

# A SIMPLE PLAN

## Martin Breutigam has a clear repertoire suggestion

King's Gambit C34: 1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♘f3 ♖e7



3...g5 is the main move in the King's Gambit, but a lot of variations have to be learned. But the opening is not played often and it takes a lot of work to include it in a repertoire, and so even for professionals it is not very cost-effective. The graphic shows that after 3.♘f3 the move which is eighth in terms of frequency 3...♖e7 is pretty much the centre of attention for the moment and in addition has the best statistics. Also it has Etienne Bacrot as a leading exponent.

Moves	Games	Score	Last played	Hit	Best players	Frequent players
3...g7-g5	2934	50.3%	2012	1	Anand, Ivanchuk, Shirov, Naiditsch	
3...d7-d6	2033	55.5%	2012	2	Kasparov, Akopian, Farpov, Najer	
3...d7-d5	1992	53.2%	2013	3	Adams, Anand, Svidler, Efimenko	Godena
3...Bf8-e7	1471	53.2%	2011	4	Kasparov, Sokolov, Georgiev, Piket	Hebden
3...Ng8-f6	1008	61.3%	2012	5	Sasikiran, Kasimdzhanov, Sokolov, Graf	
3...Nb8-c6	811	72.9%	1991	6	Grabarczyk	
3...h7-h6	480	45.8%	2012	7	Leko, Alekseev, McShane, Svidler	
3...Ng8-e7	443	43.9%	2012	8	Adams, Bacrot, Balogh, Sokolov	Bacrot

According to Martin Breutigam, the knight move pursues two goals: it prepares ...d5 and possibly protects the ♘f4 – from g6 or possibly d5. White has two main moves.

**A) 4.d4** is of course met with **4...d5**; then a typical continuation is **5.♗c3 dxe4 6.♗xe4 ♖d5!**. If White manages to win the f4-pawn, it usually costs him the bishop pair. Black gets a very pleasant and free game where White is fighting for equality.

**B) 4.♗c4 d5 5.exd5 ♖xd5** leads to a line of the Modern Variation (3...d5 4.exd5 ♗f6 5.♗c4



Etienne Bacrot: leading exponent of 3...Ne7

♗xd5). It was seen in a game involving Magnus Carlsen (against Wang Yue, Medias 2010). However, after **6.0-0** Breutigam has a better move than the Chinese grandmaster: **6...♗e6!** (instead of 6...♗e7, which Carlsen met with 7.♗xd5!).



If White again replies **7.♗xd5**, Black nevertheless captures with the queen and follows up with **...♗c6** and long castling.

But after **7.♗b3 c5!** too, White is already having to fight for equality as in the game Nakamura-Adams, London 2011.

**Conclusion:** Black's setup is amazingly simple. Instead of "compromising his game" (Breutigam) with ...g5 in order to hang on to the pawn, Black exchanges it for positional advantages.