## Grandmaster Repertoire 2B

# Dynamic Systems

By

# **Boris Avrukh**



# **Preface**

After what has seemed like a uniquely long year, I have completed the fourth and final volume of the updated *Grandmaster Repertoire* series on 1.d4. Those familiar with the first three books in the series already know that the current one does not feature any flagship openings such as the Queen's Gambit, Grünfeld or King's Indian. Instead, it tackles the no-less-difficult challenges of the Dutch Defence, the Benko and Budapest Gambits, the Modern Defence, and various other systems which are slightly out of the mainstream, but which are nonetheless capable of posing serious practical problems, as I have observed in my experience as a coach. To meet the various challenges, I have proposed the following advancements over my previous work:

#### **Dutch Defence**

I recommend meeting the Stonewall, Classical and Leningrad systems of the Dutch in broadly the same way as in my 2010 book *Grandmaster Repertoire* 2 - 1.d4 *Volume Two* (henceforth abbreviated to GM 2), but with a multitude of updates and refinements to improve White's play, as well as correcting some move-order and transpositional issues which I previously overlooked.

#### Benoni Systems & Benko Gambit

Against the Czech Benoni and various 1.d4 c5 systems, I have once again provided an improved version of my previous coverage. In the case of the Benko Gambit though, I have abandoned the Fianchetto Variation in favour of the main line with 6.\(\Delta\)c3 and 7.e4. I believe this poses more serious problems for Black, and am looking forward to future developments in this variation.

#### **Budapest Gambit**

I am happy to change my original prescription of 4.2/6 in favour of 4.2/6, in light of the discovery of 4...g5 5.2/6d2!, after which White's position seems extremely promising.

#### **Modern & Other Defences**

The final part of the book contains a mix of updates and brand new recommendations. One such instance occurs after  $1.d4\ d6$ , when I am no longer recommending  $2.\mathing$  f3 – not that there is anything wrong with that move, but a game between L'Ami and Mamedyarov inspired me to choose 2.c4 instead. The resulting type of position is one that I find both interesting and advantageous for White.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the entire team at Quality Chess, with whom I have been working intensively since 2007! My collaboration with them has greatly contributed to my career as a chess coach and helped enshrine my name among the pantheon of opening theoreticians. I am forever grateful to QC for offering me such a platform. Having now completed my tenth book, I have decided to a take a break from writing to pursue other chess-related projects, and I have no doubt the wisdom I have gleaned from my time as a QC author will prove invaluable in my future endeavours.

Boris Avrukh Chicago, February 2019

# Contents

Prefa	ace	3
Key to symbols used & Bibliography		6
Dute	ch	
1	Stonewall – 5ģe7	7
2	Stonewall – 5\(\ddot\)d6	25
3	Classical – Introduction	59
4	Classical – 7⊕e4 & 7∰e8	74
5	Leningrad – Introduction	94
6	Leningrad – 7c6 & 7 De4	119
7	Leningrad – 7≌e8	141
8	St Petersburg	165
Bene	oni Systems	
9	Czech Benoni – Sidelines	192
10	Czech Benoni – Main Lines	213
11	Closed Benoni	232
12	1.d4 c5 2.d5 e6	249
13	Miscellaneous Lines	265
Benl	ko Gambit	
14	Sidelines	281
15	5\2xa6	293
16	5g6	310
Bud	apest Gambit	
17	Fajarowicz	322
18	3∅g4 – Sidelines	337
19	3∅g4 – Main Lines	351

Mo	dern Defence	
20	4c5 & 4 <u>\$g</u> 4	366
21	Main Line	390
1.d4	4 ₺f6 2.c4	
22	Old Indian	415
23	Pseudo Queen's Indians	440
24	Black Knights' Tango	451
Min	nor Lines	
25	1d6	463
26	English Defence	483
27	1e6 2.c4 \$b4†	517
28	b-Pawn Systems	538
29	Odd Ideas	564
Variation Index		581



## Benko Gambit



## **Sidelines**

### **Variation Index**

#### 1.d4 2f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5

#### 4.cxb5

A) 4e6 5.\$\alpha\$c3 exd5 6.\$\alpha\$xd5 \$\mathbb{\mathbb{L}}\$b7 7.e4!	282
A1) 7\(\delta\) xd5	283
A2) 7a6 8.bxa6 🛭 xa6 9.\( \& \)c4 🗇 b4 10.\( \D\)f3	284
A21) 10∳fxd5	285
A22) 10∳bxd5N	286
B) 4a6 5.bxa6 e6 6.\(\Delta\)c3 exd5 7.\(\Delta\)xd5	287
B1) 7\delta xa6	288
B2) 7 <b>©</b> xa6	289
B3) 7\(\delta\) xd5	290
B4) 7ĝe7!?	291

#### A) note to move 7



#### A1) note to 8...d6



#### A1) after 14...\$f6



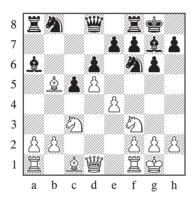
#### 1.d4 266 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5

Once again I recommend accepting the gambit, but there will be an important change of direction from my previous work, as we will no longer be following up with a kingside fianchetto.

