



Marvelous Modern Miniatures

2020 Games
in 20 Moves
or Less

Carsten Hansen

Foreword by Karsten Müller

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2020
Russell Enterprises, Inc.
Milford, CT USA

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Introduction

Three years ago, I was sitting in a hotel room in Bremen, Germany, when the publisher reached out to me about an idea for a major game collection based on miniatures. I had been writing several books on the topic of miniatures; it seemed like a perfect fit.

I first became interested in miniatures (games in 20 moves or less) when reading Bent Larsen's newspaper columns in the Danish newspaper *Ekstrabladet*. Frequently, all he had room for was a short game or a game fragment, but it was those short games that caught my attention: how was it possible for a game between two strong players to end so quickly and often so brutally? Part of it, undoubtedly had to be home preparation, but that surely could not be the only answer. Nevertheless, I worked on my opening preparation and did occasionally win games quickly; I even used some of the ideas I had come across in Larsen's column.

Several years later, I realized that the tactical ideas in these miniatures had real instructive value. When creating this book, I have tried to cover as many openings as possible, featuring nearly every ECO code from A00 to E99. Some of the more popular ECO codes, such as B80-89 – the Scheveningen Sicilian – will feature more games than lines played less frequently.

Although every player is rated at least 2100, most are strong masters or grandmasters. Every game finishes in 20 moves or less. You will follow countless grandmasters, international masters and FIDE masters – as well as every world champion from Smyslov to Carlsen, with the exception of Fischer – as they do battle with tactical fireworks raging around them.

You will find a diagram at the critical juncture of each game and these can easily be the starting points for a “find the best move” or “find the best continuation” exercise. Many feature not only fascinating and surprising tactics, but also deadly positional strikes which leave one side without a viable defense. On occasion, we also encounter players who are so surprised by a tactical shot that they resigned when, in fact, there were still defensive resources available. This could be a lesson for all of us: look at a position objectively before letting your immediate emotion of the moment decide the outcome of the game.

Of course, for any game to end in 20 moves or less, mistakes will have to be made, but as the games broadly illustrate, these are not limited to weak players. Strong players, such as top grandmasters and future world champions, make them too. There are games from world championship matches, candidate tournaments, and other top events. When fighting chess is played, mistakes are made, but whether you are ready to exploit them or not depends on your tactical acumen and your awareness.

The largest collection of miniatures in the last fifty years, *Marvelous Modern Miniatures* will help you hone the skills needed to be ready for tactical tumults when it counts.

I hope you will enjoy this book, and if you do, please be kind to share your opinion with a short review on whichever platform, such as Amazon, where you have purchased the book or typically buy books. I invite you to join me on the Winning Quickly at Chess Facebook page as well as on my website, WinningQuicklyatChess.com. I look forward to seeing you there.

Carsten Hansen
Bayonne, NJ
May 2020

Foreword

Traps, Blunders and Brilliant Shots

In the old days, many games ended quickly and most of us probably remember, in their youth, having studied those Greco and Morphy brilliancies. But aren't modern masters so much better, that nowadays it is highly unlikely to win in 20 moves or less?

The answer is surprisingly no. The game of chess is so complex that it is easy to lose your way. Carsten Hansen has selected 2020 instructive examples, and sorted them by opening. And you should definitely compare your own repertoire with Hansen's examples as you should be aware of typical traps and tricks in your openings. The layout with many diagrams makes it easy to quickly grasp many important motifs.

So one way to train with the book is to hide the text below a diagram and try to find the solution yourself. This is good tactical training.

Furthermore I searched for special examples and found two of my own quick wins. I especially remember game 636 against the strong German grandmaster Christian Gabriel, which shows how difficult the defense is against an initiative on a color complex.

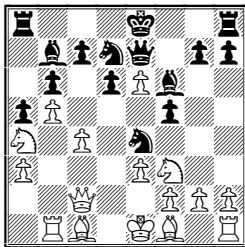
I would also like to bring two games to your attention. The first is game 35, Kramnik-Beliavsky, Belgrade 1995. It is very instructive to see how the former world champion takes apart the Stonewall, talking the bull by the horns with 12.e2-e4!! The second is game 125, Gustafsson-Prusikin, Pulvermuehle 2004, annihilating the Hedgehog. The list could go on and on. You may be able to make your own list with your favorite examples.

I hope that Carsten's work will give you as much pleasure as it has given me and maybe you can use one of the tricks sooner or later in your own games.

GM Dr Karsten Müller
Hamburg May 2020

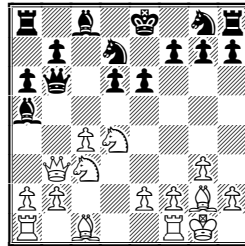
Queen Pawn Openings

(171) Krasenkow (2595) - Bischoff (2525) A40 Brno 1994
1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.a3 Qb7
4.Qc3 f5 5.d5 Qf6 6.Qf3
Qe7 7.b4?! a5! Forcing White to make some permanent dark-square weaknesses. **8.b5 Qe4 9.Qa4?! Qf6 10.Bb1 Qe7 11.Qc2?! 11.e3 is better. 11...d6 12.e3 Qd7 13.dxe6?**



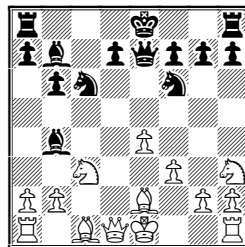
13...Qdc5! This is far stronger than any other move. In what follows, notice how rapidly Black's pieces develop and deploy for action. **14.Qxc5 Qxc5 15.Qd2 Qxe6** White is already busted but the the remainder of the game is quite instructive. **16.Qb3 Qe4! 17.Qa2 0-0-0 18.Qd2 Bhe8 19.Bc1 Qd3+ 19...Qh4!** is also very good, preparing ...f5-f4 and completely destroying White's defenses. **20.Qxd3 Qxd3 0-1**

(172) Kacheishvili (2572) - Cicak (2564) A40 Las Vegas 2008
1.d4 e6 2.c4 Qb4+ 3.Qc3 c5
4.Qf3 cxd4 5.Qxd4 a6
6.Qb3 Qa5 7.g3 d6 8.Qg2
Qd7 9.0-0 Qb6??



