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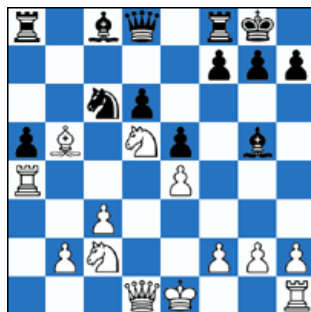
Sicilian Defense: Lasker/Sveshnikov Variation B33

Milan Bjelajac

The Informant database contains hundreds of thousands of annotated games and the Lasker/Sveshnikov variation of the Sicilian Defense [B33] can be found in 1,521 of them. Formerly known as the Lasker-Pelikan Variation, this opening enjoyed a resurgence of popularity because of the efforts of GM Sveshnikov in the 1970s. Top players such as Kasparov, Anand, Kramnik, Topalov, Ivanchuk, Shirov, and Leko have all had this powerful weapon for Black in their repertoire. With its increase in popularity there has been an increase of theoretical material; however, there is still plenty to be said. It is our pleasure to present just a small part of a very popular continuation from the Monograph that we are preparing on this opening.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cd4 4.Nd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bf6 Bf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Nc2 Bg5 13.a4 ba4 14.Ra4 a5										
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
1	Bb5	Ncb4 ²	Ne7	Nc6 ⁴	Qd5 ⁶	Qd3	Ne7 ⁷	0-0	Qb5	equal
	Ne7 ¹	Bd7 ³	Be7	Qe8 ⁵	Be6	Bd7	Qe7	Bb5 ⁸	Rab8 ⁹	
2	Bc4	Ra2	Nce3 ¹²	Ne3	b3 ¹⁴	ef5	Nd5	0-0	Qd3	unclear
	Rb8 ¹⁰	Qh8 ¹¹	Be3 ¹³	Ne7	f5	Nf5	Bb7	Rc8	Rc5 ¹⁵	
3	...	b3	0-0 ¹⁷	ef5 ¹⁹	Nce3	Be2 ²¹	Nc4 ²²	Qh1	Ra3 ²⁵	with compensation
	...	Qh8 ¹⁶	f5 ¹⁸	Bf5	Bg6 ²⁰	Bf7	e4 ²³	Bg8 ²⁴	Ne7 ²⁶	

1



15...Bb7 16.Nce3 Be3 17.Ne3

a) 17...Ne7 18.0-0 Rb8 19.Qd3 Qb6 20.Bc4! [20.c4 Bc6! equal; G.Kasparov] Bc6 21. Ra2 Rfd8 22.b3 and White is slightly better; G.Kasparov - Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 1999 see 75/148;

b) 17...Qb6 18.Qd3 Ne7 19.0-0 Rfd8 20.Bc4 Bc6 21.Ra2 Qb7 22.Nd5 Bd5 23.Bd5 Nd5 24.Qd5 [24.ed5 g6 25.Rfa1 Rdc8 26.h3?! Rab8 and Black is slightly better; Xie Jun - Valerij Filippov, Shanghai 2000 see 78/159; 26.h4!? Valerij Filippov, Al. Khasin] Qd5 25.ed5 Qf8 equal; Li Qun - Valerij Filippov, Shenyang 1999 see 78/(159)

2

16.Ne7 Qe7 [16...Be7 17.Ne3 Rb8 18.Qe2 Qb6 19.c4 Be6 20.0-0 and White is slightly better; Shirov - Van Wely, Monaco (rapid) 2003] 17.Nb4 Bg4 18.Qa1 Qb7 19.Bc6

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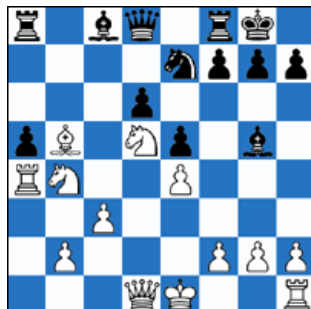
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Qb6 20.Ba8 [20.h3!? Van Wely] Qb5 21.f3 ab4 22.fg4 Qd3 23.Qd1 Qe3 24.Qe2 Qc1 25.Qd1 Qe3 26.Qe2 Qc1 27.Qd1 Qe3 ½-½, K.Landa - Van Wely, Deutschland 2004 see 91/109

