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Unknown Weapons in the Grünfeld by Milos Pavlovic

The Grünfeld Defence is one of the most dynamic openings for Black. This opening was developed by two famous World Champions, namely Bobby Fischer and Garry Kasparov.

While the theory is still far from being exhausted and still developing our author Grandmaster Milos Pavlovic made a strong case and found new alternatives to battle White's setups. This is his first book for Thinkers Publishing, in a series that will surely become very popular among its readers.

Grandmaster Milos Pavlovic was born in Belgrade in 1964. So far he won many chess tournaments worldwide. In 2002 he became the Yugoslav Champion. He is a well know theoretician, already the author of three widely appraised books and he wrote numerous articles published in various Chess magazines. Currently he is also writing for Chess Publishing and ChessBase.

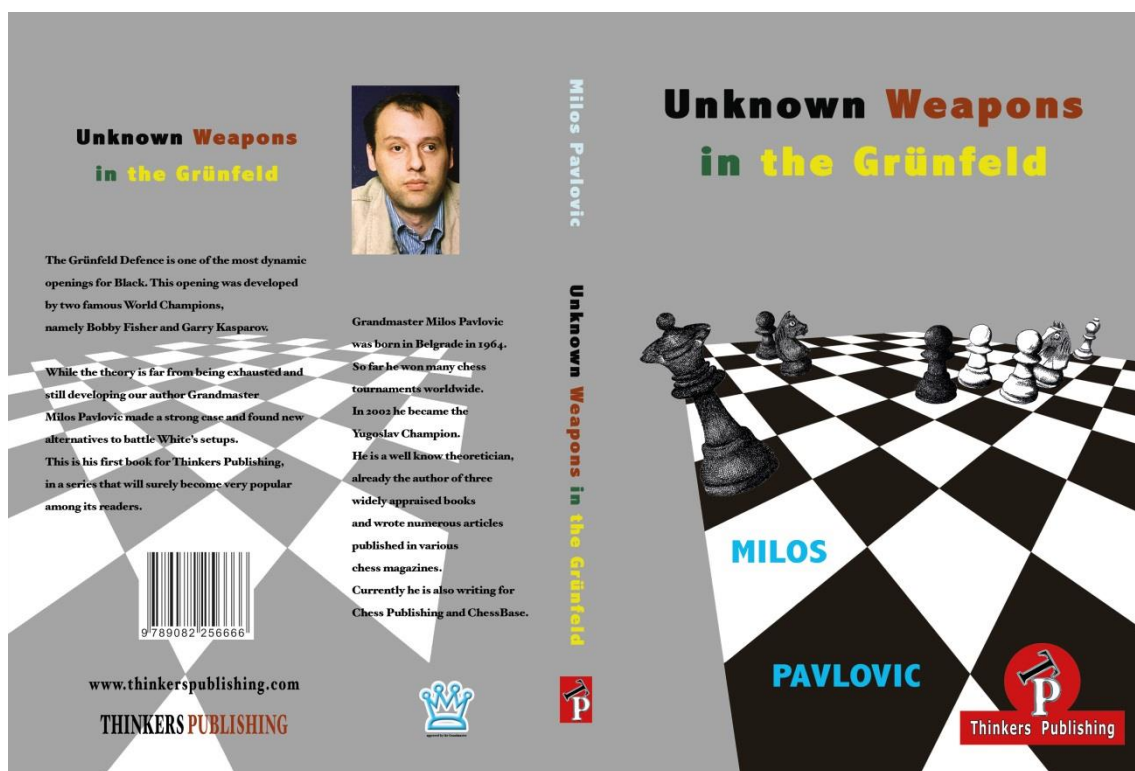


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Unknown Weapons in the Grünfeld

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Contents

Key to Symbols used & Bibliography	4
Preface	6
Chapter 1 – Modern 3. f3 line.....	7
Chapter 2 – 4. ♘f4 line.....	21
Chapter 3 – 4. ♘g5 line.....	49
Chapter 4 – Russian line (4/5. ♖b3)	69
Part I – with ♘f3: 4. ♘f3 ♘g7 5. ♖b3.....	69
Part II – without ♘f3: 4. ♖b3 dxc4 5. ♖xc4 ♘g7 6. e4 0-0 7. ♘e2!?	91
Chapter 5 – 4. ♘f3 ♘g7 5. h4 line.....	99
Chapter 6 – 5. ♘a4 line.....	105
Chapter 7 – 5. ♘d2 line.....	111
Chapter 8 – 7. ♘b5+ line.....	123
Chapter 9 – 7. ♖a4+ line.....	131
Chapter 10 – 7. ♘c4 line	139
Chapter 11 – 7. ♘e3 line (7 ...c5).....	161
Part I – 8. ♘f3	161
Part II – 8. ♖b1	187
Chapter 12 – 7. ♘f3 c5 8. ♖b1 line (8 ...0-0 9. ♘e2 ♘c6 10. d5)	195
Part I – 10 ... ♘xc3+!?	195
Part II – 10... ♘e5!?	211

