

Chess Miniatures

MINIATURES IN THE QUEEN'S INDIAN 4.g3



CARSTEN HANSEN



Russell Enterprises

From Chapter 1

4...Ba6 5.Qc2

Game 9

Veselin Topalov (2777) – Viswanathan Anand (2798)

Bilbao 2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qc2 Bb7 6.Bg2 c5 7.d5 exd5 8.cxd5
Nxd5 9.0-0 Be7 10.Rd1 Qc8



11.a3

White takes the b4-square away from Black's knight and at the same time keeps b2-b4 in hand for special occasions. Black's knight usually will jump to c7 or f6.

- (a) A couple of weeks prior to our main game, Anand faced 11.e4, and after 11...Nc7 12.Nc3 0-0 13.e5 Ne6 14.Nd5 Bxd5 15.Rxd5 Nc6, he had solved most of his opening problems, Carlsen-Anand, Mainz 2008.
- (b) Another option for White is 11.Bg5, for example 11...f6 12.Bc1 (claiming that Black's weakening of the light squares more than compensates for the loss of two tempi) 12...Nc7 13.e4 Nc6 14.Nc3 0-0 15.Be3 d6 16.Nh4 g6 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.exd5 was seen in Alekseev-Carlsen, Moscow 2008, and now Black should have played 18...Nb4!, e.g., 19.Nxg6 Nxc2 20.Nxe7+ Kg7 21.Nxc8 Raxc8 22.Rac1 Nxe3 23.fxe3 Rce8, and Black has the upper hand.
- (c) 11.Nh4 Bxh4 12.Rxd5 does not yield White any advantage.

11...Nf6 12.Bg5!?



At time of the game, this was a powerful novelty, which obviously Anand had to work out at the board.

12.Nc3 d5 13.Bg5 Nbd7 14.e4 d4 15.e5 Nxe5! (15...dxc3? 16.exf6 Nxf6 17.Re1 is very uncomfortable for Black) 16.Nxe5 Bxg2 17.Qa4+ Nd7 (or 17...Kf8 18.Kxg2 dxc3 19.bxc3 Kg8 20.Nc6 Qb7 21.Kg1 Rc8 22.Bxf6 Bxf6 23.Nxa7 Rf8, and while White has the initiative, Black can certainly defend, Rodshtein-Najer, Dagomys 2008) 18.Bxe7 Kxe7 19.Re1 Nxe5 20.Rxe5+ Kf8 21.Kxg2 dxc3 22.bxc3 g6 23.Rae1 Kg7, and White's activity compensated for the missing pawn, Kramnik-Leko, Moscow 2008.

12...d5?!

This is logical, but also exposes Black. A good alternative is 12...0-0 13.Nc3 Rd8 (13...h6 14.Bxf6?! Bxf6 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.Rxd5 Nc6 17.Rad1 Nd4 18.Nxd4 cxd4 19.Qxc8 Raxc8 20.Rxd7 Rc2, and a draw was agreed upon, ½-½, in Gomez Ledo-Corrales Jimenez, Balaguer 2010) 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.Rxd5 Nc6 17.Rad1 Qc7 18.Ng5 Bxg5 19.Rxg5 Re8, and White's activity compensates for the missing pawn, but no more than that, Arun Prasad-Adhiban, Mumbai 2009.

13.Bxf6! Bxf6 14.Nc3 Bxc3

- (a) On 14...d4?! 15.Nb5!?! (15.Ne4 Be7 16.Nxd4! 0-0 17.Nb5 Bc6 18.Ned6 Bxd6 19.Rxd6 is pleasant for White) 15...Be7 16.Nbxd4 0-0 17.Nf5, and White is in command of the game.
- (b) 14...Qe6? 15.Nxd5! Bxd5 (15...Na6?? 16.Qa4+ Kf8 17.Nxf6 Qxf6 18.Ne5 Qxe5 19.Bxb7, 1-0, Brynell-Lindberg, Sweden 2008) 16.Ng5 Bb3 17.Nxe6 Bxc2 18.Rd2 and White wins material (Postny).

