

## StrateGems 2010 Studies Award (publ. SG 56F-2011)

By Iuri Akobia

Nineteen studies were published in StrateGems 2010. Ten were excluded from the awards for the following reasons:

**E0181** and **E0185** (Poisson). The studies are too simple with forced play and lacking tries. A multi-phase approach is recommended.

**E0182** (Vrabec) The study has a dual: 3.e6! Kb2 4.Kc4! (authors move 4.Ka4?) Se3+ 5.Kxb4 Sc2+ 6.Kc4 Sd4 7.e7 Sf5 8.e8S!=;

**E0183** (Josten) The main idea of the study is well known. For example, there is N. Bakke & M. Bergvoll, 1976. Added introduction play did not add anything interesting.

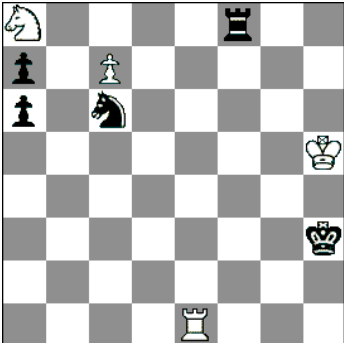
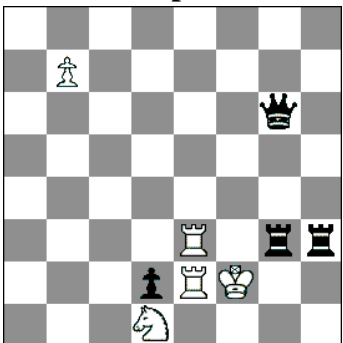
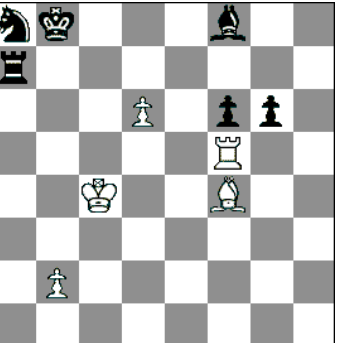
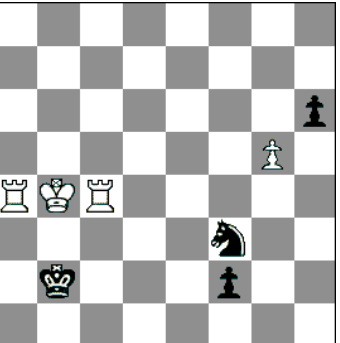
**E0186** (Kostadinov & Stanchev) The position after the fifth move can be seen in the study of M. Garcia, 2000 (see No.67432 in the base HvdH IV). Unfortunately, the authors added five moves to force the white Bishop to g8.

**E0187** and **E0193** (Marković) Very heavy positions makes these problems difficult to be considered as studies. Many pieces on the board have no role.

**E0189** (Nikitin) Very short mechanical play. The same can be said about **E0184**.

**E0194** (Nikitin) Author's move 5.Se6 losses after 5...Kxe6 6.Sd4 Kd6 (or Kd7)-+. Need to play 5.Sd7+! and win with a short play. But, where is a study? I understand, the author is a beginner. He needs to learn from classical works.

A now for the awarded entries:

E0195	E0180	E091	E0198
Franjo Vrabec(Sweden) 1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Gunter Amann (AUT) M.Minski (Germany) 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	Gerhard Josten(Germany) 1 <sup>st</sup> HM	Alain Pallier(France) Marcel Dore(France) 2 <sup>nd</sup> HM
			
