

Larry Kaufman

The Kaufman Repertoire for Black and White

A Complete, Sound and User-friendly Chess Opening Repertoire

New In Chess 2012

The Structure of this Book

This book looks at the opening from two sides, and therefore I have decided to give two sides to it. If you just read on from the preliminary chapters after this page, you enter the ‘White section’: my repertoire for the white player. To read my repertoire for the black player, you should just turn the book around and start from the beginning again!

Larry Kaufman
October 2011

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Introduction

This book started out to be an update of my 2003 opening repertoire book *The Chess Advantage in Black and White*. However I quickly concluded that so much had changed in eight years that I should just start from scratch and write a whole new book. The concept is similar to the original book, but the openings chosen are mostly different. The basic idea is to provide a complete set of openings for both colors, with some variety included, that will give you everything you can reasonably be expected to remember against all serious lines the opponent might throw at you. I make no attempt to be encyclopedic; a reasonably full repertoire just for Black against the Queen's Gambit took grandmaster Avrukh two volumes, so a truly encyclopedic one for both colors would take about ten. In my opinion few people can remember everything in even one book (I know I can't), so I don't see much point in trying to cover everything in a repertoire in multiple volumes, except to aid correspondence players. The openings chosen are the ones I actually play right now, and I have not kept anything 'secret' from the readers. It may cost me a game or two in the future, but I'm confident that I'll win more games from the work I did on this book than I'll lose due to opponents preparing for me with my own book, especially since I give some variety at many junctures.

What has changed in eight years? In 2003, pc programs were already roughly on a par with the human World Champion, but they achieved this level by being much stronger in tactics whereas they were only at strong amateur level positionally. Now the best programs are far stronger still tactically, but vastly better positionally – maybe in the low grandmaster range, though this is very subjective. Any of the top programs can now give a pawn handicap to the strongest human players, as has been demonstrated several times now. Furthermore I now use a twelve core computer whereas I only had single core back then. Finally, other software is now available that permits analysis to go on 24 hours a day using each core for a different position and putting everything in a nice tree. The bottom line is that the quality of computer analysis used in this book is several hundred rating points stronger than what I could do back in 2003. On top of all this, I myself am a stronger player now than in 2003 despite my age (64 when this book comes out), probably because of all this work I do with these super-strong engines.

This book is intended for a wide range of chess players. The basic idea is that the chosen variations are suitable even for the strongest grandmasters, but are also fine for average tournament and club players. The analysis is at an extremely high level, not so much because of my own chess skills but rather because of the way in which computers were used, as explained in the chapter on that topic. However, the explanations of why each terminal position in a line is evaluated as it is are written for average club players, and are concise due to the amount of material being covered. If you are an average player I hope you will learn from these explanations more about how to evaluate

positions. If you are a grandmaster, feel free to ignore my explanations and just study the analysis; I think you will find it to be at a very high level. I am confident that this book will be helpful to many grandmasters; at least I know it was very helpful to one (your author!).

One idea I have retained to some degree from the original book is my belief that you should opt for the second-best move in the opening in those cases where it is nearly as good as the best one but cuts down substantially on how much you need to learn. However, it turns out that quite often the best move is not the most often played one, primarily because the best move may have only been discovered with the aid of super-strong computer programs in the last few years. So very often we can ‘have our cake and eat it too’, meaning we can choose the best move and at the same time one that is not so often played or well-known. This was rarely the case eight years ago.

The book is full of new moves, so-called theoretical novelties, generally marked with ‘N’. This is not because I am an especially original player, but rather reflects the heavy use of computer analysis. Note that I often only consulted a database of serious master games, so perhaps some of the moves marked ‘N’ are not truly new if they were played by players too weak to make the database, or were played in blitz events or other events not qualifying for the database.

The goal is to provide a reasonably complete repertoire for all moves you are likely to face in the opening as White or Black. Because I cover both colors, and because I often give alternatives so you won’t be totally predictable just because you use this book, I have to limit myself at each juncture to the frequently played moves by the opponent. So you won’t find analysis on how to beat the Grob (1.g4?) or any other obviously inferior move at any point, and I may not always point out why some seemingly good move is not played. Usually the answer is some elementary tactic; if you can’t find it yourself ask any modern engine to solve the question for you. In most cases where you don’t see a move mentioned, you can just play whatever move your engine likes and you will be fine.

