

The Nimzo-Indian Bible for White

Volume 2 A Complete Opening Repertoire for White 4.e3

Milos Pavlovic

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Key to Symbols

!	a good move
?	a weak move
!!	an excellent move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
□	only move
N	novelty
☉	lead in development
⊙	zugzwang
=	equality
∞	unclear position
∞̄	with compensation for the sacrificed material
±	White stands slightly better
∓	Black stands slightly better
±	White has a serious advantage
∓	Black has a serious advantage
+−	White has a decisive advantage
−+	Black has a decisive advantage
→	with an attack
↑	with initiative
↔	with counterplay
Δ	with the idea of
△	better is
≤	worse is
+	check
#	mate

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Foreword

I have worked with the best, or perhaps it's better to say that I have learned from the best; that's how I can best describe this book, because I spent some time with Svetozar Gligoric in the early 2000s and the Nimzo-Indian was also present. I can't really say that we went into great detail, but we certainly did discuss various systems. This book in particular is about the Rubinstein 4.e3 systems. Some of the material has been analyzed in my earlier book on the QGD and Nimzo, while some other material is presented in Volume 1 in this short series, which covers the Nimzo with 4.♘d2 and 4.♙c2. From other published books I used Gligoric's book on the Nimzo-Indian and Ivan Sokolov's book on the Nimzo with 4.e3. I found both books useful.

I need to give one explanation here and it's about the Tal Variation because that system is treated also in my Volume 1, where I analyze the 4.♘d2 line. In this Volume 2 I have omitted all positions where White places a bishop on d2 early in the game, while Volume 1 deals exclusively with an early bishop to d2 move by White.

I hope readers will enjoy both of those books.

Milos Pavlovic, December 2022

Part I

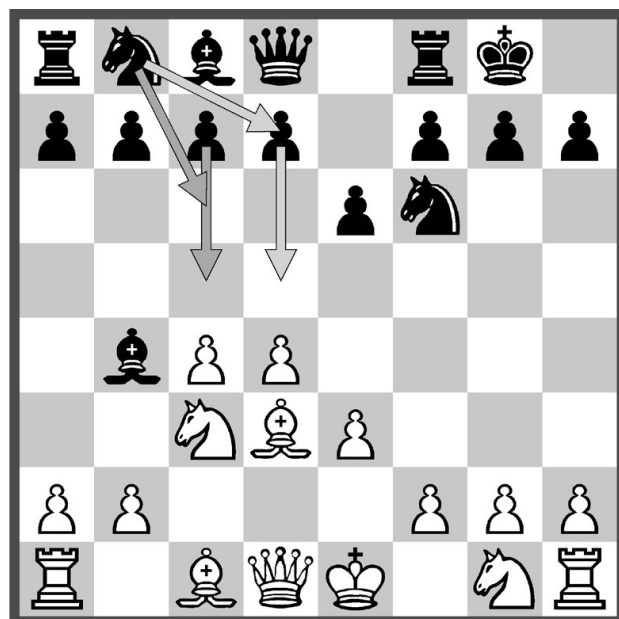
4...0-0 – Early Sidelines



Various Early Deviations

1.d4 ♞f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♞c3 ♞b4

4.e3 0-0 5. ♞d3



Chapter Guide

Chapter 1 – Various Early Deviations

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.e3 0-0 5.♙d3

a) 5...--.....	11
b) 5...d5 6.♘f3 ♘c6 – Taimanov’s Line	13
c) 5...c5 6.♘f3 d5 7.0-0 ♘bd7	16
d) 5...c5 6.♘f3 d5 7.0-0 b6.....	17
e) 5...c5 6.♘f3 ♘c6.....	20

a) 5...--

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♙b4 4. e3
0-0 5. ♙d3



Position after: 5. ♙d3

Here we will investigate rare lines and variations, such as the Taimanov, that are not so critical.

5... d6

We will check some unusual or lesser-known lines in which Black is going either for the ...e5 plan, or for the ...d5 plan but in a less orthodox way.

5... ♖e8 A bit rare but actually a reasonable idea. 6. ♘ge2 It is clear that the knight belongs on this square now; it's more flexible there.

