

The 1.d4 Bible

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The 1.d4 Bible

Ármin Juhász

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Key to Symbols

!	a good move
?	a weak move
!!	an excellent move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
□	only move
N	novelty
☉	lead in development
⊙	zugzwang
=	equality
∞	unclear position
∞̄	with compensation for the sacrificed material
±	White stands slightly better
∓	Black stands slightly better
±	White has a serious advantage
∓	Black has a serious advantage
+−	White has a decisive advantage
−+	Black has a decisive advantage
→	with an attack
↑	with initiative
↔	with counterplay
Δ	with the idea of
⊃	better is
⊆	worse is
+	check
#	mate

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Preface by GM József Horváth

All beginnings are difficult, claims a well-known maxim, and it happens to hold true for my present attempt to review this book. This situation reminds me of the rather simple joke when a worried elderly woman says to her doctor: “Doctor, I’m so afraid, this will be my first operation.” The doctor replies: “Don’t worry, it will be my first operation, too.” So here is this book lying in front of us (let this be the operation), the work of my young friend and former student, 23-year-old IM Ármin Juhász (obviously, he is the doctor).

I remember vividly the founding of Géza Maróczy Chess School in Budapest in 2006. The School was very successful, especially during its first years. Following the examples of such outstanding Hungarian players of the olden days as László Szabó, Gedeon Barcza or Géza Maróczy himself, a number of excellent young players could declare their talents at the School, including Benjamin Gledura or Richard Rapport, currently ranked in the 13th place into the world. This is the School where the author of this book, Ármin Juhász studied, too. Was it easy for these students? Was it easy for us coaches? I think the answer is a clear yes. We had the privilege to invite as guest lecturers such internationally-known Hungarian chess greats as Pál Benkő, Lajos Portisch, Zoltán Ribli, Gyula Sax, István Csom, (members of the gold medalist team at the 1978 Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires), and Judit Polgár, Zsuzsa Polgár, Zsuzsa Verőci and Mária Ivánka. Our young students had the opportunity to learn chess from no lesser names than these. And yes, IM Ármin Juhász, who became the youngest FIDE Trainer in Europe in 2018, was among these privileged students.

In his first book (we hope he’ll write many more), the young Hungarian author makes a worthy attempt to talk his readers through a complete 1.d4 opening repertoire, but in doing this, he never forgets about the other, later phases of the game. As a result, the related middlegame and endgame elements are remarkably well-organized and help both beginner and advanced players acquire powerful 1.d4 skills. In addition, Ármin pays adequate attention to those tactical motifs that are quite significant in the dynamic games of many contemporary players. It seems he remembered the late excellent German master Richard Teichmann’s remark, according to which “Chess is 99% tactics”. This complex book follows a clear, no-nonsense structure, contains a large number of games and positions from outstanding players and various historical eras, and spices all this up, in the analyses sections, with tricks and insights mainly associated with the so-called Hungarian chess school tradition.

I heartily recommend this book not only to those who are eager to boost their ELO-rating (does the dear reader know that dr. Árpád Élő was an American professor of Hungarian origin?) but also to coaching colleagues (including the ones with a GM title), because 1.d4! The Chess Bible is an excellent source of great examples and useful drills. I will certainly use it in my own coaching practice.

Let me point out about the author that he comes from a dedicated chess family. His elder brother, IM Kristóf Juhász (aged 27) achieved his first GM norm in 2020, the year of the pandemic. His younger brother FM Ágoston Juhász (aged 15) was a U14 National Champion.

See you at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest in 2024!

József Horváth Grand Master and FIDE Senior Trainer

Budapest, January 2021

Introduction

Dear Reader,

Let me invite you on a special trip to the world of 1.d4 openings. Our journey has many stops which can, in turn, be further divided into smaller stages. You are advised not to skip any of these steps; instead, if you bear with me in the order I have presented the material, you will reap the maximum benefit by the end of the journey.

In what way is this book special? How can it make someone a better player? These are perfectly legitimate questions and whenever I buy a new chess book, I essentially ask the same ones.

The short answer is that this book will give you a comprehensive understanding of the chosen openings. Unlike many other books with a similar profile, it goes beyond pure theory and in addition to giving a great deal of practical advice, it touches on issues such as sample games, typical tactical strikes and, in the last chapter, end-games. On top of all this, a homework section enables you to immerse yourself in a given topic and achieve an in-depth understanding of it in your own time.

