Начальные ходы	1.b2—b3
ECO	A01
Первое упоминание	<u>1936</u>
Названо в честь	<u>Бента Ларсена</u>
Другое название	Дебют Нимцовича- Ларсена, Дебют Симагина-Ларсена <sup>[1]</sup>
Категория дебюта	фланговый дебют
В базе данных	365chess

**Дебют Ларсена** — <u>шахматный дебют</u>, начинающийся ходом: **1. b2-b3**. Относится к фланговым началам.

# История

Дебюту Ларсена предшествовало начало разработанное <u>Нимцовичем</u> — 1.Kg1-f3 d7-d5 2.b2-b3 с дальнейшим Cc1-b2 и e2-e3 (попытка сыгратьновоиндийскую защиту с переменой цвета и лишним <u>темпом</u>). Впервые ход 1.b2-b3 в турнирной практике был применен в партии В.Рагозин — В.Раузер (Ленинград, 1936). Впоследствии ход 1. b2-b3 часто встречался в партиях <u>В. Симагина</u>. Международное признание ход 1. b2-b3 получил в 1960-70-х гг.благодаря партиям и анализам <u>Б. Ларсена</u> (отсюда и название дебюта). Начало 1. b2-b3 применяли

также  $\underline{\Pi}$ . Романовский,  $\underline{M}$ . Тайманов,  $\underline{P}$ . Фишер (играя 2.d7-d5 3.Kg1-f3) и другие.

# Основные идеи

Основной замысел начала заключается в том, что белые оказывают давление на центр, предоставляя сопернику большой выбор продолжений и перенося тяжесть борьбы с дебюта на миттельшпиль.

# Варианты

Основным продолжением считается 1. ...e7-e5, после которого следует 2.Сc1-b2 **Kb8-c6**. Однако у черных имеется большой выбор вариантов развития:

- 1. ...e7-e5 2. Cc1-b2 Kb8-c6 Современный вариант
  - 3. c2-c4 Kg8-f6 4. c4:d5 Kf6:d5 5. a2-a3 Cf8-d6 6. Фd1-c2 0-0 7. Kg1-f3 Фd8-e7 8. Cf1-d3
  - 3. e2-e3 Kg8-f6 4. Cf1-b5 d7-d6 5. Kg1-f3 Cc8-d7 6. 0-0 Cf8-e7 7. Cb5-e2 0-0 8. c2-c4 Лf8-e8 9.Kb1-c3 Ce7-f8 10. d2-d3
- 1....Kg8-f6 Новоиндийский вариант
- 1. ...d7-d5 Классический вариант
- **1.** ...с7-с5 Английский вариант
- 1. ... **f7-f5** Голландский вариант
- **1....b7-b5** Польский вариант
- 1....b7-b6 Симметричный вариант

# Примерная партия

<u>Ларсен</u> — <u>Спасский</u>, Белград, 1970

1.b3 e5 2.Cb2 Kc6 3.c4 Kf6 4.Kf3 e4 5.Kd4 Cc5 6.Kc6 dc6 7.e3 Cf5 8.Фc2 Фe7 9.Ce2 0-0-0 10.f4 Kg4 11.g3 h5 12.h3 12...h4!! 13.hg4 hg3 14.Лg1 Лh1!! 15.Лh1 g2 16.Лf1Фh4+ 17.Кpd1 gf1Ф+ Белые сдались.



