

Efstratios Grivas

# GRIVAS OPENING LABORATORY

VOLUME 1



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Evolution

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# KEY TO SYMBOLS

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∓	Black has a slight advantage
±	White is better
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-+	Black has a decisive advantage
∞	unclear
∞	with compensation
↔	with counterplay
↑	with initiative
→	with an attack
Δ	with the idea
□	only move
N	novelty
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
+	check
#	mate



# FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

The series starting with this book is aimed in offering a full white repertoire based on **1.d4**.

The idea of small opening repertoire books is not new, but here the purpose and the presentation is different.

The choice of the variations against each black replay will be mine and it will be based on my long experience, as I am playing the game for over 40 years, while I am a professional coach for approximately 20!

I do hope that each book of the series will come out every two months and one to three openings will be offered in each of them.

Maybe not all of the choices will appeal to you but you will have to understand that what is important is to learn them in depth and not really looking for something high — this is simply an illusion.

What I mean is that nowadays no opening gives really much; what you can expect is something in-between tiny better and slightly better, if you

have made your homework! Otherwise there is no point for the black player to follow it!

The recommendations are geared towards posing Black unconventional problems. Your opponents will not be able to churn out lengthy memorised variations but will need to solve problems at the board, in positions that are somewhat different in character from those normally reached in the openings under discussion.

I have also selected the systems within the repertoire in such a way that they form a seamless whole and are also reachable by transpositions.

I have tried to describe the suggested systems in detail, giving my assessments as clearly and responsibly as possible, and have generally aimed to provide useful guidelines and many new ideas and moves.

Many things in chess theory, as in life, are relative and a matter of taste. Actually there are no 'good' or 'bad' openings. There are openings that you know and understand, and openings that you do not know and do not understand.

Thus, I believe that my recommended systems will offer a lot of possibilities, new ideas and practical benefits, aspects that should not be underestimated in modern chess. Among other things, I have tried to make them 'understandable' to you.

This books series main purpose is to 'train' and educate the reader in territory that is 'unknown' to him. We must not forget that this is a theory books series, where concrete reaction to the opponent's moves is of primary importance.

General principles and plans do merit a place in this project but, in my opinion, move-by-move consideration is most significant.

Of course it is not necessary to memorise all the variations and moves mentioned in the books series — this will be probably impossible.

But then, you may ask, what is the reason for someone to deal with a theory book, one that he does not need to 'memorise' in full?

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This can lead to unresolved questions in the reader's mind, and the danger that he will mix things up at moments when it is necessary to find one specific concrete move or sequence.

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Let us not forget that the basic characteristics of the openings do not frequently undergo radical changes. On the other hand, the development of move-by-move theory is explosive.

Every chess player stands on the shoulders of the chess player who came before him. Every generation of good chess players learns from and builds upon the experience and creativity of the previous generations.

The chess player of the year 2019 has encountered more types of positions than the chess-player of 1979 and

knows the proper ways to deal with these positions.

Therefore, a chess player today would have a great advantage over a chess player (even one of equal or greater talent) of 40 years ago, simply because he could play the opening with deeper understanding; this understanding is offered to him by the multitude of deeply analysed variations.

In no occasion do I underestimate the necessity and value of learning the general characteristics and plans of each opening or variation. However, I do strongly believe that move-by-move theory and its (at least) subconscious absorption are necessary in order to survive in the labyrinth of the chess openings.

One question often posed by my students is whether we must simultaneously prepare two or more different systems against an opening. My personal opinion is that only professional Grandmasters can afford this luxury.

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I must clarify that I took the liberty of changing the original move-order of many games. In this way it was possible to provide clearer coverage and guidance.

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Finally, I would to thank my (ex) trainees (among others) GM Antoaneta Stefanova, GM Ioan Cristian Chirila, GM Emre Can, GM Mustafa Yilmaz and GM Alex Ipatov, who adopted my repertory and contributed to the evolution of the theory.

Efstratios Grivas  
Sharjah, October 2019



# PREFACE

In the first book of the series we are dealing on how to face the ‘Gruenfeld Defence’, a modern system that is quite popular nowadays.

The proposed system is based on the ♖g5 variation (Stockholm Variation), a system that served me well for approximately 30 years, scoring a good 70% in a quite high number of games.

Well, this doesn’t sound logical, as the generally scoring of the variation is on 52.8%, a bit better than the average expected of 51.5% to 52%, which is the natural average number of white ‘superiority’.

My quite high score is purely based in study and understanding of the system, so many equal positions were turned into full points!

Then we move to study on how to face the ‘Slav Defence’, a modern system that is quite popular nowadays.

The proposed system is based on the 4.♘bd2 variation, a system that scores a good 61.6% in a high number of games.

Well, this doesn’t sound logical, as the expected of 51.5% to 52%, is the natural average number of white ‘superiority’.

White’s quite high score is quite interesting and simply proves the validity of the system and the difficulties that the black players are facing.

Finally, we will see to face the ‘Blumenfeld Gambit’, a modern system that is quite popular nowadays.

Black is seeking active play by sacrificing a queenside pawn and attacking white centre at once, simultaneously.

The proposed system is based on the ♖g5 variation, a system that scores a good 57.5% in a high number of games.

Well, this doesn’t sound logical, as the expected of 51.5% to 52%, is the natural average number of white ‘superiority’.

White’s quite high score is purely based in the fact that not many strong players have adopted the ‘Blumenfeld Gambit’ in their black opening repertory, so the white players are generally stronger.

In the book you will find not only a concrete and well structured move-by-move presentation, but also chapters on middlegame, endgame and tactics, which are typical for this variation and will help you to understand it better.

The only two things you have to do are to buy the book (!) and study it!

Note that the research on the played games is up to the middle October 2019.

Efstratios Grivas  
Sharjah, October 2019

# PART 1.

## THE GRUENFELD DEFENCE (D91)

The system involving  $\text{♕g5}$  against the 'Gruenfeld Defence' (The Stockholm Variation) is more or less little explored. It has always stood somewhat in the shadow of the 'main' systems against the 'Gruenfeld Defence', such as  $4.\text{cxd5}$ ,  $4.\text{♕f4}$ ,  $4.\text{♖f3}$   $\text{♕g7}$   $5.\text{♙b3}$  etc.

Yet, this system is more dangerous than most chess players think. It is not aimed at boring positions with a 'less than slight advantage' (although not always possible!), as has been mentioned in some sources.

It is aimed at deep strategical themes and plans; it is aimed at keeping the initiative and, finally and more importantly, it is aimed at gaining a clear path straight out of the opening.

Most of the books that have been written on the 'Gruenfeld Defence' take a look at this system only from Black's point of view, mostly proposing wrong or at least irrelevant continuations for White.

The system with  $\text{♕g5}$  is immediately directed against the black d5-pawn. White wishes to force Black to either support it passively with  $\dots\text{c6}$ , or to

surrender the centre with  $\dots\text{dxc4}$ , or finally to reinforce White's centre after the standard  $\dots\text{♗e4-xc3}$  manoeuvre.

In the later case White's centre becomes a potentially significant factor and Black's darksquared bishop's power is restrained due to the strongly protected d4-pawn.

Fundamentally, White's chances lie mainly in positions with the queens exchanged, as the central pawn majority is for preference and Black finds it difficult to organise concrete activity.

On the other hand, Black may achieve play against White's queenside pawn(s), a typical feature of such 'Gruenfeld' positions.

The first time that I deal with this system was back in 2006, when I wrote a book for 'Gambit Publications' named 'Beating the Fianchetto Defences'. It was an interesting opening book, in which I tried to present the existing theory, but of course many new games were played in the last 13 years!



14. ♖c7 ♚c6 15. ♚xc6 bxc6 16. ♜xc6  
 ♞e8 17. ♜fc1 ♞xc7 18. ♜xc7 ♜xc7  
 19. ♜xc7 ♜c8 20. ♜xc8+ ♞xc8 21. ♞e5  
 ♞b7 22. f4 e6 23. ♞f2 ♞f8 24. ♞d7  
 ♞b4 25. ♞e2 ♞c6 26. ♞c5 ♞f8 27. a3  
 ♞a5 28. b4 ♞b6 29. ♞d2 ♞e7 30. ♞c3  
 ♞d8 31. ♞b3 ♞c8 32. b5 ♞e8 33. ♞b4  
 ♞d8 34. e4 ♞f6 35. e5 ♞d8 36. a4 ♞b8  
 37. a5 ♞c8 38. ♞c2 h6 39. ♞a4 h5  
 40. b6 ♞xa4 41. ♞xa4 axb6 42. axb6  
 g5 43. g3 h4 44. ♞b5 gxf4 45. gxf4 h3  
 46. ♞c6

1-0

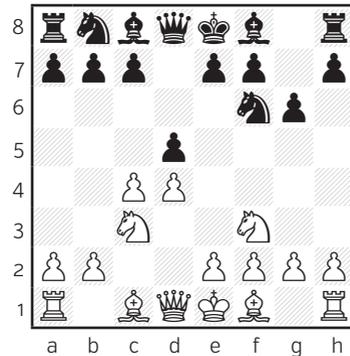
Of course, neither game was a masterpiece and they are only given here on the grounds of historical information.

In the late 60's the Russian GM and World Championship Challenger **Mark Taimanov** (7 February 1926 — 28 November 2016) played the system regularly. His ideas were clarified and improved on many occasions. So, the system with ♞g5 could be named after him, to honour his efforts and great legacy in the chess world.

## Starting Out

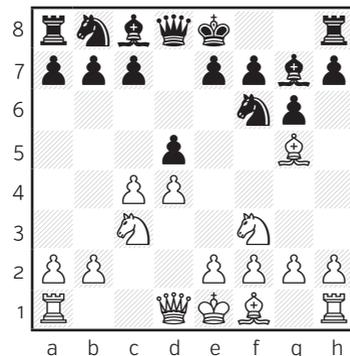
The system proposed against the 'Gruenfeld Defence' commences with the moves

1. d4 ♞f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♞c3 d5 4. ♞f3



It is preferable to enter the ♞g5 system via the early 4. ♞f3 move order. White can avoid some extremely lengthy and complicated lines and, most importantly, Black can answer 4. ♞g5, with GM Peter Svidlers's idea 4... ♞g7, when it would be better to opt for 5. ♞f3.

4... ♞g7 5. ♞g5



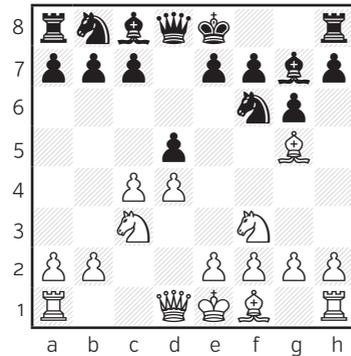
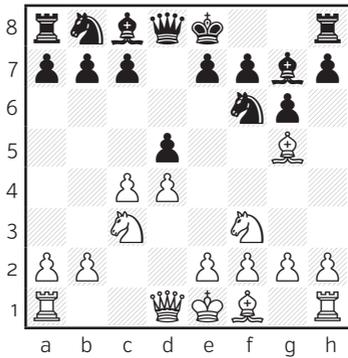
And here is where our examination finally starts!



# CHAPTER 1.

## BLACK'S 5<sup>th</sup>-MOVE DEVIAT – VARIOUS LINES

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.♗f3  
♙g7 5.♙g5



Baring the natural 5...♗e4, here Black has tried some other moves, with mains to be 5...c6, 5...o-o, 5...c5 and 5...dxc4, which will be examined in the next chapter.

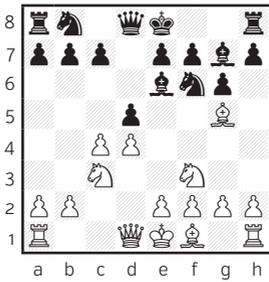
### 1.1 – 5...Various

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.♗f3  
♙g7 5.♙g5

The rare Black lines are:

a) 5...e6 6.e3 (6.e4!? dxe4 [6...h6 7.♙xf6 ♙xf6 8.cxd5± Yilmaz,M-Stefanova,A Almaty 2016] 7.♗xe4 ♗bd7 8.♙d3 h6 9.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 10.♙f4 b6 11.♙a4+ ♙d7 12.♙a3± Salvador,R-Wang,C Ho Chi Minh City 2011) 6...o-o 7.♙c1 (7.♙b3 c6 8.♙e2 ♗bd7 9.o-o ♙a5 10.♙f4 ♗e8 11.h3± Kiss,P-Emodi,G Hajduboszormeny 1995) 7...c6 8.♙d3 (8.♙e2 ♗bd7 9.cxd5 exd5 10.b4 a6 11.o-o ♙e7 12.♙b3 b5 13.a4 ♗b6 14.♗e5 ♙d7 15.e4± Suba,M-Matnadze,A Sort 2006) 8...♙a5 9.o-o ♗bd7 10.♙f4 dxc4 11.♙xc4 ♗d5 12.♙d6 ♗e8 13.♗e4± Gheorghiu,F-Nyffenegger,P St Jean 2002.

b) 5...♙e6?!

