

Add-a-Year 65 JT 2022 Award

by Marjan Kovačević



The list of participants

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| 1. Keneth Solja | 13. Branislav Đurašević |
| 2. Hauke Reddmann | 14. Milomir Babić |
| 3-4. Boško Milošeski | 15-17. Pavel Murašev |
| 5. Srećko Radović | 18. Dragan Stojnić |
| 6. Gady Costeff | 19-20. Georgi Hadži-Vaskov |
| 7. Marko Klasinc | 21. Ivo Tominić |
| 8. Hans Uitenbroek | 22-24. Anirudh Daga |
| 9. Maryan Kerhuel | 25. Ilija Serafimović |
| 10-12. Živan Šušulić | 26. Mark Erenburg |

This quick composing tourney was one the events Julia Vysotska included into the program of the Riga ECSC 2022, as a part of our plan to bring some joy to the participants. First, we tested the Add-a-Piece condition as an entertainment for solvers, but their enthusiastic feedback made me offer the same condition to composers, too. It all happened in the beginning of April, around my 65th birthday, and the concept of Add-a-Year Jubilee Tourney was quickly improvised.

Julia gave a prominent status to both events on the ECSC website, decorating them with gifts, trophies and medals for the best ECSC participants. Thomas Maeder kindly helped checking some entries, and Borislav Gadjanski took the role of the tournament director with great enthusiasm. He joined the process of checking the entries, and largely added to my own pleasure, telling: “This was probably the most original tournament of the Century”

As solving competition on 14th May proved, applying Add-a-Piece to help-play may produce funny and difficult tasks with a very restricted number of pieces. However, direct play with opposing tendencies (#n, S#, R#, etc.) seems more suitable for serious composing, and easier to use a completely new source of tries and choices.

Adding a piece to get **only one key-move** faces two opposite kinds of tries: 1) too weak options, refuted by the opponent, and 2) too strong options, refuted by cooks. Looking for the right piece and the right square is inherent part of composing, but this award shows the search for balance may become a **genuine fairy genre**.

Adding a piece is a known task since long ago, but this tourney gave to it a new direction, through changing the meanings of cook and thematic try. Here, there has to be **only one option with unique solution** (the author’s intention), while **each option with two possible solutions becomes a thematic try** and enriches the content.

Orthodox #2 is a perfect stipulation to start the research. The thematic structures of the shortest and the most explored genre are relatively easy to control (compared to, let’s say, #3 or S#2), while Add-a-Piece condition allows to extend the contents far beyond the known borders – as you will see here.

This tourney asked for the “fairy” type of tries, the options that produce two solutions instead of one. All else was on composers to invent. In spite of a very short time of 3 weeks, the outcome was far above all

my expectations. The 12 selected entries present a real festival of inventive thinking! Each composition looks unique in its concept; each has some original point to show. I could not ask for a better gift from chess composers.

Selected entries

From Borislav I received 26 anonymous entries with complete solutions; with authors' comments unified and translated to English, and with an additional information that 18 composers from 11 countries took part. It was already a good sign – more entries than I expected.

The unusual thematic condition confused a part of participants, and produced cooks in Nos: 1 (+wQa2, 1.Qd2!), 3 (+wBf1, 1.Be2!), 4 (+bRg8, 1.Qe1!), 15 (+wPa7, 1.a8Q!), 16 (+wPc3, 1.Rxd4!), 17 (+wSa1, 1.Sc2+!), 20 (+wRf2, 1.Bc7+!), 22 (+wPh7, 1.h8Q!), and 24 (+wRf2, 1.f8Q!).

Out of the remaining 17 entries, Nos. 11 & 12 were inferior versions of the rewarded mechanism No.10, and No.19 missed to present a thematic try. No. 14 is correct and thematic, but the Add-a-Piece condition has only a technical use to present a standard content.

Remaining 13 problems presented so many different, clever and beautiful ideas, that I could not resist naming less than seven Prizewinners. Unfortunately, it went down to six, when Kjell Widlert found a subtle retro-cook in No.6, a problem based on a spectacular, extremely difficult to construct idea.

Two compositions, Nos. 18 & 25, instantly stood out as fascinating developments of contemporary #2 contents. At the end, I decided to give a slight advantage to the genuine Add-a-Piece thematic tries of No.25, over more orthodox concept of No.18.

