

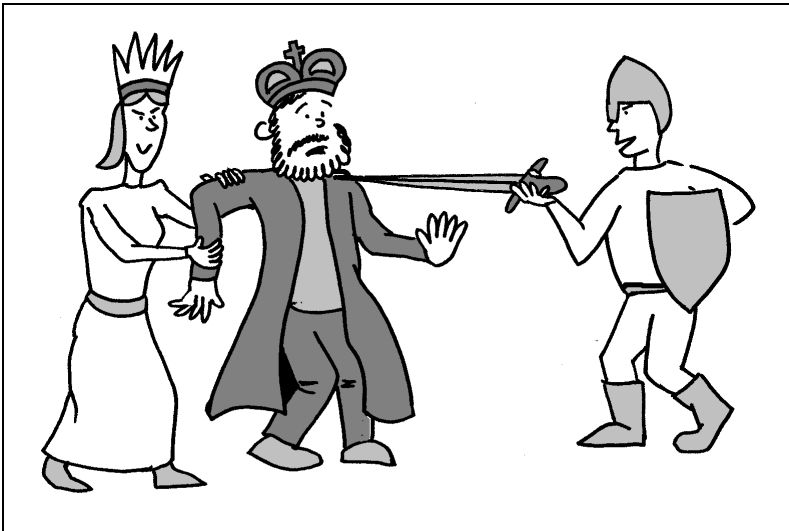
Ten steps to learn

Chess

Tactics and

Combinations

Short, violent games of chess, organised by theme



A resource from
Dr Dave Regis
Exeter Chess Club

Introduction

A note for players

Here is a collection of very short games organised by tactical theme. The main aim is to give you a quick run-through the basic tactical ideas in genuine positions. One advantage of using short games is that you can set the positions up on a board very quickly and accurately. You can of course just use the diagrams as test positions.

I have selected as many of the games as possible from opening systems that are commonly recommended for improving players. This is the great main highway of chess, and the views to either side are wonderful.

I've marked where I think the losing side could have played better with the chessplayer's frown, "?", so you can go over each game once again, trying this time to improve the play.

DR

A note for teachers and coaches

Anyone could have done this, and maybe you would have done it better, but you might find it useful that it has been done by someone else.

I find it as easy to play over a short game from the start position as it is to set up a position from scratch, so when working with players over a board I like to use this type of example.

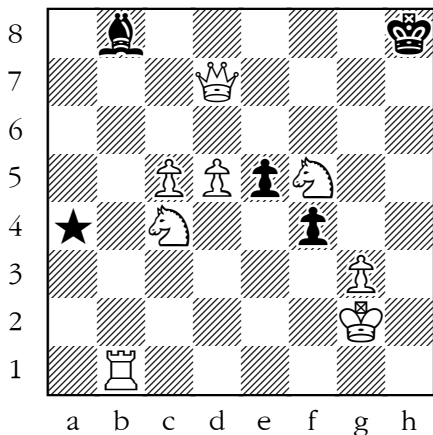
Nearly all the games start 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3, which I hope means they will connect with, and reinforce, good opening principles for learner players, and show poor play punished. The exciting main lines of the Max Lange and Fried Liver Attacks feature throughout, and Damiano's Defence endures some terrible beatings. There is an opening index by ECO code so you can run through several tactical ideas associated with one opening or even one variation.

DR

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How to read and write down chess games



Each square is described by a lower-case (small) letter (a-h) which names the *file*, and a number (1-8) which tells you the *rank*. So, the square marked with a ★ is a4.

Each piece is shown with a letter, as follows:

	K	King
	Q	Queen
	B	Bishop
	N	Knight
	R	Rook

Each move tells you which piece has moved to which square.

So **Rb5** means the White Rook moves to the square b5.
 Pawn moves are shown without a "P", just the square is named:
 so **d6** means the White Pawn on d5 moves to the square d6.

When you take a piece a cross (x) is used: so **Rxb8** means the Rook takes the Bishop on b8. If you take with a Pawn, you write the file that the Pawn starts on, for example, **gxf4**.

Check is shown with a plus (+), **Rh1+**. Checkmate is shown with two plus signs, **Qg7++**, or a hash, **Qg7#**.

Castling King's-side is shown as **O-O**; castling Queen's-side is shown as **O-O-O** (neither shown on the diagram).

Sometimes two of the same kind of piece can move to the same square. For example, both Knights could move to d6. We show which Knight we have moved by naming the starting square, so **N(f5)d6**. Most players shorten this to either Nfd6 or N5d6.

Three dots before a move (...**Rb7**) mean it is a move by Black.

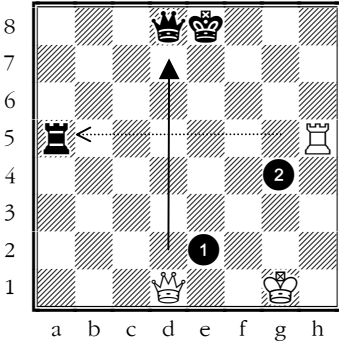
Also, sometimes you see a "!" or "?" sign after a move. It's a quick way of telling you how good the move is.

- ! means a good move
- !? means a risky move which might turn out well
- ?! means a dodgy move which might turn out badly
- ? means a bad move

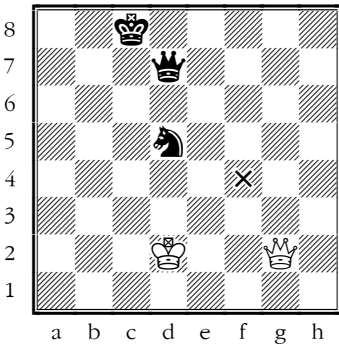
Game information is like this: Daniel – Gericke [C41]
corr BDF, 1993

White was Daniel and Black was Gericke. The opening was *Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings* code C41, which is Philidor's Defence. The game was played by correspondence with the BDF (German Correspondence Chess Federation) during 1993.

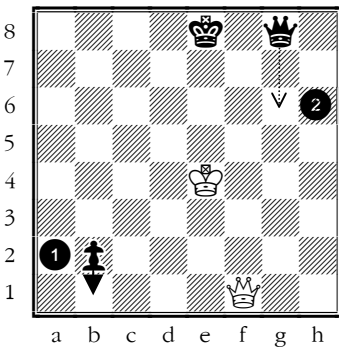
Ties (undermining)



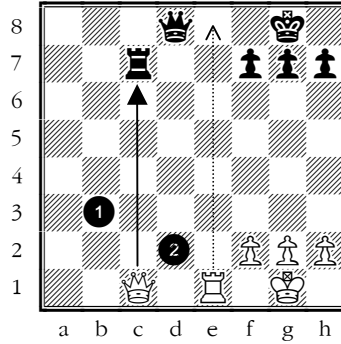
Jumps (discoveries, unmasking)



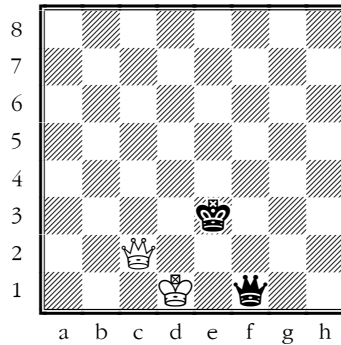
Decoys



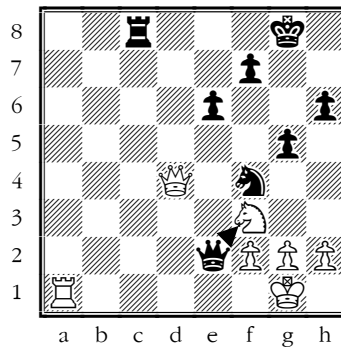
Ties (overloading)



Checkmates



Clearances



Idea ...Ne2+!

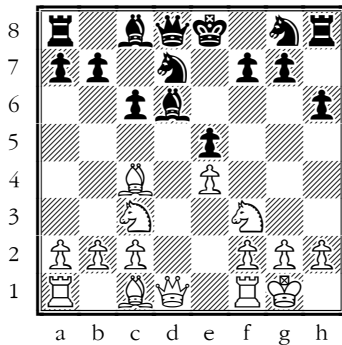
2 The three most common reasons games are lost

The three most common reasons games are lost between learning players don't have anything to do with all the fancy ideas you'll see in the rest of the book. They are more like accidents than tactical tricks; oversights and carelessness are the cause, not your opponent's clever play.

The three most common accidents are:

1. You lose a piece for nothing.
2. You lose a piece for a less important piece (or a pawn).
3. Your piece is outnumbered: there are more attackers than defenders

2.1 Take a piece for nothing



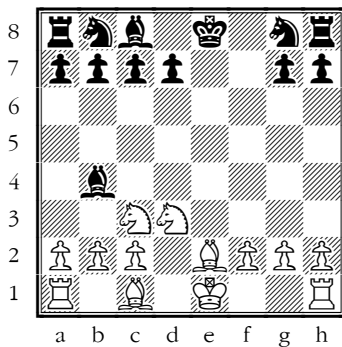
A free gift

Daniel - Gericke [C41]
corr BDF, 1993

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nd7?!
4.Bc4 h6 5.Nc3 c6 6.dxe5 dxe5
7.0-0 ♠ DIAGRAM

The simplest idea of all.

7...Bd6? 8.Qxd6 Qf6 9.Rd1 1-0



A unique opportunity

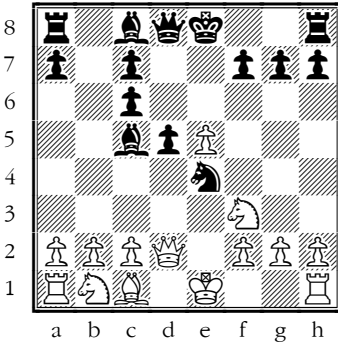
Jackson, J - Kozlov, V [C40]
corr Atars mem, 1993

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nc3 fxe4
4.Nxe5 Qf6 5.d4 exd3 6.Nxd3
Qe6+ 7.Qe2 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 Bb4?

♠ Black finds the only move on the board to lose a piece for nothing.

9.Nxb4 1-0

2.2 Take a more important piece



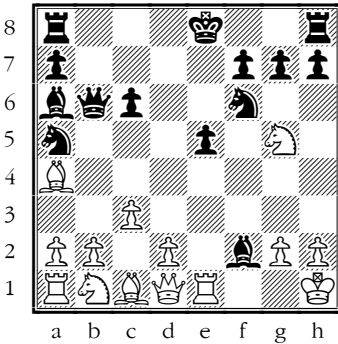
Bargain

Simler, K – Avguarde [C55]
Fremont, 1992

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4
exd4 5.e5 d5 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Qxd4?
Bc5 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Qd2? ♣

Not a free gift, but a good swap for
Black.

9...Nxd2 0-1

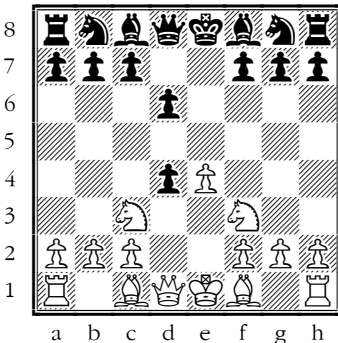


Profit

Brown, D - Kirshner, M [C58]
Palo Alto, 1992

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5
d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6
bxc6 8.Ba4 Bc5 9.0-0 Qb6 10.c3
Ba6 11.Re1 Bxf2+ 12.Kh1 ♣

Black makes a profit on the
following exchange: 12...Bxe1
13.Qxe1 Ng4 14.Qe4 Nf2+ 0-1



Confused

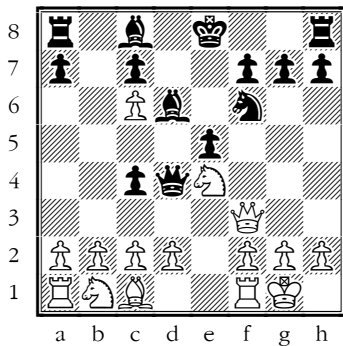
Slothouber, F – Huitt Jr, P [C41]
IECG, Cat-D (m/2947/02), 1995

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nc3?
♣

White got the right moves in the
wrong order.

4...dxc3 5.e5 cxb2 6.Bxb2 f6 7.exf6
Nxf6 8.Bc4 Qe7+ 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.0-0
Qxe2 0-1

2.3 More attackers than defenders



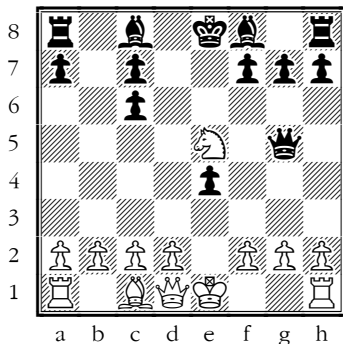
Easy as 123

Sneiders, E - Grosshans, R [C57]
Corr, 1987

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 b5!? 6.dxc6 bxc4
7.Qe2 Qd5 8.0-0 Bd6 9.Qf3 Qd4
10.Ne4? ♣

10...Qxe4 0-1

Queen takes Knight, Queen takes Queen, Knight takes Queen



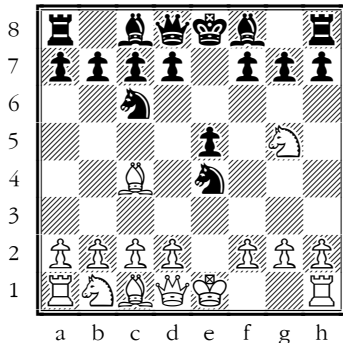
Outnumbered

Grewe, B - Kutzner, S [C55]
RL-chJ U15 Mendig, 1994

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
4.Nc3?! Nxe4 5.Nxe4 d5 6.Bb5
dxe4 7.Nxe5 Qg5 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 ♣

White needs a safe square for the Knight.

9.Ng4? Bxg4 0-1 Not that one!



A lonely knight

Knorr - Schmidt [C57]
1990

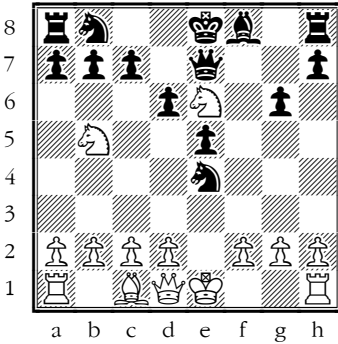
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
4.Ng5 Nxe4?! ♣

White uncovers a defence to the Knight on g5, but it's not enough.

5.d4? Nxg5 6.Qh5 Ne6 7.dxe5 d6
8.exd6 Bxd6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bb3
Ned4 0-1

3 One-move ideas

3.1 Forks



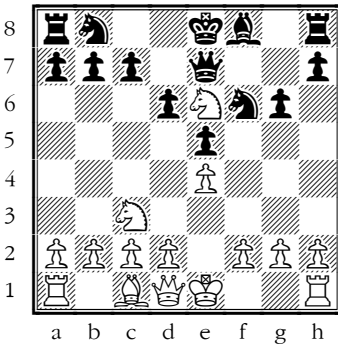
The knight fork

Beginners love to play this trick

♠ 9.Nxc7+

White wins a Rook, maybe for a Knight, maybe for nothing!

This was from a game with another fork idea:



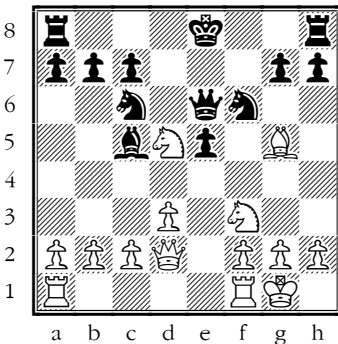
Protection by a fork

Granatella Adam – Power Mike [C42]
CL-5.1, IECC (1), 1995

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bc4 d6 4.Nc3
g6?! 5.Ng5 Be6? 6.Bxe6 fxe6
7.Nxe6 Qe7 ♠

8.Nb5 and Black dare not take the Knight on e6.

8...Nxe4 9.Nxc7+ 1-0



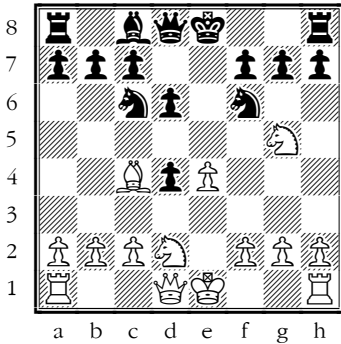
A family fork

Walker, J – Havill, E [C55]
Torbay Juniors vs. Exeter Juniors, 1995

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6
4.Bc4?! Bc5 5.0-0 d6 6.d3 Be6
7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.Bg5 d5 9.Qd2 Qe7?
10.exd5 exd5 11.Nxd5 Qe6? ♠

Black attacks, but...

12.Nxc7+ 1-0



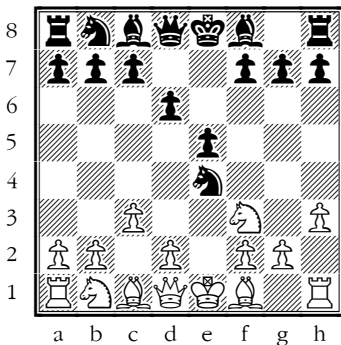
A right fork

John Head - Richard Bladek [C55]
Class N.019 IECG, 1996

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4
exd4 5.Ng5?! Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+
7.Nxd2 d6 ♠

f7 is useful not just for checkmates.

8.Nxf7 Bg4 9.f3 1-0



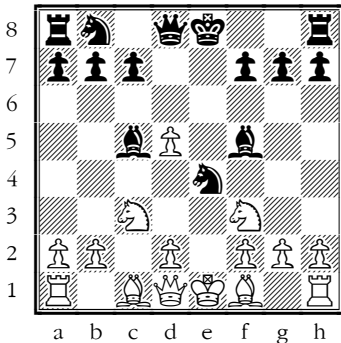
An ancient Queen fork

Greco,G – NN [C41]
Italy?, 1801

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.h3?! Nf6 4.c3
Nxe4? ♠

After the Knight, the piece that is
best for forks is the Queen.

5.Qa4+ c6 6.Qxe4 1-0



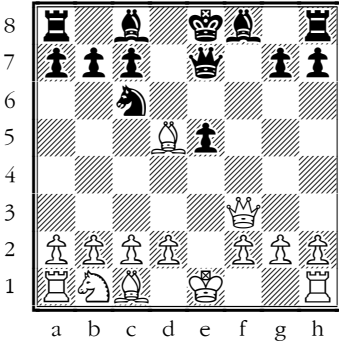
Setting up a fork

Morgado,J - Szmetan,J [C42]
corr, 1968

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.c4 d5 6.cxd5 Bf5 7.Nc3
Bc5? ♠

White can prepare the same idea:

8.Nxe4 1-0



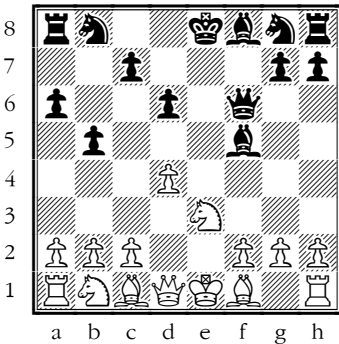
A reinforced fork

Wall,B - Bell,T [C57]
North Carolina, 1979

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nge7
4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nxf7!?
Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Ke8? 8.Bxd5 Qe7

White gangs up on c6, intending to fork King and Rook.

9.Bxc6+ 1-0



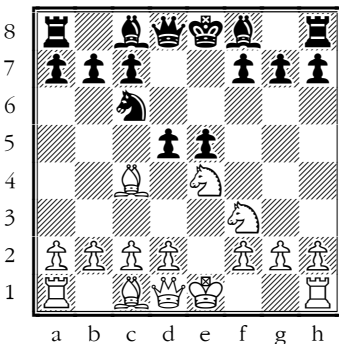
A checkless fork

Svendsen,T - Borrmann,F [C40]
corr Atars mem, 1986

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5?! 3.Nxe5 Qf6 4.d4
d6 5.Nc4 b5?! 6.Ne3 a6 7.exf5
Bxf5?

