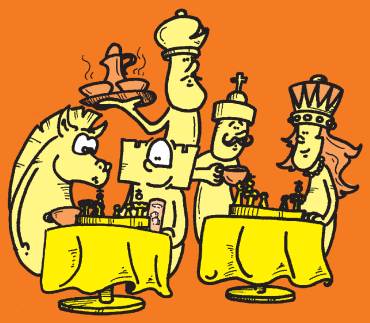


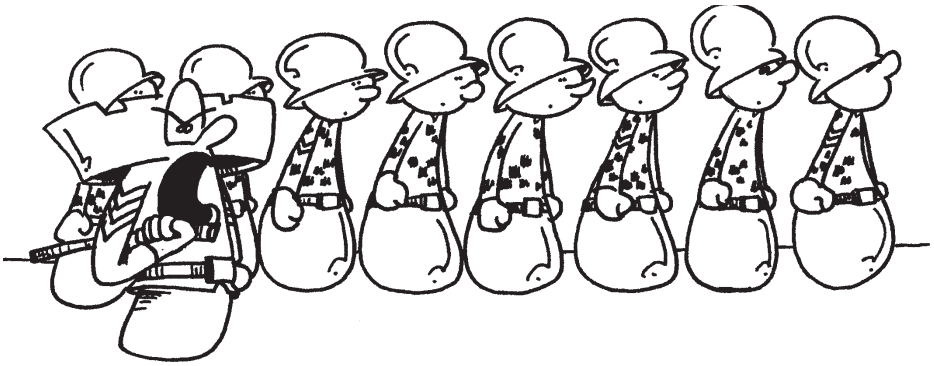
THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

Jeff Coakley

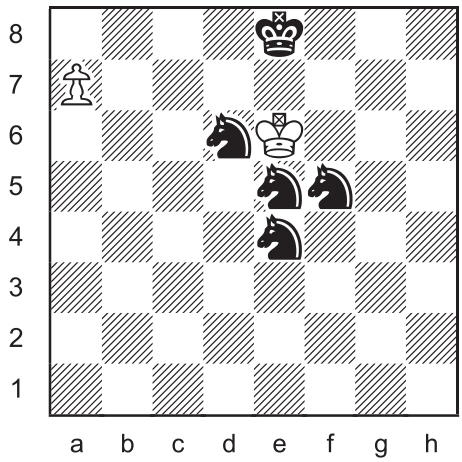
One Gross of Unrequited Whammies

number 144 March 31, 2018

To mark the occasion of column 144, this edition of the *Puzzling Side* presents a 12-pack of series-mates in 12. Predictably perhaps, our side theme is all things “twelve”.



Multi-Wham 31



Series-mate in 12

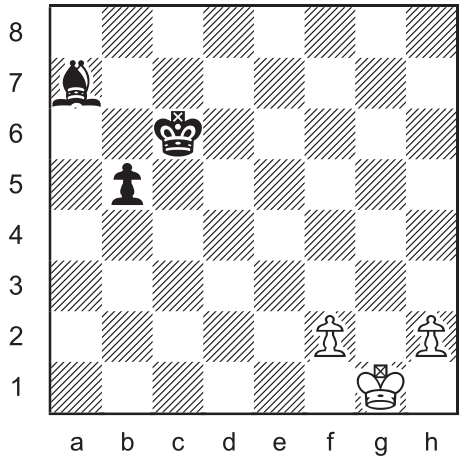
White plays twelve moves
in a row to mate Black.

Only the final move may give check. Captures are allowed. Black does not get a turn. White may not place their own king in check, even if they get out of check on a subsequent turn.

White only had one pawn in the first puzzle. Sometimes that's enough in a series-mate. But in the next ten problems, two pawns are needed. The usual challenge is deciding which kind of piece to promote.

The following "multi-wham" is by a great master of this problem-type, German composer Theodor Steudel (1928-2009).

Multi-Wham 32



Series-mate in 12

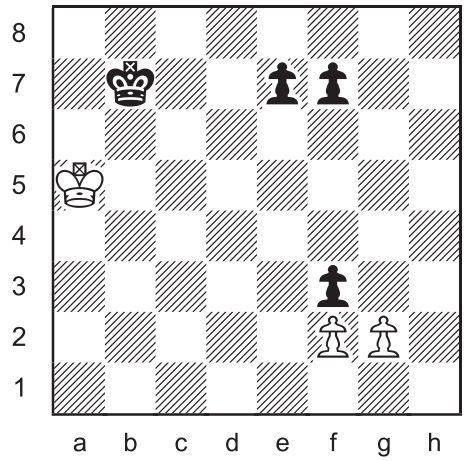
White plays twelve moves
in a row to mate Black.

Twelve is a very convenient number. Lots of our favourite things come in dozens. Three rows of four, or two rows of six. Cheers!

