

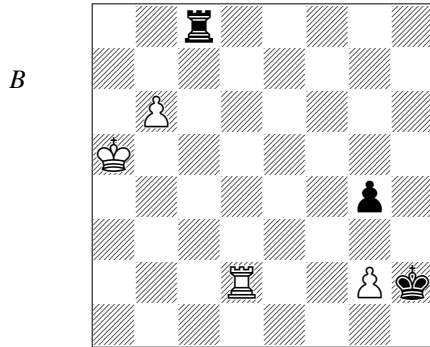
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4.7.3) b- and g-Pawns vs g-Pawn

Here the winning chances increase a lot. We start with cases where the attacking king supports the passed pawn:



4.7.07 Mednis – Z. Djukić
Niš 1977

1...♖a8+

1...g3 2 b7 ♜f8 3 ♜b2 ♜f2 4 b8♞ +-.
2 ♖b5 g3 3 b7 ♜f8!? 4 ♜c2?

Surprisingly, this throws away the win. The right way was found by John Nunn (without tablebase assistance): 4 ♜a2!! ♜f2 5 ♜a4!! ♜f8 6 ♖c6 ♖xg2 (6...♜f6+ 7 ♖c5 ♜f5+ 8 ♖c4 ♜f4+ 9 ♖b3 ♜f1 10 ♜a2 ♜f2 11 b8♞ +-) 7 ♜a8 ♜f6+ 8 ♖c5 ♜f5+ 9 ♖c4 ♜f4+ 10 ♖c3 ♜f3+ 11 ♖d2 ♜f2+ 12 ♖e3 ♜f3+ 13 ♖e4 ♜b3 14 b8♞ ♜xb8 15 ♜xb8 ♖h2 16 ♖f3 g2 17 ♜h8+ ♖g1 18 ♜g8 ♖h1 19 ♖f2 +-.

4...♜f2! 5 ♜c4

Or: 5 b8♞ ♜xc2 6 ♜a8 ♜xg2 =; 5 ♜xf2 gxf2 6 b8♞+ ♖xg2 =.

5...♜f8 6 ♜c8 ♜f2 7 b8♞ ♜b2+ 8 ♖c4 ♜xb8 9 ♜xb8 ♖xg2 10 ♖d3 ♖f2! 11 ♜f8+

11 ♜b2+ ♖f3! =.

11...♖e1! 1/2-1/2

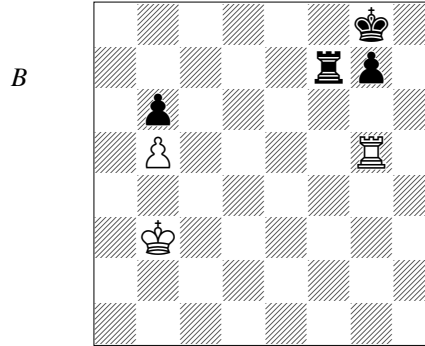
The following position from ECE is also a difficult win (*see following diagram*).

53...♜f6

53...♖h7 also wins in 26 moves. 53...♜f1 or 53...♜f4 leads to a long win in 35 moves after 54 ♜d5 ♖f8! 55 ♜d7 ♜f7! 56 ♜d2 ♜f5! +-.

54 ♜d5

The main line begins with 54 ♖c4 ♜d6! 55 ♜g1 g6 56 ♜g2 ♖g7 57 ♜g1 ♜d7! 58 ♜e1 ♜c7+ 59 ♖b4 ♜f7! 60 ♜g1 ♜f5 61 ♜g2 g5 +-.



4.7.08 A. Sokolov – I. Novikov
Leningrad (team event) 1982

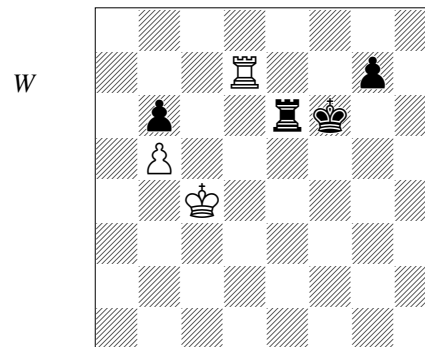
54...♜c6?

