

Award Problemaz 2026
section : H# 2,5-3
By Mike Prcic

It was a pleasure to judge 42 entries of good quality.
Among them there were 32 H#3s and 10 H2.5s.
There were also 8 miniatures which I judged separately.
I would like to thank composers for their efforts as well the editor,
Abdelaziz Onkoud, for entrusting me to be the judge.

Participants :

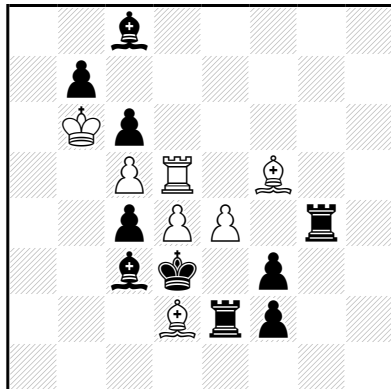
Aunver Indrek : B1* ; Bidleň Anton : B16 ; Vieira Ricardo : B26, B27, B28 ;
Drażkowski Krzysztof : B19 ; Echemendía Luis : B18* ; Labai Zoltán : B13* ; Muljadi Paul : B41 ;
Onkoud Abdelaziz : B14, B15, B17 ; Pevsner Mark : B18* ; Svítek Miroslav : B13* ; Zamanov Vidadi :
B1* ; Κονιδάρης Παναγιώτης : B11* ; Πρέντος Κώστας : B2, B11* ; Александров Велко : B12 ;
Антипин Иван И. : B3* ; Васючко Микола Р. : B25* ; Гаврилів Євгеній : B22, B23, B24 ;
Гальма Михайло Т. : B25* ; Ивунин Алексей В. : B4*, B5*, B6*, B7*, B8*, B32*, B33*, B34*, B35*,
B36* ; Колесник Микола І. : B39*, B40* ; Ластівка Володимир О. : B39*, B40* ; Насыров Антон :
B42 ; Панкратьев Александр Н. : B3*, B4*, B5*, B6*, B7*, B8*, B29, B30, B31, B32*, B33*, B34*,
B35*, B36*, B37, B38 ; Скрипник Анатолий Н. : B9 ; Юзюк Віктор Я. : B20, B21 ;
מנחם זאב : B10.

My ranking is as follows:

В39 - Володимир**ЛАСТІВКА****Микола КОЛЕСНИК**

Problemaz 2026

1st Prize

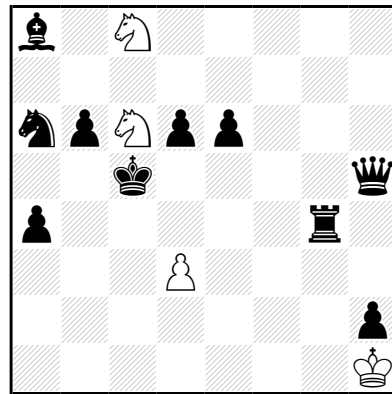


h♯2,5 3 solutions (7+10) C+

В22 - Євгеній ГАВРИЛІВ

Problemaz 2026

2nd Prize

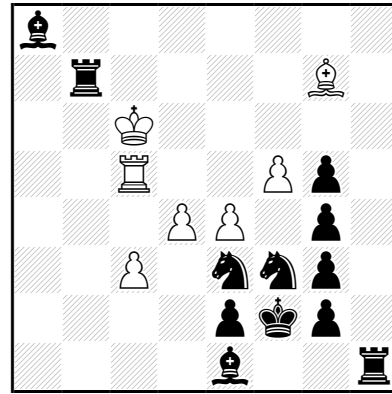


h♯2,5 4 solutions (4+10) C+

В17 - Abdelaziz Onkoud

Problemaz 2026

3rd Prize



h♯3 2 solutions (7+12) C+

В39 - Володимир ЛАСТІВКА & Микола КОЛЕСНИК : 1st Prize

1 st Prize, No. 39. Ambush theme tripled. In two solutions the black Rook is ambushed by white Bishops, while in the third solution, the black Bishop is umbushed by the white Rook. A bit heavy setting but the execution is flawless.

