



C O L U M N I S T S

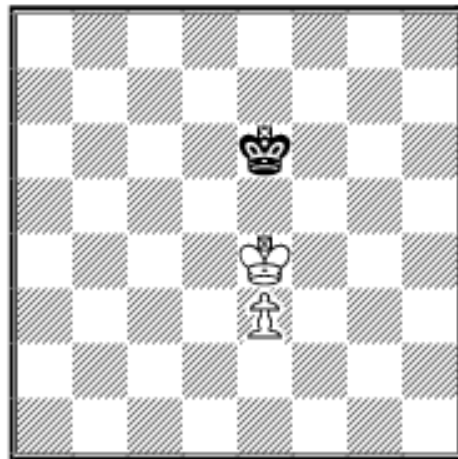
Endgame Corner

Karsten Müller



Opposition, Triangulation and more

I start with a very fundamental example to illustrate the importance of opposition



10.01 +/-

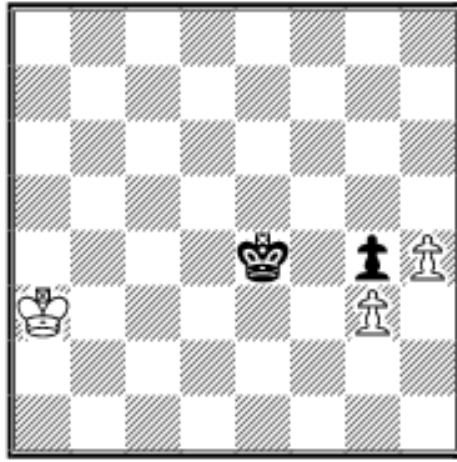
If White's king manages to advance to the key squares of the e3-pawn (d5, e5 and f5), then Black is lost. But if White is to move, he can't achieve that as Black has the opposition: **1.Kf4 Kf6! 2.Ke4 Ke6 3.Kd4 Kd6 4.e4 Ke6 5.e5 Ke7 6.Kd5 Kd7 7.e6+ Ke7 8.Ke5 Ke8! 9.Kd6 Kd8 10.e7+ Ke8** stalemate.

Black to move on the other hand is in zugzwang and loses: **1...Kd6 2.Kf5! Ke7 3.Ke5 3.e4? Kf7!= (opposition) 3...Kf7**

4.Kd6 Kf6 5.e4 Kf7 6.e5 Ke8 7.Ke6 (opposition, but in this exceptional case with the pawn on the fifth rank and his king in front White would also win, if it were his move) 7...Kd8 8.Kf7 Kd7 9.e6++-

The opposition is the main weapon in the fight for 3 adjacent key squares.

The next example shows more forms of the opposition:



10.02 After van Nyevelt *Supériorité* 1792 +/-

I want to analyse the situation with Black to move in detail:

1) No counterattack against the g3 pawn is possible: 1...Kf3 2.h5 Kxg3 3.h6 Kf2 4.h7 g3 5.h8Q g2 6.Qh2 and White wins.

2) So Black's king has to stay inside the square of the protected passed pawn on h4.

3) Advancing the h-pawn doesn't win for White. After the black king has captured it, White manages to win the g4-pawn, but Black's king moves to g6 in the opposition and draws.

4) All key squares of the black g4-pawn are inside the square of the h4-pawn.

As d4, e4, f4, d5, d6 and d7 are key squares we can now conclude:

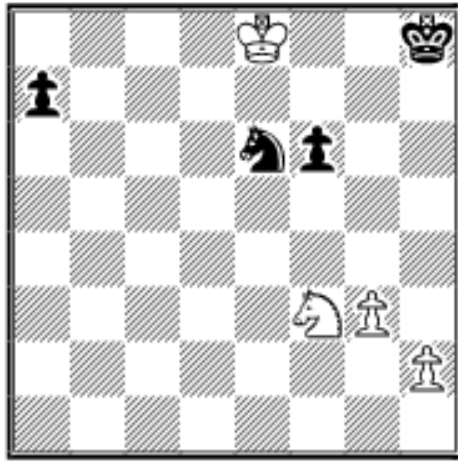
Black can defend according to the rules of opposition inside the square of the h4-pawn, but he has to choose the appropriate form carefully as he has to stay in the square of the h4-pawn and f4 is not accessible.

Definition: If all corners of the rectangle round the kings are of the same colour, the kings are in **opposition** (more precise: the player not to move has the opposition).

