



Building a Reti Repertoire

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Chess Stars Publishing

Building a Reti Repertoire

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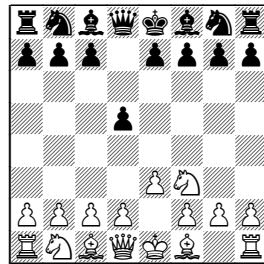
Chess Publishing (www.chesspublishing.com)

Introduction

In many aspects this book builds upon my work with Kiril Georgiev *The Modern English* vol. 2. It is based on the same active positional treatment of the centre with c4 and e3. However, the move order with 1.♘f3 aims to cut off the main answer to 1.c4 – 1...e5, which was the basic complaint of our readers about the English. Of course, there is always a trade-off. 1.♘f3 d5 2.c4 allows 2...d4. Although only 7% answer 1.♘f3 d5 2.c4 by 2...d4 and even less – 1.♘f3 d5 2.e3!? by 2...c5 3.c4 d4, we should be prepared for all eventualities.

Some players simply ignore the problem of ceding space and play the Reversed Benoni with 1.♘f3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.g3. I adhere to those who think that we should fight for every inch of the board, so I consider in this book several more principled solutions.

Part 1 deals with the consequences of 1.♘f3 d5 2.e3.

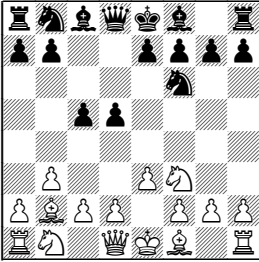


In the previous century such development was scornfully classified as “irregular opening”. Nowadays it is one of the most topical lines, and many call it “the Keymer System” after the 19-year-old German prodigy. To be fair, Carlsen, Ding Liren, Nakamura, Mamedyarov and many other GMs also embrace it more or less regularly. The logic behind 2.e3 is simple – we prevent ...d4 and want to transpose to the English with c2-c4 next. So Black’s most principled answer should be 2...c5 to revive the ...d4 idea. Then we face a choice:

Part 3 2...c5 3.b3 is for those who do not like gambits and seek clear strategic play.

Introduction

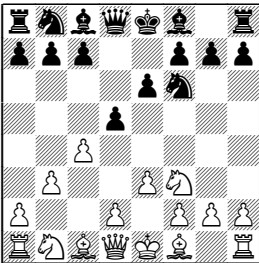
This move order transposes to the Nimzo-Larsen System. The b3-fianchetto is no good if Black did not play ...c5 because Black can lead out his c8-bishop, but in our case it offers White chances to gain the initiative – 3...♗f6 4.♙b2



We only should opt for central plans instead of one-sided attack with f4, ♜f3, which should not succeed against good defence.

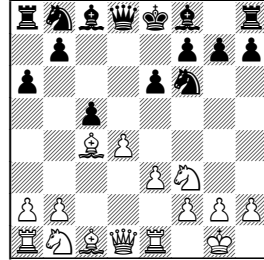
Thus we meet 4...e6 by 5.c4 (Chapter 8) and 4...♗c6 by 5.♙b5, followed by d2-d4 (but not d2-d3!) – Chapter 9.

I allocated in this part the specific move order 2.e3 ♗f6 3.c4 e6 4.b3 (Chapter 10).



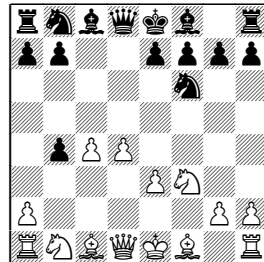
Formally it belongs to Part 1, but the early b3 corresponds with the ideas of the Nimzo-Larsen Sys-

tem. If you wonder why I suggest 4.b3 instead of 4.♗c3, the answer is that I would not like to play the QGA with ♗c3 as happens after 4.♗c3 dxc4!. My proposition against 2.e3 ♗f6 3.c4 dxc4 4.♙xc4 e6 5.0-0 c5 is 6.d4 a6 7.♞e1!?



