 1...B×c6+!
1.Rb6! (2.Q×b5) Sc6/Bc6/B×d7+/Rf5 2.Qd1/Rb4/B×d7/Bd1

C78 (Charles Ouellet):
A good development of B. Ingre's idea, but the refutation of the try 1.Rd5? is not good. (Judge: Valery Kirillov)

1...d6[a] 2.Rde3[A] ∼/g3/Sg6 3.Rf2[B]/Rf3/R×e6#[C],
1...d5[b] 2.Rf2+[B] Ke5 3.Re3#, 1.Rde3?[A] (2.Rf2#[B]),
1...Sg6 2.R×e6+[C] d×e6 3.R×e6#, 1...Bb8!, 1.Rd5?
(2.Rf2#[B]), 1...Sg6 2.Se8+ Rxe8 3.f×e8=S#, 1...e×d5!
1.Sc7! (2.Sce8+ R×e8 3.f×e8=S#), 1...d6[a] 2.Rf2+[B] Ke5 3.Re3#[A], 1...d5[b] 2.Rde3[A] ∼/g3/Sg6 3.Rf2[B]/Rf3/R×e6#

C79 (Charles Ouellet):
As the author pointed out, this entry is based on a problem by Stefan Demidiuk (Kg4, Qg5, Ra8, Pc7 Kf7, #2, 2 solutions). However, I think the author has done very well in converting it into a twin with one solution per setting. Two different minor promotions, which work both as tries and solutions, flight-giving keys and some nice mates including pin-mates. I would surely have awarded this fine achievement a Prize, if it was not for the forerunner, and the quite heavy twinning, but I still think that it is well worth an Honorable Mention. Very good!
(Judge: Ingemar Lind)
a) 1.Rh7? (2.e8Q) Kc6! 1.e8S? Kb8/Kc6 2.Sd6/Q×b5#
1.e8B! Kb8/Kc8 2.Bc6#
b) 1.e8B? Kb8 2.Bc6# 1...Kc8!
1.e8S! Kc8/Kb8/Kc6 2. Qc7/Sd6/Qb5#

C80 (Charles Ouellet):
2 changed mates, and model mates in both try variants. Just as with the 1st HM, this entry is a new version of an old problem with 2 solutions (this time by the author himself!), this time remade into a variant with 1 try + 1 solution. Once again a very nice remake, and well worth an Honorable Mention despite the forerunner! (Judge: Ingemar Lind)
1.g8S? Kc6/Ke5 2.Se7/Qc5# 1...e5!
1.g8Q! Kc6/Ke5 2.Qa8/Qg5#

C81 (Charles Ouellet):
It is interesting that promotions to stronger pieces fail, while knight promotion solves, with the subsequent interference of bishop and battery checkmate. The conversion is not based on a stronger figure with. *[sic]* Tasty trifle with ideal checkmate.
(Judge: Zoltán Labai)
1.b8Q?/b8R?/b8B? 1...g5!
1.b8S! 1...g5 2.Sd7 − K×g4 3.Sf6#

C83:
Theme: Moremovers. Minor promotion of white pawn(s) on any move.

C82 (Charles Ouellet):
White correction of Bf8 with set play. (Judge: Zoltán Labai)
1...Kh7 2.Bg7 − Kg6 3.f8S#
1.Bf8∼? 2.f8Q 3.Qg7# 1...K×f6!, 1.Bg7? 2.f8S# 1...Kh7!
1.Be7! 2.f8Q - ∼ 3.Qg7#

C83 (Charles Ouellet):
Элегантная миниатюра с предоставлением свободного поля чёрному королю посредством жертвы белой фигуры, с бело-белым манёвром «ушел-пришел», чередованием третьих и четвёртых ходов белых в угрозе и решении и нешаблонным идеальным матом.

