CHAPTER 9

Contents

- ✓ Calculating short variations
- ✓ Possibilities for your opponent
- ✓ Exercises with mate in two moves

Mate in two moves

The aim of this lesson is to improve your calculation of short variations. **It is more important to find a lot of options in the first few moves than to calculate long variations.** Most mistakes occur in the early moves in variations. What is the use of calculating a long and correct variation if your opponent has a much better reply on move one?

You must develop your skill at calculating short variations, while at the same time taking into account the possibilities available to your opponent. This skill should reduce blunders.

Exercises with mate in two moves are very well suited for training in the art of calculating short variations with great accuracy.

Before reading the accompanying text, try to find the correct solution in all the examples! Note down all the variations you have calculated for each position, and then compare your variations with those given in the text.

Diagram 9-1 △

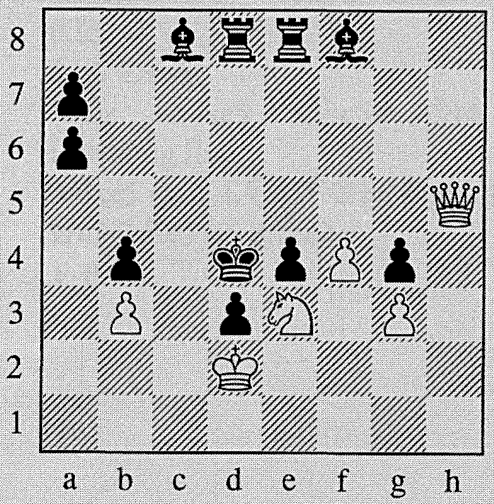


Diagram 9-1

S.Loyd

1859

1.♕a5⊙ ♗d7

1...♗e6 2.♕e5#; 1...♗f5 2.♘xf5#; 1...♗b7 2.♘f5#; 1...♗e7 2.♕e5#; 1...♗d6 2.♕d5#; 1...♗c5 2.♕a1#; 1...♗g7 2.♕xb4#; 1...♗h6 2.♕xb4#; 1...♖d7 2.♘f5#; 1...♖d6 2.♕xb4#; 1...♖d5 2.♕xd5#; 1...♖e7 2.♕xb4#; 1...♖e6 2.♘f5#; 1...♖e5 2.♕xe5#.

2.♕d5#

Positions with few pieces are basically simpler, but it often happens that, even after thinking for a long time, one does not see the solution. **When that happens, you have to check out every possible move.**

Diagram 9-2

J.Abbott

1902

1.♕h8! ♔f4

The other three variations are as follows: 1...♔h~ 2.♗f5#.

That means: 1...♔h5 2.♗f5#, 1...♔h3 2.♗f5# or 1...♔h4 2.♗f5#.

2.♕d4#

Here are another six positions with mate in two moves to warm up with. To find the solutions here, you need a little imagination (or a lot of patience).

Diagram 9-2 △

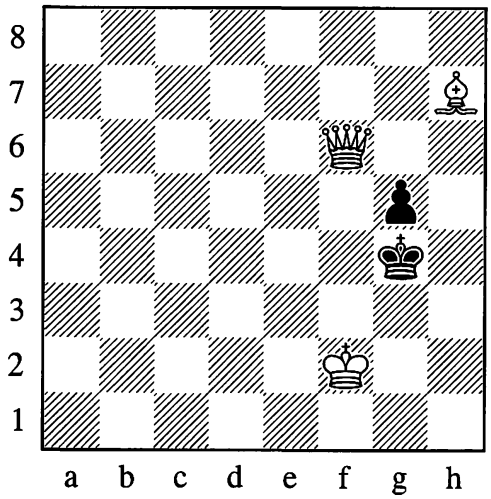


Diagram 9-3

Y.Afek

1978

1.♖d3! ♔e1

1...♘~ 2.♕g3#; 1...e1♕ 2.♖f3#; 1...e1♖ 2.♖f3#; 1...e1♗ 2.♖f3#; 1...e1♘ 2.♖d2#.

