



The Queen Exchange Part Three

The Opponent's Active Queen

A specific implementation of a general principle: it makes sense to exchange off active enemy pieces.

Makarychev – Naumkin
Moscow Championship, 1983



[FEN "4k2r/p1R1npp1/4p2p/3pP2P/6P1/q7/3B1P2/3QK3 w k - 0 29"]

1.?

Apparently you should play for an attack. But the tempting 29.Qb1? is a mistake because of 29...0-0! 30.Bb4 Qf3, and White is already threatened with deadly danger (31.Qc2 d4! 32.Bxe7 d3 33.Qd1 Qe+ 34.Kd2 Rb8, and so on).

29.Qd1-c1!

By exchanging queens White prevents castling and, despite being two pawns down, gets a big advantage. But with the queens on the board, castling, even if it's associated with losing a knight, is still possible: the open position of the white king guarantees Black real counter-chances. So you should play 29... Qa4! (or 29...Qb3) 30.f3! 0-0! 31.Rxe7 Qd4+/=.

29...Qxc1+? 30.Bxc1 (threatening 31.Ba3) **30...Kd8 31.Rxa7 Re8 32.Ba3 f6 33.f4 fe 34.fe Nc6 35.Rxg7 Nxe5 36.Bd6 Nc6 37.g5 hg 38.h6 Nd4 39.h7 Nf5 40.Bc7+ Kc8 41.Rg8 1-0**

Cooper – Petrosian
Olympiad, Buenos Aires, 1978

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bg5 c5 5.d5 d6 (5...Bxc3+ 6.bc d6) **6.e3** (6.Rc1!?) **6...Bxc3+ 7.bc e5 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.f4!?**

On 9.f3 there follows 9...Nf8, intending Ng6 and h7-h6. Tigran Petrosian recommends 9.Ne2! with the idea of 9...Nf8 10.Ng3 h6 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Nh5 Qg5 13.h4 Qxg2 14.Ng3+-. Black defends with 9...h6 10.Bh4 e4! 11.Bc2 Qe7.

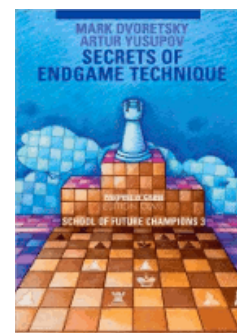
9...h6 10.Bh4 Rg8 11.Nh3! (11.Nf3? e4! 12.Bxe4 g5) **11...Qa5 12.Qd2** (Petrosian's suggestion 12.Kd2?! is dubious because of 12...b5!, and 13.cb? c4! loses) **12...e4 13.Be2 Qa4** (threatening 14...Nb6) **14.Nf2 g5 15.fg hg 16.**

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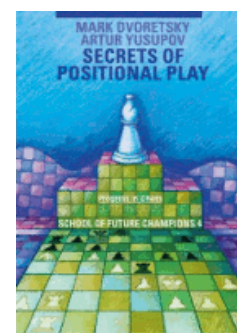
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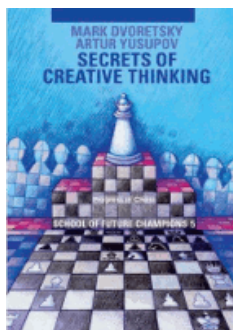
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Bg3 Nb6



[FEN "r1b1k1r1/pp3p2/1n1p1n2/2pP2p1/q1P1p3/2P1P1B1/P2QBNPP/R3K2R w KQq - 0 17"]

1.?

17.Bxd6? Nxc4 18.Bxc4 Qxc4-/+ is unfavorable. To make the c4-pawn safe White exchanged queens.

17.Qd1 Qxd1+ 18.Rxd1 (18.Kxd1!? Ke7 19.Kd2) **18...Ke7 19.h4 Bf5! 20.0-0 Nbd7! 21.Rb1! b6 22.h5 Rg7 23.Bh2 g4!** (not allowing 24.g4+/=) **24.Nh1 Bh7** In the complicated ending that arose the players' chances were roughly equal.

It was worth at least postponing the exchange operation.

17.0-0!

This move sets a subtle trap for his opponent – the pawn capture is refuted in a non-obvious way.

17...Nxc4? 18.Qd1!! Nb6 (with 18...Qxd1 19.Nxd1 both black knights find themselves under fire) 19.Qb1! (not only threatening a deadly check on b5, but also aiming at the e4-pawn) 19...Bd7 (19...Kd8 20.Bxd6 is also hopeless) 20.Bd1! (20.Bxd6 Nbx5 is much less convincing) 20...Qc4 (20...Qa5 21.Nxe4) 21.Bb3 Qe2 22.Re1 with a subsequent 23.Nxe4, and the defense collapses.

