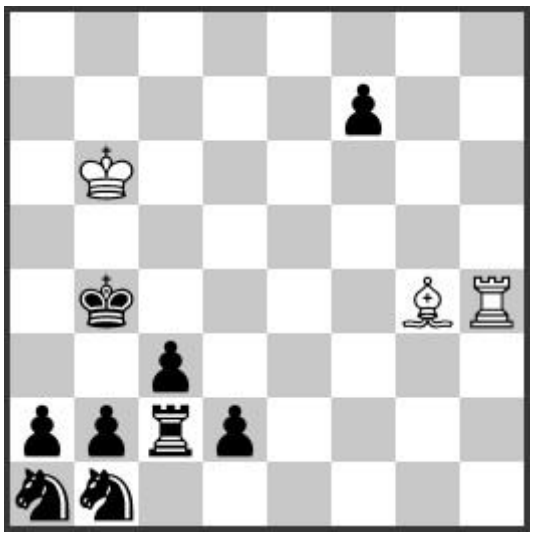
Marcin Banaszek
after Jorma Pitkänen
The Problemist 07/2025



#14 ***3+9*** ***C+***

FEN: 8/5p2/1K6/8/1k4BR/2p5/pprp4/nn6

Mate in 14 moves

1. Be6+? Ka3 2. Kb5 f:e6!
1. Bh5+? Ka3 2. Kb5 Rc1! 3. Ra4+ Kb3 4. B:f7+ Kc2! *or* ***3. B:f7 d1Q,B!***

1. Bd1+! Ka3 2. Kb5! zz *(2. Ka5? Sb3+! 3. Kb5 Sd4+!)* ***2… Kb3*** *(2…Sb3, Rc1? 3. Ra4#)* ***3. Rb4+ Ka3 4. Ra4+ Kb3 5. Ka5! zz f6*** *(5…Sa3? 6. Rb4#)* ***6. Rb4+ Ka3 7. Kb5! zz f5*** *(7…Sb3, Rc1? 8. Ra4#)* ***8. Ra4+ Kb3 9. Ka5! zz f4*** *(9…Sa3? 10. Rb4#)* ***10. R:f4 zz Ka3*** *(10…Sa3? 11. Rb3#)* ***11. Ra4+ Kb3 12. Rb4+ Ka3 13. Kb5! zz Sb3****, Rc1* ***14. Ra3#***

1. … Kb3 2. Ka5! zz *(2. Kb5? Sa3+! 3. Ka5 Sc4+!)* ***2… Ka3*** *(2…Sa3? 3. Rb4#)* ***3. Ra4+ Kb3 4. Rb4+ Ka3 5. Kb5! zz f6*** *(5…Sb3, Rc1? 6. Ra4#)* ***6. Ra4+ Kb3 7. Ka5! zz f5*** *(7…Sa3? 8. Rb4#)* ***8. Rb4+ Ka3 9. Kb5! zz f4*** *(9…Sb3, Rc1? 10. Ra4#)* ***10. R:f4 zz Kb3*** *(10…Sb3? 11. Ra3#)* ***11. Rb4+ Ka3 12. Ra4+ Kb3 13. Ka5! zz Sa3 14. Rb3#***

An extension and improvement of the idea by Jorma Pitkänen, The Problemist, Jul 2014, #13. Repeated pendulum moves of two white pieces involving the black king to force black into a zugzwang position several times in order to force a black self-block at the end. The idea is presented in two full-length chameleon-like variations. Meredith form, dual avoidance on the second move, avoidance of defences with check.

The comparison with Pitkänen's problem (https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P1425408):
a) Extension: the idea was extended by one move, with a branching into two chameleon-echo-like variations with dual avoidance (instead of a single-linear solution).
b) Improvement: presentation in meredith form (4 pieces less), all three white pieces play actively (in Pitkänen's problem one white piece is passive).

Reutlingen, 31.07.2025