A) 6... d6 7. 0-0 e5 8. ♘g3 ♙xc3 9. bxc3 ♘c6 10. f3 b6 11. ♚a4 ♙b7 12. ♙d2 ♚d7 13. ♙f5 ♚e7 14. ♖ae1 ♘a5 15. e4 c5

(see analysis diagram next column)

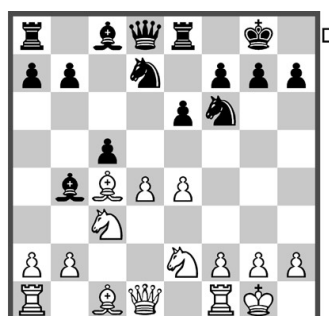


Position after: 15... c5

16. f4! White has attacking chances, 1-0 (57) Gligoric, S – Taimanov, M Budva 1967.

B) 6... ♘c6 7. 0-0 e5 8. d5 ♘b8 9. a3 ♙f8 10. e4 d6 11. b4 ♘bd7 12. f3 c5 13. ♙e3 b6 14. ♘c1 g6 15. ♘b3 We have reached a passive version of the King's Indian, 1-0 (39) Boleslavsky, I – Kasparian, G Moscow 1952.

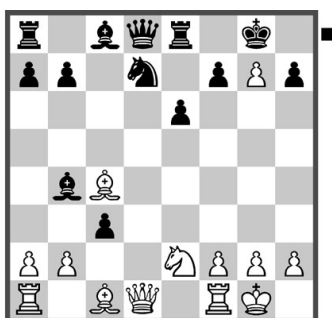
C) 6... d5!? 7. 0-0 ♘bd7 A rather unusual combination of lines, but it's not something that can be neglected. 8. e4 dxc4 9. ♙xc4 c5



Position after: 9... c5

10. e5 [also simple chess like 10. a3 ♙xc3 11. ♘xc3 cxd4 12. ♚xd4 ♘b6

13. ♔xd8 ♖xd8 14. ♘b3 e5 15. ♘e3
 ♘e6 16. ♘xe6 fxe6 17. ♘xb6 axb6
 18. ♖fd1 ♞e8 19. ♖ac1 ♞d6 20. h4
 ♔f7 21. ♔f1 ♔e7 22. ♖c2 gives
 White some edge here because the
 pawns on e5 and b6 are vulnerable]
 10... cxd4 11. exf6 dxc3 12. fxg7!



Position after: 12. fxg7!

12... ♞e5 13. ♘b5 ♘d7 14. ♘xd7
 ♔xd7 15. ♔b3 ♘e7 16. ♞xc3 With
 some edge.

6. ♞ge2

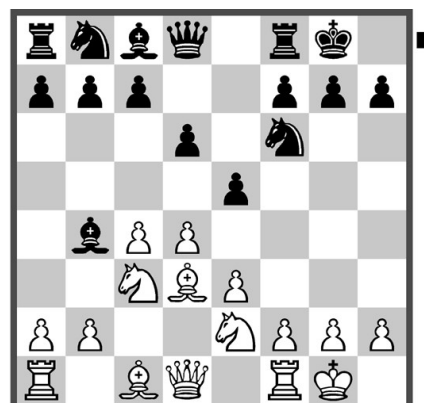
Here too we see that the knight is effective on e2 when Black is going for ...e5 plans.

6... e5

Black is trying a combination of ideas. We will see that choosing the ...e5 plan is possible, but a bit passive.

7. 0-0

(see diagram next column)



Position after: 7. 0-0

7... c6

Black's point is to preserve his bishop by clearing the c7-square for it.

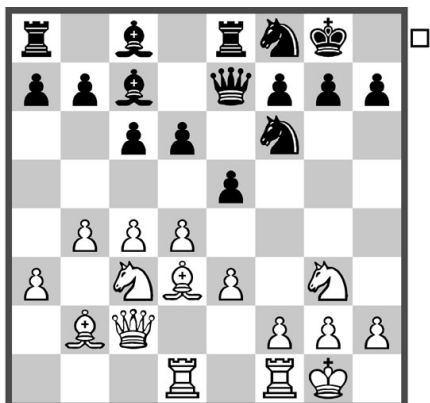
7... ♞c6 8. d5 ♞e7 [8... ♞b8 9. a3
 ♘xc3 10. ♞xc3 a5 11. e4 ♞e8 12. ♘e3
 f6 13. ♔d2 ♖f7 14. b4 ♞d7 15. c5 simple
 and strong, 1-0 (30) Botvinnik, M –
 Kholmov, R Moscow 1947] 9. a3 ♘a5
 10. b4 ♘b6 11. ♞a4 ♘d7 12. ♞xb6
 axb6 13. ♘b2 ♞g6 14. h3 c6 15. dxc6!