We follow this structure because as a coach, I know how important it is to receive as much guidance as possible on a new opening. Only this can lead to true mastery.

Let me recommend this book to any player who wants to learn more about closed openings, adopt a new approach to chess and build up a thorough and sophisticated repertoire. I have tested these openings with my students with good results, so I believe this book is suitable for anyone with an Elo rating from 1600-2500.

A few practical suggestions

- Whenever possible, use an actual board and actual pieces. Seeing all these openings in their physical reality will help you memorize them more effectively than simply reading them or viewing them on a computer screen.
- Once you study a new theoretical variation, try it out in an online game. Only once you have some experience and success with it should you play it in an actual tournament.

- Make sure you take the homework seriously. Analyzing the assigned games thoroughly will enhance your knowledge and familiarize you with other players' strategies.
- Repetition leads to mastery. It is paramount that you review the variations that have been covered from time to time. It is unlikely that every detail will stick in your memory the first time. I often tell my students that the sharper a given variation is, the more fatal any uncertainty or confusion can become. Theoretical knowledge is essential.
- Share your knowledge with others! This is a fun, exciting and practical method of repetition. Teaching new material to friends and fellow players is a powerful way of consolidating your own knowledge.

The 7 steps to acquire a new opening:

- 1) Studying the theoretical details and taking notes of the key motifs.
- 2) Analyzing sample games and relating them to the theory.
- 3) Memorizing typical opening tricks and motifs.
- 4) Trying it out in practice games (online or with a friend).
- 5) Thorough analysis of the practice games and correcting mistakes.
- 6) Detailed memorization of the theoretical variations. It should not be too difficult because by now you know several motifs, have some experience, and know the theoretical foundations.
- 7) Actually playing it in a tournament. This situation carries some risk, so you need to be as focused as possible.

The spirit in which we play our openings:

The following keywords characterize the opening systems I will be proposing for White in this repertoire book:

Ambitious: I present openings that aim to achieve an advantage in the first phase of the game. Because these lines differ from standard theory, your opponent will likely find themselves in uncharted territory.

Current: We focus on modern openings only, ones that actually appear in the repertoire of today's leading grandmasters.

Shrewd: As players, we want to have the knowledge and confidence of a professor, and we regard our opponents as students. If the students playing against us did not prepare adequately for the openings in this book, they will find themselves in deep trouble.

Practical: This is essential. Even if a particular line is excellent, it can be problematic if it leads to unforeseeable complications and you don't really get the main idea. For example Arkadij Naiditsch tends to play quite extraordinary openings but personally, I prefer simple, logical lines.

The structure of the book:

This book aims to provide a complete overview of a 1.d4 repertoire against five main openings (King's Indian Defense, Grünfeld Defense, Slav Defense, Benoni Defense, and Catalan Opening), offering analysis of classical games and typical tactical motifs to provide an in-depth understanding of the associated middlegames. A concluding chapter explores typical endgames that are likely to arise from 1.d4.

Each chapter includes:

A thorough discussion of a particular opening, answering questions such as what types of players choose it, which world champions played it, or how games typically proceed afterwards.

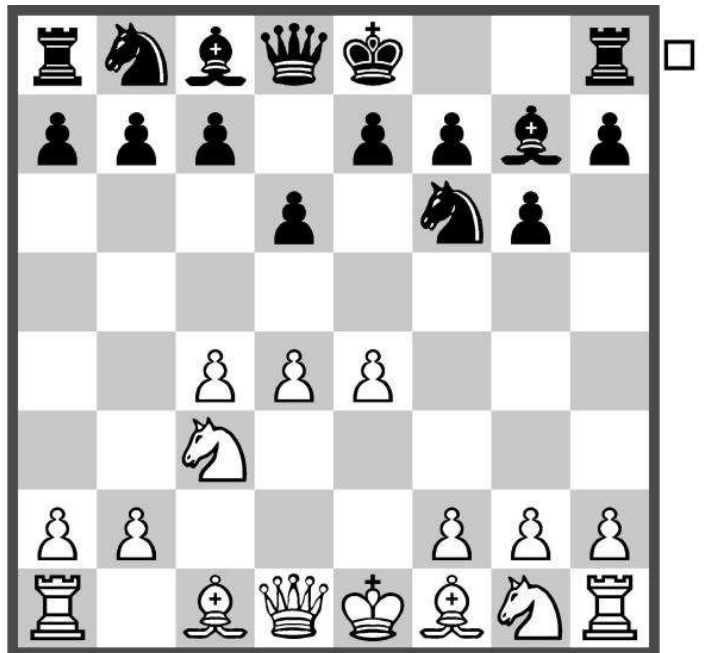
- Classical games by grandmasters
- Annotated games to demonstrate how White can play 1.d4
- Examples and analysis
- Typical tactical motifs
- Exercises for individual practice
- Tips against the given opening