This wastes precious time. Black should mobilize his g-pawn with 54...g6! 55 ♜g5 (55 ♜d7 g5 56 ♜c7 g4 57 ♜c6 ♖g7 +-) 55...♖f7 56 ♜g1 ♜f5 57 ♖c4 g5 58 ♜g2 ♖e6 59 ♜e2+ ♜e5 60 ♜g2 (60 ♜h2 ♜c5+ 61 ♖b4 ♜f5 62 ♜h8 g4 63 ♜b8 g3 64 ♜xb6+ ♖f7 65 ♜b7+ ♖g6 66 ♜b8 ♖g7 67 ♜b7+ ♜f7 +-) 60...♜c5+ 61 ♖b4 ♜f5 62 ♜e2+ ♜e5 63 ♜g2 ♜e4+ 64 ♖c3 g4 65 ♜h2 ♖f5 66 ♜f2+ ♜f4 67 ♜g2 ♜f3+ 68 ♖d4 g3 +-.

55 ♖c4!

The only move.

55...♖f7 56 ♜d7+ ♜e7 57 ♜d6 ♜e6 58 ♜d7+ ♖f6 (D)



59 ♜d1

59 ♖d5 also draws due to 59...g5 60 ♜h7 ♖f5 61 ♜h1 ♜g6 (61...♜f6 62 ♜f1+ ♖g6 63 ♜g1 =) 62 ♜f1+ ♖g4 63 ♖e5 ♖g3 64 ♖f5 ♜g8, when White can create counterplay as follows: 65 ♖e4!! g4 66 ♜f6! ♜b8 67 ♖d5 ♖h2 68 ♖c6 g3 69 ♖c7 ♜g8 70 ♖xb6 g2 71 ♜f2 =.

59...g5 60 ♖d5 ♖e7 61 ♜h1?

This is the wrong way to activate the rook. 61 ♖a1! is correct: 61...g4 62 ♖a7+ ♕f6 63 ♖a4 ♖e5+ 64 ♕c6 g3 65 ♕xb6 g2 66 ♖a1! =.

61...♖g6 62 ♕e5 ♖g7?

Black misses the typical trick 62...g4!! 63 ♖h7+ ♕e8 64 ♕f5 g3!! -+.

63 ♖h6?

The activation 63 ♖c1! draws: 63...g4 64 ♖c7+ ♕f8 65 ♖c8+ ♕f7 66 ♕f4 ♕e6 67 ♖c6+ ♕d5 68 ♕g3! =.

63...g4 64 ♖e6+ ♕f7?!

64...♕d7! -+.

65 ♖f6+ ♕e7 66 ♖e6+

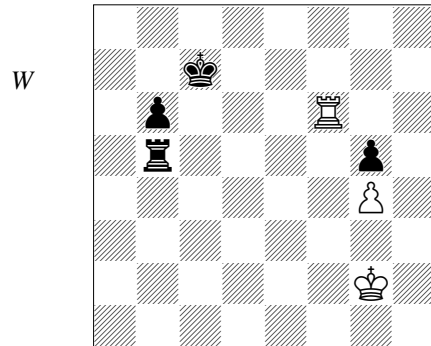
66 ♖xb6 ♖g5+! (66...g3? 67 ♖e6+ ♕d7 68 ♖d6+ =) 67 ♕f4 g3!! -+.

66...♕d7 67 ♖xb6

67 ♖d6+ ♕c7 68 ♖c6+ ♕b7 69 ♖c2 g3 70 ♖g2 ♕c7 -+.

