



TWIC THEORY

Tuesday 10th May, 2005

ALEKHINE DEFENCE WITH 4.a4

Igor Khmelnitsky has the title of International Chess Master and is one of the strongest players in United States. Igor is a winner of many national and international tournaments in Ukraine, Russia, Germany, Yugoslavia, Croatia, Bulgaria, and the United States.

He is also a very experienced chess coach. Igor was working with various strong players, including members of the Ukrainian national junior team, of which several promising players who are now grandmasters. Since moving to the United States in 1991, Igor Khmelnitsky has been coaching in the Philadelphia area. His students include players of all levels, ranging from novices to masters.

Igor Khmelnitsky is also a successful writer. Igor Khmelnitsky has published his comments, annotated games, and articles in various chess publications. Among them, the most prestigious periodicals - Chess Informant, New in Chess, ChessBase, 64, Chess Life, and Chess Today. He is also the founder and publisher of the two popular chess websites www.IamCoach.com and www.ChessExam.com.

Igor Khmelnitsky is a contributing author to the Masters of Success by Ivan Mizner, PhD ((c) 2004, Entrepreneur Press), which was a #1 on the Wall Street Journal list of bestsellers. Igor Khmelnitsky holds a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from Temple University (Philadelphia). He is a Sr. Actuarial Consultant at Aetna Inc., the leader in the health insurance industry. Igor works at Aetna's Blue Bell office in Pennsylvania.

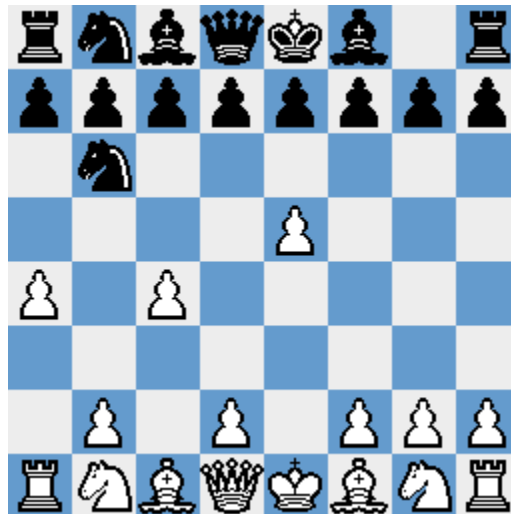
The Alekhine Defence has been my opening of choice for over 25 years. Initially, as I recall, it was due to the preparations that Alexei Kosikov, a very strong master and prominent Ukrainian chess coach, had done for Dimitri Komarov who was battling Vassily Ivanchuk (both were around 12-14 years old) for the right to go to the World Cadet Championship. I was amongst a few of Kosikov's other pupils, who got to use his notes. Later on, working without a coach, I had to come up with a system of preparing openings. My method was to pick a player and mimic his opening repertoire, while adding my own ideas. I did that by choosing GM Lev Alburt for my Black side. The Alekhine Defence was his opening of choice.

Now to the recent developments in the Alekhine Defence - first I am pleasantly surprised that looking at games from 2001 to 2004 Black is holding up OK. White has 54% success with very similar average ratings of White and Black players - 2310. When I looked at the GM level (2500+ for both players), I found a much greater advantage for White - 63%! However, when I checked the master level (2200-2300), the results were 49% for White!

So, one may conclude - Alekhine is good, just don't play it against GMs, even if you are a GM yourself. Well, I would make a different statement - play the Alekhine Defence against anyone if you like the positions you are getting, but make sure you are well prepared!

Today we will review one of the "modern" ways to deal with the Alekhine. It involves - 4 or even 5 pawns attack and a possible Rook attack - all before White develops a single piece! So much for a common opening strategy! I don't know about you, but I was surprised when I had to face this line few years back. Due to the lack of games, even in recent years, this variation offers plenty of unexplored territory. Here is my take on it:

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. c4 Nb6 4. a4!?



Black has two reasonable way to respond - 4... a5 preventing White's 5. a5 or 4... d6, ignoring White's plans.

In case of 5. d4 d6,



White can choose either 6. exd6 leading to a standard 'Exchange' variation of Alekhine Defence with the inclusion of the moves a4 and a5. Or 6. f4 that will lead to a standard '4 Pawns Attack' variation of the Alekhine Defence with inclusion of the moves a4 and a5 (which makes it now a 5 Pawn Attack). In either case, I think the benefit of having the pawns on a4 and a5 is not evident. See Berry,J - Baburin,A 0-1 and Krivoruchko,Y - Garifullin,A 1/2-1/2.

In case of the somewhat unusual 5. Ra3,



White is planning to shift it to g3 before developing a single minor piece. Black needs to show some accuracy, but I don't think this idea has a lot of potential. Just check what happened in Muzychuk,A - Petrenko,S 1-0.

