

# How to defend against the Fried Liver Attack



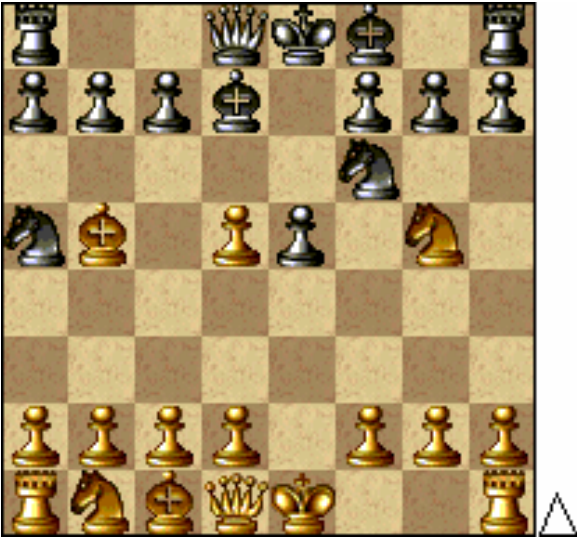
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<b><i>Introduction</i></b>	<b>4</b>
<b><i>Analysis</i></b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Van Der Heijden Anton (NED) vs. Schouten Nico (NED)</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Laux R vs. Boeven Manfred (GER)</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Kaufmann V vs. Werner</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Archan Dagmar vs. Leclare M</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Brokko-Olde Margit (EST) vs. Khan Anna (USA)</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Dinkova Inna vs. Bejarano Legna</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Stiri Alexandra (GRE) vs. Psarouda Eleni</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Bouska M vs. Priborsky Jan (CZE)</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Sax Gyula (HUN) vs. Krstic Uros (CRO)</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Paleologu Vladimir (SUI) vs. Wedberg Tom (SWE)</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Jonsson Stora Bardur vs. Hansen Reidar Egilsnes</b>	<b>30</b>

# Introduction



# Analysis

October 2005

Overview and Analysis

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7

This alternative to the standard move 6△c6 is not often discussed, but it is a good plan for Black.

MCO 13 calls it an obscure possibility. In the next edition, deFirmian changed the description to "little tested but interesting", but there have in fact been hundreds of games in the line.

Although 6...c6 is the usual recommendation and the most popular move, John Watson and I think that this move is better. It isn't hard to regain the pawn at d5, and ...c6 can always be played later. White has no way of obtaining anything significant against it, and Black has little difficulty in finding good moves. The position is definitely easy to play.

As a practical matter, your opponent is likely to have far less experience and preparation against the move.



White has a number of choices here:

- A) 7.Qe2
- B) 7.Bxd7+
- C) 7.Be2
- D) 7.Bd3
- E) 7.Nc3

**A) 7.Qe2**

This is properly considered White's most effective move.

**7...Be7**

7...Bd6 is a viable option, preserving the pawn at e5. However, Black should be happy to see the e-file open up, since White hasn't castled yet and the king and queen are lined up on the e-file.

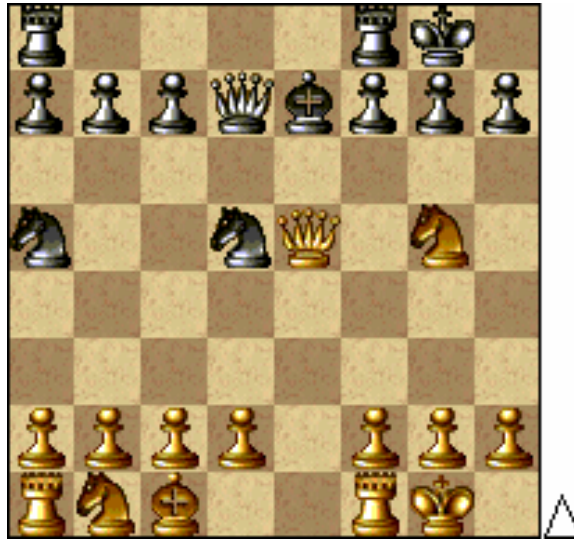
7...Bd6 is also playable, and is equally recommended in SABACO. 8.Nc3 O-O 9.Bxd7 Qxd7 10.O-O c6 gives Black play for the pawn, according to MCO 13, citing Paoli-Johannessen, SKopje 1972. 11.dxc6 Nxc6 12.d3 Nd4 13.Qd1 Rac8 14.Be3 Ba3! is the new citation Sulkis-Belyavsky, Kosalin 1998 in MCO 14.

7...Nxd5 is premature. See Jonsson-Hansen.

**8.Nc3**

Or:

a) 8.Bxd7+ Qxd7 9.Qxe5 O-O 10.O-O. Otherwise White is going to have problems on the d-file. 10...Nxd5 Black is still a pawn down, but has much more active pieces.



