

# The positional genius of Anatoly Karpov

## BOA CONSTRICTOR



PERHAPS THE BEST WAY TO DESCRIBE KARPOV'S HIGHLY POSITIONAL STYLE IS THROUGH HIS PATIENCE, PREPARATION, LONG MANEUVERS AND CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT, GRADUALLY SQUEEZING HIS OPPONENT BEFORE DELIVERING THE FINAL BLOW. HIS OPPONENTS OFTEN FELT AS IF THEY WERE BEING SUFFOCATED BY A BOA CONSTRICTOR.

By GM Spyridon Kapnisis

In my view Anatoly Karpov has everything that it takes to be considered a positional genius. His deep positional understanding can be seen in several strategical themes like prophylaxis, piece mobility, maneuvering and exchange of pieces. In his prime, he was great at knowing which was the right place for each of his pieces, while he was mobilizing them to achieve his goal. Despite the fact that he played some nice attacking chess from time to time, it is clear to me that he preferred to avoid risks and use his calculation skills only if the position demanded it.

His trademark was his ability to restrict an opponent's play to such a degree that continuing the game would become intolerable for them. Even when he was faced with no counterplay, he liked to proceed with his plans at a very slow tempo, thereby making it very difficult for his opponents to maintain their composure and alertness.

### B83

Anatoly Karpov	2700
Boris Spassky	2650

Candidates Semifinals, Leningrad 1974

**1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4 ♟f6 5.♞c3 d6 6.♙e2** Karpov goes for his favourite system with ♙e2 and short castling against the Scheveningen Sicilian. Nowadays, the Scheveningen has almost disappeared from tournament play mainly due to the Keres Attack starting with 6.g4.

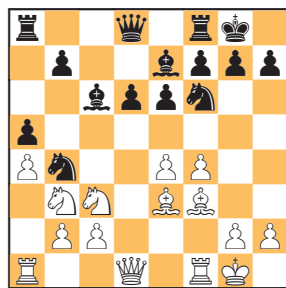
**6...♙e7 7.0-0 0-0 8.f4 ♞c6 9.♙e3 ♙d7 9...e5!?**

**10.♞b3** This is the standard reaction by White whenever Black plays ...♙d7. The main idea is to avoid ...♞xd4 and ...♙c6 which is supposed to give Black a reasonable position.

**10...a5** Not the best move according to the engine, but a standard idea in this structure. Black wants to provoke a2-a4 and then place his knight on b4, albeit at the cost of a slight weakening of the b5 square. The alternatives are 10...a6!? and 10...♙c8!?

**11.a4 ♞b4 12.♙f3 ♙c6?! 12...e5!?** The main advantage of placing the knight on b4 is that Black obtains good

control of the important d5 square which means that he can play ...e5 without fear of a white knight coming to d5. **13.♞b5! exf4 (13...♙c6 14.c3 ♞a6 15.♙c2±) 14.♙xf4 ♙b6+ 15.♞h1 ♙xb5 16.axb5 ♙xb5 17.♞d4** followed by ♞f5 would give White a dangerous initiative for the sacrificed pawn.



**13.♞d4!** Karpov makes sure that his knight on b3 re-enters the battle for the center before Black gets the chance to play ...e5 to restrict it.

**13...g6** Spassky makes his intentions (...e5) known by covering the f5 square.

**14.♙f2** A move which is not fully approved of by today's engines but one which seems typical of Karpov's perception of prophylaxis. He plays a useful semi-waiting move, covering c2 and allowing more freedom for his

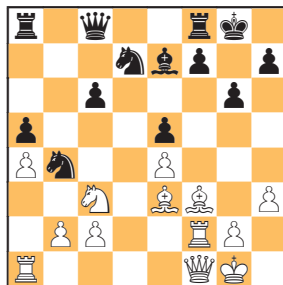
queen. **14.♞h1!? e5 15.♞xc6 bxc6 16.fxe5 dxe5 17.♙e2±.**

**14...e5 15.♞xc6 15.♞db5!?** is at least an equally interesting alternative, but one that doesn't fit into Karpov's "clean" style. Black can react to ♞db5 by playing ...d5, creating a lot of tension in the center, which is something that Karpov usually didn't like. **15...d5 16.fxe5! ♞xe4 17.♙xe4! dxe4 18.♞d6±** This position is clearly better for White but far from Karpov's style of play.