We will consider A) 4...e6 but B) 4...a6 is definitely the main move.

#### 4...g6

Occasionally Black delays his counterplay in favour of completing his kingside development first. As a rule, White follows the same general plan as in the main lines, but gets an easier version, so it's enough to give just a few brief examples.



#### 11.₩e2!

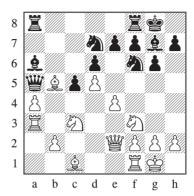
This is the most precise way of implementing the "light-squared strategy" which I will refer to again, both in this chapter and what follows.

#### 11...≌a5 12.a4 🖄bd7

Another good example continued: 12...\(\hat{\mathbb{L}}\xb5\) 13.\(\hat{\mathbb{L}}\xb5\) \(\bar{\mathbb{M}}\bb 4\) 14.\(\hat{\mathbb{L}}\c3\) \(\bar{\mathbb{L}}\bb 7\) 15.\(\hat{\mathbb{L}}\d2\) \(\bar{\mathbb{M}}\bb 8\) 16.\(\bar{\mathbb{M}}\bb 7\) 1n Martinez Rodriguez – Renteria Becerra, Mondariz 2011, the simple 17.\(\hat{\mathbb{L}}\bb 5\)N \(\hat{\mathbb{L}}\ear 8\) 18.\(\hat{\mathbb{L}}\c3\pm \) would have secured White a big advantage.

13.\a23!

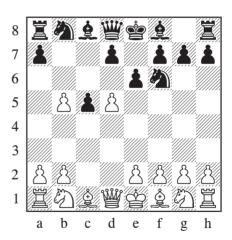
A thematic move in this type of Benko position.



13...\( \tilde{\Delta} e8 \) 14.\( \tilde{\Delta} g5 \) \( \tilde{\Delta} xc3 \) 15.\( \tilde{\Delta} xa6 \) \( \tilde{\Delta} xa6 \) 17.\( \tilde{\Delta} xc3 \) \( \tilde{\Delta} e6 \) 18.\( \tilde{\Delta} d2 \) \( \tilde{\Delta} xa6 \) 17.\( \tilde{\Delta} xc3 \) \( \tilde{\Delta} e6 \) 18.\( \tilde{\Delta} d2 \) \( \tilde{\Delta} xa6 \) 17.\( \tilde{\Delta} xc3 \) \( \tilde{\Delta} e6 \) 18.\( \tilde{\Delta} d2 \) 18.\(

White remained a healthy pawn up in Krysa – Torella, Neuquen 2017.

#### A) 4...e6



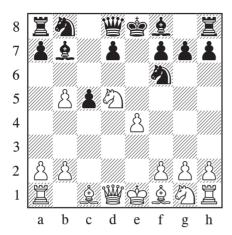
Playing ...e6 is not unheard of in the Benko Gambit, but usually it happens after White has committed himself in some way that makes Black's central action especially appealing. In the present situation, Black's plan is not so easy to justify.

#### 5.ᡚc3 exd5

5...\$b7?! 6.e4 is hardly playable for Black.

#### 6.2xd5 \$b7 7.e4!

7.∅xf6† ∰xf6 is also playable but I prefer the text move.



A1) 7... 2xd5 is worth considering but I consider A2) 7... a6 the most serious option.

Accepting the central pawn is suicidal:

7... ②xe4? 8. 臭c4!

White's initiative plays itself.

#### 8...**⊈**e7

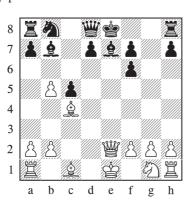
8...2d6 9.2g4 0–0 10.2h6 2e5 11.2f3 2xb2 12.0–0 2d6 13.2g5 gave White a decisive attack in Huuskonen – Bostrom, Finland 1977.

#### 9.₩e2 ②f6

9... 2d6 10. 2g5 f6 11. 2f4 2xc4 12. 2xc4 d6 13.0-0-0→ was also bad news for Black in Kunze – Partys, Rijeka 2010.

