Tactics in the chess opening

Looking mostly at the recommended repertoire for young players from 8 to 80

A public domain e-book
[Summary Version]

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Contents

- Introduction .................................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- **PLAYING WHITE WITH 1.e4 e5** ......................................... Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Scotch Gambit .................................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Italian Game .................................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Evans' Gambit .................................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Italian Game .................................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Two Knights' .................................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Petroff Defence ............................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Elephant Gambit ............................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Latvian Gambit ............................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Philidor's Defence .......................................... Error! Bookmark not defined.
- **PLAYING WHITE WITH 1.e4 AND BLACK AVOIDS 1...e5** .............. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Scandinavian Defence ...................................... Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Sicilian Defence ............................................ Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Caro-Kann Defence ......................................... Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Alekhin Defence ............................................ Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Pirc Defence and relatives ................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- French Defence – as White .................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- **PLAYING BLACK AGAINST 1.e4** ........................................ Error! Bookmark not defined.
- French Defence ............................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- **PLAYING BLACK AGAINST 1.d4** ........................................ Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Tarrasch Defence ............................................ Error! Bookmark not defined.
- **PLAYING BLACK AGAINST 1.d4 – A SECOND SYSTEM** ............ Error! Bookmark not defined.
- APS ................................................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- **PLAYING BLACK AGAINST 1.d4 – A THIRD SYSTEM** .............. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Stonewall Dutch .............................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
- **SUMMARY OF LINES** ............................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.
Introduction

This booklet gives you a repertoire to play when you are starting out in chess. It also gives you some alternatives if for some reason you don’t like my first choice.

The core of the repertoire is to play as White the Scotch Gambit and related systems.

When Black doesn’t play 1...e5, you can steer for Isolated Queen’s Pawn positions. These occur quite often in chess, so it’s good to know how to play these.
As Black against 1.e4, I think you should play the French Defence.

As Black against 1.d4, I think you can get a good game by playing the Tarrasch Defence, which often leads to IQP positions.

I have selected these systems with some key ideas in mind, of which this is the most important:

You will notice that I recommend the French Defence for Black, which Réti says to avoid! But not everyone likes to play risky lines of the Italian Game (like the Two Knights’) as Black. And I happen to think that the French Defence is easier to play for Black than for White. That’s my second big idea: the systems should be easy for you to understand.

"A knowledge of tactics is the foundation of positional play. This is a rule that has stood its test in chess history and one which we cannot impress forcibly enough upon the young chess player."

"A beginner should avoid the Queen’s Gambit and French Defence and play open games instead! While he may not win as many games at first, he will in the long run be amply compensated by acquiring a thorough knowledge of the game."

Richard Réti,
Masters of the Chessboard
Playing White with 1.e4 e5

Scotch Gambit

Attack (2)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Be7 5.c3 dxc3
White has a strong attacking idea here, can you find it?
6.Qd5! Nh6
7.Bxh6
Black resigns

Think twice (3)

Black resigned, but can you find a way to play on?!
Black can battle on with
7...0-0!
White then does best to take on g7, because
8.Bc1 Nb4 9.Qd1 c2
looks better for Black!
Defence (2)

Karpatchev, A - Vifleemskaia, S [C44]  
RUS-Cup06 Nizhniy Novgorod (6), 04.07.1998


How can Black defend f7?

Several players have failed to find the best moves here...
6...f6? 7.Bxg8 Black resigns
6...Nh6? 7.Bxh6 Black resigns
But I hope you found 6...Qf6!

Double attack (2)

Sanz Cueco, F - Santiago, E [C44]  
Canarias-chT Tenerife (2), 2001


White's pieces are actively posted but Black is about to play ...d5... is there anything you can do now?

White has a fork of f7 and h7: 8.Qh5 h6 9.Nxf7 Black resigns
Mate in two (2)

White has checkmate in two moves.

Mate in more than two! (6)

[C44] Scotch gambit - king hunt, 2000
Follow your nose, can you mate Black?

8.Qxf7+ Kd7 9.Be6#
[Even if Black tries 7...Nh6 White has the simple 8.Bxh6 0-0 9.Be3+–]
Skewer (2)

[Scotch gambit - skewer, 2000]

Black's Knights are nicely centralised but nothing is holding them up.

11.Qh5 Qe7 12.Bxd5

Left and a right (2)

[Scotch gambit - skewer, 2000]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.c3
This is the Göring gambit, a related system. [Göring rhymes with stirring.]

Black has lots of extra pawns but will never get to use them if White finds the right moves...

13.Rxc7 Qe8 14.Nxd6+ 1-0
**Italian Game**

**Fork (1)**

Horvath, K - Szanyi, P [C44] HUN-chT2 9899 HUN, 1999


It's not too hard to spot this Queen fork.

8.Qb5+ Black resigns

**Decoy and fork (4)**

Osipow, N - Dubiel, J [C50] Zabrzanski Wrzesien op, 1994


White has a simple sequence to regain the pawn with advantage.

8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.fxe5 Nxe5 10.Qd5+ Kf8 11.Qxe5 Black resigns
In a muddle (3)
Estrin,Y – Klaman,K [C50] URS-ch sf
Leningrad (10), 1957
Black seems to have everything covered but a simple move by White makes it all topple over.
7.Be3! 7...Ne6 8.Bxe6 Bxe3 9.Bxf7+ +- 7...Qe7 8.Bxd4 Bxd4 9.Qxd4 ...Black resigns

Finesse (4)
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.0-0 Be7 6.e5 Ne4 7.Bd5 Ng5
8.Nxg5 Bxg5 9.Qh5 g6 10.Qxg5 Ne7
White has a forceful series of moves leading to mate or win of the Queen.
11.Bxf7+ Kxf7 12.Qf6+ Kg8 13.Bh6 1-0
The finesse that White had to spot is that 13...Nf5 loses the Queen.
Evans’ Gambit

Queen fork (1)

Kiltti, J - Meskanen, V [C51] Helsinki We G Helsinki (2), 1996


Black has two Knights held up by no more than hope...

Mate in three (3)

Evans’ Gambit [C51]


9.Qa4 Black resigns

Déjà vu all over again (1)

Evans gambit [C51]
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Bc5 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d4 Bb6 8.dxe5 Nxe4
Black has only one floating Knight, but White can combine ideas.

9.Qd5

Setting up a fork (2)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Bc5 6.d4 exd4 7.0-0 Na5 8.Qxd4 f6
White spots a loose piece on a5, but how to use it in a tactic?

9.Bxg8 Rxg8 10.Qd5 Black resigns
Two sorts of check (2)

Evans Gambit Declined [C51]

Black hits back at the threatening Queen, but White has a fabulous mate based on two checks: one discovered and one double.

12.Nxd7+ Nxe2 13.Nf6#

Double check and mate!

No retreat (4)

Giuoco piano [C51]

White tries to chase away the Bishop – can you see why Black doesn’t have to retreat?

8...h5! 9.hxg4 hxg4 10.Nh2 Qh4 wins for Black.
Loose pieces drop off (1)
Sorbe,S - Bourdon,P [C52] St Affrique op St Affrique (3), 2002
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 Qe7 7.d5 Nd8 8.0-0 d6?
Look for the weak link and you will find the tactic.

