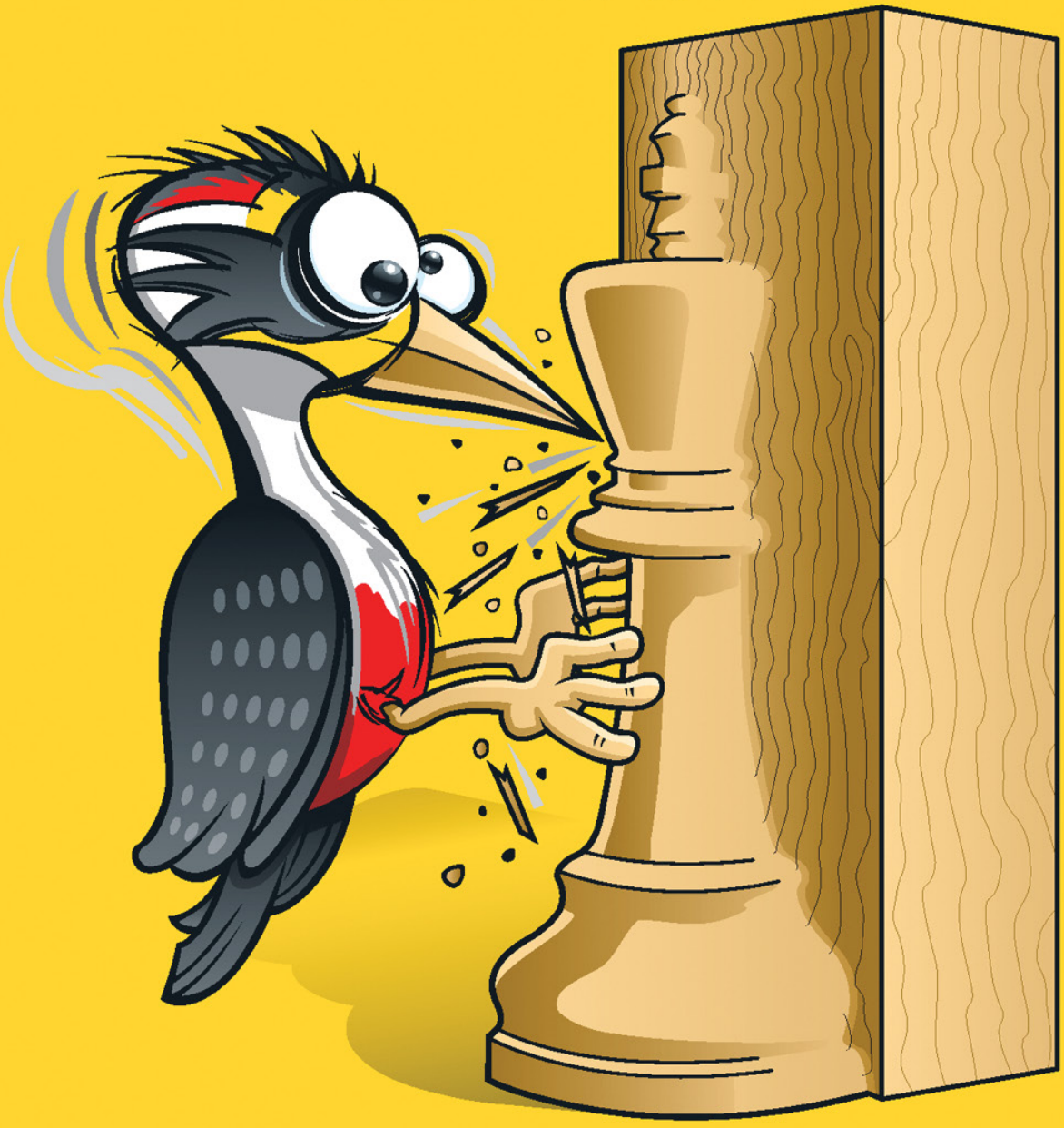
THE WOODPECKER METHOD



BY AXEL SMITH & HANS TIKKANEN

QUALITY CHESS

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Key to Symbols used

⩲	White is slightly better
⩱	Black is slightly better
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+–	White has a decisive advantage
–+	Black has a decisive advantage
=	equality
⩱	with compensation
⇄	with counterplay
∞	unclear

?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
!?	a move worth considering
?!	a move of doubtful value

✓	a move which should be seen as part of the solution

Quick Start Guide

So, you want to dive in and start solving without reading any of the introductory text now or even at all? That's the spirit – we encourage everyone to tackle the puzzles as soon as possible and read about the history and philosophy of the method when you wish to take a break. If you favour the Quick Start, you have two main methods of working with this book.

Option 1 – General Solving

If you bought this book to practise exercises in your regular fashion, then turn to page 32 and begin solving the 1128 exercises we have prepared for you. They are assembled in three general levels of toughness. Just a quick word of warning though: as per our personal preference, these are not all "play and win" combinations. The task is to find the best move (and supporting variations) and the best move could, for instance, be to force a draw, gain a slight advantage or even avoid falling for a counter-tactic in a seemingly obvious combination. Good luck and have fun!

Quick Start 2 – The Woodpecker Method

If you wish to train using the Woodpecker Method, as advocated in this book, there are a few things you need to know before starting:

1. The general idea of the Method is to develop intuitive/automatic pattern recognition through repetitive solving of the same exercises in a cyclical fashion.

2. As you may already know, or have guessed from the description above, the Woodpecker Method is quite gruelling and not for everyone. Although we believe that most players could benefit greatly from it, the question is whether the time and energy could be better spent on improving another part of your game. For me (Tikkanen), using this method gave me a tremendous increase in stability in time trouble, improved my tactical vision quite a bit, and significantly reduced my blunder rate. I'm very happy I did it, but I will not repeat it in the foreseeable future – for now, I have done enough. If you decide this method might be for you and wish to give it a go, then we wish you the best – may your results reflect your effort!

3. To get the most out of the your Woodpecker training, please take a quick look at the instructions on page 26 before you start.

Woodpecker History

– by Hans Tikkanen

The name of the Woodpecker Method was not invented by me, but it was influenced by me and invented by my co-author, GM Axel Smith. It comes from a translation I've heard of my Finnish surname, Tikkanen, which is supposed to mean "little woodpecker". Together with the repetitive nature of the method, it seems fitting, although credit for many of the ideas behind the method lies elsewhere.

While developing and using the method, I did not remember where the basic ideas came from. When the method gained a slightly larger audience after I achieved three GM norms and could not resist questions about my training, I was made aware of the similarity to Michael de la Maza and his "Seven Circles" method from the book *Rapid Chess Improvement – A Study Plan for Adult Players*. I recognized the name and had indeed read it during my pre-professional time, when I spent several years reading whatever I could get my hands on about the interactions of the human consciousness, the brain and chess. This was done out of curiosity and also to figure out how it should influence my approach to chess playing and training. I think I forgot about that book due to its exclusive focus on adult players (basically adult beginners), and what I considered to be its overly-certain claims and statements with little or doubtful supporting evidence, and other flaws (a Jeremy Silman review offered an even more harshly worded opinion).

While my fascination for the relatively unknown subject matter of the human consciousness and brain remains (and indeed was a major motivation for ending my intermezzo as a chess professional and starting my studies in psychology), it seems to me to be beyond the scope of a chess tactics book, and highly speculative to boot. Regardless, one conclusion I drew from my reading was that a tremendous amount of activity happens unconsciously, below conscious effortful processing, and that this should reasonably be reflected in my approach to chess. I had previously (on a mostly unconscious level I'm sure!) been quite dismissive of these kinds of thoughts, and indeed my style at the chess board used to be effortful and concrete rather than intuitive. I would now say that I then unconsciously trusted my intuition to find the right moves to consider, but I only believed in the conscious verification process that seemed to me to be all there was. "Calculation, calculation, calculation!" was my motto. With my subsequent reading of psychological literature, I came to realize that there really is such a thing as intuition and I became much more aware of the unconscious parts of my approach.

Putting it all together

Armed with my new insights, I endeavoured to find or develop training and thinking methods for my personal use. The most successful of them was the Woodpecker Method (although I didn't have a catchy name for it then), which I used extensively during the spring of 2010. My own experience with the method might be of interest to some, so here it comes.

First, I decided on the general rules of the method. I would solve a set of a thousand exercises (from various puzzle books) over whatever time period it took. Once I completed the set, I would take a break and then repeat the process again and again, getting faster each time. I checked my answers against the solutions given in the back of the book, and computer-checked in cases when I did not fully buy the solution provided by the author. (The frustration I feel when an exercise does not make sense has served as a great motivator to make the solutions in this book as accurate as possible!)

Being a chess professional, I had very few commitments distracting me from working hard on the solving. Of course, solving exercises in this manner is really hard work, so most days I did not manage a full eight-hour workday; but sometimes I did. Once I reached the end of the set of 1000, I took a well-deserved break, ranging from a full day to over a week. I did no other work on chess during these rest periods, except some playing.

With each cycle of solving, I aimed to halve the total solving time for the thousand exercises from that of the previous cycle. Eventually I was able to solve all of the puzzles within a single day – though not within eight hours. Initially I intended to repeat the whole process every six weeks. Later, however, I decided that "repeat one set of 1000 exercises before a serious tournament" was more realistic.

I hardly need state that the process was a demanding one, but I had a lot of motivation – partly from pent-up frustration due to having blundered away important games, but also because I was trying out of my own method. While it was tough on me, one of the books took even more of a beating – completely falling apart from the repeated solving!

Results of the Training

As mentioned above, I trained with the Woodpecker Method in the spring of 2010. That summer, I achieved three GM norms and surpassed the 2500 barrier, all within a seven-week period. The positive effects did not stop there: the following year, my live rating briefly peaked at 2601.

Such quick results from any type of chess training are rare in my experience, but for me the Woodpecker Method seemed to be just what the doctor ordered! The increased tactical acuity and consistency that came from working so hard with the method significantly decreased my blunders and made me more confident at the board.

Would I have made the same improvement with some other type of training? It's not impossible – but my playing strength had not taken any significant leap in years, so I had been at a loss as to what to do differently to succeed. Although the Woodpecker Method probably wasn't the *only* way for me to raise my play, it certainly proved to be *a* way. The intersection of my interest in the human mind and my motivation to stop blundering surely helped me to devote more time and effort than I would have put into my usual training.

After my extraordinary success with the Woodpecker Method, I tried going a step further and sometimes managed to trust in my intuition without the perfectionistic need to always verify it. Maybe someday I will be able to play the sort of beautiful, intuitive chess that some great players are known for – that would really be something...

General Introduction

Tactics, Tactics, Tactics!

Have you ever lost a chess game unnecessarily due to a tactical oversight? You are, to put it mildly, not alone. When we checked a randomized sample of games, we found that more than half of those with decisive results were decided by tactical mistakes. It's not straightforward to describe exactly what constitutes a tactical mistake, or if the game holds a specific decisive moment, but we used the following criteria to define a decisive tactical mistake:

a) the position was not already lost or seriously worse
b) the move blundered material or allowed a winning combination
c) the opponent exploited the mistake to win the game

In preparation for writing this book, we decided to check the games with decisive results which were contested between grandmasters at the 2016 Swedish Championship. With only 19 such games, it's clearly not a big enough sample to draw major conclusions. Nevertheless, we were surprised to find that as many as 42% were decided by tactical mistakes. At lower levels, the frequency gets higher and higher, as the following table shows.

Both players rated – Percentage of decisive games decided by tactical mistakes

GMs	42%
2200-2400	44%
2000-2200	63%
1800-2000	72%

The percentages in the three rating bands below GM level are based on 32 randomly chosen games in each category. This is by no means a comprehensive investigation and it doesn't give the whole picture; time management is also of crucial importance. Another relevant point is that it is harder to avoid tactical mistakes in defensible but passive positions, where the opponent has various attacking ideas and there are fewer decent moves. Nevertheless, it is safe to conclude that tactics have a high priority if you want to score points.

Assuming you have read Hans' *Woodpecker History* on page 6, you already have a rough idea of the kind of training you will be doing with this book. Over the next few pages, we will say a bit more about how we have organized the training material and how to get the most out of it.

The Exercises

We have assembled a total of 1128 exercises, divided into three difficulty levels.

Easy (222 Exercises)
If these exercises are challenging enough for you, then it would seem logical to use the end of this section as your cut-off point, after which you will go back to the beginning for your second cycle. If, on the other hand, you find these puzzles rather easy, then start your set with them anyway! We have deliberately chosen these exercises because they feature simpler tactics than you will find in most puzzle books. A partial benefit of this approach is that it makes the book accessible to a wider audience. However, even if we were designing a Woodpecker program exclusively for players striving for the GM title, we would have started with these puzzles anyway, because they reflect reality. These simple tactics are the kind of things you need to see automatically during your games, rather than having to spend time and energy actively looking for them.

Intermediate (762 Exercises)
To encourage speed, you will also find some relatively easy exercises in this section. There may also be some which you consider hard, but remember that the goal is not to score 100%, especially in early cycles. Even after working with all of the exercises, we each made quite a few errors when solving the draft. Another point worth keeping in mind is that many of the solutions were overlooked by a World Champion.

Advanced (144 Exercises)
We would advise the majority of readers *not* to use this final section for Woodpecker training. Several of the positions are really tricky and more suitable for developing your ability to calculate, which veers slightly away from the main purpose of the Woodpecker Method. That said, we can see this section being useful in a couple of scenarios:

1) For the majority of readers, the Easy and Intermediate sections will contain more than enough material to carry out an intensive Woodpecker training plan. But once you have reached the end of it (and hopefully noticed a significant leap in your tactical ability over the board), you will, at some point, want to think about further training. The final section of more challenging exercises would suit this purpose.

2) For extremists who are already strong players, and who possess the time, energy and motivation to tackle this book in the most demanding way possible, this final section can be included in the main training plan. Try solving all 1128 exercises in cycles under the time constraints detailed in the *Instructions* section on page 26! To even consider taking on a challenge like this, you should probably be at a level where you are working towards the Grandmaster title.

Speed

Tactical motifs usually appear effortlessly in our minds, but they don't travel alone; we also need to think methodically and work out the variations with some accuracy. So the Woodpecker

Method is not only developing pattern recognition but also calculation, focus, decision-making – and speed.

Once you know certain patterns and motifs, speed is key. The fastest thoughts are those that come to us automatically and while negative automatic thoughts can be a huge problem in psychopathology, automaticity has great benefits as well. The more automatic the search for motifs is, the greater is the chance that you will see enough. We take the view that a good way to develop automaticity is to solve a set of exercises repeatedly, gradually reducing the need for conscious searching. If this sounds somewhat similar to learning to ride a bike, that is because it is.

Other Points about the Exercises

We have long held the view that virtually all books on chess combinations are missing something central to real-game tactics: *red herrings*. When using conventional puzzle books, solving exercises sometimes becomes like watching a certain type of movie – you just know that everything will work out in the end. From a movie, it can detract tension and excitement, while in tactics training it can detract uncertainty and exactness.

We therefore decided it was important to include some red herrings, where the most obvious attempts backfire. By taking away the certainty that even seemingly easy tactical shots are fool-proof, we aim to bring the training experience one step closer to that of an actual game. While there could be an argument that this type of book is not necessarily the best forum for red herrings, we wanted to put our money where our mouths are.

When presenting the exercises, we have avoided giving away any prior information about the position's evaluation or the nature of the tactical motif waiting to be found. Other puzzle books may have their own reasons for including this information, but we want to keep the training as close as possible to a real game.

In some exercises, the task is to finish off a promising position which may be winning even without the tactic. In other cases, there are several winning moves. These are deliberate choices, to reflect different situations which occur during practical play. It's important to be as accurate as possible and to practise decision-making in all scenarios.

A common mistake is to stop too early in a variation, maybe only a single move before there's a crucial tactic. However, narrowing your search down to the critical lines is an important skill for a human player (even computers have to do it!) and trusting your intuition is the best way of doing this. Therefore, after a training session, it might be a good idea to think about *why* you failed certain exercises to see where your intuition misled you. But don't spend too much time dwelling on it – developing pattern recognition is best done on a mostly unconscious level. The good news is that training your tactical pattern recognition will increase the chance that the motif appears in your head while you visualize the position.

A final point about the exercises is that we have not only computer-checked the solutions, but also humanly checked them (thanks to our test solvers, Martin Jogstad and Tom Rydström). This brought to our attention some plausible attempts which the computer instantly dismisses, but which appear tempting to a human. This enabled us to improve the solutions by mentioning some of those variations that *almost* work.

World Champions

Although there was no special reason to set a theme for the exercises, we decided to take our test positions exclusively from games involving all World Champions, from Steinitz to Carlsen (including the FIDE KO World Champions). The champions are on the losing side in about 25% of the games. So sometimes you will do better than them, while other times your task is to play as well – and that's also a fair goal. The featured tactics are not necessarily flashy, and you have probably seen some of the examples before – but that's part of the idea, as repeating the same motifs is an integral part of our method.

As we will see in this book, it's possible to find tactical resources even in worse positions. We were surprised at how many blunders we encountered the move before the combination. True, there are quite a few positions from simuls where the champion faced weaker opponents, but tactical mistakes are also far from unheard of in World Championship matches. As we have strived to check all the available games played by the World Champions, the selection is hopefully quite representative. In each of the three exercise sections (Easy, Intermediate and Advanced) you will find examples involving each champion. Throughout each section, the games of each champion appear in *approximate* chronological order. (We were much more focused on the chess content than on perfect ordering of the games.)

At a FIDE Trainer seminar, a coach claimed that it was important for aspiring players to know the full list of World Champions in order. He was serious and Axel didn't get it right when taking the exam. A few years later, neither of us could recall the list below in order; and trying to write down the years was not even close to possible. You're welcome to improve on our efforts, but you're also free to skip the list, finish the introductory section and start to find combinations like a World Champion.

World Chess Champions

Wilhelm Steinitz (1836-1900) Austria-Hungary/USA	1886-94
Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941) Germany	1894-1921
Jose Raul Capablanca (1888-1942) Cuba	1921-27
Alexander Alekhine (1892-1946) Russia/France	1927-35 & 37-46
Max Euwe (1901-81) Netherlands	1935-37
Mikhail Botvinnik (1911-95) Soviet Union	1948-57, 58-60 & 61-63
Vassily Smyslov (1921-2010) Soviet Union	1957-58
Mikhail Tal (1936-92) Soviet Union	1960-61
Tigran Petrosian (1929-84) Soviet Union	1963-69
Boris Spassky (1937-) Soviet Union	1969-72
Robert Fischer (1943-2008) USA	1972-75
Anatoly Karpov (1951-) Soviet Union/Russia	1975-85 & 93-99
Garry Kasparov (1963-) Soviet Union/Russia	1985-93 & 93-00 (PCA)
Alexander Khalifman (1966-) Russia	1999-2000
Vladimir Kramnik (1975-) Russia	2000-06 (PCA) & 2006-07

Viswanathan Anand (1969-) India	2000-02 & 07-13
Ruslan Ponomariov (1983-) Ukraine	2002-04
Rustam Kasimdzhanov (1979-) Uzbekistan	2004-05
Veselin Topalov (1975-) Bulgaria	2005-06
Magnus Carlsen (1990-) Norway	2013-

An Appeal for the Unconscious

In 1957, the market researcher James Vicary surprised the world with an experiment showing the impact of subliminal advertising. When moviegoers were shown 1/3000-second advertisements for Coca-Cola and popcorn, the product sales increased without anyone being aware of the advert.

Today, it is well researched that humans use subliminal perception to speed up the brain process. When it comes to chess, the reoccurrence of a certain configuration can prime your brain that there may be a combination, a piece manoeuvre or pawn lever. However, finding a move intuitively is sometimes seen as a negative habit: "You have not worked thoroughly enough to deserve credit for the solution." Nothing could be more wrong, as seen from a scientific viewpoint.

The Woodpecker Method is designed to develop that kind of intuition – so make use of it! Every combination you have ever seen has prepared your chess brain for giving such advice. And after you have followed the Woodpecker Method, it will be ready like never before.

Finding the correct first move always gives one point, but don't depend solely on your intuition. Every position is unique and requires some supporting calculation – trust the input from your intuition, but always verify it!

A few decades after his study, Vicary revealed that it was all a gimmick. He did not have enough data to support his bold claim, and has failed to replicate it since. But there was a grain of truth in what he was saying, and he inspired Axel's grandfather to do research where participants were shown subliminal images with scary faces. That made them interpret other images as being frightful as well.

So, it might be possible to put a chess player in an aggressive mode by showing subliminal diagrams where one side has castled long and won with an attack on the king...

Solving Sessions

"Life puzzle" is a Swedish expression which originates from a political campaign and points out the difficulty of organizing work, social media, household work, "quality time" with the family, and "time-when-you-do-things-for-yourself" – another common expression which is shorter in Swedish (just seven letters). The essence is the core of the Swedish mentality: life is a puzzle to be solved, rather than chaos to be endured.

It is not up to us to advise you how *much* time to dedicate to chess. We can, however, say something about the desired *quality* of this study time. Find a quiet place and set a time limit so you are able to focus until the end. Start solving, and do it seriously – as in a tournament game. That means looking ahead to make sure that your solution really works, but still trying to work through the exercises as quickly as possible.

Should a Real Board and Pieces be used?

Whether or not one should solve using a real board is a contentious issue among trainers. Some, especially more old-school trainers, might argue that you always should. Artur Yusupov is one example of a renowned trainer who emphasizes the importance of using a board and pieces in his multi-volume training series (also published by Quality Chess). Others don't see it as being so important. You obviously have to choose for yourself, but we can give you our two cents: neither of us used a board and pieces for our Woodpecker training. There is most likely a generational divide: players of a certain age, who developed their chess skills before the computer era, are more likely to value a board and pieces; whereas those who have spent a significant portion of their formative years studying chess using computers tend not to be put off by the two-dimensional aspect of solving from diagrams in a book (or on a screen, for those who bought the Forward Chess edition).

Obviously you should do what feels right for you. A possible compromise is to take an initial glance at each exercise directly in the book. If you solve it within a few seconds, then move on to the next exercise. On those occasions when you have yet to find the solution within roughly one minute (or whatever timeframe you find most appropriate), set the position up on a board if it helps you to think more clearly. One optional way to get some extra training out of this process is to set the position up from memory as far as possible – but don't forget the main purpose of your training.

Our general thinking is that with the huge amount of positions which we study nowadays from diagrams with computer databases, internet play and so on, solving from the book should mostly use the same neural configurations and thus be similar enough and good enough for these short exercises. True, classical tournament play still involves a physical board and pieces, so an argument could be made for replicating that in training. You may also wish to take into account the extra time invested in setting up the pieces, which adds up to quite a lot when you are dealing with anything up to a thousand exercises. From our point of view, this time could be better spent by solving more exercises (or with loved ones). If we were solving harder exercises requiring ten or more minutes of effort, we would probably use a board, but that's the kind of training used to develop deeper calculation rather than pattern recognition.

There is one absolute advantage that we see in using a board and pieces (apart from the aesthetic/hedonistic one): that is, the possibility of playing the moves out in order to see the final pattern take shape on the board, while possibly developing some muscle memory at the same time. For some players, the process of playing out the solution might negatively impact on their overall speed and ability to focus on the main task, while others might find it helpful having a micro-break for setting up the pieces before moving on to the next exercise. We will repeat our advice for a final time: think about the pros and cons of each approach; experiment with a mixed approach if you need to; and ultimately do what works best for you.

after all, practising tactical motifs and this is a *magnet* (turn to page 22 for a dedicated example of this theme).

36...♕g2† 37.♔h5

There are no more checks. The rest is not important for our subject, but is a beautiful piece of chess.

37...♖g8 38.f4!

Smyslov won after 38.♖a8 g6†?! 39.♗xg6 mating.

The text move forces Black's queen to leave the g-file.

38...♕e2† 39.♔g5 ♗e3 40.h3!

Defending the g4-square.

40...♗xf4† 41.♔g6+–

There is no defence against 42.♕xg8† ♔xg8 43.♖a8 mate.

When looking ahead, it's sometimes difficult to decide when to stop and evaluate the position. It's always possible to calculate a move further... Oh, wait – no it's not. We are, after all, only human, so from time to time we need to make an evaluation before the tactical operation is over.

There are the usual clues to help us: whose pieces are better placed? Do more and more options appear when we calculate? Which side needs to prove something? The process of decision-making involves complex concepts such as reliability (how certain is the evaluation?), grading (how important is this decision?) and the trade-off between maximizing our chances and the risks incurred in doing so (is there a safer alternative?).

With hindsight, it's easy to say when you should have continued calculating. Explanations like "you had not yet solved the problem with the back rank" sound sensible and almost obvious, but anyone can be wise after the event. It's the same with finding critical moments: they are easy to identify afterwards.

It can be helpful to think about such things and identify useful clues for future reference, but excessive explanations carry a risk of suppressing your intuition – and with it your human strength. The complex concepts mentioned above work best unconsciously. Your intuition may fail from time to time, but it improves with experience.

Here is one example where the position can be evaluated even though there are more lines to calculate.

It is not always easy to say which moves must be seen in advance to earn the ✓ – we debated this issue in many solutions. If you find yourself strongly disagreeing with our choice in a particular solution, then give yourself full points anyway. Trust your own judgement, but don't fall into the trap of being too kind to yourself. We had a friend who always found an excuse when he didn't see the whole solution: "I knew I had a move there," he said. "During a game I would have found it." But when he blundered during the games he wasn't allowed to take his move back. So apply some common sense: don't cheat against yourself, but don't be too harsh either.

If you have chosen another winning continuation marked in the solution (often with "or"), you also earn full points. We have tried to note all relevant winning methods, but sometimes there are too many; or it may be that you chose to insert an intermediate check or something similar before executing the main combination. Again, use your common sense as to whether or not you found the right idea. If in doubt, you can always check your solution using an engine.

In general, we give the critical moves as the main line. The game continuations are not always mentioned, but when it's smooth we have given it for completeness (as in Smyslov – Addison above).

Since the timescale is a crucial element to the Woodpecker Method, you don't have to check all the variations – especially when working on your second and subsequent cycles. If you are curious about some details, you can always check them some time in between training sessions when the clock isn't ticking.

Finally, let us remind you that your objective in each training session will be to solve as quickly and accurately as possible. Thus, please don't take this book to bed and attempt to solve as you are falling asleep, or in the morning when you have barely woken up. We want to encourage good habits, not bad ones!

Summary of Tactical Motifs

To calculate well, you need to be able to visualize positions in your head, and to know about methods such as blunder-checking, candidate moves, comparison and choosing which move to calculate first. However, you also need to recognize tactical motifs on a more or less unconscious level. That skill is improved by seeing a vast number of them – as will happen in this book.

The human mind is good at decoding and organizing abstract concepts to be able to retrieve them when needed. When we consciously intervene in the process, we risk losing the automaticity. However, there are a few good books that give a theoretical foundation to tactical motifs, and it would do no harm to read one of those books before solving mixed exercises, as in this book. Since learning the different motifs is something that we recommend any serious player should do at least once in his or her career, it seems profitable to do so before training with the Woodpecker Method.

Since this is a workbook and not a full tactical course, we will limit ourselves to a list of the main tactical motifs, with one basic example for each of them. Read carefully – the positions may turn up again.

1) Threats

Here are eight of the most prevalent tactical themes which involve threats to the opponent's pieces or king.

Shutting in

Carl Hamppe – Wilhelm Steinitz

Vienna 1860



85...♕xh6†! Black draws, since **86.♔xh6** is stalemate.

Pawn promotion

Dmitry Gurevich – Alexander Khalifman

Moscow (rapid) 1992

△

29.♖d8†! ♘xd8 30.c7 and Black cannot protect both promotion squares.

Zugzwang

Robert Fischer – Mark Taimanov

Vancouver (2) 1971

△

87.♔g6 Black is in zugzwang and has to allow the pawn to promote.

For those who wish to learn more about the motifs, a good read is *Chess Tactics from Scratch* by Martin Weteschnik (Quality Chess, 2012).

Instructions

Woodpecker training is hard. To get the maximum benefit from it, we recommend that you follow the methodology described in this short section.

First, a couple of definitions:
Set: The exercises which you will solve before you start all over again.
Cycle: One round of solving the set. Normally you will perform up to seven cycles with one set.

The Woodpecker Method in Five Steps

Step 1
Cycle 1: Solve as many exercises as you can manage in four weeks. These exercises are your *set*; and solving them brings you to the end of your first *cycle*. (The exact time period can be adjusted according to your lifestyle and circumstances, but try not to spend much more than four weeks. If you find yourself taking much longer than four weeks, you have probably either not been putting in sufficient time, or have included too many exercises in your set.)

Step 2
Take a break from chess for at least a clear day, and up to a week if you need it.

Step 3
Cycle 2: Solve the same set of exercises but faster: within two weeks is the target.

Step 4
Repeat steps 2 and 3, and repeat again. Aim to complete each cycle in half the number of days as the previous cycle (rounded up, when dealing with an odd number of days).

Step 5
The Woodpecker Method has been completed when the full set of exercises has been solved entirely in one day – or after the 7th cycle, if you are unable to solve the full set in a day. In the final two cycles, you should focus more on spotting ideas, patterns and motifs at speed, and less on the finer details of calculation.

Customizing the Woodpecker Method

The five-step plan is straightforward enough, but a crucial variable is missing: how much time should you spend solving during the initial four weeks? Since the answer will depend on your level of ambition and life situation, it has to be your decision. Before you begin, we recommend that you set a target timetable with upper and lower limits. Between five and ten hours per week would seem realistic for an amateur player with work and/or family commitments. By setting a loose schedule, you ensure a certain amount of personal accountability for your training, while

some tournaments and put your improved tactical ability to use. As far as subsequent training is concerned, this will depend on your playing strength and goals. Woodpecker training is hard, so you will probably want to take a break from it for a while, and perhaps train some other aspect of your game. When you are ready though, you may wish to consider one of the following approaches.

If your first bout of Woodpecker training comprised a set of, say, the first 250 exercises from this book, the way to build upon your progress is obvious: after taking a suitable break, begin a new four-week cycle using further exercises from this book. You will now be at the intermediate difficulty level, but you should be well and truly ready for it by now.

Readers who began their Woodpecker training with a high level of playing strength and ambition may have been able to take on a larger set, perhaps comprising the 984 exercises in the easy and intermediate sections, or even the difficult section as well, for a brutal total of 1128 exercises. If you were able to complete a set like this within a day (or over seven cycles) then your tactical ability should have taken a significant leap. To maintain and build upon the gains you have made, it is a good idea to redo the set approximately once every six weeks, or at least as a warm-up before an important tournament. For anyone keen/crazy enough to want to repeat the entire method, there are plenty of other exercise/puzzle books on the market...

Summary of Instructions

Step 1) Cycle 1: Solve a set of exercises over approximately four weeks
Step 2) Take at least the next day off
Step 3) Cycle 2: Solve the same set, but within two weeks
Step 4) Repeat steps 2-3, completing each cycle in half the number of days (rounded up where necessary)
Step 5) The method is complete when the set has been solved in one day (or after seven cycles)

Now there's no more text to delay the exercises. Good luck and may the unconscious be with you! (At least after a while...)

Hans Tikkanen & Axel Smith
Lund, June 2018

Steinitz – Baker, London (simul) 1868

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Steinitz – Minckwitz, Baden-Baden 1870

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Steinitz – Fleissig, Vienna 1873

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Steinitz – Gelbfuhs, Vienna 1873

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Steinitz – Meitner, Vienna 1882

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Blackburne – Steinitz, London 1883

12

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Gunsberg – Steinitz, New York (2) 1890

13

Steinitz – Chigorin, Havana (8) 1892

14

Steinitz – Van Foreest, Haarlem (simul) 1896

15

Steinitz – Reyne, Haarlem (simul) 1896

16



Steinitz – Falk, Moscow 1896

17



Steinitz – Enderle, Haarlem (simul) 1896

18



Showalter – Steinitz, Vienna 1898

19



Lasker – McBride, USA (simul) 1902

20



Lasker – Witchard, Gloucester (simul) 1908

21



Hartlaub – Lasker, Germany 1908

22



Lasker – Janowski, Berlin (1) 1910

23



Lasker – Bogoljubov, Atlantic Ocean 1924

24



Thomas – Lasker, Nottingham 1936

25



Capablanca – Watson, Schenectady 1909

26



Capablanca – Schrader, Saint Louis (simul) 1909

27



Capablanca – Pomeroy, Saint Louis (simul) 1909

28



Capablanca – Carter, Saint Louis (simul) 1909

29



Capablanca – Marshall, New York 1910

30



Capablanca – Piazzini, Buenos Aires 1911

31



Capablanca – Rasmussen, Copenhagen (simul) 1911

32



Capablanca – Randolph, New York 1912

33



Capablanca – Dunkelsbuhler, London (simul) 1913

34



Hodges – Capablanca, New York 1915

35



Capablanca – Michelsen, New York (simul) 1915

36



Capablanca – N.N., New York 1918

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Capablanca – Birch, Glasgow 1919

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Capablanca – Hadland, Thornton Heath 1919

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Capablanca – Vidmar, London 1922

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Capablanca – Malowan, New York (simul) 1922

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Capablanca – N.N., Moscow (simul) 1925

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Capablanca – Mieses, Bad Kissingen 1928

43

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Capablanca – Vajda, Budapest 1929

44

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Capablanca – Becker, Karlsbad 1929

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Capablanca – Larrea, Mexico (simul) 1933

46

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Menchik – Capablanca, Margate 1935

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Capablanca – Levenfish, Moscow 1935

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Alekhine – Lyubimov, Moscow 1909

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Alekhine – Izbinsky, St Petersburg 1909

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Rozanov/Tselikov – Alekhine, Moscow 1915

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Leif-Jones – Alekhine, London (simul) 1923

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Friedmann – Alekhine, Czechoslovakia (simul) 1925

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Alekhine – Yates, Baden-Baden 1925

60

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Alekhine – Bruce, Plymouth 1938

67

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Alekhine – Lopo, Estoril (simul) 1940

68

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Alekhine – Aragao, Estoril (simul) 1940

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Alekhine – Salvatierra, Madrid (simul) 1941

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Alekhine – De Cossio, San Sebastian (simul) 1944

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Alekhine – Ricondo, Santander (simul) 1945

72

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Euwe – Wiersma, Amsterdam 1920

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Bigelow – Euwe, Bromley 1920

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Gruber – Euwe, Vienna 1921

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Euwe – Bogoljubov, Maehrisch Ostrau 1923

76

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Euwe – Davidson, Amsterdam (1) 1924

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Schelfhout – Euwe, Utrecht 1926

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Rasmusson – Euwe, London (ol) 1927

79



Becker – Euwe, The Hague 1928

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Colin – Euwe, Bern 1932

81



Van Foreest – Euwe, Netherlands 1932

82



Alekhine – Euwe, Netherlands (23) 1935

83



Euwe – Bogoljubov, Bad Nauheim 1937

84



Cortlever – Euwe, Beverwijk 1941

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Euwe – Grob, Zurich 1947

86 ▼

Van Scheltinga – Euwe, Amsterdam 1948

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Visser – Euwe, Baarn 1949

88 ▼

Euwe – Cortlever, Amsterdam 1954

89 ▼

Euwe – Cintron, Munich (ol) 1958

90

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Alexander – Botvinnik, Nottingham 1936

91



Botvinnik – Petrosian, Moscow 1966

94



Lilienthal – Botvinnik, Moscow 1945

92



Larsen – Botvinnik, Leiden 1970

95



Botvinnik – Pachman, Moscow 1947

93



Smyslov – Govbinder, Moscow 1967

96



Shenreder – Tal, Riga 1951

97



Tal – Tringov, Munich (ol) 1958

98



Rossetto – Tal, Portoroz 1958

99



Tal – Benko, Amsterdam 1964

100



Tal – Levin, Poti 1970

101



Shmit – Tal, Riga 1971

102



Tal – Kirov, Novi Sad 1974

103

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Tal – Rantanen, Tallinn 1979

104

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Tal – Grigorian, Yerevan 1980

105

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Meduna – Tal, Sochi 1986

106

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Tal – Conway, Boston (simul) 1988

107

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Maus – Tal, Germany 1990

108

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Petrosian – Konstantinopolsky, Moscow 1947

109 ▼

Petrosian – Kasparian, Tbilisi 1949

110 △

Petrosian – Geller, Moscow 1950

111 ▼

Poliak – Petrosian, Moscow 1951

112 ▼

Petrosian – Koliakov, Moscow 1951

113 △

Petrosian – Barcza, Saltsjobaden 1952

114 △

Nei – Petrosian, Moscow 1960

115

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Petrosian – Spassky, Moscow (10) 1966

116

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Petrosian – Tomic, Vinkovci 1970

117

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Janosevic – Petrosian, Lone Pine 1978

118

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Petrosian – Ivkov, Teslic 1979

119

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Petrosian – Ljubojevic, Niksic 1983

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Purdy – Spassky, Antwerp 1955

121

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Averbakh – Spassky, Moscow 1961

122

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Spassky – Shofman, Leningrad 1962

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Spassky – Korelov, Yerevan 1962

124

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Spassky – Vranesic, Amsterdam 1964

125

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Ivkov – Spassky, Santa Monica 1966

126

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Spassky – Korchnoi, Kiev 1968

127

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Hartoch – Spassky, Amsterdam 1970

128

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Spassky – Portisch, Geneva 1977

129

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Spassky – Hoffmann, Lugano 1982

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Spassky – Dueckstein, Zurich 1984

131

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Ribli – Spassky, Montpellier 1985

132

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Spassky – Santo-Roman, Montpellier 1991

133

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Fischer – Bennett, USA 1957

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Buerger – Fischer, Milwaukee 1957

135

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Ghitescu – Fischer, Leipzig (ol) 1960

136

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Reshevsky – Fischer, Los Angeles 1961

137

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Fischer – Purevzhav, Varna (ol) 1962

138

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Bertok – Fischer, Stockholm 1962

139



Fischer – Byrne, New York 1965

142



Fischer – Fuller, Bay City 1963

140



Fischer – Gligoric, Zagreb 1970

143



Fischer – Richburg, Detroit (simul) 1964

141



Reshevsky – Fischer, Palma de Mallorca 1970

144



Karpov – Taimanov, Leningrad 1977

151



154

Karpov – Agdestein, Oslo 1984



Korchnoi – Karpov, Baguio City (17) 1978

152



155



Karpov – Geller, Moscow 1983

153

156





Karpov – Short, Linares (7) 1992

157

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Chernin – Karpov, Tilburg 1992

158

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Karpov – Salov, Linares 1993

159

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Karpov – Van Wely, Monte Carlo 1997

160

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Karpov – Lobron, Frankfurt 1997

161

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Karpov – Gurevich, Cap d'Agde 2000

162

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Karpov – Shirov, Bastia (rapid) 2003

163



Istratescu – Karpov, Bucharest (rapid) 2005

164



Karpov – Shirov, Tallinn (rapid) 2006

165



Karpov – Agrest, Tallinn (rapid) 2006

166



Karpov – Ghaem Maghami, Teheran 2009

167



Kasparov – Antoshin, Baku 1980

168



Tukmakov – Kasparov, Frunze 1981

169

Kasparov – Comp Mephisto, Hamburg 1985

170

Portisch – Kasparov, Linares 1990



171

Kasparov – Wahls, Baden-Baden 1992

172



Kasparov – Dubiel, Katowice (simul) 1993

173



Pelletier – Kasparov, Zurich 2001

174



Kasparov – Shirov, Astana 2001

175

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Anastasian – Khalifman, Minsk 1986

176

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Ehlvest – Khalifman, Rakvere 1993

177

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Khalifman – Rashkovsky, Moscow 1995

178

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Khalifman – Sosonko, St Petersburg 1997

179

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Ptacnikova – Khalifman, Stockholm 1997

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Khalifman – Kupreichik, Stockholm 1997

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Khalifman – Gabriel, Bad Wiessee 1998

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Slobodjan – Khalifman, Germany 1999

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Kramnik – Aronian, Moscow (blitz) 2009

187

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Kramnik – Giri, Leuven (blitz) 2016

188

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Anand – Lobron, Dortmund 1996

189

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Anand – Ponomariov, Mainz 2002

190

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Anand – Charbonneau, Calvia (ol) 2004

191

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Carlsen – Anand, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006

192

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Skomorokhin – Anand, Bastia 2014

193

Anand – Hammer, Stavanger 2015

194



Ponomariov – Conquest, Torshavn 2000

195



Ponomariov – Bareev, Moscow (4) 2001

196



Grachev – Ponomariov, Moscow (blitz) 2010

197



Ponomariov – Ivanchuk, Khanty-Mansiysk (2) 2011

198



Ponomariov – Rublevsky, Khanty-Mansiysk (blitz) 2013

199

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Kasimdzhanov – Kaiumov, Tashkent 1993

200 ▼

Kasimdzhanov – Grinshpun, Tashkent 1993

201

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Matikozian – Kasimdzhanov, Szeged 1994

202 ▼

Kasimdzhanov – Kalandar Khaled, Macau 1996

203

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Kasimdzhanov – Al Modiahki, Teheran 1998

204

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Kasimdzhanov – Golubev, Germany 2002

205

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Kasimdzhanov – Volokitin, Germany 2003

206 ▼

Kasimdzhanov – Mamedyarov, Baku 2005

207 ▼

Karjakin – Kasimdzhanov. Tashkent 2014

208

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Timman – Topalov, Sarajevo 1999

209 ▼

Topalov – Illescas, Cala Galdana 1999

210

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Topalov – Naiditsch, Dortmund 2005

211

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Kamsky – Topalov, Nice (blindfold) 2009

212

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Sokolov – Carlsen, Hoogeveen 2004

213

△

Kamsky – Carlsen, Khanty-Mansiysk (2) 2005

214

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Stefansson – Carlsen, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006

215

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Erenburg – Carlsen, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006

216

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Todorovic – Carlsen, Internet 2006

217



Caruana – Carlsen, Shamkir 2014

220



Carlsen – Fressinet, Cap d'Agde 2006

218



Carlsen – Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2015

221



Ivanchuk – Carlsen, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2011

219



Carlsen – Karjakin, New York (rapid 4) 2016

222



Hamppe – Steinitz, Vienna 1859

223



Steinitz – Strauss, Vienna 1860

224



Steinitz – Anderssen, London 1862

225



Bird – Steinitz, London (6) 1866

226



Steinitz – Bird, London (9) 1866

227



Steinitz – Czarnowski, Paris 1867

228



Steinitz – Winawer, Paris 1867

229

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Steinitz – D'Andre, Paris 1867

230

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Steinitz – Walsh, London (simul) 1870

231

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Steinitz – Bird, London 1870

232

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Grimshaw – Steinitz, Vienna 1872

233

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Dupre – Steinitz, The Hague 1873

234

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Steinitz – Dufresne, Liverpool 1874

235

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Steinitz – Martinez, Philadelphia (1) 1882

236

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Steinitz – Blackburne, Vienna 1882

237

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Blackburne – Steinitz, Vienna 1882

238

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Steinitz – Rosenthal, London 1883

239

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Noa – Steinitz, London 1883

240

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Thornton – Steinitz, New York 1884

241

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Zukertort – Steinitz, USA (9) 1886

242 ▼

Gunsberg – Steinitz, New York (12) 1891

243

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Steinitz – Blackmar, Skaneateles (blind-simul) 1891

244

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Steinitz – Chigorin, Havana (4) 1892

245

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City of Liverpool – Steinitz, corr. 1893

246 ▼

Walbrodt – Steinitz, Hastings 1895

247



Schiffers – Steinitz, Hastings 1895

248



Janowski – Steinitz, Hastings 1895

249



Steinitz – Schiffers, Rostov on Don (2) 1896

250



Bobrov – Steinitz, Moscow (simul) 1896

251



Lasker – Steinitz, Moscow (2) 1896

252



Steinitz – Lasker, Moscow (17) 1897

253



Steinitz – Blackburne, Vienna 1898

254



Pillsbury – Steinitz, Vienna 1898

255



Loman – Lasker, Amsterdam 1889

256



Lasker – Von Scheve, Berlin 1890

257



Lasker – Reichhelm, Philadelphia (simul) 1892

258



Lasker – Elson, Wakefield (simul) 1892

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Ryan – Lasker, USA (simul) 1893

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Ostalaza – Lasker, Havana 1893

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Lasker – Celsito, Havana (simul) 1893

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Ettlinger – Lasker, New York (1) 1893

263

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Lasker – Blackburne, Hastings 1895

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Pillsbury – Lasker, St Petersburg 1896

265 ▼

Lasker – N.N., Berlin (simul) 1897

266 △

Lasker – Anderson, London (simul) 1898

267 △

Lasker – Blackburne, London 1899

268 ▼

Lasker – N.N., Great Britain (simul) 1900

269 △

Lasker – Lee, Hereford (simul) 1900

270 △

Lasker – Sterling, Paris 1900

271

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Lasker – Sala, USA (simul) 1901

272 ▼

Quinault – Lasker, USA (simul) 1903

273 ▼

Lasker – Loman, USA (simul) 1903

274 ▼

Lasker – Chalupetzky, corr. 1903

275

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Hymes – Lasker, USA (simul) 1905

276 ▼

Tarnowski – Lasker, corr. 1908

277

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Lasker – Womersley, England (simul) 1908

278

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Lasker – N.N., Netherlands (simul) 1908

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Lasker – Holmes, England (simul) 1908

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Lasker – Harreman, Netherlands (simul) 1908

281

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Lasker – Blake, England (simul) 1908

282

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Coates/Wallwork – Lasker, Manchester 1908

283

Tarrasch – Lasker, Germany (2) 1908

284



Rubinstein – Lasker, St Petersburg 1909

285



Lynch – Lasker, Buenos Aires (simul) 1910

286



Bar – Lasker, Germany (simul) 1913

287



Nielsen – Lasker, Copenhagen (simul) 1919

288



Prusa – Lasker, Prague (simul) 1924

289

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Lasker – Vrbasic, Yugoslavia (simul) 1924

290

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Arnold – Lasker, Prague (simul) 1924

291

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Alekhine – Lasker, New York 1924

292

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Lasker – Smith, USA (simul) 1926

293

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Muehrenberg – Lasker, Copenhagen (simul) 1927

294

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Pulvermacher – Capablanca, New York 1907

301

Corzo – Capablanca, Havana 1909

304

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301. Capablanca – Adams, Washington DC 1907

302

Capablanca – Michelsen, New York 1910

305

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302. Capablanca – Pratt, Troy (simul) 1909

303

Tuka – Capablanca, Prague (simul) 1911

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Podhajsky – Capablanca, Prague (simul) 1911

307

Capablanca – Tennenwurzel, New York 1911

308



Capablanca – Morris, New York 1911

309



Capablanca – Koksal, Prague (simul) 1911

310



Capablanca – Spielmann, San Sebastian 1911

311



Kluxen – Capablanca, Hamburg (simul) 1911

312



Capablanca – Illa, Buenos Aires 1911

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Carranza – Capablanca, Buenos Aires 1911

314 ▼

Weiss – Capablanca, Hamburg (simul) 1911

315

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Jaffe – Capablanca, New York 1912

316 ▼

Capablanca – N.N., Louisville (simul) 1912

317 ▼

Capablanca – Corzo, Havana 1913

318

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Portela – Capablanca, Havana 1913

319

Capablanca – Dus-Khotimirsky, St Petersburg 1913

320



Capablanca – Reti, Vienna 1914

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Capablanca – Kalske, Helsinki 1914

322



Capablanca – Masyutin, Kiev 1914

323



Capablanca – Blackburne, St Petersburg 1914

324



Capablanca – Lynch/Villegas, Buenos Aires 1914

325

Capablanca – Wolff, New York 1915

328

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Capablanca – Wolfson, New York (simul) 1915

326

Shipley – Capablanca, Philadelphia (simul) 1915

329

Capablanca – Stahr, Chicago 1915

327

Schroeder – Capablanca, New York 1916

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Capablanca – Fonaroff, New York 1918

331

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Capablanca – Shipley, Philadelphia (simul) 1918

332

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Cole – Capablanca, Hastings 1919

333

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Capablanca – Kostic, Havana (3) 1919

334

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Capablanca – Tinsley, London (simul) 1919

335

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Capablanca – Bray, Birmingham (simul) 1919

336

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Capablanca – Marin y Llovet, Barcelona (simul) 1920

337 ▼

Capablanca – Coll, Barcelona (simul) 1920

338

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Capablanca – Maddock, New York (simul) 1922

339

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Capablanca – Perkins, New York (simul) 1924

340 ▼

Bogoljubov – Capablanca, New York 1924

341 ▼

Marshall – Capablanca, New York 1927

342 ▼

Capablanca – Souza Campos, Sao Paulo 1927

343

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Capablanca – Reid, London 1928

344

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Capablanca – GS Pharmacy, New York (simul) 1931

345

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Capablanca – Glicco, Mexico 1933

346

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Capablanca – Thomas, Hastings 1934

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Capablanca – Llusa, Barcelona (simul) 1935

348

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Capablanca – Lilienthal, Moscow 1936

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Capablanca – Rather, New York (simul) 1936

350

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Malkov – Alekhine, corr. 1902

351

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Alekhine – Zubakin, corr. 1902

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Alekhine – Antushev, corr. 1903

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Alekhine – Zhukovsky, corr. 1905

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Manko – Alekhine, corr. 1906

355

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Alekhine – Kunze, Duesseldorf 1908

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Alekhine – Koehnlein, Duesseldorf 1908

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Alekhine – Daniuszewski, St Petersburg 1909

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Alekhine – Tartakower, Hamburg 1910

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Alekhine – Krotky, Tula (simul) 1910

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Alekhine – Gutkevitsch, Moscow (simul) 1910

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Bernstein – Alekhine, Vilnius 1912

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Alekhine – Koyalovich, St Petersburg 1912

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Janowski – Alekhine, Scheveningen 1913

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Alekhine – Bogoljubov, St Petersburg 1913

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Lebedev – Alekhine, St Petersburg 1914

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Janowski – Alekhine, Mannheim 1914

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Tselikov – Alekhine, Moscow 1915

368

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Alekhine – Feldt, Tarnopol (blindfold simul) 1916

369

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Alekhine – Vasiutinsky, Odessa (simul) 1918

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Pavlov-Pianov – Alekhine, Moscow 1919

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Alekhine – Grigoriev, Moscow 1919

372

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Rabinovich – Alekhine, Moscow 1920

373



Alekhine – Resser, The Hague (simul) 1921

374



Torres Caravaca – Alekhine, Spain (simul) 1922

375



Alekhine – Yates, Hastings 1922

376



Alekhine – N.N., Berlin 1922

377



Alekhine – Golmayo de la Torriente, Spain 1922

378



Tarrasch – Alekhine, Bad Pistyan 1922

379

Alekhine – Wolf, Bad Pistyan 1922

380



Alekhine – Yates, Portsmouth 1923

381



Alekhine – Samuels, New York (simul) 1923

382



Alekhine – Reib, Prague (simul) 1923

383



Alekhine – Menzel, Boston (simul) 1923

384



Alekhine – Drewitt, Portsmouth 1923

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Tarrasch – Alekhine, Karlsbad 1923

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Alekhine – Steiner, New York (simul) 1924

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Alekhine – Kussman, New York (simul) 1924

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Alekhine – Downman, USA (simul) 1924

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Alekhine – Casciato, USA (simul) 1924

390

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Michel – Alekhine, Basel (simul) 1925

391

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Alekhine – Woher, Amsterdam (simul) 1925

392 ▼

Alekhine – Wap, Rotterdam (simul) 1925

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Alekhine – Stephan, Czechoslovakia (simul) 1925

394

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Alekhine – Lommer, Geneva (simul) 1925

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Alekhine – Henneberger, Basel (simul) 1925

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Alekhine – Henneberger, Basel (simul) 1925

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Alekhine – Gilg, Czechoslovakia (simul) 1925

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Alekhine – Colle, Paris 1925

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Alekhine – Saint Germain, Paris (simul) 1925

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Alekhine – Potemkin, Paris (simul) 1925

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Alekhine – Schwartz, London (simul) 1926

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Alekhine – Molina, Buenos Aires 1926

403

Alekhine – Menendez, Buenos Aires 1926

404

Alekhine – Lerner, Buenos Aires 1926

405



Alekhine – Carmichael, Newcastle (simul) 1926

406



Alekhine – Spielmann, Semmering 1926

407



Yates – Alekhine, Kecskemet 1927

408



Alekhine – Nimzowitsch, New York 1927

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Alekhine – Carbonell, Barcelona (simul) 1928

410

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Alekhine – Bogoljubov, Berlin (13) 1929

411

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Bogoljubov – Alekhine, The Hague (18) 1929

412

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Alekhine – Mayerhofer, Regensburg 1930

413

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Alekhine – Flohr, Bled 1931

414

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Alekhine – Colle, Bled 1931

415

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Alekhine – Grossman, New York (simul) 1932

416 ▼

Alekhine – Castaneda, Guadalajara (simul) 1932

417 ▼

Bueters – Alekhine, Surabaya (simul) 1933

418 ▼

Alekhine – Lista, Bratislava (simul) 1933

419

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Alekhine – Haeften, Jakarta (simul) 1933

420

△

Alekhine – Apsenieks, Folkestone (ol) 1933

421

△

Alekhine – Hoelsder, Amsterdam (simul) 1933

422

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Joss – Alekhine, Zurich 1934

423

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Alekhine – Bogoljubov, Germany (2) 1934

424

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Alekhine – Bogoljubov, Germany (16) 1934

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Alekhine – Llorens, Barcelona (simul) 1935

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Alekhine – Foltys, Podebrady 1936

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Winter – Alekhine, Nottingham 1936

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Alekhine – Alexander, Nottingham 1936

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Tartakower – Alekhine, Nottingham 1936

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Alekhine – Steiner, Kemeri 1937

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Alekhine – Reshevsky, Kemeri 1937

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Alekhine – Euwe, Netherlands (14) 1937

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Eliashoff/Kahn/Ros – Alekhine, Nice 1938

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Petrovs – Alekhine, Margate 1938

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Alekhine – Olivera, Montevideo 1939

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Alekhine – Arrais, Lisbon (simul) 1940

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Alekhine – Amores, Lisbon (simul) 1940

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Bluemich – Alekhine, Krakow/Warsaw 1941

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Weil – Alekhine, Lublin/Warsaw/Krakow 1942

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Alekhine – Richter, Munich 1942

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Alekhine – Junge, Lublin/Warsaw/Krakow 1942

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Alekhine – Bogoljubov, Salzburg 1943

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Alekhine – Sucha, Prague 1943

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Florian – Alekhine, Prague 1943

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Lupi – Alekhine, Sabadell 1945

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Euwe – Reti, Amsterdam (1) 1920

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Euwe – Weenink, Amsterdam 1920

448 △

Euwe – Grünfeld, Gothenburg 1920

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Euwe – Olland, Amsterdam (match) 1921

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Euwe – Olland, Amsterdam (match) 1921

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Euwe – Von Hartingsvelt, Amsterdam 1922

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Euwe – Spielmann, Bad Pistyan 1922

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Sturm – Euwe, Amsterdam 1923

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Euwe – Davidson, Amsterdam (9) 1924

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Schelfhout – Euwe, Amsterdam 1927

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Euwe – Sonnenburg, Amsterdam 1927

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Euwe – Marin y Llovet, London (ol) 1927

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Colle – Euwe, Amsterdam (1) 1928

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Vidmar – Euwe, Karlsbad 1929

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Yates – Euwe, Hastings 1930

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Euwe – Satar, Indonesia (simul) 1930

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Euwe – Landau, Amsterdam (4) 1931

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Euwe – Spanjaard, The Hague 1932

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Euwe – Boersma, Rotterdam (simul) 1933

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Felderhof – Euwe, The Hague/Leiden/Scheveningen 1933

466

Euwe – Alekhine, Zurich 1934

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Euwe – Alekhine, Netherlands (14) 1935

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Bogoljubov – Euwe, Zandvoort 1936

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Euwe – Tylor, Nottingham 1936

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Sämisch – Euwe, Bad Nauheim 1937

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Alekhine – Euwe, Netherlands (6) 1937

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Euwe – Van Mindeno, Amsterdam 1938

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Euwe – Flohr, Netherlands 1938

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Euwe – Cortlever, Beverwijk 1940

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Euwe – Kramer, Netherlands (3) 1941

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Bogoljubov – Euwe, Karlsbad (5) 1941

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Bogoljubov – Euwe, Karlsbad (1) 1941

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Van den Hoek – Euwe, The Hague 1942

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Euwe – Thomas, Zaandam 1946

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Euwe – Yanofsky, Groningen 1946

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Grob – Euwe, Zurich (2) 1947

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Euwe – Keres, The Hague/Moscow (1) 1948

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Canal – Euwe, Dubrovnik (ol) 1950

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Euwe – Averbakh, Zurich 1953

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Euwe – Yanofsky, Munich (ol) 1958

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Botvinnik – Alatortsev, Moscow 1931

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Botvinnik – Alatortsev, Leningrad 1932

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Botvinnik – Yudovich, Leningrad 1933

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Goglidze – Botvinnik, Moscow 1935

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Botvinnik – Chekhover, Moscow 1935

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Ragozin – Botvinnik, Moscow 1938

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Kotov – Botvinnik, Leningrad 1939

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Makogonov – Botvinnik, Moscow 1940

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Lilienthal – Botvinnik, Leningrad/Moscow 1941

501 ▼

Botvinnik – Ragozin, Moscow 1945

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Denker – Botvinnik, Radio Match 1945

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Botvinnik – Kotov, Groningen 1946

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Botvinnik – Keres, Moscow 1952

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Botvinnik – Smyslov, Moscow (10) 1954

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Botvinnik – Smyslov, Moscow (12) 1954

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Keres – Botvinnik, Moscow 1955

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Botvinnik – Padevsky, Moscow (ol) 1956

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Smyslov – Botvinnik Moscow (4) 1957

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Tal – Botvinnik, Moscow (17) 1960

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Karpov – Botvinnik, Moscow (simul) 1964

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Aloni – Botvinnik, Tel Aviv (ol) 1964

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Botvinnik – Portisch, Monte Carlo 1968

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Smyslov – Ragozin, Leningrad/Moscow 1939

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Smyslov – Kirilov, Moscow 1940

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Lisitsin – Smyslov, Moscow 1944

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Ravinsky – Smyslov, Moscow 1944

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Smyslov – Alatortsev, Moscow 1945

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Boleslavsky – Smyslov, Groningen 1946

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Smyslov – Kottnauer, Groningen 1946

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Smyslov – Plater, Moscow 1947

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Smyslov – Kasparian, Leningrad 1947

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Barcza – Smyslov, Budapest 1949

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Levenfish – Smyslov, Moscow 1949

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Furman – Smyslov, Moscow 1949

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Paoli – Smyslov, Venice 1950

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Boleslavsky – Smyslov, Moscow 1950

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Smyslov – Geller, Moscow 1951

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Stahlberg – Smyslov, Stockholm 1954

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Smyslov – Unzicker, Hastings 1954

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Smyslov – Szabo, Hastings 1954

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Keres – Smyslov, Moscow 1955

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Smyslov – Najdorf, Moscow 1956

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Tal – Smyslov, Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade 1959

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Fischer – Smyslov, Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade 1959

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Bakulin – Smyslov, Moscow 1961

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Smyslov – Kholmov, Baku 1961

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Smyslov – Rossetto, Mar del Plata 1962

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Tringov – Smyslov, Havana 1965

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Smyslov – Jimenez Zerquera, Havana 1965

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Geller – Smyslov, Moscow 1965

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Smyslov – Magrin, Lugano (ol) 1968

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Byrne – Smyslov, Lugano (ol) 1968

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Tal – Smyslov, Herceg Novi (blitz) 1970

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Stein – Smyslov, Moscow 1972

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Smyslov – Dzindzichashvili, Moscow 1972

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Smyslov – Browne, Hastings 1972

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Lebredo Zarragoitia – Smyslov, Cienfuegos 1973

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Smyslov – Spassky, Moscow 1973

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Smyslov – Bilek, Venice 1974

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Kasparov – Smyslov, Leningrad 1975

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Smyslov – Vogt, Leningrad 1977

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Smyslov – Jingxuan Qi, Buenos Aires 1978

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Smyslov – Schmidt, Moscow 1980

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Smyslov – Hübner, Velden 1983

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Smyslov – Sosonko, Tilburg 1984

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Spraggett – Smyslov, Montpellier 1985

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Smyslov – Olafsson, Copenhagen 1985

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Popovic – Smyslov, Ljubljana 1985

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Smirin – Smyslov, Moscow 1988

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Smyslov – Timman, Moscow (blitz) 1993

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Smyslov – Oll, Rostov on Don 1993

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Polgar – Smyslov, Vienna 1993

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Smyslov – Ingbrandt, Stockholm 1996

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Arakhamia-Grant – Smyslov, London 1996

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Tal – Leonov, Vilnius 1949

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Pasman – Tal, Riga 1952

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Tal – Darznieks, Riga 1953

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Tal – Saigin, Riga 1954

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Ostrauskas – Tal, Vilnius 1955

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Khasin – Tal, Leningrad 1956

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Gurgenidze – Tal, Moscow 1957

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Bannik – Tal, Moscow 1957

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Tal – Teschner, Vienna 1957

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Tal – N.N., Riga (simul) 1958

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Tal – Keller, Zurich 1959

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Fischer – Tal, Bled 1959

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Tal – Unzicker, Stockholm 1960

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Tal – Johansson, Stockholm 1961

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Tal – Book, Stockholm 1961

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Tal – Gurgenidze, Baku 1961

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Tal – Keres, Curacao 1962

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Tal – Matanovic, Moscow 1963

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Tal – Wade, Reykjavik 1964

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Tal – Ljavdansky, Kiev 1964

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Tal – Gligoric, Reykjavik 1964

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Bykhovsky – Tal, Kislovodsk 1964

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Tal – Tringov, Amsterdam 1964

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Tal – Schinzel, Warsaw (simul) 1966

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Tal – Hamann, Kislovodsk 1966

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Tal – Damjanovic, Sarajevo 1966

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Kristiansen – Tal, Havana (ol) 1966

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Tal – Gligoric, Budva 1967

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Portisch – Tal

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Tal – Korchnoi, Herceg Novi (blitz) 1970

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Barcza – Tal, Tallinn 1971

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Tal – Vooremaa, Tallinn 1971

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Honfi – Tal, Sukhumi 1972

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Tal – Shamkovich, Baku 1972

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Tal – Korensky, Sochi 1973

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Tal – Hartston, Hasting 1973

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Basman – Tal, Hastings 1973

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Tal – Keres, Tallinn 1973

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Tal – Stean, Moscow 1975

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Romanishin – Tal, Tallinn 1977

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Tal – Giorgadze, Minsk 1979

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Tal – Spassky, Tilburg 1980

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Tal – Mascarinas, Lvov 1981

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Ambroz – Tal, Riga 1981

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Tal – Bronstein, Tbilisi (simul) 1982

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Tal – Plaskett, Sochi 1984

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Tal – Shabalov, Jurmala 1985

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Maus – Tal, Germany 1990

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Tal – Akopian, Barcelona 1992

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Malashkhia – Petrosian, Tbilisi 1944

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Agamalian – Petrosian, Tbilisi 1944

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Vasilchuk – Petrosian, Leningrad 1945

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Palavandishvili – Petrosian, Tbilisi 1945

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Nersesov – Petrosian, Tbilisi 1945

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Grigoriev – Petrosian, Tbilisi 1945

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Smilga – Petrosian, Leningrad 1946

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Petrosian – Kotkov, Leningrad 1946

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Petrosian – Kasparian, Yerevan (1) 1946

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Petrosian – Manoian, Yerevan 1948

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Kotov – Petrosian, Moscow 1949

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Petrosian – Sokolsky, Moscow 1949

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Ratner – Petrosian, Gorky 1950

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Petrosian – Kholmov, Vilnius 1951

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Pilnik – Petrosian, Budapest 1952

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Petrosian – Pachman, Saltsjobaden 1952

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Milev – Petrosian, Bucharest 1953

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Szabo – Petrosian, Zurich 1953

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Stahlberg – Petrosian, Zurich 1953

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Taimanov – Petrosian, Zurich 1953

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Svetozar Gligoric – Petrosian, Belgrade 1954

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Petrosian – Benko, Budapest 1955

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Petrosian – Tolush, Riga 1958

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Petrosian – Gufeld, Tbilisi 1959

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Stein – Petrosian, Moscow 1961

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Petrosian – Keres, Zurich 1961

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Furman – Petrosian, Moscow 1961

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Petrosian – Ilivitzki, Moscow 1964

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Petrosian – Stein, Moscow 1967

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Petrosian – Reshko, Leningrad 1967

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Petrosian – Penrose, Palma de Mallorca 1969

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Petrosian – Spassky, Moscow (4) 1969

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Petrosian – Savon, Moscow 1969

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Polugaevsky – Petrosian, Soviet Union 1970

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Maric – Petrosian, Vinkovci 1970

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Petrosian – Saidy, San Antonio 1972

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Petrosian – Quinteros, Manila 1974

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Petrosian – Cardoso, Manila 1974

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Petrosian – Gurgenidze, Riga 1975

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Petrosian – Short, London (simul) 1978

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Lebredo Zarragoitia – Petrosian, Vilnius 1978

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Polugaevsky – Petrosian, Kislovodsk 1982

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Spassky – Zurakhov, Leningrad 1954

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Furman – Spassky, Moscow 1955

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Spassky – Taimanov, Moscow 1955

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Krogius – Spassky, Leningrad 1957

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Bronstein – Spassky, Riga 1958

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Spassky – Olafsson, Moscow 1959

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Zaitsev – Spassky, Rostov on Don 1960

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Spassky – Shishkin, Rostov on Don 1960

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Spassky – Foguelman, Mar del Plata 1960

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Spassky – Ciric, Marianske Lazne 1962

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Spassky – Bykov Leningrad 1963

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Spassky – Korchnoi, Moscow 1964

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Spassky – Forintos, Sochi 1964

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Spassky – Langeweg, Sochi 1967

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Kagan – Spassky, Winnipeg 1967

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Spassky – Darga, Beverwijk 1967

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Csom – Spassky, Amsterdam 1970

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Taimanov – Spassky Rostov on Don 1971

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Spassky – Banks, Vancouver 1971

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Spassky – Dobrich, Vancouver 1971

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Spassky – Zuk, Vancouver 1971

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Spassky – Fischer, Reykjavik (1) 1972

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Spassky – Fischer, Reykjavik (5) 1972

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Spassky – Kholmov, Sochi 1973

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Spassky – Westerinen, Dortmund 1973

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Rytov – Spassky, Tallinn 1973

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Spassky – Korensky, Sochi 1973

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Spassky – Averkin, Moscow 1973

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Portisch – Spassky, London 1982

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Timman – Spassky, Hilversum (1) 1983

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Timman – Spassky, Hilversum (3) 1983

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Haik – Spassky, Paris (3) 1983

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Torre – Spassky, Bugojno 1984

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Ady – Spassky, London 1984

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Spraggett – Spassky, Montpellier 1985

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Portisch – Spassky, Montpellier 1985

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Spassky – Brunner, Solingen 1986

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Spassky – Yusupov, Belfort 1988

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Spassky – Timman, Cannes 1990

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Spassky – Yusupov, Linares 1990

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Beliavsky – Spassky, Linares 1990

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Spassky – Prie, Montpellier 1991

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Fischer – Spassky, Belgrade (9) 1992

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Fischer – Spassky, Belgrade (19) 1992

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Ioseliani – Spassky, Copenhagen 1997

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Spassky – Korchnoi, St Petersburg (5) 1999

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Spassky – Eliet, France 2002

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Spassky – Coleman, Reno (simul) 2004

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Spassky – Christensen, Reno (simul) 2004

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Fischer – Matthai, Montreal 1956

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Fischer – Di Camillo, Washington DC 1956

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Kramer – Fischer, New York 1957

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Fischer – Sherwin, New York 1957

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Fischer – Reshevsky, New York 1958

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Fischer – Rossetto, Mar del Plata 1959

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Unzicker – Fischer, Varna (ol) 1962

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Fischer – Ciocaltea, Varna (ol) 1962

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Fischer – Beach, Poughkeepsie 1963

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Fischer – Bisguier, New York 1963

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Fischer – Benko, New York 1963

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Fischer – Walters, San Francisco (simul) 1964

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Tringov – Fischer, Havana 1965

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Fischer – Bilek, Havana 1965

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Fischer – Gligoric, Havana (ol) 1966

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Fischer – Durao, Havana (ol) 1966

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Fischer – Naranja, Manila 1967

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Fischer – Myagmarsuren, Sousse 1967

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Fischer – Panno, Buenos Aires 1970

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Fischer – Taimanov, Vancouver (2) 1971

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Karpov – Korchnoi, Moscow (2) 1974

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Korchnoi – Karpov, Moscow (21) 1974

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Karpov – Suling, Bremen (simul) 1977

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Karpov – Martin Gonzalez, Las Palmas 1977

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Karpov – Korchnoi, Baguio City (8) 1978

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Karpov – Van der Wiel, Amsterdam 1980

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Karpov – Quinteros, Buenos Aires 1980

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Karpov – Larsen, Amsterdam 1980

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Ribli – Karpov, Tilburg 1980

Karpov – Miles, Amsterdam 1981

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Karpov – Geller, Moscow 1981

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Karpov – Angioni, Turin (simul) 1982

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Angio

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Karpov – Chandler, Bath 1983

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Kasparov – Karpov, Moscow (11) 1985

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Kasparov – Karpov, Leningrad (16) 1986

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Beliavsky – Karpov, Brussels 1988

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Karpov – Hansen, Thessaloniki (ol) 1988

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Seirawan – Karpov, Rotterdam 1989

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Speelman – Karpov, Roquebrune 1992

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Morozevich – Karpov, Moscow (rapid) 1992

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Ljubojevic – Karpov, Linares 1993

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Karpov – Polgar, Las Palmas 1994

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Karpov – Morovic Fernandez, Las Palmas 1994

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Karpov – Georgiev, Tilburg 1994

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Andersson – Karpov, Nykoping (rapid 2) 1995

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Polgar– Karpov, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1996

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Onischuk – Karpov, Biel 1996

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Karpov – Leko, Tilburg 1996

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Karpov – Szymanski, Koszalin (simul) 1997

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Salov – Karpov, Wijk aan Zee 1998

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Kramnik – Karpov, Frankfurt 1999

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Shirov – Karpov, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2001

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Polgar – Karpov, Hoogeveen 2003

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Istratescu – Karpov Bucharest (3) 2005

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Polgar – Karpov, Moscow (blitz) 2009

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Karpov – Naiditsch, Kiev (rapid) 2013

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Karpov – Sepp, Puhajarve (rapid) 2013

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Kasparov – Browne, Banja Luka 1979

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Kasparov – Yurtaev, Moscow 1981

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Kasparov – Najdorf, Bugojno 1982

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Wahls – Kasparov, Hamburg (simul) 1985

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Kasparov – Meph Exclusive, Hamburg (simul) 1985

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Short – Kasparov, Belfort 1988

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Ljubojevic – Kasparov, Belfort 1988

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Kamsky – Kasparov, New York 1989

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Shirov – Kasparov, Manila (ol) 1992

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Short – Kasparov, London (rapid 2) 1993

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Kasparov – Klimczok, Katowice (simul) 1993

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Kasparov – Ivanchuk, Linares 1994

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Anand – Kasparov, New York (11) 1995

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Kasparov – Seirawan, Amsterdam 1996

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Kasparov – Anand, Moscow (rapid) 1996

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Kasparov – Hracek, Yerevan (ol) 1996

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Kasparov – Timman, Prague 1998

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Kasparov – Kramnik, Moscow (blitz 1) 1998

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Kasparov – Kramnik, Moscow (blitz 18) 1998

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Kasparov – Kramnik, Moscow (blitz 19) 1998

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Kasparov – Kramnik, Frankfurt 1999

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Kasparov – Timman, Wijk aan Zee 2000

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Dao – Kasparov, Batumi (rapid) 2001

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Kasparov – Ponomariov, Linares 2002

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Huzman – Kasparov, Rethymnon 2003

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Khalifman – Ehlvest, Lvov 1985

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Balashov – Khalifman, Minsk 1985

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Khalifman – Dimitrov, Groningen 1985

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Khalifman – Mikhalchishin, Kuibyshev 1986

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Khalifman – Huzman, Tashkent 1987

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Khalifman – Ulibin, Sochi 1989

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Khalifman – Inkiov, Moscow 1989

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Ljubojevic – Khalifman, Reykjavik 1991

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Khalifman – Larsen, London 1991

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Khalifman – Sokolov, Wijk aan Zee 1991

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Khalifman – Seirawan, Wijk aan Zee 1991

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Khalifman – Maus, Hamburg 1991

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Hertneck – Khalifman, Germany 1992

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Gurevich – Khalifman, Moscow (rapid) 1992

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Khalifman – Gschnitzer, Germany 1993

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Khalifman – Serper, St Petersburg 1994

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Fehmer – Khalifman, Eupen 1994

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Khalifman – Sehner, Germany 1994

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Khalifman – Filippov, Kazan 1995

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Khalifman – Bareev, Moscow 1995

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Pfleger – Khalifman, Germany 1996

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Loginov – Khalifman, St Petersburg 1996

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Khalifman – Casper, Germany 1997

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Khalifman – Fishbein, New York 1998

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Unger – Khalifman, Bad Wiessee 1998

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Huzman – Khalifman, Bugojno 1999

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Khalifman – Acs, Hoogeveen 2002

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Khalifman – Sargissian, Internet 2004

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Khalifman – Inarkiev, Khanty-Mansiysk (3) 2005

835

Popov – Khalifman, Aix les Bains 2011

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Khalifman – Duzhakov, St Petersburg 2012

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Khalifman – Kostin, Voronezh 2014

838



Khalifman – Grishchenko, Sochi 2014

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Topalov – Kramnik, Belgrade 1995

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Piket – Kramnik, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1999

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Kramnik – Ljubojevic, Monaco (rapid) 2000

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Leko – Kramnik, Budapest (4) 2001

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Kramnik – Sadvakasov, Astana 2001

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Kramnik – Volkov, Moscow 2005

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Kramnik – Bruzon, Turin (ol) 2006

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Topalov – Kramnik, Elista (3) 2006

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Kramnik – Carlsen, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2007

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Gelfand – Kramnik, Moscow 2008

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Kramnik – Svidler, Moscow (blitz) 2008

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Kramnik – Anand, Bonn (5) 2008

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Naiditsch – Kramnik, Dortmund 2009

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Morozevich – Kramnik, Moscow 2009

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Anand – Kramnik, Zurich 2013

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Kramnik – Fridman, Dortmund 2013

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Kramnik – Korobov, Tromsø 2013

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Kramnik – Aronian, Khanty-Mansiysk (2) 2014

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Kramnik – Svidler, Sochi 2015

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Fressinet – Kramnik, Paris (rapid) 2016

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Ivanchuk – Anand, Buenos Aires 1994

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Topalov – Anand, Dos Hermanas 1996

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Anand – Illescas Cordoba, Leon (3) 1997

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Kovacevic – Anand, Belgrade 1997

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Ivanchuk – Anand, Linares 1998

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Arizmendi – Anand, Villarrobledo (rapid) 1998

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Van Wely – Anand, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1999

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Anand – Ljubojevic, Monaco (blindfold) 2000

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Drazic – Anand, Bastia 2000

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Anand – Bologan, New Delhi (2) 2000

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Anand – Ubilava, Villarrobledo (rapid) 2001

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Anand – Dreev, Moscow (2) 2001

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Short – Anand, Dubai 2002

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Anand – Polgar, Cap d'Agde 2003

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Cebalo – Anand, Bastia 2003

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Miroshnichenko – Anand, Porz 2004

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Anand – Hjartarson, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006

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Radjabov – Anand, Rishon Le Zion (blitz 5) 2006

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Ivanchuk – Anand, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2007

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Anand – Aronian, Morelia/Linares 2008

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Carlsen – Anand, Nice (rapid) 2008

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Anand – Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2013

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Anand – Wei Yi, Leon 2016

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Ponomariov – Vokarev, Briansk 1995

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Ponomariov – Ponomariov, Alicante 1997

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Ponomariov – Malikgulyew, Zagan 1997

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Azarov – Ponomariov, Artek 1999

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Tiviakov – Ponomariov Moscow (4) 2001

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Ponomariov – Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2003

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Ponomariov – Dovramadjiev, Internet 2004

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Comp Hydra – Ponomariov, Bilbao 2005

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Aronian – Ponomariov, Khanty-Mansiysk (3) 2005

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Ponomariov – Grischuk, Sochi 2006

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Sasikiran – Ponomariov, Zafra 2007

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Ponomariov – Leko, Moscow (blitz) 2007

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Tregubov – Ponomariov, Odessa 2008

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Tkachiev – Ponomariov, Moscow (blitz) 2008

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Carlsen – Ponomariov, Moscow (blitz) 2008

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Gelfand – Ponomariov, Khanty-Mansiysk (6) 2009

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Ponomariov – Jobava, Kharkov 2010

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Vallejo Pons – Ponomariov, Spain 2011

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Fedorchuk – Ponomariov, Spain 2011

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Svidler – Ponomariov, Eilat (1) 2012

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Ponomariov – Dominguez Perez, Tashkent 2012

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Deshun Xiu – Ponomariov, Danzhou 2014

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Caruana – Ponomariov, Dortmund 2014

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Cheparinov – Ponomariov, Tromsø (ol) 2014

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Ponomariov – Borisek, Berlin (blitz) 2015

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Ponomariov – Bachmann, Berlin (blitz) 2015

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Ponomariov – Vallejo Pons, Madrid 2016

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Kasimdzhanov – Verdier, Corsica (rapid) 1997

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Kasimdzhanov – Bakhtadze, Yerevan 1999

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Kasimdzhanov – Hertneck, Germany 2001

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Bacrot – Kasimdzhanov, Moscow 2002

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Luther – Kasimdzhanov, Mainz 2003

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Kasimdzhanov – Bluvshtein, Khanty-Mansiysk (ol) 2010

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Kasimdzhanov – Khademi, Mashhad 2011

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Kasimdzhanov – Nisipeanu, Rogaska Slatina 2011

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Kasimdzhanov – Dzhumaev, Tashkent 2011

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Kasimdzhanov – Teske, Germany 2011

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Nedobora – Topalov, Candas 1992

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Iruzubieta Villaluenga – Topalov, Elgoibar 1992

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Topalov – Romero Holmes, Leon 1993

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De la Villa – Topalov, Pamplona 1994

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Topalov – Polgar, Novgorod 1996

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Van Wely – Topalov, Antwerp 1997

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Van Wely – Topalov, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 1997

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Nikolic – Topalov, Linares 1997

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Topalov – Timman, Elista (ol) 1998

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Shirov – Topalov, Sarajevo 2000

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Vallejo Pons – Topalov, Barcelona 2000

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Vaganian – Topalov, Istanbul (ol) 2000

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Topalov – Morozevich, Cannes 2002

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Topalov – Leko, Dubai 2002

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Shirov – Topalov, Prague 2002

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Topalov – Bareev, Dortmund (2) 2002

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Topalov – Vallejo Pons, Morelia/Linares 2006

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Topalov – Kamsky, Sofia 2009

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Carlsen – Topalov, Sofia 2009

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Georgiev – Topalov, Novi Sad 2009

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Bluvshtein – Topalov, Khanty-Mansiysk (ol) 2010

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Topalov – Carlsen, Astana (rapid) 2012

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Wang Hao – Topalov, Stavanger (blitz) 2013

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Sulskis – Carlsen, Moscow 2004

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Carlsen – Lie, Trondheim 2004

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Graf – Carlsen, Sanxenxo 2004

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Carlsen – Ibrayev, Calvia (ol) 2004

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Carlsen – Nikolic, Wijk aan Zee 2005

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Carlsen – Kotronias, Calvia (ol) 2004

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Carlsen – Hole, Gausdal 2005

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Carlsen – Kamsky, Khanty-Mansiysk (1) 2005

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Smeets – Carlsen, Wijk aan Zee 2006

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Williams – Carlsen, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006

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Carlsen – Shipov, Tromsø 2006

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Carlsen – Lie, Moss 2006

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Carlsen – Morozevich, Biel 2006

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Yusupov – Carlsen, Amsterdam 2006

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Carlsen – Gurevich, Rishon Le Zion (blitz) 2006

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Carlsen – Agdestein, Oslo (4) 2006

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Motylev – Carlsen, Wijk aan Zee 2007

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Carlsen – Ivanchuk, Morelia/Linares 2007

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Leko – Carlsen, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2007

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Sutovsky – Carlsen, Kemer 2007

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Jakovenko – Carlsen, Moscow 2007

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Ivanchuk – Carlsen, Nice (rapid) 2008

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Carlsen – Anton Guijarro, Madrid (simul) 2008

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Carlsen – Dominguez Perez, Wijk aan Zee 2009

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Karjakin – Carlsen, Nice (blindfold) 2010

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Carlsen – Giri, Wijk aan Zee 2011

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Carlsen – Nakamura, Medias 2011

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Aronian – Carlsen, Moscow 2011

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Carlsen – Aronian, Wijk aan Zee 2012

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Tomashevsky – Carlsen, Moscow (blitz) 2012

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Carlsen – Radjabov, Astana (blitz) 2012

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Carlsen – Polgar, Mexico City 2012

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Hammer – Carlsen, Stavanger (blitz) 2013

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Mamedyarov – Carlsen, Moscow (blitz) 2013

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Mamedyarov – Carlsen, Shamkir 2014

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Carlsen – Wojtaszek, Tromsø (ol) 2014

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Carlsen – Hevia, Internet (2) 2016

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Chapter 3

Advanced Exercises



Attackers may sometimes regret bad moves, but it is much worse to forever regret an opportunity you allowed to pass you by. – Garry Kasparov

Steinitz – Meitner, Vienna 1859

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Zukertort – Steinitz, London (1) 1872

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Steinitz – Von Bardeleben, Hastings 1895

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Steinitz – Lasker, Moscow (3) 1896

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Lipke – Steinitz, Vienna 1898

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Lasker – Bauer, Amsterdam 1889

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Lasker – Blackburne, London 1892

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Lasker – Hasselblatt, Riga (simul) 1909

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Lasker – Molina, Buenos Aires (simul) 1910

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Lasker – Breyer, Budapest 1911

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Lasker – Bogoljubov, Zurich 1934

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Capablanca – Pagliano/Elias, Buenos Aires 1911

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Fernandez Coria – Capablanca, Buenos Aires 1914

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Fridlizius – Alekhine, Stockholm 1912

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Tereshchenko – Alekhine, St Petersburg 1909

998



Fleissig – Alekhine, Bern (simul) 1922

1001



Alekhine – Gutkevitsch, Moscow (simul) 1910

999

Grünfeld – Alekhine, Karlsbad 1923

1002





Alekhine – Scholtz, Los Angeles (simul) 1932

1003 ▼

Alekhine – Correia Neves, Estoril (simul) 1940

1004 △

Alekhine – Mollinedo, Madrid (simul) 1941

1005 △

Euwe – Felderhof, Netherlands 1931

1006 ▼

Botvinnik – Batuyev, Leningrad 1930

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Lilienthal – Smyslov, Leningrad/Moscow 1939

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Smyslov – Stoltz, Bucharest 1953

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Smyslov – Stein, Moscow 1969

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Smyslov – Minic, Kapfenberg 1970

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Smyslov – Addison, Palma de Mallorca 1970

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Borisenko – Tal, Leningrad 1956

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Szukszta – Tal, Uppsala (blitz) 1956

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Tal – Koblencs, Riga 1957

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Tal – Klaman, Moscow 1957

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Tal – Koblencs, Moscow 1960

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Tal – Koblencs, Riga 1961

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Donner – Tal, Bled 1961

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Evans – Tal, Amsterdam 1964

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Tal – Brinck Claussen, Havana (ol) 1966

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Tal – Gurgenidze, Alma-Ata 1968

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Tal – Petrosian, Moscow 1974

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Tal – Hulak, Novi Sad 1974

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Tal – N.N., East Berlin (simul) 1975

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Beliavsky – Tal, Moscow 1981

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Tal – Schmidt, Porz 1982

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Kasparov – Tal, Brussels 1987

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Spassky – Petrosian, Moscow 1955

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Gligoric – Petrosian, Leningrad 1957

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Petrosian – Rossetto, Portoroz 1958

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Petrosian – Ignatiev, Moscow 1958

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Andersen – Petrosian, Copenhagen 1960

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Petrosian – Polugaevsky, Moscow 1963

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Petrosian – Ivkov, Hamburg 1965

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Petrosian – Spassky, Moscow (12) 1966

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Larsen – Petrosian, Santa Monica 1966

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Petrosian – Westerinen, Palma de Mallorca 1968

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Spassky – Petrosian, Moscow (5) 1969

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Petrosian – Spassky, Moscow (8) 1969

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Marovic – Petrosian, Amsterdam 1973

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Petrosian – Balashov, Soviet Union 1974

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Hübner – Petrosian, Biel 1976

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Fedorowicz – Petrosian, Hastings 1977

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Ivkov – Petrosian, Teslic 1979

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Vvedensky – Spassky, Leningrad 1952

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Spassky – Darga, Varna (ol) 1962

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Spassky – Zinn, Marianske Lazne 1962

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1049. Larsen – Spassky, Malmo 1968

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Spassky – Hübner, Solingen (4) 1977

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Hodgson – Spassky, Brussels 1985

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Cramling – Spassky, London 1996

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Sobel – Fischer, Montreal 1956

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Bazan – Fischer, Mar del Plata 1960

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Fischer – Keres, Curacao 1962

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Fischer – Celle, Davis (simul) 1964

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Fischer – Haskins, Denver (simul) 1964

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Fischer – Cobo Arteaga, Havana 1965

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Fischer – Taimanov, Vancouver (4) 1971

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Timman – Karpov, Montreal 1979

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Karpov – Sax, Linares 1983

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Winants – Karpov, Brussels 1988

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Karpov – Kramnik, Monaco (blindfold) 1997

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Aronian – Karpov, Hoogeveen 2003

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Karpov – Stojanovic, Valjevo 2007

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Kasparov – Gheorghiu, Moscow 1982

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Kasparov – Korchnoi, London (1) 1983

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Kasparov – Conquest, London/New York (simul) 1984

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Wegner – Kasparov, Hamburg (simul) 1987

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Beliavsky – Kasparov, Belfort 1988

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Kasparov – Smirin, Moscow 1988

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Kasparov – Salov, Barcelona 1989

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Kasparov – Ivanchuk, Manila (ol) 1992

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Kasparov – Anand, Linares 1993

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Kasparov – Short, London (7) 1993

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Kasparov – Bareev, Novgorod 1994

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Kasparov – Lautier, Moscow (ol) 1994

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Piket – Kasparov, Linares 1997

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Kasparov – Kramnik, Frankfurt 2000

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Kasparov – Vladimirov, Batumi (rapid) 2001

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Vallejo Pons – Kasparov, Linares 2005

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Adams – Kasparov, Linares 2005

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Khalifman – Ubilava, Kuibyshev 1986

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Khalifman – Dolmatov, Minsk 1987

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Khalifman – Godena, Vienna 1996

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Kramnik – Schneider, Mainz (simul) 2001

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Kramnik – Radjabov, Linares 2003

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Akopian – Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 2004

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Kramnik – Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2004

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Leko – Kramnik, Linares 2004

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Kramnik – Svidler, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2004

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Kramnik – Leko, Brissago (8) 2004

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Kramnik – Radjabov, London 2013

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Anand – Nikolic, Groningen (2) 1997

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Nijboer – Anand, Wijk aan Zee 1998

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Anand – Shirov, Monaco (rapid) 2000

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Anand – Polgar, Leon (advanced 1) 2000

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Anand – Bareev, Shenyang (2) 2000

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Karjakin – Anand, Wijk aan Zee 2006

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Bruzon – Anand, Leon 2006

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Anand – Van Wely, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2007

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Anand – Carlsen, Nice (blindfold) 2008

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Anand – Morozevich, Mainz (rapid) 2008

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Anand – Svidler, Moscow 2009

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McShane – Anand, London 2013

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Mamedyarov – Anand, Khanty-Mansiysk 2014

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Vachier-Lagrave – Anand, Leuven (rapid) 2016

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Ponomariov – Delemarre, Siofok 1996

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Topalov – Ponomariov, Sofia 2006

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Ponomariov – Ponkratov, Berlin (blitz) 2015

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Ponomariov – Short, Madrid 2016

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Kasimdzhanov – Lopez Martinez, Yerevan 1999

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Neverov – Kasimdzhanov, Hoogeveen 1999

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Khenkin – Kasimdzhanov, Moscow (4) 2001

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Berelowitsch – Kasimdzhanov, Germany 2005

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Ubilava – Topalov, Ponferrada 1992

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Topalov – Illescas Cordoba, Linares 1995

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Carlsen – Nielsen, Malmo/Copenhagen 2004

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Carlsen – Lagno, Lausanne 2004

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Stokke – Carlsen, Oslo 2006

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Nielsen – Carlsen, Faaborg (blindfold) 2007

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Carlsen – Krasenkow, Gausdal 2007

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Carlsen – Radjabov, Porto Vecchio (5 Armageddon) 2007

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Svidler – Carlsen, Moscow (blitz) 2008

1124



Dominguez Perez – Carlsen, Linares 2009

1125



Giri – Carlsen, Paris (blitz) 2016

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Guseinov – Carlsen, Internet (blitz 1.3) 2017

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Carlsen – So, Internet (blitz 3.32) 2017

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Chapter 4

Solutions to Easy Exercises



It is rightly said that the most difficult thing in chess is winning a won position.
– Vladimir Kramnik

Wilhelm Steinitz

A win by an unsound combination, however showy, fills me with artistic horror.