#### 10. 2 xf6† gxf6

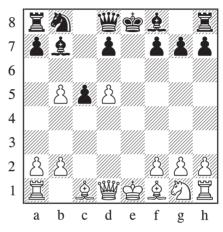
White has more than one winning move but my preference is:



#### 11.ዿf4!N ₩a5†

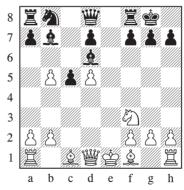
12.堂f1 d5 13.罩e1 營d8 14.違d3 White has a crushing initiative.

#### A1) 7...2xd5 8.exd5

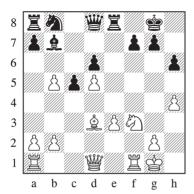


#### 8...d6

8...2d6 9.40f3 0-0 was tried in one of the more recent games in this line, Spindelboeck – Theuretzbacher, Austria 2017. White developed his bishop to e2 but he should have played more actively with:



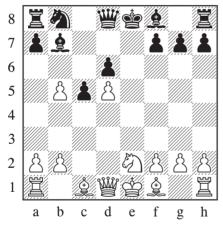
to seize the initiative on the kingside. The key point is revealed after: 14...h6



15. ∅g5‼ hxg5 16. ∰h5 With a crushing attack.

#### 9.2 e2!

The knight is heading to c3 in order to cement the d5-pawn.



#### 9...\$e7 10.\$\displace 3 0-0 11.\$\displace 2 \$\displace d 7

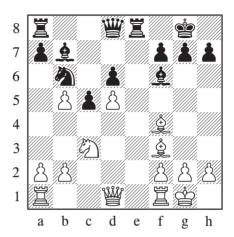
11...a6 has also not yielded much success for Black; after 12.0–0 axb5 13.\(\dot\)xb5 \(\din\)d7 14.\(\dot\)f4± he failed to create any compensation in Neelotpal – Boidman, Hofheim 2014.

#### 12.0-0

International Master Dimo Werner has played this position four times with Black. His last attempt continued:

#### 12... 罩e8 13. 桌f4 包b6 14. 桌f3 桌f6

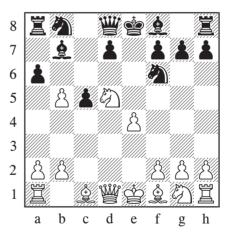
Here I found a logical improvement over Citak – D. Werner, Budapest 2007:



#### 15.a4!N±

White is obviously better.

#### A2) 7...a6

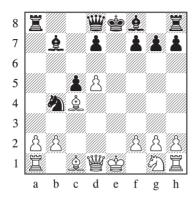


Compared with the previous line, Black keeps a bit more tension in the position, although White should still have the better chances.

#### 8.bxa6 🗓 xa6 9.\( \mathbb{L} \) c4 🖄 b4

A less accurate move order is: 9... \( \Delta xd5 \) 10.exd5 \( \Delta b4 \)

10... ②c7 occurred in Schimpf – Huber, Munich 2017, when 11. ዿf4N d6 12. ②e2 ዿe7 13.0−0 0−0 14.a4 would have been clearly better for White.

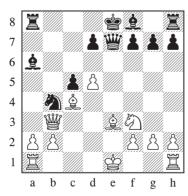


#### 11.<sup>₩</sup>b3!?N

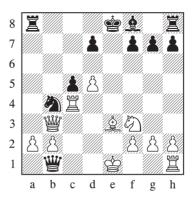
11. 2f3N is the simplest repertoire choice, transposing to variation A21 below, but the text move is quite a tempting extra option against Black's chosen move order. My analysis continues:

#### 11...\$a6

#### 12.包f3 營e7† 13.臭e3



The critical line continues: 13... \$\mathbb{\text{W}}e4 \ 14.\$\mathbb{\text{Z}}c1!\$
With the following key idea. 14... \$\dagger xc4 \ 15.\$\mathbb{\text{Z}}xc4 \ \mathbb{\text{W}}b1\ \dagger\$



16. 中e2! 增xh1 17. 罩e4† 兔e7

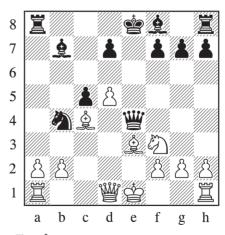
17... 空d8 loses to 18. 显xb4! cxb4 19. 皇b6† 空e8 20. 豐e3† 皇e7 21.d6 and the attack is too strong.

18.d6 0–0 19.dxe7 罩fe8 20.彙xc5 ②c6 21.②g5 Black is under serious pressure.

