

The Nimzo and Bogo-Indian Revisited

**A Complete Repertoire
For Black**

Lukasz Jarmula

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Key to Symbols

!	a good move
?	a weak move
!!	an excellent move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
□	only move
N	novelty
☉	lead in development
⊙	zugzwang
=	equality
∞	unclear position
∞	with compensation for the sacrificed material
±	White stands slightly better
∓	Black stands slightly better
±	White has a serious advantage
∓	Black has a serious advantage
+−	White has a decisive advantage
−+	Black has a decisive advantage
→	with an attack
↑	with initiative
↔	with counterplay
Δ	with the idea of
⊃	better is
≤	worse is
+	check
#	mate

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Introduction

The ambition of many chess players at various levels is to build a full and reliable repertoire against White's major starting moves. This book is designed to provide exactly that: a complete list of variations needed to know in order to confidently meet 1. d4. The goal is to lift the burden of line selection and research off your shoulders and show you exactly what you need to know to get out of the 1. d4 openings at least equal with the black pieces.

I base the repertoire on the Nimzo-Indian and Bogo-Indian Defenses. The spirit of Indian Defenses is based on flexibility and harmony. As you will notice during the course of reading the book, the lines recommended here rarely end with huge imbalances or clear weaknesses for Black. Quite often White will get the bishop pair but will have to suffer pawn weaknesses or Black's greater piece activity in return.

Most of the lines are positional, not tactical in character. That means that stepping out of the path outlined in the book should not get you in too much trouble, as long as your moves have solid positional foundations. While playing Black, you have to accept that occasionally you will not equalize, or get surprised or out-prepared. Learning the material from this book should sharply limit the extent of such instances, thus improving your overall results.

Finally, I have an important piece of advice: remember about color strategy! The Bogo-Indian is mainly based on dark-squared control, while the Nimzo-Indian does so on the light squares. In case you forget what to do, this may prove a very useful guideline when choosing a move.

I wish you pleasant reading and great results against 1. d4!

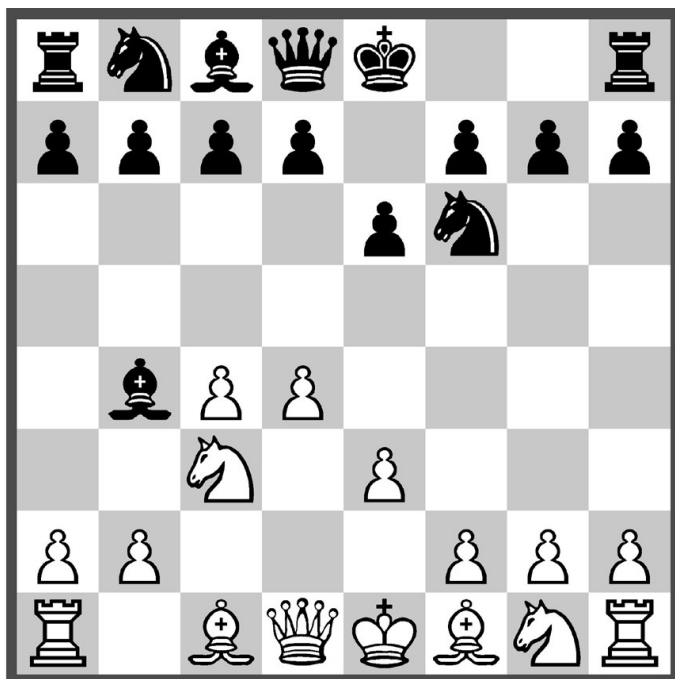
Lukasz Jarmula,
Warsaw, 2022



4.e3

1.d4 ♞f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♞c3 ♞b4

4.e3




Chapter Guide

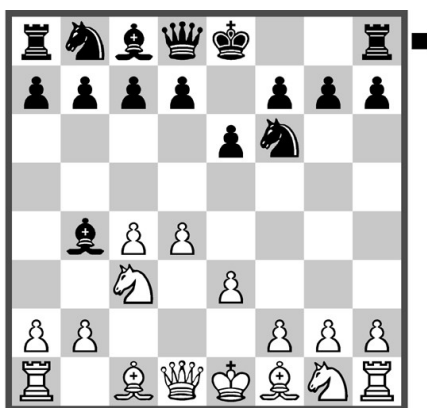
Chapter 4 – 4.e3

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.e3 0-0

a) 5.♘ge2	71
b) 5.♙d3 d5 6.a3 & cxd5.....	75
c) 5.♙d3 d5 6.♘ge2	80
d) 5.♙d3 d5 6.♘f3.....	82


a) 5. ge2

1. d4 f6 2. c4 e6 3. c3 b4 4. e3



Position after: 4. e3

The absolute main line. White develops his pieces in the most straightforward way: ♞d3 , ♘f3 (♘ge2) etc. The downside is that the dark-squared bishop is left passively on c1.

