



# The Taimanov- Scheveningen Hybrid

Semko Semkov

Chess Stars Publishing

## **The Taimanov-Scheveningen Hybrid**

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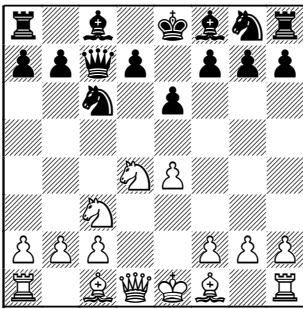
- Chess Informant  
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Chess Publishing ([www.chesspublishing.com](http://www.chesspublishing.com))

# Preface

This book offers a full repertoire for Black based on the Taimanov move order **1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗c6! 5.♗c3 ♖c7**.



The Taimanov is particularly effective against the English Attack and early kingside pawn storms. However, the fianchetto 6.g3 and the Classical System with 6.♗e3 a6 7.♗e2 pose certain problems. I propose to meet them with the Scheveningen set-up ...d6. Thus we take the best of two different worlds.

In 2014 I wrote *The Most Flexible Sicilian* with Delchev. It was based on my coauthor's repertoire, with a focus on the Kan (without ♗c6). On the other hand, I have always preferred the Scheveningen set-up whenever possible. The biggest problem there is to avoid the Keres Attack and the system with f4, ♖f3. The Taimanov move order is perfect for that aim.

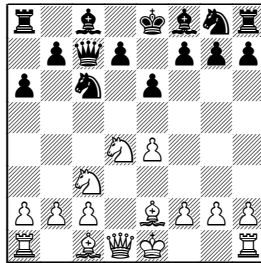
My new book practically does not overlap with *The Most Flexible Sicilian* or Pavlidis's *The Sicilian Taimanov* as I recommend other lines, which are better or keep more tension, in my opinion.

I have been a devoted Sicilian fan all my life, and I have played at least 10 000 blitz games starting with 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6. Since a good half of them featured 3.c3, 3.g3, 3.d3 or other anti-Sicilians, I included these lines in the book.

*Semko Semkov*  
June 2022

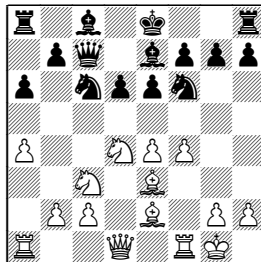
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**Chapter 1.** 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘c6! 5.♗c3 ♖c7  
6.♙e2 a6



7.0-0 (7.♙e3 ♗f6 8.♖d2 b5 7; 7.a3 7; 7.f4 b5 8) 7...♗f6 8.♙e3 (8.a3 8;  
8.♗h1 9) 8...♙e7!? 9.f4 d6 10.♖e1 0-0 11.♖g3 ♗xd4! 12.♙xd4 b5 13.a3 ♙b7  
14.♗h1 ♖ad8 15.♙d3 11  
15.♖ad1 13  
15.♖ae1 14

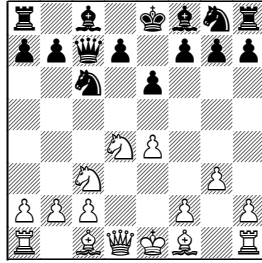
**Chapter 2.** 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘c6 5.♗c3 ♖c7  
6.♙e2 a6 7.0-0 ♗f6 8.♙e3 ♙e7 9.f4 d6 10.a4



10...0-0 11.♗h1 (11.♖e1 25; 11.g4 26; 11.♙f3 26; 11.♗b3 26) 11...♗xd4 27

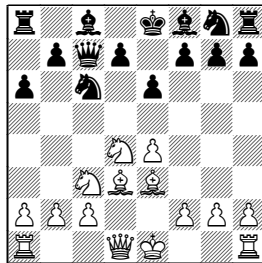
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### Chapter 3. 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♖c7 6.g3



- 6...a6 7.♗g2 d6!? (7...♘f6 37) 8.0-0 (8.♘xc6 bxc6 9.0-0 ♘f6! 38) 8...  
♗d7 9.♘b3 42  
9.♘de2 43  
9.♗e3 44  
9.a4 ♘f6 10.♘b3 45  
9.a4 ♘f6 10.♘xc6 46  
9.♞e1 47

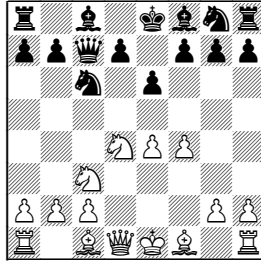
### Chapter 4. 5.♘c3 ♖c7 6.♗e3 a6 7.♗d3



- (7.♘b3 57) 7...♘f6! 8.0-0 (8.♘b3 b5 9.f4 ♗b7! 57; 8.♞e2 59) 8...♘e5 9.h3  
♗c5! 10.♘h1 61  
10.f4 64  
10.♞e2 65

