



## COLUMNISTS

**Checkpoint**

Carsten Hansen

**Reviewed this month:*****Tiger's Modern***

by Tiger Hillarp-Persson

***Budapest Gambit***

(CD-ROM) by Dmitrij Oleinikov

***Classical Nimzo-Indian 4 Qc2***

(CD-ROM) by Knut Neven

***ChessBase Magazine #108***

by Frederic Friedel, Rainer Knaak &amp; Andre Schulz

**Quality Counts**

This month we'll look at a variety of ChessBase CDs of somewhat differing quality, along with another release from Quality Chessbooks, namely *Tiger's Modern*, by Tiger Hillarp-Persson.

*Tiger's Modern* by Tiger Hillarp-Persson, Quality Chessbooks 2005, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Softcover, 216 pp., \$24.95

This book is the third release from Quality Chessbooks and the first from this particular author, who can best be described as one of today's most original grandmasters. His style cannot easily be defined, but he is fearless. Tiger, true to his name, pounces on his opponents, no matter who they are, with ferocious tactical play that captures them in a quagmire of complications until his strong teeth sink in for the kill. The focus of this CD is the author's interpretation of the Modern Defence: 1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7, 3...d6 and 4...a6 often followed by ...b5, ...Nd7 and ...c5. Here's a brief example from the book, where it's annotated in greater detail:

***Bromann-Hillarp-Persson***

Stockholm 2002

**1 d4 g6 2 e4 Bg7 3 Nc3 d6 4 Bg5 a6 5 a4!? h6! 6 Be3 b6 7 Nf3 e6 8 Qd2**

**Nd7 9 Bd3 Ne7 10 0-0 Bb7**

This position characterizes the Hippopotamus, which is an opening we will return to in a future column. Spoelman-Hort, Essent Open 2002 continued 1 e4 g6 2 d4 d6 3 Be3 Bg7 4 Nc3 a6 5 a4 b6 6 Qd2 Bb7 7 Bc4 Nd7 8 Nf3 e6 9 0-0 h6 10 Rfe1 Ne7 11 Rad1, and now comes the stunner: 11...Kf8, which is awarded a '!' by Tiger. The next few moves are equally remarkable: 12 Bd3 Kg8 13 Ne2 Nf6 14 Ng3 Qe8 15 Qb4 a5 16 Qa3 Rd8, and Black is doing reasonably well.

**11 Rfe1 g5****12 h3 Ng6?!**

Now Tiger prefers 12...Nf6! intending ...Nh5, ...Ng6 and ...Nh5-f4

**13 Ne2! Nf6 14 Ng3 0-0 15 c3 Qd7 16 Bc2 Rad8 17 Rad1 Qc8!? 18 Nh2 c5 19 Qe2 cxd4 20 Rxd4?! d5 21 Rb4! dxe4! 22 Nh5 Nd5! 23 Rc4 Qa8 24 Nxg7 Kxg7 25 Bxe4 Nxc3?**

Tiger writes that 25...Ndf4 would have been better and provides analysis to support it.

**26 bxc3? Bxe4 27 Bd4+ Rxd4! 28 Rxd4 Bxg2 29 Qg4 e5 30 Rb4 a5 31 Rxb6? Nf4 32 Nf3 Qxf3 33 Qxf3 Bxf3 34 Rxe5 Nxh3+ 35 Kh2 Nf4 36 Rxa5 Rd8 37 Rb1 Rd3 38 c4 Be4 0-1**

The contents of the book are divided as follows:

- Introduction (10 pages)
- **Variations where Black plays 4...a6**
- 1 f4 - Austrian Style (38 pages)
- 2 Flexible Dragon Unleashed - Be3 without Nf3 (20 pages)
- 3 Flexible Dragon Restrained - Be3 and Nf3 (20 pages)
- 4 The Hippopotamus (26 pages)
- 5 Classical Variation (14 pages)
- 6 Bg5 - Into Midair (8 pages)
- **Variations where Black does not play 4..a6**
- 7 Bc4 - Mad Dog (22 pages)
- 8 g3 - Fianchetto Variation (20 pages)
- 9 c3 - Lazy Variation (10 pages)
- 10 Unusual Lines (8 pages)
- **White plays c4**
- 11 Averbakh Variation (19 pages)
- Indexes (7 pages)

