========== h#: 5 problems:
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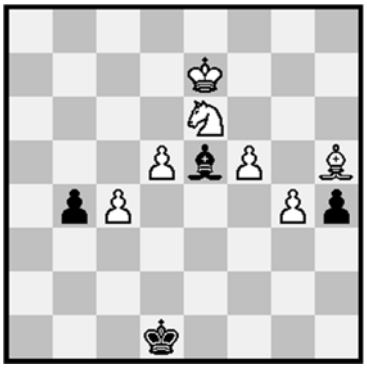
WCCI 2016–18, E: helpmates

1.

Valery Liskovets

SuperProblem, TT-161 "*Asymmetrical solution*"
23-03-2016, No.33
1. Prize, 1. Place
http://superproblem.ru/htm/tourneys/quick-tt/results/2016/tt-161_award.html
8/4K3/4N3/3PbP1B/1pP3Pp/8/8/3k4



h#4 C+ 7+4

1.Ke2 Be8 (Symmetry!) 2.Kf3 g5 3.Kg4 Ba4! 4.Kh5! Bd1#.

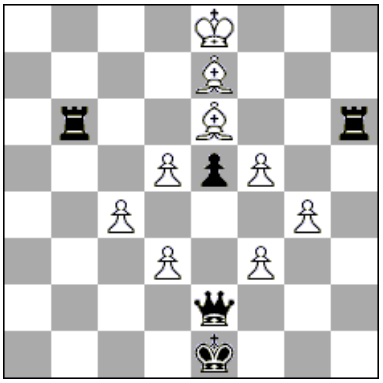
- Non-symmetrical starting position. **Symmetrization** due to B1 and W1.
- Novelty: **distinct asymmetry peculiarities of both edges in a single solution.** Namely, a piece goes onto the distant file "a" (with respect to the central axis "e") while bK gets a mate on the nearest edge "h".
- Platzwechsel bK ↔ wB.
- **Geometrical** movement along the inscribed slant rectangular d1-h5-e8-a4.

• Model mate. Meredith. No captures. No checks. W-B Umnov (g4).
• Initially bK stands closer to the distant edge "a".
• wPc4 and d5 serve also against duals.

2.

Valery Liskovets

SuperProblem, TT-161 "*Asymmetrical solution*"
23-03-2016, No.32
Special HM
http://superproblem.ru/htm/tourneys/quick-tt/results/2016/tt-161_award.html
4K3/4B3/1r2B2r/3PpP2/2P3P1/3P1P2/4q3/4k3



h#4 b) –Be7,–Be6 C+ 9+5

(a) **1.Kf2 Bd7 2.Kxf3 Ba4! 3.Kxg4 Bd1 4.Kh5! Bxe2#.**
(b) **1.Kd2 f6 2.Kc3 f7 3.Kb4 f8=Q+ 4.Ka5! Qa3#!**

- Symmetrical position.
- Bi-asymmetry: two peculiarities of **both edges** are used in the solution of (a) (namely, Ba4 and Kh5) and two distinct peculiarities of the left edge "a" are used in the twin (b) (namely, "a" has no counterpart to the right ("i"), nor a neighbor file to the left).
- Maximally saturated asymmetry: jointly **all three possible asymmetry peculiarities** (all vertical ones, aside from castlings).

• The mentioned peculiarities would be visible better if we changed the chessboard's shape appropriately:
- the removal of the file "a" (7x8 board) destroys both solutions;
- the addition of the file "i" (to the right of "h", 9x8 board) destroys the solution of (a) but adds the second solution to the twin (b) fully symmetrical with the original one;
- the addition of a file to the left of "a" (L9x8) destroys the solution of (b) but retains that of (a).

• Model mates. Homogeneous play of bK.
• In (b), wBe6 could have stayed on the board, with no role.

3.

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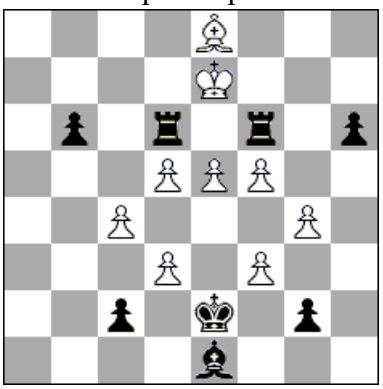
feenschach

April 2016, H.218, #11339

(awards have not been announced yet)

4B3/4K3/1p1r1r1p/3PPP2/2P3P1/3P1P2/2p1k1p1/4b3



h#4 2 sol. C+ 9+8

1.Bh4 f4 2.Kf3 Ba4! 3.Kxg4 Bxc2 4.Kh5! Bd1#.

