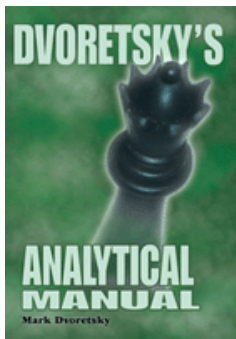




COLUMNISTS

The Instructor

Mark Dvoretsky



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

[The Complete DGT Product Line](#)

Wing Attack with an Open Center
Part Two

Last [month](#) we began our study of games in which a fresh, non-standard strategy triumphed; games in which a flank attack reached or could have reached its goal notwithstanding that the center remained open. Our first two examples were classics that had been commented on many times. This month, let's look at a few later, less well-known games.

Ostl – Hertneck

German Bundesliga 1985/86

1 Ng1-f3 Ng8-f6 2 g2-g3 d7-d5 3 c2-c4 c7-c6 4 b2-b3 Bc8-g4 5 Nf3-e5

5 Bg2 is preferable.

5...Bg4-f5

5...dc 6 Bb2! Qd5 7 f3 cb? 8 Nxc4 Nxc4 9 Nc3+-;

5...Bh5 6 Bg2 e6 7 Bb2 Be7 8 0-0 Nbd7 9 Nxd7 Qxd7 10 d3 0-0 = (Réti – Capablanca, Moscow 1925).

6 Bc1-b2 Nb8-d7 7 Bf1-g2 Nd7xe5 8 Bb2xe5 e7-e6

8...d4?! 9 e3 d3 10 b4.

9 0-0

9 d3 was safer.



9...h7-h5!

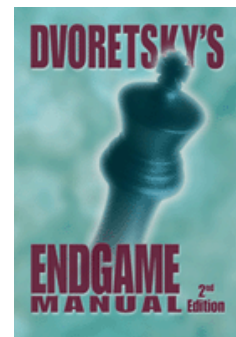
A brave plan! Black exploits the knight's absence from f3 to launch an attack on the king.

10 h2-h3?

The best measure to be taken against a flank attack is a counterstrike in the center! White should have started active operations there immediately by 10 cd ed 11 d3 h4 12 e4! de (12...Be6 13 Nc3) 13 de, with mutual chances.

Against this move, Gerald Hertneck had prepared a sacrifice of a knight

Check out these bestselling titles from USCFSales.com:



[Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual](#)
by Mark Dvoretsky



[Victor Bologan: Selected Games 1985-2004](#)

by Victor Bologan

Read an excerpt [here](#).

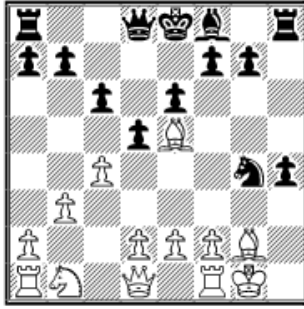


[A Practical Guide to Rook Endgames \(CD\)](#)
by Nikolay Mineev

Read an excerpt [here](#).

for two pawns, destroying the kingside.

10...h5-h4 11 g3-g4 Bf5xg4! 12 h3xg4 Nf6xg4



13 Be5-b2?

This bishop retreat loses by force.

13...h4-h3 14 Bg2-f3 Qd8-g5 15 Kg1-h1 Qg5-f4! 16 Bf3xg4 Bf8-d6 0-1

Hertneck undertook an analysis (reproduced here, with some corrections) to show that the sacrifice was correct, even against his opponent's best defense.

I. 13 f4 h3!

Black could also play 13...Nxe5 14 fe Qg5 15 Kh1 d4!? 16 e3! h3 17 Bf3 0-0-0, with good compensation for the piece, but the advance of the h-pawn is stronger.