The material is constructed around 69 main games with the theoretical material in the notes, along with many other more or less complete games. Those who play 1 e4 will also be interested in this book because it provides some guidance on how to play the opening to get the most of White's position. Tiger is an excellent author; he's funny, passionate, and unbiased. Some are some examples:

*This idea of Ponomarev's is generally recommended by theory, but I find it rather second-rate. (page 45)*

*The most critical games are 4, 5, 9 and 13. If you feel comfortable ("thrilled" is a more realistic attitude that I have adopted myself) with the Black side in these games, then there is nothing to stop you from playing 4...a6. (page 52)*

*If you expect this chapter to be about a young orphaned boy who learns Kung Fu and takes on the world, you will be disappointed. This is more like the Invisible Man - leaving the knight on g8 and the king in the centre is really just a way of staying invisible, not showing the opponent your body or where to strike. (page 53)*

*The main lines with c5 (instead of a5) are quite playable, but also generally more sensitive and demand a higher level of accuracy from Black. I recommend that you do not decide in favour of just one of these set-ups, but be able to play both. A flexible mind is very important in the Flexible Variation. (page 91)*

While I have never really liked the Modern as black, I do like this book. Tiger has really put his heart into it and supplies the reader with tons of explanations, original analysis, and improvements over existing theory. Overall he gives you much more content than the average opening book. However, this makes the book less accessible to the average player, who may not have the patience or aptitude to understand the material. Yet, if you're willing to put forth the effort and if you like exciting chess and unusual positions with plenty of dynamic play, then this book will serve you well.

**My assessment of this book:** 

[Order](#) *Tiger's Modern*

by Tiger Hillarp-Persson

*Budapest Gambit* (CD-ROM) by Dmitrij Oleinikov, ChessBase GmbH 2005,  
Figurine Algebraic Notation, CD-ROM, \$29.95

The Budapest Gambit is not regularly seen in the games of the very best players in the world, but that hasn't stopped hordes of club players from sacrificing a pawn to unbalance their opponent. Besides in most cases you get the pawn right back anyway. The lines where White tries to hold onto the pawn or gain space have proven relatively harmless for Black, whereas the real threat lies in the boring positional set-ups that promise White a slight plus. Such an approach can be particularly annoying for Black, who tends to be looking for a little excitement.



The material is divided as follows:

- How to use this CD?
- 1. Introduction
- 2. Two birthdays
- 3. 1918: Test at the top
- 4. Under Fire!
- 5. White searching for +/-
- 6. Black fighting against +/-
- 7. Unforgettable season 1984/85
- 8. Opening tastes of the 90s
- 9. White attempts to hold the gambit pawn
- 10. The BG declined
- 11. Summary
- 12. The years 2000-2005
- 13. Useful additional information

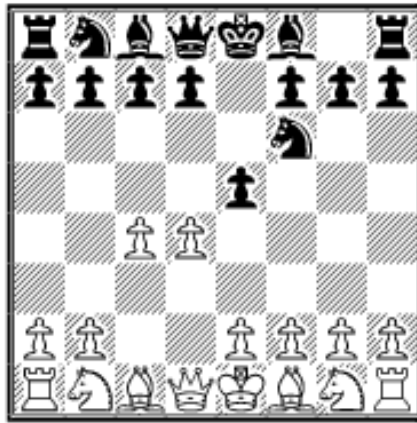
This certainly doesn't look like the average opening book, and it isn't. Oleinikov enthusiastically pours his heart into every chapter of this work and explains all the finesses of this opening. The reader is bound to benefit from this treatment; however, the theoretical coverage is very sparse at times. This is the only component that is somewhat neglected, so perhaps the editors at ChessBase should set certain criteria for theoretical content.

The introduction is very short and its only purpose seems to be to take us to the next chapter. The second and third chapters discuss the early days of the opening. They provide detailed annotations to the games of Maróczy, Breyer and others, mostly with prose and only a little analysis.