9.Qa4+ Black resigns

Loosened pieces drop off (2)
Nothing loose at the moment, but White has a winning idea.

8.d5 Black resigns
Evans gambit [C52]
Black is fighting hard, but White does not need to retreat the Bishop.

11.exf6 hxg5 12.fxg7 winning the Rook.

Giuloc Piano [C52]
Black’s King is hemmed in by the crossfire, but it is the Black Queen that falls.

15.Bxf7+ Qxf7 16.Rd8+ Black resigns
**Italian Game**

**Big finish (6)**

Guioco Piano – Möller Attack [C54]


*How can you finish off Black from here?*

**Interference (2)**

Guioco Piano [C55]


13...Kxf6 14.Rxe6+]

14.g4 Qxf6 15.Rxe6 Qd8 16.Qf3 Qd7

**One line is**


17.Re7 Black resigns

17...Bxe7 or 17...Nxe7 interferes with the defence of f7: 18.Qf7# 17...Qxe7 18.Qd5+ mates
Pin and win (2)

Giuoco Piano – Möller Attack [C54]


Queenless attack (5)

Giuoco Piano – Möller Attack [C54]


Once the Queens are off, you usually have to make a new Queen before you checkmate.
I. Greedy (5)

Blumenstein,M - Greim,R [C54] GER-ch
WK2 U20 Stade (5), 13.05.2001

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6
5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3 d5
8.exd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 10.bxc3 Bxc3?
This is no time to stop and do shopping.

Ne7 14.Re1 Bxd4 15.Nxd4 Be6
16.Nxe6+ Black resigns

II. Loose pieces... you know (1)

U12 Disney Paris (6), 1995

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6
5.d4 exd4 6.e5 Qe7 7.0-0 Ne4
Black's Knight parachutes in... no strings attached.

8.Bd5 would be good enough, but
White turned the screw with
8.cxd4 Bb4 9.Bd5 Black resigns
On the edge (3)

Giuoco piano [C54]
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb6 7.e5 Ng4 8.h3 Nh6 9.d5 Ne7
Black’s pieces have been pushed to the edge; White can use Black’s lack of space to win material.

10.d6 Ng6 11.Bg5 f6 12.exf6

As easy as... (3)

Giuoco Piano – Möller Attack [C54]

...Mate in three!

18.Qg8+ Bf8 19.Nc6+ Re7 20.Qf7#
Long finish (6)

Giuoco Piano – Möller Attack [C54]
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6
5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bd4+ 7.Nc3 Nxe4
8.0-0 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Bxc3 10.Qb3 Bxd4
11.Bxf7+ Kf8 12.Bg5 Bf6 13.Rae1 Ne7
Can you find your way home from here?

One likely-looking sequence is:
14.Bh5 Ng6 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.Rxe5 g6
17.Bh6+ Bg7 18.Rf5+ Ke7 19.Re1+ Kd6
20.Qd5#

Pin and fork (2)

Chevrier,T – Nielsen,R [C52] 7th NATO,
Viborg DEN (3), 1996
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4
Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.0-0 Bb6 7.d4 d6
8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Qb3 Qf6 10.Rd1 Nge7
11.Bg5 Qg6 12.Bxe7 Kxe7 13.Qa3+ Ke8
14.Bb5 Bd7

15.Rxd7 Black resigns
15...Kxd7 16..Nxe5 wins the Queen.
**Two Knights’**

Knockabout (5)

Berendsen, R - Van Geffen, B  [C55]
Essent op Hoogeveen (3), 13.10.2002


How can Black punish White’s greedy 10.Nxc6?

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Siege (3)

Kowalak, P - Dziadykiewicz, T  [C55]
Krakow festival 7th Krakow (3), 1996


The King’s castle is actually a prison. Because the black King has no moves, any check will be mate.

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There’s a punchy series of ideas to follow:


White resigns

9.Qb3+ d5 10.exd6+ Nd5 11.Qxd5+ Be6 12.Qxe6#
Exposed (2)


The central files are wide open against the Black royalty. How does White win material?

9.Bxf7+ Black resigns

Natural (3)

Max Lange [C55]


Black makes a natural capture, but it's a well-known mistake. But why?

10.Nxe6 fxe6 11.Qh5+ Qf7 12.Qxc5
Last word from the littlest (2)

Max Lange [C55]


Black can survive at least with 14...Qg6, but how do you respond to 14...Qxg4+?

Line dance (3)


1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 Qe7 6.0-0 Ne4 7.Re1 Nc5

8.Bg5 Black resigns

8...f6 9.exf6 creates two more threats and a pin.

It's natural for Black to want to force the exchange of Queens.

15.Qxg4 Bxg4 16.f7#
**Accurate (4)**


Clearly, c6 is weak, but what’s the best sequence to make use of the chance White has here?


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**Wrong choice (1)**

Schulte, S - Knauf, P [C55] NRW-chT U18 9899 GER (7), 28.02.1999


That wasn’t the right way to defend d5 - but why not?

9.Qb5+ Black resigns
**Good enough (3)**


[5...Nxe4]


White has an obvious try, but can you follow it up in the best way?


Black resigns, so that must be good enough, but 12.Nc3 is a bit better, threatening Bg5# and Nc3#.

**Discovery (2)**


You've got the idea by now that loose pieces do the dropping off thing...

7.Ng5 0-0 8.Qxh5 g6 9.Qxh7#
Last idea (5)

Two Knight’s Defense [C55]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.0-0 d6 5.Nc3 Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.d3 Nd4
Can White get away with g2-g4?

Keeping up standards (2)

Breivik,T - Valeinis,J [C56] NOR op U18 NOR (3), 1998

A standard position, in which White tries an unusual move. What happened next?

10.Nxd4...

White tries

8.g4
Black of course tried the standard sacrifice:
8...Nxg4 9.hxg4 Bxg4
But White rocked the opponent with 10.Nxe5! Black resigns
10...Bxd1 11.Bxf7+ Ke7 12.Nd5#

10...Nxd4
White resigns, because if
11.Qxd4, 11...Qxe1#
Petroff Defence

Pressure on a pinned piece (3)

Sax, G - Nunn, J [C43] Brussels (6), 1985
You see the pin, but how to use it?
13.f4? Qc5+

Improvement (2)

8.Qf3 Qd7
Black is unwilling to accept the loss of a pawn...
9.Nxe4 Qe6?
But that didn’t help. How do you respond?
10.Qxf5 Black resigns
Spot the threat (4)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.e5 Ng4 5.Qxd4 d6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.e6!? □ e6
7...f6?
[7...Bxe6 8.Qxg7 Rf8 9.Nc3]
8.Qxg4 fxg5 9.Bd3
What is White's main threat? Black missed it!

Jumpy (1)

White's pressure against the Black Knight leads to the win of a pawn...

...at least!

The game continued 9.cxd5 Qxd5 10.Bb5+ Black resigns
**Collapse (3)**

Ballester Cladera,A - Mora Fernandez,J
[C43] Binissalem op Binissalem (4), 2002


Black understandably wants to fight back, but White is not bothered by this little spite attack.


15...gxf6 16.Qh5 f5 17.Rh3 would be the other way the game could end.

**Bebop (2)**


Two simple moves give White a piece.

