

section, and many other Americans performed well. Enjoy some of their tactical highlights below!

In our **example**, from Krastev – Kamsky (analysis), Black is down roughly a billion pawns, but could have forced a draw with the very cool **120. ... Kf2!** using the threat of ... Rg4xh4 mate to force a draw: **121. Rh5** is the only way to stop mate, but it allows a perpetual check with **121. ... Rg1+ 122. Kh2 Rg2+**. In the below puzzles, we use

some similar themes of creating mating nets to win material.

**BLACK TO PLAY**



### GRENKE OPEN HIGHLIGHTS

This week's puzzles all come from the **Grenke Chess Open** played earlier this month in Germany. **GM Hans Niemann** won the open

**# 1. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 2. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 3. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 4. BLACK TO PLAY**

**# 5. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 6. WHITE TO PLAY**

### SOLUTIONS

**1)** White wins a piece in style with **41. Qh8+** and **Black resigned** due to **41. ... Kxh8 42. Nxf6+ Kg8 43. Nxf4** when White is up a knight. (Yoo – Kurmangaliyeva, Karlsruhe, 2024) **2)** White creates a mating net with **32. Rxh6+ Kg8** The rook is invincible: **32. ... Kxh6 33. Qg6** mate; **32. ... gxh6 33. Qg6** mate. **33. Rg6** There is no defense: **33. ... Qb3 34. Rxf7+ Kf8 35. Rxe7 Qxd1+ 36. Re1** and **Black resigned**. (Svane – Hong,

Karlsruhe, 2024) **3)** White wins via constructing a mating net: **28. Rxe7! Nxe7** No better was **28. ... Qxe7**, as after **29. Rf5**, the rook is coming into the h-file. **29. Rf6** The rook again finds a way onto the h-file. (Yoo – Cukrowski, Karlsruhe, 2024, analysis) **4)** **18. ... Bxg3! 19. fxf3** Not **19. hxg3 Qh1** mate. **19. ... Qe4 20. Re2 Nc5!** Cold-blooded. **21. Bc4** If **21. Kf2**, then **21. ... Nxa6** simply wins. **21. ... Qh1+ 22. Kf2 Ne4** mate. (Backhaus – Mishra, Karlsruhe,

2024) **5)** White came close to making a fortress with **37. Ne4! Qe3 38. Rg5!** And the rook comes to g4, defending the b-pawn. (Dobrikov – Mishra, Karlsruhe, 2024, analysis) **6)** White breaks through with **32. Nxf7 Rf8** and **Black resigned** before White could move. Note that **32. ... Qxg7** lost to **33. Qxg7+ Kxg7 34. Nf5+ Kf6 35. Nxd6**. After the text, White's cleanest win was **33. Ne6+ Kh8 34. Ng6+ Kg8 35. Nxe5+** winning. (Kamsky – Kilic, Karlsruhe, 2024)