Chapter 4 discusses the sharp lines of the Budapest Gambit and the philosophy behind them as well as how they developed. Oddly enough the link from chapter 3 didn't work, but you can access this chapter everywhere else it's listed. Here's a game from this chapter:

***Gilg, Karl - Vajda, Arpad [A52]***  
Kecskemet 1927

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5**



3 dxe5 Ng4 4 e4 Nxe5 5 f4 Nec6 6 a3 a5

Black's usual reaction after a3 - if he wants to place (or hold) his bishop at c5. White can not play b2-b4. So reagiert Schwarz üblicherweise auf a3 - wenn er seinem Läufer das Feld c5 sichern möchte. Weiß kann nun nicht mit b2-b4 fortsetzen. 6...d6?! Another E.Steiner attempt to use a3 for speedy development. Black shows that he has

not only c5 and b4 for his bishop, but also e7 and g7 (after g7-g6). Ein weiterer Versuch von E.Steiner, a3 als Tempoverlust im Kampf um den Entwicklungsvorsprung nachzuweisen. Schwarz setzt darauf, daß er nicht nur die Felder c5 und b4 für die Entwicklung seines Läufers f8 zu Verfügung hat, sondern den Läufer auch nach e7 oder, nach....g7-g6, nach g7 stellen kann. 7 Nc3 (7 b4 Be7 8 Bb2 0-0 (8...Bh4+ 9 g3 Bf6 10 Nc3 0-0÷) 9 Nc3 f5 10 Qd5+ Kh8 11 e5? dxe5 12 fxe5 Nxe5 13 0-0-0 Nbd7 with a clear advantage for Black Vajda-Steiner, Budapest, 1926) 7...g6 8 Be3 Bg7 Schwarz hat das Feld d4 unter Kontrolle; der weitere Kampf gestaltet sich ähnlich dem in der königsindischen Verteidigung. with control over d4 and a struggle in a King's Indian style.; 6...Bc5!? 7 b4 Bxg1 8 Rxg1 Qh4+ 9 g3 Qxh2 10 Rg2 (10 Be3 Qb2 with the initiative) 10...Qh1 11 Nc3 d6 12 Be3 with the initiative.

### 7 Nc3 Bc5 8 Nd5 0-0 9 Bd3 d6 10 Qh5

The only target of White pieces is Black king. Threats e4-e5, Nf3-g5 look very unpleasant for Black. But Black has not to stay and wait for attack. Vajda improvement of Alekhine-Gilg game aimed against weak White center. Das einzige Ziel der weißen Figuren ist der schwarze König. Die Drohungen e4-e5 und Sg1-f3-g5 sehen unangenehm aus für Schwarz, doch der ist nicht verpflichtet, abzuwarten und dem Angriff hilflos zuzusehen. Vajdas Verbesserung der Partie Aljechin-Glik zielt auf das geschwächte weiße Zentrum.

### 10...Nd4!

Stressing the difference in the pawn structure. Black can attack the ♖d5 with c7-c6, but White can not do the same. Unterstreicht den grundsätzlichen Unterschied der Bauernstellungen: Während der schwarze Springer auf d4 von Bauern nicht belästigt werden kann, wird der weiße Springer d5 gleich vom schwarzen c-Bauern "befragt".

### 11 e5 g6 12 Qh6 dxe5 13 fxe5 Re8

Action in the center against flank attack! This game is a perfect example of that rule. Note the role of the pawn structure: White's center is undermined! Ein Angriff an einem Flügel wird mit einer Zentrumsattacke gekontert! In

dieser Partie wird dieses Postulat exemplarisch vorgeführt. Beachten Sie, welche Rolle die Bauernstruktur dabei spielt: das weiße Bauernzentrum wurde völlig unterminiert.

#### **14 Qf4**

An attempt to derive something from the position of the Nd5. Ein Versuch, aus der Stellung des Sd5 einen Nutzen zu ziehen.

#### **14...Nd7 15 Be3 Ne6**

Better than the immediate Besser als das sofortige 15...Nxe5 16 0–0–0.

#### **16 Qg3**

16 Nf6+ Nxf6 17 Qxf6 Qxd3.

#### **16...c6 17 Nc3 Nxe5!**

White still has no time to castle. Weiß findet immer noch nicht die Zeit zu rochieren.

