

Csaba Balogh

# **Greatest 551 puzzles**

**From practical games  
of 2016**



Chess  
Evolution

Responsible editor  
Csaba Balogh

Cover designer  
Piotr Pielach

Typesetting  
Piotr Pielach <[www.i-press.pl](http://www.i-press.pl)>

First edition 2017 by Chess Evolution

*Greatest 551 puzzles. From practical games of 2016*  
Copyright © 2017 Chess Evolution

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, electrostatic, magnetic tape, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of the publisher.

ISBN: 978-83-945362-5-1

All sales or enquiries should be directed to Chess Evolution  
2040 Budaors, Nyar utca 16, Hungary

e-mail: [info@chess-evolution.com](mailto:info@chess-evolution.com)  
website: [www.chess-evolution.com](http://www.chess-evolution.com)

Printed in Hungary

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Key to symbols	5
Preface	7
Introduction	9
Easy	11
Solutions to Easy	67
Medium	91
Solutions to Medium	139
Hard	161
Solutions to Hard	199



---

## KEY TO SYMBOLS

---

=	Equality or equal chances
±	White has a slight advantage
∓	Black has a slight advantage
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+ -	White has a decisive advantage
- +	Black has a decisive advantage
∞	unclear
∞̄	with compensation
↔	with counterplay
↑	with initiative
→	with an attack
Δ	with the idea
□	only move
N	novelty
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
+	check
#	mate



---

## PREFACE

---

As a professional chess player, I know exactly how important it is to perform well in tactical calculations. We face them so often that after playing a great game, we can simply blunder something and throw away a safe point, causing ourself sleepless nights!

For most of the players and chess fans, the biggest pleasure in a chessgame is to beat an opponent with a beautiful combination, of which we can be proud at. However to live with all the given oportunities and not miss any of the chances, we must stay in sharp shape all the time, what we can reach only by practicing puzzlesolving.

Many puzzle books are based on artificial positions or selected only for their beauty. The concept of my book is different. The highest priority is to **“use the practical side of the puzzles” and take the level of calculation to a completely new dimension.**

All the puzzles have been selected from recent games, trying to put the reader in the shoes of “the player”.

The difficulty of the different sections might also give you a right evaluation of your current tactical skills and bring them further ahead.

I tried to mix three things in my book:

1. a lot of fun in solving the puzzles,
2. a lot of different tactical ideas,
3. and of course, the direct practical use for your future games.

A very important factor to keep in mind — all the **practical motifs from the book can definitely be used in your future games!**

Enjoy!

Csaba Balogh





---

# INTRODUCTION

---

## USEFUL INFORMATION FOR OUR DEAR READERS

This book is the continuation of the successful puzzle-book series, which started with the “Greatest 365 Puzzles” and “Greatest 501 Puzzles” from 2012. It was followed by „Tactics, Tactics, Tactics!” Volumes 3 and 4 which covered the best practical puzzles of 2013-2015.

The new book contains 551 puzzles divided into 3 chapters. You will find a huge range of tactical ideas that you can use in your own games! All the puzzles have been collected from practical games throughout 2016. In each section the puzzles are sorted according to the date of the game.

The book consists of three chapters:

- 1. Easy (217 Puzzles)**
- 2. Medium (188 Puzzles)**
- 3. Hard (146 Puzzles)**

All-in-all, 551 puzzles created by the greatest masters of our time, such as Carlsen, Caruana, Kramnik, Anand and many more.

I advise you to try to solve all the combinations in each chapter one-by-one, because a less difficult solution from the „Easy” section might be even more brilliant from the beauty point of view than a ‚nutcracker’ from the „Hard” ones. Even if a puzzle can be easily solved, it sharpens your tactical skills and makes it so much easier to find such solutions in a practical game, even under difficult circumstances.

To be tactically sharp is one of the basic requirements for a successful chess player!