Black is also noticeably worse with 17...Ke7?! 18.Nd1! Rg6 19.Nb2 Qa3 (19...Qe8!?) 20.Rf2 Bd7 21.Raf1.

The only sound path is 17...Rg6! – by defending the knight Black revives the threat of taking the pawn and maintains approximate equality. It's clear that from a practical point of view it made sense for White to test this chance (then again, first he had to find it).

I showed this example at a training camp before the World Junior Championships in 2004. The kids suggested another curious method of solving the problem of the weak c4-pawn: 17.Nd1!? If 17...Nxc4, then 18.Nb2! Nxb2 19.Qxb2+/. Black's situation is no better after 17...Bg4 18.0-0 Bxe2 19.Nb2! and 20.Rxf6, and 17...Ke7 18.0-0 takes the affair into the variation examined above (17.0-0 Ke7?! 18.Nd1). In the end we found the consolidating maneuver 17...Qd7! 18.0-0 Qe7 (with a subsequent Nb6-d7-e5) – it isn't easy for White to attack here, mainly because of the poor position of his knight.

Timman – Portisch

Candidates match, (2) Antwerp, 1989



[FEN "2k5/p2n1pp1/2pBp2p/1q2P2P/6P1/1P3P2/P3Q3/1K6 w - - 0 40"]

1.?

40.Qe2xb5!

After the exchange of queens White has a decisive advantage in the endgame in connection with the possibility of a pawn breakthrough on the kingside and the weakness of the g7- and h6-pawns. For example, 40...cb 41.Kc2 Kb7 42.Kd3 Kc6 43.Kd4, intending f4-f5, Be7, f6. No less strong is 43.Ke4 Nc5+ 44.Kd4, or even 44.Bxc5 Kxc5 45.a3! with a subsequent f3-f4-f5. (But a hasty 45.f4?! b4! 46.f5? lets the win slip because of 46...ef+ 47.gf a5 48.e6 Kd6!)

Alas, in the game Timman played differently.

40.Qe3? Kb7

With the queens on the board Black has sufficient counter-chances because of the open position of the white king.

41.Qf4 Qd3+ 42.Kb2 Qe2+ 43.Ka3 Qa6+ 44.Kb2 Qe2+ 45.Ka3 Qa6+ 1/2-1/2

Nikolic – Timman
Amsterdam, 1984



[FEN "r4qk1/p1p2rpp/1p1pQn2/3Pp3/1PP5/P3PR2/1B4PP/R5K1 b - - 0 21"]

1...?

In the game we examined previously, Karpov – Timman, White's bishop was bad, as it was blocked by his own pawns. Here we're dealing with a less common, but also fairly important case: the bishop is bad because the opponent's pawns are solidly restricting it.

21...Qf8-c8!

White's only active piece is his queen. By forcing its exchange Black gets a very favorable endgame. 21...Qe8?! 22.Qh3, or 21...Re8?! 22.Qf5! (22.Qh3 Ne4 23.Rxf7 Qxf7 24.Rf1 Qg6 is worse) are less convincing, and after 21...g6?! 22.Qh3 Ne4 23.Rxf7 Qxf7 24.Rf1 White is fine.

22.Qxc8+ Rxc8 23.Rc1 c5!?

A good plan, but far from the only one. It was also possible to try 23...c6!?, not fearing 24.c5 cd 25.cd Rxc1+ 26.Bxc1 Nd7!-/+. The position that arises with 24.dc!? is examined in the next note.

Jan Timman rejected 23...Ne4 because of 24.Rxf7 Kxf7 25.c5!? (passive defense is thankless: 25.Kf1 Ke7 26.Ke2 Rf8 27.Rc2 h5-/+) 25...bc 26.bc Nxc5 27.Bxe5 with equality. However, by playing 26...Rb8! (instead of 26...Nxc5?) 27.cd cd he achieves a clear advantage – as the weakness of the d5-pawn was added to the problems with the inactive and vulnerable b2 bishop.

24.b5?

