

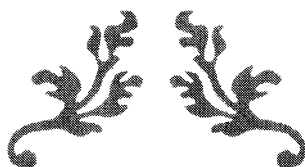
Daily Chess Training

CHESS TACTICS VOLUME 4

Sharpen your tactical ability
daily on your way to mastery



CARSTEN HANSEN
FOREWORD BY GRANDMASTER R.B.RAMESH



Chess Tactics

Volume 4

Sharpen your tactical ability daily on your way to mastery
by
Carsten Hansen



2023
CarstenChess

Daily Chess Training: Chess Tactics - Volume 4

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Printed in the United States of America

First Printing, 2023

ISBN 978-879-381-2406 (printed edition)

CarstenChess
Bayonne, NJ 07002

www.WinningQuicklyatChess.com

Contents

Foreword by GM and FIDE Senior Trainer RB Ramesh.....	3
Author’s Preface	4
How to work with this book	6
Chapter 1	9
Chapter 2	66
Chapter 3	119
Chapter 4	166
Chapter 5	215
Chapter 6	261
Chapter 7	310
Before You Go.....	332
Index of Players.....	333
Books by Carsten Hansen	340

Foreword by

GM and FIDE Senior Trainer RB Ramesh

I am really happy to write a foreword for my friend Carsten Hansen's book on chess tactics. This is the fourth volume in a series of books on Chess tactics.

One of the most important skills that an upcoming player requires to master early on is his/her ability to calculate short variations correctly. This is complicated further when the calculation involves some kind of sacrifice. Not many players are comfortable sacrificing material especially if the outcome is not so clear and immediate. Sacrifices that involve getting compensation in the form of long-term attacks, or short – term initiatives, piece activity, better pawn structure, etc. are hard to evaluate and execute for most players. With this context in mind, it is an extremely useful tool for anyone who is interested in improving their game, to solve as many puzzles as possible on a very regular basis to make quick progress in their chess strength.

Carsten is an experienced author who has written many books in the past which have been extremely well received and I am sure this book will be no exception. The puzzles are categorized under various difficulty levels which means a player irrespective of his or her current strength will find puzzles catering to their needs. Also, it would be very beneficial to try to go through the variations, where possible, in our head without moving them on the board, to improve our visualization skills simultaneously. I would urge the reader to follow the instructions given for each position diligently and reap the benefits.

My best wishes to the readers, happy learning!

*RB Ramesh.
Chennai, India
April 2023*

Author's Preface

An essential part of improving at chess is tactics. Tactics occur at every level of chess but once the players become stronger the elements involved in spotting the puzzles tend to become more complex and deeper, whereas among weaker players elementary skewers, forks and deadly pins are more frequent visitors.

This book is no instruction manual in chess tactics, but rather a representation of some of the best tactical shots from master games played almost exclusively in the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, from when the Covid lockdowns hit all areas of life, including the chess world, which luckily found that there is life to be found on the internet.

These puzzles were presented on Twitter, Instagram, as well as my Facebook page, Winning Quickly at Chess, at a rate of two puzzles per day (one in the morning and one in the afternoon, both US East coast time) and thousands of chess enthusiasts, from almost beginners to strong grandmasters, joined in to solve the puzzles.

Some of the puzzles are relatively straightforward, but there are also some rather tricky ones where even very strong players have gotten it wrong or failed to solve them, so do not despair if you are struggling with some of them. Remember that any improvement, whether in chess or other things in life, starts right outside your comfort zone.

I want to thank everybody who has taken part in solving the puzzles online, without them, the solutions presented would have looked very differently. When writing the solutions, I have tried to take into account most of the relevant, but wrong suggestions that have been made online. If you find errors or other things that should be corrected, kindly submit these to me on email: carstenchess@gmail.com

Should you have enjoyed this book kindly leave a review, no more than 10-20 words are needed. Reviews mean a lot for an author as they tell other potential readers why a book did or did not make a difference for them.

Thanks for picking up this book, I hope you will enjoy solving the puzzles as much as I have selecting them and putting this book together.

This volume was intended to come out a long time ago, but afflicted by both work and the Covid lockdowns, so that the motivation and time was rarely present at the same time.

Carsten Hansen
Bayonne (NJ)
April 2023

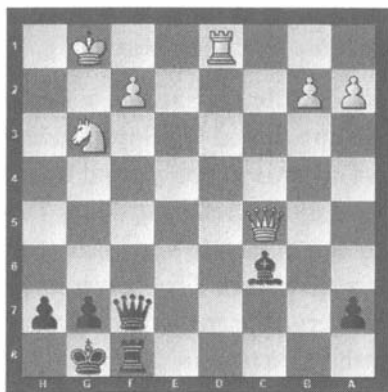
How to work with this book

This is not your usual tactical puzzle book. It is very different for a number of reasons:

1) **You're not being told what the demand is!** That you will have to figure out on your own. This is to give you more of a game feel simulation and therefore, the first tactical idea you get may not be the best, so keep looking until you are satisfied. Nor do I tell you who the players are – you will get that in the solution part. Names may spark your memory if you have seen the game before. The demand can be mate, but sometimes all you can get is a positional advantage or in a few cases a draw. You don't know, so think before moving.

2) **The first move is almost never enough.** When I have posted these puzzles online, they always come with the byline “more than the first move is required for a full solution”. This is because in many cases the finer details of the puzzle are only revealed on move 2, 3, 4, 5 and sometimes even later. Therefore, even if you think you have the right move, keep calculating to see if you have caught everything. Trust me when I tell you, even players at an international master level have missed crucial details when presenting the solution in the Facebook group or on Twitter, so for you to *assume* that you got it right without thoroughly calculating things through... you know how the saying goes!

Let me give you an example from volume 1:



When I presented this puzzle in the Facebook group, several said “too easy - 1...Qf3 and mate on the next move!” Well, not so fast. White plays 2.Qc4+ Kh3 3.Qf1 and the mate on g2 is prevented. Then, the determined

puzzle solvers said but then after **3...h7-h5** followed by ...h4, Black wins. Again, not so fast! After **3...h5?**, White plays **4.Rd3 Qf7 5.Rc3 h4 6.Rxc6 hxc3 7.Qh3+ Kg8 8.Qxg3** and White is actually doing okay. What Black had to find was **3...Bb5!**, and after **4.Qe1 Re8! 5.Qd2**, Black returns the bishop to c6, **5...Bc6!** and White can't prevent the mate on g2. So, without the precise 3rd and 4th moves, this puzzle wasn't solved, in fact, far from it. So, take your time and get the answer right. It is better to be right and slow than fast and wrong.

3) Don't use a computer to solve the puzzles for you! You don't learn anything from that, and you don't have a computer handy when you're playing your own games. When you're certain that you have found the right continuation (not move!) or you have given up hope that you can solve it, then check the solution. If you got it wrong or couldn't solve it, then mark the page or highlight it in your e-book and then revisit the puzzle next week.

4) Difficulty level and hints. These are for less experienced players. The puzzles are graded from 1 star (*) to 5 stars (*****). The 1-star puzzles are relatively mundane and should be solved by most, whereas the 5-star puzzles are positively industrial strength, they may have been missed by the players during the game, simply because they were too deep or complex to reasonably spot at the board. If you find the solution anyway – you are seriously good and can consider challenging your chess engine to a no-holds-barred blitz match!

The hints are there to go some guidance if you have no idea what to look for. However, the hints do not give the answer away, sometimes they can be a little obscure, tease more than they help.

5) Most puzzles are more difficult than those you will find in the average puzzle book or app. I tend to select puzzles that require thought and finesse, where move order is important and frequently where you need to play a couple of precise moves before striking. This will help you improve your understanding of how to maximize the effect of your pieces and get the most bang for their buck. One solver told me, it helped him get rid of his self-coined but very appropriate term “puzzle rush bias” where you know there is something tactical in the position and it is right there, ready to be found.

Because the puzzles are so hard, don't do too many in a day. I post tactical puzzles in the Facebook group, on Twitter, and on Instagram at a rate of two per day. That could be sufficient for you for that day. Some regular

solvers save the puzzles for when they are not tired because they know they will otherwise miss something.

6) Solving these puzzles will make you a lot better – guaranteed! If you follow the instructions and tips above, your tactical vision will expand, your calculation skills will improve, even dramatically so. Several solvers have told me that they have started winning tournaments for the first time in their lives. Obviously, there is no guarantee that this will happen for you, but it could (and should, I would certainly like that).

If you find the puzzles impossibly difficult, work your way through the solutions at a rate of a couple per day. And then revisit the puzzles two weeks later. If you can solve them at that point, your pattern recognition has improved, and you are on the way to getting better! If you go at that rate, it will take you six months to complete this book and then you can pick up the next book in the series.

Or come join us on social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WinningQuicklyatChess/ or
www.facebook.com/groups/WinningQuicklyatChess/

Twitter: twitter.com/CazHansen

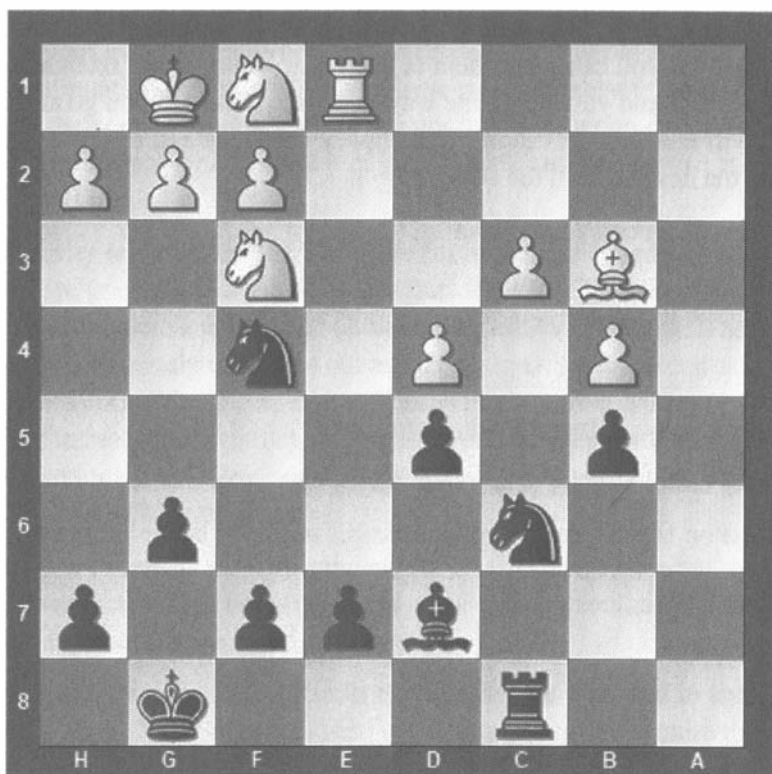
Instagram: www.instagram.com/chansen64/

Or on my website: www.winningquicklyatchess.com

Welcome on board, prepare yourself to get seriously better at chess.

Chapter 1

Sets 1-16



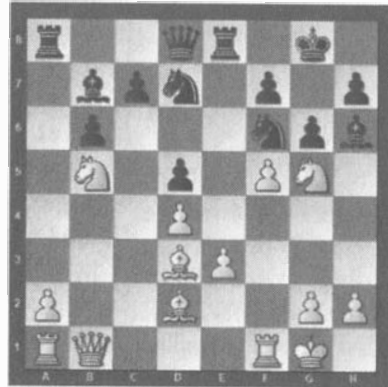
Set 1

Exercises to Set 1

1.1)



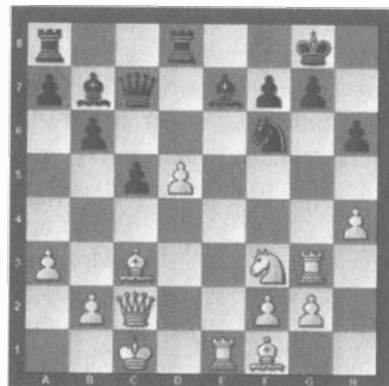
1.2)



1.3)



1.4)



1.1)

Hint: Open the safe

1.2)

Hint: Insufficient protection

1.3)

**

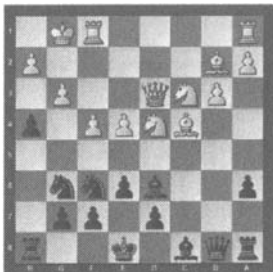
Hint: Brute force

1.4)

Hint: Build the pressure

Solutions to Set 1

1.1)



16...hgx3!

This is best, but also 16...Bb7; and 16...Bc5 are excellent.

17.hxg3 Bb7!?

It was stronger to play 17...Nxf4! 18.gxf4 Bxf4 19.Rf2 Ng4 20.Nd1 Be3! 21.Nxe3 Rh1+! 22.Kxh1 Nxf2+ and Black is winning.

18.Rae1 Qc7 19.Re2 Qc5?

Black should have played 19...Bc5! 20.Kg2 Ng4 and Black is winning.

20.Na4 Qh5 21.Nf5 exf5? 22.exf5+??

White should have played 22.Bxf6 Qh1+ 23.Kf2 Rh2+ 24.Ke1 Rxe2+ 25.Qxe2 and White has a good position.

22...Ne5 23.Qxd6??

Now White loses by force.

23...Qh1+ 24.Kf2 Qxf1+

Or 24...Rh2+ and Black is winning.

25.Kxf1 Rh1+ 26.Kf2 Nfg4#

0-1

Chatterjee Utsab (2200) – Y.T. Taher (2469)
Mumbai 2019

1.2)



17.e4!

White opens the position while simultaneously guarding the knight on g5 with the bishop on d2. Now, the immediate threat is e4–e5. No other move does anything for White, for instance, 17.h4 Bxg5 18.hxg5 Ne4 is fine for Black despite the absence of the dark-squared bishop.

17...Nxe4

Black accepts the challenge. The alternatives also do not work for Black: a) 17...Bxg5 18.Bxg5 dxe4 19.Bc4 Ba6 20.Qb3 and White is much better due to the pins on f6 and f7. b) 17...dxe4 18.Bc4 Bxg5 19.Bxg5 Ra5 20.Qb3 Rf8 21.Rae1 is similarly problematic for Black.

18.fxg6 Nxd2 19.gxf7+?

Here, White misses the best opportunity. It was much better to capture the other pawn.

19.gxh7+! Kg7 20.h8Q+ (This is possibly the move that White had overlooked when choosing where to capture) 20...Kxh8 (if 20...Rxxh8 then 21.Rxf7+ Kg8 22.Bh7+ Rxh7 23.Qxh7# is a pretty conclusion to the game) 21.Nxf7+ Kg7 22.Nxd8 Nxb1 23.Nxb7 Nd2 24.Nxc7 Nxf1 25.Nxe8+ Rxe8 26.Nd6 and White will end up with a won endgame.

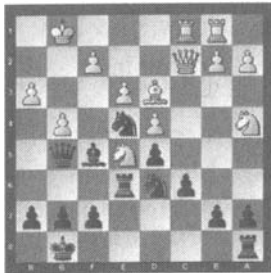
19...Kg7 20.Nxc7 Qxc7 21.fxe8N+ Rxe8 22.Rf7+ Kh8 23.Qd1 Bg7??

Here, Black should have tried 23...Qc3 24.Rxxh7+ Kg8 25.Rxxh6 Qxd3 26.Kh1 Re2 27.Rc1 when White is still better but Black's active pieces are very annoying for White. After the text move, however, White wins easily.

24.Qh5 Bxd4+ 25.Kh1 Nf6 26.Rxf6 Qe7 27.Nf7+ and Black resigned as he will get mated in a few more moves. **1-0**

C. Sandipan (2545) – R. Mohammad Fahad (2294) Mumbai 2020

1.3)



18...Rh6!

Black also has a clear advantage after both 18...Rae8; and 18...Bg6 both of which would be met with 19.f4 when White has some measure of counterplay. After the text move, Black's attack quickly strikes through.

19.f4

Natural: kicking Black's queen and allowing White's own queen to join the defense of his majesty. An important alternative is 19.Bf1 f6 20.Nd3 (once more, White can consider 20.f4 Qh4 21.gxf5 (or 21.Nf3 Qg3+ 22.Qg2 Rxh3 and Black is winning) 21...Qg3+ 22.Qg2 Qxe3+ 23.Kh2 Qxf4+ 24.Kg1 fxe5 and Black is winning) 20...Nxf2 21.Kxf2 (also 21.Qxf2 Bxd3 22.Bxd3 Rxh3 is a disaster for White, e.g., 23.Bf1 Qxg4+ 24.Bg2 Rg3 25.Nc3 Re8 26.Re1 Nf5 and Black is winning) 21...Bxd3 22.Qxd3 (or 22.Bxd3 Rxh3 23.Bxh7+ Kh8 and Black wins) 22...f5! (opening another file toward White vulnerable king) 23.Bg2 fxg4 24.Rg1 Re8 25.Nc3 Qh4+ 26.Ke2 gxh3 27.Bf3 Rhe6

(Black already has three pawns for the sacrificed piece) 28.Nxd5 cxd5 29.Bxd5 Qh5+ 30.Bf3 Rxe3+ 31.Qxe3 Qb5+ (Black is also winning after 31...Rxe3+ 32.Kxe3 Nf5+ 33.Ke4 Qf7, but the main move is more precise) 32.Kf2 Rxe3 33.Kxe3 Nf5+ 34.Kf4 Nxd4 and Black is winning. Chasing the queen with 19.Nf3 does not give White any reprieve: 19...Qf6 20.Kg2 Rxh3! 21.Kxh3 Bxg4+! when only a miracle can prevent White from getting mated.

19...Qh4! 20.Qg2

20.Qh2 is similarly met with 20...f6 and Black will win.

20...f6! 21.Nf3

The alternatives are not any better: a) 21.Rc2 fxe5 22.dxe5 Nf2! and Black wins; b) 21.gxf5 fxe5 22.Bxe4 dxe4 23.Qg4 exd4 24.Qxh4 Rxh4 25.exd4 Nxf5 and Black has a won endgame.

21...Qxh3 22.gxf5

Exchanging the queens does not help White, e.g., 22.Qxh3 Rxh3 23.gxf5 Rg3+ 24.Kh2 Rxf3 25.Bxe4 Nxe4 and Black is easily winning.

22...Qxf5 23.Kf1

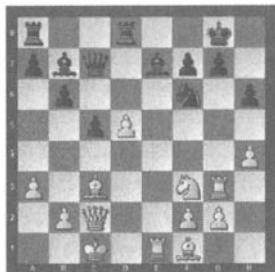
If 23.Bxe4 Nxe4 24.Kf1 then 24...Qh5! 25.Nc3 Rg6 26.Nxe4 Rxg2 27.Nxf6+ gxf6 28.Kxg2 Qg6+ 29.Kf2 Kf7 and Black is winning.

23...Ng3+!

And with the impending material losses, for instance, 23...Ng3+ 24.Qxg3 (or 24.Kg1 Qxd3) 24...Qxd3+, White chose to resign. **0–1**

A. Merario Alarcon (2412) – N. Kumar (2315) Roquetas de Mar.2020

1.4)



18.Qf5!

This is best, but White has a strong alternative in 18.Be5!? Bd6 (or 18...Qd7 19.Qd2! Kh8 20.d6! Bf8 21.Qxh6+! gxh6 22.Bxf6+ Bg7 23.Bxg7+ Kh7 24.Bd3+ and it is game over for Black) 19.Rxg7+! Kxg7 20.Bxf6+ Kxf6 21.Qc3+ Kg6 22.Bd3+ f5 23.Re6+ Kf7 24.Rf6+! (the only winning move; note that 24.Qf6+? Kg8 25.Qxf5 Rd7 only is better for White if you here find 26.Kb1!! c4 27.Bc2 Bf8 28.Rf6 Re8 29.Qg6+ Rg7 30.Qxe8 Qe7

31.Rxf8+ Qxf8 32.Qe5 with a strong ongoing initiative) 24...Ke7 25.Rxf5 and White is winning.

18...Kf8

Two alternatives are: 18...Rxd5 19.Rxe7! Qxg3 20.fxg3 Rxf5 21.Rxb7; or 18...Bc8 19.Rxe7! Qxg3 20.Qxf6 gxf6 21.fxg3, in both cases winning for White.

19.Ng5!

An equally strong alternative was 19.Rxg7!? Kxg7 20.Ng5 Kg8 21.Nxf7 (or 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.Qh7+ Kf8 23.Ne6+) 21...Kxf7 22.Re6 Rxd5 23.Rxf6+ Bxf6 24.Qh7+ Kf8 25.Qxc7 Bxc3 26.Bc4 and White wins.

19...hgx5 20.Qxg5 Qxg3 21.Qxg3 Bxd5 22.Bd3!?

The engine gives 22.h5! as better, e.g., 22...Be6 23.Rxe6! fxe6 24.Bc4 Nxb5 25.Qg4 Re8 26.f4! (but not 26.Qxe6?? Bg5+ when Black is winning) and Black will not survive.

22...Be6 23.Be4 Bd6 24.Qg5 Rac8 25.Bxf6 gxf6 26.Qxf6 c4 27.Bg6 and Black resigned. 1–0

Z. Sturua (2530) – S. Pogosyan (2477)
Yerevan 2020

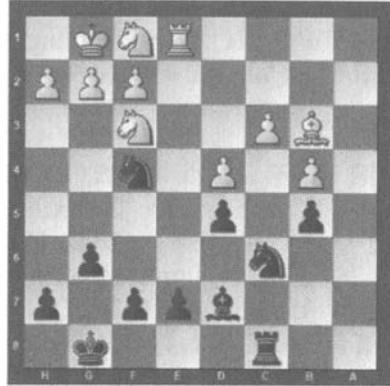
Set 2

Exercises to Set 2

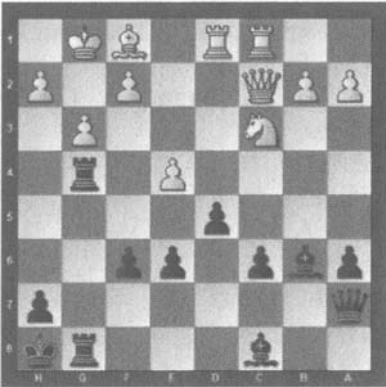
2.1)



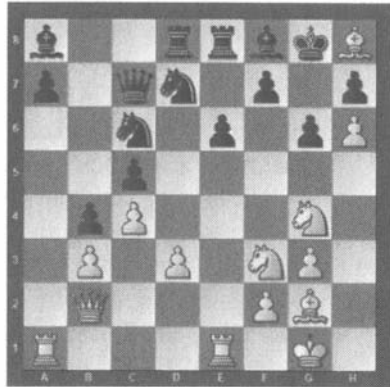
2.2)



2.3)



2.4)



2.1)

**

Hint: Easily distracted

2.2)

*

Hint: Poor coordination and structural issues

2.3)

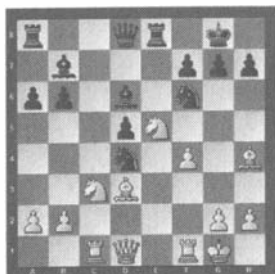
Hint: Power!

2.4)

Hint: Tie him down!

Solutions to Set 2

2.1)



16.Bxh7+! Kf8

Or 16...Kxh7 17.Nxf7 Qe7 18.Nxd6 Qxd6 19.Qxd4 and White is clearly better.

17.Bxf6! gxf6 18.Qh5!

Also possible was 18.Qg4!? Rxe5 (or 18...Bxe5? 19.fxe5 Rxe5 20.Qxd4 and White is winning) 19.fxe5 Bxe5 20.Qh4 Rc8 21.Rce1 with a decisive advantage for White.

18...Rxe5

Or 18...Bxe5 19.Qh6+ Ke7 20.fxe5 fxe5 21.Rf6 Rf8 22.Rxb6 and White is winning.

19.fxe5 Bxe5 20.Bg6?

Here, the most accurate continuation for White was 20.Rce1! Qd6 21.Bg6 fxg6 22.Qxe5 and White would be winning.

20...Ne6 21.Bf5?!

The computer indicates 21.Bxf7 Ng7 22.Qxe5 fxe5 23.Bxd5+ Ke8 24.Bxb7 Qd4+ 25.Kh1 Rd8 26.Rcd1 as winning for White but that is obviously easier said than done.

21...Qd6 22.Rcd1 b5?

22...Nd4! was a better choice for Black.

23.Kh1

23.Ne4! wins for White.

23...Nf4

23...d4! would keep Black in the game.

24.Qh6+ Ke7 25.Ne4 Qc7? 26.Nxf6 Qd6

27.Rde1 d4 28.Qxf4 and Black resigned. 1–0

I. Rozum (2573) – KRP Bharat (2306) New Delhi 2020

2.2)



23...Bg4!

The positional threat of ...Bxf3 with destruction of White's pawn structure is best, but 23...Nb8!? is also quite strong 24.Ne3 (or 24.Rxe7 Rxc3 25.Re3 Nc6 is Black is clearly better) 24...Rxc3 25.Bxd5 (or 25.Nxd5 Nxd5 26.Bxd5 Na6 27.h4 e6 with a clear advantage for Black) 25...Nc6 26.Bxc6 Bxc6 27.Ne5 Bb7 and Black has a clear advantage.

24.Re3??

It was better to play 24.Bd1 e6 25.Ne3 Bxf3 26.Bxf3 Ne7 27.Nd1 Ra8 when Black is only clearly better.

24...Bxf3 25.Rxf3 Nxd4!

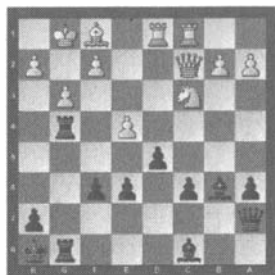
Or 25...Ne2+! 26.Kh1 Ncx d4, leading to the same.

26.cxd4 Ne2+ 27.Kh1 Rc1 28.g3 Rxf1+ 29.Kg2 Rg1+ 30.Kh3 Nxd4 and White resigned. 0–1

K. Chukavin (2359) – Y. Kuzubov (2644)

Tallinn (rapid) 2020

2.3)



26...Rxc3+! 27.hxc3 Rxc3+ 28.Kh2 Bxf2??

The best continuation was 28...Rf3! 29.Bg2 Rxf2! 30.Qd3 Be3 and Black is winning, e.g., 31.Rc2 Rxc2 32.Qxc2 Qb8+ 33.Kh1 Qg3 and White's king is running out of squares.

29.Rd3??

White should have played 29.Qe2 Rg5 30.Bh3 Qb8+ 31.Kh1 Qg3 32.Rd3 Qh4 33.e5 c5 34.Rf1 Bg3 35.Qg2 Bxe5 36.Qf2 Qh6 and Black should be winning according to the engine, but obviously, this is much more complex than if Black had played 28...Rf3!.

29...Qc7 30.Rxc3 Qxc3+ and, facing mate, White resigned. 0–1

L.I. Langner (2373) – L. Mrazek (2303)

Czech Team ch 2020

2.4)



29.Bf6!?

This works brilliantly in the game, but the better and more beautiful option was 29.Qg7+!! Bxg7 30.hxc3 h5 31.Nh6+ Kh7 32.Nxf7! Rxh8 33.gxh8Q+ Rxh8 34.N3g5+! Kg8 35.Rxe6! and White is winning.

29...Ne7??

Black now loses promptly. A better option was 29...Rc8 30.Be5 Qb6 (or 30...Qd8 31.Bd6 f6 32.Bxf8 Kxf8 33.d4 with a decisive advantage for White) 31.Bd6 Nd4 32.Nxd4 cxd4 33.c5 and White is clearly better.

30.Nfe5! and Black resigned. 1–0

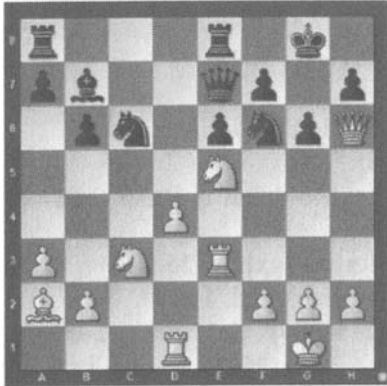
S. Ansell (2334) – L. Cyborowski (2505)

4NCL (Daventry) 2020

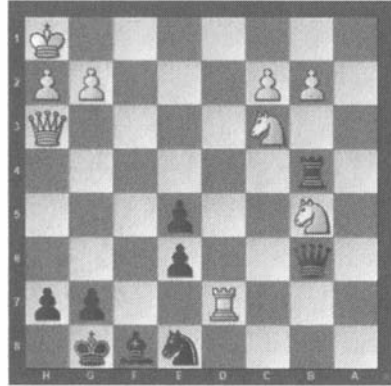
Set 3

Exercises to Set 3

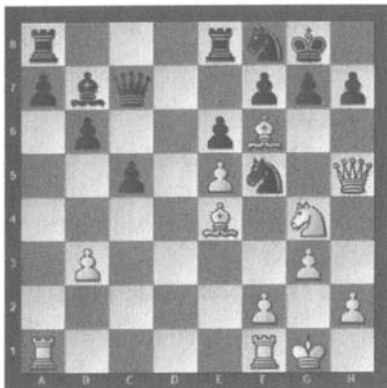
3.1)



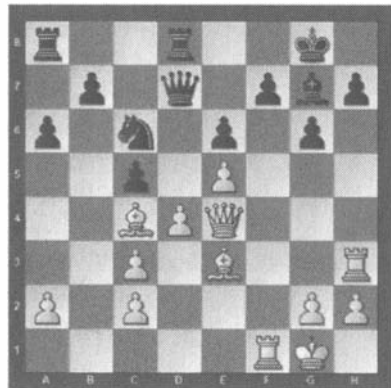
3.2)



3.3)



3.4)



3.1)

Hint: Open Sesame!

3.3)

Hint: Remove the distractions

3.2)

*

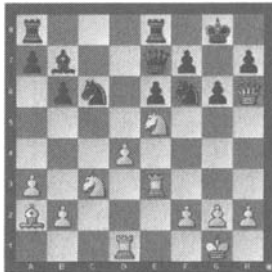
Hint: Basic weakness

3.4)

Hint: Where there is a hole, there is a way.

Solutions to Set 3

3.1)



22.Nxg6!!

This is much stronger than the "normal" breakthrough: 22.d5 Nxe5 23.dxe6 fxe6 24.Rxe5 Qf7 (of course, 24...Ng4 25.Rxe6 is worse for Black) 25.h3 with a decisive advantage for White.

22...hxg6 23.Rh3!

The first point behind the sacrifice.

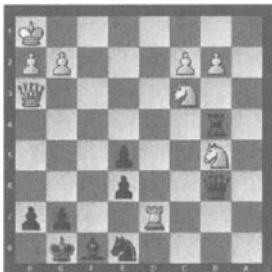
23...Nh5 24.Ne4!

The second point: the threat is Rxh5 followed by Nf6+.

24...Nxd4 25.Rxh5 gxh5 26.Nf6+ Qxf6 27.Qxf6 and Black resigned. 1–0

D. Kuljasevic (2550) – P. Schreiner (2464)
Austrian Team ch 2020 (2508), World Rapid 2018 (St Petersburg) 2018

3.2)



25...Rf4! 26.Rd1

Nothing else works either, for instance, 26.Qd3 Qf2 27.h3 Qe1+ 28.Kh2 Rf1; or 26.g3 Qc6+, in both cases, Black is easily winning.

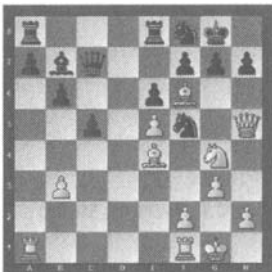
26...Nf6!

Now ...Ng4 is threatened.

27.g3 Ng4 28.Qh5 Qc6+ 29.Kg1 Bc5+ and with all of the black pieces engaged in the attack, it is over for White, who chose to resign before getting mated. 0–1

Y. Emanuel (2356) – D. Zoler (2485) Israeli Team ch 2020

3.3)



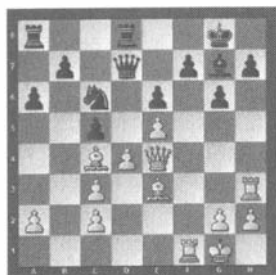
26.Bxf5! exf5 27.Nh6+! Kh8?

If Black captures the knight the, the attack will not easily be stopped. 27...gxh6 28.Qxh6 Ne6 29.Ra4! and the necessary reinforcements are on the way.

28.Bxg7+! Kxg7 29.Qg5+ Ng6 30.Nxf5+ Kg8 31.Qf6 and Black resigned before getting mated. 1–0

A. Hesham (2429) – B. Lalith (2558) New Delhi 2020

3.4)



17.Qh4! h5 18.g4 cxd4 19.cxd4?

The most accurate continuation was 19.gxh5 dxe3 20.hxg6 Nxe5 21.Qh7+ Kf8 22.gxf7 Qd2 23.Rg3 Ke7 24.Qxg7 and it is game over for Black.

19...Nxd4

Or 19...Qe7 20.gxh5 Qxh4 21.Rxh4 gxh5 22.Be2 with a decisive advantage for White.

20.Bd3?

White throws most of her advantage away. A better option was 20.c3 Rac8 21.Bxd4 Rxc4 22.gxh5 Rxd4 23.Qxd4 Qxd4+ 24.cxd4 Rxd4 25.h6 Bh8 26.h7+ Kg7 27.Rc1 and White is winning.

20...hxg4??

Black is fine after 20...Bxe5!, for instance, 21.gxh5? Nf5! 22.Bxf5 exf5 and Black has the clearly better chances.

21.Qh7+ Kf8 22.Bh6!

Now White is completely winning.

22...Nf5 23.Rxf5 Qd4+ 24.Re3 exf5 25.Qxg7+ Ke8 26.Qh8+ Ke7 27.Qf6+ Ke8 28.Bg5 Kd7 29.e6+ Kc6 30.exf7+ Qxf6 31.Bxf6 Rf8 32.Bc4 f4 33.Re4 b5 34.Bb3 Ra7 35.Be7 and Black resigned. 1–0

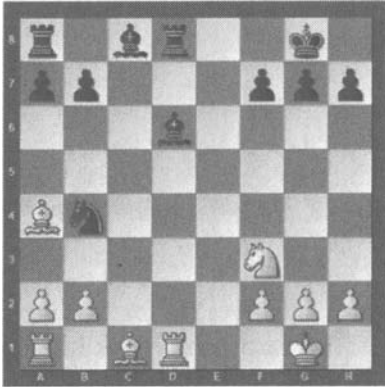
I. Bulmaga (2446) – D. Dordzhieva (2326)

Sharjah 2020

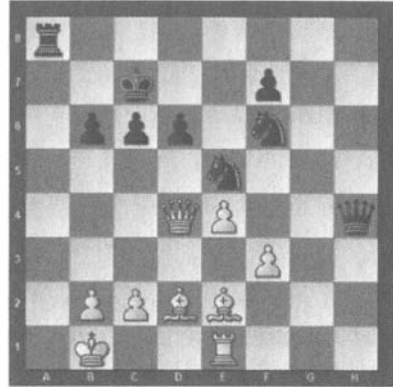
Set 4

Exercises to Set 4

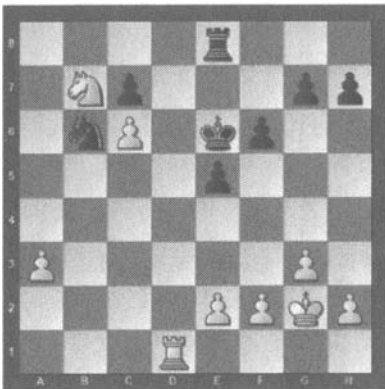
4.1)



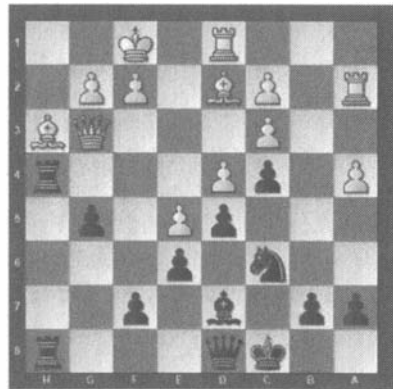
4.2)



4.3)



4.4)



4.1)

**

Hint: Exploit the main advantage

4.2)

Hint: The weakest pot is the key

4.3)

**

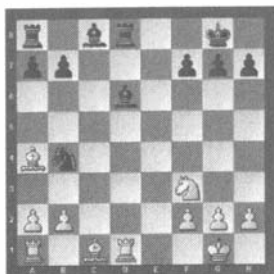
Hint: Walk strong

4.4)

Hint: Too many holes and many uncoordinated pieces

Solutions to Set 4

4.1)



18.Bg5!

This is an important intermediary move. The immediate 18.Bf4? leads nowhere: 18...Be7 19.Rxd8+ Bxd8 20.Rd1 (or 20.Re1 Be6 and Black is almost better) 20...Be6 and White is, at best, marginally better.

18...f6 19.Bf4 Be7 20.Rxd8+! Bxd8 21.Re1 Kf7 22.Bb3+

Or 22.Be8+ Kg8 23.Bb5 g5 24.Bd6 (24.Re8+ Kf7 25.Bd6 and White wins a piece) 24...Nc6 (24...a5 25.Re8+ wins a piece) 25.Bxc6 bxc6 26.Re8+ and White is winning.

22...Kg6 23.Re8

White also wins with 23.Bd2 Nc6 (if 23...Nd3 then 24.Bc2 Bf5 25.Nh4+, winning a piece) 24.Re8 Bd7 25.Nh4+ Kh5 26.Bf7+ g6 (or 26...Kxh4 27.Re4+ Bg4 28.g3+ Kh3 29.Bc4 and mate on the next move) 27.Rh8 Kxh4 28.Rxh7+ Kg4 29.Bxg6 with mate.

23...Bd7 24.Rh8

The most accurate continuation was 24.g3! Nd3 (or 24...Bxe8 25.Nh4+ Kh5 26.Bd1#) 25.Nh4+ Kh5 26.Rh8 Nxf4 27.Rxh7+ Kg5 28.Rxg7+ Kh6 29.Rxd7 and White is, of course, completely winning.

24...Kf5 25.Bd6

Also 25.Bd2 a5 26.Rxh7 wins.

25...Nc6? 26.Rxh7

26.Bd5!?

26...Bb6? 27.Rxg7 Rd8 28.Bd5! Black resigned as he is getting mated, e.g., 28.Bd5 Ne5 29.Nh4+ Kf4 30.g3# **1-0**

P. Neuman (2367) – T. Ludvik (2305) Czech Team ch 2020

4.2)

33.Rd1!

Creating a threat against the d6-pawn.

33...c5

An important alternative is 33...Ne8 34.Bb4 Qe7 (or 34...Rd8 35.Be1 Qh2 36.Qe3 Kb7 37.f4 Nd7 38.Bf2 and White is clearly better) 35.f4



Nd7 36.e5 Nc5 37.Bf3 with a clear advantage for White.

34.Qxd6+ Kxd6 35.Bg5+ Ke6?

A better defensive try was 35...Kc6 36.Bxh4 Nh5 when Black is trying to lay a clamp on the dark squares on the kingside, but White has a clear advantage.

36.Bxh4 Nh5

Or 36...Rh8 37.Bg5 Rg8 38.Bc1 and White is winning; the f-pawn will start moving forward with devastating effect.

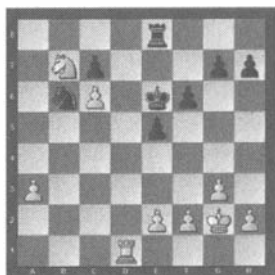
37.Bd8 Ng3?

It made more sense to play 37...Nf4 but after 38.Bf1, White is winning.

38.f4 Ra4 39.f5+ and having to give up a knight, Black resigned. 1–0

H. Gusain (2401) – R. Vasquez Schroeder (2487) New Delhi 2020

4.3)



29.a4!

This is the strong move that sadly isn't the best, but the idea is brilliant, however, best prefaced by 29.e4! when 29...Ra8 is now running into 30.a4! and here 30...Nxa4 (or 30...Rxa4 31.Nc5+) 31.Nd8+ Ke7 32.Rd7+ Ke8 33.Ne6 wins for White.

29...Nxa4 30.Rd7

This penetration was the point behind the previous move.

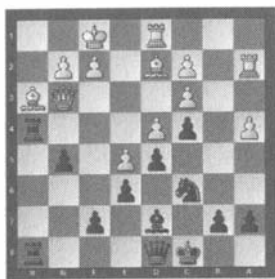
30...Nb6?

Or 30...e4 31.f4 (31.f3 exf3+ 32.Kxf3 and White wins) 31...g5 32.Nd8+ and White is winning.

31.Nc5+ Kf5 32.Rxg7 h5 33.e4# Checkmate ends the game. 1–0

K. Grigoryan (2632) – D. Sadzikowski (2501) Roquetas de Mar 2020

4.4)



27...g4!

This is a beautiful breakthrough. Black now wins more or less by force.

28.Bxg4 Rh1+ 29.Ke2 Rxd1 30.Kxd1 Rh1+ 31.Be1

Also after 31.Ke2, Black plays 31...Qb6!, intending ...Qb1 with decisive penetration of White's defensive ranks, e.g., 32.Bh3 Qb1 33.Qg8+ (33.Ra3 Qd1+ 34.Ke3 Qxc2 and Black wins) 33...Kc7 34.Qxf7 Nd8 35.Qe7 Qxa2 and Black is winning.

31...Qb6! 32.Ra1 Qb2 and White resigned.
0-1

N. Huschenbeth (2616) – A. Rodriguez Vila (2469) Guatemala City 2020

Set 5

Exercises to Set 5

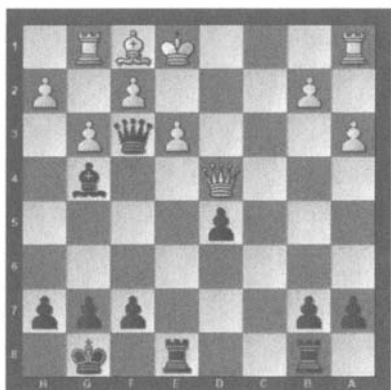
5.1)



5.2)



5.3)



5.4)



5.1)

Hint: Regroup

5.3)

**

Hint: Crack it open

5.2)

**

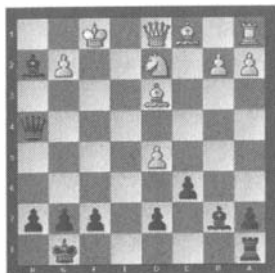
When a threat isn't really a threat

5.4)

Hint: Eliminate the obvious defenders and then dive deeper

Solutions to Set 5

5.1)



22...Bc7!

The only winning move; the idea is to switch the bishop to b6, while giving the queen access to h1 and leave the e-file open for the rook.

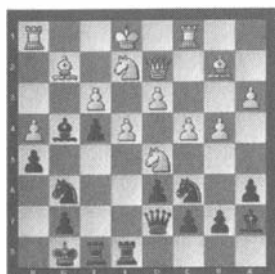
23.Qe2

A couple of alternatives were 23.Qc2 Bb6 24.Nc4 Qh1+ 25.Ke2 Re8+; and 23.Qf3 Re8 24.Ne4 Qh1+ 25.Ke2 cxd5, in both cases leaving Black winning.

23...Bb6! and White resigned. A possible continuation was 23...Bb6 24.Qe1 Qh1+ 25.Ke2 Qh5+ 26.Kf1 (or 26.Nf3 Re8+) and now 26...Ba6! with the point of 27.Bxa6 Qh1+ 28.Ke2 Re8+ and it is curtains for White. **0-1**

A. Tukhaev (2548) – M. Pranesh (2317) New Delhi 2020

5.2)



17...Nce5! 18.Nexf4

White cannot capture on g4, for instance, 18.fxcg4 Qxg4 19.Nec3 Be3 20.Qe2 Bxc1 21.Qxg4 Nxd3+ 22.Ke2 hxg4 23.Bxc1 Nxc1+ 24.Rxc1 f3+ and Black is winning.

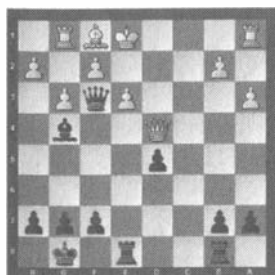
18...Nxf4 19.Nxf4 Rxf4 20.Bxe5

20.Qxf4? Nxd3+ is even worse.

20...dxe5 21.fxcg4 Rf2! 22.Qxf2 Bxf2+ 23.Kxf2 Rf8+ and White had enough. **0-1**

M. Raicevic (2331) – T. Vedrickas (2403) Budva 2019

5.3)



19...Rbc8!?

Black's best continuation was 19...Re4 20.Qd3 (20.Qxd5?? Rxe3+ with mate in a few moves; 20.Qd2 d4 21.Be2 dxe3 22.Bxf3 exd2+ 23.Kxd2 Rd8+ and Black is winning) 20...Rbe8! 21.Be2 Rxe3 22.fxe3 Rxe3 23.Qxe3 Qxe3 24.Rg2 Qe4 and Black is winning.

20.Qd3??

Making things worse, but also 20.Qf4 Rc2 21.Qxf3 Bxf3 22.Rb1 Be4 leads to a decisive advantage for Black.

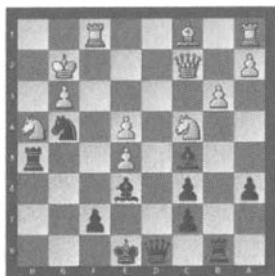
20...Qf6!

Now Black wins easily.

**21.Be2 Qxb2 22.Rd1 Bxe2 23.Qxe2 Rc2
24.Qf3 Re6 25.Rxd5 Rc1+ 26.Rd1 Rd6** and
White resigned. 0–1

**H. Gabuzyan (2585) – R. Hovhannisyan
(2641) Armenian ch (Yerevan) 2020**

5.4)



20...Rxb4!

The brutal straight-forward breakthrough. However, this is not the end station of this puzzle. There are many precise moves you should have found in what follows to obtain a full score for your solution.

21.gxh4 Qxh4 22.Rh1

An important alternative is 22.Bf4 Nxe5! (This is nicest, but Black also wins after 22...Nf2! 23.Rxf2 Bh3+ 24.Kh1 (the alternatives are no better, for example, 24.Kf3? Qg4#; or 24.Kg1 Qxf4 25.Raf1 Qg3+ 26.Kh1 Bg2+ 27.Rxg2 Qh3+ 28.Rh2 Qxf1#) 24...Bg4+ 25.Bh2 Bxf2 26.Qd3 Rd8 27.Qc3 Bf5! and Black wins) 23.Qc3 (after 23.Be3, Black wins with 23...Qh3+ 24.Kg1 Bxe3+ 25.Nxe3 Qxe3+ 26.Qf2 Qg5+ 27.Qg2 Ng4 28.Qg3 Kd7 (28...Rd8!? also wins) 29.Rad1+ Kc8 and while Black's king finds safety on the queenside, White's king is stuck in the fire on the kingside) 23...Ke7! 24.Qg3 (or 24.Nxe5 Rg8+ 25.Bg3 Qh3+ 26.Kf3 Rxg3+ and it is soon over) 24...Rg8 25.Ne3 (if 25.Nxe5, then 25...Qh3+ 26.Kf3 Qh5+ 27.Kg2 Bh3+ 28.Kh1 Bxf1+ ends the fun) 25...Rxg3+ 26.Bxg3 Qxe4+ 27.Kh2 Bxe3 and White is, of course, completely lost and will also soon get mated.

22...Nh2! 23.Be3

Or 23.Ne3 Qh3+ 24.Kf2 Qf3+ 25.Ke1 Qxh1+ and Black wins.

23...Qh3+ 24.Kg1

24.Kf2 Qf3+ again loses the rook on h1 and the game.

24...Bxc4 25.Rxb2 Qxe3+ 26.Kh1 Bd3! and White resigned. 0–1

**D. Saduakassova (2519) – S. Ganguly (2636)
Wijk aan Zee 2020**

Set 6

Exercises to Set 6

6.1)



6.2)



6.3)



6.4)



6.1)

**

Hint: Classical push

6.3)

Hint: Find weaknesses, exploit them

6.2)

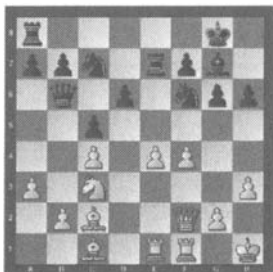
Hint: Slipping through the cracks

6.4)

Hint: My kingdom for a...

Solutions to Set 6

6.1)



21.e5!

White breaks open the files where he has aligned his heavy pieces. Black's pieces are less well coordinated and therefore will struggle to keep up when the battle commences.

21...Nd7

The alternatives are less promising:

a) 21...dxe5 22.fxe5 Nd7 23.e6 fxe6 24.Qh4 and Black's position collapses.

b) 21...Nfe8 22.f5 dxe5 23.fxg6 fxg6 24.Qh4 Re6 25.Ne4 Nd6 26.Bxh6 Nxe4 27.Bxe4 Bxh6 28.Qxh6 Qd6 29.Rf3 Rf8 30.Ree3 and White has a winning position; the black position is riddled with weaknesses.

22.f5 dxe5 23.fxg6

Or 23.Ne4 Rae8 24.f6 Nxf6 25.Nxf6+ Bxf6 26.Qxf6 Qxf6 27.Rxf6 and White has won a piece.

23...fxg6 24.Qh4 g5

Or 24...Re6 25.Bxh6 Rf8 26.Be4 with an overwhelming positional advantage for White.

25.Bxg5 Re6 26.Nd5

Black resigned; a possible continuation would have been 26.Nd5 Nxd5 27.cxd5 Rg6 28.Be7 and Black's position is hopelessly lost. 1-0

A. Pridorozhni (2601) – D. Gutierrez

Olivares (2358) Seville 2020

6.2)



29.Ra5!

In the game, White won after the less precise

29.gxh5!? Qxh5?? (29...gxh5 30.Qg3 Kf8

31.Ra5 and White is winning) 30.Qf6+ Kg8

31.Ra5 Qg4+ 32.Kf1 Nd8 33.Ra8 and Black

resigned. 1-0 **D. Dubov (2683) – V. Artemiev (2731) Wijk aan Zee 2020.**

29...Qd8

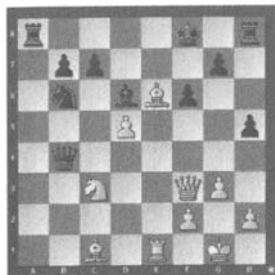
The rook cannot be captured: 29...Nxa5

30.Qf6+ Kg8 31.Rc8+ with mate on h8 to

follow. **30.Rxa4** and White has picked up a pawn and can force his way through at will

because Black cannot bring defenders to the kingside. 1–0

6.3)



26.Bg5!

White threatens to force his way through to Black's king. If White tries to penetrate with 26.Qd3, Black is better able to set up a defense: 26...Re8 27.Bd2 Qc4 28.Qg6 Re7 29.Ne4 Qd3 30.Qf5 with an ongoing initiative and better chances for White but there is no immediate path through to Black's king.

26...Be7? A logical move but nevertheless a mistake. A better choice was 26...Nxd5 27.Bxd5 Qg4 28.Qxg4 hxg4 29.Be3 when White is clearly better but Black is still alive.

27.Qd3

Threatening Qg6–f7#.

27...Nc4

Or 27...Bd8 28.Be3 Nc4 29.Qg6 Qe7 30.Bc5 Nd6 31.Nb5 and Black is busted.

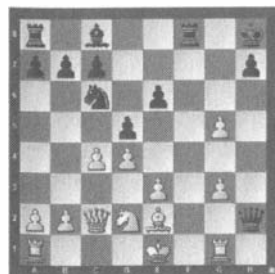
28.Qg6 Nd6 29.Bf4

Stopping the mate will not cost Black a lot of material.

29...Qxc3 30.Bxd6 Qxe1+ 31.Kg2 Qe4+ 32.Qxe4 and Black resigned. The mate can only be delayed, not prevented. 1–0

B. Savchenko (2573) – D. Voit (2336) Lipetsk (rapid) 2020

6.4)



18.0–0–0!

White gives up a piece to be able to launch an attack on the h-file that is currently occupied by both of Black's majesties.

18...Qxe2

Some other moves for Black were:

a) 18...Nb4 19.Qa4 Qxe2 20.Qxb4 Re8 21.Rh1 Qd3 22.e4 Qxd4 23.g6 and White is winning.
b) 18...Rf7 19.Nf3 (or 19.Rh1 Qxe2 20.Qg6 Qf2 21.Qh5 Ne7 22.Rdf1 and White wins) 19...Qf2 20.Qd2 Rxf3 21.Bxf3 Qxf3 22.Rdf1 Qe4 23.Rf8+ Kg7 24.Qf2 Qg6 25.Rh1 Nb4 26.Rxh7+ Kxh7 (or 26...Qxh7 27.Qf6#)

27.Qh2+ Kg7 28.Qh8#, checkmate ends the game.

19.Rh1 Rf5 20.Rde1 Qg4

Or 20...Nb4 21.Rxe2 Nxc2 22.Reh2 Nxe3 23.Rxh7+ Kg8 24.Rh8+ Kg7 25.R1h7+ Kg6 26.Rxc7 b6 27.c5 and White has a large advantage.

21.Rh4!

This is much more accurate than the game continuation which was 21.e4?? dxe4?? (Black could have defended with 21...Rf7 22.exd5 Nb4 23.Qb3 a5 and it is still very much a game) 22.Rxe4? (22.Nxe4! wins promptly, the threat is Nf6) 22...Qxg3 23.Reh4 e5?

24.Rxh7+ Kg8 25.Rh8+ Kg7 26.Rxc8 Nxd4 27.Rxc7+ Kg6 28.Qe4 Rh8 29.Qxb7 Rxh1+ 30.Qxh1 Qg1+ 31.Qxg1 Ne2+ 32.Kc2 Nxc1 33.Rxa7 Rxg5 34.c5 Kf5 35.c6 Ne2 36.c7 Nd4+ 37.Kd3 Rg8 38.Ne4 Ke6 39.Ra6+ Ke7 40.Nd6 and Black resigned. **1-0 Ga. Nagy (2484) – Ja. Lopez (2411) Belgian Team ch 2020.**

21...Qxg5

The alternatives are: 21...Qxg3 22.Reh1 and White is winning, or 21...Nb4!? 22.Rxg4 Nxc2 23.Kxc2 Bd7 24.e4 and White is much better.

22.Reh1 Kg8 23.Rxh7 Qxe3 24.cxd5 exd5 25.g4 and White is winning.

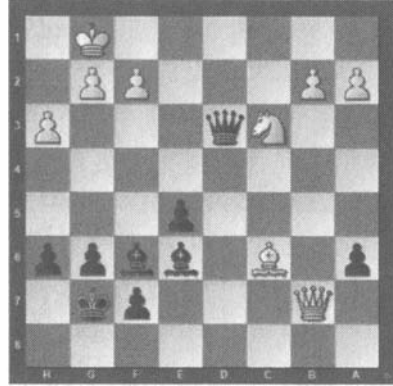
Set 7

Exercises to Set 7

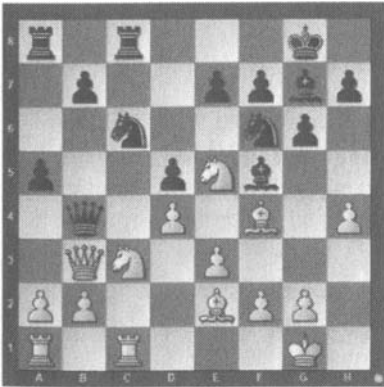
7.1)



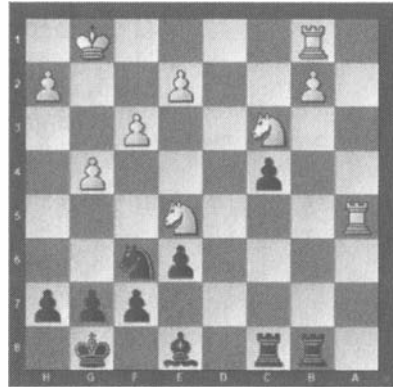
7.2)



7.3)



7.4)



7.1)

**

Hint: It shouldn't be safe to be there

7.2)

Hint: Hey! I prevented that!

7.3)

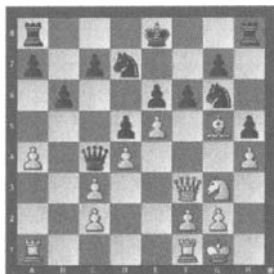
Hint: I'm not okay with that

7.4)

Hint: Sew me up or pin me down

Solutions to Set 7

7.1)



17.exf6! gxf6 18.Rae1!

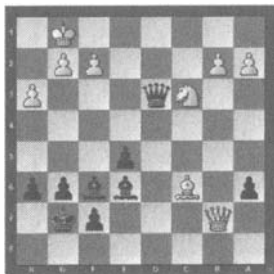
This is more accurate than the game continuation: 18.Rfe1 0–0–0 19.Rxe6 fxf5 20.Rxg6 gxh4 21.Nf5 Rhe8 22.Rd6 Re4 23.Rxd5 Rde8 24.Ne3 Qxc3 25.Rd1 Qc6 26.a5 h3 27.gxh3 bxa5 28.Rxh5 a4 29.Kh1 a3 30.Ra5 Rf8 31.d5 Qh6 32.Qxe4 Qxh3+ 33.Kg1 Ne5 34.Qg2 Nf3+ 35.Kf1 Nh2+ 36.Ke1 Qh5 37.Rxa7 Nf3+ 38.Ke2 Nd4+ 39.Kd3 and Black resigned. **1-0 Lu Shanglei (2611) – C. Matamoros Franco (2487) Seville 2020.**

18...Kf7

The alternatives are no better: 18...Ke7 19.Nf5+ Kf7 20.Nh6+ Rxh6 21.Bxh6 c5 22.Qxh5 or 18...fxg5 19.Rxe6+ Kd8 20.Rxg6 and White is winning.

19.Re3 Qc6 20.Rfe1 Rae8 21.Nxh5 and Black is busted.

7.2)



34...e4!!

In the game, Black continued with 34...Bc4? 35.Kh2 h5 36.Bf3?? h4?? (36...e4 37.Qxe4 Bxc3 38.bxc3 Qxe4 39.Bxe4 Bxa2 should win for Black) 37.Qc6? (37.Be2 Qd4 38.Bxc4 Qxc4 39.Kg1 Qd3 40.Qd5 Qc2 and White should be able to hold the balance) 37...g5 38.Be2 Bb5 39.Bxd3 Bxc6 40.Bxa6 and in this approximately equal position, Black lost on time. **1-0 K. Tsatsalashvili (2372) – M. Raicevic (2331) ECC Open (Budva) 2019.**

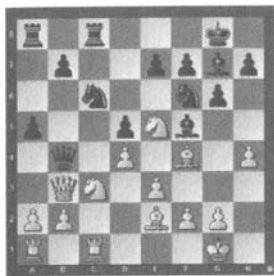
35.Bxe4 Qd2 36.Qxa6

36.Qb6 Bd4 wins on the spot for Black.

36.Bd5 Qe1+ 37.Kh2 Be5+ 38.g3 Qxf2+ and White will soon get mated.

36...Bxc3 37.bxc3 Qe1+ 38.Kh2 Qxe4 and Black is winning.

7.3)



14.Qd1!

Black's queen is awkwardly placed on b4, but that is just half of his problems; there is also a loose d-pawn and a bishop on f5 with relatively few squares to operate on. Note that 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Na4 would have given White a clear positional advantage, but the text move is considerably stronger.

14...Nd8?! The alternatives also lead to headaches for Black: a) 14...Qb6 15.g4 Be6 16.Nd3 or b) 14...a4 15.g4 Be6 16.Nd3 Qa5 17.Nc5, in both cases, with a decisive advantage for White.

15.g4!

Kicking the bishop on the ugly e6-square.

15...Be6 16.Na4 Rxc1 17.Rxc1 Ne4 18.Nd3 Qd2

Or 18...Qb5 19.Ndc5 Qe8 20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Nb6 and White is completely winning.

19.Qxd2 Nxd2 20.Nb6 Ra7 21.Nc5 Nc6 22.Rd1 and Black resigned as her entire position is collapsing. **1-0**

M. Antipov. (2562) – F.A.

Rakotomaharo(2433) Caleta 2020

7.4)



22...Nd5! 23.Nxd5

Alternatively, 23.Ne4 f6 24.Nd6 fxe5 25.Nxc8 Rxc8 with a clear advantage for Black but there is obviously a lot of work to be done.

23...exd5 24.Rxd5 f6 25.Nd7 Rb7 26.Rbd1 Rxb2 27.Rc5 Rxc5 28.Nxc5 Rxe2 29.Rd8??

White should have played 29.Rc1 Bf7 30.Ne4 Kf8 with a clear advantage for Black.

29...Kf7

Now, Black is winning.

30.Rc8 c3 31.Ne4 c2 32.Kf1 Rxh2 33.Kg1 Re2 34.Kf1 Bb5 35.Nd6+ Kg6 36.Nxb5 Rd2

and White resigned. **0-1**

V. Keymer (2527) – N. Abdusattorov (2635)

Wijk aan Zee 2020

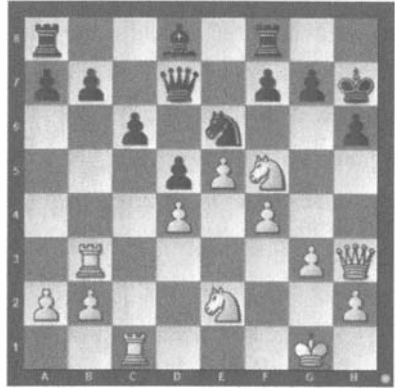
Set 8

Exercises to Set 8

8.1)



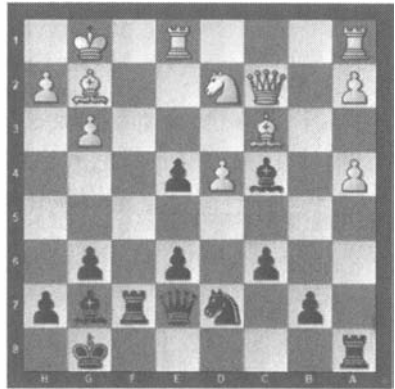
8.2)



8.3)



8.4)



8.1)

Hint: When the cat is not home,
the mice will play

8.2)

**

Hint: Patient improvement

8.3)

**

Hint: Loose stuff everywhere

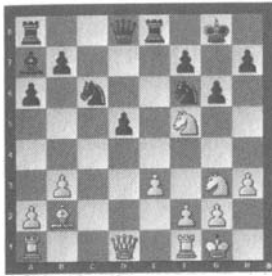
8.4)

**

Hint: Not enough good squares

Solutions to Set 8

8.1)



17.Qf3!

This is much stronger than the immediate 17.Nh6+ Kf8 18.Qf3 Re6 19.Rad1 Bb8 which allows Black to semi-organize his forces.

17...gxf5

If 17...Re6 then 18.Nh5! gxh5 19.Qg3+ Kf8 (or 19...Ng4 20.hxg4 Qg5 21.Rad1 Rd8 22.gxh5 and White is much better) 20.Qg7+ Ke8 21.Rac1 Rc8 22.Ba3 with a winning position for White.

18.Nxf5

The black king is painfully bare, facing a strong knight on f5, an open g-file and a bishop on b2 that can operate on multiple diagonals.

18...Bb8

Black takes the g3-square away from White's queen.

19.Nh6+ Kg7 20.Qh5 Re5 21.Nf5+!!

The game continued 21.Bxe5? Bxe5?? (21...Nxe5 was necessary 22.Nf5+ Kf8 23.Qh6+ Ke8 and Black can still fight, although White has the better chances) 22.Qg5+ Kf8 23.Rac1! (Now White is winning) 23...Qe8 24.f4 Bb2 25.Rc2 Qxe3+ 26.Kh2 Bd4 27.Nf5 Qd3 28.Qg7+ Ke8 29.Re1+ Ne4 30.Qg8+ Kd7 31.Qxf7+ Kc8 32.Rxe4 Bg1+ 33.Kxg1 dxe4 34.Ne7+ Kc7 35.Nd5+ Kb8 36.Rxc6 and Black resigned. **1-0 A. Fier (2528) – R. Molina (2431) Brazilian ch (Natal) 2020.**

21...Rxf5 22.Qg4+ Kf8 23.Qxf5 Qd6 24.f4 Ne8 25.Rad1 and White has a large plus.

8.2)

26.Kh1!

Black is currently tied up and doesn't have any active counterplay, so the sacrificial continuation in the game is unnecessary. A few preparatory moves can make the attack even more potent while losing none of its luster.

The game continued in an interesting fashion: 26.Nxg7!? Kxg7 27.f5 Bg5! 28.Rf1 Kh7? (an outright mistake; Black should instead have



opted for 28...Kg8 29.fxe6 fxe6 30.Qg4 Rxf1+ 31.Kxf1 Rf8+ 32.Kg2 Kh8 and although White is clearly better, Black can still fight) 29.fxe6 fxe6 30.Rbf3 Rxf3 31.Rxf3 Qe7 32.Qh5 Kg7 33.h4 Bd2 34.Nf4 Rg8 35.Qg6+ Kh8 36.Qxh6+ Qh7 37.Qf6+ Qg7 38.Nxe6 and Black resigned. **1-0 J. Bitensky (2377) – G. Flom (2510) Israeli Team ch 2020.**

26...Rb8

The alternatives were:

a) 26...f6 27.Qg4 fxe5 28.dxe5 Nc5 29.Rxc5 Rxf5 30.Rxb7 and White has a decisive advantage.

b) 26...b6 27.g4 and White continues to build up an irresistible attack.

c) 26...Bb6 27.Nxg7 Kxg7 28.f5 Kh7 29.fxe6 fxe6 30.Nf4 Rae8 31.Rf3 Bxd4 32.Nxe6 and White wins.

27.g4! f6 28.Rf3! fxe5

Or 28...c5 29.Rg1! Qf7 30.Rff1 cxd4 31.g5 fxg5 32.Nfxd4 Nxd4 33.Nxd4 gxf4 34.Ne6 and White is winning.

29.dxe5 d4 30.g5 Qd5 31.Rg1 and White has a decisive advantage.

8.3)



16.Nxg6!

16.Ne4 g5 is nothing special for White.

16...hgx5 17.Nxe7+ Kf7 18.Nxc8 Rd8

Black is delaying the capture on c8 in an attempt to preserve the knight on g4 while keeping the knight on c8 trapped. 18...Rxc8 19.Bh3 would leave White two pawns up with an easily winning position.

19.Ba3!

Nope, that knight is not trapped!

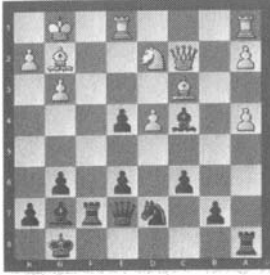
19...Rxc8 20.Bh3 Bxd4 21.Bxg4 Rg8 22.Rad1

White is only up a pawn but with the bishop pair, a lead in development and the better pawn structure, White is completely winning.

22...c5 23.Bf3 Nc6 24.Bd5+ Ke7 25.Bxg8 Rxg8 26.Kg2 a6 27.Rd2 b5 28.Bb2 bxc4 29.bxc4 Rb8 30.Bxd4 cxd4 31.e3 Rb4 32.exd4 Rxc4 33.Re1+ Kf6 34.Re8 a5 35.Rf8+ Kg6

36.Rc8 d5 37.Rb2 Nxd4 38.Rxc4 dxc4 39.Rd2 Nf5 40.Rd5 and Black resigned. 1–0
D. Debashis (2523) – H. Gusain (2401) New Delhi 2020

8.4)



26...Bd3! 27.Qb3

Both 27.Qd1 and 27.Qc1 are met with 27...Nc5!, giving Black a decisive advantage.

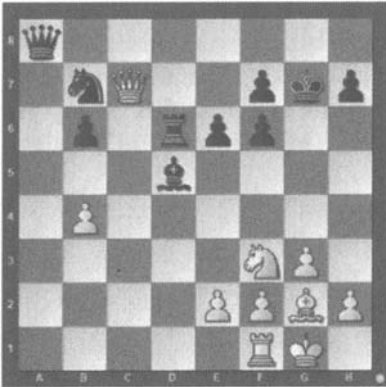
27...Nc5! 28.dxc5 Qxc5+ 29.Kh1 Qxc3 and, losing material, White resigned. 0–1

V. Buckels (2459) – M. Yilmaz (2607) Caleta 2020

Set 9

Exercises to Set 9

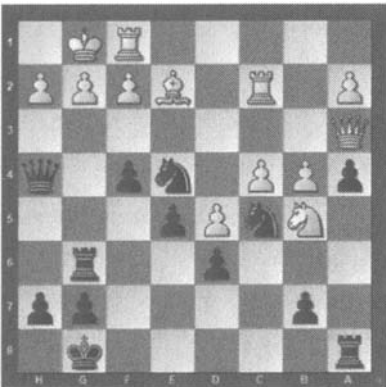
9.1)



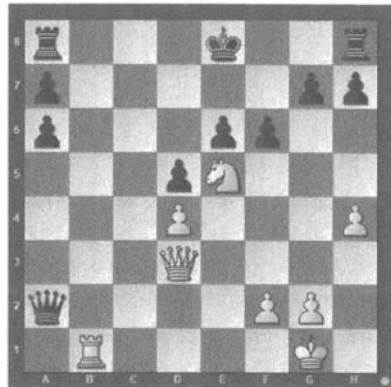
9.2)



9.3)



9.4)



9.1)

Hint: Loose piece and many holes

9.2)

Hint: Careful incision

9.3)

Hint: Blocking before kicking

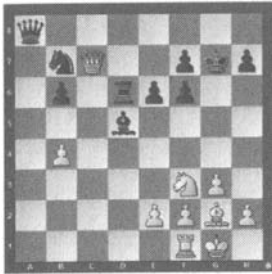
9.4)

**

Hint: Black cannot castle

Solutions to Set 9

9.1)



22.e4!

A brilliant move which throws Black's fragile coordination out of whack.

22...Rc6

Black cannot capture the offered pawn either: 22...Bxe4 23.Ne5! (23.Ng5! has more or less the same effect) 23...fxe5 24.Bxe4 and Black cannot save both the knight and rook.

23.Qf4 Rc4

Moving the bishop is similarly of no use: 23...Bc4 24.e5 f5 (or 24...Qd8 25.Nd4 Rc7 26.exf6+ Qxf6 27.Nxe6+ Qxe6 28.Qxc7 and White is winning) 25.Qg5+ Kh8 26.Qh6! Bxf1 (26...Rc7 27.Ng5 Qg8 28.Ra1 and White decisively penetrates with the rook) 27.Ng5 Qg8 28.Bxc6 Ba6 29.b5 and Black loses a piece.

24.Ne5!

24.Nd2 also wins.

24...fxe5

Or 24...Rxb4 25.Ng4 and White sets up the kill of Black's king.

25.Qg5+ Kf8 26.exd5

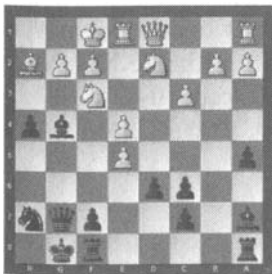
White didn't win any material, but Black's king is fatally exposed.

26...e4 27.dxe6 and Black resigned. 1–0

B. Adhiban (2654) – O. Gschnitzer (2361)

Caleta 2020

9.2)



19...Qh6!

This is best, but White is also in severe trouble after 19...Ng5!? 20.exd6 cxd6 21.Bf4 Ne6 and Black has a clear advantage.

20.Qa4?!

Or 20.Ke2 dxe5 21.Bxe5 Rad8 when White's forces are tied up, hand and feet and will not survive.

20...h3!

This was the idea behind the previous move, undermine the protection of the f3-knight and

simultaneously expose White's king to a lethal attack.

21.g3??

White pulls the plug on his ambitions to survive. A better, but ultimately insufficient attempt was 21.exd6 hxd6 22.Kg1 Ng5! 23.Nxg5 Qh4! The brilliant point behind the previous move. 24.Re3 Bxe3 25.fxe3 Qxg5 and Black is winning.

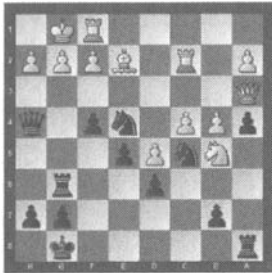
21...dxe5

No need to rush, White's position is collapsing. **22.Qc2 Qf6** and, facing heavy material losses, White resigned. 0–1

M. Santos Ruiz (2591) – Chen Qi (2432)

Caleta 2020

9.3)



25...Nb3!

This knight-jump breaks the connection between White's queen and the kingside. Alternatively, 25...Nd7!? 26.Nc7 Ng5 27.Nxa8 e4 would give Black a strong attack but it is ultimately not as strong as the game continuation.

26.Bf3??

White completely jumps on the sword. A better but ultimately insufficient continuation was 26.axb3 Ng5! and Black has a lethal attack; White can escape the mate but not without heavy material losses: 27.bxa4 e4 28.Rc3 f3 29.Bxf3 exf3 30.Rxf3 Rxa4 31.Qb3 Nxf3+ 32.Qxf3 Qxc4 and Black is winning.

26...Ned2 and White resigned. A possible continuation was 26...Ned2 27.Rxd2 e4 28.Bxe4 f3 29.Bxf3 Nxd2 30.Qd3 Nxf3+ 31.Qxf3 Qxc4 and White is busted. However, once more 26...Ng5! 27.Rc3 Rh6 28.Re1 Nd2! and White's king will not escape. 0–1

M. Womacka (2439) – D. Yuffa (2566)

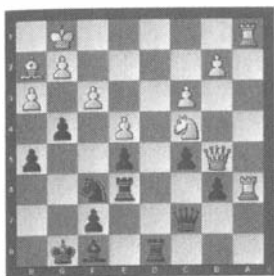
Caleta 2020

9.4)

21.Rb7! Rc8

Black cannot castle because the king has been moved previously.

22.Qh3! f5 23.Qg3



Now the queen penetrates with decisive effect.
23...Qa1+ 24.Kh2 Qxd4 25.Nc6 f4 26.Qa3
Qf6 27.Qd6 Ra8 28.Re7+ and Black resigned.
1–0

C. Dolezal (2373) – D. Mussanti (2315)
 Buenos Aires 2020

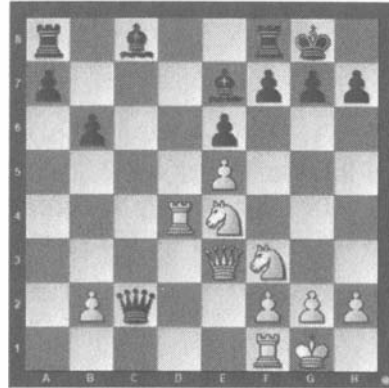
Set 10

Exercises to Set 10

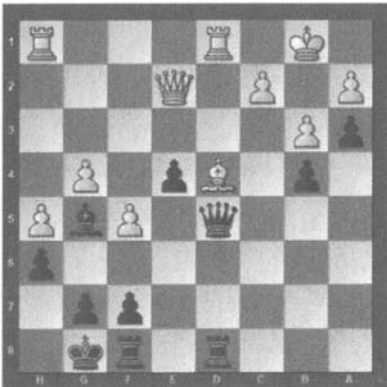
10.1)



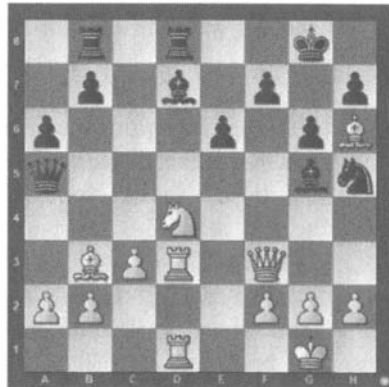
10.2)



10.3)



10.4)



10.1)

**

Hint: Discovered threats

10.2)

Hint: Where there's a hole, there's a way

10.3)

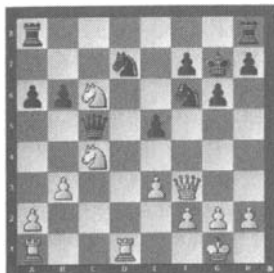
Hint: Permanent issues

10.4)

Hint: Break the connection

Solutions to Set 10

10.1)



18.Rac1!

