

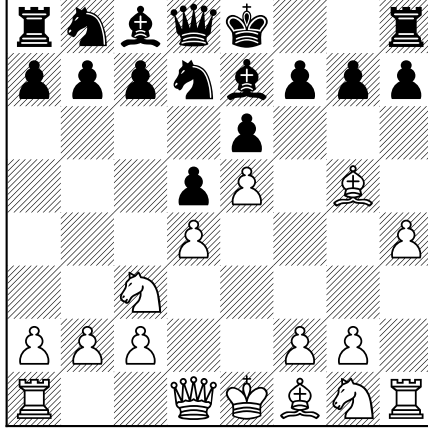
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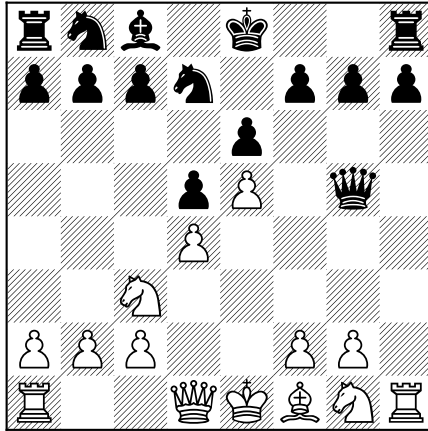
1 Alekhine Chatard

The Alekhine-Chatard is reached after

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3 ♜f6 4 ♙g5 ♚e7 5 e5 ♜fd7 6 h4

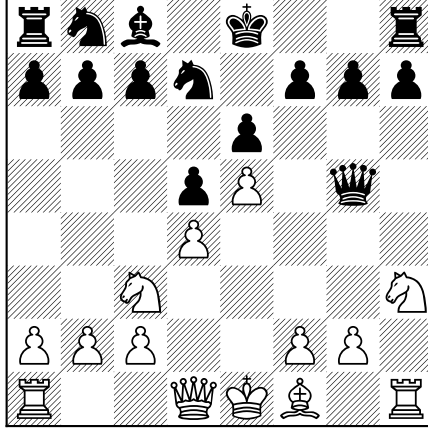


Here I think it is best to accept the gambit with **6...♙xg5**. The variations may be engine generated, but I prefer black's position to white's. The main tabiya is the position on move 8, where white has several options

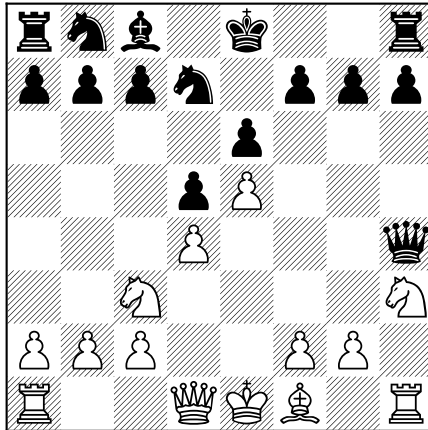


1.1 8. Nh3 Classical

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 ♘f6 4 ♙g5 ♙e7 5 e5 ♘fd7 6 h4 ♙xg5 7 hxg5 ♙xg5 8 ♘h3



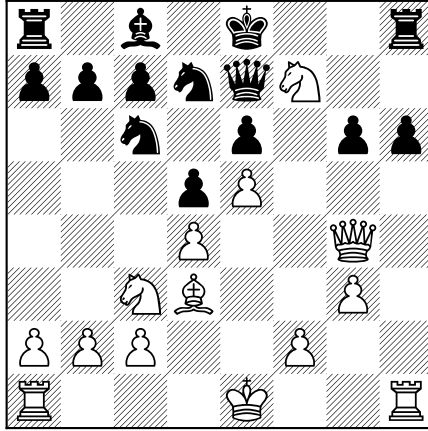
By playing Nh3 instead of Nf3, white can meet 8...♙e7 with 9 ♖g4. The gambit seems bleak for black, as white has a lot of play on the kingside. However, black has the absurd idea:
8...♙h4!



