

**Winning Quickly at Chess: Catastrophes & Tactics
in the Chess Opening – Selected Brilliances from
Volumes 1-9**

Chess Tactics, Brilliances & Blunders in the
Chess Opening

by Carsten Hansen



2018
CarstenChess

Winning Quickly at Chess: Catastrophes & Tactics in the Chess Opening – Selected Brilliances from Volumes 1-9

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INTRODUCTION

Thanks for picking up this book. I sincerely hope you will enjoy reading the book as much as I have writing it.

We all dream of winning our games fast, using excellent opening preparation, flashy tactics and then mate our opponents. However, it rarely goes like that. Usually, the games average around 40 moves, contain enough blunders on both sides to have both you and your opponent horrified after the game. However, what I have found is that many games, even amongst the strongest players, contain errors and mistakes, some quite significant ones, as soon as the players depart the theory that is known to them.

This book is a representation of the previous nine volumes, picking something of the best from each chapter in the preceding volumes, to give you an opportunity to look through the window and see if those other books are something for you.

This is the book where you will see how:

- Kramnik as Black beat Jobava in only 15 moves.
- Shirov lost in 13 moves to English Grandmaster Wells
- World-famous coach & grandmaster Aagaard lost in 13 moves as White.
- Seirawan had to resign after 15 moves, just before getting mated by a Swedish International Master.
- Timman trapped Polugaevsky's queen after 15 moves in a Najdorf
- Svidler lost as White in just 13 moves to Shirov.
- GM Nielsen, later coach to world champions Anand & Carlsen, lost in 13 moves against the King's Gambit.
- Bareev lost his queen to Nakamura after 12 moves.
- And many other fascinating games.

The opening variations covered in this volume cover the entire span of openings, from such specialties as 1.f4, 1.Nc3 and 1.b3 to interesting gambits to standard main lines of the variety you will find in the Nimzo-Indian and King's Indian. Even though there will only be one game in each chapter, they will represent a full chapter in the other books in the series. For example, from volume 9 in this series, there will be a game from each of the following chapters:

- French Defense - Minor Variations
- French Defense - Advance Variation
- French Defense - Tarrasch Variation: 3.Nd2
- French Defense - Various 3.Nc3 Variations
- French Defense - Winawer Variation: 3.Nc3 Bb4
- Caro-Kann Defense - Main Lines: 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4
- Caro-Kann Defense - Panov Attack
- Caro-Kann Defense - Advance Variation
- Caro-Kann Defense - Minor Lines

Should you have any comments, corrections or compliments, please do not hesitate to send them to carstenchess@gmail.com

If you like to receive a weekly update with more miniatures, opening ideas, chess tactics, samples from upcoming books, discounts and much more - then sign up at www.winningquicklyatchess.com

Good luck and enjoy it!

Carsten Hansen
Bayonne, NJ
April 2018

VOLUME 1

Winning Quickly at Chess Series

CATASTROPHES & TACTICS IN THE CHESS OPENING

Volume 1: Indian Defenses



Winning in 15 Moves or Less: Chess Tactics,
Brilliances & Blunders in the Chess Opening

CARSTEN HANSEN

CHAPTER 1.1

The King's Indian Defense

Game # 1

D.Adla (2509) – R.Paramos Dominguez (2408) E99

Spanish Team Championship 2011

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.0-0 Nc6
8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.f3 f5 11.g4 Nf6 12.Kh1**



What did White miss?

The more common alternatives are:

12.Nd3 c6 13.Be3 Kh8 14.a4 b6 15.Kh1 Bb7 16.Nf2 Rc8 17.Rc1 Ba8
18.Rc2 a6 19.b3 b5 20.axb5 axb5 with chances to both sides, Ftacnik-
Bacrot, Hamburg 2015.

12.Be3 c6 13.b4 Kh8 14.a4 Qd7 15.h3 h5 16.g5 f4 17.gxf6 Bxf6 18.Bf2
Qxh3 19.Nd3 Nf5 20.Qd2 Ng3 21.Bxg3 Qxg3+ with a draw by perpetual
check, ½-½, L'Ami-Nisipeanu, Wijk aan Zee 2010.

12.Ng2 f4 13.h4 c5 14.Kf2 Rf7 15.Ke1 a6 16.a4 b6 17.Kd2 Bd7 18.Kc2
Rb8 19.Bd2 Nc8 20.b3 Na7 with chances for both players, Borges Mateos-
Escobar Forero, Toluca 2009.

12...fxg4 13.fxg4 Nxg4! And White resigned which is wildly

premature, but he was undoubtedly disgusted by his simple oversight.

After 13...Nxb4 14.Nd3 (14.Bxb4?? is, of course, not possible because it leaves the rook unprotected 14...Rxf1+ and neither 14.Rxf8+ Qxf8 nor 15.Bxb4?? Qf1#) 14...Rxf1+ 15.Qxf1 a6 without full compensation for the pawn.

0-1

CHAPTER 1.2

The Grünfeld Indian Defense

Game # 2

A.Aleksandrov (2578) – A.Kocheev (2391) D85

Belarus Championship (Minsk) 2014

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bd2 Nb6 6.e4

Can Black take the offered pawn on d4?

6...Qxd4

This is not a bad move, but White does receive compensation for the pawn through a lead in development. 6...Bg7 7.Be3 0-0 is the main line.

7.Qc2

Honestly, it doesn't look like White is getting much in return for the pawn, but Black has had plenty of problems dealing with White's rapid mobilization with Rd1, Be3, and Nf3.

7...Qc5



How should White continue?

The alternatives are:

7...Nc6 8.Be3 Qd8 9.Rd1 Bd7 10.Nf3 Bg7 11.Be2 0-0 12.h4 Qc8 13.h5 Bg4 and Black should have no problems, although White does have compensation for the pawn, Mamedyarov-Safarli, Nakhchivan 2016.

7...Qd8 8.Rd1 Nc6 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.Bf4 Bg7 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Nf3 0-0 13.Be5 and White clearly has sufficient compensation for the pawn, Kuzubov-Vocaturo, Benasque 2016.

7...c6 8.Nf3 Qd8 (8...Qg7 9.a4 e5 10.a5 N6d7 11.Bc4 h6 12.0-0 Be7 13.Rfd1 0-0 14.Be3 when Black's original, but clumsy piece coordination provides White with adequate compensation for the pawn, Khismatullin-Salem, Sharjah 2014) 9.Rd1 N8d7 10.Bf4 Bg7 11.Nb5 (11.a4!? is also very uncomfortable for Black) 11...e5? (Now Black gets himself in very serious problems. After 11...0-0 12.Nc7 e5 13.Nxa8 exf4 14.Nxb6 axb6 Black's position is not that bad) 12.Bg5 f6 13.Nd6+ Kf8 14.Bd2! Qe7 15.Bb4 c5 16.Ba3 (Black's position is completely busted) 16...f5? 17.Be2 (Also 17.exf5 e4 18.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 19.Nxe4 gxf5 20.Nd6 looked pretty devastating for Black) 17...f4 18.h4 h6 19.h5 Qe6 20.hxg6 Qxg6 21.Nh4 (Black's position is like a bucket with too many holes) 21...Qf6 22.Ndf5 Kg8 23.Rd6 Qf7 24.Ng6, and Black resigned, 1-0, Ragger-Krasenkow, Warsaw 2013.

8.Be3 Qa5

There are no other squares for Black that works.

9.b4!!

White is winning!

9...Qxb4 10.Rb1 Qa5

10...Qd6 11.Nb5 is, of course, horrible for Black as well.

11.Rb5 Qa3 12.Bc5 And Black resigned. The queen only has the a6 square available, but then 13.Rxb6 ends the show.

1-0

CHAPTER 1.3

The Queen's Indian Defense

Game # 3

B.Jobava (2651) – V.Kramnik (2743) E12

Dortmund 2006

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Nc3 Bb7 5.a3 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Bd2 Nf6 8.Qc2 c5 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.b4

White has also played 10.Rd1 Qc8 11.Bg5 Nbd7 12.e3 0–0 13.Be2 a6 14.0–0 Be7 15.Rd2 h6 16.Bh4 Nc5 with chances to both sides, Dobrev-Rusev, Sofia 2008.

10...Be7 11.e4

11.e3 is completely harmless: 11...0–0 12.Bd3 Nc6 13.Ke2?! Rc8 14.Rhd1 Qc7 15.Rac1 Qb8 with a good position for Black, Larrua Gonzalez-Garcia Pantoja, Havana 2009.

11...Nc6 12.Bf4

Or 12.Bd3 Qb8 13.0–0 Ng4 14.Rfe1 Bd6 15.g3 0–0 16.Rac1 Rc8, and Black has equalized, Sieciechowicz-Staniszewski, Polanica Zdroj 2009.

12...0–0 13.Rd1 Qc8 14.e5



The knight on f6 is threatened. What is Black's best move?

White should have tried something different, for instance, 14.Bd3 Nh5 15.Be3 Bf6 16.Ne2 Ne5 although Black hardly has any problems in this line.

14...Nxb4!!

Instead of moving the other knight, Black creates a counterthreat of his own.

15.axb4 Ne4 This may seem like an early resignation, but obviously, Jobava didn't need proof that Kramnik had calculated this to the end. One sample line is 15...Ne4 16.Rd3 Bxb4 17.Bd2 Qc5! 18.Re3 (or 18.Qb3 Nxd2 19.Nxd2 Rac8 is even worse) 18...Rfd8 19.Bd3 Nxc3 20.Bxh7+ Kf8 21.Bxc3 Rac8 and Black is clearly better.

0-1

CHAPTER 1.4

The Nimzo-Indian Defense

Game # 4

V.Babula (2582) – B.Kurajica (2534) E41

Istanbul Olympiad 2000

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d6 6.Nge2 c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.dxc5

The main lines are 8.a3 and 8.Qc2.

8...Ne5!?

An interesting gambit response to White's tame 8th move.

9.a3

One of the more interesting questions is why White didn't accept Black's pawn sacrifice? After 9.cxd6 Bxd6 10.f4 Nxd3 11.Qxd3 Bc5 12.Rd1 Bd7, Black probably has pretty decent compensation for the pawn: Black's pieces (once the bishop goes to c6 and with rooks on d- and c-files) are excellently coordinated, whereas their white counterparts are somewhat disorganized with some flaws in the pawn structure as well.

9...Bxc5 10.b4 Bb6 11.Bb2

White should have opted for 11.f4 Nxd3 12.Qxd3 Qe7 13.Na4 Bc7 14.Bb2 and White's chances are by no means worse.

11...Nfg4 12.Nf4?



How should Black best continue? (Calculate the follow-up after White's most natural responses as well)

12.Nd4 would have been the way to go, keeping Black's initiative somewhat under wraps, e.g. 12...Qh4 13.h3 Nxd3 14.Qxd3, but after 14...Ne5 15.Qe2 Bxd4 16.exd4 Qxd4 17.Ne4 Qd3 Black nevertheless still has better chances.

12...Qh4! 13.h3?

Or 13.Nh3 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Ne5 and Black wins a pawn.

13...Nxf2!

Of course, 13...Nxe3 14.fxe3 Bxe3+ 15.Kh1 Bxf4 16.Ne2 Bh6 also wins for Black.

14.Qe1



How should Black best continue?

14...Qxf4! Game over! Black wins material.

0-1

Chapter 1.5

The Catalan, The Blumenfeld & The Bogo-Indian

Game # 5

Ni Hua (2662) – A.Adly (2631) E02

Shenzhen 2011

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Qa4+ Nbd7 6.Qxc4 a6
7.Qc2 c5 8.d4 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Rd1 Qb6**

A more common alternative is 10...cxd4 for instance 11.Nxd4 Bc5 12.Nc3 Qe7 13.h3 Rd8 14.Nb3 Bd6 15.Be3 Rb8 16.Ba7 and the players started repeating moves before agreeing to share the point, Antoniewski-Papp, Slovakia 2015.

11.Nc3 cxd4

Black has tried a couple of other moves here:

11...Qa7 12.Be3 Ng4 13.Bg5 f6 14.Be3 and a draw agreed, ½–½, in Bilek-Ruf, Val Thorens 1989. But 14.Bc1 may be an improvement, for instance 14...Nxf2 (14...cxd4 15.Nxd4 e5 16.Nf5 Qxf2+ 17.Kh1 Bc5 18.h3 wins for White) 15.Kxf2 cxd4 16.Nxd4 e5 17.Nd5 Bc5 18.Qc4! with a somewhat better position for White.

11...Re8 12.e4 cxd4 13.Nxd4 Qa7 14.h3 Ne5 15.b3 Bc5 16.Be3 Bd7 17.Qb2 Rac8 with more or less equal chances, Bertok-Golombek, Opatija 1953.

12.Rxd4 Qc7 13.Be3 Nd5 14.Ng5 N7f6



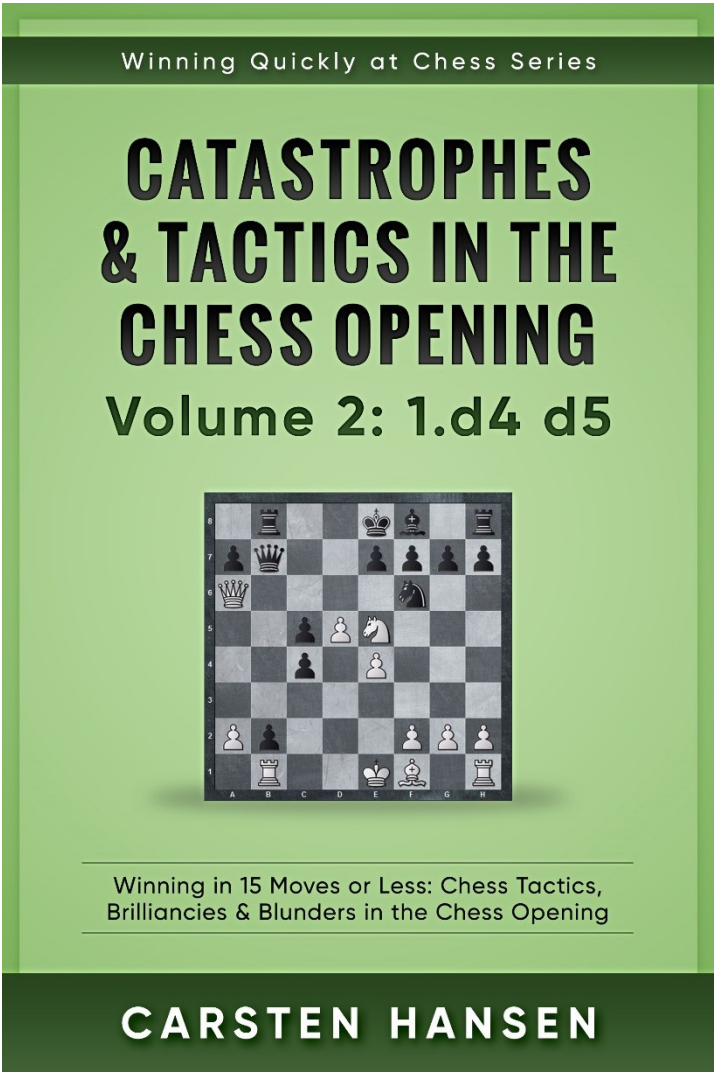
What is White's best move?

Black should have opted for 14...Bxg5 although 15.Bxg5 Nxc3 16.Qxc3 Qxc3 17.bxc3 e5 18.Rb4 looks like a grim defensive task ahead.

15.Nxd5!! This is a pretty cool combination. Black can't take White's queen because of 15.Nxd5 Qxc2 16.Nxe7+ Kh8 17.Nxf7+! Rxf7 18.Rd8+ with a mate in a couple more moves.

1-0

VOLUME 2



CHAPTER 2.1

The Slav Defense

Game # 6

H.Teske (2550) – T.Jugelt (2400) D17

Bad Zwischenahn.2012

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 c6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Nd5 7.Nxc4 Nd7 8.f3 Nb4

The main line is 8...e5.

9.e4 Bg6 10.Bg5

Another try for White is 10.Be3 e6 11.Be2 Be7 12.0–0 0–0 13.Qb3 f5 14.Rad1 Qc7 (14...f4!?) 15.Na3 Bf7 16.Bc4 f4 was Flumbort-Vajda, Budapest 2002, and now 17.Bf2 e5 18.Bxf7+ Rxf7 19.Nc4 exd4 20.Rxd4 would have left White with a clear advantage.

10...Nb6?!

Black should played 10...f6 11.Be3 e5 12.d5 Bc5 13.a5 0–0 with chances to both sides.

11.Qb3 a5?!

Here Black should have considered 11...h6 12.Bh4 Nxc4 13.Bxc4 Qb6 14.Ne2 (not 14.a5 because of 14...Nd3+ 15.Kd2 Qxb3 16.Bxb3 Nf4 and Black is still in the game) 14...Na6 15.Qc2 with a clear advantage for White.

12.d5! Qc7 13.Rc1 e6



How should White continue?

14.Nb5!! cxb5 15.Nxb6 Black resigned. **1-0**

CHAPTER 2.2

Queen's Gambit Accepted

Game # 7

A.Shirov (2706) – A.Motylev (2641) D20

FIDE World Ch Knock-Out (Moscow) 2001

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 c5 4.d5 Nf6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Bf4 Ba6

6...Qa5 is the alternative but this too scores poorly for Black.

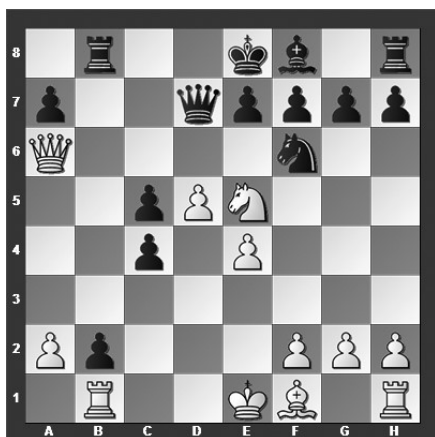
7.Nf3 b4 8.Bxb8 bxc3

The alternatives are:

8...Qxb8 9.Qa4+ Nd7 10.Qxa6 bxc3 11.b3!? (11.bxc3 Qb2 12.Rd1 Qxc3+ 13.Nd2 g6 14.Qxc4 Qxc4 15.Bxc4 Rb8 is fully playable for Black although probably slightly better for White) 11...Qf4 12.Qxc4 g6 13.Qxc3 Qxe4+ 14.Be2 Qb4 15.Qxb4 cxb4 16.0–0 with a lead in development and marginally better chances for White.

8...Rxb8 9.Qa4+ Qd7 10.Qxa6 bxc3 11.bxc3 Nxe4 12.Ne5 Qb5 (12...Qf5 13.f4 wins for White) 13.Qxa7 Nxc3 14.Rc1 with a large advantage for White.

9.Qa4+ Qd7 10.Qxa6 cxb2 11.Rb1 Rxb8 12.Ne5



Where should Black's queen go? To b5 or b7?

In another game played shortly after our main game, the Danish top grandmaster and later coach for world champions Anand and Carlsen, Peter Heine Nielsen continued 12.Bxc4 Rb6 13.Qa3 Nxe4? 14.Rxb2?! (14.Ne5! looks decisive) 14...Qb7 15.Rxb6 Qxb6 16.0-0 f6 17.Qa4+ Kd8 18.d6 e5 19.Be6 Qb7 20.Qa5+ and Black resigned, 1-0, P.H.Nielsen-Karjakin, Hastings 2002 because of 20...Qb6 21.Rb1!.

12...Qb7

This was a trick question. The answer is neither!

The alternatives are:

12...Qc7 13.Qa4+ Nd7 14.Nxc4 (or 14.Nc6 Rb6 15.Bxc4 g5! - to grab control of the dark squares - 16.e5 Bg7 17.0-0 e6 and White's impressive-looking center falls) 14...g6 15.Qc6 (15.Rxb2 Rxb2 16.Nxb2 Bg7 17.Nc4 0-0 is given as slightly better for Black in ChessBase Magazine, but that is certainly at least a slight advantage, Black's position is much easier to play) 15...Kd8 16.Qxc7+ (16.e5 and draw agreed, ½-½, was Fellner-Olbrisch, correspondence 1991, but even here Black is doing okay, for instance, 16...Bg7 17.f4 f6 18.Rxb2 Rxb2 19.Nxb2 fxe5 and the sizzle in White's position is running out) 16...Kxc7 17.Rxb2 Rxb2 18.Nxb2 Bg7 19.Nd1 Rb8 20.Bd3 Ne5 and even though White eventually won the game, Black has a comfortable advantage at this point thanks to his much more mobilized pieces, Ivanisevic-Chatalbashev, Antalya 2002.

12...Qd6 13.Qa4+ (or 13.Nc6 Qf4 14.Nxb8 Qc1+ 15.Ke2 Qc2+ 16.Ke3 Qc3+ 17.Kf4 Qc1+ 18.Kf3 Qc3+ with a draw by perpetual check - Atlas) 13...Nd7 14.Nxc4 Qf6 15.Bd3 Qc3+ 16.Ke2 and White, according to Atlas, has adequate compensation for the pawn and I will agree with that assessment.

And finally, 12...Qb5?? 13.Rxb2 and Black resigned, 1-0, was Romanishin-Brenke, Lippstadt 2004.

13.Rxb2 Black resigned! This was also the outcome in Tishin-Kuzubov, Alushta 2004.

After 13.Rxb2 Black at the very least loses the queen: 13...Qxb2 (or 13...Qxa6 14.Rxb8+ Qc8 15.Rxc8#) 14.Qc6+ Kd8 15.Nxf7#.

1-0

CHAPTER 2.3

Queen's Gambit: Specialty Main Lines

Game # 8

P.Lukacs (2460) – A.Jakab (2396) D35

Budapest 2002

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Qc2 g6 7.Bg5
Bf5 8.Qb3 b6??



This is a big mistake on Black's part. How should White best take advantage of the situation?

8...b5?? is just as bad, e.g., 9.e4 Bxe4 10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Ne5 Qe7
12.Nxc6 Nxc6 13.Bxb5 Rc8 14.Rc1 Qd6



How should White continue?

15.d5?? (The simple win was 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Bxc6+ Rxc6 17.Qb8+ and Black is lost) 15...Nxd5 16.0-0 Bg7 17.Rfd1 and White wins his piece back with the clearly better chances, Høi-Kristensen, Silkeborg 2008.

9.e4!

Just like that! The pins and other weaknesses in Black's position become more apparent and it is, in fact, impossible to hold everything together without material losses.

9...dxe4

One of the crucial points arise after 9...Bxe4 10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Ne5 Qe7 12.Qh3!! (if 12.Bc4, then 12...Qb4+ 13.Ke2 Qxb3 14.axb3 Bg7 15.Bxf7+ Ke7 allows Black to get away with "just a terrible" position) 12...Bg7 13.Qc8+ Qd8 14.Qxd8+ (Not 14.Qb7? 0-0 15.Qxa8 Qxd4 16.Nc4 Ng4 17.Be3 Nxe3 18.fxe3 Qd7 and Black is doing fine) 14...Kxd8 15.Nxf7+ Kc7 16.Nxh8 Bxh8 17.Bc4 and White is up an exchange with the better position.