9.cxd5 Qxd5 10.Qa4+ Black resigns
**Elephant Gambit**

**Discovered pin (2)**


Black wants a pawn back, but that one is poisoned.

**Oddity (1)**

Toth, A - Costa, C [C40] San Agustin op 4th Aviles (1), 14.08.1999


Black has made some odd choices, but the next move is more than daft.

8...Bxf3

9.Nxf6#
A left and a right (1)

Wortel, M – Van Veen, O [C40] Hengelo U16 op Hengelo (2), 1997


The long reach of the Queen leads to a quick knockout.

Over-eager (2)

Boer, J – Koncz, L [C40] Miskolc Avas op (2), 1999


Black is keen to attack, but the whole plan is a disaster.

9.Bxd7+!

9...Kxd7 10.Qxd5+ picks up the Bishop.

Black tried to find another way but lost quickly:

I don't know what White would have played!

16.Qc6 attacks four points at once: a8, a6, d5 and f6.

16.Rxd5! might be more accurate,

18.Nxd5! Black resigns

18..Qxf5 19.Ne7+ and Nxf5 leaves White a piece ahead.
**Latvian Gambit**

**Onward (4)**


[5.Bc4!? might be better]

5...d6?

Black hopes that White will retreat...

6.Nd5!

Now 6...Qd8 7.Qh5+ g6 8.Nxg6 hxg6 9.Qxh8 is winning, so Black tried:

6...Qf5 but was disappointed by 7.g4!

Black resigns

**A right and a left (1)**

Agopov,M - Sersch,R [C40] Gausdal Eikrem mem Gausdal (3), 01.08.2000


Loose pieces are droppy-offy.

10.Qh5+ Black resigns
Worth it (2)

Weyh,T - Kurzawa,D [C40] Ruhrgebiet
VK4 9798 Ruhrgebiet, 1998
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qf6 4.d4 d6
8.Qe2 Nc6
White must pay a small price to get a bargain.

Cutlery (3)

Roethler,E - Klavins,L [C40] USA-ch op
58th Cleveland (4), 08.08.1957
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qf6 4.d4 d6
8.Qe2 Nc6
9.Nexd6+ Black resigns

9.Qh5+ Qf7 10.Nd6+ Black resigns
9...Kd8 10.Qxd5 is fine
9...g6 is best, I suppose, but Black will lose.
Removing the guard (4)

Massny, C - Patzer, S [C40] Schleswig Holstein-ch U17 VR2 Neumuenster (6), 1998

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Nf6 4.d4 fxe4 5.Bg5 Be7

I am torn between delight and sympathy to discover there is a player called Patzer! The German *Patzen* means to make a mess of something, and you sometimes hear players insult each other with this name.

Net (2)

Popovic, I - Kalinski, K [C40] Zadar op Zadar, 1995


That black Queen doesn't have too many places to escape to...

6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Qh5+

Black could not bear 7...g6 8.Nxg6, so makes a run for it.

7...Ke7 8.Qf7+ Kd6 9.Nc4+ Kc6 10.Na5+ Kd6 Black resigns

There's no checkmate that I can see with the King on d6 (11.Nc3 c6!), but White will push it back to c6 with 11.Nc4+ Kc6 and mate after 12.Nc3

11.c4 Black resigns, since the threat of 12.Bf4 wins at least the Exchange.
**Philidor's Defence**

**Finishing off**

Utman, C – Manrique, L [C44] Najdorf op
Buenos Aires (5.22), 27.09.2002

1.e4 e5 2.d4 d6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.dxe5
Nxe5 5.Nxe5 dxe5 6.Qxd8+ Kxd8
Ke7 11.Rd2 b6 12.Rhd1 Bc7

13.Bd5!


13...Bb7 14.Bxg8 Rd8 (14...Rhxg8
15.Rd7++–) 15.Rxd8 Bxd8 16.Bc4;++

13...cxd5 14.Nxd5+ Kf7

(14...Kd8? 15.Nxb6++–)

15.Nxc7++– Black resigns

**Ducks in line** (3)

Gerigk, E – Schmidt Schaeffer, S [C41]
Baden-ch U20 Birkenfeld, 1990

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.dxe5
Nxe5 5.Qd5 Nc5 6.Bg5 Qd7 7.exd6
Bxd6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.0-0-0 a6 10.Be3
Qf5

White arranges the Black pieces how they want them.

11.Qxf5 Bxf5 12.Bxc5 Bxc5 13.Rd5
Bxf2 14.Rxf5 Black resigns
Wallop (1)

Omelka,M - Fuksik,J [C41] Moravia-chT 9697 Czechia, 1997
Black removes the dangerous pawn, but allows the dangerous... what?

Lonely beauty (3)

De Legall - Saint Brie [C41] Paris
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Bg4 4.Nc3 g6
Sire de Legall taught the great Philidor, but all we know of his chess is this beautiful idea. If you haven’t seen it before, remember your Knight may be pinned, but it is allowed to move...
Confidence trick (2)

Urban, M - Eitel, H [C41] Bayern-chB Lichtenfels (8), 1994

Black was quite sure that White would spot the tactic... can you?

Just enough (3)

Heberla, B - Juroszek, J [C41] POL-chT region Poland, 1999
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.dxe5 Nxe4 5.Qd5 Nc5 6.Bg5 Be7 7.exd6 Qxd6
Nxd4 19.Ne7+ Kh8

White has four pieces, and needs every one to force checkmate.

20.N5g6+ Black resigns
20...fxg6 21.Nxg6+ hxg6 22.Rh1#
Playing White with 1.e4 and Black avoids 1...e5

Scandinavian Defence

Undermining (2)

Scandinavian Defence [B00]
7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.Qxd4

Stuck in the middle (2)

Kornev,A - Soloviov,M [B01] Suetin mem Tula (1), 23.03.2002
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.d4 e6 5.Nf3 h6 6.Bd3 Bb4 7.0-0 Bxc3
Black can't move the King, so any check will be mate.
12.Rxe6+!! fx6 13.Bg6#
**Trapped (1)**

Daniliuk, S - Belotserkovsky, A [B01]
RUS-ch sf Krasnodar, 1997


This time it is the black Queen that has run out of room.

10.Nc4 Nxd4 11.Nxa5 Bxa5 Black resigns

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**Unmasked (2)**

Boersma, P - Krudde, F [B01] NED-ch sf Enschede (7), 1990


The

8.Nb5! Black resigns

The black queen can move out of the attack, but cannot prevent 9.Nd6+ and Nc7+. 
**Weak point (2)**


Black's traditional weak point can be attacked.

16.Ng5!

16...Nf6 17.Ne5

Black resigns

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**Jumping (2)**

Keskisarja,T  - Pitkanen,S [B01] Espoo We MatSK Espoo (2), 1998


Pick a square for the White Knight.

7.Nd5 Black resigns

Black is losing the exchange.
Pick a square (2)
op 9th Goch (2), 16.10.1998
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4
Nf6 5.Bd2 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bg4 7.f3 Bf5
Even worse... Pick a square again.

8.Nd5 Black resigns
This time the discovery costs a Queen.

Jumping jacks (2)
Gelis, D - Wildemeersch, G [B01] Hautes
Alpes op 3rd Laragne (6.6), 2002
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Bc4
Nf6 5.Qe2 c6 6.Nf3 Bg4?