1. Carl Hamppe – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1860
30...♖xh2†! 31.♔xh2 ♖h8 mate ✓ Black would have been lost without this resource.

2. Wilhelm Steinitz – J. Wilson, London 1862
18.♖f8†! ♗xf8 19.d6† ♗e6 20.♗xe6 mate ✓

3. Wilhelm Steinitz – Serafino Dubois, London (6) 1862
The bishop on d6 is pinned and Steinitz took advantage of that with **14.♗xf4! exf4 15.e5** ✓ which won a piece.

4. Valentine Green – Wilhelm Steinitz, London 1864
31...♖d2†!–+ ✓ The queen loses its defender.

5. Wilhelm Steinitz – George Barry, Dublin (simul) 1865
7.♗xf7† ♔xf7 8.♘xe5†+– ✓ White has won two pawns after 9.♘xg4.

6. George Fraser – Wilhelm Steinitz, Dundee 1867
19.♖xc6! bxc6 20.♗a5+– ✓ White emerges with a queen and a knight for two rooks.

7. Wilhelm Steinitz – Jonathan Baker, London (simul) 1868
27...f3! The queen is overloaded and White loses the bishop on c4: **28.♕xf3 ♖xc4–+** ✓ 27...♖xc4?! 28.♕xc4 f3 29.♕f1± is of course not the way to go.

8. Wilhelm Steinitz – Johannes Minckwitz, Baden-Baden 1870
18...♕xc4! There is a fork on e3 coming up: **19.♕xc4 ♘e3† 20.♔e2 ♘xc4–+** ✓

9. Wilhelm Steinitz – Maximilian Fleissig, Vienna 1873
39.♖xd7! White wins back the piece with a winning advantage. **39...♔xd7** 39...♖xb4† captures a pawn, but the a-pawn still decides after: 40.♗xb4 ♔xd7 41.♔b5+– ✓ **40.♔xb5+–** ✓

10. Wilhelm Steinitz – Oscar Gelbfuhs, Vienna 1873
34.♕xf6†! Black resigned due to: **34...gxf6 35.♗f8 mate** ✓

11. George Mackenzie – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1882
34.♗e4! The only drawing move, and easy to find, as Black's mate threat means White has no other sensible try. 34.♖g1?? loses to everything, but is mated most swiftly by 34...♕xg2†!. **34...♕xe4** Obviously not 34...♖xe4?? 35.♕f8 mate. **35.♗f6† ♗xf6 36.♕xf6†** ✓ **½–½** White has a perpetual on f6 and f7.

12. Joseph Blackburne – Wilhelm Steinitz, London 1883
25.♕h6†! ♔g8 26.♖f8†! ♕xf8 27.♕xh7 mate ✓

13. Isidor Gunsberg – Wilhelm Steinitz, New York (2) 1890
18...♘c3! The queen can't move and keep the bishop on d2 defended, and **19.♗xc3 ♗xc1–+** ✓ lost an exchange (0–1, 39 moves).

14. Wilhelm Steinitz – Mikhail Chigorin, Havana (8) 1892
20...♖xd3! Breaking open the king's position to close out the game. **21.♗g2** Or 21.♕xd3 ♕e1† ✓ with mate on the next move. **21...♖hd8** There is nothing White can do against the threats to penetrate on d1 or d2. The game ended after: **22.a4 ♖d1† 23.♖xd1 ♖xd1† 24.♕xd1 ♘xd1 0–1**

15. Wilhelm Steinitz – Dirk van Foreest, Haarlem (simul) 1896
38...♕xf1†! ✓Steinitz's previous move, 38.♕c4-d5, was a grave blunder. **39.♔xf1 ♖e1 mate**

16. Wilhelm Steinitz – Reyne, Haarlem (simul) 1896
9.♘xg5! Not recapturing would be equivalent to resignation, but Black is mated if he takes the knight: **9...fxg5** 9...♕e7+– and White won after 26 moves. **10.♕h5†** ✓ **♔e7** There are several ways to mate or pick up material. The quickest mate is: **11.♕f7† ♔d6 12.e5† ♘xe5 13.dxe5† ♔xe5 14.♕d5† ♔f6 15.♕xg5 mate**

17. Wilhelm Steinitz – Falk, Moscow 1896
10.♘xa7†! White wins an important pawn after: **10...♘xa7 11.♗xa6†** ✓ (1–0, 25 moves)

18. Wilhelm Steinitz – T.J.D. Enderle, Haarlem (simul) 1896
6.♗xf7†! Not the only time Steinitz executed this combination. White wins two pawns after: **6...♔xf7 7.♘xe5†+–** ✓

19. Jackson Showalter – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1898
Black is two pawns up, but that doesn't stop him from being precise: **27...♖xe3! 28.♕xb4** 28.♕xe3 ♕c2 mate ✓ **28...♖xe2–+** ✓ White resigned five moves later.

Emanuel Lasker

The combination player thinks forward; he starts from the given position, and tries the forceful moves in his mind.
Lasker's Manual of Chess (1927)

20. Emanuel Lasker – C.R. McBride, USA (simul) 1902
6.♘xg5! Black cannot take back: **6...fxg5** Black instead allowed a forced mate after 6...h6. **7.♕h5†** ✓ **♔e7 8.♕f7† ♔d6** And for instance: **9.e5† ♘xe5 10.♕d5† ♔e7 11.♕xe5 mate**

21. Emanuel Lasker – E.W. Witchard, Gloucester (simul) 1908
5.♘xg5! fxg5 6.♕h5† ♔e7 7.♕xg5† ✓ ♔e8 8.♕h5†!
Imprecise is 8.♕e5†?! ♕e7 9.♕xh8 ♕xe4†+– with some slight counterplay. **8...♔e7 9.♕e5†+–** White picks up the rook on h8.

22. Carl Hartlaub – Emanuel Lasker, Germany 1908
7.♘xe5! A surprisingly common theme in Lasker's games. **7...d5** 7...fxe5 8.♕h5† g6 (8...♔e7 9.♕xe5 mate) 9.♕xe5† ♕e7 10.♕xh8+– ✓ **8.♕h5†** Or just as good is: 8.♖e1 fxe5 9.♖xe5† ♔d7 10.♗g5!+– **8...g6** One source gives this game as played in New York 1911, with 8...♔e7 9.♘f7? ♕e8? 0–1 (??) as the final moves, none of which makes any sense. **9.♘xg6 hxg6 10.♕xh8** ✓ Or 10.♖e1† first. **10...dxc4** There are many ways to win and you don't have to decide in advance. Easiest is: **11.♖e1† ♔f7 12.♗h6+–**

23. Emanuel Lasker – Dawid Janowski, Berlin (1) 1910
20.♖xd5! ♖xd5 21.♕xd5+– ✓ White has won a piece, since Black cannot recapture.

24. Emanuel Lasker – Efim Bogoljubov, Atlantic Ocean 1924
19.♘a4! ✓ The rook is trapped and the c5-pawn is threatened. **19...♖a3 20.♕b2** Lasker played 20.♘xc5± and won after 22 moves, but the text is better. **20...b4 21.♕xe5±** Black loses a second pawn.

25. George Thomas – Emanuel Lasker, Nottingham 1936
38...♖xe5! 39.♕xe5 ♕f3† 40.♔g1 ♕xd1† ✓ 41.♔f2 ♕d7∓ It is probably a theoretical draw, but that does not change the verdict during a game between humans (0–1, 55 moves).

Jose Raul Capablanca

Chess is a very logical game and it is the man who can reason most logically and profoundly in it that ought to win.

26. Jose Raul Capablanca – C.E. Watson, Schenectady 1909
White has a minor piece less, but can more than make up for it with the following double threat: **30.♖f6! ♘xf6 31.♖xf6** ✓ **♕h5 32.♗d1** Not necessary, but a luxury White can afford. 32.♘xe6 and 32.♖xe6 are also winning. **32...♕e8 33.♖xe6+–** Black is an exchange up, but since he has no chance against all the pawns and an invasion on the kingside, he resigned now.

27. Jose Raul Capablanca – E.B. Schrader, Saint Louis (simul) 1909
23.♕xh5! The fork on f6 gains a piece. **23...♕xh5 24.♘f6† ♔h8 25.♘xh5+–** ✓

28. Jose Raul Capablanca – D.W. Pomeroy, Saint Louis (simul) 1909
21...♖xg2†! ✓ White resigned, since he is mated after: **22.♔xg2 ♖g8†** Or 22...♕g6†. **23.♔h1 ♕xh6† 24.♕h5 ♕xh5 mate**

29. Jose Raul Capablanca – T.A. Carter, Saint Louis (simul) 1909
28.♕g7†! ♖xg7 29.hxg7† ♔g8 30.♖h8 mate ✓

30. Jose Raul Capablanca – Frank Marshall, New York 1910
28.♘f6†! Black could have resigned here, but continued until move 43. **28...gxf6 29.♖xe8†+–** ✓

31. Jose Raul Capablanca – Luis Piazzini, Buenos Aires 1911
34...♖xh4†! Black can also start by exchanging on c4. **35.gxh4 g3† 36.♔g1 gxf2†** ✓ **37.♔xf2–+** Instead of being an exchange up, Black is a rook up.

32. Jose Raul Capablanca – Rasmussen, Copenhagen (simul) 1911
35...♖xf2! Defending against the double threat and getting a queen ending with two healthy pawns and a safe king. **36.♕xf2 ♕xe6†–+** ✓

33. Jose Raul Capablanca – Will Randolph, New York 1912
31.♕xg5! 31.♖xg8† ♖xg8 32.♕xg8† is another way to do the same thing. **31...hxg5 32.♖xg8†** Black resigned since he will be a piece down: **32...♔xg8 33.♘f6† ♔f7 34.♘xd7+–** ✓

34. Jose Raul Capablanca – F.S. Dunkelsbuhler, London (simul) 1913
15.♕xd5!+– Black resigned, as he is mated after: **15...♕xd5 16.♖e8† ♖f8 17.♖xf8 mate** ✓

35. Albert Beauregard Hodges – Jose Raul Capablanca, New York 1915
24...♗xe4! White's pieces are overloaded and Black won a pawn after: **25.♗xe4 ♖xc4–+** ✓

36. Jose Raul Capablanca – Einar Michelsen, New York (simul) 1915
35.♖xe6†! ♔xe6 36.♗d5† ♔d6 37.♗xg8+– ✓ Black's rook is unable to fight against the two passed pawns. The final moves were: **37...♖e7 38.c5† ♔c6 39.♗d5† ♔b5 40.g6 1–0**

37. Jose Raul Capablanca – N.N., New York 1918
14.♗xg7†! ♔xg7 15.♕g5† ♔h8 16.♕f6 mate ✓

38. Jose Raul Capablanca – J. Birch, Glasgow 1919
31...♖xd3! 31...♕h1†?? 32.♕xh1 would be a terrible blunder. The game move wins a piece after: **32.cxd3 ♕e5† 33.♔d2 ♕xa1–+** ✓

39. Jose Raul Capablanca – G.H. Hadland, Thornton Heath 1919
21.♗xh7†! ♔h8 Or 21...♔xh7 22.g6†+– ✓ with a fork. **22.♗g6** And White won.

40. Jose Raul Capablanca – Milan Vidmar, London 1922
22.♗h7†! 22.♕xd7 ♖xc2 is equal. **22...♔xh7 23.♖xc8 ♖xc8 24.♕xc8+–** ✓ White is an exchange up.

41. Jose Raul Capablanca – W. Malowan, New York (simul) 1922
36.♘xf7†?! looks like a combination and was played in the game, but Black had 36...♖xf7 37.g6 ♖xf5†! 38.♖xf5 ♖g7 when he collects the g-pawn with a draw. Instead normal moves give two points. A good choice is **36.f6 ♖g6 37.♗f4!+–** when Black's rooks are trapped and he can't sacrifice the exchange in a good way.

42. Jose Raul Capablanca – N.N., Moscow (simul) 1925
17.♘d6†! Black resigned due to: **17...cxd6 18.♗g6+–** ✓

43. Jose Raul Capablanca – Jacques Mieses, Bad Kissingen 1928
31.♖xb6! Winning a second pawn. **31...axb4** Or 31...♖xb6 32.♘xd5+– ✓ with a fork. **32.♖xb7 ♖xb7 33.♖xb4 1–0** The endgame is hopeless for Black.

44. Jose Raul Capablanca – Arpad Vajda, Budapest 1929
22.♗xa6! White wins a pawn due to: **22...bxa6 23.♖c6† ♔e7 24.♖xb6+–** ✓

45. Jose Raul Capablanca – Albert Becker, Karlsbad 1929
17.♘xh7! f5 Instead 17...♔xh7 can be met by 18.♘f6†+– ✓ with a discovered check, or 18.♘c3†+–. **18.♘hg5** 18.♘xf8 fxe4 19.♗c4 is also winning. In the game, Black resigned due to: **18...fxe4 19.♗xe4** The bishop on b7 is doomed. (White could also go for the king with 19.♗c4+–, forcing Black to give up his queen.)

46. Jose Raul Capablanca – Manuel Larrea, Mexico (simul) 1933
11.♘db5! 11.♘cb5 is the same. **11...axb5 12.♘xb5 ♗g3†** Regaining the pawn does little to alleviate the real problems of the black position – his weaknesses on the dark squares (and the b6-pawn) and lack of development. **13.hxg3 ♕xg3† 14.♗f2+–** ✓

47. Vera Menchik – Jose Raul Capablanca, Margate 1935
30...♖xe4! 31.♕xe4 ♕a1† ✓ With back-rank mate.

48. Jose Raul Capablanca – Grigory Levenfish, Moscow 1935
25.♘xf7! ♖xf7 26.♕h7†! ♔f8 27.♕h8 mate ✓

49. Jose Raul Capablanca – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1936
34.♖xd5! White wins a pawn, since **34...cxd5 35.♗xd5†+–** ✓ is a fork.

50. Jose Raul Capablanca – Guillermo Vassaux, Buenos Aires (ol) 1939
28.♖xh7†! ♔xh7 29.♕h3† ♔g7 30.♕h6 mate ✓

Alexander Alekhine

Combination is the soul of chess.

51. Alexander Alekhine – Sergey Petrov, corr. 1902
16...♗xg2! Highlighting the usefulness of the active d4-rook. **17.♕g3** 17.♕xg2 ♖g4–+ ✓ pins the queen. **17...♖g4 ✓ 18.♗xc5 ♖xg3 19.fxg3 ♖e8–+**

52. Apollon Viakhirev – Alexander Alekhine, corr. 1906
35...♕g2†! 36.♖xg2 fxg2 mate ✓

53. Benjamin Blumenfeld – Alexander Alekhine, Moscow (2) 1908
31...f3† 32.♔g1 ♕xf1†! 33.♔xf1 ♖d1 mate ✓

54. J. Goldfarb – Alexander Alekhine, St Petersburg 1909
17...♗xh2†! 18.♔xh2 ♕h4† 19.♖h3 ♕xe1∓ ✓ Undefended pieces...

55. Alexander Alekhine – B. Lyubimov, Moscow 1909
White reduces the material deficit from a piece to an exchange with: **21.♖xf5! gxf5 22.♕xg7± ✓** Considering the weak dark squares and exposed king, his position is clearly superior.

56. Alexander Alekhine – Stefan Izbinsky, St Petersburg 1909
19.♗xh7†! Forcing the king to leave the defence of the rook. **19...♔xh7 20.♕xf8+– ✓**

57. V. Rozanov/N. Tselikov – Alexander Alekhine, Moscow 1915
27...♕xe1†! 27...♖xf3 28.♖f1 ♕xf1†! (28...♕xe2?? 29.♕c8† ♖f8 30.♕xf8 mate) 29.♗xf1 ♘f2† 30.♔g2 ♘xh3 31.♔xf3 ♘g5† is also winning for Black, although it doesn't look so simple with White's king active after 32.♔f4 ♘f7 33.♔f5 (one point). **28.♘xe1 ♘f2† 29.♔g2 ♘xh3 30.♘f3** 30.♔xh3 ♖e8!–+ **✓ 30...♖xf3** Black could also have achieved a winning position by going for the a-pawn, but this is simple. **31.♗xf3** 31.♔xf3 ♘g1†–+ **✓ 31...♘g5–+ ✓ 0–1**

58. Leifchild Leif-Jones – Alexander Alekhine, London (simul) 1923
15.♘xe4! ♗xe4 16.c5 A discovered attack, winning the bishop. **16...♗xc5 17.♕xe4+– ✓**

59. O. Friedmann – Alexander Alekhine, Czechoslovakia 1925
18.♘xf5†! Not 18.♗xf5? ♖h4 (18...♖xg3∓) 19.♘h5 ♕h8 and Black wins a piece. **18...exf5** Instead Alekhine tried 18...♔f8, but White has several ways to win, for instance 19.♘xd6 ♖h4 trapping the queen, but to no avail. 20.♕xf7† ♕xf7 21.♘xf7+– White has won three pawns (1–0, 42 moves). **19.♘xd5†+– ✓** It's a fork.

60. Alexander Alekhine – Frederick Yates, Baden-Baden 1925
15.♘xd5! cxd5? Yates avoided this with 15...♗d6, but after 16.♗xd6 ✓ cxd5+– he had no compensation whatsoever for the lost pawn. **16.♗c7+– ✓** The queen is trapped.

61. Arpad Vajda – Alexander Alekhine, Semmering 1926
25...♗xf2!∓ White can't take back due to: **26.♕xf2? ♕xf2† 27.♔xf2 ♖d2† 28.♔e3 ♖xc2–+** ✓

62. Roberto Grau – Alexander Alekhine, San Remo 1930
37...♖xf3! 38.gxf3 38.♖xf3 ♕d1† 39.♖f1 ♕xf1 mate ✓ **38...♕c2** ✓ **0–1** There is no defence against the mate.

63. Alexander Alekhine – Vasic, Banja Luka (simul) 1931
10.♕xe6†! fxe6 11.♗g6 mate ✓

64. Alexander Alekhine – Rumjancev, Sarajevo (simul) 1931
19.♗g6! fxg6 19...♕a5 avoids mate, but Black is completely lost after 20.♗xf7† ♔d8 followed by any decent queen move. **20.♕xg6 mate** ✓

65. Adolf Fink – Alexander Alekhine, Pasadena 1932
14...♗b5! 15.axb5 ♕xe2 mate ✓

66. Alexander Alekhine – Jobbahazai, Vienna (simul) 1936
20.♖d8†! 20.♕xb7 ♖xb7 21.♗xe5 is also good (White will soon be two pawns up) but only the game move forces resignation. Note that after 20.♕xb7 ♖xb7 White should avoid pinning the bishop with 21.♖d8† ♗f8 22.♗a3 since Black can struggle on with: 22...♘d7! Nevertheless, White gets a rook ending a pawn up that looks winning. **20...♗f8** 20...♖xd8 21.♕xb7+– ✓ **21.♕xf6+–** ✓

67. Alexander Alekhine – Rowena Bruce, Plymouth 1938
11.♘xf7! Classical destruction of the f7-e6 formation. **11...♔xf7 12.♕xe6† 1–0** Black foresaw 12...♔g7 13.♕f7 mate ✓

68. Alexander Alekhine – S. Lopo, Estoril (simul) 1940
31.♗xf6!± ✓ White wins a pawn since Black cannot take back on f6.

69. Alexander Alekhine – A. Aragao, Estoril (simul) 1940
36...♖xe4! Finishing off a winning position. **37.♖xe4 ♔f5† 38.♔f2 ♔xe4–+** ✓

70. Alexander Alekhine – Salvatierra, Madrid (simul) 1941
9.♗xh7† ♘xh7 10.♗xe7 ✓ **♖e8 11.♗h4 dxc4±** Alekhine was not worried about giving back the pawn, since he gets a strong centre. If he was worried, he could have started with 9.cxd5±, which is equally strong. (1–0, 40 moves)

71. Alexander Alekhine – J.M. De Cossio, San Sebastian (simul) 1944
9.♘f6†! gxf6 10.♗xf6 ✓ **1–0** There is no defence against the mate on g7.

72. Alexander Alekhine – M. Ricondo, Santander (simul) 1945
14.♘h6†! gxh6 15.♗xf6+– ✓ White checkmates or wins the queen.

Max Euwe

Strategy requires thought, tactics require observation.

73. Max Euwe – Eelke Wiersma, Amsterdam 1920
19.♘g6†! hxg6 20.♖h4 mate ✓

74. Horace Bigelow – Max Euwe, Bromley 1920
18...♕xh2†! Exchanging queens and consolidating the material advantage. **19.♔xh2 ♘g4† 20.♔g3 ♘xh6–+** ✓

75. Theodor Gruber – Max Euwe, Vienna 1921
19...♗xg2! 20.♔xg2 ♖g6†–+ ✓ Black wins the queen or the rook on f1.

76. Max Euwe – Efim Bogoljubov, Maehrisch Ostrau 1923
13...♕xc3! 14.♕xc3 ♘e4† Black wins back his sacrificed piece, leaving him a pawn up. **15.♔f1 ♘xc3∓** ✓

77. Max Euwe – Jacques Davidson, Amsterdam (1) 1924
27.♕xf6†! ♔xf6 28.♘xe4† ♔e5 29.♘xc5 bxc5 ✓ The pawn ending is winning, unless Black gets time to collect the queenside pawns. And he doesn't after: **30.♔f1** (or 30.f3)

78. Willem Schelfhout – Max Euwe, Utrecht 1926
25...♘xe4 26.♕xe4 ♗d5–+ ✓ If White steps out of the pin with 26.♔h2, there are many moves that keep the pawn: 26...f5, 26...♗d5 or even 26...♘f6 27.♘xe5 ♘xe5 28.♕xe5 ♗xb3.

79. Birger Rasmusson – Max Euwe, London (ol) 1927
20...♖xd3! 21.♖exd3 ♖xd3 Or 21...♗xc4 first makes no difference. **22.♖xd3 ♗xc4 23.♔e2–+** ✓ An extra pawn in a pawn ending wins, unless there are some special circumstances.

80. Albert Becker – Max Euwe, Hague 1928
31...♖xg2! 32.♖xg2 ♕h3† 33.♔g1 ♕xg2 mate ✓ Or 33...♖xg2 mate.

81. B. Colin – Max Euwe, Bern 1932
32...♕xg2† 33.♖f2 ♕xf2†! 34.♔xf2 ♖h2† And Black takes the queen: **35.♔f3 ♖xc2–+** ✓

82. Dirk van Foreest – Max Euwe, Netherlands 1932
18...♖xb2! 19.♖xb2 ♕xd1†∓ ✓ Black has won a pawn.

83. Alexander Alekhine – Max Euwe, Netherlands (23) 1935
24...♖xd2! 25.♖xd2 ♘xb3–+ ✓ The extra pawn is decisive.

84. Max Euwe – Efim Bogoljubov, Bad Nauheim/Stuttgart/Garmisch 1937
26...♘xd4! 26...♗xd4 picks up the pawn, but not the exchange. Black is not clearly winning yet (zero points). **27.♖xd4 ♗xd4** White cannot take in any way due to mate on e1: **28.♖xd4 ♕e1 mate** ✓

85. Nicolaas Cortlever – Max Euwe, Beverwijk 1941
13.♘xe5! ♘e6 13...fxe5 14.♗g5†+– ✓ **14.♘d3!+–** ✓ White is not only a pawn up, Black is also far behind in development.

86. Max Euwe – Henry Grob, Zurich 1947
21...♘f3†! Black wins an exchange after: **22.♕xf3 ♕xd2–+** ✓

87. Theo van Scheltinga – Max Euwe, Amsterdam 1948
38.♗xe6! ♘xe6 Keeping the knight and setting up a blockade on the e-file was not realistic, since White has an f-pawn as well. **39.♕f5†** Or 39.♕e4†. **39...♔h8 40.♕xe6±** ✓ White's winning chances should be bigger than Black's drawing chances, although the game ended in a draw.

88. Jan Visser – Max Euwe, Baarn 1949
32...♖xa5! 33.♖xa5 b3–+ ✓ White loses the rook.

89. Max Euwe – Nicolaas Cortlever, Amsterdam 1954
25...♕xe5! Removing the defender of the e2-square. **26.dxe5 ♘e2† 27.♔h2 ♘xg3–+** ✓

90. Max Euwe – Rafael Cintron, Munich (ol) 1958
35.♗xf6! ♗xf6 36.e7† ♔g7 37.exd8=♕+– ✓ Opposite-coloured bishops normally improve the drawing chances of the player who has sacrificed material, but Black did not sacrifice the exchange here – he lost it. And without active pieces, he cannot create anything on the dark squares. Instead White's active pieces and advantage in terrain give him an even greater advantage.

Mikhail Botvinnik

Chess mastery essentially consists of analysing chess positions accurately.

91. C.H.O'D. Alexander – Mikhail Botvinnik, Nottingham 1936
19...♗xb2! 20.♕xb2 ♖d1† 21.♗f1 ♖xf1† 22.♔g2 ♖d1∓ ✓ Black has won a pawn (0–1, 35 moves).

92. Andor Lilienthal – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1945
29...♘xc3! 30.♕xa3 30.♖xc3 ♕xa2 mate ✓ **30...♖xa3–+** ✓ (0–1, 37 moves)

93. Mikhail Botvinnik – Ludek Pachman, Moscow 1947
17...♖xe3! 18.♕xe3 Botvinnik played 18.♖xg7†–+ and resigned after 45 moves. **18...♗f4–+** ✓ There is both a fork and a pin.

94. Mikhail Botvinnik – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1966
34...♗e4 White resigned. **35.♗xe4** 35.♖xd2 exd2–+ ✓ and the pawn queens, or 35.♖cxe3 ♗xe3 36.♖xd2 ♗xf3† 37.♔xf3 ♗xd2 ✓ and Black is winning. **35...♖xe2†–+** ✓ The bishop will have to sacrifice itself for the e-pawn.

95. Bent Larsen – Mikhail Botvinnik, Leiden 1970
37.♕xc7!+– ✓ White wins two pawns due to the back-rank mate (1–0, 47 moves). 37.e5 also looks promising, as it opens up for an attack against h7, but 37...♖d2! 38.♕f5 g6 39.♕xf6† ♕xf6 40.exf6+– limits White's advantage to *only* a winning endgame.

Vassily Smyslov

We are delighted by great combinations and flaws are less important details.
Shakhmatnaya Nedelia (2003)

96. Vassily Smyslov – Mikhail Govbinder, Moscow 1967
16.♘xd5! Threatening the queen with check. **16...cxd5 17.♕xe5 ♕xe5 18.♗xe5+–** ✓ White has won a pawn with a dominant position (1–0, 24 moves).

Mikhail Tal

In my games I have sometimes found a combination intuitively, simply feeling that it must be there. Yet I was not able to translate my thought processes into normal human language.

97. Shenreder – Mikhail Tal, Riga 1951
17...♕xh3†! 18.♔xh3 ♘xf2† 19.♔g2 ♘xd1 20.♖xd1–+ ✓ It's an exchange and a pawn.

98. Mikhail Tal – Georgi Tringov, Munich (ol) 1958
17.♕xd7†! ♔xd7 18.♘c5† ♔e7 19.♘xe4+– ✓

99. Hector Rossetto – Mikhail Tal, Portoroz 1958
39...♖xe3! 40.fxe3 ♕g2† 41.♔e1 ♘f3 mate ✓

100. Mikhail Tal – Pal Benko, Amsterdam 1964
19.♖d8†! ♔e7 The point is 19...♔xd8 20.♘xf7† ♔e7 21.♘xe5+– ✓. **20.♖xh8+–** ✓ The game finished with: **20...♕xg5 21.♕d2 1–0**

101. Mikhail Tal – Naum Levin, Poti 1970
35.♕xd5! ♘xd5 The game move 35...♗f4 is of course hopeless as well (1–0, 41 moves). **36.♖e8† ♔h7 37.♖h8 mate** ✓

102. Anatoly Shmit – Mikhail Tal, Riga 1971
33...♖xh2†! 34.♔g1 ♖bg2†! Or 34...♖hg2†. **35.♕xg2** The game went 35.♔f1 ♖xg5 0–1. **35...♖xg2† 36.♔xg2 ♘e3† 37.♔f3 ♘xd1–+** ✓

103. Mikhail Tal – Nino Kirov, Novi Sad 1974
20.♗xh7†! 20.♕h5 ♘f5 21.g4 does not win a piece, and even loses after 21...♖h6. **20...♔xh7 21.♕h5† ♖h6 22.♕xc5±** ✓ White has won a pawn, but it is only a flank pawn.

104. Mikhail Tal – Yrjo Rantanen, Tallinn 1979
27.♗xg7†! ♔g8 28.♗h8! ♔xf7 29.♕xf6† ♔g8 30.♕g7 mate ✓

105. Mikhail Tal – Karen Grigorian, Yerevan 1980
31...♖xe2! 32.♖xe2 d3 33.♖xe5 White resigned after 33.♖c3 dxe2† 34.♔e1 ♗b4. **33...dxc2†–+** ✓ Black gets a second queen.

106. Eduard Meduna – Mikhail Tal, Sochi 1986
31...♖xc3! 32.♖xc3 ♕a1† 33.♔g2 ♕xc3–+ ✓ (0–1, 38 moves)

107. Mikhail Tal – M. Conway, Boston (simul) 1988
12.♘xf7! ♔xf7 12...♕e7 and White won after 30 moves. **13.♕xe6† ♔f8 14.♕f7 mate** ✓

108. Soenke Maus – Mikhail Tal, Germany 1990
28...♖e1†! 0–1 White resigned due to: **29.♔h2** 29.♖xe1 ♕xd4–+ ✓ **29...♕xd4 30.♖xd4 ♖xa1–+** ✓ The game will appear again later in the book.

Tigran Petrosian

In general I consider that in chess everything rests on tactics. If one thinks of strategy as a block of marble, then tactics are the chisel with which a master operates, in creating works of chess art.

109. Tigran Petrosian – Alexander Konstantinopolsky, Moscow 1947
27...♘xf4! 28.exf4 ♖xe2 ✓ Black is clearly better, but White managed to hold (41 moves).

110. Tigran Petrosian – Genrikh Kasparian, Tbilisi 1949
38.♗xc4!+– 38.♖xe6 fxe6 39.♗xc4? (39.♖xe6 ♔h7=) 39...♕xe1†–+ Black cannot take the bishop due to: **38...♗xc4** 38...♖d6 39.♗xe6 was just hopeless (1–0, 41 moves). **39.♖e8† ♖xe8 40.♖xe8† ♔h7 41.♖h8 mate** ✓

111. Tigran Petrosian – Efim Geller, Moscow 1950
28...♗xg4! 29.♕xg4 Petrosian fought on with 29.♕g3–+ but he regretted 28.g4? for sure (0–1, 38 moves). **29...♖g6–+** ✓

112. Abram Poliak – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1951
32...d4! 33.♖xd4 33.♕e1 d3–+ and the pawn supported by pieces is too strong. **33...♕b6** ✓ **0–1** Or 33...♕a7–+, but not 33...♗f6? 34.♖xd7!∓. If you chose a slower way to advance the pawn on the 32nd move, such as 32...♗f6 or 32...♕a7†, you also get full points.

113. Tigran Petrosian – A. Koliakov, Moscow 1951
29.♘xd5! 29.♗a6?! ♖d8± **29...♖xc2 30.♘f6†** Getting out of Dodge before recapturing the rook. **30...♔f8 31.♖xc2+–** ✓ In addition to an extra pawn, White's pieces are much stronger, for instance the bishop on e8 is dominated (1–0, 33 moves).

114. Tigran Petrosian – Gedeon Barcza, Saltsjobaden 1952
24.♘fxe6!+– There are a few alternatives with the same idea: 24.♘gxe6+– or 24.axb5 ♗xb5 25.♘gxe6+–. **24...♘xe6 25.♗xd5+–** ✓ Since the c6-knight cannot retreat on account of the a8-rook, White is regaining at least the piece, with a winning position (1–0, 30 moves).

115. Iivo Nei – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1960
33.♕g8†! A magnet sacrifice leading to a quick mate. Black resigned, rather than face: **33...♔xg8 34.♗e6† ♔h8 35.♖g8 mate** ✓

116. Tigran Petrosian – Boris Spassky, Moscow (10) 1966
30.♕h8†! 30.♘xf7?! ♕xe3!± In the game, Black resigned. He is a piece down after: **30...♔xh8 31.♘xf7† ♔g7 32.♘xg5+–** ✓

117. Tigran Petrosian – Dragoslav Tomic, Vinkovci 1970
39.♖xg7†! 39.♕e8 eyes the pawn on e4, but wins only because White has the same rook sacrifice later. But not: 39.♘f6†?? ♖xf6–+ **39...♖xg7 40.♘f6 mate** ✓

118. Dragoljub Janosevic – Tigran Petrosian, Lone Pine 1978
33...♖g1†! White resigned due to: **34.♖xg1 ♘f2 mate** ✓

119. Tigran Petrosian – Borislav Ivkov, Teslic 1979
35.♖xd4! Black resigned as it's mate: **35...♖xd4 36.♖xe5† ♔xg4 37.f3 mate** ✓ Or 37.h3 mate**.**

120. Tigran Petrosian – Ljubomir Ljubojevic, Niksic 1983
26.♖xe4! ♕xe4 26...♕g6+– is hopeless for Black when he has lost his only trump, the passed e-pawn (1–0, 28 moves). **27.♕f7† ♔h8 28.♕f8† ♖xf8 29.♖xf8 mate** ✓

Boris Spassky

I had a good feeling for the critical moments of the play. This undoubtedly compensated for my lack of opening preparation and, possibly, not altogether perfect play in the endgame.

121. John Spencer Purdy – Boris Spassky, Antwerp 1955
10...d3! The bishop on b2 is en prise and **11.♗xg7 dxe2–+** ✓ is an intermediate move that wins a piece.

122. Yuri Averbakh – Boris Spassky, Moscow 1961
38...♖f1†! Other moves are obviously also winning, but mate-in-two should be seen and played here. **39.♔xf1 ♕e1 mate** ✓

123. Boris Spassky – Mikhail Shofman, Leningrad 1962
20.♗a6! ♗xa6 Shofman played 20...c6 but was simply a piece down after 21.♗xb7†. **21.♕a8 mate** ✓

124. Boris Spassky – Alexander Korelov, Yerevan 1962
38.♘xa6! Neatly picking up a pawn due to: **38...♗xa6 39.♖b6† ♔d7 40.♖xa6+–** ✓

125. Boris Spassky – Zvonko Vranesic, Amsterdam 1964
21.♖xf8†! ♖xf8 22.axb4+– ✓ The two pieces easily outshine the rook.

126. Borislav Ivkov – Boris Spassky, Santa Monica 1966
36...♕xf4! There is a fork on e3 coming up. **37.gxf4 ♘e3† 38.♔g3 ♘xd1–+** ✓

127. Boris Spassky – Viktor Korchnoi, Kiev 1968
35.♕h6†! Korchnoi did not let his opponent execute the mate: **35...♔xh6 36.♖h1 mate** ✓ Or 35...♔g8 36.♖c8† ♖f8 37.♖xf8 mate.

128. Robert Hartoch – Boris Spassky, Amsterdam 1970
Black is winning with many moves, but only one is a forced mate: **32...♕xg1† 33.♔xg1 ♖xg2† 34.♔h1 ♖h2† 35.♔g1 ♖cg2† 36.♔f1 ♗b5† 37.♔e1 ♖h1 mate** ✓ Or 37...♖g1 mate.

129. Boris Spassky – Lajos Portisch, Geneva 1977
33.f5! ♗xf5 34.♖e7+– ✓ The queen can no longer defend the bishop.

130. Boris Spassky – A. Hoffmann, Lugano 1982
It's mate in five moves: **30.♗xg6†!** 30.♖e2 is winning as well thanks to the continued threat of ♗xg6†. **30...♖xg6 31.♖e7† ♔g8 32.♕xg6†** Or 32.♕f7† ♔h8 33.♕h7 mate. **32...♔f8 33.♕g7 mate** ✓ Or 33.♕f7 mate.

131. Boris Spassky – Andreas Dueckstein, Zurich 1984
29...♖xh1! Black gets two pieces for the rook after: **30.♕xh1 ♘xd4 31.cxd4 ♕xd2–+** ✓

132. Zoltan Ribli – Boris Spassky, Montpellier 1985
85...♕xh6†! 85...♕d2† is the complicated way to draw (zero points). The queen endgame with g- and h-pawns is generally drawn with the defending king in front of the pawns. It surprised the whole Swedish team when we learned this at the 2016 Olympiad in Baku. However, 85...♕d2† should lose in a practical game. First, Black has to find 86.♕f4 ♕d8† 87.♕f6† ♔h7! 88.♕xd8 with stalemate. **86.♔xh6** ✓ **½–½** Stalemate! 86.♔f5 keeps the game going, but it's an easy draw anyway.

133. Boris Spassky – Marc Santo-Roman, Montpellier 1991
18...♗xa2! White is lost due to: **19.♘xa2 ♘b3†** ✓

134. Robert Fischer – J.S. Bennett, USA 1957
38.♖d8†! Deflection. But not 38.♖c1?? ♗d4†–+. **38...♕xd8 39.♕xc3† ♕f6 40.♕xf6 mate** ✓

135. E. Buerger – Robert Fischer, Milwaukee 1957
26...♘xd5! 27.♘e6 27.♖xf7 ♗xd4† 28.♔h1 ♘xb4–+ ✓ **27...♘xf4–+** White resigned after: **28.♖xf4 ♖xf4** ✓ **0–1**

136. Theodor Ghitescu – Robert Fischer, Leipzig (ol) 1960
14...♗xh2†! ✓ **0–1** Discovered attack.

137. Samuel Reshevsky – Robert Fischer, Los Angeles 1961
28...♕xe4! 29.♘xe4 ♘e2† 30.♔h1 ♘xg3† ✓ Black should be winning with the extra exchange, but failed to convert (½–½, 57 moves).

138. Robert Fischer – S. Purevzhav, Varna (ol) 1962
21.♗xg7! exd3 The game ended after 21...♔xg7 22.♘xe4 when either White's attack or his extra

144. Samuel Reshevsky – Robert Fischer, Palma de Mallorca 1970
29...♕d4†! 29...♕e3† 30.♖f2 (30.♔h1 ♕f2–+) 30...♖e7! 31.♕a4 ♖a7! will also win. **30.♔h1** 30.♖f2 ♖e1 mate ✓ **30...♕f2!–+** ✓

145. Svetozar Gligoric – Robert Fischer, Palma de Mallorca 1970
29...♘d3! An unexpected fork after White's last move 29.♖f1-f2?. **30.♕xb6** 30.♖xd3 ♕a1† ✓ mating. **30...♘xf2†–+** ✓ Black is a piece up and has the more active heavy pieces. White resigned a few moves later.

Anatoly Karpov

Blunders rarely travel alone.

146. Vladimir Peresipkin – Anatoly Karpov, Rostov on Don 1971
36...♕xh2†! The only winning move. **0–1 37.♔xh2 ♖h5 mate** ✓

147. Anatoly Karpov – Michael Franklin, Hastings 1972
35.♖g5! Using the fact that the knight on f7 is pinned. **35...♕xg5** 35...♘xg5 36.♖xg7† ♔xg7 37.♘xg5+– ✓ and White is up too much material. **36.♘xg5** ✓ **♘xg5 37.d5 1–0**

148. Ilkka Saren – Anatoly Karpov, Skopje (ol) 1972
28...♗b6†! The move order 28...♖xf4 doesn't work as well: 29.♗e6†! ♔h8 30.♘d5∓ Even worse is: 28...♘b2? 29.♕xf5± **29.♔f1 ♖xf4†! 30.gxf4 ♕xf4†** ✓ **0–1** Black has a mating attack.

149. Anatoly Karpov – Viktor Kupreichik, Moscow 1976
38.♖e7†! The only way to promote the pawn. And not: 38.dxc7? ♖c6∓ **38...♔f8** 38...♔f6 39.dxc7+– ✓ **39.dxc7+– ♖c6 40.♖d7** Karpov chose a slower way: 40.♖xh7 ♔e8 41.h4+– **40...♔e8 41.♖d8† ♔e7 42.c8=♕ ♖xc8 43.♖xc8+–** ✓

150. Lajos Portisch – Anatoly Karpov, Moscow 1977
20...♖xe2! 21.♕xe2 ♕xc1† ✓ Black has opened White's first rank and won a pawn, leaving him up a full exchange, and winning. The game had a quick finish: **22.♕f1 ♕d2 23.cxb6? ♖c8 0–1**

151. Anatoly Karpov – Mark Taimanov, Leningrad 1977
38...♘g3†! White resigned in view of **39.hxg3 ♖a8!** ✓ with mate.

152. Viktor Korchnoi – Anatoly Karpov, Baguio City (17) 1978
39...♘f3†! 0–1 Mate is coming up: **40.gxf3 ♖g6† 41.♔h1 ♘f2 mate** ✓

153. Anatoly Karpov – Efim Geller, Moscow 1983
31.♕xc4! Black resigned instead of permitting: **31...bxc4 32.♖xf7 mate** ✓

154. Anatoly Karpov – Simen Agdestein, Oslo 1984
32.♕xd5! Move order is important here. 32.♗h6† ♔e7± 33.♖xd5? (33.♕b4† ♔d7 34.♖d2 ♖xd2 35.♗xd2 ♖g6±) 33...♖xe2†!=, or 32.♕b4†!? ♔g7 33.♕h4 ♖e8!± still with great chances against Black's exposed king. **32...♕xd5 33.♗h6†** 33.♗b4†? ♕c5†= **33...♔e7 34.♖xd5+–** ✓ (1–0, 38 moves)

155. Anatoly Karpov – Anthony Miles, Brussels 1986
26.♘d5! 26.♘b5 is a worse variant since the queen can escape to e7, but it still gives a winning advantage: 26...♕e7 27.♗xf6 ♕xf6 28.♘xd6+– (full points) **26...♗xb2** 26...exd5 27.♗xf6 ♘g6 28.♗xd8+– ✓ **27.♘xc7+–** ✓ (1–0, 40 moves)

156. Anatoly Karpov – Viktor Gavrikov, Moscow 1988
27.♗h7†! Deflection. **27...♔xh7 28.♕xf8+–** ✓ (1–0, 40 moves)

157. Anatoly Karpov – Nigel Short, Linares (7) 1992
39.♖g8†! Deflection. **39...♔xg8 40.♕xf6** ✓ (1–0, 45 moves)

158. Alexander Chernin – Anatoly Karpov, Tilburg 1992
21.♘d5! Exploiting the claustrophobic queen on e6. **21...♘c5** Black's alternatives are no better: 21...cxd5 22.cxd5+– ✓, 21...♖b8 22.♘c7+– ✓ or 21...♖c8 22.♘e7†± ✓. **22.♘c7 ♕d7 23.♘xe8±** ✓ Karpov saved a draw (42 moves).

159. Anatoly Karpov – Valery Salov, Linares 1993
33.♕xg6! 1–0 White was winning anyway, but this is too nice to pass up. **33...hxg6 34.♖h4** And 35.♖h8 mate ✓ is unavoidable.

160. Anatoly Karpov – Loek van Wely, Monte Carlo 1997
30.♗h7†! Deflecting the knight or king. **30...♘xh7** 30...♔h8 31.♕xf8 mate ✓ **31.♕xd7+–** ✓

161. Anatoly Karpov – Eric Lobron, Frankfurt 1997
34...♖xe6! Clearing the back rank in order to force the king to h2, so the bishop falls with check. **35.♖xe6 ♖a1†** 35...♕xf4?! 36.♖e8† ♘f8 37.♕h5∓ **36.♔h2 ♕xf4†–+** ✓ (0–1, 46 moves)

162. Anatoly Karpov – Mikhail Gurevich, Cap d'Agde 2000
37...♗xe3! Using the fact that pins can sometimes become discovered attacks instead. **38.♗xe3?!** 38.♗g2 ♗xf2 39.♕xf2∓ **38...♖g1† 39.♖xg1 ♕xh4 40.♗g5 ♕e4†! 41.♗g2 ♕xd4** ✓ White has no time to move the bishop from g2, since the e5-pawn is hanging. After **42.♗f6† ♔g8–+** there is no good discovered check (0–1, 50 moves).

163. Anatoly Karpov – Alexei Shirov, Bastia (rapid) 2003
29...♖xh2† White resigned due to: **30.♔xh2 ♕h4 mate** ✓

164. Andrei Istratescu – Anatoly Karpov, Bucharest (rapid) 2005
25...♖xd2! 26.♖xd2 After the game move 26.♕h4–+ Black has simply won a piece, so White resigned in a couple of moves. **26...♕xc1†–+** ✓

165. Anatoly Karpov – Alexei Shirov, Tallinn (rapid) 2006
30.♗b5! The X-ray mate threat wins the bishop. Black resigned instead of allowing: **30...♗xb5 31.♖d8 mate** ✓

166. Anatoly Karpov – Evgenij Agrest, Tallinn (rapid) 2006
40.♗xg6! ♗xf4 40...fxg6 41.♘xe6† ♔e7 42.♘xc7+– ✓ **41.exf4** Or 41.♘xf7+–, or 41.♘xe6† fxe6 42.exf4+–. **41...fxg6 42.♘xe6†+–** (1–0, 69 moves)

167. Anatoly Karpov – Ehsan Ghaem Maghami, Teheran 2009
26.♖f8†! Deflection. Worse is 26.♕xh7† ♔xh7 27.♖xd7±. **26...♖xf8 27.♖xf8† ♔xf8 28.♕xh7+–** ✓ (1–0, 42 moves)

Garry Kasparov

Tactics involve calculations that can tax the human brain, but when you boil them down, they are actually the simplest part of chess and are almost trivial compared to strategy.
How Life Imitates Chess (2007)

168. Garry Kasparov – Vladimir Antoshin, Baku 1980
22.♖xc7! 22.♘d4 threatens 23.♘b5 with mate, but Black can defend after 22...♕e7 23.♘b5 c6±. **22...♔xc7 23.♕a7†** ✓ **1–0** With the rook coming to c1, the attack will be deadly.

169. Vladimir Tukmakov – Garry Kasparov, Frunze 1981
29...♕xc5! ✓ The back-rank mate threat means Black has simply won a rook, leaving him easily winning.

170. Garry Kasparov – Comp Mephisto 68000, Hamburg (simul) 1985
36.♖xe8† ♖xe8 Instead Black soon lost after 36...♔f7+–. **37.♕xf6** ✓ White is mating.

171. Lajos Portisch – Garry Kasparov, Linares 1990
27...♘e3† ✓ **0–1** A discovered attack, which could also be executed with 27...♘f4†–+.

172. Garry Kasparov – Matthias Wahls, Baden-Baden 1992
32.♖xd5! ♕xd5 33.♕xc7+– ✓ **1–0**

173. Garry Kasparov – Jacek Dubiel, Katowice (simul) 1993
32.♗xc6! ♗xc6 33.♕c7† ♕e7 34.♕xc6± ✓ White is a pawn up with good winning chances.

174. Yannick Pelletier – Garry Kasparov, Zurich 2001
31...♗xf2! Winning a second pawn due to: **32.♔xf2 ♖h2†–+** ✓

175. Garry Kasparov – Alexei Shirov, Astana 2001
35.♖d4! ✓ **1–0** Mating. 35.♖g7 is a useless intermediate move that allows Black to defend with 35...♗e8 36.♖d4 ♗g6±.

Alexander Khalifman

Never play for the win, never play for the draw, just play chess!

176. Ashot Anastasian – Alexander Khalifman, Minsk 1986
22...♘c5! The pin allows this fork. **23.dxc5 ♖xd3∓** ✓ (0–1, 36 moves)

177. Jaan Ehlvest – Alexander Khalifman, Rakvere 1993
32...♖xb2 Picking up a pawn with a small tactic gives Black a winning endgame. **33.♖xb2** Instead, White tried to fight with 33.♘b5–+ but in the end it proved fruitless (0–1, 53 moves). **33...♗xc3†–+** ✓

178. Alexander Khalifman – Nukhim Rashkovsky, Moscow 1995
White is obviously much better, but cleanest is: **27.♖xd4!** Black resigned in view of: **27...exd4 28.♕f5† ♕f7 29.♕c8† ♕e8 30.♕xe8 mate** ✓

179. Alexander Khalifman – Gennadi Sosonko, St Petersburg 1997
26.♗f6! The king is too exposed after: **26...gxf6 27.exf6** ✓

180. Lenka Ptacnikova – Alexander Khalifman, Stockholm 1997
37...♖xd4!–+ ✓ Black wins back the rook on c1, so he has just won a piece, and will break through easily.

181. Alexander Khalifman – Viktor Kupreichik, Stockholm 1997
26.♕xf6†! Other moves take longer to win. **26...♕xf6 27.♖xh7 mate** ✓

182. Alexander Khalifman – Christian Gabriel, Bad Wiessee 1998
21.♖xb3! Black resigned since **21...♘xb3 22.♕e6† ♔b8 23.♕xb3+–** ✓ is winning, although it wouldn't have hurt to fight on.

183. Roman Slobodjan – Alexander Khalifman, Germany 1999
26...♕xg5! Picking up this pawn increases the advantage considerably. **27.♗xg5** White tried to fight on with 27.♖ge1, but resigned a few moves later. **27...♘f2 mate** ✓

184. Alexander Khalifman – Ivan Bukavshin, Moscow 2011
24.♗h3†! ✓ **1–0** If the king moves, 25.♕e5† picks up the rook on h8 (and mates). If the bishop is taken then 25.♕f8† mates. And finally, anything put in the way will just be taken. Not 24.♖d6? ♕b1† 25.♗f1 ♕h7 26.♗g2 ♕b1†=.

Vladimir Kramnik

Chess is like body-building. If you train every day, you stay in top shape. It is the same with your brain – chess is a matter of daily training.

185. Vladimir Kramnik – Dmitry Reinderman, Wijk aan Zee (blitz) 1999
24.♘xe5! ♘xe5 25.♗xd5†+– ✓ Winning the rook on a8.

186. Vladimir Kramnik – Etienne Bacrot, Moscow (blitz) 2007
38.♖a8! ♔c7 38...♘xa6 39.♖xa6† leaves White with an easily winning endgame. **39.a7 ♖xb7 40.♖c8†!** ✓ **1–0** The pawn promotes**.**

187. Vladimir Kramnik – Levon Aronian, Moscow (blitz) 2009
The knight seems to be forced back, but can instead go forward to seemingly protected squares. **20.♘e5! ♖f8** (20...fxe5? 21.♕f7 mate) **21.♘xd7!+–** ✓ Black can't take back since it would leave the rook on a8 unprotected (1–0, 23 moves).

188. Vladimir Kramnik – Anish Giri, Leuven (blitz) 2016
20.e4! The bishop on d6 becomes exposed. **20...♗xe4** 20...dxe4 21.♗b5† ♔f8 22.♖xd6+– ✓ **21.♗xe4+–** ✓

Viswanathan Anand

In any match, there are few critical moments where there's no second-best decision. The rest of the moves are intuitive.

189. Viswanathan Anand – Eric Lobron, Dortmund 1996
36.♘f6! 1–0 With winning threats on h5. But not 36.♘e3?! ♗e5±. **36...♕xf6** 36...♗xf6 37.♖xh5†+– **37.♕xh5† ♔g8 38.♕xe8†+–** ✓

190. Viswanathan Anand – Ruslan Ponomariov, Mainz 2002
38.e7! ✓ **1–0** The only defence against 39.♕g7 mate leaves the rook on c8 undefended.

191. Viswanathan Anand – Pascal Charbonneau, Calvia (ol) 2004
34.♖xf7†! 1–0 The variation goes: **34...♘xf7 35.♘e6† ♖xe6 36.♕xd4†+–** ✓

192. Magnus Carlsen – Viswanathan Anand, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006
25.♕h6! White removes the queen from danger with a mating threat, leaving the knight on b4 to face the gallows. **25...f6** 25...♘xb2 26.♘g5+– ✓ with mate. **26.♖xb4+–** ✓

193. Roman Skomorokhin – Viswanathan Anand, Bastia 2014
22...♘xe3! ✓ 22...♗xe3†? 23.♗xe3 wins for White. **23.♖xe3** Other moves are no better: 23.♗xe3 ♕xa1–+ or 23...♗xe3† 24.♕xe3 ♕xa1–+. White is so tied up that basically any move wins by eventually bringing one rook into the action. **23...♖fe8 0–1**

194. Viswanathan Anand – Jon Ludvig Hammer, Stavanger 2015
34.♗xg6! Winning two more pawns, bringing the total to an overwhelming three. **34...♕xg6 35.♕xe5† ♔g8 36.♕xc5 ✓1–0**

Ruslan Ponomariov

In general, I grew up as a chess player on books. My first computer appeared when I'd already become a grandmaster.
Chess in Translation (2011)

195. Ruslan Ponomariov – Stuart Conquest, Torshavn 2000
37.♖c7†! 37.♕xf5† ♔b8 38.♗xa5 ♔a8!∞ **37...♔b8** 37...♔xd8 38.♕e7 mate ✓ or 37...♗xc7 38.♕xc7 mate ✓. **38.♖xc6† ✓ 1–0**

196. Ruslan Ponomariov – Evgeny Bareev, Moscow (4) 2001
34.♖xf4†! ✓ 1–0 Winning the queen. 34.♗xh7 keeps the threat of ♖xf4†, but Black can fight on with 34...♕h3±. 34.♖xh7 allows 34...♖b2!=.

197. Boris Grachev – Ruslan Ponomariov, Moscow (blitz) 2010
37.♗h5! Exploiting all the pins! 37.♖xf6!? gxf6 38.♗h5 ♕b7 39.♗xf7† ♕xf7 40.♕b6± gives Black good drawing chances in a queen ending a pawn down. **37...g6** 37...♘xh5 38.♕xf7† ✓ ♔h8 39.♕e8† ♕f8 40.♖xf8 mate or 37...♕f8 38.♗xf7†+–. **38.♖xf6** ✓ Or 38.♗xg6 hxg6 39.♖xf6+–. In the game, Black resigned in a few moves: **38...♕b7 39.♗d1 b2 40.♕e8† ♔g7 41.♕xf7† 1–0**

198. Ruslan Ponomariov – Vassily Ivanchuk, Khanty-Mansiysk (2) 2011
37...♗xf3! Winning the g2-pawn and an exchange. 37...♖gxg2† 38.♗xg2 ♖xf5 is too kind: 39.♖c1∓ **38.♖xf3 ♖gxg2† 39.♔h1 ♖h2† 40.♔g1 ♘e2† ✓ 0–1**

199. Ruslan Ponomariov – Sergei Rublevsky, Khanty-Mansiysk (blitz) 2013
31.♖e7!+– ✓ Threatening mate, and both defences end up losing the bishop. **31...♖d4** 31...♖g6 32.♖dxd7+– **32.♖xd4 cxd4 33.♕xd4 1–0** Double attack.

Rustam Kasimdzhanov

Sometimes tactics are born out of need. The strategic character of this position is such that if you do not find something, then strategically you are lost.
The Path to Tactical Strength (2011)

200. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Dmitry Kaiumov, Tashkent 1993
19...♖e1†! Deflection. **20.♖xe1** 20.♔f2 ♕xd5 21.♖xd5 ♖xa1–+ ✓ **20...♕xd5–+ ✓ 0–1**

201. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Eduard Grinshpun, Tashkent 1993
33.♕xh7† ♕xh7 34.♘xf6†+– ✓ 1–0 White wins a piece.

202. Andranik Matikozian – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Szeged 1994
29...♖xe5! The white queen is doubly pinned *and* is needed to protect g2. **30.♕xh4** 30.♕xe5 ♕xg2 mate ✓ (or 30...♕xd3–+), and 30.♕xg6 ♖xe1 mate ✓ (or 30...♘xg6–+). **30...♖xe1†** Or 30...♕xd3–+. **31.♕xe1 ♕xd3 ✓ 0–1**

203. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Y.M.A. Kalandar Khaled, Macau 1996
23.♕d8†! An X-ray/reloader theme supported by the strongly-placed bishop on e4. **23...♖xd8** 23...♕f8 24.♗h7†+– ✓ **24.♖xd8† ♕f8 25.♗h7†!** Or 25.♖ed1 ♖c7 26.♗h7†±. **25...♔xh7 26.♖xf8± ✓** (1–0, 30 moves)

204. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Mohamad Al Modiahki, Teheran 1998
25.♖xd7! 1–0 Winning another pawn and exchanging some pieces. Too kind is 25.♗g4 ♗xg4 26.hxg4±. **25...♕xd7 26.♗g4 ♕d8 27.♗xc8 ♕xc8 28.♕xb5+– ✓**

205. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Mikhail Golubev, Germany 2002
37.♕b8†! The breathing hole on g7 is not enough, neither is either of the two possible blocks on f8. 37.♗xe5? ♘g5† 38.♔g1 (38.♔g3 ♘xe4† 39.fxe4 ♕g5†–+) 38...♘xf3†–+ **37...♖xb8 38.♖xb8† ♔g7** 38...♖f8 39.♗xe5† (39.♖xf8† ♕xf8 40.♗xe5†+–) 39...♕g7 40.♖xf8 mate ✓ 38...♕f8 39.♖xf8† ♖xf8 40.♗xe5† ♖f6 41.♗xf6 mate ✓ **39.♖g8 mate ✓**

206. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Andrei Volokitin, Germany 2003
33...♕xh1†! Forcing a winning endgame. Not 33...♕h2† 34.♖xh2 gxh2† 35.♔h1 ♖g1† 36.♕xg1 hxg1=♕† 37.♔xg1∓. **34.♔xh1 g2† 35.♔g1 ♗d4 ✓** With his material advantage and dangerous passed pawn, Black is winning. The game ended swiftly: **36.♕xd4† cxd4 37.♘xd6 ♘g5 0–1**

207. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Baku 2005
28...♘e3! 28...b4?!∓ **29.♗xe3** 29.♖xf7 ♘xg4†–+ ✓ **29...♕xf1–+ ✓** (0–1, 34 moves)

208. Sergey Karjakin – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Tashkent 2014
38.♘e6!+– White is clearly better after other moves, but this finishes the game. **38...fxe6** The game try 38...g5 is plain hopeless; the game continued 39.♘xf8 (39.fxg6 and other moves are winning as well) 39...gxf4 40.♘fg6†! fxg6 41.♘xg6† and Black resigned. No better is 38...♕c8 39.♖xg7 ✓ with mate. **39.♘g6† ♔h7 40.♘xf8†+– ✓**

Veselin Topalov

I started to find things for him...
London Chess Classic (2016)

209. Jan Timman – Veselin Topalov, Sarajevo 1999
36...h5†! Deflecting the king from the defence of the rook. 36...♘f6†? 37.♖xf6 ♖xf6 and all the pawns make up for the exchange. **37.♔xh5 ♖xf5 ✓ 0–1**

210. Veselin Topalov – Miguel Illescas Cordoba, Cala Galdana 1999
22.♘f6†! ✓ 1–0 Getting rid of the pesky knight on e3 with tempo, leaving White totally winning.

211. Veselin Topalov – Arkadij Naiditsch, Dortmund 2005
27.♕f6†! Black resigned. **27...♕xf6 28.♖e8† ♕f8 29.♖xf8 mate ✓**

212. Gata Kamsky – Veselin Topalov, Nice (blindfold) 2009
32...♘xf3! 33.gxf3 ♗xf3† ✓ 0–1 Winning the queen.

Magnus Carlsen

Contrary to many young colleagues, I do believe that it makes sense to study the classics.

213. Ivan Sokolov – Magnus Carlsen, Hoogeveen 2004
White wins a pawn by exploiting the potential pin on the eighth rank, either by: **33.♘xc6! ♖xc6 34.♖b8 ♔h7 35.♖xd8+– ✓ 1–0** Or the almost equally good 33.♖a1, threatening ♖a1-a6, so 33...♘d5 34.♘xc6 with the same theme but having given away ...♘f6-d5.

214. Gata Kamsky – Magnus Carlsen, Khanty-Mansiysk (2) 2005
31.b6! 1–0 The pawn queens after 31...♖xf7 32.bxa7+– ✓ and the threat on the rook leaves White a piece up after 31...♕xb6 32.♕xe7 ✓.

215. Hannes Stefansson – Magnus Carlsen, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006
24...♖xc3 0–1 The rook on d3 is overloaded: 25.♖xc3 ♖xc3 26.♕xc3 ♕xd1–+ ✓

216. Sergey Erenburg – Magnus Carlsen, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006
34...♖e1† A discovered attack. **35.♖xe1 ♖xe1† 36.♖xe1 ♕xd3–+ ✓**

217. Goran Todorovic – Magnus Carlsen, Internet 2006
35...♗xh3! 0–1 Black is up too much material after 36.gxh3 ♕xh3† 37.♔g1 ♕g3† 38.♔h1 ♕f3† 39.♔g1 ♕xf6 ✓.

218. Magnus Carlsen – Laurent Fressinet, Cap d'Agde 2006
27.♕f5! ✓ 1–0 Black is back-rank mated or loses the rook on e6.

219. Vassily Ivanchuk – Magnus Carlsen, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2011
14.♘db5 ✓ 1–0 Winning a pawn, with the bishop pair and d6-square, gives a decisive advantage. Somewhat weaker is winning the b6-pawn with: 14.♘cb5 ♕b8 15.♘xd6 ♕xd6 16.♘xc6 ♕xc6 17.♕d4+–

220. Fabiano Caruana – Magnus Carlsen, Shamkir 2014
25.♘xc7! ♔xc7? Instead the game saw 25...♖d8 26.♘d5± when White had simply won a pawn, also stabilizing the knight on d5. **26.e6†+–** ✓ White's rook will penetrate to the seventh rank with devastating effect.

221. Magnus Carlsen – Teimour Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2015
35.♗g7†! ♕xg7 36.♕xe8† ✓ With a winning advantage due to the two pawns, Black's exposed king and the pawn-like bishop on b6. You don't have to see any further.

222. Magnus Carlsen – Sergey Karjakin, New York (rapid 4) 2016
50.♕h6† ✓ 1–0 What a way to finish a World Championship! It's mate in one however Black takes back.

Chapter 5

Solutions to Intermediate Exercises



There are some aspects of work you need to keep working on and no matter what environment you are in. Continuous learning is very important. It's what I call 'competitive tension', which is about having a competition around. – Viswanathan Anand

Wilhelm Steinitz

Only the player with the initiative has the right to attack.

223. Carl Hamppe – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1859
21...♗xd4†! 22.♔h1 22.cxd4 ♕xh2 mate ✓; Or 22.♖f2 ♕xh2†–+ when the crucial h2-pawn can be taken as both white pieces are pinned. **22...♖xg3–+** ✓ Black won a piece and soon the game.

224. Wilhelm Steinitz – Strauss, Vienna 1860
23.♖xe6†! ♔xe6 23...fxe6 24.♗h6†+– ✓ wins the queen. **24.♕e4†** ✓ **♔d7** White's position is winning and you don't have to see any further. Steinitz played: **25.♕xb7† ♔e6 26.♖e1† ♔f5 27.♕xf7†** 27.♕e4 mate! **27...♔g4 28.♕f3† ♔h4 29.♕h3 mate**

225. Wilhelm Steinitz – Adolf Anderssen, London 1862
33...e3! Black had a dominant position and an extra pawn, so he could win slowly in many ways, but this is the quickest winner. **34.f3** Or 34.fxe3 ♖g6 quickly forces mate. **34...♖g6** ✓ It's still a forced mate. **35.g4 fxg4 36.f4 ♗d5 37.♘d4 ♖a6** Pretty, but an even faster mate was possible with the prosaic 37...♖g2†. **38.♖xa6 ♖b1† 0–1** White resigned, rather than allow a mate such as: 39.♔h2 ♖h1† 40.♔g3 ♖g1† 41.♔h2 ♖g2† 42.♔h1 ♖g3† 43.♔h2 ♖h3† 44.♔g1 ♖h1 mate

226. Henry Bird – Wilhelm Steinitz, London (6) 1866
13...♖de8†! 13...♖he8†! comes to the same thing. **14.♗xe8 ♖xe8† 15.♔f2 ♕e3†** Or 15...♗c5† 16.♔g3 ♕h6! with a winning attack against the stranded king on g3. **16.♔f1 ♗xf3 17.gxf3 ♗c5!** ✓ **0–1** The only move, with forced mate in two moves.

227. Wilhelm Steinitz – Henry Bird, London (9) 1866
9.h3! ♕xg2 9...♕h5 10.g4+– ✓ also traps the queen. **10.♖h2+–** ✓ Bird resigned after: **10...♕xh2 11.♘xh2 ♘xd4 12.♗b5†! 1–0**

228. Wilhelm Steinitz – Hieronim Czarnowski, Paris 1867
21.♘c6†! ♕xc6 21...♗xc6 22.♗xc5† ✓ ♔e8 23.♗xc6† ♕xc6 24.♕xd8 mate. **22.♗xc6 ♗xe3** 22...♖xd2 23.♗xc5†+– ✓ comes with check and wins a rook. **23.♕b4† 1–0** Other moves were also winning.

229. Wilhelm Steinitz – Szymon Winawer, Paris 1867
White has a winning position, but can push his advantage with **17.♕xg6!+–** since Black cannot take back due to: **17...fxg6 18.f7† ♔d8 19.f8=♕† ♖xf8 20.♖xf8 mate** ✓

230. Wilhelm Steinitz – Emile D'Andre, Paris 1867
27.d6! White wins a piece after: **27...♗xd6 28.♗e6+–** ✓

231. Wilhelm Steinitz – Walsh, London (simul) 1870
14.♘e6†! The knight cannot be taken due to the discovered attack. **14...♔e8** 14...fxe6 15.♗a5†+– ✓ and 14...dxe6 15.♗a5† ✓ wins the queen and the game. **15.♘bc7 mate** ✓

232. Wilhelm Steinitz – Henry Bird, London 1870
White is a pawn down, so has to create something. **19.♘ge6! fxe6** It would have been better for Black to give up the exchange on f8 with 19...g6±. With a pawn and opposite-coloured bishops for the exchange, Black has some compensation. Note that the bishop on b5 is essential after 19...g5 20.♘xf8 gxf4 21.♘d7!. ✓ Now, 21...♗d8 22.e5! is the only winning move, but that's not necessary to see before sacrificing the knight. The point is 22...a6 23.exd6† ♔xd6 24.♘e5!+– threatening a fork on f7. **20.♘g6† ♔f7** The knight would not escape from h8 after 20...♔f6, but White has 21.♘xf8+– ✓. **21.♘xh8† ♔f6** The knight looks trapped, but it has two ways to escape. **22.f4** 22.♖e3 is also good: 22...g5 23.♖f3† ♔g7 24.♖xf8 ♔xf8 25.dxe6± with a safe square on f7. **22...♘e7 23.e5†!+– ✓ ♔f5 24.♗d3†! 1–0** Not only can the white knight escape, the black king is mated!

233. Walter Grimshaw – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1872
14.♘c7†! ♔f8 14...♔e7 15.♕d6 mate ✓ **15.♕d6†!** Forcing Black to set up a bank-rank mate. **15...♘ge7 16.♕d8†!** Not 16.♘xa8? ♕a1† with some compensation for the exchange. **16...♘xd8 17.♖xd8 mate** ✓

234. C.E.A. Dupre – Wilhelm Steinitz, The Hague 1873
28.♘d6! c5 28...♖xd6 29.♕e8 ✓ mate is easy, but 28...♕xb2 ✓ is tricky. White's best is to defend against the back-rank mate and take on d4 with the rook on the next move. Instead 29.♕xd4?! ♕xd4 30.♖xd4 is probably winning, but not easily. **29.♖xd4!** ✓ **1–0** The check on e6 is decisive.

235. Wilhelm Steinitz – Jean Dufresne, Liverpool 1874
If only Black had time for 24...b6 and 25...♔b7 – it's not going to happen. **24.d5†! ♔b6** 24...♕xd5 25.♗e4 ✓ wins the queen and 24...♔xd5 is not a nice move to play. There are many ways to stop the king from returning to "safety", and the fastest is 25.♕h1† ♔c5 26.♗e3† ♗d4 27.♗xd4 mate. 24...♔d7 is not the direction the king wants to go. However, Black threatens to shut out White's rook with 25...♗e5. Best is 25.♖e6!+– when White continues with 26.f6 or 26.♗b5†. **25.♗e3†** 25.♖e4 also wins. Black's king can't go to c7 after 25...c5 26.♗d8†+–. **25...c5 26.♕d8†!** The only winning move. **26...♕c7 27.♕xg8+–** ✓ And White won. 27.♗g5 or 27.♕e8 should also win.

236. Wilhelm Steinitz – Dion Martinez, Philadelphia (1) 1882
10...♘xd4!∓ White loses the queen no matter which way he recaptures. **11.♗xf4** Steinitz played the unchallenging 11.c3. Also no help is 11.♕xd4 ♗c5–+ ✓ or 11.♘xd4 ♕xd1–+ ✓. **11...gxf4** 11...♘xf3?! 12.♕d5!∓ creates a pin along the fifth rank and wins back the piece. **12.♘xd4** Black did not win any material (he was a pawn up in the diagram), but destroying White's centre is an achievement. **12...♕h4†** 12...♕xd1 13.♖xd1∓ is also good. However, due to White's exposed king and undeveloped rook on h1, it's more logical to keep on the queens. **13.♔g1 ♗c5∓** Black continues with ...♘e7 or ...♘f6 and ...0–0.

237. Wilhelm Steinitz – Joseph Blackburne, Vienna 1882
23.♗xh6!+– White wins a pawn, since **23...gxh6? 24.♘f6† ♔h8 25.♘xe8** ✓ picks up the rook.

238. Joseph Blackburne – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1882
24.♖d7! Setting up a discovered attack. **24...♕xd7 25.♘h6† gxh6 26.♕xd7** ✓ Black resigned a move later.

239. Wilhelm Steinitz – Samuel Rosenthal, London 1883
33...♖g6†! 34.♗g3 ♖xg3†! 35.hxg3 f2†! 36.♔xf2 36.♖xf2 ♕h1 mate ✓ **36...♕g2† 37.♔e3 ♕f3 mate** ✓

240. Josef Noa – Wilhelm Steinitz, London 1883
12...d5!–+ ✓ Opening up for a pin on b4, winning a pawn to start with. 12...bxc4?! 13.♗xc4 (or 13.♗a4) 13...d5 14.♗b5!± is not the way to exploit the exposed queen.

241. G.H. Thornton – Wilhelm Steinitz, New York 1884
25.♖xf7! White undermines the defence of the rook on e6 while simultaneously defending e1, and doesn't have to worry unduly about the check on f1. **25...♖xf7 26.♕xe6** ✓ 26.♖d8†± is about as strong. **26...♖f1† 27.♗e1 ♕b6 28.♕xb6?!±** On account of Black's open king, White should have kept the queens on the board with: 28.♕e2+– **28...axb6 29.♔d2 ♔g8 30.♖d8† ♗f8 31.♖d7?!** Better is 31.♗g3 with a winning position. **31...♗d6 32.♔e2? ♖g1 33.♔f2 ♖h1 34.♔e2 ♖g1 ½–½**

242. Johannes Zukertort – Wilhelm Steinitz, USA (9) 1886
37...♖c8! 37...♗xg2? 38.♔xg2 ♖xd1 39.♖xd1 ♕g4† 40.♕g3 ♕xd1 and Black is better, but not winning. However, White should not win back the pawn with 41.♖xh6†? ♔xh6 42.♕h4† ♕h5 43.♕xd8 since the outside pawn majority decides after 43...♕g5† 44.♕xg5† ♔xg5. **38.♖xe4** 38.♕xc8 ♕xd2 ✓ and the knight will fall, with mate following shortly. **38...♕xe4** ✓ **0–1** Black will win even more material, so White resigned. 38...fxe4? 39.♕xc8 ♕xd2 40.♕f5† is a perpetual.

243. Isidor Gunsberg – Wilhelm Steinitz, New York (12) 1891
23.♖xd7†! Black actually has no defence even after 23.♖d2+– followed by 24.♖ad1. **23...♔xd7 24.♖d1† ♘d4 25.cxd4!+–** ✓ There follows one or two lethal discovered checks. But not 25.♘xd4†? ♔e7 with an unclear position.

244. Wilhelm Steinitz – Armand Blackmar, Skaneateles (blindfold simul) 1891
8.♘xe5! 8.♗xc6?! ♕xc6 9.♘xe5 ♗xd1 10.♘xc6 ♗xc2= **8...♗xd1 9.♘xd7 ♔xd7** Black has no time for 9...♗xc2 since the bishop on c5 is en prise: 10.♘xc5+– ✓ **10.♔xd1±** White is a pawn up.

