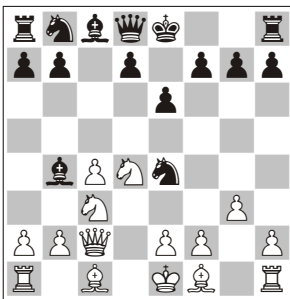


## A Fashionable Nimzo-Indian Line

by Dejan Antic

1. **d4**      ♘f6
2. **c4**      e6
3. ♘c3      ♙b4
4. **g3**      c5
5. ♘f3      cd4
6. ♘d4      ♘e4
7. ♖c2



An opening line that has been attracting more and more attention recently is without a doubt the Fianchetto Variation of the Nimzo-Indian (in our keycode qualified as a Symmetrical English under the move order 1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.d4 cd4 4.♘d4 e6 5.♘c3 ♙b4 6.g3 ♘e4). There is no doubt that, thanks to the active ♙g2, White has a lot of dynamic options, which should be good compensation for his ruined pawn structure. Instead of the standard 7.♖d3, we are going to examine the new approach starting with 7.♖c2, which has gained popularity in the last few years. The question is: what is the difference between the two moves? The line 7.♖c2 requires accurate play

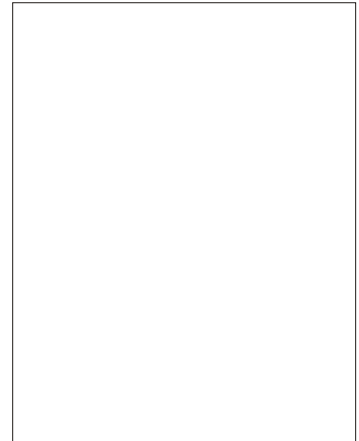
and avoids, for instance, the line 7.♖d3 ♙c3 8.bc3 ♘c5, in which Black gains an important tempo. Also, in some lines the white rook gets to d1 quickly, exerting pressure along the d-file. Moreover, White does not withdraw his knight like he does in the line 7.♖d3 ♖a5 8.♘b3, which means that the knight on d4 will offer him other dynamic options for getting the initiative.

The line is still developing and I think that, until we see new practical games, the one I played versus Athanasios Mastrovasilis might present an instructive strategic plan for Black. So let's examine the options.

### A Solid Hedgehog Set-up

As mentioned, the strategy followed in the game Mastrovasilis-Antic, with its solid Hedgehog set-up, looks like the best. Even here, Black should be careful with the move order, he should not, for example, rush with castling until he has completed a proper defensive set-up.

After 7.♖c2 ♘c3 8.bc3 ♙e7 we have some similarity with the 7.♖d3 line, as played in several games by top grandmaster Karjakin. But there is a difference as well: White can quickly develop an initiative, as we can see in the game Radjabov-Gashimov, and also in Shimanov-Durarbeyli, where White quickly obtained pressure



Athanasios Mastrovasilis

along the d-file. It is also very much worth mentioning that in my opinion the right spot for the Black's knight is d7! This kind of flexibility gives Black the possibility to exploit positional weaknesses in his opponent's camp later on.

### The Exposed Queen on a5

The statistics of the games played in this line definitely favour White. It seems to me that 7.♖c2 is a good preparation against 7...♖a5. Using a few tempi to chase Black's queen, White grabs the initiative, even in games, e.g. David-Battaglini, in which Black was close to equality. I have to say that I am not so satisfied with the active options Black has here. Simply put, there is not enough counterplay, and the best Black

NEW IN CHESS

can do is draw with some effort. Also, if we compare 7.♖c2 ♗a5 to 7.♖d3 ♗a5, we can see in our aforementioned line after 8.♙g2 ♘c3, White has the strong 9.0-0, a good temporary piece sacrifice.



the attempt to save the piece with 9...♘a4 can give White a strong initiative, as witness the game Matlakov-Diu. There is the additional plus that ♖c2 directly attacks the knight on a4!

### The Remaining Option

Besides the main options 7...♖c3 and 7...♗a5, there is another one: 7...f5, as seen in the game Stocsek-Arnold. In all the databases I have at my disposal, I have found only two games with this move. And let's not forget that there are no further options. What to say about 7...f5? Simply that in such dynamic positions there is no time for experiments.

