

Cheparinov's 1.d4!

A Complete Repertoire for White

Volume 1

King's Indian and Grünfeld

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King's Indian and Grünfeld

Ivan Cheparinov

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Key to Symbols

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

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Preface

Deciding to write a chess book came as a surprise to me. First, because I am still an active player, and second, because I was not sure if I could write a book at all. When Thinkers Publishing contacted me I had some doubts about whether I should do it, but I really liked the idea of this project, so I told myself that I should take up the challenge.

For many years I have been known as a good theoretician, not only because I was a second of former World Champion Veselin Topalov for seven years, but also through my own games.

I take this as an opportunity to share my knowledge of openings and how I analyze them. I started this book with the idea that I wanted it to be useful for all levels of playing strength, from amateurs to even top grandmasters. I am sure that readers will notice the difference from many other openings books.

Besides, I think now is the time to reveal something about my opening preparation. In the last ten years or more I have not read a single book on the openings. I did this on purpose, my idea being that I wanted to have my own opinion about the lines I was playing. Of course I have still worked with Veselin and some other strong players, but it is kind of ironic, because now I am writing such a book.

In this first volume of *Cheparinov's 1.d4!* readers will find my own way of working on openings, and the way I analyze. Many of the lines and conclusions in this book are based not only on computer evaluation, but also on the practical point of view. Of course all the lines have been deeply analyzed by strong engines, and although I am sure they are not perfect, the most important thing is that all evaluations are based on my own understanding and knowledge of chess. I believe this book should be used as a starting point, from which to build progress in opening preparation.

In the book I reveal many new ideas and concepts. The first volume of the series focuses on 3.f3 against the Grünfeld and King's Indian, two of the most popular openings against 1.d4. I tried to discuss all possible lines for Black after 3.f3, but of course focused on the most principled ones. Most of the lines are very double-edged.

I have revealed some very interesting options for Black as well. This is one of the things that I do in my opening preparation - I look at the openings for both sides. I believe this is very important, because it gives you a realistic view of things. For White I tried to give the lines that I believe are not only the best, but also give Black problems to solve during the game.

I really hope that readers will use this book in the best possible way for their opening preparation, and take something from my understanding of the openings and chess in general. In the next volumes I will try to give the same level of commitment to the lines and opening ideas I reveal.

I want to thank Thinkers Publishing for giving me this opportunity to write for them. I am very grateful for their support throughout the entire writing process.

I really hope that readers will benefit from my work.

Enjoy!

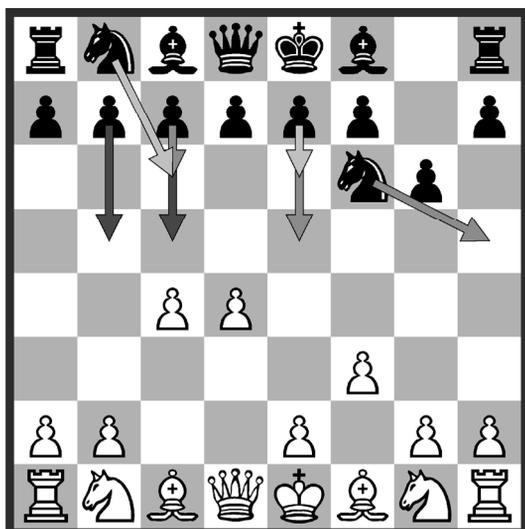
Ivan Cheparinov
November 2019





Early Sidelines

1.d4 ♞f6 2.c4 g6 3.f3



Chapter Guide

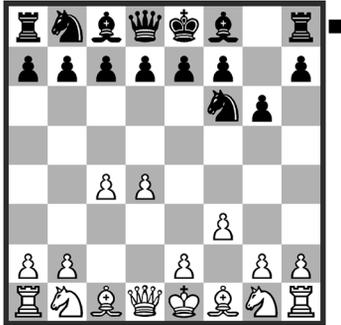
Chapter 1 – Early Sidelines

1.d4 f6 2.c4 g6 3.f3

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| a) 3...c6?!, 3...e5?!, 3...  h5?! | 11 |
| b) 3...  c6 | 14 |
| c) 3...e6 | 22 |
| d) 3...e6 (with 10...  xe4) | 29 |
| e) 3...c5 4.d5 b5 | 33 |

a) 3...c6?!, 3...e5?!, 3...♞h5?!