Chapter 1: 3. f3 line

Preface

The Grünfeld has always been a popular opening, but it's popularity was boosted when we entered the new computer era. If there is any opening suitable for our modules it is definitely the Grünfeld. A sharp and at the same time a very precise type of play is needed in order to conduct the game correctly, it is simply a perfect place for our silicon friends to assist us, human players. In this book I am trying to use some old forgotten or rare lines to test how they stand in the modern times.

I tried to cover all critical direct lines that White uses for many decades in order to gain an advantage. Mostly it is about obtaining the center and a direct approach, requiring from Black the utmost accuracy not being rolled over by the strength of white's center pawns. In this book one specific line was brought to life due to some new and sharp tactical ideas.

I am talking about 1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♗c3 d5 4. ♗f3 ♘g7 5. h4!?, a popular and recently discovered idea, although not fully developed yet, we decided to include it here.

When we talk about the 'Fianchetto'-line with g3, this is in my opinion an entirely different approach to chess. To explain what I mean by that I will quote the famous Grandmaster Gligoric who was helping me in my carrier: "g3 can't be combined with other systems because it is simply a different type of chess". Keeping this in my mind I decided not to mix these lines. I do believe that the Grünfeld-g3 lines should be together analyzed with the 'Fianchetto' Ben-Oni and 'Fianchetto' Kings Indian.

Over the last 10 years it shows that among the many top players who are using the Grünfeld, it is an important issue to realize: the Grünfeld Defence is now a hard nut to crack for White, and many players are now simply avoiding it.

Milos Pavlovic, Beograd, October 2015

Unknown Weapons in the Grünfeld

Chapter 1 – 3. f3 line

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. f3



Position after: 3. f3

In the last few years the 3. f3 line is becoming highly popular. It turned from an almost forgotten system to one of the most popular nowadays. The reason for this revival is that White managed to find completely new attacking ideas and the theory developed to a higher level. However we must add that Black also didn't just sit and wait and also launched many interesting ideas. We can state that this line probably is the one that got the biggest boost among the other 1. d4 lines. After the initial 1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. f3 I decided to investigate the ultramodern 3... ♘c6 which I use myself in practice.

3... ♘c6



Position after: 3... ♘c6

Now I separated the material into three major groups: A) 4. d5 ♘e5 which is probably the most important to evaluate this

line. B) 4. e4 having a bad reputation and rightly so. Black has many good ways to achieve equality or even getting better. C) 4. ♘c3 also leading to interesting positions.

Chapter 1 contents

3.f3 ♘c6!?

A) 4. d5	8
B) 4. e4	15
C) 4. ♘c3.....	17

A) 4. d5

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. f3 ♘c6 4. d5



Position after: 4. d5

4... ♘e5 5. e4 d6 6. ♘c3

White has an interesting alternative here: 6. ♘e2 ♙g7 7. ♘ec3 0-0 8. ♙e2 e6 (see analysis diagram)

Chapter 1: 3. f3 line

Analysis diagram



Position after: 8... e6

- A) 9. f4
- B) 9. 0-0

A) 9. f4 ♘ed7 10. 0-0 (10. dxe6 fxe6 11. 0-0 ♘c5 12. ♖c2 b6 13. ♙e3 ♙b7 14. ♘d2 a5 15. ♜ae1 ♖e7 16. ♙f3 ♘fd7 17. g3 a4 18. ♙g2 ♘b8 19. ♘db1 ♘c6∞) 10... exd5 11. cxd5 ♜e8 12. ♙f3 ♘c5 13. ♜e1

A1) 13... h5 14. h3 b5 15. e5 dxe5 16. fxe5 ♘fd7 17. e6 ♘e5 18. ♘xb5 0-1 (32) Nakamura, H (2710) – Svidler, P (2739) Amsterdam 2009 with complicated play and chances for both sides.

