
















Contents

Symbols	4
Dedication	4
Acknowledgements	4
Bibliography	5
Introduction	6
Typical Najdorf Themes	9
1 Fischer Attack: 6 ♖c4	14
2 6 f3 ♗b6 and 6 ♗e3 ♘g4	24
3 6 ♗e3 e5 and the English Attack	37
4 Fianchetto Variation: 6 g3	55
5 Classical Najdorf: 6 ♗e2 e5	63
6 The Aggressive 6 f4	73
7 Gelfand Variation: 6 ♗g5 e6 7 f4 ♘bd7	82
8 Kasparov Variation: 6 ♗g5 e6 7 f4 ♗c7	91
9 Poisoned Pawn and Polugaevsky Variations	98
10 Main Line: 6 ♗g5 e6 7 f4 ♗e7	116
11 White's Sixth-Move Alternatives	131
Index of Variations	142

8 Kasparov Variation: 6 g5 e6 7 f4 c7

The variations arising from 6 g5 e6 7 f4 c7 have not been analysed in as much detail as the more popular Poisoned Pawn or the Main Line, so there is still plenty of opportunity for independent analysis. The move 7...c7 was the choice of a young Garry Kasparov; he played several interesting games in this line early in his career before moving on to prefer the Poisoned Pawn Variation. One of the ideas behind 7...c7 is to meet White's typical plan involving f3 and e5 with ...b5 and ...b7; Black is also well-positioned to play ...b4 before White is able to respond with the thematic d5 piece sacrifice. Several of these lines can transpose into the Gelfand Variation or the Main Line, so it is beneficial to be familiar with these lines also.

Game 17 (Anand-Kramnik) features Kramnik's first outing with 7...c7; this was a must-win game for the 14th World Champion. Anand plays the positional line 8 xf6 to weaken Black's pawn-structure, and after 8...gxf6 9 f5 Kramnik chooses 9...c5 instead of the more usual 9...c6. Black's attempt to unbalance the position with the double-edged novelty 12...exf5!? is met by the precise 13 e3!, seizing two critical diagonals and creating some tactical possibilities involving the weakened d5-square. Kramnik goes astray with 17...f5? instead of the more accurate 17...e6!, which allows Anand to defuse the tension and force an exchange of queens into a slightly advantageous endgame. The players agree to a draw and Anand retains his world championship title by the score of 6½ points to 4½ points. This was a relatively short but interesting encounter because of Kramnik's opening novelty and the tense competitive situation.


In **Game 18** (Stellwagen-Hillarp Persson), White chooses the sharp 8 f3. Black plays the timely 11...h5! to grab some space on the kingside before White can clamp down with h5. The middlegame is a typical Sicilian slugfest: Stellwagen wins a pawn on the kingside at the cost of tying up his queen and knight along the h-file, while Hillarp Persson strikes out on the queenside with 20...a5!? to loosen up White's king position. The tension culminates in an exciting combination by Black to create mating threats, but White is able to counter precisely and force a draw by repetition. The main theme of this game is the importance of piece activity: Black sacrificed his h-pawn, but in return he was able to draw two of White's pieces out of play and create strong attacking threats on the queenside.

Game 17 [B96]

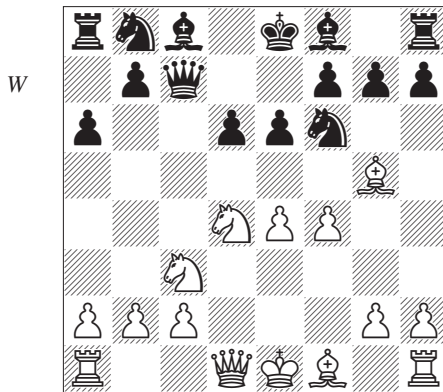
Viswanathan Anand – Vladimir Kramnik

World Ch match (game 11), Bonn 2008

1 e4 c5 2 f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 xd4 f6 5 c3 a6 6 g5 e6 7 f4 c7 (D)

The queen moves out of the pin, restrains White's e5 pawn advance and prepares ...b5 and ...b7. Kramnik was trailing in the World

Championship match by the score of 6 points to 4 points with two games left to play, so in this must-win situation his usual Petroff or Berlin Ruy Lopez would not be suitable choices – critical games demand the Najdorf!