As for the choice of openings, the Black repertoire is mostly that of the world’s highest rated player (as of this writing), Magnus Carlsen. Current and six-time Russian champion and now World Champion Candidate Peter Svidler is also a model for much of the Black openings, being the premier exponent of the Grünfeld. For White I don’t follow any one particular star. Most of the choices were played by Garry Kasparov when he was active. I would particularly like to mention grandmaster Georgi Kacheishvili and his star students Grandmaster Alex Lenderman and International Master Irina Krush, as they play many of my chosen lines and were the inspiration for my primary choice against the King’s Indian Defense. I also want to thank Grandmaster Roman Dzindzichashvili for his very helpful analysis of a critical line in the Slav Defense.

Chess is not a fair game. White starts out with a significant advantage due to moving first, and of decisive games White wins nearly two for each black win in high-level play. The goal as White is to reach a favorable position where your winning chances sub-

stantially exceed Black's winning chances. I believe that most if not all of the lines in the book do so. As Black my goal is to reach a position where Black has some winning chances and White does not have far more winning chances. So I had to reject all defenses which were either dubious or excessively draw-seeking, as well as any (such as the Zaitsev in the Spanish) which allow an obvious draw by White. I think the chosen defenses (Breyer and Grünfeld) accomplish this goal fairly well. Naturally there is the question of what happens when both colors follow my advice. The result, as it should be, is a very small white advantage in a position which either side might win.

I would also like to mention that although I did of course consult other relevant books, I primarily did this just to get more positions for my computer to analyze in depth. When the computers confirm the findings of other authors, I give their analysis; when they don't (assuming I agree), I give my own. Because of the heavy reliance on computer analysis, I don't generally take the time to look up who might have first played the moves of a sideline up to the point where I give a new move, which also saves a lot of space. I do on occasion disagree with the engines (even my own) and substitute my own analysis, but I generally only do so when I am fairly confident that the engines are wrong.

Since this is a book about openings, I have frequently given a recommended but unplayed move as the main line while consigning the remainder of the actual game (in full or in part) to a note. In many cases the game chosen is of no real interest, it is merely chosen because the moves I consider best were played up to some point. In such cases I usually only give a few moves after the first error by 'my' side. In many other cases the game is an interesting one, and in those cases I usually give the game until the result is clear or until one side made an error that makes the remaining moves irrelevant.

I should probably tell you a bit about myself, since although I am well-known in American chess circles I may not be so well-known in Europe. I learned chess at age 7 from my father (who played until the day before his death at 96), and had my first chess lesson at age 8 from Harold Phillips, who had been a New York champion in 1895!! My first major accomplishment in chess was winning the American Open Championship back in 1966. In 1980 I earned the International Master title by taking second and third places in international tournaments in New York. My career back then was in the stock market, I was not a chess pro. In 1986 I retired from the financial world and got involved with computer chess; later I got back into playing and also teaching chess. In the last few years I have mostly been involved with developing computer chess programs Rybka and now Komodo. In 2008 I surprised almost everyone by winning the World Senior Championship in Germany right after reaching the required age 60, and thus became a Grandmaster. I have three children, the oldest of whom, Raymond Kaufman, is an International Master. I'm still quite active as a player, and have so far shown no sign of the decline in playing strength normally associated with players of my age. My most recent victories are the 2011 Virginia Open Championship, the 2011 Maryland

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blitz championship, and a tie for first (fourth on tiebreak) in the 2010 World Senior. I live in Potomac, Maryland with my wife Priscilla and my youngest daughter. I may be 'old', but I hope this book does justice to the name of the publisher, NEW in Chess!

Larry Kaufman

October 2011

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VO 22.10 (A40)

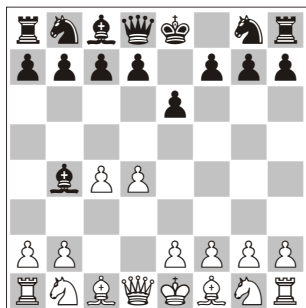
Game 3.3

□ **Giri, Anish**

■ **Carlsen, Magnus**

Monaco rapid, 2011 (4)

1. **d2-d4** **e7-e6**
 2. **c2-c4** ♖f8-b4+



3. ♖c1-d2

White will fianchetto his king's bishop aiming for a Dutch or Catalan with the dark-square bishops exchanged.