The King's Indian Defense

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 g6

3. ♘c3 ♙g7 4. e4 d6



Chapter Guide

Chapter 1 – The King's Indian Defense

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Introduction

These days the King's Indian Defense is one of the most popular variations with the Black pieces. It appears at all levels, from beginner club players all the way up to the strongest players in the world. Why is it so popular? Part of the answer is that Black's system is easy to memorize, and an active position can be achieved through schematic plans. It can be played positionally (for example with ...a5, ...♘a6, ...♘c5) and it can also be played with aggressive intentions on the kingside. Of course, much depends on White's setup.

The King's Indian falls into the category of modern openings quite clearly, because it concedes the center and a space advantage to White early on. It strives to compensate for White's space advantage through active piece play or a pawn storm.

The Soviet grandmasters have contributed to the King's Indian Defense significantly. Their detailed analyses helped them create plans and strategies that led them to many impressive victories. Alexander Konstantinopolsky, Isaac Boleslavsky and David Bronstein worked particularly hard on the development of this variation.

Of modern-day players, Ding Liren, Teimour Radjabov and Hikaru Nakamura are the most notable ambassadors for the King's Indian Defense.

What types of players choose this opening?

They are usually active players with a preference for complications, who prefer to avoid trades and keep as many pieces in play as possible. Quite a few grandmasters choose this strategy to defeat weaker players, and young tactical players select it with the hope of impressive kingside attacks.

Is it considered to be a correct opening?

Yes of course. It should be noted, however, that modern engines typically assess it as a comfortable advantage for White, mainly because of the space advantage and having more room to maneuver. White has many possibilities to choose from, for example a wild game with the Four Pawns Attack, or a calmer game with the fianchetto variation, or else simply choosing to occupy the center and develop.

How should White relate to this opening?

We should be happy about our space advantage, as we often have to struggle greatly to achieve it in other variations. Let's select a variation which limits Black's options, so that our preparation becomes easier. Finally, let's follow our great predecessors who have had tremendous success against the King's Indian Defense. Petrosian, Korchnoi and Kramnik spring to mind, but of course there are many others too.

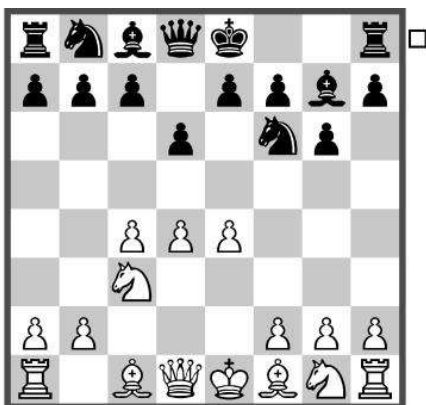
Let's get down to details.

The Petrosian variation is one of the most classical systems for White, leading to a clear space advantage. Due to the closed center, White can select a suitable game plan more easily and Black's play becomes more predictable.

ECO Code: E60-E99. Using this code makes it easier to search for specific motifs within a given opening rather than search for a particular position in ChessBase.

Model games (I)

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♘c3 ♙g7 4. e4 d6



Position after: 4... d6

This is the starting position of the King's Indian Defense. We can reach this position from 1.c4 or even from 1.

e4 g6 2.d4 ♙g7 3.c4 d6 4.♘c3 ♘f6. Now White can choose from many different setups like ♘f3, ♙e2 (classical main line) or f3, ♙e3 (Sämisch variation) or ♙e2, ♙g5 (Averbakh system) or ♙d3, ♘ge2 or finally, the most ambitious Four Pawns Attack. I believe the classical ♘f3, ♙e2 system is best as it develops the pieces to their natural squares and keeps White's position flexible.