A very hot system, and again our hero Keymer is involved! It is important that our knight is still on b1. That allows us to attack ...b7-b5 with a2-a4 without having to lose a tempo after ...b5-b4. See Chapter 6.

The other option after 2.e3 c5 is 3.c4 – Part 1. I analyse in detail the Reversed Blumenfeld – 3...d4 4.b4! dxe3 5.fxe3 cxb4 6.d4 ♗f6.

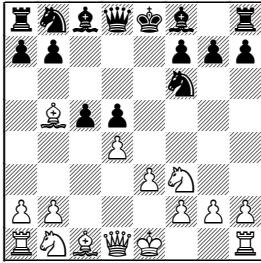


We should get best practical results if we vary our weapons, so I

Introduction

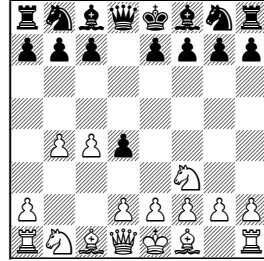
cover two different approaches – 7.♔d3 (which should be met by 7...g6!) in Chapter 1 and 7.a3 (which requires 7...e6!) in Chapter 2.

Next I deal with 3.c4 e6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.d4 ♖f6 (5...♗c6 6.♕b5) 6.♕b5+!? – Chapter 3.



Chapter 5 and 6 cover the Anti-Meran and the Chebanenko. They are common for any move order we use to start the game. I also added a **third approach**,

which opens the door towards the main lines of the QGD and the Slav – 1.♗f3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.b4 (Part 2).



It does allow the challenging 3...f6 4.e3 e5 or 3...♔g4, but this is the only option if we prefer schemes without e2-e3, as 2...e6 3.d4 ♗f6 4.♗c3 and 2...c6 3.d4 ♗f6 4.♗c3.

A full repertoire based on the above systems is proposed by Kiril Georgiev in the two-volume Chess Stars publication *Attacking 1...d5*, printed in 2021-2022.

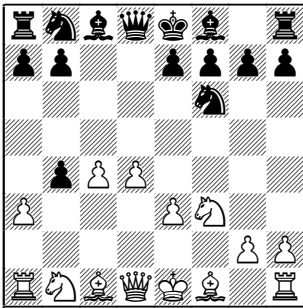
To sum up, the book explores three different treatments of 1.♗f3 d5. The choice should be based on your preferred way of meeting the Slav, the Queen's Gambit Declined and the QGA. By all means, the more variable your repertoire is, the harder your opponent's task will be during his home preparation.

Semko Semkov
January 2024

Chapter 2. Reversed Blumenfeld – an Alternative Set-up

Step by Step

1. ♖f3 d5 2.e3 c5 3.c4 d4 4.b4
 dxe3 5.fx3 cxb4 6.d4 ♗f6
 7.a3



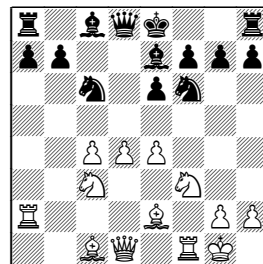
This chapter offers an alternative to Chapter 1 where we analysed 7. ♗d3. Its idea is to delay ♗d3 in order to meet the ...g6 set-up by ♗e2.

Main goals

The Reversed Blumenfeld Gambit reminds the Benko, but in fact the plans are totally different. That is due to the open f-file and the white bishop going to d3 instead of g2. These two factors define that the direction of White's offensive should be the black king and not the a- and b-file. White's strategic aim is to run over the en-

emy with e3-e4, followed by d4-d5 or e4-e5. Another typical method is c4-c5, followed by ♖a3-c4-d6. If Black does not promptly destroy the centre after e3-e4, he risks to be crushed ruthlessly.

