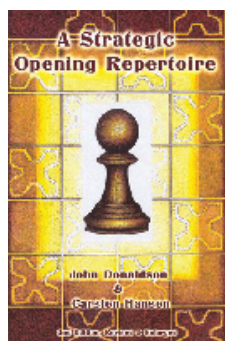




## COLUMNISTS

## Checkpoint

Carsten Hansen



## Rating Chart

- ♦ – A poor book
- ♦♦ – Not very good
- ♦♦♦ – A useful book
- ♦♦♦♦ – A good book
- ♦♦♦♦♦ – An excellent book

## CHESS THEATRE

Play through and download the games from [ChessCafe.com](http://ChessCafe.com) in the [DGT Game Viewer](#).

[The Complete DGT Product Line](#)

## Reviewed this month:

*Beat the KID*

by Jan Markos

*Starting Out: d-pawn Attacks*

by Richard Palliser

*Fighting the Anti-King's Indians*

by Yelena Dembo

## En Passant

*The ABC of the Anti-Dutch (DVD)*

by Andrew Martin

*The ABC of the Leningrad Dutch (DVD)*

by Andrew Martin

## Anti-Up

What do you call a repertoire for Black against the Anti-King's Indian? I would think it to be an anti-anti-King's Indian. Anyway, such a book is on our agenda this month, as Greek IM Yelena Dembo offers a way to fight these openings. Meanwhile, English IM Richard Palliser writes about some of the very openings that Dembo professes to fight; whereas Slovakian GM Jan Markos presents a manual on how to beat the King's Indian in three different main lines. We'll also take a quick look at two of IM Andrew Martin's most recent DVDs, both dealing with the Dutch from Black's perspective.

*Beat the KID* by Jan Markos, Quality Chess 2008, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 197pp., \$29.95

One of Slovakia's top players, GM Jan Markos is twenty-three years old and has a current rating of 2577. In *Beat the KID* he examines three opening variations that, in his opinion, offer White excellent chances of success against the King's Indian Defense, aka the "KID." He opens the book as follows:

"I am not an experienced chess author. However, I am a very passionate reader of chess books. When I was thirteen, I read Averbakh's entire course on endings, and I read it with pleasure (frankly, my parents were not especially happy about that.) And I am a reasonably strong practical player.



Check out these bestselling titles from [USCFSales.com](http://USCFSales.com):

*Danish Dynamite*

by Karsten Müller &amp; Martin Voigt

*The Fearsome Four**Pawns Attack*

by Jerzy Konikowski &amp; Marek Soszynski

Read an excerpt [here](#).

*The Modern Morra**Gambit*

by Hannes Langrock

"The book was written to serve both practical and 'unpractical' chessplayers. It was written to meet the expectations of those who seek useful advice, but it is also written for those who are looking for beauty

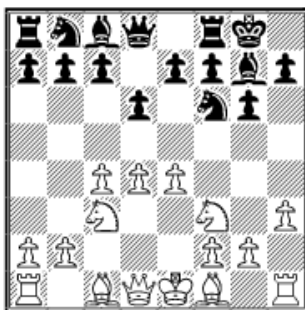
an entertainment in chess. Therefore do not be surprised to find a diagram attached to some completely unimportant sub-line: I have never been able to resist the temptation to highlight a unique chess moment.

“This is a book on a specific opening. From such a book two conflicting qualities are demanded. On the one hand, it should be crammed with exhaustive and reliable information, which is easy to find if needed. On the other hand, it should be structured and intelligible enough to be read from cover to cover like a novel. I was trying to find a compromise between these two demands, although I have to admit that I am a fan of elegant, easy-to-read chess books.”

