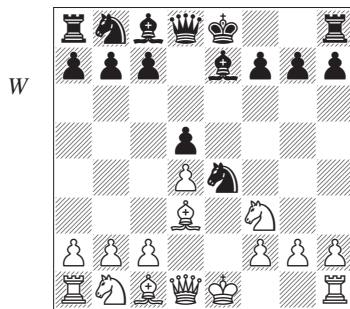


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10 4 ♞f3 ♞xe4 5 d4 d5 6 ♙d3 ♙e7

1 e4 e5 2 ♞f3 ♞f6 3 ♞xe5 d6 4 ♞f3
♞xe4 5 d4 d5 6 ♙d3 ♙e7 (D)



This is the third and last of Black's major systems against the 3 ♞xe5 Petroff. Compared to the 6...♙d6 system, Black develops his bishop more modestly, but ...♙e7 has the advantage that the d5-pawn remains guarded by Black's queen. This means that Black does not need to meet c4 with ...c6 and can instead play for pressure against d4 with ...♞c6. White has two basic plans against this set-up. The first is to stick to his basic idea of playing c4, when in many lines an isolated d-pawn position results. This plan can be executed either with or without ♖e1 thrown in. The second possibility is to nullify the pressure against d4 by playing c3, and then try to remove the

e4-knight by attacking it with pieces. To counter this, Black often reinforces his knight with ...f5, although this weakens the squares along the e-file. The battle then develops between the dynamic possibilities afforded by the actively placed knight on e4 and White's longer-term structural advantage. Sharp play can arise in almost all these lines.

7 0-0

7 ♞bd2 ♙f5 8 0-0 ♞xd2 9 ♗xd2
♙g6 10 ♞e5 0-0 11 ♖e1 ♞d7 = Velikov-Spassov, Pamporovo 1981.

7...♞c6

Or:

a) 7...♙f5 8 c4 dxc4 9 ♙xc4 0-0 10
♞c3 (10 ♞e5!?) 10...♞xc3 11 bxc3
♞d7 12 ♖e1 ♞b6 13 ♙b3 ♙f6 14 ♞e5
♙e6 15 ♙xe6 fxe6 16 ♗g4 ♗d5 17 h4
♞c4 18 ♙f4 ♖ae8 19 h5 ± A.Sokolov-Tichy, Clichy 1991.

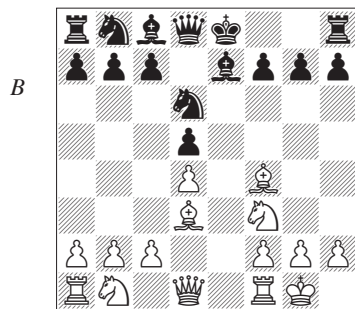
b) 7...♙g4 8 h3 ♙h5 9 c4 ♞f6 10
♞c3 dxc4 11 ♙xc4 0-0 12 g4 ♙g6 13
♞e5 c5 14 dxc5 ♗c7 15 ♙f4 ♗xc5 16
♖c1 ± Ljubojević-Handoko, Indonesia 1983.

c) 7...♞d6 and then:

c1) 8 ♞e5!? 0-0 (8...♞d7 9 ♗f3
♞f6 10 ♞c3 c6 11 ♖e1 ♙e6 12 ♙g5
±) 9 ♗f3 c6 (9...♙e6 10 ♞c3 c6 11
♞e2 ♗c8 12 ♞g3 ♞d7 13 ♖e1 ♖e8 14

♗xd7 ♖xd7 15 h3 ± Tompa-Forgacs, Hungary 1992) 10 ♗d2 (10 ♖e1!?) 10...♗d7 11 ♖e1 g6!? 12 ♗f1 ♗xe5 13 dxe5 ♗f5 14 ♗e3 ♗xe3 15 ♕xe3 ♕e6 ∞ Liss-Skembris, Athens 1995.

c2) 8 ♕f4 (D) and now:



c21) 8...♕g4 9 ♗bd2 0-0 10 c3 ♗d7 11 ♖c2 g6 (11...h6!?) 12 ♖ac1! ♖e8 13 h3 ♕e6 (13...♕xf3 ±; 13...♕f5? 14 ♕xd6 ♕xd3 15 ♕xe7 ♕xc2 16 ♕xd8 +-) 14 ♖fe1 ♗f8 15 ♗f1 c6 16 ♗g3 with a slight advantage to White, Balashov-Benko, Lone Pine 1977.