Hlavacek-Amartsev
 Lechenicher SchachServer 2013



The typical counter-blow 12... e5 does not help here as White concentrates his forces on the kingside unhampered after 13.d5 ♖b4 14.♖b2 ♗c5+ 15.♗h1 ♗d7 16.♖e1±. Perhaps Black planned to eat the nasty pawn with:

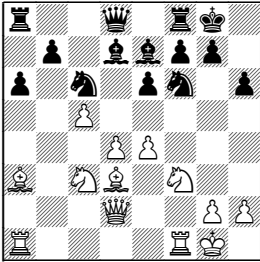
12... ♗b4 13.♖c2 ♗xc3 14.♖xc3, but he noticed too late that:

14... ♗xe4 15.♖e3 f5 16.d5 ♗e7 17.♗a3 was hopeless as the d-pawn is unstoppable – 17...

exd5 18.cxd5 0-0 19.♘e5 ♘d6
 20.♘c4+- . So he chose:
 14...0-0 15.e5 ♘e4 16.♞e3 f5
 17.exf6 ♘xf6 18.♙a3 ♞e8 19.♙d3
 ♞a5 20.♘e5 1-0. The threat ♞xf6
 decides.

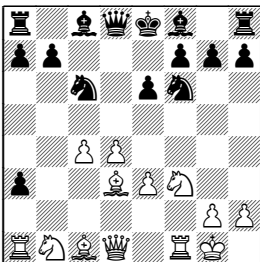
In the following example White
 has just played 15.e4:

Santoso-De Meye
 ICCF 2020



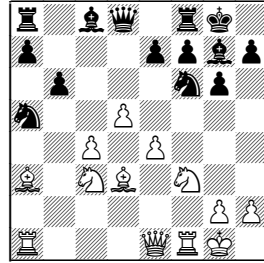
Black should have immedi-
 ately react with 15...b5! 16.e5
 b4 17.exf6 ♙xf6 18.♘e4 bxa3
 19.♘xf6+ ♞xf6 20.♞xa3 with
 mutual chances as 20...♘d4?
 runs into 21.♙e4±. Instead he
 carelessly answered:
 15...♞a5? 16.♙h1 ♞ad8 17.♙b2
 ♞c7 18.d5 ♙xc5 19.♘e2± to lose
 quickly.

Analysis



Black took too early on a3, which
 allows us to recapture with ♘xa3
 and seize the centre:
 10.♘xa3! ♙e7 11.♘b5 0-0 12.e4±.

Edouard-Duda
 blitz, chess24.com 2020

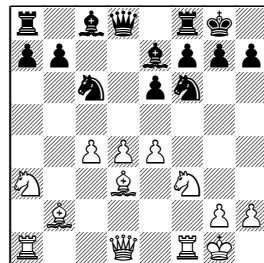


Black had to kill the f3-knight with
 14...♙g4 15.e5 ♘d7 16.♞h4 ♙xf3∞.
 Instead he removed the bish-
 op from the kingside and got in a
 difficult situation after 14...♙a6?
 15.e5 ♘h5 16.♞e4. Even stronger
 is 16.♞h4! ♞e8 17.♞ad1+- . The h5-
 knight is badly misplaced.

The counter-strike ...e5

While it is very tempting to push
 e3-e4 as soon as possible, we
 should always calculate the con-
 sequences of the retort ...e6-e5.

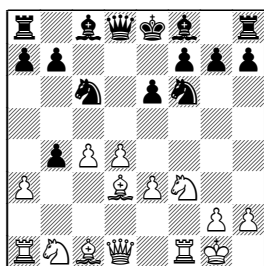
Analysis



Reversed Blumenfeld – an Alternative Set-up

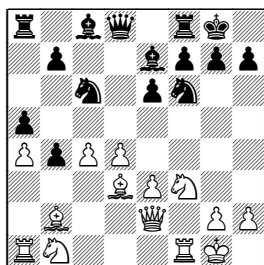
Here 12...e5!± turns the tables at once – Black has castled, the diagonal c5-g1 is weak, so his counter-attack is effective.

Analysis



In this example 9...e5 is less destructive since the pawn is on e3, but it is still a fair option.

