

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

Sergei Tkachenko

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A World Champion's Favorite Studies**

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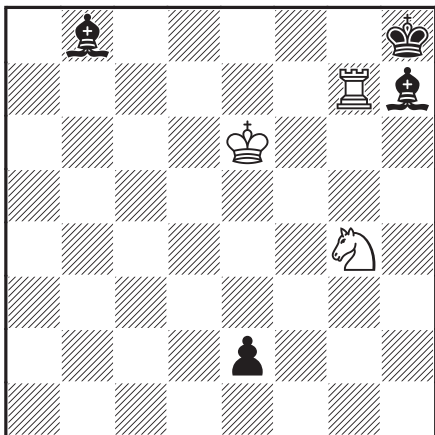
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No. 1



*White to move and draw*

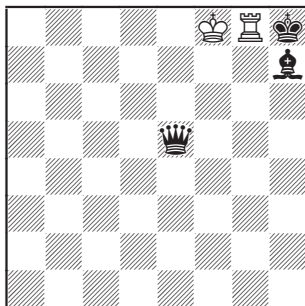
White's king and knight block lines for white's own rook. So how can he stop the black pawn?

**1.♔f7! ♕e5!** White isn't afraid of black queening in this position: 1...e1=♚ 2.♘f6! ♚h1 3.♖xh7+ and a draw.

**2.♘xe5 e1=♚ 3.♔f8!** Threatening 4.♘f7+ and so on.

**3...♚xe5.** Nor can black win with 3...♚b4+ 4.♖e7 ♕f5 (4...♚b8+ 5.♖e8) 5.♘g6+! ♕xg6 and stalemate.

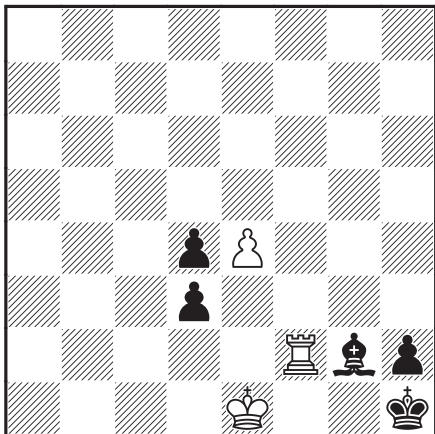
**4.♖g8+!!** That was unexpected!



**4...♕xg8.** Stalemate.

Author E. Somov-Nasimovich, 1927

## No. 2



*White to move and draw*

White's position looks hopeless: 1.♖f8? ♔g1  
2.♖h8 ♕xe4! and white can resign.

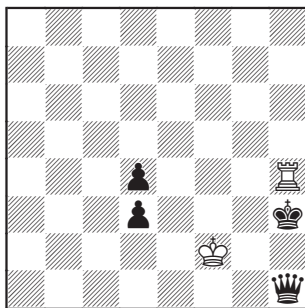
But there is a solution:

**1.♖f4!! ♔g1 2.♖h4 ♕xe4!** It's a simple draw  
after 2...h1=♚ 3.♖xh1+ ♕xh1 4.e5 ♕d5 5.♚d2 ♕c4  
6.e6!, and the black pawns die.

**3.♖xe4 h1=♚ 4.♖g4+ ♔h2+ 5.♚f2 ♔h3.**

Black has avoided getting mated and is ready to  
celebrate victory...

When suddenly: **6.♖h4+!!**



**6...♔xh4.** Mirror stalemate!

Author H. Mattisons, 1918 (position after  
black's 2nd move)