A serious positional mistake. Now the bishop will never get into play and White's position becomes strategically hopeless. 24.bc? bc is no better (Black immediately occupies the b-file). It was necessary to clear a line for the bishop, which could be achieved by means of 24.dc! Rxc6 25.c5! (but, of course, not 25.b5? Rc8 26.a4 Rfc7 27.Ba3 Ne4+ as given by Timman) 25...bc 26.bc. Then again, Black retained winning chances here, too, by continuing either 26...Rd7!? 27.cd Rxc1+ 28.Bxc1 Rxd6 29.h3 (if 29.Bb2, then 29...Ng4!-/+) 29...Kf7, or 26...Rfc7!? 27.Rd1! Rxc5 28.Rxd6 Rb7.

24...a6 25.ba Ra7 26.Rf2 Rxa6 27.Rb1 Ne4 28.Rc2 Rf8 29.Bc1

On 29.Rf1 Timman gives the variation 29...Rb8! 30.Rb1 b5 31.Bc1 b4!-/+.

29...h5! 30.Bb2 Ra4 (preventing 31.Rf1 because of 31...Rxf1+ 32.Kxf1 Rxc4!) **31.h4**

In the case of 31.Bc1, as Timman pointed out, Black could organize an invasion via the kingside with 31...Ra7! 32.Rxb6 Raf7 33.g3 (33.h4 Rf1+ 34.Kh2 Re1 35.g3 Rff1 36.Bb2 Nf6+ is no better) 33...Rf1+ 34.Kg2 R1f2+ 35.Rxf2 Rxf2+ 36.Kg1 Rc2-+.

31...Rf6 32.Kh2 (32.Bc1!?) **32...Rf2 33.Rbc1 Rd2! 34.Kh3 Rd3 35.Re1** (35.Re2 Rd2!) **35...Nd2 0-1**

Transitioning into a Favorable Endgame

Tukmakov – Gulko

Soviet Championship, Leningrad, 1977

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qa4 c6 6.Nc3 b5!? 7.cb cb 8.Nxb5 Qb6 9.Nc3 Bb4 10.Bg2 0-0 11.Qc2

In this opening variation Black gets good positional compensation for the sacrificed pawn. White, striving for speedy development, often returns it immediately: 11.0-0 Bxc3 12.bc Bxe2 13.Re1, but after 13...Bb5 14.Qb3 d5 the game equalizes (Vukic – Bronstein, Sarajevo, 1971).

11.Bd2 Nc6 isn't convincing either.

In the game Sakaev – Berzinsh, Duisburg, 1992 White got an advantage with 11.Qd1!? Rc8 12.Bd2 d5 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.Bxc3 Ne4 15.Rc1 Nd7 16.Re1! Rab8 17.Qa4 Bb5 18.Qa3. It was probably worth replying 11...Ne4!? 12.Bd2 Bxc3.

11...Nc6 12.0-0 Rfc8 13.a3 Bxc3 14.bc Nd5 15.Rd1 Nce7 16.Bb2 Rab8 17.Rab1



[FEN "1rr3k1/p2pnppp/bq2p3/3n4/3P4/P1P2NP1/1BQ1PPBP/1R1R2K1 b - - 0 17"]

1...?

17...Qb6-b3!

The white queen is defending the vulnerable c3- and e2-pawns – it has to be exchanged off. 17...Qa5?! 18.e4 is weaker, and not 18...Nxc3? 19.Bxc3+-.

18.Qc2xb3 Rb8xb3 19.Nf3-d2 Rb3-b6!

Black wins the pawn back, retaining the initiative.

20.Bf3 Nxc3 21.Bxc3 Rxc3 22.Rbc1?!

If 22.Rxb6 ab 23.Rb1, then simply 23...Nc8 24.Rb3 Rc2-/+ . When you're defending these kinds of positions it's important to find the right moment to activate your forces, even if you have to sacrifice something for that. I can recommend 22.Ne4! Rxa3 23.Ra1 Rxa1 24.Rxa1, intending 25.Nc5, which even follows in reply to 24...d6. Vadim Zvjaginsev suggested another way of defending: 22.Rdc1!? Rxa3 (22...Rxb1!? 23.Rxb1 f5=/+) 23.Rxb6 ab 24.Rc7 Bb5 25.Rb7=/+ .

The plan chosen by Vladimir Tukmakov was much weaker.

22...Rxa3 23.Rc7 Bb5 24.Rdc1 Kf8 25.Nc4 Bxc4 26.R7xc4 Ke8 27.R1c2 Kd8 28.Kg2 a5

Black probably has a won position already.