No noise, just a deadly quiet move.

8.Qf3 1-0



A freeing fork

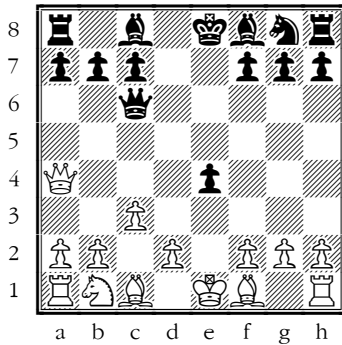
Two Knights' Defence

Here is a very common idea.
Black does not gain any material
but gets a fine free game by this
trick.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
4.Nc3?! Nxe4! 5.Nxe4 d5

Do look for chances to play this
idea. It wouldn't work if Black had
already played ...Bc5, of course.

3.2 Pins



A terrible pin

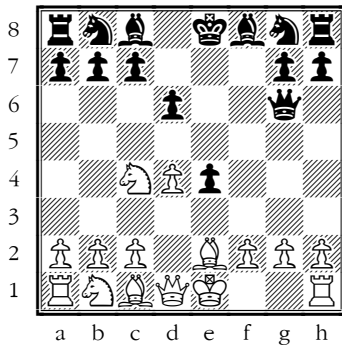
Sturell - NN [C44]

Boras, 1956

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 d5
4.Qa4 dxe4 5.Nxe5 Qd5
6.Nxc6 Qxc6? ♚

Black hopes to swap Queen for Queen.

7.Bb5 1-0



Another terrible pin

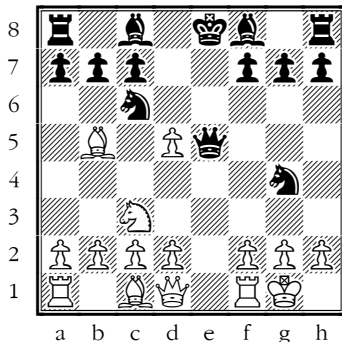
Nudling,H – Gagsch,H [C40]

corr, 1986

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5?! 3.Nxe5 Qf6
4.d4 d6 5.Nc4 fxe4 6.Be2 Qg6?

♚ Same idea, other side.

7.Bh5 1-0



A long pin

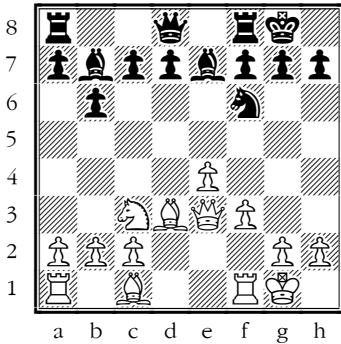
Davis,M - Calabria,J [C48]

E Lansing ch-MI opB (1), 1993

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6
4.Bb5 d5? 5.Nxe5 Qd6 6.0-0
Qxe5? 7.exd5 Ng4 ♚

White's next move pins across the whole board.

8.Re1 Qxe1+ 9.Qxe1+ 1-0



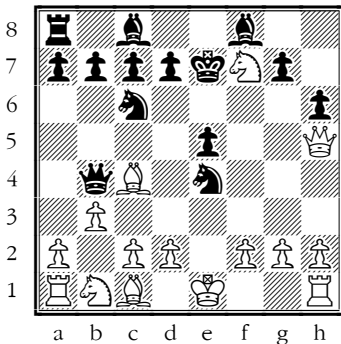
Stabbed in the heart

Djuric,A - Jelisavac,M [C45]
 Jezero Open Belgrade YUG (3), 2003

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4
 4.Nxd4 Nxd4?! 5.Qxd4 b6 6.f3
 Nf6 7.Nc3 Bb7 8.Bd3 Be7
 9.Qe3 0-0 10.0-0? ♣

White's position looks safe, but
 Black stabs through the lines.

10...Bc5 0-1



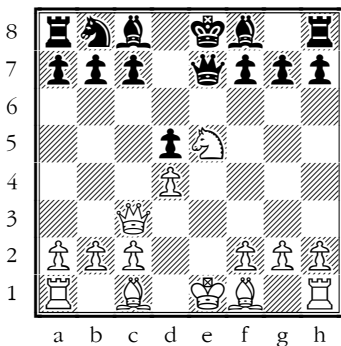
An unusual pin

Bandyopadhyay,S – Misner,R [C57]
 IECG, Cat-D (m/1002/02), 19941002/(2)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
 4.Ng5 h6? 5.Nxf7 Qe7 6.Nxh8
 Qb4 7.b3 Nxe4? 8.Qh5+ Kd8
 9.Nf7+ Ke7 ♣

This is an unusual pin:

10.Ba3 1-0



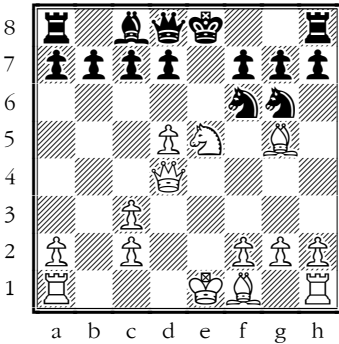
A bad pin

Bell,R - Wall [C43]
 Statesville,NC, 1979

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4
 4.Nxe5 Qe7 5.Qd3 d5 6.Nc3?
 Nxc3 7.Qxc3 ♣

White's Knight cannot move, so
 it cannot escape.

7...f6 0-1



Poking a pinned piece again

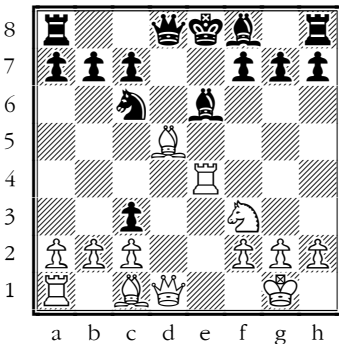
Tarrasch,S - Simonson [C47]

Berlin, 1887

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6
4.d4 Bb4 5.d5 Ne7 6.Nxe5
Nxe4 7.Qd4 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Nf6
9.Bg5 Ng6 ♣

The same idea; a pinned piece cannot escape its attackers.

10.Ng4 1-0



Pin and counter-pin

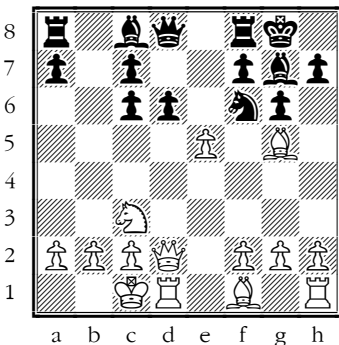
Ahrens,M - Dyckhoff,E [C56]

Germany, 1937

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
4.d4 exd4 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.Re1 d5
7.Nc3 dxc3 8.Bxd5 Be6 9.Rxe4

♣ White is relying on a pin to hold up his Bishop, but the White Bishop is also pinned!

9...Ne7 10.bxc3 Nxd5 0-1



Two pins

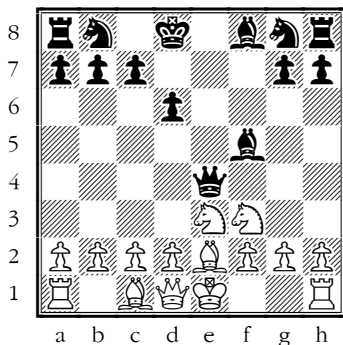
Bobras,P - Hedke,F [C41]

9th Bavarian Open Bad Wiessee GER (8), 2005

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bg5
Bg7 7.Qd2 0-0 8.0-0-0 Nc6
9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.e5 ♣ 1-0

Neither the Knight nor the pawn dares move.

3.3 Skewers



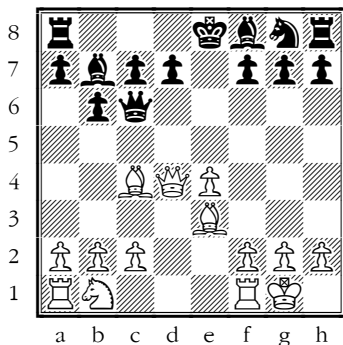
A simple skewer

Morgado,J - Torres,J [C40]
corr, 1968

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qh4
4.exf5 d6 5.Nf3 Qe4+ 6.Be2
Bxf5 7.Nc3 Qg4 8.Nd5 Kd8
9.Ne3 Qe4

White reaches through the
Queen to take the Bishop.

10.Bd3 1-0



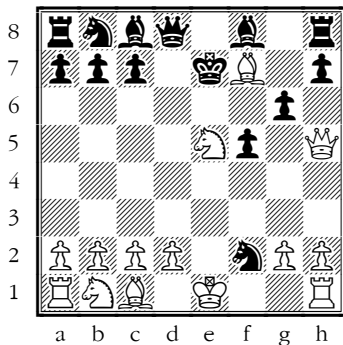
A modest skewer

Richter - Bigott,M [C45]
Porz (5), 1991

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4
4.Nxd4 Nxd4 5.Qxd4 b6 6.Bc4
Bb7 7.0-0 Qf6 8.Be3 Qc6

White's skewer is a small move
to win a small piece, but it's
enough to win the game.

9.Bd5 1-0



The last word

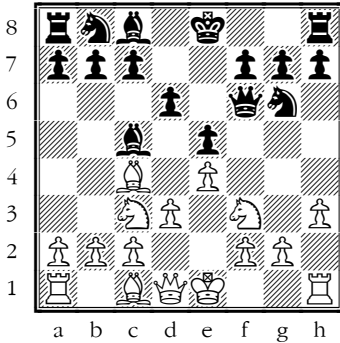
Robins,E - Anders,W [C40]
corr Betins mem, 1970

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Bc4 d5
4.Bxd5 Nf6 5.Bb3 Nxe4 6.Nxe5
Nxf2 7.Qh5+ g6 8.Bf7+ Ke7

Black has dodged well but
cannot avoid the final skewer.

9.Qg5+ Kd6 10.Qxd8+ 1-0

3.4 Nets



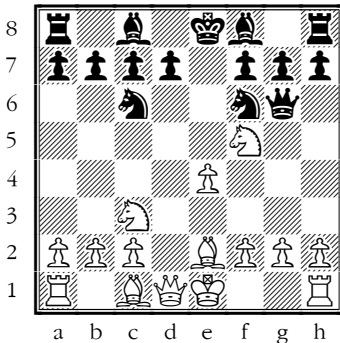
No retreat

Koltanowski, G - Nolan, W [C40]
San Francisco (4), 1960

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Qf6 3.Nc3 Bc5
4.Bc4 d6 5.d3 Ne7 6.h3 Ng6 ♣

Black is trying to build up an attack, but...

7.Bg5 1-0



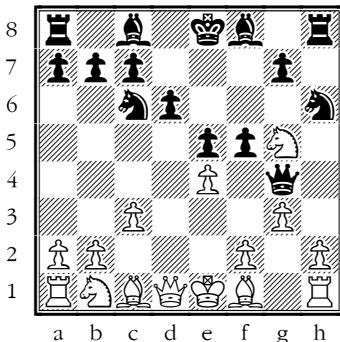
Caught out

Frazer - Taubenhaus [C45]
Paris, 1888

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4
4.Nxd4 Qh4 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Nf5
Qh5 7.Be2 Qg6 ♣

Black's wandering Queen has wandered into a net.

8.Nh4 1-0



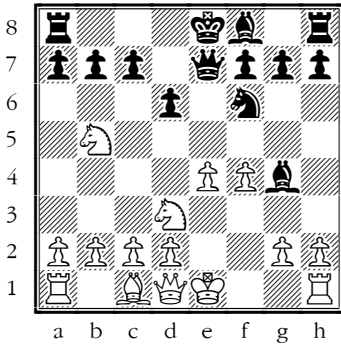
A lost Queen

Cochrane, R - Kennedy, C [C41]
Troon Open (1), 1992

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 d6 3.Nf3 f5 4.d4
Nc6 5.Ng5 Nh6 6.Nxh7 Qh4
7.Ng5 Nxd4 8.c3 Nc6 9.g3 Qg4

♣ Asking for a swap?

10.Be2 1-0



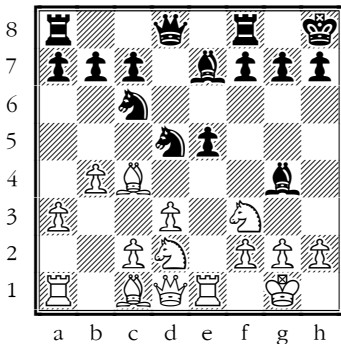
Caught at home

NN - Van Mil [C48]

Eindhoven, 1973

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6
4.Bb5 Nd4 5.Nxe5 Qe7 6.f4
Nxb5 7.Nxb5 d6 8.Nd3 Bg4 ♣

0-1
White's Queen did not move out too early – it didn't move out at all!



Net by a knight

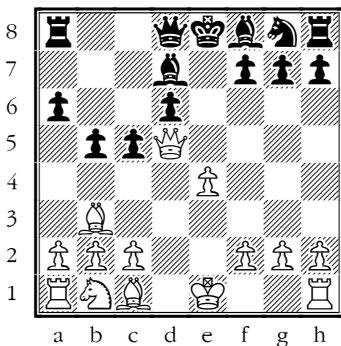
Van Loo,G – Demoulin,J [C55]

14th Open Leuven BEL (1), 2002

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
4.d3 Be7 5.a3 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5
7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 Bg4 9.Nbd2
Kh8 10.b4? ♣

Oh dear.

10...Nc3 0-1



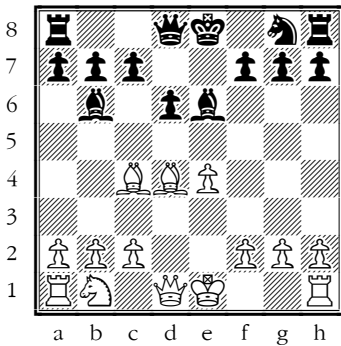
The Noah's Ark Trap

A net of a Bishop

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6
4.Ba4 d6 5.d4 b5 6.Bb3 exd4
7.Nxd4 Nxd4 8.Qxd4? c5
9.Qd5 Be6 10.Qc6+ Bd7
11.Qd5 ♣

11...c4 0-1

This happens a lot: remember it!

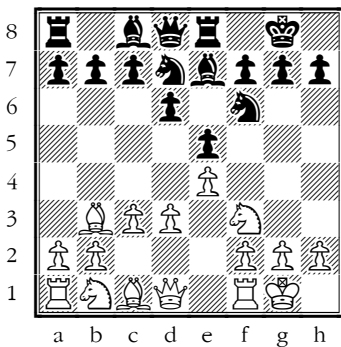


Net of a rook

Braksa,H – Cordero Valdez,V [C44]
(3), 1991

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d3 Bc5
4.Be3 Bb6 5.d4 exd4 6.Nxd4
Nxd4 7.Bxd4 d6 8.Bc4 Be6 0-1

♣ Black did not wait for
9.Bxg7, trapping the Rook in
the corner



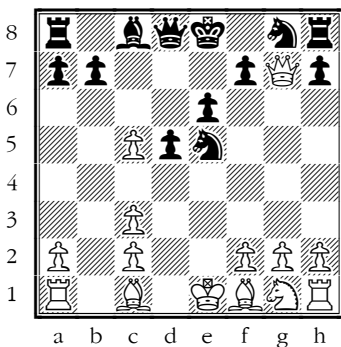
Hop skip and net

De la Paz,F - Wohl,A [C41]
XXXVI Capablanca Mem Premier II
Havana CUB (12), 2001

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Be7
4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.Bb3 Nbd7
7.0-0 Re8 ♣

8.Bxf7+ 1-0

If 8...Kxf7 9.Ng5+ and 10.Ne6



A tricky net

Goldenov,B - Nekrasova,E [C17]
Minsk, 1953

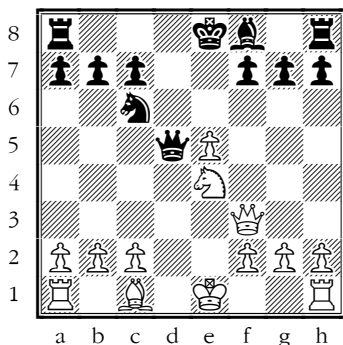
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4
4.e5 c5 5.dxc5 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3
Nc6 7.Qg4 Nxe5 8.Qxg7 ♣

Black hopes to save the Rook
by Qf6, but White has a trick to
take it after all.

8...Qf6 9.Bh6! 1-0

4 Two-move ideas and more

4.1 Jumps



Jumping Knight

Wall - Hamilton, H [C41]

North Wilkesboro, NC, 1976

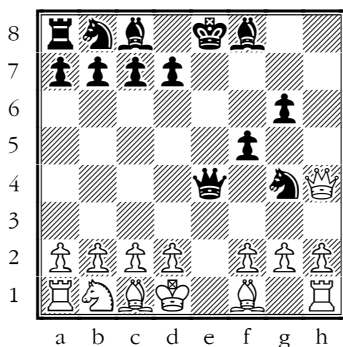
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 Nf6 4. Bc4 Bg4 5. Nc3 Nxe4 6. Nxe4 d5 7. dxe5 Bxf3 8. Qxf3 Nc6 9. Bxd5 Qxd5

White's Queen would like to jump over the white Knight to take the black Queen, so the white Knight jumps out of the way – with check!

10. Nf6+ 1-0

You also hear jump attacks called discoveries or unmasking.

Jumps are certainly the type of tactic that is most often overlooked, because the danger comes from the hidden piece behind the one that moves.



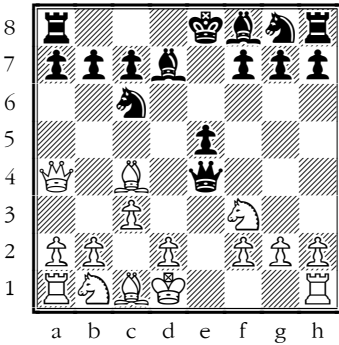
An ancient jump

NN - Greco, G [C40]

Italy?, 1801

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5 3. Nxe5 Qe7 4. Qh5+ g6 5. Nxc6 Qxe4+ 6. Kd1 Nf6 7. Qh3 hxg6 8. Qxh8 Ng4 9. Qh4

9...Ne3+ 10. dxe3 Qxh4 0-1

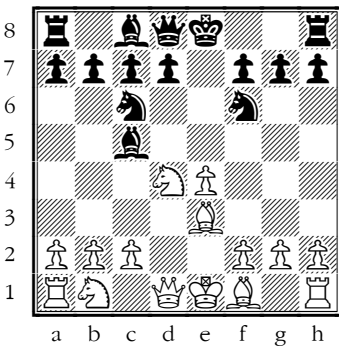


A modern jump

Komarek,L - Korn,A [C44]
Oberwart op (4), 1992

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 d5 4.Qa4
Qd6 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Bc4 Qe4+
7.Kd1 Bd7

8.Bxf7+ 1-0



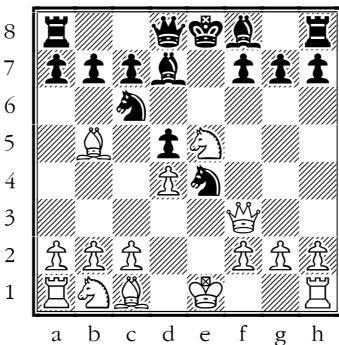
A Scotch discovery

Ruel,C - Le Henaff,J [C45]
Open Saint Lo FRA (9), 2003

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4
4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Nf6?

White's last move had a hidden point.

6.Nxc6 1-0 7.Bxc5 will follow, if
Black does not allow 7.Nxd8



Pinching a piece

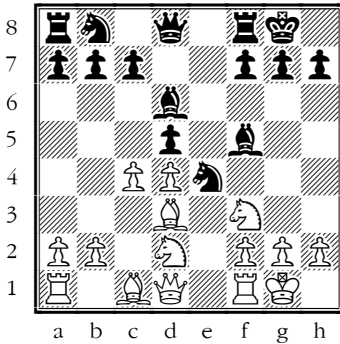
Petroff's Defence [C42]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bb5+ Nc6 7.Ne5
Bd7 8.Qf3

White picks on the weak spot in
Black's position. Can you spot the
weak spot in White's?

