



THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

Jeff Coakley

INTRODUCTION and TRIPLE LOYDS

number 1

June 9, 2012

Greetings, friends. Welcome to *The Puzzling Side of Chess!*

I'm very happy to be here at the *Chess Cafe*. Thanks to Mark Donlan for inviting me. Our goal is to challenge and entertain you with a wide variety of chess puzzles. I hope we succeed in one way or the other.

The chess community uses the word 'puzzle' in different ways. In a broad sense, it sometimes includes standard problems, where White forces mate or wins material. In this column, 'puzzle' has a more limited meaning. It refers only to unusual problems with special rules. Some well known types are helpmates, construction tasks, and retrograde analysis. Other examples are the famous eight queen puzzle and the knight tour.

The Puzzling Side of Chess will present new puzzles on *Chess Cafe* three times per month. Each column will feature one kind of puzzle. Some of the more common types will be repeated every few weeks. Most of the puzzles are original compositions, but many classic examples will be included. When appropriate, a short history of the puzzles will also be given.

The level of difficulty of chess puzzles varies greatly, as does their instructional value. Some puzzles are suitable for beginners. Others are tough enough to stump the masters. In this column, we will do our best to please you all.



I became interested in chess puzzles about twenty years ago while teaching chess at several schools in Toronto. I found that puzzles often generated more interest than standard problems, especially among the kids who were less keen. It didn't take long to exhaust my small selection of puzzles, so I started making them myself. I've continued to collect and create chess puzzles ever since.

This edition of *The Puzzling Side of Chess* introduces a puzzle called the "triple loyd". It is named after Sam Loyd, who published the prototype in the French chess magazine *Le Sphinx* in October 1866.

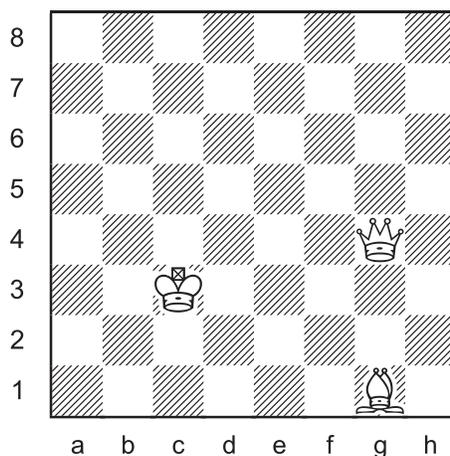
Sam Loyd was born in Philadelphia in 1841, but lived most of his life in New York City. Although he was a strong chess player, he is best known as a composer of problems and puzzles. As a professional puzzle maker, he also created hundreds of puzzles that were not related to chess, selling them to newspapers and magazines, and to private businesses as advertising gimmicks.



Sam Loyd's nickname was "The Puzzle King". So it is fitting that we begin this first column with one of his puzzles.

Triple Loyd 01

Sam Loyd 1866



A triple loyd is actually three puzzles in one. As you can see, there is no black king in the diagram. In each part of the puzzle, your task is to put him on the board. **Place the black king so that:**

- A. Black is in checkmate.**
- B. Black is in stalemate.**
- C. White has mate in 1.**

This is the only triple loyd that Sam Loyd ever published, and of course, he did not call it a “triple loyd”. That was a name I came up with more than a century later.

Perhaps the most interesting thing about this Sam Loyd original is that there was a fourth part of the puzzle. A quadruple loyd, so to speak.

- D. Place the black king on a square where he could never be mated, no matter how the white pieces are rearranged.**

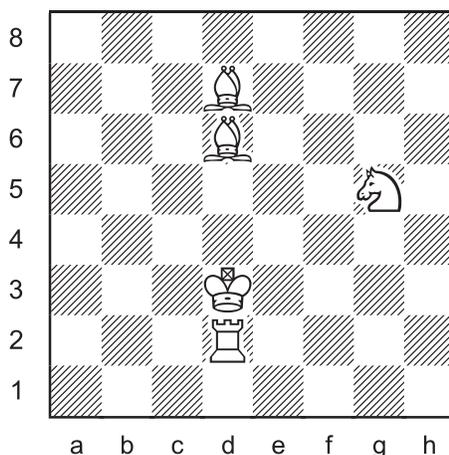
The triple loyd is one of my favourite puzzle types. It makes an excellent exercise for students, developing their vision of the board and recognition of mating patterns. It is also a fun puzzle, like a sudoku or crossword, which can provide any player with a few minutes of idle amusement.

