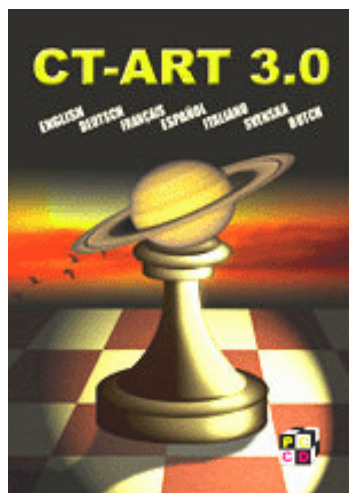




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Dadi Jonsson



## Opening Study with Rybka & Chess Openings 2006 Part Two

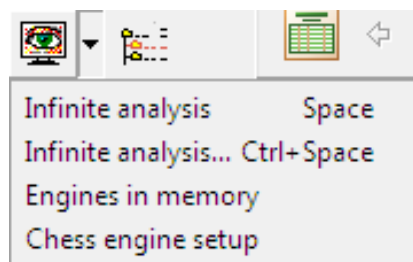
In last month's [column](#), I examined some of the powerful tools offered by *Rybka 2.2 UCI & Chess Openings 2006* for studying openings. This month I'll discuss how you can use Rybka to expand your theoretical knowledge base using your own moves and variations.

### Infinite Analysis with Rybka

It is an invaluable resource to be able to analyze an opening position with the strongest chess engine available. You can launch Rybka while viewing a game, in tree mode or while examining an opening table, any position that is displayed on the chessboard can be analyzed.



Infinite analysis means that the chess engine will analyze the current position until you direct it to stop. The toolbar has a special button for starting infinite analysis:



To analyze the current position with the default engine, just click directly on the infinite analysis button. If you want more options, click on the arrow to the right of the button to display the drop-down list shown above. The four options are:

- *Infinite analysis*: This is equivalent to clicking directly on the toolbar button.
- *Infinite analysis...*: This allows you to select a chess engine before starting the analysis.
- *Engines in memory*: Shows which chess engines have been loaded into memory and allows them to be removed.