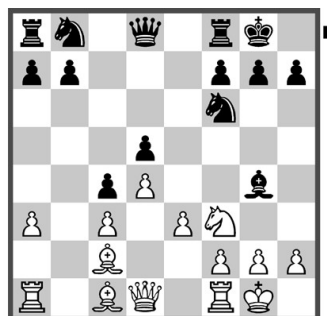
4... 0-0 5. ge2

This is the Rubinstein Variation, named after the eminent Polish-Jewish player. White strives for flexibility, but in my view, wastes too much time with this scheme.

A) 5. ♘f3 d5

A1) 6. ♞d2 b6 This transposes to 4. ♘f3 b6 5. ♞d2 , Chapter 5.

A2) 6. a3 ♞xc3+ 7. bxc3 c5 8. ♞d3 [8. cxd5 exd5 9. ♞d3 c4 10. ♞c2 ♞g4 11. 0-0



Position after: 11. 0-0

11... ♞c8 [Black commands the light squares.] 8... dxc4 9. ♞xc4 ♞c7 This transposes to 5. ♞d3 d5 6. a3.

A3) 6. ♞e2 b6 7. 0-0 ♞a6 There's no need to change the strategy here. 8. cxd5 exd5 The game should soon transpose to the main line.

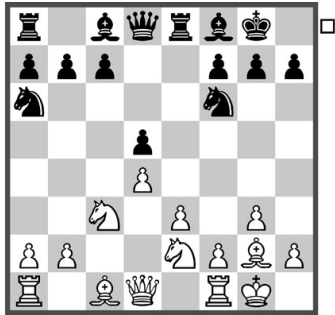
A4) 6. ♞d3 This transposes to 5. ♞d3 .

B) 5. ♞d2 d5 6. ♘f3 b6 This transposes to 4. ♘f3 b6 5. ♞d2 , Chapter 5.

5... d5 6. a3

6. cxd5 exd5 7. g3 [7. a3 ♞e7 This transposes to the following line: 6.a3 ♞e7 7. cxd5, while 7... ♞d6 is an additional option.] 7... ♞e8 Vacating the f8-square for the bishop. 8. ♞g2 ♞f8 9. 0-0 ♘a6 !? Following the example of Michael Adams.

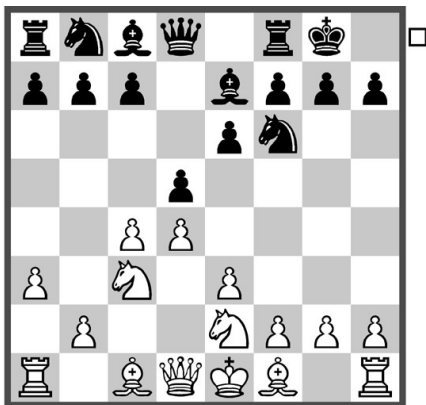
(see analysis diagram next page)



Position after: 9... Na6!?

The knight can support ...c5, sometimes jumping to b4, and it also stands well on c7. Black's position is so good already that there are many good alternatives, but I like the way in which Adams faced Carlsen, as follows. 10. a3 c6 11. f3 Quite a typical idea, as White prepares an expansion with g4 or e4. 11... c5! A good rule of thumb is that once f3 appears on the board, ...c5 becomes stronger as e3 is weaker. 12. g4 h6 13. h3 In Carlsen – Adams, 2009, White was stopped in his tracks. 13... Nc7! Now Black would have a very substantial advantage as his prospects in the center and on the queenside are more promising than White's kingside chances.