A2) 13... c6!N 14. dxc6 ♖b6 15. ♙h1 bxc6

B) 9. 0-0 exd5 10. cxd5 c6 11. dxc6 bxc6 12. ♙e3 ♜e8 (see analysis diagram)

Analysis diagram



Position after: 12... ♜e8

- B1) 13. ♖d2
- B2) 13. ♘d2

B1) 13. ♖d2 d5 14. ♜d1 ♖e7 15. exd5 ♘xd5! 16. ♘xd5 cxd5 17. ♘c3 (17. ♙d4 ♙f5 18. ♘c3 ♘d3! 19. ♙xd3 ♙xd4+) 17... ♘xf3+ 18. ♙xf3 ♙xc3 19. bxc3

♖xe3+ 20. ♖xe3 ♜xe3 21. c4 ♙b7 22. ♜ab1 ♜e7 23. cxd5 ♜ae8=

B2) 13. ♘d2 d5 14. ♘b3 dxe4 15. ♖xd8 ♜xd8 16. fxe4 ♙g4 17. ♙g5 ♙xe2 18. ♘xe2 ♜d6 0-1 (29) Mamedyarov, S (2719) – Carlsen, M (2801) Moscow (blitz) 2009

6... ♙g7 7. f4

This is not the only move. We also examine an old sharp idea which is probably too risky: 7. ♙g5 c6 8. ♖d2 0-0 (see analysis diagram)

Analysis diagram



Position after: 8... 0-0

- A) 9. f4
- B) 9. ♜d1?!
- C) 9. 0-0-0
- D) 9. ♜c1

A) 9. f4 ♘ed7 10. ♘f3 cxd5 11. cxd5 ♘c5 12. ♖c2 ♖b6 13. ♘d2 ♙d7 14. ♘c4 ♖c7 15. a4 ♘xa4 16. ♜xa4 b5 17. ♜b4 bxc4 0-1 (26) Manne, P – Rasmussen, K Copenhagen 1982

B) 9. ♜d1?! ♖b6 10. ♙e3?! ♖b4 11. b3 ♘fg4 12. ♙d4 ♙h6 13. ♖b2 c5 14. ♙xe5 ♘xe5 0-1 (25) Dreev, A (2683) – Sutovsky, E (2656) Internet (blitz) 2002

C) 9. 0-0-0 b5 10. cxb5 cxd5 11. exd5 a6 12. f4 ♘ed7 13. ♘f3 ♘c5 14. ♘d4 axb5!N (14... ♖c7 15. ♙b1 ♘ce4 16. ♘xe4 ♘xe4 17. ♖e3 ♘xg5 18. fxg5 axb5 1/2-1/2 (39) Farago, S (2255) – Appleberry, M (2240) Budapest 1997) 15. ♙xb5 ♘fe4 16. ♘xe4

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♞xe4 17. ♚b4 ♙xd4 18. ♚xd4 ♞xg5 19. fxg5 e5!-+

D) 9. ♜c1 b5!? 10. cxb5 cxd5 (see analysis diagram)

Analysis diagram



Position after: 10... cxd5

D1) 11. ♙xf6

D2) 11. exd5

D3) 11. ♞xd5

D1) 11. ♙xf6 exf6! 12. ♞xd5 (12. exd5 ♜e8) 12... f5 13. exf5 ♙xf5↑

D2) 11. exd5 ♙b7 (see analysis diagram)

Analysis diagram



Position after: 11... ♙b7

D2.1) 12. ♞h3

D2.2) 12. b3

D2.1) 12. ♞h3 ♜c8 13. ♜d1 ♚c7 14. ♙e3 (14. ♙e2 ♞c4 15. ♙xc4 ♚xc4 16. ♞f2 ♞d7!) 14... e6! 15. ♙xa7 (15. dxe6 ♙xf3 16. ♜c1 fxe6 17. ♞g5 ♙d5 18. ♞xd5 ♚xc1+ 19. ♚xc1 ♜xc1+ 20. ♙xc1 ♞xd5 Black is fine.) 15... ♞xd5 16. ♙d4 ♞e7 17. ♙xe5 ♙xe5 18. ♙d3 ♞d5 19. ♞xd5 ♙xd5 20. a4 ♜a8 21. ♜a1 ♜a5 22. ♚b4 ♜fa8

D2.2) 12. b3 ♚a5 13. ♞d1 (13. ♞h3 ♜fc8 14. ♜c2 ♞fd7 15. ♞d1 ♚xd2+ 16. ♜xd2 h6 17. ♙h4 g5 18. ♙g3 ♜c1 19. ♙e2 ♜ac8 20. 0-0 ♜8c2) 13... ♚xd2+ 14. ♙xd2 ♙xd5

D3) 11. ♞xd5 ♞xd5 (see analysis diagram)

Analysis diagram



Position after: 11... ♞xd5

D3.1) 12. ♚xd5

D3.2) 12. exd5

D3.1) 12. ♚xd5 ♙e6 13. ♚d2 ♙xa2 14. ♙e2 ♜c8 15. ♜xc8 ♚xc8 16. ♙xe7 (16. ♞h3 ♚b7 17. 0-0 ♙c4) 16... ♜e8 17. ♙xd6 (17. ♙g5 d5 18. ♞h3 dxe4 19. fxe4 ♞c4) 17... ♜d8 18. f4 ♙b1! 19. fxe5 ♙xe5 20. ♞f3 ♙xd6 21. ♚c3 ♙xe4

