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Tactics



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Modern Benoni: 64 Times Typical Tactics and New Ideas (Part 3)

A67 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6
6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+

ECO	White	Black	Place	Year
8...Bd7	Esposito	Reinhardt	Buenos Aires	1957
8...Nbd7	Gibbs	Milnes	England (ch corr.)	1988
8...Nfd7 9.a4	Garcia-Martinez Kasparov Crouch	Pigusov	Moscow	1987
		Nunn	Lucerne (ol)	1982
		Friedland	Northampton	1985

A68-69 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6
6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0

ECO	White	Black	Place	Year
9.Bd3	Colle	Euwe	Antwerpen-Rotterdam	1926
9.Be2	Mavridis	Lampiris	Athens	1982

A70 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6
6.e4 g6 7.Nf3

ECO	White	Black	Place	Year
7...Bg4	Scheffner	Fischbach	Baden Baden	1987

7...a6	Kuuskmaa Packroff Oestenstad Van Wely Petrosian	Salceanu Hodac Bjarnehage Guseinov Tal	Corr. Corr. Norway-Sweden Pula Moscow (g/5)	1978 1991 1984 1997 1975
7...Bg7 8.Qa4+	Starck	Straatil	Berlin	1985
7...Bg7 8.h3	Gomez-Esteban Lyrberg	Izeta Lindfeldt	Toledo Sweden	1991 1994

***A. Esposito-E. Reinhardt* Argentina (ch) Buenos Aires 1957**

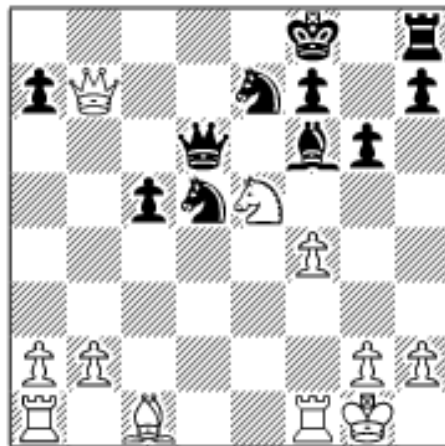
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7
8.Bb5+ Bd7?! 9.e5 Qe7**

Relatively better is 9...Nh5.

**10.Qe2 Bxb5 11.Nxb5 Nxd5 12.Nxd6+ Kf8 13.Nf3 Nc6 14.0-0 Rd8
15.Qb5**

ECO stops here. Practically, Black is already lost

15...Rxd6 16.exd6 Qxd6 17.Qxb7 Bf6 18.Ne5 Nce7



Only one move, and Black resigned. If you are able to see this move and the consequences in only 10 seconds, your tactical vision is very good!

19.Qa8+! 1-0

For if 19...Kg7 20.Qxh8+! Kxh8
21.Nxf7+.

***Gibbs P.-Milnes A.* England (ch corr.).1988**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7
8.Bb5+ Nbd7?! 9.e5 dxe5 10.fxe5 Nh5 11.e6 Qh4+ 12.g3**

If 12.Kd2!? fxe6 13.dxe6 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 0-0 15.Nf3 unclear.

12...Nxc3 13.hxc3 Qxc3+?

Worse than. ECO's 13...Qxh1 14.Be3 Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 Qe4 16.Qf3 Qxf3 17.Nxf3, also favorable to White.

14.Kd2 Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 Qg2+ 16.Ne2 Qxd5+ 17.Kc2 fxe6

Or 17...Qxe6 18.Bh6 a6 19.Nf4 Qe4+ 20.Kb2 Qf5 21.Re1+ Kd8 22.Ba4 Re8 23.Rxe8+ Kxe8 24.Bc2 Qe5 25.Qd2 1-0 Mertens-De Smet, Corr. 1986.

18.Nf4! Qxd1+ 19.Rxd1 Ke7 20.Be3 b6



In this particular position Black's four pawns are not enough compensation for a Bishop. Prove that White wins by force!

