



The Taimanov- Scheveningen Hybrid

Semko Semkov

Chess Stars Publishing

The Taimanov-Scheveningen Hybrid

Cover design by R. Taichinov

Copyright © 2022 by Semko Semkov

Printed in Bulgaria
ISBN: 978-619-7188-36-3

Contents

Bibliography 4

Preface 5

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘c6 5.♗c3 ♔c7

Chapter 1. The Main Line Scheveningen
Step by Step 7 Annotated Games 18

Chapter 2. Classical Scheveningen with a4
Step by Step 25 Annotated Games 31

Chapter 3. The Fianchetto
Step by Step 37 Annotated Games 49

Chapter 4. The Third Rank Set-up
Step by Step 57 Annotated Games 67

Chapter 5. 6.f4
Step by Step 73 Annotated Games 86

Chapter 6. The cunning 6.a3
Step by Step 89 Annotated Games 96

Chapter 7. The English Attack
Step by Step 103 Annotated Games 121

Chapter 8. The Hot 7.♗f3
Step by Step 135 Annotated Games 149

Chapter 9. The Early g4
Step by Step 161 Annotated Games 167

Chapter 10. The Straightforward ♗xc6
Step by Step 171 Annotated Games 178

Chapter 11. Rare 6th Moves – 6.♗d3, 6.♗db5
Step by Step 181 Annotated Games 187

Chapter 12. Taimanov with 5.♗b5
Step by Step 191 Annotated Games 207

Chapter 13. Alapin 3.c3
Step by Step 213 Annotated Games 227

Chapter 14. King's Indian Attack
Step by Step 231 Annotated Games 235

Chapter 15. Rare Third Moves
Step by Step 241 Annotated Games 250

Index of Variations 256

Bibliography

Books

- The Most Flexible Sicilian*, Alexander Delchev and Semko Semkov, Chess Stars 2014
- Attacking the Flexible Sicilian*, Vassilios Kotronias and Semko Semkov, Chess Stars 2017
- The Safest Sicilian*, Alexander Delchev and Semko Semkov, Chess Stars 2008
- Squeezing the Sicilian. The Alapin Variation*, Alexander Khalifman and Sergei Soloviov, Chess Stars 2020
- The Taimanov Bible*, Ivan Ivanisevic, Milos Perunovic, Robert Markus, Thinkers Publishing 2016
- The Sicilian Taimanov*, Antonios Pavlidis, Quality Chess 2019
- Coffeehouse Repertoire 1.e4 Volume 1*, Gawain Jones, Quality Chess 2021
- 1.e4 vs The Sicilian III*, Parimarjan Negi, Quality Chess 2016
- Beat the Najdorf and Taimanov Sicilians*, S.P. Sethuraman, Thinkers Publishing 2020
- Playing 1.e4 Sicilian Main Lines*, John Shaw, Quality Chess 2018
- Beat the Najdorf and Taimanov Sicilians!*, Sethuraman Panayappan Sethuraman, Thinkers Publishing 2020

Periodicals

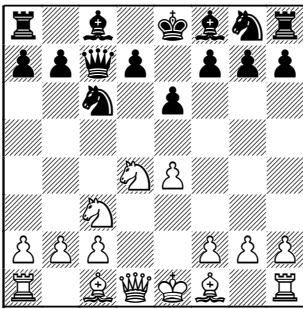
- Chess Informant
New in Chess Yearbook

Internet resources

- Databases
The Week In Chess (www.theweekinchess.com)
Chess Publishing (www.chesspublishing.com)

Preface

This book offers a full repertoire for Black based on the Taimanov move order **1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗c6! 5.♗c3 ♖c7**.



The Taimanov is particularly effective against the English Attack and early kingside pawn storms. However, the fianchetto 6.g3 and the Classical System with 6.♗e3 a6 7.♗e2 pose certain problems. I propose to meet them with the Sheveningen set-up ...d6. Thus we take the best of two different worlds.

In 2014 I wrote *The Most Flexible Sicilian* with Delchev. It was based on my coauthor's repertoire, with a focus on the Kann (without ♗c6). On the opposite, I have always preferred the Scheveningen set-up whenever possible. The biggest problem there is to avoid the Keres Attack and the system with f4, ♖f3. The Taimanov move order is perfect for that aim.

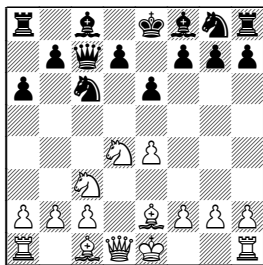
My new book practically does not overlap with *The Most Flexible Sicilian* or Pavlidis' *The Sicilian Taimanov* as I recommend other lines, which are better or keep more tension, in my opinion.

