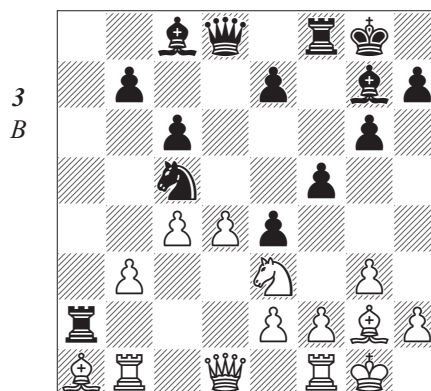


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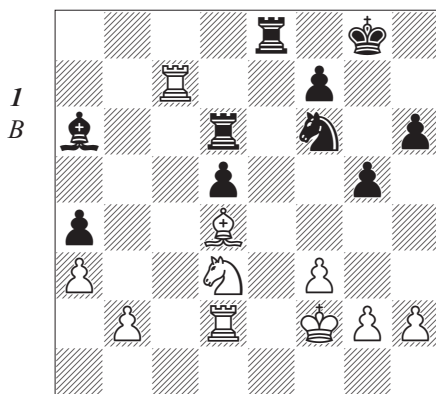
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Examples from the Play of Andrei Volokitin

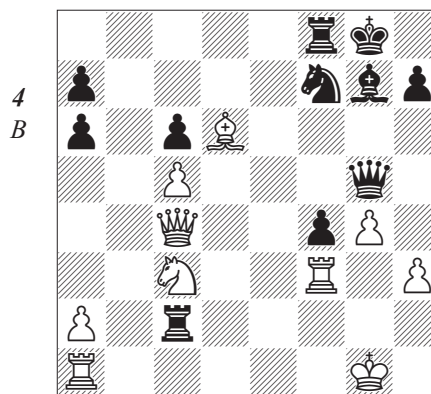
We begin our journey with the match which first opened Andrei Volokitin's path into top-level chess. In this, he beat the future FIDE world champion and Ukrainian Olympiad team-mate, Ruslan Ponomarev, by a score of 1½-1½.



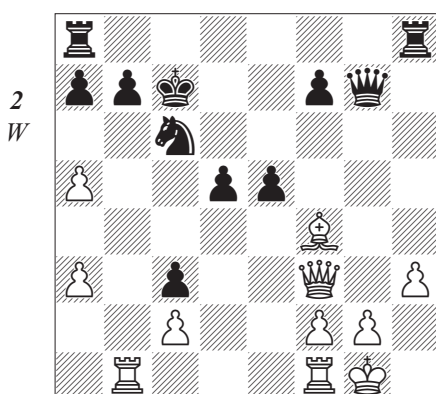
Ribli – Volokitin
Slovenian Ch (Celje) 2004



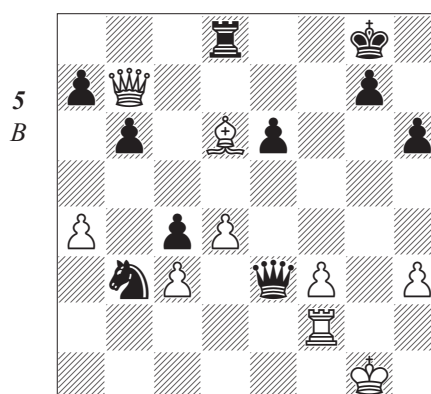
Ponomarev – Volokitin
Lausanne 2001



Volkov – Volokitin
Kallithea ECC 2002



Volokitin – Jedynak
Plock rapid 2003



Korobov – Volokitin
Ukrainian Ch (Kharkov) 2004

Solutions for ‘Make a Move’

Remember that your primary task in this chapter was just to find the correct first move, so if your choice matches that in the solution, you can consider that you have been successful. Naturally we provide full solutions, as we are sure you will want to see the supporting variations, and to see if the follow-up you had in mind when making your selection was the right one too.

Examples from the Play of Andrei Volokitin

1)

Ruslan has placed his pieces on good blocking squares, but in chess, the important thing is not the outward appearance, but the inward reality. There followed a quite unexpected combinative blow which led to an equal position:

31... ♖e4+!! 32 fxe4 dxe4 33 ♜e1

33 ♜c1? e3+ 34 ♙xe3 ♜f6+! is winning for Black.