1. d4 ♞f6 2. c4 g6 3. f3



Position after: 3. f3

Instead of entering the Grünfeld or King's Indian, Black has some alternatives. We will discuss all these sidelines in this chapter.

3... ♞h5?!

The idea of this move is similar to 3...e5. Black has just changed the move order.

A) 3... c6?! Black wants to play ...d5, but he's not in time, and White will get a lot of space in the center. 4. e4 d5 5. e5 ♞fd7 6. ♞c3



Position after: 6. ♞c3

6... dxc4 [6... ♞b6 is very passive in view of 7. c5 ♞6d7 8. h4 b6 9. cxb6 axb6 10. h5 ♞g7 11. ♞e3± with a clear advantage.] 7. ♞xc4 ♞b6 8. ♞b3



Position after: 8. ♞b3

8... ♞a6 [Or 8... ♞g7 9. ♞ge2 0-0 10. ♞e3±.] 9. h4! h5 [9... ♞c7 10. h5±] 10. ♞g5 ♞g7 [10... ♞c7 11. ♞e4±] 11. ♞ge2 ♞c7 12. ♞f4± White has a clear advantage.

B) 3... e5?! This gambit move is very dubious. Black tries to open the position and exploit the weakened a7-g1 diagonal. 4. dxe5 ♞h5 Black's idea is clear: he wants to play ...♞h4+ if possible and gain some activity with ...♞c6 and ...♞c5. 5. ♞h3!



Position after: 5. ♞h3!

This is probably not the only move for White, but I believe it is the best. The knight will be perfectly placed on f2. White wants to protect his king, then develop with e4 and ♖e2. Development is more important than protecting the pawn on e5. 5... ♘c6 [5... ♙h4+? is hopeless: 6. g3 ♙xc4 7. ♘c3 ♖b4 8. ♖d2+-. e4 and ♘d5 are unstoppable.] 6. ♘c3 ♘xe5 7. ♘f2



Position after: 7. ♘f2

7... ♖g7 [7... ♖c5?! The bishop doesn't do much here. 8. e3 d6 9. ♖e2 ♘f6 10. 0-0±; or 7... f5 8. f4 ♘c6 9. g3 ♖g7 10. ♙d2 d6 11. b3 0-0 12. ♖b2±] 8. e4 d6 9. ♖e2



Position after: 9. ♖e2

White's play is very easy. Now the threat is f4.

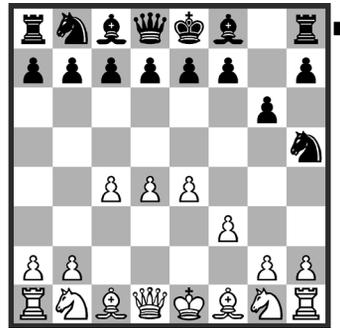
9... ♘f6 10. 0-0 0-0 11. ♖e3 ♖e6 12. b3 ♘fd7 13. ♖c1 ♙h8 14. ♙d2±



Position after: 14. ♙d2±

White had a clear advantage in the game Simantsev, M (2424) – Gasanov, Z (2195), Marmaris 2018.

4. e4



Position after: 4. e4

In my opinion this is the simplest way to get an advantage. White wants to develop his pieces and prove that the knight on h5 is not doing much.

The idea behind 3... ♘h5 is that if 4. g4 e5, taking the piece with 5. gxh5? is bad because of 5... ♖b4+!



Position after: 5... ♖b4+!

6. ♔f2 [6. ♘c3 ♙h4+ 7. ♔d2 exd4] 6... ♙h4+ 7. ♔e3 [7. ♔g2 gxh5+] 7... d5 8. cxd5 ♕f5+ with a winning attack in Khodashenas, M (2405) – Mosa-deghpour, M (2437), Tehran 2016.

4... e5 5. ♕e3 d6 6. ♘e2 ♕g7 7. ♘bc3 0-0

7... exd4 8. ♕xd4±

8. g4!



Position after: 8. g4!

Exploiting the poor position of the knight on h5.

8... ♘f4

Retreating is not very promising either.