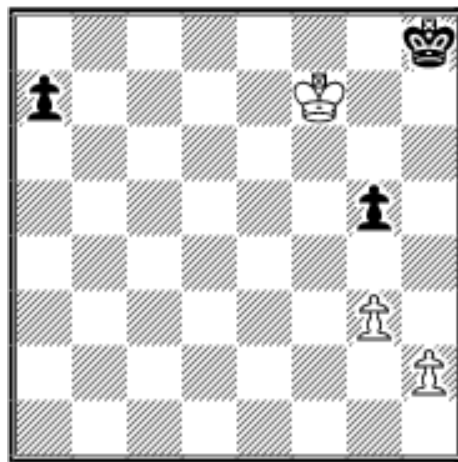
A sample line runs: **1...Ke5!** (virtual opposition) **2.Ka4 Ke4!** (distant opposition) Not 2...Ke6? 3.Kb4! and White's king creeps on the fourth rank to the key squares: 3...Kd6 4.Kc4! Ke6 5.Kd4! Kf6 6.Ke4! Kg6 7.Kf4 Kh5 8.Kf5+- **3.Kb3 Kd5!** (diagonal opposition) **4.Kb4 Kd4!** (opposition) **5.Ka3 Ke5! 6.Ka2 Ke4 7.Kb2 Kd4! 8.Kc2 Ke4! 9.Kd1 Kd5=**

Remark: The key squares in 10.02 are f4, e4, d4, d5, d6, d7, e7, f7, g7 and h7. If you know, how to apply the theory of corresponding squares (see, e.g., Averbakh pp.369-409 or *Secrets of Pawn Endings* pp.188-203) it is an interesting exercise to number the squares of the board accordingly, but from Black's point of view this is not really necessary as it is enough to master the rules of the opposition (see the main line above).

The next example serves as an application of van Nyevelt's position (10.02):

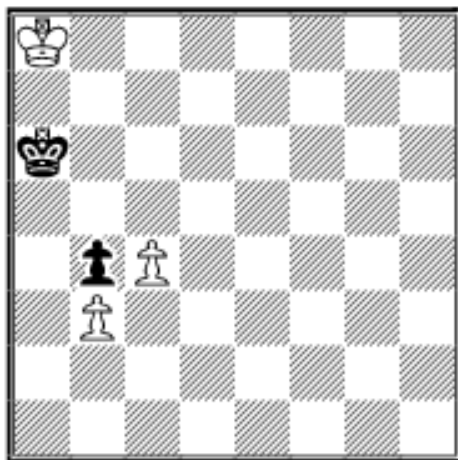


fxg5



won in sharp contrast to (10.02) as the key square d5 is outside the square of the protected passed pawn on h5.

If the protected passed pawn is a c-pawn it is different:



Kf7 9.Kh6! Kf6 10.Kh5! Kf5 11.Kh4! Kf4 12.Kh3! Kf5 13.Kg3 Kg5 14.Kf3 Kf5 15.Ke3 Ke5 16.Kd3 Ke6 17.Kd4 Kd6 18.c5+ Kc6 19.Kc4!+-

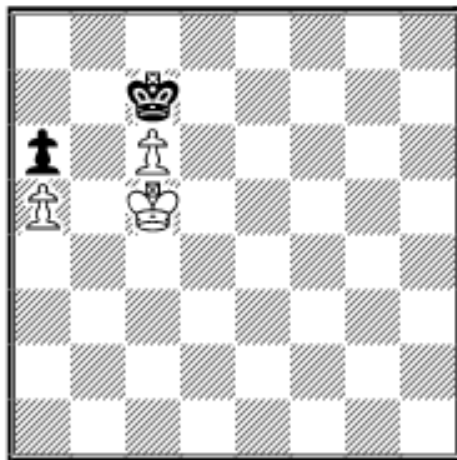
In Grigniev's study the pawns are on b2, c3 resp. b5 and Black's king is on b6. After 1.b3! b4 2.c4! Ka6 the position (10.04) is reached.

