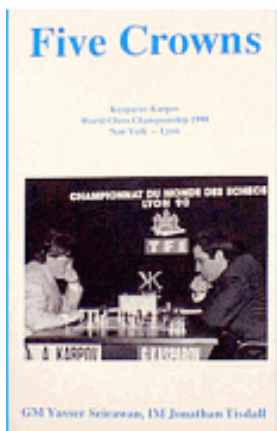


## Inside Chess

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## Yasser Annotates:

Karpov-Kasparov  
1993 Linares Tournament  
Round 10

**1.d4**

Ever since losing his title against the Sicilian in the 24th game of the 1985 title match Karpov has given up on 1.e4.

**1...Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7**

Kasparov has likewise all but given up the Grünfeld as a result of the 1990 WC match played in New York and Lyons. Karpov was very unlucky to score only 2½ from 4. The KID has become Kasparov's first string defense against 1.d4 and it's certainly served him well.

**4.e4 d6 5.f3 O-O 6.Be3 e5 7.Nge2 c6 8.Qd2 Nbd7 9.Rd1**

*A different way of handling the position. In earlier rounds Kramnik and Beliavsky tried 9.O-O-O, but Karpov prefers to castle Kingside. Kasparov will now devote all his energy, and a fair amount of material, to making sure he never does.*

*The text isn't new, but there is very little experience with it. ECO gives two 1950s games with 9...Re8 and 9...Nb6 which aren't terribly useful. It's worth noting that three super-GMs all avoided the theoretical 9.d5, which is considered to give White a small advantage, against Kasparov-though Karpov did play it against Kamsky in round eight. Interestingly, one of the key games with 9.d5 features the 15-year-old Bobby Fischer. Fuster-Fischer, Portoroz (izt) 1958, went 9.d5 cxd5 10.Nxd5 Nxd5 11.Qxd5 Nc5?! 12.O-O-O Qa5 13.Qxd6 Ne6 14.a3 b5 15.Bd2 and Bobby was much worse, although he actually managed to win when Fuster lost his way during his habitual time pressure.-John Donaldson*

Since I already know the result of the game, I don't want to be too critical here. But is this really a good move? What about our cherished



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opening principle of castling early? Since White is now committed to castling kingside, this means a lot of tempi and forfeiture of any kingside attacking plans based on h2-h4-h5. An easy decision to second-guess.

**9...a6 10.dxe5 Nxe5!**

In his pregame preparations, Karpov likely dismissed this response because of the inevitable loss of the d6-pawn. Kasparov's intuition tells him that his active pieces combined with White's lack of development give him a strong initiative. Besides, 10...dxe5 11.c5! would allow White to clamp down on the queenside, which is not the kind of positional confrontation one wants to start with Karpov.

**11.b3**

White is making a lot of pawn moves in the opening. Either 11.Nc1 or 11.Ng3 is met by 11...Be6, provoking b2-b3 after all. And 11.Nf4 g5! is embarrassing. Karpov has had a marvelous career making such "little moves" against the world's best players. Only Kasparov has managed to punish his method of play by concocting a tactical maze and he manages to do so yet again.

**11...b5**

The seeds of a long-term combination are taking root. In reality, Black's tenth move pushed him upon this path. Trying to play solidly with 11...Ne8? now succeeds only in sabotaging Black's game.

**12.cxb5**

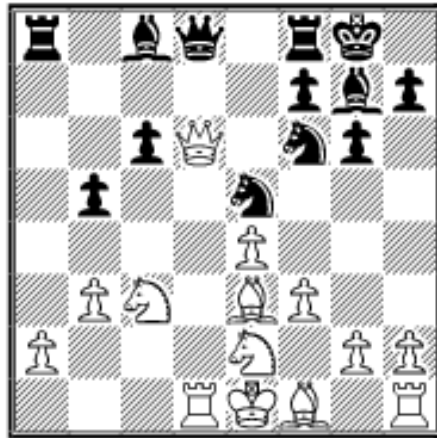
Karpov goes for it. While I admire his courage, I question his judgment. The text opens the a-file to Black's benefit, ensuring him excellent piece play for his lost d6-pawn. The worst thing that can ever happen to Black is a 4-versus-3 pawn ending, while the middlegame looks very promising.

Besides the text, White has two other choices: 12.Qxd6 is the "chickening out" variation: 12...Qxd6 13.Rxd6 bxc4 14.f4 Nd3+ (14...Neg4 or 14...Nfg4 are interesting) 15.Kd2. The absence of Queens should allow White to find equality.

The tricky line that Karpov had to reject was 12.c5!? d5! 13.exd5 (13.Bd4 Re8 14.f4 Neg4 15.e5 b4 16.Na4 Ne4 17.Qxb4 f6! is good for Black) 13...b4 14.Na4 Nxd5 15.Nb6 Bf5! (with the killer threat ...Ne5-d3+) 16.Nd4 (not 16.Ng3? Nxf3+ and ...Bg7-c3) 16...Qh4+ 17.Bf2 (17.g3? Qxd4 is good for Black) 17...Rae8!, miraculously rescuing the

Exchanges and permitting a gang tackling of White's King. Variations like this last one must have had Garry licking his chops.