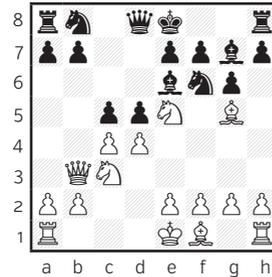


6. ♖b3 (6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.e4 ♘xc3 8.bxc3 c5 9. ♙b5+ ♙d7 10. ♙xd7+ ♘xd7 11.o-o± Levchakova,A-Alameda Gadea,A Oropesa del Mar 2000) 6...b6 7. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 (7...dxc4 8. ♖a4+ ♙d7 9. ♙xg7 [9. ♖xc4? ♙xf6 10. ♘d5 ♙c6 11. ♘xf6+ exf6 12.e3± Ong,Y-Manav,C Chiangmai 2013] 9... ♙xa4 10. ♙xh8+-) 8.cxd5 ♙c8 9.e4± Dor,R-Buland,C Hyeres 2002.

c) 5... ♘bd7?! 6.cxd5 h6 (6... ♘b6 7.e4 c6 8.dxc6 bxc6 9.h3+- Oubeid,B-Elhaj,M Nouakchott 2012) 7. ♙h4 ♘b6 (7...g5 8. ♙g3 ♘h5 9.e4 ♘xg3 10.hxg3 c6 11. ♖c1 ♖a5 12.dxc6 bxc6 13.e5 e6 14. ♘d2 c5 15. ♘c4 ♖b4 16. ♘d6+ ♙e7 17. ♖f3 1-o Koloditsova,R-Bartsits,S Maribor 2012) 8.e4 ♙g4 9. ♙b5+ ♘fd7 10.e5+- Vaisman,V-Brixhe,A Meribel 1998.

d) 5... ♘c6?! 6. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 7.cxd5! ♘b8 (7... ♘b4? 8. ♖a4+- Fernandez Coalla,J-Villanueva Garcia,P Spain 1995) 8.e4 o-o 9.h3± Kaposzta,M-Nemeth,B Gyonyos 2003.

e) 5... ♙g4 6. ♘e5 (6.e3 o-o 7.h3± Kovacs,P-Banszegi,B Hungary 2016) 6... ♙e6 7. ♖b3 c5 (7...dxc4? 8. ♖xb7± Nguyen,X-Pham,V Dong Thap 2000)



8.e3 cxd4 9.exd4 ♘bd7 (9... ♖b6 10. ♖xb6 axb6 11. ♙xf6 exf6 12.cxd5 fxe5 13.dxe6 exd4 14. ♘b5 ♘a6 15.exf7+ ♙xf7 16. ♙c4+ ♙e7 17.o-o-o±) 10. ♖xb7 ♖b8 11. ♖xa7 dxc4 12. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 13. ♙xc4 ♘xe5 14.dxe5 ♙xe5 15. ♙xe6 fxe6 16. ♖d1± .

f) 5... ♙f5 6. ♙xf6 (6.e3 dxc4 7. ♙xc4 o-o 8. ♖b3 ♖c8 9.o-o ♘bd7 10. ♘e5 e6 11. ♘d7 ♘xd7 12.e4 ♙xe4 13. ♘xe4 ♙xd4 14. ♖fe1 ♙g7 15. ♙xe6 1-o Karst,E-Falahat,S Loerzweiler 1995) 6... ♙xf6 7.cxd5 ♘d7 8.h3 ♘b6 9.e4± Miethsam,G-Hecht,V Cattolica 1993.

So, the black players should avoid such passive and strange lines and instead go for the logical and natural ones.

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Efstratios Grivas  
Sharjah, January 2020



# INTRODUCTION

In the second book of the series we will deal with how to face the 'King's Indian Defence', a long-standing system that is/was always popular.

The proposed system is based on the  $\text{e2/g5}$  variation (Averbakh System), a system that has served me well for approximately 20 years, scoring a good 60% over a high number of games.

Moreover, this system generally scores a very healthy 59%, which is well above the average expected of 51.5% to 52%, which is the natural average number of White 'superiority'.

My good score is purely based on study and understanding of the system, so that many 'equal' positions were turned into full points!

Then we will move on to study how to face the 'Dutch Defence', an old, but still modish opening that is quite popular nowadays, especially among the middle level of players.

As Black can choose between three main systems (Classical, Leningrad

and Stonewall), there is little to talk about here and most of the explanations can be found in the relative chapters.

I have to mention that I am still playing the 'Dutch Defence' with both colours, so my vast experience cannot be underestimated.

Again my good score is based on study and understanding of the various systems, equal positions once more translated into full points!

Finally, we will see how to face the 'Benko-Volga Gambit', a modern system that is quite popular nowadays.

The proposed system is based on the  $\text{g5}$  variation, a system that served me well for approximately 30 years, scoring a good 75% in a high number of games.

Well, this doesn't sound logical, as the general scoring of the variation stands at 51.8%, as explained, the average expectation of 51.5% to 52%, is the natural average number of White 'superiority'.

My extremely high score is, to reiterate, purely based on my study and understanding of the system — equal positions turned into full points with regularity!

In the book you will find not only a concrete and well-structured move-by-move presentation, but also chapters on the middlegame, endgame and tactics that are typical of this

variation and will help you to understand it better.

The only two things you have to do are: to buy the book (!) and study it!

Note that my research on the games included is up to the middle of January 2020.

Efstratios Grivas  
Sharjah, January 2020

# PART 1.

## THE KING'S INDIAN DEFENCE (E73-75)

The 'King's Indian Defence' is a hypermodern opening, where Black deliberately allows White control of the centre with his pawns, with the view to subsequently challenging it with the moves ...e5 or ...c5.

Until the mid-1930s, it was generally regarded as highly suspect, but the analysis and play of three strong Soviet players in particular, Alexander Konstantinopolsky, Isaac Boleslavsky, and David Bronstein, helped to make the defence much more respected and popular.

'KID' is a dynamic opening, exceptionally complex, and a favourite of such former FIDE World Champions as Garry Kasparov, Bobby Fischer and Mikhail Tal, with prominent Grandmasters such as Viktor Korchnoi, Miguel Najdorf, Efim Geller, John Nunn, Svetozar Gligoric, Wolfgang Uhlmann and others, having also contributed much to the theory and practice of this opening.

Current elite players Hikaru Nakamura, Teimour Radjabov and Ding Liren all play the opening on a regular basis.

The 'Averbakh Variation/System' is identified by the moves **1.d4** ♘f6 **2.c4 g6** 3. ♗c3 ♙g7 **4.e4 d6** 5. ♙e2 **0-0** 6. ♙g5 (named after Yuri Averbakh), which prevents the immediate **6...e5** (6...e5? 7.dxe5 dxe5 8. ♖xd8 ♗xd8 9. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 10. ♗d5, with a double attack on the f6-bishop and c7-pawn).

Black often repels the bishop with ...h6 giving him the option of a later ...g5, though in practice this is a weakening move. White has various ways to develop, such as ♖d2, ♗f3, f4 or even h4.

The old main line in this variation begins with **6...c5** (which keeps the long diagonal open). However, **6...♗bd7** and **6...♗a6** (Judith Polgar's move) are also seen.

The 'Averbakh System' is aimed at deep strategic themes and plans; it is focused on keeping the initiative and, finally and more importantly, it is aimed at gaining a clear path straight out of the opening.

Most of the books that have been written on the 'King's Indian Defence'

take a look at this system only from Black's point of view, mostly proposing wrong, or at least irrelevant, continuations for White.

The first time that I dealt with this system was back in 1981, when my former coach Dr. Nikolai Minev introduced it to me. And I have to say that it has served me well for more than 20 years!

But what is White aiming for? Well, the main 'problem' for White in the 'KID' in general is the opponent's kingside attack, mainly driven by the ...f5 advance.

This 'initiative' creates unbalanced positions, where Black can become dangerous, even if his position might be objectively worse.

The 'Averbakh System' aims to 'slow down' Black by aiming for (among other factors):

1. A good spatial advantage.
2. Better endings, with the bishop pair in many lines.
3. Blocking the centre and the kingside, getting a free hand on the queenside.

Of course, all these are not easy to achieve, but good knowledge and precision can be quite helpful!

## Historical Approach

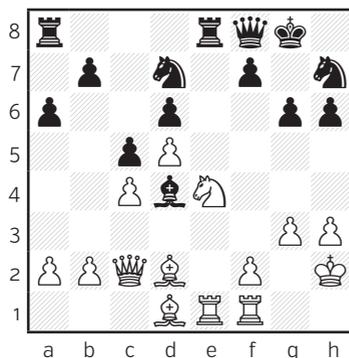
The first time that the 'Averbakh System' appeared in the chess world was back in 1947, in the West-German Championship. The game, as usual, wasn't much for White, so not many followed...

▷ **Hahn Eduard**

▶ **Kraus Rudolf**

**E75** Riedenburg [8] 29.04.1947

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6  
5.♙e2 o-o 6.♙g5 c5 7.d5 e6 8.♘f3 h6  
9.♙d2 exd5 10.exd5 ♖e8 11.o-o ♙g4  
12.h3 ♙xf3 13.♙xf3 ♘bd7 14.♚c2 a6  
15.♙e2 ♘h7 16.♚ae1 ♚h4 17.♙h2  
♙d4 18.g3 ♚f6 19.♘e4 ♚e7 20.♙d1  
♚f8



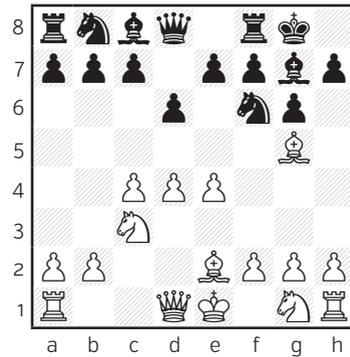
21.♙c3 ♙xc3 22.♚xc3 ♖e7 23.♙a4  
♘b6 24.♙b3 ♚ae8 25.f3 f5 26.♘f2

♔f6 27. ♖xe7 ♜xe7 28. ♚d2 ♛g5  
 29. f4 ♛f6 30. ♚g2 ♛f7 31. ♖e1 ♛e8  
 32. ♖xe7 ♛xe7 33. ♚f3 ♞f6 34. ♛e3  
 ♚f7 35. ♛xe7+ ♚xe7 ½-½

## Starting Out

The 'Averbakh Variation/System' proposed against the 'King's Indian Defence' commences with the moves

1. d4 ♞f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♞c3 ♚g7 4. e4 d6  
 5. ♚e2 o-o 6. ♚g5



And here is where our examination starts!

Efstratios Grivas

# GRIVAS OPENING LABORATORY

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# KEY TO SYMBOLS

=	Equality or equal chances
±	White has a slight advantage
∓	Black has a slight advantage
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+-	White has a decisive advantage
-+	Black has a decisive advantage
∞	unclear
∞	with compensation
↔	with counterplay
↑	with initiative
→	with an attack
Δ	with the idea
□	only move
N	novelty
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
+	check
#	mate



# FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

The series continuing with this book is aimed at offering a full repertoire for White based on **1.d4**.

The idea of small opening repertoire books is not new, but here the purpose and the presentation are different.

The choice of variations against each reply from Black will be mine and will be based on my long experience, having played the game for over 40 years, and also served as a professional coach for approximately 20 of those!

I hope that each book in the series will come out every two months and one to three openings will be offered in each of them.

Maybe not all of the choices will appeal to you, but you should understand that what is important is to learn them in depth, rather than looking for something astounding — this is simply an illusion.

What I mean by this is that nowadays no opening offers all that much; what you can expect is something between a tiny bit better and slightly better, if

you have done your homework! Otherwise there is no point in the Black player following it!

The recommendations are geared towards posing Black unconventional problems. Your opponents will not be able to churn out lengthy, memorised variations but will need to solve problems at the board, in positions that are somewhat different in character from those normally reached in the openings under discussion.

I have also selected the systems within the repertoire in such a way that they form a seamless whole and are also reachable by transpositions.

I have tried to describe the suggested systems in detail, giving my assessments as clearly and responsibly as possible, and have generally aimed to provide useful guidelines as well as many new ideas and moves.

Many things in chess theory, as in life, are relative and a matter of taste. Actually, there are no 'good' or 'bad' openings. There are openings that you know and understand, and openings that you do not know and do not understand.

Thus, I believe that my recommended systems will offer a lot of possibilities, new ideas and practical benefits, aspects that should not be underestimated in modern chess. Among other things, I have tried to make them 'understandable' to you.

This book series' main purpose is to train and educate the reader in territory that is 'unknown' to him. We must not forget that this is a theory book series, where concrete reaction to the opponent's moves is of primary importance.

General principles and plans do merit a place in this project but, in my opinion, move-by-move consideration is most significant.

Of course, it is not necessary to memorise all the variations and moves mentioned in the books — this would probably be impossible.

But then, you may ask, what is the reason for someone to deal with a theory book, one that he does not need to 'memorise' in full?

The theory of 'subconscious education' will help us to answer this question. By playing through the moves and variations in the books, our subconscious processes and stores similar motifs, repeated moves and plans, and also 'learns' to avoid traps and unwelcome positions.

Such proper 'subconscious memorisation' will, at the critical moment, enforce the correct choice upon us.

Many of the opening books I have read mainly focus on the general characteristics of the opening or the variation in question, and much less so on move-by-move theory.

This can lead to unresolved questions in the reader's mind, and the danger that he will mix things up at moments when it is necessary to find one specific concrete move or sequence.

The recommended repertoire is that of a Grandmaster, without omissions or hidden secrets. On the contrary, it contains a great number of new and deeply analysed suggestions, plans, novelties, new ideas, moves, etc!

Let us not forget that the basic characteristics of the openings do not frequently undergo radical changes. On the other hand, the development of move-by-move theory is explosive.

Every chess player stands on the shoulders of those who came before him. Every generation of good chess players learns from and builds upon the experience and creativity of the previous generations.

The chess player of the year 2020 has encountered more types of positions than the chess-player of 1980 and

---

knows the proper ways to deal with these positions.

Therefore, a chess player today would have a great advantage over a chess player (even one of equal or greater talent) of 40 years ago, simply because he could play the opening with deeper understanding; this understanding is offered to him by the multitude of deeply-analysed variations.

On no occasion do I underestimate the necessity and value of learning the general characteristics and plans of each opening or variation. However, I do strongly believe that move-by-move theory and its (at least) subconscious absorption are necessary in order to survive in the labyrinth of the chess openings.

One question often posed by my students is whether we must simultaneously prepare two or more different systems against an opening. My personal opinion is that only professional Grandmasters can afford this luxury.