1.Pr. No.25 – Ilija Serafimović

There are many plausible plans to use the added Pawn here. Two ready checks (Se3+ & Qg2+) may lead to promotion-mates, or threaten with the help of a promotion key.

With wPd7, 1.d8S? (2.Qg2#) fails to 1...Rxa2! and 1.d8Q? (2.Se3#) is refuted by 1...Bh6! However, the reversed order works in both cases: 1.Qg2+! Kxe6 2.d8S#, and 1.Se3+! Kxd6 2.d8Q#.

1.Pr. No.25 Ilija Serafimović



Add wP for a correct #2

With wPc7, these checking keys fail to deal with distant flights f7 & c7: 1.Qg2+? Ke6 2.c8Q+ Kf7! and 1.Se3+? K:d6 2.c8S+ Kc7! Now, a new twist comes: both quiet promotions introduce corrective effects: 1.c8Q! (2.Qg2#) 1...Rxa2 2.Qc6#, and 1.c8S! (2.Se3#) 1...Bh6 2.Se7#

Thematic tries:

+wPd7?

(1.Se3+Kxd6 2.d8Q# & 1.Qg2+ Kxe6 2.d8S#)

+wPc7?

(1.c8S! ~ 2.Se3#, 1... Bh6 2.Se7# & 1.c8Q! ~ 2.Qg2#, 1...Rxa2 2.Qc6#)

Solution:

+wPb3! 1.Bxg6! ~ 2.Qf5#, 1...Bxd6 2.Se3#, 1...Bxe6 2.Qg2#

Each of these two “fairy tries” includes a pair of orthodox tries,

and fits in the overall concept, rounded by the surprising key-phase (+wPb3, 1.B:g6!). The solution reactivates the main white moves Se3 & Qg2, completing a double fairy presentation of the Urania theme (the same move acting as first move, threat and a mate in a variation). When you add to it the changed functions (try/mate) of the two pairs of Q&S promotion, you see a complex, perfectly united modern thematic content in a genuine fairy form.

The problem was result of a hard work, overcoming many obstacles. It includes other strictly thematic “fairy tries” with double solutions (+wPf4 & +wPg7), and three partly thematic tries on the 7th rank, each allowing more than two solutions. If you wonder about the role of bRa7, it prevents a cook (+wPb5, 1.Sxa6!), while wPb7 is anyway needed to prevent the third solution in the try (+wPc7?, 1.c8B!).

An amazing, highly inspired achievement!

2.Pr. No.18 – Dragan Stojnić

This composition demonstrates how a new condition may develop already existing thematic concepts, lifting them to a higher level. Based on the standard White correction mechanism, the content grows in the direction of an Add-a-Piece correction, using the principle “as less as better”.

2.Pr. No.18 Dragan Stojnić



Add a piece on d2 for a correct #2

Thematic attempt: +bPd2(~)? 1.Se~? ~ 2.Rf5#, 1...exf6!

Thematic tries:

+wRd2! (1.Sd6! exf6 2.Sc4# & 1.d6! ~ 2.R/Qd5#, 1...c4 2.Qa5#)

+wBd2! (1.Sxg5! exf6 2.Bf4# & 1.Bf4+! gxf4 2.gxf4#)

+wSd2! (1.Sf2! exf6 2.Sxf3# & 1.Sc4+! Kxd5 2.Rf5#)

Solution:

+wPd2, 1.Sxc5! ~ 2.Rf5# 1...exf6 2.d4#, 1...Kxf6 2.h8Q#

Without a piece on demanded d2 square (or with bP on it), 1.S~? fails to 1...exf6! The four phases, visually presenting four Forsberg twins, manage to correct the weakness of the random move, finding for different moves to introduce four different mates after 1...exf6.

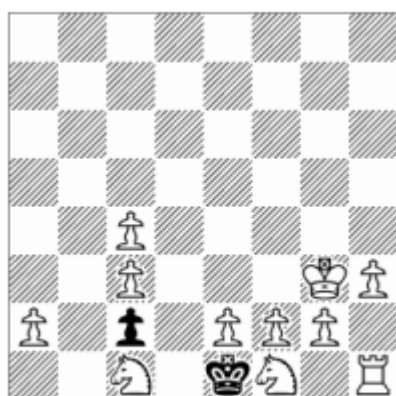
Now comes the clever use of Add-a-Piece tries: each white officer (R/B/S) adds a different cook to the planned wS correction. This leaves wP as the weakest piece, to become the hero on the battlefield.