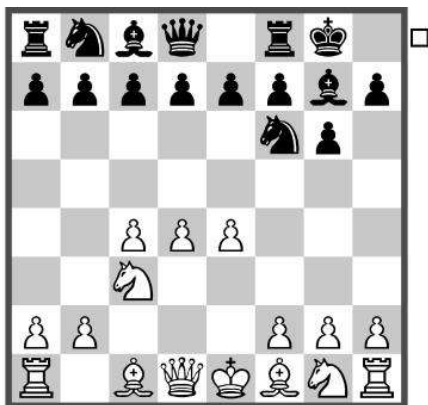
Before we start to work on the theory of the King's Indian Defense, I would like to show you four example games. Please note that we are not going to play the same line as White, but I still

think it is necessary to have a basic knowledge of typical ideas, plans and maneuvers.

♟ Letelier Martner, Rene
♚ Fischer, Robert James
🌐 Leipzig 1960

Let's begin with what is arguably the most famous King's Indian game ever from Black's point of view.

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♘c3 ♙g7 4. e4 O-O!?



Position after: 4... O-O!?

A tricky move order, tempting White into playing e5. The idea is that although White can create a big center with pawns on f4, e5, d4 and c4, this center can then be undermined with moves like ...d6 and ...c5 (and possibly ...f6) to favorably open up the diagonal for the g7-bishop and enjoy a pleasant position with a lead in development.

5. e5

I don't like this move. According to modern theory, White should play ♙g5 followed by a quick ♚d2 as Laszlo Szabo played against Fischer in the same Olympiad.

5. ♙g5 d6 [5... h6 6. ♙e3 d6 7. h3± White will win a very important tempo with ♚d2.] 6. ♚d2 Now Black cannot kick the bishop with ...h6 anymore.

5... ♘e8 6. f4 d6

Black starts his plan immediately, aware that White has only one piece developed so an attack on the e- and d-files would be really strong.

7. ♙e3

7. exd6



Position after: 7. exd6

Question: Would you take with the e-pawn, c-pawn, knight or queen? 7... ♘xd6! The knight will go to f5 and put pressure on the d4-pawn. We should improve the position of our worst-placed piece which was the passive e8-knight. [7... exd6 8. ♘f3; 7... cxd6 8. ♙e2] 8. ♘f3 ♙g4 9. ♙e2 ♘f5 10. d5

c6 with a slightly better position for Black.

7... c5!

A dynamic pawn sacrifice.

8. dxc5

8. Nf3 cxd4 9. Qxd4 Nc6 gives Black everything he wants.

8... Nc6 9. cxd6 exd6 10. Ne4 Qf5
11. Ng3

11. Nxd6 Nxd6 12. Qxd6



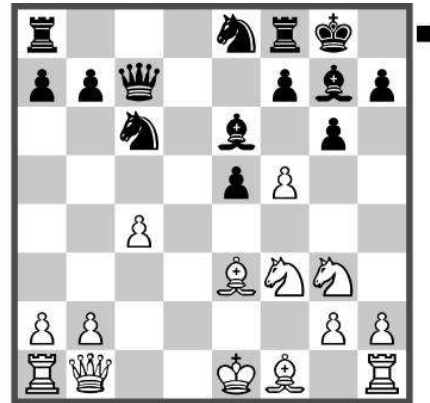
Position after: 12. Qxd6

Question: would you exchange queens, or should we play ... Qe8 ? 12... Qe8 ! with the idea of ... f6 and ... Rd8 13. Nf3 f6 Black is better.

11... Qe6 12. Nf3 Qc7 13. Qb1

13. exd6 This move only helps Black because the king on e1 will be exposed. 13... Nxd6 14. Rc1 [14. Qc1 Rfe8 15. Qf2 Nf5 16. Nxf5 Qxf5 +] 14... Rfe8 +

13... dxe5 14. f5



Position after: 14. f5

White tries to close the center.

14... e4!

Great move!

Fischer was the master of intermediate moves as we can see right here.

15. fxe6 exf3 16. gxf3 f5

16... fxe6 also looks good.

17. f4 Nf6 18. Qe2 Rfe8 19. Qf2

The last mistake. After this move Black wins easily.

Better was 19. 0-0 Rxe6 20. Qc5 b6 21. Qa3 .

19... Rxe6 20. Re1 Rae8 21. Qf3

Question: How would you continue the attack?



Position after: 21. Qf3



Position after: 8... Ne7

21... ♖xe3! 22. ♖xe3 ♖xe3 23. ♔xe3
♙xf4+!

A nice finish!