14 Bf3 (14 Bh1 Qh4 15 Rf3 Nxe5 16 fe Qd4+) **14...Qh4 15 Qe1** (15 Kh1? Qg3 16 Bxg4 Qg2#) **15...Nxe5 16 fe Qd4+ 17 Qf2**. Here, Black has a pleasant choice:

a) 17...Qxa1 18 Nc3 Qb2 19 Bg4 (19 cd Qxd2! 20 Ne4 Qa5, followed by 21...0-0-0+; 19 Bxd5 cd 20 Qxf7+ Kd8 21 Qxb7 Rc8-+) 19...0-0-0! 20 Qxa7! Qa3! 21 Na4 h2+! 22 Kh1 Be7! 23 cd cd -+;

b) **17...Bc5!?** (threatening 18...h2+) **18 e3 Qxa1 19 Nc3 Qb2 20 Na4 Qa3** and 21...0-0-0 wins.

II. 13 Bf4 g5!

But not 13...Qf6 14 e3 Qxa1 15 Qxg4, when White is far ahead in development.

14 e3

14 Bh2? is hopeless: 14...h3 15 Bf3 Nxe5 16 Kxh2 Qf6 17 Nc3 Bd6+ 18 Kg1 g4. And 14 e4?! isn't much better: 14...gf 15 Qxg4 h3! 16 Bxh3 (16 Bf3 Rh4! 17 Qg8 de! 18 Bxe4 Qf6 19 Nc3 0-0-0+; 16 Bh1 h2+! 17 Kg2 Qf6 18 Nc3 f3+! 19 Qxf3 Rg8+ -+) 16...Rh4! 17 Qg2 de 18 Nc3 f3 19 Qg3 Bd6! 20 Qg8+ Ke7-+.

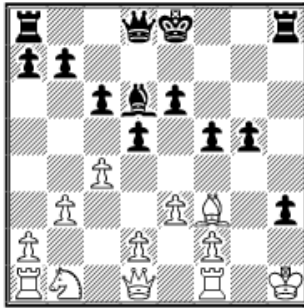
14...f5! 15 Bh2

White loses after 15 f3 h3! 16 Bh1 gf 17 fg Qh4 18 Rxf4 Bd6! 19 Qf3 Qe1 + 20 Kh2 fg-+.

15...h3 16 Bf3

Putting this bishop in the corner would be worse: 16 Bh1 Nxe5 17 Kxh2 Bd6+ 18 f4 (18 Kg1 h2+ 19 Kg2 Qf6 20 Nc3 Qh6-+) 18...gf 19 ef Qg5 20 Qf3 Rh4 21 Qg3 Rg4 22 fg Rxe3-+.

16...Nxb2 17 Kxh2 Bd6+ 18 Kh1



Now 18...g4!? would be strong: 19 Bxg4 (19 Be2 Qh4 with attack) 19...fg 20 Qxg4 Qf6 21 cd ed 22 Nc3 Ke7-/+.

Hertneck prefers 18...Qf6 19 d4 0-0-0 20 Nd2 (20 cd!?) 20...g4 21 cd! (21 Be2 Qh4 22 cd g3!-+) 21...cd 22 Be2 Qh4! 23 Qe1 Rdg8 24 Rg1 g3 25 fg Bxg3, but here either 26 Qf1 Bf2 (Hertneck) 27 Nf3 Rxg1+ 28 Qxg1 Bxg1 29 Nxb4 Bxe3 30 Nf3, or 26 Qc1+ Bc7! (Hertneck) 27 Rxg8 + Rxg8 28 Qe1 would leave the outcome uncertain.

We should at least see one example, in which the flank attack was met “by the book.”

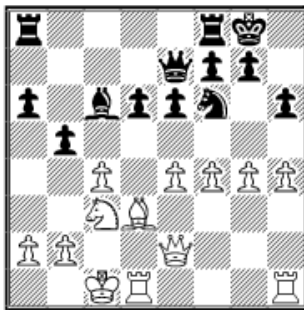
Smirnov – Makarychev

Tbilisi 1979

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 b6 4 Nc3 Bb7 5 Bg5 h6 6 Bh4 Be7 7 Qc2 c5 8 e4 cd 9 Nxd4 Nc6 10 Nxc6 Bxc6 11 Bd3 Nh5?! (11...d6) 12 Bxe7 Qxe7 13 g3 0-0 14 0-0-0 d6 (14...Rfc8!?) 15 f4?!

