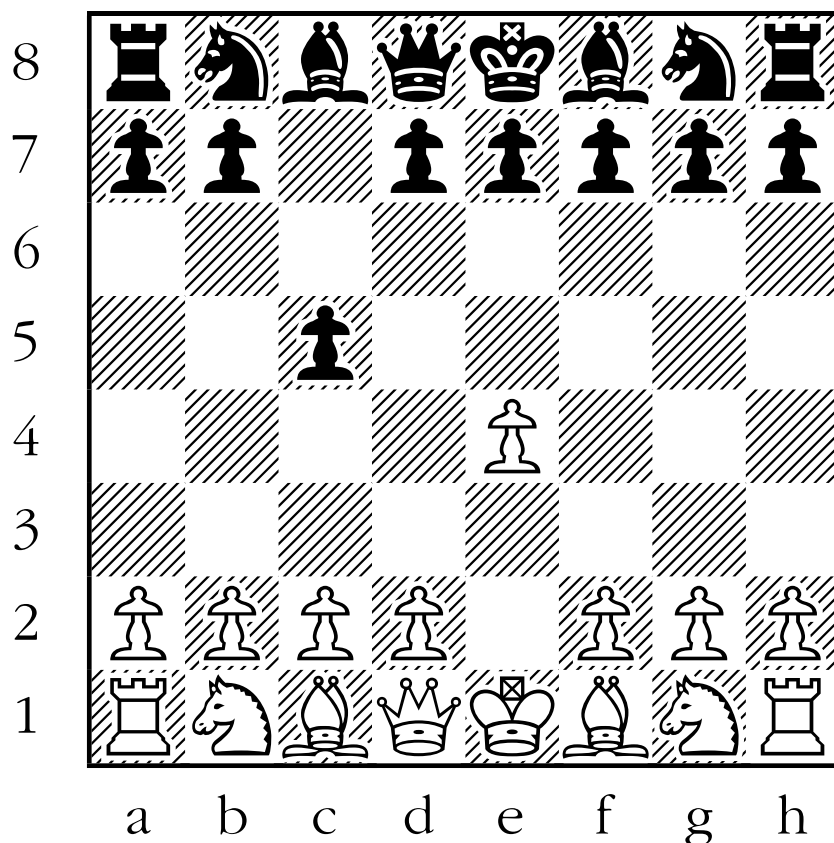


An Introduction to the Sicilian Defense



Compiled by Steven Craig Miller

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Introduction

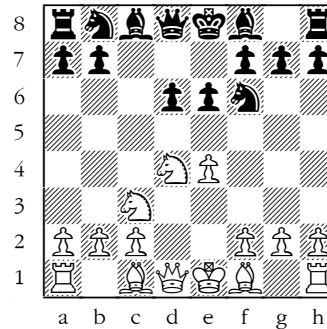
The Sicilian Defense is the most popular chess opening of all time. Almost a quarter of all games played are Sicilians. While the majority of scholastic games at the beginning level are symmetrical king pawn openings (1. e4 e5), at higher levels the most popular answer to 1. e4 is 1. ... c5.

Part I: Open Sicilians

In an 'Open Sicilian' position, in which White plays 2. Nf3 followed by 3. d4, White has an advantage in development, while Black has a structural advantage with an extra central pawn.

a. The Scheveningen Variation

1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 d6 (or e6)
3. d4 cxd4
4. Nxd4 Nf6
5. Nc3 e6 (or d6)

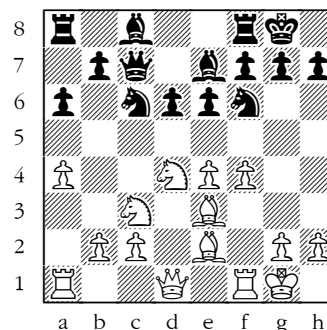


(Scheveningen is pronounced something like: Shaw-ven-again).