Summary: there is a merit in the 4. a4 line in the 'Chase' variation. Black should be OK although he must be familiar with the common White ideas and select a plan that fits his style (4... a5 or 4... d6). For White, it is a good opportunity to play active ideas and explore new territory.

Sapienza,J (2266) - Szmetan,J (2408) [B02]

LXXVII ch-ARG Tres de Febrero ARG (2), 04.09.2003

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d6 5.a5 N6d7 6.e6 fxe6 7.d4 Nf6 8.g4?!

8.Bd3

8...g6 9.Be2 Bg7 10.g5 Nfd7 11.Nh3 e5 12.dxe5 Nxe5--+

Black has an extra pawn and White has weaknesses all over the board.

13.Nf4 Nbc6 14.Be3 Bf5 15.h4 Qd7 16.h5 0-0 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.Qb3 Rf7 19.Nd2 Raf8 20.c5 dxc5 21.Bb5 Qd6 22.a6 Nd4 23.Bxd4 Qxd4 24.Ra4 c4 25.Bxc4 Nxc4 26.Rxc4 Qe5+ 27.Kf1 Be6 28.Nxg6 Rxf2+ 29.Kg1 Qe1+

0-1

Berry,Jim - Baburin,A (2580) [B02]

21st NAO Las Vegas USA (9), 02.09.2002

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 a5 5.d4 d6 6.f4 dxe5 7.fxe5 Nc6 8.Be3 Bf5 9.Nf3?!

Better is 9.Nc3 Nb4 10.Rc1

9...Nb4 10.Na3 e6 11.Be2 Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Rc1 c6 14.c5!?

White is weakening d5, but activating his pieces.

14...N6d5 15.Qd2 b6 16.cxb6?!

Better is 16.Nc4+/=

16...Na

Attacking the rook and also freeing the b4 for...

17.Rxc6??

Better is 17.Rc5 Qxb6 18.Nc4 unclear

17...Bb4

... for the bishop! White loses material.

18.Nb5 Bxd2 19.Bxd2 Nxb6 20.Bg5 Qb8 21.Be7 Nb4 22.Rc5 Nxa4 23.Bd6 Qb7 24.Rc7 Qe4
 25.Bd1 Nxb2 26.Bxf8 Rxf8 27.Nd6 Qe3+ 28.Kh1 Nxd1 29.Rxd1 Nd3 30.Nxf5 Nf2+ 31.Kg1
 Nh3+ 32.Kh1 Qg1+ 33.Rxg1 Nf2#

0-1

Schulze,Ulrich (2345) - Biehler,Thomas (2225) [B02]

BL2-SW 8889 Germany, 1989

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d6 5.a5 N6d7 6.exd6 cxd6 7.d4 g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.Be2 0-0
 10.0-0 Nc6 11.d5 Nxa5

Taking this pawn is always risky!

12.Ra2 Qc7 13.Na3 b6 14.b4 Nb7 15.Nb5 Qb8 16.Nfd4 Nd8 17.Nc6 Nxc6 18.dxc6 Ne5 19.Nd4
 Qc7 20.Bb2 Nxc6 21.Nxc6 Bxb2 22.Rxb2 Qxc6 23.Bf3 d5 24.Bxd5 Qf6 25.Ra2 Rb8 26.Rxa7
 Be6 27.h3

1/2-1/2

Gelman,Charles L (2215) - Zilberstein,Dmitry (2330) [B02]

USA-ch U18 Washington (3), 1995

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d6 5.a5 N6d7 6.e6 fxe6 7.d4 Nf6 8.Bd3 g6 9.h4 Bg7 10.h5
 Nhx5 11.g4 Nf6 12.g5 Nfd7?

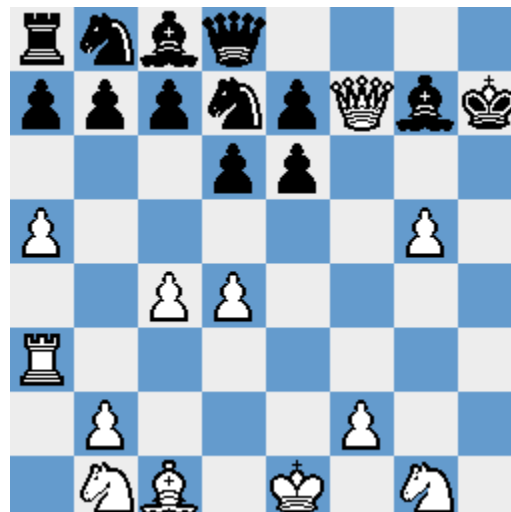
This move allows White standard combination - Rxh7. Much better was 12...Nh5.

12...Nh5 This move leads to a dynamic battle, but I like White's chances better! 13.Be2 Nc6
 Putting pressure on d4 14.Be3 After this solid move, Black is struggling to find a good move.