6... Qe7



Position after: 6... Qe7

7. cxd5

A) 7. Nf4 c6 8. Qd3 dxc4 9. Qxc4 Nbd7 10. 0-0 e5 11. Nfe2



Position after: 11. Nfe2

11... exd4 12. Nxd4 [12. exd4 Nb6= This is definitely not the greatest isolated pawn.] 12... Ne5 13. Qe2 c5 14. Nf3 Nxf3+ 15. Qxf3 Qd6= Black even has the freer development.

B) 7. Ng3 c5 Since White has wasted a lot of time with his king's knight, it's only logical to open the center. 8. dxc5 [8. cxd5?! cxd4 9. exd4 Nxd5 10. Qd3 Nc6 11. 0-0 Qf6! White faces some trouble defending the center.] 8... dxc4

B1) 9. Qc2?! b5!



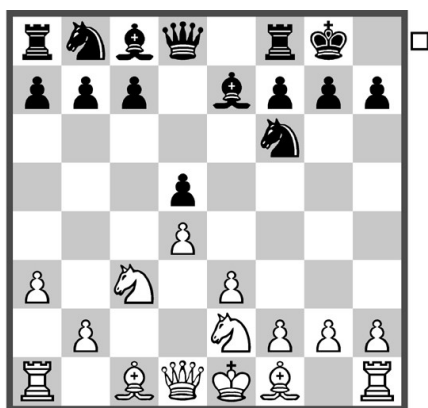
Position after: 9... b5!

A star move. 10. cxb6 ♖xb6 11. ♔xc4 ♔b7 12. 0-0 ♖c6 This is not possible now, and e3-e4 weakens the d4-square. This is the point of Black's idea. 12. e4 ♘c6 13. ♔e3 ♘d4 14. ♖d3 ♜ad8 15. 0-0 ♘g4 ♞ Black has tremendous compensation for the pawn.

B2) 9. ♔xc4 ♖xd1+ 10. ♔xd1 ♔xc5= This is similar to 9. ♖xd8.

B3) 9. ♖xd8 ♜xd8 10. ♔xc4 ♔xc5= The endgame is a bit dull, but we have comfortable equality out of the opening.

7... exd5



Position after: 7... exd5

8. ♘f4

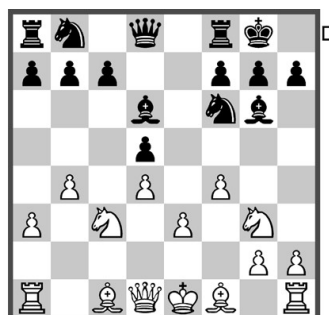
A) 8. g3?! The bishop will bite the granite on d5. 8... ♘bd7 9. ♔g2 ♘b6 10. 0-0 ♜e8 11. b3 [11. ♘f4 ♔f8 ♞ Black's ...c6 or ...♔f5 is next, with better control over the position.] 11... a5 12. ♘f4 c6 ♞ White's queenside is quite soft and his c1-bishop is painfully passive.

B) 8. b4 ♔f5!



Position after: 8... ♔f5!

Taking the opportunity to grab this diagonal. 9. ♘g3 ♔g6 10. f4 An attempt to play against the bishop. Otherwise White's play doesn't make a whole lot of sense. 10... ♔d6!N



Position after: 10... ♔d6!N

Black stops f5 and improves his bishop. 11. ♔e2 ♘bd7 12. 0-0 h6 ♞ 13. f5 This causes serious overextension of White's position and Black can cope with the bishop being temporarily shut in, as White's pieces are not really effectively placed either.

C) 8. ♘g3 c5 9. dxc5 [9. ♔d3 ♔g4! 10. f3 cxd4 11. exd4 ♔e6= White is slightly weakened. Black has the easier game; 9. ♔e2 ♘c6 10. 0-0 cxd4 11. exd4 ♔e6= In practice I would

prefer Black with his more natural piece placement.] 9... ♖xc5

C1) 10. ♗e2 ♘c6 11. 0-0 d4= The game should simplify soon. Of course Black isn't obliged to go for ...d4 if he wants to keep things more complex.

C2) 10. b4 d4!



Position after: 10... d4!

The most active way to go. 11. bxc5 dxc3 12. ♖b3 ♖a5 13. ♘e2 ♘a6 14. ♖xc3 ♖xc3+ 15. ♘xc3 ♘xc5= The bishop pair is easily offset by the freer development.