Or 18.Nd6! e4 19.Qf4 Qxc6 20.Rac1 Nc5 21.b4 is similar to the game continuation.

18...e4 19.Qg3 Qxc6 20.Nd6 Nc5 21.b4 Nfd7

Or 21...Rhd8 22.bxc5 Rd7 23.Nf5+ (23.Qe5!?) 23...Kh8 24.Rd6 Rxd6 25.Nxd6 with a large advantage for White.

22.bxc5 bxc5

Black has avoided material losses, but the Black pieces are poorly coordinated and White has a decisive attack.

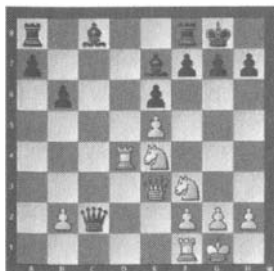
23.Nf5+ Kf8 24.Rd6 Qb5 25.Rcd1 Ra7 26.a4 Qb2 27.R6d2

and here, Black could have resigned but carried on a bit longer.

27...Qxd2 28.Rxd2 gxf5 29.Qg5 c4 30.Qd8+ Kg7 31.Qg5+ Kf8 32.Qxf5 c3 33.Rxd7 and Black finally resigned. 1–0

H. Raja (2482) – D. Belenkaya (2304) Caleta 2020

10.2)



21.Nf6+!

White rips open Black's king shelter, which is a natural first move.

21...gxf6?

After this capture, White's win is quite simple whereas after 21...Bxf6 White needs a little precision: 22.exf6 Qg6 23.fxg7 Qxg7 24.Ne5 f5 25.f4 Bb7 26.Qd2 Rae8 27.Rd3 Kh8 28.Rg3 Qf6 29.Rc1 and Black can resign.

22.Rg4+ Kh8

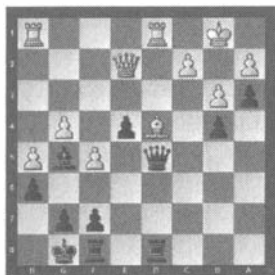
The fact that Black's best move was 22...Qg6 should say everything you need to know about Black's situation.

23.exf6 Rg8 Or 23...Ba6 24.Qh6 Rg8 25.Rxg8+ Rxg8 26.Ne5 and Black will have to give up the queen to prevent mate.

24.fxe7 and Black resigned. 1–0

I. Quesada Vera (2391) – S. Estremera Panos (2307) Stockholm 2020

10.3)



29...Qxd4!

This is Black's best and most convincing move, but it is not the only win, for instance, 29...e3 30.Ba1 Qa8 31.Rhe1 Rd2 and White can resign.

30.Rxd4 Rxd4 and White resigned.

A possible continuation was 30...Rxd4 31.c4 (or 31.Rc1 Rfd8 32.f6 gxf6 33.Qe1 Rd2 34.Qxe4 Rd1 and White will soon get mated) 31...bxc3 32.Qc2 Rfd8 33.Re1 e3 34.Qxc3 Rd1+ 35.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 36.Kc2 e2 and it is curtains for White.

0-1

E. De Boer (2324) – R. Vogel (2465) Wijk aan Zee 2020

10.4)



23.Nf5!! Bc6

The alternatives do not save Black either: 23...exf5 24.Bxg5, winning a piece. 23...Be8 24.Bxg5 Rxd3 25.Rxd3 Qxf5 26.Qxf5 exf5 27.Bd5 a5 28.g3 a4 29.Bh6 with a very difficult endgame for Black; this is Black's best try. 23...Bxh6 24.Nxh6+ Kg7 25.Rxd7 Rxd7 26.Rxd7 and Black can resign. 23...Bf6 24.Ne7+ Bxe7 25.Rxd7 Rxd7 26.Rxd7 and White is easily winning.

24.Bxg5 and Black resigned on account of 24.Bxg5 Bxf3 25.Rxd8+ Qxd8 26.Rxd8+ Rxd8 27.Bxd8 gxf5 28.gxf3, leaving White a piece up. **1-0**

E. Rozenalis (2531) – Av. Bykhovsky (2403) Israeli Team ch 2020

Set 11

Exercises to Set 11

11.1)



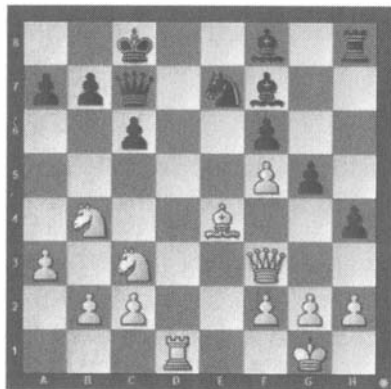
11.2)



11.3)



11.4)



11.1)

Hint: Build the pressure

11.2)

**

Hint: Loose and uncoordinated

11.3)

**

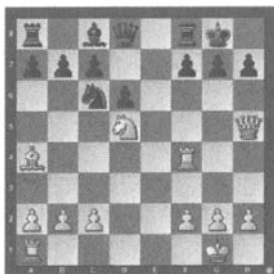
Hint: The other guy is stuck in the middle

11.4)

Hint: We are looking for the big guy

Solutions to Set 11

11.1)



17.Re1!!

The game continuation went 17.c3?? Ne5?? (17...Be6! was fine for Black) 18.Re1?? (White misses the shot 18.Nf6+! gxf6 19.Rh4 Bf5 20.Qxf5 Ng6 21.Rh3 with a decisive advantage for White) 18...Ng6?? (Black doesn't see the danger; 18...f5! was the way to go) 19.Bc2? (Another tactic is missed: 19.Rxf7!! Kxf7 (19...Rxf7 20.Re8+ wins for White) 20.Bb3! Be6 (or 20...c6 21.Ne7+ d5 22.Qf3+) 21.Rxe6 Kxe6 22.Qh3+ Rf5 23.Ne3+ d5 24.Qxf5+ Ke7 25.Bxd5 Qd6 26.Qf7+ Kd8 27.Qxg7 c6 28.Bg8 and White is winning) 19...Be6?? 20.Nf6+! gxf6 21.Rh4 Re8 22.Bxg6 f6 23.Qxh7+ Kf8 24.Rxe6 and Black resigned. **1-0 D. Naroditsky (2621) – L. Bruzon Batista (2640) PRO League chess.com INT 2020.**

17...Be6

Black's alternatives do not save him either:

a) 17...Ne5 18.Nf6+ gxf6 19.Rh4 Bf5 20.Qxf5 Ng6 21.Rh3 c6 22.Qh5 and White is winning.

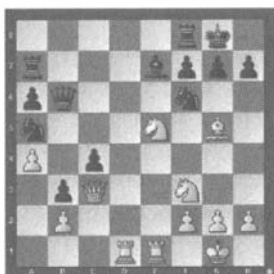
b) 17...Bd7 18.Bxc6 Bxc6 19.Ne7+ Kh8 20.Qxh7+ Kxh7 21.Rh4#.

c) 17...h6 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Ne7+ Kh7 20.Rxf7 Rxf7 21.Qg6+ Kh8 22.Qxf7 and White is clearly winning.

18.Nf6+! gxf6 19.Bxc6 bxc6 20.Re3! Re8

21.Qh6 Bf5 22.Rxf5 with a decisive advantage for White.

11.2)



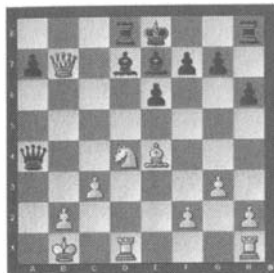
21.Bd2! Bd8??

Black blunders by missing White's next move. The best option was 21...Bc5 22.Qxa5 Bxf2+ 23.Kf1 Qxa5 24.Bxa5 Bxe1 25.Bxe1 with a clear advantage for White. Also, 21...Nb7 22.Nxc4! (22.Be3!? is also good) 22...Qc7 23.Bf4! Qxf4 24.Rxe7 and Black is completely lost.

22.Be3! Black resigned on account of 22.Be3 Qb8 23.Bxa7 Qxa7 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Qxa5 and Black has lost a piece. 1–0

A. Manzone (2386) – D. Mussanti (2315)
Buenos Aires 2020

11.3)



19.Nxe6!!

Only this brutal move will do; for instance, 19.Bc2 Qc4 20.Rhe1 Qc8 21.Qxa7 is ugly for Black but nothing like the game continuation.

19...fxe6

Or 19...Bxe6 20.Bc6+, winning the queen.

20.Rd4!

The important next step in White's attack: kicking Black's queen to an inferior square.

20...Qa5?

A better try, albeit ultimately hopeless was 20...Qb5 21.Rxd7! Qxb7 22.Rxb7 Kf7 23.Kc2 a6 24.Ra1 Rd6 25.f3 Kf6 26.h4 and White is completely winning.

21.Bg6+ Kf8 22.Rxd7! and Black resigned. 1–0

T. Beerdsen (2495) – A. Pijpers (2480) Wijk aan Zee 2020

11.4)



20.Nb5! Bh5

The alternatives also do not work for Black:

a) 20...cxb5 21.Bxb7+ Qxb7 22.Rd8+ Kxd8 23.Qxb7 and White is winning.

b) 20...g4 21.Qe3 cxb5 22.Qxa7 and White's attack is irresistible.

c) 20...Qf4 21.Qd3 and Black is finished.

21.Qb3! cxb5 22.Qe6+ Kb8 23.Rd7

23.Bxb7 also wins.

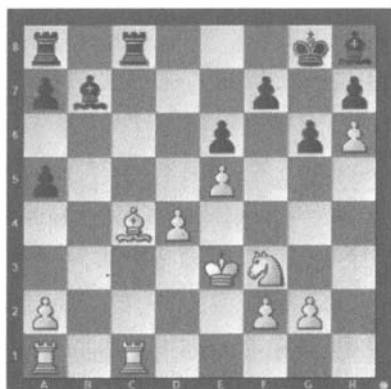
23...Bf7 24.Rxc7 Bxe6 25.Rxb7+ Kc8 26.fxe6 f5 27.Na6 Kd8 28.Rd7+ and Black resigned. 1–0

Le Tuan Minh (2501) - Hoang Thanh Trang (2424) PRO League chess.com 2020

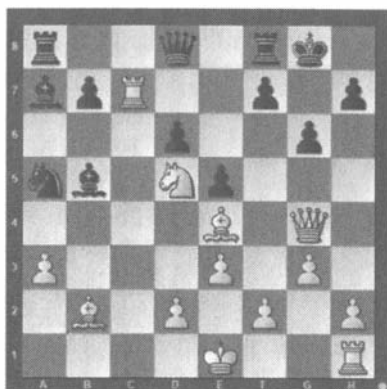
Set 12

Exercises to Set 12

12.1)



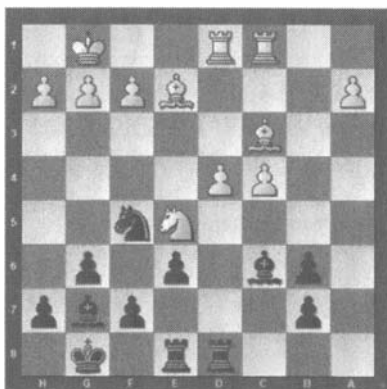
12.2)



12.3)



12.4)



12.1)

*

Hint: When the defenders are in the way

12.2)

**

Hint: Crawling in through the cracks

12.3)

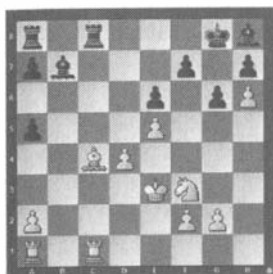
Hint: A long way from home

12.4)

Hint: Loose, loose, loose

Solutions to Set 12

12.1)



21.Ng5!

The most direct path, but also 21.Rab1 Bxf3 (or 21...Rc7 22.Ng5 with the same idea as in the game) 22.Kxf3 and Black is stuck in a hopelessly passive situation.

21...Rc6 22.Rab1 Rb6 23.Nxe6!

White forces his way in.

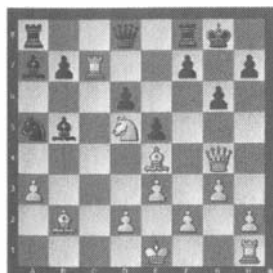
23...fxe6 24.Rxb6 axb6 25.Bxe6+ Kf8 26.Rc7 Bxe5 27.Rxb7

Or 27.Rf7+ Ke8 28.dxe5 and it is curtain for Black.

27...Re8 28.Rf7+ Kg8 29.Re7+ and Black resigned. 1–0

A. Yermolinsky (2490) – A. He (2329)
Kirkland 2020

12.2)



20.Ne7+!

White would also have a large, possibly decisive advantage after 20.f4 or 20.h4, but the text move is, by far, the best.

20...Kh8

Or 20...Kg7 21.Nxg6! Qxc7 22.Nxe5+ Kh6 23.Qh4+ Kg7 24.Ng4+ f6 25.Qxh7#.

21.Qg5! Rg8

Or 21...Kg7 22.Nf5+ Kh8 23.Qh6 Qf6 24.g4 Bb6 25.g5 and Black cannot save his king any longer.

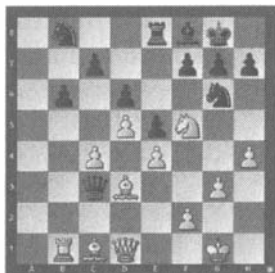
22.h4!!

The game continued less successfully for White: 22.Bxe5+?? dxe5 23.Qxe5+ Rg7 24.Bxg6 Nc4 25.Qxb5 Qxc7 and White resigned. 0-1 **A. Truskavetsky (2398) – S. Lobanov (2507)** Moscow 2020.

22...Qxc7 23.h5 Rg7

Or 23...gxh5 24.Qxh5 with unstoppable mate. **24.h6 Re8 25.Qf6** and Black cannot stop mate.

12.3)



24.Rb3!

White can also win with 24.Bb2! Qa5 25.Ra1 Qb4 26.Ba3 Qc3 (or 26...Qa5 27.Bxd6) 27.Qb1 and Black will have to give up material to save the queen.

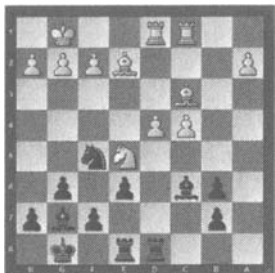
24...Qa5 25.Ra3 Qb4 26.Ne3

White can also interject 26.h5 Nh8 before continuing the queen hunt with 27.Ra2 c6 28.Bd2 Qc5, and now White suddenly switches to a kingside attack with 29.Qg4 g6 30.Be3 Qb4 31.Ra8 and Black is busted.

26...Ne7 27.Nc2 Qb1 28.Nd4 Qb4 29.Ra4 and Black resigned. 1–0

I. Janik (2453) – N. Napoli (2333) Lisbon 2020

12.4)



22...Ba4!

Black forces the white rook to d3.

23.Rd3 b5!

This is the point behind the previous move. With the rook on d3, White is suddenly facing a number of problems.

24.c5??

White blunders. It was necessary to play 24.cxb5 Bxb5 25.Rd2 Bxe2 26.Rxe2 Nxd4 27.Bxd4 Rxd4 and Black has a clear advantage.

24...b4! 25.g4?

Or 25.Bb2 Bb5 26.Rd2 Bxe2 27.Rxe2 Nxd4 28.Bxd4 Rxd4 with a decisive advantage for Black. Also, 25.Bxb4 Nxd4! wins outright for Black.

25...bxc3 26.gxf5 exf5 and White resigned because the position is collapsing. Possible continuations were: 26...exf5 27.Rxc3 (or 27.f4 c2 28.Kf2 Bh6 29.Kf3 Kg7 30.h3 f6 31.Nc4 Re4 and Black is winning) 27...Bb5 28.Re3 Bxe2 29.Rxe2 Rxd4 30.f4 (or 30.Rce3 f4) 30...Rxf4 31.Rce3 Re4 with an easy win for Black. 0–1

F. Valenzuela Gomez (2335) – S. Milliet (2390) Catalanian Team ch (Barcelona) 2020

Set 13

Exercises to Set 13

13.1)



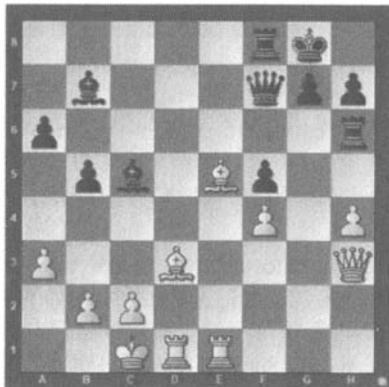
13.2)



13.3)



13.4)



13.1)

Hint: Knocking down the door

13.2)

*

Hint: Yes, we need her

13.3)

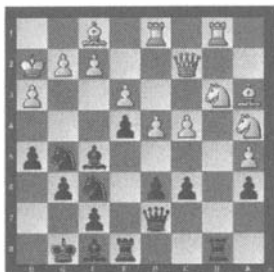
Hint: Missing defenders

13.4)

Hint: Find the weakness, then strike

Solutions to Set 13

13.1)



22...Bxh3!

Strongest, but also 22...Nf3+!? is worth examining, for instance, 23.Kh1 (or 23.gxf3 exf3 24.Rd3 Ne4 25.Nb6 Qe7 26.Rbd1 (26.Bb4 Qh4 27.Be1 Bxh3! with mate in a few moves) 26...Qh4 and Black is winning) 23...Bxh3 24.gxh3 Ng4 25.Bg2 Qd8 26.Qe2 Qh4 27.Rf1 (also 27.Rd2 Nxd2 28.Qxd2 Nxf2+ 29.Kg1 Nxb3+ wins for Black) 27...Ng5 and Black wins.

23.d5?

In a desperate attempt for counterplay, White tries to pawn push, but Black wins rather easily. Capturing the piece would have been better although Black also wins in this line, for instance, 23.gxh3 Ng4+ 24.Kh1 Nf3 25.Bg2 Qe7 26.Rf1 Qh4 27.Qe2 Ng5 28.Kg1 Nxb3+ 29.Bxh3 Qxh3 30.f3 Bh6 31.f4 Qg3+ 32.Kh1 Nxe3 and Black is winning.

23...Qg4 24.Nd4 Rxb1

Or marginally stronger: 24...Bxg2 25.Bxg2 Rxb1 26.Rxb1 c5 27.Qe2 Qh4+ 28.Kg1 cxd4 29.exd4 Ng4 and White is finished.

25.Rxb1 c5

25...Bxg2 26.Bxg2 c5 would transpose to the note after Black's previous move.

26.gxh3 Qh4 27.f4 exf3 28.Ne6? Ng4+ 29.Kh1 Nxb3 and White resigned before mate would be delivered on the board. 0-1

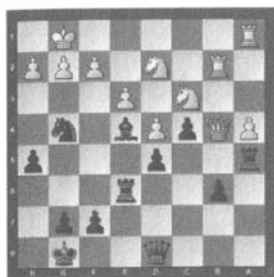
A. Braun (2605) – B. Amin (2673) PRO

League chess.com 2020

13.2)

23...Qh4!

This is far from Black's only strong move, for instance, 23...Bxg2! also seems to win very efficiently: 24.Kxg2 Qg5 25.Kf1 Rf6 26.Nf3 Rxf3 and Black's attack crashes through. Even 23...Nxf2!? 24.Ncxe4 (or 24.Kxf2 Qh4+ 25.Kg1 Bxg2! and White will not survive) 24...Nd3 wins for Black, albeit not as "crushingly" as the main line and 23...Bxg2.



24.Nxe4

Or 24.Nf1 Bxg2! 25.Kxg2 Rg6 and it is game over for White.

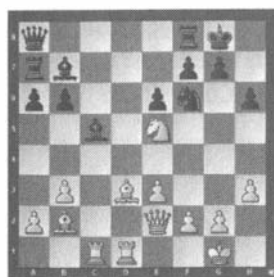
24...Qxh2+ 25.Kf1 dxe4 26.Ke2 Qxg2 27.Rf1 Rf5

The computer engine claims that 27...Rf6 is more accurate, but the outcome is the same: Black wins.

28.Nxc4 Nxf2 29.Re1 Nd3+ 30.Kd1 Qg4+ and White resigned. 0–1

A. Chueca Forcen (2358) – V. Esplugas Esteve (2338) Catalanian Team ch (Barcelona) 2020

13.3)



23.Ng4!

White can also play 23.Rxc5 bxc5 24.Ng4! but that is entirely unnecessary.

23...Ne4

The alternatives do not change the result: 23...Nh7 24.Nxh6+ gxh6 25.Qg4+ Ng5 is similar to our main line. And 23...Be7 24.Nxf6+ Bxf6 25.Bxf6 gxf6 26.Qg4+ Kh8 27.Qh5 Kg7 28.Rc7 (the threat is Qg6+ followed by mate on h7) 28...Be4 29.Qg4+ Bg6 30.Qxg6+ is game over for Black.

24.Nxh6+ gxh6 25.Qg4+ Ng5 26.h4 Bf3 27.gxf3 Qxf3 28.Rc4

This wins, but the engine indicates 28.Qg2 Qxg2+ 29.Kxg2 Nh7 30.Rg1 f6 31.Kf3+ Kh8 (or 31...Rg7 32.Rxg7+ Kxg7 33.Rg1+ Kh8 34.Rg6 and White wins) 32.Rg6 and it is time for Black to bow out.

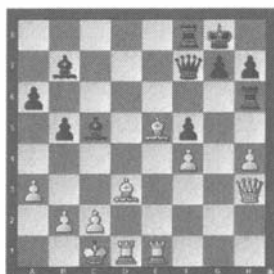
28...f5 29.Qxf3 Nxf3+ 30.Kg2 e5 31.Be2 e4 32.Bxf3 exf3+ 33.Kxf3

White is completely winning.

33...a5 34.h5 Kf7 35.Rf4 Ke8 36.Rd5 Raf7 37.Bd4 Bxd4 38.Rfxd4 Rc7 39.Rd6 and Black resigned. 1–0

D. Kryakvin (2592) – G. Mammadzada (2455) Caleta 2020

13.4)



23.Bxf5! Qxf5 24.Rd7!

The point behind the previous move.

24...Rg6

The white queen cannot be captured: 24...Qxh3

25.Rxg7+ Kh8 26.Rg6+ Rf6 27.Bxf6#.

25.Qb3+!

This long move can easily be missed.

25...Kh8

Or 25...Rf7 26.Rxb7 h5 27.Rd1 Re6 28.Rdd7
and Black will not survive.

26.Rxb7

White is winning.

26...Bf2 27.h5 Rg3 28.Qd5 h6 29.Re2 Rg1+

30.Kd2 Bh4 31.Qd4 Rc8 32.Bxg7+ Kg8

33.Qxg1 Rxc2+ 34.Ke3 Qh3+ 35.Kd4 Bf2+

36.Rxf2 Rc4+ 37.Kd5 and Black resigned. 1–0

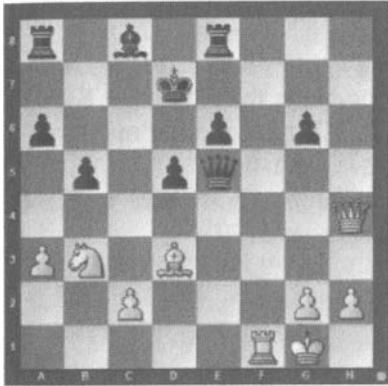
A. Muzychuk (2539) – O. Kobo (2445)

Caleta 2020

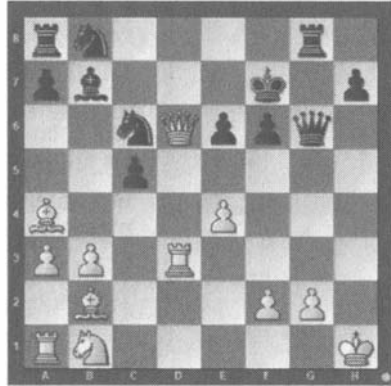
Set 14

Exercises to Set 14

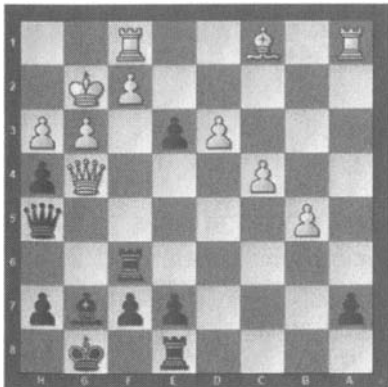
14.1)



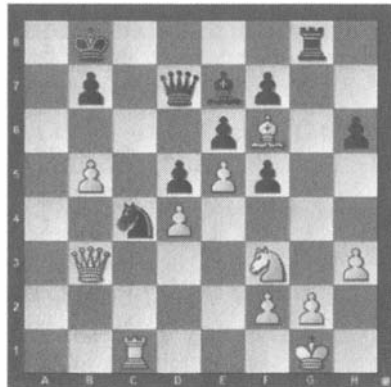
14.2)



14.3)



14.4)



14.1)

Hint: Stick fingers in the scars

14.2)

Hint: A funny doubling

14.3)

**

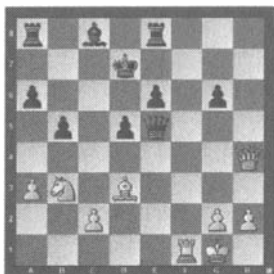
Hint: Precision bean counting

14.4)

Hint: Tie the big guy down

Solutions to Set 14

14.1)



26.Rf7+! Kc6 27.Qf2!

The game continued less accurately: 27.Qb4? Qe3+ 28.Kf1 Bd7?? (28...Ra7! would have kept White's advantage within limits) 29.Nd4+ Kb6 30.Qd6+ Ka5 31.Nb3+ Ka4 32.Qb4#; Also possible is 27.Nd4+ Kd6 (after 27...Kc5, White has nothing better than 28.Nb3+ Kc6 and then with 29.Qf2! return to our main line) 28.Nxb5+ Kc6 29.Qb4 **1-0 M.**

Berchtenbreiter (2488) – N. Noritsyn (2518)
PRO League chess.com 2020.

27...Qc3 28.Qg3 Kb6 29.a4!!

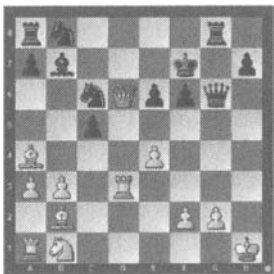
This is best, but White also wins after 29.Qd6+ Qc6 30.Qb4 Bd7 31.Qa5+ Kb7 32.Rxd7+ with an easily winning position.

29...bxa4

The alternatives are no better: 29...e5 30.a5+ or 29...a5 30.Qe3+ d4 31.Qe5 and Black gets mated.

30.Qd6+ Qc6 31.Qb4+ and Black cannot avoid mate. **1-0**

14.2)



23.Rg3! Qh6+

Nothing works for Black:

a) 23...Qh5+ 24.Rh3 Qg4 (24...Qg6 25.Qh2 is similar to the game continuation) 25.Rxh7+ Rg7 26.Rxg7+ Qxg7 27.Nd2 Ne7 28.Kg1 and White has a decisive advantage.

b) 23...Qxe4 24.Nd2 Qd5 25.Qc7+ Ne7 26.Rxg8 Kxg8 27.Ne4 Qxe4 (or 27...Nd7 28.Re1 wins for White) 28.Qd8+ Kf7 29.Qe8+ Kg7 30.Qxe7+ and Black gets mated.

24.Rh3 Qg6 25.Qh2!

The point: Black cannot keep the h7-pawn protected as White, in addition to Rxh7+, threatens Rh6, winning the f6-pawn.

25...Na6

Or 25...Rg7 26.Rg3! (this is actually simpler than both 26.Rh6 Qg4 27.Rxf6+ Kg8 28.f3; and 26.Bxf6 Kxf6 27.Rh6, both of which also win)

26...Qxe4 27.Qh5+ Kf8 28.Qh6 and it is curtains for Black.

26.Nd2 Rad8 27.Rxh7+

27.Rg3! is better, but who's counting.

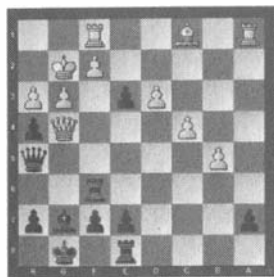
27...Rg7 28.Rh6 Rxd2 29.Rxg6

White is winning.

29...Kxg6 30.Bxc6 Bxc6 31.Bxf6 Rh7 32.Bh4 Bxe4 33.Qf4 Bf5 34.Qxd2 Rxh4+ 35.Kg1 and Black resigned. 1–0

P. Ponkratov (2622) – A. Saric (2559) PRO
League chess.com 2020

14.3)



25...Qxg4

Or 25...Rxf2+ 26.Rxf2 Qxg4, leading to the same position as the game continuation.

26.hxg4 Rxf2+ 27.Rxf2 h3+!

But not 27...exf2?? 28.Ra6 h3+ 29.Kxf2, and White is doing okay.

28.Kxh3

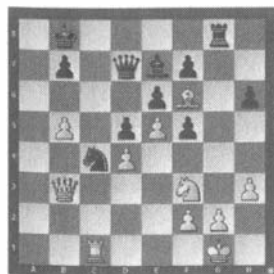
If 28.Kf1 then 28...exf2 29.Ra2 h2! and both pawns cannot be stopped.

28...exf2 29.Bb2 Bxb2 Black is winning.

30.Rb1 Bd4 31.Kg2 Rd8 32.Rb3 Bc5 and White resigned. 0–1

F. Rambaldi (2570) – Ab. Gupta, (2603)
PRO League chess.com 2020

14.4)



29.b6!

The best and most precise although White also should win after 29.Ra1 Bd8 (or 29...b6 30.Ra6 Kb7 31.Qa4 Na5 32.Nd2! intending Nb3) 30.Bxd8 Qxd8 31.Qa4 Kc8 32.Ne1 Qc7 33.Nd3 Rd8 34.Nc5 Qb6 35.Qd1 and White will break through eventually.

29...Bd8 30.Bxd8 Qxd8 31.Rb1! Qe7

Black loses no matter what, for instance, 31...f4 32.Qa2 Nxb6 (or 32...Kc8 33.Qa8+ Kd7 34.Qxb7+ Ke8 35.Qa7 and it is curtains) 33.Qb3 and Black loses a piece.

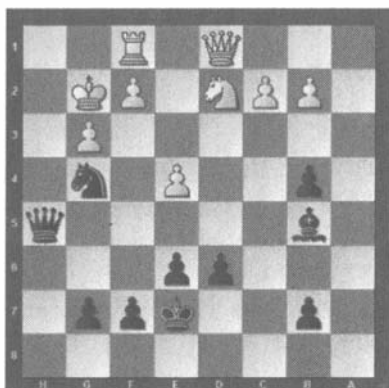
32.Ra1 Stopping Qa3! **32...Rd8 33.Ne1!** 33.Qa4 also wins. **33...Qh4 34.Qa2 Nxb6 35.Nf3 Qe4 36.Qa5** and Black resigned. 1–0

K. Grigoryan (2632) – I. Janik (2453) Lisbon
2020

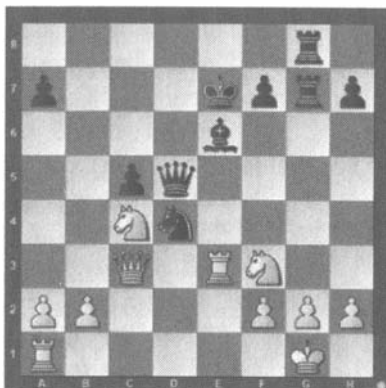
Set 15

Exercises to Set 15

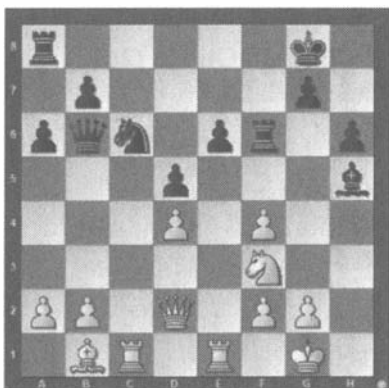
15.1)



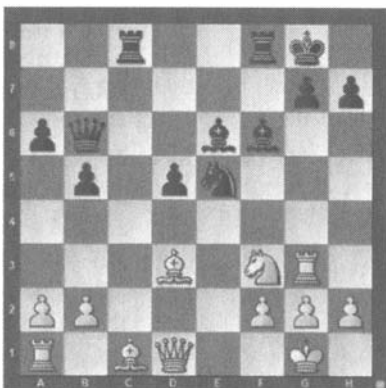
15.2)



15.3)



15.4)



15.1)

Hint: Leaving out to dry

15.2)

Hint: Prepare the assault

15.3)

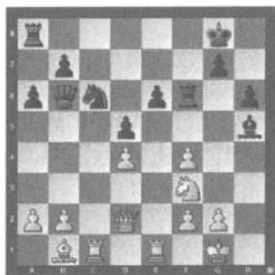
Hint: The positional strike

15.4)

**

Hint: Loose defenders

15.3)



23.Rxc6!

23.Ne5 Qxd4.

23...Qxc6

Not the best, however, White is also better after 23...bxc6 24.Ne5 Be8 25.Qd3 g6 26.Qe3 h5 (26...Qxb2?? 27.Ng4 wins promptly for White) 27.Nd3 with a clear positional advantage for White.

24.Ne5 Qc7 25.Qd3 g5

When Black has to play something like this, it is either a saving move or a sign that everything has gone completely wrong. Here, it is decidedly a case of the latter... Also, 25...Rf5 26.Qh3 and White is winning.

26.fxg5 26.Qh3 is also possible. **26...hgx5**

27.Qh3 Qa5 Or 27...Be2 28.a4! Taking the escape square on b5 away from the bishop on e2.

28.Rf1 Fun fact: Black's position is so bad that White can hang the rook with both 28.Rd1; and 28.Re2 and still win! **28...Be8 29.Qh7+ Kf8 30.Qh8+ Ke7 31.Qg7+ Bf7 32.Ng4** and Black resigned; he is losing too much material. **1-0**

J. Garrido Dominguez (2406) – N. Maatman (2382) Dutch League 2020

15.4)



24.Nxe5! Bxe5 25.Be3! The only move to gain anything more than a terrible position for White, and it is, in fact, a winner. **25...Qd6**

26.Qh5! This is, of course, the kill shot: Black is missing defenders around the king. **26...h6**

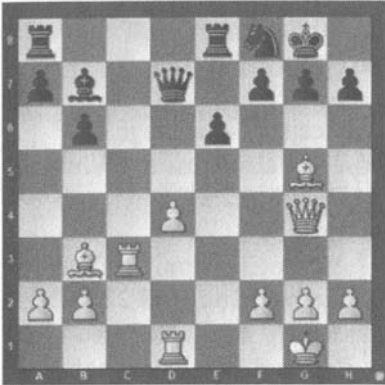
27.Qxh6 Bxg3 28.Qh7+! Kf7 29.Qg6+! Best!

The game continued: 29.Bg6+ Ke7? (Black should have defended with 29...Kf6 30.hxg3 (but not 30.fxg3?? Qe5 and Black is actually clearly better) 30...Qe5 31.Bd3 and White has a decisive attack) 30.Qxg7+ Bf7 31.Bg5+ and Black resigned. **1-0** **Chen Qi (2432) – M. Henni (2202)** Seville 2020. **29...Ke7 30.hxg3** Or 30.Qxg7+ Rf7 31.Qg5+ Kd7 32.hxg3 and White has a decisive advantage. **30...Rf7 31.a4!** and White breaks decisively through on the queenside.

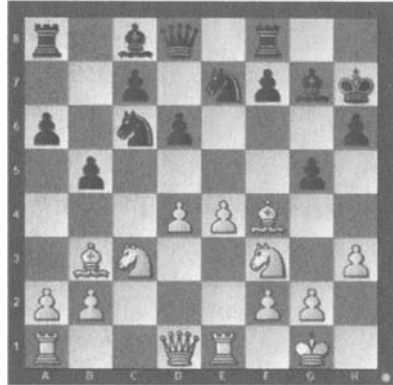
Set 16

Exercises to Set 16

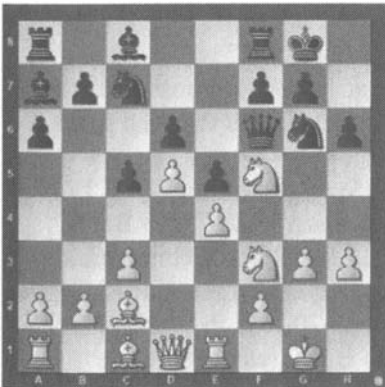
16.1)



16.2)



16.3)



16.4)



16.1)

Hint: The advantage of more space

16.3)

**

Hint: Maneuver before striking

16.2)

*

Hint: Rapid mobilization

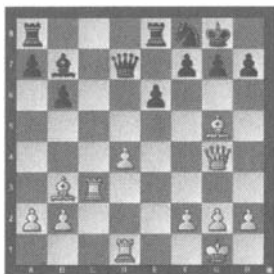
16.4)

**

Hint: Loose pieces...

Solutions to Set 16

16.1)



20.d5!

This is the right breakthrough, but it also works after 20.Bh6 Ng6 21.d5 when best play is 21...gxh6 22.dxe6 Rxe6 23.Re3! Qe7 24.Rxe6 fxe6 25.Rd7! and White is much better!

20...exd5 21.Qxd7 Nxd7 22.Ba4!

So simple, yet so effective; White is winning material and has a decisive advantage.

22...Nc5 22...Re5 23.f4 also wins for White.

23.Bxe8 Rxe8 24.Be3 Ne6 25.f3

25.Ra3 also does the job.

25...Kf8 26.Bd4 White is winning. The full would soon be in the bag. **26...Rd8 27.f4 Nxf4 28.Rc7 Bc8 29.Rxa7 Bg4 30.Bxb6 Rb8 31.Bc5+ Kg8 32.Rd2** and Black resigned. 1–0 **M. Nayhebaver (2471) – F. Haring (2298)** Slovakian Team ch 2020.

16.2)



14.Nxg5+!

This is better than 14.Bxg5? which after 14...hxg5 15.Nxg5+ Kg6 is almost fine for Black but is definitely better than the game continuation.

14...hxg5 15.Qh5+ Kg8 16.Bxg5 Qd7 17.Nd5

The game continuation was 17.Bh6 Bxh6 (After 17...Nf5 18.Bg5 Nfe7, White would be forced to find the better continuation) 18.Qxh6 Nxd4 19.Re3 Nxb3 20.Nd5 f5 21.Nxe7+ Kf7 22.exf5 Qd8 and Black resigned before 23.Qg6# would happen. Note that 17.Re3 also does the job: 17...Nxd4 18.Nd5 Nxd5 19.Bxd5 Re8 20.Bxa8 and White is winning. 1–0 **D. Rodin (2388) – E. Murashova (2248)**

Lipetsk.2020.

17...Nxd5 18.Bxd5 Bb7 19.Re3 and Black's king will not escape.

16.3)



18.Nh2!

This is the most precise move, intending Qh5 and Ng4. However, it should be said, that both 18.g4 and 18.c4 also offer White large advantages.

18...Nh8

Black's difficulties are excellent illustrated by the fact that Black cannot organize his troops from White's decisive, but somewhat slow-moving attack: 18...Qd8 19.Qh5 Ne8 20.Ng4 Nf6 21.Ngxf6+ Kh7 22.Qg5 c4 23.Nxg7 Kxg7 24.Nf5+ Kg8 25.Qh6 Ne8 26.Bg5 Qc7 27.Kg2 b5, and now White has to remain patient and just play 28.h4 and not the impatient 28.Bf6 which allows 28...Bxf5 29.exf5 Nxf6 and suddenly Black is clearly better.

19.Ng4 Qd8 20.Ngxf6+!

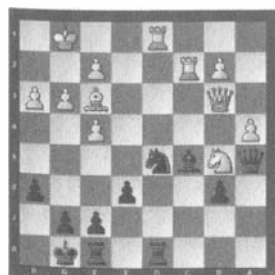
The game continued: 20.Bxf6!? Bxf5 21.exf5 f6 22.Be3 c4 23.Be4 b5 24.h4 Nf7 25.Bxa7 Rxa7 26.Ne3 Nh6 27.a4 Rb7 28.g4 Kf7 29.axb5 axb5 30.f4 Kg8 31.fxe5 fxe5 32.g5 and Black resigned. **1-0 O. Nigmatov (2467) – R. Sangma (2291) New Delhi 2020.**

20...Kh7 21.Nxg7 Kxg7 22.Nf5+ Kg8

Or 22...Bxf5 23.exf5 Kf6 24.Qh5 Ke7 25.f6+ Kd7 26.Qf5+ Ne6 27.Bg5 and White is winning.

23.Qg4+ Ng6 24.Qh5 Ne8 25.Bg5 Qb6 26.Qh6 c4 27.Re2 and White is winning because Black cannot wrestle his way free from White's claws on the kingside.

16.4)



30...Nxf4!

The game continued: 30...Ne3 31.Rxd8?? (It was better to play 31.fxe3 Rxd1+ 32.Bxd1 Qe1+ 33.Kg2 Qxd1 and Black is not worse) 31...Qe1+ 32.Kh2 Nf1+ 33.Kg2 Rxd8 34.Re2 Qa1?? (Black could have won in beautiful fashion with 34...Rd2!! 35.Rxe1 Rxf2+ 36.Kg1 (or 36.Kh1?? Rh2#) 36...Rxf3+ 37.Kg2 Rf2+ 38.Kg1 Rxb2+ 39.Kxf1 Rxb3 with a decisive advantage for Black) 35.Qc2 Rd1 36.Qe4 and here White must have won on time as Black is much better after 36.Qe4 Nd2 37.Qa8+ Kh7

38.Kh2 Qxb2 and Black has a large advantage.
But White could have won on the board with
36.Rxe6! Re1 37.Rxe1 Qxe1 38.Qe2 Qxe2 . 1-
0 G. Spata (2285) – Sa. Rodriguez (2251)
Buenos Aires 2020.

31.Rxc5

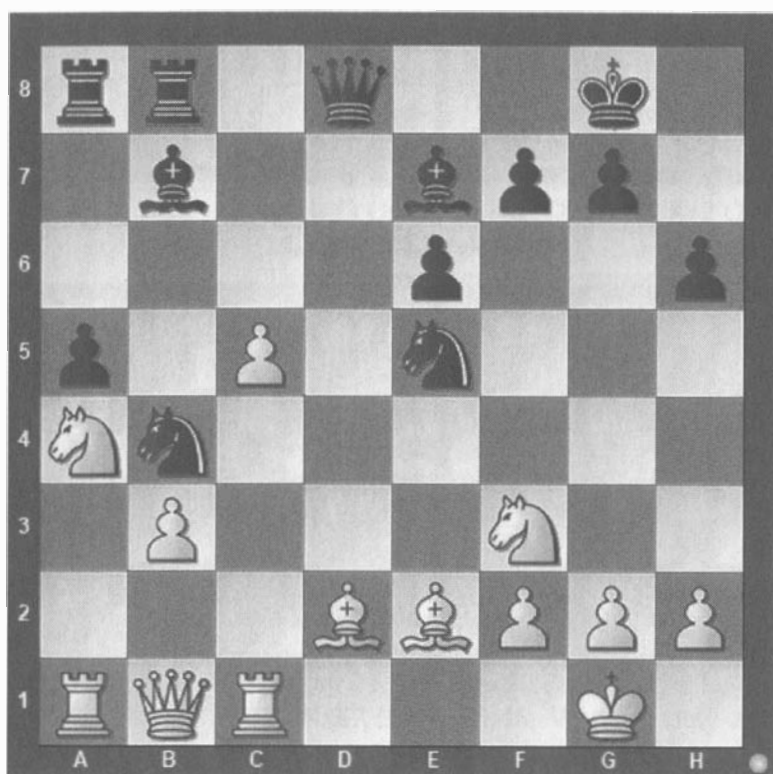
Or 31.gxf4 Rxd1+ 32.Bxd1 Qe1+ and Black is
much better.

31...Rxd1+ 32.Qxd1 Nxh3+ 33.Kg2 Nxf2

34.Kxf2 bxc5 and Black has a clear advantage
although there is obviously plenty of work left
to be done

Chapter 2

Sets 17-32



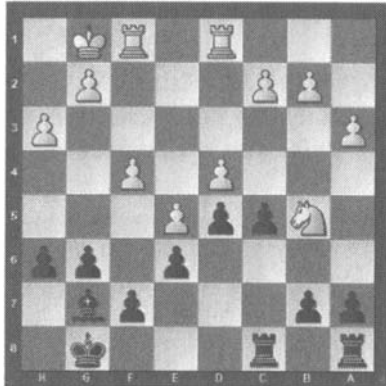
Set 17

Exercises to Set 17

17.1)



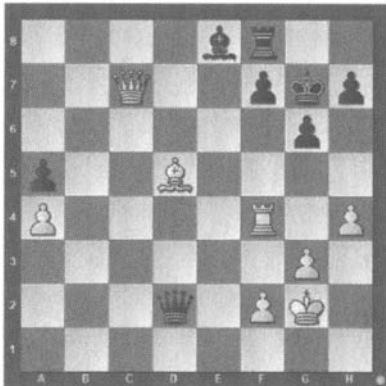
17.2)



17.3)



17.4)



17.1)

**

Hint: Open the door, or kick it

17.3)

Hint: Thematic

17.2)

*

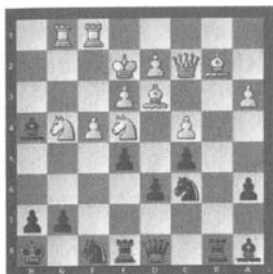
Hint: Careful

17.4)

Hint: The obvious weakness but how?

Solutions to Set 17

17.1)



23...Nd4+!

This move does not win by force nor even secure a manifest advantage but it does put White under severe pressure that can be difficult to handle. A reasonable alternative is 23...Qe7 24.Kd1 Nd4! (it still has to be played) 25.exd4 exd4 26.Ng3 Bxg3 27.Rxg3 Bc6 with excellent compensation for the sacrificed piece but no more than that.

24.exd4 exd4 25.Kd1

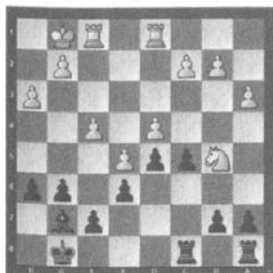
If 25.Ne3 then Black gets a strong initiative: 25...Qd7 26.Ba1 Ng6 27.Ng5 Bxg5 28.Rxg5 Qh3 29.Bxg6 Rxe3+ 30.dxe3 Qxe3+ and there is no more than a perpetual check in it for Black, for instance, 31.Kd1 hxg6 32.Qxg6 Bf3+ 33.Rxf3 Qxf3+ 34.Kd2 Qxf4+ 35.Ke2 Qe3+.

25...Bxe4 26.Bxe4 Rxe4

The game continued less accurately: 26...Rxb2? 27.Qxb2 Rxe4 28.d3? Re8 29.f5 Nd7 30.Qb7? Qe7? 31.Rg2? Rb8 32.Qe4 Qxe4 33.dxe4 Rb1+ 34.Ke2 d3+ 35.Kxd3 Rxf1 36.Rb2 h5 and White resigned. **0-1 M. Bosboom (2425) – J. Aroshidze (2517) Belgian Team ch 2020.**

27.Qxe4 Rxb2 28.Ke2 Qd7 with chances to both sides.

17.2)



20...Bf8!

Black should not let White's knight get to d6. Now, he has a small but clear advantage. After 20...a6 21.Nd6 Rc6 22.dxc5 Rxc5 23.c4! dxc4 24.Nxb7 Rb5 25.Nd6, White is only slightly worse and should not lose the endgame.

21.Kh2??

If White wanted to survive then 21.c4! a6 22.Nd6! Bxd6 23.exd6 dxc4 24.d5! would be White's best chance, although Black is better in the endgame.

21...a6!

After this move, Black is much better.

**22.Nc3 cxd4 23.Rxd4 Bxa3 24.Nxd5 Bxb2
25.Nf6+ Kg7 26.Rb4 Rxc2 27.Rxb7 a5
28.Rd1?**

28.h4!?

28...Bc1??

Black throws the advantage away. It was better to play 28...g5! 29.Rdd7 Rf8 and Black should win.

29.Kg3??

White misses his chance: 29.Rxf7+ Kxf7 30.Rd7+ Kf8 31.Nh7+ with a draw by perpetual check.

29...Rc3+?

29...g5! was better.

30.Kg4?

30.Kh4 Rf8 (30...Bxf4? once more allows 31.Rxf7+! with a draw) 31.g3 g5+ 32.Kg4 and White has good survival chances because of White's counterplay against Black's king.

**30...h5+ 31.Kg5 Rg3+?? 32.Kh4 Bxf4
33.Rdd7??**

White once again misses 33.Rxf7+!! with a draw.

**33...g5+ and, facing mate, White resigned. 0–1
Al. Manea (2338) – C. Lupulescu (2649) Satu
Mare (blitz) 2020**

17.3)



29...Bd3?!

An excellent practical chance, but it is not the best move. Black should have played 29...h5!! 30.f3 (if 30.Bxe4 dxe4 31.Qxe4 Qb6 then Black has the clearly better chances thanks to his advanced pawn on the queenside, the weak light squares in White's position and Black's ability to combine threats against White's king- and queenside) 30...Nc5 31.Bf1 Bxf1 32.Kxf1 h4! and Black has long-term pressure and a clear advantage.

30.Qxd3 Qxf2+ 31.Kh1 Qxa2 32.Qf1??

White collapses. It was necessary to play 32.Bxe4 Qxa1+ (if 32...dxe4 then 33.Qd1 Qf2 34.Qe2 holds for White) 33.Qb1 Qc3 34.Bxh7+ Kh8 35.Qf5 Bc5 36.Qxf7 Kxh7 37.Qh5+ Kg8

38.Qxd5+ Kh7 with a perpetual check for White.

32...Qd2 33.Nf3 Qxe3

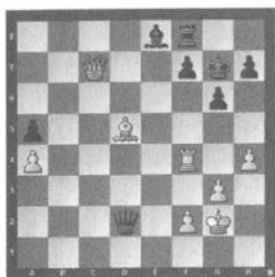
Now, Black is winning.

34.Bd4 Qxb3 35.Ne5 f6 36.Ng4 a2 37.Bxe4 dxe4 38.Ne3 Qd3 39.Qxd3 exd3 40.Nc4 Bd6!

The threat is ...Be5; White resigned. 0–1

M. Khusenkhojaev (2420) – L. Pantsulaia (2598) New Delhi 2020

17.4)



33.Qe5+!

This queen check is best, although 33.Qd8; and 33.Qd6 also should win.

33...Kg8

The alternatives are 33...f6 34.Qe7+ Bf7 35.Qxf6+ and 33...Kh6 34.g4, and White is winning in both cases.

34.h5!

Attacking the weak dark squares in Black's king.

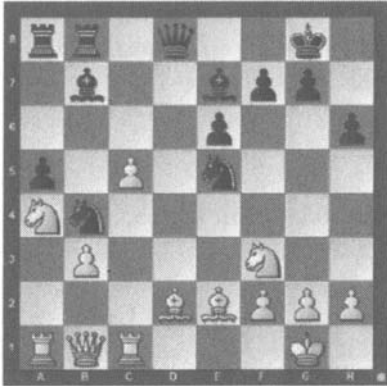
34...gxh5 35.Qg5+ Kh8 36.Qf6+ Kg8 37.Rf5 h6 38.Rxh5 and Black resigned. 1–0

LR Srihari (2302) – Cr. Rios (2498) Chennai 2020

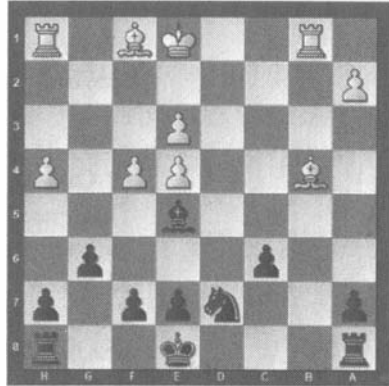
Set 18

Exercises to Set 18

18.1)



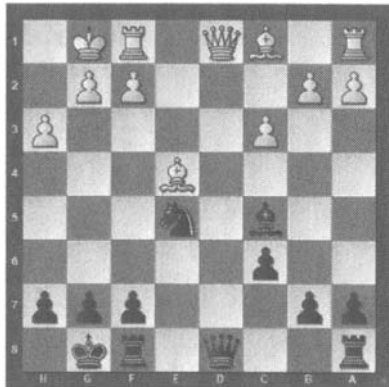
18.2)



18.3)



18.4)



18.1)

**

Hint: Loose pieces

18.2)

**

Hint: Sometimes chess is simple

18.3)

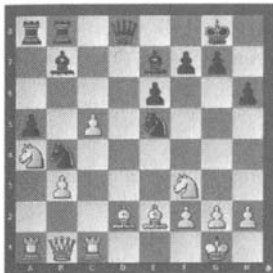
Hint: Exploit the loose pieces

18.4)

Hint: Let's dance

Solutions to Set 18

18.1)



23.Bxb4!

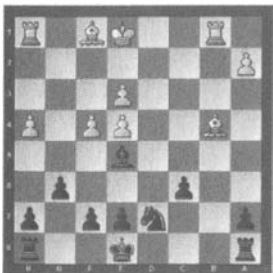
The game continuation was 23.Bf4? Nxf3+ 24.Bxf3 Bxf3 25.Bxb8 Bxg2 26.Kxg2 Qd5+ 27.f3 Rxb8 28.Qe4 Qd2+ 29.Kf1 Nd5 30.Kg1 Bf6 31.Rab1 Ne3 32.f4 Bd4 33.Kh1 Ng4 34.Qc2 Qxf4 35.h3 Bf2 and White resigned. **0-1 Zhang Ziji (2432) – S. Sethuraman (2638) Tianjin 2020.**

23...Bxf3

Or 23...Nxf3+? 24.gxf3 axb4 25.c6 Bd6 26.cxb7 Qg5+ 27.Kf1 Bxh2? (27...Rxb7 28.Qe4 Bxh2 29.Bd3 and White is clearly better) 28.Ba6 and White is winning.

24.Bc3! Bxe2 25.Bxe5 and White has the upper hand but is nowhere near winning.

18.2)



17...Rb8!

Black ignores the threat on the bishop to set up a pin on the bishop on b4. The result is an exchange of bishops but in order to achieve this, White ends up with a miserable pawn structure.

18.Rb3

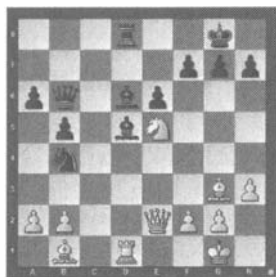
It was relatively better to play 18.fxe5 although 18...a5 19.e6 fxe6 20.a3 c5 also should win for Black.

18...Rxb4 19.fxe5 Rxb3 20.axb3 Nxe5 Black has two extra pawns and an easily won endgame. **21.Be2 Kd7 22.Kd2 Kc7 23.Kc3 Rd8 24.Ra1 Kb6 25.Ra6+ Kb7 26.Ra4 f6 27.Rb4+ Kc7 28.Ra4 Ra8 29.b4 h6 30.Ra1 g5 31.h5 Kb6 32.Bc4 Nxc4 33.Kxc4 Rd8 34.Rf1 g4 0-1 Bj. Sahl (2328) – A.G. Tryggstad (2384) Norwegian Team ch 2020**

18.3)

24.Bh4!

The game continuation was 24.Bxh7+ which also led to a decisive advantage for White: 24...Kxh7 25.Qh5+ Kg8 26.Qxf7+ Kh8?? (after this, White wins easily' a sturdier defense was 26...Kh7 27.Ng4 Kh8 28.Bh4 Qc7 29.Qh5+ Kg8 30.Bxd8 Qxd8 31.a3 Nc6



32.Rxd5 Bh2+ 33.Kxh2 Qxd5 and there is still work to be done although White obviously is winning) 27.Ng6+ Kh7 28.Bxd6 Rxd6 29.Nf8+ Kh8 30.Ng6+ Kh7 31.Ne7 e5 32.Rxd5 Nxd5 33.Qg8+ Kh6 34.Qh8+ Kg5 35.Qxg7+ and Black resigned. **1-0 An. Kovalev (2489) – F. Baenziger (2412)** Marianske Lazne 2020.

24...Bxe5 The alternatives are worse:

a) 24...Ra8 25.Bxh7+ Kxh7 26.Qh5+ Kg8 27.Qxf7+ Kh7 28.Nd7 and White has an irresistible attack.

b) 24...f6 25.Bxh7+ Kf8 (25...Kxh7 26.Qh5+ Kg8 27.Qf7+ Kh7 28.Ng4 with an improved version of the game continuation) 26.Ng6+ Ke8 (26...Kf7 27.a3 Nc6 28.Qh5 Qc7 29.Kh1 and Black is without decent moves) 27.Rxd5 Bh2+ 28.Kxh2 Nxd5 29.Qg4 followed by Bg8 and White is winning.

c) 24...Re8 25.Bxh7+ Kxh7 26.Qh5+ Kg8 27.Qxf7+ Kh7 28.Qg6+ Kg8 29.Qxe8+ and White wins.

25.Bxd8 Qxd8 Or 25...Qd6 26.Be4 with a decisive advantage for White. **26.Qxe5** and White has won the exchange and will win game.

18.4)



14...Bxf2+! 15.Kh1

Capturing the bishop doesn't improve the situation: 15.Kxf2 (capturing with the rook is naturally out of the question) 15...Qh4+ 16.Kg1 (hanging on to the bishop does not fly: 16.Ke3 f5 17.Rxf5 Rxf5 18.Bxf5 Qg3+ 19.Ke2 Qxg2+ 20.Ke3 Re8 and White can resign) 16...Qxe4 and Black has won a pawn for nothing.

15...Qxd1 16.Rxd1 f5

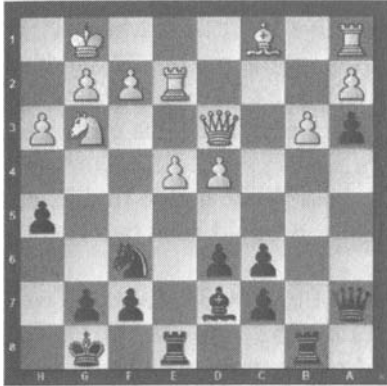
and Black had won a pawn which eventually proved enough to win the game. 17.Bc2 f4 18.a4 g5 19.a5 Rad8 20.Rf1 Bg3 21.b3 Rfe8 22.a6 b6 23.Ra4 Nd3 24.Rd4 Rxd4 25.cxd4 Nf2+ 26.Kg1 Re2 27.Bb1 h5 28.Bg6 g4 29.Bxh5 gxh3 30.gxh3 Nxh3+ and White resigned before getting mated. **0-1**

P. Kostenko (2433) – A. Bezgodov (2456) Chelyabinsk 2020

Set 19

Exercises to Set 19

19.1)



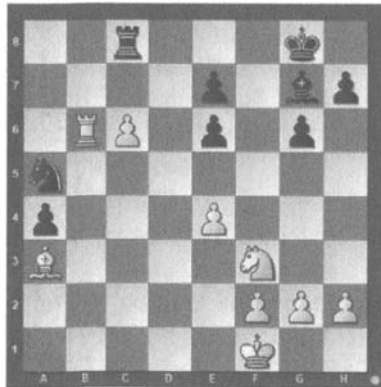
19.2)



19.3)



19.4)



19.1)

**

Hint: Target the defender

19.2)

Hint: Classical style

19.3)

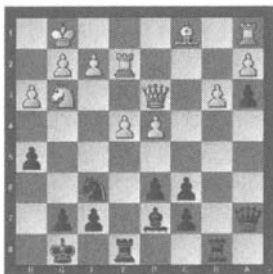
Hint: Once you get the idea, it is obvious, but before that you need to find the key weakness

19.4)

Hint: Forcing a way to the big guy

Solutions to Set 19

19.1)



21...h4!

This pawn advance does not win, but if White has to survive, she has to find the best continuation, everything else is awful for White. The alternative is 21...c5, when White also has to find a good move: 22.e5 dxe5 23.dxe5 Bb5 24.Qf5 Bxe2 25.exf6 Qa6 26.fxg7 and White has sufficient play for the exchange.

22.Nf1??

So natural, yet so bad. White had to find 22.e5! and after 22...Nd5, she would have two equally good options:

a) 23.Nh5 Rb4 24.Be3 Nxe3 25.Qxe3 Qxd4 26.Qg5 Qxa1+ 27.Kh2 g6 28.Nf6+ Kg7 29.Nh5+ with a draw by perpetual check.

b) 23.Ne4 Bf5 24.Bd2 dxe5 25.dxe5 Rxe5 26.Qc4 and White is doing fine.

22...c5!

Now Black is much better. The immediate threat is ...Bb5.

23.e5 Bb5 24.Qf5 Bxe2 25.exf6 Re6 26.Bg5 cxd4 27.Rc1 Rb5

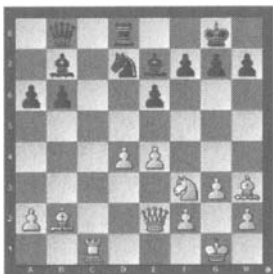
Black is winning.

28.Qf4 Bxf1 29.Kxf1 Rc5 30.Rd1 Qa6+ 31.Kg1 Qe2 32.Rxd4 Qxa2 33.Qxh4 Qb1+ 34.Kh2 a2 35.Rb4 Re8 35...Rce5! 36.fxg7 Qh7 37.Bf6 Rh5 38.Qd4 c5 39.Rb8 Rxb8 40.Qxd6 Re8 41.Qd7 Qe4 and White resigned. 0–1

A. Paramzina (2224) – K. Bhakti (2404)

Caleta 2020

19.2)



19.d5!

This pawn advance is somewhat typical for this type of pawn structure/center. It shuts down Black's light-squared bishop on b7 while giving White's pieces maximum freedom to attack. White now has to work fast to exploit the space advantage and initiative.

19...exd5

Black should capture the pawn; alternatives do not seem to offer Black sufficient counterplay, for instance:

a) 19...Nc5 20.Ne5! exd5 21.Nxf7! Rf8 (21...Kxf7? 22.Qh5+ Kg8 23.Bf5 and White wins) 22.Be5 and White is much better.

b) 19...Nf8 20.Ne5 Bc5 21.Qg4 Ng6 22.Nxf7! Kxf7 23.Qxe6+ Kf8 24.Rc3 Bc8 25.Rf3+ Nf4 26.Rxf4+ Qxf4 27.gxf4 Bxe6 28.Bxe6 when White's bishop pair and central pawns offer White excellent winning chances.

20.e5 Nc5

The alternatives were:

a) 20...Nf8 21.e6 f6 22.Nd4 Rc8 23.Rxc8 Qxc8 24.Nf5 Ng6 25.Nxe7+ Nxe7 26.Ba3 Qc7 27.Qh5 g6 28.Qh4 Kg7 29.Qb4 Qc5 30.Qxc5 bxc5 31.Bxc5 and White has a small but clear advantage in the endgame. Is it enough to win, possibly not, but Black will have to defend accurately.

b) 20...d4 21.e6 Bxf3 22.Qxf3! (Note that 22.exf7+ Kf8 23.Qxf3 Qe5 24.Qd3 Nf6 25.Qxa6 Bc5 26.Ba3 gives Black better survival chances) 22...fxe6 23.Bxe6+ Kh8 24.Bxd4 and White has a clear advantage thanks to his bishop pair and more active pieces.

21.Nd4 Re8 22.e6! Bf6??

From a dynamic perspective, the text move appears to be correct, but as the game conclusion shows and the engine confirms, Black should have played 22...f6 23.Bf5 g6 24.Qg4 Kh8 25.Qh4 Rg8 26.Nf3 Rg7 (or 26...gxf5 27.Bxf6+ Bxf6 28.Qxf6+ Rg7 29.e7 Qe8 30.Qxb6 and White is clearly better; while 26...Qf8?? loses to 27.Ng5!) 27.Bxf6 Qf8 28.Bxg7+ Kxg7 29.Qd4+ Kg8 30.Bg4 h5 31.Ne5 Qh6 32.Rb1 h4 33.Rxb6 Qc1+ 34.Kg2 and White has the clearly better chances, but there is still some chess to be played before the game is decided.

23.exf7+! Kxf7 24.Qh5+ Kg8 25.Bf5 h6 26.Qg6

Invasion on the weak light squares.

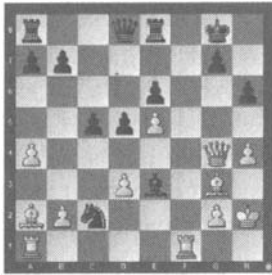
26...Qd8?!

Black's position is in full collapse mode. After 26...Kf8, White breaks through with 27.Ne6+! Rxe6 (or 27...Nxe6 28.Bxf6!) 28.Bxe6 and White is winning.

27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Bg6 Re4 29.Nf5 Rf4 and Black resigned before White had a chance to play 30.Qh8#. **1–0**

D. Navara (2717) – N. Buksa (2403) Caleta 2020

19.3)



22.d4!!

Clearing a path for the light-squared bishop to assist in penetrating the weak light squares around Black's king. This is the only way for White as 22.Bb1 is met by 22...Nd4 and Black has a decisive advantage. Naturally, 22...Nxa1?? 23.d4 transposes to below.

22...cxd4

Or 22...Nxa1 23.Bb1 Rf8 24.Qxe6+ Kh8 25.Qg6 and it is game over for Black. After 22...Nxd4, White's only winning move 23.Rae1! Bd2 (or 23...Rf8 24.Rxf8+ Qxf8 25.Rxe3 and White is winning) 24.Rd1 Be3 25.Rxd4 cxd4 26.Bb1 and now, White returns to attacking the light squares against which Black is defenseless.

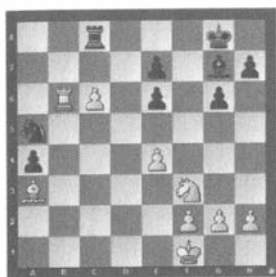
23.Qg6 Qc7 24.Bxd5!

Or 24.Bb1 d3 25.Ra3 and White is winning.

24...exd5 25.e6 and there is no stopping Rf7, ending Black's resistance. **1–0**

S. Bilguun (2486) – A. Byron (2208) Caleta 2020.

19.4)



32.Rb4??

White throws away nearly all of his advantage. It was better to play 32.c7!! Rxc7 33.Rb8+ Kf7 34.Ng5+ Kf6 35.Nxh7+ (or the immediate 35.f4 Nc4 36.Nxh7+ Kf7 37.Ng5+ with a transposition to 35.Nxh7+) 35...Kf7 (35...Ke5 36.Rb5+ wins for White) 36.Ng5+ Kf6 37.f4 Nc4 38.Rb6 Bh6 (Black cannot capture the offered pieces: 38...Nxb6 39.Bb2+ or 38...Nxa3 39.Rxe6#) 39.Rxe6+ Kg7 40.Bxe7 Bxg5 41.Bxg5 and White is winning the endgame.

32...Nxc6 33.Rxa4 h6 34.Rc4 Kf7 35.Ne1 35.e5!? was better.

35...Ra8 36.Bc1 Nd4??

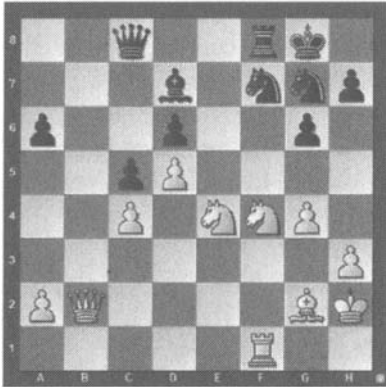
Black should not lose after 36...Ne5 37.Rc2 g5. **37.Bxh6 Nb3? 38.Be3 Ra2? 39.Nf3** and here the game score ended. Maybe Black resigned or he lost on time. In any case, his position was lost. **1-0**

N. Studer (2546) – M. Chigaev (2616) Caleta 2020

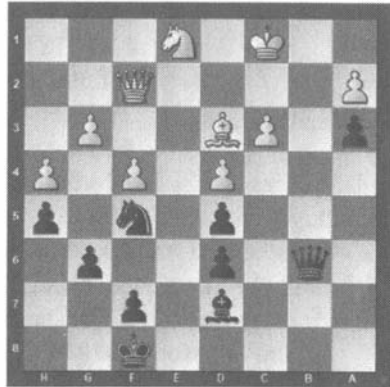
Set 20

Exercises to Set 20

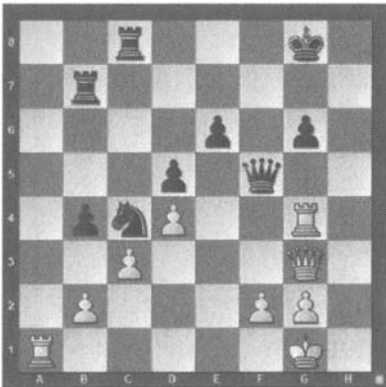
20.1)



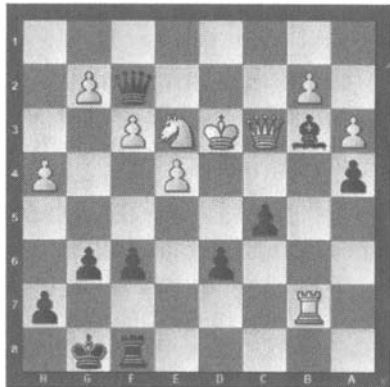
20.2)



20.3)



20.4)



20.1)

*

Hint: Empty the table

20.2)

**

Hint: Distraction

20.3)

Hint: Not everything obvious is right

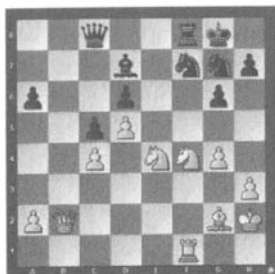
20.4)

**

Hint: Open the door

Solutions to Set 20

20.1)



28.Nf6+! Kh8 29.Nxh7!

This is stronger than the game continuation, however, that too more than sufficed: 29.Nxd7 Qxd7 30.Ne6 Rg8 31.Qf6 Ne5 32.Rf4 (We have an understandable tendency to want to avoid complications when trying to convert a winning a position; here the computer gives preference to 32.Nxc5 Nxg4+ 33.hxg4 dxc5 34.d6 Qxg4 35.Bd5 h6 36.d7 Qxd7 37.Qxg6 and White is winning) 32...Qe8 33.Nxg7 Rxg7 34.Qxd6 Rf7 35.Re4 Re7 36.Qf6+ Kg8 37.d6 Nxg4+ 38.Rxg4 Re2 39.Rf4 Rd2 40.d7 Qb8 41.Qf7+ Kh8 42.Qe8+ and Black resigned. **1-0 K. Rohith (2289) - V. Antonio (2417)** Chennai 2020.

29...Kxh7 30.Nxg6!

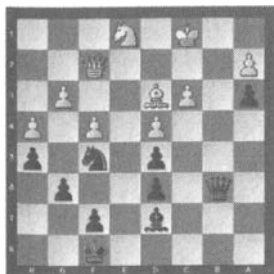
The idea behind the previous move, it is also essential to make progress against Black's king which is now completely naked.

30...Qd8

Capturing the knight is even worse: 30...Kxg6 31.Be4+ Nf5 (or 31...Kh6 32.Qf6#) 32.gxf5+ Bxf5 33.Bxf5+ Qxf5 34.Rxf5 Kxf5 35.Qg7 and it is game over for Black.

31.Nxf8+ Qxf8 32.Be4+ Kg8 33.Bg6 Be8 34.Qf6 and Black is without moves.

20.2)



34...Nxg3!

A sacrifice that more or less forces White to remove the queen from protection detail of the b2-square. Leaving the knight alone does not end White's troubles and how the other two kingside pawns have become much weaker.

35.Qxg3 Qb2+ 36.Kd1 Bg4+ 37.Nf3 Qa1+?

The immediate 37...Qxa2 is simpler and better.

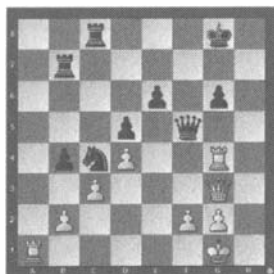
38.Kd2 Qxa2+ 39.Bc2?

White returns the favor but even the better 39.Ke3 loses quite easily to 39...Qb2 and the a-pawn will soon queen.

39...Bf5 40.Ne1 Qb2 and White resigned. **0-1**

N. Povah (2284) – L. Javakhishvili (2463)
 Caleta 2020

20.3)



30.Rg5!!

This little move sends the queen to a less ideal square. The immediate capture on g6 throws the win away: 30.Rxg6+ Kh8!! and now Black is appropriately covered against White's assault: 31.Rg5 Qh7 32.Qg4 bxc3 33.Rh5 cxb2 34.Rxh7+ Kxh7 35.Rb1 Ra8 and White cannot win.

30...Qe4 31.Rxg6+ Kh8 32.Rg4

Boom! Now there is no good way for Black to prevent Rh4.

32...Qf5 33.Rh4+ Rh7 34.Ra7! and Black resigned. The continuation would have been 34.Ra7 Qb1+ (or 34...Rxh4 35.Qg7#) 35.Kh2 Rxh4+ 36.Qxh4+ Kg8 37.Qg5+ with mate to follow. 1-0

V. Murzin (2442) – N. Benmesbah (2258)
 Caleta 2020

20.4)



32...d5!! 33.Qxc5

Other captures meet similar brutal ends: 33.exd5 Re8; or 33.Nxd5 c4+ and in both cases, White can resign.

33...dxe4+ 34.Kc3

Or 34.fxe4 Rd8+ and White will have to hand over the queen.

34...Qe1+

The game continuation was less convincing: 34...exf3?? 35.h5?? (White misses an opportunity to get back into the game with the brilliant 35.Rg7+!! Kxg7 36.Nf5+ gxf5 37.Qxf2 and, if anything, White is better) 35...Qe1+ 36.Kd4 fxg2 (Or 36...Rd8+ 37.Ke4 fxg2 and Black is winning) 37.Qe7 Bf7 and White resigned. 0-1 **B. Murali Krishnan (2202) – A. Fedorov (2562)** Chennai 2020.