3



16...Be6 17.Ne7 Qe7 18.Bc6 Rac8 19.Ra5 Rc6 20.Nc6 Qb7

a) 21.Qd6?! Rd8! 22.Ra7 [22.Qc5? Bd2 23.Qf1 Bg5! 24.Nd8 Qe4 25.Ra1 Bc4 26.Qg1 Bd5 and Black is winning] Rd6 23.Rb7 Rc6 24.Rb8 Bc8 equal;

b) 21.h4 Bf6 22.Qd6 Rc8 23.Ra6 Qh8 (Slobodjan - Gerald Loew, Deutschland (ch) 1998 see 76/(153)) 24.Ra4! h6 [24...Qb2? 25.0-0 Qb6 26.Rfa1 and White is winning] 25.Ne5 Qb5 26.Nf7 Bf7 27.Rb4 Qe8 28.Qd3 and White is superior; Brenke;

16...Nd5 17.Nd5 f5 18.ef5 Bf5 19.0-0 Rb8! 20.Qe2 Qh8 21.Rfa1?! Be6! 22.Ne3!? [22.Bc4 Bd5 23.Bd5 Qb6 24.Rf1 Qc5! 25.c4 Bd8! and Black is slightly better] Qb6 [22...d5!?] 23.Ra5 e4! with compensation; E.Espinosa - A.Gonzalez Perez, Cuba 2003 see 89/110; Better is 21.Bc4 with the idea b4 Dominguez Perez;

16...Bh3 17.Ne7 [17.gh3 ab4 18.Nb4 Ra4 19.Ba4 f5! with attack, weak point f2, Qe1 Leko] Qe7 18.Bc6 Rac8 19.Ra5 Bg2 20.Rg1 Bh3 21.Qh5 Bh4 22.Qh6 g6 23.Ra6 Be6 24.Nd5 Qd8 25.Qe2 unclear; R.Moeller - Karl Gross, corr. 2001

4

18.Bd7 ab4 19.Bc6 Ra4 20.Qa4 bc3 21.bc3 Qb8 22.0-0 Bd8 ½-½, Svidler - Ivanchuk, Polanica Zdroj 2000 see 80/(147)

5

18...Bc6?! 19.Bc6 Rb8 20.Ra2 Qb6 21.Bd5 and White is slightly better; Motylev - Agamaliyev, Bydgoszcz 1999 see 80/(147)

6

19.Ne7 Qe7 20.Bd7 Qd7 21.0-0 ½-½, Tiviakov - Cifuentes Parada, Hoogeveen 2000 see 80/147

7

21.Qd5 Be6 22.Qd3 Bd7 ½-½, Ju.Polgar - Shirov, Wijk aan Zee 2003

8

22...Rfb8 23.Bd7 Qd7 24.Ra2 a4 25.Rd1 Qc6 26.Qd6 Qe4 equal; J.S.Morgado

9

24.Qe2 Qb7 25.Ra5 Qb2 26.Qd3 Rb6 equal; Cs.Balogh - P.Horvath, Magyarorszag 2003

10

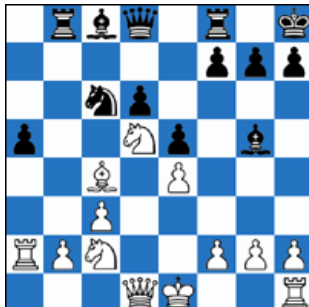
15...Bd7 16.0-0 [16.Ra2 a4 17.0-0 Na5 18.Bd3 Nb3 19.Nce3 Nc5 20.Bc2 Be3 21.Ne3 Be6 22.Ra1 Qb6 23.Qd2 g6 unclear; Be.Lindberg - D.Berczes, Balatonlelle 2007] Rb8 [16...Nb4!? 17.Ra3 Rc8 18.cb4 ab4 19.Ra6! Rc4 20.Rd6 and White is slightly better; A.Volokitin - T.Radjabov, Biel 2006; 16...Ne7 17.Ra2 Rc8 18.Ne7 Qe7 19.Bd5 Rc5 20.b3 Rc3 21.Ra5 Be6 22.Nb4 Rfc8 23.Ra1 Qd7 24.Qe2 Bd5 25.Nd5 Rb3 26.Rab1 Rb1 27.Rb1 g6 28.g3 Qg7 29.Qg2 Bd8 equal; V.Anand - T.Radjabov, Mainz (m/1-

rapid) 2006 see 97/(86)] 17.Ra2 Qh8 18.Nce3 g6 19.Qd3 f5 20.b3 Bh6 [20...f4 21.Nc2 f3 22.g3 and White is slightly better; with the idea Rfa1 V.Anand] 21.Rd1 Qh4 22.f3 Qg5 23.Nf1 Qd8 24.Qh1 Be6!? [24...f4?! 25.Nd2 Bg5 26.Bb5! and White is superior; V.Anand - T.Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2007 see 99/92] 25.Nde3 Bc4 26.Qc4 Qb6 27.Rd6 Be3 28.Rc6 Qb3 29.Qb3 Rb3 equal; D.Rogozenco