#### 10.2 f3

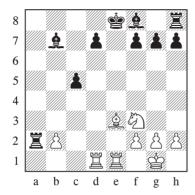
We will analyse **A21**) **10...②fxd5** and **A22**) **10...②bxd5**N.

#### A21) 10...包fxd5 11.exd5 營e7† 12.鼻e3 營e4

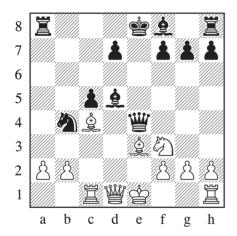


#### 

I also checked 13... ②xa2N 14. ②xa2 罩xa2 15.0–0 when the threat of 罩e1 prevents Black from completing development. Play may continue: 15... ③xd5 16. 罩e1 過xd1 17. 罩cxd1



Even without queens, White's initiative is serious, for instance: 17... $\Xi$ a6 18.2f4†  $\Xi$ e6 19.2g5 $\rightarrow$ 



#### 14.0-0!

White utilizes a simple tactic to accelerate his development.

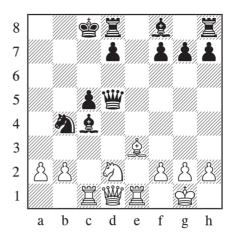
#### 14... \$xc4 15. 2d2 \dd d5 16. \dd e1!

The key move.

Weirdly, the database shows another game from five years later between the same players, where White opted for the weaker 16.\(\mathbb{Z}\)xc4?!. The reasons why Black repeated this line and White deviated with an inferior move remain a mystery to me.

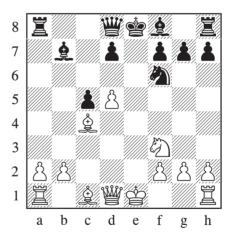
#### 16...0-0-0

In B. Toth – Capece, Reggio Emilia 1974, White could have decided the game with:



17.\(\mathbb{Z}\)xc4!N \(\Delta\)d3 18.\(\mathbb{Z}\)f1 \(\Delta\)xb2 19.\(\mathbb{\mathbb{B}}\)b3 \(\Delta\)xc4 20.\(\mathbb{Z}\)b1+−

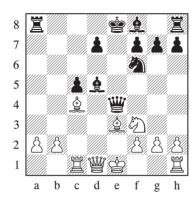
With a devastating attack.



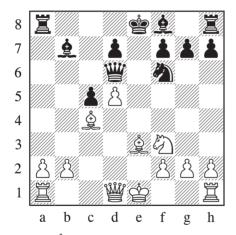
Although Black's last move was a novelty, the resulting position has occurred via transposition, as the knight went via c7 to d5 in one game.

#### 11...₩e7† 12.Ձe3 ₩d6

It is also important to consider: 12... 4e4 13. 4c1 \$\delta xd5\$ (13... 2xd5?! 14.0-0 is too dangerous for Black with his king stuck in the centre)



We have been following Donner – Contedini, Lenzerheide 1964. An obvious improvement for White is:



#### 13.0-0N &xd5

If 13...\$e7 then 14.\$\times\$h4! is extremely powerful; for instance, 14...g6 15.\$\times\$h6 \$\times\$xd5 16.\$\times\$e1 and Black unavoidably loses material.

#### 14.\(\hat{L}\)xd5 \(\bar{\psi}\)xd5

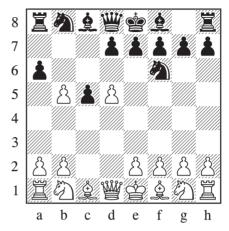
14...<sup>©</sup>xd5 15.<sup>™</sup>e1 &e7 16. &f4! is nasty for Black.

#### 15.\alphae1 \begin{aligned} \text{\psi} \text{xd1 16.\alpha} \text{axd1±} \end{aligned}

Despite the queen exchange, White's initiative is strong, especially considering

that 16...0-0-0 is not really an option due to  $17.\cancel{2}$ g5.

B) 4...a6



This is overwhelmingly the most popular choice.

#### 5.bxa6

At this point Black's most popular choice has been 5...\(\delta\)xa6, while 5...g6 is arguably the most theoretically challenging option. These two moves will be examined in Chapters 15 and 16 respectively.

Before then, we will consider a third option:

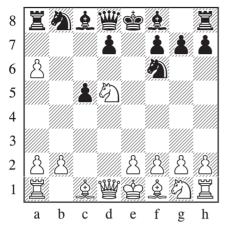
#### 5...e6

Black aims for central play, in a similar fashion to variation A above, but he hopes that the exchanging of the b5-pawn will increase his active possibilities.