245. Wilhelm Steinitz – Mikhail Chigorin, Havana (4) 1892
23.♖xd4! ✓ Steinitz keeps the dark-squared bishop, and can always attack on the dark squares with ♗xe6 and a few heavy pieces on the h-file. The position is winning, and the end came quickly in the game. Instead 23.♗xd4†? ♘xd4 24.♖xd4 is about even. **23...♘xd4 24.♖xh7†** Forcing mate, but not obligatory to see since the alternative is easy enough: 24.♗xd4† ♖f6 and White is winning if the queen hurries towards h6 with a threat along the way. There are three ways: a) 25.♕b5 ♖ef8 26.♕g5+–, b) 25.♕d3 and c) 25.♕d1. **24...♔xh7 25.♕h1† ♔g7 26.♗h6†** Or 26.♕h6† ♔f6 27.♕h4† ♔g7 28.♗h6† ♔h8 29.♗xf8 mate, or 29.♗g5† ♔g7 30.♕h6 mate. **26...♔f6 27.♕h4† ♔e5 28.♕xd4†** Or 28.♕g3† ♔e4 29.♕e3† ♔f5 30.♕f4 mate. When the queen took on d4, Chigorin resigned instead of allowing 28...♔f5 29.g4 mate or 29.♕f4 mate.

246. City of Liverpool – Wilhelm Steinitz, corr. 1893
20...♖xd5! 20...♘d4?! 21.♗e7! is a nice resource, with the point that White can take back twice on e7 with check – thus not giving Black time to capture on h5. Black has to play: 21...hxg6 22.fxg6 ♕xe7! (not 22...♗xg6?! 23.♕xg6 ♖xe7 24.♘xf6†+– or 22...♖xe7?! 23.♕h7† ♔f8 24.♘xf6+–) 23.♘xe7† ♖xe7 Black is not losing, but probably worse and certainly not winning as in the game. **21.exd5 ♘d4 22.♘e7†** There is no defence against 22...♘xf5 23.♖xf5 hxg6 ✓ winning material. **22...♕xe7** ✓ It's over, which White soon accepted.

247. Carl Walbrodt – Wilhelm Steinitz, Hastings 1895
29...♘xf2! 30.♘xf2 ♕e1† Black has a mating attack. **31.♔h2** 31.♕f1 ♗xf2†–+ wins the queen and mates. **31...♗xf2** ✓ **32.h4 h5 0–1** Not the only way to mate, but the quickest.

248. Emanuel Schiffers – Wilhelm Steinitz, Hastings 1895
19...♗xg3! 20.fxg3 ♖xf1† Including 20...♕e3† ruins nothing. **21.♕xf1** The point of the sacrifice is: 21.♔xf1 ♗xg4 22.♕xg4 ♕xc1†–+ ✓ **21...♗xg4 22.♕f4! ♕xf4 23.gxf4⩲** Black is a pawn up, but the opposite-coloured bishops give White fair hopes of making a draw; Schiffers did not manage though.

249. Dawid Janowski – Wilhelm Steinitz, Hastings 1895
17.♖xe6! ♕xb5 17...♕xe6 18.♘c7†+– ✓ forks king and queen. **18.♗h6** 18.♗d2 and 18.♗f4 are also winning. Black can't move the king without giving up the pawn on f7, and 19.♖ae1 not only threatens the bishop on e7, but also the pawn on f6. **18...♔d8 19.♕xf7 ♖e8 20.♖ae1 ♕d7 21.♗g7** Black resigned three moves later.

250. Wilhelm Steinitz – Emanuel Schiffers, Rostov on Don (2) 1896
13.♗xh6!+– Schiffers now accepted that he had lost a pawn. **13...gxh6** The game went 13...♕d7+– and White won after 41 moves. **14.♖xe6!** The point of the sacrifice. **14...fxe6 15.♕g6† ♔h8 16.♕xh6† ♔g8** White can choose between picking up the knight on d5 with **17.♕xe6†** ✓ or being more brilliant by continuing the attack with: 17.♕g6† ♔h8 18.♘g5 (or 18.♕h5† ♔g8 19.♕g4† ♔h8 20.♘g5+–) 18...♕e7 19.♕h5† ♔g8 20.♘xe6 There are also other ways to win.

251. Bobrov – Wilhelm Steinitz, Moscow (simul) 1896
25.♕d8† ♗f8 26.♖h8†! ♔xh8 27.♕xf8† ♔h7 28.♕xf7† ♔h8 29.♗xg6+– ✓ **1–0** Black can only avoid the mate by giving up his queen. 29.♕xg6+– also forces Black to give up the queen, but worse is 29.♕f6†?! ♔g8 30.♕xg6† when White captures the pawn with check, but Black can fight on after 30...♔f8+–.

252. Emanuel Lasker – Wilhelm Steinitz, Moscow (2) 1896
35.♘ec5†! 35.♘bc5† is the same and 35.♘xd6 also wins, but only if White finds: 35...♔xd6 36.♗f4† ♔d5 (36...♔d7 37.♘c5† ♔e8 38.♗d6!+–) 37.♖e5† ♔c4 38.♘c5! White threatens mate-in-three with 39.♖c1† and the try 38...b4 39.b3†! ♔b5 40.♖xe7! ♗xe7 41.♖xe7! is hopeless (full points if you saw this far). White wins back the exchange after 41...♖b6 42.♗c7. White also has a winning position after 35.♗f4 ♘f5 36.♘bc5† ♔c7 37.♘a6†. **35...dxc5 36.♘xc5† ♔d6 37.♗f4†** ✓ 37.♗xe7† is also winning and good enough for full points. The text move forces mate in five moves: **37...♔d5 38.♖e5† ♔c4 39.♖c1† ♔xd4 40.♘b3† ♔d3 41.♖c3 mate** Or 41.♖e3 mate.

253. Wilhelm Steinitz – Emanuel Lasker, Moscow (17) 1897
35...♗xg2! 36.♔xg2 ♕c6†–+ ✓ A double threat, winning back the piece and also another one. 36...♕b7†? 37.♔h2 ♕xb4± only wins one piece. In the game, Steinitz tried to play on an exchange down with **37.♖e4 ♖xe4 38.♖xe4 ♕xe4† 39.♔g1**, but in vain (0–1, 59 moves).

254. Wilhelm Steinitz – Joseph Blackburne, Vienna 1898
35.♗xc6! There is a looming check on e6. **35...f4 36.♖xf4! ♖xg3† 37.♔f2** Or 37.♔f1+–, but not 37.♔h2? ♖3g4∓ and Black wins the bishop thanks to the mate on h4 if the rook protects the bishop. **37...♖h3** There is no perpetual or anything else compensating for the pawns after: 37...♔xc6 38.♖e6† ♔c5 39.♖xh6 ✓ ♖g2† 40.♔e3+– **38.♗d5+–** With a lot of luck, Blackburne held half a point in a long endgame (½–½, 93 moves).

255. Harry Pillsbury – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1898
25.♘f6! gxf6 26.♕h4† Or 26.♗xf6† first. **26...♔g8 27.♗xf6+–** ✓ The double threat against h8 and d8 wins material.

256. Rudolf Loman – Emanuel Lasker, Amsterdam 1889
13.♘xe5! Loman played 13.♗xf7†?! ♔xf7 14.♘xg5†? (14.♘xe5† dxe5 15.♕xg4∓), but he must have overlooked 14...♕xg5! 15.♗xg5 ♗xd1–+ with a fork on f3 (0–1, 22 moves). **13...♗xd1** 13...dxe5 14.♕xg4+– ✓ doesn't help. Instead, Black's best try is 13...♘xb3 14.♕xg4 ✓ ♘xc1 (14...♘xa1 15.♗xg5! ♕c8 16.♕f4 [or 16.♕g3] 16...dxe5 17.♕xe5† ♕e6 18.♕xh8 with an almost winning advantage for White) White has a great initiative after 15.♘xf7± or he can win material with 15.♘f3±. **14.♗xf7† ♔e7 15.♘d5 mate** ✓ Or 15.♗xg5 mate**.**

257. Emanuel Lasker – Theodor von Scheve, Berlin 1890
25.♖xd3! ♕xd3 25...♖xd3 26.♕xa8†+– ✓ **26.♖e8†! 1–0** Black resigned due to: 26...♖xe8 27.♕xd3+– ✓

258. Emanuel Lasker – Gustavus Reichhelm, Philadelphia (simul) 1892
34.♘xe6! ♗e8 34...♕xe6 35.♖g6+– ✓ **35.♖g6!** The only move[illegible]

261. Ostalaza – Emanuel Lasker, Havana 1893
12...♘xf4! 13.♗xf4 The game saw 13.♗b5∓ (0–1, 35 moves). It's important that 13.♘xc6 ♘xe2†∓ ✓ comes with check. **13...♘xd4–+**

270. Emanuel Lasker – R. Lee, Hereford (simul) 1900
1.♗xa6! bxa6 2.b5 axb5 3.axb5+– ✓ White queens. But not 3.a5?? b4–+.

271. Emanuel Lasker – Manuel Marquez Sterling, Paris 1900
12.f5! The pawn sacrifice is good enough even on just positional grounds, but there is also a tactical follow-up. **12...gxf5 13.♗h6!** 13.♘e7 ♕xa4 14.♘xf5 ♖g8! 15.♘xg7† ♖xg7 16.♕xf6 ♕xc2 gives some counterplay, although Black should not have enough for the piece after 17.♘c3 ♕xg2 18.♖f1±. **13...0–0** 13...♗xh6 14.♕xf6 ✓ is a winning double attack and 13...bxc6 14.♗xg7+– was the game (1–0, 28 moves). **14.♕g3** Other moves are interesting as well, so full points if you have seen any of the other lines instead: 14.♗g5 ♘e4 15.♘e7† is winning, as is 14.♗xg7 ♔xg7 15.g4!. Even the immediate 14.g4 seems to give White a winning position. **14...♘e8 15.♘e7†! ♕xe7 16.♗xe8** ✓ **f6+–** White exchanged the "dead" knight on c6 for Black's knight and is a piece up.

272. Emanuel Lasker – E.M. Sala, USA (simul) 1901
22...f2†! 23.♖xf2? 23.♕xf2 ♘f3† 24.♔h1 ♘d2† 25.♔g1 ♘xf1∓ ✓ wins an exchange. **23...♖d1†** Or 23...♕h1† 24.♔xh1 ♖d1† with mate next move. **24.♖f1 ♕h1†** Or 24...♖xf1† 25.♔xf1 ♕h1†–+ **25.♔f2** 25.♔xh1 ♖xf1 mate ✓ **25...♕xf1† 26.♔e3 ♕f3 mate**

273. M.R. Quinault – Emanuel Lasker, USA (simul) 1903
24...♖xh2†! 25.♔xh2 ♕h6† 25...♖h8†? 26.♔g1 ♕g6 allows White to almost escape: 27.♔f2 ♖h2 28.♔e1 ♘xg2† 29.♖xg2 ♖xg2 30.♖f2∓ **26.♔g1 ♘h3†** White must give up his queen, with a losing position. **27.♔h2** Black soon won after 27.♕xh3 ♕xh3 ✓. **27...♘g5†!–+** ✓

274. Emanuel Lasker – Rudolf Loman, USA (simul) 1903
39...♖h4! A beautiful and classic motif. **40.♔xh4 g5† 41.♔xg5 ♔g7–+**

275. Emanuel Lasker – Ferenc Chalupetzky, corr. 1903
13.♗xc6†? bxc6 14.♕xc6† ♔f7 15.♕xa8 wins an exchange, but White loses: 15...exd4† 16.♔f2 ♗b7 and 17...♕e4–+. The exercise was a red herring! If he captures on c6, White has to limit the damage with 15.♕d5†! ♔g6 16.0–0!∓ with two pawns for the piece. But the best move is: **13.♗e2!** ✓ To avoid the check on h5, Black should exchange queens with **13...exd4 14.♕xd4 ♕b4† 15.♕xb4 ♗xb4† 16.c3** when White has a slight advantage with fewer pawn islands. Other non-blundering 13th moves also give full points.

276. Edward Hymes – Emanuel Lasker, USA (simul) 1905
36...♖xh3†! Decisively opening up the king's position. **37.gxh3 ♕xf3†!** ✓ **38.♔h2 ♕g3†** Or 38...♖g3 with mate in a few moves. **39.♔h1 f3 0–1** White resigned, as mate is on the way after 40.♖h2 f2.

277. E. Tarnowski – Emanuel Lasker, corr. 1908
22.♘xd6! 22.♗f4 would not spoil things enough to throw away the win, and 22.♖f1 hxg5 23.♘xd6 still gives White a winning attack. **22...cxd6 23.♕xd6† ♔b7** 23...♔c8 24.♕c5† transposes. **24.♕d5†** ✓ **1–0** Black cannot allow ♗e3†, ♕xe5† or ♕xa8†. So the only option was to resign.

278. Emanuel Lasker – Womersley, England (simul) 1908
1.d5! Another move order also works: 1.♗a6† ♔b8 2.d5! ♗d7 3.♗c4+– (or 3.dxc6 ♗xc6 4.♗c4+–) **1...cxd5** 1...♗xd5 2.♗a6† and one of the pawns will queen with check (or 2.♗xd5+–). **2.♗a6†** 2.c6 dxc4 3.b7† ♔b8 4.d7+– or 2.♗b3+– or 2.♗a2+– all also win. **2...♔b8 3.c6** ✓ **1–0** White is mating.

279. Emanuel Lasker – N.N., Netherlands (simul) 1908
23.♘e6†! fxe6 24.♖xf4† ♔g8 24...♔e8 25.♗b5†+– ✓ and 24...♗f6 25.♖xd8†+– ✓ both fail to save Black. **25.♗xe6 mate** ✓

280. Emanuel Lasker – N.B. Holmes, England (simul) 1908
23...♖xc2! 24.♕xd6 24.♕xc2 ♗f5–+; After the game move, there are many ways to win. The strongest is: **24...♖c1†!** White loses the queen after: **25.♔xc1 ♖c8†–+** Another winning move is 24...♗e6!?–+ with two threats: a discovered check on a2 and 25...♖xf2.

281. Emanuel Lasker – H.P. Fortuin Harreman, Netherlands (simul) 1908
29.♘e7†! ♔h8 30.♕xh7†! ♔xh7 31.♖h4 mate ✓

282. Emanuel Lasker – Joseph Blake, England (simul) 1908
White can exploit Black's back-rank problems. **21.♖ad1! ♖f8 22.♕d5†!** 22.♖e8 eventually wins a piece, but the variations are complicated after 22...♕xa2. If you saw a full line of the following you get full points: a) 23.h4 h6 24.♖dd8! ♖xe8 25.♕xe8† ♔h7 26.h5!+– b) 23.h3 (23.f3 is similar) 23...h6 (23...h5 24.♖dd8! ♖xe8 25.♕xe8† ♔h7 26.♕xh5 mate) 24.g4!+– **22...♔h8 23.♕xf5!+–** ✓

283. Coates/Wallwork – Emanuel Lasker, Manchester (simul) 1908
29...♘h3! 30.gxh3 Allowing the check on f2 is no alternative. **30...♗f3†** Or with more flair: 30...♕f3† 31.♗xf3 ♗xf3 mate **31.♗xf3 ♕xf3 mate** ✓

284. Siegbert Tarrasch – Emanuel Lasker, Germany (2) 1908
15.♗xg7! 15.♘h5!?± **15...♘xf2!** 15...♔xg7 16.♘f5† ♔h8 17.♕xg4+– ✓ **16.♕d4!+–** Retaining the bishop for the black knight leaves Black with a weaker king to take care of. The game instead continued 16.♔xf2 ♔xg7 17.♘f5† ♔h8 18.♕d4†! f6±, when White can take on a7. However, the pawn is not the main thing he has achieved, but instead the tremendous difference between the minor pieces. However, Black managed to turn the game around and win, which would have been less likely if White had found the strongest 16th move.

285. Akiba Rubinstein – Emanuel Lasker, St Petersburg 1909
17.♖xc6†! bxc6 18.♕c1± Not 18.♕d2? ♖e5 and the undefended queen on d2 saves Black. In the game, White wins the whole rook and is a pawn up after: **18...♖xd4 19.fxe3 ♖d6 20.♖xf7±** ✓

286. Julio Lynch – Emanuel Lasker, Buenos Aires (simul) 1910
30...♖xe2! 31.♖xe2 ♖b1†! Precise. 31...♘xf4 32.♖e1 ♘xd5 33.exd5† does not win a pawn, even though Black is better due to the pawn structure. **32.♔g2 ♘xf4† 33.♔f3 ♘xe2 34.♔xe2 ♖b2† 35.♔f3 ♖xa2∓** ✓ White has decent drawing chances and managed to save himself in the game.

287. J. Bar – Emanuel Lasker, Germany (simul) 1913
30...♘xe5!∓ Black wins back his pawn, as **31.dxe5? d4–+** ✓ threatens to win not one but both rooks, as well as the bishop. The game continued 31.♘g3 (1–0, 58 moves).

288. Vilhelm Nielsen – Emanuel Lasker, Copenhagen (simul) 1919
White can convert his positional advantage into a material advantage: **15.♗xh7†! ♔xh7 16.♕d3† ♔g8 17.♕xd7±** ✓ (1–0, 41 moves)

289. Prusa – Emanuel Lasker, Prague (simul) 1924
White is much better, and can tactically increase his advantage. **19.♕c3†! f6 20.♘xf6! ♖xf6 21.♗xh6†! ♔xh6** 21...♔f7 22.♘g5†+– ✓ **22.♕xf6+–** ✓ Black cannot challenge White's queen. There are many ways to win, among them the moves in the game: **22...♗d7 23.♕f7 ♕g8 24.g5†** The game ended here, and since it is mate-in-three it seems likely the supposed "0–1" result is a mistake.

290. Emanuel Lasker – Vrbasic, Yugoslavia (simul) 1924
1.a6! bxa6 2.♔d7! ✓ **1–0** Black cannot stop the pawn.

291. A. Arnold – Emanuel Lasker, Prague (simul) 1924
15.e6! fxe6 16.♕h5† g6 17.♕xc5+– ✓ Black is lost and walked into another tactic: **17...0–0–0 18.♗xe6 1–0**

292. Alexander Alekhine – Emanuel Lasker, New York 1924
28...♘g5! 29.♘xg5 Alekhine's 29.♘e5 fxe5 30.♕xg5 e4–+ ✓ lost a piece. **29...♕h2† 30.♔f1 fxg5!–+** ✓ The double threat of 31...♕xh3 and 31...♕h1† 32.♔e2 ♕xg2 decides.

293. Emanuel Lasker – Kenneth Smith, USA (simul) 1926
White will soon regret putting baby in a (tight) corner! **15...♘g3†! 16.hxg3 hxg3†** ✓ The king is trapped, so White has to give back the bishop, when he will fall apart on the dark squares and h-file. **17.♗h2 ♖xh2† 18.♔g1–+** Black has already won a pawn and wins by moving the next rook to h8, or using the b6-g1 diagonal (0–1, 27 moves).

294. Muehrenberg – Emanuel Lasker, Copenhagen (simul) 1927
23.♗xd6! cxd6 23...♗c8 was played in the game (1–0, 42 moves). **24.♘xd6+–** ✓ Black's queen cannot defend the bishop on d7 or rook on f7, so he loses an exchange.

295. Emanuel Lasker – Buchholtz, Copenhagen (simul) 1927
21.♕d8†! ♕f8 22.♖xg7†! ♔xg7 23.♕g5† ♔f7 24.♕g6† ♔e7 25.♗g5† ✓ White has a mating attack; the game concluded: **25...♘f6 26.♗xf6† ♕xf6 27.♕xf6† ♔e8 28.♗g6 mate**

296. Bruno Hartmann – Emanuel Lasker, Copenhagen (simul) 1927
24.♖e6!+– ✓ There is no defence against 25.♗xh6; taking on e6 opens up for mate on h7. Instead after 24.♗xh6? ♖xe1† 25.♔f2 ♔g8! 26.♗f4 ♖fe7 White has only a perpetual: 27.♕h7† ♔f7 28.♕g6† ♔g8=; 24.♖xe8? ♕xe8 25.♗xh6 is actually losing after: 25...♕e1† 26.♗f1 ♔g8 27.♗f4 ♗h4!–+

Jose Raul Capablanca

I think an important lesson from the game is that once you have made a move, you cannot take it back. You really have to measure your decisions.

297. A. Gavilan – Jose Raul Capablanca, Havana 1901
20...♗xh3! 21.gxh3 ♕xh3† 22.♔g1 ♕xg3†–+ ✓ The f2-pawn is pinned and White loses his knight on d3 (0–1, 39 moves).

298. Jose Raul Capablanca – Juan Antonio Blanco Jimenez, Havana 1901
47.h4! The only winning move. **47...♔f4 48.h5 ♔g5 49.♔f7!+–** ✓ Black is not in time to capture both pawns.

299. Jose Raul Capablanca – Rudolf Raubitschek, New York 1906
32.♖xa7†! ♕xa7 33.♖a5! It's mate on the next move. The game ended: **33...♕xa6 34.♖xa6 mate** ✓

300. Rudolf Raubitschek – Jose Raul Capablanca, New York 1906
24...♖xg2†! 25.♔f1 25.♖xg2 ♖xg2† 26.♔xg2 ♕xf6–+ ✓ wins the queen. **25...♗c4†** 25...♖xf2† 26.♕xf2 ♗h3† is also mating, as is 25...♖g1† 26.♔e2 ♗c4†. **26.♘xc4 ♖g1 mate** ✓

301. Albert Pulvermacher – Jose Raul Capablanca, New York 1907
10...♘xe4!–+ Black wins a piece, due to: **11.♗xd8 ♗f2 mate** ✓

302. Jose Raul Capablanca – Edward Adams, Washington DC 1907
37...♗b4! The sacrifice could be postponed a move, but not longer – White's king was on the way to defend with ♔g2-f3-e4-d3. **38.axb4 ♖xd1 39.♘xd1 a3** ✓ **0–1** One of the pawns will queen.

303. Jose Raul Capablanca – William Pratt, Troy (simul) 1909
17...♖d7! 17...♖d5? 18.g4! and White is only slightly worse. **18.♘xh8 ♖e7!** Black wins the bishop on c1, with a devastating pin along the first rank. **19.g3 ♖e1† 20.♔g2 ♖xc1–+** ✓ The game continued **21.d4 ♗d6 22.♘f7 h6 23.♘xd6† cxd6 24.♔f2** and Pratt won by collecting the kingside pawns while Capablanca released his knight (0–1, 43 moves).

304. Juan Corzo y Prinzipe – Jose Raul Capablanca, Havana 1909
9.♘xe5! 9.♘f6† is a move order that also works. **9...♗xd1 10.♘f6† ♔f8** Or 10...gxf6 11.♗xf7† ♔f8 12.♗h6 mate ✓. **11.♘ed7†** 11.♘fd7† also forces Black to give back the queen. **11...♕xd7 12.♘xd7† ♔e8 13.♖xd1 ♔xd7 14.♗xf7±** ✓ White's queen sacrifice won a pawn in the end (½–½, 76 moves). 14.e5 might be slightly stronger, and a few other moves also give a clear advantage.

305. Jose Raul Capablanca – Einar Michelsen, New York 1910
27.♕xd5†! ♔c7 27...♔e8 28.♖e1† is Game Over and 28.♘d6† also leads to mate. **28.♕d6†!** ✓ White is mating. **28...♔b6 29.♖b1†** 29.♘fe7 and 29.♘ge7 are also winning. **29...♔a6 30.♕a3†** Other moves are mating as well. **30...♘a5 31.♕d3†! 1–0** The only winning move, before Black creates an escape-square on b7.

306. O. Tuka – Jose Raul Capablanca, Prague (simul) 1911
25.♘xe4! 25.♘b3 is also winning for White, again winning either the bishop or the knight. In the game, Black can't take back due to **25...♕xe4 26.♗f3+–** ✓ and if he doesn't take, then he loses the bishop on c5 or the knight on e7.

307. Jan Podhajsky – Jose Raul Capablanca, Prague (simul) 1911
21...♕h3!–+ ✓ There is no defence against 22...♖xf2. Capablanca played 21...♖f3?! 22.♔g2 ♕g4 and won after 23.♖h1 h5!–+ (0–1, 31 moves). However, 23.♖g1! h5 24.♔h2 would have held an equal position. 21...♖xf2? 22.♖xf2 ♕xg3† 23.♔h1 ♕xe3 24.♖g2 ♕xd4 25.♖xg5 hxg5∞ leads to a highly unusual position with five pawns for a rook.

308. Jose Raul Capablanca – Edward Tennenwurzel, New York 1911
17.♘xf7! ♔xf7 18.♖xe4! dxe4 Tennenwurzel played 18...♗c8 ✓ and Capablanca had several ways to win. The easiest is 19.f5, when Black still can't take on g5 or e4, and other moves are just losing. 19...dxe4 (19...♗xg5 20.♕h5†+– and White picks up almost everything) 20.♗c4† ♗e6 21.♕xh7! Not the only winning move, but the prettiest and strongest. 21...♘xh7 22.♘e5† ♔g8 23.♗xe6† ♔h8 24.♘g6 mate) **19.♗c4† ♗d5 20.♕f5†! ♔g8 21.♗xd5†** Or 21.♕xd5†+–. **21...♔h8** Now, White wins with **22.♘e5** ✓, either immediately, or after capturing on a8, e7 or e4.

309. Jose Raul Capablanca – William Morris, New York 1911
26.♖e7! ♕xe7 27.♘xf5+– ✓ White not only threatens the queen, but also 28.♖xh7† ♔xh7 29.♕h5 mate.

310. Jose Raul Capablanca – J. Koksal, Prague (simul) 1911
22...♖xd3! 23.cxd3 ♖e2 The raking bishops together with the active rook give Black a winning attack. **24.d4 ♗xg2†** 24...♗xd4 25.♗c3 gives some back-rank problems, but Black wins all the same after 25...♗xg2†! 26.♔h2 ♗c6†! 27.♔g3 ♗f2†! 28.♔g4 h5† 29.♔xh5 ♗f3† 30.♔g5 ♗e3† 31.♔h4 ♖g2 with ...♗g5 mate coming. **25.♔h2 ♗c6† 26.♔g1** 26.♔g3 is forced mate: 26...♗d6† 27.♔h4 ♖e4† 28.♔h5 g6† 29.fxg6 hxg6† 30.♔g5 ♗e7† 31.♔h6 ♖h4 mate **26...♗xd4† 27.♔f1 ♗b5 28.♗c3 ♖xb2† 0–1**

311. Jose Raul Capablanca – Rudolf Spielmann, San Sebastian 1911
28.♗f4! Developing with tempo and defending against the mate. **28...♕d8 29.♖xe7!+–** ✓ Black is mated, even after **29...♕f8 30.♕xg7†**, as in the game (mate in 15).

312. Wilhelm Kluxen – Jose Raul Capablanca, Hamburg (simul) 1911
17.♘g6†! ♕xg6 17...hxg6 18.♕h3† ♕h4 19.♕xh4 mate ✓ **18.♗xg6 ♖xf5 19.♗xf5+–** ✓ The knight is trapped, so White wins a piece. **19...g6 20.♗e4 1–0**

313. Jose Raul Capablanca – Rolando Illa, Buenos Aires 1911
25.♕d7†! ♖e7 26.♖xg7†! ♔xg7 27.♕xe7† ♔h6 27...♖f7 28.♕xf7†! ♔xf7 29.♖xb6 axb6 ✓ White's c-pawns are not impressive, but the outside passed pawn on the h-file secures the win. **28.♖g1±** ✓ White has collected a second pawn and has good winning chances (1–0, 38 moves).

314. Leopold Carranza – Jose Raul Capablanca, Buenos Aires 1911
12...♗xc2! Capturing a pawn that's defended twice. **13.♗xc2 ♘c4∓** ✓ Black wins back the piece with an extra pawn.

315. E. Weiss – Jose Raul Capablanca, Hamburg (simul) 1911
14.♖xg7†! ♔xg7 15.♗h6† ♔h8 16.♕g5 ♘h5 17.♖g1!+– ✓ There is no defence against 18.♗g7† followed by 19.♗f6†. Instead, 17.♕xh5 is *not* easily winning due to 17...♘d7!. Even though White gets two pieces for a rook after 18.♕xf7 ♖g8 19.♕xd7 ♗xc3 20.bxc3 ♕xc3 21.♕xd5±, Black has counterplay against the weak white king.

316. Charles Jaffe – Jose Raul Capablanca, New York 1912
9...exd4! By opening the e-file, Black prepares 10...♘xe4. **10.cxd4** 10.♗xf6 ♘c5! (10...♗xf6∓) The knight move threatens to capture the queen with check, and Black wins the e-pawn after 11.♕xd4 ♗xf6–+ ✓. **10...♘xe4–+** ✓ White has no compensation for the pawn (0–1, 31 moves).

317. Jose Raul Capablanca – N.N., Louisville (simul) 1912
18...♖xe5! 19.dxe5 19.♕xe5 ♘d3†–+ ✓ forks queen and king. **19...♗d3** ✓ Black wins the knight and, with the extra pawns and a strong continued attack, he has a winning position. The game continued 19...♘d3†? 20.♔f1 ♕xb5 21.♗xa5 ♕xa5∓ when Black is better, with two pawns and a better king for the exchange, but Capablanca later turned the game around (1–0, 42 moves).

318. Jose Raul Capablanca – Juan Corzo y Prinzipe, Havana 1913
24.♗xg6! hxg6? Black should have accepted the loss of a pawn after 24...♗f6, but any bishop-retreat (b1, c2 or d3) gives White a huge advantage. For example: 25.♗b1 ♗xc3? 26.♖xe6! and White is winning even more material. **25.♕xg6† ♔h8 26.♖xe6+–** ✓ Black has to give up a piece to prevent the heavy piece onslaught (1–0, 32 moves).

319. R. Portela – Jose Raul Capablanca, Havana 1913
35...♖xd3†! 36.♖xd3 e4† 37.♔e3 37.♔g3 ♖g4†! is important: 38.♔f2 exd3 ✓ with a winning rook or pawn ending. **37...♖h3†!** 37...exd3? 38.♔xd3 ♖xh2∓ allows counterplay on the queenside. **38.♖g3** 38.♔d4 ♖xd3† ✓ 39.♔c4–+ and the e-pawn queens if Black keeps the rook on the d-file. **38...♖xg3† 39.hxg3 exd3 40.♔xd3 ♔g4** ✓ The endgame can be evaluated as won without much calculation. The rest is given anyway, just in case. **41.♔c4 ♔xg3** 41...b6 is easier. **42.♔c5 h5 43.♔b6 h4 44.♔xb7 h3 45.a5 h2 46.a6 h1=♕ 47.a7 c5† 48.♔b8 ♕h8† 49.♔b7** The remaining moves are strange in ChessBase. There are two ways to win:
a) 49...♕g7† 50.♔b8 ♕f8† 51.♔b7 ♕e7† 52.♔b8

320. Jose Raul Capablanca – Fedor Duz-Khotimirsky, St Petersburg 1913
28.♘f5! fxe6 28...gxf5 29.♕xf5 ✓ with unavoidable mate. Instead, the best defensive try is 28...♔h8 29.♕e4! (several other moves provide a clear advantage) 29...fxe6 30.♘xe7 ♕xe7 31.dxe6 ♘c3 32.♕xd4† ♕g7, but White is winning all the same. **29.dxe6! ♕c7** 29...♕xf3 30.♘xe7† ✓ wins a piece, but there is no tactical way to finish the game after 29...♖b8. However, there is no need for it; White is winning if he avoids the queen exchange. **30.♕c6!** ✓ Not obligatory, but a precise move that wins the b-pawn (1–0, 47 moves). 30.♕g4/g3 and 30.♘xe7† are also decent enough.

321. Jose Raul Capablanca – Richard Reti, Vienna 1914
33.♖c8†! ♔e7 34.b7 ♗xb7 35.♖c7† ♔e6 36.♖xb7+– ✓ White won easily.

322. Jose Raul Capablanca – U. Kalske, Helsinki 1914
16...♖xf3! The two pieces are winning against the rook after whatever way White takes on f3. **17.♕xf3 ♘xg5–+** ✓

323. Jose Raul Capablanca – Masyutin, Kiev 1914
14.♘c4†! Or 14.♖xf6! gxf6 15.♘c4† dxc4 16.♘e4† ♔d5 17.♘xf6† ♔xd4 (17...♔d6 18.♘e4† ♔d5 19.♕h5† with mate) 18.♖d1† winning the queen. **14...dxc4 15.♘e4†** ✓ With a mating attack. **15...♔d5 16.♖f5†** 16.♖xf6+– reaches the line above, and 16.♕h5† wins as well. **16...♔xe4** 16...♔xd4 17.c3† ♔d3 18.♖f3† ♔c2 19.♖f2† ♔d3 20.♘c5† mate **17.♖e1† ♔xd4 18.c3† ♔d3 19.♖d5 mate**

324. Jose Raul Capablanca – Joseph Blackburne, St Petersburg 1914
White is winning after most moves, but can decide the game directly in a few moves: **28.♖xg7†! ♔xg7 29.♖g1† ♔f8 30.♕g6+–** ✓ White threatens both a mating attack and the rook (which cannot escape or be protected anyway).

325. Jose Raul Capablanca – Lynch/Villegas, Buenos Aires 1914
37.♘e6 ♔xd7 38.♘c5† ♔c6 39.♘xd3+– ✓ And White won.

326. Jose Raul Capablanca – M. Wolfson, New York (simul) 1915
35...♖a2†! 36.♔xa2 ♕a4† Black resigned, as it's mate: **37.♔b2 ♖e2† 38.♔c1 ♕c2 mate** ✓

327. Jose Raul Capablanca – J.M. Stahr, Chicago 1915
33.♖xe6†! ✓ 33.♕xf5† exf5 34.♖xc7 ♖xg2† is probably winning for White, but he only keeps 35...onepsf

328. Jose Raul Capablanca – Christoph Wolff, New York 1915
22...♖xe3! 23.fxe3 ♗xe3† If Black does not keep on the queens, White can safely continue with the counterplay on the queenside without fearing an attack: 23...♕xe3†?! 24.♕xe3 ♗xe3† 25.♔f1 ♗xc1 26.♘a4 ♗a3 27.♖a5 And White's active pieces compensate for the material deficit. **24.♔h1 ♗xc1** Black has won two pawns, but Capablanca could have taken one back with **25.♘xd5! cxd5 26.♖xc1∓** ✓ when White has drawing chances.

329. Walter Shipley – Jose Raul Capablanca, Philadelphia (simul) 1915
31...♖xf2! 32.♖xf2 ♘d3 The queen can't defend both f2 and a1. But not 32...♕xf2†?? 33.♔xf2 ♘d3† 34.♔e3 ♘xc1 35.♖xc1+–. **33.♕d2 ♕xa1** ✓ **34.♖e2 ♕d4† 0–1** White resigned, as he is two pawns down.

330. Manfred Schroeder – Jose Raul Capablanca, New York 1916
16...♗g3†! 17.hxg3 17.♔f1 ♘f2–+ ✓ with a fork. **17...♕xg3† 18.♔d2 ♘f2–+** ✓ The queen can't defend the rook, and that's only one of White's problems.

331. Jose Raul Capablanca – Marc Fonaroff, New York 1918
20.♘h6†! ♔h8 21.♕xe5! ♕xe5 22.♘xf7†!+– ✓ Black is mated or loses a piece.

332. Jose Raul Capablanca – Walter Shipley, Philadelphia (simul) 1918
32...♘xa3†! 33.♖xa3 33.bxa3 ♕xc3! ✓ and White dearly misses his b-pawn. **33...♖xb2†!** The game continued 33...♗xa3? 34.♘xb5! ♕xb5± when Black was a pawn up, but Capablanca showed that the h-pawn is worth more than that. **34.♕xb2 ♗xa3 35.♕b3 ♖xh6∓** Now Black is two pawns up, although White has some counter-chances due to Black's misplaced rook. However, note that he can't play: **36.♕g8† ♔c7 37.♕g7† ♔b6 38.♕xh6 ♕b4† 39.♔a2 ♕b2 mate** ✓

333. Harold Cole – Jose Raul Capablanca, Hastings 1919
29...♗xf5! 29...♘xe4 30.♘xe4 ♕xe4 31.♕xe4 ♖xe4 32.♗h6 leaves White with some hope. **30.♕xf5** 30.exf5 ♕e1† 31.♕f1 ♕xc3–+ ✓ also gives a position with two pawns extra. **30...♕xc3** ✓ **0–1** There is nothing dangerous happening on g7 due to the exposed white king, so the material advantage is decisive.

334. Jose Raul Capablanca – Boris Kostic, Havana (3) 1919
White already has two pawns, but Black threatens 29...♗xe1 and 29...♖d4. There is a solution to both of the threats: **29.♖e8! ♖d4** 29...♖xe8 30.♖xe8† ♕xe8 31.♕xd5 ✓ wins, since Black can't exploit the first rank. **30.♖xf8†** Or 30.♕e6. **30...♗xf8 31.♕e6** ✓ White keeps both pawns with a serious advantage. 31.♕c1 is equally strong.

335. Jose Raul Capablanca – Edward Tinsley, London (simul) 1919
17.♘h6†! gxh6 17...♔h8 18.♘xe4+– ✓ leaves White a piece up. **18.♘xe4** Threatening 19.♘f6†. The only defence is taking it, but after **18...♖xe4 19.♕xe4+–** ✓ the compensation is clearly insufficient. The black king is open, his pawns are weak, and f4-f5 can be annoying at some point if Black does not further weaken himself with ...f7-f5.

336. Jose Raul Capablanca – T. Bray, Birmingham (simul) 1919
12.♘xf7! 12.♘e5! ♘xe5 13.dxe5 winning a piece, also gives full points, but only if you saw: 13...♕d5 14.♕f1! The knight cannot move due to 15.♗e4 winning the b7-bishop. **12...♗xf3** 12...♔xf7 13.♘g5† ♔f8 (or 13...♔g8 14.♕xe6† ♔h8 15.♘f7† ♔g8 16.♘h6† ♔h8 17.♕g8† ♖xg8 18.♘f7 mate ✓) 14.♘xe6†+– ✓ A fork on the king and the queen. **13.gxf3** Also strong is 13.♕xe6 threatening mate, and 13...♗d5 14.♘xd8† ♗xe6 15.♘xe6 leaves White two pawns up with a positional advantage to boot. **13...♔xf7 14.♕xe6† ♔f8 15.♗c4 ✓ 1–0** There is no defence.

337. Jose Raul Capablanca – Valentin Marin y Llovet, Barcelona (simul) 1920
White has a pawn for the exchange, and with the king on b1 there would be hope. But **26...♖xa2†! 27.♕xa2 ♖a6–+** is brutal. The game ended: **28.♕xa6 ♕xa6† ✓ 29.♔b1 ♕d3† 0–1**

338. Jose Raul Capablanca – M. Coll, Barcelona (simul) 1920
16.♘xf7! ♔xf7 The game continuation was 16...♕c7 17.♕xe6 ♗f8 18.♘xh6† ♔h8 19.♕g8† ♘xg8 20.♘f7 mate. **17.♕xe6† ♔f8 18.♗g6 ✓** Mate is unavoidable.

339. Jose Raul Capablanca – E.S. Maddock, New York (simul) 1922
25.♘xf6! ♗xf3 26.♗xf3! 26.♘xd7 ♗xe2 27.♘xe5 ♗xd1† 28.♔xd1 f6 is only slightly better for White, as the pawn on d3 falls. **26...♕d6 27.♗xe5 ✓** White can also start with 27.♗xb7†. **27...♕b6+–** The point is 27...♕xe5 28.♗xb7† ♔b8 29.♘c6†+– ✓ with a fork. **28.♘xb7?** Easier was 28.♗xb7† ♔b8 29.♘c6† ♔xb7 30.♘xd8† with too many pieces for the queen, and a decisive attack. **28...c4!** Black threatens both 29...♕xb3† and 29...♕f2†, but Capablanca would still have been close to winning if he had played: **29.d4 ♕xb3† 30.♔d2 ♕b2† 31.♔e3 ♕xc3† 32.♔f2** Instead, the game continued 29.♘xd8 (1–0, 37 moves) but here Black could have drawn with 29...♕f2† 30.♖d2 cxd3† 31.♔c1 ♕e1† 32.♖d1 ♕e3† 33.♖d2 ♕e1†.

340. Jose Raul Capablanca – Perkins, New York (simul) 1924
20...f4! 21.♖xh8 21.gxf4 exf4 22.♗xf4 ♘d4† 23.♔e3 and Black picks up an exchange with a winning position after 23... **f2 vc**xf4

343. Jose Raul Capablanca – A. Souza Campos, Sao Paulo 1927
20.♖h3†! ♔g8 21.♘xf6†! ♔f8 21...gxf6 22.♗xf6 ✓ with mate on h8. **22.♖h8†** ✓ **♔e7** There are now several ways to mate. **23.♖e8†** 23.♘g8† ♔e8 24.♘h6† followed by 25.♗(x)f7 mate is equally fast. **23...♖xe8 24.♖xd7† ♔f8 25.♖xf7 mate**

344. Jose Raul Capablanca – C.H. Reid, London 1928
17...♖xh4†! The move order 17...♗xg2 works as well, as 18.♘xg2 loses to 18...h4. But 17...♖hg8 18.♗h3! is not as clear, although probably still winning after 18...f5. **18.gxh4 ♗xg2 19.♔xg2** 19.fxe5 was the hopeless game continuation: 19...♕h3† 20.♔g1 ♗xf1 and White resigned. **19...♕g4† 20.♔f2 ♕xh4†** ✓ 20...♘d4 21.♗xd4 ♕xf4† also wins. **21.♔f3** White has to give up several pieces to avoid mate after for example: **21...♘d4† 22.♔e4 f5† 23.♔d5 ♕f6–+**

345. Jose Raul Capablanca – Gracie Square Pharmacy Chess Club, New York (simul) 1931
37.f6†! Black has to take on f6 to defend the g6-pawn. **37...♖fxf6 38.♘h5† ♔h7?** No better is 38...♔h8 39.♕h6† ♔g8 40.♕g7 mate ✓. Black had to play 38...♔f7 39.♖xf6† ♖xf6 40.♕xf6† ♔e8. Without rooks, he threatens both 41...bxa2 and a lot of checks. The trick is to take on g6, defend the f1-square and the e4-pawn with check, and then take on b3: 41.♕xg6† ✓ ♔d8 42.♕f6† ♔c7 43.♕f4† ♔b7 44.axb3+– **39.♘xf6†** ✓ White can take care of the black counter-threats in more than one way, for instance: **39...♔g7 40.♘h5† ♔h7 41.♕e7† ♔h6 42.♘g3+–** The knight moves back to g3.

346. Jose Raul Capablanca – Glicco, Mexico 1933
17.♗xf7†! ♔h7 17...♕xf7 18.♘xh6†+– ✓ A fork. 17...♔xf7 18.♕b3† ♔e8 (or 18...♘d5 19.exd5 gxf5 20.dxc6† ✓ ♔g7 21.cxd7 ♗xd7 22.♘xe5+– with three pawns more) 19.♕e6† ♕e7 20.♕xe7 mate ✓ **18.♗xg6†! ♔xg6 19.dxe5+–** ✓ 20.e6 and 21.e7 or 21.♘e5 wins material wherever Black moves the knight.

347. Jose Raul Capablanca – George Thomas, Hastings 1934
24...♕a5–+ ✓ A double threat against the bishop and knight. Thomas started with 24...♖xd2?! 25.♖xd2 before playing 25...♕a5. He was winning, and won, but there was little reason to give away the exchange. Perhaps he feared the knight coming to d6, but apart from giving up the exchange when that happens, he could also win with: **25.♘c4 ♖xd1! 26.♖xd1** 26.♘xa5 ♖xe1† 27.♗f1 ♗a6–+ **26...♕xb5 27.♘d6 ♕d7** When all is well and safe.

348. Jose Raul Capablanca – Llusa, Barcelona (simul) 1935
19.♕xh7† 19.♖xf4? ♖xf4–+ **19...♔f7 20.♖xf4†! ♕xf4 21.♖f1 ♕xf1† 22.♗xf1+–** ✓ Black has no chance of surviving, with his poor development and weak king. Or 22.♔xf1+–.

349. Jose Raul Capablanca – Andor Lilienthal, Moscow 1936
35.♘xb7! ♖xb7 35...♘xc4! is the best defence. White is a pawn up after 36.♗xc6†± but there is work left to do to convert. **36.♗xc6† ♖d7+–** ✓ It is possible to imagine a situation where Black blockades the queenside pawns, but it is not realistic with careful play. Best is the game move: **37.c5** (1–0, 54 moves)

350. Jose Raul Capablanca – J.C. Rather, New York (simul) 1936
18.♘xd5! ♕xd5 No better are 18...♘xd5 19.♖xh7† ♔xh7 20.♖h1 mate ✓ or 18...♖g8 19.♘xf6! ♖xg5 20.♖xh7 mate ✓. **19.♖xh7†! ♘xh7** 19...♔xh7 20.♖h1† ✓ with mate. **20.♕xd5+– ✓ 1–0**

Alexander Alekhine

When asked "How is it that you pick better moves than your opponents?" I responded: "I'm very glad you asked me that, because, as it happens, there is a very simple answer. I think up my own moves, and I make my opponent think up his."

351. V. Malkov – Alexander Alekhine, corr. 1902
21.♖h7†! ♔xh7 22.♕h5† ♔g8 22...♔g7 23.♕h6† ✓ ♔g8 24.♖h1 with mate. **23.♗xg6** There are other ways to win, but this is the cleanest. **23...fxg6 24.♕xg6† ♔h8 25.♖h1 mate ✓**

352. Alexander Alekhine – Nikolay Zubakin, corr. 1902
White's king seems reasonably safe in the centre, but with **19...♖xd4†!** Black exposes it to the deadly onslaught of his entire army. **20.exd4 ♗f4† 21.♔d1 ♕xd4† 22.♕d3 ♕xd3 mate ✓**

353. Alexander Alekhine – S. Antushev, corr. 1903
14.♘xe5! ♗xd1 The game went 14...♘xe5 15.♕xh5+– ✓. **15.♗xf7† ♔f8 16.♘xc6** This wins back the queen. Also good is the long but forcing variation 16.♗d5† ♔e8 17.♗xc6† ♔e7 18.♘g6† ♔e6 19.♗d5† ♔d7 20.♖f7† ♔c8 21.♘e7† ♕xe7 22.♖xe7±. **16...♕d7 17.♗e6†± ✓** White is two pawns up and has good winning chances.

354. Alexander Alekhine – V. Zhukovsky, corr. 1905
27...♘f2! Zhukovsky played 27...♕b5†? when strongest is 28.c4!∞ to open the third rank for the queen. 27...♘h2†? 28.♔g1 ♘f3† also fails to win after: 29.♔h1 ♖g8! (threatening 30...♕xh3† 31.hxg3 g2 mate) 30.♗xg3! ♖xg3 31.♕f8†= It's almost a perpetual, and if not then White can defend the knight on h3. **28.♔g1** 28.♗xg3 ♘xh3! 29.gxh3 ♕f3† ✓ leads to mate, as does 28.♘xf2 ♕e2† 29.♔g1 ♕e1† 30.♖xe1 ♖xe1 mate ✓. **28...♘xh3†! 29.gxh3 ♕xh3!** ✓ White will be mated. 29...♕e2 30.♗xg3 ♕e3† 31.♔h2 ♕f3! 32.♖e1 ♖d8! is also mating.

355. V.M. Manko – Alexander Alekhine, corr. 1906
25.♘xh7! 25.♖xh7†! gives the same result. **25...♖xh7 26.♖xh7† ♔xh7 27.♕xc7† ♔h6 28.♖d8+–** ✓ Or 28.♕xb8+–, or even 28.h4+–.

356. Alexander Alekhine – Otto Kunze, Düsseldorf 1908
23.♗xg6! ♘xg6 24.♕xe6† ♔h8 25.♕xg6 ✓ White threatens 26.♖f7 or moving the queen with check followed by g5-g6. It is a forced mate. The game ended with: **25...♕c6 26.♕h5† ♔g8 27.♕f7† ♔h8 28.g6 d4† 29.♘d5 1–0**

357. Alexander Alekhine – H. Koehnlein, Düsseldorf 1908
16.♕xd6! 16.♘f7† ♖xf7 17.♗xf7 ♗d7+– is not quite as good. **16...cxd6 17.♘f7† ♖xf7 18.♖e8† ♖f8 19.♖xf8 mate ✓**

358. Alexander Alekhine – Dawid Daniuszewski, St Petersburg 1909
Black is positionally winning and after **34...♕xg6! 35.fxg6 ♖xf1–+** ✓ he also wins material. White's queen cannot escape. The double threat with 34...♕c4 picks up a pawn, and if you are 100% sure you would win this, you can give yourself full points (hand on your heart!).

359. Alexander Alekhine – Savielly Tartakower, Hamburg 1910
21.♘d5†! ♔e8 21...exd5 22.♖ae1†+– ✓ followed by 23.♖xf8. **22.♘xc7† ♔e7 23.♘d5† ♔e8±** ✓ The knight retreats to e3, with or without the exchange on f8.

360. Alexander Alekhine – Krotky, Tula (simul) 1910
20.♖xf7! ♕xf7 21.♘b6† axb6 22.♗xf7 ✓ If Black had time to move the knight and take on h4, he would have compensation for the exchange. But there is no hope after: **22...♘f6 23.hxg5+–**

361. Alexander Alekhine – Gutkevitsch, Moscow (simul) 1910
14.♗h6! 14.♘xg7? ♔xg7 15.♗h6† ♔h8 is not mating. **14...♘e8** 14...gxh6 15.♕xh6+– ✓ threatens mate both on g7 and h7. The best defence was 14...g6, since Black gets the bishop pair if White takes the exchange. But 15.♘g7! puts an end to that dream. **15.♗xg7!** An important move – otherwise 14.♗h6 makes no sense. **15...♘xg7 16.♕h6+–** ✓

362. Ossip Bernstein – Alexander Alekhine, Vilnius 1912
21...♘xc3! 22.♗xg6 22.♕xc3 ♗xe4–+ ✓ is over, and Black wins an exchange after 22.♗xa8 ♘xb1–+ ✓ (not 22...♘xd1?! 23.♗f3∓ and the knight is trapped). After the game move, there are many ways to win: capturing a rook or creating a double threat against g2 and g5. Alekhine chose: **22...♕d5 23.♗xh7† ♔h8 24.f4 ♘xb1 25.♖xb1 ♕xd4†–+**

363. Alexander Alekhine – Boris Koyalovich, St Petersburg 1912
34...♗d4! Black defends against 35.♕f6† or 35.♕xh8†. **35.♖xd4 ♗xc4†! 36.♔f2** No salvation is offered by 36.♖xc4 ♕xc4†–+ ✓ or 36.♔g2 ♗f1†–+. **36...♖h2†!** The king will be forced to a light square, allowing the bishop to move with check. **37.♔g3** 37.♖g2 ♖e2† (or 37...♖xg2† 38.♔xg2 ♗f1† 39.♔xf1 ♕xc3–+) 38.♗xe2 ♕xg2† 39.♔e3 ♕xe2 mate ✓ **37...♖h3†!** The only winning move. **38.♔xh3 ♗f1†! 39.♖xf1 ♕xc3–+** ✓

364. Dawid Janowski – Alexander Alekhine, Scheveningen 1913
16.♘cd6†! White wins the exchange or the queen with a discovered attack. **16...♗xd6 17.♘c7† ♖xc7 18.♕xa6+–** ✓

365. Alexander Alekhine – Efim Bogoljubov, St Petersburg 1913
21...♖xf2! 22.♗xf7† The two captures are hit hard: 22.♖xf2 ♖e1† 23.♖f1 ♖xf1 mate ✓ and 22.♕xf4 ♖xg2 mate ✓. **22...♔h8!** ✓ White is still mated if he captures the rook or the queen, and **23.♖d1 ♕xf7–+** also gave no hope (0–1, 27 moves). Or 23...♖xg2†–+**.**

366. Sergey Lebedev – Alexander Alekhine, St Petersburg 1914
23...♖c2! White has three ways to defend against 24...♖xb2, but none helps. **24.♖xc2**
a) 24.♘c4 ♗xf4 25.exf4 ♕d4!–+ ✓ Black does not have to exploit the pin. Next is 26...♗xf3.
b) 24.♘xd3 ♖xc1† (24...♗d6–+ also wins a piece) 25.♘xc1 a5!–+ ✓ The knight on d2 is lost.
24...dxc2†–+ ✓ 25.♔xc2 Black is not in a hurry, but there is a way to end the game that's easier than the others: **25...♖c8† 26.♔b1** Or 26.♔d1 ♗xf3† mating. **26...a5!–+** The next move is 27...♕xd2.

367. Dawid Janowski – Alexander Alekhine, Mannheim 1914
40.♖g8†! The rook sacrifice ensures that the next moves come with check. 40.♖h7†? ♔xh7 41.♕xe4† ♖f5 42.♗xd6 ♕xf3± gives counterplay with the d4-pawn alive. **40...♖xg8 41.♕xd4†! ♔h7 42.♕xe4† ♖g6** 42...♔h8 and White wins by taking on d6 now or after a few checks. **43.♗xd6+–** ✓ Exchanging first was also winning. The rook is no match for the connected passed pawns supported by the bishop.

368. Nikolay Tselikov – Alexander Alekhine, Moscow 1915
28...♖xg2†! 29.♔xg2 d4†–+ ✓ 29...♖g8† is also mating in various ways, and 29...♕g4† as well as 29...♗g5 are also winning. **30.♗e4** The point of 29...d4† is shown after **30...♖g8† 31.♔f1 ♕xf4†** when White can't defend the check with ♕f2. One way to end the game is: **32.♔e2 ♕xe4† 33.♔d1 ♕d3 mate**

369. Alexander Alekhine – Feldt, Tarnopol (blindfold simul) 1916
15.♘f7! 15.♘c6 ♗xc6 16.♕xe6† ♔h8 17.♕xc6+– wins a pawn (one point). **15...♔xf7 16.♕xe6†! ♔g6** 16...♔xe6 17.♘g5 mate ✓ is over, and Black has to give up too much to avoid mate after 16...♔f8 17.♘g5+– ✓. **17.g4** 18.♗xf5 mate and 18.♘h4 mate are two threats Black can't defend against. Also mating are 17.♗xf5† ♔h5 18.g4† ♘xg4 19.♗xg4 mate and 17.♘h4† ♔h5 18.♕xf5†, with mate on the next move. **17...♗e4 18.♘h4 mate** ✓

370. Alexander Alekhine – Vasiutinsky, Odessa (simul) 1918
14.♘xf7! Black castled here (1–0, 28 moves). **14...♔xf7 15.♕xe6† ♔f8 16.♕xe7†+–** ✓

371. Nikolay Pavlov-Pianov – Alexander Alekhine, Moscow 1919
27...♕xh2†! 27...♕xg4† 28.♖g2 ♕xf5∓ leaves White fighting. **28.♔xh2 ♘xg4† 29.♔g3 ♘xe3–+** ✓ Black takes on f5 and wins two pawns and an exchange with no counterplay left for White.

372. Alexander Alekhine – Nikolay Grigoriev, Moscow 1919
23.♘xf7! ✓ **♔xf7** White also wins a pawn after 23...♗xf7 24.♗xf7± (24.♖xe7±). **24.♖xe6** 24.♗xe6†± is good enough, but the text move is stronger. **24...♘d5 25.♖e7†+–** (1–0, 36 moves)

373. Ilya Rabinovich – Alexander Alekhine, Moscow 1920
17...♘xc4!∓ Black wins a pawn due to: **18.♕xc4 d5 19.♕b5 a6!–+** ✓ The only good move.

374. Alexander Alekhine – G. Resser, The Hague (simul) 1921
35.♕f6†! ♔e8 36.e6! White does not have to move with check – Black's counterplay is too slow. **36...♕f5!** A strong defence, forcing White to find the only way to win. 36...♕g6 37.exf7† (or 37.♕h8† ♔e7 38.♗c5†!+–) 37...♕xf7 38.♖e6† ♔f8 39.♕xh6†+– And Black must give up the queen for the rook (or 39.♕h8†+–). **37.exf7† ♔f8 38.♗c5†! ♖xc5 39.♕xd8† ♔xf7 40.♖b7†!** ✓ **1–0** Black will be mated.

375. Joaquin Torres Caravaca – Alexander Alekhine, Spain (simul) 1922
26...♗xd4 26...♖xd4 gives the same outcome: 27.♖xd4 (27.♘xd4 ♕xh3–+) 27...♗xd4 28.♘xd4 ♕xh3–+ **27.♖xd4** 27.♘xd4 ♕xh3! 28.gxh3 ♘f2† 29.♔g1 ♘xh3 mate ✓ **27...♖xd4 28.♘xd4 ♕xh3! 29.gxh3 ♘f2† 30.♔g1 ♘xh3 mate** ✓

376. Alexander Alekhine – Frederick Yates, Hastings 1922
Black is *almost* getting mated, and can take a perpetual check, but more can be achieved: **38...♖8c3†!** 38...♖1c3† makes no difference. **39.bxc3 ♖xc3† 40.♗d3 ♕f1†! 41.♔e3 ♖xd3† 42.♕xd3 ♕xd3† 43.♔xd3 ♔xf7–+** ✓ White's ruined pawn structure makes him a hopeless victim.

377. Alexander Alekhine – N.N., Berlin 1922
18.♘xc6!± White won a pawn due to: **18...♗xc6 19.♖xc6 ♖xc6 20.♕xe4 dxe4 21.♖xd8+–** ✓

378. Alexander Alekhine – Manuel Golmayo de la Torriente, Spain 1922
32.f6! 32.♗xd7? ♖xd7 33.♕e5 is a triple threat (34.♕xb2, 34.♕xc5 and 34.♕e8† ♗f8 35.♕xd7) but 33...♖dd2!= defends, because of 34.♕xc5?? ♖h2† 35.♔g1 ♖bg2 mate. **32...gxf6** 32...♘xf6 33.♕b8†+– ✓ is over. After the game move, the open g-file can be exploited in several ways. Alekhine chose: **33.♗xd7 ♖xd7 34.♕g4†+–**

379. Siegbert Tarrasch – Alexander Alekhine, Bad Pistyan 1922
24...♘g3†! 25.♔g1 Or 25.fxg3 ♕xg3–+ ✓ with a decisive double threat. After the king move, White is still not threatening to take on g3, and there are many ways to add fuel to the attack: a) 25...♗c8–+ followed by 26...♗xh3; b) 25...d2–+ wins an exchange, to start with. Alekhine started with **25...♗d5** and won convincingly (0–1, 38 moves).

380. Alexander Alekhine – Heinrich Wolf, Bad Pistyan 1922
White has a winning position, and can finish the game forcefully: **22.♖xe6! fxe6 23.♘g5+–** ✓ The threats are too numerous. **23...♘c5** This defends e6 for the moment, but Black loses the knight when White moves the queen. After 23...♕c8 or 23...♕b8, White has a winning attack with a combination of ♘g5xe6, ♖e1 and d6xe7. There is no need to calculate a concrete variation.

381. Alexander Alekhine – Frederick Yates, Portsmouth 1923
23.f3! Wherever the knight moves, White takes on d6 and e8. The game continuation was: **23...♘d2 24.♖xd6 ♕xd6 25.♕xe8†+–** ✓

382. Alexander Alekhine – Lester Samuels, New York (simul) 1923
26.♖xa7! ♕d5 26...♔xa7 27.♕a3† (or 27.b6† ♔a6 28.♖c5! with mate after 28...♖a8 29.♕b4!) 27...♔b6 28.♕c5† ✓ With mate in a few moves. **27.♕a2!** Alekhine played 27.♖a2? ♖c8!±. **27...♕xg2†** 27...♕xc4 28.♖a8† ♔c7 29.♕xc4†+– ✓ **28.♕xg2 hxg2 29.b6 ♖c8** The only defence against 30.♖c7. **30.♖ca4+–** ✓ To avoid mate, Black has to part with a rook.

383. Alexander Alekhine – Reib, Prague (simul) 1923
17.♗g5! ✓ Black has to take, as otherwise he is a piece down. **17...♕xg5 18.♘e4** 18.♕xa8+– wins and 18.♘xf7!+– gains an extra pawn. **18...♕f4 19.♕xa8 ♘d6+–** The knight is lost here, but White is still winning.

384. Alexander Alekhine – Menzel, Boston (simul) 1923
29.♖a8†! ♘xa8 After 29...♘e8 White has two immediate ways to exploit the eighth rank: a) 30.♗c5 ♕xb7 31.♖xe8† ♖f8 32.♖xf8 mate or b) 30.♘d7 with a double threat. Or 29...♖f8 30.♖xf8† ♔xf8 31.♕b8† picks up a piece on c7, as 31...♘e8 32.♗c5†+– wins the queen. **30.♕c8†** Black resigned due to: **30...♖f8 31.♕xe6†! ♔h8 32.♘f7† ♔g8** 32...♖xf7 loses to 33.♕c8† ✓ with back-rank mate. **33.♘h6†** Or 33.♘d6†+– winning the queen. **33...♔h8 34.♕g8† ♖xg8 35.♘f7 mate** ✓

385. Alexander Alekhine – John Drewitt, Portsmouth 1923
20.♗xh7†! ♔xh7 21.♖h3† ♔g8 22.♕h5! Simplest and best. The game continued 22.♗xg7?! f6 23.♗h6, which is a more complicated way to win. 23...♕h7 24.♕h5 ♗f8 25.♕g4† ♔f7 26.♗xf8+– wins back the sacrificed piece, keeping the g- and h-pawns. **22...f6 23.♗xa3 ♕xa3 24.♕h8† ♔f7 25.♕xd8 ♕c1† 26.♘f1+–** ✓

386. Siegbert Tarrasch – Alexander Alekhine, Karlsbad 1923
Black has a good position, but faces the threat of 35.♖xd4 ♕xd4 36.♕f8 mate. **34...♗e3! 35.fxe3** Tarrasch played 35.♖f1 but when White is forced into passivity, Black can do whatever he wishes with a winning position (0–1, 54 moves). **35...♕xh2† 36.♔f1 ♕h1 mate** ✓ Or 36...♕f2 mate.

387. Alexander Alekhine – Herman Steiner, New York (simul) 1924
33...♖xh2†! 34.♔xh2 ♘f3† 35.♔g2 ♘xd4∓ ✓ Black lost despite his extra pawn.

388. Alexander Alekhine – Leon Kussman, New York (simul) 1924
16.♕b5†! ♘d7 16...♕xb5 17.♘f6 mate ✓ **17.♖fe1!+–** ✓ There is no defence against the discovered attack. 17.♘f6† ♕xf6 18.♖ae1† ♗e7 19.♖xe7† ♔f8 20.♕b4! is also winning, as is 17.♖ae1!.

389. Alexander Alekhine – J.Y. Downman, USA (simul) 1924
19.♖h6! gxh6 20.♗f6† White can also play 20.♘f6+– or 20.♕xh6 ♖g8 21.♘f6 ♖g7 22.♘xd7+–. **20...♘xf6** 20...♔g8 21.♘e7†+– wins the queen. **21.♘xf6 ♕e7 22.♕xh6 ♕xf6 23.♕xf6† ♔g8+–** ✓ Black has two rooks for the queen but his king has no hope against h3-h4-h5-h6, and he soon resigned.

390. Alexander Alekhine – F. Casciato, USA (simul) 1924
20.♖xe5! 20.♗xd7† ♔xd7 21.♖xe5 transposes. **20...♕xh5 21.♗xd7† ♔xd7 22.♖xh5+–** ✓ The rook survived with the help of a lifeline – after the exchange on h5 it moves away from the threat.

391. Walter Michel – Alexander Alekhine, Basel (simul) 1925
21.♘f5! gxh5 21...gxf5 22.♕xf5† ♖g6 23.♗xc6 ♗xc6 24.♖xc6± ✓ gives White an extra pawn, but was Black's only hope. **22.♘xe7† f5 23.♗xc6+–** ✓ White wins a piece, and he could also have gone for an exchange with 23.♘xf5 ♖e6 24.♘d6† ♖xe4 25.♘xe4+–.

392. Alexander Alekhine – H.A. Woher, Amsterdam (simul) 1925
30...♕f4†! 31.♔g1 ♘xh3†! 32.gxh3 ♕g3†! 32...♕xf3 33.♕xa7= is only a draw. **33.♔h1 ♕xf3†–+** ✓ After one or two more checks, Black takes on a6. If White then captures on f7, Black picks up the e5-pawn.

393. Alexander Alekhine – A.H.M. Wap, Rotterdam (simul) 1925
19.♕c3! 19.♗xd4? ♕xd4 20.♖d1 ♕f6!∞ **19...c5 20.b4!+–** Black's rook is undermined, and he has no time for **20...f6** as **21.bxc5** ✓ comes with a double threat.

394. Alexander Alekhine – Anna Stephan, Czechoslovakia (simul) 1925
19.d6†! ♔h8 19...♗e6 20.♗xe6† ♕xe6 21.♘xe6 ✓ ♘xd2 22.♖d3+– wins an exchange. **20.♘g6†! hxg6 21.♖h3 mate** ✓

395. Alexander Alekhine – Harold Lommer, Geneva (simul) 1925
33.♗xg7! ♘xg7 33...♖xh6 34.♖f8† ♔h7 35.♖h8 mate ✓ **34.♖f8†!** Alekhine played 34.♖xg7†? ♕xg7 35.♕xe6†=. White is a piece down, but the open black king is enough to draw the game. **34...♔xf8 35.♕h8† ♔e7 36.♖xg7 mate** ✓

396. Alexander Alekhine – Walter Henneberger, Basel (simul) 1925
22...♘xc5! 23.dxc5 Alekhine tried to keep the loss to a pawn with 23.♗d6 but to no avail: 23...♖xc3! (23...♗h4† 24.g3 ♗d8 is also winning, while 23...♕xd2† 24.♔xd2 ♘b3† 25.♔c2 ♘xc1 26.♗xa3 ♖xa3 27.♖xc1∓ might be what many would settle for) 24.♖xc3 (24.♕xc3 ♖a2!–+) 24...♖a1†–+ Black has a winning attack. However, you do not have to see all that to take on c5. **23...♗xc3–+** ✓

397. Alexander Alekhine – Moriz Henneberger, Basel (simul) 1925
16.♗h6! ♘f5 16...gxh6 17.♘f6†+– ✓ with a fork. **17.♗xf5 ♖xe1† 18.♖xe1 ♕xf5 19.♘xg7 ♕xc2+–** ✓ Black won his pawn back, but his king position is in ruins.

398. Alexander Alekhine – Karl Gilg, Czechoslovakia (simul) 1925
32...♘xf5! The only move that gives Black an advantage. **33.♘xh7** 33.gxf5 ♖xf5† 34.♘f3 ♖ef8–+ ✓ **33...♖f7!–+** Precise, but it was also good enough to take back on h7.

399. Alexander Alekhine – Edgard Colle, Paris 1925
30.♕xd7! ♖xd7 31.♖e8† Not 31.♖c8†?? ♖d8–+. **31...♔h7 32.♖cc8** ✓ There is no defence since the queen cannot safely move with check.

400. Alexander Alekhine – Saint Germain, Paris (simul) 1925
16.♕xc6! ♕xc6 Black made things worse with 16...♖d7? 17.♕xd7†+–. **17.♘ce5† fxe5 18.♘xe5† ♔f6 19.♖xc6+–** ✓ White wins a second pawn on c7. 19.♘xc6 is equally strong.

401. Alexander Alekhine – Peter Potemkin, Paris (simul) 1925
21.♖exe6†! Or 21.♖axe6†! but not 21.♕f3?! 0–0 22.♘b6 ♕d6 23.♖d1 ♕xb6 24.♖xb6 axb6 when Black is fighting, or 21.♘b6?! ♕xd1 22.♖xd1 ♖d8! 23.♖xd8† ♔xd8 24.♖xa7 ♖e8 when White's knight is in trouble. **21...fxe6 22.♖xe6†! ♔f7** 22...♕xe6 23.♘c7† ✓ is similar. **23.♖e7† ♕xe7 24.♘xe7 ♔xe7+–** ✓ Black's two rooks are still on their initial squares and White's queen has time to collect a second pawn.

402. Alexander Alekhine – N. Schwartz, London (simul) 1926
25.♗xg6†! 25.♘xg6?! dxe4! 26.♘xe7 is not as good after 26...♗xg4 27.♕xe4† ♗f5 28.♘xf5 ♕xf5 29.♕xb7† ♔h8±, even though the extra pawn and the active rooks might be enough. **25...♘xg6 26.♘xg6 ♔g8** 26...♕xg6 27.♖e7†+– ✓ wins the queen. **27.♘xf8+–**

403. Alexander Alekhine – Raul Molina, Buenos Aires 1926
28...♖xb2†! 29.♕xb2 29.♖xb2 ♕d1† 30.♕c1 ♕xc1 mate ✓ **29...♘xb2–+** ✓

404. Alexander Alekhine – Julio Menendez, Buenos Aires 1926
30...♖e2! 31.♖xe2 ♖xe2 32.♕xe2 Alekhine gave up a rook with 32.♖f5–+ (0–1, 37 moves). **32...♕h3† 33.♕h2 ♕xf1† 34.♕g1 ♕xg1 mate** ✓

405. Alexander Alekhine – Colman Lerner, Buenos Aires 1926
14.d5!+– ✓ There is no defence against 15.♗xb6 ♕xb6 16.♕a4†, with a winning attack. Alekhine won a pawn with 14.♘xc4 ♘xc4 15.♕a4† ♕d7 16.♕xc4± but the bishop pair and the long diagonal gave some compensation.

406. Alexander Alekhine – Carmichael, Newcastle upon Tyne (simul) 1926
16.♗xh6†! ♔g8 16...♔xh6 17.♕e3† ♔g7 18.♕g5† ♔h8 19.♕h6† ♔g8 20.♖e5! ✓ with mate. **17.♘e5!+–** ✓ Black can't defend against the attack, even though it takes a few moves before it is over.

407. Alexander Alekhine – Rudolf Spielmann, Semmering 1926
23...♖xc3! 24.bxc3 ♘xe4 ✓ **25.♖d4** 25.♖c2 ♘xf2 26.♖d4 tries to hold onto the exchange, but Black has a winning attack after 26...♕b1† ✓ (the positional 26...♘e4 is also winning) 27.♔h2 ♕h1† 28.♔g3 ♕e1 29.♔h2 ♘e4 and 30...♖f1. **25...♖xf2!–+** White cannot defend c3 in a good way. Spielmann played 25...♘xc3?!∓ which wins back the exchange or the pawn on f2. Surprisingly, he agreed to a draw a few moves later.

408. Frederick Yates – Alexander Alekhine, Kecskemet 1927
24.♖d8†! Yates started with 24.♘h6? but it allowed 24...♕c8!. Best is now 25.♖g4!± with an initiative. About equal is 25.♘xf7 exd4= while the game continuation was 25.♖d8† ♕xd8 26.♖xd8† ♖xd8 27.♘xf7 ♔xf7∞ (0–1, 75 moves). **24...♖xd8 25.♖xd8† ♔e7 26.♘h6! gxh6** 26...♕xc2 27.♖e8†! ♔d6 28.♘xf7†+– ✓ **27.♕g8+–** ✓ Black's king cannot escape, so he must give up lots of material to avoid mate.

409. Alexander Alekhine – Aron Nimzowitsch, New York 1927
22.♘xc5! It doesn't matter how Black takes back. **22...♘xc5 23.♖d6+–** ✓

410. Alexander Alekhine – Carbonell, Barcelona (simul) 1928
19.♗xc5! ♕xc5 20.b4! The queen cannot keep defending the knight on e5. **20...♕xb4 21.♖xe5+–** ✓

411. Alexander Alekhine – Efim Bogoljubov, Berlin (13) 1929
31...♕e4!–+ A double threat against e1 and a4. **32.♖xe4 ♖c1† 33.♖e1 ♖xe1 mate** ✓

412. Efim Bogoljubov – Alexander Alekhine, The Hague (18) 1929
37.♖xc7†! 37.♕xe6 ♗xh2 38.♕xg4 also wins a pawn and should be winning, but Black still has hope. **37...♕xc7 38.♘c5† ♔b6 39.♕xc7† ♔xc7 40.♘xe6† ♔d7 41.♘xd8 ♔xd8** ✓ **1–0** It's an easily winning endgame.

413. Alexander Alekhine – Mayerhofer, Regensburg 1930
28...♘xd4! 29.cxd4 Alekhine's 29.♘b7 should not help, but he held a draw. **29...♕xd4†–+** ✓ Black takes back the piece and has several extra pawns and the safer king.

414. Alexander Alekhine – Salo Flohr, Bled 1931
28.e5! 28.♖c8 ♕d6 29.e5! also wins, but requires some variations: a) 29...♕f8 30.♖c7; b) 29...♕d7 30.♖c6; c) 29...♕e7 30.exf6 ♕xf6 31.♖xd8† ♕xd8 32.♕xe6† ♔g7 33.♕xa6 **28...f5?** 28...fxe5 29.♖c8! ♕d6 30.♖c6+– ✓ and the pawn sacrifice opened up lines for the f3-bishop. **29.♖c8!** The d6-square is no longer available for the queen. **29...♕xe3 30.♖xd8† ♔f7 31.fxe3+–** ✓

415. Alexander Alekhine – Edgard Colle, Bled 1931
31.♗xd6 ♕xd6 32.♗xf5!+– ✓ Black cannot take back on f5, nor can he allow White to penetrate on h7.

416. Alexander Alekhine – Nate Grossman, New York (simul) 1932
25...♖xg3! 26.hxg3 ♘g4! 27.♘f4 There is no miraculous rescue after 27.fxg4 ♕xg2 mate ✓ or 27.♕f4 ♕h5† 28.♔g1 ♕h2 mate ✓. **27...♘xe3–+** ✓ Black gets two bishops for a rook and is winning no matter how he takes back on d5.

417. Alexander Alekhine – L. Castaneda, Guadalajara (simul) 1932
12...♗xf3! 12...♕h4† 13.♔e2 ♗h5! also wins due to the threat of 14...♘g3†. **13.gxf3 ♕xf3 14.♖g1** 14.dxe6 fxe6 gives no counterplay. **14...♕f2† 15.♔d1 ♕xg1–+** ✓

418. Schut Bueters – Alexander Alekhine, Surabaya (simul) 1933
28...♘xf5! The e4-pawn is pinned. Not 28...♘f3†? 29.♔c2 ♘xg1 30.♖xg1 ♘xf5 31.♕e2± and the bishop on g2 is trapped. **29.exf5 ♗xd5–+** ✓

419. Alexander Alekhine – Lista, Bratislava (simul) 1933
The knight checks its way to h6: **21.♘g6†! ♔h7 22.♘e5†! ♔h8** 22...♗e4 23.♗xe4† ✓ ♘xe4 24.♕xe8+– **23.♘f7† ♔g8 24.♘xh6† ♔h8 25.♕g8† ♘xg8 26.♘f7 mate** ✓

420. Alexander Alekhine – W.J. Haeften, Jakarta (simul) 1933
14.f5! Opening the e-file. **14...exf5 15.♘xg6 fxg6 16.♕xe7+– ✓**

421. Alexander Alekhine – Fricis Apsenieks, Folkestone (ol) 1933
12.♗g6! fxg6 12...♘xe5 13.♘xe5 does not change anything since the game move 13...♖c7 could be met by 14.♗a5! ✓ with a winning attack (1–0, 23 moves). 14.♗xf7†, before or after a4xb5, might be winning too. **13.♕xg6† ✓ ♔e7** White has many ways to win. **14.♗b4†** The simplest to calculate might be 14.♘f7 ♕e8 15.♘xh8+–. **14...c5 15.dxc5** Black is busted, for example: **15...♘xc5 16.♕f7† ♔d6 17.♕xb7+–**

422. Alexander Alekhine – Hoelsder, Amsterdam (simul) 1933
16.♘e5! 16.g6? ♕xg6 17.♘e5 is *almost* winning, but Black has: 17...♕xh5! 18.♖xh5 dxe5∓ **16...dxe5 17.g6!** 17.♕c4? would have been a blunder after, for example, 17...♕xc4 18.g6 ♕f1† 19.♖xf1 ♗e8–+. **17...♕xg6 18.♕c4† ♖f7 19.♖h8 mate ✓**

423. Hermann Joss – Alexander Alekhine, Zurich 1934
37...♖xc1! 37...♕b2–+ is also winning, but Black has to calculate or find a lot more moves. For instance, all Black's moves in the following line are the only winning ones: 38.♘d3 ♕b3! 39.♘df4 e5! 40.dxe5 ♕b4†! 41.♔f2 ♖d2! 42.♕xd2 ♕xd2–+ **38.♘xc1** 38.♕xc1 ♕xe2 mate ✓ **38...♕g2!–+** ✓ The rook has no squares.

424. Alexander Alekhine – Efim Bogoljubov, Germany (2) 1934
White is a piece up, but must solve the threats against e2, e1 and g2. **29.♖c8†! ♔f7** 29...♗xc8 30.♕xe5+– ✓ **30.♕h5†+–** ✓ White's attack is mating, and there are so many ways that it does not make sense to give every line. Two other moves would also have forced immediate resignation: 30.♖c7† ♔g6 31.♖xg7† ♔xg7 32.♕xe5†+– and 30.♖f8† ♔xf8 31.♘d7†+–.

425. Alexander Alekhine – Efim Bogoljubov, Germany (16) 1934
30.e6! ♖dxg7 31.♘xg7 ♖xg7 32.♖xd5! Or 32.♖f8† first. **32...cxd5 33.♖f8† ♔c7 34.♖f7†+–** Black must give up the rook, as **34...♖xf7? 35.exf7 ✓** queens.

426. Alexander Alekhine – Rafael Llorens, Barcelona (simul) 1935
19...♘xe3! 20.♕c3 20.♔xe3 ♕xd4 mate ✓ **20...♘g4†** Or 20...♘xc4 21.♗xc4 ♗xc4 (Instead Llorens played: 21...♖xd4? 22.♗e2± Black has no good discovered check and Alekhine won after: 22...♗c4? 23.a5+– [1–0, 25 moves]) 22.♕xc4 ♖xd4∞ With about enough pawns for the piece. **21.♗xg4 fxg4∞ ✓** Black keeps the pawn, although the opposite-coloured bishops give White fair compensation. However, Black's best was clearly to take on e3, since it would be so passive to retreat with the knight, when White would have enjoyed a clear advantage.

427. Alexander Alekhine – Jan Foltys, Podebrady 1936
22.♘xe6! 22.♖xb7± is strong enough for half a point. **22...fxe6 23.♕g4† ♔h8 24.♖xb7** Black has to give up the knight on c4 to defend against the mate, so White wins a pawn. **24...♖c7 25.♖xc7 ✓ ♕xc7 26.♗xc4!+–** Keeping the queens on with the weak black king in mind. However, since the alternative is also good, you do not need to make that decision before playing 22.♘xe6.

428. William Winter – Alexander Alekhine, Nottingham 1936
26...♘c4! Black gets access to the e3-square with a winning position if White does not take. **27.bxc4 ♕a4†** ✓ 27...dxc4 and only then ...♕a4† also gives a winning attack. The text move is strongest though. **28.♔c1 ♗a3† 29.♔b1 ♖b6†** It will soon be mate.

429. Alexander Alekhine – C.H.O'D. Alexander, Nottingham 1936
22.♗xf5! gxf5 The game saw 22...♔h8+– (1–0, 27 moves). **23.♘xf5 ♕h8** The only square that doesn't move into a fork. **24.♘h6†** Other moves are also winning, thanks to this weak square. **24...♔g7 25.♕g5 mate** ✓

430. Savielly Tartakower – Alexander Alekhine, Nottingham 1936
29...♘h2! The knight continues to f3 if White does not take. **30.♕xh2 ♖g4†** Or 30...♕f3 followed by 31...♖g4†. **31.♔h1 ♖h4–+** ✓ Black wins the queen.

431. Alexander Alekhine – Endre Steiner, Kemeri 1937
14.d6! ♗xd6 15.♘f5!+– ✓ The bishop is trapped.

432. Alexander Alekhine – Samuel Reshevsky, Kemeri 1937
35.♖xb8†! ♔xb8 36.♕xe5†! ✓ Black resigned, as he will be mated.

433. Alexander Alekhine – Max Euwe, Netherlands (14) 1937
34.♖xf5! ♖xf5 Euwe played 34...♖cf6+– (1–0, 52 moves). **35.♖xe8†** ✓ With a winning attack. After **35...♔f7** the easiest win is: **36.♕e7† ♔g6 37.♗xe4+–**

434. Eliashoff/Kahn/Ros – Alexander Alekhine, Nice 1938
25...♖xf3!–+ Deflecting the important defender on g2. **26.gxf3? ♕h3! 27.♖g1 ♕xf3† 28.♖g2 ♕xg2 mate** ✓

435. Vladimirs Petrovs – Alexander Alekhine, Margate 1938
31.b4†! ♔xb4 32.♖b7†! ✓ After two precise moves, there are several ways that lead to mate or a decisive material gain. **32...♔c3** 32...♔c5 33.♖b5 mate **33.♘e4† ♔c2 34.♖bb1 1–0** 35.♖dc1 mate is inevitable.