2.♕g3#

Diagram 9-3 △

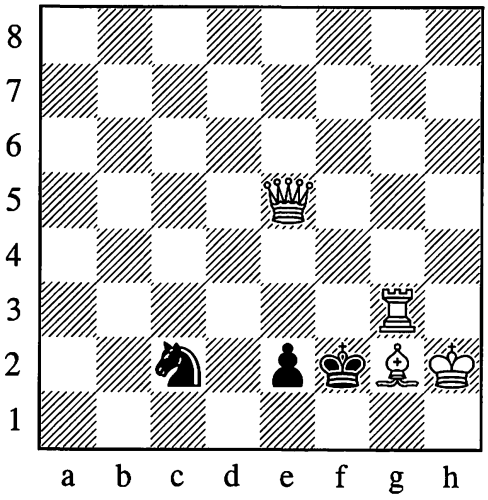


Diagram 9-4

A.Gurvitch

1959

1.♖a8! ♔xa4

1...♖~ 2.♔b7#

2.♔b6#

Diagram 9-4 △

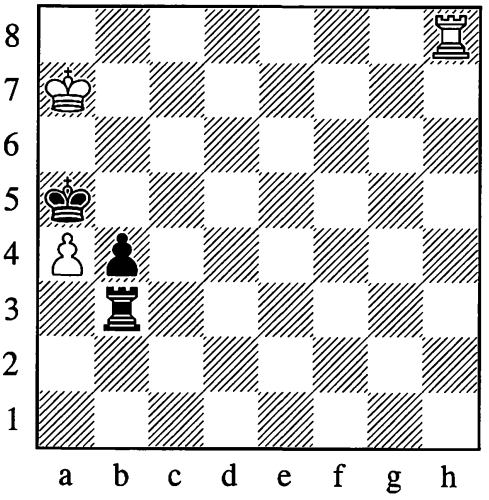


Diagram 9-5 △

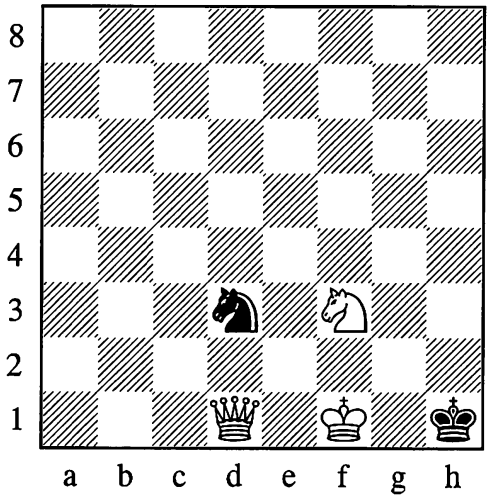


Diagram 9-5

V.Chepizhny

1987

1.♕b1! ♘**f4** (or ♘e5, c5, b4, f2)
If 1...♘b2 (or ♘c1, e1), then 2.♕h7#.
2.♔f2#

Diagram 9-6 △

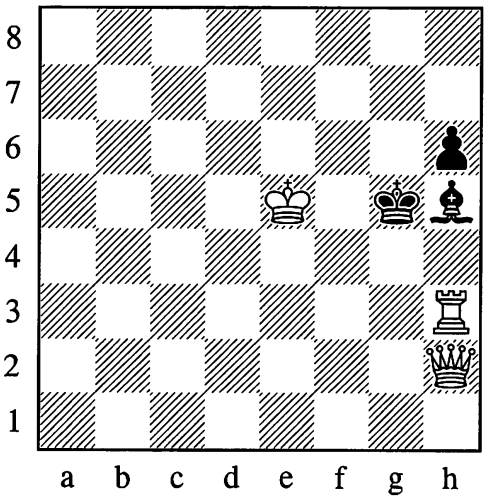


Diagram 9-6

S.Loyd

1881

1.♕a2! ♗**g4** (or ♗f3, e2, d1)
1...♗g6 (or ♗f7, e8) 2.♕g2#; 1...♔g6 2.♕g8#; 1...♔g4 2.♕g2#.
2.♕g8#

