Contents

2 Classical: 9 ♘d2 and 9 b4

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♘f3 0-0 6 ♗e2 e5 7 0-0 ♘c6 8 d5 ♘e7 *(D)*

Besides 9 ♘e1, White's two other main moves are 9 ♘d2 and 9 b4 (the latter is known as the Bayonet Attack).

They are, generally speaking, two independent lines, but I decided to examine them in the same chapter because they are related to the same strategic plan of creating pressure on the queenside by ♘d2, b4, c5, ♗a3 (with the possible inclusion of a4) and ♘c4. It is considered to be dangerous for Black to ignore this plan and continue (in the spirit of the 9 ♘e1 system) with 9...♘e8 or 9...♘d7. However, things are not absolutely clear there and I shall include below two games featuring 9...♘e8; this is a line where 9 ♘d2 and 9 b4 may intersect.

Other, less risky, answers to 9 ♘d2 and 9 b4 lead to different types of positions.

9 ♘d2 prevents 9...♘h5 and thereby limits Black's possibilities, but on the other hand places White's minor pieces a bit awkwardly, which gives Black reason to undertake some action on the queenside by 9...a5 or 9...c5, preventing the free development of White's forces (b4, c5, ♘c4).
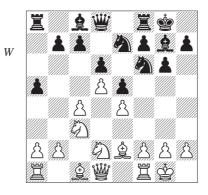
After the more straightforward and very popular 9 b4 Black's main move is 9...♘h5 (I shall provide material on 9...a5 as well). Nowadays 9 b4 ♘h5 10 ♖e1 is certainly one of the most topical lines of the entire King's Indian.

Game 6
Notkin – Golubev
Ukrainian open Ch (Yalta) 1996

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♘f3 0-0 6 ♗e2 e5 7 0-0 ♘c6 8 d5 ♘e7 9 ♘d2 a5 *(D)*

9...c5 is the second most popular move. The main continuation then is 10 ♖b1 ♘e8 11 b4 b6 12 bxc5 bxc5 13 ♘b3 (or 13 ♕a4!?) 13...f5 14 ♗g5 h6 and if 15 ♗xe7 ♕xe7 16 ♘a5, then 16...♘f6 17 ♘c6 ♕e8, but White can also fight for the initiative by 10 dxc6 bxc6 (10...♘xc6?! 11 ♘b3! ♗e6 and now not 12 ♗g5?! ♘d4!, Gleizerov-Golubev, Bela Crkva open 1990, but 12 ♗e3! with a positional advantage) 11 b4 d5 12 ♗a3!, preparing 13 b5. In both cases Black has some problems to solve.
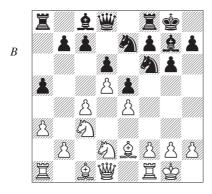

10 a3 *(D)*

10 ♖b1 usually transposes to the main lines with a3 after 10...♘d7 (or 10...♗d7!? 11 b3 c6 12 a3) 11 a3.

Sometimes White opts for 10 b3. The main line then seems to be 10...♘d7 (10...♔h8!?, as I played against *Fritz4* in Senden open 1996, looks like a sensible waiting move: if 11 ♗a3?! then 11...c5! 12 dxc6 bxc6 is good for Black; in Karpov-Kasparov, Seville Wch (17) 1987 Black opted for 10...c5 11 a3 ♘e8 12 ♖b1 f5 13 b4 axb4 14 axb4 b6 and White, despite losing a tempo preparing b4, kept a slight edge) 11 ♗a3

(this is the main idea behind 10 b3) 11...f5 (11...♘c5 12 b4 axb4 13 ♗xb4 ♘a6 14 ♗a3 b6 15 ♘b3 f5 16 ♗c1!?, as in Mikhalchishin-Braga, Mexico U-26 Wcht 1977, gives White some advantage) 12 b4 axb4 13 ♗xb4 b6 14 a4 ♘f6 with reasonable chances for Black. White cannot continue his queenside play by 15 a5?! because 15...c5! 16 dxc6 ♘xc6 wins a pawn for Black.
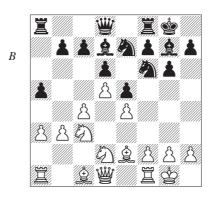

B

10...♗d7!?