436. Alexander Alekhine – Olivera, Montevideo 1939
22.♖xb7!± ✓ White wins a pawn, since Black cannot take a rook without losing the other with check. 22.♖xe8† ♖xe8 23.♖xb7 would allow sufficient counterplay after, for instance, 23...g6 with the idea ...♖e2.

437. Alexander Alekhine – Arrais, Lisbon (simul) 1940
9.♘xe5! ♘xe5 9...♗xd1 10.♗xf7 mate ✓ **10.♕xh5+–** ✓

438. Alexander Alekhine – A. Amores, Lisbon (simul) 1940
28.♘c5! ♕f7 28...♕xd4 29.♘e6+– ✓ gives no salvation. **29.♘e6!+–** ✓ A double attack on f8 and g7.

439. Max Bluemich – Alexander Alekhine, Krakow/Warsaw 1941
30...f4! Opening the fifth rank for the queen. **31.gxf4** 31.♘c2 ♘h4! (31...♘h2† is also strong: 32.♔g1 ♕f5–+ picking up the rook, or 32...♕e2–+, or even 32...♕b5–+.) 32.gxh4 ♕e2†! 33.♔g1 ♕xd3–+ ✓ **31...♕b5! 32.c4** 32.♔e2 ♕xd3† (or 32...♘e1! 33.♔xe1 ♕xd3) 33.♔xd3 ♘e1† 34.♔d2 ♘xg2–+ ✓ **32...♕xc4!–+** ✓ The knight is pinned.

440. Herbert Weil – Alexander Alekhine, Lublin/Warsaw/Krakow 1942
22...♘d4! Opening up for the rook to enter on the second rank. **23.exd4** 23.♕d1 loses to 23...♖c1 and other moves. **23...♖c2! 24.♘c4** 24.♕d1 ♖xb2–+ ✓, or 24...♕e6† 25.♔f1 ♖xb2–+. **24...♖xa2** Or 24...♕e6† 25.♘e5 ♖xg2–+ when Black wins back the piece and White's king cannot escape. (Alekhine's 25...fxe5 was even stronger, but only since White couldn't castle – he had already moved his king.) **25.♕d1 ♖a1–+** ✓ Or 25...♕e6† 26.♔f1 ♕a6–+.

441. Alexander Alekhine – Kurt Paul Richter, Munich 1942
20.♘e4! A simple fork, but Black has some counterplay. **20...♕g6!** 20...♕e7 defends the b7-bishop, but 21.♘xd6 ♘d4 22.♕e5 wins – Black needed the queen on the g-file. **21.♘xd6** ✓ 21.♗h5? ♖d5! 22.♕xd5 exd5 23.♗xg6 fxe4± with some compensation. **21...♘d4** Time for another exercise: **22.♗xb7!** Also possible is: 22.♘f7†?! ♕xf7 (22...♔g8 23.♘e5!±) 23.♕e5 ♘xf3† 24.gxf3± **22...♘xb5 23.♘xb5+–**

442. Alexander Alekhine – Klaus Junge, Lublin/Warsaw/Krakow 1942
26.♗xf7† Or 26.♕g5† ♔h8 27.♕f6† ♔g8 28.♖xd8 ♖xd8 29.♗xf7†+–. **26...♕xf7** 26...♖xf7 27.♕g5†+– ✓ with a fork, while 26...♔xf7 27.♕xh7† ✓ wins the queen. **27.♖xd8 ♖xd8** Instead the game ended: 27...♘a4 28.b3 1–0 **28.♕g5†+–** ✓

443. Alexander Alekhine – Efim Bogoljubov, Salzburg 1943
17.♘f5! ♗xf5 17...♖xd1 18.♘xe7† ♔f7 19.♖xd1 ♔xe7 ✓ wins White an exchange, as does 17...♕f7 18.♕xd5± ✓ (or 18.♘e7†±). **18.♕xd5†±** ✓ (½–½, 44 moves)

444. Alexander Alekhine – Ruzena Sucha, Prague 1943
28.♖xd5! ✓ **exd5 29.♘d6+–** The threats against c8, e8, f7 and d5 are too much for Black.

445. Jaromir Florian – Alexander Alekhine, Prague 1943
30...♖xb2! 31.♔xb2 Florian played on a pawn down: 31.♕e4–+ (0–1, 43 moves) **31...♕b4† 32.♔c1 ♕xc3† 33.♕c2 ♕a1†** Or 33...♖f1† first. **34.♕b1 ♖f1†–+** ✓ Black wins the queen.

446. Francesco Lupi – Alexander Alekhine, Sabadell 1945
37...♗xf3! 38.♗e1 The h-pawn is unstoppable after 38.gxf3 h3–+. **38...♗xg2 39.♗xh4** Black wins not only a second pawn, but also a third, after (for example) Alekhine's **39...e5–+** which was enough to make White resign.

Max Euwe

Let us repeat once more the methods by which we can increase our combinative skill: (1) by careful examination of the different types and by a clear understanding of their motives and their premises, (2) By memorising a number of outstanding as well as of common examples and solutions, (3) Frequent repetition (in thought, if possible) of important combinations, so as to develop the imagination.
Strategy & Tactics in Chess (1937)

447. Max Euwe – Richard Reti, Amsterdam (1) 1920
19...♗xg2†! 20.♔xg2 ♕g4† Or 20...♕f2† 21.♔h3 ♕f3† 22.♔h4 ♗f2† with a mating attack (22...g5† also mates). **21.♔f1 ♕f3†** 21...♕xd1† is also good enough. **22.♔e1 ♕f2 mate** ✓

448. Max Euwe – Henri Weenink, Amsterdam 1920
22.♘e7†! ♖xe7 Weenink gave up the exchange with: 22...♔f8 23.♕xf7† (or 23.♘xc6+–) 23...♔xf7 24.♘xc6+– ✓ **23.♖d8† ♖e8 24.♖xe8 mate** ✓

449. Max Euwe – Ernst Grünfeld, Gothenburg 1920
28.♗d5†! cxd5 29.♖xd5 White enjoys an extra passed pawn, but with opposite-coloured bishops, he needs to use his king to break the blockade; Black has decent drawing chances. **29...♗f5!?** In the game, a draw was prematurely agreed after 29...♔f7 30.♖xd6. **30.♖xd6** ✓ **♗b1±** Black restores the material balance, but it allows White to advance his passed pawn.

450. Max Euwe – Adolf Olland, Amsterdam (match) 1921
15...f4! Black wins a piece. **16.gxf4** 16.♕xf4 ♗xh3–+ ✓ **16...♕xh4** ✓ **17.f5!** White has some counterplay, but Black is still clearly better.

451. Max Euwe – Adolf Olland, Amsterdam (match) 1921
23.♖xf6†! Opening up the king's position. **23...♔xf6 24.♖f1†** Or 24.♕g5† ♔f7 25.♕f4† ♔e7 26.♕c7† ♗d7 27.♗g5†+–. **24...♗f5** 24...♔e7 25.♗g5 mate **25.♕d7!** ✓ White has two threats: 26.♗g7 mate and 26.♗g5† ♔e5 27.♗f4† ♔f6 (27...♔e4 28.♘g3 mate) 28.g5 mate. It's not possible to defend against both. Instead, Euwe drew after 25.gxf5? ♕xe2 26.♕d6† ♔f7 27.♕d5† ♔f6=.

452. Max Euwe – H.V. von Hartingsvelt, Amsterdam 1922
25.♗xf5! ♖xh3 26.♗xh3± ✓ The bishop is saved by a lifeline, and White won a pawn (the e5-pawn was lost anyway).

453. Max Euwe – Rudolf Spielmann, Bad Pistyan 1922
24...♖xf4! 25.♔xf4 25.♖xf4 ♕e1† 26.♖f2 26...f4†–+ ✓ followed by 27...♕xf2 (or 26...♘e5 with a winning attack). **25...♘e5–+** ✓ A double threat: 26...♘xd3 and 26...♘g6†. (There is also nothing wrong with 25...♕e4† 26.♔g5 ♕xd3–+ or 25...♕d6† 26.♔g5 f6†!–+ winning a rook.)

454. Sturm – Max Euwe, Amsterdam 1923
24...♖xf2! 25.♖xf2 Sturm gave up a piece with: 25.♗xe4 ♕xd4–+ (0–1, 39 moves) **25...e3 26.♖e2 exd2 27.♖xe5–+** ✓ Black has good winning chances after either recapture. White's kingside pawns have no defenders.

455. Max Euwe – Jacques Davidson, Amsterdam (9) 1924
18.d6! ♕b8 18...♗xd6 19.♗xb7 ♕xb7 20.♕xd6+– ✓ **19.d7 ♖d8 20.♘c6!+–** ✓ White wins an exchange.

456. Willem Schelfhout – Max Euwe, Amsterdam 1927
13...♗xd4! 14.exd4 ♕xd4† 15.♔h2 ♕xa1–+ ✓ Black is an exchange up, and White does not win a piece with **16.bxa5** due to: **16...e3–+**

457. Max Euwe – Sonnenburg, Amsterdam 1927
9.♘xf7! ♔xf7 10.♕f3† The king does not want to go to the e-file, but the alternatives are even worse. **10...♔e7** a) 10...♔g6 11.♗d3† ♗f5 12.♕xf5 mate; b) 10...♔g8 11.♖xe6! ♕xe6 12.♕xd5 ✓ (mating), or 12.♗xd5 (winning). **11.♗xd5** ✓ White has a huge advantage due to the exposed black king, but it is not easily winning. The best line for both seems to be **11...♘e5 12.♕h5 ♕xd5 13.♖xe5 ♕c6+–** when White should develop a piece and then adjust his attacking ideas depending on Black's reply.

458. Max Euwe – Valentin Marin y Llovet, London (ol) 1927
25.♗xd5! exd5 26.♕xd5† ♔f8 26...♔e8 27.♕xh5†+– ✓ wins a piece. **27.♕xh5** ✓ There is only one way to defend both the bishop on h7 and the knight on g4. **27...♘h6 28.♗d6!+–** Black has two pieces for a rook, but fighting against three pawns w0 /T92710.1(e ak ing)s ofarto o much**4589. E0.1(e**

463. Max Euwe – Salo Landau, Amsterdam (4) 1931
26.♘xf5! White wins a pawn. **26...exf5** 26...♖xf5 27.♗xe4+– ✓ **27.♖xd5+–** ✓

464. Max Euwe – Eduard Spanjaard, The Hague 1932
29...♘e2† 30.♔h1 ♘g3†! 31.hxg3 ♕xf1†–+ ✓ **32.♔h2 ♕xf2!** Or 32...♗e1 33.♗xf8 ♗xf2–+ with the same idea as the game continuation. 32...♖d8 33.♕e7 ♖xd6 34.♕xd6 ♕xf2 is also winning, but not as convincingly. **33.♗xf8 ♗xe3!** Instead the game turned around after 33...♔xf8?? 34.♘d7† when it suddenly is White who gives mate: 34...♔g8 35.♕c8† ♔h7 36.♘f8† ♔g8 37.♘g6† ♔h7 38.♘e7! 1–0 The capture on e3 forces checkmate, for example: **34.♕b8 ♕g1† 35.♔h3 ♕h1† 36.♔g4 ♕d1† 37.♔h4 g5† 38.♔h3 ♕h5 mate**

465. Max Euwe – G. Boersma, Rotterdam (simul) 1933
18...♖xd3! 19.♖xd3 19.♕xd3 ♕xg2 mate ✓ **19...♗xg2† 20.♔g1** 20.♕xg2 ♕xd3–+ ✓ Black is a pawn up, and with White's open king, it is a decisive advantage. **20...♗xf1** ✓ **21.♕xf1–+** White kept control over the d-file, however he can do nothing active since he must defend his e-pawn.

466. William Felderhof – Max Euwe, The Hague/Leiden/Scheveningen 1933
White has dangerous threats against the uncastled black king, so Black gives up a piece to get to safety, and then continue with his own attack. **16...♗a3! 17.bxa3** The best move. In the game, White was too kind with 17.♕a4?, as there was no reason to allow Black to keep the piece with 17...♗xb2+–. Also bad is 17.♖xd7? ♗xb2†! 18.♗xb2 ♕xb2†–+ ✓ when White does not win anything on d7, since his king will obstruct the d-file. **17...0–0!∓** ✓ Black has a promising attack with threats such as ...♖fc8 and ...♕xa3†.

467. Max Euwe – Alexander Alekhine, Zurich 1934
31.♘f7! ♕e8 31...♔xf7 32.♕h5†! ♔e7 33.♖xe6† ♔xe6 34.♖e1†! with forced mate: 34...♔d6 35.♕c5† ♔d7 36.♕f5† ♔d6 37.♕e6 mate ✓ **32.♖xe6! ♕xe6 33.♘d8!** ✓ White wins the pawn on c6 with good winning chances.

468. Max Euwe – Alexander Alekhine, Netherlands (14) 1935
10.♖xh7! ♔xh7 Alekhine played the unchallenging 10...f5+–. **11.♕h5† ♔g8 12.♗xg6+–** ✓ The only defence against mate is to give up a whole rook.

469. Efim Bogoljubov – Max Euwe, Zandvoort 1936
37.♖xa2! ♗xa2 38.♕a4+– ✓ A double threat, and the pieces cannot defend each other.

470. Max Euwe – Theodore Tylor, Nottingham 1936
17.♖xc5! As simple as it looks; the bishop on e7 is pinned. But 17.♗c2?! ♕e6 18.♗f5 ♕d6!± does not win a pawn. **17...♗xg5** White won smoothly after: 17...♗xc5 18.♗xd8± ✓ (1–0, 25 moves) **18.♘xg5!** ✓ 18.♖c7± is also a pawn up. **18...♕e7** A double threat, but there are many remedies. We will give the easiest solution for a human as the main line and three alternatives. **19.♗xd5** a) 19.♕h5 h6 20.♕xf7† ♕xf7 21.♘xf7 ♔xf7 22.♖c7† ♖d7 23.♖xb7 ♖xb7 24.♗xd5† ♔f6 25.♗xb7+– with three extra pawns. b) 19.♕c2 ♕xg5 20.♗xd5 ♗xd5 21.♖cxd5+– and Black loses due to the back-rank problems. c) 19.♘xf7 and White continues with a capture on d5, after which the rook on a8 is in trouble. 19...♔xf7 (19...♕xf7 20.♖dxd5! ♗xd5 21.♗xd5 ♖xd5 22.♖c8†+–) 20.♖cxd5 ♖xd5 21.♗xd5† ♗xd5 22.♕h5†! ♔f8 23.♕xd5 ♖a7 24.♕f5† (but not 24.♕d8†? ♕e8±) 24...♔g8 25.♕c8†+– **19...♗xd5 20.♖cxd5+–** The knight on g5 is defended.

471. Fritz Sämisch – Max Euwe, Bad Nauheim 1937
36...♖g3†! 36...♖d3 also defends against the mate, but is a tempo and thus a pawn worse. 37.♖xd3 ♕c2† 38.♔g1 ♕xd3 39.♕xe5∓ **37.♔xg3 ♕e3†** Or 37...♕c3†. **38.♕f3 ♕xd2–+** ✓ Black exchanges queens or wins the e4-pawn with check.

472. Alexander Alekhine – Max Euwe, Netherlands (6) 1937
7.♘xb5! ♗a6 7...cxb5 8.♗d5+– ✓ **8.♕b3!+–** 8.♕xd4 ♕xd4 9.♘fxd4 is also good enough – Black can't take on b5 due to the same reason as before, but White should avoid 8.♘a3? ♗xa3 9.♗xa6 ♗b4+–. In the game, he is ready to rescue the knight. **8...♗xb5** Euwe played: 8...♕e7 9.0–0 (1–0, 23 moves) **9.♗xf7† ♔d7** ✓ The black king is a decisive factor – no more moves are needed.

473. Max Euwe – Siegfried van Mindeno, Amsterdam 1938
White has a winning advantage after any queen retreat, but can decide the game in a few moves by going the other way. **30.♕f7†! ♖xf7 31.♖xf7† ♔d8 32.♖d1†! ♔c8 33.♖xc7† ♔xc7 34.♖d7†** ✓ **1–0** The active rook together with the light-squared bishop and passed pawns spells the end.

474. Max Euwe – Salo Flohr, Netherlands 1938
30.♗e4†! ♔h8 30...♘xe4 unblocks the route to the f5-square: 31.♕f5† ♔g8 32.♕xc8†+– ✓ **31.♘g6†** 31.♕xb7 is also winning. **31...♔h7 32.♘e7†+–** ✓ White takes on c8.

475. Max Euwe – Nicolaas Cortlever, Beverwijk 1940
11.♘c4!+– 1–0 Both black knights are hanging and 11...♘xc4 12.♗xd5† ✓ or 12.♕xd5† comes with check and picks up the second knight.

476. Max Euwe – Haije Kramer, Netherlands (3) 1941
27.♗xf7†! 27.♖c1 would be winning, if it were not for: 27...♕g3†! (27...♖c8 28.♗xf7†! or 27...♖e5 28.♗d5!) 28.fxg3 ♗xd4† 29.♔g2 ♖e2† 30.♔f3 ♖e3† With perpetual check. **27...♕xf7** 27...♔xf7 28.♕d5† ✓ with mate. **28.♕xc5±** ✓ The point behind White's little combination was to exchange bishops to keep his king safe. He is still a pawn up when Black captures on f5, although the isolated bishop on h6 gives Black compensation. If you evaluated this position as dangerous for White and deliberately allowed the draw, you also get full points.

477. Efim Bogoljubov – Max Euwe, Karlsbad (5) 1941
23...♖xf3†! 24.♕xf3 24.gxf3 ♗h3† 25.♖g2 ♕xg2 mate ✓ **24...♕h1†!** Not 24...♗xf3? 25.gxf3∞ and Black is happy if the g- and h-pawns hold the balance, since White has rook and two bishops for the queen. **25.♔e2 ♕xg2†!** That's it – Black keeps his bishop. **26.♔d3 ♕xf3–+** ✓

478. Efim Bogoljubov – Max Euwe, Karlsbad (1) 1941
25...♘g3! 26.♘xg3 ♗xf4† 27.♔c2 ♗xg3∓ Black has won a pawn and White cannot take it back, since **28.♗xh7? g6–+** ✓ loses the bishop.

479. Arnoldus van den Hoek – Max Euwe, The Hague 1942
22...♖xb2! 23.♖xb2 ♕e5 A double threat. **24.♖fb1 ♕xh2† 25.♔f1 ♗f4!–+** ✓ The queen is trapped.

480. Max Euwe – George Thomas, Zaandam 1946
38.♗g6†! ♔e6 39.♗f7†! ♔d6 40.♕d8†! Black resigned due to **40...♔c6 41.♗e8†** ✓ and he has to part with his queen.

481. Max Euwe – Daniel Yanofsky, Groningen 1946
28.♗c5! 28.♗b8? allows 28...♔e6 since 29.a6 ♗xe4 30.a7 c5= defends. **28...♗d3** The a-pawn is unstoppable after 28...dxc5 29.a6+–. **29.♗xd6±** ✓ Black should be able to draw this. 28.♗c5 is nevertheless the best move since it is the only one that has any chance of winning, and in the game it gave Euwe the full point (1–0, 46 moves).

482. Henry Grob – Max Euwe, Zurich (2) 1947
21...♗xf2†! 21...♕xe5 22.♘xe5 and White is clearly better, no matter how Black takes on f2. He has no time for 22...♗xf2† 23.♔h2 ♗xe1? due to 24.♘xf7†+–. **22.♔f1** 22.♔xf2 ♕xe5–+ ✓ wins the queen. **22...♗xe1 23.♕xf4 ♖xf4–+** ✓

483. Max Euwe – Paul Keres, The Hague/Moscow (1) 1948
38...♖xc1! 39.h3 39.♖xc1? ♘f3†–+ ✓ wins the queen, so the only move was 39.♕f2∓ ✓, to defend the f3-square. The queenside pawns give some hope of survival, even though Black is a piece up. **39...♘f3†–+** ✓ For some reason, Keres didn't execute the fork but he was still winning after 39...♕g3.

484. Esteban Canal – Max Euwe, Dubrovnik (ol) 1950
11.♗xd4! exd4 12.♕a4†! b5 12...♔e7 13.♕xd4± **13.♗xb5†! axb5 14.♕xb5† ♕d7±** It's possible to be exact here, but you don't have to see the move in advance. **15.♘xd5!** The game continued 15.♕xd5?! ♕xd5 16.♘xd5 when 16...♖a5± wins back one of the pawns. 15.♕xd7†?! is also dubious, since it helps Black to develop the h8-rook one move faster. After 15.♘xd5! (which, we repeat, you don't need to see in advance to earn full points) White manoeuvres the knight to b5 – a better square. He can, for instance, take on d4 after: **15...♕xb5 16.♘c7† ♔d7 17.♘xb5 ♖e8† 18.♔d2 ♖e5 19.♘xd4+–**

485. Max Euwe – Yuri Averbakh, Zurich 1953
36...♘xa3! 36...♘c7∓ **37.♗xa3 ♘b5 38.♗c1 ♘xc3–+** ✓ White has to sacrifice the bishop for the a-pawn, and the knight for the b-pawn. 38...a3? 39.♔d2=

486. Max Euwe – Daniel Yanofsky, Munich (ol) 1958
25.♖xe6! fxe6 26.♕xg6† ✓ White's attack is so clearly winning that no more variations are needed. Euwe won after: **26...♔f8 27.♖d3+– 1–0**

487. Enrico Paoli – Max Euwe, Chaumont Neuchatel 1958
17.♗xg6†! hxg6 18.♕xg6† ♔d8 18...♔f8 19.♕f7 mate ✓ **19.♕xg7** Instead of being a pawn down, White is a pawn up. The opposite-coloured bishops give Black full compensation, but that's better than the alternative – to have a position that is clearly worse. **19...♕h5 20.♗f4▫** ✓

Mikhail Botvinnik

Chess cannot be taught. Chess can only be learned.

488. Mikhail Botvinnik – Moisey Kagan, Leningrad 1926
27.♘xe4! ♖xc2 28.♕xc2+– White has won a pawn, since **28...fxe4** is met by **29.♕xc8† ♖xc8? 30.♖xc8†** ✓ with back-rank mate.

489. Ilya Rabinovich – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1927
21...♖xf4! Not as good is 21...exf3 22.♕xg6 hxg6 23.♖c1 fxe2† 24.♘xe2 when the bishop pair gives a clear advantage. **22.gxf4 ♕g3–+** ✓ Black's position is simply winning, with 23...♗c5, 23...e3, 23...♖f8 and 23...♗h3 all being strong moves. **23.♘xe4** 23.fxe4 and among others 23...♗h3† 24.♖xh3 ♕xh3† 25.♔f2 ♗xc3–+. **23...dxe4** Easy is 23...♗h3† 24.♖xh3 ♕xh3† 25.♔g1 dxe4–+ with an extra piece. **24.♖xd7 ♗c5!–+** Black checkmates or wins the rook on h1 (0–1, 42 moves). But not 24...e3?? 25.♖xg7†!+–.

490. Nil Panchenko – Mikhail Botvinnik, Leningrad 1927
19...♘xd5! The Lars Christofersson trap, as we say in the north part of Lund. The knight is saved with a lifeline after: **20.♗xe7 ♘xe7∓** ✓ (½–½, 48 moves)

491. Mikhail Botvinnik – Nikolay Pavlov-Pianov, Moscow 1927
28.♖xd7! ♗xd7 28...♕xd7 29.♕xf8 mate ✓ **29.e6!** White wins a piece, due to: **29...♗xe6 30.♖xe6 ♕xe6 31.♕xf8 mate** ✓

492. Mikhail Botvinnik – V. Breitman, Leningrad 1931
23.♘f5! 1–0 A few other moves also promise White good winning chances. The main point of the text move is that 23...gxf5 24.♕g5+– ✓ forces Black to give up the unprotected queen to avoid mate.

493. Mikhail Botvinnik – Vladimir Alatortsev, Moscow 1931
White obviously has a much better position, but he also has the opportunity to immediately capitalize on Black's set-up. **24.♖xg4! ♕xg4 25.♗h3 ♕f3** 25...♕h4 26.♗e6†+– **26.♖f1** The queen is trapped. **26...♘xg3 27.♖xf3 ♖xf3** Black gained two rooks in return, but the variation is not over yet. **28.♘xg3 ♖xg3 29.♗e6†** ✓ 30.♕f2† or 30.♕h2† picks up the rook (or leads to mate).

494. Mikhail Botvinnik – Vladimir Alatortsev, Leningrad 1932
21.e4! White breaks through, as Black cannot allow the check on f7. **21...♘xe5** a) 21...dxe4 22.♕f7† ♔h8 (22...♔h6 23.♗xf5+– followed by a check on g4 or a rook lift to h3.) 23.♘xg6† (23.♘xb6 ♘xb6 24.♕xb7+–) 23...hxg6 24.♕xg6+– Black's extra piece, which is hiding on the queenside, can't protect the king. A direct threat is 25.♗xf5 followed by 26.♖c3. b) 21...fxe4 22.♘xd7 (or 22.♗xd7 ♘xd7 23.♘xd7 ♕xd7 24.♘xb6+–) 22...♘xd7 23.♗xd7 ♕xd7 24.♘xb6 ✓ and 25.♘xa8+– **22.dxe5 fxe4 23.♘xb6 ♖a7+–** ✓ More moves are not needed, but one way to win is **24.♕e3** planning a discovered attack against the a7-rook. White chose another good move with 24.e6 (1–0, 31 moves).

495. Mikhail Botvinnik – Mikhail Yudovich, Leningrad 1933
22.♘xg6! There is a second solution: 22.♘g5†! hxg5 23.♘xg6 ♕e8 24.♘xf8†+– **22...♔xg6 23.♗h5†!! 1–0** Black resigned due to 23...♔xh5 24.♘g3†! ✓ ♔h4 25.♕e4† ♖f4 26.♕xf4 mate.

496. Victor Goglidze – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1935
24...♗xa3! 24...♕xe2 25.♗xf8 ♔xf8 26.♕xb6= **25.♖xa3 ♕xe2 26.♕xb6 ♖ab8! 27.♕d6 ♕xf1†!** The point of the exchange on a3 was to force White's a-rook to leave the first rank. **28.♔xf1 ♖b1†** Black resigned due to 29.♔e2 ♖c2 mate ✓.

497. Mikhail Botvinnik – Vitaly Chekhover, Moscow 1935
29.♗e6† ♘xe6 30.♕xe6† ♔h8 31.♕h3† White can also start with 31.♖xf6. **31...♔g8 32.♖xf6! ♗xf6 33.♕h7†** Or immediately 33.♖e1!+–. **33...♔f8 34.♖e1!+–** ✓ Black must give up almost everything to avoid mate (1–0, 43 moves).

498. Viacheslav Ragozin – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1938
25...♖xf2! 26.♖xf2 26.♔xf2 ♕d2†! 27.♗e2 and Black wins after 27...♗d4† or 27...f5 28.♕f4 ♗d4† ✓. **26...♕xc1†–+** ✓ Black has won a pawn and more will come (0–1, 31 moves).

499. Alexander Kotov – Mikhail Botvinnik, Leningrad 1939
37...♕xg2†! 38.♕xg2 ♖xe2–+ ✓ Black has won an exchange and a pawn.

500. Vladimir Makogonov – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1940
40.♖xf8†! ♕xf8 40...♔xf8 41.♕b8† ♕e8 42.♕xe8 mate ✓ **41.♕d5† ♔h8** 41...♕f7 42.♖e8 mate ✓ **42.♕xc4+–** ✓ Black resigned a move later.

501. Andor Lilienthal – Mikhail Botvinnik, Leningrad/Moscow 1941
39...♖g2! 40.♕e4 40.♕xg2 ♕h5 mate ✓ is clear and 40.♕f1 can be met with 40...♖b2–+ ✓ or 40...♖a2–+. White has problems with his king and Black wins the pawn on b3, or plays for more. **40...♖xh2†** 40...♕xb3–+ also wins a second pawn (and full points). **41.♔xh2 ♕h5† 42.♔g2 ♕xd1–+** ✓ (0–1, 55 moves)

502. Mikhail Botvinnik – Viacheslav Ragozin, Moscow 1945
Black cannot keep his extra piece, but he can lose it in a clever way. **17...♘xd4†! 18.exd4 ♖c2†!** Ragozin played 18...♕xd4? 19.♖xc8 ♕xf4 20.♖hc1± (1–0, 40 moves). **19.♗d2** 19.♖xc2 ♕xc2† 20.♗d2 ♕xb2–+ ✓ **19...♖xb2!** 19...♖xd2†?! 20.♔xd2 ♕xd4† wins another pawn for the exchange and secures a small advantage as well after 21.♔c2! ♕xf2† 22.♔b1. **20.♗xa4 ♖xb7∓** ✓ Black is a pawn up and the bishop pair is more than compensated for by the difference in pawn islands.

503. Arnold Denker – Mikhail Botvinnik, Radio Match 1945
22...♖xh2†! 23.♔xh2 ♖h8†–+ ✓ White loses the queen (0–1, 25 moves).

504. Mikhail Botvinnik – Alexander Kotov, Groningen 1946
23...♕xg3†! 24.♔xg3 ♘e4†–+ ✓ A fork and a pin (0–1, 45 moves).

505. Mikhail Botvinnik – Paul Keres, Moscow 1952
30.♘f5! ♖ee8 30...gxf5 31.♖g3† ♘g7 32.♕f6 ✓ is followed by 33.♕xg7 mate. The game saw 30...♖fe8+– (1–0, 37 moves). **31.♘h6† ♔h8** 31...♔g7 32.♕f6† ♔xh6 33.♖h3 mate ✓ **32.♕f6†** ✓ **♘g7 33.♘xf7†+–** Or anything else.

> **Vassily Smyslov**
>
> *Chess as an art has a divine origin, while chess as a sport (when victory counts at all costs, sacrificing the beauty of the game) springs from the Devil. There is striking evidence of this now. After all, a computer is nothing if not the Devil because it does not create anything... It now appears that the brilliant combinations of Alekhine, Tal and other outstanding players were flawed.*
> Shakhmatnaya Nedelia (2003)

506. Mikhail Botvinnik – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow (10) 1954
24...♘xe5!∓ Black wins a pawn, since **25.fxe5? ♕xe4†–+** ✓ picks up the rook on h1. Botvinnik postponed resignation with 25.♕e3 (0–1, 37 moves).

507. Mikhail Botvinnik – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow (12) 1954
31.f7†! ♖xf7 32.♕d8† ♔h7 32...♖f8 33.♗xd5†+– ✓ **33.♗xd5!** Forking three pieces! **33...♘f2† 34.♔g2 ♕f6** Saving the rook, but not the knight. **35.♕xf6 ♖xf6 36.♔xf2 ♖xf5† 37.♗f3!+–** ✓ **♖f4 38.♖g4 1–0**

508. Paul Keres – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow 1955
9.♕a4†! 9.♗xd5 ♘xb3 10.♗xb3 ♗xg2= **9...♕d7** 9...b5 10.♗xd5 ✓ bxa4 11.♗xf3+– and White has three threats: 12.♗xa8, 12.dxe5 and 12.b4. **10.♗xf7†! ♔d8** 10...♔xf7 11.♕xd7†+– ✓ **11.♕xd7†! ♔xd7 12.♘xf3+–** ✓ White is a pawn up and has the bishop pair and safer king to boot (1–0, 27 moves).

509. Mikhail Botvinnik – Nikola Padevsky, Moscow (ol) 1956
23.♘xf6! ♔f7 23...♖xd1 24.♘d5†!+– ✓ wins the queen and 23...♖d4 is not a safe stopper: 24.e3+– (or 24.♘g4+–); 23...♕xf6 24.♕xf6† ♔xf6 25.♖xd8+– ✓ **24.♖xd8 ♕xd8 25.♘xh7+–** ✓ White has won two pawns (1–0, 32 moves).

510. Vassily Smyslov – Mikhail Botvinnik Moscow (4) 1957
35...♖xd5! 35...♕g1† 36.♖d1 ♕e3! 37.♕xe3† ♗xe3 38.♖e1! ♖xd5 39.♖xe3–+ is the slow way to (probably) win. **36.♖xd5 ♕g1† 37.♔c2** 37.♕d1 ♕xd1† 38.♖xd1 ♖xd1†–+ ✓ **37...♖c8† 38.♔d3 ♕b1†! 39.♔d4 ♕xb2†–+** ✓ White will soon have to give up his queen to avoid mate (0–1, 41 moves).

Mikhail Tal
Some sacrifices are sound; the rest are mine.

511. Mikhail Tal – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow (17) 1960
40.♖xa6†! bxa6 41.♕b6† ♔a8 42.♕xa6† ♖a7 43.♕xc8 mate ✓

512. Anatoly Karpov – Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow (simul) 1964
32...♘xd4! 33.♕xd4? Karpov played the better 33.♖d2–+ and managed to draw after 42 moves. **33...♗c5–+** ✓

513. Yoel Aloni – Mikhail Botvinnik, Tel Aviv (ol) 1964
33...♕h3†! 34.♔g1 d2! 35.♘xg6† 35.♕xd2 ♖f1 mate ✓ **35...hxg6 36.♕h4† ♔g8!** 36...♕xh4? 37.♖xh4† ♔g8 38.♖d5 ♗c3∓ **0–1** White resigned, since 37.♕xh3 d1=♕† ✓ wins the queen or mates.

514. Mikhail Botvinnik – Lajos Portisch, Monte Carlo 1968
18.♖xf7! ♔xf7 The game continued: 18...h6 (1–0, 26 moves) **19.♕c4†** ✓ 19.♘g5† is also winning, but it is more difficult since White has to make a non-checking move after 19...♔e7: a) 20.♗xc6+–; b) 20.♕h4+– or c) 20.♕b3+–. **19...♔g6** The alternatives lose material on the spot. **20.♕g4†** Several other moves win as well. **20...♔f7 21.♘g5†+–** Black is mated in four moves if he doesn't give up his queen.

515. Vassily Smyslov – Viacheslav Ragozin, Leningrad/Moscow 1939
31...♘xf4!–+ The knight takes a pawn and threatens to continue to d3, where it cannot be taken due to the mate on g2. **32.♕xf4?** 32.bxc4 ♘d3! wins for Black, as does the game move 32.♔g3 (0–1, 35 moves). **32...♕h1† 33.♔g3 ♕g1† 34.♔h4 g5†–+** ✓

516. Vassily Smyslov – Kirilov, Moscow 1940
16.♖xa6! ♖xa6 Kirilov played 16...♖c8+– (1–0, 23 moves). **17.♘xb5** In a way it is a double threat with 18.♘c7, since it is both mate and a (triple) fork. **17...cxb5 18.♕c8 mate** ✓

517. Georgy Lisitsin – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1944
23...♖xc4! 24.♕xc4 ♘e3! A double threat: mate and the queen. **25.♕f1** 25.fxe3 ♗xe3† 26.♔f1 ♕f3† 27.♔e1 ♕f2 mate ✓ **25...♘xf1–+** (0–1, 40 moves)

518. Grigory Ravinsky – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1944
30...♗xf2†! 30...♘xe4? 31.♖xe4 ♗xf2† 32.♔g2 ♖c3 (32...♗e1 33.♖xe1∓) is a creative try to promote the pawn, but White can put the queen on d1 or take the bait: 33.♕xc3 d1=♕ 34.♖g4 g6 35.♖c4 with counterplay. **31.♖xf2** Ravinsky played 31.♔g2–+ (0–1, 41 moves) when White at least loses the e4-pawn if he takes the pawn on d2. **31...♘xe4 ✓ 0–1** Black will pick up material/promote and then mate. 31...♖d8 is also winning, as is 31...♖c3 32.♕xc3 d1=♕–+. (But not 32...♕xf2†? 33.♔xf2 d1=♘† 34.♔e1 ♘xc3=.)

519. Vassily Smyslov – Vladimir Alatortsev, Moscow 1945
39.c6! bxc6 40.b6! ♗c8 41.a6 ✓ Black has to give up the bishop and the knight. **41...♘d8+–** Trying to sacrifice only the bishop for both pawns. That would still be winning for White, but even stronger is a move such as **42.♗f1!** when White is ready to meet 42...c5 with 43.♗g2†. Black basically has no moves.

520. Isaak Boleslavsky – Vassily Smyslov, Groningen 1946
25...♗xc1! 26.♖xc1 White did not have to take immediately. The only threatening move was 26.♘g5 when 26...♕d4! is best. 27.♘xe6 (27.♖xc1 ♕a7–+) 27...♕d7 ✓ (or 27...♘e8–+ with a threat against f2) 28.♕xd7 ♘xd7 29.♘xf8 ♔xf8 30.♖xc1 ♖xb7–+ The two connected passed pawns, supported by the rook and knight, should decide. **26...♖xb7!–+** ✓ Black enjoys the extra exchange without the compensating passed pawn on b7 (0–1, 34 moves).

521. Vassily Smyslov – Cenek Kottnauer, Groningen 1946
18.♘c5! dxc5 18...♖c7 19.♘xd7! ♖xd7 20.♖a8+– ✓ **19.♗f4!** The queen has no squares to keep the rook on b7 defended. Worse is 19.♖a8? ♕xa8 20.♖xd7 ♖xd7! 21.♕xa8† ♔e7! and White can't defend both the king and the bishop (but he can give up the bishop and make a draw by perpetual). **19...♕xf4** Instead Black tried: 19...♗d6 20.♗xd6 ♖b6 21.♕xd7†! 1–0 **20.♕xb7+–** ✓

522. Vassily Smyslov – Kazimierz Plater, Moscow 1947
18.♘f5!+– White wins the pawn on d6 (1–0, 23 moves), or: **18...gxf5 19.♕g5† ♗g7 20.♕xg7 mate** ✓

523. Vassily Smyslov – Genrikh Kasparian, Leningrad 1947
Black has a double threat against the queen and the rook on a8. **28.♖xe6†! ♔xe6** 28...fxe6 29.♕xg7 mate ✓ **29.♕g4†+–** ✓ White can play for mate, but he can also take on h8 now when the queen has moved away from the threat (1–0, 39 moves).

524. Gedeon Barcza – Vassily Smyslov, Budapest 1949
18...♘e3! 19.fxe3 The game continued: 19.♖c1 ♘xf1–+ (0–1, 40 moves) **19...♗xe3†–+** ✓

525. Grigory Levenfish – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1949
32.♖h8†! ♔f7 32...♔xh8 33.♕h6† ♔g8 34.♕g7 mate ✓ **33.♘g5†** There is no way to force resignation after 33.♖xa8?! ♕xa8 34.♘g5† ♔f8!+–. **33...♔g7 34.♖xa8 1–0** Black resigned, as 34...♕xa8 35.♕e7†+– ✓ wins the knight.

526. Semen Furman – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1949
30.♘xg6†! ♕xg6 30...hxg6 31.♖h3 mate ✓ **31.♖xc4†** ✓ **♕g7 32.♕xg7† ♔xg7** White wins a second pawn with **33.♖c7†+–** (1–0, 53 moves) or 33.♖a4+–.

527. Enrico Paoli – Vassily Smyslov, Venice 1950
32...♖xc2! 33.♕xc2 33.♖xe5 defends against the check on f3, but the problem is the undefended rook on a1: 33...♕xe5 34.♕xc2 ♕xa1–+ ✓ **33...♘f3† 34.♔f2** 34.♔h1 ♕g3 ✓ and 35...♕h2/♕g1 mate. **34...♕g3†! 35.♔e2 ♘fd4†** Or 35...♘ed4+–. **36.♔d1 ♘xc2–+** ✓

528. Isaak Boleslavsky – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1950
16.♘xb5! ♕xb5 Black played: 16...c6+– (1–0, 83 moves) **17.♗a4±** ✓ There would follow 18.♗xd7.

529. Vassily Smyslov – Efim Geller, Moscow 1951
31.♖xf6! ♔xf6 31...♕e7–+ was played in the game (1–0, 48 moves). **32.♕h6† ♔f7 33.♕xh7† ♔f6 34.♕xb7+–** ✓

530. Gideon Stahlberg – Vassily Smyslov, Stockholm 1954
36...♘xg3! 37.hxg3 37.♖g4 does not keep the material balance, for example: 37...♘e4 38.♖xg5† ♘xg5 39.♘c4 ♖e4 40.♘d6 ♖xa4∓ **37...♖xg3† 38.♔f1 ♖exe3 39.♖xe3 ♖xe3 40.♖xa7** ✓ White should draw, but Black is pressing. That is quite a difference from the starting position, where White was a pawn up. **40...♔f5∓** (0–1, 64 moves)

531. Vassily Smyslov – Wolfgang Unzicker, Hastings 1954
25.♗h3! ♕xh3 26.♗xd6+– ✓ White chooses between the c7- and e5-pawns.

532. Vassily Smyslov – Laszlo Szabo, Hastings 1954
35.c6! Clearing c5 for the knight. **35...exf4† 36.♔xf4 bxc6** The only way to stop 37.c7. **37.♘c5† ♔d6 38.♘xb3+–** ✓ (1–0, 43 moves)

533. Paul Keres – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1955
31...♖h1†! Magnet sacrifice. **32.♔xh1** Keres played 32.♔g3. Without the rook hanging on c1, Black can play 32...g6–+ with an extra rook, or go for a winning attack with 32...♖d3†. **32...♕d1†! 33.♔h2 ♕xg4 34.hxg4 gxh6–+** ✓

534. Vassily Smyslov – Miguel Najdorf, Moscow 1956
27.♘xh7!± White won a pawn, since **27...♘xh7?** isn't possible: **28.♕xe7 ♖xe7 29.♖xc8†+–** ✓ Najdorf fought on with 27...♔g7 and made a draw.

535. Mikhail Tal – Vassily Smyslov, Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade 1959
19.♕xf7! 19.♘xf7†? ♔g8 20.♘h6† gxh6 21.♕xh6= and White holds the balance after some accuracy. The game move highlights the awkward placement of the black bishops. **19...♕a1†** 19...♖xf7 20.♖xd8† ♖f8 21.♖xf8† mate ✓ **20.♔d2 ♖xf7** 20...♕xd1† 21.♖xd1 (or 21.♔xd1 ♖xf7 22.♘xf7† ♔g8 23.♘xd8+–) 21...♖xf7 22.♘xf7† ♔g8 23.♘xd8+– ✓ **21.♘xf7† ♔g8 22.♖xa1+–** ✓ (1–0, 26 moves)

536. Robert Fischer – Vassily Smyslov, Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade 1959
Black has a large material advantage, but is under attack. **32...♕f5!** 32...♔f8 33.♖xg5 ♕d3! 34.♖d1± **33.♔g1** 33.♕d1 ♕xf1† 34.♕xf1 ♖cb5 ✓ regains the queen with a winning material advantage and 33.♕e2 can be met in the same way, or with 33...♖b2 34.♕e1 ♕g6 35.h4 e3–+. **33...♕g6!–+** ✓ Black managed to defend his king, retaining a winning material advantage. **34.♕e2 ♖c6** Even better is: 34...♖cb5! 35.h4 ♖b2 36.♕e1 (36.♕d1 e3–+) 36...e3 37.hxg5 e2–+ **35.h4 ♖xf6** Still, Black had enough pawns to win (48 moves).

537. Nikolac Bakulin – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1961
39...♕xb2! 40.♗xb2 ♖d2†–+ ✓ Black wins back the queen, and then both bishops. In the game, 40.♖e2–+ limited the loss to a second pawn, but even that was too much (0–1, 41 moves).

538. Vassily Smyslov – Ratmir Kholmov, Baku 1961
33.♖xf6†! ♔xf6 33...gxf6 shows why the knight had to go: 34.♗d5†! ♔f8 35.♘e6† with beautiful coordination of the white pieces. 35...♔f7 (35...♔e7 going for the d5-bishop does not help because of the bishop on e8: 36.♘d4† ♔d6 37.♘xc2 ♔xd5 38.♖xe8+– ✓) 36.♘d4†! ♔f8 37.♘xc2+– ✓ **34.♖xe8±** ✓ By keeping the rooks on the board, White can play for an attack (1–0, 43 moves).

539. Vassily Smyslov – Hector Rossetto, Mar del Plata 1962
37.e4! 37.exd4 ♘xd4= is a double threat. **37...♗xe4 38.♘xe4 ♖xe4+–** ✓ By forcing Black's rook to an unpleasant square, while keeping the king away from checks, White has made the c-pawn a winner. Most moves win, among them Smyslov's: **39.♖b1 ♖e3 40.♖b8† ♔g7 41.♗c4 1–0**

540. Georgi Tringov – Vassily Smyslov, Havana 1965
37...♖xg3! 38.♔xg3 38.♕xa5 ♕h4 ✓ 0–1 was the game, with mate. **38...♕c3† 39.♔f2 ♕xd2†–+** ✓ Black either picks up the f4-pawn with check or forces mate.

541. Vassily Smyslov – Eleazar Jimenez Zerquera, Havana 1965
37...♕e3! 38.♔e1! The only defence against mate. 38.♖xe3 ♖xd1† 39.♔g2 ♖g1 mate ✓ **38...♕g1†! 39.♔d2 ♖xd3†! 40.exd3** 40.♕xd3 ♕xd1†! 41.♔xd1 ♘f2†–+ ✓ **40...♕xh2† 41.♔c3 ♕xg3–+** It's too many pawns (0–1, 59 moves).

542. Efim Geller – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1965
32.♗f8! White could maybe have postponed the sacrifice for one move, although that would be somewhat weaker – Black had no sufficient defence. **32...♔xf8** 32...♕xf8 33.♕h7 mate ✓ (or 33.♕h8 mate) **33.♕h8† ♗g8 34.♖h7!+–** ✓ Taking the queen with the rook is stronger, since there is more to come with e5-e6 and ♕f6†. Geller played 34.♘h7†?! ♔f7 35.e6† ♕xe6 36.♘g5† ♔e7 37.♘xe6 ♗xe6 38.♕g7† ♔d6+– when White is probably winning, but not easily (1–0, 60 moves).

543. Vassily Smyslov – Antonio Magrin, Lugano (ol) 1968
34.♘f7†! ♖xf7 35.♖g5+– ✓ The only defence against 36.♖xh5 mate is to give back the piece, when White still has a winning attack (1–0, 41 moves).

544. Donald Byrne – Vassily Smyslov, Lugano (ol) 1968
24...♘xg3! 25.fxg3 ♕xg3† 26.♔g1 ♕h2† ✓ Black has a winning attack. **27.♔f2 ♗g3†** There are other moves as well. **28.♔e3 ♗xe1 0–1** It will soon be mate.

545. Mikhail Tal – Vassily Smyslov, Herceg Novi (blitz) 1970
33...♘xh3†! 34.gxh3 ♖xh3 It is not possible to save the knight on g4. **35.♕d4 ♖d3–+** (0–1, 39 moves) Or 35...h5–+.

546. Leonid Stein – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1972
28.♖h8! The g2-bishop is unpinned and White wins material. Stein executed the same motif with: 28.♕xc6 ♖xc6 29.♖h8!+– (1–0, 35 moves) **28...♕xb7 29.♖xg8† ♔e7 30.♗xb7+–** ✓

547. Vassily Smyslov – Roman Dzindzichashvili, Moscow 1972
17.♘xe6! fxe6 18.♕g4 A double threat against g7 and e6. **18...♘f6** 18...♘de5 19.♕xe6† ♔h8 20.♘xb6 is similar to the game and 18...♘ce5? 19.♕xe6† ♔f8 20.f4+– ✓ wins back the piece. **19.♕xe6† ♔h8 20.♘xb6±** ✓ White gets more than enough for the knights: a rook and three pawns (1–0, 26 moves).

548. Vassily Smyslov – Walter Browne, Hastings 1972
16.♘xb5! ♖xb5 Browne fought on with 16...♗a6± (0–1, 33 moves). **17.♖xc8 ♕xc8 18.♘xe7† ♔h8 19.♘xc8+–** ✓

549. Gerardo Lebredo Zarragoitia – Vassily Smyslov, Cienfuegos 1973
36...♕f1†! 37.♔g3 h4†! 38.♔g4 38.♔xh4 ♕xf4† 39.g4 ✓ Black wins the bishop in several ways, for instance 39...♕g5†–+. **38...♕xg2†** ✓ The king cannot go to the fifth rank due to the queen check on d5 and after **39.♔xh4** there are again several ways to win. Easiest is: **39...g5† 40.♔h5 gxf4–+**

550. Vassily Smyslov – Boris Spassky, Moscow 1973
27...h6! 27...♗d8? 28.♗e3∓ does not win material. **28.♗h4 ♗d8–+** ✓ Smyslov gave up a second exchange and continued for just a few moves (0–1, 33 moves).

551. Vassily Smyslov – Istvan Bilek, Venice 1974
18.♗xg7! A magnet exchange followed by a clearance sacrifice. **18...♔xg7 19.d5!** White threatens 20.dxc6 as well as 20.♕d4† ♔g8 21.♕xg4. **19...♔g8 20.dxc6± ✓** (1–0, 30 moves)

552. Garry Kasparov – Vassily Smyslov, Leningrad 1975
26...♗xf6! 26...♗xg2? does not work immediately: 27.h4! and the queen cannot keep a connection to both f4 and g2: 27...♕h6 (27...♕g6 28.♕xg2+–) 28.♔xg2+– **27.♖xf6 ♗xg2!** Black wins an important pawn. **28.h4** The game continued: 28.♔h2? ♖e3–+ (28...♗xh3 is also winning) Instead, White should settle for 28.♖f5 ♖xf5 29.♕xf5 ♕xf5 30.♘xf5 ♗xh3∓. **28...♕g4–+ ✓** There is a threat against d1. Also winning is 28...♕h5.

553. Vassily Smyslov – Lothar Vogt, Leningrad 1977
White efficiently removes the black pawns on d5, e6 and f7: **24.gxf7†! ♔xf7 25.♘xe6! ♖xe6 26.♗xd5 ✓** White wins the whole rook on e6 with a huge material surplus (1–0, 40 moves).

554. Vassily Smyslov – Jingxuan Qi, Buenos Aires 1978
Black is a rook up, but is about to lose it. However, there is a way to keep the bishop. **22...f4! 23.♕xf4** 23.gxf4?! ♖g6†!–+ **✓ 23...♕c7 24.♘xc6 ♕xc6∓ ✓** The queen cannot take on e7 anymore. White later managed to outplay his much lower-rated opponent though (1–0, 74 moves).

555. Vassily Smyslov – Wlodzimierz Schmidt, Moscow 1980
35.♕xf6†! ♕xf6 36.♖d7† ♔h6 37.♖xf6 ✓ A pawn and an ongoing attack should be enough to win (1–0, 38 moves).

556. Vassily Smyslov – Robert Hübner, Velden 1983
32.♗xh7! ♖xh7 32...♗xh7 33.♘g6†+– **✓** winning the rook on f8. **33.♘g6†** White has a decisive attack. **33...♔g7 34.♕d7†!** 34.♕g4! also wins but 34.♖xf8 ♖xh3 35.♖xa8 is less clear, even though it should be winning eventually. **34...♖f7 35.♖xf7† ♗xf7 36.♘xe5+– ✓** (1–0, 48 moves)

557. Vassily Smyslov – Gennadi Sosonko, Tilburg 1984
30.♖xf8†! ♔xf8 31.♕c5† Black resigned, as White picks up the rook on d3 after: **31...♔g8 32.♕c8† ♔h7 33.♕f5† ♔g8 34.♕xd3+– ✓**

558. Kevin Spraggett – Vassily Smyslov, Montpellier 1985
14...♗xh3! 0–1 White resigned (prematurely). The point is: 15.gxh3 ♗xd4 16.♗xd4 ♘f3† 17.♔g2 ♘xd4∓ **✓** White is a pawn down and is weak on the dark squares. But it would not hurt to play on with, for instance, 15.♗e2∓.

559. Vassily Smyslov – Helgi Olafsson, Copenhagen 1985
23.♘xb7! ♗xc2 23...♔xb7 24.♖c7† ♔b6 25.♖xe7± **✓ 24.♘xd6** The knight is trapped after 24.♘xd8? ♗g6–+. **24...♗xb3 25.♘f7! ♖f8 26.axb3 ♖xf7 27.♖c5!± ✓** White wins a pawn (1–0, 53 moves). 27.♖d1 is also good enough.

560. Petar Popovic – Vassily Smyslov, Ljubljana 1985
28.♖xe7! ♖xe7 29.♕xf6+– ✓ Black is lost on the dark squares and cannot close the diagonal. The game finished: **29...♖e5** 29...♖ce8 30.♕h8† ♔f7 31.♕g7 mate **30.♕xd6 1–0**

561. Ilya Smirin – Vassily Smyslov, Moscow 1988
22.♘xf7! ♖xf7 22...♔xf7 could be met with, among others, 23.♘g5† ♔g8 24.♘xe6 and White wins back the piece (at least) and keeps the pawns. **23.♗xe6+–** ✓ Black is unable to deal with 24.♘g5 and 24.♘e5 (1–0, 28 moves).

562. Vassily Smyslov – Jan Timman, Moscow (blitz) 1993
24.♖xf6! exf6 25.♕xh7† ♔f8 Timman may have thought that the king was escaping. **26.♖e1! ♗e6 27.♖xe6!** ✓ **1–0** It is mate on f7.

563. Vassily Smyslov – Lembit Oll, Rostov on Don 1993
29.g4†! ♔xe4 29...♔xg4 30.fxg5†+– **30.♘f2† ♔xf4 31.♖g1!** The threat is 32.♗d2 mate. **31...e4 32.♘h3 mate** ✓

564. Susan Polgar – Vassily Smyslov, Vienna 1993
Loose pieces, even queens, are in danger of dropping off. **40.♖c8† ♔h7 41.♖h8†! ♔xh8 42.♘g6† ♔h7 43.♘xh4+–** ✓ (1–0, 63 moves)

565. Vassily Smyslov – Johan Ingbrandt, Stockholm 1996
21.♘xe5! ♗xe5 22.♕h5+– ✓ The pin along the fifth rank wins back the piece, with numerous threats against the remaining bishop, the queen, the king and the weak pawns – something will drop off. But instead 22.♕d5?! ♖d8 23.♕xe5 ♕xe5 24.♖xe5 ♗g6 is not so much better for White.

566. Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant – Vassily Smyslov, London 1996
29.♘f6†! 29.♖xg7†? ♔xg7 30.♖g1† ♗g6 and White's best is a repetition with: 31.♕c7† ♕f7 32.♕c3† ♔h7 33.♘f6† ♔h8 34.♘h5† ♔h7 35.♘f6† **29...♔f7** 29...♔f8 30.♕c5†! ✓ transposes, as 30...♖e7+– moves into a deadly pin. And 29...♔h8 is met by: 30.♖d8† ♖xd8 31.♕xd8† ♖e8 32.♕xe8 mate ✓ **30.♕c7†! ♖e7** 30...♔xf6 and Black is mated after 31.♕xg7† ✓ or 31.♖d6†. **31.♖xg7†! ♔xg7 32.♕xe7†** ✓ White's position is generally winning, but there is also a mating attack on the way. Black resigned after: **32...♔h8 33.♖g1 1–0** 33.♖d7 is also good enough.

Mikhail Tal

To play for a draw, at any rate with White, is to some degree a crime against chess.

567. Mikhail Tal – A. Leonov, Vilnius 1949
22.♘f6†! 22.♖f6!? gxf6? 23.♘xh6†+– and 22.♕h4 both retain a huge advantage. **22...♘xf6** After 22...gxf6, White can transpose or use one of the extra options: 23.♗xh7† and 23.♖g4† are both winning. **23.exf6 ♘xf6** 23...♖c7 24.fxg7 was the game, and Black resigned on the next move. **24.♖xf6 ♕g7 25.♖xh6 f5 26.♕h4+–** ✓ White is a pawn up and can manoeuvre the other rook into the attack.

568. Marks Pasman – Mikhail Tal, Riga 1952
17...♘g3†! 18.♔g2 18.♘xg3 fxg3 (or 18...♖xh2† 19.♔xh2 fxg3†–+, winning the queen) 19.♕xg5 ♖xh2 mate ✓ **18...♕h4!** There are threats against h3 and h2. Not 18...♗xg4? 19.♗xg3! and White holds on. **19.♗xg3 fxg3 20.hxg3** 20.♘xg3 ♕xh2† 21.♔f1 ♕xd2–+ ✓ **20...♕h2† 21.♔f1 ♖f6!–+** ✓ The only way to win after 17...♘g3†. Black threatens 22...♖xf3† and 22...♗xg4 (0–1, 35 moves).

569. Mikhail Tal – Artur Darznieks, Riga 1953
16.♘xb5! ♕a5 White loses a piece on the queenside, but is compensated on f7 and e8. 16...cxb5? loses straight away: 17.♗xf7† ♔xf7 18.♖xc7+– ✓ **17.♘d6** Or 17.♗xf7† ♔xf7 18.♖xc6+–, or 17.b4+–. **17...♕xa3 18.♗xf7† ♔h8 19.♘xe8 ♘xe8 20.♗xe8 ♖xe8 21.♖xc6+–** White has too many pawns.

570. Mikhail Tal – Vladimir Saigin, Riga 1954
15...c6!∓ White has to retreat, since **16.dxc6? ♕b6–+** ✓ is a double threat. Tal managed to draw after 16.♗c4∓.

571. A. Ostrauskas – Mikhail Tal, Vilnius 1955
31...♗g2†! 32.♔xg2 ♖f2†! 33.♔xf2 ♕xh2† ✓ 34.♔f3 ♕xc2–+ (0–1, 39 moves)

572. Abram Khasin – Mikhail Tal, Leningrad 1956
32...♖e1! 32...♘e1? 33.♖xe7 ♘xf3 34.♖xe8† ♖xe8 35.gxf3 ♖e2∓ **33.♕d5** 33.♖xe7 ♖xf1† (33...♖8xe7?? 34.♕f8 mate) 34.♕xf1 ♖xe7–+ ✓ and the queen cannot be saved. **33...♕xf7** 33...♕e6 and 33...♔h8 also win. **34.♕xf7† ♔h8 35.♔g1 ♖xf1† 36.♕xf1** 36.♔xf1 ♖e1 mate ✓ **36...♖e1–+** ✓

573. Bukhuti Gurgenidze – Mikhail Tal, Moscow 1957
14...♘xf2! 15.♔xf2? White should prefer 15.♘f3 ♗xc3 16.bxc3 ♘xe4∓ ✓, although he does not have full compensation for the two pawns. **15...♕h4†** 15...♗d4† is pointless after 16.♔g3 even though 16...♗e5† 17.♔f2 ♕h4† 18.♔f1 ♗d4 transposes to the game. **16.♔f1 ♗d4 17.♘d1** The only defence against the mate on f2. **17...♕xh3!** ✓ 17...♗xh3?! 18.♖a3!∓ is slower but also gives full points. **18.♗f3 ♕h2–+** White is defenceless against ...f7-f5, ...♗a6 and ...♘xd5, although that is not so easy to see (0–1, 27 moves).

574. Anatolij Bannik – Mikhail Tal, Moscow 1957
27...♘xe2†! 28.♖xe2 ♕xc1† Black has won an exchange, but he needs something against the following double threat. **29.♖e1 ♗xc3! 30.♖xc1 ♗d4–+** ✓

575. Mikhail Tal – Rudolf Teschner, Vienna 1957
23.♘e4! ✓ 23.♗g7?! ♖g8 24.♘e4 is worse, since the knight has to check on f6 instead of d6: 24...♕d4 25.♘f6† ♗xf6 26.exf6 ♖xg7 27.fxg7 ♕xg7 and Black is worse but not lost. **23...dxe4** Otherwise the knight continues to d6, opening up the e-file with devastating effect. I will give one sample line to see some attacking ideas for White: 23...♕d4 24.♘d6† ♗xd6 25.exd6 ♘fe6 26.♖ad1 ♕a7 27.♖de1 ♔d7 28.♖xe6 fxe6 29.♕f6 Winning the rook with a continuing attack. **24.♖ad1+–** 24.♗xf7† is also winning, as well as many other moves. 24.♖ac1 ♕b6 25.♖cd1 mating, was the game finish.

576. Mikhail Tal – N.N., Riga (simul) 1958
18.♘xf7! ♔xf7 19.♕xe6† ♔f8 20.♗c1!+– ✓ Black has no defence against 21.♖f3† ♗f6 22.♗a3† (1–0, 27 moves). 20.♖f3†? is a mistake: 20...♗f6 21.♖xf6† ♕xf6!–+ But 20.♗f4 gives White a winning advantage, as does 20.♗xe7†. But to get full points for the last one you have to see all of the following moves: 20...♖xe7 21.♖f3† ♔e8 22.♕f7†! The only move. 22...♔d7 23.♖xe7† ♕xe7 (23...♘xe7 24.♕e6† [or 24.d5+–] 24...♔c7 25.♖f7+– winning the knight) 24.♗xd5+–

577. Mikhail Tal – Dieter Keller, Zurich 1959
29.♖b7†! ♔xb7 30.♕d7† ♔b8 31.e8=♕† ♖xe8 32.♕xe8† ♔b7 33.♕d7† ♔b8 34.♕xc6+– ✓ It was all forced.

578. Robert Fischer – Mikhail Tal, Bled 1959
20...g6! Spotting the trouble on the a8-h1 diagonal. **21.fxg6** 21.g4 is not a move White wants to play. One way to punish it is 21...gxf5 22.gxf5 ♔h8–+. **21...f5!–+** ✓ Or 21...hxg6!–+ which might be even stronger as White cannot save the knight anyway because of the weakness on g2.

579. Mikhail Tal – Wolfgang Unzicker, Stockholm 1960
24.♗xf7†! ♔xf7 25.♕b3† White can also start with 25.♘g5†. **25...♔f8** 25...♔g6 and for example 26.♘h4† ♔h5 27.♕f3† ♔xh4 28.♕g3† ♔h5 29.♕g5 mate. **26.♘g5** ✓ **1–0** The threat of 27.♕f7 mate is decisive.

580. Mikhail Tal – Martin Johansson Sr., Stockholm 1961
Thanks to the weak kingside, White is winning after normal moves, but can decide matters right now. **21.♖xe6! fxe6 22.♘xe6† ♔g8 23.♖d3+–** ✓ To avoid mate, Black must give up the bishop and the queen – without getting anything in return.

581. Mikhail Tal – Eero Book, Stockholm 1961
34.♖xf6!± gxf6? 34...♖e1† 35.♖f1± ✓ is Black's best, accepting the loss of a pawn (1–0, 48 moves). **35.♘xf6† ♔f7 36.♘xe4+–** White wins a second and a third pawn.

582. Mikhail Tal – Bukhuti Gurgenidze, Baku 1961
17.♗xf7†! ♔f8 Black has two other moves: a) 17...♔xf7 18.♕b3† ♔f8 19.♕xd3±; ✓ b) 17...♔h8 18.♗xe8 ♘xe8 (18...♘xb2 can be met with either 19.♕b3+– or 19.♕b1+–) 19.♕b3 ♘xe1 20.♖xe1± **18.♗xe8 ♘xb2 19.♕b1!** 19.♕b3? ♘c4 and White cannot save the e8-bishop since 20.♘xc4 bxc4 threatens the queen. **19...♘a4** 19...♘c4 20.♘xc4 and the bishop escapes after 20...bxc4 21.♗a4+– ✓ or 20...♕xc4 21.♖c1 ♕a4 22.♗c6+– ✓. **20.♖c1+–** ✓ The bishop escapes to c6 (1–0, 35 moves).

583. Mikhail Tal – Paul Keres, Curacao 1962
20...♘xh3†! 20...♕b6? 21.e5! (21.♕xf2 ♕xc6 22.e5!= is also not convincing for Black) 21...♘g4† (21...♘d3†? 22.♗e3+–) 22.♔h1 ♘xe5 23.♖xe5! (23.♘xe5 ♗xe5 24.♕xa8 ♗b7 25.♗a5!=) 23...dxe5 24.♖f1± and White threatens 25.♕e4. There is no good defence as the f6-bishop has no square, so Black loses a piece. **21.♔h2** 21.gxh3 ♕b6†–+ ✓ is a double attack, as is 21.♕xh3 ♕b6† 22.♕e3 ♕xc6∓ ✓. **21...♗e5†** Weaker is 21...♕c7 22.e5! ♗xe5† 23.♖xe5 (23.♘xe5 ♕xc2∓) 23...dxe5 24.♗a5 e4† 25.♗xc7 exf3 26.♘e7†∓ when Black has a lot of pawns, but his rooks are not very active. **22.♘xe5 dxe5∓** ✓ The bishop on d2 is en prise, and Black keeps the two pawns (0–1, 41 moves).

584. Mikhail Tal – Aleksandar Matanovic, Moscow 1963
24.♘xf7! ♖xf7 24...♔xf7 25.♗xg6†+– ✓ wins the queen. **25.♗xg6** ✓ **♕d6** 25...♕xc1 26.♗xf7† ♔xf7 27.♕h5† wins the queen. **26.♗xf7† ♔xf7 27.♖xc8 ♗xc8 28.♕c2+–** A double attack against the bishop and the h7-square. The attack is decisive (1–0, 30 moves).

585. Mikhail Tal – Robert Wade, Reykjavik 1964
21.♗d7! The rook is trapped. **21...♖e6** 21...♕xd7 22.♘f6† ♔g7 23.♘xd7+– ✓ **22.♗xe6+–** ✓ (1–0, 26 moves)

586. Mikhail Tal – Vladimir Ljavdansky, Kiev 1964
29.e7! 29.♘d5!? almost works: 29...♗xd5 30.♕xd5 ♕d8! and Black defends. White can try the same idea as in the main line: 30.e7!? ♗xg2†! 31.♕xg2 (31.♔xg2? ♕b7† 32.♔g1 ♕xe7–+) 31...♖e8 with the same type of play. However, with the open white king, Black has perpetual checks: 32.♕d5† ♔g7 33.♖xh7† ♔xh7 34.♕f7† ♔h6 35.♕xe8 ♕f2!= **29...♖e8 30.♘d5!** The queen cannot defend f6, so Black must take. **30...♗xd5 31.♕xd5† ♔g7 32.♖xh7†!** The queen needs to penetrate to f7. **32...♔xh7 33.♕f7† ♔h6 34.♕xe8** White creates luft for the king with check, and queens. **34...♕f2 35.♕h8† ♔g5 36.h4†! ♔g4 37.e8=♕+–** ✓ Black has only a few checks since e1 is covered by the new queen (1–0, 41 moves).

587. Mikhail Tal – Svetozar Gligoric, Reykjavik 1964
27.♗xe5! It is also possible to start with 27.♘h6†. **27...♖xe5** 27...fxe5 keeps the rook on c8 defended, but Black loses the d-pawn after 28.exd5 ✓ 29.d6 and 30.♘h6 wins. **28.♘h6† ♔h8 29.♘f7†! ♕xf7 30.♕xc8+–** ✓ (1–0, 40 moves)

588. Anatoly Bykhovsky – Mikhail Tal, Kislovodsk 1964
37...♖xf3! 38.♖c7 A double attack, but the pieces can defend each other. 38.♔xf3 loses to: 38...♘e5† 39.♔f4 ♘xc6–+ ✓ **38...♖d3!–+** ✓ Not the other way around: 38...♘e5?? 39.♖xe7+–

589. Mikhail Tal – Georgi Tringov, Amsterdam 1964
15.♗xf7†! 15.♖xb7?! is the start of a long forced line: 15...♕xc4 16.♖xd7 ♗xd7 17.♕xd7† ♔f8 18.♕d6†! ♔e8 19.♗xe5 ♗xe5 20.♕xe5† ♔f8 21.♕xh8 ♕xc2± White has attacking chances with ♘g5 or e4-e5-e6. **15...♔xf7 16.♘g5† ♔e8 17.♕e6†** ✓ **1–0** Black resigned due to: 17...♔d8 18.♘f7† ♔c7 19.♕d6 mate

590. Mikhail Tal – Wladyslaw Schinzel, Warsaw (simul) 1966
20.♘g4! ♘xg4 21.♕xh7† ✓ ♔f8 White has several ways to continue his winning attack; the famous attacker Tal unsurprisingly chose the strongest one: **22.♕h8† ♔e7 23.♕xg7+–** White has threats against e6 and g4 (1–0, 29 moves). 23.♗xe6 fxe6 24.♕xg7† is also winning for White, but not as clearly.

591. Mikhail Tal – Svend Hamann, Kislovodsk 1966
17.e5!+– ✓ White lands first, before Black can put a pawn on e5. It's over – the dark squares are too weak. No variations needed.

592. Mikhail Tal – Mato Damjanovic, Sarajevo 1966
28.♗xa4! ♖da8 29.♗xb5! Only like so – otherwise the first move would have been a mistake. **29...♗xb5** 29...♖xa3 30.♖xa3 ♖xa3 31.♗xc4+– ✓ **30.♖xa6 ✓ ♖xa6 31.♖xa6 ♗xa6+–** The endgame should be easily winning, at least for a world-class player (1–0, 35 moves).

593. Erling Kristiansen – Mikhail Tal, Havana (ol) 1966
25...♖xc4! 25...exf5? 26.♗xf7†! ♔xf7 27.♕b3† ♔f8 28.♕xa4∓ is also strong, but losing the f-pawn is totally unnecessary. **26.♖xc4 exf5–+** ✓ Black wins the pawns on e5 and d6 (0–1, 35 moves).

594. Mikhail Tal – Svetozar Gligoric, Budva 1967
White is an exchange up for a pawn, but if he has to start retreating his pieces, Black will have sufficient counterplay. For that reason, forceful action is called for, taking advantage of the unprotected rook on a8. **27.♗xg7! ♗xg7 28.♖xg7† ♕xg7 29.♕d5†** 29.♕xf5 is also winning, as the knight will have to be sacrificed to avoid losing the rook anyway. **29...♔h7 30.♕xa8** ✓ White is clearly winning, but fell for a drawing trick in the end (½-½, 53 moves).

595. Lajos Portisch – Mikhail Tal, Moscow 1967
16.b6!+– ✓ The knight on a5 is trapped and is lost after 17.♕c3 (1–0, 24 moves).

596. Mikhail Tal – Evgeni Vasiukov, Kharkov 1967
34.c7! 34.♗xc4± **34...♖e8!** 34...♖c8 35.♖b8 ♘b6 36.♗e6+– ✓ **35.♖b8 ♘b6 36.♗a4! ♖c8 37.♗d7!** ✓ 34.c7 would have been bad if this 37th move did not exist (1–0, 40 moves).

597. Mikhail Tal – Alexander Cherepkov, Alma-Ata 1968
22.♗xh7†! ♔xh7 The game was 22...♔f8 23.♗e4± (1–0, 32 moves). **23.♕c2† ♔g8 24.dxe6** ✓ **fxe6+–** It is only a positional advantage, but it's a great one.

598. Bent Larsen – Mikhail Tal, Eersel (5) 1969
31.♖xg7†! ♔xg7 31...♖xg7?? 32.♕e8 mate ✓ **32.♖c7! ♗d7!** 32...♖xc7? 33.♘xc7+– ✓ **33.♖xd7** The queen on e3 survives – the point of White's double-rook sacrifice. **33...♖xd7∞** ✓ White should exchange queens to safeguard his king, with an okay position despite the knight in the corner. In the game, White instead went for the greedy 34.♕xa7? and lost (0–1, 40 moves).

599. Vladimir Tukmakov – Mikhail Tal, Moscow 1969
27...♘xg4! 28.fxg4 White instead resigned after 28.♘e4 ♘e5. **28...♕f2† 29.♔h3** 29.♔h1 ♕f3 mate ✓ **29...♕f3† 30.♔h4 ♕xg4 mate** ✓

600. Mikhail Tal – Alexey Suetin, Tbilisi 1969
20.♕xe5! dxe5 21.exf7† ♔d7 21...♔f8 22.♗h6 mate ✓ is short, and 21...♔d8 leaves White to choose his preferred route to victory, one being: 22.f8=♕† ♖xf8 23.♖xf8† ♔d7 24.♖xa8+– **22.♗f5†!** A double check; Black has to give up too much material. **22...♔c6 23.♗e4† ✓ ♘d5 24.♖xd5** White wins the queen with a decisive material advantage. 24.♗xd5† ♔d7 25.♗xa8†+– is also good enough.

601. Mikhail Tal – Viktor Korchnoi, Herceg Novi (blitz) 1970
23.♕e8! White threatens 24.♖d8. **23...♖af7** 23...♔g8 prepares to escape via f7, but that dream comes to an end after 24.♗d5†! ♔h8 25.♗c4+– ✓. **24.♖d8+–** ✓ It is not possible to defend against both 25.♖xc8 and 25.♕xf7. Also good enough is 24.♖d5 ♕b6 25.♕xf7+–, and 24.♕xf7 ♖xf7 25.♖d8† ♖f8 26.♖ee8 g6 27.♖xf8† ♔g7 28.♖xc8 wins as well, but is slightly unnecessary.

602. Gedeon Barcza – Mikhail Tal, Tallinn 1971
9...♗h3! 10.♘fxd4 10.0–0 allows the most resistance: 10...♘xf3† 11.♗xf3 ♗xf1∓ But 10.♗xh3 ♘xf3† 11.♔f1 ♘xd2†–+ ✓ offers no resistance. **10...♗xg2 11.♖g1 exd4–+** ✓ Black has won a piece (0–1, 23 moves).

603. Mikhail Tal – Andres Vooremaa, Tallinn 1971
27.♘e6†! The black queen is shut out from the defence of the rook on f7. **27...dxe6** The game ended: 27...♕xe6 28.fxe6 ♖xf6 29.♖f7 1–0 **28.♖xf7 ♘xf7 29.♕xf8† ♔c7 30.♕xf7†+–** ✓ The f-pawn queens.

604. Karoly Honfi – Mikhail Tal, Sukhumi 1972
30...♖xc3† 31.♔xc3 ♗b4†! 31...♖c8† 32.♔d2+– and the king escapes. **32.♔xb4** 32.♔c4 ♕a6† 33.♔xb4 ♕xe2–+ ✓ (or 32...♖b8 mating) **32...♕a5† 33.♔c4 ♕a6†–+ 0–1**

605. Mikhail Tal – Leonid Shamkovich, Baku 1972
20.♗xh7! ♔xh7 20...f5 21.♕h4✓ was quite hopeless (1–0, 26 moves). Both 21.♕h5 and 21.♕h3 also win, but the latter makes little sense. **21.♖f3** ✓ Mate is on the way. 21.♖d3 also wins.

606. Mikhail Tal – Valeri Korensky, Sochi 1973
20.♘xg7! ♘xg7 21.♕g3! 21.♕g4? ♗f6 22.♘f5 ♗e6–+ pins the knight. **21...♗g5** 21...♗f6 22.♘f5+– ✓ **22.♗xg5 f6 23.♗h6±** White has won a pawn and weakened the enemy's king's position (1–0, 41 moves).

607. Mikhail Tal – William Hartston, Hastings 1973
24.♖xf7! ♖xf7 24...♔xf7 25.♗xg6† ♔g8 26.♕h7 mate ✓ **25.♗xg6 ♘f5** The best try. **26.♗xf7† ♔xf7 27.♕h7† ✓ 1–0** Black loses the queen if he goes to the eighth rank, and is mated after: 27...♘g7 (27...♔e8 28.♕xh5† ♔f8 29.♕h8†+–) 28.♖f1†

608. Michael Basman – Mikhail Tal, Hastings 1973
28.♖xf7! ♖xf7 28...♕xf7 29.♗d5! ♕xd5 30.♕g7 mate ✓; 28...♕xe3† 29.♔h1 ♖xf7 30.♕xb8† ♗e8 (30...♕e8 31.♕xe8† ♗xe8 32.♗d5 ✓ should be winning as well) 31.♗d5+– ✓ The king gets a square and the black rook is pinned. White must still take some care, but he is winning. **29.♕xb8† ✓ ♗e8** 29...♖f8 30.♕a7 is important, defending the e3-pawn. **30.♗d4!** Defending against 30...♕xe3† 31.♔h1 ♘f2†. **30...axb2**± White is close to winning if he plays accurately, but it's difficult in practical play. Still it's a good outcome from the diagram position. Basman played 31.♖d1, and 31.♖f1 was also a reasonable alternative.

609. Mikhail Tal – Paul Keres, Tallinn 1973
17...♘h4! The only move that saves the trapped queen. **18.gxh4** 18.♗xf3? ♘xf3† 19.♔g2 ♘xd2–+ ✓ wins a piece. **18...♕h3 19.♘f6†!** White had to do something before Black took on h4. **19...gxf6!** 19...♔h8?! 20.♘xe8± was the game (1–0, 45 moves). **20.♕xh6 exd4!** Stopping 21.♖e3. **21.♔h1!** 21.cxd4 ♘xd4 22.♖e3 ♘f5! 23.exf5 ♖xe3∓ **21...♘e5! 22.♖g1† ♗g4!** 22...♘g4? 23.♗xg4 ♗xg4 24.♖g3!+– **23.♖g3!** a) White has a narrow way to draw with: 23.cxd4 ♘f3! 24.♖g2 ♖xe4 25.♗b3! ♘xh4 26.♖g3 ♖ce8 27.♖ag1! ♖e1 28.♗xf7†! ♔xf7 29.♕h7† ♔f8 30.♕h8† ♔f7= b) 23.♗xg4?! ♘xg4 24.♖xg4† (24.♖g3?? ♕xh2 mate – this is the reason why White should start with ♖g3 on the 23rd move) 24...♕xg4 25.♖g1 ♕xg1†∓ **23...♕f1† 24.♖g1 ♕h3=** Black should have seen about this far before getting his queen trapped on f3, but from the diagram position, Black has no choice but to go for 17...♘h4 and make it up along the way. So you don't need to see anything of this to get full points.

610. Mikhail Tal – Michael Stean, Moscow 1975
18.♘xh6†! gxh6 19.♕g6† ♔h8 19...♗g7 20.♗xf7† ✓ ♔f8 21.♗xh6! (21.♗f4 seems almost as strong and simpler: 21...♖e7 22.♗d6±) 21...♗xh6 22.♗d5! ♕e7 23.♕xh6† ♕g7± With Black's king in mind, White should keep the queens on. **20.♗xf7+–** ✓ There is no defence against 21.♗xh6. If **20...♖h5** then White wins by challenging the knight on f6 in some fashion. In the game, Black tried 20...♖c6 and was immediately rewarded: 21.♖d5? ♖xe3! (which he didn't play) 22.fxe3 ♗g7!∞ Instead, 21.♗f4!, 21.♗xh6 and 21.♘d5 are all winning.

611. Oleg Romanishin – Mikhail Tal, Tallinn 1977
29.♘xh6! White gets a third pawn for the exchange with a continuing attack, since **29...♔xh6 30.♕h4†** wins the rook: **30...♔g6 31.♕g4† ♔h6 32.♕xf3+–** ✓

612. Mikhail Tal – Tamaz Giorgadze, Minsk 1979
39...♖xg3†! Opening up the second rank to take advantage of the unprotected rook on c2. **40.fxg3 ♖e2† 41.♔h1** 41.♔g1 ♘f3†–+ ✓ **0–1** There are several ways to clinch the attack. The fastest is 41...♔h3 with mate coming.

613. Mikhail Tal – Boris Spassky, Tilburg 1980
38.♖g5†! ♔f7 38...fxg5 39.♕xg5† ♔h8 40.♕h6† ♔g8 41.♕h7 mate ✓ **39.♗g6†+–** ✓ Tal won the queen (1–0, 46 moves).

614. Mikhail Tal – Rico Mascarinas, Lvov 1981
28.♗c7! The bishop moves with tempo to clear the way for the queen. **28...♕xc7 29.♖h8†** Or 29.♕h6+–. **29...♔xh8 30.♕h6† ♔g8 31.♕h7† ♔f8 32.♕h8 mate** ✓

615. Jan Ambroz – Mikhail Tal, Riga 1981
36...♘xe4! 37.♕xe4 37.f3–+ was played in the game (0–1, 40 moves). **37...d5∓** ✓ A double attack regaining the piece with an extra pawn and bishop versus knight.

616. Mikhail Tal – David Bronstein, Tbilisi (simul match) 1982
30.♘g6†! Preparing a square for the rook. **30...hxg6 31.♕d8† ♔g7 32.♖xg6† ♔h7 33.♕g8 mate** ✓

617. Mikhail Tal – Jim Plaskett, Sochi 1984
14.♗xh6! ♗xd5 14...gxh6 15.♕g6† ✓ ♔h8 16.♖xf6+– **15.cxd5 ♘b4 16.♕g6!+–** ✓ White has won a pawn and has the bishop pair and more active position (1–0, 24 moves).

618. Mikhail Tal – Alexander Shabalov, Jurmala 1985
26.♘xe6! fxe6 26...♖xd2 27.♗xd2+– ✓ with threats against the queen and rook. **27.♖xd8 ♗xd8 28.♕xd8** ✓ With a clearly winning position for White (1–0, 39 moves).

