

# Contents

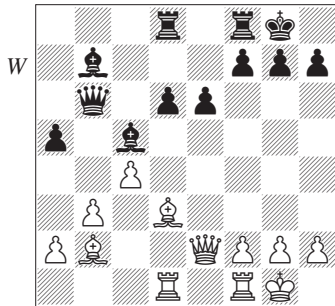
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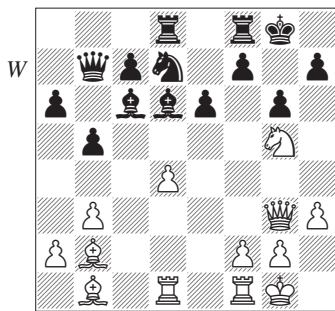
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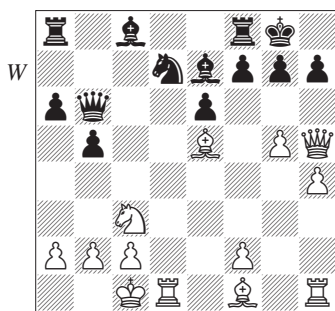
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15a: White to play



15b: White to play



15c: after 14...♔b6

## Idea 15 – Point Your Bishops in the Right Direction

A pair of bishops pointing towards the enemy king, often on the a1-h8 and b1-h7 diagonals, can be a deadly attacking force.

In diagram 15a Black's careless play has left his king without any piece protection. White can now strip away his pawn-cover with a standard double bishop sacrifice: **1 ♗xh7+ ♕xh7 2 ♖h5+ ♔g8 3 ♗xg7! ♕xg7** (it is unlikely that Black can get away with ...f6 or ...f5 in such positions but the details must be checked – after 3...f6, White wins by 4 ♗h6, and after something like 4...♞d7 then 5 ♞d3 swings the white rook decisively into the attack) **4 ♖g5+ ♔h7**. The success of the attack usually depends on whether White has a rook he can swing over to the kingside. Now 5 ♞d3! forces mate but if the rook were still on a1 or there were a pawn on g3, White would have to be content with perpetual check.

Diagram 15b is an example of Blackburne's famous mate. This time the bishops don't lay down their lives but combine to weave the mating net. White wins by **1 ♖h4 h5** (1...♗f6 is also met by 2 d5!) **2 d5! ♗xd5 3 ♖xh5! gxh5** (there is no escape) **4 ♗h7#**.

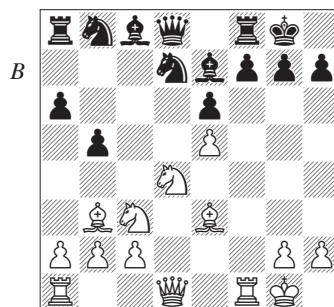
Diagram 15c features a typical Sicilian position (it arises from diagram 46a after 13...dxe5 14 ♗xe5 ♖b6). White wins by **15 ♞xd7! ♗xd7 16 ♗d3 g6 17 ♖h6 f6 18 ♗xg6!** and Black is soon mated. Note how dealing with the attack on one diagonal leads to serious trouble on the adjacent one. Here, 16...g6 exposed Black on the long diagonal, which he was then forced to block with 17...f6, but this left g6 without sufficient protection and allowed White a decisive sacrifice. This is an example of how every pawn advance creates weaknesses.

### Idea 16 – ♖xf7!

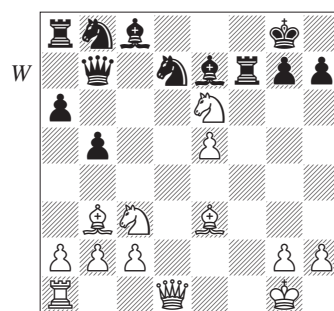
There are quite a few variations in the Sicilian in which White manoeuvres his light-squared bishop to b3 via c4. This is a very doubled-edged strategy since if Black has well-protected pawns on e6 and f7 then the bishop on b3 may end up biting on granite – in an endgame it can be a virtual spectator. White has two main strategies once he has parked his bishop on b3. The first is to soften up the black centre with his f-pawn by f4-f5. The second strategy is more spectacular – to sacrifice, either the bishop itself or another piece in order to bring the bishop back to life. These sacrifices usually take place on d5, e6 or f7. Here we concern ourselves with f7.

(16a) It has now been established that **12...♗xe5** is best in this well-known position from the ♗c4 Najdorf. The alternatives can be swiftly punished, e.g. **12...♖c7 13 ♖xf7!! ♖xf7** (13...♗xf7 14 ♖h5+ wins easily) **14 ♗xe6** (the bishop is well and truly alive) **14...♖xe5** (14...♖b7 (16b) loses to 15 ♗d8! ♗xd8 16 e6!) **15 ♗d4 ♖f5 16 ♗xg7 ♖f4 17 ♗e2! ♖e4 18 ♖f1 ♗f6** (18...♗f6 is a slight improvement though Black is still lost after 19 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 20 ♗h5) **19 ♗f5! ♗e5 20 ♗d6 1-0** Rosenberger-Barta, corr 1983.

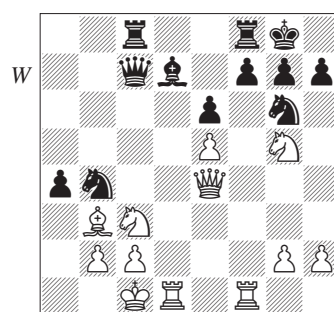
(16c) Gallagher-Čabrilo, Royan 1989. One would be forgiven for thinking that White was in serious trouble here but this was in fact the very position I had been aiming for. **22 ♖xd7! ♖xd7 23 ♖xf7! axb3?** (this is based on a simple oversight; instead 23...♖xf7 24 ♗xe6 ♖xe6 25 ♗xe6 favours White but Black can resist with 25...♗c6) **24 ♖xd7 ♖f1+ 25 ♖d1 ♗a2+ 26 ♗xa2 1-0**. As 26...bxa2 27 ♖a4 stops the pawn.



16a: after White's 12th move



16b: after 14...♖b7



16c: after Black's 21st move