29.Rc5 Rb8 30.d5!? ed! 31.Bxd5 Nxd5

The variation 31...d6 32.Rc7 Nxd5 33.Rxf7 Nc3 34.Rxg7 h5 didn't seem convincing enough to Boris Gulko.

32.Rxd5 Ra8! 33.Rc4

Perhaps it was worth looking for chances to save himself after 33.Rcc5 a4 34.Ra5 Rxa5 35.Rxa5 Kc7, although that rook endgame is joyless too.

33...a4 34.Rh5 h6 35.Rg4 Ra6 36.Rxg7 Rb3 37.Rh7 a3 38.R5xh6 Ra7 (38...f6!) **39.Rxf7 Rbb7!** (of course, not 39...a2? 40.Rh8+ Kc7 41.Rxd7+!) **40.Rh8 + Kc7 41.Rf3 0-1** White resigned because of 41...a2 42.Rc3+ Kd6 43.Rh6+ Ke7 44.Re3+ Kf7 45.Rf3+ Kg7 46.Rff6 d6!.

Tartakower – Pirc

Interzonal tournament, Saltsjöbaden, 1948



[FEN "3q2k1/1bp2p1p/pp3p2/8/1PP1pP2/P3P3/4B1PP/2KQ4 b - - 0 21"]

1...?

21...Qd8-e7!

The exchange proposed by White should have been declined. On the next move Black plays 22...c5. With the queens on the board he has a worse, but defensible position.

In the game Vasja Pirc transitioned into a lost ending: **21...Qxd1+? 22.Kxd1**

In order to build a defense Black needs two pawn moves: c7-c5 and f6-f5. But according to the rules he can only make one of them, and White succeeds in preventing the other. On 22...c5 there follows 23.bc bc 24.Bg4!, and if 24...a5 (with the idea of Ba6), then 25.Bd7!, reserving for himself the resource Bb5 and preparing Kc2-b3-a4. The continuation 24...Bc6 25.Bc8 a5 26.Ba6 is no better, for example, 26...Kf8 27.Bb5 Be8 28.f5, and in the pawn endgame the king inevitably comes to f4. Finally, on 24...Kf8 a possible reaction is 25. Bf5!? h6 26.g4.

22...f5 23.c5! b5 24.Kd2 Kg7 25.Kc3 Kf6 26.Kd4 Ke6 27.Bd1 Bd5 28.g4 c6 29.g5 Bc4 30.a4 Bd5 31.h4 Bc4 32.h5 Bd5 33.h6 Ba2 34.Kc3 Bd5 35.a5 Kd7 36.Bh5 Ke7 37.g6 fg 38.Bxg6 Kf6 39.Bxh7 Be6 40.Kd4 (zugzwang) 40...Bd7 41.Bg8 1-0

Adorjan – Lukacs

Hungarian Championship, 1970



[FEN "5r2/2pq2kp/ppp2p2/5Pp1/6P1/1Q6/PPP2P1P/4R1K1 w - - 0 24"]

1.?

Neither 24.Re6 Qd1+ 25.Kg2 Qxg4+ nor 24.Qe6 Qd4 (with a double attack on g4 and b2) work, and if 24.h3, then 24...Re8 with equality. It's possible to prevent an exchange of rooks with the move 24.Qe3, of course, but it isn't clear what to do next after 24...c5 or 24...Rf7.

24.Qb3-d3!!

In a rook ending White is looking at a win thanks to his space advantage (and as a consequence the black king's confinement), and, mainly, the passivity of

the enemy rook, which will be chained to the defense of its own pawns.

Black has a choice between 24...Qxd3 and 24...Qd5. I would have preferred the first possibility. After 25.cd Rf7! (25...Rd8 26.Re7+ is bad, and in the event of 25...c5 26.Re7+!? Rf7 27.Rxf7+ Kxf7 28.f4! the pawn endgame is hopeless) 26.Re6 (26.b4? Rd7 27.Rc1 Rxd3 28.Rxc6 Rd4 29.Rxc7+ Kg8= isn't enough) 26...c5 27.Kf1 Rd7 27.Ke2 the black rook, despite being chained to the defense of the c7-pawn, is nevertheless positioned on an open file, which promises some hopes of counterplay in future.

