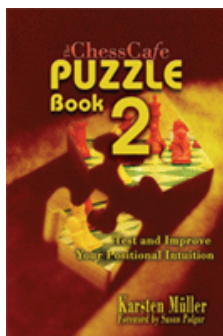




## COLUMNISTS

Endgame  
Corner

Karsten Müller

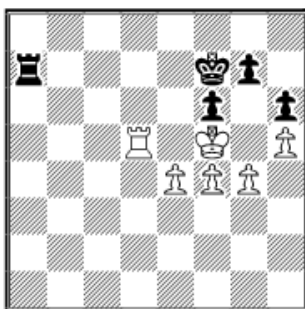


## CHESTHEATRE

Play through and download  
the games from[ChessCafe.com](http://ChessCafe.com) in the  
[DGT Game Viewer](#).[The Complete  
DGT Product Line](#)The Famous Rook Endgame with 4 vs. 3  
Pawns

In this column I will deal with cases relatively favorable for the attacker, when the h-pawn has already reached h5, so that the best defensive setup with pawns on f7-g6-h5 is not possible. One aim is the following famous position.

**95.01 Botvinnik, Mikhail – Najdorf, Miguel**  
Alekhine Memorial, Moscow 1956



White wins as follows:

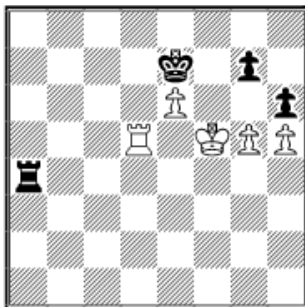
**64.e5 fxe5 65.fxe5 Ke7**

65...Re7? 66.Rd7 Rxd7 67.e6+ Ke7 68.exd7 Kxd7 69.Kg6+.

**66.e6 Ra4**

66...Ra6 67.Rd7+ Kf8 68.Kg6 Rxe6+ 69.Kh7 g5 70.hxg6+; 66...Kf8 67.Rd8+ Ke7 68.Rd7+.

**67.g5!**



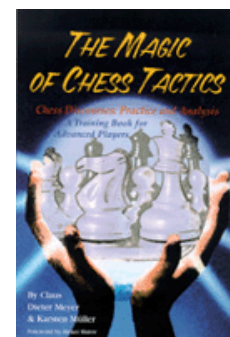
**67...hxg5?!**

67...Ra7!? is a very tenacious defense: 68.Re5! (now the pawn endgame after 68.Rd7+? Rxd7 69.exd7 Kxd7 is only drawn:

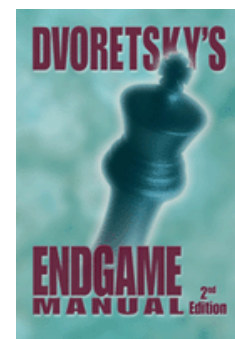
Check out these  
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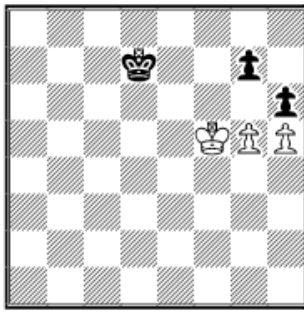
*A Practical Guide  
to Rook Endgames*  
by Nikolay Minev



*The Magic of  
Chess Tactics*  
by Claus Dieter Meyer  
& Karsten Müller

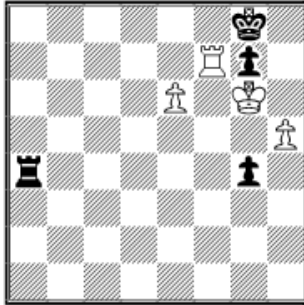


*Dvoretsky's Endgame  
Manual*  
by Mark Dvoretsky



70.Kg6 hxc5 71.Kxc5 Ke7 72.Kg6 Kf8=) 68...hxc5 69.Kxc5 Ra1 70.Kg6 Rg1+ 71.Rg5+-.

