

StrateGems 2011 Studies Award

By Iuri Akobia

Sixteen studies were published in *StrateGems* in 2011. Below are ten awarded studies. Other studies were excluded from the award for various reasons.



1st Prize - (Valery Kalashnikov - E0213) 1.Rh8! with: **A) - 1...c1Q 2.Sd6+ Ke7 3.Rh7+** (3.Se6? g5 4.Rh7+ Kf6 5.Rf7+ Kg6 6.Rg7+ Kh5 7.Rxg5+ Kh4 8.Sf5+ Kh3 9.Sf4+ Kh2 10.Rxg3 Not enough, only one tempo for 4th echo mate.) **3...Kf8 4.Se6+ Kg8 5.Rg7+ Kh8 6.Sf7#**; **B) - 1...d2 2.Sd6+ Kc7 3.Se6+ Kb6 4.Rb8+** with two thematic lines: **B1) - 4...Ka7 5.Rb7+ Ka8 6.Sc7#**; (4...Ka6 5.Kc6 c1Q+ 6.Sc5+ Ka7 (6...Ka5 7.Rxb5#) 7.Rb7+ Ka8 8.Rd7 Qxc5+ 9.Kxc5 d1Q 10.Rd8+ Ka7 11.Sxb5+-) **B2) - 4...Ka5 5.Rxb5+ Ka4 6.Sc5+ Ka3 7.Sc4+ Ka2 8.Rb2+ Ka1 9.Sb3#**
Interesting study in classical style. There are three echo mates at the three corners of the board. In the three thematic variations there is only one capture of a Pawn. Great work! Is it possible to add the 4th echo?

2nd Prize - (Richard Becker - E0209) 1.Bf5+! (1.Qd4? c3 2.Bf5+ Kb2-+; 1.Qh1+? Kb2 2.Qb7+ Qb3 3.Qg2+ Ka3-+) **1...Ka2 2.Qf6!** (2.Qd4? Qe1 3.Ka7 a5 4.Ka6 a4 5.Qd7 Be8 6.Qc8 c3 7.Be6+ Kb2 8.Qb8+ Kc1 9.Qxe8 Qe2+-) **2...Bd5+ 3.Ka7 a5 4.Qd4! Qc7+ 5.Ka6 Bb7+ 6.Kb5 Bc6+ 7.Kxc4 Bd7+ 8.Qc5 Qf4+** (8...Qxc5+ 9.Kxc5 Bxf5 10.Kb5=) **9.Kc3 Qxf5 10.Qc4+ Ka1 11.Qd4 Qg4** (11...Qb5 12.Qd1+ Qb1 13.Qxd7 Qc1+ 14.Kb3 Qb2+ 15.Kc4=) **12.Qe5 Qf5 13.Qd4** positional draw, or **13...Be6 14.Qd1+** (14.Qa4+? Ba2 15.Qd4 Qg6 16.Qd1+ Qb1 zz) **14...Qb1 15.Qa4+ Qa2 16.Qd1+ Qb1** positional draw, or **17.Qa4+ Ba2 18.Qd1 zz Qxd1** stalemate. Complex struggle by both sides with reciprocal Zugzwang!

Honorable Mention - (Pavel Arestov - E0210) 1.Sd6! (Thematic try 1.Sxf6? Rxe4 2.Sxe4 Sxe4 3.e8Q Bb5+! 4.Kxb5 Sd6+ 5.Kc6 Sxe8 6.Kd7 Sf6+! 7.Ke6 Sg8=) **1...Rxe4 2.Sxe4 Sxe4 3.e8Q Bb5+ 4.Kxb5 Sd6+ 5.Kc6 Sxe8 6.Kd7 Kc3 7.Kxe8+-**

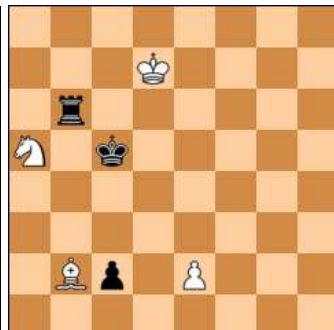
Honorable Mention - (Peter Krug - E0212) 1.Sg4 Sf7+! **2.Sxf7 dxe2 3.Kxg6 g2** (3...Kxg4 4.Rh4+! Kxh4 5.Sh6 g2 6.Rg5 h2 7.Sf5+ Kh3 8.Rg3#) **4.Sg5 Kxg4 5.Sxh3 Kg3 6.Kf5 f2 7.Rg8+** (Transposition 7.Re3+ Sf3 8.Rg8+ Kxh3 9.Rh8+ Kg3 10.Rxf3+ Kxf3 11.Rh3#) **7...Kxh3 8.Rh8+ Kg3 9.Re3+ Sf3 10.Rxf3+ Kxf3 11.Rh3#**

