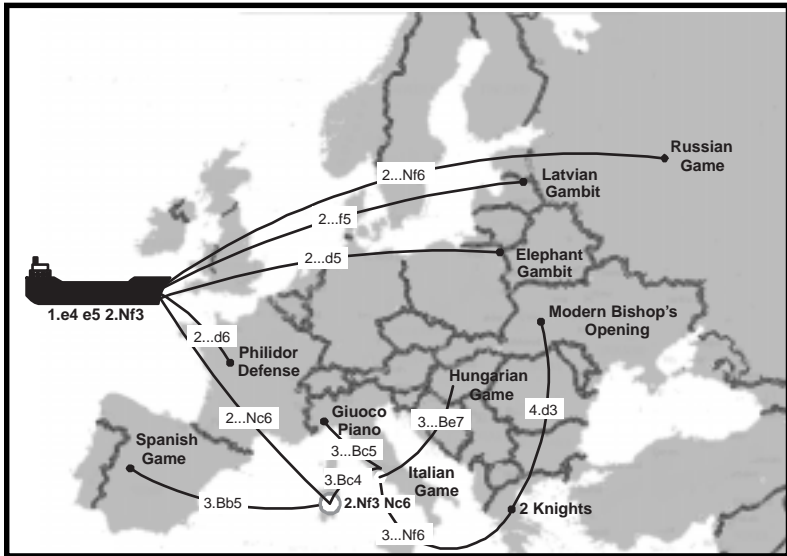


# THE OPEN GAMES AS WHITE (1.e4 e5)



## OVERVIEW

The path to the main lines of the Open Games is littered with traps and pitfalls for both sides. Although White has the first move, Black has tried many different gambits and sharp lines to keep the game from reaching the confines of the Spanish (a.k.a. 'Ruy Lopez') or Italian games, which White presumably knows to play with confidence.

In this first section, therefore, we adopt White's point of view and assume that he is aiming for either a classical line of the Italian Game or a main line "Spanish Inquisition." This means that, after 1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6, White will play either 3.Bc4 (Italian) or 3.Bb5 (Spanish). Instead of 2...Nc6, Black can play the Philidor Defense (1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 d6), which is too cramped to be "annoying" to White unless Black chooses sharp irregular lines like 3.d4 f5!? We will analyze those carefully in separate sections.

Against 3.Bc4 there aren't many irregular third moves to scare White. Black could adopt something uncommon like a Hungarian Defense (1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bc4 Be7), but such a passive defense doesn't lead to sharp tactics and requires little special preparation by White. However, if White wants to play a conventional Spanish Game with 3.Bb5, he or she needs to have a plan against all kinds of dangerous sidelines on moves 3 and 4, many of which can easily trip up the unprepared player. There are similar variations on each succeeding move all the way up to the dreaded Marshall Attack (3.Bb5 a6; 4.Ba4 Nf6; 5.0-0 Be7; 6.Re1 b5; 7.Bb3 0-0; 8.c3 d5!?). Some of these side variations are desperate but others are sound enough to be used regularly. Since much of what we look at in this section is sharp and a bit intimidating to face, we will provide more detail than is given for less aggressive variations.

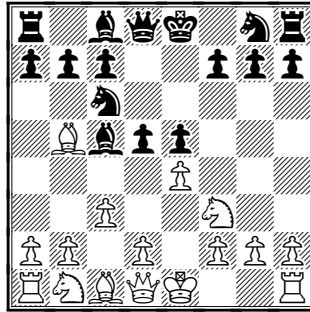
For the most part, Black's disruptive behavior is characterized by either ...d5 or ...f5, either of which can be seen as early as move 2. The ...d5 strategies include the Elephant Gambit, Konikowski Gambit, and the Marshall Attack. Black plays ...f5 in the Latvian Gambit, Philidor Defense, Schliemann Defense and Schliemann Deferred. The only other lines that might be a bit scary for White are the Albin-Blackburne Gambit and the Bird Variation of the Spanish Game. Since the Russian Defense (or "Petroff Defense") is so irritating to play against, we have also offered two systems by which you can avoid theory. Finally, we take a brief look at some irregular second moves.

## **SHARP BLACK LINES IN THE SPANISH GAME (2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5)**

Black's options in the Spanish include both ...d5 and ...f5 plans, which directly challenge White's center. It isn't easy to achieve these breaks early in the game because Black's king is still in the center. In the most reliable of these lines, Black castles first, as in the Marshall Attack. Black can also refrain from early pawn breaks and still live things up by developing the bishop to c5, aiming at f2 while helping to control d4. All if these ideas will be illustrated in the variations to which we now turn.

**Against the Konikowski Variation**

**1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 Bc5; 4.c3 d5!?**



*Position after 4...d5*

**5.Nxe5.**

If White wants to get out of book, 5.b4!? is a forceful way of declining the gambit. It is easy to play 5...dxe4; 6.Nxe5 Bxf2+; 7.Kxf2 Qf6+; 8.Nf3 exf3; 9.Qxf3 Qxf3+; 10.Kxf3 Nge7; 11.d4 Bd7; 12.Bd3 with a slight edge for White, thanks to the bishop pair and control of the center. Ozga vs. Konikowski, Krakow 1971.

**5...Qg5.**

This is the only move worth considering for Black, though others have been tried.

a) 5... dxe4; 6.Nxc6 Qf6; 7.Nd4+ Bd7; 8.Bxd7+ Kxd7; 9.Qg4+ Ke8; 10.Qxe4+ and White was winning in Griffiths vs. Odeh, London 1994.

b) 5...Bxf2+; 6.Kxf2 Qf6+; 7.Nf3 dxe4; 8.Re1 Nge7; 9.Rxe4 Bf5; 10.Re1 and Black gave up in Simmelink vs. Paavilainen, Postal 1993.

c) 5...Bd7; 6.Nxd7 Qxd7; 7.d4 Bb6; 8.e5 O-O-O; 9.a4 Nge7; 10.a5 was crushing in Simmelink vs. Schorsch, Postal 1993.

d) 5...Qf6; 6.d4 dxe4; 7.Qa4 Nge7; 8.Nxc6 bxc6; 9.dxc5 cxb5; 10.Qxb5 was clearly better for White in Karteri vs. Papakonstantinou, Athens 2000.

**6.O-O!**

White develops, with an eye toward a rapid d4, Re1 and opening of the e-file before Black has time to castle.

**6...Qxe5; 7.d4 Qe6.**

Two quick wins for White illustrate what fun the first player can have in these lines.

a) 7...Qd6; 8.dxc5 Qxc5; 9.Qxd5 Qxd5; 10.exd5 a6; 11.Re1+ Kf8; 12.Bxc6 bxc6; 13.b3 Black resigned, Woodford vs. Ramirez, Postal

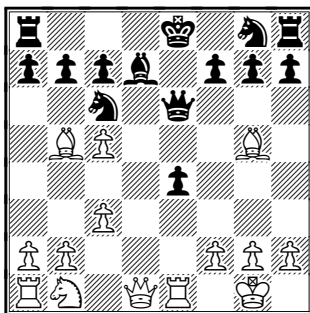
1990.

b) 7...Bxd4; 8.cxd4 Qe6; 9.Nc3 Qg6; 10.exd5 a6; 11.Bd3 Qd6; 12.dxc6 bxc6; 13.Re1+ Ne7; 14.Qe2 Be6; 15.Ne4 Black resigned, Simmelink vs. Stanitz, Postal 1993.

8.dxc5! Open up the game before Black castles! 8...dxe4; 9.Re1 Bd7.

9...Nf6; 10.Bf4 Qe7; 11.Nd2 O-O; 12.Bxc6 bxc6; 13.Bg5 gave White a tremendous game in Rogalewicz vs. Konikowski, Postal 1988.

10.Bg5! Black cannot equalize now. Black's king has great difficulty escaping from the center.



*Position after 10.Bg5*

If 10...f5, then 11.Qh5+ g6; 12.Qh4 Qe5; 13.Nd2 Qxc5; 14.Bc4 with a clear advantage for White. But 10...f6; 11.Nd2 leaves White with a better position, as in Bitman vs. Konikowski, Postal 1979.

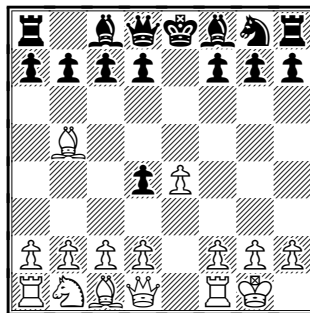
### Summary Charts

Following is the first of fifty summary charts, which are designed as a convenient reference to the most important moves and ideas of our strategy. The moves run from left to right, with the first line showing White moves and the second line showing Black moves. For example, in Chart #1, the initial moves of the Konikowski Variation are given, followed by the international ECO code for the opening (for those who wish to do research and find relevant games in databases or online). There are ten variations given, numbered on the left side of the chart. When studying the charts, pay close attention to the recommended strong moves (!) and blunders (?), because these are essential for understanding our strategy.

| <b>Summary Chart #1</b>                                |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |      |
|--|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| <b>KONIKOWSKI: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.c3 d5</b> |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |      |
| <b>ECO Code: C64</b>                                   |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |      |
|  | 5     | 6     | 7    | 8     | 9     | 10    | 11   | 12   |
| 1  | b4!?  | Nxe5  | Kxf2 | Nf3   | Qxf3  | Kxf3  | d4   | Bd3  |
|  | dxe4  | Bxf2+ | Qf6+ | exf3  | Qxf3+ | Nge7  | Bd7  |      |
| 2  | Nxe5  | Nxc6  | Nd4+ | Bxd7+ | Qg4+  | Qxe4+ |      |      |
|  | dxe4  | Qf6   | Bd7  | Kxd7  | Ke8   |       |      |      |
| 3  | Nxe5  | Kxf2  | Nf3  | Re1   | Rxe4  | Re1   |      |      |
|  | Bxf2+ | Qf6+  | dxe4 | Nge7  | Bf5   |       |      |      |
| 4  | Nxe5  | Nxd7  | d4   | e5    | a4    | a5    |      |      |
|  | Bd7   | Qxd7  | Bb6  | O-O-O | Nge7  |       |      |      |
| 5  | Nxe5  | d4    | Qa4  | Nxc6  | dxc5  | Qxb5+ |      |      |
|  | Qf6   | dxe4  | Nge7 | bxc6  | cxb5  |       |      |      |
| 6  | Nxe5  | O-O!  | d4   | dx5   | Qxd5  | exd5  | Re1+ | Bxc6 |
|  | Qg5   | Qxe5  | Qd6  | Qxc5  | Qxd5  | a6    | Kf8  |      |
| 7  | Nxe5  | O-O!  | d4   | cx4   | Nc3   | exd5  | Bd3  | dx6  |
|  | Qg5   | Qxe5  | Bxd4 | Qe6   | Qg6   | a6    | Qd6  |      |
| 8  | Nxe5  | O-O!  | d4   | dx5!  | Re1   | Bf4   | Nd2  | Bxc6 |
|  | Qg5   | Qxe5  | Qe6  | dxe4  | Nf6   | Qe7   | O-O  |      |
| 9  | Nxe5  | O-O!  | d4   | dx5!  | Re1   | Bg5!  | Nd2  |      |
|  | Qg5   | Qxe5  | Qe6  | dxe4  | Bd7   | f6    |      |      |
| 10   | Nxe5  | O-O!  | d4   | dx5!  | Re1   | Bf4   | Qa4  | Na3! |
|  | Qg5   | Qxe5  | Qe6  | dxe4  | Bd7   | O-O-O | f5   |      |

### Against the Bird Variation

**1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 Nd4; 4.Nxd4 exd4; 5.O-O.**



*Position after 5.O-O*

White sensibly disrupts Black's pawn structure and then continues with development. Black plans to play ...c6 and ...d5, getting rid of the doubled pawns. If this can be achieved, then equality will likely result. White's task is to make this as hard as possible. Black has

many plans, which often transpose into one another. Only two moves, 5...Bc5 (A), and 5...c6 (B), are seen with any regularity. Two other plans have been spotted sporadically.

a) 5...Nf6?! is dubious because of 6.e5! For example, 6...Nd5; 7.Qg4 c5; 8.Re1 Nc7; 9.Na3 Ne6; 10.d3 a6; 11.Bc4 g6; 12.Bd5 with a good game for White in Avant vs. Mori, Postal, 2000.

b) 5...a6; 6.Ba4. Retreating to c4 might be stronger here, but for consistency you might want to stick with our standard plan. 6...Bc5 (6...Ne7; 7.d3 Ng6; 8.Qh5!?) 7.d3 b5; 8.Bb3 d6; 9.Qh5 Qf6; 10.Bg5 Qg6 is Kaak vs. Slonski, Postal, 1994. White gains the advantage with 11.Qxg6 hxg6; 12.a4.

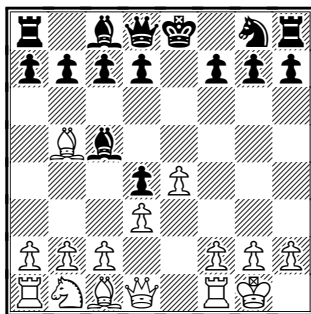
c) 5...Ne7 transposes to 5...c6 lines after 6.Ba4 c6.

d) 5...Qg5!?! is not mentioned in ECO, but it is a bit tricky and has been played many times. White doesn't have to worry about Black getting a bishop to h3 since that can usually be countered by Qf3. 6.Bc4. There is no point in going to a4 in this line. White plans to play d3, f4 and attack on the kingside. 6...b5 (Or 6...Bc5; 7.d3 Qg6; 8.f4 Ne7; 9.f5!, Ulibin vs. Margatinis, Athens 1997.) 7.d3! Qc5; 8.b4!? Qb6? (8...Qe5; 9.Bd5 c6; 10.f4 Qc7; 11.Bb3 gives White the better prospects.) 9.Bxf7+!! Kxf7; 10.Qh5+ g6; 11.Qd5+ Kg7; 12.Qxa8 gave White a decisive advantage in Englisch vs. Winawer, London 1883.

e) 5...g6 When Black commits to the fianchetto, White should use the d3 plan. 6.d3 Bg7; 7.Bc4 (7.Qf3!?) 7...Ne7 (7...c6; 8.Qf3 Qe7; 9.Bg5 Bf6; 10.Bxf6 Qxf6; 11.Qg3, Dominguez Perez vs. Ramon, Cienfuegos 1996 or 7...d6; 8.Qf3, Bhat vs. Mackenzie, United States Open 1998 are both better for White.) 8.Bg5 O-O; 9.Qf3 d6; 10.Bf6 Be6; 11.Bxg7 Kxg7; 12.Nd2 with a good game for White, Magomedov vs. Vladimirov, Tallinn 1988.

A) 5...Bc5; 6.d3.

The most solid and, perhaps for that reason, most popular move.



*Position after 6.d3*

**6...c6.** This is far and away the most common response. There are many alternatives, but they aren't very difficult to meet. White's replies include developing with Nd2, advancing in the center with e5, or sometimes a queen excursion to h5. A few examples:

a) 6...Ne7; 7.Qh5! Bb6; 8.f4 O-O; (8...c6; 9.Bc4 d5; 10.Bb3 g6; 11.Qe5 Rg8; 12.f5 Bc7; 13.Qf6 gxf5; 14.exd5 cxd5; 15.Re1 with a great game for White in Riihimaki vs. Nilsson, Postal 1986) 9.f5 c6; 10.f6 Ng6; 11.fxg7 Re8; 12.Bc4 was crushing in Lasker vs. Schwan, Simultaneous 1913.

b) 6...Qh4; 7.Nd2 Ne7; (7...Nf6; 8.Nf3 Qh5; 9.Bc4 d5; 10.exd5 Bd6, Mauro vs. Trifunovic, Estensi 2001, 11.Re1+ gives White an excellent game) 8.e5 Ng6; 9.Ne4 Be7; 10.Ng3 Nxe5; 11.Nf5 Qf6; 12.Nxe7 Kxe7; 13.Re1 Kd8; 14.Qh5 h6; 15.Qxe5 Black resigned, McShane vs. Costagliola, London 1997.

c) 6...h5; 7.e5!? (7.f4 c6; 8.Bc4 d5; 9.exd5 cxd5; 10.Bb5+ Kf8; 11.Ba4 Ne7; 12.Nd2 b5; 13.Bb3 a5; 14.a3 Ra6; 15.Nf3 Rf6; 16.Ne5 was less clear in Evans vs. Martin, Postal 1988) 7...c6 (7...a6; 8.Bc4 d5; 9.exd6 cxd6; 10.Re1+ Kf8; 11.Qf3 Qf6; 12.Qe4 gave White a strong position in Yagupov vs. Naer, Moscow Championship 1992.) 8.Bc4 d5; 9.exd6 Bxd6; 10.Nd2 Nf6; 11.Nf3 Bg4; 12.Qe1+ where Black's position was already under pressure in Ivanov vs. Naer, Moscow Championship 1992.

