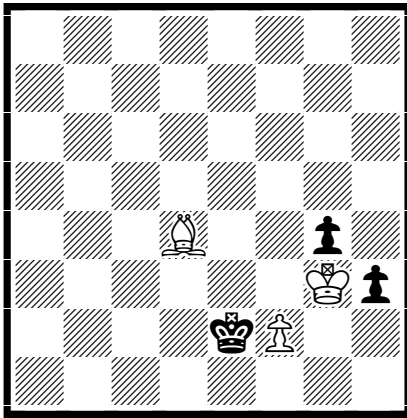# Mini-Lessons From Games Of 21st Century

By IM Nikolay Minev

Unique and Instructive Endgame Draws

This month features some examples from play of interesting endgame draws. Along with the examples from play are included some analysis and additional games to further illuminate the illustrated themes. We begin with a basic position that is worthy of examination. White has substantial extra material, but cannot make progress.
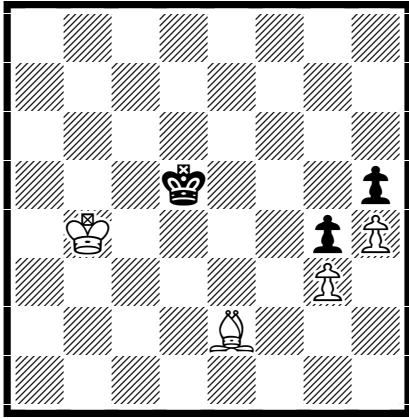
Analysis

Draw

White can only make progress with the Bishop on the h2-b8 diagonal. This would free the White King from watching the h-pawn, and allow the capture of the g-pawn. However, redeploying the Bishop in this way allows the Black King to shuttle between d4 and e4, and prevent any access to the g-pawn from the other side. If the White King tries an outflanking maneuver, the position with the Black King at f3 and the White Bishop at g3 allows …h2, which draws.

I. Bogachkov – V. Selin
Russia 2009

Black to move. Draw.

1…Kd4!!

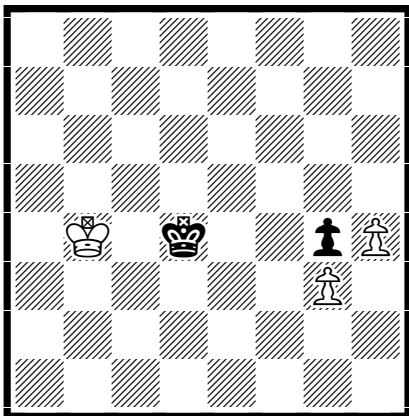1…Ke4 2.Bxg4 hxg4 3.Kc4! Ke5 4.Kc5 Ke4 5.Kd6 Kf3 (5…Kf5 6.Kd5 and wins) 6.h5 and White wins.

2.Bxg4

Or 2.Kb5 Ke3 3.Bxg4 Kf2!=

2…hxg4 =

I. Bogachkov – V. Selin
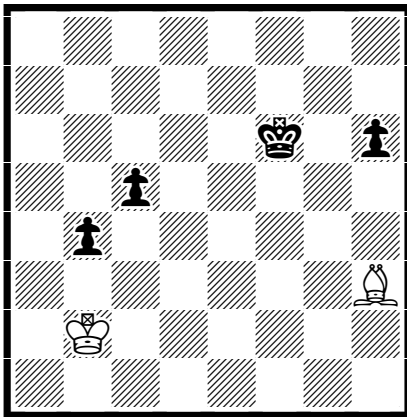Russia 2009

White to move. Draw.

1.Kb3 Kd5 2.Kc3

Or 2.Ka4 Ke4!, or 2.Ka2 Ke4 3.Ka3 Ke5 4.Kb2 Kd4, or 2.Kb2 Kd6! 3.Kc3 Ke5!=

2…Ke5 3.Kc2 Ke4 4.Kc3 Ke5 5.Kd3 Kd5 6.h5 Ke5 7.h6 Kf6 8.Ke4 Kg6 9.Kf4 Kxh6 10.Kxg4 Kg6 1/2-1/2

(Analysis by I. Bogachkov)

Grishchuk
Informant 78/2000

White to move. Draw.

1.Kb3 h5 2.Kc4 h4 3.Bc8 Ke5 4.Bd7 Kf4

Or 4…Ke4 5.Ba4 h3 6.Kxc5 =

5.Be6 Ke4 6.Bc8
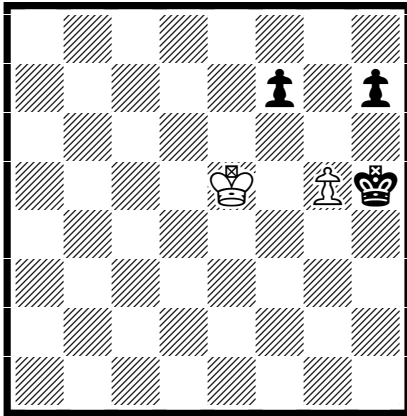
If 6.Kxc5? Ke5! and Black wins.

