Award Problemaz 2026
section : H# 3,5-n
By Henry Tanner

Thank you to Abdelaziz for inviting me to judge these long helpmates! It was a pleasure. I received 43 anonymous problems, and I tried to solve most of them. In addition to putting my favourite problems into order, I used much time in anticipation search.

Thank you very much to all composers of this tourney, and congratulations to the composers of the awarded problems!

Helsinki, October 2, 2026
Henry Tanner

Participants :
Bidlen Anton : C9 , Vieira Ricardo : C27, C28 , Dowd Steven : C10* , Drazkowski Krzysztof : C17, Echemendia Luis : C10*, C12*, C13*, C16* , Galma Mikhaïlo : C26* , Gavriliv Evgeny : C25 , Ivunin Alexeï : C2*, C3*, C4*, C5*, C6*, C7*, C34*, C35*, C36*, C37*, C38* , Kolesnik Mikola: C39 , Nasyrov Anton : C41 , Onkoud Abdelaziz : C8, C11, C18, C24, C40 , Paliulionis Viktoras : C42, C43 , Pankratiev Alexandre : C2*, C3*, C4*, C5*, C6*, C7*, C29, C30, C31, C32, C33, C34*, C35*, C36*, C37*, C38* , Petkovic Nikola : C1 , Pevsner Mark : C12*, C13*, C14, C15, C16*, C19, C20, C21, C22 , Vasyuchko Mikola : C26* & Yuzyuk Victor : C23.

Comments on non-awarded problems :
P = PDB & Y = Yacpdb

C1 Anticipated by: P1087116 & Y 558021, though without the w/b Bristol, but also by P0506681 & Y 88793 showing the w/b Bristol in a very economical setting.
C2 Nice but very simple. Consists of familiar elements.
C3 Solutions like this have been shown many times. The bSh8, though visually attractive, is only used against duals. The moves B3 and B4 are repeated.
C4 Four solutions are an achievement, but they are not connected. In two solutions, B2 and B3 are repeated. In one solution (4...Rb8#) three black officers remain unused.
C5 The good points are the two different routes of the wK and mates from the same square (e3), but the basic content is very simple.
C6 There is very little analogy between the three solutions,
C7 Two of the four solutions are from Ivunin & Pankratiev, 2nd Prize Probleemblad 2017, quoted in Album Russia 2016–2018, No. E203. The added two solutions are not analogous. The stipulation is slightly complex: h#3½, 2.1... & 1.2.1...; that is: 1...Bxg2+ is repeated.
C9 The main ideas, w/b Bristol and w Indian, are nice but very familiar. The moves Se5 and Kf3 are repeated. The mates are not model.
C10 Anticipated by P0559199 & Y 67874.
C15 This is fine as such, but similar wP minimals have been composed a lot. This shows very little new. It is easier to compose h#4 + h#4½ than h#4½ 2.1...
C17 This is a pleasant problem in some ways, but largely anticipated by P1359467 & Y 490451. Also the moves Kf3-e4-d4 are repeated.

C19 This simple Kindergarten problem is anticipated by the more economical P1107390 & Y 103447.

C20 The main flaw here is lack of unity. There is one – but only one – promotion; in one solution the

bQ is not used, and the need for the dual-stopping bPc5 is unfortunate.
C21 One half of this problem is completely anticipated by P0509115. The other half, though, is a good partner to this. In a more modest competition this problem might have succeeded.
C22 The switchback 5.Kxd3 6.Ke4 & 7.Kd3 is interesting, but I don't like the idea of using the bR for getting a Phoenix.
C26 The solution is very simple, though some tries may be found with 1...d4? and 2...Kg1. The black triangle is beautiful (and necessary).
C28 Captures on d3, Zilahi, and marches of the wK. That's good, but the position is very heavy for the content.
C29 The solutions 1…Sa5 … 4.Kd4 Sb3# and 1…Sé5 … 4.Kd4 Sf3# are almost identical and have very little in common with the third solution. The dual-stopping wP is disturbing.
C30 The stipulation is h#3,5, 1.2.1..., so this is not h#3½ with two different solutions of full length. The bSg6 could be a black pawn.
C31 Both the bRe4 and bPa7 can be removed. Furthermore, it is not interesting to have a setplay and then, after a simple tempo move, the same solution.
C32 and C33 There are very many long helpmates with this material, and some of them show interesting play. Though often they do not, and these two problems belong into that category. Here C32, the shorter one, has a promising start : 1…Ba2+, 2...Bf7, and 3...Bh5, but in the diagram White has only two legal moves, which diminishes the surprise value of the checking key.
C34 This one is a bit more enjoyable than most of the non-analogous multi-solution problems of this tourney. I particulary like the solution 1...Ba5, which ends with a pawn battery, but it is the only battery in the problem. There is also one single promotion. Also, on the negative side, wRxbSd2 is shown three times.
C35 A rather economical four-solution problem without analogy. Again, one single promotion. Moves 2...Kg7 and 3...Kf6 are repeated.
C36 This is anticipated by Yacpdb 429979, in which the bQ participates in both black Bristols.
C37 With C34, this is one of the better multi-solution problems without analogy. One of the mates is not model; one solution, which starts with capturing the bR, ends with three passive black officers. Still, four mates by the wR, and the unpin of 1…Rh3 2.Bc3 Rf3! 3.Rc4 is nice.
C38 I do not like the repetition of 2.Kf6, 3.Kg7, and 4.Kh8, though of course there is some point in it.
C39 Anticipated by the b-form of P1308420.