**7.Ba4 Ne7.** Again, there are a large number of alternatives that have been seen.

a) 7...d6!? is a reasonable choice, but still not easy for Black. White should play 8.Nd2 intending to follow up with f4 as appropriate, for example:

8...Ne7; 9.Qh5 Be6 is Hagarova vs. Jirka, Trinec 1998. 10.f4 gives White a promising kingside initiative.

8...Nf6; 9.f4 Ng4; (9...d5; 10.e5 Ng4; 11.Nf3 h5; 12.Kh1 Nh6; 13.c3 Nf5; 14.b4 Bb6; 15.c4 h4; 16.c5 Bc7; 17.Qe1 with pressure on both sides of the board in Hellers vs. Barua, Gausdal 1986.) 10.Nf3 h5; 11.Qe1 Kf8; 12.h3 with a much better game for White in Palau Pons vs. Ipata, Buenos Aires 1927.

b) 7...Qh4 doesn't work out well for Black: 8.Nd2 Ne7; 9.Nf3 Qh5; 10.c3 dxc3; 11.bxc3 d5; 12.exd5 Qxd5; 13.Bb3 with a great game for White, Kovalev vs. Berdichevsky, Moscow 1990.

c) 7...d5 is not a successful break: 8.exd5 Qxd5 (8...b5; 9.Bb3 cxd5; 10.Qh5 with a strong position, Kutuzovic vs. Klaric, Medulin 1997.) 9.Bb3 Qf5; 10.Nd2 Ne7; 11.Ne4 with a strong game for White, Brenjo vs. Orlov, Leningrad 1991.

d) 7...a5 is a recent attempt to improve Black's chances. Now

8.f4!? h5; 9.h3 d5= is Vinck vs. van Ruitenburg, Limburg 2000. White has to deal with the threat of ...b5. But 8.Qg4! grants White the advantage in view of 8...g6; 9.Qf3 with Black weaknesses, or 8...Kf8; 9.Qf3 b5; 10.Bb3 Qf6; 11.Qxf6 Nxf6; 12.a4 b4; 13.Bg5 with a much better endgame.

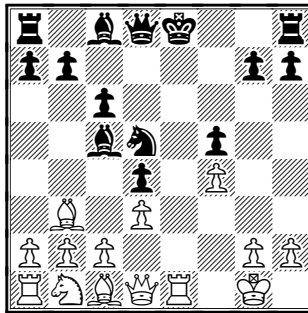
**8.f4 f5.**

A significant option is 8...d5, which should be met by 9.f5! For example:

a) 9...dxe4; 10.dxe4 O-O; 11.Bb3 gave White a significant advantage in Spassky vs. Barua, New York City 1987.

b) Or 9...g6; 10.f6 Ng8; 11.exd5 b5; 12.Qe1+ Kf8; 13.b4 and Black was already in serious trouble in Kindermann vs. Lorenz, Berlin 1987.

**9.Bb3 d5; 10.exd5 Nxd5; 11.Re1+.**



*Position after 11.Re1+*

Black is not able to equalize from this position.

**11...Kf8.**

11...Ne3; 12.Bxe3 dxe3; 13.c3 e2+; 14.d4 is clearly inadequate, as is 11...Be7; 12.Qe2 Kf7; 13.Nd2 Bf6; 14.Nc4 b5; 15.Ne5+ Bxe5; 16.Qxe5 Re8; 17.Qxe8+ Qxe8; 18.Rxe8 Kxe8; 19.a4.

So, Black can try 11...Kf7; 12.Nd2 but there are problems here, too:

a) 12...Re8; 13.Qh5+ Kf8; 14.Rxe8+ Qxe8; 15.Qxe8+ Kxe8; 16.Bxd5 cxd5; 17.Nf3 Bd7; 18.b3 Rc8; 19.Bb2 Bb6; 20.Rc1 wins the d-pawn. Analysis by Kamsky.

b) 12...Bb4; 13.Re5 Bd6; 14.Bxd5+ cxd5; 15.Re1 Bb4; 16.a3 Bxd2; 17.Qxd2 Re8; 18.Rxe8 Qxe8; 19.Qf2 Bd7; 20.Bd2 led to a quick win for White in Kveinys vs. Martynov, Zillertal Open 1993.

c) 12...g6; 13.Nf3 Kg7; 14.Bd2 Re8; 15.Rxe8 Qxe8; 16.Bxd5 cxd5; 17.Qe1 Qe6; 18.Qxe6 Bxe6; 19.Re1 White has a big advantage. The weak pawns will be painful for Black in the endgame. Sumaneyev vs.

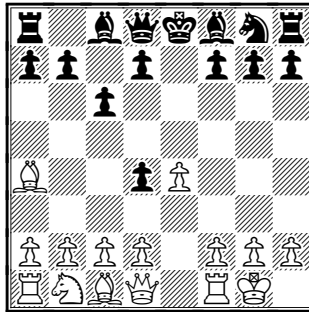
Meshkov, Briansk 1995.

12.Qh5 g6; 13.Qh6+ Kg8; 14.Nd2 Bf8; 15.Qh3 Bg7; 16.Nf3 h6.

16...Kf7 is Gata Kamsky's suggestion, but White is still clearly better after 17.Bd2 Bf6; 18.Re2 Kg7; 19.Rae1, threatening moves like Ne5 or Bxd5 followed by Bb4.

B) 5...c6; 6.Ba4.

Retreating to c4 is also good, but this is more in keeping with the general approach that we advocate against the Bird.



*Position after 6.Ba4*

6...Nf6. Except for 6...Ne7, alternatives are quite rare:

a) 6...Ne7; 7.c3 dxc3 (7...d3; 8.Re1 b5; 9.Bb3 c5; 10.c4 Ba6; 11.cxb5 Bxb5; 12.Nc3 a6; 13.Nxb5 axb5; 14.Bd5 Nxd5; 15.exd5+ Be7; 16.d6 and Black resigned in Delivre vs. Berthelot, Pau 2000.) 8.Nxc3 g6; 9.d4 Bg7; 10.Bg5 Qb6; 11.Qf3! Qxd4; 12.Bb3 Rf8; 13.Rad1 with a strong attack in Alkaersig vs. Høiberg, Aarhus 1991.

b) 6...d5 attempts to equalize immediately, but only insures that White maintains an advantage. 7.exd5 Qxd5; 8.Bb3 Qf5 (8...Qd8; 9.Re1+ Be7; 10.Qh5 g6; 11.Qf3 and Black is in serious trouble.) 9.Re1+ Be7; 10.d3 Bd7; 11.Nd2 Kf8; 12.Nf3 Bf6; 13.c3 dxc3; 14.bxc3 was better for White in Cioaltea vs. Rossetto, Belgrade 1962, because Black does not dare to capture at c3: 14...Bxc3?; 15.Ba3+ c5; 16.Rc1 Bb4 (16...Bxe1; 17.Rxc5! wins on the spot.) 17.Bxb4 cxb4; 18.Rc7 with a crushing position.

c) 6...Bc5; 7.d3 (see 5...Bc5; 6.d3 c6).

7.c3. White often prefers 7.d3, to prevent Black's next move, but it isn't necessary. 7...d3. Black might try 7...d5!?: 8.e5 Nd7; 9.d3 (9.cxd4? Qb6!) 9...dxc3; 10.bxc3 Qh4; 11.d4 but White's chances in the position seem preferable. 8.e5 Ne4; 9.Qf3 Nc5; 10.Bd1 d6; 11.b4 Ne6; 12.Qxd3 dxe5; 13.Qxd8+ Kxd8; 14.d3 g5; 15.Re1. Black is still a long way from equality, Balashov vs. Guseinov, Klaipeda 1988. This

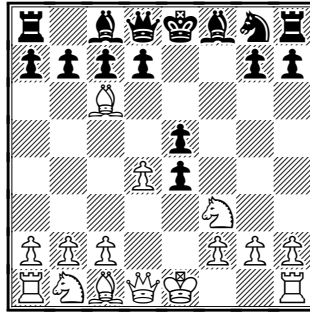
whole line is pretty easy for White to play, and he is never under serious attack.

| <b>Summary Chart #2</b>                              |              |            |             |              |                 |              |              |              |
|--|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>BIRD: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nxd4 exd4</b> |              |            |             |              |                 |              |              |              |
| <b>ECO Code: C61</b>                                 |              |            |             |              |                 |              |              |              |
|  | 5            | 6          | 7           | 8            | 9               | 10           | 11           | 12           |
| 1  | O-O<br>c6    | Ba4<br>Nf6 | c3<br>d5!?  | e5<br>Nd7    | d3<br>dxc3      | bxc3<br>Qh4  | d4           |              |
| 2  | O-O<br>c6    | Ba4<br>Nf6 | c3<br>d3    | e5<br>Ne4    | Qf3<br>Nc5      | Bd1<br>d6    | b4<br>Ne6    | Qxd3<br>dxe5 |
| 3  | O-O<br>Ne7   | d3<br>Ng6  | Nd2<br>Bc5  | Qh5<br>Qe7   | f4              |              |              |              |
| 4  | O-O<br>h5    | d3<br>Bc5  | Nd2<br>c6   | Bc4<br>d5    | Bb3<br>Kf8      | exd5<br>cxd5 | Nf3          |              |
| 5  | O-O<br>Qg5!? | Bc4<br>b5  | d3!<br>Qc5  | b4!?<br>Qb6? | Bxf7+!!<br>Kxf7 | Qh5+<br>g6   | Qd5+<br>Kg7  |              |
| 6  | O-O<br>g6    | d3<br>Bg7  | Bc4<br>Ne7  | Bg5<br>O-O   | Qf3<br>d6       | Bf6<br>Be6   | Bxg7<br>Kxg7 | Nd2          |
| 7  | O-O<br>Be7   | c3<br>c6   | Ba4<br>d5   | d3<br>dxc3   | Nxc3            |              |              |              |
| 8  | O-O<br>Nf6?! | e5!<br>Nd5 | Qg4<br>c5   | Re1<br>Nc7   | Na3<br>Ne6      | d3<br>a6     | Bc4<br>g6    | Bd5          |
| 9  | O-O<br>a6    | Ba4<br>Ne7 | d3<br>Ng6   | Qh5!?        |                 |              |              |              |
| 10   | O-O<br>Qh4   | d3<br>c6   | Bc4<br>d6   | c3<br>b5     | Bb3<br>dxc3     | Nxc3         |              |              |
| 11   | O-O<br>Bc5   | d3<br>Ne7  | Qh5!<br>Bb6 | f4<br>O-O    | f5<br>c6        | f6<br>Ng6    | fxg7<br>Re8  | Bc4          |
| 12   | O-O<br>Bc5   | d3<br>Qh4  | Nd2<br>Ne7  | e5<br>Ng6    | Ne4<br>Be7      | Ng3<br>Nxe5  | Nf5<br>Qf6   | Nxe7<br>Kxe7 |
| 13   | O-O<br>Bc5   | d3<br>h5   | e5!?<br>c6  | Bc4<br>d5    | exd6<br>Bxd6    | Nd2<br>Nf6   | Nf3<br>Bg4   | Qe1+         |
| 14   | O-O<br>Bc5   | d3<br>Qe7  | Nd2<br>c6   | Ba4<br>d6    | Nb3!?<br>Bb6    | Qf3<br>Nf6   | e5!<br>dxe5  | Bxc6+        |
| 15   | O-O<br>Bc5   | d3<br>c6   | Ba4<br>d6!? | Nd2<br>Nf6   | f4<br>Ng4       | Nf3<br>h5    | Qe1<br>Kf8   | h3           |
| 16   | O-O          | d3         | Ba4         | f4           | Bb3             | exd5         | Re1+         |              |

### **Against the Schliemann Defense/Jaenisch Gambit, Line #1** 1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 f5; 4.d4.

This, the Schoenemann Variation, is not one of the most common lines of the Schliemann, but it is one of the trickiest. Our first recommendation will come from a sideline that is often ignored. Black is unlikely to be prepared for this strategy.

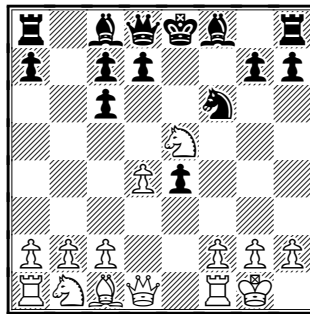
4...fxe4; 5.Bxc6.



*Position after 5...Bxc6*

Black has three pawn captures, not including 5...exd4?? which leaves Black a piece behind: (A) 5...bxc6 (B) 5...exf3 and (C) 5...dxc6.

A) 5...bxc6; 6.Nxe5 Nf6. 6...Qh4; 7.Qe2 Bd6; 8.Nd2 is good for White. 7.O-O.



*Position after 7.O-O*

**7...Be7.**

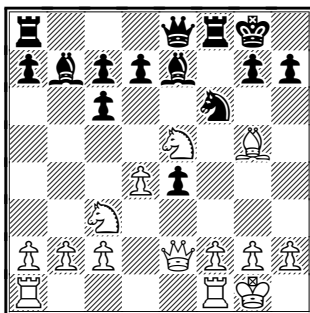
a) 7...Bd6; 8.Bg5! O-O; 9.Nd2 gives White a strong game. Black has problems at e4 and the minor pieces are in awkward positions.

b) 7...Bb7; 8.Bg5 d6; 9.Ng4 Be7 is Yezes vs. Garces, Quito 1975. 10.Nxf6+ Bxf6; 11.Bxf6 Qxf6; 12.Nc3 is comfortably better for White, since Black's bishop looks rather silly and the pawn structure is a mess.

c) 7...c5; 8.Nc3 cxd4 (8...Bb7; 9.Bg5 d6; 10.Qe2! dxe5; 11.Qb5+ Kf7; 12.dxe5! is crushing) 9.Nxe4! Bb7 (9...Nxe4; 10.Qf3) 10.Ng5 Bd5; 11.Qxd4 gave White a clear advantage in Jovanovic vs. Bokan, Yugoslav Championship 1996.

8.Nc3 Bb7. 8...O-O; can be met by either Qe2 or Re1. 9.Bg5 O-O; 10.Qe2 Qe8.

10...d5!? is better, though in the long run Black has to be concerned with the weak c-pawns. After 11.Na4, the position is better for White, who will eventually challenge the center with c4.

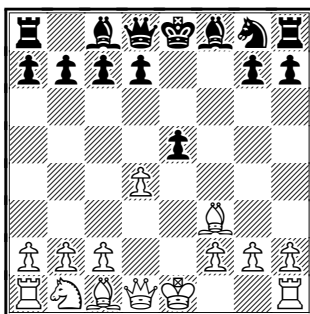


*Position after 10...Qe8*

This position has been reached in several games, dating back to the 19th century, but the correct plan has so far escaped White's attention:

11.Nxe4!! Nxe4; 12.Bxe7 Qxe7; 13.Qxe4 d6. This looks like it wins a piece, but it doesn't. 14.Qe3! dxe5; 15.Qb3+ Qf7; 16.Qxb7 exd4; 17.Qxc6 and Black is in serious trouble. So the capture with the b-pawn can run into trouble, all the more so if your opponent follows the traditional games!