---

**- EASY -**

---



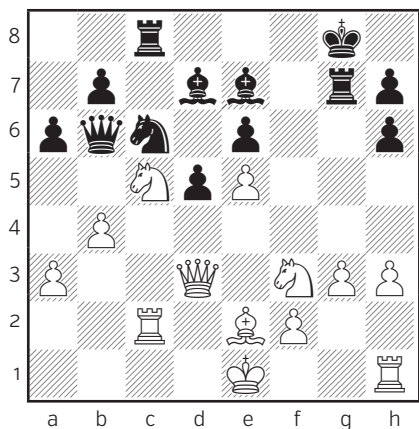
**(1)**

▷ E. Sveshnikov

▶ N. Vitiugov

Keres memorial rapid, 2016.01.08

1... -+

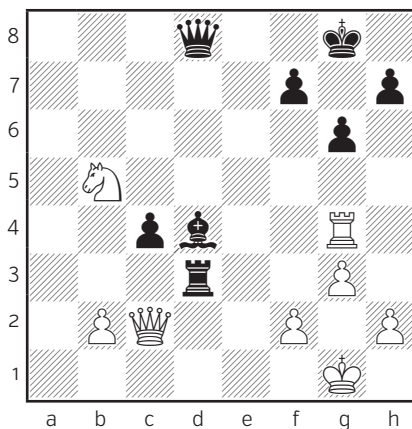
**(2)**

▷ Y. Krupenski

▶ M. Matlakov

Keres memorial rapid, 2016.01.08

1... -+

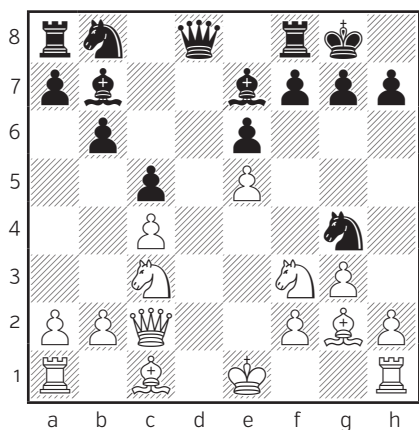
**(3)**

▷ B. Gelfand

▶ I. Zhuk

Keres memorial rapid, 2016.01.08

1. +-

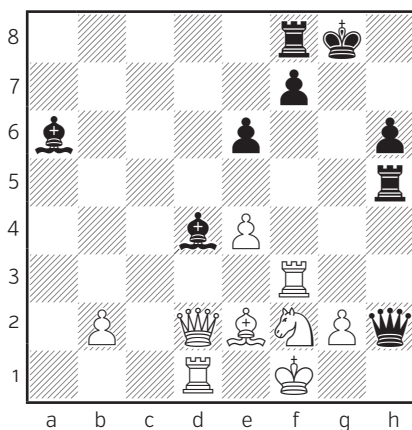
**(4)**

▷ V. Sveshnikov

▶ N. Vitiugov

Keres memorial rapid, 2016.01.10

1... -+



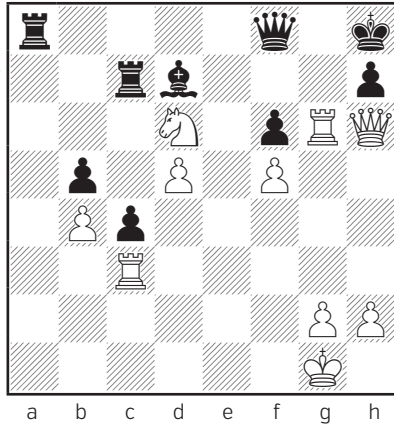
**(5)**

▷ **K. Miton**

▶ **T. Kantans**

Keres memorial rapid, 2016.01.10

1. +-



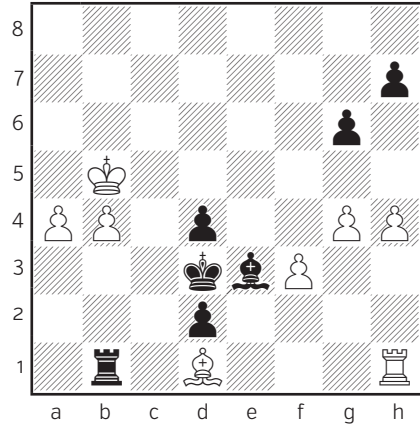
**(6)**

▷ **D. Lintchevski**

▶ **E. Sutovsky**