### Conclusion

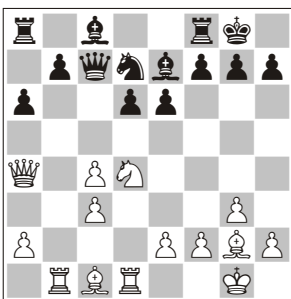
In modern chess it is very difficult to give a final conclusion about any position. The present line is pretty new and still developing. I feel that, with the suggestion I have recommended, Black has good counterplay, and I advise you to try playing this system. Real, practical games are very important for the development of every variation, and of course for this one as well. In the meantime, the ball is in White's court and we will wait for his answer, especially at top level. I hope you will enjoy the material presented here.

## A Solid Hedgehog Set-up 7...♖c3 8.♙c3 8.♙e7

Mastrovasilis, Athanasios  
Antic, Dejan

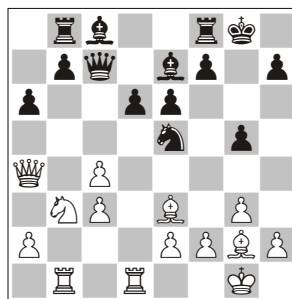
Valjevo tt 2011 (4)

1.d4 e6 2.c4 ♘b4 3.♖c3 c5 4.♙f3  
♙f6 5.g3 cd4 6.♘d4 ♘e4 7.♖c2  
♖c3 8.♙c3 ♙e7 9.♙g2 d6 10.0-0  
a6 11.♖b1 ♖c7 12.♖d1 ♘d7  
13.♗a4 0-0 [13...♖b8!? 14.♘b3 0-0  
transposes into the game]



14.♘b3 [14.♘b5!? ♖b8 15.♘d4 ♖c7  
(15...♘c5!? 16.♖c2 (16.♗a3 ♙d7  
(16...♖c7! 17.♘b5 (17.♘b3 ♘d7! (this  
knight is the cornerstone of Black's position  
and strategy!)) 18.♘a5 ♙f6∞ (18...♖b8  
19.♙e3 h6 20.♙a7 ♖a8 21.♙e3 ♖b8=)  
19.♙f4 e5 20.♙e3 (20.♙g5 d5) 20...d5

21.c5 ♖b8 (21...♖d8 22.♖b4 ♘g4  
23.♖b6 ♖b6 24.cb6 ♘e3 25.fe3 e4 26.c4  
dc4 27.♖d8 ♙d8 28.♙e4) 22.♙d5 ♘g4  
23.♘b3 ♙f5 24.♖b2 ♘e3 25.fe3 h5∞)  
17...ab5 18.♖a8 ♘a4∞) 17.♘b3 ♘a4  
18.♘a5±) 16...♖c7 17.♘b3 ♘d7∞)  
16.♘b5=] 14...♖b8 15.♙f4 [15.♙e3  
♘e5 16.♘d2 ♙d7 17.♗a3 ♘c4 (17...♙c6  
18.♙b6 ♖c8 19.♙c6 ♖c6) 18.♘c4 ♖c4  
19.♙a7 ♖bd8∞] 15...g5 [15...e5!?  
16.♙e3 ♘f6 17.♘g5?! (17.♘d2 ♙d7  
18.♖a3 ♙c6∞) 17...♙f5 18.♖b2 b5∞;  
15...♘e5 16.c5 dc5 17.♘a5∞] 16.♙e3  
♘e5



17.♘a5? [17.♘d2 ♙d7 18.♖a3 ♙c6  
19.♙b6 ♖c8 20.♙c6 ♖c6∞] 17...♘d7  
18.♖b4 b5 19.♙d4 ♘c4?! [19...♖fe8  
20.♙e5 de5 21.c5 ♙c5 22.♖d7 ♙b4  
23.♖c7 ♙a5 24.♖c6 ♖ec8 25.♖a6 ♙c3∞;

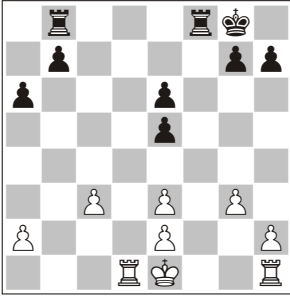
19...♘g6∞ 20.♘b3 bc4 21.♖a5 ♖c8!]  
20.♘c4 ♖c4 21.♖b2 [21.♙e5! ♖b4  
22.cb4 ♖b6 23.♙d4=] 21...♖c7∞  
[21...♙c6! 22.♙a7 ♙g2 (22...♖a8 23.♖d4)  
23.♙b8 ♙b7 24.♙a7 ♖a8 25.♙d4 e5  
26.♙e3 ♖e4--+] 22.♖d2 ♙c6  
23.♙c6 ♖c6 24.♙e3 f6 25.♖b3  
♖bc8 26.f3 d5 27.♙f2 ♙c5 28.♙g2  
♙e3 29.♖e3 e5∞ 30.♖d3 ♖fd8  
31.♖f5 ♙g7 32.♖d2 ♖d7 33.♖b1  
♖c4 34.♖b4 ♖c3--+ 35.a4 ♖c5  
36.h4 d4 37.hg5 fg5 38.ab5 ab5  
[38...♖b5 39.♖b5 ab5 40.♖e4] 39.♖a2  
g4! 40.♖e4 gf3 41.ef3 ♙h8!  
42.♖d2 ♖g8 43.♖b1 ♖g7 44.g4  
♖g6 45.♖e1 [45.♖d4 ♖c2] 45...♖e4  
46.♖e4 b4 47.♖e1 b3 0-1