B) 5...exf3?!; 6.Bxf3.

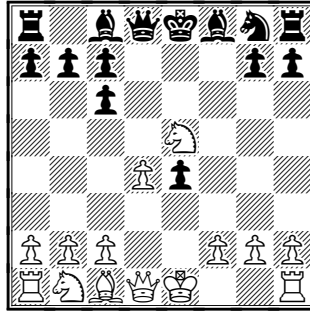


*Position after 6.Bxf3*

Although the position doesn't look bad for Black, it is very un-

comfortable. 6...Bd6. 6...c6; 7.O-O d6; 8.Re1 puts a lot of pressure on e5. 7.O-O Nf6; 8.Re1 and Black had significant problems in Delaire vs. Padioleau, Fouesna Open 1998.

C) 5...dxc6; 6.Nxe5.



*Position after 6.Nxe5*

White can't expect much of an advantage in this line, but it is easy to play and there are no traps or pitfalls to worry about.

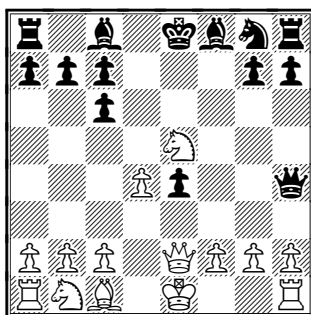
6...Qh4. This is Black's most aggressive move. Alternatives:

a) 6...Nf6; 7.Bg5 Bf5; 8.c3 Qd5! (8...Bd6; 9.Qb3 is Flear's line.) 9.O-O O-O-O; is double-edged. Both sides will try to attack, but White's plan with Qa4, followed by Nd2(a3) to c4 is easier to play.

b) 6...Bd6 allows the typical trick: 7.Qh5+ g6; 8.Nxg6 Nf6; 9.Qh6! Rg8; 10.Ne5 when Black must avoid 10...Rxc6? (10...Bf8; 11.Qh4 Rxc6; 12.Bg5 Bg7; 13.Nc3 is comfortably better for White.) 11.Bg5 Bxe5; 12.dxe5 and White went on to win quickly in Agrinsky vs. Schubukov 1962.

c) 6...Bf5 has been tried by no less than Ivanchuk, so it deserves attention: 7.O-O Bd6; 8.Qh5+ g6; 9.Qe2 Qh4; 10.Nc3 Nf6; 11.f3 Bxe5 (11...O-O? 12.fxe4 Nxe4; 13.Rf4 is given by Flear.) 12.dxe5 exf3; 13.Rxf3 Qd4+; 14.Kh1 (Or 14.Qe3 Qxe3+; 15.Bxe3 Nd7; 16.Re1 O-O; 17.Bh6 Rfe8 is about equal, and Black can try 15...Nd5.) 14...Ne4 (14...Ng4?!; 15.h3 h5; 16.Bg5 is very uncomfortable for Black.) 15.Nxe4 Qxe4; 16.Rf2 Qxe2; 17.Rxe2. This was seen in Polgar vs. Ivanchuk, Dortmund 1997. White has an extra pawn. The bishops of opposite colors limit winning chances in the endgame, but certainly anyone would rather play White!

7.Qe2!?



*Position after 7...Qe2*

**7...Nf6.** Alternatives can lead to trouble for Black:

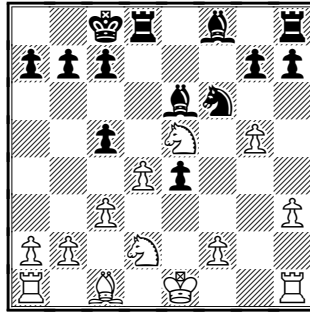
a) 7...Bd6; 8.Nc3 Bf5; 9.h3 Qe7; 10.g4 gives White a strong initiative, for example 10...Bxe5; 11.dxe5 Bg6; 12.Bf4 O-O-O; 13.Qe3 Rf8; 14.Qxa7 Rxf4; 15.Rd1 Black resigned, Blodig vs. Keller, Bavarian Championship 1982.

b) 7...Be6; 8.Nd2! Black can't hang on to the pawn. 8...O-O-O; (8...Nf6; 9.O-O O-O-O; 10.g3 Qh3; 11.Nxe4 Bd5; 12.f3 was better for White in Rolletschek vs. Baumgartner, Linz 1993.) 9.Nxe4 Nf6; 10.Ng5! Qxd4!; 11.O-O Bg8; 12.Nef7 Re8; 13.Be3 Bxf7; 14.Nxf7 Rg8; 15.Rad1 with a very strong attack, Polanski vs. Walczak, Postal 1992.

**8.Nd2!?**

Perhaps not best. Getting the c1 bishop out by 8.h3! Be7; 9.g3 Qh5; 10.g4 Qh4; 11.Bf4 looks more accurate. Then Tiemann gives 11...O-O? 12.Nd2 Be6; 13.Nef3!, but Black has better luck with 11...Be6!? This might follow with 12.Nd2 g5; 13.Nef3!? (13.Bg3 Qh6; 14.Nxe4 Nxe4; 15.Qxe4 Bd5; 16.Qf5 Bxh1; 17.Qf7+ Kd8; 18.Qf5 Ke8 should be even.) 13...exf3; 14.Qxe6 gxf4; 15.Nxf3 Qh6; 16.g5 Qg6; 17.gxf6 Qxf6; 18.Qe5 with a small advantage for White (structure). On 11...g5, White keeps the edge by 12.Bg3 Qh6; 13.Nc3.

**8...Be6!** This hasn't been played yet, but it looks like Black's best try. 8...Bf5 is Florian vs. Kostic, Zagreb 1947. White will play g4 with a good game. 9.h3 O-O-O; 10.c3!? 10.g3 Qh5; 11.g4 Qe8; 12.g5 is a bit too ambitious. Black attacks with 12...Nh5!; 13.Qxe4 c5!; 14.c3 cxd4; 15.cxd4 Bb4 with plenty of play against White's uncastled king. 10...c5; 11.g3 Qh5; 12.Qxh5 Nxh5; 13.g4. 13.Nxe4 cxd4; 14.Bg5 Rd5; 15.cxd4 Rxd4 would turn the game in Black's favor. 13...Nf6; 14.g5.



Position after 14.g5

In this rich position, chances seem about even. We recommend 8.h3 instead of 8.Ne2.

### Summary Chart #3

SCHLIEMANN 1: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.d4 fxe4

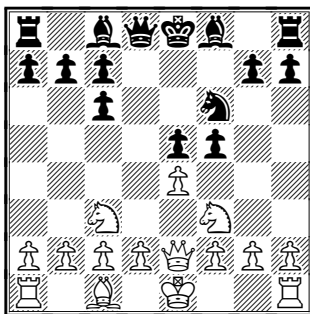
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|    | 5              | 6           | 7          | 8           | 9            | 10            | 11            | 12           |
|----|----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1  | Bxc6<br>bxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | O-O<br>Bd6 | Bg5!<br>O-O | Nd2          |               |               |              |
| 2  | Bxc6<br>bxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | O-O<br>Bb7 | Bg5<br>d6   | Ng4<br>Be7   | Nxf6+<br>Bxf6 | Bxf6<br>Qxf6  | Nc3          |
| 3  | Bxc6<br>bxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | O-O<br>c5  | Nc3<br>Bb7  | Bg5<br>d6    | Qe2!<br>dxe5  | Qb5+<br>Kf7   | dxe5!        |
| 4  | Bxc6<br>bxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | O-O<br>c5  | Nc3<br>cxd4 | Nxe4!<br>Bb7 | Ng5<br>Bd5    | Qxd4          |              |
| 5  | Bxc6<br>bxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | O-O<br>Be7 | Nc3<br>Bb7  | Bg5<br>O-O   | Qe2<br>d5!?   | Na4           |              |
| 6  | Bxc6<br>bxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | O-O<br>Be7 | Nc3<br>Bb7  | Bg5<br>O-O   | Qe2<br>Qe8    | Nxe4!<br>Nxe4 | Bxe7<br>Qxe7 |
| 7  | Bxc6<br>exf3?! | Bxf3<br>c6  | O-O<br>d6  | Re1         |              |               |               |              |
| 8  | Bxc6<br>exf3?! | Bxf3<br>Bd6 | O-O<br>Nf6 | Re1         |              |               |               |              |
| 9  | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | Bg5<br>Bf5 | c3<br>Bd6   | Qb3          |               |               |              |
| 10 | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | Bg5<br>Bf5 | c3<br>Qd5!  | O-O<br>O-O-O |               |               |              |
| 11 | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Bd6 | Qh5+<br>g6 | Nxg6<br>Nf6 | Qh6!<br>Rg8  | Ne5<br>Bf8    | Qh4<br>Rxxg2  | Bg5<br>Bg7   |
| 12 | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Bf5 | O-O<br>Bd6 | Qh5+<br>g6  | Qe2<br>Qh4   | Nc3<br>Nf6    | f3<br>Bxe5    | dxe5<br>exf3 |
| 13 | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Bf5 | O-O<br>Bd6 | Qh5+<br>g6  | Qe2<br>Qh4   | Nc3<br>Nf6    | f3<br>Bxe5    | dxe5<br>exf3 |

|    |      |      |       |       |      |       |       |      |
|----|------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|
| 14 | Bxc6 | Nxe5 | Qe2!? | Nc3   | h3   | g4    | dxe5  | Bf4  |
|    | dxc6 | Qh4  | Bd6   | Bf5   | Qe7  | Bxe5  | Bg6   |      |
| 15 | Bxc6 | Nxe5 | Qe2!? | Nd2!  | Nxe4 | Ng5!  | O-O   | Nef7 |
|    | dxc6 | Qh4  | Be6   | O-O-O | Nf6  | Qxd4! | Bg8   | Re8  |
| 16 | Bxc6 | Nxe5 | Qe2!? | h3!   | g3   | g4    | Bf4   | Nd2  |
|    | dxc6 | Qh4  | Nf6   | Be7   | Qh5  | Qh4   | O-O?  | Be6  |
| 17 | Bxc6 | Nxe5 | Qe2!? | h3!   | g3   | g4    | Bf4   | Nd2  |
|    | dxc6 | Qh4  | Nf6   | Be7   | Qh5  | Qh4   | Be6!? | g5   |

### Against the Schliemann Defense/Jaenisch Gambit, Line #2

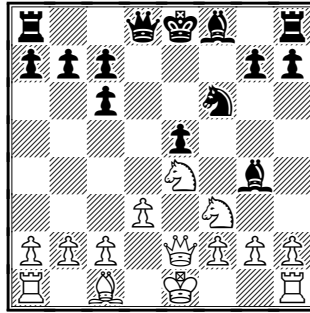
1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 f5; 4.Bxc6 dxc6; 5.Nc3 Nf6; 6.Qe2



*Position after 6.Qe2*

This is a straightforward system that bypasses the risky main lines and avoids all the memorization you need to play them. Another advantage is that your opponent is much less likely to know what to do. Admittedly, in a few lines, the play can become rather dull, and you will have to be willing to play technical positions. We'll look at 6...fxe4 (A), this leads to a dry position in which White is a little better, something most Schliemann players would like to avoid and 6...Bd6 (B), an active but inferior variation for Black.

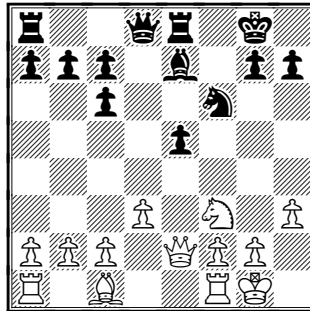
A) 6...fxe4; 7.Nxe4 Bg4; 8.d3.

*Position after 8.d3*

**8...Bb4+!** A clever move aiming at simplification, even though Black remains somewhat worse.

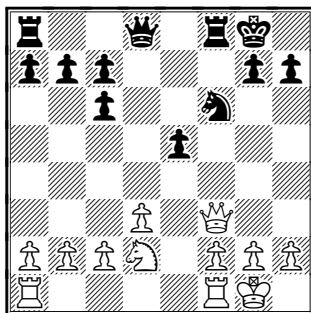
a) 8...Qd5; 9.Bg5! Nxe4; 10.dxe4 Qa5+; 11.c3 is very awkward for Black.

b) 8...Be7 has been recommended and played, but allows simply 9.Ned2! (9.h3 Bxf3; 10.Qxf3 O-O; 11.O-O Nxe4; 12.Qxe4 is also somewhat better for White, e.g., 12...Qd5; 13.Be3 Qxe4; 14.dxe4 with the better bishop and pawn structure.) 9...O-O; 10.h3 (10.Qxe5 Bd6 is risky) 10...Bxf3; 11.Nxf3 Re8; 12.O-O.

*Position after 12.O-O*

Black is hurt by the compromised pawn structure, for example, 12...Bc5; 13.Bg5!? (or just 13.Be3 Bxe3; 14.Qxe3, since 14...e4; 15.dxe4 Nxe4 fails to 16.Qb3+) 13...h6; 14.Bxf6 Qxf6; 15.c3 (15.Nd2 also looks good in view of 15...e4; 16.dxe4! Qxb2??; 17.Qc4+) 15...Rad8; 16.Rae1 Bd6; 17.Nd2 with a large positional advantage based on pawn structure, good knight versus bad bishop, and the e4 square.

Returning to the main line after Black checks at b4, **9.Bd2 Bxf3**. **9...Bxd2+**; **10.Nexd2** is clearly better for White, who has more direct pressure on the e5 pawn. **10.Qxf3 Bxd2+**; **11.Nxd2 O-O**; **12.O-O**.

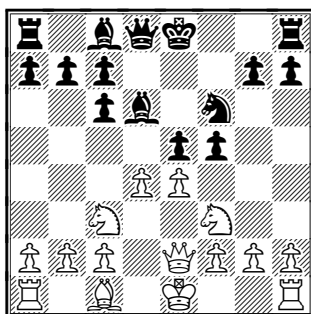


*Position after 12.O-O*

Here White still has the structural advantage (Black's doubled pawns and isolated e-pawn). This is not much to brag about, but there is still enough to play for. A sample line might be; **12...Qd5**; **13.Qe3!? Qd4!?**; **14.Qxd4 exd4**; **15.Nb3 Rad8**; **16.Nc5 Rd5!**; **17.Ne6 Rf7**; **18.Rfe1** intending **Re2** and **Rae1**. White's kingside majority and active knight make Black's life rather difficult.

**B) 6...Bd6; 7.d4!**

**7.exf5!? Bxf5**; **8.Nxe5 Qe7**; **9.d4** may be slightly better for White, but is a little risky after **9...O-O**; **10.Bg5 c5**.



*Position after 7.d4!*

**7...exd4.**

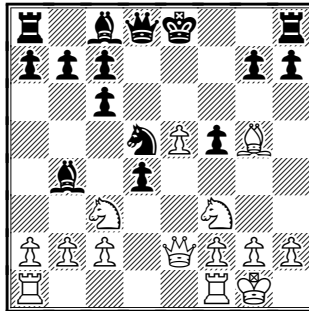
This is the most common choice by far. Some options:

a) **7...fxe4**; **8.Nxe4 Bg4**; **9.dxe5** (**9.Bg5!** looks advantageous)

9...Bxe5; 10.Ned2 (10.O-O with the idea 10...O-O?? 11.Qc4+) 10...Nd7; 11.h3 Bxf3; 12.Nxf3 O-O; 13.Nxe5 Nxe5; 14.O-O Qf6; 15.Be3 with a slight advantage, Shaw vs. Beaton, Glenrothes 1999.

b) 7...O-O? is weak: 8.dxe5 fxe4; 9.Nxe4 Nxe4; 10.Qxe4 and White is just a pawn up.

