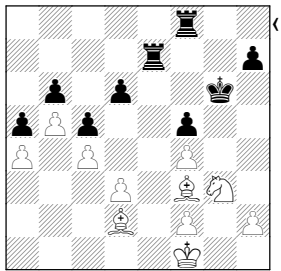


MULTI-PIECE ENDINGS



MULTI-PIECE ENDINGS

In previous chapters we have considered typical endgame positions and plans. These basic endings, however, do not arise in their "pure" form right from the start. They are like lighthouses at which one should aim from afar; to reach them, one should play openings, middlegames and multi-piece endings.

The endgame has its own rules, different from the opening and middlegame ones. The most important thing in the middlegame is calculating variations, while in the endgame, when the chessboard has cleared, planning becomes crucial. One should work out a plan and try to carry out it. Depending on a situation on the board, the plan may be changed, or even replaced by a new one, but, in any case, a chessplayer should be guided by a plan. Playing without planning is always punished.

This in no way means that tactics is absent in the endgame. Due to its increased activity, a king sometimes becomes a target for attack. Much more often, however, an active king helps its pieces to launch an attack on a passively placed opponent's king. Calculation of variations is necessary here.

The exact calculation is also required in endings where both opponents have passed pawns, especially if they are far advanced. Breakthroughs and sacrifices of an exchange or a piece often occur in such endings.

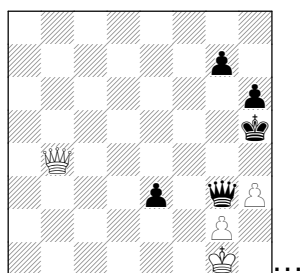
In the endgame one should try to play actively, coordinating all one's pieces against vulnerable points in the opponent's camp, such a badly placed king or weak pawns.

Let us now consider some classic examples. When possible, we will supply them with annotations by great players. This will help the reader to better understand the plans and ideas which guided them during the games.

In this position the game was adjourned, and Black resigned without a resumption. Why? Of course, one can analyze the

position by "moving" the pieces: "I go here, he goes there", and so on. But simpler is to work out a plan - and everything will become clear right off. In his annotations to this game Capablanca recommended the most "scientific" winning method. White places his bishop at c3 and advances the pawn to h5. Black is forced to play h7-h6 and retreat with his king to h7. Then White puts his bishop at h3 and transfers the knight to d5. Black is forced to protect the b6-pawn by b8 or b7, after which there follows f6+, winning an exchange. This simple and convincing scheme is a fine example of planning.

Yermolin - Petryaev,1971



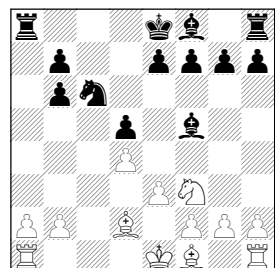
In this position the game was adjourned and adjudged by Botvinnik. He adjudged a victory to Black. The following moves are forced: 1. Qb5+ g5 2. Qe2+ Kh4 3. Kh1 h5 4. Kg1 White can only wait to see what Black will do. 4... g4 5. hxg4 hxg4 6. Kh1 Qe5!

[Black centralizes his queen. Bad is 6... Qf4 due to 7. g3+! Qxg3 8. Qf2! with a draw.]

7. g3+ Kg5 Botvinnik wrote about this position: "After 8. Kh2 Qc3 White is unable to find a draw; in the end the black king penetrates to d3 or f3". He gives just one line: 9. Qb5+ Kf6 10. Qb6+ Kf5 11. Qb5+ Ke4 12. Qb7+ Kd3 13. Qd5+ Qd4

14. Qb5+ Kd2 15. Qa5+ Kc1, and the rest is clear. If one has a plan, it can be carried out. One's main task is to have the plan.

Janowski D. - Capablanca J., New York, 1916



1... Bd7! The bishop is needed exactly here; it will support the a5-c4 maneuver after the preliminary b6-b5. Thus, Black has drawn up a plan. 2. Be2 e6 3. O-O Bd6 4. Rfc1 Ke7! 5. Bc3 Rhc8 6. a3 An unnecessary weakening.

[Better is 6. Ne5]

6... Na5 7. Nd2 f5 (preventing e3-e4) 8. g3 b5 9. f3?

[White must not allow the black knight to invade of c4. Necessary was 9. Bxa5 Rxc1+ 10. Rxc1 Rxa5 11. Nb3 Ra8 12. Nc5 followed by d3 with a probable draw.]

9... Nc4 10. Bxc4

[Better is 10. Nxc4 bxc4 11. Re1 with the idea of e3-e4.]

10... bxc4 11. e4 Kf7 12. e5?

[After this move White's position is hardly defensible. Correct is 12. exd5 exd5 13. f4 followed by f3-e5]

12... Be7 13. f4 b5 14. Kf2 Ra4 15. Ke3 Rca8 16. Rab1 h6 White is tied to the

defense of his Q-side, and Black launches an offensive on the K-side.

17. Nf3

[Stronger is 17. h4 g5 18. hxg5 hxg5 19. Nf3]

17... g5 18. Ne1 Rg8 19. Kf3

[19. Ng2!]

19... gxf4 20. gxf4 Raa8 21. Ng2 Rg4 22. Rg1 Rag8 23. Be1 (intending to play ♡f2 followed by ♡e3) 23... b4! Black brings his light-squared bishop into play, which quickly decides the game. 24. axb4

[In response to 24. Bxb4 Bxb4 25. axb4 Black can choose between 25... h5 (and 25... Rb8 with a decisive advantage in both cases.)]

24... Ba4 The bishop is transferred to e4. 25. Ra1

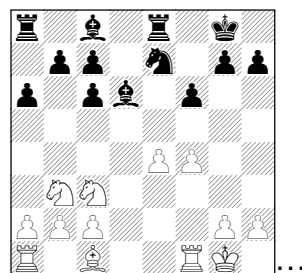
[25. Rc1 fails due to 25... Rxf4+! 26. Kxf4 Bg5+]

25... Bc2 26. Bg3 Be4+ 27. Kf2 h5! Now White is unable to avoid material losses in view of the threatening h5-h4. 28. Ra7 Bxg2 29. Rxb2 h4 30. Bxh4 Rxb2+ 31. Kf3 Rxb2 32. Bxe7

[No better is 32. Rxe7+ Kf8 33. Bf6 because of 33... Rgh8!]

32... Rh3+ 33. Kf2 Rb3 34. Bg5+ Kg6 35. Re7 Rxb2+ 36. Kf3 Ra8 37. Rxe6+ Kh7 White resigned.

Lasker E. - Capablanca J., St. Petersburg, 1914



1. f5!? At that time this idea was brand-new. R. Reti wrote: "An unexpected and at first sight strange move. White creates himself a backward e4-pawn and gives Black the strong e5-square. Nevertheless, going deeper into the position's nuances, one may find out that these obvious drawbacks are outweighed by less apparent, still more significant advantages. First, White opens a diagonal for his bishop. Second, he seriously cramps the opponent's knight and light-squared bishop. Third, he creates an outpost at e6 for the white pieces. All these factors give White more than sufficient compensation for the surrender of the e5-square". 1... b6 This move suggests itself, but it is not the best. Better is 1... ♡d7 and 2... ♠d8 followed by ♡e7-c8-d6 with roughly equal chances. 2. Bf4 Bb7

[Better is 2... Bxf4 3. Rxf4 Bb7 Now Black gets the weak pawn at d6.]

3. Bxd6 cxd6 4. Nd4! The knight hurries to occupy the weak e6-square.

[Weaker is 4. Rad1 Rad8 5. Nd4 Bc8! , and Black is OK.]

4... Rad8 5. Ne6 Rd7 Now Black is unable to chase away the troublesome knight. 6. Rad1 Nc8 7. Rf2 b5 8. Rfd2 Rde7 9. b4 (preventing c6-c5) 9... Kf7 10.

a3 Ba8

[Here, as well as on the next move, an exchange sacrifice deserves attention:
10... Rxe6 11. fxe6+ Rxe6 , and Black has good drawing chances.]

11. Kf2 Ra7 12. g4 Being supported by the e6-knight, White's attack on the K-side is irresistible. 12... h6 13. Rd3 a5

The a-file gives Black nothing. 14. h4 axb4 15. axb4 Rae7 It is difficult to suggest Black anything better. 16. Kf3 Rg8 17. Kf4 g6 18. Rg3

[The immediate 18. g5 deserved attention.]

18... g5+

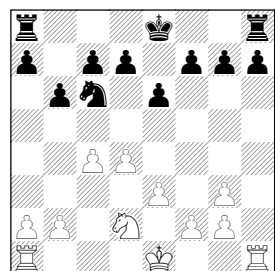
[This leads to a quick defeat. More stubborn would have been 18... gxf5 19. exf5! d5 , though in this case too, White would have retained an indisputable advantage after 20. g5]

19. Kf3! Nb6 20. hxg5 hxg5 21. Rh3!

[Weaker is 21. Rxd6 Rh8! followed by 22... ♖c4 with drawing chances for Black.]

21... Rd7 22. Kg3! Prevention. White takes his king away from eventual checks. 22... Ke8 23. Rdh1 Bb7 24. e5! (a decisive blow) 24... dxe5 25. Ne4 Nd5 26. N6c5 Bc8 (this is forced) 27. Nxd7 Bxd7 28. Rh7 Rf8 29. Ra1! Kd8 30. Ra8+ Bc8 31. Nc5 Black resigned.

Bogoljubow E. - Capablanca J., Kissingen, 1928



The following game perfectly demonstrates the difference between systematic purposeful play and aimless trampling.

Before this game Bogoljubow was on the lead, with Capablanca being one and a half point behind. Therefore, though the position is equal, Capablanca persistently plays for a win. His plan involves a pawn advance on the Q-side; White should play on the K-side. 1... Ke7 2. g4 h6 3. a3

[This move is the first in the series of aimless moves. After 3. Ke2 followed by !h5 and !ah1 chances are equal.]

3... a6 4. Ke2 Rhb8 5. Ne4

[Better is 5. b3!;
or 5. Rh5]

5... b5 6. c5 d5!

[This is stronger than 6... b4 7. a4 Na5 8. g5! , and White obtains counterplay on the K-side.]

7. cxd6+ cxd6 8. f4?!

[By 8. Rhc1 Rc8 (or 8... Kd7) 9. b3! White prevents the Q-side files from being opened, and a draw becomes unavoidable.]

8... Rc8 9. f5?

[White is just asking for trouble. Correct is 9. Rhc1 Na5 10. Nd2 , maintaining the balance.]

9... Na5 10. Kd3

[Now the game is hard to save. Necessary was 10. Rac1, for example: 10... Nb3 (or 10... Nc4 11. fxe6 fxe6 12. Rc2 d5 13. Nc5) 11. Rxc8 Rxc8 12. Nc3]

10... Nc4 11. Rab1

[More stubborn would have been 11. b3 Na5 12. fxe6 fxe6 13. Nd2, though after 13... Rc7 14. Rac1 Rac8 15. Rxc7+ Rxc7 White's defense would be difficult.]

11... d5 12. Nc3

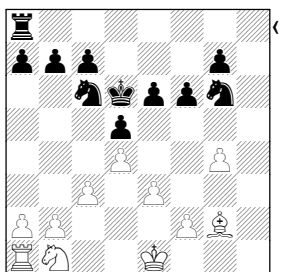
[On 12. Nc5 or 12. a2 Black plays 12... e5 with the idea of e4 followed by e7-f6-g5.]

12... Rc6 13. fxe6 fxe6 14. g5 hxg5 15. Rh5 Kf6 16. Rh3 Rac8 (threatening 17... a2) 17. Na2 a5 18. Rf3+ Kg6 19. g4 Nd6 Black prepares a final blow. 20. Nc3 b4 21. axb4 axb4 22. Nd1 Rc2 23. Rf2 b3 24. Ra1 Ne4 25. Re2 R8c6! 26. Rb1 e5 27. Ra1

[27. dxe5 Nc5+ 28. Kd4 Rxe2]

27... R6c4 28. Ra5 Nc5+! White resigned.

London - St.Petersburg,1886



The Petersburg team was headed by M.Chigorin, who wrote about this

position: "All White's pieces, which were developed, have been exchanged.

Black's king, knights and pawns are perfectly placed. Though at the moment Black's advantage is not apparent, sooner or later it may be converted into a win". 1... Rh8 2. Kf1 e5 3. Nd2 Rh4

4. f3?!

[This is the move Black anticipated. Stronger would have been 4. Nf3!, forcing the black rook to retreat (impossible is 4... Rxg4? 5. Bh3) In this case Black would prepare the e5-e4 advance.]

4... exd4 5. cxd4

[Worse is 5. exd4 Nf4 6. Kg1 Ne2+ 7. Kf1 Rh2]

5... Nb4 6. Kf2 b6 (with the idea of c7-c5) 7. b3 Rh8! (preparing the following combination) 8. a3 One cannot endure such a knight. 8... Nd3+ 9. Ke2

[On 9. Kg3 there follows 9... Re8 (that is why Black played 7... !h8) 10. Nf1 c5 11. dxc5+ bxc5 12. Rd1 c4 13. bxc4 dxc4 14. Nd2 Kc5 15. Ne4+ Rxe4! 16. fxe4 Nge5 17. Bf1 Kb5, and, according to Chigorin, "It is clear that despite being an exchange down Black is at least not worse". After the move in the game Black gains the initiative.]

9... Rh2 10. Kxd3 Rxd2 11. Rh1

[11. b4 would be met by 11... Rh2! 12. a4 (or 12. b5 Ne7 followed by c5 and, in response to bxc6, axc6-a5) 12... Ne7 13. a5 Nc6 14. axb6 Nxb4+ 15. Kc3 axb6]

11... c5! 12. Rh7

[After 12. dxc5+ bxc5 Black obtains the

important e5-square for his knight.]

12... cxd4 13. exd4 Nf4+ 14. Kc3

[Bad is 14. Ke3? g5! , mating.]

14... Ne6 15. Kd3 a5 16. Ke3 Rg1! (a very strong maneuver) 17. Rh8

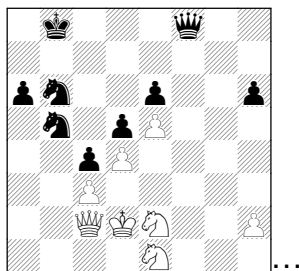
[17. Kd3 Rc1!]

17... Rc1! 18. Rb8 Rc3+ 19. Kf2 Nxd4 20. Rxb6+ Ke5 The activity of Black's pieces quickly decides the game. 21. Rb7 Kf4 22. g5

[Or 22. Rxb7 Re3 23. Nf1 Re2+ 24. Kg1 Nxf3+ 25. Kh1 Rf2]

22... Re3 White resigned.

Chigorin M. - Tarrasch S., St. Petersburg, 1893



In spite of being a pawn down, White is better, approximately 5.5 : 4.5, because it is difficult for Black to defend his pawns at e6 and especially at h6. 1. Qg6 Nc7

2. Ng2! Kc8

[The immediate 2... a5 deserved attention.]