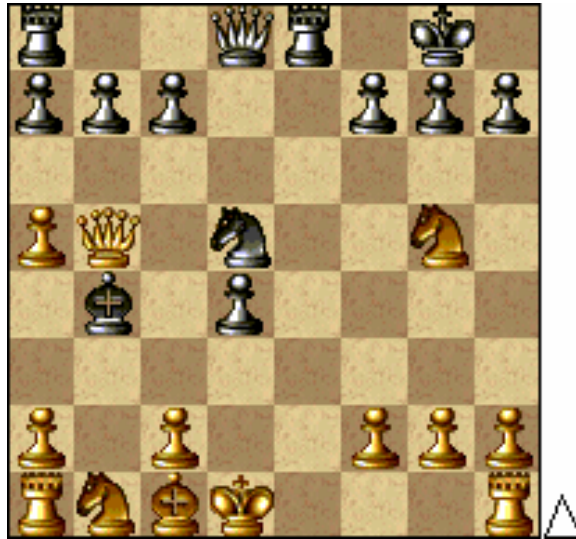
11.Nc3 Nxc3 (11...Nb4!? See Paleologu–Wedberg.) 12.Qxc3 If White takes with the pawn, then there is no longer a workable pawn majority on the queenside, and the extra pawn is irrelevant. 12...Qb5!? (12...Bxg5 13.Qxa5 Bf6 and surprisingly, White's extra pawn isn't so important. Black is going to own the e-file, which is the only open file.) 13.Ne4 The knight takes away the option of ...Bf6. 13...Nc6 14.Qg3 Nd4! This gives Black strong play, with the threat of ...Ne2+. White can eat another pawn, but Black has plenty of compensation. 15.Qxc7 Ne2+ 16.Kh1 Nc3?! (16...Bd8! looks much stronger. The endgame after 17.c4 Bxc7 18.cxb5 Rad8 doesn't look at all difficult for Black.) 17.d3 (17.Ng3! covers e2, and the Black knight is forced to retreat. White has a clear advantage. Black has some compensation for one pawn, but not two.) 17...Nd5 18.Qg3 Qb6 19.b3 White is clearly better. Paleologu –Simmon, Lugano 2000.

b) 8.b4 Bxb4 9.Qxe5+ Qe7 10.Bxd7+ Nxd7 11.Qxe7+ Bxe7

c) 8.d4 exd4 9.b4 (9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 10.b4 O-O-O! see Brokko–Khan.)



9...O-O! Because White hasn't castled, Black can afford to sacrifice an entire piece to gain play on the e-file. 10.bxa5 Bb4+! 11.Kd1 (11.Kf1 Re8! 12.Ne6 Nxd5! 13.Bxd7 Qxd7 14.Bd2 Rxe6 and White is in deep trouble. 11...Re8! 11...Re8 Black has more than enough for the piece. 12.Qc4 (12.Qd3 Bxb5 13.Qxb5 Nxd5! 14.Qd3 Ne3+! 15.fxe3 transposes to the game. (15.Bxe3 dxe3 16.Qxd8 e2+! 17.Kc1 Raxd8 18.Nf3 e1=Q+ 19.Nxe1 Bxe1 White's position is a mess and he lost in Kaufmann – Werner, DDR 1982.)) 12...Bxb5! (12...Qe7?! isn't quite as good. 13.Bd2 Bxd2 14.Nxd2 c6 15.dxc6 bxc6 16.Qxf7+ Qxf7 17.Nxf7 cxb5 18.Nd6 Rf8 19.f3 White is up a pawn, but Black still managed to win in Sax – Hector, Hamburg 2002.) 13.Qxb5 Nxd5 See the exciting game Van der Heijden vs. Schouten.



8.O-O Nxd5 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 10.d3 Nc6 11.Nf3 Nd4!? See Laux vs. Boeven.

8...O-O

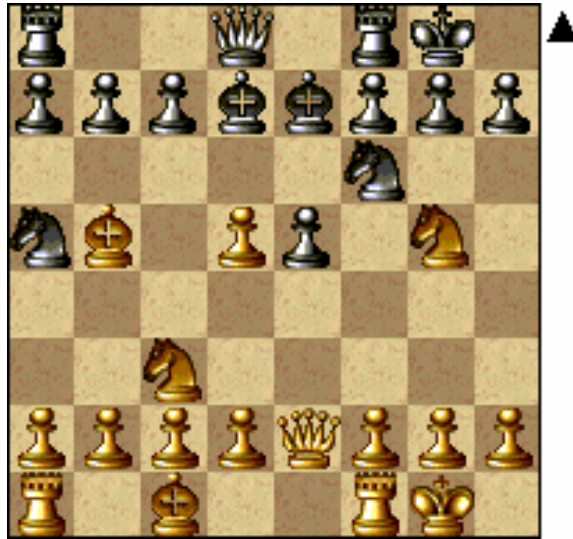


9.O-O

NCO stops here, claiming an advantage for White. However, this conclusion is not backed up by either human or machine analysis.

9.Nge4 Nxe4 10.Nxe4 Bf5! 11.Bc4 Nxc4 12.Qxc4 b5 13.Qe2 Qxd5 Black is better, Tilevich–Borisenko, Russian Teams 1957.

9.Bxd7 Qxd7 10.O-O (10.Qxe5? See Bouska–Priborsky.) 10...c6! Originally recommended by Estrin. 11.dxc6 Nxc6 With at least enough compensation for the pawn – SABACO.



