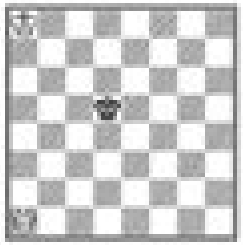
1 Elementary Endings

In this section we shall examine positions which in fact belong to the ABC of every player and scarcely need any further elucidation. However, we mention them briefly here for the sake of completeness, first of all looking at the force required to mate a lone king.

King and Queen against King

This is always a win, the only danger being a possible stalemate.

1



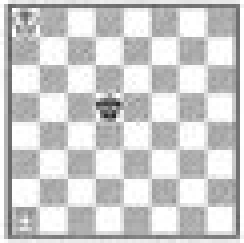
One possible winning method from diagram 1 is the following: **1 ♕c3 ♔e4 2 ♔b7 ♔d5** The black king obviously wishes to remain in the centre as long as possible. **3 ♔c7 ♔e4 4 ♔d6 ♔f4 5 ♕d3 ♔g5 6 ♔e5 ♔g4 7 ♕e3 ♔h5 8 ♔f5 ♔h4 9 ♕d3 ♔h5 10 ♕h3 mate.**

This is perhaps not the shortest way, 1 ♔b7 being possibly quicker, but the given method shows how easily the enemy king can be mated in such positions.

King and Rook against King

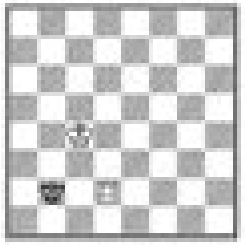
This too is always a win. As in the above example, the enemy king must be driven to the edge of the board before he can be mated, although the task is slightly more difficult. Whilst the queen can drive the king to the edge without the help of its own king, it is essential for the rook and king to co-ordinate their action to achieve this aim.

2



In diagram 2, White's task is not especially difficult. In order to force the black king to the side of the board, it is simplest to cut off the king by using the rook along the rank or the file, beginning with 1 ♖a4 or 1 ♖e1. However, as no further progress can be made without the help of the white king, the clearest method is **1 ♔b7 ♔e4 2 ♔c6 ♔d4 3 ♖a1** To force the enemy king towards the a-file. **3 ... ♔e4 4 ♖a4+ ♔d3 5 ♔d5** Now the black king is denied access to both the c-file and the fourth rank. **5 ... ♔c3 6 ♖d4 ♔c2 7 ♔c4 ♔b2 8 ♖d2+**

3

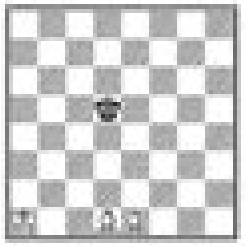


8 ... ♔c1 The king already has to go to the back rank. **9 ♔c3 ♔b1 10 ♔b3 ♔c1 11 ♖d3 ♔b1 12 ♖d1 mate.** Note especially the use of waiting moves by the rook.

King and two Bishops against King

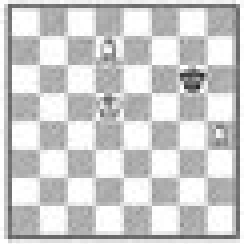
It is clear that king and one bishop cannot possibly mate a lone king, but two bishops easily force the win, as can be seen in the play from diagram 4.

4



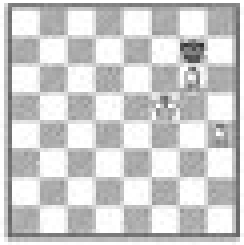
The winning procedure is the same as in the previous examples. The black king is gradually driven to the edge of the board by co-ordinating the bishops to control its escape squares. The following line of play is readily understandable: **1 ♔b2 ♔e4 2 ♔c3 ♔d5 3 ♗f3+ ♔e5 4 ♗g3+ ♔e6 5 ♔d4** The black king is now completely cut off by the bishops and can easily be forced into the corner. **5 ... ♔f5 6 ♔d5 ♔f6 7 ♗g4 ♔g5 8 ♗d7 ♔f6 9 ♗h4+ ♔g6**

5



The black king's movements are even further restricted but he must be driven into the corner. **10 ♔e5 ♔f7 11 ♔f5 ♔g7 12 ♗e8 ♔f8 13 ♗g6 ♔g7**

6



14 ♗e7 ♔g8 15 ♔f6 ♔h8 16 ♗f5 ♔g8 17 ♔g6 ♔h8 18 ♗d6 ♔g8 19 ♗e6+ ♔h8 20 ♗e5 mate.

There may of course be quicker ways but the winning method remains in all cases the same.

Practical Chess Endings

Paul Keres

Practical Chess Endings:

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Positions in this phase are more the result of what you created than earlier phases and are the most removed from the start position and memorised opening moves Study in the ending tends to be more rewarding than studying other phases of the game In 20 hours you could cover an awful lot on many endings but in the same time you would be lucky to absorb one opening variation Strength in the endgame gives you great chance to come back from earlier reverses and good endgame players are good endgame swindlers To get stronger as the game goes on is a good feeling To be a strong player you must be good at endgames What this book includes Topics include drawing basic concepts lone king endgames pawn endings pawnless endings piece versus pawns rook endings minor piece endings queen endings and other endings There are summaries of key points of each section See my authors page for information about my background and other books

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