

Dutch Defence

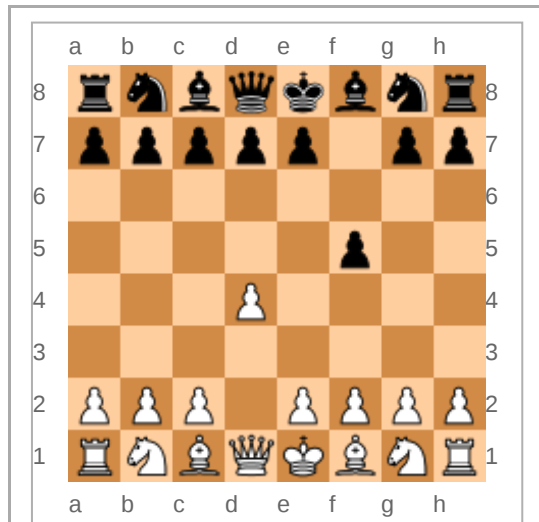
The **Dutch Defence** is a chess opening characterised by the moves:

1. d4 f5

Black's **1... f5** stakes a serious claim to the e4-square and envisions an attack in the middlegame on White's kingside; however, it also weakens Black's kingside some (especially the e8–h5 diagonal)^[1] and contributes nothing to Black's development. Like its 1.e4 counterpart, the Sicilian Defence, the Dutch is an aggressive and unbalancing opening, resulting in the lowest percentage of draws among the most common replies to 1.d4.^[2] Through the ages White has tried all sorts of methods to exploit the kingside weaknesses, such as the Staunton Gambit (2.e4) and Korchnoi Attack (2.h3 and 3.g4), but Black's resources seem just about adequate.

The Dutch has never been a main line against 1.d4 and is rarely seen at high level, although a number of top players, including Alexander Alekhine, Bent Larsen, Paul Morphy and Miguel Najdorf, have used it with success. Perhaps its high-water mark occurred in 1951 when both World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik and his challenger, David Bronstein, played it in their 1951 World Championship match. Among the world's top 10 players today, only Hikaru Nakamura is a consistent practitioner

Dutch Defence



Moves 1.d4 f5

ECO A80–A99

Named after Elias Stein, *Nouvel essai sur le jeu des échecs, avec des réflexions militaires relatives à ce jeu*, 1789

Parent Queen's Pawn Game

Contents

- History**
- Theory**
- White continuations**
 - Other second moves
- ECO**
- See also**
- References**
- Further reading**
- External links**

History

Elias Stein (1748–1812), an Alsatian who settled in The Hague, recommended the defence as the best reply to 1.d4 in his 1789 book *Nouvel essai sur le jeu des échecs, avec des réflexions militaïes relatives à ce jeu*.

Siegbert Tarrasch rejected the opening as unsound in his 1931 work *The Game of Chess*, arguing that White should reply with the Staunton Gambit, with White being better after 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 c6 5.f3! exf3.^[3]

Theory

White most often fianchettoes his king's bishop with g3 and Bg2. Black also sometimes fianchettoes his king's bishop with ...g6 and ...Bg7 (the **Leningrad Dutch**), but may instead develop his bishop to Be7, d6 (after ...d5), or b4 (the latter is most often seen if White plays c4 before castling). Play often runs 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.Nf3 (4.Nh3!? is also possible, intending Nf4–d3 to control the e5-square if Black plays the **Stonewall Variation**) Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 and now Black chooses between 6...d5 (the characteristic move of the Stonewall), 6...d6, the **Ilyin–Zhenevsky System** (less popular today), or Alekhine's move 6...Ne4!? retaining the option of moving the d-pawn either one or two squares.

The Stonewall Dutch enjoyed a resurgence of interest in the 1980s and 1990s, when leading grandmasters Artur Yusupov, Sergey Dolmatov, Nigel Short and Simen Agdestein helped develop the system where Black plays an earlier ...d5 and places his dark-squared bishop on d6.^[4] Termed the **Modern Stonewall**, this setup has remained more popular than the traditional early ...Be7.