**68.Rd7+ Kf8 69.Rf7+ Kg8 70.Kg6 g4**



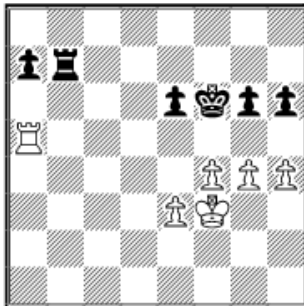
Now Botvinnik won beautifully.

**71.h6! gxh6 72.e7 Ra8 73.Rf6 1-0**

Najdorf resigned because of 73...g3 74.Rd6 g2 75.Rd8+ Rxd8 76.exd8Q#.

In the next example Black's pawn structure is broken, but he has an extra a-pawn, so it should be drawn.

**95.02 Karpov, Anatoly (2705) – Hort, Vlastimil (2600)**  
Waddinxveen (6), 1979



**37.h5! g5?**

37...gxh5 offers better drawing chances, as it is easier to exchange pawns, which is an important defensive technique! For example, 38.Rxh5 Kg6 39.Ra5 Kf6 40.Ra6 Rb6 41.Rxa7 e5.

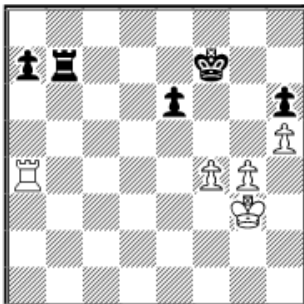
**38.Ra6 gxf4**

38...Rb3 39.fxg5+ hxg5 40.Rxa7 Rb4 41.Rh7 e5 42.Rh6+ Kf7 43.Rg6 e4 + 44.Ke2 Rb5 45.Kd1 Rc5 46.Kd2 Rd5+ 47.Kc2 Rd3 48.Rxg5 Rxe3 49.h6+- (Karolyi in [Endgame Virtuoso Anatoly Karpov](#), New in Chess 2007); 38...Re7 39.f5 Kf7 40.e4 Kf6 41.Ke2 Ke5 42.Ke3 Kf6 43.Kd4 Rd7 + 44.Kc5 Re7 45.Kd6 exf5 46.Kd5+ Kf7 47.gxf5+-.

**39.exf4 Rb3+ 40.Kg2 Rb7**

40...Rb2+ 41.Kg3 Rb3+ 42.Kh4 Rb4 43.Rxa7 Rxf4 44.Rh7+—.

**41.Kg3 Kf7 42.Ra4?**



The immediate 42.g5 was called for.

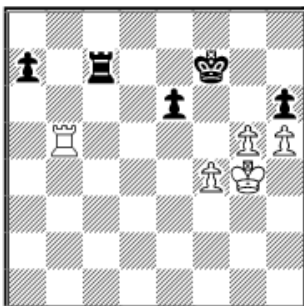
**42...Kg7?**

Returning the favor. The rook had to be activated: 42...Rb3+ 43.Kh4 a6 44.Rxa6 (44.g5 Rb1 45.g6+ Kf6 46.Rxa6 Kf5 47.Ra4 Rg1=) 44...Rb4 45.Ra7+ Kg8 46.Kg3 Rb3+ 47.Kf2 Rb4 48.Kf3 Rb3+ 49.Ke4 Rg3 50.Re7 Rxb4 51.Rxe6 Kg7 (51...Rh4 52.Rxb6 Kg7 53.Rg6+ Kf7=) 52.Kf5 Rh4 53.Re7+ Kf8 54.Ra7 Kg8=.

**43.g5 Rc7 44.Ra5**

This was the sealed move.