15.bxc3 Na6!

- (a) 15...0-0 16.Ng5 g6 17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5 leaves White with a long-lasting initiative (Postny).
- (b) 15...Qc7 is an interesting alternative, e.g., 16.Nh4 0-0 17.Nf5 Rd8 18.e4 g6 19.Nh6+ Kg7 20.Qd2 d4 21.cxd4 Rxd4 22.Qg5 Nc6 23.Nf5+ Kg8 24.Nxd4 Nxd4, and Black has excellent compensation for the exchange, Zhou Weiqi-Paragua, Manila 2008.

16.Nh4 g6

16...Qe6?! 17.Qa4+ Kf8 18.Qf4 is quite uncomfortable for Black.

17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5

White has won the pawn back, and maintains a steady initiative, but Black should be able to defend with accurate play.

18...0-0 19.Rad1 Nc7 20.Rd7 Ne6

In a later game, Black tried 20...Nb5 21.R1d5 a6 22.Qd2 Ra7 23.Rd8 Qe6 24.Qh6 Re8 as played in Bhat-Papp, Lubbock 2009



Can you spot the win that White missed?

25.Rxe8+ Qxe8 26.Nf5! f6 27.Qd2 Ra8 28.Nh6+ Kh8 29.a4, and Black's position is rather hopeless, e.g., 29...Na3 30.Rd6 Qe4 (30...Nc4? 31.Qf4) 31.Nf7+ Kg8 32.Rxf6 Nc4 33.Qd7, and White is winning. Well, I didn't say it was going to be easy.

21.Qe4 Qe8?



This turns out to be a serious mistake by Black. Can you find White's best way forward?

Hint: It is not a combination or sacrifice.

Black has a couple of options that were decidedly better than the game continuation:

- (a) 21...c4 22.Qf3 Qc5 23.Ng2 Rae8 (Postny also mentions 23...Qxa3 24.Rxf7 Rxf7 25.Qxa8+ Nf8 26.Ne3 Qxc3 27.Qd5 with an initiative for White, although as Postny points out the black queenside pawns can easily decide the game if Black makes it to the endgame) 24.Ne3 (24.Rxa7?? run into 24...Ng5 25.Qg4 h5, and White can't keep both e2 and h3 guarded) 24...Ng5 25.Qd5 Qxd5 26.R1xd5 Ne4 27.Rd4 Nxc3 28.Rxc4 Rc8, and according to Postny, Black should hold the endgame.
- (b) 21...Nd4!? 22.Qe7 Nc6 23.Qf6 Nd4 24.Re7 Qc6 (24...Nc6



How should White meet this move?

25.Nxg6! hxg6 26.Re4 Qf5 27.Qxc6, and White is a pawn up.) 25.Qg5 Ne6 26.Qe5 Rad8 (Postny) and Black has things more or less under control.

22.Nf3! c4

Or 22...Nd4 23.Ne5 Nc6 24.f4 Nxe5 25.fxe5 Qe6 26.R1d6 Qh3 27.Rc7 Rae8 28.Rxa7 is another line offered by Postny in *ChessBase Magazine*. White is clearly better, but at least Black is still in the game.

23.Qh4!

This is the idea behind White's previous move and this is much stronger than picking up the c4-pawn; White's attack now accelerates very fast.

23...Nc5

Or 23...Rd8 24.Ne5 (intending Ne5-g4-f6) 24...h5 25.Qf6 Rxd7 26.Rxd7 And Black is completely toast; the main threat is Re7 followed by Nxg6.

24.Re7 Rd8

24...Qa4 is met by 25.Rd6! Qc2 (or 25...Qxa3 26.Ng5 h5 27.Rxg6+! fxe6 28.Qxc4+ Kh8 29.Rh7#) 26.Ng5 h5 27.Rf6 (Postny), White threatens all sorts of nastiness.