10.03 Capablanca - Kalantarov Simul St. Petersburg 1913

Kalantarov and his consultants - among them was the great Romanovsky - thought, that 1.Ke7 was called for as 1.Kf7 allowed Black to simplify into a seemingly favourable pawn ending. But when Capablanca came to the board he played nevertheless **1.Kf7!?** The next two moves followed immediately: **1...Ng5+?** After 1...Nc5 Black should be able to draw the knight ending. **2.Nxg5**

3.g4!! and Capablanca left the board leaving the amazed Kalantarov behind. Black is now lost in all variations. 3.h4? is the wrong way to break through due to 3...g4! (3...gxh4? 4.g4 h3 5.g5 h2 6.g6 h1Q 7.g7+ Kh7 8.g8Q+ Kh6 9.Qg6#) 4.Ke6 a5 5.Kd5 Kg7 6.Kc4 Kf6 7.Kb5 Ke6 8.Ka4 Kd5 9.Kxa5 Ke5= (10.02) **3...Kh7 3...a5 4.h4 gxh4 5.g5+- 4.h4 Kh6 5.Kf6 Kh7 6.h5! 6.hxg5? Kg8= 6...a5 7.Ke5 1-0** and Kalantarov resigned as his a-pawn will fall prey to White's king. The remaining ending is

Now I want to deal with triangulation:



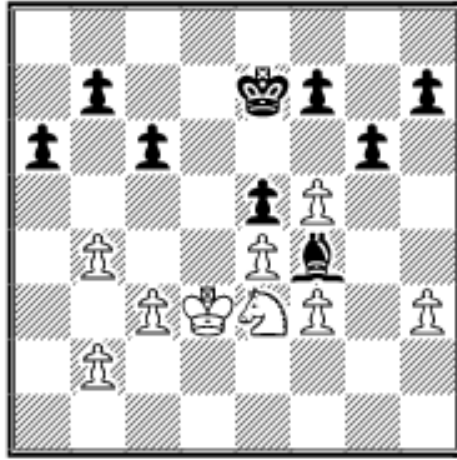
10.05 H.Fahrni - S.Alapin +/-

Black to move would be in zugzwang immediately as White's king could reach b6. White to move on the other hand seems to be in zugzwang as well as c5-c7, d6-d8 and d5-c8 are corresponding squares. But a careful observation shows of the squares on the 4th rank reveals, that he has more space to manoeuvre as c4, d4 - b8, d8 are corresponding squares as well. So Black perishes as c4 and d4 are connected

while b8 and d8 are isolated: **1.Kd5! Kc8 2.Kd4 Kd8 3.Kc4 Kc8 4.Kd5! Kc7 4...Kd8 5.Kd6! Kc8 6.c7! Kb7 7.Kd7! Ka7 8.Kc6+-** Of course not 8.c8Q?? stalemate **5.Kc5!** reaching the starting position with Black to move **5...Kc8 6.Kb6!** and Alapin resigned because of **6...Kb8 7.Kxa6! Kc7 8.Kb5!+-**

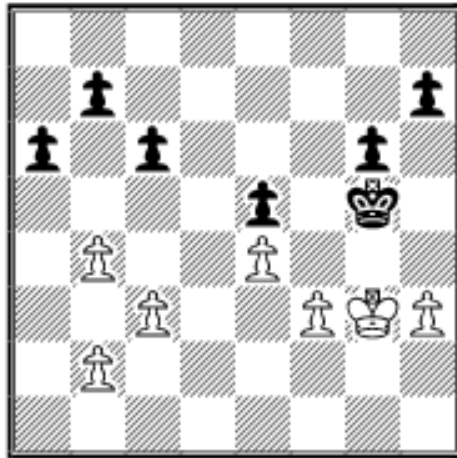
When and where was the game played ? I quote Edward Winter (Source: *Chess Notes* 2425): "The caption is usually "Fahrni-Alapin", sometimes with a date between 1909 and 1917 and occasionally with a mention of Munich. Although the exact occasion and complete game have yet to be found, we note that at a tournament in Munich in June 1909 Fahrni scored +3 -0 =1 against Alapin. When Fahrni himself gave the above position, on page 15 of his book *Das Endspiel im Schach* (Leipzig, 1917), he did so with just the vague heading "From a game Fahrni-Alapin". The position after 1 Kd5 Kc8 occurred in Fiebig-Tartakower, Barmen, 1905, but White missed the win, and the game was agreed drawn after 59 Kd6 Kd8 60 Kd5 Kc8. Source: Barmen, 1905 tournament book, page 250. A similar ending arose in W. Lange-C. Carls, Aachen, 1934. White's king was on e2 and he had a pawn at h3; Black had his king on e4 and pawns at f4 and h4. The game ended: 1 f3+ 2 Kf1 Kf5 3 Ke1 Ke5 4 Kf1 Ke4 5 Ke1 Ke3 6 Kf1 f2 and wins. Source: *Schackvärlden*, July 1934, page 254." To add to the problems, Winter found that (10.05) had already been published on page 82 of the March 1911 *La Stratégie*. I quote from *Chess Notes* 2458: "In an item which mentioned neither Fahrni nor any other player, Michel A.Tossizza gave an extract from his 1910 book *Etude explicative d'une partie d'échecs*. Le Gambit Evans."