3. ... ♗b4xd2+

Or 3...a5 4.♟f3 and now:

A) 4...♟f6 5.g3

A1) 5...b6 6.♖g2 ♗b7 7.0-0 0-0 8.♖f4 ♖e7 9.♟c3 ♟e4 10.♟b5 c6 (if 10...♟a6 11.♖c2 f5 12.a3 ♖f6 13.♖fd1 ♖c8 14.h4N the bad position of the a6 knight gives White the edge) 11.♟c3 ♟xc3 12.bxc3 d6 13.♖e1 ♟d7 14.e4 – White's huge space advantage and the weak pawn on b6 give him the edge;

A2) 5...d5 6.♖g2 dxc4 7.♖c2 ♖xd2+ 8.♖xd2 c6 9.a4 b5 10.♟a3 – this is a major Catalan line slightly in White's favor;

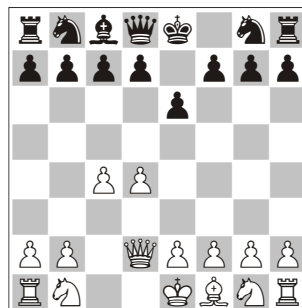
B) 4...d6 5.g3 ♖e7 6.♟c3 ♟f6 7.♖g2 e5 (in case of 7...0-0 8.0-0 ♟bd7 9.a3 ♖xc3 10.♖xc3 ♟e4 11.♖e1 f5 12.♟d2 ♟df6 13.♖c2 White's bishop pair will

give him a plus once the knight on e4 is gone) 8.dxe5 dxe5 (so far Zhu Chen-Edouard, Gibraltar 2011) 9.0-0 0-0 10.♖c2N ♖xc3 11.♖xc3 ♟c6 12.♖ad1 and White has a solid bishop pair plus; 3...c5 4.♖xb4 cxb4 5.e3 (Komodo prefers simply 5.♟d2) 5...♟f6 6.g4!? I like this suggestion of Bronznik. As compared to many other openings where an early g2-g4 is played, here the pawn is protected and Black cannot strike the center with ...c7-c5 (6.a3 is the simple route to an edge). 6...d5 (6...h6 7.♟f3!; 6...0-0 7.♟d2) 7.♟d2 h6 8.♟g3 ♟c6 9.♖g1 ♖d7 10.♖d3 (Komodo). Bronznik prefers 10.h4 or 10.♖b3. In all cases White has the initiative with a timely g4-g5 and the right to castle queenside.

3...♖e7 4.♟c3 ♟f6 5.♖c2 seems to me (and to Komodo) to be a slightly better version for White of the Classical (♖c2) Nimzo. Being able to recapture on c3 with the bishop seems more valuable than having the queen on e7.

4. ♖d1xd2

The queen recapture is best as the knight is much better posted on c3 than on d2.



4. ... f7-f5

So we have a Dutch with the dark-squared bishops traded, which tends to favor White.

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Black Introduction

Magnus Carlsen's defenses!

In *Chess Advantage* I recommended meeting 1.e4 with 1...e5, aiming for the Berlin Defense to the Spanish Opening, and meeting 1.d4 with 1...d5, aiming for the Semi-Slav. In the present volume I have kept the opening move 1...e5 against 1.e4, but this time aiming for the Breyer rather than the Berlin. The Berlin Defense remains quite respectable and is used fairly often by top players, but the Berlin endgame is now generally regarded as at least slightly better for White, and also the sidelines 4.d3 and 4.0-0 ♖xe4 5.♙e1 are both more promising than white sidelines on the way to the Breyer. Perhaps the best argument for switching to the Breyer is that it has been the primary choice in the past year or two of the top rated player in the world, Magnus Carlsen. It keeps all the pieces on the board, concedes very little to White (just a slight central advantage of pawns on d4 and e4 vs. d6 and e5), and is in excellent shape theoretically. Against non-Spanish lines, I have kept some of my recommendations but changed many others, especially against the Scotch.