7.Bxf7+!
7...Kxf7 8.Ne5+ Kg8 9.Nxg4 Bxd7? 10.Qe6#
In the way again (2)

Debray, T - Fillaudeau, E [B01] FRA-ch
op-A Val d’Isere (6.99), 08.2002
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.Nf3
Nf6 5.d4 Bg4 6.Bf3 e6 7.h3 Bh5 8.g4
Bg6 9.Ne5 Nbd7?
Once again, Black’s Queen is the
target of a tactic.

10.Nb5!
10...Qb6 11.d5 Bc5
12.Nc4 Black resigns

Yorker (3)

Khachian, M - Serpik, I [B01] SCCF-ch
Costa Mesa (6), 26.07.2003
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4
8.0-0 e6 9.Rb1 Be7?! 10.Ng5 0-0?
White bowls a fierce delivery down
the centre line.

11.Nxe6!++ Re8
[11...fxe6 12.Rxe6]
12.Bf4 Black resigns
Arrangement (3)

[B01] Center counter def. - Fork
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Bc4 g6 5.Qf3 Nf6 6.Nd5 Bg7
White would like to play Nxc7+, but how can this best be arranged?

Bluffing (4)

[B01] Center counter def. - Unpin
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.d5 Ne5
Another pretend pin:

7.b4 Qa4 8.Bb5+ Qxb5 9.Nxc7+

and there is no good defence to the discovered check.
Two forks (2)

Scandinavian Defence [B01]
8.Bb5+ Qxb5 9.Nxc7+

Poisoned pawn (2)

Scandinavian Defence
9...Nxd4?
There's a trap if Black takes the d-pawn.

**Flawed (3)**

Boros, D – Paschall, W [B22] Budapest FS10 GM (9), 09.10.2005


It’s a likely-looking developing move, but there’s a flaw.

9.Qxc5! Black resigns

(9...Nxc5 10.Nc7+ Ke7 11.Nxd5+ Nxd5 12.Bxc5++)

[9...Qxc5 10.Bxc5 Nxc5 11.Nc7++]

---

**Bogus (2)**


1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.0-0 dxe5 9.dxe5 Nxe5

The White Knight is in a bogus pin.

10.Nxe5 Black resigns
Come into my parlour (2)
Richards, H - Nielsen, M [B22] Politiken
Cup 24th Copenhagen (5), 19.07.2002
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6
0-0 9.O-O Rd8 10.Qe2 Qb3 11.dxc5
Nd5
The black Queen can move only forward – Just what White wants!
12.Bc2! Black resigns

Elementary (1)
Kajan, M - Meszaros, J [B22] SVK-chTuW
9798, 1998
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nf3
Nf6 5.d4 Bg4 6.Be2 e6 7.Bg5 Be7
8.Bxf6 Bxf6 9.dxc5 Qxc5
Spot the loose piece?
10.Qa4+ Black resigns
**Diversion (2)**

Kuraszkiewicz,M - Schuette,M [B22]
Oberliga Bayern 9596 Bayern, 1996


Black thinks, white Bishop takes Queen, black Bishop takes Queen, white King takes Bishop, black Knight takes Bishop...

What else could happen?

**Oversight (2)**

Szegi,T - Podhorsky,P [B22] SVK-ch U16
Ivanka pri Dunaji (7), 1999

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.Ne2 cxd4 6.cxd4 Qb6 7.Nbc3 e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.a3 Nxd4

**More important (1)**

Sicilian Defence [B22]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5
5.Nc3 dxe4 6.d5 Ne5 7.Qa4+ Bd7
8.Qxe4 Ng6 9.Nb5 Nf6

Black attacks the white Queen, but there is something more important going on.

**In-between (2)**


1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 e5 4.Nf3 cxd4
5.cxd4 Qc7 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bg5 Nbd7
8.Rc1 a6 9.Qd2 exd4

Probably White will take the pawn on d4, but has something else to do in-between.

10.Nd6#

10.Nd5 Black resigns
Caro-Kann Defence

Mixing it up (4)

There's a lot that is right with Black's last move, but something important is wrong.

and Black resigns

Palace pandemonium

Bratanov, Z - Arcusa, M [B13] St Affrique op St Affrique (1), 2002
1.c4 c6 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.d4 dxc4 5.Bxc4 e5 6.Nf3 Bb4+ 7.Nc3 exd4 8.0-0 dxc3
The black Royalty are exposed and White creates a problem.

9.Bxf7+
That's all you need to see, I think, but Black hobbled on with
9...Ke7 10.Re1+ Kxf7 11.Qxd8 cxb2
12.Qe8+ Kf6 13.Bg5+ Kf5 14.Qe4#
All the way (5)
The pawn is poisoned.
Each step which follows is easy to understand, but there are lots of steps! There are two pins, a fork and a discovery to find...
11...Kd8 12.Ba5+ b6 13.Rd1 Black resigns

Not again (3)
[B13] Caro-Kann def – Removing the guard
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.cxd5 Qxd5 7.Be2
Black falls for an ancient trap when they make a grab for the d-pawn.
Netted (5)

1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 Qb6 7.cxd5 Qxb2?
In this famous game, Black has let his Queen stray too far. Can you see what the Grandmaster missed?

Simple finish

[10.Qe2!+-]

White traps the Queen by Rc1, Na4 and Bc4
8.Rc1! 8...Nb4
[9...Qa3 10.Rc3 Qxa2 11.Bc4+-]

19.Rxc6 Black resigns
Simple net (1)

[B13] Caro-Kann def - Trapping

Can Black take the pawn with 10...Qxb2?

No... 11.Na4!

Decoy (3)

Della Morte,G – Antunez,P [B13] ARG-ch sf U14 Tandil (5), 03.05.2003

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 dxc4 5.Bxc4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4?
That brave Bishop on g4 is in more danger than it realises!

Nothing in-between (2)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 e6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Bf4?! Bb4
Can you see why White would take the unmoved Knight with 7.Bxb8? How should Black reply?

7...Rxb8??
[7...Bxc3+! and Black is fine]
8.Qa4+ Bd7 9.Qxb4

Let the wild rumpus start (5)

Black might think that all is safe, but all is about to kick off...

11.Nxd5 Qxd5
[11...exd5 12.Bxh7+ Kxh7 13.Qc2+ and White wins a pawn.]
12.Bc4 Qd6 Getting this far is easy but now what? White sets up a discovered attack with Ne5 and Bf4.
13.Ne5! Bb7 [13...Nxe5 14.Bf4+-]
14.Bf4! Bf6
[14...Rfe8 15.Qh5 g6 16.Nxg6+-]
[10.Re1 Nf6 11.a3 is more accurate.]
10...Nf6 11.Re1 b6 12.Bc2!? Bb7?! 13.Qd3
Black has a big choice of moves here:
...Rc8
...g6
...Re8
...Qd7
...Qc8
...a6
...Qd6
Which of these are any good?