Position after: 15. dxc6!

15... ♘xc6 16. ♞c3 ♔e7 17. ♖e1 This
 looks very good for White.

8. ♔c2 ♖e8 9. a3 ♘a5 10. b4 ♘c7 11.
 ♘b2 ♞bd7 12. ♖ad1 ♔e7 13. ♞g3
 ♞f8



Position after: 13... Nf8

14. Nce4!

It is essential to carry out this maneuver, especially when the other black knight leaves the d7-square.

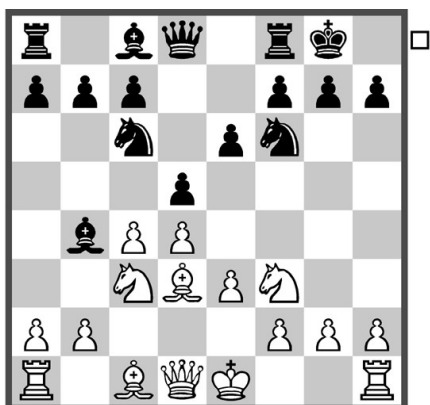
14. d5 Qd7 15. Nf5 Qxf5 16. Qxf5 cxd5 17. cxd5 Nd6d7 18. Rc1 g6 19. Qh3 a6 20. Qb3 White also has some edge here, 1-0 (54) Taimanov, M – Golombek, H Moscow 1956.

14... Nxe4 15. Qxe4 g6 16. d5 f5 17. Qf3

White's position looks very strong.

b) 5...d5 6. Nf3 Nc6 – Taimanov's Line

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Qb4 4. e3 O-O 5. Qd3 d5 6. Nf3 Nc6



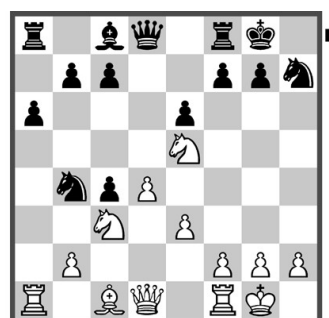
Position after: 6... Nc6

This is the correct move order if Black wants to play the Taimanov system. Sometimes Black plays ...Nc6 on move 4 or 5, but by playing ...d5 first Black is forcing the white knight to go to f3 rather than e2, which enables Black to enter the best version of this system.

7. O-O dxc4

Black can also wait a bit before making this typical move.

7... a6 8. a3 dxc4 9. Qxh7+!? Nhx7 10. axb4 Nxb4 11. Ne5



Position after: 11. Ne5

11... b6 [11... Qe7 12. Nxc4 Rd8 13. b3 b5 14. Na5 Qe8 15. Qa3 Nc6 16. Qc5 Nxa5 17. Rxa5 White has slightly preferable chances, ½-½ (28) Peralta, F

(2563) – Vila Gazquez, J (2075) Andorra 2007] 12. Nxc4 Qb7 13. $\text{Ra3!?$



Position after: 13. $\text{Ra3!?$

That's an interesting idea -- White is ready to open up the third rank. 13... Nd5 [13... Nf6 14. e4! Nxe4 15. Nxe4 Qxe4 16. Ne5 that's the idea behind rook to a3: now White is launching an attack] 14. Ne5 Nhf6 15. e4! [15. Ne2 this is less clear, 1-0 (35) Del Rio de Angelis, S (2505) – Berkovich, M (2387) Andorra 2007] 15... Nxc3 16. Rxc3 Nxe4 17. Rh3 White has developed strong attacking chances.

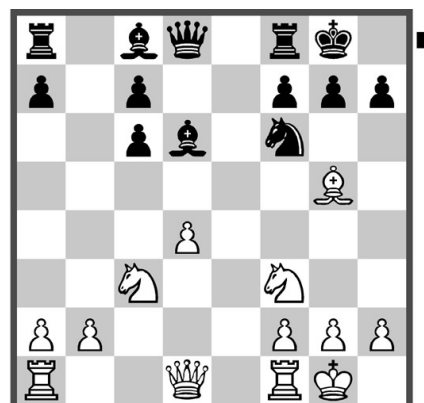
8. Qxc4 Qd6

The main point of the whole Taimanov system. Black is playing for the ...e5 break.