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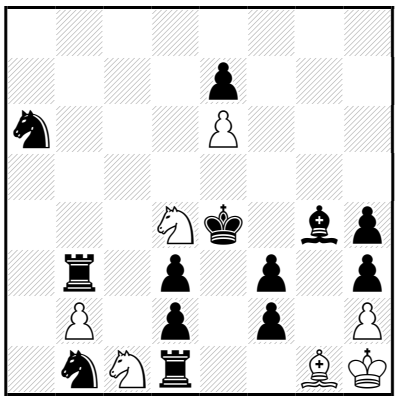
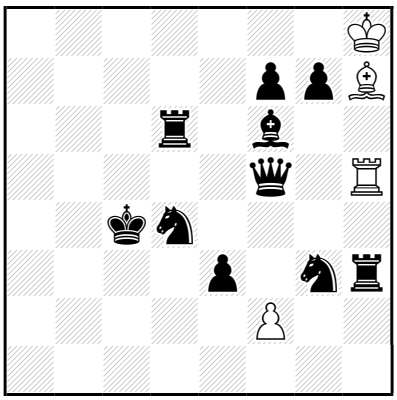
C40 - Abdelaziz Onkoud
Problemaz 2026
Prize



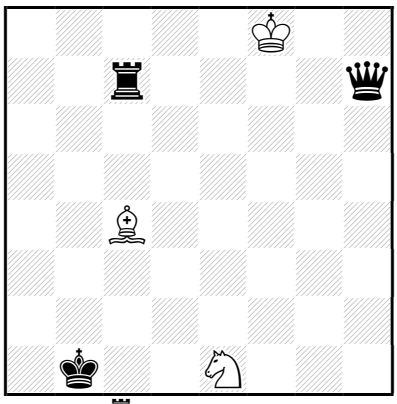
h‡3,5 2 solutions (7+13) C+

C11 - Abdelaziz Onkoud
Problemaz 2026
1° Honorable Mention



h‡3,5 2 solutions (4+10) C+

C43 - Viktoras Paliulionis
Problemaz 2026
2° Honorable Mention



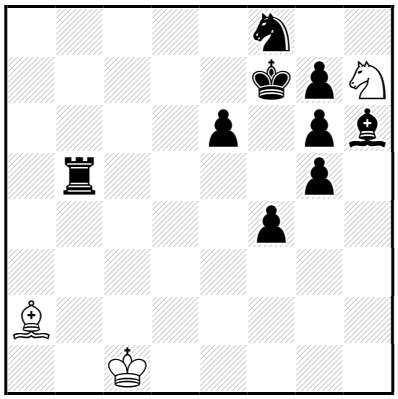
h‡6 b)♜c7→b7 (3+3) C+

C40 - Abdelaziz Onkoud : Prize
1…♘×d3 2.f1=♝ ♘b4 3.♝ç4 ♘×a6 4.♚d3 ♘ç5‡
1…♘×f3 2.f1=♜ ♘é5 3.♜f4 ♘f7 4.♚f3 ♘g5‡
The two solutions are highly analogous: a black promotion which results in an ambush. One of the white knights captures a black pawn and moves, opening the line for the promoted piece. Later the bK arrives at the square where the wS captured; the Kniest theme. In both solutions one of the white knights makes all the moves and gives a model mate in the end. This also means that the wSs exchange functions: mating and guarding a flight. Very good, and I do not remember having seen anything quite like this.

