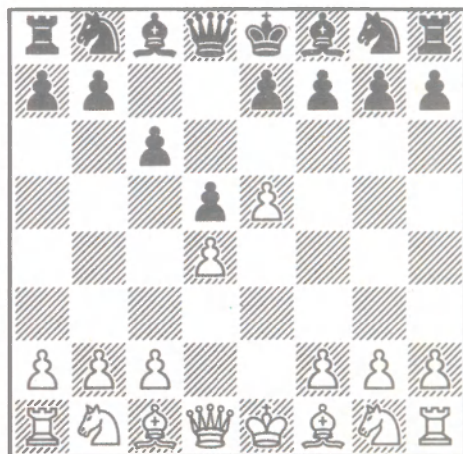


A LINE FOR WHITE

number 1

The Caro Kann Advance Variation



1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5

BYRON JACOBS

Series Editor: Grandmaster Murray Chandler

Many club players would love to experiment with difficult opening systems, but simply lack the time and resources to delve through dozens of reference works. This **Line for White** and **Line for Black** opening series aims to change that by covering a variation from only one sides point of view. Extraneous material is further eliminated by a strong player, in this case FM Byron Jacobs, recommending an exact alternative at each major juncture. The result is a concise booklet, similar to the files some Grandmasters maintain for their own private use. With the minimum of home study, it is possible to learn an entire system that can be used at the club that same evening — we hope with success!

This is Byron Jacobs' third book for TUI Enterprises Ltd.

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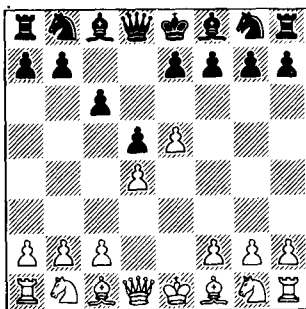
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A Line for White

The Caro Kann Advance Variation

(ECO code: B12 NIC code: CK4.3)

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5



This aggressive method of combatting the solid Caro Kann defence has been favoured by former Soviet World Champion Mikhail Tal, English Grandmaster John Nunn and Dutch Grandmaster John van der Wiel, among others. The attractions are easily listed:

- It is very forcing. If Black plays the Caro Kann he cannot avoid it.
- It is very sharp. Black must defend accurately or he can lose right in the opening.
- It is very tactical. Boring Caro Kann players will be thrown immediately off balance.

After Black's most common response of 3... ♖f5, the position can be compared to the advance variation of the French Defence. Although Black has managed to develop the queen's bishop (so often a problem in the French) he will lose a tempo counter-attacking in the centre with ...c5 (having already played ...c6). Moreover, White can view this bishop as a target, to gain time for a kingside pawn storm. In the main variations White carries out this plan in uncompromising fashion, making numerous pawn advances early on.

This bold strategy carries risks for both sides. White must be careful not to lose control of the position; the advanced pawns might become weak — and his lack of development a problem. But if the strategy is successful, Black can be completely swamped. White can drive the bishop back and launch a decisive assault with his huge space advantage.

- | | | |
|---|----|-----|
| 1 | e4 | c6 |
| 2 | d4 | d5 |
| 3 | e5 | ♖f5 |



3...c5 was tried by Botvinnik against Tal in their 1961 World Championship match, but is now regarded as inferior. Play continues 4 dxc6 4... ♗c6 5 ♖b5 ♣a5 6 ♗c3 e6 7 ♖c3 ♗d7 8 ♗f3 ♗e5 9 ♗e5 ♖b5 10 ♣h5 g6 11 ♗g6 ♗f6 12 ♣h4 ♗e4 13 ♗f8 with advantage to white, is some old analysis by Boleslavsky) 5 ♖e3. White's plan is simply to make it difficult for black to recapture the pawn. Black has two methods of attempting complete development:

a) 5... ♗c6 6 ♖b5 ♗e7 (6... ♣a5 7 ♗c3 ±) 7 c3 ♣c7 8 ♗f3 ♗g6 9 ♖d4 ♖e7 10 00 00 11 ♖e1 (±) f6 12 ♖c6 ♣c6 13 b4 a5 14 ♗bd2 (better seems to be 14 a4, to give the possibility of b5, when it is hard for black to find counterplay.) b6 15 cb fe 16 ♗e5, and white is slightly better, Rodriguez-Campora, Pancevo 1985.

b) 5... ♗e7 6 c3 ♗f5 7 ♖d4 ♣c7 8 ♖d3 ♖c5 9 ♖c5 ♣c5 10 ♖f5 ef 11 ♗f3.