8...Nxe5 9.Bxd7+ Nxd7 0-1

It was the undefended Bishop on
b5!



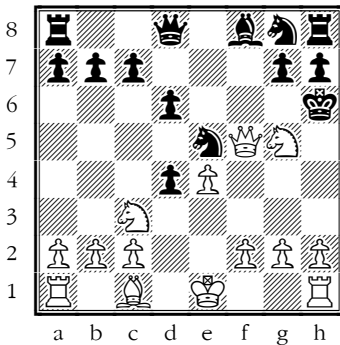
Pinching a pawn

Hamblin, J - Pitt, G [C42]
corr CompuServe, 1994

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0
8.Nbd2 Bf5 9.c4

9...Nxf2 0-1

Just a pawn, but White thought he would start again.

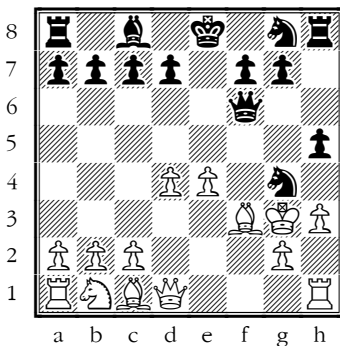


Discovered checkmate

Wall - Reyes, J [C41]
San Antonio, TX, 1993

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Bg4 4.Nc3
Nc6 5.d4 exd4 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7
7.Ng5+ Kg6 8.Qxg4 Ne5 9.Qf5+

10.Nf7# 1-0 That's a discovered check as well, making double check and mate!



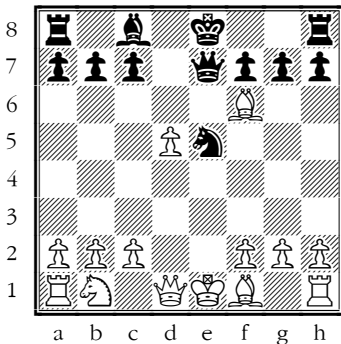
From behind the front line

Schiffer - Janny [C44]
Budapest, 1898

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Be2 Bc5
4.Nxe5 Bxf2+ 5.Kxf2 Nxe5 6.d4
Qf6+ 7.Bf3 Ng4+ 8.Kg3 h5 9.h3

Neither member of Black's army delivering the final unmasking have yet moved.

9...h4+ 10.Kxg4 d6# 0-1



Two untouchables

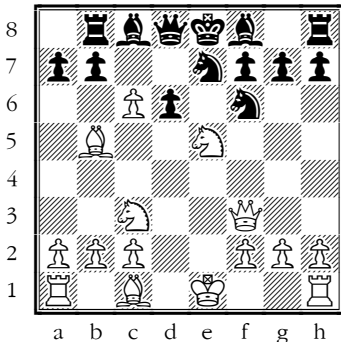
Miller - Chernev [C45]
New York, 1935

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Nf5 d5
7.exd5 Ne5 8.Nxe7 Qxe7 9.Bxf6

Black's next move is very neat.

9...Nf3# 0-1

Both checking pieces are *en prise*, but White can't take both at once, so it's checkmate.

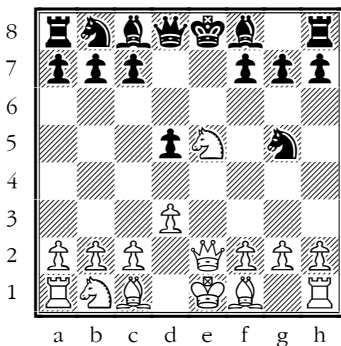


Jumping pawn

Curdo, J - Kochman, K [C44]
Massachusetts, 1974

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 Nf6 4.d5
Ne7 5.Nxe5 Nxe4 6.Qf3 Nf6 7.Nc3
d6 8.Bb5+ c6 9.dxc6 Rb8

10.c7+ 1-0



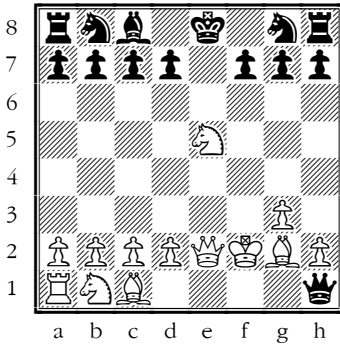
Pick your spot

Wall - Ortiz, V [C42]
Palo Alto, 1989

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nxe4
4.Qe2 d5 5.d3 Ng5

White can move the Knight anywhere, but which square is best?

6.Nc6+ 1-0

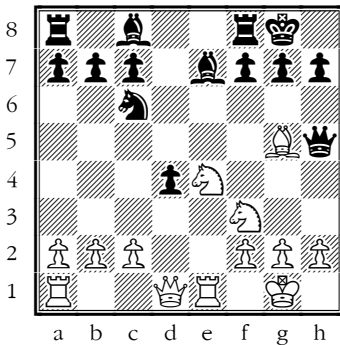


An improved jump

Krejciak, J - Baumgartner [C40]
Troppau, 1914

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Bc5 3.Nxe5 Bxf2+
4.Kxf2 Qh4+ 5.g3 Qxe4 6.Qe2
Qxh1 7.Bg2 ♚ 1-0

White waits with the discovered check until the Black queen comes into range on h2.

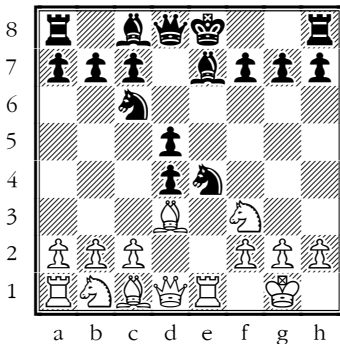


A silent discovery...

Maurer - Zaugg [C56]
Bern op, 1987

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4
exd4 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.Re1 d5 7.Bxd5
Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qh5 9.Nxe4 Be7
10.Bg5 0-0 ♚ 1-0

Black did not wait for 11.Ng3, hitting the Queen and unmasking an attack on the Be7.



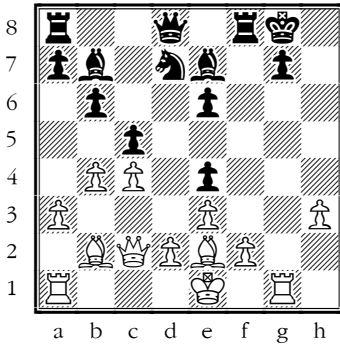
Unmasking attack, unmasking defence

Ripley, R - EL_Messiry, R [C56]
corr IECC CL5-1997, 1997

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4
Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.Re1 d5 7.Bd3
Be7 ♚

White moves the Bishop on d3, uncovering an attack on d4 by the Queen, but...

8.Bxe4 dxe4 9.Nxd4 Qxd4 0-1



The Mill

Knoppel, B – Hogwall, D [A00]
Rilton Cup (6), 1995

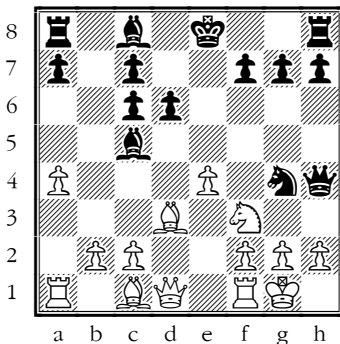
Sorry about the daft opening...

1. b4 b6 2. Bb2 Bb7 3. e3 Nf6 4. Nf3
e6 5. a3 Be7 6. c4 0-0 7. Nc3 d6
8. Qc2 Nbd7 9. h3 h6 10. Be2 c6
11. Rg1 d5 12. g4 c5 13. g5 hxg5
14. Nxc5 Ne4 15. Ncxe4 dxe4
16. Nxe6 fxe6

White's sacrifice was to allow this monster attack:

17. Rxc7+ Kh8 18. Rxe7+ Kg8
19. Rg7+ Kh8 20. Rxd7+ 1-0

White will take one more Bishop before coming back for the Queen



A diagonal mill

Pinter, G - Nixon, T [C45]
13th S&WYM Millfield School ENG (9), 2003

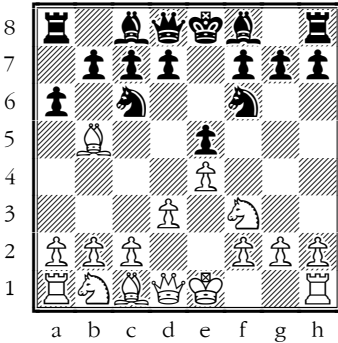
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4
4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nxc6 bxc6 6. Nd2
Bc5 7. Bd3 d6 8. a4 Ng4 9. 0-0 Qh4
10. Nf3

Black can ignore the attack on his Queen, because he gets White's Queen and more.

10...Nxf2 0-1

[If 11. Nxf4 Nxd1+ 12. Kh1 Nf2+
13. Kg1 Nxd3+]

4.2 Undermining



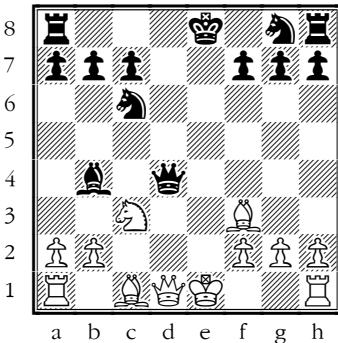
Removing the guard

[C65] Ruy Lopez

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 a6

White doesn't usually get to carry out this idea in the Ruy Lopez:

5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.Nxe5 1-0



Kicking away the ladder

Levy – Vaca [C44]

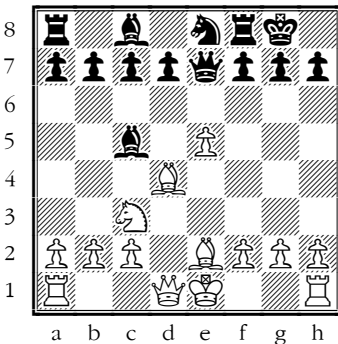
Skopje ol, 1982

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.c3 d5 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3 Bg4 8.Be2 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Qxd4

Black's Queen is guarded, but:

10.Bxc6+ 1-0

The check means that Black can't take White's Queen first.



A little nudge

Colias,B - Ronco,J [C47]

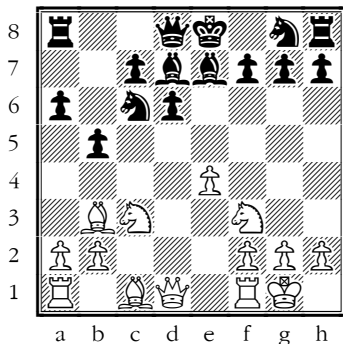
Illinois, 1987

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bc5 6.Be3 Nxd4 7.Bxd4 Qe7 8.Be2 0-0 9.e5 Ne8

White undermines the Bishop.

10.Nd5 1-0

4.3 Overloading



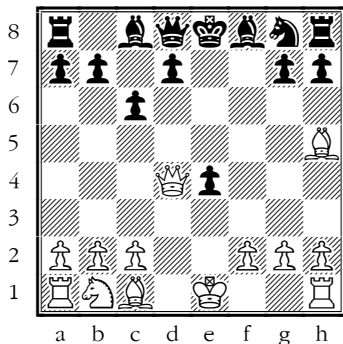
Overloaded

Cebis,P – Nemeč,V [C44]
ProMoPro Open Prague CZE (4), 2004

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3
Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.0-0 a6
8.Bc4 b5 9.Bb3 Be7

Black's Bishop on d7 can block the attack on f7, but it is already doing the job of defending c6.

10.Qd5 1-0



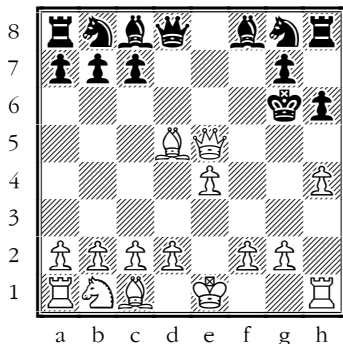
An overworked pawn

Converset,J - Hobaica,J [C63]
Buenos Aires Najdorf (9), 1994

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.d4
Nxd4 5.Nxd4 exd4 6.Qxd4 c6 7.Be2
fxe4 8.Bh5+

If 8...Ke7, then 9.Qe5#, but the pawn on g7 needs to stay put.

8...g6 9.Qxh8 1-0



Overload

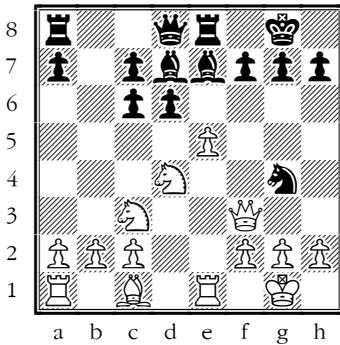
[C40] Damiano defense

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f6 3.Nxe5 fxe5
4.Qh5+ Ke7 5.Qxe5+ Kf7 6.Bc4+ d5
7.Bxd5+ Kg6 8.h4 h6

White has sacrificed to get an attack, but is it good enough? Well, Qf5 would be mate if not for the Bc8, so 9.Bxb7! wins (9...Bd6!?

10.Qa5!)

4.4 Interference

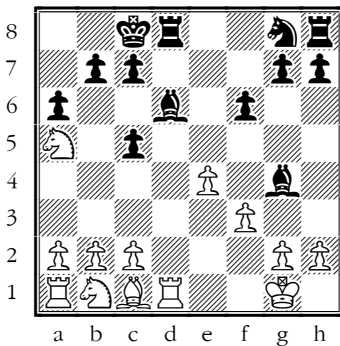


Poking a nose in

Campora - Eslon [C66]
Puebla Casalla, 1991

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5
d6 5.d4 Bd7 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 exd4
8.Nxd4 0-0 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Qf3 Re8
11.e5 Ng4? ♠ 12.e6 1-0

The name for this is *interference*;
White gets in the way of the
defence.

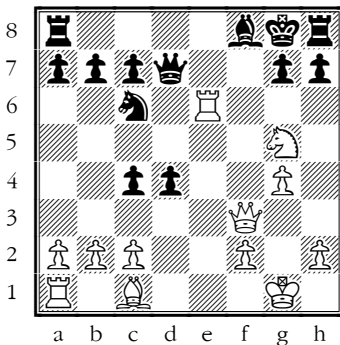


Too clever

Vlastimil Hort - V Zheliandinov [C69]
Havana, 1967

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6
dxc6 5.0-0 f6 6.d4 exd4 7.Nxd4 c5
8.Nb3 Qxd1 9.Rxd1 Bd6 10.Na5
Bg4 11.f3 0-0-0 ♠ 12.e5 1-0

Black refuses to retreat, and instead
counterattacks with the
idea...Bxh2!? winning White's rook
by a discovered attack. But White's
interference move wins a piece.



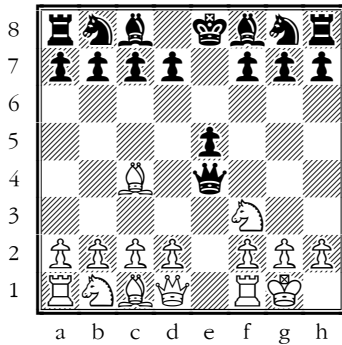
Masterly interference

Maroczy, G - Vidmar, M [C55]
Ljubljana, 1922

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4
Bc5 5.0-0 Nf6 6.e5 d5 7.exf6 dxc4
8.Re1+ Be6 9.Ng5 Qd5 10.Nc3 Qf5
11.Nce4 Bf8 12.Nxf7 Kxf7 13.Ng5+
Kg8 14.g4 Qxf6 15.Rxe6 Qd8
16.Qf3 Qd7 ♠ 17.Re7 Qxe7
18.Qd5+ Qe6 19.Qxe6# 1-0

If 17...Bxe7, 18.Qf7# is mate

4.5 Decoy



An ancient decoy

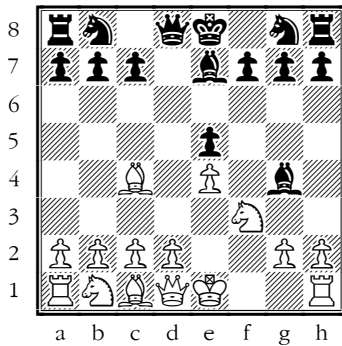
Greco,G - NN [C40]

Italy?, 1801

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Qf6 3.Bc4 Qg6 4.0-0
Qxe4 ♣

White invents a fork using a *decoy*
of the Black King.

5.Bxf7+ Kxf7 6.Ng5+ Ke8 7.Nxe4
1-0



Pinching a pawn

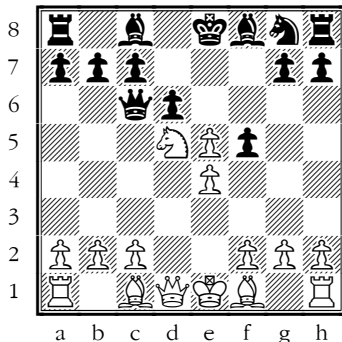
Metz,H - Schmeusser,M [C30]

Baden Baden op (2), 1990

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.Bc4
Be7 5.fxe5 dxe5 ♣

This is a common trick, based on a
jump and a *decoy*.

6.Bxf7+



Possible after all

Moreno,F - Padula,R [C40]

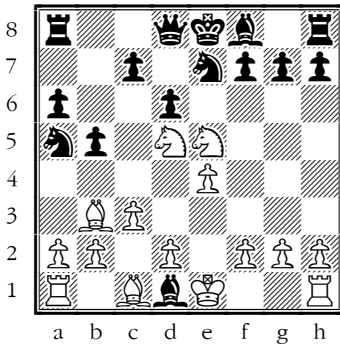
corr, 1980

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Nc6 4.d4
Qf6 5.Nc3 Nxe5 6.Nd5 Qc6 7.dxe5
d6 ♣

White has a pin on b5, but surely it
can't work yet? Ah, there is also a
fork.

8.Bb5 1-0

4.6 Clearance



Out of my way!

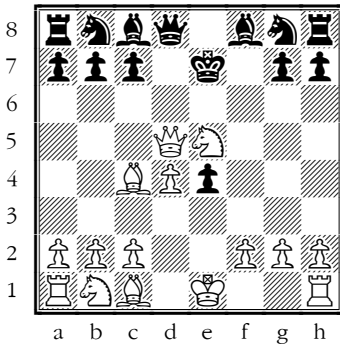
Johann Nepomuk Berger - Frohlich [C46]
Graz - Graz -, 1888

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bb5
Bg4 5.Nd5 Nge7 6.c3 a6 7.Ba4 b5
8.Bb3 Na5 9.Nxe5 Bxd1 ♚

Any check is mate, so:

10.Nf6+! gxf6 11.Bxf7# 1-0

That's called a *clearance* sacrifice,
opening up a line.



You're in my seat

Totsa, D – Mascero, N [C41]
Berlin, 1896

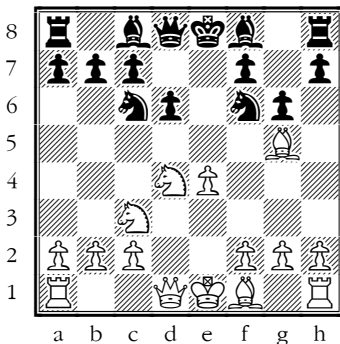
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.Bc4 fxe4
5.Nxe5 d5 6.Qh5+ Ke7 7.Qf7+ Kd6
8.Qxd5+ Ke7 ♚

White really wants to play Qe5+.

9.Ng6+ hxg6 10.Qe5+ 1-0

[If 10...Be6 11.Qxe6# or
10...Kd7 11.Qe6#]

Sometimes we call that a
vacating sacrifice, freeing
a square.