- (1) Classical Scheveningen
- (2) Modern Scheveningen
- (3) English Attack
- (4) Keres Attack
- (5) Fischer Attack

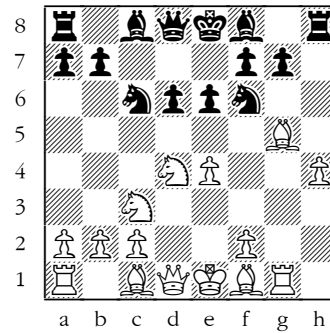
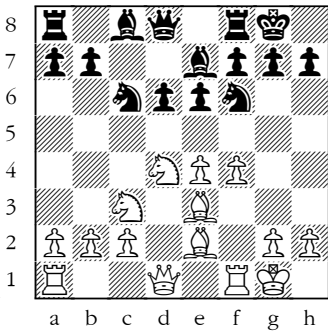
a1. Classical Scheveningen

6. Be2 a6
7. 0-0 Be7
8. f4 0-0
9. Be3 Nc6
10. a4 Qc7



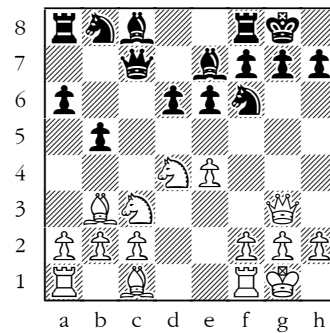
a2. Modern Scheveningen

- 6. Be2 Nc6
- 7. 0-0 Be7
- 8. Be3 0-0
- 9. f4



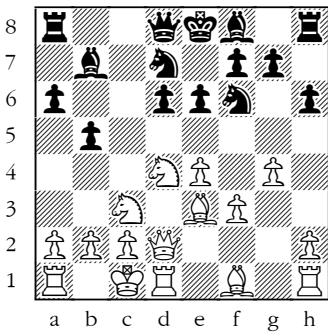
a5. Fischer Attack

- 6. Bc4 a6
- 7. Bb3 b5
- 8. 0-0 Be7
- 9. Qf3 Qc7
- 10. Qg3 0-0



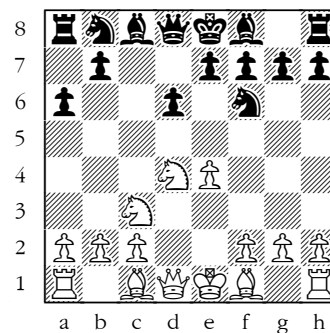
a3. English Attack

- 6. Be3 a6
- 7. Qd2 b5
- 8. f3 Nbd7
- 9. g4 h6
- 10. 0-0-0 Bb7



b. The Najdorf Variation

- 1. e4 c5
- 2. Nf3 d6
- 3. d4 cxd4
- 4. Nxd4 Nf6
- 5. Nc3 a6



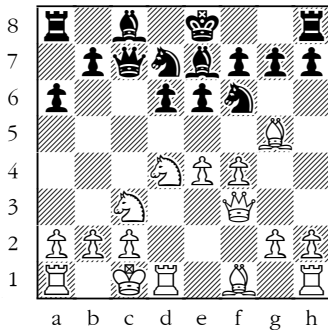
a4. Keres Attack

- 6. g4 h6
- 7. h4 Nc6
- 8. Rg1 h5
- 9. gxh5 Nxh5
- 10. Bg5 Nf6

- (1) Main Line Najdorf
- (2) Poisoned Pawn Variation
- (3) Polugaevsky Variation
- (4) English Attack (Najdorf)
- (5) 6. Bc4 Najdorf
- (6) 6. Be2 Najdorf