I hope the author of this monumental concept will find a version with the try 1.h8Q? exf6 2.Qxf6#, adding the 5th thematic change to the additional use of wPh7.

3.Pr. No.5 – Srećko Radović

Retro elements were very popular in this tourney, the same as in the earlier tasks of this type. I don't think they are the right direction to the most fruitful Add-a-Piece combinations, but this problem is an exception. The composer has used it for only one try, to achieve a higher goal, the complete fivefold Forsberg change on the thematic square. The weakest option of using wP (as in No.25) is eliminated because of illegality, and the wQ introduced to surpass the number of phases in No.25, where the use of wQ would fail for multiple reasons.

3.Pr. No.5 Srećko Radović



Add a peace on b2 for a correct #2

Thematic tries:

+wQb2? (1.Sh2+! & 1.Se3+!)

+wRb2? (1.Se3+! & 1.Rxc2!)

+wSb2? (1.Kh2! & 1.Rh2!)

Thematic attempt:

+wPb2?, 1.Sh2+! – but illegal position!!

Solution:

+wBb2!, 1.Sh2+ ! Kd2 2.Sf3#

Naturally, the price of the record achievement is a much simpler play than in Nos. 18 & 25. This composition is a mosaic of small elements, but it is a filigree mosaic, with subtle details. It is particularly interesting how composer managed to separate the forces of wQ & wR, and how wS allows surprising new mates.

4.Pr. No.21 – Ivo Tominić

And now, something completely different – a complex set of attempts to separate two ready solutions (may I call them set-solutions?) and to preserve them as two final options. First, we may eliminate both (+wPb7), but the attempt fails to an orthodox refutation. Then, we can try to eliminate one (+wPc7 & +wPc5), but it produces one cook in each thematic try. Finally, adding wPa3 eliminates both and produces two completely new solutions.

4.Pr. No.21 Ivo Tominić



Add wP for a correct #2
(two options)

Set-solutions: 1. Sb7! & 1. Qb7!

Thematic attempt:

+wPb7?? 1.b8Q? (2. Qxb6#) 1...Sc7 2. Rc5# 1... Sxb8!

Thematic tries:

+wPc7? (1.Sb7! & 1.c8S!)

+wPc5? (1.Qb7! & 1.Qa7!)

+wPa3!? (1.a4+! Kxa5 2. Rc5# & 1.Rxb4+! Kxa5, Sxb4 2.Bxb6#, a4#)

1.Sb7? ~ 2.a4# 1...Ka4, Sc5 2.Rxb4#, Sd6# 1...ba3!

Solutions:

I) +wPa2, 1.Sb7! (-) 1...b3, Ka4, S~ 2.a4, Qxa6, Sd6#

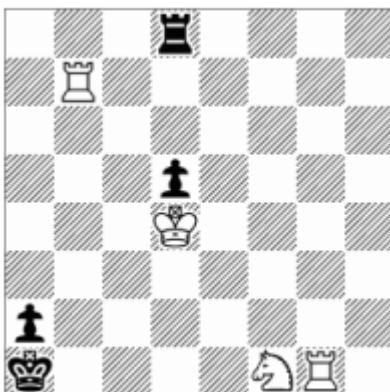
II) +wPd6, 1.Qb7! ~ 2.Qxb6# 1...Sc7 2. Rc5#

The overall play is complex and rich, with several changed mates, and a head spinning logic. The only thing to regret is the difference between spectacular +wPa2, 1.Sb7! and more prosaic +wPd6, 1.Qb7!

5.Pr. No.8 – Hans Uitenbroek

This light position strongly suggests forming of a half-battery (+wSd1?), where solver stumbles on two opposite kinds of refutations: orthodox and fairy ones. Next thought is to transfer the wS to the orthogonal, but it again leads to both types of refutations. At the end, the solution is the least expected of all possibilities, and the final mate is beautiful in spite of the checking key.

5.Pr. No.8 Hans Uitenbroek



Add wS for a correct #2

Thematic try:

+wSd1? (1.Sg3! & 1.Sfe3!)