The material is divided as follows:

- Key to symbols used & Bibliography (1 page)
- Foreword – what can be found in this book (2 pages)
- Introduction to the King’s Indian Defence (6 pages)
- Part 1 – The Krasenkow Variation (2 pages)
- Introduction – The Art of Prophylaxis (4 pages)
- Chapters 1-5 (38 pages)
- Conclusion to part 1 (2 pages)
- Part 2 – The Bayonet Variation (2 pages)
- Introduction – An Open Fight (2 pages)
- Chapters 6-13 (62 pages)
- Conclusion to part 2 (2 pages)
- Part 3 – The Classical Variation (2 pages)
- Introduction – Back to the Roots (4 pages)
- Chapters 14-18 (44 pages)
- Conclusion to part 3 (2 pages)
- Epilogue – Sixth and Seventh Move Alternatives (2 pages)
- Chapter 19 – Tying Up Loose Ends (15 pages)
- Index of Annotated Games (1 page)
- Index of Variations (6 pages)

The three lines covered in this volume are the Krasenkow Variation: 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 h3



The Bayonet Variation: 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 b4



The Classical Variation: 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 Ne1

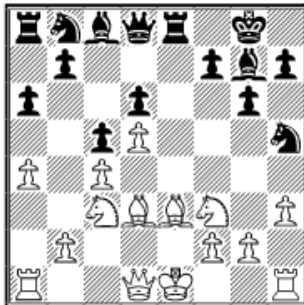


According to Markos, the first variation was only used occasionally by top players until Krasenkow took it up in the early 1990s and made it a powerful weapon. Krasenkow employed the line in more than seventy games and at one point he was rated over 2700, so his opening ideas should definitely be given due consideration. As you can see from the above list of contents, the author has devoted five theoretical chapters to this line.

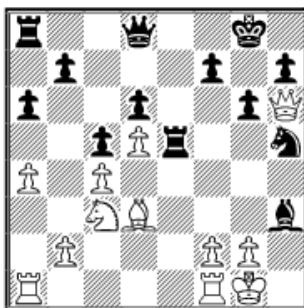
The first of these theoretical chapters is called The Modern Benoni Structure. However, this is a slight misnomer, because the line chosen by Markos: 6...c5 7 d5 e6 8 Bd3 exd5 9 exd5 isn't a Modern Benoni structure, but simply a Benoni structure. I thoroughly investigated this line as a young player, and I have to say that I found the coverage disappointingly sparse. Aside from the option of 7...b5, in the line after 9 exd5, he only covers 9...Re8+ 10 Be3 Bh6 and 10...Bf5. The former of the two moves is dealt with mostly through explanations to a well-chosen game, but with almost no other game examples; whereas the latter move is only covered through one game from 1990. Yet several other tenth move alternatives for Black aren't mentioned at all, such as 10...b5, 10...Na6, 10...Nbd7 and particularly 10...Nh5. The latter in particular carries a bit of a punch if White isn't careful, as evidenced by the following game:

**Vladimirov, Evgeny (2525) - Tal, Mihail (2630)**  
URS Cup rapid Tallinn 1988 [E90]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.e4 0-0 6.Nf3 d6 7.h3 a6 8.a4 e6 9. Bd3 exd5 10.exd5 Re8+ 11.Be3 Nh5**



**12.0-0 Nd7 13.Qd2 Ne5 14.Nxe5 Rxe5 15.Bh6 Bxh6 16.Qxh6 Bxh3**



**17.gxh3 Qh4 18.Kh2 Rg5 19.Ne2 Re8 20.Rae1 Rxe2 21.Bxe2 Qf4+ 22.**

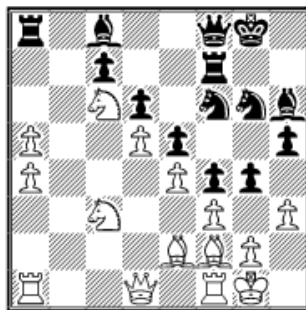
Kh1 Qe4+ 23.f3 Qh4 24.Qxg5 Qxg5 25.Rg1 Qd2 26.Kg2 Nf4+ 27.Kf1  
 Nxh3 28.Rg4 h5 29.Re4 Qg5 30.Bd1 Qg1+ 31.Ke2 Qf2+ 32.Kd3 Qxb2  
 0-1

Granted, 7...a6 8 a4 has been inserted, but this continuation is dismissed by Markos without giving any further moves and the above line can be played without 7...a6, but ...Nh5 is not covered in either version. It often seems like the author is keeping information from us, such as the comment on page 52, where Black plays a move that Markos admits to being much better than the main line. He writes, "To be honest, I haven't found any advantage for White after 11...Nb6, but White might try 12 h4 or 12 Be3." If he wants us to "Beat the KID," he needs to do better than this!