C11 - Abdelaziz Onkoud : 1° Honorable Mention
1…f3 2.♛é4 ♖ç5+ 3.♚d3 ♖ç2 4.♞h5 ♗×é4‡
1…f4 2.♛é5 ♗d3+ 3.♚d5 ♗b5 4.♝h4 ♖×é5‡
White's first move, by the pawn, guards the arrival square of the future white mating piece. Black's first move, by the queen, is a kind of Bristol, moving along the line of the white line-piece; the move is necessary for the bK to arrive at its destination (3.Kd3 & 3.Kd5). The moves W2 and W3 are made to take bK's flights. The move B4 is an unpin of the mating piece. As such, this is perfect and perhaps this problem would have won the tourney, if there weren't these two predecessors, Y 618089 and P1087700 & Y 555906, which show more or less the same content, though the latter one is only a h#3. In the former, the guarding of the mating piece is realized by twinning: in a) the wPg4 guards Bf5# and in b) the wPc5 guards Rd6#. Despite these similarities, I appreciate the tourney problem very high.

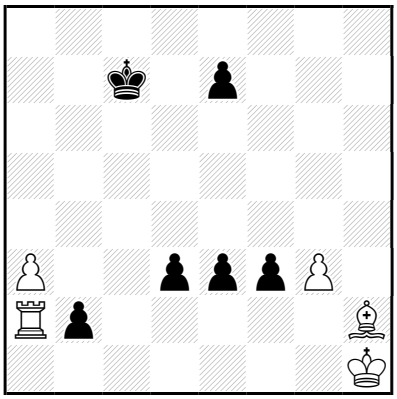
C43 - Viktoras Paliulionis : 2° Honorable Mention
a)1.♛h1 ♗b3 2.♜ç1 ♔é7 3.♚b2 ♔d6 4.♜b1 ♔ç5 5.♛a8 ♔b4 6.♛a1 ♘d3‡
b)1.♜b2 ♗b3 2.♛h8+ ♔é7 3.♚ç1 ♔d6 4.♜b1 ♔ç5 5.♛a1 ♔b4 6.♚b2 ♘d3‡
With this material, it is very difficult to show anything new. But here, with a rather subtle twinning, we have the black queen's corner moves shown in a very beautiful way. One of the nice points is that in b) the key move 1.Rb2 closes the diagonal of the future Qh8 and forces Black to waste time with 3.Kc1, but Black can afford that, because the route Qh7-h8-a1 takes only two moves, whereas the route of the a-form, h7-h1-a8.a1, takes three. An ideal mate in the end, naturally. At first, I disliked the idea of repeating all w moves, but then I realized that this is an interesting theme in itself, the so-called white constant.