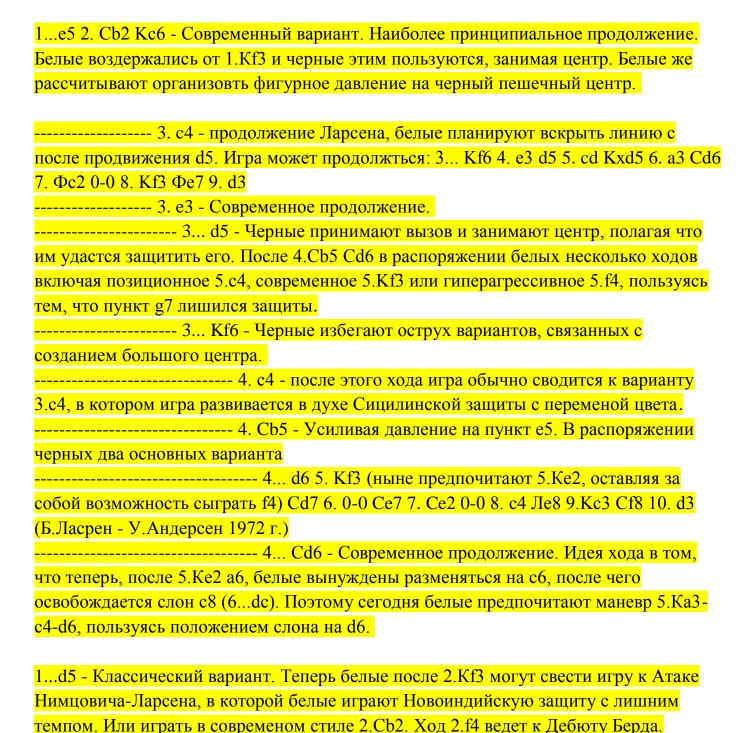
# ДЕБЮТ ЛАРСЕНА

Дебют Ларсена - относительно современное начало, относящееся к семейству фланговых и характеризующееся ходом 1.b3. После этого хода белые могут попытаться выстроить фигуры и пешки в духе Новоиндийской защиты с переменой цвета и лишним темпом, или в духе Голландской защты или Защиты Уителки (Защита Бегемот). Иногда белые достигают позиций сходных с позициями Шевененгиского варианта Сицилианской

защиты или варианта Еж Сицилианской защиты. Дебют назван именем известного датского гроссмейстера, одного из сильнейших шахматистов мира середины 20 века, Бента Ларсена, применявшего систему с 1.b3 на самом высоком уровне. Еще раньше данный ход, однако в несколько иной интерпритации, применялся извествным российским шахматистом и теоретиком А.Нимцовичем. (Нимцович первым ходом предпочитал развивать коня 1.Кf3, избегая 1...е5. Этот порядок ходов носит имя

Атаки Нимцовича-Ларсена). Позднее рассматриваемая система с успехом применялась Б.Фишером, а также такими современными гроссмейстерами как X.Накамура, А.Морозевич, Б.Джобава и Р.Раппорт. Ныне благодаря усилиям вышеуказанных гроссмейстеров Дебют Ларсена переживает свою вторую молодость.

# Основные продолжения



Интересен гамбитный вариант 1.b3 d5 2.Kf3 c5 3.e4 (Гамбит Норфолк, изобретенный

американским заключенным К.Бладгудом) с идеей на 3... de ответить 4.Ке4 или

# 4.Kg4.

1...Кf6 - Новоиндийский вариант. Гибкое продолжение, черные не торопятся определять свою пешечную структуру, оставляя за собой различные возможности. Игра может продолжаться 2.Сb2 и если теперь 2...g6, то в распоряжении белых есть интересная возможность уклониться от проработанных продолжений путем 3.e4 (Нельзя 3... Кхe4 из-за Cxh8)

1...c5 - Английский вариант. Черные сохраняют за собой возможность сыграть как d5, так и d6 или e5 в зависимости от обстоятельств. Теперь 2.c4 ведет к Английскому началу, а e4 к Варианту Снайдера (англ. Snyder Variation) Сицилианской защиты

1...f5 - Голландский вариант. Белые обычно отвечают 2.Кf3, 2.c4, 2.b3 или 2.f4

# **Менее популярны**

1...b5 - Польский вариант

1...b6 - Симметричный вариант

1...еб - Французский вариант. Теперь после 2.e4 с перестановкой ходов возникает Атака Горвица Французской защиты. Игра може продолжаться 2...d5 3.Cb2 (Papa-Ticulat Gambit, рекомендовано гроссмейстером Р.Кином)

1...c6 - Вариант Каро-Кан. И вновь Р.Кин рекомендует гамбитное 2.e4 d5 3.Cb2 (Атака Эйве). Но конечно же возможно простое 2.c4 или 2.Cb2.