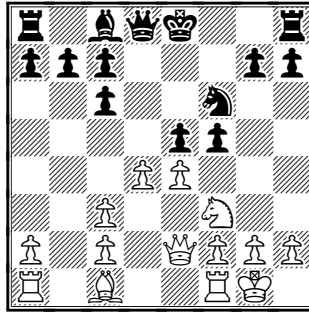
c) 7...Bb4 develops quickly, but White secures e5 for his knight: 8.O-O and now 8...O-O?? 9.Qc4+ shows one downside to 7...Bb4, so Black must capture at c3 or d4. But 8...exd4; 9.e5 is White's real point: 9...Nd5; 10.Bg5



*Position after 10.Bg5*

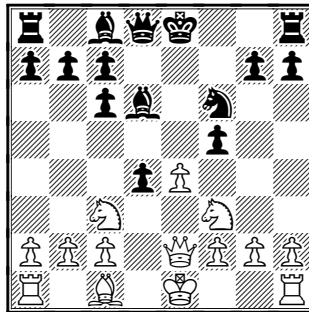
10...Be7 (10...Qd7; 11.Nxd5 Qxd5; 12.Nxd4! or 10...Ne7; 11.Rfd1.) 11.Nxd5 cxd5; 12.Bxe7 Qxe7; 13.Nxd4 with a small advantage, according to Amador Rodriguez. White's knight is well placed, in contrast to Black's bad bishop. If Black tries to blockade the passed pawn by 13...Be6, White has 14.Nxe6 Qxe6; 15.Qb5+ Qc6 (15...Kf7; 16.Rad1 Rhd8; 17.Rfe1 or 15...c6; 16.Qxb7 O-O; 17.b3! Qxe5; 18.Qxc6 Rac8; 19.Qd7 Rxc2; 20.Qxa7) 16.Qxc6+ bxc6; 17.f4 and Black will suffer. White can play Rac1 and c4, for example.

That leaves 8...Bxc3; 9.bxc3



*Position after 9.bxc3*

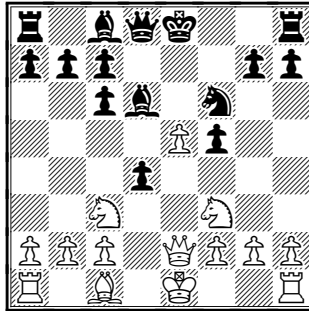
9...fxe4 (9...Nxe4; 10.Nxe5 O-O; 11.Bb2 and White has the permanent outpost, whereas Black's knight will be chased off by f3) 10.Nxe5 O-O; 11.Ba3!? (11.a4 is more flexible, when a sample idea is 11...Be6; 12.Rb1 Rb8; 13.Ba3 Re8; 14.Bc5!) 11...Re8; 12.f3!? exf3; 13.Qxf3 Be6; 14.Qd3 "and White is better"—Flear. Milos vs. O.Rodriguez, Spain 1992 continued 14...Ng4; 15.Rae1!? Nxe5; 16.Rxe5 Qd7 and now 17.Rfe1!? is risky but enterprising. 17...Bf7?! (17...Bxa2!; 18.Be7!? is unclear according to Milos.) 18.Be7! Qg4 (18...Bxa2; 19.Rh5! and 19...h6? Rxh6! or 19...g6; 20.Rhe5 with a much better game for White. The dark squares are weak, for example, 20...Bf7; 21.Qe3 a5; 22.Qh6 Bc4; 23.h4! and 24.h5, since 23...Qg4?; 24.Bf6 leads to mate.) 19.c4 a6; 20.h3 Qg6; 21.Qc3 b5; 22.cxb5 axb5; 23.a3 Bd5; 24.Qd2 h6; 25.R1e3 Kh8; 26.Kh2 intending Rg3 with a great attack due to the opposite-colored bishops.



*Position after 7...exd4*

Returning to the position after the capture at d4, White can now play aggressively.

**8.e5!** A strong attacking move. This position has been very nice to White; in fact, he has also gotten the better of it after both 8.exf5+ and 8.Nxd4.

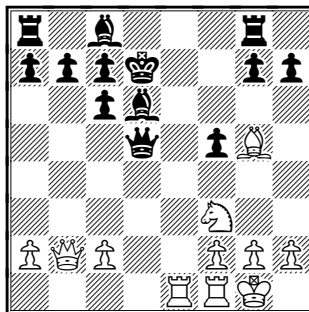


*Position after 8.e5*

**8...dxc3. 8...O-O; 9.Qc4+ Kh8; 10.Ne2!** wins a piece, as in Gorin vs. Rumiantsev, Arkhangelsk 1996. **9.exf6+ Kd7.**

**9...Kf7** allows **10.Qc4+ Be6?; 11.Ng5+ Kg6; 12.Nxe6 Qxf6; 13.Bg5! Qe5+; 14.Kd1 Rhe8; 15.Re1 Qd5+; 16.Qxd5 cxd5; 17.Bf4 cxb2; 18.Rb1** is crushing, while **10...Kg6** is countered by **11.O-O**, according to Am. Rodriguez. Then White has good attacking chances. A sample line is **11...b5!; 12.Qxc6 Bd7; 13.Qxc3 Qxf6; 14.Qd3 Bc6; 15.Bg5! Qxb2; 16.g4! Raf8; 17.gxf5+ Kh5; 18.Bc1! Qf6 (18...Qxa1?; 19.Nd4!) 19.Qd1!!** which wraps things up neatly.

**10.O-O Qxf6; 11.Bg5 Qe6; 12.Qd3 cxb2; 13.Rae1! Qd5; 14.Qc3 Rg8; 15.Qxb2**, and Black's king is still too exposed.



*Position after 15.Qxb2*

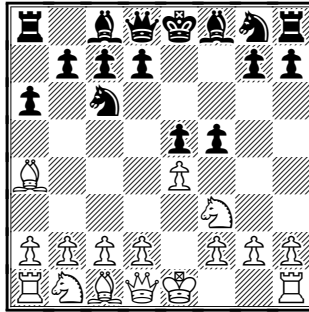
Black is in serious trouble, for example, **15...h6; 16.c4! Qa5**

(16...Qf7; 17.Ne5+ Bxe5; 18.Rxe5 hgx5; 19.Qd4+) 17.Qe2 c5; 18.Qe6+ Kc6; 19.Qxg8 hgx5; 20.Rb1 and White wins.

| <b>Summary Chart #4</b>                                    |                |             |              |               |               |               |                |       |
|--|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------|
| <b>SCHLIEMANN II: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.d4 fxe4</b> |                |             |              |               |               |               |                |       |
| <b>ECO Code: C63</b>                                       |                |             |              |               |               |               |                |       |
|  | 5              | 6           | 7            | 8             | 9             | 10            | 11             | 12    |
| 1  | Bxc6<br>bxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | O-O<br>Bd6   | Bg5!<br>O-O   | Nd2           |               |                |       |
| 2  | Bxc6<br>bxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | O-O<br>Bb7   | Bg5<br>d6     | Ng4<br>Be7    | Nxf6+<br>Bxf6 | Bxf6<br>Qxf6   | Nc3   |
| 3  | Bxc6<br>bxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | O-O<br>c5    | Nc3<br>Bb7    | Bg5<br>d6     | Qe2!<br>dxe5  | Qb5+<br>Kf7    | dxe5! |
| 4  | Bxc6<br>bxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | O-O<br>c5    | Nc3<br>cxd4   | Nxe4!<br>Nxe4 | Qf3           |                |       |
| 5  | Bxc6<br>bxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | O-O<br>c5    | Nc3<br>cxd4   | Nxe4!<br>Bb7  | Ng5<br>Bd5    | Qxd4           |       |
| 6  | Bxc6<br>bxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | O-O<br>Be7   | Nc3<br>Bb7    | Bg5<br>O-O    | Qe2<br>Qe8    | Nxe4!!<br>Nxe4 | Bxe7  |
| 7  | Bxc6<br>exf3?! | Bxf3<br>Bd6 | O-O<br>Nf6   | Re1           |               |               |                |       |
| 8  | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Nf6 | Bg5<br>Bf5   | c3<br>Qd5!    | O-O           |               |                |       |
| 9  | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Bd6 | Qh5+<br>g6   | Nxg6<br>Nf6   | Qh6!<br>Rg8   | Ne5<br>Rxcg2? | Bg5<br>Bxe5    | dxe5  |
| 10   | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Bf5 | O-O<br>Bd6   | Qh5+<br>g6    | Qe2<br>Qh4    | Nc3<br>Nf6    | f3<br>O-O?     | fxe4  |
| 11   | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Qh4 | Qe2!?<br>Bd6 | Nc3<br>Bf5    | h3<br>Qe7     | g4<br>Bxe5    | dxe5<br>Bg6    | Bf4   |
| 12   | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Qh4 | Qe2!?<br>Be6 | Nd2!<br>Nf6   | O-O<br>O-O-O  | g3<br>Qh3     | Nxe4<br>Bd5    | f3    |
| 13   | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Qh4 | Qe2!?<br>Be6 | Nd2!<br>O-O-O | Nxe4<br>Nf6   | Ng5!<br>Qxd4! | O-O<br>Bg8     | Nef7  |
| 14   | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Qh4 | Qe2!?<br>Nf6 | h3<br>Be7     | g3<br>Qh5     | g4<br>Qh4     | Bf4<br>Be6!?   | Nd2   |
| 15   | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Qh4 | Qe2!?<br>Nf6 | h3<br>Be7     | g3<br>Qh5     | g4<br>Qh4     | Bf4<br>O-O?    | Nd2   |
| 16   | Bxc6<br>dxc6   | Nxe5<br>Qh4 | Qe2!?<br>Nf6 | Nd2<br>Be6    | h3<br>O-O-O   | c3!?<br>c5    | g3<br>Qh5      | Qxh5  |

### Against the Schliemann Deferred

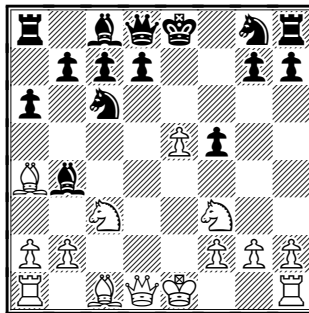
1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 a6; 4.Ba4 f5



*Position after 4...f5*

The Schliemann Deferred has never had a good reputation, but it remains a surprise weapon with no clear refutation. The key difference between the normal Schliemann and the deferred form is that Black has ...b5 available. The disadvantage is that White's bishop is less exposed on a4 than b5.

5.d4! This is better than 5.exf5 b5!; 6.Bb3 e4. 5...exd4; 6.e5! Bb4+. 6...Bc5; 7.O-O Nge7; 8.c3! dxc3; 9.Nxc3 d5; 10.Bg5! with a lot of pressure, W. Watson vs. Nunn, London 1984. Here 9...O-O; 10.Bg5 isn't quite so bad, but still no fun for Black. 7.c3 dxc3; 8.Nxc3.



*Position after 8.Nxc3*

**8...Nge7.**

8...Qe7?! makes it hard for Black to develop and after 9.O-O he can't take the e-pawn. White's advantage is clear after 9...Bxc3; 10.bxc3 Qc5 (Black has wasted a lot of time shifting the queen.) 11.Be3 Qxc3

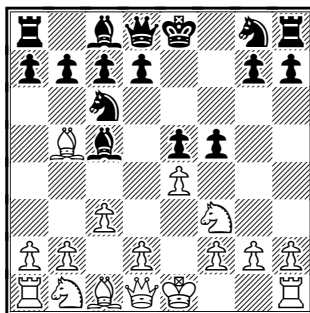
(11...Qa5; 12.Bb3 Nge7; 13.Re1! Qxc3; 14.Ng5.) 12.Rc1 Qa5; 13.Bb3 with a terrific attack, for example, 13...Nge7; 14.Ng5 Nd8; 15.Qh5+ g6; 16.Qh6.

9.O-O Bxc3; 10.bxc3 O-O; 11.Bb3+ Kh8; 12.Re1 is considered only slightly better for White in *Nunn's Chess Openings*, but it does look good, e.g., 12...d5?!; 13.exd6 Qxd6; 14.Qxd6 cxd6; 15.Ba3 Rf6; 16.Rad1 with an excellent game for White. And instead of 12.Re1, 12.Ba3 may be even stronger, stopping any idea of ...d6.

| Summary Chart #5   |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |     |
|--|------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| SCHLIEMANN DEFERRED: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 f5 |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |     |
| ECO Code: C70  |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |     |
|  | 5    | 6      | 7    | 8    | 9    | 10   | 11   | 12  |
| 1  | exf5 | Bb3    |      |      |      |      |      |     |
|  | b5   | e4!    |      |      |      |      |      |     |
| 2  | d4!  | e5!    | O-O  | c3!  | Nxc3 | Bg5  |      |     |
|  | exd4 | Bc5    | Nge7 | dx3  | O-O  |      |      |     |
| 3  | d4!  | e5!    | O-O  | c3!  | Nxc3 | Bg5! |      |     |
|  | exd4 | Bc5    | Nge7 | dx3  | d5   |      |      |     |
| 4  | d4!  | e5!    | c3   | Nxc3 | O-O  | bxc3 | Be3  | Rc1 |
|  | exd4 | Bb4+!? | dx3  | Qe7  | Bxc3 | Qc5  | Qxc3 | Qa5 |
| 5  | d4!  | e5!    | c3   | Nxc3 | O-O  | bxc3 | Bb3+ | Ba3 |
|  | exd4 | Bb4+!? | dx3  | Nge7 | Bxc3 | O-O  | Kh8  |     |
| 6  | d4!  | e5!    | c3   | Nxc3 | O-O  | bxc3 | Bb3+ | Re1 |
|  | exd4 | Bb4+!? | dx3  | Nge7 | Bxc3 | O-O  | Kh8  |     |

### Against the Cordel Gambit

1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 Bc5; 4.c3 f5



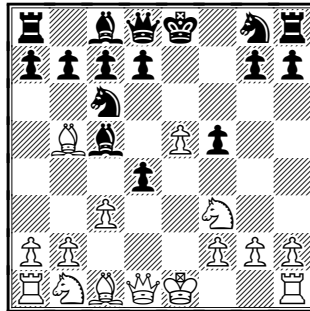
Position after 4...f5

The Cordel Gambit is not unsound, but White obtains a pleasant advantage with aggressive play. Many new ideas were introduced

to the opening in the last decade or so, though most books continue the tradition of evaluating the line as slightly better for White.

**5.d4.** This is the normal recommendation for White. It certainly makes sense to open up the center, a standard strategy against ...f5 plans. 5...exd4. 5...fxe4 is countered by 6.dxc5, the simplest plan. Capturing at c6 is also promising. 6...exf3; 7.Qxf3. White has the bishop pair, better development, and quite a promising position, Gresser vs. Rudenko, Women's World Championship 1950.

**6.e5!?** A very strong sacrifice, which can be played without risk.



*Position after 6.e5!?*

**6...dxc3.**

6...d6?; 7.O-O invites 7...Nge7?; 8.cxd4 Bb6; 9.d5 a6; 10.Ba4 Black resigned, Hedin vs. Stenberg, Taby Open 1991. But 7.cxd4! is a stronger move.

7.Nxc3 Nge7; 8.O-O d5. It makes sense to try to open up the center, but alternatives have been tried.

a) 8...a6; 9.Bc4 Na5; 10.Qa4? (10.Bd3, and Black's pieces are badly misplaced) 10...Nec6? (10...b5!; 11.Qxa5 Nc6 traps the queen, forcing 12.Bg5 Nxa5; 13.Bxd8 Kxd8 with advantage) 11.Bd5 left Black's position a mess in Dean vs. Byerly, NWC 1988.

b) 8...O-O; 9.Na4! Bb6; 10.Nxb6 axb6; 11.Re1. White has compensation for the pawn, Kovalev vs. Meister, Bela Crkva 1990.

c) 8...h6; 9.Na4 Bb6; 10.Nxb6 axb6; 11.Qb3 Na5; 12.Qa3. Again, White has more than enough to compensate for the missing pawn. Frolov vs. Dovrinder, Postal 1994.

**9.exd6 Qxd6.**

9...Bxd6; 10.Qb3 h6; 11.Be3 Bd7; 12.Rad1 Black is suffocating, Morgado vs. Costa Vandri, Postal 1969.