#### 6.42c3 exd5

6... ②xd5 7. ②xd5 exd5 8. ₩xd5 transposes to variation B3 below.

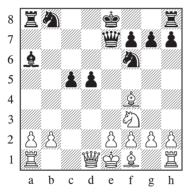
#### 7. ②xd5



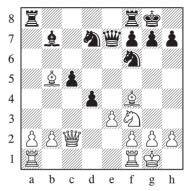
At this juncture it is worth considering B1) 7... 2xa6, B2) 7... 2xa6, B3) 7... 2xd5 and B4) 7... 2e7!?.

#### B1) 7...\$xa6 8.\$13 \$\overline{0}\$c6

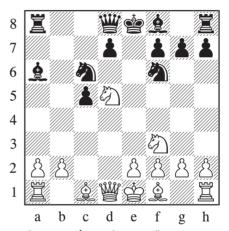
8... \( \hat{2}e7 \) is worth checking, but the following line seems quite convincing for White: 9. \( \hat{2}xe7 \) \( \hat{2}xe7 \) 10. \( \hat{2}f4 \) d5



11. \$\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathrev{\mathre



15...≜xf3 16.gxf3 ∅e5 17.∰e2 ∅d5 18.≜g3 White is clearly better.



#### 9.e4 🕸 xf1 10. 🕸 xf1 🕸 e7 11. 🕏 c3!

A simple yet powerful move, which I was able to discover over the board. White retreats the knight from its strong position but secures the e4-pawn and earns important time to consolidate his position.

#### 11...d6

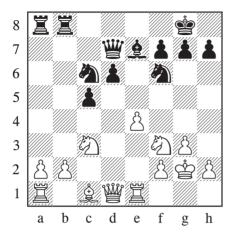
Another good example continued 11...0–0 12.g3 c4 13.\(\Delta\)g2 \(\mathbb{Z}\)e8 14.\(\mathbb{Z}\)e1 \(\delta\)b4 15.\(\delta\)g5± and White's advantage was beyond any doubt in Avalyan – Tomasi, Mamaia 2017.

#### 12.g3 0−0 13.<sup>‡</sup>g2

Black is unable to create any serious counterplay, especially with his bishop on e7.

#### 13... **2**d7 14. **2**e1 **2**fb8

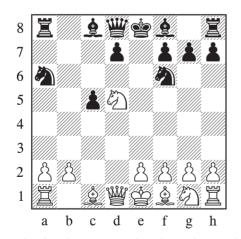
My game continued 14...h6 15.ዿf4 心h5 16.ዿe3 心f6 17.፯e2!? ፯fd8 18.፯c1 ∰e6 19.a3 ฐab8 20.∰a4 and I enjoyed a healthy extra pawn in Avrukh – Terrieux, Sautron 2013.



#### 15.b3 h6 16.\$b2 ₩b7 17.₩e2±

Black had no real compensation for the pawn in Steedman – Aymard, corr. 2015.

#### B2) 7...**包**xa6



This has been a popular choice but it does not work too well for Black.

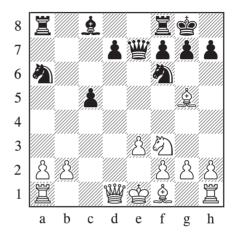
#### 8. \$\hat{2}g5 \hat{2}e7 9. \Delta xe7 \left\( \mathbb{w} xe7 \) 10. \Delta f3 0-0

10...h6 11.\(\delta\)h4 does not really change anything; 11...0–0 12.e3 just reaches our main line below.

Another game continued 10...\$b7 11.e3 0–0 12.\$e2 d5 13.0–0± and Black had no compensation whatsoever in Kalinowska – Stock, Plzen 2017.

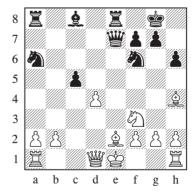
#### 11.e3

The following sequence looks pretty natural:



#### 11...h6 12.\dagger h4 d5 13.\dagger 2 \dagger d8

13...d4!? 14.exd4 \(\mathbb{Z}\)e8 is an interesting attempt to open things up, but White keeps everything under control as follows:

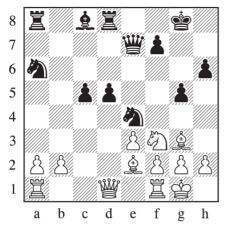


15.≜xf6! ∰xf6 16.0–0 \(\frac{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\tin}\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\tex}\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\t

#### 14.0-0 g5

Otherwise it is not clear how Black can claim any compensation for the pawn.

