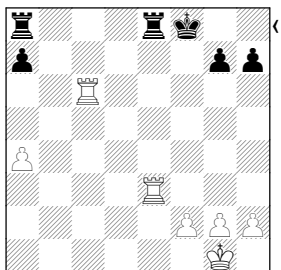


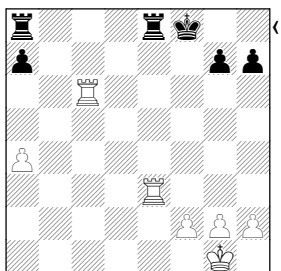
## ENDINGS WITH FOUR ROOKS



## ENDINGS WITH FOUR ROOKS

Endings with four rooks on the board significantly differ from endings with two rooks. It is much easier for the stronger side to utilize his material or positional advantage - using the power of two rooks, he gets an opportunity to attack the enemy king. The decisive factor in these endings is the activity of rooks and coordination between them. An ideal position is the one with two rooks on the 7th (2nd) rank. Let us consider the most characteristic features of these endings.

## REALIZATION OF A MATERIAL ADVANTAGE



## REALIZATION OF A MATERIAL

## ADVANTAGE

1... Red8

[Black avoids a rook exchange, since after 1... Rxe3 2. fxe3 Rd8 3. Ra6 play could have transposed into a hopeless for him ending from the game A.Rubinstein - Em.Lasker, 1909.]

2. g3 Rd7 3. a5! (intending to create an outpost at b7 after 4. a6) 3... Rb8 4. h4 Rb5 5. a6 Ra5 6. Kg2 Ra2

[Better is 6... g6]

7. h5! Ra5 Now White creates a very dangerous passed pawn on the f-file, but

[7... h6 does not help Black in view of 8. Rc8+ Kf7 9. Rf3+ Ke6 (or 9... Ke7 10. Rg8 Ke6 11. Re8+ , and the rest is clear) 10. Re8+ Kd6 11. Rd3+ Kc7 12. Rxd7+ Kxd7 13. Rg8 , and White wins.]

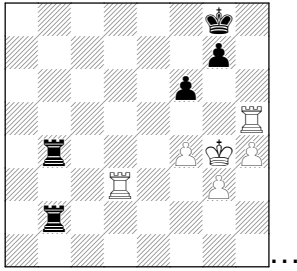
8. h6 gxh6

[Even worse is 8... g6]

9. Rxh6 Kg7 10. Rc6 Rf5 11. Rec3 Rff7 (White threatened 12. lc7 lff7 13. ld7 ld7 14. lb3 followed by lb7) 12. f4 Rfe7 13. Kh3 Rf7 14. R3c5 Kf8 15. Kh4 The king supports the passed f-pawn. 15... Kg7 16. Rb5 Black has to passively wait, since he does not have any counterplay.

16... Kf8 17. f5 Rfe7 18. g4 Kf7 19. Kh5 Re1 20. Kg5 Ree7 21. Rb8! White threatens 22. lh8 øg7 23. f6! øh8 24. lc8, from which there is no defense. Black resigned.

Petrosian T. - Larsen B., Biel, 1976



With two rooks it would have been an easy draw; with four rooks White wins.

1. Rd8+ Kf7 2. Rhh8 Rb7 ( 3. !d7□ was threatened) 3. Rhf8+ Ke7

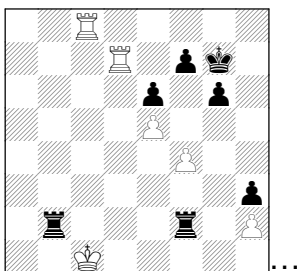
[Surely, not 3... Kg6? 4. h5+ Kh6 5. Rh8#]

4. Kf5! R2b3 5. g4 Rg3 6. Rde8+ Kd6 7. g5 fxg5 8. hxg5 Rb5+ 9. Kg6 [...]

[On 9... Rb7 there follows 10. Rf7 Rxf7 11. Kxf7 Rf3 12. Re4 Kd5 13. Ra4 Rf2 14. Kxg7□ with a simple win]

Black resigned.