Against 1.d4, I switched to the Grünfeld, both in my own play and for this book. The Semi-Slav is still a good alternative, but there are some problems in the 5.♙g5 lines and also a big problem of reaching the Semi-Slav without allowing unpleasant options like the Catalan or the Slav Exchange. The Grünfeld is in much better shape than it was eight years ago, and it seems that finding an advantage against it is an extremely challenging task. My own experience is that since I have been aiming for the Grünfeld and for the Breyer, my results have improved noticeably. Here too we are following the recent preference of Carlsen.

I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the English Opening, 1.c4, is not much of a problem for the Grünfeld player, contrary to my opinion eight years ago. I show how the move 1...g6! either transposes to the Grünfeld or leads to near-equality in all cases.

As for 1.♘f3, we can play the Grünfeld anyway, covered in the Anti-Grünfeld chapter. In the Réti chapter I give some alternatives for Black. So my overall conclusion is that contrary to my belief eight years ago, the Grünfeld does not have major move-order problems.

The section on 1.e4 e5 is the only major part of this book that has much in common with my previous work. Even here, most of my recommendations have changed. I kept the same main lines against the King's Gambit and Göring Gambit, but against almost all other white tries I have made major changes. Many players are reluctant to meet 1.e4

with 1...e5 because there are so many ways White can vary before we get to play our own line (in this case the Breyer, on move 9 of the Spanish). This is true, but almost all of them are inferior. In fact I would say that only the Italian, the Spanish with 6.d3, and the Spanish with 9.d4 lead to positions (with best play) where I would rather play White than Black, and just marginally so. Quite a few of the white options that I actually face in tournaments fail even to equalize the game. When people try to take me out of book early, I am usually quite content! In this book I don't take the attitude that Black is always happy with a draw; once White makes one or two second-rate moves I start to look for a black advantage.

Black is clearly better, with ...c5-c4 and ...♗c5 coming up. As an aside, I drew games with both of the players in this game, but forty years separated those two games!

RL 25.6 (C95)

Game 15.3

□ Nakamura, Hikaru

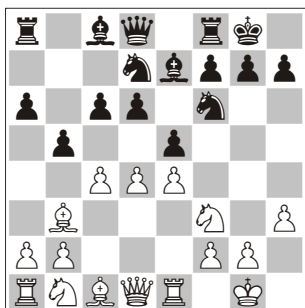
■ Carlsen, Magnus

Medias, 2011 (6)

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| 1. e2-e4 | e7-e5 |
| 2. ♗g1-f3 | ♗b8-c6 |
| 3. ♙f1-b5 | a7-a6 |
| 4. ♙b5-a4 | ♗g8-f6 |
| 5. 0-0 | ♙f8-e7 |
| 6. ♖f1-e1 | b7-b5 |
| 7. ♙a4-b3 | 0-0 |
| 8. c2-c3 | d7-d6 |
| 9. h2-h3 | ♗c6-b8 |
| 10. d2-d4 | ♗b8-d7 |
| 11. c3-c4 | |

There were only two grandmaster games this century with 11.c4 until this year, but computers like it so it is coming back now. Bobby Fischer played it and Khalifman is a great theoretician, so his choice here is interesting.

11. ... c7-c6



12. ♗b1-c3?!

Both Nakamura in this game and Shabalov against me chose this inferior move, after which White has no prospects of getting the advantage.

A) 12.♗bd2 ♙b7 13.♙c2 exd4 (or 13...♖e8 directly) 14.♗xd4 (so far Khalifman-Short, Bazna 2008. Black continued 14...♖e8?! and had to struggle for a draw; the text is better) 14...g6 15.b3 c5 16.♗4f3 ♖e8 17.♙b2 ♙c6=. The pressure on e4 offsets White's pressure on the long diagonal;

B) 12.cxb5 axb5 13.♗c3 was played by Bobby Fischer against Spassky in Sveti Stefan, 1992, but 13...b4 looks like a full equalizer;

C) 12.c5 ♖c7 13.cxd6 ♙xd6 14.♙g5 ♙b7=;

D) 12.♙g5 h6 13.♙h4 ♗h5=. The bishop exchange should favor Black as the fixed pawns on e4 and e5 leave Black with the better bishop;

E) Probably 12.a3 is the best try, e.g. 12...exd4 13.♗xd4 ♗e5 14.♙f4 ♖b6 15.cxb5 axb5 16.♗c3 ♖e8 17.♗f3 ♙f8=;

F) In case of 12.♖c2 ♙b7 13.♗c3 b4 14.♗e2 exd4 15.♗exd4 g6 16.♗e2 ♗c5 17.♗g3 a5 Black looks better due to his strong knight on c5. He may later play ...♗fd7, ...♗e6, and ...♗dc5, and/or ...a5-a4, ...♖e8, and ...♖c7.