Kf3 7.Bb7+! Kf4 8.Bg2 Ke3

8…Kg3 9.Bd5=

9.Bh3 Kd2 10.Bf5 Kc1 11.Kxc5 b3 12.Kd4 b2 13.Ke3 =

If the initial position has a Black pawn at a5 instead of c5, the position is winning. For example, 1.Kb3 h5 2.Ka4 h4 3.Bd7 Ke5 4.Bc8 Ke4! and the White King cannot reach the h-pawn as in our example.
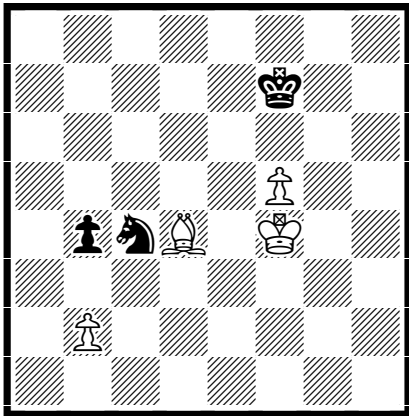

Analysis

White to move. Draw

1.Kf5!

1.Kf4?? Kh4 2.Kf5 Kg3 and Black wins.

1…Kh4 2.Kf4! Kh3 3.Kf3! Kh2 4.Kf2! =
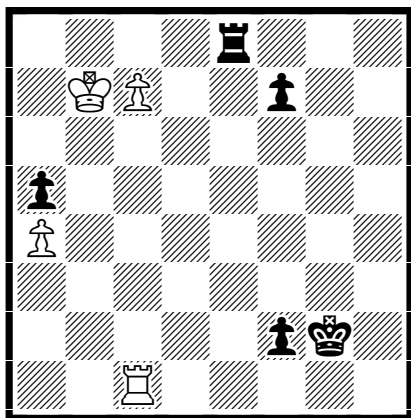
Kozul – Zaja
Pula 1997

Black to move. Draw.

1…Na5! 2.Ke4

2.Bc5 Nc4 =

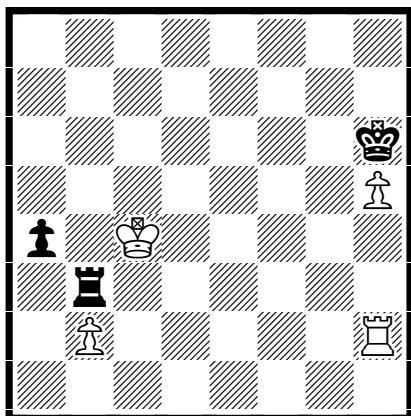**2…Nb3! 3.Kd5 Na1! 4.Kc4 b3 1/2-1/2**

E. Lie – F. Urkeda;
Norway (ch) Bergen 2009

White to move. Draw.

52.Kb6!! Rc8 53.Kb7! Re8 54.Kb6 f1=Q 55.Rxf1 Kxf1 56.Kxa5 f5 57.Kb6 f4 58.Kb7 f3 59.c8=Q Rxc8 60.Kxc8 f2 61.a5 Kg1 62.a6 f1=Q 63.a7 Qa6+ 64.Kb8 Qb6+ 65.Ka8 Qc7   1/2 – 1/2

I. Kurnosov – B. Lalic
Germany (Bundesliga) 2009
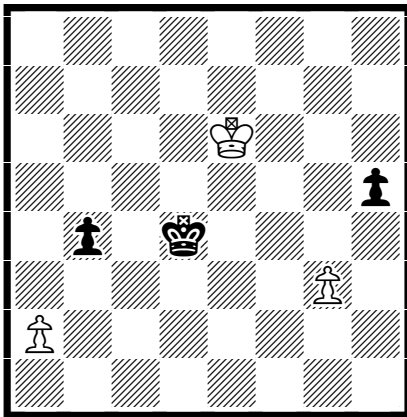
Black to move. Draw.

1…Kg7!

It is against the natural instinct of almost any player to give up the blockade of the passed pawn. Nonetheless, by doing so, Black effectively gives the move back to White. In the game Black played 1…Rb8? and lost after 2.Kc3 Rb3+ 3.Kc2 Rg3 4.Rh1 Rf3 5.Rh4 a3 6.b3 Rf1 7.Ra4 Kxh5 8.Rxa3 Kg6 9.b4 Rf2+ 10.Kb3 Kf7 11.Ka4 Ke7 12.Rd2 Ra2+ 13.Kb5 Ra8 14.Kc6 1-0

2.h6+ Kh7 =

B. Yildiz – E. Danielian
Istanbul 2009

White to move. Draw.

1.Ke7!!

In the game White played 1.Kd6? Ke4 2.Kc5 Kf3 3.Kxb4 Kxg3 4.a4.h4 5.Kb5 h3 6.Kb6 h2 7.a5 h1=Q 8.Ka7 Qh7+ 9.Kb8 Qb1+ 10.Ka7 Qb5 0-1

1…Kc3

Or 1…Ke3 2.Kf6 Kf3 3.Kg5 =

2.Kd6 =

(Analysis by M. Mikhalchishin)