

On the Advance Variation of the French Defence

C02

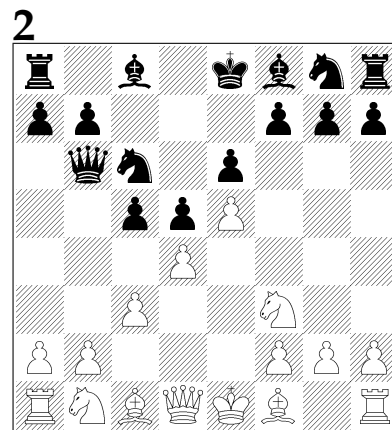
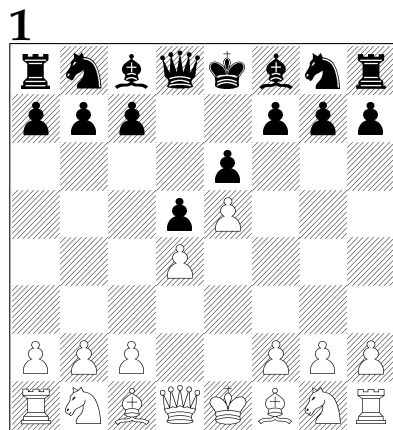
Federico Garcia

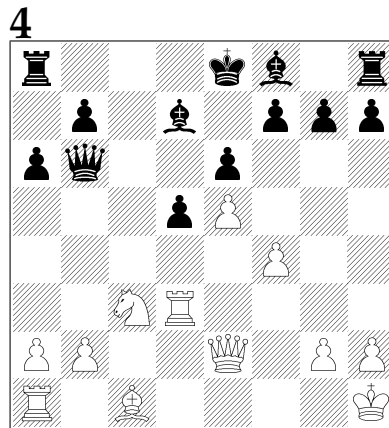
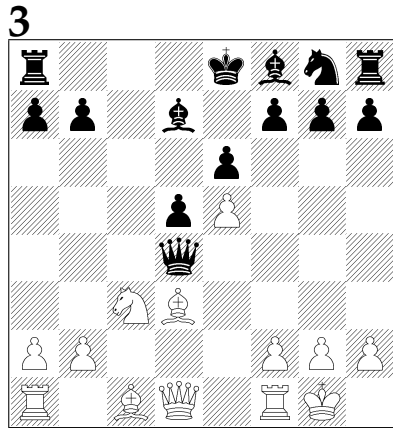
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Basic references: ECO C02; Polgar's article in *ChessLife*, Oct. 2004.

I plan to play the Advance Variation of the French Defence:

1. e4 e6; 2. d4 d5; 3. e5 (1). Black will most of the time proceed to attack the d4: 3. ... c5; 4. c3 ♞c6; 5. ♞f3 ♚b6. Or, alternatively, 4. ... ♚b6 and 5. ... ♞c6. (2) I will consider two continuations: the gambit 6. ♞d3 and the more solid 6. a3.





6 ♖d3

The natural line for Black to accept the pawn(s): 6. ♖d3 cxd4; 7. cxd4 ♖d7 [7. ... ♗xd4?; 8. ♗xd4 ♜xd4?; 9. ♖b5+-]; 8. 0-0 ♗xd4; 9. ♗xd4 ♜xd4; 10. ♗c3. If Black does 6. ... ♖d7 first, White has the chance of 7. dxc5 ♖xc5; 8. ♜e2. Polgar gives now 8. 0-0, citing a game by Nimzowitsch that continued 8. ... f6; 9. b4 ♖e7; 10. ♖f4; but there is 8. ... a5! by Suètin in 1979.

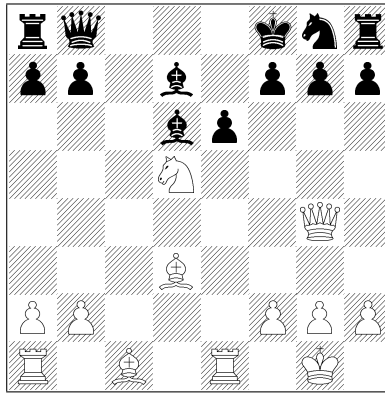
8. ♜e2 makes it harder for Black to think of ... f6. And, of course, if now 8. ... ♗ge7?; 9. b4+- . Hort–Andersson (1972) continued 8. ... a5; 9. ♗bd2 a4; 10. b4 axb3; 11. ♗xb3 ♖a3; 12. 0-0 ♗ge7; 13. ♖d2 ♗g6; 14. ♗bd4 Δh4±↑.¹

(3) Here black can accept a second pawn, or develop.