I have been a devoted Sicilian fan all my life, and I have played at least 10 000 blitz games starting with 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6. Since a good half of them featured 3.c3, 3.g3, 3.d3 or other anti-Sicilians, I included these lines in the book.

Semko Semkov
June 2022

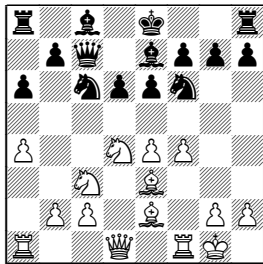
Index of Variations

Chapter 1. 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘c6! 5.♗c3 ♖c7
6.♙e2 a6



7.0-0 (7.♙e3 ♗f6 8.♖d2 b5 7; 7.a3 7; 7.f4 b5 8) 7...♗f6 8.♙e3 (8.a3 8;
8.♗h1 9) 8...♙e7!? 9.f4 d6 10.♖e1 0-0 11.♖g3 ♗xd4! 12.♙xd4 b5 13.a3 ♙b7
14.♗h1 ♖ad8 15.♙d3 11
15.♖ad1 13
15.♖ae1 14

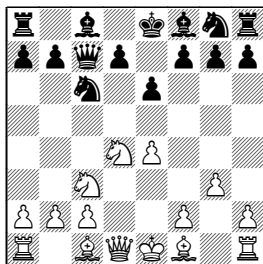
Chapter 2. 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘c6 5.♗c3 ♖c7
6.♙e2 a6 7.0-0 ♗f6 8.♙e3 ♙e7 9.f4 d6 10.a4



10...0-0 11.♗h1 (11.♖e1 25; 11.g4 26; 11.♙f3 26; 11.♗b3 26) 11...♗xd4 27

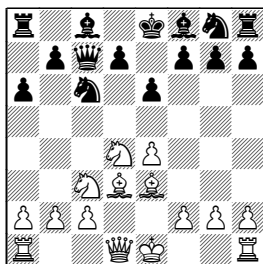
Index of Variations

Chapter 3. 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♖c7 6.g3



- 6...a6 7.♗g2 d6!? (7...♘f6 37) 8.0-0 (8.♘xc6 bxc6 9.0-0 ♘f6! 38) 8...
 ♗d7 9.♘b3 42
 9.♘de2 43
 9.♗e3 44
 9.a4 ♘f6 10.♘b3 45
 9.a4 ♘f6 10.♘xc6 46
 9.♞e1 47

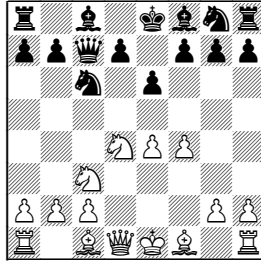
Chapter 4. 5.♘c3 ♖c7 6.♗e3 a6 7.♗d3



- (7.♘b3 57) 7...♘f6! 8.0-0 (8.♘b3 b5 9.f4 ♗b7! 57; 8.♞e2 59) 8...♘e5 9.h3
 ♗c5! 10.♘h1 61
 10.f4 64
 10.♞e2 65

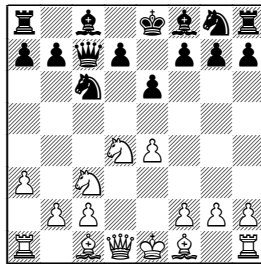
Chapter 5. 5.♘c3 ♖c7 6.f4

Index of Variations



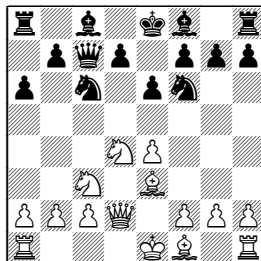
- 6...a6! (6...♖xd4 7.♗xd4 b6?! 73) 7.♖xc6 74 (7.♖f3 73; 7.a3 73) 7...bxc6!
 8.♗d3 d5 9.0-0 ♖f6 10.♗e2 ♗e7 11.♗d2 75
 11.e5 79
 11.♖h1 80
 7.♗e3 82
 7.♗e2 84

Chapter 6. 5.♖c3 ♗c7 6.a3



- 6...a6 7.♗e3 (7.♗e2 – Chapter 1; 7.f4 – Chapter 5) 7...b5! 8.♗e2 90
 8.♗d3 91
 8.♖xc6 ♗xc6 93

