



A Lotta Wotawa Part One

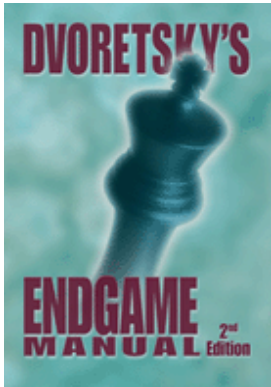
This month and next, we present a heaping helping of studies by the Austrian composer, Alois Wotawa. There are twenty in this month's column, and seventeen in next month's – thirty-seven in all. I chose the ones I liked, rather than striving to present some artificial round number. In all the studies, it is white to move.

The studies are presented in increasing order of difficulty, a factor which is, of course, quite arbitrary and subjective. I recommend that you employ this selection to develop your resourcefulness and fantasy, or else to get yourself into shape before an important tournament.

COLUMNISTS

The Instructor

Mark Dvoretsky

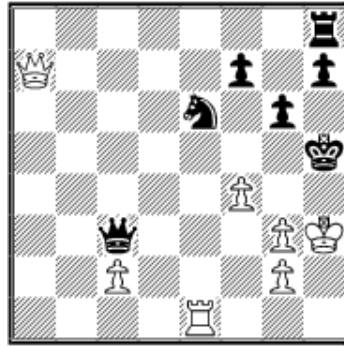


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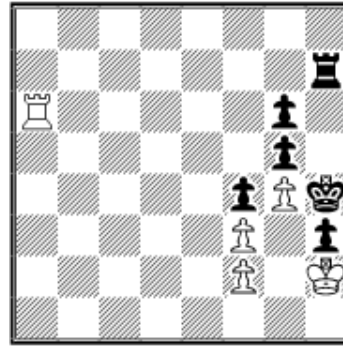
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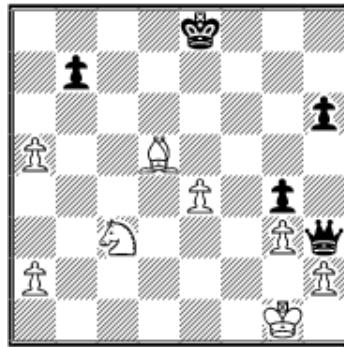
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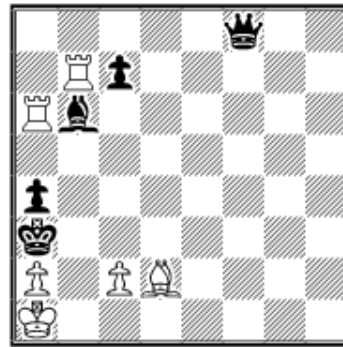
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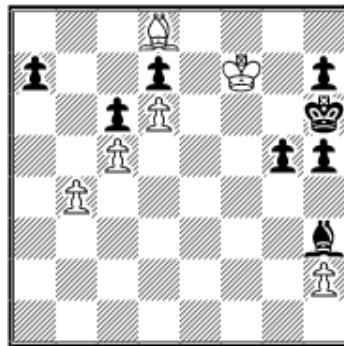
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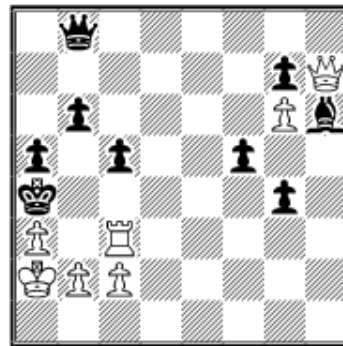
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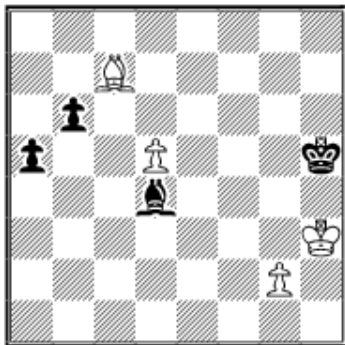