**8 ♗xf6**

White weakens Black's pawn-structure but concedes the bishop-pair; now it will be difficult for Black to castle kingside. Alternatives:

a) 8 ♖f3 is the subject of Game 18.

b) 8 f5!? (White increases the pressure on e6 at the cost of conceding the e5-square to Black's pieces) 8...♗e7 9 fxe6 fxe6 10 ♖d3 ♘c6 (also reasonable is 10...♘g4!? 11 ♗xe7 ♖xe7 12 ♘f3 ♘c6 13 ♖d2 0-0 and "Black has a good game thanks to his control over e5" – Arizmendi and Moreno) 11 0-0-0 ♗d7 12 ♗e2 (Nataf-Bruzon, Capablanca Memorial, Havana 2002) 12...♘e5!? 13 ♖h3 0-0 14 ♗hf1 ♗ae8 with a solid position for Black – Arizmendi and Moreno.

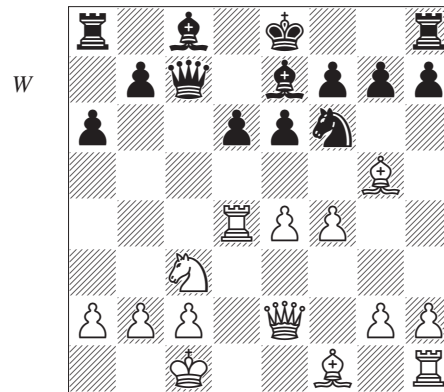
c) 8 ♗d3 b5! 9 ♖e2 b4! (Black drives the knight away from the centre before White has the possibility of sacrificing the piece on d5) 10 ♘d1 ♘bd7 11 ♘f2 ♗b7 12 0-0-0 ♗e7 13 ♗he1 h6! 14 ♗h4 (Nisipeanu-Istratescu, World Junior Ch, Mamaia 1991) 14...g5! 15 fxg5 hxg5 16 ♗xg5 ♖a5 17 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 "with excellent compensation for the pawn" – Emms.

d) 8 ♖e2 ♘c6! (Black exploits the momentary lack of coordination between the white pieces by challenging White's central knight) 9 0-0-0 ♘xd4 10 ♗xd4 ♗e7 (D).

Now:

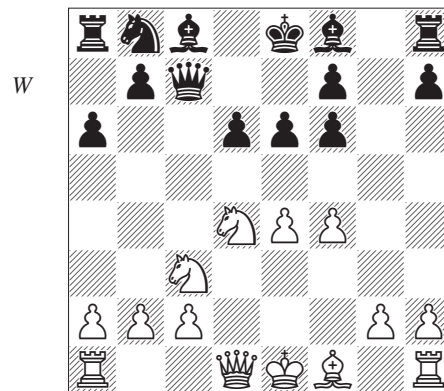
d1) 11 e5?! dxe5 12 fxe5 ♘d5 13 ♗d2 (13 ♗xe7?! ♘xe7 {13...♘xc3!? is possibly even better, contrary to Kasparov's analysis} 14 ♘e4 0-0 left White with a vulnerable e5-pawn in Ivanchuk-Kasparov, Tilburg 1989) 13...♘xc3 14 ♗xc3 b5 with equal chances.

d2) 11 g3 ♗d7! 12 ♗g2 h6 13 ♗h4 ♗c6 was fine for Black in Ljubojević-Kasparov, Belgrade



1989. This game is annotated by Igor Stohl in *Garry Kasparov's Greatest Chess Games, Volume 1*.

d3) 11 g4!? h6 12 ♗h4 g5 13 e5!? dxe5 14 ♗c4 ♖b8 15 fxg5 hxg5 16 ♗g3 ♘d7 with sharp play, Naiditsch-Swiercz, European Ch, Budva 2009.

8...gxf6 (D)**9 f5**

This is the logical follow-up to increase the pressure on Black's centre. Alternatives:

a) 9 ♖h5?! (the queen excursion is popular but dubious, as now Black is able to force a favourable exchange of queens) 9...♖c5! 10 ♖xc5 dxc5 11 ♘b3 ♗d6 12 g3 ♗e7 13 ♗g2 ♗a7! 14 0-0-0 ♗d8 15 a4 b6 with a comfortable position for Black as he will follow up with ...♗ad7 and ...♗c7, Kamsky-Svidler, FIDE Grand Prix, Baku 2008.