Black should have played **9...Qgf6 10.Bd1 0-0** when White has a small edge but the text move looks completely reasonable... **10.Qa4!! Qc7?** Or **10...Qgf6 11.Qxb6 Qxb6 12.Qxd6+ Qe7 13.Qxc8+ Bxc8 14.Qxe6 Qxe6 15.Qxb7 Qe5 16.b3** and White will end up with rook and three pawns for two minor pieces, a very good trade! **11.Qa3! Qc5 12.Qxd6+! Qxd6 13.Qxa5 Qxd4 14.Qe3 Qxc4 15.Qxc5** Black is completely busted and could have resigned at this point, but he carries on a bit longer. **15...Qb5 16.Qc7 Qd7 17.Qf4 Qe7 18.Bfd1 Qd5 19.Qxd5 exd5 20.Qe5+ 1-0**

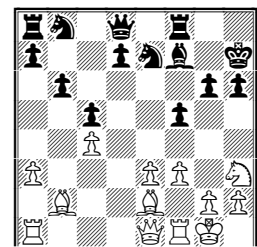
(173) Zsu.Polgar (2560) - Spelman (2595) A40 Dutch Team ch 1993
1.d4 e6 2.c4 Qb4+ 3.Qc3 b6
4.e4 Qb7 5.d5?! Frequently played, but not particularly good. 5...Qe7 6.Qe2 Qf6 7.f3 exd5 8.cxd5 c6 9.dxc6 Qxc6 10.Qh3



10...d5! 11.exd5 0-0-0! And just like that, nearly all of Black's

pieces are perfectly deployed while White yet has to complete her development and get the king to safety. **12.Qg5 Bhe8 12...Qc5!?** **13.Qxf6 Bxd5 14.Qc1 gxf6** is also pleasant for Black, Rodewis-Bogdanovich, Germany 2006. **13.Qxf6 gxf6 14.Qf4?** **14.0-0** was a better choice. **14...Qe5 15.Qd2?** **15.Qc1 Bxd5** is much better for Black. **15...Qxc3! 16.bxc3 Qb4! 17.Qf2? Qxd5 18.Qd3 Qxc3 0-1**

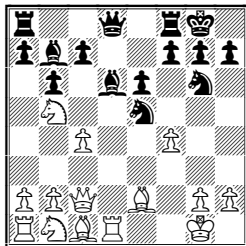
(174) Gustafsson (2554) - Buhmann (2527) A40 German Bundesliga 2003
1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.a3 Qb7
4.Qc3 f5 5.Qh3 g6 6.f3 Qg7
7.e3 Qe7 8.Qe2 0-0 9.0-0 c5
10.d5 exd5 11.cxd5 Qxc3?
12.bxc3 Qxd5 I'm not sure what possessed Black to win a pawn in this fashion leaving his kingside squares permanently, and possibly fatally weakened. **13.c4 Qf7 14.Qb2 h6** Black is trying to build a sanctuary for his king but the text move really doesn't help. Neither does **14...d5** but at least it is more active. **15.Qe1 Qh7**



16.f4! Preparing Qg5 ideas. **16...Qec6 17.Qc3 Bg8 18.Bf3!** Simple and effective. **18...Qe6 19.Qg5+! hxg5 20.Qh3# 1-0**

(175) Feller (2540) - Istratescu (2628) A40 Differdange 2008

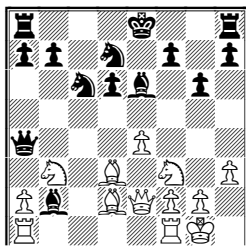
1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.e4 ♖b7 4.e5
Very unusual but also not particularly good. **4...d6 5.♟f3 ♜d7 6.♞a4 dxe5 7.dxe5 ♜e7 8.♙e2 ♙c6 9.♞c2 ♜g6 10.0-0 ♜dxe5 11.♞d1 ♙d6 12.♜d4 ♙b7 13.♜b5 0-0 14.f4??**



A catastrophic blunder. If White wanted to play something like this, he should have tried 14.♜xd6 cxd6 15.f4 but Black is still better. After the text move, it is soon over... **14...♙c5+! 15.♞h1 ♞h4! 16.♞f1** and White resigned at the same time. After **16...♞h3 17.♙d1 ♜h4**, the show ends quickly. **0-1**

(176) Ruck (2535) - Markowski (2582) A40 Warsaw rapid 2005

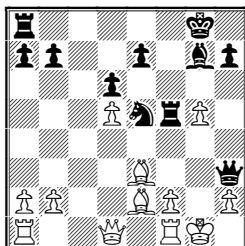
1.♟f3 c5 2.c4 g6 3.e4 ♙g7 4.d4 ♞b6 5.dxc5 ♞xc5 6.♙d3 d6 7.h3 ♜c6 8.0-0 ♙e6 9.♜bd2 ♜f6 9...♞b6 10.♞e1 ♜f6 11.♜f1 0-0 12.♜e3 ♞fc8 13.♜d5 ♞d8 14.♙g5 ♜d7 15.♞d2 with a position somewhat akin to an Accelerated Dragon Maróczy Bind, Milov-C.Horvath, Bratto 2003. **10.♜b3 ♞b4 11.♙d2 ♞a4 12.c5 ♜d7 13.cxd6 exd6 14.♞e2 ♙xb2?!**



Black would have served himself better by playing 14...a6 when the chances would have been about even. **15.♙b5! ♞a3 16.♞ab1! ♞xa2??** This is a truly terrible idea but his position is already pretty uncomfortable, e.g., 16...0-0 17.♙h6 ♙g7?! 18.♙c1 ♞b4 19.a3 ♞c3 20.♙b2 ♞xb3 21.♙xg7 and White is obviously better. **17.♙c3! ♞xb1 18.♙xb2! ♞a2 19.♜c1 1-0**

(177) Paciencia (2431) - Azmaiparashvili (2606) A41 Singapore 2007

1.d4 d6 2.♟f3 g6 3.c4 ♙g7 4.e4 ♙g4 5.♙e3 c5 6.♜c3 ♙xf3 7.gxf3 cxd4 8.♙xd4 ♜f6 9.♞d2 White can also consider 9.h4 ♜c6 10.♙e3 ♞a5 11.♞c1 0-0 12.♞d2 ♞fd8 13.b3 e6 14.♜b5 ♞xd2+ 15.♙xd2 when Black has a slightly more comfortable game, but nothing serious is yet going on, Pajkovic-Vojinovic, Novi Sad 2000. **9...♜c6 10.♙e3 ♜e5 11.♙e2 ♞c8 12.♜d5 ♜xd5 13.cxd5 0-0 14.0-0? ♞h3 15.♞d1? f5!** Further opening the already weakened white kingside. **16.exf5 ♞xf5 17.f4g5! 18.fxg5**

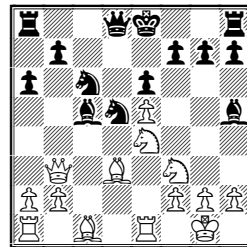


18...♜f3+! Slightly more accurate (forces mate sooner) is **18...♞xg5+!** 19.♙xg5 ♜f3+! 20.♙xf3 ♙e5 with mate in a few moves. **19.♙xf3 ♙e5 0-1**