Well, White's threat is 14.d5 and 15.Bg5
13...a6? 14.d5 exd5 15.Bg5 g6 16.Rxe7
So, that kills off most of the other tries for Black:
13...Rc8? 14.d5!
13...Qd7? 14.d5 exd5 15.Bg5 g6 16.Rxe7+
(14...Nd8 15.Bg5 g6 16.d6+- Black resigns Karlsson, A - Fridjonsson, J ch-ICL, Reykjavik (8), 1995: well done Águst!)
13...Qc8!? 14.Bg5!? Ba6 15.Qe3 ;
13...Qd6?? 14.d5! exd5 15.Bg5
13...Re8? 14.d5! exd5 15.Bg5 Ne4 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Qxe4 g6 18.Qh4

The best move for Black is
13...g6! 14.Bh6 Re8 15.Rad1= 
**Alekhn Defence**

**March (3)**

Grabarczyk, B  -  Danner, L  [B03] Oberliga Ost-B 0102 Germany (6.2), 02.02.2002


There are two Black pieces without many squares to go to, and the White f-pawn can find them both.

15.Bxb6! axb6 16.f4 Black resigns  
[16.f4 Nd7 17.f5+-]

**Frying pan (2)**

Voss, I  -  Garet, J  [B03] Le Touquet op Le Touquet (2), 28.10.2002


White can win a pawn now, but Black made it worse!

9.c5! Nc8?  
[9...Nd7 10.Nxd5 e6 11.Nc3±]  
10.Qb3!  
Black staggered on:

Black resigns
Clearance (3)

[B03] Alekhine defense - Pin

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 cxd6 6.Nc3 Bf5 7.Qf3 Qd7

I’m sure you can see that Black would be embarrassed if the Bf1 landed on b5.

Burning bridges (1)

Jirk,A - Voracek,Z [B03] CZE-chTV 0001 Czechia (8), 2001


Not a difficult idea, but Black missed it!

8.c5! dxc5 9.Bb5 Nc6 10.d5

11.g4 Black resigns
**Temptation (3)**
Rechel, R - Behnel, G [B03] Giessen op Giessen (7), 1994
11...Nxc4

**Fork defence (3)**
Sermek, D - Raspor, G [B03] Portoroz op Portoroz, 1996
10...Nxc4 11.a3 Nc6 12.Qd3 Black resigns

12Nb5 Black resigns
Now it's happened it's easy to follow: 12...Nxd2 13.Nxc7+ Kd8 14.Nxa8 and Black is a Rook down with a trapped Knight, so the best Black can do is abandon the Knight on c4.
Sooner or later (1)

Zimmermann, J - Sturm, T [B03] GER-ch
U20 int Hamburg (8), 23.08.1999

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6
5.exd6 cxd6 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Nc3 g6 8.d5
Ne5 9.Bd4 Rg8 10.c5 Nbd7

11.f4 is good enough, but the game actually went:
11.Bb5 Qc7 12.f4 Black resigns

Now where? (1)

O’Donovan, R - Bennett, E [B03] IRL-ch
Dublin (2), 06.07.2003

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6
5.exd6 cxd6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Rc1
O-O 9.b3 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Qxd8
Rxd8 12.c5

Black has a choice of two squares for the Knight, and one of them is a mistake.

Black put the Knight in a pin, losing the exchange at least:
12...Nd5?? 13.Rd1 Black resigns
**Pirc Defence and relatives**

**Bait (3)**

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 Nd7

The Fegatello or Fried Liver Attack, the famous sacrificial line of the Italian Game, is named for the little piece of offal used to bait a trap. Here is the Modern Defence version.

```
5.Bxf7+ Kxf7 6.Ng5+ Kf6 7.Qf3#
[6...Kf8 7.Ne6+ or 6...Ke8 7.Ne6 lose the Queen]
```

**H is for horrible (4)**

Burn,A - Owen,J [B07] Liverpool m Liverpool, 1874


White has played the standard attack down the h-file, and finds a spectacular finish.

```
12.Qxg4 Bxg4 13.Rxh6 Kg7 14.Rxh7+ Black resigns, for if
14...Kf6 15.Nd5#
```
Sidestep (2)

Bouvier, B - Larand, M [B07] Creon op 6th Creon (6), 2001

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 c6 5.Qd2 b5 6.g3 Nbd7 7.g4 h5 8.g5 Nh7 9.d5 cxd5 10.Nxd5 e6
Sometimes tactics can be solved by small quiet moves, and sometimes by big noisy ones.

11.Qc3 Black resigns

Happy-go-unlucky (2)

Kandioller, W - Enzerdorfer, M [B08] Stockerau opj Stockerau, 1992

Black to move, what's White's threat?

12...Nb4? 12.Ng5 Black resigns
Into the fire (3)
Black didn't want to take on e6, but what happens if not?
10...Ne5 11.exf7+ Kh8 12.Qxd8 Black resigns

Wall of china (1)
A stone wall is a strong defence, but not one made of crockery...
12.g4 Black resigns
Down for the Count (4)
Gamboa,N - Dyson,P [B07] St Martin op St Martin (5), 1992
Black is behind in developing pieces because of all the pawn moves; just the same chess mistakes made by the Duke and the Count against Morphy.


Quis removiet ipsos custodies? (2)
Pang,N - Quijano,L [B07] Pan American-ch U12 Guaymallen (4), 01.06.2001
White has a straightforward goal – removing the guard.

13.Rxd5 Black resigns
Helpful (1)

Moncamp, G - Noally, T [B07] Nice
Summer op 10th Nice (3), 05.08.2003
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 c6
5.Nf3 b5 6.a3 Nbd7 7.h3 e5 8.d5 cxd5
9.Nxd5 Nxd5 10.Qxd5 Rb8 11.Ng5 Qe7
12.Bxb5 a6
Black chases the Bishop to a square that it wanted to go to anyway!

13.Bc4 Black resigns

Overworked (2)

Schumacher, P - Knoops, J [B07] BEL-ch
U16 Worriken Buetgenbach (7.12),
09.04.2004
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 c6
5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 b5 8.e5 b4
12.Qxd5 Nd7
The black Queen is defending all the key points on her wing.

13.Nc7+ Black resigns
Drawn out (3)

Gomez Baillo, J - Caranti, J [B07] Cordoba
Eliskases mem 1st Cordoba (1),
25.11.2004
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 Bg7
5.f3 Nbd7 6.Qd2 0-0 7.Bh6 Re8
8.0-0-0 Bh8 9.e5 dxe5 10.dxe5 Nh5
11.e6 fxe6 12.Bc4 Kf7
The black King has taken one step forward; White makes him take another, fatal step.

13.Bxe6+ Black resigns

Poor choice (2)

Urosevic, R - Babic, G [B08] Vrsac op
Vrsac (1.52), 2000
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 Bg7
5.Nf3 Nc6 6.h3 0-0 7.Qd2 e5 8.d5 Ne7
12.Neg5 f4 13.Bxf4 Rxf4
Black did well to trap the Bishop, but that wasn't the best way to continue.

14.Qxf4 Black resigns
Enough (3)
Lane,G - Reilly,T [B08] Doeberl Cup 39th Canberra (4.2), 14.04.2001
White wins a pawn, which is enough to make Black resign.

14.dxe5 dxe5 15.Bxf6 Black resigns

Peekaboo (1)
De Vreugt,D - Wuts,H [B07] Rotterdam Triomfator op 1st Rotterdam (2), 15.06.2002
The simplest discovery idea.

