

Contents

Preface 7

Part 1. Baker's Defence; Owen's Defence

1.e4 various; 1...a6 2.d4; 1...b6 2.d4

1	various; 1...a6 2.d4	10
2	1...b6 2.d4 various; 2...b7 3. d3 f6; 3...e6 4. f3 without 4...c5	24
3	1...b6 2.d4 b7 3. d3 e6 4. f3 c5.	47

Part 2. Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 c6 2. f3

4	2... f6; 2...f5.	72
5	2...d5	77
6	2...g6	88
7	2...d6	96

Part 3. Alekhine's Defence

1.e4 f6 2.e5

8	2... g8.	118
9	2... d5 3.d4 various; 3...e6; 3...d6 4. f3 various	125
10	2... d5 3.d4 d6 4. f3 c6	140
11	2... d5 3.d4 d6 4. f3 de.	150
12	2... d5 3.d4 d6 4. f3 g6.	168
13	2... d5 3.d4 d6 4. f3 g4 5. e2 c6.	199
14	2... d5 3.d4 d6 4. f3 g4 5. e2 c6	219
15	2... d5 3.d4 d6 4. f3 g4 5. e2 e6.	233

Part 4.

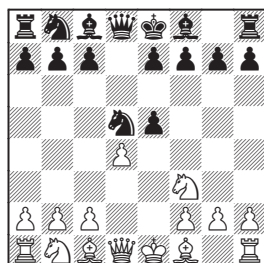
1.e4 e6 2.d4

16	various without 2...d5.	244
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Index of Variations 253

Chapter 11

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4. Nf3
dxe5



This move was introduced by A.Alekhine in a simultane game. Later it was revived by one of the best players in the 60-70-ies – the Danish GM Bent Larsen, who employed it in the Candidates matches in 1965 against B.Ivko and M.Tal.

Black takes on e5 by his free will seemingly presenting White with a tempo for development of the knight. The idea of this line however is to play Nb8-d7 , when White is faced with a choice – either to allow an exchange on e5 which leads to simplification, or retreat with the knight back to f3. In the latter case Black regains the tempo.

5. Nxe5

Now the most consistent

move seems to be **a) 5... Nd7** , but in the arisen position White has the sacrifice 6. Nxf7 Qxf7 7. Wh5+ Qe6 8.c4. White has dragged out the enemy king into the centre of the board and his attack is quite strong. The ensuing variations are very complicated and hazy.

As long as the sacrifice is dangerous for Black, it is sensible for him to delay Nb8-d7 in favour of some developing move which prevents Nxf7 : **b) 5...e6**, **c) 5...c6** or **d) 5...g6**.

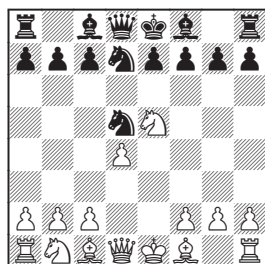
Worse is 5... $\text{Qf5}?!.$ 6. Wf3! e6 7. Qd3 $\text{Wc8}??$ (7... Wf6 was the only move, although in that case White gets a classical pawn majority on the queenside after 8. Qxf5 Wxf5 9. Wxf5 exf5) 8. Qxf5 exf5 9. Wxd5 Qe6 10. Wxb7 and that was all in Gofshtein – Gayraud, Saint Quentin 1998.

a) 5... Nd7

This position became really popular after the Candidates Match for the World Championship – Tal – Larsen, Bled 1965,

3.d4 d6 4.♘f3 de 5.♗xe5 ♘d7 6.♗xf7

although White refrained from the sacrifice there.



6.♗xf7!

We have assumed that the sacrifice is quite correct after an extensive analytical work and rigorous practical testing. White needs to play extremely precisely with great inventiveness, though...

6...♗xf7 7.♖h5+ ♗e6

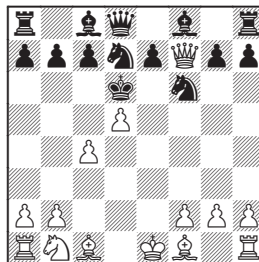
But not 7...g6? 8.♖xd5+ e6 9.♖f3+ Afanasiev – Nazarenko, Novokuznetsk 1998.

8.c4 ♗5f6

It is too bad for Black to play: 8...♗b4 9.a3 ♗c2+ 10.♗d1 ♗xa1 (10...♗f6 11.♖e5 ♗f7 12.♗c2+-) 11.♖d5+, because he gets checkmated: 11...♗f6 12.♗g5+ ♗g6 13.♗d3+ ♗h5 14.♗e3+ ♗g4 15.♖g5# B.Wall – J.Wall, Taylorsville 1977.

In the game Pace – Briffa, La Valeta 1996, Black gave back the piece with: 8...♗7f6 9.cxd5+ ♖xd5, in order to manage to trade queens, but after: 10.♖xd5+ ♗xd5 11.♗c4 c6 12.♗c3 g6 13.0-0 ♗d6 14.♗xd5 cxd5 15.♗f4+ ♗c6 16.♗b3+-, his position was hopeless.

9.d5+ ♗d6 10.♖f7



10...♗e5

White preserves a great advantage in case of: 10...♗b6 11.♗c3 ♗f5 (11...♖e8 12.c5+ ♗xc5 13.♗e3+ ♗b4 14.♗e4! ♗c4 15.a3+ ♗a5 16.♗xc4 b5 17.b4+ ♗a6 18.♗c5+ ♗b6 19.♗e6+ ♗b7 20.♖xe8 ♗xe8 21.♗xb5+-) 12.♗d3! ♗xd3 13.♖e6+ ♗c5 14.♖e3+ ♗xc4 (it is somewhat better for Black to try here: 14...♗d6 15.c5+ ♗d7 16.♖xd3±) 15.b3+ ♗b4 16.♗a3+ ♗xa3 17.♖c5+- Bechler – Schirmer, corr. 1985.