Solutions are given at the end of the column. This pdf document contains hyperlinks between each puzzle and its solution. To advance to the solution, click on the underlined title above the puzzle diagram. To return to the puzzle, click on the title above the solution.

Before proceeding, here are two notes on triple loyds.

1. The stalemate square (part B) will never be the same as the mate in 1 square (part C). That would be considered a compositional flaw.
2. It is probably obvious, but in part C, the black king may not be placed on a square where he is in check.

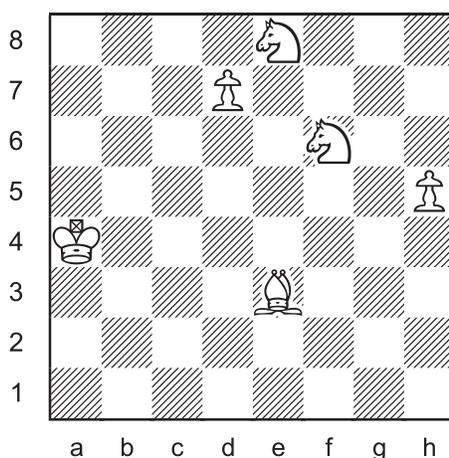
Triple Loyd 02



Place the black king on the board so that:

- A. Black is in checkmate.
- B. Black is in stalemate.
- C. White has mate in 1.

Triple Loyd 03



Place the black king on the board so that:

- A. Black is in checkmate.
- B. Black is in stalemate.
- C. White has mate in 1.

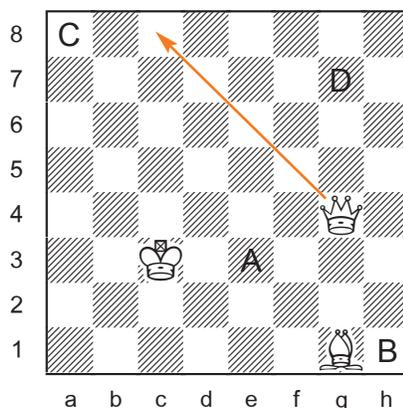
SOLUTIONS

PDF hyperlinks. You can advance to the solution of any puzzle by clicking on the underlined title above the diagram. To return to the puzzle, click on the title above the solution diagram.

Triple Loyd 01

Sam Loyd 1866

Le Sphinx



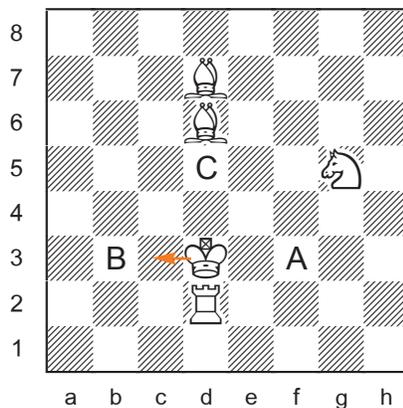
A. Ke3# B. Kh1= C. Ka8 (Qc8#) D. Kg7

Concerning part D, it is impossible for a lone black king to be mated on g7 by a white king, queen, and dark-square bishop. The same is true for the square b2, but in this puzzle, the black king cannot be placed on b2 because that would be next to the white king on c3. Very clever.

Triple Loyd 02

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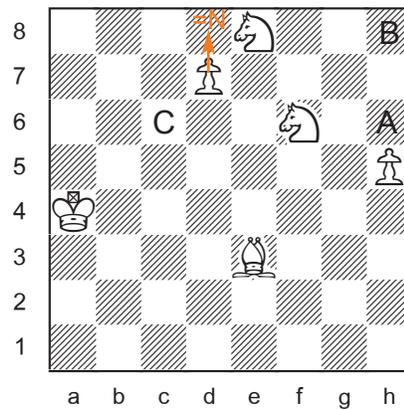


A. Kf3#
B. Kb3=
C. Kd5 (Kc3#)

Triple Loyd 03

J. Coakley 2010

Winning Chess Puzzles For Kids Volume 2



- A. Kh6#
- B. Kh8=
- C. Kc6 (d8=N#)

Until next time!

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This column and all others in the archives dated before 2016 were first published at ChessCafe.com. They have been reformatted and edited.