3. Ngf4 Qe7

[Black is unable to protect both pawns. If 3... Kd7 , then 4. Qh7+ Kc6? 5. Qxc7+! Kxc7 6. Nxe6+ Kd7 7. Nxf8+]

4. Qxh6 a5 5. h4 a4 6. h5 a3 7. Nc1 Nd7 8. Qg6 Nf8 "Black is noticeably worse, because White's pawn is much better

supported" (Tarrasch). 9. Qg8 Kd7 10. h6 Ne8 11. Na2

[Weaker is 11. Nxe6 Qxe6! 12. Qxf8 Qg6 13. Qxa3 Qxh6+ 14. Kc2 Nc7 with a probable draw;

but stronger is 11. Ke2! with winning chances for White.]

11... Qh4! 12. Qf7+ Qe7?

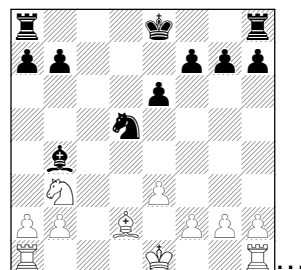
[This loses. The draw could have been obtained by 12... Kd8! 13. Qxf8 Qf2+]

13. Qh5 Qh7 14. Nb4 Nc7 15. Qg5 Qe7 16. Qg8 Qh4 17. Qg7+ Qe7

[17... Ke8 fails due to 18. Qxf8+ Kxf8 19. Ng6+]

18. Nh5! This decides. 18... a2 19. Nf6+ Kc8 20. Qxe7 a1=Q 21. Qxf8+ Kb7 22. Nd7 Na6 23. Nc5+ Black resigned.

Nimzowitsch A. - Tarrasch S., Breslau, 1925



Positions with symmetrical pawn structures are usually drawn, but here White step by step gains an initiative.

1. Rc1! Rd8

[After 1... O-O the black king is out of play.]

2. Bxb4 Nxb4 3. Ke2 Ke7

[3... Nxa2 4. Ra1±]

4. Rc4 Na6

[This is forced, because on 4... Nc6

White has the unpleasant 5. Rhc1 ±]

5. Rhc1 Rd7 "Black's position still seems to be firm, but in fact he is on the verge of defeat" (A.Nimzowitch). 6. f4! Rhd8 7. Nd4 f6 8. a4! White prepares b2-b4.

[The immediate 8. b4 could be met by 8... b5!]

8... e5 9. fxe5 fxe5 10. Nf3 Ke6 11. b4 White improves his position. 11... b6 12. R1c2! (an important preventative move) 12... h6 13. h4 Rd6 14. h5

[Also good is 14. Nd2 with the idea of 15. ♖e4 followed by b4-b5.]

14... Rd5 15. Rg4 R5d7 16. Rc6+ Rd6

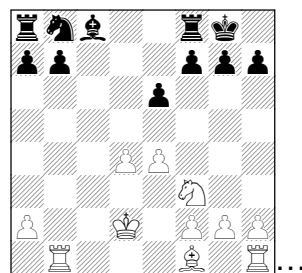
[There is no defense. If 16... Kf5, then 17. Rcg6, mating; after 16... Kd5 17. Rcg6 e4 18. Nd2 Nxb4 19. Nxe4 Black will not hold for a long time.]

17. Rg6+ Ke7

[Or 17... Kd5 18. Rcx d6+ Rxd6 19. e4+ Kc6 20. b5+]

18. Rxg7+ Kf8 19. Rxd6 Rxd6 20. Rxa7 Nxb4 21. Nxe5 The rest is clear. 21... Re6 22. Ng6+ Kg8 23. Ne7+! Kf8 24. Nf5 Nd5 25. g4 Nf4+ 26. Kf3 Nd3 27. Ra8+ Kf7 28. Rh8 Nc5 29. Rh7+ Kg8 30. Rxh6 Rxh6 31. Nxh6+ Kf8 32. Nf5 Nxa4 33. h6 Kg8 34. g5 Kh7 35. Kg4 Nc5 36. Kh5 Ne6 37. g6+ Kg8 38. h7+ Kh8 39. Kh6 Black resigned.

Rubinstein A. - Schlechter C., San Sebastian, 1912



It is hard to believe that this position occurred as early as in the beginning of the 20th century! This example one more time confirms the necessity of studying the classics. 1. Bb5! a6

[Or 1... b6 2. Rhc1 Bb7 3. Ke3 with a clear advantage to White.]

2. Bd3 Rd8 3. Rhc1 b5 4. Rc7 Nd7 5. Ke3 Nf6 6. Ne5 Bd7 7. g4! h6

[No better is 7... Be8 8. g5 Nh5 (8... Nd7 9. Nc6) 9. Be2 f6 10. gxf6 Nxf6 11. Rg1 g6 12. Re7! Rd6 13. Rc1!]

8. f4!

[This is stronger than 8. h4]

8... Be8 9. g5 hxg5 10. fxcg5 Nh7 11. h4 Rdc8 12. Rbc1 Rxc7 13. Rxc7 Rd8

[13... f6 14. gxf6 gxf6 (14... Nxf6 15. Re7) 15. Ng4]

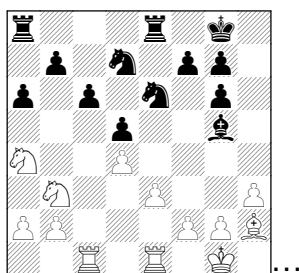
14. Ra7 f6 15. gxf6 gxf6 16. Ng4 Bh5 17. Nh6+ Kh8 18. Be2! Be8

[18... Bxe2 19. Nf7+]

19. Rxa6 Kg7 20. Ng4 f5 21. Ra7+! Kh8

[21... Kg6 22. h5+ Kg5 23. Rg7+ Kh4 24. exf5 exf5 25. Nh6 Nf8 26. Nxf5+ Kh3 27. Bf1+ Kh2 28. Rg2+ Kh1 29. Ng3# (pointed out by Kmoch)]

22. Ne5 fxe4 23. Bxb5! Nf6 24. Bxe8 Rxe8 25. Kf4! Kg8 26. Kg5 Rf8 27. Kg6 Black resigned.



1. Na5 Ra7 2. Kf1 Due to an ugly position of the black rook at a7 White has a large advantage. Nevertheless, converting it into a win is by no means easy. 2... Bd8 3. b4 f5 4. Nb2 g5

[After 4... Bxa5 5. bxa5 Black creates himself a chronic weakness at b7.]

5. Nd3 Kf7 6. Rc2 Bb6

[Better is 6... Bc7 7. Bxc7 Nxc7 8. Nc5 Nxc5 9. bxc5 Ne6 10. Rb2 Re7 11. Reb1 Nd8]

7. Bd6 Nd8 8. Nc5 Nxc5 9. Bxc5 Bxc5 10. bxc5 Ke7 11. Rb2 Kd7 12. Reb1 Kc8 13. Ke2 Re7 14. Kf3 Re4 15. g4! White intends to open up the K-side and invade the enemy camp with his rooks. 15... g6

[15... f4 16. Rh1 ... h4]

16. Rg1 Nf7 17. h4! gxh4 18. gxf5 gxf5 19. Rg7 Nd8 20. Rg8 f4 21. Rh8

[Weaker is 21. Nxb7 Rxb7 22. Rxd8+ , and Black gets rid of his passive pieces.]

21... fxe3 22. fxe3 Kd7 23. Rg2 Re8 24. Rxh4 Re7 25. Rh8 Kc7 26. Rgg8 Rd7

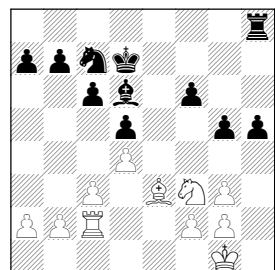
[26... Ra8 27. Nxb7]

27. Nb3 a5 28. Nc1 Ra8 29. Nd3 b5 Despair, but passive tactics could not save Black. 30. cxb6+ Kxb6 31. Nc5 Rd6 32. a4 Rc8 33. Kg4 [...]

[33... Ra8 34. Kf5 Rc8 35. Rf8! with the idea of e5;

or 33... Kc7 34. Rg7+ Kb8 35. Rhh7]

Black resigned.



Black is better, but a win is difficult. 1...

Ne8! The knight is transferred to f5, where it will support both eventual advances, h5-h4 and g5-g4. Besides, the knight will control the d4-square after c6-c5. 2. Re2 Ng7 3. Bd2 Nf5 4. Re1 c5! Black is not afraid to isolate his d-pawn; in compensation he activates his bishop.

5. dxc5 Bxc5 6. Kf1 (6... ag3 was threatened) 6... h4 7. gxh4

[7. g4 Nh6 loses a pawn.]

7... g4! 8. Nd4 Bxd4! 9. cxd4 Rxh4 The position is simplified, but Black retains the advantage: he has the active knight against the opponent's passive bishop.

10. Bc3 Rh1+ 11. Ke2 Rh2! Black's advantage after a rook exchange may prove insufficient for the win, because White has only one weakness, the d4-pawn. 12. Rg1 Nh4! This move provokes White to weaken the f3-square.

13. g3 Nf5 14. b3 Ke6 15. Bb2 a6 Black improves his position. 16. Bc3

Nd6 17. Ke3 Ne4 18. Be1 Kf5 19. Rf1 Rh8 The rook has done its job on the K-side, and so Black transfers it to the Q-side. 20. Kd3

[20. f3 is not good - it weakens the g3-pawn, while the black king becomes more active.]

20... b5 21. a3 Rh7 22. Ba5 Rh8 23. Bb4 Rc8 24. Ba5 Ng5 25. Bd2 Ne4 Black has no reason to hurry; he is waiting for an opponent's blunder. 26. Ba5 Kg6 27. Bb4 f5 28. Ba5 Rh8 29. Ke3 Re8 30. Kd3 Rc8 31. Bb4 Rc7 32. Ba5 Rh7 33. Ke3 Re7 34. Kd3 f4! At last Black switches to active operations. 35. gxf4 Rh7! (preventing 36. f3) 36. Bd2

[36. f3 would be met by 36... Rh3!]

36... Nxd2! Rubinstein transposes into his favorite rook ending which he has foreseen when playing 34... f4! 37. Kxd2 Rh3 38. f3 This is forced. 38... gxf3

[Of course, not 38... g3 in view of 39. Ke3 followed by 40. lc1=]

39. Rf2

[Or 39. Ke3 f2+ 40. Kxf2 Rxb3]

39... Kf5 40. Ke3 Kg4 41. b4

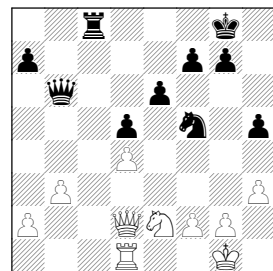
[Also losing is 41. f5 Kxf5 42. Rxf3+ Rxf3+ 43. Kxf3 a5!]

41... Rh1 42. f5

[If 42. Rxf3, then 42... Ra1!]

42... Re1+ 43. Kd3 Re4! White resigned.

Lasker E. - Capablanca J., Havana, 1921



White is worse due to his weak pawn at d4. By his last move, 1. h3?, he magnified his difficulties. Instead of this White should have played 1. g3! with good drawing chances. 1... h4! Black immediately takes an opportunity to secure the knight's stance at f5. 2. Qd3 Rc6 3. Kf1 g6 Black improves his position. 4. Qb1 Qb4 5. Kg1 a5! (intending to create White the second weakness by playing a5-a4) 6. Qb2 a4 7. Qd2 Qxd2 8. Rxd2 axb3 9. axb3 The queen exchange has not alleviated White's defense. 9... Rb6 10. Rd3 Ra6 11. g4 Trying to push the troublesome knight from f5, White weakens the e4-square. 11... hxg3 12. fxg3

[On 12. Nxg3 there would follow 12... Ra1+ 13. Kg2 Nd6 with the idea of 14... lb1μ]

12... Ra2 13. Nc3 Rc2 14. Nd1 (14... d4 was threatened) 14... Ne7 15. Ne3 Rc1+ 16. Kf2 Nc6 17. Nd1 Rb1!

[This is stronger than 17... Nb4 18. Rd2 Rb1 19. Nb2 Rxb2 20. Rxb2 Nd3+ 21. Ke2 Nxb2 22. Kd2]

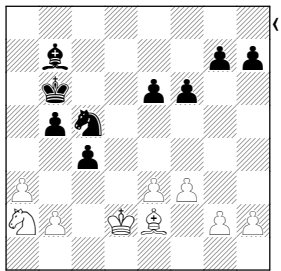
18. Ke2?

[More stubborn would have been 18. Ke1 Na5 19. Kd2 Rxb3 20. Rxb3 Nxb3+μ]

18... Rxb3 19. Ke3 Rb4 Now only

accuracy is required of Black. 20. Nc3 Ne7 21. Ne2 Nf5+ 22. Kf2 g5 23. g4 Nd6 24. Ng1 Ne4+ 25. Kf1 Rb1+ 26. Kg2 Rb2+ 27. Kf1 Rf2+ 28. Ke1 Ra2 Black is ready to bring his king into play, which will decide the game. 29. Kf1 Kg7 30. Re3 Kg6 31. Rd3 f6 32. Re3 White is helpless. 32... Kf7 33. Rd3 Ke7 34. Re3 Kd6 35. Rd3 Rf2+ 36. Ke1 Rg2 37. Kf1 Ra2 38. Re3 e5 39. Rd3 exd4 40. Rxd4 Kc5 41. Rd1 d4 42. Rc1+ Kd5 White resigned. Capablanca considered this game to be one of his best.

Alatortsev V. - Lisitsyn G., Leningrad, 1935



Black has an edge thanks to his more active pieces, but a win is still a long way off. 1... Na4 2. Kc1

[If 2. Kc2, then 2... Bc6 followed by 3... ♗e8 and 4... ♗g6.]

2... Kc5 3. Bd1 Nb6 4. Kd2 g5! A player with an advantage must attack! 5. Nc3 b4 6. axb4+

[Bad is 6. Nb1 due to the maneuver ♗b7-c6-e8-g6;

or 6. Na4+ Nxa4 7. Bxa4 c3+! 8. Kc2 cxb2 9. Kxb2 bxa3+ 10. Kxa3 Kc4, and Black is winning.]

6... Kxb4 7. Bc2 h6 8. Na2+ Kc5 9. Nc3

Bc6 10. Be4 f5 11. Bc2

[After 11. Bxc6 Kxc6 followed by ♜c5-b4 and ♜d5 White still faces problems.]

11... f4 12. e4?

