

Chess Miniatures

MINIATURES IN THE KINGS INDIAN FIANCHETTO SYSTEMS



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Game #
A.Pekarek (2455) - V.Jansa (2460)
Prague 1992

1 d4 d6 2 g3 g6 3 Bg2 Bg7 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 c4 0–0 6 Nc3 c6 7 0–0 Bf5 8 Bf4 Ne4 9 Rc1

This is an unusual continuation.

White more commonly plays 9 Nxe4 Bxe4 10 Qd2, although Black does not appear to have any particular issues, e.g. 10...Re8 (or 10...Nd7 11 Rfd1 Re8 12 Rac1 a5 13 Bh6 Bxh6 14 Qxh6 Bxf3 15 Bxf3 e5 16 dxe5 Nxe5 17 Bg2 was played in B.Larsen-J.Benjamin, Hastings 1987, and although White later won the game, Black could now have equalized with 17...Qb6) 11 Bh6 Bh8 12 Rad1 Nd7 13 Qf4 Bxf3 14 Qxf3 e6 15 e4 Qb6 16 Qc3 c5 17 Be3 Rac8 (17...cxd4 18 Bxd4 Bxd4 19 Qxd4 Ne5 20 Qxd6 Nxc4 21 Qxb6 axb6 22 b3 Ne5 23 f4 Nc6 is perhaps marginally better for White, but Black should be able to defend. 24 a4) 18 b3 Nb8 19 e5 Nc6 20 dxc5 dxc5 21 f4 Red8 22 Kf2 Bg7 23 Bxc6 Qxc6 24 Qc2 Bf8, and a draw was agreed upon, ½–½, Zhu Chen-J.Benjamin, Deizisau 1999.

9...Nxc3

In a later game, the Czech Grandmaster tried another move at this point: 9...Na6 10 Nxe4 Bxe4 11 Qd2 Qb6 12 Rfd1 Rfe8 13 b3 c5 (13...Qb4 was played in a more recent game by another grandmaster: 14 Qe3 Bxf3 15 Bxf3 Qa3 16 c5 d5 17 Qc3 Rac8 18 Rc2 b6 19 Bc1 Qb4 20 Qd3 Qa5 21 Bd2 Nb4 22 Qc3?? Nxc2, and as a result of the blunder, White resigned, 0–1, P.Andreasen-V.Baklan, Reykjavik 2013) 14 dxc5 Nxc5 15 Be3 a5 16 Bd4 Bxf3 17 Bxf3 Bxd4 18 Qxd4 Qb4, and the position is approximately equal, J.Szabolcsi-V.Jansa, Berlin 1996.

10 Rxc3 c5?!



How does White best continue?

10...Nd7 11 Rb3 Rb8 is less forcing and also a whole lot better.

11 Rb3! Nc6

Guarding the pawn with 11...Be4 should obviously also be considered, e.g. 12 dxc5 dxc5 13 Qc1 (or 13 Re3 Bc6 14 Qxd8 Rxd8 15 Rxe7 Bf6 16 Re3 Bxb2 17 Bg5 Rf8 18 Rb1 Bg7 19 Be7 Re8 20 Bxc5 Nd7 21 Rxe8+ Rxe8 22 Be3, and Black only has some, but not full compensation for the pawn) 13...Qa5 14 Re3 Bxf3 15 Bxf3, and White has a steady initiative.

12 dxc5 dxc5

On 12...Na5, White best plays 13 cxd6 Nxb3 14 axb3 exd6 15 Nd4 Bc8 16 Nb5 with more than adequate compensation for White.

13 Rxb7 Qa5?!



What is White strongest move?

14 Qb3!?

White's best is 14 Nh4! Rad8 15 Qe1 Qa6 16 Nxf5 gxf5 17 Bxc6 Qxc6 18 Rxe7 Bxb2 19 Qb1 Qf6 20 Rc7 with a large, if not winning advantage.

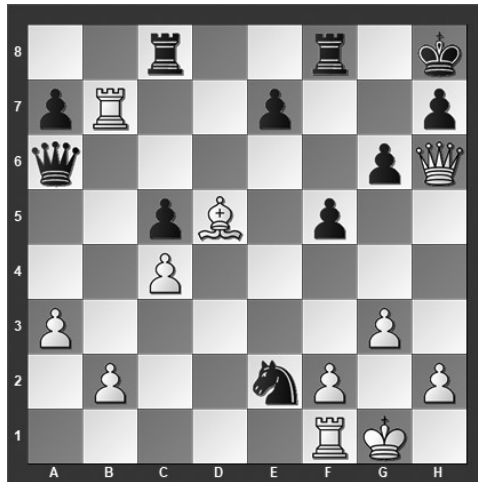
14...Rac8 15 a3 Be4 16 Qe3 Qa6 17 Rb5 f5?!