1...Кс6 - ведет к редкому вариант Дебюта ННимцовича

# Larsen's Opening

Moves 1.b3

**ECO** A01

Named after Bent Larsen

Parent Flank opening

**Synonym(s)** Nimzowitsch–Larsen Attack

Nimzo-Larsen Attack

Queen's Fianchetto Opening

**Larsen's Opening** (also called the **Queen's Fianchetto Opening**) is a <u>chess</u> <u>opening</u> starting with the move:

1. b3

It is named after the <u>Danish grandmaster Bent Larsen</u>. Larsen was inspired by the example of the great <u>Latvian-Danish</u> player and theoretician <u>Aron Nimzowitsch</u> (1886–1935), who often played 1.Nf3 followed by 2.b3, which is sometimes called the Nimzowitsch–Larsen Attack. It is classified under the A01 code in the <u>Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings</u>.

The <u>flank opening</u> move 1.b3 prepares to <u>fianchetto</u> the queen's <u>bishop</u> where it will help control the central squares in <u>hypermodern</u> fashion and put useful pressure on Black's <u>kingside</u>. The b2-bishop is often a source of recurring irritation for Black, who should not treat it lightly.

Although Bent Larsen was initially very successful with this opening, it suffered a setback in the 1970 <u>USSR vs. Rest of the World</u> match in <u>Belgrade</u>, in which Larsen played this opening against reigning <u>World Champion Boris Spassky</u> and lost in 17 moves. [11] (Of the 42 games between Spassky and Larsen, Spassky won overall with 19 wins, 6 losses, and 17 draws.) Larsen was also decisively defeated when playing this opening against <u>Rosendo Balinas</u>, <u>Jr.</u> at <u>Manila</u> in 1975. [3]

Notably, the opening received interest from <u>Bobby Fischer</u> the same year, who employed 1.b3 on at least five occasions, winning all five, including games with <u>GMs Filip</u> and <u>Mecking</u> (Palma de Mallorca 1970 <u>Interzonal</u>), GM Tukmakov (Buenos Aires 1970), and GM Andersson (Siegen 1970).

This article uses algebraic notation to describe chess moves.

# **Popularity**

The move 1.b3 is less popular than 1.g3 (<u>Benko's Opening</u>), which prepares a quick <u>kingside castling</u>. According to <u>ChessBase</u>, 1.b3 ranks sixth in popularity out of the possible twenty first moves while the fifth-ranking 1.g3 is about three times as popular. Larsen frequently used unconventional openings of this sort. He believed it to be an advantage in that Black, usually unfamiliar with such openings, is forced to rely on his own abilities instead of relying on memorized, well-analyzed moves of more common White openings.

The relative unpopularity of 1.b3 compared to 1.g3, is probably because with 2.Bg2, the move c4 is often played later to strengthen the fianchettoed bishop's diagonal; whereas if f4 is played to strengthen the bishop's diagonal after 1.b3 and 2.Bb2, it weakens the kingside—the usual destination for White's king when <u>castling</u>.

Black has several options to meet 1.b3. The most common are:

- 1...e5, the **Modern Variation**, is the most common response, making a grab for the centre and limiting the scope of the white bishop. Play typically continues 2.Bb2 Nc6. Then the Main line is 3.e3 d5 4.Bb5 Bd6 5.c4. After 2.Bb2 Nc6,3.f4 is the Paschman. Gambit. After 2.Bb2, 2...f5 3.e4 is called the **Ringelbach Gambit**.
- 1...d5, the **Classical Variation**, is the second most common, also making a grab for the centre and preserving the option to fianchetto the king's bishop to oppose the White one. White can play 2.Nf3 to transpose to the A06 line (see more below). Or else, White can play 2.Bb2 to proceed in the A01 line.
- 1...Nf6, the **Indian Variation**, developing a piece and not committing to a particular <u>pawn</u> formation just yet. 2.Bb2 and if 2...g6 then 3.e4, taking advantage of the pinned knight (e.g., not 3...Nxe4 4.Bxh8, winning a rook at the price of a pawn). 3.g4 is called the **Spike Variation**
- 1...c5, the **English Variation**, retaining the options of ...d5, or ...d6 followed by ...e5. 2.c4 transposing to an <u>English Opening</u> or 2.e4 transposing to a <u>Sicilian Defence</u>.
- 1...f5, the **Dutch Variation**. 2.Nf3.