(178) Bagaturov (2495) - Ki.Georgiev (2660) A41 Biel izt 1993

1.d4 d6 2.♟f3 ♙g4 3.e4 ♜f6 4.♙d3 e6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♞e1 c6 7.♜bd2 d5 8.e5 ♜f7 9.c3 c5

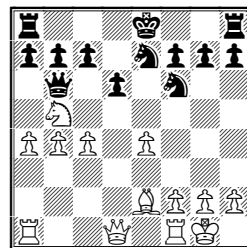
This is looking a lot like a French Defense in which the light-square bishop has escaped from behind the pawn chain. **10.♞a4 ♙h5 11.c4 ♜c6 12.cxd5 ♜b6 13.♞b5 a6 14.♞b3 ♜xd5 15.dxc5 ♙xc5 16.♜e4?!**



16...♙e4!? 16...♙b4! 17.♙g5 ♞d7 18.♞ed1?? White should have pulled the emergency break with **18.♜d6+ ♙xd6 19.exd6 ♙xf3 20.gxf3 ♞xd6** although this is obviously better for Black. **18...♙xf3 19.gxf3 ♜d4** And just like that, White's position falls apart. **20.♞c4 ♜xf3+ 0-1**

(179) Huzman (2575) - Gofshtein (2525) A41 Beersheba 1994

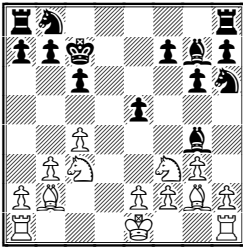
1.d4 d6 2.♟f3 ♙g4 3.c4 ♜d7 4.e4 e5 5.♙e2 ♙e7 6.♜c3 ♙xf3 7.♙xf3 ♙g5 As we have seen before, exchanging dark-square bishops is a typical strategy in this type of pawn structure. **8.♙xg5 ♞xg5 9.dxe5 ♜xe5 10.0-0 ♜e7 11.♙e2 ♜d7 12.♜b5 ♞c5 13.b4 ♞b6 14.a4 ♜f6??**



14...♞c6 is better. **15.a5! ♞c6 16.♙f3! ♞d7 16...♞xc4** is met by **17.♙e2. 17.e5! dxe5 18.♞xd7+ ♞xd7 19.♙xb7 ♞ab8 20.♞fd1+ ♞e6 1-0**

(180) Granda Zuniga (2610) - Bellon Lopez (2439) A41 Benidorm 2009

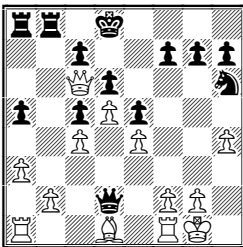
1.g3 e5 2.♘g2 d6 3.c4 g6 4.d4 ♘g7 5.d×e5 d×e5 6.♗×d8+ ♖×d8 7.♗c3 c6 8.b3 ♖c7 9.♘b2 ♗h6 10.♗f3 ♘g4?



Black should have played 10...♗d8? 11.0-0 f6 with a solid position. 11.♗×e5! ♘×e5? Making matters much worse. 11...♗e8 was necessary. 12.♗b5+! ♖b6 13.♘×e5 ♗e8 14.♘c7+ ♖a6 15.♗c3 ♗d7?! 16.b4! ♗b6 17.h3 ♘c8 18.c5 f6 19.♘f1! and Black resigned. 1-0

(181) I.Sokolov (2525) - Miles (2580) A41 Biel 1989

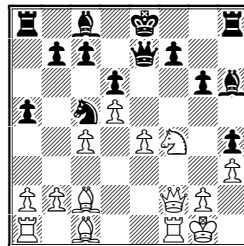
1.d4 d6 2.♗f3 ♘g4 3.c4 ♗d7 4.e4 e5 5.♗e2 ♘e7 6.d5 ♘×f3 7.♘×f3 ♘g5 8.♗c3 a5 9.♘×g5 ♖×g5 10.0-0 ♗h6 11.♖b3 ♗c5 12.♖b5+ ♖e7 13.♗a4 b6 14.♗×c5?! Now White starts to rush things while not really accomplishing anything. 14...b×c5 15.a3 ♗hb8 16.♖c6 ♖d8 17.h4?! Intended to give the king some "luft" before continuing the attack on the queenside. 17...♖d2 Placing the queen on a more active square. On 17...♖×h4, White intended 18.b4. 18.♘d1



18...♗g8! 19.♘a4 ♗f6! The white queen is trapped, now Black needs to play ...♗a7 and ...♖b6 and the deal is done. 20.f4?? ♖×b2! 0-1

(182) I.Sokolov (2650) - Van Kampen (2595) A41 Dutch ch (Amsterdam) 2013

1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 a5 4.♗c3 ♗a6 5.e4 g6 6.♘d3 h5 7.♗ge2 h4 8.h3 ♘h6 Black wants to exchange dark-square bishops to claim control over the dark squares, something that will be a theme for this game. 9.f4 e×f4 10.♗×f4 ♗f6 11.0-0 ♗d7 12.♘c2 ♗ac5 13.♗a4 ♖e7 14.♗×c5 ♗×c5 15.♖d4 ♖e5 16.♖f2 ♖e7

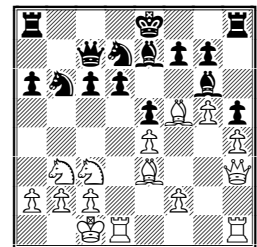


Black would have had good dark-square control to compensate for the missing pawn after 16...0-0 17.♖×h4 ♘g7 and therefore jettisoning the h-pawn would have made a lot of sense. However, Black had overlooked White's strong continuation. 17.e5! As a result of Black's lack of control of the central dark squares, his position rapidly crumbles. 17...d×e5 Or 17...0-0 18.♗h5! and Black is lost. 18.d6! ♖f6 18...c×d6 19.♗d5 is also a disaster. 19.♖×c5 e×f4 20.♘a4+ 1-0

(183) Rapport (2720) - Danielsen (2488) A41 Reykjavik 2016

1.d4 d6 2.♗c3 ♗f6 3.♗f3 ♘g4 4.e4 e6 5.h3 ♘h5 6.♖e2 c6 7.g4 ♘g6 8.h4 White is grabbing space very aggressively. 8...h5 9.g5 ♗fd7 10.♘h3 ♖a5?! This is not a particularly good idea. Black intends to play ...♖a6 to exchange queens. However, White