All other chess players should focus on one specific system every time, so as to specialise in it and reap maximum benefit. Only if this choice eventually proves undesirable should one change his systems.

As Ernest Hemingway once wrote: 'I guess really good soldiers are really good at very little else'.

The massive development of theory in all openings has clarified that White cannot hope for anything more than a slight advantage, but in some cases even this is unattainable! My recommendations are purely based on a healthy approach.

I must clarify that I took the liberty of changing the original move-order of many games. In this way it was possible to provide clearer coverage and guidance.

Of course, the way you reach a certain position is important, but equally important is to examine how you want to proceed upon reaching it. True value comes from knowing what to keep and what to throw away.

Finally, I would to thank my (ex) trainees (among others) GM Antoaneta Stefanova, GM Ioan Cristian Chirila, GM Emre Can, GM Mustafa Yilmaz and GM Alex Ipatov, who adopted my repertoire and contributed to the evolution of the theory.

Efstratios Grivas  
Sharjah, April 2020



# INTRODUCTION

In the third book of the series we are dealing with how to face the 'Queen's Indian Defence', a safe and strategic system which was extremely popular in the 80's but is still played today even at the highest level.

The proposed system is based on the g3 Catalan structure, a system that has served me well for approximately 30 years, scoring a good 75% in a high number of games.

Well, this looks a bit too high, as the general winrate of the variation is 57.5%, when the expected rate is 51.5% to 52%, the natural average number of White's 'superiority'.

My quite high score is purely based on study and understanding of the system, leading to many equal positions being turned into full points!

Then we will move on to study how to face the 'BogoIndian Defence', another solid and strategic system, still seen today in top-level chess.

My proposed system is based on the move 4.♘bd2, a system that has served me well for approximately

30 years, scoring a good 72% across a large number of games.

Well, this looks a bit too high, as the generally expected score of the variation is only 59.0% (much better than 4.♘d2), against the expected White rate of 51.5% to 52%.

My quite high score is again purely based on the study and understanding of this system, converting many equal positions into wins!

Finally, we look at how to face the 'Budapest Gambit' (which includes the 'Fajarowicz Variation'), a mainly tactical system which was never extremely popular but still it is played today, though mostly at the club players' level.

The proposed system is based on the 'Adler Variation', a system that once again has served me well for many decades, scoring 75%, though across a limited number of games.

Well, this looks rather high also, as the 'normal' winrate of the variation stands at 58.5%, against the average expected White rate of 51.5% to 52%.

My quite high score, to reiterate an important point, is purely based on a deep study and understanding of the system, equal positions becoming full points on a regular basis!

In this book you will find not only a concrete and well-structured move-by-move presentation, but also chapters on the middlegame, endgame and tactics, those that are typical for

this variation, in order to help you to better understand it.

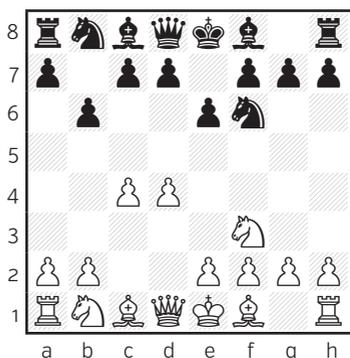
The only two things you have to do are to buy the book (!) and study it! Note that the research on the games included is up to the middle of April 2020.

Efstratios Grivas  
Sharjah, April 2020

# PART 1.

## THE QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENCE (E15-19)

The 'Queen's Indian Defence' (QID) is an opening defined by the moves **1.d4**  
**♞f6 2.c4 e6 3.♞f3 b6**



This opening is considered to be a very solid defence and **3...b6** increases Black's control over the central light squares e4 and d5 by preparing to fianchetto the queen's bishop, with the opening deriving its name from this manoeuvre.

As in the other Indian defences, Black attempts to control the centre with pieces in hypermodern style, instead of occupying it with pawns in classical style.

By playing **3.♞f3**, White sidesteps the 'NimzoIndian Defence' that arises after **3.♞c3 ♞b4**.

The 'Queen's Indian Defence' is regarded as the sister opening of the

'NimzoIndian Defence', since both openings aim to impede White's efforts to gain full control of the centre by playing e4, or d5. Together, they are a well-respected response to **1.d4**.

The system with **4.g3** (ECO E15-E19) has long been White's most popular line against the 'Queen's Indian Defence' and has a lot of similarities with the 'Catalan'.

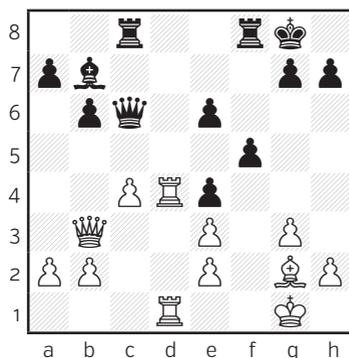
It contests the long diagonal by preparing to fianchetto the light-squared bishop. The standard response for Black through the 1970s was **4...♞b7** (the classical line), but **4...♞a6** (the modern line) has since become the topical approach.

Modern line — **4...♞a6**: White can defend the pawn on c4 with a piece by playing **5.♞bd2**, **5.♞a4**, **5.♞c2**, **5.b3** or **5.♞b3** (the proposed continuation), but these moves all diminish control of d4, making ...c5 (in general) an effective reply for Black.

Classical line — **4...♞b7**: The classical main line of the 'Queen's Indian Defence' and the most frequently played variation from the 1950s until **4...♞a6** became popular in the 1980s, it usually continues: **5.♞g2 ♞e7 6.o-o o-o 7.♞c3 ♞e4 8.♞c2 ♞xc3 9.♞xc3**.

White has a spatial advantage, but Black has no weaknesses and can choose from a variety of ways to create counterplay, such as  $9...c5$ ,  $9...f5$  or  $9...e4$ .

These lines are well known for their drawish tendencies and  $4...b7$  is nowadays often employed by Black as a drawing weapon.



18...  $a6$  19.c5  $e$ x2 20.  $d6$   $c$ x5  
21.  $x$ e6+  $h8$  22.  $d4$   $c1+$   
23.  $f2$   $c2$  0-1

## Historical Approach

The first time that the  $4.g3$  system appeared in the chess world was back in 1920 (at least according to ChessBase MegaBase) although I do believe that there are earlier games...

But anyway, 1920 suits us best, as in this case we do have the 100 years anniversary to celebrate!

Two legends battled out a rather modest game, where Black succeeded in cashing an early point.

▷ **Rubinstein Akiba**

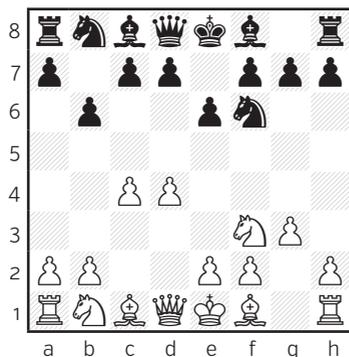
▷ **Bogoljubow Efim**

**E18** Gothenburg [6] 09.08.1920

1.d4  $f6$  2.  $f3$   $e6$  3.c4  $b6$  4.g3  $b7$   
5.  $g2$   $e7$  6.  $c3$   $d5$  7.  $e5$  0-0  
8.0-0  $c5$  9.dxc5  $e$ x5 10.  $f4$   $e4$   
11.  $x$ e4  $d$ x4 12.  $b3$   $c8$  13.  $e3$   
 $e$ x3 14.fxe3  $c6$  15.  $x$ c6  $c$ x6  
16.  $a1$   $a$ c8 17.  $d4$   $f5$  18.  $f$ d1

## Starting Out

The system proposed against the 'Queen's Indian Defence' commences with the moves  $1.d4$   $f6$   $2.c4$   $e6$   $3.f3$   $b6$   $4.g3$

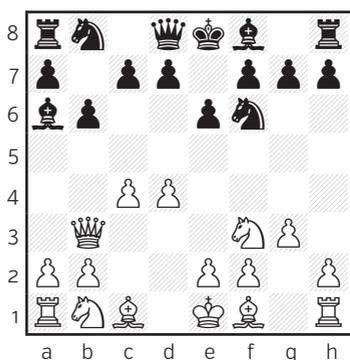


And here is where our examination starts; Black can choose between  $4...a6$  (Modern Line — E15) and  $4...b7$  (Classical Line — E16-19).

# CHAPTER 1.

## THE MODERN 4... ♘a6 [E15]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.g3 ♘a6  
5.♙b3



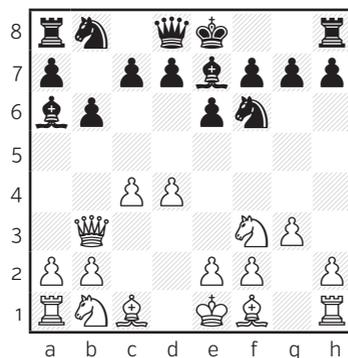
This is the proposed repertoire line.

A few strong players like Vladimir Kramnik, Alexander Morozevich, Boris Gelfand, Loek van Wely, Joel Lautier as well as many others have tried to prove an advantage with the text.

White seems to hold his usual opening tiny/slight advantage without much risk of losing. On the other hand, the opposing side seems to be happy with a draw, even if it includes a bit of suffering... Black can now choose between 5... ♘e7, 5... ♘b7, 5... c5, 5... d5, 5... c6 and 5... ♘c6.

### 1.1 – 5... ♘e7

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.g3 ♘a6  
5.♙b3 ♘e7



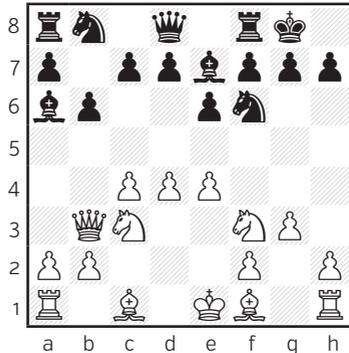
A rather passive continuation, although as nearly always in the 'QID' it is quite solid. I slightly prefer White as he seems to be in the driver's seat.

6.♘c3 o-o

As 6... ♘c6?! 7.e4 ♘a5 8.♙a4± is unsatisfactory, Black might try 6... ♘b7 7.♘g2 ♘c6 8.♙d1! (8.o-o!? is interesting: 8... ♘a5 9.♙a4 ♘c6! [9... ♘e4?! 10.♘xe4 ♘xe4 11.♘e5 ♘xg2 12.♙xg2± Sargissian,G-Jobava,B Abu Dhabi 2003] 10.♙c2 ♘xc4 11.e4±) 8... ♘a5 (8...o-o 9.o-o±) 9.b3 d5 10.cxd5

exd5 11.o-o o-o 12. ♖b2 c5 13.dxc5 (13. ♘e5!? ♗c6 14.e3±) 13...bxc5 14.e3± Beliavsky,A-Nikolic,P Celje 2003.

### 7.e4



### 7...c5

As 7...d5? 8.cxd5 ♖xf1 9.♗xf1 exd5 10.e5 ♗fd7 11.♗xd5± is unplayable, Black's main option should be found in 7...♖b7 8.♖d3! (8.d5 exd5 9.exd5 ♖e8! [9...c6 10.♖g2 ♗a6 11.o-o ♗c5 {11...cxd5 12.cxd5 ♖b4 {12...♗b4 13.♖d1±} 13.♗h4! ♖xc3 14.bxc3 ♗c5 15.♗d1±} 12.♗d1 cxd5 13.cxd5± Lautier,J-Sokolov,A Aix les Bains 2003] 10.♖e2 c6 11.o-o cxd5 12.cxd5 ♗a6∞) 8...♗c6 (8...d5?! 9.cxd5 exd5 10.e5 ♗e4 11.♗c2 f5 12.exf6 ♗xf6 13.♗g5 ♗c6 14.♖xh7+ ♗h8 15.♖e3! [15.♗e6? ♗xd4 16.♗xd4 ♗xh7 17.♗e6 ♗d7 18.♗xf8 ♖xf8 19.♖e3 d4 20.o-o-o ♖xh1-+ Morozevich,A-Svidler,P Monte Carlo 2007] 15...♗b4 16.♗b1±) 9.o-o (9.d5 ♗b4 10.♖e2 exd5 11.exd5 c6∞) 9...d6 10.♖e3±

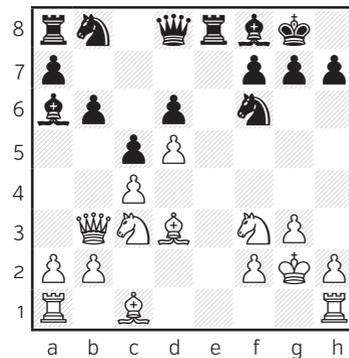
### 8.d5 exd5

8...d6 9.♖h3 ♖c8 10.♖g2 e5 11.o-o± might be a better try, but it is hardly appealing.

### 9.exd5

Black has managed to stabilise the situation in the centre, but faces the difficult task of activating his queen's bishop.

9...♖e8 10.♖d3! ♖f8+ 11.♗f1 d6 12.♗g2±

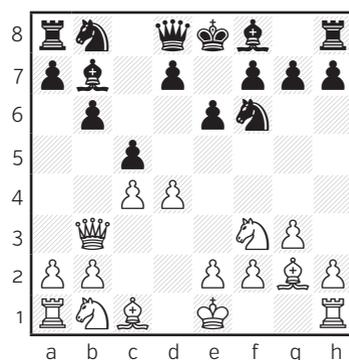
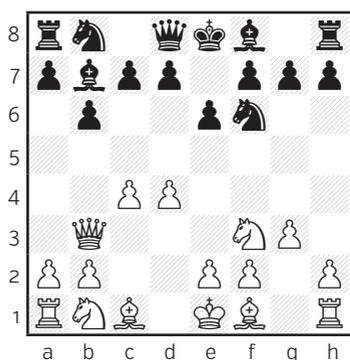


Morozevich,A-Leko,P Morelia/Linares 2007. White's spatial advantage is a great plus, while Black hardly has any good plans at his disposal.