35.Kd4 Rd8+ 36.Kxe4 Bc2+ 37.Qxc2

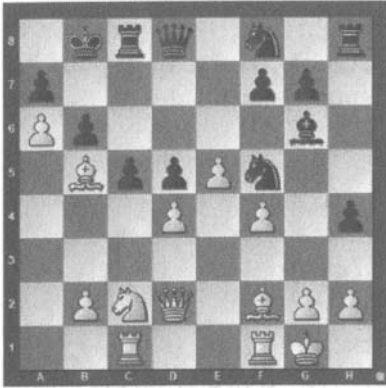
If 37.Kf4 then Black forces mate with 37...Rd4+ 38.Qxd4 Qxh4+ 39.Ng4 g5+ 40.Ke3 Qe1#.

37...f5+ 38.Kf4 Rd4+ 39.Kg5 Qxh4#

Set 21

Exercises to Set 21

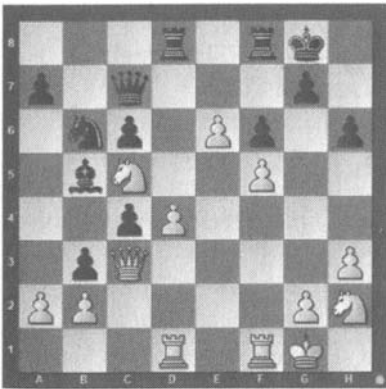
21.1)



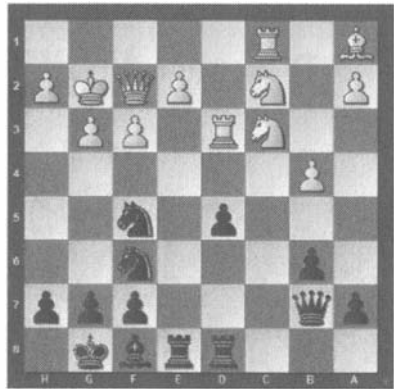
21.2)



21.3)



21.4)



21.1)

Hint: Not so safe

21.3)

*

Hint: Distraction

21.2)

*

Hint: Clearance and interaction

21.4)

**

Hint: Holes and pins

Solutions to Set 21

21.1)



24.dxc5!

There are other good moves, but this is, by far, the best. cutting through Black's defensive lines, as if a hot knife going through butter.

24...bxc5 25.Nb4!

Threatens Nc6+. 25.b4!? is also quite good but the text move is much better.

25...Ne6

If 25...cxb4 then Black's king is busted and cannot escape: 26.Qxb4 Rxc1 27.Rxc1 d4 28.Bd7+ Qb6 29.Rc8#.

26.Nc6+ Rxc6 27.Bxc6 Nfd4

Or 27...d4 28.Bf3 Qc7 29.Qe2 Qb6 30.b4 and White is winning.

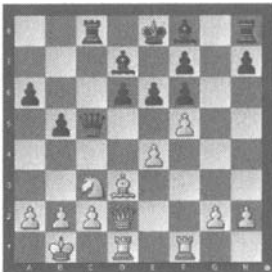
28.Bxd4!?

Or even better 28.Rxc5! Nxc5 29.Qxd4 and Black can resign.

28...Nxd4 29.Rxc5 Nb3 30.Rb5+ and Black resigned. 1–0

M. Warmerdam (2497) – F. Hoffmeister (2205) Belgian Team ch 2020

21.2)



16.e5!

This is best but White is also much better after 16.fxe6 fxe6 17.e5! Qxe5 18.Rde1 with a clear advantage for White.

16...Qxe5?!

Or 16...fxe5 17.Ne4! Qc7 18.Nf6+ Kd8 19.Qg5 h6 20.Qg4, and Black is stuck in a really difficult position, where almost no move helps to improve the situation, for instance, 20...d5 21.fxe6 fxe6 22.Qg6 Qc6 23.Nxd7 Kxd7 24.Rf6 Re8 25.Be4 and White's attack goes on; Finally, 16...d5 17.fxe6 fxe6 18.exf6 is, of course, a disaster for Black.

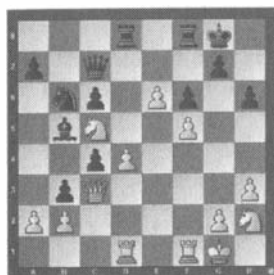
17.Rde1! Qxh2 18.Qf2!

The game continuation was: 18.fxe6 fxe6 19.Nd5 Be7 20.Nxf6+ Bxf6 21.Rxf6 Rg8 22.Qf2 Kd8 23.Rf7 Qxg2 24.Qf6+? (White was winning after 24.Qb6+ Rc7 25.Qb8+ Rc8 26.Qxd6 Qc6 27.Qe7+ (27.Qxc6) 27...Kc7

28.Rd1 and Black is busted) 24...Kc7 25.Qxe6 Rcd8 26.Be4 Qd2 27.Bf5?? Kb6 28.Rxd7 Rxd7 29.a4 Rdd8 30.Bxh7 Rge8 31.Qxe8 Rxe8 32.Rxe8 Qd1+ 33.Ka2 Qd5+ and White resigned. **0-1 T. Vidic (2252) – Low Zhen Yu Cyrus (2415)** Caleta.2020.

18...Qh6 19.Qa7! Be7 20.fxe6 fxe6 21.Bf5! exf5 22.Nd5 and Black is done.

21.3)



27.a4!

This little and somewhat surprising pawn push forces Black to put a piece on a bad square where it will be unprotected, allowing a tactical win. However, White's position is so good that more patient play would also suffice, for instance, 27.axb3 Nd5 28.Qf3 cxb3 29.Rf2 and White has a decisive advantage.

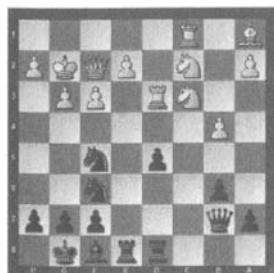
27...Bxa4 28.e7!

Opening the c4–g8 diagonal.

28...Qxe7 29.Nxa4 and Black resigned on account of 29...Nxa4 30.Qxc4+, picking off the loose stallion on a4. **1-0**

L. Moroni (2532) – P. Sowray (2272) Caleta 2020

21.4)



23...d4! 24.Nxd4

Or 24.Nd1 Ng4 25.Qf1 Qc6 (also good is 25...Bd6 26.Nxd4 Nxh2 27.Qe1 Bxg3 and Black is clearly winning) 26.Bb2 Ne5 27.Nxd4 Qd7 and Black is winning.

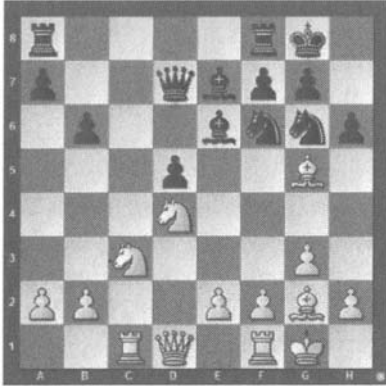
24...Ng4! 25.Qg1 Rxd4 26.Rxd4 Nge3+ and White resigned. **0-1**

D. Kula (2214) – E. Wiewiora (2298) Czech Team ch 2020

Set 22

Exercises to Set 22

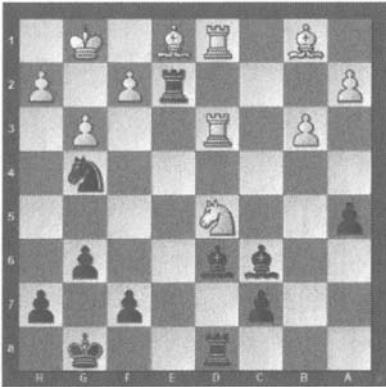
22.1)



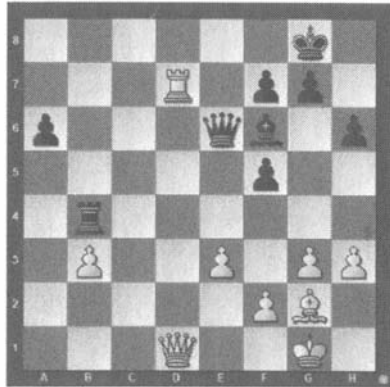
22.2)



22.3)



22.4)



22.1)

**

Hint: Capture, capture...

22.2)

Hint: Break it open

22.3)

**

Hint: Build the pressure

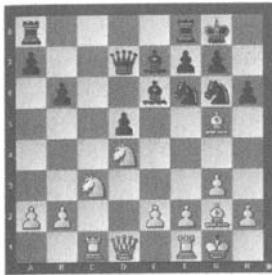
22.4)

**

Hint: Kick the weakness

Solutions to Set 22

22.1)



16.Nxe6

The move order is not super important; White could also capture on f6 first.

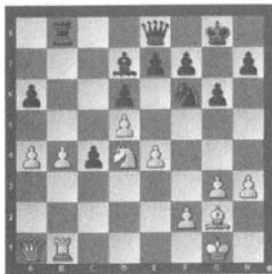
16...fxe6 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Nxd5! exd5 19.Bxd5+ Kh7??

This is obviously a blunder, but White would also have a decisive advantage after 19...Kh8 20.Bxa8 Qxd1 21.Rfxd1 Rxa8 22.b3 Re8 23.e3 and White should win.

20.Bg8+ and Black resigned. 1–0

A. Kosteniuk (2504) – D. Gomez Anadon (2276) Caleta 2020

22.2)



21.e5!

An important move, allowing the g2–bishop to connect to the c6–square.

21...dxe5 22.Nc6 Bxc6

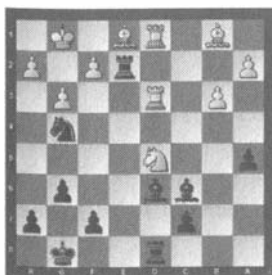
Or 22...Rb6 23.b5 e4 24.Qd4 and White has a decisive advantage.

23.dxc6 This was the point behind the 21st move: now, White will get two strong connected passed pawns the b- and c-files. White is winning.

23...e4 24.Qe5 Rb6 25.b5 axb5 26.axb5 Qd8 27.c7 Qc8 28.Qxe7 Ne8 29.Qd8 Qxc7 30.Qxe8+ and Black resigned. 1–0

A. Zubov UKR (2601) – D. Zoler (2485) Israeli Team ch 2020

22.3)



26...Rde8!

Threatening to capture the bishop on e1.

27.Bxa5

Also 27.Ne3 is met by 27...Bc5 and White's defense collapses.

27...Bc5 28.h3

Or 28.Re3 Rxf2 29.Rxe8+ Bxe8 and White is completely lost.

28...Bxf2+ 29.Kf1

Or 29.Kh1 Ne3 and it is game over for White.

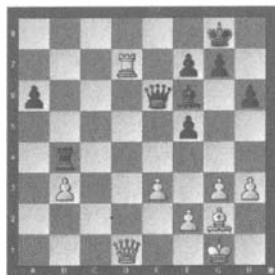
29...Nh2+ 30.Kg2 Be3+?

Black delivers mate promptly after 30...Bd4+ 31.Kh1 Bxd5+ and mate next move.

31.Kh1 Nf3 and White resigned. 0–1

C. Yip (2412) – K. Lagno (2552) Saint Louis 2020

22.4)



36.Rxf7!

The rook cannot be captured with either King or Queen on account of Bd5, winning the Queen.

36...Qxb3

The best was 36...Rd4 37.Rxg7+ Kxg7 38.exd4 and White should win the endgame.

37.Qd7! Qb1+

Of course, the rook still cannot be touched.

38.Kh2 Rb8 39.Bd5 Kh8 40.Qd6 Rb2

41.Rf8+ Kh7 42.Bg8+ Kg6 43.Bf7+ and Black resigned before he would get mated. 1-0

J. S. Thybo (2550) – H. Stefansson (2541)

Icelandic Team ch (Reykjavik) 2019

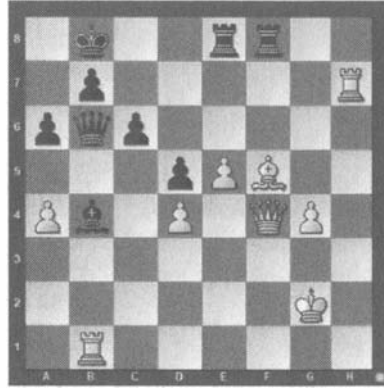
Set 23

Exercises to Set 23

23.1)



23.2)



23.3)



23.4)



23.1)

**

Hint: Useful holes

23.2)

**

Hint: Walk on

23.3)

**

Hint: Even more useful holes

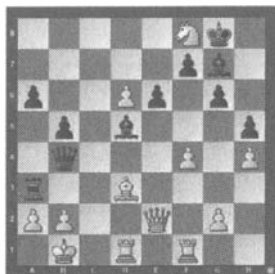
23.4)

*

Hint: Making room

Solutions to Set 23

23.1)



27.Nxg6!

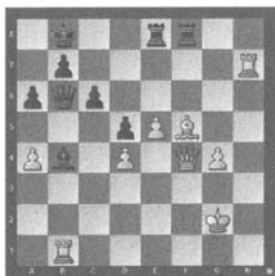
The only move to win. In the game continuation everything went wrong for White: 27.Qd2?? Bxa2+ 28.Kc1 Qxd6 29.Bb1 Qc5+ 30.Bc2 Bd5 31.Kb1 Ra1+ and facing mate in a few moves, White resigned. White holds the balance after 27.Nd7, when 27...Bxa2+ 28.Kc1 Bb3 29.bxa3 Qc3+ 30.Bc2 Qa1+ 31.Kd2 Qc3+ leads to a draw by perpetual check.; White also loses after 27.d7 Rxa2! 28.Rd2 Qa4! and White will get mated. **0-1 O. Svanda (2268) – M. Walek (2297) Czech Team ch 2020.**

27...Bxa2+

Or 27...fxg6 28.d7 Bf6 29.Bxg6 and White wins.

28.Kc1 Qc5+ 29.Qc2! Bxb2+ 30.Kxb2 Rb3+ 31.Qxb3 Bxb3 32.d7 and White is winning.

23.2)

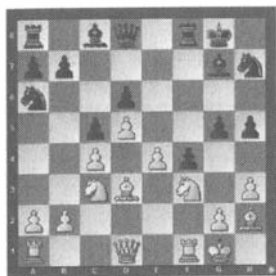


37.e6+!

This is much stronger than the game continuation which went: 37.a5? Qxa5?? (after 37...Qb5 Black would have had a difficult position but he would still have been alive) 38.Qd2! c5 39.dxc5 Rxf5 40.Rxb4 Qa3 41.Rxb7+ Ka8 42.gxf5 Rg8+ 43.Rbg7 and Black resigned. **1-0 S. Thorgeirsson (2304) – O. Johannesson (2269) Icelandic Team ch (Reykjavik) 2019.**

37...Ka7 38.e7! Rg8 39.Be6 Rg6 40.Bd7 and White is winning.

23.3)



17.e5! g4

The alternatives are not much better: 17...dxe5 18.Qc2 Nf6 19.a3 and White has a decisive position advantage, or 17...Bf5 18.Bxf5 Rxf5 19.e6 and White has a decisive advantage thanks to his guarded passed pawn on e6.

18.e6!

White's position is so good, or rather, Black's position is so awful that even being a piece up does not help Black.

18...g3

After 18...gxf3 19.Qxf3, Black's position is a complete disaster, for instance, 19...Qh4 20.Bxf4 Ng5 21.Bxg5 Rxf3 22.Bxh4 Rxd3 23.Bf6 Bh6 24.Nb5 with a hopeless position for Black.

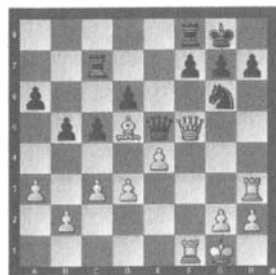
19.Bxg3 fxg3 20.Bxh7+ Kxh7 21.Ne4 Kg8 22.Nfg5 Rxf1+ 23.Qxf1

White is completely winning.

23...Qf8 24.Qe2 Nc7 25.Qxh5 Bd4+ 26.Kh1 Qg7 27.Rf1 Bxe6 28.dxe6 Rf8 29.Rf7 and Black resigned. 1–0

A. Suleymenov (2382) – P. Galperin (2460)
Moscow 2020

23.4)



25.Qg4!

A nasty move which threatens to play Rf5 with decisive effect.

25...Rd8 26.Rf5 Qe8 27.Rg5!?

Or 27.Rxh7! Kxh7 28.Rh5+ Kg8 29.Qxg6 and Black can resign.

27...Re7

Or 27...Qd7 28.Rxg6 hxg6 29.Qh4 Kf8 30.Rf3 and Black can resign.

28.Rxg6 hxg6 29.Qh4 and facing an unstoppable mate, Black resigned. 1–0

A. Pourramezanali (2488) – A. Gitelson (2314) Moscow 2020

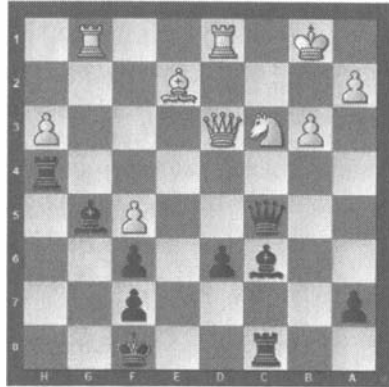
Set 24

Exercises to Set 24

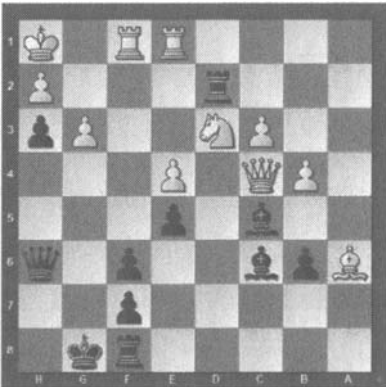
24.1)



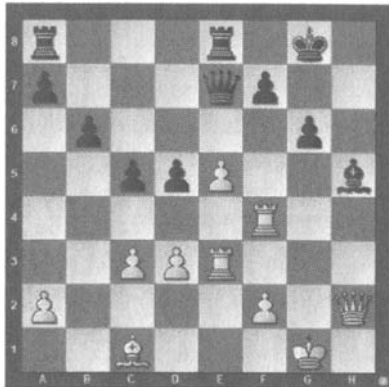
24.2)



24.3)



24.4)



24.1)

**

Hint: A long way from home

24.3)

*

Hint: Making room for the big girl

24.2)

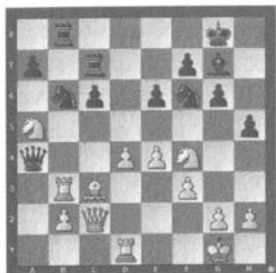
Hint: Priming the right square

24.4)

Hint: Disrupt the defense

Solutions to Set 24

24.1)



29.Nd3!

White threatens to trap Black's queen after 30.Nc5 Qa2 31.Ra3.

29...Nfd7 30.Nc5 Nxc5 31.dxc5 Nc8

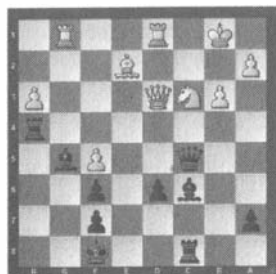
This pin appears to solve Black's problems, but...

32.Rd8+! Bf8 33.Qd2 and with a multitude of threats, Qh6 being the worst of them but also Rxf8 and Rxb8 are serious enough in themselves, Black resigned. **1–0**

T. Polak (2527) – J. Szotkowski (2388)

Czech Team ch (Vychod) 2020

24.2)



25...Bb7!

Black creates the immediate threat against the knight on c3 which cannot be moved on account of ...Be4, pinning White's king and queen.

26.Kb2

Also, 26.Rg3 will be met with 26...Bf4! 27.Rdg1 Be5 and Black is winning.

26...Bf4!

Black transfers the bishop to the a1–e5 diagonal which is most unpleasant for White.

27.Rg4 Rxc4 28.hxc4 Be5 29.Rc1

White has managed to establish a defensive set-up but that is not the end of his troubles as Black now penetrates with the queen.

29...Qf2! 30.Rc2

Or 30.a4 Rxc3 31.Rxc3 Qe1 and White loses a piece.

30...Qe1! 31.b4 Rxc3 and Black resigned. **0–1**

P. Kotenko (2365) – P. Galperin (2460)

Moscow 2020.

24.3)

31...Rg2!

Black clears the d2–square for the queen to join the attack. Note that 31...Rc2 doesn't work on account of 32.bxc5 Qd2 33.Rf2 and White is winning.

32.bxc5



White seems to have a better defense after 32.Nxc5 bxc5! (But not 32...Qd2 which allows White to defend with 33.Re2) 33.Qd3 Rd2 34.Qf3 Qg6 35.b5 Ba8 36.b6 Rb8 37.Qe3 after which it looks like White is over the worst, but 37...Rb2 38.b7 Bxb7 39.Bxb7 R8xb7 40.Qxc5 Qg4 leaves White lost, the immediate threat is ...Rg2 and ...Rbb2, but if White's queen leaves the a7–g1 diagonal, then Black also has access to ...Rxh2+.

32...Qd2! 33.Nf2

Also 33.Rf2 Rxf2 34.Nxf2 Qxe1+ 35.Qf1 Qxf1+ 36.Bxf1 bxc5 leaves White with a lost position.

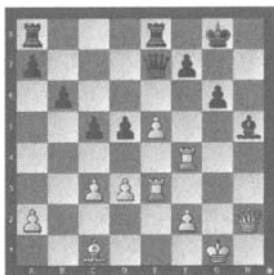
33...Rxf2 34.Rxf2 Qxe1+ 35.Rf1 Qe3 36.Bb7 b5

Or the faster 36...Bxb7 37.c6 Ba6!

37.Qd4 exd4 and White resigned. 0–1

B. Morchiashvili (2312) – G. Nigalidze (2474) Georgian ch (Tbilisi) 2020

24.4)



24.e6!

While Black has some problems on the dark squares in the initial position, another much more serious problem emerges after the text move as Black's king becomes the target of White's heavy piece and Black's pieces do not have the capacity to save the king. Of White's alternatives, 24.d4 cxd4 25.cxd4 would have given White a clear advantage, whereas the immediate; 24.Rg3 allows 24...Qxe5 which gives Black sufficient counterplay. After the text move, Black's defense rapidly crumbles.

24...fxe6 25.Rg3!

This was the point behind the previous move: now, Black does not have the counterplay with ...Qxe5 available any longer.

25...Kh7

Or 25...Qh7 26.Rh4 Kf7 27.Rg5 e5 28.f4 Ke7 29.Qg2 Kd6 30.fxe5+ Kc6 31.c4 and White is winning.

26.Rh4 Qf7 27.Rg5 Rg8 28.Kf1!

Preparing to capture on h5.

28...Qf3

Or 28...Rh8 29.Rhxf5+ gxf5 30.Rxf5+ Kg7
31.Qg3+ Qg6 (31...Kf6?? 32.Qg5# is, of
course, even worse) 32.Rg5 and Black can
resign.

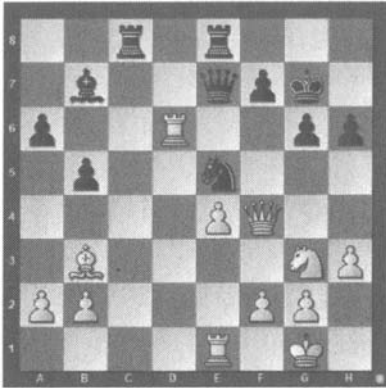
**29.Rhxf5+ gxf5 30.Qc7+! Kh8 31.Qe5+ Kh7
32.Rxf5+ Kg6 33.Qg5+ Kf7 34.Rh7+ and
Black resigned. 1–0**

M. Muzychuk (2552) – H. Koneru (2580)
Saint Louis 2020

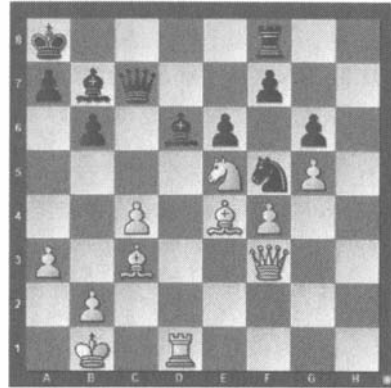
Set 25

Exercises to Set 25

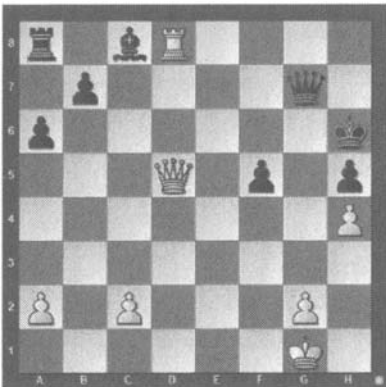
25.1)



25.2)



25.3)



25.4)



25.1)

Hint: Brutality

25.2)

Hint: Remove the guy that bothers you

25.3)

Hint: Triangulate or something like it

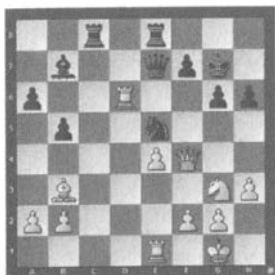
25.4)

**

Hint: Straight up fuel to the fire

Solutions to Set 25

25.1)



26.Nf5+!

This brutal direct attack is stronger than the game continuation which also saw White winning after 26.Red1!? Qg5 27.Qd2 Qxd2 28.R1xd2 Nc4 29.Bxc4 bxc4 30.f3 c3 31.bxc3 Rxc3 32.Ne2 Ra3 33.Nf4 Rc8 34.Rd7 Rc1+ 35.Kh2 Bc8 36.Ra7 g5 37.Nd3 Rcc3 38.Nb4 a5 39.Nd5 Rc1 40.Nc7 Rac3 41.Ne8+ Kg6 42.Rd6+ Be6 43.Rxe6+ fxe6 44.Rg7+ and Black resigned before he would get mated. Note, that 26.Nh5+ isn't as strong, for instance, 26...gxh5 27.Qxh6+ Kg8 28.Re3 (or 28.Rg6+ Nxg6 29.Qxg6+ Kf8 30.Qh6+ Kg8 31.Re3 Rc1+ 32.Kh2 h4 and White has to settle for a perpetual check) 28...h4! and Black somehow survives. **1-0 D. Khegay (2533) – E.**

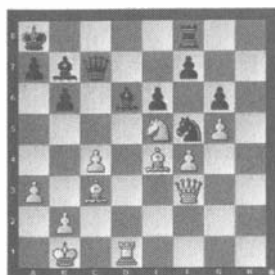
Chibukhchyan (2233) Moscow 2020.

26...gxf5 27.Qxh6+ Kg8 28.f4!

But not 28.Rg6+ Nxg6 29.Qxg6+ Kf8 and Black survives.

28...Qf8 29.Bxf7+! Qxf7 30.fxe5 and Black is finished.

25.2)



32.Bb4!

Or, the possibly stronger, 32.c5! bxc5 33.Nc4! and Black loses a piece.

32...Rb8 33.Bxb7+ Rxb7 34.Bxd6

Here, 34.Nxf7 Qxf7 35.Bxd6 Nxd6 36.Rxd6 Qf8 37.Qc6 is also completely lethal.

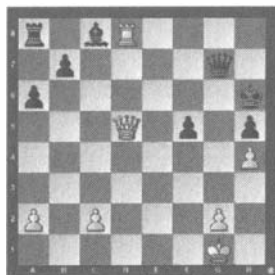
34...Nxd6 35.Qd3 Nc8 36.Qd8 Kb8 37.Qf8

37.Qe8 is a bit stronger but the fact remains: Black is hopelessly lost.

37...Qc5 38.Qxc5 bxc5 39.Rd8 Rc7 40.Rf8 and Black resigned. **1-0**

M. Jurcik (2360) – O. Mejzlik (2297) Czech Team ch (Zapad) 2020

25.3)



31.Qd6+

Or 31.Qd2+ Kh7 32.Qe2 Qg4 33.Qe7+ Qg7 34.Qe8! and Black will lose at least a rook in order to be able to defend himself.

31...Kh7 32.Re8 Bd7 33.Re7 Bc6 34.Rxg7+ Kxg7 35.Qe7+

The endgame is hopelessly lost for Black as the king is wide open.

35...Kh8 36.Qf6+ Kg8 37.Qg6+ Kf8 38.Qxf5+ Ke7 39.Qxh5 Rg8 40.g4 and Black resigned.

1-0

J. Malakhov (2423) – G. Ter-Saakian (2236)
Moscow 2020

25.4)



16...Nc4! 17.Qe2

The alternatives are not much better and meet the same kind of fate: 17.Qf2 Qb6! 18.axb4 Qxb4 19.Rd3 Qxb2+ 20.Kd1 Rc8 21.Bc1 Qa1 22.Ke2 Rxh4! and Black is winning; or 17.Qe1 Qb6! with a similar plan in mind.

17...Qb6!

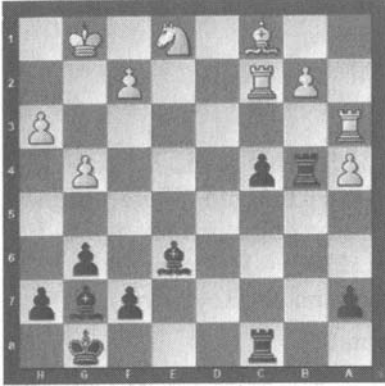
Black also won convincingly in the game continuation which went 17...Nc6 18.h5 Bxg5 19.hxg6 Bxf4+ 20.Kb1 Bh6 21.Nh5 Qd7 22.Na4 Qe7 23.Nc5 0-0-0 24.gxf7 Qxf7 25.b3 Nxa3+ and White resigned. **0-1 JR Gascon Del Nogal (2481) – M. Bluebaum (2643)** chess24.com INT 2020.

18.b3 Nxa3 19.Rd2 Rc8 20.Na4 Qa5 and Black will crash through on the queenside.

Set 26

Exercises to Set 26

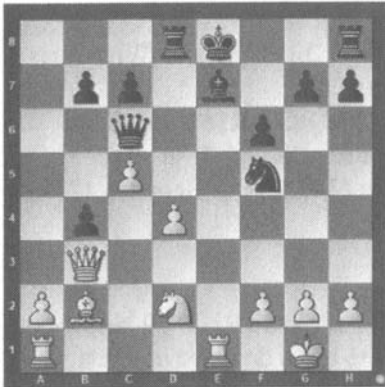
26.1)



26.2)



26.3)



26.4)



26.1)

Hint: No room for the defense

26.2)

Hint: Cool preparation

26.3)

*

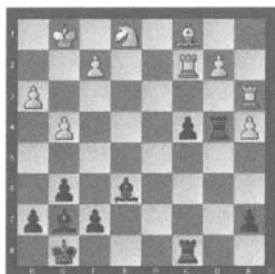
Hint: Add fuel to the fire

26.4)

Hint: Attack and interfere

Solutions to Set 26

26.1)



28...Rcb8!?

This is good but even better was 28...c3! 29.bxc3 Rb1 30.Bd2 Bf8 and White loses material.

29.Ng2

29.Re3 was better.

29...Bxb2

29...c3! was better.

30.Bxb2 Rxb2 31.Rxb2 Rxb2 32.Nf4 Rb3

33.Ra1 c3 34.Nxe6 fxe6 and White resigned.

34...c2, however, was objectively better. 0–1

H.F. Heimisson (2203) – R. Lagerman

(2296) Icelandic Team ch (Reykjavik) 2019

26.2)



29.Bb1!

Threatening Qd3.

29...Re1+?

Relatively better for Black was 29...Qh5 30.Qc2 Qg6 31.Qxg6 fxc6 32.Bxc6 and White has a decisive advantage.

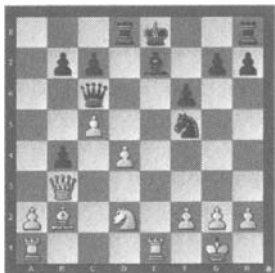
30.Rf1 Rfe8 31.Qd3 R1e4 32.Kh2! b5

33.Rde1 and Black resigned. 1–0

H. Hayrapetyan (2458) – A. Grachev (2301)

Moscow 2020

26.3)



17.Ne4!

Or 17.Nc4! Nxd4 18.Bxd4 Rxd4 19.Nd6+ cxd6 20.Qe3 and White has a decisive advantage.

17...h5 18.d5! Rxd5 19.Bxf6 Nd4??

Black should played 19...Rf8 but 20.Bxe7 Nxe7 21.h4 leaves White with a winning position.

20.Nd6+ cxd6 21.Rxe7+

White is completely winning and soon won the game.

21...Kf8 22.Qg3 Ne2+ 23.Rxe2 gxf6 24.Qg6

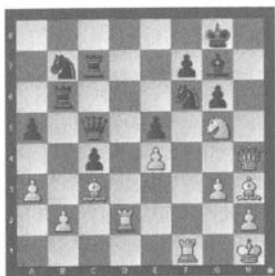
dx5 25.Rae1 Re5 26.Rxe5 fxe5 27.Qf5+ Kg7

28.Rxe5 and Black resigned. 1–0

B. Harsha (2495) – S. Satyapragyan (2403)

Indian ch (Ahmedabad) 2020

26.4)



31.Ne6!

This is much stronger than the game continuation: 31.Kg2 Nd6?? (31...Re7 would have allowed Black to fight on) 32.Ne6 fxe6 33.Bxe6+ Kf8 34.Rxf6+ Bxf6 35.Qxf6+ Ke8 36.Bxe5 and Black resigned. Another reasonable continuation was 31.Be6 fxe6 32.Rdf2 Nd8 33.Rxf6 Bxf6 34.Rxf6 Rg7 35.Kg2 and White has a decisive advantage.

1-0 P. Galperin (2460) – N. Nurgali (2336)
Moscow 2020.

31...fxe6 32.Rxf6 Qe7

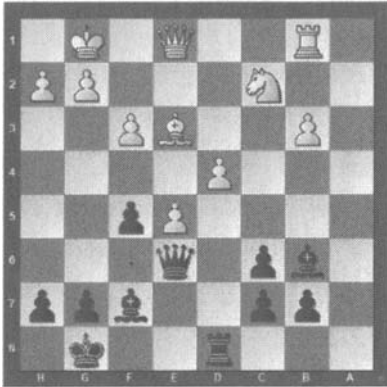
Or 32...Bxf6 33.Qxf6 Qf8 34.Qxg6+ Rg7 35.Bxe6+ and White is winning.

33.Rxg6 Qxh4 34.gxh4 Kh7 35.Rdg2 and White is winning.

Set 27

Exercises to Set 27

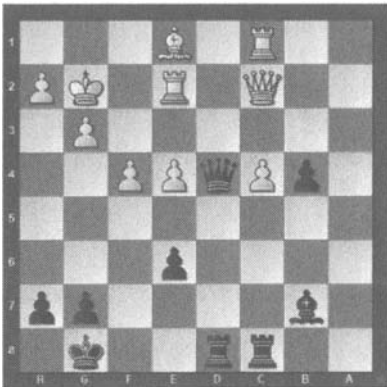
27.1)



27.2)



27.3)



27.4)



27.1)

Hint: Make room to access

27.2)

**

Hint: Prepare to access

27.3)

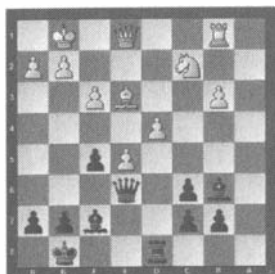
Hint: Distract to access

27.4)

Hint: Break to access

Solutions to Set 27

27.1)



31...f4! 32.Qh4?

A mistake; similarly so, 32.Bxf4? Bg6 and Black is winning, e.g., 33.Qd2 c5 34.Kh1 cxd4 and White's position is terrible. It was better to play 32.Bf2!? although 32...g5! leaves Black with a clear advantage.

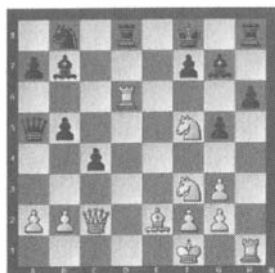
32...Rf8 33.Bxf4?

Making an already bad situation even worse, but 33.Bf2 Bg6 34.Rb2 c5 35.dxc5 Qxe5 is winning for Black.

33...Bg6 34.Rb2 Bxc2 35.Rxc2 Qf5 and, losing material, White resigned. 0–1

Ti. Farkas (2276) – J. Terbe (2281) Budapest 2020

27.2)



20.Qd1! Bf6

Or 20...Nc6 21.Rd7 Kg8 22.Ne7+ and White is winning.

21.Nxg5! Qb6

Also 21...Qc7 is met by 22.Nxf7 and White is winning.

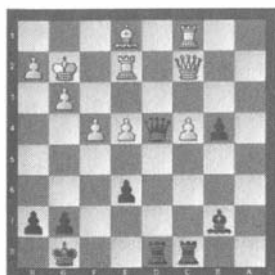
22.Nxf7 Rxd6 23.N7xd6 and White is winning.

23...Bc6 24.Qd2 Qc5 25.Rxh6 Qe5 26.Rxh8+ Bxh8 27.Qh6+ Bg7 28.Nxg7 Qxg7 29.Qf4+ and Black resigned. 1–0

B. Adhiban (2654) – A. Erigaisi (2563)

Indian ch (Ahmedabad) 2020

27.3)



32...b3!

Forces White's attention away from the e4–pawn.

33.Qxb3

If 33.Qb1, then 33...Rxc4 wins for Black.

33...Bxe4+ 34.Kh3 Qf6 and White resigned.

0–1

E. Deutsch (2337) – J. Khmelniker (2481)

Israeli Team ch 2020

27.4)



20.hxg5!

Objectively speaking, this continuation should give White an advantage, but it is White's best option to win for a win. 20.Bxg5!? is flashier but leads to the same position as our game continuation.

20...hxg5 21.Bxg5! Bxg5 22.f6

This was White's idea. The threat is to create mayhem on Black's kingside now that Black's queen no longer protects the bishop on g5 and the light squares are very weak.

22...Nxd5??

This looks desperate and maybe Black had become desperate, but, in fact, it is too soon for such measures. The best defense was 22...Ng6!! 23.Bxg6 Re3! (of course, not 23...fxg6?? 24.f7+ and Black can resign) 24.Qf5 Qxf6! (this is Black's only path to equality) 25.Qxf6 Bxf6 26.Rxf6 fxg6 27.Rxg6+ Kf7 28.Rg5 Kf6 29.Rf5+ and the endgame is drawn.

23.Qxd5 Re5 24.Qh1!?

24.Qd3 is also very strong.

24...Bxf6 25.Qh7+ Kf8 26.Rf4 Qd7 27.Raf1

Black is completely busted.

27...Rae8 28.Bg6 Re1 29.Rxf6 Qxg4+ 30.Kh1 Rxf1+ 31.Rxf1 Ke7 32.Qxf7+ and Black resigned before he would get mated. 1–0

A. Daglli (2424) – A. Mirzoev (2439)

Chababar 2020

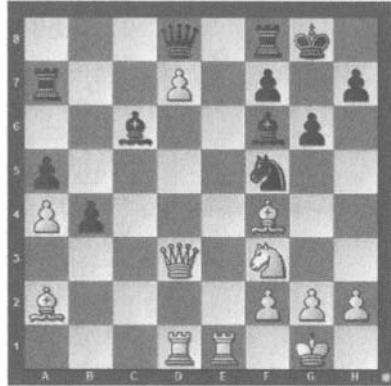
Set 28

Exercises to Set 28

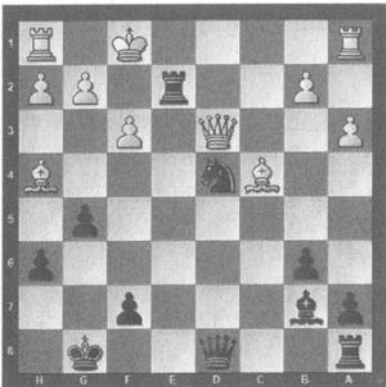
28.1)



28.2)



28.3)



28.4)



28.1)

**

Hint: Locate a hole, then attack mercilessly

28.2)

**

Hint: Knock one hole in the wall and it all comes down

28.3)

**

Hint: Deadly force with overwhelming powers

28.4)

Hint: Exploit weak squares and underlying threats

Solutions to Set 28

28.1)



17.Ncxd5! Nxd5

Or 17...cxd5 18.Rxc7 and White is winning.

18.Nxd5 cxd5 19.Qb5!

With the immediate threat of 20.Qxb7 Rb8 21.Qxb8+ Nxb8 22.Rc8#.

19...f5

If 19...Nb6 20.Bf4 (threatening Bc7+) 20...hxg5 21.hxg5 and Black has no real way of meeting White's countless threats.

20.gxf6

White prefers to keep the position open but also 20.Bf4, threatening Rhel is completely winning.

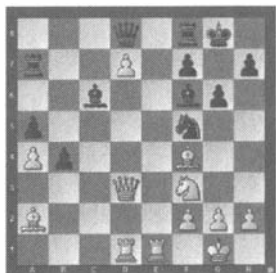
20...Nxf6 21.Bf4

Threatening Bc7+.

21...g5 22.Bc7+ Qxc7 23.Rxc7 Kxc7 24.Rc1+ and Black decided that he had enough. 1–0

A. Demchenko (2655) – G. Kjartansson (2459) Icelandic Team ch (Reykjavik) 2019

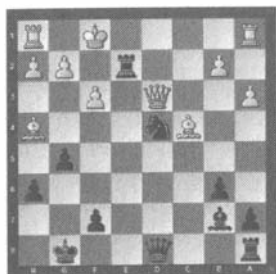
28.2)



24.Bxf7+! Kg7 Black cannot capture the bishop: 24...Rxf7 25.Re8+ or 24...Kxf7 25.Ne5+ Kg7 26.Nxc6, both straight up lose for Black. **25.Be6 Bxa4 26.g4! Bxd1 27.Rxd1 Ne7** Or 27...g5 28.Bxf5 gxf4 29.Nd4 and White is winning. **28.Qe3 Nc6 29.Bh6+ Kh8 30.Qc5** Or even stronger **30.g5! Bg7 31.Bxg7+ Kxg7 32.Ne5! Nxe5 33.Qxe5+** and it is over for Black. **30...Bg7** Or 30...Rc7 31.Bxf8 and White wins. **31.Bxg7+ Kxg7 32.Qxc6 Qf6 33.g5 Qe7 34.Qb6** and Black resigned. 1–0

M. Berchtenbreiter (2486) – I. Nyzhnyk (2665) PRO League chess.com 2020

28.3)



20...Be4!

Black stops the threat of Qg6+ while decisively opening up for White's king.

21.fxe4 gxh4

The immediate threat is, of course, ...Qf6+, ending the game.

22.Kg1

Or 22.Rg1, intending 22...Qf6+ 23.Qf3 Nxf3 24.gxf3+ Kf8 25.Bxe2, but Black is still winning after 25...Qxb2, yet 22...Kf8 avoiding White's intentions is even stronger, forcing White to sacrifice the queen under even less ideal circumstances.

22...b5

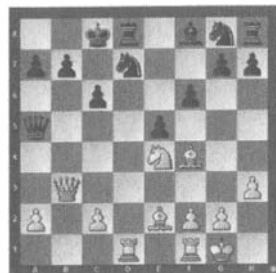
22...Rxb2 would also win at this point. **23.Bd5 Qb6**

Threatening ...Nf3+.

24.Kf1 Qf6+ and White resigned. 0–1

D. Nasshan (2306) – G. Aczel (2522) German Bundesliga 2019

28.4)



15.Bg4!

Less flashy but also decided effective is 15.Qe6! Qc7 16.Be3 Kb8 17.Bg4 and White is winning.

15...exf4

Or 15...Qa3 16.Qf7 Qe7 17.Nd6+ Kb8 18.Qxe7 Bxe7 19.Nf7 and White is winning.

16.Rxd7

This was, of course, the idea behind the previous move.

16...Rxd7 17.Rd1 f5

Or 17...Nh6 18.Qe6 and White wins.

18.Qe6 Qd8 19.Bxf5

White will win the rook back on d7 and retain a terrifying attack. White is winning.

19...Qe7 20.Qb3 Qb4 21.Qf7

Black could have resigned at this point.

21...Ne7 22.Rxd7 Kb8 23.Qe8+ Nc8 24.Rd8 a6 25.Rxc8+ Ka7 26.Qd8 and Black resigned before he would get mated. 1–0

R. Sadhwani (2522) – S. Mamedyarov (2770) PRO League chess.com 2020

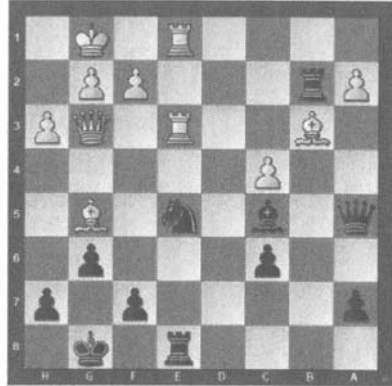
Set 29

Exercises to Set 29

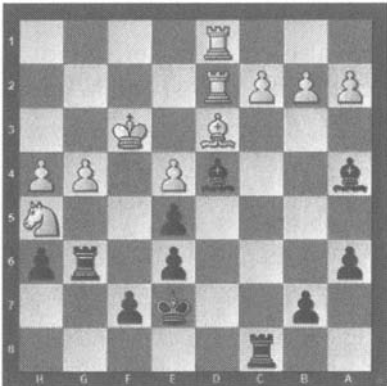
29.1)



29.2)



29.3)



29.4)



29.1)

Hint: Brute force

29.2)

**

Hint: Count precisely

29.3)

Hint: An open door is better than a closed one

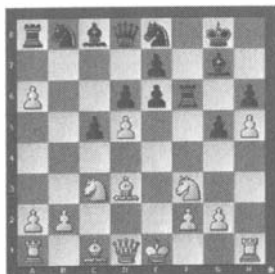
29.4)

**

Hint: Pins

Solutions to Set 29

29.1)



14.Nxg5! hxg5

An important alternative is 14...c4 15.Bb1 (White can also consider 15.Bh7+ Kh8 16.Bb1 hxg5 17.h6 Bf8 18.Bxg5 with a strong attack for White) 15...Rxa6 16.Nxe6 Bxe6 17.dxe6 Rxe6+ 18.Ne2 Qa5+ (or 18...d5 19.0-0 Nc6 20.a4 Rd6 21.Ra3 e5 22.Rg3 and White has a decisive advantage) 19.Kf1 d5 20.Rh3! and White has a decisive advantage thanks his extra pawn, bishop pair and safer king, although Black's active pieces can seem intimidating for Black.

15.Bxg5 Bh6 16.Bxh6!

The game continuation was 16.Qd2 Bxg5?? (16...Bf8 was a better defensive try 17.Bxf6 exf6 18.dxe6 Nc7 19.0-0 and White has a near-decisive advantage) 17.Qxg5+ Kh8 18.Bg6 Kg8 19.Bxe8+ Kf8 20.Bg6 Kg7 21.h6+ Kh8 22.Be8 and Black resigned. **1-0 P.**

Srivatshav Rahul (2474) – G B

Harshavardhan (2377) Indian Team ch (Ahmedabad) 2020.

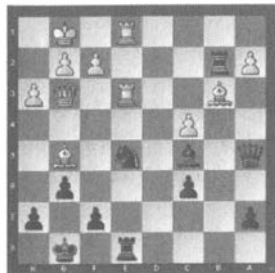
16...Rxxh6 17.Qg4+ Kh8 18.Qg5 Rh7

19.Bxh7 Nf6

Or 19...Kxh7 20.Qg6+ Kh8 21.Ne4 Bxa6 22.0-0-0 Nf6 23.Ng5 and White is winning.

20.Bg6 Qf8 21.dxe6 Nc6 22.Ne4 and White is winning.

29.2)



26...Qxe1+!

Black would also have a large advantage after 26...Bxe3 27.Rxe3 Rb1+ 28.Kh2 Re1.

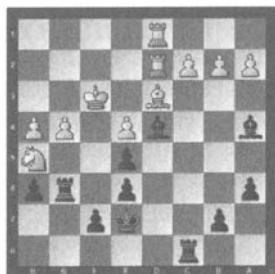
27.Rxe1 Bxf2+ 28.Qxf2 Rxf2 29.c5

Or 29.Kxf2 Nd3+ 30.Kg3 Rxe1 and Black is clearly winning.

29...Rf5 30.Bd2 Rd8 31.Ba5 Nd3 and Black was winning. **32.Re3 Rd7 33.Bc3 Kf8 34.Kh2 Nf4 35.Ba4 Nd5 36.Bxc6 Rc???** Oh no! 36...Re7 would win. **37.Re8# 1-0**

D. Nomin-Erdene (2417) – L. Giannoulakis (2266) Graz 2020

29.3)



28...Rcg8! 29.Rg2 f5!

Black is now decisively breaking through.

30.exf5 Bc6+ 31.Ke2 exf5 32.Ng3

If White moves the rook, Black is still in command: 32.Rh2 Rxc4 33.Bxf5 Be8 34.Bxc4 Rxc4 and Black is winning.

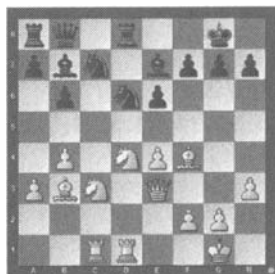
32...Bxc4 33.Nxf5+ Kf6 34.Nxd4 Rxc4 35.Nf5 e4

35...Rf4 is even better.

36.Nxh6 Bf3+ and White resigned. 0–1

D. Navara,D (2717) – J.Duda (2755) Prague 2020

29.4)



22..Ncb5! Ncxb5

Or 22...Nce8 23.Bxe6 (this is stronger than 23.Nc6 Bxc6 24.Rxc6 and White should be winning) 23...fxe6 24.Nxe6 Rc8 25.Nxd6 Bxd6 26.Bxd6 Nxd6 27.Qg5 Ne8 28.Qe7 and White is winning.

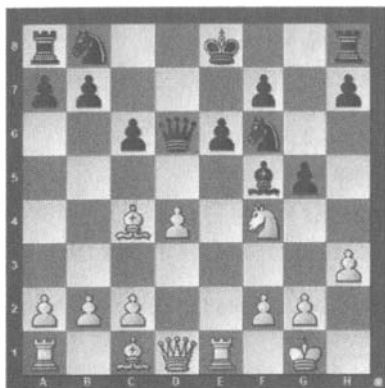
23.Nxb5 a6 24.Nxd6 Bxd6 25.Rxd6 Rxd6 26.Qg3 and Black resigned. 1–0

Sw. Soumya (2369) – S. Vijayalakshmi (2331) Indian Team ch (Women) (Ahmedabad) 2020

Set 30

Exercises to Set 30

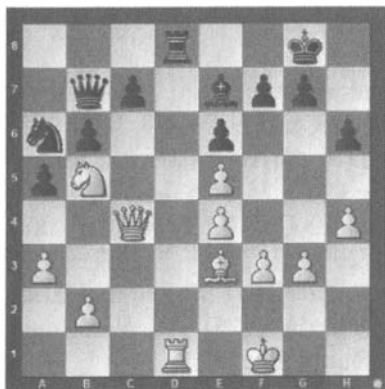
30.1)



30.2)



30.3)



30.4)



30.1)

Hint: Keeping the right paths open is more important than opening any path

30.3)

Hint: Walk in through the front door and the back door

30.2)

**

Hint: Restricted piece often make good targets

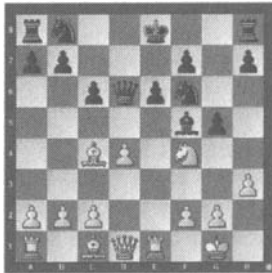
30.4)

**

Hint: Isolate the majesty

Solutions to Set 30

30.1)



14.Nh5! Nxh5 15.Qxh5 Qxd4

The alternatives are 15...Qb4 16.Qe2 h6 17.g4 followed by Bxe6 and White is winning; or 15...Bg6 16.Qxg5 Nd7 17.Bf4 Qxd4 18.Bxe6 and White is winning.

16.Bxe6! Bg6 17.Bg4+ Kf8 18.Qh6+ and Black resigned. 1–0

N. Guliyev (2548) – T. Steinkohl (2204)

German Bundesliga 2019

30.2)



19.Qh5!

This is not winning but it does represent White's chance.

19...Nf5?

Black could have defended himself with 19...Qd2 20.Nxf7+ Rxf7 21.Qxf7 Qxb2 22.Qxe7 Bxf2+ 23.Kh1 and White has no more than a small advantage.

20.Qxf7!

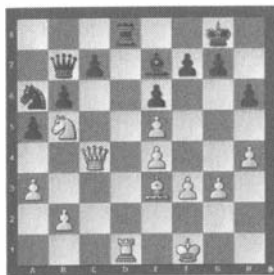
The game continuation was less accurate: 20.Nxf7+ Rxf7 21.Qxf7 gxf6 22.Qxe6 Nd4? (Black should have played 22...Bd4 23.Bxd4 Nxd4 24.Qxf6+ Qxf6 25.exf6 and White is somewhat better) 23.Qh3 Kh7 24.Rae1 fxe5 25.Rxe5 Qd6 26.Rfe1 Rg8 27.Re7+ Rg7 28.Qc3 Kg8 29.Rxg7+ Kxg7 30.Re4 and Black resigned. **1-0 J. Martin (2375) – P. Wenninger (2373)** German Bundesliga 2019.

20...hxf6

Or 20...Rxf7 21.Nxf7# with a pretty mate.

21.Qh5+ Nh6 22.Qg6 and White has a decisive advantage. Nice little tango of White's queen.

30.3)



28.Rxd8+! Bxd8 29.Qd3 Qb8 30.Qd7!

Black is so tied up and utterly without counterplay, that White is easily winning.

30...Kf8 31.Na7 Be7 32.Nc8

The bishop is trapped.

32...Nc5 33.Bxc5 bxc5

Of course, 33...Bxc5 34.Qd8# does not represent an improvement of Black's situation.

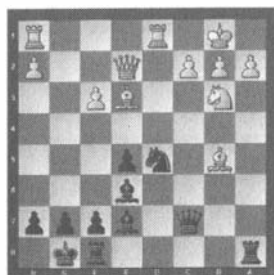
34.Nxe7 g6 35.Qc8+ Qxc8 36.Nxc8 Ke8

37.Na7 Kd7 38.Nb5 Kc6 39.Nc3 Black resigned. 1–0

T. Lammens (2264) – M. Dorohin (2287)

Utrecht 202

30.4)



20...Nxe3! 21.Qxe3 Rxa2! 22.Kxa2

Or 22.Qe4 Qa7 23.c4 g6 and Black is winning.

22...Qxc2 and White resigned as there is no way of stopping all of Black's threats. 0–1

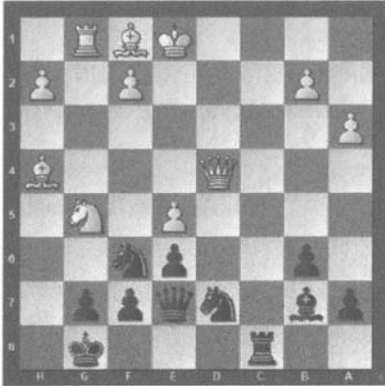
A. Macovei (2426) – F. Mesaros (2405)

German Bundesliga 2020

Set 31

Exercises to Set 31

31.1)



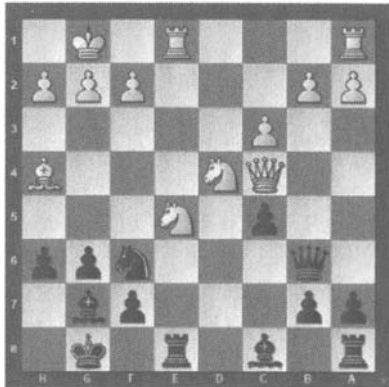
31.2)



31.3)



31.4)



31.1)

Hint: More attackers are needed

31.2)

**

Hint: The obvious strike

31.3)

Hint: Boom! Boom!

31.4)

Hint: Creating a new balance

Solutions to Set 31

31.1)



20...Rc1+! 21.Kd2 Nc5!

Black continues to ignore the threat to the knight by creating counterthreats.

22.exf6 Nb3+ 23.Ke3 Re1+ 24.Kd3 Qe8

Or even stronger, 24...Qc7! 25.Qc4 Qd7+ 26.Kc3 Rc1+ 27.Kxb3 Qd1+ when the computer announces mate in 8 moves. The text move, however, is both practical and effective.

25.Nxf7??

Or 25.Bg2 Ba6+ 26.Kc3 Nxd4 and it is obviously game over for White.

25...Qb5+ 26.Qc4 Be4+ and White resigned.

0-1

S. Mamedyarov (2770) – S. Sargsyan (2601)

PRO League chess.com 2020

31.2)



13.Rxg2!

The game continuation was also in White's favor: 13.Nd4 Na6 14.Qxe6+ Rf7 15.Qxd5 Bxd5 16.Nf5 Kh8 17.Rxg7 Rxg7 18.Bxf6 Rag8 19.Ke2 Be4 20.Nxg7 Rxg7 21.Rg1 Bg6 22.h4 and Black resigned. **1-0 Z. Medvegy (2539) – C. Kuenstler (2277)** German Bundesliga 2019.

13...Rf7 14.Qe8+ Rf8 15.Bxf6!

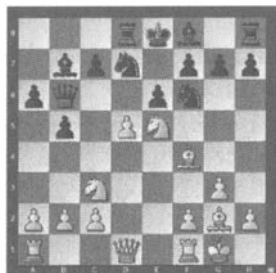
Boom!

15...Rxe8 16.Rxg7+ Kf8 17.Ng5! Rc8

18.Rxh7 e5 19.Rh8+ Qg8 20.Rxg8+ Kxg8

21.Bxe5 and White is winning.

31.3)



12.Nxf7!

BOOM!

12...Kxf7 13.dxe6+ Kxe6

The king would have to capture as the queen has protective duty for the bishop on b7.

14.Nd5!

Second BOOM!

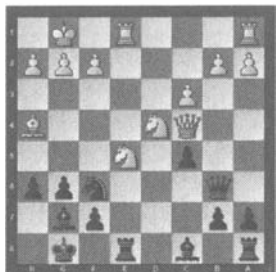
14...Bxd5 15.Bxd5+ Nxd5 16.Re1+

The point behind the 14th move: Black's king is stuck hopelessly outside the safe zone.

16...Kf6 17.Qxd5 h6 18.Bxc7 and Black resigned as he will either lose the queen or get mated. 1–0

L. Mons (2552) – Fl. Grafl (2346) German Bundesliga 2019

31.4)



17...Rxe5! 18.Rxe5 cxd4 19.Bxf6 Bxf6 20.Re8+ Kg7 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Qxc8 Qxb2

White may have won an exchange but Black's d-pawn is becoming passed c-pawn that will be impossible to stop.

23.Re1 dxc3 24.Qc5 c2 25.Qe3 Be7!?

25...Qxa2! would have been more accurate but everything seems to win.

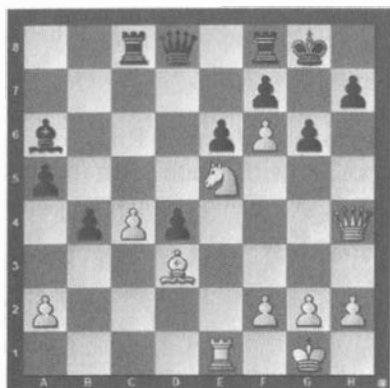
26.g3 Ba3 and White resigned. 0–1

D. Gomez Dieguez (2296) - A. Strikovic (2479) Santiago de Compostela 2020

Set 32

Exercises to Set 32

32.1)



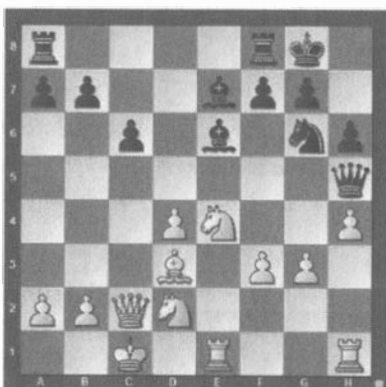
32.2)



32.3)



32.4)



32.1)

**

Hint: Combine attack on weak squares and overburdened pieces

32.2)

Hint: Use the strength of bishops

32.3)

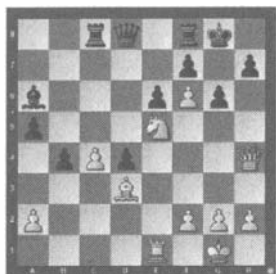
Hint: Combine attack and the overburdened piece

32.4)

Hint: Use prophylaxis before setting in the decisive attack

Solutions to Set 32

32.1)



25.Nd7!

Or 25.Ng4 h5 26.Qg5 hxg4 27.Bxg6 and White is winning.

25...Kh8

Of course, 25...Qxd7 26.Qh6 wins instantly for White.

26.Qh6 Rg8 27.Re5

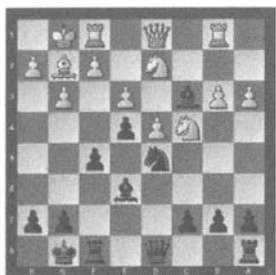
Or 27.Re4 and there is no stopping Rh4.

27...Rxc4 28.Qxh7+ with mate next move, Black resigned. 1–0

S. Ganguly (2636) – P. Maghsoodloo (2674)

PRO League chess.com 2020

32.2)



17...b5! 18.Ne5

Or even worse 18.Nb2 c5 19.dxc5 Nf6 and White loses the knight on d2.

18...c5!

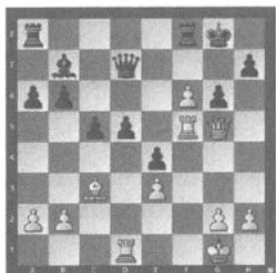
The targets are White's pawn on d4 and the knight on d2.

19.Rc1 cxd4 20.exd4 Rc8 21.Nb1 Qb6 and White either resigned or lost on time; Black is completely winning. 0–1

A. Diamant (2547) – W. So (2765) PRO

League chess.com 2020

32.3)



25.f7+!

This is much stronger than the game continuation which went 25.Re5? Rae8 26.h4?! Rxe5 27.Qxe5 h5?? (Black would have been alive after 27...d4 28.exd4 Re8 when White is only marginally better) 28.Rf1?? (White would have won on the spot with 28.f7+ Kxf7 29.Rf1+ and Black can resign) 28...Kh7?? (28...Kf7! was much better) 29.Rf4? (29.f7! was again the way to go) 29...Be8? 30.Kh2 (30.f7!) 30...Qc6?? (The text move makes no sense; I suspect that 30...Qe8 was played) 31.Qg5 (31.Qe7+ would have forced mate) 31...Be6 32.Qe5 Qd7 33.a3 Bg4 34.Rf2 Be6 35.Kg1 a5 36.Rd2 Qc6 37.g4 Bxg4 38.Rxd5 Qc8 39.Qxe4 Qc6 40.Rxh5+

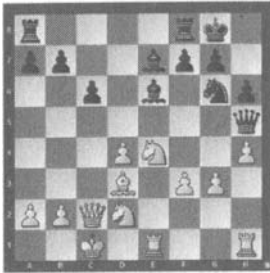
and Black resigned. **1-0 M. Demidov (2564) – A. Lauber (2420)** German Bundesliga.2019.

25...Rxf7 26.Rxf7 Qxf7

Or 26...Kxf7 27.Rf1+ Ke8 (or 27...Kg8 28.Qf6 d4 29.exd4 cxd4 30.Bxd4 and White is winning) 28.Qh6 Qe7 29.Bf6 Qf7 30.Bg7 Qe6 31.Qxh7 and White is completely winning.

27.Rf1 Qe6 28.Rf6 Qe8 29.Be5 and White has a decisive attack against Black's king.

32.4)



19.Nc3!

Threatens Bxg6, and Black does not have enough moves to fix this problem.

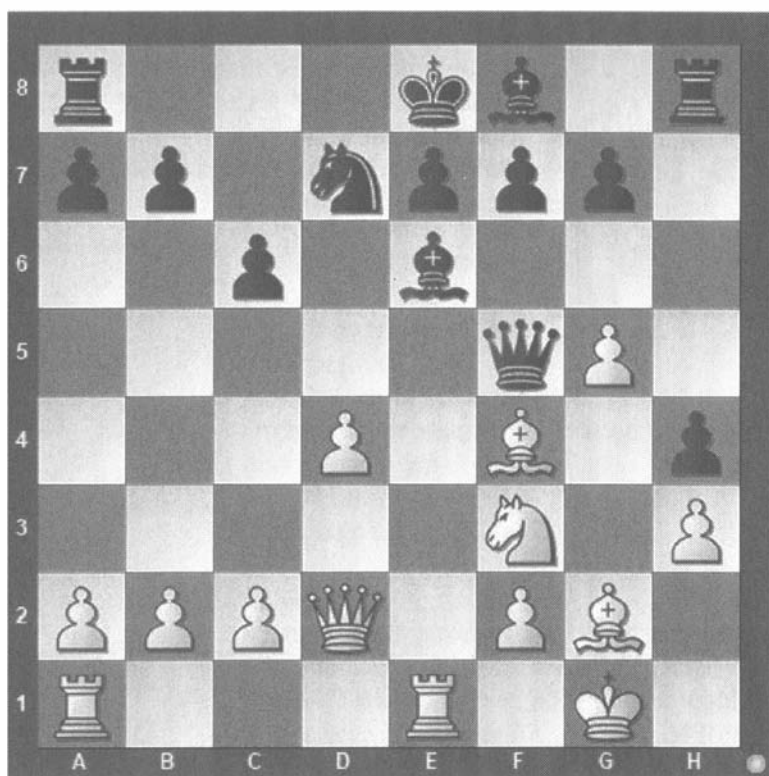
19...Nxh4 20.gxh4 Bxh4 21.Re5 g5 22.Rxe6

Black resigned. **1-0**

Bai Jinshi (2618) – S. Tica (2398) PRO
League chess.com 2020

Chapter 3

Sets 33-47



Set 33

Exercises to Set 33

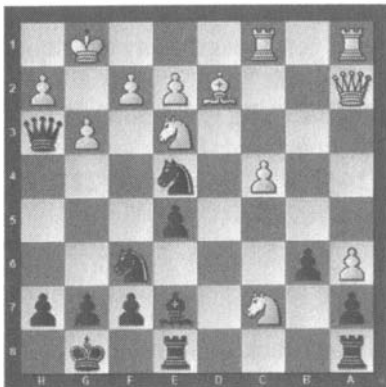
33.1)



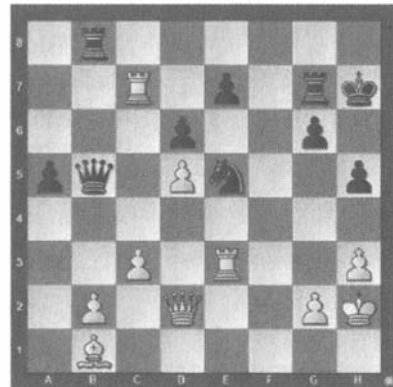
33.2)



33.3)



33.4)



33.1)

Hint: When one defender is not enough

33.2)

Hint: Sometimes the answers lie in the most apparent targets

33.3)

Hint: Create opportunities for the attackers

33.4)

Hint: Attacking weaknesses combined with poor coordination is a potent blend

Solutions to Set 33

33.1)



21.h3!

21.b6!? is also quite strong, for instance, 21...h5 (or 21...Be6 22.Bxe6 Qxe6 23.Nd4, winning a piece) 22.h3 g5 23.hxg4 gxh4 24.g5 and Black's position collapses.

21...Nh6 22.Nxe5!

Or 22.Rxh6 first.

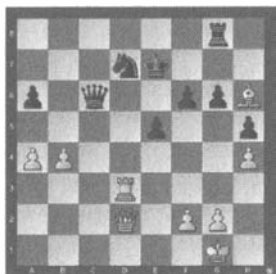
22...fxe5 23.Rxh6! gxh6 24.Qh5+ Kf8 25.Qxh6+ Ke8 26.Qh5+ Kf8 27.Rd8+ and Black resigned as he was facing forced mate.

1-0

F. Braeuer (2429) – F. Schwabeneder (2403)

German Bundesliga 2019

33.2)



32.b5! axb5 33.Qb4+ Ke8

Or 33...Kd8 34.axb5 and White is winning.

34.axb5 Qe6 35.Rd6

Now, Black's queen gets kicked away and soon, Black is out for the count.

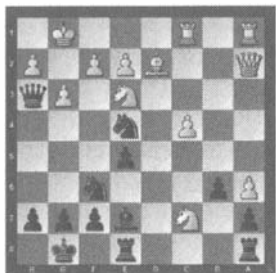
35...Qg4 36.Qb3 Rh8 37.Bg7 Nc5 38.Qd5 Rh7

39.Qg8+ and Black resigned. 1-0

N. Cabarkapa (2449) – A. Dehlinger (2287)

German Bundesliga 2020

33.3)



23...Bc5! 24.Nxe8

Or 24.Ncd5 Re6 and Black is winning.

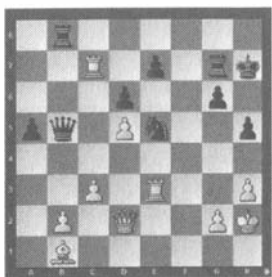
24...Rxe8 25.Qc2 Nxf2! 26.Kxf2 Qxh2+

27.Ke1 Qg1+ and White resigned before he would get mated. 0-1

M. Pantzar (2418) – C. Zeng (2567) Cannes

2020

33.4)



34.Rxe5!

In the game continuation, White missed the opportunity and eventually lost: 34.Qd1? Kg8

35.Rxe5? dxe5 36.Rc6 Qxb2 37.Bxg6 Qf2

38.d6 Rxc6 39.Qd5+ e6 40.Qe4 Qg3+ and

White resigned. 0-1 **Paakkonen, T (2216) -**

Keinanen, Toivo (2462) Helsinki 2020.

34...dxe5 35.Qg5! Kg8 36.d6 Qb6 37.Be4

Qxd6 38.Rc6 Qd7 39.Rxc6 with equality.

Set 34

Exercises to Set 34

34.1)



34.2)



34.3)



34.4)



34.1)

Hint: Distraction of the defenders

34.2)

Hint: Room for the attackers

34.3)

**

Hint: How big does the hole need to be?

34.4)

Hint: Attack in multiple directions

Solutions to Set 34

34.1)



18...c4!

The game continued: 18...Nfe5 19.Qb5 Qa3+ 20.Kd2 a6 21.Qa4 Nc4+ 22.Qxc4 b5 23.Nb1 Qa5+ 24.b4 Ne5 25.Qb3 Qc7 26.Na3 cxb4 27.Qxb4 a5 28.Nxb5 Nc4+ 29.Kc1 Qxf4+ 30.gxf4 axb4 31.Nc7+ Kf7 32.Nxa8 Bb7 33.Nc7 Rc8 34.d6 Ra8 35.Nxa8 Bxa8 36.Bxb4 and Black resigned. **1-0 G. Peycheva (2286) – D. Nomin-Erdene (2417) Graz 2020.**

19.bxc4??

It was much better to capture with the queen, although 19.Qxc4 Ne3 wins material for Black.

19...Qa3+ 20.Kb1 Qb4+ 21.Kc1 Nf2 and Black would be winning.

34.2)



16.d5!

A clearance move, preparing the d4-square for White's knight.

16...cxd5

The alternatives are similarly inadequate: 16...Bxd5 17.Nd4 Qg6 18.Nb5 or; 16...Qxd5 17.Nd4 Qc4 18.b3 Qc5 19.Rxe6! and White is winning.

17.Nd4 Qg6 18.Nb5

Or 18.c4 Nb6 19.cxd5 Bd7 20.d6 and White is winning.

18...Rc8 19.Qa5 b6 20.Qxa7 Qf5 21.Qb7 and Black resigned. **1-0**

M. Pranesh (2425) – B. Savchenko (2573) Moscow 2020

34.3)

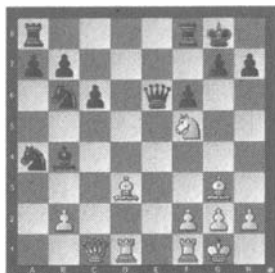


32.Bxg6!

This is stronger than the game continuation:
32.Nf5 Bf8 33.Nh4 Bg7 34.Nf3 Qd6 35.Qe5
Qb6 36.g4 Rd7 37.g5 Nh7 38.Qe8+ Nf8 39.Ne5
Ra7 40.Nc6 and Black resigned. **1-0 R. Saksham (2291) – B. Lajthajm (2393) Bijeljina 2020.**

32...fxg6 33.Qxg6+ Kf8 34.Nf5 Bd8 35.Qh6+ Kg8 36.g4 and White is winning.

34.4)



25.Qf4! Nc5

Or 25...a5 26.Qg4 when Black has no way of meeting the threats of Qxg7# and Nh6+.

26.Qxb4 Nxd3 27.Qg4

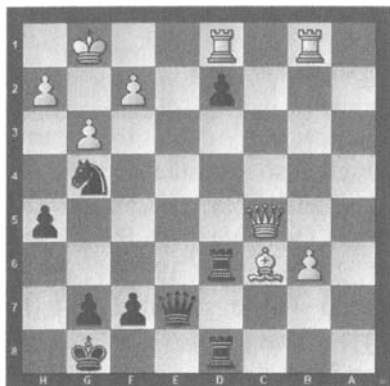
Black resigned as he cannot defend against all of White's threats. Note that White would also be winning after 27.Ne7+ Kf7 28.Rxd3 Qxe7 29.Bd6. **1-0**

V. Shinkevich (2442) – T. Smirnov (2368) Moscow 2020

Set 35

Exercises to Set 35

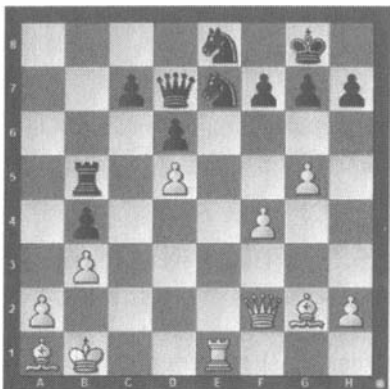
35.1)



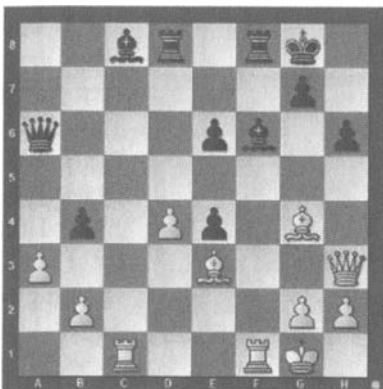
35.2)



35.3)



35.4)



35.1)

Hint: Blok the path of the defender

35.2)

Hint: Full contact

35.3)

**

Hint: Combining threats

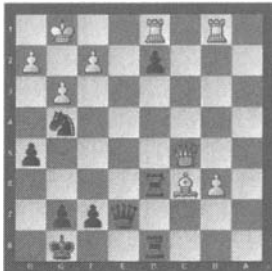
35.4)

**

Hint: Many threats, not enough defenders

Solutions to Set 35

35.1)



29...Qf6! 30.Bg2 Rd4!