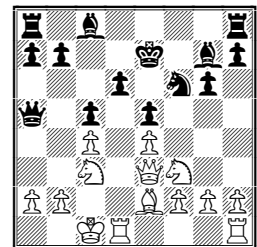
can easily sidestep this and the Black will, as we will see in the game, end up using a lot of time getting the queen back to safety. 11.d5 e5 12.♗d2 ♖a6 13.♖f3 ♘e7 14.♗b3 ♖b6 15.♘e3 ♖c7 16.0-0 a6 17.d×c6 b×c6 18.♘f5 ♗b6 Black should have tried something along the lines of 18...♘×f5 19.e×f5 d5 20.g6 f×g6 21.f×g6 ♗f6 22.♗a4 although White has a comfortable plus. 19.♖h3 ♗d7



20.♘×b6! After 20...♗×b6 21.♘×g6 f×g6 22.♖e6, Black is busted. 1-0

(184) Korchnoi (2633) - Solak (2501) A42 Basel 2002

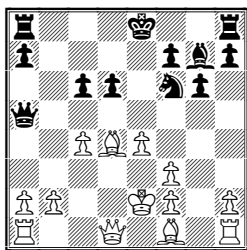
1.d4 g6 2.c4 ♘g7 3.♗c3 d6 4.e4 e5 5.♗f3 ♗c6 6.♘g5 f6 7.♘e3 ♗h6 8.d×e5 ♗×e5 9.♘e2 ♗hg4 10.♘d4 c5?! It would have been safer and better to play 10...0-0 11.0-0 ♗e8 when Black is more or less fine. 11.♘×e5 f×e5 12.♖d3 ♗f6 13.0-0-0 ♖e7 14.♖e3 ♖a5?



My computer suggests 14...♗g4 15.♖g5+ ♘f6 16.♗d5+ ♖f7 17.♖d2 as a safer alternative. 15.♖×d6!! ♗g4 Or 15...♖×d6 16.♖d2+ ♖e6 (16...♖e7 17.♗d5+) 17.♗g5+ ♖e7 18.♗d5+

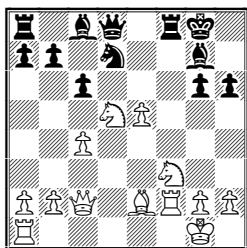
and Black's queen falls. **16. ♖g5+ ♗×d6 17. ♗d2+ ♗e6 18. ♖g5+ ♗f6 19. ♖d5# 1-0**

(185) Hernandez Carmenates (2573) - Almeida Quintana (2524) A42 Cuban ch (Ciego de Avila) 2010
1.d4 g6 2. ♖f3 ♖g7 3.e4 d6 4.c4 ♖g4 5. ♖c3 ♖×f3 6.g×f3 ♖c6 7. ♖e3 e5 8.d5 ♖d4 9. ♖b5 c5 10.d×c6 b×c6 11. ♖×d4 e×d4 12. ♖×d4 ♗a5+ 13. ♗e2 ♖f6



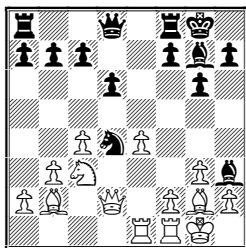
Can White win a pawn with 14. ♖×f6? **14. ♖×f6!** 14. ♖c3 ♗c7 15. ♗d2 is perfectly playable for White. **14... ♖×f6 15. ♗×d6?? ♗d8 16. ♗×c6+** White has won two pawns but his king is completely exposed and without any defenders. I'm not sure what possessed White, a strong grandmaster, to enter this line that is obviously hazardous for White. **16... ♗f8 17.f4 ♖×b2 18. ♖b1 ♗c3 0-1**

(186) Speelman (2594) - Norwood (2455) A42 4NCL (Birmingham) 2001
1.d4 g6 2.c4 ♖g7 3. ♖f3 d6 4. ♖c3 ♖d7 5.e4 e5 6. ♖e2 ♖e7 7.0-0 0-0 8. ♖e3 h6 9. ♗c2! f5 10.d×e5 f4 11.e×d6 f×e3 12.d×e7 e×f2+ 13. ♖×f2 ♗×e7 14. ♖d5 ♗d8? Black should have opted for 14... ♗d6 15. ♖af1 when White is clearly better. **15.e5! c6?**



16. ♗×g6! At the cost of a piece, Black's king gets evicted from his safe haven. **16... c×d5?** It would have been relatively best to play 16... ♖×e5 17. ♖×e5 ♖×f2 18. ♗×f2 c×d5 but even so, White wins after 19. ♗f7+ ♗h8 20. ♖g6+ ♗h7 21. ♖f4 ♗h8 22. ♖d1. **17. ♖d3! ♖f4 18. ♗h7+ ♗f8 19. ♖d4! 1-0**

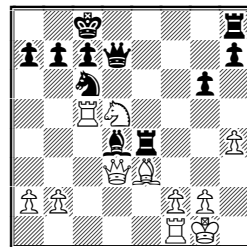
(187) Solak (2568) - L.Vajda (2564) A42 Romanian Team ch (Predeal) 2007
1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♖g7 3.c4 d6 4. ♖c3 ♖d7 5. ♖f3 e5 6.g3 ♖e7 7. ♖g2 0-0 8.0-0 e×d4 9. ♖×d4 ♖e5 10.b3 ♖7c6 11. ♖×c6 ♖×c6 I don't like this move even though it is perfectly reasonable. However, it is too passive; Black will find it difficult to generate counterplay. The more dynamic move is 11... b×c6, for instance, 12. ♖b2 ♖b8 13. ♗c2 c5 14. ♖e2 ♖e8 15.f4 ♖c6 16. ♖×g7 ♗×g7 17. ♗b2+ f6 18.e5 ♖b7 19.e×f6+ ♗×f6 20. ♗×f6+ ♗×f6 with chances for both sides in the endgame, Jobava-Belkhodja, Dubai 2002. **12. ♖b2 ♖e6 13. ♗d2 ♖d4 14. ♖ae1 ♖h3?**



This looks tempting, getting a piece exchange by using a little tactics: 15. ♖×h3?? ♖f3+, winning White's queen. However, the move also has its problems. Instead 14...c6 15.f4 ♖e8 16. ♗f2 would only be a little better for White. **15. ♖d5!** Now Black is immediately in trouble. The knight on d4 is hanging and Black must address this, but the dark squares

will become the next problem and this is Black had failed to take into account when playing his 14th move. **15... ♖×g2 16. ♗×g2 ♖e6 17.f4 17. ♖×g7 ♖×g7 18.e5 d×e5 19. ♖×e5 c6 20. ♖e7+ ♗h8 21. ♗h6** is also clearly better for White, but the text move creates a massive advantage in space. **17... ♖c5??** Black plays as if unaware that bad things are going on at the board. He had to pull the emergency brake with 17...c6, e.g., 18. ♖×g7 ♖×g7 (or 18... ♗×g7 19. ♖e3) 19. ♖e3 ♖e8 with a terribly passive position for Black, but at least he is alive. **18. ♖×g7 ♗×g7 19. ♗c3+ f6 20.e5** And White crashes through in the center on the long diagonal aiming at Black's king. In fact, this is completely decisive. **1-0**