This natural move ends up costing a valuable tempo. He should have started the assault at once: 15 Qe2 Nf6 16 g4!, followed by 17 h4.

15...a6 16 Qe2 Nf6 17 g4 b5 18 h4



White’s attack is rather dangerous. The threat is g4-g5, opening lines on the kingside. 18...h5? 19 gh doesn’t work for Black. As usual, the proper reaction to a flank attack turns out to be a counterblow in the center.

18...b5-b4!

18...bc!? would not have been bad, either. Black feared the reply 19 Bb1!, renewing the threat of g4-g5. But after 19...g6! (intending to meet 20 g5 with 20...Nh5, and 20 h5 with 20...g5!), the position would be unclear.

19 Nc3-b1 d6-d5!!

19...Qb7?! looked attractive, intending 20 Nd2? d5! 21 cd ed 22 e5 Ne4 23 g5 h5!, with 24...Bb5 to follow. But White plays the sharper 20 g5! Nxe4 21 gh g6 22 Rhg1, and Black’s king position looks dangerous. So Sergei Makarychev breaks immediately in the center, even if it means

sacrificing a piece.

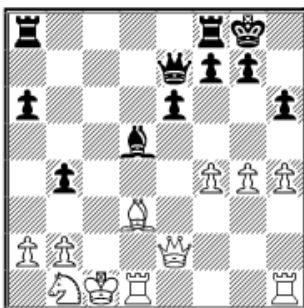
20 e4xd5

20 g5?! Nxe4.

20...Nf6xd5! 21 c4xd5

21 Qe4 f5 22 gf ef 23 Qf3? Rac8 (23...b3!?).

21...Bc6xd5



This was the position Makarychev was aiming for. White now has no time to continue his pawn storm. He can't continue 22 Bh7+? Kxh7 23 Rxd5, because of 23...Qc7+. On 22 Rhf1 Bxa2, Black has two pawns for the piece, and White's king is not comfortable.

22 Nb1-d2 Bd5xh1 23 Rd1xh1

Material is now approximately equal, and Black's chances in the forthcoming battle are not inferior to White's. He only needs to resist the temptation to win a pawn: 23...Qc7+?! 24 Kb1 Qxf4, as after 25 Rf1 Qd4 26 Nb3 (followed by g4-g5 or Qe4), White would once again be on the attack.

23...Rf8-d8 24 Nd2-c4

24 Qe4?! Qd6!; 24 Ne4!?

24...Rd8-d4 25 f4-f5 Ra8-d8 26 Bd3-c2 Qe7-c7 27 Nc4-e3

27 b3 Qf4+.

27...Qc7-e5 28 f5xe6 Qe5xe6 29 Kc1-b1 Rd8-e8

29...Re4!? 30 Re1 Re5 looked better. On the other hand, after 31 Bb3 Qg6+ 32 Bc2, Black would have to accept a repetition of moves by 32...Qe6 33 Bb3 =, since 32...Qc6?! (intending 33...Re8) would allow his opponent to seize the initiative by 33 Qf2 Rde8 34 Rf1 Qc7 (34...Rxe3?? 35 Qxf7+ Kh8 36 Qf8+ and mates) 35 Qf4.

30 Rh1-e1

In this non-standard situation, it's not so easy to decide who is better.

The rule about active counteractions in the center looks obvious; but sometimes, even very strong players prove unable to carry it out in practice.

Taimanov - Petrosian

Match Leningrad – Moscow 1959

1 d2-d4 e7-e6 2 c2-c4 d7-d5 3 Nb1-c3 Bf8-e7 4 Ng1-f3 Ng8-f6 5 Bc1-g5 0-0 6 e2-e3 b7-b6?!

