



THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

Jeff Coakley

OCTOBER WHAMMYFEST!

number 50

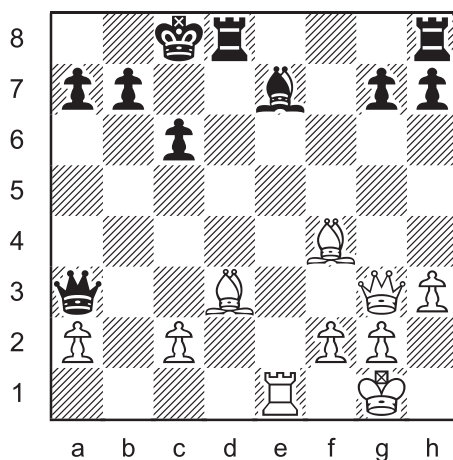
October 19, 2013

“Double whammy” is another name for a *series-mate in two*. Here are the special rules for this type of problem.

- White plays two moves in a row to mate Black.
- The first move may not be check.
- Either move may be a capture.
- Both moves may be with the same piece.
- Black does not get a turn.
- White may not place their own king in check on the first move, even if they get out of check with the second move.

Making two consecutive moves is a powerful tactic. Needless to say, it is not recommended for use in tournament games.

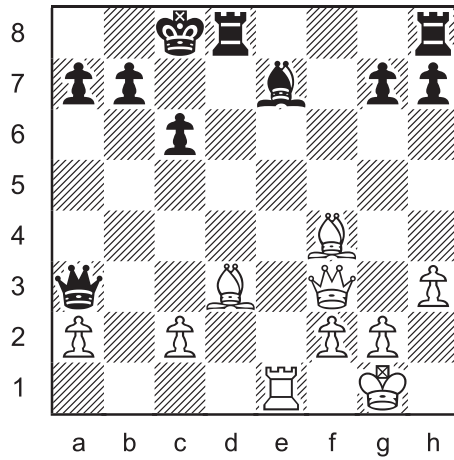
Double Whammy 32



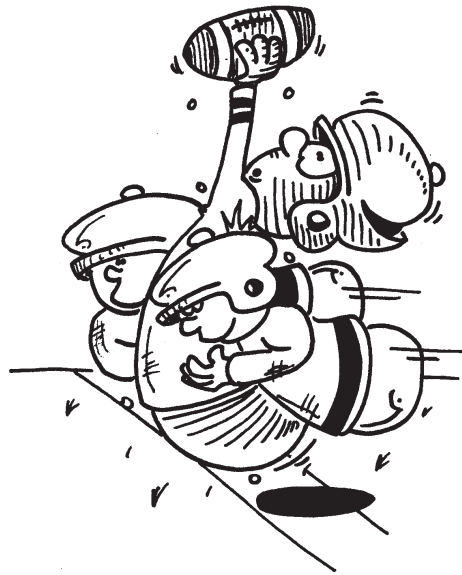
White plays two moves
in a row to mate Black.

For double whammies 1-31 and more information on series-movers, see columns 2, 7, 13, 20, 28, 35, 44 in the archives.

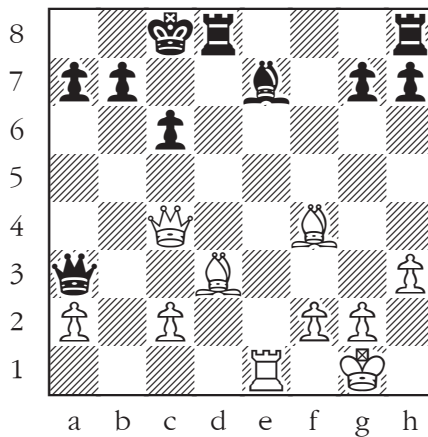
Double Whammy 33



White plays two moves
in a row to mate Black.

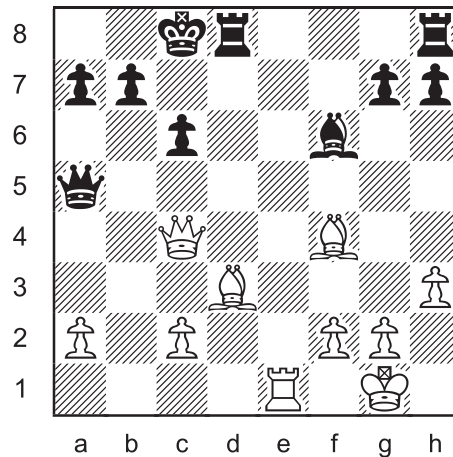


Double Whammy 34



White plays two moves
in a row to mate Black.