+	+	+	+

**1st Prize - (Franjo Vrabec - E0195) 1.Re3+!!** This is the key move. White must force the black King to the second rank. The reason for this will soon become obvious. Thematic try 1.Re6!? Sb4! (1...Sd4? 2.Rd6 Rxa8 3.Rxd4 Rc8 4.Rc4+-) 2.Rd6 Rxa8 3.Rd8 Rc8!! (3...Sd5? 4.Rxd5 Rc8 5.Rc5+-) 4.Rxc8 Sd5! 5.Kg5 Kg3 6.Kh6 Kh4 7.Kg7 Kg5 8.Kf7 Kf5 9.Ke8 Ke6 10.Kd8 Kd6=, **1...Kh2!** (1...Kg2 2.Re6 Sb4 (2...Sd4 3.Rg6+! Kh3 4.Rd6 Rxa8 5.Rxd4 Rc8 6.Rc4 a5 7.Rc3+ Kg2 8.Kg4! a4 9.Rc2+ Kf1 10.Kf5 a3 11.Ke6 a2 12.Rc1+ Ke2 13.Kd7+-) 3.Rd6 Rxa8 4.Rd8 Sd5 5.Rxd5 Rc8 6.Rc5 Kf3 (6...a5 7.Kg4! a4 8.Rc2+ Kf1 9.Kf5+-) 7.Kg5 Ke4 8.Kf6 Kd4 9.Rc1 Kd5 10.Ke7+-) **2.Re6 Sb4** 2...Sd4 3.Rd6 Rxa8 4.Rxd4 Rc8 5.Rc4 a5 6.Kg4+-; 2...Rxa8 3.Rxc6 Rc8 4.Kg5+-**3.Rd6 Rxa8 4.Rd8 Rc8!** 4...Sd5 5.Rxd5 Rc8 6.Rc5 a5 7.Kg4!+-**5.Rxc8 Sd5 6.Kg4!**6.Kh6? Kh3 7.Kg7 Kg4 8.Kf7 Kf5 9.Ke8 Ke6 10.Kd8 Kd6=; 6.Kg5!? Kg3 and position of the thematic try after 5.Kg3= **6...Kg2 7.Kh4! Kh2 8.Rf8!! Sxc7 9.Rf2+ Kg1 10.Kg3 Sb5 11.Rf3! Sd4** 11...Sd6 12.Rd3 Se4+ 13.Kf3 Sg5+ 14.Kg4+-**12.Rd3! Sf5+ 13.Kg4!** and easy win. The very purely constructed study with logic character. The unconditional winner of the given competition

**2nd Prize - (Günter Amann & Martin Minski - E0180) 1.Kf1+! Kh1 2.Sf2+ Kh2 3.b8Q Qb1+ 4.Sd1+ Kh1 5.Qxg3** (5.Qxb1? Rg1+ 6.Kf2 Rg2+ 7.Kf1 Rg1+=) **5...Qxd1+ 6.Kf2 Rh2+** (6...Rxc3 7.Rxc3 Qf1+ 8.Kxf1 d1Q+ 9.Re1 Qd7 10.Kf2+ Kh2 11.Rg2+ Kh3 12.Rh1#) **7.Qxh2+ Kxh2 8.Re6!!** A difficult key move! Other white Rook moves fail. Thematic try 8.Re5!? Kh3 zz =; 8.Re7? Qb1! =; 8.Re8? Qa1! =; 8.Re4! Qg1+ 9.Kf3+ Kh3= **8...Kh3 9.R6e5** zz (9.R6e4? Qf1+ 10.Kxf1 d1Q+ 11.Kf2 Qd8! =) **9...Qf1+ 10.Kxf1 d1Q+ 11.Kf2 Kg4**

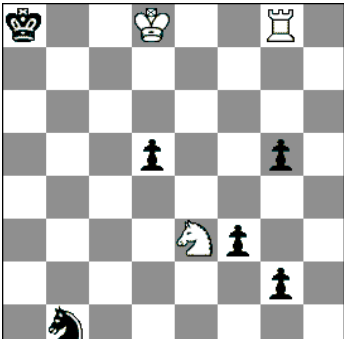
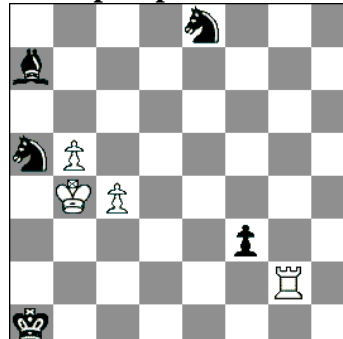
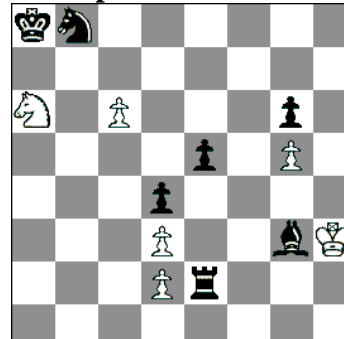
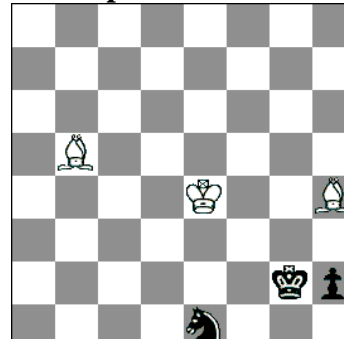
**12.Kg2 Kf4 13.R2e4#** An interesting struggle of heavy pieces ends with a model mate. It is a pity that, in both phases, the reciprocal zugzwangs arise at 6 pieces. In spite of this, the study deserves the high placing.

