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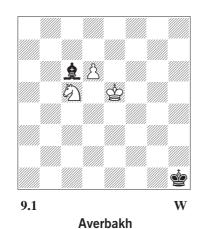
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9 Knight vs Bishop Endings

Basic Endings with Knight vs Bishop • Bishop or Knight?

Knight and Pawn vs Bishop



Lehrbuch der Schachendspiele, 1979

Here the bishop can stop the pawn without the support of its king:

1 🕸 e6 🌲 b5

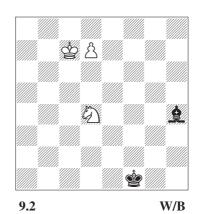
Of course Black could also approach with his king, but we want to demonstrate how to draw independently of the black king position.

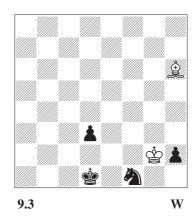
2 \$e7 \$c6 3 \$d8 \$b5 4 \$c7

Now the king is in the right place to lock out the bishop with a knight on c6.

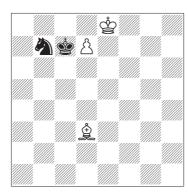
4...☆g1 5 ④d3 ☆h1 6 ④e5 ê8 6...**☆**g1?? 7 **④**c6 +−.

7 2d7 堂g1 8 堂d8 皇g6 9 堂e7 皇f5 10 公c5 皇c8 10...ዿੈg4?? 11 ②e6 +−. 11 ③d7 ≌h1 12 ≌d8 ዿੈa6 13 ≌c7 ዿੈb5 14 ②e5 ዿ̂e8 =





KNIGHT VS BISHOP ENDINGS



9.4

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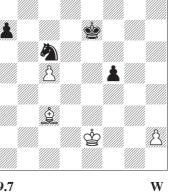
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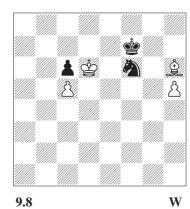
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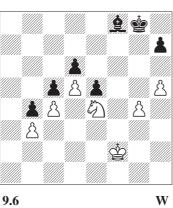
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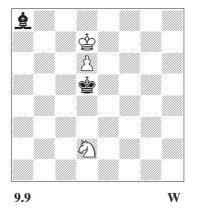






9.6

9.5



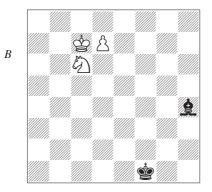
Knight and Pawn vs Bishop

Fine

9.2

Basic Chess Endings, 1941 1 ②c6! (D)

Here one stopping diagonal is not long enough and so the bishop cannot do without the support of its king:



1.... \$f2 2 \$d6 \$g3+

2... \$f3? 3 De7 \$g3+4 \$c6+-.

3 ∲c5

3 ∅e5? ≜h4.

3....拿c7

White has managed to force the bishop to the shorter diagonal, where he can take away all its squares:

4 \$\$b5 \$\$e3 5 \$\$a6 \$\$e4 6 \$\$b7 +-

If it is Black to move, his king arrives in time to support the bishop:

1...≌**f2 2** ②**c6** ≌**e3 3** ≌**d6** ₤**g3+** 3...≌e4? 4 ②e7 ₤g3+ 5 ≌c6 +−.

4 堂c5 黛c7

5 \$\dds b5 \$\dds e4 6 \$\dds a6 \$\dds d5 7 \$\dds b7 \$\dds d6 = The bishop is able to stop a passed pawn without the support of its king if it has at least five squares on each stopping diagonal.

If one of the diagonals is shorter then the bishop needs the support of the king.

9.3

Jagodzinski – Olarasu 1984

An interesting situation. The white king is tied to the h2-pawn so the bishop has to deal with the d3-pawn all on its own. If it manages to sacrifice itself for the pawn, we arrive at a drawn ending that is already familiar to us from 6.2.

1 <u>ĝ</u>g5?

White could have achieved a draw if he had switched to the other, less dangerous, stopping diagonal in time: $1 \ \&f8! \ @e3+ (1...d2 \ 2 \ \&b4 \ \&e2 \ 3 \ \&xd2! \ \&xd2 \ 4 \ \&h1 =; 1... \ \&e2 \ 2 \ \&b4 \ @e3+ \ 3 \ \&xd2 \ \&h2 \ 4 \ \&a5 =) \ 2 \ \&xh2 \ \&d5 \ 3 \ \&h6 \ \&e2 \ 4 \ \&c1 =.$

1... 솔e2 2 힕c1 h1≝+! 3 솔xh1 솔f2! 4 힕g5 ②e3 0-1

Bishop and Pawn vs Knight

9.4

Averbakh

Lehrbuch der Schachendspiele, 1979 The pawn has already advanced to

the seventh rank and Black has to act energetically to secure the draw:

1...@d6+

1...④d8? 2 毫c4 ④c6 (2...④b7 3 會e7 會c6 4 毫a6 +-) 3 毫d5 ④d8 4 會e7 +-.

2 🖄 c8+! 3 🖄 c6 ∅b6 =

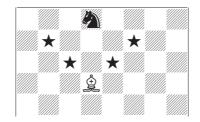
If White is to move, he can prevent the active ... (a) d6+:

1 ≌e7!

This forces the knight to d8, where White can take away all its squares by playing his bishop to d5:

With a far-advanced pawn on the seventh rank a win is possible if the knight can be immobilized and the defender brought into zugzwang.

Ideal case: the imprisonment of the knight by the bishop at the edge of the board:



The bishop controls all the knight's squares so that it is practically stalemated. This is a case when the cliché 'a knight on the rim is dim' is certainly true.

9.5

Averbakh

Lehrbuch der Schachendspiele, 1979 In this position, the bishop controls the promotion square. If Black is to move, he holds the draw: 1... 2e7+23d8 2c6+3 3e8 3e6 =.

In contrast, if it is White's turn to move, he can force his opponent into

zugzwang: 1 **2**b4+! **2**c7 **4**d5 3 **2**a3 +-.

Knight or Bishop?

Inexperienced chess-players often ask: which piece is the stronger, bishop or knight? Many players develop a clear preference for one of them even though from an objective point of view they are more or less equally strong. It all depends on the circumstances. The following two examples show the pros and the cons of the two pieces.

9.6

Averbakh – Panov

Moscow Ch 1950

A typical situation in which the knight feels really happy. It occupies the blockading square e4, from which it cannot be driven away. With regard to its own pawns, the black bishop bites on granite and has to safeguard the d6-pawn. It is no compensation that Black has a protected passed pawn.

1 g5 ģg7 2 ģf3 ģf7 3 ģg4 ĝe7 4 ģf5 ĝf8 5 ²6 h6 6 gxh6 ĝxh6 (D)