9. Qb5 e5 10. Qxc6 exd4 11. exd4 bxc6 12. Qg5

Black has the bishop pair, but weak pawns on the queenside.

(see diagram next column)



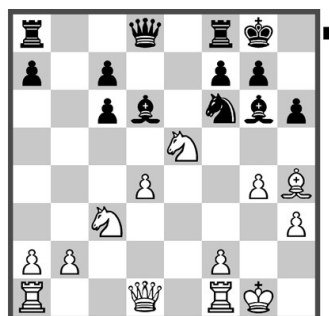
Position after: 12. Qg5

12... h6

12... Qf5 13. Re1 Re8 14. Rxe8+ Qxe8 15. Qxf6 gxf6 16. Nh4 Qg6 17. Qd2 Qd7 18. Re1 Re8 19. Rxe8+ Qxe8 20. g3 Qe6 21. Ng2 Qb4 22. a3 Qd6 23. Ne3 Qg7 24. Qd1 Two knights versus two bishop, but it seems that the shattered black pawns give White the better chances, 1-0 (51) Babula, V (2545) – Zemerov, V (2400) Berlin 1996.

13. Qh4 Re8

13... Qg4 14. h3 Qh5 15. g4 Qg6 16. Ne5



Position after: 16. Ne5

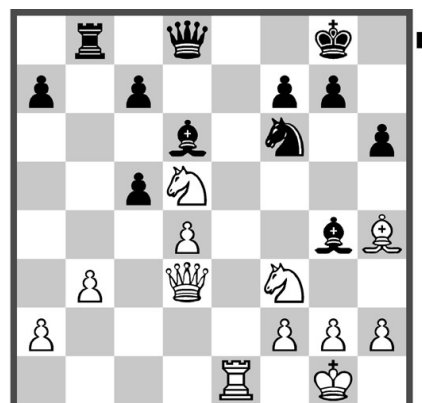
16... c5 [16... ♗xe5 17. dxe5 ♔xd1 18. ♖axd1 ♘d5 19. ♘xd5 cxd5 20. ♖xd5 ♗e4 21. ♖d4 ♗f3 22. ♖c1 c6 23. ♗e7 ♖fb8 24. b3 White is better, not only because he is a pawn up but also because he simply has better pieces, 1-0 (51) Portisch, L – Andersson, U Prague 1970] 17. f4 cxd4 18. ♔xd4 ♗xe5 19. ♔xd8 ♖fxd8 20. fxe5 ♖d3 21. exf6 ♖xh3 22. ♔g2 ♖xh4 23. ♔g3 White wins, 1-0 (34) Babula, V (2540) – Blatny, P (2515) Lazne Bohdanec 1996.

14. ♔d3

14. ♖e1 ♖xe1+ 15. ♔xe1 g5 16. ♗g3 ♗f5 17. ♘e5 ♔e8 18. ♖c1 ♘h5 19. ♘a4 ♔e6 20. b3 ♖e8 21. ♔c3 Again here we see that Black has not fully equalized, 1-0 (53) Navara, D (2739) – Ivanisevic, I (2638) Minsk 2017.

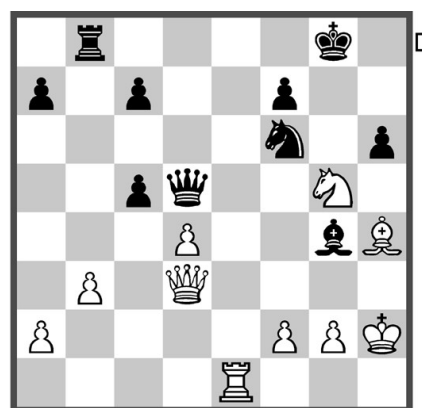
14... ♗e6 15. ♖ad1 ♖b8 16. b3 ♗g4 17. ♖de1 ♖xe1 18. ♖xe1 c5 19. ♘d5!

(see diagram next column)



Position after: 19. ♘d5!