D3.2) 12. exd5 a6 13. a4 axb5 14. ♙xb5 ♙d7 15. ♞e2 ♙xb5 16. axb5 ♜a2 17. ♜c2 ♜a1+ 18. ♞c1 ♚b6 1-0 (25) Raicevic, V (2460) – Brenjo, S (2460) Nis 1997

7... ♞ed7 8. ♞h3

Taking the opportunity to occupy this square as it is no longer attacked by ♙c8. White wants an even better control of the e4 square. The alternative is also very important although it has not the popularity of the main line:

8. ♞f3 0-0

Chapter 1: 3. f3 line

- A) 9. ♖e2
B) 9. ♖d3

We arrived at a very important position for the entire 3...♗c6 line.

A) 9. ♖e2 ♗c5!? 10. e5! (10. ♖c2 c6 11. dxc6 bxc6 12. ♖e3 ♗g4 13. ♖g1 ♜b8 14. ♗d4 ♖d7 15. h3 ♗f6∞ 0-1 (23) Gretarsson, H (2509) – Navara, D (2710) Reykjavik 2013) 10... ♗fd7 (10... ♗fe4 11. ♗xe4 ♗xe4 12. 0-0 c6 13. ♖e3±) 11. ♖e3 ♗a6!? (11... a5 12. ♖d4±) (see analysis diagram)

9... ♗c5

Apart from the main idea there is an important alternative for Black:

In my practice I experimented with: 9... ♗b6!? 10. ♗f2 e6 11. 0-0 exd5 12. cxd5 c6 13. dxc6 bxc6 (see analysis diagram)



- A1) 12. ♖d4
A2) 12. exd6

- A) 14. ♖e3
B) 14. ♖c2
C) 14. a4!?

A1) 12. ♖d4 dxe5 13. fxe5 c5 14. dxc6 bxc6 15. e6 fxe6 16. ♖xg7 ♗xg7 An unusual position. 17. ♖d4+ ♗f6 18. 0-0 ♖xd4 19. ♜xd4 ♖b7 20. ♜e1 ♜ad8 21. ♖d1 ♗c5 22. ♖c2 ♗g8 23. b4 ♗a6 24. ♜xd8 ♜xd8 25. ♜xe6! ♗f8 26. a3 c5 27. b5 ♗c7 28. ♜e3 and out of the unusual position we went into an unusual endgame! But it seems Black is OK.

A) 14. ♖e3
(see analysis diagram)

A2) 12. exd6 exd6 13. 0-0 ♜e8 14. ♖d4 ♗dc5 15. ♖xg7 ♗xg7 16. ♖d4+ ♖f6 17. ♖xf6+ ♗xf6=

B) 9. ♖d3 Although this line is less analysed it is very important: 9... c6 10. 0-0 ♖b6+ 11. ♗h1 ♗c5 12. ♖c2 ♖g4 13. ♜b1 (13. ♖e1 ♖xf3 14. ♜xf3 e6 15. dxc6 ♖xc6 16. ♖d2 a6∞) 13... a5 14. ♖e3 ♗fd7 15. ♖e2 ♖c7∞ And a draw was agreed in Vitiugov – Tomashevsky.



A1) Also possible is: 14... ♜e8 15. ♖f3 d5 16. ♜e1 ♗c4 17. ♖d4 ♗xb2 18. ♖c2 ♗c4 19. exd5 ♖f5 20. ♖a4 cxd5 21. ♗xd5 ♜xe1+ 22. ♜xe1 ♗xd5 23. ♖xc4 ♜c8∞ 0-1 (86) Sachdev, T (2423) – Pavlovic, M (2506) Reykjavik 2014

A2) 14... ♖e6 15. ♖d2 d5 16. e5 ♗fd7 17. b4 f6 18. exf6 ♖xf6 19. ♜ac1 ♜ae8 20. ♜fd1 ♖e7 0-1 (52) Khairallah, F

8... 0-0 9. ♖e2

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(2307) – Ftacnik, L (2571) Tromso 2014 and Black is fine.