#### 15.kg3 De4

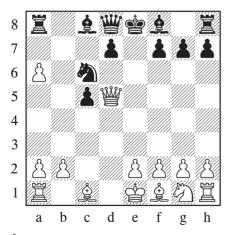


#### 16. ②d2!

It is essential to get rid of the strong knight.

#### 16... 包xg3 17.hxg3 单f5 18.a3±

This has occurred in four correspondence games. Even though Black only lost once and drew the other three, I believe White retains a solid advantage. Black does not have full compensation and faces an unpleasant battle for a draw.



#### 9. **&d2!**

This has been a rare choice so far, but it works perfectly for White.

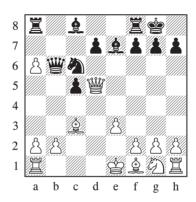
#### 9...**.**\$xa6

Black has also tried:

9...\$e7 10.e3 0-0

10... <sup>™</sup>b6 11. <sup>®</sup>c3 0–0 transposes.

11.**≜**c3 ₩b6



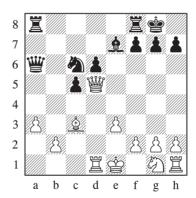
#### 12.a3!

It seems to me that Black is in trouble after this precise move.

#### 12...⊈xa6

Another good example continued 12...\$f6 13.\$xf6 gxf6 14.\$\mathbb{L}\$b1 \$\mathbb{L}\$xa6 15.\$\mathbb{L}\$xa6 \$\mathbb{H}\$a5† 16.\$\mathbb{H}\$d2 \$\mathbb{L}\$xa6 17.\$\mathbb{L}\$e2± and Black's strategy had obviously failed in Hildebrand – Gierth, email 2012.

13.\(\dag{\psi}\)xa6 \(\dag{\psi}\)xa6 14.\(\bar{\psi}\)d1 d6

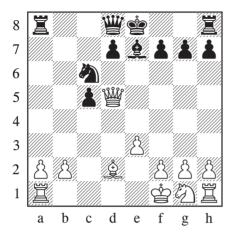


15.\@e2±

White was a healthy pawn up in Brugger – Lovholt, corr. 2007.

#### 10.e3 &xf1 11. 4xf1 &e7

I found six correspondence games from this position, all of which ended in draws. Surprisingly, White never opted for the following natural continuation:



#### 12.\(\pma\)c3N 0-0

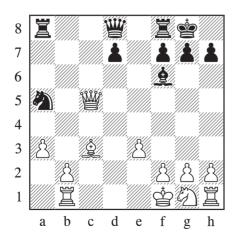
Or 12...\dib4 13.\dif3 0-0 14.a3 d5 15.\did1 with some advantage for White.

#### 13.a3 \$f6

13... ∅b4 also fails to impress after 14. ∰f3 ∰b6 15. ∅e2.

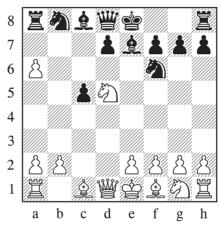
#### 

Black does not have enough activity. For instance:



White has excellent winning chances.

B4) 7...\(\docume{e}\)e7!?

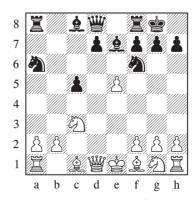


This isn't the most obvious choice but it has been tried in several correspondence games, and has surprisingly achieved a plus score for Black.

#### 8.9 xe7

This simple move is White's best bet.

I have to mention the remarkable line: 8.e4 0-0 9.心c3 心xa6 10.e5



10...\$b7!! 11.exf6 \$xf6 12.\$\tilde{Q}f3 d5 13.\$\tilde{Q}e2 \$\tilde{Q}b4 14.\$\tilde{Q}b5 d4 15.\$\tilde{Q}c4 \$\tilde{\tilde{Q}}e8\dagger 16.\$\tilde{\tilde{Q}}f1 d3

Black has full compensation for the piece, and has achieved a win and a draw from two correspondence games.

#### 

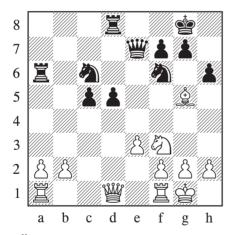
#### 12.\\mathecape2

In most games White has played 12.a3 or some other waiting move, hoping to gain a tempo after ... 2xa6. However, it is risky to leave the king in the centre and Black can play an active move such as ... 2e4 before taking on a6, so I prefer to simply develop and castle.

