

The MotifMine: Introduction & Background

During the years 1993 until 1995, I was editor of the draughts journal 'Draughts News', a bi-weekly solution contest of seven-to-seven compositions. As I often came across the same motifs, I decided to set up a data base of motifs. This was the birth day of 'The MotifMine' [= MM]...

My data-base method is based on the four 'pieces' known in draughts: black man, black king, white man and white king. In this way, a four-numbered MM-code arises, even when there is one of the four possible 'pieces' is lacking. In those cases, the notation will be -- or (--). The code is defined by the sequence BP (BK) = WP (WK).

On the site of the KvD, webmaster Tom Kieboom asked frequently attention to his way of quotation. For instance, if you scroll through the 0-base (all motifs without [= 0] a black man), you will soon understand the system.

Of course, any remark, suggestion and addition are wellcome: motiefmijn@ziggo.nl

In the case you'll like to check a range of motifs, please send it by the above-mentioned convention, Including, if possible, with a numbering of the motifs.

Up to now, the 0-, 1- and 2-motifs (*i.e.* those with 0, 1, and 2 black men) are digitalised and now available on this KvD-site. That's about 18,000 motifs (*c.q.* end games) of the total MotifMine, containing more than 50,000 motifs. The remainder 32,000 will follow a.s.a.p.

About every three months there will be made an update, hopefully including your remarks and additions.

Every system has its disadvantage. I realise that, my decision system is not ideal. I admit that it is me still not clear where a motif ends and an end game begins. Or the other way around! I'm just registering. There are also disasters included: BO (= side solution), ZV (= move interchange), and even failures (=F). Nevertheless, these minors have not been skipped. The MM, therefore, is both heaven, hell and purgatory..... Beethoven did also compose less beautiful symphonies..... In addition, I'll like to be as complete as possible, with both the 'beautiful and the beast'.

In almost all cases, black is to move. On the other hand, there are certain (motif) ideas that only can be presented with white to move (= WAZ). And for sure, there will be a number of false positions. Warning: the motifs have not and could not have been checked with respect to its reliability.

So, all mistakes in the MM are my personal responsibility, as the fact that my MM is now going digital on the KvD-website.

My draughts friend Johan Konings pledged for years to free MM for all kind of failures, which will be agreed by many others, I realise.

Rest me to thank various draughts friends for their support to the MM:
Wim de Zwart, Kees van de Ruit, Johan Konings, Piet Lauwen, Eddie van de Acker,
Leen de Rooij, Tom Kieboom and many others!

Hopefully, the MotifMine, eventually, will be included in the fantastic Turbo Dabase, including Diagrams, with the help of software engineers Martijn van der Klis and Klaas Bor.

Tilburg, April 1, 2016 Rob Spijkers