Against other tries Black got very good positions:

B) 14. ♖c2 ♜e8 15. b3 (15. ♜e1!? d5 16. e5 ♘fd7 17. ♙d2 f6 18. exf6 ♘xf6 19. ♜ac1 ♙f5 20. ♙d3 ♖d7 21. b3 ♜ac8=) 15... ♘xe4 16. ♘fxe4 ♘d5! Black missed this move in the game: (16... ♜xe4 17. ♘xe4 ♙xa1 18. ♙b2 ♙xb2 19. ♖xb2 ½-½ (65) Postny, E (2631) – Nyback, T (2599) Bremen GER 2013) 17. ♙d2 (17. ♜b1 ♙f5+) 17... ♙f5 18. ♙f3 ♙xc3 19. ♙xc3 ♘xc3 20. ♖xc3 ♙xe4 21. ♙xe4 ♖b6+ 22. ♙h1 ♜xe4

A) 11. 0-0

B) 11. fxe5

A) 11. 0-0 exf4 12. ♙xf4 ♖e7 13. ♙f3 ♘fd7 14. ♘d3 ♘xd3 15. ♖xd3 ♘e5 16. ♖e2 ♙d7 17. ♜ae1 ♜ae8 0-1 (29) Hulin, P (2074) – Petr, M (2520) Pardubice 2015. The standard type of advantage for Black. Nice control of the e5 square.

B) 11. fxe5 ♘e8!? 12. exd6 ♘xd6 13. 0-0 ♖h4 14. g3 ♖e7 (see analysis diagram)

C) 14. a4!? There is a new and interesting idea in this line:

C1) 14... ♜b8 15. a5 ♘a8 16. ♖a4 1-0 (50) Socko, B (2622) – Harikrishna, P (2726) Porto Rio 2014

C2) 14... ♙e6!? 15. a5 ♘c8! That's it! Black finds a better square for the Knight. 16. ♖a4 ♘e7 17. ♙e3 ♘e8 18. ♖a3 f5

C3) 14... a5 15. ♙e3 ♜e8 16. ♖c2 ♜b8 with complicated play ahead of us.



Position after: 14... ♖e7

B1) 15. ♙f4

B2) 15. ♙e3

B3) 15. ♖c2

10. ♘f2 e5!?



Position after: 10... e5

This is a new move that caught on. Let's see...

11. dxe6

B1) 15. ♙f4 ♘cxe4 16. ♘cxe4 ♘xe4 17. ♙f3 ♘xf2 18. ♜xf2 ♖c5 0-1 (32) Laznicka, V (2679) – Salgado Lopez, I (2630) Dubai UAE 2014

B2) 15. ♙e3 ♘cxe4 16. ♘cxe4 ♘xe4 17. ♙d4 ♙xd4 18. ♖xd4 ♘g5 19. ♖d2 ♘h3+ 20. ♘xh3 ♙xh3 21. ♜f4 ♜ae8 22. ♙f3 b6 0-1 (33) Damljanovic, B (2579) – Sedlak, N (2549) Kragujevac SRB 2015 Black is fine.

B3) 15. ♖c2 ♜e8 16. ♙f3 ♘xc4 17. ♙g2 b6 18. a4 ♘e5 0-1 (113) Stopa, J (2521) – Swiercz, D (2616) Wroclaw (rapid) 2014

11... fxe6

11... ♙xe6!?

Chapter 1: 3. f3 line

(see analysis diagram)



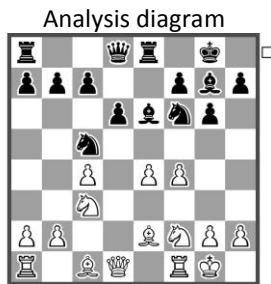
Position after: 11... Qxe6

An interesting alternative. However, if Black wants to play that move, then 10... Qe8 11. 0-0 e5 12.dxe6 Qxe6 is a more logical move order.

- A) 12. Qe3
- B) 12. 0-0

A) 12. Qe3 Qe8 13. Qd2 Qe7 14. 0-0 (14. Qxc5 dxc5 15. 0-0 Qad8 16. Qc2 Qd7 17. f5 Qxf5 18. exf5 Qxc3 19. Qxc3 Qxe2 20. Qae1 Qh5 21. Qa5 Qxe1 22. Qxe1 Qf6 23. Qxc7 Qd2) 14... Qcxe4 15. Qcxe4 Qxe4 16. Qxe4 Qf5

B) 12. 0-0 Qe8 (see analysis diagram)



Position after: 12... Qe8

- B1) 13. g4
- B2) 13. Qc2

B1) 13. g4 Qd7 14. Qf3 Qc6 15. Qc2

(see analysis diagram)

Analysis diagram



Position after: 15. Qc2

- B1.1) 15... Qd7
- B1.2) 15... a5
- B1.3) 15... Qe7!