Peter Lukacs probably feared a transition to a pawn ending: 24...Qxd3 25.Re7 +!? Rf7 26.Rxf7+ Kxf7 27.cd. White's advantage here is indisputable, but whether it's enough for a win isn't as obvious. Black plays 27...Ke7, and with 28.h4 or 28.d4 I didn't manage to find a win. White had to precisely calculate the variation 28.f4! gf 29.Kf2 Kd6 30.Kf3 Ke5 31.d4+! Kxd4 32.g5! (32. Kxf4? Kd5, and 33.g5? fg+ 34.Kxg5 Ke5 even loses, and 33.h4 Kd6 34.g5 Ke7 leads to a draw) 32...Ke5 33.g6 hg 34.fg Ke6 35.Kxf4 c5 36.h4, and the white pawn is the first to reach the promotion square.

24...Qd5?! 25.Qxd5!

Andras Adorjan probably didn't even look at 25.Qxa6?!

25...cd 26.Re6 Rf7 27.Kf1 h5 28.h3 hg 29.hg

Black's position is hopeless because of the cardinal difference in the position of the rooks. A rook's activeness is the most important evaluating criterion in rook endings.

29...a5 30.a4! Rd7 31.Ke2 Kf7 32.Kd3 Rd8 33.Rc6 Rd7 34.Kd4 Kg7 35.f3 Kf7 36.c3! Ke7 37.b4 ab 38.cb Kf7 39.a5 ba 40.ba Re7 41.a6 1-0

Simagin – Benko

Moscow – Budapest match, 1949



[FEN "1k3mr/1p2b3/p1p2p2/P1p1pP1p/2N3q1/1P1PB1Pp/2P2P1K/R2Q2R1 w - - 0 20"]

1.?

20.Qd1xg4! h5xg4 21.f2-f3!+/-

"Destroying the black pawn chain on the kingside, White opens up the game and sets about making the best of his positional advantage" (Vladimir Simagin).

21...gf 22.Raf1 Bd8?! (22...Nh6 23.Bxh6 Rxh6 24.Rxf3 Bd8 is better) 23. Rxf3 Be7 24.Bxc5 Rf7 25.Bb6! Nh6 26.g4 Rfh7 (26...Rg7 27.g5) 27.g5 fg 28.Rxg5 Nf7 29.Rg6 Kc8 30.Bxc7 Kxc7 31.Rfg3, and White won.

Hübner – Petrosian

Candidates match, (7) Seville, 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 e6 4.d4 cd 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Be3 Be7 7.f4 Nc6 8.Qf3 e5 9.Nxc6 bc 10.fe (10.f5!?) 10...de (10...Ng4!?) 11.Bc4 0-0 12.h3

On 12.0-0, there follows 12...Ng4 13.Rad1 Nxe3! 14.Rxd8 Bxd8 or 14.Bxf7+ Kh8 15.Qxe3 Qb6.

12...Be6 13.Bxe6 fe 14.Qe2 Rb8

It would have been interesting to have tested Mikhail Tal's suggestion, 14...Nd5!? 15.ed Bh4+ 16.Kd1 cd, but that kind of play wasn't Petrosian's style.

15.0-0! (15.Rb1 Rb4) 15...Rxb2 16.Rab1 Rb4! 17.Qa6 Qc7 18.a3 Rxb1 19.Rxb1 Ra8 20.a4 h6



[FEN "r5k1/p1q1b1p1/Q1p1pn1p/4p3/P3P3/2N1B2P/2P3P1/1R4K1 w - - 0 21"]

1.?

White should have exchanged queens.

21.Qa6-b7! Qc7xb7 22.Rb1xb7 Be7-d8 23.Rb7xa7

Of course, not 23.Bxa7? Rxa7!

23...Ra8xa7 24.Be3xa7 Bd8-a5 25.Nc3-d1! Nf6xe4 26.Nd1-e3

The knight is heading for c4. Despite being a pawn up, Black is worse, as the advanced passed a-pawn is extremely dangerous.

All the other possibilities are weaker:

21.Rb7? Qc8, and the white pieces are pinned;

21.Qc4 a5!? 22.Qxe6+ Kh8 (threatening 23...Bb4) 23.Bb6 Qd7 24.Qxe5 Bb4 with the idea of Re8.

In the game **21.a5? Kh7! 22.Qb7?! (22.Kh2) 22...Qxa5!** was played.

Petrosian's trademark weapon was the exchange sacrifice. Then again, there was no choice here: 22...Qxb7? 23.Rxb7 Bd8 24.a6 Ba5 25.Na4 Nxe4 26.Rxa7 is very bad.

23.Qxa8 Qxc3 24.Qxa7 Nxe4 (with compensation)

In the subsequent complicated and far from error-free battle White made the last blunder.

25.Rf1?