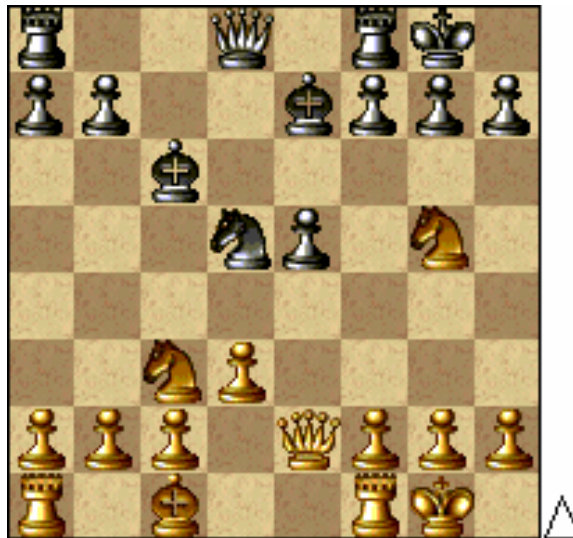
9...c6!

Originally suggested by Gligoric, this is the choice in SABACO. 10.dxc6 Nxc6 11.Bxc6

11.Nf3 is met by 11...Nd4!

11...Bxc6 12.d3 Nd5

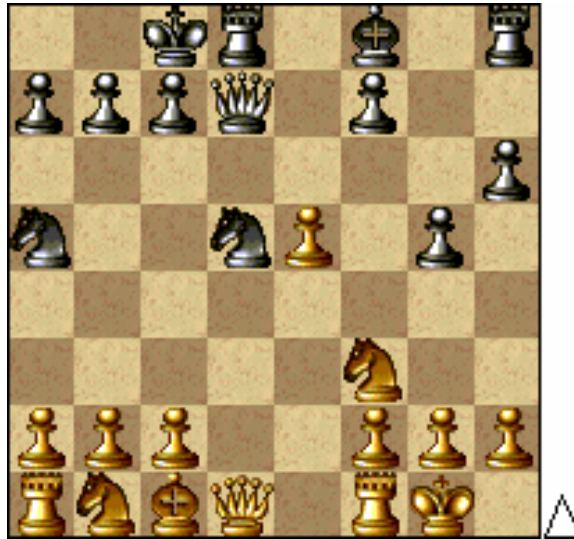
This much was given by Gligoric.



13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.Ne4 f5 15.Nc3 Bc6 16.Qxe5 Bd6 17.Qe3 Rf6 18.Qh3 Rg6 19.f3 Bd7 20.f4 Bc6  
21.Rf3 Qb6+ 22.Kf1 Re8 23.b3 Qd4

Black resigned, Bohak Janko –Dmitrovic, Yugoslavia 1979

B) 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.O-O (8.Nc3 see Archan–LeClare.) 8...Nxd5 9.d4!? Since White has already castled, and Black hasn't, opening up the game looks like a good idea. Black can simply castle. 9...O-O-O 10.dxe5 h6! 11.Nf3 g5! is a promising gambit approach for Black, for example



12.Qe1 g4 13.Nd4 Nc6! 14.Nxc6 Qxc6 15.Qe4 (Ordenes–Ruiz Alvaro, Santiago 1994) 15...Qg6! and if 16.Qxg6 fxg6 Black has a very active game in return for the weak pawn at e5, which should fall before too long.

C) 7.Be2 Nxd5 8.d4 has been seen a few times. 8...Nf4!

hasn't been played, but it looks like the strongest move. See Stiri–Psarouda for alternatives.

D) 7.Bd3 is a wimpy move. Black has a very good game after 7...Nxd5!

For example:



8.Qf3 Nf6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Nge4 a6 (10...Nc6 followed by castling is stronger.) 11.Nxf6+ (11.O-O Nc6 12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 see the next note.) 11...Bxf6 12.Ne4 (12.O-O is a more principled move.) 12...Be7 13.Nc3 Nc6 Black has a good game, Stiri – Berzina, Szeged 1994.

E) 7.Nc3 Bxb5! 8.Nxb5 Nxd5

Black has a misplaced knight at a5, but it can return to c6. White's knights will soon be driven back.



a) 9.d4 The most ambitious move. (9...h6 10.Ne4 Be7 11.Qg4 Qd7! 12.Qxg7 (12.Qxd7+ Kxd7 poses no danger to the Black king.) 12...O-O-O This leads to an exciting game. See Dinkova – Bejarano, Sao Lourenco 1995.



b) 9.d3 Be7 (9...Bb4+! 10.c3 Be7 might be stronger, since the Nb5 can't retreat to c3.) 10.Qh5 Bxg5 11.Bxg5 Qd7 12.Nc3 Nb4 (12...Nxc3 13.bxc3 O-O! White has no real kingside attack.) 13.Qd1 Qf5 (13...f6! 14.Be3 Nac6 15.O-O O-O would have given Black full equality.) 14.Be3 O-O 15.O-O Qg6 16.a3 Nbc6 17.b4 f5 18.bxa5 Nxa5 19.Bc5 Rf7 20.Nd5! Black is busted. The knight attack weaknesses at e7 and c7. 20...Nc6 21.c4

White has a huge advantage, but only managed a draw in , Braeutigam – Hemme-Unger, Oberhof 1998.

c) 9.Nf3 Nc6 (9...Qd7!?) 10.O-O e4?! (10...Be7!) 11.Re1 Nf6 12.Nc3 Be7 13.Nxe4 O-O 14.b3 and White went on to win in Wong –Baudry, California 1993.)