25.Rf1! and Anand had enough; the likely continuation would have been 25.Rf1 Qc6 26.Ng5 h5 27.Nxf7! Rxf7 28.Rxf7 Kxf7 29.Qxd8, and White is easily winning. **1-0**

From Chapter 2

4...Ba6 5.Qb3

Game 16

Vladimir Epishin (2600) – Dimitri Komarov (2615)

St. Petersburg 1997

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qb3 c5 6.d5 exd5 7.cxd5



7...c4?

This move is surprisingly common, but also not very good. The alternatives are:

- (a) 7...d6 8.Bg2 g6 9.0-0 Bg7 10.Nc3 (a common idea is 10.Qe3+ Kf8 11.Nc3 Nbd7 12.Qf4 Qc7 13.Qa4 Qb7 14.Bf4 Ne8 15.Ne4 b5 16.Qa3 b4 17.Qe3 Qb6 18.a3 b3 19.Nfg5 Ndf6 was played in Fressinet-Anastasian, Plovdiv 2008, and now 20.Nxf7 Nxe4 21.Nxh8 N4f6 22.Nxg6+ hxg6 is messy, but 20.a4 may just be better for White) 10...0-0 11.Bf4 (11.a4 Re8 12.Re1 Ne4 13.Nxe4 Rxe4 14.Ng5 Rb4 15.Qf3 Qf6?! 16.Ne6! fxe6 17.dxe6 Nc6 18.Qxc6 Rf8 19.Bf4, and White is much better, Groszpeter-Stajcic, Kecskemet 1993) 11...Re8 (11...Qe7 12.Rfe1 Nbd7 13.a4 Ng4 14.Bg5 Bf6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.h3 Nge5 17.Nd2 c4 18.Qc2 Nc5 19.Nce4, and White has the better chances, Fominyh-Obukhov, Ekaterinburg 1997) 12.Rfe1 Ne4 13.Qc2 Qe7 14.Nxe4 Qxe4 15.Qxe4 Rxe4 16.Bxd6 Nd7 17.Rab1 Rxe2 18.Rxe2 Bxe2, and Black had equalized, Fominyh-Epishin, Elista 1997).
- (b) 7...g6 8.Bg2 (or 8.Bf4 d6 9.Bg2 Bg7 10.Qe3+ Kf8 11.Nc3 h6 12.Qc1 Qe7 13.0-0 Nbd7 14.h3 Re8 15.a4, and draw agreed, ½-½, Peric-Epishin, Geneva 1997) 8...Bg7 9.Qe3+ Qe7 10.Nc3 d6 11.0-0 Nbd7 12.Re1 b5 13.a3 Ng4 14.Qxe7+ Kxe7 15.Bg5+ Bf6 16.Bxf6+ Kxf6 17.Nd2, and White has the better long-term prospects, Gyimesi-Balogh, Hungary 2006).

8.Qe3+

White obtains less with 8.Qc2, for example 8...Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Qe7 10.Bxb4 Qxb4+ 11.Nfd2 0-0 12.Bg2 d6 13.Nc3 Qc5 14.Nde4 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Qc7 16.b4 Nd7 17.a4 Bb7 18.Nc3 a6 19.0-0 Rfe8, and the chances are more or less even, Gheorghiu-Grefe, Palo Alto 1981.

8...Qe7 9.Nc3

An interesting alternative is 9.Qd4!?, and now if Black insists on exchange queens with 9...Qe4, then 10.Nc3 Bb4 11.Bg2 Qxd5 12.0-0 Bxc3 13.Qxc3 Nc6 14.Bg5 Qe6 15.Rfd1 0-0 16.Qa3 Bb5 17.Rd6 Qxe2 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Qc3 Qe7 20.Rd5 Ba6 21.Re1, and White is winning, Shimanov-Zakharov, Moscow 2015.

If 9...Qc5?!, then 10.Nc3 d6 (or 10...Bb7 11.e4 b5 12.Bg5 Qxd4 13.Nxd4 a6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.a4 Bc5 16.Nf5 b4 17.Nd1, and White is winning, Goldin-Tissir, Cappelle la Grande 2001) 11.Bg2 Nbd7 12.Bf4 Be7 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd2 Rfe8 15.Nd4 Qc7 16.b4 Ng4 17.a4 h6 18.h3 Nge5 19.Nc6, and White is dominating, C.Horvath-Mateo, Havana 2007.