**15...bxc6 16.fxe5 dxe5 17.♙f1** A logical follow-up to White's 14<sup>th</sup> move. **17.♙e2!?**

**17...♙c8 18.h3** Again typical prophylactic reasoning by Karpov who stops Black from any ideas involving ...♞g4.

**18...♞d7**



**19.♙g4!** Karpov prevents his opponent from exchanging the dark-squared bishops with ...♙c5, while at the same time he doesn't mind giving away his light-squared bishop.

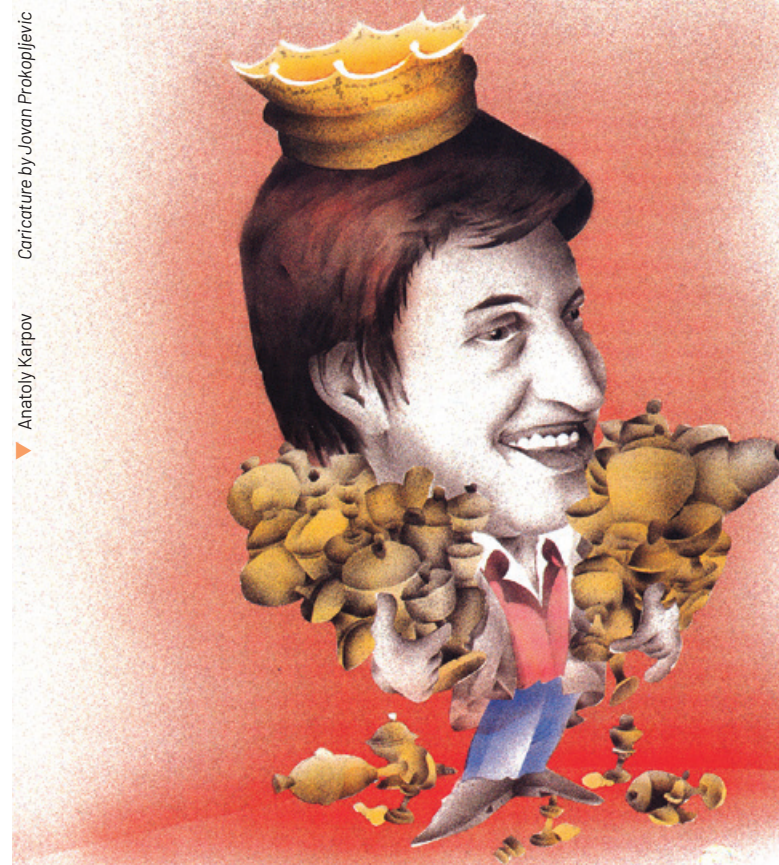
**19...h5 20.♙xd7 ♙xd7 21.♙c4 ♙h4 21...♙e6!?** Exchanging White's powerful queen is by no means an easy decision to make, since Black's pawn



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Caricature by Jovan Prokopjevic

Anatoly Karpov

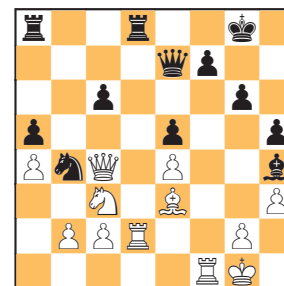


structure is permanently ruined. Still, it feels that Black would have more chances to survive than he got in the game. **22.♙xe6 fxe6 23.♙d2 ♞a6!±.**

**22.♙d2 ♙e7** Spassky tries to solve his issues by tactical means, but Karpov is not going to allow this to happen. **22...♙b7 23.♙f1±.**

**23.♙f1 23.♙c5!?** ♙g5 **24.♙ad1 ♙fd8 (24...♙fe8 25.♙d7+–) 25.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 26.♙f1 ♙d7 27.♙xb4 axb4 28.♙xc6! ♙d8 29.♞d5+–** is winning for White but would still require precise calculation, which Karpov probably avoided since he thought that his position was clearly better without needing to calculate concretely.

