

Commonly overlooked types of moves in the middlegame

Collinear moves



Andersson – Mestel London, 1982
 29...Rd5 [29...Rd2 30.Qe2 Rxe2 31.Rd8+ Kh7 32.Rxe2] and 1-0

Unzicker – Fischer Varna,
 16.Kh1 Bb5 17.Bxb5 axb5
 21.h3 Rc8 22.Rfe1 h6 23.Kh2
 0-1



1962
 18.Nd5 Nxd5 19.Qxd5 Ra4 20.c3 Qa6
 Bg5 24.g3 Qa7 25.Kg2 Ra2 26.Kf1 Rxc3

Switch-backs and LPDO

Switch-back; move of piece back to previous square
 LPDO; Loose Pieces Drop Off



Christiansen – Karpov Wijk aan Zee, 1993
 11...Bd6 12.Qd1 1-0

Chandler - Beckemeier
 16...Nb6 17.Ndx5 axb5 18.Qd4
 won.



Germany, 1987
 0-0 19.Qxb6 Qxb6 20.Bxb6 and white

Hesitation moves

Choice of moving piece to
 "B". Shortly afterwards, best

from "A" to "B" or "C". Elect for
 move is piece to "C".



Nunn - De la Villa Szirak, 1987

18.Qc2 [18.Qb3+ Kh8 19.Qxb6 axb6 20.c4 d3 21.Bxd3 Bd4 22.Rf1 Bg4]
 18...d3 19.Qxd3 [19.Bxd3 Qxf2+ 20.Kxf2 Bd4+ 21.Ke2 Bg4#; 19.Qb3+
 Qxb3 20.axb3] 19...Bxc3 20.bxc3 Qxf2+ 21.Kh2 Qxe1 22.Ba3 Qxa1
 23.Bxh7+ Kh8 and white won after many complications

Tactical theme 4: the classic bishop sacrifice

Thematic example



1.Bxh7+ Kxh7 2.Ng5+ Kg8 [2...Kg6 3.h4 Rh8 (3...Ndx5 4.dxe5 Nxe5
 5.h5+ Kf6 6.Qd4 Ke7 7.Qxe5 f6 8.Qe2) 4.h5+ Rxh5 5.Qd3+ f5 6.exf6+
 Kxf6 7.Qf3+ Ke7 8.Qf7+ Kd6 9.Qxh5; 2...Kh6 3.Nxf7+ Kh7 4.Nxd8] 3.Qh5
 Re8 4.Qxf7+ Kh8 5.Qh5+ Kg8 6.Qh7+ Kf8 7.Qh8+ Ke7 8.Qxg7#

Systematic analysis of the sacrifice

1. Always three candidate moves to consider: ...Kg8, ...Kh6, ...Kg6. Sacrifice is unsound if Black can defend with any one of these.
2. White always needs supporting pieces: Pe5, Bc1; Pe5, Bf4; Pe5, Nd2; Pe5, Nc3, Re1, Bc1; Re1, Bf4. Generally at least two active support pieces needed.

...Kg8 variation is critical



1.Bxh7+ Kxh7 2.Ng5+ Kg8 [2...Kh6 3.Nxf7+; 2...Kg6 3.Qd3+ f5 (3...Kf6
 4.Qg3 g6 5.Nxe6 fxe6 6.Bg5+) 4.Qg3] 3.Qh5 Nf6 4.Qh4 Re8 5.Be5 Qe7
 6.Re3 g6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Qh7+ Kf8 9.Rf3 1-0

...Kg6 variation is critical



1.Bxh7+ Kxh7 2.Ng5+ Kg6 [2...Kg8
 3.Qh5 Re8 4.Qh7+ (4.Qxf7+ Kh8
 5.Qh5+ Kg8 6.Qh7+ Kf8 7.Qh8+ Ng8
 8.Nh7+ Kf7) 4...Kf8 5.Qh8+ Ng8
 3.Qg4 Nxe5 4.Qh4+ Kg6 5.Qh7+ Kf6
 [4...Qd7 5.Qh4] 5.h4 Rh8 [5...Rg8