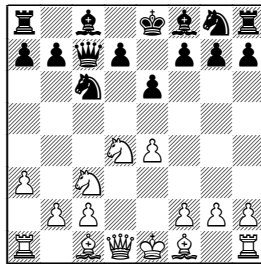
### Chapter 5. 5.♘c3 ♖c7 6.f4

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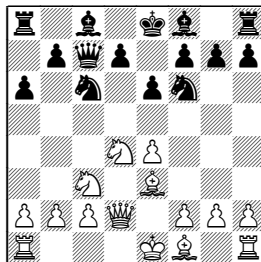
6...a6! (6...♞xd4 7.♞xd4 b6?! 73) 7.♞xc6 74 (7.♞f3 73; 7.a3 73) 7...bxc6!  
 8.♞d3 d5 9.0-0 ♞f6 10.♞e2 ♞e7 11.♞d2 75  
     11.e5 79  
     11.♞h1 80  
         7.♞e3 82  
         7.♞e2 84

### Chapter 6. 5.♞c3 ♞c7 6.a3



6...a6 7.♞e3 (7.♞e2 – Chapter 1; 7.f4 – Chapter 5) 7...b5! 8.♞e2 90  
     8.♞d3 91  
     8.♞xc6 ♞xc6 93

### Chapter 7. 5.♞c3 ♞c7 6.♞e3 a6 7.♞d2 ♞f6

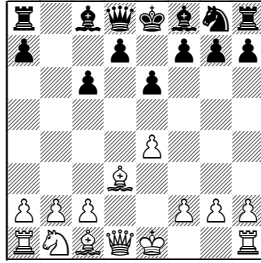






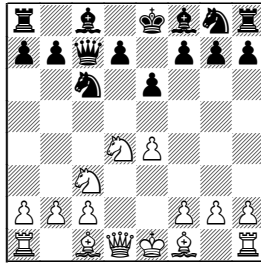
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### Chapter 10. 5.♘xc6 bxc6 6.♙d3



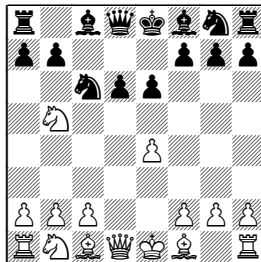
6...♗f6 7.0-0 d5 8.♗d2 171 (8.e5 171; 8.♕e2 172)  
5.♗c3 ♖c7 6.♗xc6 bxc6 7.♙d3 ♗f6 8.0-0 ♙e7! 174

### Chapter 11. 5.♗c3 ♖c7



6.♕d3 ♗f6! 181  
6.♗db5 ♖b8 7.♙e3 185 (7.a4 185)

### Chapter 12. 5.♗b5 d6



6.♙f4 e5 7.♙e3 ♗f6 191  
6.c4 ♗f6 7.♗1c3 (7.♗5c3 194) 7...a6 8.♗a3 ♙e7 9.♙e2 0-0 10.0-0 b6 11.♙e3

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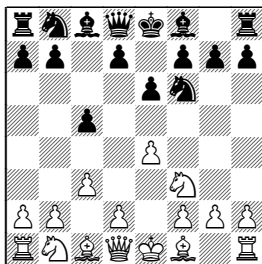
♙b7 12.♚b3 196 (12.♚d2 196)

12.f3 200

12.♞c1 201

12.f4 202

### Chapter 13. 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.c3 ♘f6



4.e5 (4.♙d3 213) 4...♘d5

5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 (6.♙c4 ♘b6 214) 6...b6 7.♘c3 216

7.♙d3 217

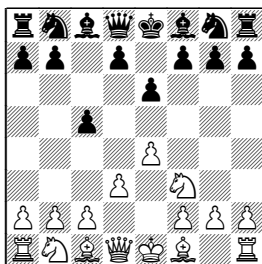
7.♙c4 218

5.♙c4 ♘b6 6.♙b3 d6! 7.exd6 219

7.d4 dxe5! 221

7.0-0 ♘c6 223

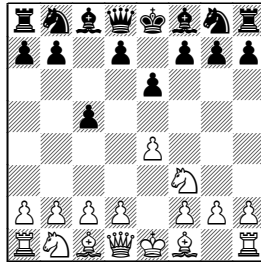
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3.g3 ♘c6 233

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3.c4 ♘c6 4.♘c3 ♘d4!? 2141

4.d4 242

3.b4 244

3.b3 a6 4.♙b2 ♘c6 5.d4 246

5.g3 246

5.c4 247

3.d4 cxd4 4.c3 dxc3 247