The second, equally important, step in Black's plan. White is now forced to move the pawn forward as it cannot be protected.

31.f4

31.Rf1 d1Q wins for Black.

31...Qe6!

This is more accurate than the game continuation, which also eventually won for Black: 31...Ne3 32.b7 Nxd1 33.b8Q Rxb8 34.Rxb8+ Rd8 35.Qe5 Nc3 36.Bf3 Rxb8 37.Qxb8+ Kh7 38.Qb4 g6 39.Qc4 d1Q+ 40.Bxd1 Nxd1 and White resigned. **0-1 B. Gledura (2626) - Wang Yue (2669) PRO League chess.com 2020.**

32.h3 Qe3+ 33.Kh1 Nf2+ and Black is completely winning.

35.2)



12.e6! Bc5+

Black cannot capture the pawn: 12...fxe6 13.f6! Bxf6 14.Qh5 and White is winning, e.g., 14...h6 15.Rxf6! and it is game over for Black. Also, 12...Bf6 13.Qh5 Qe7 14.Ba3 c5 15.Rae1 and Black is busted.

13.Kh1 fxe6

Or 13...f6 14.Rf4 and Black has no way of stopping White's attack.

14.f6!

Now, White's attack crashes through.

14...gxf6 15.Bxh7+! Kxh7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Qg6+ Kf8 18.Qh7 and Black resigned before getting mated. **1-0**

R. Vaishali (2383) – N. Priyanka (2212)

Moscow 2020

35.3)



26.Qe2!

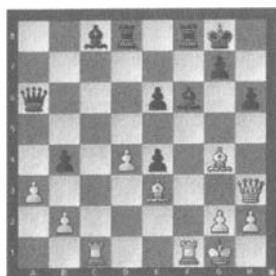
26.Qe3! leads to about the same.

26...Kf8 27.Bh3! Nf5 28.Qe4!

The game continuation was less precise: 28.Qc2 Rxd5 29.Qe4 Rb5 30.Qa8 f6 31.gxf6 gxf6 32.Bxf6 Qf7 33.Bb2 Qg6 34.Ka1 Ne3 35.f5 Qh5 36.Qe4 Nd5 37.f6 Qf7 38.Qe2 Rc5 39.Be6 Qg6 40.Bxd5 Rxd5 41.Qe7+ Kg8 42.f7+ Qxf7 43.Rg1+ and Black resigned before he would get mated. **1-0 P. Karthikeyan (2406) – D. Brinovec (2279) Graz 2020.**

28...g6 29.Qd4 f6 30.gxf6 and White is winning.

35.4)



26.Rxc8! Rxc8 27.Bxe6+ Kh8?

It was much better to place the king on h7, 27...Kh7 28.Qf5+ Kh8 29.Bxc8 Rxc8 30.axb4 with a clear advantage for White, but decent chances of saving a draw for Black. In the game, White was now allowed to finish Black off in flashy style...

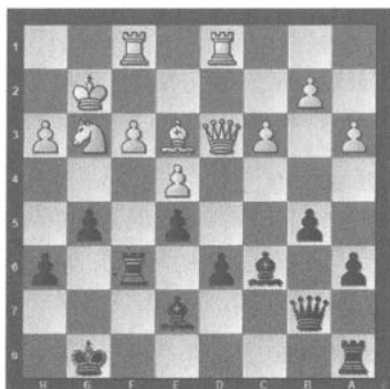
28.Bxc8 Rxc8 29.Bxh6! Kg8 30.Rxf6! gxf6 31.Qd7 and Black resigned. **1-0**

H. Nakamura (2745) - W. So (2767) Speed 2019 chess.com 2020

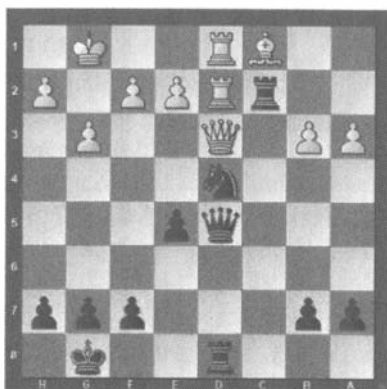
Set 36

Exercises to Set 36

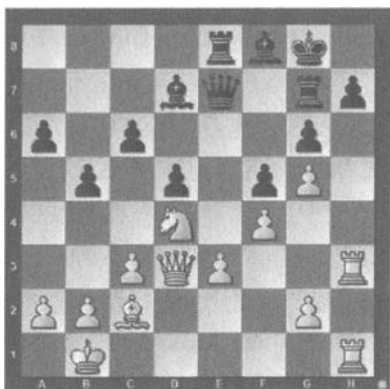
36.1)



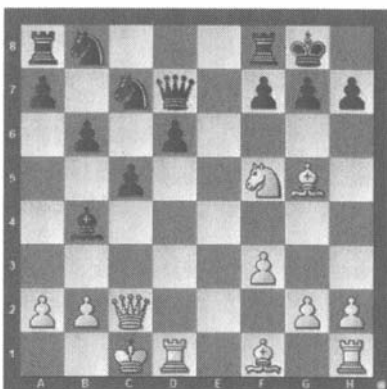
36.2)



36.3)



36.4)



36.1)

Hint: Pressure on the weakest link

36.2)

Hint: Combining threats can be an effective weapon

36.3)

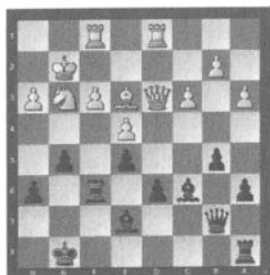
Hint: Soften to blast

36.4)

Hint: Pedestrian to exquisite

Solutions to Set 36

36.1)



26...Raf8!

Putting pressure on the weakest spot in White's position. This is not a winning move, not even giving Black a large advantage but rather putting pressure on White. Another option was the patient 26...Kh8 27.Nf5 Raf8 intending to follow up with 28.Kh2 R8f7 29.Bf2? Bf8 and Black is clearly better.

27.Nf5 Rxf5!?

Immediately breaking in the center, by eliminating White's "strong" knight. Here, 27...Kh8 intending to transpose to the above-mentioned variation is also an option.

28.exf5 e4

The idea behind the previous move: for obvious reasons, White cannot capture on e4. This is not Black's only move, also 28...Qd7; and, possibly better, 28...Rf6 give Black an advantage. White has no relevant counterplay.

29.Qc2?

It was much better to keep the queen centralized with 29.Qd4 exf3+ 30.Kf2 Qd7 and Black has a small but clear advantage.

29...exf3+ 30.Kh2?

Another mistake; White should have played 30.Kf2 Be4 31.Qd2 Qc8 and Black has a clear advantage.

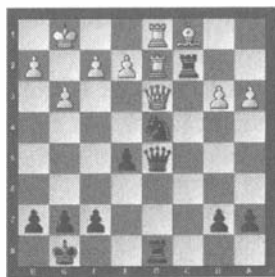
30...Be4 31.Qd2 d5!

Now, the b8–h2 diagonal gets opened.

32.Bf2 Bd6+ 33.Kh1 Qf7 and White resigned. There is no defense against Black's invading forces. 0–1

E. Miranda Mesa (2485) – Y. Quesada Perez (2558) Cuban ch (Villa Clara) 2020

36.2)



21...Rxd2 22.Rxd2

White's other recaptures also do not work, for instance, 22.Bxd2 Qxb3; or 22.Qxd2 Nxe2+, and, in both cases, Black is winning.

22...Qc6!

This sneaky sidestepping move opens for a bunch of tactics based on White having loose pieces.

23.Bb2

White cannot get a defense to work; for instance, 23.Qc4 Nxe2+! 24.Kf1 (24.Rxe2 Rd1+ is obviously worse) 24...Rxd2 25.Bxd2 Qxc4 26.bxc4 Nd4 with a won endgame for Black or 23.Rd1 Nf3+!, and Black wins.

23...Nf3+ 24.exf3 Rxd3 25.Rxd3 f6 and Black has a decisive advantage. The game was won after some additional moves. **26.Rc3 Qd7 27.Kg2 h6 28.Bc1 Qd4 29.Rc8+ Kh7 30.b4 Qd7 31.Rc3 g5 32.g4 e4 33.h3 exf3+ 34.Rxf3 Qc6 35.Bb2 f5 36.gxf5 h5 37.Kg3 h4+ 38.Kg2 g4 39.hxg4 h3+ 40.Kg3 h2 41.Re3 h1Q 42.Re7+ Kg8 43.Rg7+ Kf8** and White resigned. 0–1

A. Modler (2225) – L. Lodici (2492) Graz 2020

36.3)



23.g4!

Softening the b1–h7 diagonal!

23...fxg4

Not capturing on g4 also does not work: 23...Rf7 24.gxf5 Bxf5 25.Nxf5 Rxf5 (or 25...gxf5 and White is winning 26.g6) 26.Qe2 Rxf4 27.Qh2 Rf7 28.Bxg6 and White wins.

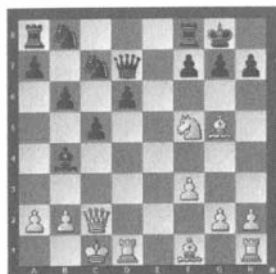
24.Rxh7! Rxh7 25.Qxg6+ Rg7?

Or 25...Qg7 26.Qxh7+ Qxh7 27.Bxh7+ Kg7 28.Bf5 Bxf5+ 29.Nxf5+ Kg6 30.Nh4+ Kf7 31.Ng2 and White has a decisive advantage.

26.Qh6 Qxe3 27.Bh7+ and Black resigned before getting mated. 1–0

M. Mis (2334) – D. Tisaj (2245) Graz 2020

36.4)



16.Rxd6 Qe8 17.Ne7+ Kh8

Thus far, things are fairly obvious...

18.Rh6!

Boom! White would also be winning after 18.Qe4 Nd7 (or 18...Nba6 19.Rh6! and Black will get mated in a few moves) 19.Bd3 f5 20.Qh4 and White is winning.

18...f5 19.Ng6+ Qxg6

Or 19...Kg8 20.Bc4+ Ne6 21.Nxf8 and Black can resign.

20.Rxg6 hxg6 21.h4

White is winning.

21...Nc6 22.h5 Kh7 23.g4 Ne6 24.hxg6+ Kxg6 25.gxf5+ Rxf5 26.Bh3 Raf8 27.Bxf5+ Rxf5 28.Qe4 Ncd4 29.Be3 Kf6 30.a3 Nb3+ 31.Kc2 Ned4+ 32.Bxd4+ Nxd4+ 33.Kd1 Bxa3 34.bxa3 Rxf3 35.Re1 and Black finally resigned. 1–0

Y. Milikow (2296) – A. David (2436) Graz 2020

Set 37

Exercises to Set 37

37.1)



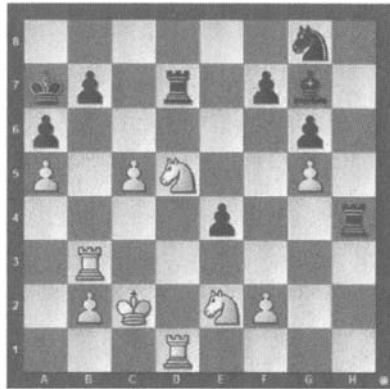
37.2)



37.3)



37.4)



37.1)

Hint: Loose ladies

37.2)

Hint: The soft spot

37.3)

**

Hint: Keep walking

37.4)

Hint: No rescue from the horsey

Solutions to Set 37

37.1)



22.Qg3!

The threat is 23.Nh6+ followed by Ng6+ and the queen on c7 is unprotected.

22...Ng6

On 22...Ra7, White delivers the other punch to Black's face: 23.Nh6+ Kh8 24.Nef7+ and Black has to give up the queen.

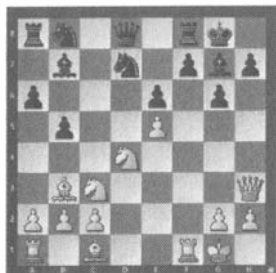
23.Bxg6 Bxe1

Or 23...hxc6 24.Rd1 Bb7 25.Qxg6 and Black can resign.

24.Bxh7+ Nxh7 25.Nh6+ and Black resigned.
1-0

J. Mikes (2355) – Ji. Liska (2302) Czech
Team ch (Zapad) 2020

37.2)



14.Rxf7!

Boom!

14...Rxf7

Obviously, 14...Kxf7 15.Qxe6# is not an option for Black.

15.Nxe6!

Otherwise Black would have been doing fine.

15...Qe8

Or 15...Qc8 16.Ng5 Nxe5 17.Qxh7+ Kf8 18.Be3 and White is winning.

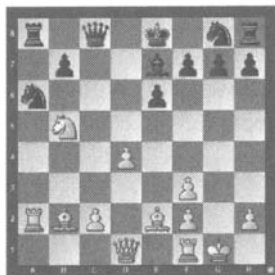
16.Ng5! Nxe5 17.Qxh7+

The game continuation was less accurate: 17.Bf4? Nc4 (17...h6!) 18.Bxc4?? (White would still be decisively better after 18.Qxh7+ Kf8 19.Nxf7 . After the text move, however, Black was winning) 18...Bd4+ 19.Kh1 bxc4 20.Qh4 Bf6 21.Re1 Qf8 and White resigned.

0-1 E. Mikalsen (2364) – D. Nordquelle (2242) Kragero 2020.

17...Kf8 18.Nxf7 Nxf7 19.Bd2! Bd4+ 20.Kh1 Nd7 21.Re1! Nde5 22.Nd5!, threatening Bh6+ and White is winning.

37.3)



17.d5! Nf6

Or 17...Nh6 18.Qa1 Nf5 19.Bd3 f6 20.Bxf5 exf5 21.d6 Bd8 22.Re1+ Kf7 23.Ra3 and White is winning.

18.d6! Bd8 19.d7+!

The pawn keeps marching forward until it can no longer be ignored.

19...Qxd7 20.Qxd7+ Kxd7 21.Rd1+ Kc6

Black lets himself get mated. Otherwise, the alternative was 21...Nd5 22.c4, which, of course, wins for White.

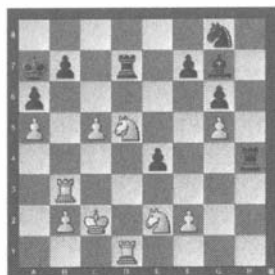
22.Rd6+ Kc5 23.Bd4+ Kb4 24.Rb2+ Ka4

25.Nc3+ Ka3 26.Rb3# Sweet! 1–0

S. Golubov (2469) – V. Efremov (2275)

Moscow 2020

37.4)



30.c6!

A direct and decisive breakthrough.

30...bxc6 31.Nb4!

The point behind the previous move: The rook on d7 is threatened by the rook on d1 and White threatens mate, starting with Nxc6+ and followed by Rb8#.

31...Rc7 32.Rd7!

Boom!

32...Kb7

The rook couldn't be captured on account of Nxc6+ with mate next move.

33.Nd5+ and Black resigned. 1–0

M. Lugovskoy (2432) – A. Zhukov (2316)

Moscow 2020

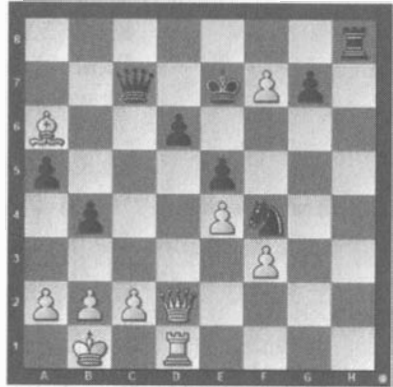
Set 38

Exercises to Set 38

38.1)



38.2)



38.3)



38.4)



38.1)

Hint: Many pins and discovered attack, there's way through them

38.2)

Hint: Force! Silence! Force!

38.3)

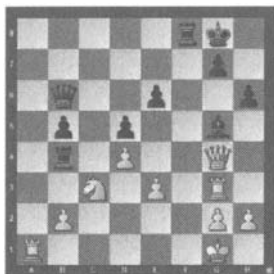
Hint: Time to count

38.4)

Hint: Many loose pieces and pawns

Solutions to Set 38

38.1)



29.h4! Bf6 30.Rf1!

Threatening Rxf6.

30...Kf7??

A blunder: a better try was 30...Bxd4 31.Rxf8+ Kxf8 32.Qf4+ Ke7 33.Rf3 Bxe3+ 34.Rxe3 Rxf4 35.Nxd5+ Kd6 36.Nxb6 and White is clearly better.

31.Qxg7+ and Black resigned. But note that 31.Rxf6+ is objectively better even if it likely would have extended the game a bit: 31...gxf6 32.Nxd5 exd5 33.Qd7#. **1–0**

M. Krzyzanowski,(2519) – V. Straka (2398)
Prague 2020

38.2)



28.Bc4! Qxc4??

It is a little unclear what Warmerdam overlooked in the game continuation. It would have been better for Black if he had let the bishop be, for instance, 28...Qc6 29.b3 Qc5 when White is obviously better but Black is very much still alive.

29.Qxd6+ Kxf7 30.Qd7+ Kf6 31.b3!

31.Qf5+ Ke7 doesn't achieve anything for White.

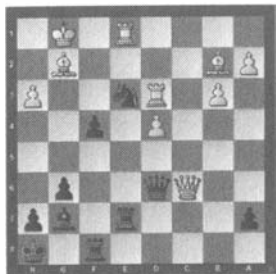
31...Qe6 32.Rd6!

White is winning.

32...Ra8 33.a3 Rb8 34.Qc7 Rh8 35.Rxe6+ Nxe6 36.Qxa5 bxa3 37.Qxa3 Rh3 38.b4 Nd4 39.b5 and Black resigned. **1–0**

N. Abdusattorov (2635) – M. Warmerdam (2498) Wijk aan Zee 2020

38.3)



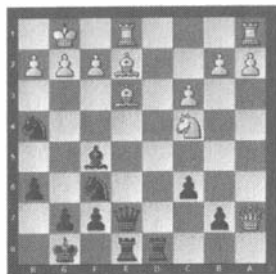
30...f3! 31.Qxd6

Or 31.Rxe3 f2+ 32.Kf1 Qh2 and it is game over for White.

31...f2+ 32.Kh2 fxe1Q 33.Bc3 Qe2 34.Rd2 Nf1+ and White resigned. 0–1

T. Janzelj (2451) – S. Nitin (2353) Graz 2020

38.4)



19...Bh3! 20.Rad1

The alternatives don't work for White either:

a) 20.gxh3 Qe4 and Black wins.

b) 20.Bf1 Bxg2 21.Bxg2 Nxb2 22.Kxg2 Qe4+ 23.Kg1 Qxc4 and Black is winning.

20...Nxb2 21.Rxd8 Qxd8 22.Rd1 Nd5 23.Qd4 Nxe3 24.fxe3 Qg5+ and Black is winning.

25.Kf2 Qg2+ 26.Ke1 b5 27.Ne5 f6 28.Nxc6 Nxe3 29.Ne7+ Rxe7 30.Qd8+ Kf7 and White resigned. 0–1

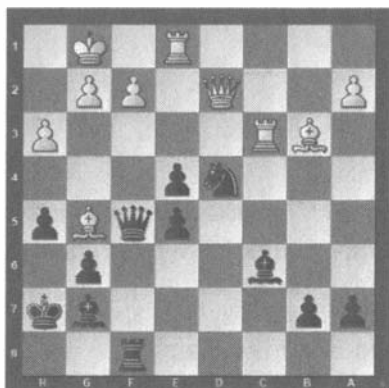
B. Haldorsen (2462) – I. Osmak (2394)

Kragero 2020

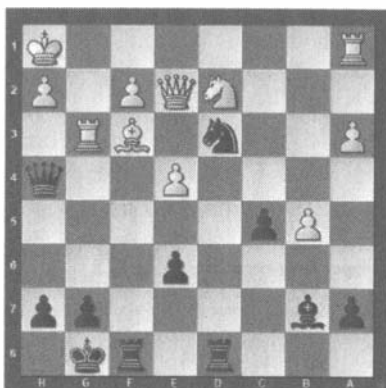
Set 39

Exercises to Set 39

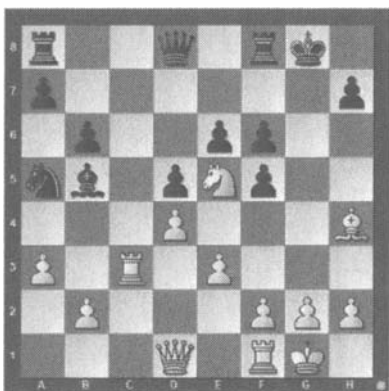
39.1)



39.2)



39.3)



39.4)



39.1)

Hint: When the others can't help

39.2)

Hint: Walk on by

39.3)

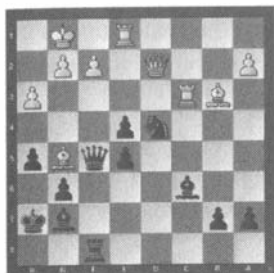
Hint: Send in the heavy artillery

39.4)

Hint: Light-squared struggles

Solutions to Set 39

39.1)



32...Nf3+! 33.gxf3 exf3 34.Bc4

Or 34.Bd1 e4.

34...Qxh3!

The game continuation was 34...e4?? 35.Bf1?? (White could have saved himself with 35.Rec1! Bxc3 36.Rxc3! Qxh3 37.Bf1 Qg4+ 38.Kh2 Rf5 39.Be3 Qh4+ 40.Kg1! and Black cannot make any progress) 35...Bxc3 36.Qxc3 Qxg5+ 37.Kh1 Rd8 38.Qa3 Rd2 39.Qxa7 e3 40.Rxe3 Rd1 and White resigned. **0-1 D. Gevorgyan (2328) – S. Khanin, S (2500) Moscow 2020.**

35.Bf1 Qg4+ 36.Kh2 Rf5! 37.Be3 e4!, clearing the e5-square for the g7-bishop to join the attack; Black is winning.

39.2)



31...c4!

This is best, but Black has several alternatives, for instance, 31...Qf6 32.Rd1 Qf4 and Black is obviously winning.

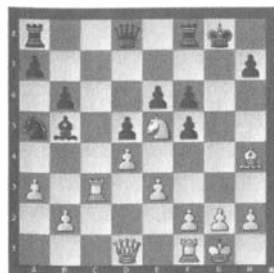
32.Rag1 c3!

Kicks the knight away, setting up the concluding combination.

33.Nb1 Rxf3 34.Rxf3 Qxe4 and White resigned. **0-1**

E. Can (2600) – V. Asadli (2538) Moscow 2020

39.3)



20.e4!

Clearing the third rank for the rook to join the attack against Black's king.

20...Qe7

Black is already without an adequate defense, for instance, both 20...Bxf1 and 20...dxe4 are met with 21.Rg3+ Kh8 22.Qh5 and Black can resign. Also, 20...Kh8 21.Qh5 Qe8 22.Qh6 promptly ends the fun.

21.Rg3+ Kh8 22.Qh5 Be8 23.Qh6 Nc6

24.Nxc6 Bxc6 25.e5 and Black resigned. **1-0**

M. Bluebaum (2641) – L. Van Foreest (2531) German Bundesliga (Lingen) 2020

39.4)



27...Bf3+!

Black already has a very good position with several good options at his disposal, e.g., 27...Nxd5; or 27...Nxb5 but the text move is by far the best.

28.Kg1 Qh5 29.Rg5 Bxe2!

This move was missed by Black in the game continuation which went: 29...Qe8 30.Re1 Nxd5 31.Kf2 Nb4 32.Qb1 Bg4 33.a3 Qa8 34.Rxg4 fxg4 and White resigned. **0-1 R. Biolek (2451) – A. Mikaelyan (2479) Prague 2020.**

30.Rxh5 Bd4+ 31.Be3 Bxe3+ 32.Kh1 Bf3+ with mate next move.

Set 40

Exercises to Set 40

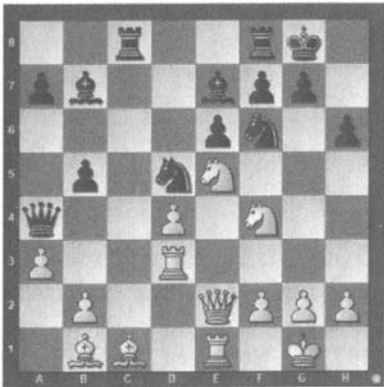
40.1)



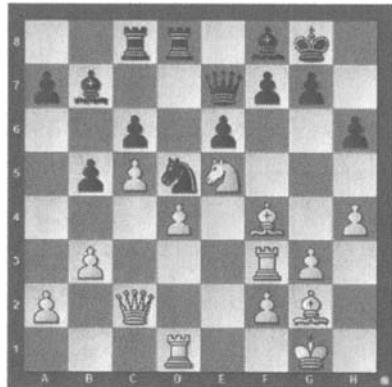
40.2)



40.3)



40.4)



40.1)

*

Hint: Attack from all angles

40.2)

Hint: The removal of the defender takes real some effort

40.3)

**

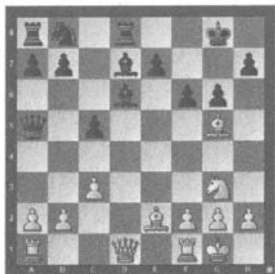
Hint: Where there's a path, there's a way

40.4)

Hint: Bang holes

Solutions to Set 40

40.1)



16.Bc4+ Kg7 17.Nh5+

White can also play 17.Bxf6+! Kxf6 (or 17...exf6 18.Qxd6) 18.Nh5+ gxh5 19.Qxh5 and White is winning.

17...gxh5

Black doesn't have a choice.

18.Qxh5 fxg5 19.Qf7+ Kh6

19...Kh8 20.Bd3 ends the game.

20.f4! g4

Or 20...Bxf4 21.Bd3 Rh8 22.Rxf4! and White wins, e.g., 22...Qb6 23.Re1 c4+ 24.Kh1 cxd3 25.Rxe7 gxf4 26.Qg7+ Kh5 27.Re5+ with mate in two moves.

21.Rad1 Bc6

Or 21...Qb6 22.Rd5 Be5 23.fxe5 and White wins.

22.Rxd6+ Rxd6 23.Qf8+ Kh5 24.Qg7 h6

25.Bf7+ and, facing mate, Black resigned. 1–0

G. Beikert (2380) – L. Thiede (2405) German Bundesliga (Aachen) 2020

40.2)



26...Nxd4! 27.cxd4 Bxd4 28.Rd3

Or 28.Nxf3 Bxe3 29.Kxg2 Bxf3+ 30.Kh3 Bf4 and Black is winning.

28...Be5 29.Bxe5

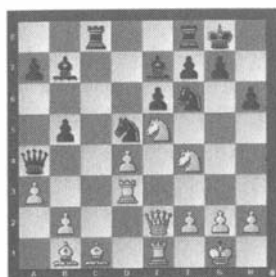
Or 29.Nxf3 Bxf3 30.Rxf3 Rxh2+ with mate.

29...Qxe5 30.Qxg2 fxg2+ 31.Kxg2 Qxb2 and White resigned. 0–1

T. Beerdsen (2497) – I. Storme (2314)

Kragero 2020

40.3)



25.Nxd5! Bxd5

Also, 25...Nxd5 runs into 26.Bxh6! and White is winning.

26.Bxh6! gxh6 27.Qd2!

The point: the threat is Rg3+ with mate right after.

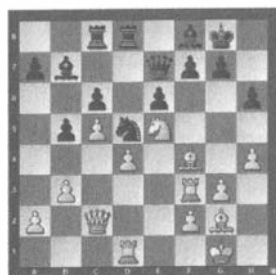
27...Ne4

Or 27...Be4 28.Rg3+ Kh7 29.Rh3 and Black will not survive.

28.Qxh6 Bg5 29.Rg3 Rc2 30.Rxg5+ Nxg5 31.Qxg5+ Kh8 32.Qh6+ Kg8 33.Nd7 and Black resigned. 1–0

E. Alikulov (2354) – V. Skatchkov (2293)
Moscow 2020

40.4)



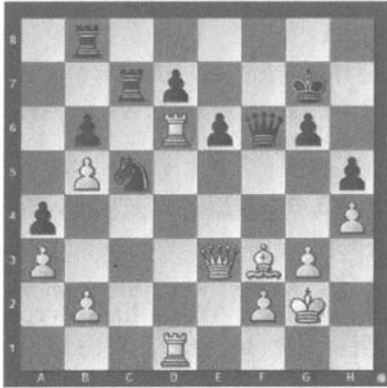
25.Bxh6! This is best, but White has several strong alternatives, for instance, 25.Bd2 f6 26.Ng6 Qf7 27.Re1; or 25.Re1; or 25.Bh3 and, in all cases, White is winning. **25...gxh6 26.Rxf7 Qxf7 27.Nxf7 Kxf7 28.h5 Kg7** Or 28...Bg7 29.Qg6+ Kf8 30.Rd3 and White is winning. **29.Re1 Kh8 30.Rxe6 Re8 31.Qg6 Rxe6 32.Qxe6 Nc3 33.Qd7** and Black resigned. 1–0

C.D. Albornoz Cabrera (2566) – Y. Quesada Perez (2558) Cuban ch (Villa Clara) 2020

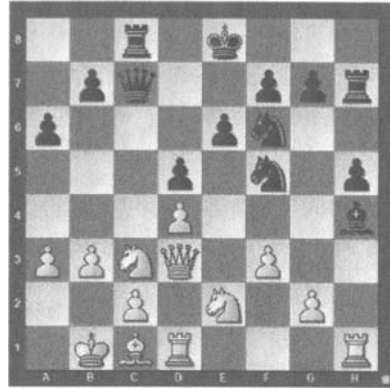
Set 41

Exercises to Set 41

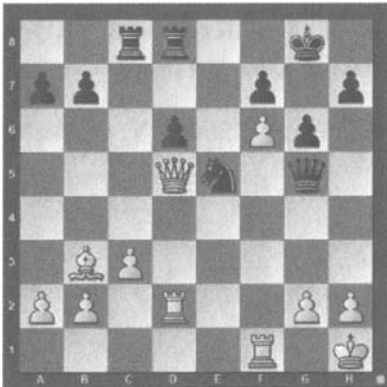
41.1)



41.2)



41.3)



41.4)



41.1)

Hint: Remove the protector

41.2)

Hint: The right kind of preparation

41.3)

Hint: When the key guy is distracted, things fall apart

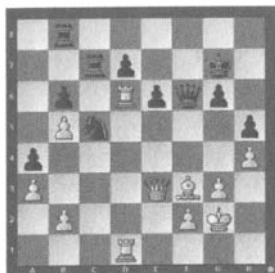
41.4)

**

Hint: The hoppers interfere

Solutions to Set 41

41.1)



34.R1d4!

Black's rooks and knight are tied up on the queenside, making this the right time to finish the assault against Black's vulnerable king that is just protected by the queen.

34...Rcc8

Or 34...Qe7 35.Bxh5! gxh5 36.R6d5! and White is winning.

35.Rf4 Qxb2 36.Rdd4

Objectively speaking, 36.Rfd4 is slightly better, but the text move also does the job.

36...d6

To keep White's queen away from the e5-square. Alternatively, 36...Rf8 37.Qe5+ Kg8 38.Qg5 Rxf4 39.Qxg6+ Kf8 40.Qh6+ Ke7 41.Qxf4 and White is winning.

37.Rxd6 Rd8?!

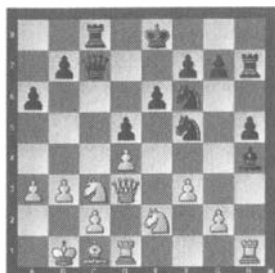
Also, 37...Rf8 38.Rxb6 Rxf4 (Or 38...Rxb6 39.Rxf8) 39.Rxb8 wins for White.

38.Rdd4 Rxd4 39.Qe5+ Kg8 40.Qxb8+ and Black resigned. 1-0

V. Sveshnikov (2424) – E. Kengis (2536)

Riga 2020

41.2)



20.Bf4 Qc6

Or 20...Qa5 21.Na2 Qxa3 22.g3 and White is winning.

21.Kb2!

The knight on c3 needs extra protection and Black's weaknesses and loose pieces don't have enough time to save themselves.

21...g5 22.Be5 Nd7 23.g4

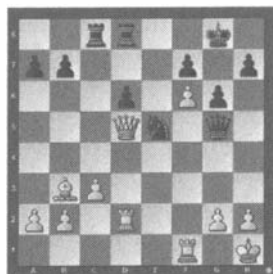
Now, there are problems with both the knight on f5 and the rook on h7.

23...Nxe5 24.dxe5 Ng3 25.Rxh4 and Black resigned. 1-0

V. Karthik (2483) – S. Pogosyan (2455)

Moscow 2020.

41.3)



22.Re2!

Threatening Rxe5.

22...Rd7

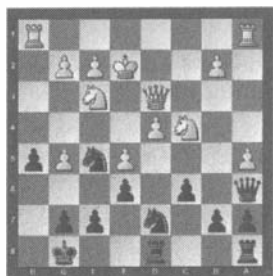
Or 22...Rc7 23.Rd1 Rdd7 24.Ba4 and White is winning.

23.Ba4 Rc5 24.Rxe5 and Black resigned. 1–0

V. Meribanov (2408) – I. Runets (2300)

Minsk 2020

41.4)



18...Nc5! 19.Qc3 Ne4 20.Qd3 Nxg5 21.Rxh5

The alternatives were: 21.Nxg5 Rxd4 and 21.Ncd2 Nxd4+ 22.Nxd4 Rxd4 23.Qxa6 bxa6, in both cases, Black is well on the way to winning.

21...Nxf3 22.Rah1?

Or 22.gxf3 Nxd4+ 23.Kf1 Nf5 24.Qc3 Rd4 25.b3 Rad8 and Black has a decisive advantage.

22...N3xd4+ 23.Ke1 Nh6 24.Rg5 Nf3+!

25.Qxf3 Qxc4 and Black is winning. The

conclusion of the game was **26.Rxg7+ Kxg7**

27.Qf6+ Kg8 28.Qg5+ Kf8 29.Qxh6+ Ke8

30.Qe3 Qb4+ 31.Ke2 Qg4+ and White

resigned. 0–1

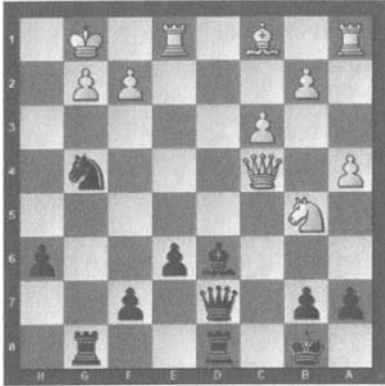
S. Srija (2205) – E. Lesovoi (2345) Moscow

2020

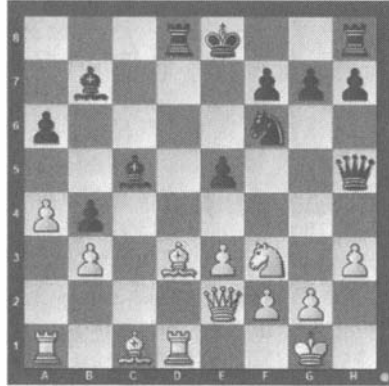
Set 42

Exercises to Set 42

42.1)



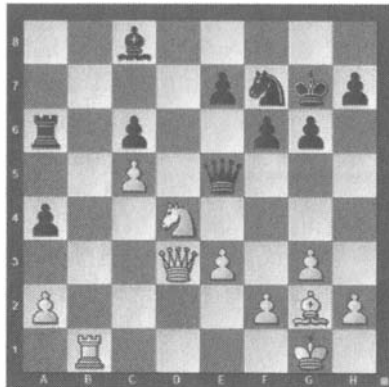
42.2)



42.3)



42.4)



42.1)

**

Hint: Push then shove

42.3)

Hint: The price of admission

42.2)

Hint: Different types of threats

42.4)

**

Hint: Lure then strike

Solutions to Set 42

42.1)



23...Bh2+

In the game, Black instead played 23...Ne5 24.Rxe5?? (White could have held the balance with 24.Qe4! f5 25.Qe3 Nd3 26.Qxd3! Bh2+ 27.Kxh2 Qxd3 28.Bf4+ Ka8 29.Nc7+ Kb8 30.Nb5+ with a draw by repetition) 24...Bxe5 25.Bxh6 Qd1+ 26.Rxd1 Rxd1+ and White resigned. **0-1 V. Savicevic (2337) – M. Milosevic (2275)** Serbian ch-B (Novi Banovci) 2020.

24.Kh1

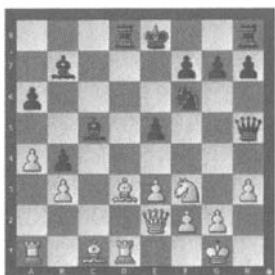
Or 24.Kf1 e5 25.b3 a6 26.Na3 Nxf2 and Black is winning.

24...a6 25.f3

Also, 25.Bf4+ Bxf4 26.Qxf4+ e5 27.Rxe5 Qd2 28.Rf5+ Qxf4 29.Rxf4 Rd2 and Black is winning.

25...axb5 26.axb5 Bc7 27.fxg4 Qd6 and Black is winning.

42.2)



18.Bb2!

Ignoring the threat of ...e5–e4.

18...e4 19.Bb5+! Ke7

Or 19...axb5 20.Qxb5+ Nd7 21.Rxd7 Rxd7 22.Ne5 and White is winning.

20.Nd4 axb5

The alternatives are not much better: 20...Qxe2 21.Nf5+ Ke6 22.Nxg7+ Ke7 23.Bxe2 and 20...Bxd4 21.Bxd4 Qxe2 22.Bxe2 and, in both cases, White is winning.

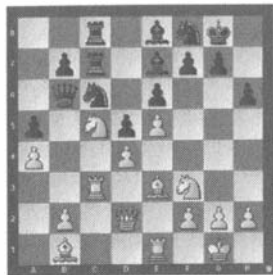
21.Nc6+ Ke6

If 21...Bxc6, then 22.Bxf6+, winning Black's queen.

22.Nxd8+ Rxd8 23.Qxh5 Nxh5 24.Rxd8 and White is winning. **24...bxa4 25.Rxa4 Nf6 26.Ra5 Bd6 27.Bxf6 gxf6 28.Rb5 Bc6 29.Rb6 Kd5 30.Rxb4** and Black resigned. 1–0

A. Sargsyan (2374) – S. Bilguun (2486) Moscow 2020

42.3)



20.Bxh6! Nxd4

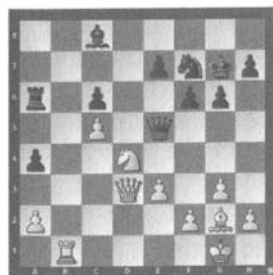
If Black recaptures on h6, it is quickly over: 20...gxh6 21.Qxh6 Bd8 (21...Qxb2 22.Rb3! traps the queen; or 21...Qb4 22.Nd3 Qb6 23.Nf4 and White is winning) 22.Ng5 Bxg5 23.Qxg5+ Ng6 24.Rb3 Qa7 25.Bxg6 fxc6 26.Qf6 b6 27.Nxe6 and White is winning.

21.Nxd4 Rxc5 22.Bxg7!

In the game continuation, White went with something different and soon went entirely wrong: 22.Rg3? Ng6 23.Bxg6 (White could win with 23.Rb3 Qa6 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.Rh3 Nh4 26.g3) 23...fxg6 24.Bg5?? (White could retain an advantage with 24.Rb3 Qa6 25.Rh3) 24...Bxg5 25.Rxg5 Rc4 26.Rg4 Bxa4 27.b3 Bxb3 28.Qd3 Bc2 29.Qe3 Be4 30.Rd1 Rxd4 and White resigned. **0-1 O. Terletsky (2314) – F. Godart (2445) Cappelle la Grande 2020.**

22...Kxg7 23.Rh3 f5 24.Qh6+ Kg8 25.Qh8+ Kf7 26.Rg3 Ng6 27.Rxg6 with mate in a few moves.

42.4)



26.f4! Qc7

The alternatives are 26...Qxc5 27.Qxa6! Bxa6 28.Ne6+ and White wins or 26...Qh5 27.Rb8 Qg4 28.f5 Ne5 29.Qf1 and White is clearly winning.

27.Qxa6! and Black is resigned. **1-0**

N. Maiorov (2506) – J. Jolly (2386) Rochefort 2020.

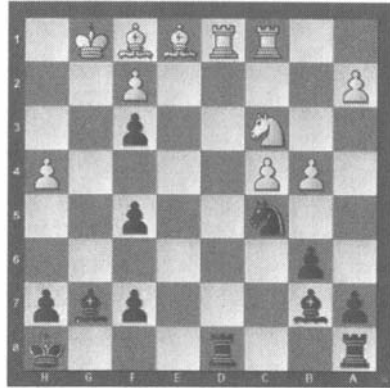
Set 43

Exercises to Set 43

43.1)



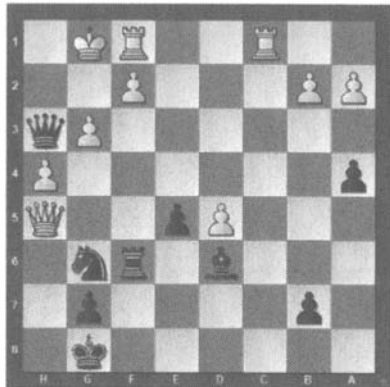
43.2)



43.3)



43.4)



43.1)

Hint: Make room for the attackers

43.2)

Hint: Isolate the victim

43.3)

**

Hint: When pushing is enough

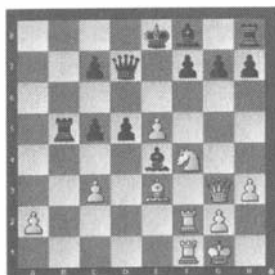
43.4)

**

Hint: Making room to attack

Solutions to Set 43

43.1)



19.c4! dxc4 20.Rd2 Qc6

Or 20...Bd3 21.Rfd1 Qc8 22.Nxd3 cxd3 23.Rxd3 c4 24.Rd4 and White is winning as Black has no way of improving his situation while White can improve his, making the threat of playing Rd8 even more potent.

21.Rfd1

Or alternatively, 21.Qg4 Rb8 22.e6 f6 23.Rd7 and White is winning.

21...Rb8 22.e6! Bd6

Or 22...fxe6 23.Nxe6! Qxe6 24.Qxc7 and White is winning.

23.Qxg7 Rf8 24.Nh5 Be7 25.Qb2!

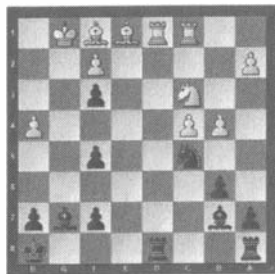
The queen cannot be captured because of Ng7#.

25...fxe6 26.Qxb8+ Kf7 27.Rf1+ Bf5 28.Qb2 Rg8 and Black resigned at the same time. 1–0

L. Liascovich (2425) – R. Miranda (2311)

Argentinian ch-B (Buenos Aires) 2020

43.2)



21...Rg8!

This threatens some nasty discovered checks.

22.Kh1 Be5!

Black could also play 22...Bh6 23.bxc5 (or 23.Bh3 Bxc1 24.bxc5 Bb2) 23...Rg4 and mate is on the horizon.

23.Bh3

Or 23.bxc5 Rg4 and White cannot prevent Black's mating threats.

23...Rg6! 24.Bd2

Or 24.bxc5 Rh6 25.Nd5 Rxh4 and Black is winning.

24...Nd3! 25.Be3 Nxc1 26.Rxc1 f4 27.Bd2 Rh6 28.Kh2 Rxh4 29.Rg1 Bc8 and White resigned. 0–1

J.L. Rodriguez (2363) – F. Perez Ponsa

(2559) Argentinian ch-B (Buenos Aires) 2020

43.3)



14.e4! Bg6 15.h4!

Threatening h4–h5, trapping the bishop and obviously, neither ...h7–h6 nor ...h7–h5 will work for Black.

15...Qxh4??

The text move is a blunder; the alternatives were: 15...Qxd4 16.Nxg6! hxg6 17.h5 (White's attack looks almost too simple to be this effective, but White is winning) 17...Nd7 18.hxg6 Nc5 19.gxf7+ Rxf7 20.Rh3 and White is winning. 15...b5!? (best) 16.axb5 cxb5 17.Bxb5 Qxd4 18.Nxg6 fxc6 19.Rd1 Qe5 20.Qc4 and White has a decisive advantage.

16.Nxg6 hxg6 17.Rh3 Qe7 18.Qg4 Re8 19.Bg5 f6 20.f4

Or 20.Qh4 Rf8 21.Bf4 Nd7 22.d5 and White is winning.

20...b5 21.Ba2 Bd2 22.f5

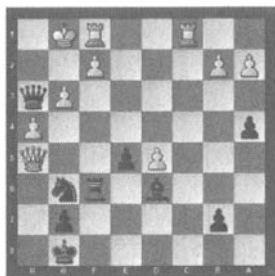
White's attack is irresistible.

22...Bxg5 23.Bxe6+ Qxe6 24.fxe6 Na6 25.e5 Nc7 26.exf6 gxf6 27.Rxf6 and Black resigned.

1–0

P. Garriga Cazorla (2486) – M. Granados Gomez (2374) Catalanian ch (Barcelona) 2020

43.4)



29...e4!

A very unpleasant move. The big threat is ...Ne5.

30.Rc3

Or 30.f4 Qxg3+ 31.Kh1 Qh3+ 32.Kg1 Bxf4 33.Rxf4 Rxf4 and White will soon get mated.

30...Ne5 31.Qe8+ Kh7 32.Qh5+ Rh6

That was the end of White's checks.

33.Qe2 Rxh4 And White resigned, but as a matter of fact, Black checkmates White faster after 33...Nf3+ 34.Rxf3 Rxh4!. **0–1**

D. Frolyanov (2556) – E. Kardashevskiy (2437) Moscow 2020

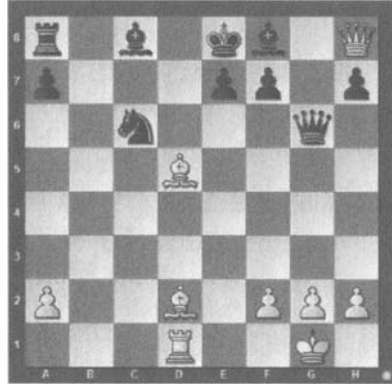
Set 44

Exercises to Set 44

44.1)



44.2)



44.3)



44.4)



44.1)

Hint: What threat?

44.2)

Hint: Distract enough to equalize

44.3)

**

Hint: Nimzowitsch would be proud

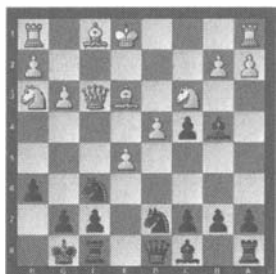
44.4)

**

Hint: The weakest point

Solutions to Set 44

44.1)



11...Re8!

The game continuation was less accurate:

11...Nxe5!? 12.dxe5 Bg4 (12...Ng4! was much better) 13.Qf4 Nd5 14.Qxg4 Nxe3 15.Qe4 Bc5 16.Bxc4 Kh8 17.Nf4 f5 18.Ng6+ Kh7 19.Nxf8+ Qxf8 20.Qf3 Qe7 21.e6 c6 22.Bb3 Rd8 23.Ke2 Qd6 24.Rhd1 Nxd1 25.Qxf5+ Kh8 26.Rxd1 and Black resigned. **1-0 A.**

Firouzja (2702) – M. Oleksiyenko (2594)

Banter Blitz Cup chess24.com 2020. Also strong was 11...c5 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Nf2 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Be6 and Black is winning.

12.0–0–0

Or 12.Be2 c5 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Nf2 Be6 and Black is clearly winning.

12...Bxc3 13.bxc3 Qe7 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Nf2 Qa3+ 16.Kb1 Qxc3 and Black is winning.

44.2)



18.Bh6!

The game continuation was 18.Be4 Qe6

19.Qxh7 Bd7 20.h3 Rc8 21.Re1 Qxa2 22.Bc3 Nd8 23.Qh8 Qc4 24.Re3 Rc5 25.h4 Ne6 26.h5 Bb5 27.Bd3 Qg4 28.Bxb5+ Rxb5 29.h6 Rg5 30.g3 Rh5 31.Qh7 Qd1+ 32.Re1 Qf3 and White resigned. **0-1 I. Enchev (2496) – N.S.**

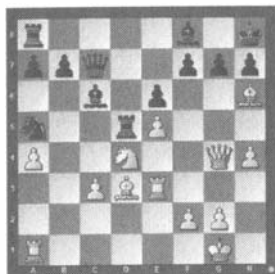
Mohammad (2415) Cappelle la Grande 2020.

18...Qxh6 19.Qxh7! Nd8

Or 19...Bd7 20.Qxf7+ Kd8 21.Bxc6 Qxc6 22.Qxf8+ Kc7 23.Qf4+ and White is fine.

20.Qxh6 Bxh6 21.Bxa8 with about equal chances.

44.3)



22.Rae1! Rad8

Or 22...g6 23.Bxf8 Rxf8 24.h5 and White is winning.

23.Rg3 g6 24.Bg5

Or 24.Bxf8 Rxf8 25.h5 Qe7 26.hxg6 fxg6 27.Rh3 and White is winning.

24...Bxa4 25.Bf6+ Kg8 26.Bxg6 hxg6 27.Nxe6 Qd7 28.Qh5 and Black resigned. 1–0

S. Collin (2446) – A. Suarez Real (2449)
4NCL (Daventry) 2020.

44.4)



28...Bb4

Alternatively, 28...Qa4 is also strong.

29.Qb2 Bc3 30.b6 Qb7!

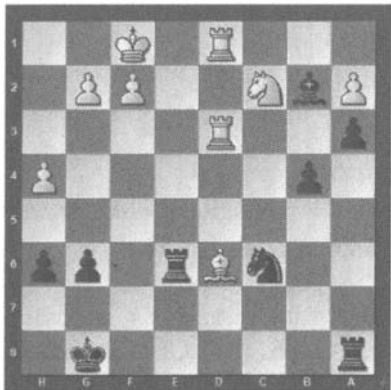
The game continuation was less accurate:
30...Qa5 31.Nb3 Qxb6 (31...Qb4 is better)
32.Qa3 Rb8 (32...Qb7!) 33.Qa4 Qb7 34.Qa6
Qb4 35.Bd1 Bc4 36.Qxf6 Qa3 37.Qg5+ Kf8
38.Qh6+ Ke7 39.Qg5+ f6 40.Qg7+ Bf7 and
White resigned. 0-1 **Claverie,R (2436) - Perez
Ponsa,F (2559)** Argentinian ch-B (Buenos
Aires) 2020.

31.Qa3 Bxa2+ 32.Qxa2 Ra8 and Black is
winning.

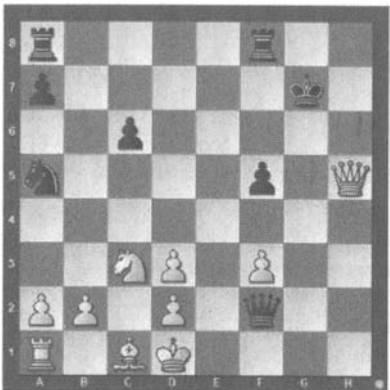
Set 45

Exercises to Set 45

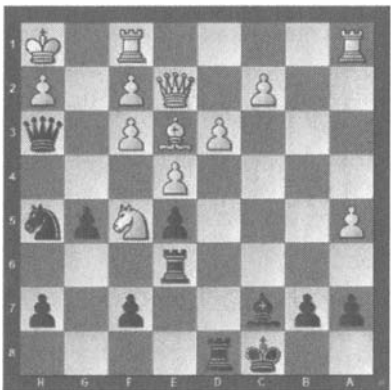
45.1)



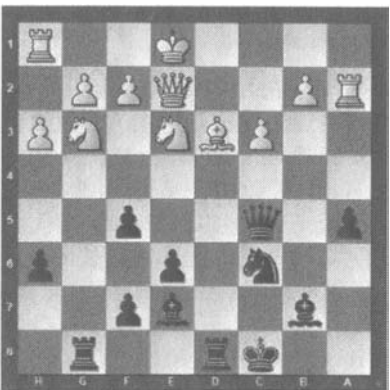
45.2)



45.3)



45.4)



45.1)

Hint: Preparing a breakthrough

45.2)

Hint: Adding access

45.3)

**

Hint: Encourage space

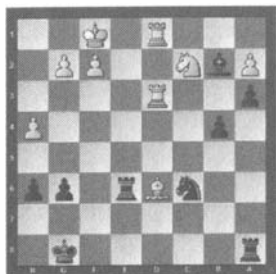
45.4)

*

Hint: Structural deficiencies

Solutions to Set 45

45.1)



33...Re4!

Or 33...b3! 34.Rxb3 Nd4 35.Rxd4 (but not 35.Nxd4 Rxd6 36.Rbd3 Rad8 and Black wins) 35...Bxd4 36.Bxa3 (or 36.Nxd4 Rxd6 and Black has a decisive advantage in the endgame) 36...Rae8 37.Rf3 Re2 38.Ne3 Rxa2 with a clear advantage for Black, but obviously, there is still some work to be done.

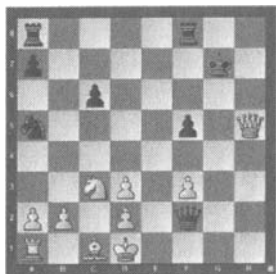
34.g3 Rd8 35.Bf4??

This blunder speeds up the end. After 35.R3d2 Bc3 36.Rd5 Bf6 37.R1d3 Kf7 38.Rc5 Ne7 39.Rd2 Bc3 40.Rd3 Nf5 and Black has a clear advantage.

35...Rxd3 36.Rxd3 Rc4 37.Rd2 b3! and White resigned. A possible continuation was 37...b3 38.axb3 Rxc2 39.Rxc2 a2 40.Rxc6 a1Q+ and Black is winning. 0–1

P. Barrionuevo (2227) – K. Paveto (2452)
Argentinian ch-B (Buenos Aires) 2020

45.2)



27.b4!

Obviously, 27.Qg5+ Kh7 28.Qh5+ Kg7 only repeats moves. The idea behind the text move is to add extra attackers against Black's king, particularly the bishop on the a1–h8 diagonal.

27...Rad8

Or 27...Nb7 28.Bb2 with a number of nasty discovered threats on the a1–h8 diagonal all of which Black cannot possibly deal with in one go.

28.Ne2! Rfe8

Or 28...Kf6 29.Bb2+ Ke6 30.Qg6+ Kd7 31.Qg7+ Kc8 32.Be5 Qb6 33.bxa5 and White is winning.

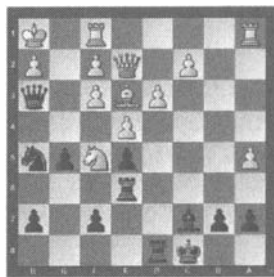
29.Bb2+ Kf8 30.Qxf5+

Or 30.Nf4 Rd6 31.Qxf5+ Ke7 32.bxa5 and White is winning.

30...Ke7 31.Bf6+ Kd6 32.Nc3 and Black resigned. 1–0

Ge. Antal (2562) – J. Kociscak (2510)
Slovakian Team ch 2020.

45.3)



25...Ng7!

In the game continuation, Black chose another promising, but ultimately weaker, move, and eventually White even ended up winning:

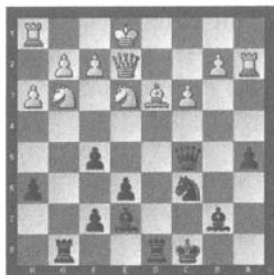
25...Nf4 26.Bxf4 exf4 27.Rfe1 Rd5 28.Qf1 Qxf3+ 29.Qg2 Qxg2+ 30.Kxg2 Rxa5 31.Rxa5 Bxa5 32.Ra1 Bb6 33.Kf3 a5 34.d4 Bc7 35.e5 f6 36.Ng7 Ra6 37.e6 Bd8 38.c4 f5 39.d5 Bf6 40.Re1 Kd8 41.Nxf5 a4 42.d6 a3 43.e7+ and Black resigned. **1-0 R. Cezila (2299) – E. Lund (2340) New York 2020.**

26.Rg1

After 26.Nxg7 Rh6, it is game over for White.

26...Nxf5 27.exf5 Rh6 28.Rg2 e4 29.fxe4 Bxh2 and Black is winning.

45.4)



22...Nb4!

Black has multiple strong moves, for instance, 22...Bh4! 23.Ngfl (or 23.0-0 Bxg3 24.fxg3 Rxc3 25.Rf3 Rxf3 and Black is winning) 23...Ne5 and Black wins. Also, 22...Ne5! 23.Ba6 f4 24.Bxb7+ (or 24.Ne4 Qb6 25.Bxb7+ Qxb7 26.Nc4 Nd3+ 27.Kf1 Nc1 and Black wins) 24...Kxb7 25.Ne4 Qc6 26.Nc2 f3 and White can resign.

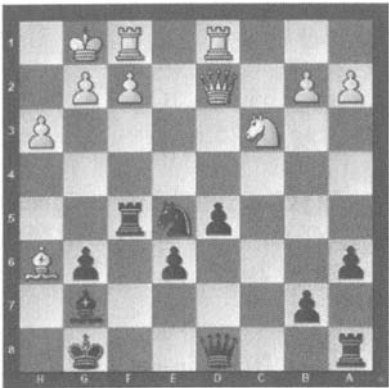
23.cxb4 Qc1+ 24.Nd1 Bxb4+ 25.Kf1 Rxd3 26.Qxd3 Rd8 and Black is winning. White fought on for a while longer... **27.Ra1 Qxa1 28.Qc2+ Kb8 29.Ke2 Rd2+ 30.Qxd2 Bxd2 31.Kxd2 Bxg2 32.Re1 Qa4 33.Ne2 Bf3 34.Ndc3 Qd7+ 35.Kc2 Qa7 36.Rf1 Bg2 37.Ra1 Qxf2 38.Rxa5 Bxh3 39.Kb3 Bf1** and White resigned. **0-1**

S. Ajay Krishna (2378) – S. Golubov (2469) Moscow 2020

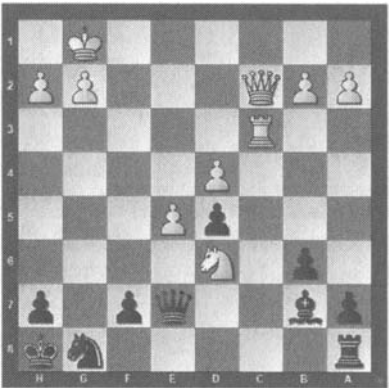
Set 46

Exercises to Set 46

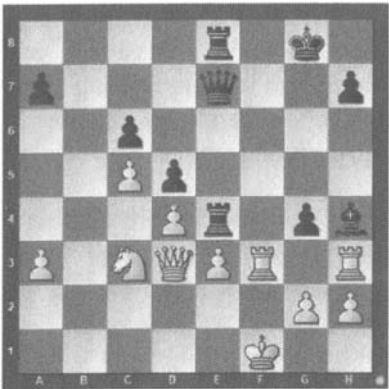
46.1)



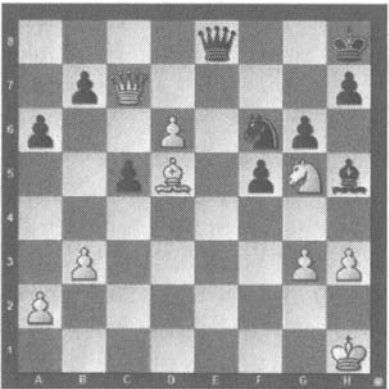
46.2)



46.3)



46.4)



46.1)

Hint: Knocking down the door

46.2)

Hint: An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of the cure

46.3)

**

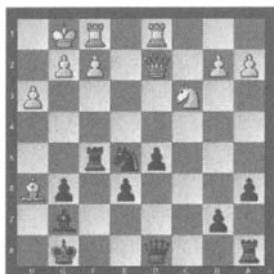
Hint: Doing by undoing

46.4)

Hint: A surprising way in

Solutions to Set 46

46.1)



19...Nf3+!

Or with a similar idea 19...Qh4! 20.Bxg7 Nf3+!, the capture is obligatory, 21.gxf3 Rg5+ 22.Kh2 Rh5 and White cannot avoid mate.

20.gxf3 Bxh6 21.Qxh6 Rg5+ 22.Kh1 Qf6 23.Rd3 Qf5

With dual threats of ...Rh5 and ...Qxd3.

24.f4 Or 24.Rg1 Rxd3+ 25.Kxg1 Qxd3 and Black is winning.

24...Qxd3 25.Qxg5 Qxf1+ and White resigned.
0–1 J. Vykouk (2468) – V. Straka (2366)
Czech Team ch (Zapad) 2020

46.2)



28...Rd8!

The only move to keep Black in the game and deal with White's threats, primary among those is 29.Rc7. If Black seeks counterplay with 28...Qh4, he is promptly punished: 29.Nxf7+ Kg7 30.Rg3+ Kxf7 31.Qf2+ Ke6 32.Rg6+ hxd6 33.Qxh4 when Black's passive and uncoordinated pieces and vulnerable king allow White a decisive advantage despite a discrepancy when counting points.

29.Nxb7 Rd7!!

In the game, Black instead continued with 29...Qxb7?? but after 30.Rc7, he stopped the clock and resigned. 1-0 E. Tomashevsky (2701) – S. Lomasov (2533) Moscow 2020.

30.Rh3 f6 and White's knight on b7 is trapped as **31.Nd6** will be met by **31...Rxd6** as White cannot recapture due to **32.exd6 Qe1#**

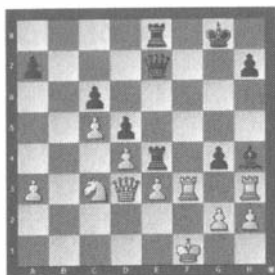
46.3)

37.Nxe4!

The only playable move for White.

37...dxe4??

Black blunders immediately. The best answer was 37...gxf3, when 38.Nd6 fxg2+ 39.Kg1 Rf8 40.Nf5 Qe6 41.Rf3 Bg5 42.Kxg2 gives White a clear advantage. By contrast, the similar-looking 37...gxh3 38.Nd6 hxg2+ 39.Kg1 Rf8 is considerably worse for Black as White now



already has his rook on the f-file and after 40.Nf5 Qg5 41.Nxh4 Qxh4 42.Rxf8+ Kxf8 43.Qf5+ Ke7 44.Kxg2 obtains a winning queen ending.

38.Qb3+ Kh8 39.Rf7

All of a sudden, both of White's forked pieces have been unforked.

39...Rf8

This is probably the move that Black had counted on when capturing on e4, but White has a nasty response up his sleeve.

40.Rhf3

Boom! This interference move renews the threat against Black's queen and solves the issue of the rook on h3. It immediately becomes clear that White is winning.

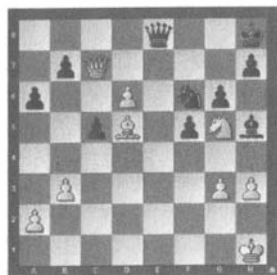
40...exf3 41.Rxe7 Bxe7 42.Qe6

Black does not have enough currency for queen and could resign at this point.

42...Bg5 43.Qe5+ Bf6 44.Qd6 Kg7 45.gxf3 gxf3 46.Qxc6 Bg5 47.Qd5 Kg6 48.c6 and Black resigned. 1–0

A. Shirov (2664) – D. Yuffa (2594) Moscow rapid 2020

46.4)



36.Ne6!

This is the strongest move, but in the game, White chose a different path to the win:

36.Nf7+ Kg7 37.Ne5+ Kh6 38.d7 Nxd7

39.Nxd7 Qe1+ 40.Kh2 Qd2+ 41.Bg2 Qxa2

42.Nf8 Qxb3 43.Qxh7+ Kg5 44.Qe7+ Kh6

45.Ne6 and unable to stop getting mated,

Black resigned. 1-0 **E.O. Risting (2297) – R. Djurhuus (2459)** Norwegian Team ch 2020.

36...Bf3+!?

Black tries to throw some confusion on the table. After 36...Nd7, White wins on the spot with 37.Qa5! and Black cannot stop the penetration on the a1–h8 diagonal.

37.Kg1! Nd7

Or 37...Qg8 38.d7 and White wins.

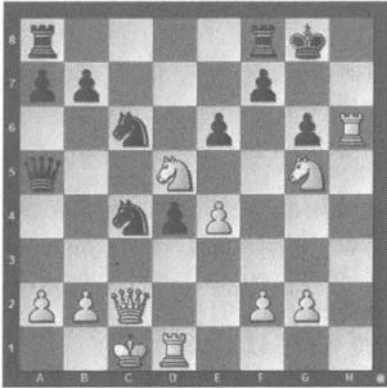
38.Qa5! with the same theme as after

36...Nd7, Black is busted on the long a1–h8 diagonal.

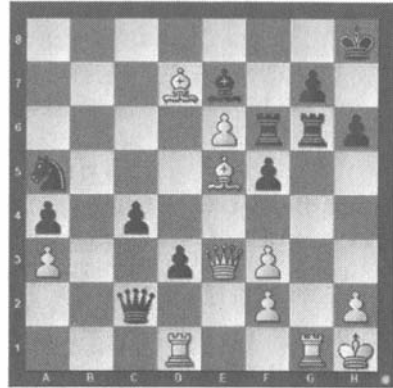
Set 47

Exercises to Set 47

47.1)



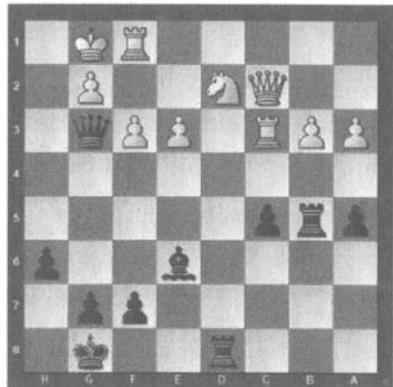
47.2)



47.3)



47.4)



47.1)

Hint: Direct rather than flash

47.2)

Hint: Deep penetration

47.3)

Hint: Simple does it

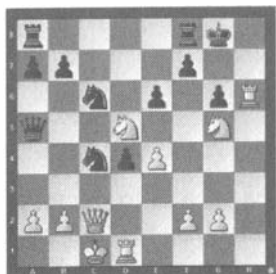
47.4)

**

Hint: Clearance

Solutions to Set 47

47.1)



18.Rdh1!

This is the strongest attacking move. In the game, White instead went for the optimistic 18.Nxe6?? fxe6 19.Rxg6+ Kf7 20.Rf6+ Kg7 21.e5 N4xe5 22.Rh1 d3 23.Qb3 Qxd5 24.Qxb7+ Kxf6 25.Rh6+ Ng6 and White resigned. **0-1 L. Mons (2543) - Wei Yi (2732)** PRO League 2020 chess.com.2020. White has a decent alternative in 18.Qxc4 and after 18...exd5, White has 19.Qb3, When White has the attack on the kingside.

18...exd5 19.exd5

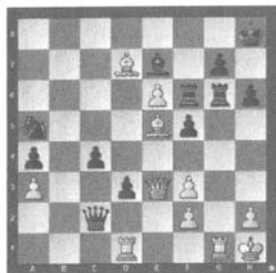
Now White Rxg6+ with mate to follow.

19...Kg7 20.Ne6+!

The knight cannot be captured.

20...Kf6 21.Nxf8 Rxf8 22.Qxc4 and White has extra material and the attack in hand.

47.2)



35.Be8!

Alternatively, White gets a clear advantage after 35.Rb1 d2 36.Rgd1 Rf8 37.Qxd2 Qxd2 38.Rxd2 Nb3 39.Re2 Bxa3 and White is clearly better. In the game White continued 35.Bxf6? Rxf6 36.Qb6? (36.Rb1! was better) 36...Qe2 37.Qb8+ Kh7?? 38.Rxg7+! Kxg7 39.Rg1+ Rg6 40.Rxg6+ Kxg6 41.Qg8+ Kf6 42.Qh8+ Kg5 43.Qg7+ Kh5 44.Be8+ and Black resigned. **1-0 L. Martinez Ramirez (2437) – A. Kogan (2524)** Catalan Team ch (Barcelona) 2020.

35...Rxg1+ 36.Rxg1 Qe2 37.Bxf6 Bxf6

38.Qxe2 dxe2 39.Re1 and White has a won endgame.

47.3)

26...Bxh3! 27.gxh3 Qxh3+ 28.Kg1 R8c6!

Also 28...R4c6 works.

29.Nxc6 Rxc6 30.Rf1

After 30.Qg2 Rg6 31.Qxg6 fxxg6 32.Rf1 Qg3+ 33.Kh1 g5, Black has a won endgame.

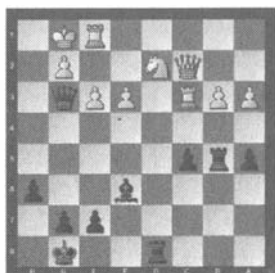
30...Rg6+ 31.Kf2 Qh4+ 32.Ke2 Rg2+ 33.Kd1 Rxb2 34.Rxb2 Qc4



With White loose structure, uncoordinated pieces, and open king, Black is easily winning. **35.Re1 d4 36.exd4 Qxd4+ 37.Kc1 Qc3+** and White resigned. 0–1

N. Maatman (2382) – N. Zwirs (2443) Dutch League 2020

47.4)



30...c4!

A surprising sacrifice. The idea is to open for the rook on b5 to join the attack on the kingside.

31.bxc4

Or 31.Ne4 Qb8 32.bxc4 Rb2 33.Qc1 f5 and the knight will have to move away from e4, allowing Black to play ...Rdd2 with a decisive attack.

31...Rh5 32.Ne4??

White should have played 32.Rf2 Qh2+ (if 32...Bf5, then 33.e4 Qh4 34.Kf1 Be6 35.Rd3 Rc8 36.Ke2 Rhc5 only leaves Black with a clear advantage) 33.Kf1 Rg5 34.g4 Qh3+ 35.Ke2 h5 36.gxh5 Qh1 and Black's attack still goes on.

32...Qh2+

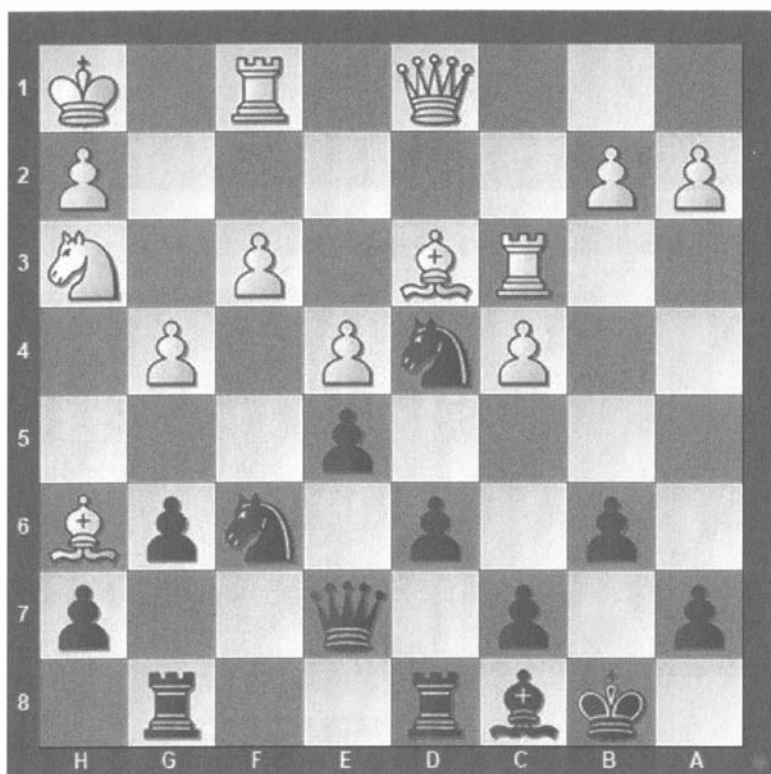
Now White's position collapses.

33.Kf2 Bh3 34.Rg1 f5 35.Nf6+ gxf6 36.Rd3 Rxd3 37.Qxd3 Rg5 38.Qd8+ Kh7 39.Qxf6 Rxf6 40.Rxf6 Qxf6 41.Ke1 Qf1+ and White resigned. 0–1

Lai Hing Ting (2449) – S. Geirnaert (2428) Belgian Team ch 2020

Chapter 4

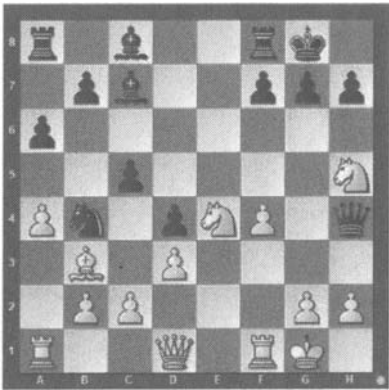
Sets 48-63



Set 48

Exercises to Set 48

48.1)



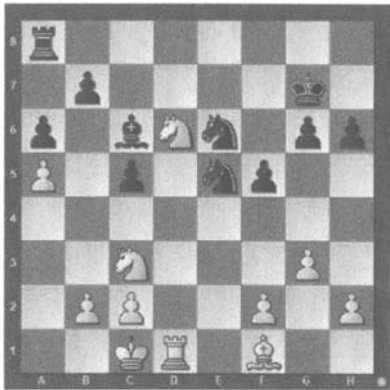
48.2)



48.3)



48.4)



48.1)

**

Hint: No rest for the wicked

48.2)

**

Hint: Focus on the right square

48.3)

**

Hint: Penetration

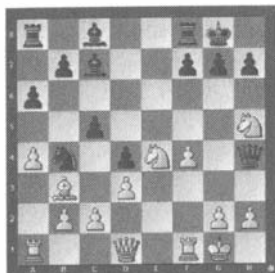
48.4)

**

Hint: When the guards are gone

Solutions to Set 48

48.1)



18.g3! Qh3

Or 18...Qd8 19.f5! Kh8 20.f6 g6 21.Qd2 gxh5 22.Qh6 Rg8 23.Ng5 and White is winning on account of 23...Rxc5 24.Qxc5 Qg8 25.Qg7+ Qxc7 26.fxg7+ Kxc7 27.Rxf7+ Kg6 28.Rxc7.

19.f5!

Black's queen is in trouble.

19...h6

After 19...Bxf5 20.Nf2, Black's queen is trapped.