Solution:

1... ♖h6 2. ♜g5 ♘e5+ 3. ♙e3 ♘xg5♯

1... ♜d8 2. ♙d7 ♘f4 3. ♙x d4 ♜x d7♯

1... ♙h7 2. ♜g6 ♜d7 3. ♙x e4 ♙x g6♯

В22 - Євгеній ГАВРИЛІВ : 2nd Prize

Two sets of connected solutions. In the first set, the unpinned Knight makes two switchbacks (tempo moves) before mating. In the other set, the same Knight provides guards while second Knight mates, after being unpinned.

Solution:

1st set:

1... ♘g8 ♙b5 ♘c8 3. ♙c5 ♘8a7♯

1... ♘8a7 2. ♙d5 ♘c8 3. ♙c5 ♘8e7♯

2nd set:

1... ♘x d6 2. ♜b4 ♘b7+ 3. ♙b5 ♘a7♯

1... ♘x b6 2. ♜d4 ♘d7+ 3. ♙d5 ♘e7♯

В17 - Abdelaziz Onkoud : 3rd Prize

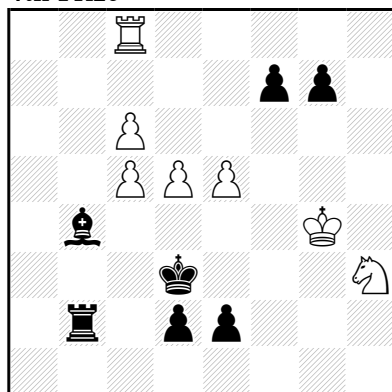
3 rd Prize, No. B17. Line openings by captures, change of functions, pins and two nice tempo moves by Black.

Solution:

1. ♘x f5 ♜x f5 A 2. ♜g1 C d5 3. ♜f1 D ♙d4♯ B

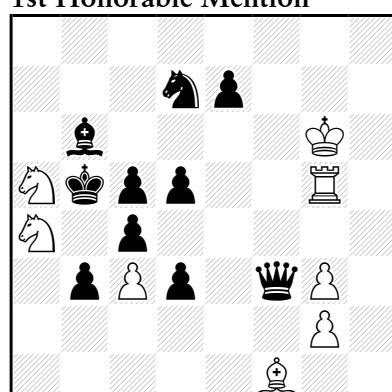
1. ♘x d4+ ♙x d4 B 2. ♜f1 D f6 3. ♜g1 C ♜f5♯ A

B26 - Ricardo Vieira
Problemaz 2026
4th Prize



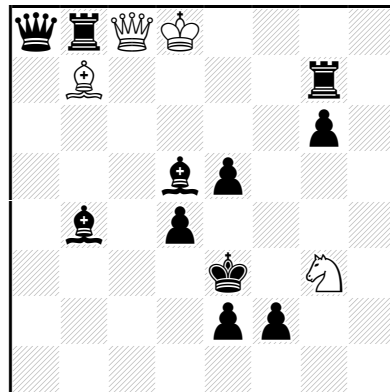
h♯3 b) ♖b4 (7+7) C+

B40 - Володимир
ЛАСТІВКА
Микола КОЛЕСНИК
Problemaz 2026
1st Honorable Mention



h♯2,5 2 solutions (8+10) C+

B28 - Ricardo Vieira
Problemaz 2026
2nd Honorable Mention



h♯2,5 2 solutions (4+11) C+

B26 - Ricardo Vieira : 4th Prize

The white Rook's line is open first by the Bishop and then by sacrificing the Rook. In the twin, the Bishop's function is replaced by the Knight. Both, Bishop and Knight, self-block. The white King is active in both solutions as is the white Knight which mates on two different squares.

Solution:

a) 1. ♗×c5 ♔f3 2. ♖b7 ♕×b7 3. ♗d4 ♘f4♯

b) 1. ♘×c6 ♔f4 2. ♖b6 ♕×b6 3. ♘d4 ♘f2♯

B40 - Володимир ЛАСТІВКА & Микола КОЛЕСНИК: 1st Honorable Mention

White Knight sacrifices, square clearance by the black Queen and a change of functions between the white Rook and Bishop. Nicely done.

Solution:

1... ♘×c4 2. ♖×g3 ♖×g3 3. ♔×c4 ♗×d3♯

1... ♘×c5 2. ♖×g2 ♗×g2 3. ♔×c5 ♖×d5♯

B28 - Ricardo Vieira : 2nd Honorable Mention

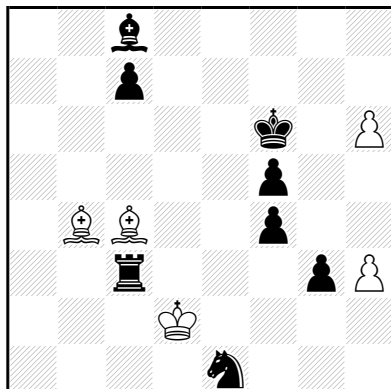
Well-coordinated, with good change of functions between black Bishops and white Bishop and Knight, with mates delivered on horizontal and vertical lines. Nice line closings to unpin the white King. Dual avoidance.