Black does not save the game after: 10...♗b8, because of 11.c5+! The developments are quite forced now: 11...♗d7 (Black is totally crushed in the rest of the variations. See two of them: 11...♗xc5 12.♗e3+ ♗d6 13.♗a3 c6 14.♗f4+ ♗c5 15.dxc6 ♖a5+ 16.♗d2 ♖a4 17.b4+ ♗b6 18.♗e3+ ♗c7 19.♗b5+ ♗xc6 20.♖c4+ ♗d7 21.♖c7+ ♗e8 22.♖xc8+ ♗f7 23.♗c4+ ♗g6 24.♖e6+-; 11...♗e5 12.f4 ♗d4 13.d6 ♗xc5 14.dxc7 ♖xc7 15.♗c3 ♗c6 16.♗b5+ ♗d6 17.♗e3 ♖a5 18.♖c4 ♗c6 19.b4 ♖xb4 20.♗c5+ ♖xc5 21.♗d1+-) 12.♗b5+ c6 13.dxc6+ bxc6 14.0-0 ♖a5

Chapter 11

(Black loses after: 14...♖e8 15.♞d1+ ♕c7 16.♙f4+ ♖b7 17.♙a6+, Ochsner – Sorensen, Arhus 1985, as well as after: 14...♕c7, Ragjalis – Kaunas, USSR 1979, 15.♙f4+ ♖b7 16.♖b3! ♜fd7 17.♙xc6+ ♕xc6 18.♖f3+ ♕xc5 19.♞c1+ ♖b6 20.♖b3+ ♕a6 21.♖c4+ ♖b7 22.♖d5+ ♕a6 23.♙c7+-; 16...a5 17.♙xc6+ ♕xc6 18.♞d1 ♖xd1+ 19.♖xd1+- and despite the approximate material equality, Black is lost, because of the helplessness of his king.) 15.♙c4 ♕c7, Hammar – D.Cramling, Lulea 1980, 16.♙f4+ ♕d8 (in case of 16...♖b7, White continues with his attack by playing: 17.b4 ♖a4 18.♜c3 ♖a3 19.b5! This move wins. That is just one of the lines: 19...a6 20.♞ab1 axb5 21.♜xb5 cxb5 22.c6+ and Black loses material: 22...♜xc6 23.♞xb5+ ♕a7 24.♙e3+ ♖xe3 25.fxe3+-) 17.♞d1+ ♙d7 18.♜d2 ♖xc5 19.♜b3 ♖b6 20.♙e3 ♖c7 21.♜c5 ♕c8 22.♜xd7 ♜bxd7 23.♞xd7! ♜xd7. It is inconceivable where Black can find an improvement, meanwhile now he falls under a checkmating attack. 24.♙f4! e5 25.♙a6+ ♕d8 26.♙g5+ ♜f6 27.♞d1+ ♙d6 28.♙xf6+ gxf6 29.♖xf6+ ♕d7 30.♖g7+ ♕e6 31.♙c4+ ♕f5 32.g4+ ♕e4 33.♖g5 and White checkmates on the next move.

11.♙f4 c5

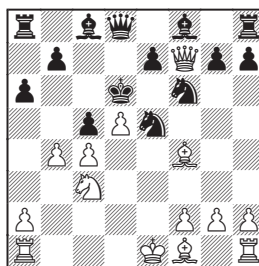
This is the only move for Black.

He loses after 11...e6? 12.dxe6 ♙xe6 13.c5+, or 11...♖e8? 12.

♖xe8 ♜xe8 13.♜c3+-.

In answer to 11...b6, Carrion Lara – Rijkssen, Alkmaar 1985 White wins with: 12.♜a3! a6 (12...♙f5 13.c5+ ♕d7 14.♙xe5 a6 15.cxb6 cxb6 16.♜c4 b5 17.♙d3 ♙xd3 18.♖e6+ ♕e8 19.♜d6+ ♖xd6 20.♙xd6+-) 13.c5+ ♕xc5 14.♙xe5+-.

12.♜c3 a6 13.b4!



Now, Black's position is beyond salvation after: 13...cxb4. In the variation: 14.c5+ ♕xc5 15.♜a4+ ♕d6 16.♜b2! (Keres) he has no defence against the threats ♜c4+, or ♜d3, for example: 16...b5 17.♜d3 ♜fg4 18.♜xe5 ♜xe5 19.♖h5 ♕c7 20.♖xe5 and White's attack progresses and the material is practically equal: 20...♕d7 21.♙e2 ♖a5 22.d6 b3+ 23.♙d2 ♖a4 24.♞c1 ♕e8 25.♙h5+ g6 26.♙f3+-.

It is not sufficient for Black to defend with: 13...♖c7 14.0-0-0 ♜fg4 (14...g6 15.♙xe5+ ♕xe5 16.d6! ♖c6 17.g3! g5 18.f4+ gxf4 19.♞d5!!+-) 15.♙e2! ♕d7 16.♙xg4+ ♕d8. In the game Votava – Sarkozy, Czechoslovakia 1988, Black failed to find any satisfactory defence after: 17.d6!+-.