

**One Bishop Saves the Day:
A World Champion's Favorite Studies**

Sergei Tkachenko

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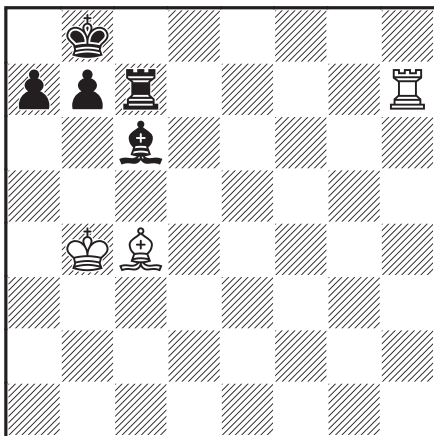
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No. 1



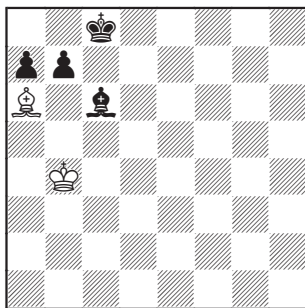
White to move and draw

Black is two pawns up and so ought to win this endgame. Yet white can draw here:

1.♖h8+! Exchanging rooks doesn't work:
1.♖xc7? ♔xc7 2.♙a6 b6! and white can resign.

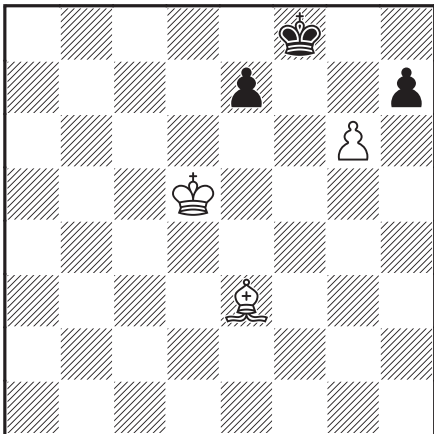
1...♖c8 2.♖xc8+! And now the exchange saves white!

2...♔xc8 3.♙a6!! and black's b7 pawn is pinned – black cannot play **3...b6**. While after **3...ba** the position is theoretically drawn, as the black bishop cannot cover a1.



Author G. Greco (amended by S. Tkachenko),
1621

No. 2



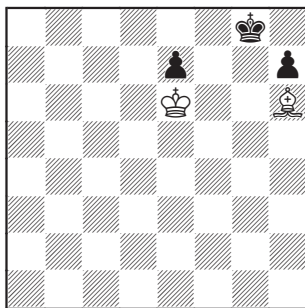
White to move and win

1. ♔h6+. White loses his pawn if he is too greedy with 1.gh? ♔g7.

1... ♔g8 2.g7 ♔f7. Nor can black play 2...e6+ 3.♔d6! ♔f7 4.♔e5! (mutual zugzwang) 4...♔g8 5.♔f6 e5 6.♔e6 e4 7.♔f6, and the bishop captures the pawn after which white wins easily.

3.g8=♖+!! 3.♔e5? e6! misses the win (now white is in zugzwang!) 4.♔d6 e5! 5.♔xe5 ♔g8, and a theoretical draw.

3... ♔xg8 4.♔e6! Mutual zugzwang.



4... ♔h8 5.♔f7 e5 6. ♔g7# An evergreen classic!
Author A. Troitsky, 1895