

Valeri Bronznik

1.d4 - Beat the Guerrillas!

A Powerful Repertoire Against Annoying Black Sidelines

New In Chess 2011

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Introduction

Dear chess lover,

Right at the start I would like to make a confession: for me it was a rather unusual experience to write a book like this one.

If you are acquainted with my previous works, which in each case were dedicated to one specific opening or system, then you will have noticed that I have always tried to deal with matters in depth (the length of the variations I examined) as well as in breadth (the number of alternatives discussed for both sides), with the result that many of the lines were very complicated.

This time I found myself faced with a radically different task. I was meant to give to someone who plays 1.d4 advice as to how to deal with a series of rare openings.

When defining the subject, we started from the point of view that White would play 1.d4 and 2.c4 and mostly also 3.♟c3 or 3.♟f3, thus ambitiously heading towards main lines. That is usually up to White. Thus, for example in the King's Indian after 1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 g6 3.♟c3 ♟g7 4.e4 d6, in the Nimzo-Indian after 1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 e6 3.♟c3 ♟b4 or in the Grünfeld with 1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 g6 3.♟c3 d5, the first player in each case has at his disposal a variety of different moves and systems and Black has to adapt or defend 'his' choice of opening against all the various possibilities. And from a theoretical point of view, everything has been very well explored.

But things look very different if Black should take refuge in rare or gambit openings. Few players with white are well versed in their theory and the price paid for an inaccuracy is often a high one for White – because in many of these systems Black tries to seize the initiative right from the start.

With this in mind, we shall introduce you to 19 specialities: various gambits like the Englund Gambit, Albin's Counter-Gambit and the Schara-Hennig, Fajarowicz and Budapest Gambits. Various forms of the Queen's Gambit Declined, e.g. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 ♟f6, 2...c5 or 2...♟f5. Moves such as 1...b6 and 1...b5. And, last but not least, there are some serious systems like 1.d4 e6 2.c4 ♟b4+ or 1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 ♟c6, which are gradually making their way into grandmaster practice, but which have not yet been extensively investigated. One such is the controversial and also extremely sharp English Defence 1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6!?. And finally lines which do not fit into any theoretical scheme of things such as, e.g., the 'Stonewall by the back door' (Black begins with ...d5, ...e6, ...c6 and only later plays ...f5).

However, in addition to the necessity to acquaint myself in depth with so many different themes, I was faced with the following practical problems:

Since, when all is said and done, these are only 'rare' openings, the counter-measures which are to be recommended should not make too great demands on the reader's time and memory.

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If, when preparing for a game, we establish that our opponent uses one of the systems dealt with here, there is usually little time available for niceties. What is required is 'first aid'; for example, how we can ensure ourselves of a slight advantage without any risks, or how we can steer the play into other variations which suit us better.

But I was not always satisfied with what could be achieved with simple methods and so in some cases a few complicated variations have also crept in...

And another little point about the organisation of the book: some chapters have been sub-divided in great detail, in other cases where there was a very clear structure that did not appear to us to be necessary. Nevertheless, the length of the final conclusion varies according to the level of difficulty of the material.

In any case, this book is not an opening bible, but rather a guide-book created according to my tastes. There are of course often other good options. I hope that the paths I have suggested to you will lead you to success!

IM Valeri Bronznik
Stuttgart, June 2010

Introduction to the English edition

Dear reader,

The book which you are about to read is a revised and extended edition of my German work '1.d4 – Ratgeber gegen unorthodoxe Eröffnungen'. The German edition was received favourably by readers and critics, and I was especially happy to hear that one of the best theoreticians in the world, grandmaster Zigurds Lanka, expressed himself very positively about my work.

I am very glad that New In Chess has offered me to translate my book into English, thereby making it accessible to a broader audience. As it was important for me to inform my readers as thoroughly as possible, also about the latest developments and discoveries in the investigated openings, for the English edition I have checked the current state of affairs, and analysed and worked out a number of newly played games, which, compared with the German edition, has led to many specifications and additions.

I sincerely hope that this book will be useful for you, and I wish you a lot of pleasure and success with it!

IM Valeri Bronznik
Stuttgart, September 2011

PART I

Various 1st moves

In this part we shall take a look at various replies to 1.d4.