The opening's attacking potential is shown in the Polish Immortal, in which Miguel Najdorf, using the Stonewall Variation, sacrificed all of his minor pieces to win by checkmate.

White continuations

The traditional move order involves White playing 2.c4. More commonly White will start with 2.g3. Some common variations are: c4 is played after g3 and Bg2; c4 is played after Nf3; and c4 is played after 0-0.

Examples:

- traditional: 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6
- common: 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 d6 (diagram)

Other second moves

White has various more aggressive alternatives to the standard moves, including

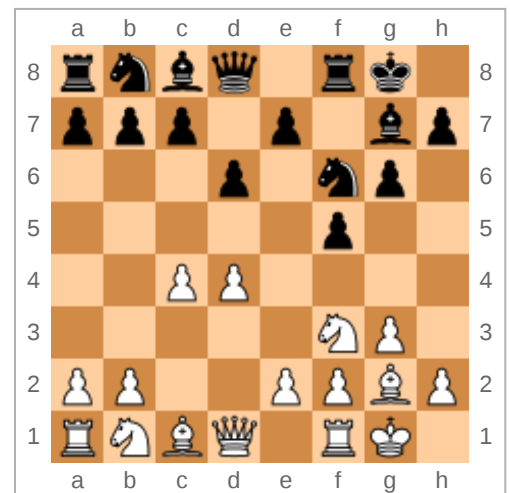
- 2.Nc3 Nf6 (or d5) 3.Bg5;
- 2.Bg5;
- 2.e4!?, the Staunton Gambit, named after Howard Staunton, who introduced it in his match against Bernhard Horwitz.^{[5][6]} The Staunton Gambit was once a feared attacking line,^[7] but it has been out of favour for over 80 years.^[8] Grandmaster Larry Christiansen and International Master Jeremy Silman have opined that it "offers White equality at best."^[9]
- Carl Mayet introduced a completely different gambit approach to the Dutch in 1839 against von der Lasa, playing 2.h3 followed by 3.g4.^[10] Von der Lasa later published analysis of this line in the first edition of the *Handbuch des Schachspiels*.^{[11][12]} Viktor Korchnoi, one of the world's leading players, reintroduced the line into tournament practice in Korchnoi–Känel, Biel 1979.^[13] GM Christiansen later concluded, as von der Lasa and Staunton had done over 140 years earlier, that Black could get a good game by declining the gambit with 2...Nf6 3.g4 d5!^[14]

Black sometimes starts with the move-order 1...e6 to avoid these lines although then Black must be ready to play the French Defense if White plays 2.e4 and Black can no longer play the Leningrad Dutch.

ECO

The *Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings* (ECO) has twenty codes for the Dutch Defence, A80 through A99.

- A80: 1.d4 f5
- A81: 1.d4 f5 2.g3
- A82: 1.d4 f5 2.e4 (Staunton Gambit)
- A83: 1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 (Staunton Gambit)



Position after 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 d6

- A84: 1.d4 f5 2.c4
- A85: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 (Rubinstein Variation)
- A86: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3
- A87: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 (Leningrad Dutch)
- A88: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 c6 (Leningrad Dutch)
- A89: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Nc6 (Leningrad Dutch)
- A90: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2
- A91: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7
- A92: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0
- A93: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d5 7.b3 (Botvinnik Variation)
- A94: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d5 7.b3 c6 8.Ba3 (Stonewall)
- A95: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d5 7.Nc3 c6 (Stonewall)
- A96: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6
- A97: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Qe8 (Ilyin–Genevskaya Variation)
- A98: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Qe8 8.Qc2 (Ilyin–Genevskaya Variation)
- A99: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Qe8 8.b3 (Ilyin–Genevskaya Variation)

See also

- [Bird's Opening](#)
- [List of chess openings](#)
- [List of chess openings named after places](#)

