

# Mini-Lessons From Short Games Of 21st Century

By IM Nikolay Minev

Entertaining and Instructive Games from the World Blitz  
Championship (Moscow 2007)

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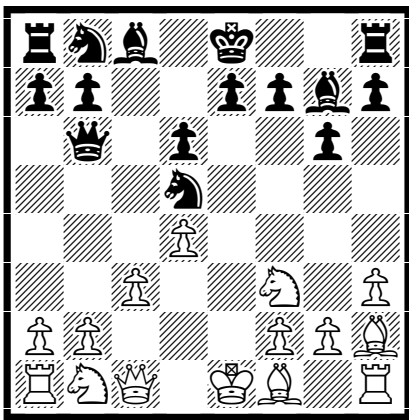
**A48 Vassily Ivanchuk – Alexey Shirov**  
World Blitz Championship, Moscow 2007

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1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.e3 d6 5.h3 c5 6.c3 Qb6 7.Qc1

More popular in tournament practice is 7.Qb3.

7...cxd4 8.exd4 Nd5 9.Bh2



**9...Bh6??**

Tempting, but the wrong idea. Correct is 9...O-O.

**10.Qxh6! Qxb2 11.Bc4 Qxa1**

If 11...Nxc3 then 12.O-O! Qxa1 13.Qg7 Rf8 14.Ng5 and White's attack should prevail.

**12.O-O Be6 13.Qd2!**

Threatening 14.Rc1 and 15.Na3, winning the Queen. Black is already lost.

**13...b5 14.Bxb5+ Nd7 15.c4 Rb8 16.cxd5 Rxb5 17.Nc3 1-0**

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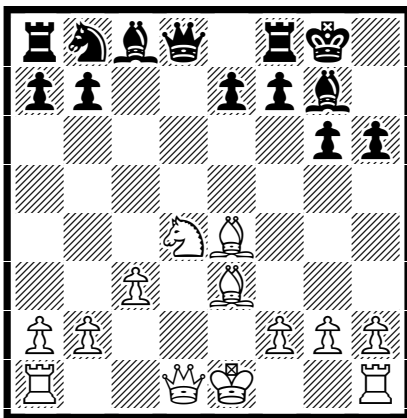
**A48 Ruslan Ponomarev – Alexey Shirov**  
World Blitz Championship, Moscow 2007

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**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 O-O**

4...d5!?

**5.e4 d5 6.Bd3 dxe4 7.Nxe4 Nxe4 8.Bxe4 c5 9.c3 cxd4 10.Nxd4 h6 11.Be3**



**11...f5?? 12.Qb3+ Kh7 13.Bxb7 f4**

A desperate attempt for some counter-play.

**14.Bxa8 fxe3 15.fxe3 e5 16.Nf3 Ba6 17.Be4 Nd7 18.Rd1 Qe7 19.Qd5 Rxf3**

If 19...Nc5 20.Qd6!

**20.Bxf3 e4 21.Qxe4**

Stronger than, 21.Qxd7 Qg5.

**21...Ne5 22.h4 Nxf3+ 23.gxf3 Qc7 24.Rg1 1-0**

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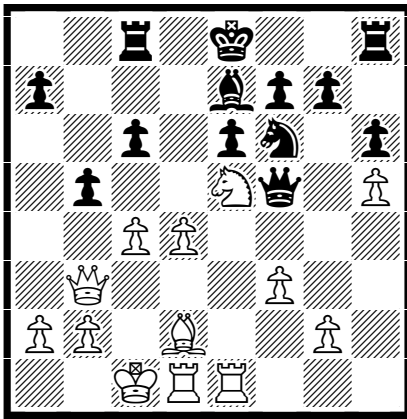
**B19 Peter Leko – Alexey Dreev**  
World Blitz Championship, Moscow 2007

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1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3  
Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6 11.Bd2 Ngf6 12.O-O-O Be7 13.Ne4 Nxe4 14.Qxe4 Nf6 15.Qd5?!

A dubious idea. Usual is 15...c5.

16.c4 Qe4 17.Qb3 b5 18.Rhe1 Qf5 19.Ne5 Rc8 20.f3



20...bxc4??

The decisive mistake in an already difficult position.