### 12...axb5 13.Qxd6



### 13...Nfd7!

The crucial point in Black's scheme. Exchanging Queens promises nothing, while 13...Qe8? leaves Black's pieces cloistered. The sacrificial 13...Qa5?? 14.Qxe5 Nd5 15.Qxg7+ Kxg7 16.exd5 is a disaster for Black. With the text, Kasparov envisions ...Qd8-a5 (where the Queen belongs) to be followed by ...b5-b4 and ...Bc8-a6.

Black's threats would quickly pile up. Karpov, therefore, feels the need to regain control of events by making a move that undermines the fundamental nature of his position: his solid pawn formation.

### 14.f4?

My on-site sources inform that Karpov spent huge amounts of time agonizing over this and his next move. After fifteen moves he would be down to just a few minutes on his clock! This move has all the makings of an accident ready to happen. When Boris Spassky in the thirtieth game against Bobby Fischer decided to open things with his King in the center, he was quickly denuded. Karpov wants further proof.

Now was the time to batten down the hatches. 14.Qd2 Qa5 15.Nd4 Nc5 looks rather passive for White. While others might disagree, I like the panic fleeing of 14.Kf2! followed by Kf2-g1. Admittedly, this isn't so appealing, but White's King is a whole lot safer on g1 than e1.

### 14...b4!!

A brilliant move that is timed beautifully. The plausible 14...Ng4 15.Bd4 falls in line with White's plans to neutralize Black's active pieces.

### 15.Nb1

Poor Karpov is being hounded into a corner. Dazzling tactics abound. Here are some nice lines: 15.Qxb4 c5! (Surprise! The White Queen is trapped.) 16.Bxc5 Nxc5! 17.Rxd8 (17.Qxc5 Nd3+ 18.Rxd3 Qxd3 is horrible for White) 17...Ned3+ 18.Kd2 Nxb4 and the Black g7-Bishop

outweighs the three White pawns.

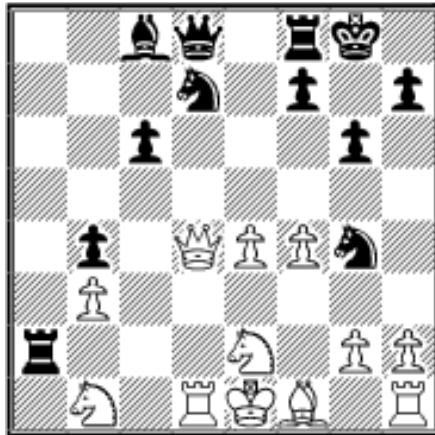
15.fxe5 bxc3 16.Nxc3 (preparing a promising f1-Bishop move)  
 16...Bxe5 17.Qxc6 Qh4+! (this check pops up in a number of variations) 18.Bf2 Bxc3 19.Qxc3 Qxe4+ (The game is strangely over. The weakness of the a2-pawn is telling.) 20.Qe3 Qb4+ 21.Qd2 Re8+ 22.Be2 (You can guess the rest.) 22...Rxa2 23.Qxb4 Rxe2+ 24.Kf1 Rxf2+ 25.Kg1 Rxg2+ 26.Kf1 Ba6+ and Black wins.

The blockading try 15.Na4 encounters 15...Rxa4! 16.bxa4 Nc4 17.Qd3 Nb2 18.Qc2 Nxd1 19.Qxd1 Qe7 20.Ng3 Rd8 with deadly play.

### 15...Ng4 16.Bd4 Bxd4 17.Qxd4?

Time trouble has set in for Karpov. Perhaps he might still salvage his game after 17.Nxd4 Rxa2 18.Nxc6 Qb6!? (18...Qh4+ 19.g3 Qh5!?) 19.Ne7+ Kg7 20.Qxb6 Nxb6 21.Rd2 Ra1 22.Bd3 Be6; White is suffering, but the ending holds more hope than the middlegame.

### 17...Rxa2



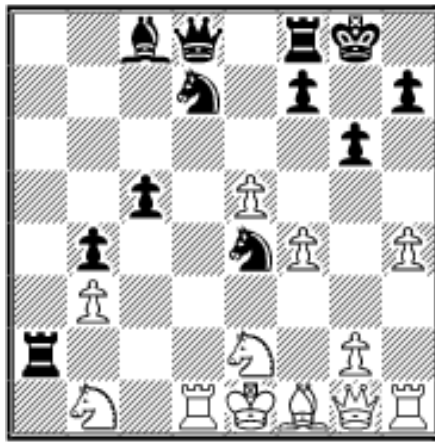
Now it's game over. If 18.Qxb4? Ne3 with the twin threats ...Ne3xd1 and ...Ne3-c2+ is killing. On top of everything else, Black's pieces have picked up more mobility, while White's are rooted to their original squares.