**44...Kg8 45.Rb5 Kf7 46.Kg4**



**46...a6**

46...Kg7!? was more tenacious, but should ultimately be insufficient: 47.g6 Kf6 48.Rb8 e5 49.fxe5+ Kxe5 50.Rh8 Rc4+ (50...Kf6 51.Rxb6 a5 52.Rh8 a4 (52...Ra7 53.Rg8+—) 53.Ra8 Rc4+ 54.Kf3 Rh4 55.Ra6+ Kg7 56.Ra7+ Kg8 57.Ra5 Kg7 58.Kg3 Rh1 59.Ra7+ Kg8 60.Kg4+—) 51.Kf3 Rc3+ 52.Kf2 Kf6 53.Rxb6 Rc7 54.Rh8 Rb7 55.Ke3 Rb3+ 56.Kd4 Rb4+ 57.Kc5 Rb7 58.Re8 a6 59.Kc6 Ra7 60.Kb6 Rd7 61.Kxa6+—; 46...Rc4 47.gxb6 Rc8 48.Rb7+ Kg8 49.Rxa7 Kh8 50.Kg5 Rg8+ 51.Rg7 Rf8 52.Re7 Rg8+ 53.Kf6 Rg4 54.Ke5 Rh4 55.Rxe6 Rxb5+ 56.f5 Kh7 57.Kf6 Rxb6+ 58.Kf7 Rh1 59.Re2+—) 47.Rb8 (47.g6+ Kf6 48.Rb6 wins as well).

**47...Rc1**

47...hxc5 48.fxc5 Rc4+ 49.Kf3 Rc3+ 50.Kf4 Rc4+ 51.Ke3 Rc3+ 52.Kd4 Rc7 53.Ra8 Rb7 54.Rxa6 Rb4+ 55.Kd3 Rh4 56.Ra7+ Kg8 57.Ra8+ Kh7 58.g6+ Kg7 59.Ra7+ Kg8 60.Rh7+—.

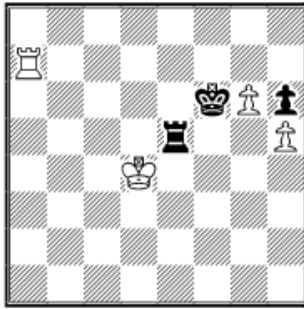
**48.g6+ Kg7 49.Rb7+ Kf8 50.Rb6 Rg1+ 51.Kf3 Rf1+**

51...Rh1 52.Ke4 Rxb5 53.Rxe6 Kg7 54.f5+—.

## 52.Ke4 Re1+ 53.Kd4 Ke7

53...Rh1 54.Ke5 Rxh5+ 55.Kxe6 Rb5 56.Rxb5 axb5 57.f5 b4 58.f6 b3 59.f7 b2 60.Kf6 b1Q 61.g7#.

## 54.Rxa6 Kf6 55.Ra7 e5+ 56.fxe5+ Rxe5



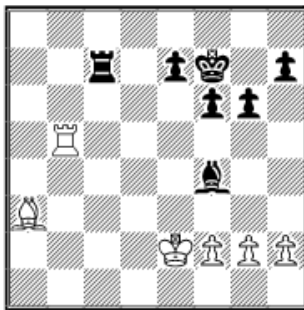
## 57.Ra6+ 1-0

But not 57.Rf7+?! Ke6 58.Re7+? (58.Rf8+-) 58...Kxe7 59.Kxe5 Kf8 with a well known fortress draw. Black resigned because of 57...Re6 58.g7 Rxa6 59.g8Q Re6 60.Qf8+ Kg5 61.Qf7 Rf6 (61...Rb6 62.Qe7+ Kxh5 63.Qc5+-) 62.Qe7 Kf5 63.Qe5+-.

In conclusion, here is an example from one of my games. The pure rook endgame and the pure bishop endgame would be relatively easy draws, so I had to keep both pieces on the board and try to achieve concessions.

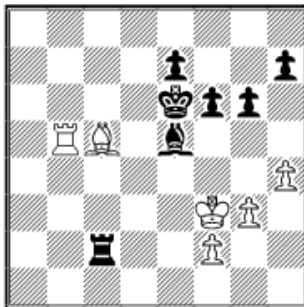
## 95.03 Pöpl – Müller, Karsten

DBMM Hockenheim, 19.10.2008



## 35.h3?!

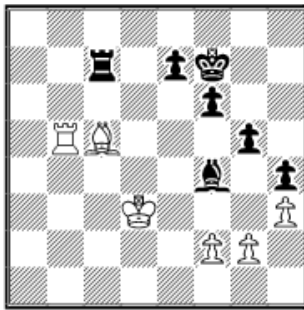
This is not good for the rook endgame. A better setup is 35.h4 Rc2+ 36.Kf3 Be5 (36...Rc3+ 37.Kxf4 Rxa3 38.g3=) 37.Bc5 Ke6 38.g3



## 35...g5 36.Bc5 h5 37.Kd3?!

37.Kf3 is safer.

