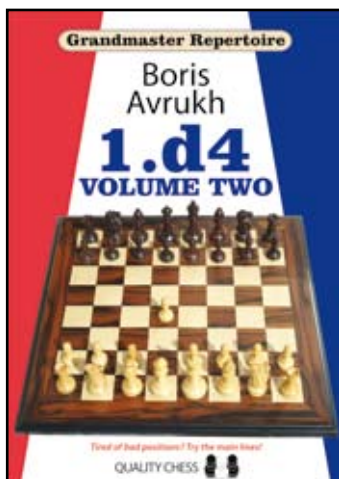


Grandmaster Repertoire 2

1.d4 - Volume Two

By

Boris Avrukh



This is a pdf excerpt from the book *Grandmaster Repertoire 2 - 1.d4 Volume Two* by Boris Avrukh, published by Quality Chess.

Publisher's Foreword

Creating the Grandmaster Repertoire series seemed a natural idea. There is a glut of opening books at the *Starting Out* level. These books have certainly been refreshing, but they have almost completely replaced high-level opening books.

As chess fans, we felt we were missing out, and because we can, we decided to do something about it.

The books in the Grandmaster Repertoire series are written by grandmasters, edited by grandmasters, and will certainly be read by grandmasters. **This does not mean that players who are not grandmasters cannot read them.** We have worked hard to make our books clear in their presentation and to make it possible for the readers to decide the depth to which they want to study them.

When we were young and trying to be up-and-coming, we understood that you do not have to remember everything in an opening book in order to use it. It is our hope that those readers who find this repertoire too extensive and detailed, will ignore many of the details. Even now that we are grandmasters, we see the bolded moves as what we want to memorize, and the notes as explanations and illustrations.

It is our conviction that you will eventually be more successful by playing the main lines, simply because they are based on better moves. Instinctively most players know this, but they fear losing to a prepared line and thus turn to unambitious systems, or unhealthy surprises. The opponent will not be able to use his preparation but, sadly, will not need it. These sidelines generally end in uninspiring positions almost automatically.

Possibly the main reason why high-level opening books have disappeared is the rise of databases. It has been assumed that there is no point in having traditional opening books anymore, as you can look it all up in the database. Some rather lazy authors have a system: collect a few hundred games from the database, give Fritz a few moments, then hit Print. Such books add nothing to chess literature. We have seen enough of them and have never wanted to add to that pile.

In these days of multi-million game databases, we all have access to information, what is lacking is understanding. In the Grandmaster Repertoire series, very strong players will share their understanding and suggest strong new moves that are in no one else's database.

We are excited about this new series and hope that the reader will share some of that excitement.

John Shaw & Jacob Aagaard

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queenside. I evaluate White's position as more promising, for example:

19...♖b8 20.♞xb8 ♘xb8 21.♞e1

Vacating the f1-square for the bishop.

21...♞f8

If 21...g5 then White has an interesting sacrifice at his disposal: 22.♗xe4! dxe4 23.♞xe4 White will also win the c6-pawn and his pawn chain will become very dangerous.

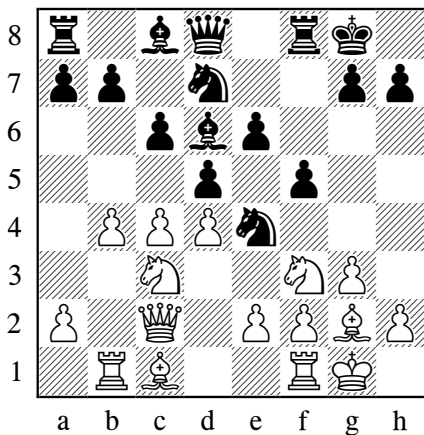
22.♘f1 ♗f6 23.♞a4±

White has an easy plan to seize the initiative, which includes ♘d2, ♖b1, ♘a6 and so on.

B42) 9...♗d7

A natural idea to bring his second knight into the game.

10.b4



Here we have a further branching point.

B421) 10...♗df6 11.c5!

