

Viktor Moskalenko

# The Diamond Dutch

Strategic Ideas & Powerful Weapons

New In Chess 2014

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# Preface

## Welcome to The Diamond Dutch!



The idea of the defence ...f7-f5 comes from the distant past. Then, in the 20th century, it was thoroughly developed by some of the finest players. Grandmasters like Savielly Tartakower and Mikhail Chigorin were among the first who discovered the virtues of this opening, but the real revolution took place between 1950 and 1970, when some of the very best players, like Mikhail Botvinnik, David Bronstein and Bent Larsen, pioneered completely new systems based on the original structures behind the f5-pawn. Thanks to their efforts, the **Dutch Defence** has become a new gorgeous **diamond** in the treasure box of modern chess openings – full of resources and surprising ideas.

Nowadays, the Dutch Defence has an established reputation as a traditional and essentially sound opening, recommended for players of any level, even though it requires precise treatment by both sides.

### Directions

All the main ideas for both colours in the Dutch Defence are discussed in this book, and it is divided in three Parts, containing a total of 55 analysed model games:

**Part 1 – The Anti-Dutch Systems:** after 1.d4 f5 White uses early motives like 2.e4, 2.♘c3, 2.♙g5 and some others.

After this Part, we deal with the three main set-ups for Black in the Dutch Defence:

**Part 2 – The Stonewall System** is based on the moves ...f7-f5, ...♘f6, ...e7-e6, ...d7-d5 and ...c7-c6; **the Classical System** involves ...f7-f5, ...♘f6, ...e7-e6, ...♙e7 and ...d7-d6. Both systems are an ideal choice for players who love a solid and practical playing style: forced lines are almost non-existent and a deep understanding of the ideas is far more important than knowing long variations by heart.

**Part 3 – The Leningrad System** combines ...f7-f5, ...♘f6, ...g7-g6, ...♙g7 and ...d7-d6. This is a primarily dynamic variation which plays a very important role in modern chess.

 **PUZZLE:** Many transpositions are possible between the three main systems, and the game can also transition into certain other ‘hybrid’ openings.

As it suits my style, I have been a successful ‘Stonewaller’ for a long time, which has allowed me to collect many memorable games with this opening. Yet, on many occasions I have also had to attack the Dutch fortress from the white side.

The reader of this book will be guided along the main plans with the following structure, which returns in each Part:

- An original story about each variation
- Main ideas, resources, advice
- Analysis of the main lines through model games
- Illustrative games (the best examples)
- Statistics, summaries and conclusions.

I wish you good luck with the Dutch Defence – on both sides!

Viktor Moskalenko,  
Barcelona, October 2013

## Seven Symbols

For the convenience of the reader of my books, certain special lines in the analyses are marked with the following seven symbols:

 **TRICK:** hidden tactics and some tricky ideas, e.g. traps you can set and pitfalls you have to avoid.

 **PUZZLE:** possible transpositions, move order subtleties, curiosities and rare lines.

 **WEAPON:** the best lines to choose; strong or surprising options for both attack and defence, which deserve attention.

 **PLAN:** the main ideas for one of the sides in the next phase of the game.

 **STATISTICS:** winning percentage for a line or for either side/player.

 **WORKSHOP:** how the author plans to construct the chapter at hand.

 **KEEP IN MIND:** here, fundamental ideas for either side are given.

# Part I

## The Anti-Dutch – 1...f5



‘If your opponent threatens to play the Dutch Defence, do not prevent this!’ – 9th World Champion Tigran Vartanovich Petrosian (1929-1984).

### Early Oddities

Tigran Petrosian may have liked the **white** side of the Dutch Defence, but after 1...f5, White is not obliged to enter a long theoretical discussion against the main Dutch systems. One of the original lines I present in this part of the book may be a trustworthy option for his repertoire.

It is no surprise that the Dutch particularly appeals to ambitious players who relish a complicated battle. However, **Black** can avoid the aggressive anti-Dutch systems by advancing the f-pawn a little later, on the second move.

