

21st TZUICA TOURNEY AWARD – 2023

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TZUICA TOURNEY 2023 ANNOUNCEMENT

Theme: Helpself compositions (**hs#n/hs=n**) with **at least 2 solutions showing each at least one Battery Dismantling**.

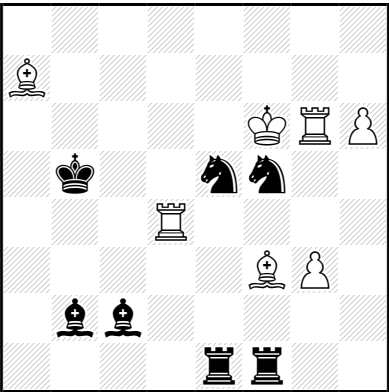
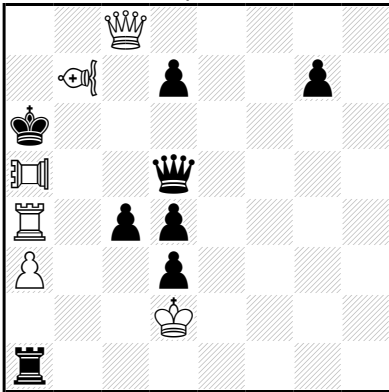
Please take in consideration the following **definitions**:

1. In a **help-selfmate** problem in 'n' moves (denoted hs#n), White starts and Black collaborates with White in order to reach a position of s#1 (selfmate in one move) at move 'n' (the last move). Helpselfstalemates are also accepted.

2. Battery Dismantling: an existing/created battery is given up by a **move of the rear piece of the battery** out of the battery line.

The dismantled battery may be any kind of battery: white/black/neutral battery, direct battery, indirect battery, ecto-battery, masked battery.

Problems with twins or zeroposition are allowed. All fairy pieces and conditions are accepted, provided that the problem is checked by a known solving program.

Example 1 for Orthodox section	Example 2 for Fairy Section
<p style="text-align: center;">Vlaicu Crişan 3rd Prize, StrateGems 2021</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">hs#3.5 b) ♖b5→h2 (7+7)</p> <p>a) 1...Rd1! 2.Ra4 Sd4 3.Kxe5 Bf5 4.Bc6+ Sxc6# b) 1...Bd1! 2.Bh1 Sf3 3.Kxf5 Bc1 4.Rh4+ Sxh4# (black indirect batteries are dismantled)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Petko A. Petkov 3rd Prize, Uralsky Problemist 2008</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">hs#3 2.1.1... (6+8) ♖=Vao; ♗=Pao</p> <p>1.Qd8 Qh1 2.VAg2 Kb7 3.PAd5+ Qxg2# 1.Rb4 Qh5 2.PAg5 Ka5 3.VAd5+ Qxg5# (white direct batteries are dismantled)</p>

Participants:

Abdelaziz Onkoud 38, 39; Anirudh Daga 7*, 31*; Antonio Garofalo 10*, 36*; Borislav Gadjanski 34; Emanuel Navon 15* ; Emil Klemanic 40*; Francesco Simoni 36*; Franz Pachl 17, 18*, 32*; Gábor Tar 33*; Georgy Evseev 29; Hans Uitenbroek 49; Hiroaki Maeshima 2; Jorge Lois 37; Juraj Lörinc 40*; Kenneth Solja 35, 46; Kostas Prentos 9, 11, 16 , 47*; Manfred Rittirsch 3; Mario Parrinello 10*, 19, 20, 36*; Mark Erenburg 53; Menachem Witztum 6, 15*; Michael Barth 8*, 14*; Michel Caillaud 1, 41; Mihail Croitor 44; Misha Shapiro 12, 13, 45; Petko Petkov 50, 51, 52; Raffi Ruppin 30; Ralf Krätschmer 4, 5, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 , 32*; S.K. Balasubramanian 7*, 31*; Sven Trommler 8*. 14*, 18*; Themis Argirakopoulos 47*, 54; Theodoros Giakatis 42, 43; Zoltán Laborczi 33*; Zoran Gavrilovski 48.