## 1.2 – 5... ♖b7

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 b6 4.g3 ♖a6 5.♗b3 ♖b7

A natural response, taking control over the critical squares d5 and e4 and preparing an eventual ...c5 advance.



## 6. ♗g2

White can also think of 6. ♗c3 ♗c6 (6... ♗e4 7. ♗g2 ♗xc3 8. ♖xc3 d6 9. o-o ♗d7 10. b3 ♗e7 11. ♗b2 o-o 12. ♖ad1 a5 13. ♖c2± Grivas, E-Yakubboev, N Sharjah 2018) 7. e4 ♗a5 8. ♖c2 ♗b4 9. ♗d3 ♗xc3+ 10. bxc3 d6 11. o-o c5 12. d5 o-o 13. dxe6 (13. e5? dxe5 14. ♗xe5 exd5 15. ♗g5 h6 16. ♗xf6 ♖xf6 17. ♗d7 ♖c6 18. ♗xf8 dxc4 19. ♗e4 ♖xe4 20. ♖xe4 ♗xe4 21. ♗d7 f6+- Narciso Dublan, M-Lenic, L Iraklion 2007) 13... ♖e7 (13... fxe6?! 14. ♗g5 ♖e7 15. e5 dxe5 16. ♗xh7+ ♗h8 17. ♗g6±) 14. ♗g5 h6 15. exf7+ ♗h8 16. f4! (16. ♗h3 ♖xf7 17. ♗f4 ♗g4 18. ♗e2 ♗e5 19. f3 ♖ae8± Romanov, E-Urkedal, F Norway 2016) 16... hxg5 17. fxg5 ♖xf7 (17... ♗d7? 18. g6+-) 18. gxh6 ♖xf6 19. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 20. ♗f4±

## 6...c5

The natural follow-up. Passive is 6... ♗e7 7. o-o o-o 8. ♗c3 d6 9. ♖d1 ♗bd7 10. ♖c2± Grivas, E-Nikolic, S Aegina 1995.

## 7.d5!

Also possible is 7. o-o — see Sub-Chapter 1.1.

## 7...exd5

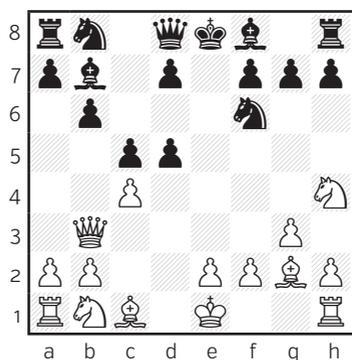
Black can choose some other pawn structure:

a) 7...d6 8. ♗c3 e5?! (Black decides on a totally different approach, closing up the position and a 'King's Indian Defence' type of position arises, rather than the usual 'Benoni Defence'-like positions that arise after 8...exd5) 9. o-o g6 10. e4 ♗g7 11. ♗e1! (The correct approach. White will place his knight on d3 and then he will try to open the position. His spatial advantage will tell in the end.) 11...o-o 12. ♗g5 ♗bd7 13. ♗d3± Van Wely, L-Dao, T Mallorca 2004.

b) 7... ♗e7 8. ♗c3 exd5 9. cxd5 o-o 10. e4 (10. o-o d6 11. ♗d2 a6 12. a4 ♗bd7 13. ♗c4 ♖c7 14. e4 ♖fe8 [14... ♖ab8?! 15. f4± Berczes, D-Varasdy, I Hungary 2012] 15. ♗d2 ♖ab8 16. ♖fe1±

Tunik,G-Soltanici,R Minsk 2005) 10... d6 11.0-o  $\text{♞bd7}$  12.  $\text{♙f4}$   $\text{♞h5}$  13.  $\text{♙e3}$   $\text{♞e8}$  14.  $\text{♞ad1}$   $\text{♙f8}$  15.  $\text{♞fe1}\pm$  Nikitin,A-Smirnov,I Alushta 2002.

### 8. $\text{♞h4}$



### 8...g6

Probably best, taking care of the e5-square. Another way is 8...  $\text{♞c6}$  (8...  $\text{dxc4?}$  9.  $\text{♞e3}++$ ) 9.  $\text{cxd5}$   $\text{♞d4}$  10.  $\text{♞d1}$   $\text{♞xd5}$  11.  $\text{e3}$  (11.0-o!  $\text{g5}$  12.  $\text{♞f3}$   $\text{♞e6}$  13.  $\text{♞e5}\pm$ ) 11...  $\text{g5}$  12.0-o!  $\text{♞c6}$  (12...  $\text{gxf4}$  13.  $\text{exd4}\pm$ ) 13.  $\text{♙xd5}$  (13.  $\text{♞f5}!?$   $\text{♞c7}$  14.  $\text{♙d2}$  [14.  $\text{e4}$   $\text{♞f6}$  15.  $\text{♙d2}$   $\text{♞g8}$  16.  $\text{♙c3}$   $\text{♞g6}$  17.  $\text{♞d2}$  0-o-0  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Chirila,I-Xu,G Orlando 2014] 14...  $\text{d5}$  15.  $\text{♙c3}$   $\text{♞g8}$  16.  $\text{♞h5}\cong$ ) 13...  $\text{gxf4}$  14.  $\text{♞c3}$   $\text{♞e7}$  15.  $\text{♞h5}\cong$  Morchat,M-Galkiewicz,D Augustow 1996.

### 9. $\text{cxd5 d6}$

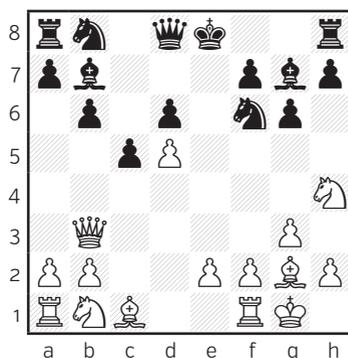
Possible is 9...  $\text{♙g7}$  10.  $\text{♞e3+}$   $\text{♙f8}$  (10...  $\text{♞e7?}$  11.  $\text{♞xe7+}$   $\text{♙xe7}$  12.  $\text{d6}++$ ) 11.  $\text{♞c3}$   $\text{d6}$  12.0-o (12.  $\text{f4}$   $\text{♞a6}$  13.  $\text{♞d2}$   $\text{♞c7}$  14.0-o  $\text{b5}$  15.  $\text{e4}$   $\text{b4}$  16.  $\text{♞d1}$   $\text{♞d7}$  17.  $\text{♞c2}$   $\text{♞b5}$  18.  $\text{♞f3}$   $\text{♞c7}$  19.  $\text{♙e3}\pm$  Sebenik,M-Schneider Zinner,H

Aschach 2005) 12...  $\text{♞a6}$  13.  $\text{♞d2}$   $\text{♞d7}$  14.  $\text{e4}\pm$  Meister,P-Priehoda,V Germany 1997.

### 10.0-0

10.  $\text{♞c3}$  is mostly a transposition: 10...  $\text{♙g7}$  (10...  $\text{a6}$  11.  $\text{♙g5}$   $\text{♙e7}$  12.  $\text{a4}$  0-o 13.0-o  $\text{♞bd7}$  14.  $\text{♙h6}$   $\text{♞e8}$  15.  $\text{h3}$   $\text{♙f8}$  16.  $\text{♙xf8}$   $\text{♞xf8}$  17.  $\text{e4}$   $\text{♞h5}$  18.  $\text{♞f3}$   $\text{♞d7}$  19.  $\text{♞d2}\pm$  Kiproski,B-Matic,P Belgrade 2019) 11.  $\text{♞a4+?!}$  (11.  $\text{♙f4}\pm$ ) 11...  $\text{♞d7}$  12.  $\text{♞xd7+}$   $\text{♞bxd7}$   $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Jaeger,F-Hanssen,G Kalottturneringen 2004.

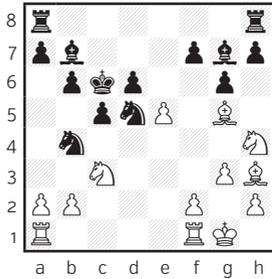
### 10... $\text{♙g7}$



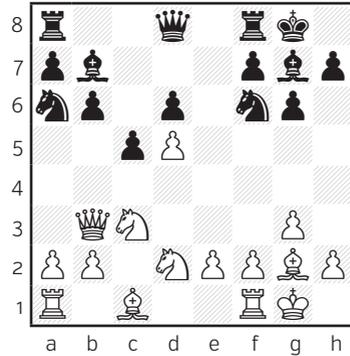
### 11. $\text{♞c3}$

11.  $\text{♞e3+}$  looks like a valuable choice: 11...  $\text{♞e7}$  12.  $\text{♞xe7+}$   $\text{♙xe7}$  13.  $\text{♞c3}$   $\text{♞bd7}$  (13...  $\text{a6?}$  14.  $\text{e4}$   $\text{♞bd7}$  15.  $\text{f4!}$   $\text{♞hb8}$  16.  $\text{e5!}$   $\text{dxe5}$  17.  $\text{fxe5}$   $\text{♞xe5}$  18.  $\text{♙g5}$   $\text{♞ed7}$  19.  $\text{♞e4}$   $\text{h6}$  20.  $\text{♙xf6+}$  1-o Huzman,A-Pikula,D Biel 2002; 13...  $\text{♞a6}$  14.  $\text{e4}$   $\text{♞b4}$  15.  $\text{♞d1}$  [15.  $\text{e5?!}$   $\text{♞fxd5}$  [15...  $\text{♞e8?!}$  16.  $\text{♙g5+}$   $\text{f6}$  17.  $\text{exf6+}$   $\text{♙xf6}$  18.  $\text{♞ae1+}$   $\text{♙f7}$  19.  $\text{♞e4}$   $\text{♙xd5}$  20.  $\text{♙xf6}$   $\text{♞xf6}$  21.  $\text{♞xd6+}$   $\text{♙f8}$  22.  $\text{a3}\pm$  Riazant-

sev,A-Grigoriants,S Moscow 2006}  
 16. ♖g5+ ♔d7 17. ♖h3+ ♔c6



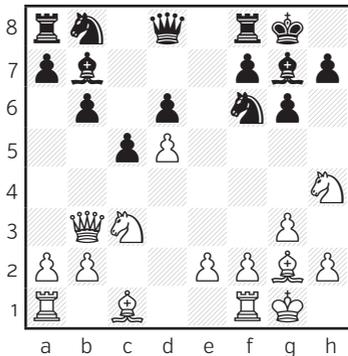
12... ♖a6 13. ♖d2



18. ♖g2 ♔d7=] 15... ♖d7 16. ♖f1±)  
 14.e4 ♖g4 15. ♖g5+ ♔f8 (15... ♖f6?!  
 16. ♖xf6+ ♔xf6 17.h3 ♖ge5 18.f4±  
 Mekhitarian,K-Veiga,E Maraba 2014)  
 16. ♖f4 ♔e7 17. ♖b5±

Barlov,D-Dizdarevic,E Banja Vru-  
 cica 1991. White has achieved the  
 usual spatial advantage and has the  
 c4-square for his knight. A typical  
 ‘Benoni Defence’ set-up, where White  
 should feel quite comfortable.

11...O-O

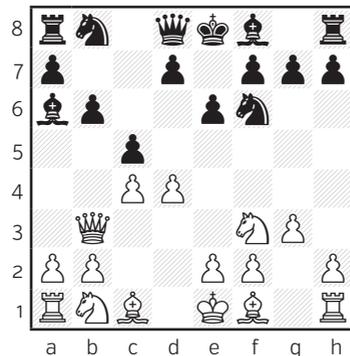


12. ♖f3

A flexible move, compared to the  
 12. ♖e1 a6 13.a4 ♖bd7 14. ♖f4 ♔c7  
 15. ♖ad1 ♖fe8 16.h3 ♖e5 17. ♔c2 ♔d7  
 18. ♔b3 ♔c7 19. ♔c2 ♔d7 20. ♔b3  
 ½-½ of Erdos,V-Hambleton,A Karl-  
 sruhe 2017, or 12.e4 ♖a6 13.a3 ♖c7  
 14. ♖f4 ♖h5 15. ♖e3 ♖f6 16. ♖f3±  
 Purenne,B-Maupin,J Avoine 2011.

### 1.3 – 5...c5

1.d4 ♖f6 2. ♖f3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.g3 ♖a6  
 5. ♔b3 c5



This move leads to another ‘Benoni  
 Defence’ (or Hedgehog) pawn struc-  
 ture position types.

White benefits as in the very similar  
5... ♖b7.

### 6.d5

6. ♖g2 ♖b7 7.d5, transposes to  
Sub-Chapter 1.2. White can also try  
7.o-o!? cxd4 8. ♗xd4 ♖xg2 ♘xg2

a) 9... ♖e7?! 10. ♖f3 d5 (10... ♗a6  
11. ♗c3 o-o 12. ♖d1±) 11. ♗c3 ♖b4  
12. ♖d1± Georgiev,K-Olafsson,H  
Saint John 1988.