23... ♙xf4+ 24. ♔f2 [24. ♔xf4? ♙h6#]
24... ♘g4+ 25. ♔g2 ♘e3+ 26. ♔f2
♘d4+

0-1

♗ So, Wesley (2779)
♜ Nakamura, Hikaru (2814)
♁ Saint Louis 2015

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♘c3 ♙g7 4. e4
d6 5. ♘f3 0-0 6. ♙e2 e5 7. 0-0

7. d5 will be my recommendation
when we come to the theory section.

7... ♘c6 8. d5 ♘e7

This is the starting position of the Mar
del Plata variation.

We have reached a typical pawn struc-
ture. What are the main plans here for
White and Black? I always tell my stu-
dents that in closed positions, the
pawn structure helps you to find the
best plan.

White's plans: 1. Break on the queen-
side with c4-c5-cxd6 and later try to in-
filtrate down the c-file. 2. Eventually
play g4 to gain space on the kingside
and slow down Black's attacking plans.
3. Trade light-squared bishops to re-
duce Black's attacking potential. Black's
plans: 1. Create a kingside attack with
...f5-f4 and ...g5-g4 followed by either
...g3 or ...gxf3. 2. Trade dark-squared
bishops with ...♔h7 and ...♙h6. 3. Play
...c5 to slow down White's queenside
play.

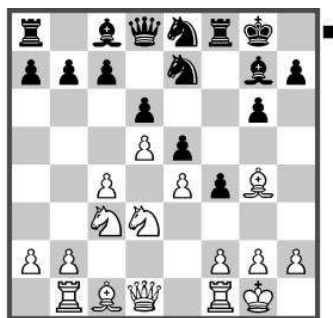
9. ♘e1!?

White wants to transfer his knight to
d3 in order to support the c5 break and
also clears the way for f2-f3 to
strengthen his pawn structure.

9. b4 This is called the Bayonet attack, championed by Kramnik who played it several times with excellent results.

9... ♞d7

9... ♞e8 10. ♞d3 f5 11. ♖b1 f4?! [♙11... ♞f6] 12. ♙g4!



Position after: 12. ♙g4!

The exchange of light-squared bishops is really advantageous for White from a positional point of view. White typically opts for a g2-f3-e4-d5-c4 pawn chain, so it's a good idea to trade off the bad bishop.

10. f3 f5 11. ♙e3 f4 12. ♙f2 g5

Black starts his usual kingside attack.

13. ♞d3 ♞g6

13... b6 Question: Is it a good idea to prevent White's c5 move with ...b6? No, because it weakens the c6-square and after White's logical continuation of b4 and c5, the position is going to become even more open on the queenside, which is White's dream.



Position after: 13... b6

14. b4 a5 15. a3 ♞f6 16. c5±

14. c5 ♞f6

14... dxc5 This move just makes White's life easier. 15. ♞xc5 ♞xc5 16. ♙xc5 ♖f6 17. ♙b3 with the idea of ♖ad1 and d6.

15. ♖c1



Position after: 15. ♖c1

Try to find the best plan for Black.

15... ♖f7!

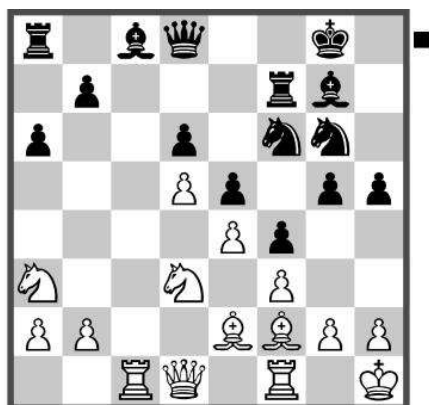
This is a key move in such positions. Black needs to secure the c7-square and he wants to regroup his pieces on

the kingside. The rook will land on g7 from where it will put pressure on White's king, and the dark-squared bishop will go to f8 to defend the d6-pawn.

15... h5 would be way too naive: 16. cxd6 cxd6 17. ♖b5 a6 [17... ♙d7? 18. ♘xd6; 17... ♜f7 18. ♘xa7±] 18. ♘c7 ♜b8 19. ♙a7±.

16. ♙h1 h5 17. cxd6 cxd6 18. ♘b5 a6!
19. ♘a3

19. ♘a7 ♙d7 The knight on a7 is not a useful piece.



Position after: 19. ♘a3

19... b5!