[Falling into a severe squeeze. Better is 12. Bd1]

12... e5 13. Bd1 Nc8 14. Be2 Nd6 15. Bd1 g4 16. Bc2

[Or 16. fxg4 Bxe4 17. Bf3 Bg6 followed by e4 and e3°]

16... h5 17. Bb1 Ne8 18. Bc2 Nf6 19. Bd1 Bd7 20. Ke1

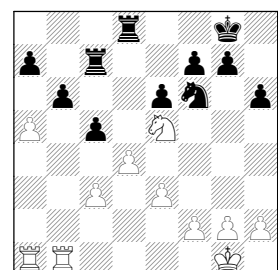
[20. Be2? fails due to 20... g3 21. h3 Bxh3]

20... Kd4 Now the activity of Black's king decides the game. 21. Kf2 h4 22. Bc2 g3+ 23. Kg1 Ke3 24. Nb1 Be6 25. Ba4 Nd7 26. Bb5 Nb6 27. Nc3

[On 27. Kh1 Black wins by 27... Kf2 with the idea of 28... h3; whereas on 27. Ba6 there follows 27... Na4]

27... Kd2 28. hxg3 hxg3 29. Na2 Kc2 30. Nb4+ Kxb2 White resigned.

Klein - Reshevsky S., Jarmout, 1935



It may seem that White possesses an initiative, but this is not the case. Black's

pieces are placed harmoniously, and White has a weakness of the back rank. Chances are equal. 1... bxa5! 2. Rxa5 Ne4! 3. Rba1 cxd4!

[Black tries to take over the initiative. 3... Nxc3 leads to equality.]

4. cxd4 Rdc8 5. g3? A mistake.

[Correct is 5. h3 , with a drawn position.]

5... Rc1+ 6. Rxc1 Rxc1+ 7. Kg2 Rc2 8. Rxa7?

[Stronger is 8. Nd3 Rd2 9. Ra3 followed by e2-f1-e1, maintaining the balance.]

8... Rxf2+ 9. Kg1 h5 10. Nd3 Rd2 11. Nf4 g6 12. Ra1 Nc3!

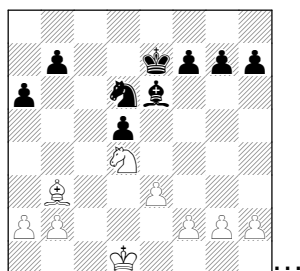
[Nothing is achieved by 12... Ng5 in view of 13. Rf1 followed by lf2]

13. Re1

[After 13. Rc1 Ne2+ (or 13... Nd1 14. Ng2 Kg7) 14. Nxe2 Rxe2 15. Rc3 g5! a draw is difficult.]

13... Kg7 14. Nh3 Ne4! 15. Nf4 Kh6 16. Re2 Rd1+ 17. Kg2 g5! 18. Nh3 Nc3 19. Rc2 Rd3! 20. Kf2 Kg6 21. Ng1 Kf5 22. Nf3 Nd1+ 23. Ke2 Rxe3+ 24. Kxd1 Rxf3 25. Ke2 Ke4 26. Rc4 Rf5 27. h3 Rf3! White resigned.

Flohr S. - Pirc V., Podesbradi, 1936



S. Flor has his word: "White's advantage is minimal, and Black draws by precise defense". There is nothing to be added.

1. Kc2 Ne4 2. f3 Nc5 3. Kc3 Kd6 4. Bc2 g6

[Perhaps, 4... h6 is stronger, since Black does not have to be afraid of 5. Nf5+ Bxf5 6. Bxf5]

5. a4

[More precise is 5. b4 , because now Black could have successfully defended by 5... a5 or 5... b6.]

5... Bd7

[5... a5!?
5... b6!?]

6. a5! (fixing the pawns at a6 and b7) 6... Ne6 7. b4 Nc7 8. Bd3 Be8 9. f4 White improves his position, while Black can only wait to see what White will do. 9... Bd7 10. Be2 Ne8 11. Nb3 Bc6?!

[Better is 11... h5 , preventing a squeeze on the K-side.]

12. g4 Nf6 13. Nc5 Ne8

[No better is 13... Ne4+ 14. Nxe4+ dxe4 15. g5! followed by 16. e4d4]

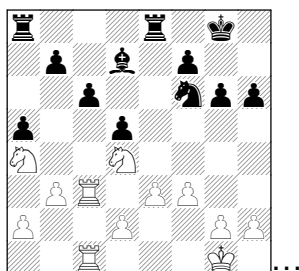
14. g5! Nc7 15. Bd3 Ne8 16. Nb3 Bd7 17. Nd4 Nc7 18. Be2 Bc8 19. h4 Bd7 20. h5 Ne8 21. h6! Now Black is defenseless.

21... Ke7 22. Bf3 Be6 23. Nb3 Kd6 24. Nc5 Bc8 25. e4! dxe4 26. Bxe4 Nc7

[Or 26... Kc7 27. Kd4]

27. Nxb7+ Bxb7 28. Bxb7 Ne6 29. Bxa6 Nxf4 30. Bc4 Black resigned.

Nimzowitsch A. - Maroczy G., Bled, 1931



Despite his advantage, White would have a hard job of breaking the black defense. 1. g4! Having restricted Black's forces on the Q-side, White seizes space on the K-side. 1... Re7 2. h4 Ne8 3. Kf2 Nd6 4. Nc5 Be8 5. Na4 So far White is unable to find a plan of improving his position. 5... Bd7 6. Rg1 Kh7 7. Nc5 Be8 8. Rcc1! Making use of the fact that 8... b6 does not work. 8... Rd8

[8... b6 fails due to 9. Na4 c5 10. Nxb6 Rb8 11. Nxd5]

9. Na4 Ra8 10. g5 h5 11. Nb6 Ra6 12. Na4 Ra8 13. d3! At last White reveals his plan: the unpleasant e3-e4 is threatened. 13... Nf5!?

[If 13... Rd8 , then 14. Rc5]

14. Nxf5 gxf5 15. Nc3! (threatening a3-e2-f4-h5) 15... Bd7

[15... d4 16. exd4 Rd8 17. Rge1!]

16. Ne2 a4

[16... Rae8 17. Nf4 Rxe3 18. Nxh5 (or 18. Rge1)]

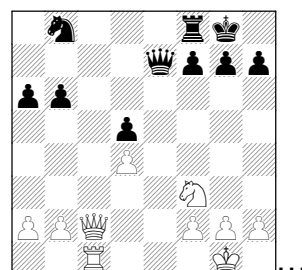
17. Ra1! (a strong preventative move) 17... c5

[On 17... f6 there follows 18. gxf6 Rf7 19. Rg5 axb3 20. Rag1 Rxf6 21. Rg7+ Kh6 22. Rxd7 bxa2 23. Ra1 , and White manages to overcome his opponent's resistance, for example:

23... b5 24. Rb7 followed by a3 (pointed out by Nimzowitch).]

18. Nf4 Be6 19. Nxh5 b5 20. Nf4 b4 21. h5 Rea7 22. Rac1 axb3 23. axb3 d4 24. Nxe6 fxe6 25. Rxc5 Ra2+ 26. Kg3 dxe3 27. Re1 e2 28. Re5 Black resigned.

Botvinnik M. - Alekhin A., Amsterdam, 1938



White's positional advantage is doubtless. Botvinnik confidently converts it into a win by transposing into the endgame. 1. Qc7! Qxc7 There is nothing else. 2. Rxc7 f6! 3. Kf1 Rf7 4. Rc8+ Rf8 5. Rc3 White has ceded the 7th rank, but keeps on controlling the c-file. 5... g5

[There is nothing better. On 5... Nd7 or 5... le8 there follows 6. Rc7!]

6. Ne1! (intending to play a1-c2-e3) 6... h5

[Slightly better is 6... h6 7. Nc2 Kf7]

7. h4! Nd7

[If 7... Kf7 , then 8. Nf3 (pointed out by M.Botvinnik) 8... g4 9. Ne1 Ke6 10. Nd3 Kf5 11. g3 Ke4 12. Nf4]

8. Rc7 Rf7 9. Nf3 g4 10. Ne1! f5 (otherwise White plays a3-f4) 11. Nd3 f4 12. f3

[Also possible is 12. Nb4]

12... gxf3 13. gxf3 a5 14. a4 Kf8 15. Rc6

Ke7 16. Kf2 Rf5 Black is unable to protect all his weaknesses. 17. b3 Kd8 18. Ke2 Nb8 19. Rg6!

[After 19. Rxb6 Kc7 followed by 20... ♖c6 Black obtains some chances to survive.]

19... Kc7 20. Ne5 Na6 21. Rg7+

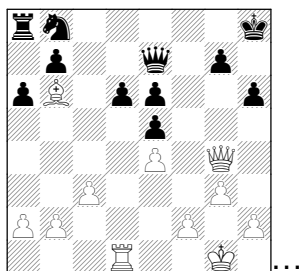
[Also strong is 21. Rg5]

21... Kc8 22. Nc6! Rf6 23. Ne7+ Kb8 24. Nxd5 Rd6 25. Rg5 Nb4 26. Nxb4 axb4 27. Rxh5 Rc6

[Or 27... Rxd4 28. Rf5!]

28. Rb5 Kc7 29. Rxb4 Rh6 30. Rb5 Rxh4 31. Kd3 Black resigned.

Smyslov V. - Reshevsky S., Moscow, 1948



1. Qh4! By this unexpected move White wins a pawn.

[Also good is 1. Qe2 threatening 2. ♔d2]

1... Qd7 2. Qd8+! Qxd8 3. Bxd8 Nd7 4. Bc7 Nc5 5. Rxd6 As Smyslov demonstrates, White's position is won.

5... Rc8

[5... Nxe4 6. Rxe6]

6. Bb6 Na4 7. Rxe6 Nxb2 8. Rxe5 Nc4

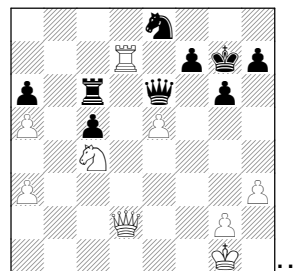
[Bad is 8... Rxc3 9. Bd4 followed by an attack on the g7-pawn.]

9. Re6 Nxb6 10. Rxb6 Rxc3 11. Rxb7

Rc2 12. h4 Rxa2 13. Kg2 a5 14. h5 a4 15. Ra7 Kg8 16. g4 a3 17. Kg3 Re2 18. Kf3! Ra2 19. Ke3 Kf8 20. f3 Ra1 21. Kf4

The white king is heading for g6. 21... a2 22. e5 Kg8 23. Kf5 Rf1 24. Rxa2 Rxf3+ 25. Kg6 Kf8 26. Ra8+ Ke7 27. Ra7+ Black resigned.

Botvinnik M. - Levenfish G., Moscow, 1937



1. Qd5! M. Botvinnik exhaustively explains this move: "Black is cramped, and so the queen exchange seems to be in his favor. In this particular case, however, White must exchange queens in order to realize his advantage, because with queens on the board his king is insecure." 1... Qxd5 2. Rxd5 Kf8 3. Rd7! As it will become clear further, White must decoy the black rook to c7.

3... Rc7

[Bad is 3... Nc7 4. Rd8+ Kg7 (or 4... Ke7 5. Rd6!) 5. Rc8; or 3... f6 4. Rxh7±]

4. Rd8 Ke7 5. Rd6! Ra7

[Black is forced to put his rook at a7, because an attempt of active counterplay does not work: 5... Rd7 6. Rxa6 Rd4 7. Nb6 Nc7 8. Ra7 Kd8 9. a6 c4 10. Rxc7 Kxc7 11. a7 Rd8 12.

a8=Q Rxa8 13. Nxa8+ Kb7 14. Kf2 ,
and White wins. Now it becomes clear
why White had to play 3. !d7!]

6. Rc6 Kd7 7. Rb6

[But not 7. Rxc5? Rc7! 8. Nb6+ Ke6 ,
and Black is not worse.]

7... Ke7 8. Kf2 f6 Passive tactics could
not save Black - in this case White would
penetrate to the Q-side with his king. 9.
Ke2 9... Ra8 10. Rc6 fxe5 11. Rxc5
Black is unable to avoid material losses.

11... Nd6 12. Rc7+ Ke6

[12... Kd8 13. Rxh7]

13. Nxd6

[13. Rc6? Kd5]

13... Kxd6 14. Rxh7 Rb8

[If 14... Ke6 , then 15. g4 Kf6 16. h4]

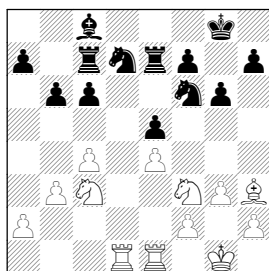
15. Rg7 Rb2+ 16. Kf1 e4 17. Rxg6+ Ke5
18. Rxa6 Ra2 Although White has three
extra pawns, he must play accurately.

19. Ra8! Kf4 20. a6 Ra1+ 21. Ke2 Ra2+
22. Kd1 Rxa3 23. a7 Ke3 24. h4 The
rest is clear. 24... Rd3+ 25. Kc2 Rd7
26. g4 Rc7+ 27. Kb3 Rd7 28. Kc3! (the
most precise) 28... Rc7+ 29. Kb4 Rd7 30.

Kc5 Black resigned. [...]

[30... Kd3 31. Kc6]

Reshevsky S. - Keres P., Semmering, 1937



1. b4?!

[The position is approximately equal.
After 1. Re2 with the idea of e1, f3,
c2 followed by !ed2 a draw is
unavoidable. White overestimates his
chances and worsens his position.]

1... Nf8 2. Bxc8 Rxc8 3. Rd6

[Another inaccuracy. 3. Re2 followed
by f3-e1-c2 leads to equality.]

3... Ne8 4. Rd3 f6 5. Red1 Kf7 6. a4 It
was not too late to play f3-e1-c2
followed by f2-f3 with a probable draw.

6... Ke6 Now Black has an advantage.
His plan involves an exchange of one
couple of rooks followed by a knight's
transferring to e6. 7. Rd8 Rec7! 8. Kf1
Ke7 9. R8d3 Rd7 The rook exchange is
unavoidable. 10. Rxd7+ Nxd7 11. Ke2

[Or 11. a5 bxa5 12. bxa5 Rb8 with a
clear advantage.]

11... Nd6 12. Nd2 Nf8! 13. Ra1 Ne6 14.
a5 b5! Opening of the a-file would be to
White's benefit. 15. cxb5 Nd4+! (an
important intermediate check) 16. Kd3
cxb5 17. Rc1

[After 17. Nd5+ Ke6 threatening 18...
!c2 followed by 19... !d2 or 18... f5 the
d5-knight is hanging.]

17... Ke6 18. Ne2 Nc6! 19. Rb1 (forced)
19... Rd8! 20. Kc3

[If 20. Ke3 , then 20... Nc4+ 21. Nxc4
bxc4 , and White is in trouble.]

20... f5 21. exf5+

[21. f3 fxe4 22. fxe4 Rf8]

21... gxf5 22. f3 Rc8! 23. Kd3 Ne8 The
knight is transferred to d5 in order to
attack the b4-pawn. 24. Nc3

[Bad is 24. g4 in view of 24... Rd8+!
25. Kc3 fxg4 26. fxg4 Nf6 threatening

27... ♠g4 and 27... ♠d5]

24... Nf6! 25. Rb2 a6 26. g4!? White tries to obtain counterplay by sacrificing a pawn. 26... e4+! This blow decides the game.

[26... fxc4 27. fxc4 Nxc4 28. Nde4!]