**1st Honorable Mention - (Gerhard Josten - E0191) 1.d7+! Rc7+ (1...Kb7 2.Rb5+ (d8Q) 2...Sb6+ 3.Rxb6+-) 2.Kb5 (2.Bxc7+? Kxc7 3.Rxf6 Be7 (Bg7)=) 2...Be7 3.Ka6 gxf5 4.b3!! zz . Thematic try 4.b4!? Bd8! zz 5.b5 Be7 6.b6 Sxb6 7.Kxb6 Bc5+ ( Bd8)= 4...Bd8 5.b4 zz Be7 6.b5 Bd8 7.b6 zz Be7 8.bxc7+ Sxc7+ 9.Kb6 Bd8 10.Kc6+- .** An interesting struggle with mutual zugzwang.

**2nd Honorable Mention - (Alain Pallier & Marcel Doré - E0198) 1.Ra2+! (1.Rc2+? Kxc2 2.Ra2+ Kd3 (Kd1) 3.Rxf2 Sxg5=) 1...Kxa2 2.Rc2+ Kb1 3.Rxf2 Sxg5 4.Kc4! Kc1 5.Kd3 Se6! 6.Rf5! (6.Kc3? Kd1 7.Rf6 Sg5 8.Kd3 Ke1 9.Ke3 Sh3! 10.Rg6 Kf1!=; 6.Rc2+? Kd1 7.Rf2 Sc5+! 8.Kd4 Se6+ 9.Kd3 Sc5+=) 6...Kb2! 7.Re5 (7.Rf6? Sc5+ 8.Kc4 Se4 9.Rf4 Sd2+=) 7...Sg5 8.Rb5+ Kc1 (moves 7 and 8 can be inverted) 9.Rf5! Kb2 10.Rf6! h5! 11.Rh6!**

**A) - 11...Kb3 12.Rb6+ Thematic try 12.Rxh5!? Se6 13.Rb5+ Ka4 14.Rb6 Sc7 15.Kc4 Ka5 16.Rb7 Sa6=; 12...Ka4 13.Kc4+-;**

**B) - 11...Sf3! 12.Rxh5 Se1+ 13.Kd2 Sf3+ 14.Ke2 Sd4+ 15.Kd3 Sc6 16.Kc4!+-** A logical study with a choice of the first move. Unfortunately, the play very quickly passes to the territory of EGTB and the struggle R vs. S. It is difficult to consider this part of the study as original.

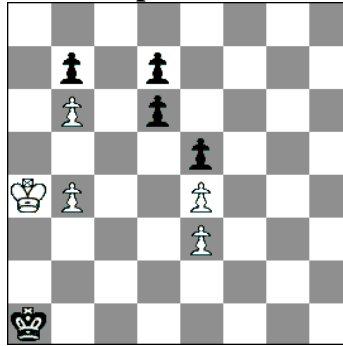
E0196	E0188	E0190	E0192
Janos Mikitovics (Ungary) 3 <sup>rd</sup> HM	Richard Becker(USA) Spec. prize	Franjo Vrabec(Sweden) Spec. HM	Marcel Dore(France) 1 <sup>st</sup> spec. comm.
			
