

Winning Quickly at Chess Series

CATASTROPHES & TACTICS IN THE CHESS OPENING

Volume 1: Indian Defenses



Winning in 15 Moves or Less: Chess Tactics,
Brilliances & Blunders in the Chess Opening

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From Chapter 1

The King's Indian Defense

Game # 31

D.Adla (2509) – R.Paramos Dominguez (2408) E99

Spanish Team Championship 2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.0-0 Nc6
8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.f3 f5 11.g4 Nf6 12.Kh1



What did White miss?

The more common alternatives are:

12.Nd3 c6 13.Be3 Kh8 14.a4 b6 15.Kh1 Bb7 16.Nf2 Rc8 17.Rc1 Ba8
18.Rc2 a6 19.b3 b5 20.axb5 axb5 with chances to both sides, Ftacnik-
Bacrot, Hamburg 2015.

12.Be3 c6 13.b4 Kh8 14.a4 Qd7 15.h3 h5 16.g5 f4 17.gxf6 Bxf6 18.Bf2
Qxh3 19.Nd3 Nf5 20.Qd2 Ng3 21.Bxg3 Qxg3+ with a draw by perpetual
check, ½-½, L'Ami-Nisipeanu, Wijk aan Zee 2010.

12.Ng2 f4 13.h4 c5 14.Kf2 Rf7 15.Ke1 a6 16.a4 b6 17.Kd2 Bd7 18.Kc2
Rb8 19.Bd2 Nc8 20.b3 Na7 with chances for both players, Borges Mateos-
Escobar Forero, Toluca 2009.

12...fxg4 13.fxg4 Nxg4! And White resigned which is wildly
premature, but he was undoubtedly disgusted by his simple oversight.

After 13...N_xg4 14.Nd3 (14.B_xg4?? is, of course, not possible because it leaves the rook unprotected 14...R_xf1+ nor is 14.R_xf8+ Q_xf8 when 15.B_xg4?? Qf1#) 14...R_xf1+ 15.Q_xf1 a6 without full compensation for the pawn.

0-1

From Chapter 2

The Grünfeld Indian Defense

Game # 42

A.Aleksandrov (2578) – A.Kocheev (2391) D85
Belarus Championship (Minsk) 2014

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bd2 Nb6 6.e4

Can Black take the offered pawn on d4?

6...Qxd4

This is not a bad move, but White does receive compensation for the pawn through a lead in development. 6...Bg7 7.Be3 0–0 is the main line.

7.Qc2

Honestly, it doesn't look like White is getting much in return for the pawn, but Black has had plenty of problems dealing with White's rapid mobilization with Rd1, Be3, and Nf3.

7...Qc5



How should White continue?

The alternatives are:

7...Nc6 8.Be3 Qd8 9.Rd1 Bd7 10.Nf3 Bg7 11.Be2 0-0 12.h4 Qc8 13.h5 Bg4 and Black should have no problems, although White does have compensation for the pawn, Mamedyarov-Safarli, Nakhchivan 2016.

7...Qd8 8.Rd1 Nc6 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.Bf4 Bg7 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Nf3 0-0 13.Be5 and White clearly has sufficient compensation for the pawn, Kuzubov-Vocaturro, Benasque 2016.

7...c6 8.Nf3 Qd8 (8...Qg7 9.a4 e5 10.a5 N6d7 11.Bc4 h6 12.0-0 Be7 13.Rfd1 0-0 14.Be3 when Black's original, but clumsy piece coordination provides White with adequate compensation for the pawn, Khismatullin-Salem, Sharjah 2014) 9.Rd1 N8d7 10.Bf4 Bg7 11.Nb5 (11.a4!? is also very uncomfortable for Black) 11...e5? (Now Black gets himself in very serious problems. After 11...0-0 12.Nc7 e5 13.Nxa8 exf4 14.Nxb6 axb6 Black's position is not that bad) 12.Bg5 f6 13.Nd6+ Kf8 14.Bd2! Qe7 15.Bb4 c5 16.Ba3 (Black's position is completely busted) 16...f5? 17.Be2 (Also 17.exf5 e4 18.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 19.Nxe4 gxf5 20.Nd6 looked pretty devastating for Black) 17...f4 18.h4 h6 19.h5 Qe6 20.hxg6 Qxg6 21.Nh4 (Black's position is like a bucket with too many holes) 21...Qf6 22.Ndf5 Kg8 23.Rd6 Qf7 24.Ng6, and Black resigned, 1-0, Ragger-Krasenkow, Warsaw 2013.

8.Be3 Qa5

There are no other squares for Black that works.

9.b4!!

White is winning!

9...Qxb4 10.Rb1 Qa5

10...Qd6 11.Nb5 is, of course, horrible for Black as well.

11.Rb5 Qa3 12.Bc5 And Black resigned. The queen only has the a6 square available, but then 13.Rxb6 ends the show.

1-0

From Chapter 3

The Queen's Indian Defense

Game # 57

B.Jobava (2651) – V.Kramnik (2743) E12

Dortmund 2006

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Nc3 Bb7 5.a3 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Bd2 Nf6 8.Qc2 c5 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.b4

White has also played 10.Rd1 Qc8 11.Bg5 Nbd7 12.e3 0-0 13.Be2 a6 14.0-0 Be7 15.Rd2 h6 16.Bh4 Nc5 with chances to both sides, Dobrev-Rusev, Sofia 2008.