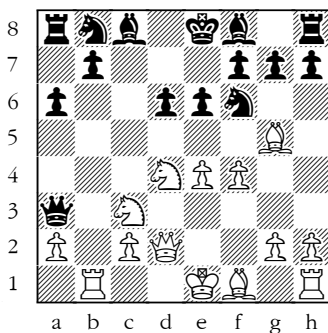
b1. Main Line Najdorf

- 6. Bg5 e6
- 7. f4 Be7
- 8. Qf3 Qc7
- 9. 0-0-0 Nbd7



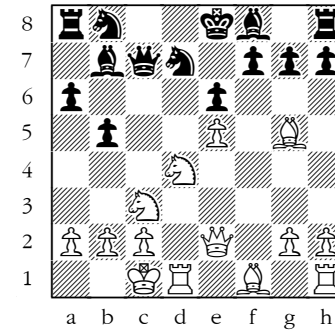
b2. Poisoned Pawn Variation

- 6. Bg5 e6
- 7. f4 Qb6
- 8. Qd2 Qxb2
- 9. Rb1 Qa3



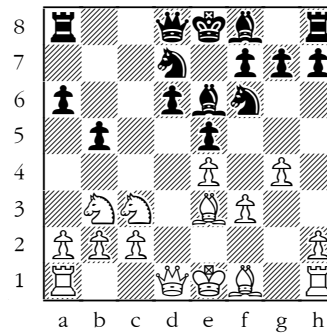
b3. Polugaevsky Variation

- 6. Bg5 e6
- 7. f4 b5
- 8. e5 dxe5
- 9. fxe5 Qc7
- 10. Qe2 Nfd7
- 11. 0-0-0 Bb7



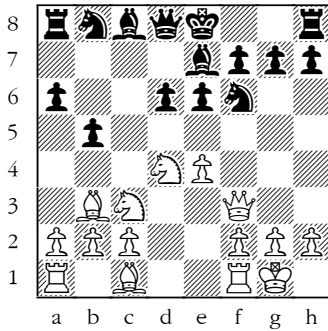
b4. English Attack (Najdorf)

- 6. Be3 e5
- 7. Nb3 Be6
- 8. f3 Nbd7
- 9. g4 b5



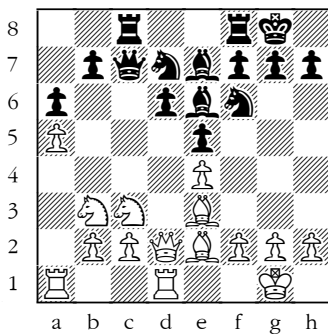
b5. 6. Bc4 Najdorf

6. Bc4 e6
7. Bb3 b5
8. 0-0 Be7
9. Qf3 ...



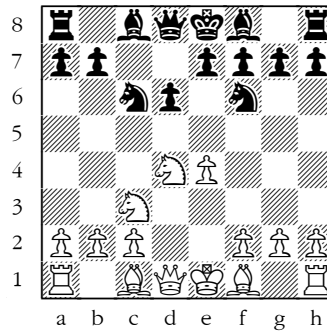
b6. 6. Be2 Najdorf

6. Be2 e5
7. Nb3 Be7
8. 0-0 0-0
9. Be3 Be6
10. Qd2 Nbd7
11. a4 Rc8
12. a5 Qc7
13. Rfd1 ...



c. The Classical Variation

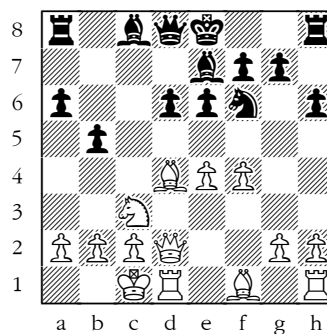
1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 d6 (or Nc6)
3. d4 cxd4
4. Nxd4 Nc6 (or d6)



- (1) Richter-Rauzer Attack
- (2) Sozin & Velimirovic Attacks
- (3) Boleslavsky Variation