**23...♙fd8**



**24.♞b1!** An excellent multipurpose move with the intention of improving the knight, restricted, by the c6 pawn, while solving the problem of c2 in a permanent way by pushing c3 and forcing the black knight to the unfavourable a6 square. The white knight is likely to go to d2 and from there it can either jump to f3 or c4. White's position is strategically winning since Black has too many weaknesses (f7, c6, a5) to protect whereas he lacks any active counterplay.

**24...♙b7 25.♞h2!** Another excellent move by Karpov on the theme of prophylaxis. The white king is removed from the g1-a7 diagonal and covers the g3 square to stop Black from placing his bishop there.

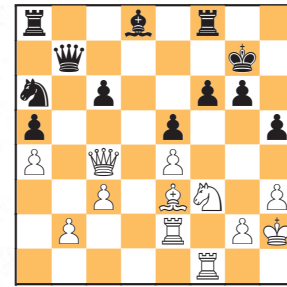
**25...♞g7 26.c3 26.♙e2!?** +–.

**26...♞a6 27.♙e2!** Making room for the knight to jump to d2. **27.b4!?** is a strong move but altering the pawn structure doesn't seem Karpov-like in a position like this.

**27...♙f8 27...♙d7 28.g3! ♙d8 29.♙ef2 f6 30.♞d2+–.**

**28.♞d2 ♙d8 28...♞c7 29.♙c5** wins material for White.

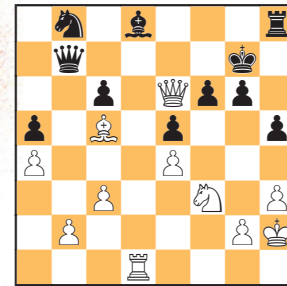
**29.♞f3 f6**



**30.♙d2** It is time for the white rook to return to the open d-file. **30.♞g5!** was a tactical shot most likely missed by Karpov. **30...fxg5 31.♙xf8 ♞xf8 32.♙e6! ♞g7 (32...♙e7 33.♙xg6+–) 33.♙d2!+–.**

**30...♙e7 31.♙e6 ♙ad8 32.♙xd8! ♙xd8 32...♙xd8 33.♞xe5+–.**

**33.♙d1 ♞b8 34.♙c5! ♙h8**



**35.♙xd8!** A nice final touch to force Spassky's resignation.

**35...♙xd8 36.♙e7 Black resigned**

With excellent maneuvering, Karpov managed to exert pressure on Black's weak pawns allowing no counterplay in the process.

The next game is a model example of piece coordination – something which amazed generations of players. Karpov's original plan and execution will be remembered as one of the most instructive games in the history of chess.

### C98

Anatoly Karpov	2700
Wolfgang Unzicker	2535

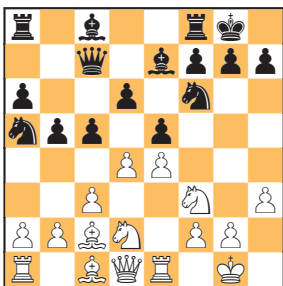
Chess Olympiad, Nice 1974

**1.e4 e5 2.♞f3 ♞c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♞f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♙e1 b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♞a5 10.♙c2 c5** Positionally speaking, the Chigorin Variation is one of the most demanding variations of the Ruy Lopez. **11.d4 ♙c7 12.♞bd2** Immediately





closing the center with 12.d5 is another way for White to play against the Chigorin Variation.



**12...♖c6?!** Nowadays, provoking d4-d5 is known not to give Black good chances of equalizing the game. 12...cxd4 13.cxd4 ♖c6 14.♖b3 (14.a3 exd4 15.♖b3 ♖e8∞) 14...a5! 15.♗e3 a4 16.♖bd2 is the main line against 12.♖bd2.

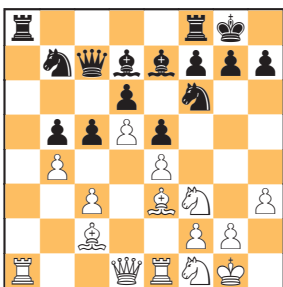
**13.d5!** Karpov closes the position, leading the game into a long maneuvering battle, clearly favoring his style of play.