### 18.h3 c5 19.Qg1

If Anatoly could just get in Ne2-c1, he would dominate the first rank!

### 19...Ngf6 20.e5 Ne4 21.h4

White's game has reached positional bankruptcy. Chasing the g4-Knight to e4 hasn't brought relief. The natural 21.Qe3 Bb7 (not 21...Qh4+ 22.g3 Rxe2+ 23. Bxe2 Nxc3 24.Qf2 and White is kicking) 22.Nd2 Nxd2 23.Rxd2 Rxd2 24.Qxd2 Nb6 steers the game towards a winning ending.

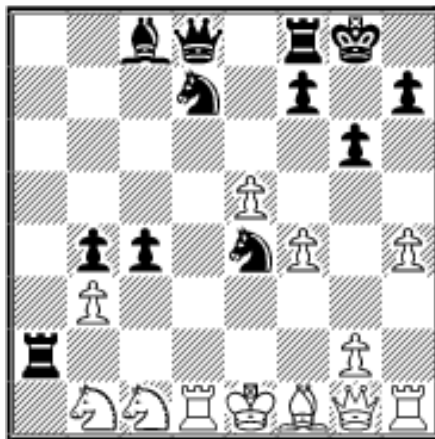
**21...c4!**

Continuing in the same style as he started the game. Black's position is so good that quiet moves like 21...Qe7, preparing ...Nd7-b6 and ...Bc8-e6 should suffice. But Kasparov wants to strike while the iron is hot. The text envisions ...Qd8-a5 and ...Nd7-c5, which is crushing. Black's position is so good, I've spent some time trying to make

21...Nxe5!? work, i.e., 22.Rxd8 Rxd8 23.fxe5 Rb2, but have concluded the sacrifices are unnecessary.

**22.Nc1!**

Amusingly enough, this is the toughest defense: 22.bxc4 Qa5 is curtains, while 22.Qd4 c3! 23.Qxe4 c2 24.Rc1 Nc5 invades the d3-square with decisive effect. Karpov has based his defense upon 22...Rb2 23.Qd4 Rxb1 24.Qxe4, when White is all geared up for Bf1xc4. Around this point it became clear that Karpov wasn't going to make the time control. But, just to be sure, Kasparov sharpens the pitched battle yet again.

**22...c3?**

In the heat of battle Kasparov goes overboard. He clearly missed the simple 22...Rb2 23.Qd4 c3! 24.Qxe4 c2, winning. The answer for this oversight is one that I've experienced in my own games. You see a trap that your opponent has set for you. Being a crafty player yourself, you naturally show your own cunning by avoiding the trap.

But had you looked closer at the "trap," you would have seen that it actually works out in your favor. Kasparov saw Karpov's trap and so blocked out a simple win! Now in order to win, Kasparov has to find a truly wonderful combination.

**23.Nxa2 c2 24.Qd4??**

Tossing the game away at once. Clearly the stress of the tournament situation and the clock combined to produce this blunder. Perhaps the game can't be saved, but this loses at once. White had to try to hang onto his extra material: 24.Rc1 cxb1=Q!? (24...Nxe5!? 25.Rxc2 Bg4!?)

*[Now 26.Nd2 can be met by 26...Qd3!, when 27.Nxe4 (27.Bxd3 Nxd3 28.Kf1 Ng3 mate) 27...Qxe4+ 28.Re2 Nd3+ 29. Kd2 Bxe2 30.Bxe2 Rd8 wins-John Donaldson] ) 25.Rxb1 Nxe5 26.Rd1 (26.Qe3 Ng4) 26...Qa5 27.fxe5 Qxa2 yields Black a winning attack.*

### **24...cxd1Q+ 25.Kxd1**

With his flag in the prone position, Karpov didn't like the looks of 25.Qxd1 Qb6 26.Qe2 Qd4 with deadly threats.

### **25...Ndc5**

This is even better than 25...Nxe5 26.Qxd8+ Rxd8, when Black has still to win the ending. The major difference in the lines is one of tempi. On e5 the Knight is under attack and will have to move again. On c5, Black will have the time to introduce the rest of the gang.

### **26.Qxd8 Rxd8+ 27.Kc2**

There is no defense. If 27.Ke1 Bg4 28.Be2 Bxe2 29.Kxe2 Ng3+ costs a Rook, while 27.Kc1 Nf2 28.Rg1 Rd1+ 29.Kb2 Bf5 30.Nc1 h5!! is an artistic *Zugzwang*.

### **27...Nf2**

Here Karpov happily watched his flag fall to save him from playing 28.Rg1 Bf5+ 29.Kb2 Nd1+ 30.Ka1 Nxb3 mate, a gruesome finish.

While Karpov never really made it out of the opening, it's only Kasparov who has ever shown us how to handle him.

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