Cioara, Andrei-Nestor  
Medvegy, Zoltan

Germany Bundesliga 2007/08 (11)

1.d4 ♙f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 c5 4.♙f3  
cd4 5.♘d4 ♙b4 6.♖c3 ♘e4 7.♖c2  
♖c3 8.♙c3 ♙e7 9.♙g2 ♘c6  
10.♙f4!?! [An economical order of moves,  
trying to put the rook on d1 as quickly as  
possible! 10.0-0 0-0 11.♙f4 ♘a5 12.♖d3  
d6 13.♘b3 ♘c6 14.♖fd1 e5 15.♙e3 ♖c7  
16.c5 ♖d8∞] 10...0-0 11.♖d1 ♘a5  
12.♖d3 [12.♖a4 d6 13.♘b3 ♘b3  
14.ab3 ♖c7 15.0-0 e5 (15...♙d7

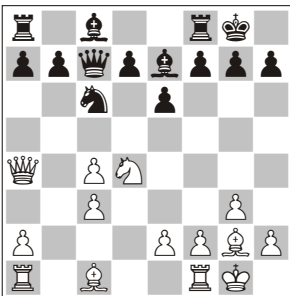
16. ♖a3± 16. ♙e3 ♗d7 17. ♖a2 ♙c6  
18. ♙c6 bc6 19. b4±] 12...d6 13. ♗b5 e5  
14. ♙e3 a6 15. ♗d6 ♖d6 16. ♖d6  
♙d6 17. ♗d6 ♗c4 18. ♗d1 ♗e3  
19. fe3 ♗b8 20. ♙d5 ♙e6 21. ♙e6  
fe6=



22. ♗f1 ♗bc8 23. ♗d2 ♗f7 24. ♗f7  
♗f7 25. ♗b1 b5 26. a4 ♗c5 27. ab5  
ab5 28. ♗a1 ♗f6 29. e4 h6 30. ♗a7  
♗g6 31. ♗b7 ♗f6 32. ♗d3 ♗g6  
33. g4 ♗f6 34. h4 ♗g6 35. ♗b6 ♗f6  
36. ♗b8 ♗f7 37. h5 ♗f6 38. ♗b7 g6  
½-½

**Radjabov, Teimour**  
**Gashimov, Vugar**  
Sochi tt 2008 (7)

1. d4 ♗f6 2. ♗f3 e6 3. c4 c5 4. ♗c3  
cd4 5. ♗d4 ♙b4 6. g3 ♗e4 7. ♖c2  
♗c3 8. bc3 ♙e7 9. ♙g2 0-0 10. 0-0  
♖c7 11. ♖a4 [11. ♗b5 ♖c4 12. ♖b3  
♖b3 13. ab3 ♗c6 14. c4±; 11. ♗b1 a6  
(11... ♖c4 12. ♙b7 ♙b7 13. ♗b7 ♗c8  
14. ♙e3 ♗c7 15. ♗fb1 ♗b7 16. ♗b7)  
12. ♖b3 d6 (12... ♗c6!)? 13. ♗c6 dc6  
14. ♙e3 e5 15. ♙b6 ♖d7∞) 13. ♙b7 ♙b7  
14. ♖b7 ♗a7 15. ♖c7 ♗c7 16. ♙a3 ♗d7  
17. ♗f3 ♗fc8 18. ♗fd1 ♗c5 19. ♗d2 ♗a4  
20. ♙b4 f5 21. ♗b3±] 11... ♗c6