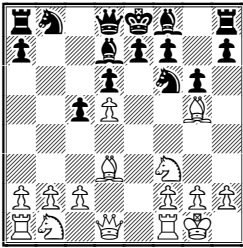
(188) Illescas Cordoba (2625) - Piket (2590) A42 Biel izt 1993
1. ♖f3 d6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 ♖g7 4.e4 e5 5. ♖c3 e×d4 6. ♖×d4 ♖c6 7. ♖e3 ♖ge7 8.h4 f5 9.e×f5 ♖×f5 10. ♖×f5 ♖×f5 11. ♖e2 ♗d7 12. ♗d2 0-0-0 13.0-0 ♖de8 14. ♖ac1 ♖g4 15. ♖d5?! 15. ♖d1 was best. **15... ♖×e2 16. ♗×e2 ♖e4! 17.c5 d×c5 18. ♖×c5 ♖d4** Taking advantage of the pin. **19. ♗d3??**



It was necessary to play 19. ♗c2 ♖×h4 20. ♖×d4 ♖×d4 21. ♗c3 ♖d8 when Black has an extra pawn. **19... ♖×e3! 0-1**

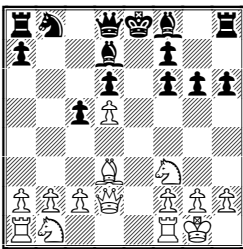
(189) Vallejo Pons (2676) - Lostuzzi (2406) A43 Italian Team ch (Palermo) 2007
1. ♖f3 ♖f6 2.d4 c5 3.d5 b5 4. ♖g5 d6 5.e4 ♖×e4 5...a6 is

more commonly played.
6. ♖xb5+ ♗d7 7. ♗d3 ♖f6
8. 0-0 g6?



This is definitely wrong, but even the computer's preference, 8...♖xd5 9.♗e4 ♖c7 10.♗xa8 ♖xa8 11.♗e1, doesn't fill Black with hope. **9. ♗xf6! exf6 10. ♗d2!** The point behind this move is that after 11.♗e1+ ♗e7, White will play 12.♗h6, which is why Black starts an artificial looking plan, but essentially he is out of good options. **10...h6 11. ♗e1+ ♗e7 12. ♖a3 ♖f8 13. ♗e3 f5 14. ♖c4 ♗f6 15. ♖xd6 ♗xb2?** Only making matters worse, but in bad positions there are no good moves. **16. ♗ae1 ♗f6 17. ♖e8 ♗b6 18. ♗c4! g5 19. d6! 1-0**

(190) Fridman (2661) - A.Vajda (2451) A43 Romanian Team ch (Eforie Nord) 2009
1. d4 ♖f6 2. ♖f3 c5 3. d5 b5 4. ♗g5 d6 5. e4 ♖xe4 6. ♗xb5+ ♗d7 7. ♗d3 ♖f6 8. 0-0 g6 9. ♗xf6 exf6 10. ♗d2 h6

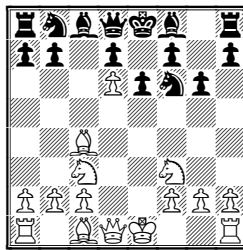


Thus far the same as our previous main game. **11. b4!?** Or 11.♗e3+ ♗e7 12.♖bd2 ♖f8 13.♗fe1 f5 14.♗e2 ♗f6 15.♗f4 ♗c7 16.♖c4 with a large advantage for White. **11...♗g7 12. bxc5 dxc5**

13. ♗e1+ ♖f8 14. ♗e3 ♗c8
 Also 14...f5 15.♖e5 ♗g8 16.♖a3 ♗a4 17.♗ad1 leaves Black utterly busted. **15. ♖bd2 ♖g8 16. ♗ab1 ♖h7 17. ♗e7 ♗e8 18. ♖e4 1-0**

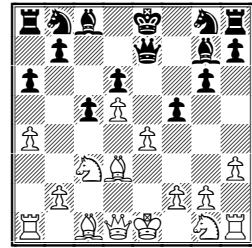
(191) Dautov (2625) - Telljohann (2410) A43 German ch (Bremen) 1998

1. d4 ♖f6 2. ♖f3 c5 3. d5 c4? This is an invention of the German FIDE-Master Stefan Bücker. It is called "Habichd." in German it means something along the lines of "I've got you." The idea is to follow up with 4...♗a5+, and when White answers 5.♖c3, then Black has 5...b5. As we will see, it doesn't quite work out so well for Black in this game. **4. e4!** With this move, the nature of the Black's planned game changes entirely. **4...♖xe4 5. ♗xc4 g6 6. ♖c3! ♖f6** On 6...♖xc3, White doesn't recapture, but rather plays 7.♗d4 ♗g8 8.♗xc3 with an obvious advantage. **7. d6 e6?**



Black can't play 7...exd6?? as he is pretty much lost after 8.0-0. It appears that 7...♗g7 8.♖b5 ♖a6 9.♗f4 is Black's best option, in which case we must conclude that Black's opening is a bust. **8. ♖b5! ♖a6 9. ♗f4! b6?** This only makes matters worse. Instead 9...♗b6 10.♗e2 ♗g7 11.0-0 0-0 12.c3 would only have been poor to look at. **10. ♗e5! ♗b7 11. ♗d4** Or 11.♖c7+ ♖xc7 12.dxc7 ♗e7 13.0-0 and White is winning. **11...♗g7 12. ♖c7+ ♖xc7 13. dxc7 ♗e7 14. ♗d6 ♖h5 15. ♗d3 ♖f6 16. ♗a6! ♗xb2 17. ♗xb7! 1-0**

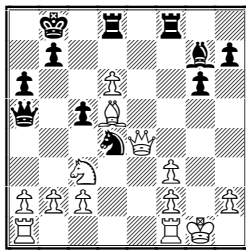
(192) Stoczek (2470) - T.Tolnai (2560) A43 Budapest 1998
1. d4 e6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 exd5 4. cxd5 d6 5. ♖c3 g6 6. e4 ♗g7 7. ♗d3 a6 8. a4 ♗e7 9. h3 f5?!