14.e6+ Black resigns
Missed it (3)

Redzepovic, I  - Kappl, P  [B07]
Regionalliga NO 0304 Bayern (1.8),
12.10.2003
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 Bg7
5.f3 c6 6.Qd2 Nbd7 7.g4 Qa5 8.h4 h5
9.g5 Ng8 10.f4 e6 11.0-0-0 Ne7
12.Kb1 b5
Black missed the point of White’s last move... The penalty for that is two pawns.

Mating attack (2)

Yaremko, N  - Kravchenko, O  [B07] UKR-
ch U14 Kiev (10), 13.02.2004
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 Bg7
5.f3 c6 6.Qd2 b5 7.0-0-0 Qa5 8.Kb1
b4 9.Nce2 Nbd7 10.Rc1 0-0 11.h4 Rb8
12.h5 Nxh5 13.Bh6 e5
The h-file attack yields a simple win.
Just a pawn (1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.Be3 Bg7 5.f3 c6 6.Qd2 Nbd7 7.g4 e5 8.O-O-O 0-0 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.h4 h5 11.g5 Nh7 12.Bc4 Qa5 13.Qd6 Re8
White grabs a pawn.

14.Qxg6 Black resigns
The h-pawn is doomed and White still has a nice attack.

Good idea (3)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 Nbd7 5.Qd2 c5 6.f3 cxd4 7.Bxd4 Bg7 8.0-0-0 0-0 9.h4 Qc7 10.g4 Nb6 11.h5 Rd8 12.hxg6 fxg6
White has an idea
13.e5 dxe5
Can you see it now?

**French Defence – as White**

**Cut off (3)**

Vysochin, S - Zakharevich, I [C01] RUS-Cup 300 years St Petersburg (4),
21.10.2003


12.Ne5

Black can cope with the attacks on f7 and h7, but the stranded Rook has to give itself up for a Bishop.

**Bad idea (1)**

Treffert, P - Doering, R [C01] Wiesbaden op Wiesbaden (5), 1996

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4 b6 5.cxd5 Ba6 6.Bxa6 Nxa6

After the swap of pawns, Black's bishop on c8 is no longer bad, and it's no longer so vital to swap it off. Also, this loses a piece...

7.Qa4+ Black resigns
**Overstretched (5)**

Marshall, F – Loman, R [C01] London m2 London (2), 1902

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.e3 exd4 4.exd4
An odd start, but a familiar position!

Black saw no immediate danger when White put the Rook on the same file as the Queen.


Black can't really hope to hang on after a move like 14...Bc8: 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.dxc6 Be6 17.Ne4 Be7 18.Neg5...

**Even the laziest King (2)**

Petroff – Szymanski [C01] Warsaw, 1851


"Even the laziest King flees wildly in the face of double check" – Nimzowitsch.
Playing Black against 1.e4

French Defence

At least (2)

Kasanicky,R - Raczko,P [C05] Doprastav op Bratislava (4), 1998
Black can win a pawn here...

But White makes it worse!
8...cxd4 9.cxd4 Bb4 White resigns

Invasion (4)

The Bb1 looks a good piece but actually it can't move. Can you use that idea to make a combination?

So... if the Bishop on b1 won't move, the Rook on a1 is trapped.
14...Bxe2! 15.Qxe2 Qc3 White resigns
[15...Qc3 16.Bc1 Nc2 17.Qxc2 Qxa1 18.Qd3 Qc3-+]
Off the cushion (2)

Guibert,F  - Kulpa,J  [C06] FRA-ch op-B
Aix les Bains (9), 28.08.2003

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7
5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4
f6 9.f4? fxe5 10.fxe5

This structure is quite good for White if he can maintain it.

10...Nxd4!

Tangle (2)

Fiacan,R  - Kolcak,M  [C01] SVK-chT2 9697
SVK (10), 1997

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c3 Bd6
5.Bd3 Qf6 6.Qh5 Ne7 7.Bg5 Qe6+
8.Ne2 Qg4 9.Qxg4 Bxg4 10.Nf4

White tries to get their pieces sorted out.

10...f6 White resigns
Some more (4)
Black can win a pawn by a standard trick, but there is more on offer.
8...Bxf2+ 9.Kxf2 Ng4+ 10 Kg1 Qb6+ White resigns

Activity (4)
Tatai, S – Kortchnoi, V [C01] Beer Sheva, 1978
Now White is overwhelmed by the sheer activity of the black pieces.
12...Qg3 13.Bf5 Re2 14.Nd4 Nxd4 White resigns
Draw in hand (4)

Mihalj,M - Miljanic,B [C01] Montenegro op 5th Sozina (3), 20.02.2004


First step: spot the standard sac.

10...Bxh3! 11.gxh3 Qg3+ 12.Kh1 Qxh3+ 13.Kg1

Now, do you go for more? Of course you do!

13...Nc6 14.Nb3 Bd6 15.Re1


20...f5 White resigns

Too hot (2)

Adnani,M - Boubaker,M [C02] Arab-ch Casablanca (9), 04.09.2002


White has threatened to take the g-pawn; Black seems happy with that! Can you see why?

15.Qxg7? Rg8 16.Qh6 Ng4!

White resigns
For two pins (2)

Murgia,A - Ciampi,V [C02] Ischia op Ischia, 1994
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.a3 c4 7.g3 f6! 8.Nh4 Qb6! 9.Qh5+ Kd8
White has a clever idea here. Would you play it?

I hope not!
10.Ng6? Be8 White resigns

Pin (2)

Ellis,K - Harris,C [C02] Barnet (2), 1999

8...Nxd4 White resigns
The Bishop on c1 would not thank you for recapturing the Knight!
Basic (1)

French defence - Fork
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 dxe4 4.fxe4?
Looks good, for the moment. But a moment is all the time it lasts.

4...Qh4+ wins a pawn and maybe more.

Bishop net (2)

French defence – Trapping
White misses the point of Black’s last move.

6...b5 7.Bb3 a4
I hope you would play a better move than 5...a5: it works only if White is asleep! Black played a bad move with a good idea.
Bodega, S - Alonso, R [C01] San Jose op San Jose (4), 1998
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Nf3 O-O 7.a3 Re8

Loose pieces (1)

[C00] French defense - Fork

8.Nxd5 Bb4#

9...Qc3!
forks d3 and a1
A pinned pawn (3)
Steinitz-Tarrasch [C11] 2009
This position can arise from the Steinitz Variation and the Tarrasch Variation.
9.Qc2?! Be7 10.Be3?
White hopes to embarrass the Queen with the Bishop.

Detonation (5)
12.fxe5 0-0 13.Bg2
White's play has been very sensible but Black can blow up the centre using pins, forks and mate threats.

13...Ndxe5! 14.dxe5 Nxe5
15.Nxe5?? Qf2#
15.Rf1?? Nd3#
15.Ne1?? Nd3+ 16.Ke2 Qa6! ++
18.Qxd2 g5 with advantage to Black.
The game actually continued: 14.0-0
Nxf3 18.Kxf3 Bd7 White resigns
**Double decoy (3)**

Balle,A - Weiss,M [C11]
Mittelfrankenliga-B2a 0506 Germany (4.2), 15.01.2006


Black can rearrange the white royalty to make a big fork.