A quiet clearance

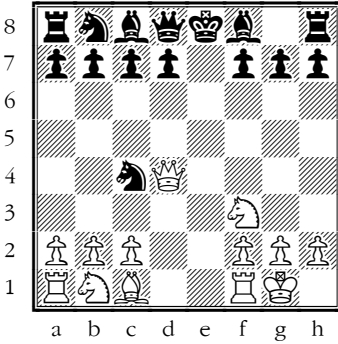
Miskinis, G - Kuebler, A [C47]
corr EU/M/GT (64), 1984

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bg5 d6

♚ White would like to play Nd5 and
Qd4, pinning, so the Knight vacates.

7.Nxc6 1-0

4.7 Intermezzi and Zwischenzuege



An in-between move

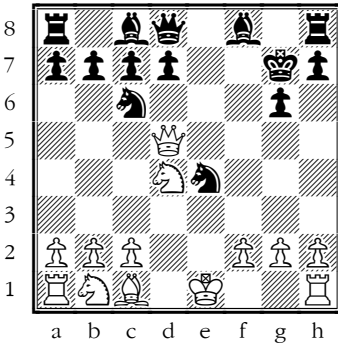
[C24] Bishop's opening, 2000

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.Qxd4 Nd6 6.0-0 Nxc4

Black expects simply to swap off
White's dangerous Bishop, but:

7.Re1+ Be7 8.Qxg7 Rf8 9.Bh6
winning

There is no easy English name for
this idea: we use either the Italian
intermezzo or the German
Zwischenzug.



Another in-betweenner

[C55] Two Knights' Defence

In a very tactical variation...

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4
exd4 5.Nxd4 Nxe4 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7
7.Qh5+ g6 8.Qd5+ Kg7

9.Nxc6

Now Black hopes to save his other
Knight by an in-between move:

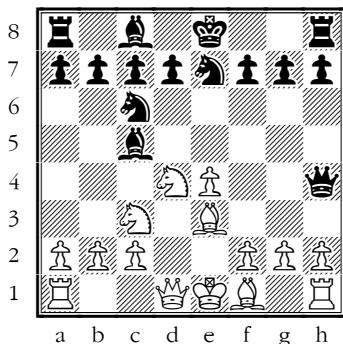
9...Nf6!?

The idea is that 10.Nxd8 Nxd5 and
Black will take the knight and be
ahead. But White has an in-
between move which saves the
Queen and wins Black's Queen.

10.Bh6+! Kh6 11.Qd2+ and 12.Nxd8

5 Combinations

A combination is a set of forcing moves leading to material advantage or mate. Usually they rely on more than one tactical idea. "*Combinations*", said Alekhin, "*are the heart of chess*".



Jump and nudge

Kulaots, K - Geller, J [C45]

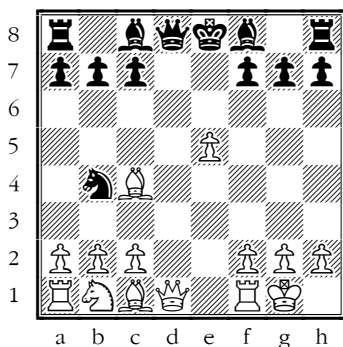
Aeroflot Open Moscow RUS (5), 2002

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Qh4 5. Nc3 Bc5 6. Be3 Nge7

Two ideas in sequence.

7. Nf3 Qh5 8. g4 1-0

A jump and an overload



The coup de grace

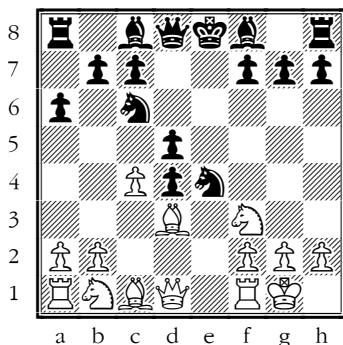
Wall - Tauber, A [C55]

Los Angeles, 1969

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d4 d6 5. 0-0 d5 6. exd5 Nxd5 7. Nxe5 Nxe5 8. dxe5 Nb4

Overloading and then a skewer.

9. Bxf7+ Ke7 10. Bg5+ 1-0



Caught in the middle

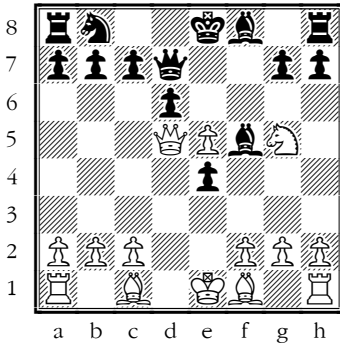
[C67] Ruy Lopez

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. 0-0 Nxe4 5. d4 a6 6. Bd3 d5 7. c4 exd4?

Black's Knight is not properly supported.

8. cxd5 Qxd5 9. Re1 1-0

Undermining then a pin.



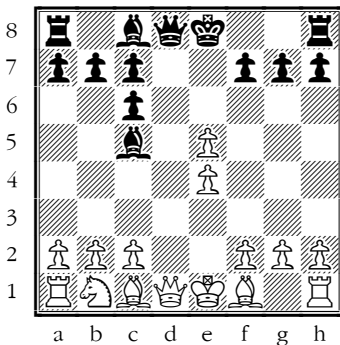
Netted

Sergeant, E - Senneck, F [C40]
Nottingham-B2, 1946

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nc3 d6 4.d4 Nf6
5.dxe5 Nxe4 6.Nxe4 fxe4 7.Ng5 Bf5
8.Qd5 Qd7 ♚

9.Qxb7 1-0

White nets the Rook; Black now sees that the planned defence by 9...Qc6 fails to the pin 10.Bb5



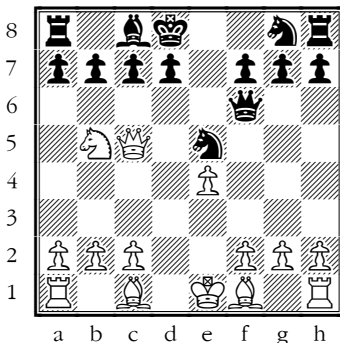
Overload and undermine

Petroff's Defence [C42]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nc6
4.Nxc6 dxc6 5.e5 Ne4 6.d3 Bc5
7.dxe4 ♚

Both ideas are used to win the Queen.

7...Bxf2+ 8.Ke2 Bg4+ 0-1



Super-fork

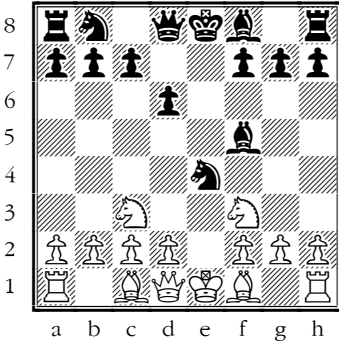
Reti - Dunkelblum [C46]
Vienna, 1874

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Bc5
4.Nxe5 Nxe5 5.d4 Bxd4 6.Qxd4 Qf6

Black hopes for a discovered check...

7.Nb5 Kd8 8.Qc5 ♚ 1-0

White's Queen has a little threat on c7 and big one on f8. It's not a fork of pieces but a fork of threats.



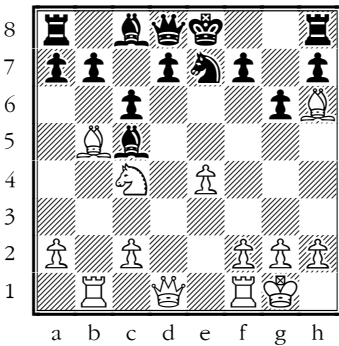
No place to rest

Bejaoui,A – Kujovic,M [C42]
ch-SVK Nove Zamky SVK (7), 1999

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.Nc3 Bf5

Black's defence against White's pin
can be undermined.

6.Qe2 Qe7 7.Nd5 1-0

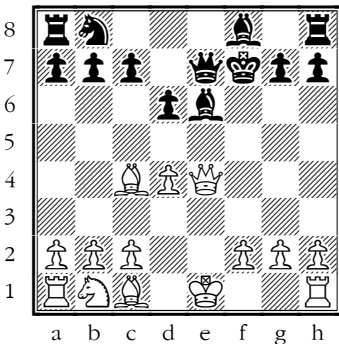


Any check is mate

Kmoch,H - NN [C60]
Vienna, 1934

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.0-0
g6 5.d4 Bg7 6.dxe5 Nxe5 7.Nxe5
Bxe5 8.Bh6 Bxb2 9.Nd2 c6 10.Rb1
Bd4 11.Nc4 Bc5 12.Qd4 1-0

The mate threat Nd6 allows the
Black Bishop to be overloaded and
forked with the Rook.



Why, for two pins, I'd...

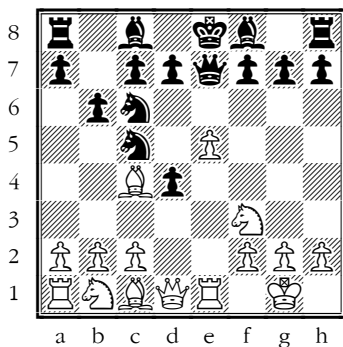
Soderstrom - Tzannetakis [C42]
corr WER, 1981

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7
Kxf7 5.d4 Nxe4 6.Qh5+ Ke7 7.Qe2
Kf7 8.Qxe4 Qe7 9.Bc4+ Be6

White steals a Bishop.

10.Qf5+ 1-0

[If 10...Qf6 11.Bxe6+]



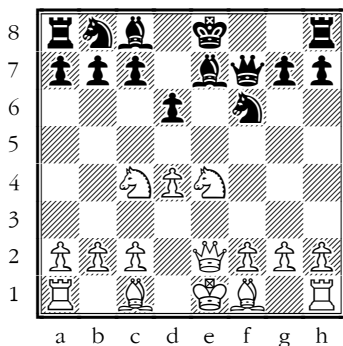
A proper pickle

Muir,W - Johnson [C43]
Virginia, 1987

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.e5
Qe7 5.Be2 Ne4 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Re1 b6
8.Bc4 Nc5

A net that includes a pin

9.Bg5 1-0 [If 9...f6 10.exf6]



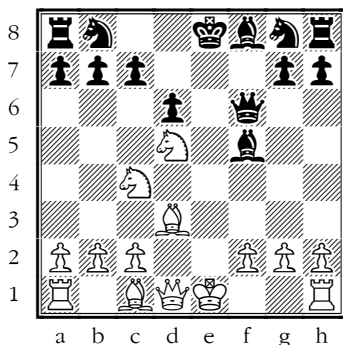
Next in line

Abrahamsson,D - Printzlau,J [C40]
Politiken Cup Copenhagen DEN (2), 2005

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qf6 4.d4 d6
5.Nc4 fxe4 6.Nc3 Qf7 7.Qe2 Be7
8.Nxe4 Nf6

A fork that works because of a pin,
and because White has
reinforcements

9.Nexd6+ 1-0



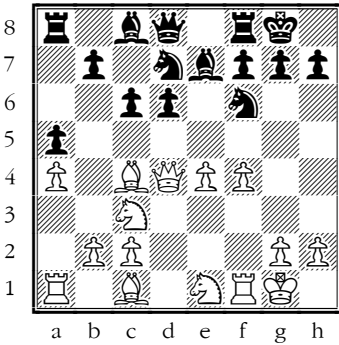
Too much pressure

Forman,A - MacDonald,J [C40]
corr Betins mem, 1971

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qf6 4.Nc4
fxe4 5.Nc3 d6 6.d3 exd3 7.Bxd3 Bf5
8.Nd5

Black's Queen is trying to hold onto
f5 and c7, but it can't do everything.

8...Qe6+ 9.Nce3 1-0



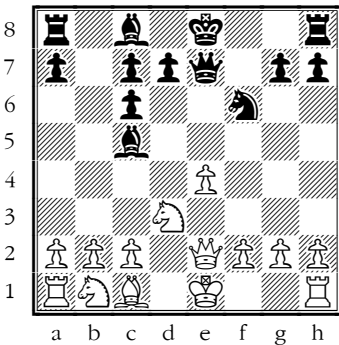
No time to defend

Belova - Epstein [C41]
USSR, 1981

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4
Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.a4 a5
8.Ne1 c6 9.f4 exd4 10.Qxd4 ♣

Black unmaskes not a pin but the
threat of a pin.

10...d5 0-1



One more or less

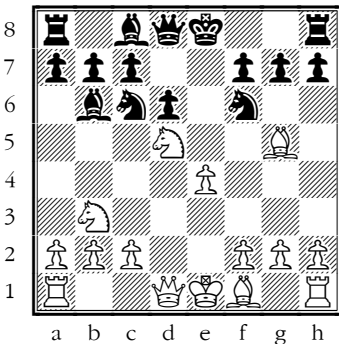
Repkova,E - Babar,F [C63]

Dortmund op (8), 1995.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.d3
fxe4 5.dxe4 Nf6 6.Qe2 Bc5 7.Bxc6
bxc6 8.Nxe5 Qe7 9.Nd3 ♣

Black's next move has the effect of
removing a defence of the Bc5,
because of a pin.

9...Nxe4 10.f3 1-0



Cut your losses

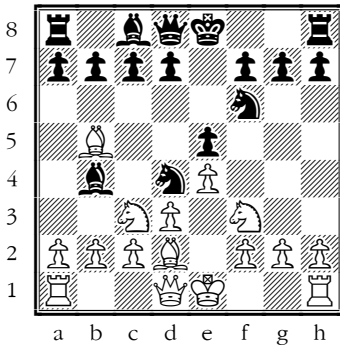
Andersen,T - Hansen,C [C45]
Romo, 1975

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
Bc5 5.Nb3 Bb6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bg5 d6
8.Nd5 ♣

Black wants to win a pawn by decoy
and fork, instead White loses a
Queen to a skewer.

8...Bxf2+ 9.Ke2 Bg4+ 0-1

6 Counting and calculating



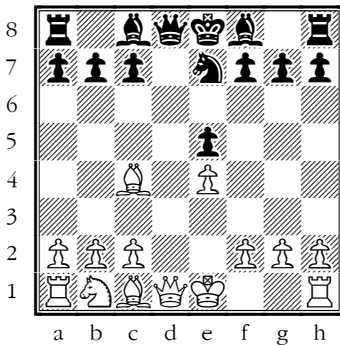
Simple as that

Lapinskaite, S – Kaula, I [C48]
Rimavska Sobota, 1992

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nc3
Nf6 5.d3 Bb4 6.Bd2 ♚

White's Bishop on b5 is attacked
once and defended once, so...

6...Bxc3 7.Bxc3 Nxb5 0-1



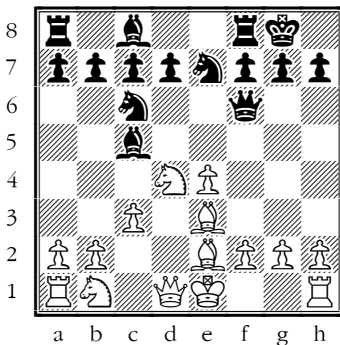
A choice

Wall – Russell, C [C41]
North Augusta, SC, 1970

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nd7 4.Bc4
Ne7 5.dxe5 Nxe5 6.Nxe5 dxe5 ♚

White can take on d8 then on f7,
or...

7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Qxd8 1-0



Step by step

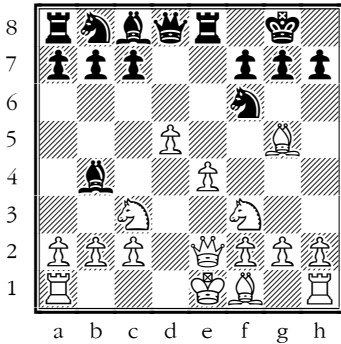
Wohlrabe, J (1945) – Fraenzel, M [C45]
ch-City Solingen GER (7), 2004

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
Qf6 5.c3 Bc5 6.Be3 Nge7 7.Be2 0-0

♚ White has a discovered attack
but it needs thinking through.

8.Nxc6 Bxe3 9.Nxe7+ 1-0

The capture with check means that
Black cannot fight back with...Qxf2#

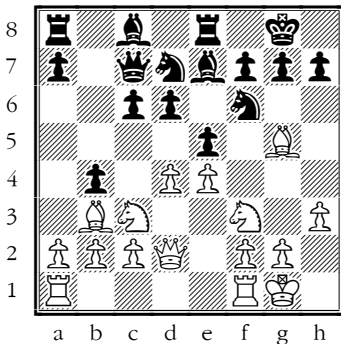


Two way traffic

Svensson,F - Adler,B [C40]
corr Tch-SWE, 1980

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 e4 4.Qe2
Nf6 5.Nc3 Bd6 6.d3 0-0 7.dxe4 Re8
8.Bg5 Bb4 ♠ It's surprising how
often this happens; Black misses a
defence that White can't do right
now!

9.Bxf6 Bxc3+ 10.Bxc3 1-0



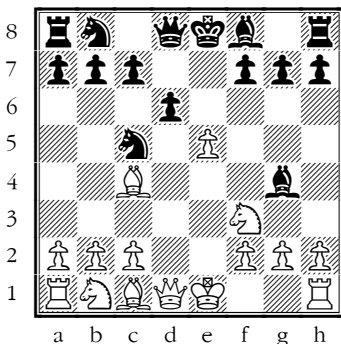
An important threat

Sholic,K - Chiktakhian,S [C41]
EuYouth U12 Girls, Tallinn EST (2), 1997

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4
Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.h3 Nbd7 7.d3 c6
8.Bg5 Qc7 9.Qd2 Re8 10.d4 b5
11.Bb3 b4 ♠

White is in trouble, but the next
move makes it worse! When Black
takes on c3, the White Queen will
be threatened.

12.Bxf6 bxc3 13.Qxc3 Bxf6 14.d5 c5
15.Ba4 Rd8 16.b4 Nb6 17.Bc6 cxb4
0-1



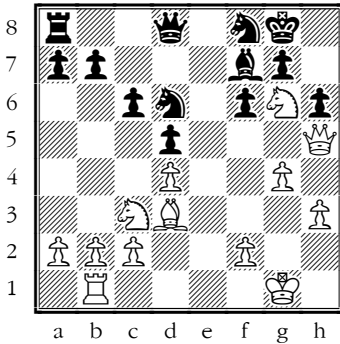
Pinching a pawn goes wrong...

Galic,A - Lesko,I [C41]
TCh-BIH w Jahorina BIH (1), 2003

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.dxe5
Nxe4 5.Bd3 Nc5 6.Bc4 Bg4 ♠

White remembers the decoy idea.

7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Ng5+ Qxg5 9.Qd5+
Be6 10.Qf3+ Qf5 0-1

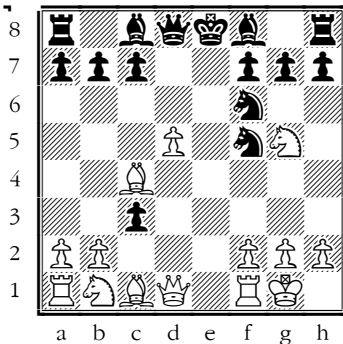


White's stranded knight is lost once Black interferes with its defence.

Oops

Nigel Short - Pentala Harikrishna [C42]
Montreal International CAN (2), 2007

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.d3 Nf6 6.d4 d5 7.Bd3 Bd6
8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 h6 10.Nc3 c6 11.Re1
Re8 12.Rxe8+ Nxe8 13.Ne5 Nd7
14.Bf4 Nf8 15.Qh5 Be6 16.Rb1 f6
17.Ng6 Bf7 18.Bxd6 Nxd6 19.g4 ♣
19...Ne4 0-1 Can you work it out?



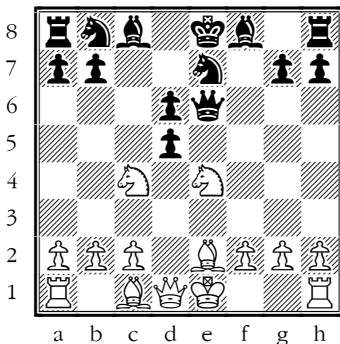
Out of my way

Hedrick,R – Cannady,P [C57]
corr, 1980

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5
d5 5.exd5 Nd4 6.c3 Nf5 7.d4 exd4
8.0-0 dxc3 ♣

A whole cascade of ideas that we have met before: can you follow it?