INTRODUCTION

This year's theme which requested the dismantling of a battery has posed some interesting challenges for the composers and we received the fair amount of 54 problems from 33 composers from 18 countries.

The theme definition only mentioned that the rear piece of the battery should move. The part that some composers forgot was that the front piece of the battery should also have a role in the solution. If it doesn't have any role, then the battery and its dismantling represent fictitious strategy.

Another example of fictitious strategy happens when the rear piece of the battery might as well stand on another square, without any change in the solutions. This was the case of problem no. 10 (the white Queen can stand on d3 with exactly the same solutions).

Another composer showed a restoration of the initial battery after the return of the rear-piece battery to its initial square. Unfortunately, this was not considered as thematical for the tourney.

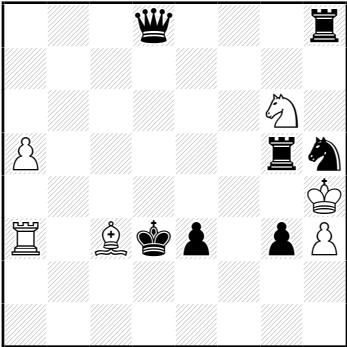
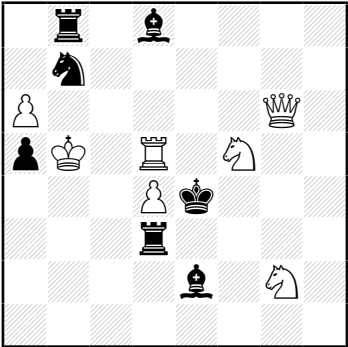
Other important defects were, as usual, some useless officers in at least one solution, the lack of interplay without redeeming features, or the weak exploitation of the fairy condition.

Of course, the decisive factor for ranking the compositions was the number of dismantled batteries. A higher ponder was given when the front battery piece is moving in the solution. A lower ponder was given when the front battery piece is captured. The compositions in which the front battery piece remains inactive thus realizing the theme in a formal way were not classified, although some of them highly impressed us with their utmost elegance. We apologize to the authors of these superb compositions, although we are definitely sure they will be highly rewarded in other composing tournaments.



ORTHODOX SECTION

More than half of the received entries were orthodox (33 entries out of 54). The overall quality is very good, with the prizes being particularly impressive.

F. SIMONI, A. GAROFALO & M. PARRINELLO 1st Prize, Orthodox Section Tzuica 2023 (v)	Petko PETKOV 2nd Prize, Orthodox Section Tzuica 2023
 <p style="text-align: center;">hs#3.5 2.1.1... (6 + 7)</p> <p>1...Qg8 2.Ra4 Rc5 3.Be1 Rc2 4.Sf4+ Sxf4# 1...Rg8 2.Ra2 Sf6 3.Ba1 Se4 4.Se5+ Rxe5#</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">hs#2.5 b) ♠d4→f7 (7 + 7)</p> <p>a) 1...Rc8 2.Qf7 Sc5 3.Sg3+ Rxc3# b) 1...Bd1 2.Qh5 Rc3 3.Sd6+ Sxd6#</p>

1st Prize: Francesco SIMONI, Antonio GAROFALO & Mario PARRINELLO (Italy)

In the first solution, Black dismantles one direct battery with an excellent ambush key. The bR blocks a bK flight, while the bQ guards two flights. White also dismantles the R-B direct battery and cleverly avoids the interference of the wR by the wB. The other black direct battery mates by capturing the checking wS.

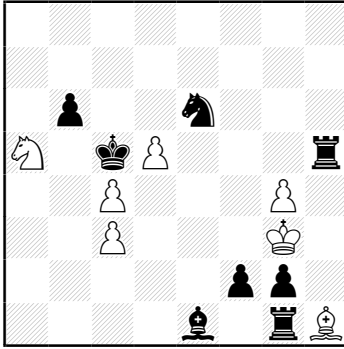
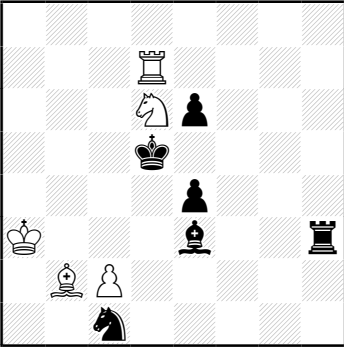
In the second solution the strategic content is similar (including the ambush!) but we also noticed a certain lack of interplay.

