

# Mini-Lessons from Short Games of the 21st Century

by IM Nikolay Minev

## #4: Double-Attack With A Rook

Double-attack is the most common tactical element, and plays a part (in actuality or only possibility) in almost every game. Double-attack is feasible with any piece or pawn, and in any stage of the game. Here we will see some instructive examples with relatively rare double-attack with a Rook in opening.

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**A06 Pavel Blatny – Ka. Muller**  
Austria (ch team) 2001

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**1.c4 e6 2.b3 d5 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e3 c5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.d4 O-O 9.Be2**

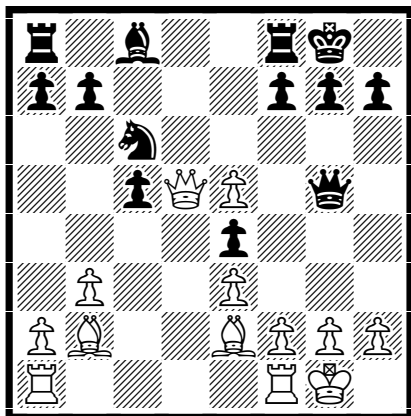
White's play in the opening was far from perfect and now Black tries to seize the initiative.

**9...Ne4 10.O-O Bf6 11.Nxe4?!**

Better is 11.Na4!?

**11...dxe4 12.Ne5 Bxe5 13.dxe5 Qg5 14.Qd5?**

Correct is 14.Qc2.



**14...Rd8! 15.Qxe4 Rd2**

It is clear that White overlooked this double-attack. With an extra piece, now Black wins easily.

**16.f4 Qf5 17.Qc4 Rxb2 18.Bd3 Qg4 19.Be4 Bf5 20.Bf3 Qg6 21.e4 Nd4! 0-1**

For if 22.exf5 Nxf3+ 23.Rxf3 Qxg2#

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**C42 V. Anand – Vl. Kramnik**

Sofia 2005

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**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.O-O Be7 8.c4**

This continuation is considered White's best.

**8...Nb4**

The main alternatives are 8...Bg4, 8...Be6 and 8...Nf6. I think that the three are approximately with the same value – in all White achieves slightly better chances.

**9.Be2!?**

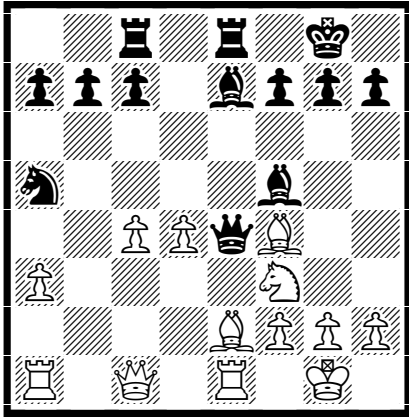
This appears better than the analysis by Keres, which dominated the theory for a long time: 9.cxd5 Nxd3 10.Qxd3 Qd5 11.Re1 Bf5 12.Ne5. Look what happens in the game Rogulj – Forintos, Austria (ch team) 1997: 12...g6!? 13.g4 Bh4! 14.Re2 Bxf2+ 15.Rxf2 Nxf2 16.Qe3 Bxb1 17.Nxg6+ Be4 18.Nxh8 Nxg4 19.Qc3 Qd6 20.Qd2 f5 21.h3 Qg3+ 0-1

**9...O-O 10.Nc3 Bf5 11.a3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Nc6 13.Re1 Re8**

Or 13...dxc4 14.Bxc4 Na5 15.Ba2 c5 16.Ne5 with better chances to White.

**14.cxd5 Qxd5 15.Bf4 Rac8 16.Qc1! Na5 17.c4 Qe4?**

Now White wins by quite original double-attack along the 5<sup>th</sup> rank. According to Anand, correct is 17...Qd8.



**18.Bd1! Qd3 19.Re3! Qxc4 20.Re5! 1-0**

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**B42 Adam Horvath – Csaba Balogh**  
Hungary (ch) 2005

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**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Ba7 7.O-O Nc6 8.Qg4?!**

Risky business! Better is 8.Qe2, followed by 9.Be3.

**8...Nf6!**

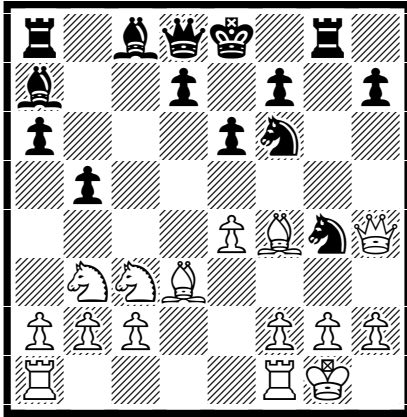
The sacrifice of a pawn in order to open a file against the opponent's castled position is almost as a rule a good value!

**9.Qxg7 Rg8 10.Qh6 Ne5 11.Nc3 b5 12.Bf4**

If 12.h3, then 12...d6 with the hidden threat 13...Rg6 14.Qf4 Nh5 winning White's Queen.

**12...Neg4 13.Qh4?**

White overlooks a simple double-attack by his opponent's Rook. Obligatory was 13.Qh3.



13...Nxf2! 14.Rxf2 Rg4 15.Qh6 Ng8 16.Qxh7 Bxf2+ 17.Kxf2 Rxf4+ 18.Ke2 Qg5  
19.g3 Rf6 0-1