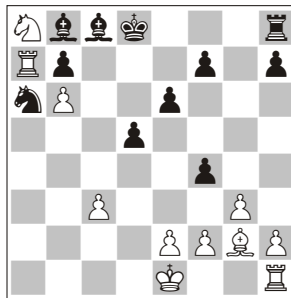


12. ♙a3 ♙a3 13. ♗b5 [13. ♖a3! ♗d4  
(13... ♖a5 14. ♖a5 ♗a5 15. c5±; 13... b6  
14. ♗c6 dc6 15. ♗fd1 e5 16. c5±) 14. cd4  
♖c4 15. e3! d5 16. ♗fc1 ♖a6 17. ♖e7]  
13... ♖e5 14. ♖a3 d5 [14... ♖e2  
15. ♗d6 ♗e5 16. ♖b3 f5 17. c5?! (17. ♖d1  
♖d1 18. ♗fd1 ♗b8 19. a4 b6 20. a5±)  
17... f4 18. ♖d1 ♖d1 19. ♗fd1 f3] 15. e3  
18. ♗d8 16. ♗fd1 a6 17. ♗d4 ♖c7  
18. ♖c5 ♖e7 19. ♖e7 [19. ♗b3± ♖c5  
20. ♗c5 ♗e7 21. e4 b6 22. ♗a4 ♗b8  
23. ♗ab1 b5 24. ♗c5] 19... ♗e7  
20. ♗ab1 ♗b8 21. cd5 ½-½

**Stocek, Jiri**  
**Cifka, Stanislav**

Zdar nad Sazavou 2008 (3)

1. c4 ♗f6 2. d4 e6 3. ♗c3 ♙b4 4. ♗f3  
c5 5. g3 cd4 6. ♗d4 ♗e4 7. ♖c2  
♗c3 8. bc3 ♙e7 9. ♙g2 ♖c7  
10. ♗b5! ♖c4 11. ♖b3 ♖b3  
12. ab3! ♗a6 [12... ♗d8!)? 13. ♙f4  
(13. ♗a7! ♗e8 14. ♗a4 ♙c5 (14... ♗c6  
15. ♗c6 ♗a4 16. ♗e7 ♗a1 17. ♗c8 ♗c1  
18. ♗d2±; 14... ♗d8 15. ♙e3) 15. ♗c8 ♗a4  
16. ba4 ♗d8 17. ♙b7 ♗c7 18. ♙f3 ♗c8  
19. 0-0±) 13... ♗c6 (13... d5! 14. ♗c7  
(14. e4!) 14... g5 15. ♗a8 (15. ♙e5 f6  
16. ♗a8 fe5 17. ♗a7 ♗a6 18. b4 ♙d6 19. h4  
g4 20. b5 ♙b8 21. b6 e4∞) 15... g4 16. ♗a7  
♗a6 17. b4 ♙d6 18. b5 ♙b8 19. b∞



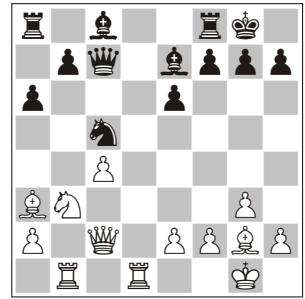
(an interesting picture!) 19... ♗e7 20. ♗d2 h5  
21. ♗a1 fg3 22. hg3 ♙d7 23. ♗b7 ♗c5)  
14. ♙c6 bc6 15. ♗c7] 13. ♗a6 ba6  
14. ♗c7 ♗d8 15. ♗a8 d5 16. ♙f4 g5  
17. ♙e5 f6 18. ♙b8 ♙b7 19. ♗c7 ♗d7  
20. ♗e6 ♗b8 21. ♗d4± ♙c5 22. ♗d2  
♙c6 23. ♗c6 ♗c6 24. b4 [24. ♗c2! a5  
25. ♗d1 ♗d8 26. e3±] 24... ♙b6 25. ♗a1  
a5 26. ba5 ♙c5 27. ♗c2 ♗d6 28. e3  
♗e6 29. ♗c1 ♗d8 30. c4 ♙b4 31. a6  
♗e7 32. ♙d5 ♗d6 33. ♗a1 ♗b6 34. g4

♙d6 35. h3 ♙e5 36. ♗a2 ♗d6 37. f3  
h6 38. ♗a5 ♗b2 39. ♗d3 ♙h2 40. ♗d4  
♙g1 41. ♗b5 ♗b5 42. cb5 ♗c7  
43. ♗e4 ♗b6 44. ♙c4 ♗c5 45. ♙f1  
♙f2 46. ♗f5 ♙e3 47. ♗f6 ♗d6  
48. ♗g6 ♗e5 49. ♗h6 ♗f4 50. ♗h5  
♗f3 51. h4 gh4 52. g5 ♗f2 53. g6  
♙d4 54. b6 1-0