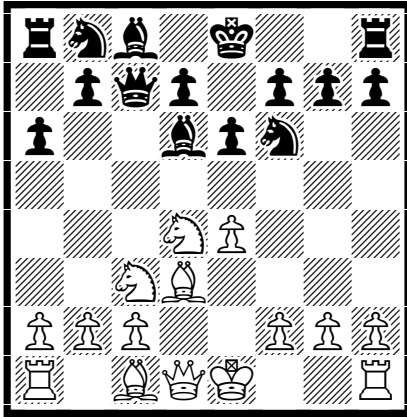
21.Qb7! Rd8 22.g4 Qh7 23.Ba5 Nd5 24.Bxd8 1-0

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**[B43 Rustam Kasimdzhanov – Sergei Rublevsky**  
World Blitz Championship, Moscow 2007

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1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.Qe2 Bd6!?



A provocative continuation that deserves attention.

**8.Ndb5??**

White unsuccessfully attempts an immediate refutation of Black's interesting idea. Obviously this is improvisation on the board. Correct is 8.h3

**8...axb5 9.Nxb5 Qa5+ 10.Bd2 Bb4**

Forced. If 10...Qb6 11.Nxd6+ Qxd6 12.e5.

**11.Bxb4 Qxb4+ 12.c3 Qc5 13.e5 Nd5 14.Nd6+ Kf8 15.Qh5 g6 16.Qh6+ Kg8 17.h4 Nc6 18.h5 Nxe5 0-1**

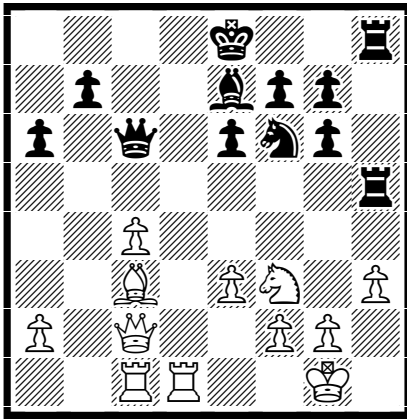
**D11 Alexey Dreev – Alexander Morozevich**

World Blitz Cup, Moscow 2007

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 a6 5.Bd3 Bg4 6.Nbd2 e6 7.Qc2 Nbd7 8.b3 Rc8 9.O-O c5 10.Bb2 Be7 11.Ne5 Bh5 12.Nxd7**

12.f4!?

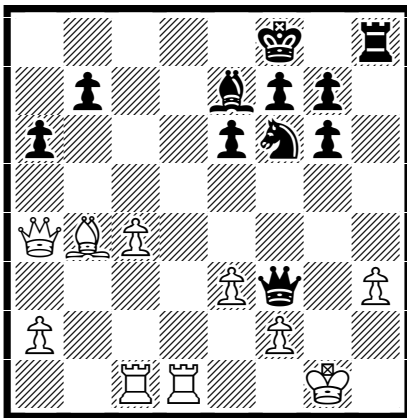
**12...Qxd7 13.dxc5 Rxc5 14.Rac1 dxc4 15.bxc4 Bg6 16.Bxg6 hxg6 17.Rfd1 Qc6 18.Nf3 Ra5 19.Bc3 Rah5 20.h3**



**20...Rhx3 21.gxh3 Qxf3 22.Qa4+ Kf8!**

After 22...b5 23.Qxa6 (23.cxb5? Rxh3) Kf8 24.Bb4 Rxh3 25.Rd8+ Ne8 26.Rxe8+ Kxe8 27.Qxb5+! Kd8 28.Ba5+ Kc8 29.Qe8+ Kb8 30.Rb1+ White wins.

**23.Bb4**



**23...Rhx3??**

Instead 23...Kg8!! wins, because is no defense against Rxh3.

**24.Rd8+ 1-0**

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**D14 Vladimir Kramnik – Viswanathan Anand**  
World Blitz Championship, Moscow 2007

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**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.d4 Nc6 6.Bf4 a6 7.Rc1 Bf5 8.e3 Rc8**

Probably 8...e6 followed by Bd6, is better.

**9.Be2 e6 10.O-O Be7 11.Qb3!**

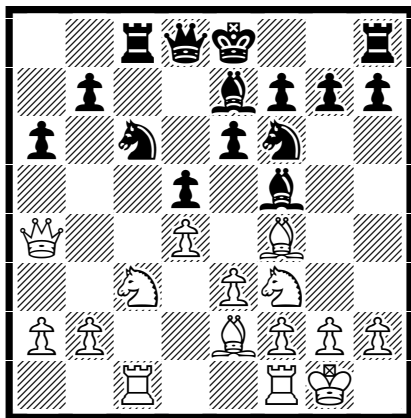
Stronger than 11.Qa4, which is the recommended by theory.