9...cxd6; 10.Bg5 a6; 11.Bxc6+ bxc6; 12.Re1 d5?; 13.Ne5 Be6;

14.Nxc6 Qd7; 15.Bxe7 Bxe7; 16.Nxd5 Black resigned, Poltras vs. Saint Amour, Postal 1987.

10.Qa4 Bd7; 11.Rd1 with a better game for White in Milic vs. Kuprejanov, Yugoslav Championship 1962. Here 11.Bf4! f6; 12.Bxc7 is strong, with Ne5 or Rfe1 next.

| <b>Summary Chart #6</b>                         |            |             |               |            |              |              |               |            |
|---|------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>CORDEL: 1.e4 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.c3 f5</b> |            |             |               |            |              |              |               |            |
| <b>ECO Code: C64</b>                            |            |             |               |            |              |              |               |            |
|   | 5          | 6           | 7             | 8          | 9            | 10           | 11            | 12         |
| 1   | d4<br>fxe4 | dx5<br>exf3 | Qxf3          |            |              |              |               |            |
| 2   | d4<br>exd4 | e5!<br>d6?  | cx4!          |            |              |              |               |            |
| 3   | d4<br>exd4 | e5!<br>d6?  | O-O<br>Nge7?? | cx4<br>Bb6 | d5<br>a6     | Ba4          |               |            |
| 4   | d4<br>exd4 | e5!<br>dx3  | Nxc3<br>Nge7  | O-O<br>a6  | Bc4<br>Na5   | Qa4?<br>b5   | Qxa5<br>Nc6   |            |
| 5   | d4<br>exd4 | e5!<br>dx3  | Nxc3<br>Nge7  | O-O<br>a6  | Bc4<br>Na5   | Bd3          |               |            |
| 6   | d4<br>exd4 | e5!<br>dx3  | Nxc3<br>Nge7  | O-O<br>O-O | Na4!<br>Bb6  | Nxb6<br>axb6 | Re1           |            |
| 7   | d4<br>exd4 | e5!<br>dx3  | Nxc3<br>Nge7  | O-O<br>h6  | Na4<br>Bb6   | Nxb6<br>axb6 | Qb3<br>Na5    | Qa3        |
| 8   | d4<br>exd4 | e5!<br>dx3  | Nxc3<br>Nge7  | O-O<br>d5  | exd6<br>Bxd6 | Qb3<br>h6    | Be3<br>Bd7    | Rad1       |
| 9   | d4<br>exd4 | e5!<br>dx3  | Nxc3<br>Nge7  | O-O<br>d5  | exd6<br>cx4  | Bg5<br>a6    | Bxc6+<br>bxc6 | Re1<br>d5? |
| 10  | d4<br>exd4 | e5!<br>dx3  | Nxc3<br>Nge7  | O-O<br>d5  | exd6<br>Qxd6 | Qa4<br>Bd7   | Rd1           |            |
| 11  | d4<br>exd4 | e5!<br>dx3  | Nxc3<br>Nge7  | O-O<br>d5  | exd6<br>Qxd6 | Qa4<br>Bd7   | Bf4!<br>Qf6   | Bxc7       |

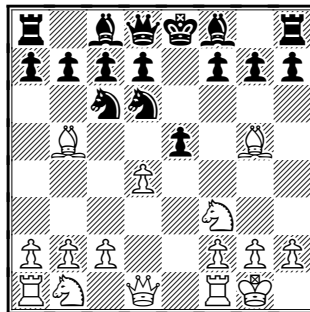
### Against the Berlin Wall

1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 Nf6; 4.O-O Nxe4; 5.d4 Nd6.

5...Be7 is not as common these days. 6.Qe2 Nd6; 7.Bxc6 bxc6 (7...dxc6; 8.dxe5 Nf5; 9.Rd1 with a better game for White.) 8.dxe5 Nb7 is an ugly position for Black. 9.Nc3 O-O; 10.Re1 is a good plan, used effectively by Pillsbury against Lasker on more than one occasion.

The Berlin Wall, one of the most reliable weapons in the arsenal of World Champion Kramnik, is undergoing a lot of scrutiny at all levels of the game. You can, of course, follow in the footsteps of the Grandmasters by following the main lines, capturing at c6 and then e5. For those with less than a lifetime to spend studying theory, we recommend an unusual plan that has the backing of some great players. It won't get you an advantage, but it will avoid all the theory and leave you with a very comfortable game.

6.Bg5!?



*Position after 6.Bg5*

This plan is not even mentioned in *Nunn's Chess Openings* or Glenn Flear's book. It has been played by Pillsbury, Fischer and modern Grandmasters Grischuk, Wolff and Benjamin! Black has tried all three blocking moves.

6...Be7. The alternatives are also complicated, but White comes out on top.

a) 6...f6; 7.Bxc6 dxc6; 8.dxe5 fxe5; 9.exd6 and here 9...Bxd6; 10.Re1+ Kf7; 11.Nc3 Rf8; 12.Ne4 looks promising for White, whereas after 9...Qxd6; 10.Nxg5 Qxd1; 11.Rxd1 Be7; 12.Re1, Black's bishop pair compensates for White's superior pawn structure, but the king is stuck in the center. This is more fun to play as White. On the other hand, 9...cxd6; 10.Re1+ Be7; 11.Qe2 gives White strong pressure.

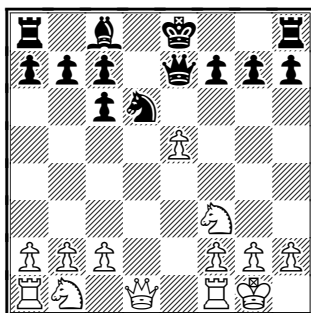
b) 6...Ne7; 7.dxe5!? Nxb5; 8.a4 (trapping the knight!) 8...h6 is

complicated, but White should come out with a small advantage after 9.Be3 Nf5; 10.Qd3! d5 (10...Nxe3; 11.Qxe3 is a bit better for White.) 11.axb5 Nxe3; 12.Qxe3 Bf5; 13.c3.

**7.Bxc6 dxc6.**

7...Bxg5 leads to an exciting forcing line: 8.dxe5 dxc6; 9.Nxg5 Qxg5; 10.exd6 cxd6; 11.Re1+ Be6 (11...Kd7; 12.Nc3 threatens a nice sac at d6. 12...d5; 13.Ne4! White follows with c4, with a strong attack.) 12.Qxd6 Rd8; 13.Qa3 a6; 14.c4! (14.Nc3 Qe7!; 15.Qxe7+ Kxe7 gave Black a small edge in Pillsbury vs. Lasker, St. Petersburg 1895/96.) 14...Qe7; 15.c5 and in the long run, White's knight can do more damage than Black's bishop.

**8.Bxe7 Qxe7; 9.dxe5.**



*Position after 9.dxe5*

**9...Nf5.**

9...Ne4; 10.Qe2 Nc5; 11.h3 O-O; 12.Nc3 was probably objectively even in DeFirmian vs. Zhang Zhong, Elista 1998. But there is plenty of scope for both sides, and it's easier to play for White, who has space.

**10.Nc3 Be6.**

10...Bd7; 11.Qe2 O-O-O!? 12.Rad1 (12.Qe4 Be6; 13.Qa4 looks more accurate.) 12...Be6; 13.Qe4 h6; 14.Nd4 Nxd4; 15.Rxd4 Rxd4; 16.Qxd4 was about even in Kupreichik vs. Tseshkovsky, Yugoslav Teams 1992.

10...O-O; 11.Qe2 Qb4; 12.Rab1 Nd4; 13.Nxd4 Qxd4; 14.Rfd1 with an initiative for White, Celis vs. Bustos, Buenos Aires 1995.

11.Qd3 Rd8; 12.Qe4 O-O; 13.Rad1 h6; 14.a3 Rxd1; 15.Rxd1 Rd8; 16.Rxd8+ Qxd8; 17.h3. White is a bit better, Benjamin vs. Sherzer, United States Championship 1992.

| <b>Summary Chart #7</b>                                    |           |              |                 |               |              |              |                |      |
|--|-----------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------|
| <b>BERLIN WALL: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Nxe4</b> |           |              |                 |               |              |              |                |      |
| <b>ECO Code: C67</b>                                       |           |              |                 |               |              |              |                |      |
|  | 5         | 6            | 7               | 8             | 9            | 10           | 11             | 12   |
| 1  | d4<br>Be7 | Qe2<br>Nd6   | Bxc6<br>dxc6    | dxex5<br>Nf5  | Rd1          |              |                |      |
| 2  | d4<br>Be7 | Qe2<br>Nd6   | Bxc6<br>bxc6    | dxex5<br>Nb7  | Nc3<br>O-O   | Re1          |                |      |
| 3  | d4<br>Nd6 | Bg5!?<br>Ne7 | dxex5!?<br>Nxb5 | a4<br>h6      | Be3<br>Nf5   | Qd3!<br>Nxe3 | Qxe3           |      |
| 4  | d4<br>Nd6 | Bg5!?<br>Ne7 | dxex5!?<br>Nxb5 | a4<br>h6      | Be3<br>Nf5   | Qd3!<br>d5   | axb5<br>Nxe3   | Qxe3 |
| 5  | d4<br>Nd6 | Bg5!?<br>f6  | Bxc6<br>dxc6    | dxex5<br>fxg5 | exd6<br>Bxd6 | Re1+<br>Kf7  | Nc3<br>Rf8     | Ne4  |
| 6  | d4<br>Nd6 | Bg5!?<br>f6  | Bxc6<br>dxc6    | dxex5<br>fxg5 | exd6<br>Qxd6 | Nxg5<br>Qxd1 | Rxd1<br>Be7    | Re1  |
| 7  | d4<br>Nd6 | Bg5!?<br>f6  | Bxc6<br>dxc6    | dxex5<br>fxg5 | exd6<br>cxd6 | Re1+<br>Be7  | Qe2            |      |
| 8  | d4<br>Nd6 | Bg5!?<br>Be7 | Bxc6<br>Bxg5    | dxex5<br>dxc6 | Nxg5<br>Qxg5 | exd6<br>cxd6 | Re1+<br>Kd7    | Nc3  |
| 9  | d4<br>Nd6 | Bg5!?<br>Be7 | Bxc6<br>Bxg5    | dxex5<br>dxc6 | Nxg5<br>Qxg5 | exd6<br>cxd6 | Re1+<br>Be6    | Qxd6 |
| 10   | d4<br>Nd6 | Bg5!?<br>Be7 | Bxc6<br>dxc6    | Bxe7<br>Qxe7  | dxex5<br>Ne4 | Qe2<br>Nc5   | h3<br>O-O      | Nc3  |
| 11   | d4<br>Nd6 | Bg5!?<br>Be7 | Bxc6<br>dxc6    | Bxe7<br>Qxe7  | dxex5<br>Nf5 | Nc3<br>Bd7   | Qe2<br>O-O-O!? | Qe4  |
| 12   | d4<br>Nd6 | Bg5!?<br>Be7 | Bxc6<br>dxc6    | Bxe7<br>Qxe7  | dxex5<br>Nf5 | Nc3<br>O-O   | Qe2<br>Qb4     | Rab1 |
| 13   | d4<br>Nd6 | Bg5!?<br>Be7 | Bxc6<br>dxc6    | Bxe7<br>Qxe7  | dxex5<br>Nf5 | Nc3<br>Be6   | Qd3<br>Rd8     | Qe4  |

### Dealing with the Modern Lines After 5.O-O Except 5...Bc5

In the 1990s, the alternatives to the Closed (5...Be7) and Open (5...O-O) lines became very popular, with many top stars defending the Black side. Toward the end of the 20th century the Spanish Game became more popular, as professionals learned that there was still much to be discovered in the dusty old lines that had been nearly abandoned. We reserve discussion of the Arkhangelsk and the extremely popular 5...Bc5 for the next session, and deal with 5...d6 here.

In each of these sections, the analysis runs a bit deeper than usual. This is due to the nature of the Spanish, where few pieces are traded and it takes a bit longer for Black's strategy to be revealed. It isn't necessary to master all of the variations; common sense will dictate good moves. Watch for those moves marked with an exclamation-

tion point, since those are the ones you'll need to keep handy.

**1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 a6; 4.Ba4 Nf6; 5.O-O d6.**

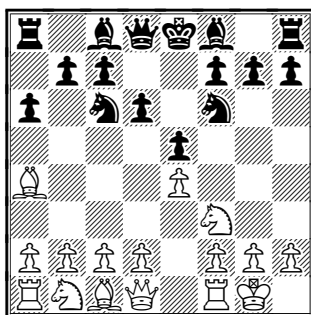
Others are of no real significance:

a) 5...d5? is an opening trap: 6.Nxe5 b5; 7.Nxc6 Qd6; 8.e5 Qxc6; 9.exf6 bxa4; 10.fxc7 Bxc7; 11.Re1+ with a winning position for White, Saavedra vs. Bustos, Argentina Youth Championships 2002. 6...Bd7 just drops a pawn, and after exchanges at c6, Black had a miserable time in Markgraf vs. Chudala, Germany 1994.

b) 5...Bd6 has actually been played a few times. In this case, 6.d4 isn't a good idea because it allows Black to open up the bishop by capturing. Instead, d3 combined with Nc3 gives White a good game. For example, 6.Nc3 O-O; 7.d3 h6; 8.Be3, Fernando Baguees vs. Fernandez Zapico, Segunda 1996.

c) 5...Bb4? is foolish because White gains time with 6.c3, a move that is useful in supporting an early d4. So after 6...Ba5, White captures at c6 and e5, and can protect the knight with e4.

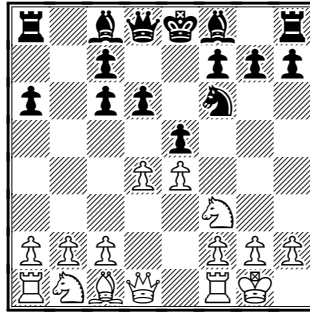
d) 5...g6, 5...h6, 5...a5, 5...b6 and even 5...Ke7 have been seen, but 6.d4 is very strong in each case.



*Position after 5...d6*

Black opens up a path for the light-squared bishop, while retaining the threat against White's e-pawn. White can take advantage of this move order by capturing on c6, gaining a small advantage.

**6.Bxc6+ bxc6; 7.d4!** Opening up the game before Black gets a chance to develop and castle.



*Position after 7.d4*

**7...exd4.** There are a number of alternatives which need to be discussed:

a) **7...Nxe4; 8.Re1** White can also capture at e5 right away, but this is a solid alternative, leading to three possible replies.

A mistake is **8...d5?**; **9.Nxe5 Be6; 10.f3 Nd6; 11.Nc3** with a solid advantage for White in Engels vs. Stein, Koenigsberg 1938.

Also poor is **8...Bf5?**; **9.Qd3 Be7!** (**9...d5?**; **10.Nxe5 Bd6; 11.f3! Bxe5; 12.dxe5 Qh4!** The only move to keep Black in the game. **13.Rf1!** (**13.g3 Nxg3!**; **14.hxg3 Qxg3+** and Black wins.) **13...Nd6.** Forced, but Black's weaknesses are soon exposed. **14.Qc3! Nc4; 15.b3** and White wins a pawn—analysis.) **10.dxe5 Bg6; 11.exd6 Nxd6; 12.Qe2.** White's advantage is clear, Euwe vs. Prins, Amsterdam 1940.

