

**Opening for White According to  
Anand 1.e4**

**Book IV**

**1.e4 d6 2.d4**

**1.e4 g6 2.d4**

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## Preface

Dear readers,

The fourth book of the series “Opening for White According to Anand 1.e4” is devoted to opening schemes, which arise after the moves 1.e4 d6, or 1.e4 g6. These positions are so diverse strategically and so rich tactically that they deserve a separate volume.

It is worth mentioning that contrary to some other openings, like for example the Ruy Lopez, the Sicilian Defence, the Petroff Defence, or the Caro – Kann Defence, these openings are not so popular in the top-class tournaments. World’s best players try those flank set-ups only very seldom. Gary Kasparov was very skeptical about his opponent’s opening choice, while commenting his brilliant win against Veselin Topalov in Wijk aan Zee 1999. Still, we must acknowledge for fairness sake that White did not have any serious advantage as a result of the opening in that game. The chess-world however, is not confined only to Wijk aan Zee and Linares, and it is essential to understand that flank openings are quite popular among chess players at lower levels.

We have to emphasize how special the situation with the flank openings is, by noting that plenty of systems, which have been analysed in our book, have not been even named yet. These systems have proved their right of existence, beyond any doubt, despite the numerous attempts to refute them once and for all. They are not called “Irregular Openings” anymore; nevertheless there is no consent about how they should properly be named. What are the specific features of those systems?

Black avoids early clashes that are so typical for openings in which he fights for the centre right from the beginning of the game. He prefers to narrow his “sphere of influence” to only three ranks and thus presents White with a powerful centre and extra space. Black usually tries first to complete his development and he fianchettoes his dark squared bishop most of the times. He begins active operations in the centre and on the queenside only later. We cannot define such approach as classical at all. As early as during the times of the hyper-modernists, when opening systems for White like ♖f3-g3-♗g2 became popular, it was considered that White can experiment freely in the opening due to the advantage of having the first move. Similar experiments for Black have always been regarded as extremely dangerous and accordingly condemned. It was

only during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that thanks to the efforts of some non-conformists, and you are going to find their names mentioned quite often in this book, the flank systems were proved to be respectably vital. Black's position is often similar to a coiled spring and his harmonious development enables him to attack often White's powerful centre successfully. So, are really openings like 1.e4 d6 or 1.e4 g6 as good as the Ruy Lopez, or the Sicilian Defence? Well, yes, but maybe not quite...

We have discussed the pro and con arguments in the previous paragraph, while now we will mention the drawbacks of those systems. The classics as well as the leading contemporary grandmasters are quite right about the fact that White's powerful centre and his extra space are important factors, which should provide him with an opening advantage. In order to sustain and increase his edge however, White must act: **a)** energetically and sometimes even very aggressively; **b)** with profound understanding of the possible strategical plans (his own and those of his opponent); **c)** with an extensive knowledge of concrete variations, which tend to be quite complex sometimes. In case White plays only natural developing moves – he might end up without any advantage whatsoever. We have included in our book some exact recommendations – about how to play effectively with White against the flank openings.

I would like to advise you to employ a scheme of development including additional control over the centre, with the help of the pawn-move f2-f4, against the majority of the flank systems. This move is very useful in the eventual attack against the black king and it supports White's active actions in the centre with e4-e5. No doubt, these energetic actions by him should not be disregarded by Black and he must strive to obtain active counterplay in various ways. White's extensive opening knowledge might come very handy under such circumstances. I have tried to sum up the theoretical achievements at the present moment and I have included plenty of new and original analyses in this book. I hope that these analyses, as well as the possible sharp developments in the flank systems, will focus the attention of the readers.

So, play chess actively and I wish you accomplished plenty of beautiful sacrifices and checkmating attacks! I hope I have done my best to give you a helping hand in doing that.

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