

EXCHANGE FRENCH TACTICS, PT. 2

This week's puzzles continue our series on the **French Exchange**, this time with a focus on kingside attacks. Enjoy long-range pieces

making the most of White's characteristic attacking chances in the sort of Isolated Queen's Pawn (IQP) positions you can expect with our **Openings Project** repertoire.

In our **example**, White began with the familiar idea of **11. Ba3** which we should be familiar with after **b2xc3** is played! Black got out of the pin with **11. ... Re8**, but after **12. Qe2**, the knight is still pinned to the rook! Play continued **12. ... Kf8** **13. Qe4 Nd7** **14. Ne5 Nf6**.

As a **bonus**, can you find White's brilliant queen sac from here?



1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. WHITE TO PLAY

4. WHITE TO PLAY

5. WHITE TO PLAY

6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 20. Nf3 A subtle queen trap, and **Black resigned** shortly, as the material deficit is massive. (Erdos – Gdanski, Warsaw, 2021) **2) 11. Bxf7+ Kxf7 12. Ng5+** A tactical motif when the g4-bishop is unprotected. **12. ... Kg6 13. Qxg4 Qc8** Having regained the piece, White continued the attack with **14. Ne6+ Kf7 15. Qxg7+ Kxe6 16. d5+** and went on to win. (Escudero – Jimenez, Linares, 2010) **3) 11. Ng5 Qf6** If 11. ... h6, then 12.

Nxf7! Rxf7 13. Bxf7+ Kxf7 14. Qb3+ picks up the loose c3-bishop. **12. Qd3** White forks the bishop and a mate on h7, so **Black resigned**. (Matzies – A. Fischer, Frankfurt, 2005) **4) 18. Be5!** White piles on the pressure against the f6-knight, and the queen is crashing through on the h-file shortly. **18. ... Ree8 19. Nxf6+ gxf6 20. Qh7+** winning. (Ramirez – Mariani, Florianopolis, 2023) **5) 16. Qf4 Bxc3 17. Qxf5!** Subtle, but Black resigned upon

realizing that White threatens **Bc4-d3** with an unstoppable mate threat, so there is no time to save the c3-bishop. (Berkes – Stanciu, Arad, 2014) **6) 15. Bxh7+!** Amazing! **15. ... Kh8** Or 15. ... Kf8 16. Nxe6+ wins the queen; Alternatively 15. ... Nxh7 16. Qxh7+ Kf8 17. Qh8 is mate! **16. Nf7** mate. (Miezis – Wiberg, Kollafjord, 2017) **Bonus) 15. Qg6!!** More than one move wins, but this is a nice play on smothered mate. (Chuvilin – Serebrennikov, Barnaul, 2014)