Keres memorial rapid, 2016.01.10

1... -+



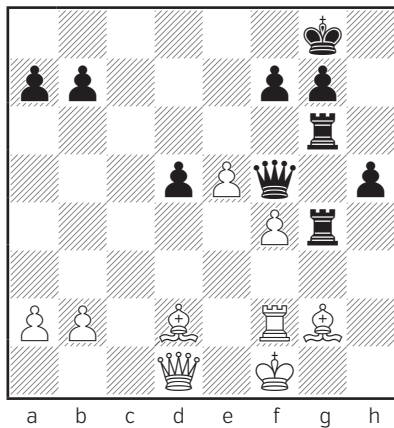
**(7)**

▷ **M. Noble**

▶ **Ma Qun**

New Zealand rapid, 2016.01.11

1... -+



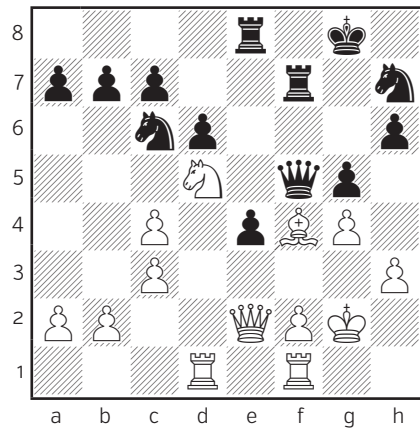
**(8)**

▷ **A. Czebe**

▶ **I. Popov**

Delhi Open, 2016.01.12

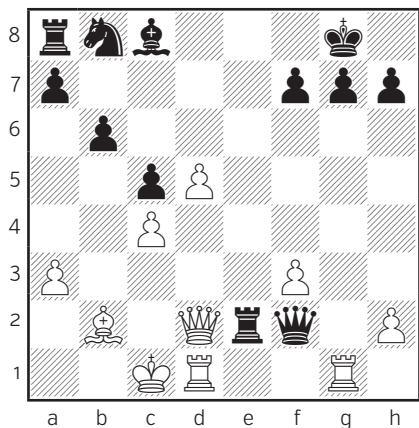
1... -+



**(9)**▷ **B. Adhiban**▶ **N. Abasov**

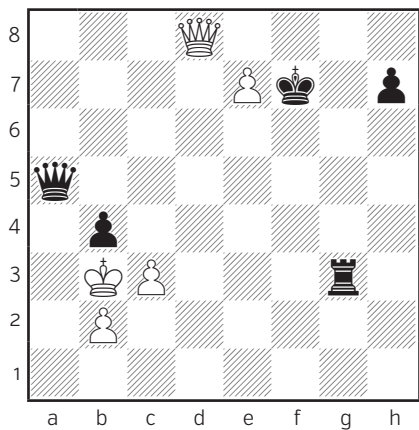
Wijk aan Zee B, 2016.01.16

1. +-

**(11)**▷ **S. Sevian**▶ **B. Bok**

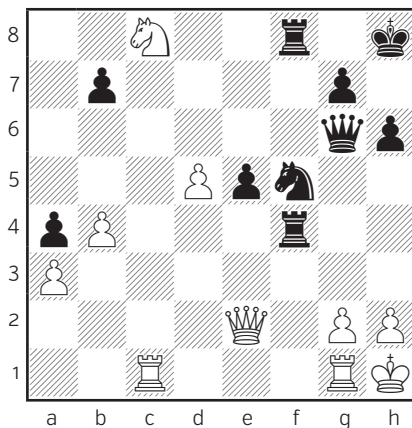
Wijk aan Zee B, 2016.01.23

1... =

**(10)**▷ **K. Raghunandan**▶ **V. Bernardskiy**

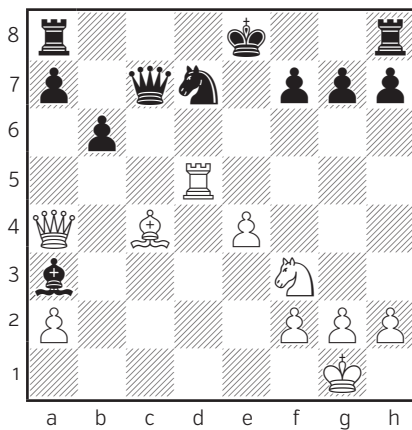
Chennai Open, 2016.01.19

1... +-

**(12)**▷ **B. Adhiban**▶ **A. Dreev**

Wijk aan Zee B, 2016.01.23

