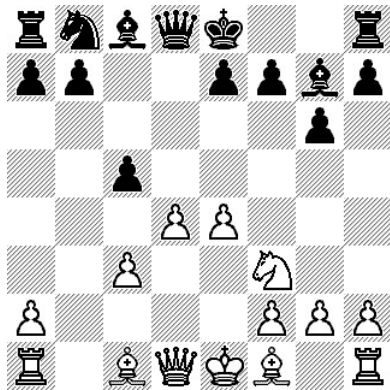


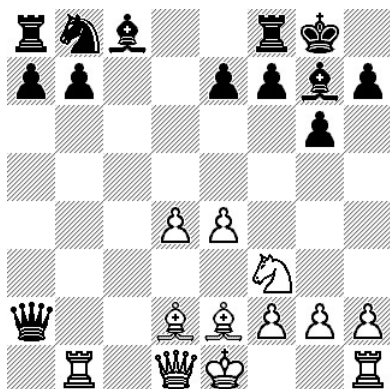
## DEFENSA GRUENFELD

### ECO [D85] Variante del cambio moderna.

La variante empieza con los movimientos: **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6** muy común para realizar el fianchetto en g7 **3.Nc3 d5** una vez que el blanco movió su caballo a c3, el negro puede iniciar la defensa Gruenfeld con la idea de cambiar caballos y abrir la diagonal para el alfil colocado en g7 **4.cxd5** aquí el blanco se apodera del centro y debe estar preparado para jugar agresivamente y defender su puesto en d5 [Otro sistema muy popular es el ruso: **4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Qb3 dxc4 6.Qxc4 0-0 7.e4**] **Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3** cambio de caballos lo que origina una cadena de peones en el centro del blanco **6.bxc3 c5** punto de partida de la apertura. La estrategia negra es contraatacar la estructura blanca con piezas y avance de peones.



[Otra manera de llegar a la misma posición es **6....Bg7 7.Nf3 c5**] **7.Nf3** [También se juega **7.Be3 Bg7 8.Nf3**] [Otra variante que es la llamada clásica sigue con **7.Bc4 Bg7 8.Ne2 0-0 9.0-0 cxd4** (también están disponibles **9....Nc6** y **9....Nd7**, ver estudio aparte) **10.cxd4 Nc6 11.Be3 Bg4 12.f3 Na5**] [Una menos común es **7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Be2**] **Bg7**. Una posición Clásica de esta línea continua con **8.Rb1 0-0 9.Be2 cxd4\*** Aquí la respuesta negra no solo depende de gusto personal sino del tiempo disponible que haya para su estudio **10.cxd4 Qa5+ 11.Bd2 Qxa2** (La respuesta del blanco **12.0-0** firma la línea principal de esta variante).



Otra forma en que el blanco mueve en la jugada 11 es así: **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Rb1 0-0 9.Be2 cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+ 11.Qd2 Qxd2+ 12.Bxd2** [Otros toman con el caballo **12....Nxd2** cuando realizan **8.Be3**] **e6 13.0-0 b6**.

La otra línea principal **9....Nc6 10.d5 Ne5 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Qd2 e6 13.f4 Bc7** lleva igualmente a una posición muy aguda que lleva su cantidad de riesgo para el segundo jugador.

La Variante del cambio de la Gruenfeld se divide en otras líneas :

### **7.Nf3 c5 8.Be3**

Una de las formas mas populares del negro para tratar las líneas con Be3 es con el cambio de reinas **8...Qa5 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.Rc1 cxd4 11.cxd4 Qxd2+ 12.Kxd2 0-0 13.d5 Rd8 14.Ke1** pero tambien existen opciones razonables para aquellos que no gustan entrar a un final temprano y prefieren una aguda batalla de medio juego. El desarrollo atrasado del caballo de dama negro con **9...0-0 10.Rc1 Rd8 11.d5** por ejemplo ha probado hasta ahora ser una alternativa viable para el segundo jugador.

### **7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4 11.f3 Na5**

Jugar la línea clásica involucra el aprendizaje de una gran cantidad de teoría compleja. Existe la variante Sevilla **12.Bxf7+** para enfrentar, así como el sacrificio-intercambio Bronstein después de **12.Bd3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Be6 14.d5** Y el popular sacrificio de peon Geller **12.Bd3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Be6 14.Rc1 Bxa2**. Los jugadores de negras que menos se inclinan a defender este tipo de posiciones pueden explorar las continuaciones mas tranquilas **8...b6** y **10...e6**.

### **7.Bb5**

El jaque con el alfil de Dautov no ebe dar graves problemas al negro, pero éste debe estar preparado con el fin de evitar caer dentro de una posición pasiva o quedar sin ningún plan. Ahora la respuesta **7...Nd7** echa a tierra el desarrollo negro y donde la altamente agresiva **7...c6** seria mas ambiciosa para el negro si llevara cierto riesgo de por medio. Tal vez la mas sencilla **7...Bd7** sea la mas segura, sin embargo el negro necesita estar correctamente informado para jugarla.

### **5.Bd2 & 5.Na4**

La idea de Smyslov **5.Bd2** no es tan inocua como parece, y de echo ocupa un buen lugar dentro de la practica moderna fuera de las líneas principales. La reacción mas prometedora del negro es una sutil amenaza de Svidler con el caballo después de **5...Bg7 6.e4 Nb6** mas que el intercambio en c3.

La jugada de Nadanian **5.Na4** ha disfrutado de enorme popularidad en los años recientes. Pero el lector de este estudio encontrara en cualquier database que el negro no necesita temer a los saltos del caballo de dama blanco.

Entre los muchos jugadores que practican la Defensa Gruenfeld que es uno de los sistemas mas agresivos que tienen para responder con negras a la jugada inicial de las blancas **1. d4** estan Kudrin, Kasparov, Leko, Ivanchuk, Anand, Korchnoi, Epishin, Adorjan, Svidler, Popovic etc.

**TIP: El ataque al peon situado en d4 combinando la presión del alfil de g7 en su diagonal con el avance del peon en c5 es el pivote donde se basa el éxito de la estrategia de las negras.**

La Defensa Gruenfeld fue introducida por el GM Ernst Gruenfeld en los juegos:

Becker, A - Gruenfeld, E [D85]

Vienna m3 Vienna, 1921

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 cxd4 10.cxd4 Nc6 11.Be3 Bg4 12.d5 Ne5 13.Rb1 Nxf3+ 14.gxf3 Bh3 15.Rxb7 Bxf1 16.Bxf1 Qd6 17.Bxa7 Be5 18.h3 Qa3 19.Be3 Rfb8 20.Rxb8+ Rxb8 21.Bc4 Qc3 22.Bb3 Qc7 23.Kg2 Bf4 24.Bd4 Be5 25.Be3  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Saemisch, F - Gruenfeld, E [D93]

Bad Pistyan Bad Pistyan (7), 1922

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.e3 c6 6.h3 0-0 7.Nf3 Nbd7 8.Rc1 dxc4 9.Bxc4 c5 10.dxc5 Nxc5 11.0-0 Qxd1 12.Rfxd1 Be6 13.Bxe6 Nxe6 14.Be5 Rfd8 15.Kf1 Rxd1+ 16.Rxd1 Rd8 17.Nd4 Ne8 18.Bxg7 N8xg7 19.Nxe6 Rxd1+ 20.Nxd1 Nxe6 21.Ke2 Kf8 22.Nc3 Nc7  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Kostic,B - Gruenfeld,E [D85]  
Teplitz-Schoenau Teplitz-Schoenau (11), 1922

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Bb5+ Bd7 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7  
10.O-O cxd4 11.cxd4 Nc6 12.Be3 O-O 13.Rb1 Na5 14.d5 Rfc8 15.Bd4 Bxd4 16.Qxd4 b6 17.Ne5 Qd6  
18.Ng4 Qf4 19.Ne3 Rc5 20.Rbc1 Rac8 21.Rxc5 Rxc5 22.f3 h5 23.g3 Qc7 24.e5 Nc4 25.Nxc4 Rxc4  
26.Qe3 Rc3 27.Qd4 Rc4 28.Qe3 Rc2 29.e6 Qc5 30.Qxc5 Rxc5 31.Rd1 fxe6 32.dxe6 Ra5 33.Rd2 Kg7  
34.f4 Kf6 35.Re2 g5 36.fxg5+ Kxg5 37.Kg2 Kf5 38.Kf3 Ra3+ 39.Kg2 Ra5 40.Kh3 Ra4 41.Rb2 Kxe6  
42.Rb5 Rxa2 43.Rxh5 Rb2 44.Rh8 a5 45.Kg4 a4 46.Ra8 Rb4+ 47.Kf3 b5 48.h4 Kf6 49.g4 Rb3+  
50.Ke4 a3 51.Ra6+ Kg7 52.Kf5 b4 53.Ra7 Rf3+ 54.Ke4 Rf2 55.Ke3 Rb2 O-1

Esta partida tambien es buen ejemplo para empezar a estudiar la ECO [D85].