This wins the top place just by a whisker: it has a better economy than the 2nd prize winner.

2nd Prize: Petko PETKOV (Bulgaria)

Like in the 1st prize winner in the initial position there are two Black direct batteries and one White direct battery. Two batteries are fully dismantled, while the third delivers the mate. The author cleverly created new white indirect batteries embellishing the thematic content, although it is obvious the wQ must guard two flights (f3 and d5) in the final position.

The economy of time is clearly superior compared to the 1st prize winner, but the complete lack of interplay and the unnecessary double-check in the second twin ultimately placed it just on the second place.

<p style="text-align: center;">Michel CAILLAUD Special Prize Orthodox Section Tzuica 2023</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Kostas PRENTOS 1st Honorable Mention Orthodox Section Tzuica 2023</p>
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">hs#4.5 2.1.1... (7 + 8)</p> <p>1...Bd2 2.dxe6 f1=R 3.e7 Rf2 4.e8=Q Be1 5.Qf8+ Rxf8# 1...Rf1 2.d6 gxh1=B 3.d7 Bg2 4.d8=S Rg1 5.Sb7+ Bxb7#</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">hs#3.5 b) -♠e4 (5 + 6)</p> <p>a) 1...Rh8 2.Rc7 Ba7 3.Sb7 Ra8 4.Rc5+ Bxc5# b) 1...Rh4 2.Ra7 Rb4 3.Ra6 Bc5 4.c4+ Rxc4#</p>

Special Prize: Michel CAILLAUD (France)

This is a special case: in each solution only one black battery is fully dismantled, so thematically speaking the composition is as intense as the first two prizes. But we could not ignore the very rich additional contents, which point to past Romanian Tzuica themes: the 4 switchbacks (2013), the destruction and the recreation of black batteries (2009) and the mixed AUW (2004).

One may argue the wBh1 is completely out of play in the first solution. Our reply is that it ensures the real existence of the second black battery – without it the front battery piece won't be able to move, hence making it entirely fictitious.

1st Honorable Mention: Kostas PRENTOS (USA)

A very solid presentation of the theme in a superbly constructed Meredith! We would have considered this entry for a prize, if we hadn't noticed that wSd6 doesn't play at all in the second twin.

Without this blemish and perhaps with a more unified White play it would have finished on top. We really enjoyed a lot the creation of new black direct batteries with the same pieces on different lines – if only the white strategy could have been more convincing...

Zoran GAVRILOVSKI 2nd Honorable Mention Orthodox Section Tzuica 2023	Abdelaziz ONKOUD 3rd Honorable Mention Orthodox Section Tzuica 2023
<div data-bbox="331 506 677 852" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="337 892 673 924">hs#3.5 b) ♗g3→f8 (5 + 9)</p> <p data-bbox="199 947 748 1003"> a) 1...Kd6 2.Bh4 Bd5 3.Kf5 Rd4 4.Rg6+ Be6# b) 1...Kd4 2.Rg3 Rd5 3.Kf3 g5 4.Bg7+ Re5# </p>	<div data-bbox="956 506 1302 852" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="979 892 1282 924">hs#3.5 2.1.1... (5 + 10)</p> <p data-bbox="837 947 1386 1003"> 1...Sg7 2.fxg7 Bh5 3.g8=S Rd1 4.Sf6+ Bxf6# 1...Sc7 2.dxc7 Rb5 3.c8=S Bb2 4.Sd6+ Rxd6# </p>

2nd Honorable Mention: Zoran GAVRILOVSKI (North Macedonia)

The only problem from the whole competition where the black King moves under battery fire, before the white battery is dismantled on the next move. This original motivation cleverly ensures the unique order of moves.

Moreover, there is a rich interplay: thanks to the black Grimshaw on d5, the white King can access the final square. In spite of the rather low classification in our thematic tournament, this problem should eventually find its place in future anthologies.

