# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symbols</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedication</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typical Najdorf Themes</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Fischer Attack: 6 ñc4</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 6 f3 ñb6 and 6 ñe3 ñg4</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 6 ñe3 e5 and the English Attack</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Fianchetto Variation: 6 g3</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Classical Najdorf: 6 ñe2 e5</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 The Aggressive 6 f4</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Gelfand Variation: 6 ñg5 e6 7 f4 ñbd7</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Kasparov Variation: 6 ñg5 e6 7 f4 ñc7</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Poisoned Pawn and Polugaevsky Variations</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Main Line: 6 ñg5 e6 7 f4 ñe7</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 White’s Sixth-Move Alternatives</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index of Variations</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8 Kasparov Variation: 6 Ëg5 e6 7 f4 Ëc7

The variations arising from 6 Ëg5 e6 7 f4 Ëc7 have not been analysed in as much detail as the more popular Poisoned Pawn or the Main Line, so there is still plenty of opportunity for independent analysis. The move 7...Ëc7 was the choice of a young Garry Kasparov; he played several interesting games in this line early in his career before moving on to prefer the Poisoned Pawn Variation. One of the ideas behind 7...Ëc7 is to meet White’s typical plan involving Ëf3 and e5 with ...b5 and ...Ëb7; Black is also well-positioned to play ...b4 before White is able to respond with the thematic Ëd5 piece sacrifice. Several of these lines can transpose into the Gelfand Variation or the Main Line, so it is beneficial to be familiar with these lines also.

Game 17 (Anand-Kramnik) features Kramnik’s first outing with 7...Ëc7; this was a must-win game for the 14th World Champion. Anand plays the positional line 8 Ëxf6 to weaken Black’s pawn-structure, and after 8...gxf6 9 f5 Kramnik chooses 9...Ëc5 instead of the more usual 9...Ëc6. Black’s attempt to unbalance the position with the double-edged novelty 12...exf5!? is met by the precise 13 Ëe3!, seizing two critical diagonals and creating some tactical possibilities involving the weakened d5-square. Kramnik goes astray with 17...f5? instead of the more accurate 17...Ëe6!, which allows Anand to defuse the tension and force an exchange of queens into a slightly advantageous endgame. The players agree to a draw and Anand retains his world championship title by the score of 6½ points to 4½ points. This was a relatively short but interesting encounter because of Kramnik’s opening novelty and the tense competitive situation.

In Game 18 (Stellwagen-Hillarp Persson), White chooses the sharp 8 Ëf3. Black plays the timely 11...h5! to grab some space on the kingside before White can clamp down with Ëh5. The middlegame is a typical Sicilian slugfest: Stellwagen wins a pawn on the kingside at the cost of tying up his queen and knight along the h-file, while Hillarp Persson strikes out on the queenside with 20...a5!? to loosen up White’s king position. The tension culminates in an exciting combination by Black to create mating threats, but White is able to counter precisely and force a draw by repetition. The main theme of this game is the importance of piece activity: Black sacrificed his h-pawn, but in return he was able to draw two of White’s pieces out of play and create strong attacking threats on the queenside.

Game 17 [B96]

Viswanathan Anand – Vladimir Kramnik

World Ch match (game 11), Bonn 2008

1 e4 c5 2 Ëf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Ëxd4 Ëf6 5 Ëc3 a6 6 Ëg5 e6 7 f4 Ëc7 (D)

The queen moves out of the pin, restrains White’s e5 pawn advance and prepares ...b5 and ...Ëb7. Kramnik was trailing in the World Championship match by the score of 6 points to 4 points with two games left to play, so in this must-win situation his usual Petroff or Berlin Ruy Lopez would not be suitable choices — critical games demand the Najdorf!
White weakens Black’s pawn-structure but concedes the bishop-pair; now it will be difficult for Black to castle kingside. Alternatives:

a) 8 Æf3 is the subject of Game 18.

b) 8 f5!? (White increases the pressure on e6 at the cost of conceding the e5-square to Black’s pieces) 8...Æe7 9 fxe6 fxe6 10 Æd3 Æc6 (also reasonable is 10...Æg4!? 11 Æxe7 Æxe7 12 Æf3 Æc6 13 Æd2 0-0 and “Black has a good game thanks to his control over e5” – Arizmendi and Moreno) 11 0-0-0 Æd7 12 Æe2 (Nataf-Bruzon, Capablanca Memorial, Havana 2002) 12...Æe5!? 13 Æh3 0-0 14 Æhf1 Æae8 with a solid position for Black – Arizmendi and Moreno.

c) 8 Æd3 b5! 9 Æe2 b4! (Black drives the knight away from the centre before White has the possibility of sacrificing the piece on d5) 10 Æd1 Æbd7 11 Æf2 Æb7 12 0-0-0 Æe7 13 Æhe1 h6! 14 Æh4 (Nisipeanu-Istratescu, World Junior Ch, Mamaia 1991) 14...g5! 15 fxg5 hxg5 16 Æxg5 Æa5 17 Æxf6 Æxf6 “with excellent compensation for the pawn” – Emms.

d) 8 Æe2 Æc6! (Black exploits the momentary lack of coordination between the white pieces by challenging White’s central knight) 9 0-0-0 Æxd4 10 Æxd4 Æe7 (D).

Now:

d1) 11 e5?! dxe5 12 fxe5 Æd5 13 Æd2 (13 Æxe7?! Æxe7 [13...Æxc3!? is possibly even better, contrary to Kasparov’s analysis] 14 Æe4 0-0 left White with a vulnerable e5-pawn in Ivanchuk-Kasparov, Tilburg 1989) 13...Æxc3 14 Æxc3 b5 with equal chances.

d2) 11 g3 Æd7! 12 Æg2 h6 13 Æh4 Æc6 was fine for Black in Ljubojević-Kasparov, Belgrade 1989. This game is annotated by Igor Stohl in Garry Kasparov’s Greatest Chess Games, Volume 1.

d3) 11 g4!? h6 12 Æh4 g5 13 e5?! dxe5 14 Æc4 Æb8 15 fxg5 hxg5 16 Æg3 Æd7 with sharp play, Naiditsch-Swiercz, European Ch, Budva 2009.

8...gx xf6 (D)

9 f5

This is the logical follow-up to increase the pressure on Black’s centre. Alternatives:

a) 9 Æh5?! (the queen excursion is popular but dubious, as now Black is able to force a favourable exchange of queens) 9...Æxc5! 10 Æxc5 dxc5 11 Æb3 Æd6 12 g3 Æe7 13 Æg2 Æa7! 14 0-0-0 Æd8 15 a4 b6 with a comfortable position for Black as he will follow up with...Æad7 and...Æc7, Kamsky-Svidler, FIDE Grand Prix, Baku 2008.

b) 9 Æd2 Æc6 (Black’s kingside pawn-structure has been compromised, so he focuses on preparing to castle queenside; this transposes
into a solid line of the Richter-Rauzer Attack \{ECO code B67\} and is safer than the popular alternative 9...b5) 10 0-0-0 ëd7 11 ëb1 0-0-0 and then:

b1) 12 ëc4 ëb8 13 ëxe6+ ëxe6 14 ëb3 h5 15 ëhf1 ëc5 16 ëd3 (Topalov-Anand, Dortmund 1997) 16...ëe7 17 ëf5 ëdg8 18 ëh3 ëg4! was recommended by Leko to keep an eye on the e4-pawn; the chances are equal.

b2) 12 ëe2 h5 13 ëhf1 ëb8 14 ëf3 ëxd4 (another idea is 14...h4 with equal chances, Manik-Stocek, Slovakian Team Ch 2007/8) 15 ëxd4 ëc7 16 ëd2 ëdg8 looks reasonable for Black, as suggested by Arizmendi and Moreno.

We now return to 9 f5 (D):

\[9...ëc5\]

Black has a solid alternative in 9...ëc6 10 fxe6 fxe6 11 ëc4 ëxd4 12 ëxd4 ëg8 13 0-0-0 ëd7 14 ëb3, and now:

a) 14...0-0-0 15 g3 ëc7 16 ëa4 ëb8 (after 16...ëg5?! 17 ëd3 White has a slight advantage, Radjabov-Grischuk, FIDE Grand Prix, Sochi 2008) 17 ëb6 ëg4 is equal.