To end this column I give several recent examples:

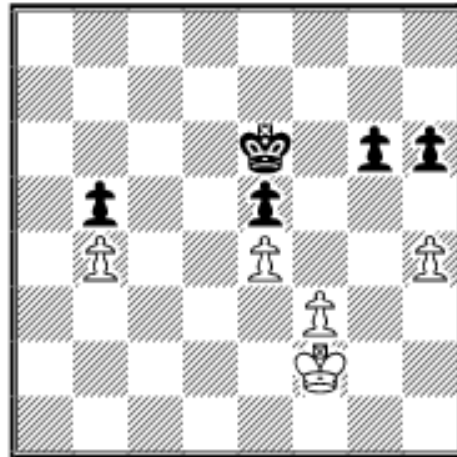


10.06 R. Gerber - A. Miles Crans Montana 2001

The first is from the excellent July 2001 "Miles Report" on the Chess Cafe website (Miles has analysed it in depth, see the Chess Cafe Archives): **1...Bxe3 2.Kxe3 Kf6 3.fxg6 fxg6 4.Kf2 Kg5 5.Kg3**



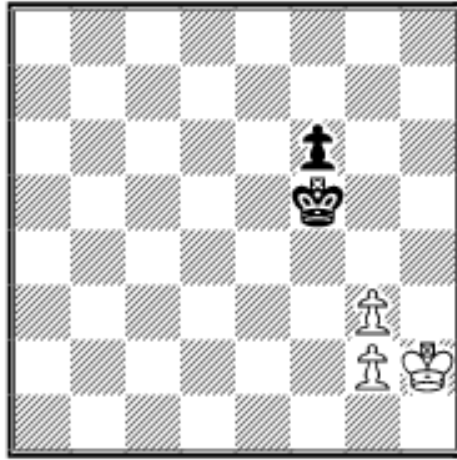
On the kingside an interesting formation is reached (please compare it with the next example) **5...b6 6.c4 c5 7.b5 axb5 8.cxb5 c4 9.h4+ Kf6 10.f4 h6 11.Kg4 exf4 12.Kxf4 g5+ 13.hxg5+ hxg5+ 14.Kg4 Ke5 15.Kxg5 Kxe4 16.Kf6 Kd5? 0-1** and Gerber resigned, but the position is astonishingly drawn: **17.Ke7 Kc5 18.Ke6 Kxb5 19.Kd5 Kb4 20.Kc6 b5 21.Kb6 Ka4 22.Kc5 Ka5 23.Kd5=** (Miles) Instead **16...Kd3 17.Ke5 c3 18.bxc3 Kxc3 19.Kd5 Kb4 20.Kc6 Ka5+** was one way to win.



10.07 A. Karpov - G. Kasparov Las Palmas 1996

Karpov thought for a long time before he played **1.Kg2!?** $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ and a draw was agreed, e.g., **1...Kf6 2.Kg3! g5 3.h5!= 1.Ke2?! draws as well, but is very difficult to calculate: 1...Kf6 2.Ke3! g5 3.h5! g4!? 4.f4! exf4+ (4...Ke6 5.f5+!=) 5.Kxf4! g3! 6.e5+!! Ke6! 7.Kxg3! Kxe5 8.Kf3!.**

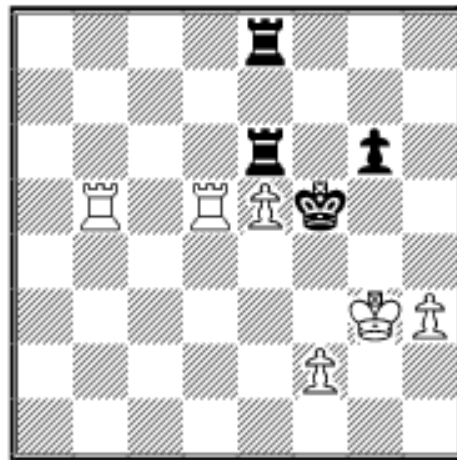
After **1.Kg3?** Black manages to create an outside passed pawn: **1...Kf6 2.Kg4 h5+ 3.Kg3 g5 4.Kh3 gxh4 5.Kxh4 Kg6 6.Kh3 Kg5 7.Kg3 h4+ 8.Kh3 Kf4 9.Kxh4 Kxf3+ and 1.Ke3? is wrong as well: 1...Kf6 2.f4 (2.Kf2 h5 3.Kg3 g5+ and) 2...exf4+ 3.Kxf4 g5+ and**