9.d6 (clearance) Nxd6 10.Nxf7 (fork)
Nxf7? 11.Bxf7+ (overloading) Ke7
12.Re1+ Be6 (pin) 13.Qxd8+
(overload) 1-0

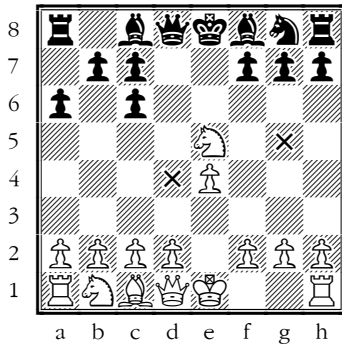


Fork on fork

Petrov - Mordvinov [C40]
corr, 1982

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qf6 4.d4 d6
5.Nc4 fxe4 6.Be2 c6 7.d5 Ne7
8.Nc3 cxd5 9.Nxe4 Qe6 ♣
10.Ncxd6+ 1-0 If 10...Kd8 11.Ng5!
when White will land on f7 with one knight or the other

6.1 Defending



Defence by a fork

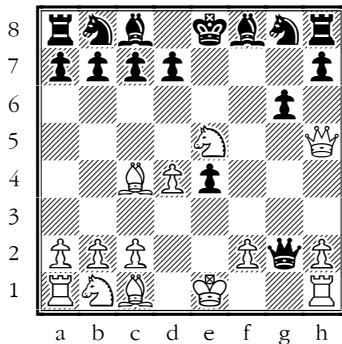
[C65] Ruy Lopez

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.Nxe5 ♣

White has carried out the 'threat' to win the e-pawn but Black has two Queen forks to win a pawn back:

5...Qg5 and 5...Qd4

Winning the central e-pawn is best.



One way out

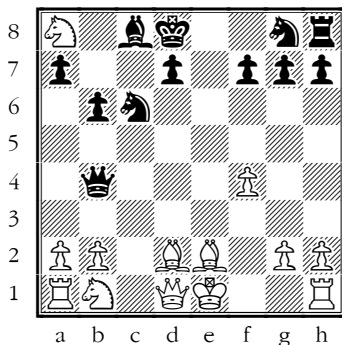
Tromp,R - Gonzalez Davila,R [C40]

36th Olympiad Calvia ESP (1), 2004

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Bc4 fxe4 4.Nxe5 Qg5 5.d4 Qxg2 6.Qh5+ g6 ♣

White comes up with a neat checkmate idea on f7, but Black can clear a square then take the White Queen.

7.Bg5 Bb4+ 0-1



The netter netted

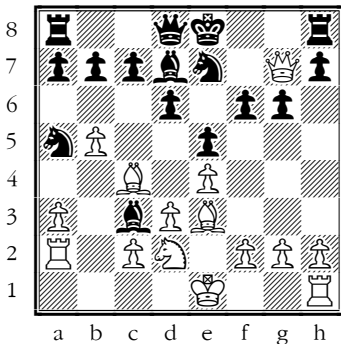
Kaula,I - Van Steenwinckel,I [C45]

WchJW-U12 Szeged (3), 1994

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qh4 5.Nb5 Qxe4+ 6.Be2 Qe5 7.f4 Bb4+ 8.c3 Qc5 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8 b6 11.cxb4 Qxb4+ 12.Bd2

♣ Black hopes to take the Rook on a1.

12...Qxb2? 13.Bc3 1-0



Defence with forcing moves

Ali, D - Norrish, I [C46]

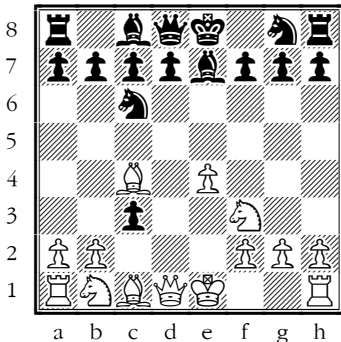
Exeter Lions vs. Exeter School, 1997

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 Bc5 4. Bc4 f6 5. d3 Nge7 6. a3 d6 7. b4 Bd4 8. Be3 Bxc3+ 9. Nd2 Kf8 10. Ra2 Bd7 11. b5 Na5 12. Qh5 g6 13. Qh6+ Ke8 14. Qg7 ♣ 14... Rg8 15. Qf7#

But 14... Rf8 15. Bh6 Bxd2+ 16. Kxd2

[Or else Black plays 16... Bxh6]

16... Nxc4+ wins for Black



Giving up

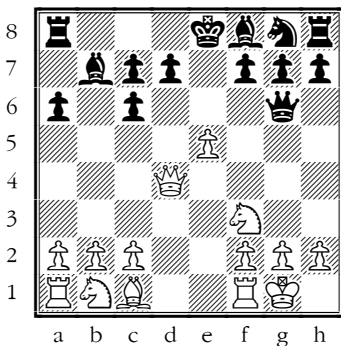
Holze, G - Hohlfeld, W [C44]

BL2-N 8283, 1983

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Bc4 Be7 5. c3 dxc3 ♣ 6. Qd5 1-0

Black resigns, but there was a defence!

[If 6... Nh6 7. Bxh6 0-0 8. Bc1? Nb4!]



Defence by counterattack

[C68] Ruy Lopez.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Bxc6 bxc6 5. d4 exd4 6. Qxd4 Qf6 7. e5 Qg6 8. 0-0 Bb7 ♣

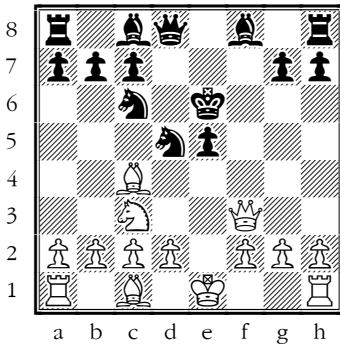
9. e6? fxe6 10. Ne5?

Black fights back to go two pawns up with a wicked discovered check.

10... Qxg2+ 11. Kxg2 c5+

White has an idea of a clearance sacrifice then a fork.

6.2 Counterattacking

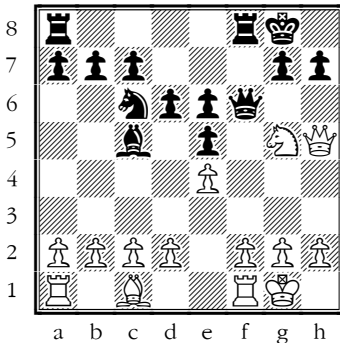


Great when it works

Christensen, J – Andersen, J [C57]
Denmark, 1966

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5
d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Qf3+
Ke6 8.Nc3 ♠

8...Nd4? 9.Bxd5+ 1-0



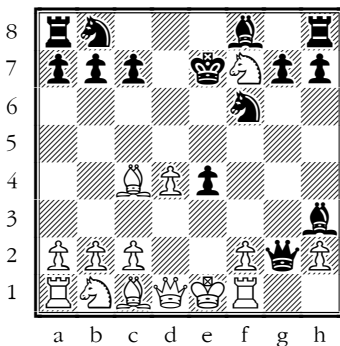
Count to success

Somerset, B - Devon [C55]
U14 Chepstow (2.12), 2004

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4
Bc5 5.Ng5 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nd5 Be6
8.Nxf6+ Qxf6 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.Qh5

♠ Black is ganging up on f2, and it's
check, so White can't checkmate
yet...

10...Bxf2+



Attack and counterattack

[C40] Elephant Gambit

A complicated opening!

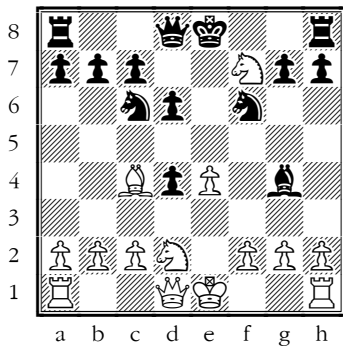
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nxe5 dxe4 4.Bc4
Qg5 5.Bxf7+ Ke7 6.d4 Qxg2 7.Rf1
Bh3 8.Bc4 Nf6 9.Nf7? ♠

White's Bishop is doing a lot of
work, and.

9...b5! pushes it over the edge

It's still a fight...

6.3 From bad to worse



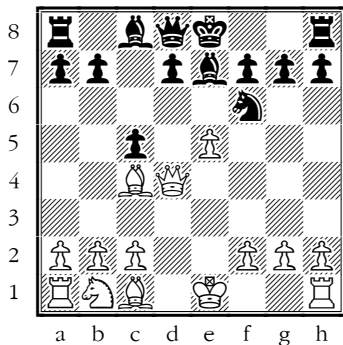
Stop digging

Head,J – Bladek,R [C55]
Corr IECG Class N, 1996

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4
exd4 5.Ng5 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+
7.Nxd2 d6 8.Nxf7

Black's Queen is attacked, so Black counterattacks White's Queen.

8..Bg4 9.f3 1-0 Now Black has three pieces *en prise*. If you're in a hole, stop digging!



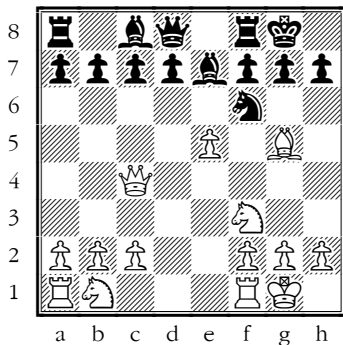
Poke and counter-poke

Wall – Burton,C [C45]
Wichita Falls, 1971

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
Nxd4 5.Qxd4 Nf6 6.Bc4 Be7 7.e5 c5

Instead of moving the Knight, Black chases the Queen, but the Queen moves to pin the Knight.

8.Qf4 1-0



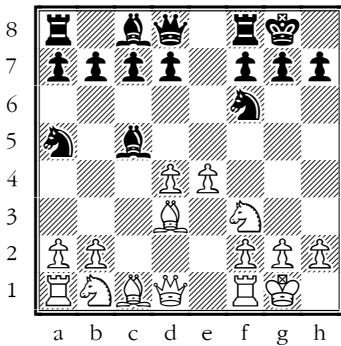
Another unwise poke

Tuvshintgs,B – Croise,I [C44]
WchJW-U12 Szeged (5), 1994

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4
Na5 5.Qxd4 Nxc4 6.Qxc4 Nf6 7.Bg5
Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.e5

Black chases the Queen to a place she wants to go!

9...d5 10.Qh4 h6 11.exf6 gxf6
12.Bxh6 f5 13.Qg3+ 1-0



Right and wrong

Mazuchowski, T - Good, G [C55]

Detroit ch-MI op (6), 1974

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4
Bc5 5.c3 Nf6 6.0-0 0-0 7.cxd4

Black now decides not to dodge but
to counterattack.

7...Na5 8.Bd3 ♠

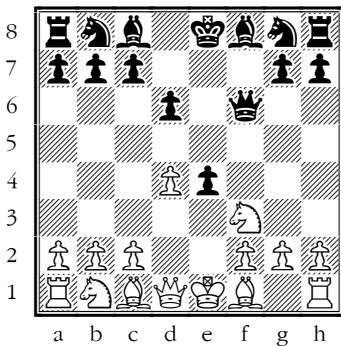
Black makes the same decision, but
this time it goes badly wrong.

8..d5?

The idea is 9.dxc5 e4 and Black
gets the piece back.

9.e5! 1-0

Black has two pieces threatened:
out of the frying pan into the fire!



The last word

Angermann, F – Morgado, J [C40]

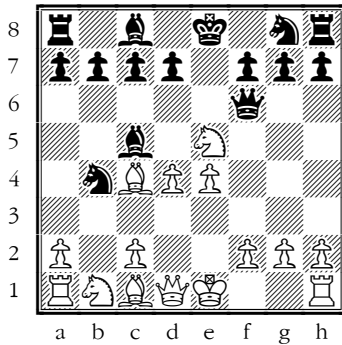
corr, 1969

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qf6 4.d4 d6
5.Nf3 fxe4 ♠

White' could move the Knight but
decides to counterattack. This
leads to a long sequence of blows,
but in the end, Black has a choice of
pieces to take.

6.Bg5 Qf5 (double attack) 7.Qe2
(pin) Be7 (block) 8.Qb5+ Qxb5
9.Bxb5+ c6 10.Bxe7 Nxe7 0-1

6.4 Traps



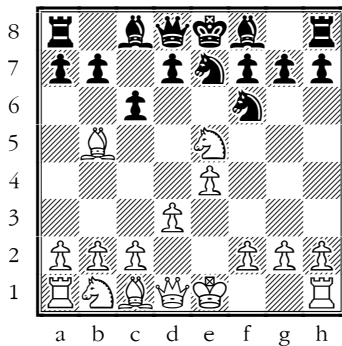
A fork trap

Evans' Gambit [C51].

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Nxb4 5.Nxe5 Qf6 6.d4

White makes a bold move in the centre, and Black makes a bolder reply!

6...Bxd4 7.Qxd4 Nxc2+ 0-1



One trap, two forks

[C65] Mortimer's Trap.

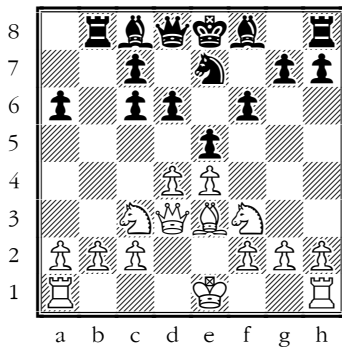
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Ne7?! () 5.Nxe5? (White falls for it) 5...c6

[Now if 6.Ba4, Qa5+ is a winning Queen fork]

6.Nc4! (threatening smothered mate!) 6...Ng6! 7.Ba4 b5!

A bad move with a good idea behind it!

The last trick is a winning pawn fork



Unclassified

A remarkable trap to catch Black's Rook; a fork or a jump?

Feuer - O'Kelly [C73]
Liege, 1934

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d4 f6 7.Nc3 Rb8 8.Qd3 Ne7 9.Be3 Rxb2

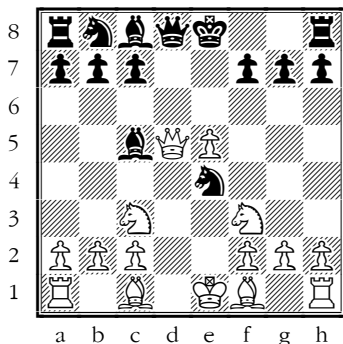
10.dxe5 fxe5 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.0-0-0+ 1-0

7 What makes a combination work?

I just want to make clear what is going on in what you have seen so far.

Combinations often work because of forcing moves: checks or captures.

7.1 Checks



Preparation

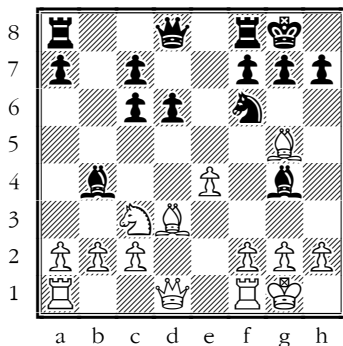
Boehm, T - Krueger, A [C43]
JBL NW95/96 (6.4), 1995

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.e5
Ne4 5.Qxd4 d5 6.Nc3 Bc5 7.Qxd5
♣

Black would like to take the Nc3 then the Qd5, but 7...Nc3 is met by 8.Qxd8+, so Black chivvies the White king onto a white square, so 7...Nxc3 will be check.

7...Bxf2+ 0-1

7.2 Captures



If only...

Diaz Diaz, A (2122) - Reynes Gonzalez, M [C47]
III Open Bajada de la Virgen ESP (7), 2005

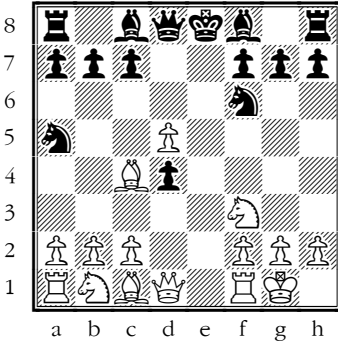
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3
d6 8.Bg5 0-0 9.0-0 Bg4 ♣

If only there were no Knight on f6, White could take it with the Queen. This way of thinking will often give you ideas!

10.Bxf6 1-0

Combinations also arise because of loose pieces (undefended or barely defended) or unsafe kings (exposed or stalemated).

7.3 Loose pieces



Loose pieces drop off

Kraiko – Kreie [C55]

Biel, 1979

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.0-0 d5 6.exd5 Na5

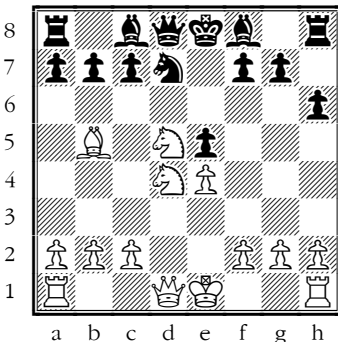
Black's Knight on a5 has no defenders. Because of the open position of the King, White has a fork.

7.Qe1+ Be7 8.Qxa5 1-0

"Once I played 100 games against Mike Cook at 10 minutes (for him) vs 5 minutes (for me). At that time, Mike was about 2300 strength. About half-way through the series (which I eventually won 88-12) he explained his disappointment: "I thought that I would see lots of advanced strategic concepts in these games, but actually all I've learnt is LDPO."

"LDPO?" "Loose Pieces Drop Off." (John Nunn)

7.4 Unsafe King



Combined operations

Gerschwieler - Salzmann [C47]

Switzerland, 1965

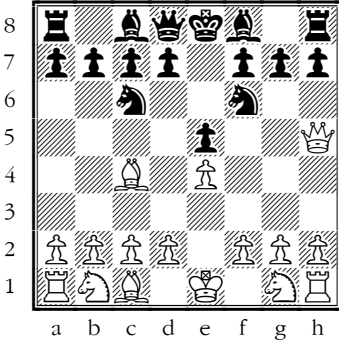
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nd5 h6? 6.Bf4 d6 7.Nxd4 Ne5 8.Bxe5 dxe5 9.Bb5+ Nd7

A net succeeds because of a checkmate threat, and the checkmate is there because the king is vulnerable. 10.Ne6 1-0

8 Checkmates

We've seen a few so far, but this is the most important idea of all.

8.1 Checkmating the uncastled King



Scholar's mate

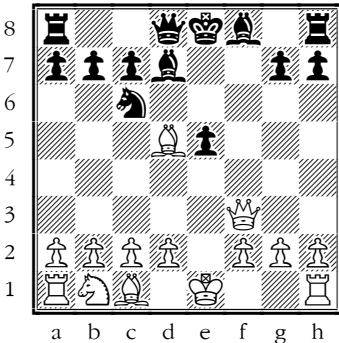
1. e4 e5 2. Qh5 Nc6

[If 2...g6? 3. Qxe5+ Qe7 4. Qxh8]

3. Bc4 Nf6? ♣

4. Qxf7#

This happened to me in my first game in a chess club – playing Black! Even if your opponents know it, don't forget it, because the pattern turns up all the time:



Dedier, R – Harrison, R [C57]

IECG, Cat-C (m/1923/02), 1995, 1923/(2)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6

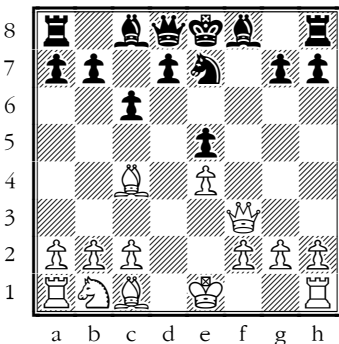
4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Nxd5 6. Nxf7

Kxf7 7. Qf3+ Ke8 8. Bxd5 Bd7 ♣

Black protects c6 but:



9. Qf7# 1-0



Mate with a Bishop

Bensdorp, L - Van Huit, K [C44]

AKN Open Haarlem NED (3), 2000

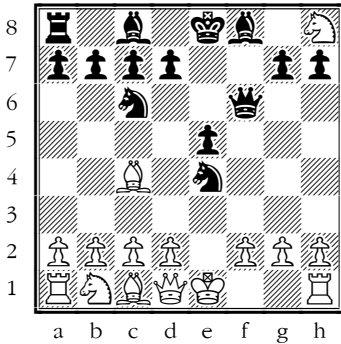
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 f6 4. Bc4

Nge7 5. dxe5 Nxe5 6. Nxe5 fxe5

7. Qf3 c6 ♣

White has a choice:

8. Bf7# 1-0



Queen and Knight

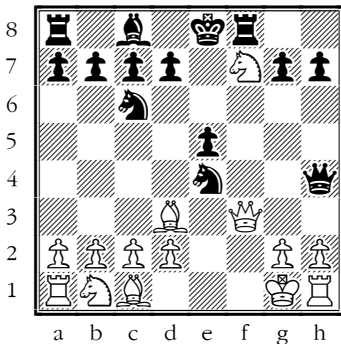
O'Brien,G - LauerSmith,J [C57]
Australia ch girls (5), 1995

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
4.Ng5 Nxe4 5.Nxf7 Qf6 6.Nxh8
♣♣

White liked the look of Black's Rook, but not Black's reply.