3rd Honorable Mention: Abdelaziz ONKOUD (France)

Three pairs of pieces exchange their functions: wPd6/wPf6 (guard of e7 vs. S promotion and sacrifice on its original square), bBh5/bRd5 (wK flight guard + support of own piece vs. rear piece of mating battery) and bRd3/bBc3 (wK flights guard vs. front piece of mating battery).

The initial bS active sacrifice ensures there is some interplay throughout the whole solution, while adding a nice motif: mixed-color Phoenix.



Commendations without order

Menachem WITZTUM Comm. , Orthodox Section Tzuica 2023	Anirudh DAGA & S.K. BALASUBRAMANIAN Comm. , Orthodox Section Tzuica 2023
<div data-bbox="316 443 659 785" style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">hs#3 2.1.1... (5 + 9)</p> <p>1.Ra8 Bc6 2.Ra4 Rxd6 3.Sf4+ Bxf4# 1.Rb8 Rc4 2.Rxb6 Bd4 3.Sf6+ Rxf6#</p>	<div data-bbox="938 443 1284 785" style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">hs#3.5 b) ♖c3 (6 + 6)</p> <p>a) 1...Rh7 2.a8=B Bg5 3.Bb7 Rh5 4.Qd8+ Bxd8# b) 1...Bf1 2.a8=S Re4 3.Sc7 Bd3 4.Qxb4+ Rxb4#</p>

Commendation: Menachem WITZTUM (Israel)

One of the two Black direct batteries is fully dismantled in one solution for selfblocking purposes, while the other direct battery mates. Although the theme is shown with very simple means, it is a crystal clear conception. The lack of interplay and the poor White strategy hinder a higher classification.

Commendation: Anirudh DAGA & S.K. BALASUBRAMANIAN (India)

A superb Meredith, with two splendid solutions in diagonal-orthogonal correspondence! Black must dismantle and rebuild one direct battery with exactly the same pieces, so the rear piece would guard a flight square initially guarded by the front piece once the battery fires (e5, respectively g6).

This is complemented by a small dual avoidance in the choice of white promoted piece.

There is an obvious lack of interplay and the theme is shown only once in each solution, but that's enough to secure a well deserved place in the award. We truly hope this problem won't get ignored.

Kostas PRENTOS Comm. , Orthodox Section Tzuica 2023	Abdelaziz ONKOUD Comm. , Orthodox Section Tzuica 2023
<div data-bbox="329 367 675 709" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="313 751 691 781">hs#3.5 b) ♖e7→h7 (6 + 11)</p> <p data-bbox="199 806 797 863"> a) 1...Rd4 2.Qxf7 Bc1 3.Kf6 Bxb2 4.Qxc4+ Rxc4# b) 1...Bc6 2.Qxg5 Ra7 3.Kxh6 Ra6 4.Qb5+ Bxb5# </p>	<div data-bbox="954 367 1300 709" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="963 751 1287 781">hs#3.5 2.1.1.... (4 + 9)</p> <p data-bbox="833 806 1390 863"> 1...Bb5 2.Sxc5 Re6 3.Sa4 Bd7 4.Sb6+ Rxb6# 1...Rh3 2.Rxc5 Bg5 3.Rxd5 Rh5 4.Rd8+ Bxd8# </p>

Commendation: Kostas PRENTOS (USA)

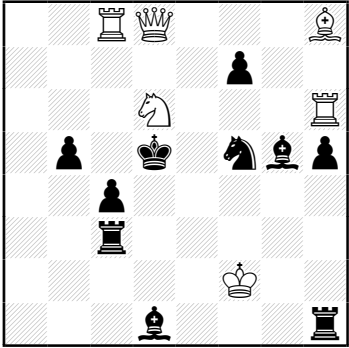
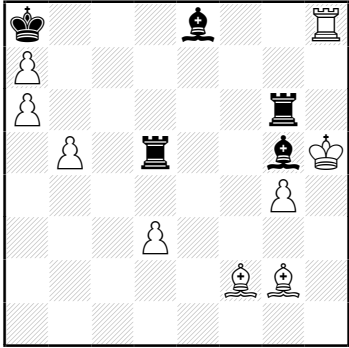
The same matrix as in the previous composition is shown in a different way: Black dismantles a direct battery and creates a new battery with *exchanged roles* between the front and rear pieces. It is the only composition from the tournament attempting this challenging theme.