619. Zoltan Ribli – Mikhail Tal, Montpellier 1985
26...♖xf3! 27.♘xf3 27.♔xf3 ♕d3†!–+ ✓ wins the rook on d1. **27...♕xd1–+** ✓

620. Mikhail Tal – Lembit Oll, Riga 1986
14.c5! The move ♘e6 would be mate if it were not for the queen, so White starts harassing Her Majesty. **14...♘xc5** The alternatives lead to mate: 14...♕xc5 15.♘e6 mate ✓ or 14...♕a6 15.♗a5†

624. Mikhail Tal – Eduard Meduna, Germany 1989
11.♘xf7! 11.♗xe6 fxe6 12.♘xe6 is also a serious advantage for White. **11...♔xf7** The game went: 11...♕c7 12.♗xe6 (1–0, 20 moves) **12.♖xe6!** ✓ 12.♘g5† ♔e8 13.♘xe6+– is also strong enough, even though White has to play some more good moves. **12...♕b4** Or 12...♕xe6 13.♘g5†+–. The b4-square is the only way to escape from the discovered check, but White has many winning moves, among them **13.♖xf6† ♔xf6 14.♕xd4†** with mate.

625. Soenke Maus – Mikhail Tal, Germany 1990
24.♘bxd5! Taking advantage of the unprotected bishops and exposed queen. 24.♘fxd5 leads to the same. **24...exd5 25.♘xd5 ♕d6 26.♘xf6† ♕xf6 27.♕xd7+–** ✓ White is winning, but blundered on the next move (0–1, 28 moves).

626. Mikhail Tal – Vladimir Akopian, Barcelona 1992
32.♕e5†! White wins with a discovered check on the next move. **32...♖g7 33.♖d8† ♖xd8 34.♕xc3+–** ✓ (1–0, 38 moves)

Tigran Petrosian

Strategy is a piece of stone you are working on, and tactics is basically the instrument you use to cut the stone. So we should see tactics as an instrument to help us to achieve what we want to achieve.

627. Malashkhia – Tigran Petrosian, Tbilisi 1944
17.f6! ♗xf6 17...♘xf6 is a better try, but White is much better after 18.♘d5! ♕xa2 19.♘xe7† ♔h8 20.♗xf6± ✓ or 20.♖xf6±. **18.♖xf6! ♘xf6 19.♘d5** ✓ **1–0** Black resigned due to 19...♕xa2 20.♘xe7† ♔g7 21.♘d5 with a deadly attack.

628. Agamalian – Tigran Petrosian, Tbilisi 1944
26...♘xb3! 27.♗b2 27.♗xb3 ♗xf3† ✓ (27...♖xf1?! 28.♔xf1 ♗xf3∓ is also good, but it is better to keep control over the c-file) 28.♔g1–+ Black is a healthy pawn up with a positional advantage to boot. **27...♖b1!** Black has to stay on the first rank. It seems unnecessary to give away the bishop with: 27...♗xf3† 28.♔xf3 ♖b1∓ **28.♗xb3 ♗xf3†** 28...♖xf1 is a tempo worse, but also good enough. **29.♔g1 ♖xf1† 30.♔xf1∓** ✓ Black is a healthy pawn up (0–1, 56 moves).

629. Yury Vasilchuk – Tigran Petrosian, Leningrad 1945
39.♕xg8! 0–1 Black resigned due to 39...♘xg8 40.h7+– ✓ and the h-pawn queens.

630. Palavandishvili – Tigran Petrosian, Tbilisi 1945
Black is clearly better, but can push his advantage further with: **14...♘b4! 15.♕b3** 15.cxb4? allows 15...♖ac8–+ ✓ or 15...♖fc8–+. **15...♘xd3†–+** Trading off White's bishop pair, which was his only compensation for his many pawn weaknesses.

631. Nersesov – Tigran Petrosian, Tbilisi 1945
Black is clearly better with, for example, 23...♖ab8∓, but he has a way to gain a winning position. **23...♘e4!** All the exposed white pieces make lovely targets for a centralized knight. **24.♖xd5** 24.♖c2 ♘xg3†–+ ✓ **24...♕xd5** Or 24...♘xg3†–+. **0–1** White resigned as 25.♕xd5 ♘c3† gives Black an extra rook.

632. Nikolay Grigoriev – Tigran Petrosian, Tbilisi 1945
25...♖xe5†! Abandoning the bind on the queenside to go for the kill. 25...g6?!∓ is not killing. **26.♔f1** 26.♔d1 ♕xf2! 27.♕xb3 ♕e2† 28.♔c1 ♖c5† 29.♕c4 ♖xc4†–+ ✓ 30.dxc4 d3 31.b4 ♕c2 mate **26...♖f5!** ✓ **0–1** Mating.

633. Kristaps Smilga – Tigran Petrosian, Leningrad 1946
Black is already winning, but has a chance to finish the game quickly. **37...♖xa2! 38.♕xa2 b3 39.♕b2 bxc2 40.♕xc2** 40.♔g1 can be met in many ways, including 40...♕xd4 41.cxd4 c1=♕†–+ and 40.♖e1 also allows many wins, including 40...♕d3–+. The queen infiltration is lethal. **40...♕xd4!–+** ✓ 0–1 (44 moves)

634. Tigran Petrosian – Yuri Kotkov, Leningrad 1946
White is a piece up, but it looks like he will lose the knight on c4. **19.♖xd7!** 19.♘fe5 ♗xe5 20.♘xe5 ♖xc2 21.♗xc2 is clearly better for White, since he holds onto the minor pieces after: 21...♕c7 22.♘xd7 ♖d8 23.♘c5! However, the game continuation is much clearer. **19...♕xd7 20.♘b6!** 20.♘ce5± only gives two pieces for a rook and pawn. **20...♖xc2** 20...♕c7 21.♘xc8+– ✓ **21.♘xd7** ✓ **♖c4 22.♘d2!+–** The last difficult move, keeping the b-pawn on the board. 22.♘xf8?! ♖xe4 allows Black to win the b-pawn, although White is winning anyway.

635. Tigran Petrosian – Genrikh Kasparian, Yerevan (1) 1946
28...♖xh3†! 28...♘xb1 29.♕xa7 and Black cannot defend against White's attack, but he has 29...♖xh3† (either now or after 29...♕b2/♕b3 30.♗b4) 30.♔xh3 ♖h8† 31.♔g3 ♕b3† 32.♔g4 ♕d1† (32...♘xd2 33.♕a5 ♔b8! 34.♕c7† is also a draw) 33.♔g3 with a draw. **29.gxh3** 29.♔xh3 ♕f5†!–+ ✓ and the knight fork on e2 is unavoidable. **29...♘xb1 30.♖xb1** 30.♕xa7 ♕xd2†–+ ✓ comes with check, and Black gets the tempo he needs to check the queen to b5 and win. **30...♕xb1 31.♕xa7 ♕b5! 32.♗a5 ♖e8!–+** ✓ The only winning move, since Black has to be able to protect the rook after ♕a8† (0–1, 39 moves).

636. Tigran Petrosian – Manoian, Yerevan 1948
32...♕g7?? The idea is to be able to play ...♔g8, but the attack is irresistible with the white rook on h6. 32...♔g8!–+ ✓ is the solution, and a type of move that's often overlooked, simply moving the king out of the way in anticipation of a check. **33.♖xh6† ♔g8 34.♕e6†+–** White has a winning attack (1–0, 40 moves). 34.♕xd5†+– also wins.

637. Alexander Kotov – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1949
8.♗xe7! ♕xe7?! 8...♔xe7 9.♘xe4 dxe4 10.♕xe4†± ✓ **9.♘xd5!** Taking full advantage of Black's premature knight jump to e4. **9...cxd5 10.♕xc8†+–** ✓ White is winning; Black resigned in a few moves.

638. Tigran Petrosian – Alexey Sokolsky, Moscow 1949
17.♗xf7†! ♔xf7 18.♕b3† ♖e6 19.♕xd3± ✓ White has won a pawn (½–½, 51 moves).

639. Boris Ratner – Tigran Petrosian, Gorky 1950
30...♘a4! 30...♗xd4 31.♗xd4∓ **31.bxa4 ♕xb2 32.♗xb2 ♗xd4–+** ✓ After a series of forced moves, Black is an exchange up for a pawn, but also has much more active play and fewer weaknesses.

640. Tigran Petrosian – Ratmir Kholmov, Vilnius 1951
34...♘xf2! 35.♖b7? a) 35.♔xf2 ♖xd1–+ and the pin along the second rank makes Black's day. b) 35.♕xd5 ♘xd1–+ ✓ and the knight cannot be taken due to 36...♕b6† picking up the rook, so Black has two extra pawns and an initiative. c) 35.♖b1! was the only move. 35...♘xe4 36.♖xb2∓ With the rook on a7, White has hopes of attacking a5 or f7. **35...♖xd1†** ✓ Or 35...♘xe4–+. **36.♗xd1 ♕d2–+** (0–1, 43 moves) 36...♘xe4–+ was also winning.

641. Herman Pilnik – Tigran Petrosian, Budapest 1952
36.♗xc6! 36.hxg4!? fxg4 37.♗xc6! could be a slight improvement, as White has less to worry about on the first rank. But the game move is good enough. **36...♔g7** 36...♖xc6 37.d7+– ✓ queens. After having moved the king, Black threatens 37...♖xc6 38.d7 ♖fd6 39.cxd6 ♖xd6 with drawing chances. **37.♖e7†!** ✓ The game continued: 37.d7 ♖fxc6! 38.dxc8=♕ ♖xc8 39.b4 The rook ending should be winning, but it is not over yet (1–0, 50 moves). Instead, checking on e7 is accurate when Black's king cannot go to f6. The two pawns, supported by bishop and rook, are strong enough to gain a winning rook endgame, for instance: **37...♔f8!? 38.♖e5 ♖xc6 39.d7 ♖fd6 40.♖xf5† ♔g7 41.♖g5† ♔h6 42.cxd6 g3 43.♔f1 ♖xd6 44.♖g4+–**

642. Tigran Petrosian – Ludek Pachman, Saltsjobaden 1952
24.♕xg6! 24.♘e7†?! ♕xe7 25.♕xg6± is not as good. With queens on the board, Black has some chances to get his pieces working properly. **24...♕xg6 25.♘e7† ♔f7 26.♘xg6 ♔xg6+–** ✓ The minor pieces are no match for so many pawns on the kingside (1–0, 36 moves).

643. Zdravko Milev – Tigran Petrosian, Bucharest 1953
24...♘xg3! Using the back-rank weakness to create a winning attack. 24...♘g5? does not work due to the defence 25.♘d2!+– and the knight is trapped on g5. **25.♖xe8†** Instead the game went: 25.♘c3 bxc3 26.hxg3 c2–+ **25...♖xe8 26.hxg3 ♖e1† 27.♔h2 ♕e2† 28.♔h3 ♖h1 mate** ✓

644. Laszlo Szabo – Tigran Petrosian, Zurich 1953
28...♗f6! Trying to chase away a defender of c4. **29.e5** The only serious move, which White had surely planned in advance. **29...♗xe5!** ✓ But the pinned knight is not an effective defender, as it cannot move! **30.♖e4 ♘f6–+** The rook cannot maintain its defence of c4 and **31.♖xe5 ♖xc4 32.♖xc4 ♕xc4 33.♕xc4 ♖xc4** is a decisive double threat. 30...f6–+ or 30...♗xh2† 31.♔h1 ♘f6–+ does not spoil anything either.

645. Gideon Stahlberg – Tigran Petrosian, Zurich 1953
17...♗xh3 18.♔xh3 ♘xe4! Simply winning a central pawn; Black is much better. **19.♘xe4 ♕f5† 20.♔h2 ♕xe4∓** ✓ (0–1, 64 moves)

646. Mark Taimanov – Tigran Petrosian, Zurich 1953
24.♗a4! Since the queen needs to remain in control of d8, White wins material. After 24.g4?! g6± White is still clearly better, but Black has hope. **24...♗d7** Black played 24...♖d7+– (1–0, 40 moves). **25.e6!** Now the queen has to allow the decisive ♕d8†. Instead 25.♖h3!? h6 (25...g6 26.e6 ♕xe6 27.♖e1+–) 26.♗d1, infiltrating the light squares, is also good. **25...♕xe6 26.♕d8†** Or 26.♖e1+–. **26...♕e8 27.♕xe8† ♗xe8 28.♗xe8+–** ✓

647. Svetozar Gligoric – Tigran Petrosian, Belgrade 1954
33.♖xg5†! 33.♖xf6?!= **33...♔f7** 33...fxg5 34.♕xf8 mate ✓ **34.♖xf6†** Forcing mate, while several other moves also win. The best alternative is 34.♘e5†+–. **34...♔xf6 35.♕xf8†! ♔xg5 36.h4†! 1–0** It's mate: 36...♔xh4 37.♕f4 mate ✓ or 36...♔g6 37.♘f4 mate ✓.

648. Tigran Petrosian – Pal Benko, Budapest 1955
18.♘xe5! Black is surely missing his dark-squared bishop now! **18...♕xe5 19.♗g3 ♕e7 20.e5! ♖d7 21.♖xf6+–** ✓ White is clearly winning – the central pawns and bishop pair reign supreme (1–0, 27 moves).

649. Tigran Petrosian – Alexander Tolush, Riga 1958
29.♗f1! The bishop manoeuvre to the a2-g8 diagonal wins at least the f5-pawn, with a completely winning position. 29.♗h3 tries to provoke ...g6 before manoeuvring the bishop to c4, but Black has 29...♖d7 in between, when the queen has no good square. 30.♕f1 g6 31.♖xe4 fxe4 32.♗xd7 ♕xd7 33.♕c4† ♕f7 34.♕xf7† ♔xf7 35.♖xc5 wins a pawn, but it's not over yet. **29...♔h8 30.♗c4+–** ✓ White is winning; here are some sample lines: **30...♕f6** 30...♕d7 31.♗e6 ♕xd1† 32.♖xd1+–; 30...♕g6 31.♖e6 ♘f6 32.♕d6+– and Black has lost all active counterplay while White's pieces have gained in strength. **31.♖e8 ♖xe8 32.♗xf6+–** (1–0, 37 moves)

650. Tigran Petrosian – Eduard Gufeld, Tbilisi 1959
23.♘xd5! exd5 24.♕xe8+– ✓ The queen cannot be taken, so White has gained a winning advantage with his extra pawn and better pieces (1–0, 30 moves).

651. Leonid Stein – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1961
26.♗xe6! Black resigned. 26.♖xf7? ♖xf7 27.♗xe6 leads nowhere after: 27...♖xf1† 28.♕xf1 ♕e7∓ And 26.♗h5 ♘h8!= is equal. **26...fxe6** Or 26...♘h8 when White, among others, has 27.♕g4!+–. **27.♕g4!+–** ✓ The knight cannot move because of ♖f8†, so Black is totally lost.

652. Tigran Petrosian – Paul Keres, Zurich 1961
22...♕xd1! 22...♘f3†? 23.♖xf3 ♕xd1† 24.♔g2± is a lot worse, since White retains attacking chances with the queens still on and has a double attack with the bishop. **23.♖xd1 ♘f3† 24.♔g2 ♘xh4† 25.♗xh4∓** ✓ Black's pieces are not impressive, and the d6-pawn is quite useless, so it is not over yet, but winning an exchange is of course a good start (0–1, 50 moves).

653. Semen Furman – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1961
31...♘xh3†! 32.gxh3 32.♔h2 ♘xf2–+ was hopeless in the game (0–1, 41 moves). **32...♘f3† 33.♔h1 ♘xe1–+** ✓

654. Tigran Petrosian – Georgi Ilivitzki, Moscow) 1964
White has a clear positional advantage after most moves, but can use his superiority to gain a decisive material advantage. **22.♘xg7! ♔xg7 23.g5+–** ✓ White wins an important pawn, or more. The opening of the g-file secures the pawn that will arrive on f6. **23...♘8d7 24.♕xd5 1–0**

655. Tigran Petrosian – Leonid Stein, Moscow 1967
Sometimes the best you can do is make a draw. **25.♘xe5!** 25.♘h2 ♘g4∓ **25...♕h3** 25...♘g4? 26.♗xg4 fxg4 27.♘xd7 ✓ ♖f7 28.e5!± The knight gets out with an extra piece, or White gets a very strong passed pawn on e6. 25...♕g5 should be met with 26.♘f3=, as White is worse after other moves. The challenge with this exercise is to realize that White is satisfied with a draw. **26.♗f1** 26.♘xd7? ♗e3!!∓ **26...♕h5 27.♗e2** White can also play on with 27.♘xd7 ♘xd7 28.exf5= but should probably try the same repetition soon. **27...♕h3 28.♗f1 ♕h5** ✓ **½–½**

656. Tigran Petrosian – Aron Reshko, Leningrad 1967
28.♖xg6†! The only move that is not worse for White. 28.♖xd2? ♕xd2 29.♖xg6†∓ allows Black to move the king, as the pawn on h6 is defended. It is also a huge difference that Black threatens to check (and mate). **28...fxg6** 28...♔f8? 29.♖xh6± (or 29.♖g8† ♔xg8 30.♕g4† ♔f8 31.♕xc8† ♔e7±, or 29.♖f1±) **29.♕b7† ♔h8** ChessBase gives 29...♔g8? but it seems unlikely, as it allows 30.♗b3† with mate. **30.♕xc8†∞** ✓ The game should end in a draw, but Black made a mistake and lost (1–0, 40 moves).

657. Tigran Petrosian – Jonathan Penrose, Palma de Mallorca 1969
38.♘e7†! 38.♕b5+– is a positional win – White still has the same threat. **38...♕xe7 39.♕a6† ♔g7 40.♕xc8+–** ✓

658. Tigran Petrosian – Boris Spassky, Moscow (4) 1969
38...♗d3! The queen is obstructed from the defence of the d-pawn. **39.♘f5** 39.♕c3 ♕h4 40.♔g1 ♗xf1! Black wins. 41.♖c8 (no better are 41.♔xf1 ♕h3† 42.♔f2 ♕g2 mate or 41.♘xf1 ♘e2†–+) 41...♗b5!–+ ✓ The light-squared bishop does a good job. **39...♕g5!** The threats are 40...♘h3† and 40...♗xf5 followed by 41...♕h4†. 39...♗xf5 40.♕xf4 g5 also wins – White has to give up the d- or the g-pawns (also full points). **40.♘e3 ♕h4† 41.♔g1 ♗xf1–+** ✓ **0–1** White resigned due to 42.♘xf1 ♖e2 43.♕xf4 ♕f2† 44.♔h1 ♕xf1 mate and 42.♔xf1 ♕h3† 43.♔g1 ♕xf3 with mate coming soon.

659. Tigran Petrosian – Vladimir Savon, Moscow 1969
29.e5! ✓ Preparing a check on f3. But not 29.♖f3? ♕xf3! 30.gxf3 ♖h8=. **29...♕xe5 30.♗h6+– 1–0** There is no defence against 31.♖f3†. Petrosian's 30.♖f3† ♔e6 31.♕xg6† ♗f6 was also winning, but required some more moves (1–0, 37 moves).

660. Lev Polugaevsky – Tigran Petrosian, Soviet Union 1970
23...♗xd2! 24.♕xd2 ♕xg3†! 24...♖xe4∓ If you saw the queen sacrifice, winning a pawn, but still decided to keep the queens on the board, you get full points. **25.♔xg3 ♘xe4† 26.♔f4 ♘xd2–+** ✓ After **27.♖fe1**, Black played **27...♘f6** to get the knight out in a good way.

661. Rudolf Maric – Tigran Petrosian, Vinkovci 1970
22.♗xf7! White is better after other moves, but this wins. **22...♖xf7 23.♘e6†! ♔g8 24.♘xc7+–** ✓ The final moves were: **24...♗f8 25.♘e8 ♔h7 26.♖xd7 1–0**

662. Tigran Petrosian – Anthony Saidy, San Antonio 1972
Black is trying to equalize by trading rooks, but he forgot about his queen. **21.♗d3! ♕d5 22.♗h7†! ♔xh7 23.♖xd5+–** ✓ (1–0, 56 moves)

663. Tigran Petrosian – Miguel Quinteros, Manila 1974
38.f4! Driving away the best defender of d6. **38...gxf4 39.gxf4 ♗b2 40.♖xd6!** 40.♗xb2 ♕xb2 41.♖xd6 ♕b1† 42.♔h2 ♕xf5 43.♖xh6+– should also win, but it's only a pawn. **40...♖e8** 40...♕xd6 41.♗xc5+– ✓ **41.♖xf6 1–0**

664. Tigran Petrosian – Radolfo Cardoso, Manila 1974
36.♖h7†! 36.♕h6†? ♔f7 37.♕h7†? ♔e6–+ **36...♔xh7 37.♘xf6† ♔g7 38.♘xg4+–** ✓

665. Tigran Petrosian – Bukhuti Gurgenidze, Riga 1975
19.♘xd6! White did not have to respond to the threat to the bishop by moving it. **19...hxg5** 19...♕xd6? 20.♗xe7 ♕xe7 21.d6† ♕f7 22.♗d5+– ✓ **20.♘xb5+–** (1–0, 31 moves) 20.♘xb7+– also wins if White follows up with 21.d6†.

666. Tigran Petrosian – Nigel Short, London (simul) 1978
37...♖xg6! In order to exploit White's weak king, Black needs to get at the d4-pawn with the bishop. So 37...♘xg6 38.♖xf6 ♗xf6 39.♗xg6∞ is not enough. **38.♕h5** Three alternatives: a) 38.♗xg6 ♘xg6 39.♘xg6 ♗xd4†–+ ✓ b) 38.♘xg6 ♗xd4†–+ ✓ c) 38.♖f7 ♖h6! 39.♕xh6 ♗xh6 40.♗h7† ♔h8 41.♖xe7 ♕xe7 42.♘g6† ♔xh7 43.♘xe7–+ ✓ is just a piece up for Black (and there were no good alternatives on the way). **38...♖h6!** 38...♗xe5?! 39.♖xe5± **39.♕f7† ♔h8** ✓ **0–1** White is a piece down.

667. Gerardo Lebredo Zarragoitia – Tigran Petrosian, Vilnius 1978
Black can win with many moves, but a mate-in-four should not be missed: **32...♘g4†! 33.hxg4 ♖f1!** ✓ **0–1**

668. Lev Polugaevsky – Tigran Petrosian, Kislovodsk 1982
24.♘d5! exd5 a) 24...♕xd6 25.♘f6†+– ✓ wins the queen. b) Black tried to fight on with 24...♕c5 but did not last long: 25.♘c7+– (or 25.♘e7† ♗xe7 26.♕xe6†+–, or even 25.♕c2+–) **25.♗xd5†** ✓ It is mate on the next move.

Boris Spassky

The best indicator of a chess player's form is his ability to sense the climax of the game.

669. Boris Spassky – Vladlen Zurakhov, Leningrad 1954
29.♘xf6!+– Black can't take back, as **29...gxf6 30.♕xf6† ✓ ♔g8 31.♖d7** leads to mate.

670. Semen Furman – Boris Spassky, Moscow 1955
Black is threatening 24...f4 followed by 25...♘g3† 26.hxg3 ♖h6 mate. 24.♖ab1 is better for White, but allows Black to complicate things with: 24...♖b6 25.♕xa7 ♘g3† 26.hxg3 ♖h6† 27.♗xh6 ♕xa7 28.♖xb5 gxh6± So the solution is another move: **24.♗e3! ♕e5** 24...♕xe3 25.♗xc4†+– ✓ is a discovered attack and 24...♖c7 25.♗xc5 ♖xb7 26.♖ab1 wins a second pawn with a capture on b5 next. **25.f4+–** White threatens not only the queen, but also the knight on h5.

671. Boris Spassky – Mark Taimanov, Moscow 1955
15.♘xb5! axb5 16.♕h5† Or 16.♖xa8† first. **16...♕f7 17.♖xa8† ♗xa8 18.♖d8†! ♔xd8 19.♕xf7 gxh4** ✓ Black has a rook, a bishop and a knight for the queen, but his pieces are passive and his pawns are falling. White is clearly winning. Spassky took the pawns on f6, e5, b5 and c7, and continued with b3-b4-b5-b6-b7-b8=♕ (1–0, 39 moves).

672. Nikolai Krogius – Boris Spassky, Leningrad 1957
39...♗d5†! 40.♔g3 ♘e2† 41.♔h3 ♘xf4† An even faster move is 41...♗f2 when White cannot defend against both 42...♘xf4 mate and 42...♘xg1 mate. **42.♔g3 ♘e2† ✓ 43.♔h3 ♘g1† 44.♔g3 f4† 45.♔xf4 ♘e2 mate**

673. David Bronstein – Boris Spassky, Riga 1958
20...♘f3†! Black could also start with 20...♕b5–+ and execute the winning combination on the next move. **21.gxf3 ♕g5† ✓ 22.♔h1** 22.♖g4 ♘xg4 23.fxg4 ♕xe7–+ leaves Black an exchange up, with the safer king. **22...♕xh4–+** Spassky easily converted his material advantage (0–1, 30 moves).

674. Boris Spassky – Fridrik Olafsson, Moscow 1959
34.♖g8†! ♔h7 34...♖xg8 35.♕xh6 mate ✓ **35.♖2g7†!** Or 35.♖8g7†. **35...♕xg7 36.♖xg7† ♔xg7 37.f6†** 37.♕g5† gives the same result. **37...♘xf6 38.♕g5† ♔h7 39.♕xf6** ✓ White is winning and Black resigned after: **39...♖e5 40.♗xe4† 1–0**

675. Igor Zaitsev – Boris Spassky, Rostov on Don 1960
23.♕c4! The black queen is overloaded and cannot defend both h1 and h4. **23...♕xc4 24.♖h1† ♔g8 25.♖h8 mate** ✓

676. Boris Spassky – Vladimir Shishkin, Rostov on Don 1960
White's pawns on the kingside are decisive, but first he must defend against the mate. **35.♗f4! ♕xf4 36.♕b6†** 36.♕b5† ♔a7 should be winning, but is less clear. **36...♔c8** 36...♔a8 drops the rook with check: 37.♕xd8†+– ✓ **37.♕xb4+–** ✓ Now it is the black king that is exposed; there is no defence against 38.♖c1†.

677. Boris Spassky – Alberto Foguelman, Mar del Plata 1960
25.♘xg6†! 25.♖c1 loses to 25...♕xd6, but there is a way to move the rook from d6 with check. **25...fxg6 26.♖d8†** 26.♕xg6? cxd1=♕† 27.♖xd1 is not winning after 27...♕f8!=. **26...♔g7** 26...♔h7 27.♖c1!+– ✓ **27.♖g8†!!** 27.♖c1 also wins. **27...♔xg8 28.♕xg6† ♖g7** Or 28...♔f8 29.♕f6† with mate (and 29.♖d8† also wins). **29.♖d8†** ✓ White wins the queen and can pick up the c2-pawn, with a winning material advantage. The game finished: **29...♕f8 30.♖xf8† ♔xf8 31.♕xc2 ♔g8 32.♕c5 1–0**

678. Boris Spassky – Dragoljub Ciric, Marianske Lazne 1962
17.♖f4! ✓ There are no other moves that do not lose, so you do not need to see further to get the full score. However, there is a little twist later. Instead 17.♗f4? ♖e3† wins for Black. **17...♗e6 18.♘xe6 ♖xe6** Black threatens 19...g5, but **19.♕xd6! ♕g6† 20.♖g4** is over and out, either with two bishops for a rook, or with **20...♖e3† 21.♗xe3 ♕xd6†+–** and White has one piece too many for the queen (1–0, 29 moves).

679. Boris Spassky – Valery Bykov Leningrad 1963
26.♖xe4! ♖xe4 26...fxe4? 27.♗g4 ✓ traps the queen, or 27...♖e6 28.♖xb7!+– when Black will be a piece down. **27.♗xe4 fxe4 28.♘f6† ♖xf6 29.♗xf6+–** ✓ Black has lost an exchange (1–0, 40 moves).

680. Boris Spassky – Viktor Korchnoi, Moscow 1964
14.♘xd5! White threatens 15.♘c7 and 15.♘xf6† ♕xf6 16.♗xb7. **14...♗xd5** 14...♗d8 15.♘f6† wins an exchange, but 15.♘c7 shows even less mercy; Black loses a piece. **15.♘f4! ♕d6+–** ✓ White wins an exchange and the game after either capture on d5. But not 15...♗xg2? 16.♘xe6 ✓ ♗xf1 17.♘xf8 ♗h3 when Black temporarily gets three pieces for the queen, but his luck is short-lived after (among others) 18.♕d3 ♔xf8 19.♕e4+– trapping the rook.

681. Boris Spassky – Gyozo Forintos, Sochi 1964
9.e6! ♗xe6 9...♕xe6 10.♘g5+– ✓ forks the queen and bishop. **10.♘e5! ♕d6** 10...♘xe5 11.♕xb7 mate ✓ **11.♘xc6** 11.♗f4 is also winning. **11...bxc6** ✓ White gains a winning attack after developing the pieces in almost any way. It would not even help Black if it was his move.

682. Boris Spassky – Kick Langeweg, Sochi 1967
25.♗xg7! ♕xd5 25...♗xg7 26.♘e7†+– ✓ forks king and queen. **26.♘h6†** 26.cxd5?! ♖c1† 27.♕f1 ♖xf1† 28.♔xf1 ♗xg7 29.♖g3 should also win in the end, but can be messed up by White for sure (so not full points). But 26.♗e5 forces Black to part with the queen and is good enough to win. **26...♔xg7 27.♕g4†** Black is mated in two moves. 27.♖g3† is a longer route to mate. **27...♔f6 28.♘g8 mate** ✓

683. Shimon Kagan – Boris Spassky, Winnipeg 1967
This exercise was in the book that Hans Tikkanen used the first time he tried the Woodpecker Method. **28...♘xe3! 29.♗xe3** 29.♖xe3 ♕xf4† ✓ 30.♔e2 ♕h2† wins a piece. **29...♖xe3 30.♖xe3** 30.♔xe3 ♗xd4†! 31.♔xd4 ♕xf4†–+ ✓ and Black picks up the rook on g1. **30...♕xf4† 31.♔e2** Black wins back the exchange with interest after: **31...♕h2† 32.♔f1 ♗xd4–+** ✓

684. Boris Spassky – Klaus Darga, Beverwijk 1967
21.♘g6! fxg6 22.♗xd5 ✓ **♖f6** The only move that holds onto the pawn, but Black has a bad pawn structure and is badly coordinated. Spassky continued with **23.♖ac1** and had a clear advantage (1–0, 33 moves). A combination doesn't have to win material.

685. Istvan Csom – Boris Spassky, Amsterdam 1970
31...♖c7! The rook is on the way to b1. **32.♖d1** 32.♖a1 ♖c2 ✓ 33.g3 ♔f7 wins, as the king picks up the d-pawn and continues to b3. **32...♖c2 33.d6 ♖d2!** ✓ Only this move stops White's d-pawn in time. **34.♖c1 ♔f7 0–1**

686. Mark Taimanov – Boris Spassky Rostov on Don 1971
31...♖xd3! Setting up a double attack by deflecting the defender of the f3-rook. **32.exd3** 32.♕xd3 loses after 32...♕c8!–+ ✓ followed by 33...c2 (32...♕c6? allows 33.♖bxf7! ♖xf7 34.♕d8† ♔h7 35.♕d3† ♕g6 36.♖xf7 c2 37.♖c7 c1=♕† 38.♖xc1 ♗xc1 39.♔f2 and we will not debate whether this is won or not). **32...♕d5!** The rooks cannot defend each other, and the b-pawn stays alive after the forced capture on b2. But not 32...♕c6? 33.♖xb2=. **33.♖xb2 cxb2∓** ✓ Black has good winning chances and the game only lasted seven more moves: **34.♖f1 ♕e5 35.e4 ♖a8 36.♕b3 ♖a1 37.♔g2 ♖c1 38.♕xf7† ♔h7 39.♖f5 ♕d6 40.e5 0–1**

687. Boris Spassky – Derek Banks, Vancouver 1971
33.♗xe6†! ♔xe6 33...♘xe6 34.♕d7 mate ✓ **34.♕b3†** ✓ White has a tremendous attack that wins in several ways. **34...♔d7 35.♕xb7†** 35.♗a3 and 35.♕b5† are also winning. **35...♔e6 36.♖d1 ♕xg4 37.♕d5† 1–0** Black resigned with 37...♔f5 38.♖f1† ♔g6 39.♕xg8†+– in mind.

688. Boris Spassky – Walter Dobrich, Vancouver 1971
17.b4! ✓ Black's pawn structure is undermined. The queen gets access to d4 if he captures, and ...d6xc5 would fatally open his king. **17...h4!** Black is not lost yet, but is in grave danger after 17...♗b6 18.bxc5 ♗xc5 19.♕f3 f5 20.♘xc5 dxc5± and d5-d6 now or later. **18.bxa5 hxg3 19.♘xg3±** White has won a pawn and Black's counterplay is not impressive at all (1–0, 28 moves).

689. Boris Spassky – Robert Zuk, Vancouver 1971
40.♘g5! ♗c8 The only defence against 41.♖h3†. 40...♖h6 41.♘f7†+– and 40...♖xg5 41.♕h4† ✓ (or 41.♖h3†+–) are hopeless. However, also after the game move White has a generally winning position. Strongest is **41.♕e4+–** threatening 42.♘e6 as a decisive discovered attack. Black will have to give up material to survive. 41.a5 is also definitely winning, but not the game move 41.♘f7†?! as it allows 41...♔g8! (which was not played) 42.♘xe5† ♗e6± and Black has fighting chances only a pawn down.

690. Boris Spassky – Robert Fischer, Reykjavik (1) 1972
I expect that you recognized the first move, but it would have been a mistake were it not for a critical move later in the variation. **32.♔f3!** Putting Black under pressure. Instead 32.gxh4 should be a draw. **32...♔e7** The critical position arises after 32...h3 33.♔g4 ♗g1 34.♔xh3 ♗xf2 when Fischer may have missed that the bishop is trapped after: 35.♗d2!+– ✓ Zero points if you didn't see this move! (Harsh – but on the other hand 32.gxh4 is worth one point.) **33.♔g2 hxg3 34.fxg3 ♗xg3 35.♔xg3 ♔d6 36.a4 ♔d5 37.♗a3 ♔e4?!** Fischer lost this famous game. 37...a6! has been analysed to a draw.

691. Boris Spassky – Robert Fischer, Reykjavik (5) 1972
27...♗xa4! 0–1 White resigned, since he is mated after 28.♕xa4 ♕xe4 ✓.

692. Boris Spassky – Heikki Westerinen, Dortmund 1973
23.♖xh5! ♖f8 23...♖xh5 24.♕g8† ♔e7 25.exd6†! ✓ followed by 26.♖e1† decides. Westerinen accepted his fate by not taking back on h5. White can continue forcefully by using the e-file, but Spassky's **24.a4** is also good enough for a win.

693. Boris Spassky – Valeri Korensky, Sochi 1973
23.e7†! Black is mated in one move if he captures the pawn, and loses the f7-pawn with check if he does not. 23.♕h8† ♔e7 24.♖xf7†? (24.♕f6† ♔e8=) 24...♔d6–+ is not the way – White's attack is over. **23...♔g8** 23...♖xe7 24.♕h8 mate ✓ **24.♕xf7† ♔h8 25.e8=♕† ♖xe8 26.♕xe8†+–** ✓ **♔g7 27.♕e5† ♔g8 28.♕g5† 1–0** It's mate in seven moves.

694. Boris Spassky – Ratmir Kholmov, Sochi 1973
27.♖xa8! The queen is removed from the defence of the g5-bishop. **27...♖xa8 28.♖xa8 ♕xa8 29.♗xg5+–** ✓ (1–0, 41 moves)

695. Boris Rytov – Boris Spassky, Tallinn 1973
12...♘xe4! 13.♕xe4 ♗xc3 14.♗g5 14.bxc3 ♗f5 and the queen can't defend the rook on b1. It is not over yet though: 15.♕e2 ♗xb1 ✓ 16.g4!∓ and Black has to sacrifice a pawn to get the bishop out. **14...♗e5∓** Black is a healthy pawn up.

696. Boris Spassky – Orest Averkin, Moscow 1973
26.♗c7! ♖xc7 27.♕e5 The double threat against c7 and g7 picks up an exchange. **27...♔f8 28.♕xc7±** ✓

697. Bojan Kurajica – Boris Spassky, Solingen 1974
23...♗h3! 24.♗h1!∓ Despite being a pawn down, White has decent chances to hold with the opposite-coloured bishops, and Kurajica managed to do so. 24.♗xh3 is met by 24...♖xe4 mate ✓ and 24.♖g1 ♗xg2 25.♖xg2 ♖xe4† wins not only one but two pawns: 26.♔f1 ♖xb4 27.♖xd6 ♖xb2∓ ✓ Black is much better, although the immobile pawns still give White drawing chances.

698. Efim Geller – Boris Spassky, Moscow 1975
34.♘xd6! 34.♖xg5† ♕xg5 35.♖g2 is also a combination, but not as strong. Black has drawing chances after: 35...♕xg2† 36.♔xg2 ♖xa5 37.♘xa5 ♖xa5± After the knight capture, the threat against f7 and the pins along the f- and g-files force Black to give up the exchange, but he is simply lost after: **34...♖xd6 35.♕xa8†+–** ✓ (1–0, 39 moves)

699. Boris Spassky – Francisco Sanz Alonso, Montilla 1978
40.♖xg7†! ♔xg7 41.♘e4† ✓ 1–0 Black resigned, as forks or discovered attacks are unavoidable, for example: 41...♔f7 42.♘e5† ♔e8 43.♘c6+–

700. Anatoly Karpov – Boris Spassky, Montreal 1979
39.♖xe7! White is much better anyway, but this is directly winning. **39...♖xe7 40.d6! ♕c4 41.b3!+–** ✓ Driving away the counterattack against d3, and ending up plenty of material ahead. 41.♗xa5 ♖ed7 42.♗xd8 ♖xd8 should also win.

701. Bent Larsen – Boris Spassky, Montreal 1979
22.♖xd5! cxd5 23.♖xc5 ♘xc5 24.♘xd5± ✓ Two rooks are often stronger than a queen and two pawns, but they are weak defenders against pawn storms, and White's plan is to attack on the kingside. Larsen won after: **24...♖ea7 25.♗g5 ♖a1† 26.♔h2 ♖8a2 27.♕f5 ♘e6 28.♗h4 ♖f1?! 29.f4 ♖c1 30.♕g4 ♖c4? 31.♘f6† ♔h8 32.♕h5! 1–0**

702. Boris Spassky – Otto Borik, Germany 1982
28.♘xf7! Spassky played 28.♕xf7† ♕xf7 29.♘xf7 when 29...♘xc3!± would have limited the material loss to a pawn. **28...♕xf7 29.♖d1±** ✓ Exchanging on f7 would have helped the black king to e6, and forced c3-c4 to win back the piece. And that would have left the b4-pawn en prise. The opposite-coloured bishops give Black drawing chances, but fortunately White can keep the rooks on in order to make better use of his advantage.

703. Lajos Portisch – Boris Spassky, London 1982
If the queen moves, Black wins back the exchange with ...♗c8 and/or ...♘d2. **23.♗c7!** ✓ **♕a8** The only try. **24.♕h3** 24.♕d7 is also clearly better. **24...♖e7±** 24...♗c8 25.♕f3± is no longer a problem, since the knight on e4 is semi-pinned.

704. Jan Timman – Boris Spassky, Hilversum (1) 1983
25.♗f5! Black loses an exchange after **25...gxf5 26.♕g5† ♖g6 27.hxg6+–** ✓ when 28.♘h4 is the most efficient follow-up.

705. Jan Timman – Boris Spassky, Hilversum (3) 1983
33...♖c1! 34.♕d3 34.♕b3 ♗d5–+ ✓ only postpones the end and 34.♕xe7 ♖xd1†–+ ✓ is no better. **34...♕a3!** The threat is to capture the queen. **35.♕f1 ♖xd1** Also winning is 35...♗xf3 36.♖xc1 ♗xg2 37.♕xg2 ♕xa4 with two pieces for a rook. **36.♕xd1 ♗c6!–+** ✓ White loses the knight or the rook.

706. Aldo Haik – Boris Spassky, Paris (3) 1983
25.♖xh6!+– Black can't take the rook: **25...♔xh6** 25...♖h8 26.♖xh8 was the game (1–0, 44 moves). **26.♖h1† ♔g7 27.♕h7†** With a mating attack. **27...♔f6 28.f4** The quickest way to mate, but it is also possible to mate with only checks: 28.♕h6† ♔e5 29.♕h2† ♔f6 30.♘e4† ♔g7 31.♕h7 mate

707. Eugenio Torre – Boris Spassky, Bugojno 1984
22...♖c1†! 23.♕xc1 ♕xh2 White can't save the rook. **24.♖f1** 24.g4 is best, but Black is clearly better with his extra pawn. **24...♕xg3†** The rook has to go anyway. **25.♖f2** 25.♔d2 ♕g2† ✓ 26.♔c3 ♕xf1–+ **25...♕g1†–+** ✓

708. Jonathan Ady – Boris Spassky, London 1984
22...♖xa2! Black wins a second pawn after **23.♖xa2 ♕b1† 24.♔h2 ♕xa2** ✓ and **25.♗xh6** is not enough for White. Black could play either **25...♕b1∓** (0–1, 37 moves) or 25...gxh6 26.♕xh6 ♗f5 27.♕f6 ♗e4!∓, stopping ♖h4.

709. Kevin Spraggett – Boris Spassky, Montpellier 1985
35.♖xh7†! ✓ 35.♕xg2?! ♕xd4† 36.♕b2 ♖c3! and White is not better, for example: 37.♖7f3 ♖xf3! 38.♕xd4 ♖xf1†= **35...♔xh7 36.♖f7†** 36.♕h3† is also mating. **36...♔h6 37.♖f6†** The fastest mate is: 37.♕h4† ♔g6 38.♕f6† ♔h5 39.♖h7† ♔g4 40.♕h4 mate **37...♔h7 38.♕h3† ♔g7 39.♕xg2† ♔h7 40.♕g6† 1–0**

710. Lajos Portisch – Boris Spassky, Montpellier 1985
29...♖a2! Black is a pawn up but cannot allow 29...♕b7? 30.♕c4 with a decisive pin. **30.♖xd5 ♖xc2–+** ✓ The c-pawn should perhaps be decisive, but Portisch held a draw after 64 moves.

711. Boris Spassky – Lucas Brunner, Solingen 1986
18.♘xh7! ♔xh7 19.♕h4† ♔g8 20.♗xe7!± ✓ White should keep the queens on the board, partly to attack Black's king and partly to avoid a light-square blockade (1–0, 36 moves).

712. Boris Spassky – Artur Yusupov, Belfort 1988
39.♖xg7†! ♔xg7 39...♔h8 40.♖h7† postpones the mate by one move. **40.♖f7† ♔h8 41.♘5g6 mate** ✓

713. Boris Spassky – Jan Timman, Cannes 1990
37...♘f3! A double threat: 38...♕xb2 and 38...♕h2 mate. **38.♕xf3 ♕xb2∓** ✓

714. Boris Spassky – Artur Yusupov, Linares 1990
18...♘xf3†! 18...♗xf3?? 19.♖xe5! dxe5 20.♕xf3+– **19.♕xf3 ♕xe1†** An intermediate move with ♕♕xf3?? 1

715. Alexander Beliavsky – Boris Spassky, Linares 1990
34.♘f8†! 34.f5 and 34.h5 should also be winning, thanks to the continuing threat of ♘f8†. **34...♔g8** 34...♖xf8 35.♕g6† ♔h8 36.♕xg7 mate ✓ **35.♘d7†!+–** White is a rook up after: **35...♕xe8 36.♘xf6†** ✓

716. Boris Spassky – Eric Prie, Montpellier 1991
28.♗xh6! gxh6 Prie made a desperate attempt with 28...♖xc3+–. **29.♕g4** ✓ Mate follows on g7 or g8.

717. Robert Fischer – Boris Spassky, Belgrade (9) 1992
19.♘bxc5! 19.♘exc5 does not work: 19...bxc5 20.♖xa6† ♗b6 21.♗xc5 ♗xb3∞ and Black wins a piece. **19...bxc5** Spassky played 19...♗c8+– and resigned two moves later. **20.♖xa6† ♔d7 21.♘xc5†** ✓ White wins back the piece with three pawns as interest.

718. Robert Fischer – Boris Spassky, Belgrade (19) 1992
30.♖xe5! 30.♗xe5?! dxe5 31.♖xe5± is too soft – Black has more counterplay with the rooks on the board and it's easier to control a passed d-pawn than an a-pawn. **30...dxe5 31.♗xe5 ♕e7** 31...♕xe5 32.♕xa7†+– ✓ and the rook on b6 is lost. **32.d6!** Black's queen has no squares to defend the a7-pawn, and after the only move **32...♖xd6** White will emerge with an extra passed pawn: **33.♗xd6 ♕xd6 34.♕xa7†±**

719. Nana Ioseliani – Boris Spassky, Copenhagen 1997
Black would have had compensation for the exchange if he was allowed to pick up the d-pawn for free. **37.d7!** Counterattacking with 37.♖a1 is an interesting option. With the knight on h5, Black should probably seek safety for his king in the centre with 37...♔f8!±. **37...♕d6** 37...♘xd7 38.♕e8† ✓ and Black loses the f-pawn, while 37...♕xd7 38.♘f6† ✓ forks the queen. **38.♖xc4** Many other moves were also winning. Black loses one of his pieces due to the pin on the d-file after: **38...♘xd7** 38...♘xc4 39.♕e8†+– and White queens. **39.♕d1 1–0**

720. Boris Spassky – Viktor Korchnoi, St Petersburg (5) 1999
25...♘xf2! 26.♖f1 26.♘xf2 ♕e2! (26...♖xf2†?! 27.♔xf2 ♕d4† 28.♔g2 ♕xa1 29.♘e4 and White has compensation, with firm control over the light squares.) 27.♖f1 ♗h6–+ ✓ Black wins back the piece with an extra pawn and an attack. **26...♕h3†** 26...♘xe4 is also a reasonable advantage for Black. **27.♔g1 ♘g4!** ✓ White's knights are stepping on each other, and Black uses his solo knight for offensive purposes. Black has a clear advantage, but Spassky managed to draw.

721. Boris Spassky – Nicolas Eliet, France 2002
18.f4†! The only winning move. 18.♗e7 traps the king, but there is no mate after 18...♘e8±. **18...♔xf4 19.♗c7†** Spassky's 19.♖f1† induced resignation, as 19...♔e5 20.♗c7† ♔e6 21.♗c4† ♔e7 22.♖xf7† ♔e8 23.♗d6 creates the decisive threat of 24.♖e7† followed by 25.♗xg8 (you need to see this far if you chose 19.♖f1). **19...♔g5** 19...♔e3 20.♗g3 with mate on d3. **20.♖g1† ♔f6 21.e5†** Or White can start with 21.♗d6+– although that gives Black some better options than transposing with 21...♔e6. **21...♔e7 22.♗d6† ♔d8 23.♘e4** ✓ The knight on g7 drops after 24.♘f6. And it's equally good to win the knight with 23.♗d3+–.

722. Boris Spassky – Scott Coleman, Reno (simul) 2004
15.♘xd5! A second and more complicated solution is: 15.exf6 ♖xf6 (15...gxf6 16.♘xe6† ♔f7 17.♕h5† ♔xe6 18.♕xd5 mate) 16.♕h4 (or 16.♕h3) 16...♖f5 17.♕h7† You need to see this far. 17...♔f6 18.g4 ♖xg5 19.fxg5† ♔e5 Black is one move from escaping, but does not get enough time: 20.♕g6! ♗a6 (defending against ♘b5) 21.♖f7 ♕e8 22.♖d1!+– White has a crushing attack; ...♔d6 is not possible right now, and all White's pieces are homing in on the black king. **15...exd5 16.f5† ♗xf5 17.♕xf5† ✓ ♔h5 18.♕h7†** 18.♖f3 is also quite strong, with mate in one, and there are other ways. **18...♔g4 19.h3† ♔xg5 20.♖f5 mate**

At the start, 15.♘xe6† is a good try but doesn't seem to win straight away. 15...♔f7 Preventing White from capturing on f8 with check. 16.exf6 ♕xe6 (16...♕xf6 17.f5+–) 17.♕xg7† ♔e8 18.♖fe1 ♘e4 19.♘xd5! White sacrifices a third piece! 19...♕xd5 20.♖ad1 ♕f5 21.♖d4! The rook is immune and White wins back at least a piece and a rook. One line given by the engine is: 21...♖xf6 22.♖dxe4† ♗e6 23.♕g8† ♖f8 24.♕xe6† ♕xe6 25.♖xe6† ♔d7 26.g3±

723. Boris Spassky – Craig Christensen, Reno (simul) 2004
27.♖xf7! ✓ ♘xc3 27...♔xf7 28.♕e6† (28.♗xd5† also wins) 28...♔g7 29.♗xd5 Threatening mate on f7. After 29...♖f8, White is winning after any move that defends the pawn on f2. One efficient way is 30.♗e3 followed by 31.♗d4†. 27...e6!? 28.♖xc7 ♘xc7 and at least one of Black's weak centre pawns will lost, for instance: 29.♗f4 d5 30.♗xc7 ♕xc7 31.♗xd5+– **28.♕e6 1–0** Mate is coming.

Robert Fischer

All that matters on the chessboard is good moves.

724. Robert Fischer – Heinz Matthai, Montreal 1956
25...♖xc3! The only way to avoid defeat. **26.fxg6!?** White has other moves that lead to a draw, among them 26.♖h8†, but not 26.♕xc3? ♕xc3 27.bxc3–+ or 26.♕h6 ♕d4, when Black may have a tiny plus. **26...♖h3!** Also the only move; the threat was 27.♖h8† with mate. **27.♕xb4 ♖xh1†=** ✓ (½–½, 108 moves)

725. Robert Fischer – Attilio Di Camillo, Washington DC 1956
40.♗c7! Blocking the black rook while unblocking the white one! **40...♘f4† 41.♔f1 1–0** 41.♕xf4? ♕xd7!∓ The game move forced resignation due to: 41...♖xc7 42.♖e8†+– ✓

726. George Kramer – Robert Fischer, New York 1957
19...♘xc3! Totally destroying the seemingly strong dark-square fortification. **20.♕xc3 ♘xd4–+** ✓ White has three loose pieces: a1-rook, queen on c3, and c5-bishop. **21.♕b4 ♘e2†** Stronger is 21...a5! 22.♕a3 ♘b5–+ and Black picks up the rook without having to sacrifice on c5. **22.♔h1 ♖xc5 23.♕xc5 ♗xa1** Black is probably still winning, and that was the result nine moves later.

727. Robert Fischer – James Sherwin, New York 1957
30.♖xf7!? The best move. Although it does not lead to a decisive advantage against correct defence, it is best both objectively and practically, as Black can easily go wrong. After 30.♗xf7†?! ♔h8∓, Black might take over. **30...♖c1†?** Natural but losing. Black had to find: 30...h5! 31.♖c4 (31.♖f5†?? ♔h7–+ and White is back-rank mated if he takes the queen) 31...♖xc4 32.♖xf8† ♔xf8 33.♕xc4± **31.♕f1!!** Everything checks out for White. But not 31.♖f1†? ♔h8–+. **31...h5** Three alternatives: a) 31...♖xf1† 32.♖xf1† ♕xd5 33.♖xf8† ♔xf8 34.exd5+–✓; b) 31...♖xf7 32.♖a8† ✓ mating; c) 31...♘f2† 32.♖xf2†+– ✓ **32.♕xc1! ♕xc1† 33.♖f1† ♔h7 34.♖xc1+–** ✓

728. Robert Fischer – Samuel Reshevsky, New York 1958
9.e5! ♘e8 9...♘h5 10.g4+– ✓ traps the knight and 9...♘xb3 is met by: 10.exf6! ♘xa1 11.fxg7± ✓ **10.♗xf7†!** This is now a well-known trick in this line **10...♔xf7** 10...♖xf7 11.♘e6+– **11.♘e6!! dxe6** 11...♔xe6 12.♕d5† ✓ ♔f5 and Black is mated in several ways. **12.♕xd8+–** ✓ (1–0, 42 moves)

729. Robert Fischer – Hector Rossetto, Mar del Plata 1959
33.♗b3! Black is in zugzwang. Moving the king or the rook allows 34.♖b8, moving the knight allows 34.♗e6. All that remains are a few pawn moves. **33...a5 34.a4 h6 35.h3 g5 36.g4 fxg4 37.hxg4 1–0**

730. Wolfgang Unzicker – Robert Fischer, Varna (ol) 1962
25...♖a2! Going for the b2-pawn and the vulnerable second rank. **26.♔f1** 26.♖xa2 ♕xa2 27.♖e2 ♖xc3! ✓ and 26.♔h1 ♕f2! ✓ wins (or exchanging on a1 first). **26...♖xc3** With an attack *and* a material advantage, it's all over. **27.♖xa2** 27.bxc3? ♕f2 mate ✓ **27...♖f3† 28.♔e2 ♖f2†** ✓ **29.♔d3 ♕xa2–+** Or 29...♕c7–+.

731. Robert Fischer – Victor Ciocaltea, Varna (ol) 1962
15.♗g5! Trapping the queen. **15...hxg5 16.hxg5 ♕xg5** 16...♘f4 is a nice try, but after 17.gxf6 ♘xe2 18.fxe7+– ✓ the knight is trapped, leaving White a piece up. **17.♘xg5+–** ✓ (1–0, 26 moves)

732. Robert Fischer – L.W. Beach, Poughkeepsie 1963
21.♗h6! Undermining the centralized knight. 21.♘d6†?! ♔d7 (21...♔e7? 22.♗h6+–) 22.♗h6? (22.♗f4 ♔xd6 23.♖he1±) This does not work due to: 22...♗xh6 23.♕xe5 ♕c7∓ **21...♕c7** a) 21...0–0 22.♗xg7 ♔xg7 23.♕xe5†–+ ✓; b) 21...♗xh6 22.♘f6† (22.♕xe5 0–0 23.♘f6† ♖xf6 24.♕xb8†+– should also be good enough – full point.) 22...♔f7 23.♕xe5+– ✓ With a killing attack on the exposed king. **22.♘d6†!** ✓ There are options. 22.♘c5+– and 22.♗xg7 ♕xg7 23.♘c5+– also give full points. **22...♔d8** 22...♕xd6 23.♗xg7+– **23.♗xg7** 23.♖he1+– **23...♕xd6** 23...♕xg7 24.♕xe5+– **24.♕xe5+–**

733. Robert Fischer – Arthur Bisguier, New York 1963
29.e6! A full-blown attack with only a few pieces and a couple of pawns! White evacuated the e5-square for the bishop. **29...f6+–** Also losing is 29...fxe6 30.♗e5! ♘h7 31.fxg6+– ✓ and 29...gxf5 30.exf7† ✓ when White's attack will win material, for instance: 30...♔g7 31.♗e5† ♗f6 32.♘e8†+– **30.♘f7!** With the bishop coming to d6 and the rook to h8, White is winning but other moves were also sufficient (1–0, 36 moves).

734. Robert Fischer – Pal Benko, New York 1963
19.♖f6! Blocking the defensive move ...f7-f5 by drastic means. 19.e5 allows 19...f5!∞. **19...♔g8** 19...h6 20.e5 transposes and there are also other winning moves, while 19...♗xf6 20.e5 ♕xe5 21.♕xh7 mate ✓ is obviously over. **20.e5!** ✓ **h6 21.♘e2** With a winning attack. 21.♘e4+– or anything else reasonable also wins; Black is quite helpless against White's attack.

735. Robert Fischer – Kevin Walters, San Francisco (simul) 1964
36.♗c5! Simply winning everything on e7. But not: 36.♖xe7?? ♖xe7 37.♗c5 ♕f4† (37...♕b7–+) 38.g3 ♕xf2†!–+ **36...♕f4†** 36...♗xc5 37.♕f7 mate ✓ **37.g3 1–0**

736. Georgi Tringov – Robert Fischer, Havana 1965
19...♕c5† Black has just enough resources to defend, leaving him with a winning material advantage. 19...♘f6? 20.♕xf8† ♘g8 21.♕xg8 mate and 19...♘e7 20.♗xe7+– do not work. **20.♔h1 ♘f6! 21.♗xf6** The game ended: 21.♗xc8 ♘xe5 22.♕e6 ♘eg4 0–1 and 21.exf6 ♗xe6 22.♕xe6 ♕xg5–+ ✓ also loses (or 22...♘d4–+). **21...♗xe6–+** ✓

737. Robert Fischer – Istvan Bilek, Havana 1965
35.f4! Exploiting the pins to win the central pawns. **35...f5+–** 35...exf4 36.♕xh5†+– ✓ and 35...♖xh7 36.f5+– ✓ do not help. After the game move, anything reasonable wins. The game concluded: **36.fxe5 ♖xh7 37.♕d7† ♖e7 38.♕xf5† ♔e8 39.f4 ♔d8 40.e6 1–0**

738. Robert Fischer – Svetozar Gligoric, Havana (ol) 1966
18.♘xa6! ♗xh3 Or 18...bxa6 19.♖xc6+– ✓ with a winning attack. For example: 19...♕d7 20.♖xa6† ♔b7 21.♖a7† ♔c8 22.♖a8† ♔b7 23.♕a6 mate. **19.e5** Or simply 19.♘c5† ♔b8 20.♖c3+–. **19...♘xe5** 19...fxe5 20.♘c5† ♔b8 21.♖c3!+– **20.dxe5** The game concluded: **20...fxe5 21.♘c5† ♔b8 22.gxh3 e4 23.♘xe4 ♕e7 24.♖c3 b5 25.♕c2 1–0** Black had had enough.

739. Robert Fischer – Joaquim Durao, Havana (ol) 1966
33.♘xa5! 33.♘f6† ♔e7 34.♘xa5!+– is also good. **33...♖c7** 33...bxa5? 34.♘f6† ♔e7 35.♖b7† ♖d7 36.♖xd7 mate ✓ **34.♘c4+–** ✓ White wins a second pawn with a decisive advantage since **34...♖c6 35.a5 bxa5 36.♘f6†** again gives mate.

740. Robert Fischer – Renato Naranja, Manila 1967
This exercise is about making a decision, and avoiding a tempting sacrifice. **14.♗g5!** Bringing the bishop into the attack in the most effective way. Two alternatives: a) 14.g4 looks winning and *is* winning, even though Black gets some counterplay with 14...d5. White chooses between 15.♗a2 dxe4 16.dxe4 ♕d4 17.g5 ♗xe4 18.♘e2!+– and 15.g5 g6 16.fxg6 fxg6 17.♕g4+– (full points for both choices on move 15). b) 14.♗xh6?! gxh6 15.♕xh6 ♗g7 16.♕g5 ♘c6! The only way to defend against 17.f6, but now White's best is to exchange queens. That's disappointing, even though White still has a strong attack after 17.♘d5! ♕xg5 18.hxg5±. **14...d5** 14...hxg5? 15.hxg5 ✓ with mate next move. 14...♘c6 defends the bishop but Black's pawn structure will nevertheless suffer after: 15.♗xf6 ♕xf6 16.♘d5 ♕d8 17.f6+– **15.♗xf6 dxc4** 15...gxf6 16.♕xh6 dxc4 17.♖h3+– **16.♕g4+–** White is totally dominating and will win enough material (1–0, 32 moves).

741. Robert Fischer – Lhamsuren Myagmarsuren, Sousse 1967
30.♕h6! 30.hxg6? fxg6 31.♖xh7 ♖xh7 loses for White, but 30.♗e4!? prevents the defensive move ...♗d3 and also seems winning for White (full points if you were clear on why it wins). **30...♕f8 31.♕xh7†! 1–0** Black resigned due to: 31...♔xh7 32.hxg6† ♔xg6 (32...♔g8 33.♖h8 mate ✓) 33.♗e4 mate ✓

742. Robert Fischer – Oscar Panno, Buenos Aires 1970
29.♘xh7! 29.♘f5! might be even prettier and full points if you saw the following lines: 29...exf5 30.gxf5 gxf5 (30...f6 31.♗xd5†+–) 31.♗xf5 f6 32.♗e6†! Blocking the e-file. (Not 32.exf6 ♕e1† 33.♔g2 ♕f1†! with a perpetual.) 32...♘xe6 33.exf6 ♕d7 34.♘xe6+– (or 34.f7†+–) But 29.♗xd5? exd5 30.♘f5 gxf5 31.gxf5 which does not work, as 31...♘d6 32.f6 ♘f5 defends and wins. **29...♘xh7 30.hxg6 fxg6** 30...dxe4 31.♕xh7† ♔f8 32.♕h8 mate ✓ **31.♗xg6** Now ♘h5-f6 or ♗xh7 followed by ♕xe6† are on the agenda. **31...♘g5** 31...♕g7 32.♗xh7† ♕xh7 33.♕xe6†+– ✓ and the knight on c8 is en prise, as it also is after 31...♗e8 32.♗xh7† ♕xh7 33.♕xe6†+– ✓. **32.♘h5!** White has enough attacking pieces to finish Black off, but first some checks must be parried. 32.♔g2**+–** is another way to do that. **32...♘f3† 33.♔g2!+–** ✓ 33.♔h1? ♕h4†–+ **33...♘h4† 34.♔g3 ♘xg6 35.♘f6† ♔f7 36.♕h7† 1–0** The end was not far away: 36...♔f8 37.♕g8 mate

743. Robert Fischer – Mark Taimanov, Vancouver (2) 1971
82.♗c8! 82.♗f5† ♔f4 83.h4 ♘g4†! is a draw, since the king must keep the bishop protected. 82.♗e6 ♘f3 and the pawn can't advance. **82...♔f4 83.h4** ✓ **♘f3** 83...♘g4† 84.♔g7 and the pawn will soon advance. **84.h5 ♘g5 85.♗f5** It is also possible to start with 85.h6. **85...♘f3 86.h6 ♘g5 87.♔g6** Zugzwang; the pawn promotes. **87...♘f3 88.h7 ♘e5† 89.♔f6 1–0**

Anatoly Karpov

Style? I have no style.

744. Anatoly Karpov – Viktor Korchnoi, Moscow (2) 1974
24.e5! Cutting off the black queen from the kingside. 24.♘e6? fxe6 25.♘xf6† exf6 26.♕xh7† leads nowhere: 26...♔f8 27.♕h8†? (27.b3! still draws by threatening ♖h6) 27...♔e7 28.♖h7† ♔d8–+, while 24.♘xf6†? exf6 25.♘h5 (25.♕xh7† ♔f8∓) runs into 25...♕g5†=. **24...♗xd5** After 24...dxe5 25.♘xf6† exf6 26.♘h5! there is no queen check on g5 so Black loses: 26...gxh5 27.♖g1† ♔h8 28.♕g7 mate ✓ (or 28.♕xf6 mate). **25.exf6 exf6 26.♕xh7† ♔f8 27.♕h8† 1–0** Black resigned due to 27...♔e7 28.♘xd5† ♕xd5 29.♖e1†+– ✓.

745. Viktor Korchnoi – Anatoly Karpov, Moscow (21) 1974
13.♘xh7! ♖e8 13...♔xh7 14.♕h6† ♔g8 15.♕xg6† ♔h8 16.♕h5† (16.♕h6† mates in a slower way, but White should avoid 16.♗xf7? ♖xf7 17.♕xf7 ♕e8∓) 16...♔g8 17.♗e4! ✓ with mate. 13...♘d4 14.♘xf8+– ✓ (or 14.♗xb7 ♖xb7 15.♘xf8+–) **14.♕h6** 14.♕f4+– is also winning. **14...♘e5 15.♘g5** Black had to give up the queen to fend off the attack, leaving White with a winning position (1–0, 19 moves).

746. Anatoly Karpov – Dirk Suling, Bremen (simul) 1977
38...♘f3†! 39.♖xf3 39.♔h1 ♖h4†–+ ✓ wins the queen and 39.gxf3 is met by: 39...♕g5† (or 39...♖g5†) 40.♔h1 ♖h4† 41.♕h3 ♖xh3 mate ✓ **39...exf3–+** ✓

747. Anatoly Karpov – Angel Martin Gonzalez, Las Palmas 1977
27.♗xf6! For no material investment, White opens up the black king for a deadly assault. 27.e5 ♘xe5 28.♗xf6+– also works, as does 27.fxg6 hxg6 28.♗xf6+–. **27...exf6 28.♘gxf6† ♗xf6 29.♘xf6†+–** ✓ **♔f8 30.fxg6** Other moves also retain a winning advantage. The game concluded with: **30...hxg6 31.♕g4!** Bringing in the queen to finish the job. **31...♘f7 32.♕xg6 ♘ce5 33.♘h7† 1–0**

748. Anatoly Karpov – Viktor Korchnoi, Baguio City (8) 1978
25.♘h6! Setting up a mating pattern on f7. **25...♖g7 26.♖d7!** The bishop is tied to the defence, and Black cannot protect f7 with any more pieces. **26...♖b8** The alternatives also lose: 26...♗xd7 27.♕xf7† ♖xf7 28.♖xf7 mate ✓ and 26...♖e7 27.♖xe7 (or 27.♖d8† ♖e8 28.♕a8 ♗d7 29.♖e1+–) 27...♔xe7 28.♕f6†+– ✓. **27.♘xf7! ♗xd7 28.♘d8†!** ✓ **1–0** White wins material and gives mate.

749. Anatoly Karpov– John van der Wiel, Amsterdam 1980
29.e8=♕†! Not allowing the king to get to relative safety on e8. White needed to avoid 29.♕e4? ♕f1†–+ and with the help of some checks, Black manages to trade queens, with a winning material advantage. **29...♖bxe8** 29...♖hxe8 does not help either: 30.g6† ♔f8 31.♕f4† (or similarly 31.♕f3† or 31.♕f2†) 31...♔g8 32.♕f7† ♔h8 33.♖xe8† ♖xe8 34.♕xe8† ♗f8 35.♕xf8 mate ✓ **30.g6† ♔g8 31.♖xe8†** ✓ **1–0** The attack decides.

750. Anatoly Karpov – Miguel Quinteros, Buenos Aires 1980
32.f5! The g-file is where the weaknesses are, so White forcefully attacks them. Not 32.♗h5? ♗d3–+ and Black defends. **32...♖xh7** 32...exf5 33.♗xf5+– ✓ (or 33.♗f3+–) **33.fxg6†** 33.♖xh7 exf5 34.♗xf5+– is just as strong. **33...♔g8** 33...♔xg6 34.♗xe6† ♕g5 35.♘f4 mate and 33...♔e8 34.gxh7+– lose as well. **34.gxh7† ♔h8 35.♘f4! 1–0** The g-file is still the target.

751. Anatoly Karpov – Bent Larsen, Amsterdam 1980
34.d5! Opening up the black king. **34...cxd5** 34...exd5 35.♕f5†+– ✓ with a winning attack. **35.c6†! ♔xc6** 35...bxc6 36.♖xb8+– ✓ **36.♕b5† 1–0** White picks up the rook on g1: 36...♔d6 37.♕b6† ♔e7 38.♕xg1+– ✓

752. Zoltan Ribli – Anatoly Karpov, Tilburg 1980
16...♘a5 Exploiting the pin to get at the weak c4-pawn. Black will win this pawn with a serious advantage. **17.♘d4** 17.♘xe7† ♕xe7–+ ✓ and the pawn is still doomed. 17.♕c2 ♘xc4! ✓ 18.♕xc4 ♘xd5–+ (or 18...♗xd5–+); 17.bxa5 ♖xb1–+ ✓ **17...♘xc4–+** ✓ (0–1, 25 moves)

753. Anatoly Karpov – Anthony Miles, Amsterdam 1981
32.d5! ♗xd5 32...♕f6 33.♖h5!+– and White soon won. Other moves are also good enough. 32...♕c8 and other passive queen moves allow White to attack on the long diagonal. Even stronger is starting with 33.h5. **33.♕d4+–** ✓ A double threat, winning the bishop.

754. Anatoly Karpov – Efim Geller, Moscow 1981
31.♖xf7!+– Queen and knight is the usual combo, but here a queen with a bishop wreaks havoc when the king's defending pawns are gone. The fact that the knight on d5 only protects dark squares plays a large part in giving such a free rein to the bishop. Good enough only for a clear advantage are 31.♕a4 and 31.♕c4. **31...♔xf7 32.♕xg6† ♔f8** 32...♔e7 33.♕g7† ♔e8 34.♗g6 mate ✓ **33.♕xh6† 1–0** Black resigned due to 33...♔e8 34.♗b5†+– ✓ and 33...♔g8 34.♗h7† ♔f7 35.♗g6† ♔g8 36.♕h7† ♔f8 37.♕f7 mate.

755. Anatoly Karpov – Gian Carlo Angioni, Turin (simul) 1982
36.♗d5†! White is much better after retreating the queen, but winning outright is the way to go. **36...♖xd5** 36...♔h8 37.♘f7† ♔g8 38.♘d8† (or 38.♘e5†+–) 38...♖xd5 39.♕f7† ♔h8 40.♕e8† ♗f8 41.♕xf8 mate ✓ **37.♕f7† ♔h8 38.♕xd5** ✓ White is clearly winning and the game ended immediately: **38...♖e8 39.♘f7† 1–0** Mate is coming.

756. Anatoly Karpov – De Chen, Hannover 1983
19...♖xf4?! A common sacrifice in the French, but here it would have been better to abstain from it. 19...g5! is the only move that's not clearly worse for Black. White is slightly better after 20.♗xe4 gxf4 ✓ 21.♗d3 fxg3 22.fxg3!. **20.gxf4 ♕xf4 21.♗xe4! dxe4 22.♘e5!** Activity brings White a large advantage. **22...♘xe5** 22...♕g5† 23.♔h1± **23.dxe5 ♗d7 24.♕xd7 ♖f8** 24...♕g4† 25.♔f1 ♕h3† 26.♔e2 ♕f3† 27.♔d2 ♕f8 28.♔c1!+– **25.♕d1+–** 25.♕d4+– **25...♕g5† 26.♔h1 ♖xf2 27.♖g1 1–0**

757. Anatoly Karpov – Murray Chandler, Bath 1983
Black missed a great opportunity for a serious upset against the reigning world champion. **28...♕xh2†!** Instead the game went 28...♘xg3? 29.hxg3 ♕xg3 30.♖xf5+– (1–0, 36 moves). **29.♔xh2 ♘xg3** 29...♗xg3†? 30.♔g1+– **30.♕b5** There is no rescue after 30.♕a6 ♘e2† ✓, mating on the h-file. **30...♘e2†–+** ✓ White is forced to give back the queen, leaving Black with a winning position. 30...♖h6† 31.♔g1 cxb5 also wins.

758. Garry Kasparov – Anatoly Karpov, Moscow (11) 1985
23.♕xd7! ♖xd7 24.♖e8† ♔h7 25.♗e4† ✓ **1–0** White picks up a lot of material for the queen, gaining a winning material advantage.

759. Garry Kasparov – Anatoly Karpov, Leningrad (16) 1986
35.♖xg6! Threatening mate. **35...♕e5 36.♖g8†!** 36.♕xe5? ♘xe5 37.♖xa6 d2 gives Black serious counterplay with the d-pawn. **36...♔e7 37.d6†!** ✓ Picking up the queen with a winning attack. The game finished: **37...♔e6** 37...♕xd6 38.♘f5† is mating. **38.♖e8† ♔d5 39.♖xe5† ♘xe5 40.d7 ♖b8 41.♘xf7 1–0**

760. Alexander Beliavsky – Anatoly Karpov, Brussels 1988
37.♘h6! 37.c7? ♖c8 38.♘d4 ♖xc7 39.♖xc7 ♘xc7 40.♘b3 and Black has some drawing chances after 40...♗xf2†±. **37...♘d6** No salvation is offered by 37...♔g7 38.♘xf7+– ✓ or 37...♗e7 38.c7+–. **38.♘xf7! ♘xf7** 38...♘xb7 39.♘xd8 ♘xd8 (39...♘d6 40.♘e6†+– ✓) 40.c7+– ✓ White has a new queen on the way. **39.c7** ✓ **♖e8 40.♗d7!** Winning the most material. 40.♖b8! is also good: 40...♖a8 41.♖xa8 ♖xa8 42.♖xc5+– The game continuation of 40.c8=♕?! ♖xc8 41.♗xc8 is probably winning, but also not totally clear (1–0, 60 moves). **40...♘d6 41.♖b8!+–**

761. Anatoly Karpov – Lars Bo Hansen, Thessaloniki (ol) 1988
20.♘xf7! Picking up a pawn. 20.g4 is also quite strong and if you evaluated 20...♕e7 21.♘xf7 as winning, you get full points. **20...♕d4** 20...♔xf7 21.♖c7† ♔f8 22.♖xb7+– ✓ The check on d1 is not dangerous. **21.♕d6!** Clearly best, but not necessary to see before taking on f7. White tries to get the knight out with tempo, and trade off Black's active queen, but he also attacks the weak pawns. **21...♕b2 22.♖f1+–** 22.♖d1+– is also good enough. Keeping everything protected is best tactically here. The game ended in a few moves: **22...♖e8 23.♕c7 ♗a8 24.♘g5 h6 25.♕f7† ♔h8 26.e5 1–0**

762. Yasser Seirawan – Anatoly Karpov, Rotterdam 1989
30...♗xf3! 30...h4?! 31.♖c8! hxg3† 32.♔xg3= **31.♘xf3** 31.♕f1–+ is the best defence, but Black is winning with an extra pawn and an ongoing attack. After the game move 31.♕xa7–+, Black's position is totally winning due to the weak white king (0–1, 42 moves). **31...♕xb2†–+** ✓ Winning the rook. But not 31...♖d2†? 32.♔e1±.

763. Jonathan Speelman – Anatoly Karpov, Roquebrune (blitz) 1992
21...♗b5! Using the fact that the queen is bound to the defence of g3. **22.♕f3** a) 22.♖f5!? ♗xd3 23.♖xg5 h2† 24.♔h1 f5! ✓ and ...♗e4† will decide the game. b) Even quicker is 22.♕xb5 ♕xg3† 23.♔h1 ♕g2 mate ✓. **22...♗xf1–+** ✓

764. Alexander Morozevich – Anatoly Karpov, Moscow (rapid) 1992
24...f5! Surprisingly counterattacking the cluster of white pieces in the centre. **25.♗f3 e5! 26.dxe5** Alternatives are easy to dismiss: 26.hxg6 exf4–+ ✓ and 26.♗c1 e4–+ ✓. **26...♕xd3–+** ✓ (0–1, 30 moves)

765. Ljubomir Ljubojevic – Anatoly Karpov, Linares 1993
35...♖e1†! 36.♘xe1 Instead, Black gained a winning attack after: 36.♖f1 ♖xf1† 37.♔xf1 ♕xh2–+ ✓ Moves that carry a threat, so that taking on h2 can be played soon, are also winning. 38.♖d5 ♗xd5 39.cxd5 ♕xg3 40.fxg5 ♕f3† 0–1 **36...♖xe1† 37.♖f1 ♕f3!!** All-out attack with the pieces! **38.♖xe1 ♕h1† 39.♔f2 ♕g2† 40.♔e3 ♕f3 mate** ✓

766. Anatoly Karpov – Judit Polgar, Las Palmas 1994
27.h5! Undermining the knight on f5, which could end up pinned. **27...♘e7** 27...gxh5 28.♗e4+– ✓ **28.♖ae1** ✓ The pressure on e7 and g6 are too much and Black resigned. **28...♖f7** 28...♖ae8 29.hxg6† ♔h8 30.♕e4+– **29.hxg6† ♘xg6 30.♖xg6 ♕xg6 31.♗e4+–**

767. Anatoly Karpov – Ivan Morovic Fernandez, Las Palmas 1994
32.♖h8†! White is winning anyway, but this is the fastest way to end the game. **32...♔xh8 33.♕h1† ♔g8 34.♗xf6 ♕xg3†** 34...♕xf6 35.♕h7† ♔f8 36.♕h8 mate ✓ **35.fxg3 ♖e2† 36.♔h3** 36.♔f3 ♖2e3† 37.♔g4 ♖xg3† 38.♔h4 and White is still winning, but the game line is a much better choice. **36...gxf6 37.♔g4 1–0**

768. Anatoly Karpov – Kiril Georgiev, Tilburg 1994
32.♖e8! 32.♘xf7?! ♕b7 33.♘d8† ♕d5± **32...♕xd6** 32...♖xe8 33.♕xf7† ♔h8 34.♖xe8† ✓ wins, as do 32...c4 33.♕xc4 ♘e5 34.♖1xe5 ✓ and 32...♕b7 33.♕xf7† ✓. The last variation could continue with 33...♔h8 34.♖xa8 ♕xa8 35.♕xg6 ♘f6 36.♖e7, mating. **33.♕xf7† ♔h8 34.♘e6! ✓ 1–0** A winning fork. 34.♖xa8 ♖xa8 35.♖e8† ♖xe8 36.♕xe8† is also winning due to the fork on f7.

769. Ulf Andersson – Anatoly Karpov, Nykoping (rapid 2) 1995
14.d5! A well-known tactical theme in this type of position, using rook against queen. **14...♘fxd5** 14...♘bxd5 15.♘xd5 (15.♗xd5? ♘xd5∓) 15...♗xd5 16.♗xd5 ♘xd5 17.♗xe7 ♕xe7 18.♖xd5+– **15.♘xd5** Or 15.♗xe7, but not 15.♗xd5? ♘xd5 16.♗xe7 ♘xc3∓. **15...♗xg5 16.♘xb4+–** ✓ The game ended after the further: **16...♕e7 17.♘d5 ♗xd5 18.♗xd5 1–0** White is simply a piece up for a pawn.

770. Judit Polgar– Anatoly Karpov, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1996
39.♖dxe7!! 39.♖exe7?? ♗xe7 and 39.♘e4?? ♖xd7 40.♘f6† ♔f7 41.♘xd7 ♔xe6 loses for White, but 39.♖a7± is good enough for an advantage. **39...♖xe7** 39...♗xe7 40.♖xg6† ♔f8 41.♗g7† ♔g8 42.♗h6† ♔h8 43.♘f7† ♔h7 44.♖g7 mate ✓ **40.♖xg6† ♗g7 41.♗xg7 ♖xg7** The game ended after 41...♖e2† 42.♔c3+– and two more moves. The king could also have moved to b1. **42.♖xg7† ♔xg7 43.♘e6†+–** ✓

771. Alexander Onischuk – Anatoly Karpov, Biel 1996
31...♘e4! Threatening a fork on g5 while simultaneously cutting off the rook from the defence of the e3-pawn. 31...♗xc5?! allows enough counterplay for a draw: 32.♖e8† ♖xe8 33.♕xe8† ♕g8 (33...♔g7? 34.♕e5† ♔h6 35.♕xc5+–) 34.♕e5† ♕g7 35.♕e8†= Also equal is: 31...♘b1?! 32.h3. **32.h4** 32.♖e1 ♘g5–+ ✓ **32...♕xe3†–+** ✓ **33.♔h1 ♕d4 0–1**

772. Anatoly Karpov – Peter Leko, Tilburg 1996
28.♖xh6! 28.♕xe7 ♗xh1∓ **28...♕xh6 29.♕e3! 1–0** 29.♕xe7!?+– doesn't win a piece, but is still good enough. In the game, Black resigned due to 29...♕f6 30.♕xe4+– ✓ and 29...♘c4† 30.♗xc4 ♕h2† 31.♔e1+– ✓ (or 31.♗e2+–).

773. Anatoly Karpov – Marcin Szymanski, Koszalin (simul) 1997
26...♘d3! Pulling the rook to a dangerous square. 26...f4?! 27.g4= **27.♖xd3 f4** A double threat against d3 and g3. **28.g4 ♕xd3 29.gxh5** White has enough material, but the pin on the second rank decides. **29...♖e2! 30.♕h4 ♖xg2†** 30...h6 creates luft and soon wins on g3/f3. **31.♔xg2 ♕xf3† 32.♔h2 ♕g2 mate**

774. Valery Salov – Anatoly Karpov, Wijk aan Zee 1998
27.♘c4! Black is too late with his development. The white knight uses the immobility of the black queen and knight to head for a5, b6 or d6, whichever has the deadliest effect. **27...♖b8** Three alternatives: a) 27...♕c7 28.♕xb7 (or 28.♘d6†+–) 28...♕xb7 29.♘d6†+– ✓; b) 27...♕xc4 28.♕xb7+– ✓; c) 27...0–0 28.♘a5+– ✓ **28.♘xb6 0–0** Black also has options here: 28...♕xb6 29.♕xb6 ♖xb6 30.♖a8†+– ✓ and 28...♖xb6 29.♕a8†+– ✓. **29.♘c4+–** ✓ (1–0, 32 moves) 29.♘a8+– is more convoluted, but should work as well.

775. Vladimir Kramnik – Anatoly Karpov, Frankfurt 1999
20.♗xg7†! 20.♘f5! transposes or wins material straight away. **20...♔xg7 21.♘f5† exf5 22.♖xe7 ♘xe7 23.♕e2!+–** ✓ The double attack wins a piece.

