Grandmaster Repertoire 2B

Dynamic Systems

By

Boris Avrukh

Quality Chess
www.qualitychess.co.uk
After what has seemed like a uniquely long year, I have completed the fourth and final volume of the updated Grandmaster Repertoire series on 1.d4. Those familiar with the first three books in the series already know that the current one does not feature any flagship openings such as the Queen's Gambit, Grünfeld or King's Indian. Instead, it tackles the no-less-difficult challenges of the Dutch Defence, the Benko and Budapest Gambits, the Modern Defence, and various other systems which are slightly out of the mainstream, but which are nonetheless capable of posing serious practical problems, as I have observed in my experience as a coach. To meet the various challenges, I have proposed the following advancements over my previous work:

**Dutch Defence**
I recommend meeting the Stonewall, Classical and Leningrad systems of the Dutch in broadly the same way as in my 2010 book Grandmaster Repertoire 2 – 1.d4 Volume Two (henceforth abbreviated to GM 2), but with a multitude of updates and refinements to improve White’s play, as well as correcting some move-order and transpositional issues which I previously overlooked.

**Benoni Systems & Benko Gambit**
Against the Czech Benoni and various 1.d4 c5 systems, I have once again provided an improved version of my previous coverage. In the case of the Benko Gambit though, I have abandoned the Fianchetto Variation in favour of the main line with 6.\(\text{d}c3\) and 7.e4. I believe this poses more serious problems for Black, and am looking forward to future developments in this variation.

**Budapest Gambit**
I am happy to change my original prescription of 4.\(\text{f}3\) in favour of 4.\(\text{f}4\), in light of the discovery of 4...g5 5.\(\text{d}2!\), after which White’s position seems extremely promising.

**Modern & Other Defences**
The final part of the book contains a mix of updates and brand new recommendations. One such instance occurs after 1.d4 d6, when I am no longer recommending 2.\(\text{f}3\) – not that there is anything wrong with that move, but a game between L’Ami and Mamedyarov inspired me to choose 2.c4 instead. The resulting type of position is one that I find both interesting and advantageous for White.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the entire team at Quality Chess, with whom I have been working intensively since 2007! My collaboration with them has greatly contributed to my career as a chess coach and helped enshrine my name among the pantheon of opening theoreticians. I am forever grateful to QC for offering me such a platform. Having now completed my tenth book, I have decided to take a break from writing to pursue other chess-related projects, and I have no doubt the wisdom I have gleaned from my time as a QC author will prove invaluable in my future endeavours.

Boris Avrukh
Chicago, February 2019
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Variation Index

1.d4  f6 2.c4  c5 3.d5  b5

4.cxb5

A) 4...e6 5.c3  exd5 6.cxd5  b7 7.e4!
   A1) 7...xd5
   A2) 7...a6 8.bxa6  xa6 9.c4  b4 10.f3
       A21) 10...fxd5
       A22) 10...bxd5N
   B) 4...a6 5.bxa6  e6 6.c3  exd5 7.cxd5
       B1) 7...xa6
       B2) 7...xa6
       B3) 7...xd5
       B4) 7...e7!?

A) note to move 7
A1) note to 8...d6
A1) after 14...f6
1. d4  ·f6 2. c4  e5 3. d5  b5 4. cxb5
Once again I recommend accepting the gambit, but there will be an important change of direction from my previous work, as we will no longer be following up with a kingside fianchetto.

We will consider A) 4... e6 but B) 4... a6 is definitely the main move.

4... g6
Occasionally Black delays his counterplay in favour of completing his kingside development first. As a rule, White follows the same general plan as in the main lines, but gets an easier version, so it’s enough to give just a few brief examples.

5.  ·c3  ·g7 6. e4  d6 7.  ·f3 0–0 8.  ·e2  a6 9.0–0
11.  ·e2!
This is the most precise way of implementing the “light-squared strategy” which I will refer to again, both in this chapter and what follows.

11...  ·a5 12. a4  ·bd7
Another good example continued: 12...  xb5 13.  xb5  ·b4 14.  c3  ·bd7 15.  d2  ·fb8 16. ·fb1  ·b7 In Martinez Rodriguez – Renteria Becerra, Mondariz 2011, the simple 17.  b5N  ·e8 18.  c3± would have secured White a big advantage.

13.  ·a3!
A thematic move in this type of Benko position.

