

White starts on the queenside.

1. **a7-a8♖+! ♖b7-c8**

2. **b6-b7+**

The first bishop is walled up.

2. ... ♖c8-d7

3. ♗a5-d5+

The battle scene is moved to the kingside.

3. ... ♖d7-e7

4. ♗d5-e5+ ♖e7-f7

5. ♗e5-g7+!

This queen sacrifice prepares the second bricking-up.

5. ... ♖f7-g7

6. **h7-h8♖+!**

The second bishop appears on the board.

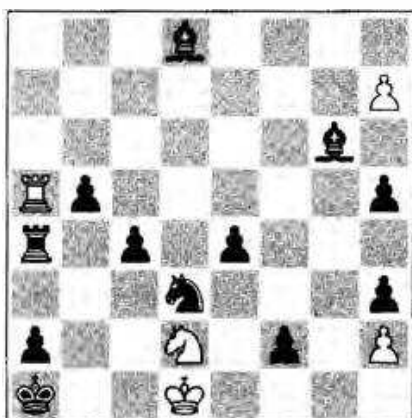
6. ... ♖g7-f8

7. **g6-g7+**

With stalemate on the next move.

For this study A.Hurtig received second prize in the tourney of the Swedish chess magazine.

Sometimes the self-stalemate is nowhere in sight at the moment of the bishop promotion.



Rokirovkin 2009
White to play and draw

Black has a huge material superiority, but his king is in danger. It is

clear that White has to promote his pawn.

1. **h7-h8♖+!**

Why not 1.h8♗+ ? The answer to this question will be revealed at the end of the study.

1. ... ♖d3-b2+

2. ♖d1-c1

Threatening mate. Now Black has to drive the white king away from its current position with checks.

2. ... f2-f1♗+

3. ♖d2xf1 ♖d8-g5+

4. ♖f1-e3!

Keeping the b1-h7 diagonal closed for the time being.

4. ... ♖g5xe3+

5. ♖c1-c2 ♖e3-d4!

Black sacrifices his bishop in order to open the diagonal.

6. ♖h8xd4 e4-e3+

7. ♖c2-c1 c4-c3

Now it becomes clear why White couldn't promote to a queen. In that case he would have been hopelessly lost in this position.

8. ♖d4xc3 ♖a4-b4

8...♖c4 would have been met by 9.♖xa2+ ♖xa2 with stalemate. After the text move, Black threatens to win with 9...♖b3.

9. ♖a5-a3!

Preventing this.

9. ... ♖b4-c4

There is nothing better.

10. ♖a3xa2+ ♖a1xa2

Stalemate.

In the great majority of studies, bishop promotions serve to prevent stalemate. This theme does, however, allow for a lot of choice.