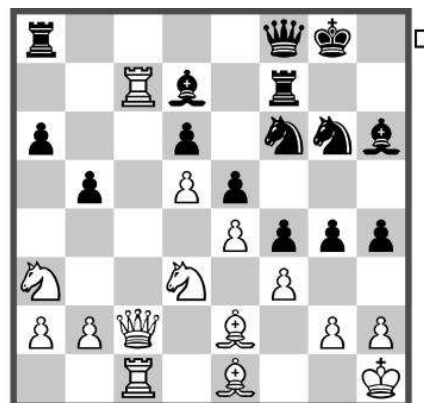
Black needs to stop the strong ♘c4–b6 maneuver.

19... g4? 20. ♘c4±

20. ♜c6 g4 21. ♙c2

White is trying to enter Black's position down the only open file.

21... ♙f8 22. ♜c1 ♙d7 23. ♜c7 ♙h6
24. ♙e1 h4!



Position after: 24... h4!

Black is much quicker than White, who has not managed to create serious threats on the other side of the board.

25. fxg4?

25. ♙b4 h3↑ It's much easier to play with Black.

25... f3! 26. gxf3

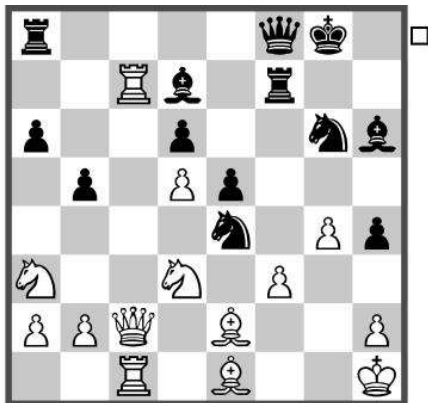
How should Black continue his attack?

26. ♙xf3 ♙xc1 27. ♙xc1 ♘xd5 28. exd5 ♜xf3 29. gxf3 ♙xf3+ 30. ♙g1 ♙xg4+ 31. ♙h1 ♙f3+ 32. ♙g1 ♙h3 wins for Black.

26... ♘xe4!!

A genius idea.

Black needs to open up the position as soon as possible to try to mate the lonely king on h1.

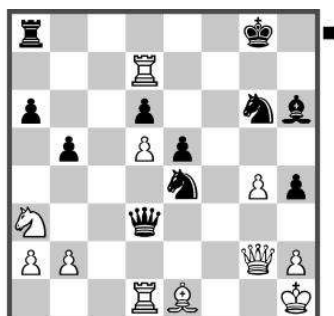


Position after: 26... Nxe4!!

27. Rf1

A) 27. fxe4? Rf1+ 28. Kg2 e3!!
 Bringing a new piece into the attack.
 29. Qxf1 h3+ 30. Qxh3 Qf3+ 31. Qg3
 Qxg4#

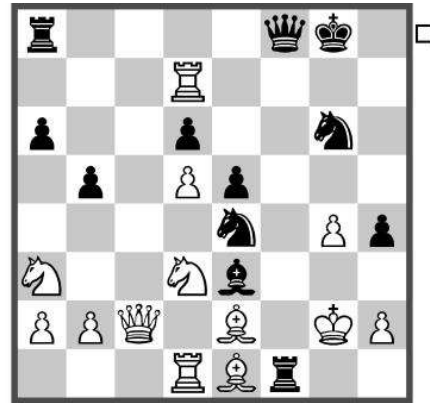
B) 27. Rxd7 is the engine's first idea but after 30 seconds it sees the following variation: 27... Rxf3! 28. Qxf3 Qxf3+ 29. Qg2 Qxd3 30. Rf1



Position after: 30. Rf1

30... e2!! Again the "bad" bishop plays an important role. 31. Qxd2 Nf4
 32. Qe1 [32. Qxf4 Qxd1+ 33. Qg1 Qf3+ 34. Qg2 Nf2+ 35. Qg1 Nh3+ 36. Qh1 Qd1+ 37. Qg1 Qxg1#] 32...
 Nf2+! 33. Qxf2 Qe4+ 34. Qg1 Nh3+ 35. Qf1 Nxf2+ Black wins.

27... Rxf3 28. Rxd7 Rf1+ 29. Kg2
 e3!