Playing ...e6 is not unheard of in the Benko Gambit, but usually it happens after White has committed himself in some way that makes Black’s central action especially appealing. In the present situation, Black’s plan is not so easy to justify.

5.  c3  ·xd5
5...  b7?! 6. e4 is hardly playable for Black.

6.  xd5  ·b7 7.  e4!
7. \(\text{cxf6}\) \(\text{xf6}\) is also playable but I prefer the text move.

A1) 7... \(\text{exd5}\) is worth considering but I consider A2) 7...a6 the most serious option.

Accepting the central pawn is suicidal:
7... \(\text{cxe4}\)? 8. \(\text{c4}\)!
White's initiative plays itself.

8... \(\text{c7}\)

A) 8... \(\text{d6}\) 9. \(\text{g4}\) 0–0 10. \(\text{h6}\) \(\text{e5}\) 11. \(\text{f3}\) \(\text{xb2}\) 12.0–0 \(\text{d6}\) 13. \(\text{g5}\) gave White a decisive attack in Huuskonen – Bostrom, Finland 1977.

B) 9. \(\text{e2}\) \(\text{f6}\)
9... \(\text{d6}\) 10. \(\text{g5}\) \(\text{f6}\) 11. \(\text{fxe4}\) \(\text{xc4}\) 12. \(\text{xc4}\) \(\text{d6}\) 13.0–0–0 was also bad news for Black in Kunze – Partys, Rijeka 2010.

10. \(\text{xf6}\) \(\text{gxf6}\)
White has more than one winning move but my preference is:

11. \(\text{f4}\)! \(\text{a5}\)†
11... \(\text{xg2}\) loses to 12. \(\text{xf7}\)† (or 12.0–0–0+–)
12... \(\text{xf7}\) 13. \(\text{h5}\)† when White can either win back the bishop or go straight for the king.
12. \(\text{f1}\) d5 13. \(\text{e1}\) \(\text{d8}\) 14. \(\text{d3}\)
White has a crushing initiative.

A1) 7... \(\text{exd5}\) 8. \(\text{exd5}\)

8... \(\text{d6}\)
8... \(\text{d6}\) 9. \(\text{f3}\) 0–0 was tried in one of the more recent games in this line, Spindelboeck – Theuretzbacher, Austria 2017. White developed his bishop to e2 but he should have played more actively with:

10. \(\text{d3}\)! \(\text{e8}\)† 11. \(\text{e3}\)
There is no reason to worry about 11... \(\text{f4}\) 12.0–0 \(\text{xc3}\) 13. \(\text{fxe3}\) \(\text{d6}\), when the surprising 14. \(\text{h4}\)! enables White...
to seize the initiative on the kingside. The key point is revealed after: 14...h6

15.\(\text{g}5!!\) h\(\text{x}g5\) 16.\(\text{h}h5\) With a crushing attack.

9.\(\text{c}c2!\)

The knight is heading to c3 in order to cement the d5-pawn.

9...\(\text{e}e7\) 10.\(\text{c}c3\) 0–0 11.\(\text{e}e2\) \(\text{d}d7\)

11...a6 has also not yielded much success for Black; after 12.0–0 axb5 13.\(\text{x}x\)b5 \(\text{d}d7\) 14.\(\text{f}f4\) he failed to create any compensation in Neelotpal – Boidman, Hofheim 2014.

12.0–0

International Master Dimo Werner has played this position four times with Black. His last attempt continued:

12...\(\text{e}e8\) 13.\(\text{f}f4\) \(\text{b}b6\) 14.\(\text{f}f3\) \(\text{f}f6\)

Here I found a logical improvement over Citak – D. Werner, Budapest 2007:

15.a4!N±

White is obviously better.

A2) 7...a6

Compared with the previous line, Black keeps a bit more tension in the position, although White should still have the better chances.

8.bxa6 \(\text{xa6}\) 9.\(\text{c}c4\) \(\text{b}b4\)

A less accurate move order is:
9...\(\text{x}d5\) 10.exd5 \(\text{b}b4\)
10...\(\texttt{\textbf{c7}}\) occurred in Schimpf – Huber, Munich 2017, when 11.\(\texttt{\textbf{f4N}}\) d6 12.\(\texttt{\textbf{e2}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{c7}}\) 13.0–0 0–0 14.a4 would have been clearly better for White.