13.Rxh7 Rxh7 14.Bxg6+ Kf8 15.Qf3+! Kg8

15...Nf6 16.Bxh7+- White regains the Rook while maintaining the deadly pin.

16.Qf7+ Kh8 17.Bxh7 Kxh7 18.Ra3



This is a deadly move now! Not to be confused with 5. Ra3 that also has been played in the 4. a4 line of the Chase variation.

1-0

Nur,Nawrose Farh - Zilberstein,Dmitry (2330) [B02]

USA-ch U18 Washington (7), 1995

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 a5 5.c5

The standard Chase variation is not really as promising with inclusion of a4 - a5, as Black N has a safe spot on b4

5...Nd5 6.Bc4 c6?!

6...Nb4 7.Nf3 d5 8.cxd6 exd6 9.d4 Be7 10.Nc3 0-0=

6...e6!?

7.Qe2 b6 8.Qe4 e6 9.Qg4 bxc5 10.Ne2 f5 11.Qg3 Qc7 12.d4 d6 13.f4 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Qb6 15.Nc2 dxe5 16.fxe5 Na6 17.Ra3 Bxa3 18.Qxg7 Bb4+ 19.Ke2 Rf8 20.Qxh7 Qc7 21.Qh5+ Qf7 22.Qf3 Bb7 23.Nd4 Nac7 24.h4 0-0-0 25.Qf2 Qh5+ 26.Nf3 Qg4 27.Bd3 Nf4+ 28.Bxf4 Qxf4 29.Nc3 Bxc3 30.bxc3 Qxa4 31.Nd2 Rxd3 32.Kxd3 Rd8+ 33.Ke2 Ba6+ 34.c4 Bxc4+ 35.Nxc4 Qxc4+

0-1

Curdo,John (2050) - Sciacca,Patrick [B02]

Queen City op 20th Queen City, 1996

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d6

I prefer 4...a5 preventing 5.a5

5.a5 N6d7



6.e6 fxe6 7.d4 e5

For 7...Nf6 see Gelman-Zilberstein

8.Bd3 Nf6

8...g6 9.d5 e6 10.Nc3 exd5 (10...Bg7!? 11.h4 Nc5 12.Bg5 Bf6=) 11.cxd5 Nc5 12.Bc2 Nba6 13.Be3 Bg7 14.h4 (initiative) White has some positional compensation for the pawn, although his king's position is compromised! 14...Qf6?! (14...Nb4 15.Bxc5 dxc5 16.h5 Nxc2+ 17.Qxc2 Qg5 unclear) 15.Nf3 1-0 Firman,N-Seel,C/Oropesa del Mar 2000/EXT 2001 (32)

9.dxe5

9.Bg5 Bg4 10.Qc2 Qd7 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.f3 Be6 13.Ne2 Nc6=/+ Black has an extra pawn and the advantage in development! 14.Ra3 0-0-0 0-1 Sprangers,R-Mazajchik,T/Kaatsheuvel 2000/EXT 2002 (25)

9...dxe5 10.Nc3 e6?!

This and Black's following moves are too passive.

10...Nc6 11.Nf3 Bg4 12.a6+/=

11.Nf3 Nbd7?

Better is 11...Nc6 12.0-0 Bb4 13.Qc2 compensation

12.0-0

12.Ng5! An even better choice. The N on g5 can't be driven away and Black's Queen is forced to block the Bishop on f8. 12...Qe7 (12...Nc5 13.Bg6+ hxg6 14.Qxd8+ Kxd8 15.Nf7+ Ke8 16.Nxh8+/-) 13.0-0 Nc5 14.Bc2+/-

12...Bd6 13.Ng5 Qe7 14.Qf3 0-0 15.Qh3 h6 16.Nge4 Qf7 17.Nxd6 cxd6 18.Nb5 d5 19.Be3 d4 20.Bd2 Nc5 21.Bc2 Qh5 22.Qxh5 Nxh5 23.Bb4 Na6 24.Bxf8 Kxf8 25.Rae1 Nb4 26.Rxe5 Nxc2 27.Rxh5 Ke7 28.Rd1 Bd7 29.Nxd4 Be8 30.Re5 Nxd4 31.Rxd4 Kf6 32.Re3 e5 33.Rd6+ Kf5 34.Rd5 Bf7 35.Rdxe5+ Kf6 36.b3 Rd8 37.g4 Rd1+ 38.Kg2 Rb1 39.h4 g5 40.Rf5+ Kg6 41.h5+

1-0

Ars,Jordi - Angelats Morato,Rafael [B02]

Tordera Socialet op Tordera, 1996

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d6 5.d4 dxe5 6.d5?

I don't like this idea.