+	=	=	= b) Bb5->e8

**3rd Honorable Mention - (Janos Mikitovics - E0196) 1.Kc7+! Ka7 2.Rxg5 Ka6 (2...Sc3 3.Kc6 Ka6 4.Rg8 Ka7 5.Rg4 Se2 6.Sxg2 f2 7.Rxg2 Sc3 8.Rg1 d4 9.Ra1+ Kb8 10.Ra3+-) 3.Kc6! (3.Rg8? Kb5 4.Rb8+ Kc5! 5.Rxb1 Kd4!)=) 3...Ka5 (3...Sc3 4.Rg8! Ka7 5.Rg4! Se2 6.Sxg2 f2 7.Rxg2 Sc3 8.Rg1! d4 9.Ra1+ Kb8 10.Ra3!) 4.Kxd5 Kb4 5.Ke4! (5.Kd4? Sc3 6.Kd3 Kb3 7.Sc4 Sb1 8.Se3 Sc3 9.Sc4 Sb1=) 5...Sd2+ 6.Kd3! Sc4 7.Sd5+! (7.Sc2+? Ka4! 8.Se3 f2! 9.Rxg2 Sxe3 10.Rxf2 Sd5 11.Kc4 Sb6+ 12.Kc5 Sd7+ 13.Kc6 Se5+ 14.Kd5 Sd3=; 7.Kd4? f2 8.Rxg2 Sxe3 9.Rxf2 Sc4=) 7...Kb3 8.Rg3!! f2 9.Ke2+-** Despite the g2-Pawn, White finds a way to win.

**Special Prize - (Richard Becker - E0188) 1.Rd2! [1.Rg3? f2 2.Rf3 Sb7 -, or 1.Rh2? Bg1! 2.Rd2 f2 3.Rd1+ Kb2 4.Kxa5 Sd6! 5.c5 (5.b6 Sxc4+ 6.Ka6 Sxb6 -) 5...Sc4+! 6.Ka6 Se3 7.Rd2+ Kc3 8.Rxf2 Bxf2 9.b6 (9.c6 Sd5 10.Kb7 Bb6 -) 9...Sd5 10.b7 Sb4+ 11.Ka7 (11.Kb6 Bg3 12.c6 Bb8 -) 11...Sc6+ 12.Ka8 Bg3 13.b8Q Sxb8 14.Kb7 Sd7 15.c6 Sc5+ 16.Kb6 Se6 -] 1...Sb7 (1...f2 2.Rd1+ Kb2 3.Kxa5 Kc2 4.Rf1 =, or 1...Bb6 2.c5 =) 2.Kb3 Sa5+ (2...Sc5+ 3.Ka3 Kb1 4.Rf2 =) 3.Kb4 Sxc4 4.Rd7! [4.Kxc4? f2 5.Rd1+ Kb2 6.Kd3 Sd6 7.Ke2 Se4 8.Rd3 (8.b6 Bx6 9.Rd3 Bc5 transposes) 8...Kc2 9.Rf3 (9.Ra3 Sc3+ 10.Kf1 Bc5 -) 9...Bb6 10.Rh3 Sd2 11.Rh1 Bc5! {zz} 12.b6 Bxb6 13.Rd1 Se4 14.Rd2+ Kc1 15.Rd1+ Kb2 16.Rd3 Bc5 17.Rh3 (17.Rf3 Kc2 18.Rh3 Sc3+ 19.Kf1 Kd2 20.Rh5 Be3 -) 17...Sd2 18.Rh1 Kc2 19.Rd1 Se4 20.Rd2+ Kb3 21.Rd3+ Sc3+ 22.Kf1 Kc2 23.Rf3 Se4 24.Ke2 Bd4 25.Rh3 Sc3+ 26.Kf1 Kd2 27.Rh4 Be3 -] 4...Bb6 5.Kxc4 (5.Rd1+? Kb2 6.Kxc4 Kc2 7.Rf1 f2 8.Kd5 Kd3 9.Kc6 Ke2! 10.Rb1 Bd4 11.b6 Sf6 12.b7 Be5 -) 5...f2 6.Rd1+ Kb2 7.Kd3 (7.Kd5? Kc2 8.Rf1 Kd3 -) 7...Sd6 8.Ke2 Se4 9.Rd3 (9.Kf3? Kc2 -) 9...Sc3+ 10.Kf1 Se4 (10...Kc2 11.Rd6 =) 11.Ke2 (11.Kg2? Kc2 -) 11...Bc5 12.Rf3! (12.Rh3? Sd2 13.Rh1 Kc2 {zz}) 12...Kc1 13.Rd3! Kb2 14.Rf3 Kc2 15.Rh3! Sc3+ 16.Kf1 Sb1 17.Ke2 Sd2 18.Rh1 {zz} Bb6 (18...Ba7 19.Ra1 =) 19.Rd1 Se4 20.Rd2+ Kc3 21.Rd3+ Kc2 22.Rd2+ Kb3 23.Rd3+ Kb2 (23...Sc3+ 24.Kf1 Kc2 25.Rd6 =) 24.Rh3! (24.Rf3? Kc2 25.Rh3 Sd2 26.Rh1 Bc5 {zz}) 24...Sc3+ (24...Kc2 25.Rh2 =) 25.Kf1 Sb1 26.Ke2 Sd2 27.Rh1 Kc2 28.Rd1 Se4 29.Rd2+ Sxd2 Stalemate. The author repeatedly uses this idea, but he always manages to find something new. Despite the complexity of some lines, the content is very rich.**