1.Sdf2?/Se3? Rc8!;1.Sc3? Rf8; 1.Sf~? Rg8!

Thematic attempts:

+wSe1?/+wSb4? (1.Sc2#!)

+wSb1? 1.Sc3? 1...Rf8! 1.Sa3? 1...Rc8!

+wSc1? 1.Se3? Rc8! 1.Rg2? Ra8!

+wSb5? 1.Sa3? Rc8!;1.Sc3?/Sc7? Rf8!

Solution:

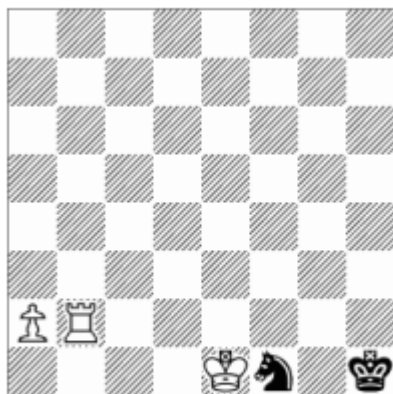
+wSb6, 1.Se3+! Kb2 2.Sc4#!

A fabulous example to promote the Add-a-Piece condition among solvers!

Sp.Pr. No.13 – Branislav Đurašević

The same as the previous problem, this super Miniature is a real advertisement of the condition. Only five pieces on the board, subtle twin, and witty solutions in both cases! By the way, the ECSC participants found diagram position much more difficult. The goddess Caissa was generous, allowing exactly two solutions when wQ is added, except if put on a1 in the diagram position (that's why wPa2 is there).

Sp.Pr. No. 13 Branislav Đurašević



Add an officer for a correct #2

b) Kh1->g1

a) Thematic tries:

+ wQb1? (1.Qe4+! & 1.Kf2!)

+ wQc1? (1.Qc6+!, 1.Kf2!)

+ wQa5?/Qd8? (1.Qa8+! & 1.Qd5+!)

+ wQb4?/Qe7? (1.Qb7+! & 1.Qe4+!), etc.

Solution:

+wRg4, 1.Kf2! (-) Kh2/Sf~ (Sh2) 2.Rh4 (Rg1)#

b) Thematic tries:

+wQh8?/wQh7?/wQh6?/wQh5? (1.Re2! & 1.Rf2!)

Solution:

+wRa1, 1.0-0-0! (-) Kh1 2.Rxf1#

A brilliant discovery!

1.HM No. 26 Mark Erenburg



Add wP for a correct #2

1.HM No.26 – Mark Erenburg

There are many ways to include AUW in the program of thematic tries, but to do it with 2 pairs of changed mates isn't ease at all. On the top of the thematic tries, the solution comes as a complete surprise from the opposite side of board. Again lively and witty, needing only a better construction for a higher placement.

Thematic tries:

+wPa7? (1.a8Q! Kxd5 2. Qa5# & 1. a8R! Kxd5 2. Ra5#)

+wPe4? (1. f8B! Kf4 2. Bxd6# & 1. f8S! Kf4 2. Sg6#)

Solution:

+wPe2, 1. Qc4! fxe2 2. f4#

2.HM No.10 – Živan Šušulić

Here, the retro element helps to discriminate a unique solution, but the e.p. capture is not enough to provide for 1...f3. In the same time, the wQ has to take care of many other possible solutions. Such a complex situation produces a record number of six thematic tries with different pairs of fairy refutations.

If you like, you may order the first four pairs in a cyclic order.

2.HM No.10 Živan Šušulić



Add wQ for a correct #2

Thematic tries:

+wQg1? (1.Qc5! & 1.hxg6!

+wQe1? (1.hxg6! & 1.Qh4!)

+wQg3? (1.Qh4! & 1.Qxf4!)

+wQe3? (1.Qxf4! & 1.Qc5!)

+wQf1? (1.Qxf4! & hxg6!)

+wQc2? (1.Ke6! & hxg6!)

Solution:

+wQh1, 1.hxg6 (ep)! (-)

1...Bxg2 (Bxg4+, f3) 2.Rh4 (Shxg4, Qc1)#

(1.gxh3? f3!; 1.Qc1? Bxg2!)