**Shimanov, Alexander**  
**Durarbeyli, Vasif**

Chennai Wch-jr 2011 (10)

1. d4 ♗f6 2. ♗f3 e6 3. c4 c5 4. ♗c3  
cd4 5. ♗d4 ♙b4 6. g3 ♗e4 7. ♖c2  
♗c3 8. bc3 ♙e7 9. ♙g2 0-0 10. 0-0  
d6 11. ♗d1 a6 12. c5± ♖c7 13. cd6  
♙d6 14. c4 ♗d7 15. ♗b3 ♗c5  
16. ♙a3 ♙e7 17. ♗ab1



17... ♗a7 18. ♗c5 ♙c5 19. ♙c5  
[19. ♖b3 ♙a3 (19... b6 20. ♙c5 bc5  
21. ♖b6) 20. ♖a3 e5 (20... ♖c4  
21. ♖e7+—) 21. c5±] 19... ♖c5 20. ♖d3  
b5 21. cb5 ♗d7 22. ♖b3 ♗d1 23. ♗d1  
ab5 24. a3 h6 25. ♙e4 ♙a6 26. ♖b4  
♖e5 27. ♗d6 ♙c8 28. ♖d4 ♖g5  
29. ♗g2 ♖e7 30. f3 e5 31. ♖c5 ♙e6  
32. ♗c6 ♖d7 33. ♖e5 ♙h3 34. ♗f2  
♖d1 35. g4 ♖f1 36. ♗e3 ♖g1  
37. ♗d2 ♗d8 38. ♗d3 ♙f1 39. ♖e7  
♖d4 40. ♗c7 ♙e2 41. ♖f7 ½-½

**The Exposed Queen on a5**  
**7... ♖a5**

**Radjabov, Teimour**  
**Gashimov, Vugar**  
Elista 2008 (8)

1. d4 ♗f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♗c3 ♙b4 4. ♗f3  
c5 5. g3 cd4 6. ♗d4 ♗e4 7. ♖c2

♖a5 8.♙g2 ♘c3 9.0-0 ♘c6 10.bc3  
 ♙c3 11.♘b3 ♖e5 12.♙f4 ♗f6  
 13.♖ab1 ♙e5 14.e3 [14...♙e5 ♖e5  
 (14...♘e5 15.♘c5 0-0 16.♖fd1) 15.♖fd1  
 0-0 16.c5 b6 17.e3 ♖b8 18.♙c6 dc6  
 19.♘d4 ♗c7 20.cb6 ♖b6 21.♖b6 ab6  
 22.♗c6 ♗c6 23.♘c6 ♙b7 24.♘e7  
 ♗h8∞] 14...♙f4 15.ef4 0-0 16.♘c5

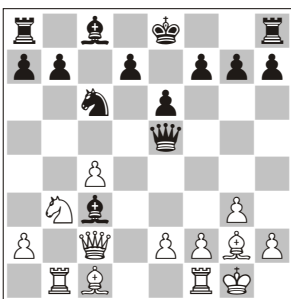


16...d5 [16...b6! 17.♘e4 ♗e7 18.♖fd1  
 ♖b8 19.♘d6 ♙b7 20.c5 ♙a8∞] 17.♘b7  
 [17.cd5 ed5 18.♙d5 ♙f5 19.♘e4 ♗e7  
 20.♖fe1±] 17...♙b7 18.♖b7 ♘a5  
 19.♖c7 ♘c4 20.♖c4 dc4 21.♙a8  
 ♖a8 22.♗c4 g6 23.♗c7 ♗d4  
 24.♖b1 1/2-1/2

**Feller,Sebastien**  
**Iordachescu,Viorel**

Khanty-Mansiysk 2011 (1)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 c5 4.♘f3  
 cd4 5.♘d4 ♙b4 6.♘c3 ♘e4 7.♗c2  
 ♗a5 8.♙g2 ♘c3 9.0-0 ♘c6 10.bc3  
 ♙c3 11.♘b3 ♖e5 12.♖b1



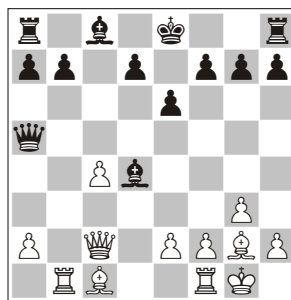
12...♗f6 [12...0-0 13.♙f4 ♗f6 14.♘c5  
 (14.♙d6!? ♖d8 15.♖fd1 ♘b4 (15...b6  
 16.♖d3 ♙a5 (16...♙e5 17.♙c6 dc6  
 18.♙e5) 17.♘a5±; 15...♙e5 16.c5±)  
 16.♗e4 (16.♗c1) 16...♘a2 17.♘c5 ♙b4