Diagram 9-7 △

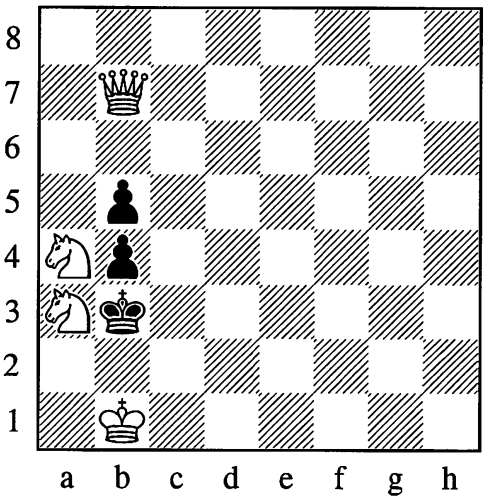


Diagram 9-7

S.Schett

1881

1.♕a6! ♔**xa3**
1...bxa3 2.♕xb5#; 1...bxa4 2.♕d3#.
2.♘c5#

Diagram 9-8

M.Lokker

1967

1.♘b2 ♘b4

1...♘d4 2.♕e1#; 1...♘~ 2.♕a4#.

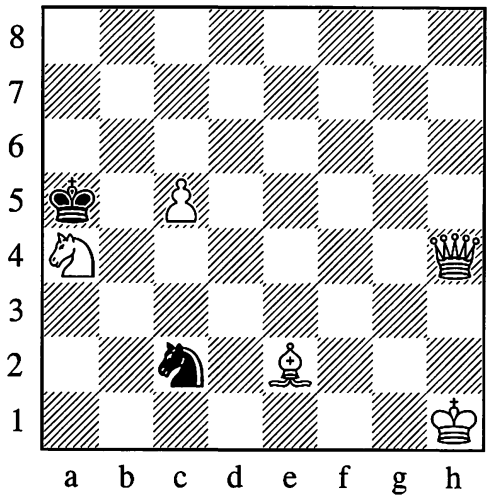
2.♕d8#

In all the positions in the test, you have to find mate in two moves.

There is **only one single way** to achieve mate in two moves.

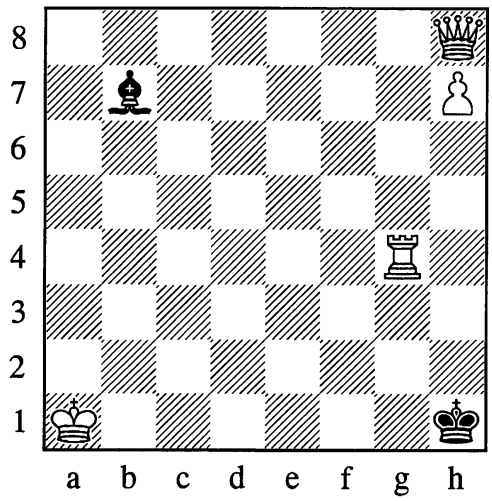
Check out all your opponent's replies with great care! In your solution you must have **calculated and written down all possible replies for your opponent.**

Diagram 9-8 △

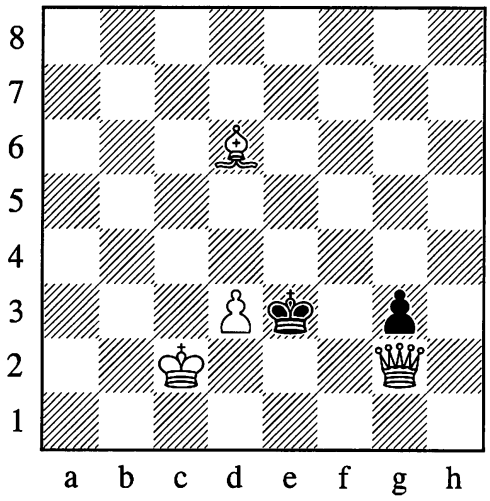


Exercises

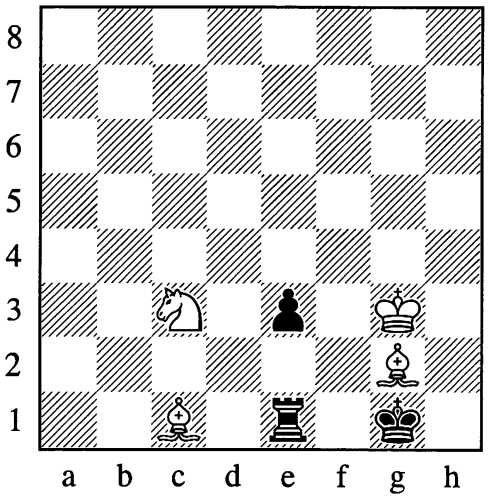
Ex. 9-1 ★ △



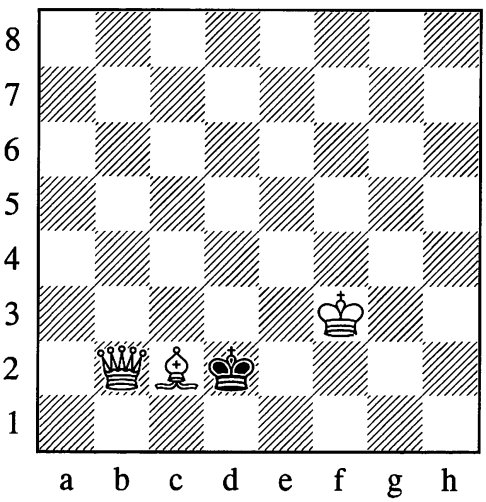
Ex. 9-2 ★ △



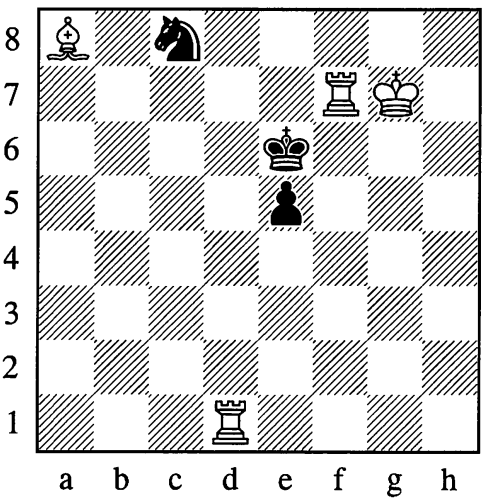
Ex. 9-3 ★ △



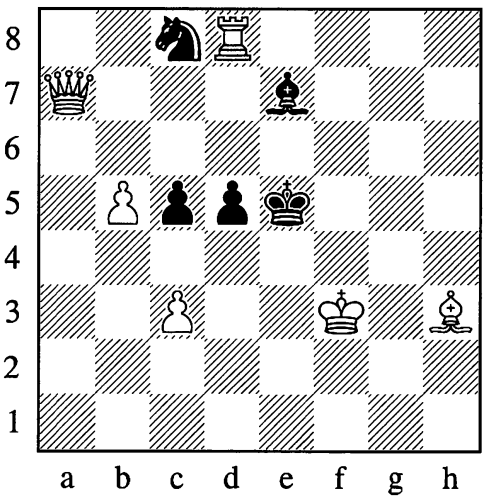
Ex. 9-4 ★ △



Ex. 9-5 ★ △

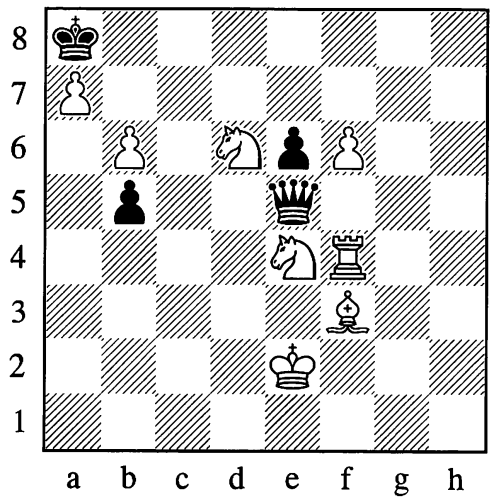


Ex. 9-6 ★ △

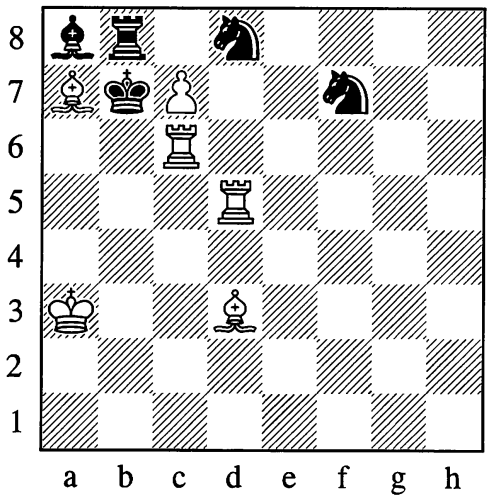


Exercises

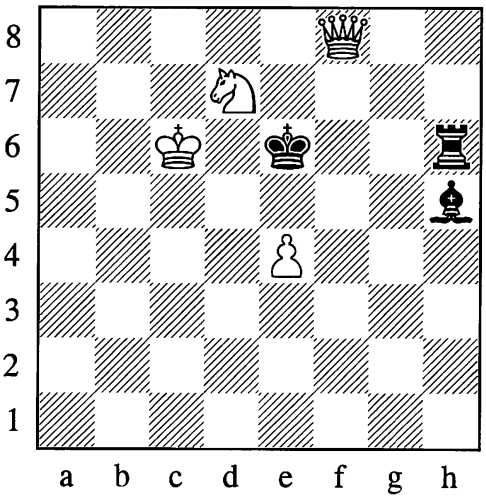
Ex. 9-7 ★ △



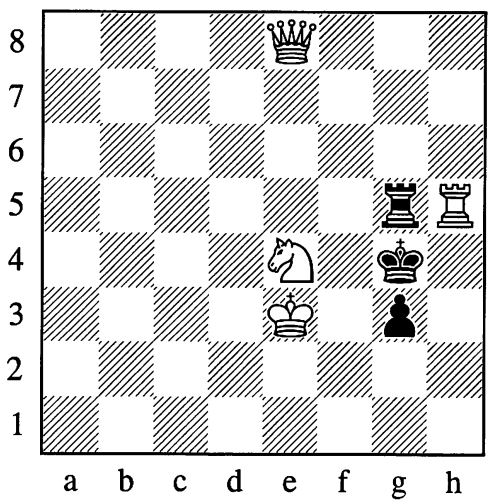
Ex. 9-8 ★ △



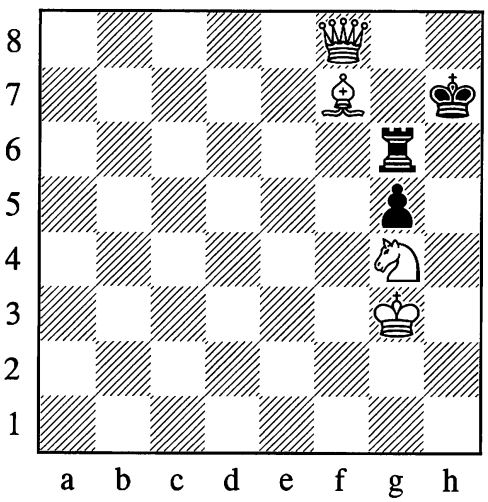
Ex. 9-9 ★ △



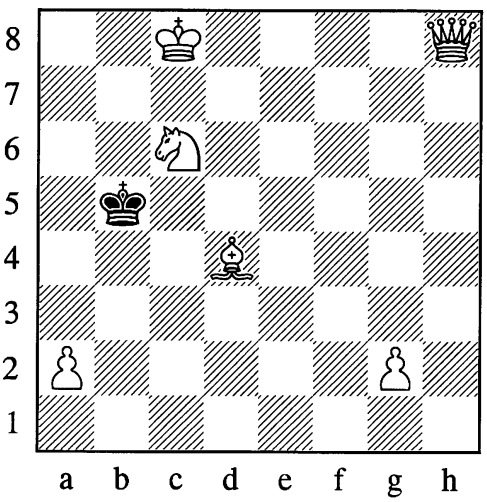
Ex. 9-10 ★ △



Ex. 9-11 ★ △



Ex. 9-12 ★ △



Solutions

Ex. 9-1

A.Grin

1964

1.♕a8! ♗g2
1...♗~ 2.h8♕# or 1...♔h2 2.h8♕#.
2.♕xg2#

(1 point)