10.Ne5 Be6 11.Bc4!

White has another option in 11.d5!? Bxd5 12.Nxd5 cxd5 (or 12...Qxd5 13.Bxf6) 13.Bb5+ Ke7 14.Bd7!! (The flashiest move, but also the simpler 14.Rd1! Ke6 15.Qh3+ Kxe5 16.f4+ exf3 17.Qxf3 Bb4+ 18.Ke2 is equally effective) 14...Nbx7 15.Qxd5 (15.Nc6+ also wins) 15...Qc7 16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.Bxf6+ and it is completely over for Black.

11...Qe7



How should White best continue?

12.d5!

An alternative is 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.0-0 Bg7 14.Nxe4 0-0 15.Rfe1 with an unmitigated position disaster on the table. The game was soon over: 15...Re8 16.Re3 b5 17.Rae1 a5 18.Nxf6+ (18.Nxg6! is even stronger) 18...Bxf6 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Ng4 Qg5 21.Rxe6 Rxe6 22.Qxe6+, and Black resigned, 1-0, Andersson-Huss, Biel 1977.

12...Bc8 13.Nxc6 Nxc6 14.dxc6 Bg7 15.Nd5 And Black had enough.
1-0

CHAPTER 2.4

Semi-Tarrasch & Semi-Slav

Game # 9

D.Miedema (2368) – V.Burmakin (2553) D45

Vienna 2016

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.e4 dxe4
8.Nxe4 Nxe4 9.Qxe4 Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Qa5 11.c5**

The text move is spending time on a project that should have waited until White had brought the king to safety. The main line is 11.Bd3 c5 12.a3 (White has also tried the very optimistic 12.0-0-0!? Bxd2+ 13.Rxd2 Qxa2 14.Re1 h6 15.Ne5 Nf6 16.Qf4 cxd4 17.g4 with a strong initiative for White to compensate for the pawns, Plachetka-Diesen, Odzaci 1978) 12...Bxd2+ 13.Nxd2 cxd4 14.Qxd4 Ne5 (or 14...Qe5+ 15.Qxe5 Nxe5 16.Ke2 Bd7 17.Rhd1 Ke7 18.Nf3 and here a draw, while early wasn't entirely premature, agreed upon, ½-½, Vavrak-Beck, Pardubice 2008) 15.Be2 0-0 16.b4 Rd8 17.Qe3 Qc7 18.0-0 b6 19.Rac1 with a small plus for White, Goldwaser-Mosquera, Mendes 2009.

11...0-0 12.a3 Bxd2+ 13.Nxd2



What is Black's best move?

13...e5!

Breaking up the center, taking advantage of White's underdeveloped forces and unsafe king.

14.0-0-0?! exd4 15.Nb3



This is the move White had banked on when playing 14.0-0-0 - what did he miss?

15...Nxc5! And here White resigned prematurely. White had clearly missed this counterpunch and threat to White's own queen. After 15...Nxc5! 16.Qxh7+ Kxh7 17.Nxa5 Ne6 Black is "only" up a pawn.
0-1

CHAPTER 2.5

Queen's Gambit Classical Main Lines

Game # 10

T.Hillarp Persson (2493) – W.Arencibia Rodriguez (2521) D61
Bled Olympiad 2002

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Qc2 c5
8.0-0-0 cxd4 9.Rxd4 Qa5

Black has a couple of alternatives at this point:

9...dxc4 10.Bxc4 Qa5 11.Rhd1 h6 12.Bh4 Bc5 13.R4d3 a6 14.Kb1 Re8
15.a3 Bf8 16.Rd4 b5 17.Ba2 Rb8 with chances to both sides, Kiselev-
Danielian, Moscow 1996.

9...b6 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Bd3 Nf6 14.Kb1
Bb7 15.Qd2 Ne4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Rd7 Qe6 18.Ng5 Qf5 with about equal
chances, Bellon Lopez-Gil Capape, Oropesa del Mar 1996.

10.cxd5 exd5 11.h4 Nb6

11...Bb4 12.Nd2 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Nc5 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Nb3 Qa3+ 16.Qb2
Nxb3+ 17.axb3 Qc5 18.Bd3 Be6 19.Kd2 and White has the upper hand
thanks to his safer king and superior pawn structure, Rogozenco-Stanke,
Hamburg 2003.

12.Rf4 Bd6



How should White continue?

Black has some other moves to consider as well:

The sharp 12...Be6!?: 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Ng5 Rfc8 15.Qxh7+ Kf8 16.Nxe6+ fxe6 17.Kd1 Rxc3 18.bxc3 Qxc3 with complications.

12...Nbd7 13.Bb5 Bd6 14.Ra4 with marginally better chances for White.

13.Rxf6! gxf6 14.Bxf6

There's no defense for Black. The immediate threat is Ng5.

14...Nd7 15.Qf5 Black resigned because after 15.Qf5 Nxf6 White has 16.Qg5+ Kh8 17.Qxf6+ Kg8 18.Qxd6 and the kingside attack isn't even over.

1-0

CHAPTER 2.6

Queen's Gambit Specialties

Game # 11

S.Gordon (2521) – E.Berg (2623) D08

Hastings 2009

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.a3 Nge7 6.b4 Ng6 7.b5?!

This is a poor move and a strange decision by the English grandmaster who must surely be aware that the main line continues with 7.Bb2 a5 8.b5 Ncxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5, and now:



10.Bxd4 Nxc4 11.e3 Be6 12.Qc2 Nd6 13.Bd3 (or 13.Nd2 Qd7 14.a4 Nf5 15.Bc3 Bb4 16.Be2 0-0 17.0-0 Rfd8 with chances to both sides, although I would prefer White's position, Khismatullin-Potapov, Sochi 2016) 13...Qg5 14.Nc3 Qxg2 15.0-0-0 Qh3 16.Kb1 a4 17.Ne4 Qh5 was Gelfand-Morozevich, Astana 2012, and now White should have continued with 18.Nc5 Bd5 19.Rhe1 with a sharp position and chances to both sides.

10.Qxd4 Qxd4 11.Bxd4 Nxc4 12.e3 Be6 13.Be2 a4 (13...0-0-0 14.0-0 Kb8 15.Rc1 Nd6 and Black has more or less equalized, Wojtaszek-Morozevich, Doha 2016.) 14.0-0 Na5 15.Nd2 f6 16.Rfc1 Kd7 17.Bd1 Nb3 18.Nxb3 axb3 19.Rcb1 Rxa3 20.Rxa3 Bxa3 21.Bxb3 Bxb3 22.Rxb3 Bd6 and Black has the slightly better chances in the endgame thanks to his queenside majority, Mikhalevski-Kriventsov, Schaumburg 2006

7...Ncxe5 8.Nxd4 Bc5 9.Bb2

Or 9.e3 Bg4 10.Qd2



How should Black take advantage of his lead in development?

10...Nh4!! (The immediate threat is ...Bxd4 followed by ...Nhf3+, winning White's queen) 11.Qc3 (Or 11.Qb2 Bxd4 12.exd4 Nhf3+ 13.gxf3 Nxf3+ 14.Ke2 Nxd4+ 15.Kd3 Nb3+ 16.Kc3 Bd1! and it is game over for White; also 11...Nxg2+ wins for Black) 11...Bxd4 12.exd4 Nhf3+! 13.gxf3 Nxf3+ 14.Kd1 Nxd4+ 15.Kd2 0-0 and White's king is stuck helplessly in the center waiting for Black to strike decisively, e.g., 16.h3 Bf3 17.Bb2 Qh4 18.Kc1 Rad8 and White has no defense.

9...Qh4!?

9...Nh4! is once more annoying for White. 9...Nxc4! 10.Bc3 Qh4 is also very good for Black.

10.e3 Bg4 11.Qc2 0-0-0 12.Be2



How should Black continue?

The text move is a blunder. But even the better 12.Nd2 Rhe8 is quite uncomfortable for White.

12...Bxe2 13.Qxe2 Bxd4 14.Bxd4 Rxd4! 15.exd4 Qxd4 And White resigned because of 15...Qxd4 16.Ra2 Nf4 17.Rd2 Ned3+ 18.Rxd3 Nxd3+ 19.Kf1 Nf4 20.Qg4+ f5 21.Qxf5+ Kb8 22.Qc2 Rd8 and White loses material.

0-1

CHAPTER 2.7

1 d4 d5 Specialties

Game # 12

E.Bareev (2669) – H.Nakamura (2816) D02

Las Vegas 2015

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 c6 3.Bf4 Qb6 4.b3 Nf6 5.e3 Nh5!?

5...Bg4 is far more common, e.g. 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Bxf3 Qa5+ 9.c3 g6 10.0-0 Bg7 11.c4 and White seems to have the better of it, Sanikidze-Azaladze, Tbilisi 2015.

6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Nd7 8.Ne5?



How does Black refute White's move?

8...Nxe5 9.Qxh5

9.dxe5 Qb4+ is obviously embarrassing.

9...Ng4!

This is the star move. Suddenly, White's queen is in peril.

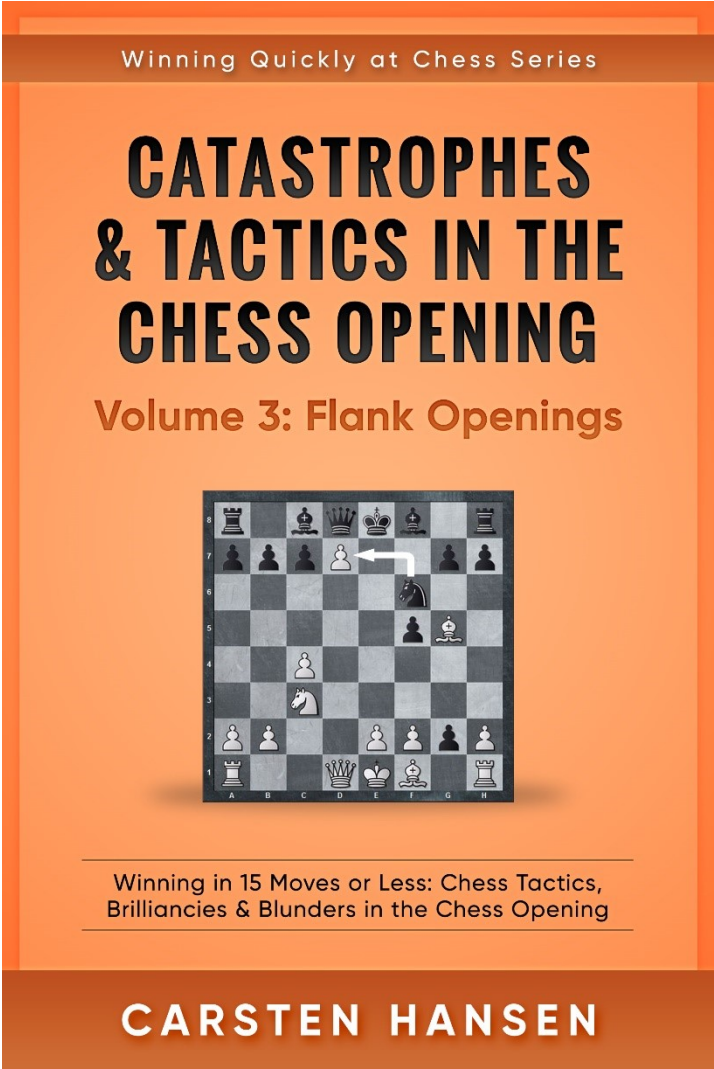
10.Bg3

White should have played 10.Bd3 g6 11.Bxg6 fxg6 12.Qxg6+ Kd8 and White has some but of course not full compensation for the piece.

10...g6 11.Qh4 Bg7 Saving the queen will cost too much material, and therefore White resigned.

0-1

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CHAPTER 3.1

Minor Flank Openings

Game # 13

K. Sakaev (2540) – E.Sveshnikov (2525) A01

Gausdal 1992

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Bd6 5.Na3 Na5 6.Be2 a6 7.Nc4 Nxc4 8.bxc4 Qe7 9.a4 0-0 10.Nh3?!

This looks a little odd and we all know the rule about knights on the a- and h-files. But White has a specific idea in mind. 10.Nf3 e4 11.Nd4 Be5 12.0-0

10...Bc5 11.f4?

This is a very ambitious move and the idea behind White's previous move.



Is there a way for Black to take advantage of White's last move?

11...Bxe3! 12.Bxe5

Black's little combination wins a pawn after 12.dxe3 Qb4+ 13.Qd2 Qxb2, and now 14.0-0 Ne4 15.Qd3 Nc5 16.Qd2 e4 is obviously better for

Black. White is trying to avoid losing that pawn but lands himself in even trouble.

12...Ba7 13.Nf2 d6 14.Bb2 Re8 15.d4?



How should Black continue?

15...Ng4!

This is a nasty move. White cannot capture it: 15...Ng4 16.Nxg4 (16.Ra3 is met by 16...Ne3, followed by ...Nxg2+. White cannot take advantage of Black's weak back rank with 16.0-0 Qxe2 17.Re1 because of 17...Qxf2+, and Black is winning) 16...Bxg4 and White loses the bishop on e2.

0-1

CHAPTER 3.2

Reti & King's Indian Attack

Game # 14

S.Martinovic (2517) – M.Prusikin (2532) A05

Austria League 2015

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c6 4.d3 Bf5 5.Nh4 Bg6 6.Nxg6 hxg6 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.c4

8.e4 dxe4 9.dxe4 e5 10.a4 a5 11.Nd2 Qc7 12.Qe2 Bc5 13.Nc4 Nb6 14.Ne3 0-0 15.c3 Qe7 and although I would rather play White in this type of position, objectively the chances are quite even, Karasev-Sidorov, St Petersburg 1999.

8...dxc4 9.dxc4 Qa5

I'm not entirely sure the idea behind this move because to swing the queen to the kingside to attack with ...Qh5 is easily parried with an h2-h3. Instead, the normal move is 9...e6, for instance, 10.Nd2 Qb6 11.Qc2 a5 12.e3 a4 13.Rb1 Qa5 14.Nf3 Qf5 15.Nd4 Qxc2 16.Nxc2 Bd6 17.b4 axb3 18.axb3 Ke7 19.Bb2 and draw agreed, ½-½, C.Horvath-Z.Almasi, Hungary 1992.

10.Nc3 Nb6 11.Qb3

White can also consider 11.Qc2!?, and now: 11...0-0-0 (11...Nxc4 12.Ne4 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 Ne5 14.Bf4 Nd7 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Qxc6 Rd8 (or 16...Qd8 17.Rac1 and Black is completely busted) 17.Bc7 Rc8 18.Qxd7+ Kxd7 19.Bxa5 and White is simply a pawn up for nothing) 12.b3 e6 13.a3 g5 14.h3 (White cannot allow ...g5-g4 as it is then followed by ...Qh5) 14...Be7 15.Bb2 Qf5 16.e4 Qh7 17.Rfd1 with a comfortable game for White.

11...Ng4?!

A rather bold and not particularly impressive idea.

12.Ne4!

12.h4 is unnecessary, but also fine for White.

12...Nxb2?



Why is this a bad idea?

Relatively best is 12...Nf6 13.Rd1 Nxe4 14.Bxe4 e6 15.h4 Be7 16.Be3 with a clear plus for White.

13.Rd1!

Amazingly, after this move, Black is completely lost.

13...Qa4

The alternatives do not inspire confidence either: 13...e6 14.c5 Bxc5 15.Bd2 Bxf2+ 16.Nxf2 Qh5 17.Bc3 and White is winning. 13...Qh5 14.c5 and Black can resign.

14.Nc5 Black resigned on account of 14.Nc5 Qxb3 15.axb3 e6 16.Nxb7 Be7 17.Be3 and Black's position collapses entirely.

1-0

CHAPTER 3.3

English Opening: Indian, Dutch & Slav Lines

Game # 15

M.Bobotsov – B.Larsen A17

Büsum 1969

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d5 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qa4 Na6

A main alternative for Black is 7...a5 8.Qb5 (Black doesn't have any problems after 8.a3 Bd7 9.Qc2 Bxc3 10.dxc3 Bc6 11.Bg5 h6 12.Rad1 Nbd7 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Ng5 Qxg5 15.Bxc6 Nc5 16.Bb5 Rad8 17.Bxc4 a4 18.Bb5 and draw agreed, ½-½, Mikhalchishin-Speelman, Baku 1983) 8...Bd7 9.Qxc4 Bc6 10.a3 Be7 11.Re1 Qe8 12.Nd4 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 c6 14.e4 b5 15.Qe2 Bc5 and Black has more or less equalized, Kozul-Postny, Sibenik 2016.

8.a3 Bd7 9.Nb5

Or 9.Qc2 Bd6 10.d4 cxd3 11.exd3 c6 12.d4 Nc7 when White has some compensation for the pawn, Bagheri-Ghaem Maghami, Teheran 2016.

9...Qe8 10.Nfd4? e5! 11.Bxb7 exd4 12.Bxa6



What is Black's best move?

12...Bh3! 13.axb4 Qe4 14.Bb7 Qxb7 15.f3 Bd7 White resigned. **0-1**

CHAPTER 3.4

English Opening: 1.c4 e5

Game # 16

A.Skripchenko (2456) - R.Przedmojski (2405) A22

Koszalin 1999

1.e4 c6 2.c4 e5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Be2 d6 6.Qc2 Bg4

Or 6...a5 7.0-0 Bg4 8.Na4 Nbd7 9.Rd1 0-0 10.d4 Bxf3 11.gxf3 exd4 12.Rxd4 Qe7 13.Be3 Ne8 14.Rad1 b6 15.f4 and White has somewhat better chances thanks to his more space and bishop pair, Landenbergue-Gruenenwald, Switzerland 2011.

7.Qb3

7.a3 Ba5 8.0-0 0-0 9.d3 Nbd7 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Bb6 12.b4 a5 13.Rb1 axb4 14.axb4 Re8 was about equal in Perez Mitjans-Cuartas, Barbera del Valles 2007.

7...Na6



Here White intending the following line: 8.a3 Bxc3 9.Qxb7 winning one or two pawns before recapturing the bishop on c3. What did White miss?

8.a3

The chances would have been about equal after 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 Bc5.

8...Bxc3 9.Qxb7??

Or 9.Qxc3 Nxe4 10.Qe3 f5 and Black has won a pawn.

9...Nc5 10.Qxc6+ Ke7!

This is probably the move White had forgotten to consider.

11.dxc3 Rc8 12.Qb5 Bd7 The queen is trapped, if 13.Qb4, then 13...a5 closes the trap entirely.

0-1

CHAPTER 3.5

Symmetrical English: 1.c4 c5

Game # 17

L.B.Hansen (2545) – N.De Firmian (2575) A33

Danish Team Ch 1998

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.g3 Qb6 7.Ndb5 Ne5 8.Bf4 d6

A major alternative for Black is 8...Nfg4, and now:

9.e3 a6 10.Qa4 Ra7 (10...g5 11.Bxe5 Nxe5 12.0-0-0 Be7 13.Be2 0-0 14.Nd4 Qb4 15.Qxb4 Bxb4 16.f4 gxf4 17.gxf4 and White has the better chances, Vachier Lagrave-Dominguez Perez, Istanbul 2012) 11.h3 axb5 (11...g5 12.hxg4 gxf4 13.gxf4 axb5 14.Qxb5 Qxb5 15.Nxb5 Nc6 16.Nxa7 Nxa7 17.Bd3 Bg7 18.0-0-0 and White was in command of the game, Matlakov-Grischuk, Dubai 2014) 12.Qxb5 Qc6 13.hxg4 Qxh1 14.Bxe5 Qc6 15.Bd4 Ra8 16.a3 Be7 17.Qh5 Kf8 18.0-0-0 b6 with a messy position and chances to both sides, Topalov-Caruana, Moscow 2016)

9.Qa4 g5 10.Bxe5 Qxf2+ 11.Kd1 Nxe5 12.Nc7+ Kd8 13.Nxa8 Qd4+ 14.Kc2 Nxc4 15.e4 (Or 15.Kb3 Nd2+ 16.Kc2 and soon a draw was agreed in Carlsen-Dominguez Perez, Linares 2009) 15...Ne3+ (The crazy line 15...Qd2+! 16.Kb3 Qxb2+ 17.Kxc4 leads to a draw after 17...Bg7 18.Qa5+ b6 19.Qxg5+ f6 20.Qb5 Ba6 21.Qxa6 f5 and despite White being up a rook and two minor pieces he cannot win) 16.Kb3 Qd2 17.a3 Qc2+ 18.Ka2 Qxa4 19.Nxa4 Nxf1 20.Rhxf1 and White is clearly better, Nakamura-Karjakin, Zuerich 2015.

9.Bg2 a6

9...Nfg4 10.0-0 a6 11.Na4 Qd8 12.Na3 Ng6 13.Bd2 Rb8 was played in Wells-Jakovenko, Warsaw 2005, and now 14.h3 N4e5 15.Qb3 would have left White with the upper hand.

9...Be7? 10.c5 Qxc5 11.Be3 Qc4 12.b3 (12.Nxd6+ Bxd6 13.Qxd6 Ned7 14.a4 a6 15.Rd1 is completely hopeless for Black) 12...Qb4 13.Nc7+ Kd8 was Romero Holmes-Karjakin, Benidorm 2003, and now the quiet 14.Qc2 would have been decisive.

10.Qa4 Nfd7



How should White continue?

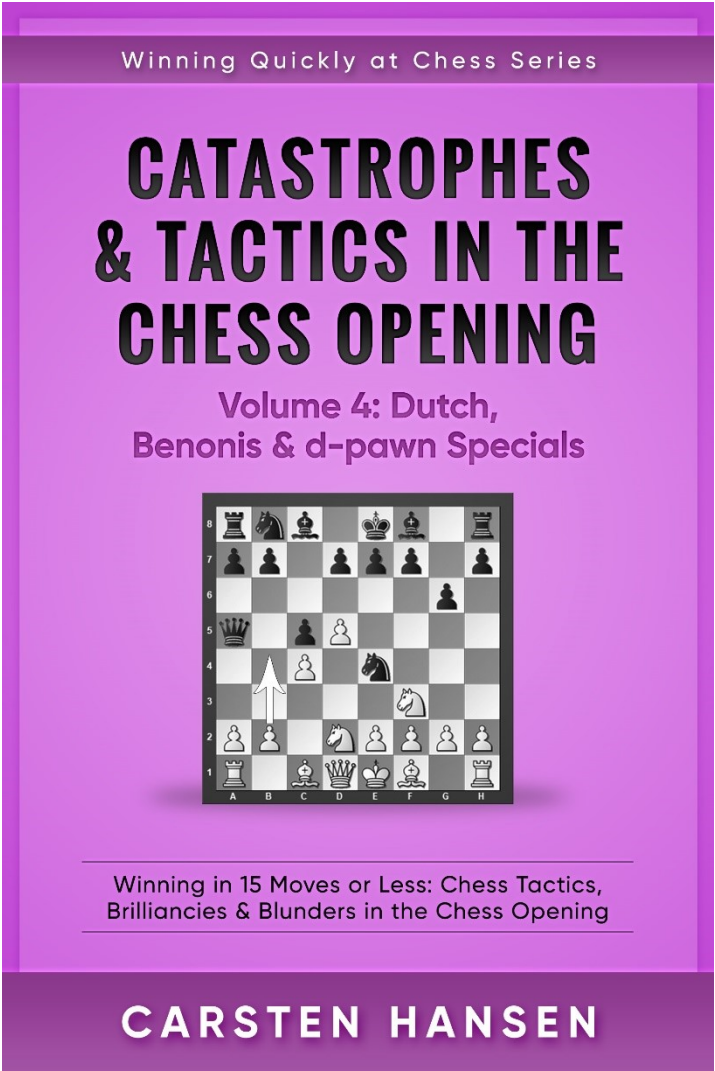
11.c5!! Nxc5

11...axb5 12.Qxa8 Qxc5 13.Be3 Qc7 14.Nxb5 isn't any better.