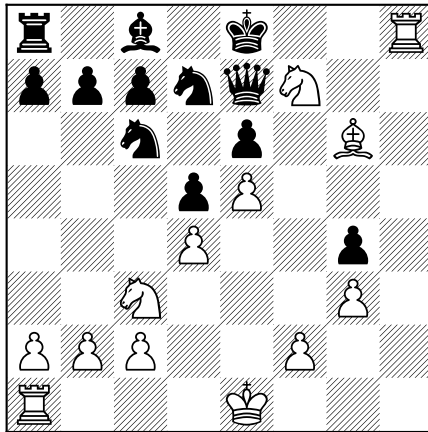
Black provokes 9 g3, so that white does not have Qg3 in a critical line. I'll show you.

1.1.1 Qh4! Critical Line

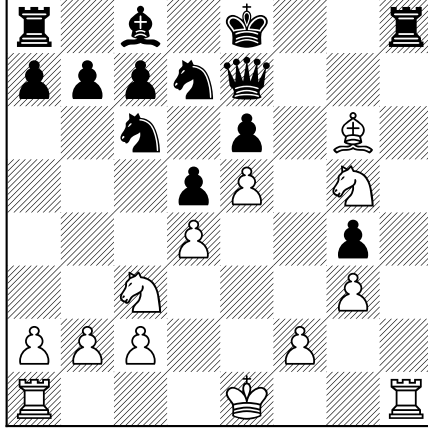
9 ♘h3 ♙e7 10 ♖g4 g6 11 ♘g5 h6 12 ♗d3 ♘c6 13 ♘xf7



Because black inserted g3, black has **13...h5!** when white is denied Qg3. White's best is Qg5, but the most popular is Bxg6. **14 ♖xg6?** Of course black takes on g4 **14...hxg4**. The only move played for white on lichess is the horrible blunder: **15 ♜xh8??**

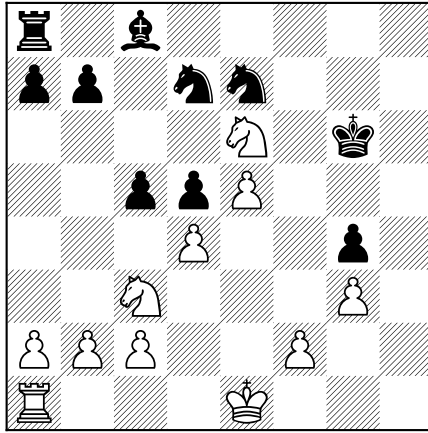


Black wins, as he is up a queen. A sample line goes: **15...♞f8 16 ZZ0-0-0 (16 ♜b5 allows Kd7 and Qb4+) 16...♞d7 17 ♜h5** (the h5 bishop was attacked) **17...♞d8 18 ♞xd8 ♞xd8 19 ♜xg4 c5 20 f4 ♜d7** and black plays Kc7 next and is easily winning. Better than **15 ♜xh8??** is **15 ♞g5+** which is still -1.7



White forces Kf8, so that now on Rxh8+ black has to play Kg7 and can't block with Nf8.

15... ♖f8 16 ♜xh8+ ♔g7 17 ♜h7+ ♖xg6 18 ♜xe7 ♘xe7 19 ♘xe6 c5



Black is better. If 21 ♘f4+, black should try to take the e5 pawn with 21... ♖f5!

1.2 8. Qd3

2 Classical French

2.1 6. Bxf6

This move can be dangerous. White plans to play Bd3, e5, h4, and a Greek Gift with Bxh7+. It does not work, but black has to be careful.

2.2 6. Bxe7

White trades black's best piece. However, black's queen and d7 knight are developed. Black can quickly strike with c5 and f6.

2.3 7. f4

I used to play 7. a6, but I believe 7. 0-0 is stronger. a6 is only useful if white castles queenside (as black can go b5). If white castles kingside, then a6 is not very useful. In either case, black will need to castle kingside. So it makes more sense to play castling first, and then only play a6 if white castles queenside.

2.3.1 9. Qd2

White probably will castle queenside. Now black can revert to the a6, b5, b4, a5, Ba6 plan.

2.3.2 9. dxc5

2.3.3 9. Bd3

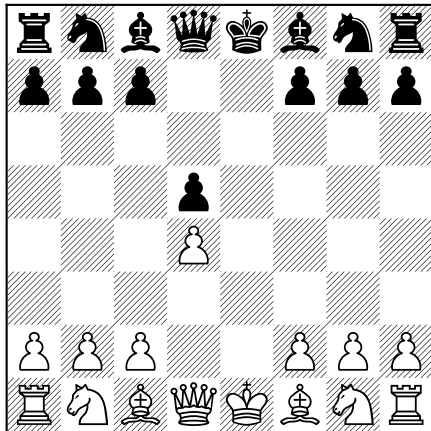
2.3.4 9. Nb5

2.4 7. Nb5

There is an interesting sideline where white plays for c3 and Nc2, with perfectly harmonious pieces.