20.Qe2

In the game, White played less accurately, but eventually won after 20.Nf4 Qxf5 21.Ne6 fxe6? (21...Bxe6!?) 22.Rxf5 Rxf5 23.Qg4 Nd5 24.Nxc5 Ne3 25.Qxd4 Nxc2 26.Bxc2 Bb6 27.b4 a5 28.Qd6 Ra6 29.Qb8 Rf8 30.Rf1 and Black resigned. **1-0 A. Kashlinskaya (2485) – M. Sebag (2443) Lausanne 2020.**

20...Bd7 21.Nf4! Qxf5 22.Nh5 Qg6 23.Nhf6+ gxf6 24.Nxf6+ Kh8 25.Nxd7 and White is winning.

48.2)



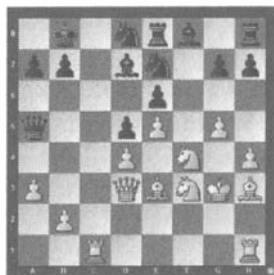
35...b3!

Black is preparing the invasion of the second rank, taking aims at White's b2-pawn.

36.Rf1 Rc2 37.Rff2 Rd1 and White resigned. **0-1**

A. Kosteniuk (2482) – Z. Abdumalik (2461) Lausanne 2020

48.3)



22.Bd2!

Black's queen and dark squares cause immediate headaches for the Norwegian grandmaster.

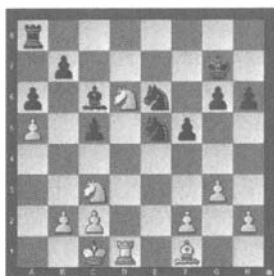
22...Qb6 23.Bb4 Nf5+

Nothing works for Black, for instance, 23...Nf7 24.Bc5 Qd8 25.Nxe6; or 23...Nc8 24.Nxd5, and in both cases, White is winning.

24.Bxf5 exf5 25.Nxd5 f4+ 26.Kf2! and Black resigned. There is no need to allow 26.Kxf4 Ne6+ and Black can still fight. 1–0

M. Haubro (2440) – L.E. Johannessen (2431) Norwegian Team ch 2020

48.4)



24.f4! Ng4

White also wins after 24...Nf7 25.Nxf7 Kxf7 26.Bc4 Re8 (or 26...Bb5 27.Bd5 Bc6 28.Ba2! (this is better than 28.Bxc6 bxc6 29.Rd7+ Kf6 30.Na4 and White should win) 28...Re8 29.Rd6 and Black is hopelessly tied up) 27.Rd6 g5 28.b3 and White is winning. Also, 24...Nf3 25.Nxb7 is lost for Black.

25.Nxb7 Ne3 26.Re1 Nxf1 27.Rxe6 Bxb7 28.Re7+ Kg8 29.Rxb7 Nxh2 30.Nd5

The material is still balanced, but Black is completely lost on account of her vulnerable king and uncoordinated pieces.

30...Nf1 31.Nc7 Rf8 32.Nxa6 Nxc3 33.Nxc5 h5 34.a6 h4 35.a7 h3 36.Nd3 Ne4 37.Rb8 h2 38.Rxf8+ Kxf8 39.a8Q+ Kg7 40.Qxe4! fxe4 41.Nf2 e3 42.Nh1 Kf6 43.b4 Kf5 44.b5 Kxf4 45.b6 Kf3 46.b7 Kg2 47.b8Q Kxh1 48.Qg3 and Black resigned. 1–0

A. Goryachkina (2579) – A. Stefanova (2453) Lausanne 2020

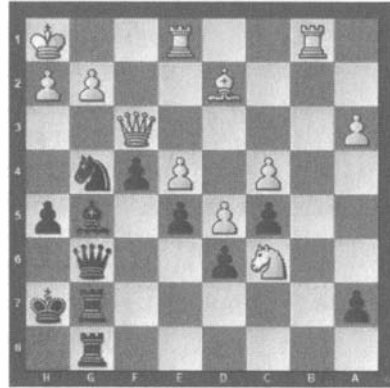
Set 49

Exercises to Set 49

49.1)



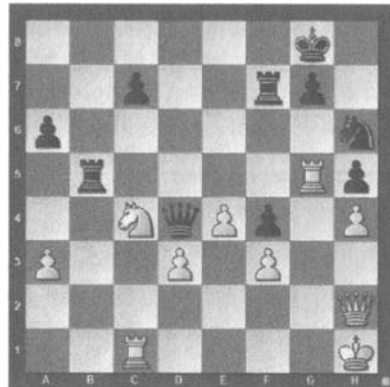
49.2)



49.3)



49.4)



49.1)

Hint: Trap or break

49.2)

**

Hint: Wholesale invasion

49.3)

**

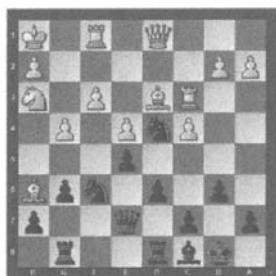
Hint: Not enough space

49.4)

Hint: Attraction to the wrong squares

Solutions to Set 49

49.1)



19...g5!

White's apparent blockade of Black's kingside pawns explodes after this clever move.

20.Bxg5 h5!

White's kingside is getting torn wide open in part because the knight on h3 is unprotected.

21.Qe1 Rdf8

In the game, Black played somewhat less accurately but still won rather quickly:

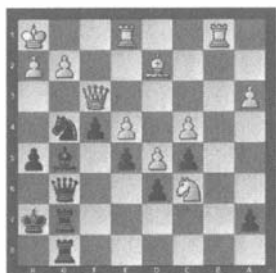
21...hxc4 22.fxg4 Rxc4 23.Nxc4 Nxc4 24.Qh4 Rg8 25.Nf3 Nxf3 26.Qxe7 White gentlemanlike allows the mate to conclude the game... 26...Nf2+ 27.Rxf2 Rg1#. **0-1 B. Byklum (2329) – B. Predojevic (2604) Norwegian Team ch 2020.**

22.Rf2

Or 22.Bh6 Re8 23.Bg5 Qg7 24.Bxf6 Qxf6 and Black wins.

22...Qh7 23.Bxf6 Rxf6 24.Bf1 hxc4 and White's position collapses.

49.2)



36...Bh4! 37.Re2 Nf2+!

Normally, this move wouldn't work, but here, it allows Black to penetrate decisively in the endgame.

38.Rxf2 Bxf2 39.Qxf2 Qxc2+ 40.Qxc2 Rxc2 41.Rd1 f3 42.Ne7 R8g4 43.Nf5 f2 44.Ng3 Rg1+ and White resigned. **0-1**

S. Bargan (2258) – M. Manolache (2541) Bicz 2020

49.3)



14.c3! Bb7

Or 14...Ne6 15.Ne4 Qe7 16.Bxh6 and White has a decisive advantage.

15.Ne4 Qe7

Or 15...Qf5 16.Qxf5 Nxf5 17.Bxb7 Rxb7 18.g4, winning material.

16.Bg5 Nc2+ 17.Kd2 Bxd5 18.Bxe7 Bxe7

19.Kxc2 and Black should have resigned but played on for another nineteen moves. **19...f5**

20.Ng3 Be6 21.Qe2 f4 22.Nf1 Bf6 23.Nd2 d5

24.g4 c4 25.d4 e4 26.Nxe4 dxe4 27.Qxe4 Bxg4

28.Rag1 Bh5 29.Qf5 Be8 30.Rg4 b4 31.Rhg1

bxc3 32.bxc3 Ba4+ 33.Kc1 Kh8 34.Qa5 Bc6

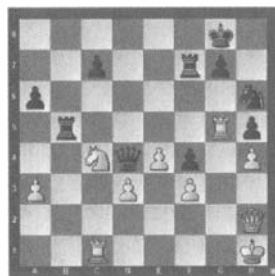
35.Rxf4 Rb5 36.Rxf6 Rxf6 37.Qd8+ Kh7

38.Qe7 and Black resigned. 1–0

A. Muzychuk (2535) – M. Sebag (2443)

Lausanne 2020

49.4)



35.a4! Rc5

Black cannot capture on g5 because the knight is then trapped after hxg5. And if 35...Rb4, then 36.Ne5 (or even 36.Qg1 Qxg1+ 37.Rcxg1 Rxa4 38.Ne5 Re7 39.Ng6 Rf7 40.Rb1 and White is winning) 36...Re7 37.Nc6, and White wins material.

36.Qg1! Rxc4

Or 36...Qxg1+ 37.Rcxg1 is hopeless for Black. If 36...Qxd3 then 37.Rxc5 Qxf3+ 38.Qg2 ends Black's desperate measures.

37.dxc4 Qd3 38.Qg2 Rd7 39.Rg1 and Black resigned. 1–0

A. Esipenko (2672) – E. Najer (2661)

Moscow 2020

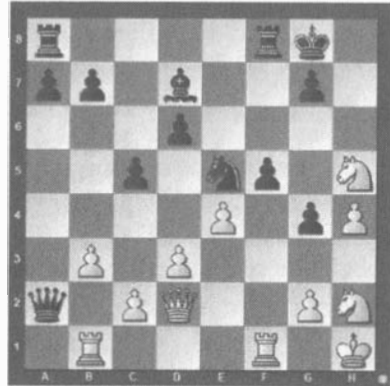
Set 50

Exercises to Set 50

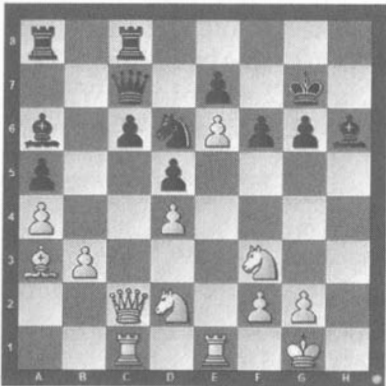
50.1)



50.2)



50.3)



50.4)



50.1)

**

Hint: The value of wood

50.2)

**

Hint: Distract then attack

50.3)

**

Hint: Provoke then attack

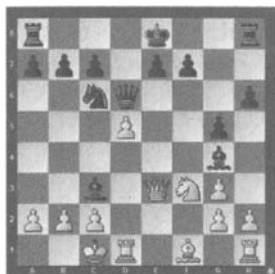
50.4)

**

Hint: Like a swarm of bees

Solutions to Set 50

50.1)



16.dxc6! Bxb2+

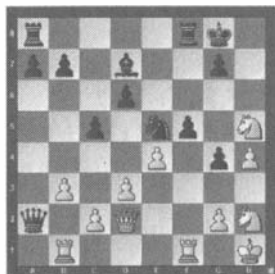
This was the counterstroke Black had counted on.

17.Kxb2 Qxd1 18.Bb5!

Ouch! Black resigned. There is no satisfactory way of meeting the threat against Black's queen and cxb7+. **1–0**

T. Burg (2527) – E. Cekro (2381) Belgian Team ch 2020

50.2)



27.Qg5!

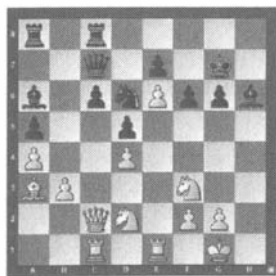
White can also play 27.Qc1!? (threatening Ra1, trapping Black's queen) 27...Qa5 (of course, 27...g6 28.Ra1 wins for White) 28.Qg5 g6 (28...Rf7 loses to 29.exf5) 29.Nf6+ (Or 29.Nxg4 fxg4 30.Nf6+ Kg7 31.Nxd7 Nxd7 32.Qe7+ and White has a clear advantage) 29...Rxf6 30.Qxf6 Qc7 31.exf5 Bxf5 32.Qg5 with a decisive advantage for White

27...Rf7 28.Rbc1!

In the game, White went wrong and eventually lost the game: 28.exf5 Qxc2 29.Nxg4 Nxg4 30.Qxg4 Bxf5 31.Qg5 Raf8 32.Rbe1 Qxd3 33.Rf3 Qd4 34.Rf4 Qc3 35.Ref1 Qe5 36.R1f3 b5 37.Rg3 Qe1+ 38.Kh2 Qe5 39.Qh6 c4 40.bxc4 bxc4 41.Nxg7 Rxg7 42.Rxg7+ Qxg7 43.Qxd6 c3 44.Qd5+ Qf7 and White resigned. **0-1 A. Muzychuk (2535) – N. Dzagnidze (2509)** Lausanne 2020.

28...Kh8 29.exf5 Qxc2 30.f6 and White is winning.

50.3)



22.Nh4! f5 23.Ndf3!

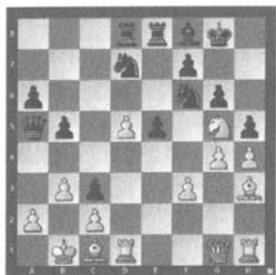
The game continued 23.Re5!? Ne4? (23...Rf8 24.Rxd5 should also win for White) 24.Nxe4 dxe4 25.Rxf5 gxf5 26.Nxf5+ Kh7 27.Nxh6 Qf4 28.Nf7 Rg8 29.Qc5?? and White resigned at the same time. **0-1 P. Tapie (2260) – G.A. Gracia Alvarez (2284) Mexico City 2020.**

23...Rf8

If 23...Bxc1, then 24.Qxc1 Rf8 25.Qg5 Rf6 26.Ne5 Rxe6 27.Nhxg6 wins for White.

24.Bxd6 Qxd6 25.Ne5 and White is clearly winning.

50.4)



23.gxh5

The move order is in this case not super important. White can also play 23.Nxf7!, and then after 23...Kxf7 play 24.gxh5, leading to the game continuation.

23...Nxh5 24.Nxf7! Kxf7 25.Be6+ Ke7

If 25...Rxe6, then 26.dxe6+ Kxe6 27.Qg4+ Ke7 28.Rxd7+ Rxd7 29.Bg5+ Nf6 (or 29...Ke8 30.Qe6+ Be7 31.Qg8+ Bf8 32.Qxg6+ Rf7 33.Qc6+ Rd7 34.Qc8+ and White wins) 30.Bxf6+ Kxf6 31.Qxd7 and White is winning.

26.Qxg6 Nh6 27.Bf5 Rb8 28.Bxd7 Kxd7 29.Qxf6

Black is completely busted and could have resigned at this point but drags it on for some additional pointless moves.

29...Bd6 30.Rhg1 Re7 31.Rg7 Rbe8 32.Rdg1 b4 33.Qe6+ Kc7 34.R1g6 Qc5 35.Be3 and Black resigned. 1-0

T. Rydstrom (2248) – T. Farkas (2271)

Budapest 2020

Set 51

Exercises to Set 51

51.1)



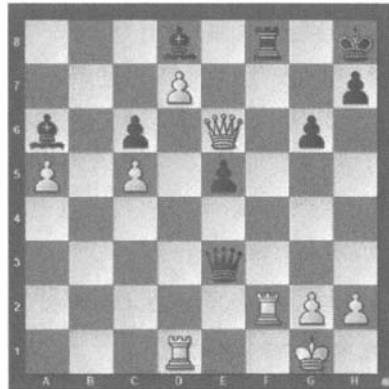
51.2)



51.3)



51.4)



51.1)

Hint: Exploit the lead in development

51.2)

Hint: Open files and diagonals are worth gold

51.3)

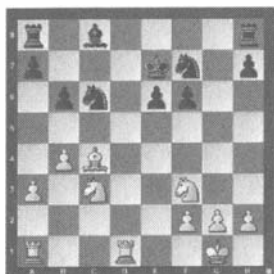
Hint: The right amount of wood

51.4)

Hint: From defender to attacker

Solutions to Set 51

51.1)



17.Nd5+! exd5

Or 17...Kf8 18.Nc7, winning for White.

18.Bxd5 Nfd8

After 18...Bb7, White has 19.Bxf7, leaving White with an extra pawn in the endgame.

19.b5 Bb7 20.bxc6 Bxc6 21.Nh4 Bxd5 22.Rxd5

Black has avoided losing material, but with an open king, poorly coordinated pieces, and loose pawn structure, White has a decisive advantage in the endgame.

22...Ke6 23.Rd3 Nc6?

Black should have taken opportunity to get the rook to e8 while he had the chance. 23...Re8 24.Rad1 Kf7 25.Nf5 Kf8 26.Rh3 and White has a winning endgame.

24.Re1+ Kf7 25.Rd7+

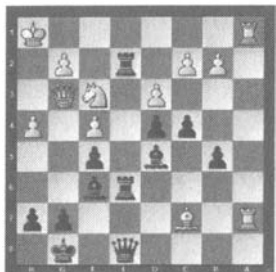
White is clearly winning as Black's king is now sent to the back rank.

25...Kf8 26.Rc7 Nd4 27.Ree7 Rg8 28.Rxh7 Nb5 29.Rcd7 Rc8 30.g3 Nxa3 31.Nf5 Nc4 32.Rhf7+ Ke8 33.Nd4 and Black resigned. 1–0

J. Puccini (2287) – D. Fernandez (2477)

Ballarat 2020

51.2)



25...Bxh4!

The tactical solution to the position, but Black has other good options in this position: a)

25...cxd3 26.cxd3 Bxh4 27.Nxh4 R6e3 and

Black is winning in the same fashion as our main line. b) 25...Qg6! The prosaic shuts down White's counterplay and leaves Black with a large advantage in the endgame. c) The game continued less convincingly 25...Qh5?? 26.Be5

Qg4? 27.Qxg4 fxg4 28.Nxd4 (White is already better) 28...Bxe5?? 29.fxe5 R6xe5 30.Nxe2 Rxe2 31.dxc4 (White is winning) 31...Bxg2+

32.Kh2 bxc4 33.Kg3 Rxc2 34.Rd1 h5 35.Rdd7 Be4 36.Rxg7+ Kf8 37.Rgf7+ Kg8 38.Rfe7 Bc6 39.Rac7 Kf8 40.Rh7 Kg8 41.Rxh5 Rg2+

42.Kf4 Be8 43.Rg5+ Kf8 44.Rf5+ Kg8 45.Rc8
and Black resigned. **1-0 R. Psyk (2343) – M.
Mis (2356)** Polish ch U18 (Szkłarska Poreba)
2020.

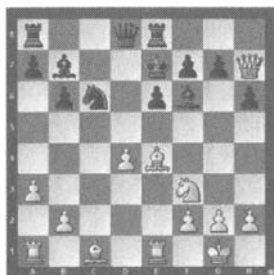
26.Nxh4

Or 26.Qxh4 Rh6, winning the queen.

26...R6e3 27.Qg5

Or 27.Nf3 Rxf3 28.gxf3 Qh5+ 29.Kg1 Bxf3
and White is finished. **27...Rh3+**, forcing mate.

51.3)



20.d5!

White lets his queen get trapped.

20...Rh8

Or 20...Na5 21.Bd2 and White wins.

21.dxc6 Bxc6

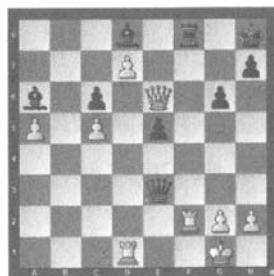
Or 21...Ba6 22.Qxh8 Qxh8 23.Bd2 Kf8
24.Rad1 g5 25.Bb4+ Kg7 26.c7 and White has
a large advantage.

22.Qxh8 Qxh8 23.Bxc6 Rc8 24.Bb7

The game continued here: 24.Be4 g5 25.Rb1 g4
26.Nd2 h5 with a clear advantage for White.
The game score for some reason ends here. **1-0
J. Obregon Rivero (2513) – O. Leon (2249)**
Mexico City 2020.

24...Rc5 25.Rb1 and White has a decisive
advantage.

51.4)



34.Qxe5+! Qxe5 35.Rxf8+ Kg7 36.Rxd8

White is winning.

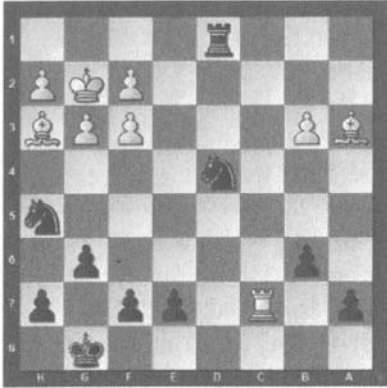
**36...Qe2 37.Rg8+ Kxg8 38.d8Q+ Kg7
39.Qd4+ Kg8 40.h3 Bc4 41.Qd8+ Kg7
42.Rd7+ Bf7 43.Qe7 Qc4 44.Qxf7+** and Black
resigned. **1-0**

A. Obolentseva (2305) – A. Bodnaruk (2411)
Moscow 2020

Set 52

Exercises to Set 52

52.1)



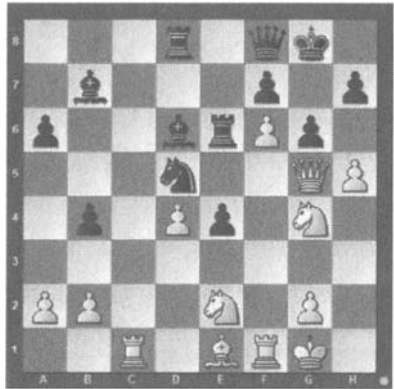
52.2)



52.3)



52.4)



52.1)

**

Hint: Lock him up and then chase him down

52.2)

**

Hint: When there no longer are closed doors

52.3)

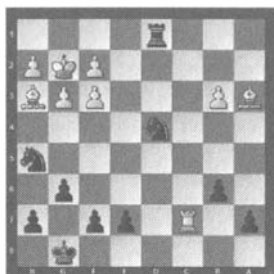
Hint: Discover the trouble

52.4)

Hint: The one she can not do without

Solutions to Set 52

52.1)



23...Nf4+! 24.gxf4 Ne2

Threatening mate on g1.

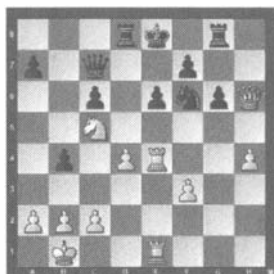
25.Bg4 Rg1+ 26.Kh3 Nxf4+ 27.Kh4 f6!

Threatening mate with ...g6–g5 mate.

28.Be6+ Kh8 29.Rc8+ Kg7 30.Rg8+ Kh6 and White resigned. 0–1

J. Moussard (2608) – J. Duda (2734) Banter Blitz Cup chess24.com 2020

52.2)



30.Nxe6! fxe6 31.Rxe6+ Kf7

Thus far, it was pretty straightforward.

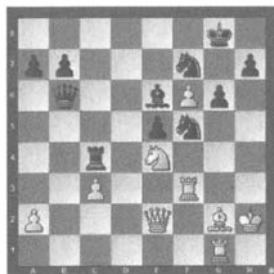
32.Qg5! Nd5 33.h5!

White breaks decisively through.

33...Rdf8 34.f4 Qd8 35.hxg6+ Kg7 36.Qh6+ Kxh6 and Black resigned at the same time. 1–0

M. Mica (2306) – V. Finek (2211) Czech ch Junior (Kouty nad Desnou) 2020

52.3)



36.Rxf5!

After anything else, Black is better.

36...gxf5

The alternatives are also problematic for Black, e.g., 36...Rxe4 37.Bxe4; and 36...Bxf5 37.Qxc4, both win for White.

37.Bh3+ Kf8

Or 37...Qxg1+ 38.Kxg1 Rxe4 39.Qg2+ Kf8 40.Qg7+ and White is winning.

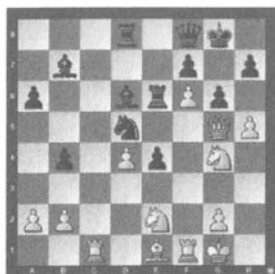
38.Qg2 Ke8 39.Qg8+ Kd7 40.Bxf5!

Black can resign.

...Kc7 41.Qe8 Nd8 42.Rd1 Rd4 43.cxd4 Bxf5 44.Qxe5+ and Black resigned. 1–0

T. Mamedjarova (2310) – U. Fataliyeva (2377) Azerbaijani ch women (Baku) 2020

52.4)



27.Bg3!

Or 27.hxg6 fxg6 (27...hxg6 28.Qh4 looks even worse) 28.Bg3! Bxg3 29.f7+ Kh8 30.Nxg3 and White is winning.

27...Rd7

Or 27...Kh8 28.hxg6 fxg6 29.Be5 and White is winning.

28.Be5 Qd8 29.hxg6 hxg6 30.Qh4

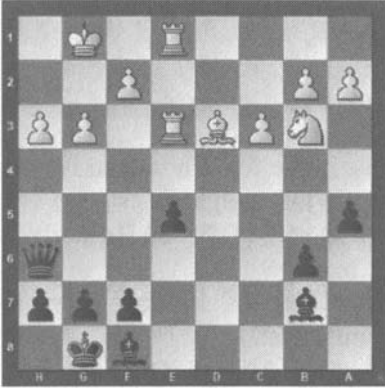
In the game, White continued 30.Nh6+ Kf8 31.Nf5 gxf5 32.Bxd6+ Rxd6 33.Qg7+ Ke8 34.Qg8+ Kd7 35.Qxf7+ Ne7 36.fxe7 Qxe7 37.Qxf5 Rd5 38.Qh3 and Black resigned. **1-0 R. Knaak (2478) – Y. Balashov (2465)** World Senior Teams (Prague) 2020.

30...Bf8 31.Ng3 and Black will not survive White's knight jumping to f5.

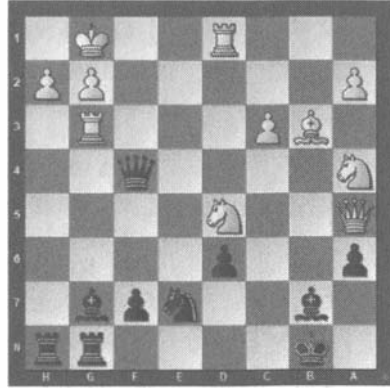
Set 53

Exercises to Set 53

53.1)



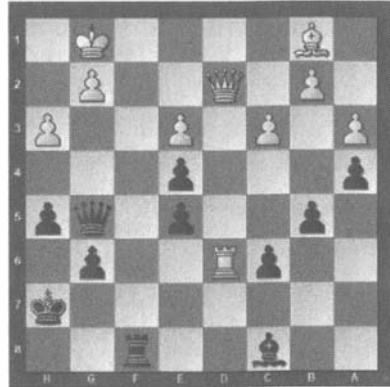
53.2)



53.3)



53.4)



53.1)

Hint: Displace and attack

53.2)

**

Hint: Make room to attack

53.3)

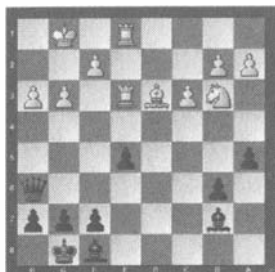
Hint: Open the door

53.4)

Hint: Prepare then attack

Solutions to Set 53

53.1)



23...a4!

Black also has excellent winning chances after 23...Qxh3 24.Be4 Bxe4 25.Rxe4 f6.

24.Nc1

Or 24.Nd2 Bc5 25.R3e2 Qxh3 and White can resign.

24...Qxh3 25.Be4 Bxe4 26.Rxe4 Bc5 27.Ne2 Qf5

An uncomfortable move for White who is now forced into an easily lost endgame.

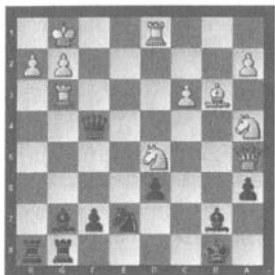
28.Nd4 exd4 29.Re8+ Bf8 30.Rd8 dxc3 31.Ree8 Qc5 32.bxc3 g6

A Black untangles himself, it becomes more obvious that White is lost.

33.Rc8 Qa3 34.g4 f5 35.gxf5 Qc1+ 36.Kg2 Qg5+ 37.Kf3 Qxf5+ 38.Ke3 h5 39.Rb8 Kg7 40.Rb7+ Kh6 41.f4 Bc5+ and White resigned. 0–1

T. Kapitanchuk (2344) – J.M. Gaitan (2319)
Buenos Aires 2020

53.2)



27...Nxd5! 28.Bxd5 Bd4+! 29.Rxd4

White doesn't achieve anything after 29.cxd4 either: 29...Rxd4 30.Bxb7 (30.hxd4?? loses to 30...Qe3+ 31.Kf1 Rh1#) 30...Qe3+ 31.Kf1 (31.Kh1?? Rg5 wins for Black) 31...Qf4+ 32.Kg1 Qe3+ with a perpetual check.

29...Qc1+ 30.Kf2 Qc2+ 31.Kf3??

White presses for more but commits a blunder in the process. After 31.Kf1 and 31.Kg1 would have led to draws.

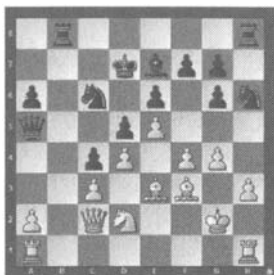
31...Re8!

Ouch. Black now threatens a variety of mates to which White has no good answer.

32.Rg5 Qe2+ 33.Kf4 Rh4+ 34.Kg3 Qe1+ 35.Kf3 Qe3# Checkmate ends the game. 0–1

A. Grabinsky (2457) – Z. Ilincic (2420)
Budapest 2020

53.3)



22.Nxc4! dxc4

If 22...Qc7, then 23.Nd2 Rhc8 24.Rhb1 and White has an extra pawn and should win.

23.d5 exd5 24.Rhd1 Ba3?

Or 24...Qc7 25.Bxd5 Ke8 26.Qa4 Rb5 27.Rab1 and White is winning.

25.Rxd5+ Qxd5

A temporary queen sacrifice but it doesn't change the verdict that White is winning.

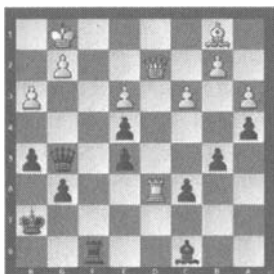
26.Rd1 Rb2 27.Rxd5+ Kc7 28.Qxb2 Bxb2

29.Rc5 Bxc3 30.Rxc4 Rc8 31.Bxc6 and Black resigned. 1–0

C. Chiarot (2244) – L. Liascovich (2445)

Buenos Aires 2020

53.4)



29...Qh4!

A nasty move, threatening ...Bxh3 with a lethal attack for Black. The problem for White is that there is no good way for White to meet this.

30.Bc2

Or 30.Rxc6 Bxh3 31.gxh3 Qxh3 32.Qg2 Qxe3+ 33.Kh1 Qe1+ and White can resign.

30...Bxh3 31.Rxc6 Bxg2 32.Kxg2 Qg4+ 33.Kh2 Rf3

Here, 33...Rf1 is even stronger, but in such positions, several roads lead to Rome.

34.Qg2 Qh4+ 35.Kg1 Rg3 36.Bxe4 Rxe4+

37.Bxg2 Qe1+ 38.Kh2 h4 and White resigned.

0–1

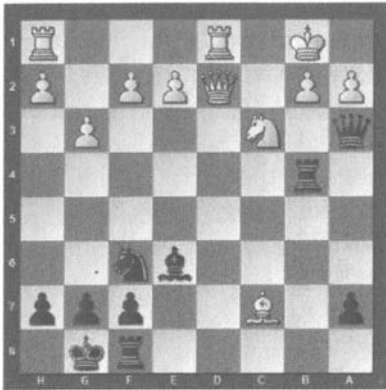
Ad. Feher (2367) – A. Indjic (2646)

Hungarian Team ch 2020

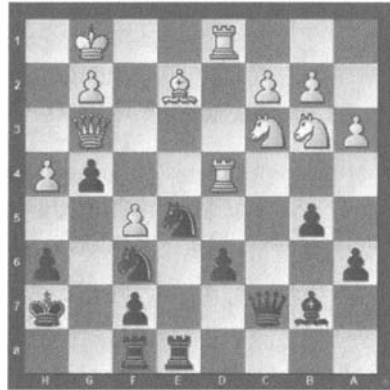
Set 54

Exercises to Set 54

54.1)



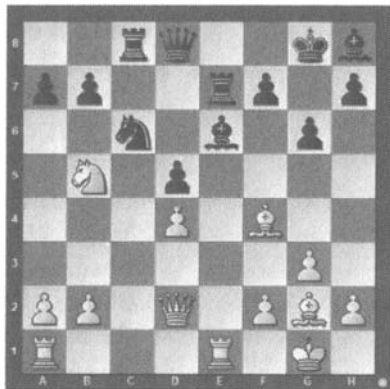
54.2)



54.3)



54.4)



54.1)

Hint: Distract the defense

54.2)

Hint: Intervention

54.3)

Hint: Surgical precision

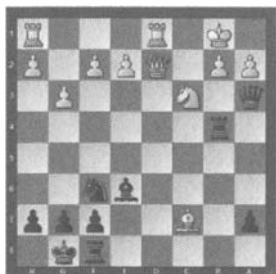
54.4)

**

Hint: Soften then attack

Solutions to Set 54

54.1)



19...Ne4!

A nasty move; White obviously cannot capture it.

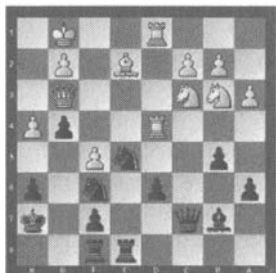
20.Ka1 Qa6 21.Qd3 Rc4

Threatening to remove the defender by force.

22.Rhf1 Nxc3 23.bxc3 Qa4 24.Rd2 Rxc7 25.Rb1 h6 26.f4 Qa5 27.Rb4 Rfc8 28.Rc2 Rxc3 and White resigned. **0–1**

G. Brejnik (2259) – J. Stinka (2263) Czech ch Junior (Kouty nad Desnou) 2020

54.2)



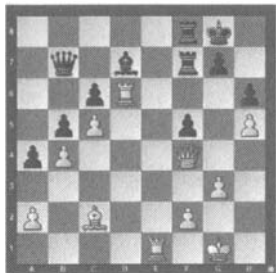
23...Bf3!

Black can also consider 23...Nh5 24.Qf2 Nf3+ 25.Bxf3 gxf3 26.g4 Rg8 and Black should be winning. In the game, Black chose 23...Rd8, yet still soon won 24.Kh1? (24.Nd2!?)

24...Rfe8 25.Bd3 Nxd3 26.cxd3 Re5 27.Re1 Rde8 28.Rxe5 Rxe5 29.Nd2 Qb6 30.Nb3 a5 and White resigned. **0-1 E. Chevelevitch (2391) – B. Maryasin (2305)** World Senior Teams (Prague) 2020. Another good option is 23...d5, threatening ...Nf3+.

24.Re1 Qb6 25.Kh1 Rg8 followed by ...Nh5 and White's position is busted.

54.3)



29.a3!

Also 29.Bb1! with the same idea as in the game is effective.

29...Kh8 30.Bb1! Qc8 31.Ba2 Rf6

Black avoided losing the exchange, but now White invades the seventh rank.

32.Re7 Be8 33.Qe5

Or 33.Qd4!.

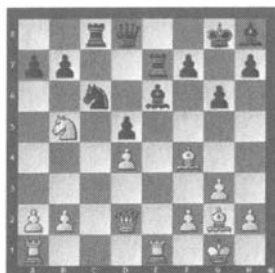
33...Bxh5 34.Rdd7

All of White's pieces dominate their counterparts.

34...Be8 35.Rc7 Qd8 36.Rxg7 Qd1+ 37.Kg2 Bg6 38.Rg8+ and Black resigned. **1–0**

M. Bluebaum (2643) – A. Shimanov (2587) Banter Blitz Cup chess24.com 2020

54.4)



19.Bg5! f6 20.Bf4!

Black is busted. The threat is Bd6 followed by Rxe6 and Bxd5. Black does not have a good way to meet this.

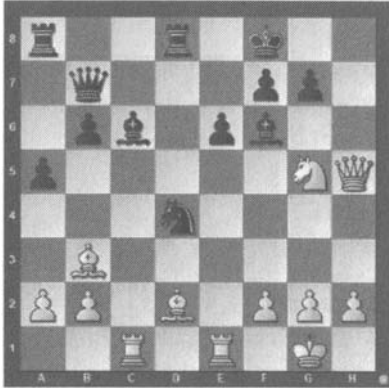
20...g5 21.Bd6 Re8 22.Rxe6 Rxe6 23.Bxd5 Qd7 24.Re1 Nd8 25.Qe2 a6 26.Qg4 Kf7 27.Bxe6+ Nxe6 28.d5 Nf8 29.Re7+ and Black resigned. 1–0

J. Xiong (2709) – S. Sevian (2660) PNWCC Online Blitz chess.com 2020

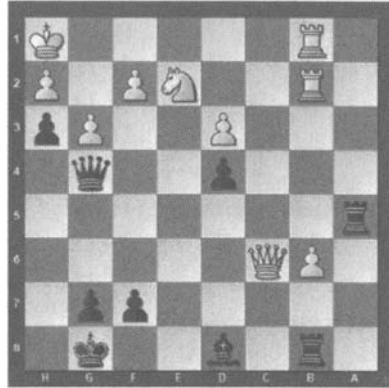
Set 55

Exercises to Set 55

55.1)



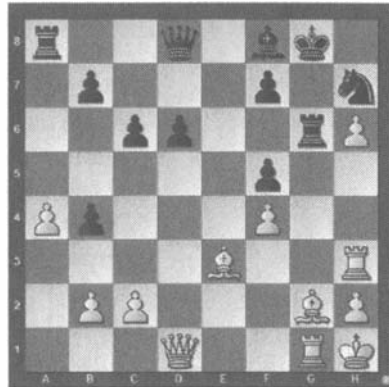
55.2)



55.3)



55.4)



55.1)

*

Hint: Not enough defenders

55.2)

Hint: Distract to save

55.3)

*

Hint: Diagonals and pins

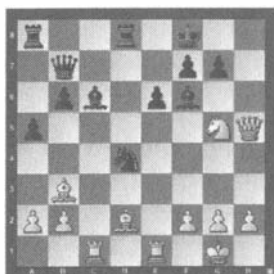
55.4)

*

Hint: More diagonals and pins

Solutions to Set 55

55.1)



22.Rxc6! Nxc6 23.Nxe6+!

All of Black's king cover has been ripped apart.

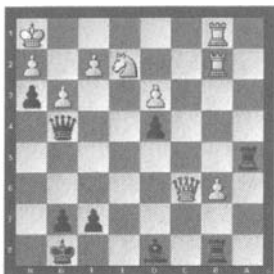
23...Kg8

Or 23...fxe6 24.Rxe6 and it is curtains for Black.

24.Nf4 Ne5 25.Rxe5 Rxd2 26.Ng6 Rd1+ 27.Qxd1 and Black resigned. 1–0

D. Pirrot (2313) – S. Stojanovski (2209) Bad Woerishofen 2020

55.2)



33...Rxb6!!

The only path to equality. If 33...Re5??, then

34.Ng1 wins for White. In the game, Ding Liren blundered and quickly lost after

33...Rc5?? 34.Qe8+ Kh7 35.Ng1 Rxb6

36.Qxd8 Rxb2 37.Rxb2 Rc1 38.Qh4+ Qxh4

39.gxh4 Rd1 40.f3 and Black resigned. 1–0

I. Nepomniachtchi (2774) - Ding Liren (2805) FIDE Candidates (Yekaterinburg) 2020.

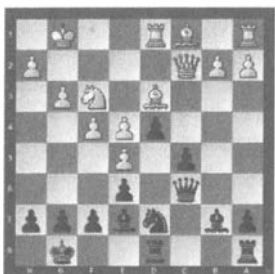
34.Rxb6 Qxe2 35.Rb8 Re5!

White's weak back rank allows Black to be a whole rook down.

.Rxd8+ Kh7 37.Rh8+ Kxh8 38.Qc8+ Kh7

39.Qxh3+ Kg6 40.Kg1 Qxd3 41.Qg4+ with a perpetual check.

55.3)



19...c4!

This pawn advance messes with White's piece coordination and ability to properly defend the long diagonal.

20.Bxc4

Or 20.Qxc4 Nc5! 21.Ne1 a5 22.b3 Qd7 and Black has a decisive advantage.

20...Rac8 21.b3 d3 22.Rxd3

Here, 22.Qxd3 Nxe5 is even worse.

22...Qxe4 23.Bb2 g5!

The game continued 23...Bc5+ 24.Kf1 Qf5

25.Qe2 Be4 26.Rdd1 Nb6 27.Rxd8+ Rxd8

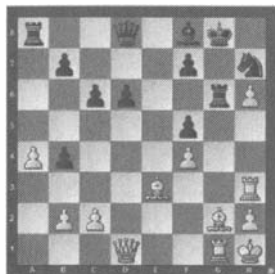
28.Rd1 Rxd1+ 29.Qxd1 Nxc4 30.bxc4 Bxf3

and White resigned. 0–1 **G.A. Gracia Alvarez**

(2284) – J. Obregon Rivero (2513) Mexico City 2020.

24.Re1 Qc6 25.fxg5 Nb6 and White cannot keep defending all his loose pieces.

55.4)



24.Bd5!

Setting up the direct threat of **Rxg6+** due to the pin of the f7–pawn.

24...Qf6

The alternatives do not work for Black either:

a) **24...cxd5 25.Rxg6+ fxg6 26.Qxd5+ Kh8 27.Bd4+** and White wins.

b) **24...Rxg1+ 25.Qxg1+ Kh8 26.Bxf7** with mate in a few moves.

25.Rhg3

Or **25.Bd4**, winning Black's queen.

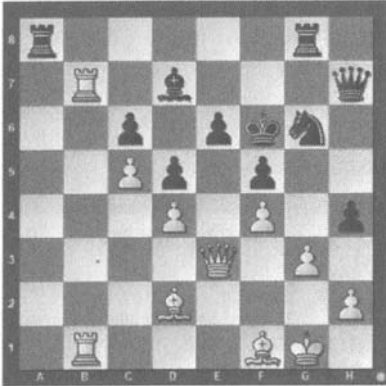
25...Ng5 26.fxg5 Qe7 27.Bd4 cxd5 28.Re3 Qc7 29.h7+ Kxh7 30.Rh3+ Bh6 31.Qh5 and Black could resign. **31...Kg8 32.Qxh6 Rxh6 33.Rxh6 Kf8 34.Re1 f6 35.Rh8+ Kg7 36.Bxf6+ Kg6 37.Rh6+** and Black finally resigned. **1–0**

G. Akash (2487) – G. Dauletova (2299) Bad Woerishofen 2020

Set 56

Exercises to Set 56

56.1)



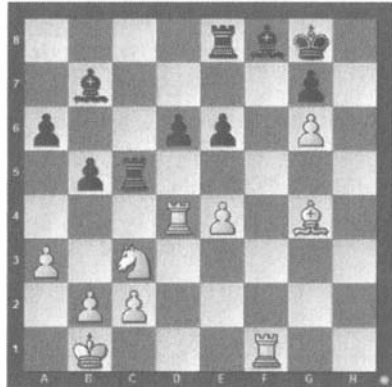
56.2)



56.3)



56.4)



56.1)

Hint: Announce the target

56.2)

Hint: Distract then attack

56.3)

**

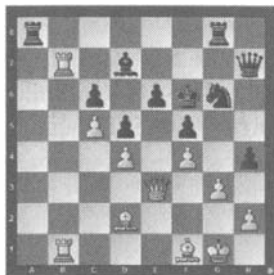
Hint: Bang a hole

56.4)

Hint: The right coordination

Solutions to Set 56

56.1)



35.g4! fxg4?

Black could have put up better resistance with 35...Qf7, although 36.g5+ Kg7 37.Be2 Rh8 38.Rc7 leaves Black hopelessly tied up.

36.f5!

The threat of Qg5+ crushes Black's resistance.

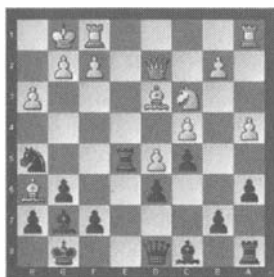
36...Nf8

Stops Qg5+ but opens access to the e5-square.

37.Qe5+ Ke7 38.fxe6 Nxe6 39.Rxd7+ and Black resigned. 1-0

En. Cvitan (2276) – J. Eric (2308) Belgrade 2020

56.2)



15...Bxh6! 16.Qxh6 Bxh3!

Boom!

17.gxh3 Qh4 18.Ne4

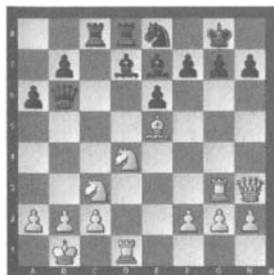
If 18.Kh2?, then 18...Rae8! and Black has a decisive attack.

18...Rxe4!

The game continuation was 18...Rae8?! 19.Rae1 R8e7? 20.Re3 f6?? 21.Rfe1 (Now White is winning) 21...Rf5 22.Ng3 Rg5 23.Rxe7 Rxg3+ 24.Kf1 Qxh3+ 25.Ke2 Qg4+ 26.Kd2 Rxd3+ 27.Kxd3 and Black resigned. **1-0 V. Sivuk (2579) – J. Bitensky (2377) Petah Tikva 2020.**

19.Bxe4 Qxe4 and Black has more than adequate compensation for the sacrificed exchange.

56.3)



21.Bxg7! Rxc3

Black tries to distract White's attackers. If 21...Nxc7?, then 22.Qh6 Bf8 23.Nf5! or 23.Ne4 and Black can resign.

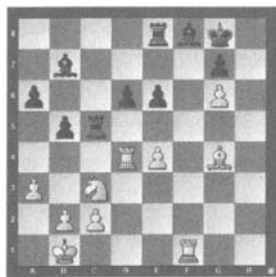
22.f3!

Please don't bother me while I'm attacking!

22...Nxc7 23.Qh6 Bf8 24.Nf5 and Black resigned. **1-0**

S. Lomasov (2546) – Peng Li Min (2426) Petah Tikva 2020

56.4)



26.Rd3!

The game continued 26.Rf7?? Bc8 27.Rd3? Rg5 28.Bh3 Be7 29.Rxe7?? Rxe7 30.Rxd6 Kf8 31.Ne2 Rxc6 32.e5 Kf7 33.Nf4 Rg3 34.Rd8 g5 and White resigned. **0-1 S. Cohen Revivo (2256) – Al. Zubarev (2445) Petah Tikva 2020.**

26...Rg5

Or 26...Ba8 27.Rh3 with a mating attack on the h-file.

27.Rg3 Rxc6

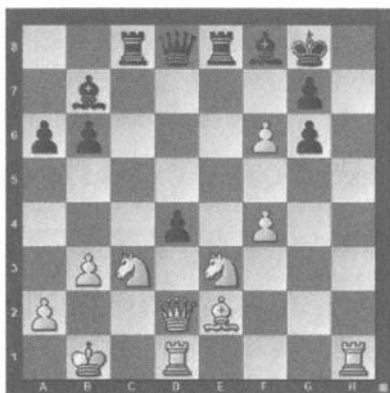
Or 27...Ba8 28.Bxe6+ Rxe6 29.Rxc6 and White is winning.

28.Bh5 Rxc3 29.Bf7+ Kh8 30.Rh1+ with mate.

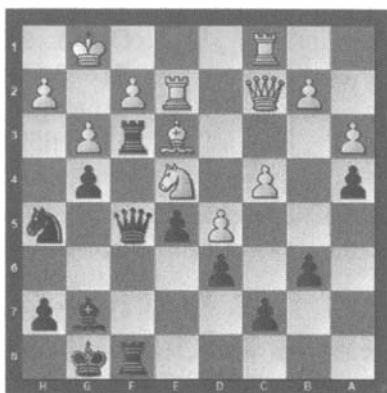
Set 57

Exercises to Set 57

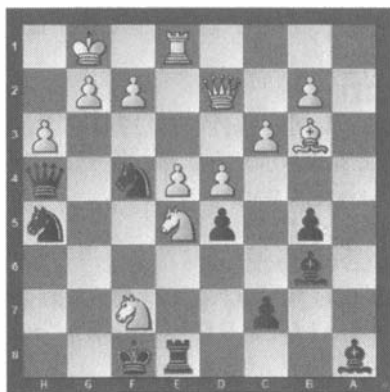
57.1)



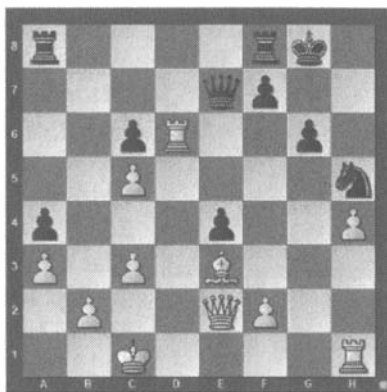
57.2)



57.3)



57.4)



57.1)

*

Hint: Sac, Sac, and mate

57.3)

**

Hint: Unleash the hidden
firepower

57.2)

**

Hint: More fuel to the fire

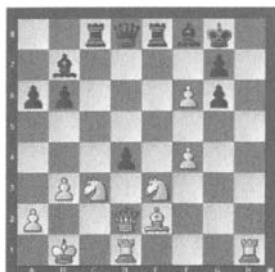
57.4)

*

Hint: Open files

Solutions to Set 57

57.1)



30.Bc4+! Rxc4 31.Rh8+! Kxh8 32.f7!

The point behind the two previous moves: Black's king is now trapped on the h-file.

32...Rc5?

Or 32...Bf3 33.Nxc4 Re6 34.Qh2+ Bh5 35.f5 Rc6 36.Ne4 followed by Ng3 and White is winning.

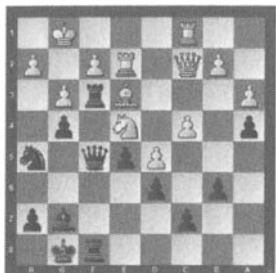
33.Ned5! Rxd5

Also, 33...Re5 34.fxe5 Qh4 35.Qxd4 g5 36.e6 is hopeless.

34.Nxd5 Re2 35.Rh1+ and, facing unavoidable mate, Black resigned. **1–0**

O. Bronstein (2428) – K. Tarlev (2570) Petah Tikva 2020

57.2)



23...Nf4! 24.gxf4

If White ignore the knight, other issues remain on the board 24.Rd2 Nh3+ 25.Kh1 Rxe3 and White can resign.

24...exf4 25.Nd2?!

Or better, 25.Bd2 Qh5 26.Qd1 Rd3 27.Rc3 Rd4 28.Qf1 f3 29.Ree3 Be5 30.Ng3 Bxg3 31.hxg3 Rxd2 and Black should win.

25...Qh5 26.Nf1 fxe3 27.fxe3 Be5

Black has a decisive attack.

28.Rg2 Kh8 29.Qe2 Qf5 30.Ng3 Bxg3 31.hxg3 Qe5 32.Rc3 Qe4 33.Qc2 Rf1+ 34.Kh2 Qe5 and White resigned. **0–1**

M. Fernandez Garcia (2283) – F. Sanchez Saez (2337) Madrid Team ch (Madrid) 2020

57.3)

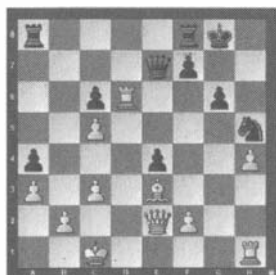


23...Rxe5! 24.dxe5 Qg3! There is no good way to stop the mate on g2, and therefore, White resigned. 0–1

S. Sjugirov (2662) – M. Carlsen (2876)

Banter Blitz Cup chess24.com 2020

57.4)



25.Qxh5!

There are also other moves that win, but this is the flashiest that also lead to an immediate winning position.

25...Qxd6!

Of course, Black will not allow the mate after 25...gxh5 26.Rg1+ Kh7 27.Rh6#.

26.Qh6 Qe7 27.Bd4 f6 28.Rg1 Kf7

Or 28...g5 29.Rxg5+!

29.Qxg6+ Ke6 30.Re1! Kd7 31.Rxe4 Qf7

32.Qf5+ Kc7 33.Be3 Qd7 34.Qf4+ Kc8

35.Rd4 Qd6 Mouse slip, but 35...Qe6 36.Rd6 otherwise, would have ended the game.

36.Qxd6 and Black resigned.

1–0

J. Van Foreest (2682) – A. Giri (2764) match chess24.com 2020

Set 58

Exercises to Set 58

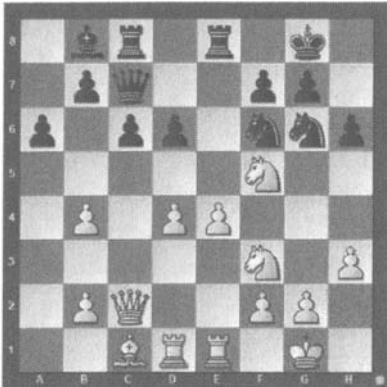
58.1)



58.2)



58.3)



58.4)



58.1)

Hint: Once the can is opened, the pouring never ends

58.2)

Hint: Crack the can at every price

58.3)

Hint: Find the attack and then the quiet move

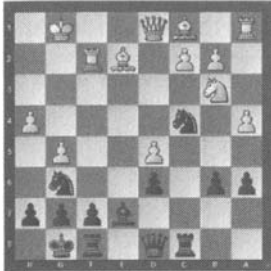
58.4)

**

Hint: Where is the focus?

Solutions to Set 58

58.1)



21...Nxh4! 22.Qd4 Bxg5 23.Bxc4 Bxc1 24.Rxc1 Qg5+ 25.Kf1?

White's best defense was 25.Kh2 Nf5 26.Rxf5 (or 26.Qf4 Qh5+ 27.Kg1 Qg6+ 28.Kh1 Ng3+ 29.Kh2 Nh5 and Black is winning) 26...Qxf5 27.Bd3 Qh5+ 28.Kg2 Rfe8 and Black has a clear advantage but there is still a lot of work left to be done.

25...Nf5 26.Rxf5 Qxf5+ 27.Kg2 Qg5+ 28.Kf3 Qf5+

Or 28...Rxc4 29.Qxc4 Re8 and Black is winning.

29.Kg2 Qg5+ 30.Kf3 Qf5+ 31.Ke2 Rfe8+ 32.Kd2 Re4 and White resigned. 0–1

H. Nakamura (2736) – M. Carlsen (2863)

Carlsen Inv chess24.com 2020

58.2)



16...Nxe3! 17.fxe3 Nxe5!

Black breaks White's position wide open. **18.dxe5**

If White tries to sidestep and not accept the piece sacrifice, 18.Be2, then 18...Nf7 and he has lost a pawn as well as everything that was good about his position; Black is winning.

18...Qxe3+ 19.Qe2 Qg3+ 20.Kd1 Rf2 21.Qe1 Raf8

Or 21...Qg4+ 22.Be2 Qa4+ 23.Rc2 Rxg2 and Black is winning.

22.Rc3 Qxg2

Black is winning.

23.Rc2 Bxa3 24.Rg1 Qh3 25.Rc3 Bb4 26.Rh1 Qg3 27.Rg1 Qf4 28.Kc2 Bxc3 29.Kxc3 Rxd2 30.Qxd2 Rc8+ and White resigned. 0–1

D. Paravyan (2653) – Nihal Sarin (2620)

Abu Dhabi Super Blitz chess.com 2020

58.3)



22.Bxh6! gxh6 23.Qc1!

Or 23.e5 dxe5 24.Qc1 with the same idea and almost the same effect.

23...Ne7??

Black should have played 23...Nh5 although 24.Qxh6 Ngf4 25.g3 Re6 26.Qg5+ Kf8 27.Kf1 Rg6 28.Qh4 leaves White winning.

24.Nxh6+ Kf8 25.Qf4!

The game continuation was 25.Ng5 Ng6 26.Rd3 d5 27.e5 Nxe5 28.dxe5 Rxe5 29.Rg3 Rxe1+ 30.Qxe1 Qe5 31.Nh7+ Ke7 32.Re3 Ne4 33.Ng4 Qxb2 34.Nhf6 Bf4 35.Rxe4+ dxe4 36.Qxe4+ Be5 37.Nxe5 Kxf6 38.Qf4+ Ke6 39.Qxf7+ Kd6 40.Nc4#. **1-0 A. Ruperez Benito (2356) – B. Savage (2273) 4NCL Online lichess.org 2020. 25...Neg8 26.Qg5!**

The threat is e4–e5.

26...Nxh6 27.Qxh6+ Ke7 28.e5 Ng8 29.Qg7 d5 30.e6 and White wins.

58.4)



19.Qxc6!

Also, 19.Bxh6 Qf6 20.Bxg7+ Qxg7 21.Qxc6 Rb8 22.Rxd5 wins for White.

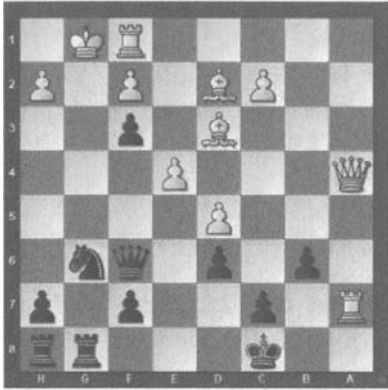
19...Rb8 20.Bg5!

The game continuation was 20.Bxh6? Rb6?? 21.Bg5 Rxc6 22.Bxd8 (White is winning) 22...d4 23.Nd5 Bc5 24.Ne7 Bxe7 25.Bxe7 Bb7 26.f4 Re6 27.Bg5 Bxg2 28.Rhg1 Bf3 29.Rd2 Be4 30.fxe5 Nxe5 31.Rxd4 Kh7 32.Rf1 Nf3 33.Rd7 Kg6 34.Be3 Rc6 35.c3 Kf6 36.h5 Rc8 37.Ra7 Rh8 38.h6 Ke5 39.hxg7 and Black resigned. **1-0 S. Sevian (2660) – A. Korobov (2688) Abu Dhabi Super Blitz chess.com 2020. 20...Qb6 21.Qxb6 Nxb6 22.Nxd5! Nxd5 23.Rxd5 hxg5 24.hxg5+ Kg8 25.Rd8+ Kf7 26.Rhh8** and Black can resign.

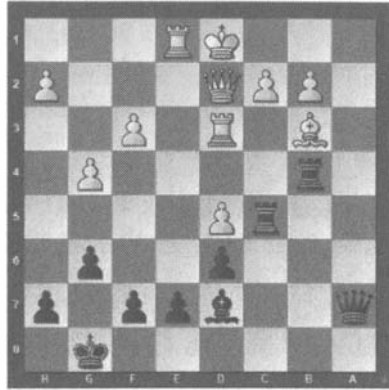
Set 59

Exercises to Set 59

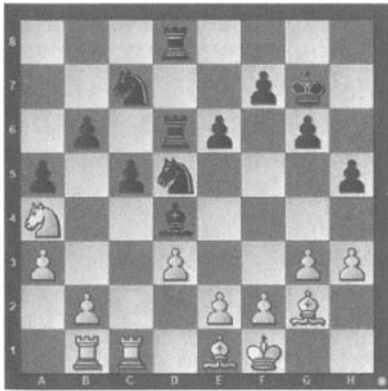
59.1)



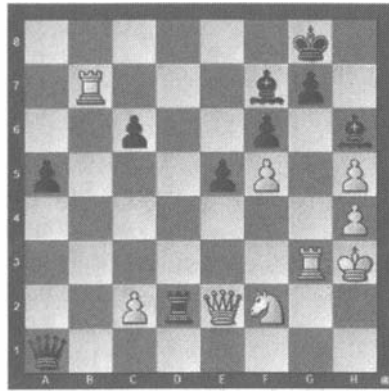
59.2)



59.3)



59.4)



59.1)

**

Hint: The right sequence is essential

59.2)

Hint: Exploit White's one true vulnerability

59.3)

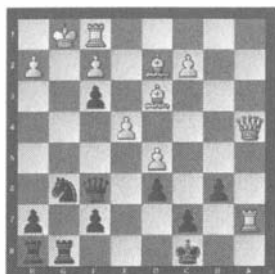
Hint: Work the weaknesses

59.4)

Hint: When the reward is right, any price is worth paying

Solutions to Set 59

59.1)



22...Ne5+!

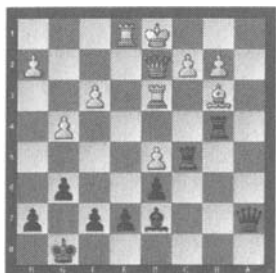
The game continuation was 22...Kd8?? 23.Kh1?? (White would have been winning after 23.e5 Nxe5+ 24.Kh1 Qg7 25.Qh4+ f6 26.Qg3 Qxg3 27.fxg3 and Black can resign) 23...Ne5 24.Qa1 Qg6 25.Rg1 Qg2+ 26.Rxg2 fxg2+ 27.Kg1 Nf3#. **0-1 K. Sychev (2572) – D. Andreikin (2726)** Abu Dhabi Super Blitz chess.com 2020.

23.Kh1 Kd8!

The king runs away to allow his own attack to continue.

24.Ra8+ Ke7 25.Qa7 Qg6 26.Qxc7+ Nd7 and White cannot stop ...Qg2 mate in any meaningful way.

59.2)



27...Rxc4!!

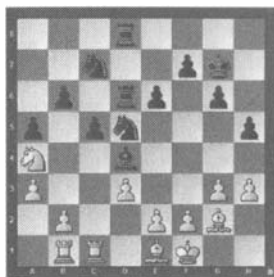
The game continuation was 27...Qa1+? 28.Ke2 Qa5? (Here, Black should have played 28...Qxb2 29.Qxb4 Rxc2+ 30.Ke3 Rg2 31.Rd4 Qf2+ 32.Kd3 Bb5+ 33.Qxb5 Qxe1 34.Kc4 Qc1+ 35.Kb4 Qe1+ 36.Kc4 Qc1+ with a perpetual check) 29.Kf2 Ba4 30.Rxe7 (Or 30.Bxa4 Qxa4 31.b3 Qa7 32.Kg3 with a clear advantage) 30...Qb6 31.Kg3 Bxb3 32.cxb3 Rxb3?? 33.Rxb3 (33.Qf4! forces mate in a few moves) 33...Qxb3 34.Qf4 Qxd5 35.Qf6 Rc8 36.b4 Rf8 37.Rd7 Qd1 38.Qxd6 Qg1+ 39.Kh3 Qf1+ 40.Kg3 Qg1+ 41.Kh4 h6 42.Rd8 Qf2+ 43.Kh3 Qxf3+ 44.Qg3 Qxg3+ 45.Kxg3 Rxd8 and White resigned. **0-1 Le Quang Liem (2709) – O. Cvitan (2467)** Abu Dhabi Super Blitz chess.com 2020.

28.Rde3

Or 28.c4 Rh4 29.Re4 Qa1+ 30.Kc2 Rh3 and Black is winning.

28...Ra5 and Black is winning.

59.3)



25.e3! Bf6

The engine claims that the lesser evil for Black is 25...Bxe3 26.fxe3 Nxe3+ 27.Kf2 Nxg2 28.Kxg2 and White is clearly better, having won a piece.

26.d4!

Suddenly Black's position collapses.

26...cxd4 27.e4!

The point: if the knight on d5 moves, the knight on c7 will be unprotected.

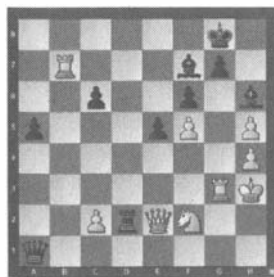
27...b5 28.exd5 Nxd5 29.Nc5

White has won a piece and is, of course, winning.

29...Ra8 30.Nd3 Bd8 31.Rc5 Rb8 32.Bxd5
Rxd5 33.Rxd5 exd5 34.Rc1 Kf6 35.Rc6+ Ke7
36.Ke2 Kd7 37.Ne5+ Ke7 38.Bd2 Ke8 39.Rc5
Rb6 40.Rxd5 Re6 41.Kd1 Bf6 42.Nd3 and
Black resigned. 1-0

H. Gabuzyan (2557) – A. Kashlinskaya (2494) Abu Dhabi Super Blitz chess.com 2020

59.4)



40.Rb8+ Kh7 41.Qg4!

Threatening Qg6+ with mate to follow.

41...Qf1+

Or 41...Bg5 42.hxg5 fxg5 43.Qxg5 Qf1+
44.Rg2 and Black can only seek to delay, not
avoid, the threatened mate.

42.Rg2 Qxg2+ 43.Kxg2 and Black resigned.
1-0

A. Firouzja (2728) – M. Carlsen (2863)
Carlsen Inv chess24.com 2020

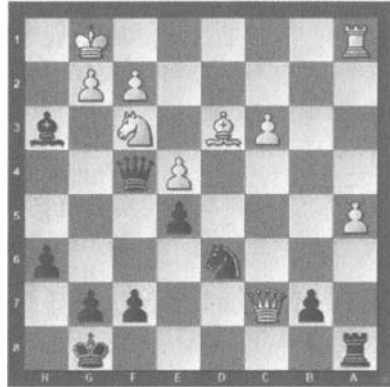
Set 60

Exercises to Set 60

60.1)



60.2)



60.3)



60.4)



60.1)

**

Hint: Somebody is exposed

60.2)

Hint: Is there more than a perpetual check

60.3)

Hint: Not enough defenders of the most important squares

60.4)

Hint: Let's open the can

Solutions to Set 60

60.1)



16.Rd3!

Both 16.Qc2 Bb4 17.Nc5 and 16.h4 are also giving White a large advantage.

16...Na4

Or 16...Bb4 17.Nc5 Qa5 18.Nxb7 Qa6 19.Rxb4 Qxb7 20.Rc3 with a decisive advantage for White.

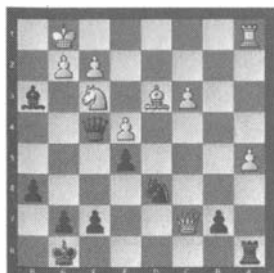
17.h4 c5 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Nc4 Qb4 20.Nbd2 Bxd2 21.Rxb4 Bxb4 22.h5

White is winning. Yet, he didn't manage to win the game.

22...b5 23.hxg6 bxc4 24.gxh7+ Kh8 25.Rf3 c3 26.a3 cxd4 27.axb4 Rac8 28.Qc2 Nb2 29.Bf1 Rfd8 30.Bd3 e5 31.g4 Kxh7 32.Kf1 Nxd3 33.Rxd3 Rc4 34.Qc1 Kg7 35.g5 f5 36.g6 fxe4 37.gxf7 exd3 38.Qg5+ Kxf7 39.Qf5+ Ke7 40.Qxe5+ Kf7 41.Qf5+ Ke7 42.Qe5+ Kf7 ½-½

Ding Liren (2791) – A. Firouzja (2728)
Carlsen Inv chess24.com 2020

60.2)



34...Bxg2! 35.Kxg2 Qg4+ 36.Kh2 Qxf3!

In the game, Black took the perpetual check with 36...Qf4+ 37.Kg1 Qg4+ 38.Kh2 Qf4+ 39.Kg2 Qg4+ 40.Kh2 and draw agreed. ½-½ F. **Caruana (2835) – M. Roiz (2583)** Abu Dhabi Super Blitz chess.com 2020.

37.Qxd6 Qxf2+ 38.Kh3 Qf3+ 39.Kh2 Qh5+ 40.Kg2 Qg5+ 41.Kf2 Rd8 and Black is winning.

60.3)



28.a3! Qa5 29.Qg4!

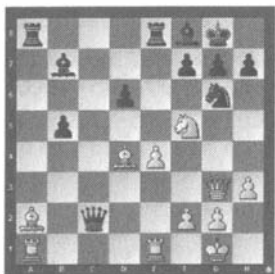
In the game, the world champion instead went for 29.Rxf6 and also soon won after 29...cxd4 30.Qg4 Qd2 31.Qxe6+ Ke8 32.Rc7 Qxe3+ 33.Kg2 Rh7 34.Qd7# . 29.Nxe6! is also winning for White. **1-0 M. Carlsen (2876) – A. Firouzja (2702) Banter Blitz Cup chess24.com 2020.**

29...f5

Or 29...cxd4 30.Rxf6 and it is curtains for Black.

30.exf5 cxd4 31.fxe6+ Kd8 32.Qxd4 and Black cannot avoid mate.

60.4)



25.Bxf7+! Kxf7 26.Rac1! Qa2

Or 26...Qd2 27.Qb3+ d5 28.Qxb5 Rab8 29.Red1 Qf4 30.Qd7+ (White has an incredible attack, but it takes a while to crash through entirely, for instance, 30...Be7 31.Be3 Qe5 32.f4 Qe6 33.Qxe6+ Kxe6 34.Nxg7+ Kd7 35.Nxe8 Rxe8 36.Rb1 Bc6 37.f5 Nh4 38.Ra1 and White is winning.

27.Rc7+ Kg8

Or 27...Re7 28.Nxe7 Bxe7 29.Rxb7 and White is winning.

28.Bxg7 Be7 29.Rxb7 Ra3 30.Qxd6! Ra6

30...Bxd6 31.Nh6# is pretty.

31.Qd7 Raa8 32.Bc3

White is, of course, completely winning.

32...h5 33.Rb6 Kh7 34.Rxg6 Kxg6 35.Nxe7+ Rxe7 36.Qf5+ Kh6 37.Qf6+ Kh7 38.Qxe7+ Qf7 39.Qxf7+ Kh6 40.Qg7# 1-0

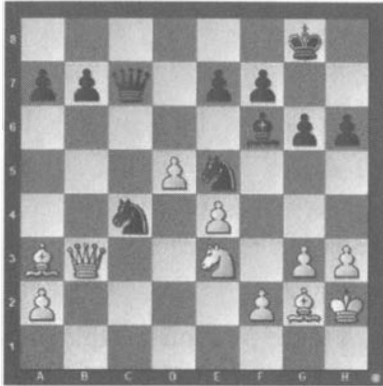
J. Sindarov (2557) – L R Srihari (2414)

Sunway Sitges Online chess.com 2020

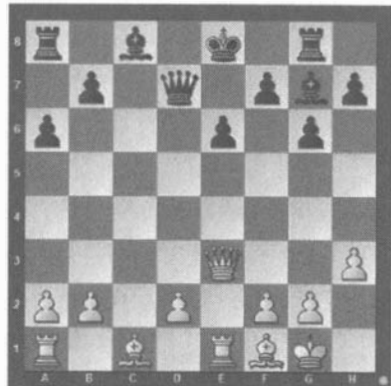
Set 61

Exercises to Set 61

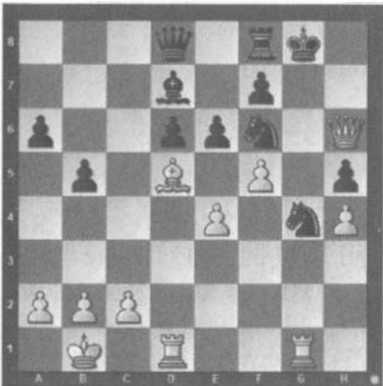
61.1)



61.2)



61.3)



61.4)



61.1)

Hint: Clear, then attack

61.2)

Hint: Mobilization is the key

61.3)

Hint: Which file should we open?

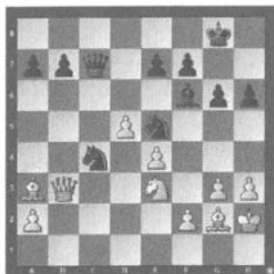
61.4)

**

Hint: Bound and beaten

Solutions to Set 61

61.1)



26.d6!

But not 26.f4 Nxe3 27.fxe5 Bg5 and Black survives.

26...exd6 27.Nd5!

The point of the previous move.

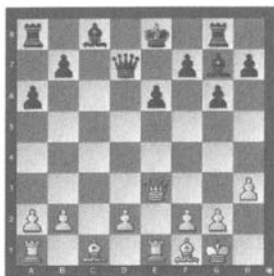
27...Qd8 28.Nxf6+ Qxf6 29.f4

Now Black loses a piece.

29...Nd2 30.fxe5 Qf2 31.Qd3 dxe5 32.Bc1 and Black resigned. 1–0

C. Sielecki, C (2431) – A. Kashlinskaya (2494) IM Not A GM chess.com 2020

61.2)



19.d4!

White rushes to open the position to exploit his lead in development and Black uncastled king.

19...Bxd4

The alternatives are:

a) 19...Qxd4 20.Qb3 with a decisive advantage for White.

b) 19...b5 20.d5 Qxd5 21.Be2 Qd4 22.Qf3 and White is winning.

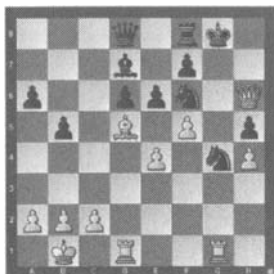
c) 19...Qd5 20.Qg3 followed by Be2–f3 with a devastating attack.

20.Qe4!

The game continuation was 20.Qb3 Qc7 21.Re4 Bc5 22.Bf4 Qb6 23.Qc2 Bd7 24.Rc4 Be7 25.Be3 Qa5 26.Rc7 Bd6 27.Rxb7 Rc8 28.Qd3 Bc6 29.Rb6 1–0 **K. Shevchenko (2592) – R. Reimanis (2421)** Sunway Sitges Online chess.com 2020.

20...f5 21.Qh4 Kf7 22.Qxh7+ Rg7 23.Qh4 Bf6 24.Bg5 and White has a large advantage.

61.3)



23.e5!

The brute force and only way to break through. And... we like the d-file to be opened.

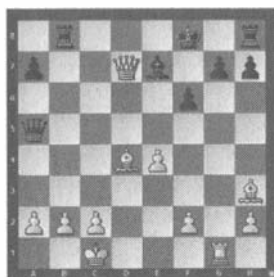
23...dxe5 24.fxe6 fxe6 25.Bxe6+ Bxe6 26.Rxd8 Rxd8 27.Rxg4+! Bxg4 28.Qg6+ Kf8 29.Qxf6+ Ke8 30.Qxe5+

White is winning.

30...Kf7 31.b3 Rd7 32.Kb2 Re7 33.Qf4+ Ke8 34.Ka3 Re6 35.Qc7 Bf5 36.Kb4 Bg4 37.Ka5 Bf5 38.a3 Re7 39.Qc5 Bg4 40.Kxa6 1-0

D. Paravyan, D (2653) – D. Dvirnyy (2485)
Molodezhka vs ITA lichess.org 2020

61.4)



19.Be6!

The game continuation was 19.e5 fxe5 (Black should have played 19...Rd8 20.Qg4 g6

21.exf6 and White has a decisive advantage)

20.Bc3 (Now, the best was 20.Qf5+! Bf6 (or

20...Ke8 21.Bg2) 21.Rd1! and White is

winning) 20...Qxa2 21.Qf5+? (21.Rg3! wins)

21...Bf6 22.b3 Qa3+ 23.Bb2 Qc5?? 24.Rd1

Qb4 25.Kb1 Qf4 26.Qe6 Re8 27.Ba3+ Be7

28.Bxe7+ and Black resigned. **1-0 P. Papp**

(2338) – M. Lubbe (2287) HUN-GER

chess.com 2020.

19...Rd8 20.Qxa7 Qxa7 21.Bxa7 and White has a decisive advantage.