Alexander Keith's fine ales. The pride of Halifax, Nova Scotia

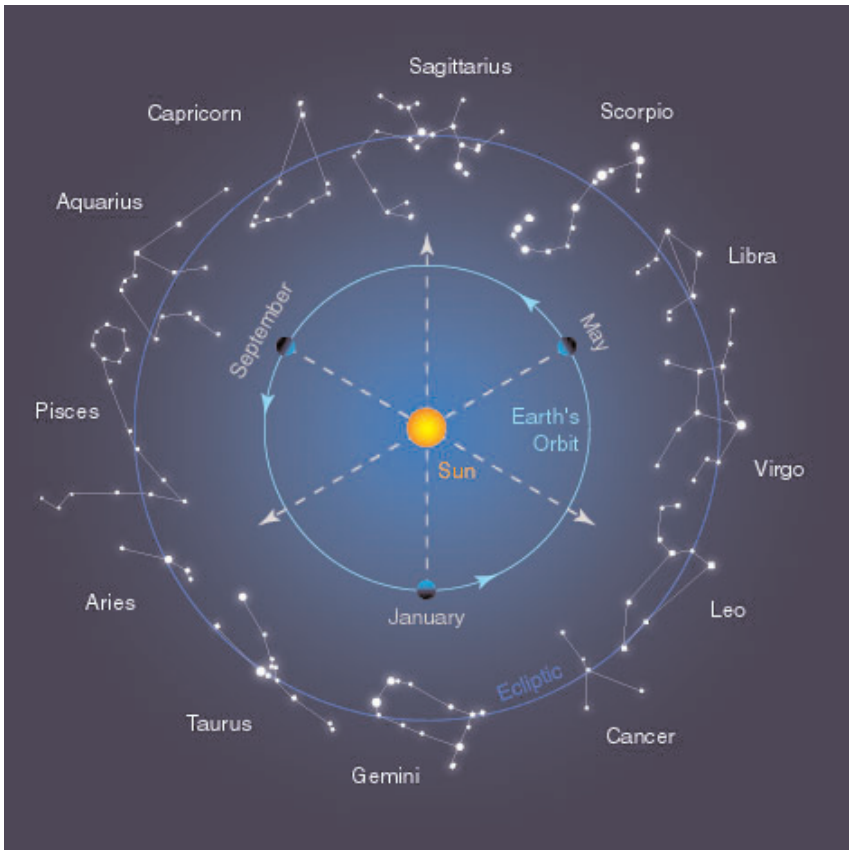
For multi-whams 1-30, check out the now completed *Puzzling Side* archives. The next 12-mover is by Unto Heinonen of Finland.

Multi-Wham 33



Series-mate in 12
White plays twelve moves
in a row to mate Black.

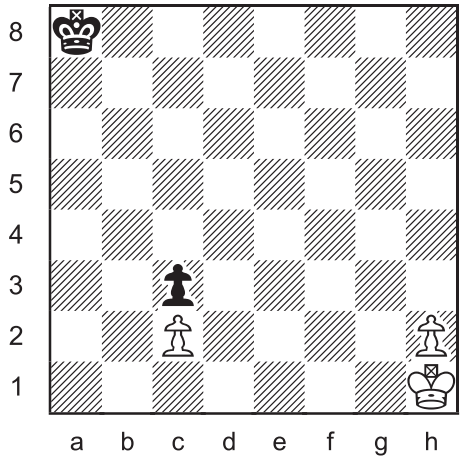
A world full of twelves: 12 months in a year, 12 hours on the clock, 12 inches in a foot, 12 notes in an octave, 12 signs of the zodiac.



Are your stars aligned?

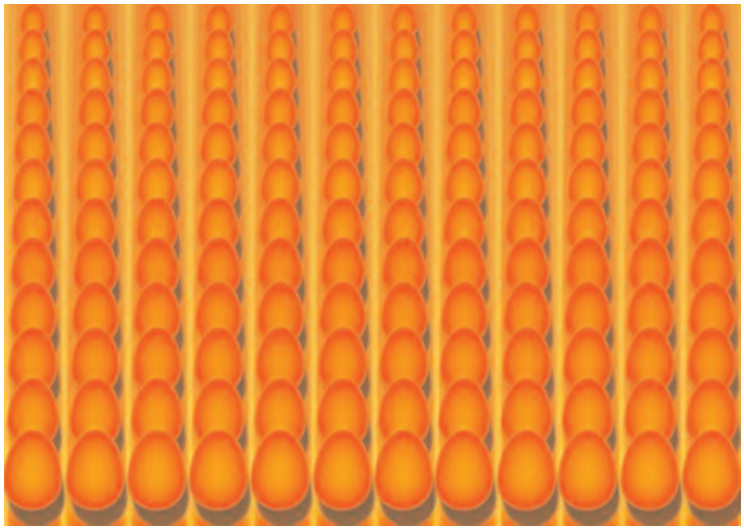
Here's another chessboard strudel by chef Steudel.

Multi-Wham 34



Series-mate in 12

White plays twelve moves
in a row to mate Black.



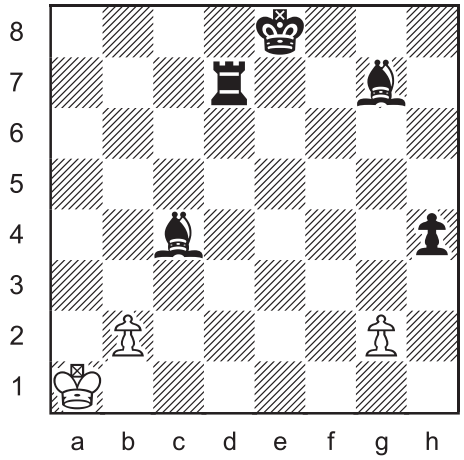
A dozen dozen is 144. That's a lot of omelettes if you're counting eggs. File these facts under *gross* trivia.

* There are 144 square inches in a square foot.
* 144 is the twelfth *Fibonacci number*, after 89, and before 233. Each number in the sequence is the sum of the previous two.
* 144 is the atomic number of theoretical element *unquadquadium*.
* The game *mahjong* is played with 144 tiles.
* 144 has fifteen divisors (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 16, 18, 24, 36, 48, 72, 144). The only smaller number with more divisors is 120.

What is the smallest number divisible by all nine single integers (1-9)?

Our series of series-mates continues with a gem by German composers Hans Klüver (1901-1989) and Wolfgang Dittman (1933-2014).

Multi-Wham 35



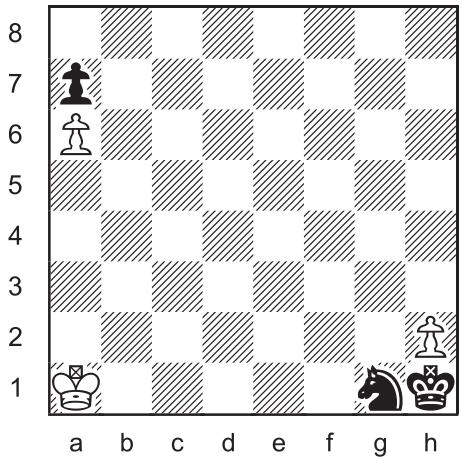
Series-mate in 12

White plays twelve moves
in a row to mate Black.