After some hesitations – we thought it might fare better in other tournaments – we decided to retain it in the award and hope it will also find its way in anthologies.

Commendation: Abdelaziz ONKOUD (France)

Two unified solutions featuring the same motivation of black direct battery dismantling and reconstruction on different lines.

The capture of bPc5 seems rather crude and the white play is not so attractive compared to the Commendation by the two Indian composers, but from a thematic perspective they got the same score, hence the inclusion in the award.

Juraj LÖRINC & Emil KLEMANIĆ Comm. , Orthodox Section Tzuica 2023	Mark ERENBURG Comm. , Orthodox Section Tzuica 2023
 <p data-bbox="332 716 646 743">hs#3 2.1.1... (6 + 10)</p> <p data-bbox="201 768 651 825">1.Qa5 Bd2 2.Sxb5 Rc2 3.Sd6+ Bxa5# 1.Qg8 Rg3 2.Sxf7 Bh4 3.Sd6+ Rxd8#</p>	 <p data-bbox="976 716 1252 743">hs#3 b) - ♖g4 (9 + 5)</p> <p data-bbox="805 768 1370 825">a) 1.Rh7 Bxb5 (Bc6?) 2.Re7 Rf6 3.Re8+ Bxe8# b) 1.Bh3 Rxd3 (Rd8?) 2.Be6 Bf6 3.Bd5+ Rxd5#</p>

Commendation: Juraj LÖRINC & Emil KLEMANIĆ (Slovakia)

This is another case of a composition which might have fared better in a different (non-thematic) tournament. The white direct battery Q-S is initially dismantled and then rebuilt on two different lines before firing with a wS switchback to d6.

Meanwhile, Black also creates a battery using the same two pieces exchanging their roles as front/rear battery pieces. A subtle effect is the line opening of the front battery piece by the rear battery piece (B2).

We did appreciate this cerebral idea displaying lots of creativity.

Commendation: Mark ERENBURG (Israel)

The rear pieces of the two black direct batteries are initially pinned by White. White unpins one of the pinned pieces, enabling the dismantling of one black battery. The choice of the arrival square on B1 must be carefully made to avoid producing collateral damages.

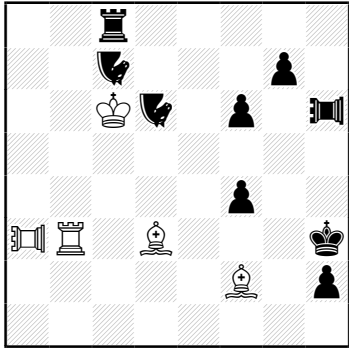
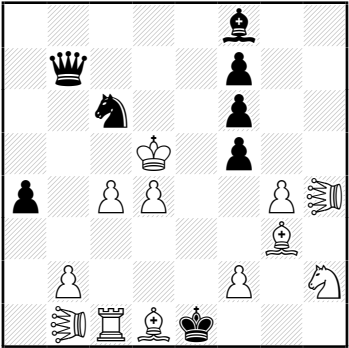
The spectacular Grimshaw on f6 reminds an effect seen in a previous [composition](#) and raised a huge smile on our faces. A highly enjoyable composition by any standards!



FAIRY SECTION

There were only 21 problems left in the fairy section, but their quality exceeded our most optimistic expectations. We won't be too surprised to see several of these fairy compositions selected in the future FIDE Album.

There was only one prizewinner, because the problem set the thematic bar so high that no other entry could reach the same heights. The thematic density for reaching a prize in the Orthodox section would secure at most an Honorable Mention in the Fairy section and that says all about the fantastic level.