12.Nxd6+ Ke7 13.Nd5+!! With mate looming in just a few moves, Black resigned.

1-0

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CHAPTER 4.1

Dutch – Main Lines

Game # 18

J.Aagaard (2517) – D.Palo (2551) A87

Danish Team Ch 2013

**1.d4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.c4 0-0 6.b4 d6 7.0-0 e5
8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Qb3 e4**

Or 9...Qe8 10.Nc3 h6 11.e4 f4 12.Bb2 c6 13.gxf4?! Nh5 14.Ne2 exf4?!
(14...Nxf4 15.Nxf4 Rxf4 looks normal and better) 15.Bxg7 Nxg7 16.c5+ Kh8
17.Qc3 a5 18.bxa5 Bg4? (18...Kh7!?) 19.Rab1 with clearly better chances
for White, Li R.-J.Christiansen, Doha 2015.

10.c5+



How should Black best meet this check?

White has tried a few other things at this point:

a) 10.Ng5 h6 (10...Nc6!? looks like a worthwhile improvement) 11.Rd1
Qe8 12.Nh3 g5 13.f4 g4 14.Nf2 Be6 15.Na3 a5 16.b5 Nbd7 17.Bb2 Nc5
18.Qc2 Qe7 19.e3 c6 20.Bf1 Rac8 21.Rac1 Rfd8 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.bxc6
bxc6 24.Nb1 Nfd7 and draw agreed, ½–½, in Kortschnoj-Spassky, St
Petersburg 1999.

b) 10.Rd1, and now it is Black's turn to choose:

b1) 10...Qe7 11.Nd4 Rd8 12.Bb2 c5 13.bxc5 Nc6 14.e3 Be6 15.Nd2 Bf7 16.Rac1 Ne5 17.Rb1 Qxc5 18.Ba3 Qa5 and Black has taken over the initiative, W.Schmidt-Chojnacki, Trzcianka 2016.

b2) 10...Qxd1+!? 11.Qxd1 exf3 12.Bxf3 (12.exf3 Nfd7 13.Nc3 Bxc3 14.Rb1 Re8 is fine for Black) 12...Ne4 13.Bxe4 fxe4 14.Qd5+ Kh8 (14...Rf7! seems safest) 15.Nc3 Bxc3 16.Bh6, and now, rather than 16...Bxa1 17.Bxf8 Nc6 18.b5 when White was already winning in Lyngsjo-Frisvold, Helsingor 2008, Black should have played 16...c6 17.Qxe4 Bf5 18.Qe3 Bxa1 19.Bxf8 Nd7 with playable but not entirely comfortable position for Black.

b3) 10...Qe8 11.Nd4 Kh8 12.Nc3 Nc6 13.Ncb5 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Be6 15.Bf4 Rf7 16.Rac1 h6 17.Qb2 Ng4 18.f3 with a sharp position and chances to both sides, Rausis-Capuano, Castellaneta 2000.

10...Qd5!

After this move, White is essentially lost, but his collapse comes sooner than anticipated...

11.Ne5?

The choice for White would have been 11.Nd4 although after 11...Qxb3 12.axb3 Nd5 13.Rd1 Nxb4 14.e3 N8c6 he would have had a position that is lost at grandmaster level.

11...Qxb3 12.axb3 Ng4 White resigned. Losing an exchange this early on was enough for the famous author and coach to call it quits.

0-1

CHAPTER 4.2

Dutch - Anti-Dutch

Game # 19

M. Cebalo (2418) – E. Vasiukov (2451) A80

Sibenik 2014

1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 g6 3.e3 Nh6

The main line is 3...Bg7 has been played hundreds of times. The text move is a lot rarer.

4.h4

White plays the most aggressive move planning to push the h-pawn forward to disrupt Black's normal development.

A couple of alternatives are:

4.Bc4 d5 5.Bxh6 (White can also consider 5.Be2 Nf7 6.Bh4 Bg7 7.Nf3 although 7...c5 8.c3 is at best marginally better for White) 5...Bxh6 6.Bd3 0-0 7.f4 c5! 8.c3 Qb6 9.Qd2 Bd7 (9...Bg7!?) 10.Nf3 Bb5?! (10...Bg7!?) 11.Bxb5 Qxb5 12.Na3 and draw agreed, ½-½, in Donchenko-Grafl, Germany 2015, which is definitely premature as White has a pleasant position.

4.Nf3 Nf7 5.h4 Bg7 6.Nbd2 d6 7.Bc4 Nc6 8.c3 h6 9.Qb3 Rf8 10.Bxf7+ Rxf7 11.h5 gxh5 12.Bh4 and White has the initiative, Parulava-Junker, Germany 2001.

4...Nf7 5.Bf4

Another try for White is 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.c4 Be6 8.cxd5 Bxd5 9.Nc3 Nc6 10.Rc1 h6 11.Bf4 and White has the better chances, Dale-Halpin, Bangkok 2017.

5...d6

5...Bg7 6.Nc3 d6 7.Nf3 c6 8.Qd2 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.0-0-0 Ke7 12.Bg3 Be6 and Black has completely equalized, Dragomirescu-Hernandez Moya, Baku 2016.

6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Bc4 Bg7??

Black entirely misses White's very simple threat. He should have played 7...c6, although 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.h5 (The immediate 9.Ng5+ Kg8 is harmless for Black) 9...Bg7 10.Nc3 is better for White.

8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Ng5+ Kf6

An unfortunate necessity because any retreat with the king is met with Ne6 and material losses to follow.

10.Nc3 c6

Or 10...e6 11.d5 e5 12.Ne6 Qg8 13.Bg5+ Kf7 14.Nb5 and White is winning.

11.Qf3! e5



How should White best continue?

Or 11...Qa5 12.0-0-0 Bh6 13.e4 and White is winning.

12.Qd5!! Qe7 13.Nxh7+ And Black resigned. He is getting mated on the very next move.

1-0

CHAPTER 4.3

Benonis & Benko Gambit

Game # 20

J.Nogueiras Santiago (2455) – R.Vaganian (2590) A43

Mexico 1980

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Bg5 Ne4 5.Bh4 Qa5+ 6.Nbd2 Bb7 7.a4 Bxd5

The alternative is 7...Nxd2, and now:

8.Qxd2 Qxd2+ 9.Nxd2 Bxd5 10.e4 Bb7 11.axb5 a6 12.bxa6 Nxa6 13.Nc4 Nc7 14.Rxa8+ Bxa8 15.Bd3 was seen in Rogozenco-Brandenburg, Wijk aan Zee 2007, and now 15...Ne6 16.Kd2 g5 17.Bg3 Bg7 would offer Black a playable position even though White still has the upper hand)

8.Nxd2 Qb4 9.e4 a6? (9...g6 10.Qb1 bxa4 11.c3 Qb6 12.Nc4 Qc7 13.Qc2 is 'only' clearly better for White) 10.axb5 Qxb2 11.bxa6 Bxa6 12.Bxa6 Nxa6 13.0-0 g5 14.Bxg5 Bg7 15.Ra4 and White is completely winning, G.Jones-Chapman, Torquay 2013.

Finally, 7...bxa4 8.c3 f5 9.Rxa4 Qb6 10.Nc4 Qh6 11.e3 (11.Ne3! is possibly even stronger) 11...g5 12.Bg3 Nxd3 13.fxd3 Bg7 14.Na5 Bc8 15.g4 and White has a very clear advantage, Akobian-Ramirez, Saint Louis 2012.

8.axb5 Qb4



How should White best continue?

Retreating the queen is safer: 8...Qb6 9.e3 Nxd2 10.Nxd2 g6 11.Nb3 Bb7 12.Na5 d5 13.Be2 Bg7 14.0-0 Nd7 15.c4 with a large, likely decisive, advantage for White, A.Kovacs-Sinka, email 2011.

9.c4! Bb7

Or 9...g5 10.cxd5 Nxd2 11.Qxd2 gxh4 12.Qxb4 cxb4 13.b6 a5 14.b7 Ra7 15.Rc1 and Black could safely have resigned, Vidit-Le Quang Long, Ho Chi Minh City 2012.

10.Qc2

The black queen is trapped; the rest is desperation.

10...a6 11.Ra4 axb5 12.Rxb4 Ra1+ 13.Nb1 cxb4 14.Nfd2 Black resigned.

1-0

CHAPTER 4.4

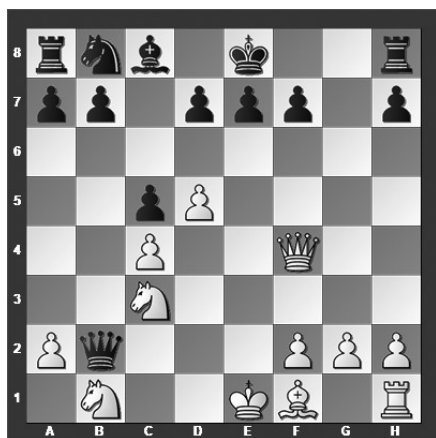
Trompowsky Attack

Game # 21

P.Wells (2501) – A.Shirov (2709) A45

Gibraltar 2006

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 c5 3.Bxf6 gxf6 4.d5 Qb6 5.Qc1 f5 6.c4 Bh6 7.e3 f4
8.exf4 Bxf4 9.Qxf4 Qxb2 10.Ne2 Qxa1 11.Nec3 Qb2



How should White continue?

11...d6 12.Qd2 Rg8 13.g3 Rg4? (I don't know what this is all about but it looks ridiculous. Instead 13...b5!? 14.cxb5 a6 to get some pieces into play and obtain counterplay makes perfect sense) 14.f4 b5? (14...a6!?) 15.cxb5 a6 16.b6! (denying Black the counterplay he was hoping for) 16...Nd7 17.Be2 Rb8 18.0-0 Rxb6 19.Bxg4 Qb2 20.Qxb2 Rxb2 21.Rf2 and even though Black miraculously managed to save a draw later on, at this point White is completely winning, Vitiugov-Dubov, Khanty-Mansiysk 2013.

12.d6 Qc2

The main alternative is 12...Nc6 but that too does not score too well for Black after 13.Bd3, and now:

13...b5 14.cxb5 Nb4 15.0-0 (15.Be4! is even better) 15...Bb7 16.Bc4 (16.Qe5! is much better, e.g., 16...0-0-0 17.Qxc5+ Kb8 18.dxe7 Rde8 19.Qd6+ Ka8 20.Be4 and the party is soon over for Black) 16...e6 17.Qg5 Kf8 18.Qh6+ Kg8 19.Re1 Nd5 20.Bxd5 Bxd5 21.Qg5+ Kf8 22.Qh6+ Kg8 23.Re2 and Black resigned, 1-0, A.Smirnov-A.Ivanov, St Petersburg 2006.

13...Nb4 14.Be4! Nc2+ 15.Kd1 Nd4 16.Qe5 0-0 17.dxe7 Ne6 18.Qf5 and Black resigned, 1-0, Rusev-Arnaudov, Pamplona 2009.

13...exd6? 14.0-0 Ne5 15.Qf6 0-0 16.Nd5 Re8 17.Qg5+ Ng6 18.Nf6+ Kf8 19.Qh6+ Ke7 20.Nd5+ Kd8 21.Bxg6 hxg6 22.Nbc3 A picturesque position, Black resigned, 1-0, Hodgson-Van der Wiel, Amsterdam 1994.

13.Qe3 Here the tactical wizard behind the black pieces decided to resign. It looks ridiculously early, but once you examine 13.Qe3 Nc6 14.Bd3 Qb2 15.0-0 a little closer you will realize that Black's position is, in fact, hopeless, which Shirov didn't want to look at on the board.

1-0

CHAPTER 4.5

The Anti-Indians

Game # 22

S.Begun (2380) – A.Kapengut (2465) A49

Minsk 1978

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Bg7 4.g3 d6 5.d4 c5 6.c4?!



This looks like a natural move, but it is, in fact, an inaccuracy. Now Black can grab the initiative, can you see how?

The correct and most popular move for White is 6.Bg2 although Black has no troubles equalizing against this move, for instance, 6...cxd4 7.Nxd4 d5 8.c4 dxc4 9.bxc4 Qb6 10.Qc2 Nc6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.0-0 0-0 and Black has nothing to worry about, Anurag-Matamoros Franco, Forni di Sopra 2017.

6...Ne4!

Just like this! White now is facing issues on both the a1–h8 and a5–e1 diagonals.

7.Bg2 Qa5+ 8.Kf1

Instead of this ugly move, White has tried the alternatives quite a few times:

8.Nfd2 Nxd2 (8...f5? 9.Bxe4! fxe4 10.Bc3 Qc7 11.dxc5 Bxc3 12.Nxc3 e3 13.fxe3 Qxc5 14.Nd5 and Black does not have enough compensation for the pawn, Korley-Bekker Jensen, Svendborg 2015) 9.Bc3 (9.Qxd2 Qxd2+ 10.Nxd2 Bxd4 11.Bxd4 cxd4 leaves Black a pawn up) 9...Qb6 10.dxc5 Nxb1 11.Bxg7 Qb4+ 12.Kf1 Rg8 (12...Nd2+ 13.Kg1 Rg8 14.Bd4 dxc5 15.Be3 Nxc4 16.bxc4 Nc6 17.Rb1 Qxc4 18.Bd5 Qa6 19.Qb3 leaves White with adequate compensation for the pawn(s), Kosic-Tomic, Paracin 2013) 13.Bb2 Nd2+ 14.Kg1 dxc5?! (Black should have played 14...Nxc4 15.Qd4 Na6 16.Bc3 Qxc5 17.bxc4 Qxd4 18.Bxd4 Nc5 when White doesn't have sufficient compensation for the pawn) 15.Rc1 Nxb3 16.axb3 Nc6 17.Bxc6+ bxc6 was seen in Sargissian-Li Chao, Huaian 2016, and now 18.Kg2 a5 19.Qd3 would have been marginally better for White.

8.Nbd2 Nc6 9.e3 Bg4 (Both 9...Bf5!? and 9...0-0 10.0-0 Nxd2 11.Qxd2 Qxd2 12.Nxd2 cxd4 13.Bxc6 dxe3 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Bf3 exd2, which leaves Black a pawn up, are better for Black) 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Nxd2 (Or 11...Nc3 12.Qc2 cxd4 13.Bxc6+ bxc6 14.exd4 Bxd4 15.Kf1 Qf5 16.Qxf5 gxf5 17.Nf3 Bf6 18.Rc1 Ne4 19.Bxf6 Nxf6 20.Nd4 and White wins back the pawn with more or less equal chances in the endgame) 12.Qxd2 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 cxd4 14.Bxc6+ bxc6 15.Bxd4 Bxd4 16.exd4 a5 17.Kc3 and draw agreed, ½-½, in Saric-Rogulj, Sibenik 2011.

8...Nc6 9.e3 0-0 10.Ne1 f5 11.f3?



What is Black's best move?

White should have played the more solid 11.Nc2 although 11...b5! 12.f3 Nf6 is still rather promising for Black.

11...cxd4 12.exd4 e5!

Black has also played the weaker move 12...f4? which allows White the possibility to close things up a bit with 13.g4 Ng5?! (13...Nf6! is considerably better) 14.Bc3 Qb6 15.h4 Nf7 16.d5 Nce5 17.Bd4 Qd8 with chances to both sides, which obviously suits White since he is lost in the game continuation in our main game; here White eventually won the game, Pavlovic-Ivanisevic, Sozina 2004.

13.fxe4 fxe4+ 14.Kg1



14...Bg4!

The bishop is untouchable because of ...Qxe1+.

Black can also play 14...exd4! 15.Bxe4 Bh3 16.Nf3 Rae8 and White is hopelessly lost.

**15.Qd2 Bh6! A beautiful conclusion to the game. White resigned.
0-1**

CHAPTER 4.6

Budapest & Fajarowicz Gambits

Game # 23

P.Lukacs (2460) – P.Horvath (2489) A52

Budapest 2002

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Bf4 Bb4+ 5.Nd2 d6 6.exd6 Qf6
7.Nh3 Nxf2 8.Kxf2 Bxh3 9.e3**

The theoretical main line is 9.g3, and now:

9...Bc5+ 10.e3 (10.Ke1 Bf5 11.Qb3?! (Better, but still fine for Black is 11.Bg2 Nc6 12.dxc7 0–0 with chances to both sides) 11...0–0 12.Qxb7 Nd7 13.Ne4 Bxe4 14.Qxe4 cxd6 15.Bh3 Rfe8 16.Qc2 Ne5 and Black is clearly in command, Walter-Beikert, Germany 2009) 10...Bf5 11.dxc7 Nd7 12.h4 Qxb2?! 13.Kg1 Qb6 14.Qb3 Bb4? (14...Qf6!?) 15.c5! Nxc5 16.Qb2 Bxd2 17.Qxg7 and White is winning, Sage-Fister, ICCF email 2005.

9...Bf5 10.e4 (10.dxc7 Nc6 11.e4 Bd7 12.Kg2 can also be tried for White) 10...g5 11.exf5 gxf4 12.Qe2+ Kf8 13.Qe7+ Qxe7 14.dxe7+ Kxe7 15.Ne4 Nd7 16.a3 fxe3+ 17.hxe3 Nf6 18.axb4 Nxe4+ 19.Kg2 Ng5 20.g4 Kf6 (20...Rhd8 and draw agreed, ½–½, was Mauro-Morin, email 2001) 21.Kg3 a6 22.Bg2 c6 23.Rh6+ Kg7 24.Rd6 and White has the better chances in the endgame, I.Jelen-Mikac, Ljubljana 1992.

9...Bxf1 10.Rxf1 Qd4+ 11.Kg2 Bxd6 12.Qb3 Nd7?? (Black had to play 12...0–0 13.Qxb7 Nd7 14.Nf3 Qf6 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Rad1 Qe7 17.e4 Nf6 18.b3 and White is only a small measure better) 13.Be3 Qe5 14.c5 Bxc5 (or 14...Nxc5 15.Qxf7+ Kd8 16.Nc4 Qe4+ 17.Rf3 Ne6 18.Nxd6 cxd6 19.Rd1 and Black resigned, 1–0, Komarov-Chatalbashev, St Raphael 1998) 15.Qxf7+ Kd8 16.Bxc5 Qxc5 17.Rad1 Kc8 and now instead of 18.Qxd7+ (18.Ne4! Qc6 19.Rd4! b6 20.Rc4 and White is winning) 18...Kxd7 19.Ne4+ Kc6 20.Nxc5 Kxc5 21.Rf7 Rhe8 which allowed Black to survive in C.Horvath-Mohr, Austria 2004, White should have played

9...g5 10.Ne4

White can also play 10.dxc7 which leads to massive complications after 10...Nc6 11.Ne4 Qxb2+ 12.Be2 gxf4 13.gxh3 f5 14.Nd6+ Kd7!! which

my computer interestingly assesses as equal! There is plenty to analyze, even for fun.

10...Qxb2+ 11.Kf3??



What is Black's best move?

Here my computer recommends 11.Be2 gxf4 12.gxh3 fxe3+ 13.Kxe3 Qe5 14.dxc7, and now Black can force a draw with 14...Bc5+ 15.Kf3 Qf5+ 16.Kg3 Qe5+ which appear to be best play by both sides.

11...f5!

11...gxf4?? throws the win away: 12.gxh3?? (White should have played 12.Rb1 Qe5 13.Qd5 Nc6 14.Qxe5+ Nxe5+ 15.Kxf4 Bxd6 16.Nxd6+ cxd6 17.gxh3) 12...Nd7?? (12...f5! wins) 13.exf4 f5 14.Ng5 0-0-0 15.Rb1 Qc3+ 16.Qd3 Rde8 17.Qxc3 Bxc3 and somehow White has found a way to survive, Sundararajan-Spiller, Genting Highlands 1998.

**12.gxh3 fxe4+ 13.Kxe4 gxf4 14.Qh5+ Kd8 White resigned.
0-1**

CHAPTER 4.7

Old Indian & Minor d-pawn Specials

Game # 24

H.Schussler (2455) – Y.Seirawan (2605) A41

Reykjavik 1986

1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5 3.Nc3 g6 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.e3 c6 8.b3

Or 8.Be2 Nd7 9.0–0 Nh6 10.Rd1 f5 11.e4 Ke7 as played in Laine-Tuominen, Jyvaskyla 1997, and now White has the tactical sequence 12.Bg5+ Ke8 13.exf5 gxf5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Rd8+ Kf7 16.Bh5+ Ng6 17.Rxh8 Bxh8 18.Bxh6 available.

8...e4 9.Nd4 f5 10.Ba3 Nf6 11.0–0–0 Kc7??



How should White continue?

Black should have played the necessary and solid 11...Ke8 12.Be2 Bf8 13.Bxf8 Kxf8 14.Kb2 Kg7 after which he is at most slightly worse.

12.Ndb5+! cxb5 13.Nxb5+ Kb6 14.c5+ Ka5 15.Rd4 With mate being delivered on the next move, Black resigned. A terrible defeat for the American top grandmaster.

1–0

VOLUME 5

Winning Quickly at Chess Series

CATASTROPHES & TACTICS IN THE CHESS OPENING

Volume 5: Anti-Sicilians



Winning in 15 Moves or Less: Chess Tactics,
Brilliances & Blunders in the Chess Opening

CARSTEN HANSEN

CHAPTER 5.1

Alapin Variation 2 c3

Game # 25

E.Sveshnikov (2508) – P.Haugli (2362) B22

Riga 2004

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Na3 Bf5

Two other options for Black are:

8...a6 9.0–0 Bf5 10.d4 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.cxd4 e6 13.Qf3 Qd7 14.d5 Nxd5 15.Rd1 Bxa3 16.bxa3 0–0 with chances to both sides, Howell-Vidit, Douglas 2016.

