

On the Advance Variation of the French Defence

C02

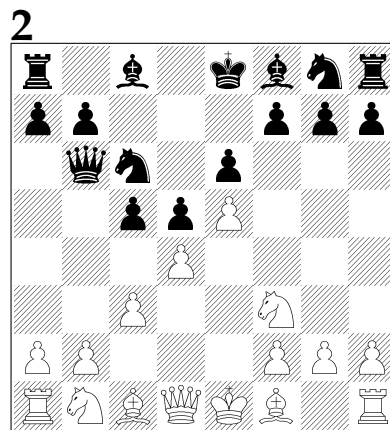
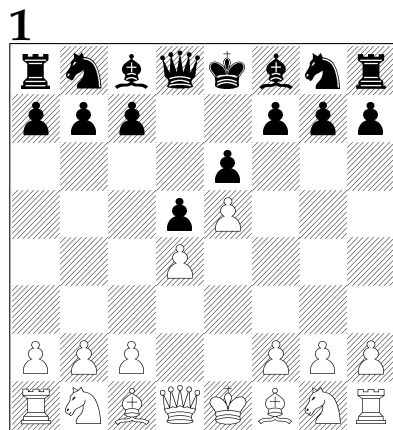
Federico Garcia

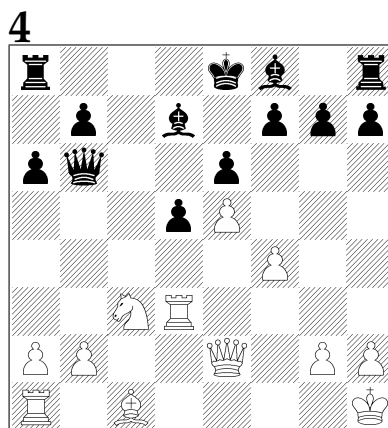
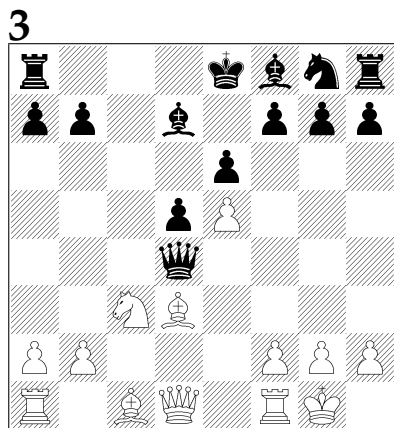
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Basic references: ECO C02; Polgar's article in *ChessLife*, Oct. 2004.

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 did 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

Now, everybody gives 14. ♔d2 h5; 15. ♖h3 ♕c6; 16. ♗e3 ♗f6; 17. ♕c3∞. But Fritz found 14. ... f5 and although that leads to 15. ♖g5 d×e5; 16. ♕c3 ♗f6; 17. ♕×f6 g×f6; 18. ♖×g6+ ♖g8; 19. ♕×f5∞, I'm thinking that **14. ♕g5!** is the worth trying. The idea is 14. ... f5; 15. ♖f3 e×d5; 16. ♕×f5 ♕×f5; 17. ♖×f5+ ♗f6; 18. ♕×f6 g×f6; 19. ♖×f6+ ♖g8; 20. ♖d6+- . If Black tries 14. ... h6; 15. ♕h4 g5; 16. ♕f3 ♕×f3; 17. f×g3, it seems to me that White's piece is well compensated.

Fear: 10 ... a6

10. ... a6; 11. ♖e2 ♗e7 [Note 89 in ECO's C02]; 12. ♖h1 ♗c6; 13. f4 ♗b4; 14. ♖d1 ♗×d3 [14. ... ♕c5; 15. ♕×a6 ♖f2; 16. ♖×f2 ♕×f2; 17. ♕b5 ♕c6=]; 15. ♖×d3 ♖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; 29. ♕×a3 ♖×a3; 21. f6± Möhring–Casper, DDR 1977); 18. ♖c1 ♖d8; 19. ♖f2 ♕e7; 20. ♗e2 0-0; 21. ♗d4 ♖d7; 22. f5 e×f5; 23. ♖g3! g6; 24. ♖f4 ♖fe8; 25. ♗×f5 ♕f8; 26. ♕d4! ♖e6; 27. ♗h6+ ♕×h6; 28. ♖×h6 ♖de8; 29. ♖f1 ♖c7; 30. ♖h3 f5; 31. e×f6 ♖f7; 32. ♖×h7+! 1-0 Sveshnikov-Razuvaev, Belgrade 1993.

The move in the text creates diagram (4). Here Polgar gives 16. ♕e3 ♕c5; 17. ♕×c5 ♖×c5; 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=.