21.Nxg6+! hxg6 22.Bg5+ Kf7

If 22...Nf6 23.Rf1 Rf8 24.Rxf6 Rxf6 25.Rf1, or 22...Ke8 23.Rd6 Rh7 24.Rxe6+ Kf8 25.Rf1+ Rf7 26.Rxf7+ Kxf7 27.Re7+ Kf8 28.Bxd7, and White should win in

both cases.

23.Bxd7 Ba6 24.Rf1+ 1-0

S. Garcia Martinez-GM Evgeni Pigusov Moscow 1987

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 g6 6.e4 d6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nfd7 9.a4 a6 10.Bd3 Qh4+ 11.g3 Qd8 12.Nf3 0-0 13.0-0 Nf6 14.Qb3 Bh3 15.Re1 Ng4 16.Qxb7?!

16.Bf1! with slightly better game for White - Pigusov.

16...Nd7 17.a5 Qe7 18.Bxa6?

This loses, while 18.Qb3 is unclear.



There is only one way for Black to win. Find it!

18...Rab8!

If 18...Rfb8? 19.Qc6!

19.Qc7

No better is 19.Qc6 Rb4!, and the imminent 20...Nb8 wins material.

19...Nde5!! 0-1

For if 20.Qxe7 Nxf3+ 21.Kh1 Nf2 mate.

GM Gary Kasparov-GM John Nunn Lucerne (ol) 1982

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nfd7 9.a4 Na6 10.Nf3 Nb4 11.0-0 a6?!

Correct order of moves is 11...0-0 12.Re1 a6 13.Bf1 Re8 14.h3, with only slight edge for White.

12.Bxd7+ Bxd7 13.f5! 0-0 14.Bg5 f6

If 14...Bf6 15.Qd2! - Kasparov.

15.Bf4 gxf5

Or 15...Qe7 16.fxg6 (16.Re1!? - Nunn) hxg6 17.Nh4 Kh7 18.Bg3! - Kasparov.

16.Bxd6 Bxa4 17.Rxa4 Qxd6



Typical play when the initiative on the King's side is in progress. Don't hesitate even a second!

**18.Nh4! fxe4 19.Nf5 Qd7
20.Nxe4 Kh8**

If 20...Nxd5? 21.Qxd5+! Qxd5
22.Ne7+.

21.Nxc5 1-0

For if 21...Qxd5 22.Qxd5 Nxd5 23.Ne6 and wins.

IM C. Crouch-Friedland Northampton 1985

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7
8.Bb5+ Nfd7 9.a4 0-0 10.Nf3 Na6 11.0-0 Nc7 12.Bc4 a6?!**

The theory recommends 12...Nb6 13.Ba2 Bg4 with approximately equal chances.

13.Re1 Rb8

Relatively better but still inadequate is 13...b5 14.axb5 Nb6 15.Bf1 axb5 16.Rxa8 Nbxa8 17.Nxb5 Nxb5 18.Bxb5 Qb6 19.Bc6! and White's position is preferable.

14.e5! b5 15.e6! Ne5 17.fxe5 bxc4



Nice tactical trick and White wins.

18.Bg5! f6 19.e7!

Stronger than 19.exf6 Rxf6!

19...Qxe7 20.exf6 Qf7 20.Re7 1-0

***Edgar Colle-GM Max Euwe
Antwerpen - Rotterdam 1926***

**1.c4 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4
0-0 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Bd3 exd5 9.cxd5 Qb6!?**

Forgotten. ECO deals only with 9...Na6 and 9...b5.

10.Bc2?!

Unclear is 10.Nd2 Ng4 11.Nc4 Qd8 12.Be2 h5 Samisch-Euwe, Wiesbaden 1925. Probably 10.Qb3 should be played - Euwe

10...c4 11.Qe2 Re8 12.Ba4 Bd7 13.Bxd7 Nbx d7 14.Nd2



Is the typical sacrifice 14...Nxe4 here correct? Prove that in both cases: 15.Ndxe4 and 15.Ncxe4.