10.08 N.Phan Koshnitsky (2156) - L.Moylan (2110) Oceana zt 3.2b (Women) Gold Coast 2001 =/=

White's extra pawn can't be converted:
52.Kh3 Kg5 53.g4 Kh6 (53...Kf4?
 54.Kh4 Ke3 55.g5 fxg5+ 56.Kxg5 Kf2
 57.g4+-) **54.Kh2 Kg6!** (54...Kg5?
 55.Kg3 Kh6 56.Kf4 Kg6 57.g3 Kg7
 58.Kf5 (58.g5? Kg6!)=) 58...Kf7 59.g5
 fxg5 60.Kxg5 Kg7 61.g4+- (opposition)
55.Kg3 Kg5 56.Kh3 Kh6 57.Kh4 Kg6
58.g5 fxg5+ 59.Kg4 Kf6 60.Kh5 Kf5

61.g3 g4 62.Kh4 Kf6! 63.Kxg4 Kg6! (opposition) **64.Kf4 Kf6 65.g4 Kg6**
66.g5 Kg7 1/2-1/2



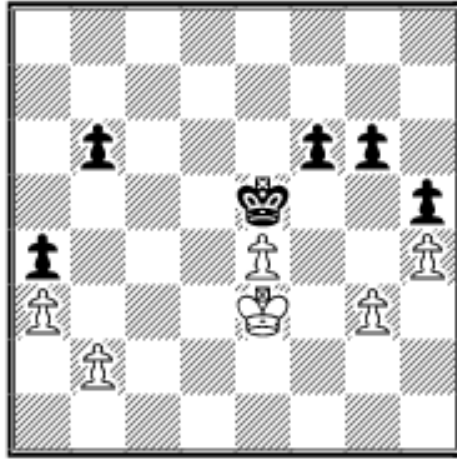
10.09 A.Khamatgaleev (2412) - N.Sanjay (2364) Goodricke 12th op Calcutta 2001

Simplifying into the pawn ending with **50...Rxe5??** is a fatal error. The correct strategy is 50...g5!: 51.Kf3 (51.h4 gxh4+ 52.Kxh4 Rg8=) 51...R8e7 (51...Rxe5? 52.Rxe5+ Rxe5 53.Rxe5+ Kxe5 54.Kg4 Kf6 55.Kh5+-) 52.Ke3 Rxe5+ 53.Rxe5+ Rxe5+ 54.Rxe5+ Kxe5 55.Kf3 Kf5 56.Kg3 Kf6 57.Kg4 Kg6 58.f3 Kf6 59.Kh5 Kf5 60.Kh6 Kf6 61.Kh7 Kf7=

(Hecht in CBM 82) **51.Rxe5+ Rxe5 52.Rxe5+ Kxe5 53.Kg4 Kf6 54.h4! Kf7 55.Kg5 Kg7 56.h5 gxh5 57.Kxh5 Kf6 58.Kg4 Kg6 59.Kf4 Kf6 60.f3**
1-0 White has the opposition and wins (see 10.01).

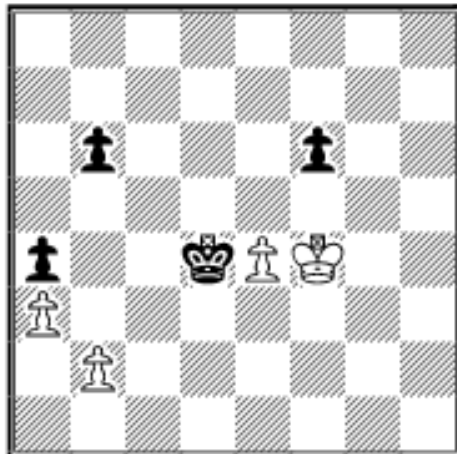
Addendum

After finishing my work on Endgame Corner No.10 I studied Mark Dvoretzky's excellent column "Tragicomedies in Pawn Endings", especially his comments on Ree vs Ftacnik, Kiev 1978:

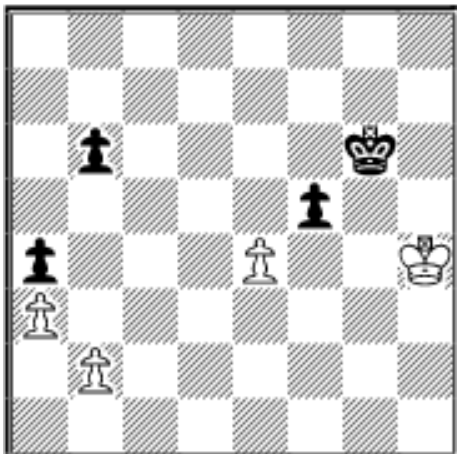


I sent him my observations and want to thank him for his very valuable insights. Together we can now prove, that Lubomir Ftacnik could have won by using the theory of corresponding squares: e5-e3, d6-e2, e6-f2,f7-g2 and e7-f1 are pairs of corresponding squares as White has to be able to answer g5 with g4 and to be in time on the queenside. From this we can conclude, that Black has more squares on the 8th rank at his disposal and can force a decisive zugzwang: **1...Kd6** (instead of the game

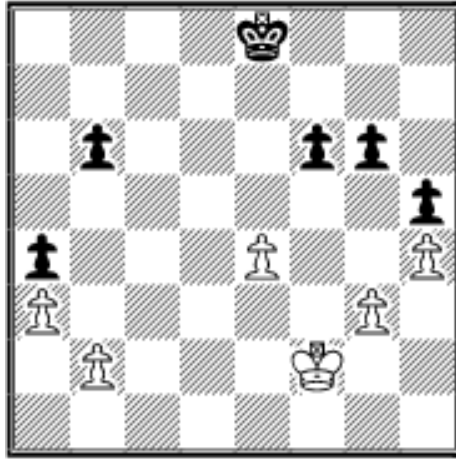
continuation 1...g5??, when Ree could turn the tables completely with 2.g4!+-) **2.Ke2** (2.Kd4 g5-+; 2.Kf4 Ke6 3.Kf3 (3.Ke3 Ke5 4.Kd3 g5-+) 3...g5 4.Ke3 (4.Ke2 gxh4 5.gxh4 Ke5 6.Ke3 f5 7.exf5 Kxf5 8.Kf3 b5-+) 4...gxh4 5.gxh4 Ke5 6.Kf3 f5-+; 2.Kf2 Kc5-+) **2...Ke6** After 2...Kc5 3.Kd3 g5? doesn't work because of 4.e5!= **3.Kf2 Kf7 4.Kg2** 4.Kf3 allows 4...g5 as Black takes on g4 with check: 5.g4 hxg4+ 6.Kxg4 gxh4 7.Kxh4 Ke6 8.Kg4 Ke5 9.Kf3 Kd4 10.Kf4



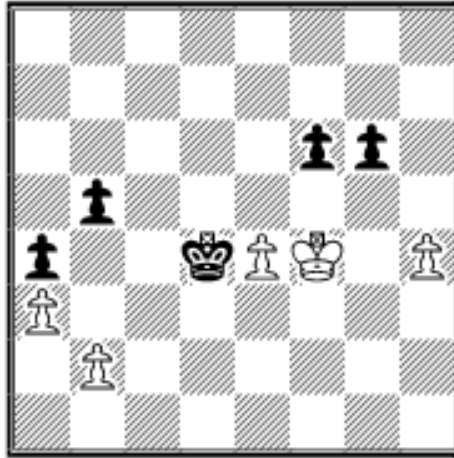
10...b5 11.Kf3 (11.Kf5 Ke3 12.Kxf6 Kxe4 13.Ke6 Kd3-+) 11...Kd3 12.Kf4 Ke2 13.Kg4 Kd2 14.Kf4 Kd3 15.Kf3 Kc2-+ **4...Ke7** After 4...g5? 5.g4! Kg6 6.Kg3 hxg4 7.Kxg4 gxh4 8.Kxh4 f5



the only move to save White's skin is 9.Kg3!= **5.Kf1 Kf8 6.Kf2 Ke8**



and now White can't hold the correspondence as Mark Dvoretsky proved: **7.Kf3** (7.Kg2 Kf7 8.Kf3 g5-+; 7.Ke3 Kf7 8.Kf2 Ke6 9.Ke2 Kd6-+; 7.Kg1 Kd7 8.Kf1 [8.Kg2 Kd6-+; 8.Kf2 Ke6-+] 8...Ke7 9.Ke2 Kd6 10.Kd3 g5-+) **7...Ke7 8.g4** (8.Ke3 Kf7-+) **8...Kd6 9.Kf4 hgx4 10.Kxg4 Ke5 11.Kf3 Kd4 12.Kf4 b5**