[Event "GMA"][Site "Bermuda BER"][Date "2002.01.28"][Round "7"][White "Johannessen,LE"]  
[Black "Nakamura,H"][Result "1-0"][WhiteElo "2427"][BlackElo "2430"][ECO "D85"]  
[EventDate "2002.01.21"]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Rb1 [Obviamente  
el blanco nunca avanzaría su peon en d, 8.d5 Bxc3+ 9.Bd2 Bxa1 10.Qxa1 O-O] [Ni tampoco tomaría al  
peon negro de c, 8.dxc5 Qxd1+ 9.Kxd1 Bxc3 10.Rb1 O-O] 8...O-O 9.Be2 cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+  
11.Bd2 Qxa2 12.O-O Bg4 13.Bg5 Qe6 14.h3 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Qd7 16.d5 Na6 17.Qe2 Nc5 18.e5 Rae8  
19.Rfd1 f6 20.Be3 Rc8 21.d6 b6 22.Bxc5 Rxc5 23.e6 Qc8 24.dxe7 Re8 25.Rd8 Rxd8 26.exd8=Q+  
Qxd8 27.e7 Qe8 28.Qe6+ Kh8 29.Rd1 Rc8 30.Qxc8 Qxc8 31.Rd8+ 1-0

Partidas de Artur Yussupov jugando para Tablas con blancas. ECO [D85]

[Event "World Cup"][Site "Reykjavik ISL"][Date "1988.10.??"][White "Jussupow, Artur"]  
[Black "Kasparov, Gary"][Result "1/2-1/2"][WhiteElo "2450"][BlackElo "2760"][ECO "D85"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Be3 c5 8. Qd2 Qa5 9.  
Nf3 Nc6 10. Rb1 a6 11. Rc1 cxd4 12. cxd4 Qxd2+ 13. Kxd2 f5 14. Bd3 Rf8 15. exf5 Bxf5 16. Rc5 Rd8  
17. Bxa6 Nxd4 18. Bxd4 bxa6 19. Kc3 Bxd4+ 20. Nxd4 Bd7 21. f3 Rf6 1/2-1/2

[Event "Candidate match"][Site "Wijk aan Zee NED"][Date "1994.01.??"][White "Jussupow, Artur  
M"][Black "Anand, Viswanathan"][Result "1/2-1/2"][WhiteElo "2665"][BlackElo "2715"][ECO "D85"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Nf3 c5 8. Be3 Qa5 9.  
Qd2 Bg4 10. Rc1 Nc6 11. d5 Rd8 12. Qb2 Bxf3 13. gxf3 Nd4 14. Bxd4 cxd4 15. Qb5+ Qxb5 16. Bxb5+  
Kf8 17. cxd4 Bxd4 18. Rc7 Be5 19. Rxb7 Rb8 20. Rxb8+ Bxb8 21. O-O Bf4 22. Rb1 Kg7 23. Bc6 Rb8  
24. Bb7 Bd6 25. a4 a5 26. Rb5 f5 1/2-1/2

[Site "Linares ESP"][Date "1989.03.??"][Round "9"][White "Jussupow, Artur"]  
[Black "Gulko, Boris F"][Result "1/2-1/2"][WhiteElo "2610"][BlackElo "2610"][ECO "D85"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Be3 c5 8. Qd2 cxd4  
9. cxd4 Nc6 10. Rd1 Qa5 11. Qxa5 Nxa5 12. Bd3 O-O 13. Ne2 Bd7 14. Rc1 Rfc8 15. Kd2 e6 16. Rxc8+  
Rxc8 17. Rc1 Rxc1 18. Nxc1 Kf8 19. Ne2 a6 20. Bf4 Nc6 21. Bd6+ Ke8 22. Kc3 Bf6 23. Bc7 Be7 24. f3  
1/2-1/2

[Site "Djakarta/Surakarta/Bali"][Date "1983.11.??"][Round "15"][White "Jussupow, Artur"]  
[Black "Timman, Jan H"][Result "1/2-1/2"][WhiteElo "2565"][BlackElo "2605"][ECO "D85"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Nf3 c5 8. Be3 Qa5 9.  
Qd2 Nc6 10. Rb1 b6 11. Rc1 e6 12. d5 exd5 13. exd5 Ne7 14. Bg5 h6 15. Bxe7 Kxe7 16. Bc4 Rd8 17. O-  
O Kf8 18. d6 Qa4 19. Ne5 Bxe5 20. Qd5 Qe8 21. Rfe1 Bxh2+ 22. Kxh2 Be6 23. Qe5 Kg8 24. Qg3 Kh7

25. Rxe6 fxe6 26. Re1 Qf7 27. Rxe6 Re8 28. Re4 Qg7 29. Rg4 Rad8 30. d7 Rxd7 31. Bb5 Re5 32. Bxd7 Rh5+ 33. Kg1 Qxd7 34. Qf3 Re5 35. Rf4 Kg7 36. c4 Qe7 37. g3 g5 38. Rf5 Rxf5 39. Qxf5 Qd6  
**A partir de aqui la continuacion es una lucha entre las dos damas** 40. Qe4 a5 41. a4 Qd7 42. Kg2 Kf6  
 43. Qf3+ Ke7 44. Qe4+ Qe6 45. Qb7+ Kf6 46. Qf3+ Kg7 47. c3+ Kg6 48. Qd3+ Kf6 49. Qf3+ Ke5 50.  
 Qe2+ Kd6 51. Qc2 Kc6 52. Kh2 Kb7 53. Qh7+ Kc6 54. Qc2 h5 55. Qd3 h4 56. f4 hxg3+ 57. Kxg3  
 gxf4+ 58. Kxf4 Qf7+ 59. Kg3 Kc7 60. Kg2 Qf6 61. Kg3 Qe5+ 62. Kf2 Qd4+ 63. Ke2 Kd6 64. Qg6+  
 Ke7 65. Qh7+ Ke6 66. Qg6+ Kd7 67. Qf7+ Kc6 68. Qg6+ Kb7 69. Qf7+ Ka6 70. Qe6 Qd8 71. Ke3 Kb7  
 72. Qf7+ 1/2-1/2

**Peter Leko tambien tiene currículum con esta defensa. ECO [D85]**

[Site "Nettetal"] [Date "1991.??.??"] [Round "1"] [White "Steffens, G"] [Black "Leko, Peter"] [Result  
 "1/2-1/2"] [WhiteElo "2205"] [BlackElo "2385"] [ECO "D85"]

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Nf3 c5 8. Rb1 O-O 9.**  
 Qd2 cxd4 10. cxd4 b6 11. Bb5 Bb7 12. Qe3 Nc6 13. Bb2 e6 14. Bxc6 Bxc6 15. d5 Bxb2 16. dxc6 Bg7  
 17. O-O Qc7 18. Rfc1 Rfd8 19. Rc2 Bf8 20. h4 Bc5 21. Qh6 Bf8 22. Qe3 Bc5 23. Qh6 Bf8 24. Qe3  
 1/2-1/2

[Event "Open"] [Site "Dortmund GER"] [Date "1992.04.??"] [Round "5"] [White "Trisic, Alexandar"]  
 [Black "Leko, Peter"] [Result "0-1"] [WhiteElo "2220"] [BlackElo "2385"] [WhiteCountry "GER"]  
 [BlackTitle "FM"] [BlackCountry "HUN"] [ECO "D85"]

**1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 d5 5. cxd5 Nxd5 6. e4 Nxc3 7. bxc3 c5 8. Rb1 O-O 9.**  
 Be2 cxd4 10. cxd4 Qa5+ 11. Bd2 Qxa2 12. O-O Bg4 13. Bg5 h6 14. Be3 b6 15. h3 Bxf3 16. Bxf3 e5  
 17. d5 Nd7 18. Qd3 Nc5 19. Qb5 Qa4 20. Bxc5 Qxb5 21. Rxb5 bxc5 22. Rxc5 Rfc8 23. Rxc8+ Rxc8  
 24. Ra1 Rc7 25. Bg4 Bf8 26. Ra6 h5 27. Bf3 Bb4 28. Kh2 Kf8 29. Ra2 a5 30. Bd1 Rc4 31. f3 Rc1 32.  
 Ba4 h4 33. g3 g5 34. Kg2 Ke7 35. Bc6 Kd6 36. Be8 f6 37. Kf2 Be1+ 38. Kg2 hxg3 39. Ba4 Bf2 0-1

[Event "Rapid"] [Site "Oviedo"] [Date "1993.12.??"] [Round "3"] [White "Etchegaray, Patrice"]  
 [Black "Leko, Peter"] [Result "0-1"] [WhiteElo "2410"] [BlackElo "2555"] [ECO "D85"]

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. cxd5 Nxd5 6. e4 Nxc3 7. bxc3 c5 8. Rb1 O-O 9.**  
 Be2 cxd4 10. cxd4 Qa5+ 11. Bd2 Qxa2 12. O-O Nd7 13. Bb4 a5 14. Ra1 Qe6 15. Bd3 b6 16. Ba3 Ba6  
 17. Bxa6 Rxa6 18. Qe2 Raa8 19. Rac1 Rfc8 20. d5 Qf6 21. e5 Nxe5 22. Nxe5 Rxc1 23. Rxc1 Qxe5 24.  
 Qxe5 Bxe5 25. Bxe7 f6 26. d6 Kf7 27. d7 Kxe7 28. Rc8 Kxd7 29. Rxa8 Kc6 30. Kf1 Kb7 31. Rh8 h5  
 32. Rh7+ Ka6 33. Rh6 Bb2 0-1

[Site "Wijk aan Zee NED"] [Date "1994.01.??"] [Round "5"] [White "Sokolov, Ivan"]  
 [Black "Leko, Peter"] [Result "0-1"] [WhiteElo "2650"] [BlackElo "2545"] [ECO "D85"]