6.Nh7+ Ke7 7.Bg5+; 2...Kh6
 6.dxe5# 3.Qg4 f5 4.Qg3 Qe8

6.h5+ Kh6 7.Nxe6+ Kh7 8.Nc7] 6.Nxe6+ Kf7 7.Qxg7+ Kxe6 8.Qf6+ Kd7 9.Qd6#



Capablanca – Molina Buenos Aires, 1911

12.Bxh7+ Kxh7 13.Ng5+ Kg6 [13...Kg8 14.Qh5 Re8 15.Qxf7+ Kh8 16.b4 Na6 17.Rad1 Bd7 18.Nce4; 13...Kh6 14.Nxf7+] 14.Qg4 f5 [14...e5 15.Ne6+ Kf6 16.f4 Nc6 17.Qg5+ (17.Rad1 Nxe6 (17...Nd3 18.Qg5+ Kxe6 19.f5+ Kd6 20.Rxd3+) 18.Nd5+) 17...Kxe6 18.f5+ Kd7 19.Rfd1+] 15.Qg3 Kh6 [15...f4 16.exf4 Nf5 17.Qg4 Nh6 18.Qg3] 16.Qh4+ Kg6 17.Qh7+ Kf6 18.e4 Ng6 19.exf5 exf5 20.Rad1 Nd3 21.Qh3 Ndf4 22.Qg3 Qc7 23.Rfe1 Ne2+ 24.Rxe2 Qxg3 25.Nh7+ Kf7 26.hxg3 Rh8 27.Ng5+ Kf6 28.f4 1-0

Positional theme 4: opposite coloured bishops in the middlegame



A Petrosian – Moldagaliev Erevan, 1969

1.Rh8+ Kxh8 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Be6+ Kf8 4.Qf7#

Karpov – Huebner Montreal, 1979
39.Qc4 [39.Rg8+ Kf6 (39...Kh7 Kf6 43.Qh4+ Kg7 44.Rg8#) 41.h4 Rf8 with an ultimate draw.



1979

40.Qe3 Rd6 41.Rh8+ Kg7 42.Qxh6+ 40.Qf3+] 39...Rf6 40.Rc7 Qd6



Botvinnik – Tal World Championship, 1961
35..exd4 "White has to put his

NN – Rossolimo Paris, 1967

1...Rd1 2.c4 [2.Rbx d1 Qxb2 3.Rb1 Bxf2+ 4.Rxf2 Qxb1+; 2.Qxb5 Bxf2+ 3.Kh1 Rh8#; 2.Rfxd1 Bxf2+ 3.Kh2 Rh8#] 2...Rxf2 3.Bxb7+ Kb8 4.Qxb5 Rfxf1+ 5.Kh2 Rh1# 1-0

2...Rxf2 3.Bxb7+ Kb8 4.Qxb5 Rfxf1+ 5.Kh2 Rh1# 1-0



Championship, 1961

bishop on d3, after which his pawns

will move into action. Taking the b7-pawn is only a distraction from carrying out this plan." (Botvinnik) **35.Bc4 c5 36.b5 Bf6 37.f4 d3** Black hopes to gain the d4 square for his bishop. However, even when it arrives it is "firing into thin air". **38.Rxd3 Rxd3 39.Bxd3 Bd4 40.e5 g6 41.Rh1 Kg7 42.Qe4 b6 43.Bc4 Qd7** [43...Qd7 44.Qc6 Qxc6+ 45.bxc6 Rc8 46.e6; 43...Qe7 44.g5 Rc8 45.f5 gxf5 (45...Qxe5 46.f6+ Kf8 47.Qxg6 Qe2+) 46.Rxh7+ Kxh7 47.Qxf5+ Kh8 48.Qxc8+ Kg7 49.Qg8#] **1-0**



1.Rxf7 Kxf7 [1...Bc5+ 2.Nxc5
4.Rxf6+ gxf6 5.Qg8+ Ke7 6.Qe6+

(Theme; don't panic if your move. Avoid "Oh, ****!! How cretin I am! My position was *not* constructive – stay cool merits.)

Simagin – Chistiakov Moscow, 1946

26.Qf2 If **26.Kg3** (with the idea of making use of the h-file), then ...Qg6. Taking the pawn on c4 wastes time. **26...c3 27.Bxc3 Rxa4 28.Qh4 Rxf4** [28...Ra3 29.Qf6+ Rg7 30.Bb4 fxc4+ 31.Kh4] **29.Qf6+ Rg7 30.Kg3 Rc4 31.Rad1 Bd7 32.Bd2 Kg8** [32...Qf7 33.Bh6 Qxf6 34.exf6 Rf7 35.Rfe1 Rxf6 (35...Kg8 36.Rxe6) 36.gxf5 exf5; 32...Qg6 33.Bh6 Qxf6 34.exf6] **33.Bh6 Rg6 34.Rxd7 Rxf6 35.Rg7+ Kh8 36.exf6 Qb8+ 37.f4 Rc3+ 38.Kh4 Qf8 39.Rxh7+ Kxh7 40.Bxf8 Kg8 41.Be7 fxc4 42.Rg1 Rh3+ 43.Kxg4 1-0**