So why do roses come in dozens? They're not packaged like donuts or eggs. Wouldn't a smaller bouquet be just as attractive?

The next item on the menu is a shortened version of a problem by Theodor Steudel and Heinz Winterberg (1920-1999).

Multi-Wham 36



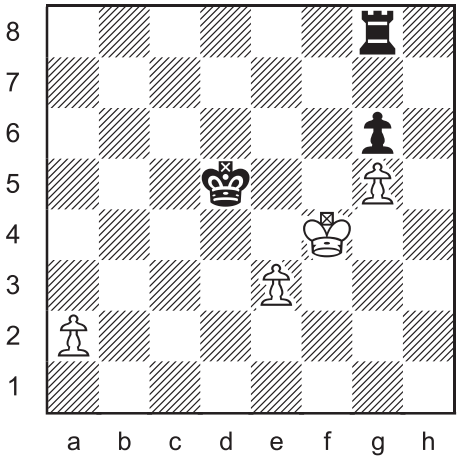
Series-mate in 12

White plays twelve moves
in a row to mate Black.

The Dirty Dozen

Stars of the 1967 film include Telly Savalas, football hall of famer Jim Brown, Charles Bronson, and Canadian Donald Sutherland.

Multi-Wham 37



Series-mate in 12

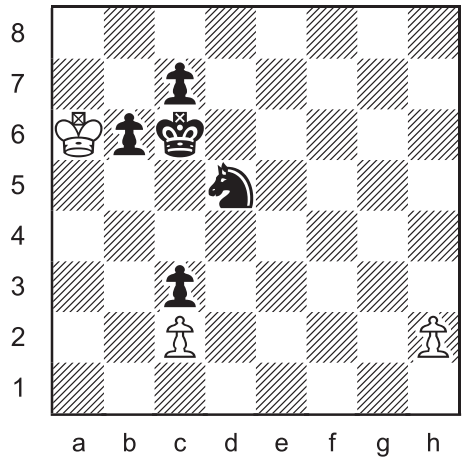
White plays twelve moves
in a row to mate Black.

2018, Year of the Dog

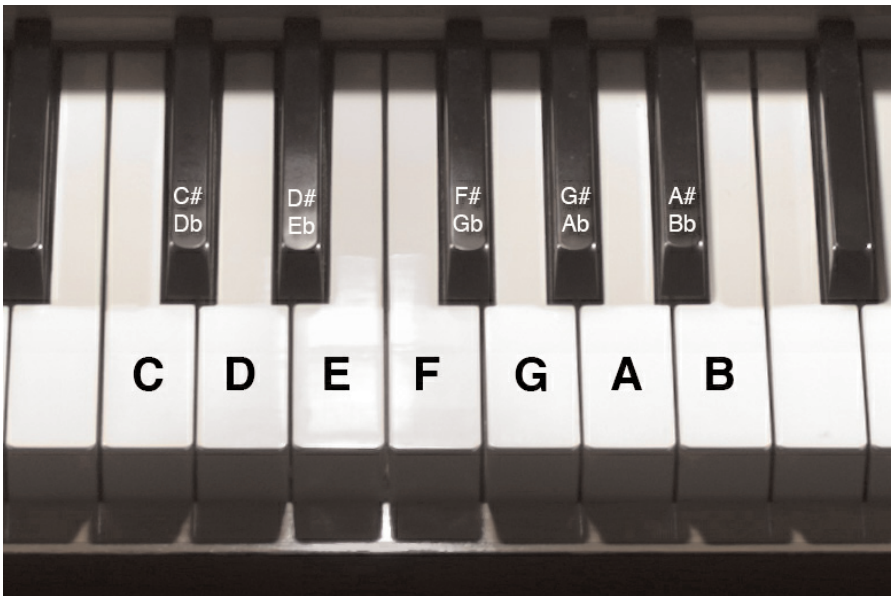
Did you know that eating dog meat is common in China? Over twenty million dogs are slaughtered each year for human consumption.

Another puzzle unto you, from Unto Heinonen.

Multi-Wham 38



Series-mate in 12
White plays twelve moves
in a row to mate Black.



12 Keys to Success

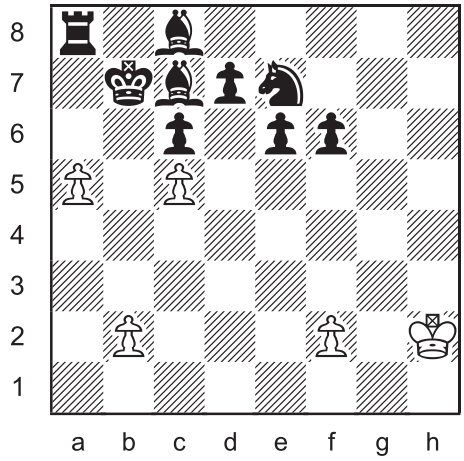
The Puzzling Side of Do Re Mi

There are many mysteries in the mathematics of music. Even the names of the notes can be confusing. Each *octave*, from the Latin word for eight, has twelve semi-tones, represented by seven letters. A strange consequence is the absence of B sharp and F flat.

Ever wonder why the fundamental scale on a piano keyboard starts with C and not A?

The next three whammies are by German composer Günter Glaß (1925-2000). The last letter in his last name is called an “eszett” in German and a “sharp s” in English. Nowadays ‘ß’ is frequently replaced with ‘ss’.

Multi-Wham 39



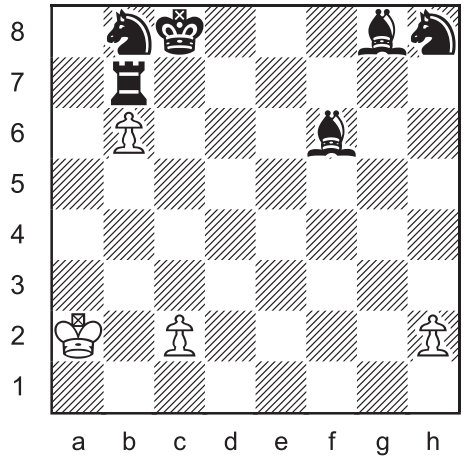
Series-mate in 12

White plays twelve moves
in a row to mate Black.