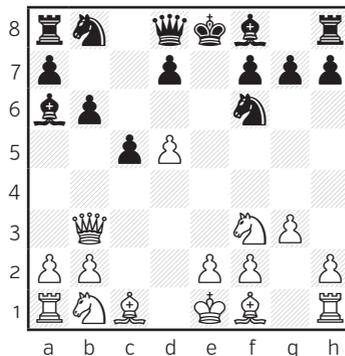
b) 9...a6 10. ♖f3 (10. ♖f4 d6 11. ♖d1  
♗bd7 12. ♗f3 ♖c7 13. ♗c3 ♖e7  
14. ♖a3± Bunzmann,D-Vavrak,P  
Oropesa del Mar 1998) 10... ♖a7  
11. ♗c3±

c) 9... ♖c5 10. ♖d1 o-o 11. ♗c3 a6  
12. ♖f4± Fillion,S-Gauthier,D Mon-  
treal 2003.

d) 9... ♖c7 10. ♖f3 ♗c6 11. ♖f4 ♖b7  
12. ♗b5 ♖c8 13. ♗1c3 (13. ♗d2!? a6  
14. ♗d6+ ♖xd6 15. ♖xd6±) 13...  
a6 14. ♗d6+ ♖xd6 15. ♖xd6±  
Sorin,A-Olszewski,M Buenos Aires  
2006:

e) 9... ♗c6 10. ♗xc6 dxc6 11. ♖f3  
(11. ♖g5 ♖e7 12. ♗c3 o-o 13. ♖xf6  
♖xf6 14. ♖ad1 ♖c7 15. ♗e4 ♖e7=  
Reich,T-Graf,F Germany 2009) 11...  
♖c7 (11... ♖c8 12. ♗c3 ♖e7 13. ♖f4  
o-o 14. ♖fd1± Kempinski,R-Socko,B  
Germany 2003) 12. ♗c3 ♖d8 13. ♖f4  
♖d6 14. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 15. ♖ad1 ♖xd1  
16. ♖xd1 ♖e7 17. ♗e4 ♗xe4 18. ♖x-  
e4± Grivas,E-Fish,G Iraklion 1995.

### 6...exd5 7.cxd5



### 7...d6

Black's alternatives are:

a) 7...c4 8. ♖e3+! ♖e7 9. ♗c3 ♖xe3  
10. ♖xe3 ♖b4 11. ♖d4!? (11.o-o-o  
♖xc3 12.bxc3 ♖b7 13. ♖d4 ♗xd5  
14. ♖xg7 ♖g8 15. ♖d4± Ren-  
man,N-Schneider,L Eksjo 1981) 11...  
♖e7! (11... ♗xd5?! 12. ♖xg7 ♖g8  
13.o-o-o! ♗e7 [13... ♖xc3 14. ♖xc3  
♗xc3 15.bxc3 ♖b7 16. ♖h3! b5  
17. ♖f5±] 14. ♖e5 ♗bc6 15. ♗e4 o-o-o  
[15... ♗xe5? 16. ♗f6+-] 16. ♗d6+  
♖xd6 17. ♖xd6± Epishin,V-Koma-  
rov,D St Petersburg 1997) 12.o-o-o  
d6 (12... ♖e8? 13.d6+! ♖xd6 14. ♖xf6+  
gxf6 15. ♗d5+ ♖d8 16. ♗xf6 ♖e6  
17. ♗xh7+-; 12... ♖b7? 13.e4 ♖xc3  
14. ♖xc3 ♗xe4 15. ♖e1 f5 [15... ♖xd5  
16. ♗d2 f5 17.f3+-] 16. ♗g5 ♖f8  
17. ♗xe4 fxe4 18. ♖xc4+-) 13.e4 ♗bd7  
14. ♗h4±

b) 7...g6 8. ♖f4 (8. ♖g2 ♖g7 9. ♖e3+  
♖e7 10. ♖xe7+ [10. ♗c3 d6 11.o-o  
♗bd7 12. ♖e1 b5 13.a3 ♗g4 14. ♖xe7+  
♖xe7 15. ♖g5+ ♖f6 16. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6

Efstratios Grivas

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# KEY TO SYMBOLS

=	Equality or equal chances
±	White has a slight advantage
∓	Black has a slight advantage
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+-	White has a decisive advantage
-+	Black has a decisive advantage
∞	unclear
∞	with compensation
↔	with counterplay
↑	with initiative
→	with an attack
Δ	with the idea
□	only move
N	novelty
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
+	check
#	mate



# FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

The series continuing with this book is aimed in offering a full repertoire for White based on **1.d4**.

The idea of small opening repertoire books is not new, but here the purpose and the presentation are different.

The choice of variations against each reply from Black will be mine and will be based on my long experience, having played the game for over 40 years, and also served as a professional coach for approximately 20 of those!

I hope that each book in the series will come out every two months and one to three openings will be offered in each of them.

Maybe not all of the choices will appeal to you, but you should understand that what is important is to learn them in depth, rather than looking for something astounding — this is simply an illusion.

What I mean by this is that nowadays no opening offers all that much; what you can expect is something between a tiny bit better and slightly better, if

you have done your homework! Otherwise there is no point in the Black player following it!

The recommendations are geared towards posing Black unconventional problems. Your opponents will not be able to churn out lengthy, memorised variations but will need to solve problems at the board, in positions that are somewhat different in character from those normally reached in the openings under discussion.

I have also selected the systems within the repertoire in such a way that they form a seamless whole and are also reachable by transpositions.

I have tried to describe the suggested systems in detail, giving my assessments as clearly and responsibly as possible, and have generally aimed to provide useful guidelines as well as many new ideas and moves.

Many things in chess theory, as in life, are relative and a matter of taste. Actually, there are no 'good' or 'bad' openings. There are openings that you know and understand, and openings that you do not know and do not understand.

Thus, I believe that my recommended systems will offer a lot of possibilities, new ideas and practical benefits, aspects that should not be underestimated in modern chess. Among other things, I have tried to make them ‘understandable’ to you.

This book series’ main purpose is to train and educate the reader in territory that is ‘unknown’ to him. We must not forget that this is a theory book series, where concrete reaction to the opponent’s moves is of primary importance.

General principles and plans do merit a place in this project but, in my opinion, move-by-move consideration is most significant.

Of course, it is not necessary to memorise all the variations and moves mentioned in the books — this would probably be impossible. But then, you may ask, what is the reason for someone to deal with a theory book, one that he does not need to ‘memorise’ in full?

The theory of ‘subconscious education’ will help us to answer this question. By playing through the moves and variations in the books, our subconscious processes and stores similar motifs, repeated moves and plans, and also ‘learns’ to avoid traps and unwelcome positions. Such proper ‘subconscious memorisation’ will, at the critical moment, enforce the correct choice upon us.

Many of the opening books I have read mainly focus on the general characteristics of the opening or the variation in question, and much less so on move-by-move theory.

This can lead to unresolved questions in the reader’s mind, and the danger that he will mix things up at moments when it is necessary to find one specific concrete move or sequence.

The recommended repertoire is that of a Grandmaster, without omissions or hidden secrets. On the contrary, it contains a great number of new and deeply analysed suggestions, plans, novelties, new ideas, moves, etc!

Let us not forget that the basic characteristics of the openings do not frequently undergo radical changes. On the other hand, the development of move-by-move theory is explosive.

Every chess player stands on the shoulders of those who came before him. Every generation of good chess players learns from and builds upon the experience and creativity of the previous generations.

The chess player of the year 2020 has encountered more types of positions than the chess-player of 1980 and knows the proper ways to deal with these positions.

Therefore, a chess player today would have a great advantage over a chess player (even one of equal or greater

talent) of 40 years ago, simply because he could play the opening with deeper understanding; this understanding is offered to him by the multitude of deeply-analysed variations.

On no occasion do I underestimate the necessity and value of learning the general characteristics and plans of each opening or variation. However, I do strongly believe that move-by-move theory and its (at least) subconscious absorption are necessary in order to survive in the labyrinth of the chess openings.

One question often posed by my students is whether we must simultaneously prepare two or more different systems against an opening. My personal opinion is that only professional Grandmasters can afford this luxury.

All other chess players should focus on one specific system every time, so as to specialise in it and reap maximum benefit. Only if this choice eventually proves undesirable should one change his systems. As Ernest Hemingway once wrote: 'I guess really good soldiers are really good at very little else'.

The massive development of theory in all openings has clarified that White cannot hope for anything more than a slight advantage, but in some cases even this is unattainable! My recommendations are purely based on a healthy approach.

I must clarify that I took the liberty of changing the original move-order of many games. In this way it was possible to provide clearer coverage and guidance.

Of course, the way you reach a certain position is important, but equally important is to examine how you want to proceed upon reaching it. True value comes from knowing what to keep and what to throw away.

Finally, I would like to thank my ex-students GMs Antoaneta Stefanova, Alex Ipatov, Emre Can and Ion Chirila (among others), for adopting the variations, at least from time to time!

Efstratios Grivas  
Sharjah, July 2020



# DESCRIPTION

In the fourth book of the series we will deal with 'Queen's Gambit' structures, and more specifically:

The 'Queen's Gambit Accepted', a quiet system which aims to preserve simple and equal/drawish positions (from Black's point of view!) and is played today at all levels.

Our proposed system is based on the move 4.♘a3, a system that I haven't played much (except lately!), but then the 'QGA' is a rare bird as well...

The 4.♘a3 system scores approximately 52%, when the expectation of 51.5% to 52% is the average number of White's 'superiority'.

Then we will deal with how to face the 'Ragozin Variation' of the 'QGD', an ambitious system which aims at getting lively positions and again is played today at all levels.

Our proposed approach is based on the 5.cxd5 exd5 6.♙g5 system, with which I have played a few good games over the last 30 years, but this variation is rather a 'rare bird' as well...

The proposed system scores roughly 55%, a good number compared to the average expected White 'superiority' of 51.5% to 52%.

We then continue with the 'brother' variation of the Ragozin, the 'Vienna Variation' of the 'QGD', which is also an ambitious system.

Our chosen system is based on the 6.♙g5 line, which is the main preference of the top players.

The proposed system scores a healthy 53.5%, again against the average expected score of 51.5% to 52%.

Finally, we will deal with the 'Lasker Variation' of the 'QGD', a quiet system which, as with the QGA, aims to preserve simple and equal/drawish positions (from Black's point of view!) and is still played nowadays at all levels.

The proposed system is based on the move 9.♖c1, a system that I have played in a few games over the last 25 years, but the variation is not played too much anyway.

The 9.♔c1 system scores an excellent 59%, again when 51.5% to 52% is the natural average number of white 'superiority'.

In the book you will find not only a concrete and well-structured, move-by-move presentation, but also chapters on the middlegame, endgame and tactics, those that are typical for this variation and will help you to understand it better.

The only two things you have to do are to buy the book (!) and study it!

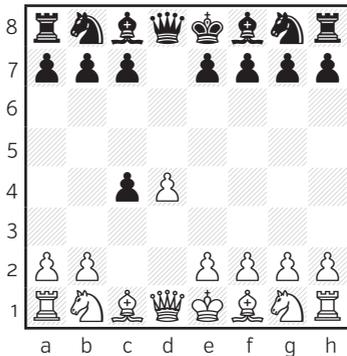
Note that the research on the games included is up to the middle of July 2020.

Efstratios Grivas  
Sharjah, July 2020

# PART 1.

## THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT ACCEPTED (D23)

The 'Queen's Gambit Accepted' (QGA) is characterised by the moves **1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4**



It is the third most popular option on Black's second move, after **2...e6** ('Queen's Gambit Declined') and **2...c6** ('Slav Defence').

This is an opening where slow and subtle manoeuvres are often necessary to complete development. White will try to exploit an advantage in space and development, while Black will defend the position and aim for queenside (mainly) counterplay.

The 'Queen's Gambit' is not considered a true gambit, in contrast to the 'King's Gambit', because the pawn is either regained, or can only be held unprofitably by Black.

Black usually allows the pawn to be recaptured, and uses the time expended to play against White's centre.

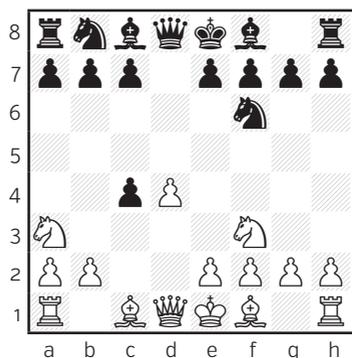
As Black's **2...dxc4** surrenders the centre, White will try to seize space in the centre and use it to launch an attack on Black's position. Black's game is not devoid of counter-chances, however.

If the white centre can be held at bay, Black will try to weaken White's central pawns to gain an advantage in the ensuing endgame by playing ...c5 and ...cxd4, at some stage, and if White responds with exd4, the result will be an isolated pawn on d4 — which can also lead to a keen middlegame battle.

If White recaptures with a piece on d4 instead, the centre will be liquidated and a fairly even game will usually ensue.

### System's X-Ray

So, after **3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♗a3** we have the system that will serve us in our proposed repertoire:



A ‘decent’ chess player might ask: What is this? Well, White avoids the well-known paths and looks for some interesting new ways to try for an advantage in the ‘QGA’.

What are White’s main play characteristics (‘desires’)? We could draw a table as follows:

1. Recapturing the c4-pawn with his knight and not with his light-squared bishop. He will then gain better control over the e5-square, and in general his knight will be quite well placed.
2. He could try to achieve the f3/e4 pawn formation which will ensure him a strong pawn centre.
3. He could place his light-squared bishop on the long diagonal (g3, ♘g2) achieving some nice ‘Catalan’ positions.
4. Of course, the familiar and modest set-up with e3 also comes to mind.

5. White must keep in mind that a queen sortie with ♙b3 (when Black has developed his light-squared bishop) might prove very helpful.

All of the above may well arm the player of the white pieces with numerous nice feelings and a misleading opinion that he can simply grab a big, secure advantage.

But, alas, no sound opening can offer more than a tiny opening advantage; otherwise it would simply be a bad opening!

Black devotees of the ‘QGA’ have to work on more ‘serious’ problems and usually pay no (or very little) attention to the line starting with 4. ♘a3.

But I have to confess that I am not fond of just ‘opening tricks’ in general, so the question is if the line is also a serious one.

In my opinion it is a very interesting set-up and it is certainly worth trying. By studying and getting the required knowledge, players of the white pieces can have a big advantage over their opponents.