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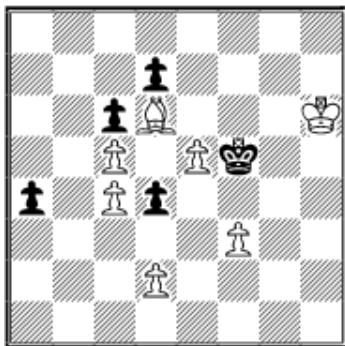
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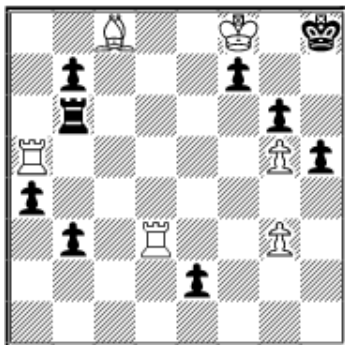
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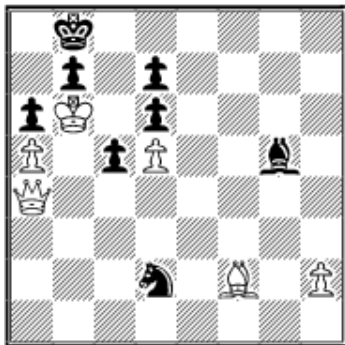
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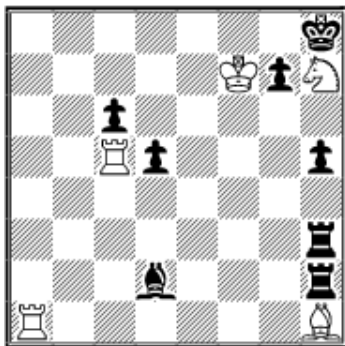
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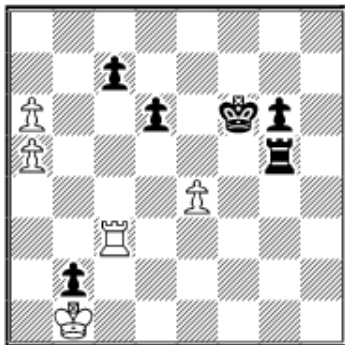
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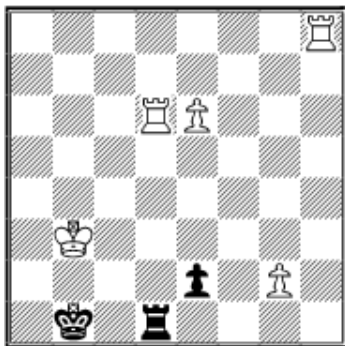
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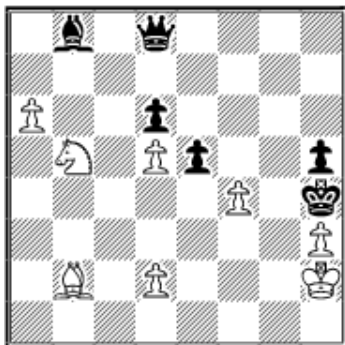
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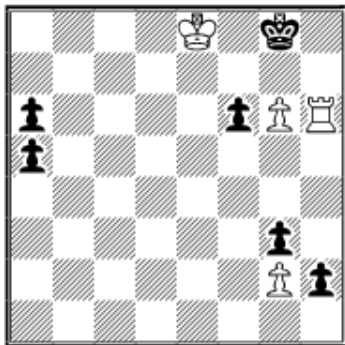
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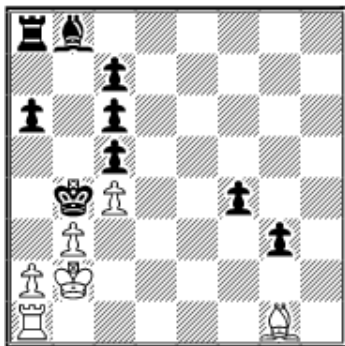
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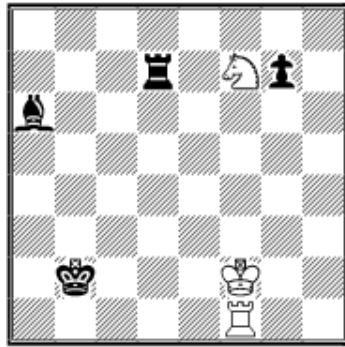
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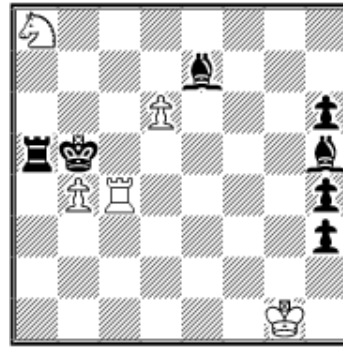
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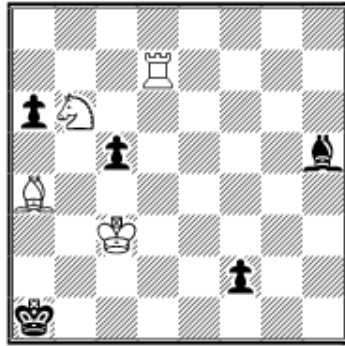
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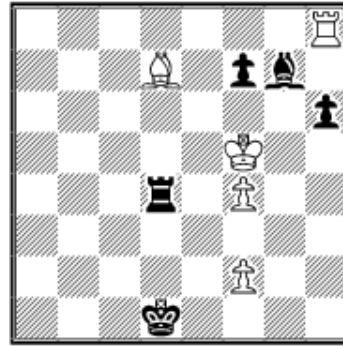
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Solutions