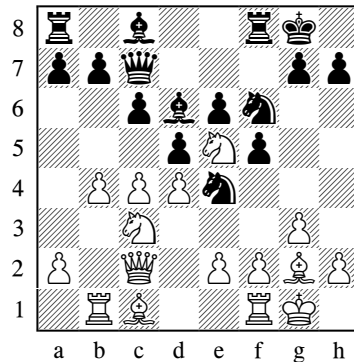
A remarkable moment; White avoids the natural-looking 11.b5, since it would allow Black to force favourable simplifications:

11...♗xc3 12.♞xc3 cxb5! 13.c5 (13.♞xb5 b6! also does not promise White much) 13...♗e4 14.♞c2 ♘e7 15.♞xb5 b6! 16.cxb6 ♘d7 17.♞b2 axb6= Stefansson – Radjabov, Torshavn 2000.

However, worthy of consideration was:

11.♗e5!? ♞c7

In the event of 11...♗xc3 12.♞xc3 ♗e4 13.♞c2 White retains an advantage.



12.♘f4!N

This move is clearly stronger than 12.f3 ♗xc3 13.♞xc3 b6 14.c5?! ♘e5 15.dxe5 ♗d7 16.♘f4 bxc5 17.bxc5 ♘a6 when Black was already better in J. Szabo – Hajnal, Hungary 1997.

12...♗xc3

Black also fails to solve his opening problems by: 12...g5 13.♗xe4 ♗xe4 14.c5 (14.♘c1!?) 14...gxf4 15.cxd6 ♗xd6 16.gxf4 White keeps a stable positional edge.

13.♞xc3 ♗h5 14.♘e3 ♗f6 15.♞fc1 ♗e4 16.♞b2±

White enjoys a pleasant game.

11...♘c7 12.♘f4

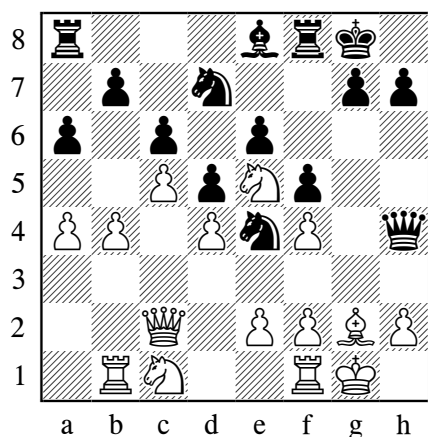
The following encounter is a very good illustration of what might happen in this type of position:

12...♘xf4 13.gxf4 ♘d7 14.♗e5 ♘e8 15.a4 a6 16.♗a2!

A strong positional idea; White not only creates the threat of trapping Black's knight by 17.f3, but also transfers his knight to d3.

16...♟d7 17.♟c1 ♖h4

It is very important that Black cannot play 17...♟xe5, since after 18.dxe5 d4 (otherwise f2-f3 would trap the knight) 19.♟a2± Black is going to lose his d-pawn.



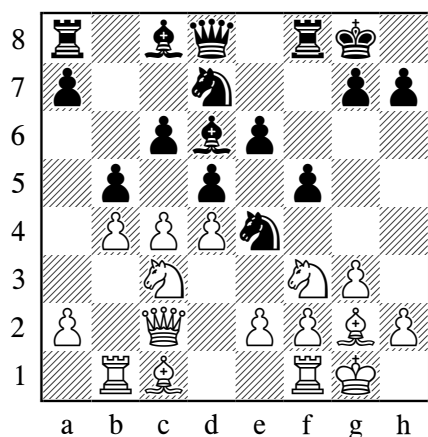
18.e3!N

In my opinion 18.♟cd3, as in Grabuzova – Burchardt, Germany 1995, is not so accurate, since it allows Black to create counterplay with 18...♟xe5! 19.dxe5 d4.

18...♟ef6 19.♟b3! ♟h5 20.♟a5±

White retains a long-term advantage.

B422) 10...b5!?



This very interesting attempt to stop White's queenside offensive was recommended in *Win with the Stonewall Dutch*. After some time analysing the position, I found an aggressive way to deal with this line.