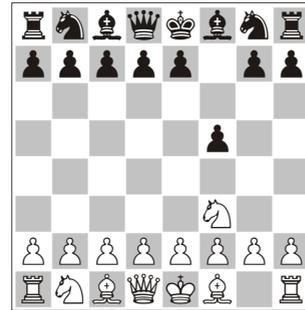
For instance:

- 1.d4 d6 2.c4 (\* 2.e4 = Pirc Defence) 2...f5 – Leningrad/Classical system
- 1.d4 g6 2.c4 (\* 2.e4 = Modern Defence) 2...f5 – Leningrad system
- 1.d4 e6 2.c4 (\* 2.e4 = French Defence) 2...f5 – Stonewall/Classical system
- 1.♘f3 d6, 1.♘f3 g6 and 1.♘f3 e6 are other possible transpositions

If White chooses 2.e4, my books about the French and Pirc-Modern defences will be a good support for the reader!

### Directions Part I

'With his very first move Black creates an asymmetrical pawn structure, thus unbalancing the position from a very early stage and allowing both White and Black players to fight for the initiative.' – Neil McDonald in *Starting Out: The Dutch Defence*.



Therefore, after the provocative 1...f5, White can use his right to attack first: this is mainly connected to the pawn advance e2-e4 at a very early stage.

In order to create a solid repertoire against such anti-Dutch systems, Black has to learn in depth the following lines:

#### Chapter 1 – Gambits and Rare Systems

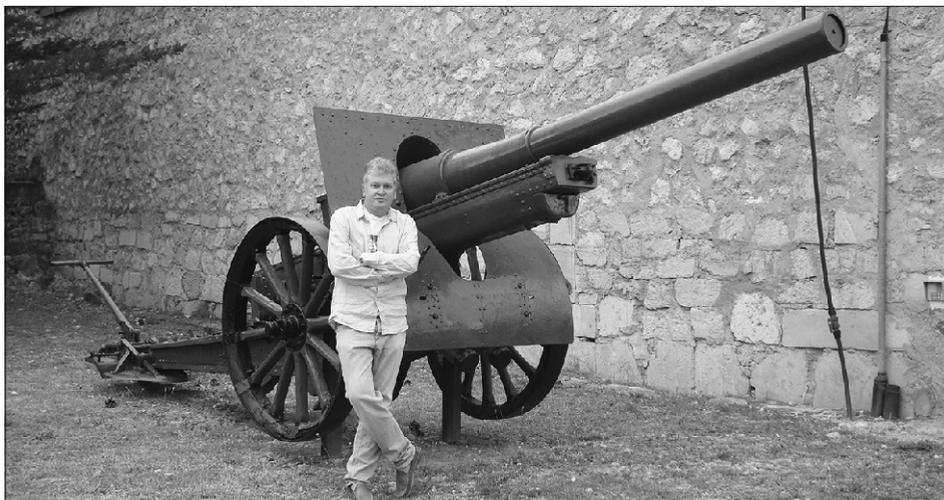
- Staunton Gambit: 1.d4 f5 2.e4 – Games 1 and 2.
- Improved Lisitsyn Variation: 1.♘f3 f5 2.d3!? (instead of the immediate 2.e4!?) – Game 3.
- Rare Systems: 2.♚d3, 2.♙f4, 2.h3, ♘h3 and 2.g4 – Game 4.

**Chapter 2 – The Knight System:** 1.d4 f5 2.♘c3 – Games 5-8.

**Chapter 3 – The Bishop System:** 1.d4 f5 2.♙g5 – Games 9-16.

## Part II

# The Stonewall Dutch – e6/f5/d5 and the Classical Dutch – e6/f5/d6



The author defending the Stonewall.

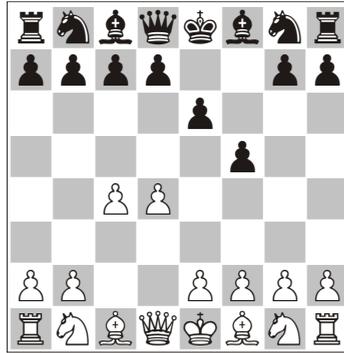
The Stonewall is my favourite defence against 1.d4. Previously I wrote a Chapter on this system in my book *Revolutionize Your Chess* (2009). For this book, I've prepared a broader update with many more recent games, but also with new lines, analyses and improvements, and even with some fresh concepts in well-known systems.

