

Problem Page 6 September 2012 For Beginners!

DOUBLE CHECK This is one of the most satisfying moves you can play - 2 pieces check your opponent's King at the same time. This is achieved by means of one discovered check plus one direct check.

As the check is a double then your opponent has to move his/her K (although sometimes that move involves taking one of your checking pieces).

Look at position (a) with Black to move. The R indirectly attacks the white K but that attack is blocked by black's own B. The B, however, controls the same colour squares that both the white K and Q occupy.

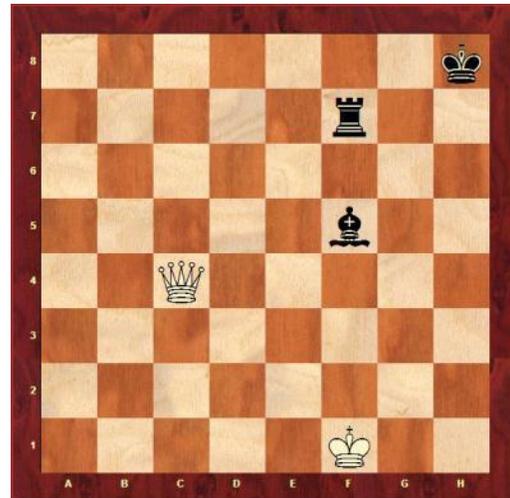
So black plays the tremendous move Bd3 which is double check (if you are not sure of chess notation – [go here](#) – it is very easy to learn!). Note that both black's R and B are attacked by the white Q but because it is double check neither can be taken and so white has to move the K and then black takes the Q next move (and should win the game).

Now try the 2 exercises below

(Answers at bottom of page)

Problem B1

a)



b)



Problem B2



a) White to use a double check to win black's queen and draw the game



a) White to play and checkmate in 2 using a double check as the first move

b) Black to play and checkmate in 2 using a double check as the first move

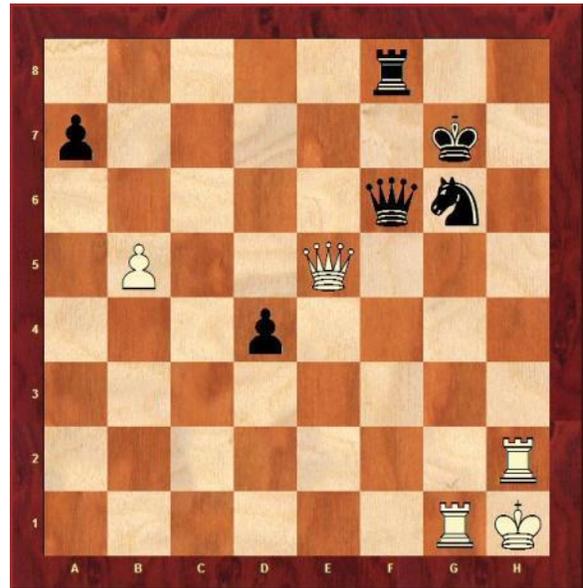
This month's problems - Novice (answers next month)

Problem N11



N11a) Black to play – with checkmate in 3!

Problem N12



N12) White to play and yet another mate in 3

N11b) If it is White to play what would you suggest?

This month's problems - Intermediate (answers next month)

Problem I11



I11) A position from the play-off for the recent British Championship. Gawain Jones (black) had been a queen down for most of the game but continued to play aggressively and in this position found a winning line. Can you be a future British Champion and find the best line for black?

Problem I12



I12) Black to play - what is the best strategy (and move)?

I12) If it were white's move what would you play and why?

Solution to last month's problems - Novice

Problem N9

Problem N10



N9a) White to play – how does he/she win a piece?

1. **Rxe7+ Rxe7**
2. **Rxa8 and wins a piece**

N9b) If it is Black to play what would you suggest?

1. **Rxa7**
2. **Rxa7 Kf8 (or Kg3)**



N10a) Black has played the opening better than White and can now win a piece – how?

1. **Nxe4**
2. **Qxe4 d5 and the pawn forks the bishop and queen**

N10 b) Was there a second good alternative for Black?

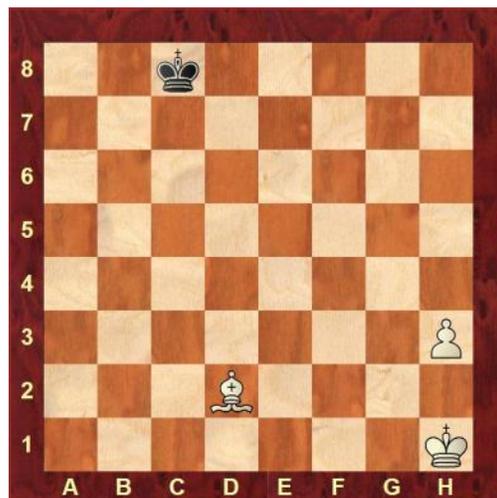
1. **Re8 with the threat of pinning the white queen against the king**

Solution to last month's problems - Intermediate

Problem 19



Problem 110



I9a) How should Black play and what is the result?

a) Black scampers the King across to the queening square h8 (using the dark squares d8,e7,f8,g7 and h8 to avoid any checks by the bishop). The black King then moves between the squares h8,g7 and g8 and as the white bishop does not control the queening square the pawn cannot be promoted (try it!). So the game is drawn.

I9b What happens if it White to move first?

I9c) Is the result the same if the white pawn is on h5 rather than h3 at the start?

b) It will still take White 5 moves for the pawn to be promoted and Black only 4 moves to reach g7 (and thus control the queening square). So still a draw.

c) Now it will only take 3 moves to promote the pawn so White wins the race and the game by h6,h7,h8=Q .

I10a) Black to play – can he prevent the pawn from promoting and save the game?

a) Now White can control the queening square h8 with the dark square bishop (which moves to c3). White simply marches the King and Pawn together up the board. If necessary the bishop can be moved to b2 (or d4) to lose a move so that the black King is forced to move away from the h8, g7, g8 area and allow the pawn to promote.

Answers to Beginners questions

Problem B1

a) White plays

1 Nf4+ (or Ne5+)

Black has to move the K (say 2. Kg7) and then black's reply

2..... Bxh7

wins the white Q when after

3 Kxh7

the game is a draw as neither side can checkmate with just K + B.

Problem B2

a) White plays

1 Rh4+ (so now black K is in check by both the white R and Q) so black has to reply

1..... Kg7

Then white plays

2 Rh8++ (or 2 Qh8++)

b) Black plays

1.... Ne3+ (or 1.... Ng3+) so white K is in check by both black's R and N and so has to move

2. Kg8

Then blacks plays

2..... Rf1++