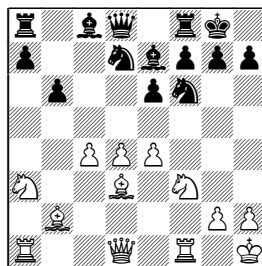
Analysis



12...e5! is a timely way to prevent White from building a powerful centre. 13.dxe5? ♖d7 would be fine for Black, so he solves the problem of his bad c8-bishop – 13.♖bd2 ♕g4∞.

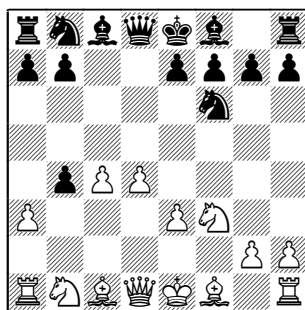
Finally, here is an example which shows that White can ignore ...e5:

Analysis



13...e5?! 14.♕e1 (or 14.♖c2) with active pieces.

Let's now go move by move:



A. 7...e6; **B.** 7...bxa3

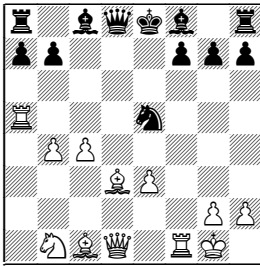
A. 7...e6 **8.c5**

This brings about an original position as White aims to restrict the fianchetto of the ♗c8. He also intends to send the queen's knight to d6 via a3-c4. The standard set-up is:

8.♗d3 ♖c6 9.0-0 ♗e7

9...bxa3 would allow us to push e4 – 10.♖xa3! ♗e7 11.♖b5 0-0 12.e4±.

9...e5!? is not ridiculous – 10.♖xe5 (Sulskis-Skytte, Lisbon 2000, saw 10.♙c2 ♕d6, when 11.c5! ♙c7 12.dxe5 ♖xd1 13.♙xd1 would be equal – 13... ♖xe5 14.axb4 0-0 15.♖xe5 ♙xe5 16.♖a3 a6 17.♗d2=) ♖xe5 (10...♗xd4 11.exd4 ♖xd4+ 12.♗h1 ♖xa1 13.♖a4+) 11.dxe5 ♗g4 12.axb4 ♖xe5 13.♖a5!



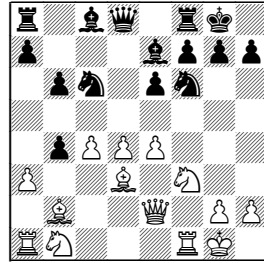
Forced play results in even chances, although Black must find a couple of only moves – 13...♖xd3 14.♖d5 ♖b6 15.♖xd3 ♙e6 16.♖c3 ♙xc4 17.♖d4 ♙e6 (17...♙xf1?? 18.♖e4+) 18.♙b2 ♙e7 19.♖a4+ ♖c6 20.b5 ♖b6 21.♙a3 ♙xa3 22.♖xa3 ♖d8 23.♖fd1 ♖xd4 24.♖xd4 f5□. Here any of 25.g4=, 25.♗d5= or even 25.♗e4 fxe4 26.♖d6 is level.

10.♙b2 0-0 11.♖e2 (11.e4? bxa3 12.♗xa3 e5) 11...b6

The other typical set-up is 11...a5. Then 12.a4, hoping for e3-e4-e5, is tamed by 12...e5! 13.♗bd2 ♙g4∞, and 12.♗h1 bxa3 13.♗xa3 ♖b4 14.♙b1 b6 15.e4 ♙a6 16.♗b5 ♖c8! gives enough counterplay against

c4 (16...♗d7 17.♖a3→) 17.♖a3 g6 18.♗e5 ♖e8! 19.♖af3□ ♖xc4 20.♗d6. The complications lead to balanced play.