**13...♖d8 14.a4** Also effective was 14.♖f1 c4 15.♗d2 ♖b7 16.b4!±. Restricting Black's counterplay on the queenside with 14.b3!± is a nice alternative to Karpov's a2-a4.

**14...♗b8 15.axb5 15.b4!?** keeps White's options open – without immediately revealing what he intends to do on the a-file. For example, 15...♗d7 16.♖f1 ♖b7 17.a5!±.

**15...axb5 16.b4!?** Upon 16.c4!± b4 17.♖f1±, White has managed to close the queenside and will proceed with the customary kingside attack. His chances are to be preferred.

**16...♖b7 17.♖f1 ♗d7 18.♗e3 ♖a8**



**19.♗d2** During the previous sequence of moves both players continued with their development and now Black seems ready to challenge White's control of the a-file.

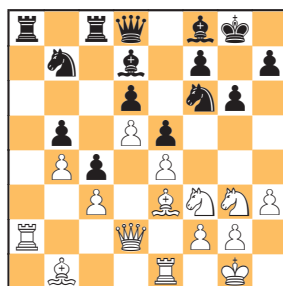
**19...♗fc8 20.♗d3 g6?!** Delaying 20...c4 will prove to be a mistake. After 21.♗c2 ♖e8! 22.♖3h2 ♖d8!, followed by ...♗b7 and trading rooks on the a-file, Black

would have decent chances to fully equalize.

**21.♖g3 ♗f8 22.♖a2!?** Karpov reveals his intention of trying to take control of the only open file. 22.♗eb1!±, putting pressure on the b5 pawn, would likely force Black to play ...c4 at some point. Also interesting was 22.♗e2!±.

**22...c4?!** 22...♗xa2!± 23.♗xa2 ♖b8! might seem a bit slow, but Black wants to play ...♗c8 and ...♖e8-c7 to put his rook on a8. 24.♖h2 ♗c8 25.♖a1 ♖e8! 26.♖g4 f6±.

**23.♗b1?!** Seemingly more natural was 23.♗e2, keeping the road open for ♖ea1. **23...♗d8**

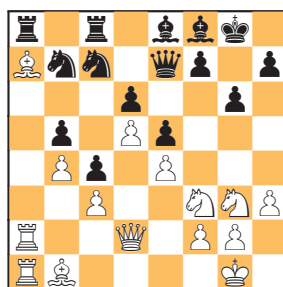


**24.♗a7!** Excellent positional understanding by Karpov! He uses the a7 square as an outpost so as to double his rooks on the a-file and take control of this important open file. Black is somewhat deprived of further trades of pieces, and he will suffer for the rest of the game since his forces clearly lack space.

**24...♖e8** If 24...♗c7, then 25.♗e3! followed by ♗c2 and ♖ea1 would allow White to maintain a sizable advantage.

**25.♗c2 ♖c7 26.♖ea1 ♗e7 27.♗b1** Karpov chooses the b1 square for his bishop, probably with the idea of discouraging Black from playing ...f7-f5 at some point. However, 27.♗d1!± f5 28.exf5! gxf5 29.♗b6! would have given White an almost winning advantage.

**27...♗e8 27...♖d8!?** 28.♗b6 ♖ab8 29.♗e3!± (29.♗e3 f6 30.♖h2±) 29...♖a8?! 30.♖xa8! ♖xa8 31.♖xa8 ♖xa8 32.♗a2 ♖c7 33.♗b6+–.



**28.♖e2!?** Karpov has everything ready on the queenside for an invasion along the a-file and now prepares his kingside expansion with f4. Typically for Karpov, he likes to keep his opponents guessing when he will go for concrete action.

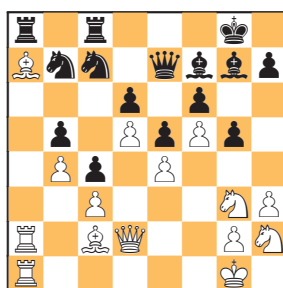
**28...♖d8 29.♖h2 ♗g7?! 29...f6!?** 30.f4 ♖f7±.