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Bb5+ c6 8. Ba4 b5 9.**  
 Bb3 b4 10. Bb2 bxc3 11. Bxc3 Nd7 12. Ne2 O-O 13. O-O Ba6 14. Rc1 Rc8 15. Re1 e5 16. Bb4 Re8 17.  
 d5 c5 18. Bd2 Nb6 19. Be3 Bf8 20. Ba4 Nxa4 21. Qxa4 Bd3 22. f3 c4 23. Nc3 a5 24. a3 Rb8 25. Nd1  
 Rb3 26. Nf2 Rxa3 27. Qc6 Qa8 28. Qf6 Bg7 29. Qh4 Qa6 30. Ng4 Qd6 31. Bh6 f6 32. Bxg7 Kxg7  
 33. Qh6+ Kg8 34. Re3 Rb3 35. h4 Qf8 36. Qxf8+ Rxf8 37. Nf2 a4 38. Nxd3 cxd3 39. Rd1 a3 40.  
 Rxd3 Rxd3 41. Rxd3 Ra8 42. Rd1 a2 43. Ra1 Kf7 44. Kf2 Ke7 45. Ke2 Kd6 46. Kd3 f5 47. Kc3 fxe4  
 48. fxe4 Ra3+ 49. Kb2 Re3 50. Rxa2 Rxe4 51. Ra6+ Kxd5 52. g3 Rc4 53. h5 gxh5 54. Rh6 Rc7 55.  
 Rxh5 Kd4 56. g4 e4 57. Rf5 e3 58. Rf8 e2 59. Re8 Kd3 60. Rd8+ Ke3 61. Re8+ Kf2 62. Rf8+ Ke1  
 63. Kb3 Kd1 64. Rd8+ Kc1 65. Re8 Rc2 0-1

[Event "Fontys"] [Site "Tilburg NED"] [Date "1996.10.21"] [Round "9"] [White "Lautier, Joel"]  
[Black "Leko, Peter"] [Result "0-1"] [WhiteElo "2620"] [BlackElo "2630"] [ECO "D85"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Nf3 c5 8. Rb1 O-O 9. Be2 cxd4 10. cxd4 Qa5+ 11. Bd2 Qxa2 12. O-O a5 13. Bg5 a4 14. Bxe7 Re8 15. Rc1 Qe6 16. Ba3 Qxe4 17. Re1 Bd7 18. d5 Qf4 19. Rc4 Qf6 20. Rc7 Bf8 21. d6 Bc6 22. Qd2 Nd7 23. Rd1 Bg7 24. Bc4 Rad8 25. Ng5 Rf8 26. Re1 Ne5 27. Ba2 Rd7 28. h3 h6 29. f4 Nd3 30. Qxd3 hxg5 31. Rxd7 Bxd7 32. fxg5 Qxg5 33. Bd5 b5 34. Kh1 Bf6 35. Rf1 Be5 36. g4 Kg7 37. Qe4 f6 38. Rc1 Rh8 39. Qf3 Bxd6 40. Bb2 Be5 0-1

### **Boris Gulko ganando con Blancas a Peter Leko. ECO [D85]**

[Event "?"] [Site "Cap d'Agde FRA"] [Date "1996.10.28"] [Round "4"] [White "Gelfand, Boris"]  
[Black "Leko, Peter"] [Result "1-0"] [WhiteElo "2665"] [BlackElo "2630"] [ECO "D85"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Nf3 c5 8. Rb1 O-O 9. Be2 cxd4 10. cxd4 Qa5+ 11. Bd2 Qxa2 12. O-O a5 13. Bg5 a4 14. Re1 Qe6 15. d5 Qd6 16. e5 Bxe5 17. Nxe5 Qxe5 18. Qd2 Qd6 19. Bc4 Re8 20. Bf4 Qd8 21. Qc3 Nd7 22. Bb5 e5 23. dxe6 Rxe6 24. Bc4 Qf6 25. Qd2 Nf8 26. Bxe6 Nxe6 27. Be5 Qd8 28. Qc3 h6 29. Rbd1 Qf8 30. Bd6 Qg7 31. Be5 Qf8 32. Qf3 Ra6 33. Rc1 Ng5 34. Qf4 Bf5 35. h4 Ne6 36. Qf3 Nc5 37. g4 Bd7 38. Qd5 b6 39. Rxc5 bxc5 40. Qxd7 Re6 41. Qxa4 Kh7 42. Qd7 Re7 43. Qd2 Qc8 44. Qf4 Qe6 45. Bc3 Qxe1+ 46. Bxe1 Rxe1+ 47. Kg2 Re7 48. Qd6 Re6 49. Qxc5 Kg8 50. f4 Kg7 51. Kf3 Kg8 52. Qc8+ Kg7 53. Qc3+ Kg8 54. f5 gxf5 55. gxf5 Rb6 56. Kg4 Rd6 57. Kh5 Kh7 58. Qc7 Rf6 59. Qe5 Rc6 60. f6 Rc4 61. Qe3 1-0

[Event "Sparkassen"] [Site "Dortmund GER"] [Date "1998"] [Round "3"] [White "Shirov, Alexei"]  
[Black "Leko, Peter"] [Result "0-1"] [WhiteElo "2710"] [BlackElo "2670"] [ECO "D85"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Nf3 c5 8. Rb1 O-O 9. Be2 cxd4 10. cxd4 Qa5+ 11. Bd2 Qxa2 12. O-O Nd7 13. Bb4 Nb6 14. Ne5 f6 15. Nd3 Qf7 16. d5 f5 17. Nc5 fxe4 18. d6 Rd8 19. Nxe4 Bf5 20. Bd3 Bxe4 21. Bxe4 exd6 22. f4 d5 23. Bc2 Nc4 24. Rb3 a5 25. Ba3 d4 26. f5 Ne3 27. Qf3 Rd7 28. Qh3 d3 29. Bxd3 Nxf1 30. fxg6 Bd4+ 31. Kh1 Qf2 0-1

[Event "Fontys"] [Site "Tilburg NED"] [Date "1998.11.04"] [Round "11"] [White "Van Wely, Loek"]  
[Black "Leko, Peter"] [Result "1/2-1/2"] [WhiteElo "2635"] [BlackElo "2665"] [ECO "D85"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 d5 5. cxd5 Nxd5 6. e4 Nxc3 7. bxc3 c5 8. Rb1 O-O 9. Be2 cxd4 10. cxd4 Qa5+ 11. Bd2 Qxa2 12. O-O Bg4 13. Be3 Nc6 14. d5 Na5 15. Bc5 Bf6 16. e5 Bxe5 17. Rb4 Bxf3 18. Bxf3 Rae8 19. Bxa7 b5 20. Qe2 Qxe2 21. Bxe2 Nc4 22. Bc5 Nd6 23. Bxb5 Rb8 24. Bc6 Rxb4 25. Bxb4 Rb8 26. Bc5 Rb2 27. g3 Rc2 28. Ba7 Ra2 1/2-1/2

[Event "?"] [Site "Sarajevo Super GM"] [Date "1999.05.26"] [Round "9"] [White "Sokolov, Ivan"]  
[Black "Leko, Peter"] [Result "1/2-1/2"] [WhiteElo "2624"] [BlackElo "2694"] [ECO "D85"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 d5 5. cxd5 Nxd5 6. e4 Nxc3 7. bxc3 c5 8. Bb5+ Nc6 9. O-O cxd4 10. cxd4 O-O 11. Be3 Bg4 12. Bxc6 bxc6 13. Rc1 Qa5 14. Rxc6 Qxa2 15. Rc7 Qe6 16. h3 Qd6 17. Rc5 Bxf3 18. Qxf3 a5 19. e5 Qd7 20. Ra1 a4 21. Qd1 Ra7 22. f4 Rfa8 23. d5 Ra5 24. Qc2 a3 25. Rxa5 Rxa5 26. Qb3 Qxd5 1/2-1/2

[Event "?"] [Site "Linares Super GM"] [Date "2000.03.05"] [Round "6"] [White "Anand, Viswanathan"]  
[Black "Leko, Peter"] [Result "1/2-1/2"] [WhiteElo "2769"] [BlackElo "2725"] [ECO "D85"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 d5 5. cxd5 Nxd5 6. e4 Nxc3 7. bxc3 c5 8. Rb1 O-O 9. Be2 cxd4 10. cxd4 Qa5+ 11. Bd2 Qxa2 12. O-O Nd7 13. Re1 Nb6 14. Ra1 Qb2 15. h3 f5 16. Rb1 Qa2 17. Qc1 Kh8 18. Ra1 Qg8 19. Ba5 fxe4 20. Bxb6 exf3 21. Bxf3 Bxh3 22. Rxa7 Bxg2 23. Kxg2 Qb3 24. Qd1 Qxb6 25. Rxb7 Qf6 26. Rxe7 Ra1 27. Rxc7 Rxd1 28. Rxh7+ Kg8 29. Bd5+ Rf7 30. Rbxf7 Qg5+



31. Kh3 Qxd5 32. Rhg7+ 1/2-1/2

### Gary Kasparov jugando la Gruenfeld. ECO [D85]

[Event "Corus GM"] [Site "Wijk aan Zee NED"] [Date "2000.01.29"] [Round "12"] [White "Kramnik, Vladimir"] [Black "Kasparov, Gary"] [Result "1/2-1/2"] [WhiteElo "2758"] [BlackElo "2851"] [ECO "D85"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Nf3 c5 8. h3 O-O 9. Be2 b5 10. Be3 Bb7 11. Qd3 cxd4 12. cxd4 Nd7 13. O-O Nb6 14. Qb1 Na4 15. Qxb5 Nc3 16. Qxb7 Nxe2+ 17. Kh1 Nxd4 18. Rad1 e5 19. Nxe5 Bxe5 20. f4 Bg7 21. e5 Qb6 22. Qxb6 axb6 23. Bxd4 Rxa2 24. Bxb6 Re8 25. Bd8 Ra6 26. Bc7 Rae6 27. g4 g5 28. f5 Rc6 29. Rd7 Bxe5 30. Re1 f6 31. Bxe5 Rxe5 32. Rxe5 fxe5 33. Re7 h5 34. Kg2 hxg4 35. hxg4 Rc4 36. Kf3 Rf4+ 37. Kg3 e4 1/2-1/2