Black has no compensation for the pawn weaknesses.



3... ♗a6 is an exotic-looking (but possible) alternative; 4 c3 (4 ♖a6 ♣a5 and 5... ♣a6) ♗c7 5 ♖d3 g6.

Here white can choose between the untried 6 f4!?, a slight edge with 6 d2 h5 7 f1 h6 8 e3 g4 9 f3 e3 10 fe as in van der Wiel-Kavalek, Wijk aan Zee 1982, or the crazy complications of Utsi-Groszpeter, Hungarian Championship 1984: 6 e2 h5 7 g5 h6 8 g3 g4 9 b3 c8 10 d2 e6 11 h4 f5 12 gfl f6 13 ef g5 14 hg e6 15 e4 d6 16 f3 de 17 fg e4 18 f7 d7 19 h3 with an eventual draw.

4 c3



A 4 ... h6?!
 5 g4 h7?
 5... d7!?
 6 e6! ±



6 ... fe
 7 f3 f6
 8 d3 e4
 9 e2 d7
 10 e4 de
 11 e4 e4
 12 e4 a5
 13 d2 d5
 14 g6 d8
 15 d3 ±±

This is the basic starting position of our chosen system. We examine white's best replies to each of the various black defensive choices. Variation E is the main line.

A: 4...h6?!

B: 4...e7

C: 4...b6

D: 4...h5

E: 4...e6 5 g4 g6 6 g2



Nunn-Bellon, Thessalonika Olympiad 1984.

1:0

After 18... ♖c6 ♚a1 wins either the queen or king.

E 4 ... e6
 5 g4 ♙g6
 6 ♘f4



The immediate 6 h4 is met by 6...h5!, but now that white has the move ♘f4 his kingside pawn push becomes a real threat.

E1: 6...f6

E2: 6...c5

These thematic central counter-attacks are the most popular, but alternatives have been tried:

a) 6...h6 7 h4 c5 transposes to 6...c5 7 h4 h6, examined later.

b) 6... ♙b4 7 h4 ♙e4 8 ♚h3 h5 9 ♘g3 c5 10 ♙g5 ♖b6 (10...f6 11 ♙d2 ± Vasyukov-Razuvaev, USSR Championship 1980) Day-Vranesic, Canadian Championship 1981, and now Day gives 11 a3 hg 12 ab gh 13 dc as better for white.

c) 6... ♙e7 7 ♙e3 (White has also tried 7 ♘f4 and 7 ♙g2, but this

simple development, maintaining flexibility and inhibiting ...c5, seems the most promising) ♘d7 8 ♖d2 b5 (This looks rather ugly, but it is not easy to suggest a constructive plan for black) 9 ♙g2 h5 10 ♘f4 hg 11 ♘g6 fg 12 h3 ♖a5 13 ♘e2 ♖d2 14 ♚d2 and white is clearly better, Hjorth-Haik, Dubai Olympiad 1986.



E1 6 ... f6



This alternative central counter-attack has not proved as popular as 6...c5, but it is certainly a viable alternative. White now has two

possibilities, 7 h4 and 7 ♘f4. It is not clear which move is the more promising. First we explore 7 ♘f4 fe (7... ♙f7 8 of gf9 ♖e2 with threats against the black centre) 8 ♘e6 ♗e7 9 ♘f8 ed 10 ♙e2 dc 11 ♘g6 hg (If 11...cb 12 ♙b2 hg 13 ♖d4 followed by 000) 12 ♖d3 ♘f6 13 ♗c3 ♘bd7 14 ♙e3 and white's bishop pair could prove useful, Nunn-Andersson, London (Phillips and Drew) 1982.



7	h4	fe
8	h5	♙f7
9	de	♘d7



10	f4	♖b6
----	----	-----

10... ♙c5?! blocks the c-pawn and makes it more difficult for black to utilise the queenside pawns. Van der Wiel-Messa, Graz 1981 continued 11 ♘d4 ♖b6 12 ♘a4 ♖a5 13 c3 ♙d4 14 ♖d4 c5 15 ♖d1 and white was better.

11	♘d4	000
12	a3	



This useful little move allows white to develop the queen's bishop, (... ♖b2, ♘a4 wins the queen), and to break the black centre with b4, (in the event of black playing c5).