Petko PETKOV Prize, Fairy Section Tzuica 2023	Hans UITENBROEK 1 st HM, Fairy Section Tzuica 2023
 <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">hs#3 2.1.1... (5 + 9) ♞ = Nightrider; ♡ = Pao</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">1.PAa2 Rd8 2.Rb5 Na6 3.Bf5+ Nf5# 1.PAa4 PAh7 2.Rb6 Nh8 3.Bf1+ Nxf1#</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">hs#3 2.1.1... (12 + 8) ♞ = Leo</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">1.LEa2 Be7 2.LExe7 Qb6 3.Be5+ Sxe7# 1.LEh5 Bb4 2.LExb4 Qc7 3.Rc3+ Sxb4#</p>

Prize: Petko PETKOV (Bulgaria)

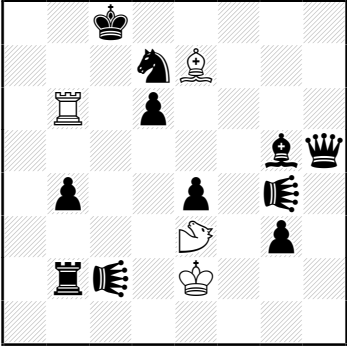
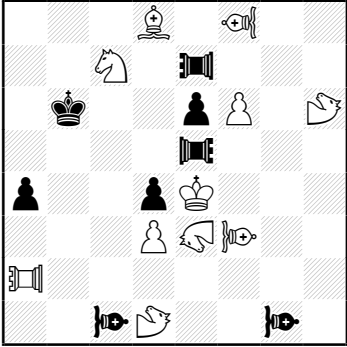
The author found the ideal mechanism for doubling the theme: a Chinese piece placed behind a normal direct battery must first move before the rear battery piece can move. What makes this problem truly remarkable is that the front battery piece moves at W3, fully dismantling the batteries. The motivation for dismantling the white batteries is twofold: guarding a black flight and selfblocking.

This thematic content is further enhanced by the Black play, completely dismantling a direct battery, while the remaining direct battery delivers the mate. This intensive thematic density is unequalled by any other composition participating in the tournament.

1st Honorable Mention: Hans UITENBROEK (Netherlands)

Here we see again two white Chinese pieces hiding behind the white direct batteries. However, after the key one of the remaining white direct batteries doesn't play at all, which according to our set criteria constitutes a fictitious strategy. Nevertheless, there are two other batteries dismantled during the play and the new Black indirect battery delivers the mate – like in the 2nd Prize from the Orthodox Section.

Purists might again claim that wBd1 doesn't play any role in the solution. Our answer is: that's true, but that also ensures that the white battery is not fictitious. Please note how the active black Bishop sacrifice brings the necessary interplay – a nice unifying touch.

Franz PACHL & Sven TROMMLER 2nd HM, Fairy Section Tzuica 2023	Franz PACHL 3rd HM, Fairy Section Tzuica 2023 (v)
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"> hs#3 b) ♠d7→c7 (4 + 11) ♠ = Rose ; ♜ = Lion </p> <p> a) 1.ROe3-c4 Rb1 2.Bxd6 Llc2-c7 3.Be7+ Llg4xc4# b) 1.ROe3-f5 Qh1 2.Rxd6 Llg4-d7 3.Rb6+ Llc2xf5# </p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"> hs#3 2.1.1... (11 + 8) ♠ = Rose; ♜♞ = Pao ; ♝ = Vao ; ♞ = Nao ♞♞ = Bishop-Lion ; ♞ = Rook-Lion </p> <p> 1.ROc1-e2 PAc7 2.NAb4 RLd2 3.NAc6+ BLf1-d3# 1.ROg6-c2 PAe7 2.NAc5 RLd1 3.NAd7+ BLb1-d3# </p>

2nd Honorable Mention: Franz PACHL & Sven TROMMLER (Germany)

The white Rose is the rear piece of two initial white direct batteries. After the key, one battery is preserved and the other is dismantled, with the front piece capturing on d6 before returning to its departure square.

Meanwhile Black dismantles one direct battery: the rear piece guards the flights from the 1st rank and the front piece selfblocks. The second battery fires by capturing the white Rose: a very short yet intense program.

The diagonal orthogonal correspondence enhances the three pairs of pieces exchanging their roles (wBe7/wRd6, bRb1/bQh5 and bLlc2/bLlg4). Simply memorable!