### Introduction to the Stonewall

The idea of the Stonewall appeared in the chess world in the time of the legendary Paul Morphy and the first official World Champion Wilhelm Steinitz.

Among the heroes of the black pieces defending this 'castle' are many grand masters from the distant past to the present: Bernhard Horwitz, Paul Morphy, Adolf Anderssen, Mikhail Chigorin, Wilhelm Steinitz, Siegbert Tarrasch, José Raul Capablanca, Alexander Alekhine, Savielly Tartakower, Mikhail Botvinnik, Tigran Petrosian, Artur Jussupow, Evgeny Bareev, Simen Agdestein, Anatoly Vaisser, Nigel Short, Predrag Nikolic, Mikhail Ulibin, Evgeny Gleizerov, Teimour Radjabov, Vladimir Kramnik... and, of course, the author of the present book.

**1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5**



We will also study Black's Stonewall set-up against other first white moves, such as 1.c4 f5 and 1.♘f3 f5.

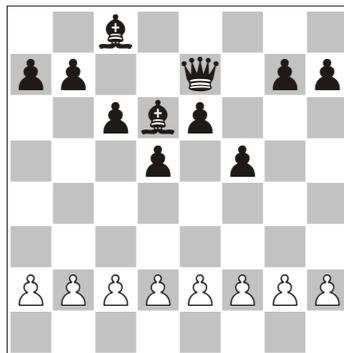
The classical Stonewall System is a universal defence with a unique and flexible central pawn structure. Black's first moves are with pawns only: ...f7-f5/e7-e6, and then he prepares ...d7-d5/c7-c6, building a fortress. The game acquires a slow character, similar to openings like the Queen's Gambit or the Catalan, but the Stonewall pawn on f5 allows Black control of the strategic square e4 and temporarily prevents White's advance e2-e4.

On the other hand, White can take advantage of the weakness created on e5 and play along the dark squares, trying to exchange the dark-squared bishops and then bring his knights to e5.

Black's strategies are to use the Stonewall pawns and play certain surprising manoeuvres with his pieces. He can pursue this simple plan during the opening, through to the – often sharp – middlegame and even the endgame.

### Secrets of the Stonewall

'With the Stonewall, Black stakes an immediate claim in the centre and lays the foundations for a potentially dangerous kingside attack.' – Jacob Aagaard



- The best squares to develop the black kingside bishop and the queen to are, respectively d6 (the bishop) and e7 (the queen).
- e4 is a very important strategic point for the black king's knight.
- The other knight is usually better placed on d7, controlling the e5-square.
- In many games, Black's best piece is the Stonewall bishop on c8!
- But the Stonewall pawns also constitute a main resource of this system.



**KEEP IN MIND:** Many players are concerned about the 'passivity' of the Stonewall bishop on c8, like in the genuine French Defence. So they immediately try to activate it with the manoeuvre ...♘d7-e8-h5; while others play a premature fianchetto with ...b7-b6 and ...♘b7. In a real Stonewall Defence, this may be a mistake. In my opinion, it is better to wait until the middlegame (for example, by first developing the queen to e7, the b8-knight to d7 and the other knight to e4), await the plans of the enemy, and only then shoot with the flexible Stonewall bishop.

Grandmaster Rainer Knaak in *ChessBase Magazine* 120: 'It is fascinating to see how in many of his games Moskalenko at first pays little attention to his ♘c8. Instead of doing so, he likes to play an early ...♗e4, or ...a5 and ...a4, and the problem with the bishop will be solved later, either by ...b6 or ...♘d7-e8 etc.'

## Directions

Chapter 4 – The Catalanized Dutch: White's fianchetto g2-g3 (Games 17-32).

Chapter 5 – The Rolling Stones:

White's alternatives to the Catalan fianchetto g2-g3 (Games 33-37).

White fianchettoes without an immediate d2-d4 (Games 38 and 39).