11.\(\texttt{\textbf{b3?!N}}\)

11.\(\texttt{\textbf{f3N}}\) is the simplest repertoire choice, transposing to variation A21 below, but the text move is quite a tempting extra option against Black’s chosen move order. My analysis continues:

11...\(\texttt{\textbf{a6}}\)

11...\(\texttt{\textbf{d6}}\) 12.\(\texttt{\textbf{f3}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{c7}}\)† 13.\(\texttt{\textbf{e3}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{e4}}\) 14.0–0 0–0 15.\(\texttt{\textbf{d2}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{f5}}\) 16.a3 \(\texttt{\textbf{c2}}\) 17.\(\texttt{\textbf{ac1}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{xe3}}\) 18.\(\texttt{\textbf{fxe3}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{h5}}\) 19.g3\(\texttt{\textbf{b}}\) leaves Black without enough for the pawn.

12.\(\texttt{\textbf{f3}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{c7}}\)† 13.\(\texttt{\textbf{e3}}\)

The critical line continues:

13...\(\texttt{\textbf{e4}}\) 14.\(\texttt{\textbf{ec1}}\)!

With the following key idea.

14...\(\texttt{\textbf{xc4}}\) 15.\(\texttt{\textbf{xc4}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{b1}}\)†

16.\(\texttt{\textbf{e2!}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{xe2}}\) 17.\(\texttt{\textbf{e4}}\)† \(\texttt{\textbf{c7}}\)

17...\(\texttt{\textbf{d8}}\) loses to 18.\(\texttt{\textbf{xb4!}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{xb4}}\) 19.\(\texttt{\textbf{b6}}\)† \(\texttt{\textbf{c8}}\) 20.\(\texttt{\textbf{e3}}\)† \(\texttt{\textbf{c7}}\) 21.d6 and the attack is too strong.

18.d6 0–0 19.\(\texttt{\textbf{xc7}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{d8}}\) 20.\(\texttt{\textbf{xc5}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{c6}}\) 21.\(\texttt{\textbf{g5}}\)

Black is under serious pressure.

10.\(\texttt{\textbf{f3}}\)

We will analyse A21) 10...\(\texttt{\textbf{fxd5}}\) and A22) 10...\(\texttt{\textbf{bx5}}\).

A21) 10...\(\texttt{\textbf{fxd5}}\) 11.\(\texttt{\textbf{exd5}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{c7}}\)†

12.\(\texttt{\textbf{e3}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{e4}}\)

13.\(\texttt{\textbf{xc1}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{xd5}}\)

I also checked 13...\(\texttt{\textbf{xa2N}}\) 14.\(\texttt{\textbf{xa2}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{xa2}}\) 15.0–0 when the threat of \(\texttt{\textbf{e1}}\) prevents Black from completing development. Play may continue: 15...\(\texttt{\textbf{xd5}}\) 16.\(\texttt{\textbf{e1}}\) \(\texttt{\textbf{xd1}}\) 17.\(\texttt{\textbf{cxd1}}\)
Even without queens, White’s initiative is serious, for instance: 17...\(a6\) 18.\(f4\)\(+\) \(e6\) 19.\(g5\)→

\(14.0–0!\)
White utilizes a simple tactic to accelerate his development.

14...\(xc4\) 15.\(d2\) \(d5\) 16.\(e1!\)
The key move.
Weirdly, the database shows another game from five years later between the same players, where White opted for the weaker 16.\(xc4\)?!
The reasons why Black repeated this line and White deviated with an inferior move remain a mystery to me.

16...0–0–0
In B. Toth – Capece, Reggio Emilia 1974, White could have decided the game with:

\(17.\(xc4\)\!N 18.\(d3\) 19.\(e1\) \(xb2\) 20.\(b1\)\(+\)--
With a devastating attack.

A22) 10...\(bxd5\)\!N 11.\(exd5\)
Although Black’s last move was a novelty, the resulting position has occurred via transposition, as the knight went via \(c7\) to \(d5\) in one game.

11...\(e7\)\(+\) 12.\(e3\) \(d6\)
It is also important to consider: 12...\(e4\) 13.\(c1\) \(xd5\) (13...\(xd5\)?! 14.0–0 is too dangerous for Black with his king stuck in the centre)
14.b3! £e7 15.0–0 £e6 (15...0–0 16.<f6 wins material) 16.a4 £f5 17.<f6 0–0 18.<h4± White is significantly better.

We have been following Donner – Contedini, Lenzerheide 1964. An obvious improvement for White is:

13.0–0N £xd5

If 13...£e7 then 14.<h4! is extremely powerful; for instance, 14...g6 15.<f6 £xd5 16.<f6 and Black unavoidably loses material.