Less common lines include:

- 1...e6, with Black setting up a variation on the <u>French Defence</u>. Here Keene recommends 2.e4 and if 2...d5 then 3.Bb2. [4]
- 1...c6, a <u>Caro–Kann</u> variant preparing for ...d5. Again Keene recommends 2.e4 and if 2...d5, 3.Bb2.
- 1...b6, the **Symmetrical variation**, is completely fine for Black.
- 1...b5, the **Polish Variation**.
- 1...Nc6, a variant of the <u>Nimzowitsch Defence</u>, with this move, Black aims to provide support for the advance of e-file pawn. The most common sequence that Black applies is 2...e5 or less commonly 2...d5.

### 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3** is a similar opening. Nimzowitsch preferred to make the knight move first. Black may play 2...d5 (given below) or 2...g6. After 2...d5, White usually plays 3.Bb2. With this move, Black usually plays 3...e6.

After 2...g6, White can play 3.g3, 3.Bb2, or 3.c4. The move 3.g3 is the same as 2.g3 g6 3.b3, which gives Reti Opening (A05) or King's Indian, Fianchetto without c4 (A49). With move 3.Bb2, Black usually plays 3...Bg7. White may play 4.g3 or 4.c4; 4.e3 is also possible. With move 3.c4, Black usually plays 3...Bg7. Then White will play 4.Bb2.

# Nimzowitsch-Larsen Attack (A06)

The opening 1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 (<u>ECO</u> A06) is called the *Nimzowitsch–Larsen Attack*. It can be derived from 1.b3, but 1.Nf3 is more usual. Common replies for Black are 2...c5,

2...Nf6, and 2...Bg4. 2...Nf6 is not that great for the usual reasons that Black should not make ...d5 *and* ...Nf6. 2...c5 is more common although 2...Bg4 is also possible. For each, White can play 3.Bb2 or 3.e3. Then 3.Bb2 can be followed by 4.e3. [5]

# Example games

# Larsen vs. Eley, 1972

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bb5 d6 5.Ne2 Bd7 6.0-0 Be7 7.f4 e4 8.Ng3 0-0 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.c4 d5 11.Nc3 Re8 12.Rc1 Bg4 13.Nce2 Nd7 14.h3 Be2 15.Qxe2 Nc5 16.Qg4 g6 17.f5 Nd3 18.fxg6 hxg6 19.Rf7 Kf7 20.Rf1 Bf6 21.Bxf6 1-0

# Keene vs. Kovacevic, 1973

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 Bg4 3.Bb2 Nd7 4.g3 Bxf3 5.exf3 Ngf6 6.f4 e6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.d3 a5 10.a4 c6 11.Nd2 b5 12.Qe2 bxa4 13.Rxa4 Nb6 14.Ra2 a4 15.Rfa1 axb3 16.Rxa8 Nxa8 17.Nxb3 Nb6 18.f5 exf5 19.Nd4 Qd7 20.Bh3 g6 21.Bxf5 gxf5 22.Ra7 Qxa7 23.Nxc6 Qd7 24.Nxe7 Kg7 25.Qh5 1-0

### See also

- <u>List of chess openings</u>
- List of chess openings named after people

# References

### **Notes**

- 1. **Jump up**<sup>^</sup> <u>Larsen–Spassky 1970</u>
- 2. **Jump**

**up^** http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?page=1&pid=21136&pid2 =11227&eresult=

- 3. **Jump up^** <u>Larsen–Balinas 1975</u>
- 4. **Jump up** <u>Keene, Raymond</u> (1977). Nimzowitsch/Larsen Attack. London: <u>B.T. Batsford Ltd</u>.
- 5. **Jump up^** Jacobs, Byron & Jonathan Tait. Nimzo-Larsen Attack. London: Gloucester Publishers plc, (2001)