## Van Der Heijden Anton (NED) vs. Schouten Nico (NED)

It (open), Dieren (Netherlands), ( ) 1969

A stunning opening sacrifice

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7



7.Qe2 Be7 8.d4 exd4 9.b4

This wins the knight, because the bishop at e7 is pinned. But it is a worthwhile sacrifice for Black!



9...O-O!

Because White hasn't castled, Black can afford to sacrifice an entire piece to gain play on the e-file.

10.bxa5 Bb4+!

The e-file is now open for business! 11.Kd1

11.Kf1 Re8! 12.Ne6 Nxd5! 13.Bxd7 Qxd7 14.Bd2 Rxe6  
and White is in deep trouble.

11.Bd2 Re8!

11...Re8 12.Qc4

12.Qd3 Bxb5 13.Qxb5 Nxd5! 14.Qd3 Ne3+! 15.fxe3

transposes to the game. (15.Bxe3 dxe3 16.Qxd8 e2+! 17.Kc1 Raxd8 18.Nf3 e1=Q+ 19.Nxe1 Bxe1  
White's position is a mess and he lost in Kaufmann – Werner, DDR 1982.)

12...Bxb5!

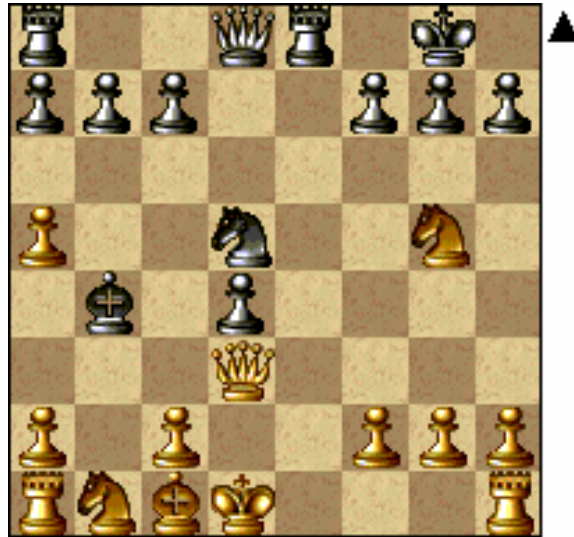
12...Qe7?!

isn't quite as good. 13.Bd2 Bxd2 14.Nxd2 c6 15.dxc6 bxc6 16.Qxf7+ Qxf7 17.Nxf7 cxb5 18.Nd6 Rf8  
19.f3

White is up a pawn, but Black still managed to win in Sax – Hector, Hamburg 2002.

13.Qxb5 Nxd5 14.Qd3

14.Nf3 c6 15.Qc4 Bc3! 16.Nxc3 Nxc3+ 17.Kd2 Ne4+ 18.Kd1 Nxf2+ 19.Kd2 Qxa5+ and Black will then eat the rook at h1.



14...Ne3+!

This is a temporary sacrifice, since the knight at g5 will fall. 15.fxe3

15.Bxe3 dxe3 16.Qxd8 e2+ 17.Kc1 Raxd8 18.Nf3 e1=Q+ 19.Nxe1 Bxe1 gave Black a great game in Kaufmann – Werner, East Germany 1982.

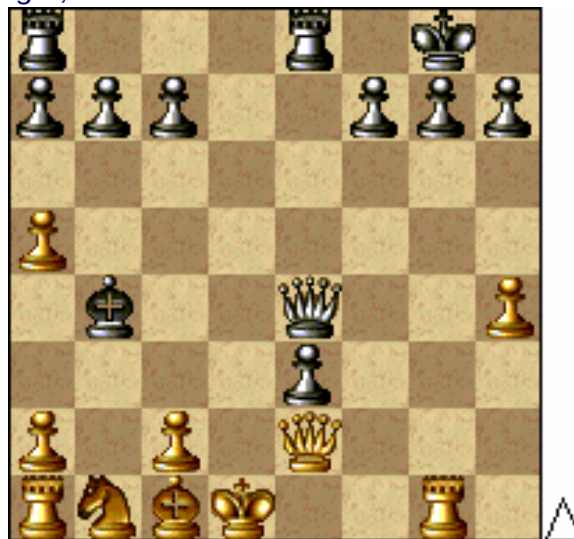
15...Qxg5 16.h4

16.e4 Qxg2 17.Qf1 Qxe4 18.Nd2 Qe5

is better for Black, who will grab a fourth pawn at a5.

16...Qxg2 17.Qf1 Qg4+! 18.Qe2 Qe4! 19.Rg1 dxe3

Black has three pawns for the knight, and there are further morsels available at a5 and h4.