3 Exchange Variation

The Exchange French has a few different move orders, but the main one is
1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 exd5



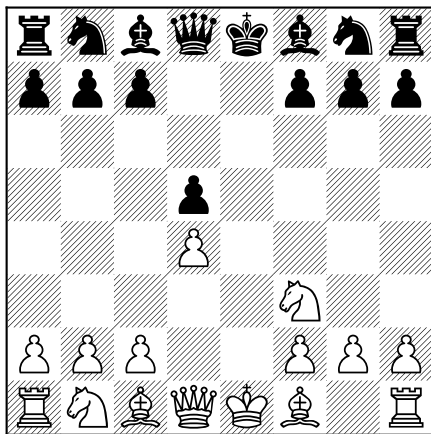
White has a few different options here, but there are only two kinds of approaches: white plays for c4, or white plays without c4.

3.1 White plays without c4

Here white has two options, both equally unexciting

3.2 4. Nf3

4 ♘f3 The most common move in the position. The best scoring move and the one I recommend is 4... ♙c6.



Black wants to play Bd6, Nge7, Bf5, and Nxf5. However, if black starts with Bd6 then white can play 5 c4. Black is no longer able to play 5... ♗b4+ in

one move. So **5... ♖c6** is like a waiting move.

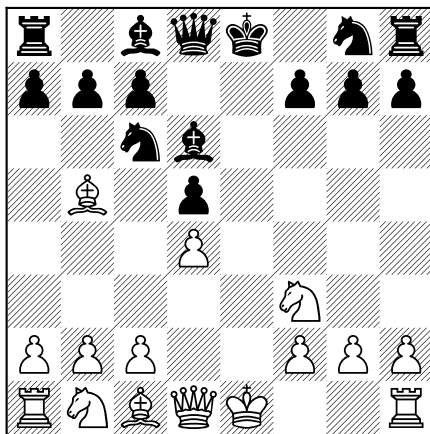
White can play **5 ♖b5**, **5 ♖d3**, **5 ♖f4**, or **5 ♖c3**

3.3 5. Bb5

5 ♖b5:

White prepares to castle and pins the c6 knight. Black should do likewise and prioritize castling.

5... ♖d6

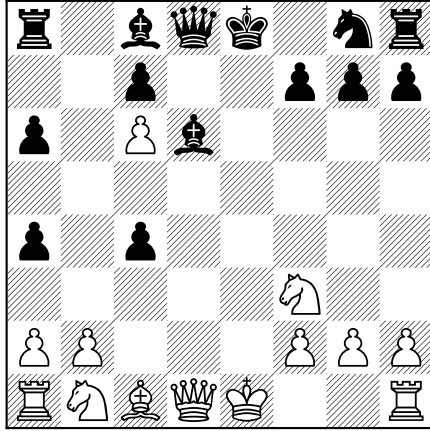


This is the best move, preparing Nge7. White's only try is the interesting option of **6 c4!? dxc4 7 d5**

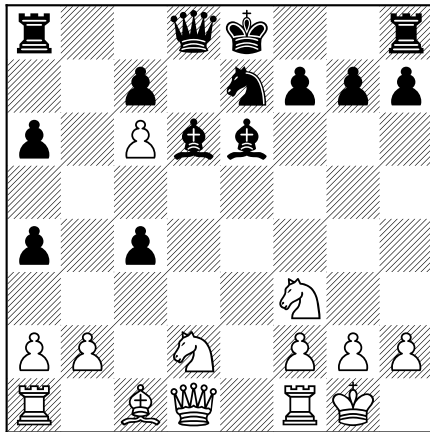
Of course black should play **7... a6** and if **8 ♖xc4** black can play Qe7+ when black either trades queens or plays Ne5.