**11...Na5**

If 11...b5 12.Nxb5 or 11...Qd7 12.Na4!

**12.Qa4+ Nc6?**

If 12...b5 13.Nxb5! or 12...Nd7 13.Rxc8 Qxc8 14.Qxa5. Black's only reply was 12...Kf8, which would result in a clearly worse, but still playable, position.



**13.Bxa6!! Ra8**

If 13...bxa6 14.Ne5 Qb6 15.Ne2 (15.Nb1!?) O-O 16.Nxc6 etc.

**14.Bxb7 Rxa4 15.Bxc6+ Kf8 16.Nxa4 Ne4 17.Bb7 Nd6 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.Rc6! Qd7 20.Rc8+ Bd8 21.Ne5 1-0**

An important game for the theory of this variation.

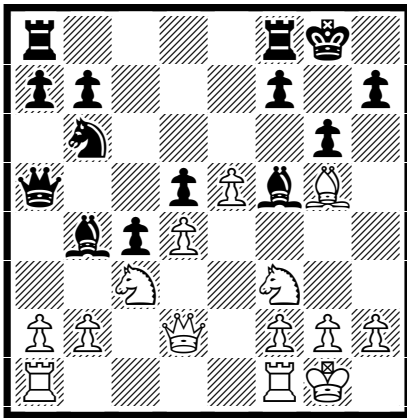
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**D38 Alexander Grischuk – Boris Savchenko**

World Blitz Championship Moscow 2007

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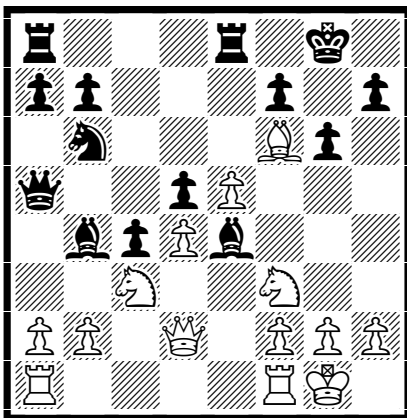
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.e3 c5 8.Bd3 c4?!  
9.Bf5 Qa5 10.Qc2 g6 11.Bxd7+ Nxd7 12.e4 O-O 13.O-O Nb6 14.e5 Bf5 15.Qd2



**15...Be4??**

Obligatory was the immediate 15...Rfe8 (15...Nd7!?).

**16.Bf6 Rfe8**



**17.a3!! Bxf3**

There is no defense. If 17...Bxc3 18.Qh6! with inevitable mate or 17...Bf8 18.Nxe4 and White wins a piece.

**18.axb4 Qxb4 19.Qh6 1-0**

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**E12 Alexey Dreev – Alexey Korotylev**  
World Blitz Championship, Moscow 2007

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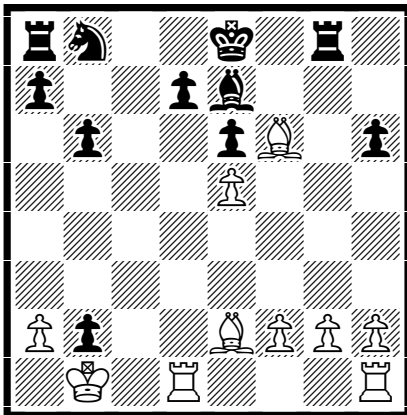
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Nc3 Bb7 5.Bg5 Bb4 6.Qc2 h6 7.Bh4 c5 8.d5!? exd5 9.cxd5 Bxd5 10.O-O-O Be6?!**

10...Bxc3!?

**11.Ne4 c4?!**

11...d5!?

**12.Nxf6+ gxf6 13.Nd4 Qe7 14.e4 c3 15.e5 cxb2+ 16.Kb1 Qc5 17.Qxc5 Bxc5 18.Bxf6 Rg8 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Be2 Be7**



**21.Bh5+ Kd8??**

A blunder. Obligatory was 21...Kf8.

**22.Bf3 1-0**