8...Be6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nb5 Qd7 11.Bxe6 Qxe6+ 12.Be3 Qd7 13.Nbxd4 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Qa4 15.Qb3 Qxb3 16.axb3 Nc8 17.b4 and White is in command of the game, Tan-Zhou Jianchao, Kuala Lumpur 2017.

9.d4 cxd4 10.Nb5 Qd7

Or 10...Qd8 11.Nfxd4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Bg6 13.0–0 e6 14.Qf3 Bc5 15.Be3 Qe7 16.Nc6 Qd6 17.Rfd1 Qxc6 18.Qxc6+ bxc6 19.Bxc5 and White has a large positional plus, Stripunsky-Reis, Arlington 2013.

11.Nbxd4 Nxd4

Black has also tried 11...Bg6 12.0–0 e6 13.Qe2 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Bc5 15.Rd1 Bxd4 16.Rxd4 Qc6 17.h4 when White has a clear advantage, Codenotti-De Filomeno, Montecatini Terme 2011.

12.Nxd4 Be4 13.0–0 e6 14.Qe2 Bd5



What did White play here that made Black resign the game?

15.Rd1 Black resigned!

While the resignation seems wildly premature, it is pretty clear that Black is serious trouble and is, in fact, likely losing. However, resigning early never won any games, but let's look at what could have happened... 15.Rd1, and now: 15...0-0-0 (15...Bxb3 16.axb3 a6 17.Be3 (White could improve with 17.Bg5! Qc7 (or 17...Be7 18.Nf5) 18.Nxe6 and Black can resign) 17...Rd8 18.Nb5 Qc6 19.Rxd8+ Kxd8 20.Rd1+ Nd7 was played in Marcelin-Gaillard, Montigny le Bretonneux 1999, and now 21.Bg5+ Ke8 22.Nd4 Qb6 23.b4 e5 24.b5 would have left White with a large advantage) 16.c4 Bc6 17.Bg5 Qxd4 18.Bxd8? (I'm not sure why White didn't just take the queen, for example, 18.Rxd4 Rxd4 19.Be3 Re4 20.Bc2 Re5 21.f4 Ra5 22.Bd2 and White is winning) 18...Qf4 19.Bxb6 axb6 20.Qd2 Qf6 21.Bc2 Be7 22.b4 and although White somehow managed not to win this position, he has a decisive advantage at this point, Harley-Tavoularis, Birmingham 2006.

1-0

CHAPTER 5.2

The Grand Prix Attack

Game # 26

J.Radulski (2375) – V.Spasov (2540) B23

Bulgarian Ch 1994

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Bc4 e6 5.Nge2 Nf6 6.0-0 a6 7.d3 d5

The main line is 7...b5 8.Bb3 Nxb3 9.axb3 Bb7 10.f4 d5 11.e5 d4 (or 11...Nd7 12.d4 Qc7 13.Be3 g6 14.Qe1 Be7 15.Qf2 h5 16.Rfd1 c4 17.bxc4 Qxc4 and Black has equalized, Cherniaev-R.Pert, Hinckley Island 2009) 12.exf6 dxc3 13.fxc3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Rg8 15.Rf2 Bxc3 16.Nxc3 Qd4 17.Kf1 Qxc3 with more or less even chances, Tiviakov-Shirov, Wijk aan Zee 2010.

8.exd5 exd5?



How should White best continue?

Here Black must insert 8...b5!, for instance, 9.Bb3 Nxb3 10.axb3 b4 11.Ne4 Qxd5 12.Nf4 Qc6 13.Qf3 Bb7 14.Nxf6+ gxf6 15.Qxc6+ Bxc6 with chances to both sides, Bogaudinov-Vokhidov, Moscow 2017.

9.Nxd5! Nxd5

Or 9...Nf3+ 10.gxf3 (10.Kh1 Nxd5 11.Nc3 Nxh2?? (also 11...Nd4 12.Qh5 Ne6 13.Bxd5 is much better for White) 12.Re1+ Ne7 13.Qh5 g6 14.Qxh2 b5

15.Nd5 Kd7 16.Bg5 and Black could have resigned at this point, Genzling-Gschnitzer, Germany 2012) 10...Nxd5 11.Re1 Be7 12.Ng3 Be6 13.f4 g6 14.f5 gxf5 15.Qh5 Nf6 16.Qe2 Nd5 17.Qh5 Nf6 was played in Kotsur-Potapov, Tashkent 2009, and now 18.Qf3 Qd7 19.Bg5 Kd8 (also 19...0-0-0 20.Rxe6 fxe6 21.Re1 is a disaster for Black) 20.Rxe6 fxe6 21.Re1 Qc6 22.Qxc6 bxc6 23.Rxe6 with a position that should be an easy win for White

10.Nxd4 cxd4 11.Qh5 Ne7?

Also 11...Be6 12.Re1 Be7 (Black's best defense is 12...Nc7!? 13.Bxe6 Nxe6 14.Rxe6+ Be7 15.Bg5 g6 16.Rxe7+ Qxe7 17.Qh4 with clearly better chances for White) 13.Rxe6 Nf6 14.Rxf6 gxf6 15.Qxf7+ Kd7 16.Bf4 Qa5 17.Qe6+ (Or 17.Be6+ and Black resigned, 1-0, in Lobzhanidze-Di Nicolantonio, Vaujany 2013, which is perfectly reasonable in light of 17...Kd8 18.Bd6 Re8 19.Bxe7+ Rxe7 20.Qf8+) 17...Kd8 18.Re1 Re8 19.Re4 Qc5 20.b4 Qa7 21.Qd5+ Kc8 22.Qa5, and with mate in just a few moves, Black resigned, 1-0, Hamdouchi-Wirig, France 2003.

**12.Qxf7+ Kd7 13.Re1 Kc6 14.Bg5 b5 15.Qf3+ Black resigned.
1-0**

CHAPTER 5.3

The Closed Sicilians

Game # 27

C.Renner (2437) – E.Schmittdiel (2483) B20

German Bundesliga 1999

1.e4 c5 2.d3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 e5 5.Nh3 Nc6 6.0-0 Nge7 7.f4 d6 8.c3

A logical attempt is the immediate 8.f5 which we see rather frequently in this type of position. If Black is not entirely sure what is going on, it can go downhill very quickly. Here, however, Black played it well: 8...f6 (Black can also accept the pawn with 8...gxf5 but 9.Qh5 0-0 10.exf5 f6 can seem unpleasant for Black) 9.Be3 h5 10.fxf6 Bg4 11.Qd2 Qd7 12.Nf2 Be6 13.h3 0-0-0 14.Nc3 f5 15.exf5 Nxf5 with a sharp position and chances to both sides, Hillarp Persson-Tarjan, Douglas 2015.

With 8.Nc3 we would be entering a rather normal Closed Sicilian. The main game move gives the game its own direction.

8...0-0 9.Na3 h6

Or 9...d5 10.f5 (if 10.exd5 then 10...Nxd5 11.fxe5 Nxe5 12.Nf2 Be6 is fine for Black) 10...gxf5 11.Qh5 f6 (11...Qd7! looks like a good improvement) 12.exf5 Rb8 13.Nc2 b5?! (13...Qe8!? is more solid) 14.g4 Kh8



(Black could likely do better here, e.g., 14...Qe8 15.Qh4 b4 16.c4 dxc4 17.dxc4 Bb7 or 14...b4 15.c4 dxc4 16.dxc4 Nd4 17.Nxd4 Qxd4+ 18.Nf2 Qxc4, in both cases with chances to both sides) 15.g5!? Bxf5 16.Rxf5! Nxf5 17.g6 Nh6 (Black should probably have played 17...Bh6, for instance, 18.Qxf5 Bxc1 19.Rxc1 Ne7 20.Qf2 hxc6 21.Qxc5 Qd7 with chances to both sides) 18.Bxh6 Rb7?? (A very strange meltdown by Black. Instead 18...Bxh6! 19.Qxh6 Rb7 20.Ng5 fxg5 21.g7+ Rxc7 22.Qxc6 c4 would have kept the game competitive even if White is better) 19.Bd2 and Black of course resigned, 1–0, Renner-Sandkamp, Germany 1999.

10.f5!?

The standard plan once again.

10...gxf5 11.Qh5 fxe4

Or 11...f4 12.gxf4 exf4 13.Bxf4 Ne5 14.Bxh6 N7g6 15.Nf2 with better chances for White.

12.dxe4 Be6 13.Bxh6 f6



How should White best continue?

14.Ng5! Black resigned. After 14.Ng5 fxg5 15.Qxg5 Nf5 16.Rxf5 Qxg5 17.Rxg5 Rf7 (17...Kh7 18.Bxg7 Rf7 19.Nb5) 18.Nb5 White will end up with one or two extra pawns and an easily winning position.

1–0

CHAPTER 5.4

The Rossolimo Attack with 3...g6

Game # 28

D.King (2520) – K.Klundt (2410) B31

Kecskemet 1988

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Re1 e5 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.d3 Qe7 8.Nbd2 Nf6

8...Nh6 has also been played in nearly 100 games in my database. The idea is to play ...f7-f6 and transfer the knight to f7.

9.a3

The main line is 9.Nc4 which has been featured in numerous grandmaster encounters, e.g., 9...Nd7 10.a4 0-0 11.a5 Rd8 12.Bd2 Nf8 13.Rb1 f6 14.b4 Be6 15.Ne3 b6 16.bxc5 (or 16.axb6 axb6 17.bxc5 and here a draw was agreed upon, ½-½, Anand-Leko, Monte Carlo 2004) 16...bxc5 17.Qc1 Bf7 18.Qa3 Rab8 19.a6 Ne6 20.Nc4 Rdc8 21.Rb7 Rxb7 22.axb7 with a clear advantage for White, Areshchenko-Yakovich, Moscow 2007.

9...0-0 10.b4 Nd7

Some alternatives for Black are:

10...Be6 11.bxc5 Qxc5 12.a4 b5 13.Bb2 Nh5 14.c3 Qb6 15.d4 Rfd8 16.axb5 Qxb5 17.Qc2 with marginally better chances for White, Motwani-Lanka, Vienna 1991.

10...Rd8 11.Nc4 Bg4 12.Rb1 Nd7 13.Na5 Rdb8 14.h3 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Nf8 16.Be3 cxb4 17.axb4 Qc7 18.c3 Ne6 was seen in Grechihin-Van der Weide, Groningen 1996, and here 19.Ra1 Rc8 20.Red1 b6 21.Nb3 would have left White with some pressure although Black's position is perfectly solid and playable.

11.bxc5 Nxc5 12.a4 Rd8 13.Ba3 Be6 14.Qe2 f6??



What is White's best move?

Black should have played 14...b6 15.Reb1 f6 16.a5 Bf8 and now White should not get greedy with 17.axb6?! axb6 18.Rxb6 Qf7 19.Rxc6? because after 19...Qe8 20.Rb6 Nd7 Black wins material.

15.c3! Black resigned because he doesn't have a good of meeting the threat of d3–d4, winning a piece.

1–0

CHAPTER 5.5

The Rossolimo Attack with Other 3rd Moves

Game # 29

I.Glek (2566) – S.Arhipov (2531) B30

Russian Team Ch (Tomsk) 2001

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.0-0 Nge7 5.Re1 a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qc7 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.e5

White tries to lay a clamp on Black's dark squares.

10...Bb7

The alternatives are:

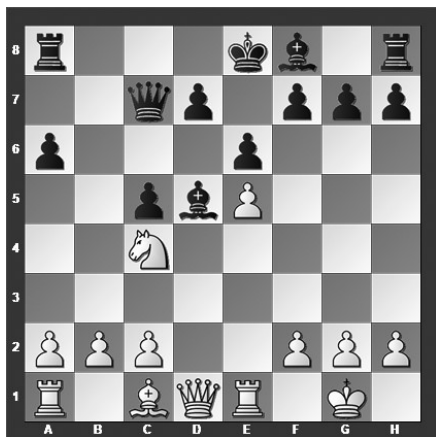
10...d5 11.exd6 (11.c4 Bc5 (11...Rb8!? 12.Nc3 a5 is fine for Black) 12.Be3 Qb6 13.Nc3 Bxe3 14.Rxe3 d4 15.Na4! Qa5 was played in G.Jones-Hamitevici, Reykjavik 2014, when 16.Rd3 Qxe5 17.Rxd4 0-0 18.c5 would have left White with a clear advantage.) 11...Bxd6 12.Qh5 0-0 13.Nd2 Rb8 14.Nc4 Rb5 15.Qh3 Be7 16.a4 Rd5 17.Bd2 e5 and Black cannot complain about the outcome of the opening, Stankovic-Managadze, Achaea 2017.

10...c5 11.Nd2 d5 12.c4 Be7 13.Qg4 0-0 14.Nf3 f5 15.Qg3 Bb7 16.Bh6 Rf7 17.Rac1 d4 and Black already has a comfortable game, Ramiro Ovejero-Almagro Llamas, Monzon 2016.

11.Nd2 c5

Black has also tried 11...d6 12.exd6 Bxd6 13.Qh5 0-0 14.Nc4 c5 15.Bd2 Rad8 16.Bc3 Bf4 17.Qg4 f5 (17...Bxh2+ 18.Kh1 f5 19.Qh3 Bf4 20.Ba5 Qe7 21.Bxd8 Rxd8 is okay for Black) 18.Qh4 Rd7 19.f3 and White has the marginally better chances, Pedzich-Kogan, Krynica 1997.

12.Nc4 Bd5



How should White continue?

13.Nd6+! Bxd6

This loses outright, but 13...Ke7 14.c4 Bb7 15.Qh5 isn't much of an alternative.

14.Qxd5! Black resigned. This was the exact same sequence seen in Fernandez Siles-Teran Alvarez, Palma de Mallorca 2009. After 14.Qxd5 exd5 15.exd6+ Black ends up a piece down.

1-0

CHAPTER 5.6

The Moscow Attack

Game # 30

Xu Yuhua (2501) - Zhao Xue (2428) B51

HeiBei zonal (women) 2001

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Ngf6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.0-0-0 0-0 9.Bxd7 Bxd7 10.e5

White has a couple of alternatives: 10.Qd3 Bc6 11.Nd4 Rc8 12.h4 a6 13.Kb1 b5 14.f3 Bb7 15.g4 Nd7 16.Qe3 Ne5 17.b3 Rc5 18.Nce2 Qd7 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 with chances to both sides, Glek-Piceu, Belgium 2011. 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Kb1 Qa5 (or 11...Bc6 12.Qe3 Qa5 13.Nd4 Kh8 14.f4 Rg8 15.g3 Qc5 16.Rhe1 Rac8 17.Qe2 Bd7 18.Nb3 with somewhat better chances for White, Kornev-Sidorov, Samara 2002) 12.e5! fxe5 13.Nxe5 Bc6 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Rd3 e5 16.Qg4+ Kh8 17.Qd7 Rae8 18.Qxc6 and White is winning, Pridorozhni-Pozin, Khanty-Mansiysk 2009.

10...dxe5 11.Nxe5 Be8

Or 11...Bc6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Qxd8 (13.Rd3 Nd5 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Rg3 f6 16.Re1 Rad8 17.Qc4 Qd7 18.Rd3 Qf7 19.a3 Rc8 20.Ne4 with a small but clear positional plus for White, Jezek-Popov, Bad Salzungen 1960) 13...Rfxd8 14.f3 h6 15.Bd2 Nd5 16.Ne4 Nb6 17.b3 Nc4 18.c3 Nxd2 19.Rxd2 f5 and Black has taken the initiative in the ending, Degraeve-Peredun, Guelph 2002.

12.Qh4 Qb6 13.Rd3 Rd8



14.Rh3 *This is a good analysis exercise. Why did Black resign at this point?*

Black resigned because there is no satisfactory defense although it may take a little exploring before reaching that conclusion, e.g., 14.Rh3, and now: 14...Qd4 (14...h6 15.Bxh6 Nd5 16.Bg5 Bxg5+ 17.Qxg5 Nxc3 (17...Qxf2 18.Qxd8 Qf4+ 19.Kb1 Qxe5 20.Nxd5 Qxd5 21.Qxd5 exd5 with a won ending) 18.bxc3 Qxf2 19.Ng4 and White wins) 15.f4 Qd2+ 16.Kb1 h6 17.Bxh6 Qxg2 18.Re1 Nh5 19.Qxe7 Qxh3 20.Qxd8 gxh6 21.Rg1+ Kh7 22.Ne2 and here Black cannot prevent the lethal penetration of White's pieces: 22...Qf5 23.Qe7 Rh8 24.Ng6 Rg8 25.Nf8+ Kh8 26.Rxg8+ Kxg8 27.Qxe8 and White wins.

1-0

CHAPTER 5.7

2.Nf3 d6 Specialties

Game # 31

P.Zarnicki (2520) – F.Quiroga (2440) B53

Buenos Aires 1995

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Bd7 5.c4 Nc6 6.Qd2 g6 7.b3 Bg7
8.Nc3 Nf6 9.Bb2 0-0 10.h3 Qa5 11.Bd3 Rac8**

Black has tried several other moves at this juncture:

11...a6 12.a3 b5 13.b4 Qb6 14.cxb5 axb5 15.0-0 Na7 (15...Ne5 16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.Rfd1 Qb7 is about even) 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.exd5 e5 19.dxe6 fxe6 20.Be2 Rad8 21.Rad1 Nc8 22.Qd4+ Qxd4 23.Nxd4 with an advantage for White in the endgame, Shkapenko-Wojtaszek, Poznan 2004.

11...Nh5!? 12.0-0 Nf4 13.Qxf4 Bxc3 14.Bxc3 Qxc3 15.Rad1 a5 16.e5 Nxe5 17.Nxe5 dxe5 with equal chances, Damjanovic-Soltis, Reggio Emilia 1970.

11...Nb4 12.Bb1 Nc6 13.0-0 a6 14.a3 Ne5 15.Nxe5 dxe5 16.b4 Qc7 17.Ba2, Gipslis-Schurade, Germany 1998, and now 17...e6 18.Qe3 b5 19.c5 Bc6 20.Bb3 Rfd8 when Black is somewhat worse.

12.0-0 Qh5 13.Ne2

Or 13.Be2 Bh6 14.Qd3 Nb4 15.Qb1 Bxh3! 16.gxh3 Qxh3 17.Bc1 Rc5 18.Nd5 was Vetemaa-Fullbrook, Vancouver 2000, and now 18...Bxc1 19.Qxc1 Qg4+ 20.Kh1 Qxe4 21.Qe3 Nbxd5 22.Qxe4 Nxe4 23.cxd5 Rfc8 with better chances for Black. Instead White should have played 18.e5! Bxc1 19.Qxc1 Qg4+ 20.Kh1 Qh3+ 21.Nh2 Rxe5 with even chances.

13...Bh6 14.Qd1 a6



How should White best continue?

15.e5! The black queen is trapped. There is no way to save it without heavy material losses and therefore Black resigned.

1-0

CHAPTER 5.8

2.Nf3 e6 Specialties

Game # 32

D.Andreikin (2713) - V.Bologan (2672) B40

World Rapid Ch (Khanty-Mansiysk) 2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.d4 Nc6 6.Bg2 Bg4 7.0-0 cxd4 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4

Or 9.Re1+ Be7 10.g4 Bg6 11.Nxd4 Nf6 12.Nxc6 (12.c4! is probably even better for White) 12...bxc6 13.Qe2 (White should have opted for 13.c4 0-0 14.cxd5 Nxd5 with chances to both sides) 13...h5 14.Nc3 hxg4 15.hxg4 Kf8 16.Bf4 Bd6 and Black is clearly better, Klein-Swinkels, Wijk aan Zee 2013.

9...Bg6 10.Nxd4



10...Nf6

Or 10...Be7 11.Nxc6 (11.c4!?) 11...bxc6 12.c4 Nf6 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.Nc3 0-0 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Qxd5 Qc7 17.Be3 and Black is a pawn down without matching compensation, Davletbayeva-Kursova, Chengdu 2015.

11.c4! Be7 12.g5 Ne4 13.cxd5 Nxd4?

Black should have played 13...Qxd5 14.Nxc6 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 bxc6 although 16.Nc3 Nxc3 17.Bxc6+ Kf8 18.bxc3 Rc8 19.Bg2 Bf5 20.Rd5 Be6 21.Ra5 favors White.

14.Qxd4 Qb6? 15.Qa4+ Black resigned as he loses the knight on e4.
1-0

CHAPTER 5.9

O'Kelly (2...a6), Ultra-Fianchetto (2...g6) and Nimzowitch (2...Nf6)

Game # 33

C.Storey (2268) – V.Meijers (2496) B27

European Union Ch (Liverpool) 2008

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 b6 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 b5

Rather than this curious, time-wasting pawn move, which nevertheless is playable, the Swedish Grandmaster Slavko Cicak has played 7...Qc7 several times:

8.Bb3 Nf6 9.Re1 Bd6 10.Nf3 Nc6 11.Bg5 Ne5 12.Bxf6 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 gxf6 14.g3 Be5 15.Re3 h5 and Black is clearly better, Westerinen-Cicak, Andorra 2000.

8.Qe2 Bd6 9.Kh1 Be5 10.Be3 Nc6 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.Nd5 b5 13.Bb3 Nf6 14.Rad1 Nxe4!? 15.Bc1 (15.f3!?) 15...exd5! 16.Bxd5 Qxd5 17.Rxd5 Bxd5 18.Rd1 Bc6 19.f3 and here a draw was agreed upon, ½–½, in Womacka-Cicak, Germany 2000. A possible continuation was 19...0-0 20.fxe4 Rae8 21.Re1 Re6 when Black cannot be worse.

8.Bb3 b4

Black could also consider 8...Nc6, for instance, 9.Re1 Bb4 10.Nxc6 dxc6 11.Qg4 Nf6 12.Qxg7 Rg8 13.Qh6, Kusiak-Bokros, Slovakia 2014, and now 13...Bxc3 14.bxc3 c5 15.Bg5 Ng4! would have left Black with better chances.

9.Nd5 Bc5!?



White's previous move was natural enough, but how should he follow up after Black's last move?

Or 9...exd5 10.exd5 Bc5 11.Nf5 with excellent compensation for the piece, yet this is definitely preferable over what happened in the game.

10.Be3!

This "quiet" move gives Black immediate headaches because of the unguarded bishop on c5.

10...exd5 11.Nf5! d6

Also 11...Bxe3 12.Nd6+ Kf8 (or 12...Ke7 13.Nxb7 Qb6 14.Qxd5) 13.fxe3 is an unmitigated disaster for Black.

12.Bxd5! Bc6?

Now it tumbles apart rather quickly. But even after the stronger 12...Nc6 Black is lost: 13.Qf3 Qf6 14.Bxc5 dxc5 15.Nd6+ Qxd6 16.Qxf7+ Kd8 17.Qxb7 and Black loses his extra piece, ending up two pawns down.

13.Bxc5 Nh6

Or 13...dxc5 14.Bxf7+, winning Black's queen.

14.Bxc6+ Black resigned.