**ChessCafe.com** is pleased to invite readers to a game of chess at Convekta's ChessOK Playing Zone!

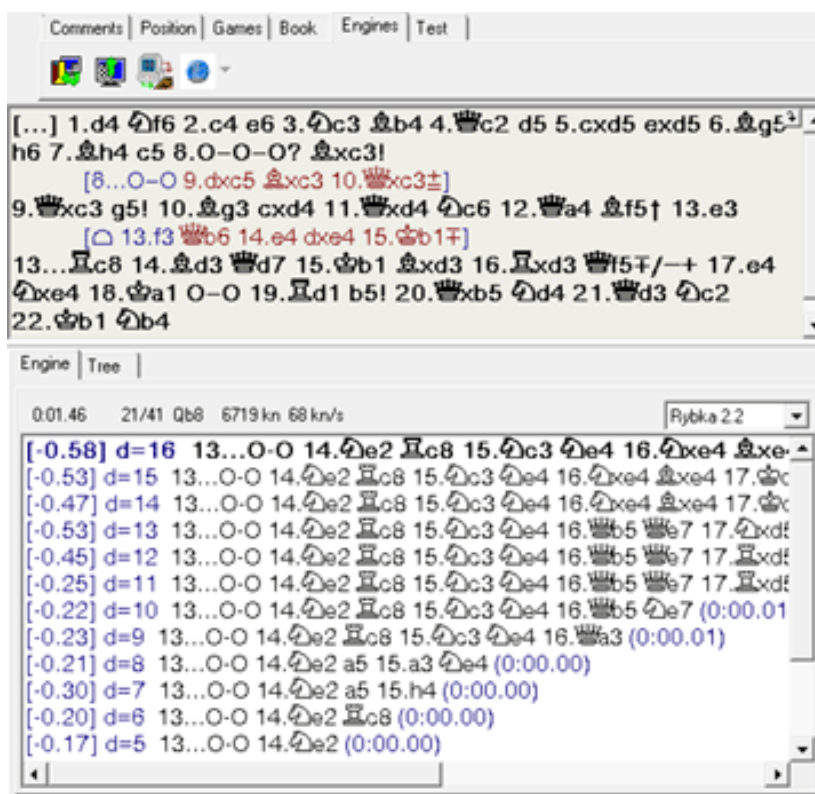


Click here for the [Flash](#) version or here to download and install the [Full](#) version.

- *Chess engine setup:* Allows you to install and configure new chess engines.

I recommend that you use the last option to increase the hash table size of the engine. In general, the bigger the hash table the better, as long as there is enough memory. If it is too big, there will be an increase of disk activity that will considerably slow down the analysis. To modify the hash table size and other engine parameters, select “Chess engine setup,” select an engine from the list and then click on the “Edit...” button.

If you click on the infinite analysis button while viewing a game, an analysis pane opens below the gamescore:



Each line in the analysis pane shows Rybka's evaluation of the position (in square brackets). Positive numbers mean that White has an advantage, but Rybka's evaluations are often quite conservative when compared to other chess engines. One of the options available in the “Chess engine setup” is to have Informator signs displayed in front of the evaluation; however, I prefer to have this option turned off. After the evaluation is the “depth” (ply) of the analysis; the lines are structured so that the newest and deepest analysis is always on top. Following this is the variation that Rybka has found and the time it took to reach this stage.

In the image, Rybka assigns a score of -0.58 to the position, meaning that Black has an advantage. The analysis has reached a depth of 16 ply and the best move is 13...O-O. Note that this move has been at the top of Rybka's list throughout the entire analysis. We can also see that it took Rybka only 1 second to reach a depth of 10 ply. Note that you can click on any of the lines and play through the

variation without disturbing the analysis.

The total analysis time (1 minute and 46 seconds) is displayed above the analysis window. To the right of that we see that Rybka is considering move number 21 (Qb8) of the 41 legal moves in the position and that a total of 6,719 thousand positions have been examined at a rate of 68,000 positions per second. Finally, the drop-down list on the right shows the name of the active chess engine.

As you go from one move to another in the game, using the mouse or the arrow keys, Rybka begins analyzing the new position. When you are done you can either save the analysis or discard it via the toolbar buttons displayed above the gamescore:

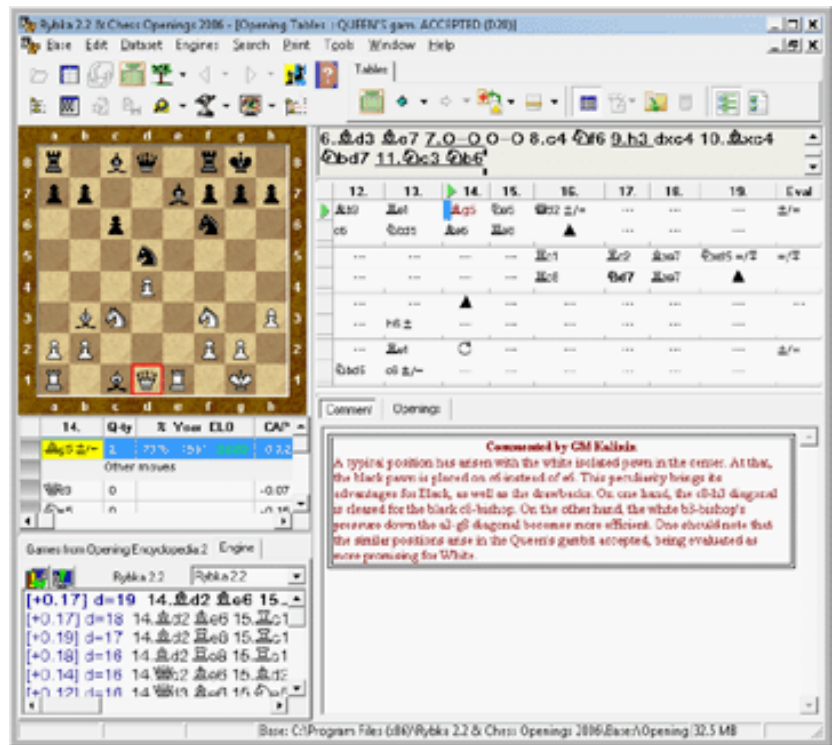


Clicking on the “Exit” button, on the far left, stops the analysis and discards the results. Next to that is the “Insert Analysis” button, which saves the analysis. In this case it would be saved as a variation in the game. The third button can be used at any time to switch to and from multi-variation mode. The “Freeze” button, on the far right, can be quite useful. If you click on it, the engine will continue analyzing the current position, even if you move the cursor to a different position in the game.

### Personalizing the Theoretical Material

*Rybka 2.2 UCI & Chess Openings 2006* contains theoretical recommendations for just about every opening. However, there may be several reasons why you would want to add new analysis to this comprehensive database, whether it’s to update a line or just to add your own thoughts about a particular opening. This is quite easy to do and your own analysis becomes integrated with the theoretical material. Yet it is stored separately, so that when *Chess Openings 2007* becomes available, you can upgrade and take advantage of all the new material, while still preserving your own analysis. Even so, I recommend regular backups of all important data, especially before an upgrade.

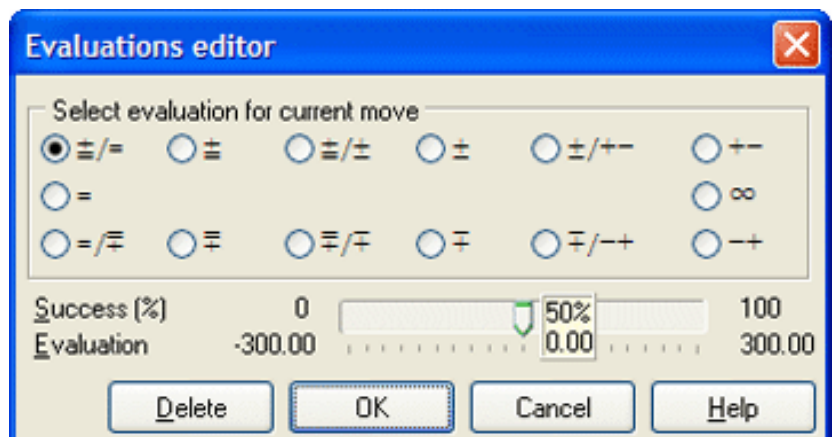
Let’s look at an example of how you can expand the theoretical material. The best way to do so is from the opening table view:



The above image shows an opening table view, which was explained in last month's [column](#). The diagram displays the position before White's 14<sup>th</sup> move in the first line of the table (see the blue cursor and the green triangles). The exit and insert analysis buttons are located at the top of the analysis pane. The bottom left of the image points up that analysis is in progress and that Rybka has analyzed to a depth of 19 ply. Analysis in opening table mode is begun by clicking on the infinite analysis button, just like when you are analyzing a game (see explanation above). Saving this analysis as a new variation is as simple as clicking on the insert analysis button. As a result, the variation from Rybka's analysis is added as a footnote to the opening table, under the "More lines" tab:



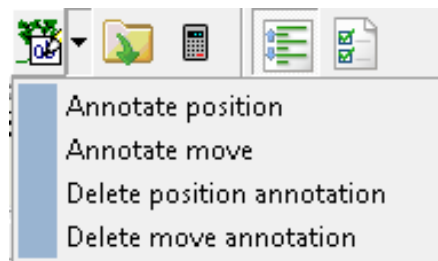
You can add an evaluation to this variation in two ways, either by using the keyboard (Ctrl+V) or by right-clicking on the variation to display a context menu.