The Bayonet Variation has been very popular since the mid-1990s. Apparently when, after 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 b4 Nh5, Sokolov introduced the rather obvious 10 Re1, allowing White to meet the idea ...Nf4 with Bf1, it sparked new interest in this line. In contrast to the previous section, the chapters on this variation are infinitely more detailed and better written. However, Markos still has a tendency to leave a few loose ends, such as when he points out an improvement for Black, but offers nothing for White to counter it.

The chapters on the Classical Variation are the best of the book. There are plenty of insights in the theory and in the prose, where Markos explains the ideas behind the various moves as well as the strategic motifs. In the introduction to the Classical Variation, or the "Kortchnoi" as Markos calls it, he postulates as to why this line isn't very popular. He first suggests that people "loathe having their king under strong attack. However, many of them do not know that even in the 9.Ne1 line there are safe sub-systems with a very positional character." The second part of his argument pertains to the use of computers in preparation, in that computers cannot accurately evaluate the positions because of the closed pawn structure. Markos presents the following example:

***Kortchnoi-Kasparov, Amsterdam 1991***  
**Position after Black's 22...Qf8**



Markos: "You would barely find a computer program which evaluates this position as better for Black. I have conducted a small test using Rybka 3.0. After working the entire night (!) its evaluation was += [small advantage for White]. However, Kasparov claims that White is already much worse, and he is probably right. Black's attack on the kingside is very strong and is especially difficult to face in a practical game. Kortchnoi lost in just a few moves without committing any serious mistake. Apparently, the computer is wrong. Why? Because it was comparing the incomparable: White's material advantage on the queenside and Black's attacking prospects on the other side of the board. It does not understand that the e4-pawn can't help the white king to survive." This, of course, leaves you wondering why so few top players consistently employ the King's Indian as black.

Overall, this is a decent book, but it is definitely has a few flaws. The point of buying an opening book is to have someone do the hard work for

you, by sifting through the relevant material and then explaining the basic ideas and motifs with a fair share of author input. If the author claims to assist you in beating the relevant opening, he must be prepared to deliver a lot more ideas in critical positions, so that you can get the upper hand against opposition that is also familiar with theory. However, in many cases Markos leaves the reader hanging. Even if an author cannot prove an advantage, which will often be the case, then he should at least analyze the position in order to fully prepare the reader. Of course, the reader should always analyze things for themselves to become familiar with the position in question and enhance their overall understanding of the game.

**My assessment of this book:** ♦♦♦♦

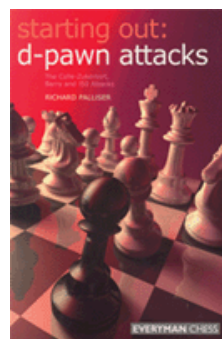
***Beat the KID***

by Jan Markos

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*Starting Out: d-pawn Attacks* by Richard Palliser, Everyman Chess 2008, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 272pp., \$24.95

By my count this is IM Palliser's sixteenth book. Not only is his productivity amazing, but his books normally range from very good to outright fantastic. In the present volume he deals with three different openings: the Colle-Zukertort (with b2-b3), the Barry Attack (1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Bf4) and the 150 Attack (1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Be3 0-0 6 Qd2). None of these openings enjoy a particular great reputation, but they should not be underestimated either. They are fairly decent lines that can carry quite a punch, especially if Black is unwary.