6...c6 7.Nc3 cxd5 8.cxd5 g6 9.b3 Bg7 10.Ra2 0-0μ 11.a5 N6d7 12.b4 Nf6 13.Rc2 Bf5 14.Bd3 e4 15.Bxe4 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 Bxe4 17.Rd2 Bxg2 18.d6 Bc3 19.dxe7 Re8 20.Qc2 Qxe7+ 21.Ne2 Qxe2#

0-1

Graetz,Fabian - Jauk,Wilhelm [B02]

Berlin-ch U15 Berlin, 1997

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d5 5.c5 N6d7 6.d4 e6 7.f4

Better is 7.a5 White should be more concerned with supporting the pawn on c5 (against attack via b6) than the pawn on e5. 7...Nc6 8.f4

7...b6 8.cxb6 axb6 9.Nf3 Ba6 10.Bxa6 Nxa6 11.Nc3 Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Be3 c5= 14.Nd2 f5 15.Rf3 Rf7 16.Qe2 Nb4 17.Nb3 c4 18.Nd2 Nc2 19.Raf1 Bb4 20.Nxc4 Nxe3 21.Nxe3 Bxc3 22.bxc3 Rxa4 23.Qc2 b5 24.Rb1 Qa5 25.Nxd5 Nf8 26.Nb4 Rc7 27.Qd2 Qb6 28.Kh1 Rca7 29.Rff1 Ra3 30.d5 Qc5 31.dxe6 Rxc3 32.Nd5 Rc2 33.Qd3 Nxe6 34.Rxb5 Qc6 35.Rb8+ Nf8 36.Qxf5 Rf7 37.Ne7+

1-0

Jonkman,Harmen (2315) - Galje,Hans (2110) [B02]

Haarlem AKN op Haarlem (6), 1998

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d6 5.a5 N6d7 6.exd6 cxd6 7.d4 g6 8.g3 Bg7 9.Bg2 a6 10.Ne2 0-0 11.Be3 Nf6 12.d5 Nbd7 13.0-0 Ng4 14.Bd4 Bxd4 15.Nxd4 Nge5 16.b3 Nc5 17.b4 Ncd7 18.f4 Nxc4 19.Qb3 b5 20.axb6 Ncxb6 21.Nc6 Qc7 22.Nxe7+ Kg7 23.Nc6 Nf6 24.Nd2 Re8 25.Qb2 Re2 26.Rfc1 Rxc2+ 27.Kxg2 Nbx5 28.Ra5 Kg8 29.Nf3 Qd7 30.Qd4 Bb7 31.Rxd5 Bxc6 32.Rxd6 Bxf3+ 33.Kxf3 Qg4+ 34.Kf2 Re8 35.Rxf6 Re2+ 36.Kg1 Qh3 37.Qd8+ Kg7 38.Rxf7+ Kxf7 39.Rc7+ Ke6 40.Qe8+ 1-0

Ondo,R - Szamos,Alexander (2175) [B02]

SVK-chT2E 9900 SVK, 1999

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d6 5.a5 N6d7 6.e6 fxe6 7.d4 g6 8.h4 Bg7 9.h5 Nc6 10.Nf3 e5 11.d5 Nd4 12.hxg6 hxg6 13.Rxh8+ Bxh8 14.Bd3 Nf8 15.Nxd4 exd4 16.Bh6 e5 17.Qf3 Qf6 18.Qxf6 Bxf6 19.Bxf8 Kxf8 20.Bxg6 Kg7 21.Be4 Bd7 22.b4 Rh8 23.g3 c6 24.a6 cxd5 25.Bxd5 b5 26.Na3 bxc4 27.Nxc4 Be6 28.Ra5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Firman,Nazar (2212) - Gladyshev,Oleg (2388) [B02]

UKR ol Alushta, 1999

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d6 5.a5 N6d7 6.exd6 cxd6 7.d4 g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 d5

10...Nc6 11.d5 see Firman – Neverov

11.cxd5 Nf6 12.Nc3 Nxd5 13.Qb3+/- Nxc3 14.bxc3 Nc6 15.Qa3 e5 16.Bg5 Qd7 17.Rfd1 exd4 18.cxd4 Qd5 19.Be3 Be6 20.a6 b6 21.Rac1 Rac8?!

21...Rfd8!? 22.Bc4 Qf5

22.Bc4 Qa5?!

22...Qf5 23.d5 Na5 24.Ba2

23.Qxa5 Nxa5 24.Bxe6 fxe6 25.Ng5 Rxc1+- 26.Rxc1 Nb3 27.Rc7 Nxd4 28.Rxa7 h6 29.Rxg7+ Kxg7 30.Bxd4+ Kg8 31.Nxe6 Rc8 32.g3 Kf7 33.Nf4 b5 34.a7 b4 35.Nd5 b3 36.Nb6

1-0

Privalov,Y - Murashko,Vyacheslav L (2455) [B02]

UKR ol Alushta, 1999

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d6 5.a5 N6d7 6.exd6 exd6

I prefer this move to 6... cxd6.

7.Nf3

I think White will maintain a small advantage in space, but Black's position is OK. One warning - Black should be very careful with aggressive moves such as c5 and also watch out for his pawn on b7.