But of course, as long as he remembers the various possibilities, the various patterns of pawn formations, piece placements and repeated tactics!

All these can easily form a strong weapon, which can also often prove lethal.

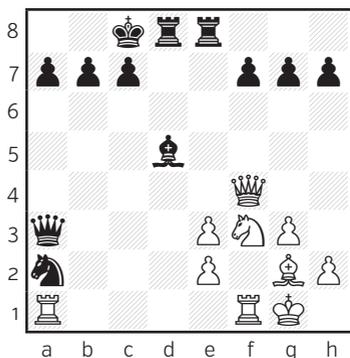
## Historical Approach

It seems that the 4. ♘a3 system was introduced quite late; in 1967, at least according to ChessBase — MegaBase.

It was introduced by the great Paul Keres, but it could be hardly be called a success for White, who was just lucky enough to save the draw:

- ▷ **Keres Paul**
- ▷ **Gurgenidze Bukhuti**
- D23** Rapina 07.07.1967

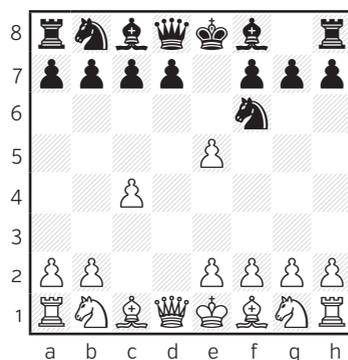
1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3. ♘f3 ♘f6 4. ♘a3 e5 5. ♘xc4 e4 6. ♘g1 ♙b4+ 7. ♙d2 ♚xd4 8. ♙xb4 ♚xc4 9. ♙a3 e3 10.fxe3 ♘c6 11. ♘f3 ♙d7 12. ♚d3 ♚a4 13.g3 o-o-o 14. ♙g2 ♙e6 15. ♚c3 ♘e4 16. ♚c1 ♚a5+ 17.b4 ♘xb4 18.o-o ♘xa2 19. ♚c2 ♚xa3 20. ♚xe4 ♙d5 21. ♚f4 ♚he8



22. ♘e5 f6 23. ♘d3 ♙xg2 24. ♚xg2 ♚b3 25. ♚f5+ ♙b8 26. ♚fb1 ♚c4 27. ♚c5 ♚e4+ 28. ♚g1 ♚d5 29. ♚c6 ♚xe3+ 30. ♚h1 ♚e4+ 31. ♚g1 ½-½

## Starting Out

The system proposed against the ‘Queen’s Gambit Accepted’ commences with the moves 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3. ♘f3 ♘f6 4. ♘a3



From here Black can choose between:

A. What we will call ‘Various Lines’, and these are: 4...c6, 4... ♙f5, 4... ♙g4, 4...c3, 4... ♚d5, 4...g6, 4...a6 and 4... ♘c6, and;

B. What we will call ‘Main Lines’, and these are: 4... ♙e6, 4...e5, 4...e6 and 4...c5.



# CHAPTER 1.

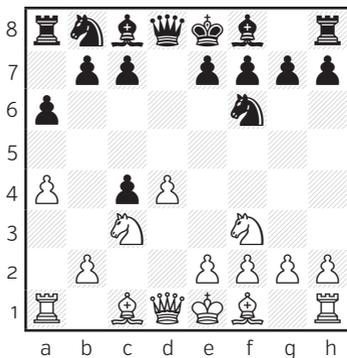
## VARIOUS LINES

### 1.1 – 3...a6

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.♘f3 a6

Before we dive into the main menu, we should be aware of an early 3...a6. After

4.a4 ♘f6 5.♘c3

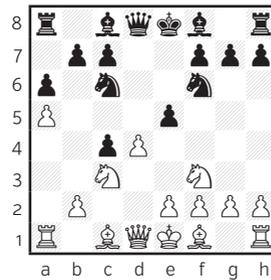


If White doesn't wish to enter the following positions, he can opt for 5.e3 e6 6.♙xc4 c5 7.o-o ♘c6 8.♚e2! (8.♘c3?! ♙e7 9.♚e2 cxd4 10.♞d1 e5=) 8...♙e7 9.♞d1± Aronian,L-Morozevich,A Moscow 2006. But this of course is another big chapter...

Now we have reached the starting point of the analysis:

a) 5...♘c6 6.a5 (the point of White's play, not allowing ...♘a5. But the a5-pawn will soon be lost...)

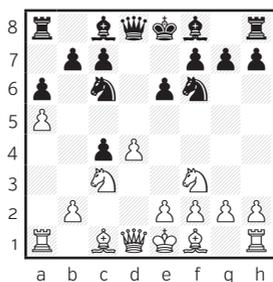
a1) 6...e5?!



7.d5 ♘d4 8.♘xd4 exd4 9.♚xd4 ♙b4 10.♙g5 o-o 11.♙xf6 ♚xf6 12.♚xf6 gxf6 13.e3± Genov,P-Ermenkov,E Elenite 1993.

a2) 6...♙g4 7.d5 ♙xf3 (7...♘a7 8.♘e5 ♘b5 9.♘xg4 ♘xg4 10.e4 ♘e5 11.f4 ♘d3+ 12.♙xd3 cxd3 13.♚xd3± Guliev,S-Mirzoev,A Baku 1997) 8.gxf3 ♘b8 (8...♘e5 9.f4 ♘ed7 10.e4± Mamedyarov,S-Alekseenko,K Moscow 2019) 9.e4 e5 10.♙xc4 ♙d6 11.♚b3± Saric,A-Deris,A Zagreb 2014.

a3) 6...e6

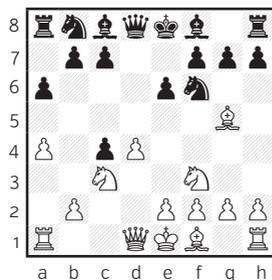


7.e3 (White can try to be more active by 7.e4!?  $\text{f}4$  8.  $\text{g}5$  h6 9.  $\text{xf}6$   $\text{xf}6$  10.  $\text{xc}4$  [10.e5  $\text{e}7$  11.  $\text{xc}4$  o-o 12.  $\text{e}2$   $\text{xa}5$  13.  $\text{d}3$   $\text{d}7$  14.  $\text{e}4$  g6 15.  $\text{f}4$   $\text{g}7$  16.o-o  $\text{xc}3$  17.bxc3  $\text{b}5$  18.  $\text{xb}5$  axb5 19.  $\text{ab}1$  c6  $\bar{c}6$  Garcia,A-Ibragimov,I Groningen 1994] 10...o-o 11.o-o [White will lose the a5-pawn, but hopes to use his superiority in the centre] 11... $\text{d}8$  [11...  $\text{xa}5$  12.  $\text{e}2$   $\text{b}6$  13.e5  $\text{e}7$  14.  $\text{d}3$   $\text{b}4$  15.  $\text{e}4$   $\text{d}7$  16.  $\text{a}3$   $\text{c}6$  17.  $\text{g}4$   $\cong$  Autenrieth,M-Hertneck,G Germany 1985] 12.e5  $\cong$  Thorfinnsson,B-Postny,E Budapest 2003] 7...  $\text{b}4$  8.  $\text{xc}4$  o-o (8...  $\text{xa}5$  9.o-o  $\text{xc}3$  10.bxc3  $\cong$  Claes,J-Laruelle,L Tessengerlo 2003) 9.o-o (Obviously White will lose the a5-pawn, but he will try to create an initiative in the centre and on the kingside. The truth is that Black can preserve a balanced position, but still, the positions to come are quite interesting)

**a31)** 9...  $\text{xa}5$  10.  $\text{e}2$  (10.d5 exd5 11.  $\text{xd}5$   $\text{xd}5$  12.  $\text{xd}5$   $\text{b}6$  13.  $\text{b}3$   $\text{f}6$  14.  $\text{a}4$  h6 15.  $\text{f}4$   $\text{e}7$  16.  $\text{h}4$   $\cong$  Benito Alba,E-Hermida Rivero,E Calvia 2003) 10...  $\text{b}6$  11.  $\text{d}1$   $\text{e}7$  12.e4  $\cong$  Burillo Rodriguez,C-Villuendas Valero,A Spain 2011.

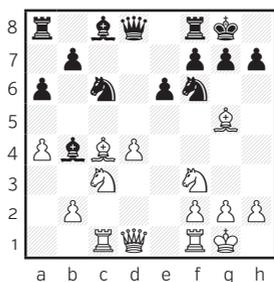
**a32)** 9...  $\text{xa}5$  10.  $\text{d}3$  c5 11.dxc5  $\text{c}6$  (11...  $\text{xc}5$  12.  $\text{c}2$   $\text{e}7$  13.  $\text{d}2$   $\text{c}6$  14.  $\text{e}4$   $\cong$ ) 12.  $\text{c}2$  (12.  $\text{e}4$   $\text{xe}4$  13.  $\text{xe}4$   $\text{xd}1$  14.  $\text{xd}1$   $\text{xc}5$  15.  $\text{d}2$   $\cong$ , or 12.  $\text{a}4$  e5 13.e4  $\text{g}4$  14.  $\text{e}3$   $\text{e}7$   $\bar{c}6$  Galeev,S-Ponfilenok,V Kazan 2007) 12...h6 13.  $\text{e}4$  (13.  $\text{a}4$   $\text{e}7$  14.e4 e5 15.h3  $\text{e}6$  16.  $\text{e}3$   $\text{ac}8$  17.  $\text{c}4$   $\text{cd}8$  18.  $\text{xe}6$   $\text{xe}6$  19.  $\text{fd}1$   $\text{a}5$  1/2-1/2 Dzanev,G-Todorov,K Ruse 2017) 13...  $\text{xe}4$  14.  $\text{xe}4$   $\text{e}7$  15.  $\text{d}4$  =

**b)** 5...e6 6.  $\text{g}5$



**b1)** 6...c6 7.a5 c5 (7...  $\text{bd}7$  8.e3 b5 9.axb6  $\text{xb}6$  10.  $\text{e}5$   $\cong$  Girya,O-Zhukova,N St Petersburg 2018) 8.d5  $\text{e}7$  9.e4 (9.  $\text{xf}6$   $\text{xf}6$  10.e4  $\text{xc}3$  + 11.bxc3 exd5 12.  $\text{xd}5$   $\cong$  Arkell,K-Juergens,P Copenhagen 1994) 9...exd5 (9...o-o? 10.d6!  $\text{xd}6$  11.e5+- Rogozenco,D-Tran,M Moscow 2018; 9...  $\text{xd}5$  10.  $\text{xd}5$  exd5 11.  $\text{xd}5$   $\cong$ ) 10.exd5 o-o 11.  $\text{xc}4$   $\cong$  Melkumyan,H-Ragger,M Austria 2016.

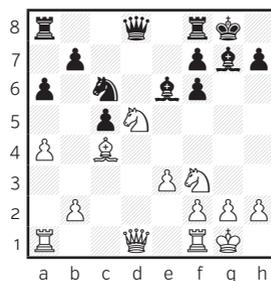
**b2)** 6...  $\text{b}4$  7.e3 c5 8.  $\text{xc}4$  cxd4 9.exd4  $\text{c}6$  10.o-o o-o 11.  $\text{c}1$



11... e7 (11... xc3?! 12. xc3 a5 13. d3 h6 14. h4 c6 15. e5± Deng,Y-Wang,Z Xingtai 2018; 11... b8 12. d3 [12.d5! a5 13. a2±] 12... e7 13. f4 d6 14. e5 c7 15. e4 xe4 16. xe4 d7 17. b4 f6 18. h5 fe5 19. xh7+ 1-0 Krasteva,B-Arauco Celestino,A Porto Carras 2018) 12. e1 (12. xf6?! xf6 13. d5 exd5 14. xd5 b6 15. b3 xb3 16. xb3 g4± Polarczyk,P-Nasuta,G Lublin 2007) 12...h6 (12... d7 13. d5!? [13. d2 b4 14. e5 c6∞ Quinn,M-Magem Badals,J Escaldes 1998] 13... xd5 14. xd5 xg5 [14...exd5 15. xd5 e6 16. xd8 xd8 17. xe6 fe6 18. xd8 axd8 19. xe6±] 15. xg5 xg5 16. b6 ad8 17. xd7 e7 18. xf8 xd1 19. exd1 xf8 20. xa6 bxa6 21. xc6±) 13. f4 xd7 14. d5± Kasparov,G-Nogueiras Santiago,J Belfort 1988.

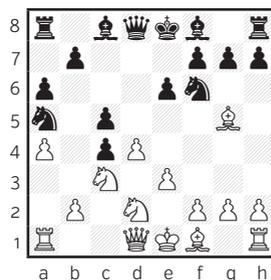
**b3)** 6...c5 7. xf6 (7.e3 cxd4 8.exd4 c6 9. xc4 e7 10.0-0 0-0 11. e1± Wang,H-Volokitin,A Calimanesti Caciulata 2016) 7...gxf6 (7... xf6 8.d5 exd5 9. xd5 d8 10.e3 c6 11. xc4 d6 12.0-0 0-0 13.h3 e8 14. c2± Khalifman,A-Ivanov,S

St Petersburg 1998) 8.d5 exd5 9. xd5 g7 10.e3 c6 11. xc4 e6 12.0-0 0-0



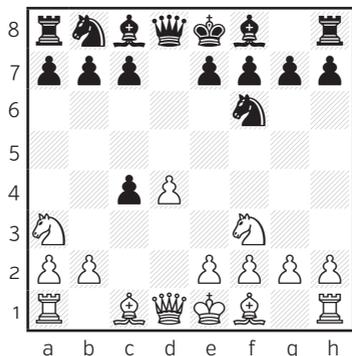
13. c1! a5 (13... xd5 14. d1 d4 15. xd4 xc4 16. f3±) 14. d1± Jakovenko,D-Lysyj,I Kazan 2014.