#### 12...\geqxa6

12...d4 13. ₩b3 is good for White.

#### 13. \( \) xa6 \( \) xa6 14.0-0 \( \) c6 15. \( \) g5! h6



#### 16.\end{align\*}e2N

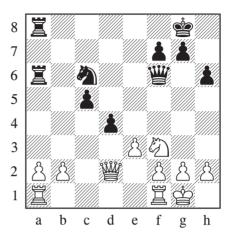
I found a game where White exchanged on f6, but we may as well hit the rook first.

#### 

16... \( \bar{\text{2}} \) 17. \( \bar{\text{2}} \) xf6 \( \bar{\text{W}} \) xf6 \( 18. \bar{\text{E}} \) fd1 c4 19.h3\( \bar{\text{2}} \) leads to a similar situation.

#### 17. \$xf6 ₩xf6 18. ₩d2 d4

In the event of 18... We6 19.a3 or 18... Ed8 19.b3, White easily stabilizes his position while retaining his extra pawn.



#### 19.exd4

19.b3 dxe3 20.\subseteq xe3 \overline{\Omega}\d4 is pretty similar to our main line.

#### 19... Øxd4 20. Øxd4 cxd4 21.a3 d3 22. \alpha ac1

Black certainly has some compensation but is doomed to a long defence.

#### Conclusion

This chapter has focused on two Benko sidelines: 4...e6 and the related idea of 4...a6 5.bxa6 e6. In general, I am not too impressed with Black's attempts to generate counterplay in the centre. A lot of the lines lead to positions where White may face some technical challenges to convert his extra pawn, but he is nonetheless playing for a win with little risk – always a pleasant situation for a practical player.

# Abridged Variation Index

The Variation Index in the book is 12 pages long. Below is an abridged version giving just the main variations, not the sub-variations.

#### Chapter 1

1.d4 f5 2.g3 ②f6 3.\(\frac{1}{2}\)g2 e6 4.\(\frac{1}{2}\)f3 d5 5.0-0 \(\frac{1}{2}\)e7 6.c4 0-0 7.\(\frac{1}{2}\)bd2

- A) 7...&e4 9
- B) 7... ②c6 11
- C) 7...c6 16

#### Chapter 2

1.d4 f5 2.g3 ②f6 3.Ձg2 e6 4.②f3 d5 5.0–0 \$d6 6.c4 c6 7.②c3 0–0 8.₩c2

- A) 8...dxc4 27
- B) 8...\$d7 28
- C) 8... 5 bd7 29
- D) 8...\mathscr{e}e8 32
- E) 8...\degree e7 35
- F) 8... 2 e4 39

#### Chapter 3

1.d4 f5 2.g3 \$\hat{2}\$ f6 3.\hat{2}\$ g2 e6 4.c4

- A) 4...\$b4†60
- B) 4...\$e7 5.\$\displant{1}{2}f3 0-0 6.0-0 63
- B1) 6...b6 64
- B2) 6... De4 65
- B3) 6...d6 66

#### Chapter 4

1.d4 f5 2.g3 ②f6 3.Ձg2 e6 4.c4 Ձe7 5.②f3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.②c3

- A) 7...©e4 75
- B) 7...\mathsquare e8 81

#### Chapter 5

1.d4 f5 2.g3 \$\tilde{0}\$f6 3.\$\tilde{\pm}\$g2 g6 4.\$\tilde{0}\$f3 \$\tilde{\pm}\$g7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3

- A) 6... 2 e4 97
- B) 6...c5 98
- C1) 7... 包c6 101
- C2) 7...a5 103
- C3) 7...e5?! 107
- C4) 7...e6 111
- C5) 7...h6 114

#### Chapter 6

1.d4 f5 2.g3 �f6 3.�g2 g6 4.�f3 �g7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 d6 7.�b2

- A) 7...c6 120
- B) 7... 2 e4 129

#### Chapter 7

1.d4 f5 2.g3 ፟\[ f6 3.\( \) g2 g6 4.\[ \) f3 \( \) g7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 d6 7.\( \) b2 \( \) e8 8.c4

- A) 8...e5 142
- B) 8... 2 c6 146
- C) 8... De4 148
- D) 8...@a6 151

### Chapter 8

1.d4 g6 2.c4

- A) 2...f5?! 166
- B) 2...\$g7 3.\$f3 174
- B1) 3...d6 174
- B2) 3...c5 176
- B3) 3...f5 181

#### Dynamic Systems

#### Chapter 9

1.d4 **2**f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e5 (3...a6) 4.**2**c3 d6 5.e4

- A) 5...g6 193
- B) 5... 2bd7 201

#### Chapter 10

1.d4 ፟\text{\text{\text{\text{0}}f6}} 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e5 4.\text{\text{\text{0}}c3} d6 5.e4 \text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{2}}e7}} 6.g3}

- A) 6...h5 214
- B) 6... 2 a6 215
- C) 6...0-0 217

#### Chapter 11

1.d4 c5 2.d5 e5 3.e4 d6 4.\(\delta\beta\beta\frac{1}{2}\text{b5}\frac{1}{2}\end{array}?