9. ♘xf4 exf4 10. ♕xf4 f5 11. gx5 gxf5 12. ♙d2 fxe4 13. 0-0-0



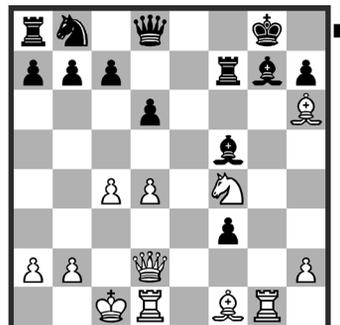
Position after: 13. 0-0-0

White is attacking with all his forces.

13... exf3 14. ♕g5 ♙e8 15. ♖g1 ♕f5 16. ♕h6 ♖f7

16... ♕g6 17. h4+–

17. ♘d5 ♙d8 18. ♘f4+–

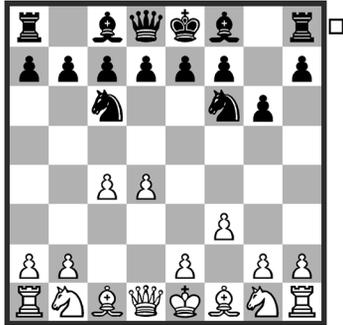


Position after: 18. ♘f4+–

With a very strong attack.

b) 3... ♞c6

1. d4 ♞f6 2. c4 g6 3. f3 ♞c6



Position after: 3... ♞c6

This move is the choice of many top players. The main idea is to attack the central pawns, and to prepare ...e5. Black also provokes White to push his pawns forward, to try to break later with ...c6 or ...e6.

4. d5

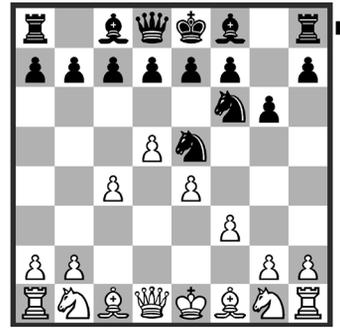
The most principled response for White. The other move is 4. ♞c3 d5.

4... ♞e5 5. e4

(see diagram next column)

5... d6

5... e6?! is very dubious. Black tries to break White's center immediately, but is not yet prepared for it.



Position after: 5. e4

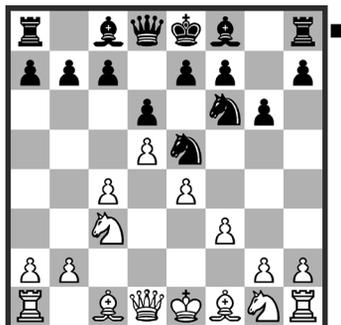
6. f4! Exploiting the problems of the knight on e5. 6... ♞xe4 7. fxe5 ♞h4+ 8. g3 ♞xg3



Position after: 8... ♞xg3

The complications are clearly in White's favor. 9. ♞f3 [9. hxg3 ♞xh1 10. ♞f3 ♞g7 11. ♞c3 0-0 ♞e3 d6 13. exd6 cxd6 14. ♞f2± is also good.] 9... ♞e4+ 10. ♞f2 ♞xh1+ 11. ♞g2 ♞g7 12. ♞c3 ♞g4+ 13. ♞xh1± Black has no development and White's two pieces are clearly better than Black's rook.

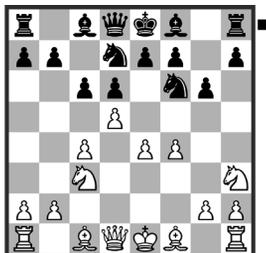
6. ♞c3



Position after: 6. ♖c3

6... ♗g7

6... c6?! In general I don't like this plan for Black; his initiative is only temporary. 7. f4 ♗ed7 8. ♗h3!



Position after: 8. ♗h3!

The typical transfer of the knight. We will see this plan later in the main line. 8... ♗c5 9. ♗f2 ♖b6 10. ♗e2 ♗g7 11. ♗f3 White protects the e4-pawn and wants to castle on the next move. [11. ♖c2 is also possible.] 11... cxd5 12. cxd5

(see analysis diagram next column)

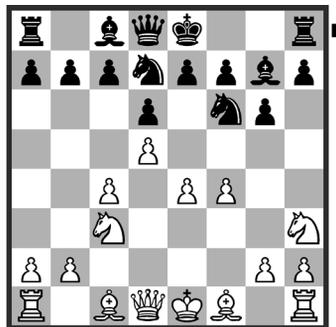
12... 0-0 [If 12... h5 White should stop ... ♗g4 with 13. h3.]