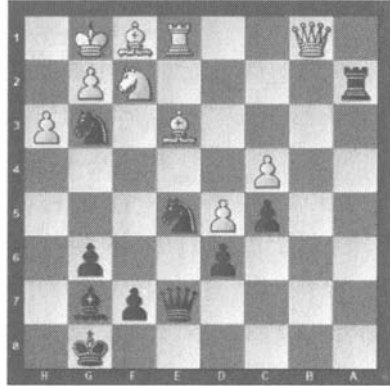
Set 62

Exercises to Set 62

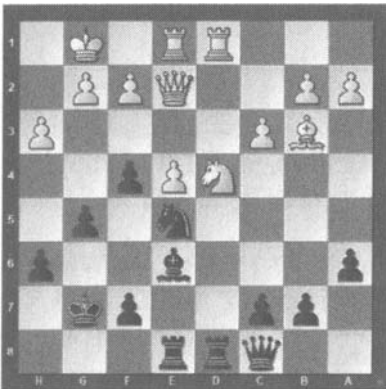
62.1)



62.2)



62.3)



62.4)



62.1)

Hint: Break down this wall

62.2)

Hint: A better square or a worse square

62.3)

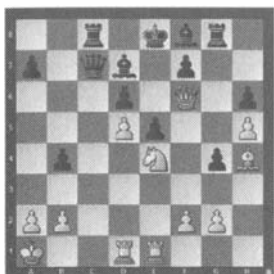
Hint: Let's not overthink this

62.4)

Hint: Wood or WOOD!

Solutions to Set 62

62.1)



26.Nxd6+!

The text move is the most straight-forward, but for some reason, the engines prefer 26.Rb1; and 26.b3, still with the same intention, to capture on d6 and crash through in the center.

26...Bxd6 27.Rxe5+! Kf8

Or 27...Be6 28.Rxe6+ fxe6 29.Qxe6+ Kf8 30.Qf5+ and White is winning.

28.Qxh6+ Rg7 29.Bf6 and Black resigned. 1–0

S. Lomasov (2528) – N. Steinberg (2554)

Molodezhka vs ISR lichess.org 2020

62.2)



34...Rb2! 35.Qc1 Nxf1 36.Kxf1

Or 36.Rxf1 Nxc4 and Black is winning.

36...Qb7 37.Bh6

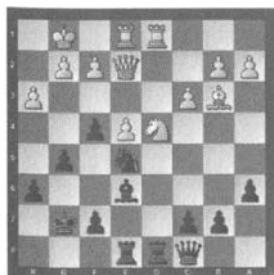
Or 37.Kg1 Qb3 38.Kh1 Qa2 and Black is winning.

37...Rxf2+ and White is resigned. 0–1

Han Yichen (2307) – V. Volodar (2465)

Candidates FED U16 chess.com 2020

62.3)



22...Bxh3! 23.gxh3 Qxh3 24.f3??

White should have defended with 24.Qf1, after which Black's best line is 24...Qh5 25.Qg2 Kf6 26.Qh1 Qxh1+ 27.Kxh1 c5 28.Nf5 (Or 28.Ne2 Nd3 29.Rf1 Rxe4 and Black is clearly better) 28...Nd3 29.Rf1 Rxe4 30.Rxd3 Rxd3 (Black has a large advantage) 31.Bc2 c4 32.Bxd3 cxd3 33.Nd4 Re2 34.Nxe2 dxe2 and Black is winning - "long variation, wrong variation", Larsen used to say. And there are certainly improvements possible along the way, but it illustrates possible play.

24...Rxd4 25.Rf1 Rxd1 26.Qxd1 g4 27.fxg4 Qg3+

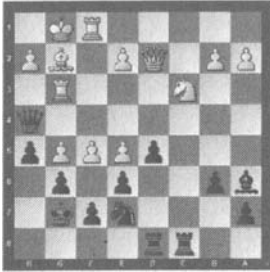
Black is clearly winning.

28.Kh1 Nxg4 29.Qd2 Re5 and White resigned.0–1

T. Grutter (2253) – J.S. Thybo (2590)

Sunway Sitges Online chess.com 2020

62.4)



24...Nxf5!

Black gives up the queen but gets enough currency in return. The game continued

24...gxf5 25.Rf4 (White is clearly better) 25...d4

26.Nb1 Qxf4 27.Qxf4 Ng6 28.Qd2 Nxe5

29.Ra3 Bb5 30.Rxa7 Ng4 31.Na3 Bxe2 32.h3

d3 33.hxg4 hxg4 34.Nb1 e5 35.Qe3 Rc5 36.Nd2

Rd4 37.Qg3 Rc1+ 38.Kh2 f4 39.Qh4 g3+

40.Kh3 Rd6 41.Bd5 Re6 42.Rxf7+ Kxf7

43.Qh7+ Kf8 44.Qf5+ **1-0 Ding Liren (2791) –**

F. Caruana (2835) D73 Carlsen Inv

chess24.com 2020.

25.Rf4 d4! 26.Nd5

Or 26.Ne4?? Rc2! and Black has a decisive advantage.

26...Nxg3 27.Rxh4 Nxe2+ 28.Kf2 exd5 and

Black has the better chances.

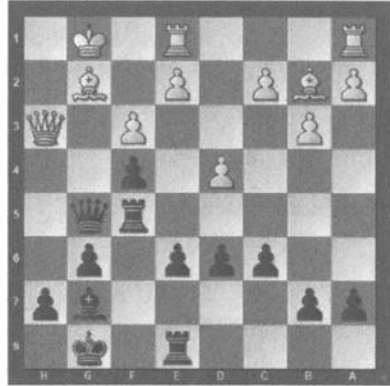
Set 63

Exercises to Set 63

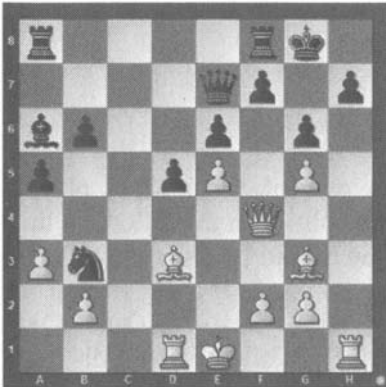
63.1)



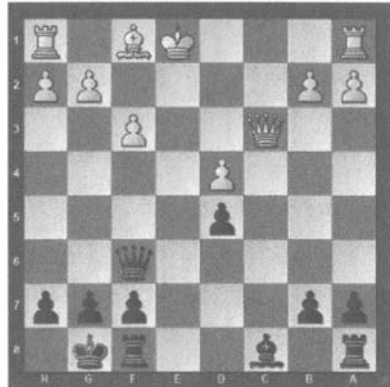
63.2)



63.3)



63.4)



63.1)

Hint: Underprotected is not protected

63.2)

Hint: Switching focus

63.3)

Hint: A pile-on situation

63.4)

Hint: Rapid mobilization

Solutions to Set 63

63.1)



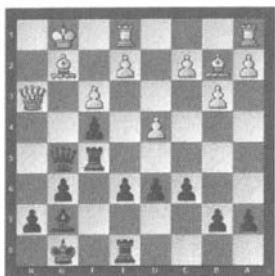
18.Rxf7! Qh4

If 18...Qxd2, then 19.Ne7+ with mate to follow.
19.Ne7+ Qxe7 20.Rxe7 Rf3 21.Rxf3 and Black resigned. 1–0

C. Yip (2420) – K. Arakhamia-Grant (2380)

Isolated Queens chess.com 2020

63.2)



21...Qf6!

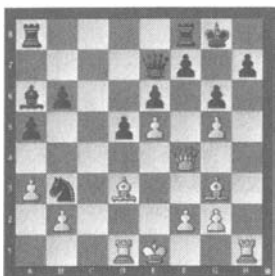
The threat is to trap the white queen.

22.Kf2 Rh5 23.Qg4 Rh4 24.d5 Qd8 and White resigned. 0–1

M. Yashmetov (2298) – P. Bersamina (2462)

Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

63.3)



21.Rh6!

White needs to prevent Black from playing ...h7–h5 as is exemplified in the following line:
21.Bc2 a4 22.Qh4 h5 and Black is still alive.

21...Bxd3

Or 21...Kg7 22.Bxa6 Rxa6 23.Qf6+ Qxf6 24.exf6+ Kg8 25.Ke2 followed by Rdh1, and Rxh7 with a decisive attack.

22.Qh4 f5 23.exf6 Qf7 24.Rxd3 Nc5 25.Re3

The game continuation was 25.Rd1 e5 26.Bxe5 Rfe8 27.f4 Nd7 28.Qh2 Nxe5 29.fxe5 Qe6 30.Kf1 Qg4 31.Re1 Ra7 32.e6 Kh8 33.Qe5 Qf5+ 34.Qxf5 gxf5 35.g6 Rxe6 36.g7+ Kg8 37.Rxe6 and Black resigned. 1-0 **E. Rosen (2353) – A. Kashlinskaya (2494)** IM Not A GM chess.com 2020.

25...Ra7 26.Be5 and Black is hopelessly tied up and White is winning.

63.4)



13...Bf5!

This is the most precise, but even 13...Re8+ 14.Kf2 Bf5 is pretty terrible for White.

14.Rd1 Rac8 15.Qb4 Rc2 16.Rd2 Re8+ 17.Kd1

The alternatives 17.Kf2 a5 and 17.Be2 Rc1+ 18.Rd1 Qg5 both leave Black winning.

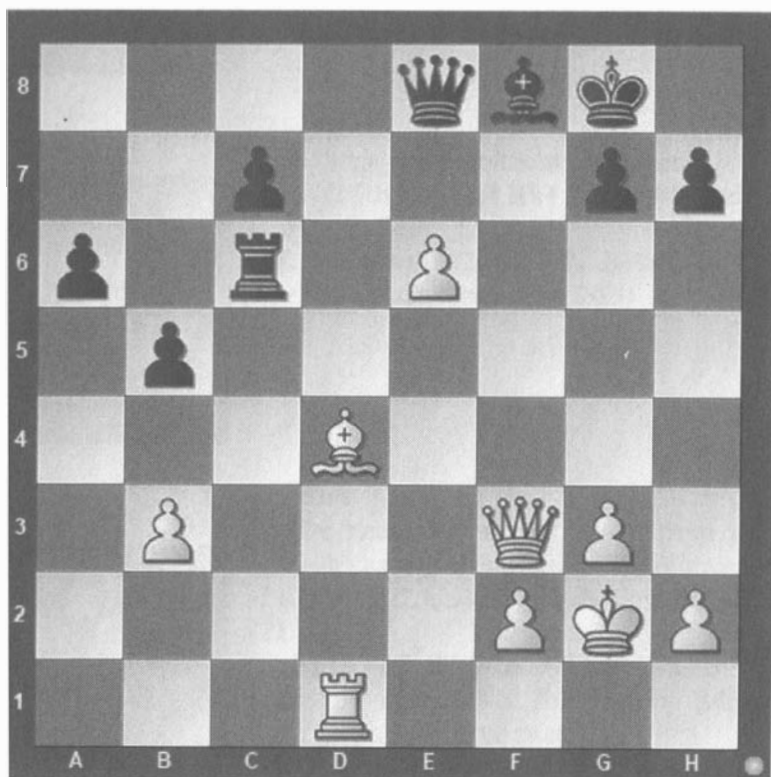
17...Qc6 and White resigned; there is no way good way of stopping ...Rc1#. **0-1**

G. Morozov (2361) – M. Sebenik (2498)

Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

Chapter 5

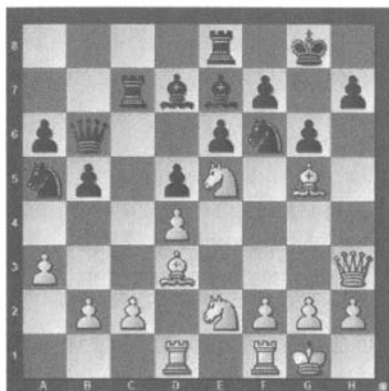
Sets 64-78



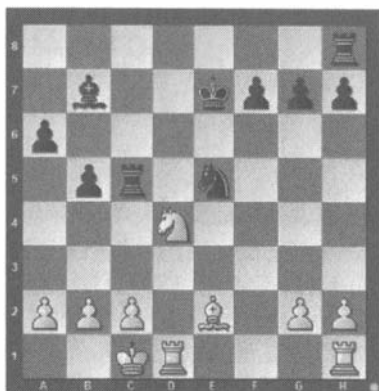
Set 64

Exercises to Set 64

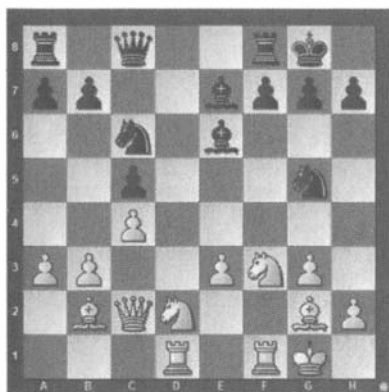
64.1)



64.2)



64.3)



64.4)



64.1)

Hint: Squeeze where it hurts

64.2)

*

Hint: When there's no safety to be found

64.3)

**

Hint: Things are pointing in the right direction

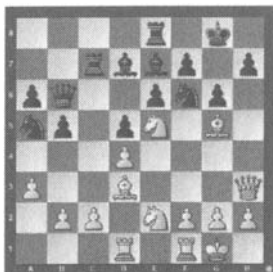
64.4)

**

Hint: Without enough guardians, things will soon get drafty

Solutions to Set 64

64.1)



18.Qh4!

But not 18.Bxf6? Bxf6 19.Nxf7 e5! and Black is better. The immediate 18.Nxf7 is not as good: 18...e5 19.Nh6+ Kg7 20.Nf5+ Bxf5 21.Bxf5 gxf5 22.Qh6+ Kg8 23.dxe5 Nd7 24.e6 and White has a clear advantage.

18...Kg7 19.Nf4

The game continuation was 19.Ng4? Nxe4 20.Bxe7 h5?? (20...Rxe7 was necessary) 21.h3 Nh6 22.Bf6+ Kh7 23.Qxh5 e5 24.Bg5 and Black resigned. **1-0 M. Lugovskoy (2420) – M. Freitag (2356)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

19...Ng8 20.Nxf7!

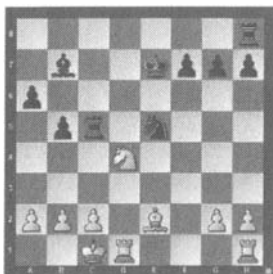
Or 20.Nh5+ gxh5 21.Qg3 Bxg5 22.Qxg5+ Kf8 23.Bxh7 and White is winning.

20...Bxg5

If 20...Kxf7 White forces mate with 21.Qxh7+ Kf8 22.Nxg6#.

21.Nxg5 h6 22.Bxg6 Re7 23.Bd3 and White is winning.

64.2)



17.Nf5+! Kf6

Or 17...Ke6 18.Rhf1 f6 19.Nxg7+ Kf7 20.Nf5 and White is winning.

18.Rhf1 Bxg2??

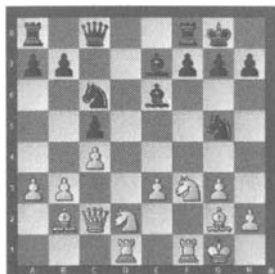
Black's blunder ends the game. But even the better option, 18...Bc8 19.Rd6+ Be6 20.b4 Rcc8 21.Rxa6 does not promise Black much hope of survival, but at least he is alive.

19.Rd6+ Kg5 20.h4# Checkmate ends the game. **1-0**

G. Lettieri (2433) – D. Bocharov (2524)

Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

64.3)



18.Ne4! b6?

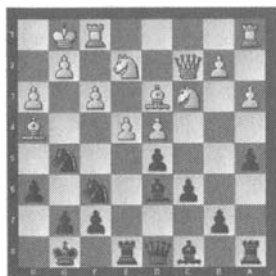
The engine considers this a major mistake, instead offering 18...Qc7, but after 19.Nxc5 Bg4 20.Rde1 Rad8 21.Ne4, White has simply won a pawn for nothing and has a decisive advantage.

19.Nd6 Qc7 20.Nb5 Qc8

After 20...Qb7, White has the spectacular continuation 21.Rd6! Rac8 22.Rf6!! Bg5 23.Rf4 and White is winning.

21.Rd6 Ne7 22.g4! and Black has no good way of meeting the threat of g4–g5 without losing a bunch of material. The game continued 22.Bxa8? Qxa8 23.Nc7? Qe4 24.Rf4 Qb1+ 25.Kg2?! Nf5 26.Nxe6 fxe6? (Black could have held the balance after 26...Nxd6 27.Nxf8 Ne4 28.Qc1 Qd3 29.Qf1 Qc2+ 30.Rf2 Nxf2 31.Qxf2 Qd3 32.Qf3 Bg5 and the knight on f8 is trapped) 27.Rxe6 Nxe3+ 28.Rxe3 Rd8 29.Rf1 Qg6 30.Ref3 and Black resigned. **1–0 A. Kosteniuk (2471) – C. Sihite (2252)** Isolated Queens chess.com.

64.4)



15...Nfxe4!

Boom!

16.fxe4

The engine thinks that 16.Kh1 is White's best move, but since it leaves Black up a pawn for nothing we will not analyze further.

16...Nxh3+

Double BOOM!

17.gxh3 Qxh4

Black already has a decisive attack.

18.e5 Rxe5!

Triple BOOM!

19.Bf5 Qg5+ 20.Kh1 Bxf5

Black has a decisive attack.

21.Qc1 Re3 22.Ng1 Qg3 23.Qd2 Bxh3

24.Rfe1 Bg2+ 25.Qxg2 Qh4+ 26.Nh3 Rxh3+ and White resigned. **0–1**

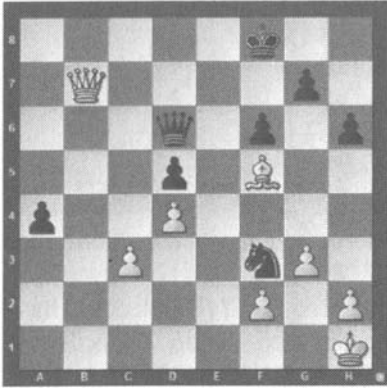
A. Kashlinskaya (2494) – E. Rosen (2353)

IM Not A GM chess.com 2020

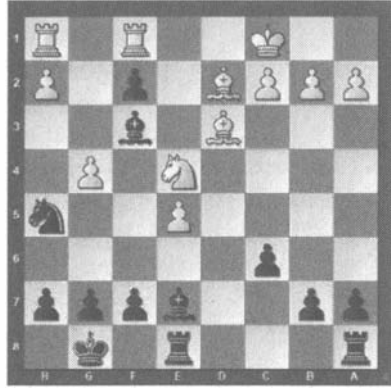
Set 65

Exercises to Set 65

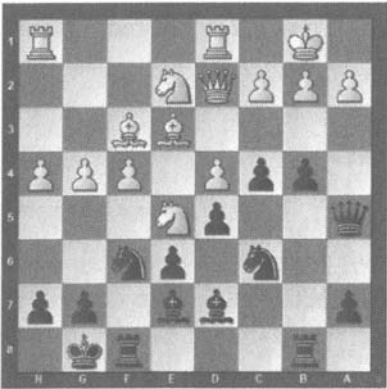
65.1)



65.2)



65.3)



65.4)



65.1)

**

Hint: The biggest weakness

65.2)

Hint: Protect your assets

65.3)

Hint: Let's open this can

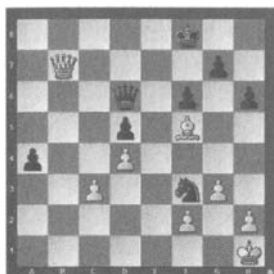
65.4)

*

Hint: The consequences of not following opening fundamentals

Solutions to Set 65

65.1)



32.Bg6! Ng5

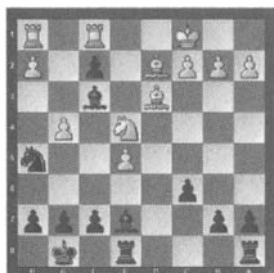
Or 32...Qe6 33.Qb4+ Kg8 34.Qb8+ and mate.

33.Qc8+ and Black resigned. 1–0

M. Carlsen (2863) - Ding Liren (2791)

Carlsen Inv chess24.com 2020

65.2)



19...Bh4!

This is the only move to secure a significant advantage for Black.

20.gxh5

Or 20.Nxf2 Bxf2 21.Rxf2 Bxh1 22.gxh5 Rxe5 and Black is winning.

20...Rxe5 21.Ng3 Rae8 22.Bc3 Bg5+ 23.Kb1 Bxh1 and the world champion resigned. 0–1

M. Carlsen (2863) - Ding Liren (2791)

Carlsen Inv chess24.com 2020

65.3)



18...c3!

Or 18...Rb6 19.Nc1 c3 20.Qd3 Ra6 21.Be2 Nb8 and Black has a large, possibly decisive advantage.

19.Qd3 The alternatives were: 19.Qc1 Rb6 and Black has a strong attack; and 19.Qe1 cxb2 20.g5 Rb6 21.Kxb2 Ra6 and Black has a decisive advantage.

19...b3! 20.Qxc3

Or 20.cxb3 c2+ 21.Qxc2 Nb4 and Black is winning. If 20.axb3 cxb2 21.Kxb2 Qa3+ 22.Kb1 Nb4 and it is curtains for White.

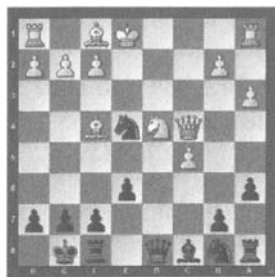
20...Qxa2+ 21.Kc1 Bb4 and White resigned.

0–1

V. Bernadskiy (2629) – V. Tsay (2310)

PNWCC Online chess.com 2020

65.4)



14...e5! 15.Bxe5

15.f3 exf4 16.fxe4 Qh4+ 17.g3 fxg3 18.0-0-0 Rd8 19.Bg2 Nc6 is much better for Black.

15...Re8!

The game continued 15...Nc6 16.Qc2?? (16.Nf3 Bf5 would only be clearly better for Black) 16...Qa5+ 17.Kd1 Nxd4 18.Qxe4 Nb3 19.Bd3 Qd2# **0-1 B. Savchenko (2564) – D. Andreikin (2726)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

16.f4 Bg4 and Black is winning.

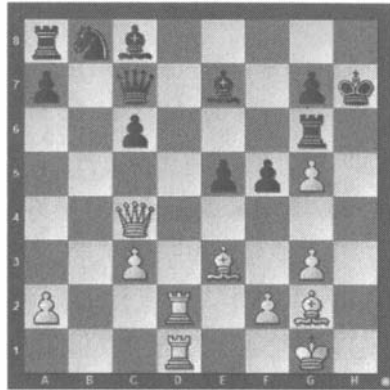
Set 66

Exercises to Set 66

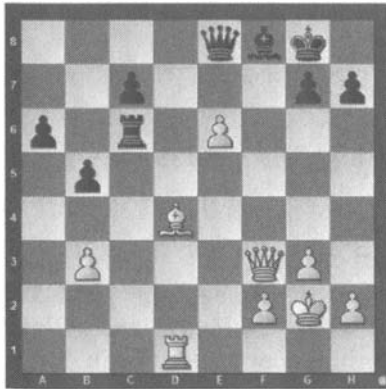
66.1)



66.2)



66.3)



66.4)



66.1)

Hint: Push!!

66.2)

**

Hint: Take and give

66.3)

Hint: Some burdens are never easy

66.4)

**

Hint: Pins and punts

Solutions to Set 66

66.1)



20...g5!

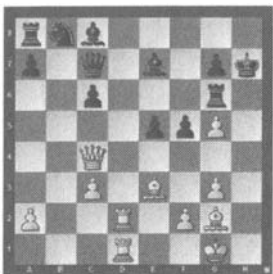
Patience meets brutality. The game continuation was 20...Rxh2? 21.fxe4?? (White should have captured the rook: 21.Kxh2 Nxb3 22.Qd1 Ne2+ 23.Nf4 Bxf4+ 24.Kg2!! Nxc3 25.Qd2 when White, if anything, is better) 21...Bxg3 22.Qf3 Rh3 23.Kf1 fxe4 24.Nxe4 dxe4 25.Qxe4 Bxe1 26.Rxe1 0-0-0 27.Nf4 Re8 28.Qxg6 Rh1+ 29.Kf2 Rxe1 30.Kxe1 Bd7 31.e4 Qd6 32.e5 Qxd4 33.e6 Qxf4 34.Kd1 Rxe6 0-1 V. Yaniuk (2233) – P. Idani (2588) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

21.fxe4 fxe4 22.Nxe4 dxe4 23.Bxe4 f5! 24.d5 Bd7

24...Qh7!?

25.dxc6 bxc6 26.Bd3 0-0-0! and Black has a strong attack on the kingside.

66.2)



28.Bd5!

Threatens Kg2 and Rh1.

28...f4

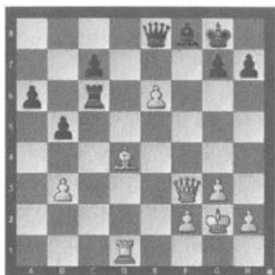
Or 28...Rxg5 29.Kg2 Rh5 30.Bf3! and White is winning.

29.Be4

Renews the threat of Kg2.

29...Bxg5 30.Rd6 Bf6 31.Kg2 f3+ 32.Kxf3 Bg4+ 33.Kg2 Bxd1 34.Rxd1 and Black resigned. A beautifully conducted attack. 1-0 Yu Yangyi (2709) – W. So (2770) Online Nations Cup Final chess.com 2020

66.3)



29.e7!

White also gets a large advantage after 29.Bxg7 Rxe6 30.Bxf8 Qxf8 31.Qd5 but the text move is even better.

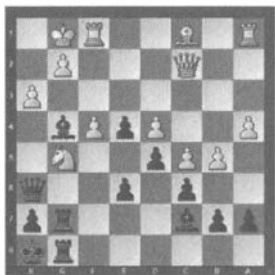
29...Bxe7

Obviously, 29...Qxe7 30.Qxc6 is out of the question.

30.Qd5+ Kh8 31.Re1 Rd6 32.Qe5 and Black resigned. 1–0

S. Sevan (2660) – A. Hnydiuk (2411) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

66.4)



27...Bxh3!

The game continued with 27...Bf5?! 28.g4 Rxc5? 29.fxc5 Qxh3 30.gxf5?? (30.Qg2 defends) 30...e3 31.Qg2 Rxc5 32.Qxc5 Qh2#
0-1 I. Rozum (2566) – V. Dmitrenko (2456)
Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

28.gxh3 e3! 29.Bxe3 Qxh3 30.Qd2 Qg3+ 31.Kh1 Qh4+ 32.Qh2

Or 32.Kg1 h6 and Black is winning.

32...Qxh2+ 33.Kxh2 Rxc5 and Black has the much better chances in the endgame.

Set 67

Exercises to Set 67

67.1)



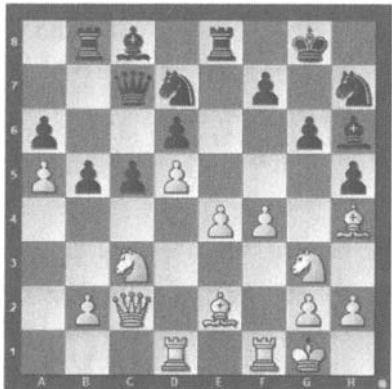
67.2)



67.3)



67.4)



67.1)

*

Hint: Boom!

67.2)

**

Hint: Two forks are better than a spoon

67.3)

**

Hint: Don't overthink it

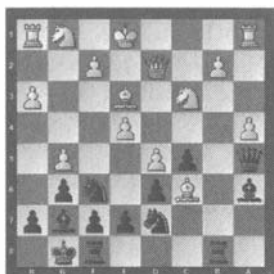
67.4)

**

Hint: Create the room we need

Solutions to Set 67

67.1)



14...Rxb2!

Alternatively, 14...Ne5 15.gxf6 Rxb2 is also very strong for Black.

15.gxf6

Or 15.Qxb2 Nxe4 16.Bd2 Nxd2 17.Kxd2 Rb8 18.Bb5 Nb6 and Black has a decisive advantage.

15...Bxf6 16.Rc1

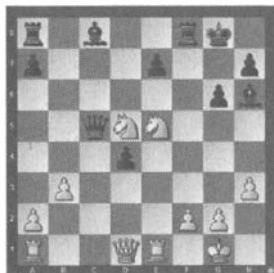
White should have tried 16.Qxb2, although Black wins after 16...Rb8 (but not 16...Bxc3+ 17.Bd2 and White is even better) 17.Qc1 Bxc3+ 18.Bd2 Bxd2+ 19.Qxd2 Rb4 20.f3 Ne5 21.Kf2 Rb2! and Black is winning.

16...Rxd2 17.Bxd2 Ne5 18.Rc2 Nd3+ 19.Kd1 Nxf2+ and White resigned. 0–1

H. Sorensen (2361) – J. Dourerassou (2477)

Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

67.2)



17.Nc6!

An elegant solution, both cannot be taken due to a fork on e7 with the other knight.

17...e6

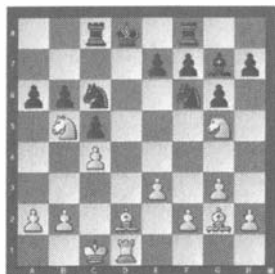
Black should have played 17...d3 18.Qxd3 Qxf2+ 19.Kh1 Bf5 20.Ndxe7+ and White would have had a clear advantage but Black was still very much fighting.

18.Nde7+ Kf7 19.Qe2!

The game continued 19.Qg4? Bd7?? (19...d3 was again the right way forward) 20.Ne5+ Kxe7 21.Qh4+ Ke8 22.Qxh6 Qe7 23.Rad1 Qf6 24.f3 and Black resigned. 1-0 **M. Kobalia (2614) – A. He (2337)** PNWCC Online chess.com 2020.

19...Bg5 20.Qe4 Bf6 21.Rac1 Qb6 22.Nxc8 Raxc8 23.Rc4 and White has a decisive advantage.

67.3)



15.Ba5+! Ke8

Or 15...Nd7 16.Bxb6+ Ke8 17.Nc7+ and White is winning.

16.Bxb6 Nd7

Or 16...axb5 17.Bxc6+ Rxc6 18.Rd8#.

17.Nc7+ Rxc7 18.Bxc7 Nce5 19.f4 Nxc4

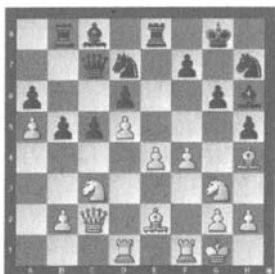
20.Bc6 Bxb2+ 21.Kb1 and Black resigned.

1-0

A. Indjic (2618) – B. Predojevic (2601)

PNWCC Online chess.com 2020

67.4)



19.e5!

A standard breakthrough.

19...dxe5?

Black's position is already so bad that it would have been better to give up a piece with 19...Nxe5 20.fxe5 Rxe5 21.Nge4 after which White is obviously much better.

20.d6 Qxa5

Or 20...Qa7 21.Bxh5 gxh5 22.Nd5 with a lethal attack.

21.Nd5 c4

Or 21...Bxf4 22.Bd3 Kh8 23.Ne7 Qa4 24.Bxg6 Qxc2 25.Bxc2 and Black is completely busted.

22.Ra1 Qxa1 23.Rxa1

White is winning. The resignation came a little later.

23...exf4 24.Ne4 g5 25.Bf2 f5 26.Ne7+ Kf7

27.Bxc4+ bxc4 28.Qxc4+ Kg7 29.Nxf5+ and

Black resigned. **1-0**

L. Vrolijk (2502) – D. Pikula (2435) Titled

Tuesday chess.com 2020

Set 68

Exercises to Set 68

68.1)



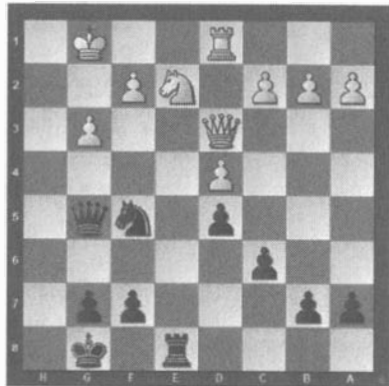
68.2)



68.3)



68.4)



68.1)

Hint: Find a way to add another attacker

68.2)

Hint: Brute force and discovered things

68.3)

Hint: There's a small hole, find it

68.4)

**

Hint: Attack White's biggest weakness

Solutions to Set 68

68.1)



36.Bc1!

Kicking the knight away from b2 to get the d3-square for the bishop to attack the g6-pawn.

36...Nbc4 37.Bd3 Re6 38.Rg1!

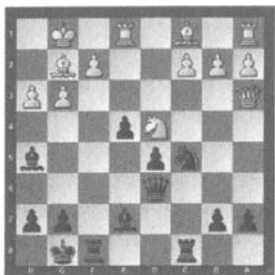
Building the pressure against g6.

38...Rf7 39.Bxg6 Rc7 40.Nh5+ Kf8 41.Rh8
and Black resigned. 1-0

A. Firouzja (2728) – L. Aronian (2773)

Online Nations Cup chess.com 2020

68.2)



19...Rxf2!

Boom! The game continued 19...Qf6 20.Qe3?? (White should have played 20.Be3 Nd3 21.Qxa7 when Black is better but White can still fight) 20...Bd6 21.Bd2 Be5 22.Bc3 Na4 23.Rad1 Nxc3 24.bxc3 Bxd1 and White resigned. 0-1 **E. Doluhanova (2229) – M. Kobalia (2614)** PNWCC Online chess.com 2020.

20.Kxf2 Nd3+ 21.Kg1

If 21.cxd3, then 21...Qf6+, wins White's queen.

Qxa3 22.bxa3 Nxe1 and it is game over for White.

68.3)



21.Qf4!

Threatening Nxf7 and some other tricks as we shall soon see.

21...Bd7?

Black should have played 21...h6 22.Nxf7 Kxf7 23.g5 Bd7 24.gxf6 Qxf6 25.Qc7 when White is clearly better.

22.Bxh7+ Kh8 23.Bf5 Bxf5 24.Qxf5

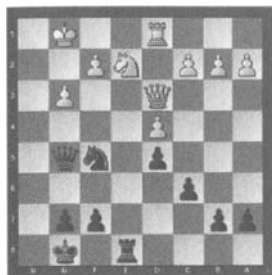
White has won a pawn and his attack is still rolling. White is, of course, already winning.

24...Kg8 25.h5 Qc6 26.Nxf7 Kxf7 27.g5 Qd7 28.Qg6+ and Black resigned. 1-0

F. Caruana (2835) - Wang Hao (2763)

Online Nations Cup chess.com 2020

68.4)



23...Qg4!

After this move, White is entirely busted.

24.Nf4

The alternatives are not much better, for instance, 24.Kf1 Qh3+ (flashier but not better is 24...Ne3+ 25.fxe3 Qf3+ 26.Ke1 Rxe3 and Black is winning) 25.Ke1 Nd6 and Black is completely winning. or 24.Nc1 Re6 intending ...Nh4–f3+ and ...Rh6 to which White has no answers.

24...Re4 and here the game core ends, White threatens both ...Rxf4 and ...Rxd4, so, White probably resigned. 0–1

M. Bartel (2648) – M. Antipov (2584)

Molodezhka vs POL lichess.org 2020

Set 69

Exercises to Set 69

69.1)



69.2)



69.3)



69.4)



69.1)

Hint: Where there's a hole...

69.2)

Hint: Be a bully.

69.3)

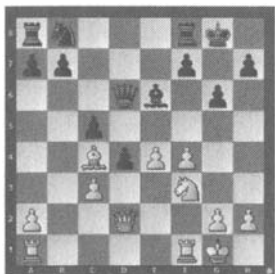
Hint: Zigzag

69.4)

Hint: Somebody is far from home

Solutions to Set 69

69.1)



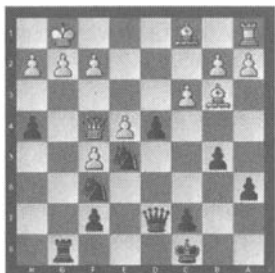
15.f5!

The target is the weak dark squares around Black's king.

15...Bxc4 16.e5 Qd7 17.f6 and Black resigned.
1-0

V. Anand (2753) – I. Nepomniachtchi (2784)
Online Nations Cup chess.com 2020

69.2)



26...Rg4! 27.Qh6

Or 27.Qxe5 Rxe4 and Black is winning.

27...Nf3+ 28.Kh1?

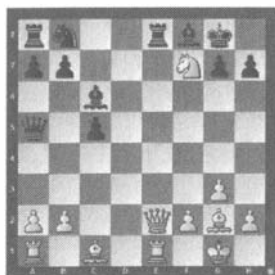
Also, 28.Kf1 Nxh2+ 29.Kg1 Qd6 30.Kh1 Nf1 31.Bf4 Qxf4 32.Qxf4 Rxf4 33.Rxf1 Nxe4 and Black has a decisive advantage.

28...Nxe4 29.Be3 dxe3 30.Qxe3 Qd3!

The queen cannot be captured on account of ...Nxf2#. The game continued with another strong move, and soon White was forced to capitulate. 30...Qd2 31.Qxf3 Rf4 32.Qh5 Nxf2+ 33.Kg1 Qe3 34.Qh8+ Kb7 35.Bd5+ c6 36.Bxc6+ Kc7 37.h3 Nd1+ and White resigned.
0-1 B.Amin (2686) – D. Andreikin (2726)
Online Nations Cup chess.com 2020.

31.Qa7 h3! 32.g3 Qe2 33.Qa8+ Kd7 34.Qd5+ Nd6 and White can only hope to delay mate for a bit but avoiding it is out of the question.

69.3)



20.Nh6+!

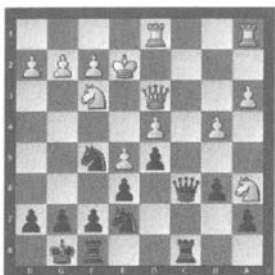
The game continued 20.Ne5 Qa6 21.Qh5 Nd7?? 22.Qf7+ Kh8 23.Bf4 Nxe5 24.Bxe5 Bxg2 25.Bxg7+ and Black resigned. **1-0 I. Yeletsky (2436) – D. Svetushkin (2515)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

20...gxh6 21.Qg4+!

Or 21.Bd5+!? Kh8 22.Qxe8 Bxe8 23.Rxe8 Kg7 24.Bf4 and White is winning.

21...Kh8 22.Rxe8 Bxe8 23.Bd5 Qe1+ 24.Kg2 Bg6 25.Be3! Qxa1 26.Qe6 and it is game over for Black.

69.4)



18...Qa4!

The knight on a6 is suddenly too far away from home.

19.Rdc1

Or 19.b5 Ng6 20.g3 Rc2+ 21.Rd2 Rfc8 22.Rxc2 Rxc2+ 23.Kf1 Rc4 24.Rd1 Qxb5 and Black is winning.

19...Rc4! 20.Rxc4 dxc4 21.Qxc4 Rc8 22.Qd3 Nd5

Threatening a nasty check on f4.

23.Kf1

If 23.g3, then 23...Rc3 decides.

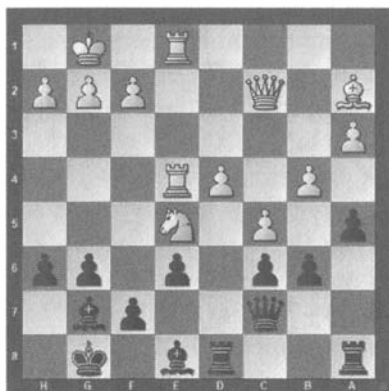
23...Nf4 and White resigned as the knight on a6 falls. **0-1**

P. Vishnu (2476) – R. Svane (2613) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

Set 70

Exercises to Set 70

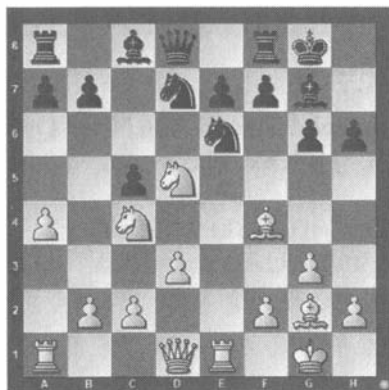
70.1)



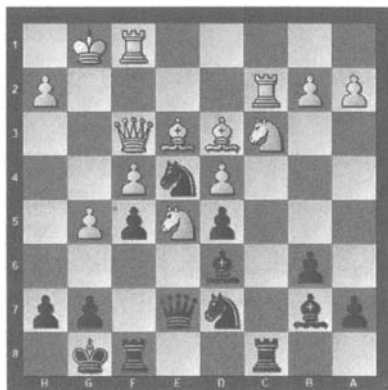
70.2)



70.3)



70.4)



70.1)

Hint: Knock down that sandcastle

70.2)

Hint: Exploiting a lead in development is a requirement

70.3)

Hint: Sometimes chess can be easy

70.4)

Hint: Open for the beast

Solutions to Set 70

70.1)



24...axb4! 25.axb4?

The engines claim that White's situation is so desperate that it would be necessary to sacrifice a piece with 25.Nxg6 Rxa3, capturing the piece appears to give White decent counterplay, e.g., 25...fxg6 26.Rxe6 Kh8 27.Re7 Qf4 with chances to both sides, if still better for Black.

25...bxc5! 26.bxc5 Qa5 27.R1e2

Or 27.Bb3 Rxd4, exploiting that the e4-rook is overburdened.

27...Bxe5 28.dxe5?? Qxa2 White's back rank is fatally weak. White resigned. 0–1

V. Tarasova (2226) – V. Rodchenkov (2321)

Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

70.2)



13...Qf6! 14.e4

Or 14.exd4 Nf4 15.Ne5 cxd4 16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Qg4 Rae8 18.Qxf4 f6 and Black is much better.

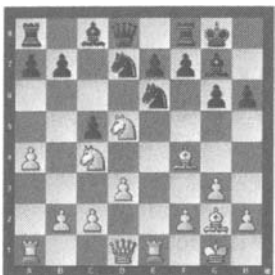
14...Nf4 15.e5 Qg6

White is completely busted. **16.Nh4 Qg5 17.exd6 Nxh3+ 18.Kh2 Nxf2** and White resigned. 0–1

A. Puranik (2584) – D. Gukesh (2563)

Sukoon Resort Indian chess.com 2020

70.3)



15.Rxe6!

A standard sacrifice that would possibly have been good even without the knight on d5, but here, that's an additional bonus.

15...fxe6 16.Nc7 e5

Or 16...g5 17.Nxe6 Qe8 18.Nxf8 Qxf8 19.Bc7 and White is winning.

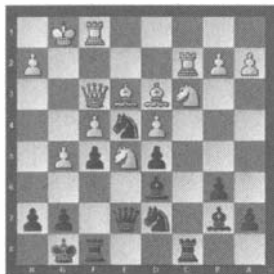
17.Ne6! But not 17.Nxa8? exf4 and Black is better.

17...Qe8 18.Be3 Rf5

Also, 18...Rb8 19.Qd2 Rf6 20.Nxg7 Kxg7 21.Bxh6+ is horrendous for Black. **19.Nc7** and Black resigned. **1-0**

A. Mortazavi (2333) – D. Gallagher (2205)
English Online Blitz chess.com 2020

70.4)



17...Bxe5! 18.fxe5

Or 18.dxe5 Ndc5 19.Qd1 Nxd3 20.Qxd3 d4 21.Qxd4 Qf7 and Black has a clear advantage on account of the weak squares around White's king.

18...Nxc3!

The game continuation was 18...Nxg5??

19.Bxg5 Qxg5+ 20.Rg2 Qh4 21.Bxf5??

(21.Ne2 gives White a decisive advantage)

21...Qxd4+ 22.Kh1 Qxe5 23.Qh3 Rxf5

24.Qxf5 Qxf5 25.Rxf5 d4 26.Nd5 Rc1+

27.Rg1 Rc5 28.Rgg5 Rxd5 29.Rxd5 Nf6

30.Kg1 Bxd5 31.Kf1 Bxa2 and White

resigned. **0-1 L. Moroni (2530) – A. Korobov (2688)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

19.bxc3 Nxe5 20.dxe5 d4! 21.Qh3 dxe3

22.Rxf5 Qc5! 23.Rxf8+ Kxf8 and Black has a clear advantage; White's king is much more vulnerable than Black's and the e3-pawn can cause White some headaches along with his loose pawns.

B.Bok (2638) – Z.Andriasian,Z (2600) PRO
League 2019

Set 71

Exercises to Set 71

71.1)



71.2)



71.3)



71.4)



71.1)

**

Hint: Attack with tempo

71.2)

Hint: Wreck it!

71.3)

**

Hint: The weakest link

71.4)

**

Hint: Let's open some files

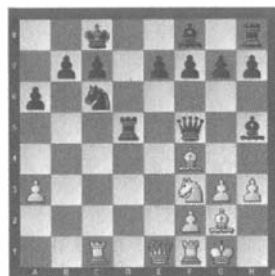
Solutions to Set 71

71.1)



22.Nxh6+! White has a strong alternative in 22.Qe2 fxf4 23.Qxe6+ Kf8 (or 23...Kh8 24.Ne5) 24.fxf5 Nd4 25.Rf1+ Nf3+ 26.Bxf3 gxf3 27.gxf6 Bh8 28.h7 Qd5 29.Rxf3+ Ke8 (or 29...Qxf3 30.Bh6+ Ke8 31.Qg8+ Nxf3 32.hxf6 Q+ Ke7 33.Bg5+ Bf6 34.Bxf6+ Kxf6 35.Qg6+ Ke7 36.Qg7+ Ke8 37.Re1+ and White is winning) 30.Bh6 Qxh5+ 31.Kg1 Qxf3 32.Qg8+ Nxf3 33.hxf6 Q+ Ke7 34.Bg5+ Bf6 35.Re1+ and White is winning but the line is already ridiculously long so I will encourage you to analyze further by yourself. **22...Bxh6 23.fxf5 Bg7 24.Rxe6 Rxd3** Or 24...Nd5 25.h6 Re7 26.Rg6 Qd7 27.Qf2 and White is winning. **25.Bf4 Nd5** Also, 25...Qd7 26.Rae1 Rd5 27.Qe2 leaves White winning. **26.Qxd3** The game continued 26.h6?? Nxf4 27.gxf4 Qf7? 28.Rae1?? Qh5+ 29.Kg1 Rg3 30.Ne3 Nd4 31.cxd4 Bxd4 32.Kf1 Bxg2+ and White resigned. **0-1 L. Le Ruyet (2245) – V. Durarbayli (2606)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020. **26...Nxf4 27.Qxd8+ Nxd8 28.Re8+ Kh7 29.Bxb7** and White is winning.

71.2)



16.Rxc6!

White wrecks Black's pawn structure and dynamic piece set-up.

16...bxc6 17.Ne5

White has a bunch of threats and Black is in no position to parry all of them.

17...e6

Or 17...Rxe5 18.Bxe5 f6 19.Qa5 fxe5 20.Qxa6+ Kd8 21.g4 Bxg4 22.hxg4 and White is clearly winning.

18.Bxd5 cxd5

Also, 18...exd5 19.Nxc6 Qe6 20.Qa5 Qxc6 21.Rc1 wins for White.

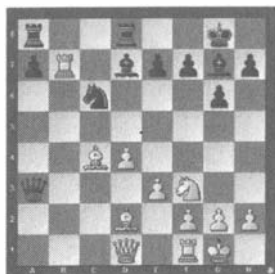
19.Qa5 Be2 20.Nc6

This is stronger than the game continuation which also won convincingly. 20.Re1 g5 21.Rxe2 gxf4 22.Qxa6+ Kd8 23.Qc6 Ke7

24.Qd7+ Kf6 25.Qxf7+ Kg5 26.Nf3+ Kh6
27.Rxe6+ and Black resigned. **1-0 A. Kosteniuk (2471) – D. Cori (2388)** FIDE Steinitz Mem Women chess24.com 2020.

20...e5 21.Rc1 Bc4 22.Bxe5 and Black will lose a lot of wood to prevent mate from being delivered on her king.

71.3)



15.Ng5! e6

Or 15...Be8 16.Qf3 Bf6 17.Nxf7 Bxf7 18.Qxc6 and White is winning.

16.Nxf7 Kxf7 17.Rxd7+!

Similarly strong is 17.Qf3+ Ke8 18.Bxe6 Bxe6 19.Qxc6+ Bd7 20.Rxd7 Rxd7 21.Qxa8+ and White is winning.

17...Rxd7 18.Qf3+ Ke7 19.Qxc6 Rf8

20.Qxe6+ Kd8 21.Bb5 Rc7 22.Qd5+ Ke7

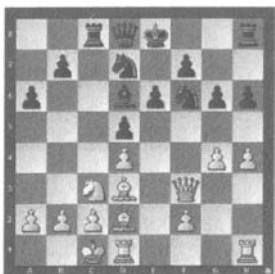
23.Qe4+ Kd8 24.g4 h5 25.Qd5+ Ke7 26.Rb1

and White is winning; the resignation came shortly after **26...a5 27.Bc4 Qd6 28.Qe4+ Kf6 29.Bd3 Kg5 30.Rb5+** and Black resigned. **1-0**

A. Korobov (2688) – An. Bykhovsky (2496)

Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

71.4)



14.g5!

The game continuation was also quite convincing: 14.Rde1 Kf8? (Or 14...Nb6

15.Bxg6 fxc6 16.Rxe6+ Kf7 17.Rhe1 Rc6

18.g5 and White is winning) 15.g5 hxc5

16.hxc5 Rxc5 17.Rxc5 Ng8 18.Bxg6 f6

19.Rh7 Ne7 20.Rf7+ Kg8 21.Qh5 Nf8 22.gxf6

Nexg6 23.Rg7#. **1-0 R. Haria (2440) – D.**

Haydon (2294) English Online Blitz chess.com 2020.

14...Nh5 15.Nxd5 exd5 16.Rde1+ Kf8

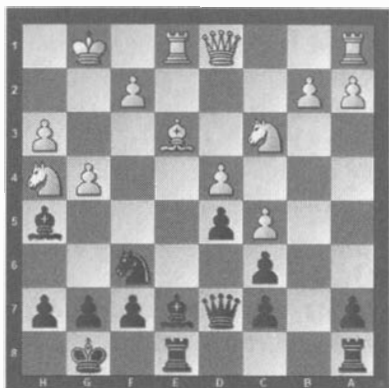
Or 16...Be7 17.Bb4 and White is winning.

17.Bxg6 Nh6 18.Bf5 and Black can resign

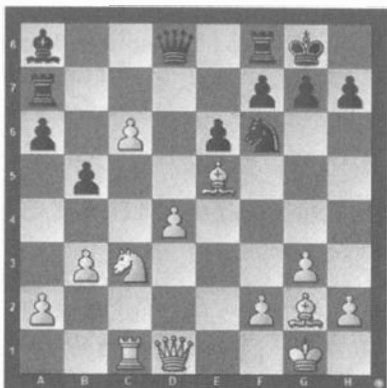
Set 72

Exercises to Set 72

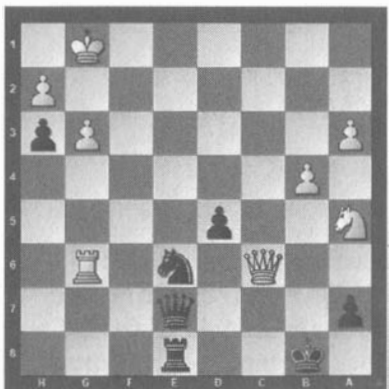
72.1)



72.2)



72.3)



72.4)



72.1)

*

Hint: Don't overthink it

72.2)

Hint: Forward we go

72.3)

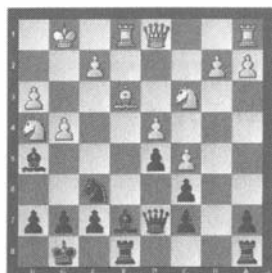
Hint: Can Black save himself?

72.4)

Hint: Pile on

Solutions to Set 72

72.1)



16...Nxg4! 17.hxg4 Bxg4 18.f3

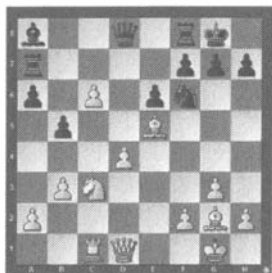
Or 18.Nf3 Qf5 19.Kg2 Bg5 and Black is winning; the threat is ...Re6–g6.

18...Bxh4 19.fxg4 Bxe1 20.Qxe1 Qxg4+ 21.Kh2 Re6 22.Qf2 Rg6 23.Qf1 Qg3+ and, facing mate, White resigned. 0–1

A. Greet (2417) – M.R. Harvey (2440)

English Online Blitz Open chess.com 2020

72.2)



20.d5! exd5 21.Qd4!

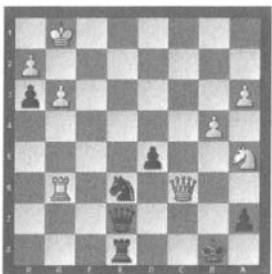
The point behind the previous move. Black's awkward rook and vulnerable kingside come under fire simultaneously.

21...Re7 22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Nxd5 Re6 24.c7 and Black resigned. 1–0

VI. Fedoseev (2678) – L. Bruzon Batista

(2644) PNWCC Online chess.com 2020

72.3)



34...Nc5!!

The game continuation was 34...Nd4??

35.Re6!! Nxe6 36.Qb5+ Kc7 37.Qb7+ Kd6

38.Qa6+ Kc7 39.Qxa7+ Kd6 40.Qb6+ Ke5

41.Nc6+ and Black resigned. **1-0 K. Borsuk (2431) – M. Bluebaum (2647)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

35.Qb5+ If anything,

35.Qd6+ Qxd6 36.Rxd6 Nd3 37.Rf6 Re1+

38.Rf1 Re2 is better for Black.

35...Ka8 36.Qc6+ Kb8

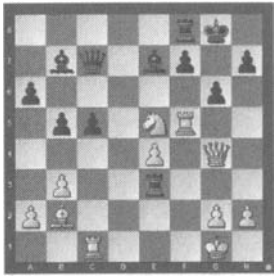
and White has nothing better than to take the perpetual check as **37.Rf6??** loses to

37...Qe3+ 38.Rf2 Qxf2+ 39.Kxf2 Nd3+

40.Kf3 40.Kg1 Re1# is obviously worse.

40...Ne5+, forking White's majesties.

72.4)



23.Rcf1!

The game continuation was 23.Nxf7?? Rxf7
24.Rxf7 Kxf7 25.Rf1+ Ke8 26.Qe6 Qd6
27.Qg8+ Kd7 28.e5 Qd5 29.e6+ Rxe6 and
White resigned. **0-1 D. Anton Guijarro
(2703) - Bu Xiangzhi (2705)**
FIDE Steinitz Mem chess24.com 2020.

23...Rxe4 24.Nxf7

Threatening mate on h6.

24...Rxf7

Or 24...Bf6 25.Nh6+ (25.Rxf6 also works)
25...Kg7 26.Bxf6+ Rxf6 27.Qg5 and White
wins.

25.Rxf7 Rxe4

Of course, 25...Rd4 26.Bxd4 cxd4 27.Qe6 is
also game over for Black. **26.Rg7+ Kh8**
27.Rxe7+ Kg8 28.Re8#

Set 73

Exercises to Set 73

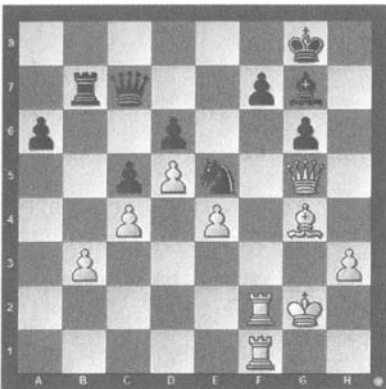
73.1)



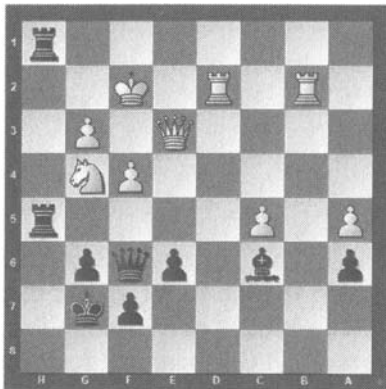
73.2)



73.3)



73.4)



73.1)

Hint: When you don't count your pieces, chess can be rather simple

73.2)

**

Hint: Loose pieces drop off

73.3)

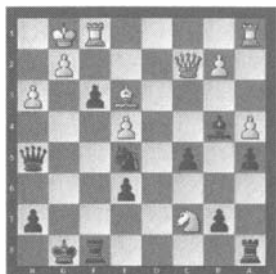
Hint: The weakest link

73.4)

Hint: A move so crazy, that Firouzja didn't see it...

Solutions to Set 73

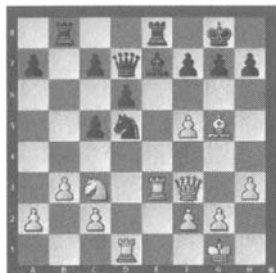
73.1)



23...Rf6!

The game continuation saw Black instead try 23...fxg2? 24.Qxg2+ Kh8 25.Nxe6?! (25.Bg5 Nf3+ 26.Rxf3 Qxf3 27.Nxa8 Qxg2+ 28.Kxg2 Rxa8 with chances to both sides in the endgame) 25...Rg8 26.Bg5 Rxc5 27.Qxg5 Qxg5+ 28.Nxg5 Rg8 29.h4 h6 30.Rf5 Nd3 31.b3 hxg5 32.hxg5 Kg7 33.Rd1 c4 34.bxc4 Nc5 35.Re5 Rc8 36.Kg2 Rc7 37.Rd8 Nxa4 38.Ree8 Nc5 39.Kf3 a4?! 40.Kg4 a3?? (40...Rd7 should still end in a draw) 41.Rg8+ Kf7 42.Kf5 Nd7 43.g6+ Ke7 44.e5 and Black resigned. **1-0 Yu Yangyi (2709) – M. Carlsen (2863)** Lindores Abbey chess24.com 2020.
24.Nxa8 Rg6 and Black wins.

73.2)



18.Nxd5!

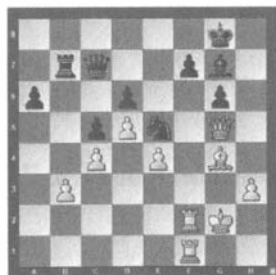
After 18.Qxd5 Bxg5 19.Rxe8+ Rxe8 20.Ne4 h6, White has no more than a slight edge.

18...Bxg5 19.Qg4!

The game continuation was 19.Rxe8+? Rxe8 20.Qg4 Qd8?? (20...Bd8 would have kept White's advantage to a minimum) 21.Nxc7 Qxc7 22.Qxg5 Qa5?? (22...Re5 was much better) 23.f6 Re1+ 24.Kh2 g6 25.Qh6 and Black resigned. **1-0 S. Vokhidov (2512) – L. Liascovich (2418)** Anti-cheating Blitz Cup chess.com 2020.

19...h6 20.f4! Rxe3 21.fxc5! h5 22.Qxh5 Re5 23.f6 and White has a decisive advantage.

73.3)



79.Rxf7!

White breaks through by brute force. If not for this, Black's defensive set-up with the knight on e5 seemed impregnable.

79...Nxf7 80.Be6 Qb8

Or 80...Qa5 81.Rf2 followed by Qxg6 and game over.

81.Qxg6 Qe8

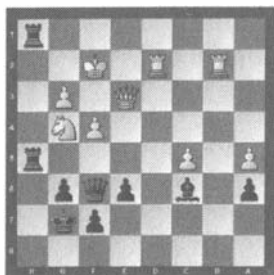
81...Qf8 runs into the same answer as the game continuation.

82.e5! dxe5 83.d6 Kf8 84.h4!

Black is completely tied up and without moves. This is even stronger than the game continuation which went 84.Qf5 Qc6+ 85.Bd5 Qd7 86.Bxf7 Qxf5 87.Rxf5 Rxb3 88.Bd5+ Ke8 89.Rf7 Bh6 90.Re7+ Kf8 91.Rf7+ Ke8 92.Rf6 Bg7 93.Bc6+ Kd8 94.Re6 and, facing unstoppable mate, Black resigned. **1-0 D. Dubov (2699) – S. Karjakin (2752)** Lindores Abbey chess24.com 2020.

84...Kg8 85.h5 and Black would be forced to stop the clock.

73.4)



42...R5h4!!

In the game, Black missed his chance and instead went for 42...g5?? 43.Qe5? (43.Ke2!) 43...Qxe5 44.Nxe5 Bd5? (44...Bb5!) 45.Ke3 R5h3? 46.Kd4 Rxc3?! 47.c6 f6?? 48.Rb7+ Kh6 49.fxc3+ fxc3 50.Kc5 Re3 51.Ng4+ and Black resigned. **1-0 L. Aronian (2773) – A. Firouzja (2728)** Lindores Abbey chess24.com 2020.

43.gxh4

The knight cannot move on account of ...R4h2 mate.

43...Qxh4+ 44.Qg3

Or 44.Ke2 Qxc4+ 45.Kd3 Rh3 and Black wins.

44...Rf1+ 45.Kxf1 Qxc3 46.Nf2 Qxf4 with a won position for Black.

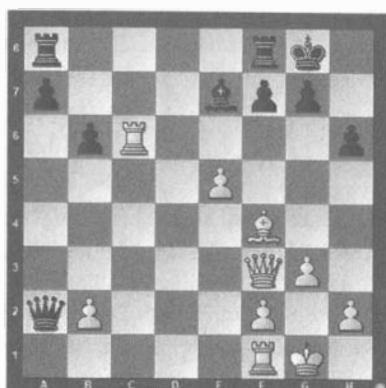
Set 74

Exercises to Set 74

74.1)



74.2)



74.3)



74.4)



74.1)

**

Hint: Let's beat a hole in the wall

74.2)

Hint: Exploit the absence of the queen

74.3)

Hint: Think Lasker-Bauer

74.4)

Hint: Forward and back

Solutions to Set 74

74.1)

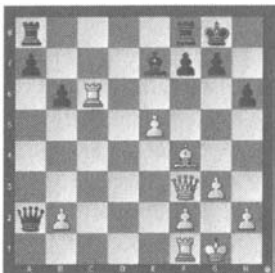


23.Bxh6! Also, 23.Rh5! intending Bxh6 is an option for White. **23...gxh6 24.Rh5**

The conclusion of the game was 24.Qxh6? f6?? (Black should have defended with 24...Rg8 25.Rh5 Rg7 26.Be4 f5 27.Bxd5 cxd5 28.Rxe6 Rdf7 29.Re8+ Rg8 30.Qe6 when White is much better but there is still work to be done) 25.Rxe6 Rg7 26.Bxd5 (or even better 26.c4 Nb4 27.Qxf6 and White is winning) 26...cxd5 27.Qxf6 Qf7 28.Qxd8+ Rg8 29.Re8 and Black resigned. **1-0 J. Willow (2386) – E. Ronka (2281)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

24...Rg8 25.Rxh6 f5 26.Rhxe6! Rdg7 27.c4 Nb4 28.Re7! and Black is completely paralyzed with no chance of survival.

74.2)



19.Bxh6! gxh6 20.Re1!

The game continued in less convincing fashion: 20.Rxh6 Kg7 21.Rh5 f5?? (Black would have been better after 21...Qe6!) 22.exf6+ Bxf6 23.Qg4+ Kf7 24.Rh7+ and, facing mate in a few moves, Black resigned.

1-0 I. Cheparinov (2686) – M. Lewicki (2340) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020. White does not achieve anything after 20.Qg4+ Kh7 21.Qf5+ Kg7 22.Qg4+ Kh7 and White really doesn't have anything better than a draw by perpetual check.

20...Rad8 21.Rxh6 Kg7 22.Rf6!

This is possibly the move that Cheparinov had overlooked. White threatens to force mate with the rook on f6 and the queen.

22...Rh8

Also, 22...Qa4 is met by 23.b3! ; one long, but entertaining, line runs 23...Qd7 24.Qh5 Qd2 25.Qg4+ Kh8 26.Qh4+ Kg7 27.Re4 Rg8 28.Rg4+ Kf8 29.e6 Bxf6 30.Qxf6 Qd1+ 31.Kg2 Qd5+ 32.f3 and White wins.

23.b3!

White takes the queen on a2 out of the defense with this brilliant move.

23...Qd2 24.Rxf7+ Kg8 25.Rxe7 Qxe1+ 26.Kg2 Rh7 27.Rxh7 Kxh7 28.Qf7+ Kh6 29.Qf6+ Kh5 30.Qxd8 Black has avoided mate; now, White has to avoid a perpetual check, which is easily accomplished.
30...Qe4+ 31.Kf1 Qh1+ 32.Ke2 Qe4+ 33.Kd2 Qxe5 34.h4 and White has a won queen and pawn ending.

74.3)



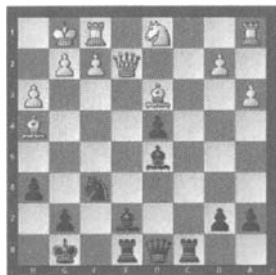
19.Bxh7+!

The game continued: 19.Bxg7 Qd6 20.Bxf8 Kxf8 21.Qh5 Qh2+ 22.Kf1 Bb7 23.Qxh7 Re8 24.Bf5 Qh1+ 25.Ke2 Qxg2 26.Rxc6 Bxc6 27.Qh6+ Ke7 28.Qxc6 Kd8 29.Qd7# **1-0 M. Pantzar (2417) – C. Gheorghiu (2283)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

19...Kxh7 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.Bxg7! Bh2+ Hoping for 22.Kxh2 Qd6+. After 21...Kxg7 22.Rxc5, White wins.

22.Kh1 and White wins Black's queen.

74.4)



21...g5!

In the game continuation, Black went completely wrong and even lost the game: 21...Bb4?? 22.Bxf6 Qxf6 23.Qh5?? (23.Ne3! would have kept Black's advantage to a bare minimum) 23...Re5 24.Qg4 Rd8?? (a counter blunder by Black, after 24...Be6, Black would have every chance of winning the game) 25.f4 Re3 26.Nxe3 dxe3 27.axb4 Be6 28.Qe2 Qd4 29.Rad1 and Black resigned. **1-0 A. Zubritskiy (2442) – P. Koc (2346)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020. A surprising

alternative is 21...Ne4 22.Bxe4 Bxh4 23.Bxd5+ Qxd5 24.Qd2 Qc4 and White is positionally busted; the knight on d1 cannot get out, the rooks cannot connect, and Black threatens to penetrate on the second rank.
22.Bg3 Bf8! A piquant retreating move and all of a sudden, White cannot coordinate his pieces.

23.Qd2 Ne4! 24.Bxe4 Bxe4 The threat is ...Rc2. **25.Rc1 Rxc1 26.Qxc1 Bd3** and Black is clearly winning.

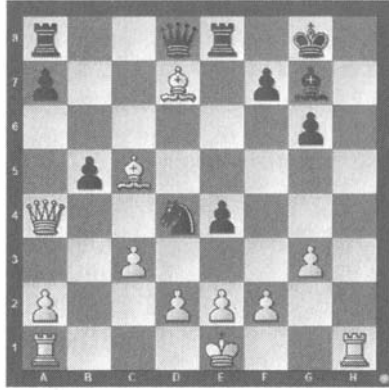
Set 75

Exercises to Set 75

75.1)



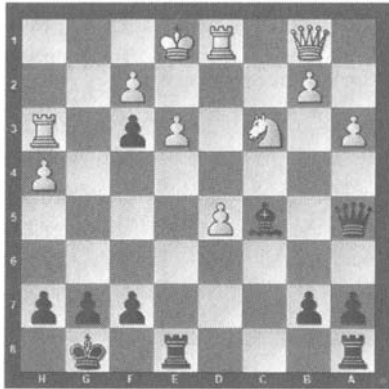
75.2)



75.3)



75.4)



75.1)

*

Hint: Rip the doors open

75.3)

Hint: Invitation to dance

75.2)

Hint: Exploit the squares

75.4)

**

Hint: Lone ranger?

Solutions to Set 75

75.1)



27...Rxc4+! 28.fxc4 Nxc4!

Now Black has all sorts of threats based on discovered checks with the knight and advances with the f-pawn. Note that Black after 28...Rxc4+?? 29.Kf1 has less than nothing; in fact, White is better!

29.Kh1

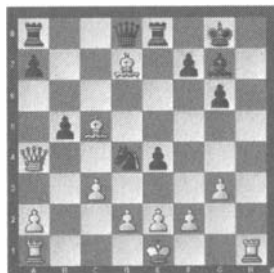
The alternatives are not much better, for instance, 29.Rf1 e5 30.dxe5 Nxe5+ 31.Kh1 Rg3 32.Rxf4 Rh3+ 33.Kg1 Nxd3 34.Rf3 Nf4 and Black wins; or 29.Kf1 f3!, and it is game over for White.

29...f3 30.Qd2 Qg3 and facing mate in a few moves, White resigned. **0–1**

P. Garcia Cardenas (2422) – C.

Aravindh(2641) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

75.2)



17.Qxd4!!

White gives up the queen to dominate the dark squares around Black's king and somehow, that is supposed to be sufficient compensation. If 17.Bxb5 then 17...Nxb5 18.Qxb5 Qd5 and Black is somewhat better.

17...Bxd4 18.Bxd4 f6 19.Bxe8 Qxe8 20.Bxf6 Qc6 21.Bd4

and White has the upper hand. The advantage quickly grew: **21...a5 22.a3 Kf7?! 23.Rh4 Ke7?! 24.Rb1 Rf8 25.Kf1 Rf5 26.a4 bxa4?? 26...b4** was a better try. **27.Rb6 Qd5 28.Rh7+ Rf7 29.Bf6+ Kd7 30.Rxf7+** and Black resigned. **1–0**

Br. Tadic (2505) – A.G. Tryggestad (2384)

Nova Gorica 2020

75.3)



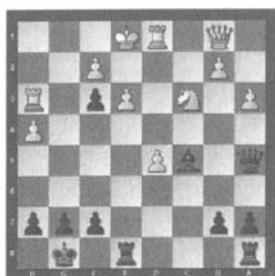
25...Re1+! 26.Kg2 Bf1+ 27.Kf3 Be2+
 The game continued: 27...Re4 28.Qc3 f6
 29.Nd7 Qa6 30.Qd2 Be2+ 31.Kg2 Bf1+
 32.Kf3 Be2+ 33.Kg2 Bf1+ 34.Kg1 Bh3
 35.Nxf6+ Kf7 36.Rc1 Kxf6 37.Qg5+ Ke6
 38.Qh5 Bf5 39.Qe8+ Kf6 40.Qf8+ Ke6 41.Bg5
 Bh3 42.Qe7+ Kf5 43.Qf6+ Kg4 44.f3+ and
 Black resigned before getting mated. **1-0 A.**
Shimanov (2587) – S. Shankland (2683) PRO
 League chess.com 2020.

28.Kf4

Or 28.Ke3 Bc4+ 29.Kf4 Re4+ 30.Qxe4 dxe4
 31.Rxc4 Qxf2+ with a perpetual check.

28...Qb8 29.Rxa5 Bd1 30.f3 f6 with equal
 chances.

75.4)



21...Bxe3! 22.fxe3??

This almost looks like a lone ranger situation,
 but White cannot afford to accept the sacrifice.
 Instead, 22.Rxf3 Bg5+ (Or better, 22...Bc5+
 23.Kf1 Qc7! and Black has the initiative thanks
 to White's vulnerable king) 23.Kf1 Qa6+ (Or
 23...Bxh4 24.Qd3 when White's active better-
 coordinated pieces compensate for the pawn)
 24.Qd3 Qxd3+ 25.Rfxd3 Bxh4 26.d6 and
 White's strong passed pawn and more active
 pieces provide sufficient compensation for the
 pawn.

22...Rxe3+ 23.Kf1?

Also, 23.Kd2 Rae8 24.Rh2 Qc7 25.Rf2 Qc5
 wins for Black.

23...Rae8

Black's queen will join the attack sooner than
 White has time to organize himself.

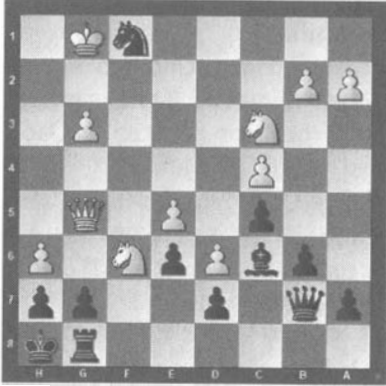
24.Qf5 Qa6+ 25.Kg1 Qb6 26.Kh1 Re1+ and
 with mate coming, White resigned. **0-1**

A. Gajwa (2245) – P. Garcia Cardenas
(2422) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

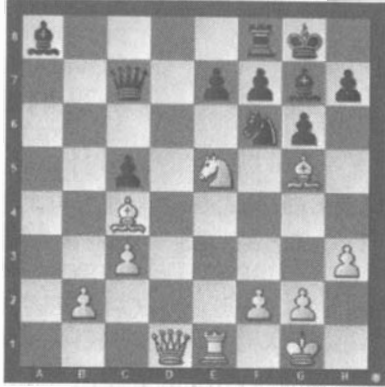
Set 76

Exercises to Set 76

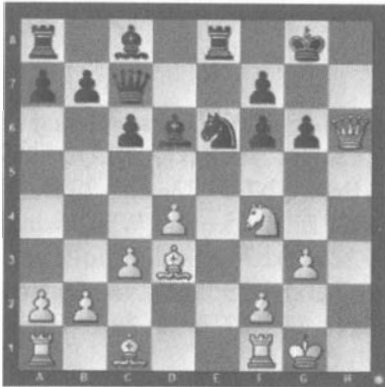
76.1)



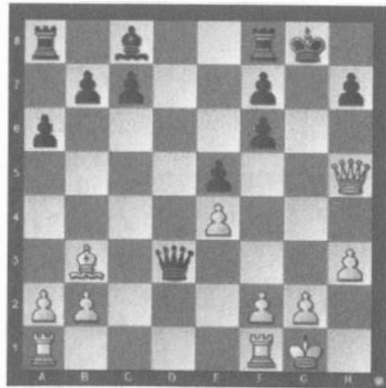
76.2)



76.3)



76.4)



76.1)

Hint: Distraction!

76.2)

**

Hint: Almost too obvious, but then calculate on

76.3)

**

Hint: Where there is a hole, there is a way.

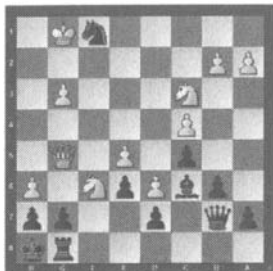
76.4)

**

Hint: Let's add some extra firepower

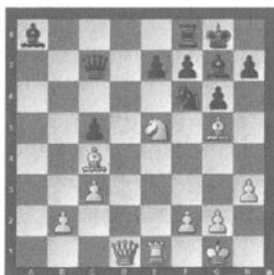
Solutions to Set 76

76.1)



31...Nd2!! After this, and only this, brilliant move, Black is able to save himself. The game ended rather abruptly after 31...exd5 32.Nxg8 and Black resigned as mate cannot be prevented. **1-0 I. Janik (2467) – E. Stromboli (2308)** Anti-cheating Blitz Cup chess.com 2020. **32.Qxd2** The obvious, 32.Kxh1 is met by 32...exd5 33.Nxd5 (but not 33.cxd5?? Qa6!! and Black wins!) 33...Ne4 34.Qf4 Nxg3+ 35.Qxg3 Qa8 36.Qg4 Qf8 37.Ne7 Qf1+ 38.Kh2 Qf2+ 39.Kh3 Qe3+ 40.Kg2 Qxe5 when the game ends in a perpetual check or a drawn endgame. **32...gxf6!** Both 32...exd5 33.Nxg8 and 32...Bxd5 33.Nxg8 wins for White. **33.exf6 Rxxg3+! 34.Kxh1 Qa8** Or 34...exd5 35.Kh2! Qb8 36.Qf4 Qg8! 37.f7! Rg2+ 38.Kh3 Rg3+! 39.Qxg3 Qxf7 40.Qe5+ with a draw by perpetual check. **35.f7 Rf3 36.Qg5** Or 36.Qe1 with the same idea. **36...Rxf7 37.Qe5+ Kg8 38.Qg5+** with a perpetual check.