9...Qxe3

Black can also opt for the perfectly logical-looking move 9...Bb7, targeting the soft pawn on d5, which makes even more sense now that the pawn on c4 blocks the bishop from doing anything active on a6: 10.Qxe7+ Bxe7 11.e4 0-0 12.Nd2 Re8 (12...Na6!?) 13.f3 Bb4 (13...Bc5!?) 14.Kf2 Na6 15.Nxc4 Rac8 16.a3 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Nc5 18.Nd6 Nb3 19.Rb1 Rxc3 20.Be2 Rb8 21.Bb2 Rc2 22.Nxb7 Nd2 23.Rhc1 Rbc8 24.Rxc2 Rxc2 25.Rc1, and Black resigned as the rooks now come off as well, 1-0, Adhiban-Sangma, Mumbai 2009.

10.Bxe3 Bb4



11.Bd4!

This was a novelty at the time of the game, and a strong one of the kind. Previously White had tried the attractive looking 11.0-0-0, but it turns out Black is doing fine if he plays precisely: 11...Bxc3 (11...d6!?) 12.bxc3 Bb7 13.Bd4 Nxd5 14.Bxg7 Rg8 15.Bd4 Nc6 was Renman-L.Schneider, Eksjo 1981, and now White could have claimed an edge after 16.Kb2 Nxd4 17.Rxd4 b5 18.Bh3 Nb6 19.Re1 0-0-0 20.Rf4 with the initiative.

11...Nxd5?!

- (a) On 11...Ke7, White will also play 12.0-0-0, and now 12...d6 (12...Re8? 13.d6+! Bxd6 14.Bxf6+ gxf6 15.Nh4 Bc5 16.Bg2 Nc6 17.Nd5+, and White is close to winning or 12...Bb7?! 13.Nh4!) 13.e4 Nbd7 14.Nh4 g6 15.f4 Rhe8 16.e5 Ng4 17.Nf3, and White has a beautiful, harmonious position, whereas Black's pieces are rather bizarrely coordinated.
- (b) 11...d6 has also been tried: 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.0-0-0 Nd7 14.Nd4 h5 15.Nf5 0-0-0 16.Ne4 Kc7 17.Bg2 Rhe8 18.Nd4 Bc5 19.Bf3 Rh8 20.Nc6 Ra8 21.Kb1 b5 22.Nxc5 Nxc5 23.Rd4, and even though my computer claims that White is only slightly better, I can't find much positive to say about Black's position, whereas White's position looks just wonderful, Kosyrev-Onoprijchuk, Moscow 2008.

12.Bxg7 Rg8



How should White best continue?

13.0-0-0!

White removes the king from the pin, but it also highlights how poorly Black's pieces are placed.

13...Ne7

We obviously need to take a brief look at what happens if Black exchanges pieces on c3: 13...Bxc3 14.Bxc3 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Bb7 16.Bh3! (16.e4 Kf8 17.Bxc4 Bxe4 18.Bd5 Bxd5 19.Rxd5 is also better for White, but 16.Bh3 is the stronger option) 16...b5 17.Bf5 Rg7 18.Rd6, and White totally dominates.

14.Be5 Nbc6 15.Ne4 0-0-0

15...Nxe5? is much worse 16.Nf6+ Kf8 17.Nxe5 d6 18.Ned7+ Kg7 19.Bg2 Rad8 20.a3 Bc5 21.Nxc5 bxc5 22.Nxg8 Kxg8 23.e4, and Black is obviously lost.

16.Nd6+ Bxd6 17.Bxd6 Rg6

17...Nf5 makes sense, but after 18.Bf4! Nce7 19.e4 Black has problems, e.g., 19...Bb7 20.Ng5 (20.Bxc4 is also good: 20...Bxe4 21.Ba6+ Bb7 22.Bxb7+ Kxb7 23.Ne5, and White is clearly better thanks to better pawns, better pieces – yeah Black’s position sucks...) 20...Ng6 21.Bxc4 Nxf4 22.gxf4, and Black is in severe trouble.