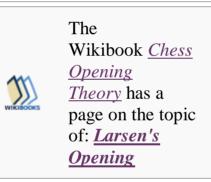
# **Bibliography**

- <u>Dunnington, Angus</u> (2000). Winning Unorthodox Openings. Everyman Chess. <u>ISBN</u> 978-1-85744-285-4.
- <u>Jacobs, Byron</u> (2000). Nimzo-Larsen attack. Everyman Chess. <u>ISBN 978-1-85744-286-1</u>.
- <u>Schiller, Eric</u> (2002). Unorthodox Chess Openings (Second ed.). Cardoza. pp. 320–29. ISBN 1-58042-072-9.

# Further reading

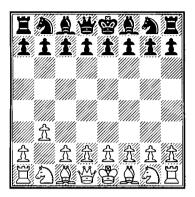
• Odessky, Ilya (2008). Play 1.b3!. New In Chess. ISBN 978-9056912567.

# External links



• ECO A01: Nimzovich–Larsen Attack

# NIMZO-LARSEN ATTACK ASSORTED VARIATIONS



1.b3

The immediate 1.b3 is far less reliable than its cousin 1.Nf3 followed by 2.b3. The reason is simple, against 1.b3 Black plays 1...e5! after which White is playing an Owen Defense, and not even an extra tempo can make that fully respectable.

#### EXAMPLES AND DISCUSSION

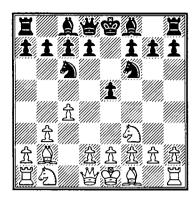
1...e5!; 2.Bb2 Nc6. 2...d6; 3.e3 Nf6 (3...Nh6; 4.d4 Nd7; 5.c4 g6; 6.Qc2 Bg7; 7.Nf3 0-0; 8.dxe5 Nxe5. Black emerged from the opening with an even position in Chellstorp – Suttles, Chicago 1973.) 4.c4 Be7; 5.Nc3 0-0; 6.Nf3 Re8; 7.d4 e4; 8.Nd2 d5; 9.cxd5 Bb4; 10.Bb5 Bd7; 11.Bc4 Bxc3; 12.Bxc3 b5; 13.Be2 Nxd5 and the initiative was shifting to Black in Dimitrijevic – Dzindzichashvili, New York Open 1987.

**3.c4.** 3.e3 d5 has a long lineage, but Black has a good game with proper play. 4.Bb5 (4.Nf3 e4; 5.Nd4 Nxd4; 6.Bxd4 Nf6; 7.c4 dxc4; 8.Bxc4 Be7; 9.0–0 0–0 posed no problems for Black in Basman – Nunn, London 1975.

4.g3 f5; 5.Nh3 Nf6; 6.Bb5 was Morphy – Maurian, New Orleans 1866, and here Black should have played 6...f4!, attacking the knight at h3.) 4...Bd6 (4...Qg5; 5.Nf3 Qxg2; 6.Rg1 Qh3 is a rare kingside example of the poisoned pawn approach for White. 7.Rg3 Qh6; 8.Nxe5 Nge7; 9.Qf3 f6; 10.Nd3 a6; 11.Bxc6+ bxc6 gives Black a strange pawn structure, but White's pieces are awkwardly placed, Munoz – Lidon, Spain 1996.) 5.f4 has some lines with early queen moves. 5...f6 (5...Qh4+; 6.g3 Qe7; 7.Nf3 f6; 8.Qe2 Bg4; 9.h3 Bh5; 10.g4 Bf7; 11.Bxc6+ bxc6; 12.Qa6 and White was better in Keene – Martin Gonzalez, Alicante 1977.) 6.Qh5+ g6; 7.Qh4 Bd7; 8.Nc3 Nb4 gave Black counterplay in Bini – Di, Toscolano 1996.

3...Nf6; 4.Nf3. This is a risky approach.

