

Mini-Lessons from Short Games of the 21st Century

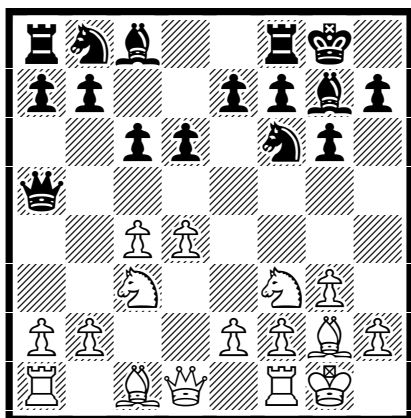
by IM Nikolay Minev

#6: The Always Exciting KID (King's Indian Defense)

Without any doubt, the King's Indian Defense is the most popular choice for Black against 1.d4. This opening offers a variety of variations with different strategic ideas and countless tactical opportunities. That is why almost any game with the "KID" is instructive and exciting, as my choice of examples below shows.

E62 M. Schneider – R. Huss
Bad Zwesten 2005

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.O-O O-O 5.c4 d6 6.d4 c6 7.Nc3 Qa5!?



This recent but rarely used idea is intended to transfer the Queen to the Kingside. Its true value is still unclear, while this game shows how White should not play!

8.a3?

Or 8.Qc2? Qh5 9.Re1 Bh3 10.Bh1 Nbd7 11.Ng5 Ng4 12.Bf3? Bxd4! 13.Qe4 Bxf2+ 14.Kh1 Bg2+! 0-1, A. Kohalmi – E. Tang, Winnipeg 2005. In my opinion, White's best response is 8.d5!?, an idea that is critical for the whole variation. The theory suggests 8.h3!

8...Qh5 9.b4 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Bb2 e4 12.Nd2 e3! 13.fxe3 Ng4 14.h3 Nxe3 15.Qe1 Bxh3 16.Bxh3 Qxh3 17.Qf2 Ng4 18.Qg2 Bd4+ 0-1

E62 R. Fernandes – F. de la Paz
Linares 2005

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nf3 O-O 5.O-O d6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.d4 Bg4 8.h3

An alternative is 8.d5!? Na5 9.Nd2 c5 10.Qc2, Smyslov-Minev, Moscow 1960.

8...Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Nd7 10.Be3

An original idea, but hardly to be recommended. Better is 10.e3 e5 and now 11.dxe5 or 11.d5 Ne7 12.e4 f5 13.Bd2!, intending b2-b4.

10... e5 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Qd2 f5!?

Clearly more ambitious than 12...exd4 13.Bxd4 Bxd4 14.Qxd4 Qf6= as in P.Nikolic-Velimirovic, Bor 1986.

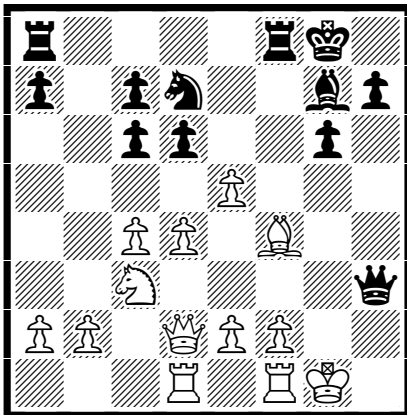
13.Rad1?

White should play 13.dxe5 or 13.Bg5.

13...f4! 14.gxf4 Qh4 15.fxe5?

Maybe 15.dxe5!? Qxh3 16.Ne4.

15...Qxh3 16.Bf4



16...Bh6!!

A tactical trick that deserves to be remembered!

17.Bxh6 Qg4+ 18.Kh1 Rf5 0-1

**E70 Chatalbashev – L. Hetey
Malaga 2000**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bd3!?

This is a modern variation!

5...O-O 6.Nge2 a6 7.O-O c5

In my opinion, the better plan here is 7...e5.

8.dxc5!?

Instead of the usual 8.d5 e6 etc.

8...dxc5 9.e5 Ng4

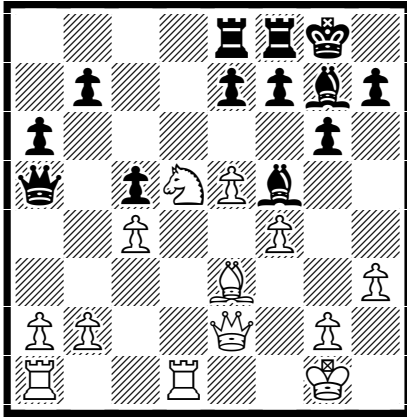
If 9...Nd7, then not 10.e6?! fxe6!, but 10.f4! with a better game for White.

10.f4 Nc6 11.h3 Nh6 12.Be3 Nd4 13.Be4!