20.Bb2

White tries to mount a counterattack, but Black responds with a firestorm. 20...Rad8+! 21.Kc1 Bd2+ 22.Kd1

22.Nxd2 Rxd2 23.Rxg7+ Kf8

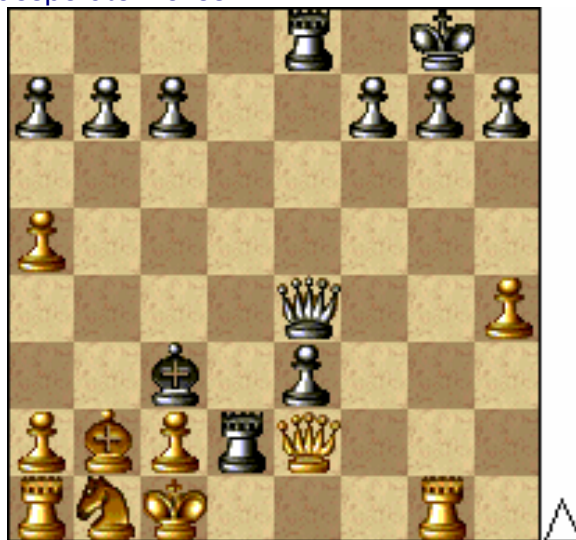
The dual threats at c2 and e2 are too much. White has to try to bail out here. 24.Rxf7+ Kxf7 25.Qh5+ but after 25...Qg6

the attack soon runs out of steam, and there is a third threat at g1. 26.Qf3+ Kg8 and resignation is the best move White has.

22...Bc3+

The discovered check also defends g7! 23.Kc1 Rd2!

White has nothing left but a few desperate moves.



24.Rxg7+

24.Nxd2 exd2+ 25.Kd1 Qxe2#

24...Bxg7 25.Nxd2 exd2+

White resigned. [0:1]

## Laux R vs. Boeven Manfred (GER)

corr., BRD, (j) 1971

Planting a Black Knight at d4

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Qe2 Be7 8.O-O

White will castle when no better move is found, since that conforms to the standard rules of the opening. Black can respond by castling, too, or can take back the pawn right away, as in this game.



8...Nxd5 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7

Material is even, and Black is ready to castle, so there is every reason to be satisfied with the position. 10.d3 Nc6

The knight doesn't plan to take up residence at c6, it just a pivot square to get to d4. 11.Nf3 Nd4!? 12.Nxd4

12.Qxe5? Nxc2!

drops the rook.

12.Nxe5??

drops the queen with check.

12...exd4 13.Bg5

White tries to pile on the pinned bishop but the bishop has two defenders so Black can unpin by castling.

13...O-O 14.Bxe7



14...Rfe8!

This pinning move is much stronger than recapturing with the queen or knight. Now Black will be able to control the e-file. 15.Na3 Rxe7 16.Qd2 Rae8 17.Rfe1

White must try to contest the e-file, but the king has only pawns as defenders. 17...Nf4! 18.Rxe7 Qxe7 19.Kf1?

19.g3

should have been played right away. It creates a weakness, but is inevitable.

19...Qg5 20.g3 Qd5

The threat is ...Qh1#. White resigned, not wanting to play the position after the forced move



[...]

21.f3 Qxf3+ 22.Qf2 Qh1+ 23.Qg1 Qxg1+ 24.Kxg1 Nd5

though it is only a pawn-down endgame. This was a game played by postal mail, and often players give up a bit early to save the money on postage. The outcome is not in much doubt.

[0:1]

## Kaufmann V vs. Werner

corr., DDR, (j) 1982

Another try in the knight sac line

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Qe2 Be7 8.d4 exd4 9.b4 O-O  
10.bxa5 Bb4+ 11.Kd1 Re8 12.Qd3 Bxb5 13.Qxb5 Nxd5 14.Qd3 Ne3+

We've seen all this in Van der Heijden vs. Schouten. In that game, Black captured at e3 with the pawn. Here, White uses the bishop.



15.Bxe3 dxe3 16.Qxd8 e2+!

A crucial intermezzo before retaking at d8. 17.Kc1 Raxd8

There is nothing White can do to prevent the pawn from promoting. 18.Nf3 e1=Q+ 19.Nxe1 Bxe1  
White's position is a mess. The weak queenside and useless rooks give Black a decisive advantage.



20.f3 Re2

The invasion of the seventh rank was a foregone conclusion. 21.g3 Bxa5 22.a4 Bb4 23.Ra2

23.Na3? Rdd2! 24.Rd1 Bxa3+ 25.Rxa3 Rxc2+ 26.Kb1 g6

is hopeless for White.

23...b6 24.Kb2 Rd3!

Exploiting the pin at c2. 25.f4 f5 26.Kc1 Kf7

The pawn is still pinned! 27.a5

27.cxd3? Rxa2

and the a-pawn falls, too.

27...bxa5 28.Rxa5 Bxa5 29.cxd3 Bb4!



## Archan Dagmar vs. Leclare M

Ch World (juniors) (under 12) (g), Duisburg (Germany), ( ) 1992

Tactics at h2

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Nc3

White follows standard opening rules, but the knight at g5 is not effective.