## 37...h4



Fixing the kingside so that an exchange into a rook endgame is more dangerous.

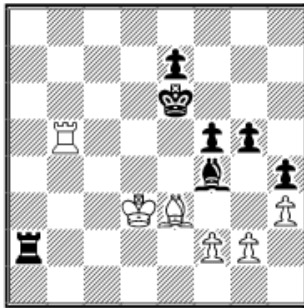
**38.Be3 Bd6 39.Ra5 Ke6 40.Rb5 Rc8 41.Ke4 Rc3 42.Rb6 f5+ 43.Kd4**

43.Kf3? f4—+.

**43...Rc2 44.Kd3**

Of course not 44.Bxg5? Rxf2 45.Rb3 Rxf2 46.Bxh4 Rd2+ 47.Ke3 Rh2 48.Kd4 Be5+ 49.Kc4 f4 50.Bg5 Bd6 51.h4 Kf5—+.

**44...Ra2 45.Rb5 Bf4!?**



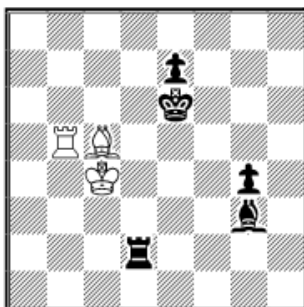
Now it is very critical for White.

**46.Bc5?**

This allows the king to be cut off on the d-file. 46.Rb3! was called for and should be sufficient for a draw; e.g., 46...Kf6 47.Rb6+ Kf7 48.Rb3 e5 49.Rb7+ Kg6 50.Rb6+ Kh5 51.Rb7 Bxe3 (51...e4+ 52.Kd4 Bxe3+ 53.Kxe3 f4+ 54.Kxe4 Rxf2 55.Kf5=; 51...Ra3+ 52.Ke2 Bxe3 53.fxe3 f4 54.exf4 gxf4 55.Re7 Re3+ 56.Kf2=) 52.Kxe3 Ra3+ 53.Ke2 e4 54.Rb6 f4 55.Rb1 f3+ 56.Kf1; 46.Bxf4? gxf4 47.Rb6+ Ke5 48.Rh6 Rxf2 49.Rxh4 Rxf2—+.

**46...Rd2+ 47.Kc3**

47.Kc4 g4 48.hxg4 (48.Rb3 Bd6 49.Be3 Rd1 50.Bg5 Rg1—+; 48.Kc3 Ra2 49.Rb1 g3 50.Rf1 Bd6 51.Kb3 Bxc5 52.Kxa2 gxf2—+) 48...fxg4 49.g3 hxg3 50.fxg3 Bxg3



Now White has the surprising 51.Bxe7!?, but it should be insufficient; e.

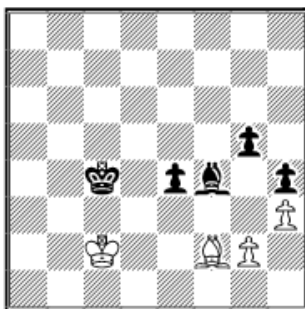
g., 51...Bf2 (51...Kxe7? 52.Rg5=) 52.Bb4 Rd4+ 53.Kc3 g3 54.Rg5 Rd8 55.Kb3 Kf6 56.Rg4 Kf5 57.Rg7 Rd3+ 58.Kc2 Rd4 59.Bc3 Rg4+.