11

16...Be6 17.0-0 Qd7 18.b3 [18.Qd3 Qh8 19.Nde3 Rfc8 20.Rd1 Be7 21.Na3 Nd8 22.Be6 Ne6 23.Nac4 Nf4 24.Qf1 Qc6 25.f3 a4 26.g3 Ne6 27.Qd3 and White is slightly better; E.Matsuura - Lujan, Callao 2007] Qh8 19.Qe2 f5 20.ef5 Bf5 21.Nce3 Bg6 22.Rd1 Bd8 23.Bb5 Qb7 24.Ba4 [with the idea Nc4] Ne7 25.Ne7 Be7 26.Rad2 Bf7 27.c4! [27.Nc4 Qc7! equal] Qc8 28.Ra2!? [with the idea Bb5; 28.Nd5 Bg5 29.Ra2 Qc5 30.g3 and White is slightly better; Kramnik - Leko, Monaco (rapid) 2005 see 93/99] Qc5 29.Nf5 Bc4 30.Qg4 Rf5 31.Qf5 and White is slightly better; Kramnik

12



17.h4 Bh6 18.Nce3 Be3 19.Ne3 Ne7 equal; K.Asrian - Khalifman, Bled (ol) 2002;

17.0-0

a) 17...g6 18.b4 ab4 19.cb4 f5 20.Qe1 [20.f3 Ne7 unclear; 20.ef5 Bf5 21.b5 Ne7 22.Ncb4 Qc8 23.Qb3 Nd5 24.Nd5 Qc5 unclear; D.Rogozenco] Bb7 unclear; N.Sorsa - Holmsten, Turku 2000;

b) 17...f5 18.ef5 Bf5 19.Nce3 Bg6 20.f3 Ne7 21.Qe2

b1) 21...Be3 22.Qe3 [22.Ne3 d5 23.Rd1 Bf7 unclear] Bf7 23.Rd1 Qc8 24.Qe4 Qc5 25.Qh1 Nd5 26.Bd5 Bg6 27.Qe2 [27.Qc4 Qe3 equal] e4! 28.Be4 Rbe8 29.Qd3 Be4 30.fe4 Rf4 with compensation; Cifuentes Parada;

b2) 21...Rc8 22.b3 Bf7 23.Rd1 Be3

b21) 24.Qe3 Bd5 25.Bd5 Nf5 26.Qd2 Qb6 27.Qh1 Ne3 28.Rc1 Rb8 [28...Nd5 29.Qd5 Rc5 30.Qe6 equal] 29.c4 Qd4! 30.Qd4 ed4 unclear;

b22) 24.Ne3 Qb6 25.Qh1 d5 26.Nd5 (½-½, Dominguez Perez - Alej.Ramirez, Guayaquil 2003 see 89/(110)) Bd5 27.Bd5 Nd5 28.Rd5 Rc3 29.Ra1 Rb3 30.Qe1 equal; Dominguez Perez

13

17...g6



a) 18.0-0 f5 19.Qa4 Bd7 20.Bb5 Nb4 [20...Rb5 21.Qb5 Nb4 22.Qa5 Na2 23.Qa2 fe4 24.b4 Be6 25.c4 and White is superior; V.Anand - G.Kasparov, Linares 2005 see 93/100] 21.Bd7 Na2 22.Bb5 Be3 [22...f4 23.Nc4 f3 24.g3 Nc1 25.Na5 Ne2 26.Be2 fe2