14...Nxe4! 15.Ncxe4

If 15.Ndxe4 Nc5 16.Be3 Bxc3+ 17.Nxc3 Nd3+! and wins.

15...Rac8!!

This quiet move is the point of the combination. If now 16.Nxc4 Rxc4 17.Qxc4 Nf6 with a decisive attack.

16.Kf1 f5 17.Nxc4 Rxc4! 18.Nf6+

Also hopeless is 18.Qxc4 Rxe4

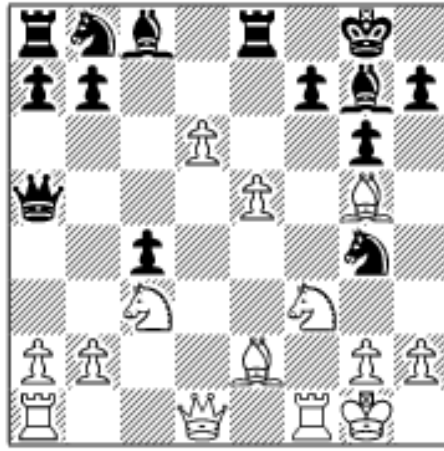
18...Nxf6 19.Qxc4 Ng4 0-1

Mavridis-Lampiris Athens 1982

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Be2 exd5 9.cxd5 Re8 10.e5 dxe5 11.fxe5 Ng4 12.Bg5 Qa5 13.0-0 c4?!

According to the theory, correct is 13...Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.Bc4 Qb4 unclear.

14.d6!



Something which every fan of Modern Benoni must know. Can Black win an exchange by Qb6+ (or Qc5+) and Nf2+, or this is a trap?

14...Qc5+?

Falling into the most typical trap in Modern Benoni. Black should try 14...Nxe5

15.Kh1 Nf2+? 16.Rxf2 Qxf2 17.Nd5 Bh3

Or 17...Na6 18.Be3 and White wins the Queen.

18.gxh3 Rxe5 19.Bxc4 Nc6 20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.Qe2 1-0

A. Scheffner-Fischbach Baden Baden 1987

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Nf3 Bg4?!
8.Bf4 Bxf3? 9.Qxf3 a6 10.Be2 Nbd7 11.0-0 Qe7 12.Qg3 Nxe4?
13.Nxe4 Qxe4 14.Bf3 Qb4 15.Rfe1+ Kd8 16.Bxd6 Qb6??**



In addition to very poor play in the opening, with his last move Black allows a simple tactical trick. You should see this opportunity instantly!

17.Bc7+! 1-0

For if 17...Qxc7 18.Re8+!

E. Kuuskmaa-V. Salceanu Corr. 1978

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Nf3 a6
8.Bf4 b5?! 9.Qe2 Ra7?**

Better is 9...Nh5!? 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Bh6 Bf8 12.Qe3 with a slight edge for White.

10.e5 Re7

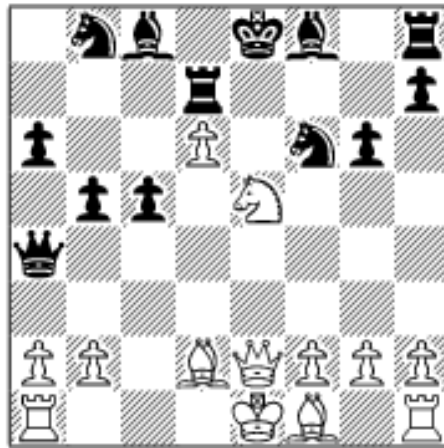
Perhaps Black should try 10...dxe5 11.Bxe5 Re7 12.d6 Re6 13.Ng5 Bg7.

11.Be3 Ng4 12.Ne4! dxe5 13.d6 Rd7

Or 13...Re6 14.Nfg5 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 with a clear advantage for White.

14.Bg5 f6

If 14...Qa5+ 15.Bd2 Qd8 16.h3 f5 17.Neg5 Nf6 18.Nxe5 and wins.