7...Be7 8.d4 0-0 9.Be2 d5 10.Nc3 Nf6 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.0-0 Nc6

12...c5!?

13.Qb3 Ncb4 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Bc4+/- Be6?!

Better is 15...c6

16.Re1 Rb8 17.Bd2 c5?



Now this active move is a tactical blunder. The pride of Black's position - the N on d5 - becomes an easy target!

Better is 17...c6=

18.dxc5 Bxc5 19.Bg5?!

Only wins a pawn, better was 19.Re5.

19.Re5!+- Bd6 (19...Nf6 20.Rxc5 Ne4 21.Be3) 20.Rxd5

19...Nf6 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Rxe6 Kh8 22.h3 b6 23.Bf4 Rb7 24.Be3 Rd7 25.Bxc5 bxc5 26.Qe3 Nd5 27.Qxc5 Rxf3 28.gxf3 h5 29.Qd4 Qg5+ 30.Kf1 Nf6 31.Re8+ Kh7 32.Re5 Qg6 33.Qf4 Kg8 34.Rc1 Qd3+ 35.Kg1 Qd6 36.Rc8+ Kf7 37.Qc4+ Kg6 38.Rc6 Qd1+ 39.Kg2 Rd5

1-0

Doss,Jason R - Weinberg,Robert P [B02]

Texas-ch Dallas (6.4), 31.05.1999

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 a5 5.Ra3



5...d6 6.exd6 cxd6 7.Rg3 Nc6 8.d4 Bf5 9.Na3 e5 10.d5 Ne7 11.Ne2 Nd7 12.Nc3 Nc5 13.Nab5 Bg6 14.h4 Nf5 15.Rgh3 h5 16.Be2 Be7 17.g3 Bf6 18.0-0 Kf8 19.Re1 Qd7 20.Kg2 Re8 21.b3 Nd4 22.Ba3 Bc2 23.Qa1 Bf5 24.Rhh1 Nc2 25.Qb2 Nxe1+ 26.Rxe1 b6 27.b4 axb4 28.Qxb4 Kg8 29.a5 bxa5 30.Qxa5 e4 31.Bxc5 dxc5 32.Na4 Bd4 33.Nxd4 cxd4 34.Nb6 Bh3+ 35.Kg1 Qf5 36.c5 e3 37.fxe3 Rxe3

0-1

Gushuliak,Justin - Zinchenko,Yaroslav [B02]

Wch U12 Oropesa del Mar (4), 27.10.1999

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d6 5.a5 N6d7 6.exd6 cxd6 7.d4 g6 8.Bd2 Bg7 9.Bc3 0-0 10.Bd3 e5 11.d5 f5 12.Ne2 Qg5 13.Ng3 e4 14.h4 Qf4 15.Bd2 Qe5 16.Bc3 Qe7 17.Qe2 Ne5 18.Bc2 Nbd7 19.Na3 a6 20.0-0-0 Re8 21.Kb1 Nc5 22.Ka2 Bd7 23.b4 Ncd3 24.f3 Nxc4 25.Nxc4 Bxc3 26.Bxd3 exd3 27.Qxd3 Bxb4 28.Rb1 Bc5 29.Rxb7 Bf2 30.Nb6 Rad8 31.Rc1 Bxg3 32.Rcc7 Qe1 33.Nxd7 Bxh4 34.Qc3 Re2+ 35.Ka3 Re3 36.Nf6+ Bxf6 37.Rg7+ Bxg7 38.Rxg7+ Kf8 0-1

Krivoruchko, Yu - Garifullin, A [B02]

Ilyichevsk op U17 Ilyichevsk, 2000

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 a5 5.d4 d6 6.exd6 exd6

I like this move.

Also 6...cxd6 is a reasonable alternative 7.Nc3 g6 8.Be3 Bg7 9.c5 dxc5 10.dxc5 N6d7 11.Nf3 Nc6 12.Bc4 0-0 13.0-0 Nde5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Bd5 Ng4 16.Bf4 Kh8 17.h3+/- 1-0 Lahno, K-Lichman, P/Alushta 2000/EXT 2001 (39)

For those loving early adventures - check 6...Qxd6 see Tate - Khmel'nitsky.

7.Be3

7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Bd3 Re8 10.Nf3 Bg4 And we reached a regular position from the exchange variation of Alekhine Defence with moves a4-a5 included. I think this inclusion slightly helps Black. 11.0-0 Nc6 12.b3 Bf6= 0-1 Duijn, R-Span, P/Holland 1996/EXT 2000 (45)

7...Be7 8.Be2 0-0 9.Nf3 Bf5 10.0-0 Na6 11.Na3 Nb4 12.b3 d5 13.c5 Nd7

13...Nc8!? Planning Bf6 and Ne7.