[Event "Israeli League"] [Site "Ramat Aviv ISR"] [Date "2000.05.05"] [Round "10"] [White "Avrukh, Boris"] [Black "Kasparov, Gary"] [Result "1/2-1/2"] [WhiteElo "2620"] [BlackElo "2851"] [ECO "D85"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Nf3 c5 8. Rb1 O-O 9. Be2 b6 10. O-O Bb7 11. Qd3 Ba6 12. Qe3 Qd7 13. Bxa6 Nxa6 14. Qe2 Nc7 15. Rd1 Rad8 16. Be3 Qa4 17. Rdc1 Rd7 18. Qc2 Qxc2 19. Rxc2 cxd4 20. cxd4 f5 21. Rbc1 Nb5 22. e5 f4 23. a4 fxe3 24. axb5 Bh6 25. Ra1 Rd5 26. Rxa7 Rxb5 27. Kf1 Re8 28. fxe3 Bxe3 29. Ke2 Bf4 30. Raa2 Kf7 31. Rcb2 Ra5 32. Rxa5 bxa5 33. Ra2 Ra8 34. Ra4 Ke6 35. d5+ Kf5 36. Nh4+ Kxe5 37. Nf3+ Kf5 38. Nh4+ 1/2-1/2

[Event "Braingames WCC"] [Site "London ENG"] [Date "2000.10.10"] [Round "2"] [White "Kramnik, V"] [Black "Kasparov, G"] [Result "1-0"] [WhiteElo "2770"] [BlackElo "2849"] [ECO "D85"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Nf3 c5 8. Be3 Qa5 9. Qd2 Bg4 10. Rb1 a6 11. Rxb7 Bxf3 12. gxf3 Nc6 13. Bc4 O-O 14. O-O cxd4 15. cxd4 Bxd4 16. Bd5 Bc3 17. Qc1 Nd4 18. Bxd4 Bxd4 19. Rxe7 Ra7 20. Rxa7 Bxa7 21. f4 Qd8 22. Qc3 Bb8 23. Qf3 Qh4 24. e5 g5 25. Re1 Qxf4 26. Qxf4 gxf4 27. e6 fxe6 28. Rxe6 Kg7 29. Rxa6 Rf5 30. Be4 Re5 31. f3 Re7 32. a4 Ra7 33. Rb6 Be5 34. Rb4 Rd7 35. Kg2 Rd2+ 36. Kh3 h5 37. Rb5 Kf6 38. a5 Ra2 39. Rb6+ Ke7 40. Bd5 1-0 Y Kasparov se quedo sin tiempo, Este juego fue clave para que Krtamnik ganara el campeonato del Mundo.

### THE GRUENFELD DEFENSE (EXCHANGE VARIATION.)

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3



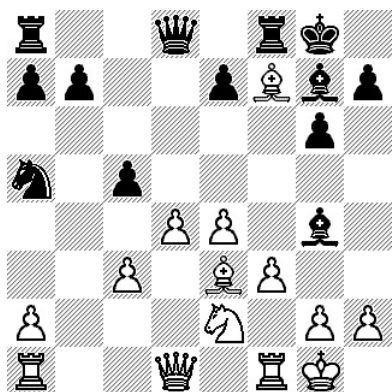
If the Gruenfeld Indian Defense is unsound, then the reason must surely be that it allows White to build up a broad and imposing pawn center. The most simple and natural way for White to do this is by an exchange of pawns on d5 followed by the central advance e4. The theoretical debate over the validity of this approach and Black's possible countermeasures has been raging for more than half a century, with White trying various piece formations and Black, in turn, looking for ways to combat

them. Should White try for a quick attack or attempt to inhibit ...c5? Should Black try to hit the opponent's pawn center immediately, or can he first fianchetto his queen's bishop? Or can he sometimes throw his queenside pawns forward? The variety of plans and ideas have woven the Exchange Variation into a very rich tapestry.

In order, we will examine the following systems in separate database texts:

### Exchange - Sevilla

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4 11.f3 Na5 12.Bxf7+



Boris Spassky was probably the first strong player to go for the win of a pawn with **12.Bxf7+** in Spassky,B - Kortschnoj,V 1-0 Moscow SU ch 1955, instead of withdrawing the bishop.

Around 1980 a number of correspondence players started using the line with good results, and Black continued to have certain problems proving sufficient compensation for the pawn deficit. Then Karpov surprised Kasparov with **12.Bxf7+ Rxf7 13.fxg4 Rxf1+ 14.Kxf1** in their World Championship match in Sevilla 1987, where Kasparov failed to find an adequate response. He first tried **14...Qd6 15.e5 Qd5** in Karpov,A - Kasparov,G 1-0 Sevilla Wch (5) 1987, Sevilla Wch (7) 1987, and finally Karpov,A - Kasparov,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Sevilla Wch (11) 1987, but also ventured **14...cxd4 15.cxd4 Qb6** in Sevilla Wch (9) 1987.

Subsequent to the game Karpov,A - Kasparov,G 0-1 Reggio Emilia (6) 1989, attention switched to **14...cxd4 15.cxd4 e5!** which had already been mentioned by Estrin and Pachman.

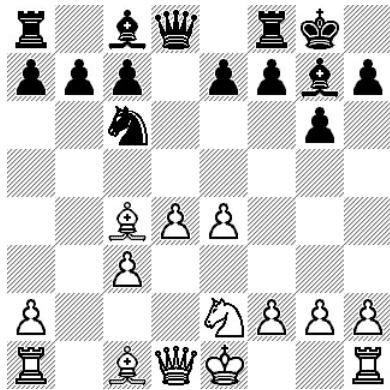
In exchange for blocking the long diagonal of his dark squared bishop and giving White a protected passed pawn after **16.d5** Black acquires an ideal blockading square for his knight on d6 and the possibility of activating his bishop via h6 or f8.

Black's results in this line have been fairly encouraging, and it seems that **15...e5!** is indeed a viable alternative to the older main continuation **15...Qd6**. Now on **16.d5 Nc4** the retreat **17.Bf2** was played in Seirawan,Y - Popovic,P 1-0 Manila izt 1990, as well as Voskresensk 1990, and Seirawan,Y - Popovic,P 1-0 Reno 1991, although the standard position in this line today is reached after **17.Qd3**. At this point Kasparov prefers to exchange the bishop with **17...Nxe3** (or perhaps **17...b5** as in Rotterdam NL ch 1998) **18.Qxe3 Qh4 19.h3 Bh6 20.Qd3 Rf8+ 21.Kg1 Qf2+ 22.Kh1 Qe3 23.Qc4** (the ending after **23.Qxe3** is a draw, viz. Seirawan,Y - Popovic,P 1-0 Cazorla cm (3) 1998) **23...b5! 24.Qxb5 Rf2 25.Qe8+** when the World Champion's novelty **25...Bf8!** from Linares 1999, is an important improvement over **25...Rf8** from Seirawan,Y - Popovic,P 1-0 Belgrade EU Cup 1999. The remainder looks forced, and after the obligatory ...h6 and ...Kh7 Black is just in time to achieve perpetual check with **...Rf3xh3**.

White is just one tempo short of winning the game and, remarkably, this is similar to the way Kortschnoj tried to reach a draw in 1955 against Spassky where, however, he was a tempo short.

### Exchange - 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Ne2 Nc6

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Ne2 Nc6



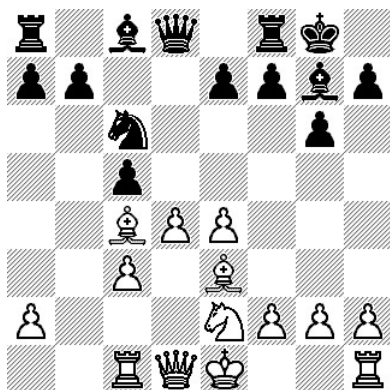
Gruenfeld adherents like GMs Boris Gulko, Rafael Vaganian and Vladimir Tukmakov have used **8...Nc6** to avoid the extensively analyzed and forcing main lines of the Exchange Variation which arise after **8...c5**. After **9.0-0** Black now avoids the forcing continuation **9...e5 10.Ba3 Re8 11.Bxf7+** from Ftacnik,L - Vaganian,R 0-1 Moscow 1985, in spite of the fact that White has generally been unable to prove even a shadow of an advantage in games like Groningen op 1990. However, the setup found by Campos Moreno in Ftacnik,L - Vaganian,R 0-1 Osuna 1991, is much more dangerous for Black.

Accordingly, Black has the emergency exit **9...b6** available, although Linares 1990, clearly shows that Black doesn't have an easy task ahead of him.

Variations based on **8...b6** as well as **8...Nc6** followed by **...b6** seem fine for Black, in spite of the outcome of the game Volke,K - Tukmakov,V  $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$  CS tt 1998. And the fact that these lines have been less thoroughly scrutinized than the main systems goes a long way with players who do not relish spending countless hours on home preparation and instead prefer to find original ideas on their own.

### Exchange - Polugaevsky

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Ne2 c5 9.Be3 Nc6 10.Rc1



Warned by disasters like Naranja,R - Portisch,L 0-1 Siegen ol 1970, theoreticians for many years generally took for granted that White should castle at his earliest convenience in the Exchange Variation, until Polugaevsky's idea **10.Rc1** came to the attention of the chess world in 1987. White takes measures against the unpleasant pin **...Bg4** but has to relinquish the right to castle after **10...cxd4 11.cxd4 Qa5+ 12.Kf1**.