18.Rd2! Nf5 19.Bf4 Bb7?



How should White continue?

Strictly speaking Black should have opted for 19...Ng7, although 20.Bh3 Ne6 21.Bd6, and Black is tied up on his hands and feet, leaving White with a strategically winning position.

20.e4 Nb4 21.exf5 Bxf3 22.fxg6 Bxh1 23.gxf7 There is no defense against 24 Bd6. **1-0**

From Chapter 3

4...Ba6 5.Nbd2

Game 19

Alexander Raykhman (2414) – Thies Heinemann (2459)

German Bundesliga 2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Nbd2 Bb4 6.Qa4 c5 7.a3 Bxd2+ 8.Bxd2 0-0 9.Bg2

9.Bf4 Qc8 10.Bd6 Re8 11.dxc5 Ne4 12.Bg2 bxc5 13.Nd2 Nxd2! with equality was seen in Portisch-Seirawan, Mar del Plata 1981.

9...d5

Black has also tried 9...Bb7 10.0-0 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Bxg2 12.Kxg2 Nc6 13.Nxc6 dxc6 14.Bf4 Qd4 15.Qc2 Rfd8 16.Rad1 Qe4+ 17.Qxe4 Nxe4 18.f3 Nc5 as played in Piket-Khalifman, Manila 1992, and now 19.Bc7 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 would be fractionally better for White.

10.cxd5

Or 10.Bf4 Qd7!? 11.Qxd7 Nbx d7 12.Ne5 (12.cxd5 exd5 13.Rd1 Rfe8 14.e3 Bc4 is probably about even) 12...cxd4 13.cxd5 exd5 14.Nxd7 Nxd7 15.0-0-0 Nc5 16.Bxd5 Rad8, and Black has the initiative, Toth-Sunye Neto, Merida 1993.

10...exd5 11.b4

A new move in this position, and not necessarily a bad one, the follow up, however, turns out to be flawed.

- (a) Previously White had tried 11.0-0 Bxe2 12.Rfe1 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Qd7! 14.Qd1?! (14.Qxd7!? Nbx d7 15.dxc5 Nxc5!? [or 15...bxc5 16.Re7 Rae8 17.Rae1 Rxe7 18.Rxe7, and White two bishops provide a decent amount of compensation for the pawn – Avrukh] 16.Bc3 Nfe4 17.Bd4 [17.Rad1 Rad8 18.Bd4 f5 is marginally better for Black according to Avrukh] 17...Rad8 18.Rad1, and the bishop pair more or less outweighs the pawn deficit) 14...cxd4 15.Bb4 Re8 16.Rxe8+ Qxe8 17.Qxd4 Nc6, and Black is simply a pawn up for insufficient compensation, Sorin-Zarnicki, Villa Gesell 1998.
- (b) 11.Bg5 Qe8!? 12.Qxe8 Rxe8 13.e3 Ne4 14.Bf4 Nc6 15.Ne5 (15.Rd1 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Rxd4 Rac8 leaves Black with an ongoing

initiative – Avrukh) 15...Na5 16.f3 Nd6 17.dxc5 bxc5 18.Nd7 Nb3 19.Rd1 was played in Bonin-Browne, Stillwater 2007, and now 19...Nf5 20.Kf2 d4 would have left Black with the better chances.

11...Re8 12.b5



White's last move is a huge mistake. Can you spot which resource for Black White overlooked?

White should have opted for 12.Be3, and now 12...Ng4 13.Ne5 Nxe3 (or 13...Nxe5 14.dxe5 Bc4 15.f4 with chances for both sides) 14.fxe3 cxd4 15.exd4 with a perfectly playable position for both sides.

12...Rxe2+!! 13.Kf1

If White captures the rook, he loses the queen: 13.Kxe2 Qe8+ 14.Kd1 Bxb5, and now the white queen can only retreat to b3 or c2, which in both cases will be met with ...Ba4.