8 ♖a4 b5

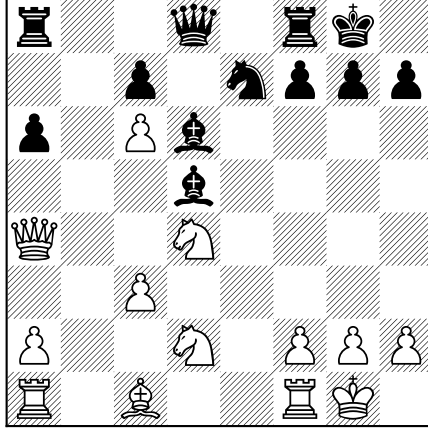
9 dxc6 bxa4



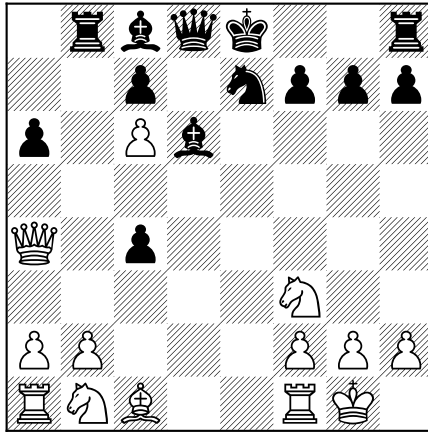
Here if **10 ♖xa4?!** black is better with Qe7+ 11. Be3 Bc5 12. O-O Bxe3
10 O-O ♘ge7
11 ♘bd2 hits c4
11... ♙e6 Defends c4



12 ♖xa4 c3! Bd5 planning Bxc6 is the more popular line, but white is slightly better there. It is better to throw in c3 and only then play Bd5.
13 bxc3 ♙d5 14 ♘d4 O-O
 Here **15 c4?!** is the most popular move.
 But black is better with:



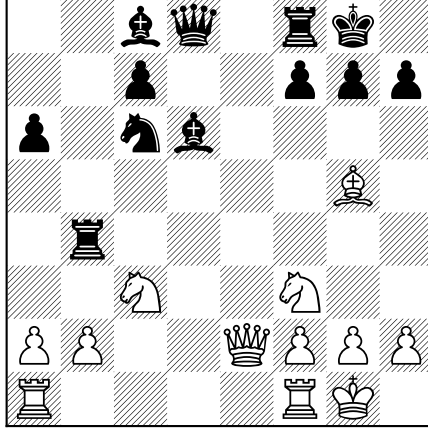
15... ♖xc6 16 ♗xc6 ♗xc6 17 ♔xc6?? ♔f6! And the dual threats of Bxh2+ and Qxa1 mean black is winning.
 13 ♗e4 is also met by 13... ♖d5
 11 ♔xa4 ♖b8



Qxc4, Nbd2, and a3

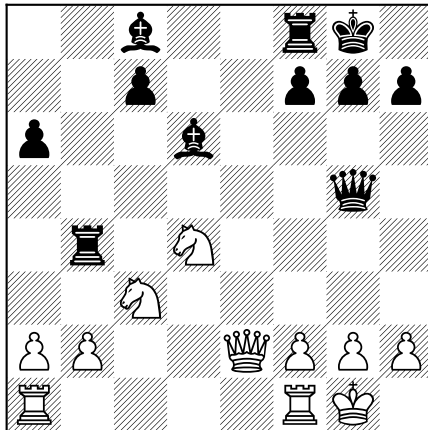
3.3.1 12. Qxc4?!

12 ♔xc4?! O-O 13 ♗c3?! ♖b4 14 ♔e2 ♗xc6 15 ♖g5



Here black has only played 15...f6? on lichess But black can get a sizeable advantage (-1.1) with 15...d4!

If 16 dxd8 dxe2+ 17 dxe2 Rxb2 18 exd4 exd4 Of course black has a strong initiative if 16 dxd4 Bxg5



3.3.2 12. Nbd2

3.4 c4

4 Advance French

Black has many good options against the Advance. There are many possible plans, but I think only three of them are serious. Namely, the line with Qb6 &

c4, the line with Qb6 & Nh6, and the line with Bd7 & Nge7. I never felt that Bd7 & Nge7 was very harmonious, as it always involved an oddly timed f6. Qb6 & c4 is more normal, but leads to very closed positions where both sides struggle to make progress. Qb6 & Nh6 leads to active and open positions, and I like it.

5 Introduction

Hello. As I try to make master, I am formalizing my black repertoire. This is my notes and analysis, I hope it helps you. Most of the lines are very combative, except in the Steinitz where white can force a very early repetition with Na4-¿Nc3.