Position after: 12. cxd5

13. 0-0± The black position is very passive, for example after 13... ♗d7 14. ♖b1! is very strong, preparing b4 and ♗e3. 14... ♖fc8 15. ♗e3 ♖c7 16. ♗d4±

7. f4 ♗ed7 8. ♗h3!

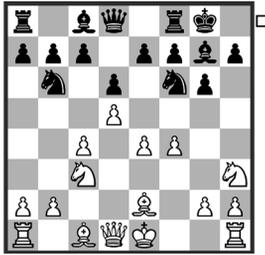


Position after: 8. ♗h3!

A very important maneuver. The knight is perfectly placed on f2 where it protects the e4-pawn and is also closer to the king.

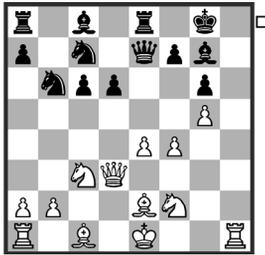
8... 0-0 9. ♗e2 ♗c5

The main move. Another option is 9... ♗b6.



Position after: 9... Nb6

Black wants to break with ...e6, take once on d5 and then strike in the center again with ...c6. 10. Nf2 e6 11. g4!? A very direct approach. White gains more space and also starts a direct attack against the black king. [11. 0-0 exd5 12. cxd5 c6 13. dxc6 bxc6↪ is not clear.] 11... exd5 12. cxd5 c6 Black continues with his plan. 13. g5 Nf2 14. dxc6 bxc6 15. h4 Nc7 16. h5 Re8 17. hxg6 hxg6 18. Qd3 Qe7



Position after: 18... Qe7

Thus far we have been following the game Berczes, D (2492)–Xiong, J (2550), Dallas 2015. White could continue 19. Qf1 followed by Qg3-h4. The position remains very complicated, but White definitely has a strong initiative.

10. Nf2



Position after: 10. Nf2

Here is the first critical position for Black. He needs to decide how to break in the center, with ...c6 or ...e6.

10... e6

A) 10... Re8?! This prophylactic move is just a loss of an important tempo. 11. 0-0



Position after: 11. 0-0

A1) 11... e6? is just bad: 12. e5! dxe5 13. fxe5 Nfd7 14. b4 Qxe5 [14... Na6 15. Nce4+] 15. Ng4! Qxc3 16. Nh6+ Qg7 17. Rxf7+ Qh8 18. Rf3+ and White wins.

A2) 11... e5



Position after: 11... e5

12. f5! A very nice positional sacrifice. White blocks Black's bishop on g7 and also starts very strong play on the light squares. 12... gxf5 13. exf5



Position after: 13. exf5

13... ♖xf5 [13... e4 doesn't change much: 14. ♗g5 ♖xf5 15. ♘g4 ♖xg4 16. ♖xg4 ♗e5 17. ♖f5±.] 14. ♘g4! ♖xg4 15. ♖xg4 ♘xg4 16. ♗xg4 ♗d7 17. ♗f5±



Position after: 17. ♗f5±

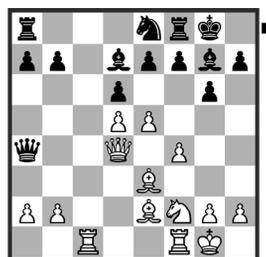
With a very strong attack in Ding, L (2654) – Areshchenko, A (2682), Ningbo 2011.

B) 10... c6 This is similar to 6...c6. 11. ♖e3 cxd5 12. cxd5 ♗a5 13. 0-0 ♖d7



Position after: 13... ♖d7

14. e5 ♘e8 15. ♗d4 [15. ♖d4 was also possible.] 15... ♘a4 16. ♘xa4 ♗xa4 17. ♗ac1

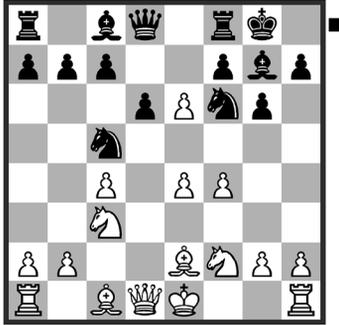


Position after: 17. ♗ac1

White had a small but stable plus in Ding, L (2804) – Svidler, P (2756), Porto Carras 2018.