19... g5 20. ♘xg5! ♗xh2+ 21. ♔xh2 ♔xd5



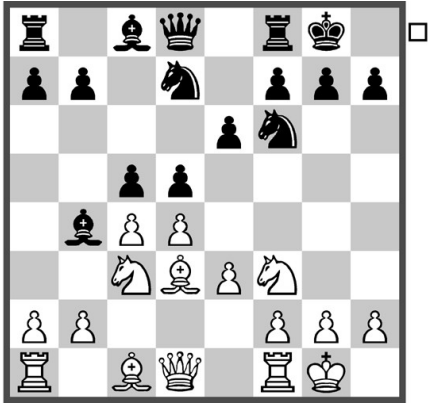
Position after: 21... ♔xd5

22. ♘e4

White has much better chances, 1-0 (43) Lilienthal, A – Estrin, Y Moscow 1953.

c) 5...c5 6. f3 d5 7.0-0 bd7

1. d4 f6 2. c4 e6 3. c3 b4 4. e3
0-0 5. d3 c5 6. f3 d5 7. 0-0 bd7

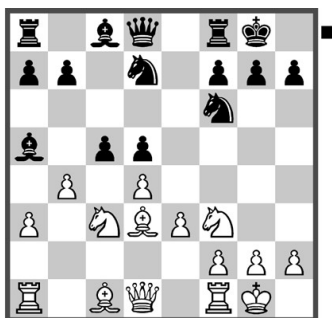


Position after: 7... bd7

Here we see an old line that actually has not been popular for a long time, and there is a good reason for that.

8. a3 xc3

8... a5 9. cxd5 exd5 10. b4!

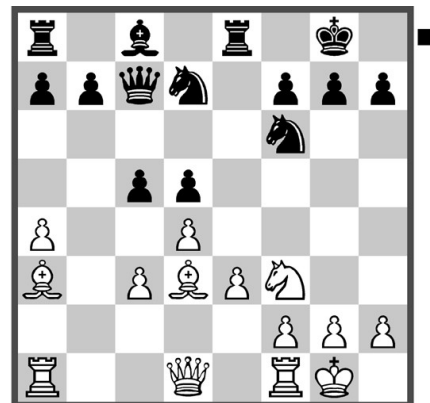


Position after: 10. b4!

This is a key idea that Gligoric found during his match with Tal in Belgrade. But Tal, who used this system with Black, deviated at a critical moment and only later in some other games was

Gligoric able to reveal this great idea, which brought him some nice wins. 10... cxb4 11. b5 a6 12. b3 bxa3 13. d6 c7 14. xa3 xd6 15. xd6 e8 16. fc1 e6 17. f4 h6 18. h3 White enjoys nice play for the sacrificed pawn, 1-0 (50) Gligoric, S – Andersson, U Berlin 1971.

9. bxc3 c7 10. cxd5 exd5 11. a4 e8
12. a3



Position after: 12. a3

12... e4

12... c4 13. c2 f8 14. d2 g4 15. f3 h5 16. e1 g6 17. xf8 xf8 18. xg6 hxg6 19. e4 White has easy play.

13. c4! cxd4 14. cxd5

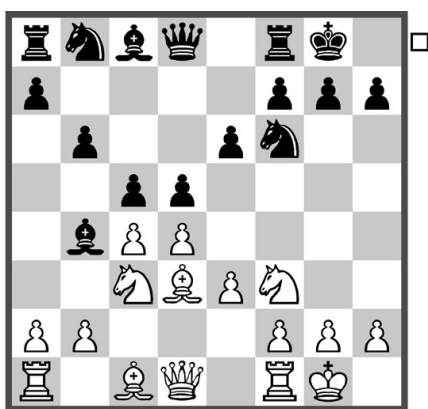
Even simpler is 14. xd4! dxc4 15. c1 d6 16. b5 xb5 17. xc4 d8 18. axb5 when White is better.

14... dxe3 15. fxe3 ♔b6 16. ♘d4 ♘df6
17. ♖b1 ♔d8 18. ♚c2

With less clear consequences, 1-0 (30)
Sandipan, C (2618) – Tvarijonas, P
(2324) Pardubice 2012.

d) 5...c5 6. ♘f3 d5 7. 0-0 b6

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♘b4 4. e3
0-0 5. ♘d3 c5 6. ♘f3 d5 7. 0-0 b6



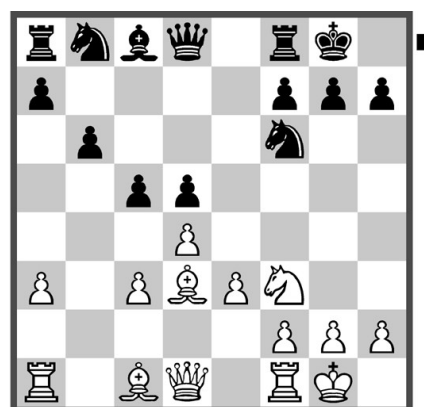
Position after: 7... b6

This is another old line but it has recently become popular again, and it's not without point. Black actually wants to play the Karpov line but is waiting in the center, maintaining the tension.