3rd Honorable Mention: Franz PACHL (Germany)

Here two white Roses are the rear pieces using the same front piece – the wNAe3. White's main strategy consists in alternatively forcing one of the black Bishop-Lions to play on e3. For that, the wNAe3 makes a jump along the battery line in W2, in order to move again on W3 and to intercept the wVAf8, thus insuring the guard of c5 is preserved after the departure of bPAe7. The foresight key ensures the bBLI has a hurdle to reach e3.

wPAa2 is the key piece to create the necessary dual avoidance in both solutions. The author skillfully managed to give this piece another role in the solutions, which further enhances its overall value. The strategic wealth of the opus somewhat shadows the thematic content, which is always a huge challenge for the judges when dealing with Franz Pachl's ambitious compositions. Like in the 2nd HM, the mechanism is highly original and wasn't used by any other competitor.

Petko PETKOV 4th HM, Fairy Section Tzuica 2023	Michel CAILLAUD Comm., Fairy Section Tzuica 2023
<div data-bbox="326 331 670 674" style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p data-bbox="337 716 657 772" style="text-align: center;"> hs#3.5 b) - ♠f5 (8 + 7) ♞ = Vao ; ♝ = Leo </p> <p data-bbox="199 800 781 856"> a) 1...Rg7 2.LEh1 Bd1 3.Sd2 Rg1 4.Sf3+ Bxf3# b) 1...Ra7 2.LEg5 Bb1 3.Sg3 Ra1 4.Sf5+ Bxf5# </p>	<div data-bbox="948 331 1292 674" style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p data-bbox="948 716 1292 772" style="text-align: center;"> hs#2.5 2.1.1... (7 + 12) MarsCirce </p> <p data-bbox="824 800 1372 898"> 1...a1=Q 2.g8=Q Qa-d8xd2 3.S-b1xd2+ Qb-d8xd2# (2.g8=X? 3...Sg1!) 1...a1=B 2.g8=B Ba-f8xa3 3.S-b1xa3+ B-f8xa3# (2.g8=Q,R? 4.Q/Rb8!; 2.g8=S? 4.Sxc3!) </p>

4th Honorable Mention: Petko PETKOV (Bulgaria)

The mechanism is classic: both sides fully dismantle their batteries and create new ones – well, an indirect anti-battery in the case of White. The whole play naturally flows with an apparent easiness entirely masking the constructional difficulties.

The presence or absence of wPf5 dictates whether the wVAh7 is activated or not, hence the solutions. Please note how the author skillfully arranged that only the thematic pieces should be present on the board. The overall artistic impression is slightly marred by the complete passivity of the wVA.

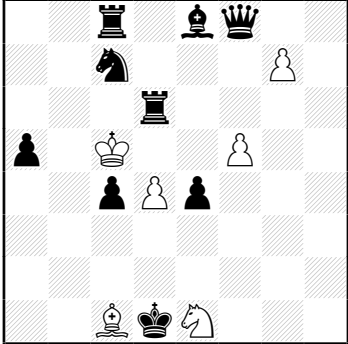
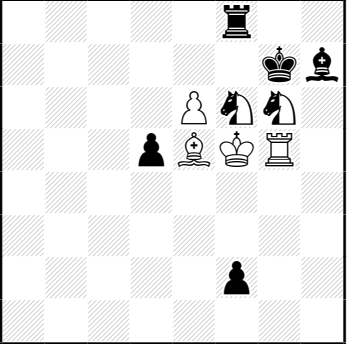


Commendations without order

Commendation: Michel CAILLAUD (France)

Only a commendation, but this is also the only composition from the tournament where the rear battery piece is a Pawn! The white promotion dismantles a Martian specific battery, enabling the subsequent sacrifice of the wS.

The theme requirements are rather obscured by the rich strategy involving two echo promotions, the rich black battery play and specific dual avoidance. In spite of the low ranking, this is another piece worthy of anthologies.