Very sharp and also not very good. Black had probably missed White's strong answer. Instead, 9...♖d7 10.♖f3 ♖g6 11.♗f4 0-0 12.0-0 would have been playable if somewhat better for White, having transposed into the Modern Variation of the Modern Benoni in which Black has chosen a somewhat passive set-up. **10. ♖f3! fxex4** Note that Black does not win a win piece after 10...♗xc3+ 11.bxc3 fxe4 because of 12.0-0! ♖f6 (12...exd3?? 13.♗e1) 13.♗e1 ♗f5 14.♗h6 ♖bd7 15.♗b3 with a strong initiative for White. **11. ♖xe4 ♖f6 12.0-0 ♖xe4 13. ♗e1 0-0 14. ♗xe4 14. ♗xe4! 14...♗f7 15. ♗g5 15. ♗e1! 15...♗xb2?? 16. ♗e7 ♗xd5 17. ♗c2! 1-0**

(193) Sutorikhin (2405) - Afek (2510) A44 Kecskemet 1991

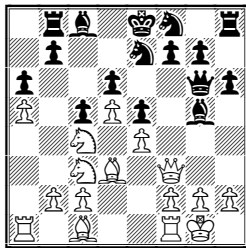
1. d4 g6 2. e4 ♗g7 3. ♖c3 c5 4. d5 d6 5. ♖f3 e5 6. dxe6 ♗xe6 7. ♗f4 ♗a5 8. ♗b5+ ♖c6 9.0-0 9. ♗xc6+ bxc6 10.0-0 is clearly better for White. **9...♖ge7 10. ♗xd6 0-0-0 11. e5?** 11.a4!? **11...♗g4?** 11...♖xe5! is simply better for Black. **12. ♗e2 a6 13. ♗c4 13. ♗xc6! ♖xc6 14. ♗c4 ♗xf3 15. ♗xf7!** is definitely better for White. **13...♖f5 14. ♗xf7 ♖xd6 15. exd6 ♖d4 16. ♗e4 ♗xf3 17. gxf3 ♗hf8 18. ♗d5! ♖b8??**



18...♖b6 would have left Black with the better chances. **19.♜e7! 1-0**

(194) Colovic (2433) - Abergel (2451) A44 French Team ch (Belfort) 2012

1.d4 c5 2.d5 e5 3.e4 d6 4.♗b5+ ♘d7 5.a4 a6 6.♗d3 ♗e7 7.♘f3 h6 8.♘c3 ♗g5 9.0-0 ♜f6 10.♘d2 ♘e7 11.♜f3 ♜g6 12.♘c4 ♖b8 13.a5 ♘f8

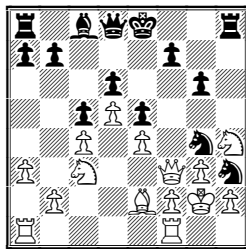


13...♗xc1 14.♖axc1 would have been a better option for Black, although White has a clear advantage. **14.♜g3! ♜f6** 14...♗xc1 15.♖axc1 also loses for Black because his problems with keeping the d-pawn protected. **15.f4!** Now Black's clumsy set-up in the center becomes a problem. **15...exf4** Or 15...♗h4 16.♜e3 exf4 17.♜xf4. **16.♗xf4 ♗xf4 17.♖xf4 ♜g6 18.♜f2** Next up is e4-e5. Black resigned. **1-0**

(195) Kadimova (2372) - Vanderwaeren (2346) A44 Belgian Team ch 2001

1.d4 e6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 d6 4.e4 g6 5.♘c3 ♗g7 6.♗f4 e5 7.♗e3 h5 Another idea, and the main line, is 7...♘e7 8.h4 f5 9.h5 (or 9.♗g5 h6 10.♗xe7 ♜xe7 11.h5 g5 12.exf5

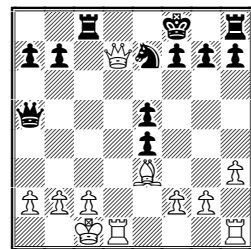
♗xf5 with a good game for Black, Lagno-Riazantsev, Moscow 2015) 9...f4 10.♗d2 0-0 11.g4 a6 12.a3 ♘d7 13.g5 ♖f7 14.h6 ♗f8 was played in Nadanian-Haik, Cannes 1997, and now 15.♘f3 ♘b6 16.a4 ♗d7 17.a5 would leave White with an obvious advantage. **8.♜d2 ♗h6** Once more, we see the idea to exchange the dark-square bishops. **9.♗d3 ♗xe3 10.♜xe3 ♘f6 11.a3 ♘bd7 12.♘f3 h4 13.0-0 ♘h5 14.♗e2 ♘f4 15.g3 ♘h3+ 16.♜g2 ♘f6 17.♘xh4 ♘g4 18.♜f3**



18...♘f4+! 19.♜g1? White's best option is 19.♜h1, although then Black naturally plays 19...g5!, e.g., 20.♗d1 ♘h5 21.♘f5 ♗xf5 22.♜xf5 ♘e3! and Black wins the exchange. **19...g5** And here White resigned! Therefore, let's take a closer look. After 19...g5, 20.gxf4 gxf4 (this is much stronger than 20...♖xh4 21.fxex5 ♘xh2 and 22.♜f6 [both 22.♜e3 ♖h3! and 22.♜d3 ♖h3! win for Black] 22...♜xf6 23.exxf6 ♘xf1 24.♖xf1 ♗d7 25.f3 0-0-0 with only a clear advantage for Black) 21.♘f5 ♘xh2 22.♜g2 ♗xf5 23.exxf5 ♗d7! and the black king escapes to the queenside while White's king can't do anything similar, e.g., 24.f6 ♜g8! 25.♘e4 f3 26.♜g7 ♖h7 and Black is winning. **0-1**

(196) Bruzat Batista (2669) - Jobava (2637) A45 Havana 2005 **1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗g5 ♘e4 3.♗f4 d5 4.e3 c5 5.♗d3 ♘c6 6.♗xe4 dxe4 7.♘e2 cxd4 8.exd4 ♗g4 9.h3 ♗xe2 10.♜xe2 ♜xd4** Untested, but possibly better is