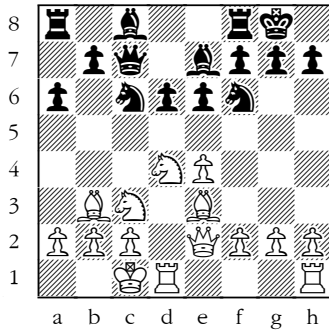
c1. Richter-Rauzer Attack

6. Bg5 e6
7. Qd2 a6
8. 0-0-0 h6
9. Be3 Be7
10. f4 Nxd4
11. Bxd4 b5



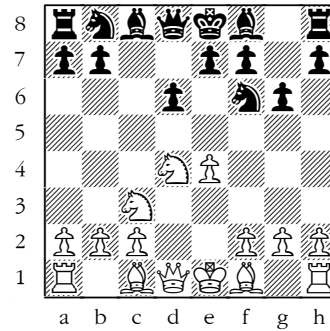
c2. Sozin-Velimirovic Attack

- 6. Bc4 e6
- 7. Be3 a6
- 8. Qe2 Be7
- 9. 0-0-0 0-0
- 10. Bb3 Qc7



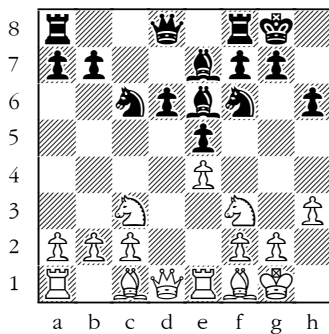
d. The Dragon Variation

- 1. e4 c5
- 2. Nf3 d6
- 3. d4 cxd4
- 4. Nxd4 Nf6
- 5. Nc3 g6



c3. Boleslavsky Variation

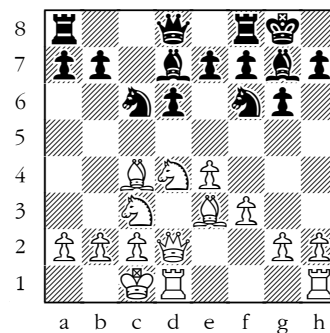
- 6. Be2 e5
- 7. Nf3 h6
- 8. 0-0 Be7
- 9. Re1 0-0
- 10. h3 Be6
- 11. Bf1



- (1) Yugoslav Attack
- (2) Classical Dragon
- (3) Levenfish Attack
- (4) Dragon with 6. g3

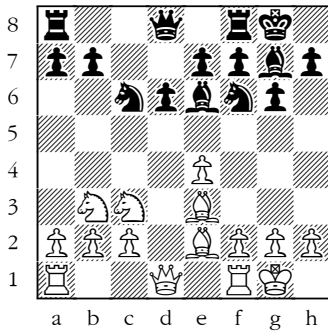
d1. Yugoslav Attack with 9. Bc4

- 6. Be3 Bg7
- 7. f3 0-0
- 8. Qd2 Nc6
- 9. Bc4 Bd7
- 10. 0-0-0



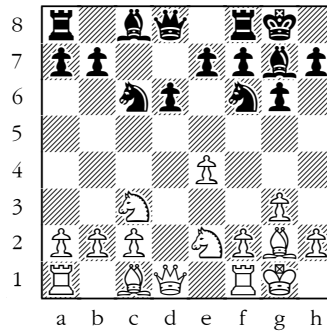
d2. Classical Dragon

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 6. | Be2 | Bg7 |
| 7. | 0-0 | Nc6 |
| 8. | Be3 | 0-0 |
| 9. | Nb3 | Be6 |



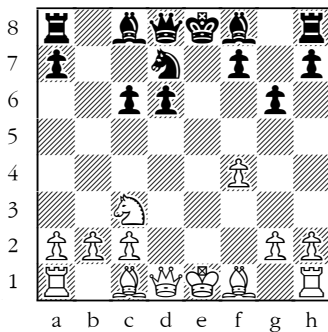
d4. Dragon with 6. g3

- | | | |
|----|------|-----|
| 6. | g3 | Nc6 |
| 7. | Nde2 | Bg7 |
| 8. | Bg2 | 0-0 |
| 9. | 0-0 | ... |



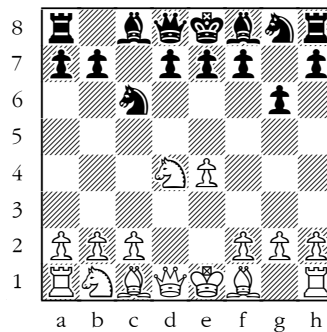
d3. Levenfish Attack

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 6. | f4 | Nc6 |
| 7. | Nxc6 | bxc6 |
| 8. | e5 | Nd7 |
| 9. | exd6 | exd6 |



e. The Accelerated Dragon

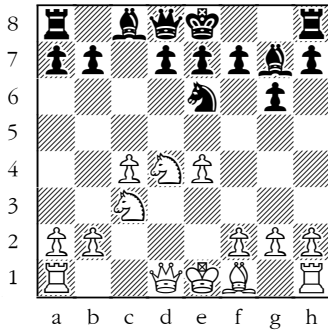
- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1. | e4 | c5 |
| 2. | Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3. | d4 | cxd4 |
| 4. | Nxd4 | g6 |



