

Category – Semi Open Game

Opening Move Sequence – 1 e4 g6

ECO Codes – B06

Modern Defense also called Robatsch Defense can be considered a variant of Pirc Defense. Main difference is the delay in development of Knight to f6. As such the games can transform between them frequently. Modern Defense like Pirc is based on hyper modern opening theory which says that White's pawn center is a weakness and it should be attacked with pieces after its creation unhindered with Black pawns.

Modern Defense falls under the category of Semi-open Game openings that begin with 1 e4 without 1 ... e5. Modern Defense has the ECO code B06.

Moves and Variations

In Modern Defense, Black intentionally does not hinder the White's creation of a so called ideal pawn center through the occupation d4 and e4 squares by pawns. Black's plan is to sabotage and destroy it using pieces.

The move order is more fluid in Modern Defense. Usually the game might proceed along, 1 e4 g6, 2 d4 Bg7. In the related Pirc Defense (which has the ECO codes B07 to B09, after B06 for Modern Defense) the move Nf6 is also played by Black but Modern Defense delays that move.

White can respond combatively by, say, 1 e4 g6, 2 Bc4 Bg7, 3 Qf3. This variation is called Monkey's Bum Variation (clearly naming of variations has degenerated in modern times). Another possibility is Monkey's Bum Deferred variation where the moves Qf3 and Bc4 are delayed till Knight on b1 is developed.

Related and unusual openings include Hippopotamus Defense and 1 e4 g6, 2 d4 Nf6, 3.e5 Nh5 (Norwegian Defense or North Sea Defense). In Norwegian Defense in reply to 4 Be2 Black can play 4 ... Ng7, or 4 ... d4!?. In reply to 4 g4 Black will play Ng7. If White selects 3 Nc3 instead of 3 e3 the game can be transformed to Pirc Defense by 3...d6 or more adventurous 3 ... d5!?.

Following game is illustrative of the possibilities in Modern Defense. It was played in 1974 between Grand master Lubomir Kavalek and Grand master Duncan Suttles from Canada playing Black

1 e4 g6, 2.d4 d6, 3 Nf3 Bg7, 4 Be2 Nf6, 5 Nc3 a6, 6 a4 O-O, 7 O-O b6, 8 Re1 Bb7, 9 Bc4 e6, 10 Bf4 Nbd7, 11 Qd2 b5!. This is start of a well thought out combination. 12 axb5 axb5, 13 Rxa8 Qxa8, 14 Bxb5 Bxe4, 15 Nxe4 Nxe4, 16 Rxe4 Qxe4, 17 Bxd7 Ra8, 18 h4 Qb7!. While White has the advantage in material he is lost. White's Bishop on d7 is cornered. 19 d5 e5, 20 Bh6 Qxb2, 21.h5 Ra1+, 22 Kh2 Qb1, 23.Bxg7 Qh1+, 24.Kg3 Kxg7, 25.Bh3 Qc1, 26.h6+ Kf6, 27 c4 Qxd2, 28 Nxd2 Kg5, 29 Ne4+ Kxh6, 30 Bd7 f5, 31 Nf6 Ra7, 32 Bb5 g5, 33 Ng8+ Kg7, 34 Ne7 Kf6, 35 Nc6 Ra3+, 36 Kh2 h5, 37 Nb8 h4, 38 Na6 g4, 39 Nxc7 Ra2, 40 Kg1 g3, 41 fxc3 hxc3, 42 Kf1 e4, Black wins.

For More Chess Openings Click Here [Chess Openings](#)