10...♘xd4 11.♜xe4 ♜b6 12.♘d2 ♜e6 and White will end up with a lead in development, but that is a minor inconvenience compared to the game continuation. **11.♘c3 e5 12.♗e3 ♜b4 13.0-0-0 ♗e7?** Also 13...f5 14.♖d5 ♜e7 15.g4 ♜e6 16.gxf5 ♜xf5 17.♜b5 and Black is obviously in deep trouble, or 13...♜a5 14.♜g4 ♜c7 15.♜xe4 ♜c8 16.f4 ♗e7 17.♘d5 0-0 18.♜xe5 with a clear advantage for White, Vitiugov-Salem, Dubai 2014. **14.♜g4** An even stronger option is 14.♖d5!, for instance, 14...♘d4 15.♜g4 ♘e6 16.♖b5 and White is winning. **14...♜f8 15.♘d5 ♜a5 16.♘xe7 ♘xe7 17.♜d7 ♖c8**

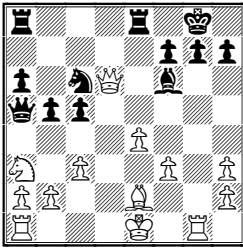


18.♗c5! ♖e8 19.♖d5! Black resigned as after 19.♖d5 f6, White ends up with an extra rook after 20.♗xe7+ ♖xe7 21.♜xe7+ ♜xe7 22.♖xa5. **1-0**

(197) Vallejo Pons (2666) - Svidler (2733) A45 Leon 2004

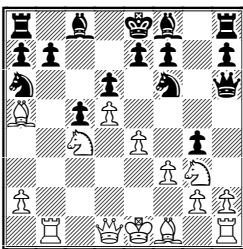
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗g5 ♘e4 3.♗f4 c5 4.d5 ♜b6 5.♗c1 e6 6.f3 ♜a5+ 7.c3 ♘f6 8.e4 d6 9.♗g5?! 9.♗d2 is the main line and a considerably better option. **9...♗e7 10.♗c4! b5 11.♗e2 0-0 12.♘a3 a6 13.dxe6 ♗xe6** At first glance, this may not look particularly bad for White, but he is struggling with poorly coordinated piece and will have issues getting the rest of his pieces into play. **14.♘h3** Not pretty, but a consequence of his poor development. **14...♗xh3 15.gxh3 ♘c6 16.♖g1 ♖fe8 17.♗xf6** Pawn hunting is typically not advisable when you're behind in development or your king is stuck in the center or both. Therefore,

17.♖c2 would have been best although 17...d5! is quite unpleasant for White. **17...♙xf6 18.♖xd6?**



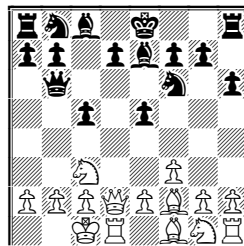
18...♙e6! 18...♙d4! is, in fact, even stronger, but the text move more than does the job. **19.♖g3?** Also the better option 19.♖d2 is a disaster, for instance, 19...♙d8 20.♖c1 ♖c7 21.♙g2 ♖e5 and White is looking at a positional ruin, as next

(198) Miladinovic (2604) - Gozzoli (2510) A45 Nancy 2008
1.d4 ♖f6 2.♙g5 ♖e4 3.♙f4 c5 4.f3 ♖a5+ 5.c3 ♖f6 6.d5 ♖b6 7.e4 ♖xb2 These pawn hunting expeditions can be rewarding if Black gets away with it. But anyone who pays attention in this book – or in any of my other miniature books – will know that a pawn hunter very frequently gets punished. **8.♖d2 ♖xc3 9.♙c7!?** This looks a little odd but has been played many times. Its aim is to take the a5 retreat square away from Black's queen. **9...d6 10.♙b1 ♖e3+ 11.♖e2 ♖a6 12.♖c4 ♖h6 13.♙a5 g5 14.♖g3 g4**



15.♙xb7 ♙xb7?? A bad blunder. He should have tried 15...♙g7 for instance 16.♙d2 ♖h4 17.♖a4+ ♖d7 18.♖xa6 (18.♖c6 ♙xb7 19.♖xb7 ♙b8 20.♖xa6 gxf3 is messy and unclear) 18...0-0 19.♖e3 and White has the somewhat better chances. **16.♖f5!** After 16.♖f5 ♖g6 17.♖xd6+! exd6 18.♙b5+ It is game over for Black who will get mated by force. **1-0**

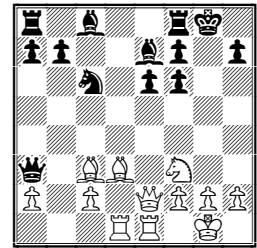
(199) V.Georgiev (2535) - Al.Fedorov (2614) A45 Turin of 2006
1.d4 ♖f6 2.♙g5 ♖e4 3.♙f4 c5 4.f3 ♖f6 5.d5 ♖h5 6.♙g5 h6 7.♙e3 e5 8.d6? 8.♙f2 d6 9.c4 is about even. **8...♖b6 9.♖c3 ♙xd6 10.♖d2 ♖f6 11.0-0-0 ♙e7 12.♙f2?**



White intends to play e2-e4 with a positional clamp, hoping to claim adequate compensation. **12...d5!** Clamp denied! But, more than that, White is close to losing after this move. **13.♖xd5 ♖xd5 14.♖xd5 ♙e6 15.♖e4 ♖c6 16.a3 ♖a6?!** 16...0-0! is likely even better. **17.e3 c4 18.♙d5?** Overly optimistic – and quite bad. **18...f5! 19.♖xc4 ♙xd5 0-1**

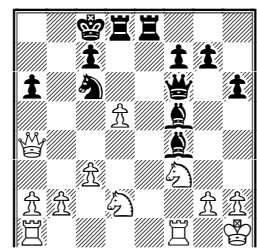
(200) K.U.Mueller (2465) - Rodriguez Gonzales (2390) A45 Halle 1974
1.d4 ♖f6 2.♖c3 c5 3.dxc5 ♖a5 4.♖f3 e6 5.♙d2 ♙xc5 6.e3 ♖d8 7.♙d3 d5 8.0-0 ♖c6 9.e4 dxe4 10.♖xe4 ♙e7 11.♖e2 0-0 12.♙ad1 It is time for Black to decide what to do with the queen. **12...♖b6 13.♙fe1**

13.b4!? is also interesting, but White dangles the poisoned b-pawn in front of Black's nose. **13...♖xb2? 14.♙c3 ♖a3 15.♖xf6+ gxf6**



16.♖g5! All of a sudden, the White attack is at full force, in fact mate is unavoidable. **16...h6 17.♖h5 ♖g7 18.♙e3 ♖c5 19.♙xf6+ 1-0**