#### NIMZO-LARSEN ATTACK

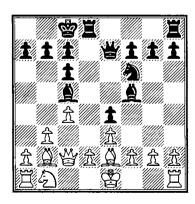


4...e4. This is the most aggressive line. 5.Nd4. 5.Ng5 Bc5; 6.Nc3 Bxf2+; 7.Kxf2 Ng4+; 8.Kg1 Qxg5; 9.Nxe4 Qf4 was much better for Black in Sulava – Kovacevic, Bled 1995.

5...Bc5; 6.Nxc6. This was a new move at the time. 6.e3 had previously been seen. 6...Bxd4; 7.exd4 d5; 8.d3 (8.cxd5 Qxd5 is just awful for White.) 8...0-0; 9.dxe4 Bg4; 10.f3 Nxe4; 11.fxg4 Qh4+; 12.g3 Nxg3!; 13.hxg3 Qxh1; 14.Nd2 Rae8+ and Black won without difficulty in Benko - Rossetto, Buenos Aires 1955. 6.Nc2 d5; 7.cxd5 Qxd5 is acceptable for Black since 8.Bxf6 gxf6; 9.Nc3 Qf5; 10.Ne3 Bxe3; 11.dxe3 Be6; 12.g3 h5; 13.h4 Qe5 is not much fun for White! 6...dxc6! Black's pressure on the open files is very strong. 7.e3. 7.d4 exd3; 8.Qxd3 Qxd3; 9.exd3 Bf5; 10.d4 Bxb1; 11.Rxb1 Bb4+; 12.Kd1 0-0-0 gives Black a clear advantage. 7...Bf5; 8.Qc2 Qe7; 9.Be2.

9.d4 exd3; 10.Bxd3 Bxd3; 11.Qxd3 Rd8; 12.Qc2 0-0; 13.0-0 Ne4 and Black has considerable pressure.

9...0-0-0.



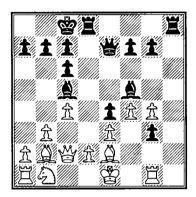
White should capture at f6, but is naturally reluctant to part with his prized bishop. Nevertheless, the plan chosen in the game leads to destruction.

10.f4? 10.Bxf6 Qxf6; 11.Nc3 Qe5; 12.0-0 Bd6; 13.g3 h5 with a strong attack for Black.

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10...Ng4; 11.g3 h5; 12.h3 h4!! 13.hxg4. 13.Bxg4 Bxg4; 14.hxg4 hxg3; 15.Rg1 (15.Rxh8 Rxh8 is an exchange of a defender (at h1) for a spectator (at d8), which obviously works to Black's advantage.) 15...Rh1!!; 16.Rxh1 g2; 17.Rg1 Qh4+; 18.Ke2 Qxg4+; 19.Ke1 Qg3+; 20.Ke2 Qf3+; 21.Ke1 Be7!! You have to play like a champion to get to positions that contain treasures like this!

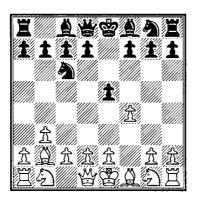
13...hxg3; 14.Rg1.



14...Rh1!! The brilliant theme works anyway! 15.Rxh1 g2; 16.Rf1. 16.Rg1 Qh4+; 17.Kd1 Qh1!; 18.Qc3 Qxg1+; 19.Kc2 Qf2; 20.gxf5 Qxe2; 21.Na3 Bb4!! was demonstrated by Spassky after the game. His point is seen in the continuation 22.Qxb4 Qd3+; 23.Kc1 g1R#.

16...Qh4+; 17.Kdl gxflQ+ and White resigned, as there was no way even to get past move 20, Larsen – Spassky, USSR vs. Rest of World 1970. The end might have come thus: 18.Bxfl Bxg4+; 19.Be2 (19.Kcl Qe1+; 20.Qdl Qxd1#) 19...Qh1#.

# **PASCHMANN GAMBIT**



1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.f4

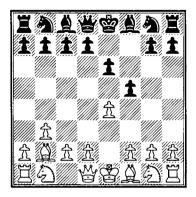
The **Paschmann Gambit** is a reckless attempt to disrupt Black's center. It not only gives away a pawn, but it also weakens the f2-square.