12.e4



It looks that things are going White's way, but 12...♗h5! levels the chances – 13.e5 ♗f4 14.♙xh7+ ♗xh7 15.♖e4+ ♗g6 16.♖xc6 ♖b8 17.♖e4 b5 18.c5∞. Although White has some threats based on h2-h4 and the passed c-pawn, the position is rather double-edged.

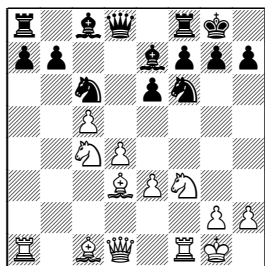
8...bxa3

8...♖c6 9.axb4 ♖xb4 10.♗e5 ♖c6 is a solid option too. 11.♙b5 ♙d7 12.♗xc6 ♙xc6 13.♙xc6+ bxc6 14.♖f3 ♖d5 15.♖a6 ♙e7 16.♖c3 ♖xf3 17.gxf3 ♗d7 18.e4=. White does not risk anything here as he can play e4-e5 and plant a knight on d6. For example, 18... ♖hb8 19.♗e2 ♗e8 20.♙f4 ♖b2+ 21.♗d3 ♗c7 22.♙xc7 ♗xc7 23.♖g1 ♗b7 24.♖a4 g6 25.e5 a5 26.♗e4 ♖b3+ 27.♗c4 ♖xf3 28.♗d6+ ♙xd6 29.cxd6=.

9.♗xa3 ♙e7

Reversed Blumenfeld – an Alternative Set-up

The only game in my database is Lagergren-Schulz, ICCF 2013. It went 9...♖c6 10.♗c4 ♕e7 11.♙d3 0-0 12.0-0



12...♗d5?!

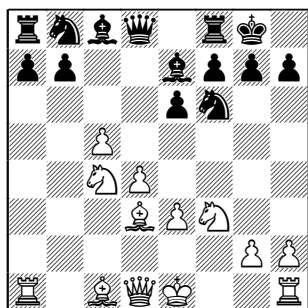
It was better to activate the c8-bishop with 12...♗b4! 13.♙b1 ♙d7. For example, 14.♖b3 a5 15.♗b6 ♖a6 16.♗xd7 ♗xd7 17.♙d2 ♗d5 18.♗d1 ♖aa8 19.♗e5 b6 20.cxb6 ♖ab8 21.♙xb4 axb4 22.♖a7 ♙d8 23.♖xf6 ♙xf6 24.♗d7 ♙g5 25.♗f2=.

13.♙d2± f5 14.♖b3 f4, when best was 15.♖b1 h6 16.e4±.

10.♗c4

10.♙d3 0-0 11.0-0 allows 11...b6±.

10...0-0 11.♙d3



11...♙d7!?

11...♗c6 is too passive – 12.0-0 ♙d7 13.♗fe5

White should play energetically or Black will level the game with ...b6 – 13.♙d2 ♙e8 14.♖b1 ♖b8 15.♖c1 b6 16.cxb6 axb6 17.♖a6=. The text prepares ♗d6 and ♖f3.

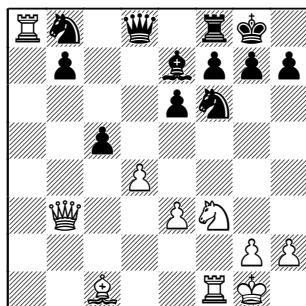
13...♙e8 14.♗d6 ♗xe5 15.dxe5 ♗d7 16.♖c2 ♙xd6 17.exd6 h6 18.♙h7+ ♗h8 19.♙e4 ♖c8 20.c6 bxc6 21.♙b2↑.

12.0-0

12.e4 ♙b5 13.♗b6 stumbles into 13...♗c6!! 14.♗xa8 ♗xd4 15.♙xb5 ♗xb5 16.♖xd8 ♖xd8 17.♗c7 ♗xc7 18.♖xa7 ♗xe4 19.♖xb7 ♗d5±.

12.♖b1 is the only way to ban ...♙b5, but 12...b6!? (12...♙c6 13.0-0 ♗bd7 also works) 13.cxb6 axb6 14.♗xb6 ♖a2 frees Black's pieces.