The material is divided as follows:

- Bibliography (1 page)
- Introduction (4 pages)
- The Colle-Zukertort against ...Be7 set-ups (43 pages)
- The Colle-Zukertort against ...Bd6 set-ups (59 pages)
- Other Defences to the Colle-Zukertort (29 pages)
- The Colle Queen's Indian (49 pages)
- The Barry Attack (25 pages)
- The Main Line Barry (32 pages)
- The 150 Attack (21 pages)
- Index of Variations (4 pages)
- Index of Complete Games (2 pages)

The book provides very decent coverage of the three openings, but the Colle-Zukertort chapters are clearly the centerpiece in this volume. In comparison, the material on the Barry and 150 Attack, particularly the latter, seems like filler material. Nevertheless, for a book in the *Starting Out* series, there is plenty of original material and good insights, both analytically and in the explanatory prose.

If you play these openings with white, you should seriously consider buying this volume, even if you are beyond its target audience in terms of rating. It has explanations that will help lower-rated players, but it also presents enough theory and original analysis to satisfy players rated as high as 2200. This is yet another good work by Palliser.

**My assessment of this book:** ♦♦♦♦

**Order *Starting Out: d-pawn Attacks***

by Richard Palliser

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*Fighting the Anti-King's Indians* by Yelena Dembo, Everyman Chess  
2008, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Paperback, 206pp., \$24.95

For anyone who enjoys playing an Indian opening, such as the Nimzo-Indian, Queen's Indian, King's Indian or Grünfeld, the so-called Anti-Indians are an enormous nuisance. To my mind there is something akin to unsportsmanlike conduct in such anti-chess! The back-cover tells us the following:



“I love playing the King's Indian, but no-one ever allows me to reach my favourite opening!’ Does this sound like an all too familiar complaint? The answer to this problem lies here.

“The truth is you will reach your favourite opening in barely half the games you play against 1 d4, and that's why this book is godsend to those players fed up with blindly searching for the right way to play against these annoying White systems designed to avoid the main lines: the Trompowsky, the London System, the Torre Attack, the Barry Attack; the Colle System; the Veresov; the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit – the list goes on and on!

“Yelena Dembo who as a hardened King's Indian and Grünfeld player has considerable experience facing these irritating openings, deals with them in no uncertain terms, in each case offering Black a no-nonsense solution that enables you to face the future with confidence.”

That sure sounds promising. Yet for a book that professes to deal with all these openings effectively, it is a fairly slim volume. The material is divided as follows:

- Bibliography
- Preface
- The Trompowsky (38 pages)
- The Veresov (20 pages)
- The Barry Attack (19 pages)
- The London System (12 pages)
- The Torre Attack (26 pages)
- The Colle System (9 pages)
- A Kingside Fianchetto vs. the King's Indian (22 pages)
- A Kingside Fianchetto vs. the Grünfeld (8 pages)
- The Blackmar-Diemer Gambit (6 pages)
- Various Second Moves (11 pages)
- Fianchettoing against the English (6 pages)
- The English King's Indian (19 pages)
- Index of Variations (3 pages)

The pages assigned for each chapter seems about right, the Trompowsky is probably the most popular Anti-Indian weapon out there and it gets the most space. Dembo has chosen one of the lines, 2...c5, that carries the largest burdens in regards to theory to counter it. This may seem a little contradictory in a volume like this, but it is the best line against the Trompowsky, and therefore she gets a plus in my book.

I compared this title to the one by Palliser above when their paths intersected, and I must say that Dembo leaves a good impression. In several cases she “out-prepares” potential readers of the Palliser book by using recommendations that aren't fully covered or, in some cases, not even mentioned by Palliser.