c22) 8...0-0 9 ♖e1 (9 ♗c3!?) c6 10 ♗e2 ♖e8 11 ♗g3 ♗d7 12 c3 ♗f8 13 ♖c2 ♗g6 14 ♕d2 ♕e6 15 ♖ae1 ± Torre-Balinas, Melbourne 1975) and here:

c221) 9...♖e8 10 ♗bd2 (10 ♗e5!?) 10...♗c6 11 c3 ♕f6 12 ♖xe8+ ±.

c222) 9...♕e6 10 c3 ♗d7 11 ♖c2 h6 (11...g6? 12 ♕h6 ♖e8 13 ♖xe6 fxe6 14 ♕xg6 ±; 11...♗f6? 12 ♗g5 +-) 12 ♗bd2 ♖e8 13 ♗f1 ♗f8 14 ♗g3 (14 ♖d2!?) 14...♕g5 15 ♖d2 f6 (15...♕xf4 16 ♖xf4 ±) 16 h4 (16 b3!?) 16...♕xf4 17 ♖xf4 ± Timman-Skembris, Corfu (2) 1993.

c223) 9...♕g4 and now:

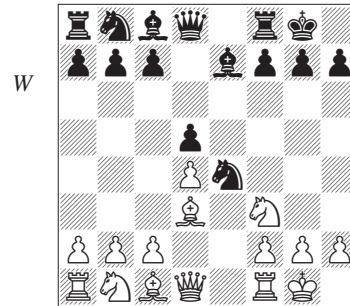
c2231) 10 h3 ♕h5 (10...♕xf3?! 11 ♖xf3 c6 12 ♗d2 ♗d7 13 ♖e2 ♖e8 14 ♖ae1 ♕f8 15 ♖g3 ♖xe2 16 ♖xe2 ♗f6 17 ♕g5 ± Timman-Hort, Bugojno 1978) 11 ♗c3 (11 ♖e5!?) ♕xf3 12 ♖xf3 c6 13 c3 ♗d7 14 ♖e2 ± Lau-Mathe, Munich 1991/2) 11...c6 12 ♖e2 ±.

c2232) 10 ♗bd2 ♗d7 11 c3 and here:

c22321) 11...♕h5 12 ♖b3 ♗b6 13 ♖e2 (13 ♗e5 ♖e8 14 ♖c2 ♕g6 15 ♗xg6 hxg6 16 ♗f3 ♕f6 17 ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 18 ♖e1 ♖d7 19 ♗e5 ♕xe5 20 ♖xe5 ♖e8 ± Byrne-Reshevsky, USA 1975) 13...♕g6 14 ♕xg6 hxg6 15 ♖ae1 ♕f6 (Browne-Benko, Lone Pine 1975) 16 g4! intending ♕g2 followed by h3 ±.

c22322) 11...♖e8 12 ♖c2 (12 ♖b3 ♗b6 13 ♖c2 g6 14 ♗e5 ♕f5 15 ♖e2 ♕g5! 16 ♕xg5 ♖xg5 17 ♖ae1 f6 = Dvoretzky-Khachaturov, USSR 1973) 12...h6 (12...g6 13 ♖ac1! ±) 13 h3 ±.

d) 7...0-0 (D) and then:



d1) 8 h3 ♕f5 9 ♖e1 ♗c6 10 c3 ♖e8 11 ♖c2 ♕g6 12 ♗bd2 ♗xd2 13 ♕xd2 with an equal position, Micheli-Toth, Italy 1973.

d2) 8 ♖e1 and here:

d21) 8...f5 9 c4 c6 10 ♖c3 ♗a6 (10...♗h8 11 ♕f4 ♕b4 12 ♖b3 ♖a5 13 ♚ac1 ♕e6 14 a3 ± Marco-Kaslan, Thessaloniki OL 1984) 11 cxd5 (11 ♕f4!? is another idea) 11...cxd5 12 ♕xa6 bxa6 13 ♖b3 ♕e6 14 ♕f4 ± Tia-Azahari, Kuala Lumpur 1992.

d22) 8...♗f6 9 ♗bd2 c5 10 dxc5 ♕xc5 11 ♗b3 ♕b6 12 ♕e3 ± Lisitsyn-Lilienthal, Moscow 1940.

d23) 8...♕f5 9 c4 c6 10 ♗c3 ♗xc3 11 bxc3 ♕xd3 12 ♖xd3 dxc4 13 ♖xc4 ♗d7 14 ♖b3 b6 (14...♗b6 15 c4 ± Kavalek-Pfleger, Montilla 1973) 15 c4 ♕f6 16 ♕b2 ±.