Double Whammy 35



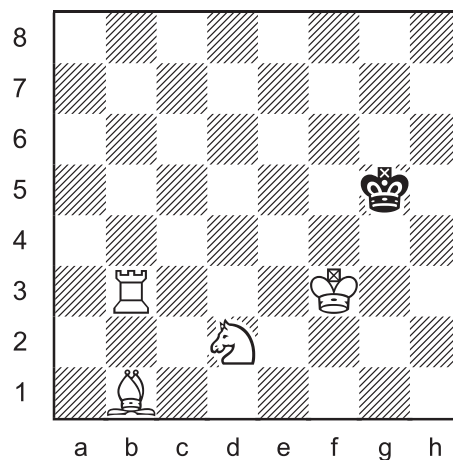
White plays two moves
in a row to mate Black.

Series-mates have been around for over sixty years. As you might expect, most of the problems are longer than two moves. This column concludes with three “multi-whams”.

The first is a four-mover by California composer Eugene Albert, the author of *Ideal-Mate Chess Problems* (1966).

As in double whammies, only the final move may be check.

Multi-Wham 10



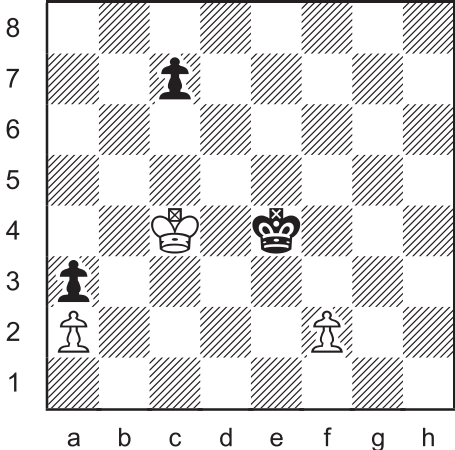
Series-mate in 4

White plays four moves
in a row to mate Black.

Last call for the Chess Cafe Puzzlers Cup! The deadline for contest entries is October 31.

Next up is a great puzzle by Theodor Steudel (1928-2009) of Germany. He composed over 2700 problems during his lifetime, and was a noted expert on pawn promotion.

Multi-Wham 11

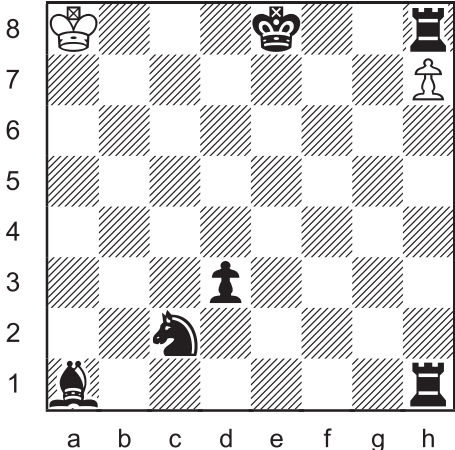


Series-mate in 13

White plays thirteen moves in a row to mate Black.

The final whammy is a twenty-five-mover. That sounds a lot tougher than it actually is, as you may soon discover.

Multi-Wham 12



Series-mate in 25

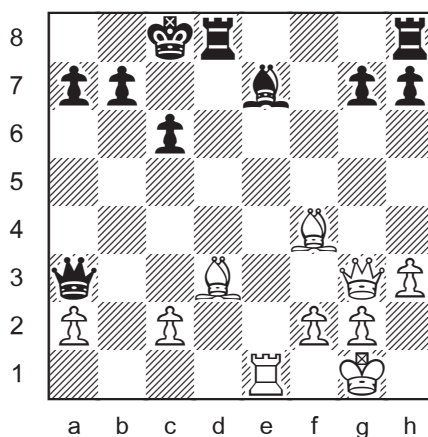
White plays twenty-five moves in a row to mate Black.

SOLUTIONS

All double whammies by J. Coakley, *ChessCafe.com* (2013).

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.

Double Whammy 32

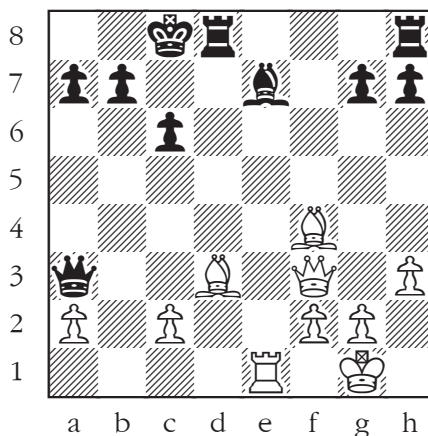


1. Bb8

The bishop keeps an eye on c7 and clears a path for the queen.