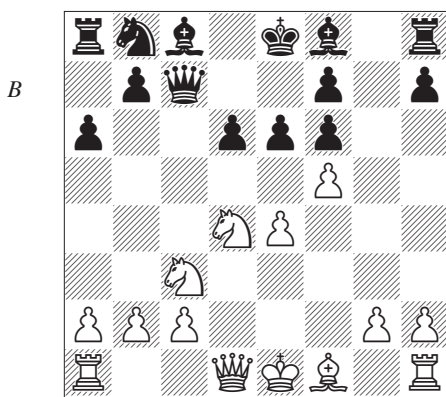
b) 9 ♖d2 ♘c6 (Black's kingside pawn-structure has been compromised, so he focuses on preparing to castle queenside; this transposes

into a solid line of the Richter-Rauzer Attack {ECO code B67} and is safer than the popular alternative 9...b5) 10 0-0-0 ♗d7 11 ♖b1 0-0-0 and then:

b1) 12 ♗c4 ♖b8 13 ♗xc6+ ♖xc6 14 ♗b3 h5 15 ♖hf1 ♖c5 16 ♖d3 (Topalov-Anand, Dortmund 1997) 16...♗e7 17 f5 ♖dg8 18 ♖h3 ♖g4! was recommended by Leko to keep an eye on the e4-pawn; the chances are equal.

b2) 12 ♗e2 h5 13 ♖hf1 ♖b8 14 ♖f3 ♗xd4 (another idea is 14...h4 with equal chances, Manik-Stocek, Slovakian Team Ch 2007/8) 15 ♖xd4 ♗e7 16 ♖d2 ♖dg8 looks reasonable for Black, as suggested by Arizmendi and Moreno.

We now return to 9 f5 (D):



9...♖c5

Black has a solid alternative in 9...♗c6 10 fxe6 fxe6 11 ♗c4 ♗xd4 12 ♖xd4 ♖g8 13 0-0-0 ♗d7 14 ♗b3, and now:

a) 14...0-0-0 15 g3 ♗e7 16 ♗a4 ♖b8 (after 16...♖g5?! 17 ♖d3 White has a slight advantage, Radjabov-Grishchuk, FIDE Grand Prix, Sochi 2008) 17 ♗b6 ♖g4 is equal.

b) 14...♖xg2! 15 ♖xf6 ♖d8 16 ♖d4 ♖g5+ 17 ♖b1 ♖c5 18 ♖h8 0-0-0 19 ♖xh7 ♗g7 20 ♖h3 ♖g6 and Black's bishop-pair provides adequate compensation for the pawn, Smirnov-Nayer, Russian Ch, Novokuznetsk 2008.

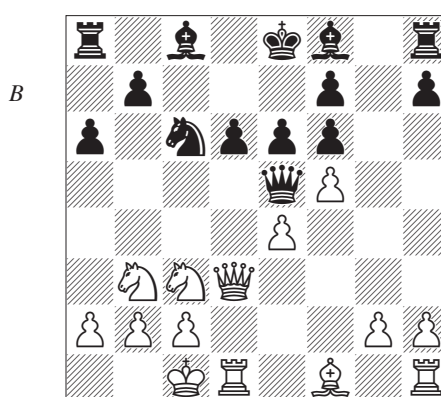
10 ♖d3

The queen development prepares for queen-side castling and covers the sensitive e3-square so that the d4-knight can retreat.

10...♗c6 11 ♗b3 ♖e5 12 0-0-0 (D)

12...exf5!?

Kramnik introduces a new move, but such a double-edged idea is not to everyone's taste



since it concedes the d5-square to White's pieces. A more typical plan would be for Black to maintain his control over the central squares via 12...♗d7 13 ♗d2 b5 with a balanced position.

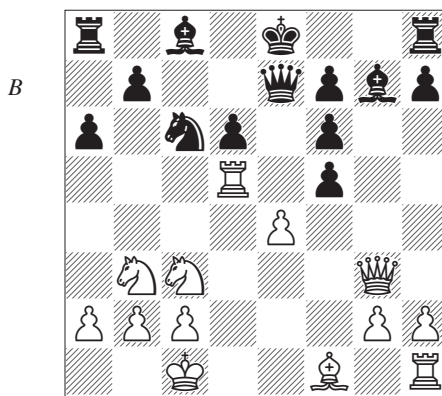
13 ♖e3!

Anand seizes some dark squares and clears d5 for his rook. The queen move is more incisive than 13 ♗d5 ♗h6+ 14 ♖b1 ♖f8 with sharp play: Black's king has been displaced, but his bishop-pair could become powerful.

13...♗g7

Kramnik defends the f6-pawn as 13...fxe4 14 ♖d5 ♖e6 15 ♗d4 ♗xd4 16 ♖xd4 ♗d7 17 ♗xe4 gives White a dangerous lead in development.