Equality was maintained with 25.Qxe7 Qxe3+ 26.Kh1! (but not 26.Kh2? Qg3 + 27.Kg1 Nd2!). But the move in the game could be refuted with 25...Ng3! 26.Rf7 Qe1+ 27.Kh2 Nf5 28.Bf2 Qd2, with the extremely unpleasant threat of 29...Kg6.

25...Bh4? 26.Rf7 Bf6 27.Kh2 Qxc2 28.Qd7 Qb3 29.Bf2

Tal recommended 29.Rf8! Bh4! (29...Qxe3 30.Qe8=) 30.Qf7! Bg3+ 31.Kh1 Nf6 32.Qa7! Qb1+ 33.Bg1, with very good drawing chances.

29...Qd5 30.Qa7 Qd2

30...Nxf2? is a mistake (thinking of 31.Qxf2? Kg6! with a subsequent 32...e4) because of 31.Rxf6!

31.Qe3 Qc2 32.Be1 c5 (32...Nd6!?) 33.h4 c4 34.Rc7 Qd3 (34...Nd6!?) 35.Qc5 Qd1) 35.Qf3

35.Qh3 Qd5 36.Qf3! isn't bad either (36.Qg4 as given by Igor Zaitsev is less convincing because of 36...Nd6).

35...Qb1! 36.Qe3?

If the queen does retreat, then it should be to e2 (36...Nd6 37.Rc6 or 37.Bg3). The most natural continuation was a pawn capture: 36.Rxc4! Nd6 37.Rc6 (37.Rc7? Qxe1 38.Qxf6 Ne8-+) 37...Qxe1 38.Rxd6 Qxh4+ 39.Qh3 Qf4+ 40.Qg3 Qf5 41.Qh3 e4 42.Rxe6 Be5+ 43.g3 or 43.Kg1 Qf4 44.g3, and Black is hardly likely to be able to prove his advantage.

36...Nd6 37.Qd2



[FEN "8/2R3pk/3npb1p/4p3/2p4P/8/3Q2PK/1q2B3 b - - 0 37"]

1...?

The denouement of the tense duel in time trouble turned out to be absurd: **37...Nf5? 38.Rxc4 e4 39.Qc2?? Qxe1 40.Rxe4 Be5+ 0-1**

After the game other queen retreats were recommended on the thirty-ninth move, but they also lost, apparently: 39.Qe2? Be5+ 40.Kg1 Nd4 (40...Ng3 is equivalent) 41.Qd2 Bf4!, or 39.Qb4? Be5+ 40.Kg1 Qd3! 41.Rxe4 Bd4+ 42.Rxd4 Nxd4, with a difficult ending. The unexpected move 39.Rb4! saved him, for example, 39...Qd3 40.Qxd3 ed 41.Rb3 Bxh4 42.Bd2, or 39...Be5+ 40.Kh3 Qa1 41.Rxe4 Qa3+, and now both 42.g3 Bxg3 43.Qc3 Qa8 44.Qd3 and the bold 42.Kg4! are possible.

It was generally accepted that in the position in the diagram Black was winning if he chose 37...e4? - in fact after 38.Qxd6 Qxe1 39.Qf4 the position equalizes.

The simple move 37...Qb6! is very strong, but a more convincing way of achieving a decisive advantage was probably to exchange queens: 37...Qd3! 38.Rd7 Qxd2 39.Bxd2 e4 or 39...Nb5.

Seirawan – Kozul

Wijk aan Zee, 1991

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bd3 0-0 6.Nge2

This rare system is grandmaster Seirawan's specialty dish, and he has won quite a few excellent games with it. You're looking at one of them.

6...Nc6 7.0-0 e5 8.d5 Nd4 9.f3!? (in the [Encyclopedia of Chess Openings](#) the main line is 9.Nxd4 ed 10.Ne2) **9...c5 10.Nxd4! cd 11.Na4! Bd7 (9...Nd7?!**

Prophylactic Considerations

We make many decisions, including decisions about exchanging queens, out of prophylactic considerations – to parry an unpleasant threat or to prevent our opponents from implementing their ideas.

Morozov – Despotovic

Correspondence, 1981



[FEN "r1b2rk1/pp4p1/4p1Bp/2ppP1q1/8/P1P3Q1/2P2PPP/R4RK1 b - - 0 18"]

1...?

18...Rf8-f4!

It's important to prevent the move f2-f4. The continuation 18...Qxg3?! 19.hg Bd7 20.f4 with a subsequent g3-g4 and f4-f5 is weaker.