The *pentagonal dodecahedron* is one of the five Platonic solids. Each of its twelve faces is an identical equilateral pentagon. Natural proof of the geometric beauty in our fascinating world.

The Greek philosopher Plato (427-347 BC) believed that the 12-sided dodecahedron is the shape of the universe!

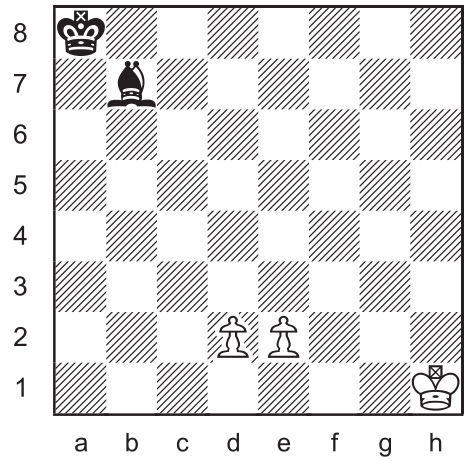
Multi-Wham 40



Series-mate in 12

White plays twelve moves
in a row to mate Black.

Multi-Wham 41

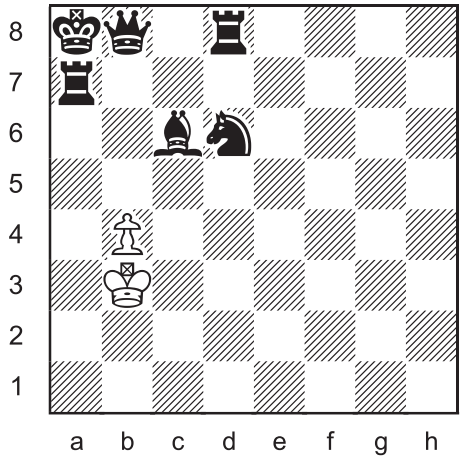


Series-mate in 12

White plays twelve moves
in a row to mate Black.

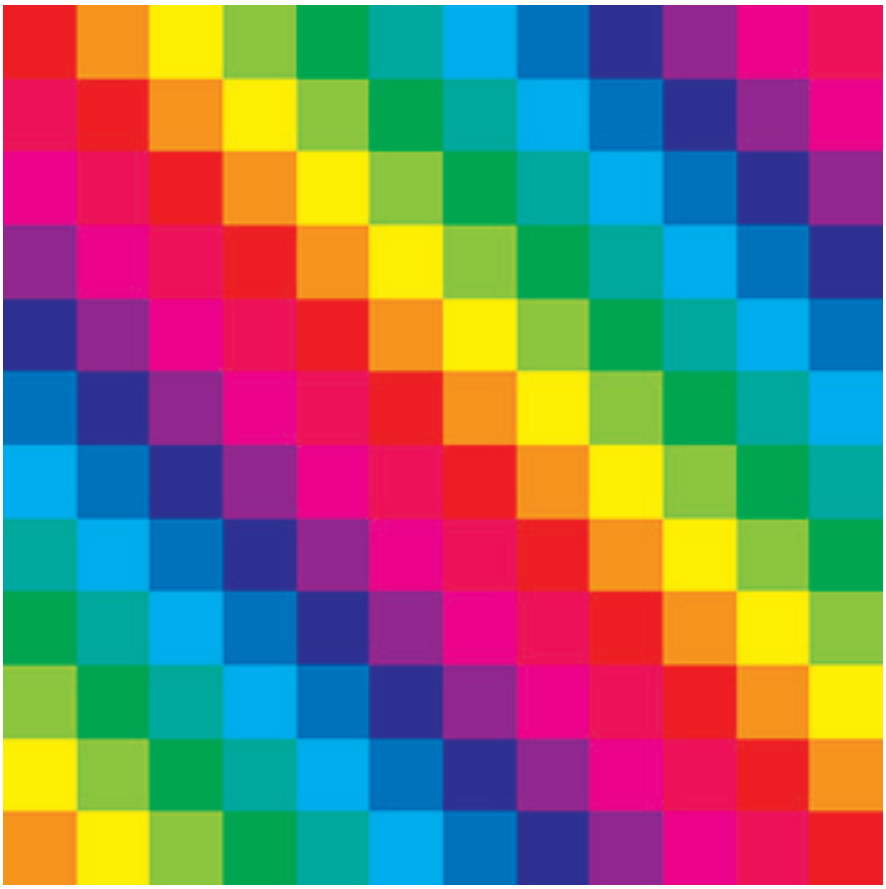
That completes the run of double promotion whammies. Our final puzzle is back to a lone brave pawn.

Multi-Wham 42



Series-mate in 12

White plays twelve moves
in a row to mate Black.



Pretty Gross

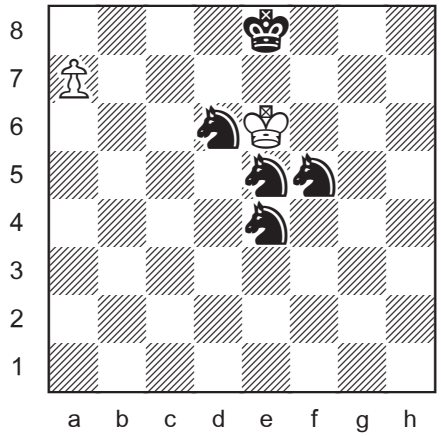
SOLUTIONS

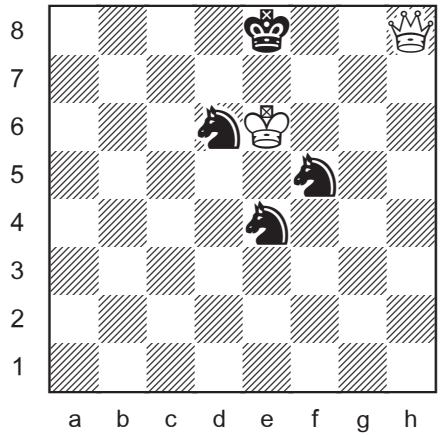
PDF Hyperlinks. You can advance to the solution of any puzzle by clicking on the underlined title above the diagram. To return to the puzzle, click on the title above the solution diagram.