C3) 10. ♗d3 ♘c6 11. 0-0 d4= Black can also choose to play quite a good version of the IQP if he wishes to.

8... c6 9. ♗d3 ♗d6

(see diagram next column)

Now ...♗xf4 will always be a possibility.



Position after: 9... ♗d6

10. 0-0 ♖e8 11. f3 b6



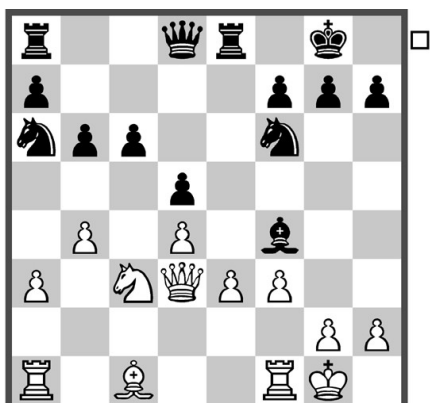
Position after: 11... b6

With the thematic idea of the light-squared bishops' trade.

12. b4

12. ♗d2 ♗a6 13. ♗xa6 ♘xa6= White is left with a bad bishop.

12... ♗a6 13. ♗xa6 ♘xa6 14. ♖d3 ♗xf4!



Position after: 14... ♕xf4!

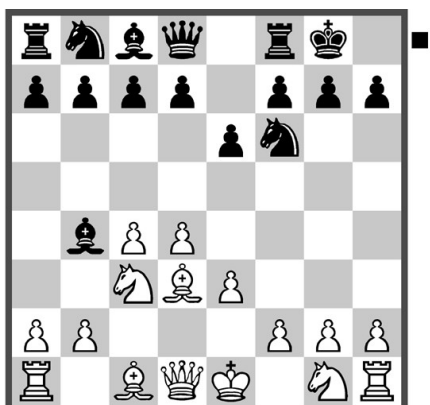
Exchanging at an opportune moment.

15. exf4 b5=

One of the knights will become redirected to c4, whereas White's kingside play is not so obvious.

b) 5. ♗d3 d5 6.a3 & cxd5

1. d4 ♞f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♞c3 ♞b4 4. e3
0-0 5. ♗d3



Position after: 5. ♗d3

5... d5 6. cxd5

I must say the rising popularity of this capture at the high level in 2022 has surprised me, as the resulting positions don't seem very attractive for White to me. Perhaps many top players have a different taste.

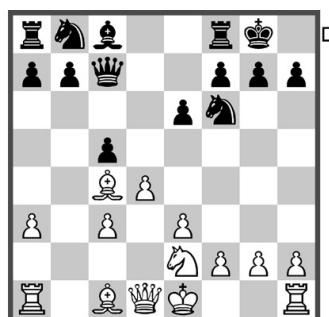
6. a3 ♗xc3+ 7. bxc3 dxc4 8. ♗xc4 c5



Position after: 8... c5

Black starts quick queenside play.

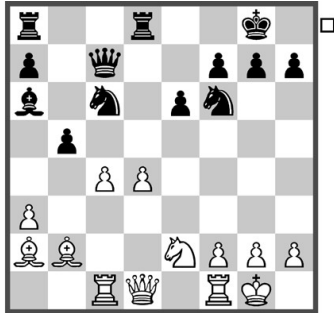
A) 9. ♞e2 ♕c7



Position after: 9... ♕c7

A1) 10. ♗a2 b6 11. 0-0 ♗a6

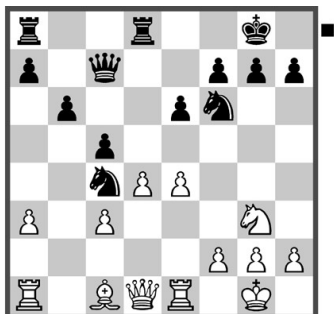
A1.1) 12. ♖b2 ♜d8 13. ♜c1
♞c6 14. c4 cxd4 15. exd4 b5!



Position after: 15... b5!

A very important resource to remember. Black forcibly solves all of his problems. 16. d5 bxc4 17. ♖xc4 ♖xc4 18. ♜xc4 exd5 19. ♜c2 d4 In case Black doesn't want to force a draw and keep the game going, he can do it as follows. 19... ♗d6. 20. ♞xd4 ♗b6 21. ♜d2 ♞e4 22. ♜d3 ♞c5= The repetition is inevitable.