67...♖g5+ 68 ♕f4 g3 69 ♕xg5 g2 70 ♕h6 g1 ♖ 71 ♖g6 ♖h2+ 0-1

One typical draw occurs when the defending king can blockade the passed pawn. So the e-file is often of crucial importance:



4.7.09 Jansa – Marsalek
Czechoslovak Ch, Jablonec 1962

53 ♕f3?

Now White's king is imprisoned. He should play 53 ♖e6!? ♖d5 (53...♕b7 54 ♕f3 ♕a6 55 ♕c4 ♖c5 56 ♖f6 ♕a5 57 ♕d4 ♖b5 58 ♖f5 =) 54 ♕f3 b5 55 ♕e4 ♖c5 56 ♕d3 b4 57 ♕d4! (57 ♖e4? ♖b5 58 ♕c4 ♖b8! 59 ♕b3 ♕d6 -+) 57...♖b5 58 ♕c4 ♖b8 59 ♕b3 =. Now White has reached a safe drawing set-up with the king blockading the passed pawn and the active rook cutting Black's king off.

53...♖e5! 54 ♖g6

54 ♖f5 ♕d6 55 ♖f6+ ♕c5 56 ♖f5 ♕d4 57 ♖f6 b5 -+.

54...b5 55 ♖a6 b4 56 ♖h6 b3 57 ♖h1 b2 58 ♖b1 ♖b5 59 ♕e4 ♕d6 60 ♕d4 ♖b7 61 ♕e4 ♕e6 62 ♕d4 ♕d6 63 ♕e4 ♖b4+ 64 ♕f5 ♖b5+ 65 ♕f6

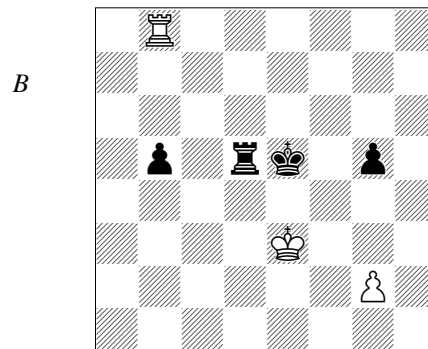
65 ♕e4 ♕c5 66 ♕d3 ♖b4 67 ♕c3 ♖xg4 68 ♖xb2 ♖g3+ -+.

65...♕d7 66 ♕g6 ♕e6 67 ♕h6 ♕d6 68 ♕g6 ♕c6 69 ♕h6 ♕b6 70 ♕g6 ♕a5 71 ♕f6 ♕a4 72 ♖xb2 ♖xb2 73 ♕xg5 ♕b5 74 ♕f6 ♕c6

The typical 74...♖f2+!? is not necessary here, but in general better technique: 75 ♕e6 ♖g2 76 ♕f5 ♕c6 -+.

75 g5 ♕d7 76 g6 0-1

Therefore the attacker should use his rook in a different way:



4.7.10 Timoshchenko – Ljubojević
USSR-Yugoslavia Under-18, Moscow 1969

53...♖c5?

The only way to win is 53...♕f5!! 54 ♕f3 ♖d3+ 55 ♕f2 ♖b3 56 ♖f8+ ♕g4 57 ♖d8 ♖b2+ 58 ♕g1 ♕g3 59 ♖d3+ ♕f4 60 ♕h2 b4 61 ♕h3 ♕e5 62 ♖g3 b3 63 ♖xg5+ ♕d4 64 ♖g4+ ♕c3 65 ♖g3+ ♕b4 66 ♖g4+ ♕a3 67 ♖g8 ♖e2 68 g4 b2 69 ♖a8+ (69 ♕h4 ♖e4 -+) 69...♕b3 70 ♖b8+ ♕c2 71 ♕h4 (71 ♖c8+ ♕d1 72 ♖b8 ♖e3+ 73 ♕h4 ♕c2 -+) 71...♖e3 72 ♖xb2+ ♕xb2 73 ♕g5 ♖f3 -+.