(Judge: Valerij Barsukov)
1.Sf7+? Kg6 2. h8R! (h8Q − stalemate) Kf6 3.Kf8 Kg6 4.Rh6#, but 3...Ke6!
1.Sg6! K×g6 2.h8B! Kh6 (∼ 3.f5+ Kh6 4.Bg7#) 3.Bg7+ Kg6 4.f5#

C84 (Cornel Pacurar):
Effects Circé assassin dans un proca-rétractor avec quatre décaptures sacrificielles.
-1.Kf4-g3 Rd2×h2(h2,-bRh2)+ -2.Kf3-f4 Sg4×h2(h2,-bSh2)+ -3.Ke4-f3 d6-d5+ -4.Kd5-e4 c7-c6+ -5.Kd4-d5 Sc3×a2(a2,-bSa2) -6.Qd5×Ra8(Ra8,-wQa8) & 1.Qd5-g8#
-K×g8(Qd1) est impossible à cause de Q×Sg4(Sg8,-sKg8 !) le Roi noir serait en auto-échec en g8.
-R×g8(Qd1) est impossible à cause de Q×Rd2(Rh8,-sKh8 !) (auto-échech)
C'est pour ça qu'il faut décapturer la Tour noire sur case noire avant d'aller remettre en jeu la Dame blanche. On note que le passage du Roi blanc vers d4 n'obligeait en théorie que de passer en e3 ou f4 (remettant en jeu une des deux pièces thématiques). Quatre suicides actifs (trois noirs et un blanc). Le mat est donné par une pièce blanche qui menace le Roi noir, sur un case auto-contrôlée par deux suicides passifs de pièces noires. C'est le premier problème de ce genre dans lequel la pièce matante est auto-protégée par deux pièces adverses qui se sont suicidées dans le rétro-jeu.
(Judge: Andreï Frolkin)

C85 (Cornel Pacurar):
The hit of the tourney was the imitator with 18 entries, no doubt related to the fact that it was stipulated in our Christmas tourney of the year. But the imitator has the unfortunate property that each move will change almost everything in the position, by turning moves by other pieces legal or illegal, so that the play becomes more obscure than logical. Often, one even has to think hard to determine whether a certain position is a mate or not. And I like play with clear logic behind the moves! So most of these problems are outside the award.
Of course, a good composer can devise a clear strategy with imitators, or use them to produce memorable settings of other themes. This is a superb example of the former; in fact, it is one of the best imitator problems I have ever seen! There seems to be a set-mate by 1...Kc2 (Ib2,g8)+, but Black defends by 2.e6-e7(Ib1,g7)! with no check because of Ib1. So Black has to play a 23-move (!) foreplan with the sole effect of replacing Pe7 with a Se7, which has no imitator-legal move at all. The imitators prohibit Pe7 from walking straight down to a S promotion, so like an elevator the bK has to ascend as the bP descends to e1 for the S promotion. The bK path is unique: the left edge prevents him from stepping on to the c file, and the wK stops K moves to the e file which would make the next bP move illegal. After the promotion, the mechanism reverses and the bS ascends in order to allow the bK to descend back to d1 (this is the only reason the bS has to return to e7). Again, the edge and the wK force the bK to walk in a straight line – but now in a different way! The board edges also force the bS to walk a unique zig-zag path.
Finally, we must consider the choice of promotion. Nothing is gained by a promotion to bQ or bR, as Black can still defend with Q(R)e7-e6. But a bishop promotion is possible, and it can in fact be brought back to e7 (bB zigzagging e1-f2-e3-f4 etc, and bK echoing with d7-e6-d5-e4 etc). But a bBe7 can defend by 24...Kc2 (Ib2,g8)+ 25.Bd6 (Ia1,f7)! or Bf6!
(Judge: Kjell Widlert)
1.Kd1-d2[Ia2,If8] 2.e7-e6[Ia1,If7] 3.Kd2-d3[Ia2,If8] 4.e6-e5[Ia1,If7] 5.Kd3-d4[Ia2,If8] 6.e5-e4[Ia1,If7] 7.Kd4-d5[Ia2,If8] 8.e4-e3[Ia1,If7] 9.Kd5-d6[Ia2,If8] 10.e3-e2[Ia1,If7] 11.Kd6-d7[Ia2,If8] 12.e2-e1=S[Ia1,If7] 13.Se1-g2[Ic2,Ih8] 14.Kd7-d6[Ic1,Ih7] 15.Sg2-e3[Ia2,If8] 16.Kd6-d5[Ia1,If7] 17.Se3-g4[Ic2,Ih8] 18.Kd5-d4[Ic1,Ih7] 19.Sg4-e5[Ia2,If8] 20.Kd4-d3[Ia1,If7] 21.Se5-g6[Ic2,Ih8] 22.Kd3-d2[Ic1,Ih7] 23.Sg6-e7[Ia2,If8] 24.Kd2-d1[Ia1,If7] Kb1-c2[Ib2,Ig8] #