15.Nxf6+! Nxf6 16.Nxe5 Qa5+ 17.Bd2 Qa4

Check, and White wins. Which check?

18.Nc4+! Re7

If 18...Kd8 19.b3, winning the Queen.

19.dxe7 1-0***Packroff-Hodac Corr. 1991***

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4 a6 8.e4 Bg7 9.Qa4+ Bd7

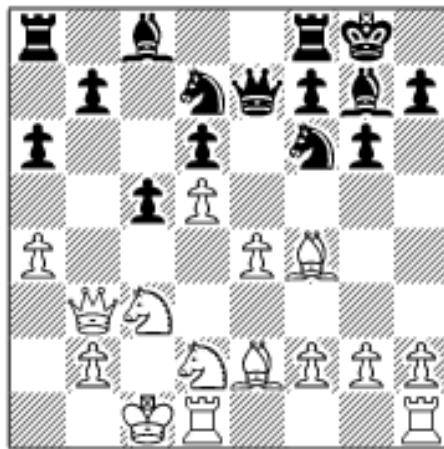
Theory recommends 9...Kf8 10.Be2 Qe7 11.0-0 Nbd7, a variation which is not fully analyzed and is listed as unclear.

10.Qb3 Bc8 11.a4 0-0 12.Be2 Qe7!?

An interesting proposition by GM Tarjan, omitted in ECO.

13.Nd2 Nbd7 14.0-0-0?

White should play 14.0-0.



Castling long is usually a bad idea for White. Black has at his disposal a typical attacking source, applicable in any opening with castling on the opposite wings. Don't hesitate, this does not calculations!

14...b5!

Every attack begins with the opening of files!

15.axb5 axb5 16.Bxb5

No better is 16.Nxb5 Nxe4.

16...Ba6 17.Bxa6 Rxa6 18.Bg5 Rb8 19.Qc2 Ra1+ 20.Ndb1 Ne5 21.Qe2 c4 0-1

After the imminent 22...Nd3+ White's position is getting out of hand.

IM B. Oestenstad-P. Bjarnehage Norway-Sweden, Stockholm 1984

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4 a6 8.e4 Bg7 9.Qa4+ Bd7 10.Qb3 Qe7!?

A very interesting novelty, probably worthy of further investigation.

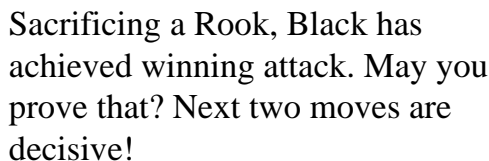
11.Qxb7?!

After 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.Qxb7 0-0 13.Qxa8 Qb6 Black has more than enough compensation for the sacrificed exchange. Perhaps White's best continuation is 11.Nd2.

11...Nxe4 12.0-0-0?

As we already know, usually the long castling is not a good idea for White. Instead 12.Nxe4 Qxe4+ 13.Be3, and if 13...Qb4+ 14.Qxb4 cxb4 15.Bd4 (15.Nd4) looks playable.

12...Bxc3! 13.Qxa8 0-0 14.bxc3 Qf6 15.Bd2 Nxc3 16.Bd3



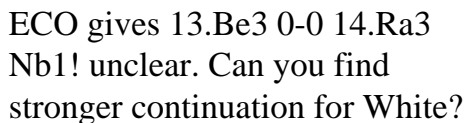
Also hopeless is 25.Kf1 Ne3+

25...Na5! 0-1

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.e4 a6
8.a4 Bg4 9.Qb3 Bxf3 10.Qxb7 Nxe4?**

ECO wrongly shows this move as an interesting possibility. Better is 10...Bxg2 11.Bxg2 Nbd7.

11.gxf3 Nxc3 12.Qxa8 Bg7



13.Ra3!

This novelty refutes the whole variation with 10...Nxe4.