The usual continuation is 6...h6 7 Bh4, and only then 7...b6.

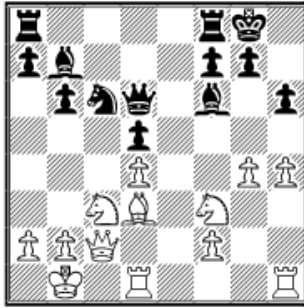
7 c4xd5 e6xd5 8 Bf1-d3 Bc8-b7 9 Qd1-c2 h7-h6

Or 9...Nbd7 10 h4!, with an attack.

10 Bg5xf6 Be7xf6 11 h2-h4 c7-c5 12 0-0-0 Nb8-c6 13 g2-g4 c5xd4 14 e3xd4 Qd8-d6

14...Nxd4? is bad because of 15 Nxd4 Bxd4 16 Bh7+. On 14...Kh8 (to prepare Nxd4), 15 Bb5!? is unpleasant.

15 Kc1-b1



15...Nc6-b4?

While he does trade off the strong bishop at d3, at the same time, Black also takes the pressure off the d4-pawn, and deprives himself of counterplay in the center, which is what he should be using against his opponent's flank attack.

Tigran Petrosian refrained from the counterattacking move **15...Qf4!**, evidently, because of **16 Nxd5**, when 16...Qxf3? is bad because of 17 Be4 +/- . But he had an excellent retort at his disposal, namely: **16...Nxd4!**

17 Nxf6+ Qxf6 18 Nxd4 Bxh1 19 g5 Qe5.

17 Bh7+ Kh8 18 Rxd4 Qxf3 19 Be4 Qxh1+! 20 Bxh1 Bxd4.

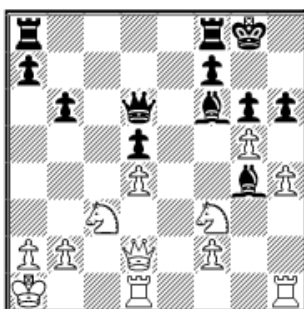
17 Nxd4 Bxd5 18 Ne2 Qe5 18...Qb4!?, as pointed out by Sergei Dolmatov, is good too: 19 Bh7+ Kh8 20 Rxd5 Rac8 21 Qb3 (21 Qd2 Qxd2 22 Rxd2 Kxh7 23 g5 Rfd8) 21...Qxb3 22 ab Kxh7 23 g5 Rfe8.

19 f4 Qe6 20 Bh7+ Kh8 21 Rxd5 Qxd5 22 Be4, and now, either 22... Qc5 23 Qxc5 bc 24 Bxa8 Rxa8 (Taimanov), or 22...Qd7!? 23 Bxa8 Rxa8 24 g5 Rc8 (Dvoretsky).

16 Qc2-d2 Nb4xd3 17 Qd2xd3+/-

White threatens 18 g5. On 17...Be7, 18 g5 h5 19 Ne5 would be strong.

17...g7-g6 18 g4-g5 Bb7-c8 19 Kb1-a1 Bc8-f5 20 Qd3-d2 Bf5-g4



This is what Petrosian was counting on, but his idea will be refuted by his opponent's powerful reply.

21 Nc3-b5! Qd6-e6

21...Qc6 22 Rc1! Qxb5 23 gf+-.

21...Qd8 22 Qf4 Bxf3 23 Qxf3 hg 24 hg Bxg5 25 Qh3 Kg7 26 f4!, and White's attack decides.

22 Rd1-e1 Qe6-f5 23 Nf3-e5 Bf6xe5 24 d4xe5 h6-h5

Black has managed to close the kingside anyway, but at too high a price. The White knight invading at d6 will be much stronger than the Black bishop.