12...♙b5 (12...♙c6!?) 13.♗b6 axb6 14.♖xa8 ♙xd3 15.♖xd3 bxc5 16.♖b3

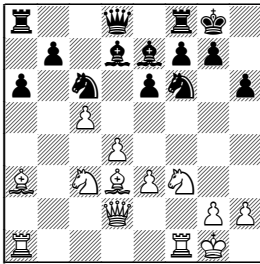


Black has no weaknesses, so he should make a draw after 16... cxd4 17. ♖xd4 ♗d5 or 16... ♗d5.

The game Munoz-Graham, ICCF 2020, saw instead 16... b6 17. ♖e5 (17. ♖b2) 17... ♗d6 18. ♖c4 ♖xh2+ 19. ♗xh2 ♖g4+ 20. ♗h3 ♗d5 21. ♗a2 ♗h5+ 22. ♗g3 ♗g5 23. ♗h3 ♗h5+ 24. ♗g3 ♗g5 25. ♗h3 ♗h5+ draw.

B. 7...bxa3 8. ♗xa3

This forces Black to fianchetto his bishop. Playable alternatives are: 8. c5 ♖c6 9. ♖c3 e6 10. ♖b5 ♗d7 11. ♗xa3 a6 12. ♗d3 ♗e7 13. 0-0 0-0 14. ♗d2 h6 15. e4, Santos-De Meye, ICCF 2020,



15...b5!∞.

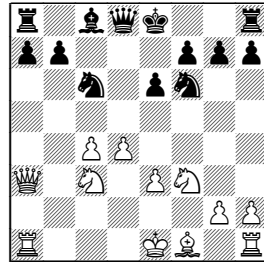
8. ♖c3. A tricky waiting move, hoping for 8...g6 9. ♗e2! ♗g7 10. e4, seizing the centre. For example, 10...0-0 11. e5 ♖e8 12. 0-0 ♗g4 13. ♗xa3 ♖c6 14. ♗b1±. The point is to put the bishop on e2 in order to protect d4, remember!

8...e6! 9. ♗xa3

The computer finds full com-

pensation for the exchange after 9. ♗d3 ♖b4 10. ♗xa3 0-0 11. 0-0 ♖c6 12. ♖b1 ♗xa3 13. ♗xa3∞, but 12...b6 is stronger, intending ...a5, ...♗a6∞.

9...♗xa3 10. ♗a4+ ♖c6 11. ♗xa3



Black does not have problems after 11... ♗e7 12. ♗e2 b6= or the sharper 11...a5 with the idea ...♖b4.

8. ♗e2 is also aimed against:

8...g6 9. 0-0 (Or 9. ♖c3 ♗g7 10. e4) 9...♗g7 10. ♖c3 0-0 (10... ♗g4 11. ♗b3) 11. e4 ♖c6 12. e5 ♖e8 13. ♗xa3 ♗g4 14. ♗b1±.

8...e6 9. 0-0 ♖c6

9...a2 10. ♗xa2 ♖c6 11. ♖c3 ♗e7 12. e4 ♖b4 13. ♗c2 offers White a terrible attack, Hlavacek-Amartsev, Lechenicher SchachServer 2013.

10. ♖xa3 ♗e7 11. c5. We discussed a similar set-up in line A, but the bishop is somewhat strange on e2.

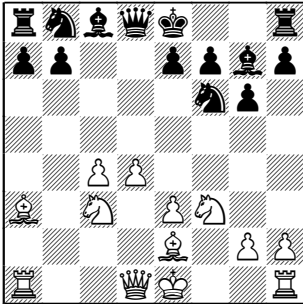
8...g6 9. ♖c3 ♗g7 10. ♗e2!?

Although we have lost a tempo on ♗xa3 and cannot achieve e3-e4 any time soon, this development against the ...g6 set-up still de-

Reversed Blumenfeld – an Alternative Set-up

serves attention.