The best solution for Black is **8...f5; 9.dxe5 d5; 10.c4 Be6; 11.Nc3 Bc5; 12.Be3 Nxc3; 13.bxc3 Bxe3; 14.Rxe3 dxc4; 15.Nd4 Qd7; 16.Qh5+ g6; 17.Qg5 O-O; 18.h4 c5; 19.Ne2 Rae8; 20.Nf4** with a small advantage for White in Adams vs. Bellin, Kilkenny 1997

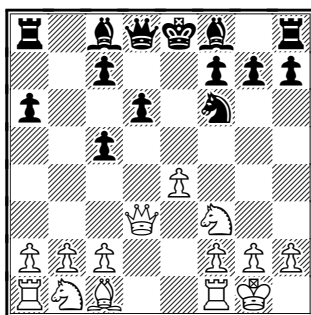
b) **7...Nd7; 8.dxe5** (Theory recommends **9.Na3**, which is indeed good, but it leads to positions that aren't like most Spanish games. Our choice is much simpler, and also gains a small advantage for White.) **8...dxe5** (**8...Nxe5; 9.Nxe5 dxe5; 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8; 11.Rd1+ Bd6; 12.c4 Bg4; 13.f3 Bd7; 14.Be3**, Filipenko vs. Shabanov, Smolensk 1992.) **9.Qd3 Bd6** and here we suggest **10.Rd1!**

c) **7...Be7; 8.dxe5** (White can also simply play **8.Re1**, leading to a form of the Closed Variation. The capture is also good, and less well-known.) **8...Nxe4** (**8...dxe5?** is bad: **9.Qxd8+ Bxd8; 10.Nxe5**) **9.Re1 d5; 10.Nbd2** with a very comfortable game for White. **10...Bg4** is relatively best. **11.h3 Nxd2; 12.Bxd2 Bh5** and White has all sorts of plans in this untested position. Black's bishop pair gives some hope in the long run, but in the short term Black's weaknesses will force a

defensive strategy. White can introduce some interesting complications by pushing the e-pawn. 13.e6!? (13.Qe2 is a good alternative.) 13...fxe6; 14.Re5! Bf7; 15.Ng5 Bd6; 16.Nxf7 Kxf7; 17.Bg5 Qd7; 18.Qh5+ Kg8; 19.Re3 with considerable compensation for the pawn, since Black's rook is stuck in the corner.

d) 7...Bg4; 8.dxe5 Nxe4 (8...Bxf3; 9.Qxf3 dxe5; 10.Bg5 Be7; 11.Rd1 gave White a big plus in Lipiniks vs. Angiolini, Necochea 1946.) 9.h3! Bh5; 10.exd6 Bxd6; 11.Qe2 Qe7; 12.Re1 with Black still well short of equality in Radovici vs. Czalchasuren, Varna Olympiad 1962.

8.Qxd4 c5. If 8...Be7, then 9.Nc3 O-O; 10.b3 Bg4; 11.Qd3 Bxf3; 12.Qxf3 with a good game for White, Nunn vs. Portisch, Budapest 1987. 9.Qd3.



*Position after 9.Qd3*

### 9...Be6.

a) On 9...Be7, White sets up a bind with 10.c4, having disposed of his light square bishop which would otherwise be locked in. (10.e5!? dxe5; 11.Nxe5 Qxd3; 12.Nxd3 O-O; 13.Nc3 is unclear.) 10...O-O; 11.Nc3 and White's game is easier to play, Stulik vs. Mohapl, Olomouc 1944.

b) 9...Bb7; 10.Nc3 Be7; 11.Nd5 Nxd5; 12.exd5 O-O; 13.Re1 with a small edge for White, who will be able to attack on the kingside. Zavadsky vs. Struhar, Slovakian Championship 1991.

c) 9...Nd7; 10.Nc3 Bb7; 11.Bf4 with a promising game for White, Korelov vs. Tomkovich, Postal 1992.

10.c4 Be7; 11.Nc3 O-O; is Simonson vs. Fine, United States Championship 1940. White can get a good game by planting the knight at d5. 12.Nd5 Nxd5; 13.cxd5 Bd7; 14.Re1 provides White with a pleasant position that is fairly easy to play. Just keep an eye out for an opportunity to play e5 with impact.

**Summary Chart #8****MODERN SPANISH: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6****4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O (no Bc5); 6.Bxc6 bxc6****ECO Code: C78**

|    | 7           | 8            | 9            | 10            | 11           | 12           | 13           | 14           |
|----|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1  | d4!<br>Nxe4 | Re1<br>Bf5?  | Qd3<br>d5?   | Nxe5<br>Bd6   | f3!<br>Bxe5  | dxe5<br>Qh4! | Rf1!<br>Nd6  | Qc3!<br>Nc4  |
| 2  | d4!<br>Nxe4 | Re1<br>Bf5?  | Qd3<br>Be7!  | dxe5<br>Bg6   | exd6<br>Nxd6 | Qe2          |              |              |
| 3  | d4!<br>Nxe4 | Re1<br>f5    | dxe5<br>d5   | c4<br>Be6     | Nc3<br>Bc5   | Be3<br>Nxc3  | bxc3<br>Bxe3 | Rxe3<br>dxc4 |
| 4  | d4!<br>Nd7  | dxe5<br>Nxe5 | Nxe5<br>dxe5 | Qxd8+<br>Kxd8 | Rd1+<br>Bd6  | c4<br>Bg4    | f3<br>Bd7    | Be3?         |
| 5  | d4!<br>Nd7  | dxe5<br>dxe5 | Qd3<br>Bd6   | Rd1!?         |              |              |              |              |
| 6  | d4!<br>Be7  | dxe5<br>Nxe4 | Re1<br>d5    | Nbd2<br>Bg4   | h3<br>Nxd2   | Bxd2<br>Bh5  | e6!?<br>fxe6 | Re5!<br>Bf7  |
| 7  | d4!<br>Bg4  | dxe5<br>Bxf3 | Qxf3<br>dxe5 | Bg5<br>Be7    | Rd1?         |              |              |              |
| 8  | d4!<br>Bg4  | dxe5<br>Nxe4 | h3!<br>Bh5   | exd6<br>Bxd6  | Qe2<br>Qe7   | Re1?         |              |              |
| 9  | d4!<br>exd4 | Qxd4<br>Be7  | Nc3<br>O-O   | b3<br>Bg4     | Qd3<br>Bxf3  | Qxf3         |              |              |
| 10 | d4!<br>exd4 | Qxd4<br>c5   | Qd3<br>Be7   | c4<br>O-O     | Nc3          |              |              |              |
| 11 | d4!<br>exd4 | Qxd4<br>c5   | Qd3<br>Bb7   | Nc3<br>Be7    | Nd5<br>Nxd5  | exd5<br>O-O  | Re1          |              |
| 12 | d4!<br>exd4 | Qxd4<br>c5   | Qd3<br>Nd7   | Nc3<br>Bb7    | Bf4          |              |              |              |
| 13 | d4!<br>exd4 | Qxd4<br>c5   | Qd3<br>Be6   | c4<br>Be7     | Nc3<br>O-O   | Nd5<br>Nxd5  | cxd5<br>Bd7  | Re1          |

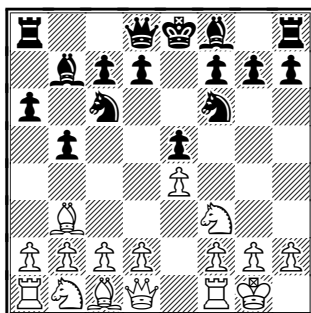
### Dealing with the Pure Arkhangelsk Variation

#### 5.O-O b5 6.Bb3 Bb7

1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 a6; 4.Ba4 Nf6; 5.O-O b5.

The Arkhangelsk has become quite common in tournament play, and White now needs to spend as much time preparing for it as for the Open and Closed Variations. We will adopt the traditional formula of aiming to take the center with d4.

6.Bb3 Bb7. For 6...Bc5; 7.c3 see 5...Bc5 section, with 6.c3 b5; 7.Bb3 Bb7.



*Position after 6...Bb7*

7.c3. This is a very challenging plan, threatening to establish the ideal pawn center quickly. Black's threat to capture the e-pawn is simply ignored. A safer move is 7.d3 with the idea 8.Nc3, perhaps followed by 9.a4 and after 9...b4, 10.Nd5.

#### 7...Nxe4.

a) 7...h6; 8.d4 d6; 9.Re1 Qe7 (9...g6; 10.a4 Bg7; 11.dxe5 Nxe5; 12.Nxe5 dxe5; 13.Qxd8+ Rxd8; 14.axb5 axb5; 15.Ra7 is a bit better for White.) 10.a4 Na5; 11.Bc2 c5; 12.d5 with a pleasant game for White, Gara vs. Letay, Budapest 2001.

b) 7...Be7; 8.d4 d6; 9.Qe2 O-O; 10.Rd1 Qe8 (10...Nd7; 11.a4 Bf6; 12.d5 Na5; 13.Bc2 Nb6; 14.b4 Nac4; 15.a5 Nd7; 16.Bb3) 11.Nbd2 Bd8; 12.Re1 Na5; 13.Bc2 c5; 14.Nf1 and despite Black's defensive play, White is still a bit better, Tal vs. Malaniuk, Soviet Championship 1991.

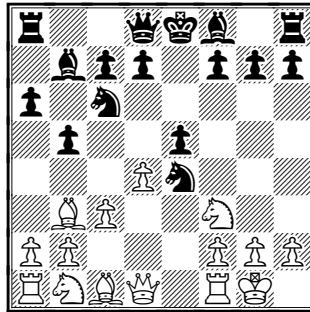
c) 7...g6; 8.d4 exd4; 9.e5 Ne4; 10.Re1 Nc5; 11.cxd4 Nxb3; 12.Qxb3 and White's position is certainly preferable.

d) For 7...Bc5, see the section on 5...Bc5, with the move order 6.c3 b5; 7.Bb3 Bb7.

e) 7...d6; 8.Re1 Be7; 9.d4 exd4 (9...O-O; 10.Nbd2 Re8; 11.Nf1

Bf8; 12.Ng3 leaves Black struggling to equalize, Pierrot vs. Pedro, Villa Martelli 2001.) 10.cxd4 O-O; 11.Nbd2 (perhaps 11.d5 is better.) 11...Nb4! (11...Nd7?!; 12.Nf1 Na5; 13.Bc2 c5; 14.Bf4 Re8; 15.Ne3 Nf8; 16.Nf5 with better prospects for White. Kristjansson vs. Rasmussen, Copenhagen 1999) 12.Qe2 c5; 13.a3 Nc6; 14.dxc5 dxc5; 15.e5 Nd5; 16.Ne4 Nc7 with dynamic equality, Dunis vs. Mikhalchishin, Leipzig 2002.

#### 8.d4.



*Position after 8.d4*

A rich position, from which players are still unearthing interesting possibilities for both sides. White has nothing to fear but his own excessive greed.

#### 8...Na5.

a) 8...Be7; 9.Re1 d5 (9...Na5; 10.Bc2 d5; 11.Nxe5 O-O; 12.f3 Nd6; 13.Nd2 Ndc4; 14.f4 Nxd2; 15.Qxd2 gave White the edge in Browne vs. Bisguier, Lone Pine 1973.) 10.dxe5 Na5; 11.Bc2 O-O; 12.Nbd2 Nc4 (12...Ng5; 13.Nxg5 Bxg5; 14.Nf3 Bxc1; 15.Rxc1 c5 Guenther vs. Zickelbein, Germany 1995. Now 16.b4!/? should yield some advantage.) 13.Nxc4 bxc4; 14.Bxe4 dxe4; 15.Qxd8 Raxd8; 16.Nd2 where the weakness of Black's pawns may be more important than the bishop pair, Leko vs. Le Quang, European Team Championship 1992. Black can try to get dark squared bishops off with 10...Bc5; 11.Be3 Bxe3; 12.Rxe3 Na5; 13.Nbd2 O-O; 14.Bc2 f5 as in Ziatdinov vs. Kuzmin, Tashkent 1987 but White can squeeze something out of the position with 15.b4 Nc4; 16.Nxc4 bxc4; 17.Nd4.

b) 8...exd4; 9.Re1 and Black has two main paths:

b1) 9...d5; 10.Ng5 and now:

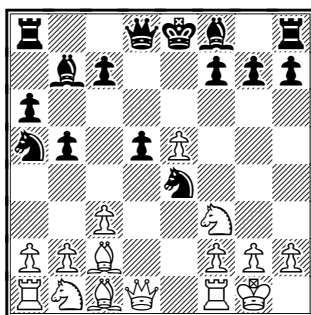
10...Bc5; 11.Qh5! Qe7; 12.Bxd5 g6; 13.Qh3 f5; 14.Nxe4 O-O-O; 15.Bg5 led to a White win in Bobolovic vs. Ageichenko, Moscow 1966. 10...Ne5; 11.cxd4 Nc4 (Not 11...Nxg5; 12.Bxg5 f6; 13.Rxe5+ Be7;

14.Rxe7+) 12.Bxc4 bxc4; 13.f3 Be7; 14.fxe4 was awful for Black in Almasi vs. Letay, Budapest Spring Open 1993.

10...Be7; 11.Rxe4! O-O; (11...dxe4; 12.Nxf7 Qd7; 13.Nxh8 O-O; 14.Nf7 demolished Black's position in Mecking vs. Harandi, Manila Interzonal 1976.) 12.Qh5 Bxg5; 13.Bxg5 Qd6; 14.Re1 where it is much better to be on the White side, Dryzek vs. Weigel, Bad Woerishofen 2000.

b2) 9...Na5 is rather complicated. White can go after material but it could be dangerous. 10.Ng5?! (10.Nbd2! is the safe move, and White still has compensation for the pawns.) 10...d5 is Vega Gutierrez vs. Jakubowski, Aviles 2001, where White should avoid 11.Rxe4+ and perhaps try 11.Qf3!?

c) 8...d5; 9.dxe5 Na5; 10.Bc2



*Position after 10.Bc2*

Black has a difficult position, due to poor development and White's strong pawn at e5. 10...Be7 (10...Qd7; 11.Nd4 c5; 12.Nb3 Nxb3; 13.axb3 gave White an advantage in Plaskett vs. Flear, Hastings 1984. 10...c5 is best met by 11.Re1! 10...Nc4; 11.a4 b4; 12.b3 Na5; 13.Bb2 with a small edge for White in A. Ivanov vs. Lugo, Chicago 1996.) 11.Nbd2 Nxd2 (11...Nc4; 12.Nxc4 bxc4; 13.Nd4 O-O; 14.Nf5 is great for White, while on 11...O-O; 12.Nd4 c5; 13.Nf5 Qc7; 14.Qg4 Qxe5; 15.Nf3! Black's position is beyond salvation, even with the extra pawn, Blasco vs. Torres Grajales, Madrid 2000.) 12.Qxd2 O-O; (12...Nc4; 13.Qd3 Qd7; 14.b3 Nb6; 15.Ng5 Bxg5; 16.Bxg5 Qg4; 17.Be3 Nd7; 18.h3 Qe6; 19.f4 O-O-O; 20.a4 is uncomfortable for Black, Moraru vs. Kirjak, Timisoara Open 1995.) 13.Qd3 g6; 14.Bh6 Re8; 15.Qd4 c5; 16.Qf4 d4; 17.Rad1 Qc7; 18.cxd4 Bxf3; 19.Qxf3 cxd4; 20.Be4 and White can be very happy with the position, Hammar vs. Lind, Swedish Championship 1983.

9.Nxe5. 9.Bc2 exd4; 10.Re1 is a reasonable alternative, leading

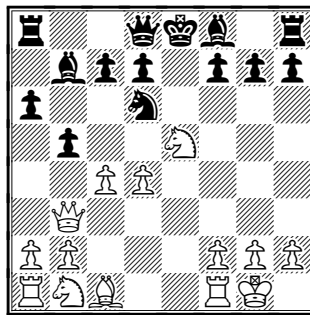
to roughly level chances after 10...d5, Acs vs. Beliavsky, Hungarian Team Championship 2000. 9...Nxb3; 10.Qxb3. 10.axb3 Bd6; 11.f3 Ng5; 12.Be3 O-O; 13.Qd2 is also playable, Madl vs. Stefanova, Leon 2001. 10...Nd6.

10...Qf6 was seen in Nijboer vs. Van der Wiel, Rotterdam 2000. 11.Nd2 is the safest plan. 11.f3?!, played in the game, is too ambitious. In general, you should avoid playing f3 in these Spanish lines.

10...d5? just locks out the bishop, and 11.Re1 f6 leads to the devastating 12.Rxe4!

11.c4.