Play now becomes very sharp, and it is in fact White who hopes to launch a ferocious attack against the opponent's king with the help of the thematic **h4-h5** pawn thrust, which is conveniently supported by his R/h1. In many early games with this system Black would now play **12...Bg4 13.f3**



**Bd7** although practice has shown that provoking **f3** does not really achieve anything positive for the second player. The alternative **12...Rd8** is also met occasionally, but even here Black often opts for the thematic maneuver ...**Bd7-e8** at a later stage.

In modern practice **12...Bd7** has definitely become the main line, when the games Shirov,A - Peshina,G 1-0 Daugavpils 1990, and New York op 1989, serve as illustrations of the continuation **13.h4 Rac8** and several early deviations, while Shirov,A - Peshina,G 1-0 Biel 1991, as well as Moscow Alekhine mem 1992, Polugaevsky,L - Kudrin,S 1-0 cr 1990, and London op (7) 1991, focus on the main line **13...Rfc8**. Readers should note especially Shirov's important improvement against Ernst, which suggests that Nadeian's **14...e5** may be a safer approach for Black. White players, in turn, ought to take a look at **16.d5** which is already familiar from several examples with **13...Rac8**. A recurring theme in this line is the exchange sacrifice on c4 which, when timed right, can considerably disrupt White's attacking schemes.

And finally, Anand's **12...Qa3!?** from the game Shirov,A - Kozul,Z 1-0 Las Palmas ct 1995, is worth noting, particularly since former Correspondence World Champion Hans Berliner claims that White wins with **10.Rc1!?**

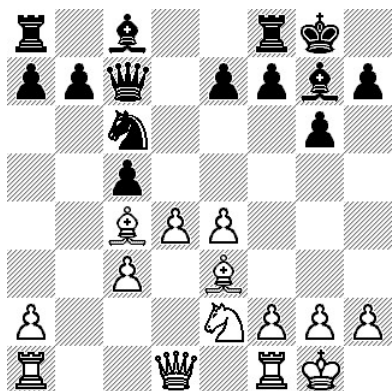
Presently, one of Black's most prominent ways to circumvent the Polugaevsky Variation is **10...Na5** although this also leads to highly tactical and complex positions, such as those explained by GM Stohl in Dortmund op (9) 1992. White can, in any case, remain true to his original intentions by deferring castling indefinitely, almost regardless of Black's reaction to **10.Rc1**. An example of this perhaps overly stubborn approach is the game Shirov,A - Kamsky,G 0-1 NL ch 1992. Another interesting, and apparently viable approach is **10...e6** from Vancouver 1992, where Black should have drawn...

Of course not everyone enjoys defending against White's ferocious attack, and so for them a number of reasonable alternatives to sidestep this dangerous variation exist. First off, White can also vary early from Polugaevsky's **10.Rc1** or the main line **10.0-0** with moves like Korchnoi's **10.Rb1** from the game Rudakov,Y - Nadeian,A  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Reykjavic 1988, but this approach has never caught on.

The early deviation **9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+** hardly merits more than a footnote in modern theory, and the books promise White slightly better prospects after **11.Bd2 Qh5** or **11...Qa3 12.Rb1 0-0 13.0-0**. And in spite of its dubious reputation, Srdjan Sale's **13...Qd6** also deserves special attention. There is, however, also the open invitation for a quick draw after **11...Qd8 12.Be3 Qa5+ 13.Bd2 Qd8** which White can decline by **12.Bc3 0-0 13.0-0 Bg4** as played in the highly complicated Madrid (3) 1998. Black, in any case, definitely has to find a reliable way of dealing with **12.d5** from Rudakov,Y - Nadeian,A  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Dortmund 1998, before **11...Qd8** can graduate to reliable theoretical status!

### Exchange - Smyslov 10...Qc7

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Ne2 c5 9.Be3 Nc6 10.0-0 Qc7

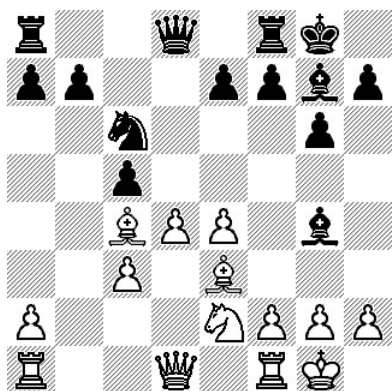


Named after GM Vassily Smyslov, who was one of the main proponents of **10...Qc7** in the 1960s and 1970s together with GM Robert Fischer, this well known setup largely stood the test of time until it was discovered that the sequence **11.Rc1 Rd8 12.Bf4!** from games like Vyzmanavin,A - Adorjan,A  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Alushta 1994, catches Black at somewhat of an awkward moment. The variation continues to survive in reasonable shape, however, as long as Black makes use of GM Vladimir Epishin's formula from the game Otbor SU ch 1988. One of the great Gruenfeld games of all time is Vyzmanavin,A - Adorjan,A  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  SU-YU 1959, which should be studied carefully for its lessons in chess strategy!

On the positive side, the move **10...Qc7** lets Black increase the pressure on the center by freeing d8 for his king's rook, although Black must be alert at all times for tactics against his weakened pawn/f7. Andras Adorjan is among the few stalwarts who have remained loyal to the variation, and in the game HU 1992, showcases some of Black's possibilities against the less incisive **11.Rb1**. Also a worthwhile subject for further investigation by Black players is GM Nigel Davies' subtle waiting move **10...e6** as demonstrated in Vyzmanavin,A - Adorjan,A  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Gausdal Eikrem mem (3) 2000.

### Exchange - 10...Bg4

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Ne2 c5 9.Be3 Nc6 10.0-0 Bg4**



The bishop development **10...Bg4** has firmly established itself as the main line against the Gruenfeld Exchange Variation with **7.Bc4 0-0 8.Ne2** in today's tournament practice, and the critical main lines have been analyzed and tested extensively. The point behind the maneuver **10...Bg4** is to provoke White into a weakening of the a7-g1 diagonal after **11.f3** which in several important positions provides Black with a useful check later on along the a7-g1 diagonal. White players have tried many ways to deal with Black's approach, but none have posed insurmountable problems thus far. As an interesting side-note I should mention that experts like Bachar Kouatly have experimented with **10...Bd7** instead of the usual **10...Bg4 11.f3 Bd7** when Van der Werf,M - Nijboer,F 0-1 Leeuwarden NL ch (8) 2001, for example, does not make it entirely clear what the exact circumstances are in which this makes a difference, but the idea is certainly worth noting.

David Bronstein's exchange sacrifice **11.f3 Na5 12.Bd3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Be6 14.d5 (14.Qa4** was met nicely by Black in Novosibirsk 1989) **14...Bxa1 15.Qxa1 f6 16.Bh6** (weaker looks **16.Rb1** from Ilic,D - Krasenkov,M 0-1 Wattens 1990) **16...Re8** (returning the exchange immediately with **16...Bd7** leads to a highly unpleasant ending for Black, viz. Istanbul IECC 2003, instead of White's treatment in Ilic,D - Krasenkov,M 0-1 Porz 1991) in order to take charge of the dark squares along the a1-h8 diagonal is White's traditional way of playing the old main line of the Exchange Variation with Bc4 and Ne2. White's most dangerous and straight forward plan now involves playing for e5 in order to open diagonals for his pieces, take control of the center, and create substantial attacking possibilities against Black's king. The critical position is reached after **17.Kh1!** (required to stop Black's important defensive resource **...Qb6+**) **17...Rc8!** (White's improvement **19.Ng3!** from the game Malmo Sigeman 2003, established that **17...Bd7?** is in fact an inaccurate move order for Black) **18.Nf4 Bd7 19.e5 Nc4 20.e6**. Readers should make a careful survey of Palo,D - Ruck,R 1-0 Malmo Sigeman (9) 2003, as well as Copenhagen Politiken Cup 2002, for the current theoretical

status of this difficult line. The variation is ideal for those looking for excitement, but not recommended for the faint of heart or those unfamiliar with the latest relevant tactical and strategical motives. There are no known ways to sidestep the aggressive gambit lines, and the resulting positions are very double edged! Ambitious players behind the White pieces, however, should note that the traditional **14.d5** approach has been pushed aside somewhat by Efim Geller's pawn sacrifice **14.Rc1** in modern practice as follows...

While Efim Geller's sharp pawn sacrifice **11.f3 Na5 12.Bd3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Be6 14.Rc1 Bxa2** as introduced in the games Palo,D - Ruck,R 1-0 Kiev SU ch 1954, and Kiev SU ch 1954, does give White a central initiative, the evidence in more recent top level games such as Palo,D - Ruck,R 1-0 SU ch 1988, and Budapest (5) 1988, suggests that the second player is frequently able to create a timely diversion with his queenside pawns. Still, in practice the modern approach **15.Qa4 Be6 16.d5 Bd7 17.Qb4** has almost completely replaced the older **15.d5** which should give Black no trouble. Speaking in more general terms, White aims to gain time for a central attack in exchange for the time his opponent spends on collecting the pawn offer, and the second player needs to be careful that the exposed position of his B/a2 does not become a liability later in the game. Due to the efforts of GMs Artur Yusupov and Sergey Dolmatov this line became fashionable in Moscow at the end of the 1980s, and has since then been taken up and developed further by a number of talented players, including GMs Kaidanov, Piskov and Naumkin. GM Anand's continuation **15.Qa4 Bb3** from the game Yusupov,A - Anand,V 0-1 Wijk aan Zee cm (2) 1994, was tested again in Cazorla cm (5) 1998, as well as Yusupov,A - Anand,V 0-1 Torshavn 2000, although theory has yet to deliver its final verdict on GM Lev Gutman's critical novelty **16.Qb4 b6 17.Bg5!?** **f6 18.Bd2**. White's compensation for the pawn should be adequate.