14.<f6 £xd5 15.<f6 £e7 16.<f4! is nasty for Black.

15.<f6 £xd1 16.<f6±

Despite the queen exchange, White’s initiative is strong, especially considering that 16...0–0–0 is not really an option due to 17.<f6.

B) 4...a6

This is overwhelmingly the most popular choice.

5.bxa6

At this point Black’s most popular choice has been 5...£xa6, while 5...g6 is arguably the most theoretically challenging option. These two moves will be examined in Chapters 15 and 16 respectively.

Before then, we will consider a third option:

5...e6

Black aims for central play, in a similar fashion to variation A above, but he hopes that the exchanging of the b5-pawn will increase his active possibilities.

6.<f6 £xd5 7.<f6 £xd5 8.<f6 transposes to variation B3 below.

7.<f6
At this juncture it is worth considering B1) 7...\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{\texttt{x}x}}}} 6, B2) 7...\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}}} a6, B3) 7...\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} d5 and B4) 7...\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} e7?!.

B1) 7...\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} a6 8.\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{d}d}}} f3 \texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} c6

8...\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} e7 is worth checking, but the following line seems quite convincing for White: 9.\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} xe7 \texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} xe7 10.\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{f}f}}} f4 d5

9.e4 \texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} xf1 10.\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} xf1 \texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} e7 11.\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} c3!

A simple yet powerful move, which I was able to discover over the board. White retreats the knight from its strong position but secures the e4-pawn and earns important time to consolidate his position.

11...d6

Another good example continued 11...0–0 12.g3 c4 13.\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} g2 \texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} e8 14.\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{c}c}} e1 \texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} b4 15.\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} g5± and White’s advantage was beyond any doubt in Avalyan – Tomasi, Mamaia 2017.

12.g3 0–0 13.\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{c}c}} g2

Black is unable to create any serious counterplay, especially with his bishop on e7.

13...\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} d7 14.\texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{c}c}} e1 \texttt{\textcolor{red}{\texttt{\texttt{c}c}}} fb8
My game continued 14...h6 15.f4 g5 16.e3 f6 17.e2?! ffd8 18.e1 e6 19.a3 fab8 20.a4 and I enjoyed a healthy extra pawn in Avrukh – Terrieux, Sautron 2013.

Another game continued 10...b7 11.e3 0–0 12.e2 d5 13.0–0± and Black had no compensation whatsoever in Kalinowska – Stock, Plzen 2017.

11.e3

The following sequence looks pretty natural:

B2) 7...a6

This has been a popular choice but it does not work too well for Black.

8.g5 e7 9.xc7 xc7 10.f3 0–0

10...h6 11.h4 does not really change anything; 11...0–0 12.e3 just reaches our main line below.

11.h6 12.h4 d5 13.e2 d8

13...d4!? 14.exd4 e8 is an interesting attempt to open things up, but White keeps everything under control as follows:

15.xf6! xf6 16.0–0 d8 17.a3! cxd4 18.e1 c7 19.d3 White stabilized the position while keeping his extra pawn in Galje – Dijk, corr. 2016.

14.0–0 g5

Otherwise it is not clear how Black can claim any compensation for the pawn.
15. \text{g3} \text{e4}

16. \text{d2}!
It is essential to get rid of the strong knight.

16... \text{xg3} 17. \text{hxg3} \text{f5} 18. \text{a3±}
This has occurred in four correspondence games. Even though Black only lost once and drew the other three, I believe White retains a solid advantage. Black does not have full compensation and faces an unpleasant battle for a draw.

B3) 7... \text{xd5} 8. \text{xd5} \text{c6}

9. \text{d2}!
This has been a rare choice so far, but it works perfectly for White.

9... \text{xa6}
Black has also tried:
9... \text{e7} 10. \text{e3} 0–0
10... \text{xb6} 11. \text{c3} 0–0 transposes.
11. \text{c3} \text{b6}

12. \text{a3}!
It seems to me that Black is in trouble after this precise move.

12... \text{xa6}
Another good example continued 12... \text{f6}
13. \text{xf6} \text{gxf6} 14. \text{b1} \text{xa6} 15. \text{xa6} \text{a5†}
16. \text{d2} \text{xa6} 17. \text{e2±} and Black’s strategy had obviously failed in Hildebrand – Gierth, email 2012.