- (1) Maroczy Bind
- (2) Classical Accelerated Dragon

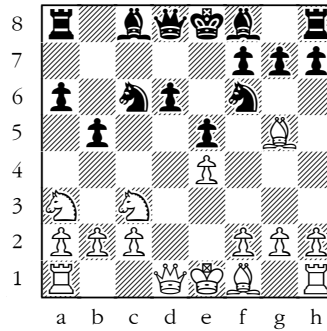
e1. Maroczy Bind

5. c4 Bg7
6. Be3 Nf6
7. Nc3 Ng4
8. Qxg4 Nxd4
9. Qd1 Ne6



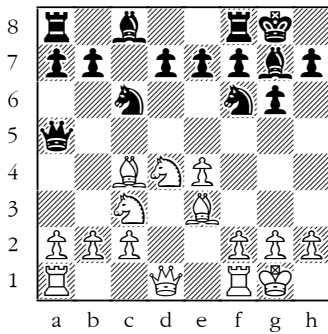
f. The Sveshnikov Variation

1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 Nc6
3. d4 cxd4
4. Nxd4 Nf6
5. Nc3 e5
6. Ndb5 d6
7. Bb5 a6
8. Na3 b5



e2. Classical Accelerated Dragon

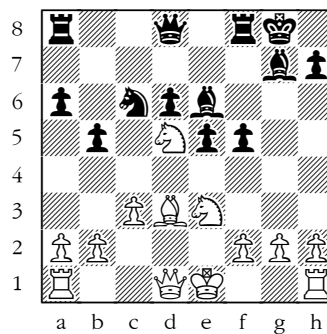
5. Nc3 Bb7
6. Be3 Nf6
7. Bc4 Qa5
8. 0-0 0-0



- (1) Sveshnikov with 9. Bxf6
- (2) Sveshnikov with 9. Nd5

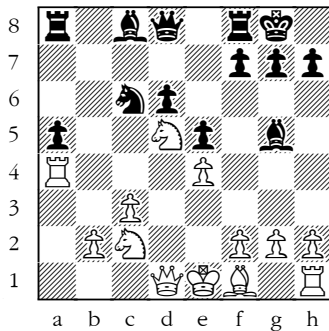
f1. Sveshnikov with 9. Bxf6

9. Bxf6 gxf6
10. Nd5 f5
11. c3 Bg7
12. exf5 Bxf5
13. Nc2 0-0
14. Nce3 Be6
15. Bd3 f5



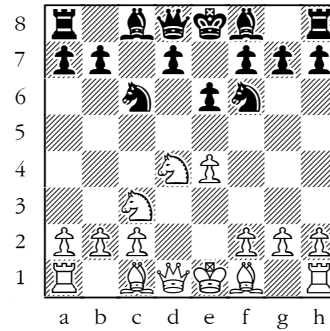
f2. Sveshnikov with 9. Nd5

- | | | |
|-----|------|------|
| 9. | Nd5 | Be7 |
| 10. | Bxf6 | Bxf6 |
| 11. | c3 | 0-0 |
| 12. | Nc2 | Bg5 |
| 13. | a4 | bxa4 |
| 14. | Rxa4 | a5 |



h. The Four Knights Variation

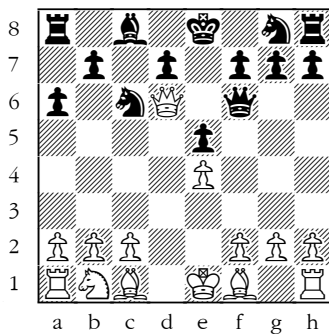
- | | | |
|----|------|-------------|
| 1. | e4 | c5 |
| 2. | Nf3 | Nc6 (or e6) |
| 3. | d4 | cxd4 |
| 4. | Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5. | Nc3 | e6 (or Nc6) |