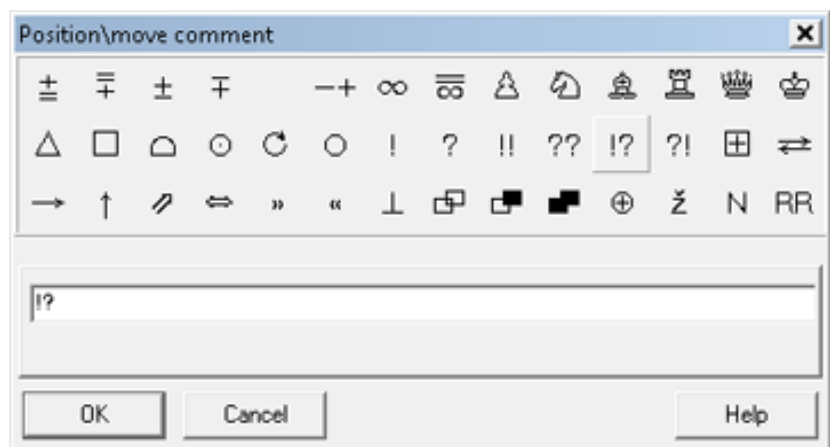
Here I have selected to evaluate the position as equal or slightly better for White. The evaluation is displayed at the beginning of the variation and the color red signifies that it was added by a user. You can add as many variations as you like. If you want to add more complicated analysis, you can right-click on it and select “Make the variation a table line”:

	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	Eval
	$\mathbb{A}b3$	$\mathbb{B}a1$	$\mathbb{G}g5$	$\mathbb{D}e5$	$\mathbb{F}d2 \pm/=$	...	...	...	$\pm/=$
	c6	$\mathbb{D}bd5$	$\mathbb{A}a6$	$\mathbb{B}a8$	▲	...	...	...	
	...	...	...	...	$\mathbb{B}c1$	$\mathbb{B}c2$	$\mathbb{A}xe7$	$\mathbb{D}xd5 =/+$	$=/+$
	...	...	...	...	$\mathbb{B}c6$	$\mathbb{D}d7$	$\mathbb{B}xe7$	▲	
	...	...	$\mathbb{A}d2$	$\mathbb{B}c1$	$\mathbb{D}e5$	$\mathbb{F}f3$	$\mathbb{B}od1$	$\mathbb{B}e2 \pm/=$	$\pm/=$
	...	...	$\mathbb{A}a6$	h6	$\mathbb{B}a8$	$\mathbb{A}d6$	$\mathbb{F}f7$	▲	

The variation suggested by Rybka has been inserted as the third line in the opening table, along with the evaluation we assigned to it. After this you can add sub-variations to this new line in the same way as described above. You can also annotate individual moves and positions of a table variation by using the “Annotation editor”:



These toolbar icons are located above the opening table. If you click directly on the annotation editor icon, it is equivalent to selecting “Annotate position” from the drop-down menu. Let’s select “Annotate move” and assign a “!?” symbol to the first move of this variation. Note that you can also add verbal commentary to both moves and positions.



Besides providing extensive theoretical material, *Rybka 2.2 UCI & Chess Openings 2006* gives you the opportunity to modify the material to suit your own needs. There are no practical limits to the volume or depth of analysis that the program can handle. I hope that these two columns will help you make the

most of the software, even though I have only managed to cover a small part of its functionality.

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All the Chess Assistant software described by Dadi in this column, as well as many more Chess Assistant programs, are available in the [USCFSales Online Catalog](#).

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***Dadi wants your questions!! Send it along and perhaps it will be answered in an upcoming column. Please include your name and country of residence. [Yes, I have a question for Dadi!](#)***

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