19.Qg3xg5 h6xg5

Threatening 20...Rc4. The endgame is in Black's favor because of the prospect of attacking his opponent's weak pawns.

20.a4 Bd7 21.a5 Raf8! 22.f3 Rh4!

An excellent maneuver. The planned moves c5-c4 and Rh6 put both the white bishop and the e5-pawn in a difficult position. For example, 23.g3 Rh6 24. Bd3 c4 25.Be2 Rf5 26.f4 gf 27.gf Rh4, or 23.Bd3 c4 24.Be2 Rf5.

23.g4?! c4! 24.Bh5 Kh7 25.Kg2 g6 0-1

Vaganian – van der Wiel

European Team Championship, Plovdiv, 1983



[FEN "b2r1rk1/p3ppb1/2n1p1pp/q1p1P3/N1P2B2/1Q4P1/PP3PBP/R3R1K1 w - - 0 18"]

1.?

You have to take measures immediately against 18...Nd4 and 18...g5.

18.Qb3-b5!

By exchanging queens White reduces the strength of the thrust Nd4 and attacks the c5-pawn.

18...Qxb5 19.cb Nd4?!

Black retained more active possibilities with 19...Nb4.

20.Rac1 Bxg2

On 20...g5 21.Be3 Bxe5 both 22.Rxc5 22.Bxg5 are strong.

21.Kxg2 Nxb5 22.Rxc5 Rd5 23.Re4! Rfd8 24.Be3 Rxc5?

An unsuccessful exchange, freeing White's hands for operations on the queenside. 24...g5 would at least be preferable.

25.Nxc5 Rd1? 26.Na6! Rd7 27.Rb4, and White won.

Timman – Diez del Corral

Olympiad, Lucerne, 1982

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.d5 Ne8?! 8.Qd2 f5 9. ef gf 10.0-0-0 Na6 (on 10...Nd7 the reply 11.g4 is unpleasant) **11.Bd3 Nc5 12. Bc2 Qh4** (12...a5 is better, according to Timman) **13.f4! Ne4 14.Nxe4 fe 15. Nge2 Bg4 16.fe Bxe5 17.h3 Bxe2 18.Qxe2 Ng7**



[FEN "r4rk1/ppp3np/3p4/3Pb3/2P1p2q/4B2P/PPB1Q1P1/2KR3R w - - 0 19"]

1.?

It's important not to let the knight come into play via f5 or h5. The move 19.g4 isn't bad, but after 19...Rae8 all the other black pieces (besides the knight) remain active, which makes subsequent operations more difficult for White.

19.Qe2-g4! Qh4xg4

19...Qg3 is probably slightly better, on which follows, 20.Rde1 Rae8 21.Kb1, and you wouldn't envy Black.

20.h3xg4+/-

By exchanging queens White attacked the e4-pawn, removed the f5-square from the knight and opened the h-file. Solid achievements.

20...Bf4 21.Kd2! Rf6?! (21...Rae8 is more stubborn) 22.Bxe4 h6 23.Rdf1 Raf8 24.Rf3 Bxe3+ 25.Kxe3 R8f7 26.Rfh3 h5 1-0

Geller – Unzicker

Interzonal tournament, Saltsjöbaden, 1952

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dc 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.a4 e6 8.ab Nxc3 9.cb c10.Ng5 Bb7 11.Qh5 g6 12.Qg4 Be7 13.Be2 Nd7 14.Bf3! Qc7?

A subtle but fairly serious mistake. The theory of the Slav Gambit was only just being created in those years and the move in the game was recommended

in commentaries by Salo Flohr. Later it was established that 14...Qc8! was correct. In that way Black prevents the important move 15.Ne4, on which follows 15...0-0! 16.Bh6 f5! 17.ef Nxf6, and the e6-pawn is defended by the queen.

15.Ne4 Nb6 16.Bh6 (16.Bg5) 16...Rg8?

Black repels the threat of 17.Bg7 Rg8 18.Nf6+ in the most unsuccessful way. Efim Geller recommends 16...Nd5, although the position after 17.Bg5 0-0 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Nf6+ is clearly in White's favor.

17.Bg5 Bxe4 18.Bxe4 Nd5 19.Bxd5 ed 20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.0-0 Kf8 22.Rfb1 a6



[FEN "r4kr1/4qp1p/p5p1/1p1pP3/2pP2Q1/2P5/5PPP/RR4K1 w - - 0 23"]

1.?