#### **18 Qxe5 Nf4!**

18...Qxd3!? 19 Bxc5 f6! 20 Qe2 Qxe2+ 21 Ngxe2 Nxc5 22 0–0 with a clear advantage for Black.

#### **19 Qxf4 Bxe3 20 Qf1**

Do you remember the diagram with the pawn chain f4-e4-c4 and the green and yellow squares? Here the white pawns have been exchanged and Black's pieces have full space for action. Erinnern Sie sich an die Diagramme mit der Bauernformation c4, e4, f4 und den grünen und gelben Feldern? Die weißen Bauern sind verschwunden und Schwarz hat jeden Raum, den er für seine Figurenaktivität braucht.

#### **20...Bxg1+ 21 Kd2 Bd4 22 Rd1 Bg4 23 Re1 Rxe1 24 Qxe1 Bf5 25 Qg3 Bxd3 26 Qxd3 Qg5+ 0–1**

26...Qg5+ 27 Kc2 (27 Kd1 Rd8 28 Ne4 Qxg2–+) 27...Qxg2+ 28 Ne2 Qxh1–+.

I included the German text to demonstrate what you will be in for. I dislike the practice of presenting different languages side-by-side, because I'm constantly skimming over the text to see where one language ends and the other begins. Obviously mixing the text enables the publisher to release the product in multiple languages, but it isn't convenient for the reader.

Let's have a look at another, more recent game. The player with the black pieces

recently won the World Junior Championship.

***Van Wely,Loek (2681) - Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar (2660) [A52]***  
Cto. Espana Equipos (1a Div) Ciudad Real (4), 26.08.2004

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 Ng4 4 Bf4 g5 5 Bg3 Bg7 6 e3**

6 Nf3 Nc6 7 h4 is the only NCO line, but the response ist das einzige NCO-Abspiel, aber die Erwiderung 7...h6 known to the reader from the Frey-Backonyi game is neglected there. , dem Leser bekannt aus der Partie Frey-Backonyi, wird dort vernachlässigt.(7...Ngxe5 is also playable: ist ebenfalls spielbar: 8 Nxe5 Nxe5 9 e3 (9 hxg5 Nxc4 10 Nc3 Qxg5 unclear; 9 c5 g4 unclear) 9...g4= ECO, Bareev ECO, Bareev).

**6...Nxe5 7 Nc3 d6 8 h4 g4**

8...h6 is also possible. ist auch möglich.

**9 Nge2**

Typical knight route. This knight manoeuvre explains why White avoided an early Nf3. Typische Springeroute. Dieses Springer-Manöver erklärt, warum Weiß ein frühes Sf3 vermieden hat.

**9...Nbc6**

9...Nxc4 10 Qa4+.

**10 Nf4**

Aiming to move to h5. mit Blickrichtung h5.

**10...h5!**

This far advanced pawn duo looks weak, but Black will find a way to demonstrate the opposite. Dieses weit vorgerückte Bauernduo sieht schwach aus, aber Schwarz wird einen Weg finden, das Gegenteil zu demonstrieren.

**11 Ncd5 Ne7 12 Nxe7 Qxe7 13 Qc2 Be6 14 Rc1**

14 Be2 0-0-0 15 0-0-0= is GM Flear's recommendation. ist die Empfehlung von GM Flear.

**14...0-0-0**

finishing opening development according to the plan. schließt plangemäß die Eröffnungsentwicklung ab.

**15 Be2 Kb8 16 b4**

White's king looks safe and that fact gives Van Wely the chance for a £-side pawn storm. Der weiße König wirkt sicher, und diese Tatsache gibt Van Wely die Chance zu einem Bauernsturm am Damenflügel.

**16...Ng6**

In response Black tries a pawn sacrifice. Schwarz reagiert mit einem Bauernopfer.

**17 Nxf6 fxf6 18 Qxf6**

18 c5 d5.

**18...Be5**

This is the idea: to soften up White's position around his king and get counterchances. Das ist die Idee: die weiße Königsstellung soll aufgeweicht werden, um Gegenchancen zu erlangen.