Overall, I'm very impressed with this volume, except that chapter 11 is

disappointing for black players of the Grünfeld against an English set-up. Her concluding comments, after 1 c4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 Nc3 d5, say it all: “4 Qa4+ is not quite the end of the world for the Grünfeld player, but it does require some work on Black’s part. [CH: no working plan has really been mentioned anywhere in the chapter, so you’re on your own here] Also quite annoying for Black from both an objective and a practical perspective is 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 Qa4+. This explains why I have chosen not to supply full theoretical coverage here [CH: This seems contradictory] I’m afraid that there is no simple or ideal solution for the Grünfeld player against 1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4! The Grünfeld fanatic may be happy to further explore the variations I have supplied an overview of, but I would suggest instead treating the English as a serious opening in its own right and devoting a decent amount of time to the study of its various branches.” Well, isn’t that a kick in the face for black players.

Still, there is an impressive amount of original material in this volume. The author has gone out of her way to present new moves, which are often supported by additional analysis. The ideas vary in strength from reasonable substitutions to clear improvements over existing theory. I wholeheartedly recommended this book to anyone who answers 1 d4 with 1...Nf6.

**My assessment of this book:** ♦♦♦♦

**Order *Fighting the Anti-King’s Indians***  
by Yelena Dembo

*The ABC of the Anti-Dutch* (DVD) by Andrew Martin, ChessBase GmbH 2008, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Playing time: approx. 3 hours 10 minutes, \$39.95

In many ways this DVD can be considered as a companion to the one on the Leningrad Dutch (reviewed below), although I find this one to be a better product and better value for money. Moreover, you can use this product even if you don’t play the Leningrad Dutch.



The material is divided as follows:

- Intro
- Staunton (10 segments)
- 2 Nc3 (2 segments)
- 2 Bg5 (2 segments)
- 2 g4 (2 segments)
- 2 h3 (1 segment)
- 2 Qd3 (1 segment)
- 2 e3 (1 segment)
- Anti-Dutch Extra (2 segments)
- Outro

In traditional Martin style, with a good amount of theoretical coverage, plenty of talk, interesting ideas, and some surprising choices, this DVD covers the most important Anti-Dutch lines from Black’s perspective. It is yet another example of the anti-anti philosophy. For players rated up to around 1900, this product will provide intelligent material and good instruction on how to meet White’s various attempts at throwing everything but the kitchen sink at Black from the outset of the game.

I enjoyed this DVD and recommend it to aspiring Dutch players.

**My assessment of this DVD:** ♦♦♦♦

## [Order](#) *ABC of the Anti-Dutch*

by Andrew Martin

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*The ABC of the Leningrad Dutch* (DVD) by Andrew Martin, ChessBase GmbH 2008, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Playing time: approx. 4 hours 10 minutes, \$39.95

While I have found many of Martin's DVDs to be very well done, this is definitely one of his weaker performances. Before continuing, let's just remind ourselves that the Leningrad Dutch is 1 d4 f5 2...g6 3...Bg7 and 4...Nf6 or some other move order arriving at this position.

The material is divided as follows:

- Intro
- Inspiring Game 1-3
- White's Strategic ideas
- Black's Strategic Ideas
- Theory Segments (19 in total)
- Outro



At first glance, the total of twenty-six segments and a reasonably long playing time bodes well. Martin's game selection is good; he nearly always comes up with instructive examples to illustrate his point. Although his bias for the side that he is presenting is sometimes so overwhelming that any case for objectivity is lost by the wayside.

My main problem with this DVD is the almost complete lack of sufficient analysis of the games. It is mostly talk, with very few pieces of analysis inserted here and there. Indeed, in some of the positions, it seems like he is considering the position for the very first time. He misses the best continuations or talks about moves and ideas that very few people would seriously consider.

While he does make a case for the solid 7...c6 line in the Leningrad, he misses some of the more important sidelines, such as 1 d4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 g6 4 c4 Bg7 5 Nc3 d6 6 Nh3 0-0 7 d5, which isn't mentioned at all. One could argue that such a line would hardly be considered by opponents of someone watching a DVD named "The ABC of...", but, when compared with some of the other lines that are included, there is no excuse for its omission.

The target audience for this series is up to 1700 or so, but this DVD misses the mark by some distance.

**My assessment of this DVD:** ❖❖❖

[Order](#) *The ABC of the Leningrad Dutch*

by Andrew Martin

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