B1.1) 15... Qd7 16. Qg2? (16. g5) 16... Qcxe4! 17. Qfxe4 Qxe4+ ½-½ (70) Biriukov, N (2402) – Zakhartsov, V (2328) Lviv UKR 2012

B1.2) 15... a5 16. Qd2 Qfd7 17. Qd5 Qe6 18. Qg2 Qh4 19. e5? (19. Qe3) 19... dxe5 20. f5 Qd4+ 0-1 (40) Einarsson, H (2166) – Melkumyan, H (2676) Reykjavik ISL 2015

B1.3) 15... Qe7! 16. Qe1 Qfxe4! 17. Qcxe4 f5 18. gxf5 gxf5 19. Qg2 Qf7

B2) 13. Qc2

Analysis diagram



Position after: 13. Qc2

B2.1) 13... Qe7 14. Qd2 (14. Qe1! Qd7 15. Qf3 Qc6 16. Qd2 a5 transposes to the Grischuk – Kurnosov game.) 14... Qfxe4 15. Qcxe4 Qf5

B2.2) 13... Qd7 14. Qf3 Qc6 15. Qd2 a5 16. Qfe1 Qfd7 17. Qad1 Qe7 18.

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b3 ♖f6∞ (18... ♖f8 19. ♘b5 ♙xb5 20. cxb5± ½-½ (41) Grischuk, A (2771) – Kurnosov, I (2676) Moscow RUS 2010) 19. ♘b5 ♙xb5 20. cxb5 ♖b2!↗

12. ♙e3 ♘fd7 13. ♖c2

13. ♙g4 a5 14. 0-0 ♔h8 15. ♖c2 b6 16. ♗ad1 ♙a6 17. b3 ♖f6 18. ♘b5 ♙xb5 19. cxb5

A) 19... ♖c3 20. ♖e2! ♗ae8 21. ♗c1 ♖f6 22. a3 ♖b2 ½-½ (26) Gonzalez, B (2458) – Popov, I (2618) Benasque 2014 White missed his chance to get a big advantage with: 23. b4! axb4 24. ♖xb2 ♙xb2 25. axb4 ♙xc1 26. ♗xc1 ♘f6 27. bxc5±

B) 19... ♖b2! 20. ♖xb2 ♙xb2 21. g3 ♗ae8∞

13... a5!

Probably the best move order.

13... b6 is logical but perhaps imprecise: 14. h4! An important idea. 14... e5 15. f5 gxf5 16. exf5 ♘b8 (see analysis diagram)

Analysis diagram



Position after: 16... ♘b8

A) 17. ♖d2!

B) 17. g4

A) 17. ♖d2! ♔h8 (17... ♙b7 18. ♙g5 ♖d7 19. ♘d5 ♗xf5 20. ♘e7+ ♔h8 21. ♘xf5 ♖xf5 22. 0-0 White is much better.)

B) 17. g4 ♘c6 18. ♙f3 ♘d4 19. ♙xd4 exd4 20. ♙xa8 dxc3 21. ♙d5+ ♔h8 22. b4 4... e5

♘d7 Although the engines claim White is winning, in a tournament game this is far from easy. 23. g5 ♘e5! 24. f6 ♙xf6 25. gxf6 ♖xf6 0-1 (28) Sethuraman, S (2623) – Sutovsky, E (2623) Tsaghkadzor ARM 2015 with compensation.

14. h4

14. 0-0 b6 with easy play.

14... e5 15. f5 gxf5 16. exf5 ♘b8! 17. g4 ♘c6 18. 0-0-0 ♘d4 19. ♙xd4 exd4 20. ♘b5 ♖e7

The position is murky.

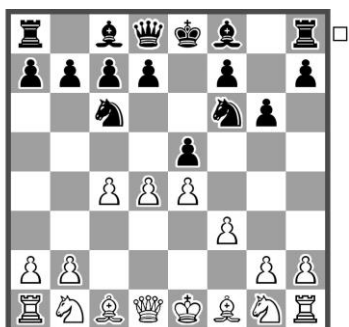
A) 4. e4

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. f3 ♘c6 4. e4



Position after: 4. e4

Chapter 1: 3. f3 line



Position after: 4... e5

5. dxe5

- A) 5. d5
- B) 5. ♖e2

A) 5. d5 ♗d4 (see analysis diagram)



Position after: 5... ♗d4

- A1) 6. ♕e3
- A2) 6. ♗e2

A1) 6. ♕e3 c5 7. ♗c3 ♕g7 8. ♗ge2 0-0 9. ♖d2 d6 10. ♗c1 a6 11. a3 ♕d7 12. b4 b6 13. ♖b1 ♗h5 14. ♕e2 ♗f4 15. ♕d1 f5 0-1 (20) Arregui Untoria, C (2012) – Rodshtein, M (2605) Benasque ESP 2008