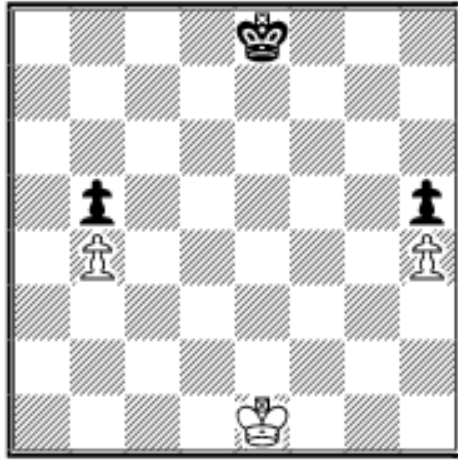
(mutual zugzwang) **13.Kf3 Kd3 14.Kf4 Kc2-+**

The whole work is a joint analysis by Mark Dvoretsky and me. I want to thank Mark for his kind permission to publish it in my column.

Sources:

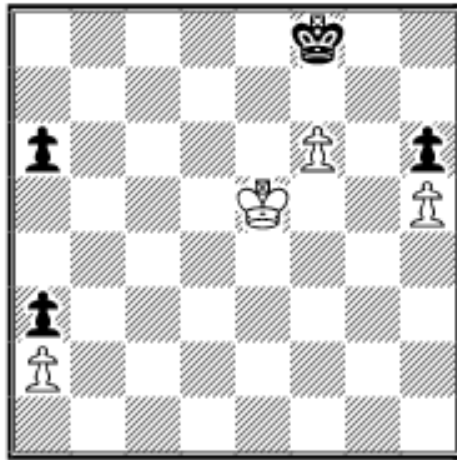
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The Instructor by Mark Dvoretsky: Tragicomedies in Pawn Endings
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The Miles Report by Tony Miles: Kings and Pawns
[\[www.chesscafe.com/text/miles25.pdf\]](http://www.chesscafe.com/text/miles25.pdf)
ChessBase MEGABASE 2000
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Exercises
(Solutions next month)



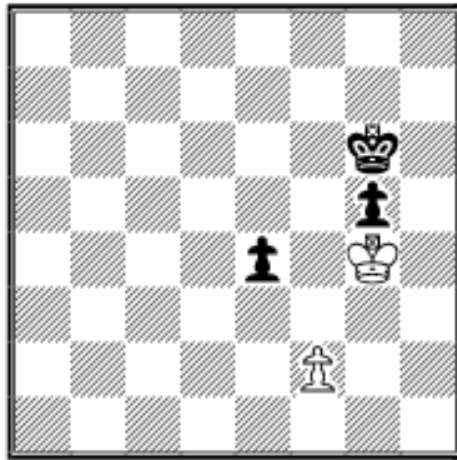
E10.01 Capablanca 1921

White to move and win.



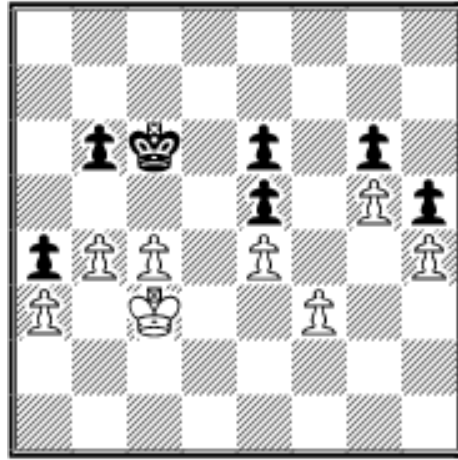
E10.02 After H.van Riemsdijk 1974

White wins by triangulation. Please find the solution to the end.



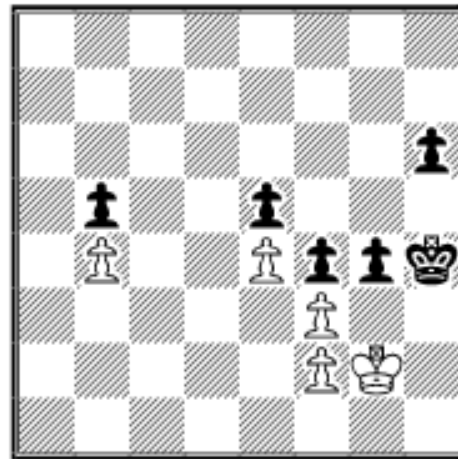
E10.03 After E.Krassilnikov (2257) - Y.Meister (2450) White Nights St Petersburg 2001

Can White to move save himself?