**13...0-0 14.bxc3 Re8+ 15.Kd1
Qf6 16.Be2 1-0**

GM Tigran Petrosian-GM Mikhail Tal Moscow (g/5) 1975

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4 a6
8.e4 Bg7 9.a4 0-0 10.Nd2 Nh5 11.Be3 f5!? 12.exf5**



A critical position for this variation. Both options: 12...Bxf5 or 12...gxf5, involve tactics. Which is correct?

12...gxf5?

Correct is 12...Bxf5!, and if 13.g4 Bd4! 14.gxf5 Bxe3 15.fxe3 Qh4+ 16.Ke2 Ng3+ 17.hxg3 Qxh1 18.fxg6 Qh5+ 19.Kd3 Qxg6+ 20.Nde4 Nd7 with a sharp and

unclear position.

13.Qxh5 f4 14.Bd3 h6 15.Qg6 Rf6 16.Qh7+ Kf8 17.0-0 Bg4 18.Nc4 fxe3 19.fxe3 Nd7 20.Ne4 1-0

B. Starck-IM L. Stratil Berlin 1985

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4 Bg7 8.Qa4+ Bd7 9.Qb3 Qc7 10.e4 0-0 11.Be2?! b5 12.e5

After 12.Bxb5 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Qa5+ 14.Bd2 Qxb5 Black has enough compensation for the pawn.

12...Nh5 13.exd6 Qa5 14.Bd2 Re8 15.Nd1 Qb6 16.Be3 Qa5+ 17.Bd2

Or 17.Nd2 Na6 18.Bxh5? c4! 19.Qa3 Qxa3 20.bxa3 Bxa1 21.Be2 Be5 22.0-0 c3 23.Nf3 c2 0-1, Zaid-Gofstein, Kiev 1976.

17...b4 18.Be3



Black's pieces are very aggressive.
How to take advantage of that?

18...Nf4!! 19.Qc4

If 19.Bxf4 Ba4 and after 20.Qc4 or 20.Qd3 Black wins by 20...Bb5!.

19...Nxb2+ 20.Kf1 Bh3 21.Kg1 Nxe3 22.fxe3 Bf5 23.Qf4 Re4 0-1

IM Gomez Esteban-GM Izeta Txabarri Toledo 1991

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.h3 Bg7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Bd3 b5 10.Bxb5

For 10.Nxb5 - see next example.

10...Nxe4 11.Nxe4 Qa5+ 12.Nfd2 Qxb5 13.Nxd6 Qa6 14.N2c4 Rd8 15.Qe2 Bb7



Is 16.Qe7 a good or a bad move?

16.Qe7?

This loses!. Correct is 16.Nxb7 Qxb7 17.Ne3 with approximately equal chances.

16...Rd7 17.Qe8+ Bf8 18.Nxb7

If 18.0-0 Rxd6 19.Bh6 Nd7.

18...Qxc4! 19.Nd6 Qxd5 20.Ne4 Qd1+ mate 0-1

IM P. Lyrberg-J. Lindfeldt Sweden 1994

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.h3 Bg7 8.e4 0-0 9.Bd3 b5 10.Nxb5 Nxe4 11.Bxe4 Re8 12.Ng5!? Bf5?!

A novelty with dubious value. If 12...h6 13.Ne6! Theory recommends 12...Ba6 13.Nc3 h6, but the position after 14.Ne6!? fxe6 15.dxe6 Nd7

16.Qa4 requires further analysis.



White has a clever resource which convincingly refutes Black's novelty 12...Bf5.

13.Qa4! Bd7

If 13...Bxe4 14.Nxd6!

14.0-0 Qb6 15.Bd3 f6

If 15...a6 16.Qf4!

16.Nxh7! Re5

Or 16...Kxh7 17.Qh4+ Kg8 18.Bxg6 with a decisive attack.

17.Qh4 Bxb5 18.Bxb5 Qxb5 19.Nxf6+ Kf7 20.Ne4 Rxd5 21.Ng5+ 1-0

For if 21...Ke8 22.Qe4+.

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