- | | | |
|----|------|-----|
| 6. | Nbd5 | Bb4 |
|----|------|-----|

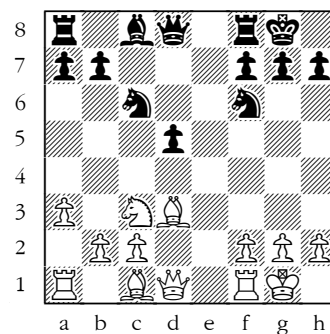
g. Löwenthal Variation

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1. | e4 | c5 |
| 2. | Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3. | d4 | cxd4 |
| 4. | Nxd4 | e5 |
| 5. | Nb5 | a6 |
| 6. | Nd6+ | Bxd6 |
| 7. | Qxd6 | Qf6 |



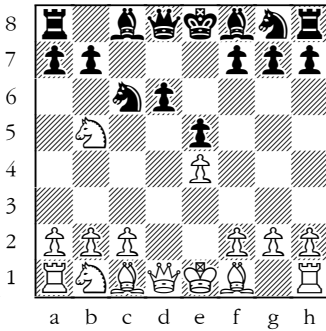
Another possibility is 6. ... d6 7. Bf4 e5 8. Bg5 which transposes into the Sveshnikov variation with both sides having made an extra move (Black has played e6 and e5, and White has played Bf4 and Bg5).

- | | | |
|-----|------|-------|
| 7. | a3 | Bxc3+ |
| 8. | Nxc3 | d5 |
| 9. | exd5 | exd5 |
| 10. | Bd3 | 0-0 |
| 11. | 0-0 | ... |

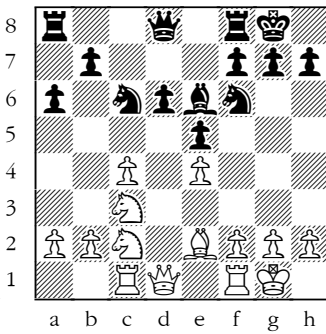


i. The Kalashnikov Variation

1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 Nc6
3. d4 cxd4
4. Nxd4 e5
5. Nb5 d6

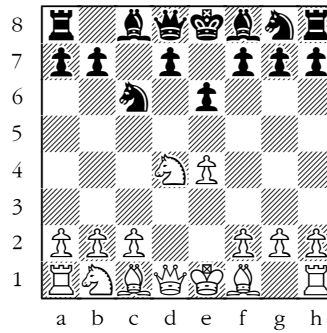


6. c4 Be7
7. N1c3 a6
8. Na3 Be6
9. Be2 Bg5
10. Nc2 Bxc1
11. Rxc1 Nf6
12. 0-0 0-0



j. The Taimanov Variation

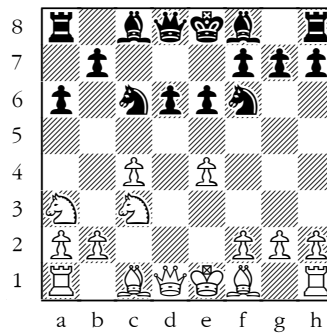
1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 Nc6 (or e6)
3. d4 cxd4
4. Nxd4 e6 (or Nc6)