## PLAYING FOR MATE



## PLAYING FOR MATE

After 1. Rdd8! Black is powerless to escape mate: 1... g5

[1... Rxh2 2. Rg8+ Kh6 3. Rh8+ Kg7 4. Rcg8#]

2. f5! (blocking) 2... g4 The only

defense from immediate mate. 3. Rg8+ Kh6

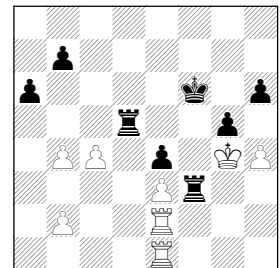
[3... Kh7 4. Rh8+ Kg7 5. Rcg8#]

4. Rxg4 Kh7 5. Rc3! Rxh2 6. Rh4+ Kg7 7. Rg3+ Kf8 8. Rh8+ Ke7 9. Rd3 exf5

[9... f6 10. Rh7+ Ke8 11. exf6□]

10. Rdd8 f6 11. Rhe8+ Kf7 12. e6+ Kg6 13. Rg8+ Kh6 14. e7 Rbc2+ 15. Kd1 Ra2 16. Rg6+! Kh7 17. Rh8+! , and the white pawn is queening with check. An impressive study.

Shahovic D. - Korchnoi V., Biel, 1979



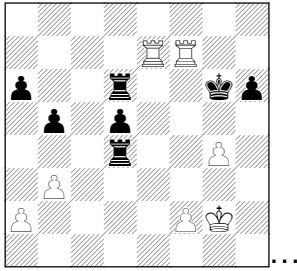
In this position Black quickly "punishes" the white monarch. 1... h5+! 2. Kxh5

Rd8 3. hxg5+

[3. Kg4 gxh4 4. Rc2 Rg8+ 5. Kxh4 Kf5 6. c5 Rh8#]

3... Kf5 4. Kh6 Rh3+ 5. Kg7 Rd7+ 6. Kg8 Kg6 7. Rf2 Rg7+ 8. Kf8 Rh8#

Chiburidanidze M. - Festel, Tbilisi, 1967



Despite material equality, Black is helpless. 1. Kg3 Rc6

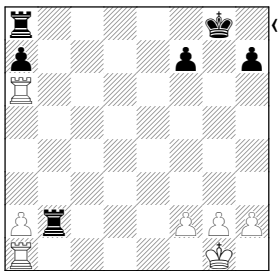
[If 1... Re4 , then 2. Rd7! Rxd7 3. Rxd7  
Re6 4. Rxd5±;  
or 1... Rd3+ 2. f3 d4 3. Kf4 Rf6+ 4.  
Rxf6+ Kxf6 5. Rd7□]

2. f4 Rc2 3. Rg7+ Kf6 4. g5+! hxg5 5. Rgf7+ Kg6 6. f5+! [...]

[6... Kh6 7. Rh7#]

Black resigned.

### ROOKS ON THE 7th (2nd) RANK



## ROOKS ON THE 7th (2nd) RANK

We have already stated that the rooks are most efficiently placed on the penultimate rank. With their help one can draw with a material deficit or win

positions that seem completely equal.

1... Rd8! Black doubles his rook along the 2nd rank, and a draw becomes unavoidable. 2. Rxa7 Rdd2 3. Ra3

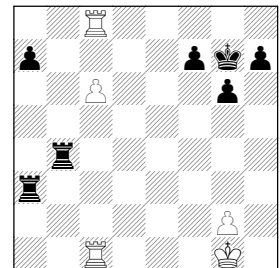
[Or 3. Rf1 Rxa2=]

3... Kf8!

[This is stronger than 3... Rxf2 4. Rg3+ Kf8 5. a3]

4. Rf1 Rxa2 5. Rxa2 Rxa2 A drawn ending with pawns on one wing has arisen.

**Chandler M. - Kupreichik V., Minsk, 1982**



Black's position looks dangerous. 1...  
Ra2! The only chance.

[After the natural 1... Raa4 2. Rd8! Rc4  
3. Rdd1! White wins.]