This is naturally very weakening, but the alternative 17...Bxf3 18 Bxf3 Rfe8 leaves Black a pawn down for nothing.

18 Bh6 Bxh6 19 Qxh6 Bxf3 20 Bxf3 Nd4 21 Bd5+ Kh8 22 Rb7!?

White could also play 22 Rxc5!? Nxe2+ 23 Kg2 Qf6 24 Rxc8 Rxc8 25 Qe3 Nd4 26 Rd1 e5 27 b4 with an extra pawn, which should win comfortably; the threat is f2-f4.

22...Nxe2+



Black has won the pawn back, but has the overlooked?

23 Kh1 Qf6 24 Re1

This is the problem for Black, he cannot retreat with the knight nor can he leave it on e2...

24...Qe5

24...Nd4 25 Rxe7 is obviously not an alternative.

25 Qd2 And the knight is lost.

1-0

Game #
A.Valsecchi (2429) - D.Dvirnyy (2507)
Zagreb 2012

**1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 0-0 5 0-0 d6 6 d4 Nc6 7 Nc3 a6 8 h3
Rb8 9 e4 Nd7 10 Be3 b5 11 cxb5 axb5 12 Rc1 Na5 13 b3**



This is regular theory, tested several times.

13...b4

13...c5 14 dxc5 dxc5 15 Bf4 e5 16 Bg5 f6 17 Be3, and White is comfortably better, M.Marchini-K.Grosar, Bratto 1998.; 13...Ba6 transposes to our game.

14 Na4

14 Nd5 c6 15 Nf4 Ba6 16 Re1 Bb5 (16...e5!? is a possible improvement for Black) 17 Nd3 c5 18 dxc5 Bc3 19 Bd2 Bxd2 20 Qxd2 Bxd3 21 Qxd3 Nxc5 22 Qe3, and White has a solid plus at this stage, R.Huebner-J.Polgar, Dortmund 1997.

14...Ba6 15 Re1 Bb5 16 Nb2

White should not play 16 d5, because after 16...c5 17 dxc6 Nxc6 18 Bf1 Qa5 19 Bxb5 Qxb5 20 Qd5 Nce5 21 Nxe5 Qxd5 22 exd5 Nxe5, and the chances are completely even, E.Scarella-G.Hernandez, Villa Martelli 1999.

16...c5 17 Nd3 Nb7

Or 17...Rc8 18 dxc5 Bxd3 19 Qxd3 Nxc5 20 Qb1 (20 Qe2 Nxe4 21 Rxc8 Qxc8 22 Bb6 was played in B.Fradkin-A.Kaminik, Hockenheim 2007, and now 22...d5 would leave Black with a very pleasant position.) 20...Bc3 21 Red1 Qb6 22 Bd4 Bxd4 23 Nxd4 Ne6 24 Nc2 Nc6 25 Ne3 Ned4 26 Nd5 Qa7 27 Qb2 e5 28 Rc4, and Black has solved his opening problems and therefore the players settled for a draw at this point, ½–½, K.Arkeil-A.Istratescu, Hastings 2009.

18 e5!?

Black has also tried 18 dxc5 Bc3?! 19 c6 Bxc6 20 Bd2 Qa5 21 a3 Bxd2 22 Qxd2 Bb5 23 axb4 Qb6 24 Nf4 e6 25 h4 with a clear advantage for White, J.Dovzik-A.Butunoi, Hungary 2009.

Black can possibly play stronger with 18...Bxd3 19 c6 Ndc5 20 cxb7 Ba6 21 Bxc5 dxc5, and now 22 Rxc5 is met by 22...Qb6 23 Rc8 Rbxc8 24 bxc8Q Rxc8, and Black has excellent compensation for the pawn thanks to his bishops.

18...Bxd3 19 Qxd3 cxd4 20 Qxd4



Now Black played...

20...Na5

How does White best meet this move?

20...dxe5 21 Qxb4 Nd6 was relatively best, but this too is clearly better for White. 22 Qd2

21 Qa7! Rb7?!

21...Ra8 is relatively best, but certainly not any good either: 22 Qc7 Rc8 23 Qxd8 Rfxd8 24 exd6 exd6 25 Red1 Bf8 26 Nd4, and Black's position is a positional disaster.