A2) 6. ♗e2 ♕c5 7. ♗xd4 ♕xd4 8. ♗c3 (8. ♗d2 d6 9. ♗b3 ♕b6 Black is fine.) 8... ♗h5 9. g3 d6 10. ♕d3 c6 11. ♕d2 0-0 12. ♖e2 cxd5 13. cxd5 f5 (13... ♕d7 14. 0-0 0-0 1-0 (50) Kuzmin, A (2567) – Kurnosov, I (2543) St Petersburg RUS 2004) 14. ♗b5 fxe4 15. ♕xe4 ♕b6 16. ♕b4 ♕a5 17. ♕xa5 ♖xa5+ 18. ♗c3 ♕d7 19. 0-0 ♖ac8 20. ♖ac1 ♗f6 Black is fine.

- B) 5. ♗e2 exd4 6. ♗xd4 ♕g7
- C)



Position after: 6... ♕g7

B1) 7. ♗xc6 bxc6 8. ♗c3 0-0 9. ♕e2 d5 10. cxd5 cxd5 11. exd5 ♕b7 12. 0-0 ♗xd5 13. ♗e4 c5! 14. ♖h1∞ 1-0 (60) Bercys, S (2434) – Shabalov, A (2580) ICC INT 2009

B2) 7. ♕e3 ♗xe4! 8. ♗xc6 (8. fxe4 ♖h4+ 9. ♖e2 ♗xd4+ 10. ♕xd4 ♖xe4+ 11. ♕e3 ♖g4+ 12. ♖d2 ♖xd1+ 13. ♖xd1 ♕xb2++) 8... dxc6! 9. ♖e2 ♗f6 10. ♕c5+ ♕e6 11. ♗c3 ♗d7 12. 0-0-0 ♕xc3 13. bxc3 ♖g5+ 14. ♕e3 ♖a5+ 0-1 (24) Zakaryan, D (2276) – Popov, I (2632) Taganrog RUS 2013

5... ♗xe5 6. ♕e3

6. ♗c3 d6 7. ♗ge2 ♕g7 (see analysis diagram)



Position after: 7... ♕g7

- A) 8. ♗f4
- B) 8. ♗d4

A) 8. ♗f4 0-0 9. ♕e3 c6 10. ♕e2 (10. ♖d2 g5!⚡) 10... g5 11. ♗h3 ♕xh3 12. gxh3 ♗h5 13. ♖g1 ♗f4 14. h4 ♗xe2 15. ♖xe2 g4 16. fxg4 ♖xh4+ 17. ♖d2 ♖ac8

Unknown Weapons in the Grünfeld

18. ♖ac1 ♗fd8 19. b3 a6↑ 0-1 (26) Serov, M (2375) – Melkumyan, H (2614) St Petersburg RUS 2010

B) 8. ♘d4 0-0 9. ♙e2 c6 10. 0-0 ♗e8 11. ♕h1 a6 12. a4 a5 13. b3 ♖e7 14. ♙a3 ♘ed7∞ 0-1 (40) Indjic, A (2430) – Popovic, D (2561) Vrnjacka Banja SRB 2012

6... ♙g7 7. ♘c3 0-0 8. ♖d2 d6 9. ♗d1 c6!
10. b3

10. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 11. ♗xd6 ♙e6 12. c5 ♗fd8
13. ♗xd8+ ♗xd8 14. b3 ♘fd7∞

10... d5

10... ♗e8 11. ♘ge2 ♘fd7 12. ♘c1 ♖a5 13. ♘b1 ♖xd2+ 14. ♘xd2 ♘b6 15. ♙e2 ♙e6
16. c5 dxc5 17. ♙xc5 f5↔ ½-½ (24) Nicolai, W – Boog, F Hohenlimburg 1978

11. ♘ge2

11. cxd5 cxd5 12. exd5 ♙f5→

11... ♖a5 12. cxd5 cxd5 13. exd5 ♗e8 14. ♘g3 ♘eg4!?

14... ♙f5 15. ♘xf5 gxf5 16. ♙e2 ♗ac8 17. ♘b5 ♖xd2+ 18. ♙xd2± 1-0 (33) Laznicka, V (2594) – Dvoirys, S (2577) Pardubice CZE 2007

15. fxg4 ♖b6 16. ♙e2 ♖xe3 17. ♖xe3 ♗xe3 18. g5 ♗xc3 19. gxf6 ♙xf6 20. 0-0 ♙d8 21. ♙c4 ♗c2 22. a4 ♙d7∞

D)4. ♘c3

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. f3 ♘c6 4. ♘c3



Position after: 4. ♘c3

4... d5



Position after: 4... d5

5. cxd5

The two alternatives are very important:

A) 5. e4

B) 5. ♙g5

A) 5. e4 dxe4 6. d5 ♘e5

Analysis diagram



Position after: 6... ♘e5

Chapter 1: 3. f3 line

A1) 7. ♖f4

A2) 7. fxe4

A1) 7. ♖f4

Analysis diagram



Position after: 7. ♖f4

A1.1) 7... ♗fd7

A1.2) 7... exf3!?