18.♗c2 ♙c5 19.♙c5 ♗f5 20.♗f5 ef5  
 21.♖d3] 14...♙e5 15.♘e4 ♗f5 16.♙e5  
 ♘e5 17.c5±; 12...♘b4 13.♗d1 ♘a2  
 14.♙f4 ♗f6 15.♘c5] 13.♘c5 ♙e5  
 14.♙a3 ♗e7 15.♗d3 a5 16.♘b7  
 ♘b4 17.♗e3 ♙c7 18.♘a5 ♘c2  
 19.♙e7 ♘e3 20.♙a8 ♗e7 21.♘c6  
 dc6 22.fe3 ♙d7 23.♙b7 h5 24.c5  
 h4 25.♙a6 hg3 26.hg3 ♖a8  
 27.♖b7 ♘d8 28.♙c4 f6 29.♗f2  
 [29.♖d1!+→] 29...♗c8 30.♖bb1 ♖a4  
 31.♙d3 ♙e5 32.♖h1 ♖a5 33.♖h8  
 ♗c7 34.♖g8 f5 35.♖c1 ♖a2 36.♖f8  
 ♖a5 37.♖f7?! ♘d8 38.♖f8 ♗e7  
 39.♖h8 ♙e8 40.♖h7 ♙f7 41.♖h8  
 ♙e8 42.♖hh1 ♙d7 43.♖c2 ♖a4  
 44.♖c4 ♖a5 45.♖b1 ♙e8 46.♖b7  
 ♗f6 47.♙c2 ♖a2 48.♖bb4 ♙h5  
 49.♖a4 ♖b2 50.♖a6 ♙e8 51.♙a4  
 ♙h5 52.♖c2 ♖b4 53.♙c6 ♖g4  
 54.♙f3 ♙g3 55.♗f1 ♖g5 56.♙h5  
 ♖h5 57.c6 ♖h8 58.♗g2 ♙e5 59.c7  
 ♖c8 60.♖cc6 f4 61.♖e6 ♗f5 62.e4  
 1-0

**David,Alberto**  
**Battaglini,Gabriel**

Paris ch-city 2011 (6)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.♘f3  
 c5 5.g3 cd4 6.♘d4 ♘e4 7.♗c2  
 ♗a5 8.♙g2 ♘c3 9.0-0 ♘c6 10.bc3  
 ♙c3 11.♘b3 ♘d4!? 12.♘d4 ♙d4  
 13.♖b1



13...♗c7 14.♖d1 [14.♙a3!? ♙c5  
 15.♙c5 ♗c5 16.♙b7 ♙b7 (16...♖b8  
 17.♙c8 ♖c8 18.♖b7 ♖c7 19.♖fb1 0-0  
 20.♖b5 ♗c6 21.♖c7 ♗c7 22.♗b3=)  
 17.♖b7 ♗c6 18.♗b3 0-0 19.♖d1±]  
 14...♙c5 15.♖b5 0-0 [15...d6! 16.♙f4  
 e5 17.♙d2 0-0; 15...a6 16.♙f4 d6  
 17.♖c5+-] 16.♙f4 e5 17.♖c5 ♗c5  
 18.♖d5 ♗e7 19.♙e5± ♖e8 20.c5?!

[20.♙f3] 20...b6 [20...f6] 21.♙d6 ♗f6  
 22.♖d2 ♙a6 23.♙a8 ♖a8 24.♗e4  
 ♖c8 25.f3 ♗e6 26.♗e6 de6 27.♗f2  
 f6 1/2-1/2

**Wojtaszek,Radoslaw**  
**Hracek,Zbynek**

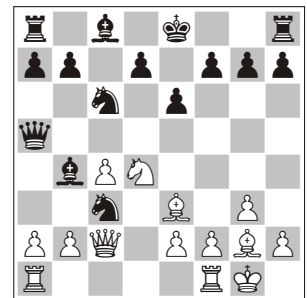
Aix-les-Bains Ech 2011 (7)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.♘f3  
 c5 5.g3 cd4 6.♘d4 ♘e4 7.♗c2  
 ♗a5 8.♙g2 ♘c3 9.0-0 ♘c6 10.bc3  
 ♙c3 11.♘b3 ♘d4 12.♘d4 ♙d4  
 13.♖b1 0-0 14.♖d1 ♙c5 15.♖b5  
 ♗c7 16.♙f4 e5 17.♖c5 ♗c5  
 18.♖d5 ♗b4 19.♙e5 ♖e8 20.♙e4  
 [20.♙c3 ♗b6 21.♖g5→] 20...h6  
 21.♙d6 ♗e1 22.♗g2 a5?! 23.♖f5  
 [23.♖d1 ♗d1 24.♙h7 ♗h8 25.♗d1 ♗h7  
 26.c5±] 23...♖a6 24.c5 ♖e6 25.♙d5  
 ♗a1? 26.♙e6 de6 27.♙e5 1-0