A1.2) 12. ♜e1 ♞c6 13. ♞g3
♜fd8 14. ♖b2 ♞a5 15. e4 ♖c4
16. ♖xc4 ♞xc4 17. ♖c1



Position after: 17. ♖c1

17... ♞e8!= Black prevents ♖g5 and prepares ...f6. He has very nice piece play.

A2) 10. ♖d3 ♞c6 11. 0-0 [11. f4?!
b6 12. 0-0 ♞e7!



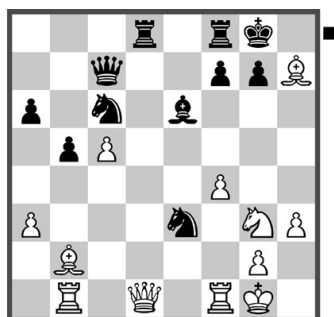
Position after: 12... ♞e7!

This maneuver allows Black to fight for an edge! 13. ♞g3 ♞f5 ♗ Black dominates the light squares.] 11... e5 12. ♞g3 This position has been played numerous times in online chess with good results by the openings expert, Alexey Sarana, and it's a tricky try. Black needs to know what he's doing. [12. ♖b2 ♖e6 13. ♞g3 ♜ad8= Let's be honest – that's not the most impressive bishop pair in the world.] 12... ♖e6 13. f4 Sarana's move. White provokes Black to take the d4-pawn, after which e3-e4 will provide him with a dangerous initiative. 13... exd4 14. cxd4 ♜ad8!



Position after: 14... ♜ad8!

Keeping the center open is stronger than playing into White's hands with ...cxd4. 15. ♖b1 a6! Expanding on the queenside, still not giving White the nice compensation he wants after the following. 15... cxd4 16. e4 16. h3 b5 17. ♙b2 ♞d5 Black hits e3 and threatens to establish a powerful grip with ...c4-c3 and ...f5. White has only one satisfactory response. 18. dxc5 White accepts material loss but forces a perpetual check. [18. ♚f3?! c4 19. ♙c2 c3 20. ♙c1? f5! Black has achieved positional domination in Sarana – Sevian, Internet 2022.] 18... ♞xe3 19. ♙xh7+



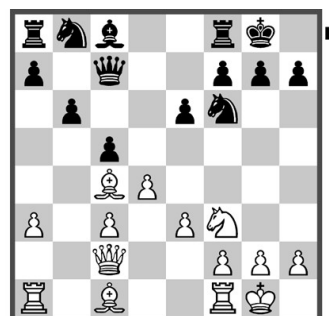
Position after: 19. ♙xh7+

19... ♚xh7 20. ♚h5+ ♙g8
21. ♙xg7 ♚xg7 22. ♚g5+ ♙h8
23. ♚h6+ ♙g8 24. ♚g5+=

B) 9. ♞f3 ♚c7

B1) 10. ♙e2 b6 11. 0-0 ♙a6= Exchanging the light-squared bishops is the simplest choice.

B2) 10. ♚c2?! b6 11. ♙d3 [11. 0-0??



Position after: 11. 0-0??

11... cxd4! 12. cxd4 ♙a6→ Black wins.] 11... ♙a6↔ This is a worse version of 10. ♙e2 for White.

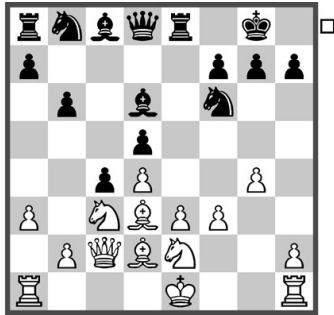
B3) 10. ♚d3 b6 11. 0-0 ♙b7= White's pieces are quite awkwardly placed.

B4) 10. ♙a2 b5 More resolute than 10... b6, which is also fine. 11. 0-0 ♙b7 12. ♚e2 ♚c8 13. ♙b1 ♞c6= Black has wonderful light-squared play. 14. ♚xb5 This is met by 14... ♞a5 with ample compensation.