d3) 8 c4 ♗f6 (8...c6 9 ♗c3 ♗xc3 10 bxc3 dxc4 11 ♕xc4 ♗d7 12 ♚e1 ♗b6 13 ♕d3 ♕e6 14 a4 ♕f6 15 a5 ♗d5 16 ♖c2 h6 17 ♕d2 ± Mrdja-Paoli, Naleczow 1978) and now:

d31) 9 h3!? dxc4 10 ♕xc4 ♗bd7 11 ♗c3 ♗b6 12 ♕b3 ♗bd5 (12...c6 13 ♚e1 ♗fd5 14 ♗e4 ♚e8 15 ♕d2 ♕f5 16 ♗g3 ♕e6 17 ♕c2 ± Timman-Panno, Mar del Plata 1982) 13 ♚e1 c6 (13...♕e6 14 ♗g5 ♗xc3 15 bxc3 ♕xb3 16 ♖xb3 ± h6 1/2-1/2 Vaganian-Tal, Moscow 1982) 14 ♕g5 ♕e6 (14...♕f5?! 15 ♗e5 ♚e8 16 ♖f3 ♕e6 17 ♚ad1 ± Kikolaev-Retsk, St Petersburg 1992) 15 ♚c1 (15 ♗e5!? ♗c7 16 ♕c2 is slightly better for White, Razuvaev-Bagirov, USSR 1982) 15...♚e8 16 ♗e5 and then:

d311) 16...♗xc3 17 bxc3 ♕xb3 18 ♖xb3 ♗d5 19 ♕d2 ±.

d312) 16...♗d7 17 ♕xe7 ♚xe7 18 ♗e4 ♗f8 19 ♗c5 ± Sax-Korchnoi, Wijk aan Zee Ct (6) 1991.

d313) 16...♗c7 17 ♕c2 ♗d7 18 ♖h5 ♗f8 19 ♕xe7 ♚xe7 20 ♚cd1 f6

21 ♗f3 ♖d7 = Yusupov-Hübner, Belfort 1988.

d32) 9 ♗c3 dxc4 10 ♕xc4 and here:

d321) 10...♗c6 11 ♚e1 ♕g4 – 7...♗c6 8 ♚e1 ♕g4 9 c4 ♗f6 10 ♗c3 dxc4 11 ♕xc4 0-0.

d322) 10...b6?! 11 ♗e5 ♕b7 12 ♖b3 ± Steinitz-Mieses, Hastings 1895.

d323) 10...♕g4 11 h3 ♕xf3 (alternatively, 11...♕h5 12 g4 ♕g6 13 ♗e5 c6 {13...c5!?!} 14 f4 b5 15 ♕b3 b4 16 f5 bxc3 17 fxg6 hxg6 18 bxc3 ♗d5 19 ♖f3 ± Henley-Dlugy, New York 1983) 12 ♖xf3 ♗c6 (12...♖xd4 13 ♖xb7 ♗bd7 14 ♕b3 ♕d6 15 ♗b5 ±) 13 ♕e3 ♗xd4 14 ♖xb7 c5 15 ♕xd4 cxd4 16 ♚ad1 ♚c8 17 b3 ♚c7 18 ♖f3 ± Zai-chik-Karpeshov, Volgodonsk 1983.

d324) 10...♗bd7 11 ♚e1 (11 ♕b3 c5 12 ♚e1 cxd4 13 ♗xd4 ♗c5 14 ♕c2 ♕g4 15 f3 ♗e6 16 ♕e3 ♗xd4 17 ♖xd4 ♕e6 = Gelfand-Maliutin, Kramatorsk jr 1989) 11...♗b6 12 ♕b3 c6 (alternatively, 12...♕g4 13 h3 ♕h5 14 g4 ♕g6 15 ♗e5 ♗fd7 16 ♗xg6 hxg6 17 ♖f3 ± Tsesarsky-Zakharevich, Kursk 1987) 13 ♕g5 and then:

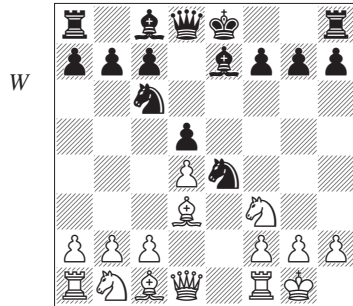
d3241) 13...♗fd5? 14 ♚xe7! ♗xe7 15 ♖e2 ♚e8 16 ♚e1 ♗f8 17 ♗e5 +–.