Solution: .

1... ♗a6 2. ♗e7+ ♔d7 (♕c7 ?) 3. ♗f3 ♖c1♯

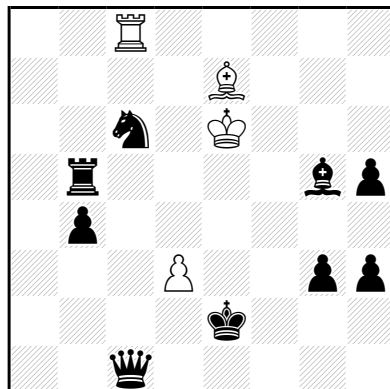
1... ♘h5 2. ♗f7 ♕c7 (♔d7 ?) 3. ♗d2 ♖h3♯

B13 - Zoltán Labai
Miroslav Svítek
Problemaz 2026
3rd Honorable Mention



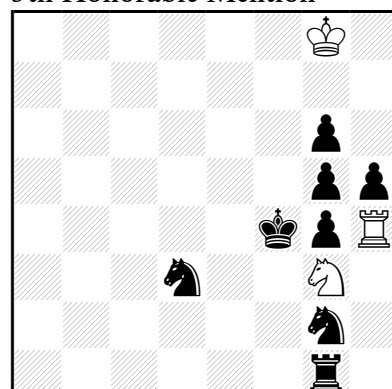
h♯2,5 4 solutions (5+8) C+

B14 - Abdelaziz Onkoud
Problemaz 2026
4th Honorable Mention



h♯3 2 solutions (4+9) C+

B4 - Алексей ИВУНИН & Александр ПАНКРАТЬЕВ
Problemaz 2026
5th Honorable Mention



h♯3 4 solutions (3+8) C+

B13 - Zoltán Labai & Miroslav Svítek : 3rd Honorable Mention

Nearly a perfect black Kings cross.

Solution:

- 1...h7 2. ♖g7 ♜g8 3. ♖h8 ♜×c3♯
 1...♜é2 2. ♖g5 ♜g4 3. ♖h4 ♜é7♯
 1...♜×c3+ 2. ♖é7 ♜b5 3. ♖d8 ♜f6♯
 1...♜b5 2. ♖é5 ♜×c3+ 3. ♖é4 ♜c6♯

B14 - Abdelaziz Onkoud : 4th Honorable Mention

Change of functions between the white Rook and Bishop in capturing double guards, passively pinning black pieces and mating.

Solution:

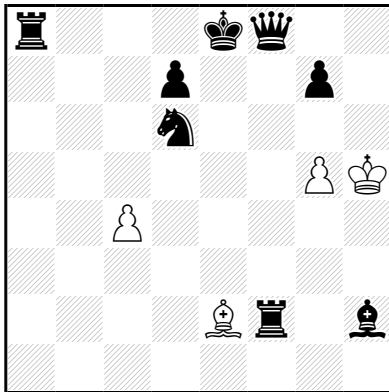
1. ♖f3 ♜×c6 2. ♖g4 ♜×c1 3. ♖h4 ♜c4♯
 1. ♖é3 ♜×g5+ 2. ♖d4 ♜×c1 3. ♖c5 ♜é3♯

B4 - Алексей ИВУНИН & Александр ПАНКРАТЬЕВ : 5th Honorable Mention

A modern helpmate with two sets of solutions. In one set we have a Zilahi theme. In the other set, each white piece mates. A bit crowded on the one side of the board. Solution:

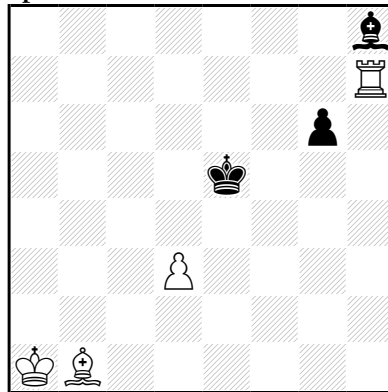
1. ♖f3 ♜f1 2.g3 ♜é4 3. ♜f2 ♜d2♯
 1. ♜é5 ♜é2+ 2. ♖f5 ♜g7 3.g3 ♜d4♯
 1. ♖×g3 ♜×g4+ 2. ♖h2 ♜g3 3. ♖h1 ♜h3♯
 1.g×h4 ♜f5 2. ♖g5 ♜d6 3. ♖h6 ♜f7♯

B42 - Антон НАСЫРОВ & Nikolai Shevyakov
 Problemaz 2026
 6th Honorable Mention



h♯3 3 solutions (4+8) C+

B34 - Алексей ИВУНИН & Александр ПАНКРАТЬЕВ
 Problemaz 2026
 Special Honorable Mention



h♯3 2 solutions (4+3) C+

B42 - Антон НАСЫРОВ & Nikolai Shevyakov : 6th Honorable Mention

Valadao theme. Well done with activity of both Pawns and the Bishop.

Solution:

1. ♔f6 g×f6 2. ♖×e2 f×g7 3. ♖e7 g8=♔♯
1. ♔f7 ♘5 2. ♞e8 ♙c4+ 3. d5 ♘×d6 e.p.♯
1. ♞b5 ♘×b5 2. 0-0-0 b6 3. ♞b8 ♙a6♯

B34 - Алексей ИВУНИН & Александр ПАНКРАТЬЕВ : Special Honorable Mention

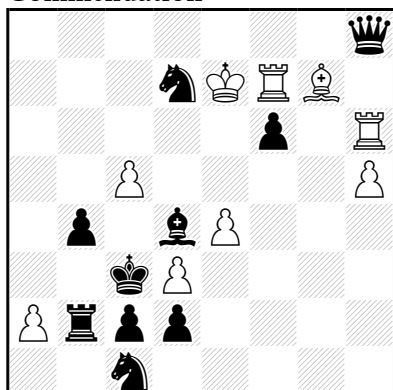
Special Honorable Mention for the miniature, B34. A beautiful miniature where all three white pieces play only once and always to the same square.

Solution:

1. ♔e6+ d4 2. ♞e5 ♖f7 3. ♞d6 ♙a2♯
1. ♞f6 ♙a2 2. ♞g5 d4+ 3. ♔f6 ♖f7♯

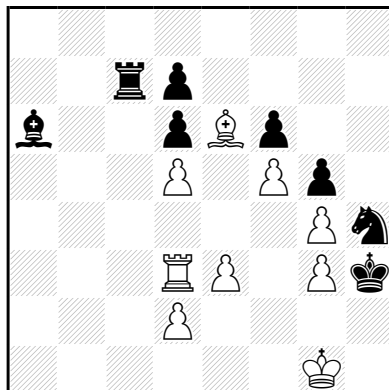
Commendations are not retaed.

B9 - Анатолий СКРИПНИК
 Problemaz 2026
 Commendation



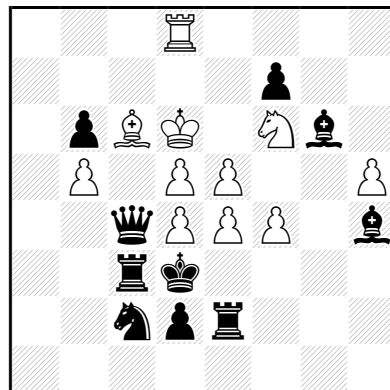
h♣2,5 b) ♠a2→b3 (9+10) C+

B10 - מנחם ויצטום
 Problemaz 2026
 Commendation



h♣3 b) ♠h4→g2 (9+8) C+

B15 - Abdelaziz Onkoud
 Problemaz 2026
 Commendation



h♣3 b) ♠g6 (11+10) C+

B9 - Анатолий СКРИПНИК : Commendation

Well-composed helpmate with corresponding line-openings and mates by both rooks.

Solution:

- a) 1... ♖f×f6 2. ♜×c5 ♖f3 3. ♜5×d3 ♖c6♯
 b) 1... ♖h×f6 2. ♜×d3 ♖c6 3. ♜3×c5 ♖f3♯

B10 - מנחם ויצטום: Commendation

Good helpmate with rook sacrifices to open lines, line openings by the black Knight and self-blocks by the same Knight.