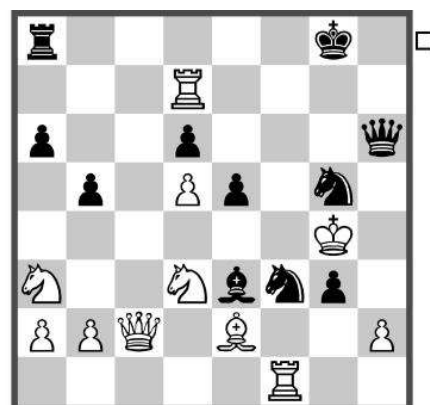
Position after: 29... e3!

White cannot survive.

30. Qg3

30. Qxf1 h3+ 31. Qxh3 Qxf1+ 32. Qg2 Ng5+ 33. Qg3 Qf4+ 34. Nxf4
 exf4# Nice mate!

30... hxg3 31. Rxf1 Nh4+ 32. Qh3
 Qh6 33. g5 Nxg5+ 34. Qg4 Nh3!



Position after: 34... Nh3!

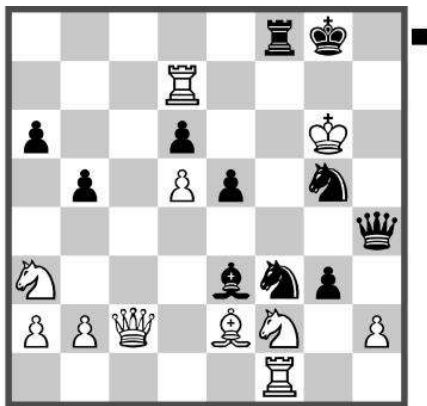
The rest is easy. In these kinds of positions, king safety is much more important than the material count.

35. ♖f2

A) 35. hxg3? ♕h3#

B) 35. ♗xf3? ♕h3#

35... ♕h4+ 36. ♖f5 ♖f8+ 37. ♖g6



Position after: 37. ♖g6

37... ♖f6+!

Or 37... ♘f7! 38. ♖f5 ♘d4+ 39. ♖g6 ♕g5#.

38. ♖xf6 ♘e4+ 39. ♖g6 ♕g5#

What a game!

0-1

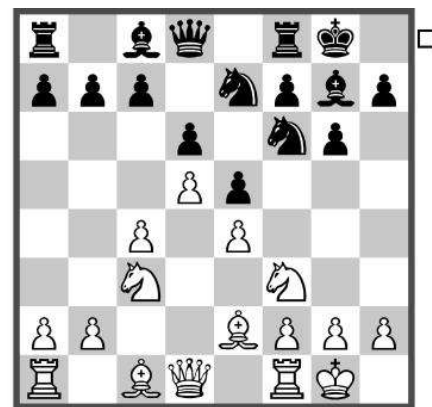
Now let's see an example where White successfully manages to proceed with his plan. If you want to master these positional plans with White, I advise you to analyze Kramnik's games.

♖ Kramnik, Vladimir (2801)

♜ Grischuk, Alexander (2761)

🌐 Moscow 2012

1. ♘f3 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♘c3 ♗g7 4. e4 d6 5. d4 0-0 6. ♗e2 e5 7. 0-0 ♘c6 8. d5 ♘e7



Position after: 8... ♘e7

Again the Mar del Plata variation, but this time White plays something else:

9. b4!?

The Bayonet Attack is a modern approach to begin queenside play as soon as possible and save time by leaving the knight on f3. 9. ♘d2 or 9. ♘e1 are other approaches.

9... ♘h5!

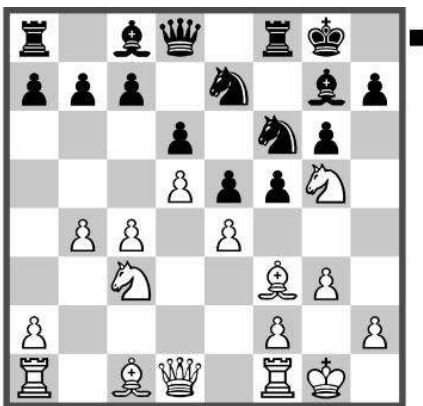
This is Kotronias's recommendation in his repertoire book.

9... a5 10. ♖a3 axb4 11. ♗xb4 b6 12. a4 White will be able to open the a-file.

10. g3

10. ♖e1 is the main move here but I believe that after 10... f5 11. ♘g5 ♘f6 12. f3 ♔h8 Black is okay.