1-0

CHAPTER 5.10

Other Specialties

Game # 34

V.Zhelmin (2489) – I.Gulkov (2491) B23

Tula 2000

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nge2 e5 4.Nd5 Nce7 5.Nec3 Nxd5 6.Nxd5 Be7

A couple of alternatives are:

6...Ne7 7.Bc4 d6 8.0–0 Nxd5 9.Bxd5 Be7 10.f4 exf4 11.d4 cxd4 12.Qxd4 Bf6 13.Qc4 0–0 14.Bxf4 Bxb2 15.Rab1 with fabulous activity and excellent compensation for the pawn, Hamdouchi-Sardana, Doha 2014.

6...Nf6 7.Bc4 Be7 8.d3 d6 9.f4 (or 9.0–0 0–0 10.Nxe7+ Qxe7 11.f4 exf4 12.Bxf4 Ng4 13.Qf3 Be6 14.Qg3 Rad8 15.Bb3 a6 16.Bd5 Bxd5 17.exd5 Ne5 with a position that is very close to equal, V.Georgiev-Tiviakov, Plovdiv 2003) 9...exf4 10.Bxf4 0–0 11.0–0 Nxd5 12.Bxd5 Be6 13.c3 Bxd5 14.exd5 Bf6 15.Qf3 Re8 16.Rae1 Qd7 17.Qg3 Rxe1 18.Rxe1 and White has some initiative but objectively speaking the position is quite equal, Galkin-Womacka, playchess.com INT 2007, provided Black now would play 18...Be7 (instead of 18...Rd8 which allowed 19.Bxd6, winning a pawn).

7.Qh5 d6 8.Bc4 Be6 9.d3 Rb8?

Black's position is uncomfortable but wasting time on preparing a pawn advance such as ...b7–b5 should not take preference at this point in time. Instead, 9...Qc8, threatening ...Bg4 would have forced White to make a course correction. Now, on the other hand, White's initiative develops faster.

10.f4 g6 11.Qf3 Bxd5 12.Bxd5 Nf6 13.Bb3 h6?

Black should have played 13...0–0 although the situation is far from pleasant after 14.0–0 b5 15.f5 with at least a clear advantage for White.

14.0–0 Kf8

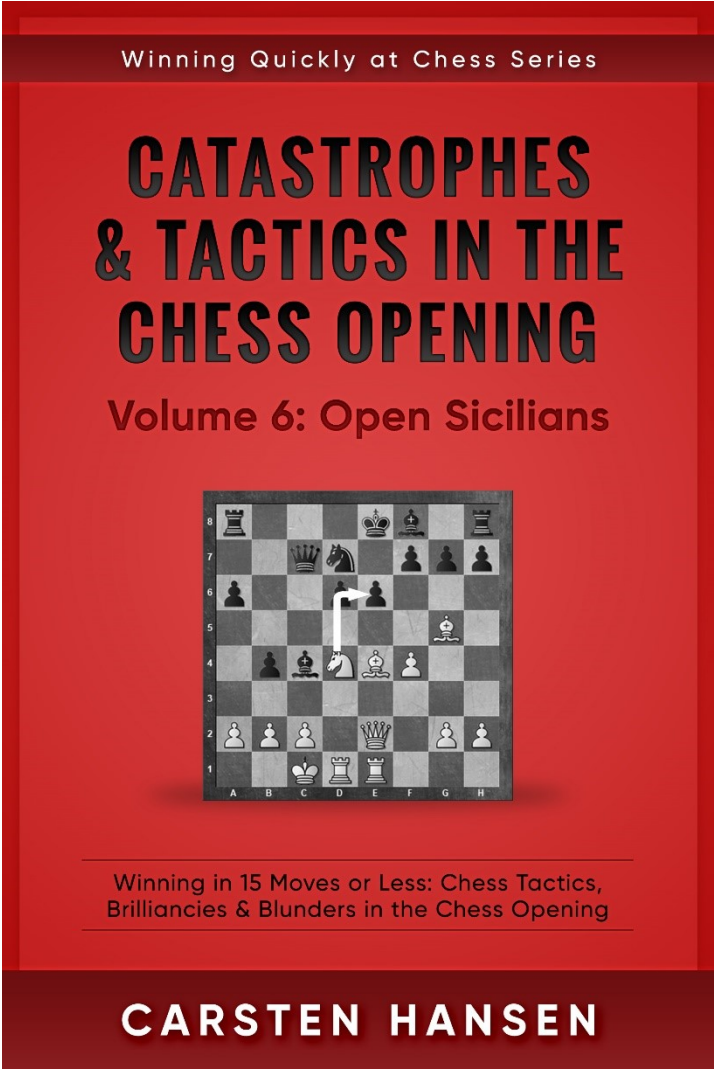


Which move did White play that made Black resign?

15.Bd2 Here Black resigned which seems very premature. However, once you start analyzing the position then you quickly realize what terrible shape Black is in 15.Bd2 Rh7 16.fxe5 dxe5 17.Bc3 Qd6 18.Qg3 Nd7 19.Rf3 Kg8 20.Raf1 Rf8 21.Qf2 and Black can no longer guard the f7 pawn anymore.

1-0

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CHAPTER 6.1

Najdorf Variation

Game # 35

J.Timman (2480) – L.Polugaevsky (2645) B96

Hilversum 1973

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Nbd7
8 Qf3 Qc7 9 0-0-0 b5 10 Bd3 Bb7 11 Rhe1 h6!?**

This is an interesting choice that is still relatively unexplored.

12 Qh3

12 Bh4 Be7 13 Nd5 (13 Qe2?! was played in D.Minic-M.Milicevic, Yugoslavia 1975, but Black should just be doing very well after 13...b4 14 Nb1 Nc5, and only Black can be better) 13...Nxd5?! (Black can take the piece: 13...exd5! 14 Nf5 Kf8! is better for Black) 14 exd5 Bxh4 15 Nxe6 fxe6 16 Qh5+ Kd8 17 Qxh4+ Nf6 18 dxe6 Re8 19 g4 Qc5 20 Qg3 Rc8, and White has some, but possibly not full compensation for the sacrificed piece, E.Geller-L.Polugaevsky, Kislovodsk 1972.

12...0-0-0 13 Bxf6

The only real alternative for White is 13 f5 which should not cause Black too many headaches after 13...e5! 14 Nb3 (14 Ne6? hxg5! 15 Qxh8 fxe6 16 fxe6 Nc5 17 Qh3 g4, and Black is winning, B.Spassky-J.Donner, Amsterdam 1973) 14...Be7 15 Bxf6 Nxf6 16 a4 bxa4 17 Nxa4 Kb8 18 Qg3 d5 19 exd5 Nxd5 20 Kb1 Nf4, and Black has taken over the initiative, Liu Qingnan-Zhou Jianchao, Xinghua 2014.

13...Nxf6

If Black recaptures with the pawn, 13...gxf6 White obtains an advantage with 14 f5 e5 15 Ne6! fxe6 16 fxe6 Kb8 17 exd7, and White has the better chances on account of the weak light squares in Black's position.

14 Nd5?!

White can also consider 14 a4 bxa4 15 Nxa4 Kb8 with more or less even chances.

14...Qa5



Black decides to leave the knight be on d5. How should White now continue?

Black should have opted for 14...Nxd5 15 exd5 Bxd5, and now 16 a4 Qb6 17 axb5 Qxd4 18 Be4 Qxe4 (Black probably avoided 18...Qa4 because after 19 Rxd5 Qa1+ 20 Kd2 Qa5+ 21 b4 Qxb4+ 22 c3 Qa3 23 Rb1 White is doing rather well) 19 Rxe4 Bxe4 20 bxa6 Kd7 21 Rd4 Bc6 22 b4 Be7 23 Qb3 Rb8 24 c4 Rhc8 25 Kd1 d5 with a complicated endgame-like position that eventually ended in a draw, but at this point, it could have gone either way, A.Kosteniuk-S.Karjakin, Wijk aan Zee 2003.

15 Nb3! And Black resigned; after 15...Qxa2 16 Nc3, the queen is trapped.

1-0

CHAPTER 6.2

Scheveningen Variation

Game # 36

A.Beliavsky – A.Vitolinsh B86

Soviet Ch semifinal (Riga) 1972

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.a3



What happens on 8...Nxe4?

The main line is 8.Bb3 but there are quite a number of games with the text move as well. The idea is, of course, to tug the bishop back to a2 while a2–a3 at the same time helps to slow down Black's progress on the queenside.

8...Nxe4?

Now Black typically continues 8...0-0 and then after 9.Ba2, Black has two primary options:

9...Nc6 10.Be3 Bd7 11.Kh1 Qc7 12.f4 Na5 13.Qe2 Rac8 14.Rae1 Nc4 15.Bc1 b5 16.e5 Ne8 17.exd6 Bxd6 with more or less equal chances, Amonatov-Shomoev, Belgorod 2010.

9...b5 10.Qf3 Bb7 11.Qg3 Nc6 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Bh6 Ne8 14.Rad1 b4 15.axb4 Rb8 16.Bc4 Rxb4 17.b3 Bh4 18.Qg4 was Hamdouchi-Vachier Lagrave, Pau 2012, and now 18...Rxc4 19.bxc4 f5 20.exf5 exf5 would have left Black with a comfortable game.

9.Nxe4 d5 10.Qg4! g6 11.Rd1! Qc7 12.Bg5?!

Not the most accurate. White has a few better alternatives:

12.Bf4 e5 13.Bxe5 Bxg4 14.Bxc7 dxc4 15.f3 with a clear advantage for White.

12.Qf3! is best 12...dxe4 13.Qc3 0-0?



How should White continue?

(13...Rg8 14.Bb5+ Nc6 15.Bxc6+ bxc6 16.Bf4 is terrible for Black but relatively best) 14.Nf5!! (White also wins with 14.Nxe6 Bxe6 (or 14...fxe6 15.Bxe6+ Bxe6 16.Qxc7 Nc6 17.Qxb7) 15.Bh6 and Black loses the queen) 14...gxf5 15.Bh6 (The point) 15...f6 16.Bxe6+ Bxe6 17.Qxc7 Nc6 18.Bxf8 Bxf8 19.Qxb7 and White is winning.

12...dxe4 13.Bxe7 f5



What is White's best move?

14.Bd8! Black resigned. This is probably mostly due to the shock value of White's move because after 14.Bd8! Qxc4 15.Qg3 0-0 16.Be7 Re8 17.Bd6 e5 18.Bxe5 Nd7 White is clearly better but Black didn't need to resign.

1-0

CHAPTER 6.3

Dragon & Accelerated Dragon Variations

Game # 37

A.Grosar (2220) – T.Marinsek (2470) B35

Slovenian Ch 1991

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Be2 0-0 8.f4 d6 9.0-0 Bd7 10.Nb3 Qc7

This is an unusual move in this position, especially after this move order. We can reach the same position after 7.Bc4 Qa5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nb3 Qc7 10.Be2 d6 11.f4 Bd7.

11.Bf3 Na5



What is White's best move?

Black has a solid, even-headed alternative in 11...Rac8!? 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Na5 14.Nxa5 Qxa5 15.c3 a6 16.a3 Ba4 and the chances are about even, Ghassan-Kassis, Beirut 1998.

12.e5! dxe5 13.fxe5 Nc4

Or 13...Qxe5 14.Bd4 Qc7 and now instead of 15.Nxa5? (White should have played 15.Bxf6! exf6 16.Nxa5 wins material for White) 15...e5

16.Bxe5 Qxe5 17.Nxb7 when a draw was agreed upon, $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$, in Supi-Blit, Sao Jose do Rio Preto 2012, even though Black is clearly better after 17...Rab8 18.Kh1 Qc7 19.Nd6 Rxb2.

14.exf6 Nxe3 15.Nd5! The refutation. Black resigned, because after 15...Nxd5, White plays 16.fxg7 before recapturing on g7, leaving White a piece up.

1–0

CHAPTER 6.4

Classical Variation including the Richter-Rauzer & Sozin Attack

Game # 38

J.Friedel (2551) – W.Schill (2229) B68

Las Vegas 2009

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0 Bd7 9.f4 Be7 10.Nf3 b5 11.e5 b4 12.exf6 bxc3 13.Qxc3 gxf6



Here White played 14.Rxd6 intending 14...Bxd6 15.Bxf6, how should Black respond to this?

14.Rxd6

The main line is 14.Bh4, and now:

14...Rc8 15.Bxa6 Rc7 16.Bb5 d5 17.Nd4 Nb4 18.Bxd7+ Qxd7 19.Qb3 0-0 20.a3 Na6 21.Rhe1 Nc5 22.Qf3 Ne4 with chances to both sides, Hamdouchi-Durarbayli, Al Ain 2012.

14...d5 15.Kb1 Rc8 16.Qd2 Qc7 17.g4 a5 18.g5 f5 19.Bb5 Nb4 20.Bxd7+ Qxd7 21.c3 was Salgado Lopez-Acs, Paks 2011, and now 21...Nc6 22.Bf2 a4 would have promised Black adequate counterplay.

14...a5 15.Bb5 Nb4 16.Bxd7+ Qxd7 17.Kb1 Rc8 18.Qb3 0-0 19.f5 Nxc2 20.Ne5 Qd8 21.Rhf1 d5 22.fxe6, and here Black chose to force a draw with 22...Na3+ 23.Ka1 Nc2+ 24.Kb1 Na3+ 25.Ka1 Nc2+ 26.Kb1, $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$, Paravyan-Eliseev, Loo 2016.

14...Bxd6 15.Bxf6 Bb4! White resigned at this point. The same happened in Salmensuu-Yrjola, 1994 and Oltean (2380) - Tischbierek (2495), Berlin 1990. Whereas a young Nakamura played on and somehow managed to save a draw after 15...Bb4 16.Bxh8 Bxc3 17.Bxc3, Nakamura-Lawson, New York 1999.

0-1

CHAPTER 6.5

Taimanov, Kan & Paulsen Variations

Game # 39

S.Marjanovic – D.Rajkovic B46

Yugoslav Team Ch (Donji Milanovac) 1979

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 Nge7 7.Bf4 d6 8.Nxc6 Nxc6 9.Qd2 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rfd1 Ne5 12.Qd4

White can also play 12.a4 Qc7 13.a5 b5 14.axb6 Qxb6 15.Be3 Qc6 16.Ra4 Nd7 17.Rc4 Qb7 18.f4 Rb8 19.b3 and White is control of the game, Apicella-Belkhodja, Val Maubuee 1990.

12...Qc7 13.Rd2 Rd8 14.Rad1 h6??



Why is the text move a blunder?

Black's best is 14...Bd7 15.Na4 Bxa4 16.Qxa4 b5 17.Qd4 Rac8 18.Qe3 Nc4 19.Bxc4 Qxc4 and Black has equalized, Balje-Jobe, IECC email 2000.

15.Bxe5! Black resigned. The key to Black's resignation is the second move in the sequence: 15.Bxe5! dxe5 16.Qc4! when Black cannot guard both queen and rook sufficiently.

1-0

CHAPTER 6.6

Kalashnikov & Sveshnikov Variations

Game # 40

L.Psakhis (2570) – A.Vaisser (2540) B33

Paris Ch 1990

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 Bg7 11.Bd3 Ne7 12.Nxe7 Qxe7 13.c4 f5 14.Qh5??



How should Black continue?

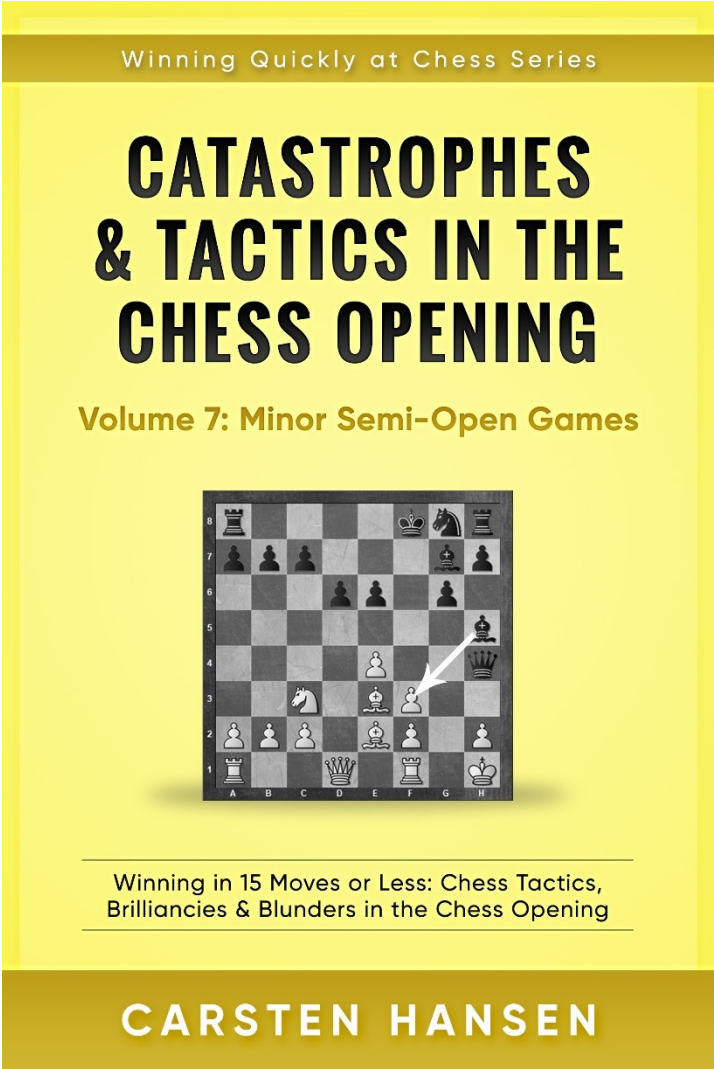
14.0-0 is the main line, but the text move looks natural enough to be played regularly.

14...d5 15.cxd5

Or 15.0-0 fxe4 16.Bc2 bxc4 17.Ba4+ Bd7 18.Bxd7+ Qxd7 19.f4 exf4 20.Rxf4 0-0 21.Rf5 Rad8 22.Rd1 c3 23.bxc3 Qa4 and Black is winning, Nayhebaver-Pacher, Banska Stiavnica 2016.

15...fxe4 Here White resigned in our main game since 16.Bxe4 is met by 16...Qb4+, winning a piece. In another game, White tried something else and also failed: 15...fxe4 16.Bc2 Qb4+ 17.Ke2 e3 18.Kf1 Bg4 and White resigned because the e-pawn will decide the day, 0-1, Blanco Acevedo-Huerga Leache, Linares 2015. **0-1**

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CHAPTER 7.1

Scandinavian Defense – The Center Counter

Game # 41

S.Vajda (2285) – A.Skripchenko (2370) B01

World Ch U20 Girls (Medellin) 1996

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bd2 c6 6.Bc4 Bf5 7.Qf3
e6



What is the most dangerous move for Black to meet?

Two other options for Black are:

7...Bxc2 8.d5?! (White appears able to improve with 8.Nd5 Qd8 9.Nxf6+ gxf6 10.Rc1 Bg6 11.Ne2 Nd7 12.h4 with excellent compensation for the pawn) 8...Qc5 9.b3 Nbd7 10.dxc6 bxc6 11.Qe2 Qe5 12.Rc1 Bg6 13.Nf3 Qxe2+ 14.Bxe2 e6 and White has just about sufficient compensation for the sacrificed pawn, Maryasin-Bocharov, Novosibirsk 2015.

7...Bg4?! 8.Qf4 Qf5 9.Qe3 b5 10.Bb3 b4 11.Nce2 Bxe2 12.Nxe2 e6 13.Ng3 Qb5 14.c4 bxc3 15.bxc3 and White is clearly better, Hector-Westerinen, Reykjavik 1997.

8.d5!

White can also play 8.Nd5 and 8.Ne4, but neither move challenges Black too much. The text move is far trickier to face.

8...Bg4

The alternatives are:

8...Bb4 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.Bxe6 fxe6 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Nf3 Re8 13.0-0 Qa6 14.Rfe1 Qxe2 15.Rxe2 with a positional advantage for White, S.Vajda-Podinic, Bucharest 2001.

8...Qc5?! 9.dxe6 Bxe6 (9...fxe6 is marginally better but not by much) 10.Bxe6 Qe5+?! 11.Kf1 fxe6 12.Re1 Qd4? 13.Rxe6+ Kf7 14.Qe2 Nbd7 15.Nf3 Black is completely busted, the end came quickly... 15...Qg4 16.h3 Qf5 17.g4 Qxc2 18.Ng5+ Kg8 19.Rxf6 and Black resigned, 1-0, Repkova-Trtanj, Rijeka 2003.

8...Be7 9.dxe6 Qe5+ 10.Qe2 Qxe2+ 11.Ngxe2 Bxe6 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.0-0 Nbd7 14.f3 Kf7 15.Rhe1 Rhe8 16.Nf4 with a small positional plus for White, Chernov-Arbinger, Davos 2005.

9.Qf4 cxd5?



How should White best continue?

This loses. Instead, 9...Bb4 10.dxe6 (10.a3 exd5 11.Ba2 Be7 12.Ne4 Qb5 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Qxg4 Qxb2 15.Rd1 Nd7 (15...Qxa2?? 16.Qc8+ Bd8 17.Qxb7 loses) 16.Qe2+ Be7 17.Bb1 and Black has some but not full compensation for the piece) 10...fxe6 11.f3 Bf5 12.Nge2 Nd5 13.Bxd5 cxd5

14.a3 Nc6 15.Nd4 Nxd4 16.Qxd4 Bxc3 17.Bxc3 Qc7 18.0-0-0 0-0 and White has the better chances, Spiess-Schwarzmeier, Bayern 2006.

10.Bb5+!

The alternatives are less impressive:

10.Nb5? Bb4 11.c3 dxc4 12.Nc7+ Kd7 13.Nxa8 Bd6 14.Qxc4 Nc6 15.f3 Bf5 16.Qb3 Qa6 17.Ne2 Rxa8 18.0-0-0 Na5 19.Qa4+ b5 and White resigned, 0-1, Grove-Lindestrom, Esbjerg 2007.

10.Ne4? Qb6 11.Nxf6+ gxf6 12.Qxf6 Rg8 13.Bb3 Nc6 and White is already in serious trouble, Nygren-Persson, Sweden 1999.

10.Nxd5!? Nxd5 11.Qxg4 Qc5 with just a small plus for White.

10...Kd8



What is White's best move?

Or 10...Nc6 11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.Ne4 Qb6 13.Nxf6+ gxf6 14.Qxg4 Qxb2 15.Rc1 and White is a piece up.

11.Nxd5! Black resigned.

1-0

CHAPTER 7.2

Pirc Defense

Game # 42

Y.Yakovich (2565) – A.Gual Pascual (2420) B07

Terrassa 1999

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.f4 c5?!

The most popular move for Black is 5...h6 but I doubt it is best, we will cover it in the next main game below.

5...c6 is the most solid option for Black: 6.Qf3 (White can consider 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.e5 dxe5 8.fxe5 with better chances for White) 6...Qa5 7.a3 d5 8.e5 Ne4 9.Bh4 Nxc3 10.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 11.bxc3 Bh6 12.Ne2 Nb6 and Black has a pleasant position, Rozman-Popilski, Dallas 2016.