13...Rxf3 14.Qxf3 Bxd2+ 15.Kxd2 Qxb2+ White resigns

**Powering through (5)**


Black uses the Knights to blow the doors off then the major pieces as battering rams...

13...Ndxe5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.fxe5 Qf2+ 16.Kd1 Qxf1+ 17.Be1 Qxh1 White resigns
Knockout (2)


Nice easy one: time to finish off White.

17...Ng4+ White resigns

White loses the Queen (18.Kf1 Ne3+) or the King (18.Kg1 Qe3+).

Storm (4)

Wittig - Frohne, G [C11] Ruhrgebiet-ch Germany, 1996


A thunderstorm of black pieces is circling over White’s King.

15...Qe3+ 16.Qe2 Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 Bxd2+ 18.Kd1 White resigns
Playing Black against 1.d4

Tarrasch Defence

Poke a pinned piece (1)

Spencer, D - Wheatley, C [D32] South Wales Winter op Newport (5.10), 06.01.2002

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 cxd4 5.Qa4+ Bd7 6.Qxd4 exd5 7.Qxd5 Nc6 8.e4?

Understandable, but too bold.


Forced back (3)

Heeneman, R - Stada, J [D32] Soest op Soest (5), 1996


10...Qb6 11.e3 Qxb2 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Qc1 Ba3! 14.Ne2

14...Ne5 15.Qe2 Nxd3+ White resigns

Black wins the exchange.

14...Nb4 15.Qxb2 Bxb2 and now

16.Rd1 Ba4 White resigns

[16.Rb1 Bf5 17.Rxb2 Nd3+]
Anticipation (2)

Hansen,A – Nielsen,J [D34] Aalborg
Aalborg (5), 1947
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Rc1 c4 11.Ne5 Rc8!
Very clever: Black guesses that White is going to play his next move, and digs a big hole for White to fall into.
12.f4?

12...Nxd4! [13.Qxd4? Bc5+]
White didn’t last much longer:

Without fuss (1)

Vidmar,M - Schlechter,C [D33] Budapest
Budapest (2), 1912
There’s an uncomplicated way for Black to win here.
19...Qb2 White resigns
Big choice (1)
Quintela, F - Mallet, G [D32] D’Angers op 1st D’Angers (5), 08.05.2006
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.cxd5 exd5 4.Nc3 c5 5.Qb3 Nf6 6.Bg5 c4 7.Qb5+ Bd7
White has an important choice:
8.Qxb7??
What could possibly be wrong with that?

8...Bc6 9.Bxf6 gxf6 White resigns
[White could have won a pawn with 8.Bxf6! Qxf6 9.Qxd5!]

Pick a target (2)
Fox, P - Vermeir, R [D33] Brasschaat op Brasschaat (4), 22.08.2006
Lots of undefended and just-defended pieces, one more important than the others.

13...Bxf2+ 14.Kxf2 Ng4+ White resigns
Three things to spot (3)

Nogueiras, J - Vera, R [D34] Havana Havana (4), 1982
I expect you'll spot a couple of ideas in this position; when you have three, you can put them in a row.

Not a good picker? (3)

Derbenev, A - Bezgodov, A [D34] Privolzhsky Region-ch Ishevsk (6), 21.03.2005
White was getting short of moves, but that wasn't a good one to pick.

16...Nxg3 17.Ne4 Qxc1
White resigns
18.Qxc1 Nxe2+

17...Ne5 White resigns
In fact, it's hard to pick a really good move for White: 17...Bxf3 will undermine the defence of the Nd4, and if White plays 18.Nd4xf3 then f2 will fall.
Looking ahead (4)

Demetriescu - Nagy [D34] Corr., 1936

White resigns! What had he seen?

14...d3!
Now if 15.Qxd3 Qxd3 16.exd3 Nxd2 and escapes via f3;
and if 15.Qd1 dxe2 16.Qxe2 Qxd2;
so White 15.exd3 Nd4 16.Qd1 Nxd2 17.Qxd2 Nf3+

Misstep (3)

Hallgrimsson,A - Laren,P [D34] corr
WT/M, 1990

This next bit is not the tactic:
13...Bxg3 14.Bxh6 Bc7 15.Bc1?
The next bit is the tactic:

15...Nxd4 16.Qxd4 Qd6 0-1
Since 17.f4 allows 17...Bb6
If White had played 15.Be3 and 16.Bxd4, 17.f4 would be safe.
Playing Black against 1.d4 – a second system

All-Purpose System

Counter (2)

Sith, J - Dobias, R [D59] Bratislava Slovan op Bratislava, 1994
18...Qh3! White resigns 19.gxh3 Nxh3#

Seen enough (3)

White didn't want to see any more. Can you see as far?
I hope you saw the ...b5 fork, but how to arrange it?
19...Bxf3! 20.gxf3 Qg5 21.Kh1 b5
Poisoned again (2)
Lutsko,I - Kovalev,D [D58] UKR-ch op
Alushta, 1999
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7
5.Nf3 0-0 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 b6 8.cxd5
exd5 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.b4 c5 11.bxc5
bxc5 12.Bd3 Nc6 13.0-0 cxd4 14.exd4
Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Bxd4 16.Bh7+ Kxh7
17.Qxd4 Be6 18.Rfd1 Qa5
Black meekly gives up the d-pawn, but White should refuse it.
19.Nxd5 Rad8 20.Qc3 Rxd5 White resigns

Rooked (3)
Ronsted,T - Bjorntoft,P [D58] DEN-chT
Denmark (4), 14.01.2001
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Be7
5.e3 0-0 6.Nf3 h6 7.Bh4 b6 8.Rc1 Bb7
9.cxd5 exd5 10.Bd3 Nbd7 11.0-0 c5
Nxc3 15.Rxc3 bxc5 16.b4 Ba6 17.Qc2
g6 18.Rd1 cxb4 19.Rc7 Rac8
Black does not defend the d-pawn... Any problem taking it?
20.Rxd5 Rxc7 White resigns
21.Qxc7 Rc8 exploits White's weak back rank.
Stranded (1)

Ter Karapetian,A - Rukhadze,A [D59]
GEO-ch U16 Tbilisi, 04.2001

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6
5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.e3 b6 8.Rc1 Bb7
Nd7 12.Nxd5 Bxd5 13.Rxc7 Bxf3
14.gxf3 Qd6 15.Qc2

All looks good for White, but that Rook is out of its depth.

15...Nc5!

and the Rook must give itself up for a Knight.

16.Rxc5 bxc5 17.Qxc5 Qxc5 18.dxc5
Rab8 19.b3 Rfc8 20.Rg1 Rxc5 White resigns

Walled up (2)

Ortega Ruiz,J  - Kaza,P [D58] Linares
Anibal op 11th Linares (5), 01.03.2005

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7
c6 15.Be2 Bf5 16.Rac1 Nd7 17.b4 b5
18.Qa6 Nb6 19.a4??

In the game of go, a piece that cannot breathe will die.

19...Bc8 20.Qa5 Nc4 White resigns
Simple as that (1)

Not sure what made White do that.