27.Re1 Rb2 28.Nc4 Rb8 29.Qa6 Be7 30.Re2 Qc8 31.Qc8 Rfc8 32.Nb2! with compensation, with the idea Nd3-b4] 23.Ne3 fe4 24.Bc4 Rb2 25.Ba2 Qf6 26.Nd1 Rd2 27.h3 d5 28.Qa5 e3 29.Ne3 Rf2 30.Re1! d4 31.cd4 ed4 32.Ng4 Rg2 33.Qg2 Qf3 34. Qh2 Qf4 equal; 28...Qd8!? equal; D.Rogozenco;

b) 18.h4 Bh4 19.g3 Bf6 [19...Bg5 20.f4 ef4 21.gf4 Bh4 22.Qf1 f5 23.b4 fe4 24.Rah2 g5 25.b5 Ne5 26.Qd4 Rb7 27.Rh4 gh4 28.Qe2 Re8 29.fe5 Re5 30.Nf4 Qg5? 31.Qd6 and White is winning; Kramnik - Van Wely, Monaco (rapid) 2005 see 93/(101); 30... Bd7! unclear; 30.b6! and White is superior; Kramnik] 20.b3 Bg7 21.f4 ef4 22.gf4 Re8 23.Qf3 [23.Rah2!? with the idea 23...h6 24.Qf3 Qg8 25.Qg2 a4 26.b4] Qg8 24.Rah2 h5 25.Rh5?! gh5 26.Qh5 with compensation; R.Ponomarev - Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 2005 see 92/119; 25.Qg2! and White is slightly better, with initiative R.Ponomarev

14

19.0-0 f5 20.ef5 Nf5 21.Nf5 [21.Nd5 Ne7 equal; Sergey Karjakin] Bf5 22.b3 [22.Bd5 Rb5 23.c4 Rb4 24.Qd2 Qb6 equal; Korbut - Rybenko, Dresden 2007; 22.Qd5 Rc8! equal, with the idea Rc5, weak point Bc4 D.Rogozenco] Be4 23.Bd5 Bd5 24.Qd5 Qc7 25.Qa5 Qa5 26.Ra5 Rb3 ½-½, Kulaots - Bromberger, Gausdal 2006

15

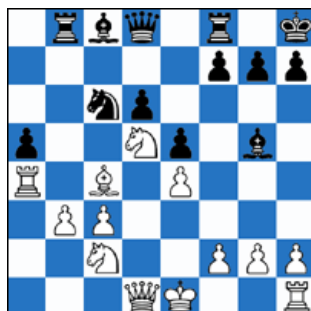
23...Nh4 24.Rd1 h6 25.Qg3 Nf5 26.Qg4 Rc5 27.Rad2 Bc8 28.Qe4 Bb7 29.h3!? [29. Qg4 equal] Nh4! equal; Sergey Karjakin - V.Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 2006 see 96/101;

23...Rc5 24.Rd1 [24.b4 ab4 25.cb4 Rc8 with counterplay, with the idea 26.Ba6 Bd5 27.Qd5 Rb8] Qg5 [24...Qh4 25.h3 e4 26.Qe2 Ne7 equal; S.Kudrin - Daniel Fernandez, USA (ch) 2006; 25...Bc6 unclear] 25.Qd2 Qg6 26.Qd3 Rfc8 [26...Qg5 equal] 27.Qe4 Qg5 unclear; Sergey Karjakin

16

16...Be6 17.Qa1 g6 18.0-0 Qd7 19.Rd1 f5 20.ef5 gf5 21.b4 and White is slightly better; An.Karpov - E.Sveshnikov, USSR (ch) 1973 see 16/358

17



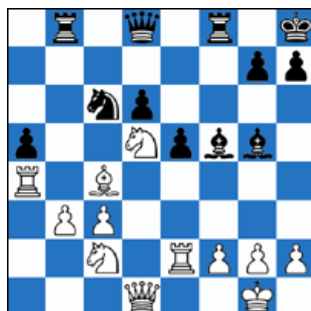
Nd5 Be6 25.Qd4 Qg8 26.Qb1 Bd5 27.Qd5 Bf6 28.Qc2 Qb6 equal; D.Jakovenko - Shirov, Foros 2007

18

17...g6 18.Qd3 f5 19.Rd1 [19.f3 Bd7 20.Raa1 Bh6 21.Rad1 Qh4 22.Qe2 Qh5 23.Na3 Nd8! unclear; R.Kalod - V.Babula, Cesko (ch) 1997] Bh6 20.Nde3 Rf6 21.f3 Ne7 22.Rda1 Bb7 23.Ra5 fe4 24.fe4 Rf4 unclear, with counterplay; Bologan - J.-M. Degraeve, Belfort 1998