#### Exchange - Modern **7.Nf3 c5**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5**



Among White's serious early deviations from the main lines introduced by **8.Rb1** is the prophylactic setup **8.h3 0-0 (8...Qa5?! from Bosch,J - Blees,A 1-0 NL tt (8) 2000, in effect loses a tempo) 9.Be2**. World Champion Garry Kasparov now went for the dynamic **9...b5!?** in Wijk aan Zee (12) 2000, although the established continuation **9...b6** from games like Bosch,J - Blees,A 1-0 Bad Wildbad op 2000, and Kragujevac Serbia ch 2000, still looks reliable for Black. The main line at this writing, however, is **9...Nc6 10.Be3 cxd4 11.cxd4 Qa5+ 12.Bd2** when White had full compensation for the exchange in Kramnik,V - Kasparov,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Kiev SU ch 1954. But Black later improved in DE BL 2000, which probably leaves Kramnik,V - Kasparov,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Leeuwarden NL ch tt (6) 2000, as White's most promising approach.

Nearly thirty years ago the setup with **8.Rb1 0-0 9.Be2** was introduced in the game Shamkovich,L - Gheorghiu,F  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Cleveland 1975, and has since then evolved to become one of the most popular systems in the Gruenfeld Indian Defense. White's primary aim is to remove his queen's rook from the influence of Black's B/g7 with a quiet move to the half-open b/file, followed by speedy development together with the possible sacrifice of his queenside pawns in order to build a large central structure behind which to ultimately orchestrate an attack on Black's king. Meanwhile the pressure exerted by the rook on b7 discourages Black from playing the often annoying pin ...**Bg4**.

These subtle effects have made it far from easy for Black to obtain sufficient counterplay, and it has taken nearly twenty years for the second player to defuse White's initiative and really come to terms with the complex positions that arise.

Black players loathe to test the deep theoretical waters of the main lines have experimented with early alternatives like the immediate **9...Qa5** when Tolnai's **10.0-0** from Lillafured HU ch 1999, looks like the critical line. Instead **10.Rb5** from Shamkovich,L - Gheorghiu,F  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Park Royal Int 2000, looks less convincing, but there are in any case probably not too many players with Black who wish to test White's resources in these positions.

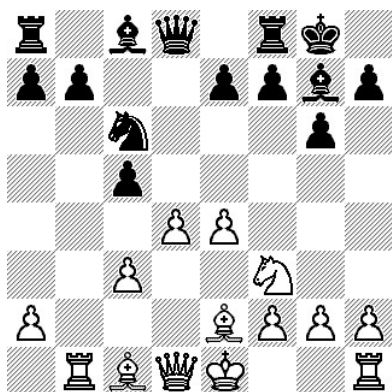
Another sideline arises after **9...Nc6 10.d5 Bxc3+** which probably deserves its reputation as risky and unreliable based on reference material like Malta ol 1980, Shamkovich,L - Gheorghiu,F  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  1989, Pamplona 1991, Tolnai,T - Sax,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Linares 1991, Poznan 1985, Tolnai,T - Sax,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Tilburg 1992, and Leon 1994.

However, a very reasonable way for Black to avoid the main lines is with the subtle **9...b6** played in order to neutralize White's pressure on **b7** and prepare the typical Gruenfeld strategy of pressuring White's center after **10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd3 Ba6 12.Qe3**.

Black now completes his development with **12...Qd7** followed in many cases with an exchange of pawns on **d4**. World Champion Gary Kasparov has played this way, lending additional credibility to Black's play in games like Pogorelov,R - Avrukh,B 0-1 AD op 2001, Minsk 1994, and Pogorelov,R - Avrukh,B 0-1 DE BL 1990. A somewhat more sophisticated but also risky approach is **12...Qc8** when the incisive pawn thrust **13.d5** from games such as SU 1989, Pogorelov,R - Avrukh,B 0-1 Minsk 1994, and St.Petersburg op 1993, has posed Black considerable problems. Having said that, it looks as if Kudrin's calm **12...e6** from Shulman,Y - Malisauskas,V 1-0 Monarch Assurance op 1999, is quite playable.

#### Exchange - Modern 8.Rb1 0-0 9.Be2 Nc6

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Rb1 0-0 9.Be2 Nc6



With the very well established main continuation **9...Nc6 10.d5 Ne5 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Qd2**

(**12.Qc2** was tried in the game Mozetic,D - Vujacic,B 0-1 Tivat YU ch tt 1995) Black wants to apply immediate pressure by using the lever ...e6 on a White center that has lost a certain amount of flexibility after the 10.d5 pawn advance. White's space advantage is clear enough and potentially dangerous, but Black has a very concrete set of countermeasures available, viz. the thematic central challenge **12...e6** as well as the alternative development **12...b6** or Ftacnik's more recent and subtle move order **12...Bg7** from examples such as London 1997.

Since **12...e6 13.f4** has caused Black a great many headaches after a bishop retreat by way of the long diagonal in games like Mozetic,D - Vujacic,B 0-1 Grindavick 1984, Paris ch 1991, and Mozetic,D - Vujacic,B 0-1 Vienna op (7) 1991, the variation's modern main line is nowadays most frequently seen in connection with the bishop retreat **13...Bc7!** as first introduced in the game Tbilisi Wch f (14) 1981, where **14.0-0** (the alternative **14.Bc4** does not give White any advantage after **14...a6**

**15.a4** when both **15...Qe8** from Wells,P - Rowson,J  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Hamburg 1997, and **15...b5** from Calgary op 1996, look completely fine for Black)

**14...exd5 15.exd5 Re8? 16.c4 Ba5 17.Qc2** gave White an enduring advantage. Since that time several attempts by strong players from the Beer Sheva area have been made to rehabilitate this method of play for Black by means of **15...Ba5** which has brought very good results.

Black has stopped the suffocating advance **c4** for the time being, and has tied White's queen to the defense of **d5** and **c3**. This allows Black to develop harmoniously, although we have to concede that B/a5 is somewhat misplaced after abandoning the long diagonal and the defense of his king. White has several tries to take advantage of this fact, though none of them have posed insurmountable problems for the second player. In Ivanov,S - Rowson,J  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Cappelle la Grande 1996, for example, Black had good compensation for the pawn after **16.g4 Qh4 17.f5 b6 18.Qd3 c4! 19.Qxc4 Bd7** while the less than energetic **16.Bb2 Bf5 17.Rbd1 Qd6** also leaves Black with a promising position due to the thematic push **...c4**. More logical is White's attempt to open lines for his slightly more active pieces with the attempt **16.f5 Bxf5 17.Rxb7 Qf6 18.Rf3** (in Richmond CA zt 2002, Black had nice counterplay after 18.Bb2) as introduced in Ivanov,S - Rowson,J  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Beer Sheva 1992, and the correct continuation **18...Qe5!** from Paris 1998.

Also very popular for a time was **16.Ba3 b6** but again with little to show for White in games such as Kret,T - Neven,K 0-1 Groningen op 1997, North Bay op 1997, Chernin,A - Tseitlin,M 0-1 Haifa active 1998, and even **17.Bb5** from Bad Wiessee 1998.

Meanwhile **16.Rb3 b6** with a good game for Black was the subject of Chernin,A - Tseitlin,M 0-1 CH ch tt 1995. Subsequent attempts to improve White's play in games such as Dieren 1997, Pira,D - Gerard,N 0-1 Belgrade EU Cup 1999, and also BM Mermaid Beach 1999, did not look convincing.

Perhaps White's most promising continuation is **16.d6!? b6 17.Bf3** (here **17.Bb2?! turned out less than satisfactory in Evseev,D - Avrukh,B 0-1 Pula zt (1) 2000) 17...Bf5! 18.Bxa8 Bxb1 19.Bc6 (19.Bd5?! from the games Lyon EU Cup 1994, and Evseev,D - Avrukh,B 0-1 Zagan Wch jr 1997, was better for Black) from NL ch 1998.**

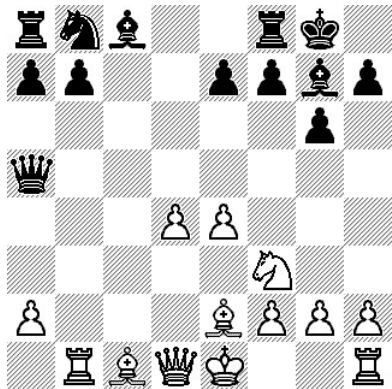
The latest theoretical wrinkle is **16.Rb5** when White clearly shows his intention to give up this rook for the B/a5 in order to play **c4** as quickly as possible. Black, however, was fine in the opening phase of games like Vera,R - Kudrin,S  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Moscow 1998. Black seems to be doing well in all lines at the moment, but his potentially unsafe king always requires an accurate and careful reaction to White's varied ideas.