**30.f4! f6** After 30...exf4 31.♖xf4, followed by ♖f3, White's advantage is increasing.

**31.f5!** Further increasing White's space advantage.

**31...g5?** Black is trying to close the position, but Karpov will manage to find a way to break through. 31...♖f7±, followed by ...♗h6, would give Black more fighting chances.

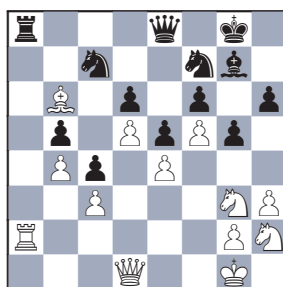
**32.♗c2 ♗f7 33.♖g3 ♖b7**



**34.♗d1!** Karpov goes for the plan with ♗h5 to exchange his "bad" bishop. White literally does whatever he likes in the position since Black's hands are tied.

**34...h6 35.♗h5 ♗e8 36.♗d1!?** ♖d8 **37.♖a3!?** Karpov always liked to torture his opponents and improve his position to the maximum before the final strike. By playing ♖a3 and ♖1a2 he preserves the option of placing his queen on a1 at some point.

Direct play was good enough, as after 37.♗xf7+ ♖xf7 38.♗b6 ♖xa2 39.♖xa2 ♖a8



**40.♖a5!+–** Black's position looks very sad. **37...♖f8 38.♖1a2 ♖g8 39.♖g4** Bringing the knight from h2 to a more suitable square like e3 concludes

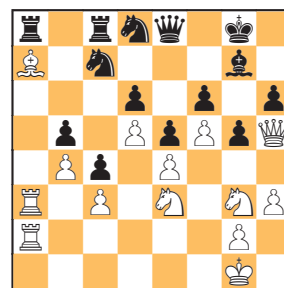


▲ Legends together: Korchnoi, Karpov, and Spassky

Photo by Harald Fietz, Mainz 2005

Karpov's preparations before the final strike. Again, the direct 39.♗xf7+!± ♗xf7 40.♗b6+– was decisive.

**39...♖f8 40.♖e3 ♖g8 41.♗xf7+ ♖xf7 42.♗h5 ♖d8**



**43.♗g6!** Black is given the chance to trade queens but only at great cost, since White's knights will gain access to the important f5 square.

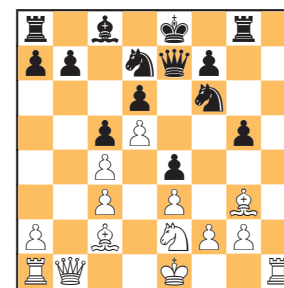
**43...♖f8 44.♖h5 ♗f7 45.♗xf7+ 45.♗b6!±.**

**45...♖xf7 46.♗b6** Black decided to end the suffering and **resigned**. It is worth noting the patience (it took him 22 moves!) that Karpov displayed before removing his bishop from the a7 outpost under the best possible conditions to force Black's immediate resignation.

Black's weak pawns on b5 and c4 are likely to disappear from the board pretty soon after either 46...♖ab8 47.♗xc7 ♖xc7 48.♖a8 ♖cb7 49.♖xb8 ♖xb8 50.♖a7+ ♖b7 51.♖a8 ♖d7 52.♖b8, or 46...♖xa3 47.♖xa3 ♖e8 48.♖a7+ ♖g8 49.♖f2 ♖b8 50.♗xd8 ♖xd8 51.♖b7.

Howard Williams	2405
Anatoly Karpov	2700

Chess Olympiad, Nice 1974



Karpov has adopted his favourite Nimzo-Indian Defense against 1.d4 and White has responded with the Leningrad Variation which usually leads to closed positions such as the one we now have on the board. It is time to organize our pieces and who is better than Karpov to show us how!

**15...♖d8!** Karpov drives his king to c7 where it would be perfectly safe and will have the defensive job of protecting d6 to free his queen from this task.