2. Qc7#

Double Whammy 33



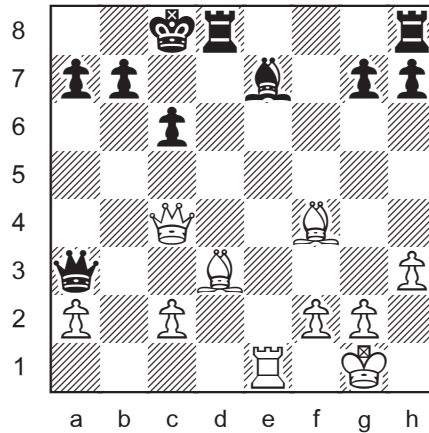
1. Ba6

Pinning the black b-pawn.

2. Qxc6#

A quasi-Boden mate.

Double Whammy 34

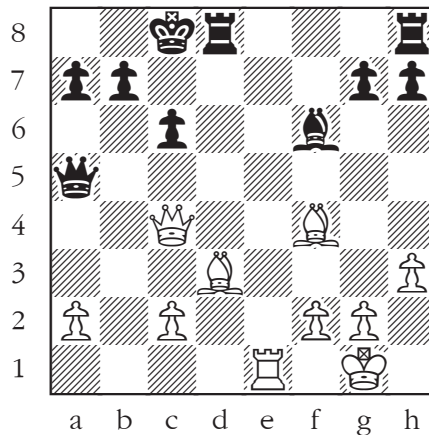


1. Qg8

The queen pins the black rook on d8.

2. Bf5#

Double Whammy 35



1. Re8

This time the white rook has the pinning duty.

2. Qe6#

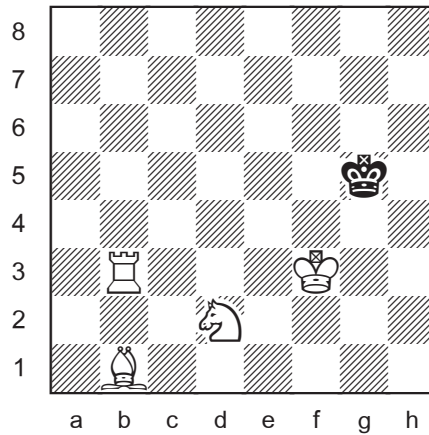
And the queen delivers mate.



Multi-wham 10 series-mate in 4

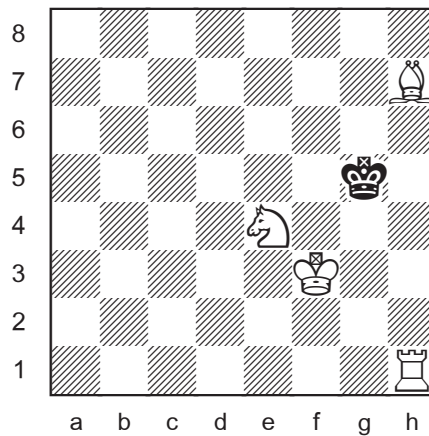
Eugene Albert 1992

Ideal-Mate Review 43



1. Bh7
2. Rb1
3. Rh1
4. Ne4#

An *ideal mate*. Every piece on the board is involved in the mate, and each square in the black king's field is covered exactly once. Economy and purity.

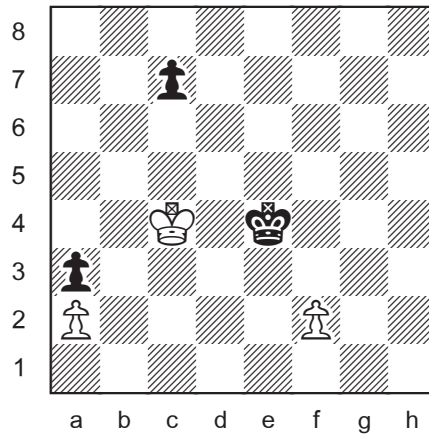


For multi-whams 1-9, see columns 2, 7, 13, 20, 28, 35, 44.

Multi-wham 11 series-mate in 13

Theodor Steudel 1997

Problemkiste

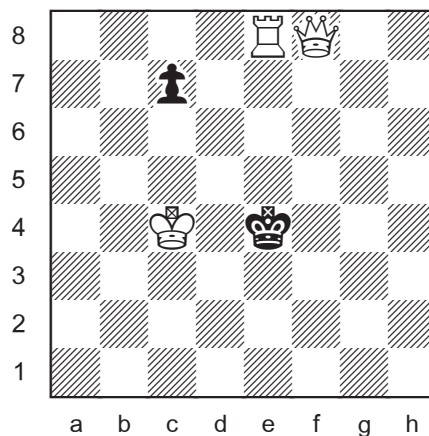


1. f4
2. f5
3. f6
4. f7
5. f8=Q
6. Qxa3
7. Qf8
8. a4
9. a5
10. a6
11. a7
12. a8=R
13. Re8#

The *Excelsior* theme: five straight moves by a pawn from its starting square to the last rank.

A cool *switchback*. The queen eliminates the blockade on a3 and returns to f8.