27. fxe4

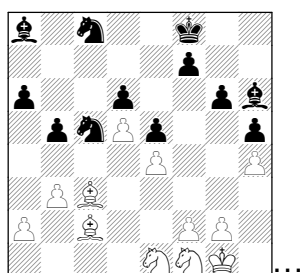
[27. Ke2 Nd4+ 28. Ke3 Rxc3+ 29. Kxd4 Rd3+ 30. Kc5 Rd6 31. gxf5+ Ke7 with inevitable mate.]

27... Ne5+ 28. Kc2 fxc4 29. Kb3 Nc4! (the simplest) 30. Nxc4

[30. Rc2 Nxd2+ 31. Rxd2 Rxc3+ 32. Kxc3 Nxe4+]

30... Rxc4 31. Re2 Ke5 32. Re1 h5 33. Rd1 h4 34. Rd8 g3! 35. hxg3 hxg3 36. Rd3 g2 37. Ne2 Rxe4 38. Ng1 Re1! White resigned. Paul Keres demonstrated his superb technique while playing this ending.

Smyslov V. - Euwe M., Hague/Moscow, 1948



In this multi-piece ending White has slightly better chances. A draw, however, is most probable. 1. Bb4 Ke7

[Better is 1... Nb6 followed by 2... ♠bd7 and 3... ♞b7.]

2. f3 Kd7?

[Necessary is 2... Nb6 followed by 3...

♠bd7. Black intends to conduct f7-f5, but he fails to do this.]

3. Nd3 Nxd3 4. Bxd3 Ne7 5. g4! White has two threats: 6. g5 and 6. gxh5 gxh5 7. ♠g3, winning a pawn. 5... hxg4?!

[Stronger is 5... Bf4! , retaining chances to equalize.]

6. fxc4 Bc1

[Worse is 6... f5 because of 7. g5 Bg7 8. Ne3 with a clear advantage to White;

whereas if 6... f6 , then 7. g5 fxc5 8. Bd2]

7. g5 Bb7 8. Kf2 Nc8

[8... Ng8 could be met by 9. Ng3 f6 10. Ne2 Bb2 11. Ke3 , intending to pursue the black bishop.]

9. Ne3 Ke7 10. Ba5 White prevents the ♠c6-b8-d7 maneuver and plans to transfer the light-squared bishop to the h3-c8 diagonal. 10... Ba3

[10... f6!?

11. Kg3 Bc5 12. Bd2

[Also good is 12. Nc2]

12... Kf8 13. Nc2 Ke7

[Or 13... Ne7 14. Ba5 Bc8 15. b4 Ba7 16. Bc7]

14. Be2 Na7

[In response to the more stubborn 14... Nb6! , V.Smyslov intended to play 15. h5 gxh5 16. Kh4 Nd7 17. Kxh5 , retaining the advantage.]

15. Ba5! (preventing 15... ♞c8) 15... Nc8

[15... Bc8 fails due to 16. b4 Bg1 17. Kg2 Bd4 18. Nxd4 exd4 19. Bb6 , and White wins a piece.]

16. Bg4! A beginning of the end. Black is unable to bring his Q-side pieces into play. 16... f6

[Passive tactics does not help: 16... Ke8 17. Bc7 Ke7 18. Kg2 , and Black is paralyzed.]

17. Be6

[17. gxf6+ Kxf6 18. Be6 is good also.]

17... fxc5 18. hxc5 Nb6

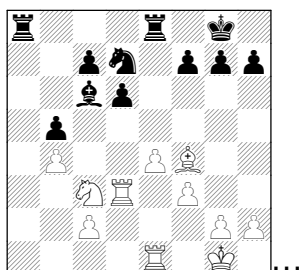
[Or 18... Ke8 19. Bc7 Ke7 20. Kf3 , and again, Black ends up in zugzwang.]

19. b4 Nc4 20. bxc5 Nxa5 21. cxd6+ Kxd6 22. Bf7 Nc4 23. Bxg6 The rest is clear. 23... a5 24. Kg4 b4 25. Bf5 Ke7 26. Be6 Nd6 27. Ne3! Nxe4

[On 27... a4 White wins by 28. Nf5+ Nxf5 29. exf5 b3 30. f6+ Kd6 31. f7 Ke7 32. d6+]

28. Kf5 Nd6+ 29. Kxe5 Nf7+ 30. Kf4 Nd8 31. Nf5+ Kf8 32. g6 Nxe6+ 33. dxe6 a4 34. Ke5 Black resigned.

Boleslavsky I. - Bronstein D., Moscow, 1950



White is better because of Black's weak pawns at b5 and c7. 1. Nd5 Ra7

[After 1... Bxd5 2. Rxd5 Rab8 (or 2... Reb8 3. e5! Nxe5 4. Bxe5 dxe5 5. Rxe5 c6 6. Rd6 Rc8 7. Rc5 Ra6 8. h4 White retains the advantage.) 3. Ra1!]

2. Red1 Ne5 3. Bxe5 Rxe5 4. Ne3 The white knight is stronger than the opponent's bishop; in addition, the black

rooks are separated. Black has a hard job of defending his position. 4... Bd7 5. Rc3 Be6 6. Rd4 g5 7. g3

[This move allows Black to sharpen the game. Stronger is 7. Rdd3 followed by 8. la3, keeping the advantage.]

7... Kf8 8. Kf2 f6 9. Rdd3 g4 If the white pawn were at g2, this move would not have been so dangerous. 10. Ra3 Rxa3 11. Rxa3 Rh5! 12. fxc4 Rxh2+ 13. Kf3 Ke7 14. Ra8 Bc4 15. Nf5+ Kd7 16. Rh8 Rxc2?

[A draw could have been reached by 16... Be2+! 17. Kf4 Rf2+ 18. Ke3 Rh2! After the move in the game White obtains good winning chances.]

17. Rxh7+ Kc8 18. Rh6 Rb2 19. Rxf6 Rxb4 20. g5! The g-pawn is extremely dangerous. 20... Bd3

[20... Rb1 loses in view of 21. g6 b4 22. Ne3! Ba2 23. g7 threatening d5]

21. Re6 d5 The only opportunity, still insufficient. 22. Ne7+

[Also good is 22. g6 Bxe4+ (or 22... dxe4+ 23. Ke3 Bc4 24. Rxe4 Rb3+ 25. Kf4 Rd3 26. Rxc4! bxc4 27. Ne7+) 23. Kf4 Bg2+ 24. Kg5 Bh3 25. g7 Rg4+ 26. Kh6 Rxg7 27. Re8+ Kd7 28. Nxc7 , and White wins.]

22... Kd7 23. exd5 Rb3

[23... Rb1 does not save Black either in view of 24. g6 Rf1+ 25. Ke3 Rd1 26. Nc6 Bxg6 27. Ne5+ Kc8 28. Rxg6 Rxd5 29. Ke4 , winning; or 23... Bc4 24. g6 Ra4 25. g7 Ra8 26. Re5 Kd6 27. Kf4!]

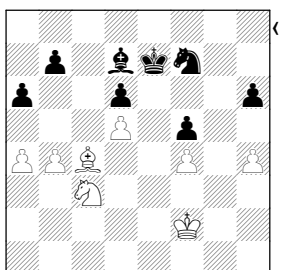
24. Kf4 Rb4+ 25. Kf3 Rb3 26. Kg4 Rb4+ 27. Kh5 Re4 28. Ng6! b4

[On 28... Rxe6 Boleslavsky points out

the following line: 29. dxe6+ Kd6 (or 29... Ke8 30. Nf4 Be4 31. g6 Kf8 32. Kh6 b4 33. g7+ Kg8 34. Nh5 with inevitable mate) 30. Nf4 Bc2 31. g6 b4 32. Kh6 b3 33. g7 b2 34. g8=Q b1=Q 35. Qd8+ Kc6 36. e7 , and White wins.]

29. Nf8+! Kd8 30. g6! Rxe6 31. g7! Be2+ 32. Kg5 Re4 33. Kf6 Rg4 34. Ng6 Rxd6+ 35. Kxg6 Bd3+ 36. Kh6 Black resigned.

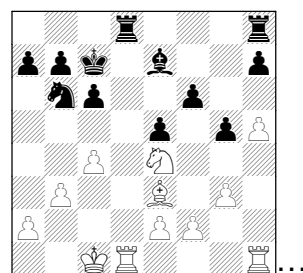
Averbakh Y. - Bannik A.,URS,1954



From the viewpoint of strategy, Black's position is lost. He has the weak pawns at a6, b7 and f5, which are difficult to defend. The f7-knight does not have any prospects. Y.Averbakh, the great endgame theorist, confidently converts his advantage into a win. 1... Nh8 2. h5! Nf7 3. a5 Nd8 Black does not have any counterplay, and therefore he has to stick to waiting tactics. 4. b5! Bc8 Sooner or later White will force his opponent to capture on b5. 5. Ke3 Ke8 6. Kd4 Ke7 7. Bd3 Nf7 8. Na4! (threatening 9. ♖b6) 8... axb5 9. Bxb5 Bd7 10. Bxd7! The transition to a knight ending wins quickly, because Black is unable to parry two opponent's threats: to penetrate with the

king to b6 and to attack the f5-pawn with the knight. 10... Kxd7 11. Kc4 Kc7 12. Kb5 Nd8 13. Nc3! (to the f5-pawn) 13... Nf7 14. Ne2 Nd8 15. Nd4 Nf7 16. Nxf5 It's all over now. 16... Kd7 17. Kb6 Kc8 18. Ka7! Kc7 19. Nd4 Nd8 20. Nb5+ Kd7 21. Kb6 Ke7 22. Kc7 Black resigned. In the starting position White also has another winning plan, pointed out by Tatiana Shumiakina. He can conduct b4-b5 with the pawn on a4. It is bad for Black to respond by a5, since White transfers his knight to c4, attacking the a5-pawn. So a pawn exchange at b5 is practically forced. After axb5 axb5 White brings his king to b4, which forces Black to play b6. Then there follows ♖d1-e3, and ♜f6 would be met by ♖c4, winning the b6-pawn.

Petrosian T. - Bannik A.,Riga,1958



1. Bc5! Deep penetration into this ending's nuances. Of course, White would be better if he exchanged both couples of rooks and his bishop for the opponent's knight, but Petrosian gives the following assessment: "I can say with confidence that one would hardly be able to win this position; maybe the win would

be impossible at all". 1... Rxd1+ 2. Rxd1 Bxc5 3. Nxc5 Re8 4. Ne4 Black's defense is difficult: all his pieces are passive and the f6-pawn is weak. 4... Re6

[No better is 4... Rf8 5. g4 Rf7 6. Rd6 Nd7 7. Re6]

5. g4 a5 6. Rd3 Nd7 7. Kc2 b6 Under some favorable circumstances White threatened to squeeze the opponent by c4-c5. 8. Rf3 Kd8 9. a3 c5? Black prevents b3-b4, but weakens the d5-square, which will be revealed in the future. 10. Kc3 Ke7 11. Rd3 Rc6 12. Rd5 Nf8 Black can only wait to see what White will do. 13. Ng3 Ne6 14. Nf5+ Ke8 15. e3! Nc7

[More stubborn would have been 15... Nd8 with the idea of 16... ♟f7.]

16. Rd1 Ne6 17. Kd3 Rc7 18. Ke4 Rc6 [On 18... Rd7 there follows 19. Nd6+ Kf8 (19... Ke7 20. Nc8+) 20. Kf5 Nd4+ 21. Kxf6! Rxd6+ 22. Kxe5 Re6+ 23. Kd5]

19. Nd6+ Ke7 20. Nf5+ Ke8 21. Nd6+ By repetition of moves White accumulates time. 21... Ke7 22. Nf5+ Ke8 23. a4 Nd8 24. Nh6! Ne6

[There is nothing better. If 24... Re6 , then 25. Kf5 Rc6 26. Ng8; whereas on 24... Ke7 White wins by 25. Ng8+ Ke8 26. Kf5]

25. Ng8 Nf8

[Or 25... Kf7 26. Rd7+ Kxg8 27. Kd5!]

26. Rd2!

[26. Kf5 does not work due to 26... Kf7 27. Nh6+ Kg7 28. Rd8 Ne6 29. Re8 Nc7! , and the white knight is trapped.]

26... Kf7

[Passive tactics does not save Black: 26... Nd7 27. Kf5 Kd8 28. e4 Ke8 29. f3 Kd8 30. Rxd7+! Kxd7 31. Nxf6+ with a decisive advantage.]

27. Nh6+ Ke8 28. Nf5 Ne6

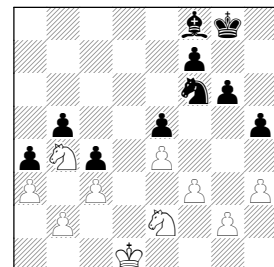
[If 28... Nd7 , then 29. Kd5 Nb8 30. Nh6 Kf8 31. Ke4 Ke8 32. Kf5 Nd7 33. Ng8 , and the rest is clear.]

29. Rd6 Rxd6 30. Nxd6+ Kd7 31. Nb5 Ng7

[Or 31... Nf8 32. Kf5 Ke7 33. Nc3 Nd7 34. Nd5+ Kf7 35. e4 h6 36. f3! Zugzwang.]

32. h6 Ne8 33. Kd5 (zugzwang again) 33... f5 34. Kxe5 fxg4 35. Nc3 Ke7 36. Ne4 Kf7 37. Kf5 g3 38. fxg3 g4 39. Ng5+ Kg8 40. Ke6 Nc7+ 41. Kd7 Na6 42. e4 Nb4 43. e5 Nd3 44. e6 Black resigned.

Keres P. - Portisch L., Moscow, 1967



Black has an edge but a win is extremely difficult. His hopes are connected mainly with the weakness of the b2-pawn. 1... Bc5! (in order to cover the c7-square by ♟b6 after the eventual ♟a6) 2. Nc6 Nd7 3. f4!? White tries to activate the e2-knight. 3... f6! 4. fxe5 fxe5 5. Ng3 On e2 the knight stands badly, therefore White transfers it to e3. 5... Kf7 6. Ke2

Ke6 7. Nf1 Bf8! The b5-pawn will be protected by the king, while the bishop is transferred to c1 in order to tie the opponent's pieces to the defense of the b2-pawn. 8. Ne3 8... Kd6 9. Nb4 Nc5 10. Kf3 Bh6 11. h4! Under some favorable circumstances Black threatened ♠c5-e6-g5. 11... Nd3

[11... Nb3 12. Ke2]

12. Nd1

[After 12. Nxd3 cxd3 13. g3 (or 13. Nd1 Bc1! followed by ♠c5-c4-b3°) 13... Kc5 14. Kf2 Bxe3+! 15. Kxe3 Kc4 16. Kd2 Kb3 Black wins easily.]

12... Bc1 It seems that it's time for White to resign, but... 13. Ke2! Nc5

[After 13... Nxb2 14. Nxb2 Bxb2 15. Kd2 Bxa3 16. Kc2 Bxb4 17. cxb4 White sets up a fortress. Black is unable to break through: if g5, then g3. So Portisch has to search for other ways.]

