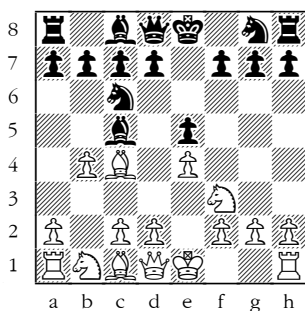


# The Evans Gambit

Compiled by Steven Craig Miller

1. e4 e5  
 2. ♟f3 ♟c6  
 3. ♞c4 ♞c5  
 4. b4



The *Evans Gambit* was “invented” by Captain William Davies Evans (1790-1872) in the 1820s. White sacrifices a pawn for rapid piece development.

4. ... ♞xb4

(a) Black can also decline the gambit with: 4. ... ♞b6 5. a4 a6 6. ♟c3 ♟f6 7. ♟d5 ♟xd5 (7. ... ♟xe4 8. ♞e2 ♟f6 9. ♟b6 ±) 8. exd5 ♟d4 (8. ... e4? 9. dxc6 exf3 10. 0-0 0-0 11. ♞f3 dxc6 12. ♞b2±) 9. a5 ♞a7 10. d6 (10. 0-0?! ♟f3 11. ♞f3 d6 ♞) cxd6 11. 0-0 0-0 12. ♟xd4 ♞xd4 13. c3 ♞a7 14. ♞f3 ♞ Lékó [ECO & MCO-14].

(b) More unusual is: 4. ... d5 5. exd5 ♟xb4 6. 0-0 ♟f6 7. ♟xe5 ♟bxd5 8. d4 ♞d6 9. ♞g5 c6 10. ♟d2 0-0 11. ♞f3 h6 12. ♞h4 ♞e6 13. ♞ab1 ±, Schiffers—Pillsbury, Nürnberg 1896.

(c) Also possible is: 4. ... ♟xb4, but after 5. c3 ♟c6, this line merely transposes into line B (4. ... ♞xb4 5. c3 ♞c5).

5. c3

Now Black has three major choices as to where to place the bishop.

A) 5. ... ♞a5 B) 5. ... ♞c5 C) 5. ... ♞e7

A

5. ... ♞a5

Now White has three major choices here:

A1) 6. d4 A2) 6. 0-0 A3) 6. ♞b3

A1

6. d4 exd4  
 7. 0-0 ♟ge7

7. ... dxc3 8. ♞b3 and now:

(a) 8. ... ♞f6 9. e5 ♞g6 10. ♟c3 ♟ge7 11. ♞a3 0-0 12. ♞ad1 ♞e8 13. ♞d3 ♞h5 14. ♟e4 ♟e5 15. ♟e5 ♞e5 16. ♞b2 ♞e6 17. ♞b5 ± Lasker [ECO].

(b) 8. ... ♞e7 9. ♟c3 ♞b4 10. ♞xf7 ♟d8 11. ♞b2 ♞xb3 12. ♞xb3 ♟f6 13. ♟g5 ♞f8 14. ♟d5 ± Unzicker [ECO].

(c) 8. ... d6 8. cxd4 ♞b6 transposing into line B.

8. cxd4 d5  
 9. exd5 ♟xd5  
 10. ♞a3

(a) 10. ♟e5!? was suggested by Peters in Chess Informant 36/391.

(b) 10. ♞b3 ♞e6 11. ♞a3 (11. ♞xb7 ♟db4 12. ♞b5 0-0 13. ♞c6 ♞b8 14. ♞a7 ♟c6 15. ♞c5 ♞d5 ♞, Peters —36/391) ♞d7 12. ♞c1 ♟b6 13. ♞xe6 ♞xe6 14. ♞b5 a6 15. ♞g5 ∞, Harding & Cafferty 1997:53.

10. ... ♞e6  
 11. ♞b5 f6  
 12. ♞a4 ♞b6  
 13. ♞xc6+ bxc6  
 14. ♞xc6+ ♟f7 ♞

Botterill [MCO-14 & NCO].

**A2**

6. 0-0 d6

6. ... ♖f6 7. d4 ♗xe4 8. ♗xe5 0-0 9. ♖a3 d6  
10. ♗xc6 bxc6 11. ♖a4 ♗xc3 12. ♗xc3 ♗xc3  
13. ♖xc6 ♗e6 14. ♗d3 ♗d5 15. ♗e4 ♗b6 16.  
♖c2 ♖b8 17. ♗xh7 = Bilguer.

