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Maximum score: 166 points	203
The author	204

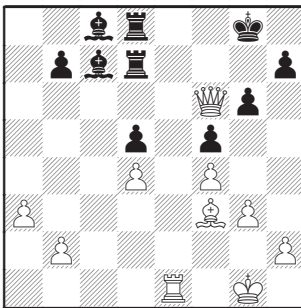
Chapter 2

Basic level puzzles

Playing for mate

In these first 14 exercises your task is to try to mate the opponent or else gain a decisive material advantage, not immediately but after preparation.

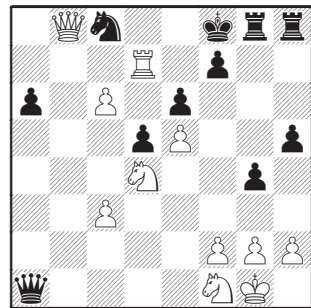
Puzzle 1



White to move

White has a decisive material advantage but it's possible to win the game immediately by deflecting a vital defender – how?

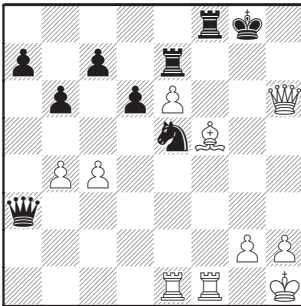
Puzzle 2



White to move

Black is ready to shelter his king on g7. How to prevent this?

Puzzle 3

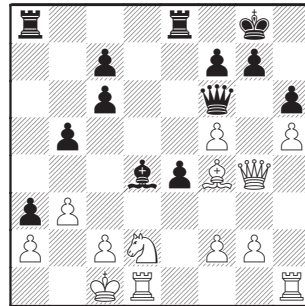


White to move

White has several ways to win, thanks to the weakness of the black monarch; the remoteness of the black queen, which is unable to aid the defence, is another factor.

There is a very quick way to win – what is it?

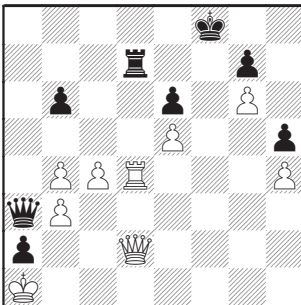
Puzzle 5



Black to move

The white king is very weak; what's the quickest way for the black queen to strike a decisive blow?

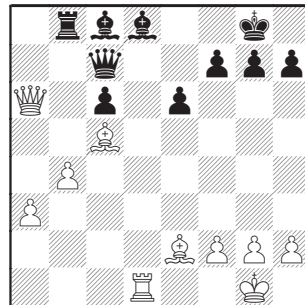
Puzzle 4



Black to move

The rook on d7 is attacked and there's no good defence, but... Black can counterattack – how?

Puzzle 6



White to move

The white queen is attacked, but there's a way to demonstrate that the black queen is overloaded, since it must defend two vital points. How can this be exploited?

Solutions for Chapter 2

Play for mate

Puzzle 1

Hint: Try to deflect the defending rook away from Black's second rank.

30. ♖xd5+!

If 30... ♖xd5 then 31. ♖e7 and mate.

1-0

Bernstein - John, Ostend 1906.

Puzzle 2

Hint: Try to open up the seventh rank, so that the black monarch can't escape.

32. ♖xe6+!

And mate is unavoidable; 32... fxe6
33. ♖xc8++.

1-0

Lazarevic - Todorova, Candidates
Tournament (Women), Plovdiv 1959.

Puzzle 3

Hint: Allow the f1-rook to come into play with decisive effect.

33. ♖h7+!

If 33... ♖xh7 then 34. ♖xf8++.

1-0

Keller - Gresser, Candidates
Tournament (Women), Plovdiv 1959.

Puzzle 4

Hint: Bear in mind that the white monarch is very exposed.

46... ♖xb3!

Threatening mate on b1, which wins a rook after for instance 47. ♖e1 (47. ♖xd7 ♖b1++) 47... ♖b1+ (not necessary, but simplest) 48. ♖xb1 axb1 ♖+ 49. ♖xb1 ♖xd4.

0-1

Lazarevic - Ladanyiike Karakas,
Women's Candidates Tournament,
Plovdiv 1959.

Puzzle 5

Hint: "Clearing the way."

22... ♖e3!

And it's not possible to prevent the entry of the queen, with mate on b2 or a1.

23. ♖de1

Or 23. fxe3 ♖b2++

23... ♖a1++

0-1

Nepomniachtchi - Nakamura,
chess.com 2020.