12. ... b5-b4

13. ♗c3-a4 c6-c5

14. d4-d5

14.dxc5 dxc5 was Shabalov-Kaufman, Arlington 2010, in which we agreed to a draw a few moves later when Black was already a bit better.

RL 25.10 (C95) Game 15.5
 □ Shabalov,Alexander
 ■ Navara,David

Khanty-Mansiysk, 2009 (2)

- | | |
|------------|--------|
| 1. e2-e4 | e7-e5 |
| 2. ♖g1-f3 | ♜b8-c6 |
| 3. ♙f1-b5 | a7-a6 |
| 4. ♜b5-a4 | ♜g8-f6 |
| 5. 0-0 | ♙f8-e7 |
| 6. ♜f1-e1 | b7-b5 |
| 7. ♙a4-b3 | d7-d6 |
| 8. c2-c3 | 0-0 |
| 9. h2-h3 | ♜c6-b8 |
| 10. d2-d4 | ♜b8-d7 |
| 11. ♜b1-d2 | ♙c8-b7 |
| 12. ♙b3-c2 | |

12.a4 c5 13.♙c2 (13.d5 c4 14.♙c2 ♜c5=) 13...♙c7=.

- | | |
|------------|--------|
| 12. ... | ♜f8-e8 |
| 13. a2-a4 | ♙e7-f8 |
| 14. ♙c2-d3 | |

Engines generally regard this line as the best against the Breyer and so it has become the favorite of the top grandmasters, though this game and analysis suggest that Black is fine here.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 14. ... | c7-c6 |
|---------|-------|



- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 15. b2-b3 | |
|-----------|--|

A) 15.♙c2 g6 16.b3 transposes; 16.axb5 axb5 17.♜xa8 ♙xa8 18.b4 exd4 19.cxd4 ♙a4=;

B) 15.♜f1 c5 16.axb5 axb5 17.♜xa8 ♙xa8 18.dxe5 ♜xe5= 19.♙xb5 ♙xe4 20.♜xe4 ♙xe4 21.♙xe8 ♜xf3+ 22.♙xf3 ♙xe8 23.c4 ♙e5 24.b3 d5 25.cxd5 ♙xd5 26.♙xd5 draw agreed. This was Topalov–Carlsen, Monaco 2011 (blindfold);

C) 15.b4 ♜c8 (in earlier games Carlsen played 15...♜b6. The text is his improvement. The idea is to discourage axb5 though Anand played it anyway) 16.axb5?! (16.♙b2 ♜b6=) 16...cxb5 17.♙b2 d5 18.exd5 exd4. This was Anand–Carlsen, London 2010. Black is already a bit better here but White won after an oversight by Carlsen.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 15. ... | g7-g6 |
|---------|-------|

15...♙c7 16.♙c2 ♜ac8 17.♙b2 ♜h5 18.♙f1 ♜f4 19.b4 ♜b6= was Karjakin–Carlsen from the 2010 World Blitz Championship in Moscow. Whether 15...♙c7 or 15...g6 is better is hard to say.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 16. ♙d1-c2 | |
|------------|--|

16.♙b2 exd4 17.cxd4 d5 18.♜e5 ♙b4 19.♜xd7 ♙xd7 20.e5 ♜h5 21.♙f1 ♜f4=, Nisipeanu–Carlsen, Medias 2011.

- | | |
|------------|--------|
| 16. ... | ♜a8-c8 |
| 17. ♙c1-a3 | |

17.♙b2 ♜h5 18.♙f1 exd4 19.cxd4 d5 20.e5 b4 Black is better due to ideas like ...♜g7 and ...c6-c5.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 17. ... | ♜f6-h5! |
|---------|---------|

17...exd4 18.cxd4 ♜h5 19.g3 ♜g7 20.♙f1 ♜e6 is likely to transpose to the