#### **EXAMPLES AND DISCUSSION**

3...exf4; 4.Nf3 d5. White will not be able to recover the pawn without seriously compromising the position.

#### **NIMZO-LARSEN ATTACK**

# **RINGELBACH GAMBIT**



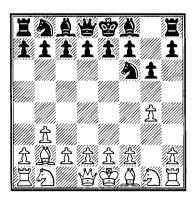
1.b3 e6 2.Bb2 f5 3.e4

The **Ringelbach Gambit** is an aggressive attempt to storm the center against Black's Dutch formation. It is quite interesting, since Black cannot safely capture at e4.

#### EXAMPLES AND DISCUSSION

3...fxe4; 4.Qh5+ Ke7. 4...g6; 5.Qe5 wins for White. 5.Nc3 Nf6; 6.Qh4 d5; 7.f3 exf3; 8.Nxf3 and White has a lot of development for the pawn, while Black's king will be stuck in the center for a long time.

# **SPIKE VARIATION**



1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 g6 3.g4

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This is a somewhat more logical advance of the g-pawn than is usually seen in the opening. White is trying to immediately exploit the pin on the knight at f6.

#### **EXAMPLES AND DISCUSSION**

- 3...Bg7; 4.g5 Nh5; 5.Bxg7 Nxg7 brings about a sort of Norwegian Defense formation (1.e4 g6; 2.d4 Nf6; 3.e5 Nh5; 4.g4 Ng7, but White has not made as many weaknesses. 6.Qc1 0-0! 6...d6; 7.Qb2 0-0 is a reasonable alternative, but 7...f6 looked very artificial in Schlenker Batradoy, Tübingen 1981.
- 7.e3 e5; 8.h4 d5; 9.Be2 Nc6 looks fine for Black, since 10.h5 Qxg5; 11.hxg6 fxg6; 12.Nf3 Qf6 leaves White with no clear plan of attack.

# LARSEN'S OPENING

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4	Lo	١
	11.1	١

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	e5		d5		Nf6	b6(m)
2	Bb2 Nc6	d6(d)	Nf3 Bg4	c5	Bb2 g6	Bb2 Bb7
3	e3(a)	e3(e)	Bb2	e3(i)	e4(k)	f4
	d5	Nf6	Nf6	Nf6	d6	e6(n)
4	Bb5	c4	e3	Bb2	g3	e3
	Bd6	g6	e6	e6	Bg7	Nf6
5	Nf3	Nf3	h3	Bb5†	Bg2	Nf3
	Qe7(b)	Nc6	Bh5(g)	Nbd7	0-0	c5(o)
6	c4	d4	d3	c4	Ne2	Bd3
	Nf6	Bg7	Nbd7(h)	dxc4	e5	Nc6
7	c5	dxe5	Nbd2	bxc4	0-0	0-0
	Bxc5	Nd7(f)	c6	Be7	c5	Qc7
8	Nxe5	Nc3	Be2	0-0	d3	Nc3
	0-0!(c)	dxe5 =	a5 =	0-0(j)	Nc6(l)	a6(p)