b) 14...ëxg2! 15 ëxf6 ëd8 16 ëd4 ëg5+ 17 ëb1 ëc5 18 ëh8 0-0-0 19 ëxh7 ëg7 20 ëh3 ëg6 and Black’s bishop-pair provides adequate compensation for the pawn, Smirnov-Nayer, Russian Ch, Novokuznetsk 2008.

\[10 ëd3\]

The queen development prepares for queenside castling and covers the sensitive e3-square so that the d4-knight can retreat.

\[10...ëc6 11 ëb3 ëe5 12 0-0-0 (D)\]

\[12...ëxf5!?\]

Kramnik introduces a new move, but such a double-edged idea is not to everyone’s taste since it concedes the d5-square to White’s pieces. A more typical plan would be for Black to maintain his control over the central squares via 12...ëd7 13 ëd2 b5 with a balanced position.

\[13 ëe3!\]

Anand seizes some dark squares and clears d5 for his rook. The queen move is more incisive than 13 ëd5 ëh6+ 14 ëb1 ëf8 with sharp play: Black’s king has been displaced, but his bishop-pair could become powerful.

\[13...ëg7\]

Kramnik defends the f6-pawn as 13...fxe4 14 ëd5 ëe6 15 ëd4 ëxd4 16 ëxd4 ëd7 17 ëxe4 gives White a dangerous lead in development.

\[14 ëd5 ëe7 15 ëg3 (D)\]

\[15...ëg8\]

The alternatives are unappetizing:

a) 15...0-0 16 ëxf5 ëe8 17 ëd3 ëb4 18 ëd4 ëxd3+ 19 ëxd3 and White has a clear plus thanks to his grip on d5.
b) 15...h6+ 16 b1 f4 17 h4 g5 18 f2 f5 19 d3 favours White thanks to his superior development.

16 f4 (D)

Anand keeps up the pressure and avoids simplification. It is too early to recapture material with 16 xd6? fxe4 17 xe7+ xe7 18 h5 f5 19 exh7 e6 20 c5 0-0-0, when Black has an edge thanks to his passed e4-pawn.

16...fxe4

Another idea is 16...e6 17 xd1 (17 exf5?? xd5 18 xd5 xe1#) 17...fxe4 (17...0-0-0 18 exf5 d7 19 d3 with a slight advantage for White due to his control over e4 and d5) 18 xe4 g4! 19 d3 (19 xd6+?! f8 20 c4 xd1 21 xd1 e5 is fine for Black) 19...f8 20 h3 e6 and Black can maintain the balance.

17 d6+ f8 19 xc8 e1+ 21 c1 e7 22 d2!

Black is compelled to exchange queens because of the mating threat on d8.

22...xd2 23 xd2 h6 24 f2 e3 ½-½

Kramnik made Anand a draw offer he could not refuse. Although White has a slight advantage after 25 f3, the draw clinched victory in the world championship match for Anand.

Game 18 [B96]
Daniel Stellwagen – Tiger Hillarp Persson
Malmö 2008

1 e4 c5 2 f3 d6 3 d4xd4 4 xd4 f6 5 c3 a6 6 g5 e6 7 f4 c7 8 f3

The queen development is White’s most popular choice. 8 xf6 is covered in Game 17, along with White’s 8th-move alternatives. 8...b5 (D)

9 xf6

White has a wide range of options:

a) 9 c5?! b7 10 g3 d5 11 xd5 xd5 12 f5 c5 13 fxe6 dxe6 14 0-0-0 (Gorovykh-Brodsky, Peterhof 2009) 14...d7 leaves White with insufficient compensation for the pawn.

b) 9 f5?! (this line has fallen out of favour) 9...b4! 10 cxb5 (White must avoid 10 fxe6?? bx c3 11 xf6 cxb 12 g4 x f6 13 xf6 c3+ 14 f2 xe6 15 xh8 c6 and Black wins) 10...axb5 11 xb5 d7 12 fxe6 xb5 13 cxb5 c4 14 xf6 fxe6 15 d4 gxf6 16 c4 xe6 c4 17 xf6 d7?! favours Black as White’s attack has run out of steam, Molander- Moreno, Port Erin 2003. My database contains more than 30 games with this position, while Arizmendi and Moreno provide detailed coverage of this line.

c) 9 d3 b4! 10 c2 b7 11 0-0-0 b7 12 b1 c7 13 e1 c5 gives Black easy