

*Grandmaster Repertoire 11*

# Beating 1.d4 Sidelines

By

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# Preface

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## By the Author

Explaining the contents of a repertoire book is normally a simple process, but for this book a little more effort is required. It is a repertoire for Black against 1.d4 when White avoids the main lines that result after 2.c4. So far, so simple.

There are two complicating factors – our choice against the minor lines will automatically be constrained by the main line we had hoped to reach, and I wish to cater for a variety of black defences. It would be easier to create a repertoire that, for example, starts 1...♘f6 and 2...e6, but of course that would have little relevance to those who intend to play the King's Indian. Instead I have created a range of black repertoires with the aim of making the book compatible with all the main defences to 1.d4. If you play the King's Indian, Grünfeld, Nimzo-Indian or meet 1.d4 with 1...d5 main lines, then the present book should cover virtually everything you need to know.

I must admit that I have not made the book compatible with every possible black defence. For example, if you are a Chigorin fan who likes to meet 1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 with 2...♗c6 then you are on your own. My apologies, but to cover every possible black defence would have been hopelessly impractical.

The book is split into four sections:

### 1) 1.d4 d5 lines

The main options considered here are the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit, the Veresov Opening and the London System, as well as options such as 2.♗g5 and 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♗g5.

### 2) 1.d4 ♘f6 without 2.c4 or 2.♘f3

This section is almost entirely devoted to the Trompowsky – 2.♗g5. My reply is the ambitious 2...♗e4.

### 3) 1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 lines

The most important lines here are 3.e3 – the Colle and Colle-Zukertort – plus the Torre Attack with 3.♗g5 and the nameless 3.g3 system.

### 4) 1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 lines

The main options in this final section are 3.♗g5, 3.♗f4 and 3.g3. In the case of 3.g3, after 3...♗g7 4.♗g2 0–0 5.0–0 I cover both 5...d5 and 5...d6, so both Grünfeld and King's Indian players will

be happy. On the 6th move I cover all White's serious options excluding 6.c4, as of course that would transpose to a main line.

Throughout the book I have selected sound yet ambitious lines for Black. I expect the reader would like to play for a win, despite the implied disadvantage of the black pieces, so I have as far as possible avoided lines that lead to dead-drawn positions. I am happy that I have found many original ideas, so I hope and expect that my variations will serve the reader well. Good luck!

Boris Avrukh  
Beer-Sheva, September 2012

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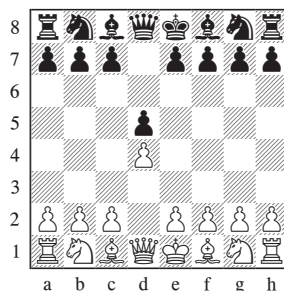
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# Chapter 1

## 1.d4 d5

### Rare 2nd Moves

### Variation Index

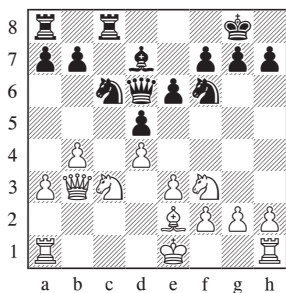


1.d4

1...d5

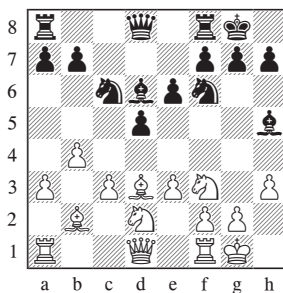
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A) note to 4.♙g5



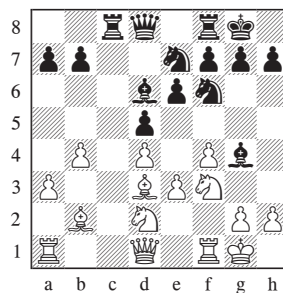
12...♙c7!N

B1) after 12.a3



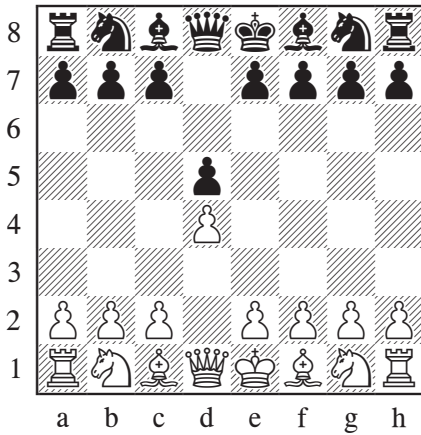
12...♘e5!N

B2) note to 8.♙e1



12...♙f5!N

## 1.d4 d5



In this, our first chapter of the book, we will pay attention to the following two moves: **A) 2.a3!** and **B) 2.e3**. In my view, these are the only two rare moves that are worth examining in detail. However, I will offer a few thoughts about the array of obscure alternatives.