8...O-O-O!?

Opposite wing castling isn't so common in the double king pawn games, but here it is very effective. 9.d3

9.O-O Nxd5

Black is better developed.

9...h6!

Kick out the invader! 10.Nf3 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.O-O Bd6!?

The idea is to aim the bishop at h2 after the e-pawn advances. 13.b3? e4!

White actually resigned here, faced with losing at least a pawn because of some tactics set up by the man-on-woman coverage of the rook at d8. [...]

14.dxe4 Bxh2+ 15.Kxh2 (15.Nxh2 Qxd1 16.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 17.Nf1 Nc6

Black is up the exchange.) 15...Qh5+ 16.Kg1 Rxd1 17.Rxd1 Qg4

Black sidesteps Rd5 and White has only a rook and bishop for the queen.

[0:1]

## Brokko-Olde Margit (EST) vs. Khan Anna (USA)

Ch Europe (juniors) (g), Hradec Kralove (Czech Republic), (j) 1992

Knight sac with queenside castling

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Qe2 Be7 8.d4 exd4 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7  
10.b4

White traps the knight, but Black has tactical counterplay.



10...O-O-O! 11.bxa5 Bb4+

Again we see the theme of play on the e-file. 12.Kd1 Nxd5

Black is down a piece, but White's forces lie idle on their home squares, and castling privilege has been forfeited.



13.a6

13.Qh5

plays on the other side of the board, but it is no more effective. 13...Rhe8 14.Qxf7?? Nc3+! 15.Nxc3 dxc3+ 16.Qxd7+ Rxd7+ 17.Bd2 Rxd2+ 18.Kc1 Ba3+ 19.Kb1 Re5!  
and the rook will deliver checkmate from b5.

13...Rhe8 14.axb7+ Kb8!

The White pawn actually helps defend Black's king, and the little thing causes no problem at all. 15.Ne4  
This returns the knight, but there was nothing better.

15.Qd3 Qg4+ 16.Nf3 Qxg2 17.Rf1 Ne3+!! 18.Bxe3 dxe3 19.Qxd8+ Rxd8+ 20.Ke2 Re8!  
and White can resign with a clear conscience.

15...f5 16.f3 fxe4 17.fxe4 Ne3+! 18.Bxe3

There is no choice. 18...dxe3+ 19.Kc1 Qd4! 20.c3 Bxc3 21.Rd1

White resigned before Black had a chance to liquidate the armies into a winning endgame. [...]

21...Qxd1+ 22.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 23.Kxd1 Bxa1

with an extra rook.

[0:1]

## ***Dinkova Inna vs. Bejarano Legna***

**Ch World (juniors), Sao Lourenco (Brazil), (11) 1995**

A sloppy but entertaining game!

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Nc3

Black gets a good game easily against this plan. Our example is from a girls tournament and has many tactical flaws, but they are instructive in pointing out the tactical weapons available when White fails to castle quickly. 7...Bxb5 8.Nxb5 Nxd5 9.d4 h6 10.Ne4 Be7 11.Qg4 Qd7!

Black offers an exchange of queens, after which the king is safe in the center. Black also offers the pawn at g7 as a gambit. White should probably swap queens and settle for an even game.



12.Qxg7?! O-O-O! 13.a4

The knight is defended and the pawn can later be used in an attack. 13...Kb8?!

13...c6! 14.Nxa7+ Kb8

and the knight is trapped.

14.Qxe5?

14.O-O

was wisest, though a storm would be brewing on the kingside.

14...Rde8?!

14...Bb4+ 15.c3 Rhe8! 16.cxb4 Rxe5 17.dxe5 Nb3

White is busted.

15.Bd2?

This failed to stop Black's bishop from coming to b4, though Black fell for the bluff.

15.O-O

White has got to get the king off the e-file!



15...Bd6?!

15...Bb4! 16.Qg7 Rxe4+ 17.Kf1 Rhe8 18.Qxh6 R4e6! 19.Qg5 Rg6  
White won't survive for long.

16.Qxd5! c6??

16...Rxe4+ 17.Qxe4 Re8 18.Nxd6! cxd6 19.Qxe8+ Qxe8+ 20.Be3  
White has two rooks and two pawns for the queen—more than enough!

17.Qa2??

17.Qxd6+  
wins easily.

17...Rxe4+ 18.Kd1 cxb5 19.Bxa5



19...Rxd4+!

The capture check signals the beginning of the end. None of White's pieces are in position to defend the king. White's extra pawn is meaningless. 20.Kc1

Walking into checkmate on the back rank.

20.Ke1 Bb4+! 21.Kf1 (21.Bxb4 Re8+ 22.Kf1 Rd1+ 23.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 24.Be1 Rxe1#) 21...Rd1+ 22.Ke2 Re8+

and the king hunt is brutal but short.

20...Bf4+ 21.Kb1 Rd1+ 22.Rxd1 Qxd1# [0:1]

## ***Stiri Alexandra (GRE) vs. Psarouda Eleni***

**Ch Greece (team), Greece, (2) 1996**

White plays a quiet line

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Be2 Nxd5 8.d4

This is not a very ambitious plan for White.