11.cxb5 ♟xc3 12.♖xc3 cxb5

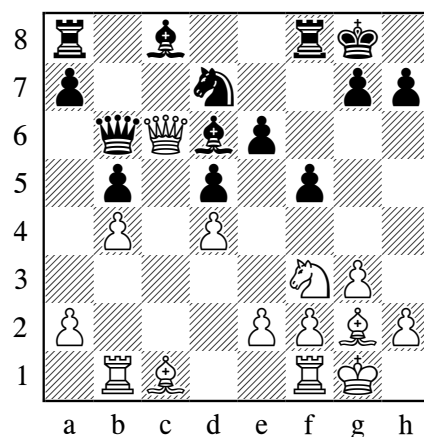
In my opinion the critical continuation is:

13.♖c6!N

13.♟g5 has been played, but after 13...♖b6 14.♖fc1 ♟b7 15.♖e3 ♖fe8 16.♟f4 ♟xf4 17.gxf4 ♖d6 18.♟e5 ♖ac8 Black equalized easily in Kerek – C. Horvath, Aggtelek 1997.

13...♖b6

The point of Black's idea – the white queen is going to be trapped on a8.



14.♖xa8!!

But we are not frightened of this trap – there are opportunities for White here as well.

Now Black is at a crossroads. He must decide which minor piece to place on b8, since I believe the position with two rooks versus queen, which might appear after 14...♟b7 15.♖xf8†, is favourable for White in the long run.

14...♟b8

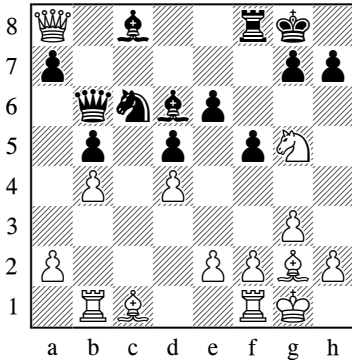
The alternative is:

14...♖b8 15.♘g5!

An important tactical idea.

15...♗c6

After 15...♗b7 16.♖xb7 ♖xb7 17.♘xe6 ♞e8 18.♘c5 ♖f7 19.e3 White is clearly better due to the permanent weakness on d5.



16.a3!

White is ready to play ♖xc8 next.

16...♗d7 17.♖xf8† ♗xf8 18.e3

More accurate than 18.♞d1 a5 19.bxa5 ♘xa5, as in this case Black has good counterplay.

18...a5 19.♗d2!

White is better.

15.♘g5 ♗b7

The other option is:

15...♗f6

Now White has a strong move:

16.♞b3! ♗b7

Practically forced, as 16...h6 loses to 17.♘xe6! ♗xe6 18.♞c3, and White's queen escapes.

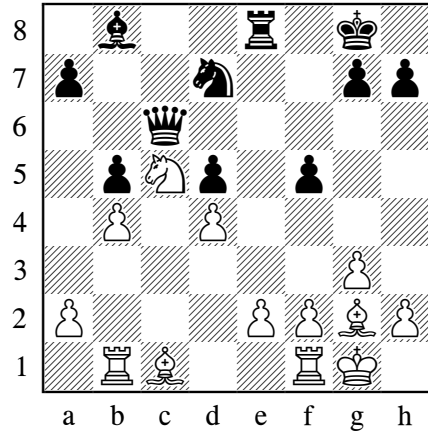
17.♖xb7 ♖xb7 18.♘xe6 ♞e8 19.♘c5 ♖f7 20.e3!±

In my opinion White has the better chances, as he will slowly prepare to open up the position on the queenside, or penetrate along the c-file, while Black is rather passive.

It should be noted that 15...♞e8 loses in one go to 16.♗xd5!

16.♖xb7 ♖xb7 17.♘xe6 ♞e8 18.♘c5 ♖c6

Certainly 18...♘xc5? would be a serious mistake in this case, as after 19.dxc5 ♞xe2 20.♞d1 Black's central pawn is falling and White gains a strategically winning position, since his c-pawn should decide the issue.



Now White has a pleasant choice between two options:

19.♗f3 ♘b6 20.♞b3 ♘c4 (20...g6 21.♞a3!±) 21.♞c3 Followed by opening the a-file with a2-a4.

19.♘xd7 ♖xd7 20.e3 ♞c8 21.♗b2 ♞c4 22.♞fc1±

In either case only White can play for a win.

B43) 9...a5 10.a3