6.e5 dxe5

The alternatives are:

6...h6 7.Bh4 Nh5 (7...Nh7?? 8.exd6 Nhf6 9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bxf6 exf6 12.Qe2+ Ne6 13.0-0-0 Qa5 14.f5 gxf5 15.Bxd7+ Kxd7 16.Qh5 and Black is busted, Arias Santana-Yip, Saint Louis 2017) 8.exd6 Nxf4 9.Nge2 Ne6 10.d5 Ng5 11.dxe7 Bxe7 12.Bg3 0-0 13.h4 Nh7 14.Qd2 h5 15.0-0-0 and White has the upper hand, Ljubicic-Berebora, Split 1998.

6...Nh5 7.g4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 dxe5 9.fxe5 Ng7 10.e6 Nxe6 11.Qxh8 Nxf5 12.0-0-0 and White is much better and soon won, Vasiukov-Pribyl, Zalaegerszeg 1977.

7.dxe5 Nh5 8.Bc4 h6 9.e6 fxe6 10.Qd3 Kf7?



How should White continue his attack?

Black should have played 10...Qb6 11.g4 (11.Qxg6+ Kd8 12.0-0-0 hxd5 13.fxd5 Bg7 is fine for Black) 11...hxd5 12.gxd5 Qd6 13.Qxg6+ Kd8 14.fxd5 Qf4 15.Qe4 is better for White.

11.Nf3!

This is devastating for Black. The threat of Ne5+ forces Black to attempt a hopeless defense...

11...Ng7

Protecting the pawn on e6.

12.0-0!

White improves on his position quietly as Black cannot mobilize any kind of defense, let alone counterplay. Note that White has only sacrificed a pawn to make this happen.

12...Qb6 13.Nh4 Black resigned. After 13.Nh4 Nf5 14.Nxf5 gxf5 15.Rae1 Nf6 16.Qxf5, Black's position collapses entirely.

1-0

CHAPTER 7.3

Modern Defense

Game # 43

I.Khenkin (2575) – G.Schebler (2365) B07

Eupen 1993

1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 Qa5 5.Bd3 Bg4 6.Qd2 e6?

Not a good idea as we will soon see demonstrated in the game. Black has tried a bunch of different other moves at this juncture:

6...Bc8 7.Nf3 Nbd7 8.0-0 e5 9.Kh1 Be7 10.Qe1 Nh5 11.fxe5 dxe5 12.Bd2 Qc7 was Piorun-R. Schmidt, Bucharest 2010, and now 13.Be2! Nhf6 14.dxe5 Ng4 15.Qg3 Nf8 16.Bc4 would have been truly horrible for Black.

6...g6 7.h3 Bd7 8.Nf3 Na6 9.0-0 Nh5 10.Qf2 Nb4 11.Bc4 d5 12.Bb3 e6 13.Ne5 f5 14.exf5 exf5 15.Bd2 Qc7, Yakovich-Abdelnabbi, Dubai 2001, and here 16.Na4 Na6 17.c4 would bust Black.

6...d5?! 7.e5 Ne4?? 8.Nxe4 Oops! Black resigned, 1-0, Wang Puchen-S. Schmid, Zalakaros 2008.

6...Bd7 7.Nf3 (7.e5!?) 7...g6 8.0-0 Bg7 9.Nd5 Qxd2 10.Nxf6+ Bxf6 11.Bxd2 Bg4 12.Be3 Bxf3 13.Rxf3 Nd7 14.c3 with somewhat better chances for White, Filipenko-Gofshtein, Belgorod 1989.

6...e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.f5 Bc5 9.h3 Bh5 10.g4 Bxg4 11.hxg4 Nxg4 12.Qg5 Nf2 13.Qxg7 Rf8 14.Rxh7 (Black could have played 14.Qxe5+ Kd8 15.Qf6+ Ke8 16.Rxh7 with an even greater advantage) 14...Nd7 15.Rh8 0-0-0 16.Rxf8 Rxf8 17.Nf3 Qd8 was Raisa-Dunworth, Espoo 1991, and now 18.Bc4 is just horrible for Black; the knight on f2 doesn't have a way home and Black is just down a piece.

7.h3 Qh5 8.Qf2 d5 9.e5 Nfd7



What is White's best move?

Here Black should have swallowed his pride and dropped a pawn to save his pieces with 9...Ne4 10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Bxe4 Be7 12.Ne2 Bxe2 13.Qxe2 Bh4+ 14.Kd1 Qxe2+ 15.Kxe2 and White has the extra pawn and the bishop pair.

10.Rh2!!

This clever move highlights all the problems for Black. Of course, 10.Nge2 is also a decent continuation but nowhere near as dangerous for Black, e.g., 10...Bxe2 11.Nxe2 f5 12.g4 Qf7 (however, not 12...fxg4 on account of 13.f5 exf5 14.e6 Nb6 15.Ng3 Qg6 16.Bxf5 and White is winning) 13.gxf5 exf5 14.Ng3 g6 15.h4 h5 16.Bd2 with a clear advantage.

10...Be7

The point behind the previous move is that 10...Bf5 now can be answered with 11.g4 when the queen protects the rook.

11.f5! Bxf5 12.g4

The point behind the previous move. Now White wins a piece for some pawns and the black queen is still in peril.

12...Bxg4 13.hxg4 Qxg4 14.Rg2 Qh5 15.Be2 Black resigned.
1-0

CHAPTER 7.4

King's Fianchetto – 1...g6

Game # 44

R.Skytte (2323) – R.Felgaer (2390) B06

World Ch U20 (Yerevan) 2000

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.dxc5 Qa5 5.Bd2 Qxc5 6.Nd5

I'm not sure why anybody would want to enter this line as Black because it to spell nothing but trouble for Black.

6...Na6 7.Nf3 e6 8.Bc3 Bxc3+ 9.Nxc3 Nf6

Black has some alternatives at this juncture, that being said, the theoretical verdict is clearly favoring White:

9...Ne7 10.Qd2 Nc7 11.e5 f5 12.exf6 Ned5 13.Ne4 Qb4 14.Qxb4 Nxb4 15.Nd6+ Kf8 16.0–0–0 Ne8 17.Nxc8 Rxc8 18.Rxd7 Rxc2+ 19.Kb1 with a large advantage for White, Petrisor-Simacek, Legnica 2013.

9...Nc7 10.Qd2 b5 11.e5 Bb7 12.0–0–0 Bxf3 13.gxf3 Qxe5 14.f4 Qc5 15.Qxd7+ Kf8 16.Ne4 Qe7 17.Qc6 and White is winning, Ragger-Supancic, Austria 2005.

10.Qd2

White can also consider:

10.e5 Ng4 11.Qe2 d6? (11...f6 12.Ne4 Qa5+ 13.c3 is relatively better but still unpleasant for Black) 12.0–0–0 Nxf2 13.Na4 Qa5 14.Qxf2 Qxa4 15.exd6 0–0 16.Kb1 Bd7 17.Ne5 Rad8 was played in Oleksienko-Shkuran, Ternopil 2003, and here 18.Bxa6 Qxa6 19.Qf6 is completely game over for Black; the main threat is Nxf7 along with h2–h4.

10.Bd3?! is too tame, e.g., 10...d6 11.0–0 0–0 12.Qd2 Kg7 13.e5 dxe5 14.Qg5 h6 15.Qxe5 Qxe5 16.Nxe5 Nc5 and Black has equalized, Moiseenko-Solovjov, Peterhof 2008.

10...d6?

Or 10...0-0 11.0-0-0 (White can even improve with 11.e5! Ng4 12.Bxa6 bxa6 13.Ne4 Qb6 14.0-0 with a dreadful position for Black) 11...Ng4 12.Bxa6 bxa6 13.Rhf1 f6 14.Qd6 Qxd6 15.Rxd6 Kf7 16.h3 Ke7 17.Rd2 Ne5 18.Nxe5 fxe5 19.Rfd1 with a small but obvious positional advantage for White, Barle-Forintos, Maribor 1977.

11.0-0-0 Ke7



How should White best continue?

Also 11...0-0 12.Qxd6 Qxf2? 13.Qf4 Kg7 14.Bxa6 bxa6 15.Qe5 Qb6 16.Rhf1 Qb8



is a disaster for Black; this was played in Ponkratov-Pridorozhni, Khanty-Mansiysk 2013, where White now missed the best move, can you do better?

17.Rd6! Kg8 18.Qxf6! Qxd6 19.Nd5! Re8 20.Ng5 Qf8 21.Nxf7 Qg7 22.Nd6 and it is completely curtains for Black.

12.Bxa6! bxa6 13.e5! Nd7

After 13...dxe5 the point behind White's sequence of moves emerges: threatening Ne4, and after 14.Qg5! Qc4 (or 14...h6 15.Qxf6+ Kxf6 16.Ne4+ and White has won a piece) 15.Nxe5 and Black has no defense.

14.Ne4 Qc4 and Black resigned at the same time. After 15.Qxd6+ Kd8 16.Nfg5 Rf8 17.Nc5, it is completely game over for Black.

1-0

CHAPTER 7.5

Alekhine Defense

Game # 45

M.Apicella (2506) – J.De la Villa Garcia (2458) B04

Montpellier 2000

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 g6 5.Be2 Bg7 6.h3 dxe5 7.Nxe5 c5

7...0-0 8.0-0 c5 9.Bf3 cxd4 10.Qxd4 Be6 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.Bxd5 Bxe5 13.Qa4 Rd8 14.c4 Bxd5 15.cxd5 Nd7 and Black had a comfortable game, Pietrusiak-Hort, Halle 1967.

8.Bb5+ Nd7 9.0-0 cxd4 10.Qxd4



How should Black best continue?

10...Nc7



How should White meet this move?

With 10...0-0! 11.Qxd5 Nxe5 12.Nc3 Qc7 13.Rd1 a6 Black could have equalized.

11.Nxd7! Bxd4

Or 11...Nxb5 12.Qxg7 Kxd7 13.Rd1+ Nd6 14.Nc3 Qf8 15.Qd4 when Black is still technically alive, but his position is a disaster.

12.Nf6+ Black resigned. After 12...Kf8, 13.Bh6 mates.
1-0

CHAPTER 7.6

1...Nc6, 1...b6 & 1...a6

Game # 46

V.Kachar (2390) – I.Odesskij (2425) B00

Moscow Ch 1999

1.d4 b6 2.e4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.Bd3 c5 5.d5 exd5 6.exd5 Bxd5 7.0-0

The more forcing 7.Nc3 is also possible when Black has to decide what to do about his bishop on d5. Now:

7...Be6 8.Bf4 a6 9.Qe2 (9.Be4!?) 9...Nf6 10.0-0-0?! (10.Rd1!?) 10...Be7 11.Rhe1 b5 12.Ng5 Qb6 13.Bf5 0-0 14.Qd3 h6 15.Bxe6 dxe6 16.Nge4 Nbd7 and White definitely doesn't have enough for the pawn, James-Shaw, Liverpool 2008.

7...Bc6 8.0-0 (or 8.Qe2+ Be7 9.0-0 Nf6 10.Re1 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nc6 12.Bg5 Kf8 13.Rxe7 Nxe7 as played in Rossi-Lucaroni, Filettino 1994, when 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Rb8 16.Rd1 would have provided White excellent compensation for the exchange) 8...Nf6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Re1+ Kf8 12.Bc4 g6 13.Qd6+ Kg7 14.Nd5 b5 15.Bd3 c4 16.Bf1 , Stajner-Kovacevic, Slovenia 2005, and now 16...Bxd5 17.Qxd5 Nc6 18.Qxb5 Rb8 19.Qxc4 Rxb2 would have led to approximately equal chances.

7...Nf6

Or 7...Nc6 8.Nc3 Be6 9.Bf4 Nf6 10.Nb5 d6 11.Re1 a6 12.Nc3 Be7 13.Ng5 Qd7 as in Martorelli-Dragojlovic, Castellaneta 2000, and now 14.Nce4 Nd5 15.Bg3 would have left White with good compensation for the pawn.

8.c4

Another try is 8.Nc3 Bb7 9.Re1+ Be7 10.Nh4 0-0 11.Nf5 Re8 12.Bg5 Nc6 13.Qf3 and Black is completely busted, Aguera Naredo-Redondo Benavente, Linares 2015, for instance 13...h6 14.Bh4 Kf8 15.Nb5 a6 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nbd6 and it is obvious that Black is in dire straits.

8...Bb7 9.Nh4 Be7 10.Nf5! 0-0 11.Re1 Re8 12.Bg5 Na6



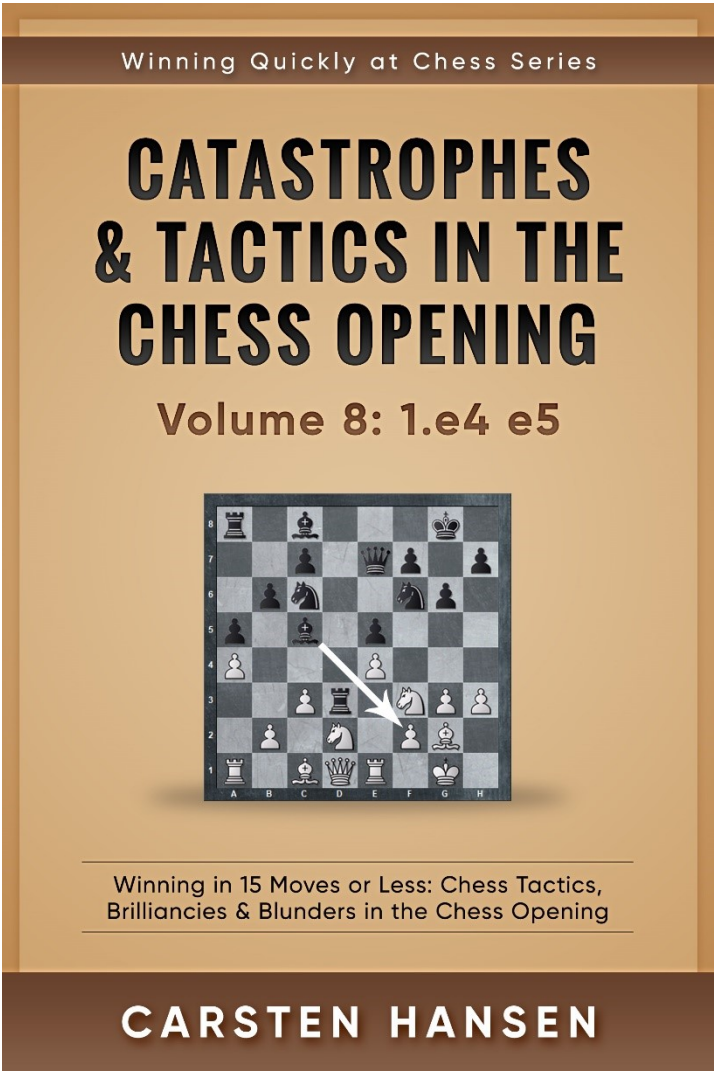
White has the initiative; how should he best continue?

Or 12...h6 13.Nxe7+ Rxe7 14.Bxf6 Rxe1+ 15.Qxe1 gxf6 (15...Qxf6?? 16.Qe8#) 16.Qe3 and White has a very clear advantage.

13.Rxe7! Black resigned. After 13...Rxe7 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Qg4+ it is over.

1-0

VOLUME 8



CHAPTER 8.1

Scotch Game & Gambit

Game # 47

A.Khasin – A.Lilienthal C45

Moscow Ch 1955

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Qf6 6.c3 Nge7 7.Bc4 Ne5 8.Be2 d5 9.0-0 h5



Black plays aggressively, intending to throw ...Ng4 in White's face. How should White best meet this move?

In our next main game, we will discuss the main line 9...0-0 10.Nd2.

10.Nb5! Qb6

Or 10...Bxe3 11.Nxc7+ Kf8 12.fxe3 Qg5 13.Nxa8 Ng4 14.Bxg4 hxg4 15.Qe1 and White is winning, Kotsur-Logunov, Krasnoyarsk 1998.

11.Bxc5 Qxc5 12.Qd4! The elegant refutation of Black's play. Black resigned as he cannot prevent material losses.

1-0

CHAPTER 8.2

Italian Game & Evans Gambit

Game # 48

J.Cubas (2419) – G.Milos (2592) C54

Sao Paulo 2003

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Bb3 Kh8
8.Re1 Ng4 9.d4 exd4 10.h3 Nge5 11.Nxd4 Qh4 12.Bc2



What is Black's best move?

White should have played 12.Be3 f5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Nxc6 Nxc6 15.Qd2 Bxe3 16.Qxe3 Ne5 which is better for Black but at least playable for White.

12...f5!

After this move, White is completely busted.

13.b4

Another possible continuation is 13.exf5 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Bxd4 15.Re2 Bxf5 16.Bxf5 Rxf5 17.Be3 Bxe3 18.fxe3 Raf8 19.Nd2 Rf2 and Black penetrates White's king position.

13...Bb6 14.f4 Nxd4 White resigned. After 14...Nxd4 15.cxd4 Bxd4+ White can resign anyway. **0-1**

CHAPTER 8.3

Two Knights Defense

Game # 49

B.Stein (2375) – K.Langeweg (2395) C56

European Team Ch (Plovdiv) 1983

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.0-0 Nxe4 7.cxd4 Be7?!
Be7?!**

7...d5! is the main line and better move.

8.d5 Nb8 9.Re1 Nd6 10.Bd3 0-0 11.Nc3 Ne8



How should White best continue?

11...Na6 is called best by my computer although White here, too, is better: 12.Be3 b6 13.Qc2 f5 14.a3 and White has excellent compensation for the pawn.

11...Bf6 12.Bf4 is also quite uncomfortable for Black.

12.d6! cxd6

Black should have played 12...Bf6 but then 13.Nd5 Nxd6 14.Qc2 Nc6 15.Bxh7+ Kh8 16.Bf4 is terrible for Black.

13.Bxh7+ Kxh7 14.Rxe7 Qxe7 15.Nd5 Black resigned. If Black's queen is to avoid knight forks she has to return to d8 but then Black gets mated.

1-0

CHAPTER 8.4

Four Knights

Game # 50

S.Kuipers (2399) - Zhao Xue (2568) C46

Caleta 2014

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.a3 Nd4 5.d3

The position on the board is already extremely rare, however, it seems like White's best option is 5.Bc4 Bc5 (5...Nxf3+?! seems wrong somehow, e.g., 6.Qxf3 c6 7.d3 d6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qe2 0-0 10.f4 Nd7 11.f5 Bg5 12.Bxg5 Qxg5 13.Rf3 Nf6 14.Raf1 and White has marginally better chances, Pinski-Alvarado Rodriguez, Warsaw 2011, but White can also consider 6.gxf3!? followed by Rg1 with interesting play) 6.Nxe5 d5 7.Nxd5?! (White should probably play 7.Bxd5 Nxd5 8.Nxd5 0-0 9.Ne3 when Black has to prove sufficient compensation for two pawns) 7...Nxd5 8.c3 Nf4 9.cxd4 Qxd4 10.0-0 Qxe5 11.d4 Nh3+ 12.gxh3 Bxd4 with better chances for Black, Moraru-Mateuta, Bucharest 1999.

5...Bc5 6.Nxe5 d5! 7.Bg5 h6

Black can also consider 7...Qd6 8.Nf3 dxe4 9.dxe4 Qb6 with good counterplay.

8.Bh4 g5!?

Black is playing aggressively to demonstrate compensation.

Or 8...c6!? but after 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 Qe7 11.Nf3 g5 12.Bg3 White seems to have the better chances.

9.Bg3 Qe7 10.Be2 Be6 11.Ng4?

This is definitely mistaken. After 11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Bxd5 13.0-0 0-0 14.Re1 Black has very little to show for his sacrificed pawn.

11...Bxg4 12.Bxg4 dxe4 13.0-0?!

White is getting himself deeper into trouble, but it is hard to fault him for not liking 13.Be2 0-0-0 14.0-0 h5 15.h3 Nf5 16.Bh2 e3 17.f3 which looks ridiculous for White.

13...h5! 14.Bxh5 Nxh5 15.Nd5



How should Black best continue?

15...Nxf3! Black has other good moves, but this is the best and since White now resigned, it is not up for debate either!

0-1

CHAPTER 8.5

Ruy Lopez without 3...a6

Game # 51

A.Machulsky (2450) – V.Malaniuk (2520) C67

Alma-Ata 1989

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6
7.dxe5 Ne4 8.Qe2 Bf5 9.Be3 Qe7 10.Na3**

White has a couple of alternatives at this juncture:

10.Re1 Bg6 11.Nbd2 Nxd2 12.Qxd2 Qe6 13.Qa5 Be7 14.Qxc7 Qc8
15.Qxc8+ Rxc8 16.c3 and White's extra pawn should guarantee his
reasonable winning chances, Tseshkovsky-Malaniuk, Alma-Ata 1989.

10.Rd1 h6 11.Na3 (11.Nbd2!? looks like a clear improvement for
White) 11...g5 12.Nd4 Bg6 13.Qf3 Qxe5 14.Nxc6 Qxb2 15.Nc4 Qf6 16.Qxf6
Nxf6 17.Bd4 Bg7! and Black has the upper hand, Kindermann-Westerinen,
Thessaloniki ol 1988.

10...g5?!

Black should consider 10...Bg4!? 11.Nc4 Qe6 12.Rad1 Be7 with chances
to both sides.

11.Nc4

11.Nd4 Bg6 12.Nc4 transposes to the game.

11...Bg6 12.Nd4 Bg7 13.Rad1

13.Nb3!? is probably stronger, intending f2–f3.

13...0-0-0??



How should White continue?

13...0-0 14.f3 Nc5 looks playable for Black. After the text move, it is rapidly over.

14.Nxc6!! bxc6 15.Na5 Black resigned.
1-0

CHAPTER 8.6

Ruy Lopez with 3...a6

Game # 52

A.Lukovnikov – Al.Ivanov (2470) C91

Simferopol 1989

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.d4 Bg4 10.Be3



This tactical exercise is a little tricky. Black made the following calculation: 10...Nxe4 11.Bd5 (forking the two knights) 11...Qd7, and now 12.Bxe4 can be answered with 12...d5 followed by 13...e4 when the pin wins back the piece. Has Black missed anything in that calculation? And what if White plays 12.dxe5 instead, where should e4-knight go? To c5 or g5? Try to work out the answers without moving the pieces on the board.

10...Nxe4 11.Bd5 Qd7 12.dxe5!?

On 12.Bxe4 d5, and now:

13.Bxh7+ Kxh7 14.dxe5 Qf5 (14...Kg8 15.Nbd2 b4 is okay for Black) 15.Bd4 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Qxf3 17.gxf3 Rae8 18.Nd2 Bg5 19.Nb3 Bf4 20.Nc5 Nxe5 21.Bxe5 Rxe5 22.Rxe5 Bxe5 with equal chances in the endgame, Van Kampen-Melkumyan, Germany 2015.