Disco move (1)

Bezler,R  - Sonnberger,R  [D58] AUT-chT3 9899 Austria (8), 05.02.1999
Black has a deadly counter to this.
Playing Black against 1.d4 – a third system

Stonewall Dutch

Clever Stuff (4)

Gruenfeld, E - Torre Repetto, C [A90]
Baden-Baden, 1925

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 d5
5.0-0 Bd6 6.c4 c6 7.Qc2 0-0 8.b3 Ne4
9.Bb2 Nd7 10.Ne5 Qf6 11.f3?!
Can you find Black’s clever idea?

11...Nxe5! 12.dxe5?
White plans to take the Knight on e4 next, but should settle for trying to survive the attack after 12.fxe4 Bg4.

12...Bc5+ 13.Kh1 Nxg3+!
White resigns: it’s mate on the h-file.

Well motivated (2)

Dany, S - Linder, O [A90]
Hassloch op-A
Hassloch (2), 1997

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 d5
5.b3 c6
Without the Bishop on f8, Black will be weak on the dark squares.

6.Ba3 Bxa3 White resigns
I see the future (2)

Hamm,D - Karlsson,L [A95] Rilton Cup Stockholm, 1973
What could White see ahead?

White didn't wait for 13...g4, undermining the defences of the Bd2.

I wanted to play that anyway (1)

Dezaele,C - Perez,E [A90] Uzes op Uzes (4), 1989
Another short sequence yields a piece for Black.

13...g5 White resigns
One, two... (2)

Norman,R – Acton,P [A93] BCF-ch U16 Oxford (11), 1967
...Mate.

Half-open file (2)

What's the best use of the open f-file?

13...Bc5+ 14.Kh1 Nxg3#

15...Rxf3 and White resigns, as the Knight was defending against mate on h2.
Summary of lines

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Scotch Gambit

1 e4 Nf3 d4 Bc4 c3 Bxf7+
2 e4 Nf3 d4 Bc4 c3 Nxc3
3 e4 Nf3 d4 Bc4 c3 exd4 Bc5 d3
4 e4 Nf3 d4 Bc4 c3 Nxc3 Italian #7
5 e4 Nf3 d4 Bc4 c3 exd4 Bb4+ 2 Knights #13
6 e4 Nf3 d4 Bc4 Nf6 Bb4+ 2 Knights #13

Italian Game

7 e4 Nf3 Bc4 c3 d4 cxd4 Bd2 exd4 Bb4+ Bxd2
8 e4 Nf3 Bc4 c3 d4 cxd4 Bb4+ Nxe4!
9 e4 Nf3 Bc4 c3 d4 e5
10 e4 Nf3 Bc4 c3 d4 0-0
11 e4 Nf3 Bc4 c3 b4

Two Knights'

12 e4 Nf3 Bc4 Ng5 cxd5 exd5
13 e4 Nf3 Bc4 d4 e5 exd4
14 e4 Nf3 Bc4 d4 0-0 e5 exf6
e5 Nc6 Nf6 exd4 Bc5 d5
15 e4 Nf3 Bc4 d4 0-0 e5 Bb5
e5 Nc6 Nf6 exd4 Bc5 d5
16 e4 Nf3 Bc4 d4 0-0 Re1 Bxd5

Evans Gambit
17 e4 Nf3 Bc4 b4 c3 d4 Qb3
17 e4 Nf3 Bc4 b4 c3 d4 Qb3
18 e4 Nf3 Bc4 b4 c3 d4 cxd4
19 e4 Nf3 Bc4 b4 c3 d4

Petroff's Defence
22 e4 Nf3 d4 e5 Qxd4
23 e4 Nf3 d4 Bd3
24 e4 Nf3 Nxe5 Nf7
25 e4 Nf3 Bc4 d4 Qxd4
26 e4 Nf3 Bc4 Nc3
27 e4 Nf3 Bc4 Nc3

Philidor's Defence
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
28 e4 Nf3 d4 dxe5 Qd5 Bg5
29 e5 d6 Nf6 Nxe4 Nc5
Latvian Gambit
29 e4 Nf3 Nxe5 Nc4 
   e5 f5 Qf6

Elephant Gambit
30 e4 Nf3 exd5 d4 
   e5 d5 Bd6
31 e4 Nf3 exd5 Qe2 
   e5 d5 e4

Sicilian Defence
32 e4 c3 exd5 d4 
   c5 d5 Qxd5
33 e4 c3 e5 d4 
   c5 Nf6 Nd5

Caro-Kann Defence
34 e4 d4 exd5 c4 
   c6 d5 cxd5
35 e4 c4 exd5 cxd5 
   c6 d5 cxd5
36 e4 c4 
   c6 e5

Pirc Defence
37 e4 d4 Nc3 Be3 
   d6 Nf6 g6

Alekhin's Defence
38 e4 e5 d4 c4 exd6 
   Nf6 Nd5 d6 Nb6

Scandinavian Defence
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
39 e4 exd5 Nc3 d4 
   d5 Qxd5 Qa5
40 e4 exd5 c4 d4
d5  

\[ \text{Nf6} \]  
\[ \text{e6/c6} \]

**French Defence**

41 e4 d4  
\[ \text{e5} \]  
\[ \text{c3} \]  
\[ \text{Nf6} \]  
\[ \text{Qb6} \]

42 e4 d4  
\[ \text{Nc3} \]  
\[ \text{e5} \]  
\[ \text{f4} \]  
\[ \text{Nf3} \]  
\[ \text{Be3} \]

43 e4 d4  
\[ \text{Nc3} \]  
\[ \text{Bg5} \]  
\[ \text{e5} \]  
\[ \text{Be7} \]

44 e4 d4  
\[ \text{Nc3} \]  
\[ \text{Bg5} \]  
\[ \text{e5} \]  
\[ \text{Bd2} \]  
\[ \text{bxc3} \]

45 e4 d4  
\[ \text{exd5} \]  
\[ \text{Bb4} \]  
\[ \text{h6} \]  
\[ \text{Bxc3} \]  
\[ \text{Ne4} \]

46 e4 d4  
\[ \text{exd5} \]  
\[ \text{exd5} \]  
\[ \text{c4} \]

**Tarrasch Defence**

47 d4 c4  
\[ \text{Nc3} \]  
\[ \text{cx} \]  
\[ \text{xd5} \]

**von Hennig-Schara Gambit**

48 d4 c4  
\[ \text{Nc3} \]  
\[ \text{cx} \]  
\[ \text{xd5} \]

**Colle System**

49 d4 Nf3  
\[ \text{e3} \]

**London System**

50 d4 Nf3  
\[ \text{Bf4} \]

**Stonewall Attack**

\[ \text{1} \]  
\[ \text{2} \]  
\[ \text{3} \]  
\[ \text{4} \]  
\[ \text{5} \]  
\[ \text{6} \]  
\[ \text{7} \]

51 d4 e3  
\[ \text{Bd3} \]  
\[ \text{f4} \]

52 d4 e3  
\[ \text{Bd3} \]  
\[ \text{c3} \]

53 d5 Nf6  
\[ \text{Nc6} \]  
\[ \text{Nb4} \]
All-purpose System

53
d5 e6 Nf6 Be7 b6 Bb7 c5

54 d4 c4 Nc3 Bg5 e3 Nf3 Bh4
d5 e6 Nf6 Be7 0-0 h6 b6

Dutch Stonewall

55 d4 g3 Nf3 Bg2 0-0
f5 e6 Nf6 d5