The alternative **12...b6** was introduced in Thessaloniki ol 1984, and has since then produced an extensive body of theory, primarily through the work of several Czech and Slovak players. In Anand,V - Greenfeld,A  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Beersheba 1992, and Beersheba 1992, important novelties are exchanged, but the verdict today is that **13.f4 Bg7 14.O-O e6 15.dxe6 Bxe6** lands Black in grave difficulties. Accordingly, Black players have resorted to **15...fxe6** as introduced in Khalifman,A - Yandemirov,V 1-0 Novi Sad ol 1990, but here too the most accurate move order with **16.Bc4** (the older **16.Qe3** from Zlin 1995, is less precise) proved too challenging for Black in Siegel,G - Gavrikov,V 0-1 Pardubice op (7) 1996. However, in the game St Petersburg Petrov mem 1996, even a suspect looking and passive defense was enough to draw with both players making significant errors. The impression from Siegel,G - Gavrikov,V 0-1 Kherson SU ch jr 1991, as well as the games St.Petersburg 1999, and Aubel,J - Finkel,A 0-1 Tel Aviv 1999, in the variation **14.c4 e6** (in Dortmund 1992, the inventor of **12...b6** effortlessly holds his own after **14...e5) 15.Bb2** is that Black has to play very accurately in order to achieve equality.



### Exchange - Modern 9.Be2 cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Rb1 O-O 9.Be2 cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+



Black's most topical approach in the Modern Variation of the Gruenfeld Indian Defense is to go for an extra pawn with the highly popular sequence **9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+ 11.Bd2** (11.Qd2 holds the pawn, but is not a realistic try for an advantage) **11...Qxa2 12.O-O**.

This line has become one of the major theoretical battlegrounds of recent years, especially in connection with the critical continuation **12...Bg4** to immediately challenge White in the center. The resulting positions are rich in positional and tactical ideas, thus making them fertile ground for inquiry by critically minded practitioners like Garry Kasparov, Viswanathan Anand, Vasily Ivanchuk, Alexei Shirov, Veselin Topalov, Peter Leko, Joel Lautier, Ivan Sokolov and Miguel Illescas on the Black side, as well as Vladimir Kramnik, Viswanathan Anand, Vasily Ivanchuk, Alexei Shirov, Alexander Khalifman, Mikhail Krasenkow, Joel Lautier, Sergey Shipov, Loek Van Wely and Boris Gelfand on the White side!

Among Black's many possibilities from the tabiya position are the somewhat unusual tries **12...Na6** and **12...a6**; as well as **12...b6** from the games Lautier,J - Shirov,A  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Belgrade 1995, and Wijk aan Zee 1998; and also **12...Bd7** from Lautier,J - Shirov,A  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Elista SU ch 1994, and Ashkhabad 1991. Theoretical developments in the positions after **12.O-O** come fast and furious, and Black has at times had to make important repairs to several of his most common defensive setups in view of White's successes.

Originally, for example, the retreat **12...Qe6** was considered dubious until the interesting exchange sacrifice in the game Van Wely,L - Shirov,A  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Tilburg (8) 1990, which left Black with two passed queenside pawns and sufficient counterplay in the endgame.

Yet another novel approach for Black is Kozul's rapid advance of the a/pawn with **12...a5!**? which leads to an early crisis and is especially troublesome for an unprepared opponent, viz. the game Toronto op (5) 1990, where White failed to solve the resulting problems. Similarly, Black also found sufficient ways to apply pressure in the games Van Wely,L - Shirov,A  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Nyiregyhaza 1992, and GB tt 1994. White can do better of course, with the most recent theoretical dispute surrounding **13.Qc1** from the game Van Wely,L - Shirov,A  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Dortmund 1996. Kozul's approach obviously entails some risk for the second player, whose attempts to distract the opponent with a demonstration on the queenside can easily backfire when White's initiative in the center and on the kingside gains too much momentum. Among the many games to illustrate the chances on both sides are also Elista SU ch 1997, and Notkin,M - Dvoirys,S  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Samara 1998, as well as the important continuation **13.Bg5 a4 14.Re1** from EU ch active 1996, Notkin,M - Dvoirys,S  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Ostrava 1998 and Koszalin MK Cafe op 1998.

The defense **12...Nd7** was enormously popular in the early 1990s, in spite of Black's frequent and harsh losses in the tournament arena after **13.Bb4 Nb6** (Kortschnoj's experiment **13...Nf6** from Kakageldiev,A - Odeev,K  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Brno 1992, is best not repeated, but Van Mil's novelty **13...a5!**? from

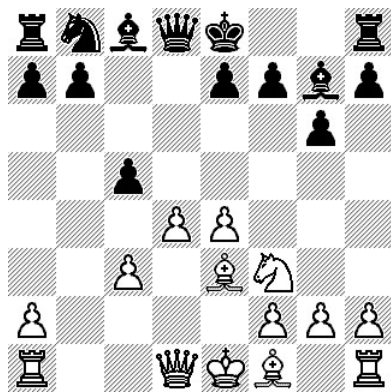
NL ch 1991, deserves attention). White now has a pleasant choice between **14.Ra1 Qe6 15.Bd3** as played in the games Kakageldiev,A - Odeev,K  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Lyngby op 1989, and Buenos Aires op 1990, and the even stronger **14.Ne5!** when Black faced problems in a cheerless ending after **14...f6** viz. Kakageldiev,A - Odeev,K  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  DE BL2 1990, or Berlin 1990. White can also steer towards a promising middlegame with **15.Ra1** or **15.Nd3**; see Kakageldiev,A - Odeev,K  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Prague Vysehrad (9) 1990, nor did the alternative **14...Qe6** from SU 1990, or **14...Be6** look appetizing for Black in Gelfand,B - Kamsky,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Sochi SU ch jr (1) 1990, and Capablanca mem B 1990. Clearly **12...Nd7** has had a rough ride at the top level, notwithstanding Black's success in the game Gelfand,B - Kamsky,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Linares (6) 2000, since both cr ICCF 1999, and Hebert,J - Kozul,Z 0-1 cr IECG 2000, have once again undermined our trust in the viability of this continuation. It is quite possible that **13.Re1** is a tough nut to crack for **12...Nd7** players.

The main line of the variation at world class level, however, is clearly **12...Bg4**. This continuation has in fact at various times been preferred by top GMs like Garry Kasparov, Viswanathan Anand and Gata Kamsky, while new ideas for the White side have been found by Joel Lautier, Boris Gelfand and Vladimir Kramnik. White's option to play **13.Be3** (**13.d5** was played in Cheliabinsk II 1991, as well as Hebert,J - Kozul,Z 0-1 SU 1992) immediately as in DE BL (3) 1997, or first insert **13.Bg5 h6** (**13...Qe6 14.d5!** did not work out well for the second player in Kopionkin,G - Zeziulkin,Y 0-1 Leningrad ch 1989) **14.Be3**

(**14.Bxe7** as played in Kramnik,V - Kasparov,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Novgorod 1994, is less popular, while the alternative retreat **14.Bh4** has not yet been tested as extensively, but looked promising in HU ch 1992, and Kramnik,V - Kasparov,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Polanica Zdroj 1998) has been the cause of some debate, since in some lines it is useful for White to have his opponent's pawn on h6, but in some others on h7. More than a decade ago Vasily Ivanchuk tested **12...Bg4** in two games at the Manila Interzonal, with both Manila izt (7) 1990, and Kramnik,V - Kasparov,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Manila izt (9) 1990, ending in short draws after sharp struggles. A few months later GM Boris Gelfand improved on his earlier play with the second pawn sacrifice **13.Bg5 h6 14.Be3 Nc6 15.d5** (**15.Rxb7 Rab8 16.Rxb8 Rxb8 17.h3!** from Dos Hermanas 1995, also gave White an advantage, but in Kramnik,V - Kasparov,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Novgorod 1996, Black was fine again) **15...Na5 16.Bc5** (Black equalized after **16.Rb4 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 Nc4** in the game Linares 1994) **16...Bf6 17.e5!** in Kramnik,V - Kasparov,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Tilburg 1990, and this idea also proved troublesome for the second player in later encounters such as Dos Hermanas 1996, Chernin,A - Horvath,J 1-0 Riga Tal mem 1995, and Novgorod 1995. Faced with such difficulties, Black players started preferring **15...Ne5** (in the game Chernin,A - Horvath,J 1-0 Zurich Korchnoi active 2001, Svidler instead tried **15...Bxf3**) with a playable position in Wijk aan Zee 1997, and Gelfand,B - Shirov,A 1-0 Linares 1998. But then followed the incredible game Linares (8) 2000, to put the ball firmly back in Black's court.

### Exchange - Systems with Be3

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Be3



The development of White's queen bishop to e3 is a logical reaction to Black's counterpressure on pawn/d4. White intends to follow up with Qd2 and thus introduce the later possibility of exchanging

Black's strong dark squared bishop by Bh6, while preparing to complete the evacuation of the a1/h8 diagonal with Rc1 or Rb1 before advancing in the center with d5.

In modern practice Black players usually react to White's setup with **8...Qa5 9.Qd2 Nc6** in order to increase the pressure on White's center and possibly steer the game towards an ending after **...cxd4**. Now Grandmaster Andras Adorjan's sacrificial idea **10.Rb1 0-0! 11.Rb5 cxd4! 12.Rxa5 dxe3 13.Qxe3 Nxa5** gave Black excellent prospects for his material investment after **14.Be2?!** in games like Ortega,A - Winer,S 0-1 Parsippany US ch tt 2001, and Chicago (2) 2002. Khenkin's novelty **14.h4** from the game Ortega,A - Winer,S 0-1 Polanica Zdroj Rubinstein mem 1999, is an attempt to pressure Black immediately on the kingside, but later on Black players found the right way in games like New Delhi, FIDE Wch KO f 2000, Brock,W - Van de Mortel,J 0-1 Seattle US-CN Summit 2001, and especially Istanbul ol 2000. The pleasure appears to be all Black's in these lines, so it is no wonder that most White players prefer a different approach...