#### 47...Rd1 48.f3

Other tries include 48.Rb6+ Bd6 49.Bxd6 exd6 50.Rb2 Ke5 51.Re2+ (51. Kc4 d5+ 52.Kc3 Rg1 53.Kd3 g4+) 51...Kf4 52.Re3 Rg1 53.Rf3+ Ke5 54. Re3+ Kf6 55.g3 hxg3 (55...g4 works as well.) 56.fxg3 Rh1 57.Rd3 (57.g4 f4+) 57...Ke5 58.Re3+ Kd5 59.Rd3+ Ke4 60.h4 gxh4 61.gxh4 f4 62.Rd4 + (62.Rxd6 f3+) 62...Ke5 63.Ra4 Rxh4 64.Kd3 Rh2 65.Ra8 Kf5 66.Rg8 d5+; 48.Be3 Bxe3 49.fxe3 Kf6 50.Rb8 (50.Ra5 e6 51.Rb5 Rg1 52.Rb2 Rh1 53.Kd2 Rh2 54.Ke1 g4 55.hxg4 h3 56.Kf1 Rxg2+; 50.Rb2 e6 51. Kc4 Ke5+) 50...Rg1 51.Rb2 g4 52.hxg4 fxg4 53.Kd4 h3 54.gxh3 gxh3 55.Ke4 Kg5 56.Kf3 e5 57.e4 Kh4+.

#### 48...Rd5?

This retreat is a mistake. The rook had to remain active. Simplifying into a bishop ending with 48...Rd2? is also wrong: 49.Rb2 Rxb2 50.Kxb2 Kd5 51.Ba7 (51.Bxe7? Kd4+ spoils it.) 51...Kc4 52.Kc2 e5 53.Bf2 e4 54. fxe4 fxe4



Now White draws with 55.Bb6! (55.Ba7? e3 56.Bb6 Kb5 57.Ba7 e2 58. Bf2 Kc4 and White is on the wrong end of the reciprocal *zugzwang* and loses.) 55...e3 56.Ba7 e2 57.Bf2 Bg3 58.Bxg3 hxg3 59.Kd2=; But 48... Be5+ 49.Kc2 Ra1 was the way to go, e.g. 50.Bxe7 (50.Kb3 Rc1+; 50. Rb6+ Kf7 51.Rb7 Ra2+ 52.Kd3 Bf6+) 50...Ra2+ 51.Kd3 Rxg2 52.Bb4 Rg3+.

#### 49.Rb6+ Bd6 50.Bd4 Ra5 51.Kc4 Ra2

Setting a trap.



#### 52.Rb2?

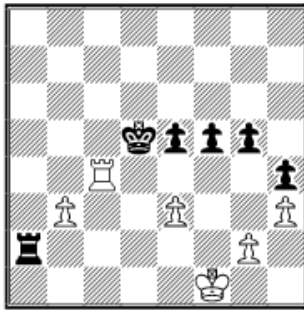
52.Bb2 was forced and then it seems that White can hold.

#### 52...Ra4+ 53.Kd3 Rxd4+ 0-1

White resigned because of 54.Kxd4 Be5+ 55.Kd3 Bxb2+.

**E95.01 Papaioannou,I (2520) – Lutz,Ch (2600)**

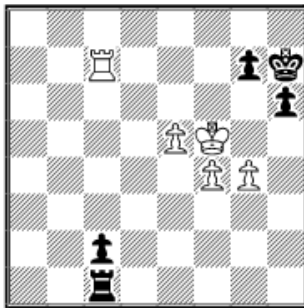
Elista (ol), 1998



How did Lutz make progress?

**E95.02 Hansen,Lars Bo (2565) – Blatny,Pavel (2519)**

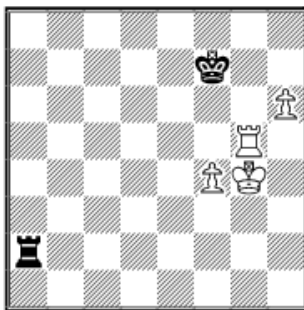
BL2-Nord 0506 Germany (7.1), 19.02.2006



Lars Bo Hansen showed the way to win in his excellent book [\*How Chess Games are Won and Lost\*](#) (GAMBIT 2008). Can you do the same?

**Solutions to last month exercises**

**E94.01 Educative Example**



**1...Ra1!**

The rook must stay in the south-west corner to keep maximal checking distance in both directions. 1...Rh2? 2.Rh5 Rg2+ 3.Kf5 Kg8 4.Rg5+-; 1...Rg2+? 2.Kh3 Ra2 3.h7 Ra8 4.Kg4 Rb8 5.Rh5 Rh8 6.Kg5 Kg7 7.f5 Kf7 8.f6+-.