14. Kf3 g5! (threatening 15... g4 followed by 16... ♠e4) 15. hxg5 Bxg5 16. Na2 Ke6 17. Nf2 Kf6 18. Nd1 Nd3 19. g3 Kg6 20. Kg2 Bd2 21. Kf3 Kg5 22. Ke2 Be1 23. Kf3 Bd2 24. Ke2 Be1 25. Kf3 Kf6! (triangulation) 26. Kg2

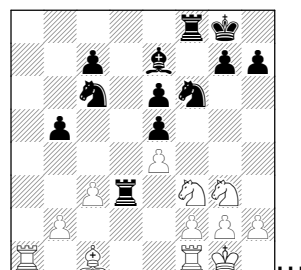
[White can move only with his king, since on 26. g4 Black breaks by 26... h4;

whereas 26. Nb4 is met by 26... Nxb4 27. axb4 (27. cxb4 loses also in view of 27... Bd2 with the idea of ♠c1) 27... Bd2 followed by ♠c1, ♠b2 and a3°]

26... Kg6 27. Kf3 Kg5 28. Kg2 h4! (a decisive breakthrough) 29. gxh4+ Kf4! 30. h5 Kxe4 31. h6 Nf4+ 32. Kf1 Bh4 33. Nb4 Bf6 34. Ke1 Kf3 35. h7 Bg7 The

h7-pawn is doomed; the b2-pawn is hopelessly weak. The game is over. 36. Nc2 Nd5 37. Kd2 Nf6 38. Ne1+ Ke4 39. Nf2+ Kf5 40. Ng2 Nxh7 41. Ne3+ Ke6 42. Ne4 Bh6! 43. Ke2 Bxe3 44. Kxe3 Nf6 45. Ng5+ Kd5 46. Kf3 Nh5 47. Ne4 Nf4 48. Nf6+ Kc6 49. Ke4 Nd3 50. Ng4 Kd6! (winning a tempo) 51. Nh6 Nxb2 52. Nf7+ Kc5 53. Nxe5 Nd1 54. Nd7+ Kd6 55. Kd4 Nxc3 White resigned.

Fischer R. - Smyslov V., Havana, 1965



On one hand, Black's doubled e-pawns are weak; on the other hand they control the center. White is better, but a win is difficult. 1. Ra6! White prevents 1... ♠c5.

[Worse is 1. Be3 Ng4]

1... Rd6 2. Kh1! (2... ♠d4 was threatened) 2... Nd7

[2... b4 3. cxb4 Nxb4 4. Ra7]

3. Be3 Rd8 4. h3 h6 5. Rfa1 Ndb8 6. Ra8 Rd1+ 7. Kh2

[On 7. Rxd1 Rxd1+ 8. Kh2 there follows 8... Bd6, and 9. Ba7? is impossible due to 9... Ra1]

7... Rxa1 8. Rxa1 Nd7?

[Stronger is 8... b4! 9. cxb4 Bxb4, and Black gets rid of his weak b5-pawn.]

9. b4! After this move the black pieces are squeezed in their own camp. 9... Kf7 10. Nf1 Bd6 11. g3 (preventing the eventual ♖d4) 11... Nf6 12. N1d2 Ke7 13. Ra6! Nb8

[13... Kd7 14. Ne1]

14. Ra5 c6 15. Kg2 (with the idea of ♜f1-e2 followed by ♖e1-d3) 15... Nbd7 16. Kf1 Rc8

[Stronger was 16... Ne8, on which Fischer intended to play 17. Nb3 Nc7 18. Ra7 Ra8 19. Na5 Nb8 20. Rxa8 Nxa8 21. Ba7 Kd7 22. Nb7, retaining the slight advantage.]

17. Ne1 Ne8 18. Nd3 Nc7 19. c4! bxc4

[Impossible is 19... Ra8 20. c5]

20. Nxc4 Nb5 21. Ra6! Black's position has become dangerous - he does not have any good move. 21... Kf6

[Or 21... Nb8 22. Ra8 Nc7 23. Nxd6 Kxd6 24. Bc5+ Kd7 25. Nxe5+]

22. Bc1! The decisive maneuver - the bishop is transferred to b2. 22... Bb8 23. Bb2 (threatening f4) 23... c5 24. Nb6

[Also good is 24. Ra5 cxb4 25. Ncxe5!]

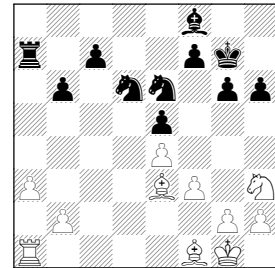
24... Nxb6 25. Rxb6 c4

[No better is 25... Nd4 26. Nxc5 Ba7 27. Nd7+ Kg5 28. h4+ Kh5 29. Rb7 Rc2 30. Rxa7 Rxb2 31. Nxe5 Rxb4 32. Rxc7]

26. Nc5 c3 [...]

[, and Black resigned in view of the following variation: 27. Bc1 Nd4 28. Nd7+ Ke7 (or 28... Kf7 29. Rxb8 Rxb8 30. Nxb8 Nb3 31. Ba3 c2 32. Nc6) 29. Nxb8 Nb3 30. Rb7+ Kd8 31. Rd7+! Ke8 32. Rxc7 with White's decisive advantage.]

Larsen B. - Fischer R., Monaco, 1967



Black is slightly better thanks to his possession of the d4-square. 1... Nb7!

2. Nf2

[2. b4? Bxb4]

2... Bc5 3. Bxc5 Nbxc5 4. Rd1 h5!

[Black does not allow the opponent's knight to move to g4. On 4... Nd4? there follows the unpleasant 5. Ng4! f6 6. f4!]

5. Rd5?!

[Necessary is 5. Nd3 Nxd3 6. Bxd3 Nd4 7. Kf2 with good chances to equalize.]

5... Kf6 6. h4 Ke7 7. Bc4

[Not 7. Rxe5 in view of 7... c6! followed by 8... ♖d7 or 8... f6, and the white rook is trapped.]

7... c6 8. Rd2 Nd4 9. Kf1

[9. Nd3!]

9... f5 10. b4?

[Better is 10. Nd3]

10... b5! 11. Bg8

[White loses after both 11. bxc5 bxc4; and 11. Bxb5? Ncb3]

11... fxe4! 12. fxe4

[If 12. bxc5, then 12... e3 13. Rxd4 (or 13. Rd3 exf2 14. Kxf2 Ra8 15. Ba2 b4)

13... exd4 14. Nd3 Rxa3 15. Ke2 Rc3 ,
and Black wins.]

12... Nd7 13. Rd3 Ra6! 14. Rc3 c5! 15.
g4?

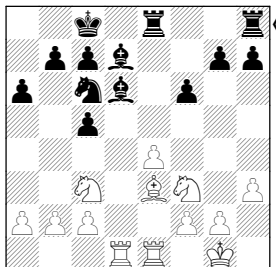
[A decisive mistake. White could have
retained drawing chances by 15. bxc5
b4 16. Rc1 Rxa3 17. c6]

15... c4 16. gxh5 gxh5 17. Bd5 Nf6 18.
Rg3 Nxd5 19. exd5 Rf6 20. Kg2 Nf5 21.
Rh3 Rg6+ 22. Kf3 Nd4+ 23. Ke3 Rg2 24.
Rh1 Kd6 25. Ne4+ Kxd5 26. Nc3+ Ke6
27. Rc1 (27... !c2 was threatened) 27...
Rh2 28. a4 Rh3+ 29. Kf2 Nb3 30. Kg2
Nxc1 31. Kxh3 bxa4 32. Nxa4 Ne2 33. b5
c3 34. b6 c2 35. Nc5+ Kd5 36. Nb3

[36. Nd3 Nf4+]

36... Kc6 37. Kg2 Kxb6 White resigned.

Kagan - Keres P., Petropolis, 1973



An approximately equal position has
arisen, typical for the Exchanged
variation of the Ruy Lopez. The decisive
factor in such positions is the class of
opponents. 1... Be6 2. a3?! (preparing
the next move which has led White to a
worse position) 2... b6 3. Nd5

[Better is 3. Rd2 , though in this case
too, Black is already slightly better.]

3... Bxd5! 4. exd5 Ne7 5. c3

[Necessary is 5. c4]

5... Nf5 6. Bc1 Kd7 7. Kf1 Rxe1+ 8. Rxe1
b5 9. Rd1 Re8

[A waste of time. Stronger is 9... h5 ,
fixing the white pawns;
or 9... c4!]

10. g4 Ne7 11. Be3 Nc8

[11... c4]

12. b4 c4 13. a4!? An attempt of
counterplay. Black threatened to begin
operations on the Q-side by e7 and a5.

13... bxa4 14. Nd2?

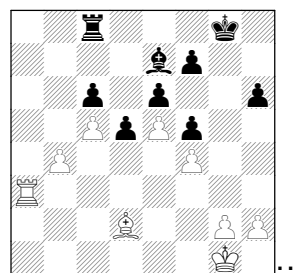
[Drawing chances could have been
retained by 14. Ra1 Ne7 15. Rxa4
Nxd5 16. Bd4!]

14... Nb6 15. Bxb6 cxb6 16. Nxc4 b5 17.
Na5 Re4 18. Rd3 Be5 19. f3

[More stubborn is 19. d6]

19... Rf4 20. Ke2 a3 21. Kd2 a2 22. Nb3
a5! 23. d6 axb4 24. Nc5+ Kc6 White lost
on time.

Botvinnik M. - Larsen B., Leiden, 1970



White is better. He possesses more
space, his rook occupies the only open
file and can attack the opponent's weak
pawns at c6 and h6. And, last but not
least, Black has to watch over the b4-b5
breakthrough. 1. Kf2 Kf8 2. Kf3 h5

[Better is 2... Ke8]

3. Ke2! Kg7 (4. h3 was threatened) 4. Be1 Kg6 5. Ra7 Bd8 6. Bc3 White intends to bring his king to a4 and conduct b4-b5. 6... h4 7. Kd3 h3 8. gxh3

[Of course, not 8. g3? , after which Black obtains the g4-square and the white pawn on h2 becomes weak.]

8... Bh4 9. Ke2! White tries to use his h-pawns. 9... Bd8 10. Kf3 Bh4 11. Kg2 Rd8 12. Kf3 Rc8 13. Ke2 There is no need to hurry. 13... Bd8

[More reliable is 13... Kg7]

14. Be1 f6 (the unpleasant 15. h4 followed by 16. h5 was threatened) 15. Kf3!

[Weaker is 15. exf6 Bxf6]

15... fxe5 16. fxe5 Rc7 17. Ra8 Bg5 18. Rg8+ Suddenly the black king is in danger. 18... Kh5 19. h4 Bh6 20. Rh8 Kg6 21. h5+! Black's situation becomes critical. 21... Kg7

[21... Kxh5 is impossible due to 22. Bd2]

22. Ra8 Bg5 23. Ra6 Rc8

[In response to 23... Kf7 White can also play 24. b5 , and if 24... cxb5 , then 25. c6 followed by ♔a5 and c7, and White wins.]

24. b5! cxb5 25. Rxe6 Bc1

[25... Rxc5 loses the bishop due to 26. Rg6+ Kh7 27. Rxg5]

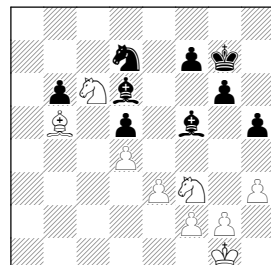
26. Bb4 d4 27. Rg6+ Kh7 28. Rd6 Bb2

[No better is 28... Be3 29. c6 f4 30. Ke4! , and White wins.]

29. Rd7+! Kg8 30. e6 Bc3 31. e7 Re8 32. Rd8 Kf7 33. Rxe8 Kxe8 34. c6! Black resigned. [...]

[On 34... Bxb4 there follows 35. c7]

Estevez - Karpov A., Leningrad, 1973



The position is "dull", but this in no way means a draw. Black's task is to advance his b-pawn. 1... Nf6 2. Nd2 Black threatened 2... ♖e4 followed by 3... ♙c3.

2... Ne8! 3. f3 Nc7 4. Be2 Bc2! (preventing 5. e4) 5. Kf2

[5. e4 would be met by 5... Bf4! with Black's advantage.]

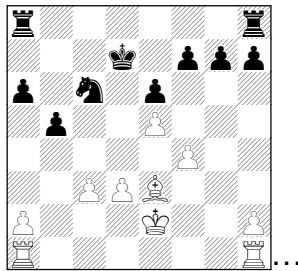
5... Ba4 6. Ne5 b5 7. Nd3

[Stronger is 7. g4!]

7... h4! (blockading the white pawns) 8. Nb2

[8. e4 followed by 9. ♜e3 deserved attention.]

8... Bb4 9. Nb1 Bb3 10. Bd3 Bc4 11. e4 g5 12. exd5 Bxd5 13. Nd1 Bc6 Black's advantage has become obvious. 14. Nbc3 Bd7 15. Ne4 Be7 16. Nc5? This move loses a pawn, but it is difficult to suggest anything better. 16... Bxc5 17. dxc5 Ne6! 18. Nc3 b4 19. Ne4 b3 20. Nd2 Nxc5 21. Bb1 Kf6 There is no defense against Black's king's penetration to c3 or g3. White resigned.



White is slightly better thanks to his compact group of pawns in the center.

1. Rhb1! (threatening 2. a4 bxa4 3. lb7 c6 4. lc7 e7 5. c4! with an overwhelming advantage) 1... Rab8?

[It was necessary to undermine the white center by 1... f6!]

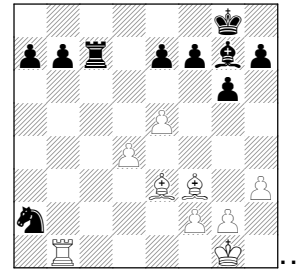
2. Bc5 Rbc8 3. Bd6 The bishop on d6 seriously cramps Black. 3... Rb7 4. a4 Nd8 5. axb5 axb5

[No better is 5... Rxb5 6. Rxb5 axb5 7. Ra7+ Kc6 8. Ke3]

6. Kd2 f6 7. d4 Nf7 8. Bb4 fxe5 9. fxe5 Nh6 Alas, the black knight can reach neither d5, nor c4. 10. Ra5 Nf5 11. Kd3 g6 12. Bc5 Rcb8 13. Ra6 Rc8 14. Ke4 Rcc7 Black is helpless. 15. Kf4 By threatening 16. c5, White forces Black to weaken his K-side. 15... h6 16. Ke4 g5 17. Rba1 Rc8 18. Rxe6! (a decisive blow) 18... Rxc5

[18... Kxe6 19. Ra6+ Kd7 20. Kxf5 is also hopeless.]

19. Kxf5 Rxc3 20. Rxh6 Kc7 21. Rh7+ Kb6 22. Rxb7+ Kxb7 23. e6 Kc7 24. Ra7+ Kb6 25. Ra8 Black resigned.



1. Ra1! Nb4 2. Rxa7 h5

[Stronger is 2... h6]

3. Bf4!

[Only a draw results from 3. Rxb7 Rxb7 4. Bxb7 Nc2!]