6...Qxf2# 0-1

This is like Scholar's Mate, but the job of the Bishop is done by the Black Knight.



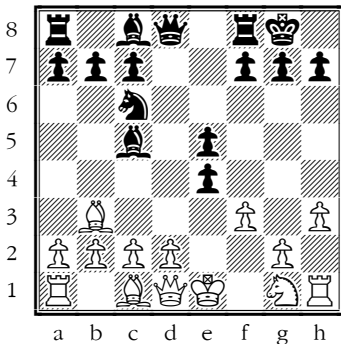
Queen supported by a Rook

Nijsen,F - Van Diepen,P [C57]
Uitgeest, 1973

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
4.Ng5 Bc5 5.Nxf7 Bxf2+ 6.Kxf2
Nxe4+ 7.Kg1 Qh4 8.Qf3 Rf8
9.Bd3 ♣♣

This time the Rook helps.

9...Rxf7 10.Qxe4 Qf2# 0-1



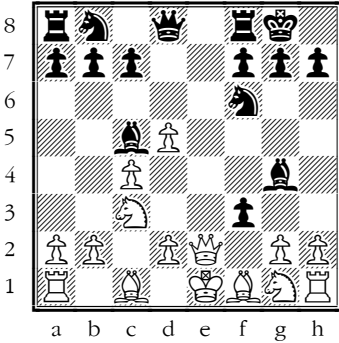
A scholarly Black

Madronic,M - Boroshova,Z [C55]
U10 Girls, Tallinn EST (6), 1997

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
4.Nc3 Nxe4 5.Nxe4 d5 6.Bb3
dxe4 7.Ng1 Bc5 8.h3 0-0 9.f3 ♣♣

White has weakened the King's side.

9...Qh4+ 10.Ke2 Qf2# 0-1



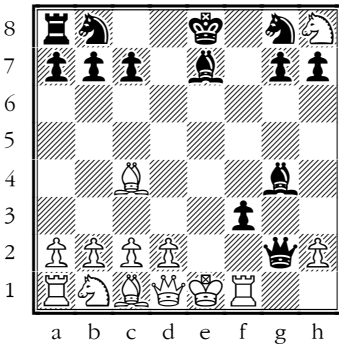
Mate with a pawn

Kofoed,K - Pape,R [C40]
Denmark, 1986

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 e4
4.Qe2 Nf6 5.c4 Bc5 6.Nc3 0-0
7.Ng1 Bg4 8.f3 exf3

White saves the Queen but loses the King.

9.Qd3 f2# 0-1



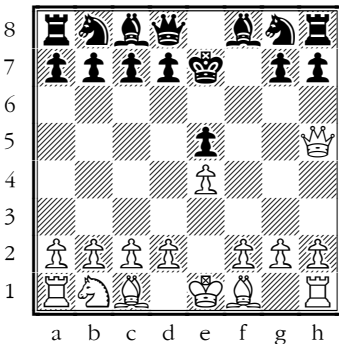
Greed doesn't pay...

Masseg - Freidl,A [C40]
Austria, 1987

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nxe5 dxex4
4.Bc4 Qg5 5.Nxf7 Qxg2 6.Rf1
Bg4 7.f3 exf3 8.Nxh8

Black's next quiet move creates an unstoppable threat.

8...Be7 0-1



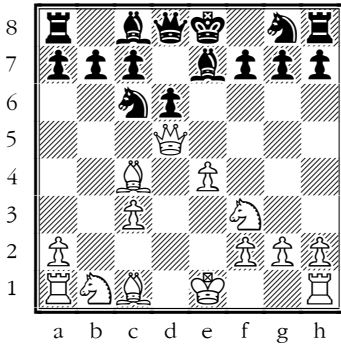
Chivvying out the King

Pritchard - Hempel,J [C40]
Radio (2), 1967

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f6 3.Nxe5 fxe5
4.Qh5+ Ke7

Black doesn't want to play 4...g6 because of 5.Qxe5+, winning the Rook on h8.

5.Qxe5+ Kf7 6.Bc4+ 1-0



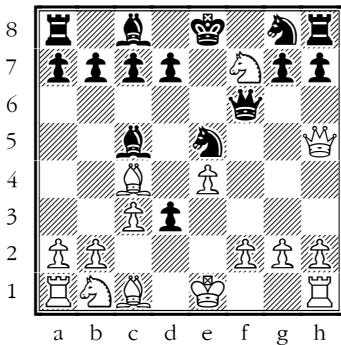
Running away...

Schachtler,W - Grabowski [C44]
Badenweiler op (8), 1985

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4
4.Bc4 Bb4+ 5.c3 dxc3 6.bxc3 Be7
7.Qd5 d6

Black's King can dodge,
perhaps?

8.Qxf7+ Kd7 9.Be6# 1-0



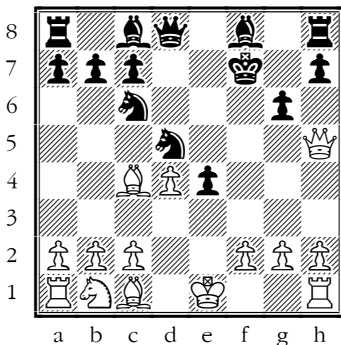
No escape

Reuter,P - Schlenker,R [C44]
1993

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 e5 3.Nf3 exd4
4.Bc4 Bc5 5.c3 d3 6.Ng5 Ne5
7.Nxf7 Qf6 8.Qh5

White has some threats but it's
Black's turn first!

8... Qxf2+ 9.Kd1 Qc2+ 10.Ke1
Qxc1+ 11.Qd1 Qe3+ 12.Kf1 Qf2#
0-1



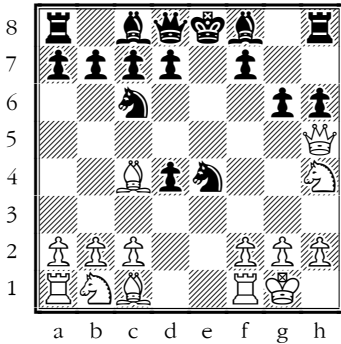
Queen and Bishops

Clarisse,E - Van Dijke,P [C57]
op, Vlissingen NED (5), 1996

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.d4 e4
7.Nxf7 Kxf7 8.Qh5+ g6

9.Bxd5+ Kg7 10.Bh6+ 1-0

It's mate after 10...Kf6 11.Qg5#



Mate with a knight

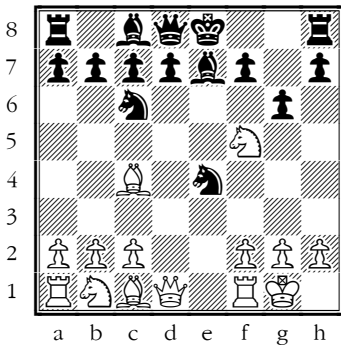
Wall, B – Vargas [C55]

San Antonio, 1979

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4
exd4 5.0-0 h6 6.Nh4 Nxe4 7.Qh5
g6

The main line is mate in three.

8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Qxg6+ Ke7
10.Nf5# 1-0



Smothered mate

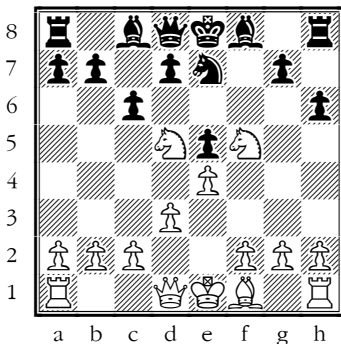
Hoffmann - Hellmann [C55]

Berlin, 1904

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4
exd4 5.0-0 Be7 6.Nxd4 Nxe4
7.Nf5 g6

8.Qd5 Rf8 9.Ng7# 1-0

Gruesome...



Another smother

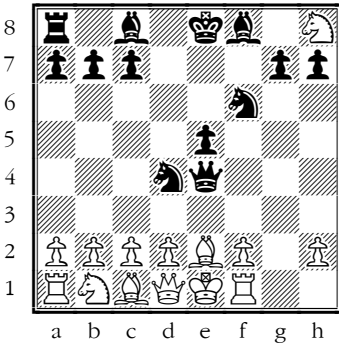
Kranzle – NN [C40]

Mannheim, 1939

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3
Nf6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.Nd5
Qd8 8.Nd4 Ne7 9.Nxf5 c6

That was the wrong pawn to
touch!

10.Nd6# 1-0



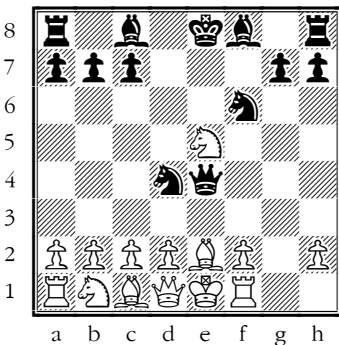
A clever smother

NN – Elbrond Pedersen, M [C57]
1990

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nd4 6.d6 Qxd6
7.Nxf7 Qc6 8.Nxh8 Qxg2 9.Rf1
Qe4+ 10.Be2 ♣

White did not want to lose the Queen but this is worse!

10...Nf3# 0-1



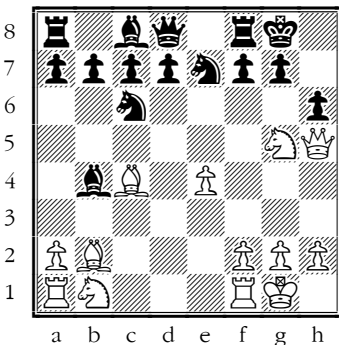
Defending the smother

Holloway, C - Senff, D [C57]
CES Northeim GER (3), 2005

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6
4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nd4 6.d6 Qxd6
7.Nxf7 Qc6 8.Nxe5 Qxg2 9.Rf1
Qe4+ 10.Be2 ♣

White has f3 covered this time but must still lose a Queen.

10...Nxc2+ 0-1



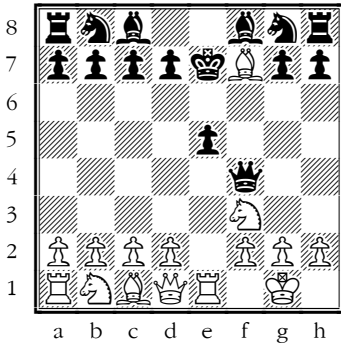
Mate in a few moves

Goncharov - Frenkel [C44]
Moscow, 1901

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4
4.Bc4 Bb4+ 5.c3 dxc3 6.0-0 cxb2
7.Bxb2 Nge7 8.Ng5 0-0 9.Qh5 h6
♣ 10.Bxf7+ 1-0

[If 10...Kh8 11.Qxh6#] or

10...Rxf7 11.Qxf7+ Kh8 12.Qxg7#



Mate with a rook

Greco,G – NN [C40]
Italy?, 1801

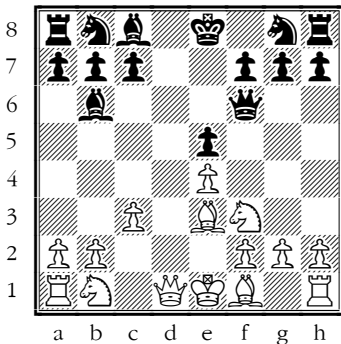
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Qf6 3.Bc4 Qg6
4.0-0 Qxe4 5.Bxf7+ Ke7

Black refuses the Bishop – why?

6.Re1 Qf4 ♣

Black's Queen has been nothing but trouble.

7.Rxe5+ Kd8 8.Re8# 1-0



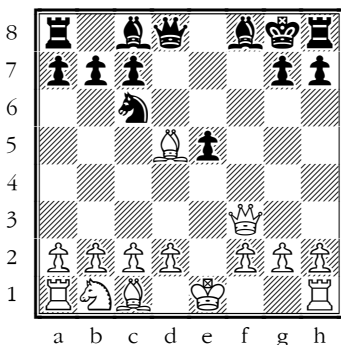
Contact mate

NN - NN [C40]
1500, 1801

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Qf6 3.c3 Bc5 4.d4
Bb6 5.Be3 d6 6.dxe5 dxe5 ♣

Black picks the wrong way to
dodge after White's next move.

7.Bg5 Qg6? 8.Qd8# 1-0

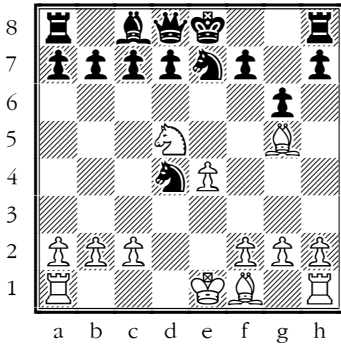


A deadly diagonal

Shirley,D - Ellena,B [C57]
Dayton,OH, 1981

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6
4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nxf7
Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Kg8 8.Bxd5+ ♣ 1-0

Black can put the Bishop in the
way, but mate cannot be stopped.



Another minor mate

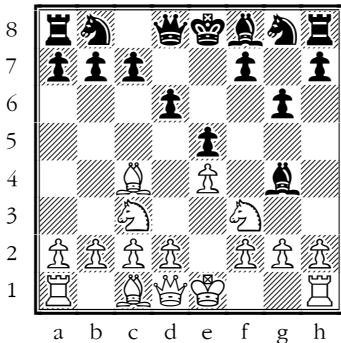
Hopkins - N.N. [C45]
London, 1932

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4
4.Nxd4 Nge7 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bg5
Bg7 7.Nd5 Bxd4 8.Qxd4 Nxd4

♠ 9.Nf6+ Kf8 10.Bh6# 1-0

[It's still mate if Black castles:

*8...0-0 9.Nf6+ Kh8 10.Ng4+ Nxd4
(10...f6 11.Bxf6+ Kg8 12.Nh6# or
11...Rxf6 12.Qxf6+ Kg8 13.Nh6#)
11.Bf6+ Kg8 12.Nh6#]*



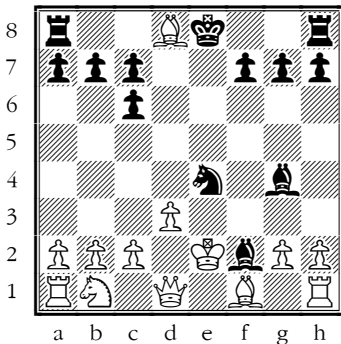
An awesome mate

De Legall - Saint Brie [C41]
Paris, 1750

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Bg4
4.Nc3 g6 ♠

5.Nxe5 Bxd1 6.Bxf7+ Ke7 7.Nd5#
1-0

Just fantastic. This idea is called
Legall's mate to this day.



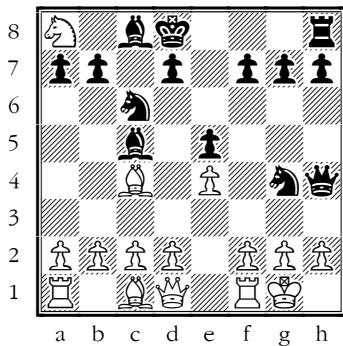
It works for Black too!

Elldin, V - Anderson, G [C42]
Eskilstuna, 1915

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nc6
4.Nxc6 dxc6 5.d3 Bc5 6.Bg5
Nxe4 7.Bxd8 Bxf2+ 8.Ke2 Bg4#

♠ Not exactly the same
arrangement but the same idea.

8.2 Checkmating the castled King



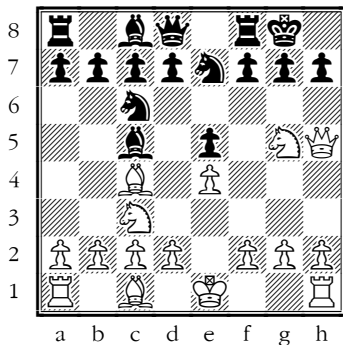
Queen and Knight

Lin - Hussain [C55]
USA, 1993

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3
Ng4 5.0-0 Bc5 6.Ng5 Qxg5 7.Nb5
Qh4 8.Nxc7+ Kd8 9.Nxa8 ♚

White is not paying attention to
Black's ideas!

9...Qxh2# 0-1



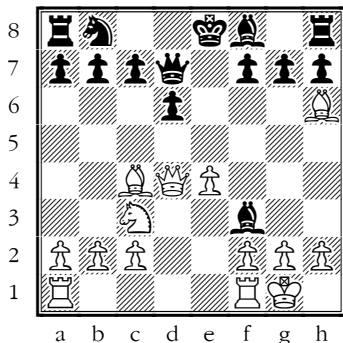
Not just f7

Webber, T - Flynn, S [C46]
EJCC match (3), 2002

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Bc5 3.Nf3 Nc6
4.Bc4 Nge7 5.Ng5 0-0 6.Qh5 ♚

The f7 square is attacked, so Black
defends it.

6...g6 7.Qxh7# 1-0



Queen and Bishop

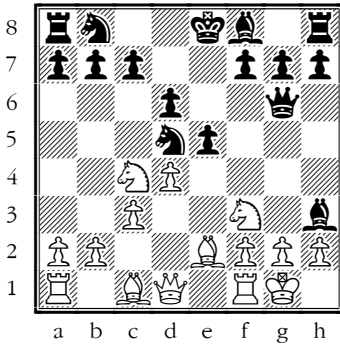
Torre, M - Wall [C41]
Wichita Falls, 1970

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Bg4 4.0-0
Qd7 5.Nc3 Nh6 6.d4 exd4 7.Qxd4
Bxf3 8.Bxh6 ♚

That was a bad idea.

8...Qg4 9.g3 Qh3 0-1.

10...Qg2# cannot be stopped.



Queen and Bishop again

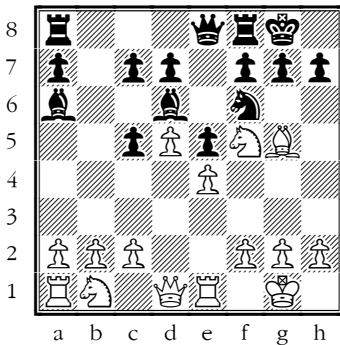
Stone,R - Boyer,M [C42]

E Lansing ch-MI opB (3), 1993

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Be2 d6 4.0-0
Nxe4 5.d3 Nf6 6.Na3 Nd5 7.Nc4
Qf6 8.c3 Qg6 9.d4 Bh3

White sees that moving the g-pawn
loses the Rook for a Bishop.