E0211
Peter Krug
 (Austria)
 HM



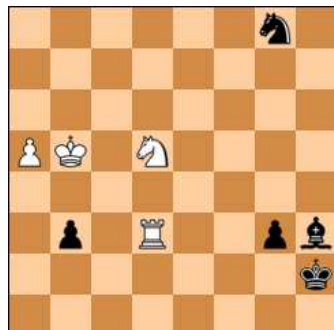
Win

E0200
Janos Mikitovics
 (Hungary)
 HM



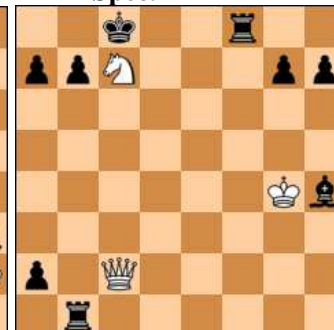
Draw

E0208
Alain Pallier
 (France)
 HM



Win

E0201
Richard Becker
 (USA)
 Spec. HM



Win

Honorable Mention - (Peter Krug - E0211) 1.Qg6 e2+ 2.Sde3 (2.Sfe3? Rb6 3.Be5+ Rxe5 4.Qxb6 Rh5+! 5.Kxh5 e1Q 6.Qd8+ Kg7 7.Qd7+ Kh8! 8.Qh3 Kg7!) 2...Rb6 (2...Bc3 3.Be5+! Bxe5 4.Qxb1; 2...Rbb7 3.Qf6+ Kg8 4.Qg5+ Kf8 5.Qf5+ Ke8 6.Qh5+--+) 3.Be5+ Rxe5 4.Qxb6 Bxe3+ 5.Sxe3 Rh5+ 6.Kg6! (6.Kxh5? e1Q 7.Sf5 Qe8+ 8.Kh6 Qe6+)=) 6...Rg5+ 7.Kxg5 e1Q 8.Sf5 Qe5 9.Qd8+ Kh7 10.Qd7+ Kh8 11.Qc8+ Kh7 12.Qd8 Qe8 13.Qc7+--

Honorable Mention - (Janos Mikitovics - E0200) 1.Ba3+! (Thematic try? 1.Bc1? Rb5! 2.Ba3+ Kd5 3.e4+ Kxe4 4.Sc6 Rb3 5.Bc1 Rb1 6.Bh6 Rh1 7.Bg5 Rg1 8.Bh6 Rg7+--+) 1...Kd5 2.Bc1! (2.e4+? Kxe4 3.Sc4 Rb4!!--+) 2...Rb1 3.Bh6 Rb5 4.e4+!! Kxe4 5.Sc4! (5.Sc6? Rh5 6.Bc1 Rh1 7.Bg5 Rg1 8.Bh6 Rg7+--+) 5...Rh5 6.Bc1 Rh1 7.Bg5 Rg1 8.Bh6 Rg7+! 9.Kd8! (9.Kc6? Rg6+) 9...Rg6 10.Bc1 Rg1 11.Bh6 Rd1+! 12.Ke7! (12.Kc7? c1Q) 12...Rh1 13.Bg5 Rh5 14.Bc1 (14.Sa3 Rxe5 15.Sxc2 Rb5 16.Sa3 Rc5 17.Kd6 Kd4+--+) 14...Rh1 15.Bg5 positional draw.