14 ♖d5 ♖e7 15 ♖g3 (D)



15...♖g8

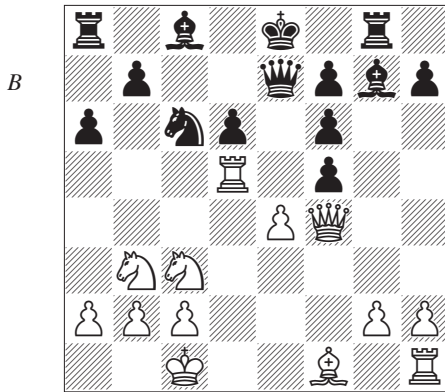
The alternatives are unappetizing:

a) 15...0-0 16 exf5 ♖e8 17 ♗d3 ♗b4 18 ♖d4 ♗xd3+ 19 ♖xd3 and White has a clear plus thanks to his grip on d5.

b) 15...♙h6+ 16 ♖b1 f4 17 ♗h4 ♙g5 18 ♗f2 f5 19 ♙d3 favours White thanks to his superior development.

16 ♗f4 (D)

Anand keeps up the pressure and avoids simplification. It is too early to recapture material with 16 ♗xd6? fxe4 17 ♗xe7+ ♗xe7 18 ♗h5 f5 19 ♗xh7 ♙e6 20 ♗c5 0-0-0, when Black has an edge thanks to his passed e4-pawn.



16...fxe4

Another idea is 16...♙e6 17 ♗d1 (17 exf5?? ♙xd5 18 ♗xd5 ♗e1#) 17...fxe4 (17...0-0-0 18 exf5 ♙d7 19 ♙d3 with a slight advantage for White due to his control over e4 and d5) 18 ♗xe4 ♙g4! 19 ♗d3 (19 ♗xd6+?! ♖f8 20 ♙c4 ♙xd1 21 ♗xd1 ♗e5 is fine for Black) 19...♖f8 20 h3 ♙e6 and Black can maintain the balance.

17 ♗xe4 f5?

Now Black is left struggling for a draw. There was still time to transpose to the note to Black's 16th move by 17...♙e6!, as White has nothing better than 18 ♗d1.

18 ♗xd6+ ♖f8 19 ♗xc8 ♗xc8 20 ♖b1 ♗e1+ 21 ♗c1 ♗e7 22 ♗d2!

Black is compelled to exchange queens because of the mating threat on d8.

22...♗xd2 23 ♗xd2 ♙h6 24 ♗f2 ♙e3 1/2-1/2

Kramnik made Anand a draw offer he could not refuse. Although White has a slight advantage after 25 ♗f3, the draw clinched victory in the world championship match for Anand.

Game 18 [B96]

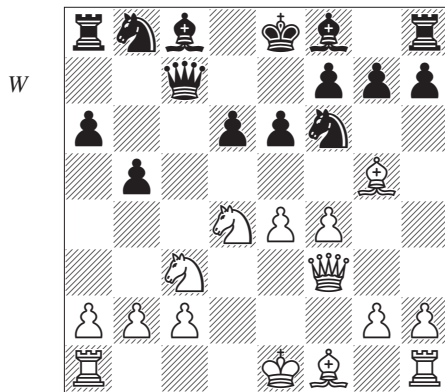
Daniel Stellwagen – Tiger Hillarp Persson

Malmö 2008

1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 a6 6 ♙g5 e6 7 f4 ♗c7 8 ♗f3

The queen development is White's most popular choice. 8 ♙xf6 is covered in Game 17, along with White's 8th-move alternatives.

8...b5 (D)



9 ♙xf6

White has a wide range of options:

a) 9 e5?! ♙b7 10 ♗g3 ♗d5 11 ♗xd5 ♙xd5 12 f5 dxe5 13 fxe6 fxe6 14 0-0-0 (Gorovkyh-Brodsky, Peterhof 2009) 14...♗d7 leaves White with insufficient compensation for the pawn.

b) 9 f5?! (this line has fallen out of favour) 9...b4! 10 ♗cb5 (White must avoid 10 fxe6?? bxc3 11 ♙xf6 cxb2 12 ♗b1 gxf6 13 ♗xf6 ♗c3+ 14 ♖f2 ♙xe6 15 ♗xh8 ♗c6 and Black wins) 10...axb5 11 ♙xb5+ ♙d7 12 fxe6 ♙xb5 13 ♗xb5 ♗c5 14 ♙xf6 fxe6! 15 ♗d4 gxf6 16 ♗xe6 ♗c4 17 ♗xf6 ♗d7! favours Black as White's attack has run out of steam, Molander-Moreno, Port Erin 2003. My database contains more than 30 games with this position, while Arizmendi and Moreno provide detailed coverage of this line.

c) 9 ♙d3 b4! 10 ♗ce2 ♗bd7 11 0-0-0 ♙b7 12 ♖b1 ♙e7 13 ♗he1 ♗c5 gives Black easy