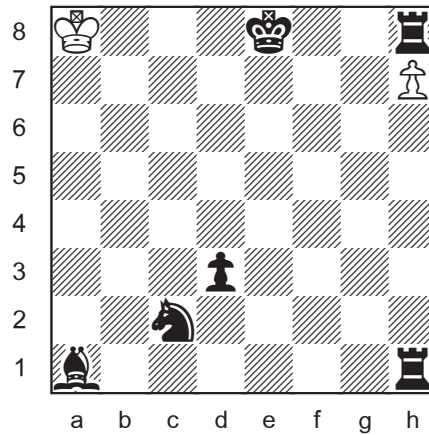
Excelsior number two! Underpromotion to a rook is necessary as a queen on a8 would give check.



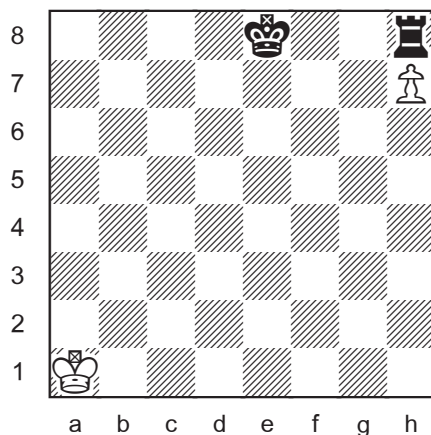
Multi-wham 12 series-mate in 25

J. Coakley 2013

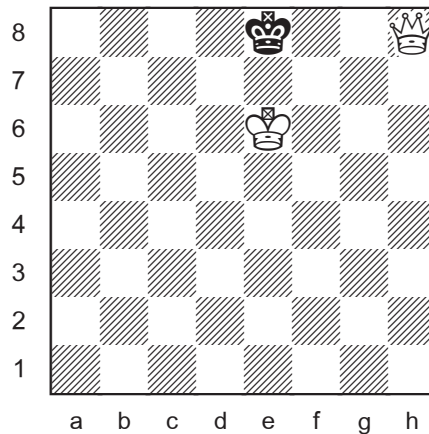
ChessCafe.com



1. Kb7 The white king begins his journey down the long light diagonal.
2. Kc6
3. Kd5
4. Ke4
5. Kf3
6. Kg2
7. Kxh1 Removing a guard of the black bishop on a1.
8. Kg2 To reach the a1 corner, the white king must retrace his steps back to e4.
9. Kf3
10. Ke4
11. Kxd3
12. Kxc2 Another defender bites the dust.
13. Kb1
14. Kxa1 The bishop falls, leaving the rook on h8 unprotected.



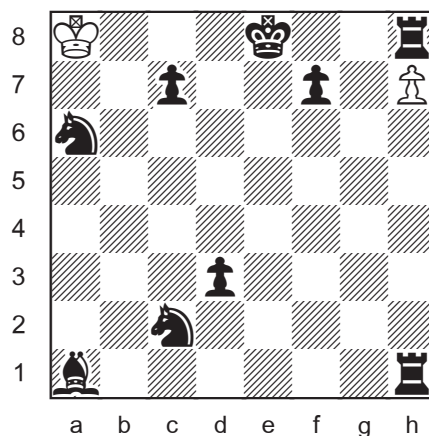
15. Kb2 And we know where the king is headed. Up the long dark diagonal.
16. Kc3
17. Kd4
18. Ke5
19. Kf6
20. Kg7
21. Kxh8 The white king completes his tour of the four corners.
22. Kg7 After 22 moves, the white pawn is finally free to advance. But first the king “takes the opposition”.
23. Kf6
24. Ke6
25. h8=Q#



The dual solution with the alternative promotion 25.h8=R# is not a cook. Some composers might consider it a minor flaw. Here is a version of the problem that eliminates that possibility.

Multi-wham 12b

J. Coakley 2013



series-mate in 27

The first twenty-one moves (21.Kxh8) are the same as above.

22. Kg8 The king obstructs the 8th rank so that the pawn can queen without giving check.

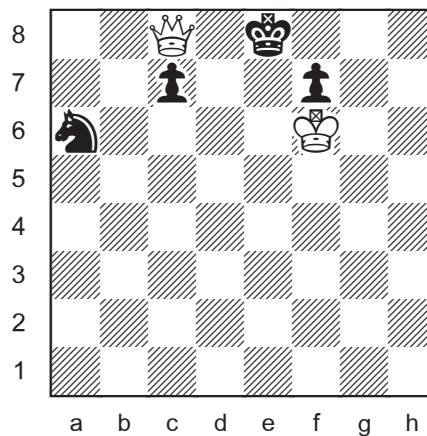
23. h8=Q

24. Qh3 Taking aim at c8.

25. Kg7

26. Kf6

27. Qc8#



Until next time!

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