33... e3+! 34 ♙xe3 ♜xd2+ 35 ♙xd2 ♜e2+ 36 ♜g3 ♜xd2 1/2-1/2

2)

By the move ...e5, Black planned to drive his opponent out of the centre. But as the world of biophysics knows, the effect of pressure depends on the material concerned. Some substances shrink under pressure, while others rebound. It is wiser not to press on the latter!

21 ♜xd5! exf4??

21... ♜ad8 22 ♜b5 ±.

22 ♜xb7+!

Destroying the black king's defences.

22... ♜xb7 23 ♜d7+ ♜a6 24 ♜xc6+ ♜xa5 25 ♜c5+ ♜a6 26 ♜d6+ ♜a5 27 ♜d1

The same result follows from 27 ♜b4+ ♜a6 28 ♜b1 +-.

1-0

3)

16... ♜xa1!

As Kasparov has said, such exchange sacrifices are a part of a player's chess ‘culture’.

17 ♜xa1 ♙xd4 18 ♜a8?

A mistake, after which White's disadvantage becomes yet more serious. But in any case, one has to feel sorry for the bishop on g2, for whom the kingside has become like a cage in a zoo, from which there is no escape. The most resilient course is 18 ♜a3! ♙xe3 19 fxe3 ♜xd1 20 ♜xd1 ♙e6 ♖.

18... ♙xe3 19 fxe3 ♜xd1 20 ♜xd1 ♜xb3 ♖
Black went on to win.

4)

This is not the time for elegantly working up complicated patterns on the chessboard. One must just be a man, bang one's fist on the table, and plunge forward!

27... h5!! -+ 28 ♜e1

Or: 28 ♜xf4 ♜xf4 -+; 28 ♙xf4 ♜f6 -+; 28 ♙xf8 hxg4 29 h4 ♜xh4 30 ♜xf4 ♙d4+! 31 ♜xd4 ♜h2+ 32 ♜f1 ♜h1+ 33 ♜g1 ♜xf3+ 34 ♜e1 ♜xc3+ 35 ♜f1 ♜xa1#.

28... hxg4 29 ♙e7 gxf3+! 30 ♙xg5 f2+ 31 ♜f1 fxe1 ♜+ 32 ♜xe1 ♜xc3 33 ♜xf4 ♜e5 34 ♜e4 ♜f3+ 35 ♜d1 ♜xg5 36 ♜xc6 ♜d8+ 37 ♜e2 ♜f3 38 ♜e6+ ♜h8 39 ♜f2 ♜d2+ 0-1

5)

Numerous people devote their lives to chess, but nobody ever fully uncovers all of its secrets. One of the game's subtleties is the ‘floating value’ of the pieces, i.e. in every position, the value of a given piece can vary from a minimum to a maximum. At such moments, there is a disparity between the permanent value of the pieces and their combined effectiveness at the given moment. Such ‘chameleon’ effects can deceive players of all levels. Even if one exchanges an overpriced rook for an under-valued bishop, this does not always guarantee success on the chessboard stock market.

Thus 32... ♜xd6!! is a favourable transaction here. After 33 ♜b8+ ♜h7 34 ♜xd6 ♜c1! ♖

Black's idea is shown by the line 35 ♖e5?! ♜xf2+! 36 ♜xf2 ♘d3+ 37 ♜e3 ♘e5 38 dxe5 ♜g6 39 ♜d4 ♜f5 40 ♜xc4 ♜e5 41 ♜b5 g5 42 ♜a6 ♜d5 43 ♜xa7 ♜c6 –+ – now he reaps the dividend!

The game itself was less profitable for Black:
32...♜h7? 33 ♙e5 ♜g8 34 ♖e4+

Forced.

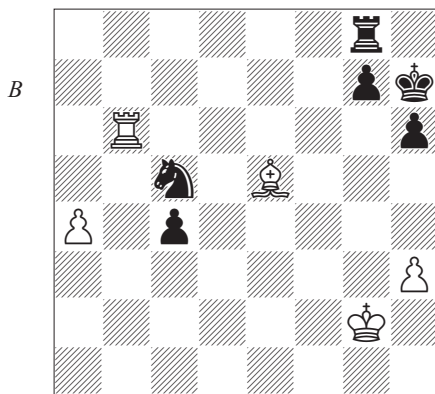
34...♖xe4 35 fxe4 ♘c1 36 ♜f7! ♘e2+ 37 ♜g2 ♘xc3 38 d5 ♘xe4

38...♘xa4 39 dxe6 ♘c5 40 e7 ♘e6 41 ♙d6 a5 42 ♜f8 ♜xf8 43 exf8 ♖xf8 44 ♙xf8 is unclear.