d3242) 13...♕f5 14 ♗e5 ♗fd5 15 ♕xe7 ♗xe7 16 ♖f3 ♗bd5 ± S.Ivanov-Mikhalchishin, Uzhgorod 1988.

d3243) 13...♗bd5 14 ♗xd5 cxd5 15 ♗e5 ♕e6 16 ♗d3 ± Browne-Petrovian, Las Palmas IZ 1982.

d3244) 13...♕g4 14 ♖d3 ♕h5 (or 14...♕xf3 15 ♖xf3 ♗fd5 16 ♕xe7 ♗xe7 17 ♚e5 ± Vaganian-Hübner, Tilburg 1983) 15 ♗e5 ±.

We now return to 7...♗c6 (D):



White now has two main continuations:

- A: 8 ♖e1** 191
B: 8 c4 214

Or:

a) 8 ♗bd2 and now:

a1) 8...♗g5 9 ♗xg5 ♙xg5 10 f4 ±.

a2) 8...♗d6 9 c3 ♙f5 10 ♖c2 (10 ♙xf5 ♗xf5 11 ♖b3 ±) 10...♙xd3 11 ♖xd3 0-0 12 ♗e5 ± Em.Lasker-Shawalter, Nuremberg 1896 and Savon-Bronstein, Odessa 1976.

a3) 8...♙f5!? 9 ♖e2 ♗d6 10 ♙xf5 ♗xf5 11 ♖d3 ♖d7 12 ♗b3 0-0 = Silva Sanchez-Solomon, Thessaloniki OL 1984.

a4) 8...♗xd2 9 ♙xd2 ♙g4 10 c3 0-0 11 ♙f4 ♙d6! (11...♙f6? 12 ♖e1 ♙h5 13 ♖e3 ♙g6 14 ♖c2 ♖d7 15 ♖ae1 ± Bönsch-Yusupov, Cienfuegos 1979) 12 ♙xd6 ♖xd6 13 ♖e1 (not 13 ♙xh7+? ♙xh7 14 ♗g5+ ♙g6 15 ♖xg4 f5 -+) 13...♙h5 14 ♖e3 ♖ae8 15 ♖e2 ♖xe3 16 ♖xe3 ♙xf3 17 ♖xf3 ♖e8 18 g3 ♗b8! = Alburd-Dvoretzky, Minsk 1976.

b) 8 ♗c3 and then:

b1) 8...♗xc3 9 bxc3 with a further branch:

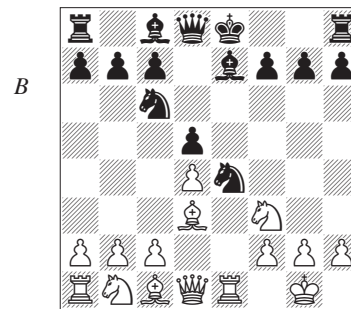
b11) 9...♙g4 10 ♖b1 ♖b8 (and not 10...♗a5? 11 h3 ♙h5? 12 ♖e1 0-0 13 ♖e5 ♙g6 14 ♖b5 ± Adorjan-Miles, Hastings 1973/4) 11 ♖e1 0-0 12 ♙f4 and now Adorjan's 12...h6 =/± is a significant improvement over 12...♖d7? 13 ♖e3 g5 14 ♙g3 f5 15 ♙e5 f4 16 ♖e1 ♙f6 17 ♙xf6 ♖xf6 18 h3 ♙h5 19 ♗e5! ± Browne-Murray, Vancouver 1971.

b12) 9...0-0 10 h3 (10 ♖b1!? is another possibility) 10...♙e6 11 ♖e1 ♖d7 12 ♙f4 ♖fe8 13 ♖b1 ♖ab8 14 ♖e3 ♙f6 15 ♗g5 ± Aronin-Zhilin, USSR 1959.

b2) 8...♙f5 9 ♖e1 0-0 10 ♗xe4 dxe4 11 ♙xe4 ♙b4 12 c3 ♖e8 13 ♙xf5 ♖xe1 14 ♖xe1 ♙d6 and now 15 ♙g5 gives White compensation, and so is an improvement over 15 ♗g5?! h6 16 ♗e4 ♙f8 17 ♙g4 ♗e7 18 ♗c5 b6 19 ♗d3 c5 ♢ Balashov-Yusupov, Minsk 1982.

A)

8 ♖e1 (D)



Attacking the e4-knight. Black's choice lies between simple defence and an attempt to counterattack d4: