

Grandmaster Repertoire 9

The Grünfeld Defence Volume Two

By

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Contents

Key to Symbols used & Bibliography 6

Various 5th Moves **1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♗xd5**

1	4.cxd5 ♗xd5 5.♗f3	7
2	5.♗a4	19
3	5.♕d2	26
4	5.g3	41

Various 7th Moves **1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♗xd5 5.e4 ♗xc3 6.bxc3 ♕g7**

5	7.♕g5	57
6	7.♕a3	62
7	7.♖a4†	69
8	7.♕b5†	78

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♗xd5 5.e4 ♗xc3 6.bxc3 ♕g7 7.♕e3

9	Two Rook Moves	89
10	8.♗f3	108
11	8.♖d2	134

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♗xd5 5.e4 ♗xc3 6.bxc3 ♕g7 7.♗f3

12	Various 8th Moves	144
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**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♕g7
7.♗f3 c5 8.♖b1**

13	Various 9th Moves	162
14	11.♞d2	169
15	11.♕d2 ♞xa2 – Introduction and other 13th Moves	181
16	13.♕g5	194

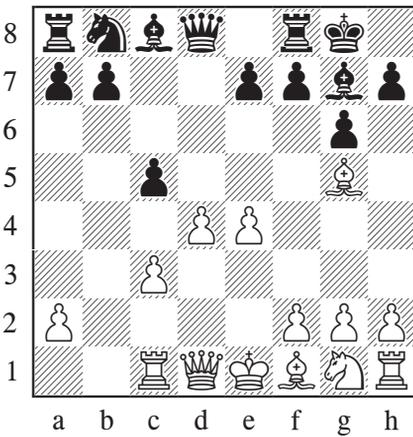
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♕g7 7.♕c4

17	Various 9th and 10th Moves	203
18	10...♕g4	212
19	12.♖b1	222
20	10...♞c7	229
21	11...b6!?	241
	Variation Index	255

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♗xd5
5.e4 ♗xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♙g5

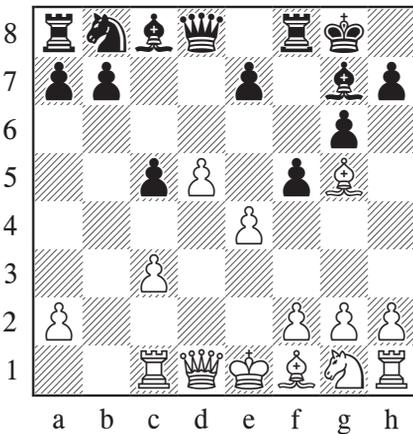
White's main idea in this line is to provoke the move ...h6, and then to continue with ♙e3 and ♖d2; compared with Chapter 11, White would gain a tempo by attacking the black h-pawn. However Black can easily manage without moving his h-pawn.

7...c5 8.♞c1 0-0



Here play may take two directions: A) 9.d5 or B) 9.♗f3.

A) 9.d5 f5!



This is very much in the spirit of the

Grünfeld; Black attacks the white centre, aiming to use his lead in development.

10.♙c4 ♖h8 11.♗e2

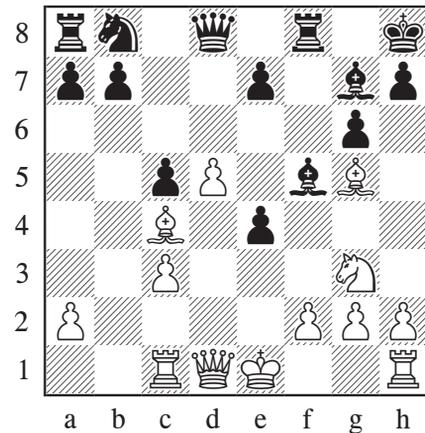
Probably the most challenging move. The alternatives are:

11.exf5 ♞xf5 12.♗f3 ♗d7 13.♖e2 ♗e5
14.♗xe5 ♞xe5 15.♙e3 e6 Black has comfortably equalized.

In Troff – Haessel, Las Vegas 2010, White tried to hold the centre with 11.f3. It is now very tempting to play: 11...♖d6N 12.♙d3 ♗d7 13.♗e2 c4 14.♙b1 fx4 15.♙xe4 ♗c5 16.0-0 ♙f5 Black has the better chances.

11...fxe4 12.♗g3 ♙f5

If Black would prefer to avoid the repetition in the main line, I can offer a reasonable alternative in 12...♗d7N 13.♗xe4 ♗b6 14.♖e2 h6 15.♙e3 ♗xc4 16.♖xc4 b6 with double-edged play.



13.0-0

Inferior for White is 13.♖e2 ♗d7 14.♗xe4 h6 15.♙h4 g5 16.♙g3 ♗b6 17.♞d1 Lysyj – Sutovsky, Dagomys 2008. Now I recommend the straightforward: 17...♗xc4N 18.♖xc4 b5 19.♖e2 ♙xe4 20.♖xe4 ♙xc3† 21.♖f1 ♖d7 Black is clearly better.

13...♘d7 14.d6

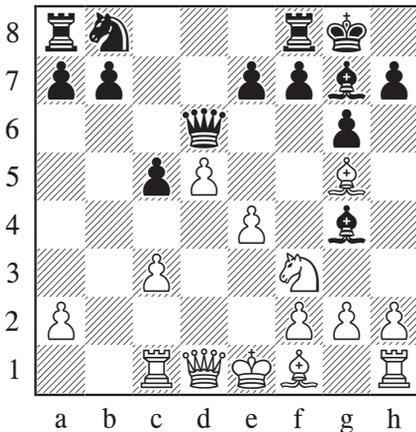
White cannot afford to play slowly, for example: 14.♖e2 ♘e5 15.♘xe4 ♘xc4 16.♖xc4 b5 16.♖d3 c4 White is losing his d-pawn.

14...♙f6 15.♙h6 ♙g7 16.♙g5 ♙f6 17.♙h6

It seems that neither side can avoid the repetition, Polak – Ftacnik, Czech Republic 2009.

B) 9.♘f3 ♙g4 10.d5 ♖d6

I much prefer this positional concept to the sharp 10...f5 which leads to crazy complications: 11.♖b3 ♔h8 12.♘d2 fxе4 13.♖xb7 ♘d7 14.h3 I don't have much faith in Black's position here.

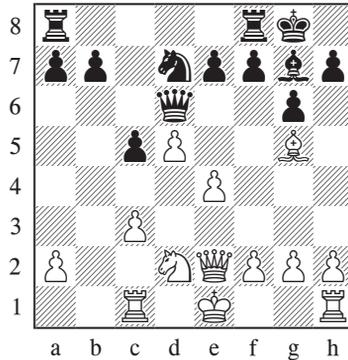
**11.♙e2**

It is quite risky for White to play: 11.♖d2 ♘d7 (I would prefer to limit White's options with the move order 11...♙xf3 12.gxf3 ♘d7) 12.♙e2 ♙xf3 13.gxf3? (This is a serious strategical mistake; it was necessary to recapture with 13.♙xf3, when a logical continuation is 13...f5 14.exf5 ♖xf5 15.0-0 ♙e5! 16.h3 ♖xg5 17.♖xg5 ♙h2† 18.♔h1 ♙f4 19.♖h4 g5! 20.♖g4 ♘e5 21.♖h5 ♘xf3 22.♖xf3 ♙xc1 23.♖xc1 ♖f8 24.♖e3 ♖xd5 25.c4 ♖f5 26.♖xe7 ♖f7 with an equal position.) 13...f5! 14.♙f4 ♘e5 Black was clearly better in Eperjesi – Farkas, Hungary 2007.

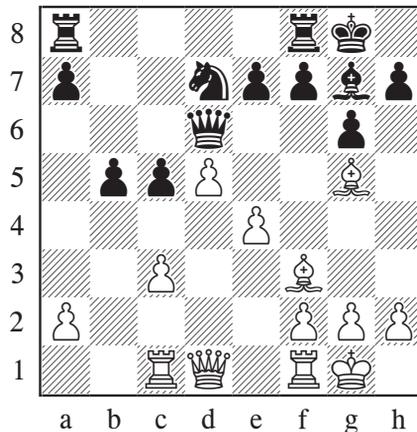
11...♘d7

White's main options are **B1) 12.0-0** and **B2) 12.h3**, although he has also tried:

12.♘d2 It looks quite natural for the knight to head for the c4-square, but Black's counterplay arrives just in time. 12...♙xe2 13.♖xe2



This was Jenkinson – Fenwick, e-mail 2008. Black should now play: 13...e6N 14.♘c4 (no good is 14.c4 ♖ae8! and White cannot hold the centre) 14...♖a6 15.♘e3 ♖xe2† 16.♔xe2 exd5 17.exd5 (after 17.♘xd5 f6! Black shouldn't experience any problems) 17...♖fe8 The position is pretty much balanced.

B1) 12.0-0 ♙xf3 13.♙xf3 b5

A very interesting concept. Black has given up his light-squared bishop, but in return

has made various gains: he has completed his development and connected his rooks, his queen is well-placed on d6, and he has started to advance his queenside pawns.

14. ♖e2 c4!

Black now has the c5-square at his disposal.

15. f4

White has also tried:

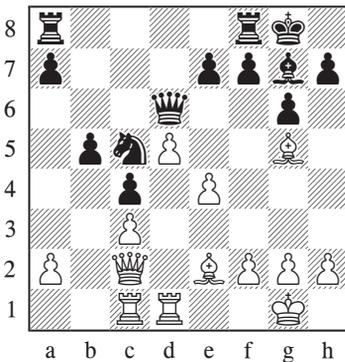
15. ♖c2 ♗c5

15...f5 deserves serious attention.

16. ♖fd1

After 16.f4 Black has the strong idea 16...f6 17. ♖h4 ♖h6 and White has problems defending the f4-pawn.

White's best option is 16. ♖e3, although 16...a6 17. ♖fd1 ♗a4 secures Black good counterplay.



16...f5! 17. exf5 ♖xf5 18. ♖e3 ♖af8

Black had taken over the initiative in Karavade – Gupta, Reykjavik 2010.

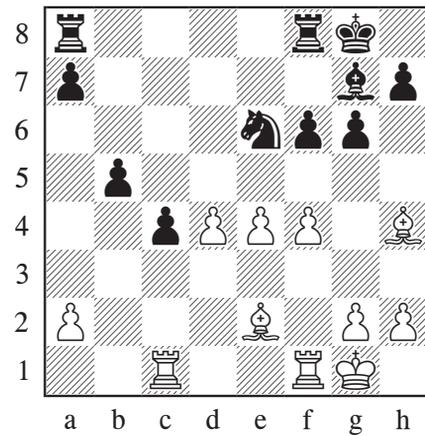
15...f6

There is an interesting alternative: 15...♗b6N 16. ♖c2 ♖ad8 Black is intending to continue with ...f5.

16. ♖h4 ♗c5 17. ♖d4 e5!

The key move, otherwise Black would be in trouble.

18. dxe6 ♖xd4† 19. cxd4 ♗xe6



20. ♖xc4!?

The best try. Black is out of danger after 20.d5 ♗xf4! 21. ♖xf4 g5.

20...f5!

A very strong response. After 20...bxc4 21. ♖xc4 followed by 22.f5 White has good chances of obtaining an advantage.

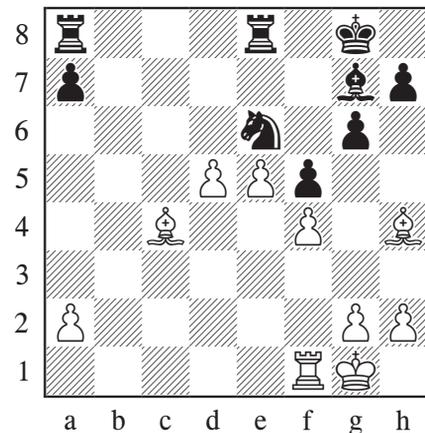
21. e5?

This is going too far. White could maintain equality with 21. ♖b4 ♗xd4 22. ♖xb5.

21...bxc4

Now taking the rook is a different story.

22. ♖xc4 ♖fe8 23. d5



23...g5!

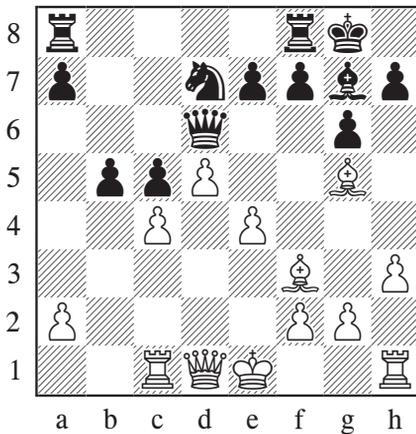
This is simply a refutation of White's idea.

24.fxg5 ♘c5 25.d6† ♔h8 26.e6 ♜ad8
27.♞d1 ♞xe6!

Black had a winning position in Nyback – Kovchan, Aix-les-Bains 2011.

B2) 12.h3 ♙xf3 13.♙xf3 b5 14.c4

White decides to prevent Black playing ...c4.



14...bxc4!N

This is a natural improvement over 14...b4 15.0-0 a5, which led to complex strategical play in Nyback – Svidler, Khanty-Mansiysk 2009.

15.♞xc4 ♙d4! 16.0-0 ♘e5 17.♞a4 f5

Black has an excellent game.

Conclusion

Developing the bishop to g5 leaves the d4-square poorly defended and means that the white d-pawn will soon have to advance. After A) 9.d5 Black can immediately attack the centre with 9...f5, easily obtaining equal chances. When White opts for B) 9.♘f3 ♙g4 10.d5, then 10...f5 is not so clear; however 10...♞d6 and 11...♘d7 offers Black fine play.