22 Qa6 Nb8 23 Qa8

And here black resigned. A somewhat premature resignation, but Black's position is absolutely dreadful, e.g. 23 Qa8 Nbc6 24 Qxd8 Nxd8 25 exd6 exd6 26 Red1 Rd7 27 Nd4, and Black is completely tied up with threats like b5 looming on the horizon.

1-0

Game #
L.Kavalek (2550) - S.Mariotti (2450)
 Venice 1971

**1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 0-0 5 d4 d6 6 Nf3 c6 7 h3 Nbd7 8 0-0
 e5 9 e4 Re8 10 Be3 exd4 11 Nxd4**



11...Nb6?!

This move is hardly being played anymore; the present game has a lot to do with that. As we will see in the alternatives listed below, Black normally will play...Nc5 &....a7-a5, which is supposed to be approximately equal or no more than a tiny bit better for White, but in praxis the score is heavily in White's favor.

Black has also tried:

- (a) 11...Nc5 12 Qc2 Qe7 13 Rfe1 Qf8 14 Rad1 Bh6 15 f4 a5 16 Bf2 Nfd7 17 b3 Nb8 18 Nf3 Nba6 19 Qd2 Bg7 20 Bd4 a4, and Black has more or less equalized, S.Sethuraman-L.Vajda, Sydney 2013.
- (b) The plan outlined above has also been tested numerous times: 11...a5 12 Qc2 Nc5 13 Rad1 Qe7 14 Rfe1 a4 is already okay for Black; a recent game continued 15 f3 Nfd7 16 Bf2 Ne5 17 b3 axb3

18 axb3 Ra3 19 Nb1 Ra8 20 Nc3 Ra3 21 Nb1 Ra8 22 Nc3 Ra3, and a draw was agreed upon, ½–½, D.Ghosh-V.Kovalev, Pune 2014.

(c) Another try is 11...Qa5, but after 12 Qe2 Nb6 13 Rac1 Na4 14 Nxa4 Qxa4 15 b3 Qa5 16 Qc2 Bd7 17 Rfd1, White seemed to have the slightly better chances, G.Dizdar-J.Skoberne, Austria 2014.

12 b3 d5?!

The aggressive attempt to equalize by opening the center fails its premise and immediately gets Black in trouble.

A different, more dynamic idea was employed in R.Dautov-L.Vogt, Bad Lauterberg 1991: 12...a6 13 Rc1 Bd7 14 Qd2 c5 15 Nde2 Bc6 16 f3 Nc8 17 Rfd1 Qa5 18 Nf4 b5, and White has no more than a small structurally advantage.

13 exd5 cxd5 14 c5 Nbd7 15 Ndb5



What is Black's best move?

15...Ne4?

Answer: 15...Rxe3!? is the best and possibly only way for Black to stay in the game, e.g. 16 fxe3 Nxc5 17 Nxd5 Nxd5 18 Bxd5 Qg5 19 Qf3 Bxh3 with complications that are somewhat better for White.

After the text move, 15...Nxe4, what is White's strongest continuation?

16 Nxe4!?

The game continuation is adequate, but not best.

The answer to the question is 16 Nxd5! and now 16...Ndxc5 17 Rc1 Na6 18 Nbc7 Nxc7 19 Nxc7 Nc3 20 Qxd8 Rxd8 21 Nxa8 was another miniature, 1–0, M.Botvinnik-V.Ragozin, Moscow 1941.

16...dxe4 17 Rc1 Ne5

Believe it or not, up to this point, it had all been played previously. The earlier game went 17...Nf6 18 Nd6 Qe7 19 Nxe8 Qxe8 20 Bd4 Bd7 21 Bxf6 Bxf6 22 Bxe4 Qxe4 23 Qxd7, and White is easily winning, L.Schmid-E.Pedersen, Dubrovnik OL 1950.

18 Nd6 Nd3 19 Nxe8 Qxe8 20 Rc2 Bd7 21 Rd2 Bb5 22 a4 Ba6 23 Qc2 f5



Which move from White made Black resign on the spot?

The alternatives are better, but not very good:

23...b6 24 cxb6 Rc8, and now a fun line runs as follows: 25 bxa7 Rxc2 26 Rxc2 Bb7 27 b4 Qxa4 (27...Be5 28 b5) 28 Rc7 Qxb4 29 Rd1 Be5 30 Rxb7 Qxb7 31 Rxd3 Qb1+ 32 Bf1, and White is winning.

Or 23...Qe6 24 Rfd1 Re8 25 Bxe4 Qxe4 26 Rxd3 Bxd3 27 Qxd3, and White is a clear pawn up.

24 b4!

The threat is b4–b5 and 24...Nxb4 is met by 25 Qb3+. 1–0