1) 1935

White mates – yet not with the queen as you might expect, but with pawns: **1 Rxe6!** (1 Qe7? Nxf4+ 2 Kh2 Nxc2) **1...fe 2 Qg7!** (2 Qe7? Kh6=) **2...Qxg7** (2...Qe3 3 Qxh8+-) **3 g4 + Kh6 4 g5+ Kh5 5 g4#.**

2) 1935

1 Ra8! (*zugzwang*: the enemy rook is forced onto the unfortunate square h6.) **1...Rh6 2 Ra1! Rh8 3 Rg1 Ra8 4 Rg3! fg 5 fg#.**

3) 1962

The spectacular sacrifice of two pieces by **1 Bc6+!**? bc **2 Nd5!** cd **3 a6** allows White's pawn to queen. However, after **3...Qh5 4 a7 de 5 a8Q+ Kd7 6 Qxe4 Qc5+ 7 Kg2 h5**, Black keeps reasonable drawing chances in the pawn-down queen endgame. White's strongest plan is to catch the queen. **1 a6! ba 2 Bc6+ Kd8 3 Be8! Kxe8 4 Nd5 Kd8** (4...Qh5 5 Nf6+) **5 Nf4+-.**

4) 1935

Black's king is in trouble, but White has **1...Qf1+** to worry about. **1 Rxb6! cb 2 Re7!! 2 Rxb6? Qf6+ (or 2...Qf1+ 3 Rb1 Qxb1+ 4 Kxb1)** leads to stalemate. But now White threatens **3 Re3#**, and **2...Qf1+** loses to **3 Re1**. **2...Qxe7 3 c3**, with the deadly threat of **4 Bc1#.**

5) 1936

Wotawa found ways to play for mate even in the quietest-looking endgames. In order to get at the black king, White gives up all of his pawns. **1 b5! cb 2 c6 dc 3 d7** (threatening **4 Bxg5+**) **3...Bxd7 4 h4! gh 5 Bxh4**, and Black is helpless against the threat of **6 Kf6** and **7 Bg5#.**

6) 1936

The mating pattern is clear: **c2-c4** and **b2-b3#**. **1 Rh3!!** The choice of the square for the rook's retreat is defined by the need to prevent Black's king from escaping the danger zone. Now **1...Kb5** is bad, because of **2 Rxh6+-**. **1...gh 2 Qh8!** (not **2 c4?** at once, because of **2...Qg3!+-**) **2...Qxh8** (2...Qe5 3 c4 Qe3 4 Qe8+! Qxe8 5 b3#) **3 c4+-.**

7) 1951

White uses tactical means to secure the b-pawn's promotion. **1 d6 Be5! 2 Bb8!** (threatening **3 d7**) **2...Bf6 3 d7 Bd8** **3...a4** is hopeless: **4 Bc7 a3 5 d8Q Bxd8 6 Bxd8 a2 7 Bf6+-**. Now **4 g4+? Kg6 5 Bg3** doesn't work, in view of **5...Kf7! 6 Bh4 Bxh4 7 Kxh4 Ke7 8 g5 Kxd7**, and Black's king is inside the square of the g-pawn. **4 Bg3! a4 5 Bh4! Bxh4 6 g4+.**