13.Bc2 e4 14.h3 Bh5 15.Ne5 (Not 15.g4?? because of 15...Bxg4!; White can also consider 15.Nbd2 although 15...exf3 16.Nxf3 Bf6 is at best a tiny bit better for White) 15...Bxd1 16.Nxd7 Bxc2 17.Nxf8 Rxf8 18.Nd2 f5 19.f4 g5 and Black has excellent compensation for the exchange, Svoboda-Michalik, Slovakia 2017.

12...Ng5??

This is a massive blunder but surprisingly it has been played by some prominent players. Instead, 12...Nc5 13.h3 Be6 14.Bxc5 (or 14.exd6 Bxd6 15.Bxc5 Bxd5 16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Nbd2 Rfe8 is fine for Black, Johnner-Bernstein, Zurich 1934) 14...dxc5 15.Bxe6 Qxe6 16.Nbd2 Rad8 17.Qc2 Rd7 18.a4 b4 19.Qe4 Rfd8 20.Nc4 g6 21.Rac1 Rd3 22.Kh1 R3d7 23.Kg1 Rd3 and a draw was agreed upon, ½-½, in Bogdanovic-Udovcic, Belgrade 1952.

13.Bxg5 Bxg5



How should White best continue?

14.h3!! This just wins. Rather surprisingly, the young Capablanca missed it: 14.Nxg5?? Bxd1 15.e6 fxe6?? (15...Qd8! wins) 16.Bxe6+ Qxe6 17.Nxe6 Rae8 18.Nd2 Rf6 19.Raxd1 Rfxe6 with equal chances in the endgame, Capablanca-Lasker, London 1913. After 14.h3 Black loses material, e.g., 14...Bxf3 (or 14...Bh5 15.e6! Bxf3 16.gxf3) 15.Qxf3 Nxe5 16.Rxe5 dxe5 17.Bxa8 and White is a piece. Therefore, after 14.h3, Black resigned.

1-0

CHAPTER 8.7

Petroff / Russian Game

Game # 53

E.Vorobiov (2552) – A.Gusev (2404) C42

Tula 2004

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Qe7?!

This is not an outright error, but it does take the safety out of the Petroff for Black without getting anything tangible in return...

4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qxe4+ 6.Be2 Nb4?

6...d5 7.0-0 Bd6 8.Nc3 (8.Re1 0-0 9.Nc3 Qf5 10.Bd3 Qh5 is more or less okay for Black) 8...Qe7 9.Re1 Be6 10.Bb5 and White has the somewhat better chances.

7.Na3 Nbd5??



Black doesn't have time for this kind of goofing around; he sets up the simple threat 8...Bxa3 9.bxa3 Nc3. Can you find the best response for White?

Black should have played 7...d5 8.0-0 Bd6 9.Bb5+ Kf8 which nevertheless obviously is better for White.

8.0-0!

Anyway! Due to Black's king and queen being placed on the open e-file White can take some liberties.

8...Bxa3 9.Bd3! Qg4 10.h3 Qh5 11.Re1+ Be7

Did White miss something?

12.Re5! Nope! This is the point, Black's queen is trapped and he resigned.

After 12.Re5 g5 13.Rxg5 Qh6 14.Rxd5 Qf8 15.Re5 Black is completely busted.

1-0

CHAPTER 8.8

Philidor's Defense

Game # 54

O.Rodriguez Vargas (2435) – J.Emma (2385) C41

Buenos Aires 1973

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.dxe5 Nxe4 5.Bc4 c6 6.Nbd2

White can also consider 6.0-0 d5, and here:

7.Bb3 Be7 8.c4 dxc4 9.Qxd8+ Bxd8 10.Bxc4 Nc5 11.Be3 Be6 12.Nbd2 Be7 13.Nd4 Bxc4 14.Nxc4 and White has the initiative in the queenless middlegame, Noritsyn-Sambuev, Montreal 2017.

7.Bd3 Nc5 8.Be2 Be7 9.Be3 0-0 10.c4 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Be6 12.Bxe6 Nxe6 13.Nc3 was played in Xu Yuhua-Jobava, Doha 2016, and now 13...Nd7 14.Rc1 Ndc5 would have been about equal.

6...Nxd2

It seems safest to exchange the knight, for instance, 6...Nc5 7.exd6 Bxd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.b4 Nca6 10.Ne4 Be7 was Sanal-Novoselski, Albena 2014, 11.a3 Nc7 12.Qe2 Be6 13.Bb2 a5 14.Rfd1 and White has the clearly better chances.

7.Bxd2 d5 8.Bd3 Nd7

8...Be7 9.Qe2 Na6 10.c3 Nc5 11.Bc2 Bg4 12.h3 Bh5 13.Be3 Bg6 14.Bxc5 Bxc5 15.0-0-0 Bxc2 16.Qxc2 Qe7 is pretty much even, L.B.Hansen-S.Pedersen, Odense 1994.

9.b4 g6

9...a5!?

10.Qe2 Qe7 11.0-0 Bg7 12.Bg5 f6 13.exf6 Bxf6??



Why is this a big mistake?

The alternative is 13...Nxf6 14.Rae1 Qxe2 15.Rxe2+ Kf7 16.Rfe1 Rf8 17.Re7+ Kg8 18.Ne5 with a small but clear advantage for White.

14.Rae1! And now, somewhat prematurely, Black resigned. After 14.Rae1 Qxe2 15.Rxe2+ Kd8 16.Rfe1 (Now the threat is 17.Nd4!) 16...a5 (or 16...h6 17.Bxf6+ Nxf6 18.Ne5) 17.b5 Rg8 18.Re6 with a large advantage for White although this is hardly a reason for Black to resign.

1-0

CHAPTER 8.9

King's Gambit

Game # 55

A.Fedorov (2600) – P.H.Nielsen (2515) C35

Aaland-Stockholm 1997

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 Be7 4.Bc4 Bh4+ 5.Kf1 d5 6.exd5 Bg4 7.d4

Or 7.Qe2+?! Ne7 8.Qe4 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Ng6 10.d4 Qf6 11.c3 0-0 12.g3 fxg3 13.Qxf6 Bxf6 14.hxg3 Nd7 with chances to both sides, Jonkman-Mitkov, Cappelle-la-Grande 1994.

7...Ne7 8.Nc3

White has also tried 8.Qd3 Bf6 9.Bxf4 0-0 10.Nc3 c6 (10...Nd7!?) 11.d6 Bf5 12.Qd2 Nc8 13.Re1 Nxd6 14.Bb3 Bg4 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Ne4 Qd8 17.Qf4 and White has a large advantage, Pruess-Sevillano, San Francisco 2004.

8...Ng6 9.Qe2+ Be7 10.h4!?

Or 10.Qe4 0-0 (10...Nd7!?) 11.Ne5 Bh5 12.Qf5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Bg6 14.Qxf4 Bxc2 15.Be3 Nd7 16.Rc1 Bg6 17.h4 and White has the better position, Ludwikow-Wedberg, Stockholm 1990.

10...h5 11.Qe4 Nd7?



How should White best continue?

Black should have played 11...0-0 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 when White has somewhat better chances.

12.d6!

12.Bxf4? Nf6 13.Qe3 0-0 14.Re1 Bf5 15.Ne5 Ng4 16.Nxg4 Bxg4 was okay for Black in Maes-Mitkov, Cappelle-la-Grande 1994.

12...cxd6 13.Ng5! Black resigned. He has no adequate way of protecting the f7 pawn.

1-0

CHAPTER 8.10

Vienna Game & Bishop's Opening

Game # 56

I.Hausner (2445) – Z.Szymczak (2400) C24

Prague 1989

**1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Qxd4 Nf6 6.Bg5 Be7
7.Nc3 0-0 8.0-0-0 h6**

Black can also consider 8...c6 9.Rhe1 d5, and now:

10.Qh4 h6? (10...Bf5!?) 11.Bxd5! cxd5 12.Nxd5 hxg5 13.Nxg5 Qxd5
14.Rxd5 Nc6 was played in Sebastianelli-Naumkin, Porto San Giorgio 2003,
and now 15.Rd3 Bg4 16.Rg3 Bh5 17.Rh3 would crash through for White.

10.Bd3 a5 11.Qh4 h6 12.Bxh6 Ne4 13.Qh5 g6 14.Qe5 Bf6 15.Qf4 Nxc3
16.Bxf8 Nxd1 17.Bh6 Bxb2+ 18.Kxd1 Nd7 19.Ng5 Bf6 20.h4 Nf8 21.h5 Bd7
22.Re5 and now the game is scored as a win for White in my database,
Allerberger-Paleckis, Remote email 2011. This seems premature, but Black
is basically without any useful moves.

9.Qh4 d6



How should White continue?

Black should accept the piece on g5, e.g., 9...hgx5 10.Nxg5 d6 11.Bd3 Re8 12.Bh7+ and here a draw was agreed upon, ½–½, De Visser-Semenov, ICCF email 2013.

10.Bxh6! gxh6 11.Qxh6 Nh7

Black's best appears to be something like 11...c6 12.Rhe1 Nh7 13.Re5! and White is winning.

12.h4

White can play even more forcefully with 12.Rd5! Bf6 13.Rh5 and Black is busted.

12...Nc6?! 13.Bd3 f5 14.Bc4+ Kh8 15.Ng5 and Black resigned before he would get mated.

1–0

CHAPTER 8.11

Minor Openings

Game # 57

M.Todorovic (2535) – V.Kovacevic (2545) C44

Ljubljana/Portoroz 1989

1.e4 Nf6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 e5 4.Ng3 Nc6

Now we are back in the Open Games. The move order could also have been 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d3 Nf6 4 Nbd2 d5, which is why this game is classified the way it is.

5.g3 Bc5

Another common move is 5...Be7, and here 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Re8 8.c3 a5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Re1 f6 (10...Bf8!?) 11.Nc4 (11.d4!?) 11...Be6 12.Ne3 Bf8 13.d4 exd4 14.Nxd4 was tested and promised White the somewhat better chances in Svidler-Wang Hao, Dubai 2014.

6.Bg2

Or 6.h3 dxe4 7.dxe4 b6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Qe2 0-0 10.c3 a5 11.Kf1 Qe8 12.Kg2 Nd4 13.Bxd7 Nxe2 14.Bxe8 Rfxe8 15.Re1 Nxc1 16.Raxc1 with even chances in Claverie-Zarnicki, Buenos Aires 2002.

6...dxe4

A major alternative is 6...0-0, and now White can consider:

7.exd5 Nxd5 8.0-0 Nf6 9.a3 a5 10.Nc4 Re8 11.Be3 Bxe3 12.Nxe3 Be6 13.Ng5 Bd7 14.c3 h6 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 with more or less even chances, although I personally would prefer to play white, Plomp-Toro Solis de Ovando, Argentina 2001.

7.0-0 Re8 8.c3 a5 9.Qc2 (9.exd5!?) 9...Ba7 10.b3 h6 (10...d4!? 11.c4 Bc5 leads to an entirely different type of position that seems comfortable for Black) 11.Bb2 Be6 12.a3 Qd7 13.exd5 Bxd5 14.c4 Bxf3 15.Nxf3 Rad8 16.Rad1 Nd4 (16...Qd6!? to not release the tension quite so quickly seems like a better move) 17.Nxd4 Bxd4 18.Bxd4 exd4 and the chances are approximately equal, Bokros-Roubalik, Slovakia 2016.

7.dxe4 0-0 8.0-0

8.Qe2?! looks natural but it actually hands the initiative to Black: 8...a5 9.0-0 b6!? (taking advantage of the placement of White's queen to grab the initiative) 10.Nb3 Ba6 11.c4 (forced by the circumstances but not typically a move White wants to play) 11...Be7 12.Bg5 Qc8 13.Nbd2 h6 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 and Black already has a very comfortable position, Gonzalez Zamora-Barua, Balaguer 1997.

8...a5 9.a4 Qe7 10.c3 Rd8 11.Nh4

A rather ambitious plan, White wants to play Nf5, encouraging Black to exchange it with the bishop, and then the bishop on g2 comes to full flourish. An idea that is seen regularly in the Reti Opening and the King's Indian Attack. 11.Qe2 b6 12.Nc4 Ba6 is also better for Black.

11...g6

Black is not interested in letting White play Nf5 and puts an immediate stop to those ideas.

12.h3?

This move is not only unnecessary, but it also weakens White's kingside pawn shield considerably as we will see in the game. Instead 12.Qe2 b6 13.Nc4 Qe6 14.b3 Ba6 would have been a somewhat better choice although Black clearly is the party with the better chances in this position.

12...b6 13.Re1?

After this move, White's position rapidly disintegrates. The alternatives are not pretty either, for instance, 13.Qe2 Ba6 14.Nc4 Nh5 (threatening ...Nxg3) 15.Kh2 Nf4! 16.Bxf4 exf4 17.e5 Bxc4 18.Qxc4 fxg3+ 19.fxg3 Nxe5 and White has lost a pawn with no compensation to show for it.

13...Rd3!

Threatening ...Rxg3.

14.Nhf3



How should Black best continue?

14...Bxf2+! 15.Kxf2 Qc5+ White resigned. After 16.Kf1, Black plays 16...Nh5 ending the party quickly, .e.g., 17.Re2 Nxc3+ 18.Ke1 Nxe2 19.Qxe2 Re3 and White can resign.

0-1

CHAPTER 8.12

Minor Gambits

Game # 58

J.Mieses – J.Taubenhaus C44

Ostend 1906

**1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.cxd4 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be2
0–0–0 8.Nc3 Qh5 9.a3**

The main lines are 9.Be3 and 9.0–0.

9...Bd6 10.Be3 Nf6 11.Rc1 Rhe8 12.Nb5 Nd5



What is White's best move?

Black should play 12...Bxf3 13.Nxd6+ Rxd6 14.Bxf3 Qa5+ with a good game.

13.Rxc6!

A year prior, in a game between the same players, Mieses played 13.Nxd6+ Rxd6 14.Qd2 Rde6 and Black was already clearly better, Mieses-Leonhardt, London 1905.

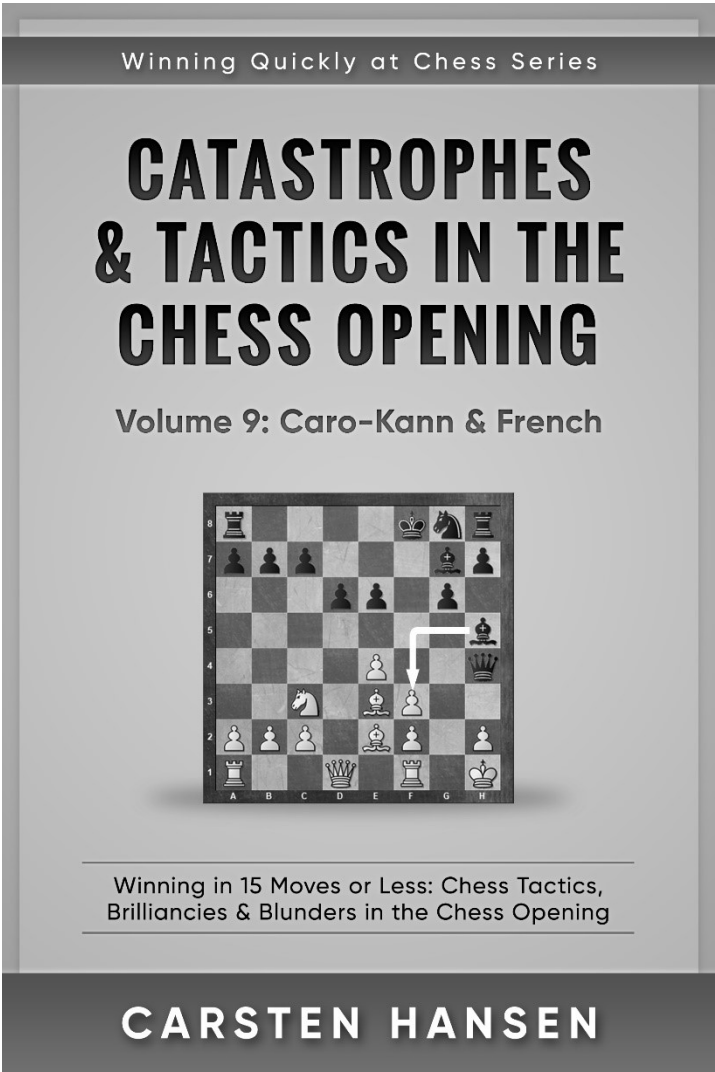
13...bxc6 14.Nxa7+ Kd7?

To stay in the game, Black had to play 14...Kb8 but 15.Nxc6+ Kc8 16.Qb3 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Kd7 18.h3 should win for White.

15.Ne5+ Black resigned.

1-0

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CHAPTER 9.1

French Defense - Minor Variations

Game # 59

A.Shirov (2740) – E.Bareev (2675) C00

Novgorod 1994

**1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ngf3 b6 5.c3 c5 6.g3 Ba6 7.c4 dxe4
8.dxe4 Bb7 9.Bg2 Qc7 10.e5**

10.0-0 Nc6 11.e5 Nd7 12.Ne4 0-0-0 13.Bg5 Nf6 14.exf6 Rxd1
15.Raxd1 gxf6 16.Bxf6 Rg8 17.Rd2 with an unclear position and chances
to both sides, Gajewski-Skrzypnik, Bartkova 2002.

10...Ng4 11.0-0 Nc6 12.Ne4 Rd8 13.Qa4 Qd7 14.Bg5



What happens on 14...Ncxe5?

14...Ncxe5??

Black should have played 14...Nd4, and now:

15.Qxd7+ Rxd7 16.Nxd4 Rxd4 17.Rad1 h6 18.Rxd4 cxd4 19.Bf4 g5
20.h3 gxf4 21.hxg4 Bxe4 22.Bxe4 fxg3 23.Bc6+ Kd8 24.fxg3 Ke7 and Black
has the marginally better chances in the endgame.

15.Qd1 Bxe4 16.Nxd4 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Nxe5 (17...cxd4 18.Qxg4 Rc8 19.Rad1 h6 20.Bc1 Rxc4 21.Qe4) 18.Bxd8 cxd4 19.Bg5 Bc5 20.Qe2 f6 21.Bf4 Nf7 with chances to both sides.

15.Rad1! Black resigned because he will lose at least a piece, e.g., 15.Rad1, and now:

a) the queen cannot be captured 15...Qxa4 16.Rxd8#.

b) 15...Nxf3+ 16.Bxf3 Ne5 17.Rxd7 Rxd7 (17...Nxf3+ 18.Kg2 Rxd7 19.Kxf3) 18.Bg2 and Black can resign.

c) 15...Bd5 16.Qxd7+ Rxd7 17.cxd5 and White is simply a piece up

1-0

CHAPTER 9.2

French Defense - Advance Variation

Game # 60

P.Svidler (2733) – A.Shirov (2713) C02

Leon 2004

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Bd7

By playing this move before committing to ...Nc6, Black signals his intention to play ...Bb5, exchanging the light-squared bishops.

6.Be2

An alternative for White is 6.Bd3, intending to meet 6...cxd4 with 7.Nxd4, preventing ...Bb5 for now.

6...Bb5

A popular alternative is 6...cxd4 7.cxd4 Bb5 8.Nc3, e.g., 8...Bxe2 9.Nxe2 Ne7 10.0–0 Nec6 11.Rb1 a5 12.Nf4 Nd7 13.Be3 Be7 with chances to both sides, Svidler-Gelfand, Rishon Le Ziyon 2006.

7.dxc5

The two main lines are 7.0–0 and 7.c4, each having been played in hundreds of games.

7...Bxc5 8.b4?!

This is brave but almost certainly not the best. Instead 8.0–0 Bxe2 9.Qxe2 Qa6 10.Qd2 Nh6 11.b4 Be7 12.Nd4 Nd7 13.Re1 Ng4 14.f4 h5 15.a4 with a tiny plus for White, Movsesian-Ionov, Dagomys 2009.

8...Bxf2+

At first glance, this capture looks like a no-brainer, but the bishop is quite vulnerable on f2 and getting it back to safety is far from easy. The alternative, however, promises White the better chances: 8...Bf8 9.0–0 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 Qa6 11.b5 (11.Qd2 Nd7 12.Na3 Ne7 13.Nd4 Nxe5 14.Nab5

Rc8 15.Qe2 Nc4 was okay for Black in Kabanov-Volkov, Moscow 2012) 11...Qa4 12.Nfd2 Nd7 13.c4 dxc4 14.Nxc4 Rc8 15.Nbd2 Nh6 16.Qf3 and White has better chances, Mestel-Weidemann, Groningen 1976.

9.Kf1 Bd7

Black cannot play 9...Bxe2+ because after 10.Qxe2 the bishop on f2 is trapped. However, 9...Bc6! seems promising for Black, for instance:

10.Qd3? a6 11.a4 Ne7 12.Ra2 was played in Kristjansson-Thorsson, Icelandic Team Ch 1998, and now Black could have played 12...Qa7! intending ...Bb6 with a good game for Black.

10.Qd2!? Nh6! 11.Qf4? (White should have played 11.a4!? a6 12.Bd3 Ng4 13.Qg5 h5 14.a5 Qa7 15.Ke2 although Black should be doing rather well after 15...Nd7) 11...Nf5 12.Bd3 Be3 13.Bxe3 Qxe3 14.Qxe3 Nxe3+ with an advantage for Black, Larsson-Nyander, Swedish Team Ch 1992.

10.Qd2?!

This is almost certainly wrong. White should instead have played the aggressive 10.c4!, and now:

10...dxc4?? 11.Na3 a6 12.Nxc4 Qa7 was played in Yemelin-Sharankov, Tallinn 2009, and here White could have won with 13.Nd6+ Ke7 14.Qd2 Nc6 15.b5 axb5 16.Nxb5 Qc5 17.Qd6+ Kd8 18.Qc7+ Ke7 19.a4.

10...Na6! 11.c5 Nxc5 12.bxc5 Bxc5 (12...Qxc5 13.Nbd2 is better for White) 13.Nc3 (13.Nbd2 Ne7 14.Nb3 Ba4 (14...Bb5 15.Nxc5 Qxc5 16.Rb1 Bxe2+ 17.Qxe2 doesn't provide Black sufficient compensation for the piece) 15.Rb1 0-0 16.g3 f6 17.exf6 Rxf6 18.Bg5 Rf7 19.Kg2 e5 with a sharp position and chances to both sides) 13...Ne7 14.Na4 (14.Rb1 Qc7 15.Nb5 Bxb5 16.Bxb5+ Nc6 17.Qc2 is insufficient for Black) 14...Bxa4 15.Qxa4+ Nc6 16.Bd3 and White should have the somewhat better chances.

10...Nh6 11.Bd3??



We have a messy position on the board and Black's bishop on f2 looks like it may be in trouble. How should Black best continue?