We shall start off with the more or less unsound *Englund Gambit* 1...e5.

Things then continue with two sidelines of the Benoni, namely **1.d4 c5 2.d5 f5** – the *Dutch Benoni* – and then **1.d4 c5 2.d5 f6 3.c3 a5**, the *Woozle*. Neither system can be absolutely refuted, but Black is faced with an uphill task.

Next then, **1.d4 b5** – the *Polish Defence* – and **1.d4 b6**, the *Owen Defence*. In each case Black is somewhat worse off and cannot afford any mistake in his passive position.

This is followed by the nameless **1.d4 c6** (the name *Lithuanian* has not become established). After 2.d5 White can secure a slight advantage with the correct move order, without Black being able to get the sharp counterplay he was longing for.

We continue with the *Keres Defence* **1.d4 e6 2.c4 b4**. We are now on terrain which is suitable for serious grandmaster chess, and White should be well aware of the links between them in order to be able to weigh up the advantages or disadvantages when compared to the *Bogo-Indian* with 1.d4 f6 2.c4 e6 3.f3 b4.

Finally, the longest and most detailed chapter in the book: **1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6**, the *English Defence*. Here I investigate for White two possibilities which are fundamentally different in character: the quiet 3.a3 and the principled 3.e4, after which play can admittedly become extremely sharp.

Chapter 1

The Englund Gambit and related material

1.d4 e5

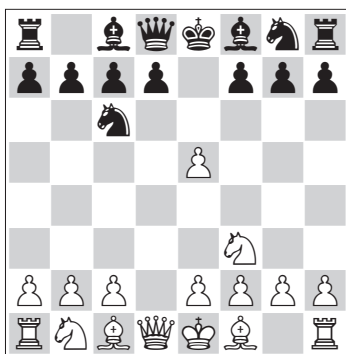
A gambit right from move one!

2.dxe5 ♘c6

The main continuation.

The alternatives **2...d6** and **2...f6** will be treated within ⇒ *Analysis No. 1*.

3.♗f3



Here, five continuations should be mentioned:

- **3...f6**, the Soller Gambit Delayed ⇒ *Analysis No. 1*.
- **3...d6**, the Hartlaub Gambit Delayed ⇒ within *Analysis No. 1*.
- **3...♗c5**, the Felbecker Gambit ⇒ *Game 2*.
- **3...♖e7**, the actual Englund Gambit ⇒ *Game 3*.
- **3...♞g7**, the Zilbermints Gambit ⇒ *Game 4*.

In the first two options Black does not strive to recover the ♗e5, but rather he aims to get, after exf6 or exd6, free development and bases his hopes on the activity which goes with that.

He first develops his king's bishop with 3...♗c5, option 3, and postpones the decision as to what he is intending to do about the ♗e5.

In the fourth line, the ♗e5 is put under immediate threat and in the last one Black is planning ...♞g6, which will help with his piece development and at the same time attack the ♗e5.

Chapter 3

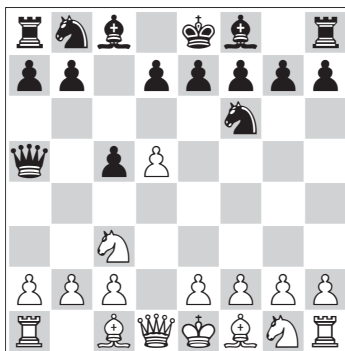
The Woozle – 1.d4 c5 2.d5 ♞f6 3.♞c3

1.d4 c5 2.d5 ♞f6 3.♞c3

Of course, you can also choose 3.c4 here, but many players do not want to allow their opponent to play, e.g., the Volga Gambit (3...b5) or the Modern Benoni (3...e6).

In addition it is considered – probably correctly – that here 3.♞c3 is even objectively the best move. Compared to 3.c4 it leaves the c4-square open for the manoeuvre ♞f3-d2-c4 and does not restrict the ♕f1.

3...♞a5



Black pins the ♞c3 and intends an immediate ...b7-b5. On the other hand, in doing so he neglects the development of his minor pieces and pays too little attention to the central squares. The following sample game shows us what danger Black is exposing himself to.