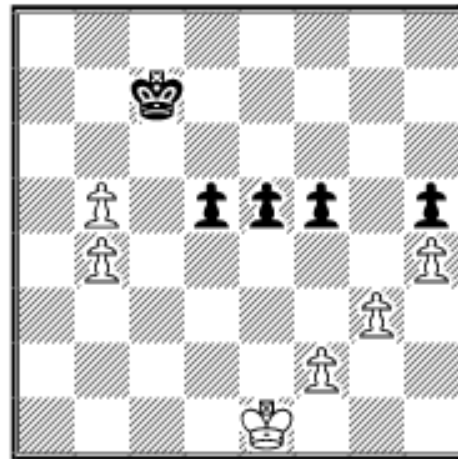
E10.04 J.Gallagher (2480) - Peetoom
Bargteheide op 1988

The position is quite closed. Is there a way for White to break through?



E10.05 K.Schlenga - B.Donner NRW
1992

Can Black to move storm White's castle?

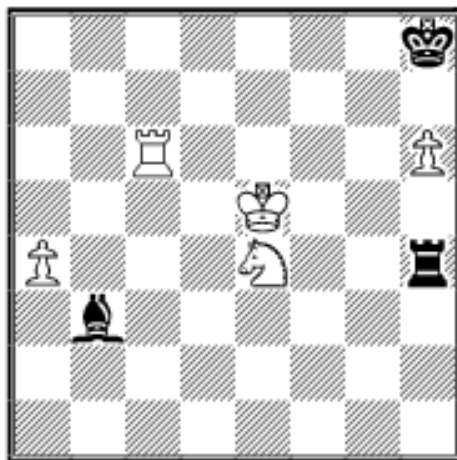


E10.06 After J.Shaw - J.Rowson
Edinburgh 2000

In the game White's king was on e3 and Rowson remarks in his book *The Seven Deadly Chess Sins*: "For a while I thought this ending was interesting and subtle but after a while it dawned on me that it was a fairly clear draw." With the white king on e3 this is correct, but his first point also has its merits as with the king on e1 it is White to move and win (note that in the main line White reaches

a won queen ending).

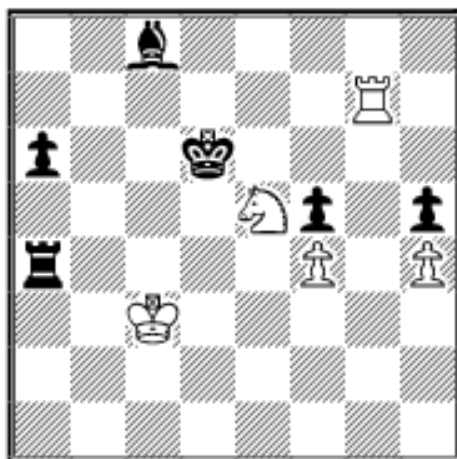
Solutions to last month exercises



E9.01 Qin Kanying (2501) - A.Stefanova (2514) FIDE World Cup-B (Women) Shenyang 2000

The solution was not easy to find: In the game Qin Kanying went wrong with **45.Ng5?** (45.Nf6! Rxh6 46.a5 wins as Tsesarsky proved in CBM 79. One sample line runs 46...Rh1 47.Rc7 Re1+ 48.Kd4 Rd1+ 49.Ke3 Re1+ 50.Kd2 Rh1 51.a6 Bd1 52.Rc1+-; 45.a5? Rh5+ 46.Kd4 Rxa5=; 45.Kf5? Rxe4! (45...Bxa4? 46.Rc8+ Kh7 47.Nf6+ Kxh6

48.Rh8+-) 46.Kxe4 Bxa4 47.Rc7 Bb5 48.Kf5 Bd3+ 49.Kf6 Be4=) **45...Rxa4 46.Rc8+ Bg8 47.h7 Ra5+ 48.Kf4** (48.Kf6 Rxc5=) **48...Rxc5 49.Kxc5 Kxh7** 1/2-1/2



E9.02 G.Kasparov (2849) - P.Svidler (2695) World Cup of Rapid Chess-A Cannes 2001

Kasparov drew as follows: **43.Nc4+ Ke6 44.Rg6+ Kf7 45.Rb6 Be6 46.Ne5+ Ke7** (46...Kf6 47.Nd7+ Ke7 48.Ne5=) **47.Ng6+ Kf7 48.Ne5+** 1/2-1/2

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