11.Bf4 is a quieter approach. 11...Be7; 12.a4 O-O; 13.Na3 Bg5; 14.Bg3 Ne4; 15.Nf3 Rb8; 16.axb5 axb5; 17.d5 d6; 18.Qd1 f5; 19.h3 f4 led to a draw in Stellwagen vs. Van der Wiel, Amsterdam 2001.



*Position after 11.c4*

11...f6 is Black's best.

a) 11...Qf6; 12.Nc3 Qe6; 13.Re1 O-O-O; 14.cxb5 Qxb3; 15.axb3 axb5; 16.Bf4 f6; 17.Nd3 with a strong position that led to an upset win in Bauer vs. Kasimdzhanov, Las Vegas 1999.

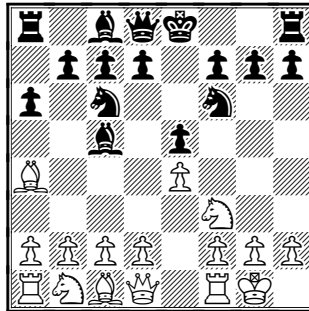
b) 11...bxc4; 12.Nxc4 Nxc4; 13.Qxb7 Nd6 (13...Be7; 14.Bf4 O-O; 15.Nc3 Bd6; 16.Bxd6 Nxd6; 17.Qf3 was about even in Kozakov vs. Mikhalchishin, Ptuj 2000.) 14.Qf3 Be7; 15.Nc3 O-O; 16.Bf4 where White was a bit better in Fleck vs., Van der Wiel, Essen 2002.

12.c5! fxe5. Pretty much forced. 13.cxd6 Bxd6 was played in Baramidze vs. Kniest, Dortmund 2000. White should continue 14.dxe5! Bxe5; 15.Re1 Qe7; 16.Bf4 d6; 17.Nc3. The position is unclear, but Black can't castle on the kingside and it is too dangerous to go queenside. White has more than enough for the pawn.

| <b>Summary Chart #9</b>  |     |     |     |      |       |      |      |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|------|------|-----|
| <b>ARKHANGELSK:</b>  |     |     |     |      |       |      |      |     |
| <b>1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O b5 6.Bb3 Bb7</b> |     |     |     |      |       |      |      |     |
| <b>ECO Code: C78</b>   |     |     |     |      |       |      |      |     |
|  | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10   | 11    | 12   | 13   | 14  |
| 1  | d3  | Nc3 | Bg5 |      |       |      |      |     |
|  | Be7 | O-O |     |      |       |      |      |     |
| 2  | d3  | Nc3 | Bg5 | Nd5  |       |      |      |     |
|  | Bd6 | Na5 | O-O |      |       |      |      |     |
| 3  | d3  | Nc3 | Bg5 | Nd5  | Bxd5  | Bb3  | Nh4  | Nf5 |
|  | Bd6 | O-O | Na5 | Bxd5 | c6    | Re8  | h6   |     |
| 4  | d3  | Nc3 | a4  | Nd5  | Bxd5  |      |      |     |
|  | g6  | Bg7 | b4  | Nxd5 |       |      |      |     |
| 5  | d3  | Nc3 | a4! | Nd5  |       |      |      |     |
|  | h6  | g6  | b4  |      |       |      |      |     |
| 6  | d3  | a4  | Nc3 | Nd5  | Nxf6+ | Ba2  |      |     |
|  | Bc5 | d6  | b4  | Na5  | Qxf6  |      |      |     |
| 7  | d3  | a4  | Nc3 | axb5 | cxb3  | Rxa8 | Nxe5 | Bg5 |
|  | Bc5 | O-O | Nd4 | Nxb3 | axb5  | Bxa8 | d5   |     |
| 8  | d3  | a4  | Nc3 | Nd5  | Nxf6+ | Ba2  |      |     |
|  | Bc5 | O-O | b4  | Na5  | Qxf6  |      |      |     |
| 9  | d3  | a4  | Nc3 | Nd5  | Bxd5  | a5!  |      |     |
|  | Bc5 | O-O | b4  | Nxd5 | d6    | Rb8  |      |     |

**Dealing with the [Modern] Line 5.O-O Bc5  
(Including Lines with ...Bb7)**

**1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 a6; 4.Ba4 Nf6; 5.O-O Bc5**



*Position after 5...Bc5*

This flexible modern approach defers the choice of overall strategy for a bit. Black can later play ...b5 and ...Bb7, or can choose ...d6 with kingside bishop deployment.

**6.c3.** White should aim for a rapid d4-break. **6...b5** This move

leads to the hybrid line, similar to the Arkhangelsk.

a) 6...Ba7 is non-committal, but a bit slow. 7.d4 Nxe4 (On 7...O-O; 8.Bg5 White has a pleasant position. There is a lot more theory, but White's plan is simple enough, just standard Spanish play.) 8.dxe5 O-O; (8...d5!?!; 9.exd6 O-O; 10.dxc7 Qxc7; 11.Bc2!?! Re8; 12.Nbd2 Nf6 was even in Ciemniak vs. Pinkas, Czestochowa 1993. Better was the simple 11.Nbd2! and Black doesn't have enough for the pawn.) 9.Qd5 Nc5; 10.Bc2 Ne7; 11.Qd1 d5; 12.exd6 (12.Bg5! is clearer) 12...cxd6; 13.Bf4 d5; 14.Nd4 Ng6; 15.Bg3 f5; 16.f3 Ne6; 17.Bf2 Nef4; 18.Kh1 Qg5; 19.g3 Nh3; 20.f4 Nxf2+; 21.Rxf2 with White holding the advantage in Nielsen vs. Andersen, Copenhagen 1936.

b) 6...d6; 7.d4 exd4 (7...Ba7; 8.dxe5 Nxe4; 9.Bxc6+ bxc6; 10.Qa4 Nc5; 11.Qxc6+ Bd7; 12.Qd5 with a better game for White.) 8.cxd4 Ba7 (8...Bb6; 9.d5 and White should win, Tehrany vs. Steiner, Graz 1996.) 9.d5 b5; 10.dxc6 bxa4; 11.Qxa4 O-O; 12.Bg5 Re8 is Alekhine vs. Grijns & Tongeren, Bandoeng 1933. Then 13.Nc3! maintains a rather large advantage.

c) 6...O-O; 7.d4. Now Black can play 7...Bb6; 8.dxe5 Nxe4; 9.Qd5 Nc5; 10.Bc2 Ne7 but the main line is 7...exd4; 8.cxd4 with a number of possibilities:

8...Be7; 9.d5 is unacceptable for Black.

8...Ba7; 9.Nc3 d6; 10.h3 Re8; 11.Re1 Bd7; 12.Bg5 and Black was in trouble in McDonald vs. Bader, Australian Junior Open 1995.

8...b5; 9.dxc5 bxa4; 10.Qxa4 Re8; 11.Nc3 with a clearly superior position for White in Buck vs. Cox, National Open, Chicago 1991.

8...Bb4; 9.a3 Ba5; 10.e5 Nd5; 11.b4 is miserable for Black Tatar Kis vs. Szoukup, Budapest 1994.

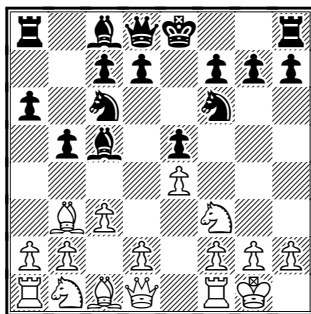
8...Bb6; 9.Nc3 h6 (9...d6; 10.h3 Ba7; 11.Bg5 b5; 12.Bc2 Re8; 13.Nd5 Bb7; 14.Qd3 Nxd4; 15.Nxd4 Bxd5; 16.exd5 Bxd4; 17.Qxd4 with a winning position in Anderson vs. Naftel, Siegen Olympiad 1970.) 10.e5 Nh7; 11.d5 and Black was in deep trouble in Cossu vs. Arno, Postal 1979.

d) 6...Nxe4?; 7.Qe2 is very good for White, since a knight retreat allows d4.

e) 6...Bb6; 7.d4 Nxe4 (7...exd4; 8.cxd4 d5; 9.exd5 Nxd5; 10.Ne5 Qd6; 11.Nc3 Nxc3; 12.bxc3 O-O; 13.Nxc6 bxc6; 14.Qf3 Bd7; 15.Bf4 Qf6 is Scheer vs. Klein, Wuerzburg Open 1987, and now just 16.Qg3 gives White a clear advantage.) 8.Re1 f5; 9.Bxc6 dxc6; 10.Nxe5 Qf6; 11.Nc4 Ba7; 12.f3 Be6; 13.Nba3 b5 (13...Nd6; 14.Nxd6+ cxd6; 15.Qe2 Kd7; 16.Bg5) 14.fxe4 and White won in Klompus vs. Philipp, Postal 1980.

7.Bb3. The bishop can go directly to c2, but only if ...Bc5 is played

before ...b5. Unless you are really trying to milk everything out of the position, it is simpler to simply study a single plan.



*Position after 7.Bb3*

**7...d6.** Black has explored many alternatives, most of which can be met simply with 8.d4. These are instructive lines to play through:

a) 7...O-O; 8.d4! exd4; 9.e5! Ne8; 10.cxd4 is horrible for Black.

b) 7...Nxe4; 8.Qe2 d5 (8...Nf6; 9.d4 Bb6; 10.dxe5 Ng4; 11.Bxf7+ Kxf7; 12.Ng5+ Kg8; 13.Qxg4 placed Black in grave danger in Kupka vs. Kracik, Jaroslav/Plzen 1995.) 9.d3 Nf6; 10.d4 Be7 (10...Bb6; 11.Nxe5 Nxe5; 12.Qxe5+ leaves Black a bit short of equality, van Geemen vs. Lunek, Postal 1991.) 11.dxe5 Ne4; 12.Rd1 Be6; 13.c4! bxc4??; 14.Ba4 and Black gave up in Matulovic vs. Feller, Siegen Olympiad 1970.

c) 7...Na5; 8.Nxe5 Nxb3; 9.Qxb3 gives White a pleasant game.

d) 7...Ba7; 8.d4 d6; 9.dxe5 dxe5; 10.Qxd8+ Nxd8; 11.Nxe5 Bb7; 12.Nd2 is the move to play if you are aiming for a win. A quick draw followed the initially exciting 12.Bg5 Nxe4; 13.Bxd8 Rxd8; 14.Nxf7 Rf8; 15.Nxd8 Kxd8; 16.Nd2 Nxf2; 17.Nf3 Nh3+ in Karaklaic vs. Rellstab, Postal 1956. After 12.Nd2 O-O; 13.Bc2 Re8; 14.Nef3 Nxe4; 15.Nxe4 Bxe4; 16.Re1!, White keeps a small advantage.

e) 7...Be7; 8.d4 O-O; 9.dxe5 Nxe4; 10.Bf4 Bg5; 11.Nxg5 Nxg5; 12.Nd2 is unpleasant for Black, Moreno Gea vs. Ramirez Diaz, Postal 1984.

f) 7...h6; 8.d4 exd4; 9.cxd4 Bb6; 10.e5 Nh7; 11.d5 and Black is busted, Castner vs. Remus, San Francisco 1980.

g) 7...Bb6; 8.d4 with:

8...Qe7; 9.a4 Rb8 (9...Bb7 can be countered by 10.Bg5!?) 10.axb5 axb5 is Pytel vs. Konikowski, Poland 1965, where 11.Re1 would have secured the advantage.

8...O-O; 9.Nxe5 with an excellent game for White.

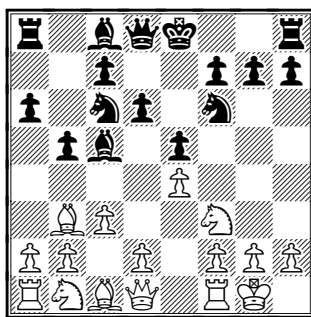
8...Nxe4; 9.Bd5 Nf6; 10.Bxc6 dxc6; 11.Nxe5 O-O; 12.Nxc6 Qd6; 13.Ne5 c5; 14.Bf4 is better for White, Wierzbicka vs. Strzalka, Polish Women's Championship 1989.

h) 7...Bb7?! is important, because it can also be reached from the Arkhangelsk. 8.d4 and now:

8...Bd6; 9.Bd5 Qe7; 10.Bg5 O-O; 11.Re1 h6; 12.Bh4 with a small edge for White in Cely vs. Jakubowski, Moravian Open Championship 1996.

8...exd4; 9.cxd4 Bb6; 10.Bg5 h6; 11.Bh4 g5; 12.Bg3 d6; 13.Nc3 Qd7; 14.e5! was painful for Black in Jaltychenko vs. Abisheva, Bratislava 1993.

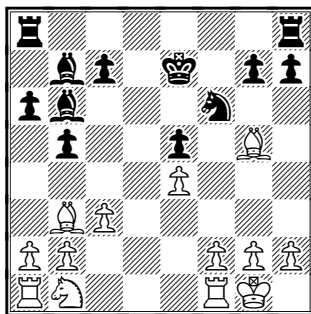
8...Bb6; 9.dxe5 Ng4 is refuted by 10.Bxf7+! Kxf7; 11.Ng5+ Ke8; 12.Qxg4, Matthews vs. Arias, Valencia 2000.



*Position after 7...d6*

### **8.d4 exd4.**

8...Bb6; 9.dxe5 Nxe5 (9...dxe5; 10.Qxd8+ Nxd8; 11.Nxe5 Bb7; 12.Bg5 doesn't relieve Black's pressure, even though the queens are gone. Karakljic vs. Rellstab, Bled 1956.) 10.Nxe5 dxe5; 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8; 12.Bxf7 Ke7?! (12...Rf8 is better, and will gain equality. 13.Bb3 Nxe4; 14.Be3 Bxe3; 15.fxe3 Rxf1+; 16.Kxf1 Bb7 was seen in Nikolin vs. Maric, Tivat 1995.) 13.Bb3 Bb7; 14.Bg5.



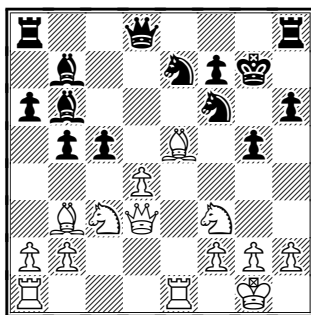
*Position after 14.Bg5*

The pressure at f2 gives Black some compensation for the pawn, but White can be happy with the position. 14...Rhf8; 15.Nd2 h6; 16.Bh4 g5; 17.Bg3 Rad8; 18.Rad1 Rd7?; 19.Bxe5 Ng4 (19...Rfd8; 20.Nf3 Rxd1; 21.Rxd1 Rxd1+; 22.Bxd1 Bxe4) 20.Bg3 Ne3; 21.fxe3 Bxe3+; 22.Bf2 and Black resigned. REBEL vs. Timman, Aegon Man vs. Machine Tournament 1997.

9.cxd4 Bb6; 10.Bg5 O-O. White is already quite a bit better. Black fell for one idea with 10...Bg4?; 11.Bd5! Qd7; 12.Bxf6 gxf6; 13.Qc1 Ne7; 14.Bxa8 Rg8; 15.Qf4 Bh3; 16.g3 Bxf1; 17.Kxf1 c6; 18.d5 and Black resigned in Browne vs. Lawless, Simultaneous, Mechanic's Institute 1969.

10...Na5? is also bad: 11.e5 dxe5; 12.dxe5 Qxd1; 13.Rxd1 Nd7; 14.e6 fxe6; 15.Bxe6 Nf6; 16.Bxc8 Rxc8, Palos vs. Halameister, Werfen Open 1992, 17.Re1+ with a large advantage.

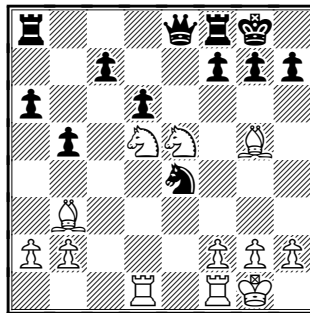
A classic struggle followed 10...Bb7; 11.Nc3 Ne7; 12.Re1 h6; 13.Bh4 g5; 14.Bg3 Kf8; 15.Qd3 c5; 16.e5 dxe5; 17.Bxe5 Kg7.



