

The Woodpecker Method

Wilhelm Steinitz

*A win by an unsound combination, however showy,
fills me with artistic horror.*

- 1. Carl Hamppe – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1860**
30... $\text{Ehx2}\dagger!$ 31. Chx2 Eh8 mate ✓ Black would have been lost without this resource.
- 2. Wilhelm Steinitz – J. Wilson, London 1862**
18. $\text{Efx8}\dagger!$ Efx8 19.d6† Ee6 20. Exe6 mate ✓
- 3. Wilhelm Steinitz – Serafino Dubois, London (6) 1862**
The bishop on d6 is pinned and Steinitz took advantage of that with 14. $\text{Exf4}!$ exf4 15.e5 ✓ which won a piece.
- 4. Valentine Green – Wilhelm Steinitz, London 1864**
31... $\text{Ed2}\dagger!-+$ ✓ The queen loses its defender.
- 5. Wilhelm Steinitz – George Barry, Dublin (simul) 1865**
7. $\text{Exf7}\dagger$ Cxf7 8. $\text{Qxe5}\dagger-+$ ✓ White has won two pawns after 9. Qxg4 .
- 6. George Fraser – Wilhelm Steinitz, Dundee 1867**
19. $\text{Exc6}!$ bxc6 20. $\text{Ea5}-+$ ✓ White emerges with a queen and a knight for two rooks.
- 7. Wilhelm Steinitz – Jonathan Baker, London (simul) 1868**
27...f3! The queen is overloaded and White loses the bishop on c4: 28. Wxf3 $\text{Exc4}-+$ ✓
27... $\text{Exc4}?! 28.\text{Wxc4}$ f3 29. $\text{Wf1}\pm$ is of course not the way to go.
- 8. Wilhelm Steinitz – Johannes Minckwitz, Baden-Baden 1870**
18... $\text{Wxc4}!$ There is a fork on e3 coming up: 19. Wxc4 $\text{Qe3}\dagger$ 20. Qe2 $\text{Qxc4}-+$ ✓
- 9. Wilhelm Steinitz – Maximilian Fleissig, Vienna 1873**
39. $\text{Exd7}!$ White wins back the piece with a winning advantage. 39... Qxd7 39... $\text{Exb4}\dagger$ captures a pawn, but the a-pawn still decides after: 40. Exb4 Qxd7 41. $\text{Qb5}-+$ ✓ 40. $\text{Qxb5}-+$ ✓
- 10. Wilhelm Steinitz – Oscar Gelbfuhs, Vienna 1873**
34. $\text{Wxf6}\dagger!$ Black resigned due to: 34... gxf6 35. Ef8 mate ✓
- ~~**11. George Mackenzie – Wilhelm Steinitz, Vienna 1882**
34. $\text{Ee4}!$ The only drawing move, and easy to find, as Black's mate threat means White has no other sensible try. 34. Eg1 loses to everything, but is mated most swiftly by 34... $\text{Wxg2}\dagger!$. 34... Wxe4 Obviously not 34... $\text{Exe4}?$ 35. Wf8 mate. 35. $\text{Ef6}\dagger$ Exf6 36. $\text{Wxf6}\dagger$ ✓ 1/2-1/2 White has a perpetual on f6 and f7.~~

12. **Joseph Blackburne – Wilhelm Steinitz**, London 1883

25. ♖h6†! ♘g8 26. ♜f8†! ♞xf8 27. ♞xh7 mate ✓

13. **Isidor Gunsberg – Wilhelm Steinitz**, New York (2) 1890

18... ♘c3! The queen can't move and keep the bishop on d2 defended, and 19. ♙xc3 ♙xc1+- ✓ lost an exchange (0-1, 39 moves).

14. **Wilhelm Steinitz – Mikhail Chigorin**, Havana (8) 1892

20... ♜xd3! Breaking open the king's position to close out the game. 21. ♙g2 Or 21. ♞xd3 ♞e1† ✓ with mate on the next move. 21... ♜hd8 There is nothing White can do against the threats to penetrate on d1 or d2. The game ended after: 22. a4 ♜d1† 23. ♜xd1 ♜xd1† 24. ♞xd1 ♘xd1 0-1

15. **Wilhelm Steinitz – Dirk van Foreest**, Haarlem (simul) 1896

38... ♞xf1†! ✓ Steinitz's previous move, 38. ♞c4-d5, was a grave blunder. 39. ♙xf1 ♜e1 mate

16. **Wilhelm Steinitz – Reyne**, Haarlem (simul) 1896

9. ♘xg5! Not recapturing would be equivalent to resignation, but Black is mated if he takes the knight: 9... fxc5 9... ♞e7+- and White won after 26 moves. 10. ♞h5† ✓ ♙e7 There are several ways to mate or pick up material. The quickest mate is: 11. ♞f7† ♙d6 12. e5† ♘xe5 13. dxe5† ♙xe5 14. ♞d5† ♙f6 15. ♞xg5 mate

17. **Wilhelm Steinitz – Falk**, Moscow 1896

10. ♘xa7†! White wins an important pawn after: 10... ♘xa7 11. ♙xa6† ✓ (1-0, 25 moves)

18. **Wilhelm Steinitz – T.J.D. Enderle**, Haarlem (simul) 1896

6. ♙xf7†! Not the only time Steinitz executed this combination. White wins two pawns after: 6... ♙xf7 7. ♘xe5†+- ✓