**Babula,Vlastimil**  
**Laznicka,Viktor**

Karlovy Vary ch-CZE 2004 (1)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.♘f3  
 c5 5.g3 cd4 6.♘d4 ♘e4 7.♗c2  
 ♗a5 8.♙g2 ♘c3 9.0-0 ♘c6 10.♙e3



10...0-0 [10...♘a4!? 11.a3 (11.c5! ♘d4  
 (11...♙c5 12.♘b3) 12.♙d4 ♙c5 13.♙g7  
 ♖g8 14.♗h7 ♖g7 15.♗g7 ♙f8 16.♗h8±  
 △ d5 17.e4 d4 18.♗d4 e5!) 11...♘d4  
 12.♙d4 ♙f8 13.b4 ♗a6 14.c5 d6 15.cd6  
 f6; 10...♘d4 11.♙d4 ♘a4 12.♙g7 ♖g8  
 13.♗h7 ♖g7 14.♗g7 ♙f8 15.♗h8f  
 Compared with the line above, it is exactly  
 the same position with an extra white pawn  
 on c4] 11.bc3 ♙c3 12.♘b3 ♗e5  
 13.♖ac1 ♙b4 14.c5± b6 15.♖fd1  
 ♙a3 16.♖b1 ♙b7?! [16...♗c7! 17.cb6;  
 17.♘d2 ♙c5 18.♙c5 bc5 19.♘e4 ♖b8∞]

17.♗d2! ♖c7 18.cb6 ab6 19.♖b6  
 [19.♗c4! ♖c5 20.♗b6 ♖b6 21.♖b6±]  
 19...♗c8 20.♗c4 ♖e7 21.♗d6 ♖d6  
 22.♗d6 ♗d4!= 23.♗d2 ♖g2  
 24.♖d4 ♖d5 25.♗d5 ed5 26.♖g7  
 ♗g7 27.♗g5 ♗h8 28.♗f6 ♗g8  
 ½-½

**Matlakov,Maxim  
 Diu,Viacheslav**

Taganrog ch-RUS 2011 (2)

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 c5 3.♗f3 cd4 4.♗d4  
 e6 5.♗c3 ♖b4 6.g3 ♗e4 7.♗c2  
 ♗a5 8.♖g2 ♗c3 9.0-0 ♗a4 10.a3  
 ♖e7 11.♗b5± ♗b2 12.♖d2 ♗d8  
 13.♖f4!

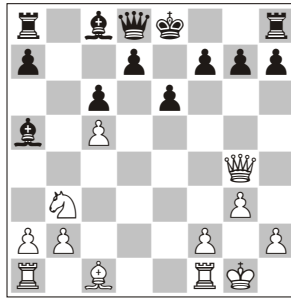


13...d6?! [13...0-0 14.♖c7 (14.♗c7 g5  
 15.♖e5 f6 16.♗a8 fe5 17.♗b2 ♗a6  
 18.♗e5 (18.♗ad1 d6 19.♖b7 ♗c5  
 20.♖g2 ♖d7) 18...♖f6 19.♗d6 ♖a1  
 20.♗a1 b6 21.♗d1 ♗f6) 14...♗e8  
 15.♗d6 ♖d6 16.♖d6 ♗c4 17.♗c4 ♗c6  
 18.a4 f6 (18...b6 19.a5!±) 19.a5± (19.♖f8  
 d5 20.♗b3 ♗f8) 19...♗f7 20.♗fc1]  
 14.c5 0-0 15.cd6 ♖f6 16.♗c7±  
 ♗c6 17.♖c6 bc6 18.♗a8 e5  
 19.♖e3 ♖h3 20.♗b2 [20.♗fb1+-]  
 20...♖f1 21.♗f1 ♗a8 22.♗d1 ♗b8  
 23.♗d2 ♗b7 24.d7 ♖d8 [≥ 24...♗d8  
 25.♖c5±] 25.♗d6! ♗c7 26.♗c7  
 ♖c7 27.♖a7 ♗a8 28.♖c5 ♖d8  
 29.e4 f6 30.♗d6 1-0