Chapter 6 – The Classical Dutch (Games 40-42)

(A88)

### Game 45

□ **Gelfand, Boris**

■ **Kamsky, Gata**

Tashkent 2012 (5)

1.d4 f5 2.g3 ♘f6 3.♙g2 d6 4.♘f3 g6  
5.0-0 ♙g7 6.c4 0-0 7.♗c3 c6!?



A useful move, which makes the position much more flexible. Now both sides have time to prepare their own plans and surprises.

**8.d5**

Of course, both players had used the Leningrad Dutch many times before. In 2012 Gelfand tried this classical move twice, but without success. Later in 2013 he switched to 8.b3 and won a

good game in the World Cup (see the line given in Game 47).

**8...e5!?**

The radical concept. Other moves may transpose to different games and will be shown in the next games.

For instance, 8...♖e8 9.♘d4 ♙d7 10.♗b3 ♘a6 11.♗xb7 ♘c5; or the more solid 8...♙d7!?, both moves lead the players into a typical Leningrad 'jungle'.

**9.dxe6**

PUZZLE: 9.e4 cxd5 10.cxd5 ♘a6 is considered to be a good version of the King's Indian.

**9...♙xe6**



The game Gelfand-Kamsky in progress.

'An important tabiya that all Leningrad players would be wise to study' – Glenn Flear (Chesspublishing).

**10.b3!?**

This is the traditional way to defend c4, since the instant weakening of the long diagonal is not really dangerous.

A) 10.♞d3 'Places the queen on a vulnerable square, while b2-b3 will be necessary at a later stage anyway' – GM Marin (CBM 147). Now:

 WEAPON-1: Black is doing fine after 10...♟bd7!?



Analysis diagram

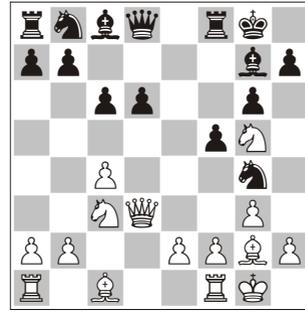
11.♟g5 (11.b3 d5! 12.♟g5 dxc4!⇒; 11.♞f4 ♟b6 12.b3 ♞e8!?) 11...♞e8 12.♟xe6 (12.b3 ♟c5 13.♞c2 ♞d7 14.♞f4 ♟h5!⇒ Chuchelov-Renner, Berlin 1997) 12...♞xe6 13.♞c2 ♞e7 14.e3 a5 15.b3 ♟e4 16.♞b2 ♟xc3 17.♞xc3 ♞xc3 18.♞xc3 ♞g7= Vovsha-Malaniuk, Linz 1997.

 WEAPON-2: 10...♟g4!?. Now:

 TRICK: 11.♞g5 ♟e5!N 12.♟xe5 ♞xg5 13.♞xd6 ♞f6♞.

 TRICK: Another look at ...d6-d5: 11.b3 ♟a6 12.♞b2 ♞e7! 13.e3 d5! 14.cxd5 ♟b4! 15.♞e2 ♟xd5= Bacrot-Ochoa de Echagüen, France 1997.

11.♟g5!? ♞c8! (beware: blunder! 11...♞e7? 12.♟d5!±) and now:



Analysis diagram

A1) 12.e4 ♟a6 13.♞e2 ♞e8!N – this last move is an improvement, which I would recommend to my friend, grandmaster Kevin Spraggett, instead of his beloved 13...♟c5⇒;

A2) 12.♞d1 ♟e5⇒ Stamenkovic-Rakic, Vrnjacka Banja 1996;

A3) 12.♞c2 ♟a6 13.♟f3 ♟c5 14.b3 ♞e7 15.♞b2 f4!⇒ leads to the same example as the one given in the introduction, Siegel-De la Riva Aguado, Havana 1998.

B) 10.♞f4.



Analysis diagram

Trading the c-pawn for Black's d-pawn doesn't seem to be an effective way to get anything out of the opening: 10...♞xc4 11.♞xd6 ♞e8 12.♞d4 (12.♟e5 ♞e6 13.♞d3 ♟bd7! gives