8. cxd5 exd5 9. a3

In my opinion this is a good choice, although in his book on the Nimzo Gligoric stated that 9.dxc5 bxc5 10. ♘e2 is also OK, as he played in one of his games versus Keres.

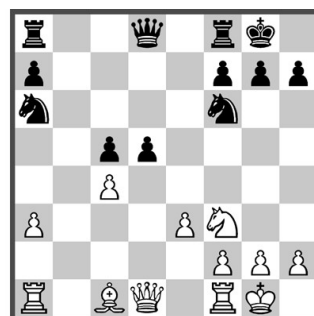
9... ♘xc3 10. bxc3



Position after: 10. bxc3

10... c4

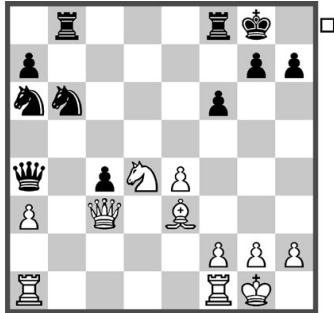
A) 10... ♘a6 11. dxc5 bxc5 12. ♘xa6
♘xa6 13. c4!



Position after: 13. c4!

That is an important motif. Now Black has a few choices but none gives him equal play. 13... ♖b8 [13... dxc4 14. ♚a4 ♘c7 15. ♘b2 ♘e6 16. ♖fd1 ♚e7 17. ♚xc4 ♖fd8 18. h3 White has some edge here] 14. ♚a4 ♚b6 15. cxd5 ♚b5

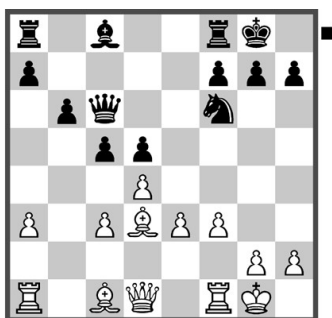
16. ♖c2 ♜xd5 17. e4 ♞b6 18. ♙e3 c4
19. ♞d4 ♚a4 20. ♚c3 f6



Position after: 20... f6

21. ♞f5 This position is favorable for White, 1-0 (48) Parligras, M (2622) – Atalik, E (2474) Golden Sands 2012.

B) 10... ♞c6 This position can arise also from the main move order, if instead of going 9... ♚c7 Black plays 9...b6 and here we are. Gligoric mentions in his book that this line originates from Nimzowitsch himself. 11. ♞e5 ♚c7 12. ♞xc6 ♚xc6 13. f3



Position after: 13. f3

Now Black will try to stand still while controlling e4, or else try to exchange the light-squared bishops with ...♙a6. 13... a5 [13... ♙e6 14. ♚e1 ♞d7 15. e4 c4 16. ♙c2 f5 17. e5 ♜f7 18. a4 a5 19. f4 White has better chances, 1-0 (40)

Taimanov, M – Petrosian, T Zurich 1953] 14. ♚e2



Position after: 14. ♚e2

14... ♙b7 [14... c4 15. ♙c2 b5 16. e4 ♙e6 17. ♚e1 ♞d7 18. ♚g3 f6 19. ♙f4 ♜f7 20. ♜fe1 ♞f8 21. ♙d6 ♜d8 22. ♙c5 White is better, ½-½ (22) Rabar, B – Petrosian, T Belgrade 1954] 15. a4 c4 16. ♙c2 ♜fe8 17. ♚f2 ♚e6 18. ♚h4 g6 19. ♙d2 ♞h5 20. ♜ab1 White is better here as well, since Black somehow finds himself without a clear plan, 1-0 (41) Gligoric, S – Persitz, R Hastings 1968.

11. ♙c2 ♙g4 12. ♚e1



Position after: 12. ♚e1

12... ♙xf3