10.Re1 Qxg2# 0-1



Removing the guards

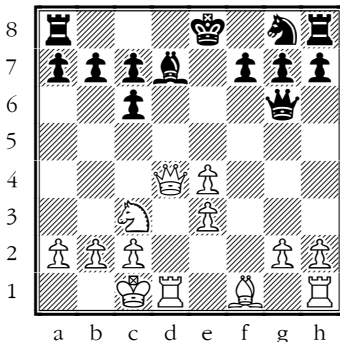
Parkes,S (2500) - Wilson,J [C65]

Exeter Juniors vs Torquay BGS (4), 1999

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6
4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.0-0 Bd6 6.d4 Qe7
7.Bg5 0-0 8.Re1 Ba6 9.Nh4 c5
10.Nf5 Qe6 11.d5 Qe8

12.Bxf6 g6 13.Nh6# 1-0

12...gxf6 13.Qg4+ Kh8 14.Qg7#



Castling into trouble

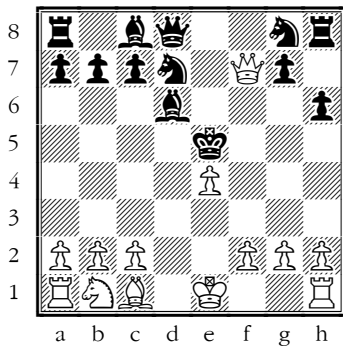
Nakamura,H - Romanov,E [C45]

WCh U12 Boys Oropesa del Mar (9), 1999

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4
4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Qf6 6.Nxc6
Bxe3 7.fxe3 dxc6 8.Qd4 Qg6
9.Nc3 Bd7 10.0-0-0

10...0-0-0 11.Qxa7 1-0

8.3 King hunt



A chase

Kuhn,A - Schlenker,R [C41]
Flintbek, 1959

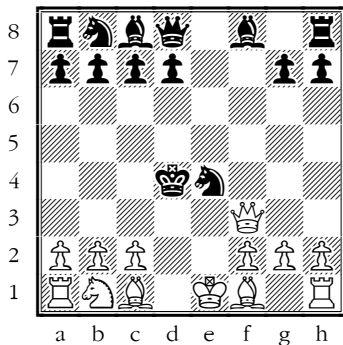
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nd7 4.Bc4 h6
5.dxe5 dxe5 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Nxe5+
Kf6 8.Qd5 Bd6 9.Qf7+ Kxe5 ♚

White catches the King in the middle.

[If 10.Bf4+ Kd4

(10...Kxe4 11.Nc3+ Kd4 12.Qd5#)

11.Qd5#]



A foolhardy King

Beaver Michael - Adler Keith [C42]
Trio, 1996

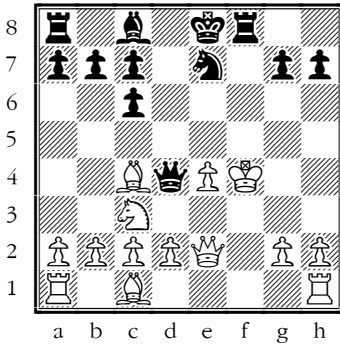
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nxe4
4.Nxf7 Kxf7 5.Qh5+ Kf6 6.Qf3+

White wants to get back his knight.

6...Ke5 7.d4+ Kxd4 ♚

Black should have let the Knight go, because now White cuts off the retreat.

8.Qf5 Qg5 9.c3+ Nxc3 10.bxc3# 1-0

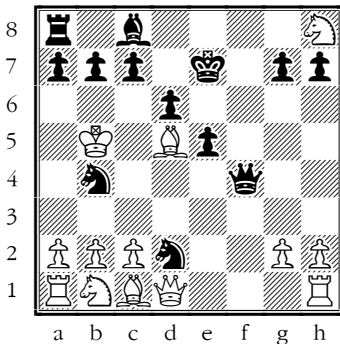


One more move

Schuettrich, H – Grobe, E [C40]
corr, 1976

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5 3. Nxe5 Nc6 4. Nxc6 dxc6 5. Nc3 Bc5 6. Bc4 Bxf2+ 7. Kxf2 Qd4+ 8. Kg3 f4+ 9. Kxf4 Ne7 10. Qe2 Rf8+ ♚ White chooses to lose in 13 moves, not 12.

11. Bf7+ Rxf7+ 12. Kg3 Qe5+ 13. Kh4 Ng6# 0-1

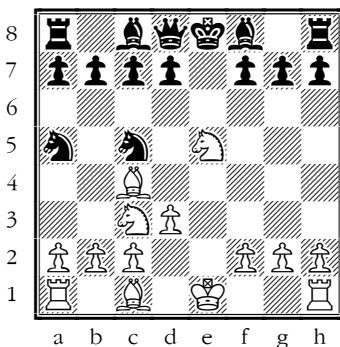


A long way from home

Magerciak - Mathon [C57]
corr CSSR, 1988

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 Bc5 5. Bxf7+ Ke7 6. Bd5 d6 7. Nf7 Qf8 8. Nxh8 Bxf2+ 9. Kxf2 Nxe4+ 10. Ke3 Qf4+ 11. Kd3 Nb4+ 12. Kc4 Nxd2+ 13. Kb5 ♚ 0-1

[If 13...Bd7+ 14. Bc6 Qc4+ 15. Ka4 Nxc6+ 16. Ka3 Qa6#]



Looking ahead

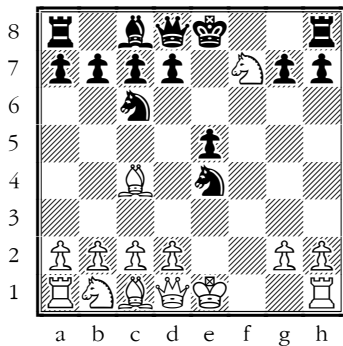
Potter - N.N.
London (Remove White's Queen), 1870

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Nc3 Na5 5. Nxe5 Nxe4 6. d3 Nc5 ♚

White now announced mate in eight moves. White saw ahead more moves than he played!

7. Bxf7+ Ke7 8. Bg5+ Kd6 9. Nb5+ Kxe5 10. f4+ Kf5 11. Nd4+ Kg4 12. h3+ Kg3 13. Ne2+ Kxg2 14. Bd5+ Ne4 15. Bxe4# 1-0

8.4 Longer checkmates



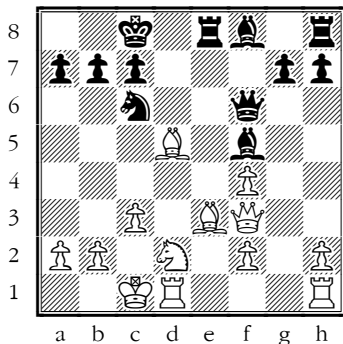
Another deadly diagonal

Werner, G - Kutzner, S [C57]
 RL-chJ U15 Bad Marienberg, 1993

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5
 Bc5 5.Nxf7 Bxf2+ 6.Kxf2 Nxe4+
 7.Ke1 ♣

The diagonal to the near side is open this time.

7...Qh4+ 8.g3 Nxc3 9.Rf1 Nh1+
 10.Ke2 [If 10.Rf2 Qxf2#] 10...Qe4#

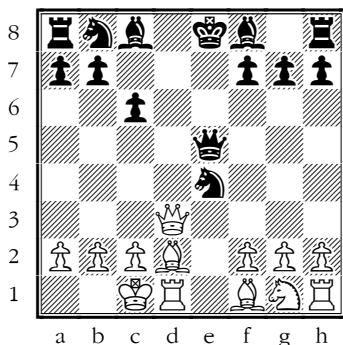


Mating the King castled on the Queen's side

Schulder - Boden [C41]
 London, 1860

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 f5 4.Bc4 Nf6
 5.d4 fxe4 6.dxe5 exf3 7.exf6 Qxf6
 8.gxf3 Nc6 9.f4 Bd7 10.Be3 0-0-0
 11.Nd2 Re8 12.Qf3 Bf5 13.0-0-0 d5
 14.Bxd5 ♣ 14...Qxc3+ 15.bxc3
 Ba3# 0-1

This beautiful idea is still called Boden's Mate.



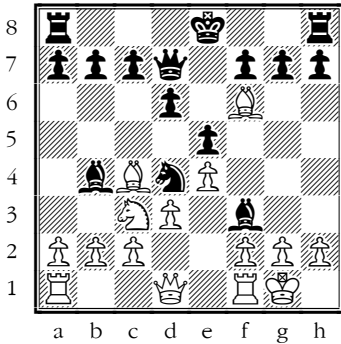
The best checkmate of all

Reti, R - Tartakower, S [B15]
 Vienna, 1910

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4
 Nf6 5.Qd3 e5 6.dxe5 Qa5+ 7.Bd2
 Qxe5 8.0-0-0 Nxe4

♣ That wasn't really a free gift.

9.Qd8+!! Kxd8 10.Bg5+ (discovered,
 and double, check) Ke8 11.Rd8#

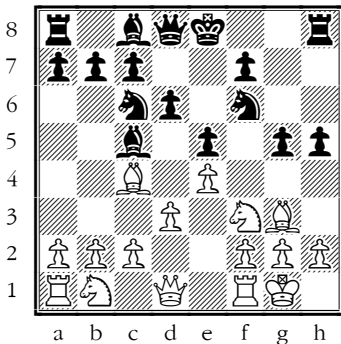


Getting through the wall

Goulding - Brown [C49]
England, 1960

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5
Bb4 5.d3 Nd4 6.Bc4 d6 7.0-0 Bg4
8.Bg5 Qd7 9.Bxf6 Bxf3 ♚0-1

White resigned, not waiting for
10.gxf3 Qh3 when White's Queen
will have to be sacrificed to avoid
mate.



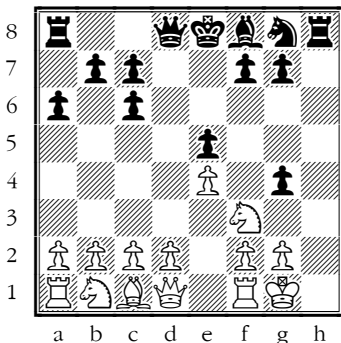
A Queen for a King

Dubois,S - Steinitz,W [C55]
London, 1862

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0
Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 g5
8.Bg3 h5 ♚

9.Nxg5 h4 10.Nxf7 hxg3 11.Nxd8
Bg4 12.Qd2 Nd4 13.Nc3 Nf3+
14.gxf3 Bxf3 15.hxg3 Rh1#

In 1900, Knorr lost to Chigorin in
almost exactly the same game!



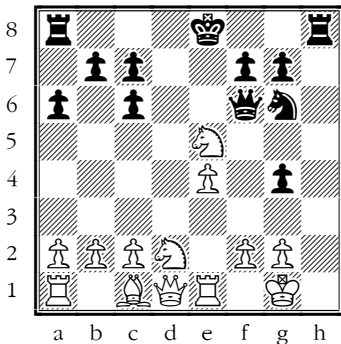
No free lunch

Nixon,W - Walker,J [C68]
Teignmouth Handicap 1997-8 (6), 06.01.1998

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6
dxc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.hxg4?
hxg4 ♚

Black has offered a Bishop to open
the h-file against the White King.

8.Nxe5 Qh4 9.f3 g3 0-1



No escape

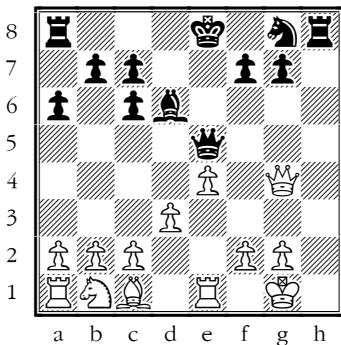
Privalov – Malaniuk Vladimir [C68]
Tallinn, 1974

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6
dxc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.d3 Qf6
8.Nbd2 Ne7 9.Re1 Ng6 10.d4 Bd6
11.hxg4 hxg4 12.dxe5 Bxe5
13.Nxe5 ♣

White's Knight can't stand it any longer!.

13...Qh4 14.f4 g3 15.Kf1 Nxf4 0-1

Black's Knight cuts off the escape



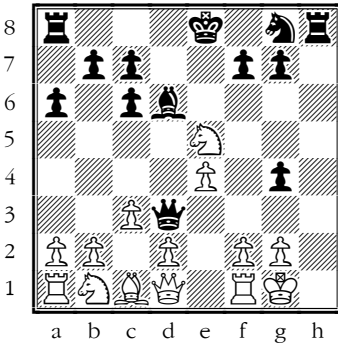
Nifty decoy

Medsen - Mitchel [C69]
London, 1978

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6
dxc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.Re1 Qf6
8.hxg4 hxg4 9.Nxe5 Qxe5 10.Qxg4
Bd6 11.d3 ♣

White's King plans to escape after 11...Qh2+, but he is dragged back to be checkmated.

11...Rh1+ 0-1



Not a draw

Volosnikov - Romanov [C69]
Ishevsk, 1980

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6
dxc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.c3 Qd3
8.hxg4 hxg4 9.Nxe5 Bd6

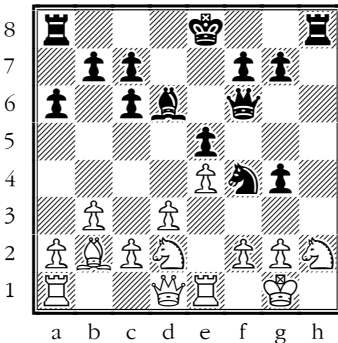
♣ Black is content with a draw after
10.Nxd3 Bh2+ 11.Kh1 Bd6+. White
decides to go for a win, but...

10.Nxg4 0-0-0 11.Qf3?

Have a think about what you would
play here.

11...Rh1+ 12.Kxh1 Qxf1#

The check forced the King away
from the defence of the Rook. I don't
know what to call that idea:
Undermining? Or overloading?



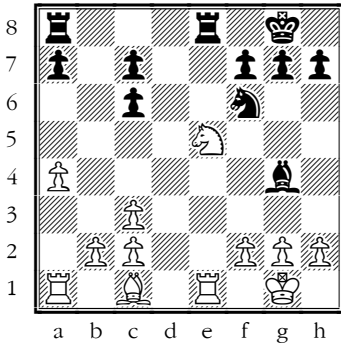
A Rook in reserve

Bouwmeester,J - Van Rijkom,E [C69]
corr, 1993

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6
dxc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.d3 Qf6
8.Nbd2 Bd6 9.b3? Ne7 10.Re1 Ng6
11.Bb2 Nf4 12.hxg4 hxg4 13.Nh2 ♣
13...Rxb2! 0-1

*[If 14.Kxh2 Qh4+ 15.Kg1 0-0-0! and
White is helpless against 16...Rh8]*

*"The master places a Knight on f4;
mate follows by itself," said
Tartakower.*



Back rank mate

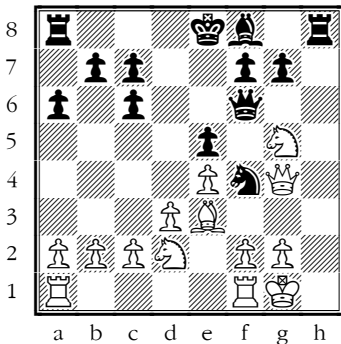
NN – Jack Stephenson [C55]

Wales Junior Inter-County Cardiff (2.12), 2008

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4 Bb4 5.a3 Bxc3 6.dxc3 0-0 7.0-0 Nxe4 8.a4 d5 9.Bxd5 Nf6 10.Bxc6 Qxd1 11.Rxd1 bxc6 12.Nxe5 Bg4 13.Re1 Rfe8 ♣

Black encourages the Knight to move: 14.Nxc6?? Rxe1#

Probably the most common error I see, certainly one of the most painful!



Crowded

Bohm,H - Hernandez,R [C69]

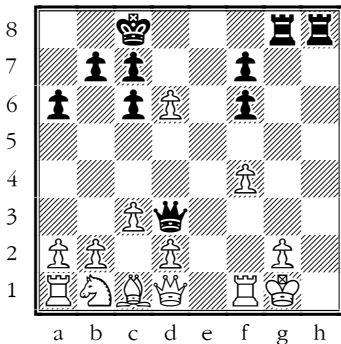
Amsterdam IBM (3), 1979

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.d3 Qf6 8.Be3 Ne7 9.Nbd2 Ng6 10.hxg4 hxg4 11.Ng5 Nf4 12.Qxg4

♣ White's King seems surrounded by friends, but that's the problem!

12...Qxg5 13.Qf3 Qxg2+ 14.Qxg2 Ne2#

That's a very neat overloading of the Queen to finish off.



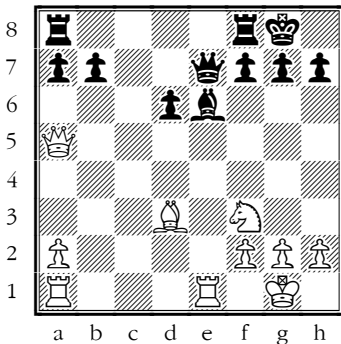
Anything to get at the King!

Auger – McMillan [C69]
corr GB, 1985

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6
dxc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.c3 Qd3
8.hxg4 hxg4 9.Nxe5 Bd6 10.Nxg4
Nf6 11.Nxf6+ gxf6 12.e5 0-0-0
13.exd6 Rdg8 14.f4 ♣

Black has sacrificed huge amounts
to get at White's King, but one more
sacrifice is needed.

14...Rxxg2+ 15.Kxxg2 Rg8+ 16.Kf2
Qg3+ 17.Ke2 Re8# 0-1



A Greek gift

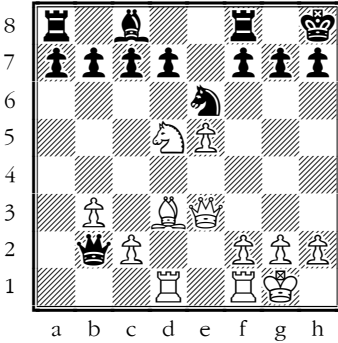
Smith Chuck - Chillakanti Pratap [C44]
Quad #31, IECC (1), 1995

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.c3
dxc3 5.Bc4 cxb2 6.Bxb2 Bb4+
7.Nc3 Na5 8.Bd3 Be7 9.0-0 d6
10.Nb5 Nf6 11.e5 dxe5 12.Bxe5
Bd6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Qe1+ Qe7
15.Nxd6+ cxd6 16.Qxa5 0-0
17.Rfe1 Be6 ♣ 18.Bxh7+ 1-0

White makes a sacrifice
which leads to an
unstoppable checkmate.

*[If 18...Kxh7 19.Qh5+ Kg8 20.Ng5;
and if 18...Kh8 19.Qh5]*

This sacrifice is known as the
Greek gift, after the way the
Greeks tricked their way into the
city of Troy with a gift of a wooden
horse. White offers the gift of a
Bishop to get into Black's castle.



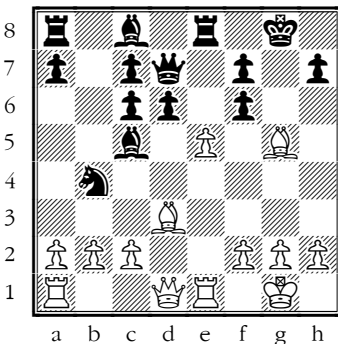
A Greek King hunt

Chiburdanidze M - Malaniuk Vladimir [C45]
09, Kusadasi op, 1990

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4
4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nb3 Bb6 6.Nc3 Qf6
7.Qe2 Nge7 8.Be3 Nd4 9.Qd2
Nxb3 10.axb3 Bxe3 11.Qxe3 Nc6
12.Nd5 Qxb2 13.Rd1 0-0 14.Bd3
Nd4 15.0-0 Ne6 16.e5 (clearing the
way) Kh8 ♠ 17.Bxh7 1-0

Black could see ahead and realise
everything loses. I had to work it
out myself...