**19 Bxe5 dxe5 20 a3 Rhg8 21 Qc2**

21 Qxh5? Qf6 trapping the queen. und die weiße Dame ist gefangen.

**21...g3!**

This is the point: the dark squares around White's king become weak and the h4-pawn cannot be protected well. Die Pointe: die dunklen Felder um den weißen König werden schwach, und der Bauer h4 lässt sich nicht gut decken.

**22 f3 Qf6 23 Qc3 Qf5 24 Qc2**

Maybe here White has to continue his pawn storm with Vielleicht muss hier Weiß seinen Bauernsturm fortsetzen: 24 c5 e4 (with counterplay).

**24...Qf6 25 Bd3 Rg4!**

It looks like that this tactical strike was missed by Van Wely. Dieser taktische Schlag wurde offenbar von Van Wely übersehen.

**26 Qc3**

Critical was Kritisch war 26 fxf6 Rxd3! 27 Rf1! (27 Qxd3 Qf2+ 28 Kd1 Bxf6+ 29 Qe2 Qxe2#) 27...Qd8! (27...Rxe3+ and Black's attack looks dangerous, but in the line und der schwarze Angriff sieht gefährlich aus, doch im Abspiel 28 Kd2 Qd8+ 29 Kxe3 Qd4+ 30 Kf3 Qf4+ (30...Qxf6+ 31



Ke3 Qd4+ 32 Kf3 Qf4+ 33 Ke2 Bg4+ 34 Rf3 is the same ist dasselbe) 31 Ke2 Bxg4+ 32 Rf3 e4 33 Qc3 exf3+ 34 gxf3 Be6 35 Qe3 White is not worse. steht Weiß nicht schlechter.) 28 Rf3 Bxg4 29 Rxd3 Rxa3 30 b5 Qxh4 -/+.

**26...Rxd4 27 Rg1 Rh2 28 Rd1 Bh3**

28...h4!?

**29 Rd2**

29 gxf3 Qxf3 wins. und gewinnt.

**29...h4 30 Be4 Rxd2 31 Qxd2 Bc8 32 Qd5 Qh6 33 Ke2 h3**

The triumph of the opening plan. The far advanced king-side pawns seemed to be weak, but look at them now! Der Triumph des Eröffnungsplans. Die weit vorgerückten Königsflügelbauern wirkten zuerst schwach, aber man schaue sie sich jetzt an!

**34 Qg8 Rxd2+ 35 Rxd2 hxd2 36 Bf5**

This pin looks dangerous, but the g-pawns, even doubled, outweigh it in the scales of assessment. Diese Fesselung sieht gefährlich aus, schwerer in der Bewertung aber wiegen die g-Bauern, obwohl oder gerade weil sie verdoppelt sind.

**36...a6 37 Qxc8+ Ka7 38 Be4 Qb6**

38...c6 39 Bxc6 Qxc6—+.

**39 c5 Qb5+ 40 Bd3 Qc6 41 Be4 Qb5+ 42 Bd3 g1N+**

Underpromotion!! Unterverwandlung!!

**43 Kd2 Qc6**

43...Nxf3+ 44 Ke2 Ng1+ 45 Kd2 Qc6 and Black has the game position, but without the f3-pawn. und Schwarz hat die Partiestellung, aber ohne den Bauern f3.


**44 Qg4 Qxf3 45 Qg7 g2 46 Qxc7 Qc6 47 Qxc6 bxc6 48 Be4**

The last hope... Die letzte Hoffnung...

**48...Nf3+ 0-1**

The CD includes a database with approximately 13,000 games, along with training

databases designed to allow you to quickly put the opening into action. This is a very nice product, which I'm sure Budapest aficionados will enjoy, even if it is somewhat lacking in the theoretical department.

**My assessment of this CD:** 

**Order *Budapest Gambit***  
(CD-ROM) by Dmitrij Oleinikov

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*Classical Nimzo-Indian 4 Qc2* (CD-ROM) by Knut Neven, ChessBase GmbH, Figurine Algebraic Notation, CD-ROM, \$32.95

The classical Nimzo-Indian, also known as the Capablanca Variation, arises after 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Qc2. It became high fashion in the late 1980s and early 1990 with the adoption of the line by Kasparov, Karpov and several other players. However, it has largely been ignored by the publishers, so practitioners on either side of this line will embrace this work, and rightfully so.