12	...	c5
13	♘f3	♘e7
14	b4	cb
15	ab	♘c6

If 15... ♖b4 16 ♙d2 with good compensation — the black king is vulnerable, white can use the d4-square, and the white kingside pawns act as a clamp to hinder the development of black's kingside pieces.



16	♘a4	♖b4
17	♙d2	♖e4

18 ♖f2 ♜de5

White was threatening to win the queen with ♔d3, and 18...♜d4 is met by 19 ♖h3! ♜f3 20 ♖f3.

19 ♖f3 ♜e5

20 ♔d3



24 ♜c5 ♔h5

25 ♖h5 ♜h5

26 ♜b7 ♔e7

27 ♜d8 ♔d8

28 ♔f4 ♖b7

29 ♔e3 d4

30 ♔d4 ♔b6

31 ♜b2 ♜f7

32 ♖a7!



20 ... ♜d3?

Preferable is 20...♜g4 (Not 20...♜g4? 21 ♖g1 ♜e3 22 ♔e4 ♜d1 23 ♔d3 ±±) 21 ♜e5 ♜d4 22 ♔e3 ♜e5 23 ♔a7. However black does not have sufficient for the piece.

21 ♖cd ♜g4

22 ♜c2 ♖b8

23 ♖h4 ♜f5



A second rook sacrifice; 32...♖a7 ♜b6 ♖a8 34 ♜a6 ♖b8 35 ♔e5 and wins.

1-0

Marjanovic-Campora, Nis 1985.

E2 6 ... c5



7 h4

Here black has four ways to cope with the threat to his bishop.

E21 7...h5

E22 7...h6

E23 7...f6

E24 7...cd

E21 7 ... h5

A sharp but dubious pawn sacrifice designed to gain time.



8 ♖f4 ♙h7
9 ♗h5 cd
10 ♖d4 ♗c6
11 ♙b5 ♗e7?!

Black should try 11... ♗c2 although white can gain a powerful initiative with ♙g5 and ♖c1.

12 ♙h6 ♖d7?

The only chance is 12...a6.

13 ♖f4 000
14 ♙g7 ♙g7
15 ♗g7 ♗g6
16 ♙c6 ♖c6
17 ♖d4 ±±



van der Wiel-Iclicki, Brussels 1985.

E22 7 ... h6
8 ♙e3 ♖b6

8... ♗c6? is met strongly by 9 dc! ♗e5 10 ♗d4 when white has powerful threats of f4-f5 and ♙b5.



After 8... ♖b6, however, white's best continuation is not so clear. Nunn-Seirawan continued

9 h5 ♙h7
10 ♖d2 ♗c6

The b-pawn is always going to be hot in such positions: 10... ♖b2?! 11 ♖b1 ♖c2 12 ♖c2 ♙c2 13 ♖b7 and with ♗b5 coming, white has tremendous compensation.

11 000 c4!
12 f4 ♖a5
13 f5 b5
14 ♗d5 b4!

15 ♖c7!oo



The experience of this game suggests that 9 h5 might be inaccurate, as with the bishop on g6, white's f5 would come with tempo. Therefore it looks as if 9 ♗d2 (The direct attempt 9 f4 ♖c6 10 f5 leaves the white position looking very suspect after 10...ef 11 ♖d5 ♗a5.) ♖c6 (9...♗b2 10 ♖b1 ♗c2 11 ♗c2 ♖c2 12 ♖b7 c4 13 ♖b5 ±) 10 000 might be stronger, as 10...c4 can be met by 11 f4 with f5 to follow, and 10...♖b4? fails to 11 ♖f4 ♖c2 12 ♖b5 ♖d8 13 dc ♖c5 14 ♖fd5. However, in Sokolov-Karpov, Linares (game 9) 1987, the ex-World Champion found the excellent reply 10...h5! Now the natural 11 ♖f4 walks into cd!, so Sokolov had to be content with an equal position after 11 dc ♖c5 12 ♖c5 ♗c5 13 ♖f4 ♖ge7. So, after 9...♖c6 it looks as if white should try 10 f4. Now the various threats of f5, ♖a4 or even simply 000, make acceptance of the sacrifice with

10...♗b2 almost obligatory. After 11 ♖b1 ♗c2 12 ♗c2 ♖c2 13 ♖b7 c4 14 ♖b5, white has good compensation.