- (1) Maroczy Taimanov
- (2) Pure Taimanov
- (3) Paulsen Taimanov

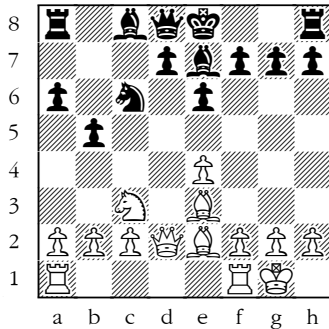
j1. Maroczy Taimanov

5. Nb5 d6
6. c4 Nf6
7. N1c3 a6
8. Na3 ...



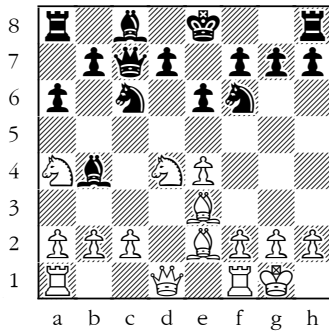
j2. Pure Taimanov

5. Nc3 a6
6. Be2 Nge7
7. Be3 Nxd4
8. Qxd4 b5
9. 0-0 Nc6
10. Qd2 Be7



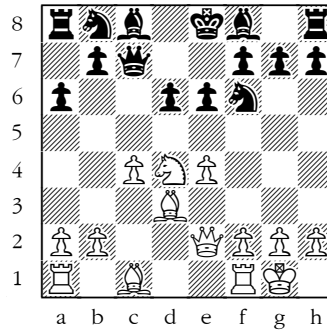
j3. Paulsen Taimanov

5. Nc3 Qc7
6. Be3 a6
7. Be2 Nf6
8. 0-0 Bb4
9. Na4 ...



k. The Kan Variation

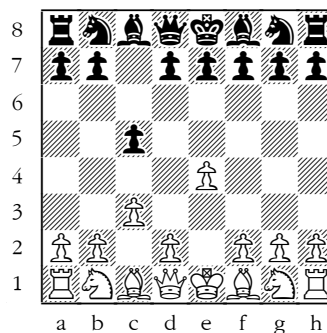
1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 e6
3. d4 cxd4
4. Nxd4 a6
5. Bd3 Nf6
6. 0-0 Qc7
7. Qe2 d6
8. c4



Part II: Other Sicilian Systems

1. The c3 Sicilain

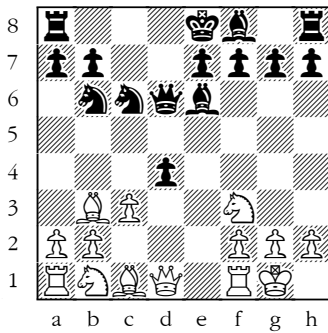
1. e4 c5
2. c3



- (1) 2. c3 With 2. ... Nf6
- (2) 2. c3 With 2. ... d5

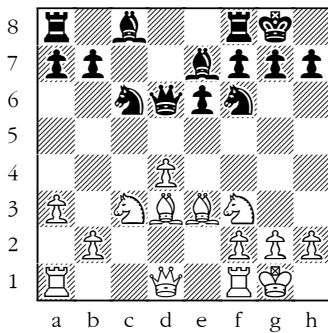
11. 2. c3 With 2. ... Nf6

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 2. | ... | Nf6 |
| 3. | e5 | Nd5 |
| 4. | d4 | cxd4 |
| 5. | Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 6. | Bc4 | Nb6 |
| 7. | Bb3 | d5 |
| 8. | exd6 | Qxd6 |
| 9. | 0-0 | Be6 |



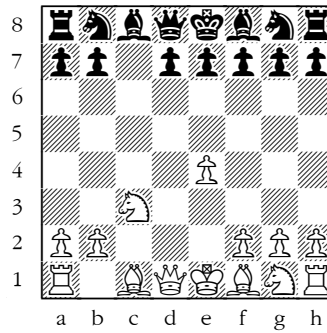
12. 2. c3 With 2. ... d5

- | | | |
|-----|------|------|
| 2. | ... | d5 |
| 3. | exd5 | Qxd5 |
| 4. | d4 | Nf6 |
| 5. | Nf3 | e6 |
| 6. | Be3 | cxd4 |
| 7. | cxd4 | Nc6 |
| 8. | Nc3 | Qd6 |
| 9. | a3 | Be7 |
| 10. | Bd3 | 0-0 |
| 11. | 0-0 | ... |

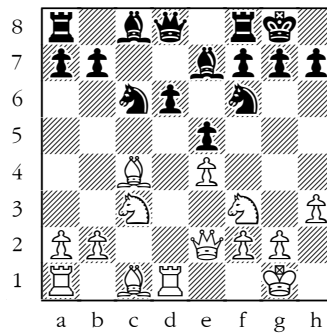


m. The Morra Gambit

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1. | e4 | c5 |
| 2. | d4 | cxd4 |
| 3. | c3 | dxn3 |
| 4. | Nxc3 | |