39 dxe6 ♘g5

39...♜g6 40 ♜xa7 ♜f5 41 ♙d4 ♜xe6 42 ♙xb6 gives White counterplay.

40 ♖xa7 ♘e6 41 ♜b7 ♘c5 42 ♜xb6 (D)



42...♜e8?

Black should prefer 42...♘d3! 43 ♜b5 (only move) 43...♜e8 44 ♙a1 ♜e2+ 45 ♜f3 ♜h2 46 ♜g3 ♜a2 47 ♙d4 ♜xa4 48 ♜b7 ♞.

43 ♙d4 ♘xa4?

An error, although after 43...♘b3 44 ♙f2 White has counterplay.

44 ♜b7 ♜g6 45 ♜xg7+ ♜f5 46 ♜c7 c3 1/2-1/2

6)

In such positions, the e5-knight is the key piece, so Black's next move is entirely logical, as it guarantees the knight an 'eternal' outpost.

25...g5! ♞ 26 ♖e3 hxg3 27 ♖xg3

The attempt to break the blockade by 27 f4?! fails: 27...gxf4 28 ♖xf4 ♘g6 29 ♖xg3 ♖e5 ♞.

27...♖f6 28 ♜e3 ♜f8?!

The idea, on a full board, of marching the king across from one flank to another was

common in the games of Tigran Petrosian. Unfortunately, in this case the journey would have been more like the Paris-Dakar rally than a comfortable tourist trip if had White reacted correctly. Black should prefer 28...♙c8!? ♞ or 28...♜g7! 29 ♘e2 ♘c4 ♞.

29 b4! c4 30 ♘e2?

It was essential to disrupt the black king's intended new home by 30 a4! ♜e7 31 axb5 axb5 32 ♘b5 ♜h8 33 f3 ♜a2 34 ♜e2, when White has definite counterplay.

30...♜e7 31 ♘d4 ♜h8 32 ♘f5+ ♜d7 33 ♜c3 ♜c7 34 ♖e3 ♙c8! 35 f3 ♙xf5 36 exf5 ♖xf5 37 ♜d4 ♖b1?!

Better is 37...♜h6 with the idea ...♜ah8.

38 ♖xg5 ♜ag8 39 ♖e7+ ♜c8 40 ♜d2?!

The last chance for White to make a fight of it was 40 ♜h4 ♜xg2+! 41 ♜xg2 ♖b2+ 42 ♜h1 ♜xh4+ 43 ♖xh4 ♖xc3 44 ♙h3+ ♘d7 45 ♖g4 ♞.

40...♜h1+! 41 ♜xh1 ♖xf1+ 42 ♜h2 ♜h8+ 43 ♜g3 ♖e1+ 44 ♜f2 ♜g8+ 0-1

7)

The black army was taken completely by surprise, by the appearance in its ranks of the Trojan horse.

14 ♘e4! ± fxe5

If the sacrifice is not accepted, the knight will prove extremely intrusive: 14...f5 15 ♘g3! h4 16 ♘h5 with the idea of 17 g4.

15 fxe5 dxe4 16 ♖xe4 ♙g5+ 17 ♜b1 ♙d7 18 ♜xd7!

'Inviting' the king to come for a royal walk-about.

18...♜xd7 19 ♜d1+ ♜c7?

It is polite to come out to greet guests, but it would be better to stay indoors on this occasion: 19...♜e8 20 ♜xd8+ ♜xd8 21 ♖c6+ ♜f8 22 ♖xa6 ±.

20 ♜xd8 ♜axd8 21 ♙f3 +- ♜d7 22 ♖c6+ ♜e7 23 ♖c5+ 1-0

8)

15 c5! ±

Knocking out the support from under the black knight and suddenly exposing the bishop on d7 to attack.

15...♙e6?!

Not the most critical continuation, although it takes a computer to come up with 15...dxc5