If you check your database, you will see that virtually every legal move has been played at one time or another, but no serious player should require a book to provide recommendations against options such as 2.♙e3, 2.♚d3 and 2.b4.

Moves such as 2.♘d2 and 2.c3 are more sensible, but they are unlikely to have much independent value. Black should respond with 2...♘f6, when the play is likely to transpose to some other recognized variation sooner or later.

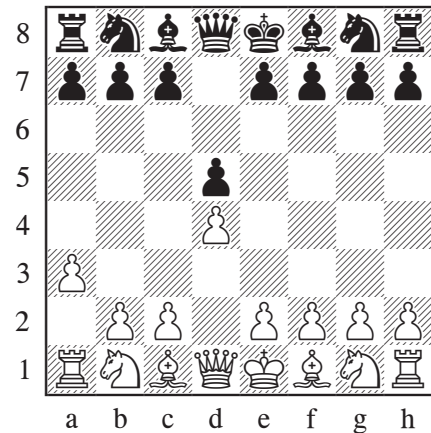
2.g3 can be compared with the 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.g3 line examined in Chapter 13, in which I recommend a set-up with ...d7-d5 and ...b7-b5. The simplest reply is 2...♘f6 3.♙g2 e6, when White hardly has anything better than 4.c4 transposing to a Catalan, or 4.♘f3 b5 transposing to Chapter 13.

If the Catalan transposition takes you out of your repertoire then 3...b5! is a valid alternative move order. White can consider avoiding the normal paths of 4.♘f3 e6, but I don't see an advantageous way for him to do so.

If that sounds too adventurous 3...c6 is a good alternative, followed by ...♙f5 or ...♙g4. I won't be covering this in detail, but rest assured the position is not difficult for Black to handle.

Enough! We could talk all day about these obscure paths, but we need to attend to the (relatively) serious business.

## A) 2.a3!?



What was that about “serious business”? Although the move on the board may look like a joke, there is more to it than meets the eye. It has been championed by the French grandmaster Eric Prié, who gave it the tongue-in-cheek name of “the Grand Prié Attack.” White's idea is to make a useful non-committal move, remaining flexible until the opponent has revealed his intentions. It is surprising how often the move a2-a3 turns out to be useful, and Prié himself has made quite an impressive score with it.

By the way, the 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.a3 move order is also perfectly valid, but the psychological impact of White's 'left hook' is likely to be at its greatest at an early stage of the game.

**2...♘f6**

Obviously 2...c5 would be met by 3.dxc5! when the a2-a3 move gives White every chance of holding on to the extra pawn.

**3.♘f3**

White returns the ball over the net and invites his opponent to determine his set-up.

**3...e6**

This seems like the most reliable choice. Prié has managed to make a2-a3 look surprisingly useful against most of Black's other plausible moves.

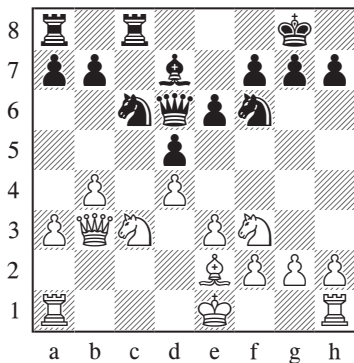
**4.♙g5**

**4.♙f4**

This has been played, but the straightforward London System with an early a2-a3 does not impress. Here is one illustrative example:

4...c5 5.e3 ♘c6 6.c3 ♙d6 7.♙xd6 ♖xd6 8.b4 cxd4 9.cxd4 0-0 10.♘c3 ♙d7 11.♙e2 ♖fc8 12.♞b3

Sitnikov – Kuzmin, Alushta 2010. Here I found an interesting way to highlight White's slight lag in development:



12...♞c7!N

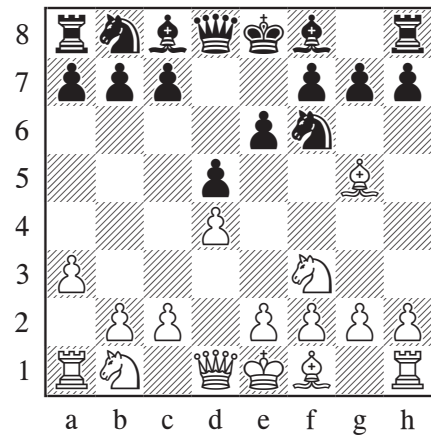
In the game Black opted for 12...e5 which is also quite okay.