54 ♖b6?

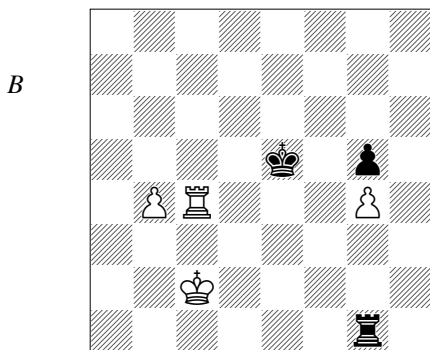
White missed his chance here: 54 g4!! ♕d5 55 ♕d3 ♕c6 56 ♕e4! ♕c7 57 ♖e8 b4 58 ♕d4 ♖b5 59 ♕c4 ♖b6 60 ♕b3 =.

54...♕d5 55 ♕d3 ♕e5 56 ♕e3 g4 57 g3

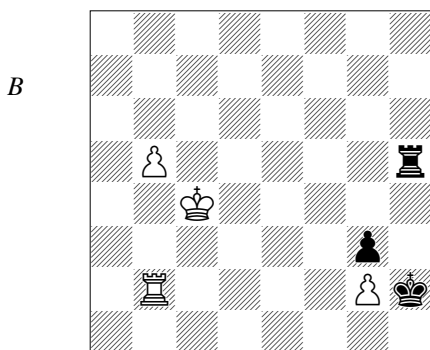
More resilient is 57 ♕f2 ♕f4! 58 ♖f6+ ♕g5 59 ♖b6 ♖c2+ 60 ♕g3 ♖b2 61 ♖c6 ♖b3+ 62

♔h2 b4 63 ♖c5+ ♕f4 64 ♖c4+ ♕f5 65 ♖d4
g3+ 66 ♕h3 ♕e5 67 ♖g4 ♕d5 68 ♖g5+ ♕c4 69
♖g4+ ♕b5 +-.
57...♖c3+ 58 ♕d2 ♖xg3 59 ♖xb5+ ♕f4 60
♕e2 ♖f3 61 ♖b8 ♕g3 0-1

Exercises (solutions: page 272)



E4.7.06: Why was 67...♖g3? a mistake? What else should Black do?



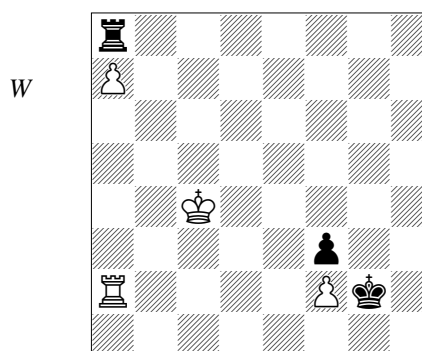
E4.7.07: How should Black defend?

4.7.4) a- and f-Pawns vs f-Pawn

This is similar to the previous section.

White wins with precise play in the following position:

61 ♕c5!
61 ♕b5? ♖xa7 62 ♖xa7 ♕xf2 63 ♕c4 ♕e3
64 ♖a3+ ♕e2 65 ♕d4 f2 66 ♖a2+ ♕f3 =.
61...♖c8+
61...♖xa7 62 ♖xa7 ♕xf2 63 ♕d4 ♕g2 64
♕e3 f2 65 ♖a2 +-.
62 ♕b6 ♖e8 63 ♕c6!! ♕f1



4.7.11 Alatorsev – Chekhover USSR Ch, Tbilisi 1937

63...♖h8 64 ♕b7 ♖h7+ 65 ♕b6 ♖h8 66 ♖c2
♕f1 67 ♕b7 ♖h7+ 68 ♕b8 ♖h8+ 69 ♖c8
♖xc8+ 70 ♕xc8 ♕xf2 71 a8♖ +-.
64 ♕b7 ♖e7+ 65 ♕b6 ♖e8

65...♖e6+ 66 ♕c5 ♖e8 67 a8♖ ♖xa8 68
♖xa8 ♕xf2 69 ♕d4 +-.
66 ♖c2! ♕g2

Even now White has to be careful:

67 ♕b7?