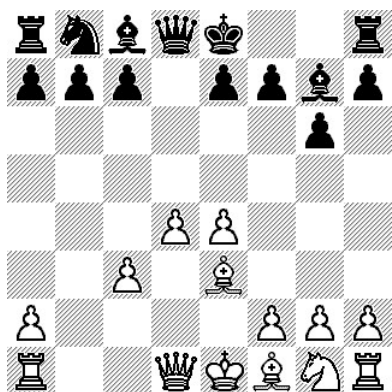
Accordingly, the alternative **10.Rc1** is a more critical test of Black's defense, with a long-standing debate that has been extended well into the endgame after **10...cxd4 11.cxd4 Qxd2+ 12.Kxd2 0-0 13.d5 Rd8 14.Ke1**. World Champion Vladimir Kramnik has suggested that this ending is quite safe for Black, as long as he avoids the dubious **14...Nb4** from the game Lagowski,P - Shishkin,V 0-1 Kazimierz Dolny op 2001, as well as Leko's **14...Ne5** from Budapest RWE m 2001. This currently leaves **14...Na5** as Black's most reliable choice. However, further clarification is still needed, as made evident in the notes to games such as Lagowski,P - Shishkin,V 0-1 Ohrid EU ch 2001, and Wijk aan Zee Corus 2001. Instead of **19...b6** for example, Black equalized comfortably after **19...Ba4** in the game Kramnik,V - Leko,P 1-0 Bristol op 1991, and there is also the interesting encounter Kstovo op 1994.

If Black is not comfortable in these positions then he should carefully consider the alternative development **9...Bg4**. Kasparov came in for some rough treatment at the hands of Kramnik's improvement **10.Rb1 a6 11.Rxb7** in the game Kramnik,V - Leko,P 1-0 London BGN Wch (2), 2000, but his opening play was not refuted outright by any means.

Another approach for Black is to defer the development of his N/b8 and allow his opponent to build up a strong center with **9...0-0 10.Rc1 Rd8 11.d5** intending to strike back with the levers **...e6** and **...f5** as appropriate. Some time has passed since the stem game Chicago op 1992, but since then games such as Van Wely,L - Sutovsky,E  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Bled ol 2002, Togliatti SU Cup 2001, Kramnik,V - Van Wely,L 1-0 St Petersburg Chigorin mem 2002, as well as Tula Suetin mem 2002, have done a great deal in making **10...Rd8** a choice that White players have to reckon with in this variation! Less optimal looked Black's move order in Kramnik,V - Van Wely,L 1-0 Seattle US ch 2002.

### Exchange - Systems with Be3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Be3**



The main difference between the setup **7.Nf3 c5 8.Be3** and the immediate **7.Be3** is that here White retains the option of deploying his knight to **e2** in order to support his pawn center and avoid

a pin by ...**Bg4**. White - just as he did when we examined this idea with the insertion of **7.Nf3** - prepares to follow up by clearing the long dark diagonal with **Rb1** or **Rc1** and eventually **d5**, which can be particularly devastating for Black if he has a knight perched on **c6**. Black needs to respond carefully and creatively in order to avoid being squeezed. His counterplay usually comes from ...**c5** and ...**Qa5**, which is often played before castling to ensure sufficient queenside activity.

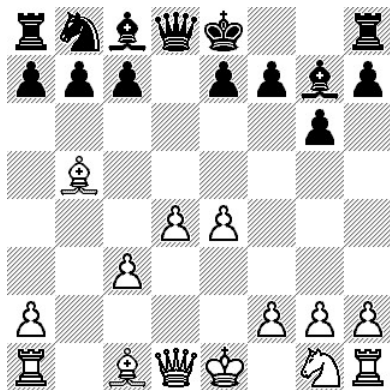
Kasparov met the then somewhat unusual **7.Be3 c5 8.Qd2** four times against Karpov during their 1990 match for the World Championship, and struggled somewhat to equalize the position in the first three games with a traditional approach viz. Karpov,A - Kasparov,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  New York Wch (9) 1990, Lyon Wch (13) 1990, and then Karpov,A - Kasparov,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Lyon Wch (15) 1990. He then switched to **9...Bg4** in the next game Lyon Wch (17) 1990, when it's not entirely clear if Karpov's **10.Ng5** is any better than the routine **10.Be2**.

Readers will have noticed by now that the immediate **7.Be3** is frequently followed up with **Nf3** at some stage, when it tends not to have much independent significance. Some ten years after his match with Karpov, Kasparov improved on his treatment of the position in the game Karpov,A - Kasparov,G  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Wijk aan Zee Corus 2000, while the alternative **10.Bb5** from the game Beijing Lee Cup (2) 1995, also makes some sense.

In practice White's edge in these lines proved too subtle for making significant inroads into Black's position, and so the focus of most investigators switched to the development of White's queen's rook with **7.Be3 c5 8.Qd2 Qa5 9.Rb1**.

#### Exchange - Dautov **7.Bb5+**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bb5+**



Moscow IM Evgeny Dragomaretsky played this variation with some success long before 1990, but it did not really pick up momentum until the middle of the last decade when Grandmasters Rustem Dautov and Vladimir Kramnik began playing it regularly. The early bishop check **7.Bb5+** tends to disrupt the normal development of Black's queenside by forcing the opponent to temporarily block the half open d/file with a minor piece after **7...Nd7** or **7...Bd7** and thereby diminish his usual pressure on pawn/d4. And while Black players have succeeded in making some sense out of these awkward moves, the most common reply for the second player remains **7...c6** in order to force the retreat of White's light squared bishop, which then usually maintains the pin along the diagonal by **8.Ba4**. White usually intends to develop the knight to e2 in these lines.

We will look at all three Black replies in turn, and should note that while Black has had certain problems to resolve, at this writing his chances particularly in the sharper and most principled lines beginning with **7...c6 8.Ba4 b5 9.Bb3 b4** are encouraging for a prepared and alert practitioner. In cases where White inserts **7.Nf3 c5** and only then **8.Bb5+** as played in Nenashev,A - Odeev,H 0-1 Asian Cities 2000, Black has the additional popular option **8...Nc6** instead of **8...Nd7** or **8...Bd7**.

Considerably less popular than Black's alternatives to Dautov's early check with the bishop is **7...Nd7**. The awkward placement of the knight disrupts Black's development, and while White's treatment with **8.Nf3** in the early game Lippstadt 1991, should not pose Black any problems, a plan of kingside expansion involving the advance of White's f/pawn after the more flexible **8.Ne2!** is more to the point.

Seen more regularly is **7...Bd7** when some years ago Grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric won a nice game after the bishop exchange **8.Bxd7+** in Nenashev, A - Odeev, H 0-1 YU ch 1991. However, Dautov's idea is to play the retreat **8.Be2 c5 9.Nf3** when Black players used to steer for a drawish ending after **9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Bc6 11.Qd3 f5 12.exf5 Qa5+ 13.Bd2 Qxf5 14.Qxf5 gxf5** in games like Haninge 1989. However, the strong improvement **12.Qb3!** from the games Dautov, R - Groszpeter, A 1-0 Groningen 1992, and Chalkidiki 1992, immediately places Black in a critical situation because the queen is poised to attack on the weakened light squares. Similarly, Black has problems in the main line if his opponent defers the queen exchange with **14.Qe3!** viz. the games Dautov, R - Groszpeter, A 1-0 Eforie 1989, and Hastings 1992. White's initiative in these cases proves difficult to neutralize, prompting Black players to search for a more circumspect approach involving **10...Bc6** while avoiding the weakening **...f5** kingside advance altogether. Instructive examples with this plan are Dautov, R - Groszpeter, A 1-0 Dortmund 1995, Trinec CS ch 1988, and Dautov, R - Groszpeter, A 1-0 Belgrade 1996. The alternative development **...Nc6** from Munich op 1991, and Dautov, R - Groszpeter, A 1-0 HU tt 1988, appears to leave White with a slight advantage. White also kept a dangerous initiative after **10...Qa5+ 11.Bd2 Qa4** well into the ending in Dortmund op 1992.

However, Black's most popular option is the rather aggressive treatment **7...c6 8.Ba4 0-0** with a complex maneuvering struggle after **9.Ne2 c5** in Gligoric, S - Zakic, S 1-0 Linares (4) 1998, followed later in the same event by Linares (12) 1998, and then Gligoric, S - Zakic, S 1-0 Amsterdam Lost Boys 1999. Black counts on his usual central pressure against pawn/d4, and believes that White's pieces are no better placed here than in similar positions from the normal **7.Bc4** classical lines. Also playable here after **9.Ne2** is Black's central counter **9...e5** as tried in Oberwart op 1996, and the interesting setup **9...Nd7 10.0-0 e5** followed by **...Qe7** with unclear complications and an asymmetrical pawn distribution in the game Gligoric, S - Zakic, S 1-0 Linares (10) 1998.

Much more aggressive is the logical attempt to undermine White's center immediately with **8...b5 9.Bb3 b4** from the encounters Debrecen 1992, Sokolov, I - Ftacnik, L  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Katowice op 1992, and Tivat YU ch tt 1995. The critical test of Black's play is most likely **10.Qf3!** with a mass of complications in Sokolov, I - Ftacnik, L  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  Hastings 1993. But here, too, Adorjan won beautifully in HU ch 1992, improving on his play from the earlier game Savchenko, S - Stone, R 1-0 Debrecen EU ch tt 1992.

But perhaps Black's most promising try to take advantage of the awkward position of White's B/a4 is **8...a5!** as played for example in Smirnov, V - Neverov, V 0-1 Minsk op 1996, and Albacete op 2001. The weakening of Black's queenside structure in these complicated lines is balanced by pressure against the opponent's center. Black needs to act extremely incisively, frequently deferring castling at an early stage, since the loss of a single tempo can upset the delicate dynamic balance in the opponent's favor.

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