Now White loses. He had to try 11.c4!?, and now:

11...Ng4 12.Qg5 (or 12.c5!? Bxc5 13.bxc5 Qxc5 14.Bd3 Bb5 15.Bxb5+ Qxb5+ 16.Qe2 Qxe2+ 17.Kxe2 Nc6 18.Bb2 is somewhat better for White) 12...Be3 13.Qxg7 Bxc1 (13...Rf8 14.c5 Qd8 15.Nc3 with a clear advantage for White - Psakhis) 14.Qxh8+ Ke7 15.c5 Qxb4 16.h3 Ne3+ (16...Bb2?? 17.hxg4 Bxa1 18.Qf6+ Ke8 19.Nbd2 wins for White - Psakhis) 17.Kf2 Qxc5 18.Qf6+ Ke8 19.Qh8+ with a draw by perpetual check - Psakhis in *ChessBase Magazine*.

11...Nc6!? 12.c5 Qxb4 13.Kxf2 Qxc5+ 14.Ke1 Ng4 15.Rf1 Rc8 16.Ba3 Qe3 17.Nc3 Na5 promises Black good compensation for the piece.

11...Na6?! 12.a4! (12.c5 Nxc5 13.bxc5 Bxc5 provides Black excellent compensation for the piece) 12...Nxb4 13.a5 Qc7 14.Kxf2 Ng4+ 15.Kf1 Qc5 16.Qd4 and White is clearly better.

11...Ng4! 12.Qg5?

This loses for White. The alternatives are:

12.h3 Ne3+ (12...Be3 is also good) 13.Ke2 Nf5 14.Bxf5 exf5 intending ...Bg3 with a large, possibly winning, advantage for Black.

12.Qf4 f5! (12...Be3 13.Bxe3 Nxe3+ 14.Ke2 Nf5 15.g4 Nh6 16.Nbd2 0-0 is clearly better for Black) 13.exf6 (13.h3 Be3 14.Bxe3 Nxe3+ 15.Ke2 Nxe2 followed by ...f5-f4 with a large advantage for Black) 13...Nxf6 14.Qe5 (14.Ke2 0-0 is winning for Black) 14...Bb5 15.Bxb5+ Qxb5+ 16.Qe2 Qxe2+ 17.Kxe2 Bb6 with a clear advantage for Black.

12...Bb5!

Also 12...Bg1 and 12...Be1 also wins for Black.

13.c4

Or 13.Qd2 0-0 (13...Bxd3+ 14.Qxd3 Be3 15.Bxe3 Qxe3 also wins for Black according to Psakhis) 14.Bxb5 Be3 15.Qe2 Bxc1 and White is busted.

13...Bg3! White resigned. After 13...Bg3 14.Qd2 Bf4 15.Qe2 Bxc4 16.Bxc4 Bxc1 17.Bb5+ Nc6 Black should win rather easily.

0-1

CHAPTER 9.3

French Defense - Tarrasch Variation: 3.Nd2

Game # 61

G.Timoscenko (2540) – P.Dittmar (2325) C06

Seefeld 1997

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 Qb6
8.Nf3 cxd4 9.cxd4 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.0-0 Bd6 12.Nc3 Bd7 13.a3



Can Black get away with capturing the pawn on d4?

13...Nxd4

The main line is 13...0-0 14.Be3 Be8 15.Ng5 Bd7 (or 15...Ne7 16.h3 Bc7 17.Na4 Bxa4 18.Qxa4 Nf5 19.Rac1 Nxe3 20.fxe3 Qd6 21.Rxc7 Qxc7 22.Nxe6 Qe7 23.Nxf8 Qxe3+ 24.Kh2 Qxd3 with more or less equal chances, Ye Jingchuan-Zhang Zhong, Shanghai 2000) 16.Na4 Qc7 17.h3 h6 18.Nf3 Be8 19.Rc1 Bh5 20.Be2 Rac8 21.b4 Qf7 22.Nc5 b6 23.Nd3 Ne4 24.Nfe5 Bxe2 25.Qxe2 Bxe5 26.Nxe5 Nxe5 27.dxe5 was played Ruggeri Laderchi-Holmberg, ICCF email 2006, and now 27...Rc7 intending doubling of the rooks on the c-file; Black has the better chances.

14.Nxd4 Qxd4 15.Bg6+??

For those unfamiliar with this variation may be unaware of this trap and think that Black just blundered by allowing the text move, winning the queen. But, as we will see, it turns out White is the side blundering when playing this move. Instead, the main line is 15.Nb5 Qe5 16.g3 (or 16.f4 Bc5+ 17.Kh1 Qb8 18.b4 Bb6 19.Bb2 0-0 20.Qe2 Kh8 21.Rf3 Bxb5 22.Bxb5 was Andreev-Sitnikov, Serpukhov 2003, and now 22...Qd6 23.Re1 Rac8 when White has compensation for the sacrificed pawn but not more than that) 16...Bxb5 17.Bxb5+ Kf7 18.Re1 Qf5 19.Bd3 Qh3 20.Bf1 Qf5 21.Bd3 Qh3 22.Bf1 Qf5 and draw agreed, $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$, Xie Jun-M. Kuijf, Wijk aan Zee 1998; after 23.Be3 Rhc8 24.Bd3 Qh5 25.Be2 Qf5 26.Bd3 the players will repeat moves for the draw to be the consequence.

15...hxc6 And White resigned, realizing that after 16.Qxd4 Bxh2+ 17.Kh1 Be5+ 18.Kg1 Bxd4, he is simply a piece down, as seen, for example, in Nolting-Murphy, 1996. A shocking oversight by a grandmaster, but one seen in at least five other games.

0-1

CHAPTER 9.4

French Defense - Various 3.Nc3 Variations

Game # 62

K.Mekhitarian (2546) – M.Macedo (2408) C10

Brazilian Ch (Montenegro) 2013

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ Qxf6 6.Nf3 h6 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.0-0 Bd6 9.c3 0-0 10.Nd2!?

10.Qe2 is more commonly seen in this position, but Black should be okay after 10...e5 11.Qe4 g6 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Bxe5 14.Re1 Re8 15.Bf4 Bf5 16.Bxe5 Bxe4 17.Bxf6 Bxd3 with more or less equal chances, Pyrich-Ciornas, ICCF email 2010.

10...e5

Or 10...Qh4 11.g3 Qd8 12.Ne4 Be7 13.Qe2 b6 14.Bf4 Bb7 15.Rad1 Rc8 16.f3 and White has the better chances, Gofshtein-Rosell, Dos Hermanas 2003.

11.Ne4!

The point behind the previous move, White now grabs the initiative. In another outing, White tried 11.d5?! Nb8?! (Black should have played 11...Ne7 12.Ne4 Qg6 13.Nxd6 Qxd6 14.c4 Rd8 with something close to equality) 12.f4 Bf5 13.Nc4 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 exf4 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.Bxf4 and White is clearly better, Baklan-Keller, Metz 2000.

11...Qg6

Black has also tried 11...Qd8 12.Qh5 (my computer gives preference to 12.Nxd6 cxd6 13.Bc2 with an initiative for White, but White's continuation in the game is also interesting) 12...exd4 13.Bxh6 gxh6 14.Qxh6 Bf5 15.f4 Re8 16.Nxd6 Re6



This was played in Gufeld-Alburt, Soviet Union 1974, and here White missed a strong continuation, can you do better?

17.Qh8+! Kxh8 18.Nxf7+ Kg7 19.Nxd8 Rxd8 20.Bxf5 which would have left him clearly better.

12.f4

Or 12.Nxd6 Qxd6 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Bc2 Qf6 15.Qd5 Re8 16.Qe4 Qg6 17.Bf4 Qxe4 18.Bxe4 g5 19.Bg3 f5 20.Bd5+ Kg7 21.f4 c6 22.Bb3 Nd3 23.Rad1 Nc5 24.Bc2 Ne4 25.fxg5 hxg5 26.Rfe1 Kf7 27.Bxe4 fxe4 28.Bf2 and here a draw was agreed upon, $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$, in Graham-Stubbe, ICCF email 2007, after both players having followed the engine best moves for quite a while. Structurally, White still has the better position, but Black should be able to defend.

12...Bf5??



What is White's best move?

A gruesome blunder based on the pin of the knight. Black should have played 12...exd4! which leads to a good game for Black, e.g., 13.f5 Bxf5 14.Rxf5 Bxh2+ 15.Kxh2 Qxf5 16.Ng3 Qf6 and Black has clearly better chances.

13.Nf6+! Qxf6

Everything loses, e.g., 13...Kh8 14.Bxf5 Qxf6 15.fxe5 or 13...gxf6 14.Bxf5 Qxf5 15.fxe5 Qd7 16.exd6 f5 17.dxc7 and Black's position falls apart.

14.fxe5!

The point.

14...Bg4

This is silly, but even the better 14...Qd8 15.Rxf5 Be7 16.Qg4 is a disaster for Black who cannot adequately defend against White's aggressive pieces on the kingside.

15.Qxg4 Black resigned.

1-0

CHAPTER 9.5

French Defense - Winawer Variation:

3.Nc3 Bb4

Game # 63

D.Vargic (2297) – G.Mufic (2364) C16

Croatian Team Ch (Pula) 2000

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 b6 5.Qg4 Bf8 6.Bg5 Qd7 7.Nh3

White has several much more frequently played options, including 7.Nf3, 7.f4, 7.0-0-0, and 7.Bb5.

7...h5!?

The alternatives are:

7...Ba6 8.Bxa6 Nxa6 9.0-0 Nb4 10.a3 Nc6 11.b4 h6 12.Be3 Nce7 13.Nf4 Qc6 14.Nd1 (14.Nce2!?) 14...a5 15.bxa5 Rxa5 when despite lacking a bit behind in development, Black is okay, Salgado Lopez-Lopez Martinez, Calvia 2007.

7...Nc6 8.0-0-0 Bb7 9.f4 h6 10.Bh4 h5 11.Qf3 Nge7 12.Bg5 Nf5 13.Qf2 Be7 (here Black has already equalized; now White should have exchanged on e7 to maintain equal chances...) 14.Bb5? f6 15.exf6 gxf6 16.Bh4 0-0-0 17.Ng1 was played in Volke-Dizdar, Austria 2002, and now 17...Nxb4 18.Qxb4 e5 19.Nge2 a6 and Black has grabbed the initiative.

7...h6 8.Be3 Nc6 9.a3 Bb7 10.Bd3 0-0-0 11.Nf4 Kb8 12.0-0 Nge7 13.b4 Nf5 14.Nce2 g6 and draw agreed, which, although premature, is in an equal position, ½-½, Luther-Schlosser, Lippstadt 2000.

8.Qf3 Ne7 9.Bxe7 Bxe7 10.Nf4 g6 11.Bd3

White can also consider 11.Bb5 c6 12.Bd3 Bb7 13.Rd1 although Black should be pretty close to equal in this position.

11...Rg8 12.0-0-0 Ba6?



How should White best continue?

Black wants to exchange the "bad French bishop". The better option is the normal 12...Bb7 13.h4 Nc6 when White at best is slightly better.

13.Ncxd5!! exd5 14.e6! fxe6 15.Bxg6+ Here Black resigned which is wildly premature. After 15.Bxg6+ Rxg6 (or 15...Kd8 16.Bf7 Rg4 17.Kb1 Bb4 18.Nxe6+ Kc8 19.Bxh5 with a large advantage for White) 16.Qxh5 Bd6 17.Qxg6+ Qf7 18.Qxe6+ Qxe6 19.Nxe6 White has an advantage, but Black can still fight.

1-0

CHAPTER 9.6

Caro-Kann Defense - Main Lines:

3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4

Game # 64

D.Paulsen (2431) – R.Appel (2481) B15

German Bundesliga 2001

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.exd5

5.h3 is considered the best move and the main line. White's move is rather tame and Black equalizes without further ado.

5...cxd5 6.Bb5+

6.h3 Nc6 7.Bf4 Nf6 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Qd2 Re8 (Black doesn't have any problems after 9...Qb6 which is probably Black's best) 10.0-0 a6 11.a3 Be6 12.Rfe1 Qd7 13.Na4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Qxa4 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Rxe6 and White has the better chances, Stefanova-Khotenashvili, Beijing 2014.

6...Bd7

Or 6...Nc6 7.Ne5 Bd7 8.Nxd7 Qxd7 9.Be3 a6 10.Be2 Rd8 11.Bf3 e6 12.Ne2 Nge7 13.c3 Nf5 and Black has a comfortable game, Tryggestad-Maze, Fornebu 2017.

7.Qe2 Nf6 8.Bg5

8.Ne5 Nc6 9.Nxd7 Qxd7 10.0-0 a6 11.Bxc6 Qxc6 12.Re1 0-0 13.Bg5 e6 14.Rad1 b5 with a comfortable position for Black, Wuts-Okhotnik, Le Touquet 2002.

8...a6 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.0-0 Bg4 11.Be3 0-0



Why is 12.h3 now a mistake?

12.h3??

White should have played 12.Rfe1 although Black has the initiative after 12...e5 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Bd4 Nc6 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Qd1 Nd4

12...Bxf3 13.Qxf3 e5! White resigned because of the dual threats of ...e5-e4 and ...e5xd4. If 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Qf4 then 15...Nh5 16.Qb4 Nxd3 17.cxd3 d4 wins the piece.

0-1

CHAPTER 9.7

Caro-Kann Defense - Panov Attack

Game # 65

V.Bologan (2585) – J.Borges Mateos (2470) B13

Linares 1999

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.cxd5
Nxd5 8.Qb3 Nb6 9.d5 Bxf3 10.gxf3 Nd4 11.Bb5+ Nd7 12.Qa4 e5??



This turns out to be a blunder - can you find the refutation?

The alternatives are fully playable for Black:

12...Nxb5 13.Qxb5 g6 14.0-0 Bg7 15.Re1 0-0 16.Bg5 Bxc3 (or 16...Re8?! 17.d6 Bf6 18.dxe7 Rxe7 19.Rxe7 Bxe7 20.Rd1 Bxg5 21.Rxd7 Qf6 22.Qxb7 Re8 23.Kg2 and despite his open king, White is in charge and eventually won the game, Potkin-Wang Hao, Ningbo 2010) 17.bxc3 f6 18.Bf4 Rf7 19.Rad1 b6 20.Qe2 Rc8 21.c4 Nc5 22.Bc1 Qd7 with fairly even chances in this strategically complicated position, Solak-Kovalenko, St Petersburg 2013.

12...Nxf3+ 13.Kd1 a6 14.Bxd7+ Qxd7 15.Qe4 Qh3 16.Qa4+ Qd7 17.Qe4 Qh3 18.Ke2 Nh4 19.Bg5 (19.Be3 f5 20.Qf4 Rd8 21.Rag1 Ng2 22.Qg5 Nxe3 23.Rg3 Qh6 24.Qxh6 gxh6 25.fxe3 Rd6 26.Rf1 Rf6 and the chances are about even, Korneev-Zelcic, Cutro 2003) 19...Nf5 20.Qa4+ Kd8 21.Ne4

Qg4+ 22.Kd3 Nd6 23.Qa5+ Kd7 24.Qa4+ Kd8 and after repeating the checks a few times, the players settled on a draw, Grigoryan-Gagunashvili, Quezon City 2014.

13.dxe6! Nxe6 14.Bg5!!

This is the refutation. It has to be pointed out that Yusupov when encountering the position did not find 14.Bg5!! and instead played 14.Be3 a6 15.Bxd7+ Qxd7 16.Qxd7+ Kxd7 17.0-0 Bd6 18.Nd5 Rad8 19.Rac1 Nc7 20.Nb6+ Ke6 21.Rfe1 Kf5 22.Red1 Ne6 when Black despite his far advanced king is doing okay although he eventually misstepped and lost the game, Yusupov-Timoschenko, Kislovodsk 1982.

14...Nxc5

A couple of other tries have been made:

14...Nec5 15.Bxd8 Nxa4 16.Bxa4 Rxd8 17.0-0-0 Be7 18.Rxd7 Rxd7 19.Rd1 Bg5+ 20.Kc2 and Black resigned, 1-0, Stets-Bets, Voronezh 2009.

14...Be7 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.0-0-0 0-0-0 17.Qxa7 (White can do even better with 17.Nd5! Qg5+ 18.f4 Qh4 and only now 19.Qxa7 when he is completely winning) 17...Nb8 18.Kb1 Qc5 19.Qa4 Nd4 20.Rc1 Nbc6 21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Ne4 and White has a winning position, Carnic-Zivkovic, Belgrade 2008.

15.0-0-0 Black resigned as he loses at least a couple of pieces trying to avoid mate.

1-0

CHAPTER 9.8

Caro-Kann Defense - Advance Variation

Game # 66

E.Berg (2516) – F.Langheinrich (2360) B12

Pardubice 2002

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nc3 Qb6 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 e6 7.Nge2
Qa6 8.Qh3 c5?



What is White's best move?

The text move is rather logical which also makes it a common mistake. The better alternatives are:

8...Nd7 9.0-0 Ne7 10.a4 Rc8 11.Be3 Qb6 12.a5 Qd8 13.a6 b5 14.f4 g6 15.g4 f5 16.exf6 Nxf6 was played in Nataf-Bagheri, Montpellier 2006, when 17.Rae1 Bg7 18.g5 Nh5 19.Qxe6 Qd7 20.Qxd7+ Kxd7 leaves White a pawn up but Black has positional compensation.

8...Ne7 9.Be3 Nd7 10.f4 g6 11.g4 h5 12.Ng3 c5 13.f5 cxd4 14.Bxd4 Bh6 15.fxg6 fxg6 and Black has a comfortable game, Holmsten-Dreev, Ubeda 1999.

9.Nxd5! exd5

Or 9...Qa5+ 10.Qc3 Qxc3+ 11.Ndxc3 and White is simply a pawn up.

10.Qc8+

Now White is winning.

10...Ke7 11.Qxc5+ Ke8 12.Qc8+ Ke7 13.Bd2

Or 13.Bg5+ f6 14.exf6+?? (14.Bd2! wins for White) 14...Nxf6 (14...gxf6! 15.Bd2 Kf7 is basically okay for Black) 15.0-0 Qc6 16.Bxf6+ gxf6 17.Qf5 Qe6 18.Qh5 Qf7 19.Qf3 Nc6 20.Nf4 with a strong, on-going initiative for White in Asaturian-Khodos, Soviet Union 1969; the game where this opening trick made its first appearance.

13...Qb5

The alternatives are no better:

13...Qb6 14.Nf4 and Black resigned, 1-0, Olesen-Vadasz, Budapest 1994.

13...Nc6 14.Qxa8 Nh6 15.Qc8 and Black resigned, 1-0, Neukirch-Kuhn, Gemünd 1999.

14.Nc3 Black resigned.

1-0

CHAPTER 9.9

Caro-Kann Defense - Minor Lines

Game # 67

M.Dutreeuw (2394) – D.Sadkowsky (2262) B12

Belgian Team Ch (Antwerp) 1999

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 e6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qd3 Ne7 6.a3

6.Bf4 is the main line.

6...Ba5 7.Be3

White has a full-good alternative in 7.Bd2 Nd7 8.f4 0-0 9.e5 c5 10.b4 cxd4 11.Nb5 Bb6 12.Nf3 Nc6 13.Ng5 g6 14.Qh3 h5 15.g4 f6 16.Nf3 when White has the better chances; the Black kingside is very loose, Arribas Lopez-Abhishek, Moscow 2016.

7...Nd7

Another try is 7...dxe4 8.Qxe4 (8.fxe4!? seems like a good, logical alternative that may well be better for White) 8...Nf5 9.Bf2 Nd7 10.Nge2 Nf6 11.Qd3 h5 12.g3 Nd5 13.Rg1 Qe7 14.f4 Bd7 15.Bg2 g5 16.0-0-0 0-0-0 with a dynamic position where both sides have their share of the chances, Mednikova-Solovjova, St Petersburg 2009.

8.Nge2 0-0 9.Nc1?!

Or 9.0-0-0 b5 10.Bf4 Bb6 with chances for both sides, although it seems Black's pawns on the queenside will connect with White's pawns in front of the king well before White, can come up with anything elsewhere.

9...e5 10.Nb3



How should Black best continue?

10...c5!

This is incredibly strong, basically winning a piece although White will get something in return.

11.Nxa5 exd4 12.Nb3

White's best is something along the lines of 12.Bg5 Ne5 13.Qd2 dxc3 14.Qxc3 when Black still picks up material but White gets good counterplay, e.g., 14...f6 15.0-0-0 b6 16.Nc4 Nd7 17.Bf4 dxc4 18.e5 fxe5 19.Bxc4+ Kh8 20.Bxe5

12...dxc3 13.bxc3??

Here White should have played 13.Qxc3 d4 14.Nxd4 cxd4 15.Bxd4 Re8 16.Bxg7 Nd5 17.Qd2 Kxg7 18.Qxd5 when he has three pawns in return for the piece. The text move, however, is just poor...

13...c4 White resigned.

0-1

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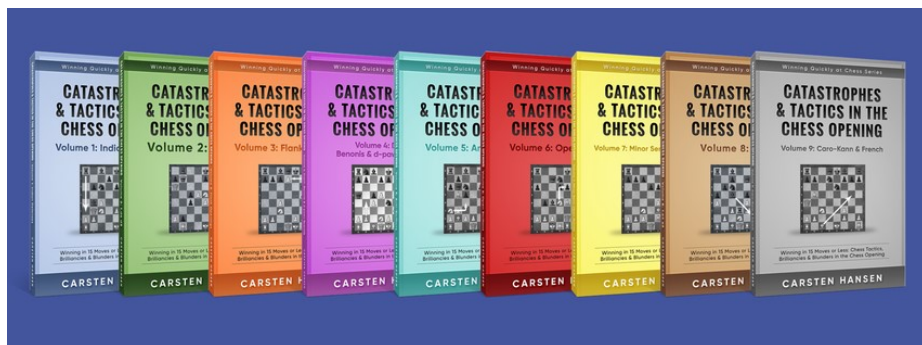
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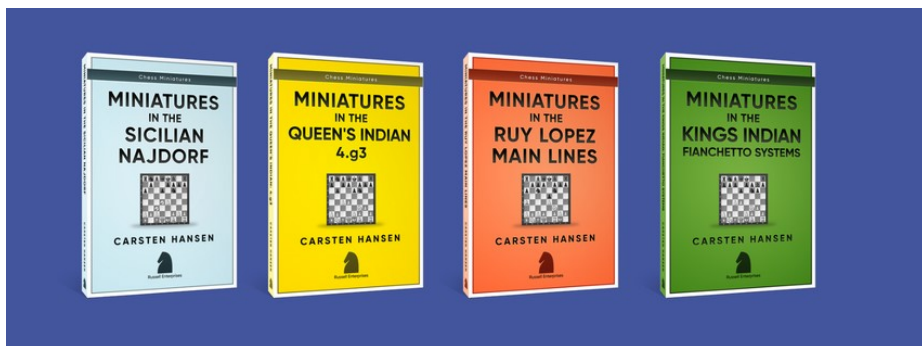
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