Ex. 9-2

L.Talaber

1932

1.♗e7! ♔f4
1...♔d4 2.♕e4#
2.♕e4#

(1 point)

Ex. 9-3

E.Szentgyörgyi

1928

1.♗a3! e2
1...♖~ 2.♘e2#
2.♗c5#

(1 point)

Ex. 9-4

T.Schönberger

1925

1.♗a4†! ♔d3
1...♔e1 2.♕e2#
2.♗b5#

(1 point)

Ex. 9-5

A.Lebedev

1929

1.♗e4! ♘e7
1...♘d6 2.♗d5#; 1...♘b6 2.♗f5#; 1...♘a7 2.♗f5#.
2.♖f6#

(1 point)

Ex. 9-6

D.Uljanov

1909

1.♖d6! (Δ♖e6#) **1...♘xa7**
1...♘b6 2.♕xe7#; 1...♘xd6 2.♕xe7#; 1...♔xd6 2.♕b8#; 1...♗xd6 2.♕g7#; 1...♗~ 2.♖e6#; 1...c4 2.♖e6#; 1...d4 2.♕xc5#.
2.♖e6#

(1 point)

Ex. 9-7

A.Bottachi

1921

1.♖g4! b4
1...♕d5 2.♖g8#; 1...♕c5 2.♘xc5#; 1...♕f5 2.♖g8#; 1...♕g5 2.♘xg5#; 1...♕h5 2.♘g5#; 1...♕xd6 2.♘xd6#; 1...♕xf6 2.♘xf6#; 1...♕f4 2.♖g8#; 1...♕g3 2.♘xg3#; 1...♕h2† 2.♘f2#; 1...♕xe4† 2.♗xe4#; 1...♕d4 2.♖g8#; 1...♕c3 2.♘xc3#; 1...♕b2† 2.♘d2#; 1...♕a1 2.♖g8#.
2.♖g8#

(1 point)

Ex. 9-8

H.Bettman

1923

1.♖d7! ♔xc6
1...♔c8 2.cxd8♕#; 1...♔xa7 2.c8♘#; 1...♖c8 2.cxd8♘#; 1...♘xc6 2.cxb8♕#; 1...♘e6 2.c8♕#. After any move by the knight on f7 then 2.c8♕#.
2.cxb8♘#

(1 point)

Ex. 9-9

G.Wennik

1918

1.♔c7⊙ ♗g4 (or ♗f3, e2, d1, e8)
1...♗g6 2.♕f6#; 1...♗f7 2.♕d6#; 1...♖g6 2.♕e8#; 1...♖f6 (or ♖h7, h8) 2.♕(x)f6#.
2.♕e8#

(1 point)

Solutions

Ex. 9-10

W.Speckmann

1.♕g8! ♔f5
1...♔xh5 2.♕xg5#; 1...♖~ 2.♘f6#; 1...g2 2.♕xg5#.
2.♖xg5#

(1 point)

Ex. 9-11

S.Loyd

1885

1.♕a8⊙ ♖g7
1...♖~6 2.♕g8#; 1...♖g8 2.♕xg8#; 1...♔g7 2.♕g8#.
2.♕h1#

(1 point)

Ex. 9-12

N.Kosolapov

1963

1.♕h3 ♔xc6
1...♔a4 2.♕b3#; 1...♔a6 2.♕d3#; 1...♔c4 2.♕b3#.
2.♕d7#

(1 point)

Scoring

Maximum number of points is **12**

11 points and above ····→ **Excellent**
9 points and above ····→ **Good**
6 points ····→ **Pass mark**

*If you scored less than **6** points, we recommend that you read the chapter again and repeat the exercises which you got wrong.*