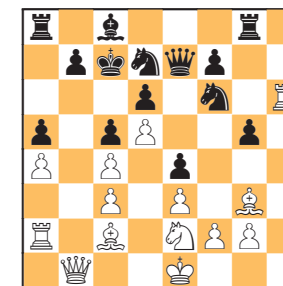
Normal knight moves like 15...♖f8?!, with the idea of developing the c8 bishop, appear to be less than optimal. In closed positions like this, development shouldn't be the top priority. 16.f3! White gets the chance to open the position in the center which, at this point, should be in his favour. The game

is likely to become quite sharp from here on. For example, after 16...exf3 17.gxf3 ♖8d7 18.♖d2 ♖d8!, followed by ...♖c7 and ...♖e5, Black has a pleasant position but Karpov's choice is clearly better.

Or 15...♖b6?! 16.a4! ♖f8 17.a5 ♖xc4 18.♗b3 ♖e5 19.c4∞, when White has lost a pawn, but his knights have gained access to the nice c3 square.

**16.a4 a5!** Another excellent decision by Karpov. He deprives his opponent of claiming more space on the queenside with a4-a5, which is more important than the slight weakening of the b6 and b5 squares. White has no way to make use of these squares. Furthermore, Karpov has plans of activating his rook via a6.

**17.♖a2 ♖c7 18.♖h6?!** A pseudo-active move by White which is likely to backfire. In White's defense, it is difficult to suggest a good plan, since Black has everything under control.



**18...♖a6!** I like Karpov's approach although it is not the only one in this position. The black rook on a6 provides protection to d6 so as to allow ...♖g4 at some point, while the rook can be activated via b6.

18...b6!± followed by ...♗b7 and ...♖h8, was another way for Black to mobilize all his forces and gain the initiative on the kingside. It should be noted that it is very difficult for White to organize any counterplay against the black king since everything is well-protected.

**19.♗b5 ♖b8!** The black king is heading to a7 where it will be perfectly safe. This is a characteristic move for Karpov, who likes to stall active operations until everything is ready. By using this slower approach in such positions where there is no active plan for his opponent, the game becomes difficult from a psychological point of view for the player sitting opposite.

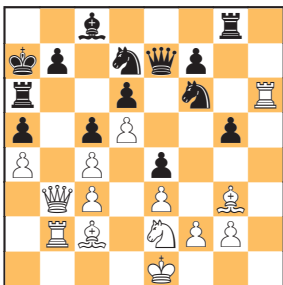
Kicking the rook out of h6 by 19...♖g4!± is another interesting way to handle this position. Then, after





20.♙xd6!? ♖xd6 21.♘d4 cxd4 22.c5 ♘xc5 23.♙xc5+ ♔d7 24.cxd4, there are unnecessary complications for Black. Though the position is objectively winning for Black, it is clear that Karpov didn't want to enter forcing lines. 24...b6+.

20.♙b2 ♖a7 21.♙b3



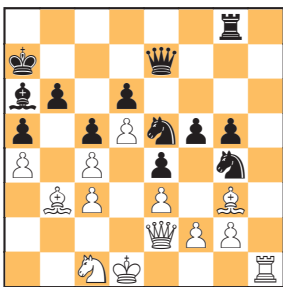
21...♗g4! Now that everything is ready, Karpov commences active operations on the kingside.

22.♙h1 22.♙h7 ♗f8 23.♙h1 f5 doesn't change much.

22...f5 23.♔d1 ♙b6! Again Karpov goes for the simplest approach, without forcing the issue, although he could do that. He trades rooks to enable the development of his bishop on a6 where it will exert pressure on White's weak pawn on c4.

23...f4!? opens the position in the center, leading to a very strong attack by Black after 24.exf4 gxf4 25.♗xf4 ♙b6 26.♙a2 e3!+.