14.Bf4 c6 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.Bxe5 Re8

Black is slightly better - White has a weak pawn on d4 and bad Na3.

17.Bg4 Qd7 18.h3?! Bxg4

18...Bxc5!? 19.Bxg7 Bd6 20.Bh6=/+

19.hxg4 f6 20.Bf4 Bd8 21.Qf3 Re4 22.Rad1 g5 23.Bd6 Qxg4 24.Qxg4 Rxg4 25.f3 Rh4 26.Rfe1 Kf7 27.Re2 g4 28.Bg3 gxf3 29.gxf3 Rh5 30.Rde1 Rg5 31.Kh2 Rg8 32.Bd6 Rc8 33.f4 Nd3 34.Rd1 Nb4 35.Rde1 Nd3

½-½

Lahno, Katerina - Lichman, Petr [B02]

UKR-chT Alushta (5), 2000

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 a5 5.d4 d6 6.exd6 cxd6 7.Nc3 g6 8.Be3 Bg7 9.c5 dxc5 10.dxc5 N6d7 11.Nf3 Nc6 12.Bc4 0-0 13.0-0 Nde5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Bd5 Ng4 16.Bf4 Kh8 17.h3 Nf6 18.Bf3 Nd7 19.c6 bxc6 20.Bxc6 Ra6 21.Bb5 e5 22.Be3 Re6 23.Qb3 Ree8 24.Rfd1 f5 25.Rxd7 Bxd7 26.Rd1 Qf6 27.Rxd7 Rd8 28.Nd5 Qe6 29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.Bc4 Qd6 31.Qb6 Qd7 32.Qxa5 f4 33.Bb6 Rc8 34.b3 f3 35.g4 h5 36.Qa7 Qd6 37.Qe7 Qc6 38.Qg5 Rf8 39.Ne7 1-0

Firman, Nazar (2476) - Cmiel, Thorsten (2237) [B02]

Biel U18 Biel (5), 2001

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d5 5.exd6 cxd6 6.a5 N6d7 7.d4 e6 8.Nf3 Be7 9.Be2 Nf6 10.Nc3 0-0 11.0-0 d5 12.Ne5 dxc4 13.Bxc4 Bb4 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bh4 g5 16.Bg3 Bxa5 17.Rxa5 Qxa5 18.f4 Qd8 19.fxg5 hxg5 20.h4 Ne8 21.hxg5 Qxg5 22.Bf4 Qh4 23.Rf3 Ng7 24.Qd2 Nc6 25.Rh3 Qd8 26.Ng4 Nf5 27.Nh6+ Nxh6 28.Bxh6 f6 29.Bxf8 Qxf8 30.Ne4 f5 31.Qf4 Qd8 32.Qg3+ 1-0

Muzychuk,Anna - Kostiuk,Tatiana (2219) [B02]

UKR-ch U20 Girls Kharkov, 2001

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d6 5.a5 N6d7 6.e6 fxe6 7.d4 Nc6 8.Bd3 g6 9.h4 Nf6 10.h5 gxh5
11.Rxh5 e5 12.Rh4 Nxd4 13.Bg5 Bg7 14.Nc3 Be6 15.Bxf6 exf6 16.Bxh7 Bf5 17.Rxd4 Rxh7
18.Qe2 Kf8 19.Rdd1 Rh1 20.Kf1 Be6 21.c5 d5 22.Ne4 Qe7 23.Ng3 Rh4 24.a6 Rb4 25.axb7 Rxb7
26.c6 Rb6 27.Rdc1 Qd6 28.Qh5 Rxc6 29.N1e2 Rxc1+ 30.Rxc1 Rb8 31.Qh7 Qd7 32.Nh5 Rxb2
33.Nxg7 Qxg7 34.Qxg7+ Kxg7 35.Rxc7+ Kg6 36.f4 a5 37.fxe5 fxe5 38.Ra7 Ra2 39.Ra6 Kf7
40.Nc3 Ra3 41.Nb5 Ra2 42.Nd6+ Ke7 43.Nb7 d4 44.Rxa5 Rxa5 45.Nxa5 Bd5 46.Ke2 e4 47.Kd2
Kf6 48.Ke2 Kg5 49.Kf2 Kf4 50.Ke2 Kg3 51.Kf1 d3 52.Ke1 Kxg2 53.Kd2 Kf2 0-1

Firman,Nazar (2511) - Neverov,Valeriy (2564) [B02]

UKR-ch Ordzhonikidze (5), 12.09.2001

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 d6 5.a5 N6d7 6.exd6 cxd6 7.d4 g6

7...e6 8.Nf3 Be7 9.Be2 Nf6 10.Nc3 0-0 11.0-0 d5 12.Ne5 dxc4 13.Bxc4 Bb4 In the majority of
the games in this variation, winning the pawn brings Black nothing but pain and suffering. 14.Bg5
h6 15.Bh4 g5 Too risky! 16.Bg3 Bxa5 17.Rxa5! Qxa5 18.f4, 1-0 Firman,N-Cmiel,T/Biel 2001/EXT
2002 (32)

