

FIDE Album 2022-2024

Section D: Endgame Studies

Director's Report

The work was organized in four phases, described below.

Phase 1: Preparation of the files (1 September -- 15 November 2025)

After receiving the pdf and pgn files from the composers, the Director controlled that composers respected the quota, created a single pgn file for the judge and prepared the excel scoresheet. In some cases he had to contact the composers again when the pgn files were unreadable or contained obvious mistakes. Some older composers were reluctant to send a pgn file, declaring they could not operate a computer (or they sent pgns that required further editing). This slowed down the work process.

For the processing of the consolidated pgn file, the Director relied on AI assistance (i.e., python scripts prepared by Claude). This involved in particular:

- identifying and removing duplicates (e.g., coproductions submitted by both authors),
- identifying and tagging WCCI studies and inserting the score,
- formatting the file uniformly (e.g., composers' name as Sprenger=J etc.),
- removing unreadable comments (or translating them from Russian in Cyrillic letters),
- alphabetic sorting.

Phase 2: First Round of Judging (15 November 2025 - 15 July 2026)

In this phase the judges judged the studies they were assigned and shared comments on predecessors, legitimate publication, cooks, duals, etc. Steffen Nielsen agreed to judge three co-productions of the judges together with the third judge and the Director. Judging proceeded smoothly and the judges stayed within the time limit.

Phase 3: Second and Third Round of Judging (15 July - 15 August 2026)

After receiving the last outstanding scores, the Director sent out a list of 21 studies where the judges' opinion diverged substantially. As a result of changes by the judges, three studies (#203, #313 and #346) made it into the album.

Subsequently, the 7,5 point studies were discussed. The judges agreed to raise scores only for very good reasons since the percentage of studies in the album was already high. These reasons, mainly related to diversity of authors and styles, were found for #128, #142, #224, #522, #783 and #840.

Phase 4: Final Checks and Preparation of the Material for the WFCC (15 August - 15 September 2026)

The Director checked the legitimate publication of the selected studies (no observations). Then he verified and completed publication details as relevant information was often missing in the files submitted by the authors. The HHdbVII was the used as a standard tool alongside tourney awards on arves.org and the online database eg.org.ua. On the basis of the final results, the album score for each composer was calculated.

Apart from bringing the metadata in a correct and uniform format, the contents of the pgn file were slightly edited. For studies from thematic tourneys, descriptions of the theme were added at the beginning of the study to increase comprehension on behalf of the reader. Excessively long comments were cut.

Phase 5: Final Editing of the Files for Printing (15 September ---)

The Director will complete the remaining work in due course.

Summary Statistics:

- 934 studies were submitted, without counting duplicates.
- 840 studies reached a score of at least 4,5 points.
- 228 studies were selected (24,4% of all submitted studies and 27,1% of all studies with at least 4,5 points).

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