2. Rg8+! Kh6! 3. c7 Rbb2 4. Kh2

[4. c8=Q Rxc2+ with a draw.]

4... Rxq2+ 5. Kh3 Raf2! 6. c8=Q

[If 6. Rh1 , then 6... Rg5! 7. c8=Q Rf3+  
8. Kh2 Rf2+=;

or 6. Rg1!? Rxcg1 7. c8=Q Rfg2! 8. Qc3  
f6 9. Qc7 Rg4 10. Rh8 Kg5!

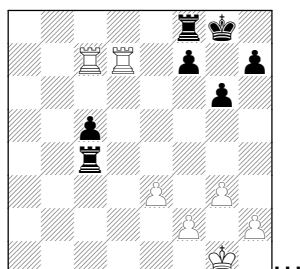
6... Rh2+ 7. Kg3 Rhg2+ 8. Kh4 g5+!

[8... Rh2+? 9. Qh3 g5+ 10. Kg3+!]

[...]

[Draw in view of 9. Rxb5 Rh2+ 10. Kg3 Rf2+=]

Petrosian T. - Balashov Y., 1977



1. Kg2

[Of course, not 1. Rd5]

1... h5 2. h3 Kg7 3. Kf3 Kf6

[Deserving attention was 3... Ra4!? 4. Rxc5 Ra6! 5. Rcc7 Rf6+ 6. Kg2 Ra8 with a probable draw.]

4. h4 Kg7 5. Rd5 Re8 6. Rdd7 Rf8 7. Re7! (threatening e4-e5-e6) 7... Kf6 8. e4 Rd4 9. e5+ Kf5 10. Rxc5 Rd3+ 11. Kg2 Ra3 12. Rc6! Ke4 13. Rf6 Raa8 14. e6

[14. Rfxf7 Rxf7 15. Rxf7 Kxe5=]

14... Ke5 15. Rfxf7 Rg8 16. Rb7!

[But not 16. Rg7? Rxg7 17. Rxg7 Kf6! with a draw.]

16... Kxe6 17. Rbe7+ Kd6 18. Re2 Raf8 19. Ra7 Ra8 20. Rae7 Rac8

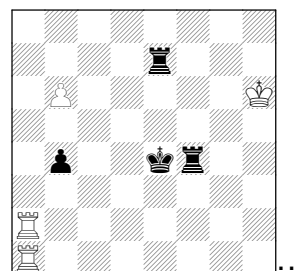
[Bad is 20... g5? 21. R2e6+ Kd5 22. Re5+ Kd6 23. hxg5]

21. R2e6+ Kd5 22. Kh3 Rc7? This loses immediately.

[More stubborn would have been 22... Rcf8 23. f4 Ra8]

23. Rxg6! Black resigned.

REALIZATION OF POSITIONAL ADVANTAGE



## REALIZATION OF POSITIONAL ADVANTAGE

Positional advantage in endings with four rooks may consist in a passed pawn, weak pawns in the opponent's camp, and more active pieces, especially rooks.

The decisive factor here is that White's pawn is advanced farther. A sharp tactical clash results in White's victory.

1. Re1+!

[But not 1. Re2+? , as it will become clear from the annotation to Black's 5th move.]

1... Kf5 2. Rxe7 Kf6 3. Rf7+!

[The aim is not achieved by 3. Re6+ Kxe6 4. b7 Rf6+ 5. Kg5 Rf5+ 6. Kg4 Rb5=;

or 3. Kh7 Kxe7 4. b7 Rf7+ 5. Kg6 Rf6+ 6. Kg5 Rb6 7. Ra7 Kd8 with a draw.]

3... Kxf7 4. b7 Rf6+ 5. Kh7 Rb6

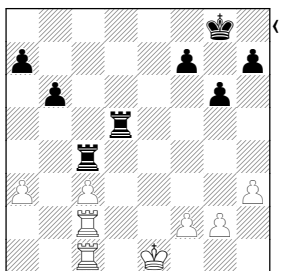
[Losing is 5... Rf5 , since after 6. Rf2! Rxf2 7. b8=Q the h2-square is protected. That is why on the 1st move White played 1. !e1!]