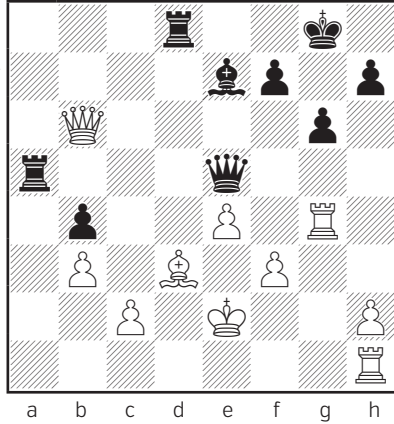
1. +-



**(13)**

▷ E. Nakar  
 ▶ D. Jakovenko  
 Gibraltar Open, 2016.01.27

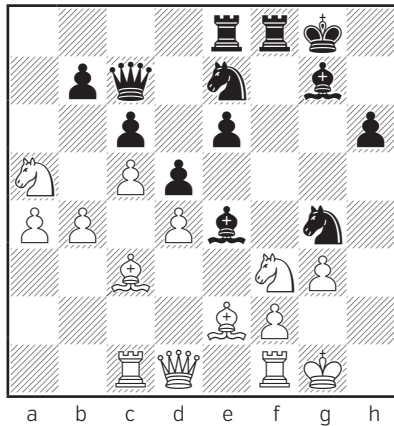
1... -+



**(15)**

▷ M. Esserman  
 ▶ E. Iturrizaga  
 Gibraltar Open, 2016.01.27

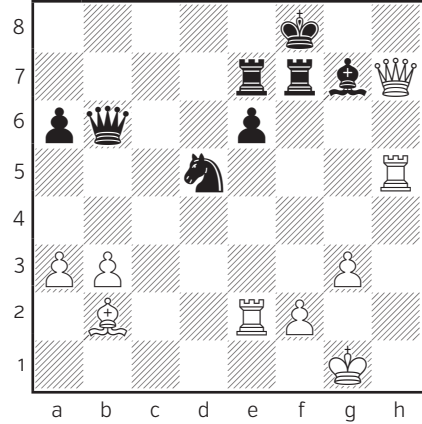
1... -+



**(14)**

▷ G. Jones  
 ▶ P. Carlsson  
 Gibraltar Open, 2016.01.27

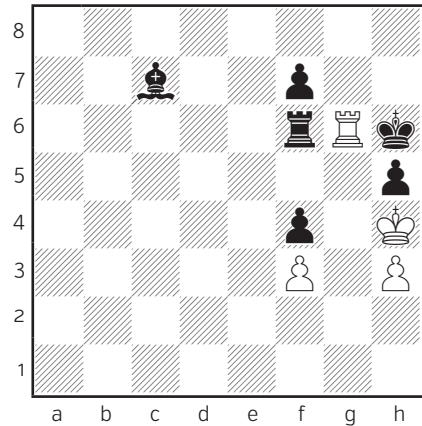
1. +-



**(16)**

▷ F. Perez Ponsa  
 ▶ R. Wojtaszek  
 Gibraltar Open, 2016.02.01

1... -+



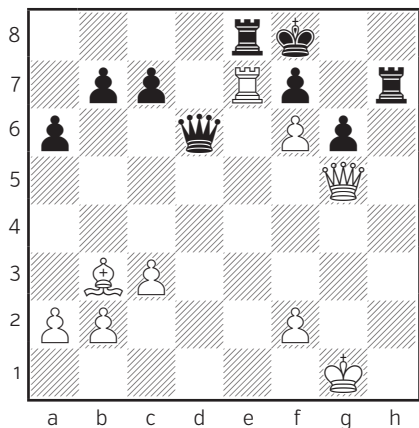
**(17)**

▷ R. Padmini

▶ M. Al Sayed

Gibraltar Open, 2016.02.01

1. +-

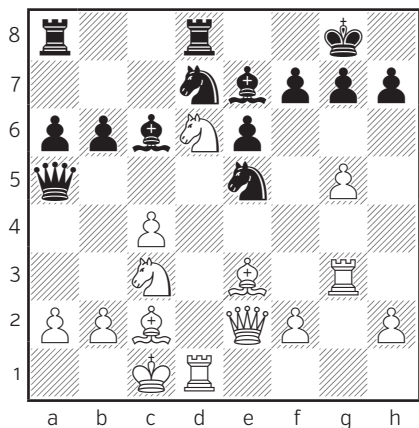
**(19)**

▷ R. Edouard

▶ V. Gunina