13. \text{xa6} \text{xa6} 14. \text{d1} \text{d6}

15. \text{e2±}
White was a healthy pawn up in Brugger – Lovholt, corr. 2007.

10. \text{e3} \text{xf1} 11. \text{xf1} \text{e7}
I found six correspondence games from this position, all of which ended in draws. Surprisingly, White never opted for the following natural continuation:

12.\(c3\) N 0–0

Or 12...\(\text{b4}\) 13.\(\text{f3}\) 0–0 14.\(a3\) d5 15.\(d1\) with some advantage for White.

13.a3 \(f6\)

13...\(\text{b4}\) also fails to impress after 14.\(\text{f3}\) \(b6\) 15.\(e2\).

14.\(\text{xc5}\) \(\text{a5}\) 15.\(\text{b1!}\)

Black does not have enough activity. For instance:

15...\(\text{b3}\) 16.\(\text{d5}\) \(\text{xc3}\) 17.\(\text{xb3}\) \(f6\)
18.\(\text{d3}\) \(\text{a5}\) 19.\(\text{f3}\) \(\text{xb8}\) 20.g3 \(\text{xb2}\)
21.\(\text{xb2}\) \(\text{xb2}\) 22.\(\text{xd7}\+)

White has excellent winning chances.

B4) 7...\(e7!?)

This isn't the most obvious choice but it has been tried in several correspondence games, and has surprisingly achieved a plus score for Black.

8.\(\text{xe7}\)

This simple move is White's best bet.

I have to mention the remarkable line: 8.\(e4\) 0–0 9.\(\text{c3}\) \(\text{xa6}\) 10.e5

10...\(\text{b7!!}\) 11.\(\text{xf6}\) \(\text{xf6}\) 12.\(\text{f3}\) d5 13.\(\text{c2}\) \(\text{b4}\) 14.\(\text{b5}\) d4 15.\(\text{c4}\) \(e8\)† 16.\(\text{f1}\) \(d3\)
Black has full compensation for the piece, and has achieved a win and a draw from two correspondence games.

8...\(\text{w}e7\) 9.\(\text{g}f4\) \(d5\) 10.\(e3\) 0–0 11.\(\text{t}f3\) \(\text{d}d8\)

11...\(\text{xa}6!\) 12.\(\text{xa}6\) \(\text{xa}6\) 13.0–0 gives White an extra tempo compared with the main line below.

12.\(\text{e}2\)

In most games White has played 12.\(a3\) or some other waiting move, hoping to gain a tempo after ...\(\text{xa}6\). However, it is risky to leave the king in the centre and Black can play an active move such as ...\(\text{c}e4\) before taking on \(a6\), so I prefer to simply develop and castle.

12...\(\text{xa}6\)

12...\(d4\) 13.\(\text{b}3\) is good for White.

13.\(\text{xa}6\) \(\text{xa}6\) 14.0–0 \(\text{c}6\) 15.\(\text{g}5!\) \(h6\)

16.\(\text{e}2\)N

I found a game where White exchanged on \(f6\), but we may as well hit the rook first.

16...\(\text{da}8\)

16...\(\text{d}7\) 17.\(\text{xf}6\) \(\text{xf}6\) 18.\(\text{f}d1\) \(c4\) 19.\(h3\) leads to a similar situation.

17.\(\text{xf}6\) \(\text{xf}6\) 18.\(\text{d}2\) \(d4\)

In the event of 18...\(\text{e}6\) 19.\(a3\) or 18...\(\text{d}8\) 19.\(b3\), White easily stabilizes his position while retaining his extra pawn.

19.\(\text{ex}d4\)

19.\(b3\) \(\text{dxe}3\) 20.\(\text{xe}3\) \(\text{d}4\) is pretty similar to our main line.

19...\(\text{xd}4\) 20.\(\text{xd}4\) cxd4 21.\(a3\) \(d3\) 22.\(\text{ac}1\)

Black certainly has some compensation but is doomed to a long defence.

Conclusion

This chapter has focused on two Benko sidelines: 4...\(e6\) and the related idea of 4...\(a6\) 5.bxa6 \(e6\). In general, I am not too impressed with Black's attempts to generate counterplay in the centre. A lot of the lines lead to positions where White may face some technical challenges to convert his extra pawn, but he is nonetheless playing for a win with little risk – always a pleasant situation for a practical player.
Abridged Variation Index

The Variation Index in the book is 12 pages long. Below is an abridged version giving just the main variations, not the sub-variations.

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