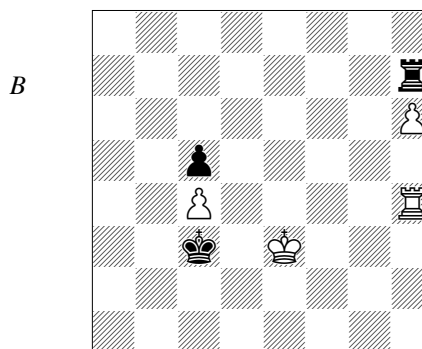
67 ♕c7! ♖e2 68 ♖xe2 fxe2 69 a8♖+ wins
for White.

67...♖e7+?

67...♖e2!! surprisingly draws: 68 a8♖ ♖xc2
= or 68 ♖xe2 fxe2 69 a8♖ e1♖ =.

68 ♕b8! ♖e8+ 69 ♖c8 +-
and White went on to win.

If the defender is more active, the drawing
chances increase:



4.7.12 Boguszlavskij – Bagi Zalakaros 2014

75...♕b4?

This opens a road for White's king. 75...♖b3 blocks the way and defends; e.g., 76 ♖d3 ♜d7+ 77 ♖e2 ♜h7 78 ♖e3 ♖c3 =.

76 ♖d3! ♖b3

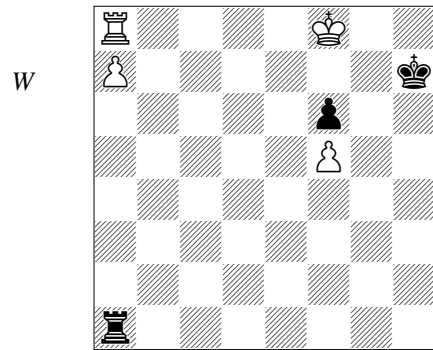
76...♜d7+?! 77 ♖c2 ♜h7 78 ♖b2 ♖a4 79 ♖c3 +-.

77 ♖d2?

The winning line is 77 ♜h2 ♖b4 78 ♜h1!, putting Black in zugzwang. 78...♖b3 (78...♜d7+ 79 ♖e4 ♜h7 80 ♖d5 ♜d7+ 81 ♖c6 ♜h7 82 ♜h4 +-) 79 ♜b1+ ♖a4 80 ♖c3! (80 ♜b6? ♖a5 81 ♜c6 ♖b4 =) 80...♖a5 81 ♜h1 ♖b6 82 ♜h5 ♖c6 83 ♖d3 +-.

77...♜d7+ 78 ♖e3 ♜h7 79 ♖d3 ♜d7+ 80 ♖e3 ♜h7 81 ♖e4 ♖xc4 82 ♖f5+ ♖b3 83 ♖g6 ♜h8 84 ♖g7 ♜c8 85 ♜h3+ ♖b2 1/2-1/2

In this configuration, the pawn can often advance to a7 with the rook in front:



4.7.13 Zurakhov – Vaisman
USSR 1966

White can win, but it is not easy:

1 ♜e8?

The beautiful win 1 ♖f7! ♜a6 2 ♖e7 ♖g7 3 ♖d8! ♜a1 (3...♖h6 4 ♖c7 ♖g7 5 ♖b7 ♜a1 6 ♜b8 +-) 4 ♜c8 ♜xa7 5 ♜c7+ ♜xc7 6 ♖xc7 ♖h6 7 ♖d6 ♖h5 8 ♖e7 ♖g5 9 ♖e6 +- was found by Dolmatov.

1...♜xa7 2 ♜e7+ ♖h8!! 3 ♖f7

3 ♜xa7?! stalemate.