776. Alexei Shirov – Anatoly Karpov, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2001
36.♕b1†! 36.exf6 is equal, for example 36...♘xf3† 37.♔g2 ♘h4†=, and 36.♖xg7†? ♔xg7 37.♗xh6† ♔xh6 simply loses for White. **36...♘f5** 36...f5 is met by the same theme as in the game. **37.♖xg7†! 1–0** Black foresaw 37...♔xg7 38.♗xh6† ♔xh6 39.♕xd1+– ✓.

777. Judit Polgar – Anatoly Karpov, Hoogeveen 2003
All White's pieces are aimed at a very lonely black king. **25.♗xh7†!** 25.♕h5?! f5± **25...♔xh7 26.♕h5† 1–0** Karpov didn't want to see 26...♔g8 27.♗xg7! with the classic double-bishop sacrifice and a neat finish: 27...♔xg7 (after 27...f5 many moves lead to mate, for instance 28.♕g6+–) 28.♖g3† ♔f6 29.♕g5 mate ✓

778. Andrei Istratescu – Anatoly Karpov Bucharest (3) 2005
31.♗c5! Attacking the defending bishop. 31.♖h8† ♔f7 only gives a clear advantage and 31.♗d4? ♖e1† 32.♔a2 ♕xc2–+ is even weaker. **31...♖e7** A desperate attempt to prolong the game, but the outcome should not be in question. But it still offers more hope than 31...♗xc5 32.♕xg7 mate ✓ or 31...♖e1† 32.♔a2 ♕xc2 33.♖h8† ♔f7 34.♖xf8 mate ✓. **32.♗xe7+–** (1–0, 74 moves) Other moves are winning too.

779. Judit Polgar – Anatoly Karpov, Moscow (blitz) 2009
28...♘xg3† 29.♔g2! 29.fxg3? ♖xe3–+ ✓ **29...♘ge4–+** ✓ Instead, Black let White into the game with 29...♖xe3? 30.fxe3 ♘ge4∓ and lost in 47 moves. Trading rooks reduces the impact of the previously free d-pawn and gives the white pieces more active possibilities.

780. Anatoly Karpov – Arkadij Naiditsch, Kiev (rapid) 2013
24...♘xg3! 24...♕b6 25.♖xb4∓ **25.fxg3** 25.e3–+ basically admitted defeat (0–1, 46 moves). 25.♕xg3 ♖xb5 ✓ also loses. **25...♕b6† 26.♔f1 ♕xb5–+** ✓

781. Anatoly Karpov – Olav Sepp, Puhajarve (rapid) 2013
17.♘xf5! Or 17.♖xg7† ♔xg7 18.♘xf5† transposing. **17...♖xf5 18.♖xg7†! ♔xg7 19.♕g4†+–** ✓ White wins back the rook, with an extra piece. **19...♔f6 20.♘e4†** Best, but there are other winning continuations as well. **20...♔e5 21.♘g3 1–0** Or 21.♕g3† ♔xe4 22.♕g4† ♔e5 23.♕d4 mate.

Garry Kasparov

The biggest problem I see among people who want to excel in chess – and in business and in life in general – is not trusting their instincts enough.

782. Garry Kasparov – Walter Browne, Banja Luka 1979
38.♗h7†! ♔xh7 38...♔f8 39.♕h8 mate ✓ **39.♕xe6** ✓ **1–0** White wins f7 with a killing attack.

783. Garry Kasparov – Leonid Yurtaev, Moscow 1981
29.♖xe6! 29.♕h6? ♕f8∓ **29...fxe6 30.♕h6+– ✓ 1–0** After 30...♕f8 simplest is 31.♕xg6† ♔h8 32.♕xh5† ♔g8 33.♖g1† mating.

784. Garry Kasparov – Miguel Najdorf, Bugojno 1982
24.♘xg7! 24.♕h4?! g6 25.♘e7†± and White only wins an exchange, while 24.♗h6?? even loses: 24...♖e1† 25.♗f1 ♗a6–+ Instead 24.♘h6† ♔h8 25.♕f5 g6 26.♘xf7†? ♔g7 27.♕d7 looks clever, but Black has 27...♗c8–+. **24...♗xg7** 24...♗c8 25.♘e6† ♔h8 26.♕f5 also leads to mate. **25.♗h6 ✓ 1–0**

785. Matthias Wahls – Garry Kasparov, Hamburg (simul) 1985
27.♗xe5! 27.♖e7†? ♔xd5–+ **27...♕xe2** The critical test. The game instead saw 27...♕b1† 28.♔g2+– ✓ when White has a winning attack. Black resigned after 28...♗xe5 29.♘c3. **28.♘f4† ♔f5 29.♖xf7† ♔g5 30.♘xe2+–** ✓ White is simply a piece up.

786. Garry Kasparov – Comp Meph Exclusive S, Hamburg (simul) 1985
17.♘f6†! gxf6 18.exf6 ♔h8 18...♘e7 19.♕g5† ♘g6 20.♕h6+– ✓ Moving the king is the only way to avoid the mate on g7, but Black is mated all the same after: **19.♗e4 ✓ 1–0**

787. Nigel Short – Garry Kasparov, Belfort 1988
24...♕b4! 24...♖xb2? 25.♔xb2 e5 26.♕xe5 ♗a3† wins the knight on c3, but doesn't mate on b2: 27.♔b1 ♕xc3 28.♖xd5+– However, 24...♖b4?! is better for Black. Without the second pair of rooks, White will not have enough compensation for the exchange. **25.b3** Giving up the b2-pawn with, for instance, 25.♖1d3 might be a better idea, but Black is much better. And he wins after 25.♖xb4? ♗xe3† 26.♔b1 ♖xb4. ✓ **25...e5!** Overloading the queen. **26.♕xe5 ♕xc3–+** ✓

788. Ljubomir Ljubojevic – Garry Kasparov, Belfort 1988
38...♗h3! 39.♕g1 39.♕xh3 ♕xe1† ✓ is mating. **39...♖e8!** ✓ **0–1** Winning the bishop, and thus the game.

789. Gata Kamsky – Garry Kasparov, New York 1989
36...♖f3! 37.♕c1 37.gxf3? gxf3† 38.♔h1 ♕g2 mate ✓ **37...♖xb3** ✓ **0–1** Black is a piece up, and winning.

790. Alexei Shirov – Garry Kasparov, Manila (ol) 1992
35...♗d4!! The white queen is in the crosshairs of the black queen and bishop. The rook cannot be taken due to the further pin by the bishop, and the knight cannot take the bishop since the queen would drop. And finally a queen trade would allow the intermediate ...♗xf2† winning a rook. Instead the game continued 35...♕xe3 36.♘xe3 ♗d4 37.♖xd2 ♗xe3† 38.♔h2 ♗xd2 39.gxf3 ♖g3!∓ and Black managed to convert his advantage, although things are far from over. **36.♕xg5** Other moves also lose immediately: 36.♕xd4† ♖xd4–+ ✓, 36.♘xd4 ♕xe3–+ ✓ and 36.♕xd2 ♕xg2 mate ✓. **36...♗xf2†–+** ✓

791. Nigel Short – Garry Kasparov, London (rapid 2) 1993
36...e4! 37.♕xe4 37.♖xe4 ♕xc3 ✓ and the back-rank mate decides. **37...♖xc3 38.♕xb4** Instead White resigned after 38.♖d4 ♕d6 39.f6 ♗xf6 since 40.♕e8† does not mate. **38...♗xb4–+** ✓

792. Garry Kasparov – Krystian Klimczok, Katowice (simul) 1993
17.f6! gxf6 17...♗xe3 18.♕xe3+– ✓ Black cannot resist the white attack since he has no defenders against so many attackers. **18.♗xg5!** 18.exf6?! ♗xf6 19.♗xh6 ♗xd4! is rather unclear. **18...fxg5 19.♖f6!** ✓ The weak f6-square is Black's downfall. There are several ways to win from here by playing stuff like ♖af1 and ♖xh6, as in the game, or simply opening up the kingside with h4. **19...♔g7 20.♖af1** White threatens, among others, 21.♖xh6 ♔xh6 22.♖f6† ♕xf6 23.exf6 ♖g8 24.♕e3 followed by ♗d3 and ♕h3. **20...♘e7 21.h4 1–0** Black cannot resist the attack.

793. Garry Kasparov – Vassily Ivanchuk, Linares 1994
30.♖e8! Threatening mate on a7. The idea is to force Black's queen to h2, so he can't take on b6 in case of a5-a6. 30.♔f1 gives a clear advantage and 30.♖e5 ♕c6 31.♗f3+– is a complicated win – due to zugzwang! **30...♕h2†** 30...♖xe8 31.♕xh6+– ✓ **31.♔f1 ♖xe8** 31...♕xg2† 32.♔xg2 d4† 33.♕xb7†! (33.f3 ♖xe8 34.a6 also wins, as does 33.♖e4 ♗xe4† 34.f3 and 33.♔f1 ♖xe8 34.a6.) 33...♖xb7 34.♖xh8+– **32.a6** ✓ **1–0** White's point, mating.

794. Viswanathan Anand – Garry Kasparov, New York (11) 1995
30...♖xb4† 31.♔a3 31.♔c1∓ After the game move, the rook looks trapped, but Kasparov had seen further. **31...♖xc2! 0–1** Anand resigned due to: 32.♖xc2 ♖b3† 33.♔a2 ♖e3† 34.♔b2 ♖xe1–+ ✓

795. Garry Kasparov – Yasser Seirawan, Amsterdam 1996
31.♘h5! 31.♖g8 prepares to send the knight to g6, but Black has 31...♖6a7! when best is: 32.♘h5 ♕xg8 33.♘f6† ♔f7 34.♘xg8 ♔xg8= **31...♕c7** 31...♕xh5? 32.♕e7 mate ✓ **32.♖g7** Or 32.♖g8 ♕c1† 33.♔h2+–. **32...♖a1† 33.♔g2 ♕c2† 34.♗f2 1–0** Black resigned due to 34...♖1a7 35.♘f6† ♔d8 36.♕xf8 mate.

796. Garry Kasparov – Viswanathan Anand, Moscow (rapid) 1996
32.♗d8!+– ✓ Turning the coming ♘e7† into a deadly threat. The immediate 32.♘e7†? is met by 32...♖xe7 33.fxe7 ♕xe7∓. **32...♘e6** 32...♖xd8 33.♘e7†+– **33.♘e7† ♖xe7 34.fxe7 ♕d7 35.♖h3 1–0**

797. Garry Kasparov – Zbynek Hracek, Yerevan (ol) 1996
22.♗xd5! ♗d7 a) 22...♕xd5 23.♕f4+– ✓ with a double threat against two undefended rooks. b) 22...exd5 23.♕e3† ♔d7 24.♕xg5+–✓; c) 22...♖xf5 23.♗c6† ♕xc6 24.♕d8 mate ✓ **23.♖he1+–**✓ Also effective is moving this rook to another square, or ♕e3/g1.

798. Garry Kasparov – Jan Timman, Prague 1998
20.c4! ♗c6 21.♖xd7! ♗xd7 22.♘xf6† ♔g7 23.♘xd7+– ✓ Black resigned three moves later.

799. Garry Kasparov – Vladimir Kramnik, Moscow (blitz 1) 1998
39.d5! Kasparov played 39.♖xf5† ♗xf5 40.♘f7† ♔f4 41.♘xd8= and Black held a draw after 41...♔e4 42.♘xc6 ♘e6. A critical, but not forced, variation is 43.♘c8 ♘xd4 44.♘d6† ♔d5 45.♘xd4 ♔xd4 46.♘xf5† ♔xc5 when White can't keep the last pawn. **39...cxd5 40.♘b7 ♖e8 41.c6** ✓ The c-pawn and the pin on the e-file win a piece, and thus the game. For example, **41...♔f6 42.♖e1 ♖e7 43.♘c5** followed by ♘xe6 and ♘xd5.

800. Garry Kasparov – Vladimir Kramnik Moscow (blitz 18) 1998
33.♘f4! ♗d7 33...♗f7 34.♖xg8 ♖xg8 35.♖h1+– also wins the f-pawn and 33...♖xg5 34.♖xe6†+– ✓ picks up two pieces for a rook. **34.♖h5! ♘g4 35.♗xf5 ♘f6 36.♖h6!+–** A last finesse, leaving White with two healthy extra pawns.

801. Vladimir Kramnik – Garry Kasparov, Moscow (blitz 19) 1998
38.f5! The only way to keep material on the board. **38...♗xe5 39.♕b7!** Keeping the g-pawn. 39.♕xa7?! exf5 and Black will be able to reach an ending with rook and f-pawn versus queen. **39...♖d6 40.fxe6 ♖xe6 41.♕xa7** Black has to give up the bishop for the a-pawn. With the help of zugzwang, White is probably able to win the g-pawn. But it doesn't matter – it's a fortress anyway. If Black's king stays on g7, White can never sacrifice the queen to get a winning pawn ending. The same ending is reached after: 38...♖xe5 39.♕e7! (39.♕d8? is a double threat against d4 and g5, but 39...♖e3† 40.♔g2 ♗f6= defends) 39...♖e3† 40.♔g2 ♗f6 41.♕xa7 ♖e4 42.fxe6 ♖xe6

So 38.f5 is only a draw, but it's a good try that was rewarded in this blitz game: 38...exf5 39.e6 1–0 The exercise is about decision-making. Calculating all the variations above is not necessary before playing the first move.

802. Garry Kasparov – Vladimir Kramnik, Frankfurt 1999
35.♖xd5! exd5 35...♕xf4 36.♘xf4 ♖xd5 37.♘xd5+– ✓ **36.♘d4†** Black resigned, since he is mated after: **36...♔d8 37.♘e6†! fxe6 38.♕xf8 mate** ✓

803. Garry Kasparov – Jan Timman, Wijk aan Zee 2000
35.♔xd5 35.g4† is not a good move order: 35...♔e5 36.b6 d2 37.b7 d1=♕ 38.b8=♕† ♔e4= When there is no mate. **35...d2 36.g4†! 1–0** The rook stops the pawn after: 36...♔xg4 37.♖c4† ♔f5 38.♖d4+– ✓

804. Thien Hai Dao – Garry Kasparov, Batumi (rapid) 2001
23...♖xe3†!! 24.♕xe3 24.♔xe3 ♖e8† 25.♔f4 g5† 26.♔f5 ♕xf3 mate ✓ **24...♕xg4† 25.♔f1 ♕xd7–+** ✓ Black has won two pawns.

805. Garry Kasparov– Ruslan Ponomariov, Linares 2002
38.♖xe6† 1–0 It's over: 38...♔xe6 (38...♕xe6 39.♕g7† ♕f7 40.♕xf7 mate ✓) 39.♖d6† ♔xd6 40.♕xf6†+– ✓

806. Alexander Huzman – Garry Kasparov, Rethymnon 2003
21.♖xd5! ♕e8 No better are 21...♕xd5 22.♘e7†+– ✓ or 21...♘xd5 22.♕xg7 mate ✓. **22.♗xc4 1–0** Any other reasonable 22nd move also wins.

Alexander Khalifman (on blitz chess)

It is not my cup of tea, playing with hands. I prefer using my head.
Interview on pogonina.com (2010)

807. Alexander Khalifman – Jaan Ehlvest, Lvov 1985
30.♗f5! But not 30.♖xd4? ♕xc2 mate. White should first defend by blocking and deflecting the bishop. **30...♗xf5 31.♕c7!!** Then an X-ray defence, deflecting the queen and threatening the knight! **31...♖xd1† 32.♔xd1+–** ✓ Black loses a piece (1–0, 42 moves).

808. Yuri Balashov – Alexander Khalifman, Minsk 1985
39.♘hxf6! Deflecting the defence of d6, winning two pawns. White would be better anyway, but this is the win. **39...♘xf6 40.♘xd6† ♔f8 41.♘xb7+–** ✓ (1–0, 49 moves)

809. Alexander Khalifman – Vladimir Dimitrov, Groningen 1985
33.b4! 33.♗xd5 ♗xb5 34.axb5 is nothing. **33...♗xb5 34.bxc5 ♗xa4** A better defence is 34...♗e2 35.♖e1 (or 35.♖d2) 35...bxc5 36.♖xe2 ✓ d4± which is not as clear, but still very promising for White. **35.♖a1** Or 35.♖d4. **35...bxc5 36.♖xa4** ✓ White should win, and did so after 49 moves.

810. Alexander Khalifman – Adrian Mikhalchishin, Kuibyshev 1986
26.♘xf6! Clearing the h-file. **26...♘xf5** 26...♖xf6 27.♖xh7† ♔xh7 28.♕h4 mate ✓ (or 28.♕h3 mate) **27.♖xh7†** ✓ Or 27.♘xh7 ♔g7+–, as in the game. Instead, 27.♘xg8? ♔xg8 28.exf5 ♖xf5± gives Black hope. **27...♕xh7 28.♘xh7 ♔xh7 29.exf5+–**

811. Alexander Khalifman – Alexander Huzman, Tashkent 1987
Black is threatening to protect himself with ...♖g8 and start some counterplay with ...♗c5, so White must be quick with his attack. **28.♖g4!** The slightly odd 28.b4 also wins quickly since after 28...♖g8 29.♕xf7 the counterattack with ...♗c5 is prevented (full points). **28...♗c5** 28...♖g8 29.♖fg3 ♖xg4 (29...♗c5 30.♕xh7† ♔xh7 31.♖h4 mate ✓) 30.♕xg4 ✓ and mates. **29.♕xh7†** ✓ **1–0** Mating in two moves.

812. Alexander Khalifman – Mikhail Ulibin, Sochi 1989
17.♘xe6! Removing all the defenders against ♕d5†, picking up the unprotected rook on a8. **17...♕xe6 18.♖e1! ♕xe1†** 18...♕f7 19.♖e7 ♕g6 20.♕d5†+– ✓ **19.♕xe1+–** ✓ (1–0, 24 moves)

813. Alexander Khalifman – Ventzislav Inkiov, Moscow 1989
23.b4! ♗a7 24.♖xd6! ♕xd6 Instead the game continued 24...♖ad8 25.♖fd1 and White won. **25.♕xf6† ♖g7 26.♗xg7† ♘xg7 27.♕xd6+–** ✓

814. Ljubomir Ljubojevic – Alexander Khalifman, Reykjavik 1991
31...♕f3 Since everything else loses the knight, the winning idea is not so hard to spot here, but it could easily be missed when calculating this line earlier in the game. **32.♕xd3 ♖xf2! 33.♗xf2 ♕xd3–+** ✓ (0–1, 40 moves)

815. Alexander Khalifman – Bent Larsen, London 1991
29.♘e7†! Starting a merry hunt for loose black pieces. **29...♔f7** 29...♔h5 avoids the capture on d7 coming with check, but the king is too exposed; White wins with 30.♘e4 or 30.h3. **30.♘c6!** Forcing away the defender is better than 30.♘e4±. **30...♖c8 31.♖xd7† ♔e8** ✓ A counter-trick! **32.♘xe5!** Moving one threatened piece to defend the other by overloading the bishop. 32.♖c7? ♘xc7 33.dxc7 ♖xc7 is not better for White, but 32.♖xh7?! ♖xc6± has won a pawn compared to the starting position. **32...♗xe5 33.♖e7† ♔d8** After 33...♔f8 White has a number of ways to win, for instance: 34.♗h6† ♔g8 35.♖xe6 ♗xc3 36.d7+– **34.♗b6† 1–0** Black loses several pieces.

816. Alexander Khalifman – Ivan Sokolov, Wijk aan Zee 1991
32.♖xg6†!+– 32.♖gh3? ♗g7! 33.fxg7? (33.♖xc4 ♗f8 34.♖ch4 ♗g7=) 33...♖xe5–+ **32...fxg6 33.♖xh8†!** 33.f7†? ♔xf7 34.♗xh8± is not over yet. Black can try 34...♖xh8!? 35.♖xh8 ♖xc3. **33...♔f7** 33...♔xh8 34.f7† ♖xe5 35.f8=♕†+– ✓ **34.♖h7†** ✓ The bishops and the dangerous f-pawn decide the game. Black resigned in a few moves. 34.♖xe8+– also gets the job done.

817. Alexander Khalifman– Yasser Seirawan, Wijk aan Zee 1991
22.♘h6†! gxh6 22...♔h8 23.♕xf7! (23.♘xf7†? ♔g8 24.♘h6†? gxh6–+) 23...gxh6 (if 23...♗d6 then 24.♕g8†! is not the only move, but it's not acceptable to overlook such a chance... 24...♖xg8 25.♘f7 mate ✓) 24.♗xf6† ♗g7 25.♕xg7 mate ✓ **23.♕g4† 1–0** Black resigned in view of 23...♗g7 24.♗xf6 ✓ mating.

818. Alexander Khalifman – Soenke Maus, Hamburg 1991
25.♘h5! 25.♖xd3 ♘xd3 26.♘h5 is a worse move order since it allows: 26...♗xd4 27.♕xd4 gxh5 28.♕xd3 ♖xe7= **25...♗xd4** 25...gxh5 26.♖xd3! (26.♘b3 and 26.♕g5† is probably also winning, but less clear) 26...♘xd3 27.♕g5† ♔h8 28.♗f6 mate ✓ **26.♕xd4 gxh5 27.♕xc5+–** ✓ The passed pawn and dark-square domination provide a decisive advantage (1–0, 34 moves).

819. Gerald Hertneck – Alexander Khalifman, Germany 1992
19...♘xg2! 19...♗xh3? 20.gxh3 ♕g5† 21.♕g4+– **20.♔xg2 ♗xh3† 21.♔g3** 21.♔g1 ♕g5† 22.♔h2 ♕g2 mate ✓ **21...♖e6** Threatening 22...♕g5† 23.♔xh3 ♖h6† mating. Black's attack is winning (0–1, 56 moves). Opening the files will soon decide the game after: **22.f4 g5–+**

820. Dmitry Gurevich – Alexander Khalifman, Moscow (rapid) 1992
26...♕b7? Easily winning, right? **27.c6!** Don't underestimate a passed pawn! **27...♕xb2 28.♕xb2** Or 28.♖d8† ♘xd8 29.♕xb2. **28...♖xb2 29.♖d8†!** A standard motif with a pawn on the sixth rank versus a knight. **29...♘xd8** 29...♔h7 30.♖xa8+– **30.c7+–** Both promotion squares cannot be protected. **30...♖b1† 31.♘f1 ♖d1 32.c8=♕ ♗b7 33.♕c2 ♖d5 34.♘xg6 1–0** So Black should have avoided the tempting mating threat. Stronger was 26...♘xd4= ✓.

821. Alexander Khalifman – Oswald Gschnitzer, Germany 1993
37.♘h5! Some other moves also win, but the winning idea is still this move. **37...gxh5 38.♕h6** ✓ Preparing 39.♘f6 mate. 38.♖g3† ♗g4 39.♕h6 also works. **38...f6 39.♕g6† ♔h8 40.♘xf6 1–0** Black is mated, as he also would be after other moves.

822. Alexander Khalifman – Grigory Serper, St Petersburg 1994
27.♗xd7! 27.♘xe5 ♕xe5± counterattacking the b2-rook. There is no way to win after 27.d6 cxd6. **27...♘xd7** 27...♖xd7 can be met by, among others, 28.♘xe5 28...♕xe5 29.♕xd7+– ✓ and if Black tries to save the knight with the lifeline 27...♕xd7, White threatens b7 and then picks up the knight on e5. It can be done in three ways: 28.♖cb5+– ✓, 28.♕b4+– or 28.♕b3+–. **28.♖xb7†!** 28.♖xc7!? ♔xc7 29.♕xa7 ♖b8 30.d6† also wins after 30...♖xd6 31.♖xb7† ♖xb7 32.♕xb7† ♔xb7 33.♘xd6† ♔c6 34.♘xe8. But 28.♖cb5?! ♘b6 is *only* an advantage. **28...♔xb7 29.♖xc7†! ♔xc7 30.♕xa7† ♔c8 31.d6 ✓ 1–0** Mating next move.

823. Dirk Fehmer – Alexander Khalifman, Eupen 1994
17...♗h3! The fork on f3 decides. **18.♕c2** 18.gxh3 ♘f3†–+ ✓; 18.♘f4 ♗xg2! 19.♘xg2 ♘f3†–+ ✓ **18...♗xg2–+** ✓ (0–1, 27 moves)

824. Alexander Khalifman – Norbert Sehner, Germany 1994
Several lines might win slowly, but the easiest is **39.♘f5†! ♔g6 40.♖xg7†!+–** ✓ and the fork on e7 leaves White two pawns up in an endgame.

825. Alexander Khalifman – Valerij Filippov, Kazan 1995
18.♘e4! ✓ 18.♘g4 ♕d8 19.♕c3± **18...fxe4** 18...♕d8 19.♘g5†! with a winning attack (or various other moves with a winning position anyway). **19.fxe4 ♘f4 20.gxf4** Or first 20.♗d6+–. **20...♖hd8 21.♗d6+–** White is dominating and won the game. Weaker is 21.fxe5?! ♖xd2±.

826. Alexander Khalifman – Evgeny Bareev, Moscow 1995
16.c6! The fork on e7 wins a piece or allows the pawn to queen. **16...♕a7** 16...♘xc6 runs into: 17.♕xc6! ♕xc6 (17...♗xd5 18.exd5+– ✓ or 18.♕xd5+–) 18.♘xe7† ♔h8 19.♘xc6+– ✓ **17.c7! ♗xd5** 17...♘d7 18.♘xe7† ♔h8 19.c8=♕+– ✓ **18.c8=♕+–** ✓ (1–0, 36 moves)

827. Helmut Pfleger, **– Alexander Khalifman** Germany 1996
36.c6! bxc6 36...♗xb4 37.cxd7!+– ✓ (also winning is 37.♕xb4 ♖xc6 38.♗xc6+–) **37.♗xf8 ♖xf8 38.♗xc6 ♕d8 39.♗xa8+–** ✓ (1–0, 42 moves)

828. Valery Loginov – Alexander Khalifman, St Petersburg 1996
Black has a great position, but there is only one crushing continuation. **31...♗a2! 32.0–0** 32.♖xa2 ♖xb1†–+ ✓ **32...♗d5** Or the computer preference 32...♕xh3–+ or something else. **33.♗g6 ♕g5† 0–1**

829. Alexander Khalifman – Thomas Casper, Germany 1997
36.♘xd6! ♕f4† White delivers mate after 36...♘xd6 37.♕xg7 mate ✓ and 36...♕d4 37.♘xe8 ♖xe8 38.♕xg7 mate ✓. **37.♕xf4 exf4+–** White has a dominating endgame (1–0, 48 moves).

830. Alexander Khalifman – Alexander Fishbein, New York 1998
23.♖xd2! ♖xd2 24.♘h6† 1–0 Black resigned due to 24...♔h8 25.♖f7 ♖d7 26.♗g7 mate ✓.

831. Michael Unger – Alexander Khalifman, Bad Wiessee 1998
30...♗xf2†! 31.♔g2 31.♔h1 ♕f1 mate and 31.♖xf2 ♕xe4 wins the queen. **31...♗e3†!** ✓ Black takes the bishop on the next move (0–1, 44 moves). But 31...♕xe4† 32.♖xe4 ♗c5∓ is not over yet.

832. Alexander Huzman – Alexander Khalifman, Bugojno 1999
30.f5! Opening an additional file for the decisive breakthrough. **30...exf5 31.♖g1! ♘f4** 31...♖g8 32.♗xg6† ♖xg6 33.♖e7†+– ✓ was the point of opening the e-file before playing ♖g1. 31...♖xe3 32.♗xg6† ✓ wins for White. **32.♗xe8+–** ✓ With such a useless bishop as the one on d7, Black really cannot claim compensation (1–0, 72 moves).

833. Alexander Khalifman – Peter Acs, Hoogeveen 2002
30...♖xg2†! 30...axb6 31.♘b5! and the queen can't keep the pin on the f-pawn while defending the knight on d2. However, Black is clearly better after 31...♕g4 32.♕xg4 ♖xg4 but unlike the game, White can fight on. And if 30...♘f3†? 31.♔f1 ♖xg2 he has an equal position after 32.♕xf3! ♖xf3 33.♖xd4. **31.♔xg2 ♕g7†! 32.♔h2** 32.♔h1 ♖h3 mate ✓ **32...♘f3† 33.♕xf3** 33.♔h1 ♕g4! ✓ mating. **33...♖xf3–+** ✓ White resigned in two more moves.

834. Alexander Khalifman – Gabriel Sargissian, Internet 2004
40.♖xc5! 40.♘c7?? ♕xc7 41.♖xc5 ♕xc5 42.♕xf7† ♔h6–+ **40...♕xc5 41.♕f6† ♔g8** 41...♔h6 42.♖e4+– ✓ (or 42.♘e3+–) **42.♘e3!+–** ✓ Black cannot defend against the onslaught without taking heavy casualties. 42.♘f4!+– is even cleaner, and 42.♘b6 wins as well, even though it sends the knight in the wrong direction. Instead the game went 42.♘e7†?? ♖xe7 43.♕xg6† when White had nothing better than a perpetual, since the rook on d8 defends against rook lifts.

835. Alexander Khalifman – Ernesto Inarkiev, Khanty-Mansiysk (3) 2005
33...♘xd5! White collapses on the light squares, incurring heavy material losses. 33...♖xf3 34.♔xf3 ♘xd5† 35.♔e2 ♕xe6 36.exd5∓ is also a good try, but not clearly winning. **34.♖f2** 34.exd5 ♕xf3†–+ ✓ **34...♗xc6** Not the easiest win. 34...♘df4†–+ is one good move, 34...♘e3† another. **35.♕xh6** 35.exd5 requires Black to find: 35...♖xf3! 36.dxc6 (36.♖xf3 ♕xf3† [or 36...♗xd5–+] 37.♔xf3 ♗xd5† 38.♔g4 ♗xh1–+) 36...♖xf2†! 37.♗xf2 ♕xe6 This is winning, since 38.♕xh6? runs into 38...♘f4†–+. **35...♕xe6?!** Now Black starts to drift. Better is 35...♘e3† 36.♔h2 ♕xe6 winning. **36.exd5 ♗xd5 37.♗xd5 ♕xd5† 38.♔h2** Black should still win, but there are difficulties, and in the game he did not play accurately enough (½–½, 62 moves).

836. Valerij Popov – Alexander Khalifman, Aix les Bains 2011
19...♘eg4†! 19...♘fg4† 20.♔g1 ♘xe3 21.fxe3∓ is less convincing, as here the knight would be better on f6 because of the control over e4 and pressure on e3. **20.hxg4** 20.♔g1 ♘xe3 21.fxe3 ✓ The e3-pawn can be taken at will, so Black is much better. **20...♘xg4† 21.♔g1 ♗xg2 22.♔xg2 ♖xe3!∓** ✓ The rook cannot be taken, so Black has won a pawn for no compensation. White collapsed quickly: **23.♘f4 ♖d8 24.♖h1 ♖e4 25.♖c1 ♘xf2 0–1** Another tactic against the white king and queen finished the game. 26.♔xf2 is met by 26...♖xd4 27.♕xd4 ♗b6 winning the queen.

837. Alexander Khalifman – Ilya Duzhakov, St Petersburg 2012
24.e4! Driving away the defender of the bishop on d6. 24.g4? hxg4 25.hxg4 ♗xd5 26.♖xd5 ♘h4 is not winning – White needs e4-e5. **24...♘g7** 24...♗xc5 25.exf5+– wins a piece, which is preferable to 25.bxc5 ♘g7 26.♘f6†+– winning the queen. **25.♘xe7†! ♗xe7** 25...♕xe7 26.♗xd6+– ✓ **26.♖xd8+–** ✓ (1–0, 29 moves)

838. Alexander Khalifman – Konstantin Kostin, Voronezh 2014
29...f2! Clearing the way for the queen to do serious damage. 29...♕xg5 30.♗f2 is equal. **30.♗xf2 ♕xf2 31.♖xh1 ♕f3† 32.♔c2 ♕xh1∓** ✓ Black has a healthy pawn extra, and won after 41 moves.

839. Alexander Khalifman – Sergey Grishchenko, Sochi 2014
20.♘xc6! There are three tempting options that don't work: a) 20.♘e6?? ♘xe6–+; b) 20.♘f5?? ♘xf5–+; c) 20.♕xg7†? ♔xg7 21.♘f5† ♔g8 22.♘xh6 mate is nice, but the opponent is seldom so helpful. 21...♔g6 22.♘xe7† is also good for White, but 21...♔f7 22.♘xd6† ♔e6 leaves Black a piece up. **20...♕xg4** 20...♖f7± and White has won an important pawn. **21.♘xe7† ♔f7 22.hxg4 ♔xe7** Instead Black tried 22...♘d3 but his position was hopeless after 23.♘f5 (1–0, 26 moves). **23.♗xg7** ✓ With so many extra pawns, White is winning.

Vladimir Kramnik

Objectivity consists in understanding that the only one who never makes a mistake is the one who never does anything.

840. Veselin Topalov – Vladimir Kramnik, Belgrade 1995
38...♗c3†! There is no follow-up after 38...a5†? 39.♔xb5+–. **39.♕xc3 a5†** The king can no longer protect the queen. **40.♔xb5 ♕xc3** ✓ **0–1**

841. Jeroen Piket – Vladimir Kramnik, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1999
29.♕h6! ♕g8 30.f4! ♗xb2 31.e5! Cutting off the defence. **31...♕g6 32.♕f8† ♕g8 33.♕e7** Or 33.♕d6. **33...♕g6 34.♕d8† 1–0** Black resigned due to 34...♕g8 35.♕xf6† ♕g7 36.♕xg7 mate ✓.

842. Vladimir Kramnik – Ljubomir Ljubojevic, Monaco (rapid) 2000
30.♗xf6 ♗xf6 31.♖e7†! Sacrificing an exchange to win on the dark squares. **31...♔h6** 31...♗xe7 32.♖xe7† ♔h6 33.♕d4 ♖g8 34.♕f6 ✓ delivers mate, while the d-pawn decides after 31...♔g8 32.♖c7 ✓ (32.d7 is also winning). **32.♖f7!** Still going for the dark squares. **32...♗h4 33.♕d4!** ✓ **♖g8 34.♕a7** Strongest, but by now other moves also win. **34...♖h8 35.♖ee7** White is mating. **35...g5 36.♖f6† ♗g6 37.♖xg6† ♔xg6 38.♖e6† ♔f5 39.♕f7 mate**

843. Peter Leko – Vladimir Kramnik, Budapest (4) 2001
22...♗b4! Bad are 22...gxf6 23.♖de2± and 22...♗xd5 23.♖xd5+–. **23.f7** 23.♘xb4 ♖xd2 24.♘xd2 ♖xe1†–+ ✓ **23...♖xe4!** 23...♗xd2 24.fxe8=♕ ♖xe8 25.♖e2± **24.♖xe4 ♗xd2 25.♖e7!** A nice last trick, but it doesn't save the position. **25...♗xd5 26.♖e8 ♗xf7 27.♖xd8∓** ✓ The bishop pair is usually much stronger than a rook and pawn.

844. Vladimir Kramnik – Darmen Sadvakasov, Astana 2001
19.♘xf7! 19.♗xe5 ♘xe5 20.♘xh7 ♗xh7 21.♕xe5 ♕xe5 22.♖xe5± only wins a pawn. **19...♖xf7 20.♕xf5! ♖xf5** The game ended after 20...g6 21.♗xe5. 20...♗xb2 21.♖d7! ✓ is also all over. **21.♖d8 mate** ✓

845. Vladimir Kramnik – Sergey Volkov, Moscow 2005
38.d5! Opening the diagonal for a winning discovered attack on the queen. **38...exd5** 38...♖b7 39.d6 is plainly winning for White. **39.♖cxd5 ♕xe3 40.♖xd8†** ✓ **♔g7 41.♕d3 1–0**

846. Vladimir Kramnik – Lazaro Bruzon, Turin (ol) 2006
26.♗xf7†! ♔xf7 27.♕a2† ♔f8 27...♔e7 28.♘f5† ♔f8 29.♗d6†+–; 27...♔f6 can only be refuted in one way: 28.♗d8†! ♖xd8 29.♕e6† ♔g5 30.♘f3† ♔f4 And now there are several ways to mate in three moves. **28.♘e6†** ✓ Also strong is preparing ♗d6† with 28.♘f5+–. **28...♖xe6 29.♕xe6 ♘e7** 29...♕g5 30.♖xd7 ♗xd7 31.♗d6†! ♘e7 32.♕xd7+– **30.♖e3!+–** White is clearly winning and the game ended quickly: **30...♔e8 31.♖f3 ♕h5 32.♗d6 1–0**

847. Veselin Topalov – Vladimir Kramnik, Elista (3) 2006
38.♗xf5! 38.e7 ♖b8= **38...♖xd1** 38...♖xf5 39.♖xd6 ✓ ♖xd6+– and the check on f2 isn't dangerous after 40.♕xg4 or 40.♖d3. **39.♗g6† ♔f8 40.e7† ♕xe7 41.♗xe7† ♗xe7 42.♗d3!+–** ✓ This is the only winning move, preventing the black counterplay connected with ...♖d2†, while keeping a rook that it is needed in the attack (1–0, 45 moves).

848. Vladimir Kramnik – Magnus Carlsen, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2007
22.♖c6! Somewhat weaker is: 22.♕h7 ♔e7 23.♖c6! ♖xc6 (23...♘d7 24.♕h4†!+–) 24.♕xg8 ♖c8 25.♕h8+– and 22.♖aa6 ♔e7 (22...♘xa6? 23.♖xe6†+–) 23.♖ac6 ♖xc6 24.♖xc6 ♕xb5 25.♖xc5+–. **22...♖xc6** Instead the game ended after 22...♘d3 23.♖xc8† ♕xc8 24.♖xa7 1–0 **23.bxc6 ♕xc6 24.♕h8** Black doesn't have a second rook on the back rank any more. Also 24.♕h7+– is good enough. **24...♖xh8 25.gxh8=♕†+–** ✓

849. Boris Gelfand – Vladimir Kramnik, Moscow 2008
32...♘ce3? A tempting but bad try that Kramnik fell for. 32...♕f8∓ ✓ is best, but anything other than the main line that does not seem bad gives full points. Two more alternatives are 32...♗xf2† 33.♕xf2 ♖xc6 34.♗xc6 ♕xc6∓ and 32...♘fd6∓. **33.fxe3 ♘xe3 34.♗d4!** 34.♖d2 ♘d5† 35.♔h1 ♕xc6 with a winning position, was Black's idea. **34...♗xd4 35.♖xd4** 35.♘xd4? ♘xd1 36.♕xd1 is winning for Black due to the two pawns and White's unstable knight. **♘xg2 36.♘b4!=** The knight on g2 is trapped, so Black will have to show some care to draw this with some pawns for a knight.

850. Vladimir Kramnik – Peter Svidler, Moscow (blitz) 2008
24...♘f2! Black's tactical threat is 25...dxe4, but the knight might also just continue to d3. Not 24...dxe4? 25.♕xc4†±. **25.♗e3!?** A smart try, but not good enough. **25...♘d3!** ✓ Black threatens the rook but also 25...♗a6 followed by 26...dxe4. White's knight can't move due to a discovered attack. Worse is: 25...♗xe3?! 26.♖xe3 ♘d3 27.♖xd3 ♗xd3 28.♕xd3 dxe4 29.♗xe4∓ **26.♖e2 ♘b4 0–1**

851. Vladimir Kramnik – Viswanathan Anand, Bonn (5) 2008
29.♘xd4?? Take a full point for any non-blundering move, but best seems either 29.♘d2∞ or 29.♗xd7∞. **29...♕xd4 30.♖d1 ♘f6! 31.♖xd4 ♘xg4 32.♖d7† ♔f6 33.♖xb7 ♖c1† 34.♗f1** Maybe White had seen this far and counted on his queenside pawns to decide the game, but it was already time to resign two moves later: **34...♘e3! 35.fxe3 fxe3 0–1**

852. Arkadij Naiditsch – Vladimir Kramnik, Dortmund 2009
22...♗xg2! 22...♕g4? 23.♘g3= **23.♘g3** 23.♔xg2 ♕h3† ✓ is mating. For example: 24.♔g1 ♕h1† 25.♔f2 ♕f3† 26.♔g1 ♖h1 mate **23...♗f3!** ✓ Black has plenty of pawns for the piece, and a winning attack. Or 23...♖h4!? 24.♕xg2 ♖xf4–+. **24.♕b3** After 24.♘xh5 ♘xh5–+ White's king is naked and Black's troops are incoming (or 24...♕g4†). **24...♖h4 25.♗d6 ♕h3 26.♗xf7† ♔h7 27.♕b2 ♘g4 0–1** Mate is coming.

853. Alexander Morozevich – Vladimir Kramnik, Moscow 2009
Black is clearly better, but has a way to break through right now. **30...♘xf2! 31.♔xf2 ♕c2† 32.♔g1** 32.♔f1 ♕d3† 33.♔f2 ♕e3† does not help White. **32...♕d1† 33.♔f2** 33.♔g2 ♕e2† 34.♔g1 ♕xf3–+ ✓ **33...♕xh1–+** ✓ **0–1**

854. Viswanathan Anand – Vladimir Kramnik, Zurich 2013
22.♖xa6! ♖xa6 23.♕xd3 A double threat. **23...♕xb2** 23...♕a8 24.♕xe2+– ✓ **24.♖b1 ♖d6 25.♕xe2+–** ✓ The game ended swiftly: **25...♕a2** 25...♖xd2 26.♖xb2 ♖xe2 27.♖xe2+– **26.♕b5 c6 27.♕b2 1–0** White's two pieces and the passed a-pawn are much stronger than a rook and c-pawn.

855. Vladimir Kramnik – Daniel Fridman, Dortmund 2013
29.♘d5! Opening up the way to the king. **29...exd5 30.♗xf6+–** ✓ **1–0** Threatening ♘g7†, and the bishop cannot be taken due to mate. Black chose to resign since trying to create an escape square does not help: 30...♘b8 31.♗g7 ♕e7 32.♘f6† White wins the queen and the game.

856. Vladimir Kramnik – Anton Korobov, Tromsø 2013
37.♗h6! Threatening 38.♖b8† ♗e8 39.♕g6†. Other moves are better for White, but this is the only winning move. 37.♖b8† ♔g7 38.♗h6†? even loses: 38...♔xh6 39.♖h8† ♔g5–+ **37...♘c7** 37...f5 38.♕a1! ✓ ♕c3 (38...e5 39.♕xe5 ♕xh6 40.♖b8†+–) 39.♕a8†! This is the difference between placing the queen on a1 and b2. White wins after 39...♔h7 40.♕f8!. **38.♕b4!** The game continued 38.♖a7 which is also winning: 38...♘b5 39.♕b4 ♘d6 40.♕b8† ♘e8 41.♖e7+– (1–0, 51 moves) **38...♔h7 39.♕f8+–** Black has to give up the bishop on f7 to avoid mate.

857. Vladimir Kramnik – Levon Aronian, Khanty-Mansiysk (2) 2014
35.♖g1! Instead, the game continued 35.♗xf8?! exf1=♕† 36.♖xf1 ♖xg2 37.♕xg2 ♗xg2† 38.♔xg2 ♖xf8± (½–½, 60 moves). White is also slightly better after 35.♗g5 exf1=♕† 36.♖xf1 ♖xg2 37.♕xg2 ♗xg2† 38.♔xg2 ♗h6. **35...♗xh6** Black also loses after 35...exd1=♕ 36.♕xd1! ✓ with a double threat and 35...e1=♕ 36.♖dxe1 ♖xg2 37.♕xg2! (37.♖xg2?? ♖xe1 mate) 37...♗xg2† 38.♔xg2. ✓ **36.♖de1+–** ✓ The material advantage is large enough to win.

858. Vladimir Kramnik – Peter Svidler, Sochi 2015
26.♘e6! A nice discovery/closing tactic. Either the king is mated or the queen is lost. 26.e6 is not the way to go: 26...♗xe4 27.♕xf7†? (27.exf7† ♔h7 28.♗xe4 ♗xd4 29.♗xg6† ♔h8 30.♗b2 e5=) 27...♔h8–+ But 26.♖g4!? ♕xa2 27.♗b2+– is also quite strong. **26...♗xe6** 26...♗xe4 27.♕xf7† ♔h7 28.♕xg7 mate ✓ **27.♖xc4+–** ✓ (1–0, 30 moves)

859. Laurent Fressinet – Vladimir Kramnik, Paris (rapid) 2016
The bishop on c7 has a nice line of sight to the white king, so Black just needs some smart sacrifices to make full use of it. **22...♘xh3! 23.gxh3 ♖xf3–+** White can't take back: **24.♕xf3?! e4** ✓ And the queen has to go.

Viswanathan Anand

Grandmasters decline with age... Mistakes will crop in, but you try to compensate for them with experience and hard work.

860. Vassily Ivanchuk – Viswanathan Anand, Buenos Aires 1994
31.♖xg7†! ♔xg7 32.♗d4† f6 32...♘e5 33.♕e3+– is similar. **33.♕e3!+–** ✓ The queen penetrating to h6 decides the game; Black tried to prevent the immediate threats, but to no avail. 33.♗xa1 ♕xa1 34.♕e3 should also win, but much more slowly and with some work still to be done. **33...♘f8 34.♗e4 ♔f7** 34...g5 is not a defence with the bishop on d4, due to 35.♕xg5†. **35.♖h8 1–0** Black resigned in view of ♕h6 with mate following.

861. Veselin Topalov – Viswanathan Anand, Dos Hermanas 1996
18.♗g5! ♖xa1 18...♕e8 19.♖xa8 ♕xa8 20.♗e7! ✓ and White wins an exchange: 20...♕xf3 21.gxf3 ♘d3 22.♗xf8± **19.♗xd8 ♖xf1† 20.♔xf1** ✓ I believe White should win with correct play, but maybe Black can find a fortress. Topalov did not manage to crack Anand's defence.

862. Viswanathan Anand – Miguel Illescas, Leon (3) 1997
White is a pawn up, but Black has some counterplay against the pawns on g3 and f4. **38.e5!** 38.♘f3? ♕b2†=; 38.♕c4?! ♘e1† 39.♔f2 hxg3†!? 40.♔xe1 ♕a1† 41.♔e2 g2 42.♕c7! g1=♕ 43.♗xg1 ♕xg1± **38...dxe5** 38...♕f5 loses to 39.♕xf5 gxf5 40.exd6+– and a passive move is hopeless: 38...♕e7 39.♘e4+– (or 39.♘f3 ♗h6 40.e6+–, or even 39.e6+–) **39.♘e4 ♕f5 40.♘g5† ♔h6 41.♕g8!** ✓ 41.♕xf5 gxf5 42.♘xf7† ♔g6 43.♘xe5† ♘xe5 44.fxe5 ♗xe5 45.gxh4 also wins. **41...♘xf4† 42.gxf4 ♕c2† 43.♗f2 1–0** Black is out of constructive ways to protect against the mate.

863. Aleksandar Kovacevic – Viswanathan Anand, Belgrade 1997
29...♘bxd3! 30.♗xd3 Instead the game ended: 30.♖f1 ♕xe4 0–1 **30...♖b3 31.♕c2 ♖xd3** 31...♘xd3? 32.♕xb3 ♘xe1 33.♕d1± **32.b4 ♕a4!** ✓ **0–1** By trading queens, Black saves both the knight and the rook, leaving him with a winning position.

864. Vassily Ivanchuk – Viswanathan Anand, Linares 1998
22...♖xc2! 23.♔xc2 ♕xa2–+ ✓ The threat of ...♖c8† is deadly. The game came to a logical conclusion with: **24.f4 ♖c8† 25.♔d2 ♗xf4† 26.♔e2 ♕xb2† 27.♔f3 ♖c1 0–1**

865. Julen Arizmendi Martinez – Viswanathan Anand, Villarrobledo (rapid) 1998
25.♘f6†? White goes for the jugular, but Black can parry the attack and gain a winning position. The only move was 25.♖d1 ✓ when 25...♕c8 26.♘f6† ♔h8 27.♘xe8 ♕xe8 gives White more than enough compensation for the pawn, especially after 28.♕c3! f6 29.♕c7± with a double threat (30.♖d7 and 30.♕xa7). **25...♗xf6 26.♕xf6 ♖xe1† 27.♔h2 ♕d6† 28.f4 ♕f8! 29.♗xf8 ♖xf8–+** (0–1, 40 moves)

866. Loek van Wely – Viswanathan Anand, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1999
22...d3! 22...♘e8 23.♖c8 d3 transposes to 23...♘e8 in the main line. **23.♖c8†** 23.♖d2 ♖bb1–+ **23...♔f7!** Full points also for 23...♘e8 24.♖xb8 dxc2 25.♖xe8† ♔f7 26.♖c8 ♖xc1† 27.♔f2 when White's king is close enough to stop the c-pawn, but Black gets a winning pawn or rook ending after 27...a5 28.♔e3 ♖e1†! 29.♔d2 ♖g1. But 23...♖xc8? 24.♖xc8† ♔f7 25.♔f2 is only equal. **24.♖2c7† ♔g6 25.♔f2** 25.♖xb8 d2–+ ✓ **25...♖xc1! 0–1** After 26.♖xc1 d2!–+ ✓ Black wins a rook, remaining a piece up.

867. Viswanathan Anand – Ljubomir Ljubojevic, Monaco (blindfold) 2000
27.e5! dxe5 28.♕e4! ✓ Also full points if your idea was 28.♘e4 ♕d8 29.♘d6+–. **28...♔g8** 28...g6 29.hxg6† ♔g7 30.gxf7† ♔f8 31.♗c5† ♘e7 32.♖g8† ♔xf7 33.♕h7† ♗g7 34.♕xg7 mate **29.♗c5 1–0** The black king cannot escape. Or 29.♕h7† mating.

868. Sinisa Drazic – Viswanathan Anand, Bastia 2000
Black wins by attacking the weak spots h2 and f2: **28...♘g4! 29.g3** 29.f4 exf3 (Even stronger – full points and almost a bonus point – is attacking f4 with 29...♘e6–+.) 30.♘xf3 ♘xe3 (or 30...♖xb3 first) 31.♕d2 ♖xb3∓ ✓ **29...♕f6!–+** ✓

869. Viswanathan Anand – Victor Bologan, New Delhi (2) 2000
38.g6! Not 38.♘xh7? ♔xh7 39.g6† ♔g8! 40.♖f3 ♖h5!∓. **38...fxg6** 38...hxg6 39.♕h4† ♖h5 40.♘xh5+– ✓ **39.♘d7!** ✓ White crashes through. Also full points for: 39.♘xh7 ♗e7 40.♘f8!+– **39...♗e7** 39...♖e8 40.♘xf8+– **40.♘xe5 dxe5 41.♕f7 h6 42.♕e8† 1–0**

870. Viswanathan Anand – Elizbar Ubilava, Villarrobledo (rapid) 2001
31.♖xf6! ♖xf6 32.♕e7† ♖f7 33.♕xh4+– ✓ **1–0** The d-pawn and Black's weak king are sufficient to warrant resignation.

871. Viswanathan Anand – Alexey Dreev, Moscow (2) 2001
26.♖xd8† 26.♗xg7†? ♔h7–+ White can no longer take on d8 with check. **26...♖xd8 27.♗xg7†! ♔h7** 27...♘xg7 28.♕h4!+– ✓ wins the rook thanks to the threats along the h-file. **28.♕c7!** ✓ Anand managed to convert his advantage. 28.♕h4 ♖d2 29.♗xh6 ♔xh6 30.g4 ♕g5 31.♕xh5† ♕xh5 32.♖xh5† also scores full points. **28...♖g8 29.♗d4 ♖xg2 30.♕xb7**+–

872. Nigel Short – Viswanathan Anand, Dubai 2002
16...♘xd5! 17.exd5 17.♕xd5 ♗xb2∓ **17...♘e5! 0–1** Short had no good moves: a) 18.♕d2 ♘c4–+ ✓; b) 18.fxe5 ♕xa4–+; ✓ c) 18.♕d1 ♕xd1 19.♖xd1 ♘g4 (also take a point for 19...♘c4∓) 20.♗d4 ♖xc2∓ ✓

873. Viswanathan Anand – Judit Polgar, Cap d'Agde 2003
20...♗xd4! 21.♗xd4 ♗xa2†! 22.♔xa2 After the game move 22.♔c1 many moves are winning. **22...♕a5†** Or first 22...b3†. **23.♔b1** 23.♔b3 and, among others, 23...♘b6 with mate to follow: 24.♗xb6 ♖c3†! 25.bxc3 ♕a3† 26.♔c4 ♕xc3 mate **23...b3! 24.cxb3 ♕xd2–+ ✓ 0–1**

874. Miso Cebalo – Viswanathan Anand, Bastia 2003
22.♖xd5? A red herring – White should not bite into the bait. 22.♗xf8? is also bad: 22...♖xd1† 23.♗xd1 (23.♖xd1 ♗xf3 24.gxf3 ♖xf8–+) 23...♗e4–+ Best is 22.♖de1± but any move that does not exchange too many pieces earns a full point. **22...♗xd5 23.♖h5?** White can win the h-pawn with 23.♗xf8 ♔xf8 24.♕xh7 but Black's king is safe enough after 24...f6∓. 23.♗xd5 ♕xd5∓ also leads nowhere. **23...♕xh5 0–1** 24.♗xh5 is met by 24...♗e4–+.

875. Evgeny Miroshnichenko – Viswanathan Anand, Porz 2004
27...♘xg3! 27...f4?! 28.gxf4 ♘xf4 29.♖ef2∞ ♖d3? 30.♕xd3 ♘xd3 31.♖xf8 mate **28.♖ef2** Not a critical move, as there is now more than one way to win. The main point is: 28.♖xg3 f4–+ ✓ **28...♘xe4** Or 28...f4–+ with the point 29.♖xf4 ♖xf4 30.♖xf4 ♕xf4 31.♕xf4 ♘e2†. **29.♘xe4 ♗xe4** Black should be winning and White soon resigned. But not: 29...fxe4? 30.♖xf8† ♖xf8 31.♖xf8† ♔xf8 32.♕xa7= **30.♖f4? g5 31.♕g3 ♕g7 0–1**

876. Viswanathan Anand – Johann Hjartarson, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006
34.♖xg6†! 34.♕xe5?! ♕xc4 35.♖d7 ♗f6 36.♕e6† ♔h8 37.♕d6= **34...hxg6 35.♕xg6† ♔h8 36.♖xe5+–** ✓ White will get too many and too dangerous pawns for either an exchange or a piece; in either case winning. The game finished: **36...♖4f5 37.♕h6† ♔g8 38.♕xh4 ♖xe5 39.♕g3† 1–0**

877. Teimour Radjabov – Viswanathan Anand, Rishon Le Zion (blitz) 2006
15.♘xe6! g5 15...fxe6 16.♗h5† g6 17.♗xg6 mate ✓; 15...♗e7 16.♘c7†+– **16.♘f6†! 1–0** Anand did not want to see 16...♘xf6 17.♘c7† ♔e7 18.♕d6 mate ✓.

878. Vassily Ivanchuk – Viswanathan Anand, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2007
22.f4! 22.♖e4 ♘g6± **22...♕xf4 23.♖e4 1–0** White wins the knight by doubling his rooks on the e-file: **23...♕f6 24.♖ae1+–** ✓

879. Viswanathan Anand – Levon Aronian, Morelia/Linares 2008
30...♖e3! 30...fxg3 31.hxg3 ♗xg3 32.♕xe2 ♗h2†! 33.♔xh2 ♗f1† 34.♔g1 ♗xe2∓ and White has good chances to achieve a fortress. **31.fxe3 ♕xf3–+** ✓ With a winning attack which concluded: **32.♕c2 fxg3** Or 32...fxe3 33.♗g5 e2 34.♖a8† ♗f8 with mate. **33.hxg3 ♕xg3† 34.♔h1 ♗f5 0–1**

880. Magnus Carlsen – Viswanathan Anand, Nice (rapid) 2008
19.♗xh7†! While not winning any material permanently, the trades that result from this combination release the pressure on White, leaving him a pawn up. **19...♔xh7 20.♕b1† g6 21.♕xb6±** ✓

881. Viswanathan Anand – Loek van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2013
36.g5! ♗xd4 36...♗e7 37.♖xe7+– ✓ **37.♖e6†!** ✓ **1–0** Not 37.♖xf8? ♗c5†∓. In the game, Black resigned in view of lines such as: 37...♗f6† 38.♔c2 ♔f7 39.♖e4+–

882. Viswanathan Anand – Wei Yi, Leon 2016
32.e5! Winning the c6- or d4-pawns. Anand didn't win the pawn: 32.♖a8?! ♕xa8 33.♕xd6 ♕a2 34.♘xd4 ♕b1† 35.♔h2 ♕xd3= However, he did win the game (1–0, 50 moves). **32...♖d5** 32...♖d7 33.♖xd7 ♕xd7 34.♘xd4+– **33.♕xc6+–** ✓

Ruslan Ponomariov

I've had situations where I seemed to be studying chess a lot, but without seeing any results. Then at a certain moment something clicks, and the quantity is transformed into quality.
Chess in Translation (2011)

883. Ruslan Ponomariov – Sergey Vokarev, Briansk 1995
27...♖xf3! 28.gxf3 ♖xf3 29.♔g1 29.♖xf3 ♕xf3† 30.♕xf3 ♗xf3† 31.♔g1 ♗xd1 ✓ with an easily winning endgame. **29...♖xc3–+** (0–1, 34 moves) Or 29...♖e3!–+ with the point 30.♘xe3 ♗xe3† 31.♕xe3 ♕g2 mate.

884. Ruslan Ponomariov – Boris Ponomariov, Alicante 1997
21...♗xb2?! The start of an incorrect combination. Give yourself full points for every other normal move, for example 21...♗e6. It is unclear whether the compensation is 100% there, but it is at least partial compensation. **22.♖xb2 ♗xh3?** The immediate double threat 22...♕e5 loses to 23.♕d8†. **23.gxh3 ♕e5** Apparently a double attack. **24.c3!+–** But it could be parried! White is winning, and did indeed win in 33 moves. 24.♗f3? is not good enough: 24...♖h4–+

885. Ruslan Ponomariov – Vepa Malikgulyew, Zagan 1997
16.♕g3! 16.♘xe7† is better for White, but does not win material, as is also the case with 16.♗f4±. **16...♕xg3 17.♘xe7† ♔h8 18.hxg3 ♖e8 19.♘xc6+–** ✓ (1–0, 34 moves)

886. Sergei Azarov – Ruslan Ponomariov, Artek 1999
20.♖xf6! 20.♕h4± **20...g6+–** 20...gxf6 21.♗f4+– ✓ traps the queen. In the game, Black fought on for a few more moves.

887. Sergei Tiviakov – Ruslan Ponomariov Moscow (4) 2001
23...♘h3†! 23...♖g8? 24.♕f6† ♖g7 25.♕xd8†+– **24.gxh3 ♖g8** ✓ **0–1** Winning the queen.

888. Ruslan Ponomariov – Teimour Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2003
35...♘ce3! Blocking the bishop on c5 while stopping ♘xg4. Three alternatives: a) 35...♘xf2 36.♗xf8 ♘h3† 37.♔h1 ♘f2† 38.♔g1=; b) 35...♘e1 36.♔f1!∓; c) 35...♘d4? 36.♘xg4+– **36.♗xe3 ♘xe3!** ✓ 36...♕xe3!? 37.♖f1 is also winning for Black, but not as forcing (full points for that evaluation). The game move is the strongest with ...♕e2-f3 as the main winning idea. The game ended after just two more moves: **37.h4 ♕e2 38.♕h5 g4 0–1**

889. Ruslan Ponomariov – Tihomir Dovramadjiev, Internet 2004
30.♖exd5! ♖xd5 Instead Black tried 30...♖dc8+– but could not turn the game around (1–0, 42 moves). **31.♖xd5 exd5 32.♕e5†+–** ✓ Picking up the rook.

890. Comp Hydra – Ruslan Ponomariov, Bilbao 2005
27.d7! Opening up for the queen to join the attack. **27...♗xc5 28.♕c7!+–** ✓ White's threats against the king are too strong. The game ended after the next move. **28...e5 29.dxc5 1–0** White is mating.

891. Levon Aronian – Ruslan Ponomariov, Khanty-Mansiysk (3) 2005
14.b4!! 14.♗d6?! ♖e8 15.b4 cxb4 16.axb4 allows 16...♘f6=. **14...cxb4 15.♕b3!** White will win back a pawn on either b4 or d5, and retain material-winning threats. **15...♘c5** 15...bxa3 16.♕xd5+– ✓ and the rook cannot be saved. 15...♕e7 16.♕xd5 (16.♖hc1 is also quite strong) 16...♘f6 17.♕xa8 ♗b7 18.♗d6!! ✓ saves the queen, keeping a winning material advantage. **16.dxc5+–** ✓ (1–0, 73 moves)

892. Ruslan Ponomariov – Alexander Grischuk, Sochi 2006
30.♖c7! Winning one of the bishops. Not 30.bxc6?? ♕b1 mate. **30...♗f3!? 31.♗xf3!** 31.♕xc5 ♕xc5 32.♖xc5 ♗xe2 33.♘xe3± probably also offers decent winning chances. **31...♗d6 32.♖c6 1–0** Black resigned, since White is winning on the queenside after 32...♗xe5 33.♖xb6 ♖xb6 34.fxe5 ✓.

893. Krishnan Sasikiran – Ruslan Ponomariov, Zafra 2007
29.♘e5!! ✓ **1–0** Finding the soft target on f7; Black has no defence.

894. Ruslan Ponomariov – Peter Leko, Moscow (blitz) 2007
19.♗xe6! ♖d8 19...fxe6? 20.♘f5+– ✓ wins the bishop and the e6-pawn. **20.♘f5+–** White has won an important pawn. 20.f4 is also good, as is the passive 20.♗b3.

895. Pavel Tregubov – Ruslan Ponomariov, Odessa 2008
28.♖b5†! White gains a mating attack. **28...♔a6+–** 28...cxb5 29.♖d6† ✓ ♔a7 and there is more than one way to mate, for instance 30.♕d7† ♔a8 31.♖a6† ♔b8 32.♖b6† ♔a8 33.♕b7 mate. **29.♖xa5†** 29.♔d2 and 29.♔c2 are also winning. **29...♔b6 30.♕c5† 1–0** Mate is nigh.

896. Vladislav Tkachiev – Ruslan Ponomariov, Moscow (blitz) 2008
17.♗f4! ✓ **1–0** Mating on e8 or winning a bishop on c7.

897. Magnus Carlsen – Ruslan Ponomariov, Moscow (blitz) 2008
28.♖xe6!! 28.♗xc5 runs into 28...♕f7!∓, but White doesn't have to exchange on c5 before capturing the e6-pawn. **28...♘xe6 29.♗d5 ♖e8** 29...♔f7 30.♗xg7! and White is winning because the rook will be hanging after 30...♕xg7 31.♗xe6† ✓. **30.c7! ♔f7 31.♗xg7! ♕g8** 31...♕xg7 32.♗xe6† (or 32.♕xg7† ♔xg7 33.♗xe6+–) 32...♖xe6 33.♕xg7† ♔xg7 34.c8=♕+– ✓ **32.♗f6!+–** Black is quite tied up and will end up losing a lot of material. 32.h4 is also winning. Instead the game continued 32.♗d4?! ♔e7 33.♗b6 when Black could have played 33...♖f8±.

898. Boris Gelfand – Ruslan Ponomariov, Khanty-Mansiysk (6) 2009
35.♖xd5 exd5 36.♘f4! In order to exploit the pin, the knight needs to attack the b6-rook from d5. 36.♘b2? ♔e7± 37.♘a4?! ♖xa6= **36...♘c7** 36...d4 37.♘d5 ♖b8 38.♘c7+– **37.♖xb6 axb6 38.a7+–** ✓ The principles of knight endgames are often the same as in pawn endgames, and here the advanced and distant passer on a7, and all the weak black pawns, give White a winning endgame (1–0, 52 moves).

899. Ruslan Ponomariov – Baadur Jobava, Kharkov 2010
30...♘f2! Discovered attack. 30...♘f4? has the same idea but runs into: 31.♘xf4 ♖xh2? 32.♘xg6†+– **31.♗xf2** One point is 31.♖xh7 ♖xh7 32.♖xh7 ♘xd3 33.♖xe7 ♘xe1†!–+✓ when Black has an extra piece. **31...♖xh2 32.♖xh2 ♖xh2–+** ✓ (0–1, 79 moves)

900. Francisco Vallejo Pons – Ruslan Ponomariov, Spain 2011
32...♘e3! The threat of ...♕g2 mate cannot be stopped except by capturing the knight – a move that decisively opens up the king's position. 32...♖xf2 allows White to draw with 33.♕xd5† or 33.♕d8†. **33.fxe3 ♕xe3†** ✓ **34.♔g2 ♖f2†** Mating is best, but other moves are winning as well. **35.♔h3 ♕h6† 36.♔g4 ♕g6† 0–1**

901. Sergey Fedorchuk – Ruslan Ponomariov, Spain 2011
21.♗xh6†! ♔g6 21...♔xh6 22.♕xf6† ♔h7 (22...♔h5 also runs into mate in several ways. Most direct is 23.♖g3.) 23.♕h4† ♔g8 24.♖g3† ♗g4 25.♖xg4 mate ✓ **22.♘d5!** 22.♗xf8 ♗xc3 23.♕g3† ♘g4 24.♖f1 ♗d4 25.♖f3 And h2-h3 eventually wins the knight and the game (full points). In the game, White had a winning attack. The knight cannot be taken and the game ended in mate in a few moves. **22...♘h7** Both 22...♗xd5 23.♕f5† ♔xh6 24.♕xf6† and 22...♘xd5 23.♕g3† will end up with mate. **23.♕g3† ♔h5 24.♘f6† ♘xf6 25.♕g5 mate**

902. Peter Svidler – Ruslan Ponomariov, Eilat (1) 2012
34.♗d5! Two tries that don't really work are 34.♗xg6? ♗xg6 35.♖g7† ♔f8∓ and 34.♖xf7?! ♔xf7 35.♗xg6† ♔xg6 36.♘f4† ♔f7 37.g6† ♔xf6 38.♖xe8=. **34...♖xe2** 34...♗xd5 35.♖xe8 mate ✓ **35.♗xf7†! ♔f8** 35...♔h8 36.♖b8† ♔h7 37.♗g8† ♔h8 38.♗e6† Picking up the knight spells the end of the game. **36.♗xg6!** ✓ White has a winning attack. Black tried to fight on for a few moves, but it proved futile. **36...♖e8 37.♖f7† ♔g8 38.♖g7† ♔h8 39.♖h7† 1–0**

903. Ruslan Ponomariov – Leinier Dominguez Perez, Tashkent 2012
33.♖xe7! Eliminating the defence of the dark squares. 33.♗c7?! ♖xc7 34.♕xc7 ♕xc7 35.♖xc7 ♘c8 wins an exchange, but White is only slightly better. **33...♕xe7** 33...♖xe7 34.♘f6† ✓ and as there are many ways to conclude the attack, it's enough to see this far. A few lines: 34...♔h8 (34...♔g7 35.♕g5+– and the queen is coming to h6 with devastating effect) 35.♕h4 h5 36.♕g5 ♕f8 37.♗d6 The defence is collapsing, since both e7 and f5 are hanging. It's over after 37...♖cc7 38.♖xf5+–. **34.♗g5!** ✓ 34.♗e5!? or 34.d6!? and some other moves are good but not best or most natural. **34...♕e2 35.♘f6† ♔g7 36.♘xe8† ♖xe8 37.♖xf5 1–0** Black has to give up the queen to delay mate after 37...gxf5 38.♗e7†! ✓.

904. Deshun Xiu – Ruslan Ponomariov, Danzhou 2014
Despite the centralized position, the king is somewhat short of squares and must keep the rook protected. **42...f5†! 43.gxf5 gxf5† 44.♔e5** 44.♔e3 ♖de2 mate ✓ **44...♖xd3–+** ✓ (0–1, 50 moves)

905. Fabiano Caruana – Ruslan Ponomariov, Dortmund 2014
How can White exploit the weak light squares around the king? **39.♖e7!** First, we must deflect the queen by attacking c7. **39...♕xe7** 39...♔b8 40.♗a6 ✓ is mating. **40.♗a6!** And then the king is deflected! White mates. **40...♔xa6 41.♕a8 mate** ✓

906. Ivan Cheparinov – Ruslan Ponomariov, Tromsø (ol) 2014
19.♘b5! Pin, discovered check and pawn promotion are on the agenda. **19...♖cc8** The main point is 19...♗xb5 20.♖xd8† ♗xd8 21.cxb6† ♖e7 22.bxa7+– ✓ and promotion. **20.♘xa7 ♖c7 21.cxb6** White is winning (1–0, 37 moves).

907. Ruslan Ponomariov – Jure Borisek, Berlin (blitz) 2015
26.♘f5! Using the cramped king to bring the knight to the lovely d6-square, winning an exchange. **26...♕e6** 26...gxf5 27.♕g5† ♗g7 28.♕xg7 mate ✓ **27.♘d6+–** ✓ (1–0, 55 moves)

908. Ruslan Ponomariov – Axel Bachmann, Berlin (blitz) 2015
24.♗xf6 ♗xf6 25.♗a6! Taking advantage of all the unprotected minor pieces. **25...♘xa4** 25...♗xa6 26.♖xb6+– ✓ wins a piece. **26.♖xb7** White is a piece up (1–0, 55 moves).

909. Ruslan Ponomariov – Francisco Vallejo Pons, Madrid 2016
24.e4! 24.e6† ♔xe6 25.e4 is similar but 24.♖d1? runs into 24...♗b7!–+. **24...♕d4** 24...♕xe4 drops the bishop: 25.♖xd2+– ✓ **25.♖d1** ✓ **1–0** Now there is no counterplay, so the pins win the bishop.

Rustam Kasimdzhanov (on Anand)

He sees a lot more than all the others, but that isn't necessarily a strength. In the games he loses he has also seen more than his opponent. Playing chess isn't about what you see. Playing chess is about what you can seize from that. It can also sometimes be a burden when you see so many variations that you can no longer maintain control.
Chess24 (2013)

910. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Patrice Verdier, Corsica (rapid) 1997
34.♘xg6! ♕d3 No better are 34...fxg6 35.♕xf8+– ✓ or 34...♔xg6 35.♕f5 mate ✓. **35.♘xf8†** ✓ **1–0** Mate is on the way.

911. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Giorgi Bakhtadze, Yerevan 1999
40.♘e6†! A discovered attack with an added threat to the f4-knight. Black has a fork, but White emerges with a winning position. **40...♔e7** 40...♘xe6 41.♖xd7 ♘f6 (41...♖xc4 42.♘xc4 ♘f6 43.♘e5+– ✓ or 43.♖a7 ♘xg4† 44.♔g3!+–) 42.♗xe6! (42.♖f4+– is also good enough) 42...fxe6 43.♖f4!+– ✓ **41.♖xd7† ♔xd7 42.♘xf4** ✓ **1–0**

912. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Gerald Hertneck Germany 2001
24.♖xc5! Distracting the crucial defender of b7 to a vulnerable square. Worse are 24.♕b5 ♖b6= and 24.♘c6? ♖dxc6 25.♗b7† ♖xb7 26.♕xc6 c4∓. **24...♖xc5 25.♗b7† ♕xb7 26.♖xb7 ♔xb7 27.♕b4†!+–** ✓ White wins a rook, with a winning material advantage.

913. Etienne Bacrot – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Moscow 2002
24...♖xf3! 24...♗xe4?! 25.♗xe4 ♖xe4 26.fxe4 ♕f2† 27.♔h1 ♕e2 28.♗g5± is bad for Black and 24...♗h3†? 25.♔xh3 ♖xf3† 26.♔g2 ♖f2† 27.♔h1! loses for him. **25.♔xf3** White tried the non-critical 25.♕c4 when 25...♗g4! is precise, but other moves win too. **25...♗xe4† 26.♔g3** 26.♔xe4 ♕d4 mate ✓ **26...♕f2†** ✓ **0–1** Mate is coming.

914. Thomas Luther – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Mainz 2003
21...h4! Chasing away the blocking knight prepares a fork. **22.♘e4 ♗xe4 23.dxe4 ♘h3† 24.♔f1 ♘xf2–+** ✓ (0–1, 34 moves)

915. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Mark Bluvshtein, Khanty-Mansiysk (ol) 2010
34.♕g6†! Trading the attack for a win by promotion. **34...♕xg6 35.♘xg6 1–0** The pawn queens after 35...♔xg6 36.d7 ✓ and 35...♗e6 36.♘f8† is a fork.

916. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Mohammad Miran Khademi, Mashhad 2011
39.♖xe8! 39.c5†? ♘xc5 40.♘c4† ♔e6–+ **39...♖8a7!?** 39...a1=♘† leads nowhere and 39...♖xe8 is met by 40.♖d7 mate ✓. **40.c5†! 1–0** The end was close: 40...♘xc5 41.♘c4 mate ✓

917. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Liviu Dieter Nisipeanu, Rogaska Slatina 2011
29.♘c5! ✓ The only way to get out of the dangerous pin, while only losing one of the hanging pieces. White retains an exchange – a winning material advantage (1–0, 40 moves). No good is: 29.hxg3 fxg3 30.♘c5 gxf2†∓

918. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Marat Dzhumaev, Tashkent 2011
24.g4! ♘c2 24...♗xg4 25.♕f7† ♔h8 26.♕xh7 mate ✓ **25.gxf5+–** ✓ Kasimdzhanov played another winning move (also full points): 25.♕xd4 ♘xd4 26.♖d1 e3 27.♖xd4 ♖xc7 28.♗d5† 1–0

919. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Henrik Teske, Germany 2011
38.f7! ♗xf7 The game continued 38...♗c6+– when White has several winning options. For example: 39.♖d6 (another is 39.♗f3 ♖xe1 40.♘xc6+– attacking both rooks) 39...♗d5 (39...♗a8 40.♖d7+–) 40.♖xd5! Black resigned in view of 40...♘xd5 41.♖e8† mating. **39.♘xf7 ♔xf7 40.♗h5†+–** ✓ Winning the rook.

Veselin Topalov

I think the solution is to shorten the time control in order to provide more margin for error, since memory would then be less of a factor than now and it would be more important to calculate faster.
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920. Dimitar Donchev – Veselin Topalov, Sofia 1989
18.♘fe5!! Threatening the d7-knight and preparing a discovered attack on the queen. **18...♗xe5 19.♘h6†! ✓ 1–0** 19.♘f6†?? ♘xf6–+

921. Eran Liss – Veselin Topalov, Singapore 1990
28.f5!! White wants to force away the g7-bishop that is blocking the mate on f7. **28...dxe3** The game continued 28...♘xf5 29.♕g8† (other moves also win, but not 29.♗xf5 dxe3±) 29...♔e7 30.♕f7† ♔d6 31.♕d7† and Black resigned, as he was facing mate in a few moves. After 28...gxf5 White wins with, among others, 29.♗h6. **29.f6+– ✓**

922. Vasilios Kotronias – Veselin Topalov, Kavala 1990
20.♘xe6!+– Winning an important pawn and gaining a superb knight on e6. **20...♗c6** 20...♕xe6 fails to 21.♖xd7†+– ✓ when the rook is indirectly protected by the queen. **21.f5! e4 22.♗d4 ♖hg8 23.♘xe4 ♗xe4 24.♕xe4 c3 25.b4 1–0** White has a crushing position.

923. Veselin Topalov – Jacob Bjerre Jensen, Copenhagen 1991
28...♘f4!! What a multipurpose move! Black cuts off the queen from the mate threat, threatens the bishop, opens the h-file for either the queen on h6 or a rook on h5. White is utterly defenceless against so many threats. The game ended the other way after: 28...♕e7?! 29.♗h3 ♖xe5 30.dxe5 ♕xe5?? (30...♕g5=) 31.♖d8† 1–0 **29.♕xf4 ♖h5†! 30.♖xh5 ♕xf4–+**

924. Veselin Topalov – Juan Mellado Trivino, Terrassa 1992
22.♘d6! Cutting off the defence of d5. **22...♘b4** 22...♗xd6 23.♕xd5†+– ✓ **23.♘xe8+–** ✓ White has won an exchange and will gain control of the soon-to-be-open e-file.

925. Mikhail Nedobora – Veselin Topalov, Candas 1992
25...e4! Breaking up White's pawn structure and giving the bishop on h2 a retreat square. **26.♖e3** 26.fxe4 ♗e5!–+ ✓ and Black will win on the kingside. **26...exf3–+** The white kingside is collapsing. The game gives some indication of White's troubles here. However, 26...♗e5–+ is also winning. **27.♖xf3 ♘e4** 27...♗e5 is still a winning idea. **28.♔c2 ♘g5 29.♖f2 ♗e5 30.♗xe5 ♖xe5 31.♖h1 ♖e4 32.♖g1 ♘f3 33.♖h1 ♘e5 34.♔d2 0–1**

926. Jesus Maria Iruzubieta Villaluenga – Veselin Topalov, Elgoibar 1992
34...♘xg5!! ✓ 0–1 34...♕b6†?! allows 35.♕e3!= when 35...♕xe3† 36.♖xe3 ♘xg5? 37.♘xe5 even wins for White. In the game, White resigned in view of the heavy material losses: 35.♖xe5 ♘xf3† (or 35...♘h3†)

927. Veselin Topalov – Alfonso Romero Holmes, Leon 1993
24.♗h6! Neutralizing all counterplay and getting rid of the supreme defender by exploiting the multiple pins created by White's pieces aimed against the black king. **24...♕c3** 24...♗xh6 25.♕xg6† ♗g7 26.♕xh5+– ✓ (or 26.♖xh5+–) **25.♗xg7** ✓ White has a winning attack. **25...♕xg7 26.♖dg1 1–0** After 26...♘f6 27.♕xg6+– it's hopeless.

928. Jesus Maria De la Villa – Veselin Topalov, Pamplona 1994
35...♖xh8! 36.♖xh8 ♔f6!–+ ✓ Gaining a second piece for the rook gives Black a likely winning endgame (0–1, 49 moves).

929. Veselin Topalov – Judit Polgar, Novgorod 1996
33.♖xe6†! 33.d5? is too slow after 33...♖xc2–+, but 33.♘a3 preserves an advantage (but is weak compared to the game). **33...♔f8** 33...fxe6 34.♕xe6†+– ✓ and one of the rooks drops. The game move is clever, and gives Black a double threat against c2 and e6, so one has to see further. **34.♕a3†** 34.♖g6!? is the only other move that wins. The point is still the check on a3: 34...♖xc2 35.♕a3† **34...♔g7 35.♖e7! ♖c7 36.♖xc7 ♕xc7 37.♘e3+–** ✓ The position has stabilized with White a pawn up, with the safer king, better minor piece and more dangerous pawns (1–0, 60 moves).

930. Loek van Wely – Veselin Topalov, Antwerp 1997
33...c2†! 34.♔a2 34.♖xc2 ♕e1†–+ ✓ wins the rook. 34.♔a1 ♕xa3 mate ✓ **34...♕d2! 35.♕f1 ♕d4! 0–1** There is a double threat against a7 and b2.