25 Nb5-d6 Qf5-e6 26 Re1-e3 Ra8-d8 27 Rh1-c1 Rd8-d7 28 Qd2-d4 Bg4-h3 29 Re3-f3 Rd7-e7 30 a2-a3 Rf8-d8 31 Rf3-f6 Qe6-g4

31...Qxe5 32 Qxe5 Rxe5 33 Nxf7+-.

32 Qd4xd5 Qg4xh4 33 Rf6xg6+ Kg8-f8

33...Kh7 34 Nf5! Rxd5 35 Rg7+ Kh8 36 Rc8+ (Taimanov).

34 Qd5-f3 Qh4-d4 35 Qf3xh5 1-0

Our next example differs somewhat from the previous one – it's more of a behind-the-scenes look. Here, the wing-attacking possibility stayed in the notes.

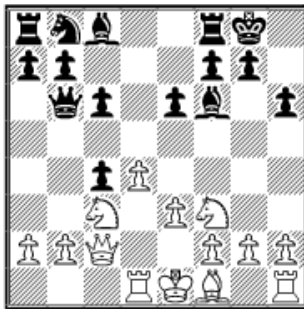
Kasparov – Timman

Amsterdam 1988

1 d2-d4 Ng8-f6 2 c2-c4 e7-e6 3 Ng1-f3 d7-d5 4 Nb1-c3 Bf8-e7 5 Bc1-g5 h7-h6 6 Bg5xf6 Be7xf6 7 Qd1-b3 c7-c6 8 e2-e3 0-0 9 Ra1-d1 Qd8-b6!?

9...Nd7 is the usual continuation.

10 Qb3-c2 d5xc4



11 Bf1xc4

The natural move. But couldn't White have started a wing attack with **11 h4?!** (with ideas like 12 g4, or 12 Ng5)? On 11...Qa5 or 11...Nd7, White continues 12 g4; if 11...Be7, then 12 Bxc4, and now 12...c5 can be met by 13 d5.

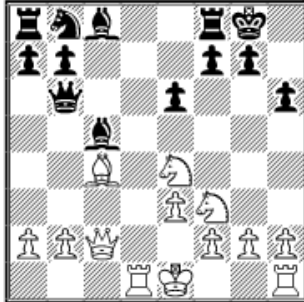
Still, the attack looks dubious. Artur Yusupov suggested 11...Na6!? 12 g4 (12 Ng5 Rd8) 12...Nb4; for example, 13 Qb1 Be7!? (13...Nd5 14 g5 Be7 is possible, as well) 14 g5 h5 15 Bxc4 Nd5 unclear.

The central counterblow **11...c5!** would be stronger still, and was the reason Garry Kasparov rejected 11 h4. Now 12 g4? is useless, owing to

12...cd 13 ed Nc6 (13...e5!?). After **12 Ng5**, 12...g6?! 13 Nge4 Bg7 (13...Nd7?! 14 dc) 14 dc (14 Nxc5?! is inferior, in view of 14...Qc6!?) or 14...Na6!? – just not 14...e5? 15 Nd5! Qd6 16 Bxc4 ed 17 Ne4 Qd8 18 h5+/-) 14...Qa5 15 g4 favors White. But Black can play something else: **12...Rd8! 13 Qh7+ Kf8 14 Nce4 Nd7-/+**.

Well, I suppose this means that for now, both sides must tamp down their aggression.

11...c6-c5 12 Nc3-e4 Bf6-e7 13 d4xc5 Be7xc5



Kasparov played the “normal” move **14 0-0**, after which the position remained equal.

14...Be7 15 Be2 (15 Rd2 Qc7!?) 16 Rfd1 Bb4 17 Rd3 b5) **15...Bd7!**

Black intends either 16...Bc6 and 17...Nd7, or 16...Rfc8 and 17...Be8.

16 Ne5 Rc8 17 Qd3 (17 Qd2 Bb5; 17 Nc3 Qa6) **17...Be8 18 Nc4 Qc7 19 Ned6 Rd8 20 Nxe8**

20 Bh5!?! Nc6 21 Nxe8 Rxe8 22 Qd7 is an interesting try, which works out fine after 22...Rac8? 23 Bxf7+! Kxf7 24 Nd6+ Kf8 25 Nxe8 Qxd7 26 Rxd7 Kxe8 27 Rxb7+/-; however, Black can hold the balance by playing 22...Rec8!