76.2)

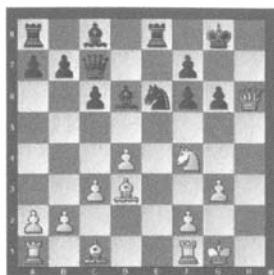


19.Nxf7! Or 19.Qb3 e6 20.Nxf7! transposing to the game continuation. **19...Rxf7 20.Qb3 e6 21.Bxe6 Ne4 22.Be3! Qb7** Or 22...Kf8 23.Bxf7 Qxf7 24.Qb8+ Qe8 25.Bxc5+ and White wins. **23.Ra1 Nd6** Or 23...Qxb3 24.Rxa8+ followed by Bxb3. **24.Qxb7 Bxb7 25.Bxc5 Ne4 26.Be3 Kf8 27.Bxf7 Kxf7 28.Ra7 Nd6 29.Bf4** and Black resigned. **1-0**

R. Mamedov (2654) – E. Safarli (2598)
French ch Blitz Online Europe-Chess 2020

76.3)

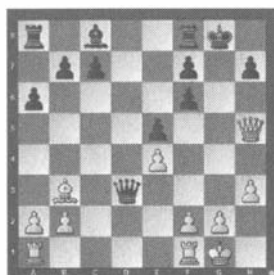
17.Nh5! White should also win after 17.Nxg6 fxxg6 18.Qxg6+ Kf8 19.Bh6+ Ke7 20.Rfe1 but the game continuation is much better. **17...Qd8** If 17...Qe7 18.Re1 (also 18.Bxxg6 wins on the spot) 18...Rf8 19.Rxe6 fxe6 20.Qxg6+ Kh8 21.Kg2! and Black cannot the simple threat Bc1 to somewhere followed by Rh1. Worst of all is 17...gxh5? 18.Bh7+ Kh8 19.Bg6+ Kg8 20.Qh7+ Kf8 21.Bh6+ Ke7 22.Qxf7+ Kd8



23.Qxe8#. **18.Bxg6 fxc6 19.Qxg6+ Kf8** Also
 19...Kh8 20.Nxf6 is a disaster for Black.
20.Bh6+ Ke7 21.Qh7+ and Black resigned.
1-0

S. Khanin (2482) – G. Arnaudov (2471) Euro
 Online chess.com 2020

76.4)



18.Rac1! The game continuation was 18.Rfe1
 Be6?? (Black should have played 18...Qd6
 19.Re3 Kh8 20.Bxf7 Be6 with survival
 chances) 19.Rad1 Qb5 20.Qh6 Bxb3 21.Re3
1-0 E. Patrelakis (2259) – S. Ghukasyan
(2222) Euro Online chess.com 2020. **18...Qd8**
 Or 18...Qd6 19.Rfd1 Qe7 20.Qh6 c6 21.Rc3 as
 in the main line. **19.Rfd1 Qe7 20.Qh6 c6**
21.Rc3 Kh8 22.Rg3 Rg8 23.Rxg8+ Kxg8
24.Rd3 and it is curtains for Black.

Set 77

Exercises to Set 77

77.1)



77.2)



77.3)



77.4)



77.1)

Hint: Sometimes it doesn't take a lot

77.2)

*

Hint: We attack with all our pieces

77.3)

**

Hint: Cut some holes in the canvas

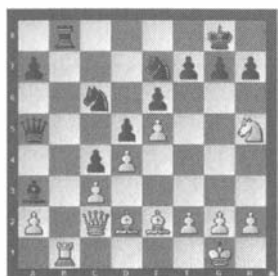
77.4)

**

Hint: Let's rip it apart!

Solutions to Set 77

77.1)



21.Rxb8+ Nxb8 22.Bh6!

BOOM! A nasty shot that traps Black's king.

22...gxh6

If 22...g6 then 23.Nf6+ Kh8 24.Qd2 Qb5 25.Bf8 wins for White. The relatively best was 22...Nd7 23.Bxg7 and White is, of course, winning.

23.Nf6+ Kf8 24.Qxh7 and Black resigned as mate is unstoppable. 1–0

E. Najer (2648) – A. Molchanov (2402) Euro Online chess.com 2020

77.2)



20.Rfe1!

20.Nxe6!? is essentially as strong.

20...Bg7

Or 20...Bc7 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Bxe6+ Kg7 23.Bc4 and White is winning; Black's furniture storage on the queenside is rather cute.

21.Nxe6 Black resigned on account of 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Rxe6 and Black is without moves, for instance, 22...Rf8 23.Re8+ Kh8 24.Rxf8+ Bxf8 25.Bf6+ Bg7 26.Rd8#. 1–0

H. Nakamura (2736) – W. So (2770) Clutch Champions Showdown lichess.org 2020

77.3)



17.Bf4+! Kc8 18.a6!

Suddenly, Black's position collapses.

18...fxe4

Or 18...Be8 19.axb7+ Kxb7 20.Bxc6+ (20.Ba6+ also wins but the main line is much stronger) 20...Bxc6 21.Na5+ Kb6 22.Nxc6 Kxc6 23.Rxa7 Rd7 24.Ra6+ Kb7 25.Rha1 and Black will not survive for long.

19.axb7+ Kxb7 20.Bxc6+ Kxc6 21.Ne5+ Kb7 22.Nxg6 and losing material, Black resigned. 1–0

A. Indjic (2618) – N. Zhukova (2328) PNWCC Online lichess.org.2020

77.4)



19...Ng4! 20.h3

Or 20.Nf3 Nde5 21.h4 Bd3 22.Re1 Nxf3+ 23.Bxf3 Qf5 24.Kg2 Ne5 25.Be2 a5 and White position's falls apart.

20...Nxc1 21.Rxc1 Nxe3!

Suddenly, White's position collapses like a house of cards. The knight cannot be recaptured.

22.g4 Bxg4 23.hxg4 Nxg4 24.Nf3 Rd3 25.Rfd1 Nxf2 and White resigned. 0–1

V. Belous (2524) – Vl. Fedoseev (2678)

PNWCC Masters chess.com 2020

Set 78

Exercises to Set 78

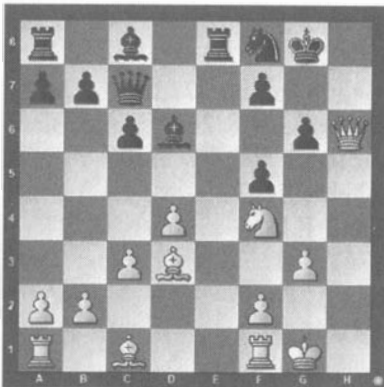
78.1)



78.2)



78.3)



78.4)



78.1)

**

Hint: Sudden attack

78.2)

*

Hint: Forcing holes in the armor

78.3)

**

Hint: Some lift the rooks, others, however, lift other things...

78.4)

Hint: When we aim our guns in multiple directions, we hit more things

Solutions to Set 78

78.1)



16...Na5!

The threat is ...Nc4 which is very uncomfortable for White.

17.Bxd6??

This seems like a reasonable idea, but it actually only makes matters worse for White. A better option was 17.b3 when 17...Ba3+ 18.Kd1 c5 19.dxc5 Bxc5 20.Be5 Nc6 21.Nf4 d4 looks horrific for White but according to the engines, Black is "only" clearly better.

17...Nc4 18.Qf4 cxd6!

Black obviously is not interested in getting the queens off the board.

19.Bh3

Or 19.Ng3 Qa5 20.a3 Qb5 21.Re2 Qb3 and Black is completely winning.

19...Qa5 20.a3 Qb5!

All of a sudden, White is defenseless. In the game, Black continued with the obvious but worse 20...Nxa3?? 21.Bf5?? (White should have accepted the knight: 21.bxa3 Qxa3+ 22.Kd1 Qb3+ 23.Kd2 Rae8 24.Bf5 and Black still has to demonstrate how he intends to win) 21...Nc4 22.Kc2 Bxf5+ 23.Qxf5 Ne3+ and White resigned. **0-1 F.Bolourchifard (2292) – M. Galyas (2476)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

21.b4 Qa4 and White cannot prevent mate.

78.2)



12...Bg4! 13.Be2

The alternatives are similarly unpleasant, for instance, 13.Qc1 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 (or 14.Nac4 Nxc4 (14...Nc6!) 15.Bxc4 0-0 16.0-0 Ne3 17.fxe3 Bxd2 and Black is winning) 14...Qe7 15.Bd3 Qxe5+ 16.Kf1 Bxa3 17.bxa3 0-0-0 and Black is winning. Or 13.f3 Bf5 14.Nac4 b5 15.c3 bxc4 and Black is much better.

13...Bxa3! 14.Bxg4

Or 14.bxa3 Nc3 and White can resign.

14...Bxb2 15.Bxh5 Bxa1 16.e6 g6 17.Bf3 Bf6 18.exf7+ Kxf7

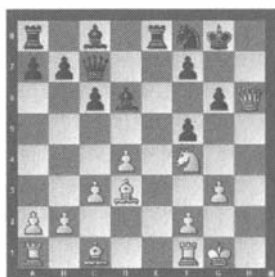
White is simply a whole rook down; Therefore, White is entirely lost.

19.Be4 Nc3 20.Qg4 Nxe4 21.Nxe4 Qc8 22.Qf4 Qf5 23.Qxc7+ Kg8 24.f3 Rh7 25.Qd6 Re8 26.0-0 Bd4+ 27.Bf2 Rd7 28.Qa3 Rxe4 and White resigned. 0-1

S. Karjakin (2752) – D. Dubov (2699)

Lindores Abbey chess24.com 2020

78.3)



17.Kg2!

The idea is Rh1 and checkmate on h8 with the queen.

17...Be7

Or 17...Bxf4 18.Bxf4 Qe7 19.Rae1 Be6 20.Rh1 and White is winning.

18.Rh1 Bf6 19.Nh5 Bh8

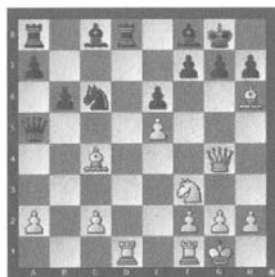
Also, 19...gxh5 20.Qxf6 Qd8 21.Qh6 Qd5+ 22.f3 wins for White.

20.Qxh8+ Kxh8 21.Nf6+ and Black resigned. 1-0

B. Predojevic (2601) – E. Tian (2204)

PNWCC Online lichess.org 2020

78.4)



17.Qe4! Bb7

Black cannot capture on h6, e.g., 17...gxh6 18.Rxd8 Nxd8 19.Bd3 Bg7 20.Qxa8 and White is winning.

18.Ng5! g6 19.Nxf7!

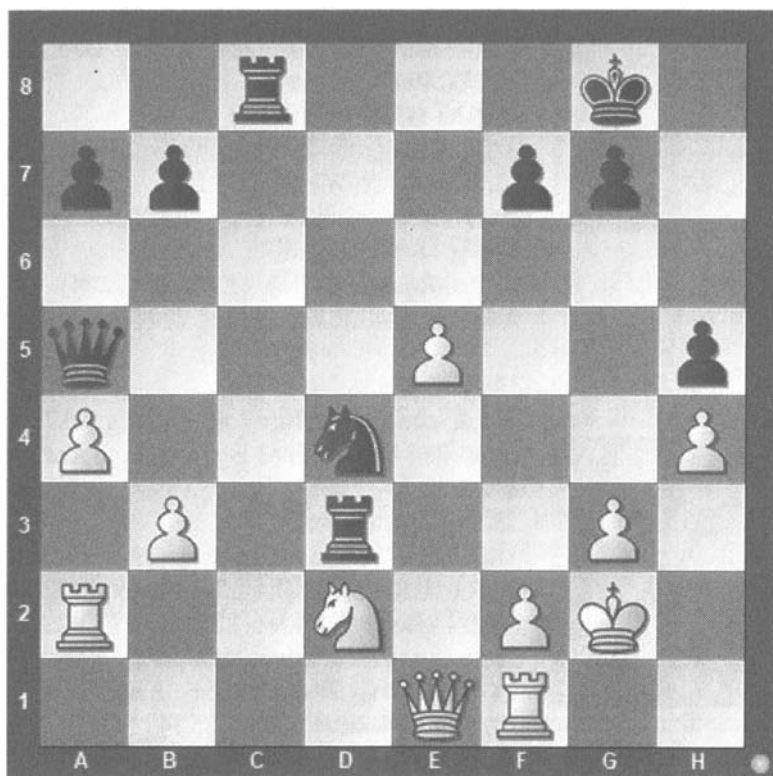
The game continuation was 19.Bxf8?! Rxd1 20.Rxd1 Rxf8 21.Qh4 h5 22.Nxe6? (22.Nxf7! is still good) 22...fxe6 23.Bxe6+? (White still had a significant advantage after 23.Qg5 Qxe5 24.Qxg6+ Qg7 25.Bxe6+ Kh8 26.Qxh5+) 23...Kg7 24.Rd7+?! Kh6 25.f4?? Qc5+ 26.Kh1 Qxe5 27.Bf7 Qa1+ and White resigned. 0-1 **Liu Xiangyi (2377) – J. Liang (2340)** New York vs. Singapore chess24.com 2020.

19...Bxh6

Or 19...Kxf7 20.Qf4+ Kg8 21.Bxe6+ with mate to follow. **20.Qh4 Rxd1 21.Nxh6+ Kg7 22.Rxd1** and Black can resign.

Chapter 6

Sets 79-94



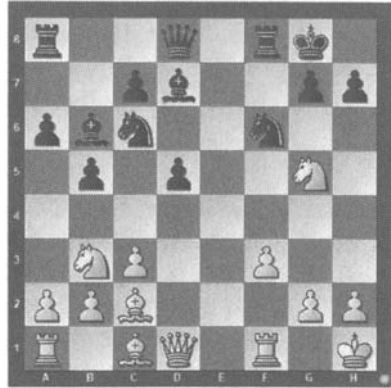
Set 79

Exercises to Set 79

79.1)



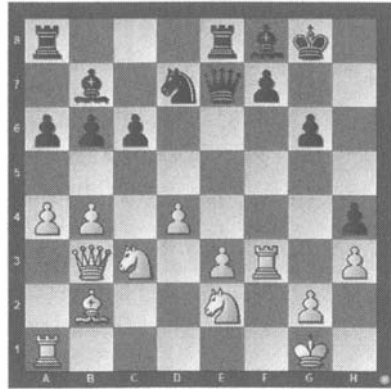
79.2)



79.3)



79.4)



79.1)

Hint: Interfere with White's defenders

79.3)

**

Hint: Let's make it even more drafty

79.2)

*

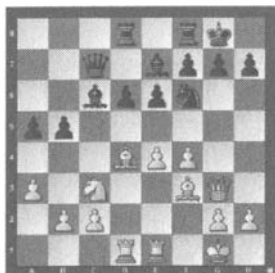
Hint: Busy defenders are never good

79.4)

Hint: One square certainly calls my name

Solutions to Set 79

79.1)



17.Nd5! exd5 18.exd5 Ba8?

Black would have done best by giving back the piece immediately with 18...Bxd5 19.Bxd5 Rde8 20.Bf3 when White has a clear advantage.

19.Rxe7!

White forces Black's queen to a square where it really doesn't want to be but needs to be.

19...Qxe7 20.Re1 Qxe1+ 21.Qxe1

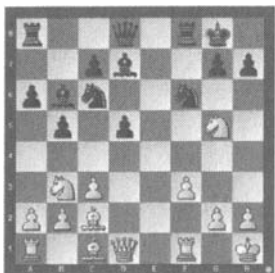
White has a decisive advantage.

21...Nxd5 22.Qh4 Nc7 23.Bg4 Ne6 24.Bf5 g6 25.Bf6 Rc8 26.Bd3 Rc5 27.f5 Ng7 28.Qh6 Nh5 29.Bd4 and Black resigned. 1–0

Lee Qing Aun (2262) – N. Chasin (2303)

New York vs. Singapore chess24.com 2020

79.2)



17.Nxh7! Nxh7

There is no alternative.

18.Qxd5+ Rf7

Or 18...Kh8 19.Qh5 g6 20.Bxg6 Qe7 21.Bg5 Qg7 22.Bh6 and White has a clear advantage. This would have been Black's best option.

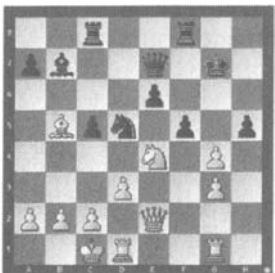
19.Bxh7+

White has two extra pawns and the attack. It is obviously over for Black.

19...Kf8 20.Bg5 Ne7 21.Bxe7+ Rxe7 22.Qg8# 1–0

D. Hristodorescu (2211) – G. Tokhirjonova (2378) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

79.3)



23.gxf5!

White deliberately walks into a pin as he has a specific way to get out of it in mind.

23...exf5 24.Qxh5!

White sacrifices a piece to bare the black king. If instead 24.Nc3, then 24...Qg5+ 25.Qd2 Qxd2+ 26.Kxd2 Nxc3 27.Kxc3 and White obviously has an extra pawn, but winning it is far from easy.

24...fxe4 25.Qg4+ Kf7?

The engine thinks Black's try would have been 25...Kf6, but that too loses after 26.dxe4 Ke5! (or 26...Ne3 27.Qh4+ Ke6 28.Bd7+) 27.exd5 and White is obviously winning.

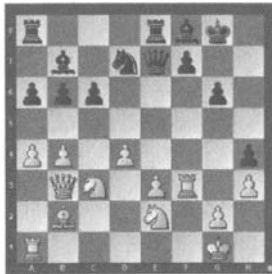
26.dxe4

The computer points out that 26.Rdf1+ Nf6 27.Rh1 wins faster.

26...Nf6 27.Bc4+ Ke8 28.Qg6+ Rf7 29.e5 Ne4 30.e6 and Black resigned. 1–0

N. Bashirli (2382) – V. Spitzl (2346) Euro Online chess.com 2020

79.4)



21.Raf1! Qe6 22.d5! cxd5 23.Nf4 Qd6

Or 23...Qe5 24.Nfxd5 Bd6 25.Rf4 Rad8 (also, 25...Rf8 26.Rd1 Qe6 27.Rxh4 Bg3 28.Re4 and White is much better) 26.R1f3 and White is much better, but the position still looks complicated.

24.Nfxd5

Black's position is quickly falling apart.

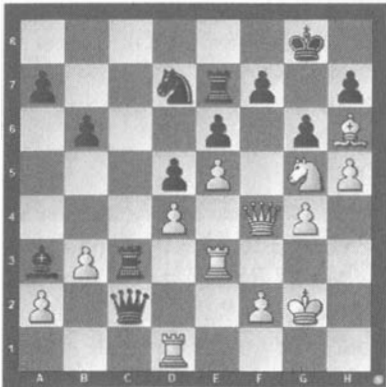
24...Re5 25.e4 Bxd5 26.Nxd5 Rxe4 27.Rxf7 Nc5 28.bxc5 Qxc5+ 29.Kh1 Rae8 30.Nf6+ and Black resigned. 1–0

G. Dudin (2387) – G. Peycheva (2255) Euro Online chess.com 2020

Set 80

Exercises to Set 80

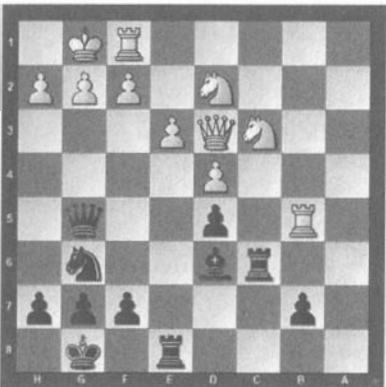
80.1)



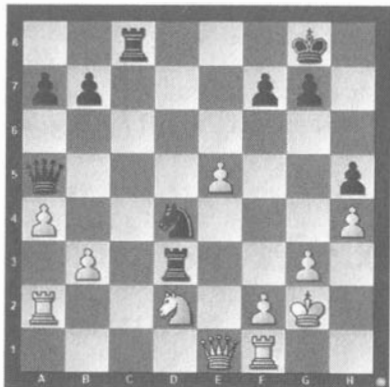
80.2)



80.3)



80.4)



80.1)

Hint: Let's have a look at the dark squares

80.2)

*

Hint: A Velimirovic sandwich

80.3)

**

Hint: It sounds like a duck, and walks like a duck...

80.4)

**

Hint: Find a path to exchange some pieces

Solutions to Set 80

80.1)



25.Rxc3

Of course, 25.Nxh7! Kxh7 26.Rxc3 leads to the same position as the game.

25...Qxc3 26.Nxh7! Kxh7 27.Bg5!

This is the point behind sacrifice on h7: Black's king situation is very drafty.

27...Kg8 28.Bxe7 Bxe7 29.Rc1 Qb4 30.Rc8+ 30.Rc7! is even stronger, but the text move obviously wins as well.

30...Nf8 31.h6 g5 32.h7+ Kg7 33.h8Q+ Kxh8 34.Qxf7 Qxd4 35.Rxf8+ Bxf8 36.Qxf8+

White has transitioned into a won queen and pawn ending.

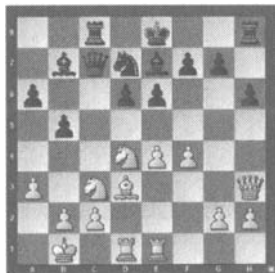
36...Kh7 37.Qf7+ Kh8 38.Qh5+ Kg7

39.Qxg5+ Kh7 40.Qe7+ Kh8 41.Qf6+ Kh7

42.Qxe6 Qd1 43.Qf5+ Kg8 44.e6 and Black resigned. 1–0

M. Carlsen (2863) – J. Xiong (2709) Clutch Chess Showdown lichess.org 2020

80.2)



16.e5!

White rips open the center to clear some lines toward Black's uncastled king.

16...dxe5 16...Nf8 17.exd6 Qxd6 (or 17...Bxd6 18.Ndxb5 axb5 19.Nxb5 and White wins)

18.Nf5! exf5 19.Bxb5+ axb5 20.Rxd6 and oopsie, the bishop is pinned so Black doesn't get the hoped for rook (in addition to the minor pieces) for the queen.

17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Qxe6 Nf8 19.Bg6+ Nxg6

20.Qxg6+ Kf8 21.Qf5+

This is even better than the game continuation which went 21.fxe5 Kg8? (21...Rd8 was a better try) 22.Qe6+ Kh7 23.Rd7 Bc5 24.Qf5+ and Black resigned before he would get mated.

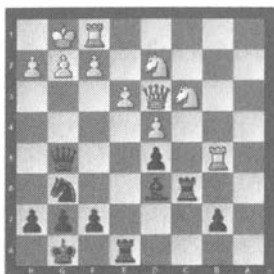
1-0 A. Morozovich (2659) – J. Vykouk

(2426) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

21...Ke8 22.fxe5 Rd8 23.Rf1 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1

Qc5 25.Qd7+ Kf7 26.e6+ Kg6 27.Qxb7 and White is, of course, completely winning.

80.3)



22...Bxh2+! 23.Kxh2 Nh4

White had undoubtedly missed this when he first did a quick mental check on Black possibly playing ...Bxh2+.

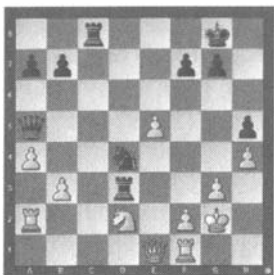
24.g4

Or 24.g3 Rh6 (this was the point behind ...Nh4) 25.Rh1 Rxe3 26.Qxe3 Nf5+ 27.Kg2 Nxe3+ 28.fxe3 Qxe3 and White can resign.

24...Qxg4 25.Rg1 Nf3+ and with mate in two looming, White resigned. 0-1

K.S. Holm (2462) – E. Agrest (2574) NOR-SWE Online Blitz chess24.com 2020

80.4)



26.b4!!

In the game, White missed our main line move and soon lost after 26.e6? fxe6 27.Ne4? Qd5 28.f3 Nc2 29.Rxc2 Rxc2+ 30.Rf2 Qxb3 31.Ng5 Rd1 32.Qa5 Rxf2+ 33.Kxf2 Qc2+ 34.Ke3 Rd3+ 35.Kf4 Qc1+ and White resigned. 0-1 **L. Dominguez Perez (2758) – F. Caruana (2835) Clutch Chess Showdown lichess.org 2020.**

26...Qxb4 27.Qb1 Qc3

Or 27...Qxb1 28.Rxb1 b6 29.Ne4 Re8 30.a5 b5 31.Nc5 Rc3 32.Ne4 Rc7? (32...Rd3 would be a draw) 33.Rd2 Nc6 34.Rc1 and White is clearly better in the endgame.

28.Ne4 Qc4 29.Qxb7 Rb3 30.Qd7 Nf3

31.Nd2! Nxe5 32.Nxc4 Nxd7 and the chances are very close to completely equal.

Set 81

Exercises to Set 81

81.1)



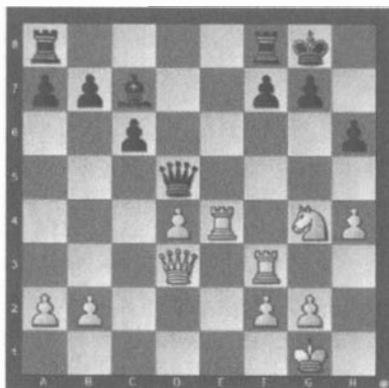
81.2)



81.3)



81.4)



81.1)

Hint: Let's crash White's party

81.2)

Hint: Black's king is still in the center

81.3)

**

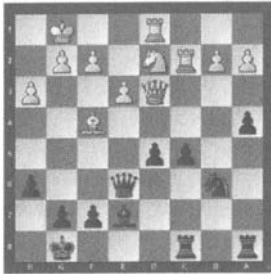
Hint: No castling for you

81.4)

Hint: Heavy pieces need open files

Solutions to Set 81

81.1)



22...c4! 23.Qf1

Or 23.Qc3 Bf6 24.Qb4 d4! and Black is winning.

23...d4! 24.Rdc1 d3 25.Rc3 Bf6 and, losing material, White resigned. 0–1

K.S. Holm (2462) – N. Grandelius (2651)

NOR-SWE Online Blitz chess24.com 2020

81.2)



11.f4! exf4

The alternatives were: 11...Ne3 12.Bxe3 Bxe3 13.fxe5 Qd7 14.Nf4 0–0–0 15.Qe1 Ba7 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.b4 and White is clearly better. or 11...Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bd5 13.Bxd5 Qxd5 14.fxe5 and White has an advantage.

12.Bxd5 Bxd5??

Black should have played 12...fxg3+ 13.Nxg3 Bxd5 14.Qh5 Ne7 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Qxd5 Nxd5 17.Rf5 and White is better.

13.Nxf4 Ne7 14.Qh5 c6 15.Ncxd5 cxd5 16.Ne6 Qd6 17.Nxg7+ Kd7 18.Rxf7

White is winning.

18...Raf8 19.Bf4 Rxf7 20.Bxd6 Rf2+ 21.Kh1 Bxd6 22.Re1 Rhf8 23.Qg4+ Kc6 24.Ne6 R8f6 25.Nd4+ Kb6 26.Re2 Rf1+ 27.Kg2 Nc6 28.Nxc6 bxc6 29.c3 R1f5 30.b4 Kb7 31.Qg7+ Rf7 32.Qxh6 Bc7 33.Qe3 Bb6 34.d4 Bc7 35.h4 a5 36.a3 a4 37.Qd3 Rf1 38.b5 R1f6 39.bxc6+ Kxc6 40.Qa6+ Bb6 41.Qxa4+ Kb7 42.Qe8 Rf8 43.Re7+ Bc7 44.Qb5+ Rb6 45.Rxc7+ 1–0

D. Dubov (2699) – H. Nakamura (2736)

Lindores Abbey chess24.com 2020

81.3)



14.Nxd5! exd5 15.Rae1+ Kd7

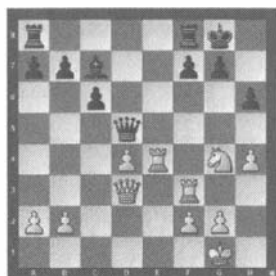
Or 15...Kf8 16.Bxd5 Bh3 17.Rxf6+ Qxf6 18.Be3 b6 19.Qxh3 and White has a decisive advantage.

16.Qxd5+ Kc7 17.Ba5+ b6 18.Qc6+ Kb8 19.Qxa8+ and White can force mate. 19...Kc7 20.Qxa7+ Kd6 21.Bxb6 Bd4+ 22.Kh1 Qd7 23.Qb8+

The game continued: 23.Qa3 Qb5 24.c3 Bf6 25.Qa7 Bd8 26.Qb8+ Kd7 27.Rf7+ Ne7 28.Rfxe7+ Bxe7 29.Qc7+ and Black resigned.

1-0 An. Hasanagic (2235) – S. Zierk (2499)
Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

81.4)



24.Nxh6+!

24.Nf6+ works equally well, e.g., 24...gxf6 25.Rg4+ Kh8 26.Rxf6 Qh5 27.Qf3, transposing to our main line.

24...gxh6 25.Rg4+ Kh8 26.Rf6

In the game, White completely missed his chance and immediately lost: 26.Rf5 Rae8 27.g3 Re1+ and White resigned. **0-1 S. Stojanovski (2232) – D. Fridman (2615)**
Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

26...Qh5 27.Qf3 Rae8 28.g3 Bd8 29.Rf5

Black has to give up the bishop to preserve the queen; White, however, maintains a fierce attack.

29...Bg5 30.Kg2 Kh7 31.hxg5 Re1 32.Rh4 Qxf3+ 33.Rxf3 Re6 34.Re3 Rxe3 35.fxe3 h5 36.Rxh5+ Kg6 37.g4 and White is winning.

Set 82

Exercises to Set 82

82.1)



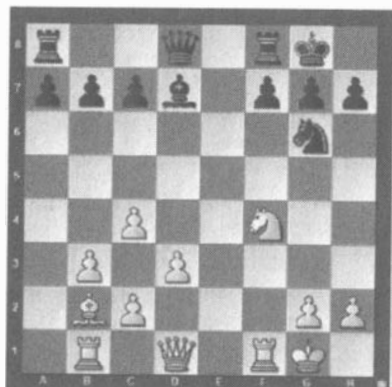
82.2)



82.3)



82.4)



82.1)

*

Hint: Standard stuff

82.2)

**

Hint: Straight for the heart

82.3)

Hint: Let's act like it is a Dragon!

82.4)

**

Hint: Kamikaze... or no?

Solutions to Set 82

82.1)

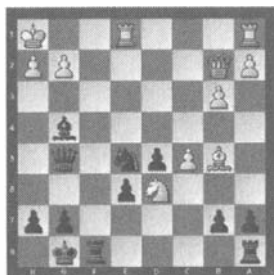


15.d5! exd5 16.Bf5!

The game continuation was less accurate even though Black collapsed soon enough: 16.cxd5 Nb4 17.Bf5 Bd6 18.Bxc8 Bxc8 19.Nb5 Nxa2 20.Ra1 Nb4 21.Nxd6 Qxd6 22.Rxa7 Rd8 and Black resigned. **1-0 S. Pogosyan (2442) – R. Reimanis (2421)** Russia-Latvia U-16 Team lichess.org 2020. White can also play 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.cxd5 Nb4 (or 17...Na5 18.Qe5 Bf6 (also 18...f6 19.Qe6+ Kh8 20.Qh3 and it is game over for Black) 19.Qf5 and White wins) 18.Rxc8 Bxc8 19.Bc4 Bg4 20.h3 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 and White is winning.

16...d4 17.Bxc8 Qxc8 18.Nd5 Re8 19.Re1 and White is winning.

82.2)



24...Nf3!

Obviously, the knight cannot be captured, but aside from that it doesn't look like White will be outright lost after the text move, but that is, in fact, the case.

25.Rf1

Or 25.Re2 a6 26.Bd3 Rf4 and Black is winning.

25...Nd2! 26.Rxf8+

Or 26.Rfe1 a6 27.Bd3 Nf3 28.Re2 Rf4 29.Rf1 Raf8 and Black is winning. White cannot wrestle himself free from Black's stranglehold.

26...Rxf8 27.Qd4 Nf3 28.Qf2 Nxh2

Finally, the lid is being ripped off the cover of White's king.

29.Qg3 Nf3 30.gxf3 Bxf3+ 31.Kh2 Qh5+ 32.Qh3 Qe5+ 33.Qg3 Qxa1 0-1

C. Deepan (2535) – D. Gordievsky (2559)

Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

82.3)



13.Nf5! gxf5

Black doesn't really have anything good, for instance, 13...Ne8 14.Nxg7 N6xg7 15.h4 and White has a decisive advantage.

14.gxf5 Kh8

Black has to hand the piece back right away. White is obviously winning.

15.fxe6 Bxe6 16.Rxg7 Kxg7 17.Bd4 Qh5 18.Bd3

The game continuation was 18.Qf4 Qg6 19.Bd3 Rg8 20.Rg1 Kf8 21.Rxg6 Rxg6 22.Qxd6+ Kg8 23.Qf4 Rd8 24.Bxa7 Nd7 25.Bf2 Nf6 26.b3 Nh5 27.Qh4 Rxd3 28.cxd3 Bxb3 29.axb3 Rg1+ 30.Bxg1 Ng3 31.hxg3 Kh8 32.Qf6+ Kg8 33.Bd4 h6 34.Qg7# **1-0 VI. Fedoseev (2678) – V. Sanal (2581)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

18...c5 19.Rg1+ and White is winning.

82.4)



17.Bxg7!

White rips open Black's shelter to land a knight on f6.

17...Kxg7

Or 17...Nxf4 18.Bxf8 Qg5 19.Rxf4 (it is tempting to think that 19.Qf3 is better, but 19...Bc6 20.Bh6 Qg6 21.Bxf4 Bxf3 22.Rxf3 Kf8 is more complicated, even if still better for White) 19...Qxf4 20.Bc5 and White is clearly better.

18.Nh5+ Kh8 19.Nf6 h6

Or 19...Bc8 20.Qd2 Qd4+ (also 20...Rg8 21.Rbe1 Bd7 22.Qc3 Rg7 23.Rf2 Be6 24.Nh5 Qg8 25.d4 c6 26.Qf3 Rd8 27.Qf6 Rd7 28.Rd2 and White is winning. Black's problem is that it is almost impossible to release White's pressure without making things worse) 21.Kh1 Be6 22.Rbe1 Rg8 23.c3 Qd8 24.d4 Bd7 25.d5 and White has a large advantage.

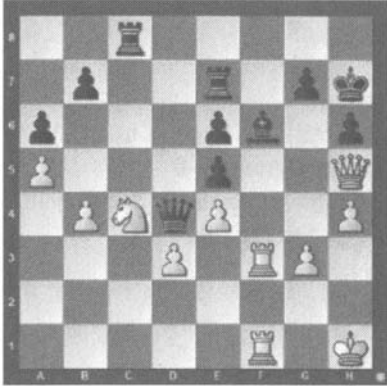
20.Qd2 Kg7 21.Qc3 Kh8 22.Nxd7+ and Black resigned. **1-0**

L. Rozman (2343) – P. Thipsay (2376) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

Set 83

Exercises to Set 83

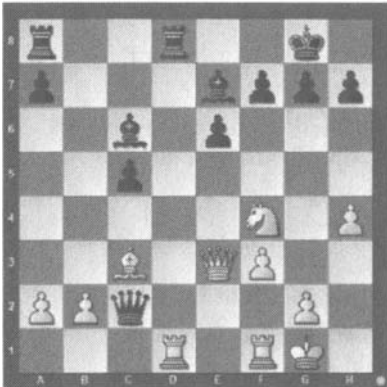
83.1)



83.2)



83.3)



83.4)



83.1)

*

Hint: Loosen the defense

83.2)

**

Hint: Lightning strikes

83.3)

Hint: Kick to the side and strike

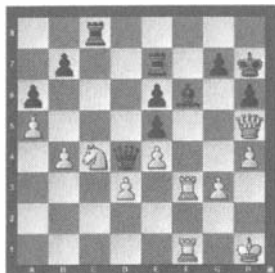
83.4)

*

Hint: Uncover the soft spot

Solutions to Set 83

83.1)



30.Rxf6! Qxd3

Or 30...gxf6 31.Rxf6 Qa1+ 32.Kg2 Qc1 33.Qg6+ Kh8 34.Rf1 and Black cannot keep the h6 pawn protected.

31.Qg6+ Kg8 32.Nxe5

White has won a piece and is, of course, completely winning.

32...Qe2 33.Ng4 Ree8 34.Nxh6+ Kh8 35.Nf7+ Kg8 36.Ng5 Black resigned. 1–0

D. Paravyan (2653) – A. Sarana (2654)

PNWCC Online lichess.org 2020

83.2)



11.Nc3! Nxa4

Or 11...0–0 12.Nd5 Qxe5 13.Re1 Qg7 14.Bxc6 dxc6 15.Nxc7 Rb8 16.Ne8 Qh8 17.Qd8 and White is winning.

12.Nd5!

White makes it a piece sacrifice in return for attack on the dark squares.

12...Qd8 13.Nf6+ Kf8 14.Bh6+ Ke7 15.Bg7

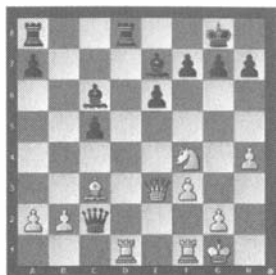
Or 15.Ne4 Qg8 16.Qf3 Kd8 17.Nf6 and Black's queen is trapped.

15...Rg8 16.Nd5+ Ke6 17.Bf6 and Black resigned. 1–0

C. W. Yoo (2455) – A. Pichot (2630)

PNWCC Online lichess.org 2020

83.3)



23.Rc1!

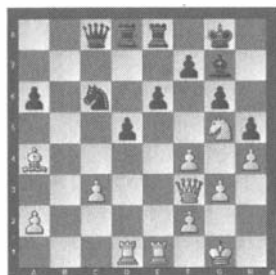
A tempting alternative is 23.Rxd8+? Rxd8 24.Nxe6? (even worse is 24.Qe5 Bf8 25.Nxe6 Re8 and Black is winning) 24...Rd1 25.Ng5 (or 25.Nxg7 Rxf1+ 26.Kxf1 Bxh4 27.Kg1 Bg3 and Black is clearly better) 25...Rxf1+ 26.Kxf1 Bd6 27.Be5 Bf8 28.Ne4 and White is struggling to equalize.

23...Qa4 24.Nxe6! fxe6??

It was relatively better to play 24...Rd5 25.Nc7 Qxh4 26.Nxd5 Bxd5 27.Rfe1 and White has a clear advantage.

25.Qxe6+ Kf8 26.Bxg7+ Kxg7 27.Qxe7+ Kg8 28.Qe6+ Kh8 29.Rc4 and Black resigned. 1–0
L. Aronian (2773) – A. Grischuk (2777)
 Clutch Chess Showdown lichess.org 2020

83.4)



25.f5! A temporary pawn sacrifice that destroys Black's kingside pawn structure. **25...gxf5** The alternatives are not any better, for instance, 25...exf5 26.Rxe8+ Rxe8 27.Qxd5; or 25...Rf8 26.fxe6 fxe6 27.Qe3 (also 27.Qd3 Rf6 28.c4 is strong) 27...Ne5 28.f4 Nc4 29.Qxe6+ Qxe6 30.Nxe6 Bxc3 31.Nxd8 Bxe1 32.Ne6 and White is winning.

26.c4 Nd4 27.Rxd4 Bxd4 28.Bxe8 Rxe8 29.Qxh5 Qc7 30.cxd5 Re7 31.dxe6

Black is completely busted, and the resignation soon followed.

31...f6 32.Qg6+ Kf8 33.Nf3 Bc3 34.Rc1 Rxe6 35.Nd4 Rb6 36.Qh6+ Kg8 37.Qe3 and Black resigned. 1–0

M. Carlsen (2863) – F. Caruana (2835)
 Clutch Chess Showdown lichess.org 2020

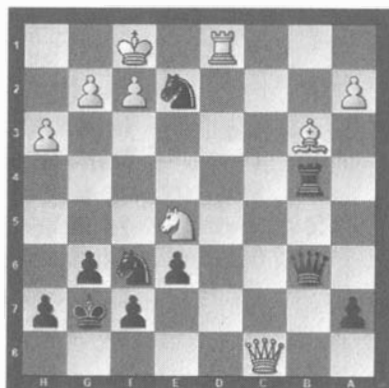
Set 84

Exercises to Set 84

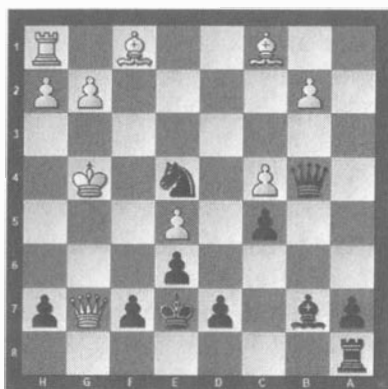
84.1)



84.2)



84.3)



84.4)



84.1)

Hint: Minute precision

84.2)

Hint: Precise counterstrike

84.3)

Hint: Argentine tango

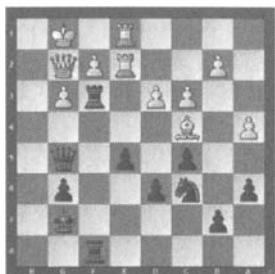
84.4)

**

Hint: Fast assault

Solutions to Set 84

84.1)



25...e4!!

Black clears the e5-square for the knight.

26.dxe4 Ne5 27.Be6

Or 27.b3 Ng4 and Black is winning.

27...Nd3 28.Bf5

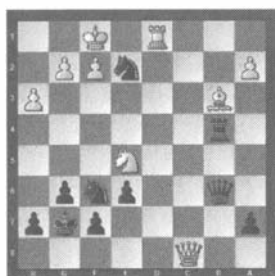
Also, 28.Rf1 Nxf2 29.Rxf2 Rxd3 wins for Black.

28...Nxe1 29.Rxe1 Rd3 30.f4 Qxd3 31.Qxd3 Rxd3+ and Black is winning. The conclusion of the game came much later. **32.Kf2 Rd3 33.Ke2 c4 34.Rg1 Rf6 35.Rg4 d5 36.a5 b6 37.axb6 Rxb6 38.b4 cxb3 39.Kxd3 b2 40.Rxd6+ Rxd6 41.Kc2 Rb6 42.Kb1 Kf6 43.Bh7 dxe4 44.Bxe4 a5 45.Bc2 Ke6 46.c4 Kd6 47.f5 Kc5 48.f6 Rxf6 49.Kxb2 Kxc4 50.Bh7 Rf8 51.Be4 Re8 52.Bg6 Re7 53.Bh5 Kb4 54.Bf3 Rd7 55.Bg4 Rd2+ 56.Kb1 Rd6 57.Kb2 a4 58.Bh5 a3+ 59.Kb1 Rd7 60.Bg6 Rd1+ 61.Ka2 Rd2+ 62.Kb1 a2+ 63.Ka1 Ka3 64.Bc2 Re2 65.Bd1 Rg2** and White resigned. 0-1

F. Caruana (2835) – M. Carlsen (2863)

Clutch Chess Showdown lichess.org 2020

84.2)



30...Ne4!

The game continuation was: 30...Qb5?

31.Nd3? Nf4! and White resigned. 0-1 R.

Jumabayev (2654) - Le Quang Liem (2709)

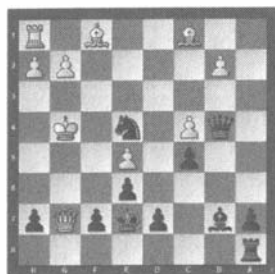
PNWCC Online lichess.org 2020. Black also wins after 30...Ng3+ 31.fxd3 Ne4 when White is forced to something like 32.Qf8+ Kxf8 33.Nd7+ Ke7 34.Nxb6 Nxd3+ and Black obviously wins.

31.Ng4

Or 31.Nd3 N2c3 32.Rc1 Rd4 and White can resign.

31...N4g3+ 32.fxd3 Re4 33.Ke1 h5 and Black is winning.

84.3)



20...h5+!

Step 1: Open another file toward White's king. In the game, Black completely collapsed: 20...Rf8 21.Bd3 Ke8 22.Bh6 f6 23.Qxf8# That went downhill fast. **1-0 P.A.Nastore (2234) – A. Otchiyev (2326)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

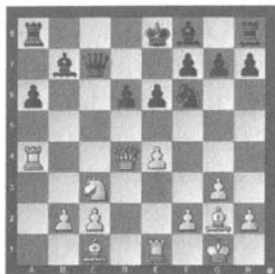
21.Kxh5 Kd8!

Step 2: Bring your own king to safety.

22.Be2 Kc7! 23.Qxf7 Rh8+

Step 3: Launch your attack. **24.Kg6 Bc6** and Black has a clear advantage.

84.4)



13.Rc4! Qd7

Nothing works particularly well for Black, for instance, 13...Qb8 14.Nd5 Nxd5 (or 14...exd5 15.exd5+ Be7 16.Bg5 Kf8 17.Rxe7 Kxe7 18.Qe3+ Kd7 19.Bh3+ Kd8 20.Bxf6+ gxf6 21.Qh6 and White is winning) 15.exd5 e5 16.f4 f6 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.d6 and White is, of course, winning. Also, 13...Qd8 14.e5 wins for White.

14.e5 Bxg2 15.exf6 Qb7 16.fxg7

White wins at least a piece.

16...Bh1 17.gxf8Q+ Rxf8 18.Ne4 Bxe4 19.Qxe4 d5 20.Rb4 and Black resigned. **1-0 A. Espinosa Aranda (2506) – M. Bruedigam (2386)** Titled Tuesday chess.com.2020.

Set 85

Exercises to Set 85

85.1)



85.2)



85.3)



85.4)



85.1)

*

Hint: Lack of space

85.3)

**

Hint: Pins and needles

85.2)

**

Hint: Loose pieces and just enough

85.4)

**

Hint: Add firepower

Solutions to Set 85

85.1)



21...e3!

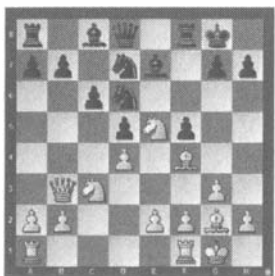
The game continued 21...Rxf2 22.Rxf2 (White could have played 22.Kxf2 Qf6+ 23.Ke1 Qe5 24.Ra3 Qxh2 25.Ne6 Bh4+ 26.Kd2 Ne5 27.Rc3 Qxg2 and Black has the better chances) 22...Be3 23.Ne6?? (23.Nc2 was better) 23...Qf6 and White resigned. **0-1 N. Mamedov (2609) – N. Abdusattorov (2627)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

22.Bg3 Rxf1+

Or 22...h4 23.Rxf8+ Rxf8 24.Be1 Qe4 25.Nf3 Bf6 with a clear advantage for Black.

23.Qxf1 h4 24.Bf4 Rf8 and Black is much better.

85.2)



12.Nxc6! bxc6 13.Nxd5! Kh8

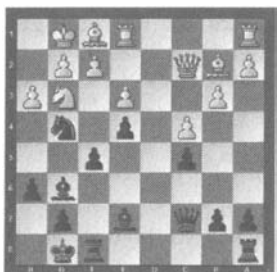
Or 13...cxd5 14.Qxd5+ Kh8 15.Qxa8 and White is winning.

14.Nxe7 Qxe7 15.Qa3 Rf6 16.Bxc6!

The game continued along a different path and eventually, Black even won the game: 16.Bg5 Bb7 17.Rac1 Rc8 18.Rc2 f4 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Rfc1 Qxd4 21.Bxc6 fxc3 22.hxc3 Bxc6 23.Rxc6 Rf8 24.e3 Qd2 25.R6c2 Qd5 26.Qb3 Qf5 27.Rd2 Ne4 and White resigned. **0-1 N. Zhukova (2328) – I. Osmak (2438)** Microsoft Leogaming chess.com 2020.

16...Rb8 17.Qxa7 and White is winning.

85.3)



21...Nxf2! 22.Qxf2 Bh4 23.Kh2

White is pinned twice on g3 but if White gets to play Qf4, Black is lost. The continuation is obvious...

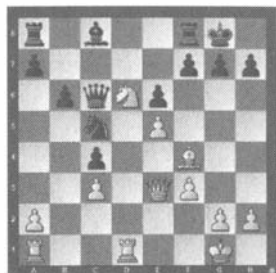
23...f4! 24.exf4 Rxf4 25.Qe3 Raf8 26.Rad1

Or 26.Kh1 R4f7 27.Nxe4 Bxe4 28.Qxe4 Bxe1 29.Qxe1 Rxf1+ and Black wins.

26...Rf2 and White resigned. The threat is ...R8f3. **0-1**

Cr. Cruz (2568) – A. Escobar Forero (2510) Iberoamericano chess24.com 2020

85.4)



20.Rd4! Kh8

Or 20...f5 21.exf6 Rxf6 22.Be5 Rg6 23.Qf4 h6 24.Qf7+ Kh7 25.Rg4 Rxd4 26.fxd4 Qd7 27.Rf1 and White is clearly better.

21.Bh6 f5 22.exf6

White can deliver mate in any number of ways; the fastest is 22.Nf7+ Kg8 23.Qg5 g6 24.Qf6 and Black is toast.

22...Rxf6 23.Qg5

The game continued 23.Bg5 Rg6 24.Bf4 Kg8 25.Nxc4 Qe8 26.Ne5 Rf6 27.Bg5 Rf8 28.Rd8 Qh5 29.g4 and Black resigned. **1-0 F. Vallejo Pons (2710) – R. Vasquez Schroeder (2441)** Iberoamericano chess24.com 2020.

23...Qc7 24.Nf7+ with mate in a few moves.

Set 86

Exercises to Set 86

86.1)



86.2)



86.3)



86.4)



86.1)

**

Hint: Attacking with all the pieces

86.2)

Hint: Penetration

86.3)

**

Hint: Making simple threats

86.4)

**

Hint: Playing for squares

Solutions to Set 86

86.1)



24.Ng3!

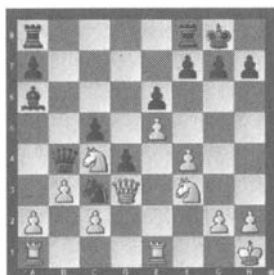
Sacrificing a piece to demonstrate that Black's king shelter is more of a hole in the ground than actual cover.

24...exd2 25.Nxh5! Ne5 26.Qxd2

The game continuation was 26.Rd1 fxg4?! (or 26...Qe7 27.fxe5 Qxe5 28.Qxd2 and White is winning) 27.fxe5 Qg5 28.Nf6+ Kh8 29.e6 Qe5 and Black resigned at the same time. **1–0 P.H. Nielsen (2618) – A. Korobov (2688)** MrDodgy Invitational chess24.com 2020.

26...Ng6 27.Qb2 Rf7 28.Re6 and it is game over for Black.

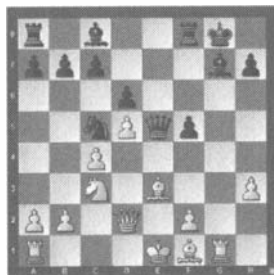
86.2)



21.Ng5! g6 22.Qh3!

The game concluded 22.a3? Bxc4?? (22...Qb7 would have kept Black going) 23.Qh3 and Black resigned. **1-0 I. Bulmaga (2440) – I. Janik (2467)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020. **22...h5 23.Nd6 Qb6 24.Qg3** and White comfortably penetrates on the kingside; White is winning.

86.3)



16.0–0–0!

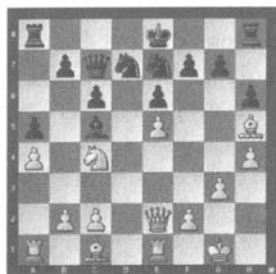
Threatening Bd4.

16...Kh8 17.Re1!

White could also play 17.Rxg7 as in the game, e.g., 17...Qxg7 18.Bd4 Rf6 19.Nb5 Ne4 20.Qf4 a6 (20...Bd7 was a better try, but White is winning) 21.f3 axb5 22.fxe4 Rxa2 23.Qh4 Ra1+ 24.Kc2 Rxd1 25.Bxf6 Rxf1 26.Qg5 Rg1 27.Bxg7+ Kg8 28.Qxg1 and Black resigned. **1-0 Le Quang Liem (2709) – A. Kashlinskaya (2494)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

17...Ne4 18.Nxe4 fxe4 19.Rxg7!! Qxg7 20.Bd4 Rf6 21.Rxe4 Kg8 22.Re8+ Kf7 23.Qe3 and it is game over for Black.

86.4)



17.Nd6+!

A pawn sacrifice to loosen the dark squares.

17...Bxd6 18.exd6 Qxd6 19.Rd1!

The game continuation was 19.Bf4!? e5 20.Rad1 Qe6 21.Bxe5 Kf8?? (Black should have played 21...Nxe5 22.Qxe5 Qxe5 23.Rxe5 Rd8 24.Rxd8+ Kxd8 25.Bxf7 when White also should be winning) 22.Bd6 Qxe2 23.Rxe2 Re8 24.Rde1 g6 25.Rxe7 Rxe7 26.Rxe7 gxh5 27.Rxd7+ Kg7 28.Be5+ Kg6 29.Bxh8 and Black resigned. **1-0 R. Preotu (2487) – I. Bulmaga (2440)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

19...Qe5

Or 19...Qc5 20.Bxf7+ Kxf7 21.Rxd7 and White is winning.

20.Rxd7! Qxe2 21.Rxe7+ Kxe7 22.Bxe2 and White has a won endgame.

Set 87

Exercises to Set 87

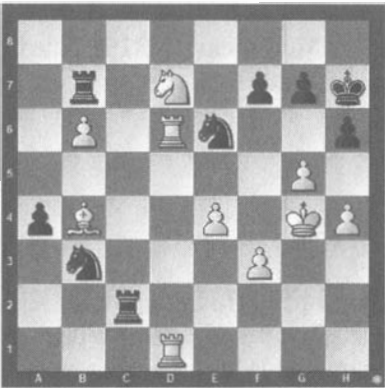
87.1)



87.2)



87.3)



87.4)



87.1)

**

Hint: When you tie yourself up in knots

87.2)

Hint: Not enough air

87.3)

*

Hint: It could be mate...

87.4)

Hint: Mobilization issues

Solutions to Set 87

87.1)



16.Ndc6! White has a strong alternative in 16.Nxf7 Rxf7 17.Nxe6 and White has a decisive advantage. **16...Qh4 17.Bg3 Qg5 18.h4 Qf6 19.Ng4 Qxb2 20.Bxd6 bxc6 21.Rc2** White is winning. **21...Qb5 22.Bxf8 Nxf8 23.h5 h6 24.Qf3 Qxh5 25.Qxc6 Nc7 26.Qf3 Nd5 27.e4 e5 28.Nxh6+** and Black resigned. 1–0

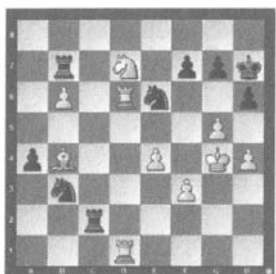
87.2)



18.dxc6! bxc6 19.Nb5! Na6 20.Nd4 Black doesn't have a chance to properly coordinate his pieces. **20...Nb4 21.a3 Nd5 22.Nxc6! Nxf4 23.Bb5! e5 24.Nxe5+ Ke7 25.Rhe1** and Black resigned. 1–0

R. Preotu (2487) – M. Swicarz (2325) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

87.3)



46.g6+! Or 46.Rxe6 h5+ 47.Kxh5 g6+ 48.Kg4 fxe6 49.Nf6+ Kg7 50.Rd8 and White is winning. **46...Kxg6?** This move speeds up the end but even 46...Kg8 47.gxf7+ Kxf7 48.Ne5+ Kf6 49.R1d5 doesn't promise Black a bright future. **47.Nf8+ Kf6 48.e5+ Kxe5 49.R6d5+ Kf6 50.Rf5#** 1–0

M. Vachier Lagrave (2778) – F. Caruana (2835) Chessable Masters chess24.com 2020

87.4)



17.Ndxf7! Nxb2 Or 17...Rxf7 18.Nxf7 Kxf7 19.Rc4 a5 20.a3 and White is better. **18.Rc7** The game continued 18.Bh5 a5?? 19.Rc7 Na4 20.Bg6 and Black resigned. **1-0 Kozul,Z (2597) - Bosiocic,Mari (2625)** Croatian ch (Vinkovci) 2020. **18...Ba5 19.Rc2 Na4 20.Bh5** and White is winning.

Set 88

Exercises to Set 88

88.1)



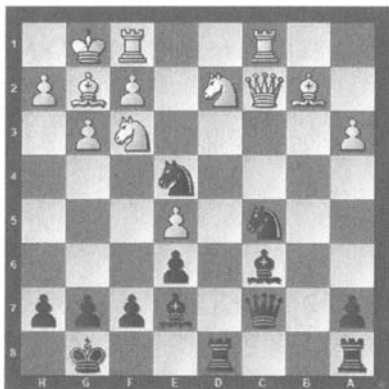
88.2)



88.3)



88.4)



88.1)

**

Hint: Strike before it is too late

88.2)

Hint: How to deal with Black's ...Ne6?

88.3)

**

Hint: Simple threats

88.4)

**

Hint: Structural issues

Solutions to Set 88

88.1)



12.Rad1

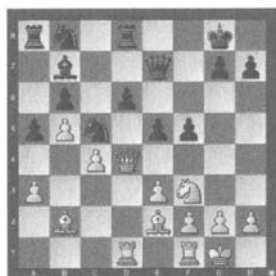
The game continuation was also pretty good for White: 12.Bxc6+!? Kf8 13.Rfd1? (13.Rad1 would have given play similar to our main line) 13...Qxe2?? (13...Qxb2!) 14.Bxb7 Rb8 15.Qxa7?? (15.Qb4+ wins) 15...Qxe5 16.Qa3+ Ne7 17.Rd7 Re8 18.Rc1?? g6 19.Rxc4 Qe1+ 20.Kg2 Be2 21.Rcc7 Qf1# **0-1 O. Vastrukhin (2401) – M. Aditya (2438)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

12...Qxb2

Or 12...Qg5 13.Bxc6+ Kf8 14.Bxb7 and White is much better.

13.Bxc6+ Kf8 14.Qxa7 and White is winning.

88.2)



17.Nxe5! Ne6

This is the move Black had counted on when allowing 17.Nxe5.

18.Qxb6 dxe5 19.Rxd8+ Nxd8 20.Rd1

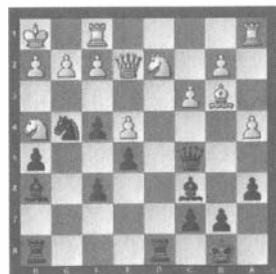
White has sacrificed a piece, but Black's queenside pieces are a joke and struggle to get out.

20...Nf7 21.c5 Be4 22.c6 h6 23.f3 Bc2 24.Rc1 Bb3 25.c7 Nd7 26.c8Q+ Rxc8 27.Rxc8+ Kh7 28.Qxa5 Qg5 29.Qc3 Be6 30.Rc6 Nd8 31.Rc7 Nb6 32.Qxe5 Bf7 33.Qe7 Qh4 34.Qxh4 and Black resigned. 1–0

I. Turova (2381) – S. Vijayalakshmi (2332)

Women's Speed Chess chess.com 2020

88.3)



26...Qb6!

The game continued 26...Rxd2 27.Qxd2 f3?! (27...Bxe4!?) 28.Qc2? fxg2+ 29.Kxg2?? Rd8 30.Rad1 Rxd1 31.Rxd1 Bxe4+ 32.Qxe4 Qxf2+ 33.Kh1 Qxh2# **0-1 A. Kosteniuk (2471) – E. Safarli (2598)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

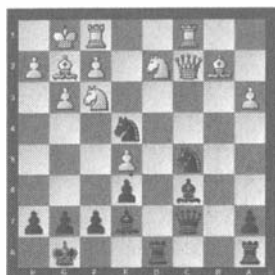
27.Bd5

The alternatives were: 27.Ra3?? Bf8 28.Nc4 Qa7 29.Raa1 Bc5 and Black is winning. Or 27.Nhf3 Rxd2 28.Nxd2 f3 29.gxf3 Bxd2 30.Qxd2 Qxb3 and Black wins or 27.Bc4

Qxb2 28.Ra2 Qxc3 with a clear advantage for Black.

27...Bxd5 28.exd5 Rxd5 29.Ndf3 Rhd8 and White is busted; the most direct plan is ...f6–f5 and ...e5–e4, forcing the collapse of White's defensive set-up.

88.4)



18...Nxd2! 19.Nxd2 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Qb7+ 21.f3

Or 21.Kg1 Nd3 22.Rb1 Rac8 23.Ba1 Qd7 24.Qa2 Qc6 and Black is winning.

21...Nd3

White has so many structural issues that Black can penetrate in a bunch of ways.

22.Rb1 Rac8 23.Bc3 Qc6 24.Ne4 Nxe5 25.Qe2 Nd3

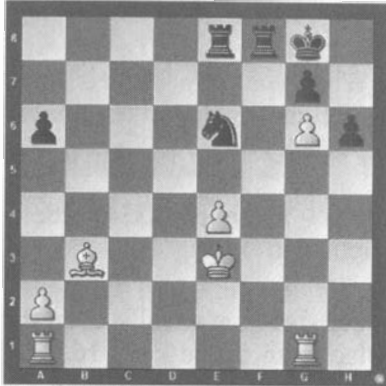
Or as played in the game, 25...Nc4 26.Rbc1 Bxa3 27.Ra1 Qb6? 28.Rfb1 Qe3 29.Qa2?? f5 (29...Rd3 wins) 30.Re1 Qb6? 31.Ng5 Ne3+? 32.Kh1?? Rxc3 33.Nxe6 Rc2 34.Qxa3 Rdd2?? (34...Ng4 35.fxg4 Qc6+ ends the game in Black's favor) 35.Qf8# **1-0 M. Socko (2428) – P. Shkapenko (2424)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

26.Bd2 h6 27.Rfd1 Qa4 and Black is winning.

Set 89

Exercises to Set 89

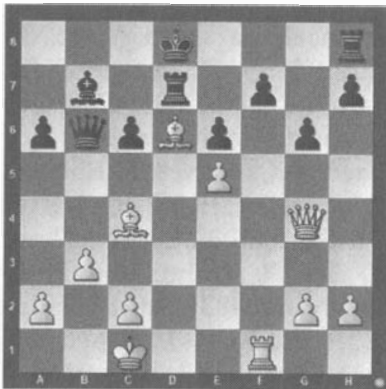
89.1)



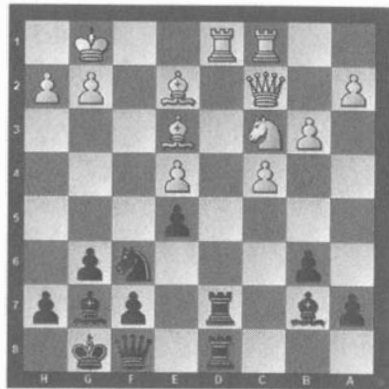
89.2)



89.3)



89.4)



89.1)

**

Hint: Passive defenders

89.3)

**

Hint: Holes unplugged

89.2)

**

Hint: Diagonally thinking

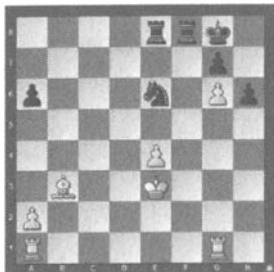
89.4)

**

Hint: Small moves with big effect

Solutions to Set 89

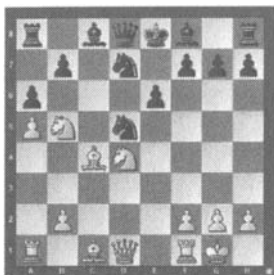
89.1)



32.Raf1! This is much stronger than using the other rook, e.g., 32.Rgf1 Rf6 33.Rxf6 gxf6 and Black will play ...Kg7 and equalize. **32...h5** The alternatives also do not work for Black: 32...Rf6 33.Rxf6 gxf6 34.g7 and Black is basically without moves; White will play Rg6, Kf3–g4–f5. Or 32...Kh8 33.Bxe6, and White is a piece up. **33.Rf5 Rf6 34.Rxh5 Kf8 35.e5** and Black resigned. 1–0

N. Matinian (2475) – T. Yanev (2354) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

89.2)



15.Bxd5! axb5 16.Bxe6! Let's really open the center to visit Black's uncastled king. **16...Be7 17.Bxf7+!** First d5, then e6, and finally f7. **17...Kxf7 18.Qb3+!** The game continued 18.Qh5+!? g6 19.Qd5+ Ke8 20.Re1?? (after 20.Qxb5, White should be winning) 20...Nf6 21.Qxb5+ Kf7 22.Nf3 Qd5? 23.Ng5+ Kf8? 24.Qe2 Bd6? 25.Be3 h6 26.Rad1 Qe5 27.f4 Qe7 28.Nf3?? (White was still winning after 28.Qc4 Qc7 29.Ne6+ Bxe6 30.Qxe6 Ne8 31.Bb6 and Black will not survive) 28...Bg4 29.Qd3 Bxf3 30.Bc5 Bxc5+ 31.Kh1 Bxd1 32.Rxe7 Bxe7 and White resigned. 0-1 **R. Quintiliano Pinto (2469) – A. Mikaelyan (2483)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020. **18...Ke8 19.Ne6! Nc5 20.Nxc5 Bxc5 21.Qxb5+ Kf7 22.Qxc5** and White is obviously winning.

89.3)

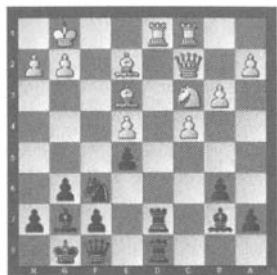


21.Qh4+ Kc8 22.Rxf7! Black's pawn chain gets ripped apart and lets White penetrate. **22...Rxf7** Or 22...Qe3+, when White wins after 23.Kb1 Rxf7 24.Bxe6+ Rd7 25.Bxd7+ Kxd7 26.Qe7+ Kc8 27.Qc7#. **23.Bxe6+ Rd7 24.Bxd7+ Kxd7 25.Qe7+ Kc8 26.Qe6+ Kd8 27.Qf6+ Kd7 28.Qxh8** White is easily winning. **28...Qg1+ 29.Kb2 Ke6 30.Qg8+ Kf5 31.Qf7+** and Black resigned. 1–0

A. Pichot (2630) - D. Brodsky (2455)

PNWCC Online lichess.org 2020

89.4)

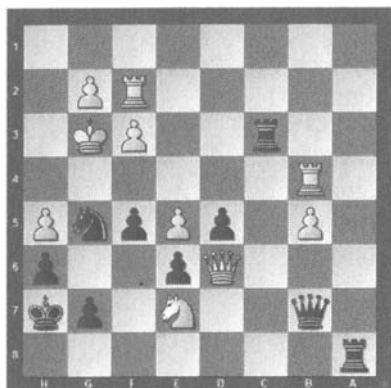


19...Bh6! Black claims the dark squares and White has no good way to meet it. **20.Bxh6 Qxh6 21.Bf3??** White should have played 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.exd5 Qe3+ 23.Kf1 Rc7 and Black has the better chances. **21...Qe3+ 22.Kf1 Rd2 23.Ne2 Nxe4** and White resigned. **0-1**
K. Shubin (2429) – C. Troyke (2317) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

Set 90

Exercises to Set 90

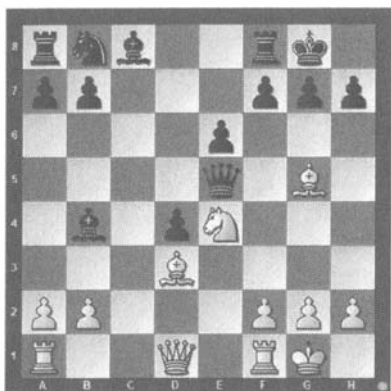
90.1)



90.2)



90.3)



90.4)



90.1)

Hint: Find something better than the temptation

90.2)

**

Hint: Bang-bang!

90.3)

Hint: It can go very fast downhill

90.4)

**

Hint: Hi there!

Solutions to Set 90

90.1)



37...d4!

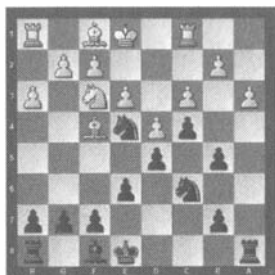
In the game, Black went 37...Ne4+?? and White lost on time. **0-1 R. Padmini (2370) – A. Bivol (2386)** Women's Speed Chess chess.com 2020.

38.Rxd4

Or 38.Kh2 Rxf3 39.Rxf3 (39.Rxd4 Rxf2 and Black wins) 39...Nxf3+ 40.Kg3 Qe4 and Black is winning.

38...Ne4+ 39.Rxe4 Qxe4 40.Qxe6 Qg4+ and White gets mated.

90.2)



13...Bxa3! 14.bxa3 Rxa3 15.Nd2 Nxc3

16.Bd6 b4 17.Bxc4

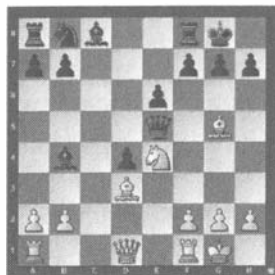
Or 17.Nxc4 dxc4 18.Bxc4 Kd7 19.Bc5 Rb8 and Black is winning.

17...Kd7!

This is even stronger than the game continuation: 17...dxc4 18.Nxc4 Ra2 19.g4 f6 20.Kf1 Ne4 21.f3 Nxd6 22.Nxd6+ Ke7 23.Nxb7 Rb8 24.Nc5 b3 25.Rb1 Na5 26.Rg1 Nc4 27.Ke1 b2 28.Kd1 Na3 29.Kd2 Nxb1+ 30.Rxb1 Ra1 31.Kc2 Rxb1 32.Kxb1 h5 33.Nd3 Rb3 34.Nxb2 Rxe3 35.gxh5 Rxf3 36.h6 gxh6 and White resigned. **0-1 J. Cori (2652) – G. Vazquez (2527)** Iberoamericano chess24.com 2020.

18.Bc5 dxc4 19.Nxc4 Ra6 and Black is winning.

90.3)



13.f4! Qa5

Or 13...Qc7 14.Nf6+ gxf6 15.Bxh7+ and Black will get mated shortly.

14.a3 and White wins a piece; Black resigned.

1-0 V. Gunina (2431) – A. Kosteniuk (2471)

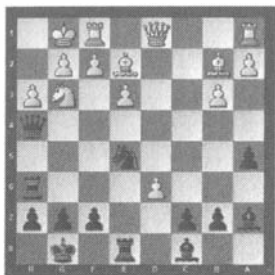
Women's Speed Chess chess.com 2020.

However, 14.Nf6+ is even better., as 14...Kh8

15.Qh5 ends the game, but who am I to argue

about that when the text move ended the game.

90.4)



16...Bxh3! 17.Bxe5 Bg4!

In the game, Black missed his chance and

played 17...Bxg2?? 18.Kxg2 Qh5?? 19.Bxh5

and Black resigned. **1-0 J.B. Bjerre (2549) –**

S. Volkov (2277) Titled Tuesday chess.com

2020.

Note that 17...Bf5?? also loses for Black after 18.Bh5!.

18.f4

Or 18.Nh5 Qxh5 with mate in two.

18...Bxe3+ 19.Rf2 Qh2+ 20.Kf1 Qh1+

21.Nxh1 Rxh1#

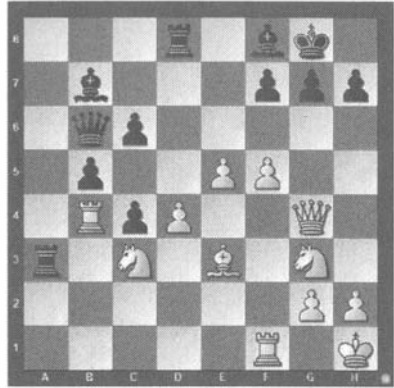
Set 91

Exercises to Set 91

91.1)



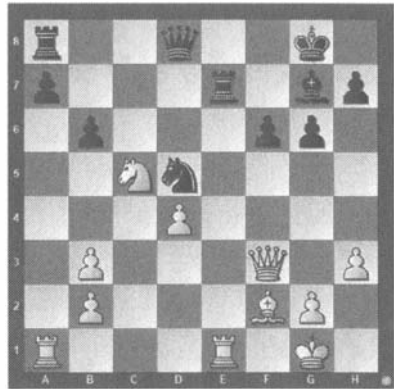
91.2)



91.3)



91.4)



91.1)

Hint: Clear the shield

91.2)

**

Hint: Too much to do

91.3)

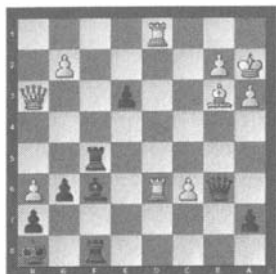
Hint: Why not the usual?

91.4)

Hint: Mobilize

Solutions to Set 91

91.1)



32...Bxb2!!

The only move to save Black and the only to give him an advantage.

33.Kxb2

If White tries to ignore the bishop then Black's advantage gets even bigger 33.c7 Qa5 34.Qxe3 (if 34.Kxb2 then 34...Rf2+ 35.Bc2 Qxc7 wins for Black) 34...Qxa3+ 35.Kb1 Ba1 36.Qd2 Be5 and Black has a large advantage.

33...Rf2+ 34.R1d2 Qc5!!

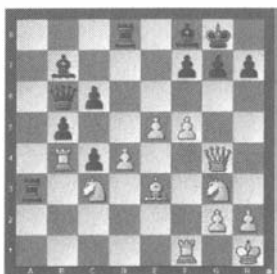
The game continued 34...exd2?? 35.Qc3+ R8f6 36.Rxd2?? (White counter blunders; after 36.Ka1 Rf1+ 37.Ka2 R1f2 38.Bd1 White is, in fact, forcing mate) 36...Rxd2+ 37.Qxd2 Rf2 and White resigned. **0-1 A. Giri (2764) – A. Korobov (2688)** MrDodgy Invitational chess24.com 2020. Note that 34...Rxd2+ 35.Rxd2 exd2 loses for Black after 36.Qc3+!.