931. Loek van Wely – Veselin Topalov, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 1997
26.♘e8†! 26.♖xh8?! ♔xh8 27.♘e8 ♘g8 and Black defends. **26...♔f7 27.♘xf6!±** ✓ (1–0, 39 moves)

932. Predrag Nikolic – Veselin Topalov, Linares 1997
22...♘e5!! 0–1 22...♘f2†? 23.♖xf2 ♕xh3† 24.♔g1± The knight sacrifice opens up for a discovered attack on the pawn on h3: 23.fxe5 ♕xh3 mate ✓

933. Veselin Topalov – Jan Timman, Elista (ol) 1998
31...♗xh4! The queen now tried to do too much. **32.♕d3?!** 32.♕xh4 ♖xd6 33.♖xd6? (33.♘e4∓) 33...♕xd6†–+ picks up the d2-knight. **32...♘f6!–+** ✓ White can't retain the strong bishop on d6 and faces huge material losses. **33.♗e7 ♕c7† 0–1**

934. Alexei Shirov – Veselin Topalov, Sarajevo 2000
24.♕xc5! Targeting the soft spot on h7 by getting the queen to f5. 24.h5? h6 25.♘xe4 is somewhat better for White, but nowhere near as convincing as the game continuation. **24...♘f4** 24...f5 is met by 25.♘e6+– ✓ or 25.♘xf5+–. **25.♕f5** ✓ **♘g6** It is now enough to take the exchange, but Shirov was more direct. **26.h5! ♕xe7 27.hxg6 1–0**

935. Francisco Vallejo Pons – Veselin Topalov, Barcelona 2000
28.♖xg5†! 28.♕xf3? ♘xf3 29.♖xf6 (29.♖g3 ♗g7∓) 29...♘xg1 30.♘xg1 is unclear. **28...♔f8** 28...♗xg5 29.♕xg5† ✓ is a key move, after which White's attack is winning in many ways; an evaluation that can be made without calculating further. But here we can afford some supporting variations. (29.♖h8†? ♔g7 30.♖h7† [30.♕h7†? ♔f6–+ and the attack is over] 30...♔f6 31.♖xf7†! ♘xf7 32.♕xf3 ♘e5 And White is better, but not winning.) 29...♘g6 (29...♔f8 30.♖h8 mate) 30.♗xg6 fxg6 (30...♕d3† 31.♔a1 ♕d1† 32.♘c1 changes nothing) 31.♖xg6† ♔f7 32.♖g7† ♔f8 33.♖g8† ♔f7 34.♕g7 mate **29.♖xf6+–** ✓ White has won a piece, so trading queens is not really in Black's interest, but if he does not, then the attack is winning. The only thing that might be useful to see is that Black runs out of checks after: **29...♕d3† 30.♔c1 ♕e3† 31.♔d1 ♕d3† 32.♔e1 ♕b1† 33.♔f2+–**

936. Rafael Vaganian – Veselin Topalov, Istanbul (ol) 2000
30...♕xe6!+– Giving up the queen to gain the time needed to promote the c-pawn. Worse are 30...♕g7?! 31.♕d3∓ and 30...c2? 31.♖xf6 c1=♕† 32.♔h2± and 30...♖b1†?! 31.♗f1 ♕h4∓. **31.dxe6 c2 32.♕e3 ♖b1† 33.♔h2 c1=♕–+** ✓ (0–1, 36 moves)

937. Veselin Topalov – Alexander Morozevich, Cannes 2002
33.♗e4 Double discovery with a threat on the knight *and* taking away the h7-square! Black resigned, since he is mated whichever rook he captures. **33...♘xf2†** 33...♖xb5 34.♖a8† ✓ with mate. **34.♔g2 ♖ee8 35.♖xb8 ♖xb8 36.♔xf2+–** ✓

938. Veselin Topalov – Peter Leko, Dubai 2002
22...♘e5! 23.♕g3 23.♕e2 ♘xg6 24.hxg6 ♕xg6–+ **23...♖xh5!–+** ✓ Something along the h7-b1 diagonal, or the d1-rook, will drop off (0–1, 27 moves). But not: 23...♘xg6? 24.hxg6 ♕h8 25.♕c7+–

939. Alexei Shirov – Veselin Topalov, Prague 2002
40.d7! Clearing a square for a fork while threating to queen the pawn. **40...♘xd7 41.♘d6† ♔g6 42.♘xc4+–** ✓ (1–0, 52 moves)

940. Veselin Topalov – Evgeny Bareev, Dortmund (2) 2002
23.♘xb5†! Exposing Black's king to the white artillery. 23.c4? ♖ac8∓ is bad, but there are some decent alternatives: 23.♕e5!?± and 23.a4!? b4±. **23...axb5 24.♖xb5!** The move order is important. 24.♖xd5? exd5 25.♖xb5? ♖he8! wins for Black. **24...♕c6** 24...♕a6 25.♖dxd5! (or the nice-looking 25.♕e3† ♘xe3 26.♖d7†+–) 25...exd5 26.♕e7† ✓ mating. 24...♕c7 defends against the check on e7. A rook lift is winning, as well as 25.♖dxd5 exd5 26.♕e3† ♔a6 27.♖b4 ♕a5 28.♕e2† ♔a7 29.♕e7† ♔a6 30.♕b7 mate. **25.♖dxd5!** 25.♖d4+– should also be good enough; as is 25.♕d3+–. **25...exd5 26.♕e7† ♔a6 27.♖b3!** ✓ **1–0** The threat of 28.♕a3 is decisive.

941. Veselin Topalov – Francisco Vallejo Pons, Morelia/Linares 2006
34...♕xe1†! 34...♕xd5? 35.♖xe5†! wins for White and 34...fxg6 35.♕e6† leads to a perpetual after the best moves. **35.♗xe1 ♗e3† 36.♔f1 c1=♕ 37.♕xf7† ♔d8–+** ✓ Because the e1-bishop is pinned, White does not have compensation (0–1, 56 moves).

942. Veselin Topalov – Gata Kamsky, Sofia 2009
36.♘xb4! 36.♖xd4? ♕xd4 37.♖xc7 ♘xd3 and the pawn on g7 is defended after 38.♕xf7† ♔h8∓. **36...axb4 37.♖xd4! ♕f8?!** 37...♕xd4 38.♖xc7± ✓ is not winning, but this is clearly the best White could force from the diagram position. **38.♖xd8 ♕xd8 39.♖xc7 ♕xc7 40.♕a8† ♔h7 41.♕e4† ♔g8 42.♕xb4+–** ✓ (1–0, 55 moves)

943. Magnus Carlsen – Veselin Topalov, Sofia 2009
33.♕d3! 33.♕g4? ♕xe7 and 33.♘xg6? ♕xc7 both win for Black. **33...♕xe7** 33...♕xc7 34.♘g5†! (34.♘f6†?? ♘xf6 35.♕xg6† ♔h8–+) 34...hxg5 35.♕xg6† ♔h8 36.♕h5† ♗h6 37.♕xh6 mate ✓ **34.♖xd7** Or 34.♘f6†+–. **34...♕h4† 35.♔f3! ♕h5† 36.♔g3!** ✓ **1–0** Black has run out of counterplay, so White is simply mating.

944. Vladimir Georgiev – Veselin Topalov, Novi Sad 2009
37.♘f4! Clearing e6 for the queen while simultaneously threatening the black queen and protecting e2. **37...♕h6** 37...gxf4 38.♕e6† ✓ is mating. **38.♕e6† ♔h8 39.♘h5! ♖f8 40.♕xd6+–** ✓ White just needs to take care of some counterplay in order to win quickly. Instead the game went 40.♖f7? ♗g7 41.♖xg7? (41.♕xh6 ♗xh6 42.♖d7 seems to be a slow win) 41...♕xh5 and White had only a perpetual after 42.♖g8†.

945. Mark Bluvshtein – Veselin Topalov, Khanty-Mansiysk (ol) 2010
24.♘xd6! 24.♖xd6? ♗xd6 25.♘f6† ♔f7–+ **24...♗xd6 25.♖xd6! ♖xe2** 25...♖xd6 26.♕xe8† ♔g7 27.♕e7† ✓ wins the rook on d6. **26.♖xd8† ♔f7 27.♗xe2+–** ✓ White should win and did indeed manage to convert (1–0, 42 moves).

946. Veselin Topalov – Magnus Carlsen, Astana (rapid) 2012
40.♘h5†! gxh5 40...♔f8 41.♘f6+– ✓ (or 41.dxc5 bxc5 42.♘f6+–) A sample line is: 41...♘xf6 42.♕xf6 ♔g8 43.♖e8† ♔h7 44.♕h8 mate **41.♖g5†!** The game move 41.♕xh5?= gives Black the opportunity to bring the knight to g6, with sufficient defensive resources. **41...♔f8 42.♕xh5+–** ✓ Now Black cannot parry the mating attack.

947. Wang Hao – Veselin Topalov, Stavanger (blitz) 2013
21.♘d5! ♕xb3 21...♕a7 22.♘e7† or 22.♘c7+–. **22.♕xb3 ♘xb3 23.♘c7+–** ✓ White wins an exchange with a much more active position. **23...♖e5 24.♘xa8 ♖xg5 25.♖xd7 ♗xd7 26.♖xd7 1–0**

Magnus Carlsen

Self-confidence is very important... I have always believed in what I do on the chessboard, even when I had no objective reason to. It is better to overestimate your prospects than underestimate them.

948. Sarunas Sulskis – Magnus Carlsen, Moscow 2004
34.♘d5! ♔h7 34...♕xd5? 35.h6+– ✓ mating, is the main idea. Black's best is 34...♕xf6 35.♘xf6† ♔g7 36.♘xd7 ✓ ♖d8± with some drawing chances. **35.hxg6†! fxg6 36.♕e7† 1–0** If 36...♔g8 then 37.♘f6† wins everything.

949. Magnus Carlsen – Kjetil Lie, Trondheim 2004
33...♘xe5! 34.fxe5 34.♗h4∓ **34...♖xe5** A double threat, winning back the piece while keeping the pawn. **35.♗f4** 35.♘xc7 ♖xg5–+ ✓ and the knight is trapped on c7. **35...♖xd5–+** ✓ (0–1, 44 moves)

950. Magnus Carlsen – Nurlan Ibrayev, Calvia (ol) 2004
17.♖xf6! The king cannot escape without heavy casualties. **17...♕xf6** After 17...hxg5 the most direct is 18.hxg5 gxf6 19.gxf6 mating. 17...gxf6 allows mate in two: 18.♕h7† ♔f8 19.♕xf7 mate ✓ **18.♕h7† ♔f8 19.♘e4!** 19.♗a3† is less precise, but sufficient for a winning position: 19...♘b4 20.♗xb4† d6+– And with the e4-square covered, White can't play ♘g5-e4. **19...♕e6 20.♗a3†+–** ✓

951. Magnus Carlsen – Vasilios Kotronias, Calvia (ol) 2004
22.♘xf6! White is better after other moves, but this is clearly the strongest continuation. **22...♔xf6 23.♖xd6†! ♔e7** 23...♕xd6 24.♕xe3 with a double threat against a7 and g5: 24...♖xh4 25.♕xa7+– ✓ or 24...♖d7 25.♕g5 mate ✓. **24.♖xc6 ♕xc6 25.♕xe3** ✓ With three pawns and Black's exposed king for an exchange, White is at least clearly better, although the game was eventually drawn.

952. Alexander Graf – Magnus Carlsen, Sanxenxo 2004
29.♗c6!! ✓ **1–0** Black cannot protect both the bishop and the king against 30.♖d8†.

953. Magnus Carlsen – Predrag Nikolic, Wijk aan Zee 2005
20.♘g5†! fxg5 21.♕f3†! ♔g8 22.♖xe6! ✓ **1–0** Winning the bishop with 22.♗f5+– is also good enough. The game move gives a winning attack: 22...♖xe6 23.♕f8 mate.

954. Magnus Carlsen – Oystein Hole, Gausdal 2005
24.♗xh7! ♔xh7 24...♘xd4 25.♗xg8 (25.♘xd4? ♔xh7 26.♗e3 ♖h8! and Black is winning because the queen is protecting e6 and can come to g6 after 27.♘f5 exf5 28.♕xf5† ♕g6–+) 25...♘f5 26.♗xf7 ♘xh6 27.♕xe6 ♕xe6 28.♗xe6+– ✓ White has too many pawns to go with the rook against the two minor pieces. **25.♗e3!** White threatens mate on h5 as well as a discovered attack with the knight. **25...♖h8** 25...g6 26.♕h3† (or 26.♘xe6+–) 26...♔g7 27.♕h6 mate **26.♘xe6+–** ✓ White wins the queen. Also good is: 26.♘f5 exf5 27.♕xf5†+–

955. Magnus Carlsen – Gata Kamsky, Khanty-Mansiysk (1) 2005
37.c5†! ♔xc5 37...♔xb5 38.♖e7 should also be winning for White and 37...♔a7 is just too passive; White's pawns and active rooks are decisive in many different ways. **38.♖e7 ♗d4** 38...♗c3 39.♖c7† (or 39.♖c1) 39...♔b6 (39...♔d4 40.♖d1†+– ✓) 40.♖xc3+– ✓ **39.♖xb7+–** ✓

956. Jan Smeets – Magnus Carlsen, Wijk aan Zee 2006
35...♖xg3†!! 36.♔xg3 After the game move 36.♔f1 many moves win. Strongest is 36...♕h7–+ when the queen penetrates with deadly effect. 36.fxg3 ♕f1†! (or 36...♕f3†) 37.♔h2 ♔g7 This wins similarly to the main line, although here White is closer to having a defence: 38.♖e4 ♖h8† 39.♖h4 ♗xh4–+ ✓ **36...♕f3† 37.♔h2 ♔g7!–+** ✓ Bringing the rook to the h-file with a devastating attack. 37...♖f7? 38.♕xg6 ♖h7† 39.♕xh7† ♔xh7∞ is not good enough.

957. Simon Williams – Magnus Carlsen, Reykjavik (blitz) 2006
23...♗h4 Winning an exchange by exploiting the mating threats on g2 and h1. **24.♖xe4** The alternatives do not require long calculation: 24.g3 ♕h1 mate ✓ and 24.♕xh4 ♕xg2 mate ✓. **24...♗xf2† 25.♖xf2 ♗xe4** ✓ Black should be winning.

958. Magnus Carlsen – Sergei Shipov, Tromsø 2006
34...d3! Clearing d4 for a fork. **35.♖e1** The fork is executed after 35.cxd3 ♘d4–+ ✓ and 35.♕xd3 ♖fd8! 36.♕f3 ♘d4–+ ✓. The queen had no safe squares. **35...dxc2–+** White saved the exchange, but at too high a price – the c2-pawn supported by Black's entire army is too much to handle.

959. Magnus Carlsen – Kjetil Lie, Moss 2006
24.♖xf7! ♘xf7 The game ended 24...♖xc2 25.♘e7† ♔h8 26.♗e5 mate. **25.♘f6† ♔f8 26.♘xe8+–** ✓ White will win even more material.

960. Magnus Carlsen – Alexander Morozevich, Biel 2006
40.♖xd5! cxd5 41.♕f8† ♔h7 42.♘e8! 1–0 With a decisive attack. 42...♕e5† can be met by 43.f4! ✓ followed by 44.♘f6†.

961. Artur Yusupov – Magnus Carlsen, Amsterdam 2006
39...♘xf2! 40.♔xf2 The game went 40.♘f1–+. **40...♕xg3† 41.♔e2 ♕xh2†–+** ✓ Or 41...♖a8–+.

962. Magnus Carlsen – Dmitry Gurevich, Rishon Le Zion (blitz) 2006
23.♘e6†! The only move that doesn't lose material. **23...♗xe6** 23...fxe6 24.♖xe5 ✓ with a winning endgame. **24.♖xe5** ✓ The endgame is winning for White.

963. Magnus Carlsen – Simen Agdestein, Oslo 2006
9.♕d5! ♕f6 9...♕e7 10.♘xe5+– **10.♘xe5!** ✓ 10.♗g5 is good, but not as good: 10...♕e6 11.♘xe5 ♕xd5 12.♗xd5 ♘xe5 13.♗xa8 ♘d3†+– With work still to be done. **10...♘xe5 11.♕xa8†+–** ✓

964. Alexander Motylev – Magnus Carlsen, Wijk aan Zee 2007
28.♖e1! 28.g4? ♘g6 led to a draw in 44 moves, and 28...hxg4! 29.♖xe6? ♘f5 would be embarrassing for White, as suddenly Black is winning: 30.♖xe8 ♖xe8 31.♕d2 ♘xd4 32.♕xd4 ♖e2–+ **28...♘f5** After 28...♘g6 the pin on the e6-bishop is decisive. For example: 29.cxd5 cxd5 30.♗xd5+– **29.cxd5!** 29.♖xe6 ♘xd4 30.♖e7† ♖xe7 31.♕xe7†= **29...♘xd4** 29...cxd5 30.♖xe6 ♘xd4 31.♖e7† ♖xe7 32.♕xe7† ♔g6 is now winning for White due to 33.♗xd5. **30.dxe6†+–** ✓ White has won a pawn and has a strong attack.

965. Magnus Carlsen – Vassily Ivanchuk, Morelia/Linares 2007
25.d5! A pawn weaker is 25.♗xg7 ♔xg7 26.d5 exd5 27.♘d4 ♕xe5, but it's still probably winning. **25...exd5 26.♘d4+–** ✓

966. Peter Leko – Magnus Carlsen, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2007
16...♕g4†! The game continued 16...♕xh1? 17.♕a5 with a draw later on. Black should not be satisfied with 16...♔xb6–+, however 16...♗e7–+ is strong enough (full points). **17.♔f2** 17.♔d2 ♗b4 mate ✓ **17...♕h4†! 18.♔e2 ♗g4† 19.♔d2 ♗b4†–+** ✓ Winning the queen.

967. Emil Sutovsky – Magnus Carlsen, Kemer 2007
32.c6! dxc6 33.♗b4!+– ✓ The threat of 34.d7† ♔d8 35.♗a5† is lethal. (The game continuation 33.d7† ♔d8 34.♗b4! ♖xb4 35.♖xb4+– is also sufficient.)

968. Dmitri Jakovenko – Magnus Carlsen, Moscow 2007
32...♗xc4! 32...♕f4† 33.♔h1 ♗xc4 34.♗xc4 ♖d2 also works, but only because 35.♖b2 ♖d1 36.♖b1 is met by 36...♕h6!–+ when the pinned rook on g1 can't defend from g3. **33.♕xc4** 33.♗xc4 ♖d2! ✓ with a winning attack. **33...♕f4†! 34.♖g3** 34.♔h1 ♖xd5–+ ✓ **34...♖xd5** ✓ Black is winning, for instance: **35.♕xd5** 35.♕c1 ♖d2–+ **35...♖xd5 36.exd5 c4–+**

969. Vassily Ivanchuk – Magnus Carlsen, Nice (rapid) 2008
15.♗xh7†! 15.♕e4 g6 16.♗xb4 ♘xb4 17.♕xb7 ♕xd3∞ **15...♔xh7 16.♕e4† ♔g8 17.♗xb4 ♘xb4 18.♕xb7!±** ✓ White has won a pawn, but it didn't stop Carlsen from making a draw. He would have made more after 18.♕xb4? ♗xf3∓.

970. Magnus Carlsen – David Anton Guijarro, Madrid (simul) 2008
37.♖c4! Because of the control of a8, White breaks through on the queenside. **37...♖b8** 37...♘b3 38.♗d7+– (or 38.♗b7+– and the rook penetrates to c7) **38.♖xc5 bxc5 39.♗b7+–** ✓ The next move is 40.b6.

971. Magnus Carlsen – Leinier Dominguez Perez, Wijk aan Zee 2009
33.♖b7! Avoiding 33.♗xe5? ♕xb5 34.♗xg7† ♔g8∓ and 33.♖b4 ♕c2 34.♕xc2 ♗xc2 35.♗xe5=. **33...♕c2** 33...♗xf1 34.♗xe5+– ✓ **34.♕b4!** ✓ Or 34.♕a3! also gives a winning attack. The game concluded: **34...♖fe8 35.♖e1 ♗e2 36.♘xe5 ♗xe5 37.♗xe5† ♖xe5 38.♕xf4 ♕f5 39.♕h6 1–0**

972. Sergey Karjakin – Magnus Carlsen, Nice (blindfold) 2010
34...♖xh2†! 35.♖xh2 ♕xf3† 36.♔g1 Best. White loses immediately after 36.♕g2 ♕d1† 37.♕g1 ♕xg1† 38.♔xg1 ♗xh2†–+ ✓ and 36.♖g2 ♕f1† 37.♖g1 ♕h3† 38.♕h2 ♕xh2 mate ✓. **36...♗xh2† 37.♔xh2 ♕f4†!** Protecting c7. **38.♔g2 hxg6∓**

973. Magnus Carlsen – Anish Giri, Wijk aan Zee 2011
20...e3! 21.♕b2 21.fxe3 ♕xg5–+ **21...♕xg5** Or 21...♘a4 22.♕c2 ♘xc3–+. **22.♕xb6** The game ended: 22.♗xe3 ♕g4 0–1 **22...e2! 23.♖e1 ♕xc1 24.♖xc1 e1=♕† 25.♖xe1 ♖xe1† 26.♗f1 ♗h3–+** ✓

974. Magnus Carlsen – Hikaru Nakamura, Medias 2011
Black is a piece down, so he has to find something. **32...♘c3†! 33.bxc3 ♖b8†! 34.♕b4 ♖xb4† 35.cxb4 ♕d5! 36.h7† ♔h8 37.♗b2† ♖xb2†** ✓ **38.♔xb2 ♕d2†** With a perpetual.

975. Levon Aronian – Magnus Carlsen, Moscow 2011
22...♕xc5! 22...gxf6 23.♖5c3 ♖xa2 24.♕f4± **23.a4!** 23.♖xc5 bxa2 24.♕g5 a1=♕† 25.♖c1 ♕xc1† 26.♕xc1 h6!–+ ✓ (or 26...gxf6∓) **23...♕xc1†** 23...♕a3 24.♕g5 ♕xc1† transposes. **24.♕xc1 b2!** ✓ Black forces the queen away from the attack on the kingside, with a clear advantage.

976. Magnus Carlsen – Levon Aronian, Wijk aan Zee 2012
30.♘xc6! ♖xc6 31.♘xd5 ♕xd4† After the game move 31...♖c2, White gains a large advantage after several moves: 32.♔h1+–, 32.♕e4+– and 32.♖f2!+–. **32.♗e3 ♕xe5 33.♘e7†** Or 33.♗f4 first. **33...♕xe7 34.♖xd8† ♕xd8 35.♕xc6+–** ✓

977. Evgeny Tomashevsky – Magnus Carlsen, Moscow (blitz) 2012
13.♗xe7! Not 13.♘xe7? ♘xg5–+ or 13.♗f4 e5±. **13...♘xe7 14.♘xe7** ✓ **♗xb2** 14...♖b8 15.♕d6± After the game move, White has a positional advantage if he takes on a8, but there are two stronger continuations. **15.♖b1** 15.♘xg6 fxg6 16.♗xa8 ♗xa1 17.♕xa1+– **15...♗c3†** Black is also lost after 15...♖b8 16.♕d6 and 15...♕xe7 16.♗xa8+– ✓. **16.♔f1+–** White is winning, but Carlsen turned the game around (0–1, 26 moves).

978. Magnus Carlsen – Teimour Radjabov, Astana (blitz) 2012
30.h4! The only way not to lose the bishop. It also makes use of the bishop's active position and the pinned f6-pawn. **30...gxh4 31.g5+–** ✓ Black is defenceless against the a-pawn and White's pressure on the kingside. **31...♖g6 32.♖ef2 1–0**

979. Magnus Carlsen – Judit Polgar, Mexico City 2012
30...♘4xd5! Using the pinned e-pawn to win a piece, as the queen cannot protect the bishop. **31.♗xg5** 31.exd5 ♕xb4–+ **31...♕xg5!** 31...hxg5 32.♕xb7 ♘f4 33.♗c4= and the threat of ♖h1 saves White. **32.♖xg5 ♘xb4–+** ✓

980. Jon Ludvig Hammer – Magnus Carlsen, Stavanger (blitz) 2013
26...♕xf3! The only move that decides the game on the spot. A clear advantage is offered by three other moves: a) 26...♘xf3†?! 27.exf3 ♕xf3 28.♗g2 ♕xg2† 29.♕xg2 ♗xg2 30.♔xg2 ♖e2† 31.♔g1 ♗b2 and Black's rook is stronger than White's two pieces. b) 26...h5∓; c) 26...♗xf3?! 27.♘d4! ♕g4 28.♘xf3 ♖xf3 29.♗g2∓ Black has won a pawn. **27.exf3 ♘xf3† 28.♔h1 ♘xd2†–+** ✓

981. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Magnus Carlsen, Moscow (blitz) 2013
17.♘c7! Using the fact that the c7-square is indirectly under attack along the c-file. **17...♖xc7 18.♗xc7 ♕xc7 19.b4±** ✓

982. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Magnus Carlsen, Shamkir 2014
27...♗xe4! 0–1 28.♗xe4 ♖xd1 29.♕xd1 ♘xe4–+ leaves Black a pawn up and much more active, since White's counterattack fails: 30.♕d8†? ♔h7 31.♘g6 ♕f2† ✓ 32.♔h1 ♘xg3 mate

983. Magnus Carlsen – Radoslaw Wojtaszek, Tromsø (ol) 2014
31.♗e6!+– ✓ White's attack is now winning in many ways. The threat is to sacrifice the knight and take on f7. 31.♗g4, and others, still leave White much better, but secure no points. **31...♗e8** 31...fxe6 32.♘xe6† with mate. **32.♘d5** 32.♖h3+– and other moves are also winning. Black has lost connection between his rooks. 32.♗b3 is also a good move, with the threat of checking on e6. **32...♘xd5 33.♗xd5 1–0** ♖f3-h3 followed by ♕f2-f6† is one decisive idea.

984. Magnus Carlsen – Carlos Antonio Hevia, Internet (2) 2016
31...♘xh3†! 32.gxh3 ♖xf3 33.♕xf3 ♕xd4† ✓ Black wins a pawn and has the safer king. His advantage is at least bordering on winning (½–½, 41 moves).

Chapter 6

Solutions to Advanced Exercises



Some people think that if their opponent plays a beautiful game, it's OK to lose. I don't. You have to be merciless. – Magnus Carlsen

Wilhelm Steinitz

A sacrifice is best refuted by accepting it.

985. Wilhelm Steinitz – Philipp Meitner, Vienna 1859
20.e6! dxe6 ✓ 20...fxe6 21.♕xh5†+– ✓ and White picks up the knight on a5. 20...♘xc4 ✓ and White wins with three moves, of which you should have seen one: a) 21.♘f5 and if the queen moves, White takes on f7/d7 and e7. And 21...♘xf5 22.exd7†+– is a double check. b) 21.exd7† ♗xd7 22.♕xb7+– is complicated. c) Easiest is 21.exf7† ♕xf7 22.♘f5+– when Black can't defend e7. **21.♗b5†** The move order 21.♕d3 ♘ac6 22.♗xc7 transposes. Full points also for 21.♗xc7 ♘ac6 22.♕d3 f6 when White has a winning position due to the black king, even though it's not over yet. **21...c6** 21...♘ac6 22.♘f5!+– and as the e7-knight is overloaded, White will soon win the knight on c6 (or the rook on a8). **22.♗c7** Another winning line is 22.♗d6 cxb5 23.♗xe7 ♔xe7 24.♘f5† taking the queen. **22...♗d7 23.♗xa5 ♕g4!** Material is equal after 23...cxb5, but White wins with the double threat 24.♕xb7 (or 24.♖xd7 ♔xd7 25.♕xb7†). **24.♕d3!** The only winning move; Black doesn't get time to take on h4 for free. **24...♘d5 25.♖e4!+–** White is a piece up.

986. Johannes Zukertort – Wilhelm Steinitz, London (1) 1872
20...♗xf2†! 21.♔h1 21.♔xf2 fxe5† comes with check, followed by: 22.♔g1 ♕xg5–+ ✓ **21...♗e8!** Winning a second pawn. Steinitz played: 21...♗xe1?! 22.♘xf7 ♔xf7 23.♕d5† (White can keep the queens on after 23.♖xe1?! ♗c6 24.♕e6† ♔g6 25.♗e3∓, but it would have been a dubious decision. With an extra pawn defending his king, it's Black who may look forward to an attack on the enemy king.) 23...♔g6 24.♖xe1 ♗c6 (It is not possible to hang on to the bishop after 24...fxg5 25.♖d1.) 25.♕xd8 ♖xd8 26.♗e3∓ White has decent drawing chances, but the same can be said about Black's winning chances (0–1, 54 moves). 21...♗c6 22.♘xf7 ♕xd6 23.♘xd6 ♗xe1 24.♖xe1 fxg5∓ is also a pawn up, and also not full points. **22.♘xf7 ♗xf7 23.♕xd8† ♖xd8∓** Because of the back-rank weakness, White has to move the bishop, after which Black takes on e1 and a2.

987. Wilhelm Steinitz – Curt von Bardeleben, Hastings 1895
20.♕g4! Threatening the pawn on g7, but also a discovered attack. **20...g6 21.♘g5†! ♔e8** 21...fxg5 22.♕xd7+– ✓ **22.♖xe7†! ♔f8!** Black tries to use the twin threats of mate on c1 and ...♕xg4 to get out of his troubles. 22...♕xe7 23.♖xc8†+– ✓ wins a piece and 22...♔xe7 23.♕b4† (or 23.♖e1† first) 23...♔e8 24.♖e1† ♔d8 25.♘e6†+– ✓ wins the queen. **23.♖f7†!** 23.♕xd7?? ♖xc1† and it's White that gets mated. **23...♔g8! 24.♖g7†! ♔h8!** 24...♔f8 25.♘xh7†+– ✓ and the queen is captured with check. **25.♖xh7†!** Von Bardeleben left the board and didn't come back. He is lost after: **25...♔g8 26.♖g7†! ♔h8 27.♕h4†! ♔xg7 28.♕h7† ♔f8 29.♕h8†! ✓ ♔e7 30.♕g7†** 30.♖e1† is also winning. **30...♔e8 31.♕g8† ♔e7 32.♕f7† ♔d8 33.♕f8†! ♕e8 34.♘f7† ♔d7 35.♕d6 mate**

988. Wilhelm Steinitz – Emanuel Lasker, Moscow (3) 1896
34...♖g8! ✓ Black has no threats, but White is in a decisive zugzwang! His pieces are all busy protecting the g2-, g5- and h1-squares. **35.♖e1 ♕xf5 36.♖e5 ♕f3 37.d5 ♕g3† 38.♔h1 ♕xe5 39.dxc6† ♔xc6 0–1**

989. Paul Lipke – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1898
17.♘xc7! ♖xc7 17...♕xc7 18.♗xd6†+– ✓ wins the queen. **18.♗xd6†! ♖e7** ✓ With rook and two pawns for two pieces, White may be better due to the exposed black king, but there is a way to make use of that straight away to gain a winning advantage. **19.e5!** The only move that is clearly winning. However, in a game you don't need to see that before taking on c7, since it was the best move anyway. Lipke played 19.♗a3?! ♕e8 20.e5, but now there was 20...fxe5! 21.♘g5 ♗h6± without mate on f7; Steinitz won the game in the end. **19...fxe5** 19...♕e8 defends the f7-square in advance, and prepares to offer the exchange of queens one day. 20.♗xe7†! ♕xe7 (20...♘xe7 and White wins after various moves, for instance 21.♖d6!) 21.exf6! ♕xf6 22.h4! h6 (22...♗h6 23.♕c5† ♔g7 24.♖e8 with a winning attack) Including the moves with the h-pawns avoids ...♗h6 and ...♔g7. There are many ways to continue, among them 23.♕c5† ♔g8 24.♖e8† ♔h7 25.♕c4 ♗f8 26.h5+–. **20.♘g5 ♗h6** 20...♕e8 21.♘xh7 mate **21.♕f7! mate**

Emanuel Lasker

Without error there can be no brilliancy.

990. Emanuel Lasker – Johann Bauer, Amsterdam 1889
15.♗xh7†! ♔xh7 16.♕xh5† ♔g8 17.♗xg7! The classic double-bishop sacrifice! **17...♔xg7** 17...f6 is easy to handle: 18.♗h6 with mate or 18.♖f3. But 17...f5!? is trickier. White has three options: a) 18.♗h6? does not work. White needs the check on g4 after 18...♕e8–+; b) 18.♗e5! ♖f6 19.♖f3! ✓ The only move that wins, but now it will soon be mate. c) 18.♖f3 also wins, but only if White finds all the following moves: 18...♔xg7 19.♖g3† ♗g5 20.♖xg5†! ♔f6 21.♕h4! ♔f7 22.♕h7†! ♔e8 23.♖g7! ♖b8 24.♖c7! ♕d6 25.♖xb7+– **18.♕g4†! ♔h7 19.♖f3 e5 20.♖h3† ♕h6 21.♖xh6† ♔xh6** Black has enough pieces, but a double threat settles matters: **22.♕d7!+–** ✓

991. Emanuel Lasker – Joseph Blackburne, London 1892
28.♖e7! ♘e6 28...♕xe7 29.♕xd5†+– ✓ wins the other rook as well. **29.♖e1** If the knight moves, there follows 30.♖e8. 29.f5+–, pushing the f-pawn immediately, is even stronger. **29...♕xe7 30.♕xd5 ♖e8 31.f5+–** ✓ (1–0, 39 moves)

992. Emanuel Lasker – Hasselblatt, Riga (simul) 1909
Lasker played 27.♗xh7†? with the idea 27...♔xh7 28.h6†+–. But after 27...♔f8! he only had one way to avoid being mated after ...♗c1/a1 or ...♖b5-a5. 28.♕h4! (after 28.♘e1 Lasker's opponent missed the mate starting with 28...♖b5) 28...♔e8! 29.♗g6! ♗c1 30.♗xf7† ♔d7 31.♗xe6†! ♔e8 (31...♔c7? 32.♖xg7† ♔b6 33.♕d8†+–) 32.♗f7†!= It's a draw, even though not necessarily an immediate repetition.

27.♗g6! The correct move, but be aware of long lines. **27...♖e7** a) 27...hxg6 28.hxg6 ✓ with mate. b) 27...♖bb7 28.♗xf7† ♖xf7 29.♖hg2 is also a winning attack: 29...♔h8 30.♕xg7† ♖xg7 31.♖xg7 ♕f8 32.h6+– and 33.♘g5. c) 27...♗a1 (or 27...♗c1) 28.♗xf7† ♔xf7 29.♕xg7† gives White a winning attack. **28.h6!** 28.♗xh7†? ♔f8 29.h6! This is a possibility now, as Black's rook takes the e7-square for the queen. 29...g5! 30.♕xg5 ♔e8 and White has only a draw. **28...♗c1 29.♗xh7†! ♔f8 30.hxg7† ♔e8 31.g8=♕† ♔d7 32.♕4xe6†! ♖xe6 33.♖g7† ♔c6 34.♘d4†! ♔c5 35.♘xe6†! ♗xe6 36.♖c7†! ♔d4 37.♕g1†!** Until this point, it was only only-moves from White! **37...♗e3 38.♖d2†** Or 38.♕d1† ♗d2 39.♖xd2† cxd2 40.♕xd2 mate. **38...cxd2 39.c3 mate** ✓ Piece of cake!

993. Emanuel Lasker – L. Molina, Buenos Aires (simul) 1910
24.♕xf7†! 24.♗xf7†? ♔h8–+ **24...♕xf7** A much tougher defence is: 24...♖xf7 25.b8=♕† ♔h7 26.♗xf7 ♕xf7 27.♖d1!! The only way to defend against the perpetual, but you don't need to see that in advance – since every alternative to taking on f7 leads to a worse position. 27...♕a2† 28.♔e3 (28.♔e1 is more passive, but also better for White) 28...♕c2 29.♖d2! ♕c1 30.♕xe5! ♕e1† 31.♖e2 (31.♔f3 ♕xd2 32.♕xc5 is not as good) 31...♕c1† 32.♔d4 ♘b3† 33.♔c4± White is finally out of danger of a perpetual, but it is not clear that he is winning after 33...♕a3!. **25.♗xf7† ♔h8** 25...♔xf7 26.♖f1† ♔e7 27.♖xf8 ♔xf8 28.b8=♕†+– ✓ **26.♖b1!** White is winning in several ways, but the most efficient is the game continuation: **26...♖b8 27.♗e8! ♖xb7 28.♖xb7 ♘xb7 29.♗xc6 1–0** Black is simply two pawns down.

994. Emanuel Lasker – Gyula Breyer, Budapest 1911
19...♖xe4! 20.♕c3 20.fxe4 ♗xe4†–+ ✓; 20.♖g1 ♖xe1 (or 20...♕xg1† 21.♔xg1 ♖xe1† 22.♖xe1 ♗xc2–+ ✓) 21.♖axe1 ♗xc2–+ Lasker's move is not threatening, and thus not necessary to consider before taking on e4. **20...♖h4!** 20...♖xc4? 21.♕xc4 ♗d3 22.♕g4∓ with a probable draw. The game move threatens to win on the kingside with 21...♗h5, 22...♖h3 and 23...♖xf3. **21.♖g1** Trying to create a counter-threat. **21...♖xh2†! 22.♔xh2 ♕h5†** Or 22...♕h6†. **23.♔g3 ♕g5† 24.♔h2 ♕h4† 25.♔g2 ♕h3 mate**

995. Emanuel Lasker – Efim Bogoljubov, Zurich 1934
30...♗xg3! 31.♖e2 31.hxg3 ♕xg3† and Black needs to play some only-moves in the following lines, but it is all straightforward: 32.♔h1 (32.♘g2 ♗xg2! 33.♖xg2 ♖e1† 34.♕xe1 ♕xe1†–+ ✓) 32...♖xe1†! 33.♕xe1 ♗g2†! 34.♔g1 ♗xf3†! 35.♔f1 ♕h3†! 36.♔g1 ♕h1 mate ✓ **31...♗xh2†!** 31...♖xe2? 32.♕xe2 ♗d6∓ is a pawn worse. **32.♔h1 ♖xe2 33.♕xe2 ♗d6–+** There were additional ways to protect against the mate threat without losing a piece (0–1, 39 moves).

Jose Raul Capablanca

In chess, as played by a good player, logic and imagination must go hand in hand, compensating each other.

996. Jose Raul Capablanca – Pagliano/Elias, Buenos Aires 1911
Black's king seems to be in serious danger, but with accurate play it can be saved, with a winning material advantage. **27...♗xc3! 28.♗xc3 ♘b4†!** The game continued 28...♘xc3? after which 29.♕xc3! would have given White a mating attack. Instead it took additional mutual mistakes before White won (1–0, 51 moves). **29.♔b1** 29.♗xb4† ♔xb4–+ ✓ **29...c5!!** ✓ With the last black minor piece joining in, White is lost. 29...♖hf8?! 30.♗xe5 ♖xf3 31.gxf3 and Black has more than enough for the exchange. It's far weaker than the main line, but still gives full points.

997. Valentin Fernandez Coria – Jose Raul Capablanca, Buenos Aires 1914
16...♗h3! 16...♘xg2 17.♔xg2 ♗h3† looks strong, but there is no win after 18.♔g3∓. **17.♘e3** 17.g3 loses an exchange, and even worse is: 17.gxh3 ♕g5† 18.♔h1 ♕g2 mate ✓ **17...♗xg2–+** 17...♘xg2 18.♘xg2 ♕f3 is also good: 19.♘e3 ♖d6 with mate. **18.♘f5** The point is 18.♘xg2 ♕g5 19.f3 ♘h3†–+ ✓ picking up the queen on d2. **18...♗xe4 19.♘g3 ♘h3 mate**

Alexander Alekhine

Playing for complications is an extreme measure that a player should adopt only when he cannot find a clear and logical plan.

998. Nikolay Tereshchenko – Alexander Alekhine, St Petersburg 1909
20...♘gf4! 21.gxf4 Black does not win material after 21.♔g1 ♘xd3 22.♘xd3, but exchanging the light-squared bishop allows him to open files for the rooks with 22...f5 23.exf5 ♕xf5∓. 21.♗c2 is more critical. If White gets time for 22.♖g1, Black would have nothing better than retreating with the knight. Fortunately, Black can use the momentum: 21...♘xg3† 22.♕xg3 ♕xf1†–+ ✓ **21...gxf4 22.♗d2 ♖g8!** Threatening 23...♘g3† and then taking the rook with a discovered check. Both 22...♗h4 23.♕g2 ♘g3† 24.♔g1 ♕xg2† 25.♘xg2 ♘xf1 26.♔xf1 and 22...♘g3† 23.♔g1 ♘xf1 24.♗xf1 give unusual piece configurations, with three minor pieces against two rooks. It looks unclear in both cases. **23.♘g2?** 23.♖g1 was the only move. 23...♘g3†! 24.♖xg3 fxg3 25.♕g2 ♕xh2† 26.♕xh2 gxh2 27.♔xh2∓ And compared to the previous lines, Black has "exchanged" his pawn on f4 for White's h2-pawn. That gives a passed pawn, and the possibility of exchanging bishops with ...♗g5. **23...♗h4** Or 23...♘g3† 24.♔g1 ♗h4–+. **24.♘d1** 24.♘xh4 ♘g3† 25.♔g1 ♘xf1†–+ ✓ **24...♗xf2 25.♖xf2–+** Three pieces for a queen and a rook is a different story! (0–1, 30 moves)

999. Alexander Alekhine – Gutkevitsch, Moscow (simul) 1910
14.♗h6! 14.♘xg7 ♔xg7 15.♗h6† ♔h8∓ **14...♘e8** 14...gxh6 15.♕xh6 ✓ is mating and 14...g6 15.♘g7!+– is winning – it is much better to trade minor pieces on e6 before collecting the exchange. **15.♗xg7!** An important move – otherwise 14.♗h6 makes no sense. **15...♘xg7 16.♕h6+–** ✓ Again the double mate threats on g7 and h7 decide.

1000. Joel Fridlizius – Alexander Alekhine, Stockholm 1912
32.♘f6†! gxf6 33.exf6 White captures on g6 if the queen moves, so Black's moves are forced: **33...♗xf4† 34.♕xf4! ♕xe1** 34...♘xf4+– and White wins the d4-pawn after capturing on e7. **35.♘xg6!** Not 35.♕h6? ♕e5† 36.♔h1 ♕xf6–+. **35...♕e4 36.♘e7†!** ✓ Setting up a mating attack, and White could also get a winning position by regaining the exchange at some point. **36...♔h8 37.♖xd4!** Mate is unavoidable. The game finished: **37...♕h7 38.♕h4 ♖c4 39.♗xc4 dxc4 40.♕xh7† ♔xh7 41.♖h4 mate**

1001. P. Fleissig – Alexander Alekhine, Bern (simul) 1922
19...♘h3†! 20.♔f1!? 20.gxh3 ♗xf3–+ ✓ forces White to take on f3 to avoid being mated. **20...♕h4** 20...♕h6–+ defends the h-pawn and prepares to make use of the pin with ...♘g5. It is also winning, but not as forcing as the text move. However, Black should avoid: 20...♘g5? 21.♕d3! ♗xf3? 22.♖xf3!± **21.♕e2** 21.♘xh4 ♖xf2 mate ✓ **21...♕h5–+** ✓ There is no defence against 22...♘g5 or 22...♘f4 followed by 23...♘xg2. Also strong is 21...♗xf3 22.♖xf3 ♘f4!–+ picking up the h2-pawn with a continuing attack.

1002. Ernst Grünfeld – Alexander Alekhine, Karlsbad 1923
31...♘f4! 32.exf4 ♕c4! The threat against the knight on a2 decides, since White cannot take the queen. **33.♕xc4 ♖xd1† 34.♕f1** 34.♔f2 bxc4–+ ✓ **34...♗d4†! 35.♔h1 ♖xf1 mate** ✓

1003. Alexander Alekhine – M. Scholtz, Los Angeles (simul) 1932
34...f4†! Other moves could also be winning, but are less clear. **35.♔f2** 35.♔d4 ♖xa4–+ ✓ followed by 36...♖xc4† 37.♔xc4 d2†. **35...♗d1†!** Scholtz played 35...♖xa4 which was good enough to win, but more slowly. **36.♔f1 ♗b3** The d-pawn will soon queen, but note that Black needs to start with a prophylactic move. **37.♘d6 ♔g8–+** 37...d2?? 38.♖e8 mate would be a bad surprise, but 37...♗xa4 is another winning move.

1004. Alexander Alekhine – A. Correia Neves, Estoril (simul) 1940
30.♘dxf7†! ♔g8 30...♖xf7 31.♘g6† ✓ with a winning fork. **31.♘h8!±** Alekhine played 31.♘d6 and won after 44 moves, but Black could have trapped the rook with 31...g5!∞. The corner is a better square for the knight. It cannot be taken and continues to g6. It is also important that **31...♖xe5 32.dxe5+–** ✓ arrives with a threat on the f6-knight.

1005. Alexander Alekhine – Mollinedo, Madrid (simul) 1941
21.e5! Evacuating the e4-square. **21...dxe5 22.♘e4 ♗f5 23.♘xf6 ♕xf6** 23...♔g7 24.g4 ♕xf6 transposes and 24...♗xg4 was hopeless in the game (1–0, 28 moves). **24.g4 ♔g7** Black threatens the bishop and prepares ...♕g5 if the bishop moves. **25.♕xb7†+–** ✓ The fork decides.

Max Euwe

Alekhine's real genius is in the preparation and construction of a position, long before combinations or mating attacks come into consideration at all.

1006. Max Euwe – William Felderhof, Netherlands 1931
26...g5! 27.♘xe6 27.♖xd8 ♖xd8 28.♘xe6 ♖d2! is an important move, with a) 29.♕xd2 ♕xe4 mate ✓; b) 29.♕b1 ♖d1! 30.♕xd1 ♕xe4 mate ✓; c) 29.♕c4 ♖d4! 30.♘xd4 ♕xe4 mate ✓. Relatively best is 27.♘g2 when Black can take back the pawn with 27...♖d3† 28.♔e2 ♕xe4† 29.♔f1 c4∓ or win a pawn with 27...fxe4† 28.♔e2 ♕xb5†∓. **27...♖d3†! 28.♔g2** 28.♕xd3 fxe4†–+ ✓ wins the queen. **28...♕xe4† 29.♔f1 ♖xd1† 30.♕xd1 ♕xe6–+** ✓

Mikhail Botvinnik

Yes, I have played a blitz game once. It was on a train, in 1929.

1007. Mikhail Botvinnik – Andrey Batuyev, Leningrad 1930
18.♘xf7! ♖xf7 18...♔xf7 19.♗xe6† (19.♕xe6†?! ♔g6± looks good, but there is no straightforward line) 19...♔e8 20.d5 And there is only one way to stop d5-d6: 20...♖xc3 21.♕b5†! ♘d7 22.♖xc3+– Now there is none. **19.♕xe6 ♕f8** Black has two alternatives: a) 19...♘ed5 20.♘xd5 ♘xd5 (20...♖xc1 21.♘xf6†+– ✓ is an intermediate capture with check) 21.♖xc8+– ✓ (or 21.♗xd5+– first) b) 19...♕e8 20.♘e4! The only winning move, but not something you have to see in advance, since the sacrifice would have been promising anyway. The idea is to send the knight to d6. 20...♗xe4 21.fxe4+– simply gives White pawns that are too strong. **20.♖e1!** Less precise is the game move 20.♘e4?! because 20...♖d8± or 20...♘ed5! would have put up quite some resistance: 21.♘d6?! ♖e8!± **20...♘g6** 20...♖e8 21.♕xf7† ♕xf7 22.♗xf7† ♔xf7 23.♘b5!+– **21.♘e4+–** White jumps in with the knight only when Black no longer has the same defence. In order not to lose the full rook on f7, Black will have to give back a piece on d5, leaving White two pawns up.

Vassily Smyslov

My fascination for studies proved highly beneficial, it assisted the development of my aesthetic understanding of chess, and improved my endgame play.

1008. Andor Lilienthal – Vassily Smyslov, Leningrad/Moscow 1939
14.♘xb5!? cxb5 15.♗c7 ♕d7 16.♗f5 ♘f6!! The game continued: 16...♘e6?! 17.♗xh7†± ✓ (½–½, 42 moves) **17.♗xd7 ♗xd7!** ✓ Black gains a third piece for the queen, since White is not in time to evacuate the c-file. However, White can get a second pawn via a few different routes. Here is one: **18.♗a5 ♖ac8 19.♘c3 b4 20.f3 bxc3 21.♗xc3∞** You have to decide if you prefer this position to a normal first move. The computer claims a small advantage to White, but it often overvalues the queen.

Any non-losing first move gives 1 point, and anticipating that Black gets a third piece for the queen is enough for full points, regardless of whether you decided to take on b5 or not.

1009. Vassily Smyslov – Goesta Stoltz, Bucharest 1953
11.b4! cxb4 12.axb4 ♗xb4 13.♘cd5†! ♘xd5 14.♘xd5† exd5 15.♗xb4† ✓ **♔f6** Defending the pawn is suicidal: 15...♔e6? 16.cxd5† ♔xd5 17.g3 ♗f5 18.♗g2† ♗e4 19.♖d1† ♔e5 20.f4† ♔f5 21.g4†+– **16.cxd5±** White's initial sacrifice secured the bishop pair in an open, unbalanced position. Also, Black's king would rather have been behind the pawns than in front of them (1–0, 46 moves).

1010. Vassily Smyslov – Leonid Stein, Moscow 1969
16.♗xf7†! ♔xf7 The game went 16...♔h8+– (1–0, 51 moves). **17.♕f3† ♗f5 18.♘xf5 gxf5 19.♕xf5† ♔g8 20.♕xe4 ♕xd2** ✓ White has two connected passed pawns, while Black is behind in development with an exposed king. White has much better chances, for instance: **21.♕e6† ♔h8 22.a5 ♘d5 23.a6+–**

1011. Vassily Smyslov – Dragoljub Minic, Kapfenberg 1970
35.♖f7! 35.b6! is easily winning and also a practical choice, since it's hard to calculate the variations in the main line. 35...♖xe5 (35...♘xb6 36.♖c7+– with mate) 36.b7 ♖ae8 37.♖c8+– **35...♕xe5 36.♖f8†! ♔g7** 36...♖xf8 37.♕xe5†+– ✓ **37.♕xe5† ♖xe5 38.♖xa8** Black's passed pawn looks dangerous, but it is possible to neutralize it. However, to steer for this position, you need to see further; note that Smyslov only drew. **38...e3** The slow 38...♖e7 allows White to defend with 39.♔f2 e3† 40.♔e1 ♘f4 41.♖c4!+– and the knight has only one check. **39.b6!** Easiest. 39.♔f1? ♘f4 40.b6 ♖b5 41.♖e2 was the game, with a draw. White can play for checkmate with 39.♖a7†. It wins, but requires deep calculation. 39...♔g6 40.♖c6† ♔g5 (40...♘f6 41.♔f1+–) 41.♖xh7! White threatens to exchange rooks. If you saw this far, you score full points. 41...♔f4 42.♖h5! One of several winning moves. Black is busted: 42...♖e8 43.♖xd5 e2 44.♖c4† ♔e3 45.♖c1+– **39...e2 40.♖xe2 ♖xe2 41.b7 ♖b2 42.b8=♕ ♖xb8 43.♖xb8+–** ✓

1012. Vassily Smyslov – William Addison, Palma de Mallorca 1970
35.♕f7! Defending against 35...♖xf3† and threatening 36.♕h5† with a mating attack. **35...♕f1†** ✓ 35...♖xf7? 36.♖a8† ♖f8 37.♖xf8 mate ✓ is easy. 35...♕xh4†!? was a way to force a queen exchange. However, exchanging one of White's doubled h-pawns for the g-pawn is a positional concession. 36.♔xh4 g5†! 37.♔xg5 ♖xf7 and White has good winning chances after 38.♔g6± or 38.♗d5±. One plan is walking the king to the queenside and sacrificing the exchange, because Black is busy taking care of the h-pawn as well. **36.♔g4!** 36.♖xf1 ♖xf7± looks like a fortress. **36...♕g2† 37.♔h5** There are no more checks. **37...♖g8** 37...♖b8 38.♕f5 forces Black to give up a pawn to exchange queens with 38...g6† 39.♕xg6 ♕xg6† 40.♔xg6+– and 37...g6† is a worse variant of 35...♕xh4†. **38.f4!** The queen cannot stay on the g-file. Smyslov won after 38.♖a8 g6†?! 39.♗xg6 mating. 38.♗d5 ♖d8 39.♖a8 is the same. **38...♕e2† 39.♔g5 ♗e3 40.h3!** Only like so. **40...♗xf4† 41.♔g6** With the g4-square defended, there is no defence against 42.♕xg8† ♔xg8 43.♖a8 mate.

> **Mikhail Tal**
>
> *Quiet moves often make a stronger impression than a wild combination with heavy sacrifices.*
> Learn from Grandmasters (1974)

1013. Georgy Borisenko – Mikhail Tal, Leningrad 1956
17.♘xe6! ♕xd1 17...fxe6 18.♕xd7 ♘xd7 19.♗xe6†+– ✓ wins back the piece, with two pawns more. **18.♖fxd1 ♖c2** ✓ 18...fxe6 19.♗xe6† ♔h8 20.♗xc8± ✓ White has a rook and two pawns for two knights. In this type of open position, especially with no outposts for them, the knights are much inferior to the rook and pawns. Additionally, White will penetrate with a rook on the c-file: 20...♖xc8 21.♖ac1 ♖xc1 22.♖xc1 Black would be okay with the king on d7, but as it is, White penetrates with the rook. **19.♗xf6** A reasonable choice is 19.♘xf8 ♖xb2 20.♘d7 ♘c3! 21.♘xf6† ♗xf6± when White has to give back the exchange. He will be a pawn up in an ending with rooks and opposite-coloured bishops. **19...♗xf6 20.♘xf8!** Tal gained a blockade after: 20.♗b1?! ♘xf2 21.♗xc2 fxe6 22.♗b3 ♘xd1 23.♗xe6† ♔h8 24.♖xd1± **20...♗xa1 21.♖xa1 ♔xf8 22.♗d5±**

1014. Janusz Szukszta – Mikhail Tal, Uppsala (blitz) 1956
14...♘g4†! 15.fxg4 ♗xd4! The king cannot escape from the discovered check. **16.♕d5** The best try. The game went 16.♖xd4 ♕xd4 17.♕d5 ♖e2† (0–1, 20 moves). **16...♕f6†!** ✓ 16...♕h4† 17.g3 ♖xg3†! 18.♖xd4 ♖xc3† 19.♔g1 ♗e6! gives Black a winning position, with some work left (full points). **17.♔g1 ♖d3† 18.♕xd4 ♕xd4 mate**

1015. Mikhail Tal – Aleksandrs Koblencs, Riga 1957
33.♖1h6!! The only move to continue the attack. The threat is 34.♖f6† gxf6 35.♗h6†. **33...d3?** 33...gxh6? 34.♗xh6† ♔e8 35.♕xg8 mate ✓ **34.bxc3!** 34.♖f6†?? ♗xf6–+ **34...d2† 35.♔d1 ♕xc6 36.♖f6†! ♖f7** 36...gxf6 37.♗h6† ♖g7 38.♗xg7† ♔e7 39.♗xf6† ♔d6 40.♗e5† ✓ White's moves so far have been the only way to win. 40...♔d5 41.♖xa7+– **37.♕xg7†!+– 1–0**

Instead, Black should have played 33...♕xc6! straight away, or after taking on b2. 34.♖f6† gxf6 35.♗h6† ♖g7 36.♗xg7† ✓ ♔e7 White has a few ways to make a draw from here. One is: 37.♗xf6† ♔d6 38.♗e5† ♔d5 39.♖xa7 ♗xb2† 40.♔b1 (40.♔xb2 is a draw by a small margin: 40...♕c3† 41.♔c1 ♕e1† 42.♔b2 Black can play for more than a repetition with 42...♕xe5! but after 43.♕xg8 d3† 44.♔b3! d2 45.♕xc8! ♕e3† 46.♕c3 ♕xa7 47.♕xd2†= it is a draw nevertheless.) 40...♕c3 41.♗b8 (not 41.♕h1†? ♔xe5–+ or 41.♕xg8? ♗a1–+) Moving the bishop threatens to check on e5. 41...♕e1† 42.♔xb2 ♕c3† 43.♔b1=

33.♖1h6 was the only move to draw.

1016. Mikhail Tal – Konstantin Klaman, Moscow 1957
24.♖xe7†! ♔xe7 25.♖e1† ♔d8 25...♗e6 26.♘xe6!+– ✓ and White can at least pick up a free rook on f8. But 26.♖xe6†? ♔d7= is not good enough. **26.♕h4†!** 26.♕g7?! ♕a5!± **26...f6 27.♕h6! ♕a5 28.♘b3!** The difference compared to 26.♕g7?! is that White wins the pawn on f6 as well. 28.♕xf8†?! ♔c7 29.♕xf6? b3!–+ and the rook on e1 is hanging. **28...♕d5 29.♕xf8† ♔c7 30.♕xf6+–** (1–0, 34 moves)

1017. Mikhail Tal – Aleksandrs Koblencs, Moscow 1960
14.♕xe7†! 14.♗e5 gives full points if you evaluated this position as at least equal (the engines think that it's fair compensation). **14...♔xe7 15.♘f5† ♔e8** 15...♔e6? 16.♘xg7† ♔e7 17.♗d6† winning the queen. **16.♘xg7† ♔f8 17.♗d6† ♔xg7** 17...♔g8 18.♖g1 ♕c3† 19.♖d2 ♕a1† 20.♖d1 is a draw. **18.♖g1† ♘g4** 18...♔h6? 19.♗f4† ♔h5 20.♗e2† with a mating net whatever Black plays: 20...♘g4 21.♖xg4 or 20...♔h4 21.♗g5† ♔xh3 22.♔f1. **19.♖xg4† ♔f6 20.♖f4†** ✓ **♔g7 ½–½**

1018. Mikhail Tal – Aleksandrs Koblencs, Riga 1961
White has a promising position after a slow move, but can force matters: **24.♗e5! ♕xe6!** The only try. **25.fxe6 ♔xg6 26.♖f1! ♘h7** 26...♖he8 27.♖xf6†+– is hopeless. **27.♗xh8 ♖xh8 28.♖f8!** A move White must see before playing 24.♗e5. **28...♖xf8** 28...♘xf8 29.e8=♕†+– ✓ **29.exf8=♕ ♘xf8 30.e7 ♔f7 31.exf8=♕† ♔xf8** ✓ White has an easily winning endgame. **32.♔d1 1–0**

1019. Jan Hein Donner – Mikhail Tal, Bled 1961
32...f3! 33.♗xf3 ♕xg4 White cannot defend the bishop and the mate on g1, so his only chance is a counterattack. **34.♘f6†!** ✓ A move that could be an unpleasant surprise if you haven't seen it in advance. **34...♖xf6 35.♕e8† ♔h7!** 35...♔g7? 36.♗h6†! ♔xh6 37.♕h8† ♔g5 38.♕g7† ♖g6 39.♕xg6† leads to a draw. **36.♕e7† ♕g7 37.♕xg7†–+** The checks are soon over after 37.♕e4† ♔h8 leaving Black with good winning chances. The same evaluation is valid after the game continuation (0–1, 56 moves).

1020. Larry Evans – Mikhail Tal, Amsterdam 1964
38...f5†! 38...h5†? 39.gxh6 f5† 40.♔xf5 ♕f3† 41.♔g5 ♕f6† uses the same motif as in the game, but White can use the extra h-pawn and draw after 42.♕xf6 gxf6† 43.♔xf6 ♖xb8 44.h7† ♔xh7 45.d6. Now Black has only one move that draws: 45...♖f8†! 46.♔e7 ♖f1 47.d7 ♖e1†= **39.gxf6 h5†! 40.♔xh5 ♕f3† 41.♔g5 ♕xf6†** The lines are shorter after 41...♕g2†! 42.♔f5 (42.♔h5 ♔h7 [or 42...♖xb8–+] 43.fxg7 ♖e5† 44.♕xe5 ♕g6 mate) 42...g6† 43.♔f4 ♕h2†–+ winning the queen. **42.♕xf6 gxf6† 43.♔xf6 ♖xb8 44.♔e7 ♖b7†! 45.♔e8 ♖h7 46.d6 ♖xh4 47.d7 ♖e4†** The rook can reach the e-file in several ways and all are equally good. **48.♔d8 ♔f7 49.♔c7 ♖c4† 50.♔b6 ♔e7–+** ✓

1021. Mikhail Tal – Bjorn Brinck Claussen, Havana (ol) 1966
34.♖a8! ♗xa2? Two alternatives: a) 34...♖xa8! 35.♗xd5† (or 35.♕xd5†± which is good, even though White has to worry about a dark-square blockade) 35...♔f8 36.♗xa8± ✓ Black should try to use the h-pawn to open White's king position, but first he must worry about his own. b) If Black starts with 34...♕c1† 35.♔g2 there is no check on c7 after 35...♗xa2 36.♖xd8† ♔f7. White's best is 37.b3!, threatening a check on d5. After 37...♕e1! 38.♖d7†! ♘e7 39.d5! ♔e8! 40.♖d6!, White threatens 41.♖xb6 and 41.♖e6 followed by 42.d6. He should be winning. **35.♖xd8† ♔f7 36.♕c6! ♘e7** The only defence against the mate on e8. **37.♕e8† ♔e6 38.♖c8!** 38.♕d7† ♔f7 39.♖c8 ♕d2 40.♕e8† transposes. **38...♕d5** 38...♕d2 39.♖c6†! ♔f5 40.g4†! ♔xg4 41.♕xe7+– The point of sacrificing the g-pawn is that Black does not have a check on h5 after 41...♕d1† 42.♔h2!. **39.♖c3+–** Or 39.♖c7+–. Black is occupied trying (and eventually failing) to defend, and cannot create any counterplay (1–0, 45 moves).

1022. Mikhail Tal – Bukhuti Gurgenidze, Alma-Ata 1968
21.♖xh7! ♕xe5?! The best defence is 21...♗g7! 22.♗f6! ♗xf6! (22...♘xf6 23.exf6 ♔xh7 24.♖h1† ♔g8 25.♕h4 with mate) 23.exf6 ♘xf6 since White does not get time to sacrifice the bishop on g6. 24.♕xg6† fxg6 25.♖xc7± ✓ White wins a pawn on c6 or g6 with good winning chances. **22.♖xf7! ♔xf7** Black's king does at least escape after 22...♗h6! 23.♗xh6 ♔xf7 24.♗xg6† ♔e7 25.♗xe8 ♖xe8+–, but again at the cost of a pawn *and* a positional minus. **23.♗xg6†! ♔g8** 23...♔xg6 24.♗f4†+– ✓ wins the queen. **24.♗xe8+–** ✓ Black cannot take back, since White still threatens a discovered check (1–0, 34 moves).

1023. Mikhail Tal – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1974
21.♕f4! On the way to h4, but also pressuring f7. The alternative 21.♕d3!? threatens the pawn on g6. After 21...♕f5 22.♕xf5 gxf5 23.♖xe8 ♖xe8 24.♗xf7† ♔f8 25.♗xe8 ♔xe8 26.♘e6! ♗e5 27.♖e1! White is winning. Full points if you saw this far. **21...♘d7 22.♗xd7!** Capturing the knight that was supposed to defend against the mate on h7. **22...♗xd7** 22...♕xd7 23.♕h4 ✓ with mate. **23.♗xf7† 1–0** Black resigned due to 23...♖xf7 24.♕xf7† ♔h8 25.♕xg6 ♗f5 26.♘f7† ♔g8 27.♘h6† ♔h8 28.♘xf5 with a mating attack. Also winning was: 23.♕h4 ♖e8 24.♗xf7†+–

1024. Mikhail Tal – Krunoslav Hulak, Novi Sad 1974
38...d5!! 38...♔e6? 39.b5+– was played in the game. **39.cxd5** 39.b5 dxc4 40.bxa6 c3 41.a7 c2 42.a8=♕ c1=♕± ✓ and the a-pawn is far advanced, but Black should have sufficient counterplay. **39...♔e5!** Or 39...♔e7. **40.dxc6 ♔d6 41.♔f3 ♔xc6 42.♔g4 ♔b5 43.♔xg5 ♔xb4 44.♔h6 ♔xa5 45.♔xh7 ♔b4 46.g4 a5 47.g5 a4 48.g6 a3 49.g7 a2 50.g8=♕ a1=♕± ✓** A theoretical draw.

1025. Mikhail Tal – N.N., East Berlin (simul) 1975
15.♗xe7! It is possible to start with 15.♗xh7†, but 15.♗f4 ♘cxd3 16.cxd3 f6 17.♘xe5 fxe5 18.♗xe5± only gives a positional advantage. **15...♘xf3 16.♖xf3! ♕xe7 17.♗xh7†! ♔xh7 18.♖h3†** 18.♘f5 transposes or wins the queen after: 18...♕g5 19.♖h3† ♔g6 20.♖g3+– **18...♔g8** 18...♔g6 is obviously suicidal: 19.♕h5† ♔f6 20.♖f1 mate. **19.♘f5! ♕g5 20.♕h5! 1–0** The end could have been: 20...♕xh5 21.♘e7† ♔h7 22.♖xh5 mate ✓

1026. Alexander Beliavsky – Mikhail Tal, Moscow 1981
21.♖d5!! 21.♖c2 g6!∓ and White has to fight to show his compensation. Even worse is 21.hxg7? ♖xd2 22.♖h8† ♔xg7 23.♖h7† when Black can run to e7 or sacrifice the queen: 23...♔xh7 24.♕h5† ♔g8 25.♕xg5† ♘g6 26.♕xa5 ♖xf2–+ **21...♖xd5** 21...cxd5? 22.♕xe5 gxh6 (22...f6 23.♕xe6† ♖f7 and White has many winning moves. One that requires little calculation is 24.h7† ♔h8 25.♕xf7+–.) 23.♖xh6 (or 23.♘h5, mating) 23...f6 24.♕xe6† ♖f7 25.♘h5!+– The pawn on f6 falls and it's Game Over. **22.cxd5 ♕xd5** 22...♘g6 does not really defend the king after: 23.hxg7 ♔xg7 24.♘h5† ♔g8 25.♕f3! f5 26.♕e3+– **23.hxg7 ♔xg7** The game was agreed drawn here. **24.♘h5† ♔g6 25.♘f4†! gxf4 26.♕h5† ♔f6 27.♕h4† ♔f5 28.♕h5† ♔e4** 28...♔f6 29.♕h4†= **29.♕e2†=** ✓ It's a perpetual, since Black cannot allow ♖d1† winning the queen.

1027. Mikhail Tal – Bodo Schmidt, Porz 1982
39.♘xf7! 39.♗xg6? fxg6 40.♘fxe6† looks tempting, but Black has 40...♔g8 41.♖xf8† ♕xf8 and the knight is pinned, forcing White to find the clever 42.♘h7! ♖xh7 43.♕xg6† ♖g7 44.♘xf8 ♖xg6 45.♘xg6 to be only clearly worse. **39...♖xf7** 39...♕xf7 40.♘h5†+– ✓ White takes the queen and then crashes through on g6. **40.♘xg6! ♖xg6 41.♕xg6†** ✓ White picks up the h4-pawn and will be at least clearly better, although that evaluation is not so easy to make. **41...♔f8 42.♖xf7† ♕xf7 43.♕h6† ♕g7** 43...♔e7 loses to 44.♗g6+– and 45.♕xh4†. 43...♔g8! is best, since the king keeps control over the h8-square. White is winning on the kingside after 44.♕xh4, but Black has some hope to get the d4-pawn. 44...♕e7!± tries to exchange the defender. **44.♕xh4+–**

1028. Garry Kasparov – Mikhail Tal, Brussels 1987
21.♘xg7! There are a lot of alternatives, but none are as strong: a) 21.♕g3?! ♕g5! 22.♖g4 ♕e3†± b) 21.♖g4 g5! 22.fxg6 ♗xg4 23.gxf7† ♘xf7 24.♘f6† ♔g7 25.♘xg4± c) 21.f6?! g6± **21...♘e4** The main point is 21...♔xg7 22.f6† ♔h8 23.♕h4 ✓ with a winning attack. **22.♗xe4** 22.♖xe4 ♖xe4!± and White is a pawn up, but has less of an attack than in the main line. **22...♖xe4 23.f6+–** White has won a pawn and Black's king is quite exposed. It should be enough to win.

Tigran Petrosian

They say my chess games should be more interesting. I could be more interesting – and also lose.

1029. Boris Spassky – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow 1955
White is an exchange up and will win back the trapped queen by a rook check on d7. **40.♖d7†!** The game was agreed drawn after 40.♕xh7? ♘xh7 41.♖d7† ♕xd7 42.cxd7. Opposite-coloured bishops favour the player with an active position, which is Black in this case. He will use his kingside majority and has full compensation after 42...♗g7. **40...♕xd7** 40...♘xd7 41.♕xh7+– ✓ and the pawn on e5 drops. **41.♖xe5†** If the king moves, White takes on f8 with check, so the following moves are forced. **41...♕e6 42.♖xe6† fxe6** The queen is still trapped on h8, but will be resurrected by pawn promotion. **43.c7! ♖xh8 44.c8=♕** ✓ White picks up the queenside pawns and should be winning.

1030. Svetozar Gligoric – Tigran Petrosian, Leningrad 1957
12.♘xf7! 12.g4?! ♗g6 13.h4 ♗xe5 14.dxe5 a4 15.♗c4 ♘b6∓ and the pawn on c2 is en prise. **12...♔xf7 13.g4!** White didn't win any material, but he did open the light squares around Black's king. **13...♕f6** Black can't move the bishop: 13...♗g6? 14.♕xe6†+– ✓, and 13...a4 leads to the same fate: 14.gxf5 axb3 15.♕xe6† ♔f8 16.♕xd6†± ✓ **14.gxf5±** ✓ White's advantage with his light-squared bishop and safer king is significant (1–0, 72 moves).

1031. Tigran Petrosian – Hector Rossetto, Portoroz 1958
36.g5! ♘f5 a) 36...fxe5 37.♕f6† ✓ ♔g8 38.♖h1 is mating. b) 36...f5 37.♕h3+– and the h-file decides (other moves also win, but more slowly). c) 36...♘g8 37.gxf6† ♘xf6 38.♖xc6+– with a winning attack. d) 36...fxg5 37.♕f7† ♔h8 38.♖h1 mate ✓ **37.gxf6†+–** ✓ 37.♕f4+– is also strong enough. The game move gives a decisive attack. **37...♔xf6 38.♖xc6† ♔e7 39.♕f4 1–0** The attack will yield further dividends.

1032. Tigran Petrosian – Felix Ignatiev, Moscow 1958
28.♕h6†! a) 28.d8=♕? ♖xd8 29.♕xd8 and White is lost on the queenside, but seems able to fight well enough on the dark squares for a draw. Black can play: 29...♘e2† 30.♖xe2 ♕d1† 31.♔h2 ♗xg2! 32.♔xg2 ♕xe2= b) 28.♕e7? ♖aa8–+ c) 28.gxf3? ♖xd7–+ d) It is possible to start with 28.♖xc3 and follow up in the same way, but it allows 28...♕xd4 when the h8-square is defended, although White is still winning. **28...♔g8 29.♕xf8†!** 29.♗g5? ♕xd4∓ **29...♔xf8 30.d8=♕†** ✓ **♔g7 31.♗h6†!** There are other winning moves. **31...♔h7** 31...♔xh6 32.♕h8 mate **32.♕f6! 1–0** Mate is coming.

1033. Borge Andersen – Tigran Petrosian, Copenhagen 1960
20...♘xe4! Using the back rank and the light squares weakened due to White missing his light-squared bishop. **21.♘xe4 ♗f5!** White would likely have resigned here. Instead 21...♖f1† was played and brought a swift victory; it should be winning, even against a tougher defence than was played, but the main line is stronger. 22.♔c2 ♗f5 23.♕g2 (a better defence is 23.♖xc4 ♖c8 24.♕d3 although White is in trouble after 24...♖a1!–+) 23...♕h4 (or 23...♕a5–+) 24.♖xc4 ♕e1!–+ Black has a winning attack (0–1, 29 moves). **22.♕c2 ♕h4! 23.♖xc4 ♖ac8** White is overloaded. **24.♘f3 ♖xc4 25.♘xh4 ♗xe4–+** ✓ Black is a rook up.

1034. Tigran Petrosian – Lev Polugaevsky, Moscow 1963
White is clearly better anyway, but also has the chance to force a direct win. **32.♖xd8†! ♔xd8 33.♕b8†** 33.♗xe6 ♕c2† 34.♔f3 ♕c6† and White has to exchange queens and give up the f-pawn. Black can fight for a while after 35.♕e4 ♕xe4† 36.♔xe4 ♘xf6† 37.♔e5 ♔e7 38.♗h3. **33...♕c8** 33...♔d7 34.♕xg8+– ✓ **34.♕xc8† ♔xc8 35.♗xe6†!+–** The bishop will take all three pawns, since it cannot be taken due to f6-f7-f8=♕.

1035. Tigran Petrosian – Borislav Ivkov, Hamburg 1965
White can force the pawn through with some accurate moves. **35.e7!** 35.♕f4†?! ♔c8 (35...♔b6±) 36.♖g8† ♖d8± **35...♖e5** 35...♖a5 36.♕f4†! ♔d7 (36...♔b6 37.♕b4† ♔a6 38.♕xa5†+– ✓) 37.e8=♕† ♔xe8 38.♖g8† ✓ The king is checked upwards and Black has to give up the queen to avoid mate. **36.♕g7!+–** Two threats: against the rook, and to queen with a discovered check. Not 36.♕f4? ♕d6=. **36...♔d6 37.♕xe5†** ✓ **1–0**

1036. Tigran Petrosian – Boris Spassky, Moscow (12) 1966
Black has put his faith in the rolling e- and f-pawns winning the dark-squared bishop to keep his king out of danger. **31.♘f3!** Making room for the crucial minor piece to get out of danger and onto the a1-h8 diagonal. Not 31.♗xe4 fxe3 32.♘f3 ♖xf3 and Black is not much worse. **31...exd3** White also wins after other moves: 31...exf3 32.♗d2! ✓ followed by 33.♗c3, 31...fxe3 32.♘xe5 ✓ and 31...♕f6 32.♗d4 ✓. **32.♕xd3!** ✓ Instead White went for 32.♘xe5? dxc2 33.♗d4! dxe5 34.♗xe5† ♔h7 35.♖g7† ♔h8, but Black had too much counterplay with the pawn on c2, so White had to make a draw: 36.♖f7† ♔g8 37.♖g7† ♔h8 38.♖g6† ♔h7 39.♖g7† ½–½ **32...♗f5 33.♕e2** 33.♘xe5 (33.♗d4 ♗xd3 34.♘xe5 transposes) 33...♗xd3 34.♗d4! also wins: 34...dxe5 (34...♗e4† 35.♘f3†!+–) 35.♗xe5† ♔h7 36.♖g7† ♔h8 37.♖xc7† ♔g8 38.♖g7† ♔h8 39.♖xa7† ♔g8 40.♖g7† ♔h8 41.♖g3† ♔h7 42.♖xd3+– All the pawns for the exchange will decide. **33...fxe3 34.♘xe5 exf2 35.♖g2** 35.♖f1 is also good. **35...♗e4 36.♘g6† ♗xg6 37.♖xf2+–**

1037. Bent Larsen – Tigran Petrosian, Santa Monica 1966
24.♕h6! Threatening 25.♗xe6 or 25.♖h3. 24.♖xf6? exf6∓ gets White nowhere. **24...♗g7 25.♕xg6!!** 25.♕h4? is not even a repetition: 25...f5∓ **25...♘f4** a) 25...♘c7 is a double threat, but Black gets no time to execute it: 26.♕xg7†! ♔xg7 27.♖g5† ♔h6 28.♖h3 mate ✓ b) 25...fxg6 26.♗xe6† ♔h7 (26...♖f7 and White can transpose to the main line with 27.♖xf7 or get a winning attack after 27.♗xf7† ♔f8 28.♗xg6† ♗f6 29.♖h5) 27.♖h3† ♗h6 28.♗xh6 ♖f5 29.♖xf5! gxf5 30.♗f7!+– ✓ The threat of 31.♗f8 mate is hard to defend against. White could have captured the f5-pawn first, but there's no point. **26.♖xf4! fxg6 27.♗e6† ✓ ♖f7** 27...♔h7 28.♖h4† is the same as 25...fxg6 26.♗xe6 ♗h6. The only difference is that Black can try 28...♗h6 29.♗xh6! g5 when both moves win: 30.♗xg5†+– and 30.♖xg5 ♕b6† 31.c5!+–. **28.♖xf7+–** It's over. Also strong is: 28.♗xf7† ♔f8 29.♗xg6† ♗f6 30.♖h5+– **28...♔h8** 28...♗e5 29.♖f5† ♔h8 30.♖fxe5+– **29.♖g5! b5 30.♖g3 1–0**

1038. Tigran Petrosian – Heikki Westerinen, Palma de Mallorca 1968
28.f5! hxg5 a) 28...♗xf5? 29.♗xf6! ♖xe2 30.♕d8† (or 30.♗xe2+–) 30...♕f8 31.♕xf8† ♔xf8 32.♗xg7† (White has two other winning moves: 32.♗xe2 and 32.♖d8† ♖e8 33.♗xg7† ♔xg7 34.♖xe8+–.) 32...♔xg7 33.♗xe2+– b) 28...gxf5 29.♗xh6+– ✓ and White is a pawn up, while Black's structure and king's position are in ruins. **29.fxe6 ♖xe6 30.♖xe6 ✓ fxe6 31.♕xg5** White is winning, being a pawn up while Black has many weaknesses and no counterplay (1–0, 41 moves).

1039. Boris Spassky – Tigran Petrosian, Moscow (5) 1969
28.♘c6! 28.♕e5!? maintains a serious advantage. 28...♕d6 29.♕xd6 ♘xd6 30.♖c7! and White is probably winning. But 28.♖e8? ♕xd4–+ should be avoided. **28...♘d6 29.♘xd8!** a) Just as good is: 29.♘e7†! ♔h8 30.♘g6†! ♔g8 (30...fxg6 31.♕xf8† ♖xf8 32.♖xf8† ♔h7 33.d8=♕+–) 31.♘xf8 ♘xf5 32.♖xd8 ♕xd8 33.♖e8+– White enjoys an extra rook after spending a tempo to create luft for the king. b) 29.♖xd8 ♖xd8 30.♘xd8 ♘xf5 and White only wins an exchange. However, that's enough after the precise 31.♘b7! ♔h7 32.d8=♕ ♕xb7 33.g4!+– when the knight is caught. **29...♘xf5 30.♘c6 ✓ 1–0** White queens with an extra rook left on the board. 30.♘b7 would have been similar.

1040. Tigran Petrosian – Boris Spassky, Moscow (8) 1969
34...♖xd3! Black is clearly better and probably winning after simple moves, such as 34...a3 or 34...♖3c4, but no points for such cowardice this time! **35.♖xd3 ♕xf2† 36.♔h2** 36.♔h1 ♘g3† 37.♔h2 ♘f1† 38.♔h1 ♘xe3 is straightforward. **36...♕g3† 37.♔g1** Material is now equal, but Black wins with a fork on f2. **37...♕f2†** Spassky starts with a repetition. **38.♔h2 ♕g3† 39.♔g1 ♘f2!–+** ✓ Black captures the pawn on h3, with an ongoing attack.

1041. Drazen Marovic – Tigran Petrosian, Amsterdam 1973
33.♘xe4! 33.♗f3 ♗e5†! (33...exf3? 34.♘xf3 creates a double threat of ♖xg6 and ♗xd8. Black is still fine materially, but White's initiative is winning.) 34.♔h1 ♕h6= **33...fxe4 34.♗xe4 ♕e6**
a) 34...♗e5† 35.♔h1 ♕e6 threatens mate, so White has to postpone taking on d8. 36.♖e3!+– Black can't defend against 37.♖g6 (or 36.♖g4+–).
b) 34...♕h6 35.♗g5! allows the queen to reach h4. After 35...♕e6 36.♕h4! ✓ ♗e5† 37.♔g2! Black must give back the piece: 37...♕xh3† 38.♕xh3 ♗xh3† 39.♔xh3+– Black is lacking coordination: the knights are on the edge, the rook on d8 is threatened and the king can come under attack. And White is also a pawn up.
c) 34...♕f7 35.♗xd8 ♖xd8 and White has a winning attack; strongest seems 36.♖xg7! ♔xg7 37.♖f2 ♕e6 38.♕c3† ♘f6 39.♕g3† ♘g4† 40.♕xg4† ♕xg4 41.hxg4 with a winning endgame. **35.♖xg7!** The only winning move in a complicated position. The game continuation 35.♖e3? was considered strong by Petrosian in his commentary on the game, but with a computer we can see that it is not the strongest continuation: 35...♖de8 36.♗e7 ♕e5†! (to prevent ♕c3† after ...♗h6) 37.♔h1 ♗h6 and things are not so clear. **35...♔xg7** ✓ 35...♘xg7 36.♗xd8 ♖xd8 37.♕h4†+– ✓ After the king captures on g7, there are different ways to continue the attack, usually leading to a won endgame. However, it's enough if your intuition evaluated this position as winning. **36.♗xd8** a) 36.♖g2† ♔h8 37.♕c3† ♖f6 (37...♘f6 38.♖g6 ♕xh3† 39.♕xh3 ♗xh3 40.♗xf6† ♖xf6 41.♖xf6+–) 38.♗xf6† ♕xf6 39.♖g5+– b) Or first 36.♕c3† ♖f6 37.♖g2† ♔h8 38.♗xf6† ♕xf6 39.♖g5+–. **36...♖xd8 37.♖g2† ♔h8** 37...♔f8 38.♗d5! ♕xe1 39.♖g8 mate **38.♕c3†! ♕f6** 38...♘f6 39.♖g6 ♖f8 (39...♕xh3† 40.♕xh3† ♗xh3 41.♖xf6!+–) 40.♖h6† ♔g7 41.♖h7† ♔g8 42.♕g3† ♘g4† 43.♕xg4† ♕xg4 44.hxg4+– **39.♖g5! ♕xc3 40.♖xh5† ♔g7 41.bxc3+–**

1042. Tigran Petrosian – Yuri Balashov, Soviet Union 1974
21.♕e4! Bringing the queen into the centre to attack the light squares (g6 and e6). Not 21.♗xf7†? ♔xf7 22.♕c4† ♔g7∓. **21...♔g7** 21...♗xg5 22.♕xg6† ♔f8 23.♕xg5+– ✓ **22.♗xf7! ♔xf7 23.♗h6!** Cutting off the king's retreat, threatening ♕e6/c4/d5† with a devastating attack. **23...♕d6** a) 23...♘d4 defends against queen checks, but White is easily winning after 24.♕xd4. b) 23...♗f6 24.♕c4† ♖e6 25.♕xe6 mate ✓ c) 23...♘d8 24.♘e5† with mate. **24.♕c4†! ♔f6** ✓ White's attack is so strong that several moves win. **25.♖ad1** 25.♘g5!+– with threats against f7 and h7. **25...♘d4 26.♕xd4† ♕xd4 27.♖xd4+– ♖c5 28.h4 1–0**

1043. Robert Hübner – Tigran Petrosian, Biel 1976
25.♘f6†! Bad are 25.♗xd5? ♖xd5 26.♖xd5 ♘b4–+ and White cannot play 27.♖c5, and 25.♖xd5?! ♖xd5 26.♗xd5 ♘b4 27.♗c4 ♘d3∓. **25...♔h8** 25...♗xf6? 26.exf6 ♕xf6 (26...♕f8 27.♖xd5 ♖xd5 28.♗xd5 ♘b4 and the difference compared to the immediate capture on d5 is that the bishop on b7 is undefended: 29.♗xb7! ♖xc1 30.♖xc1+– ✓ White will win the queen back, with an extra piece.) 27.♗xd5 ♖xd5 28.♖xd5 ♘b4 29.♖c5 ✓ With the queen no longer on e7 this defence is possible, with a winning material advantage. **26.♘xc.B**

1045. Borislav Ivkov – Tigran Petrosian, Teslic 1979
36.♘e4! Attacking the blocker on f6. Not 36.♘xe6? ♕xe6 37.♗c4 ♕xc4 38.♖xc4 ♖e1 mate. **36...♘d7** White is certainly happy after this retreat, so you don't have to see further. After 36...♖f7, the way for White to break through is to win the e6-pawn with the bishop. 37.♗c4 (or similarly 37.♘xf6† ♘xf6 38.♗c4) 37...♘g4 (37...♕b2 38.♘xf6†! [38.♗xe6? ♖a1 39.♘xf6† ♔h8! 40.♖f1!= with a perpetual] 38...♘xf6 39.♗xe6 ♖a1 and White has enough resources to win material and defend against the perpetual: 40.♗xf7† ♔xf7 41.♕xh7†! ♔e8 [41...♔e6 42.♖e3† ♔d5 43.♕f7† ♔d6 44.♕e7† ♔d5 45.♕e5 mate ✓] 42.♕xg6† ♔d7 43.♖f1 The queen can come back to c2 to defend against checks.) 38.♕g5! ✓ White has too many threats for Black to parry. (38.♕h4?? ♕xc4!∓ turns the game around, but 38.♗xa2 ♘xh6 39.♗xe6+– is good enough.) 36...♘xe4 37.♖f8 mate ✓ **37.♕g5!** Many moves are winning, for instance 37.♗c4 first or 37.♘c5 going for the f8-square. Ivkov played the slightly cautious 37.h3?! but perhaps it was time trouble, and the win was spoiled a few moves later. **37...♖f7 38.♗c4 ♕b2 39.♗xe6+–**

Boris Spassky

A man who is willing to commit suicide has the initiative.

