

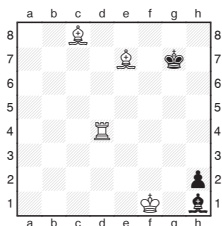
Michael Adams



Connoisseur's analysis of the endgame

Jan Timman is a true connoisseur of endgame studies. In *The Art of the Endgame*, he guides the reader through this intriguing facet of the game and shows the considerable number of his own stunning studies that were inspired by the classics.

I was particularly charmed by these two, where, with little material remaining, White extricates himself in style:



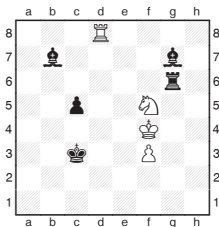
Black to move - White draws Timman, 2009

It looks as though Black will promote his pawn and win, but there is an impressive scramble defence.

- 1... Bh1-e4**
2.Be7-f8+
 2...Be7-f6+ Kg7-g6 wins.
2... Kg7-h8
 2...Kg7xf8 3.Rd4-d8+ Kf8-g7 4.Rd8-d7+ transposes, or 2...Kg7-g8 3.Bc8-e6+
3.Bf8-g7+ Kh8xg7
4.Rd4-d7+ Kg7-h6
 4...Kg7-g6 5.Rd7-h7 also reverts to the main line of play.
5.Rd7-h7+
 After 5.Rd7-d6+ Kh6-g5 White is out of tricks.

- 5... Kh6xh7**
6.Bc8-f5+ Be4xf5
7.Kf1-g2

and after giving up all his pieces, White's king saves the day.



White to play and draw Timman, 1984

- 1.Rd8-d7 Bb7-c8**
2.Rd7-c7

The bishop can't be captured immediately, as 2.Rd7xg7 Rg6-f6 3.Rg7-g5 c5-c4 4.Kf4-e5 Rf6xf5+ 5.Rg5xf5 Bc8xf5 6.Ke5xf5 Kc3-d4 7.f3-f4 c4-c3 leaves Black promoting ahead.

- 2... Bc8xf5**
3.Rc7xc5+

It looks tempting to play 3.Kf4xf5, as if White captures either the pawn or the bishop, the position is a theoretical draw. But with fancy footwork Black wins 3...Rg6-f6+ 4.Kf5-g5 Kc3-d4 5.f3-f4 (5.Rc7xg7 Rf6xf3 wins easily) 5...Rf6xf4 (necessary as 5...Bg7-h8 6.Rc7-c8 forces the bishop to return) 6.Kg5xf4 (6.Rc7-d7+ Kd4-e3) 6...Bg7-e5+ picks up the rook.

- 3... Kc3-d4**
4.Rc5-c7

The key move as both captures fail: 4.Kf4xf5 Rg6-f6+, 4.Rc5xf5 Bg7-h6+.

- 4... Bf5-h3**

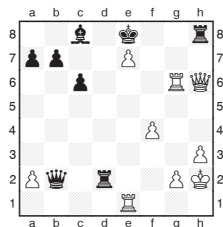
Many light-squared bishop moves allow the same stalemate, like: 4...Bf5-d3 5.Rc7xg7 and 4...Bf5-e4 5.f3xe4 Bg7-e5+ 6.Kf4-f5 Rg6-f6+ 7.Kf5-g5 is a draw.

- 5.Rc7xg7 Rg6xg7**

Stalemate, a beautiful finale.

Invisible Chess Moves by Emmanuel Neiman and Yochanan Afek, published by newinchess.com, also contains many moves that are easy on the eye - this

time from tournament play. The book entertains and improves tactical vision in equal measures:



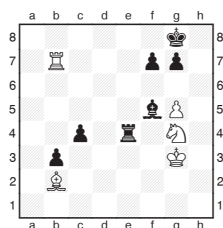
G. Maroczy - M. Romi
 San Remo, 1930

- 41.Qh6-h5**

This crafty retreat, threatening deadly discovered checks, is the only way to win. 41.Qh6-g5 Rh8xh3+ 42.Kh2-g1 Qb2-d4+ allows Black to break through.

- 41... Rd2xg2+**
42.Rg6xg2+ Rh8xh5
43.Rg2xb2

and White won with his extra material.



C. Berczes - T. Banusz
 Zalakaros, 2010

Here White produces a surprising blow, exploiting Black's lack of presence on the dark squares.

- 49.Ng4-h6+ g7xh6**

The knight must be captured as 49...Kg8-h7 50.Nh6xf5 wins a piece.

- 50.Rb7-b8+ Kg8-h7**

Black had to create a flight square for the king with 50...Bf5-c8 51.Rb8xc8+ Kg8-h7 leading to a draw.

- 51.Rb8-h8+ Kh7-g6**
52.Rh8xh6+

Black resigned, realising mate is inevitable after 52...Kg6xg5 53.Bb2-c1+.