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## Reversed Alekhine

It is not easy to get a good reversed Alekhine Defence. **1 g3 e5 2 f3** (55a) was condemned by Alekhine on the basis of g3 being a weakness in the reversed Chase Variation, but there is very little practical experience.

a) **2...c6** 3 d4 e4 (3...exd4 4 xd4 c5 5 b3 b6 6 g2 ±) 4 e5 (4 d5 will be equal; 4 fd2 leads to reversed French positions where g3 isn't useful) 4...ce7 5 g2 (5 d5 c6 6 c3 isn't much of a winning attempt; 5 f3 d6 6 g4 is the reverse of a line – Surprise 49 – where g3 and h3 would be normal) 5...d5 (5...d6 6 c4 d5 7 e3 ±) 6 f3 h5 (6...f6 7 g4 xg4 8 fxg4) 7 fxe4 f6 8 exd5!? fxe5 9 dxe5 (55b) gives White three good pawns for the piece.

b) **2...e4 3 d4:**

b1) **3...d5** 4 d3 is a standard Alekhine reversed. g3 is useful and White can fight for the advantage.

b2) **3...c5!** 4 b3 c4 (4...d5 5 d3 f5 6 dxe4 fxe4 7 c4 d4 8 g2 is treacherous for Black) 5 d4 (a reversed Chase Variation – here g3 is of que4 T t37.4() Te4 2luelack7.4() 0((c3...for) T T 0 T

## Surprise 56 W

Soundness: 3 Surprise Value: 5

### English: Zviagintsev's 4 g4

One of the most remarkable novelties at FIDE's knockout 'world championship' was 1 c4 ♖f6 2 ♗f3 e6 3 ♖c3 ♘b4 4 g4 (56a). This was used by the very strong, Dvoretzky-trained GM Zviagintsev in a critical play-off game, so the idea may be assumed to have some substance.

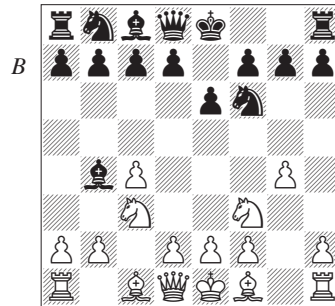
a) 4...♗xg4 5 ♖g1 is as yet untried. Then 5...♗h6 can be met by 6 ♖xg7 ♗f5, but maybe gambit play with 6 e4!? is the idea.

b) 4...d5 and then:

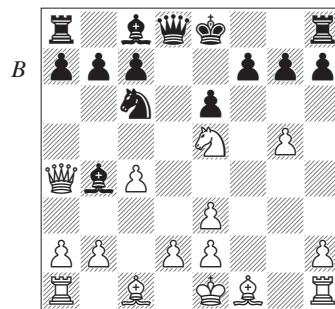
b1) 5 ♖a4+ ♗c6 6 ♗e5 ♖d6 7 ♗xc6 bxc6 is OK for Black.

b2) 5 g5 ♗e4 6 ♖a4+ ♗c6 7 ♗xe4 dxe4 8 ♗e5 e3 9 fxe3 (56b) 9...♖xg5 (after 9...♗d7 10 ♗xd7 ♖xg5, 11 ♗e5 ♖xe5 12 ♗g2 is annoying, e.g. 12...♖d6?? 13 a3 ♗c5 14 b4) 10 ♗f3 (10 ♗xc6?? ♗d7 11 ♖xb4 ♗xc6) 10...♖e7?! (now the b4-bishop is in danger) 11 a3 ♗d6 12 d4 ♗d7 13 ♖c2 ♖f6 14 b4 e5? 15 d5 ♗f5? 16 ♖a4! +- Krasenkow-Gild.Garcia, Groningen FIDE Wch 1997.

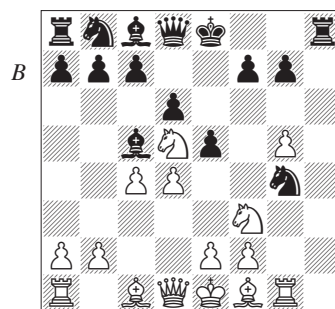
c) 4...h6 5 ♖g1 d6 6 h4 (6 ♖a4+ ♗c6 7 ♗d4 ♗xc3 8 ♗xc6 is inconsistent, and does not yield much) 6...e5 7 g5 hxg5 8 hxg5 ♗g4 9 ♗d5 ♗c5 10 d4 (56c) 10...♗b6 (10...exd4 11 b4 ±) 11 ♗xb6 (11 b4? e4!) 11...axb6 12 ♖d3 (targeting the g4-knight) 12...♗c6 13 ♖e4 f5! 14 gxf6 ♖xf6 15 dxe5 dxe5 16 ♖xg4 ♗f5 17 ♖h4 ♗xe4 18 ♖xh8+ ♗e7 19 ♗g5 (19 ♖xa8 ♗xf3 20 exf3 ♗d4 21 ♗d3 ♗xf3+ 22 ♗f1 ♗h2+ 23 ♗g2 ♖f3+ 24 ♗xh2 ♖xf2+ looks like a draw) 19...♖xh8 and Black has survived, Zviagintsev-Benjamin, Groningen FIDE Wch 1997.



56a: after 4 g4



56b: after 9 fxe3



56c: after 10 d4