Multi-Wham 31

Jeff Coakley & Adrian Storisteanu 2018

Puzzling Side of Chess





1.Kxe5 2.Kd5 3.Kc6 4.Kc7 5.Kb8 6.a8=Q
7.Qa1 8.Kc7 9.Kc6 10.Kd5 11.Ke6 12.Qh8#

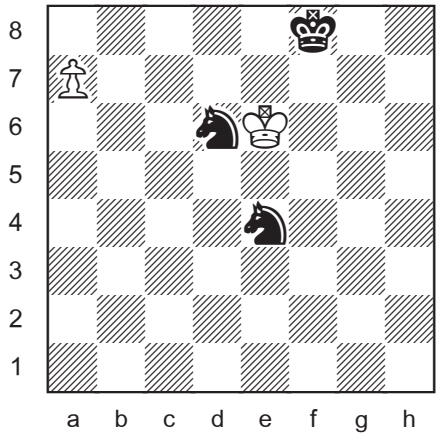
This problem is a version of a version of multi-wham 20 from column 83 in February 2015. Adrian added the “three corner” idea (a8 to a1 to h8) to my simple puzzle and extended the king’s round trip with the position diagrammed above, minus the knight on e5. A nice series-mate in 11. For this column of twelves, I gave the king an additional step.

But the best version of the original problem is given on the next page.

Multi-Wham 31b

Jeff Coakley & Adrian Storisteanu 2018

Puzzling Side of Chess



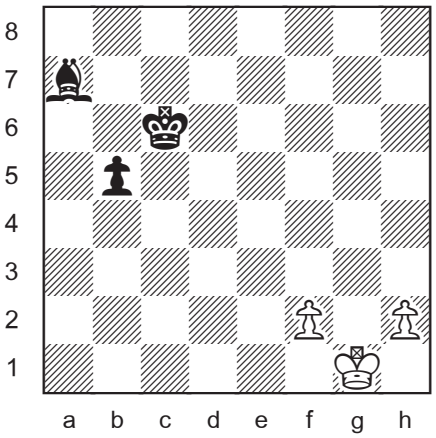
series-mate in 7

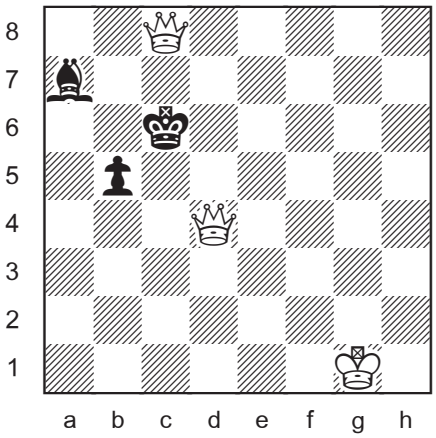
1.Kd7 2.Kc8 3.a8=Q 4.Qa1 5.Kd7 6.Ke6 7.Qh8#

Multi-Wham 32

Theodor Steudel 1997

Problemkiste





1.h4 2.h5 3.h6 4.h7 5.h8=Q 6.Qd4

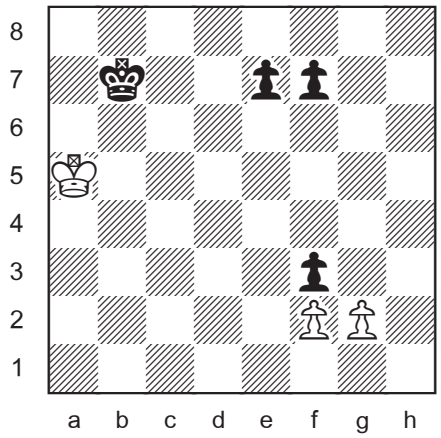
7.f4 8.f5 9.f6 10.f7 11.f8=Q 12.Qc8#

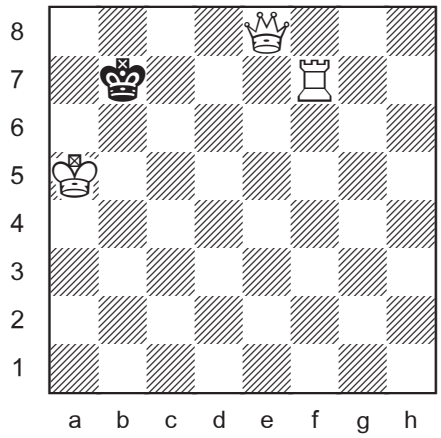
A pair of *excelsior* pawns, both making their way from the 2nd to the 8th rank. The glory of two new queens. The first unpins the pawn on f2.

Multi-Wham 33

Unto Heinonen 1998

Problemkiste





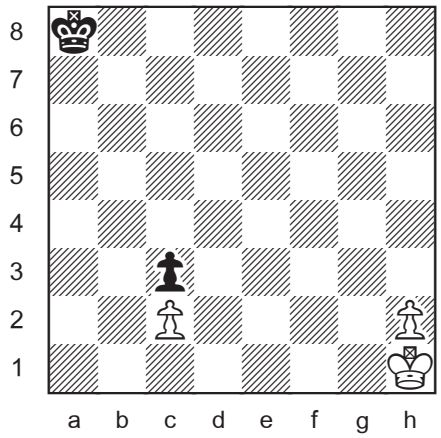
1.g4 2.g5 3.g6 4.gxf7 5.f8=R 6.Rxf3
7.Rf7 8.f4 9.f5 10.f6 11.fxe7 12.e8=Q#

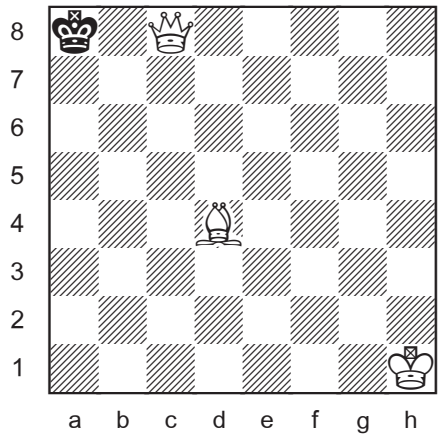
Two excelsiors, promotions to rook and queen, and discovered check.

