

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

Sergei Tkachenko

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

Author: Sergei Tkachenko

Translated from the Russian by Ilan Rubin

Typesetting by Andrei Elkov ([www.elkov.ru](http://www.elkov.ru))

First published in Russia in 2015

© LLC Elk and Ruby Publishing House, 2017  
(English version). All rights reserved

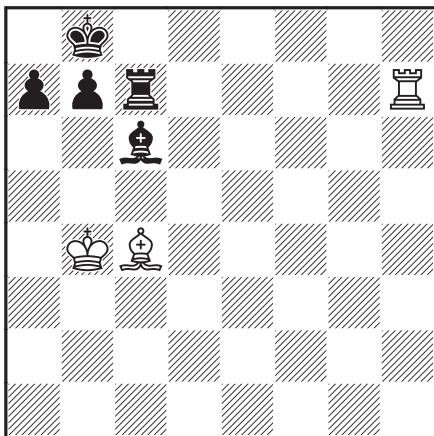
© Sergei Tkachenko and Andrei Elkov, 2015  
(Russian original). All rights reserved

Follow us on Twitter: @ilan\_ruby

[www.elkandruby.ru](http://www.elkandruby.ru)

ISBN 978-5-9500433-6-9

## No. 1



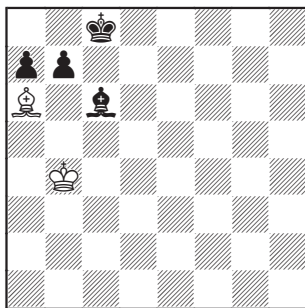
*White to move and draw*

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.

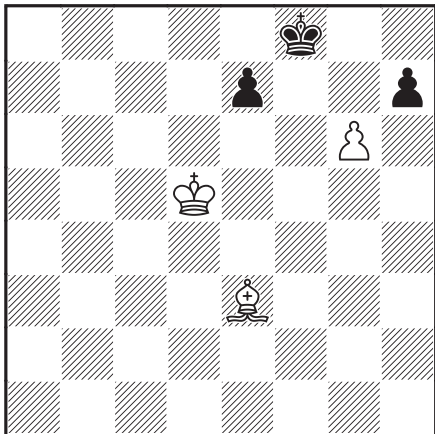
**1...♖c8 2.♖xc8+!** And now the exchange saves white!

**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



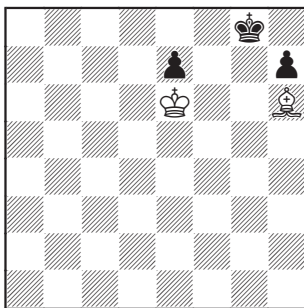
*White to move and win*

**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