10.♔d3 0-0 11.0-0, transposing to
7.♔d3, is a fair alternative.



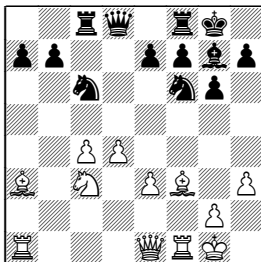
10...0-0 11.0-0

The flip side of ♕xa3 is that it weakens e3. Thus 11.e4? ♖c6 12.e5 stumbles into 12...♗g4 13.♕c1 f6.

11...♖c6 12.h3

12.♖e1 allows the exchange ...♗g4xf3, discharging some tension. For instance:

12...♗g4 13.h3 ♕xf3 14.♕xf3 ♖c8



Now the plan with d4 does not work since 15.♖f2 b6 16.♖fd1 ♕e8 17.e4? runs into 17...e5 or even 17...♗xe4 18.♕xe4 ♕xd4. 15.♔d1 is also pointless due to

15...♖a5 16.♖a1 ♖d8=.

Remains:

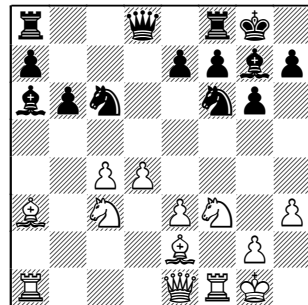
15.♗d5 ♗xd5 16.♕xd5 ♗a5 17.♖h4 ♖c7 18.♗b4 b6 19.♖xa5 bxa5 20.♕xa5=.

12...b6 13.♖e1

13.e4?! does not disturb Black, who has active pieces after 13...♗h5!.

13...♕a6!

White's Achilles heel is c4, and it should be attacked at once. 13...♕b7 hands White the initiative – 14.d5 ♗a5 15.e4 ♖c8 16.e5 ♗xc4 17.♕xc4 ♖xc4 18.exf6 ♕xf6 19.♖c1±.



White cannot extract anything substantial from his centre:

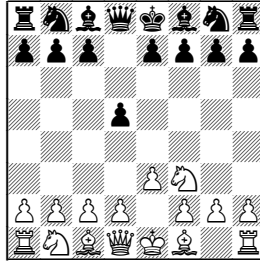
14.♖h4 ♗a5 15.♗e5 ♖c8 16.d5

16.♗b4 ♕xc4 17.♕xc4 ♗xc4 18.♖xa7 ♗d6 (18...♖e8 19.♖f2) 19.d5 ♖e8 20.♗c6 ♖xc6 21.dxc6= simplifies.

16...♖e8!

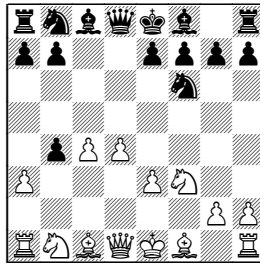
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Chapter 1. 1.♘f3 d5 2.e3



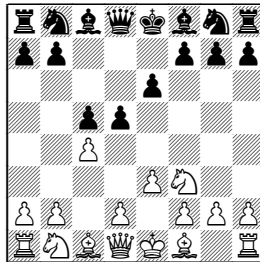
2...c5 (2...♙g4 10; 2...g6 10) 3.c4 d4 4.b4 11 4...dxe3 5.fxe3 cxb4 6.d4
♞f6 7.♙d3 13

Chapter 2. 2.e3 c5 3.c4 d4 4.b4 dxe3 5.fxe3 cxb4 6.d4 ♞f6 7.a3



7...e6 27
7...bxa3 30

Chapter 3. 1.♘f3 d5 2.e3 c5 3.c4 e6

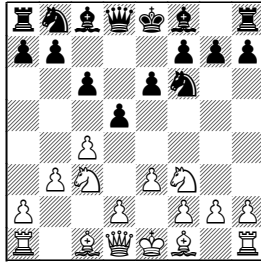


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4.cxd5 exd5 5.d4 ♘f6 6.♙b5+ ♘d7 34

