FAIRINGS…   Nº 8: May 2010
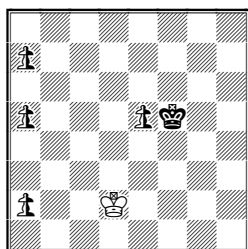
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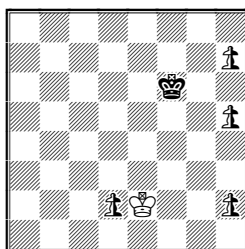
In this special issue all the problems are single-solution h#2s with Couscous Circe (captured units reappear on the *capturer*'s rebirth square, Ps promoting instantly if on the 1st/8th). The first 9 problems show Allumwandlung with the minimum material K + k + 4 nPs, a form already used by Torsten Linß in the examples given at the end. With 24 different orders of promotions and 16 combinations of 1st- and 8th-rank promotion (indicated in my abbreviations by lower/uppercase for 1st/8th), there are 384 possibilities, so there is still room for others to have a go! Promotion to guard squares in the mate can be very elegant, but other interesting motivations are possible too.   Best wishes to all.
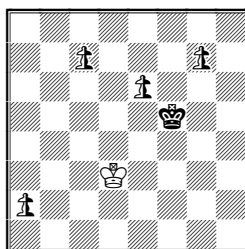
1.   **2.**   **3.**
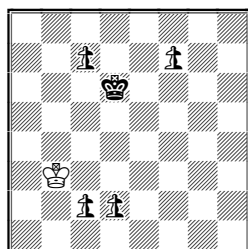

h#2 Couscous Circe   h#2 Couscous Circe   h#2 Couscous Circe

1 1.nPa1=nQ nPa8=nR 2.nRxa5[nPh8=nS] nQxe5[nPd1=nB]# (qRSb)
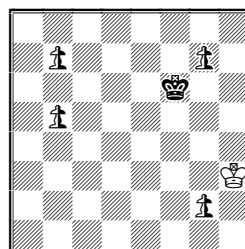**2** 1.nPh1=nQ Kxd2[nPe1=nR] 2.nQxh5[nPd8=nS] nPh8=nB# (qrSB)
3 1.nPa1=nQ nPc8=nB 2.nQxg7[nPd8=nS] nBxe6[nPf1=nR]# (qBSr)

4.   **5.**   **6.**
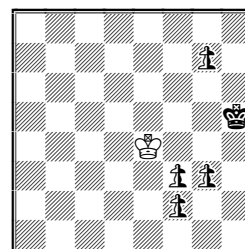

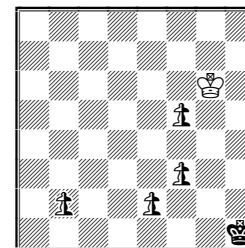h#2 Couscous Circe   h#2 Couscous Circe   h#2 Couscous Circe

4 1.nPc1=nB nPf8=nS 2.nPxc1=nQ[nBd8] nQxc7[nPd1=nR]# (bSqr)
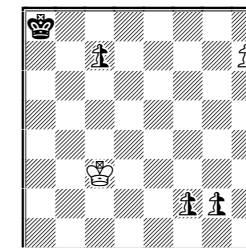**5** 1.nPg1=nR nPb8=nQ 2.nQxb5[nPd8=nS] nRxg7[nPa1=nB]# (rQSb)
6 1.nPf1=nR nRxf3[nPh1=nS](= ~?) 2.nRxg3[nPh8=nB] nPxh8=nQ[nBd1]# (rsBQ)

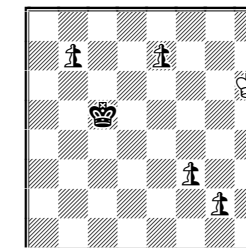**7.**   **8.**   **9.**
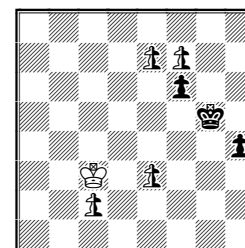

h#2 Couscous Circe   h#2 Couscous Circe   h#2 Couscous Circe

7 1.nPb1=nS(tempo) Kxf5[nPe1=nR]+ 2.nRxe2[nPa8=nB] nBxf3[nPf1=nQ]# (srBq)
8 1.nPg1=nB (=S?) nPh8=nR+ 2.nPxg1=nS[nBb8] nPxb8=nQ[nBd1]# (bRsQ) I find this finale amusing, with the minor pieces relegated to the bottom of the board.
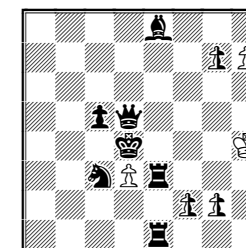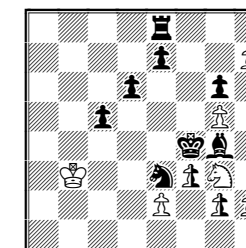**9** 1.nPg1=nS nSxf3[nPb1=nQ] 2.nQxb7[nPd8=nB] nBxe7[nPc1=nR]# (sqBr) A chain of captures.

10.   **11.**   **12.**

h#2 Couscous Circe   h#2 Couscous Circe   h#2 Couscous Circe

10 1.nPc1=nB nPe8=nB 2.nBxf7[nPc8=nB] nBxe3[nPc1=nB]# It looks unlikely that 4 neutral B-promotions in Couscous Circe can be done without extra material, here 2 BPs. The mating move shows a strange form of doubling.
11 1.nPg1=nR nPh8=nS 2.nPxg1=nQ[nRd8] nPxh8=nB[nSc1]# A double pin mate requires a lot more material, as might be expected.
12 1.nPg1=nS h8=S 2.nSxf3[nPg8=nS](= ~?) Sxg6[Pb1=S](= ~?)# Four promotions to S (black, white and two neutral), with two "negative" (dual avoidance) choices.

Torsten Linß's examples: I am sorry that there is no room to diagram them or to include solutions, but the order of promotions is given.
1. *ProblemKiste* 1994 (ded. N. Geissler): WKa2 BKe2 nPs: d2, e6, f2 & f4 (RsBq)
2. *Variant Chess* 1994: WKc1 BKg4 nPs: f2, f6, f7 & h5 (sRQb)
3. *Phénix* 1994: WKa4 BKf3 nPs: d7, e3, e5 & e6 (QrBs)
4. *Probleemblad* 1994: WKd4 BKf4 nPs: e6, f6, g4 & h5 (RsQb)
5. *Pat a Mat* 1994: WKb3 BKd4 nPs: d5, d6, g3 & h5 (BsQr)
6. *Rochade-Europa* 1997: WKa2 BKd4 nPs: d7, e4, g3 & g7 (SqRb)