*Position after 17...Kg7*

This position was reached in the ancient game Loewenthal vs. Morphy, London 1859. 18.Bxf6+! Kxf6; 19.Qe3 gives White a tremendous attack. The game concluded 19...Qd6; 20.Ne5 cxd4; 21.Ng4+ Kg7; 22.Qxe7 Qxe7; 23.Rxe7 dxc3; 24.Rxf7+ Kg6; 25.Ne5+ Kh5; 26.Bd1+ g4; 27.Bxg4+ Kg5; 28.Rf5+ Kh4; 29.g3#

11.Nc3 Bg4; 12.Nd5 Bxd4. 12...Bxf3; 13.gxf3, and 13...Bxd4; 14.Rc1! or 13...Nxd4; 14.Nxf6+ gxf6; 15.Bh6 Re8; 16.Kh1!, clearing the g-file. 13.Nxd4!? An amazing queen sacrifice, although the simple move 13.Rc1! was extremely strong. Still, White's combination is very exciting. 13...Bxd1; 14.Nxc6 Qd7; 15.Raxd1. On 15.Bxf6 Black might try 15...Bxb3!?, 15...Nxe4; 16.Ne5 Qe8.



*Position after 16...Qe8*

White wins with some fine tactics. 17.Nxf7! Rxf7; 18.Nxc7 Qb8. Or 18...Qe5; 19.Rd5! 19.Nxa8 Nxc7; 20.h4! Ne4. The original game went 20...Kf8; 21.hxg5 Ra7; 22.Bd5 and Black was busted in Aristizabal vs. Ramirez, Bogotá 1992. 21.Rfe1! Nc5. Just as bad is 21...Qxa8; 22.Bd5! 22.Nc7 Nxb3; 23.Re8+ Qxe8; 24.Nxe8 Nc5; 25.Rxd6! and White will win the ending.

### Summary Chart #10

MODERN SPANISH: 5.O-O Bc5

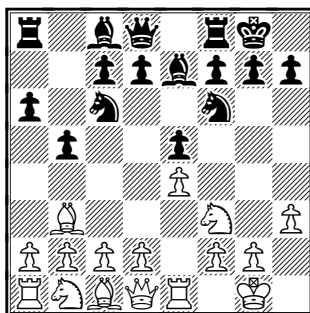
ECO Code: C78

|   | 6         | 7          | 8           | 9             | 10          | 11          | 12          | 13   |
|---|-----------|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|
| 1 | c3<br>O-O | d4<br>exd4 | cx d4<br>b5 | dx c5<br>bxa4 | Qxa4<br>Re8 | Nc3         |             |      |
| 2 | c3<br>O-O | d4<br>exd4 | Bb6         | h6            | Nh7         |             |             |      |
| 3 | c3<br>Bb6 | d4<br>exd4 | cx d4       | exd5          | Ne5<br>Qd6  | Nc3<br>Nxc3 | bxc3<br>O-O | Nxc6 |
| 4 | c3<br>Bb6 | d4<br>Nxe4 | Re1         | Bxc6          | Nxe5<br>Qf6 | Nc4<br>Ba7  | f3<br>Be6   | Nba3 |

|    |    |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |
|----|----|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| 5  | c3 | Bb3  | Qe2  | d4   | dx5  | Bxf7+ | Ng5+ | Qxg4 |
|    | b5 | Nxe4 | Nf6  | Bb6  | Ng4  | Kxf7  | Kg8  |      |
| 6  | c3 | Bb3  | d4!  | e5!  | cx4  |       |      |      |
|    | b5 | O-O  | exd4 | Ne8  |      |       |      |      |
| 7  | c3 | Bb3  | d4   | dx5  | Bf4  | Nxg5  | Nd2  |      |
|    | b5 | Be7  | O-O  | Nxe4 | Bg5  | Nxg5  |      |      |
| 8  | c3 | Bb3  | d4   | Bd5  | Bxc6 | Nxe5  | Nxc6 | Ne5  |
|    | b5 | Bb6  | Nxe4 | Nf6  | dx6  | O-O   | Qd6  |      |
| 9  | c3 | Bb3  | d4   | cx4  | Bg5  | Bh4   | Bg3  | Nc3  |
|    | b5 | Bb7  | exd4 | Bb6  | h6   | g5    | d6   |      |
| 10 | c3 | Bb3  | d4   | Bd5  | Bg5  | Re1   | Bh4  |      |
|    | b5 | Bb7  | Bd6  | Qe7  | O-O  | h6    |      |      |
| 11 | c3 | Bb3  | d4   | dx5  | Bxd1 | Bxf3  | Be2  | Bxg4 |
|    | b5 | d5!? | dx4  | Qxd1 | exf3 | e4    | Bg4  |      |
| 12 | c3 | Bb3  | d4   | dx5  | Nxe5 | Qxd8+ | Bxf7 | Bb3  |
|    | b5 | d6   | Bb6  | Nxe5 | dx5  | Kxd8  | Ke7  |      |
| 13 | c3 | Bb3  | d4   | cx4  | Bg5  | Bd5   | Bxf6 | Qc1! |
|    | b5 | d6   | exd4 | Bb6  | Bg4  | Qd7   | gxf6 |      |
| 14 | c3 | Bb3  | d4   | cx4  | Bg5  | e5    | dx5  | Rxd1 |
|    | b5 | d6   | exd4 | Bb6  | Na5  | dx5   | Qxd1 |      |
| 15 | c3 | Bb3  | d4   | cx4  | Bg5  | Nc3   | Re1  | Bh4  |
|    | b5 | d6   | exd4 | Bb6  | Bb7  | Ne7   | h6   |      |
| 16 | c3 | Bb3  | d4   | cx4  | Bg5  | Nc3   | Nd5  | gxf3 |
|    | b5 | d6   | exd4 | Bb6  | O-O  | Bg4   | Bxf3 |      |
| 17 | c3 | Bb3  | d4   | cx4  | Bg5  | Nc3   | Nd5  | Rc1! |
|    | b5 | d6   | exd4 | Bb6  | O-O  | Bg4   | Bxd4 |      |

### Avoiding the Marshall Attack

1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 a6; 4.Ba4 Nf6; 5.O-O Be7; 6.Re1 b5;  
7.Bb3 O-O; 8.h3

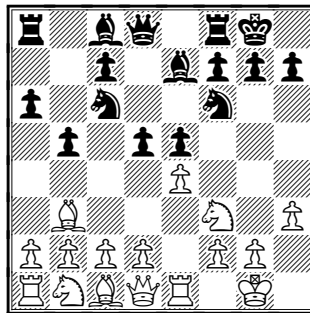


*Position after 8.h3*

This move offers a method of transposing to the normal main lines of the Spanish without allowing Black to use Marshall's sharp

...d5 plan. If that is tried here, White gets a better than usual version because the knight can still come to c3. In the normal move order with 8.c3, that's not possible. The lines presented below are not bad for Black, but they are quite different in flavor from the Marshall. If Black transposes to the 8.c3 d6; 9.h3 lines, White has achieved the desired goal of the opening strategy, and discussion of the main lines of the Ruy Lopez lies outside the scope of this book. Black now has several options: 8...d5 (A), 8...Bb7 (B) and several minor options covered (C).

A) 8...d5. This will be the choice of many Marshall Gambit players.



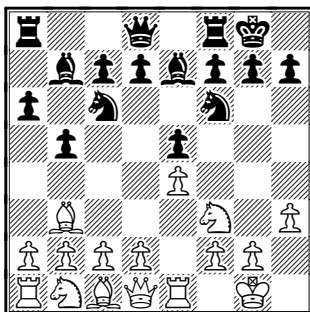
*Position after 8...d5*

9.exd5 Nxd5 and White has several good ideas. Taking the pawn isn't at all bad with White having the added option of Nc3 in comparison with the normal Marshall Gambit. The simple 10.d3 keeps pressure on e5, for example, 10...Bf6; 11.Nbd2 h6; 12.Ne4!? Be7; 13.Ng3 Bf6; 14.Nh5 with good play, Bologan vs. Castellano Ojeda, Las Palmas 1993.

Instead of 10.d3, 10.a4 is also reasonable, for example 10...Bb7; 11.axb5 axb5; 12.Rxa8 Bxa8; 13.Nc3, which shows the difference when White hasn't played c3. 13...Nxc3; 14.bxc3, hitting e5, and here's a sample line: 14...Bf6; 15.Qe2 Na5 (15...e4; 16.Nh2!, still hitting b5 and e4) 16.Ba2 e4; 17.Nd4! Bxd4; 18.cxd4 Qxd4; 19.Qxb5 Nc6; 20.Bb2! Qxd2; 21.Rxe4 and the two bishops are going to break down Black's king position, for example, 21...Qd1+ (21...Qxc2? loses to 22.Bxf7+.) 22.Kh2 Qd6+; 23.g3 h6; 24.Qh5! Ne7; 25.Rg4, winning.

B) 8...Bb7. Black does not usually station the bishop here in the Marshall. Usually it operates on the kingside, but with a pawn at h3 that's not going to happen. White can of course play 9.c3 here, which will lead to the normal Spanish lines if Black follows up with ...d6,

but there is another option which makes sure that the ...d5 break simply will not happen.

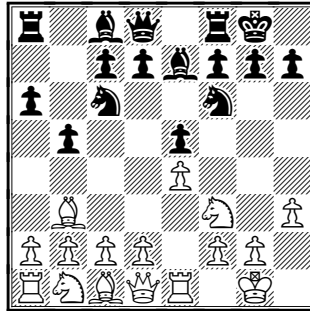


*Position after 8...Bb7*

**9.Nc3!**? A practical and risk-free move, eyeing d5 for the knight. **9.d3** is another solid idea. **9...d6**. **9...Na5**; **10.Nxe5 Nxb3**; **11.axb3 b4**; **12.Nd5 Nxd5**; **13.exd5 Bxd5**; **14.c4 Bb7**; **15.d4** from Janetschek vs. Lokasto, Warsaw Cup 1981 is just a bit better for White (with plenty of chances) due to his space and somewhat better pawn structure. **10.Nd5!**? Marshall fans will hate the occupation of d5!; **10...Na5**. **10...Nxd5**; **11.Bxd5 Qd7**; **12.d4** favors White a bit. **11.Nxe7+ Qxe7**; **12.d3 Nxb3**. Or **12...c5**; **13.Bg5 Nxb3**; **14.axb3 h6** was agreed drawn in Uitumen vs. Spassky, Sochi 1964. Opposite colors can make for an interesting middlegame, and Spassky was probably worried about an eventual Nh4 with ideas of Nf5, Qf3, etc. **13.axb3 Rfe8**; **14.Bg5!**? Again, something like **14.Nh4 d5**; **15.Nf5 Qe6**; **16.Qf3** would put more pressure on Black. **14...h6** is Gheorghiu vs. Kavalek, Amsterdam 1975. White has nothing special, but by **Be3** with the idea Nh4, he could keep Black thinking. The game was drawn in 22 moves.

Notice how several of these examples end with opposite-colored bishops on the board. This is a well-known advantage for attackers in the middlegame (not in the endings, which tend to be drawish), because the bishops cannot be exchanged or even block each other, whereas sensitive points attacked by one bishop cannot be defended by its counterpart.

## C) Various moves

*Position after 8.h3*

a) 8...d6. After 9.c3 White has safely reached the main lines of the Closed Variations and may institute the classical Spanish Inquisition!

b) 8...Kh8; 9.c3 d5; 10.exd5 Nxd5; 11.Nxe5 Nxe5; 12.Rxe5 c6 is a normal Marshall with the useful h3 traded for the uninspiring ...Kh8, for example, 13.d4 Bd6; 14.Re1 Qh4; 15.Nd2! Bf5; 16.Nf3 Qh5; 17.a4 and Black has few ideas left.

c) 8...h6; 9.c3 d6; 10.d4 is another normal Ruy Lopez line called the Smyslov Variation.

d) 8...Na5; 9.Nxe5! Nxb3; 10.axb3 Bb7; 11.d3 d5; 12.exd5 Nxd5; 13.Nc3 doesn't give Black enough for a pawn, since he has no particular attack.

e) 8...Re8?! uses up the retreat square for Black's knight on e8, a fact that White can try to exploit by 9.d4! (9.c3 is a normal Ruy Lopez), and now a blunder is 9...d5??; 10.dxe5 winning, as in Limp vs. Goncalves, Sao Paulo Championship 1998, due to 10...Nxe4; 11.Bxd5, while 9...exd4?; 10.e5 Nh5; 11.g4 wins a piece. The best that Black can do is 9...d6; 10.a4! b4; 11.c3 but that is still a bit better for White.

**Summary Chart #11**

**ANTI-MARSHALL: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6  
5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 O-O; 8.h3**

**ECO Code: C88**

|    | 8           | 9             | 10            | 11            | 12           | 13           | 14           | 15   |
|----|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------|
| 1  | h3<br>d5!?  | exd5<br>Nxd5  | d3<br>Bf6     | Nbd2<br>h6    | Ne4!?<br>Be7 | Ng3<br>Bf6   | Nh5          |      |
| 2  | h3<br>d5!?  | exd5<br>Nxd5  | a4!?<br>Be6   | Nxe5<br>Nxe5  | Rxe5<br>Bf6  | Re1<br>c5!?  | axb5<br>axb5 | Rxa8 |
| 3  | h3<br>d5!?  | exd5<br>Nxd5  | a4!?<br>Bb7   | axb5<br>axb5  | Rxa8<br>Bxa8 | Nc3<br>Nxc3  | bxc3<br>Bf6  | Qe2  |
| 4  | h3<br>d5!?  | exd5<br>Nxd5  | a4!?<br>Bb7   | axb5<br>axb5  | Rxa8<br>Bxa8 | Nc3<br>Nxc3  | bxc3<br>Bf6  | Qe2  |
| 5  | h3<br>d6    | c3            |               |               |              |              |              |      |
| 6  | h3<br>Kh8   | c3<br>d5      | exd5<br>Nxd5  | Nxe5<br>Nxe5  | Rxe5<br>c6   | d4<br>Bd6    | Re1<br>Qh4   | Nd2! |
| 7  | h3<br>h6    | c3<br>d6      | d4            |               |              |              |              |      |
| 8  | h3<br>Na5   | Nxe5!<br>Nxb3 | axb3<br>Bb7   | d3<br>d5      | exd5<br>Nxd5 | Nc3          |              |      |
| 9  | h3<br>Re8?! | d4!?<br>d6    | a4!<br>b4     | c3            |              |              |              |      |
| 10 | h3<br>Re8?! | d4!?<br>d5??  | dxe5<br>Nxe4  | Bxd5          |              |              |              |      |
| 11 | h3<br>Bb7   | Nc3!?<br>Na5  | Nxe5<br>Nxb3  | axb3<br>b4    | Nd5<br>Nxd5  | exd5<br>Bxd5 | c4<br>Bb7    | d4   |
| 12 | h3<br>Bb7   | Nc3!?<br>d6   | Nd5!?<br>Nxd5 | Bxd5<br>Qd7   | d4           |              |              |      |
| 13 | h3<br>Bb7   | Nc3!?<br>d6   | Nd5!?<br>Na5  | Nxe7+<br>Qxe7 | d3<br>c5     | Bg5<br>Nxb3  | axb3         |      |
| 14 | h3<br>Bb7   | Nc3!?<br>d6   | Nd5!?<br>Na5  | Nxe7+<br>Qxe7 | d3<br>Nxb3   | axb3<br>Rfe8 | Bg5!?<br>h6  | Be3  |
| 15 | h3<br>Bb7   | Nc3!?<br>d6   | Nd5!?<br>Na5  | Nxe7+<br>Qxe7 | d3<br>Nxb3   | axb3<br>Rfe8 | Nh4<br>d5    | Nf5  |