*[If 17....Kxh7 18.Qh3+ Kg8
(18...Kg6 19.Ne7+ Kg5 20.f4+ Nxf4
21.Rxf4 Kxf4 22.Qf5+ Ke3
23.Qf3#) 19.Ne7#]*



Unacceptable

Ross, E - Avery, B [C45]
corr USA, 1980

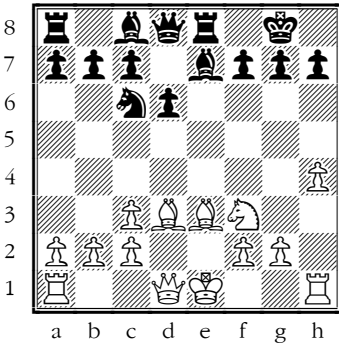
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Nd5
7.Bd3 Bc5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nd2 Re8
10.Ne4 d6 11.Bg5 Qd7 12.Re1
Nb4 13.Nf6+ gxf6 ♠

14.Bxh7+ Kf8

*[If 14...Kxh7 15.Qh5+ Kg8 16.Bxf6
Qf5 17.Qh8#]*

15.Qh5 dxe5 16.Qh6+ 1-0

White makes an offer that
Black must refuse.



A busy pawn

Sundstrom - Holm [C42]
Stockholm, 1912

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7
7.Bd3 0-0 8.h4 Re8 9.Be3 Nc6

Notice how White's h-pawn does
lots of jobs here: supporting the
Knight, threatening to open the h-
file, and chasing the King!

10.Bxh7+ Kxh7 11.Ng5+ Kg6 12.h5+ Kf6

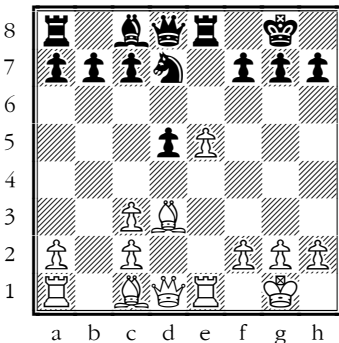
[If 12...Kh6 13.Nxf7+;

12...Kf5 13.Qf3+ Ke5 14.Qe4+ 15.Nh7#]

13.Qf3+ Bf5 14.g4 Qc8 15.Ne4+ Ke5

[If 15...Ke6 16.Qxf5#]

16.Qf4+ Kd5 17.0-0-0+ Kc4 18.Nxd6# 1-0



A longer battle

Fritsche - Luckert [C43]
corr DDR, 1989

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.Bd3
d5 5.Nxe5 Bd6 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.bxc3
Nd7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 Bxe5 10.dxe5
Re8

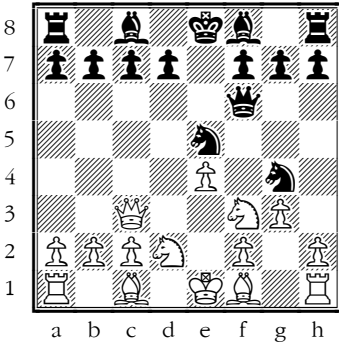
White's classic sacrifice only just
works.

11.Bxh7+ Kxh7 12.Qh5+ Kg8 13.Bg5 Re7 14.Re3 Qe8 15.Bxe7
Qxe7 16.Rh3 f6 17.Qh8+ Kf7 18.Rh7 Qf8 19.e6+ Kxe6 20.Re1+

[If 20...Kf7 21.Rxg7+ Qxg7 22.Qe8#]

9 Lots of ideas at once!

These examples were a bit too hard for Chapter 5, but I expect you're ready for them now.



Unlocking the secret

Prugel - Dyckhoff [C45]

Corr., 1899

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
Qh4 5.Qd3 Nf6 6.Nd2 Ng4 7.g3 Qf6
8.N4f3 Nce5 9.Qc3 ♣

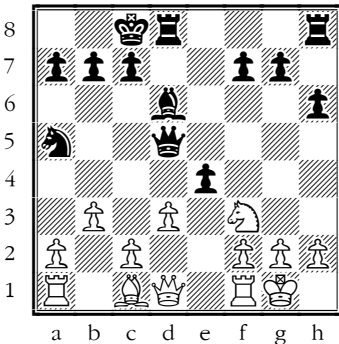
A hard one. Black undermines the defence of f3, because then there is a fork of f2 and h1:

9...Bb4 1-0

If 10.Qxb4

[10.Qb3 Nxf3+ because of the pin]

10...Nxf3+ 11.Nxf3 Qxf3



Four in one

Archan,D - Leclair,M [C58]

WchJW-U12 Duisburg (2), 1992

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5
d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+
Qxd7 8.Nc3 0-0-0 9.d3 h6 10.Nf3
Nxd5 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.0-0 Bd6
13.b3 e4 ♣ 0-1

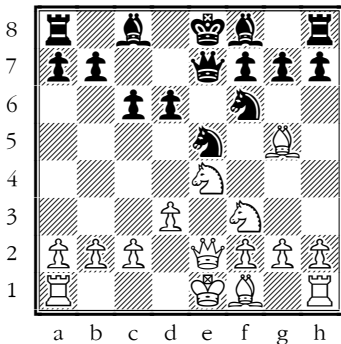
Clearance, discovery,
intermezzo and a fork!

If 14.Ne1 we see that the pawn vacated the e5 point for the Queen:
14...Qe5 forks a1 and h2

If 14.dxe4 Bxh2+ and either:

15.Kxh2 Qh5+ and 16...Rxd1 or

15.Kg1 Qxd1

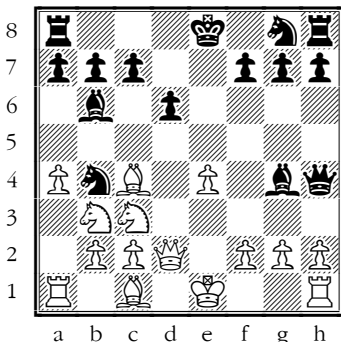


Just a pawn

Georgiev, K - Trivizas, M [C42]
Ano Liosia op Athens GRE (2), 1997

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.Qe2 Qe7 6.d3 Nf6 7.Bg5
Nbd7 8.Nc3 c6 9.Ne4 Ne5

♣ Undermining, counting and
unmasking all combine to make
White's next move work. 10.Nxd6+
1-0



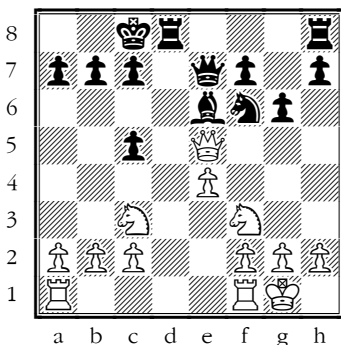
Surprise, surprise

Meulders - Schuurmans [C45]
Mechelen, 1978

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
Bc5 5.Nb3 Bb6 6.a4 Qh4 7.Qe2 d6
8.Nc3 Bg4 9.Qd2 Nb4 10.Bc4 ♣

A startling net based on a pin (f2)
and a fork (c2) which works
because of a decoy; White must
have fallen off their chair!

10...Be3 0-1



It all comes together

Becerra Rivero, J - Velez, N [C60]
Cuba, 1992

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.d4
exd4 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.0-0
Nf6 8.Bxc6 dxc6 9.Qxd4 c5 10.Qe5
Be6 11.Nc3 0-0-0 ♣ 12.Nd5! 1-0

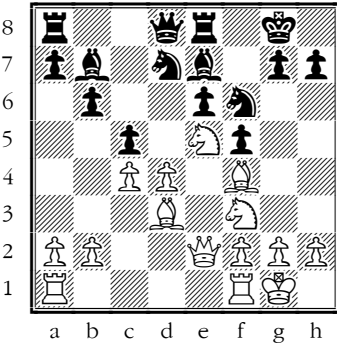
Not easy to see coming but you can
see that it works: two pins and an
overloading!

12...Nxd5 13.exd5 Rxd5? 14.Qxh8+

10 The best and the test

Some of my favourite combinations. They're too tough, I think, for you to work out for yourself, but do enjoy them and be inspired! Then, a chance to test what you have learned...

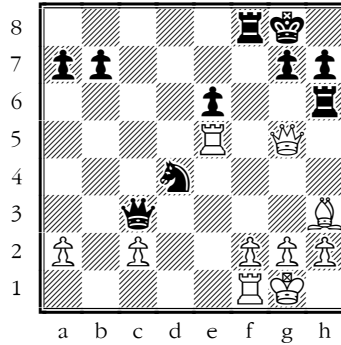
Alekhin-Feldt,
Tarnopol, 1916



1.Nf7! (unmasking an attack on e6) **Kxf7**
2.Qxe6+ Kxe6 3.Ng5#

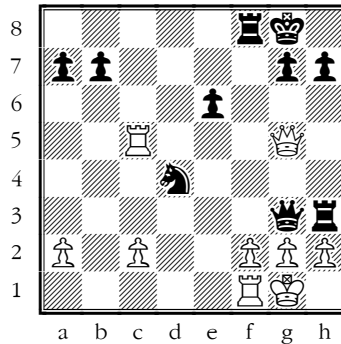
The neatest decoy combination played... and Alekhin played blindfold!

Levitsky-Marshall,
Breslau, 1912



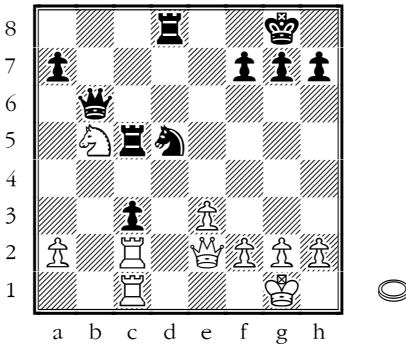
The first move, we almost expect you to spot, overloading the g2 pawn: **1...Rxh3!**

But the next one...**2.Rc5 Qg3!!**



Fantastic! It's easy enough to see how it works once it is played, but so magical to watch, that the spectators threw gold coins onto the board!

Bernstein-Capablanca,
Moscow, 1914

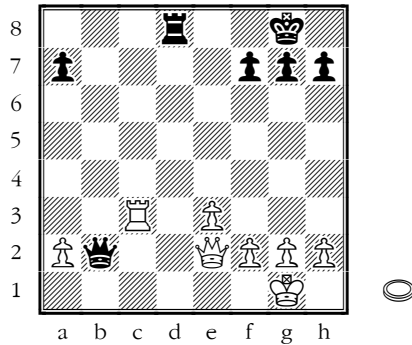


Just the neatest trap in chess history: can White take the outnumbered pawn?

27.Nxc3 Nxc3 28.Rxc3 Rxc3 29.Rxc3

This was how far White saw...

29...Qb2!!



White now **resigned!** Let's see:

30.Qc4 Rd1+;

30.Rd3 Qc1+ 31.Qf1 Qxf1+

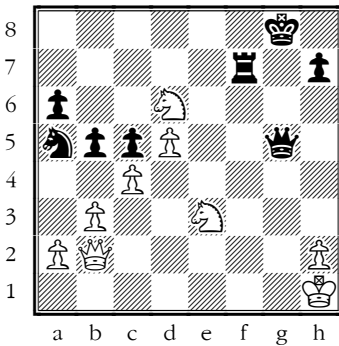
32.Kxf1 Rxd3;

30.Rc2 Qb1+ 31.Qf1 Qxc2;

30.Qc2 Qa1+ 31.Qc1 Rd1+

32.Qxd1 Qxd1 #

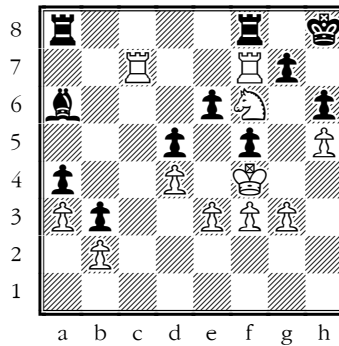
Petrosian-Spassky,
WCC Moscow, 1966



An easy one? **1.Qh8+!**

A wonderful decoy in a World Championship game.

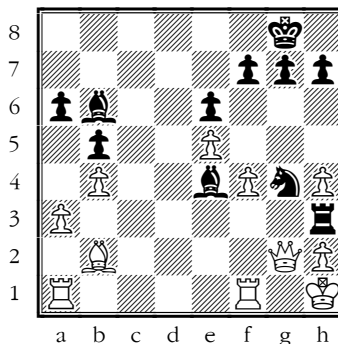
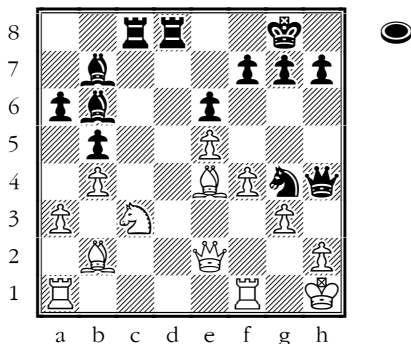
Alekhin-Yates,
London, 1922



A bang, then a neat quiet move... I'm a sucker for neat quiet moves

37.Rxg7! Rxf6 38.Ke5! 1-0

Rotlevi – Rubinstein,
Łódź, 1907



22...Rxc3! 23.gxh4

[23.Bxc3 Bxe4+ 24.Qxe4 Qxh2 #;

23.Bxb7 Rxg3 24.Rf3 (24.Bf3 Nxb2+) 24...Rxf3 25.Bxf3 Nf2+ 26.Kg1 (26.Kg2 Qh3+ 27.Kg1 Ne4+ 28.Kh1 Ng3 #) 26...Ne4+ 27.Kf1 Nd2+ 28.Kg2 Nxf3 29.Qxf3 (29.Kxf3 Qh5+) 29...Rd2+ -+]

23...Rd2 24.Qxd2

[24.Qxg4 Bxe4+ 25.Rf3 Rxf3-+; 24.Bxc3 Rxe2 25.Rf2 Bxe4+ 26.Kg1 Bxf2+ 27.Kf1 Bf3 28.Rd1 Nxb2 #; 24.Bxb7 Rxe2 25.Bg2 Rh3-+]

24...Bxe4+ 25.Qg2 Rh3!! 0-1

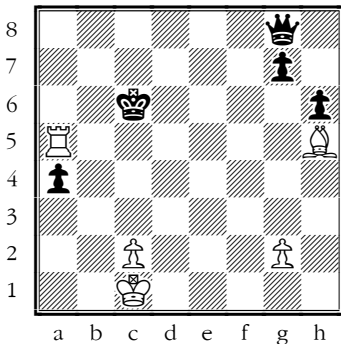
White resigned, concluding Rubinstein's 'Immortal game'. It could have ended as follows:

25...Rh3!! 26.Rf3

(26.Rf2 Bxf2 27.Qxe4 Rxh2 #)

26...Bxf3 27.Qxf3 Rxh2

Coming up with ideas like this "is art... A minor sort of art, perhaps, but an art just the same." (Tartakower).



Here's a splendid little study composed in 1922 by Rinck.

See if you can tell what is going on here: it's White to play and win.

1.Ra8! Qa2!

1...Qxa8 loses to the skewer 2.Bf3+;

1...Qe6 loses to the skewer 2.Ra6+;

1...Qd5 loses to the pin 2.Bf3;

1...Qc4 loses to the skewer 2.Rc8+

2.Rxa4! Qg8

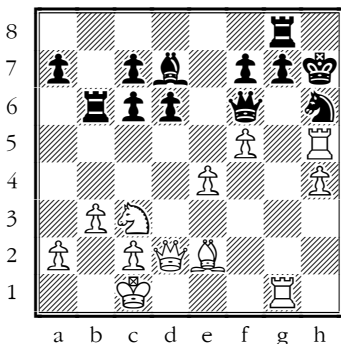
2...Qxa4 loses to the skewer 3.Be8+

3.Ra8! Qh7

3...Qxa8 loses to the skewer 4.Bf3+

4.Bg6! Qxg6 5.Ra6+ 1-0

Beautiful! Four dainty puzzles in a row.



An Internet blitz game

Ilia Mutschnik – Levon Aronian [C45]

GER-ch Internet G5 playchess.com (15), 2004

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4

Bc5 5.Be3 Bb6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Qd2

Nge7 8.0-0-0 0-0 9.Nxc6 bxc6

10.Be2 Rb8 11.f4 Kh8 12.g4 Ng8

13.h4 Nf6 14.g5 Ng4 15.Bxb6 Rxb6

16.Rdg1 h5 17.gxh6 Nxh6 18.f5 Qf6

19.Rg5 Bd7 20.Rhg1 Rfb8 21.b3

Rg8 22.Rh5 Kh7

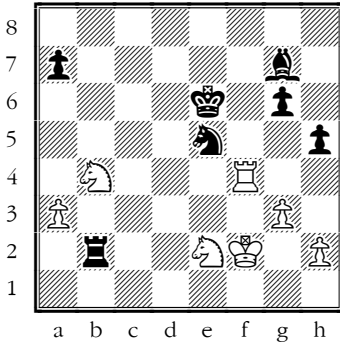
23.e5 (clearance) Qxe5 24.f6

(clearance) Qxf6 25.Bd3+ Kh8

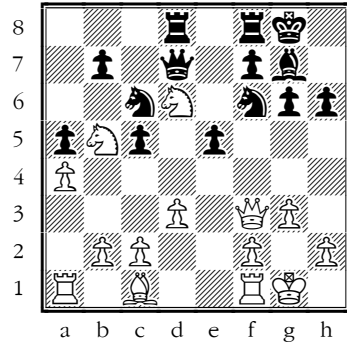
26.Rg6 (interference) 1-0

So, fancy a go yourself? They won't be as hard as those!

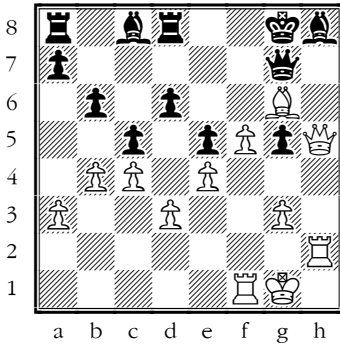
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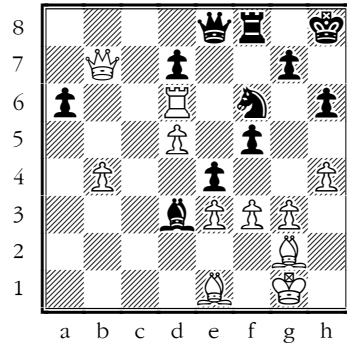
2



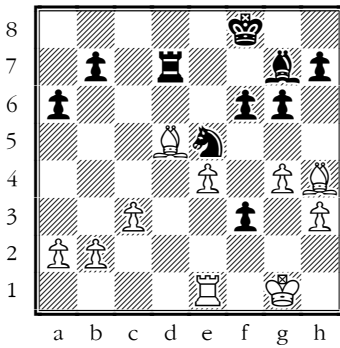
3



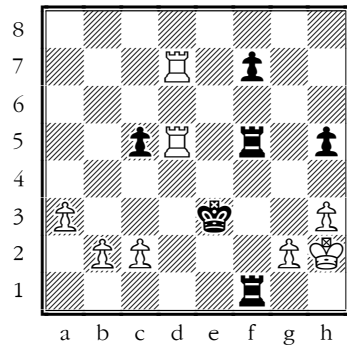
4



5



6



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Answers to test positions:

1. 1...a5! undermining
2. 1...Bxh6! overloading
3. 1.f6! overloading
4. 1...exf3! unmasking
5. 1...f2+! decoy/clearance
6. 1.Re7+! interference/skewer
7. 1.Ng5! unmasking
8. 1.Bxd5! pin/outnumber
9. 1...Bh6! pin/undermine
10. 1.Nh5! pin/mate
11. 1.Nxg6+ unmasking
12. 1.Nxd5! pin/net

This book is a short course in chess tactics, which is suitable for young and old chessplayers and for chess coaches. It is a collection of short games in the Double King Pawn Openings after 1.e4 e5 which all have a violent end. Each game illustrates a basic tactical theme and the reader is taken chapter by chapter through more complicated ideas until the finest achievements of chess combination are explored.

The advantage of using short games is that positions can be set up quickly and accurately; also there is a chance to review basic opening principles and sequences.

Dave Regis is a researcher in health education who plays chess for Exeter and Devon. He runs coaching for Exeter Chess Club and Exeter Junior Chess Club. Dave drew the cartoons on the front cover.