**b4)** 6...c6 7.e3 (7.e4 a5 8. c2 e7 9. d1 h6 10. xf6 xf6 11.e5 e7 12.d5 0-0∞ Mamedyarov,S-Anand,V Kolkata 2018) 7... a5 8. d2 (8. e5 c5 9. xc4 cxd4 10. xd4 xd4 11.exd4 dxc4 12. xc4 e7 13. f4 d7 14. d5 c8 15.dxe6 xc4 16.exd7+ xd7 17.0-0-0+ c6 18. e5 d8 19. xd8 xd8 20. b3 c5 21. d4 f5 22. f3 b6 23. xb6 xb6 24. e1 c5 25. d2 d5 26. xd5+ xd5+ 27. c3 c5+ 28. d2 d5+ 29. c3 ½-½ Topalov,V-Ding,L Abidjan 2019) 8...c5



9.dxc5 (9. ♖xf6 ♔xf6 10.d5 ♔g6  
11. ♔f3 exd5 12. ♘xd5 ♖d6 13.h3  
o-o 14. ♘xc4 ♘xc4 15. ♖xc4 ♖f5  
16. ♘c3 ♖e5 17.o-o ½-½ Bruzon Ba-  
tista,L-Liang,A Saint Louis 2018)  
9... ♖xc5 10. ♖xc4 ♖d7 (10... ♘xc4  
11. ♘xc4 ♔xd1+ 12. ♔xd1±) 11.o-o±/=  
Bu,X-Vallejo Pons,F China 2018.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3. ♘f3 ♘f6 4. ♘a3

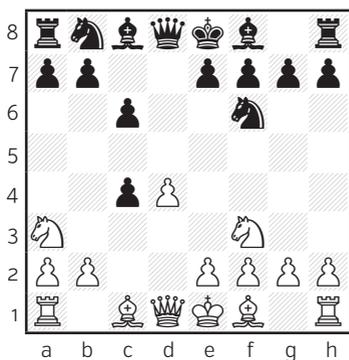


Here is the starting position of the ‘Various Lines’ Chapter. As has already been mentioned, Black can opt for 4...c6, 4... ♖f5, 4... ♖g4, 4...c3, 4... ♔d5, 4...g6, 4...a6 and 4... ♘c6.

## 1.2 – 4...c6

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3. ♘f3 ♘f6 4. ♘a3 c6

Not really advisable, as Black transposes to an unfavourable ‘Slav Defence’ — compare, for example, with the line 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3. ♘f3 ♘f6 4. ♘bd2 dxc4 5. ♘xc4.



5. ♘xc4 e6 6.g3

Possible is 6.e3 c5 7. ♖e2 ♘c6 8.o-o cxd4 9.exd4 ♖e7 10. ♖f4± Habershon,P-Price,A Llandudno 2017, but the text is the principal continuation.

6...b5

6... ♖b4+ 7. ♖d2 ♖xd2+ 8. ♔xd2± Fahnenschmidt,G-Bebersdorf,C Biel 1979, is an excellent ‘Catalan’ version for White, while 6...c5 is simply a tempo down on the 4...c5 line: 7. ♖g2 ♘c6 8.o-o cxd4 9. ♖f4 (9.a3 ♖e7 10.b4 ♘d5 11. ♖b2 ♘c3 12. ♖xc3 dxc3 13. ♔c1± Gagunashvili,M-Grachev,B Moscow 2006) 9... ♖e7 10. ♘ce5 (10. ♘fe5 ♘d5 11. ♘xc6 bxc6 12. ♔xd4 o-o 13. ♔fd1± Mareco,S-Quintiliano Pinto,R Sao Paulo 2015) 10... ♖d7 11. ♘xd4 ♘d5 12. ♘f5± Murillo Tsijli,A-Alfaro Rojas,A San Jose 2010.

7. ♘ce5 ♖b7 8. ♖g2 ♖e7

Playable is 8... ♘bd7 9.o-o ♖e7 (10. ♔b3 o-o 11. ♔d1, looks better) 10. ♖g5± Smirnov,V-Sharevich,A

Efstratios Grivas

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# KEY TO SYMBOLS

=	Equality or equal chances
±	White has a slight advantage
∓	Black has a slight advantage
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+-	White has a decisive advantage
-+	Black has a decisive advantage
∞	unclear
∞	with compensation
↔	with counterplay
↑	with initiative
→	with an attack
Δ	with the idea
□	only move
N	novelty
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
+	check
#	mate



# FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

The series continuing with this book is aimed at offering a full repertoire for White based on **1.d4**.

The idea of small opening repertoire books is not new, but here the purpose and the presentation are different.

The choice of variations against each reply from Black will be mine and will be based on my long experience, having played the game for over 40 years, and also served as a professional coach for approximately 20 of those!

I hope that each book in the series will come out every two months and one to three openings will be offered in each of them.

Maybe not all of the choices will appeal to you, but you should understand that what is important is to learn them in depth, rather than looking for something astounding — this is simply an illusion.

What I mean by this is that nowadays no opening offers all that much; what you can expect is something between a tiny bit better and slightly better, if

you have done your homework! Otherwise there is no point in the Black player following it!

The recommendations are geared towards posing Black unconventional problems. Your opponents will not be able to churn out lengthy, memorised variations but will need to solve problems at the board, in positions that are somewhat different in character from those normally reached in the openings under discussion.

I have also selected the systems within the repertoire in such a way that they form a seamless whole and are also reachable by transpositions.

I have tried to describe the suggested systems in detail, giving my assessments as clearly and responsibly as possible, and have generally aimed to provide useful guidelines as well as many new ideas and moves.

Many things in chess theory, as in life, are relative and a matter of taste. Actually, there are no 'good' or 'bad' openings. There are openings that you know and understand, and openings that you do not know and do not understand.

Thus, I believe that my recommended systems will offer a lot of possibilities, new ideas and practical benefits, aspects that should not be underestimated in modern chess. Among other things, I have tried to make them 'understandable' to you.

This book series' main purpose is to train and educate the reader in territory that is 'unknown' to him. We must not forget that this is a theory book series, where concrete reaction to the opponent's moves is of primary importance.

General principles and plans do merit a place in this project but, in my opinion, move-by-move consideration is most significant.

Of course, it is not necessary to memorise all the variations and moves mentioned in the books — this would probably be impossible.

But then, you may ask, what is the reason for someone to deal with a theory book, one that he does not need to 'memorise' in full?

The theory of 'subconscious education' will help us to answer this question. By playing through the moves and variations in the books, our subconscious processes and stores similar motifs, repeated moves and plans, and also 'learns' to avoid traps and unwelcome positions.

Such proper 'subconscious memorisation' will, at the critical moment, enforce the correct choice upon us.

Many of the opening books I have read mainly focus on the general characteristics of the opening or the variation in question, and much less so on move-by-move theory.

This can lead to unresolved questions in the reader's mind, and the danger that he will mix things up at moments when it is necessary to find one specific concrete move or sequence.

The recommended repertoire is that of a Grandmaster, without omissions or hidden secrets. On the contrary, it contains a great number of new and deeply analysed suggestions, plans, novelties, new ideas, moves, etc!

Let us not forget that the basic characteristics of the openings do not frequently undergo radical changes. On the other hand, the development of move-by-move theory is explosive.

Every chess player stands on the shoulders of those who came before him. Every generation of good chess players learns from and builds upon the experience and creativity of the previous generations.

The chess player of the year 2020 has encountered more types of positions than the chess-player of 1980 and

knows the proper ways to deal with these positions.

Therefore, a chess player today would have a great advantage over a chess player (even one of equal or greater talent) of 40 years ago, simply because he could play the opening with deeper understanding; this understanding is offered to him by the multitude of deeply-analysed variations.

On no occasion do I underestimate the necessity and value of learning the general characteristics and plans of each opening or variation. However, I do strongly believe that move-by-move theory and its (at least) subconscious absorption are necessary in order to survive in the labyrinth of the chess openings.

One question often posed by my students is whether we must simultaneously prepare two or more different systems against an opening. My personal opinion is that only professional Grandmasters can afford this luxury.

All other chess players should focus on one specific system every time, so as to specialise in it and reap maximum benefit. Only if this choice eventually proves undesirable should one change his systems.

As Ernest Hemingway once wrote: 'I guess really good soldiers are really good at very little else'.

The massive development of theory in all openings has clarified that White cannot hope for anything more than a slight advantage, but in some cases even this is unattainable! My recommendations are purely based on a healthy approach.

I must clarify that I took the liberty of changing the original move-order of many games. In this way it was possible to provide clearer coverage and guidance.

Of course, the way you reach a certain position is important, but equally important is to examine how you want to proceed upon reaching it. True value comes from knowing what to keep and what to throw away.

Finally, I would like to thank my ex-students GMs Antoaneta Stefanova, Alex Ipatov, Emre Can and Ion Chirila among others), for adopting the variation, at least from time to time!

Efstratios Grivas  
Sharjah, September 2020



# DESCRIPTION

In the fifth book of the series we continue to deal with 'QGD' schemes.

We will start by dealing with how to face 'Various Lines' in the 'QGD'.

Well, these sidelines are considered to be 'second-hand' and rightly so! They can be good for rapid or blitz games but are rarely adopted by top, or even simply good players, with very few exceptions from time to time.

There is no real point in talking about statistics, as these lines are usually played from the black side by lower-rated players, so the results strongly favour White.

It must also be noted that there are plenty of possibilities to further improve the white side as well, as a lot of games are played at club level, where the white player is 'weak' as well!

Generally, I cannot suggest these lines to any player playing Black, as they are 'fishy' and rarely helpful in the development of a chess player.

But the truth is that the 'Baltic Defence' and the 'Symmetrical/Austrian

Defence' are quite playable and need 'special care' and preparation to face, something I cannot say for the 'Albin Counter-Gambit' and the 'Marshall Defence!'

The second line we will examine is the so-called 'Chigorin Defence', which can be quite dangerous for White, as Black seeks early piece counterplay.

My proposed line scores a solid 59%, but the games in question number approximately 210, so the sample is not so big.

Then we move on to the infamous 'Tarrasch Defence'.

This is an opening that enjoyed great popularity in the 80s', mainly owing to the success of the FIDE's 13<sup>th</sup> World Champion, Garry Kasparov. But today it seems that it has vanished from top-flight play, unlike the 'Semi-Tarrasch Defence', which has enjoyed a great comeback.

Well, Black is ready to accept an isolated pawn in return for active play, but with the help of chess engines everything seems to be kept at bay nowadays.

For this reason (mainly) White (with the suggested lines) scores a healthy 59.1%, which is way above the 52% that is the general (approximate) White ‘advantage’.

However, this doesn’t sound logical, as the general score across all variations sits at 51.8%, when the average expected number of white ‘superiority’ is 51.5% to 52%, but we will see why this is so.

Finally, we deal with how to face the ‘Semi-Tarrasch Defence’.

This is a solid system for Black, which lately has been adopted by many top-level players, unlike the ‘Tarrasch Defence’.

With our proposed system to face it, White scores a very healthy 58.8%, which looks quite enticing.

In this book you will find not only a concrete and well structured move-by-move presentation, but also chapters on the middlegames, endgames and tactics that are typical for this variation, which together will help you to understand it better.

The only two things you have to do are to buy the book (!) and study it!

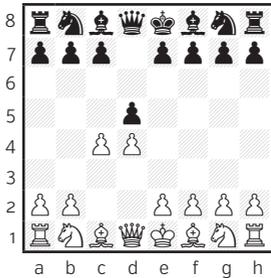
Note that the research on the games included is up to mid-September 2020.

Efstratios Grivas  
Sharjah, September 2020

# PART 1.

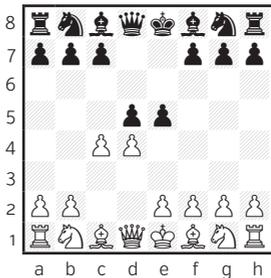
## QGD – VARIOUS LINES (D06-D08)

In the 'Queen's Gambit Declined' (QGD) there are numerous sidelines, which we will examine in this chapter. After the moves **1.d4 d5 2.c4**

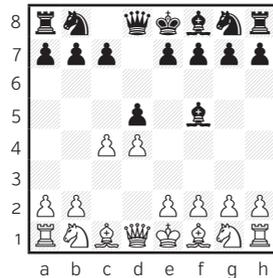


The various sidelines from this position are:

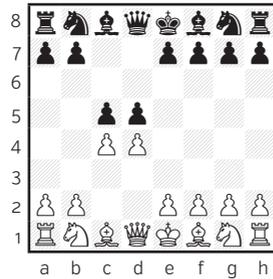
Chapter 1. The Albin Counter-Gambit: **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5**



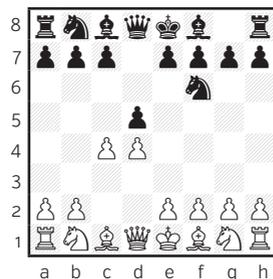
Chapter 2. The Baltic Defence: **1.d4 d5 2.c4 ♗f5**



Chapter 3. The Symmetrical/Austrian Defence: **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c5**



Chapter 4. The Marshall Defence: **1.d4 d5 2.c4 ♞f6**

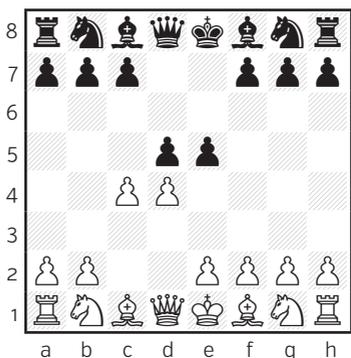




# CHAPTER 1.

## THE ALBIN COUNTER-GAMBIT

The 'Albin Counter-Gambit' is characterised (after **1.d4 d5 2.c4**) by the move **2...e5**



The 'Albin Counter-Gambit' is an uncommon defence, where in exchange for the gambit pawn, Black has a central wedge at d4 and gets some chances for an attack. Often White will try to return the pawn at an opportune moment to gain a positional advantage.

