

BODEN'S MATE IN THE SCANDI

A common theme in the Scandinavian defense is for Black to castle queenside after pushing the c-pawn. This can be enough to

set up a mating pattern you should recognize (see puzzles 1 and 2).

In this **example**, White's king is exposed and White needs to open lines against Black's king urgently. White's only move is **32. Rxc6+** when **32. ... bxc6** loses, but it's subtle. Rb1-b8 would be mate if not for the king's d7-square, so: **33. Qf5+! Rd7 34. Rb8** mate sets up a familiar pattern!

If Black played 32. ... Kd7, then 33. Qf5+ is the fastest mate. After

33. ... Ke8 34. Qe6+ Ne7, as a **bonus**, how does White win in style?



1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. WHITE TO PLAY

4. WHITE TO PLAY

5. WHITE TO PLAY

6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 12. Ba6 mate. Black's ... b7-b6 was a mistake even though the light-squared bishop is pinned. (Soleymani – Tendulkar, Tornelo, 2021) **2) 17. Qxc6+** A classic Boden's mate! (Degenhardt – Berkemer, Stauffer, 2005) **3) 14. Nxc6!** The same theme of sacrificing on c6 shows up even when mate is not forced. White will get the bishop on the appropriate h2-b8 diagonal with check. **14. ... bxc6 15. Qa6+**

Kb8 16. Bf4+ e5 17. dxe5 winning. (Hugentobler – Arbinger, Zuerich, 2007) **4) 23. Rxc6+ Qxc6** Black has to part with the queen, as 23. ... bxc6 24. Qa6+ Qb7 25. Rxc6+ Kd7 26. Qxb7+ is game over. **24. Rxc6+ bxc6 25. Qa6+** White should be winning. (Swiatloch – Krasnodebska, Chorzow, 2010) **5) 24. Bd6+** First, White forces Black's king to c8. **24. ... Kc8 25. Qxc6+** Next, we open the b-file. **25. ... bxc6 26. Rb8+** This would be mate if not for the

knight on d7, but... **26. ... Nxb8 27. Rc7** mate. (Leturc – Sellier, Cholet, 2011, variation with h3 and Rag8) **6) 17. Rxc6+** The pawn is pinned, of course! **17. ... Kb8 18. Bf4+ Ka8 19. Rc7!!** The knight is pinned, since Qf3xb7 mates. **19. ... bxa6 20. Rxe7** gives White an edge. (Sorcinelli – Finocchiaro, Torino, 2011) **Bonus) 35. Qxe7+!! Kxe7 36. Rxb7+ Rd7 37. Bd6+ Ke8 38. Rc8+ Qd8 39. Rxd8+ Rxd8 40. Re7** mate. (Hamdouchi – Stefanova, Djerba, 1998)