**2.h7**

2.Rh5 Kg8=; 2.Kf5 Ra5+=.

**2...Rg1+ 3.Kf3**

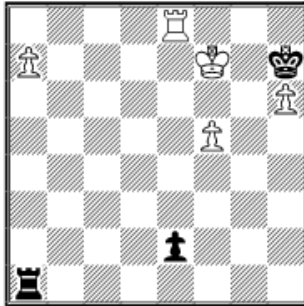
3.Kf5 Rh1=.

**3...Rh1 4.Ra5 Kg7 5.Ra7+ Kh8 6.Ke4 Re1+ 7.Kf5 Re5+ 8.Kg6 Rg5+ 9.**

**Kf6 Rf5+=**

**E94.02 Hecht,Hans Joachim – Springer,Artur**

Berlin-ch (9), 1959



Black has two ways to draw.

**56...Rxa7+**

56...Kxh6 57.Rxe2 Rxa7+ 58.Re7 Ra8 59.Re6+ Kh7 60.f6 Kh6= is the alternative.; But 56...e1Q? spoils it: 57.Rxe1 Rxa7+ 58.Kf8 Kxh6 59.Re6+ Kg5 60.f6 Kf5 61.Rd6 Ke5 62.Rb6+–.

**57.Kf6 Ra6+?**

57...Kxh6 was called for.

**58.Kg5 Ra2**

58...Ra1 59.Re7+ Kg8 60.Rxe2 Rg1+ 61.Kf6 Ra1 62.Re7+–.

**59.Re7+ Kg8 60.Kg6 Ra6+ 61.f6 Ra8 62.Rxe2 Kh8 63.Re7 Rb8 64.Rh7+ Kg8 1–0**

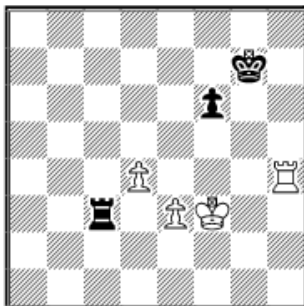
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### Addendum

**Charles Sullivan** from the **USA**, has some interesting insights regarding Efstratios Grivas remarkable rook ending.

**94.01 Grivas,Efstratios – Soylu,Suat**

Varna Balkaniad, 1994

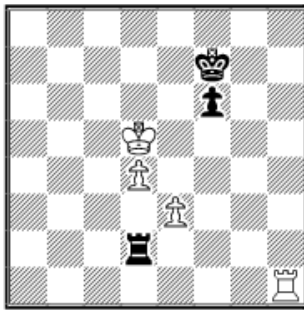


**46.Kf4 Rd3 47.Rh1 Kf7 48.Ke4 Rd2**

This move is still playable.

**49.Kd5**





#### 49...Ra2?

Sullivan discovered that Black can still save himself with 49...Re2 50.Rh7 + Ke8 51.e4 Re1. The fortress concept is as follows: Black's king waits on e8, e7, and sometimes f7 and Black's rook stays on the e-file to force White to defend the e4-pawn. For instance, 52.Rc7 Re2 53.Rc6 Kf7 54.Re6 Ra2 55.Rb6 Re2=.

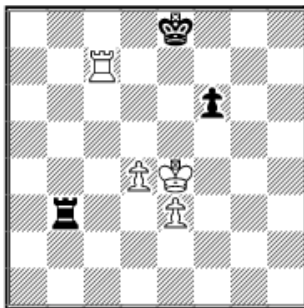
#### 50.Rc1?

Sullivan gives 50.Rh7+ Kg6 (50...Ke8 51.Ke6 Ra6+ 52.Kf5 Rd6 53.Ra7 Kf8 54.Ra5 Ke7 55.d5+- Müller) 51.Re7 f5 52.Ke5 Re2 53.Re6+ Kg5 54.Kd6+-.

#### 50...Ra5+?

The final mistake. 50...Re2 still holds as 51.Rc7+ Ke8 52.e4 Re1 leads to Sullivan's fortress.

#### 51.Rc5 Ra3 52.Rc7+ Ke8 53.Ke4 Rb3



#### 54.d5 Ra3 55.Kf4 f5 56.Rc6 1-0