Incredibly, this quiet move practically wins the game.

13...Nh5 14.Bxf5 Nxe2+ 15.Qxe2 Bxf5 16.Rfd1 Qa5 17.Nd5 Rae8

Now comes the shocking surprise.



18.a4!! 1-0

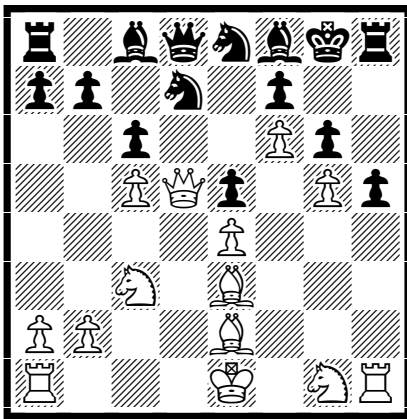
There is no defense against the threat 19.b4 cxb4 20.Bb6 and Black's Queen is trapped.

This next game is poorly played by Black game, but is shown in spite of this for two reasons:

- To demonstrate the result of passive play against a direct attack and
- To show a rare, beautiful mating pattern with a Bishop and pawn.

**E73 A. Zubritskiy – D. Ozerov
Moscow 2005**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 O-O 6.Bg5 Nbd7? 7.h4 h6 8.Be3 Kh8? 9.g4 Ne8 10.Qd2 Kh7 11.f4 e5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.f5 Rh8 14.g5 h5 15.f6 Bf8 16.Qd5 Kg8 17.c5 c6??



A picture which cannot be forgotten. Pay attention to Black's pieces on the last rank!

18.Qxf7+ 1-0

Because of 18...Kxf7 19.Bc4#

**E81 R. Biedekoepper – C. van Oosterom
Groningen 2008**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 O-O 6.Bg5

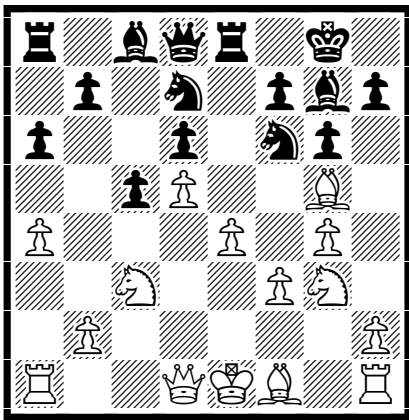
Usual is 6.Be3. We will learn in this game why White should be very careful playing Bg5!

6...c5 7.d5 e6 8.Nge2

The theory recommends 8.Bd3 or 8.Qd2.

8...exd5 9.cxd5 a6 10.a4 Nbd7 11.g4 Re8 12.Ng3??

Failing into one of the most typical tactical traps in the KID. Correct is 12.Qd2.



12...Nxe4! 13.Bxd8 Nxc3+ 14.Qe2 Nxe2 15.Bxe2 Bxb2 0-1

**E94 S. Ernst – R. Pruijssers
Groningen 2006**

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Nf3 O-O 6.Be2 e5 7.O-O Na6

A relatively new idea, instead of 7...Nbd7 or 7...Nc6.

8.Be3 Ng4 9.Bg5 Qe8 10.h3 h6 11.Bh4?!

Practice shows that after 11.Bc1 Nf6 12.dxe5 dz5 13.Be3 N5 the chances are equal.

11...exd4?!

A novelty, but with dubious value. Instead 11...Nf6 is considered to achieve equality.

12.Nd5!

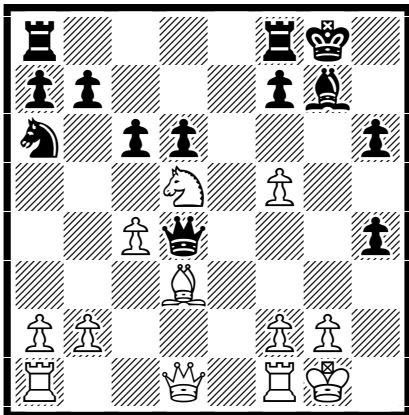
The alternative is 12.Nxd4 Nf6 13.f3=

12...g5 13.hxg4 gxh4 14.Nxd4 Qxe4?

Better is 14...c6, followed by Nc5.

15.Nf5! Bxf5 16.gxf5 c6 17.Bd3 Qd4

If 17...Qe8 18.f6 cxd5 19.Qg4! and wins.



18.f6! Bxf6

If 18...cxd5 19.Bh7+ winning the Queen.

19.Qg4+!! 1-0

Because of 19...Qxg4 20.Nxf6+ and 21.Nxg4, or 19...Kh8 20.Qf5 or 19...Bg7 20.Ne7+ Kh9 21.Qf5.