C87-B: C.P & A.S

Original   December 10, 2013
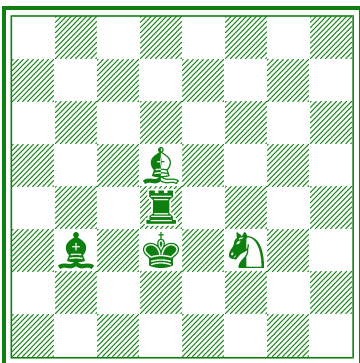
h#2.5   2.1.1   C+   (0+3+2)
Anti-Supercirce, PWC

C89

Itsy Bitsy Spider is a popular nursery rhyme that describes the adventures of a spider as it ascends, descends, and reascends the downspout of a gutter system. It is usually accompanied by a sequence of gestures that mimic the actions of the song. (Edit from wikipedia.org)

phser-=11 is a popular parry series-mover, with helpful play by black's check-parrying moves, whose aim is to stalemate the bK in 11 moves.

C86 (Cornel Pacurar):

This shows the same idea as the prize-winner 673 (**C85**) by the same composer, but in a sufficiently different manner to be considered an independent problem. As in 673 (**C85**), the imitators force the bK to ascend to allow the bP to descend to promotion, and then the promoted P has to ascend (this time in a straight line) to allow the bK to descend again but not for that reason alone: the Q that results from the promotion also has an active role to play in the final phase. After 20 moves, we are back in the diagram position but with Pf6 turned into Qf6. This allows a tricky ending, which is not necessarily an advantage (the quick mate in 673 (**C85**) is clearer), but it ends with another wonderful point that is not present in 673 (**C85**): any normal promotion on d8 will block that square so that Rb1 doesn't even check Kd1 – only an imitator doesn't block the square!
(Judge: Kjell Widlert)

1.Kb3-b4[Ia2,Ia8]   2.f6-f5[Ia1,Ia7]   3.Kb4-b5[Ia2,Ia8]   4.f5-f4 [Ia1,Ia7] 5.Kb5-b6[Ia2,Ia8] 6.f4-f3[Ia1,Ia7] 7.Kb6-b7[Ia2,Ia8] 8.f3-f2[Ia1,Ia7]   9.Kb7-b8[Ia2,Ia8]   10.f2-f1=Q[Ia1,Ia7]   11.Qf1-f2 [Ia2,Ia8] 12.Kb8-b7[Ia1,Ia7] 13.Qf2-f3[Ia2,Ia8] 14.Kb7-b6[Ia1,Ia7] 15.Qf3-f4[Ia2,Ia8] 16.Kb6-b5[Ia1,Ia7] 17.Qf4-f5[Ia2,Ia8] 18.Kb5-b4[Ia1,Ia7]   19.Qf5-f6[Ia2,Ia8]   20.Kb4-b3[Ia1,Ia7]   21.Qf6-g7 [Ib2,Ib8] 22.Kb3-c3[Ic2,Ic8] 23.Kc3-d2[Id1,Id7] 24.Qg7-f8[Ic2,Ic8] 25.Qf8-d8[Ia2,Ia8] 26.Kd2-d1[Ia1,Ia7] c7×d8=I[Ib2,Ib8]#

C87 (Cornel Pacurar, Adrian Storisteanu):

The 100% anti-supercirce specific solutions are finalized with echo mates. The solutions are rather symmetrical, which somewhat mars the general impression.
(Judge: Eric Huber)

I) 1. . . nBd5×c6[nBc6→a2][+nSd5]
2.Rd4×d5[bRd5→b1][+nSd4] nBa2×e6[nBe6→c2][+bBa2]+
3.Kd3×d4[bKd4→a1][+nSd3] nBc2×d3[nBd3→c3][+nSc2]#
II) 1. . . nBd5×c6[nBc6→g8][+nSd5]
2.Rd4×d5[bRd5→h7][+nSd4] nBg8×e6[nBe6→g6][+bBg8]+
3.Kd3×d4[bKd4→h8][+nSd3] nBg6×d3[nBd3→f6][+nSg6]#