3... Nd3 4. Bg5 Rd7 5. Rxb7 Rxd4 6. e6!

The best opportunity. By destroying the opponent's pawn phalanx White obtains some winning chances. 6... fxe6 7.

Rxe7 Rd6

[Also possible is 7... Ne5]

8. Be4 e5 9. Rc7 Bf8 10. Be3 Nf4

Although the position is drawn, it is unpleasant to play it with Black. 11. Rc8

Kg7 12. g3 Ne6 13. Kg2 Be7 14. Rb8 Bg5 15. Rb7+ Kf6 16. Ba7 Bd2

[Much better is 16... h4, depriving White of possibility to fix the g6-pawn.]

17. Rb3 Ba5 18. h4 Nd4 19. Rb7 Ne6

[19... Nf5 20. Bc5]

20. Be3 Bc3

[After 20... g5?! 21. hxg5+ Nxd5 22. Bc2! Black still faces problems.]

21. Rb3 Bd4 22. Bh6 Ng7 23. Bg5+ Kf7 24. Rb7+

[Better is 24. Rf3+ Kg8 (or 24... Ke8 25. Bh6) 25. Be7 Ra6 26. Rf8+ Kh7 27. Bf6! with a decisive advantage.]

24... Kg8 25. Be7 Ra6 26. Bd5+ Kh7 27. Bg5 Rd6 28. Be4 Kg8 29. Rb8+ Kf7

[29... Kh7? 30. Rf8!]

30. Rc8 Ne6 31. Bh6 Bc5! (threatening to exchange rooks) 32. Ra8 Rd8 33. Ra5 Rd6 34. Bb1 Bd4

[34... Kf6 deserved attention, for example 35. Bg5+ Kg7 36. Be7 Rc6]

35. Ra8

[More precise is 35. Ra3! with the idea of If3]

35... Bc5 36. Ba2 Kf6 37. Rc8 Bd4 38. Re8 Ra6 39. Bc4 Rc6 40. Bd3! The bishop is firing along two diagonals.

40... Kf7 41. Ra8 Rd6 42. Be4 Bc5 43. Kf1 Rd1+ 44. Kg2

[If 44. Ke2 , then 44... Rd6 , threatening ♖d4]

44... Rd6 45. Bb1 Bd4

[Interesting is 45... Rb6 46. Ba2 Rb2?! 47. Ra6 Rxf2+ 48. Kh3 Rxa2 49. Rxa2 e4 with an unclear position.]

46. Ra3! Nc7 47. Ba2+ Ke8 48. Rf3 Ne6 49. Bb1! Nc5 50. Rf8+ Ke7?

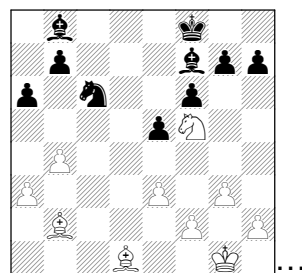
[A decisive mistake. Black could have offered the most tenacious resistance by 50... Kd7 51. Rg8 e4 52. Bf8 Rf6 53. Bxc5 Bxc5 54. Bxe4 Rxf2+ 55. Kh3 Bd6]

51. Rg8 Now White is winning. 51... e4

[Or 51... Rb6 52. Bxg6 Rb2 53. Bg5+ Ke6 54. Rf8]

52. Bf8+ Black resigned. [...]

[52... Kf7 53. Ba2+]



White has a small edge, but he is unable to win, if Black defends correctly. Having committed some inaccuracies, Ftacnik step by step finds himself in a hopeless position. 1. g4 Bd5 2. Bc2 g6 3. Ng3 Ke7

[The first inaccuracy. After 3... Bd6 4. Ne4 Be7 followed by ♙f7 the game is equal.]

4. Ne4 Nd8 5. g5! fxg5 6. Nxg5 h6 7. Ne4

White has achieved something: he has the strong e4-square, while the black g6- and h6-pawns are weak. These advantages, however, are insufficient for a win. 7... Kf7 8. Nc5 Bd6 9. Ne4 Bc7 10. Nc3 Be6 11. Kg2 g5?

[This move weakens the light squares. Better is 11... Nc6 ♘]

12. Be4 Bd6 13. Ne2 Bc4 14. Ng3 Ke6 15. Kf3 The king is heading for h5.

15... Bd5

[If 15... Kf6 , then 16. Kg4 with the idea of 17. f4]

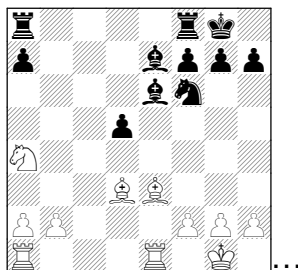
16. Kg4 Bxe4 17. Nxe4 Nf7 18. Kh5 b6?

[After this mistake Black is hardly able to save the game; correct was 18... Kf5! 19. Nxd6+ (or 19. Ng3+ Kf6 20. f4 gxf4 21. exf4 Bc7) 19... Nxd6 20. Kxh6 g4]

19. Kg6 Bf8 20. Bc3 Nh8+ 21. Kh7 Nf7 22. Kg8 Be7 23. f3 h5 White threatened

c7, g3 and e4 followed by f5. 24. Kg7 g4 25. fxg4 hxg4 26. Kg6 a5 27. Kh5 Kd5 28. Nd2 axb4 29. Bxb4 Bxb4 30. axb4 Kc6 31. Kxg4 The game transposed into a knight ending in which the h-pawn becomes a decisive factor. 31... Kb5 32. Kf5 Kxb4 33. Kg6 Nd8 34. Kf6! ("shoulder-charging") 34... Kc3 35. Nb1+ Kc4 36. h4 Kd5 37. h5 Ne6 38. Nc3+ Kd6 39. Ne4+ Kd7 40. h6 Nf8 41. Kf7 Black resigned.

Fischer R. - Petrosian T., Buenos Aires, 1971



Black's weak pawns at a7 and d5 secure White a clear advantage. Fischer skillfully converts it into a win. 1. Bc5!

The exchange of the dark-squared bishops is in White's favor. 1... Rfe8 2. Bxe7 Rxe7 3. b4! (preventing 3... a5) 3... Kf8

[3... a5 fails due to 4. b5!]

4. Nc5 Bc8 5. f3 Rc7 There is nothing better. 6. Re5 Bd7 7. Nxd7+!

[Black threatened 7... f5, whereas 7. a4 would be met by 7... Bc6, preparing 8... d7]

7... Rxd7 8. Rc1 Rd6 9. Rc7 Nd7 10. Re2 g6 11. Kf2 h5

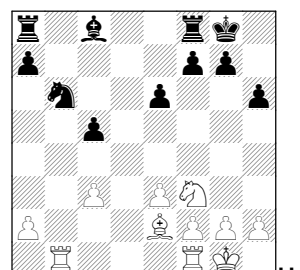
[Black is nearly in zugzwang. Bad is

11... Nb6 in view of 12. Re7;

whereas on 11... a5 strong is 12. b5]

12. f4 h4 13. Kf3 f5 14. Ke3 d4+ 15. Kd2 Nb6 16. Re7 Nd5 17. Rf7+ Ke8 18. Rb7 Nxb4 19. Bc4 Black resigned. The following ending is another masterpiece.

Karpov A. - Kasparov G., Moscow, 1984



The position may seem to be completely equal, but this is not the case: White's pieces are more active, and the black pawns at a7 and c5 may become targets for attack. 1. Rfc1! A strong preventative move. First, White intends to transfer his b1-rook to a5, and protects the c3-pawn beforehand. Second, he prepares to bring his king to the center.

1... Bb7

[Another bishop's move, 1... Bd7, has its own drawbacks. In this case Black has to consider the eventual invasion f6 followed by e5.]

2. Kf1 Bd5

[Or 2... Bc6 3. Ne5 Ba4 4. Ba6 Rfd8 5. Be2 threatening 6. d3.]

3. Rb5! Nd7

[Now 3... Bxa2 is impossible due to 4. c4 - the rook at c1 begins to play!;

Deserving attention was 3... Rac8 4.

Ra5 Rc7 5. c4 Ba8 with a worse, but defensible position.]

4. Ra5 Rfb8 Black threatens to invade 5... !b2, but White parries this threat by a series of preventative moves. 5. c4! Bc6 6. Ne1! Rb4

[6... Rb2 7. Nd3]

7. Bd1! (preventing 7... !a4) 7... Rb7 8. f3 Rd8 9. Nd3 g5 10. Bb3!

[If the immediate 10. Nxc5, then 10... Nxc5 11. Rxc5 Rb2! 12. Rxc6 Rdd2! with good drawing chances for Black.]

10... Kf8 11. Nxc5 Nxc5 12. Rxc5 Rd6 13. Ke2 Ke7 14. Rd1! Rxd1 15. Kxd1 Kd6 16. Ra5 f5!? Passive tactics is unpromising, therefore Black attempts to obtain counterplay, even at the cost of weakening his K-side pawns. 17. Ke2 h5 18. e4

[Also possible is 18. Kd3 followed by]

18... fxe4 19. fxe4 Bxe4 20. Rxc5 Bf5 21. Ke3

[The preliminary 21. h4, fixing the h5-pawn, was probably even stronger.]

21... h4 22. Kd4 e5+ 23. Kc3 Bb1 24. a3

[The immediate 24. Rg4!? deserved attention.]

24... Re7 25. Rg4 h3!

[This is stronger than 25... e4 26. Bd1 Rf7 27. Kd4±]

26. g3 Re8 27. Rg7 Rf8 28. Rxa7 Rf2 29. Kb4 Rxh2

[29... Rb2 does not save either in view of 30. c5+ Kc6 31. Kc4 Bc2 32. Ra6+ Kc7 33. Bxc2 Rxc2+ 34. Kd5 Rxh2 35. Ra7+ Kb8 36. Rh7 Rh1 37. Ke4! h2 38. Kf3 Ra1 39. Rxh2 Rxa3+ 40. Kg4 Rc3 41. Re2 Rxc5 42. Kf5, and White wins.]

30. c5+ Kc6 31. Ba4+ Kd5 32. Rd7+ Ke4

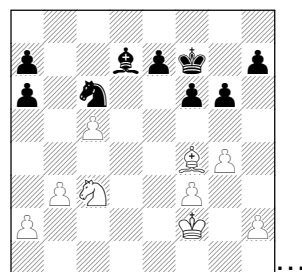
[No better is 32... Ke6 33. c6 Rb2+ 34. Bb3+ Rxb3+ 35. Kxb3 Be4 36. Rd8 Bxc6 37. Rh8 Bg2 38. a4 Kf5 39. Rh4]

33. c6 Rb2+ 34. Ka5! Rb8

[34... h2 35. c7 h1=Q 36. Bc6+]

35. c7 Rc8 36. Kb6 Ke3 37. Bc6 h2 38. g4 Rh8 39. Rd1 Ba2 40. Re1+ Kf4 41. Re4+ Kg3 42. Rxe5 Kxg4 43. Re2 Black resigned.

Neverov V. - Dreev A., Tallin, 1986



Black's advantage may be approximately evaluated as 6:4. The white pawns at f3 and g4 are weak, the pawns at a2 and c5 may become weak in the future, and, which is the most important, White's knight is tied up to the c3-square. A win, however, is difficult. 1. Bd2

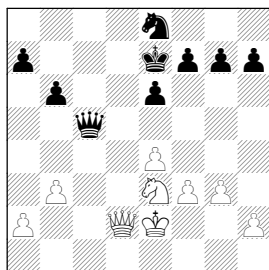
[Passive tactics lead to a defeat. Better is 1. Bc7! e5 (1... Ke6 2. Ke3 Ne5 3. Bxe5 Kxe5 4. b4) 2. Ke3 Ke6 3. Ne4 or 3. ♔d6³;

Another promising move is 1. g5, intending to get rid of the g4-weakness. For example, 1... e5 2. Bd2 f5 3. Nd5 followed by 4. ♜b4 with roughly equal chances.]

1... Ne5! (threatening 2... ♝c6) 2. Kg3 Bc6

3. f4 Nd3! 4. Be3 e5! 5. fxe5 fxe5 6. Kh4
 White's king is cut off from the Q-side.
 6... Kf6 7. Kg3 Ke6 8. Kh4 Kf6 9. Kg3 a5!
 Black improves his position. 10. Bg1
 a6! 11. Be3 Ke6 12. Kh4 Bh1 13. Kg3
 [If 13. Kg5 Bf3! 14. Kh4 , then 14...
 Kd7 15. Kg3 Bh1 followed by 16...
 ♟c6.]
 13... Kd7 14. Nd1 White does not have
 any good move. 14... Nb4 15. Nc3 Kc6
 16. Kh4 Nc2 17. Bf2 e4 The rest is
 clear. 18. Kg5 e3 19. Bg3 Kxc5 20. Ne2
 Bf3 21. Ng1 Bd1 22. h3 h5! (the simplest)
 23. Kxg6 hxg4 24. hxg4
 [Or 24. h4 e2 25. h5 e1=Q 26. Bxe1
 Nxe1 27. h6 Nf3!]
 24... Bxg4 25. Kg5 Bd1 26. Kf5 Kd4 27.
 Ke6 Nb4! 28. Be1 Nxa2 29. Bxa5 Nc1 30.
 b4 Bg4+ 31. Kd6 e2 White resigned.

Gheorghiu F. - Karpov A., Luzern, 1982



The position is nearly equal. "Black has
 two small advantages: his king is better
 shielded by the pawns, and his queen is
 more active" (A.Karpov). 1. Qc2 Qh5 2.
 Nf1

[Dangerous is 2. h4 due to 2... g5 (or
 2... Qe5)]
 2... Kd7 3. Qc3

[Correct is 3. Qd3+ Nd6 4. Qa6 Qb5+
 5. Qxb5+ Nxb5 6. Kd3 with a probable
 draw.]

3... f6 4. h4 Nd6 5. Kf2 Nb5 6. Qd3+
 [6. Qc4 Qe5]

6... Ke7 7. Ne3 Qc5 8. Qd2 a5 9. Qd3
 Nd4 Black has noticeably improved his
 position. 10. Kg2

[10. a4 Qb4 11. Nc2 Qxb3μ;
 or 10. Qc4 Qd6μ]

10... Nc6! 11. a4 Ne5
 [11... Qd4 12. Qc2!]

12. Qd2 Qd6 13. Qc3? This leads to
 serious difficulties.

[Better is 13. Qc2! Qd3 14. Kf2]

13... Qd3 14. Qxd3 Nxd3 15. Nc4 Nc1!
 16. Nxb6

[An attempt of 16. b4 does not work
 because of 16... axb4 17. Kf2 Kd7 18.
 Nxb6+ Kc6 19. Nc4 Kc5 20. Nb2 Kd4
 21. a5 Kc5!]