A1.1) 7... ♗fd7 8. fxe4 ♖g7 9. ♗f3 0-0?? 10. ♖d2 e6! 11. 0-0-0 exd5 12. cxd5 ♗xf3 13. gxf3 c6

A1.1a) Instead White played: 14. dxc6 bxc6 15. h4 h5 16. ♖d6 ♖e8 17. f4 ♗f6 18. e5 ♗d5 19. ♗xd5 cxd5 20. ♖b1 ♖f5+ 21. ♖d3 ♖d7 22. ♖a1 ♖ac8∞ 0-1 (57) Hertneck, G (2472) – Krassowizkij, J (2402) Austria AUT 2015

A1.1b) 14. ♖b1!? This move has been pointed out by Romain Edouard. White has easier play here and h4 – h5 is arriving.

A1.2) An interesting idea for Black is: 7... exf3!? (see analysis diagram)

Analysis diagram



Position after: 7... exf3

A1.2a) 8. ♗xf3 ♗xf3+ 9. ♖xf3 ♖g7!? 10. ♗b5 0-0 11. ♖xc7 ♖d7 12. ♖e5 ♖d8 13. h3 (13. ♗c3 ♖b6↖) 13... ♖f5 14. ♖e2 ♖e4 15. ♖f2 e6 16. dxe6 fxe6

A1.2b) 8. ♖xe5 f2+ 9. ♖xf2 ♗g4+ 10. ♖xg4 ♖xg4 11. ♖xh8 ♖d6 12. ♖d4 ♖f4+ 13. ♗f3 ♖xf3 14. ♖e3 ♖h4+ 15. ♖xf3 ♖f6+ 16. ♖e2 e6 17. ♖d2 0-0-0∞

A2) 7. fxe4 ♖g7 8. ♗f3 ♗fd7 9. ♖e3 0-0 (9... c6 10. ♖d2 ♖c7 11. ♖e2±) 10. ♖d2

This position is rarely seen in practice, many ideas are to be discovered. I will present a few of them: 10... f5!? (10... e6!? 11. 0-0-0 exd5 12. cxd5 a6 13. h4 h5 14. ♖g5 ♖e8 with unclear consequences.) 11. ♖h6 ♗xf3+ 12. gxf3 ♗e5 13. ♖e2 ♖xh6 14. ♖xh6 ♖d6! N (14... fxe4 15. ♗xe4 e6± ½-½ (26) Caruana, F (2697) – Howell, D (2616) Biel SUI 2010) 15. 0-0-0 ♖f6! 16. exf5! (16. h4 fxe4 17. ♗xe4 ♖f4+∞) 16... ♖xf5 17. h4 ♖d7 18. h5 (18. c5 ♖f4+ 19. ♖xf4 ♖xf4 20. ♖de1 ♖af8=) 18... ♖f4+ 19. ♖xf4 ♖xf4 20. hxg6 hxg6 21. ♖h6 ♖af8 22. ♖dh1 ♖f7 23. ♖h7+ ♖e8 24. ♖g7 c6= 25. ♖hh7 ♖4f7 26. ♖xf7 ♖xf7 27. ♖xf7 ♗xf7=

B) 5. ♖g5 The positional approach. 5... ♖g7 6. e3 e6 7. cxd5 exd5 8. ♖b5 0-0 9. ♗ge2 h6 10. ♖h4 ♗e7 This setup looks more like a Queen's Gambit pawn structure, unusual for a Grünfeld although here Black has a Bishop on g7. 11. g4 (11. ♖d3 ♖e8 12. ♖f2 b6 13. 0-0?? c5 14. ♖d2 a6 again with unclear play.) 11... b6 12. ♖d2 c5 13. ♖g3 a6 14. ♖a4 ♖d7 15. ♖b3 ♖b5 16. ♗f4 cxd4 17. exd4 ♗c6∞ 1-0 (42) Kramnik, V (2790) – Dominguez Perez, L (2713) Nice FRA 2010

5... ♗xd5 6. e4 ♗xc3 7. bxc3 e5 8. ♖b5
8. d5 ♗a5 9. h4 ♖c5 10. ♖a3 ♖d6 11. ♖b4 ♖xb4 12. ♖a4+ ♖d7 13. ♖xb4 b6 14. ♖a6! ♖e7 15. 0-0-0 (15. ♗e2 h5 16. ♗c1 c6 17.