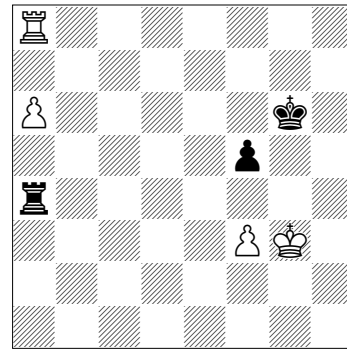
3...♜a6 4 ♖g6 ♜a8 5 ♖xf6 ♖g8?

5...♜a6+! 6 ♜e6 ♜a1 7 ♖f7 ♜a7+ 8 ♜e7 ♜a1 9 f6 ♖h7 10 ♖f8+ ♖g6 11 f7 ♖f6 =.

6 ♖g6 +-

In the following case it is mostly about White's option of playing a7:

B



4.7.14 Hochstrasser – Papa
Swiss Team Ch 2012

58...♖f6?

Black must prevent White from playing f4. 58...f4+ 59 ♖g4 ♖f6 (59...♖g7? 60 ♖f5 ♖h7 61 ♖g5 ♖g7 62 ♜a7+ ♖g8 63 ♖g6 ♖f8 64 ♜a8+ ♖e7 65 a7 ♖d7 66 ♜f8 +-) 60 ♖h5 ♜a5+ 61 ♖h6 ♜a1 62 ♖h5 ♜a5+ 63 ♖g4 ♜a4 64 a7 ♖g7 65 ♖f5 ♖h7 =.

59 f4!

The following winning line with zugzwang is very typical.

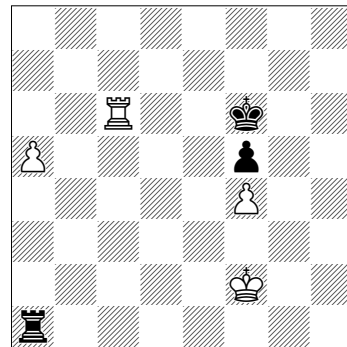
59...♖g6 60 a7 ♖g7 61 ♖f3 ♜a3+ 62 ♖e2 ♖h7 63 ♖d2 ♖g7 64 ♖c2 ♖h7 65 ♖b2 ♜a6 66 ♖b3 ♖g7 67 ♖c4 ♜a5 68 ♖b4 ♜a1 69 ♖c5 ♜c1+ 70 ♖d6 ♜a1 71 ♖e5 ♜a5+ 72 ♖e6

Black is in zugzwang.

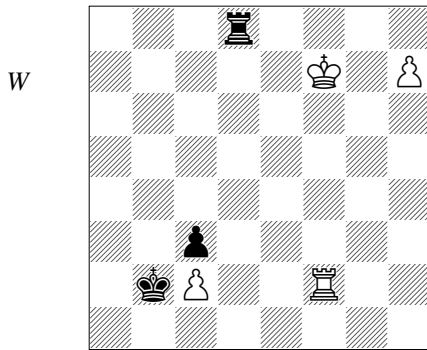
72...♖h7 73 ♖f6 ♜a1 74 ♖xf5 ♖g7 75 ♖g5 ♜g1+ 76 ♖h4 ♜a1 77 f5 ♜h1+ 78 ♖g3 ♜g1+ 79 ♖h2 ♜a1 80 f6+ 1-0

Exercises (solutions: page 272)

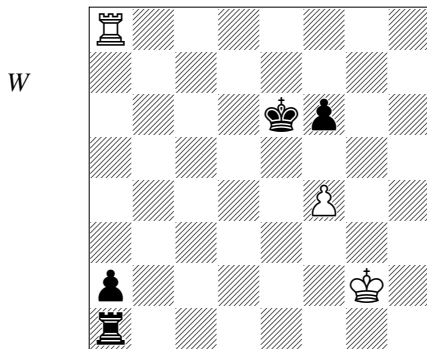
B



E4.7.08: Which square should the black king retreat to?