13...Qe8

Black threatens to pick up the second pawn.

14.Rb1 Ne4 15.Be1



How should Black proceed?

15...Rxe1+! 16.Nxe1 Nd2+ 17.Kg1 Nxb1 18.Bxd5 Nc3 19.Qb3 Nxd5 20.Qxd5 Bxb5, and it is completely game over for White. **0-1**

From Chapter 6

4...Ba6 5.b3 Bb4+

Game 59

Jozsef Pinter, (2540) – Andras Adorjan (2565)

Prague 1985

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.b3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.e4 Bb7

8...d5 was the topic of our previous main game.

9.Bd3 d5 10.cxd5

10.e5 has also been tried, but is good for Black: 10...Ne4 11.Qe2 Nxd2 12.Nxd2 dxc4 13.Be4 c6 (13...Bxe4 14.Qxe4 Bb4!?) 14.Nf3? (14.Nxc4!?) 14...cxb3 15.axb3 Nd7 16.h4 f5! 17.exf6 Nxf6 18.0-0-0? (this makes no sense, but White's position is obviously very bad to begin with) 18...Bb4 19.Na2 Ba3+ 20.Kc2 Nxe4 21.Qxe4 Qd5 22.Qxd5 exd5 23.Rd3 Bc8 24.Kc3 Bf5 25.Re3 Be4, and White found it appropriate to resign, 0-1, Wiedenkiller-H.Olafsson, Gjovik 1985.

10...exd5 11.e5 Ne4 12.0-0 c5 13.Rc1

White has also tested a couple of other moves:

- (a) 13.Qe2 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Na6 15.Rad1 Nc7 16.Bf5 Qe8 17.Rfe1 Rd8 with chances for both sides, Pinter-Miles, Zagreb 1987.
- (b) 13.Re1 f5 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Bxe4 Bxe4 17.Rxe4 Qd5 18.Qe2 Nc6 19.Bc3, and a draw was agreed upon, ½-½, Farago-Adorjan, Esbjerg 1985.

13...Na6

Black has tried several things in this position:

- (a) 13...Nd7 14.Re1 f5 15.Qe2 a6 16.Be3 Nxc3 17.Rxc3 c4 18.bxc4 Bb4 19.Bd2 Bxc3, and here the players very prematurely agreed to a draw, ½-½, Spraggett-Miles, San Francisco 1987. White's position definitely seems preferable.
- (b) 13...cxd4 14.Nxd4 Nd7 (or 14...Ba3 15.Rc2 Na6 16.Ncb5 Bc5 17.Qg4 Kh8 18.Nf5 g6 19.Bxe4 dxe4 20.Nfd6, and White is definitely in

command of the game at this point, although Black later won, Pinter-Adorjan, Szirak 1985) 15.Bf4 Ndc5 16.Bb5 Rc8 17.Qg4 a6 18.Nf5 g6 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Rcd1 Nd3 21.Bxd3 exd3 22.Nd6, and once more White has the better chances, Pinter-Adorjan, Szirak 1986.

14.Re1 Nb4

Black can also consider 14...Nxd2 15.Qxd2 Nc7 16.Bf5 c4 17.Qe2 g6 18.Bh3 b5 with a sharp position with chances for both sides.

15.Bb1 f5 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Bxb4 e3

Black is already trying to stir the pot, attempting to take advantage of the absence of the b1-bishop from the long h1-a8 diagonal. Clearly 18...cxb4 19.Bxe4 Bxe4 20.Rxe4 doesn't inspire any confidence either.

19.Rxe3 Bxf3



What is White's best move?

20.Qc2!

All of a sudden, Black's position completely crumbles. The next few moves begin the descent down the slippery slope.

20...g6 21.dxc5 Bg5 22.Rd3 Qc8 23.Qc4+ Kg7 24.Qc3+ Kh6 25.h4 25...Bxc1 26.Qxc1+ Kg7 27.Qc3+ Rf6 28.Rxf3 Qe6 29.Be4 is easily winning for White, and so... **1-0**