**Special Honorable Mention - (Franjo Vrabec - E0190) 1.c7! Rh2+ 2.Kg4!!** (2.Kxg3 Rh8 3.cxb8Q+ Rxb8 4.Sxb8 Kxb8–+) **2...Rh4+** (2...Rh8 3.cxb8Q+ Rxb8 4.Sxb8 Kxb8 5.Kxg3 **3.Kf3! Rh8 4.cxb8Q+ Rxb8 5.Sxb8 Kxb8 6.Kxg3 Kb7! 7.Kh3!** zz (7.Kg2? Kc6 zz –+; 7.Kh2? Kc7 zz –+) **7...Kc6 8.Kg2!** zz **Kd5 9.Kf3** zz **Ke6 10.Kg4** zz **Kd7 11.Kh3** zz **Kc6 12.Kg2** zz **Kd5 13.Kf3** zz – draw A rework of an earlier study from SG 2006.

**E0197**  
**Alain Pallier(France)**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> spec.comm.**



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**1st Special Commendation - (Marcel Doré - E0192) 1.Kf4!** (1.Ke3? Sc2+ 2.Kf4 Sb4!! 3.Be2 Sd5+ 4.Kg4 Se3+ 5.Kf4 Kh3 6.Kxe3 h1Q–+) **1...Kg1 2.Bc6 Sg2+ 3.Kf3!! h1Q** (3...Sxh4+ 4.Kg3) **4.Bf2+ Kh2** (4...Kf1 5.Bb5#) **5.Bg3+ Kg1** (5...Kh3 6.Bd7#) **6.Bf2+=; B) 1.Ke3!** (1.Kf4? Sd3+ 2.Ke3 Se5!!–+; 1.Bc6? Kh3! 2.Ke3 Sg2+ 3.Kf2 h1Q–+) **1...Kh3 2.Bd7+** (2.Bc6? Sg2+ 3.Kf2 h1Q 4.Bd7+ Kxh4–+) **2...Kxh4 3.Bc6 Kg3 4.Bh1! Sg2+ 5.Ke2= (A)** A pleasant super miniature.

**2nd Special Commendation - (Alain Pallier - E0197) 1.Kb5!** Thematic try 1.Kb3!? d5 (1...Kb1? 2.Kc4 Kc2 3.Kd5 Kd3 4.Kxd6 Kxe4 5.b5+–) 2.exd5 d6 3.e4 Kb1=, **1...Kb2** (1...d5 2.Kc5+–) (2.exd5 d6 3.Kc4 Kb2 4.Kd3 Kb3=) **2.Kc4 Ka3** (2...Kc2 3.Kd5 Kd3 4.Kxd6 Kxe4 5.b5 Kxe3 6.Kxe5+–) **3.Kd5 Kxb4 4.Kxd6 Kb5 5.Kxd7 Kxb6 6.Kd6** zz **Ka5 7.Kxe5 b5 8.Kd4!** (8.Kd5!/? Kb6 zz 9.Kd6 b4=) **8...Kb6 9.Kd5** zz **b4 10.Kc4+–** At first sight this study satisfies some modern requirements. It shows reciprocal zugzwang with a thematic try. However, the thematic try is not enough for the higher placement, also, the position of zz arises only in a setting with six pieces. This is a pity!

Many thanks to Iuri for his (as always) excellent work. Please send claims of anticipation to Franjo Vrabec no later than January 31st , 2012.