24.♙a2 ♙xb2 25.♙xb2 b6 26.♙b3 ♙a6 27.♗c1 ♗de5 28.♙e2

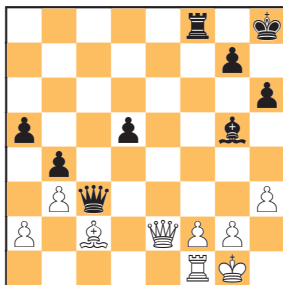


28...♗g6 Again Karpov is in no rush. He prepares ...f4 in the best possible way without bothering to calculate concrete variations. 28...f4!? 29.exf4 gxf4 30.♙xf4 ♗xc4! 31.♙xc4 ♙xc4 32.♙xc4 ♗xf2+-. 29.♔d2 ♗f6 30.♙d1 f4 After 31.♙h2 ♙h8, followed by ...♙h7 pinning the h2 bishop, would make White's position unplayable. Howard decided that he has been tortured enough and threw in the towel. **White resigned**

Another trademark of Karpov's style was his excellent maneuvering in positions with opposite-colored bishops.

Anatoly Karpov	2720
Garry Kasparov	2700

Game 4, World Championship Match, Moscow 1985

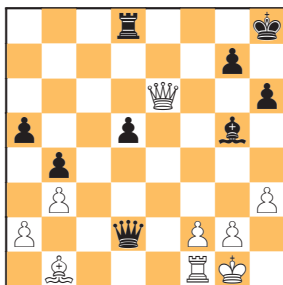


38.♙b1! I like Karpov's approach. White's queen has now been freed from protecting her own bishop and is ready to take advantage of Black's weak light squares.

38...♙d2? Defending this type of position was never Kasparov's strong point, especially against Karpov. Correct was 38...♙d8! 39.♙a6 ♙e5! 40.♙g6 ♗g8 and Black is relatively safe for the moment.

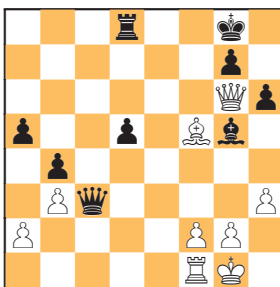
39.♙e5! ♙d8?! 39...♙f6 40.♙f5 ♗g8 41.g3±.

40.♙f5! ♗g8 41.♙e6+ ♔h8 42.♙g6 ♗g8 43.♙e6+ ♔h8



44.♙f5 44.h4! is a nice way for White to further improve his position. After, for example, 44...♙xh4 45.g3 ♙g5 46.♗g2 (threatening ♙e1) 46...♙f8 47.♙d6! ♙d8 (47...♗g8 48.♙h7+-) 48.♙g6 ♗g8 49.♙e6+ ♔h8 50.♙e1!, all White's pieces join the attack. Black's position is busted, as seen after 50...♙f8 51.♙f7!+-. 44.♙e1? runs into 44...♙f8!.

44.g3!? looks like the most human move, preparing ♗g2 followed by ♙e1. 44...♙c3! 45.♙g6 ♗g8 46.♙e6+ ♔h8 47.♙f5 ♗g8

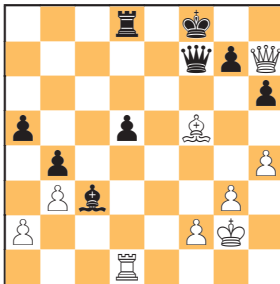


48.g3! Karpov sees that there is no knockout blow available, so he patiently improves his position. Once again, it is very difficult to find anything constructive for Black.

48...♔f8 48...♙e7!? 49.♗g2 ♙c5 50.h4+-.

49.♗g2 ♙f6 50.♙h7! Trading queens is clearly not an option for White.

50...♙f7 51.h4! ♙d2 52.♙d1! ♙c3



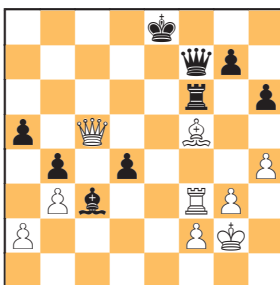
53.♙d3! Karpov finds the way to bring his rook into attack.

53...♙d6 53...♙f6 54.♙f3 ♙g8 55.♙g6 ♙f7 56.♙g4+-.

54.♙f3 ♗e7 54...♙f6 55.♙g6!? (55.♙e3!?) 55...♙xf3 56.♙xf7 ♙xf7 57.♙h8+ ♗e7 58.♙a8+-.

55.♙h8! d4 56.♙c8 56.♙f4!?+-.