Multi-Wham 34

Theodor Steudel 1997
(version by J. Coakley 2018)

Problemkiste





1.h4 2.h5 3.h6 4.h7 5.h8=B 6.Bxc3
7.Bd4 8.c4 9.c5 10.c6 11.c7 12.c8=Q#

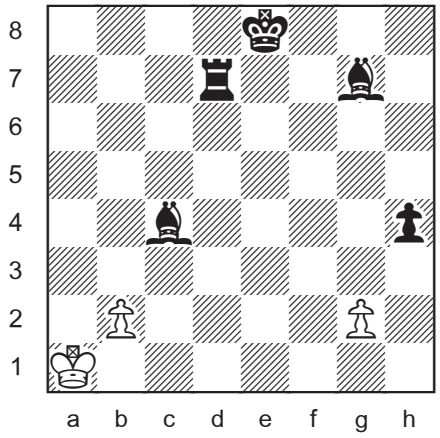
Another double excelsior. Queen and bishop promos. The original problem had no white king, a condition I've never understood.

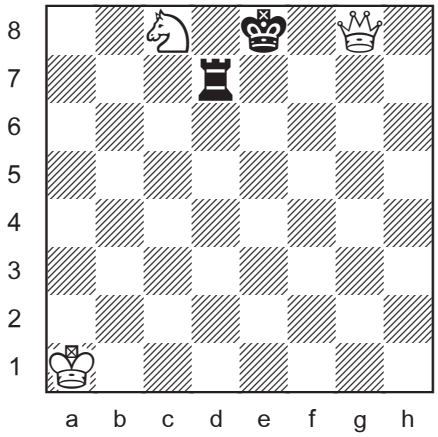
2520 is divisible by all nine single integers. Also by 10.

Multi-Wham 35

Hans Klüver & Wolfgang Dittman 1982

Rochade





1.g3 2.gxh4 3.h5 4.h6 5.hxg7 6.b3

7.bxc4 8.c5 9.c6 10.c7 11.c8=N 12.g8=Q#

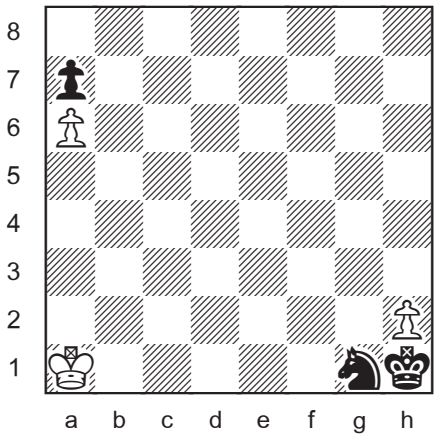
Promotions on the last two turns, to knight and queen. Impressively, both pawns take a single step to the 3rd rank on their first move.

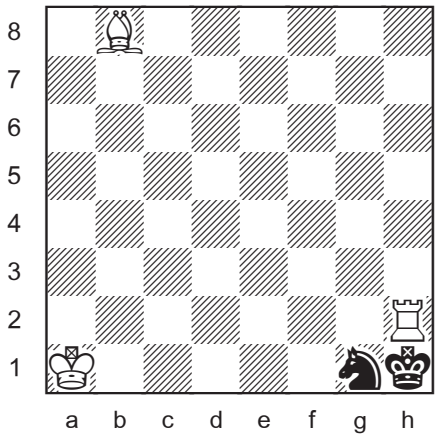
Multi-Wham 36

Theodor Steudel & Heinz Winterberg 1997

(version by J. Coakley 2018)

Problemkiste





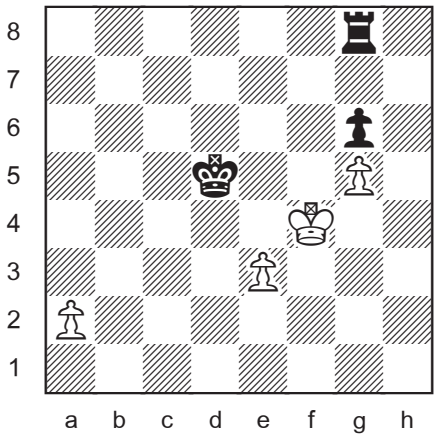
1.h4 2.h5 3.h6 4.h7 5.h8=B 6.Bd4
7.Bxa7 8.Bb8 9.a7 10.a8=R 11.Ra2 12.Rh2#

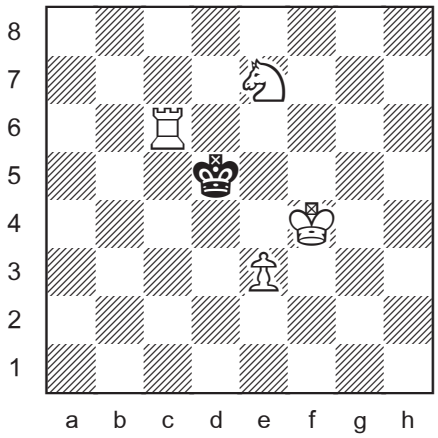
No queen this time. A rook and bishop are necessary and sufficient. In the original problem, a series-mate in 15, there was no white king and the a-pawns were on a2 and a3 (6.Bb2 7.Bxa3 8.Bd6 ...).

