

# Introduction to the Scandinavian with 2. ... ♔d5 [B01]

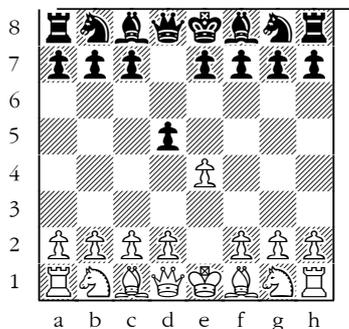
By Steven Craig Miller

## 1. e4

The move 1. e4 is the most popular move on both the amateur and grandmaster levels.

## 1. ... d5

There are a number of moves which Black can play against 1. e4, including: b6, c6, c5, ♟c6, d6, e6, e5, ♟f6, and g6. The two most popular are 1. ... c5 and 1. ... e5. But many of these moves require a person to know a fair amount of opening theory. The move 1. ... d5 has a number of advantages, first the amount of opening theory is much less for this opening compared with other openings; second, the Scandinavian often results in semi-open positions (a type of position which is easier for a beginner to play).



## 2. exd5

The best move here is 2. exd5. Other minor moves include: (a) 2. ♟c3, (b) 2. e5, or (c) 2. d4.

(a) 2. ♟c3 dxe4 3. ♟xe4 and Black could play 3. ... ♔d5 and after 4. ♟c3 ♕a5 one has transposed back into the Scandinavian, but better is 3. ... ♟f5. Now after 4. ♟g3 ♟g6 5.

h4 h6 etc. Black has a Caro-Kann position up a whole tempo!

(b) 2. e5?! c5 3. f4 ♟c6 4. ♟f3 ♟g4 etc. is at least equal for Black.

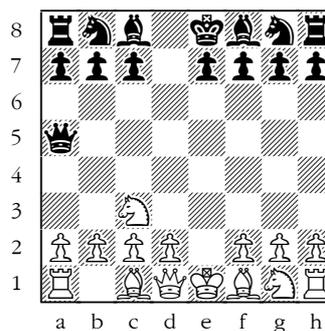
(c) After 2. d4 dxe4 3. ♟c3 ♟f6 4. f3 the position transposes into the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit.

## 2. ... ♜xd5

Another variation of the Scandinavian is with 2. ... ♟f6 (which will not be covered here).

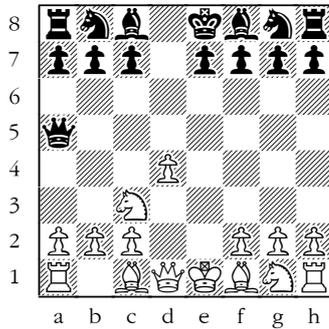
## 3. ♟c3 ♕a5

Move 3. ♟c3 attacking the queen is the most natural move for White. Now Black has three major options: (a) 3. ... ♔d6, (b) 3. ... ♔d8, and (c) 3. ... ♕a5. We will take a look at the third option, 3. ... ♕a5.



Now, according to theory, White's next three moves are: 4. d4, 5. ♟f3, and 6. ♟c4. But note that White has some freedom as to the move order of these moves. It is also possible for White to avoid playing d4 altogether, but they don't offer a theoretical challenge to Black's opening.

4. d4

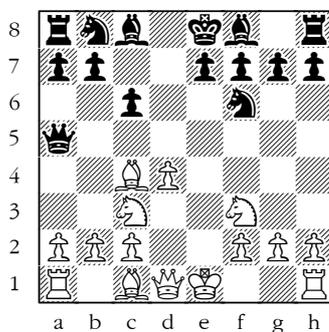


Here Black has the option of playing either 4. ... c6 or 4. ... ♖f6. Both moves are played at grandmaster level, and they often transpose into each other. But I think it makes sense to play ♖f6 before c6.

4. ... ♖f6  
5. ♖f3 c6

The move 5. ... c6 might appear a tad bit strange to most beginners, but it has a number of advantages. First, it provides retreat squares for the Black's queen on a5. If need be, after c6 Black's queen will be able to retreat to either c7 or d8. Second, c6 also hinders the knight from moving to either b5 or d5. Third, after Black moves the e-pawn to e6, the pawns on c6 and e6 will hinder White from playing d5. Lastly, c6 is also a waiting move, waiting to see where the Bishop on f1 might go.

6. ♘c4

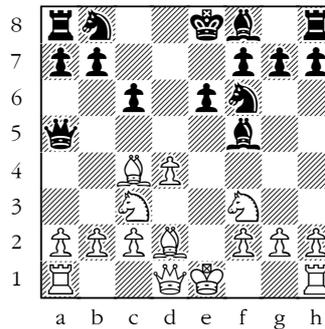


Now Black has two major options, either (a) 6. ... ♘f5 or (b) 6. ... ♘g4. Please note that

Black needs to move the c8 Bishop to either f5 or g4 before the pawn goes to e6. After an immediate 6. ... e6 the c8 Bishop will be locked inside the pawns and it will be very difficult for Black to ever get it developed.

(a) 6. ... ♘f5

6. ... ♘f5  
7. ♘d2 e6



Now White has the following tactic:

8. ♖d5 ♖d8  
9. ♖xf6 ♖xf6  
10. ♖e2 ±

Taking the pawn on c2 is dangerous, 10. ... ♘xc2 11. d5 cxd5 12. ♘xd5 ♖xb2 13. 0-0 and White stands better. But Black can play either 10. ... ♘g4 or 10. ... ♖d7.

(b) 6. ... ♘g4

6. ... ♘g4  
7. h3 ♘h5  
8. g4 ♘g6  
9. ♖e5 ♖bd7  
10. ♖e2 e6  
11. ♘d2 ♘b4  
12. 0-0-0 0-0-0  
13. a3 ±

The Scandinavian is still played on Grandmaster level, and it offers good practical changes with a semi-open position.