**8...Qf6!?**

8...exd4 9.Qxd4 Nb4!

is rather messy. 10.O-O h6 11.Re1! hxg5 12.Bh5+ Be6 13.Rxe6+ Be7 14.Qxb4 Rxh5 leaves material even, but White looks better after retreating the rook to e1.

8...Be7 9.Nf3 exd4

is a safer way to play it.

8...Nf4!

is my recommendation. 9.Bxf4 exf4 10.Nf3 Bd6 11.O-O O-O

White has the queenside pawn majority, but Black may be able to achieve a pawnstorm on the kingside, supported by a nice pair of bishops.

**9.Ne4**

9.dxe5 Qxe5 10.O-O! Bd6 (10...Be7 11.Re1 Qd6 12.Ne4!

looks much better for White.) 11.f4

might be the right way to play for White. 11...Bc5+ 12.Kh1 Qd6 13.Bf3! Bc6 14.Re1+ Ne7

looks reasonably comfortable for Black.

**9...Qg6 10.Bf3**

10.O-O!? Qxe4 11.Bf3! Qxd4 12.Qxd4 exd4 13.Bxd5 Bc6 14.Re1+ Be7

White doesn't seem to have much compensation for the pawn.

**10...Bf5 11.Qe2**



11...O-O-O!

Black can often castle queenside in this opening, bringing the rook to a useful position on the d-file.

12.dxe5

White accepts the offer and eats a pawn. Black's knights now stampede the queenside.

12.O-O Nc6! 13.dxe5 Nd4! 14.Qd1 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3 Bxe4

Black wins.

12...Nc6!

Heading for d4. 13.c4

This little mosquito can be ignored for the moment. 13...Nd4! 14.Qd1 Nb4 15.Nbd2

Drops a rook in the hope that the knight will be stuck in the corner and fail to escape. True enough, but in a big exception to the general rule, the knight will be effective at a1!

15.Na3 Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3 Bxe4

wins a piece.

15...Ndc2+ 16.Ke2 Nxa1 17.a3 Nd3!

White is a rook down, and the position collapses quickly. Black still threatens a capture at e4, so resignation might have been appropriate.



18.b4 Qb6 19.Qa4 Qd4 20.c5 Bxc5! 21.Nxc5 Qxf2+ 22.Kd1 Nb2+!

White resigned. [...]

23.Bxb2 Qxd2#

[0:1]

## Bouska M vs. Priborsky Jan (CZE)

It (open) (juniors) (b), Plzen (Czech Republic), () 1999

Failure to castle punished again!

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Qe2 Be7 8.Nc3 O-O 9.Bxd7 Qxd7 10.Qxe5?

Castling is necessary. You just can't leave the e-file exposed like this as White.



10...Bd6 11.Qd4 Rfe8+ 12.Ne2

12.Kf1

gives up on castling, but White does have two extra pawns at the moment. 12...Be5 13.Qd3 Rad8 should be equal, since Black will pick up one of the pawns and White's inability to castle compensates for the other.

12...h6

12...c5 13.dxc6 Nxc6

is very awkward for White, despite the extra pawns. The White king finds himself stuck on guard duty and unable to castle. 14.Qc4 Rac8 15.c3 Nb4!

13.Nf3 Re4 14.Qd3 Rae8 15.Nfg1

White's position is humiliating.



15...Nh5!

Threatening to jump to f4. 16.g3 Bc5!

Targeting f2. 17.b3

17.Kf1 Qf5! 18.Nf4 (18.f3

is similar to the game.) 18...Re1+ 19.Kg2 Qxf4!! 20.gxf4 Nxf4+ 21.Kf3 Nxd3 22.cxd3 R8e5

White is busted.

17...Qf5! 18.f3 Bxg1



19.Kf1 Qh3+ 20.Ke1

20.Kxg1?? Rxe2

and mate at g2.

20...Rxe2+ 21.Qxe2 Rxe2+ 22.Kxe2 Qg2+ 23.Kd3 Qxh1

White resigned. [0:1]

## Sax Gyula (HUN) vs. Krstic Uros (CRO)

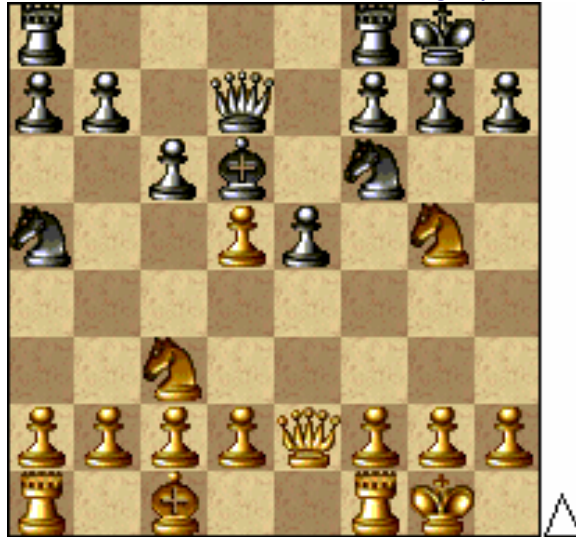
It (open), Pula (Croatia), (3) 1999

A Grandmaster bites the dust!