Black wants to consolidate by playing 23...Kg7. In the case of 23.Rxb5? ab 24.Rxa8+ Kg7 White is no better because of the weakness of the c3-pawn. 23.Rxa6? Rxa6 24.Qc8+ Kg7 25.Qxa6 Rb8 also promises little.

23.Qg4-f3! Qe7-e6?!

23...Kg7 is preferable. Then again, White gets a big advantage here too, for example, 24.Qxd5 Rgd8 25.Qe4 Qe6 26.f4 (in the case of 26.Rxb5? ab 27.Rxa8 Rxa8 28.Qxa8 b4! 29.cb c3 the evaluation flips the other way around) 26...f5 27.Qf3 Rd5?! 28.Rxb5! (Geller) or 27.Qb7+!? Qd7 28.Qb6.

24.Qf3-f6!

With his king stuck on the back rank Black's position is completely hopeless.

24...Qc8 (24...Qxf6 25.ef g5 26.Rxb5 Rg6 27.Rxa6!) 25.f4 Qb7 26.Ra5 Ke8 27.Rba1 b4 28.cb Qxb4 29.Rxd5 Qb7 30.e6 1-0

A similar strategy was used successfully in the following game.

Filip – Korchnoi

Olympiad, Siegen, 1970



[FEN "r5k1/5pp1/pp1p4/2pPr2p/P7/1P1QPqP1/R4P1P/3R2K1 b - - 0 27"]

1...?

White wants to weaken his opponent's pressure by offering an exchange of queens. For example, 27...h4?! 28.Qe2 Qf5 29.Qd3 Qh3 30.Qf1.

27...g7-g5! 28.Qd3-e2 g5-g4-/+

Now with an exchange the f3-pawn will severely constrain White's position: his king will stay out of play for a long time.

29.Qxf3?! (29.h4 is better) 29...gf 30.Rc2 Re4 31.Rc4 f5! 32.h3

On 32.Kf1!?, Viktor Korchnoi gives the variation 32...Kf7 33.Ke1 Kf6 34.Kd2 Ke5 35.Kc3 h4-/+.

32...Kf7 33.Kh2 b5 (in the case of 33...Kf6?! Korchnoi was disturbed by the reply 34.g4, so he forces events) **34.Rxe4 fe 35.Ra1 b4! 36.g4 h4! 37.g5 Rc8 0-1** (threatening 38...c4; if 38.Rc1, then 38...Kg6 39.Rc4 Kf5.)

Anand – Kamsky

Candidates match, (11) Las Palmas, 1995

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cd 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.Be2 Be7 8.f4 Nc6 9.Qd2 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 0-0 (10...b5?! is premature because of 11.a4!, as occurred in the game Short – A. Sokolov, candidates tournament, Montpellier, 1985) **11.0-0-0 Qa5?**



[FEN "r1b2rk1/1p2bPPP/p2ppn2/q7/3QPP2/2N1B3/PPP1B1PP/2KR3R w - - 0 12"]

1.?

Black's last move is a serious blunder. After castling queenside there was no longer any basis to delay the strategically necessary advance 11...b5. In an extreme case he could first play his queen to c7, but not to a5, as in the game.

12.Qd4-b6 Qa5xb6 13.Be3xb6+/-

Viswanathan Anand has frozen his opponent's queenside. His advantage in development and in space together with the weakness of the d6-pawn guarantees him a stable advantage in the ending. Not 13...Nd7 because of 14.Bc7. On 13...Bd7 the reply 14.e5 is strong, and if 13...e5, then 14.f5.

13...Ne8 14.e5! (the black knight is now excluded from the game for a long time) **14...d5 15.f5!** (15.Bg4 g6! with a subsequent Ng7 is less precise) **15...Bd7 16.Bg4! Bc8?** (16...Bb4 is more stubborn, on which there would have followed 17.fe Bxe6 18.Nxd5! Bxg4 19.Rd4+/-) **17.Rhf1! a5 18.Na4! f6 19.fe fe 20.Nc3! Bg5+** (in the event of 20...Rxf1 21.Rxf1 Nf6 the move 22.Rxf6!! with a subsequent 23.Nxd5 is decisive) **21.Kb1 Nf6 22.Nxd5 Nxe4 23.Rxf8+** (23.e7 Re8 24.Nc7 also won) **23...Kxf8 24.Nc7 Ra6 25.Bc5+! Kg8 26.Nxa6 Bxe6 27.Nc7 Bf5 28.h3**, and White made the best of being the exchange up.

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