8.Nf3

8.g3 Bg7 9.Bg2 a6 10.Ne2 0-0 11.Be3 Nf6 12.d5 Nbd7 13.0-0+/- 1-0 Jonkman,H-
Galje,H/Haarlem 1998/EXT 99 (40);

8.Bd2 This seems too artificial! 8...Bg7 9.Bc3 0-0 10.Bd3 e5 11.d5 f5 12.Ne2 Qg5 13.Ng3 e4=/+
0-1 Gushuliak,J-Zinchenko,Y/Oropesa del Mar 1999/CBM 72 ext (38)

8...Bg7 9.Be2 0-0

9...Nc6 10.d5 Nxa5 11.Ra2 b6 12.b4 Nb7 13.Nd4 Qc7 14.0-0 Nf6 15.Na3 Bd7 ½-½ Treffert,P-
Siebenhaar,E/Germany 1991/GER-chT2 (15)

10.0-0 Nc6 11.d5 Nxa5

Again, taking the "poisoned" pawn.

12.Bd2

12.Ra2!? Qc7 13.Na3 b6 14.b4 Nb7 15.Nb5+/- ½-½ Schulze,U-Biehler,T/Germany 1989/GER-
chT2 (27)

12...b6 13.Bc3 Ne5 14.Nd4+/- Bd7 15.b3

15.Rxa5? Attractive, but erroneous. 15...bxa5 16.f4 Qb6 17.Kh1 Ng4

15...g5 16.Nd2+/-

White has plenty of compensation for the pawn.

16...Nb7 17.N2f3 h6 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.Nc6 Bxc6 20.dxc6 Na5 21.Bxe5 dxe5 22.Qxd8 Raxd8 23.Bf3 Rc8 24.Rfe1 Rc7 25.Re3 Rd8 26.g4 e6 27.c5 Rd4 28.Rxe5 Nxc6 29.cxb6 axb6 30.Rb5 Rf4 31.Rc1 Nd4 32.Rxc7 Nxb5 33.Rc8+ Kg7 34.Kg2 Rb4 35.Bd1 Nd4 36.Rc3 Kf6 37.Re3 Ke7 38.Kg3 Kd6 39.h4 gxh4+ 40.Kh3 f6 41.Rc3 f5 42.f3 fxg4+ 43.fxg4 Rb5 44.Kxh4 Re5 45.Bf3 Re1 46.Kh5 e5 47.Rd3 Kc5 48.Kxh6 e4 49.Bxe4 Rxe4 50.g5 Ne6 51.Kg6 Kb4 52.Kf5 Nxe5 53.Kxe5 b5 54.Kf5 Re1 55.Rd5 Re3 56.Kf4 Rxb3 57.Ke4 Rc3 58.Kd4 Rc8 59.Kd3 Ka4 60.Kd2 b4 61.Rd7 Ka3 62.Rb7 b3

0-1

Tate,Emory (2350) - Khmelnitsky,Igor N (2470) [B02]

Liberty Bell Open Philadelphia, PA (6), 2000

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 a5 5.d4 d6 6.exd6 Qxd6

Not likely the best move here. I prefer 6...exd6. However, I am trying to get him off his preparation.

7.c5 Qe6+ 8.Be2 Nd5 9.Nf3 g6 10.0-0 Bg7 11.Re1 0-0

Offering a pawn for some initiative.

12.Bc4 Qd7 13.Ne5

13.Bxd5 Qxd5 14.Rxe7 Nc6 15.Rxc7 Bg4 compensation

13...Qd8 14.Qb3 e6 15.Nc3



15...Nc6!!

Thanks for having this move! - otherwise my position is a wreck!

16.Nxc6

16.Nxd5 Nxd4 17.Qd3 exd5=/+

16.Nxf7 Rxf7 17.Nxd5 Nxd4 18.Qa2 Nc2-+

16...bxc6 unclear 17.Ne4 Ba6 18.Bxa6 Rxa6 19.Bg5 Qb8 20.Qd3 Ra7 21.Red1 Rb7

Time to start counterattack!

22.Bd2 Rxb2 23.Bxa5 Rd8 24.Bd2 Qb3 25.Bg5 Qxd3 26.Rxd3 Ra8 27.Rda3 Bxd4 28.Be3 Bxe3 29.fxe3 Ra5 30.Nf2 Nb4 31.Rc3 Rc2 32.Rxc2 Nxc2 33.Ra2 Nxe3 34.Ra3 Nd5 35.Nd3 f6 36.Kf2 e5 37.Nc1 Rxc5 38.Nb3 Rc3 39.a5 c5 40.a6 Nb6 41.a7 Na8 42.Ra2 Rxb3 43.Rd2 Kg7 44.Rd8 Nb6 45.Rd7+ Kh6 46.Rxc7 Ra3 47.h4 f5

0-1

Muzychuk,A (2256) - Petrenko,S (2348) [B02]

IEWCC Istanbul TUR (7), 10.06.2003

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.a4 a5 5.Ra3 d6

The most rational!