6... exd5 7. ♞ge2

7. a3 ♙d6 8. ♚c2 c6 Stopping ♞b5 and strengthening d5. 9. ♞ge2 ♚e8 10. ♙d2 White keeps flexibility between castling long or short. Dominguez, who is always extremely well-prepared, demonstrated a strong response against Firouzja. [10. 0-0 b6= Black solves his problems easily by ...c5 or ...♙a6.] 10... b6 Building up on the queenside. 11. f3 c5 12. g4 c4!

(see analyses diagram next page)

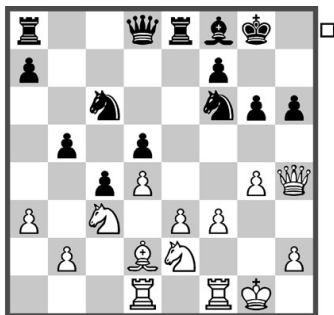


Position after: 12... c4!



Position after: 12... b4!

13. ♖f5 ♗xf5 14. ♔xf5 g6! 15. ♔g5
The queen can also move back to c2, but it is passively placed there. 15... ♞c6
16. 0-0 ♗f8 17. ♔h4 h6 18. ♖ad1 b5!



Position after: 18... b5!

Very possibly all of this was prepared, as these are top engine moves. 19. ♔f2 ♔d7 20. ♔g2 ♗g7= Black was active and without weaknesses in Firouzja – Dominguez, 2022.

7... ♖e8 8. 0-0

8. ♗d2 ♗d6 9. ♖c1 a6 With this move Black keeps the options of ...b5 and ...c5. 10. 0-0 ♞bd7 11. ♞g3 (11. ♞f4 This can be simply met by 11... c6 and Black still has a queenside expansion on the agenda). 11... b5 12. ♞ce2 b4!

Black cuts off the bishop from a5. 13. ♞f4 ♗b7= With the bishop boxed in on d2, White runs the risk of becoming worse. That's why the following pawn sacrifice has been played in correspondence games. 14. a3 bxa3 15. bxa3 ♗xa3 16. ♖b1 ♞b6 17. ♗a5 ♗d6= White's compensation is sufficient only for equality.

8... ♗d6 9. ♗d2

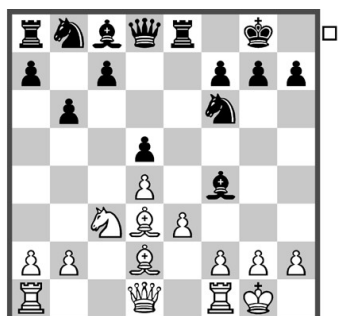
9.f3 This is favorably met by 9... c5. It is typical that Black doesn't need to fear the IQP once the e3-point has been softened by the f-pawn move.

9... b6

The main idea is to play ...c5, being able to recapture with the pawn. But the possibilities of ...♗b7 and ...♗a6 also open up.

10. ♖c1

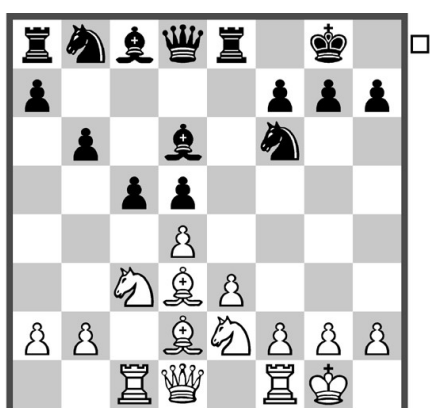
10. ♞f4 ♗xf4!



Position after: 10... Qxf4!

10... Qb7 11. Qf3 This promises White a straightforward game, which is not the case after the text. 11. exf4 c5 12. dxc5 bxc5 Now the idea is ...Qa6 and White can't just make any move, as he runs the risk of becoming significantly worse. 13. Re1 Qa6 14. Rxe8+ Qxe8 15. Nxd5 White needs tactics to justify a position that is becoming strategically suspicious. 15... Nxd5 16. Qh5 Nf6 17. Qf3 Qxd3 18. Qxa8 a6= The game was dynamically balanced in Straka – Malyshev, email 2019.