10... f5 11. ♘g5 ♘f6 12. ♖f3



Position after: 12. ♖f3

12... c6

12... fxe4 13. ♘cxe4 ♘xe4 14. ♗xe4±

13. ♗g2

Now White has a big space advantage and it is not so easy to see where Black's counterplay will come from.

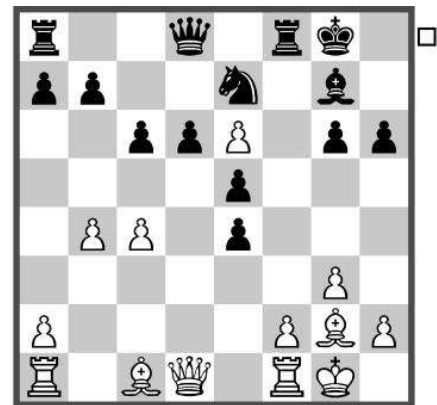
13... h6

13... cxd5 14. cxd5 This exchange usually only helps White.

14. ♘e6 ♗xe6 15. dxe6

The e6-pawn is weak but it's very hard to attack it.

15... ♘xe4 16. ♘xe4 fxe4



Position after: 16... fxe4

17. b5!

White gains more space and also prepares ♗a3 to put pressure on Black's weakest pawn.

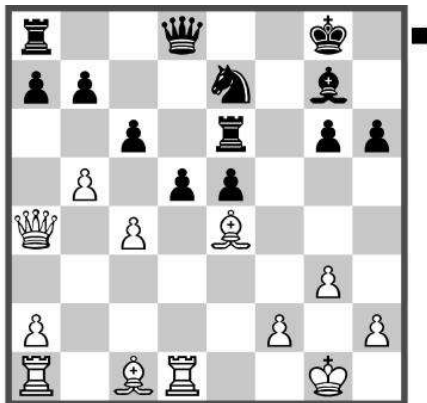
17. ♗xe4?! would be too mechanical. 17... d5 18. cxd5 cxd5 19. ♗g2 ♔d6 Black will take the e6-pawn soon.

17... ♖f6 18. ♗xe4 ♖xe6 19. ♔a4

Chess is a team sport, so we should use all of our pieces.

19... d5 20. ♖d1!

Active piece play in the style of Fischer.



Position after: 20. ♖d1!

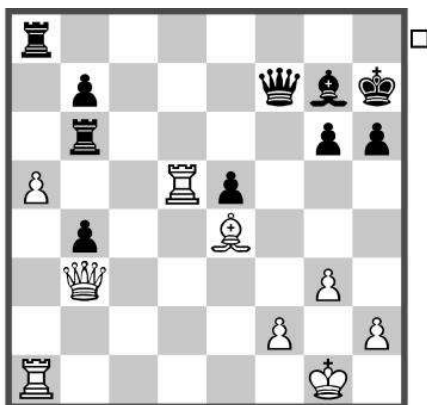
20... ♔h7

20... d4 21. bxc6 bxc6 22. ♖b1 White has more than enough compensation for the pawn. We have control over the only open file and Black's light squares are really weak.

21. cxd5 cxd5 22. ♕b3 ♖b6 23. a4 a6
24. ♗a3 axb5 25. ♗xe7 ♕xe7 26.
♖xd5

White is nearly winning - just look at the difference between the bishops on e4 and g7!

26... b4 27. a5 ♕f7



Position after: 27... ♕f7

Question: How should White create weaknesses in Black's position?

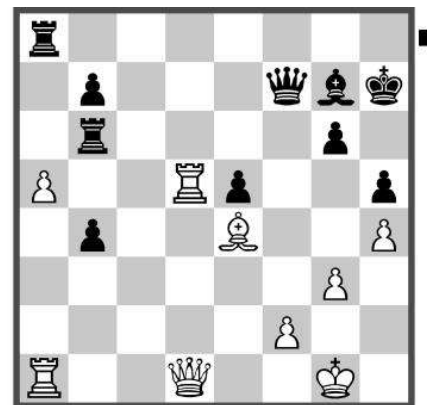
28. h4!

Excellent move! Black is unable to adequately prevent the threat of h5.

28... h5

28... ♖f6 29. h5+-

29. ♕d1!



Position after: 29. ♕d1!

A nice double attack to end the game. The rook on b6 and the pawn on h5 are hanging at the same time.

1-0

Let me share my own experience with you.

I played this game against a talented French Fide Master in the European Youth Chess Championship.