35.Qd7 Qe5+ 36.Kc2

A weaker option is 36.Kb1 exd2 37.Rxd2 Rxd2 38.Qxd2 Qe4+ 39.Qc2 Rf1+ 40.Kb2 (or 40.Ka2 Qd4 41.Qb2 Qxb2+ 42.Kxb2 Rf5 43.Be6 Rc5 and Black is winning) 40...Qd4+ and Black wins.

36...exd2 37.Rxd2 g5! 38.a4 a5 and Black has a clear advantage.

91.2)



26.Nge4

Or 26.Nge2 with the same idea.

26...Rxc3 27.Nxc3 Bxb4 28.Bh6 g6

If 28...Bf8, then 29.Bxg7 Bxg7 (or 29...Qxd4 30.Ne4) 30.f6 with mate to follow.

29.fxg6 hxg6 30.e6!

Now Black's kingside collapses with a thud.

30...Qxd4 31.Ne4!

No queen exchange for you.

31...Qd3 32.exf7+ Kh7 33.Ng5+ Kh8 34.Bg7+ and Black resigned before White delivered mate. **1-0**

Yu Yangyi (2709) – J. Duda (2753) Online Nations Cup chess.com 2020

91.3)



18.Nf6!

In the game White instead went for 18.Qh3?! Nd5 19.a3 b6 20.Qd3 g6?! 21.h4 (21.Qg3) 21...Kg7 22.h5? Nf4 23.Qe3 g5 24.Nf6 Bxf6 25.exf6+ Kxf6 26.Qe5+ Ke7 27.d5 Bxd5 28.Be4 f6 29.Nxd5+ Nxd5 30.Qd4 c5 and White resigned. **0-1 M. Matthiesen (2260) – A. Espinosa Aranda (2506)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

18...Bxf6 19.exf6 Rg8 20.Qd3

Even 20.fxf7+ Kxg7 21.Rd3 with a clear advantage for White can be considered.

20...g6 21.Qh3

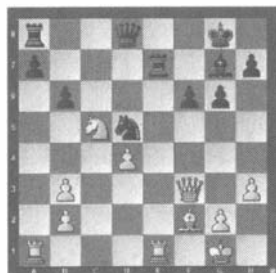
White is not in any particular hurry as Black is largely without counterplay.

21...Kh7 22.Qh4 Rh8

22...Nc4?! 23.Rd3 Rh8 24.Re1 (24.Rh3 Kg8 25.Rg3 Kf8 26.Re1 and White would have had a clear advantage) 24...Nxb2 25.Rh3 and White is winning.

23.Rd3 Qd6 24.Re1 and White has an obvious advantage.

91.4)



26.Rxe7! Nxe7 27.Nd7!

Exploiting the situation regarding Black's queen having more defensive burdens than she can comfortably manage.

27...Kh8

Or 27...f5 (to open for the g7–bishop) 28.b4 h6 29.Qb3+ Kh7 30.Qe6 f4 31.Bh4 g5 32.Bf2 and White has a large advantage.

28.Nxb6! Rb8 29.Nc4 Qd7 30.Ra6 h5 31.Rxf6 Rxb3 32.Rf8+ Bxf8 33.Qxb3

The game continued 33.Qxf8+?? Ng8 34.Ne5 Qg7? (34...Qf5 and Black would have held the balance) 35.Nf7+ Kh7 36.Ng5+ Kh8 37.Qe8 Qf6 38.Ne4 Qf5 39.Bg3 Rb7?? 40.Nd6 Qb1+ 41.Kh2 Re7 42.Qf8 Kh7 43.Be5 Qxb2 44.Ne8 Rxe5 45.Qg7# **1-0 VI. Fedoseev (2678) – P. Maghsoodloo (2676)** PNWCC Online lichess.org 2020.

33...Kh7 34.Ne5 and White has a large advantage.

Set 92

Exercises to Set 92

92.1)



92.2)



92.3)



92.4)



92.1)

Hint: Direct threats

92.2)

**

Hint: Say hello to my little friend

92.3)

Hint: Hello, is it me you're looking for?

92.4)

Hint: Surprising distraction

Solutions to Set 92

92.1)



17.Rg1! Kh8

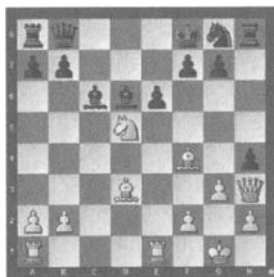
Or 17...Be7 18.Bd3 (also 18.Qxh6 wins) 18...Ne8 19.Qf5 g6 20.Rxg6+ fxg6 21.Qxg6+ Ng7 22.Qh7+ Kf7 23.Bg6+ Ke6 24.Nxd4+ Nxd4 25.Re1+ and White is winning.

18.Rxg7

The game continuation also went quite well, 18.Bd3 Rg8 (18...Nb4 was a better defensive try) 19.Rxg7 Kxg7 20.Bxf6+ Qxf6 21.Rg1+ and Black resigned. **1-0 G. Oparin (2652) – M. Thejkumar (2433)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

18...Kxg7 19.Bd3 Rg8 20.Bxf6+ Qxf6 21.Rg1+ and we have transposed into the game continuation, but without Black having a chance to play 18...Nb4.

92.2)



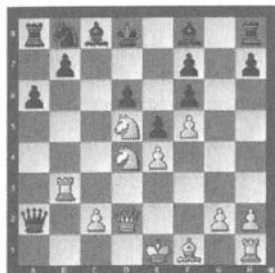
17.Rxe6! White has to find a way to Black's king, not to checkmate him but to find a perpetual check; the weak light squares around White's king is a major problem. In the game, White went wrong with 17.Bxd6+?? Qxd6 18.Nf4 hxg3 19.Qxh8 gxf2+ 20.Kxf2 Qxf4+ 21.Ke2 Bf3+ 22.Kf2 Be4+ 23.Kg1 Qg4+ 24.Kf2 Qf3+ and White resigned. **0-1 G. Karacsonyi (2292) – P. Ponkratov (2631)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

17...fxe6 18.Qxe6 Rh6 19.Bg6 Rxg6 20.Qxg6 Bxf4 21.Qf5+

Or 21.Nxf4 Qe8 22.Qd6+ Kf7 23.Qg6+ with a perpetual check.

21...Nf6 22.Nxf6 gxf6 23.Qxf6+ with a perpetual check.

92.3)



14.Qc3! Nd7

Also 14...Nc6 loses for Black: 15.Nxc6+ bxc6 16.Qxc6 Qa5+ 17.c3 Ra7 18.Rb8 Rc7 19.Qxa6 Qxa6 20.Bxa6 and White is winning.

15.Ne6+

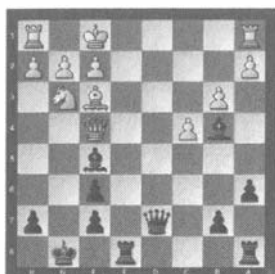
Or 15.Qc7+ Ke8 16.Rc3 and White is winning.

15...fxe6 16.Qc7+ Ke8 17.fxe6

In the game, White blundered and lost: 17.Be2 exd5 18.0-0 h5 19.Rfb1 Qa4 20.exd5 Qd4+ 21.Kh1 Qc5 and White resigned. **0-1 A. Savanovic (2410) – M. Lewicki (2340)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

17...Qa1+ 18.Kf2 Qd4+ 19.Kf3 Be7 20.Rxb7 and Black is completely busted.

92.4)



20...Bb1!

Boom! A nasty surprise. Black threatens ...Re1# and the knight cannot be captured on account of ...Qd3+.

21.Kg1 Re1+ 22.Nf1 Qd3

White is busted and could have resigned at this point, but White struggles on for a bit longer.

23.Qg4+ Kh8 24.Be2 Rxe2 25.Rxb1 Bc5 26.h4 Rxf2 27.Re1 Rf4+ and White resigned.

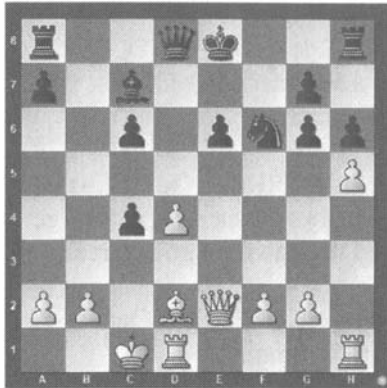
0-1

V. Artemiev (2716) – I. Nepomniachtchi (2784) Chessable Masters chess24.com 2020

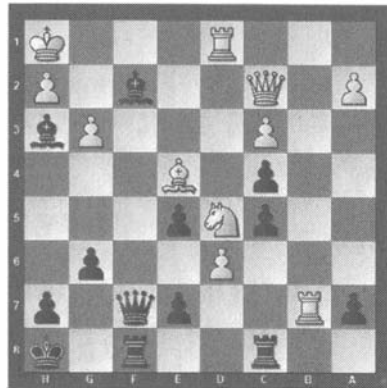
Set 93

Exercises to Set 93

93.1)



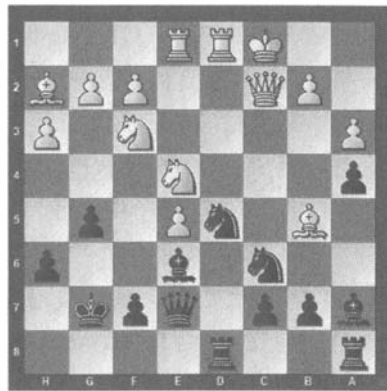
93.2)



93.3)



93.4)



93.1)

**

Hint: Precision required, even when it looks obvious

93.2)

**

Hint: Block and brace

93.3)

**

Hint: Not open for you!

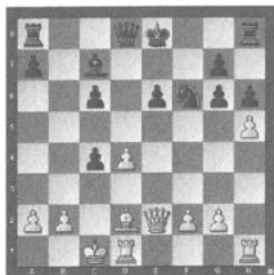
93.4)

**

Hint: Push the weakness

Solutions to Set 93

93.1)



19.Qxe6+ Qe7 20.Qxc6+ Kf7 21.Qxc4+!

In the game, White blundered and lost.

21.Rhe1?? Qd7 22.Qxc4+ Nd5 23.Kb1 gxf5

24.Re3 Kg6 25.Qd3+ Qf5 26.Re6+ Nf6

27.Qxf5+ Kxf5 28.Rde1 Rhe8 and White resigned. **0-1 T. Abrahmian (2358) – V. Gunina (2431)** Women's Speed Chess chess.com 2020.

21...Kf8 22.Bb4 Bd6 23.Rde1 Qd7 24.hxg6

Black is a piece up, but Black struggles to get his pieces out and the pawn on g6 is a real thorn in Black's side.

24...Bxb4 25.Qxb4+ Kg8 26.Rh5 Qc6+

27.Rc5 and White is winning.

93.2)



28...Be1!

Black threatens mate on f1. The game continued

28...Bg4? 29.Bg2 Qf3? 30.Rf1 e6?? 31.d7?

(31.Qa4! wins for White) 31...Rcd8 32.Nf4??

exf4 33.Rxf2 Qd3 and White resigned. **0-1**

CRG Krishna (2478) – M. Lugovskoy (2420)

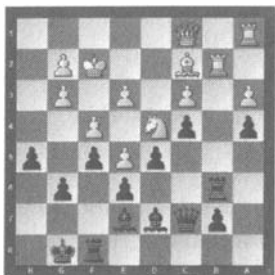
FISCA Online Open chess.com 2020.

29.Nf4

Of course, **29.Rxe1 Qf1+ 30.Rxf1 Rxf1#** ends the game.

29...exf4 30.Rxe1 Rce8 and Black has a large advantage.

93.3)



25...Rb3! 26.Bxb3 cxb3

Black has received more than enough currency for the sacrificed exchange.

27.Qd2 Rc8 28.Ne2 Bb5 29.Nd4 Bd7 30.Ne2

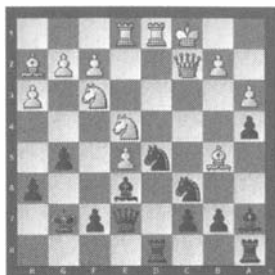
Kf7 31.Qd3 Qa5 32.Qd2 Bb5 33.Nd4 Ba6 and

White either resigned or lost on time; the position is depressingly passive and prospectless. **0-1**

F. Perez Ponsa (2554) – E. Iturrizaga (2607)

Iberoamericano chess24.com 2020.

93.4)



22...Ncb4

Or 22...Ndb4 with the same idea.

23.axb4 Nxb4 24.Rxd8 White decides to give up his queen as the alternative was depressing, e.g., 24.Qe2 Na2+ 25.Kb1 Qb4 and Black has a decisive advantage, for instance, 26.Rd2 a3 and Black is clearly winning.

24...Nxc2 25.Rxa8 Nxe1 26.Nxe1??

White collapses. The best continuation 26.Nfd2 Bf5 27.Rxa7 Qb4 (27...Bxe4 28.Nxe4 Qb4 29.Nc3 c6 and Black is clearly better) 28.Nc3 Qc5 and Black is much better.

26...Qb4 27.Nd3 Qxe4 28.Rxa7 c6 29.Rxa4 Qxg2 and White resigned. 0–1

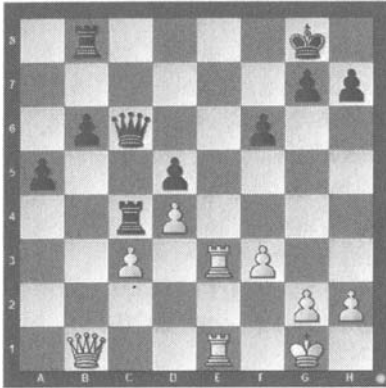
A. Grischuk (2777) - A. Giri (2764)

Chessable Masters chess24.com 2020

Set 94

Exercises to Set 94

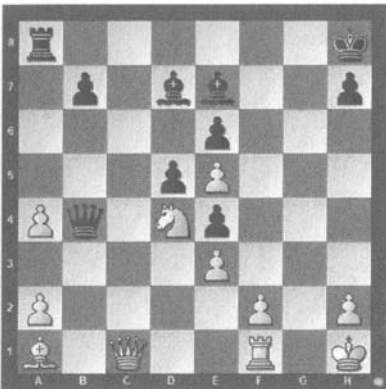
94.1)



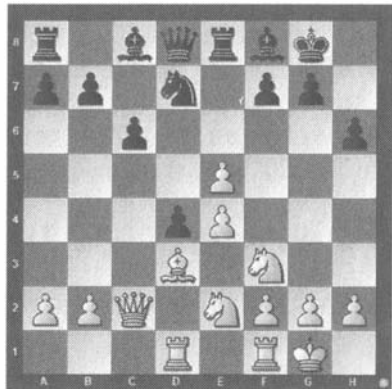
94.2)



94.3)



94.4)



94.1)

**

Hint: Add firepower

94.2)

**

Hint: Developed but not coordinated

94.3)

Hint: Unwelcome visitors

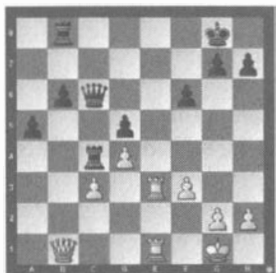
94.4)

**

Hint: Tempo battle

Solutions to Set 94

94.1)



36.Qf5!

The game continued 36.Re6?? Qa4 37.Qf5 Rd8?? (37...Rxc3 38.Qxd5 Kh8 39.Rxb6 Rcc8 would have held the balance) 38.Re7 Qc6 39.Qg4 g6 40.Qf4 Rd7 41.Qh6 Rxe7 42.Rxe7 and Black resigned before he would get mated.
1-0 A. Esipenko (2682) – M. Bluebaum (2647) Titled Tuesday chess.com.2020.

36...Rxc3

Or 36...Rf8 37.Re7! Rxc3 (if 37...Kh8 then 38.Rxg7! Kxg7 39.Qg4+ Kh6 40.Re7 with a forced mate) 38.Qg4 g6 39.Qf4 and White is winning.

37.Rxc3 Qxc3 38.Qe6+ Kf8 39.Qd6+ with
mate in a handful of moves.

94.2)



14.Qf3! c4

Or 14...Ne5 15.Qxb7 Nxb4 16.Qe4 and White wins a piece.

15.Be4!

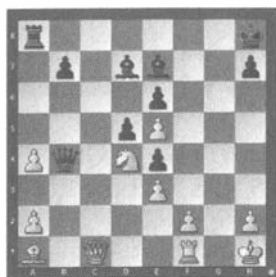
The game continuation was 15.Bxc4 Ne5 16.Qxb7 Nxc4 17.Qd5 Rc8 18.b3 Na5 19.Nxf6+ Qxf6 20.Bg5 Qg6 21.Be7 Rfe8 22.Qxd4 Rxc2 23.h3 Nc6 24.Qa4 h6 25.Rad1 Qf5 26.Bh4 Re6 27.Rxe6 fxe6 28.a3 a5 29.Bg3 b5 30.Qh4 Kh7 31.Kh2 Rc3 32.a4 Rxb3 33.axb5 Rxb5 34.Qc4 h5 35.Re1 Rb4 36.Qe2 h4 37.Bxh4 Rxh4 38.g4 Qf4+ 39.Kg2 a4 40.Qd3+ g6 41.Re4 Qf6 42.Rxa4 Kg7 43.Rc4 Ne5 and White resigned. **0-1 E. Postny (2600) – G. Oparin (2652)** PNWCC Online lichess.org 2020.

15...Re8 16.Qf5 Rxe4 17.Rxe4 Nb4 18.Rf4 Nd5 19.Nxf6+ Qxf6 20.Qxf6 Nxf6 21.Rxd4 and White is an exchange up and should win without major problems.

94.3)

24.Oc7!

The game continuation was 24.Rg1? Qc4??
25.Qd1! Rg8? (25...Qc8 was necessary)



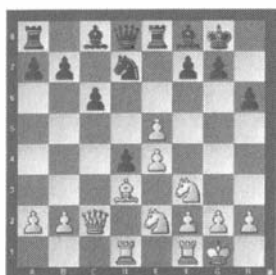
26.Rxg8+?? (26.Nf5! wins) 26...Kxg8 27.Kg2 Bf8?? 28.Qg4+ Kf7 29.Qh5+ Kg8 30.Qg5+ Kf7 31.Qf6+ Ke8 32.Nxe6 Be7 33.Qh8+ Kf7 34.Qxh7+ Ke8 35.Qg6#. **1-0 P. Ponkratov (2631) – B. Gledura (2620)** PNWCC Online lichess.org.2020.

24...Rd8 25.Nf5! Qc5

After 25...exf5 , 26.e6+ forces mate.

26.Rc1 Qxc7 27.Rxc7 Bb4 28.Nd6 and White is winning.

94.4)



17.e6!

At first glance, this advance doesn't look like much, but it enables White to generate momentum to launch an attack while Black struggles to get his pieces out.

17...Rxe6 18.Nexd4 Re8 19.e5 Nc5

Also 19...c5 runs into 20.e6 , e.g., 20...fxe6 (or 20...cxd4 21.exf7+ Kxf7 22.Bc4+ Kf6 23.Rxd4 and Black's king will not survive for long) 21.Nb5 a6 22.Bh7+ Kh8 23.Nd6 Bxd6 24.Rxd6 Qc7 25.Rfd1 and White has a decisive advantage, even if there still is plenty of work to be done.

20.Bh7+ Kh8 21.e6! Qf6 22.exf7 Rd8

Or 22...Re7 23.Rde1 Bd7 24.Rxe7 Bxe7 25.Re1 Qxf7 26.Ne5 , more and more of White's pieces keep getting added to the attack and by now he has a completely winning position.

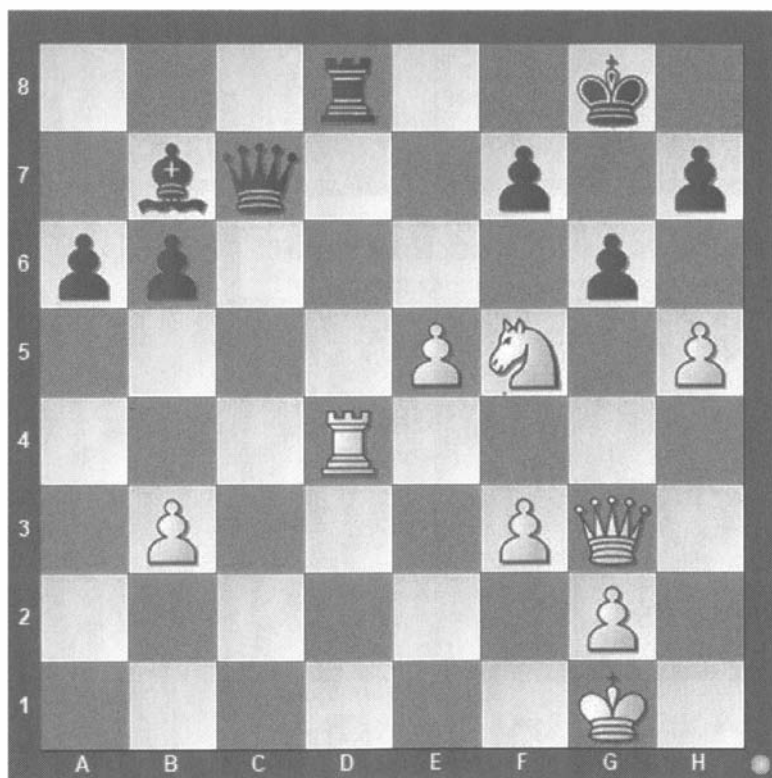
23.Ne5

The game continuation was 23.Bg8? g6 24.h3 Bf5? (24...Ne6!?) 25.Nxf5 gxf5 26.Nd2? (26.Rde1!) 26...Ne6 27.Nc4 Nd4 28.Qb1 Bc5 29.Ne3 Ne2+ 30.Kh1 Bxe3 31.Rxd8 Rxd8 32.Qe1 Bd4 33.Qxe2 Rf8 34.b3 b5 35.Rd1 a5 36.Qd3 Bxf2 37.Rf1 Bc5 38.Rxf5 Qa1+ 39.Rf1 Qd4 40.Qh7# **1-0 A. Esipenko (2682) – B. Gelfand (2676)** PNWCC Online lichess.org 2020.

23...Qxe5 24.Nf3 Bf5 25.Bxf5 Qf6 26.Rde1 and White has a winning position.

Chapter 7

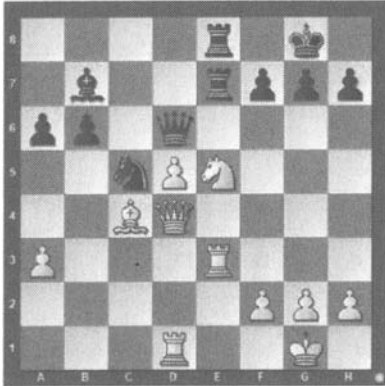
Sets 95-101



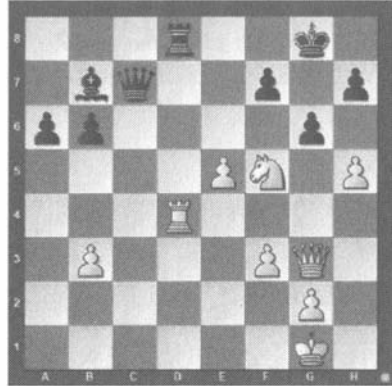
Set 95

Exercises to Set 95

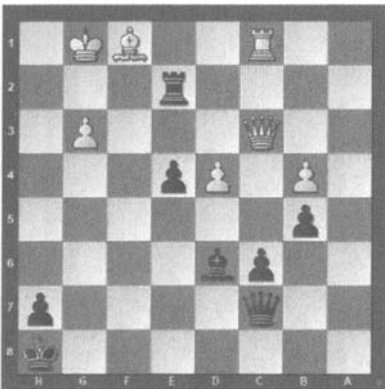
95.1)



95.2)



95.3)



95.4)



95.1)

**

Hint: Open for the attackers

95.2)

**

Hint: Too many tasks

95.3)

**

Hint: Distract

95.4)

Hint: More squares for the attackers

Solutions to Set 95

95.1)

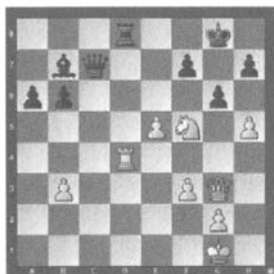


21.Nxf7! Kxf7 22.Re6

The point behind the previous sacrifice. All of a sudden, Black's king is out in the open and the a2–g8 diagonal is about to be opened.

22...Qd8 23.Qf4+ Kg8 24.Rxe7! Rxe7 25.d6+ Re6 26.d7 g6 27.Rd6 and Black resigned. 1–0
A. Giri (2764) – I. Nepomniachtchi (2784)
 Chessable Masters chess24.com 2020

95.2)



30.e6!

Not the only good move, but it is the best.

30...Qc1+

On 30...Qc5 , White plays the amazing 31.Qe5! and Black can resign.

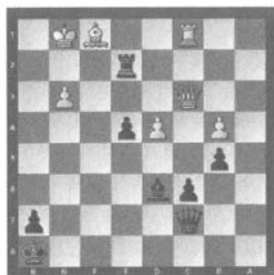
31.Kh2 Rxd4 32.e7

The e-pawn cannot be stopped without putting the queen on a less ideal square.

32...Qc8 33.Qe5 Rh4+ 34.Kg3 and Black resigned. 1–0

M. Carlsen (2863) – A. Giri (2764) Chessable Masters chess24.com 2020

95.3)



31...Bxb4!

Obviously, the bishop cannot be captured on account of ...Qxg3+ with mate.

32.Qb3

Of course, 32.Bxe2 Bxc3 33.Rxc3 Qd6 is completely hopeless.

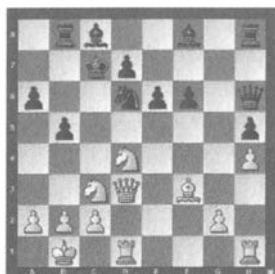
32...e3! 33.Bxe2 Qxg3+ 34.Kh1 Bd6 and White resigned. 0–1

M. Yilmaz (2630) – LD Nisipeanu (2655)

Grandmaster Battle PlayChess 2020

(2643) – A.Marechal (2316) Roquetas de Mar.2019

95.4)



21.a4!

In the game, White continued with 21.Ne4 Nxe4?? (21...Rb6 22.Nxd6 Bxd6 was a better option for Black, even though White is still considerably better) 22.Nxe6+! dxe6 23.Qd8+ Kb7 24.Bxe4+ Ka7 25.Qc7+ Bb7 26.Rd8 Bb4 27.Qxb8+ Kb6 28.Rxh8 Qg7 29.Qxb7+ Qxb7 30.Bxb7 and Black resigned. **1-0 P.**

Ponkratov (2631) – M. Bartel (2648) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

21...b4 22.Ne4

After having a2–a4 interjected, Black does not have ...Rb6 available due to a4–a5.

22...Qf4

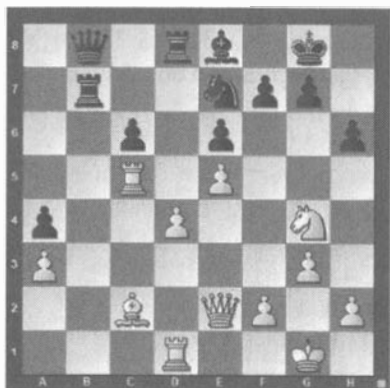
Or 22...Nxe4 23.Nxe6+! and White wins.

23.Rhe1 Qe5 24.Nxd6 Qxd6 25.Qe3 Qe7 26.Nb3 and White is winning in the attack.

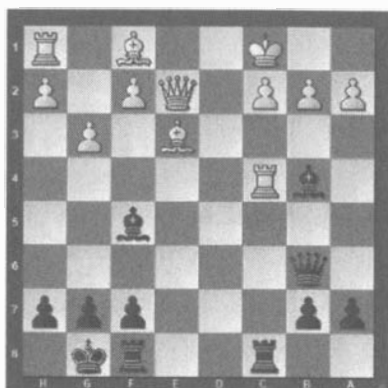
Set 96

Exercises to Set 96

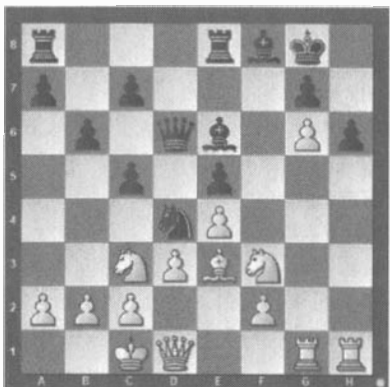
96.1)



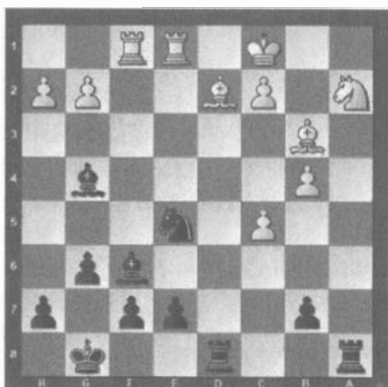
96.2)



96.3)



96.4)



96.1)

**

Hint: Missing defenders

96.2)

**

Hint: Open files are nice

96.3)

Hint: An untouchable intruder

96.4)

Hint: Remove the key defender

Solutions to Set 96

96.1)



28.Nf6+!

A standard but effective sacrificial idea.

28...Kf8

Accepting the knight is out of the question: 28...gxf6 29.exf6 Ng6 30.Qe3 Qd6 31.h4 Qf8 32.h5 Rbd7 33.hxg6 fxg6 34.Rxc6 and Black is completely busted.

29.Qg4 Rb5 30.Nh5 g6 31.Qf4 Nf5?

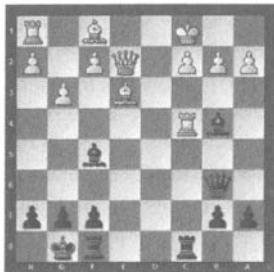
Carlsen seeks active counterplay but does it at the cost of making his position worse. The "better" option was 31...Ng8 32.Rxb5 Qxb5 33.Bxg6 Qc4 34.Qh4 fxg6 35.Qxd8 gxh5 36.Rb1 and White is winning.

32.Rxb5 Qxb5 33.Bxf5 g5 34.Qc1

In the game, White started making mistakes: 34.Qf3?! exf5 35.Qxf5?? (The correct continuation was 35.Nf6 Qb3 36.Rd3 Qb1+ 37.Kg2 and White has a decisive advantage) 35...Qe2 36.Rc1 Qxh5 37.Qf6 Rxd4 38.Qh8+ Ke7 39.Qf6+ Kf8 40.Qh8+ Ke7 41.Qf6+ Kf8 and draw agreed. ½–½ **A. Giri (2764) – M. Carlsen (2863)** Chessable Masters chess24.com 2020.

34...exf5 35.h4 and Black's kingside falls apart with a winning position for White.

96.2)



16...Qa5! 17.c3

Or 17.a3 Rxc4 18.Qxc4 Rc8 19.Qxb4 Qd5 and Black is winning.

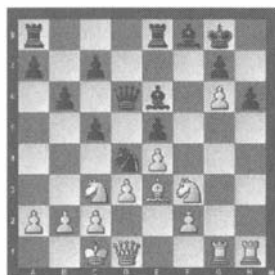
17...Rxc4 Or as played in the game 17...Qxa2 18.Rxb4 Rfd8?? (18...Rfe8 19.Qd1 Rcd8 20.Rd4 Rxd4 21.Qxd4 Qb1+ 22.Kd2 Qxb2+ 23.Ke1 Be4 24.Rg1 Bf3 and White cannot avoid mate) 19.Bd4?? (19.Rd4 Qa1+ 20.Kd2 Qxb2+ 21.Ke1 Qxc3+ 22.Qd2 and Black has nothing better than a perpetual check) 19...a5 20.Rb5 Qb1+ 21.Kd2 Rxd4+ 22.cxd4 Qc1# **0-1 A. He (2337) – B. Gelfand (2676)** GM Gelfand Camp chess.com 2020.

18.Qxc4 Rc8 19.Qd4 Qxa2 20.Qxb4 Qb1+ 21.Kd2 Rd8+

And White's king gets sent out on a walk that will not end well.

22.Bd4 Qc2+ 23.Ke3 Re8+ 24.Be5 Rxe5+ 25.Kf3 Be4+ 26.Kf4 Rf5+ 27.Kg4 Bf3+ with mate.

96.3)



19.Ng5! c6

Or 19...Qd8 20.Nh7 when Black has no actual way of stopping White's attack.

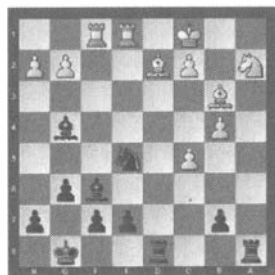
20.Qh5! Re7 21.Nf7! Rxf7 22.Bxh6

and Black resigned. 1–0

A. Firouzja (2728) – B. Belyakov (2481)

Titled Tuesday chess.com.2020

96.4)



20...Be6!

Black threatens to remove the defender of the knight on a2.

21.Bxe6

Or 21.Nc3 Bxb3 22.cxb3 Nd3+ and Black wins.

21...fxe6 22.Bc3 Rxa2

and Black has won a piece.

23.Kb1 Ra4 24.Bxe5 Rxb4+ 25.Kc1 Bg5+ and

White resigned. 0–1

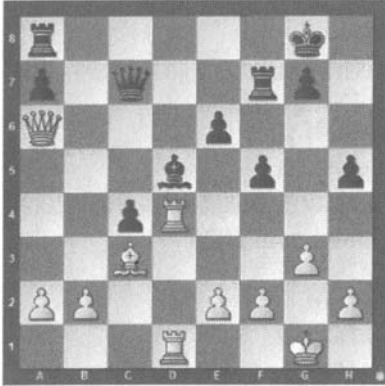
T. Kanyamarala (2381) – O. Kobo (2449)

Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

Set 97

Exercises to Set 97

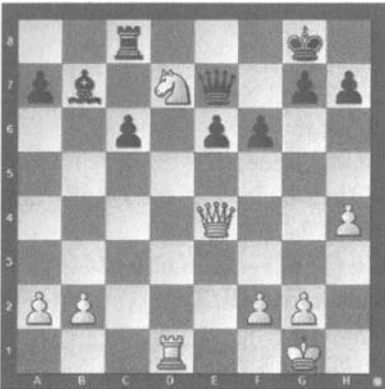
97.1)



97.2)



97.3)



97.4)



97.1)

Hint: Loose structure

97.2)

Hint: Opportunistic penetration

97.3)

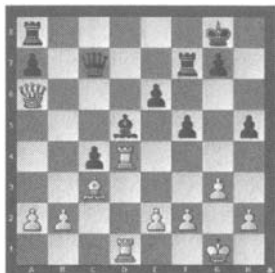
Hint: Loose defenders

97.4)

Hint: Pins and pressure

Solutions to Set 97

97.1)



2.Rh4! g6?? Black should have defended with 22...Qb6 23.Qa4 g6 24.Qc2 Qd8 25.Qd2 when White has a large advantage and ongoing attack on the dark squares on Black's kingside. **23.Rxd5! exd5 24.Qxg6+ Kf8 25.Bb4+** and Black resigned. 1–0

A. Sarana (2654) – V. Tronenkovs (2265)

Titled Tuesday chess.com.2020

97.2)

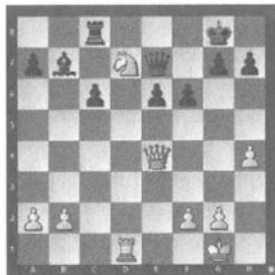


21.Re7! This move is not White's only good move, but it is the best move. **21...Nd6?!** The alternatives are also not promising, for instance, 21...Rc8 22.Bf4 or 21...Bxd4 22.Nf5+ Kg8 23.Qxd4 gxf5 24.Qxf6 and in both cases, White is winning. **22.Qe6** Or 22.Rd7. **22...Nac4 23.Bf4 Re8? 24.Rxf7+ Kh8 25.Qd7** and Black resigned. 1–0

M. Karthikeyan (2606) – L. Srihari R (2414)

Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

97.3)



23.Nc5! The game continued catastrophically for White: 23.Qf4?? c5 24.Rd6 Bd5 25.Qa4 Qxd6 and White resigned. **0-1 A. Tate (2342) – G. Tokhirjonova (2378)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020. **23...Re8** Of course, 23...Qxc5 is not an option for Black due to 24.Qxe6+.

24.b4 Bc8 Black cannot allow White's rook to d7. Or 24...f5 25.Qe5 Bc8 26.g3 and White has a small, but clear advantage. **25.Qxc6 e5 26.b5** and White has an obvious advantage.

M. Gahan (2229) – J. Willow (2386) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

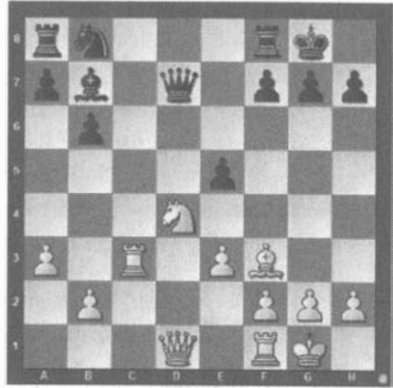
Set 98

Exercises to Set 98

98.1)



98.2)



98.3)



98.4)



98.1)

*

Hint: Sneak in

98.3)

Hint: Stay calm and prevent

98.2)

**

Hint: Overburdened defender

98.4)

Hint: Not enough squares

Solutions to Set 98

98.1)

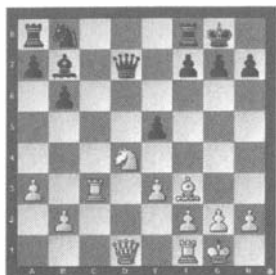


27.Qc1!

The game continued 27.Rc4?? Qe1 28.Rxe4?? Rd2 29.Rh4+ Kg7 and White resigned. **0-1 A. Goganov (2565) – E. Blomqvist (2537)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

27...Qd6 28.Qc4 White threatens Qf7, and the endgames are completely lost for Black

98.2)



16.Nf5!

This move forces Black into an endgame that is completely lost.

16...Qxd1

Or 16...e4 17.Bg4 Qxd1 18.Rxd1 g6 19.Nd6 and White has a decisive advantage.

17.Rxd1 Bxf3 18.Ne7+ Kh8 19.gxf3 Na6 20.b4

Black is positionally completely busted.

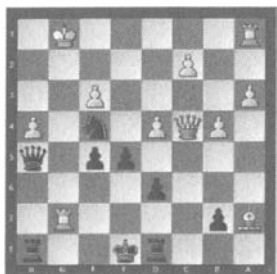
20...g6 21.Rd7

White is winning.

21...Kg7 22.Rcd3 Rfe8 23.Kf1 Kf6 24.R3d6+ Kg7 25.Ke2 Kf8 26.Nd5 Nb8 27.Rb7 Kg7 28.Nc7 and Black resigned. **1-0**

V. Artemiev (2716) – T. Abrahamyan (2358) Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

98.3)



24...Kf8!! 25.Qc7 Re8!

Black has covered himself against White's mating threats and now Black can launch his lethal counter-offensive.

26.Rg5

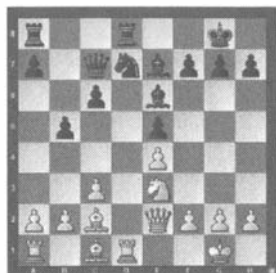
Or 26.dxe5 Ne6 and Black is winning.

26...Nh3+!

The game saw Black blunder and die after 26...Qxh4?? 27.Qg7# **1-0 M. Haubro (2437) – M. Boyer (2294)** Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020.

27.Kg2 Nxe5 and White could have resigned.

98.4)



15.Nd5! cxd5

Or 15...Bxd5 16.exd5 Nb6 17.Qe4 g6 18.dxc6 and White has a clear advantage.

16.exd5 Nf8 17.dxe6 Rxd1+ 18.Bxd1 Nxe6 19.Qxb5 Rd8 20.Bb3

White has a clear advantage.

20...Nc5? 21.Be3 Qd6 22.h3 a6 23.Qc4 Nxb3 24.axb3 Ra8 25.b4 g6 26.b5 Kg7 27.bxa6 and Black resigned. 1–0

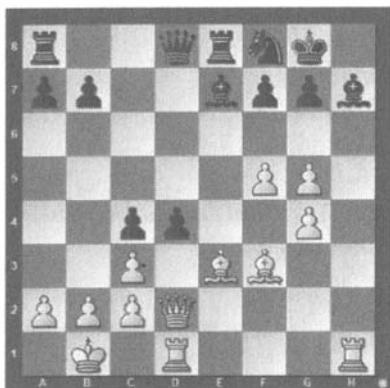
VI. Fedoseev (2678) – P. Shkapenko (2424)

Titled Tuesday chess.com 2020

Set 99

Exercises to Set 99

99.1)



99.2)



99.3)



99.4)



99.1)

Hint: Open the door

99.2)

Hint: Poor coordination

99.3)

Hint: Pins and structural issues

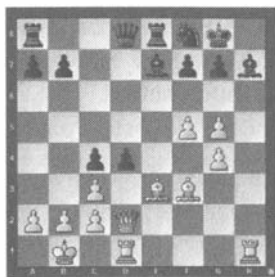
99.4)

**

Hint: Structural weaknesses

Solutions to Set 99

99.1)



21.g6! dxe3

Or 21...fxg6 22.Bxd4 gxf5 23.Qg2 and White has a decisive advantage.

22.gxf7+ Kh8 23.Qxe3 Qb6 24.Qxb6 axb6 25.fxe8Q Rxe8 26.Rde1

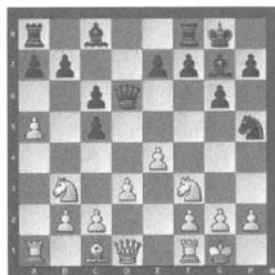
White is completely winning.

26...b5 27.a3 b4 28.axb4 Kg8 29.Bd5+ Kh8 30.Bf7 and Black resigned. 1–0

S. Ter Sahakyan (2640) – Li Ben (2376)

PNWCC Masters WOO hess.com 2020

99.2)



11.e5!

White gains Black dark-squared bishop and a fierce initiative in return for the pawn sacrifice which, in any case, seems like it will only be a temporary thing anyway.

11...Bxe5

Or 11...Qb8 12.h3 , threatening g2–g4, and Black will have to capture on e5 anyway.

12.Nxe5 Qxe5 13.Re1 Qd5 14.c4 Qf5 15.Rxe7

The game continued 15.Be3? Rd8? (15...Nf4!)

16.Nxc5 Nf4 17.Bxf4 (17.f3!) 17...Qxf4 18.Qe2

Bf5 19.Qxe7 b6 20.axb6 axb6 21.Nb7 Re8

22.Rxa8 Rxa8 23.Nd8 Bc8 24.g3 Qf3 25.Nxf7

Qxf7 26.Qd8+ Kg7 27.Re7 Ra1+ 28.Kg2 Be6

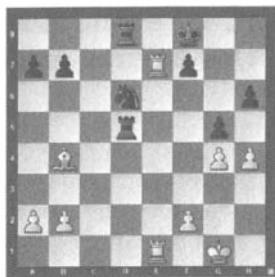
29.Rxf7+ Bxf7 30.Qxb6 and Black resigned. 1–0

S. Vokhidov (2512) – D. Swiercz (2649)

PNWCC Masters WOO chess.com 2020.

15...Ng7 16.Bh6 Qf6 17.Qe1 and White has a clear advantage.

99.3)



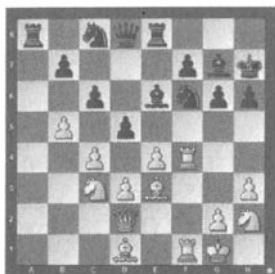
27.hxg5! Rxc5??

The better option for Black was 27...hxg5 when 28.R1e5 Rxe5 29.Rxe5 f6 30.Re6 or 28...Rd4 29.Bc5 Rd1+ 30.Kg2 b6 31.Ba3 Kg7 32.Rxc5+ Kf6 33.Rge5 and White is much better.

28.Re8+ and Black resigned as he loses a piece.
1–0

B. Bujisho (2290) – R. Molina (2434) Titled Tuesday chess.com.2020

99.4)



23.exd5!

Or 23.bxc6 bxc6 (also 23...d4 24.cxb7 is much better for White) 24.exd5 cxd5 25.Bd4 Bf5 26.g4 dxc4 27.gxf5 g5 28.Bxf6 Bxf6 29.Rxc4 and White has a decisive advantage.

23...cxd5 24.Bd4!

A beautiful square for the bishop in front of Black's d-pawn.

24...Ng8

Or 24...Bf5 25.c5 and White is winning.

25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.cxd5 Bxd5 27.Nxd5 Qxd5 28.Rxf7+ Qxf7 29.Rxf7+ Kxf7 30.Qc3

Black has two rooks for the queen, but because the king is so wide open, White is easily winning at this point.

30...Nce7 31.Bb3+ Kf8 32.Ng4 Rec8 33.Qh8 Rc1+ 34.Kh2 and Black resigned. 1–0

N. Delgado Ramirez (2636) – G. De Borba (2263) Florianopolis 2020

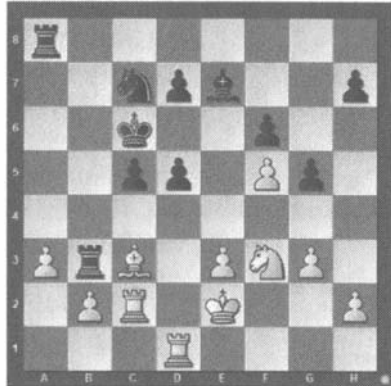
Set 100

Exercises to Set 100

100.1)



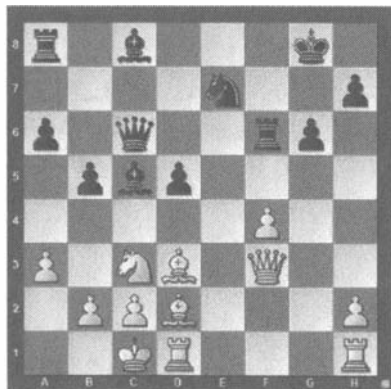
100.2)



100.3)



100.4)



100.1)

**

Hint: Trapped or opportunity?

100.2)

**

Hint: Small weakness, big impact

100.3)

*

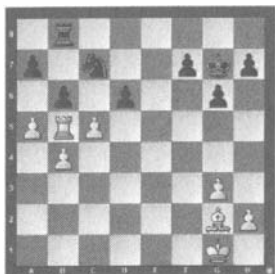
Hint: Multipronged attack

100.4)

Hint: Mobilize by exploitation

Solutions to Set 100

100.1)



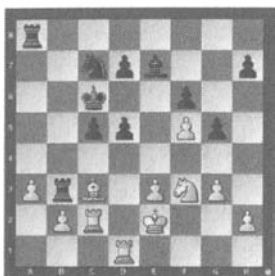
**33.Rxb6! axb6 34.cxb6 Ne6 35.b5 Kf6
36.Bc6!!**

The game continued 36.Bd5?? Ke7 37.Kf2
Kd8 38.a6 Rxb6 39.Bxe6 Rxb5 40.Bxf7 Rf5+
and White resigned. **0-1 Ev. Ioannidis (2373)
– B.D. Deac (2626)**

Caleta 2020.

36...Nc5 37.a6! Nxa6 38.bxa6 Rxb6 39.a7
and White has some winning chances but
because the bishop has the wrong color
compared to the h8–square, a draw is likely.

100.2)



27.Bb4! Kb5 28.Nd2

The rook is trapped.

28...Rxb4 29.axb4 c4??

Black blunders. It was necessary to play
29...Kxb4 when 30.Ne4 c4 31.Nc3 Kb3
32.Rcc1 gives White a clear advantage.

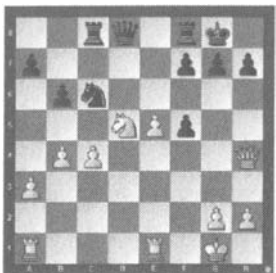
30.b3

White is completely winning.

**30...Bxb4 31.bxc4+ dxc4 32.Nxc4 d5 33.Nb2
Ra2 34.Rdc1** and Black resigned. **1–0**

**I. Janik (2453) – LM. Esquivias Quintero
(2318) Lisbon.2020**

100.3)



23.Nf6+! gxf6 24.Rad1!

The only move to win, but now Black is also
completely busted.

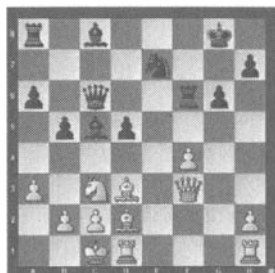
24...Nxe5 25.Rxd8 Rfxd8 26.Qxf6

White is winning.

**26...Ng6 27.h4 h5 28.Rf1 f4 29.g4 Rd3
30.gxh5 Rg3+ 31.Kf2 Nxh4 32.Qxh4 Rxc4
33.Re1** and Black resigned. **1–0**

**R. Praggnanandhaa (2602) – V. Topalov
(2738) Caleta 2020**

100.4)



19.Ne4! dxe4

If 19...Rf7 then 20.Nxc5 Qxc5 21.Bb4 Qc6 22.Bxe7 Rxe7 23.h4 and White has a decisive advantage.

20.Bxe4 Bg4 21.Bxc6 Bxf3 22.Bxf3

White has won just won a pawn, but along with the bishop pair, White has a decisive advantage.

22...Rd8 23.Rhe1

The rest of the game went as follows:

23...Kf7 24.Re5 Bd4 25.Re2 Bc5 26.Re5 Bd4 27.Re2 Bc5 28.Rde1 Rd7 29.Bg4 Rc7

29...Nf5 was a better defensive try, e.g., 30.Bc3 Bd4 31.Bb4 h5 32.Bf3 with a large advantage.

30.Be6+ Ke8 31.Bc3 Rf8 32.Bg7 Bd6 33.f5 gxf5 34.Rd1 Bf4+ 35.Kb1 Rf7 36.Bc3 Bg5 37.Ba5 and Black resigned. 1–0

G. Ayats Llobera (2375) – C. Hernandez (2352) Catalan Team ch (Barcelona) 2020

Set 101

Exercises to Set 101

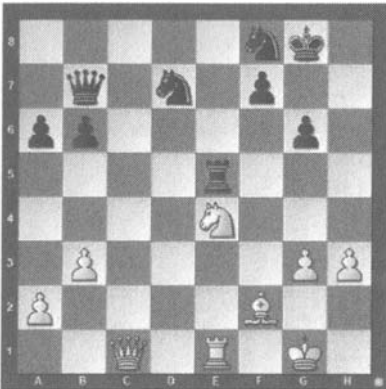
101.1)



101.2)



101.3)



101.4)



101.1)

Hint: Distract

101.2)

Hint: Disturb the defense

101.3)

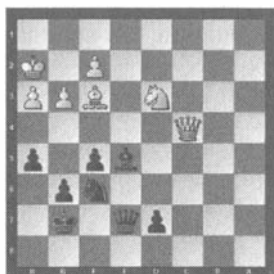
Hint: The key weakness

101.4)

Hint: Poor coordination

Solutions to Set 101

101.1)



38...h4! 39.Qxh4??

White takes the pawn but commits a massive blunder. The best continuation for White was 39.Qc5 d6 40.Qa5 Nh7 41.Kg2 hxg3 42.fxg3 Ng5 when Black has an extra pawn and a small but clear advantage.

39...Ng4+ 40.Kg2 Bf6

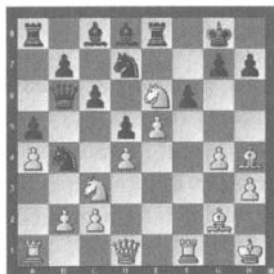
Ouch! The queen is trapped. White could have resigned but carried on for a few moves more.

41.hxg4 Bxh4 42.gxh4 fxg4 43.Bxg4 Qe4+ and White resigned. 0–1

O. Gschnitzer (2361) – P. Idani (2577)

Caleta.2020

101.2)



19.Nxd8!

White has a perfectly good alternative in 19.Nxg7! Kxg7 20.g5 f5 21.Qh5 Nf8 22.Qxe8 Be6 23.Rxf5 Bxf5 24.Rf1 and White is winning.

19...Qxd8 20.Ne2 Rf8 21.Qd2 Na6

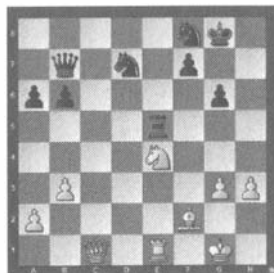
Or 21...Qe8 22.exf6 Nxf6 23.Bxf6 Rxf6 24.Rxf6 gxf6 25.Rf1 Bd7 26.Nf4 and White is winning.

22.Ng3 Nc7 23.Nh5 Ne6 24.exf6 Nxf6 25.Bxf6 gxf6 26.Qh6 and Black resigned. 1–0

P. Maghsoodloo (2674) – D. Kadric (2585)

Caleta 2020

101.3)



26.Nf6+! Kg7 27.Ne8+! Kg8

Or 27...Kh7 28.Rxe5 Nxe5 29.Qc7 Qxc7 30.Nxc7 with a won endgame for White.

28.Qh6 Rxe8

Black doesn't have a choice.

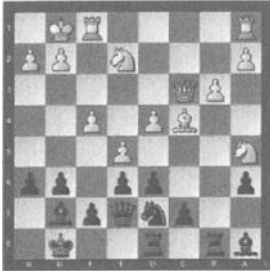
29.Rxe8 Qd5 30.Qf4

White has a won position.

30...Qd1+ 31.Re1 Qc2 32.Qd6 Qxa2 33.Qd5 Nf6 34.Qf3 N6h7 35.h4 Ne6 36.Bxb6 Qd2 37.Bf2 Qd8 38.Qc6 Nf6 39.Kg2 Kg7 40.Qc3 Kh7 41.Qf3 Kg8 42.Rd1 Qe7 43.Be1 Ne8 44.Bc3 Nd6 45.Bb4 and Black resigned. 1–0

D. Flores (2599) – L. McShane (2677) PRO
League chess.com 2020

101.4)



19...dxe5!

White appears to have nice center and a space advantage, but in the continuation, we see that it is all a fantasy. Black is, in fact, completely winning because White's center is overextended and his set-up too loose.

20.dxe5

Or 20.fxe5 c5 and Black is winning.

20...Qc5+ 21.Kh1

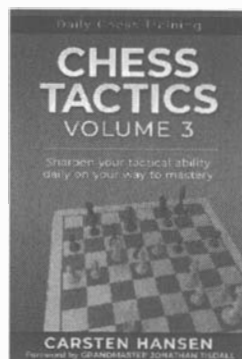
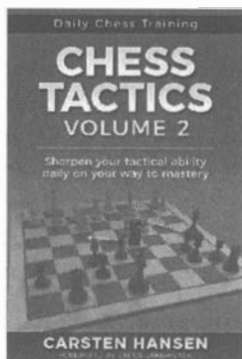
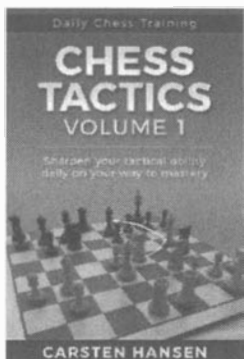
Boom! All of a sudden, White's position collapses at an astonishing pace.

21...Nxe5! 22.fxe5 Bxe5 23.Qh3 Bxa1 24.Rxa1 Qxa5 25.Bxe6 Qe5 and White can resign. **26.Bxf7+ Kxf7 27.Rf1+ Kg7 28.Nf4 Qxf4 29.Qc3+ Qd4 30.Qxc7+ Qd7 31.Qe5+ Kh7 0-1**

K. Plichta (2353) – L. Moroni (2532) PRO
League chess.com 2020

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Index of Players

Abdumalik 48.2
Abdusattorov 7.4, 38.2, 85.1
Abrahamyan 93.1, 98.2
Aczel 28.3
Adhiban 9.1, 27.2
Aditya 88.1
Agrest 80.3
Ajay Krishna 45.4
Akash 55.4
Albornoz Cabrera 40.4
Alikulov 40.3
Amin 13.1, 69.2
Anand 69.1
Andreikin 59.1, 65.4, 69.2
Ansell 2.4
Antal 45.2
Antipov 7.3, 68.4
Anton Guijarro 72.4
Antonio, V. 20.1
Arakhmia-Grant 63.1
Aravindh 75.1
Arnaudov 76.3
Aronian 68.1, 73.4, 83.3
Aroshidze 17.1
Artemiev 6.2, 92.4, 98.2
Asadli 39.2
Ayats Llobera 100.4
Baenziger 18.3
Bai Jinshi 32.4
Balashov 52.4
Bargan 49.2
Barrieonuevo 45.1
Bartel, M 68.4, 95.4
Bashirli 79.3
Beerdsen 11.3
Beikert 40.1
Belenkaya 10.1
Belous 77.4
Belyakov 96.3
Benmesbah 20.3
Berchtenbreiter 14.1, 28.2

Bernadskiy 65.3
Bersamina 63.2
Bezgodov 18.4
Bhakhti 19.1
Bharat 2.1
Bilguun 19.3, 42.2
Biolek 39.4
Bitensky 8.2, 56.2
Bivol 90.1
Bjerre 90.4
Blomqvist 98.1
Bluebaum 25.4, 39.3, 54.3, 72.3, 94.1
Bocharov 64.2
Bodnaruk 51.4
Bolourchifard 78.1
Borsuk 72.3
Bosboom 17.1
Bosiocic 87.4
Boyer 98.3
Bracker 4.5
Braeuer 33.1
Braun 13.1
Brejnik 54.1
Brinovec 35.3
Brodsky 89.3
Bronstein 57.1
Bruedigam 84.4
Bruzon Batista 11.1, 72.2
Bu Xiangzhi 72.4
Buckels 8.4
Bukša 19.2
Bulmaga 3.4, 86.2, 86.4
Burg 50.1
Bykhovsky 10.4, 71.3
Byklum 49.1
Byron 19.3
Cabarkapa 33.2
Campora 15.1
Can 39.2

Carlsen 57.3, 58.1, 59.4, 60.3, 65.1,
 65.2, 73.1, 80.1, 83.4, 84.1, 87.1,
 95.2, 96.1
 Caruana 60.2, 62.4, 68.3, 80.4, 83.4,
 84.1, 87.3
 Cekro 50.1
 Cezila 45.3
 Chasin 79.1
 Chen Qi 9.2, 15.4
 Cheparinov 74.2
 Chevelevitch 54.2
 Chiarot 53.3
 Chibkhchyan 25.1
 Chigaev 19.4
 Chueca Forcen 13.2
 Chukavin 2.2
 Claverie 44.4
 Cohen Revivo 56.4
 Collins 44.3
 Cori, J. 90.2
 Cori, T. 71.2
 Cruz 85.3
 Cvitan 56.1, 59.2
 Cyborowski 2.4
 Daghli 27.4
 Dauletova 55.4
 David 36.4
 Davtyan 75.3
 De Boer 10.3
 De Borba 99.4
 Deac 100.1
 Debashis 8.3
 Deepan 82.2
 Dehlinger 33.2
 Delgado Ramirez 99.4
 Demchenko 28.1
 Demidov 32.3
 Deutsch 27.3
 Dev 4.5
 Diamant 32.2
 Ding Liren 55.2, 60.1, 62.4, 65.1,
 65.2
 Divya 9.4
 Djurhuus 46.4

Dmitrenko 66.4
 Dolezal 9.4
 Doluhanova 68.2
 Dominguez Perez 80.4
 Dordzhieva 3.4
 Dorohin 30.3
 Dourerassou 67.1
 Dubov 6.2, 73.3, 78.2, 81.2
 Duda 29.3, 52.1, 91.2
 Dudin 79.4
 Durarbayli 71.1
 Dvirnyy 61.3
 Dzagnidze 50.2
 Efremov 37.3
 Emanuel 3.2
 Enchev 44.2
 Erigaisi 27.2
 Escobar Forero 85.3
 Esipenko 49.4, 94.1, 94.4
 Espinosa Aranda 84.4, 91.3
 Esplugas Esteve 13.2
 Esquivas Quintero 100.2
 Estremera Panos 10.2
 Farkas 27.1, 50.4
 Fataliyeva 52.3
 Fedorov, A. 20.4
 Fedoseev 72.2, 77.4, 82.3, 91.4, 98.4
 Feher 53.4
 Fernandez, D. 51.1
 Fernandez Garcia 57.2
 Fier 8.1
 Finek 52.2
 Firouzja 44.1, 59.4, 60.1, 60.3, 68.1,
 73.4, 96.3
 Flom 8.2
 Flores 101.3
 Freitag 64.1
 Fridman 81.4
 Frolyanov 43.4
 Gabuzyan 5.3, 59.3
 Gahan 97.4
 Gaitan 53.1
 Gajwa 75.4
 Gallagher 70.3

Galperin 23.3, 24.2, 26.4
 Galyas 78.1
 Ganguly 5.4, 32.1
 Garcia Cardenas 75.1, 75.4
 Garrido Dominguez 15.3
 Garriga Cazorla 43.3
 Gascon Del Nogal 25.4
 Geirnaert 47.4
 Gelfand 94.4, 96.2
 Gevorgyan 39.1
 Gheorghiu 74.3
 Ghukasyan 76.4
 Giannoulakis 29.2
 Giri 57.4, 91.1, 93.4, 95.1, 95.2, 96.1
 Gitelson 23.4
 Gledura 35.1, 94.3
 Godart 42.3
 Goganov 98.1
 Golubov 37.3, 45.4
 Gomez Anadon 22.1
 Gomez Dieguez 31.4
 Gordievsky 82.2
 Goryatchkina 48.4
 Grabinsky 53.2
 Grachev, A. 26.2
 Gracia Alvarez 50.3, 55.3
 Grafl 31.3
 Granados Gomez 43.3
 Grandelius 81.1
 Greet 72.1
 Grigoryan 4.3, 14.4
 Grischuk 83.3, 93.4
 Grutter 62.3
 Gschnitzer 9.1, 101.1
 Gukesh 70.2
 Guliyev 30.1
 Gunina 90.3, 93.1
 Gupta 14.3
 Gusain 4.2, 8.3
 Gutierrez Olivares 6.1
 Haldorsen 38.4
 Han Yichen 62.2
 Haria 71.4
 Haring 16.1
 Harsha 26.3
 Harshavardhan 29.1
 Harvey 72.1
 Hasanagic 81.3
 Haubro 48.3, 98.3
 Haydon 71.4
 Hayrapetian 26.2
 He 12.1, 67.2, 96.2
 Heimisson 26.1
 Henni 15.4
 Hernandez, C. 100.4
 Hesham 3.3
 Hnydiuk 66.3
 Hoang Thanh Trang 11.4
 Hoffmeister 21.1
 Holm 80.3, 81.1
 Hovhannisyan 5.3
 Hristodorescu 79.2
 Huschenbeth 4.4
 Idani 66.1, 101.1
 Ilincic 53.2
 Indjic 53.4, 67.3, 77.3
 Ioannidis 100.1
 Iturrizaga 15.1, 93.3
 Janik 12.3, 15.1, 76.1, 86.2, 100.2
 Janzelj 38.3
 Javakhishvili 20.2
 Johannessen 48.3
 Johannesson 23.2
 Jolly 42.4
 Jumabayev 84.2
 Jurcik 25.2
 Kadric 101.2
 Kanyamarala 96.4
 Kapitanchuk 53.1
 Karacsonyi 92.2
 Kardashevskiy 43.4
 Karjakin 73.3, 78.2
 Karthik 41.2
 Karthikeyan, M. 9.4, 97.2
 Karthikeyan, P 35.3
 Kashlinskaya 48.1, 59.3, 61.1, 63.3, 64.4, 86.3
 Keinanen 33.4

Kengis 41.1
 Keymer 7.4
 Khanin 39.1, 76.3
 Khegay 25.1
 Khelmniker 27.3
 Khusenkhojaev 17.3
 Kjartarsson 28.1
 Knaak 52.4
 Kobalia 67.2, 68.2
 Kobo 13.4, 96.44
 Koc 74.4
 Kociscak 45.2
 Kogan 47.2
 Koneru 24.4
 Korobov 58.4, 70.4, 71.3, 86.1, 91.1
 Kosteniuk 22.1, 48.2, 64.3, 71.2, 88.3, 90.3
 Kostenko 18.4
 Kotenko 24.2
 Kovalev 18.3
 Kozul 87.4
 Krishna 93.2
 Kryakvin 13.3
 Krzyzanowski 38.1
 Kuentler 31.2
 Kula 21.4
 Kuljasevic 3.1
 Kumar 1.3
 Kuzubov 2.2
 Lagerman 26.1
 Lagno 22.3
 Lai Hing Ting 47.4
 Lajthajm 34.3
 Lalith 3.3
 Lammens 30.3
 Langner 2.3
 Lauber 32.3
 Le Ruyet 71.1
 Le Quang Liem 59.2, 84.3, 86.3
 Le Tuan Minh 11.4
 Lee Qing Aun 79.1
 Leon 51.3
 Lesovoi 41.4
 Lettieri 64.2
 Lewicki 74.2, 92.3
 Li Ben 99.1
 Liang 78.4
 Liascovich 43.1, 53.3, 73.2
 Liska 37.1
 Liu Xiangyi 78.4
 Lobanov 12.2
 Lodici 36.2
 Lomasov 46.2, 56.3, 62.1
 Lopez, J. (not that J Lo!) 6.4
 Low 21.2
 Lu Snaglei 7.1
 Lubbe, M. 61.4
 Lugovskoy 37.4, 64.1, 93.2
 Lund, E. 45.3
 Lupulescu 17.2
 Maatman 15.1, 47.3
 Macovei 30.4
 Maghsoodloo 32.1, 91.4, 101.2
 Maiorov 42.4
 Malakhov, I. 25.3
 Mamedov 76.2, 85.1
 Mamedjarova 52.3
 Mamedyarov 28.4, 31.1
 Mammadzada 13.4
 Manea 17.2
 Manolache 49.2
 Manzone 11.2
 Martin 30.2
 Martinez Ramirez 47.2
 Maryasin 54.2
 Matamoros Franco 7.1
 Matinian 89.1
 Matthiesen, M. 91.3
 McShane 101.3
 Medvegy 31.2
 Mejzlik 25.2
 Merario Alarcon 1.3
 Meribanov 41.3
 Mesaros 30.4
 Mica 52.2
 Mihajlov 15.2
 Mikaelyan 39.4, 89.2
 Mikalsen 37.2

Mikes 37.1
 Milliet 12.4
 Millikow 36.4
 Milosevic 42.1
 Miranda 43.1
 Miranda Mesa 36.1
 Mirzoev 27.4
 Mis 36.3, 51.2
 Modler 36.2
 Mohammad, N. 44.2
 Mohammad Fahad 1.2
 Molchanov 77.1
 Molina 8.1, 99.3
 Mons 31.3, 47.1
 Morchiashvili 24.3
 Moroni 21.3, 70.4, 101.4
 Morozevich 80.2
 Morozov 63.4
 Mortazavi 70.3
 Moussard 52.1
 Mrazek 2.3
 Murali Krishnan 20.4
 Murashova 16.2
 Murzin 20.3, 62.2
 Mussanti 9.4, 11.2
 Muzychuk, A. 13.4, 49.3, 50.2
 Muzychuk, M. 24.4
 Nagy 6.4
 Najer 49.4, 77.1
 Nakamura 35.4, 58.1, 77.2, 81.2, 857.1
 Napoli 12.3
 Naroditsky 11.1
 Nasshan 28.3
 Nastore 84.3
 Navara 19.2, 29.3
 Nayhebaver 16.1
 Nepomniachtchi 55.2, 69.1, 92.4, 95.1
 Neuman 4.1
 Nielsen, P.H. 86.1
 Nigalidze 24.3
 Nigmatov 16.3
 Nihal 58.2
 Nisipeanu 95.3
 Nitin 38.3
 Nomin-Erdene 29.2, 34.1
 Nordquelle 37.2
 Noritsyn 14.1
 Nurgali 26.4
 Nyzhnyk 28.2
 Obolentseva 51.4
 Obregon Rivera 51.3, 55.3
 Oleksiyenko 44.1
 Oparin 92.1, 94.2
 Osmak 38.4, 85.2
 Otchiyev 84.3
 Paakkonen 33.4
 Padmini 90.1
 Pantsulaia 17.3
 Pantzar 33.3, 74.3
 Papp 61.4
 Paramzina 19.1
 Paravyan 58.2, 61.3, 83.1
 Patrelakis 76.4
 Paveto 45.1
 Peng Li Min 56.3
 Perez Ponsa 43.2, 44.4, 93.3
 Peycheva 34.1, 79.4
 Pichot 83.2, 89.3
 Pijpers 11.3
 Pikula 67.4
 Pirrot 55.1
 Plichta 101.4
 Pogosyan 1.4, 41.2, 82.1
 Polak 24.1
 Ponkratov 14.2, 92.2, 94.3, 95.4
 Postny 94.2
 Pourramezanali 23.4
 Povah 20.2
 Praggnanandhaa 100.3
 Pranesh 5.1, 34.2
 Predojevic 49.1, 67.3, 78.3
 Preotu 86.4, 87.2
 Priyanka 35.2
 Pridorozhni 6.1
 Psyk 51.2
 Puccini 51.1

Puranik 70.2
 Quesada Perez 36.1, 40.4
 Quesada Vera 10.2
 Quintiliano Pinto 89.2
 Rahul 29.1
 Raicevic 5.2, 7.2
 Raja 10.1
 Rakotomahora 7.3
 Rambaldi 14.3
 Reimanis 61.2, 82.1
 Rios 17.4
 Risting 46.4
 Rodchenkov 70.1
 Rodin 16.2
 Rodriguez, J. 43.2
 Rodriguez, S. 16.4
 Rodriguez Vila 4.4
 Rohith 20.1
 Roiz 60.2
 Ronka 74.1
 Rosen 63.3, 64.4
 Rozentalis 10.4
 Rozman 82.4
 Rozum 2.1, 66.4
 Runets 41.3
 Ruperez Benito 58.3
 Rydstrom 50.4
 Sadhwani 28.4
 Saduakassova 5.4
 Sadzikowski 4.3
 Safarli 76.2, 88.3
 Sahl 18.2
 Saksham 34.3
 Sanal 82.3
 Sanchez Saez 57.2
 Sandipan 1.2
 Sangma 16.3
 Santos Ruiz 9.2
 Sarana 83.1, 97.1
 Sargsyan 31.1, 42.2
 Saric 14.2
 Satyapragyan 26.3
 Savage 58.3
 Savanovic 15.2, 92.3
 Savchenko, B. 6.3, 34.2, 65.4
 Savicevic 42.1
 Schreiner 3.1
 Schwabeneder 33.1
 Sebag 48.1, 49.3
 Sebenik 63.4
 Sethuraman 18.1
 Sevia 54.4, 58.4, 66.3
 Shankland 75.2
 Shevchenko 61.2
 Shimanov 54.3, 75.2
 Shinkevich 34.4
 Shirov 46.3
 Shkapenko 88.4, 98.4
 Shubin 89.4
 Sihite 64.3
 Sielecki 61.1
 Sindarov 60.4
 Sivuk 56.2
 Sjugirov 57.3
 Skatchkov 40.3
 Smirnov, T. 34.4
 So 32.2, 35.4, 66.2, 77.2
 Socko, M. 88.4
 Sorensen 67.1
 Soumya 29.4
 Sowray 21.3
 Spata 16.4
 Spitzl 79.3
 Srihari 17.4, 60.4, 97.2
 Srija 41.4
 Stefanova 22.4
 Stefansson 22.4
 Steinberg 62.1, 75.3
 Steinkohl 30.1
 Stinka 54.1
 Stojanovski 55.1, 81.4
 Storme 40.2
 Straka 38.1, 46.1
 Strikovic 31.4
 Stromboli 76.1
 Studer 19.4
 Sturua 1.4
 Suarez Real 44.3

Suleymenov 23.3
 Svanda 23.1
 Svane, R. 69.4
 Sveshnikov, V. 41.1
 Svetushkin 69.3
 Swicarz 87.2
 Swiercz 99.2
 Sychev 59.1
 Szotkowski 24.1
 Taher 1.1
 Tapie 50.3
 Tarasova 70.1
 Tarlev 57.1
 Tate 97.3
 Ter Sahakyan 99.1
 Ter-Saakian 25.3
 Terbe 27.1
 Terletsky 42.3
 Thejkumar 92.1
 Thiede 40.1
 Thorgeirsson 23.2
 Thybo 22.4, 62.3
 Tian 78.3
 Tica 32.4
 Tisaj 36.3
 Tokhirjonova 79.2, 97.3
 Tomashevsky 46.2
 Topalov 100.3
 Tronenkovs 97.1
 Troyke 89.4
 Truskavetsky 12.2
 Tryggestad 18.2
 Tsatsalashvili 7.2
 Tsay 65.3
 Tukhaev 5.1
 Turova 88.2
 Utsab 1.1
 Vachier Lagrave 87.3
 Vaishali 35.2
 Valenzuela Gomez 12.4
 Vallejo Pons 85.4
 Van Foreest, J. 57.4
 Van Foreest, L. 39.3
 Vastrukhin 88.1
 Vasquez Schroeder 4.2, 85.4
 Vazquez 90.2
 Vedrickas 5.2
 Vidic 21.2
 Vijayalakshmi 29.4, 88.3
 Vishnu 69.4
 Vogel 10.3
 Voit 6.3
 Vokhidov 73.2, 99.2
 Volkov 90.4
 Vrolijk 67.4
 Vykouk 46.1, 80.2
 Walek 23.1
 Wang Hao 68.3
 Wang Yue 35.1
 Warmerdam 21.1, 38.2
 Wei Yi 47.1
 Wenniger 30.2
 Wiewiora 21.4
 Willow 74.1, 97.4
 Womacka 9.3
 Xiong 54.4, 80.1
 Yanev 89.1
 Yaniuk 66.1
 Yashmetov 63.2
 Yeletsky 69.3
 Yermolinsky 12.1
 Yilmaz 8.4, 95.3
 Yip 22.3, 63.1
 Yoo 83.2
 Yu Yangyi 66.2, 73.1, 91.2
 Yuffa 9.3, 46.3
 Zeng 33.3
 Zhang Ziji 18.1
 Zhukov 37.4
 Zhukova 77.3, 85.2
 Zierk 81.3
 Zoler 3.2, 22.2
 Zubarev 56.4
 Zubov 22.2
 Zubritskiy 74.4
 Zwirs 47.3

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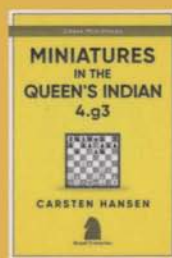
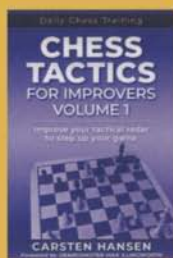
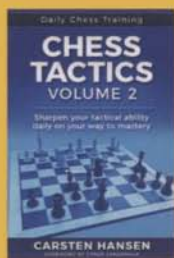
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ISBN 9788793812406



9 788793 812406