1.Kxd3 exd6 2.Kxc4 d7 3.Kb5 d8=Q+ 4.Ka6! Qa8#.

- Symmetrical position and asymmetrical solutions. A complex of **two geometrical themes**:
  A. Bi-asymmetry (a!h!): in a single solution (1st), asymmetry peculiarities of **both edges** are used simultaneously. This means a combination of a mate to bK on the nearest edge “h” with a move of some piece (wB) to the distant file “a”.
  B. **All three possible asymmetry peculiarities** of the board (all vertical ones, aside from castlings) are used in both solutions: mates to bK on both edges and a move of a piece to the distant file “a”. Maximally saturated asymmetry.
- Strengthening of my related problem No.2 (SuperProblem, TT-161, Spec.HM): implementation with **multiple solutions** (i.e. in Neyman's form) rather than with twins.
- Model mates. Homogeneous play of bK.

4.
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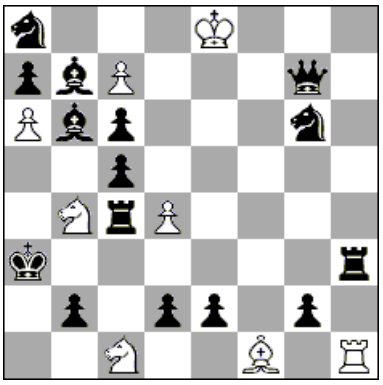
July 2017, H.225, #11589
(awards have not been announced yet)
n3K3/pbP3q1/Pbp3n1/2p5/1NrP4/k6r/1p1pp1p1/2N2B1R



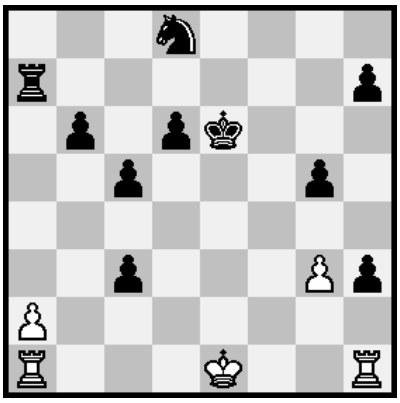
h#2*** C+ 9+15

1...Sba2/Sxc6/Sd5 2.Ra4 Rxh3#.
1.Bxa6! (tempo) Sxa6 2.Ra4 Rxh3#.
1.~?: 80 tries!

● Task: **the choice of the key out of 81 possible tempo-moves B1.**

• 81 = 2(K)+12(Q)+5(Rb4)+13(Rh3)+2(Bb6)+2(Bb7)+1(Sa8)+6(Sg6)+2(Pc5)+36(PP2).
• Better known is the similar task for B2. The maximal number of possible tempo-moves B2 is 105 (P0522685, h#2, by N.Petrović, 1962 (FIDE Album); cf. P0522689, h#2*).

5.
Valery Liskovets
The Problemist
May 2018, No.9, #H4137
3n4/r6p/1p1pk3/2p3p1/8/2p3Pp/P7/R3K2R



h#3 2 sol. b) bPh3→e3 C+ 5+10

(a) **1.Kf7 O-O+ 2.Kg8 Rae1 3.Rg7 Re8#.**
1.Kd5 O-O-O+ 2.Kc4 Rhe1 3.b5 Re4#.
(b) **1.Kf5 Ke2 2.Kg4 Kxe3 3.Kxg3 Rag1#.**
1.Rxa2 Rxa2 2.Kd7 Rxh7+ 3.Kc8 Ra8#.

● **Geometrical motives.** Long **X-shaped** (crisscrossing) bK's route.
● Original combination of four solutions. S**witching of diagonals:**
(a) two solutions with **castlings** and mates near diagonally opposite corners (NE and SW);
(b) two solutions with **nocastling** and mates near the other corners (SE and NW).

• Diverse mates and non-repetitive moves. Both w rooks participate in every mate.
• Both castlings are simultaneously legal due to wPg3 (W's last move).