5...Nc6?! 6.d4 d6 7.e6?! (7.exd6) 7...fxe6 (7...Bxe6 Unlike in the "normal" Alekhine Defence lines, after 5.Ra3 Black has this option as well, because the Nb1 is not defended. 8.d5 Bf5 9.dxc6 Bxb1 10.cxb7 Rb8 11.c5 unclear) 8.Rg3 e5 9.d5 Nd4 10.Be3 Bf5 11.Bd3 Qd7 12.Bxd4 exd4 13.Ne2 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Qxa4 unclear 1-0 Tate,E-Herfel,M/Giessen 1991/GER (30)

5...d5!? 6.c5 Nc4 7.Bxc4 dxc4 8.d4 Bf5 9.Be3 Qd5 (9...Nc6 10.Nf3 Nb4) 10.f3 Nc6 11.Ne2 f6 1-0 Seiler,A-Reinemer,F/Cologne 1998/EXT 2000 (32)

6.exd6 exd6

6...cxd6 7.Rg3 g6 (7...Nc6 8.d4 Bf5 9.Na3 e5 10.d5 Ne7 11.Ne2 Nd7 12.Nc3 Nc5 13.Nab5 Bg6 14.h4 0-1 Doss,J-Weinberg,R/Dallas 1999/EXT 2002 (37)) 8.h4 h6 9.d4 Bf5 10.Nc3 Na6 11.Nh3 Rc8 12.Qf3 Rc7 13.Be2 Qc8 14.0-0 Bg7 15.h5 Bf6 16.hxg6 fxg6 17.c5 1-0 Lewis,J-Tamarkin,L/New York 1991/EXT 2000 (31)

7.d4 Nc6

7...Bf5!?

8.Rg3 Bf5 9.Na3 Nb4

9...Be7!? ...10.Rxg7 Bg6

10.Nf3 Qe7+ 11.Be3 g6 12.Be2 Bg7 13.0-0 0-0 14.Bg5 Qe4?!

Better is 14...Qd7

15.Re1 Rfe8 16.b3 h6 17.Bf1 Qc6 18.Be3= Re4?!

Black really likes this square. First it was her Q, now the R. Not sure what Black is trying to accomplish.

19.Qd2 Rae8 20.c5 dxc5 21.Bb5 Qe6 22.Bxe8 cxd4 23.Bxd4 Rxe1+ 24.Qxe1 Qxe1+ 25.Nxe1 Bxd4 compensation

White won the exchange, but hardly has any advantage because of the badly placed pieces, including the Rook.

26.Bb5 c6 27.Bf1 N6d5 28.Nc4 b6 29.Nd3 h5



29...Nxd3 30.Bxd3 Nf4 31.Bf1 (31.Bxf5 Ne2+ 32.Kf1 Nxg3+ 33.hxg3 gxf5 34.Nd6 Bc5 35.Nxf5 Kh7=) 31...g5

30.Nxb4 axb4 31.Nd6 Bc2 32.Rf3 f5 33.Bd3 Bd1 34.Rg3 Kh7 35.Bc4 Nf4 36.h4 Be2

36...Ne2+!? 37.Bxe2 Bxe2 compensation White Rook is still under arrest.

37.Bf7 Ba6 38.Rf3 Ne2+ 39.Kf1 Ng3+ 40.Ke1 Ne2 41.Bc4 Bxc4 42.Nxc4 Nc3 43.Rd3 Bc5 44.Ne5 Ne4 45.f3 Nf6 46.Nxc6 Kg7 47.Ne5 Ne8 48.Nd7 Be7 49.Nxb6 Bxh4+ 50.Ke2 Bg3 51.a5 Nc7 52.Rd7+ Kf8 53.Nd5 Na6 54.Ra7

1-0

	<p>An excellent introduction to the Alekhine Defence</p> <p>Alekhine's Defence is a sharp opening in which Black attacks from move one, provoking White into lunging forward in the centre. White is often able to construct an impressively large central pawn formation, but Black's hope is that this becomes over-stretched and disintegrates in the face of a vicious counterattack. Unsurprisingly, it has always been a favourite amongst uncompromising players such as Fischer and Alekhine himself, while more recently it's been utilised by the likes of Ivanchuk and Short. In this easy-to-read guide, openings expert John Cox goes back to basics, studying the essential principles of Alekhine's Defence and its numerous variations. Throughout the book there are an abundance of notes, tips and warnings to guide the improving player, while key strategies, ideas and tactics for both sides are clearly illustrated.</p> <p><i>192 pages, published by Everyman</i></p>
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