While the play may appear repetitive at first glance, the differentiation of the echo mates – set up at diagonally-opposite corners of the board – is achieved essentially through the secondary anti-supercirce fairy effects of the 'captures'. The mates are a departure from the classic nB-in-the-corner mate. A tanagra alright, but white has a choice of roughly 197 available moves at

the start... (Authors)
Cornel, who can squeeze perfect echoes from a stone, reconsidering our "Y" the next day: "Should we have gone for a triangle / fir tree / UFO, and 198 moves?!". See **C87-B**. (A. Storisteanu)

C88 (Adrian Storisteanu):

La seule case non dommageable pour le Cavalier noir est aussi celle sur laquelle le Cavalier blanc doit jouer pour fournir la possibilité d'un saut de dégagement à une Locuste noire. Alors qu'il y a beaucoup de place sur l'échiquier, les deux Cavaliers se télescopent! Le Cavalier blanc semble, comme une Locuste, ne pouvoir se déplacer qu'en capturant... Un gag au pays des échecs qui aurait amusé Denis.
(Judges: Maryan Kerhuel and Jacques Dupin)
I) 1.Sb6! *tempo* S×b6 (!) (Se3?) 2.Lg1×b6-a7 Qa1#
II) 1.Sb2! *tempo* S×b2 (!) (Sd2?) 2.Lg2×b2-a2 Qa8#

Purely incidental wS × bS captures: for each mate, bS's only inconsequential tempo square and wS's suitable spot as sacrificial hurdle for the bL square-vacation (so devised, by the way, as to result in a long bL move, just like the wQ mating move coming immediately after) just happen to coincide. As a result *both* knights disappear (sacrificially) from the board, a clear case of unintended consequences. Line openings by the nonreturning bLs. (Author)

C89 (Adrian Storisteanu):

The weak point of the composition is that only the last part of the play uses the parry condition. If somehow also the first part (Ga2-g8) could be parry-based, the problem would have been placed higher – but I can't imagine how that could be possible.
(Judge: Kjell Widlert)
The Itsy Bitsy Spider climbed up the waterspout.
1.Ga2-c4 2.Gb3-d5 3.Gc4-e6 4.Gd5-f7 5.Ge6-g8
Down came the rain, and washed the spider out.
6.Gg8-g2+ Kg4
Out came the sun, and dried up all the rain,
And the Itsy Bitsy Spider went up the spout again.
7.Gg1-g3+ Kg5 8.Gg2-g4+ Kg6 9.Gg3-g5+ Kh7 10.Ge7-g7+ Kh8 11.Gg4-g6=

Diagonal and orthogonal wG marches, on occasion dragging the bK along. (Author)

LAST PAGE

The 26ᵗʰ Canadian Chess Championship, Montréal, 1906

When the Canadian Chess Championship was held (for the ninth time) in Montréal in 1906, only four chess players participated – the lowest number ever. The tournament was won by Magnus Smith, from Winnipeg (second from the left). Joseph Sawyer, from Montréal (third from the left), won the next Championship (Toronto, 1909).

Magnus Magnusson (the surname *Smith* was adopted in the New World) was born on September 10, 1869, in Iceland, near the village of Raudhamel. Magnus arrived to Canada in 1885, an orphan part of the mass exodus in the 1880s of 20 per cent of Iceland's population to the *New Iceland*, on the shores of Lake Winnipeg, in Manitoba.

Magnus won three consecutive Canadian Championships – in 1899, 1904, and 1906. He is known for the Sicilian Defense's "Magnus Smith Variation" and "Magnus Smith Trap" (even though the latter might be, as noted by Edward Winter in 2013, a misnomer).

Magnus Smith emigrated to the USA in 1907 and worked for Lasker's (whom he defeated on June 11, 1907, in Winnipeg) *Chess Magazine* and *The Chess Weekly* between 1907 and 1910. He passed away in Titusville, Pennsylvania, in 1934.

Magnus Smith was inducted into the *Canadian Chess Hall of Fame* in 2000.

Canadian Championship 1906, Montréal / Left to Right: R. Short, M. Smith, J. Sawyer, W. Kurrle
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