(201) Sedlak (2576) - Grigorov (2465) A45 Kavala 2008
1.d4 ♖f6 2.♙g5 e6 3.e3 h6 4.♙xf6 ♖xf6 5.f4 d6 6.♖f3 ♖c6 7.♖bd2 e5 8.fxe5 dxe5 9.♙c4 exd4 10.0-0 ♙f5 11.exd4 0-0-0 12.c3 ♙d6 13.♖h1 ♙he8 14.♙b5 ♙f4 15.♖a4 a6 16.♙xa6? Very optimistic and unfortunately not very good. Instead, 16.♙xc6 ♖xc6 17.♖xc6 bxc6 18.♖h4 ♙xd2 19.♖xf5 would have left the chances close to even. **16...bxa6 17.d5?!**

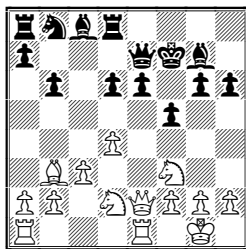


It would have been better for White to play 17.♖xa6+ although Black is nevertheless better after 17...♖b8 18.♖b3 ♙c8 19.♖b5+ ♖a8 20.♖a4+ ♖a7 21.♖e5 g5 and White doesn't have quite enough for the piece. The text move wins the piece back, but at a rather steep

price. 17...♙d3! Now Black takes control of the game. 18.dxc6 ♘b5 19.♖b3 ♜e2! 20.a4 ♘xc6 0-1

(202) Ghitescu (2450) - Partos (2425) A46 Bucharest 1973

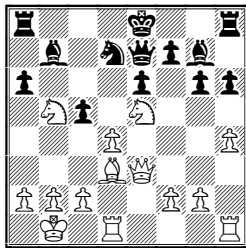
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗f3 e6 3.♙g5 b6 4.e4 h6 5.♙xf6 ♖xf6 6.♗bd2 ♖e7 7.c3 d6 8.e5 f5? I'm not sure what possessed Black to play this weakening move. Instead, 8...♙b7 is normal and fine for Black. 9.♙b5+ ♖f7 10.exd6 cxd6 11.0-0 g6 12.♞e1 ♙g7 13.♙c4 ♖b7 14.♙b3 ♜d8 15.♖e2 ♖e7??



15...♖d7 would have been much better. 16.♙d5! 1-0

(203) Lafuente (2555) - Lupulescu (2638) A46 Sarajevo 2011

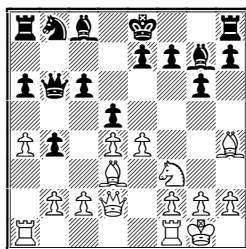
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗f3 e6 3.♙g5 h6 4.♙xf6 ♖xf6 5.e4 d6 6.♗c3 g6 7.♖d2 ♙g7 8.0-0-0 ♖e7 This line looks pleasant for White, but Black's position is solid and dynamic. The score in the games that have featured this line is heavily in Black's favor. 9.h4 a6 10.e5 ♗d7 11.♖e3 b5 12.♙d3 ♘b7 13.♖b1 dxe5 14.♗xe5 c5! Undermining the knight on e5. 15.♗xb5?



This looks very tempting, but is, in fact, not very good. 15...0-0! This is much better than accepting the sacrifice on b5, for instance, 15...axb5 16.♙xb5 0-0 17.♗xd7 cxd4 18.♞xd4 ♙xd4 19.♖xd4 ♞fd8 and Black is just about staying in the game. 16.♗xd7 ♖xd7 Now it becomes clear that White has overplayed his hand: the knight is hanging, and so is the d4-and g2-pawns. Black is already clearly better. 17.♗a3 ♞ab8 18.♖g3 ♖xd4 19.c3 ♖a4 20.♙c4? ♙xg2! 0-1

(204) Burmakin (2623) - Marholev (2449) A46 Cappelle la Grande 2009

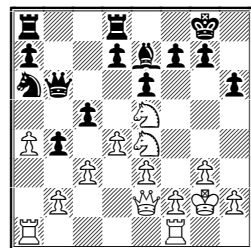
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗f3 b5 3.♙g5 ♗e4 4.♙h4 d5 This is a rather bad combination of opening moves without direction or purpose. 5.e3 c6 6.♙d3 g6 7.♗bd2 ♗xd2 8.♖xd2 a6 9.e4 ♖b6? 9...♙g7 is definitely better. 10.0-0 ♙g7 11.a4!? 11.♞fe1 here or on the next several moves is a great alternative. 11...b4



Or 11...dxe4 12.♙xe4 ♞a7 13.♞fe1 with a dreadful position for Black. 12.a5! ♖b7 13.♞a4! The real point behind White's previous move. Now Black is being made to pay for his lack of development and loose pawn structure. 13...b3 14.♞b4 ♖a7 15.♞xb3 0-0 16.♖b4 ♙g4 17.♙xe7 ♙xf3 18.gxf3 ♞e8 19.♙c5 ♖c7 20.♖b7 Black resigned as he will never bring his queenside pieces properly to life. 1-0

(205) Romanishin (2558) - Wojtaszek (2553) A46 Moscow 2005

1.d4 ♗f6 2.♗f3 e6 3.g3 Not exactly the sharpest continuation but in some cases White can transpose to main lines of the Queen's Indian, the Catalan and similar openings. 3...b5 Transpositions denied! 4.♙g2 ♙b7 5.♙g5 c5 6.c3 ♗a6 7.0-0 ♙e7 8.♗bd2 0-0 9.e3 h6 10.♙xf6 ♙xf6 11.♖e2 ♖b6 12.a4 b4 13.♗e5 ♙xg2 14.♖xg2 ♞fd8 14...♖b7+!? 15.♗e4 ♙e7??



Black should have played 15...cxd4 16.cxd4 ♙xe5 17.dxe5 ♗c5 as 18.♗d6 is met by 18...f6 and Black is fine. 16.a5! ♖b7 17.♖f3! The point behind the previous move: White is threatening ♗f6+ as well as ♖xf7+. 17...♞ab8 18.♖xf7+ ♖h7 19.f3 d5 20.♖g6+ 1-0

(206) Arencibia Rodriguez (2560) - Rodriguez Cespedes (2555) A46 Cienfuegos 1997

1.d4 ♗f6 2.♗f3 e6 3.♙g5 c5 4.e3 ♙e7 5.dxc5 Not the most frightening continuation but it has been played several times by Yusupov who is a specialist in this line. 5...♙xc5 6.♙d3 ♗c6 7.0-0 d5 8.♗bd2 ♙e7 9.c4 0-0 10.♞c1 ♙d7 11.a3 dxc4 12.♗xc4 ♗d5 13.♙xe7 ♖xe7 14.b4 ♞fc8 15.♙b1!? b5? (D)

Black should have played something like 15...♙e8 16.♖d3 f5 when White is somewhat better but Black has a playable position. 16.e4! ♗b6? This only makes