References

1. See [this trap](#) for a dramatic example.
2. "Chess Opening Explorer"(<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/explorer?mode=10703&move=1.5&moves=d4&nodes=10703>). Retrieved 17 July 2017.
3. [Tarrasch, Siegbert](#) (1987) [1934]. *The Game of Chess* Courier Dover Publications. p. 348. ISBN 978-0-486-25447-0
4. [Johnsen, Sverre](#); [Bern, Ivar](#) (2010). *Win with the Stonewall Dutch Gambit*. p. 6. ISBN 1-906454-07-8.
5. "Howard Staunton vs Bernard Horwitz, 3rd match game, London 1846"(<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1001250>). Retrieved 2008-07-01.
6. [Hooper, D.](#); [Whyld, K.](#) (1992). *The Oxford Companion to Chess, 2nd edition* Oxford University Press. p. 393. ISBN 0-19-866164-9
7. In 1939, Fine wrote that, "The Staunton Gambit ... offers White considerable attacking chances." [Fine, R.](#); [Griffith, R.C.](#); [White, J.H.](#) (1939). *Modern Chess Openings, 6th edition* David McKay p. 176. In 1964, Horowitz wrote that the Staunton Gambit gives White "sharp attacking chances for his Pawn" and places the opponent at a psychological disadvantage by requiring Black to renounce his aggressive intentions and "resign himself to an accurate and stubborn defense" [Horowitz, I.A.](#) (1964). *Chess Openings: Theory and Practice* Simon and Schuster p. 611. More recent writers have observed that fear of the Staunton Gambit has discouraged many players from using the Dutch. Yet many have used it anyway [Christiansen, L.](#); [Silman, J.](#) (1989). *The Dutch Defense* Chess Digest. p. 192. ISBN 0-87568-178-6; [Schiller, E.](#); [Bill Colias](#) (1993). *How to Play Black Against the Staunton Gambit* Chess Digest. p. 4. ISBN 0-87568-236-7.
8. In 1925, the editors of the Fourth Edition of *Modern Chess Openings* (MCO-4) wrote that the Staunton Gambit "has fallen out of favour for no clear reason" [Griffith, R.C.](#); [White, J.H.](#) and M.E. Goldstein (1925). *Modern Chess Openings, 4th edition* Whitehead & Miller p. 120. In 1939, Fine wrote in MCO-6, "The Staunton Gambit fell out of favour some time ago and still remains so" [Fine, R.](#); [Griffith, R.C.](#); [White, J.H.](#) (1939). *Modern Chess Openings, 6th edition*. David McKay p. 176. Grandmaster [Nick de Firmian](#) writes in MCO-15 (2008) that the Staunton Gambit "is not in much favor today" [de Firmian, N.](#) (2008). *Modern Chess Openings, 15th edition* Random House. p. 494. ISBN 978-0-8129-3682-7.
9. [Christiansen, L.](#); [Silman, J.](#) (1989). *The Dutch Defense* Chess Digest. p. 192. ISBN 0-87568-178-6
10. [von der Lasa, T.](#) (1859). *Berliner Schach-Erinnerungen*(<https://books.google.com/books?id=luJhAAAAcAAJ&pg=PR79#v=onepage&q&f=false>) Verlag von Veit & Co, Leipzig. pp. 79–80.

11. [Bilguer, P. \(1843\). *Handbuch des Schachspiels*](https://books.google.com/books?id=BU8rAAAAXAAJ&pg=PA234#v=onepage&q&f=false)(<https://books.google.com/books?id=BU8rAAAAXAAJ&pg=PA234#v=onepage&q&f=false>) Verlag von Veit & Co, Berlin. pp. 234–235, section 3, rows 4–6.
12. Alan L. Watson (1995). *The Anti-Dutch Spike: g4! in the Krejciĭ, Korchnoi, and Alapin variations*. Blackmar Press. p. 36. ISBN 0-9619606-2-0
13. [Korchnoi–Känel, Biel 1979](http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1082507)(<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1082507>)
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Further reading

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- [McDonald, Neil](#) (2004). *Starting out: The Dutch Defence* Everyman Chess ISBN 1-857443-77-2
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- [Williams, Simon](#); [Palliser, Richard](#); [Vigus, James](#) (2010). *Dangerous Weapons: The Dutch* Everyman Chess. ISBN 978-1-85744-624-1

External links

- [Learning the Dutch Defense](#)
- [Nouvel essai sur le jeu des échecs 1789 \(Google Books\)](#)

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