In the 'Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings' the opening is assigned under the codes Do8 and Dog.

### Historical Approach

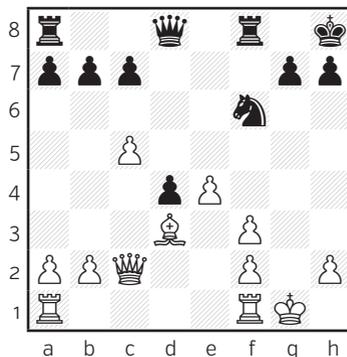
Although this opening was originally played by Mattia Cavallotti against

Carlo Salvioli at the Milan tournament of 1881, it takes its name from Adolf Albin, who played it against Emanuel Lasker in New York 1893.

Though it is not played frequently at master level, the Russian GM Alexander Morozevich has made some successful use of it.

- ▷ **Salvioli Carlo**
- ▷ **Cavallotti Mattia**
- Do8** Milan 08.09.1881

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.e4 ♘c6**  
**5.♗f3 ♕g4 6.♕f4 f6 7.exf6 ♘xf6**  
**8.♕d3 ♕b4+ 9.♕d2 o-o 10.o-o**  
**♕xd2 11.♗bxd2 ♘e5 12.c5 ♖h8**  
**13.♙c2 ♕xf3 14.♗xf3 ♘xf3+ 15.gxf3**



15...♘h5 16.♔h1 ♖xf3 17.♚e2 ♚f6  
 18.e5 ♚f4 19.♚e4 ♚xe4 20.♙xe4  
 ♜f4 21.♙xb7 ♜b8 22.♙c6 ♜xb2  
 23.e6 ♘f6 24.e7 ♜b8 25.♜ab1 ♜c8  
 26.♜b7 ♜f5 27.♜e1 d3 28.♜xc7 ♜b8  
 29.e8♚+ ♘xe8 30.♜xe8+ ♜xe8  
 31.♙xe8 d2 32.♙a4 g6 33.♙g2 ♜e5  
 34.c6 ♜a5 35.♙b3 ♜xa2 36.♜c8+  
 ♙g7 37.♜g8+ ♔f6 38.c7

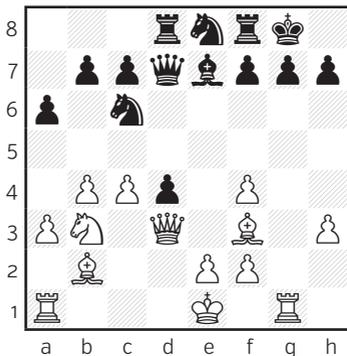
1-0

### ▷ Lasker Emanuel

#### ▶ Albin Adolf

Do8 New York 16.10.1893

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.♘f3 ♘c6  
 5.a3 ♙g4 6.h3 ♙xf3 7.gxf3 ♘xe5 8.f4  
 ♘c6 9.♙g2 ♚d7 10.b4 a6 11.♙b2  
 ♜d8 12.♘d2 ♘ge7 13.♘b3 ♘f5  
 14.♚d3 ♙e7 15.♙e4 ♘d6 16.♘c5  
 ♚c8 17.♙f3 o-o 18.♜g1 ♘e8 19.♘b3  
 ♚d7



20.o-o-o ♚d6 21.♔b1 ♚xf4 22.♜g4  
 ♚h6 23.♙xc6 bxc6 24.♜xd4 ♜d6  
 25.c5 ♜e6 26.♚xa6 ♚hx3 27.♜4d3  
 ♚g2 28.♘d4 ♜f6 29.♜e3 ♙d8  
 30.♘c2 ♜xf2 31.♜xd8 1-0

## The Lasker Trap

The black pawn at d4 is stronger than it may appear. The careless move 4.e3? can lead to the 'Lasker Trap'. After 4... ♙b4+ 5.♙d2 dxe3 6.♙xb4?, Black plays 6...exf2+ 7.♙e2 fxg1♘+! and wins. 'The Lasker Trap' is notable because it is rare to see an underpromotion in practical play.

## The Spassky Variation

In the 'Spassky Variation' White plays 4.e4, to take advantage of the fact that an en passant capture must be made immediately after the enemy pawn advances. So now after 4... ♙b4+ 5.♙d2, the capture 5...dxe3 is no longer available to Black.

## Starting Out

The main line continues 3.dxe5 d4 4.♘f3 ♘c6, when White's suggested option is 5.♘bd2.

In the 'Albin Counter-Gambit' Black sacrifices a pawn in order to gain more space on the board and disturb the normal development of White's pieces.

His plan is either to create quick pressure in the centre and on the king-side with ...♙e6 (or ...♙g4), ...♚d7 and ...o-o-o, or to regain the pawn quickly with ...♘ge7-g6.

The good results with the ‘Albin Counter-Gambit’ achieved by Alexander Morozevich and Rustam Kasimdzhanov show that even strong GMs can face difficulties with the white pieces.

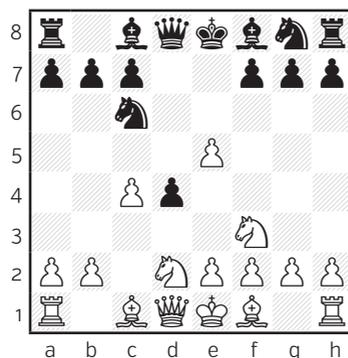
The suggested system with 5. ♖bd2 is a very flexible one, which doesn’t reveal White’s intentions yet. First of all he protects the pawn on c4 (in case of ... ♗e6) and the knight on f3 (in the case of ... ♗g4). However, White’s main idea in this system is to quickly attack the pawn on d4!

In fact, with 5. ♖bd2, it is White who tries to create quick pressure on Black’s position and this is exactly what this system is all about — White plays very concretely against the black pawn on d4.

Since White’s main plan is to play ♖b3, he usually needs to play a3 in order to prevent a check from b4. Besides, the move a3 prepares b4. The ideal scenario for White is to play a3, b4, ♖b3 and ♗b2, after which the d4-pawn inevitably falls.

Black tries to prevent this (usually by counter-attacking the pawns on c4 or e5).

So, after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4. ♖f3 ♖c6 5. ♖bd2

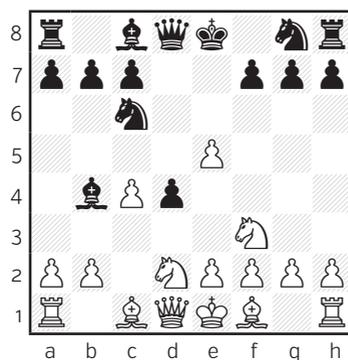


Black can opt for 5... ♗b4, 5...f6, 5... ♗g4, 5... ♗e6 and 5... ♖ge7.

Other ‘second-hand’ lines are even worse, but anyway, as was already mentioned, this is not a sound system, but probably interesting enough if it is played in rapid or blitz games!

## 1.1 – 5... ♗b4

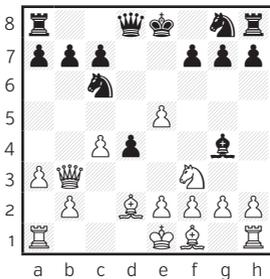
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4. ♖f3 ♖c6 5. ♖bd2 ♗b4?!



A dubious move which stops White's plan, but on the other hand it gives up the bishop pair...

**6.a3!** ♖xd2+ 7. ♗xd2

White can also opt for the other capture (planning o-o-o) with 7. ♖xd2 ♗g4 8. ♗b3



And now:

**a)** 8... ♗c8 9. o-o-o ♖ge7 10. ♖g5 ♖f5 11. h3 ♖xf3 12. exf3 h6 13. ♖d2± Marshall, F-Reggio, A Monte Carlo 1903.

**b)** 8... ♖b8 9. o-o-o (9. ♖g5 ♖ge7 10. o-o-o o-o 11. e3± Marshall, F-Showalter, J Lexington 1909) 9... ♖ge7 10. e3±

**c)** 8... ♗d7 9. h3 ♖xf3 10. gxf3 ♖ge7 11. f4 o-o 12. o-o-o± Livaic, D-Jakovljević, R Zagreb 2010.

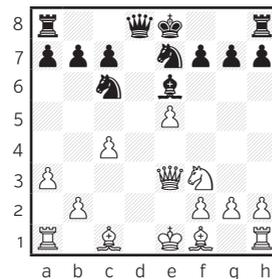
**d)** 8... ♖ge7 9. o-o-o (9. h3 ♖xf3 10. gxf3 ♖xe5 11. f4 [11. o-o-o ♗d6 12. f4 ♗c6 13. ♖g1 ♖xc4 14. ♖g2± Smith, V-Defibaugh, J Parsippany 2007] 11... ♖5c6 12. o-o-o ♗c8 13. ♖g2± Gomez Olivares, A-Moya

Pol, A Palma de Mallorca 2012) 9... o-o 10. e3 ♖g6 11. exd4 (11. ♖b4 ♖xf3 12. gxf3 ♖xb4 13. ♖xd4 ♗e7 14. axb4 ♖xe5 15. ♖e2±) 11... ♖xd4 12. ♗e3 c5 13. ♖c3 ♗e7 14. ♖xd4 cxd4 15. ♖xd4 ♖xf3 16. gxf3 ♗xe5 17. ♗xe5 ♖xe5 18. f4±

**7... ♖g4**

Alternatives also fail to impress:

**a)** 7... ♖e6 8. e3 (8. b3 ♖ge7 9. ♖b2 ♖g6 10. ♖xd4± Dumesnil, A-Kerbaol, J Fouesnant 2004) 8... dxe3 9. ♗xe3 ♖ge7



10. ♗c3 (10. ♖d3 ♖f5 11. ♖xf5 ♖xf5 12. o-o o-o 13. b3 ♖e8 14. ♖b2 ♗e7 15. ♖fe1± Buganca, L-De Souza, A Florianopolis 2020) 10... ♗d7 11. ♖e2 o-o-o 12. ♖g5 h6 13. ♖d1 ♗e8 14. ♖xd8+ ♗xd8 15. ♖e3± Urkedal, F-Kocevar, T Pula 2013.

**b)** 7... ♖ge7 8. b3 (8. b4 ♖g6 9. ♖b2 o-o 10. ♖xd4± Kamrukov, A-Romanov, V Novosibirsk 2008; 8. e3 dxe3 9. ♗xd8+ ♖xd8 10. ♖xe3 ♖g4 11. ♖e2± Litrento, O-De Souza, L Rio de Janeiro 2002) 8... ♖g4 9. ♖b2 ♖xf3 10. exf3 ♗d7 11. o-o-o ♖d8

12.f4± Omorjan,D-Klingher,D Porec 2015.

c) 7...f6 8.exf6 ♘xf6 9.e3 (9.♖d3 ♙g4 10.♙g5 0–0≙ Knaak,H-Aepfler,G Bad Sooden 2011) 9...dxe3 (9...♖e7 10.♘xd4±) 10.♖xd8+ ♘xd8 11.♙xe3±

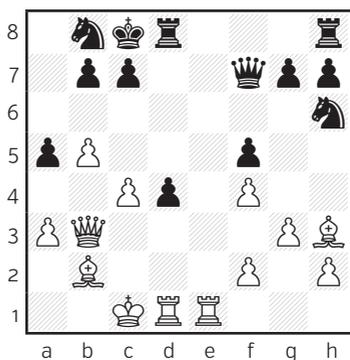
### 8.b4!

The expansion on the queenside is even better than the modest 8.b3 ♙xf3 9.gxf3 ♘xe5 10.f4 ♘c6 11.♙b2 ♖h4 12.e3 ♘f6 13.♙g2± Rioridan,C-Sagalchik,G Boston 2001.

8...♙xf3 9.exf3 ♘xe5 10.♙b2 ♖e7 11.0–0–0 0–0–0 12.f4 ♘c6 13.g3 f5

13...b6? weakens the queenside and the black king as well: 14.♙h3+ ♔b8 15.♙g2 ♖d6 16.♖d3 ♘ge7 17.♖f3 a6 18.♖xd4 1–0 Tsai,C-Sagalchik,O Seattle 2003.

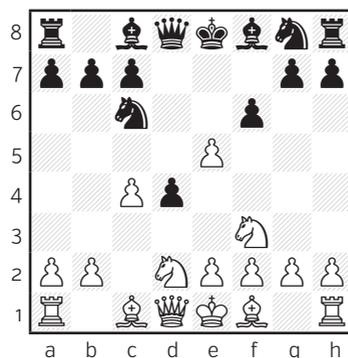
14.b5 ♘b8 15.♙h3 ♘h6 16.♖he1 ♖f7 17.♖b4 a5 18.♖b3±



Fine,R-Adams,W New York 1944. White has a clear advantage due to his bishop pair and pressure on the d4-pawn.

## 1.2 – 5...f6

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.♘f3 ♘c6 5.♘bd2 f6



A pawn sacrifice for better development.

6.exf6 ♘xf6

6...♖xf6 is the other main capture: 7.g3 ♙g4 (7...♙f5 8.♙g2 0–0–0 9.0–0 g5 10.♖a4 [10.a3!? ♘ge7 11.♘e1±] 10...♙b8 11.♘b3± O’Hanlon,J-Euwe,M Broadstairs 1921) 8.♙g2 0–0–0 9.h3 ♙h5 (9...♙f5 10.0–0 g5 11.♖a4± Teichmann,R-Mieses,J Berlin 1910) 10.0–0 d3 11.♘b3 dxe2 12.♖xe2± Garcia Gil,J-Romero Perera,E Santa Eulalia de Roncana 2010.

7.g3