20...Rxe8 21 Bf3 Rd8 22 Qb3 Nc6 23 g3 Bf6 24 Kg2 Rab8 25 Rxd8+ Rxd8 1/2-1/2

And yet, it was right at this moment (at White’s fourteenth move) that a flank attack could, while perhaps not bring White an advantage, at least have injected considerable dynamism into the game, and set complicated tasks before his opponent.

14 g2-g4! Bc5-e7

White wants to open lines by g4-g5. The bishop check would be useless, as White’s king would merely retreat to the comfortable e2-square: 14...Bb4+ 15 Ke2 Bd7 16 g5!?! Rc8 (threatening 17...Rxc4) 17 b3! h5 18 g6. The exchange of queens by 14...Qc7 15 g5 Bb4+ 16 Ke2 b5 17 Bb3(d3) Qxc2+ 18 Bxc2 gives White the advantage.

14 g4-g5

15 h4?!, the standard White move here, isn’t really necessary, and could turn out to be a loss of tempo: 15...Nc6 16 g5 h5 17 Rg1 (17 g6 fg-/+) 17...g6. But a different preparatory move, **15 Rg1!?**, would undoubtedly be useful here, the point being that the black queen has not occupied the important f5-square (see the following variations).

15...h6xg5 16 Rh1-g1

16 h4 g4 (after 16...gh 17 Nxh4 and 18 Nf3, Black risks coming under attack) 17 Neg5 (17 Nfg5 f5 18 Ng3 Na6, and White can’t play 19 Nxf5?? because of 19...Qa5+) 17...g6 (17...f5?! 18 Nd4) 18 Nxf7!?

Rxf7 19 Qxg6+ Kf8 20 Ng5 Qa5+ 21 Rd2 Qf5 would be weaker, leaving both sides with chances.

But now, both 16...Na6 17 Nexg5 f5 18 Nd4, and 16...f6 17 h4 Nc6 (17...g4 18 Rxc4 f5 19 Neg5) 18 hg f5 19 Nc3 (and if 19...Na5 20 Be2 Qc7, then 21 Qa4, intending 22 Qh4) would place Black in a tricky situation.

He should probably defend by **16...Qa5+! 17 Ke2 Qf5 18 Nfxg5** (18 Bd3? g4) **18...b6!?** (followed by either 19...Ba6 or 19...Bb7).

The last example could serve as a starting point for a study of situations where the aggressive g2-g4! is played at even earlier stages of the game – for example, in some modern lines of the Sicilian Defense, or in the sharp variation **1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e6 3 Nf3 Bb4 4 g4!?**, invented by Vadim Zvjaginsev (and also, independently, by Mikhail Krasenkow). But I am no openings specialist, so I will leave this part of our theme for other researchers.

In conclusion, I would like to remind you of two other examples of problematic wing attacks that I consider very interesting and instructive; they are analyzed in detail in my book, *School of Chess Excellence 2 – Tactical Play*:

- Yusupov – Ivanchuk Candidates’ Match, Game 9 (the chapter entitled, “The Spectators Were In Ecstasy”).
- The game Knaak – Reich (from the chapter, “Two Attacks by Rainer Knaak”).

 [TOP OF PAGE](#)

 [HOME](#)

 [COLUMNS](#)

 [LINKS](#)

 [ARCHIVES](#)

 [ABOUT THE CHESS CAFE](#)

[\[ChessCafe Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Review\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)
[\[Endgame Study\]](#) [\[The Skittles Room\]](#) [\[Archives\]](#)
[\[Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About ChessCafe.com\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#)

© 2009 CyberCafes, LLC. All Rights Reserved.
"ChessCafe.com®" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.