**Stocek,Jiri  
 Tan,McKinley**

Philadelphia 2010 (4)

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♖b4 4.♗f3  
 c5 5.g3 ♗e4 6.♗c2 cd4 7.♗d4  
 ♗a5 8.♖g2 ♗c3 9.0-0 ♗e2 10.♗e2  
 ♗c6 11.♗b3 ♗d8 [11...♗e5 12.♖e3  
 0-0 13.c5 d5 14.cd6 ♖d6 15.♗fd1 ♖e7  
 16.♗ac1±] 12.♖c6 [12.c5 0-0 13.♗d1±]  
 12...bc6 13.c5 ♖a5?! [13...0-0  
 14.♗g4 ♗b8 15.♖f4 ♗b7 16.♖d6 ♗e8∞]  
 14.♗g4



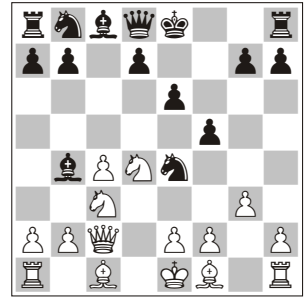
14...0-0? 15.♗a5 ♗a5 16.♖h6+-  
 g6 17.♗d4 f6 18.♖f8 ♗f8 19.♗f6  
 ♗g8 20.♗ac1 ♖a6 21.♗fd1 ♗f8  
 22.♗e5 ♖c8 23.a3 d5 24.♗d4 ♗b5  
 25.♗b4 ♗d3 26.♗f4 ♗f4 27.♗f4 e5  
 28.♗e5 ♖h3 29.♗e8 ♗g7 30.♗e7  
 ♗g8 31.♗d8 ♗g7 32.♗c7 ♗h6  
 33.♗f4 g5 34.♗f8 ♗h5 35.♗e8  
 ♗h6 36.♗e3 ♗f5 37.♗e1 1-0

**The Remaining Option  
 7...f5**

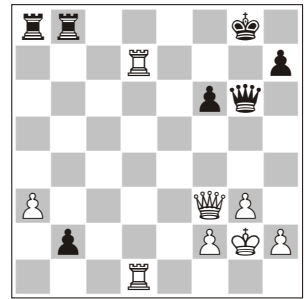
**Stocek,Jiri  
 Arnold,Marc Tyler**

Philadelphia 2011 (4)

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♖b4 4.♗f3  
 c5 5.g3 cd4 6.♗d4 ♗e4 7.♗c2 f5



8.♖g2 ♗a6 9.0-0 [9.♖e4 fe4 10.♗e4  
 0-0 11.0-0 ♖c3 12.bc3 ♗c5 13.♗e3 b6]  
 9...♗f6 [9...♖c3 10.bc3 ♗ac5 11.♖e3!]  
 10.♗d1± ♗e7 11.♗cb5 0-0 12.a3  
 ♖c5 13.b4 ♖d4 14.♗d4 d5 15.cd5  
 ♗d5 16.♖b2 [16.e4! fe4 17.♖e4 h6  
 18.♖b2 ♖d7 19.♗d5 ed5 20.♖d5 ♗h8  
 21.♗g6+-] 16...♖d7 17.♗d3 ♖b5  
 18.♗b5 ♗ac7 19.♗b7 ♗fb8  
 20.♗c6 a5 21.♖d5 ♗d5 22.e4 ♗f6  
 23.ef5 ef5 24.♗d6 ab4 25.♖f6 gf6  
 26.♗d7 ♗e8 27.♗d5 ♗h8 28.♗f5  
 ♗g6 29.♗f3 b3 30.♗g2 b2  
 31.♗ad1 ♗g8?



32.♗b7! ♗c2 33.♗g4 [33.♗d4! ♗b7  
 34.♗g4 ♗f8 35.♗f6 ♗f7 36.♗d6 ♖e7  
 37.♗d5!+-] 33...♗g6 34.♗c4 [34.♗f3!  
 ♗b7 (34...♗e8 35.♗e1!) 35.♗b7+-]  
 34...♗h8 35.♗b4? [35.♗c6!+-]  
 35...♗e8!= 36.♗dd7 ♗b7 37.♗b7  
 ♗c6 38.f3 ♗c2 39.♗h3 ♗f5 40.♗g2  
 ♗c2 41.♗h3 ♗f5 42.♗g2 ½-½