

Efstratios Grivas

GRIVAS OPENING LABORATORY

VOLUME 2



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KEY TO SYMBOLS

=	Equality or equal chances
±	White has a slight advantage
∓	Black has a slight advantage
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+-	White has a decisive advantage
-+	Black has a decisive advantage
∞	unclear
∞	with compensation
↔	with counterplay
↑	with initiative
→	with an attack
Δ	with the idea
□	only move
N	novelty
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
+	check
#	mate

FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

The series continuing with this book is aimed at offering a full repertoire for White based on **1.d4**.

The idea of small opening repertoire books is not new, but here the purpose and the presentation is different.

The choice of variations against each reply from Black will be mine and will be based on my long experience, having played the game for over 40 years, and also served as a professional coach for approximately 20 of those!

I hope that each book in the series will come out every two months and one to three openings will be offered in each of them.

Maybe not all of the choices will appeal to you, but you should to understand that what is important is to learn them in depth, rather than looking for something astounding — this is simply an illusion.

What I mean by this is that nowadays no opening offers all that much; what you can expect is something between a tiny bit better and slightly better, if

you have done your homework! Otherwise there is no point in the Black player following it!

The recommendations are geared towards posing Black unconventional problems. Your opponents will not be able to churn out lengthy, memorised variations but will need to solve problems at the board, in positions that are somewhat different in character from those normally reached in the openings under discussion.

I have also selected the systems within the repertoire in such a way that they form a seamless whole and are also reachable by transpositions.

I have tried to describe the suggested systems in detail, giving my assessments as clearly and responsibly as possible, and have generally aimed to provide useful guidelines as well as many new ideas and moves.

Many things in chess theory, as in life, are relative and a matter of taste. Actually, there are no 'good' or 'bad' openings. There are openings that you know and understand, and openings that you do not know and do not understand.

Thus, I believe that my recommended systems will offer a lot of possibilities, new ideas and practical benefits, aspects that should not be underestimated in modern chess. Among other things, I have tried to make them 'understandable' to you.

This book series' main purpose is to 'train' and educate the reader in territory that is 'unknown' to him. We must not forget that this is a theory book series, where concrete reaction to the opponent's moves is of primary importance.

General principles and plans do merit a place in this project but, in my opinion, move-by-move consideration is most significant.

Of course, it is not necessary to memorise all the variations and moves mentioned in the books — this would probably be impossible.

But then, you may ask, what is the reason for someone to deal with a theory book, one that he does not need to 'memorise' in full?

The theory of 'subconscious education' will help us to answer this question. By playing through the moves and variations in the books, our subconscious processes and stores similar motifs, repeated moves and plans, and also 'learns' to avoid traps and unwelcome positions.

Such proper 'subconscious memorisation' will, at the critical moment, enforce the correct choice upon us.

Many of the opening books I have read mainly focus on the general characteristics of the opening or the variation in question, and much less so on move-by-move theory.

This can lead to unresolved questions in the reader's mind, and the danger that he will mix things up at moments when it is necessary to find one specific concrete move or sequence.

The recommended repertoire is that of a Grandmaster, without omissions or hidden secrets. On the contrary, it contains a great number of new, deeply analysed suggestions, plans, novelties, new ideas, moves, etc!

Let us not forget that the basic characteristics of the openings do not frequently undergo radical changes. On the other hand, the development of move-by-move theory is explosive.

Every chess player stands on the shoulders of those who came before him. Every generation of good chess players learns from and builds upon the experience and creativity of the previous generations.

The chess player of the year 2020 has encountered more types of positions than the chess-player of 1980 and

knows the proper ways to deal with these positions.

Therefore, a chess player today would have a great advantage over a chess player (even one of equal or greater talent) of 40 years ago, simply because he could play the opening with deeper understanding; this understanding is offered to him by the multitude of deeply-analysed variations.

On no occasion do I underestimate the necessity and value of learning the general characteristics and plans of each opening or variation. However, I do strongly believe that move-by-move theory and its (at least) subconscious absorption are necessary in order to survive in the labyrinth of the chess openings.

One question often posed by my students is whether we must simultaneously prepare two or more different systems against an opening. My personal opinion is that only professional Grandmasters can afford this luxury.

All other chess players should focus on one specific system every time, so as to specialise in it and reap maximum benefit. Only if this choice eventually proves undesirable should one change his systems.

As Ernest Hemingway once wrote: 'I guess really good soldiers are really good at very little else'.

The massive development of theory in all openings has clarified that White cannot hope for anything more than a slight advantage, but in some cases even this is unattainable! My recommendations are purely based on a healthy approach.

I must clarify that I took the liberty of changing the original move-order of many games. In this way it was possible to provide clearer coverage and guidance.

Of course, the way you reach a certain position is important, but equally important is to examine how you want to proceed upon reaching it. True value comes from knowing what to keep and what to throw away.

Finally, I would to thank my (ex) trainees (among others) GM Antoaneta Stefanova, GM Ioan Cristian Chirila, GM Emre Can, GM Mustafa Yilmaz and GM Alex Ipatov, who adopted my repertory and contributed to the evolution of the theory.

Efstratios Grivas
Sharjah, January 2020

INTRODUCTION

In the second book of the series we will deal with how to face the 'King's Indian Defence', a long-standing system that is/was always popular.

The proposed system is based on the e2/g5 variation (Averbakh System), a system that has served me well for approximately 20 years, scoring a good 60% over a high number of games.

Moreover, this system generally scores a very healthy 59%, which is well above the average expected of 51.5% to 52%, which is the natural average number of White 'superiority'.

My good score is purely based on study and understanding of the system, so that many 'equal' positions were turned into full points!

Then we will move on to study how to face the 'Dutch Defence', an old, but still modish opening that is quite popular nowadays, especially among the middle level of players.

As Black can choose between three main systems (Classical, Leningrad

and Stonewall), there is little to talk about here and most of the explanations can be found in the relative chapters.

I have to mention that I am still playing the 'Dutch Defence' with both colours, so my vast experience cannot be underestimated.

Again my good score is based on study and understanding of the various systems, equal positions once more translated into full points!

Finally, we will see how to face the 'Benko-Volga Gambit', a modern system that is quite popular nowadays.

The proposed system is based on the g5 variation, a system that served me well for approximately 30 years, scoring a good 75% in a high number of games.

Well, this doesn't sound logical, as the general scoring of the variation stands at 51.8%, as explained, the average expectation of 51.5% to 52%, is the natural average number of White 'superiority'.

My extremely high score is, to reiterate, purely based on my study and understanding of the system — equal positions turned into full points with regularity!

In the book you will find not only a concrete and well-structured move-by-move presentation, but also chapters on the middlegame, endgame and tactics that are typical of this

variation and will help you to understand it better.

The only two things you have to do are: to buy the book (!) and study it!

Note that my research on the games included is up to the middle of January 2020.

Efstratios Grivas
Sharjah, January 2020

PART 1.

THE KING'S INDIAN DEFENCE (E73–75)

The 'King's Indian Defence' is a hypermodern opening, where Black deliberately allows White control of the centre with his pawns, with the view to subsequently challenging it with the moves ...e5 or ...c5.

Until the mid-1930s, it was generally regarded as highly suspect, but the analysis and play of three strong Soviet players in particular, Alexander Konstantinopolsky, Isaac Boleslavsky, and David Bronstein, helped to make the defence much more respected and popular.

'KID' is a dynamic opening, exceptionally complex, and a favourite of such former FIDE World Champions as Garry Kasparov, Bobby Fischer and Mikhail Tal, with prominent Grandmasters such as Viktor Korchnoi, Miguel Najdorf, Efim Geller, John Nunn, Svetozar Gligoric, Wolfgang Uhlmann and others, having also contributed much to the theory and practice of this opening.

Current elite players Hikaru Nakamura, Teimour Radjabov and Ding Liren all play the opening on a regular basis.

The 'Averbakh Variation/System' is identified by the moves **1.d4** ♘f6 **2.c4 g6** 3. ♗c3 ♙g7 **4.e4 d6** 5. ♙e2 **0–0** 6. ♙g5 (named after Yuri Averbakh), which prevents the immediate **6...e5** (**6...e5?** 7. dxe5 dxe5 8. ♖xd8 ♗xd8 9. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 10. ♗d5, with a double attack on the f6-bishop and c7-pawn).

Black often repels the bishop with ...h6 giving him the option of a later ...g5, though in practice this is a weakening move. White has various ways to develop, such as ♖d2, ♗f3, f4 or even h4.

The old main line in this variation begins with **6...c5** (which keeps the long diagonal open). However, **6...♗bd7** and **6...♗a6** (Judith Polgar's move) are also seen.

The 'Averbakh System' is aimed at deep strategic themes and plans; it is focused on keeping the initiative and, finally and more importantly, it is aimed at gaining a clear path straight out of the opening.

Most of the books that have been written on the 'King's Indian Defence'

take a look at this system only from Black's point of view, mostly proposing wrong, or at least irrelevant, continuations for White.

The first time that I dealt with this system was back in 1981, when my former coach Dr. Nikolai Minev introduced it to me. And I have to say that it has served me well for more than 20 years!

But what is White aiming for? Well, the main 'problem' for White in the 'KID' in general is the opponent's kingside attack, mainly driven by the ...f5 advance.

This 'initiative' creates unbalanced positions, where Black can become dangerous, even if his position might be objectively worse.

The 'Averbakh System' aims to 'slow down' Black by aiming for (among other factors):

1. A good spatial advantage.
2. Better endings, with the bishop pair in many lines.
3. Blocking the centre and the kingside, getting a free hand on the queenside.

Of course, all these are not easy to achieve, but good knowledge and precision can be quite helpful!

Historical Approach

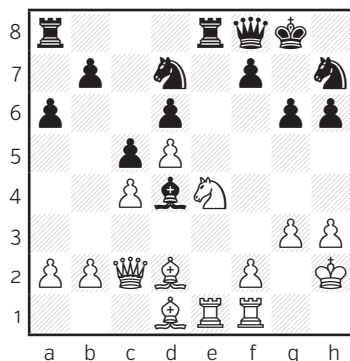
The first time that the 'Averbakh System' appeared in the chess world was back in 1947, in the West-German Championship. The game, as usual, wasn't much for White, so not many followed...

▷ **Hahn Eduard**

▶ **Kraus Rudolf**

E75 Riedenburg [8] 29.04.1947

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6
5.♙e2 o-o 6.♙g5 c5 7.d5 e6 8.♘f3 h6
9.♙d2 exd5 10.exd5 ♖e8 11.o-o ♙g4
12.h3 ♙xf3 13.♙xf3 ♘bd7 14.♚c2 a6
15.♙e2 ♘h7 16.♚ae1 ♚h4 17.♙h2
♙d4 18.g3 ♚f6 19.♘e4 ♚e7 20.♙d1
♚f8



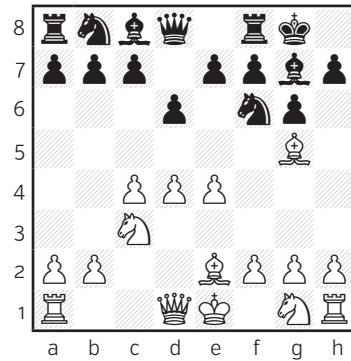
21.♙c3 ♙xc3 22.♚xc3 ♖e7 23.♙a4
♘b6 24.♙b3 ♚ae8 25.f3 f5 26.♘f2

♔f6 27. ♖xe7 ♜xe7 28. ♚d2 ♛g5
 29. f4 ♛f6 30. ♚g2 ♛f7 31. ♖e1 ♛e8
 32. ♖xe7 ♛xe7 33. ♚f3 ♞f6 34. ♛e3
 ♚f7 35. ♛xe7+ ♚xe7 ½-½

Starting Out

The 'Averbakh Variation/System' proposed against the 'King's Indian Defence' commences with the moves

1. d4 ♞f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♞c3 ♚g7 4. e4 d6
 5. ♚e2 o-o 6. ♚g5



And here is where our examination starts!