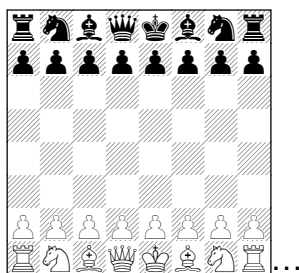
16... Nxb3 17. e5!? (the best chance)
 17... fxe5 18. Nc4 Kd7 19. Kf2 Kc6 20.
 Nxe5+

[Or 20. Ke3 Kd5 21. Nb6+ Kc5 22.
 Nd7+ Kb4]

20... Kd5 21. Nd3 Nc5 22. Ke3
 [22. Nb2 Kd4]

22... Nxa4 The rest is clear. 23. Nf4+
 Ke5 24. Nd3+ Kd6 25. Kd4 Nb6 26. Ne5
 h6 27. Nf7+ Ke7 28. Ne5 a4 29. Kc3 Kd6
 30. Nd3 Nd5+ 31. Kb2 Ne3 White
 resigned.

Panchenko A. - Kuporosov V., Pardubice, 1994



After the opening 1. Nf3 d5 2. c4 c6 3. e3 Nf6 4. Nc3 Bg4 5. Qb3! Qb6 6. cxd5 Qxb3 7. axb3 Bxf3 8. gxf3 Nxd5 9. Nxd5 cxd5 10. d4 Nc6 11. Bd2 e6 the game, passing the middlegame, have transposed into an ending. This event often occurs in modern chess. The position is approximately equal, and White's only possible plan is to utilize the a-file. Black's position, however, is very solid, and White's win is questionable.

12. Ra4!

[Preventing 12... ♝b4. If 12. Bb5? , then 12... Kd7³!]

12... Bd6 13. b4 Kd7 14. b5 Ne7 15. Bd3 f5?! A dubious decision. Black prevents the e3-e4 advance, but seriously weakens his K-side. 16. Ke2 b6 Black intends to bring his a8-rook to b7 after the preliminary ♜c8. 17. Rha1 Nc8 18. Rg1!

As long as the a7-pawn is Black's only weakness, White is unable to win. Therefore, White tries to create another weakness in the opponent's camp, this time on the K-side. 18... g6

[On 18... Rg8 unpleasant is 19. e4!]

19. h4 Ne7 20. Rga1! Nc8

[20... Bb8 looks ugly.]

21. h5 Rb8

[After 21... gxh5 22. Rh1 the h7-pawn becomes hopelessly weak;

whereas 21... g5 would be met by 22. h6!±]

22. Rh1 Rg8 23. hxg6 hxg6 24. Rh7+ White's advantage is obviously magnified.

24... Be7 25. e4! It is to White's benefit to open up the game. 25... Rb7 [25... fxe4 26. fxe4 dxe4 27. Bxe4 is clearly in White's favor.]

26. Ra1 Kd8

[26... Nd6 27. Bg5]

27. Rg1 Nd6 28. Bf4! fxe4

[More stubborn would have been 28... Rd7]

29. fxe4 dxe4

[After 29... Nxe4 30. Bxe4 dxe4 31. Ke3 Black also faces unpleasant problems.]

30. Bxd6 exd3+ 31. Kxd3 Rd7

[Better is 31... Ke8 followed by 32... !d7]

32. Be5?!

[White has missed a deadly blow, 32. Rxc6! , but he is winning in any case.]

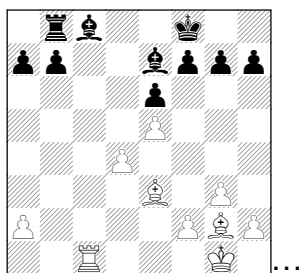
32... g5 33. Ke4 Ke8 34. Rc1 (from the other side) 34... g4 35. Rc6 Rf8 36. Bg3 Kd8

[Or 36... Rf6 37. Bh4 followed by !c8]

37. Rxe6 Bf6 38. Rxd7+ Kxd7 39. Rd6+ Ke7 40. Rc6 Rd8? A blunder, but Black's position was hopeless anyway.

41. Rxf6 Black resigned.

Kramnik V. - Lautier J., Horgen, 1995



1. Bh3!

[The immediate 1. d5 is also possible, for example 1... exd5 2. Bxd5 Be6 3. Bxe6 (or 3. Bxa7 Ra8 4. Bxe6 fxe6 5. Be3 Rxa2 6. Rc8+ Kf7 7. Rc7 Kf8! 8. Rxb7 Ra5±) 3... fxe6 4. Rc7 , and White has an edge.]

1... Ke8 2. d5 Bd7 3. d6 Bd8 4. Bg2 b6 5. f4 Rc8 6. Kf2 Rxc1 7. Bxc1 Now V.Kramnik has his word: "It is hard to give a definite conclusion, whether or not this ending is won for White. I think, the position is playable." 7... Bb5 8. Be4 Black is faced with a difficult choice: which pawn to move? 8... h6

[After 8... g6 White can advance his K-side pawns by g4 and f5.]

9. Be3 Kd7 10. Ke1 Bc6 11. Bd3

[Of course, not 11. Bxc6+]

11... Bd5 12. a3 f6 An arguable decision - Black voluntarily weakens his e6- and g7-pawns. 13. Kd2 fxe5 14. fxe5 Kc6

[If 14... Bg5 , then 15. Bf4! followed by h4.]

15. Kc3 Bf3 16. Bc4 Bd5 17. Ba6 Bf3 18. Kd4 Bd5 19. a4 "Now my task is to drive the king away from the c6-square" (V.Kramnik). 19... Bb3

[After 19... Kd7 20. Bb5+ Bc6 21. Kc4! Black ends up in zugzwang and loses:

21... a6 22. Bxa6 Bxa4 23. Bb5+ Bxb5+ 24. Kxb5 followed by 25. h4! and 26. ♗xb6]

20. Bb5+ Kb7 21. Bd7 Bd5 22. Kc3 Ba2 23. Kb4 Bd5

[Perhaps, it makes sense to go for 23... g5?! . By the way, White could have prevented this move by means of 23. h4]

24. h4 Ba2 25. Bd2 White's plan is to transfer his bishop to f8 via a3. 25... Bd5 26. Bc1 Ba2 27. Kc3 Bd5 28. Ba3 This is the position White aimed at: Black is defenseless from ♗e8 and d7 followed by ♗f8. 28... Ba2

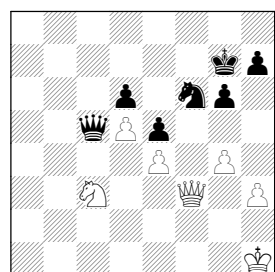
[If 28... Bc6 , then 29. Bxe6 Bxa4 30. Bf7]

29. Be8 Bd5 30. d7 Bc6 31. Bf8 Bxa4 32. Bxg7 Kc7 33. Bxh6 Bxd7 34. Bf7 Kc6 35. h5

[Simpler is 35. Bg5 Bc7 36. Kd4]

35... Kd5 36. Bg7 Bg5 37. g4 Ke4 38. h6 Bxh6 39. Bxh6 Kxe5 40. g5 Kf5 41. g6 Kf6 42. Bg5+ Kg7 43. Kd4 Ba4 44. Ke5 Bc2 45. Bf6+ Kf8 46. Kf4 Black resigned.

Gelfand B. - Topalov V., Amsterdam, 1996



Black is better. "An unpleasant position; I have to play very accurately. The

difference in knights is particularly noticeable: while his knight attacks, my knight defends." (B.Gelfand). 1... Qa3 2. Kg2 Qb2+ 3. Kg1 Qc1+ 4. Kg2 Qd2+ 5. Kf1 h6! Black has improved his queen's position and now threatens the ♖h7-g5 maneuver, winning the e4-pawn. 6. Ne2 Qd1+ 7. Kf2 Qc2 8. Ke3 Qb1 9. Ng3 Qe1+ 10. Kd3 Qg1 11. h4? White threatens 11. h5, but weakens his g4-pawn.

[Better is 11. Qe3 with some drawing chances.]

11... Qb1+ 12. Ke2? This retreat loses a pawn.

[Necessary was 12. Kd2, not allowing the enemy queen onto the c-file.]

12... Qc2+ 13. Kf1

[Or 13. Ke3 Qc8 14. g5 hxg5 15. hxg5 Qc1+]

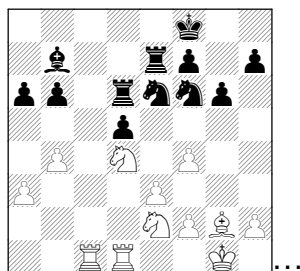
13... Qc8! 14. h5

[14. g5 hxg5 15. hxg5 Qc1+]

14... Nxg4 15. Qe2 Qc1+ 16. Kg2 Qf4 17. hxg6 Kxg6 18. Qf3 Kg5 19. Nf5 Qd2+ 20. Kg1 h5 21. Ng7? Qc1+! 22. Kg2 Qb2+ 23. Kg1 Qa1+ 24. Kg2 Qa2+ White resigned. [...]

[25. Kg1 Qa7+]

Gelfand B. - Karpov A., Vienna, 1996



White has an advantage. By 1. a4! he intends to create the second weakness in the opponent's camp. 1... Nd8 2. a5 Bc6!

[Worse is 2... Nc6 3. Nxc6 Bxc6 4. Nd4 Bb7 5. Rc2±]

3. Nc3 Be8 4. Bf1 bxa5

[Deserving attention was 4... b5!? In this case it would be more difficult for White to get to the a6-pawn.]

5. bxa5 Rb7 6. Ra1! A strong preventative move.

[If the immediate 6. Rb1, then 6... Ke7 7. Rxb7+ Nxb7, and the a5-pawn is attacked.]

6... Rc7

[Better is 6... Ke7; but not 6... Ne4? 7. Ndb5!]

7. Na2 Rb7 8. f3 Ne6 9. Rdb1! Re7

[No better is 9... Rxb1 10. Rxb1 Nxd4 11. exd4 threatening 12. ♖b4 and 12. ♜b6]

10. Nb4 Nc5

[Or 10... Nxd4 11. exd4 Ra7 12. Nd3]

11. Rc1 Rb7 12. Rab1 Nfd7 13. Nbc6 Rc7 14. Ne5 Ke7 15. Rc3 f6 16. Nxd7 Kxd7 17. Rb8 Ne6 18. Rxc7+ Nxc7 19. Kf2 Ke7 20. f5! g5 21. Ke1 Black's position is hopeless anyway, and Karpov makes an attempt to transpose into a rook ending without a pawn. 21... Bb5 22. Bxb5 Nxb5 23. Nxb5 axb5 24. Rxb5 Rc6 There is nothing better. 25. Rxd5 Rc3 26. Kd2 Ra3 27. Kc2! (the simplest) 27... Rxe3 28. Kb2 Re2+

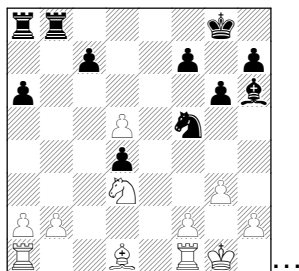
[28... Rxf3 29. a6]

29. Kb3 Rxh2 30. a6 Rh1 31. Kb4 Ra1 32. Ra5 Rb1+ 33. Kc5 Rb8 34. a7 Ra8 35. Kc6 h5 36. Kb7

[36. Ra6! wins immediately.]

36... Rxa7+ 37. Kxa7 Kd6 38. Kb6 h4 39. Rc5 h3 40. Rc2 Ke5 41. Rh2 Kxf5 42. Rxh3 Kf4 43. Kc5 f5 44. Kd4 g4 45. fxg4 fxg4 46. Rh8 Kf3 47. Kd3 **Black resigned.**

Karpov A. - Kamsky G., Elista, 1996



His strong blockading knight secures White an advantage. The presence of the opposite colored bishops does not help Black much, because there are many other pieces on the board. A. Karpov skillfully converts his advantage into a win. 1. Re1 a5 2. Bg4 Nd6 3.

Re2 (with the idea of 4. !c2) 3... a4 Black should have kept this pawn on a5.

4. a3! Ra5 5. Rc2!?

[Another promising continuation is 5. Bf3 Rb3 6. Rd1 followed by !c2]

5... Rxd5 6. Rxc7 Ra5 7. Bf3 Bg5 8. Rd1! (threatening 9. ♖b4) 8... Rc8 9. Rxc8+ Nxc8 10. h4 Bf6 11. Rc1 Nd6 12. Kf1 Be7

Black sticks to waiting tactics. 13. Ke2 Kf8 14. Rc7 Bf6 15. Kd2 h5 16. Ke2

White does not hurry. 16... Nf5?

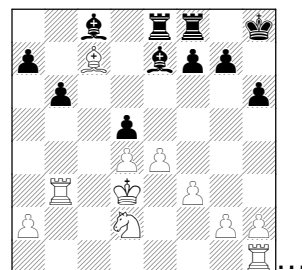
[Under time pressure Black loses a pawn. More stubborn would have been 16... Be7 17. Nf4 Rb5 18. Nd3 Ra5 , although in this case White would also

have a clear advantage after 19. Nb4]

17. Rc4! Nd6 18. Rb4 Ra6 19. Nc5 Ra7 20. Kd3 Rc7 21. Nxa4 **The rest is clear.**

21... Rc1 22. Nb6 Bg7 23. a4 Ra1 24. Nd7+ Ke8 25. Nc5 Ke7 26. Kc2! Rf1 27. Nd3! Ra1 28. Kb3 f5 29. Rb6 Bh6 30. Bd5 g5 31. Ra6 gxh4 32. gxh4 Rd1 33. Bc4 Rh1 34. a5 Rxh4 35. Bd5 **Black resigned.**

Alekhin A. - Nimzowitsch A., Zurich, 1934



We have considered examples in which the decisive role was played by strategic ideas, schemes and plans. In the endgame, however, this is by no means always the case. The following examples confirm this statement; the decisive role in them is played by tactics and exact calculation of variations.

Chances are roughly equal. By sacrificing an exchange, White tries to seize an initiative. 1. exd5!?

Otherwise Black plays 1... ♗e6. 1... Ba6+ 2. Kc2 Rc8 3. Rc3 Bb4 4. d6 Bxc3 5. Kxc3 Bb5

[Stronger is 5... Rxc7+! 6. dxc7 Rc8 7. d5 Rxc7+ 8. Kd4 Rc2 with an approximately equal position.]

6. Nc4 f6 7. a4 Bd7

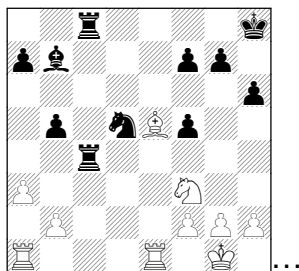
[Bad is 7... Bxa4 8. Ra1 b5 9. Nb2 with a clear advantage to White.]

8. a5 bxa5 9. Nxa5 Rf7 10. Nb3 Bb5 11. Kb4 a6 12. d5 Kg8

[If 12... Rxc7 , then 13. dxc7 Rxc7 14. Nc5]

13. Nd4 Be8 14. Ra1 Ra8 15. Ka5 Rd7 16. Kb6 Rf7 17. Kb7 Rd8 18. Rxa6 The rest is clear. 18... Rdd7 19. Kb6 Rf8 20. Ne6 Bf7 21. Nc5 (the simplest) 21... Be8 22. Ra8 Kf7 23. Nxd7 Bxd7 24. Bd8! Kg6 25. Kc7 Bb5 26. Ra5 Be8 27. Be7 Black resigned.