- A) 4...\$d7 233

#### Chapter 12 1.d4 c5 2.d5 e6 3. 2 c3

- A) 3... 包f6 250
- B) 3...exd5 255
- C) 3...d6 258

### Chapter 13

- A) 1...c5 266
- B) 1...e6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 exd5 4.cxd5 274

### Chapter 14

1.d4 5 f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5

- A) 4...e6 282
- B) 4...a6 5.bxa6 e6 287

#### Chapter 15

1.d4 ፟②f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 ≜xa6 6.②c3 g6 7.e4

- A) 7...d6 294
- B) 7...\$xf1 297

#### Chapter 16

1.d4 ፟\textit{\$\textit{hf6}}\$ 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 6.\textit{\$\textit{0}\$}\$ c3 \textit{\$\textit{g}\$g7 7.e4

- A) 7...\mathfrak{W}a5 311
- B) 7...0-0 312

#### Chapter 17 1.d4 ②f6 2.c4

- A) 2...e6 3.g3 e5!? 323
- B) 2...e5 3.dxe5 2e4 325

#### Chapter 18

1.d4 🛮 f6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 🔻 g4 4.\( \hat{2}\) f4

- A) 4...\$b4† 338
- B) 4...g5 339
- C) 4... 2c6 5. 2f3 \$b4† 6. 2bd2 343
- C1) 6...f6 344
- C2) 6... 4e7 7.e3 2gxe5 8.2xe5 2xe5 9.2e2 b6 346

#### Chapter 19

1.d4 ହାଁ 6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 ହାଁ g4 4.ଛ୍ଲିf4 ହିର୍ବେ 5.ହାଁ f3 ଛ୍ରb4† 6.ହାଁ bd2 ଞ୍ରିଟ 7.e3 ହାଁ gxe5 8.ହାଁ xe5 ହାଁ xe5 9.ଛି2େ

- A) 9...d6 352
- B) 9...0-0 356

#### Chapter 20

1.d4 g6 2.c4 \(\hat{2}\)g7 3.\(\Delta\)f3 d6 4.\(\Delta\)c3

- A) 4...c5 367
- B) 4...\(\partial\)g4 372

#### Abridged Variation Index

#### Chapter 21

#### 1.d4 g6 2.c4 \$g7 3.\$\Delta\$f3 d6 4.\$\Delta\$c3 e5 5.g3

- A) 5...\$g4?! 392
- B) 5... 2 c6 393
- C) 5...exd4 396
- D) 5...@d7 6.\(\dag{2}\)@e7 401

#### Chapter 22

#### 1.d4 \$\alpha\$f6 2.c4 d6 3.\$\alpha\$c3

- A) 3...\$f5 416
- B) 3...e5 4.42f3 419
- B1) 4...e4 419
- B2) 4...Øbd7 423

#### Chapter 23 1.d4 **2**f6 2.c4

- A) 2...b6 441
- B) 2...e6 3.g3 b6 444

#### Chapter 24

#### 1.d4 \$\hat{2}\$f6 2.c4 \$\hat{2}\$c6 3.\$\hat{2}\$f3

- A) 3...d5?! 452
- B) 3...d6 453
- C) 3...e6 4.g3 458
- C1) 4...d5 458
- C2) 4...\$b4† 460

#### Chapter 25 1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5 3.₺c3

- A) 3...\$\tilde{2}c6 464
- B) 3...exd4 468

#### Chapter 26

#### 1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.e4

- A) 3...\$b4† 484
- B) 3...\$b7 487

#### Chapter 27

#### 1.d4 e6 2.c4 \$b4† 3.\$d2

- A) 3...⊮e7 518
- B) 3...a5 523
- C) 3...\(\dag{2}\)xd2\(\dag{530}\)

#### Chapter 28

#### 1.d4

- A) 1...c6 2.c4 b5 539
- B) 1...b5 541
- C) 1...b6 553

#### Chapter 29

#### 1.d4

- A) 1...e5? 565
- B) 1...\(\hat{2}\)c6 571