The author has written a number of ChessBase CDs in the past, and this looks like one of his better efforts. It starts off with a relatively pedestrian introduction, but the historical walk-through of the opening is well-written with many annotated games linked in. The same goes for the "Themes" section which discusses subjects such as the advantage of the bishop pair, placement of minor pieces, the Ne4/Nd5 tactical trick, central pawn structures, and pressure against c4. These are all relevant topics and I'm pleased to note that all of the games are annotated as well, some of them quite thoroughly and instructively at that.

Next follows a theoretical introduction detailing what each of the 18 chapters cover. In most of these the majority of the games linked to the database texts are annotated, some lightly and others in much more detail. More than 100 are annotated by Neven and he does an excellent job. Yet, other games include material from *ChessBase Magazine* and *Chess Informant*, and it's often unclear as to who wrote what. One wonders whether Neven only assembled such material rather than authored it.

There is a good balance of new and old material; however, a greater effort could have been made to include more new material. There is only one annotated game from 2005 in the database and it is Neven's own. Hundreds of recent games played by the top players could have been included. For example, Kasparov's game against Adams from Linares 2005; yet the only reference to this line is a game from 1973. This is problematic.

Overall I like this product, but it lacks the up-to-the-minute information that should

be one of the strengths of a CD-ROM when compared to a traditional book.

**My assessment of this CD:** 

**Order *Classical Nimzo-Indian 4 Qc2***  
(CD-ROM) by Knut Neven

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*ChessBase Magazine #108* (CD-ROM) by Frederic Friedel (ed.), Publisher: ChessBase GmbH, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Six issues per year, English & German Language, \$22.95

Upon its arrival it may seem that ChessBase Magazine is only 26 pages long. However, the printed pamphlet is essentially just a preview of the vast amount of material contained on the CD. The most recent issue, #108, is typical in that it consists of the following elements:

Main Database - there are a total of 1,923 games of which 497 are annotated by a variety of strong grandmasters from the ChessBase staff. These include: Atlas, Dautov, Ftacnik, Huzman, Lutz, Marin, Psakhis, Ribli, and Stohl among others. There are many other strong contributors to each issue and this adds to the flavor of the product. However, the flavor also includes sometimes flawed, broken English which is anything but easy on the eye and ear. Still, top games annotated by top players are something that almost anyone will learn from.



Multimedia reports - the Dortmund tournament is featured in the multi-media section, which includes film footage of some of the players annotating their games, interviews and other goodies. The CD has all the games from the tournament, 30 of which are annotated by strong grandmasters.

Demo - this section contains previews of recently released and future products from ChessBase.

Endgame - The endgame section is hosted by German grandmaster Karsten Müller. In this issue there is an overview of 13 examples in the printed pamphlet and then 38 examples of endgames from the main database on the CD.

Fritz-Forum - this section contains the games from the Computer Chess World Championship that took place in Reykjavik, Iceland and was won by Anthony Cozzie's computer program Zappa.

History - the noted chess historian Johannes Fischer discusses the 1960 Leipzig Chess Olympiad.

Strategy - this section alone is worth the price of the CD. It is hosted by Peter Wells and he always finds interesting and instructive examples to bring to light. In this issue he discusses the d5-break in the Sicilian, including both practical and psychological elements in his presentation.

Tactics - this section, hosted by Valeri Atlas, is also one worth studying. In this issue he examines games that were mostly decided by nice mating combinations.

ICCF Telechess - The correspondence chess section features 1,797 games, some of which are annotated. The games were all played via post, email, webserver, etc.

Theory – There are seven theoretical surveys in this issue: A63 - Benoni Fianchetto Variation; B33 - Sveshnikov Sicilian; B90 - Sicilian Najdorf; C10 - French 3...dxe4; C40 - Elephant Gambit; C83 - Open Ruy Lopez; and D39 - Vienna Variation in the Queen's Gambit.

ChessBase magazine is worth every penny that it costs. Just try one issue and you'll be hooked.

**My assessment of this book:** 

**[Order](#) *ChessBase Magazine #108***

by Frederic Friedel, Rainer Knaak & Andre Schulz

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