Gibraltar Open, 2016.02.02

1. +-

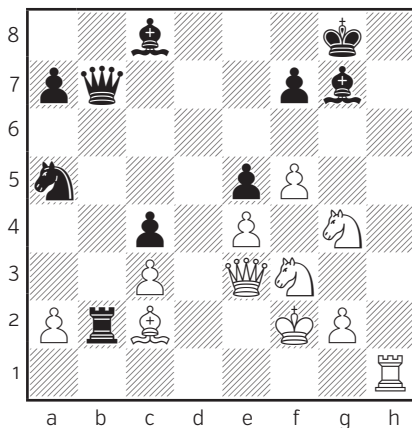
**(18)**

▷ P. Harikrishna

▶ S. Vidit

Gibraltar Open, 2016.02.02

1. +-

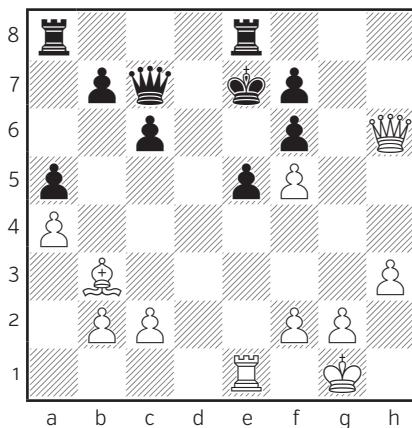
**(20)**

▷ A. Donchenko

▶ M. Esserman

Gibraltar Open, 2016.02.03

1. +-

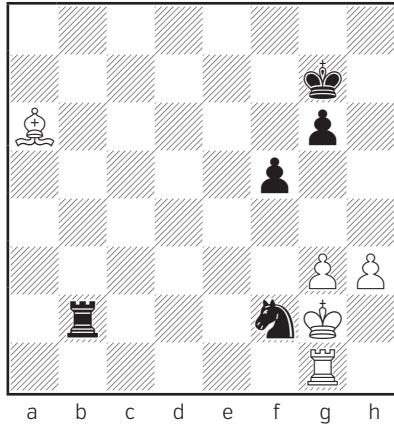




**(21)**

▷ **A. Schenk**  
 ▶ **M. Bartel**  
 German league, 2016.02.06

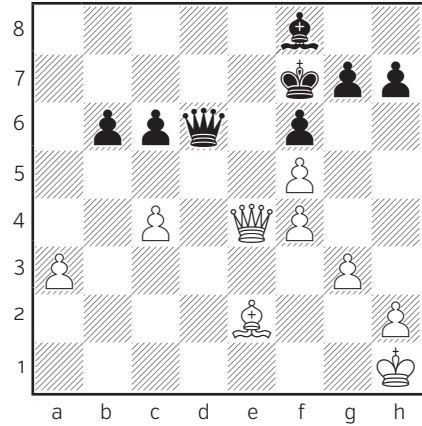
1... -+



**(22)**

▷ **B. Gelfand**  
 ▶ **A. Morozevich**  
 Zurich, 2016.02.13

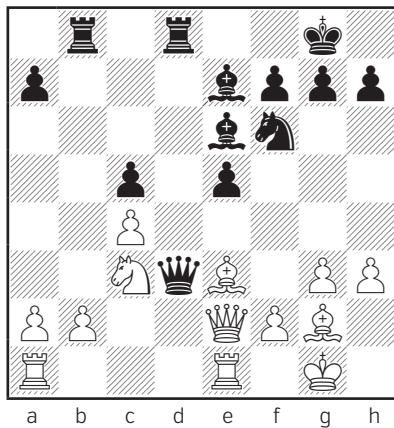
1. +-



**(23)**

▷ **L. Aronian**  
 ▶ **A. Shirov**  
 Zurich blitz, 2016.02.15

1. +-



**(24)**

▷ **V. Anand**  
 ▶ **H. Nakamura**  
 Zurich blitz, 2016.02.15

1. +-