Multi-Wham 37

J. Coakley 2018

Puzzling Side of Chess





1.a4 2.a5 3.a6 4.a7 5.a8=R 6.Rxg8
7.Rxg6 8.Rc6 9.g6 10.g7 11.g8=N 12.Nd7#

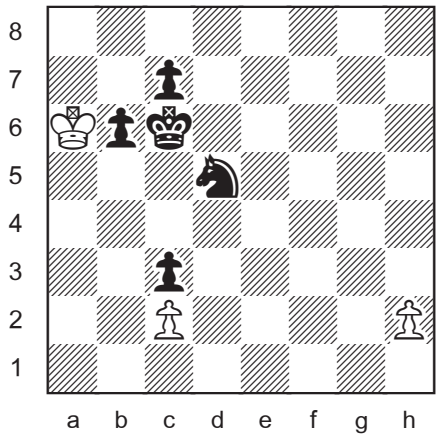
Rook and knight, mating as they could have 1500 years ago in the original form of chess.

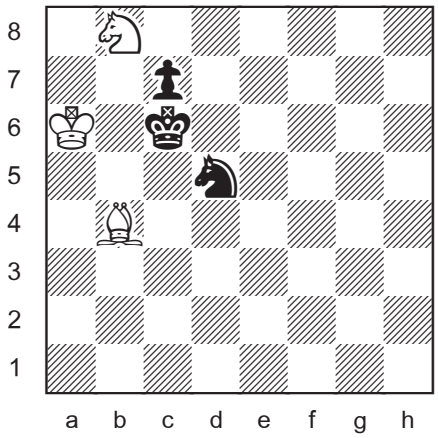
King's Highway 144 runs for 271 km through the forests of northern Ontario, connecting the cities of Sudbury and Timmins, both centres for mining and lumber industries.

Multi-Wham 38

Unto Heinonen 1997

Problemkiste





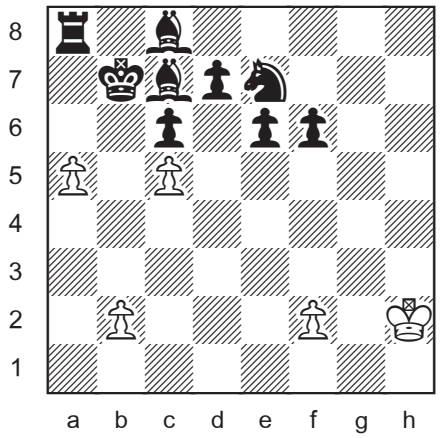
1.h4 2.h5 3.h6 4.h7 5.h8=B 6.Bxc3
7.Bb4 8.c4 9.c5 10.cxb6 11.b7 12.b8=N#

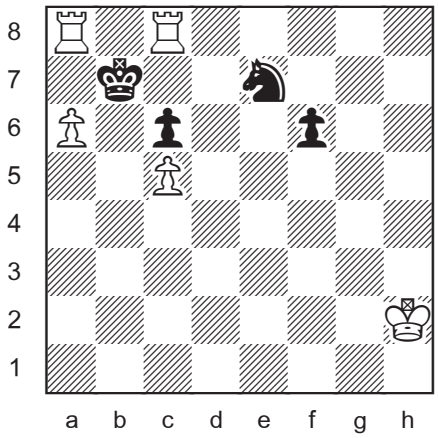
Double excelsior. Bishop and knight. Have you noticed that each of the problems has a different combination of promoted pieces? So far we have QQ, QR, QB, QN, RB, RN, BN.

Multi-Wham 39

Günter Glaß 1999

Problemkiste





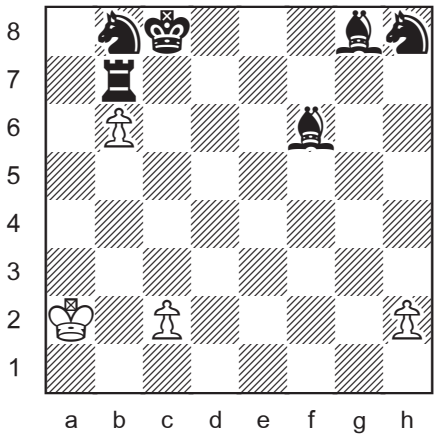
1.f4 2.b4 3.b5 4.b6 5.bxc7 6.f5
7.fxe6 8.exd7 9.dxc8=R 10.Rxa8 11.c8=R 12.a6#

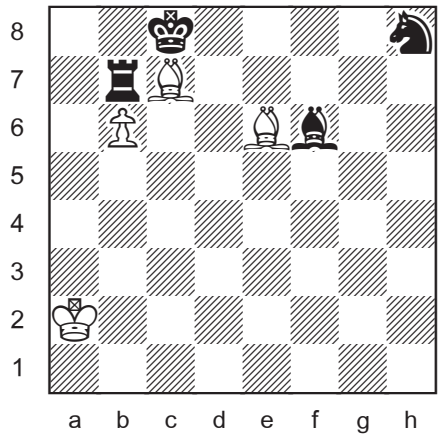
Double rooks! A real compositional achievement. And a third pawn delivers the mate. Did you see that White is in check?

Multi-Wham 40

Günter Glaß 1997

Problemkiste





1.c4 2.h4 3.h5 4.h6 5.h7 6.hxg8=B
7.c5 8.c6 9.c7 10.cxb8=B 11.Bc7 12.Be6#

Two bishops call the tune this time. With an assist by a third pawn.

The next *Year of the Monkey* is 2028. The twelfth monkey arrives 2160.