6...♘c6 35 7.0-0 ♙d6 8.dxc5 ♙xc5 9.♚c2 36 (9.♘c3 38)

Chapter 4. 1.♘f3 d5 2.e3 ♘f6 3.c4 c6 4.♘c3 e6 5.b3



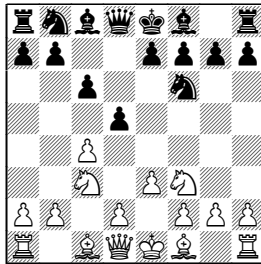
5...♙d6 41 (5...♘bd7 6.♚c2 ♙d6 41; 6...a6 7.d4 ♙d6 51) 6.♙b2 0-0 (6...♘bd7 7.♚c2 0-0 8.♖g1 42) 7.♙e2 (7.h3 43) 7...♘bd7 (7...♖e8 8.d4 49; 7...b6 8.d4 56; 7...e5 44) 8.♚c2 b6 47

8...♖e8 49

8...a6 51

8...♚e7 56

Chapter 5. 1.♘f3 d5 2.e3 ♘f6 3.c4 c6 4.♘c3



4...♙f5 70

4...♙g4 5.h3 71 (5.cxd5 71)

4...a6 5.d4 (5.h3!? 74) 5...♙f5 75

5...♙g4 80

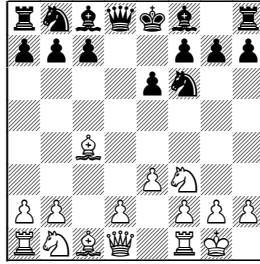
5...e6 6.h3!? 82

5...b5 6.b3 87

6.c5 90

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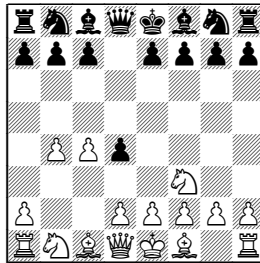
Chapter 6. 1.♘f3 d5 2.e3 ♘f6 3.c4 dxc4 4.♙xc4 e6 5.0-0



5...a6 6.d4 c5 (6...b5 113) 7.♖e1!? 114 7...♙e7 115
7...♘c6 118
7...b5 121

5...c5 124

Chapter 7. 1.♘f3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.b4



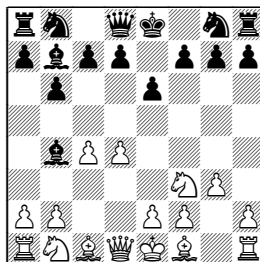
3...♙g4 138

3...g6 141

3...g5 143

3...f6 145

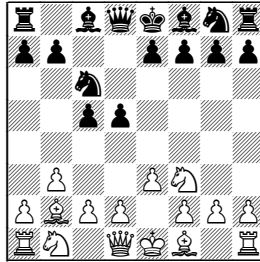
Chapter 8. 1.♘f3 d5 2.e3 c5 3.b3



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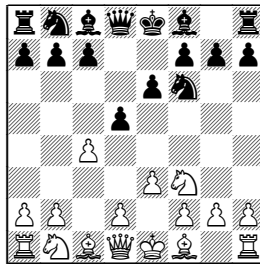
3...♖f6 (3...♙g4 169; 3...a6 169; 3...f6 170) 4.♙b2 e6 5.c4 ♘c6 6.cxd5
exd5 7.♙e2 ♙d6 8.d4 0-0 176
8...cxd4 180

Chapter 9. 1.♘f3 d5 2.e3 c5 3.b3 ♘c6 4.♙b2



4...♙g4 190
4...♘f6 192
4...a6 200

Chapter 10. 1.♘f3 d5 2.e3 ♘f6 3.c4 e6



4.b3 ♙e7 (4...dxc4 210; 4...♙d6 210) 5.♙b2 0-0 6.♘c3! (6.♙e2 212)
6...b6 215
6...dxc4 219
6...c5 221