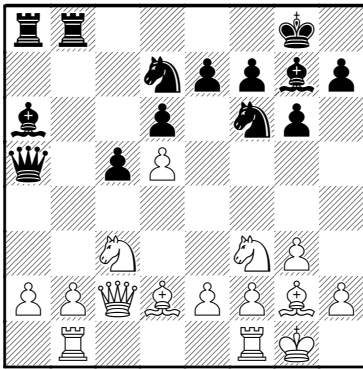


□ Shirov,Alexei
 ■ Kalra,Agastya
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

A58
 2723
 1918
 11.02.2010

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 ♙xa6
 6.♗c3 g6 7.g3 ♙g7 8.♙g2 d6 9.♗f3 0-0 10.♞b1
 ♗bd7 11.0-0 ♖a5 12.♙d2 ♞fb8 13.♞c2 Diagram



♗g4
 [13...♗e8 14.♞fe1 ♗c7 15.a4 ♖b6 16.b3 ♙xc3
 17.♙xc3 ♗xd5 18.♗e5!↑ 1-0 Kramnik,V (2807)-Topalov,
 V (2743)/Wijk aan Zee 2003/(57)]
 [White has scored well after: 13...♗b6 14.b3 ♖a3
 15.♙c1]

14.b3
 [14.a4! ♗ge5 (14...c4? loses the pawn to 15.♗b5!±)
 15.♗xe5 ♗xe5 16.b3± White has consolidated his extra
 ♗, and now Black's usual try for activity with ...c4 can be
 met by b3-b4±/+-. 1-0 Kramnik,V (2807)-Van Wely,L
 (2668)/Monte Carlo 2003/(40)]

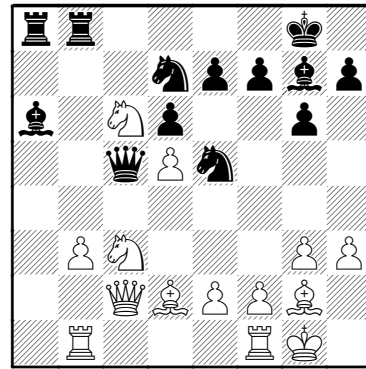
14...c4? one of our training games at the GM Kunte
 lectures two years ago (held at Agastya's house, BTW) the
 Black team played the ...c4 break like this. In the post-
 mortem GM Kunte groaned and complained that the Black
 team 'clearly did not understand the position' since giving
 White's ♗ access to d4 was positionally awful. I'm happy to
 say I was on the White team, I'm not so happy to say we
 repeated the position for a draw in time trouble.

[After the usual 14...♗ge5 15.♗xe5 ♗xe5 16.a4
 Black has a little more space for his minors, but still has
 some problems to solve. And he's still down the gambit
 pawn.]

15.h3! ♗ge5?!
 [15...cxb3 16.axb3 ♗h6! lets Black temporarily keep
 control of d4, but White gets a clear plus after: 17.♗a4
 (17.g4!?) 17...♖b5 (17...♞xd5?! 18.♗h4 ♖e6
 19.♙xa8 ♞xa8 20.♞c6! ♞a7 21.♗h2±) 18.♙xh6 ♙xh6
 19.♗d4↑]

16.♗d4± cxb3 17.axb3 ♖c5 18.♗c6 Diagram

(Diagram)

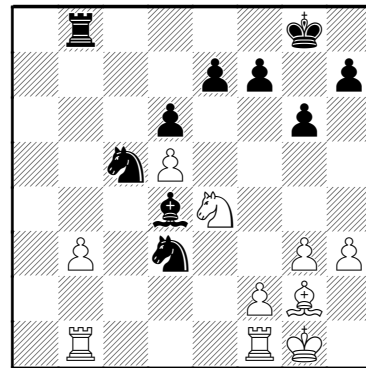


♙xe2!N

[≤18...♗xc6 19.dxc6+- 1-0 Bakalarz,M (2260)-Wehbe,R
 (2255)/Germany 1995/(26)]

19.♗xb8 ♞xb8 20.♙e3 ♙d3 21.♞xd3 ♗xd3 22.♙xc5
 ♗7xc5 23.♗e4 ♙d4± Diagram

[After 23...♙d4 24.♗xc5 dxc5! 25.♙e4 ♗b4
 Black's dark square control and the lack of open files for
 White's ♞s make it surprisingly hard to make any
 progress]



Agastya is too nice to our guest. White is clearly better, but
 (as Shirov confirmed during the weekend lectures) Black's
 active pieces and compact pawns mean he should play on.
 1-0

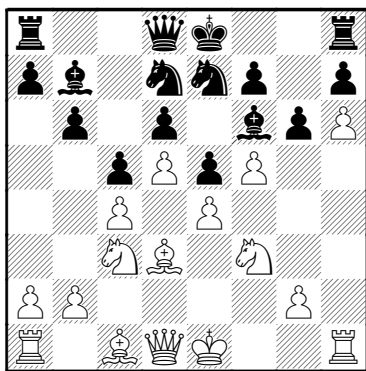
□ Shirov,Alexei
 ■ Laurin,Marcel
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

B00
 2723
 1819
 11.02.2010

1.e4 b6 2.d4 ♙b7 3.♙d3 d6 4.c4 ♗d7 5.♗c3 e6 6.f4
 ♗e7 7.♗f3 g6 8.h4 ♙g7 9.h5 c5 10.d5 e5?!

[△10...exd5 11.cxd5 Black might be able to use e5 for a
 piece if White plays f4-f5]

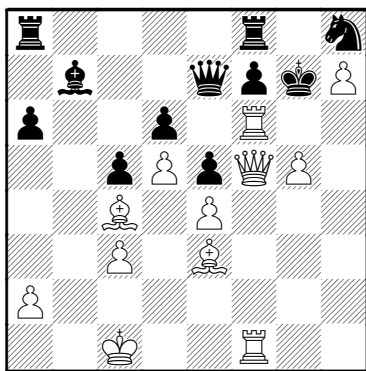
11.h6 ♙f6 12.f5 Diagram



It's not everyday you see a Hippo squished by three pawns. **0-0 13.g4 ♘h8 14.g5** Would an old-fashioned beginner book chide White for not getting his King safely castled and for making 11 of his first 14 moves with his pawns? **♟b8 15.♙e3 ♟a6 16.♞e2**

[I assume most players would simply play 16.f6 and win by leaving Black with the useless ♘h8. I was watching this game and asked Shirov about it later. He said of course f6 is winning, but the game continuation is the better way to win in a simul.]

16...♟c7 17.0-0-0 a6 18.♟h2 ♟c8 19.♟g4 b5 20.♞df1 bxc4 21.♙xc4 ♟b5 22.fxg6 ♟xc3 23.gxh7+ ♟xh7 24.bxc3 ♟e7 25.♟f6+ ♙xf6 26.♞xf6 ♟g6 27.♞hf1 ♞e7 28.♞f3 ♟h8 29.♞f5+ ♟g8 30.h7+ ♟g7 Diagram



White has lots of ways to win. Shirov chooses to play to the gallery. **31.♞xd6**

[31.♞h3 ♟g6 32.h8♞+! ♞xh8 33.♞xf7+ ♞xf7 34.♞xf7+ ♟xf7 35.♞e6+ ♟g7 36.♞f6+ ♟h7 37.♞f7#]
31...♞xd6 32.♙xc5 ♙c8 33.♙xd6 ♙xf5 34.♙xe5+ ♟xh7 35.exf5 f6 36.♙xf6
1-0

□ **Shirov,Alexei** **B06**
2723
 ■ **De Kerpel,Stijn** **2166**
 ShirovSimulOttawa 11.02.2010
 [Upper,John]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♙g7 3.♟c3 d6 4.f4 a6 5.♟f3 b5 6.a4 b4 7.♟d5 a5 Black scores 80% with ELO+180 in the 8

rated games in my Db **8.♙d3 ♙b7 9.0-0 e6 10.♟e3 ♟f6 11.e5! ♟d5 12.♟xd5 ♙xd5 13.c4 bxc3 14.bxc3 0-0± 15.♟g5!?**

[15.♙a3 looks reasonable, but less exciting.]

15...♟d7 16.♞g4 ♟b6 17.♙e3 ♙c4? Black tries to trade off one of the light-square attackers, which is reasonable, especially when it's the world's best attacker whose pieces are all headed toward your King. Instead, Black could have added another defender with

[17...♞d7 which leaves the ♙d5 to keep control of e4 and f3, and eyes the ♟a4.]

18.♞ad1

[White can already sac on the light squares: 18.♙xc4! ♟xc4 19.♞h3! h6 20.♟xe6! ♞d7 (20...fxe6 21.♞xe6+- wins two pawns and picks up the ♟c4)

21.♟xf8 ♞xh3 22.gxh3 ♟xe3 23.♞f3± White will end up an exchange ahead.]

18...♟d5??

[18...♞e8!∞ helps defend the light squares.]

19.♞h3+-

[19.♙xc4! ♟xe3 20.♞h3 h6 21.♟xe6+-]

19...h6 20.♟xe6!

[20.♟xf7 is also very strong.]

20...fxe6 21.♙xc4! ♟xc3

[21...♟xe3 22.♙xe6+ ♟h7 23.♞xe3 and White's up two pawns again.]

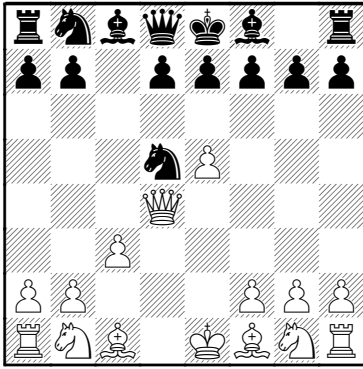
22.♙xe6+ ♟h7 23.f5! the most efficient **♟xd1 24.fxg6+! ♟xg6 25.♙f5+ ♟f7 26.♙xh6!** Black is up a Rook, but his King is defenceless, so Stijn sportingly resigned.

1-0

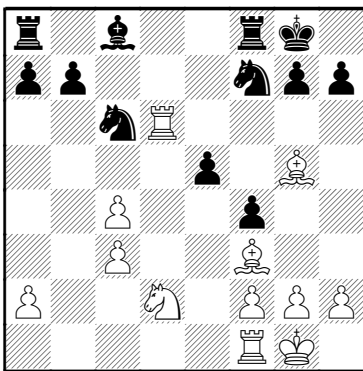
□ **Bertrand,Daryl** **B22**
2093
 ■ **Shirov,Alexei** **2723**
 ShirovSimulOttawa 11.02.2010
 [Upper,John]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 ♟f6 Since his attention will be divided among 36 boards, Shirov sensibly avoids chaos of the Morra gambit, and steers into an Alapin. **4.e5 ♟d5 5.♞xd4** Diagram

(Diagram)



In "Anti-Sicilians: A Guide for Black", Rogozenko calls this "provocative...[but]... it is not very logical to play c3 and then to recapture on d4 with a piece." I'm not sure I understand the appeal to "logic" in chess openings, since there's more than one reasonable goal to pursue as White in an opening. In this game, White wanted to play a Morra Gambit middlegame, but since Black declined the gambit White can reasonable choose to go for a static central pawn structure with no easy targets. At any rate, ♖xd4 scores about the same as the far more popular 5. ♖f3. e6 6. ♖f3 ♖c6 7. ♗e4 d6 [7...f5! 8. ♗e2 b6 9.g3 a5 10. ♖h4 ♖f7!? 11. ♗h5+ ♖g8 12. ♖xf5? exf5 13. ♖c4 0-1 Wahedi,A (1700)-Shirov,A (2690)/Frankfurt 1996 (rapid) (13. ♖c4 ♖ce7+)] 8.c4 ♖de7 9. ♖c3 ♖g6 10. exd6 ♖xd6 11. ♖e2 f5!? 12. ♗c2 e5 13. ♖g5! ♗a5 14. ♖d1! ♖b4 15. 0-0 ♖xc3 16. ♗xc3?! [16.bxc3!] [16. ♖d5! ♗xa2 17. ♗xc3 Gambits a pawn for development and tempos against Black's Queen... as White tried to do when offering to play the Morra Gambit on move three!] 16... ♗xc3 17. bxc3 0-0 18. ♖d6 f4 19. ♖d2 [19.c5!] 19... ♖h8 20. ♖f3 ♖f7 Diagram

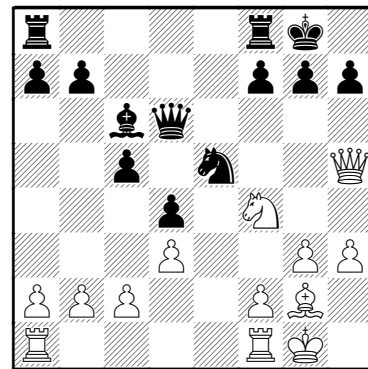


21. ♖xc6! best [21. ♖d5 ♖h8 22. ♖xf7 ♖xf7 23.f3 h6 24. ♖h4 ♖f5 Black may have a long-term advantage against White's c-pawns.] 21... bxc6 22. ♖xc6 ♖b8 23. ♖e7 Cashes in on his lead in development, White wins back the exchange. If Black's

Bc8 had been developed, then his Rs wouldn't be trapped on the back rank. ♖b7 [23... ♖b2! 24. ♖xf8 ♖xf8 25. ♖d1 ♖xa2 would unbalance the ending more.] 24. ♖xf8 ♖xc6 25. ♖b4!± e4 26. ♖b3 ♖c8 27. ♖d1 ♖e5 28. ♖d4 e3 29. fxe3 fxe3 30. ♖d6! [30. ♖a5? ♖e8 31. ♖f1 ♖xg2+!! Δ32. ♖xg2 ♖f3!± and White will have to give up the exchange to stop Black's e pawn.] 30... e2 31. ♖f2 ♖e8 32. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 33. ♖e1 ♖xg2± 34. ♖d8+ ♖f7 35. ♖d7+ ♖f8 36. ♖xa7 ♖h5?! 37. ♖xe2 [37. ♖d4! Δ ♖xh2 38. ♖e6+ ♖e8 39. ♖xg7+ ♖d8 40. ♖e6+ ♖c8 41. ♖d4± leaves White with decent winning chances.] 37... ♖xh2 38.c5 h5 39. ♖e3 ♖h3+ 40. ♖d4 ♖h4+ 41. ♖e3 ♖h3+ 1/2-1/2

□ Desjardins, Michel B24
 2094
 ■ Shirov, Alexei 2723
 ShirovSimulOttawa 11.02.2010
 [Upper, John]

1.e4 c5 2. ♖c3 ♖c6 3.g3 e6 4. ♖g2 ♖f6 5.d3 ♖e7 6. ♖ge2 d5 7. exd5 exd5 8. ♖f4 [near the end of his "return match" the fat Fischer played: 8. ♖g5 d4 9. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 10. ♖e4 ♖e7 11. ♖f4 0-0 12. 0-0 ♖e8 13. ♗h5 g6 14. ♗d5 ♖f5= 1/2-1/2 Fischer, R (2785)-Spassky, B (2560)/Belgrade 1992/(80)] 8... d4 9. ♖cd5 ♖xd5 10. ♖xd5 0-0 11. 0-0 ♖d6= [11... ♖g5 12. ♖xg5 ♗xg5 13. ♖e1 ♖g4 14. ♗c1 ♗xc1 15. ♖axc1 ♖ae8± 1-0 Abramovic, B (2445)-Kouatly, B (2440)/London 1988/(76)] 12. ♖f4 ♖e6 13. ♖xd6 ♗xd6 14. ♖f4 ♖d7 15. h3 Unnecessary; White should probably just finish developing with ♖e1 or ♗f3 ♖e5 16. ♗h5 ♖c6 Diagram



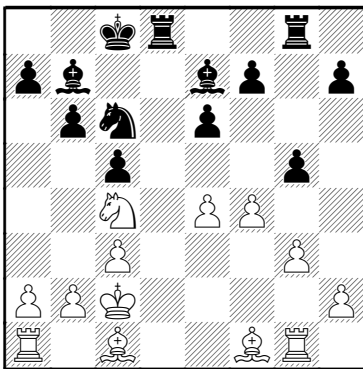
17. ♖fe1 Interestingly, computers rate this natural-looking move as more than a 1-pawn-worth mistake. [Δ17. ♖xc6 bxc6 18. ♖ae1=] 17... ♖ae8!± Black threatens to take over the f3 square by playing ...g6, and (if Qh5-d1) ...g5, then Bishop exchange on g2, ... ♗c6+, and ... ♖f3+ 18. ♖f1 f6 19. ♖e4 g6 [19...f5!] 20. ♗h6 ♖xe4!+ 21. dxe4 f5

[21...♠f7 22.♖h4 g5+ also wins]
 22.♠d3 ♖c6 23.♠xe5 ♖xe5 material is equal, but
 Black's threat of ...fxe4, ...e3 leaves White busted.
 Compare this to the position after move 16 and you might
 think Black got four free moves.
 0-1

□ Marinkovic,Mate
 ■ Shirov,Alexei
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

B24
 2198
 2723
 11.02.2010

1.e4 c5 2.♠c3 ♠c6 3.g3 e6 4.d3 d5 5.♠g2 ♠f6
 I was surprised to see that White scores under 50% from
 this position in games between 2100+ ELO players 6.f4
 ♠e7 7.♠f3 dxe4 8.♠xe4 ♠xe4 9.dxe4 ♖xd1+
 10.♠xd1 b6 11.c3 ♠a6 12.♠c2 0-0-0 13.♠f1 ♠b7!?
 14.♠d2 g5! 15.♠g1 ♖h8 16.♠c4 Diagram

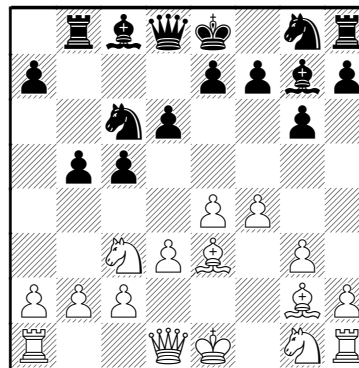


♠a5!? I wonder how many non-GMs would see this
 position and consider allowing their pawn structure to get
 shattered in return for winning a pawn?

[Black has a bizarre combo here, taking advantage of
 White's awkward King and the Rg1: 16...b5 17.♠a3
 ♠b4+! 18.cxb4 ♠xe4+ 19.♠b3 ♠d5+ 20.♠c2 cxb4
 21.♠xb5 ♠c5!]
 17.♠xa5 ♠xe4+ 18.♠b3 bxa5 19.♠e3 ♠c7 20.a3 gxf4
 21.♠xf4+ ♠d6 22.♠e3
 [22.♠xd6+? ♖xd6 threatens ...Rd2 23.♠g2? ♖b8+
 24.♠a2 (24.♠a4 ♠c2+ 25.♠xa5 ♠d3! mating)
 24...♖d2+ threatens mate and winning the Bg2]
 22...♖b8+? 23.♠a2 ♠d5+ 24.c4?! ♠e5 25.♠c1 ♠e4+
 Black has only one extra pawn (sitting way back on a7) but
 he's approximately half-a-zillion tempos ahead in
 development. 26.♠e2 ♠d4 27.♖e1 f5 28.♠d1 ♠d6
 29.♖e2 ♠d3
 0-1

□ Sharma,Pranav
 1509
 ■ Shirov,Alexei
 2723
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 11.02.2010
 [Upper,John]

1.e4 c5 2.♠c3 ♠c6 3.g3 g6 4.♠g2 ♠g7 5.d3 d6
 6.♠e3 ♖b8 7.f4 b5 Diagram



8.♖c1?! not technically a novelty, but probably deserves
 to remain rare... used only on those occasions when it
 might induce your 800 point higher-rated opponent to think
 you don't know what you're doing. :-)

[8.♖d2 has been played by hundreds of players,
 including our next simul-giver Nigel Short, and if b4
 9.♠d1 defends b2. ♖b6 10.♠f3 ♠h6 11.a3 a5
 12.axb4 axb4 is equal; Short-Kramnik,/Wijk aan Zee
 2005/(½-½, 34)]

8...b4 9.♠ce2 e5!? Transposing into a temp-down
 Botvinnik system. 10.♠f3= ♠ge7 11.f5!? thematic, but
 more dangerous with a White ♖ on f1; here, Black can just
 take it and defend (see notes to moves 13 and 14) gxf5!

12.♠h6 ♠xh6! 13.♖xh6 fxe4

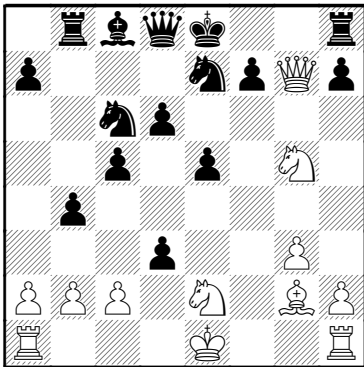
[13...♠g8!? looks cowardly, but Shirov didn't sign a
 contract saying he had to play like an 19th century
 romantic. Δ14.♖g7 ♖f6 15.♖xf6 ♠xf6 16.exf5+
 White's ♠s don't look so frisky, while Black has nice
 central control, and will play to recover the ♠f5 after
 finishing development.]

14.♠g5 exd3

[14...♠f5! 15.♖h5 ♖f6! 16.♠xe4 (≤16.0-0 ♖g6+)
 16...♖g6 17.♖xg6 hxg6 18.♠xd6+ ♠xd6 19.♠xc6+
 ♠e7+ Black has a better center, and good potential
 squares for the ♠.]

15.♖g7 Diagram

(Diagram)



g8?? When this position was on the board I ran into Karoly in the hallway, who happily told me that Pranav had a forced win. Karoly was seated on the opposite side of the simul-circle from Pranav, so it couldn't have been his view of the board that alerted him to the impending win. Maybe the bug-eyed spectators? Or maybe *_somebody_* (and his friend sitting next to him) couldn't stop grinning and looking around.

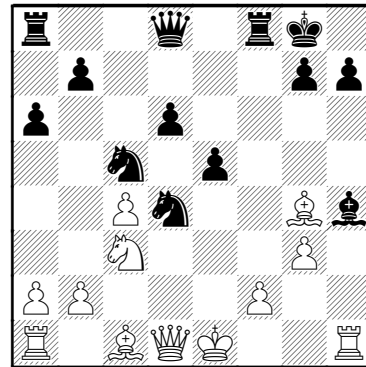
[15...c7d7 16.dxf7 wf8 17.wxh8 wxh8 18.dhx8 dxe2 I think White has to choose whether to save the dh8 or eliminate the e2. Computers rate Black as $\frac{7}{7}$.]
16.xc6+!+- Shirov slapped his head, resigned, shook hands... and moved on to the next board. It would be about three more hours before he had to resign again.
1-0

□ Torres,Alex
 ■ Shirov,Alexei
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

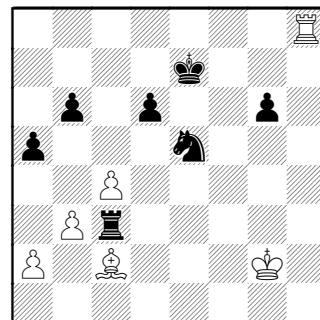
B32
2128
2723
 11.02.2010

1.e4 c5 2.d3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.dxd4 e5 5.d5 d6
 6.c4 e7 7.d1c3 a6 8.d3a3 f5 9.exf5 xf5 10.h4N
 a common move in some lines of the Shveshnikov, I can't find any example of it being played here. d6 11.d2
 xc2 12.wx2 0-0= 13.e2
 [13.e3! d4 14.d2=]
 13...d4! 14.d3 d7 15.g4 d5 16.d1 dxh4!?
 17.g3 Diagram

(Diagram)



g5? Pyrotechnics declined.
 [17...xg3! 18.fxg3 wf6 threatens wf2# 19.e3 (19.d2 wg6-+) 19...wg6! Black threatens ...d3+ and ...d3+ 20.h5 wxg3+ 21.d2 wg2+]
18.f4 h6 19.d5 e8 20.e3?
 [20.d7 wg6]
20...exf4!? 21.wx4
 [21.gxf4 we4]
21...fxe3 22.exh6! gxh6 23.d6+ xf6 24.wxf6 wg6
 [the unnatural looking 24...wf8! forces White to exchange on f8, which brings Black's f into the game, which gives Black a huge lead in activity going into the endgame.]
 [24...we4!]
25.wxg6+ hxg6 26.d1 d8 27.e2 a5 28.f3 g7
29.b3 f6 30.d4 h5 31.dxe3 b6 32.d1 e8+
33.f3 e6 34.c2 e7 35.g4! hxg4+ 36.xg4 d7
37.h4
 [37.xg6?? de5+-+]
37...de5+ 38.g3 f6 39.h7+?
 [39.e4! brings the e to a safer square and defends f3.]
39...xf7!? White can't survive without the f 40.h8 f3+
41.g2 c3
 [41...c3 Diagram

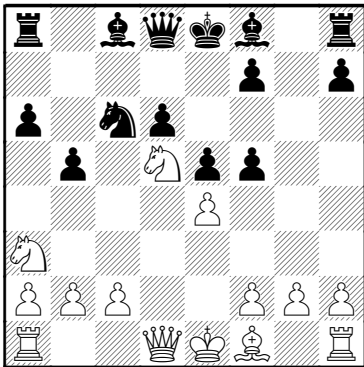


I don't know why White resigned. He's definitely worse, but not lost yet. It looks like White will just lose the side pawns, but that's not so clear. 42.e4 e3 (42...a4!)
 43.h7+ f6 44.d5 e2+ 45.g3 xa2 46.b7]
0-1

□ Shirov,Alexei
 ■ Murray,Adam
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

B33
 2723
 1932
 11.02.2010

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 e5
 6.♗db5 d6 7.♙g5 a6 8.♗a3 b5 9.♙xf6 gxf6 10.♗d5
 f5 Diagram



11.c3

[Shirov was a pioneer of the 11.♙xb5 line, but the mechanics of Black's defence have been worked out pretty well, and if Shirov has a line-busting innovation prepared here I don't think he'd expose it in a simul. Here are a couple of critical continuations: axb5 12.♗xb5 ♖a4 13.b4

- A) 13...♖h4 14.0-0 ♖g8 15.c3 (15.f4!?) 15...f4 16.♖xa4 ♖xg2+= Black forces a perpetual. ;
- B) 13...♖xb4 14.♗bc7+ ♗d7 15.0-0 ♖g8! 16.♗xb4 (16.g3 ♖b7! 17.♖h5 ♖g5! 18.♖xf7+ ♙e7 19.♗xe7 ♗xe7 20.♗e6 ♖g6 21.♗f8+ ♖xf8 22.♖xf8 fxe4+ 23.♖fb1 ♖c7 24.a4 e3! 25.fxe3 ♖e4! 0-1 Luther,T (2566)-Leko,P (2707)/Essen 2002) 16...♗xb4 17.c3 ♖xc7 18.cxb4 ♗e7= 0-1 Onischuk,An (2237)-Voiska, M (2387)/Germany 2004 (31)]

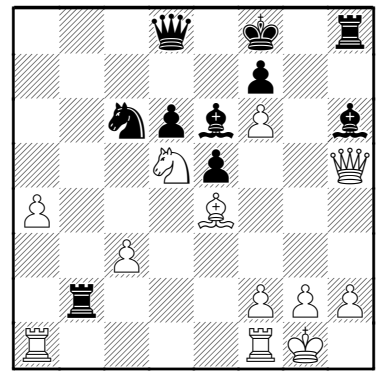
11...♙g7 12.♗xb5 axb5 13.♙xb5 ♙d7
 [13...♙b7 14.♗b4 ♖c8 15.♖a4 ♖d7 16.♗d5=]

14.exf5 ♖b8
 [14...0-0 is far more common. Here's one fantastic recent example with a local connection: 15.♖g4 ♗h8 (15...♗b8!?) 16.♖e4 ♖g8 17.f6 ♙h6 18.♙d3 ♖g6 19.h4 ♖g8 20.♗b6 ♖g4 21.♖e2 e4! 22.♙b5 e3! 23.♗xa8? exf2+-+ 24.♗f1 ♖xg2 25.♖f3 ♗e5! 0-1 Istratescu,A (2636)-Moiseenko,A (2632)/Montreal 2008]

15.♖g4N Not really a novelty, but he's the first one over 2000 to try this.
 [15.a4 defending the ♙ is the standard move 0-0 16.♖g4 ♗h8 17.0-0 ♗e7? 18.♖xg7+!! (18.♙xd7? ♗xd5 19.♙b5 ♙f6= 1-0 Shabalov,A (2623)-Harika,D (2329)/playchess.com INT BLITZ, 2004 (44)) 18...♗xg7 19.f6+± White gets a ♙♗ for the ♖, which more than makes up for the sac on b5 on move 12.]

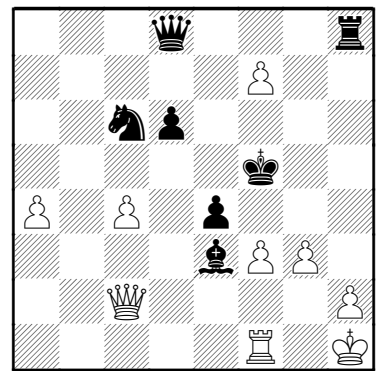
15...♗f8!
 [15...0-0? 16.♙xc6+- deflects the ♙d7 from pinning the ♗f5 Δ♙xc6 17.f6]

16.a4 ♖c8 17.♙d3 ♖xb2= 18.0-0 h5 19.♖g5 ♖d8
 20.f6 ♙h6 21.♖xh5 ♙e6 22.♙e4 Diagram



♗e8

[Black misses a brilliancy: 22...♙xd5! 23.♙xd5 ♖xf6!! Δ24.♙xc6 ♙f4! the double attack on ♖h5 and h2 wins: 25.♖f3 (25.♖xh8+ ♖xh8 26.g3 ♙e3!-+ makes it easy to stop White's passed ♗a4.) 25...♙xh2+ 26.♗h1 ♙g3+! 27.♗g1 ♖h1+ 28.♗xh1 ♖h6+ 29.♗g1 ♖h2#]
 23.♖ab1± ♙d2 24.c4 ♙d4 25.♖b7 ♖xe4 26.♗c7+ ♗d7
 27.♗xe6+ ♗xe6 28.♖xf7+ ♗f5 29.♖h5+ ♙g5
 30.♖h7??
 [30.♖f3+]
 30...♖h4! 31.♖f3+ ♙f4! 32.♖xh4 ♖xh4 33.g3 e4!
 defends the ♗c6 and unpins the ♙f4 34.♖g2 ♖g4??
 [34...♖h8!-+ saves the ♖ while setting up a counter-threat on the g-file which saves the ♙f4. 35.f7 (35.gxf4? ♖g8-+) 35...♗d4 (35...♗e5-+ ; 35...♙e5-+) 36.gxf4 ♗f3+ 37.♗h1 ♖xh2+-+]
 35.f3!∞ ♙e3+ 36.♗h1 ♖g8 37.f7 ♖h8 38.♖c2 Diagram



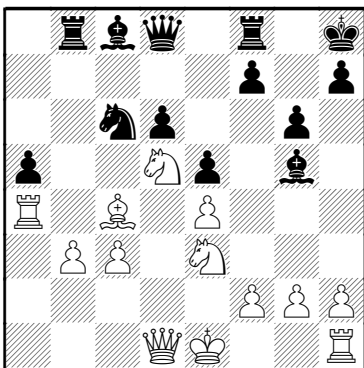
♖g5??

[Δ38...♗f6±]
 39.fxe4!+- double-check, now the ♖f1 supports the ♗f7. White's up in material and Black's ♗ is hopelessly exposed. ♗e6 40.f8♖ ♖xf8 41.♖xf8 ♙c5 42.♖d1 (threatening ♖d5+) ♗d4 43.♖f1 ♖g6 44.♖f4 ♗e7 45.♖b8 ♗d7 46.a5 ♖h5 47.g4 ♖h7? 48.♖b7+ 1-0

□ Szalay,Karoly
 ■ Shirov,Alexei
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

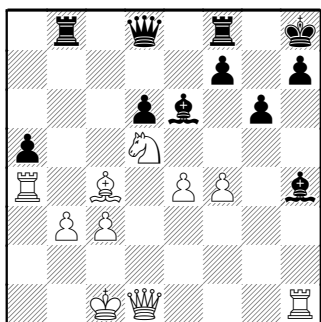
B33
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 11.02.2010

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 e5
 6.♗db5 d6 7.♗g5 a6 8.♗a3 b5 9.♗d5 ♗e7 10.♗xf6
 ♗xf6 11.c3 0-0 12.♗c2 ♗g5 13.a4 bxa4 14.♗xa4 a5
 15.♗c4 ♗b8 16.b3 ♗h8 17.♗ce3 g6 Diagram



the main line of the Sveshnikov, Shirov has five games in the Megabase from here, all as Black (+2=1-2) **18.h4**
 [18.0-0 is about equally popular, but doesn't score nearly as well.]

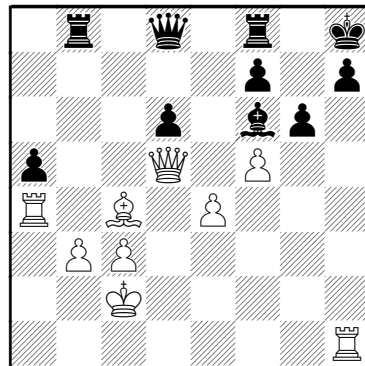
18...♗xh4 19.g3 ♗g5 20.f4
 [20.♗e2 f5 21.f4 exf4 22.gxf4 ♗h4+ 23.♗d1 ♗b7= ½-½ Karjakin,S-Shirov,A/Khanty-Mansiysk 2007 (102)]
20...exf4 21.gxf4 ♗h4+ 22.♗d2 ♗e7 23.♗c2
 [23.♗c1 ♗xd5 24.♗xd5 ♗e6 Diagram



25.♗d4+ (25.♗a2 ♗xd5 26.♗xd5 ♗f6 27.♗d4 ♗xd4
 28.cxd4 ♗d8 29.♗ah2 h5 30.f5 ♗f6 31.♗g2 ♗g7
 32.fxg6 fxg6 33.♗xh5 ♗xd4 34.♗xa5 ♗b7=
 But... [SPOILER ALERT]... Shirov also lost this game when he blundered into a mate in two in Mista,A (2559)-Shirov,A (2726)/Warsaw 2008/(1-0, 50).) 25...♗g8
 26.♗b1 ♗xd5 27.♗xd5 ♗f6 28.♗c2 ♗b6 29.♗f1 ♗e3
 30.♗d3 ♗c5 31.♗d1 ♗b6= 0-1 Jakovenko,D (2708)-Shirov,A (2699)/Foros 2007/(53)]
23...♗xd5 24.♗xd5 ♗e6 At the rate Shirov was playing (about seven minutes per loop), it must have taken about three hours to get this position... and they still haven't made any moves of their own.
 [24...♗f6 25.♗xf6 ♗xf6 26.♗d4 ♗xd4 27.cxd4 ♗b7

28.d5 suddenly it's a Benoni! ♗a8 29.♗ha1 h5 30.♗xa5 ♗xa5 31.♗xa5 h4 32.♗d3 ♗g7 33.♗e3 ♗h8 34.♗a2 h3 35.♗h2 ♗f6 36.♗f3 g5= ½-½ Frolyanov,D (2557)-Tregubov,P (2649)/Ulan Ude 2009/(57)]

25.f5N
 [25.♗d4+! ♗g8 26.♗d2 (threat:♗h2) (26.f5!)
 26...♗xd5 27.♗xd5 h5! 0-1 Manolaraki,Y (2098)-Pavlidou,E (1984)/Igoumenitsa 2007 (40)]
25...♗xd5 26.♗d4+ I don't see what this in-between check is supposed to do. It does block Black's ♗ from playing to g5, but White can prevent Kingside counterplay with:
 [26.♗xd5 ♗g5 27.♗d4+ ♗g8 (27...♗f6?? 28.♗xh4+-)
 28.♗g1!↑]
26...♗f6! 27.♗xd5 Diagram

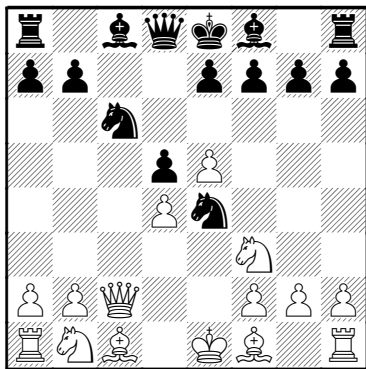


♗b6?! compare to move 28 of Jakovenko-Shirov: White has f4-f5 and the Black K is on h8 instead of g8.
 [27...♗g7 28.♗xa5 ♗g5= (28...♗b6=)]
28.♗d2!± g5?? horrific,
 [28...♗g8 29.♗xf7 ♗g7 30.♗d5± (30.fxg6?? ♗xf7+-)]
29.♗h2! Giving up the ♗ with ...♗f2 is the only way to delay mate.
1-0

B50
2012
2723
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John] 11.02.2010

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.c3 ♗f6 4.♗c2 ♗c6 5.d4 cxd4
 6.cxd4 d5= 7.e5 ♗e4 Diagram

(Diagram)



Already a rare position, with only 7 games in the Db. **8.♖b5**

[8.♘c3 ♕f5 9.♖b3 ♘xc3 10.bxc3 ♗d7 11.♗a3 ♜c8= 1/2-1/2 Smyslov,V-Fischer,R/1959 Candidates (46)]

8...♗d7!?

[8...♖b6!?]

9.e6!? N a novelty, (although there are only two other games from this position) **fxe6 10.0-0 g6 11.♘c3 ♜c8**

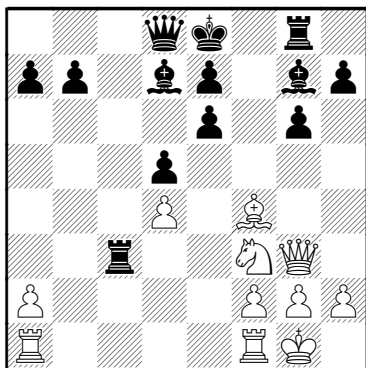
12.♗xc6

[12.♘xe4∞]

12...♗xc6 13.♖e2 ♘xc3! 14.♖e5 makes sure the Black King stays stuck in the center **♜g8 15.bxc3 ♗g7**

[15...♗xc3!]

16.♖g3 ♜xc3! 17.♗f4!? Diagram



♗xd4?!

[17...♗f8 18.♖h4 ♗xf3!? 19.gxf3 ♗xd4 20.♖xh7 ♗b5∞ Black can choose whether to play for more or to allow a draw.]

18.♖h4!∞ ♗xf3! 19.♖xh7□

[19.gxf3?? ♗b5!-+ frees d7 for the King and puts both Rooks under attack]

19...♗xf4

[19...♗f8 20.♗h6+ ♗g7 21.gxf3∞]

[19...♗xf4 20.♖xg8+ ♗f8 21.♖xg6+ ♗f7 22.♖g8+=

White has a perpetual - a reasonable result after playing the disruptive 9.e6. White played well to keep Black under pressure.]

1/2-1/2

□ **Shirov,Alexei**

B51

2723

■ **Xiong,Sonja**

1930

ShirovSimulOttawa

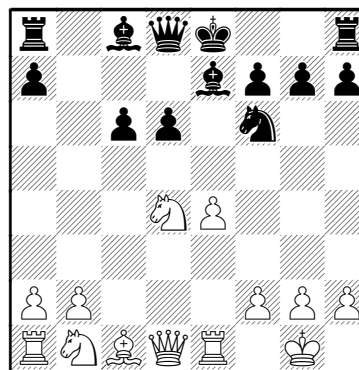
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[Upper,John]

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 d6 4.♗xc6+ bxc6 5.0-0 ♘f6

[5...♗g4 6.c3 ♘f6 7.d3 (7.♗e1 e6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 10.e5 ♘d7 gives Black a good position, according to Shirov's Chessbase DVD on the Rossolimo.) 7...e5 8.h3 ♗h5 9.♗g5 ♗e7= 1/2-1/2 Rublevsky,S (2665)-Shirov,A (2709)/Poikovsky 2006/(52)]

6.♗e1 e5 7.c3 ♗e7 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 exd4 10.♘xd4 Diagram



This position looks like long-term low-grade suffering for Black. She has all the disadvantages of hanging pawns, but because they're so far back they give none of the dynamic advantages. **♖b6** N A novelty here, although it transposes to a known position

[10...♗d7 11.♘c3 0-0 12.♗f4 ♖b6 13.♗d2 ♗fe8 14.♗ad1 ♗ad8 15.♗g5 h6 White stil has nagging central pressure. 1-0 Tiviakov,S (2648)-Noritsyn,N (2336)/Ottawa 2007/(50)]

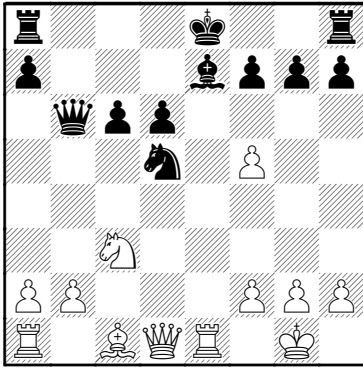
[10...c5?? 11.♘c6 ♖c7 12.♘xe7 ♖xe7 13.♗f4+-]

11.♘f5 ♗xf5 12.exf5 ♘d5? Black wants to defend the ♗e7 so she can castle, but Shirov's next move simply threatens to trade the defending piece.

[⊠12...♖c7 13.♘c3 (13.♖e2 isn't thretening to win the ♗e7 since White's back rank is weak: 0-0!! Δ14.♖xe7? ♗ae8!∞) 13...0-0 14.♗f4 ♗fe8± 1/2-1/2 Girinath,P (2440)-Le Quang,L (2542)/Cebu City 2007/(70)]

13.♘c3!± Diagram

(Diagram)



♖b7?

[♘13...♗xc3 14.bxc3± and the pressure on ♕e7 prevents Black from castling]

14.♗xd5 cxd5 15.♕h6??

[15.f6!+- gxf6 16.♕f4! 0-0 17.♕h6!+- I think Nunn said someplace that these two-step moves on the same line are particularly difficult to "see".]

15...0-0!± 16.♖g4 ♕f6??

[16...♖xb2! a giant defensive move 17.♖ab1 (17.♖xe7?? ♖xa1+ 18.♖e1 ♖xe1#) 17...♖f6±]

17.♕xg7!+- h5

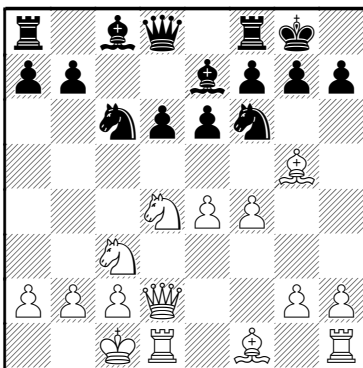
[17...♕xg7 18.f6 is #1]

18.♖g3 ♕h4 19.♖xh4 ♗xg7 20.♖g5+ ♗h7 21.f6 1-0

□ Shirov,Alexei
 ■ Doubleday,William
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

B66
2723
2250
 11.02.2010

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 d6 6.♕g5 e6 7.♖d2 ♕e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 Diagram



a6?! After the game continuation Black has weak dark squares and long-term trouble developing the ♕c8

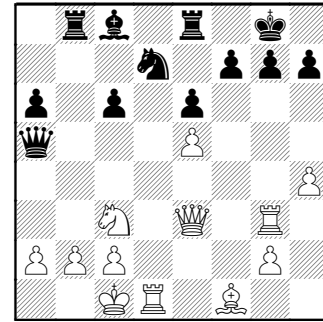
[Shirov has lots of experience on both sides of the main line:

9...♗xd4 10.♖xd4 ♖a5 11.♕c4 (11.♗b1 ♖d8 12.♕c4 ♕d7 13.♕b3 ♕c6 see: Shirov,A -Anand,V /Moscow 1992; and Illescas Cordoba,M -Shirov,A /Dos Hermanas 1995)

11...♕d7 Here, Shirov twice chose 12.♖d3 against Kramnik, but he's never played the mainline, where hundreds of games continue: 12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5 ♕c6 14.♕d2 ♗d7 15.♗d5 ♖c5 16.♗xe7+ ♖xe7 17.♖he1±]

10.e5! dxe5 11.♗xc6 ♖xd2+

[Here's an attacking gem from Keres: 11...bxc6 12.fxe5 ♗d7 13.h4± ♖b8 14.♖e3 ♖e8 15.♖h3 ♖a5 16.♕xe7 ♖xe7 17.♖g3 ♖e8 Diagram



18.♖xd7!? bet he didn't expect that! ♕xd7 19.♕d3 (19.♖xg7+ ♗xg7 20.♖g5+ ♗f8 21.♖h6+= White can force a draw) 19...h6? (♘19...g6 20.h5∞) 20.♖f4!! (20.♖e4! ♗f8 21.♖xg7!+- transposes to the game)

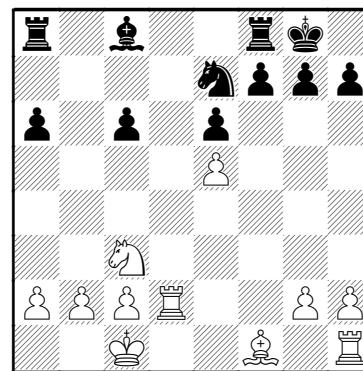
A) ♘20...♖c5 21.♗e4→ (≤21.♖f6 ♖e3+□∞)

21...♖b4 22.♗d1!+- with Black's ♗ on the first rank eliminated there is no defence to ♖xg7 and ♖f6 and ♖xh6 and ♗f6: any dark-square sac wins! ;

B) 20...♖b4 21.♖xh6+- ;

C) 20...♗f8 21.♖xg7!+- ♗xg7 22.♖f6+ ♗f8 23.♕g6! 1-0 Keres,P-Szabo,L/Budapest 1955]

12.♖xd2 bxc6 13.fxe5 ♗d5 14.♕xe7 ♗xe7 Diagram



15.g3N

[15.♕d3! a5 16.♗a4 ♕a6 17.c4! ♗g6 18.♕xg6! hxg6 19.b3+- Black's ♕ is worthless, his ♖s are weak, and White has the only open file. 1-0 Cheparinov,I (2621)-Alexander,C (1977)/Metz 2005/(33)]

15...♗g6 16.♖e2 ♖b8 17.♕g2 ♕d7 18.♖d1 ♖fd8

19.♗e4± xd6, x ♗a6, ♗c6 ♖b5

[♘19...♕e8 20.♖xd8 ♖xd8 21.♗c5±]

20.c4! ♖bb8 White wins a ♕ for ♗♗

[20...♖xe5 21.♖ed2 ♗f8 22.♗c3 (Δ♕xc5) ♖c8 23.♖xd7 ♗xd7 24.♖xd7 Numerically, Black has better comp than in the game, but White is still winning.]

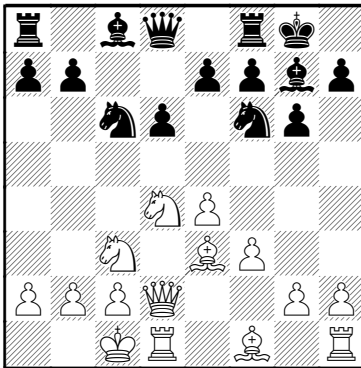
21.♖ed2+- ♗xe5 22.♗c5 ♗xc4 23.♖xd7 ♖xd7 24.♖xd7

g6 25.b3 ♖e5 26.♞a7 ♞b5 27.♗e4 a5 28.♙c2 ♗g7
29.♙c3 ♞d5 30.♗g5 ♞d3+ 31.♙c2 ♞d6 32.♙h3 h6
33.♗xe6+ ♗f6 34.♗c5 ♞d5 35.♞xa5 now it's a whole ♙
♗e7 36.♗b7 ♞xa5 37.♗xa5 f5 38.♙g2 ♗d7 39.♗c4
1-0

□ **Shirov,Alexei**
 ■ **Roth,Gerhard**
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

B76
2723
1800
 11.02.2010

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 g6
6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 ♗c6 8.♞d2 0-0 9.0-0-0 Diagram



♙d7 Played by several 2600 players, including Nakamura and Bu.

[The simplifying 9...d5 is the invariable choice of the 2700 set: 10.exd5 ♗xd5 11.♗xc6 bxc6 12.♙d4 ♙xd4 (12...♗xc3 13.♞xc3 ♙h6+ 14.♙e3 ♙xe3+ 15.♞xe3 ♞b6 16.♞xe7 ♙e6± 1/2-1/2 Rublevsky,S (2702)-Gashimov,V (2730)/Poikovsky 2009/(26)) 13.♞xd4 ♞b6 scores 50% in games between 2600+ players; Ivanchuk, V (2746)-Carlsen,M (2770)/Leon 2009.]

10.h4 h5 11.♙e2

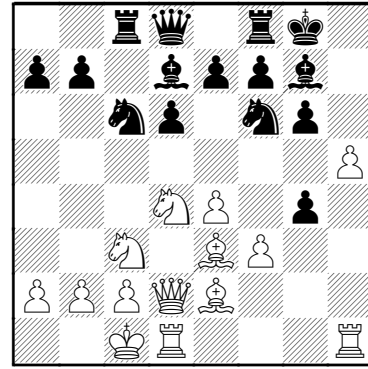
[11.♙c4 transposes back to the main lines]

11...♞c8 12.g4

[12.♙b1 ♗e5 13.♙g5 ♗c4 (13...a6!?) 14.♙xc4 ♞xc4 15.♗de2 ♞c5 16.♙e3 ♞c6 17.♙g5 ♞c5 18.♙e3 ♞c6 19.♙g5= 1-0 Lanzani,M (2352)-Charbonneau,P (2485)/Saint Vincent 2004/(33)]

12...hxg4 13.h5 Diagram

(Diagram)



Surprisingly, there are only two games in the Megabase from here. **♗xh5! 14.♗d5N**

[14.fxg4 ♗g3 15.♞h3 ♗xd4 16.♙xd4 e5!? 17.♙e3 ♗xe2+ 18.♞xe2 ♞xc3! 19.bxc3 ♞c8! 20.♞h4 ♞xc3± 0-1 Jessel,S (2309)-Mestel,A (2470)/Sunningdale 2008/(32)]

[Going the whole caveman route with: 14.♞xh5 doesn't work while Black can get the ♞ over to defend with ♞d8-a5-e5/h5, e.g. gxh5 15.♙h6 ♞a5-+]

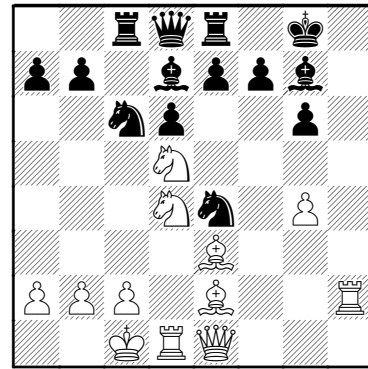
14...♞e8

[14...♗g3!±]

15.fxg4 ♗g3!

[15...♗f6? 16.♗xf6+ ♙xf6 17.♗xc6± (≤17.♗f5 ♞a5!)]

16.♞h2 ♗xe4! 17.♞e1 Diagram



♗f6?

[17...e6!-+ the ♞d8 covers h4 with gain of tempo as the ♗d5 is attacked.]

18.♞h4! ♗xg4??

[18...♗xd4! 19.♗xf6+ exf6 20.♙xd4∞]

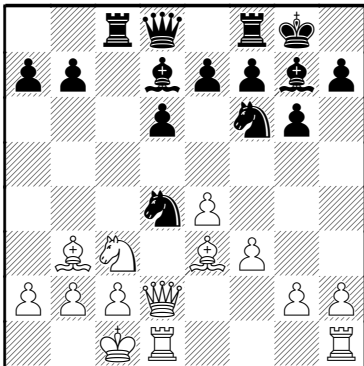
19.♙xg4+ ♙xg4 20.♞h7+! ♗f8 21.♙h6 It's mate in two.
1-0

□ **Qin,Joey**
 ■ **Shirov,Alexei**
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

B78
2248
2723
 11.02.2010

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 g6
6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♞d2 ♗c6 9.♙c4 ♙d7 10.0-0-0

8c8 11.♖b3 ♜xd4 Diagram



11...♖e5 is ten times more popular, but this move is at least as good: Black prepares his own pawn storm by reducing White's control of b5, and Black slows down White's attack by breaking up the ♖♗ battery against h6.

12.♖xd4 b5 13.h4

[Other topical continuations are 13.♖xa7 and 13.♖d5 ♜xd5 which Shirov has seen from both sides: 14.♖xg7 (14.exd5 ♖xd4 15.♖xd4 a5 16.a3 b4 17.a4? ♖e8!↑ 1-0 Shirov,A (2706)-Topalov,V (2733)/Moscow 2001/CBM 086 (37)) 14...♖xg7 15.exd5 a5 16.a3 ♖g8= ½-½ Karjakin,S (2722)-Shirov,A (2730)/Bilbao 2009/(24)]

13...a5 14.e5!? Not a Novelty, but these are the two highest rated players to test this position.

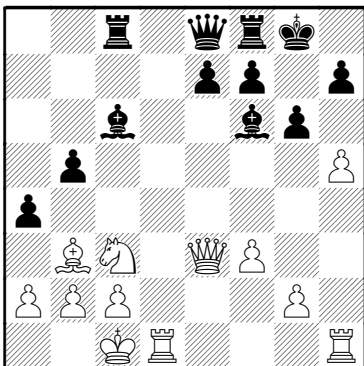
[14.h5 a4 15.♖xf6 exf6 16.♖d5 (16.♖xd6 axb3 17.♖xd7 ♖a5 18.hxg6 hxg6 19.♖d5= 1-0 Berthelot,Y (2331)-Prie,E (2429)/Nantes 2003/(37)) 16...f5 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.g4= 1-0 Papp,G (2474)-Smerdon,D (2461)/Paks 2007(41)]

[14.a4? bxa4 15.♖xa4 ♖xa4 16.♖xa4 ♖c4 17.♖b3 ♜xe4!↑]

14...dxe5 15.♖xe5 ♖c6 16.♖e3 ♖e8 17.♖xf6 ♖xf6

18.h5 a4?! Diagram

[18...g5!?!]

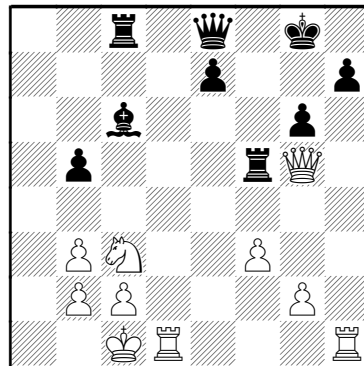


19.hxg6!↑ This might still be opening preparation (see note to move 23), but Joey definitely has the tactical skill to play this position. **axb3! 20.♖h6! ♖g5+♖** the only way to stop the mate. **21.♖xg5 fxg6♖**

[21...bxa2 22.♖h6! Black gets and extra ♖, but gets

mated.]

22.axb3± White's up a pawn and Black's structure is terrible. **♖f5** Diagram



23.♖h4

[This has all been played before, although not in a high-profile game: 23.♖e3! ♖f7 24.♖b6 ♖e8 25.♖e4 ♖xe4 26.♖e6+ ♖g7 27.fxe4!? ♖fc5?? 28.♖d7!+- 1-0 Demidowicz,M (1950)-Zakoscielna,K (2054)/Szklarska Poreba, U20 Girls, 2007 (28.♖d7 ♖xc2+ 29.♖b1 ♖2c7 30.♖e5+- wins the ♖c7)]

23...♖f7 24.♖b1 ♖f4 25.♖g5 ♖f5 26.♖h4

White continues to think only of attacking the King. Instead, now that Black's had to make some concessions to stop the attack, White should centralize and play against Black's weak pawns. (as in the U20 Girls game above)

[26.♖e3! Δ♖he1 or ♖e4 or even ♖h6]

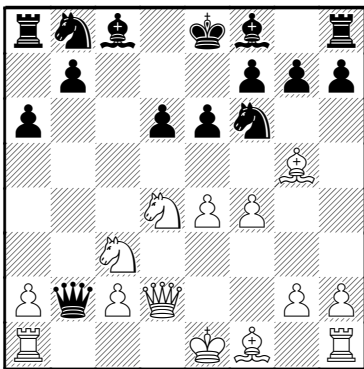
26...♖f4 27.♖g5 White has all the chances here, so it's a bit disappointing that Joey didn't press further; but a well played game, and possibly an important one for Dragon Theory.

½-½

B97
1743
2723
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John] 11.02.2010

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 a6 6.♖g5 e6 7.f4 ♖b6 8.♖d2 ♖xb2 Diagram

(Diagram)

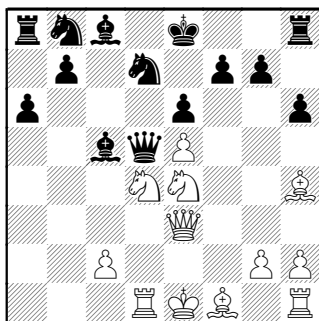


9.♖b1

[9.♖b3 ♖a3 10.♙xf6 gxf6 11.♙e2 ♘c6 12.0-0 ♙d7 13.♙h1 h5= 0-1 Short,N (2655)-Kasparov,G (2805)/ London 1993/(40)]

9...♗a3 10.♖b3

[Here's a game I expect to see in "Fire on Board v.3" 10.e5 dxe5 11.fxex5 ♘fd7 12.♗e4 h6 13.♙h4 ♗xa2 14.♖d1 ♗d5 15.♗e3 ♙c5 Diagram



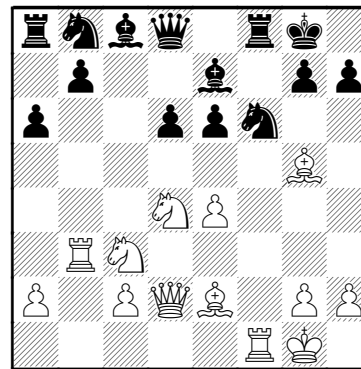
16.♗xe6! ♙b4+ 17.c3 ♗xe6 18.cxb4 0-0 19.♖d6 ♗xe5 20.♙c4 ♘c6 21.0-0 ♗h5 22.♗f4 (22.♙f6!!± 1-0 Sjugirov,S (2491)-Brotsky,M (2572)/St Petersburg 2008/(26)) 22...♗de5 23.♖xh6!!+- 1-0 Shirov,A (2745)- Wang Hao (2696)/Dagomys 2009]

10...♗a5 11.♙e2 ♙e7 12.0-0 0-0

[12...♗bd7 13.♗e3 0-0 compared to the game line at move 13, Black has much better development. 14.♙h4 ♗c5= 0-1 Al Awadhi,K-Nunn,J (2610)/Novi Sad 1990/ (36)]

13.f5 ♗d8?! White has a huge lead in development, which has to be worth more than a ♖ **14.fxe6 fxe6** Diagram

(Diagram)



15.♗e3?!

[15.♙c4! d5! 16.exd5± The computer assures me that this gives White a winning initiative. If I'd been playing White I'd have worried that the upcoming exchanges would diffuse White's development advantage, but that turns out to be 100% backwards: White has seven active pieces and Black has four. If White trades three of them, that leaves White with an advantage of four active pieces to one (i.e. 4/1 is better than 7/4). Of course, that doesn't mean it will be easy to _find_ the moves, but they'll be there. Two lines go:

- A)** 16...exd5 17.♗xd5! ♗xd5 18.♖xf8+ ♙xf8 19.♙e7+ ♙xe7 (19...♗xe7 20.♗e6++- ; 19...♗xe7 20.♙d5 ♗d7 21.♖e3+-) 20.♗g5+ ♗f6 21.♗c5+ ♗d6 22.♖e3+- ;
- B)** 16...♗xd5 17.♖xf8+ ♗xf8 18.♗xd5 exd5 (18...♙xg5 19.♗xg5 exd5 20.♙xd5+ ♙h8 21.♖f3 ♗e8 22.♗e5+-) 19.♙xd5+ ♙h8 20.♙xe7 ♗xe7 21.♖e3 ♗f8 22.♗e1 ♙d7 23.♙xb7 ♖a7 24.♖f3 ♗g8 25.♙d5! ♗d8 26.♗f2+-]

15...♗c6! = 16.♖fb1? wrong way!

[♗16.♗xc6=]

16...♗e5

[16...♗d5!]

17.a4 h6 18.♙f4? ♗fg4!↑ an incredibly fast turn around! Black may already have a winning initiative. **19.♗d2 ♖xf4! 20.♗xf4 ♙g5 21.♗g3 ♙e3+ 22.♙f1 ♙xd4 23.♙xg4 ♗f6+ 24.♙f3 ♗c4 25.e5?!**

[25.♗e1 ♗e3+ (25...♗g5=) 26.♙e2 ♗xc2=]

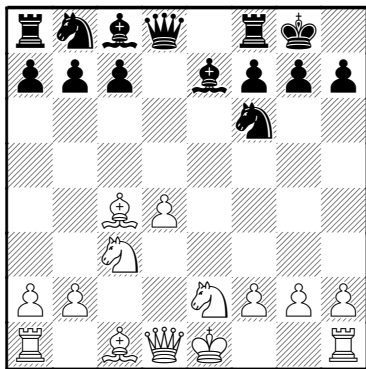
25...♗d2+-+ 26.♙e2 ♙xe5 27.♙xd2 ♙xg3 28.hxg3 d5 29.♙e1 ♙d7

0-1

□ Donev,Danail
 ■ Shirov,Alexei
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

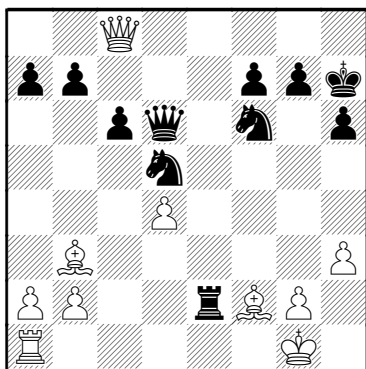
C01
1938
2723
 11.02.2010

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 ♙e7 6.♙d3 dxc4 7.♙xc4 0-0 8.♗ge2 Diagram



This position can also arise from a Queen's Gambit Accepted, except there it is White to move: 1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e3 e5 4. Bxc4 exd4 5. exd4 Nf6 6. Nc3 Be7 7. Nge2. Another way to put that: Black is now a tempo up in a QGA. **♟bd7 9.0-0 ♟b6 10.♟b3 ♟g4 11.f3 ♟h5 12.♟g3**

[12.♟f4 definitely gets the Bishop pair]
12...♟g6 13.f4 h6 14.f5 ♟h7 15.♟e3 ♟d6 16.♟f3 c6 17.♟ce4 ♟e8 18.♟xd6 ♟xd6= 19.♟fe1 ♟e7 20.♟f2 ♟ae8 21.♟xe7 ♟xe7 22.h3 ♟bd5 23.♟e2? [♟23.♟e1] 23...♟xf5! 24.♟xf5 ♟xe2 25.♟c8+ ♟h7 Diagram

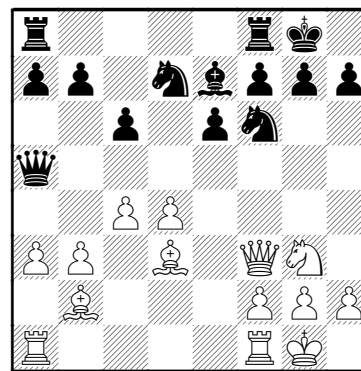


26.♟xb7??
 [26.♟c2+!? g6 27.♟xb7 ♟ Δ♟xc2?! 28.♟xf7+ ♟h8 29.♟xg6]
26...♟f4!-+ suddenly, Black is attacking with QRN and White is defending with B+p **27.♟e1**
 [27.♟f1 ♟e4-+ (27...♟e3-+)]
27...♟xg2+! Now he's defending with just the Bishop.
 [27...♟xg2+ 28.♟xg2 ♟e3+ 29.♟h1 ♟f3+ 30.♟h2 ♟g2#]
0-1

□ **Shirov,Alexei**
 ■ **Hubley,Roger**
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

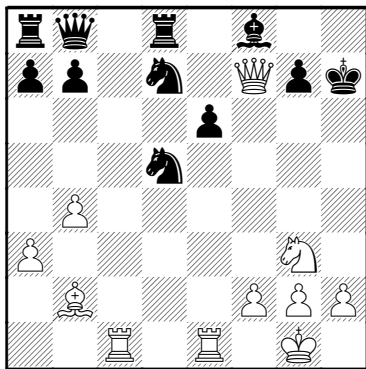
C10
2723
1957
 11.02.2010

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♟c3 dxe4 4.♟xe4 ♟d7 5.♟f3 ♟c6 6.♟d3 ♟d7 7.0-0 ♟gf6 8.♟g3 ♟xf3 9.♟xf3 c6 10.b3 ♟e7 11.♟b2 0-0 12.c4 ♟a5 13.a3 Diagram



The "Fort Knox" variation. While it looks as solid as a fort, Black has a terrible score from this position. The problem for Black is that there Black has no active play, so White has as much time as he wants. That's OK against weaker players, who have a smaller arsenal of plans at their fingertips, but it's disastrous against strong players. For example, I think one of the early classics in this opening was Spassky-O'Kelly, where Spassky held the center until he brought his ♟g2 to stop any central breaks, and then doubled his rooks in the center before he pushed d4-d5. Interestingly, in both his games against the Ft.Knox, Shirov played too impatiently, and Black should have been OK both times. **♟fd8** In the other Fort Knox simul game, Van Dusen played **13...♟ad8 14.b4 ♟c7 15.♟fe1 ♟f8 16.♟ac1 ♟b8 17.d5 cxd5 18.cxd5 ♟xd5 19.♟xh7+?! [19.♟h5!?! there are a lot of open lines and pieces heading towards Black's ♟.] 19...♟xh7 20.♟xf7** Diagram
 [20.♟xf7 ♟f4 21.♟xe6 ♟7f6 White has some comp (♟♟♟ v ♟) but Black isn't worse.]

(Diagram)

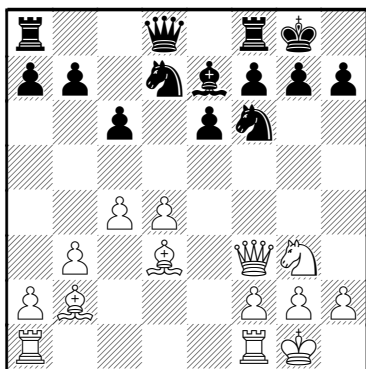


WTF! Black resigned, even though he isn't lost after 20...
 ♖f4!
 1-0

□ Shirov,Alexei
 ■ Van Dusen,Eric
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

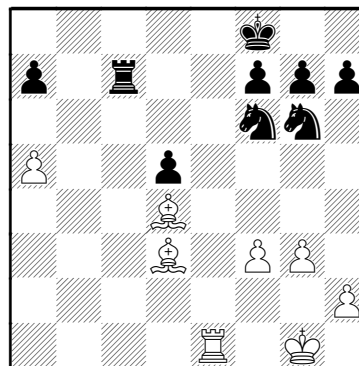
C10
 2723
 1944
 11.02.2010

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♖c3 dxe4 4.♗xe4 ♗d7 5.♗f3 ♗c6
 Shirov took the gold in both of the simul games against the
 "Fort Knox" variation. (vs Hubley and Van Dusen) 6.♗d3
 ♗d7 7.0-0 ♗gf6 8.♗g3 ♗e7 9.b3 0-0 10.♗b2 ♗xf3
 11.♗xf3 c6 12.c4 Diagram



♖a5
 [12...♗e8 13.♗fe1 ♗f8 14.h4 ♖c7 15.♗ac1 ♗g6
 16.h5 ♗h4 17.♖e3 ♗d6 18.♗e4 ♗f4 19.♗xf6+ gxf6
 20.♖e4 f5 21.♖e2 ♗xc1 22.♗xc1= 1-0 Shirov,A (2670)-
 Huebner,R (2620)/Munich 1993/[Shirov] (51)]
 13.a3! prevents ...♗a3, to trade another attacker. ♗ad8
 Halfway around the simul-circle, Hubley played 13...♗fd8
 14.b4 ♖c7 15.♗fe1 ♗fe8 16.♗ac1 ♖b8 17.d5?!
 too early. cxd5= 18.cxd5?! exd5?!
 [It's not clear White has enough for the ♖ after 18...♗xd5!
 19.♗f5? exf5 20.♖xd5 ♗c5=]
 19.♗f5 ♗d6! 20.♗xd6 ♖xd6 21.♖f5 ♗f8
 [21...♗e6!∞]
 22.g3 ♗g6
 [22...♗xe1+ 23.♗xe1 d4!]

23.♗d4 b6 24.f3 ♗xe1+ 25.♗xe1 ♖d7 26.♖xd7± ⊥ ♗
 ♗xd7 27.a4 ♖c7 28.a5 bxa5 29.bxa5 ♗f8 Diagram
 [29...♗f8 30.♗f5! keeps dominating the ♗s]



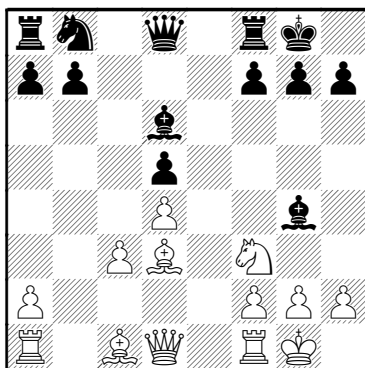
30.a6!± nails down a7 and prepares ♗b1-b7 ♗e8
 [30...♗d7 31.♗b5 f6 32.♗xd7 ♗xd7 33.♗b1±]
 31.♗b1 ♗d6 32.♗b8+! ♗e7 33.♗xg7?!
 [33.♗a8 ♗c8 34.♗f5± looks simplest]
 33...♗c8?
 [33...f6! buys Black some tempos while White extracts
 his ♗]
 34.♗xc8 ♗xc8 35.♗d4± ♗d6 36.♗f2 h5?! 37.f4 ♗ge7
 38.♗e2 ♗c6 39.♗g7 ♗b4? 40.♗xh5 ♗xa6 41.♗xf7+-
 ♗b4 42.♗f8+ ♗e7 43.h4 a5 44.h5
 1-0

□ Shirov,Alexei
 ■ Tomalty,Alan
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

C42
 2723
 1798
 11.02.2010

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.♗xe5 d6 4.♗f3 ♗xe4 5.d4 d5
 6.♗d3 ♗d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 c6 9.cxd5
 [9.♖c2 ♗a6 10.a3 f5 11.♗c3 ♗c7 12.b4 a5 13.c5
 ♗e7 14.♗b2 ♗e6= 1/2-1/2 Anand,V (2753)-Shirov,A
 (2723)/Monte Carlo 2003/(39)]
 9...cxd5 10.♗c3 ♗xc3 11.bxc3 ♗g4 Diagram

(Diagram)



12.h3

[12.♖b1 ♘d7 13.h3 ♕h5 14.♖b5 (14.♖xb7!? ♘b6 15.♕a6 leaves the ♖b7 stranded but safe) 14...♘b6 15.c4 ♕xf3 16.♗xf3 dxc4= 1/2-1/2 Topalov,V (2735)-Shirov,A (2736)/Wijk aan Zee 2004 (28)]

12...♕h5 13.♖b1 b6

[13...♘d7!? 14.♖b5 is Topalov-Shirov, above]

14.♖b5

[14.c4!? dxc4 15.♕e4 ♘d7 16.♕xa8 ♗xa8= computers prefer Black!]

14...a6 15.♖b2N

[15.♖b3 ♘c6= 1/2-1/2 Christiansen,L (2555)-Akopian,V (2600)/Tilburg 1993/(41)]

15...♕a3 16.♖e2 ♕xc1 17.♗xc1 ♕xf3 18.gxf3= ♗f6

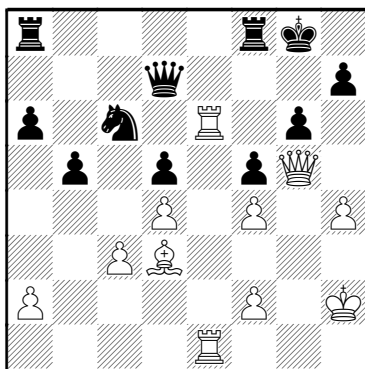
19.f4 ♘c6 20.♖fe1 ♗h6?! this just loses a tempo, since the White ♖ will be better on h2 where it is out of the way of checks and the g-file is open for his ♖s.

[20...b5! the ♗f6 keeps pressure on both f4 and d4, Δ... b4]

21.♖h2 b5 22.♗e3 ♗d6 23.♗g3 f5?

[♟23...b4!]

24.♖e6! White is using both his Rooks, and Black is barely using one of his. ♗d7 **25.♗g5 g6** **26.h4** Diagram



♖ac8? Black misses his last chance

[26...b4 ♟ 27.h5 bxc3 28.hxg6 ♘xd4 ♟ hits the ♖d6 and threatens ...♘f3+]

27.h5!+ ♗f7 28.hxg6 ♗g7 29.gxh7+ ♖h8 30.♖g6 ♗f7

31.♕xf5 ♖a8 32.♖g8+! ♖xg8 33.hxg8 ♗+

[33.hxg8 ♗+ ♖xg8 34.♗h6+ ♗h7 35.♗xh7#]

1-0

□ Provencher, Bernard

C50

2053

■ Shirov, Alexei

2723

ShirovSimulOttawa

11.02.2010

[Upper, John]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♕c4 ♕c5 4.0-0

[4.c3 is the most common ♘f6 5.d3 0-0 6.♕b3 d5 7.♗e2 a5 8.a4 d4 9.0-0 h6 10.♘bd2 ♗e7 11.♘h4 ♖d8 12.h3 ♕e6 13.♖d1 ♖d7 14.♕xe6 ♗xe6 1/2-1/2 Radjabov,T (2756)-Shirov,A (2745)/Baku 2009 (38)]

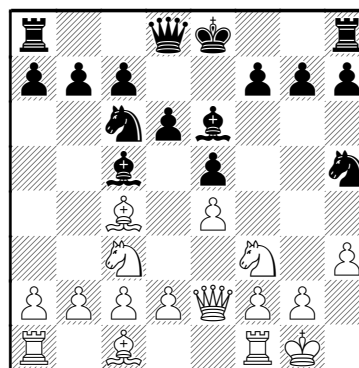
[The Evans Gambit 4.b4 ♕xb4 5.c3 was a staple of 19 century attacking play, and is still played by attackers like Nigel Short, but the modern line with ♕e7 (rather than 5...♕a5) 6.d4 ♘a5 7.♕e2 d6!? giving back the pawn to finish developing 8.♗a4+ c6 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.♘xe5 ♘f6 leaves Black safe and gives White little to be enthusiastic about. 11.0-0 b5 12.♗c2 0-0 13.a4 ♗c7 14.♘f3 a6= 1/2-1/2 Short,N (2683)-Svidler,P (2672)/Internet 2000/(34)]

4...♘f6 5.♘c3 'The Giuoco Piano. Let's see him "set fire" to that!' **d6 6.h3**

[6.d3 ♕e6 7.♕e6 fxe6 8.♘a4 ♕b6 9.♘xb6 axb6 10.♘g5 ♗e7 11.a3 0-0 12.c3 h6 13.♘h3 d5]

1/2-1/2 Larsen,B (2515)-Smyslov,V (2565)/Reykjavik 1995/ (57)]

6...♕e6 7.♗e2 ♘h5 Diagram



8.d3??

[8.♕xe6 fxe6 9.♗c4 ♗d7 is still equal.]

8...♘g3!? 'Black plays a forte "Piano".' **9.♗d1 ♘xf1**

10.♖xf1 ♕xc4 11.dxc4 0-0 12.♘d5 f5 13.♕g5 ♗d7

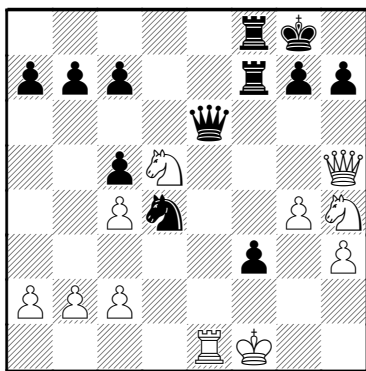
14.exf5 ♖xf5 15.♕e3 e4! 16.♘h4 ♖f7 defends ♗d7, so

that on 17.♕xc5 dxc5 18.♘f6+ gxf6 Black's ♗d7 is

defended. **17.♕xc5 dxc5 18.♗h5 ♖af8 19.f4 exf3**

20.g4 ♘d4 21.♖d1 ♗e6 22.♖e1 Diagram

(Diagram)



♖e2+! the prettiest and fastest finish.
 [22...♖e2+ 23.♖xe2 fxe2+ 24.♔g2 e1♗+! 25.♔g3 ♗e2+-+ is #4]
0-1

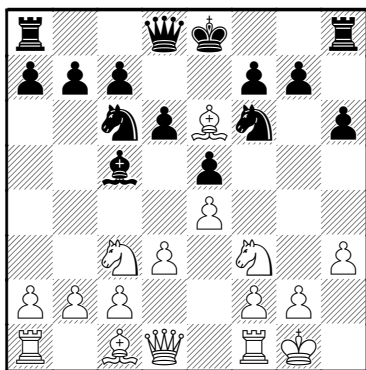
□ **Xiong, Jerry**
 ■ **Shirov, Alexei**
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper, John]

C50
2304
2723
 11.02.2010

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♖c4 ♖c5 4.d3 ♗f6 5.♗c3 d6 6.h3

[6.♗a4!? ♖b6 7.c3 ♗e7 8.0-0 ♗g6 9.♖e1 0-0 10.♗xb6 axb6 11.♖b3 White's ♖ pair might give some long term advantage ♖e8 12.♖d2 h6 13.a4 ♖d7 14.h3 ♖c6 15.♖c2 d5= 1/2-1/2 Ivanchuk, V (2703)-Aronian, L (2768)/Jermuk 2009/(46)]

6...♖e6 7.0-0 h6 8.♖xe6 Diagram



Rather than criticize this as too timid a use of the White pieces in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity against a 2700+ firebrand, I'll suggest that Jerry's plan was to lull our jet-lagged guest into sleepy inattentiveness and then pounce on his blunders between moves 10 and 15. This strategy has met with mixed success in the chess praxis of Bergero, Rosmari, and Oesterie (below). **fxe6 9.♖e3**

[9.♖e2 d5 10.exd5 exd5 11.♖e3? d4 12.♖d2?? dxc3 13.♖xc3+ 0-1 Bergero, B (550)-Giaccone, P (626)/San Francisco 2000/(48)]

9...♖b6

[9...♗d4 10.♗a4 ♗xf3+ 11.♖xf3 ♖xe3 12.♖xe3= 0-1 Cuberli, A (532)-Rosmari, B (600)/San Francisco 2000/(50)]

10.♖xb6 axb6 11.d4

[11.♗h4 ♗xe4?? 12.♖h5+- ♗d7 13.♖f7+?? (13.♗xe4+-) 13...♖e7?? 14.♖xe7+ ♗xe7 15.♗xe4+- 1/2-1/2 Oesterle, S (704)-Ruedel, A (1040)/Tamm 2001/(40)]

11...exd4 12.♗xd4 ♗xd4 13.♖xd4 e5 14.♖c4 ♖d7 15.♖ad1 g5 16.♗b5 ♖h7 17.♖d3 ♖f7 18.♖xf7+= ♖xf7 19.♗c3 ♗d7 20.a3 ♗e6 21.f3 ♗h5 22.♗e2 ♗f4 23.♗xf4+ gxf4 24.♖f2 b5 25.♖fd2 ♖d7 26.♗f2 c6 27.♖d1 ♖g8 28.♖3d2 h5 29.h4 d5 30.exd5+ ♖xd5=

[After 30...cxd5 White can keep the ♖s doubled on the d-file, which should prevent Black from making any progress.]

31.♖xd5 cxd5 32.♖d3 ♖c8 33.c3 ♗d6 34.♖d1 ♗c5 35.♖e1 ♖e8 36.b3 e4 37.fxe4 dxe4 38.♖d1 ♖g8 39.♖d4 e3+ 40.♗f1!

[40.♗f3?? ♖g3+ 41.♗xf4 e2 42.♖e4 ♖g4+-+]

40...♖g4 41.g3! ♖xg3 42.♖xf4

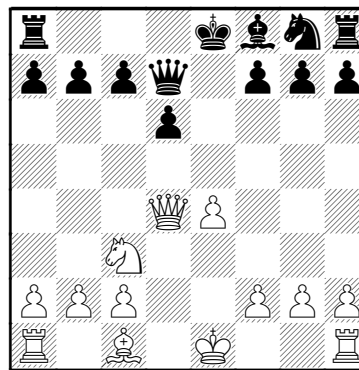
1/2-1/2

□ **Shirov, Alexei**
 ■ **Xiong, Wei**
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper, John]

C62
2723
1591

11.02.2010

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♖b5 d6 4.d4 ♖d7 5.♗c3 exd4 6.♗xd4 ♗xd4 7.♖xd7+ ♖xd7 8.♖xd4 Diagram



♗f6

[Shirov's been here before 8...♗e7 9.0-0 ♗c6 10.♖e3 g6 11.♗d5 ♖g7 12.♖b3 0-0-0 13.♖g5 ♖df8 14.♖ad1 f5 15.exf5 ♖xf5 16.♖e3 ♖e8= 17.c4 ♖e4 18.♖d3 ♖g4 19.f4 ♖f8 20.♖fe1 ♖f5 (20...g5!↗) 21.♖d2 ♗h4? 22.b4 1-0 Shirov, A (2736)-Sulskis, S (2582)/Tallinn 2004 (22.b4! Black has no defence to the threats after b4-b5, e.g. ♗b8 23.b5 ♗d8 24.♖xa7+!+- with a winning attack)]

9.0-0 ♖e7 10.♖g5 ♖g4 11.f4 0-0 12.h3 ♖e6 13.♖fe1 h6 14.♖h4 ♖fe8 15.e5?! In several of the simul games, Shirov rushed to make central breaks before it was necessary or optimal.

[15.♖ad1 gives White a small but comfortable plus]

15...dxe5 16.♖xe5 ♖b6

[16...♖c6= defends the ♖e8 and prepares ...♗d6]

17.♗xb6 axb6 18.♖ae1

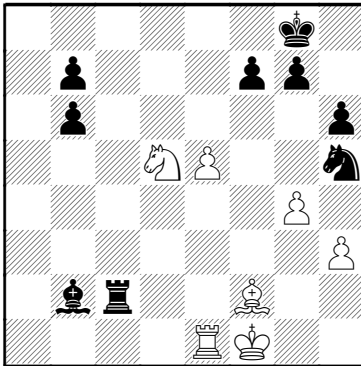
[18.♗f1 ♗d6 19.♗xf6 gxf6 20.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 21.g3±]

18...♗c5+! 19.♗f1 ♖xe5 20.fxe5 ♖h5!? Looks risky, but (for now) on g2-g4 Black can bail out with ...g5, freeing g7 for the ♖h5 with tempo. 21.a3 ♗d4! 22.♖b5 ♗xb2

23.♖xc7 ♖xa3

[23...♖c8 is also good]

24.♗f2 ♖c3! 25.♖d5 ♖xc2 26.g4 Diagram



Shirov had finished about half his games already, and so was coming around faster and faster, which made the next few moves even more nerve-wracking; but Black plays well and emerges with an advantage. ♖d2! 27.♖e7+ ♗f8 28.♖f5 g6

[28...♖f4! 29.♗e3 ♖d3 30.♗xf4 ♖f3+]

29.♗e3 ♖h2! 30.♗xh6+ ♗g8 31.♖e7+ ♗h7 32.gxh5 ♖h1+ 33.♗e2

[33.♗f2! Δ♖xe1 34.hxg6+ ♗xh6 35.gxf7 ♗g7 36.♗xe1 Is an improved version of the game which should guarantee White the draw.]

33...♖xe1+ 34.♗xe1 ♗xh6 35.hxg6 fxc6?

[35...♗a3!! 36.♖c8 ♗xg6 37.♖xb6 ♗f5+ Black has winning chances]

36.e6 ♗g7 37.♖d5! The ♖d5+♗e6 keep the ♗g7 away. ♗d4 1/2-1/2

□ Smilovici, Emil

■ Shirov, Alexei

ShirovSimulOttawa

[Upper, John]

C68

1958

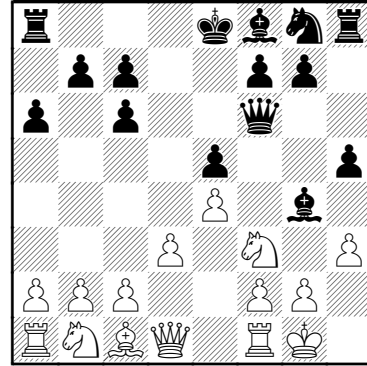
2723

11.02.2010

1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗xc6 dxc6 In theory, White plays the Exchange Lopez to get a better endgame: after exchanging Black's ♗e5 with d2-d4, White's Kingside 4v3 majority will be able to produce a passed pawn, while Black's crippled 4v3 Queenside majority will not. I suspect that for players under 2400 the goal is to avoid theory and aim for a familiar and dull middlegame. 5.0-0 ♗g4 Stops d2-d4 and so shortcuts the "endgame plan". 6.h3 h5 The main line 7.d3

[On 7.hxg4? hxg4+ White has to give up the ♖f3 or allow ...♗h4-h1#]

7...♗f6 Diagram



8.♗e3

[8.♖bd2 ♖e7 9.♖e1 ♖g6 10.d4 ♗d6 (10...♖f4 11.hxg4 hxg4 12.g3 gxf3 13.♗xf3 ♖g6 14.♖b3 ♖e6 15.dxe5 ♖h5 16.♗f4 0-0-0 17.♖ad1 ♖e8= 1/2-1/2 Spraggett, K (2597)-Miton, K (2604)/Vrsac SRB 2008/ (27)) 11.hxg4 hxg4 12.g3 gxf3 13.♖xf3 ♖e6 14.♖g5 ♗f6 15.c3 ♗e7= 1/2-1/2 Naiditsch, A (2678)-Kamsky, G (2729)/Dresden GER 2008/(30)]

8...♗xf3 9.♗xf3 ♗xf3 10.gxf3 ♗d6 11.♖d2 ♖e7

12.♖c4

[Shirov's old Novelty is equally popular: 12.♖fb1!? ♖g6 (12...c5!) 13.b4 f6 14.a4 ♗f7 15.♗f1 ♖f8 16.♗e2 ♖e6= 0-1 Shirov, A (2690)-Topalov, V (2725)/Madrid 1997/ (82)]

12...♖g6 13.♗h2

[13.♖ad1 1/2-1/2 Roiz (2680) - Golod (2578)/Germany 2008]

[13.♖fd1 f6 14.♗f1 ♗f7 15.c3 c5 16.d4! cxd4

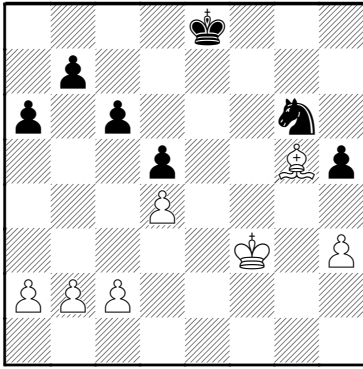
17.cxd4 exd4 18.♖xd6+ cxd6 19.♖xd4± 1/2-1/2 Kindermann, S (2538)-Shirov, A (2737)/Germany 2003]

13...f6 14.♖g1 ♗f7 15.♖a5N

[15.♖g3 has been played a few times]

15...♖hb8 16.♖c4 ♖h4 17.♖xd6+ cxd6 18.♗g3= g5 19.f4! exf4+ 20.♗xf4 ♗e6 21.♗d2 ♖g6 22.f4! gxf4+ 23.♗xf4 ♖g8 24.♗e3! f5 25.exf5+ ♗xf5 26.♖af1+ ♗e6 27.♗g5= ♖af8 28.♖xf8 ♖xf8 29.♖e1+ ♗d7 30.d4 ♖e8 31.♖xe8 ♗xe8 32.♗f3 d5 Diagram

(Diagram)



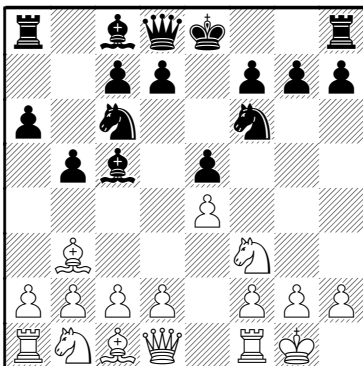
White's played well enough to keep his 2700+ opponent to an equal ending, Although White has ♙ vs ♜ ending with pawns on both sides, his ♙ has nothing to attack, so its extra mobility isn't so important. I wonder if Shirov -- in a simul, of course -- would have accepted a draw offer here!? 33.a4 ♘d7 34.b3 ♘e6 35.c3 ♘f5 36.h4 ♘f8 37.♙e7 ♘e6 38.♙d6 a5 39.♙c5 ♘f4 40.♙b6 ♘g6 41.♙g3?

[41.♙d8 ♘e6 42.♙g3 ♘f5 43.♙f3= if Black stops attacking the ♘h4 then his ♘a5 is lost]
 41...♘e4! 42.♙xa5 ♘d3 43.♙b4 ♘c2!-+ Notice how Black's ♘g6+♘h6+♙e5 keep the White ♘ out of the game.
 44.a5 ♘xb3 45.♘h3 ♘c4 46.♘g3 ♘d3 47.♘h3 ♘f4+ 48.♘g3 ♘e3 49.♘h2 ♘f3 50.♙e7 [50.♙e7 ♘g4-+ Black wins all the ♙s] 0-1

□ Lebrun,Roger
 ■ Shirov,Alexei
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper, John]

C78
 1944
 2723
 11.02.2010

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 b5 6.♙b3 ♙c5 Diagram



The Megabase has 45 games with Shirov as Black in this Neo-Arhangelsk variation of the Ruy Lopez. In fact, after I started these notes, Chessbase released a 6hr long DVD by Shirov on this line, which he calls the "Tkachiev Ruy Lopez". (<http://www.chessbase.com/shop/product>.

asp?pid=513) 7.c3 d6 8.d4

[Shirov and most of his opponents have continued with an attack on Black's ♘b5: 8.a4 ♙b8 9.d4 ♙b6

A) 10.axb5 axb5 11.♙d3 0-0 12.♙g5 (12.♙xb5 ♙e8!?) 12...exd4 13.cxd4 h6 14.♙h4 g5!? 15.♙g3 ♘h5= 1/2-1/2 Sutovsky,E (2654)-Shirov,A (2741)/Poikovsky 2008/(42) ;

B) 10.♘a3 ♙g4 11.axb5 axb5 12.♘xb5 0-0 13.♙c2 ♙xf3 14.gxf3± 1-0 Inarkiev,E (2675)-Shirov,A (2755)/Poikovsky 2009/(33)]

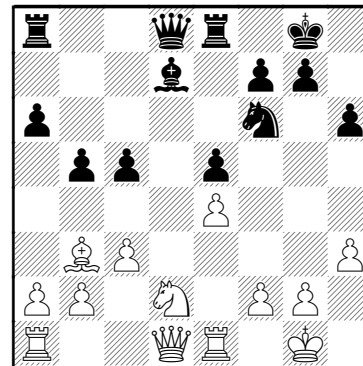
8...♙b6 9.♙e1 0-0 10.h3 h6

[10...♙b7 11.♙e3 exd4 12.cxd4 ♘a5 13.d5 ♘xb3= 0-1 Lautier,J (2630)-Shirov,A (2690)/Monte Carlo 1997(72)]

11.♙e3 ♙e8 12.♘bd2 ♙d7

[12...♙b8 13.a4 exd4 14.cxd4 ♘b4 15.♙b1!? c5 16.e5 cxd4 17.♙xh6! dxh6? (17...d3 18.exf6 gxh6 19.♘e4→) 18.♙g6! 1-0 Zdebskaja,N (2419)-Malaniuk,V (2534)/Warsaw 2008]

13.dxe5 ♙xe3 14.♙xe3 ♘xe5 15.♘xe5 dxe5 16.♙e1 c5 Diagram



The next ten moves are about outposts on the d-file: will White use d5 before Black can use d3? 17.♘f1

[17.♙d5!?=]

17...♙c6 18.♙f3 c4 19.♙c2 ♘h7 20.♙ad1

[20.♘e3 ♘g5 21.♙g4±]

20...♘g5 21.♙g4= ♙e7 22.♘g3 ♙ad8 23.♘f5 ♙f6

24.h4 ♘e6 25.♘e3 ♘c5

[25...♘f4!]

26.g3

[26.♘d5=]

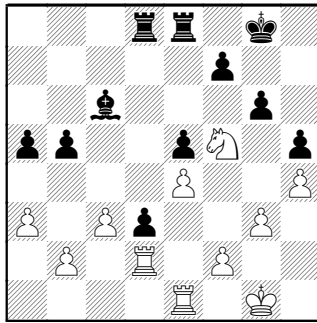
26...a5 27.a3 ♘d3 28.♙xd3 cxd3 29.♙d2 h5! 30.♙f5

[30.♙xh5 ♙xe4 31.♘g4? ♙f3-+]

30...♙xf5 31.♘xf5?! g6! 31...g6 Diagram

[31...g6 Diagram

(Diagram)



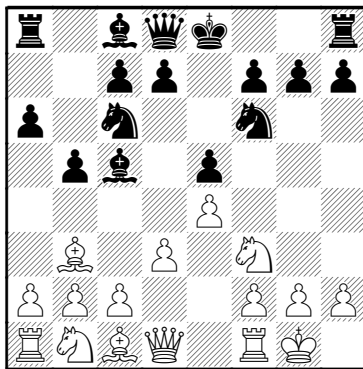
32. ♖e3 ♙xe4 33. a4 ♙c6 (33...b4? 34.cxb4 axb4
35. ♖g4!↗) 34. axb5 ♙xb5 ♞ Black has a big advantage,
but has some work to do to break White's dark-square
blockade.]

0-1

□ Lidstone, Phil
 ■ Shirov, Alexei
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper, John]

C78
 1682
 2723
 11.02.2010

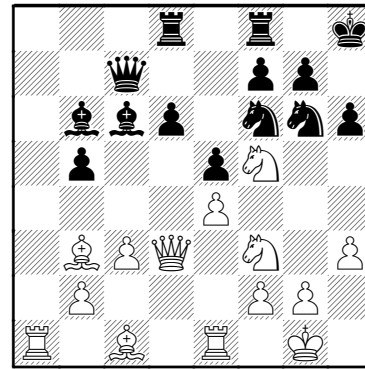
1.e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♙b5 a6 4. ♙a4 ♖f6 5.0-0 b5
 6. ♙b3 ♙c5 For notes on the opening, see Lebrun-Shirov
 7.d3 Diagram



d6
 [7...0-0 8.a4 ♖b8 9. ♖bd2 d6 10.c3 ♙b6 11.h3 ♖h5
 12.axb5 axb5 13. ♖e1 ♖f4= (13...♙xh3!?≡) 14. ♖f1
 ♞f6 15. ♙e3 ♖e7 16. ♖1h2 c5 17. ♖g4 ♞g6 18. ♖h4
 ♞g5 19. ♖f3 ♞g6 ½-½ Adams, M (2660)-Shirov, A (2690)/
 Madrid 1996]

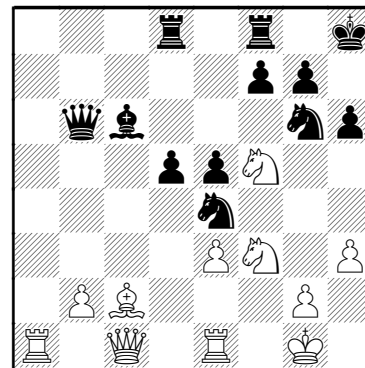
8.h3
 [8.a4 ♖b8 9.axb5 axb5 10. ♙e3 0-0 11. ♖bd2 h6
 12. ♞e2 ♖d7 13.c3 ♞f6 14.g3 ♖e7 15. ♖h4 (15.d4±)
 15...b4 16. ♙c4 bxc3= ½-½ Milos, G (2590)-Shirov, A
 (2700)/Groningen 1997/(38)]

8...h6 9.c3 0-0 10. ♖e1 ♙b6 11. ♖bd2 ♖e7 12. ♖f1
 ♖h8 13.a4 ♖b8 14.axb5 axb5 15.d4 ♖g6 16. ♖g3
 ♙b7 17.d5 c6 18.dxc6 ♙xc6 19. ♞d3 ♞c7= 20. ♖f5
 ♖bd8 Diagram



21.c4?! There's a tactical refutation to this.

[The computer recommends: 21. ♙e3 but that requires
 seeing your way through several tricky variations: ♙xe3
 (21...♙xe4? 22. ♙xb6± White's desperado ♙ has better
 stuff to take than Black's ♙.) 22. ♞xe3 ♙xe4 23. ♖xh6!
 ♖f4 (23...gxf6 24. ♞xf6+ ♖g8 25. ♖xe4 ♖xe4
 26. ♞xg6+-; ≤23...♙xf3 24. ♞xf3 gxf6 25. ♞xf6+ ♖h7
 26. ♙d5±) 24. ♖a7 ♙b7 25. ♖f5 ♖d7 26. ♖d1±]
 21...bxc4 22. ♞xc4 ♖xe4! ♞ 23. ♙e3
 [23. ♖xe4? d5□-+]
 23...d5 24. ♞c1 ♙xe3 25.fxe3?! ♞b6 26. ♙c2 Diagram



♖c5

[26...♙d7!+- leaves the ♖f5 with no safe escape.
 27. ♖5h4 (27. ♙xe4? dxex4 28. ♖3h4 ♞f6-+) 27...♖xh4
 28. ♖xh4 ♞f6 29. ♖f3 ♙xh3→]

27. ♖h1 ♖e6 ♞ As in a couple of other games, Shirov is
 clearly better (up a pawn with better structure), but his
 opponent could reasonably play on rather than resign.

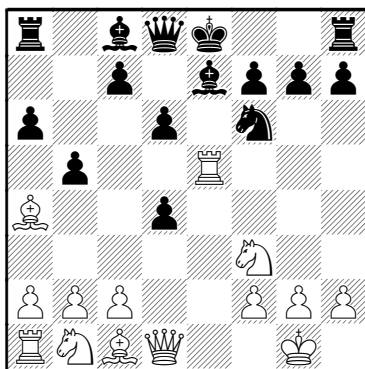
0-1

□ Eyre, Keven
 ■ Shirov, Alexei
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper, John]

C84
 1631
 2723
 11.02.2010

1.e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♙b5 a6 4. ♙a4 ♖f6 5.d4
 the Lopez Centre Gambit exd4 6.0-0 ♙e7 7. ♖e1 b5
 8.e5 ♖xe5 9. ♖xe5
 [9. ♖xe5 bxa4 10. ♞xd4 0-0 11. ♞xa4 (11. ♖c3=)

11...♖b8 12.♘c3 ♖b4 13.♙a5 Leaves the White ♙ a bit out of play.]
9...d6 Diagram



10.♞e1

[≤10.♞e7+ gives Black ♞♞♞ for the ♟+♞, and Black's extra center pawns will be worth more. ♞xe7 11.♟b3 c5 Black's pawn-mass makes up for White's extra piece (which is sitting on b1 and will take some time to activate).

A) ≤12.c3 c4 13.♟c2 (13.♞xd4 cxb3 14.axb3 0-0 15.♟g5 ♞e8 16.♞d2 ♟b7 ♞ 1/2-1/2 Nogueiras Santiago,J (2435)-Frey Beckman,K (2405)/Bogota 1979/(27)) 13...d3 and Black is up the exchange ;

B) 12.a4 ♟b7 ♞]

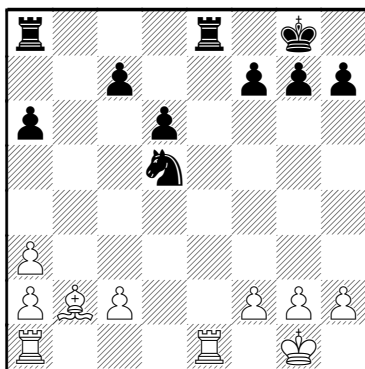
10...bxa4 11.♞xd4 ♟d7 12.♞f3 0-0 13.♞c6 ♟xc6

14.♞xc6 ♞ Black slightly outscores White in the games in my Db, especially after 14...d5! ♞e8

15.♞c3 a3!

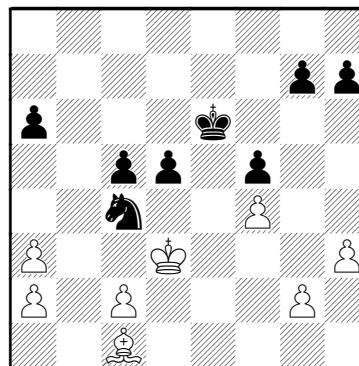
[15...♞d7 16.♞xd7 ♞xd7 17.♞xa4 ♟f6 18.♟d2 ♞e6 19.♞ad1 ♞ae8 20.♟f1 ♟f8 21.b3 ♞xe1+ 22.♟xe1 ♞e5 23.c4= 1-0 Ribli,Z-Karpov,A/Hungary 1969/(54)]

16.bxa3 ♞d7 17.♞xd7 ♞xd7 18.♞d5 ♟f6 19.♞xf6+ ♞xf6 20.♟b2 ♞d5 Diagram



White has weaker ♟s, and Black can create a passer with the c+d ♟s, so White should probably keep at least one ♞ on. **21.♟f1 ♞b6 22.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 23.♞e1 ♞xe1+ 24.♟xe1 ♞c4 25.♟c1 f6 26.♟e2 ♟f7 27.♟d3 ♞e5+ 28.♟e4 ♟e6 ♞** I think Black is winning, but I can't prove it. White would like to keep his ♟s from providing targets for the ♞., but I think the ♞ can hop around and force the ♟s to come forward, after which Black might be able to use

the ♟d+c to create a passed ♟ which White can stop but in stopping it will allow the Black ♟+♞ to attack and win the other pawns. **29.h3 c5 30.f4 f5+ 31.♟e3 ♞c4+ 32.♟d3 d5** Diagram



33.a4?! The ♟a4 will be lost. White's best is to try to wait and see if Black can arrange a breakthrough.

[33.♟c3 ♞d6 (33...♟d6 34.g3 g6 35.♟d3 ♟c6 36.♟c3 ♞d6) 34.♟d3 d4 35.c4 (=35.c3) 35...dxc3 36.♟xc3 ♟d5 37.♟d3 (37.♟b2 ♟e4 38.♟c1 ♞b5+ 39.♟c4 ♞d4) 37...c4+ 38.♟c2 (38.♟e3 ♞e4 39.g4 fxe4 40.hxe4 ♞f6 41.g5 ♞e4+ 42.♟f3 ; 38.♟c3 ♞e4+ 39.♟b4 ♟d4+) 38...♞e4 39.♟b2 g6 40.♟e5 ♞g3 (40...g5!? 41.♟b8 g4+) 41.♟b8 ♟e4 42.♟c3 ♞e2+ 43.♟xc4 ♞xf4+]

33...♞b6 34.a5 ♞c4 35.♟d2? This makes it easier, since

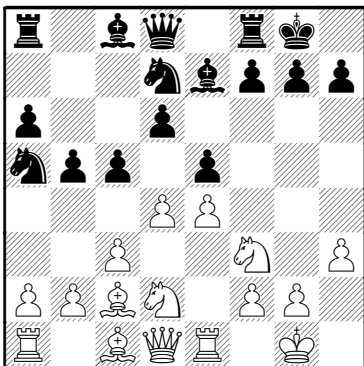
after ♞xd2-+ the pawn ending is won. **36.♟xd2 d4 37.♟d3 ♟d5 38.c4+ dxc3! 39.♟xc3 c4 40.g4 g6 41.gxf5 gxf5 42.h4 h5 43.a3 ♟c5 44.a4 ♟d5 45.♟c2 ♟d4 46.♟d2 c3+ 47.♟c2 ♟c4** Black's ♟ wins the a pawns for his c pawn, then goes over to pick off the ♟f4 while White's ♟ is stopping Black's passed ♟a6.

0-1

□ Shirov,Alexei **C96**
 ■ Voloaca,Mihnea **2723**
 ShirovSimulOttawa **2338**
 [Upper,John] 11.02.2010

1.e4 e5 2.♞f3 ♞c6 3.♟b5 a6 4.♟a4 ♞f6 5.0-0 ♟e7 6.♞e1 b5 7.♟b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♞a5 10.♟c2 c5 11.d4 ♞d7 12.♞bd2 Diagram

(Diagram)



g6 Capturing on d4 with the c5 or e5 pawns are both far more common, and typically produce a Lopez/Benoni type pawn structure.

[12...exd4 13.cxd4 d6 14.d5 dce5 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.a4 b7 17.f4 d6g 18.f3 Black has traded the b8 but still has to find something to do with his light-squared Bishop. see: Almasi,Z (2685)-Navara,D (2692)/Novi Sad 2009/(1-0, 48)]

13.dxc5 dxc5 14.f1 c4± 15.a4

[15.b3 cb6 16.e3± 1-0 Atakisi,U (2384)-Tanrikulu,S (2131)/Ankara 2007/(49)]

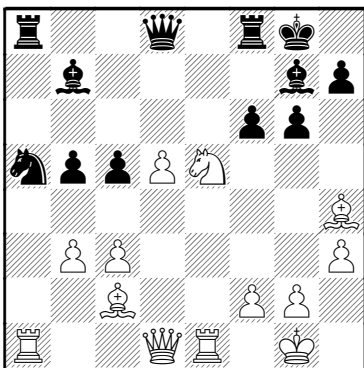
15...b7 16.b3 a5 17.e3 g6 18.d5 g7 19.g5 f6 20.h4

[20.e3]

20...b6

[20...g5!]

21.axb5 axb5 22.dxe5 dxd5 23.exd5 Diagram



g5?

[23...d6! 24.c6±]

24.h5!→ h6??

[24...f5]

25.g4!+- f5

[25...gxh4 26.g6 Threatening hxh6+, h7# f5 27.hxh6+ h8 28.xf5 White already has three pawns for the piece, and Black has no defence against the continued attack from the d5+g. f6 29.h5+ g8 30.e7+-]

26.hxh6+ hxh6 27.xh6 xd5

[27...f6 stops the attack, but leaves a hopeless ending: 28.xf6 xf6 29.xg5+-]

28.xg5+

1-0

□ Shirov,Alexei

■ Forget,Dave

ShirovSimulOttawa

[Upper,John]

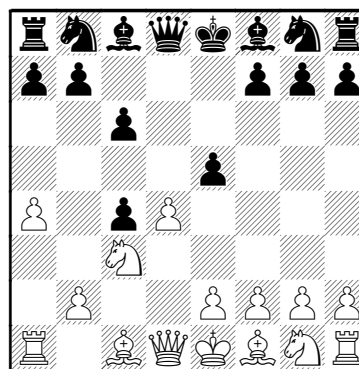
D10

2723

1960

11.02.2010

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.c3 dxc4 4.a4 e5 Diagram



5.f3

[4...e5 scores very well, but Vigus's excellent "Play the Slav" (Everyman, 2008) does not recommend it because "the white centre pawns can be quite a handful" after 5.dxe5! dxd1+ 6.dxd1 e6 7.e4 I suspect Black's difficulties have more to do with the lack of 2600+ GM model games as it does with the objective merits of White's position; just like the Berlin defence before 2000. For instance, look at how poorly these strong players do from here: d7?! (7...a6 Vigus) 8.f4 0-0-0 9.c2 g6 10.f3 d5 11.e3 f6 12.e2+ h5?! 13.ad1 a6 14.g4? e8? (14...xd1!=) 15.gxh5± gxh5? 1-0 Onischuk,A (2655)-Gonzalez,R (2440)/Philadelphia 2004]

5...exd4 6.dxd4

[6.dxd4 dxd4 7.dxd4 e5 8.d2 f6 9.e4 g4 10.d1= 0-1 Sarsam,S (2409)-Shaw,J (2484)/Bled 2002, (54)]

6...b4

[6...d7 7.e4 e5 8.f4 d3+ 9.xd3 dxd4 10.e2 dxd1+ 11.dxd1 e6 12.0-0 f6 1/2-1/2 Bindrich,F (2516)-Ansell,S (2380)/Winterthur 2009]

7.e3 c5 8.d5 dxd1+ 9.dxd1 xc3 10.bxc3 a6

11.d6+ e7 12.dxc8+ xc8 13.xc4± c7 14.b1

b6 15.a5 b8 16.axb6 axb6 17.e4 f6 18.f4 b7

[18...h8]

19.c2 e6 20.e5 d8 21.f3 d7 22.g3 f6

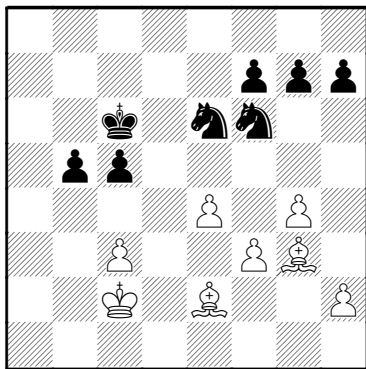
23.a6 bd7 24.hd1 xd1 25.dxd1 xd1 26.dxd1

d5 27.b8 d7 28.b5+ c8 29.d6 f6 30.c2

b7 31.d3 c7?!

[31...c6±]

32.c4 e6 33.g4 c6 34.g3 b5 35.e2 Diagram

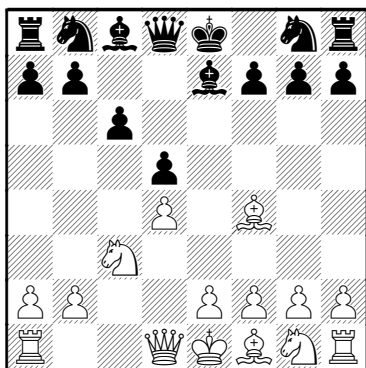


b4
 [35...h5! trading off the h-pawns would narrow the pawn front and make the ♕ less dangerous against the ♖]
36.h4 bxc3 37.♗xc3 ♖d4 38.♙d1 ♗b5+ 39.♗d3 ♗c7 40.f4
 [40.♙a4+!]
40...♗d7 41.g5 ♗b6 42.f5 ♗d7
 [42...c4+!±]
43.♙f2± White's much better, but Black could play on. 1-0

□ Shirov,Alexei
 ■ Pacey,Kevin
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

D35
2723
2358
 11.02.2010

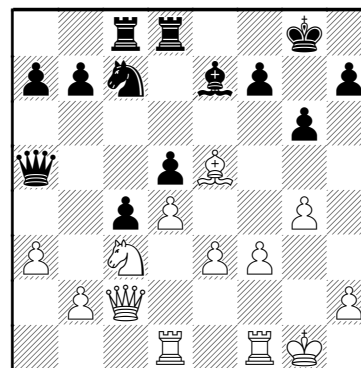
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♙e7 4.cxd5 exd5 5.♙f4 c6
 Diagram



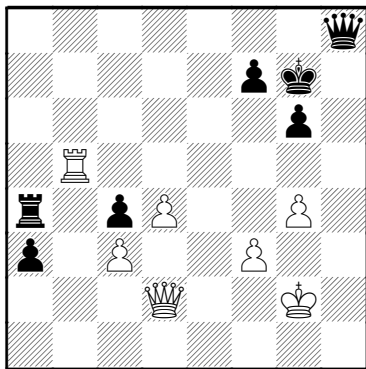
The QGD exchange variation is among the least exciting QP openings, but it's a great test of both players' maneuvering ability. White typically plays either a minority attack (b2-b4-b5) or to develop a big centre (0-0-0, f3, e4). In either case, Black has to figure out what to do with the ♗c8: the ♗b1-g6 would be ideal, but developing it early makes it a target for White's g and h pawns. In the game, Kevin manages to get White to solve the problem of the ♗c8 for him! **6.♗c2**
 [6.e3 ♙f5 7.g4!? was played several times in both the Botvinnik-Petrosian and Karpov-Kasparov World

Championship matches. It still scores well for White, though Karpov's 1985 idea of 9...♗h6 is still holding up well: ♙e6 8.h4!? ♗d7 9.h5 ♗h6!]

6...♗f6
 [6...♙d6!? Δ...♗e7, ...♙f5]
 [6...g6 7.f3 ♗f6 (7...♙g5 8.♙e5 f6 9.♙g3 ♙e3 10.♗d3 ♗e7= Shirov,A (2495)-Magomedov,M/Frunze 1989/(1-0, 32)) 8.♙h6 ♙f8N 9.♙xf8 ♗xf8 10.0-0-0 ♗bd7 11.e4 ♗b6± Shirov,A (2726)-Ivanchuk,V (2786)/Benidorm Rapid 2008/(½-½, 45)]
 [6...♙g4!? 7.f3 ♙h5 8.0-0-0 ♗f6 9.e4 ♙g6! 10.♙d3 0-0± Shirov,A (2580)-Spraggett,K (2540)/Manila 1990/(1-0, 41)]
7.e3 0-0
 [7...♗bd7 8.h3 0-0 9.♙d3 ♗e8 10.♗f3 ♗f8 11.0-0 ♙d6 12.♙xd6 ♗xd6 13.♗ab1 a5 14.a3 ♙e6 15.♗a4 ♗d6d7 16.b4 axb4 17.axb4 b5 18.♗c5± Anand,V (2788)-Karpov,A (2619)/Corsica 2009 Rapid/(1-0, 46)]
8.♙d3 ♗a6 9.a3
 [9.♙xa6 bxa6 10.♗f3± ♗h5 11.♙g3 f6 (≤11...♙b7 12.0-0 ♗xg3 13.hxg3± Zugic,I (2370)-Pruess,D (2197)/San Francisco 1999/(1-0,48)) 12.0-0 ♗xg3 13.hxg3 ♗b8 14.♗a4 ♙d7± Spraggett,K (2586)-Martin Vazquez,J (2098)/Seville 2009/(1-0, 63)]
9...c5!?N 10.♗f3 c4! 11.♙f5
 [11.♙e2!?]
11...♗a5 12.0-0 g6 13.♙xc8 ♗axc8 14.♗e5 ♗c7 15.g4?! ♗fd8 16.f3 ♗d7 17.♗ad1 ♗xe5 18.♙xe5
 Diagram



♗b5!= 19.a4 ♗xc3 20.bxc3 b5?! 21.axb5 ♗xb5 22.e4 a5 23.♗fe1
 [23.♗a1! stops the ♗a and prepares to take the b-file with ♗fb1. If ♗b3 24.♗d2!±]
23...a4! 24.♗b1 ♗c6 25.exd5 ♗xd5 26.♙g3 ♙f8 27.♗g2 a3 28.h4 ♗a8 29.h5 ♗a7
 [29...♗e8±]
30.♗a2 ♗a4
 [30...♗b7±]
31.♗e5!= ♗a8 32.♗eb5 ♗e8 33.hxg6 hxg6 34.♙e5 ♗d8 35.♗h1 ♙g7 36.♙xg7 ♗xg7 37.♗d2 ♗h8□= 38.♗xh8 ♗xh8 Diagram



39. ♖e3! a2

[39... ♗d8 40. ♖e5+ ♗f6 41. ♖e8 ♗e6 42. ♗d8 a2 43. ♖b8 ♗e2+ 44. ♔g3 ♖e1+= Black has to play the perpetual]

40. ♖e5+ ♔h7 41. ♗h2+ perpetual
1/2-1/2

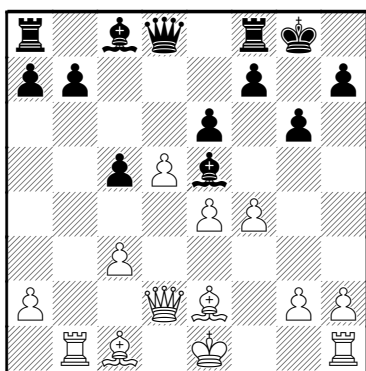
□ Palsson, Halldor Peter
■ Shirov, Alexei
ShirovSimulOttawa
[Upper, John]

D85
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2723
11.02.2010

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♗f3 c5 8.♖b1 0-0 9.♙e2 ♘c6

Shirov has never played this; for 9...cxd4 see Sadeghi-Shirov and Shirov-Chartrand (this simul) 10.d5 ♘e5 [10... ♙xc3+ 11. ♙d2 ♙xd2+ 12. ♗xd2 ♘a5 13.h4 ♙g4 14.h5 is risky but playable for Black.]

11. ♘xe5 ♙xe5 12. ♗d2 e6 13.f4 Diagram



This was the hottest anti-Gruenfeld line of the early 1980s. ♙g7

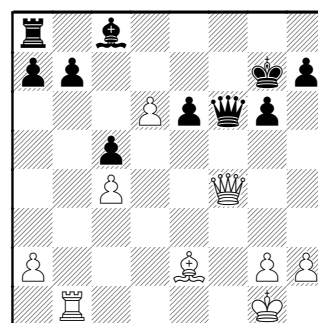
[13... ♙c7! Looks strange, but it stops c3-c4 and Black has scored very well with it. 14.0-0 exd5 15.exd5 ♙a5 16.d6 b6 (16... ♖b8 17. ♙a3 ♙f5 18. ♖b5 a6 19. ♖xc5 ♙b6 20. ♔h1 ♙xc5 21. ♙xc5 ♗d7= 0-1 Gajewski, G (2567)-Sutovsky, E (2650)/Rijeka CRO 2010/(53)) 17. ♙f3 (17. ♙b2 ♙f5 18. ♖bd1 ♗d7 19. ♙f3 ♖ae8 20. ♖fe1± 1/2-1/2 Onischuk, A (2670)-Mikhalevski, V (2592)/Lubbock 2008/(32)) 17... ♖b8 18. ♙b2 ♙f5 19. ♖be1! b5 20.g4

♙e6 21.f5 ♙c4 22. ♖e7! ♗b6 (22... ♙xf1?? 23.f6+- (Δ ♗h6-g7#)) 23.f6± ♔h8 24. ♙e4 ♖g8 25. ♖f3 ♙d3 26. ♗h6 c4+ 27. ♔g2 ♙xe4 28. ♖xe4 1-0 Pelletier, Y (2589)-Bu Xiangzhi (2682)/Khanty Mansiysk 2009]

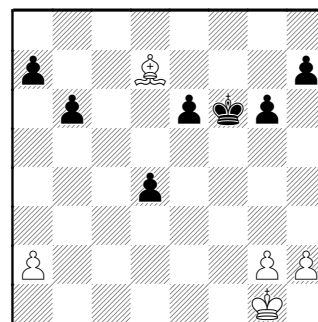
14.0-0 14.d6 looks dangerous, but Black seems to be able to play around the ♙d6 well enough.

[14.d6 e5 15.0-0 exf4 16. ♗xf4 ♗a5± 1/2-1/2 Dolmatov, S (2590)-Gavrikov, V (2430)/Severodonetsk 1982/EXT 1999 (44)]

[White has scored well with 14.c4 (strengthening the center), but it leads to a very complicated ♖♙v♙ endgame that is hard to evaluate. 14.c4 ♖e8 15.e5 f6 16.d6 fxe5 17. ♙b2 exf4 18. ♙xg7 ♔xg7 19.0-0 ♖f8 (19...e5? 20.d7! a temporary sac ♗xd7 21. ♗xd7+ ♙xd7 22. ♖xb7 ♖e7 23. ♖d1 ♖d8 24. ♙g4 Black has to give back an exchange ♙xg4 25. ♖xe7+ ♔f6 26. ♖xd8 ♔xe7 27. ♖d5!±) 20. ♖xf4 ♖xf4 21. ♗xf4 ♗f6! Diagram



22. ♗e4 (22. ♗d2 b6 23. ♙f3 ♖b8 24.d7 ♙a6 25. ♖d1 ♗d4+ 26. ♗xd4+ cxd4 27. ♖xd4 ♖d8 28. ♙c6 e5 29. ♖h4 g5 30. ♖g4 ♔f6 31.h4= 1-0 Jussupow, A (2555)-Romanishin, O (2575)/Indonesia 1983/(55)) 22... ♖b8 23. ♖f1 ♗d4+ 24. ♗xd4+ cxd4 25.c5 ♙d7 26. ♙f3 ♖c8 27. ♖b1 b6 28.c6 ♙xc6 29. ♖c1 ♙d7 30. ♖xc8 ♙xc8 31. ♙c6 ♔f6 32.d7 ♙xd7 33. ♙xd7 Diagram

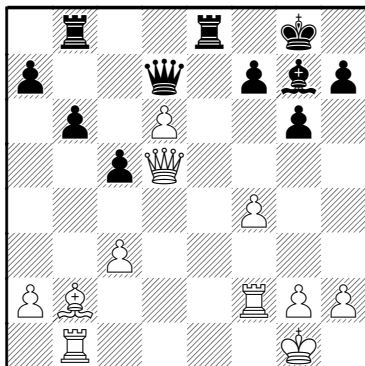


♔e5!N Yes really: the theory in the Gruenfeld goes this far.

In Chessbase, Marin writes: "In fact, this novelty does not belong to me entirely. In his book "Revolution in the '70s", Kasparov writes that he tried to make it playable, during his preparation against one of the matches against Karpov. According to Kasparov, he did not entirely trust it... My own conclusion is that the position is enormously complicated and that White is not completely out of the danger of losing, if he plays with ambition. The course of the game more or less confirmed these thoughts..."

Marin gives two pages of analysis of the rest of this game, which can be found in the Chessbase Megabase. 34.♔f2 ♕d5 35.♖e2 e5 36.♙c8 b5 37.♙b7+ ♔c4 38.♕d2 a5 39.♙e4 ♖b4 40.h4 ♔a3 41.g4 ♔xa2 42.h5 b4 43.hxg6 hxg6 44.♙xg6 b3 45.g5 a4 46.♙f7 ♔a1 47.g6 b2 48.g7 b1♙ 49.g8♙ e4 50.♙e8 a3 51.♙a4 ♙b2+ 52.♔e1 e3 53.♙d1+ ♙b1 54.♔e2 ♙xd1+ 55.♔xd1 ♔b2 0-1 Shulman,Y (2639)-Marin,M (2556)/ Reykjavik 2009]

14...exd5 15.exd5 ♖e8N . 16.♙f3 b6 17.♙b2 ♙a6 18.♖f2 ♙c4 19.d6 ♖b8 20.♙d5 ♙xd5 21.♙xd5 ♙d7 Diagram



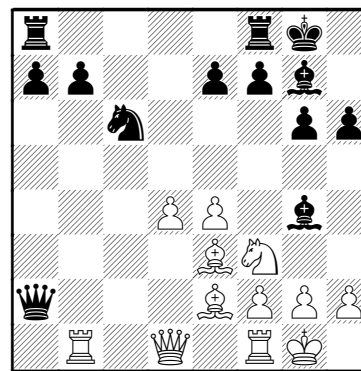
22.c4 ♙xb2 23.♖fb2 ♖e6 24.♙d2 ♖be8 25.♔f2?! [25.♖f1 (Δf5) ♙d8 26.♖fd1 ♙e8! 27.♙f3 (27.d7?? ♖e1+ 28.♔f2 ♙e3#) 27...♖e3 28.♙f2 ♖ White's passed ♔d6 is well blockaded, but I major pieces don't blockade very efficiently, so it's hard for Black to do anything while maintaining the blockade. My hunch is that Black is better, if only because White can't afford to exchange majors, so this should give Black a chance to bully White's pieces off the good squares, but I don't think Black has good chances.]

25...♖e4 26.♔f3 ♖e3+ 27.♔f2 ♙g4 28.♖f1 [28.g3? ♖e2+ 29.♔g1 ♙h3+] [28.♔g1!?] [28.d7? ♙xf4+ 29.♔g1 ♖e1+ 30.♖xe1 ♖xe1#]

28...♖e1 29.♙f3 [29.♖xe1? ♙xf4+ 30.♙f3 ♙xd2+-+] 29...♙xf3+ 30.gxf3 ♖xf1+ 31.♔xf1 f5! ♖ 32.♙d5 ♔f7 33.♖e5 ♖e6! A rarity: White has six isolated pawns! 0-1

□ Sadeghi,Saeid D85 2037
 ■ Shirov,Alexei 2723
 ShirovSimulOttawa 11.02.2010
 [Upper,John]

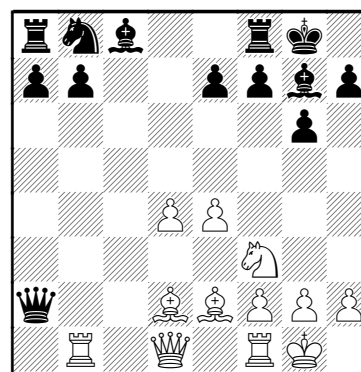
1.d4 ♔f6 2.c4 g6 3.♔c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♔xd5 5.e4 ♔xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♔f3 c5 8.♖b1 0-0 9.♙e2 cxd4 10.cxd4 ♙a5+ 11.♙d2 ♙xa2 12.0-0 ♙g4 13.♙g5 h6 14.♙e3 ♔c6 Diagram



15.♖a1= [15.d5 is thought to be the way to play for an advantage ♙xf3 16.♙xf3 (16.gxf3 ♔e5 see Shirov - Chartrand/ ShirovSimulOttawa 2010) 16...♔e5 17.♖xb7! e6 18.♙e2!? (18.dxe6 ♙xe6 19.♖xa7 ♖xa7 20.♙xa7 ♖a8 21.♙c5 ♔xf3+ 22.♙xf3 ♖a4= 1/2-1/2 Shulman,Y (2616)- Shirov,A (2739)/Khanty Mansiysk 2007/(26)) 18...♔xf3+ 19.♙xf3 exd5 20.exd5 a5 21.♖fb1 (21.d6!↑) 21...♙c2 22.♙f4 ♙c3 23.♙xc3 1/2-1/2 Kramnik,V (2790)-Anand,V (2770)/Monte Carlo 1998] 15...♙b2 16.♖b1 ♙a2 17.♖a1 Is this a good reason not to agree to play Black in a simul? Or is it an easy non-loss for the simul giver? 1/2-1/2

□ Shirov,Alexei D85 2723
 ■ Chartrand,Jean-Bruno 1918
 ShirovSimulOttawa 11.02.2010
 [Upper,John]

1.d4 ♔f6 2.c4 g6 3.♔c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♔xd5 5.e4 ♔xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♔f3 c5 8.♖b1 0-0 9.♙e2 cxd4 10.cxd4 ♙a5+ 11.♙d2 ♙xa2 12.0-0 Diagram



In his 1999 book, "Understanding the Grunfeld", Jonathan Rowson wrote: "Many Grunfeld players have spent hours trying to fathom the mysteries of this position and no one yet seems to know who is better here." And then gives one-and-a-half pages of text (no variations) explaining why it is so difficult to assess. To pick only one of his seven points:

White has a large lead in development, and Black will have a hard time developing the queenside without giving back the pawn, BUT White's ♗s aren't particularly well developed, so it's not clear how much of a development advantage White really has. ♗g4 Ten years later, in 2009 on Chesspublishing.com, Glenn Flear could now claim that, "This is one of the most analysed positions in the whole of chess", but he didn't offer an evaluation of it either. I think the most sensible evaluation is the same as for the Grunfeld as a whole: risky but playable. 13.♗g5 h6 14.♗e3 ♖c6 15.d5 Shirov himself has had this position three times as Black. ♗xf3

[15...♗a5 16.♗c5 b6 17.♗xe7 ♖fe8 18.d6 ♖c6 19.♗b5 ♖xe7 20.♗xe8 ♖xe8 21.dxe7 ♖xe7 22.♗d8+ ♗f8± 1-0 Aleksandrov,A (2634)-Shirov,A (2699)/Turin 2006/(46)]

16.gxf3

[16.♗xf3 ♖e5 17.♖xb7 e6 18.dxe6 (18.♗e2!) 18...♗xe6 19.♖xa7 ♖xa7= 20.♗xa7 ♖a8 21.♗c5 ♖xf3+ 22.♗xf3 ♖a4 23.♖e1 f5 24.e5 ♗xe5! 25.♗d1 ♗xe1+ 26.♗xe1 ♖a1 ½-½ Shulman,Y (2616)-Shirov,A (2739)/Khanty Mansiysk 2007]

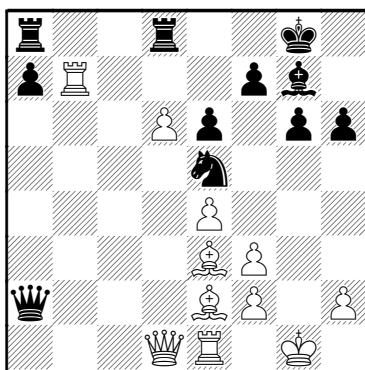
16...♗e5

[16...♗d4 17.♗d3!? (17.♗xd4 ♗xd4 18.♗xd4 ♗xe2 19.♖xb7 ♗xf3 20.♖xe7 ♗g4+ 21.♖h1 ♗f3+ ½-½ Gladyshev,O (2473)-Kovchan,A (2520)/Kiev 2008 (23)) 17...a5 18.f4 (18.♖xb7 ♗a3∞) 18...b5 19.♖h1 ♖fc8 20.f5 ♗a4∞ 1-0 Agrest,E (2563)-Bacrot,E (2653)/Leon 2001/(38)]
[16...♗a5 17.♗c5 (17.♗d2!? ♗a3 18.♗xh6) 17...♖fc8 18.♗b4 ♗e5]

17.♖xb7 e6 18.d6 ♖fd8

[≤18...♗c4 19.♗xc4 ♗xc4 20.♗c1 ♗a6 (20...♗xc1 21.♖xc1 transpose to the game, with Black down a tempo.) 21.♗c7 ♖ac8 22.♗e7!? (22.♖xa7 ♗e2∞ 1-0 Zenyuk,I (2177)-Defibaugh,J (2110)/Philadelphia 2007/(44)) 22...♗e2 23.d7 (23.♖g2? ♖c3!±) 23...♗xf3 24.h3!± Δ♗xh3? 25.♗xf7+!!+-]

19.♖e1 Diagram



♗c4

[19...♗a5 20.♖f1 frees the ♗ from defending the ♖e1 ♖d7?! Shirov riskily plays for a win against a weaker opponent. (20...♗f8! is the equalizing recipee from the superstars 21.d7 ♗a2 22.♖e1 ♗a5 23.♖f1 ♗a2 24.♗b5 a6 25.♗d4 ♗g7 26.♗xe5 ½-½ Kramnik,V (2790)-Kasparov,G (2825)/Linares 1998) 21.♖xd7 ♖xd7

22.♗c2 ♗h5 23.f4± ½-½ Sundararajan,K (2495)-Shirov,A (2709)/Gibraltar 2006 (38)]

[One week after the Shirov simul, another all GM game continued: 19...♗a3 20.f4 ♖xd6 21.♗c1 ♗xc1 22.♖xc1 ♖d3?! (22...♖c6! Δ23.e5 ♖d4±) 23.♖cc7± 1-0 McShane,L (2616)-Danin,A (2519)/Moscow RUS 2010/(72)]

20.♗xc4 ♗xc4 21.♗c1!?N ♗xc1! 22.♖xc1 ♖xd6

23.♖cc7 a5!

[23...♖f8! looks hopeless, but White doesn't have time for both ♖xa7 and ♗c5. 24.♗c5 (24.♖xa7 ♗d4! =) 24...♖d1+□ 25.♖g2 ♗e5□ 26.♗xf8 ♗xc7 27.♗xh6 ♗b6 =]

24.♖xf7 ♗h8!

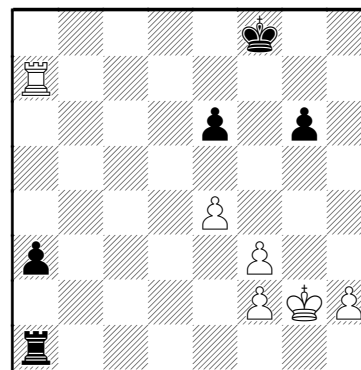
[24...♗f8? 25.♖g2! Δ♗c5 or ♖f6+-]

25.♗xh6 a4 26.♗g7! a3 27.♗xh8 ♖xh8 28.♖h7+! ♖g8

29.♖bg7+ ♖f8 30.♖a7!

[30.♖h8+? ♖xg7 31.♖xa8 ♖d3 =]

30...♖xa7 31.♖xa7 ♖d1+ 32.♖g2 ♖a1 Diagram



33.h4?

[33.♖g3! g5! (33...a2? 34.♖f4!+- White's ♗s shield the ♖ from checks, allowing the ♖ to win the ♗e6 and then advance ♗e4-e5-e6 threatening mate and promotion.) 34.♖g4 ♖g1+ 35.♖h5 ♖g2 36.♖g6 ♖xf2 37.♖xa3 ♖e7 38.h3± ♖h2 39.♖a7+ ♖d6 40.♖xg5 ♖xh3 41.f4+-]

33...e5?!

[33...a2! draws fairly simply. White's ♖ is stuck on the a-file, and his ♖ can't expose itself to back-rank checks, so the only way for White to make progress is with his pawns. But pushing the pawns lets Black exchange down to a drawn ♖♖ v ♖ ending. 34.f4 ♖g8 35.h5 (35.♖f3 ♖f8 36.f5 exf5 37.exf5 gxf5 38.♖f4 ♖h1 =) 35...gxh5 36.f5 ♖f8 (36...exf5 37.exf5 ♖f8 38.♖f3 h4 39.♖g2 h3+ 40.♖h2 =) 37.fxe6 ♖e1 =]

34.f4! exf4 35.♖f3 a2 36.♖xf4 ♖h1 37.♖xa2 ♖xh4+ 38.♖e5 g5 39.f3?

[I'm not certain about the following analysis, but White missed a good winning chance here: 39.♖e2! ♖f4 40.♖e6 ♖e8 41.e5 ♖f8 42.♖d2 ♖e8 43.♖d6 ♖f3 44.e6 g4 45.♖c2 ♖d3+ 46.♖e5 ♖f3 47.♖c8+ ♖e7 48.♖c7+ ♖e8 49.♖f7!+-]

39...♖f4! = White can't make progress without allowing the exchange of f and g pawns, which allows Black to draw.

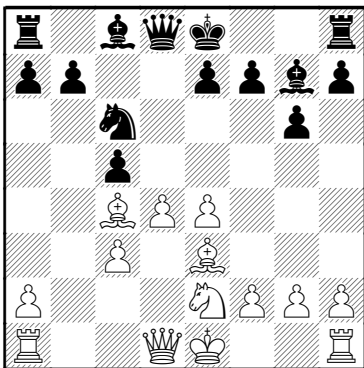
40.♖a3 ♖e7 41.♖b3 (If ♖(any), then ...g4! =) ♖d7

42. ♖b7+ ♔e8
1/2-1/2

□ Shirov, Alexei
■ Arseneau, Peter
ShirovSimulOttawa
[Upper, John]

D89
2723
1917
11.02.2010

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3
6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♙c4 c5 8.♗e2 ♘c6 9.♙e3 Diagram



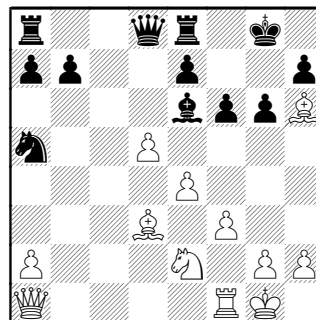
The Grunfeld games took the longest to annotate. That's partly because it's complex and interesting, and partly because I wanted to make sure the notes were up-to-date and the theory is still unsettled; Shirov has played this opening a lot (he has 14 games from this position in the Db, 7 White and 7 Black). **cx d4**

[9...0-0 10.0-0 ♙g4 11.f3 ♘a5 12.♙xf7+ ♖xf7 13.fxg4 ♖xf1+ 14.♗xf1 is the "Seville" variation, played six times between Karpov - Kasparov in 1987-88.]

10.cxd4 0-0 11.0-0 ♙g4 12.f3 ♘a5 13.♙d3
[13.♙d5!? ♙d7 14.♖b1 a6 15.♙xb7 ♖a7 16.♙d5 ♙b5 17.a4! ♙xe2 18.♖xe2 e6 19.♙c4 ♙xd4 20.♖fd1 ♙xe3+ 21.♖xe3↑ 1-0 Krasenkow, M (2652)-Neverov, V (2542)/Rijeka CRO 2010/(29)]

13...♙e6 14.♖c1
[Like many hyper-sharp continuations, the exchange sac line seems to end in perpetual check or equal endgames: 14.d5 ♙xa1 15.♖xa1 f6 16.♙h6 ♖e8 Diagram

(Diagram)



A) 17.♗h1 ♖c8 18.♗f4 ♙d7 19.e5 ♘c4 20.e6 ♙a4 21.♘xg6 hxg6 22.♙xg6 ♗e5 23.♙e4 (Δ♖e1-g3+) ♙c2 24.♙xc2 ♖xc2 25.♖d1 ♗h7 26.f4 ♗xh6 27.fxe5 ♖c8 28.exf6 ♖g8!? 29.f7 (29.♖d3 ♖gxc2 30.♖h3+ ♗g6 31.♖f5+ ♗h6 32.♖h3+=) 29...♖gxc2 30.f8♖+ (30.♙xc2 ♖xc2 31.f8♖+ ♖xf8 32.♖xf8 ♖d2±/=) 30...♖xf8 31.♖xf8 ♖xh2+ 32.♗g1 ♖cg2+ 33.♗f1 ♖h1+ 34.♗xg2 ♖xd1 35.♖d8 ♗g6 36.♗f3 ♗f6 37.♗e4 1/2-1/2 Korotylev, A (2565)-Timofeev, A (2591)/Tomsk 2004 ;

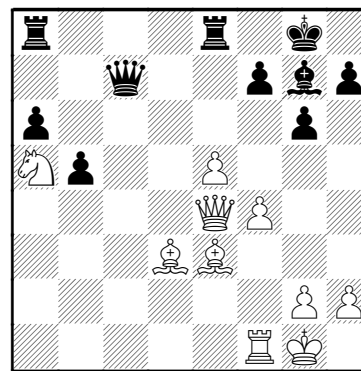
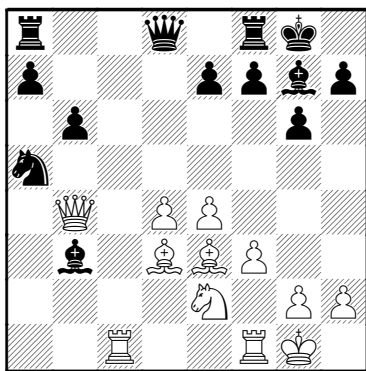
B) 17.♖d4 ♙f7 18.♙b5 e5 19.♖f2 ♖e7 20.f4 exf4 21.♖xf4 ♖b6+ 22.♗h1 ♙xd5! (so the ♖e7 defends g7) 23.exd5 ♖xb5 24.♖xf6 ♖e8 25.♖d4 ♖f7! 26.♖xf7 ♖xf7 27.♙d2 ♖g7! 28.♖e4 (28.♖xg7+ ♗xg7 29.♙xa5 ♖c8± White can't hold the ♙d5) 28...♖f7 29.♙c3 (29.♙xa5? ♖e8+) 29...♖c8!= 30.h3 ♘c4 31.♖d4 ♗f8 32.♖h8+ ♖g8 33.♖d4 ♖f7 34.♖h8+ 1/2-1/2 Aronian, L (2759)-Shirov, A (2699)/Elista 2007]

14...♙xa2 15.♖a4 ♙b3

[15...♙e6 16.d5 ♙d7 17.♖b4 e6 18.♘c3 exd5 19.exd5 ♖e8 20.♙f2 b6 21.♙h4 ♙f8!∞ 22.d6 ♙xd6 23.♖xd6 ♖xh4 24.♗e4 (24.♖xd7? ♖ed8 25.♖c7 ♖d4+) 24...♖ad8! 25.g3 ♖e7 26.♗f6+ ♗f8 27.♗xe8 ♖xe8 28.♖d4 ♖e3+ 29.♖xe3 ♖xe3≡ 30.♙e4 ♘b3 31.♖c7 ♘c5 32.♖xa7 ♙h3 33.♗f2 ♖xe4 34.fxe4 ♗xe4+ 35.♗e3 ♙xf1 36.♗xe4 b5 1/2-1/2 Hillarp Persson, T (2507)-Akesson, R (2535)/Gentofte 1999]

16.♖b4 b6 Diagram

(Diagram)



Shirov successfully defended Black's position twice in his victorious 1998 match against Kramnik. **17.♖c3**

[17.♗g5 f6

A) 18.♗f4 e5 19.♗e3 exd4 20.♗xd4 ♗f7 21.♗a6 (21.♗fd1 ♖c8) 21...♗e8 22.♗fd1 ♗e7 23.♗xe7 ♗xe7 24.♗c6 ♗xc6 25.♗xc6 1/2-1/2 Kramnik,V (2790)-Shirov,A (2710)/Cazorla (m1) 1998 ;

B) 18.♗h4 ♗d6 19.♗xd6 exd6 20.d5 f5 21.exf5 gxf5 22.♗g3 ♗b2 23.♗xf5

B1) 23...♗xc1 24.♗xc1 Δ♗ae8 (Δ24...♗ac8? 25.♗e7+) 25.♗h6+ ♗g7 26.♖c7+ ♗xh6 27.♗xh7# ;

B2) 23...♗c4 24.♗e7+ ♗h8 25.♗xc4 ♗f4 26.♗g5 ♗xc4 27.♖ce1 ♖c2 28.♗f5 (28.f4! Δ f4-f5-f6+-) 28...♗c4 29.♗e6 ♗f8 30.♗xd6 ♗xd6 31.♗xd6 ♗e8 32.♗d1 ♗ee2 33.♗h1 ♗xg2 34.♗d8+ ♗g7 35.♗f4 ♗f6 36.♗a8 ♗g5 37.♗e5+ ♗f6 38.♗f4 ♗g5 39.♗xa7+ ♗g6 40.♗a8!± 1/2-1/2 Kramnik,V (2790)-Shirov,A (2710)/Cazorla (m5) 1998 (65)]

[17.d5 ♗d6! 18.♗xd6 exd6 19.♖c7 (19.♗a6 ♗a4!∞) 19...♗a4 20.♗c3 ♗xc3 21.♖xc3 ♗b3 22.♗c2 ♖fc8 23.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 24.♗xb3 ♗xb3 25.♗a1 a5!N (25...♖c7 26.♗f4 ♗d7 27.♖c1 f5 28.♗f2 ♖xe4 29.♖xe4 ♗a4 30.♗e3 ♗f7 1/2-1/2 Peckford,Billy (2285)-Wolff,P (2580)/North Bay 1996) 26.♗xb6 a4± 1/2-1/2 Cramling,P (2484)-Shirov,A (2746)/Barcelona 2000 (46)]

17...♗d6?? Crazy. I suspect Black was trying so hard to remember variations that he didn't see the position in front of him.

[17...♗e6

A) 18.♗g5 ♗e8 (18...f6 19.♗f4∞) 19.♗b5 ♗d7 20.♗a6? (20.♗xd7 ♗xd7 21.♖fc1 ♗d6! 22.♗a4 a6±) 20...♗c6 21.♗c4 b5! (21...♗c8!? 22.♗b5 ♗xd4 23.♗xe8 ♗e6! 24.♗d3 ♗xe2+ 25.♗xe2 ♗xc3+-) 22.♗c5 (22.♗xb5 ♗a5 23.♗d5 ♗xb5 24.♗xb5 ♗xd4+ 25.♗e3 ♗xc3 26.♗xc3 ♖b8+-) 22...♗b6 23.♗xb6□ axb6 24.♗b7 ♗xd4 0-1 Timman,J-Hellers, F/Sigeman and Co/1997/ (30) ;

B) 18.♖fc1 ♗d6! now this should hold 19.♗xd6 exd6 20.♗a6 (20.♖c7 f5!±) 20...d5 21.♗f4 ♗ad8 22.♗xe6 ♖xe6= 1/2-1/2 Alexandrova,O-Blazkova,P (2190)/Herculane 1994/(27)]

18.♖xb3+- ♗xb3 19.♗xb3 a6 20.e5 ♗b8 21.f4 e6

22.d5! Here come the ♗s exd5 **23.♗xd5**

[23.♗c3!]

23...♗d8 24.♗e4 b5 25.♗d4 ♗e8 26.♗c6 ♗b7 27.♗a5 ♗c7 Diagram

Shirov's next moves support his dark-square blockade of Black's « passers, but this gives Black tactical shots against White's loose pieces.

There are lot of mistakes in the remaining moves, which is not surprising: the material is unbalanced, it's a nearly wide-open board so there are a lot of tactics, and it was late in a long simul. Still, this might be a way to play against Shirov the next time he comes: he plays much better than any of us in every phase of the game (except in book lines where you've prepared like a demon) but he can't possibly keep track of all the complications when his opponents have the initiative. So, 1) book up thoroughly on a complex line, and 2) constantly look for ways to sac for the initiative. **28.♗a1?**

[28.♗b3+-]

[28.♗b7+-]

28...♗ad8! 29.♗d2??

[Δ29.♗f1 ♗c3 30.♗a2 g5!±]

29...♗c5+?!

[29...f6!?±]

[29...♗xe5! 30.♖xe5 ♗xe5↑ all White's pieces are loose. 31.♗c6! (31.♗f4? ♗b6+ 32.♗e3 ♗xe3+-) 31...♗a7+ 32.♗h1 ♗d4! (32...♖xd3? 33.♗c8+ ♗g7 34.♗c6 ♗c5 35.♗b4□ ♖c3! 36.♗xc5 ♖xc5+- White should win this, but it's not over.) 33.♗c3 ♗e6!± White has to give up one of the ♗s for a ♖.]

30.♗f1!

[30.♗h1? ♗d4+-]

30...f5!

[Now 30...♗d4? just trades ♗s and invites White's ♗ to help consolidate 31.♗xd4 ♗xd4 32.♗e2±]

31.♗e2 ♗d4?!

[31...♗d5! (avoids ♗c6 threats) 32.♗a3 ♗f8 33.♖b3 ♗c5∞]

32.♗a3! ♖c8 33.♗e3 ♗b4?

[33...♗xe5!! 34.♗xd4 ♖c1+ 35.♗f2 ♗xd4+ 36.♗f3 ♗xe2 37.♗xe2±]

34.♗a2+□+- ♗h8 35.♗b7 ♗f8 36.♖b3

[36.♖xa6!]

36...♗a4 37.♗b2 ♗e6 38.g4?

[38.♗b1]

38...♖xg4 39.f5 ♗e7??

[39...♖ec6± 40.♗d6 (40.e6+ ♗g8) 40...♖c3!! 41.♖xc3 ♗d1+ 42.♗f2 ♗f3+ 43.♗e1 ♗xe3+-]

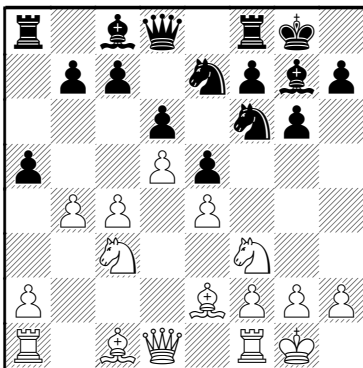
40.♖xe6+- ♖f8+ 41.♗g2 ♖f3 42.♗c2 b4

1-0

□ Shirov,Alexei
 ■ Farah,Liiban
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

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1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.♗f3 0-0
 6.♙e2 e5 7.0-0 ♗c6 8.d5 ♗e7 9.b4 a5 Diagram



Black disrupts White's ♖-side play. The other main option is 9...♗h5 going for the standard ♗-side pawn storm. **10.bxa5** In "Opening for White according to Kramnik" (Chess Stars, 2000) Khalifman said 10.♙a3! is, "The only way to fight for the advantage. After 10.bxa5 ♖xa5 11.a4 c5= Black works up a favourable pawn configuration." But years of experimenting suggest White has no more advantage in those lines; and Carlsen has played both.

[10.♙a3 is more popular ♗d7 11.bxa5 ♖xa5 12.♙b4 ♖a8 13.a4 ♙h6 14.a5 f5 15.♙d3 ♗h8 (15...♗f6 16.c5 fxe4 17.cxd6 cxd6 18.♗xe4 ♗xe4 19.♙xe4 ♖f4± 1/2-1/2 Van Wely,L (2605)-Shirov,A (2710)/Wijk aan Zee 1998/(49)) 16.♖e1 ♗f6 17.c5 fxe4 18.cxd6 cxd6 19.♗xe4 ♗xe4 20.♙xe4± 1/2-1/2 Kramnik,V (2790)-Carlsen,M (2813)/Nice FRA 2010/(90)]

10...♗h5

[10...♖xa5 11.♖e1 ♗h5 12.♗d2 ♗f4 13.♙f1 c5 14.a4 ♗h5 15.♖a3 ♖a6 16.♗b5 ♗f6 17.♙b2 ♗d7± 1/2-1/2 Shirov,A (2751)-Bologan,V (2589)/Tallinn 2000/(57)]

[10...♗e8 11.a4 c5 12.♗b5 ♖a6!? is a funny way to clog up the ♖-side, similar to Crouch-McShane, England, 2000.]

11.♗d2!? The Bayonette Attack (9.b4) became really popular after White realized that a Black ♗f4 was tolerable so long as White had ♙e2-f1. Apart from just avoiding lots of theory after 11.♖e1, I think Shirov's idea is that after bxa5 Black's ♖-side (esp. c7) will be weaker when Black doesn't have ...♗f6-e8. ♗f4 **12.♗b3**

[12.c5 f5 13.cxd6 cxd6 14.♗c4± 1-0 Gofshtein,L (2513)-Stellwagen,D (2384)/Hoogeveen 2001/(53)]

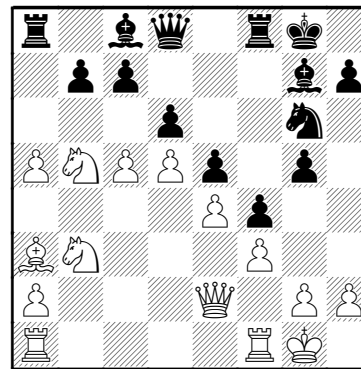
12...♗xe2+?!? That's four tempos to get rid of the ♙e2 that was about to be blocked in even more by its ♗f3 **13.♖xe2 f5 14.c5± f4 15.f3 g5**

[♗15...dxc5]

16.♙a3 ♗g6?

[16...b6!? Δ...♙a6]

17.♗b5 Diagram



Strategically winning: White has huge ♖-side pressure and Black needs several free moves to get counterplay. ♖f6 **18.♖ac1 h5 19.cxd6 cxd6 20.♗c7 ♖b8 21.♗e6!?** ♙xe6 **22.dxe6 ♖xe6 23.♖fd1 ♗h7 24.♙c5 ♖f6 25.♙b6 ♙f8 26.♖c7+ ♙e7 27.♗c1**

[27.♙a7! would win the ♗b7 and Black still is a long way from ♗-side comp.]

27...♗h6

[27...g4!? Δ28.fxc4 ♗h4 with a little counterplay]

28.♗d3 ♙d8 29.♖c2 ♗e7 30.♙xd8 ♖xd8 31.♗b4± ♖c8? These exchanges leave Black without pieces that can attack the ♗-side, so all that's left are weak pawns and squares on the ♖-side, on d6, and dangerously open space behind the Black ♗.. **32.♖xc8+- ♗xc8 33.♗d5 ♖d8 34.♖b5 ♗a7 35.♖xb7 ♖xa5 36.♖f7 ♖c5+**

[36...♖c5+ 37.♗h1 ♖c8 38.♗e7 wins the exchange AND the ♖]

1-0

□ Shirov,Alexei
 ■ Li,David
 ShirovSimulOttawa
 [Upper,John]

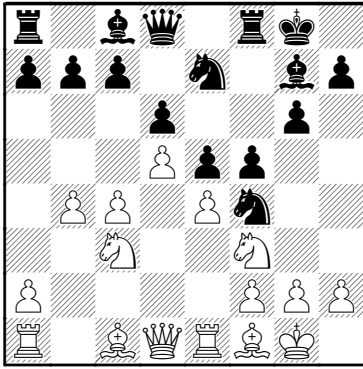
E97
 2723
 1917
 11.02.2010

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.♙e2 0-0
 6.♗f3 e5 7.0-0 ♗c6 8.d5 ♗e7 9.b4 ♗h5 10.♖e1 ♗f4
 11.♙f1 f5?! Diagram

[♗11...c6]

[♗11...a5]

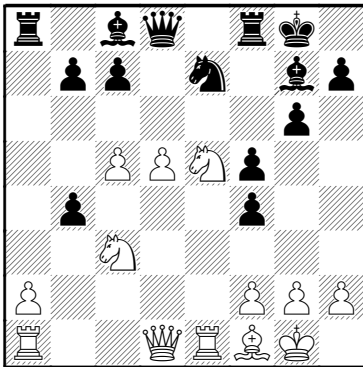
(Diagram)



only Black can play for the win]

1/2-1/2

This has been frowned on since 1997; Shirov takes the approved counter-measures: **12.♙xf4! exf4 13.e5! dxe5 14.♘xe5 a5! 15.c5! axb4** Diagram



16.d6N follows Psakhis' Informant notes

[There's nothing wrong with the more usual: **16.♖b3!**

♜h8 17.♖xb4 ♘xd5 18.♘xd5 ♖xd5

A) 19.♖ad1 ♖xa2 20.♖xf4♠ ♙e6?! (20...♖e6

21.♘d7 ♖xd7 22.♖xd7 ♙xd7 23.♖xc7 ♙c6±)

21.♘xg6+! hxg6 22.♖h4+ ♜g8 23.♖xe6 ♖a4

(23...♖xe6?? 24.♙c4+-) 24.♖e7! ♖e4! 25.♖d7!

1-0 Psakhis,L (2610)-Weeramantry,S (2290)/Honolulu

1997 ;

B) 19.♙c4! ♖d8 20.♘f7+ ♖xf7 21.♙xf7 ♙xa1

22.♖e8+ ♖xe8 23.♙xe8 ♙e6 so far, Psakhis, but now

White has an improvement which refutes his analysis:

24.♙xg6!!± Δhxg6 (24...♖xa2 25.c6+-) 25.♖e1!

forks the ♙s before picking off Black's loose ♜s]

16...♙e5! 17.dxe7!

[Psakhis's line continued: **17.♖xe5 ♘c6 18.♖d5+ ♜h8**

19.♖e7 bxc3 and ended here without evaluation

(but if Black plays: **19...cxd6!+-** White's busted)]

17...♖xe7 18.♖d5+ ♖f7 19.♖xe5 bxc3 20.♖xc3 ♖g7?!]

[**20...♖a4!?**]

21.♙c4+ ♜h8 22.♖xg7+ ♜xg7 23.♖e7+ ♜h6!

24.♖xc7± ♖d8 25.h4

[**25.♖b1±**]

25...♖d7!= 26.♖xc8?!

[**26.♖xd7**]

26...♖xc8 27.♙e6 ♖dc7 28.♙xc8 ♖xc8 29.♖b1

[**29.♖b1 ♖xc5 30.♖xb7 ♖c1+ 31.♜h2 ♖c2!±**