6. Ra7

[But not 6. Rg2? Rb5! 7. Rg7+ Ke6=]

6... Ke6 7. Ra6 Rxa6 8. b8=Q , and White wins.

## Capablanca Jose Raul (CUB) 5



### Instructive example

Black is clearly better. The white rooks are doomed to passive defense of the weak a3- and c3-pawns, while the black rooks are free at any moment to attack the opponent's pawn on the K-side.

1... Re4+ 2. Re2 Ra4 3. Ra2 h5 (with the idea of fixing the g2-pawn by h5-h4 for a future attack by !g5) 4. Rd1 Rda5 5. Rda1

Both White's rooks are a sorry sight.

5... h4 6. Kd2 (intending to transfer the king to b3) 6... Kg7 7. Kc2 Rg5! 8. Rg1

[More stubborn would have been 8. Kb3 Raa5 9. f3]

8... Rf4! 9. Kd3

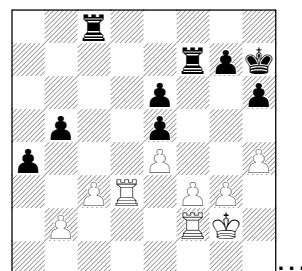
[9. Kb3 Rb5+°]

9... Rf3+ 10. Ke2

[If 10. gxf3 , then 10... Rxc3 followed by 11... !h1°]

10... Rxh3 , and Black wins easily.

Kamsky G. - Short N., Linares, 1994



White skillfully converts his advantage into a win. 1. Rd6 Re7 2. Rb6 Rc5 3.

Rd2 Kg8

[Better is 3... a3 4. bxa3 Rxc3 5. Rxb5 Rxa3 6. Rxe5 , though in this case too, Black's defense is difficult.]

4. Rd8+ Kf7 5. Ra8! (preventing a4-a3 and threatening !aa6) 5... Rd7 6. Kh3 h5

7. Raa6 Re7 8. g4 (clearing a way for the king) 8... hxg4+ 9. Kxg4 Kf6 10. h5 Rcc7

11. f4!

[Weaker is 11. Rxb5 Rb7 and Black has good drawing chances.]

11... Rc4

[If now 11... exf4 12. Rxb5 Rb7 , then 13. Rf5#!]

12. Rxb5 Rxe4 13. Rxe5 Rxe5 14. fxe5+ Kxe5 15. Rxa4 The rest is clear. 15...

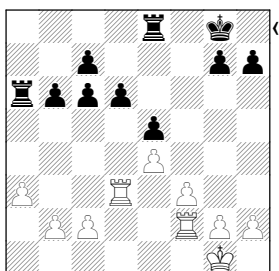
Rb7 16. Rb4 Rc7 17. Kg5 Kd5 18. Kf4 Rf7+ 19. Ke3 Rf1 20. Rd4+ Kc5 21. b4+

Kb5 22. Rg4 Rf5 23. Rxc7 Rxh5 24. Rc7 Re5+ 25. Kd3 Rd5+ 26. Kc2 Rd8 27.

Rc5+ Kb6 28. Kb3 Re8 29. Kc4 Rd8 30. b5 Rd6 31. Re5 Kc7 32. Kc5 Rd3 33. c4

Kd7 34. Re4 Rc3 35. b6 Rb3 36. Rd4+ Kc8 37. Kc6 Black resigned.

Kan I. - Capablanca J., Moscow, 1936



Black has an edge. His rooks can operate along the open a- and f-files; moreover, he can open up the position either on the Q-side, or on the K-side, while White does not have any counterplay. 1... b5 2. Rfd2

[2. f4 does not work in view of 2... exf4 3. Rxf4 Ra4 4. Re3 Rc4 5. c3 d5 , and White loses a pawn]

2... c5 3. Kf2 Ra4 4. Ke2 Kf7 5. Rd1 Ke6 6. Kd2 Rb8 7. Rc3 g5! (starting to play on the K-side) 8. h3 h5 9. Rh1 Rd4+ 10. Ke2 Rg8 11. Rd3 Ra4! 12. Rhd1? g4 13. hxg4 hxg4 14. Ke3 Rh8! 15. Rb3

[15. fxg4? Rg8 16. Kf3 Rf8+ 17. Ke3 Rf4]

15... Rh2 16. Rd2 Rd4! 17. Re2 c6 18. Rc3 g3 19. Rd3?