Another attempt to play on the queenside, 10...c6(?!), is less successful: 11 ♖b1! (rather innocuous is 11 dxc6 bxc6 12 ♖b1 and here Black can play 12...c5 or 12...d5!?; the latter move occurred in Van Laatum-Golubev, Groningen open 1993 where after 13 b4 axb4 14 axb4 ♗e6 15 b5 d4 16 ♘a4 cxb5 17 cxb5 d3 18 ♗f3 ♕d6 19 ♖a1 ♕b4 20 ♗a3 ♕xa4 21 ♗xe7 ♕xa1 22 ♕xa1 ♖xa1 23 ♖xa1 ♖e8 an approximately equal endgame arose; later Black tried too creatively to obtain winning chances and at some point was completely lost, but it had little to do with the opening) 11...b5?! (after 11...♕c7, 12 dxc6!? bxc6 13 b4 axb4 14 axb4 d5 15 b5 is interesting for White, Blees-Moskalenko, Budapest 1990) 12 dxc6! (12 b4?! axb4 13 axb4 bxc4 14 dxc6 ♘xc6 15 ♘xc4 ♘d4 is OK for Black) 12...b4 13 axb4 axb4 14 ♘b5! ♘xc6 15 ♘b3! ♗e6 (15...♘xe4 16 ♗f3! ♗f5 17 g4! ♘xf2 18 ♖xf2 ♗xb1 19 ♗xc6 seems to favour White) 16 ♕d3 ♘e8 17 ♗e3 f5 18 f3 with an obvious positional advantage for White, Epishin-Nunn, Vienna 1991.

The most popular continuation for Black, 10...♘d7 11 ♖b1 f5 12 b4 ♔h8 and then, for example, 13 ♕c2 ♘g8 14 exf5 gxf5 15 f4 ♘e7, has never looked attractive to me.

11 b3 *(D)*

After 11 ♖b1 there follows 11...a4! 12 b4 axb3 13 ♘xb3 b6 and White's rook on b1 does not help him to advance the a-pawn. After 14 ♖a1, 14...♘e8 gives Black reasonable play.

B

11...♘c8!?

An interesting idea, first used by Geller. Black transfers the knight to b6, wishing to have the ...♘a4 resource after White's ♖b1 and b4. This plan may work very well against an unprepared opponent but objectively 11...c6!? is more critical. The possible continuations are:
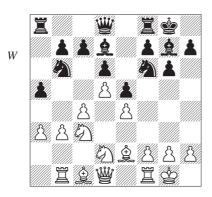
a) After 12 ♖b1 Uhlmann's move 12...b5!? 13 dxc6 b4! 14 ♘d5 (14 cxd7 bxc3 15 ♘f3 ♘xe4) 14...♘xc6 15 ♘xf6+ ♗xf6 16 ♘f3 ♕e7 allows Black to equalize.

b) 12 ♖a2!? (Mikhail Gurevich's speciality) 12...♕b8 (12...♔h8!? with the idea 13 b4 axb4 14 axb4 ♖xa2 15 ♘xa2 b5) 13 ♖c2 ♖c8 14 ♗d3 cxd5 15 cxd5 b5 16 b4 axb4 17 axb4 ♘h5 with chances for both sides, Chuchelov-Bologan, Istanbul Ech 2003.

c) 12 ♗b2 c5!? (the alternative is 12...♕b6) 13 ♘b5 ♘e8 14 b4 axb4 15 axb4 ♖xa1 16 ♕xa1 cxb4 (the immediate 16...♗h6 allows the dangerous sacrifice 17 ♘xd6! ♘xd6 18 bxc5) 17 ♕a4 ♗h6 18 ♕xb4 ♗xb5 (18...f5 19 c5!?) 19 cxb5 f5 20 exf5 (rather unpromising for White is 20 ♘c4 fxe4 21 ♗g4 ♘f5 22 ♗a3 ♕h4! with the idea 23 ♗xf5 ♖xf5 24 ♘xd6? ♖h5 25 h3 ♗f8) 20...♘xf5 21 ♘e4 ♘f6 with approximate equality (but not 21...♕b6?! 22 ♗g4!, preventing 22...♘f6, Gleizerov-Chuchelov, Leeuwarden open 1995).