3.HM No.2 Hauke Reddmann



Add wP on 7th rank for a correct #2
(two options)

3.HM No.2 – Hauke Reddmann

All eight squares are available for Pawns to prepare promotions. One

Thematic tries:

+wPa7? (1.a8Q! & 1.a8B!)

+wPc7? (1.c8Q! & 1.c8S!)

+wPf7? (1.f8Q! & 1.f8R!)

+wPg7? (1.g8Q! & 1.g8B!)

+wPh7? (1.h8Q! & 1.h8R!)

Thematic attempt: +wPb7? 1.b8Q?? exd5!

Solutions:

I) +wPd7, 1.d8Q! exd5 2.Qxd5

II) +wPe7, 1.e8S! exd5 2.Sd6#

of them gives no solution, two others were intended options, and the five remaining squares produce thematic tries. A clever use of the condition, with some changed mates in a light position.

Commendations

c. No.7 Marko Klasinc



Add bP for a correct #2

No.7 – Marko Klasinc

This intelligent joke brings a smile. Most solvers will have to go through the thematic try with e.p. capture, before finding the simpler way to force the same key-move.

Thematic try: +bPe5? (1.fxe6 ep! & 1.Kc6!)

Solution:

+bPe6, 1.fxe6! ~ 2.Rxf7 #

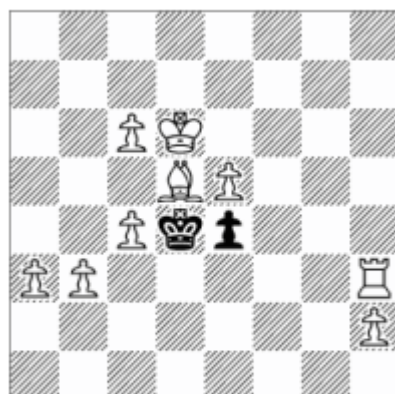
1... Rxd4+ 2.Qxd4 #

1... Rxe6 2.Rxf4 #

1... Re5+ 2.dxe5 #

1... Rf5+ 2.Rxf5 #

c. No.9 Maryan Kerhuel



Add a piece for a correct #2
b) Pc4->f2

No.9 – Maryan Kerhuel

Twins with a fairy exchange of solution and try. The b-position has some additional tries, like +wPb2, 1.Rc3! & 1.Bc4!

a) Thematic tries:

+wQf8? (1.Qh6! & 1.Qf2+!)

+wQe6? (1.Qh6! & 1.Bxe4!)

Solution:

+wQc8, 1.Bxe4! Kxe4 2.Qg4#

b) Thematic tries:

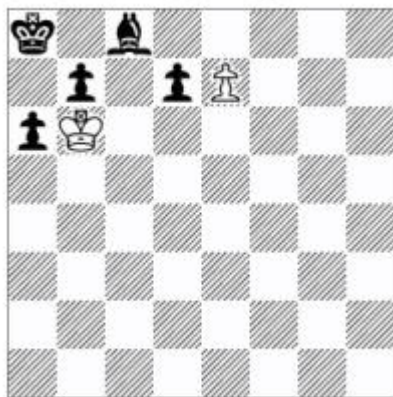
+wQc8? (1.Bxe4! & 1.Qa6!)

+wQe6? (1.Qh6! & 1.Bxe4!)

Solution:

+wQf8, 1.Qh6! e3 2.Qxe3#

c. No. 23 Anirudh Daga



Add a piece for a correct #2

No.23 – Anirudh Daga

The widest possible condition of adding any piece allows a white one in the tries, and the black one in the solution. The origin of added Rook is the neighbouring square a8, but now new retro element jumps in: Black has no last move ... Paradoxically, this makes the only solution even more interesting: Black to move couldn't prevent 1.e8S!! A nice example how Add-a-Piece condition may extend the use of retro motives!!

Thematic Try:

+wPc7? (1.e8R! & 1.e8Q!)

Solution:

+bRb8, Black to move! 0...a5/d6/d5 1.e8S! ~ 2.Sc7#

My sincere congratulations to all the rewarded composers, and gratitude to all the participants!

Marjan Kovačević

Riga, 15.05.2022.



Rewarded ECSC participants: Srećko Radović, Mark Erenburg, Ilija Serafimović, Hans Uitenbroek and Živan Šušulić