

DURGAPUR CHESS CLUB

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IN COLLABORATION WITH KOLKATA CHESS ACADEMY

OPEN FILES – ROOK'S ELIXIR

General Principles:

- To win open files we not only need to master strategy, but also tactically as often we should be willingly ready to give up pawns to gain control over open files.
- The queen is best placed behind rooks to create a battery our already controlled open file (*Alekhine's gun*)
- When one side is in control of the **ONLY OPEN FILE** in the game, it mostly becomes long-term strategic advantage.
- We should evaluate correct exchanges to facilitate control over open files.
- The struggle for open file is converted into a win by penetrating the Seventh rank with our rook.
- Fight for open file is not only won by just getting control over a single open file but also by getting complete control over a complete single rank like 7th rank or the Classical 3rd Rank in case of defence!
- Fewer the pieces there are on the board, more are the benefits of controlling open files as now the key squares become loose.
- We can also use, our minor pieces in fight for open files as sometimes they are used as a block to the files to get us some time to regroup our heavy pieces on the file or attack opponent's pieces on the open file to kick them off it.
- In positions, with more than one open file it is important to identify which is the better one, as otherwise we will waste our resources by controlling the wrong one!
There we should be looking for **entry points**/ more key squares in a particular file. Therefore, a file which has more key squares is likely to be better than the one with lesser key squares.