19

18.Re1 fe4 19.Re4 Bf5 20.Re2



a) 20...Bg6 21.Qe1 Qd7 22.Nce3 e4 23.Rea2 Bd8 24.b4 ab4 25.cb4 Ne5 26.Ra7 Rb7 27.Qa1 Bh4 unclear; Abrahamyan - A.Hairapetian, Yerevan 2007;

b) 20...Bg4!? 21.f3 Bd7 [21...Bh5 unclear; Daulyte - Ks.Novak, Torino (ol) 2006] 22.Ra1 a4! 23.ba4 Na5 24.Bb5 Bb5 25.ab5 Rb5 26.Qd3 Qd7 equal;

c) 20...Qd7 21.Nce3 Bg6 22.Rea2 e4 23.Bf1 Qf7 [23...Bd8?! 24.b4! ab4 25.cb4 Ne5 26.Qd4 and White is superior; Ivanchuk - Johannessen, Saint-Vincent 2005 see 95/94] 24.Bc4 [24.R4a3 Bh4 25.g3 Bg5 with counterplay] Qd7 25.h3 [25.Qe2 Bh4 26.g3 Bg5 weak point f3] Bh4 26.Rd2 Qd8 27.Bf1 Ne5 unclear, with counterplay; Ivanchuk, Sulypa

20

19...Be6 20.Qd3 Qd7 21.Rd1 Qf7 22.Ra2 Qh5 23.Qe2 [23.Nf1 e4! Suetin, A.Goldin] Qf7 24.Nf1 Bd8! 25.Ng3 Ne7 26.Ne7 Qe7 27.Ne4 [27.Rb2 Qf7! Li Zunian] Rb3 28.Bb3 Bb3 29.Rd6 Ba2 30.Qa2 Bc7 equal; Mokry - Li Zunian, Thessaloniki (ol) 1984 see 38/(206)

21

20.Re1 e4 [20...Qd7 21.Ra2 Bf7 22.Nf1 Bh4 23.g3 Bg5 24.Nd2 Bd2 25.Rd2 and White is slightly better; A.Savanovic - M.Gavric, Bijeljina 2001 see 80/148; 20...Rb7 21.Bd3 Bd3 22.Qd3 Be3 23.fe3 Rb3 24.Qc4 Rb2 25.Qc6 Qg5 26.Nf4 (only move) ef4 27.Rf4 Rfb8 ½-½, V.Anand - Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 2005] 21.Nf1 Ne5 22.Ng3 Bh4 23.Ne4 Be4 24.Re4 Bf2 25.Qh1 Qg5 26.Be2 Bc5 27.Rf4 Ng6 28.Rf3 Rbe8 29.Rf8 Rf8 30.Ra5 Nh4 31.g3 [31.Bf3? Nf3? 32.gf3 h6 33.Ra1 and White is superior; Dominguez Perez - Alej.Ramirez, Buenos Aires 2003; 31...h6 and Black is superior] Nf5 with compensation; D.Rogozenco

22

21.Bf3 Be3 22.fe3 Bg8 equal; H.Stefansson - Valerij Filippov, Kallithea 2002

23

21...Nd4 22.cd4 Bd5 23.de5 de5 24.Na5 Rf4 25.Rf4 [25.Bc4 Rd4 26.Qe2 Be4!? with compensation] ef4 26.Nc4 Qg8? 27.Qd3 and White is superior; Motylev - Kishnev, Neum 2000 see 79/123; 26...Be6 with compensation; Kishnev

24

22...Be6!? with the idea 23.Bg4 Bg8

25

23.f4 ef3 24.Rf3 Re8 25.Rd3 Rb5 with initiative

26



23...Rf5 24.Nce3 Be3 25.Ne3 Rc5 26.c4 Qf6 equal;

23...Ne7

a) 24.Nce3 Be3!? [24...Nd5 25.Nd5 Rf5 26.c4 Bd5 27.cd5 Qb6 equal; Leko - B. Gelfand, Polanica Zdroj 1998 see 73/193] 25.Ne3 d5 and Black is slightly better; Chorfí - R.G.Alvarez, corr. 2001;

b) 24.Ne7 Be7 [24...Qe7 25.Na5 d5 26.b4 Rb6 27.Nb3 Rbf6 28.Qe1 Bf4 with compensation; B.Gelfand, Huzman] 25.Na5 Qc7 26.b4 d5 with compensation; Leko.

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