C) 10... e5 leads to a transposition after 11. dxe6.

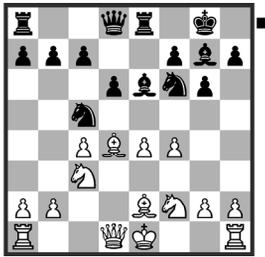
11. dxe6



Position after: 11. dxe6

11... fxe6

11... ♖xe6?! 12. ♖e3 ♜e8 13. ♖d4 is worse.



Position after: 13. ♖d4

White wants to castle on the next move. 13... ♜fxe4 The only active way for Black. [If 13... ♜e7 14. 0-0 ♜ad8 15. ♜e1 White has a very stable advantage.] 14. ♜fxe4 ♜xe4 15. ♜xe4 ♖xc4 16. ♜c3

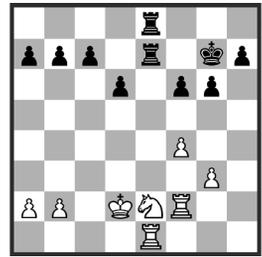
(see analysis diagram next column)

Black does not have enough compensation.



Position after: 16. ♜c3

16... ♜h4+ [Or 16... ♖xd4 17. ♜xd4 d5 18. ♜f2 d4 19. 0-0+-.] 17. g3 ♜h3 18. ♖xg7 ♜g2 19. ♜f1 ♖xe2 20. ♜xe2 ♖xg7 21. ♜d3 ♜e7 22. ♖d2 ♜ae8 23. ♜ae1 ♜xh2 24. ♜d4+ f6 25. ♜f2 ♜xf2 26. ♜xf2±



Position after: 26. ♜xf2±

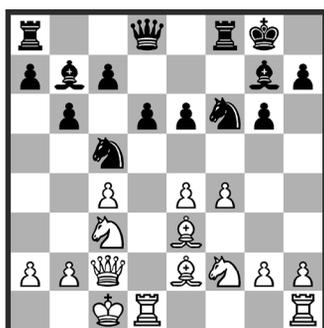
Black's three pawns are not full compensation for the piece.

12. ♖e3 b6

Black wants to put pressure on the center and e4-pawn.

13. ♜c2 ♖b7 14. 0-0-0!

In my opinion this is much more unpleasant for Black than short castling.



Position after: 14. 0-0-0!

White prepares h4–h5.

14... ♞fd7

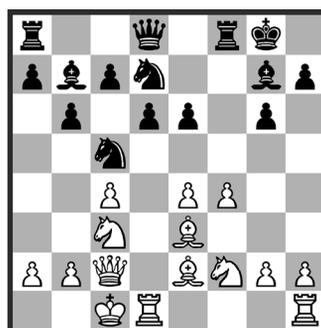
The idea is ...♙xc3, after which White can't take with the queen because the pawn on e4 is hanging.

The other move is 14... ♙e7 15. h4 ♞h5
Trying to stop h5. 16. ♙xh5 gxh5 17. ♖hg1!→



Position after: 17. ♖hg1!→

A very strong move which prepares g4. White has a very strong initiative, for example 17... ♙h8 18. g4 hxg4 19. ♞xg4! [or 19. ♖xg4 ♖g8 20. ♖dg1] 19... ♖g8 20. h5 h6 21. ♖g3 ♖af8 22. ♖dg1± and Black is under serious pressure.

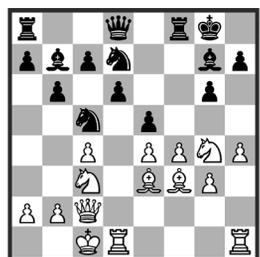


Position after: 14... ♞fd7

15. h4!

White doesn't want to protect the pawn on e4. It is much more important to open the h-file.

15. ♙f3 ♙h6! 16. g3 e5 17. ♞g4 ♙g7
18. h4 is less clear.



Position after: 18. h4

Wojtaszek, R (2734) – Baron, T (2541), Skopje 2015. Here Black needed to stop White's play with 18... h5! 19. ♞f2 ♞e6 20. ♞h3 ♙e8↔. The position is double-edged.

15... ♙xc3

The only way for counterplay.