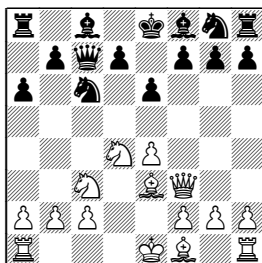
Chapter 7. 5.♖c3 ♗c7 6.♗e3 a6 7.♗d2 ♖f6



Index of Variations

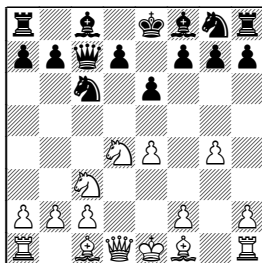
8.0-0-0 (8.f3 103; 8.f4 103) 8...♙e7! 9.f3 (9.f4 104) 9...b5 10.g4 (10.♘xc6 105) 10...♘xd4 11.♙xd4 (11.♖xd4 106) 11...♙b7
12.g5 107
12.♙b1 109 12...0-0 13.h4 114
13.g5 115
13.♖g1 117
13.♗f2 119

Chapter 8. 5.♘c3 ♖c7 6.♙e3 a6 7.♗f3



7...♘f6 (7...♘e5 135) 8.0-0-0 (8.♘xc6 136)
8...h5 9.♘xc6 (9.♗g3?! 137) 9...dxc6 10.h3 138
10.♗g3 140
10.♙e2 141
10.♘a4 141
10.e5 143
8...♘e5 145

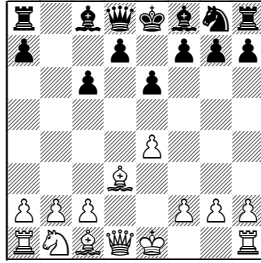
Chapter 9. 5.♘c3 ♖c7 6.g4



6...a6 7.h4 b5 161 (7.♙g2 161; 7.g5 161)
6.♙e3 a6 7.g4 b5 162

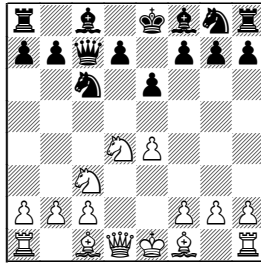
Index of Variations

Chapter 10. 5.♘xc6 bxc6 6.♙d3



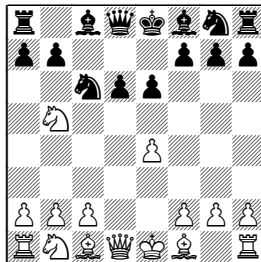
6...♗f6 7.0-0 d5 8.♗d2 171 (8.e5 171; 8.♙e2 172)
5.♗c3 ♖c7 6.♗xc6 bxc6 7.♙d3 ♗f6 8.0-0 ♙e7! 174

Chapter 11. 5.♗c3 ♖c7



6.♙d3 ♗f6! 181
6.♗db5 ♖b8 7.♙e3 185 (7.a4 185)

Chapter 12. 5.♗b5 d6



6.♙f4 e5 7.♙e3 ♗f6 191
6.c4 ♗f6 7.♗1c3 (7.♗5c3 194) 7...a6 8.♗a3 ♙e7 9.♙e2 0-0 10.0-0 b6 11.♙e3

Index of Variations

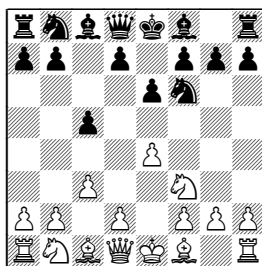
♙b7 12.♚b3 196 (12.♚d2 196)

12.f3 200

12.♞c1 201

12.f4 202

Chapter 13. 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.c3 ♘f6



4.e5 (4.♙d3 213) 4...♘d5

5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 (6.♙c4 ♘b6 214) 6...b6 7.♘c3 216

7.♙d3 217

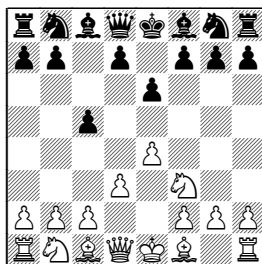
7.♙c4 218

5.♙c4 ♘b6 6.♙b3 d6! 7.exd6 219

7.d4 dxe5! 221

7.0-0 ♘c6 223

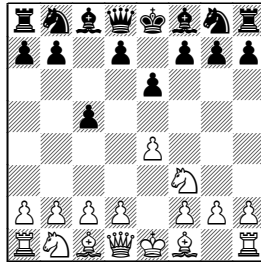
Chapter 14. 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6



3.d3 ♘c6 231

3.g3 ♘c6 233

Chapter 15. 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6



3.c4 ♘c6 4.♘c3 ♘d4!? 2141

4.d4 242

3.b4 244

3.b3 a6 4.♗b2 ♘c6 5.d4 246

5.g3 246

5.c4 247

3.d4 cxd4 4.c3 dxc3 247