Manfred RITTIRSCH Comm., Fairy Section Tzuica 2023	Georgy EVSEEV Comm., Fairy Section Tzuica 2023
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"> hs#3 b) ♠g7→d7 (6 + 9) Antircirce Cheylan </p> <p> a) 1.gxf8=S[wSf8->g1] Rb8 2.Se2 Sa6 3.Sc3+ Rb1# b) 1.dxc8=R[wRc8->h1] Qh8 2.Rh2 Rc6 3.Rd2+ Qh1# </p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"> hs#3 2.1.1... (4 + 5 + 2n) </p> <p> 1.Bd6 Rg8 2.nSg4 nSh2 3.Bf8+ Rxf8# 1.Rh5 Bg8 2.nSf4 nSh3 3.Rh7+ Bxh7# </p>

Commendation: Manfred RITTIRSCH (Germany)

An original interpretation of the theme: the pieces of black direct battery exchange their functions as front / rear pieces during the play! Thanks to AntiCirce, the rear piece occupies a rebirth square in B1, while the front piece occupies a place where it can guard c5, hence the battery transformation.

The main difficulty in this matrix is to ensure the rear piece of the second direct black battery has a role in the other solution. Luckily it has, being captured by the promoted white Pawn. Very conveniently, the front piece of the second direct black battery guards the flight d5. A highly intellectual achievement, masterfully realized!

Commendation: Georgy EVSEEV (Russia)

The author claims to realize 2+2 times the theme, thanks to the usage of nSs as front batteries for both sides. Well, there is a small flaw in this reasoning because none of these batteries can actually play initially, because the front battery pieces are pinned. Moreover, once the nS moves, it is clear the White battery is actually dismantled and not the Black one.

Please don't linger too much on these theoretical considerations which serve only to explain why the problem did not earn a prize. The lively play is wonderful, the initial position is beautiful and the specificity of the neutral pieces is exploited by both sides. This superb composition fully deserved being rewarded a Tzuica bottle.



We hope the battery dismantling paradox has been convincingly exploited by the small selection of rewarded compositions. For sure, many other ideas and mechanisms are waiting to be discovered in the future. We thank all participants for contributing to the success of the tournament and encourage them to pursue their future researches on this theme.

Vlaicu Crişan & Eric Huber
September 8th 2023, Batumi



FAIRY DEFINITIONS

AntiCirce: Anti-Circe Calvet (the default type): After a capture the capturing piece (Ks included) must immediately be removed to its game array square (necessarily vacant, else the capture is illegal). Captures on the rebirth square are allowed. Game array squares are determined as in Circe.

AntiCirce Cheylan: As antiCirce Calvet except that captures on the rebirth square are not allowed.

Bishop-Lion: (1,1) Lion. Moves along Bishop lines over another unit of either colour to any square beyond that unit. A capture may be made on arrival, but the hurdle is not affected.

Leo: (0,1)+(1,1) Chinese. Chinese Queen. Moves as Queen, but captures only by hopping over a hurdle to any square beyond.

Lion: (0,1)+(1,1) Lion. Moves along Queen lines over another unit of either colour to any square beyond that unit. A capture may be made on arrival, but the hurdle is not affected.

MarsCirce: Units move normally when not capturing, but in order to capture a unit (King included) must first be replaced on the home square of the capturing unit and then make the capture from there, all as one move. If this home square is occupied, the capture may not be made. (The home square of a Rook, Bishop or Knight is of the same colour as the capture square, that of a Pawn is on the same file as the capture square, and that of a fairy piece is the promotion square of that file.)

Nao: (1,2) Chinese. Chinese piece operating along the lines of Nightrider.

Nightrider: (1,2) Rider. Operates along straight lines with squares lying a Knight's move away from each other.

Pao: (0,1) Chinese. Chinese piece operating along Rook lines: moves as Rook, but captures only by hopping over a hurdle to any square beyond.

Rook-Lion: (0,1) Lion. Moves along Rook lines over another unit of either colour to any square beyond that unit. A capture may be made on arrival, but the hurdle is not affected.

Rose: (1,2) Octagonal Rider (extends the move of the Knight on a circular path e.g. a4-b6-d7-f6-g4-f2-d1-b2 or a4-c5-e4-f2).

Vao: (1,1) Chinese. Chinese piece operating along Bishop lines: moves as Bishop, but captures only by hopping over a hurdle to any square beyond.