Game 7

Treppner, Gerd

Doll, Stefan

Baden-Baden 1987

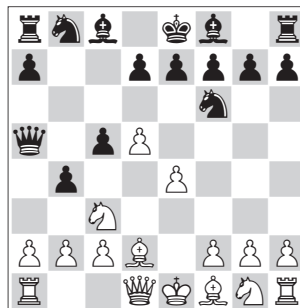
1.d4 c5 2.d5 ♞f6 3.♞c3 ♞a5
4.♕d2 b5

Logical. After 4...d6 5.e4 the sortie by the black queen to a5 turns out to be totally useless.

5.e4!

As praxis has shown, Black gets more counterchances after 5.a3 a6 6.e4 ♞c7.

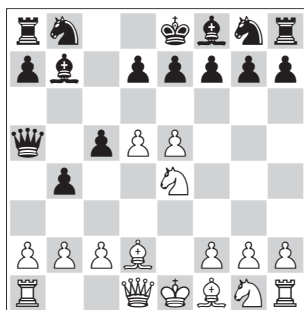
5...b4



6.e5! bxc3

1.d4 - Beat the Guerrillas!

After **6...♙a6?! 7.♙xa6 ♖xa6 8.exf6 bxc3 9.♙xc3 gxf6 10.♘e2** White has a great advantage thanks to his more active pieces and superior pawn structure. But probably the suggestion by Watson/Schiller (referred to by Bücken in *Kaissiber No. 1*) of **7.exf6 ♙xf1 8.♙xf1 bxc3 9.fxe7 cxd2 10.exf8 ♖+ ♙xf8 11.c4!** and **12.♘f3** is even better. Nor can **6...♘g8?! 7.♘e4 ♙b7**



Analysis diagram

... be recommended on account of **8.♙c4**, e.g. **8...e6 9.♖f3** (now **9...exd5** is met by **10.♘g5±**, whilst **9...♙xd5** fails to **10.♙xd5 exd5 11.♘g5**; moreover, *Rybka's* suggestion **9.♙e3!?** is probably even stronger) **9...♖b6** (Chr.Bauer-Bücken, Germany Bundesliga B 1995/96) **10.0-0-0!** (Bücken), and Black's position looks very sad (**10...exd5 11.♘g5±; 10...♙xd5 11.♙xd5 exd5 12.♘g5±**).

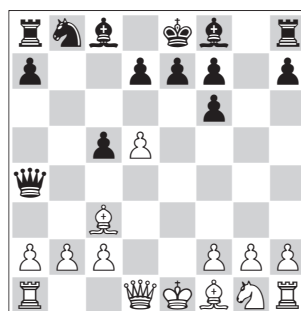
7.♙xc3 ♖a4

After **7...♖b6 8.exf6 gxf6** White has at his disposal, thanks to his advantage in space and Black's compromised pawn structure, more than one option to secure clearly better chances, e.g. **9.♘f3** followed by **♘d2-c4** or **9.♖h5!?** and then **0-0-0**.

8.exf6

As praxis has shown, **8...♖e4+ 9.♖e2 ♖xe2+ 10.♘e2 gxf6 11.d6!** **e5 12.0-0-0** now leads to a very difficult position for Black, e.g. **12...♘c6 13.♘g3 ♘b4 14.♙c4±**, Browne-Crispin, Las Vegas 1996, or **12...♙a6 13.♘g3 ♙xf1 14.♖hx1±**, Relange-Lochte, Shenyang 1999. In the main game Black decided on the immediate recapture.

8...gxf6



9.♖f3!?