10... c5



Position after: 10... c5

11. Ng3

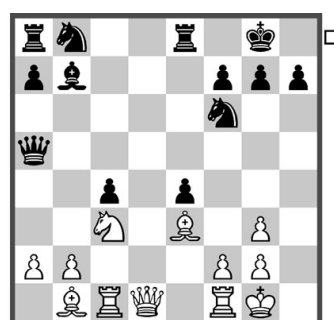
11. dxc5 bxc5 12. Nb5 Qf8 13. Qc3

Creating the threat of Qxf6. 13... Nbd7 14. Qd2 Enabling Qa5. Otherwise White is worse after ...a6. 14... a6 15. Qa5 Nb6 16. Nbc3 Qd6= We have followed Grischuk – Karjakin, Internet (rapid) 2020. There's a lot of tension in the position, but Black is not worse in any way.

11... Qb7 12. Qf3

12... Nbd7 13. Nf5 This gave White a slight initiative in Grischuk – Ding, Internet (rapid) 2020. I suggest taking the f5-square away from White as follows.

12. dxc5 bxc5 13. e4 A surprising computer suggestion. 13... dxe4 This is now met by 14. Qb5; 13... c4 14. Qb1 Qxg3 15. hxg3 dxe4 16. Qe3 White hopes that the bishop pair is a substantial asset and Black's pawns are unstable. However Black has a concrete way to solve his problems. 16... Qa5



Position after: 16... Qa5

(16... Nbd7 This looks very good until you notice 17. Nb5!. That's why Black starts with the queen move.) 17. Qa4 There is simply no other satisfactory

option for White. 17... ♔xa4 18. ♖xa4 ♗bd7 19. ♖c5 Black's ...♗e5-d3 is a threat. 19... ♖xc5 20. ♔xc5 ♗d7 21. ♔d4 ♖e5= White can now regain the pawn, but it only restores equality.

12... g6=

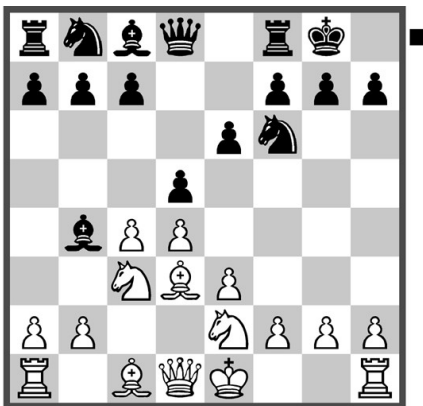
It is not easy for White to find a target now. A sample line runs as follows.

13. ♔c4 ♖a6 14. ♖xd5 ♔xd5 15. ♔xd5 ♖xd5 16. ♔xd5 ♗xg3 17. ♔xd8 ♔xf2+ 18. ♖xf2 ♖axd8=

The endgame is completely equal.

c) 5. ♗d3 d5 6. ♖ge2

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♖c3 ♗b4 4. e3 0-0 5. ♗d3 d5 6. ♖ge2



Position after: 6. ♖ge2

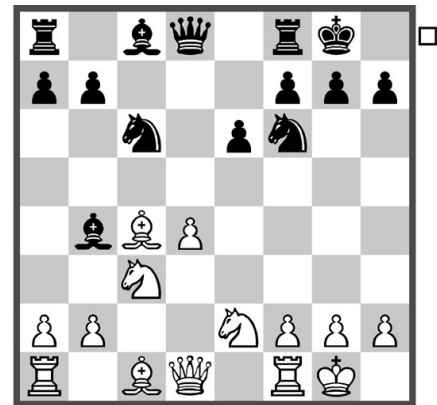
6... dxc4 7. ♔xc4 c5

A typical operation. Black wants to create an isolated pawn and target it.

8. 0-0

8. a3 ♗xc3+ 9. bxc3 This transposes to 6.a3, 9. ♖e2.

8... cxd4 9. exd4 ♖c6

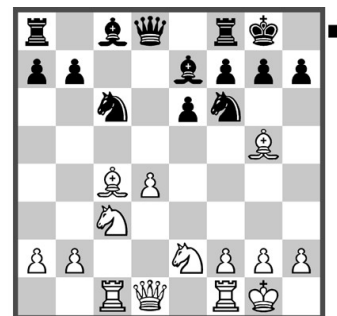


Position after: 9... ♖c6

10. a3

10. ♗g5 ♗e7

A) 11. ♖c1?!



Position after: 11. ♖c1?!