8) 1959

“Normal” methods will not make a queen of the a6-pawn, as the following variations demonstrate: 1 Ra3? Rh5 2 a7 Rh8 =, or 1 Kxb2? Rxa5 3 Ra3 Rb5+ 3 Kc3 Rb8 =. So White uses an interference theme, as illustrated in several variations. **1 Rf3+! Ke7** On 1... Kg7 2 Rf5!! gf 3 a7 decides; or 2...Rg1+ 3 Kxb2 Rh1 4 Rf8!+-. **2 e5!! Rxe5** (2...Rh5 3 Rf8!+-) **3 Re3!** (another standard technique, this time – deflection!) **3...Rxe3 4 a7+–.**

9) 1944

White appears to be in trouble: the a-pawn can't be stopped One must have an exceptional gift for fantasy to discover, in this harmless-looking position, the idea of playing for mate. **1 d3!!** Move order is important 1 e6? fe 2 d3 e5! would lose. **1...a3 2 e6! de** If 2...Ke6, then 3 Kg6 a2 4 f4 a1Q 5 f5#. **3 Be5! Kxe5** (3...a2 4 Bxd4 Kf4 5 Kg6+–) **4 Kg5 a2 5 f4#.**

10) 1955

1 Rhd8?! Rxd6 2 Rxd6 e1Q 3 e7?! (3 Kc4 is better) would be a mistake, because of 3...Qe3 +!. And on 1 e7? e1Q 2 e8Q, Black saves himself by 2...Qg3+! 3 Ka4 Qxd6 =. **1 Rd2!! Rxd2** (1...e1Q 2 Rb2+ Kc1 3 Rc8+) **2 Rh1+ Rd1 3 Re1!! Rxe1 4 e7 Rd1** 4...Kc1 5 e8Q Kd2 6 Qd8+ Ke3 7 Qb6+ Kd3 8 Qd6+ Ke3 9 Qg3+ doesn't help: it's mate in two moves after 9...Kd2. **5 e8Q e1Q 6 Qg6+.**, and mate is forced.

11) 1937

The black pawns cannot be stopped. As is usual with Wotawa, White plays for mate, and with this in mind, sacrifices nearly all of his pieces. **1 Re3! b2 2 Bf5! gf 3 Rb5!! Rxb5 4 Re6!!** Of course not 4 Kxf7? b1Q 5 Re8+ Kh7 6 g6+ Kh6 7 Rh8+ Kg5 8 g7 Qb3+. **4...fe 5 g6 e1Q** (5...h4 6 g7+ Kh7 7 g8Q+ Kh6 8 Kf7) **6 g7+ Kh7 7 g8Q+ Kh6 8 Qg7#.**

12) 1937

The bishop or knight can only approach the enemy king through the d4-square. The question is, which piece should White sacrifice, and which one should he keep? The obvious 1 Nd4? ed 2 Bxd4 lets Black save himself by 2...Ba7! 3 Bxa7 Qb6! 4 Bxb6 – stalemate. **1 Bd4! ef!** (1...ed 2 Nxd4, with inescapable mate) **2 Bf2+ Kg5 3 Bh4+! Kxh4 4 Nd4** (threatening 5 Nf3#) **4...Kg5 5 Ne6+.**

13) 1937

1 Bh4 Be3 White has protected himself from 1...Bd8#, but the bishop now creates a threat on a different diagonal (2...c4#). **2 Bf2! Bxf2 3 Qf4 Nc4+! 4 Qxc4 Bd4** What's to be done against the threat to move the bishop via f6 to d8? **5 h3!! Bf6 6 Qh4! Bxh4** – stalemate.