- (a) 3 c4 Nf6 4 e3 (4 Nf3?! e4 5 Nd4 Bc5 6 Nxc6 dxc6 7 e3 Bf5 〒, Larsen-Spassky, USSR vs. Rest of the World, 1970) 4 . . . d5!? 5 cxd5 Nxd5 6 a3 Bd6 7 Qc2 0-0 8 Nf3 Qe7 9 Bd3 Kh8 =, Petrosian-Balashov, USSR 1978.
- (b) 5 . . . f6 6 d4 e4 7 Nfd2 a6 8 Be2 Nce7 9 c4 c6 10 Ba3 ±, Spraggett−Petit, Paris 1991.
- (c) 9 Bxc6 (9 Nxc6 bxc6 10 Bxc6 Rb8 leaves Black good play for the pawn) 9...bxc6 10 Qc2 Bb7 11 0-0 Rae8 with chances for both sides, Piasetski– Petursson, Manila Int. 1990.
- (d) 2... f6?! 3 e4! (playing for the light-square weaknesses) 3... Bc5 4 Bc4 Ne7 5 Nf3 planning d2-d4 is very nice for White.
- (e) 3 g3 Nf6 4 Bg2 Nc6 5 c4 g6 6 Nf3 Bg7 7 d4 exd4 8 Qxd4 0-0 9 Nc3 Re8 10 Nd5 Nh5 =, Akessson–Ernst, Gothenburg 2004.
- (f) 7...Ng4?! 8 Nc3 Ngxe5 9 Nxe5 Bxe5 10 Be2 0-0 11 Qd2 Be6 12 0-0 Qe7 13 f4 Bg7 14 Bf3 f5 15 Nd5 ±, Timman-Padevsky, Amsterdam 1972. The column is Ljubojević-Savon, Wijk aan Zee 1972.
- (g) 5...Bxf3 6 Qxf3 Nbd7 7 g3!? Bd6 8 Bg2 0-0 9 0-0 b5 10 Qe2 c6 with equal chances, Karlson–Sunye, Las Palmas Int. 1982.
- (h) 6 . . . c5 is not bad: 7 g4 Bg6 8 Ne5 Nbd7 9 Nxg6 hxg6 10 Bg2 Qb6 ∞, Korchnoi– Mecking, match 1974. The column is Dzindzichashvili–Alburt, U.S. Chp. 1983.

- (i) A famous mistake is 3 Bb2?! f6! 4 c4 d4 5 d3 e5 6 e3 Ne7 7 Be2 Nec6 8 Nbd2 Be7 9 0-0 0-0 10 e4 a6 11 Ne1 b5 ∓, Petrosian-Fischer, match 1971.
- (j) 9 Ba4 b6 10 Qe2 Bb7 11 Rd1 Qc7 12 h3 Rfd8 13 d3 Nf8 with chances for both sides in an unusual position, Speelman–Illescas, Spain 1996.
- (k) (A) 3 g4!? Bg7 4 g5 Nh5 5 Bxg7 Nxg7 6 Qc1 0-0 is unclear, Kholmov—Oplachkin, Kirgiz 1966. (B) 3 Nf3 Bg7 4 g3 0-0 5 Bg2 d6 6 d4 e5 7 dxe5 Ng4 8 h3 Nxe5 9 Nxe5 dxe5?! 10 Qxd8 Rxd8 11 Nd2 and 12 0-0-0 ±, Smyslov—Polugaevsky, Palma de Mallorca Int. 1970. (C) Other moves such as 3 c4, 3 d4, 3 f4, and 3 g3 can transpose into other openings.
- (l) 9 Nxd4 Bg4 10 Qd2 Qd7 11 Re1 Nxd4 12 Bxd4 Bh3 =, Minasian—Renet, Paris 1994.
- (m) 1...c5 is also a good response if Black is willing to play English Opening positions after 2 c4. Korchnoi—de Firmian, New York 1996 saw 1...c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 g3!? e5 4 d3 g6! 5 Bg2 Bg7 6 Bb2 Nc6 7 c4 Nge7 8 Nc3 0-0 9 0-0 Rb8 10 e3 a6 11 Ne2 b5 with a more comfortable game for Black.
- (n) 3... f5 4 e3 Nf6 (4... e6 5 Qh5+ g6 6 Qh3 Nf6 7 Be2 Bg7 8 Bf3 ±, Soltis) 5 Bxf6! exf6 6 Nf3 Be7 7 Nc3 g6 8 h3! planning an eventual g4 with advantage, Larsen—Colon, San Juan 1969.
- (o) 5 . . . Be7 6 Be2 0-0 7 0-0 a5 8 Nc3 Na6 is also roughly equal, Nurmi-Speelman, Mexico 1978.
- (p) 9 a3 d5 10 Ne2 b5 11 Bxf6!? gxf6 with chances for both sides, Larsen-Wade, Hastings 1972/73.