I like this best – White activates his queen, sets up a threat of **d5-d6** and prepares to castle queenside. The king's bishop remains flexible and can decide later whether to go to **d3** or **c4**. The only disadvantage of the move is that, if he wants, Black can now help himself to the **c2** pawn – but if he does so, as we shall see, he gets into very dangerous territory. If you do not want to sacrifice a pawn (yet), you can decide on **9.♙d3**, which represents a good alternative, e.g. **9...♙b7 10.b3 ♖a3 11.♖h5 ♘a6 12.♘f3 ♘b4 13.♙e4 ♖g8 14.0-0 ♖g7 15.♖fe1±**, Hawranke-Abicht, Hamburg 2006. Instead of **9...♙b7** Bücken recommends **9...h5!** with the idea of **...♖g4**. He also analyses **10.d6 e5!**, after which the play becomes rather complicated. I would, however, prefer **10.h3!?**

Chapter 14

The Delayed Stonewall

What we have here is a Stonewall set-up (c6-d5-e6-f5) in which Black lays his cards on the table somewhat later than in the Dutch Stonewall. In other words, ...f7-f5 is not played here on the first or second move, but on move four or five.

To be honest, I had not originally planned to include this chapter in the book. The options for the opening moves for both sides are far too numerous and to attempt to cover all the possibilities would have required a whole book of its own.

But I finally decided to present the 'Delayed Stonewall', but only sketchily, so that the reader can find some ideas which will hopefully help him as he prepares for a specific game.

So now let us turn to the pieces.

According to which system White wants to play against the Slav or the Orthodox Queen's Gambit, various forms of the Delayed Stonewall can arise, for example:

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 e6 4.♘c3 f5 ⇒

Position A



1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 e6 4.e3 f5 ⇒

Position B



18.♖xd6 ♕d7 (18...♗c7!?) 19.♗xd7
♗xd7 20.♗xd7 ♘xd7 21.♗d1 ♘f6 with
a worse, but still defensible endgame.

18.c5 e5 19.♘d4!

The knight is aiming for b5.

19...♘g6?

The lesser evil is **19...a6**, although this would irrevocably weaken the b6-square. The text move allows the

white knight to go to b5, with very sad consequences for Black. I give the rest of the game without comments.

20.♗b3+ ♖h8 21.♗xc7 ♗xc7
22.♘b5! ♕f5+ 23.♖a1 ♗xc5
24.♘d6 ♘e7 25.♘f7+ ♖g8
26.♘xe5+ ♖f8 27.♘d7+ ♗xd7
28.♗xd7 ♗ac8 29.a3 ♗c1+
30.♗xc1 ♗xc1+ 31.♖a2 ♖e8
32.♗xb7 ♗f1 33.♗e6 ♘g6
34.♗xa7 ♗xf2 35.♗xg7 1-0

Section 2: White plays 3.♘c3 and 4.e3

Game 40

Carlsen, Magnus

Ivanchuk, Vasily

Leon (rapid chess) 2009

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c6 4.e3



Compared to 4.♘f3 (Section 1) this move has a clear disadvantage: The queen's bishop is shut in, and if Black now transposes to the Stonewall, then the set-up with ♗f4 is not possible.

On the other hand, the ♖c4 is now protected, whilst White has to reckon with the sharp Noteboom Variation 4...dxc4 if he plays 4.♘f3.

4...♗d6

Before Black plays ...f7-f5, he makes a useful developing move.

4...f5 leads after **5.♗d3 ♗d6** to the game. White also has the sharp option **5.g4!?**, with which he has scored well in practice. Despite that, I am not sure whether in the main variation **5...♘f6!** he really has an advantage (after **5...fxg4 6.♗xg4 ♘f6 7.♗g2** followed by ♘f3, ♗d2, 0-0-0, White in fact has good attacking chances) **6.gxf5 exf5 7.♗b3 dxc4 8.♗xc4 ♗d6!** – after both **9.♗f7+ ♖e7** and **9.♘f3 ♗e7** play seems really unclear to me.

Also possible is **5.f4!?** ♘f6 **6.♘f3** and then ♗f1-d3, cf. **6.f4** in the main text.

4...♘d7 ⇒ Game 41.

5.♗d3

Take care – now after **5...♘f6 6.♘f3** a line from the Meran can appear (1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.e3 ♗d6 6.♗d3), which is not considered terribly favourable for Black (the main move is the flexible **5...♘bd7**). But if in the aforementioned Meran move order you would prefer **6.♗c2** and not **6.♗d3**, you can also decide here to play **5.♗c2**. Then after **5...♘f6 6.♘f3** you are in 'your' Meran, whilst **5...f5 6.♗d3 ♘f6 7.♘ge2** leads to our main game.