Uhlmann W. - Karpov A., Skoplje, 1976



In the following ending a sharp tactical clash ended in Black's favor.

1. Nd4!? The only opportunity of counterplay; otherwise Black gradually realizes his extra pawn. 1... f6! Black accepts the challenge. 2. Nxf5 fxe5 3. Nd6 This is the point of White's idea.

3... Nf4!

[If 3... R8c7 , then 4. Nxc4 Rxc4 5. Rxe5 with an unclear position.]

4. Nxb7

[Bad 4. Nxc8 Rxc8 5. Rxe5 because of 5... Nxg2 with a clear advantage to Black.]

4... Nd3 5. Nd6! There is no other way.

5... Nxe1 6. Nxc4

[6. Nxc8 loses due to 6... Nc2]

6... Nc2 7. Nd6 Rd8!

[After 7... Rc6 8. Nf5! Rf6 9. Rc1 White saves the game.]

8. Nb7 Rd2 9. Rc1

[More drawing chances could have been retained by the passive 9. Rb1]

9... Nd4 10. Rc8+ Kh7 11. h4 Rxb2 12. Ra8 Ne2+

[Also good is 12... Ra2 13. Rxa7 b4 , winning.]

13. Kh2 Nf4 14. Kg1 Nd3 Black's knight and rook perfectly coordinate. 15. Nd6

Nxf2 16. Rxa7 Ng4 17. g3

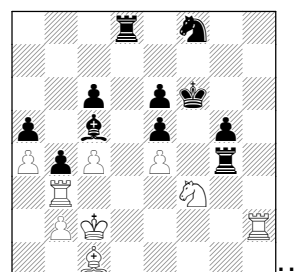
[17. Rf7 does not save either in view of 17... Ne3 18. Nf5 Rxc2+ 19. Kh1 Rf2 20. Nxe3 Rf6!]

17... Ne3 18. Kh1 Kg6 19. Rb7

[Or 19. Ne8 Kf5 20. Rxc7 Nc4]

19... Rd2! 20. Nxb5 Nf5 21. g4 Nxh4 22. Kg1 (22... ♔f3° was threatened) 22... Rg2+ 23. Kf1 Rxc4 24. Ra7 Nf5 25. a4 h5 26. a5 h4 27. Ra8 h3 White resigned.

Nezhmetdinov R. - Filip M., Bucharest, 1954



Black has two extra pawns, and his position seems to be firm. White's next

move, however, changes sharply the situation on the board. 1. Nxg5! Kg6

[Black loses after both 1... Rxc5 2. Rf3+ Kg6 3. Bxc5 Kxc5 4. Rg2+ Kh4 5. Rf1 Kh3 6. Rg8 Kh2 7. Rf6! , mating; and 1... Ng6 2. Rh6! Rg2+ 3. Kb1 Rd1 4. Rf3+ Kg7 (or 4... Ke7 5. Rxc6 Bd4 6. Rf7+ Kd6 7. c5+! Kxc5 8. Nxe6+ Kc4 9. Rxc2) 5. Rf7+]

2. Rbh3 b3+ There is nothing better.

3. Kxb3 Rd1 4. Nf3! Bd4

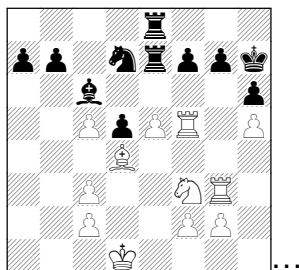
[If 4... Rxc1 , then 5. Nxe5+ Kg5 6. Rh5+ Kf4 7. Nxg4 Kxc4 8. Rxc5; or 4... Rxe4 5. Rh6+ Kf5 6. R2h5+ Kg4 7. Nxe5+]

5. Kc2 Rf1 6. Be3! This decides. 6... Kf6

[6... Bxe3 fails due to 7. Nxe5+]

7. Nxd4 exd4 8. Bxd4+ e5 9. Bc3 Rff4 10. Rd3 Rxe4 11. Rd6+ Ke7 12. c5! Rxa4 13. Rxc6 Rac4 14. b3 Rce4 15. Rh8 Rh4 16. Rc7+ Kd8 17. Rxh4 Rxh4 18. Bxa5 Ke8 19. c6 Rh6 20. Rc8+! Kf7 21. Bb4 Ne6 22. c7 Rh2+ 23. Kb1 Nxc7 24. Rxc7+ Black resigned.

Short N. - Ivanchuk V.,Horgen,1995



The position seems to be equal, but by tactical means White manages to obtain

a material advantage. Then he converts it into a win by precise play. 1. Rf4! Nf8 2. Rfg4 g5?!

[A dubious decision, though after 2... Ne6 3. Nh4 Bd7 4. f4 White also has an edge.]

3. hxg6+ Nxg6

[On 3... fxg6 there follows 4. Rh4! Ne6 5. Rgh3 h5 6. g4]

4. Rh3! Bd7 5. Ng5+ Kg8

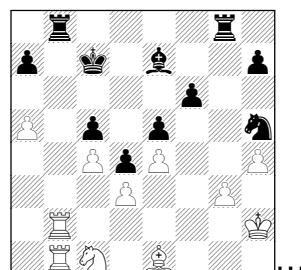
[5... Kg7 6. e6+]

6. e6! Bxe6

[Or 6... fxe6 7. Rxh6]

7. Nxe6 Rxe6 8. Rxh6 Re1+ 9. Kd2 R8e2+ 10. Kd3 Kf8 (11. !h8# was threatened) 11. Rh5 Re4 12. Rxe4 dxe4+ 13. Kd2! Rb1 14. c6! bxc6 15. Bxa7 Ke7 16. Bd4 White has an extra pawn, and his bishop is stronger than the opponent's knight. 16... Rb5? Black should have kept the rook from being exchanged; now White wins easily. 17. Rxb5 cxb5 18. c4 bxc4 19. Kc3 Nf4 20. g3 Ne6 21. Kxc4 Kd6 22. Bf6 Kc6 23. g4 Kd6 24. c3 Kc6 25. Be5 Nc5 26. Kd4 Nd3 27. Bg3 Nc5 28. Bf4 Black resigned.

Panchenko A. - Lputian S.,Irkutsk,1983



1. a6! By threatening !b7, White forces

his opponent to exchange both couples of rooks. This allows White to bring his king into play with decisive effect. Already here I planned a piece sacrifice which occurred in the game. 1... Rxb2+ 2. Rxb2 Rb8 3. Ba5+! (winning a tempo) 3... Kc8 4. Rxb8+ Kxb8 5. Kh3 Ng7 6. Kg4 Kc8 7. Nb3 (zugzwang) 7... Ne8 8. Kh5 Bf8 9. g4! Kd7

[Black also loses after 9... Ng7+ 10. Kh6 Nf5+ 11. Kxh7 Nxh4 12. Kg8 Be7 13. Kf7 Kd7 14. Bb6!]

10. Nxc5+! This decides. 10... Bxc5 11. Kh6 Ke6 12. Kxh7 Kf7

[After 12... Be7 13. Kg6! the h-pawn becomes dangerous.]

13. g5 fxg5 14. hxg5 Be7 15. g6+ Kf8

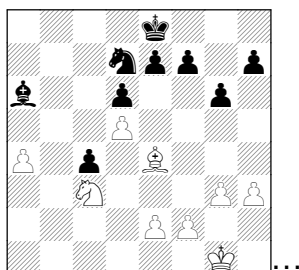
[Or 15... Kf6 16. Bb6! Bf8 17. Bxa7 Nc7 18. Bc5 Bg7 19. a7 , and White wins.]

16. Bb6! Nf6+

[16... Bf6 17. Bc5+! Be7 18. Bxa7]

17. Kh8 Ne8 18. Bxa7 Bf6+ 19. Kh7 Nc7 20. Bc5+ Ke8 21. a7 Kd7 22. Bb6 Na8 23. Ba5 Ke8 24. g7 Black resigned.

Vaganian R. - Rashkovsky N., Moscow, 1981



The position is double-edged. Black intends to break through with his king to b4, while White tries to exploit the

weakness of the f7- and h7-pawns. Who will be quicker? Here the exact calculation of variations is crucial. 1. f4! Kd8

Black cannot wait passively, because in this case the a-pawn may become too dangerous. 2. h4! Kc7 3. a5! By sacrificing a pawn White wins time for a pawn advance on the K-side. 3... Nc5 4. Kf2 Nb3 5. g4 Kd8 This retreat is forced in view of White's threat to sacrifice the bishop at g6. 6. h5 Ke8

[6... gxh5 7. g5!]

7. h6! Nxa5 8. f5 Kf8 9. g5 Nb3 10. Ke3 Nc5 11. Bc2 Bc8

[If 11... Nd7 , then 12. Kd4 followed by ♖a4 and f6]

12. f6! Bh3? This leads to sad consequences.

[By 12... Nd7 with the idea of ♖e5-g4 Black could have achieved a draw.]

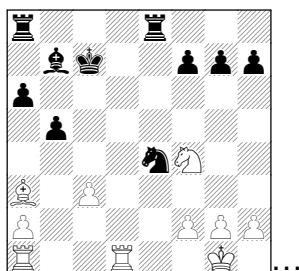
13. Ba4! exf6 14. gxf6 (threatening ♜c6 followed by ♜b5) 14... Nxa4 15. Nxa4 g5

Passive tactics could not save Black also due to the weakness of the d6- and h7-pawns. 16. Nc3 g4 17. Kf2! Ke8 18. Nb5 Kd7 19. e4! (zugzwang) 19... Kd8 20. Nxd6 c3 21. Nxf7+ Kc7 22. Ne5 g3+ 23. Kxg3 c2

[23... Bc8 24. f7]

24. Nd3 Bf1 25. Nc1 Kd7 26. e5 Bc4 27. d6 Be6 28. Kf4 Kc6 Black resigned.

Karpov A. - Tal M., Bugojno, 1980



White manages to organize an attack on the black king, exploiting the fact that the a8-rook has not yet been developed.

1. f3 Nf6 2. Bd6+ Kb6 3. c4! Rac8

[3... Rad8]

4. cxb5 axb5 5. a4! (exposing the enemy king) 5... Rcd8 6. axb5 Rd7 7. Rd4! Red8 8. Rad1 Rc8

[Losing is 8... g5? 9. Be7 Rxd4 10. Bxd8+ Kc5 11. Rxd4 Kxd4 12. Bxf6+]

9. Be5 Re7

[9... Rxd4 does not save Black either in view of 10. Bxd4+ Kxb5 11. Bxf6 gxf6 12. Rd7]

10. Rd6+ Kxb5 11. Rb1+ Kc4

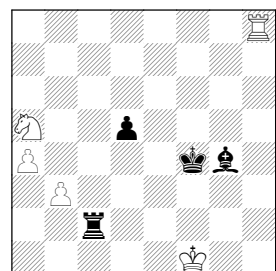
[Or 11... Kc5 12. Nd3+ Kc4 13. Rb4#; 11... Ka5 12. Rd2 Rc4 13. Ra2+ Ra4 14. Bc3+]

12. Rd4+ Kc5

[12... Kc3 13. Rd3+ Kc2 14. Rb2+ Kc1 15. Ne2#]

13. Nd3+ Black resigned. A lightning attack.

Flear G. - Gurevich M., Clisli, 1993



White's knight and especially king are placed badly. Black exploits this factor and, despite limited material on the board, launches a crushing offensive on the opponent's position.

[Nothing is achieved by the immediate 1... Kg3 2. Re8! Rc1+ 3. Re1, and White holds his ground.]

2. Nc4 (2... e3 was threatened)

[White loses after both 2. Rd8 Kg3! 3. Ke1 Re2+! 4. Kf1 (4. Kd1 Re8+) 4... Re5! (threatening 5... e3 followed by 6... e1#) 5. Rg8 (the only move) 5... Rxa5 6. Rd8 Re5!;

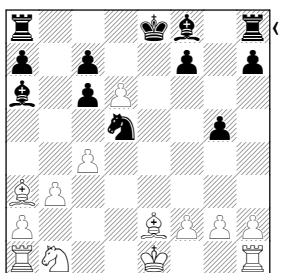
and 2. Re8 d3! 3. Nc4 Kg3 4. Re3+ (or 4. Ke1 d2+ 5. Nxd2 Rc1#) 4... Bf3 5. Rxf3+ Kxf3 6. Ke1 Ke4]

2... Kg3 3. Re8

[No better is 3. Ke1 due to 3... d3! followed by 4... d2 and 5... e1#]

3... d3 4. Re3+ Bf3 5. Rxf3+ Kxf3 6. Ke1 Ke4 7. Kd1 Kd4 8. Ke1 Kc3 White resigned.

Kasparov G. - Anand V., New York, 1995



A sharp tactical battle soon ends in a draw. 1... Bg7 2. cxd5 Bxe2 3. Kxe2 Bxa1 4. Rc1!

[Worse is 4. Nd2 Be5 5. Nc4 cxd6 6. dxc6 O-O-O with good play for Black.]

4... O-O-O!

[Both opponents play excellently. Bad is 4... cxd6 5. Rxc6 Be5 6. Nd2 Kd7 7. Nc4 Rhc8 8. Bxd6!; or 4... cxd5 5. Rxc7 with an advantage to White in both cases.]

5. Rxc6 Rhe8+ 6. Kd3 Rd7! 7. Nc3

[Dangerous is 7. Nd2 due to 7... Re5! 8. Kc4 Re2, and Black is better.]

7... Bxc3 8. Kxc3 Re5

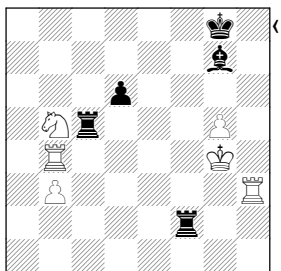
[If 8... Re2, then 9. Bc5 Rxa2 10. b4 with roughly equal chances.]

9. Kc4 Re4+

[9... Re2 10. Bc5]

10. Kd3 Re5 11. Kc4 Re4+ Draw.

Van Der Sterren P. - Glek I., 1996



It is hard to believe that Black is able to win here. Nevertheless, he wins by exploiting the opponent's mistake on the next move. 1... Be5 2. Rd3?

[Correct is 2. Na3! with a draw.]

2... Rg2+! 3. Kh4

[White also loses after both 3. Kf3 Rg3+ 4. Ke2 (4. Ke4 Rg4+) 4... Rc2+ 5. Kd1 Rgg2 6. Rg4 Rgf2; and 3. Kh3 Rxc5 4. Na3 (4. Nd4 Rc1) 4... Rc7! 5. Rb8+ (5. Rh4 Rcg7 ... !g3, !g1) 5... Kh7 6. Nc4 Rcg7]

3... Rc1 4. Nd4

[No better is 4. Rc4 Rh1+ 5. Rh3 Rhg1]

4... Rh1+ 5. Rh3 Bg3+! 6. Kg4 Be1+ 7. Kf3 Rf2+ 8. Kg4 Rg1+ White resigned.