Hartston – Penrose

(variation) London, 1963
Qxf7] **2.Bc4+ Kf8 3.Rf1+ Bf6**
Kf8 7.Qxf6+ Qf7 8.Qxf7#

opponent plays an unexpected come I missed that? What a fine until now." [Panic attacks and assess the move on its

Alekhine,A - Duras Masters' Quadrangular, St. Petersburg, 1913

[Cooper]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.Qe2 b5 This move, in conjunction with the next one, affords Black the simplest method of equalising. **6.Bb3 Bc5 7.a4!** The opening of the a-file is of great significance in this variation. Black cannot prevent it: **7...Rb8** [7...b4?! 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Qc4+ d5 10.Qxc5 Qd6?? (10...Bb7+)= 11.Qxc6!+-] **8.axb5 axb5 9.d3** After 9.Nc3 Black could simply play 9...O-O, for after 10.Nxb5 d5! he obtains an attack fully equivalent to the pawn sacrificed. After the text move White can eventually play c3 and bring his knight to e3 or g3 via d2 and f1. **9...d6 10.Be3 Bg4** Here Black could have obtained an even game by forcing the exchange of White's only well-posted piece, the bishop on b3, by 10...Be6. It is clear that White would not have reaped any advantage by exchanging at e6 and c5, as Black would have had command of the centre, thanks to his pawn structure and the two open files. **11.h3 Bh5** Consistent but not best. 11...Be6 was even now preferable and would have brought about variations similar to those resulting from the immediate development of the bishop at e6. **12.Nbd2 0-0 13.0-0 Nd4** This offer to exchange is premature and, as will be seen, gives White a distinct positional advantage. Relatively better would have been 13...Qe7 followed by ...Nd8-e6, although in this case too Black has the inferior game. **14.Bxd4 Bxf3** Forced, otherwise the black bishop would have been in jeopardy: [14...Bxd4 15.g4 Bg6 16.Nxd4 exd4 17.f4+=; 14...exd4 15.g4 Bg6 16.Nh4+= followed by f4, with advantage to white.] **15.Nxf3 exd4 16.e5!** The beginning of a strong attack against f7, weakened as it is by the premature exchange of Black's light-squared bishop. Furthermore, it is interesting to observe how important the open a-file is for White's attack. **16...Qe7** Besides this move and the sequel it implies, Black had a further choice of two lines of play: [16...dxe5 17.Qxe5 Qd6 18.Qxd6 cxd6 19.Rfe1 with advantage to White.; 16...Re8 17.e6! fxe6 18.Bxe6+ Kf8 (or 18...Kh8 19.Ng5±) 19.b4! Bxb4 (19...Bb6 20.Rfe1±) 20.Nxd4 Rb6! 21.Qf3! Bc3 22.Nc6! Rxc6 23.Qxc6 Bxa1 24.Rxa1 and White has the better game as the e6-bishop is invulnerable.] **17.Rfe1 Rbe8 18.Qd2 dxe5** Forced, as 19.e6 was threatened. **19.Rxe5 Qd6 20.Qg5!** Forcing a further exchange which brings the knight into action. **20...Rxe5** It is clear that

20...h6 would have achieved nothing after 21.Qf5. **21.Nxe5** Already threatening to win by 22.Nxf7. **21...Qb6** Relatively best. 21...Nd7 would not be sufficient as 22.Nxd7 wins a piece. The move in the text removes the immediate threat, for now 22.Qf5 would be insufficient as a preliminary to the knight sacrifice, since Black could prepare a fresh defensive position by 22...g6, followed by ...Kg7. [21...Nd7 22.Nxd7+-] **22.g4!** But this somewhat hidden preparation of the knight sacrifice wins at once, as Black is compelled to make a reply which will render his position still more precarious. **22...Bd6** [If 22...g6 23.Qh6 threatening both 24.Nxf7 and 24.Ra8; and if 22...Be7 23.Nd7! Nxd7 24.Qxe7 Qd6 (24...Qc6) 25.Qxd6 cxd6 26.Ra5 Rb8 27.Ra7 Rd8 28.Rb7 and wins] **23.Nxf7! Rxf7 24.Qf5!** The point of the manoeuvre initiated with 22.g4: against the double threat of 25.Qe6 and 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7 26.g5, Black has no defence. **24...g6** [If 24...Qc6 25.g5 Qd7 26.Bxf7+ Kxf7 (26...Qxf7 27.gxf6+-) 27.Qf3 and white wins] **25.Qe6 Kg7 26.Qxf7+ Kh6 27.Be6! 1-0**