Greed: 10 ... ♜xe5

The attack follows immediately: 10. ... ♜xe5; 11. ♜e1 ♜b8 [11. ... ♜d6; 12. ♗b5 ♖xb5 (12. ... ♜b8; 13. ♜f3 ♖d6; 14. ♜xd5 ♖xh2+; 15. ♗h1 ♖c6; 16. ♜g5± ♗f6; 17. f4 h6; 18. ♜xg7 ♜g8; 19. ♜xe6+! fxe6; 20. ♖g6! ♗d8; 21. ♜xf6+ 1-0 Tal-Nei 1958); 13. ♖xb5+ ♗d8; 14. g3 (14. ♖e3!? (Δ14. ... ♗e7; 15. ♜c1 ♗f5?; 16. ♖c5 ♜f4; 17. g3 ♜g5; 18. ♜xd5+!+-) 14. ... ♗e7; 15. ♜c1 ♗c6∞); 14. ... ♜b4; 15. a4 ♖d6; 16. ♖d2 ♜xb2; 17. ♜c1○→∞]; 12. ♗xd5 ♖d6; 13. ♜g4! ♗f8 [a) 13. ... ♖e5; 14. ♖f4!; b) 13. ... ♖xh2+; 14. ♗h1 ♖e5; 15. f4! ♖d4; 16. f5! ♖e5 (16. ... ♖f2; 17. ♖f4!); 17. ♖f4!]; .

¹ECO, note 82 to C02



This is the crucial position. Theory is **14. ♖d2 h5** [14. ... f5; 15. ♗g5 exd5? (△15. ... ♗d8)]; 16. ♜c3 ♘f6; 17. ♜xf6 gxf6; 18. ♗xf6+ ♖g8; 19. ♜xf5+-]; **15. ♗h3 ♜c6**; 16. ♘e3 ♘f6; 17. ♘c4 ♜c7; 18. ♜c3 ♘d5; 19. ♘e5 ♘xc3; 20. ♘xf7!♞.

I, however, was for a while analyzing 14. ♜g5 with the idea that 14. ... f5; 15. ♗f3 exd5; 16. ♜xf5 ♜xf5; 17. ♗xf5+ ♘f6; 18. ♜xf6 gxf6; 19. ♗xf6+ ♖g8; 20. ♗g5+ ♖f8 (20. ... ♖f7; 21. ♗xd5+); 21. ♗e6+- . It leads to beautiful variations, but the refutation 14. ... f6; 15. ♜h4 h5! is winning for Black. Replying 15. ♜d2, this leads back to the main variation. On the other hand, if Black tries 14. ... h6; 15. ♜d2 (15. ♜h4? f5; 16. ♗f3 g5; 17. ♜g3 g4); 15. ... f5 and now 16. ♜xf5 is possible because of 16. ... exf5; 17. ♗g6, pointing at g7 and d6.

Fear: 10 ... a6

10. ... a6; 11. ♗e2 ♘e7 (Note 89 in ECO's C02); 12. ♖h1 ♘c6; 13. f4 ♘b4; 14. ♗d1 ♘xd3 (14. ... ♜c5; 15. ♜xa6 ♗f2; 16. ♗xf2 ♜xf2; 17. ♜b5 ♜c6=); 15. ♗xd3 ♗b6! (4)

Here the old line used to be 15. ... ♗c4; 16. b3 ♗c7; 17. ♜b2 ♜c6 (ECO gives 17. ... ♗c8; 18. f5 ♗a5; 19. ♗ad1 ♜a3; 20. ♜xa3 ♗xa3; 21. f6± Möhring–Casper, DDR 1977) 18. ♗c1 ♗d8; 19. ♗f2 ♜e7; 20. ♘e2 0-0; 21. ♘d4 ♗d7; 22. f5 exf5; 23. ♗g3! g6; 24. ♗f4 ♗fe8; 25. ♘xf5 ♜f8; 26. ♜d4! ♗e6; 27. ♘h6+ ♜xh6; 28. ♗xh6 ♗de8; 29. ♗f1 ♗c7; 30. ♗h3 f5; 31. exf6 ♗f7; 32. ♗xh7+! 1–0 Sveshnikov-Razuvaev, Belgrade 1993.

The move in the text creates diagram (4). Here Polgar gives 16. ♜e3 ♜c5; 17. ♜xc5 ♗xc5; 18. f5 ♜c6 (18. ... 0-0-0?; 19. ♘e4!) and concludes correctly that Black stands better. But it cannot be that there is no better

way for White at (4). Black's immediate threat is 16. ... d4; 17. ♖e4 ♗b5, so White cannot do the immediate 16. f5. So, what about 16. a4!?...? Motives of f5 and a5 are present.

Black can also answer with 11. ... ♖c8; 12. ♔h1 ♗c5; 13. ♗g5 (13. f4? ♖h6!; 14. h3 0-0; 15. ♗d2 f6⊖); 13. ... h6; 14. ♗d2 ♖e7=.