12 ♖b1

12 ♗b2!? ♘b6 13 ♕c2 is not played often by White, but it looks logical for him to keep the rook on a1. Black can try 13...♕e7 (if 13...c6, then 14 dxc6!, Hammes-Smirin, Berlin open

1997, when 14...bxc6?! is answered by 15 c5!)
14 b4 ♖fc8.

12...♘b6 *(D)*

13 ♔h1

A somewhat mysterious move. 13 ♕c2 ♕e7
(after 13...♗h6 14 b4 axb4 15 axb4 ♘a4 16
♘xa4!? ♖xa4, 17 c5! dxc5 18 bxc5 ♗xd2 19
♗xd2 ♖xe4 {Hammes-Golubev, Limburg rpd
1997} 20 ♗g5! gives White very good com-
pensation) 14 b4 axb4 15 axb4 ♘a4 was suc-
cessfully played by Smirin as Black on several
occasions.

13...♗h6 14 ♗b2 ♕e7 15 ♗a1

Not a pleasant retreat, but 15 b4?! axb4 16
axb4 ♘a4! cannot suit White.

15...♘e8 16 b4 axb4 17 axb4 ♘f6!?

An interesting possibility. I could also have
continued with the planned 17...f5, but the
knight's retreat allows Black to begin a fight
on the queenside.

18 ♘b3 ♘a4! 19 ♘xa4?

My future colleague in *Chess Today*, who
was leading in the Yalta tournament, blunders a
pawn. More natural continuations are 19 ♕d3
♘xc3 20 ♗xc3 ♖a3!? with the idea 21 ♗b2
♖xb3 22 ♕xb3 ♘xe4 23 ♗c3 ♗d2!, and 19
♕c2 ♘xc3 20 ♗xc3 c6!? with approximately
equal chances.

**19...♖xa4 20 f3 ♖xb4 21 ♕e1 ♖a4 22 c5
dxc5!? 23 ♕c3 b6 24 ♕xe5 ♕xe5 25 ♗xe5
♘xe4 26 fxe4**

26 ♗xc7? loses to 26...♘c3.

**26...♖xe4 27 ♗xc7 ♖xe2 28 ♗xb6 ♗f5 29
♗xc5**

Insufficient is 29 ♖xf5 gxf5, when Black
should eventually be able to win White's d-
pawn.

29...♖fe8

After 29...♗e4 White would resist by 30
♖fe1! ♗xg2+ 31 ♔g1.

**30 ♖a1 ♗e4 31 ♗f2 ♗xd5 32 ♘d4 ♖b2 33
♖ab1 ♖eb8 34 ♖xb2 ♖xb2 35 ♔g1?**

35 ♘f3! is necessary (with the idea 35...♗c4
36 ♗d4!). Then Black must still work hard to
win the endgame.

**35...♗e3 36 ♘f3 ♗xf3 37 gxf3 ♖xf2 38
♖xf2 ♔g7 39 ♔g2 ♗xf2 40 ♔xf2 ♔f6 41 ♔g3
♔f5 42 ♔g2 ♔f4 43 ♔f2 g5 44 ♔g2 g4!**

Simplifying into a theoretically winning po-
sition.

45 fxg4 ♔xg4 *(D)*

Having his rook's pawn on its initial posi-
tion, Black wins easily. But if Black, for exam-
ple, had his pawns on h6 and f4, it would be a
draw. In such a way I saved half a point in the
aforementioned game versus Van Laatum.

**46 ♔f2 ♔f4 47 ♔e2 f5 48 ♔f2 ♔e4 49 ♔e2
f4 50 ♔f2 f3 0-1**

Game 7

Bogdanovski – Golubev
Skopje 1991

**1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 d6 3 c4 g6 4 ♘c3 ♗g7 5 e4 0-0
6 ♗e2 e5 7 0-0 ♘c6 8 d5 ♘e7 9 ♘d2 ♘e8**

9...♘d7 10 b4 f5 usually comes to the same
thing after 11 c5 ♘f6. If Black accepts the pawn
sacrifice by 11...dxc5 12 bxc5 ♘xc5 then 13
♗a3! gives White excellent compensation for
the pawn and better chances.

10 b4! f5 11 c5 ♘f6

The alternative lines 11...♔h8 12 a4! and
11...a5 12 ♗a3! axb4 13 ♗xb4 are unattractive
for Black.

12 f3