C41 - Anton Nasyrov
Problemaz 2026
3° Honorable Mention



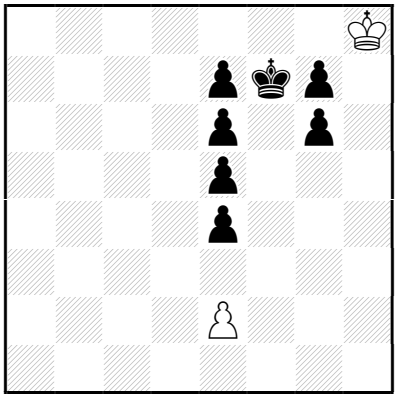
h‡3,5 3 solutions (3+9) C+

C16 - Mark Pevsner
Luis Echemendia
Problemaz 2026
4° Honorable Mention



h‡4 2 solutions (5+6) C+

C24 - Abdelaziz Onkoud
Problemaz 2026
5° Honorable Mention



h‡11,5 (2+7) C+

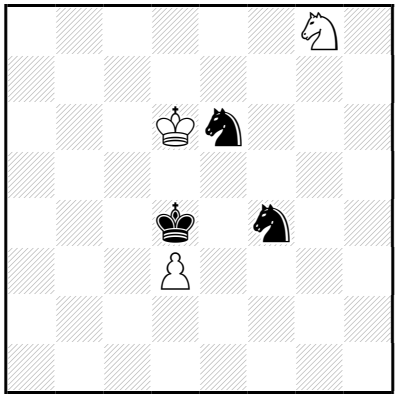
C41 - Anton Nasyrov : 3° Honorable Mention
1…♘f6 2.♜f5 ♘d5 3.é5 ♘é7+ 4.♚f6 ♘g8‡
1…♘×f8 2.♜b8 ♘×é6 3.♜é8 ♘×f4+ 4.♚f8 ♘×g6‡
1…♘×g5+ 2.♚g8 ♘×é6 3.♞h7 ♘f8+ 4.♚h8 ♘×g6‡
In three solutions, the white knight makes all the moves, 12 moves in all. I think this is a fine achievement, although there is otherwise little analogy between the solutions. There are various nice, non-analogous details, like 1...Sf6 and 2...Sd5 unpinning the bP, and the change of places of the knights: 3.Sh7 Sf8. Model mates.

C16 - Mark Pevsner & Luis Echemendia : 4° Honorable Mention
1.b1=♜+ ♗g1 2.♜b7 ♖h2 3.é2 ♗b6+ 4.♚b8 ♖h8‡
1.b1=♝ ♖d2 2.♚d6 ♖×d3+ 3.♚é5 ♖d6 4.♝é4 g4‡
The promoted black piece blocks a flight later. The moves 1...Bg1 and 1.b1B are ambushes. Though the two solutions show little analogy, I find this a very beautiful and original problem. Both solutions are somewhat extraordinary. There is good use of the pawn chain d3 – g3. Model mates.

C24 - Abdelaziz Onkoud : 5° Honorable Mention
1…♔h7 2.g5 ♔h8 3.g4 ♔h7 4.g3 ♔h8 5.g2 ♔h7 6.g1=♞ ♔h8 7.♞f3 é×f3 8.é3 f4 9.é2 f5
10.é1=♜ f6 11.♜f1 f×g7 12.♜f6 g8=♕‡
Although the problem is rather long, there doesn't happen very much. But there are three promotions, and one could see a fourth one as a try in 10.e1Q?. It is very good that also the pawns e5 and e6 are necessary: they are not only needed to make a long column of pawns. I like Kindergarten problems, so I also like when something new is shown in this field.

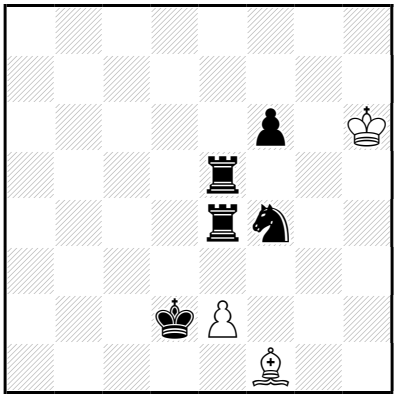
Commendations (9; in the order of economy)

C42 - Viktoras Paliulionis
Problemaz 2026
Commendation



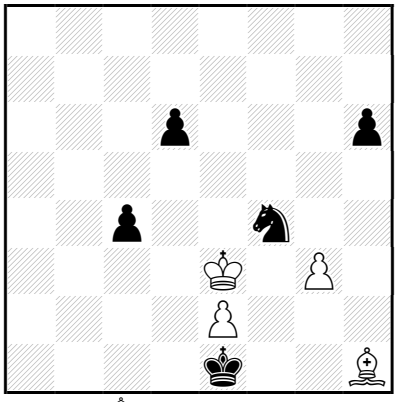
h‡6 2 solutions (3+3) C+

C18 - Abdelaziz Onkoud
Problemaz 2026
Commendation



h‡5 2 solutions (3+5) C+

C13 - Luis Echemendia
Mark Pevsner
Problemaz 2026
Commendation



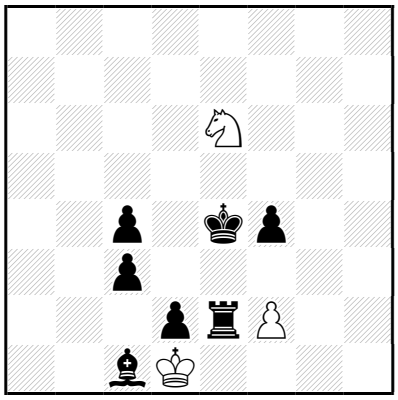
h‡5 b)♗h1→a1 (4+5) C+

C42 - Viktoras Paliulionis : Commendation
1.♛ç3 ♔é5 2.♛b4 ♔é4 3.♛ç5 ♔é3 4.♞d5+ ♔d2 5.♛d4 ♘é7 6.♞ç5 ♘ç6‡
1.♞h5 ♔d7 2.♛é5 ♘h6 3.♛f6 d4 4.♛g7 d5 5.♛f8 d×é6 6.♞g7 é7‡
Two very different long solutions ending with ideal-mates. A switcback of the bK in one solution, and a surprising pawn mate in the second.