7. d4 ♗b6

This is the “Lasker’s Defense.”

(a) 7. ... exd4 8. cxd4 ♗b6 transposing into line B.

(b) 7. ... ♖f6 8. dxe5 ♗xe5 9. ♗xe5 dxe5 10. ♖b3 0-0 11. ♖a3 ♗xe4 12. ♗xf8 ∞, Harding & Cafferty 1997:135.

(c) 7. ... ♗g4 8. ♖a4 ♗xf3 9. gxf3 exd4 10. cxd4 ♖f6 11. ♗b5 ♖xf3 12. ♗xc6+ bxc6 13. ♗d2 ♗xd2 14. ♖xc6+ ♗e7 15. ♖xc7 with perpetual check and a drawn game.

8. dxe5 dxe5  
9. ♖b3 ♖f6  
10. ♗g5 ♖g6

11. ♗d5 ♗ge7 12. ♗xe7 ♖e7 13. ♗xc6 ♖xc6  
14. ♗xe5 ♖e6 15. ♗c4 ♖d8 16. ♖b4+ ♗e8  
17. ♗xb6 cxb6 = Estrin [MCO-14].

**A3**

6. ♖b3 ♖f6

6. ... ♖e7 7. d4 and now:

(a) 7. ... ♗xd4 8. ♗xd4 exd4 9. 0-0 ♗b6 10. e5 ±, Harding & Cafferty 1997:154.

(b) 7. ... ♗b6 8. ♗xe5 ♗xe5 9. dxe5 d6 10. 0-0 dxe5 11. ♗a3 ♖f6 12. ♗d2 ♗d7 ♞.

7. 0-0 ♗b6  
8. d4 d6

8. ... exd4 9. e5 ♖g6 10. cxd4 ♗xd4 11. ♗xd4 ♗xd4 12. ♗c3 ♗h6 13. ♗a3±, Harding & Cafferty 1997:82.

9. dxe5 ♗xe5  
10. ♗xe5 dxe5

11. a4 a6  
12. ♗e3 ♞

cp. Harding & Cafferty 1997:155.

**B**

5. ... ♗c5  
6. d4 exd4  
7. 0-0 d6

7. ... dxc3 8. Bxf7!

8. cxd4 ♗b6  
9. ♗c3 ♗g4

9. ... ♗a5 10. ♗g5 ♗e7 11. ♗xf7 ♖xf7 12. ♗d5 ♖e8 13. ♗e7 ♖e7 14. ♗g5 ♖g8 15. ♖h5 h6 16. ♖g6 hxg5 17. ♖f6 ♖f8 18. ♗h7 = Chigorin.

10. ♗b5 ♖f8

11. ♗xc6 bxc6 12. ♗a3 ♗f3 13. gxf3 ♖g5 14. ♖h1 ♗e7 15. ♗e2 ♗g6 16. ♖g1 ♖f6 17. ♖d3 ♖g8 18. ♗c1 h6 19. f4 ♖h7 = Blackburne—Steinitz, London (m/10) 1862.

**C**

5. ... ♗e7  
6. d4 ♗a5

(a) 6. ... exd4 7. ♖b3 ♗a5 8. ♗xf7+ ♖f8 ±, Lehmann—Donner, Munich 1954.

(b) 6. ... d6 7. dxe5 ♗xd5 8. ♗xe5 exe5 9. ♖h5 g6 10. ♖xe5 ♖f6 11. ♗a3 ±, Fischer—Celle, California simul 1964.

(c) 6. ... ♖f6 7. dxe5 ♗g4 8. ♖d5 0-0 9. h3 ±, Tal—Brakmanis, Latvian (ol) 1959.

(d) 6. ... ♗f6 7. 0-0 ♗ge7 8. dxe5 ♗xe5 9. ♗g5 ± (cp. Nunn—Gumrukcuoglu, Malta (ol) 1980.

7. ♗e2 exd4  
8. ♖xd4 ♖f6  
9. e5 ♗c6  
10. ♖h4 ♗d5

11. ♖g3 g6 12. 0-0 0-0 13. ♗h6 ♖e8 14. c4 ♗b6 15. ♗c3 d6 16. c5 ♗d7 17. cxd6 cxd6 18. exd6 ♗f6 ∞ Ponomarev — Daniliuk, Krasnodar 1997 —69/304.