1046. Mikhail Vvedensky – Boris Spassky, Leningrad 1952
27.♘xe4! Not 27.♕xe3? ♕xh4† 28.♔g2 ♗xf4–+, nor 27.♖xg7? ♖xf4–+. **27...♖g6** The point of the knight sacrifice is that White threatens mate after 27...♖xe4 28.♖xg7. Black can try 28...♕xg7 29.♖xg7 ♔xg7 but is mated after: 30.♕g1†! (30.♕g3† also wins, but allows 30...♔f7 31.♗xf6 ♘f5) 30...♔f7 31.♗xf6 (31.♗h5†+– is not as strong, but still good) 31...♔xf6 32.♕g5† ♔f7 33.♗h5†! ♔f8 34.♕f6†! ♔g8 35.♗f7† ✓ ♔f8 36.♗g6† ♔g8 37.♕f7† ♔h8 38.♕xh7 mate. 27...♖xf4 is met most easily by 28.♕xf4 ♗xf4 29.♗xg7† ♕xg7 30.♖xg7 since Black can't take on e4. **28.♘xd6** Vvedensky lost after 28.♖h5? ♕xf4! because 29.♕xf4 ♖xg1†∓ comes with check. **28...cxd6 29.♖h5** The queen is trapped and cannot escape after trading on g1 due to ♕xg7 mate.

1047. Boris Spassky – Klaus Darga, Varna (ol) 1962
21.♘xe6! fxe6 It is difficult to find a clear-cut win, but as Black's king cannot castle short or long, there should be something. You can actually chose between three winning moves. **22.♕g4!** I think this is most clear-cut, but other moves are also winning. a) 22.♕c4 ♕b6 23.♕xa4† transposes to 22.♕xa4†. b) Spassky played 22.♕xa4† when 22...♕b5 23.♕g4 was similar to 22.♕g4. If Black had defended with 22...♔e7 the best way is 23.♕h4† ♔e8 24.♕g4+– with the same position as 22.♕g4, but without the pawn on a4. It is a little greedy to spend energy on that, but still full points, of course. **22...♕c6** Black has two other ways to try to defend. a) 22...♕e7 deprives the king of its only square: 23.♕xa4† is mating. b) 22...♖f8 23.♕xe6† ♗e7 24.♖xf8† ♔xf8 ✓ 25.♖d7 wins the queen with a winning material advantage, or 25.♖f1† with a winning attack: 25...♔e8 26.♕f7† ♔d7 27.♖d1† ♔c6 28.♕e6† ♔c5 29.♖d7+– **23.♕xg7 ♖f8 24.♖xf8† ♗xf8 25.♕xh7+–** ✓ Black has no active moves, and no defence against 26.♕g6† ♔e7 27.♖d6 ♕c8 28.♕f6† ♔e8 29.♖xe6†.

1048. Boris Spassky – Lothar Zinn, Marianske Lazne 1962
24.♘xf7! ♔xf7 24...♘xd6 ✓ 25.♘xd6+– does not win back the exchange straight away (Black can pin the knight), but with 26.♕e5 to come, Black collapses. **25.♗xe6†** Or 25.♖xe6. **25...♕xe6 26.♖xe6 ♔xe6** ✓ Black has enough material for the queen, and he would be fine if he had time to return his king to safety. But that dream will not come true. It's fine to evaluate this position intuitively. **27.♕b3† ♔e7** 27...♔f6 28.e5†!+– **28.♕g8!** 29.♗g5† is a threat. **28...h6 29.♖d6!** Precise, but other moves were also winning. **29...♘xd6 30.cxd6† ♔d7 31.♕f7†** It is also possible to start with 31.♕xg7†+–. **31...♔xd6 32.♗f4† ♔c5 33.♕f5†+–** The rook on c8 is collected.

1049. Bent Larsen – Boris Spassky, Malmo 1968
20...a5! Not a beautiful combination, but that doesn't make it any less strong! **21.dxe4** Black's idea is: 21.bxa5 ♗b2 22.♕a4 ♗e2!∓ ✓ Only like so. Black has serious threats against both d3 and f1. And not 22...♗xc1?! 23.♖xc1 with compensation for the exchange. **21...♗e2!∓** A precise move, winning an exchange since the bishop coming to c4 spells trouble for the c5-knight due to the undermining of b4 that was commenced by 20...a5!. 21...axb4 22.♕b3 ♖a3! 23.♕b1 ♗c3 is also advantageous for Black. **22.♕b3** Tougher is giving up the exchange with: 22.bxa5 ♗xf1 23.♖xf1 ♗b2 24.e5! ♗xa3 25.exd6 ♗xc5 26.dxe7∓ **22...♗c4! 23.♕b1 axb4 24.♗xb4 ♗xa2** Weaker is 24...♗xf1 25.♗xf1∓. **25.♘d3 ♗xb1 26.♗xd6 ♗xd3–+** (0–1, 48 moves)

1050. Boris Spassky – Robert Hübner, Solingen (4) 1977
35.d6! There is still some work left after 35.♖xb8 ♖xb8 36.♗a5 ♖d8! 37.♗xc7 ♖xd5±. **35...♖a8!?** 35...♖xb5 fails to 36.dxe7 ♖xc5 37.exd8=♕†+– ✓ and 35...cxd6 36.c7 ♖xb5 37.cxd8=♕+– ✓ is another route to a new queen. **36.dxe7 ♖a1† 37.♗e1** ✓ 37.♔e2 ♖a2† makes no progress. **37...♖dd1 38.g3** The threat of promoting to a queen instead of a knight prevents the ...g6-g5-g4 idea, leaving White with a winning endgame. Instead Spassky won after the spectacular but weaker 38.e8=♘†?! ♔f7! 39.g4± (39.g3 g5! forces White to give a perpetual due to the dangerous attack on his king) **38...♖xe1† 39.♔g2 ♔xe7 40.♖xe5†+–**

1051. Julian Hodgson – Boris Spassky, Brussels 1985
26.♘xd6! Judging this as too dangerous to play and instead going for a normal move would be a reasonable practical decision (1 point). **26...e4!** 26...♕xd6 27.♕xf5+– ✓ is simple. **27.♘xe4! ♘e5! 28.♘xc5!** 28.♕e2? ♘xe4 29.♕xe4 ♘xf3† and Black wins. **28...**e263 **28..** ♘

1052. Pia Cramling – Boris Spassky, London 1996
Black seems to have the superior position with his active and useful pieces, but White has a trick up her sleeve. **38.♘xf5!** Capturing a pawn while defending e3. Not 38.♗xg4 fxg4∓. **38...♘xh3** 38...♔xf5 and either rook check will force Black's king to leave the knight on g4 en prise: 39.♖f2†+– ✓ or 39.♖d5†+–. **39.e4!** White threatens 40.♖xd6 and 40.♔xh3, but Black has a trick of his own that he unfortunately seems to have missed as the game ended here. **39...♘f4†! 40.♔h1!=** ✓ With accurate play, Black can regain one of the pawns and retain an active position. Not 40.gxf4? ♘e3†–+. **40...♖b6 41.gxf4 ♗b7 42.♖e2 ♗xe4†** Black seems to have full compensation, but is no longer better.

Robert Fischer

Chess demands total concentration and a love for the game.

1053. Robert Sobel – Robert Fischer, Montreal 1956
24.h4! Giving away a pawn to get at the vulnerable black configuration. **24...♕xh4 25.♖h1 ♕g5 26.♖xh7†!** Deflecting the king from the defence of the knight. Not 26.♘xf6?? ♖d2†–+. **26...♔f8** 26...♔xh7 27.♘xf6† ♔g7 28.♘e4†+– ✓ **27.♕xf6!** ✓ White has won a piece for nothing. Again 27.♘xf6?? loses to 27...♖d2†.

1054. Osvaldo Bazan – Robert Fischer, Mar del Plata 1960
Black is a piece up, but two pieces are hanging. **20...♕f4! 21.♖xc4** 21.♕xf4 ♘e2† 22.♔h1 ♘xf4 ✓ 23.dxe6 b5!∓ and Black retains a material advantage, while he is winning after: 21.dxe6 ♕xe4 22.♘xe4 ♘e2† 23.♔h1 ♘xc1 ✓ **21...♕xe4 22.♘xe4 ♘e2† 23.♔h1 f5!** Instead the game went 23...♗d7 24.♖e1∓ but Black managed to win anyway (33 moves). 23...♗xd5? 24.♘f6† ♔f8 25.♘xd5 is equal. **24.dxe6 fxe4 25.♖xe4 ♘c3∓** The knight is alive.

1055. Robert Fischer – Paul Keres, Curacao 1962
White wins a pawn by exploiting the weak black king. **25.♖xd8†** 25.♗xc4 bxc4 transposes to the main line (25...♖xd1 26.♗xe6+–). **25...♗xd8** 25...♕xd8? gives up the e5-square to the white queen: 26.♗xc4! ♗xc4 (26...bxc4 27.♕e5+– ✓) 27.♘f6†! (27.♕e5? is now met by 27...f6=) 27...♔h8 (27...♗xf6 28.♕e8† ♕xe8 29.♖xe8 mate ✓) 28.♕e5+– ✓. The most dangerous threat is 29.♗g7† and the knight is still poisoned. **26.♗xc4! bxc4 27.♕xc4!+–** ✓ The pawn plus all the weaknesses are enough for a decisive advantage (1–0, 41 moves).

1056. Robert Fischer – O. Celle, Davis (simul) 1964
20.♘f5†! The sacrifice opens the e-file, but it is not as easy as it may look. **20...gxf5** 20...♔e8 21.♘g7†+– ✓ and 20...♔f6 21.♖d6 gxf5 22.♕xd7!+– wins the queen (but 22.♖xe6†?! ♗xe6 is not so clear). **21.exf5 ♖ac8** 21...♕xf5 22.♕d6† ♔d8 (22...♔e8 23.♖fe1† ♗e6 24.♕d7 mate ✓) 23.♕xf8† ♔c7 24.♕xa8+– ✓ **22.♖xd7†! ♕xd7** 22...♔f6 23.fxe6 (or 23.♕xc8 ♖xc8 24.fxe6+–) 23...♖xc7 24.♖xc7+– **23.f6†!** 23.♖e1† ♘e5! 24.♖xe5† ♔f6 25.♕xd7 ♔xe5+– is not as good, but should still be winning (full points). **23...♘xf6** 23...♔e8 24.♖e1† ✓ mates and 23...♔xf6 24.♕xd7 ✓ is over. **24.♖e1† ♘e4 25.♖xe4† ♔f6 26.♕xd7** ✓ White is easily winning and Black resigned on the next move.

1057. Robert Fischer – Marcos Haskins, Denver (simul) 1964
36.♖c8†! 36.♖c1? ♘c2! 37.♖xc2 a1=♕ 38.♖c8† ♔d7 39.♖xh8 ♕d4†! and with the queen close enough to give checks on e1 or g1, it's a perpetual. 40.♔g3 (40.♔g2 ♕d2† 41.♔h3 [41.♔g3 ♕e1†!=] 41...♕e3†=) 40...♕g1†!= **36...♔d7** 36...♔e7? 37.♖xh8 with the same play as in the game, or simply 37.♖c7† ♔e8 38.♖a7+–. **37.♖xh8 a1=♕ 38.♖d8†! ♔xd8 39.h8=♕† ♔d7** 39...♔c7 is met in the same way. **40.♘xf7!** Being a simultaneous game, it is excusable for Fischer to miss the win. The game continued 40.♘e4? ♕b2† 41.♔g3 ♕b3† 42.♔h4 which is equal after 42...♘f3† 43.♔h5 ♕c2=. **40...♕b2† 41.♔g3** ✓ The king escapes and the endgame should be winning. **41...♕c3† 42.♔h4 ♕e1† 43.♔g5+–**

1058. Robert Fischer – Eldis Cobo Arteaga, Havana 1965
28.♖xe7! ♕g3 a) 28...♖xe7 29.♗xf6†+– ✓ b) 28...♕f4 29.♖xf7† ♔xf7 30.♕b3† with a mating attack. c) After 28...♕d6 the most direct win is 29.♖1e6. **29.♗xf6†!+–** White is a pawn up and Black should lose more material fending off the attack on his weak king. **29...♔h6 30.♖1e4!** ✓ Or 30.♖7e4+– or even simply 30.♖1e2+–. Weaker is the game continuation 30.♕c1† g5 31.♕xg5† (31.♗xg5†! ♔h5 32.♖1e2± is not too bad either) 31...♕xg5 32.♗xg5† ♔g7± (1–0, 39 moves).

1059. Robert Fischer – Mark Taimanov, Vancouver (4) 1971
61.♗e8! Black is in zugzwang. **61...♔d8 62.♗xg6!** 62.♔xb6?! ♔xe8 63.♔xc5 ♔d7 and Black will be able to stop the pawns. For example: 64.b4 axb4 65.cxb4 ♘c6 66.a5 ♔c7 67.a6 ♘a7 68.b5 ♘c8= **62...♘xg6 63.♔xb6** White picks up the c5-pawn with a winning position, because Black is unable to create counterplay. The game ended after eight more moves. **63...♔d7 64.♔xc5** ✓ **♘e7 65.b4 axb4 66.cxb4 ♘c8 67.a5 ♘d6 68.b5 ♘e4† 69.♔b6 ♔c8 70.♔c6 ♔b8 71.b6 1–0**

Anatoly Karpov

The first great chess players, including the world champion, got by perfectly well without constant coaches.

1060. Jan Timman – Anatoly Karpov, Montreal 1979
15...♘xh2! 16.c5 ✓ A move you should see in advance and make sure you have something against. 16.♔xh2? ♕h4† 17.♔g2 ♕h3† ✓ (17...♗h3† 18.♔h1 ♕e4†! 19.f3 ♕g6! is also winning) 18.♔g1 ♗xg3 Best, but other moves win too by now. 19.fxg3 ♕xg3† 20.♔h1 ♖e4 21.♖f4 ♗h3–+ The attack is overwhelming. **16...♘xf1!** Less clear are: a) 16...♗e5?! 17.♗xe5 ♘xf1 18.♗d4∓ b) 16...♗f4!? 17.♕c3 (17.gxf4 ♕h4–+) 17...♖xb2! 18.♘xb2 ♗e5!∓ c) 16...♗xg3 17.fxg3 ♘xf1∓ **17.cxd6 ♘xg3!** It's easy to overlook such a move; the fork trick on e2 gives Black a winning advantage with so many pawns and continuing activity. **18.fxg3** 18.dxe7 ♘xe2† 19.♔f1 ♘xc1–+ **18...♕xd6–+** (0–1, 31 moves)

1061. Anatoly Karpov – Gyula Sax, Linares 1983
Deflecting the queen from her consort's defence. **35.♖e7!** 35.♕a8† ♕b8 gets White nowhere but 35.♖e4 gives a clear advantage. **35...♖d1†** 35...♕xe7? 36.♕a8† ♔c7 37.♕a7† ♔d8 (37...♔c8 38.♕xe7+– ✓) 38.♕b8 mate ✓ **36.♔xd1 ♕xe7** 36...♖d8† 37.♖d7 (or 37.♗d7†, but not 37.♔c1?! ♕xe7± and Black's king has the d6-square) 37...♖xd7† 38.♗xd7† ♕xd7†+– ✓ And two pawns up is enough to win. After the game move, you must make sure that you are satisfied with one continuation. **37.♕a8† ♔c7 38.♕a7† ♔d6 39.♕b6† ✓ 1–0** White mates after 39...♔e5 40.♕d4† ♔e6 41.♗b3 mate.

1062. Luc Winants – Anatoly Karpov, Brussels 1988
The seemingly bad bishop on b2 can become a key attacker. **36.♘c4!** Clearing the c1-h6 diagonal. Also full points for similar solutions: 36.♖xg7! ♔xg7 37.♘de4! Again, clearing c1-h6. With this move, White protects the f6-knight, rather than preparing a killing ♗a3. 36.♘de4! is similar to 36.♘c4 and 36.♖xg7. But do not play like in the game: 36.♗a3? ♕xa3 37.♘xd7 ♘b5= 38.♘f6? ♕a1†–+ Good for a clear advantage is 36.♘h5. **36...♘xf6** 36...dxc4 37.♖xg7! ♔xg7 38.♗c1 ♘xf6 (38...♖h8 39.♕g3† ♔f8 40.♗xh6†! ♖xh6 41.♕g8 mate) 39.♕xh6† ♔g8 40.exf6 ♕f8 41.♕g5† ♔h8 42.♕h5† ♔g8 43.♗h6!+– ✓ And the bishop manoeuvre to g7 decides the game – a much better use than sacrificing itself for a mere knight. **37.♗a3! ✓ ♕d7 38.exf6+–**

1063. Anatoly Karpov – Vladimir Kramnik, Monaco (blindfold) 1997
22...♘e4! 22...♘g4 23.♖g2 and the knight has to retreat. **23.fxe4** 23.♖g2–+ drops the f3-pawn. **23...♖xf2 24.♔xf2 ♕xh2†** ✓ The position can be evaluated as generally winning, due to White's horrible coordination, so you don't need to see further. **25.♔e1** 25.♔f1 ♕h1† 26.♔f2 ♖f8† mates. **25...♖f8!–+** Kramnik played 25...♕xg3† 26.♔d2 d4? (The tricky 26...♖c8! also seems to win. Serious kudos if you could evaluate this position as winning!) 27.♔c2 ♕g2? (27...d3†=) 28.♘c3 d3† 29.♔b1+– White was winning, even though the game ended 0–1. After the better 25th move, Black prepares 26...♘f3† 27.♗xf3 ♖xf3, mating. There is no way out, as **26.♔d2 ♘c4† 27.♔d3 dxe4†** picks up the bishop on e2 with a winning advantage.

1064. Levon Aronian – Anatoly Karpov, Hoogeveen 2003
27.♗e7! ♕c7 The bishop can't be taken: 27...♖xe7 28.♖d8†+– ✓ And 27...♘c6 28.♗xf6 gxf6 29.♘d7+– ✓ sets up forks and a dangerous attack (and 29.♘xc6 is also good enough for a winning advantage). **28.♗xf6 gxf6 29.♕e4!** Black cannot defend against the attack without heavy material losses. 29.♘g4+– is also good for White (full points for this too). **29...♖a7** 29...♕xe5 30.♕xa8+– ✓ **30.♘g4! ✓ ♔g7 31.♕e3!** There are other ways to win as well. **31...♖h8 32.♖d8! 1–0**

1065. Anatoly Karpov – Mihajlo Stojanovic, Valjevo 2007
22.♕h4! ♘xc6 22...h6 23.♘f6! (23.♖g6 ♘xc6 24.♖xh6† is also quite strong, but not clearly winning after 24...♔g8±) 23...♗e7 The only move that defends against the immediate mate. There are now three ways to win and you have to have seen one of them to get full points. a) 24.♖xg7 ♔xg7 25.♘xe7 ♖xe7 26.♘h5† ♔f7 27.♕f6† ♔e8 28.♕h8† ♔d7 29.♘f6† ♔d6 30.♕xc8+– b) 24.♘xe7 ♖xe7 25.♖xg7 transposing to 24.♖xg7 (or 25.♘g8 ♕xg8 26.♕xe7+–). c) 24.♘e5! ♗xf6 25.♘f7† ♔h7 26.♕h5 with a winning attack. **23.♘f6!! h6** 23...gxf6 24.♕xf6† ♗g7 25.♕xg7 mate ✓ **24.♕xh6†! gxh6 25.♖g8 mate** ✓

Garry Kasparov

This is the essential element that cannot be measured by any analysis or device, and I believe it's at the heart of success in all things: the power of intuition and the ability to harness and use it like a master.

1066. Garry Kasparov – Florin Gheorghiu, Moscow 1982
20.♖e1! ♗d6 20...♗f6 21.♖e4+– ✓ and the queen is trapped. 20...♖he8 21.♖de5 (or 21.♖f5 winning the pawn on f7 as in the main line) 21...♕f6 loses to 22.♕e4+– ✓ and other moves, as the bishop will soon be lost regardless. **21.♖f5! ♕c4 22.♖e4!** 22.♘d2? ♖he8!∓ **22...♕b5 23.♖xf7†+–** ✓ This position was also reached in Yakovich – Åkesson 16 years later!

1067. Garry Kasparov – Viktor Korchnoi, London (1) 1983
33...♖xd4 34.cxd4 ♘xa4! 35.♖xa4 35.♗xa4 b5–+ **35...♖xb5 36.♖a7† ♔d6!∓** ✓ Black has good winning chances and won the game. Less strong is the passive 36...♔f6?!∓. Endgames are generally more about activity than protecting some irrelevant pawn on the wing.

1068. Garry Kasparov – Stuart Conquest, London/New York (simul) 1984
24.♘b7! White diverts the black knight from its control over the e4-square. a) 24.♘b3? has the same idea, but allows Black a few checks with the knights: 24...♘xb3 25.♖e4 ♘c1† 26.♔e3 ♘c2† 27.♔f2 ♘d3† 28.♔g3 ♗h7 And now Black is better, since he protects the e5-square. b) 24.f4!? threatens mate, but after 24...♔xf4 25.♖f3† ♔e4 there is nothing killing, though White has strong compensation. c) 24.♖e5†? ♔f4 25.♖xc5 ♘d3!∓ and Black threatens both rooks – the one on h1 with 26...♖he8† 27.♔d2 ♘f2†. **24...♖d4** 24...♘xb7 25.♖e4! ✓ and mating after 25...♗h7 26.♗h3† ♔g6 27.♘e5 mate. **25.♔f2!** Or 25.f4 ♔xf4 26.♖f3† ♔e4 27.♘xc5† ♔d5 when White doesn't win a piece, but gets an exchange with 28.♘a5 ♔xc5 29.♘b3† ♔d5 30.♘xd4+–. 25.♘xc5?! ♖xc4 26.♔f2 ♖xc5 27.♖e4 threatens mate, but White only has a positional edge after 27...♗h7 28.♖xb4±. **24...♖xc4** 25...♘xb7 26.♔g3! ✓ ♗h7 27.♗h3† ♔g6 28.♘e5 is mate. Also fine is 26.♔g3+– as, to start with, Black must give up a rook to protect against mate. 26.♘d6† ♔f4 27.♘xc4± is not as strong.

1069. Hannu Wegner – Garry Kasparov, Hamburg (simul) 1987
18...♗xa4 19.♕xa4 ♘c3! The double threat of ...♘xa4 and ...♖d1† picking up the h1-rook forces White to give up the a1-rook. **20.bxc3 ♕xc3† 21.♔e2 ♕xa1** ✓ With the king on e2, it is Black who would have the initiative even if he had given up the exchange. But being material up, Black is totally winning and the game ended after only two more moves.

1070. Alexander Beliavsky – Garry Kasparov, Belfort 1988
Black must defend against a rook invasion on d7. **21...♗h6†!** 21...♕c8? 22.♖dd7+– is a complete failure. But 21...g5!? also protects against the attack while maintaining an advantage: 22.♕xg5 (22.♘xg5 ♕g6–+) 22...♕g6 23.♕xg6 hxg6∓ White may get three pawns for the piece, but still has a long fight ahead (full points). **22.♔b1** 22.♕xh6? ♕xe7–+ ✓ **22...♖d8!** Continuing the counterattacking type of defence. 22...♕c6!? is also winning (full points) due to 23.♕xh6 ♕e4† with smothered mate: 24.♔a1 ♘c2† 25.♔b1 ♘a3† 26.♔a1 ♕b1† 27.♖xb1 ♘c2 mate. But not 22...g5? 23.♖xe8 gxh4 24.♖xa8 ♖xa8 25.a3 ♘c6 26.♖d6 and White wins back the piece with equality. **23.♖d6** 23.♖xe8 ♖xd1 mate ✓ The game move seems to trap the queen, but it escapes due to the back-rank mate. **23...♕c6! 24.a3** 24.♕xh6 ♕e4† ✓ with mate. **24...♖xd6 25.exd6 ♕xd6!** Moving the threatened piece with 25...♘d5∓ is less good, but worth full points if you saw it from the starting position. **26.axb4 cxb4** ✓ Black is a pawn up, and has the much safer king – so it's winning. The game finished soon. **27.♕e4 b3** Showing the weakness of the white king. **28.♘d4 ♖f4 29.♕a8† ♗f8 0–1** White's attack is over, and several pieces are hanging.

1071. Garry Kasparov – Ilya Smirin, Moscow 1988
39.♖xh6! 39.♖g6? ♕c5† 40.♔h2 ♖c2† 41.♗g2 ♖f2–+ **39...♗xh6** 39...♕c5† 40.♔h1! ♖c1 41.♗e6 mate ✓ **40.♗e6† ♔h8 41.♕f6† 1–0** Black is mated: 41...♔h7 42.♕f7† ♗g7 43.♗f5† ♔h8 44.♕h5† ♔g8 45.♗e6† ♔f8 46.♕f7 mate ✓

1072. Garry Kasparov – Valery Salov, Barcelona 1989
23.c6! 23.♕f6!? ♖f8 24.♕g7 is *almost* winning, with the plan of doubling on the e-file. However: 24...dxc5 25.♖e3 ♖d3! is an important defensive idea that is easy to miss. 26.♖xd3 ♕xb6 27.♖e1 ♕f6 28.♖xe7† ♕xe7 29.♖e3 ♗e4! 30.♕xe7† ♔xe7 31.♖xe4†± White may look winning, but rook endings are tricky. **23...♗xc6** 23...♗c8 24.♕f6+– and the pressure on e7 lets White pick up the kingside pawns to start with. (Other moves should also win, for instance 24.♘d5 ♗xe6 25.♘xc7† ♔f7 26.♘xe6+–.) **24.♖ac1!** ✓ The pressure on the black bishops forces Black to give back some material, leaving White with a winning attack for little investment. **24...♖d7 25.♘xd7** Or 25.♕e3+–. **25...♕xd7 26.♕c4 1–0** White's attack is too much for Black to handle.

1073. Garry Kasparov – Vassily Ivanchuk, Manila (ol) 1992
39.f4?! ♔e7! and 39.♗e2?! ♔e7! do not win. **39.♖d7!!** Preventing ...♔e7 which would break the pin that is supposed to win a piece. White is threatening f2-f4. **39...g5!?** 39...♔g7 40.♗xe6!+– ✓ (but not 40.f4? ♘c2!= which is a beautiful trick) **40.♗e2! ♘xe2** 40...♖e1 41.♗xh5+– ✓ Threatening mate and the knight. **41.♖xd1+–** ✓

1074. Garry Kasparov – Viswanathan Anand, Linares 1993
28.e5! 28.♗xf4 ♕xf4 gives White a dominant position, but not a winning one. **28...♕f5** a) 28...♕xe5 loses the rook: 29.♗xf7† ♖xf7 30.♖d8† ♔h7 31.♕xf7+– ✓ b) 28...♖xd5 29.exf6 ♖xd3 30.♕c2 and White wins the knight or exchange and thus gains a decisive material advantage. c) 28...♘e2† 29.♔h1! ♕e7 (29...♕h4 30.e6!+– ✓) 30.♗xf7† (30.e6 should be good enough as well) 30...♕xf7 31.e6+– ✓ **29.♗xf4 ♕xf4 30.e6!** ✓ White's initiative is crushing. Weaker is: 30.♖f3?! ♕xe5 31.♗xf7† ♔h7± **30...♖d8** 30...♖e7 31.exf7†+– and White has several ways to defend against the back-rank mate. **31.e7 ♖e8 32.g3** 32.♖f3, as in the game, is also good. **32...♕f6 33.♖f3** If this position had been reached, Black could have resigned in good conscience.

1075. Garry Kasparov – Nigel Short, London (7) 1993
34.♘g4! 34.f6 ♘xf6 35.♗c2† ♔g8 36.♕xh6 ♖e8= The game move prepares: 35.f6 (the threat of 36.♗c2† forces Black to take) 35...♗xf6 36.♕xh6† ♘xh6 37.♘xf6† ♔g7 38.♘xd7 ♖d8 39.♖e7!+– **34...♔g7**
a) 34...♕d8 35.f6! ✓ (35.♗xf7?! ♕g5±) 35...♗xf6 (35...♘xf6 36.♗c2† or 36.♕xh6† ♔g8 37.♗c2+–) 36.♗xf7+– (or the flashy 36.♗c2† ♔g7 37.♖e6!+–)
b) 34...♗f6 runs immediately into: 35.♕xh6†! ✓
35.♘xh6! ✓ **♗f6** 35...♘xh6 36.♕g5† ♔h7 37.♗c2! (less strong is 37.f6 ♗xf2†! 38.♔xf2 ♕f5† 39.♕xf5† ♘xf5 40.♗c2 ♔g6 41.g4±) 37...♗f6 (37...f6 38.♕g6† drops the knight) 38.♕xf6 ♖e8 39.♖e6!! The only move that's clearly winning. 39...fxe6 40.fxe6†+– **36.♗xf7! 1–0** 36.♘g4 is also good enough. The game move provoked resignation, as Black is mated after 36...♖xf7 37.♕g6†.

1076. Garry Kasparov – Evgeny Bareev, Novgorod 1994
a) 35.♖g6† fxg6 36.♕xg6† ♔f8 37.♕xh6† is only a draw as long as Black doesn't voluntarily step into a check from the bishop: 37...♔f7 38.♕g6† ♔f8 39.♗xg5 ♘xc5=
b) The straightforward 35.♖xh6 ♔xh6 36.♗xg5† ♔g7 37.h6† ♔f8 (37...♔g8? 38.♗xd8 ♕xd8 39.♕g4†+– and White queens) 38.♕h7 does not win: 38...♔e8!= 39.♕g8†? ♘f8 40.h7 ♖d1† 41.♔h2 e4† 42.g3 ♕xc5 Defending the knight on f8 and creating a counter-threat against f2. It is Black who wins. (White can improve in this variation with 38.♗h4!, which should win, however it's very difficult to see and calculate. The idea is to attack g7 and e7 with the queen and promote the h-pawn. Congrats if you saw this!)
c) White's position is very good, so even passing over the move wins! Let's try 35.g3 and the logical answer 35...bxc5: 36.♖xh6! ♔xh6 37.♗xg5† ♔g7 38.h6† ♔f8 39.♕h7 ♔e8 40.♕g8† ♘f8 41.h7 ♖d1† 42.♔h2+– And compared to the previous variation, Black's queen doesn't have the c5-square.
d) But nevertheless, White needs a forceful move to break through:
35.♗xg5! hxg5 36.♕xg5† ♔f8 37.h6 ✓ Or 37.c6 ♕xd6 38.♕xd8† ♔g7 39.♕xd7+–. **37...bxc5 38.h7** White queens and mates.

1077. Garry Kasparov – Joel Lautier, Moscow (ol) 1994
28.♘g4!! ♕e6 28...fxg4 29.♕xe5† ♖xe5 30.♖xe5+– ✓ and 28...♖xg5 29.♘xe5 (29.♖xg5?? ♕c7–+) 29...♖xe5 (29...♖xh5 30.♖d8† ♘g8 31.♘xf7 mate ✓) 30.♖xg5+– ✓ both give White an extra exchange. **29.♖d8!** ✓ White threatens mate on g7. 29.♕f6†?! ♕xf6 30.♘xf6 ♖f8 31.♘xe4± **29...♘g6** 29...♕g6 30.♕xe7 fxg4 31.♖xg8† with mate in two. **30.♖xg8† ♔xg8 31.♕d8† ♘f8 32.♖g5†+–** Or also fine are other moves such as 32.♘f6†+–.

1078. Jeroen Piket – Garry Kasparov, Linares 1997

39...e3! 39...♗g5 40.♗xg5 ♖xg5 41.♖f4 ♕xg3 42.♖f8†! leads to stalemate. **40.♖e6** The e-pawn decides after 40.♖xh6 e2–+ and 40.♖xd6 e2! (or 40...♗g5 41.♗xg5 ♕f3†! 42.♔h2 ♕f2† 43.♕xf2 exf2 44.♖f6 ♖f7–+) 41.♖d8† ♔f7 42.♕c7† ♔g6 ✓ when White has only a few more checks. **40...♖c7!** Kasparov played: 40...♕f3†? 41.♔g1 (41.♔h2?? ♕f2† 42.♕xf2 exf2 43.♖f6 ♖f7–+) 41...♖f7 (41...♖xg3† 42.♗xg3 ♕xg3† 43.♔f1 and Black has only a perpetual) 42.♕g6† ♗g7 43.♖e8† ♖f8 44.♖xf8† This was about equal and ended in a draw.

The rook move overloads White's queen, but White has several moves, including two different checks on g6.

a) 41.♕xc7 ♕f3† 42.♔h2 ♕g2 mate ✓

b) 41.♕e4 ♕d1† (41...♕xe4† also wins after 42.♖xe4 ♖c2–+) 42.♔h2 ♖c2† 43.♔xh3 ♕f1†! 44.♔g4 ♖c4–+

c) 41.♖e8† ♗f8 42.♕e4 And in contrast to the immediate 41.♕e4, Black can't win by exchanging on e4, but he still has the same pin on c4: 42...♕d1† 43.♔h2 ♖c2† 44.♔xh3 ♕f1† 45.♔g4 ♖c4–+

d) 41.♕g6† ♕xg6 42.♖xg6† ♔h7 (or 42...♗g7–+) 43.♖e6 ♖c2–+

e) **41.♖g6†** The move that makes it easy to avoid calculating the rook sacrifice on c7. **41...♗g7** 41...♔f8 42.♖f6† ♖f7! also wins and gives full points. 43.♖xf7† (43.♖xh6 ♕f3† [or 43...♖f1† 44.♔h2 ♖f2†–+] 44.♔h2 ♕f2† 45.♕xf2 exf2–+) 43...♔xf7 44.♕c7† ♔g8 45.♕d8† ♗f8 46.♕g5† ♕xg5 47.♗xg5 e2–+ **42.♖xg4 ♖xc2–+** ✓ White can win the bishop on g7, but it doesn't help when he has to give up the rook for the e-pawn.

1079. Garry Kasparov – Vladimir Kramnik, Frankfurt 2000

31...♕g4† is an immediate repetition if Black wants. White can't run with the king, for example: 32.♔f1 ♕h3† 33.♔e2 ♖c2†–+ Kramnik started with 31...♗g5 but soon repeated moves. Note that 32.♘d3 ♕xd3? is losing for Black. The attack has slowed down and White has time for 33.a7. But Black should not be satisfied with a draw. **31...♖c5!** ✓ Preventing the queen from coming home to defend the kingside, and threatening to attack f2 with the queen, or take the pawn straight away. Black can also start with a queen check before the rook move. **32.♘d3** 32.♕xc5 dxc5 33.♘c2 ♕g4† 34.♔f1 ♕f3–+ and White's king can't escape from mate. **32...♕xd3 33.♕xc5 ♖xc5–+** Black is material up and just needs to keep enough pressure on the white king to prevent the promotion of the a-pawn. **34.♖b2** 34.a7 ♗xf2† and Black wins. **34...♗xf2† 35.♖xf2 ♕d4 36.♖a3** 36.♖aa2 ♖c1† 37.♔g2 ♕d1–+ **36...♖c2** 36...♖c7 should also be winning. **37.♖af3 ♕a1†** Or 37...♖xf2 first. **38.♔g2 ♖xf2† 39.♖xf2 ♕xa6–+** Black should be able to convert.

1080. Garry Kasparov – Yevgeniy Vladimirov, Batumi (rapid) 2001

23.♘h7! Not 23.♘xf7? ♗xd5!∓ or 23.♘e6†? fxe6 24.♕h6† ♔f7 25.♕h7† ♔e8 26.♕xg6† ♔d8 27.♗xe6 ♕e8–+. **23...♗xd5** 23...♔xh7 24.♕h6† ♔g8 25.♕xg6† ♔h8 26.♕xh5† ♔g8 27.♖e3+– ✓ (the rook lift can also be delayed with 27.♗h6+–) **24.♕h6† ♔g8 25.♗g5** After 25.exd5+– (full points), Black must part with an exchange, since 25...♖fd8 26.♗g5 leaves him too exposed. **25...♗xg5** Black resigned after playing 25...♗xe4. **26.hxg5** ✓ **f5+–** White captures on f8 now or after the check on g6.

1081. Francisco Vallejo Pons – Garry Kasparov, Linares 2005
27...♗xf2†! A discovered attack, but it's not that simple. **28.♕xf2** 28.♖xf2 ♕xa5–+ **28...♕xa5 29.♘xe6 ♗xg2!** 29...♗d3?! 30.♘xf8 ♗xf1 31.♕xf1∓ **30.♔xg2** 30.♘xf8 ♗xf1 ✓ and 30.♕xg2 ♕b6† ✓ both win for Black (or 30...fxe6). **30...♕a8†** Or 30...♕d5†. **31.♔g1 fxe6–+** ✓

1082. Michael Adams – Garry Kasparov, Linares 2005
25...♘c2! 25...♕c2 26.♕xc2 ♘xc2–+ is also good, but not immediately winning (1 point). **26.♔b1** One main point is: 26.♘xc5 ♖xb2 mate ✓ The other point is allowing the queen to come closer to the attack: **26...♕a3 0–1** White had had enough, since there is no defence to Black's threats: 27.♕xc2 ♖fc8 28.♕d2 ♕xa4 and the b2-pawn will fall with devastating consequences.

Alexander Khalifman

To make any move in a position, merely so as not to spoil anything – such a purely practical approach is not for me!

1083. Alexander Khalifman – Elizbar Ubilava, Kuibyshev 1986
32.♗xf7†! ♔h7 32...♖xf7 33.♘xe5 ♕f6 34.♕xf7† (or 34.♘xf7+–) 34...♕xf7 35.♘xf7 ♔xf7 36.♖c7†+– ✓ **33.♖d1±** (1–0, 40 moves) Slightly stronger than the game continuation is 33.g4!+–, keeping up the attack; a pawn is only a pawn, but a strong attack can end the game. White is threatening 34.♘g5, thus forcing Black to further weaken his king position by moving the g-pawn. 33...♗xe4 34.♘g5† hxg5 35.♕h3 mate is one important point.

1084. Alexander Khalifman – Sergey Dolmatov, Minsk 1987
30...b5! Weaving a mating net, starting with a threat of 31...b4† 32.♔a4 ♖xa2 mate. **31.♖a1** 31.b4 ♖8c3 mate ✓ **31...♗f5!** The bishop needs to be rerouted to the e8-a4 diagonal. To do so with a threat on the rook is of course nice. **32.♖g2 ♗xe6** Protecting the d5-pawn on the way! **33.f4** White tries to exchange the rook on c2. 33.♖g6 is met by: 33...♗d7–+ ✓ **33...b4†** 33...♖c1 34.♖xc1 ♖xc1 is much better for Black, but mate is even better. **34.♔a4 ♖2c5!** ✓ The threat of ...♗d7 mate is decisive. Or similarly 34...♖8c5–+ or 34...♖a8–+, but not 34...♗d7† 35.♔xa5 when White picks up the pawn on b4 and Black only has a perpetual.

1085. Alexander Khalifman – Michele Godena, Vienna 1996
29.♖xh6†! gxh6 29...♔g8 loses to many things, for instance 30.♖h7 ♖f7 31.♗xf6 ♕c7 32.♕h5. **30.♕xh6† ♔g8 31.♕g6† ♔h8 32.♗xf6† ♖xf6 33.♕xf6† ♔g8 34.♕g6† ♔f8** 34...♔h8 35.f6+– ✓ ♕c7 36.f7 (or 36.♗c2+–) 36...♖f8 37.♕h6 mate **35.f6!** ✓ With a winning attack. The game concluded: **35...♕c7 36.♕h6† ♔g8 37.♕g5† ♔h7 38.♕xc5?!** 38.♗c2† is better. **38...♖e5?** 38...♕e5! would have given Black hope. **39.♕f8 ♖h5 40.♗c2† 1–0** Mate will be delivered.

Vladimir Kramnik

Chess is so deep, I simply feel lost.
Spiegel Online (2004)

1086. Vladimir Kramnik – Joerg Schneider, Mainz (simul) 2001
35.♕f4! Black can't defend d6 in a good way. The game instead went 35.e5? ♕xe5 36.♕xe5† dxe5 37.d6† ♔e6 38.♘c7† ♔xd6 39.♘xa8. It's a forcing line, winning material, but Black can get counterplay with the c-pawn after: 39...♘d5! (which was not played) 40.♖a1∞ **35...♕e5** 35...♖ad8 does not help: 36.♘xd6 ♖xd6 37.e5+– ✓ **36.♕xe5† dxe5 37.d6† ♔e6** 37...♔d7! is a better defence, but 38.♖xf6± ✓ still gives White winning chances. **38.♘c7† ♔xd6 39.♘xa8+–** ✓ The pawn on e4 makes a great difference compared to the game.

1087. Vladimir Kramnik – Teimour Radjabov, Linares 2003
23.♖h3! 23.fxe6?! fxe5= **23...fxe5 24.♖xh6 ♖f6** 24...exd4 is critical, but Black is busted after: 25.♕h7† (or 25.♖d3 ♕a5 26.a3+–) 25...♔f7 26.f6!+– ✓ **25.♕e8†** Or 25.♕h7† ♔f7 26.fxe6† ♗xe6 27.♖xf6† ♔xf6 28.♖f1†+–. **25...♖f8 26.♖h8† ♔xh8 27.♕xf8† 1–0** Black resigned in view of 27...♔h7 28.♖d3 when he would be hopelessly lost.

1088. Vladimir Akopian – Vladimir Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 2004
29.♖h7!! ♕xb2† White's main point is 29...♔xh7 30.♘xe7† ♔h6 31.♖h1† ♗h5 32.g4 ✓ mating (32.♘f5† and 32.f4 are also winning). And 29...♘xb2 allows White to collect a piece: 30.♖xg7† ♔f8 31.♕xb2+– ✓ **30.♕xb2 ♘xb2 31.♖xg7† ♔f8 32.♖h1 1–0** Or 32.♔xb2 e6 and Black gets his piece back, but a pawn and an attack would still be good enough for White to win the game here.

1089. Vladimir Kramnik – Loek van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2004
37.♖h8! f6? 37...♖e3†! ✓ 38.♕xe3 (38.♘xe3 seems to be less practical since White's attack is not dangerous. 38...♔xh8 39.♖a8†?! ♔g7 40.♘g4 is met by 40...g5±.) 38...♕xe3† 39.♘xe3 ♔xh8 40.♔xh4+– This is the toughest defence. White still has difficulties to overcome in order to get the full point. Easier is 37...♔xh8 38.♕h6† ♔g8 39.♖a8† ✓ with mate. **38.♕h6†!** ✓ Instead the game continued 38.♖xh4? ♖xh4† 39.♔xh4 when 39...b4!± would have activated the rook and given Black good chances to hold. **38...♔f7 39.♖h7†!** Or 39.♕h7†! ♔e6 40.♕xg6+– or 39.♖f1!?+–. **39...♔e6** 39...♔e8 40.♕xg6†+– **40.♕xg6+–** The knight is indirectly protected so White is a piece up, and has very dangerous threats.

1090. Peter Leko – Vladimir Kramnik, Linares 2004
32...♖h5! 32...♕c2 33.♔f1= **33.♖7d6** 33.♕g4 ♖g5 ✓ 34.♕h3 and Black wins by moving the bishop. Also not saving White is: 33.♖1d6 ♕xd6! 34.♕xh5 ♕xd7–+ ✓ **33...♗f6!** 33...♖xh3 34.♖xg6 hxg6 35.gxh3= **34.♖xf6 ♕c2!!** 34...♖xh3?! 35.♖xg6 ♖xg6 36.♖d8† ♔g7 37.♖d7† ♔f8 38.♖d4 and White will make a draw. **35.♕xh5 ♕xe2** ✓ A winning double attack. **36.g4 ♕f2† 0–1**

1091. Vladimir Kramnik – Peter Svidler, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2004
26.♕xe4! Not 26.♘xb8? ♗xf2† 27.♖xf2 ♕xc1†–+ or 26.♖xc5 ♘xc5 27.♘xb8 ♖xb8∓. **26...♖xb5 27.♕c4!** Kramnik included 27.h4 ♕d2 but it made no difference after 28.♕c4!± (1–0, 43 moves). 27.a4? wins a piece but 27...♗xf2† 28.♔xf2 ♖b2† 29.♔g1 f5!∓ forces White to give it back. **27...♗xa3 28.♕xb5 ♗xc1 29.♕c5!±** White has a double threat. **29...♗b2 30.♘e7† ♔h8 31.♘g6† hxg6 32.♕xf8†±** ✓

1092. Vladimir Kramnik – Peter Leko, Brissago (8) 2004
This game features perhaps the best-known example of opening preparation that turned out to be directly losing. **26...♗xf3! 27.♘xf3 ♘e4†** 27...♘g4† is also winning. **28.♔e1 ♘xc3! 29.bxc3 ♕xc3†–+** ✓ (0–1, 32 moves)

1093. Vladimir Kramnik – Teimour Radjabov, London 2013
Black is a pawn up, but his pieces are uncoordinated at the moment, so it is time to strike. **29.e5!** 29.♖b2?! ♕a3 30.e5 ♗h6!± **29...♘d5** 29...♘h5 30.g4+– traps the knight. **30.♖b2! ♕a4** 30...♕a3 31.♖b8 and the rook on e8 is unprotected since the knight has been forced to move from f6: 31...♕xc1 32.♖xe8† ♗f8 33.♖xc1+– ✓ **31.♗xd5! ♖xd5 32.♖b4!** 32.♘xe7†?? ♖xe7 33.♕c8† ♖e8–+ **32...♕a2 33.♘xe7†! ♔h8** 33...♖xe7 34.♕c8† ♗f8 35.♖b8+– ✓ **34.♘xd5+–** ✓

1094. Viswanathan Anand – Predrag Nikolic, Groningen (2) 1997
27.♖xd7! 27.♖b4?! ♕xb4 28.♗xb4 ♘xc7 29.♘d2!± **27...♔xd7 28.♖b4!** Winning the queen. **28...♕xb4** After 28...♕f5 29.g4+– the queen is trapped. **29.♗xb4+–** ✓

> **Viswanathan Anand** (on Kasparov's 1996 match victory over Deep Blue)
>
> *I'll take my five positions per second any day, thank you.*

1095. Friso Nijboer – Viswanathan Anand, Wijk aan Zee 1998
17...♖xc3! 18.♗d3 a) 18.bxc3 ♘d5 19.♖xd5 (19.♕h3 ♘xc3†–+) 19...exd5!–+ ✓ The bishop protects h3 (19...♕xd5?? 20.♕h3 is mating). b) 18.♕xc3 ♕xc3 19.bxc3 is simply winning for Black, since White no longer has any threats on the h-file. **18...♖xd3** Or 18...♗a4–+. **19.cxd3 ♘g4 20.♕h3 ♘h6–+** Black defends and wins, since he can afford to give back one piece.

1096. Viswanathan Anand – Alexei Shirov, Monaco (rapid) 2000
22.f6! 22.♕g4 f6± **22...gxf6 23.♗xh7†** Also full points for the following line: 23.♕g4† ♔h8 24.♗xh7 fxe5 25.♕h5! f6 26.♗g6† (or similarly 26.♗f5†) 26...♕h7 (26...♔g8 27.♖h3!+–) 27.♗xh7+– **23...♔xh7 24.♕h5† ♔g8 25.♕g4†!** 25.♖h3 ♘e4 leads nowhere. **25...♔h7 26.♗g5!** ✓ 26.♖hf1! fxe5 27.♘f5!+– is also enough for full points. **26...♖h8 27.♗xf6 ♕f8 28.♘f3!** Bringing the knight into the attack decides the game. Instead, the game went 28.♕h5†?! ♕h6 29.♕xh6† ♔xh6 30.♗xh8 ♘e4±, giving Shirov the opportunity to eventually turn things around, and win. **28...♔h6 29.♘g5 ♖g8 30.♕f4!+–**

1097. Viswanathan Anand – Judit Polgar, Leon (advanced 1) 2000
24.♖e1! Other moves are good enough for an advantage, but pinning the e-pawn steps up the pressure and wins. The threat is to take on f5. Not 24.♘f6†? ♗xf6 25.♗xf6 ♖xd6±. **24...♖xd6** 24...♕f7 25.♗xf5 ♖xd6 transposes and 24...exd5? runs into: 25.♖xe8 ♕xe8 26.♕g7 mate ✓ **25.♗xf5!** White threatens to take on g6 and Black can't defend. **25...♕f7 26.♗xg6! ♘xg6** 26...hxg6 27.♕h8 mate **27.f5!** ✓ **e5 28.♗xe5?!** Better would have been 28.♖xe5! ♖xe5 29.♗xe5 ♗xd5 30.cxd5 ♖xd5 31.♖xg6† and wins. **28...♗xd5 29.cxd5 ♖xe5 30.♖xe5+–** White failed to convert his winning advantage.

1098. Viswanathan Anand – Evgeny Bareev, Shenyang (2) 2000
32.g4! Preparing to dislodge the king from e6, giving White the needed time to get the pawns sufficiently advanced. 32.b5? ♖cd8 33.c6 looks like a tactical solution, but it fails: 33...♖xd5 34.♖xd5 ♖xd5 35.c7 ♔d7 36.♔xd5 e3!–+ Another inferior option is: 32.♘e3 ♖xd4† 33.♔xd4 ♖d8† 34.♔c4 ♖d3∓ **32...♖g7** 32...♖f7 33.b5+– **33.♘e3** ✓ A possible way, but not as good, is 33.h3 h5 34.g5. The idea is that 34...♖d7 35.♖d1 ♖cd8 36.c6!± works for White when there is a second passed pawn; White gets a good queen ending. But 33.g5? ♖d7! still gives White problems. **33...fxg4 34.♖d6†** 34.♖xe4† also wins. **34...♔f7 35.♘f5!** Winning the exchange, when the queenside pawns and the active pieces will decide. The game ended quickly: **35...e3 36.♘xg7 ♖e8 37.♘xe8 e2 38.♖f6† 1–0**

1099. Sergey Karjakin – Viswanathan Anand, Wijk aan Zee 2006
25...♖c8! 26.♕xe7 ♘c4! 26...♖xa3? 27.bxa3 ♕xa3 (27...♘c4 28.♕a7+–) 28.♕a7!+– After the knight move, an intuitive evaluation that Black's attack is promising seems reasonable, however there is also counterplay to take care of. **27.g6!** 27.♗c5 ♖xa3! 28.♗xa3 (28.bxa3 ♖xc5! with a winning attack, but not 28...♘xa3†? 29.♔c1! ♖xc5† 30.♔d2 ♖c2† 31.♔e3±) 28...♘xa3† 29.bxa3 ♕xa3 Black's attack is decisive. 30.♖d2 b2 (or 30...♖a8–+) 31.♖xb2 ♕d3† 32.♔a1 ♖a8† 33.♖a2 ♕c3† 34.♔b1 ♖b8† With mate. **27...hxg6!** ✓ Black loses after 27...fxg6? 28.f6 and 27...♖xa3? 28.gxf7† ♔h8 29.f8=♕† ♖xf8 30.bxa3. Without the rook on c8, White can defend. **28.fxg6 ♘xa3†** Also winning is: 28...♖xa3 29.♕xf7† (29.gxf7† ♔h7!–+) 29...♔h8 30.bxa3 ♘xa3†–+ **29.bxa3 ♖xa3 30.gxf7† ♔h7!–+** The point behind exchanging on g6.

1100. Lazaro Bruzon – Viswanathan Anand, Leon 2006
20.♕h5! ♗xe5 20...♘xe5 21.♕xh7† (or 21.fxe5 h6 22.exd6+–) 21...♔f7 22.fxe5 ♖h8 23.exd6 ♖xh7 (23...♕d7 24.♕xh8 ♖xh8 25.♖xh8+–) 24.dxc7+– **21.fxe5!** Not 21.♕xh7†? ♔f7 22.fxe5 ♖h8–+ or 21.dxe5?! ♕b6†! 22.♔h1 ♔f7= when Black is ready to capture the knight if it goes to c4. **21...♕xc2** 21...♔f7 22.♘c4! ✓ The only winning move, protecting against ...♕xc2 and threatening ♘d6† followed by taking on c8. (22.♕xh7? ♖h8–+) 22...♖cd8 23.g4+– **22.♕xh7†** ✓ **♔f7 23.♖g3!** 23.♘c4!? ♖xc4 is not as clear, and White still needs to find 24.♖g3!±. And 23.♖h6?! ♘e7 24.♖f6† ♔e8 25.♕xg7 ♖g8!± also fails to win. **23...♕xd2** 23...♕xb2 24.♕xg6† (24.♖xg6? ♕xd4† 25.♔h1 ♕xe5–+) 24...♔e7 25.♕g5†! ♔e8 26.♕h5†! ♔d8 27.♖xg7 ♕xd4† 28.♔h1 ♖c7 29.♕h4† (29.♕g5† is the same) 29...♔c8 30.♖xc7† ♔xc7 31.♕e7†+– Yes, you need to find all these moves to get a winning position (but not before playing the first move). It's easier after: 23...♖g8 24.♕xg6† ♔e7 25.♗c1+– **24.♖xg6!+–** 24.♕xg6†? ♔e7 25.♕xg7†? (25.♕h7 ♖f7 26.♖xg7 ♖cf8=) 25...♖f7∓ In the game White concluded his attack in the most efficient way: **24...♖g8 25.♖xe6! ♔xe6 26.♕xf5†! ♔e7 27.♕f7† ♔d8 28.e6! 1–0** It's mate on d7.

1101. Viswanathan Anand – Loek van Wely, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2007
20.gxf7†! ♔h8 20...♖xf7 21.♕xa8†+– ✓ **21.♖xg7!** 21.♕e6± **21...♔xg7** 21...♘xd5 22.♖xh7 mate ✓ **22.♖g1† ♔h8 23.♗h6!** Black cannot protect himself without massive material losses. **23...♘g4!?** 23...♖g8 fails to 24.fxg8=♕† ♖xg8 25.♕xg8†! ♘xg8 26.♗g7 mate ✓ and 23...♖xf7 24.♕xf7 ✓ is also plain lost. **24.♖xg4 ♖xf7 25.♕xa8†! 1–0** Not 25.♕xf7?? ♗g5†–+.

1102. Viswanathan Anand – Magnus Carlsen, Nice (blindfold) 2008
The pawn on c7 seems lost, but through powerful play it becomes the star. **27.c5!** 27.f3 ♖xc7 28.fxe4± **27...bxc5** 27...b5?! is simply bad, for instance: 28.a4 bxa4 29.b5+– **28.b5! cxb5** 28...♖xc7 29.b6+– ✓ **29.♘xb5+–** ✓ The powerhouse on c7 gives White a winning advantage. After 29...♖xa2 strongest is rerouting the bishop to h3 with 30.♗f1.

1103. Viswanathan Anand – Alexander Morozevich, Mainz (rapid) 2008
22.♗xf4! 22.♘h6† gxh6 23.♗xf4± when Black is not forced to take on f4. **22...exf4 23.♘h6†! ♔h8** 23...gxh6 24.♕g4† ♔h8 (24...♗g7 25.♘h5 with mate) 25.♕f5! ✓ To avoid mate, Black must give back the material. 25...♘f6 26.♕xf6† ♔g8 27.♕f5 f6 28.♘h5+– White still has a crushing attack. **24.♘xf7†** ✓ **♔g8 25.♗xh7†!** The game move 25.♘e4± led to victory later, but it is not sufficient for a clear win. However, 25.♖xe8 ♖xe8 26.♗xh7† and 25.♕d3 g6 26.♗b3 both win. **25...♔xh7 26.♘g5† ♔g8 27.♕b3†** Or 27.♖xe8 ♖xe8 28.♕b3†. **27...♔h8 28.♕f7+–** Black cannot put up a satisfactory defence.

1104. Viswanathan Anand – Peter Svidler, Moscow 2009
29.b4! f5 a) 29...♖c8 30.bxc5 ♕xc5 and one clear-cut way to win is: 31.♖exd4 ♕xc3 32.♖d8† ♖xd8 33.♖xd8† ♔g7 34.♕xb6+– b) 29...♖fd7 30.bxc5 ♕xc5 31.♕xf6† ✓ is mating (or 31.♖exd4 ♖xd4 32.♘e2+–). **30.bxc5!** 30.♖h4 ♖fd7± **30...fxe4 31.♕xf7 ♕xc5** Instead the game ended after: 31...♘f3† 32.♕xf3 1–0 **32.♕f6† ♔g8 33.♕xd8†+–** ✓

1105. Luke McShane – Viswanathan Anand, London 2013
19.♗d3! ♕h5 Two alternatives:
a) 19...♘e5 20.♗xe5 ♕xe5 21.♘g5! (not 21.♘f6†?! gxf6 22.♕xb7 ♗d6± with some counterplay) 21...♕c7 (21...♕xg5 22.♕xb7+– and since Black's queen had to move, his counterplay is slower) 22.♗g6! fxg6 23.♘xe6+– White has a winning attack with ♖fe1 and ♕d5/g4.
b) 19...♕a5 20.♘g5!+– Double threat against b7 and f7. (Instead 20.♘f6†? gxf6 21.♕xb7 e5! gives Black a double threat: to capture the bishop and to defend the rook from b6, as the other knight on b8 isn't hanging anymore. 22.♕xa8 exf4∞)
20.♘f6†! gxf6 21.♕xb7 ✓ White is at least clearly better with the bishops and an extra exchange, although Black managed to turn around this rapid game.

1106. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Viswanathan Anand, Khanty-Mansiysk 2014
26...♘g4! 26...♖e2 27.h3∓ and Black can't take on h3. **27.♕c2** 27.h4 ♘e3 28.♗xe3 ♖xe3–+ ✓ White's kingside is falling apart. **27...c5!** Driving away one defender or another. **28.♘xc5** 28.♗c3 is met by 28...♘e3–+ ✓ or 28...♗xc3 29.bxc3 ♘e3–+. Nor does 28.♗e5 save White: 28...c4! 29.♘d4 ♗c5–+ **28...♖c8–+** ✓ Black wins a piece on c5. Also working is 28...♗xc5 29.♗xc5 ♖c8 followed by ...♖xc5. But note that after 30.♖d1 Black has to start by defending against the back-rank mate: 30...♘f6–+

1107. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave – Viswanathan Anand, Leuven (rapid) 2016
26...♘xf2!! 26...♖xf3 brings Black nothing: 27.♕xf3 ♘h4 28.♕b3± (or 28.♕a3±) **27.♔xf2 ♕h2†! 28.♔e3 ♕g2!** Keeping control over the second rank. Not 28...♖xf3† 29.♔xf3 ♕xh3† 30.♔e2 ♕xh6 31.♘f5!+– or 28...♕xh3 29.♘f5+–. **29.♕e2** With the queen on g2, White can't save himself with 29.♘f5 due to: 29...♖e8†–+ ✓ 29.♖f1 ♘e5! 30.♕e2 (30.♘xe5 ♖xf1 is simply crushing) 30...♖xf3† (or 30...♗xd4† 31.♘xd4 ♕xh3† 32.♔d2 ♕xh6† 33.♔c2 ♖xf1 34.♕xf1 ♕xg7 with a winning endgame advantage) 31.♖xf3 ♗xd4† 32.♔d2 ♘xf3† 33.♔d1 ♕xe2† Black has a winning endgame. **29...♖xf3†!** 29...♕xh3 is the only other decent move, but it offers merely a clear advantage. **30.♕xf3 ♗xd4† 31.♔xd4 ♕xf3–+**

Ruslan Ponomariov (on how to concentrate)

Drinking some water at a critical moment, when your lips are drying out from the tension, can really help.
Chess in Translation (2011)

1108. Ruslan Ponomariov – Jop Delemarre, Siofok 1996
21.♖a1! White instead gained a winning position after mutual mistakes: 21.♖c1!? ♕b2? 22.♘d1 (22.♘a4!+–) 22...♗e4 23.♕e3 c3† (23...♘xc2 24.♘xb2 ♘xe3 25.♔xe3 ♗xh1±) 24.♘exc3 ♕xc1†?! 25.♔xc1+– And he won some moves later. **21...♕b2 22.♖hc1!** White threatens 23.♘a4. Not 22.♖hb1? ♕xc2†∓. **22...♘xc2** a) 22...♗xc2 23.♖a2 ♕b3 (23...♘xa2 24.♖xc2+– ✓ and White takes the knight as well) 24.♖cxc2 ♘xc2 25.♖xc2+– ✓ b) Black can save his queen with 22...♘c6 but making a passive move when a piece down makes it a hopeless position. **23.♖a2** Or 23.♖ab1 or 23.♖cb1. **23...♘xd4† 24.♖xb2 ♘xf3† 25.♔e3** ✓ White is much better. Black will have to give up a pawn immediately to avoid losing the knight, and the queenside pawns cannot all be saved. **25...d4† 26.♔xf3 dxc3 27.♘xc3+–**

1109. Veselin Topalov – Ruslan Ponomariov, Sofia 2006
32.♘xf6!! 32.♗xd5? ♖xd5–+ (32...♕xa1? loses to both 33.♘xf6 ♗xf6 34.♗e4 and 33.♘g5 fxg5 34.♗e5† f6 35.♗e4) **32...♗xf6 33.d4!! ♕xa2** There is no other choice against the threat of 34.♗b1. **34.♖xa2+–** ✓ (1–0, 65 moves)

1110. Ruslan Ponomariov – Pavel Ponkratov, Berlin (blitz) 2015
31...e3†! 31...♗xe2 32.♔xe2 ♕f3†= **32.♔d3 ♗xe2†** Instead the game continued 32...♕f5†? 33.♔xe3? ♕f3† 34.♔d2 ♕xe2† (0–1, 64 moves). However, 33.♔c3! holds for White, due to the threat of ♘e7†. **33.♔xe2** Not taking the knight leaves Black a piece up. **33...♕f2† 34.♔d3 ♕d2† 35.♔e4 e2** White will run out of checks. **36.♘e7† ♔h8 37.♕e5† ♔h7 38.♕f5† ♔g7 39.♕e5† ♔f7–+** ✓

1111. Ruslan Ponomariov – Nigel Short, Madrid 2016
24.♖xg6†! All Black's minor pieces are on the queenside, so an all-out attack should be considered. Not 24.♗h3? ♕f7–+. **24...hxg6 25.♕xg6† ♔h8** White just needs one more piece in the attack, or to get the bishop to f6. **26.♗h3!** 26.♗g5 ♖f8= **26...♕h7** 26...♕e7 27.♗g5!+– ✓ (27.♗e6 ♘xc4 28.♗f7 is also winning) **27.♕f6†** 27.♕xe8† is also mating, but not as quickly (full points). **27...♔g8 28.♗e6†! ♖xe6 29.♕f8 mate** ✓

Rustam Kasimdzhanov

There can also be tactics that do not work, or tactics which are refuted by other tactics.
The Path to Tactical Strength (2007)

1112. Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Josep Lopez Martinez, Yerevan 1999
10.♗xe6! fxe6 10...♗b4 11.0–0! gives White a winning position (1–0, 41 moves), and the tempting 11.♗xf7†?! ♔xf7 12.e6†± is also quite good. **11.♘xe6 ♕xe5** 11...♕c6 12.♘d5!+– ✓ White's attack is winning. **12.♘c7†+–** ✓ Picking up the rook (or White could do the same thing after first exchanging queens).

1113. Valeriy Neverov – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Hoogeveen 1999
22...♘xc4! 23.e4?! 23.♘xc4 ♖b1 24.♕d2 ♗xc4∓ ✓ White has accepted the loss of a pawn, so it's not a critical variation – but it's still possible to be accurate. **23...♘xf4!** 23...♘xd2 and 23...♕d4† are clearly better for Black. **24.♘xc4 ♕d4†! 25.♘f2** After 25.♘ce3 one winning line is 25...♘xg2 26.♔xg2 ♗xe4. Black has many pawns and White's king is open. **25...♖b1!–+** White's position is falling apart (0–1, 40 moves).

1114. Igor Khenkin – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Moscow (4) 2001
23...♗xb2! Giving up the queen for plenty of other stuff. The alternatives are worse for Black. **24.♖xa5 ♗xc3** Both rooks cannot be protected, and White's counterplay is tamed by Black's continuing threats. **25.♕xh6 ♗xe1!** 25...♗xa5? 26.♖e5+– (26.♖xe6 ♗d2 [26...fxe6 27.♕g6†+–] 27.♕xd2 fxe6±) **26.♖a3!?** 26.♕xf6? ♗xa5–+ ✓ is easy, but 26.♖c5 is trickier. Black should play 26...♘e8!∓ to protect the king. **26...♗b4!** ✓ **27.♖b3 ♗f8!–+** 27...♗e7∓ **28.♕xf6? ♖c1† 0–1** Mate is coming.

1115. Alexander Berelowitsch – Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Germany 2005
19.♖xe5! Winning a centre pawn with tempo is often a good idea. 19.bxa5 ♖ad8 gives Black compensation due to the threats ...♘xe1, ...e5-e4 and ...♗b4 (keeping the pawn). **19...♕d8** 19...♘xe5? 20.♕xd5+– ✓; 19...♕d6 20.♖xa5± ✓ **20.♖xe7!** 20.♖xa5 ♗xb4± is good enough for full points. **20...♕xe7 21.♕xd3+–** ✓ White's activity and Black's misplaced knight on a5 actually gives White a winning advantage. The game nicely illustrates the hopelessness of Black's position. **21...♕xb4 22.♘g5 g6 23.♖xc3 ♕xa4 24.♗a3 ♖fe8 25.♕f3 1–0** The knight on a5 falls if the queen retreats to protect f7.

Veselin Topalov

There was a moment at the beginning when the machines were a positive, but lately we've being passing to the other extreme. Now it seems that a move isn't good unless the machine says so.

1116. Elizbar Ubilava – Veselin Topalov, Ponferrada 1992
13.♘b5! White does not win any material immediately, but ♘d6 followed by ♕b3† is a winning threat. **13...bxc5** 13...cxb5? 14.♗xa8+– ✓; 13...♕e7 14.♘d6+– ✓ and such a strong knight will cost an exchange at the very least. **14.♘d6** Or 14.♘c7+–. **14...♕e7 15.♗e3!+–** Instead the game continued 15.♕b3†? ♖f7 (15...c4!=) 16.♘xf7± and White won eventually**.**

1117. Veselin Topalov – Miguel Illescas Cordoba, Linares 1995
20.♘c7! White creates threats against d6 and e6, and the black bishop can't hold both d5 and f5. **20...exf4** White is not afraid of a sacrifice: 20...♖xg3† 21.hxg3 ♕xg3† 22.♘g2+– ✓ A better try is 20...♗c4!? 21.♘xf5 (21.♘xc4? exf4! with an initiative) 21...♖xf5, but White seems to be winning after 22.♗xf5. **21.♘g2! ♕h3** 21...♕e7 22.♘xe6 ♕xe6 23.♗b3+– ✓ **22.♖xf4!** A necessary move to make the combination sound. Instead 22.♘xe6? fxg3 23.hxg3 ♗e3†! completely turns the tables: 24.♖f2 (24.♘xe3 ♕xg3† 25.♔h1 ♕h3 mate) 24...♗xf2†–+ Also misguided is: 22.♘xf4? ♗xf4 23.♖xf4 ♖xg3† 24.hxg3 ♕xg3† 25.♔h1 ♕h3† 26.♔g1 ♖f6∓ **22...♗xf4** 22...♖xc7 23.♖h4+– **23.♘xf4 ♖xg3† ✓ 24.♔h1!+–** Wherever the black queen moves, White can play 25.♘cxe6 with a winning position (and there are also other good moves). 24.hxg3?! may be slightly better for White after 24...♕xg3† 25.♘g2 ♘e5! 26.♘xe6 ♘f3† 27.♕xf3! ♕xf3.

Magnus Carlsen

Of course, analysis can sometimes give more accurate results than intuition but usually it's just a lot of work. I normally do what my intuition tells me to do. Most of the time spent thinking is just to double-check.

1118. Magnus Carlsen – Peter Heine Nielsen, Malmo/Copenhagen 2004
32.g6! Opening up for the rook on d5 and queen on e3. **32...fxg6**
a) 32...♖xb2† 33.♔a1 ✓ (33.♗xb2?? ♕c2† 34.♔a1 ♕xb2 mate) 33...♕xg6 34.♖dh5+– (or 34.♖g5+– or a couple of other moves)
b) After the game move 32...f6 White can win in many ways, for instance 33.♖dh5 ♔f8 34.♖h8† ♔e7 35.♖xc8 ♕xc8 36.♕a3†+–, picking up a piece to start with.
c) 32...♕xg6 33.♖g5!+– ✓ and the attack crashes through on g7, while Black's attack stalled by bringing the queen to g6 (or 33.♗xg7+– also works).
33.♖h8†! ♔xh8 33...♔f7 34.♕f4† ✓ with an attack that mates in several ways. **34.♕h6† ♔g8 35.♕xg7 mate** ✓

1119. Magnus Carlsen – Kateryna Lagno, Lausanne 2004
21...g6! Removing the threat on d5. **22.♕h6** 22.♕g4 ♘xg2–+, or 22...♘xe3–+, or 22...♕xg4 23.hxg4 ♘xg2–+. **22...♘xg2!** ✓ Winning a pawn due to the discovered check. **23.♔xg2 ♘f4†!** The game continuation 23...♗f8 24.♕h4 ♘xe3† is also winning (0–1, 53 moves). But 23...♘xe3† 24.♔g1 ♗f8 25.♗xf7†!∓ is not so clear. **24.♔g1** 24.♔f1 ♗g5!! 25.♕xg5 ♕xh3† 26.♔g1 ♕g2 mate **24...♗g5! 25.♗xf7† ♔h8–+** Black wins the queen.

1120. Kjetil Stokke – Magnus Carlsen, Oslo 2006
30...♗xe5! 31.♘xe5 31.♖xe5 ♘xf3!–+ ✓ The mating threat makes the queen untouchable, leaving Black a piece up (but not 31...♖c1† 32.♖e1∓). **31...♖xh3†! 32.♔g1 ♘e2†!** ✓ Black's attack is devastating, and 32...♖h5 also gives Black a winning attack. **33.♔f1 ♘f4 34.♕b8† ♔g7 35.♘f3 ♖h1† 36.♘g1 ♖xg1† 37.♔xg1 ♕xg2 mate**

1121. Peter Heine Nielsen – Magnus Carlsen, Faaborg (blindfold) 2007
26.d6! ♕g7 26...♕xd6 27.♗d5†! (27.♕g5†? ♔h8 28.♖d2 ♕e6=) 27...♔h8 (27...♗e6 and White wins a piece after 28.♕g5†) 28.♖xf8† ♕xf8 29.♕xe5† ♕g7 30.♕b8† ✓ with mate. **27.♗d5† ♔h8 28.♖xf8† ♕xf8 29.♕xe5†** 29.♕g5? h6= was the game. **29...♕g7 30.♕f4±** ✓ Keeping everything protected and the black queen passive, as it can't go to f6 (without this move, it would not have been good to push the d-pawn).

1122. Magnus Carlsen – Michal Krasenkow, Gausdal 2007
27.♕xe6†! ♗xe6 28.♗xc6 ♘b3 28...♖d8 29.♗xd2 ♖xd6 30.♗xa4 ♖xd4 and the bishop pair and an extra pawn gives White at least a clear advantage. **29.d5!** Saving the d-pawn. **29...♘e5** 29...♘xa1 30.dxe6+– ✓ **30.♖b1+–** White is a pawn up and has the bonus of a positional advantage.

1123. Magnus Carlsen – Teimour Radjabov, Porto Vecchio (5 Armageddon) 2007
20...♗xf4†! 20...♕a1† led to a win after 21.♔c2? ♗b3† 22.♔d2 ♕xb2†–+ (0–1, 34 moves). But 21.♔d2! ♕xb2† 22.♔e1 ♗xf4 23.♗xd7! ♖xd7 24.♕xf4†∓ would have left White still fighting. **21.♘xf4** 21.♕xf4† ♔xc6–+ **21...♘e5!** Also winning is: 21...♕a1† 22.♔d2 ♕xb2† 23.♔e1 ♘e5 24.dxe5 ♖xd1† 25.♕xd1 ♕xc3† 26.♔f1 ♕xc6–+ **22.dxe5** Moving the queen would have lost the bishop. **22...♕a1† 23.♔c2 ♗b3†! 24.♔xb3 ♕a4 mate** ✓

1124. Peter Svidler – Magnus Carlsen, Moscow (blitz) 2008
37.♕g6! A multipurpose move preparing 38.♖g4, 38.♕xe6† and 38.♗e4. However, it's important to keep control over Black's tactical tricks. **37...♘f4**

a) 37...♖fe8 38.♖g4 ♕c7 39.♗e4 ✓ with a winning attack. After 39...♕xe5 strongest is bringing the last piece into the attack with: 40.♖d3+–

b) After 37...♘c3 38.♕xe6† (38.♖g4±) 38...♔h7 it is important to kill Black's counterplay with the accurate 39.♖g4! leaving White with a winning position due to: 39...♖xd2 40.♕g6† ♔h8 41.♕xg7 mate ✓

38.♖xf4! ♖xf4 38...♖xd2 39.♕xe6†+– ✓ **39.♖xd8†** Or even stronger is: 39.gxf4 ♖xd2 40.♕e8† ♔h7 41.♗e4† g6 42.♕xg6† ♔h8 43.♕h7 mate **39...♕xd8 40.gxf4+–** ✓

1125. Leinier Dominguez Perez – Magnus Carlsen, Linares 2009

29...♗b5! 29...♕a6 30.♕d2= **30.♖2e3** 30.♖e1 ♖xb3! 31.axb3 ♗d3†–+ ✓ **30...♖f2–+** ✓ The threats of ...♕c6, ...♗d3† and ...♖cc2 are too much to handle for White in conjunction with the resource ...♖f1† in some situations. 30...♖f1†? 31.♖e1 is only unclear. The game move is also acceptable: 30...♗d3† 31.♔a1 ♕xd4?! (stronger is 31...♖f2! 32.♖e1 ♖xb2! 33.♔xb2 ♖c2† 34.♔a1 ♕c6!–+ with a double threat: ...♕c3 and ...♕ .

1128. Magnus Carlsen – Wesley So, Internet (blitz 3.32) 2017

24.♖be1!+– Preparing the queen check on h8 by covering the black king's escape route. For White, 24.♖be1 is the right square and the right rook, though you need to see a few key lines to understand why.

In the game Carlsen tried to do it all with checks: 24.♕h8†? ♔e7 25.♖fe1† ♗e6 The position was messy, but had he played 26.♕h4!?± then White would still be a touch better.

Instead, the "wrong rook" move 24.♖fe1? allows 24...♗e6± when, unlike the main line, White cannot lift the e1-rook, as it would leave its colleague on b1 hanging.

24...♖xe1 24...♗e6 is refuted most simply by 25.♖e3!+– ✓ with the idea ♘xe6† ...fxe6, ♖f3 skewering the queen (also winning, but in messier style, is 25.g4+– with the ideas 25...♕xg4† 26.♕xg4 ♗xg4 27.♘h7†! and 25...♕g6 26.f4! threatening f4-f5). **25.♖xe1 ♗e6 26.♕h8†!** ✓ Creating an annoying pin on the b8-knight. The second-best 26.f4± secures an advantage, but is too much weaker than the text move to be worthy of any credit. **26...♔e7 27.h4!+–** Finding this slow move, defending the knight and creating luft, would be a brilliant achievement for a non-computer. 27.♕xg7 is not such a bad move, but Black can fight on after: 27...♔d6! 28.h4± The obvious 27.♘xe6? throws away all White's advantage after: 27...fxe6 28.♕xg7† ♔d6= **27...♕d5** Trying to unpin the b8-knight. Unlike the 27.♕xg7 line above, 27...♔d6 no longer works for Black: 28.♘xe6 (or the check on d8 first) 28...fxe6 29.♕d8† (29.♖d1† is similar) 29...♔c6 30.♕c8†+– Black is busted after 30...♔b6 31.♖xe6† or 30...♔d6 31.♖d1† ♔e5 32.♕b7 (or many other 32nd moves). **28.♕xg7** 28.c4+– also works. For example: 28...♕d4 29.♕h5 ♕f6 30.♘xe6 fxe6 31.♕d5 is decisive. **28...♔d8** Or 28...♔d6 can be killed most swiftly by: 29.♘xe6! (the obvious 29.h5 should win, just not at once) 29...fxe6 30.c4!+– For example: 30...♕xc4 31.♕g3† ♔e7 32.♖d1 And the attack wins far too much material. **29.h5+–** The h-pawn is going all the way.

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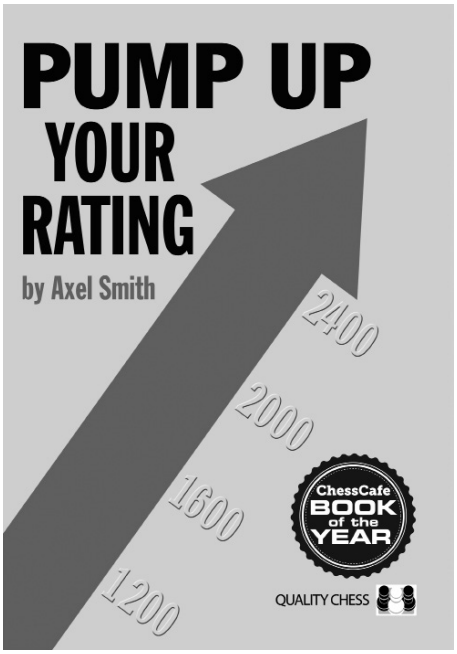
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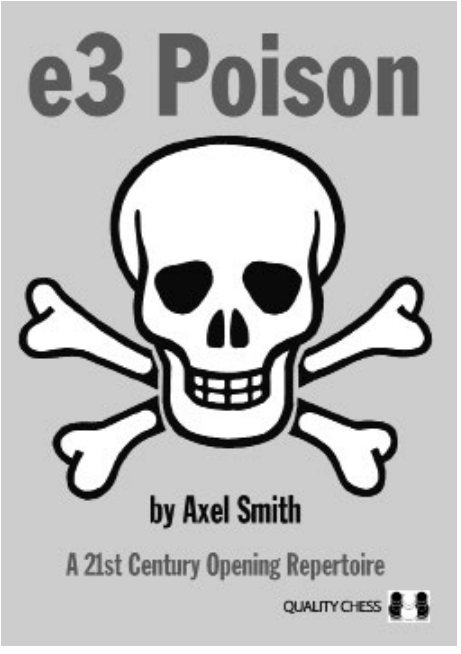
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