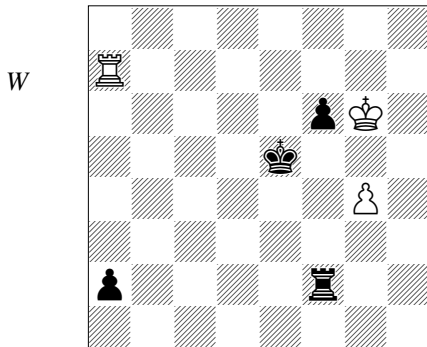
E4.7.09: White to play and win.



E4.7.10: In the game White missed the right defence. Can you do better?

4.7.5) a- and f-Pawns vs g-Pawn

This can be very deep. If the attacking rook is well placed it is usually won when the bishop's pawn is on its third rank:



4.7.15 Callergard – Schipkov
Miskolc 1989

White cannot stop Black's king:

78 ♖a5+

78 ♖a4 ♔d5! 79 ♔f7 ♕c5 80 ♔g6 ♖b5 81 ♜a8 ♖b4 82 ♜a6 ♖b3 83 ♜b6+ ♕c2 84 ♜a6 ♖b1 85 ♜b6+ ♕a1! 86 ♔h5 (86 ♜b4 ♜b2 87 ♜f4 ♜b6 -+) 86...f5 87 g5 ♜h2+ 88 ♔g6 f4 -+.

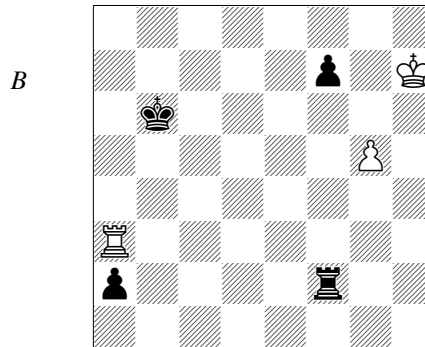
78...♔f4 79 ♔xf6?!

After 79 ♜a4+!? ♔g3 80 ♔h6!? the win is still complicated, the only winning move being 80...♔f3!! (80...♜f1? 81 ♜xa2 ♔xg4 82 ♜a4+!! ♜f4 83 ♜a1 f5 84 ♔g6 ♜f3 85 ♜g1+ ♔f4 86 ♔f6 =) 81 ♔g6 ♕e3 -+.

Furthermore after 79 ♜a4+ ♔g3 80 ♔g7, 80...a1♙?? is premature due to 81 ♜xa1 ♔xg4 82 ♔g6 f5 83 ♜g1+ ♔h3 84 ♔g5 f4 85 ♔f5 f3 86 ♔f4 ♜g2 87 ♜h1+ =. Black should play 80...♜f1! 81 ♜xa2 ♔xg4 82 ♜a4+ ♔g5! -+.

79...♔xg4+ 80 ♔e6 ♜d2 0-1

With the bishop's pawn on its second rank, some deep ideas are involved as the counterplay is quicker:



4.7.16 Ftačnik – Avrukh
Bundesliga 2007/8

52...♜g2 0-1??

White resigned, but the position is drawn:

53 ♜a8 ♖b5 54 ♜a3 ♖b4 55 ♜a7!

55 ♜a8? ♖b3! -+.

55...♖b3 56 ♜b7+ ♕c2 57 ♜c7+ ♖b1 58 ♜b7+ ♕a1

58...♜b2 59 ♜xf7 a1♙ 60 ♜f1+ =.

59 ♔h6! ♜f2 60 ♔g7 ♜f1 61 ♔h6!!

The king clears the road in the right way. Not 61 ♔h7? f5!! 62 g6 ♜h1+ 63 ♔g8 ♜b1 64 ♜f7 ♖b2 -+.

61...f5 62 g6! ♜b1

62...♜h1+ 63 ♔g5 =.