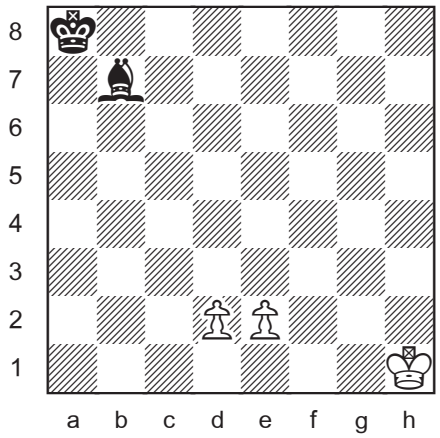
Multi-Wham 41

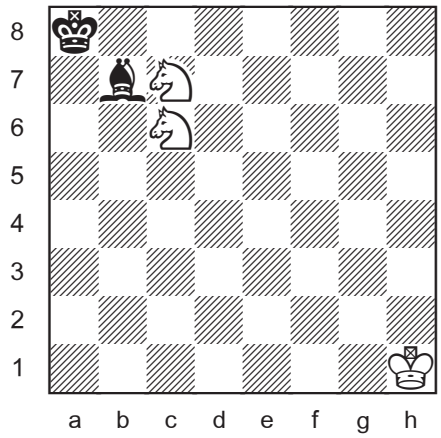
Günter Glaß 1997

Problemkiste

version of Alexander Lehmkuhl 1978

Serienzugrekorde





1.e4 2.d4 3.d5 4.d6 5.d7 6.d8=N
7.Nc6 8.e5 9.e6 10.e7 11.e8=N 12.Nc7#

White starts in check again. It's unlikely that anyone was surprised by the two knights. That was the only combination of two piece promotions not used previously.

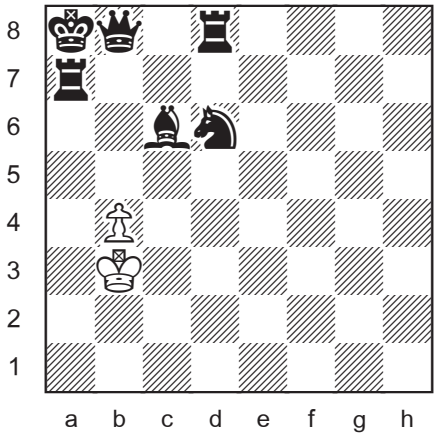
The original problem was a series-mate in 9 with pawns on d5 and e4.

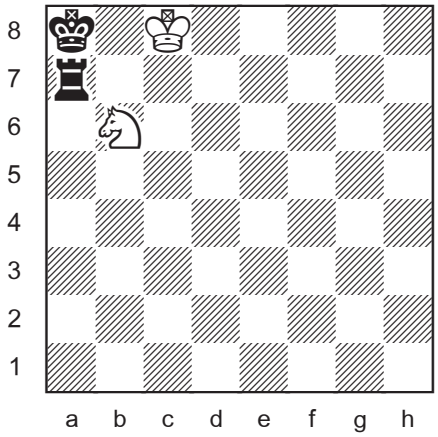
Is time passing you by?

Multi-Wham 42

J. Coakley 2018

Puzzling Side of Chess





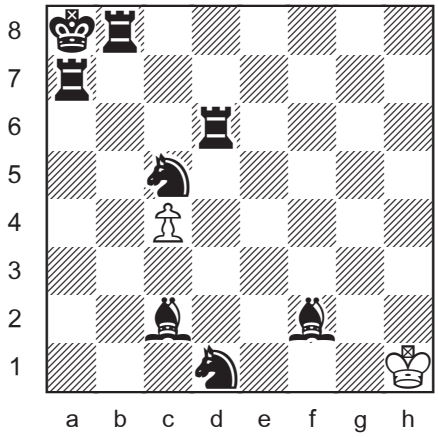
1.b5 2.Kb4 3.Kc5 4.bxc6 5.c7 6.cxb8=N
7.Nd7 8.Kxd6 9.Ke7 10.Kxd8 11.Kc8 12.Nb6#

A two-way knight bridge on d7, allowing the white king to capture on d6 and cross e7. This series-mate in 12 is a shortened version of the longer and niftier problem below.

Multi-Wham 43

J. Coakley 2018

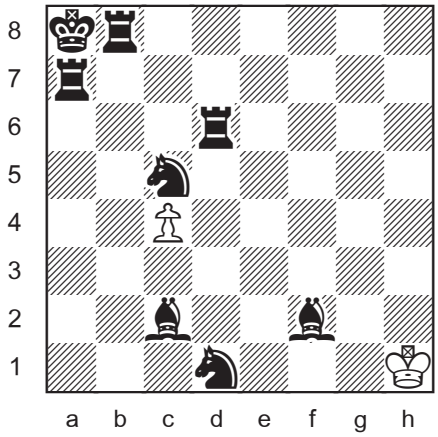
Puzzling Side of Chess



series-mate in 27

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

Multi-Wham 43



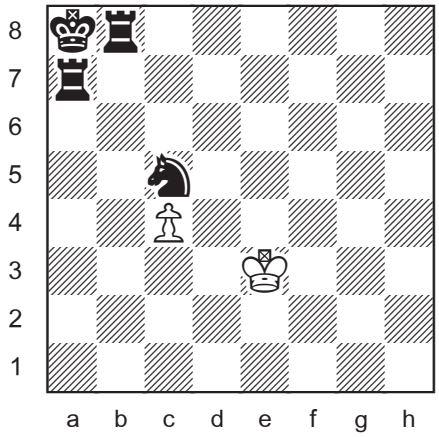
series-mate in 27

1.Kg2 2.Kf3 3.Kf4 4.Ke5 5.Kxd6
Removing the rook that guards d1.

6.Ke5 7.Kf4 8.Kf3 9.Ke2 10.Kd2
Now the string of pieces defending the knight on c5 are eliminated.

11.Kxc2 12.Kxd1 13.Ke2 14.Kxf2

15.Ke3 Twelve moves to go.

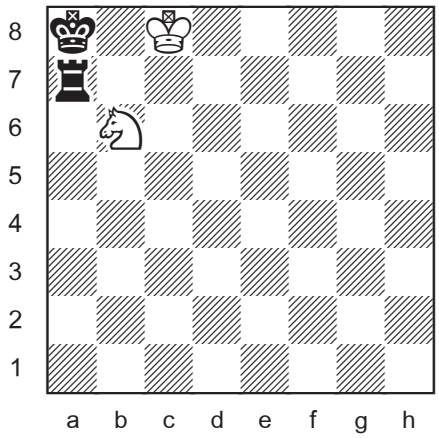


16.Kd4 17.Kxc5 18.Kd6

19.c5 20.c6 21.c7

22.cxb8=N 23.Nd7 24.Ke7

25.Kd8 26.Kc8 27.Nb6#



Until next time!