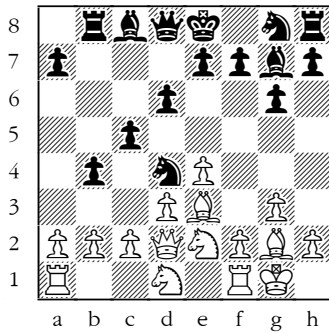


- | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 4. | ... | Nc6 |
| 5. | Nf3 | d6 |
| 6. | Bc4 | e6 |
| 7. | 0-0 | Nf6 |
| 8. | Qe2 | Be7 |
| 9. | Rd1 | e5 |
| 10. | h3 | 0-0 |



n. The Closed Sicilian

- | | | |
|-----|------|-----|
| 1. | e4 | c5 |
| 2. | Nc3 | Nc6 |
| 3. | g3 | g6 |
| 4. | Bg2 | Bg7 |
| 5. | d3 | d6 |
| 6. | Be3 | Rb8 |
| 7. | Qd2 | b5 |
| 8. | Nge2 | Nd4 |
| 9. | 0-0 | b4 |
| 10. | Nd1 | ... |

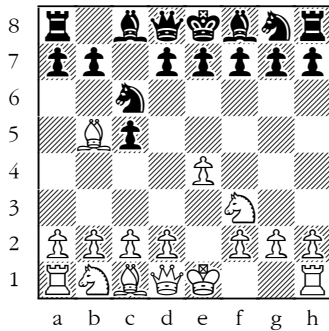


o. The Bb5 Systems

- (1) Rossolimo Variation
- (2) Moscow Variation

o1. Rossolimo Variation

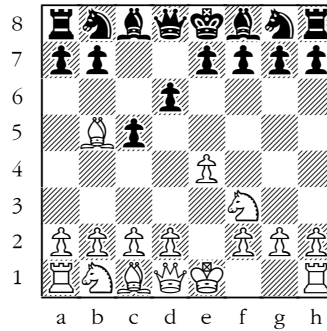
- 1. e4 c5
- 2. Nf3 Nc6
- 3. Bb5



- 3. ... g6
- 4. 0-0 Bg7
- 5. Re1 Nf6
- 6. c3 0-0
- 7. d4 d5
- 8. e5 Ne4

o2. Moscow Variation

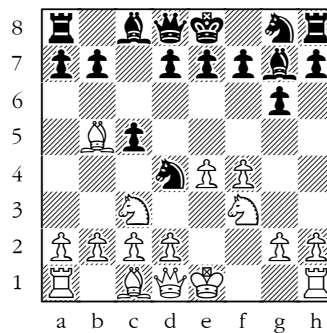
- 1. e4 c5
- 2. Nf3 d6
- 3. Bb5+



- 3. ... Bd7
- 4. Bxd7+ Qxd7
- 5. c4 Nc6
- 6. 0-0 Nf6
- 7. Nc3 g6
- 8. d4 cxd4
- 9. Nxd4 Bg7
- 10. Nde2 ...

p. The Grand Prix Attack

- 1. e4 c5
- 2. Nc3 Nc6
- 3. f4 g6
- 4. Nf3 Bg7
- 5. Bb5 Nd4



For further reading, see:

Starting Out: The Sicilian by John Emms
(Everyman Chess, 2002).

The next two works are good one volume surveys, which attempt to cover every chess opening to some degree.

Modern Chess Openings by Nick de Firmian
(14th edition; Three Rivers Press, 1997).

Nunn's Chess Openings by John Nunn,
Graham Burgess, John Emms, and Joe
Gallagher (Gambit/Everyman Chess,
1999).

The following books are more specialized:

Easy Guide to the Classical Sicilian by Jouni
Yrjölä (Everyman Chess, 2000).

Easy Guide to the Najdorf by Tony Kosten
(Everyman Chess, 1999).

Easy Guide to the Dragon by Mikhail
Golubev (Everyman Chess, 1999).

Easy Guide to the Sicilian Scheveningen by
Steffen Pedersen (Cadogan, 1998).

Easy Guide to the Sveshnikov Sicilian by Jacob
Aagaard (Everyman Chess, 2000).

The Grand Prix Attack by Gary Lane
(Batsford, 1997).

... just to name a few!