10...Be7 11.e4

11.e3 is completely harmless: 11...0-0 12.Bd3 Nc6 13.Ke2?! Rc8 14.Rhd1 Qc7 15.Rac1 Qb8 with a good position for Black, Larrua Gonzalez-Garcia Pantoja, Havana 2009.

11...Nc6 12.Bf4

Or 12.Bd3 Qb8 13.0-0 Ng4 14.Rfe1 Bd6 15.g3 0-0 16.Rac1 Rc8, and Black has equalized, Sieciechowicz-Staniszewski, Polanica Zdroj 2009.

12...0-0 13.Rd1 Qc8 14.e5



The knight on f6 is threatened. What is Black's best move?

White should have tried something different, for instance, 14.Bd3 Nh5 15.Be3 Bf6 16.Ne2 Ne5 although Black hardly has any problems in this line.

14...Nxb4!!

Instead of moving the other knight, Black creates a counterthreat of his own.

15.axb4 Ne4 This may seem like an early resignation, but obviously, Jobava didn't need proof that Kramnik had calculated this to the end. One sample line is 15...Ne4 16.Rd3 Bxb4 17.Bd2 Qc5! 18.Re3 (or 18.Qb3 Nxd2 19.Nxd2 Rac8 is even worse) 18...Rfd8 19.Bd3 Nxc3 20.Bxh7+ Kf8 21.Bxc3 Rac8 and Black is clearly better.

0-1

From Chapter 4

The Nimzo-Indian Defense

Game # 99

V.Babula (2582) – B.Kurajica (2534) E41

Istanbul Olympiad 2000

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d6 6.Nge2 c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.dxc5

The main lines are 8.a3 and 8.Qc2.

8...Ne5!?

An interesting gambit response to White's tame 8th move.

9.a3

One of the more interesting questions is why White didn't accept Black's pawn sacrifice? After 9.cxd6 Bxd6 10.f4 Nxd3 11.Qxd3 Bc5 12.Rd1 Bd7, Black probably has pretty decent compensation for the pawn: Black's pieces (once the bishop goes to c6 and with rooks on d- and c-files) are excellently coordinated, whereas their white counterparts are somewhat disorganized with some flaws in the pawn structure as well.

9...Bxc5 10.b4 Bb6 11.Bb2

White should have opted for 11.f4 Nxd3 12.Qxd3 Qe7 13.Na4 Bc7 14.Bb2 and White's chances are by no means worse.

11...Nfg4 12.Nf4?



How should Black best continue? (Calculate the follow-up after White's most natural responses as well)

12.Nd4 would have been the way to go, keeping Black's initiative somewhat under wraps, e.g. 12...Qh4 13.h3 Nxd3 14.Qxd3, but after 14...Ne5 15.Qe2 Bxd4 16.exd4 Qxd4 17.Ne4 Qd3 Black nevertheless still has better chances.

12...Qh4! 13.h3?

Or 13.Nh3 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Ne5 and Black wins a pawn.

13...Nxf2!

Of course, 13...Nxe3 14.fxe3 Bxe3+ 15.Kh1 Bxf4 16.Ne2 Bh6 also wins for Black.

14.Qe1



How should Black best continue?

14...Qxf4! Game over! Black wins material.
0-1

From Chapter 5

The Catalan, The Blumenfeld & The Bogo-Indian

Game # 112

Ni Hua (2662) – A.Adly (2631) E02

Shenzhen 2011

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Qa4+ Nbd7 6.Qxc4 a6
7.Qc2 c5 8.d4 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Rd1 Qb6**

A more common alternative is 10...cxd4 for instance 11.Nxd4 Bc5 12.Nc3 Qe7 13.h3 Rd8 14.Nb3 Bd6 15.Be3 Rb8 16.Ba7 and the players started repeating moves before agreeing to share the point, Antoniewski-Papp, Slovakia 2015.

11.Nc3 cxd4

Black has tried a couple of other moves here:

11...Qa7 12.Be3 Ng4 13.Bg5 f6 14.Be3 and a draw agreed, ½–½, in Bilek-Ruf, Val Thorens 1989. But 14.Bc1 may be an improvement, for instance 14...Nxf2 (14...cxd4 15.Nxd4 e5 16.Nf5 Qxf2+ 17.Kh1 Bc5 18.h3 wins for White) 15.Kxf2 cxd4 16.Nxd4 e5 17.Nd5 Bc5 18.Qc4! with a somewhat better position for White.

11...Re8 12.e4 cxd4 13.Nxd4 Qa7 14.h3 Ne5 15.b3 Bc5 16.Be3 Bd7 17.Qb2 Rac8 with more or less equal chances, Bertok-Golombek, Opatija 1953.

12.Rxd4 Qc7 13.Be3 Nd5 14.Ng5 N7f6



What is White's best move?

Black should have opted for 14...Bxg5 although 15.Bxg5 Nxc3 16.Qxc3 Qxc3 17.bxc3 e5 18.Rb4 looks like a grim defensive task ahead.

15.Nxd5!! This is a pretty cool combination. Black can't take White's queen because of 15.Nxd5 Qxc2 16.Nxe7+ Kh8 17.Nxf7+! Rxf7 18.Rd8+ with a mate in a couple more moves.

1-0