Honorable Mention - (Alain Pallier - E0208) 1.Se3! g2 2.Sxg2 Bxg2 3.Rxb3 Se7 4.Rc3! (4.Ra3? Sc6! 5.a6 Sb8! 6.a7 Sc6 7.a8Q Sd4+=) 4...Sd5 (4...Bf1+ 5.Kc5 Kg2 6.Re3 Sf5 7.Re1 /e5 7...Ba6 8.Re5 Sg3 9.Re6 Bf1 10.Kd4 Sf5+ 11.Ke4 Sg3+ 12.Ke5+--+) 5.Rc1! (5.Rc8? Bf1+ 6.Kc5 Sf4! 7.Kd4 Kg3 /h3=; Thematic try 5.Rc2? Kg3! 6.Kc5 Sc7! 7.Kb6 Sd5+! 8.Kc5 Sc7 9.Kb6 Sd5+ positional draw; 5.Rb3 Se7 6.Rc3 Sd5 loss of time) 5...Bf3 6.Rc8! (6.a6? Be2+=; 6.Rc2+? Kg3 7.a6 Be4 8.Rc8 Bd3+!)=) 6...Be2+ 7.Kc5 Sf4! 8.Kd4! Ba6 9.Ra8 (Thematic try 9.Rg8? Kh3! 10.Ke4 Se6 11.Rg6 Bb7+ 12.Ke3 Bc8 13.Rg8 Ba6 14.Rg6 Bc8 /c4 positional draw) 9...Se6+ 10.Ke3!! Sc5 11.Rf8!! (Thematic try 11.Rg8? Kh3! 12.Rg6 Bf1!! 13.Kf2 Ba6 14.Ke3 Bf1 positional draw) 11...Kg2! 12.Rf2+ Kg3 13.Rf6 Bb7 14.Rb6! Bg2 15.Kd4 Sd7 16.Rb2! Ba8 17.a6 Kf4 18.Rb5!+--

Special Honorable Mention - (Richard Becker - E0201) 1.Sb5+! with: A) - 1...Kb8 2.Qh2+ Bg3 3.Qxg3+ Ka8 4.Sc7+ Kb8 5.Sa6+ Ka8 6.Qb8+ Rxb8 7.Sc7# B) - 1...Kd7 2.Qc7+ Ke6 3.Qd6+ Kf7 4.Qd5+ Kg6 5.Qh5+ Kf6 6.Qf5+ Ke7 7.Qe5+ Kf7 (7...Kd7 8.Qd6+ Ke8 9.Sc7+ Kf7 10.Qe6#) 8.Sd6+ Kg8 9.Qe6+ (9.Qd5+? Kh8 10.Sf7+ Rxf7=) 9...Kh8 10.Sf7+ Kg8 11.Sh6+ Kh8 12.Qg8+ Rxe8 13.Sf7#

E0204
Lubis Kekey, Michal Hlinka
(Slovakia)
Spec.HM



Draw

E0202
Franjo Vrabec
(Sweden)
Spec.HM



Win

Special Honorable Mention - (Lubos Kekely & Michal Hlinka - E0204) 1.Se4+ Bxe4 2.dxe4 Ra5+! 3.Kb1!
 (3.Kb2? Rxe2+ 4.Rc2 Rxc2+ 5.Kxc2 Ra2+ 6.Kb3 Ra1 7.Qxd7 e2→) **3...Rh1+** (3...dxc6 4.Qg7+ Kh4 5.Qf6+ Kg4
 6.Qf3+ Kh4 7.Qf6+ Kg3 8.Qf3+=) **4.Rc1!** (4.Kb2? dxc6 5.Qg7+ Kh4 6.Qf6+ Kg3 7.Qf3+ Kh2!→) **4...Rxc1+ 5.Kxc1**
d3! 6.Qb2! (6.Qb3? d2+ 7.Kb2 Kxh5→) **6...d2+ 7.Kd1 Kf4** (7...Rc5 8.Qc3! Rxc3 stalemate) **8.Qa2! Rb5** (8...Rxa2
 stalemate) **9.Qb2! Rc5** (9...Rxb2 stalemate) **10.Qc3! Rb5** (10...d6 11.Qxe3+ Kxe3 stalemate; 10...Rxc2 stalemate)
11.Qb2 Ra5 12.Qa2 Rc5 13.Qc4! d6! (13...Rc6 14.Qc5! Rxc5 stalemate) **14.Qc3 Rb5 15.Qb2=**

Special Honorable Mention - (Franjo Vrabec - E0202) 1.f4 (1.Qa1? Sxe5 2.Re3 Kf6=) **1...gxf4 2.Qg2+!** (2.Qg1+?
 Kh7=) **2...Kf6!** (2...Kf8 3.Qxd5 Qxe5+ 4.Qxe5 Sxe5 5.Rd5! Sg6 6.Rxh5 Kg7 7.Kf3+→) **3.Qg6+(3.Qxd5? Qxd5 4.Rxd5**
 Sxe5=; 3.Rxd5? Sxe5 4.Qe4 Qa6+=) **3...Kxe5 4.Re3+!! fxe3 5.f4+ Kd6 6.f5 Qxg6 7.fxg6 d4 8.g7 Se5 9.g8Q+→**

We are very grateful to Iuri for such a speedy award. Please send comment to Franjo Vrabec no later than October 1st 2012.