Solution:

- a) 1. ♜c3 d×c3 2. ♜×f5 ♖d2 3. ♜×g3 ♖h2♯
 b) 1. ♜c6 d×c6 2. ♜×e3 ♜d5 3. ♜×g4 ♜g2♯

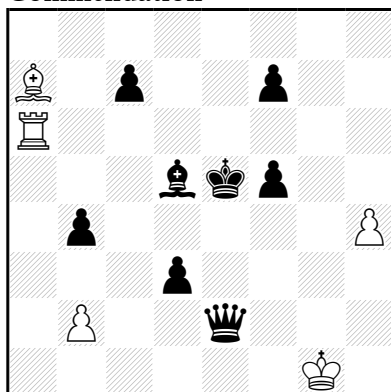
B15 - Abdelaziz Onkoud : Commendation

Change of functions between the white Bishop and Knight, with a double line opening by captures and dual avoidance in a heavy setting.

Solution:

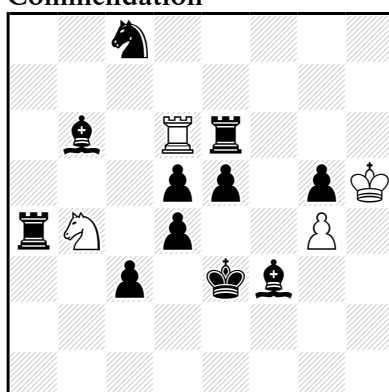
- a) 1. ♜×e4 ♜e7 2. ♜×d5 ♜×d5 3. ♜e3 ♜e4♯
 1. ♜×e4 ♜c7?? 2. ♜×d5 ♜×d5 ; 2. ♜×d5+ ♜×d5 3. ♜e3 ♜f4 ??
 b) 1. ♜×f4 ♜c7 2. ♜×d5+ ♜×d5 3. ♜e3 ♜f4♯
 1. ♜×f4 ♜e7?? 2. ♜×d5+ ♜×d5?? ; 2. ♜×d5 ♜×d5 3. ♜e3 ♜e4 ??

B18 - Mark Pevsner & Luis Echemendía
Problemaz 2026
Commendation



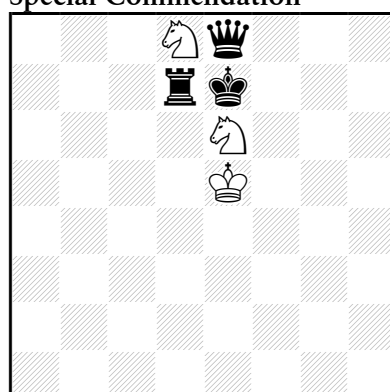
h♯2,5 2 solutions (5+8) C+

B32 - Алексей ИВУНИН & Александр ПАНКРАТЬЕВ
Problemaz 2026
Commendation



h♯3 4 solutions (4+11) C+

B37 - Александр ПАНКРАТЬЕВ
Problemaz 2026
Special Commendation



h♯3 3 solutions (3+3) C+

B18 - Mark Pevsner & Luis Echemendía : Commendation

Cleverly constructed with the white Pawns steeling the show.

Solution:

1... ♖b6 2. ♔d4 h5 3. ♕é5 ♖×b4♯

1... ♙b6 2. ♔f6 b3 3. ♕é7 ♙d4♯

B32 - Алексей ИВУНИН & Александр ПАНКРАТЬЕВ : Commendation

Two sets. In one we have Zilahi. The second set is not linked to the first set.

Solution:

1. ♙c5 ♖a6 2. d3 ♖×a4 3. ♔d4 ♘c2♯

1. d3 ♘c6 2. ♗f4 ♖×é6 3. ♕é4 ♖×é5♯

1. é4 ♘d3 2. é×d3 ♕×g5 3. ♕é4 ♖×é6♯

1. ♗×d6 ♕×g5 2. ♗é4+ ♕h4 3. ♕f4 ♘×d5♯

B37 - Александр ПАНКРАТЬЕВ : Special Commendation

Special Commendation for the miniature, B37.

Three nice mates in a sub-miniature.

Solution:

1. ♕g6 ♕f4 2. ♕f6 ♘c7 3. ♗g7 ♘d5♯

1. ♕g8 ♘b7 2. ♕f7 ♕f5 3. ♗é7 ♘d6♯

1. ♗c7 ♘c5 2. ♕×d8+ ♕d6 3. ♗c8 ♘b7♯