C18 - Abdelaziz Onkoud : Commendation
1.♜é3 ♗h3 2.♜f3 ♗g4 3.♛é3 ♗h5 4.♛é4 é×f3+ 5.♛f5 ♗g4‡
1.♞é6 é3 2.♛×é3 ♗b5 3.♛f4 ♗é8 4.♛f5 ♔h5 5.♜f4 ♗g6‡
Interesting play in two non-analogous solutions. Sacrifices of the bR and wP. Long marches of the wB. I especially like the sequence Bf1-h3-g4-h5-g4. The bK has two different routes to f5.

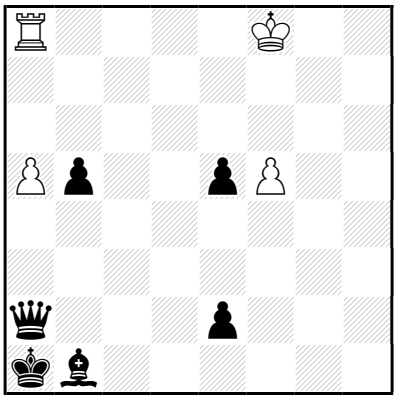
C13 - Luis Echemendia & Mark Pevsner : Commendation
a)1.♞g2+ ♔é4 2.♛×é2 ♔f5 3.♛f3 ♔f6 4.♛g4 ♗×g2 5.♛h5 ♗f3‡
b)1.ç3 ♔f3 2.♛d2 é4 3.♛d3 g×f4 4.♛d4 f5 5.♛é5 ♗×ç3‡
Black's first moves are in fact interferences. All the other black moves are made by the king. There are no repeated moves. Model mates. To me this seems original.

C8 - Abdelaziz Onkoud
Problemaz 2026
Commendation



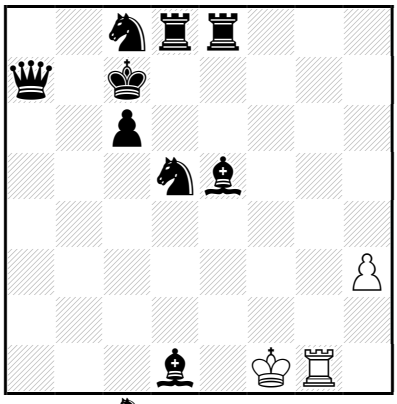
h‡3,5 2 solutions (3+7) C+

C23 - Victor Yuzyuk
Problemaz 2026
Commendation



h‡4 2 solutions (4+6) C+

C14 - Mark Pevsner
Problemaz 2026
Commendation



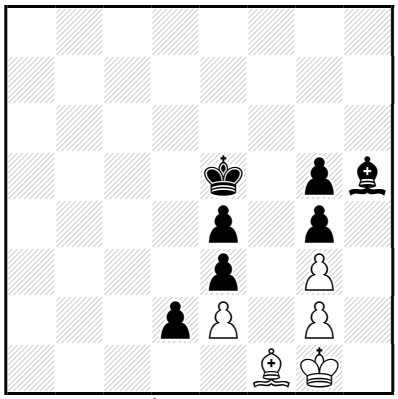
h‡4 b)♞d5→f5 (3+9) C+

C8 - Abdelaziz Onkoud : Commendation
1…♔ç2 2.d1=♜+ ♔b1 3.♜d4 ♔×ç1 4.♚d3 ♘ç5‡
1…♔×é2 2.d1=♝+ ♔é1 3.♝g4 ♔f1 4.♚f3 ♘g5‡
Without the first half-move, there would be Sc5# after Kd3, Re4, and Rd4. But because of the extra white move, something else must be found. A similar mate appears after the tempo triangle of the wK with the promoted bR blocking d4, and then in the other solution, ending with a rather similar mate, the blocking is done by a promoted bishop, and there is a tempo move by the wK (2...Kf1?). Impressive.