14) 1961

1 Rh8? (in the faint hope of 1...Kxh8? 2 Kf7+–) is useless, in view of 1...Kg7 2 Rh7+ Kxg6 3 Rh3 Kf5–+, or 2 Ke7 a4–+ (2...f5–+). Another losing try is 1 Ke7? Kg7 2 Rh7+ (2 Ke6 Kxh6; 2 Rh3 a4) 2...Kxg6 3 Rh3 Kf5–+). **1 g7! f5** On 1...Kxg7, White has time to eliminate the dangerous kingside pawns: 2 Rh3 Kg6 (or 2...f5) 3 Rxg3+ Kf5 4 Rh3+–. And 1...a4 would change nothing: 2 Ke7 (threatening 3 Kxf6) 2...Kxg7 3 Rh3 a3 4 Rxg3+ Kh6 5 Rh3+ Kg5 6 Rxh2 a2 7 Rh1+–. On the other hand, 2 Kxe7? is no longer dangerous to Black: 2...Kxg7 3 Rh3 f4 4 Ke6 a4 5 Ke5 a3 6 Kxf4 a2–+. **2 Rh7!! f4 3.Ke7 f3 4 Kf6 Kxh7 5 Kf7 f2 6 g8Q+ Kh6 7 Qg6#.**

15) 1950

How to weave a mating net around Black's king? We must open some lines, and close off others. **1 Nf6! gf 2 Be4!! de 3 Rg5! fg** (on 3...Bxg5, the reply is the same) **4 Kg6+–.**

16) 1959

It's not hard to figure out that the lines. 1 a3+? Ka5 2 Bxc5 Ba7–+ and 1 Rd1? Ba7–+ don't lead to mate. **1 a4!** suggests itself. It's a quick mate, after 1...f3 2 a5 f2 3 Ra4#, or 1...Ka5 2 Bxc5 Ba7 3 b4#. The only question that remains is, after **1...a5**, how to continue the attack: **2 Rc1!! Ba7 3 Bd4!** (threatening 4 Bc3#) **3...cd 4 c5 Bxc5 5 Rc4#.**

17) 1952

Two of White's pieces are *en prise*; material loss is inevitable. **1 Ne5 Rd2+ 2 Ke3 Re2+ 3 Kd4** (3 Kf4? Rxe5–+) **3...Rxe5 4 Rf6!!** Now, **4...gf** leads to a completely unexpected stalemate in the middle of the board, and 4...Ra5 5 Rg6 – to the loss of Black's last pawn.

18) 1951

After 1 ba? h2+! 2 Kg2 Bf3+ 3 Kxh2 Bxd6+ 4 Kh3 Kxc4, Black retains a large material advantage. **1 Rc5+! Kxb4 2 Rxh5** (2 Rxa5? h2+!) **2...Bg5!** After 2...Rxh5 3 de Re5 4 Nc7 Re1+ 5 Kh2, the e7-pawn is indirectly defended by the threat of a knight fork on d5. And in the line 2...Ra1+ 3 Kh2 Bxd6+ 4 Kxh3 Rxa8 5 Rxh4+ and 6 Rxh6, Black loses his last pawn. But now, he threatens both 3...Rxa8 and 3...Be3+. **3 Nc7 Be3+ 4 Kh1 Rxh5 5 d7 Bg5 6 Nd5+ Kc5 7 Nf4! =.**

19) 1952

The f-pawn is bound to queen. This time, White is unable to mate his opponent, so he must play for stalemate. **1 Bb5!! ab 2 Nc4!!** 2 Ra7+? Kb1 3 Nc4 would be inaccurate, in view of 3...b4+!. **2...bc** Of course not 2...f1Q? 3 Ra7+ Kb1 4 Nd2+ Kc1 5 Ra1#. **3 Ra7+ Kb1 4 Rb7+ Kc1 5 Rf7!!** (or 5 Ra7 Bg6 6 Rf7!! -+) **5...Bxf7** – stalemate.

20) 1957

Two of White's pieces are *en prise*. It's not hard to find the variation 1 Rg8? Rd5+! 2 Ke4 (g4) Rxd7 4 Rxd7 f5+, and the rook drops. **1 Rd8!!** (threatening 2 Ba4+) **1...Kd2** (1...Kc1 2 Rc8+; 1...Ke1 2 Re8+) But what has White achieved? 2 f3? would be met by 2...Rd6, with a decisive zugzwang: 3 Kg4 Bf6-+, or 3 Rg8 Rd5+! and 4...Rxd7-+. **2 Rg8! Rd5+ 3 Kc4(g4) Rxd7 4 Rxd7 f5+ 5 Kf3! Rxd7** – stalemate This is why it was necessary to lure the black king to d2!



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