[By 19. f4! White have retained the drawing chances, for example: 19...

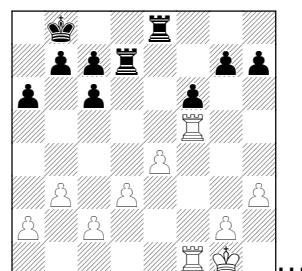
Rh4 20. fxe5 Rdx4+ 21. Kf3 Rhf4+ 22. Kxg3 Rg4+ 23. Kf3 Rxe2 24. Kxe2 with an approximately equal game]

19... Rh1! 20. f4 (too late) 20... Rf1! 21. f5+ Kf6 22. c3 Rxd3+ 23. Kxd3 d5 24. b3 c4+ 25. bxc4 bxc4+ 26. Ke3 Ra1! 27. Kf3 Rxa3° 28. Kxg3

[28. Re3 Rb3! 29. Kxg3 d4°]

28... Rxc3+ 29. Kh4 Rc1 30. g4 Rh1+ 31. Kg3 d4 32. Ra2 d3 33. Kg2 Re1 34. Kf2 Rxe4 35. Kf3 , and White resigned.

Capablanca J. - Janowski D., New York, 1913



White's advantage is obvious: he possesses the open f-file and has a clear plan of creating a strong passed pawn on the e-file after the g2-g4-g5 advance, while Black's counterplay on the Q-side is skillfully suppressed. 1. g4 b6 2. b4! Kb7

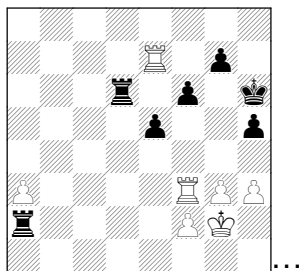
[Stronger is 2... Kc8]

3. Kf2 b5 (intending to open the a-file after 4... ♠b6 followed by 5... a5) 4. a4! (preventing Black's plan) 4... Rd4 5. Rb1 Re5 6. Ke3 Rd7 7. a5! ("freezing" the black Q-side) 7... Re6 8. Rbf1 Rde7 9. g5 fxg5 10. Rxg5 Rh6 11. Rg3 Rhe6 (preventing 12. d3-d4) 12. h4 g6 13. Rg5 h6

[No better is 13... Re5 14. Rf8 Re8 15. Rxe5]

14. Rg4 Rg7 15. d4 Kc8 16. Rf8+ Kb7 17. e5 g5 18. Ke4 Ree7 19. hxg5 hxg5 20. Rf5 Kc8 21. Rg5 Rh7 22. Rh5 Kd7 23. Rxh7 Rxh7 24. Rf8 Rh4+ 25. Kd3 Rh3+ 26. Kd2 c5 27. bxc5 Ra3 28. d5 Black resigned.

Kosten A. - Speelman D., Hastings, 1991



Black wins, because his rooks are more active and better coordinated than opponent's. 1. g4

[An attempt to create counterplay. Nevertheless, better is 1. h4, because after the game move the g4-pawn requires a defense.]

1... hxg4 2. hxg4 g6 3. Kg3 Kg5! The king has occupied the ideal position. 4. Rf7 Ra6 5. Rf8 Ra1

[5... R2xa3 6. R8xf6! e4 7. Rxa6 with a draw.]

6. Kg2 Rd1 (in order to attack the g4-pawn) 7. Rb3 Rd4 8. f3 This move is forced, by now the black rook invades of the 2nd rank. 8... Rd2+ 9. Kg3 Rc6! 10. Rb5 Rc3

[But not 10... Rcc2 11. f4+=]

11. a4 Ra2 12. a5 Raa3° 13. Rb6 Rxf3+ 14. Kg2 Rf4 15. a6 e4 16. Rf7 Ra2+ 17. Kg1 e3 White resigned.