E23 7 ... f6

This perfectly reasonable move has, to my knowledge, only received one serious test. This is rather surprising as, on its only outing, black obtained a good position very quickly.



8 h5!?

Nunn-Coccozza, Thessalonika Olympiad 1984, continued 8 ♖f4 ♖f7 9 ef cd! 10 ♗d4 (The remarkable reply to 10 ♗e2 is ♖d7!!) gf 11 ♗a4 ♖c6 12 ♖e3?!

(Better is 12 ♖b5) and now 12...a6 leaves black much better.

8 ... ♕f7
 9 f4!? fe
 10 fe ♘c6
 11 ♕e3

White plans ♖d2 and 000.

11 ... cd
 12 ♘d4 ♘e5?
 13 ♕b5 ♘d7
 14 ♖f3±



E24 7 ... cd
 8 ♘d4 h5

In view of white's intended ♕b5 and f4-f5, black must seek urgent counterplay. But at present this line is almost winning for white.

9 ♕b5 ♘d7
 10 f4 hg
 11 f5 ♖h4

11... ♕f5 fares little better: 12 ♘f5 ef 13 ♖d5 ♖c7 (13...a6 is refuted by 14 ♕g5 ♘e7 15 ♖b7 ab 16 ♘b5) 14 ♕f4! ♘e7 (Sax-Vadasz, Hungary 1985) and now 15 ♖d2! (Instead of Sax's 15 ♖d4, which was also good enough to win) 000 16 e6 ♘e5 17 ♕d7 ♖b8 18 ♘b5 ♘f3 19 ♖d1 wins.

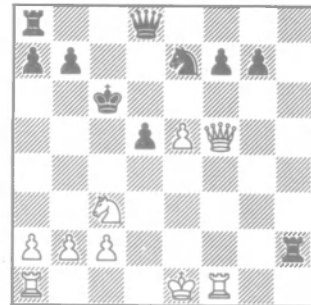
12 ♖f1!



12 ... ♖h2

12...ef 13 e6? fe 14 ♘e6 ♖e7 15 ♖e2 ♖h2!! led to much fun and an eventual draw in Kartlier-Retter, Israel 1986. However, after the very sensible 13 ♕f4! (covering h2 and completing development) it is difficult to have any enthusiasm for the black position despite the three pawn surplus.

13 ♕d7 ♖d7
 14 ♖g4 ef
 15 ♘f5 ♕f5
 16 ♖f5 ♖c6
 17 ♕g5 ♕e7
 18 ♕e7 ♘e7

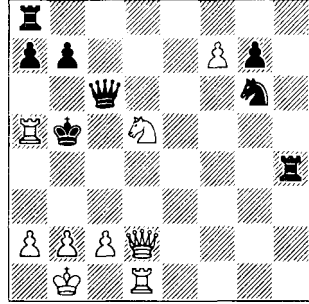


19 ♖f4

19 ♖f7 ♜c2 20 ♖e6 ♔c5 21 ♜d1
 would have shortened black's
 resistance, but the move played
 does not alter the outcome. With
 such an exposed king, black would
 need a miracle to survive.

19	...	♖h8
20	♖a4	♔c7
21	000	♖h6
22	♔b1	♖c6
23	♖f4	♜h6
24	e6	♔b6
25	ef	♘g6
26	♖b4	♔a6
27	♖a3	♔b6
28	♘d5	♔b5
29	♖d3	♔c5
30	♖d4	♔b5
31	♜f3	♜h4

32	♜b3	♔a5
33	♖d2	♔a4
34	♜a3	♔b5
35	♜a5	



1-0

Moore-Mills, USA 1984.

Index of Games

Day v Vranesic	6
Glek v Vzymanain	5
Hjorth v Haik	6
Kartlier v Retter	11
Marjanovic v Campora	8
Moore v Mills	12
Nunn v Andersson	7
Nunn v Bellon	3
Nunn v Cocozza	10
Nunn v Dlugy	5
Nunn v Hort	4
Nunn v Seirawan	9
Rodriguez v Campora	2
Sax v Vadasz	11
Sokolov v Karpov	10
Sveshnikov v Panchenko	4
Tal v Botvinnik	2
Utasi v Groszpeter	3
van der Wiel v Hort	4
van der Wiel v Icklicki	9
van der Wiel v Kavalek	3
van der Wiel v Messa	7
Vasyukov v Razuvaev	6
Velimirovic v Kasparov	4