13.♞c1 a5! 14.0-0

Black's main point is 14.b5 a4! when the following line is virtually forced: 15.♞b2 ♘a5 16.♘d2 ♘b3! 17.♘xb3 axb3 18.0-0 [18.♞xb3 ♘e4+] 18...♞a5 19.a4 ♞b4 20.f3 ♞c4! 21.♙xc4 dxc4 22.e4 ♙e8 followed by ...♘d7-b6 with excellent compensation.

14...axb4 15.axb4 ♖d6 16.b5 ♞a3 17.♞b2 ♞b4

Black is better, although White probably should hold.



**4...c5 5.c3**

Prié has always chosen this move, although 5.e3 is likely to transpose after 5...♘c6 6.c3.

**5...♘c6**

5...♘bd7 6.e3 ♙d6 is also pretty reliable.

**6.e3 h6!?**

This has only been played once, but it seems to me like a good time to hit the bishop.

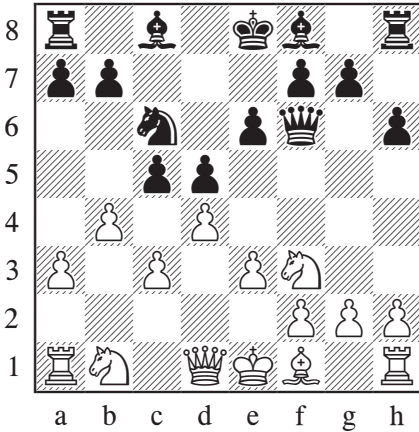
**7.♙xf6**

After 7.♙h4 Black might seriously consider 7...g5! 8.♙g3 ♘e4.

**7...♞xf6 8.b4**



This position occurred in Prié – Bareev, Ajaccio (blitz) 2007. Here the most straightforward continuation is:



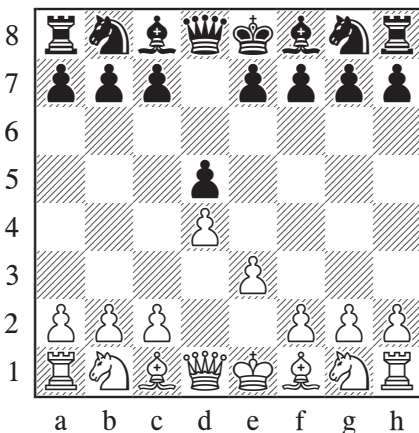
**8...cxd4N**

In the game Black played extremely ambitiously with 8...c4! and eventually prevailed. This path may also appeal to some readers.

**9.cxd4 ♖d6 10.♗c3 0–0 11.♙d3 ♙d7 12.0–0 ♜ac8**

Black has two bishops and healthy prospects. White's reversed ...a6-Slav formation gives him a solid position too, but he can hardly fight for the advantage.

**B) 2.e3**



This move may look dull, but appearances should not always be trusted. White intends to play a Stonewall set-up with an extra tempo, which could easily lead to a kingside attack if Black is not careful.

**2...♗f6 3.♙d3**

3.f4 c5 4.c3 ♗c6 5.♙d3 ♙g4 transposes to line B2 below, although Black might well consider 3...♙f5 via this move order.

**3...c5 4.c3 ♗c6**

From this position White sometimes reverts to a Colle set-up with **B1) 5.♗f3**, but the most important line is of course **B2) 5.f4**.

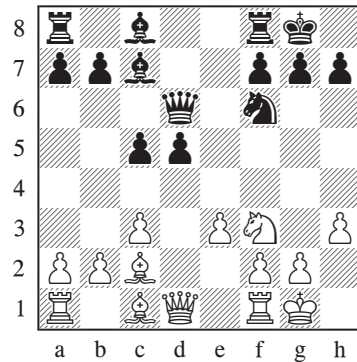
The following alternative is obviously harmless: 5.♗d2 e5 6.dxe5 ♗xe5

Black is already effectively playing with the white pieces. We could leave it there, but I would like to show one illustrative game where he played particularly convincingly.

**7.♙c2 ♙d6 8.♗gf3 0–0 9.♗xe5**

9.0–0 ♙g4 10.h3 ♙h5 11.g4 was played in Tech – Salimbatat, Los Angeles 2003, and here 11...♙g6N 12.♗xe5 ♙xe5 13.f4 ♙xc2 14.♜xc2 ♙c7 15.g5 ♗h5 16.♗f3 ♜e7 would have preserved Black's advantage.

**9...♙xe5 10.♗f3 ♙c7 11.0–0 ♜d6 12.h3**



**12...♗e4!?**

Initiating favourable simplifications. 12...♜e8 would also have maintained an edge.

**13.♙xe4 dxe4 14.♜xd6 ♙xd6 15.♗d2 f5**