C23 - Victor Yuzyuk : Commendation
1.♛×a5 f6 2.♝h7 f7 3.♝g8 f×g8=♕ 4.♛a2 ♕×a2‡
1.♛é6 f×é6 2.é1=♛ é7 3.♛×a5 é8=♕ 4.♛a2 ♕×é5‡
Three black active sacrifices and three promotions to queens.. In both solutions the Qxa5 and Qa2 (a self-pin and a Pelle move) is played, but with a different queen, ending with a different mate. Fine!

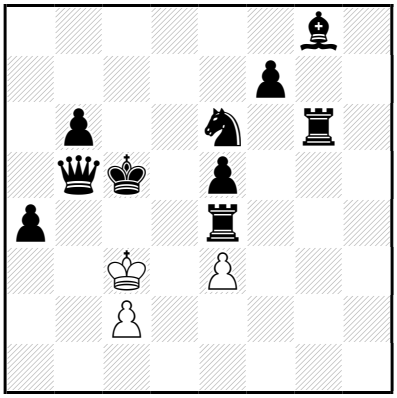
C14 - Mark Pevsner : Commendation
a)1.♞çé7 ♖g5 2.♜ç8 ♖×é5 3.♚d8 ♖é6 4.♞ç7 ♖d6‡
b)1.♚d6 ♔é1 2.♚d5 ♔×d1 3.♚é4+ ♔é2 4.♚f4 ♖g4‡
Both solutions were hard to find for me. The first one has three follow-my-leader moves (aka Umnovs). In both solutions white captures the bB that guards the mating square. In a) the wR makes all the white moves, in b) black only moves his king. So there is some unity, after all, in these two very different solutions. By the way, the bQ is only needed as a dual-stopper, so if the wR starts from g8, the the bQ can be removed; C+. But perhaps the composer had some other reason for the diagram position.

C12 - Mark Pevsner
Luis Echemendia
Problemaz 2026
Commendation



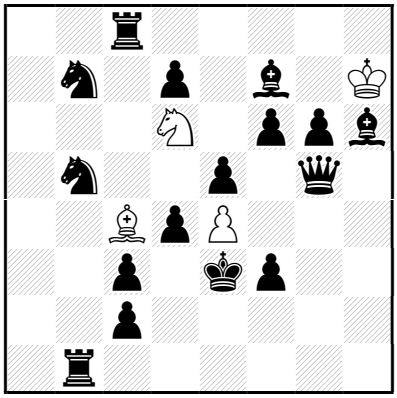
h‡5 b)♗f1→h2 (5+7) C+

C27 - Ricardo Vieira
Problemaz 2026
Commendation



h‡5,5 (3+10) C+

C25 - Evgeny Gavriliv
Problemaz 2026
Commendation



h‡3,5 2 solutions (4+16) C+

C12 - Mark Pevsner & Luis Echemendia : Commendation
a)1.d1=♞ ♔h1 2.♞f2+ ♔h2 3.♞h3 g×h3 4.♚f5 h×g4+ 5.♚×g4 ♗h3‡
b)1.d1=♝ ♔f1 2.♝×é2+ ♔×é2 3.♚d4 ♔d1 4.é2+ ♔ç2 5.♚é3 ♗g1‡
Very different solutions, in which the sacrifice of the black promoted piece as well as activity by the wK are unifying factors. Model mates. A pity, that the bBh5 is not used in the b-form.

C27 - Ricardo Vieira : Commendation
1…♔d2 2.♜b4 ç4 3.♞d4 ♔d3 4.♜ç6 ♔é4 5.f5+ ♔×é5 6.♝×ç4 é×d4‡
A very interesting idea: 2...c4 closes two lines for the wK to move to d3 and e4, and yet in the end the hero, wPc4, is captured, so that the other wP may give the mate after a black sacrifice. A delayed follow-my-leader sequence on e4. Model mate.

C25 - Evgeny Gavriliv : Commendation
1…♗×f7 2.♚d3 ♘×ç8 3.♛d2 ♘d6 4.♝é3 ♗ç4‡
1…♘×b7 2.♚×é4 ♗×b5 3.♛é3 ♗ç4 4.♝f4 ♘d6‡
There is good analogy between the solutions, exchange of functions between wB and wS, switchbacks, exchange of moves W3 and W4, and two slightly different black Bristols for blocking. Almost perfect, but I do not very much like the core idea of just capturing the black officers that are defending the mating suares c4 and d6.