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Qe2 Bd6

This is a playable alternative to placing the bishop at e7, the main recommendation in this eBook. In fact, it is the more common move. 8.Bxd7+ Qxd7 9.Nc3 O-O 10.O-O c6

This is a standard formula for Black, who isn't worried about being a pawn down. This is a genuine gambit.



11.Qd3!?

This move may lead to an advantage for White.

11.dxc6

is usually played, but White has horrible results with the move. 11...Nxc6 12.d3 Nd4! 13.Qd1 Rac8!

The knight is now pinned at c3. 14.Be3 Ba3!

This is a typical tactic in our defense, showing the power of the rook at c8. 15.Bxd4 exd4 16.Nce4 Nxe4 17.dxe4 Bxb2 18.Rb1 Bc3 19.f4 f6 20.Nf3 b5 21.e5 b4 22.Qd3 Qd5 23.Qa6 Rc5 was agreed drawn in Rausis –Islam , Mumbai 2003.

11...h6 12.Nge4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Rfd8 14.f4

Grandmaster Sax decides that he needs to open up the position.

14.Qc3!? Bc7 15.d6! Bb6 16.d3 (16.b4? Bd4!) 16...f5 17.Ng3

looks like a stronger plan, targeting f5.

14...exf4 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.Qc3 Qxd5! 17.d3

Taking away the last flight square of the knight, so Black must open an escape hatch. 17...b6 18.Bxf4 Qd4+!

Black is happy to enter the endgame. 19.Qxd4 Rxd4 20.Rae1 Rd7

The seventh rank must be guarded, of course. 21.Re4 f6 22.b4 Nb7 23.Rc4 Rc8 24.Re1 Kf7

The database indicates that Black won, but either the game score is incomplete or the game was agreed drawn here. In any case, Black has no worries. [0:1]

## *Paleologu Vladimir (SUI) vs. Wedberg Tom (SWE)*

**It (open), New York (USA), (1) 2000**

Knights on the queenside

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Qe2 Be7 8.Bxd7+ Qxd7 9.Qxe5 Nxd5 10.Nc3 Nb4!?

Why not go after the c-pawn? It is just sitting there, waiting to be attacked, with no defenders in the neighborhood.



**11.O-O**

There is nothing better.

11.Qxg7 O-O-O! 12.Nxf7 Nxc2+ 13.Kd1 Rdg8! 14.Qe5 Nc6! 15.Qe4 Nxa1

**11...Nxc2 12.Qxa5 Nxa1**

If White can get the knight in the corner, then he'd have two knights for the rook. But that is easier said than done!



**13.d4 O-O**

Black plays it safe.

13...Nc2

is simple and strong. 14.Qb5 c6 15.Qb3 Bxg5 16.Qxc2 Be7!

The king will get castled, and Black is up the exchange.

**14.Rd1**

14.Qd5 Qxd5 15.Nxd5 Bd8! 16.Bd2 Nc2 17.Nf3 c6

Black has consolidated and enjoys the material advantage.

14...Nc2 15.Rd3

15.Qd5 Qxd5 16.Nxd5 Bd6

15...Nxd4 16.Nd5 c5! 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.Bd2 b6 19.Qa6

19.Qc3 Ne2+

19...Qe2! 20.Bc3 Rad8

White resigned.

## Jonsson Stora Bardur vs. Hansen Reidar Egilsnes

Cup Atlantic Airways (d), Torshavn (Faroe Islands), (6) 2003

Unsound sac or blunder?

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Qe2 Nxd5

There is no rush for Black to capture at d5, the pawn remains weak and under attack.



8.Bc4?

8.Qxe5+! Qe7 9.Qxe7+ Bxe7 10.Bxd7+ This was agreed drawn in Merk –Lanwehr, Baden-Wuerttemberg 1991. However, the position is interesting and looks favorable for White. 10...Kxd7 11.Nxf7 safely picks off a second pawn. 11...Rhe8 12.Ne5+ is better for White, who has two extra pawns. Black's more active pieces compensate for one of them, but probably not both. 12...Kd6 13.Nd3 The discovered checks are useless, but Black can play on the queenside, perhaps pushing the c-pawn forward.

8...Nxc4 9.Qxc4 Bc6!

This bishop is a monster. It isn't a matter of the bishop pair here. Black's asset is control of the a8-h1 diagonal.



10.O-O??

Drops the knight and doesn't get much for it. 10.d4 Bb4+! 11.c3 Be7 12.Nf3 Nb6! Black has a strong game. But White's position isn't as bad as after punting the knight!

10...Qxg5 11.d3 Qf6?

11...Nf4!, unleashing the power of the bishop, would have forced resignation because of the mate threat at g2.

12.d4 exd4 13.Re1+ Be7

White could resign here. 14.Rd1 O-O 15.Qxd4 Qxd4 16.Rxd4 Nb4 17.Na3 Rad8 18.Rxd8 Rxd8 19.c3??

Rd1#

An ugly game but it does illustrate some of Black's threats and attacking plans.