56...♙f6 57.♙c5+ ♗e8

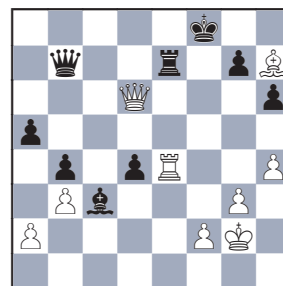


58.♙f4! Square-by-square, move-by-move, resembles a boa constrictor approach.

58...♙b7+ 59.♙e4+ ♗f7 59...♗d8 60.♙xa5+-.

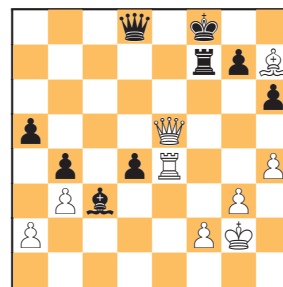
60.♙c4+! ♔f8 61.♙h7 White's domination on the light squares is impressive.

61...♙f7 62.♙e6 62.♙c5+!? ♙e7 63.♙d6! Threatening ♙d8.



63...♙d7 64.♙b8+ ♙e8 65.♙f4+ ♙f7 66.♙g6! is a beautiful finish.

62...♙d7 63.♙e5 ♙d8

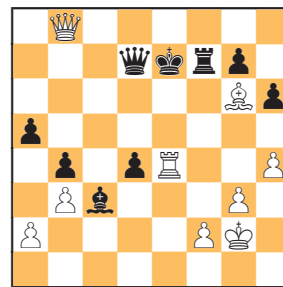


64.♙c5+! ♙e7 65.♙f4+ 65.♙g6!? followed by ♙xe7, leads to forced mate.

65...♔e8 66.♙b5+ ♙d7 67.♙g6+ ♙f7

Playing on in such a position clearly shows how irritated Kasparov must have been with his performance.

68.♙b8+ ♗e7 69.♙e4+



69...♙e6 Or 69...♔f6 70.♙b6+ ♙e6 71.♙xe6 mate.

70.♙c7+ ♔f6 71.♙xe6+ ♗xe6 72.♙xf7+ ♔f6 73.♙g8 g5 74.♙f7+ ♗e5 75.♙e6 mate.

## Conclusion:

Studying the games of Karpov should be a priority for all chess players who are serious about improving their positional (and overall) skills. Especially his games in the Ruy Lopez are gems which everybody should study to get a better grip on closed structures. His handling of the position when he was playing against the isolated pawn (d4 or d5) was one such kind. His methodical and patient approach to the game should be studied as well.



## Readers Voices

**Fischer, Karpov and Kramnik.**  
Great strategic depth and technical play.

*Timotheos Lirindzakis*

**Capablanca, Petrosian, and Carlsen**  
1. Clarity – Beauty meets economy and simplicity.

2. Tenacity – Resolute solidity until a situation calls for tactics.

3. Perspicacity – A clear understanding combined with a patience exemplifying the Russian axiom "Don't rush."

*Mark Warriner*

**Karpov, Petrosian and either Capablanca or Kramnik.**

All the above were superb tacticians when opportunities arose, but they were content to win in the endgame where they reigned supreme. Karpov was a constrictor of the finest kind; he was content to strangle his opponent either quickly or slowly. A true master of accumulating one small advantage after another right up to the endgame. Petrosian's gift was to bore his opponents into making errors (big or infinitely small) and content to make good in the endgame. Capa was simply good at any phase of the game but just played flawlessly and simply. He never hurried. Reading how he evaluated positions from their basic components is still astounding. Kramnik made messy positions look easy, but to me he was the best endgame player after Karpov left the top 10 in the mid-1990s. I have always wanted to look at Kramnik's games just for the endings, because he could make something out of nothing.

*Thomas Morris*

**Capablanca, Karpov, and Nimzovich.**  
Capablanca's games are masterpieces of "simplicity". He made positional chess seem very, very, easy, and it sure is not. His positional game was on an entirely different level than his contemporaries. Karpov was the greatest positional player, when I was young. I learned a lot from him. Karpov had something to prove after becoming World Champion without

beating the reigning champ still use to this day to describe positional play. Without Nimzovich we wouldn't know what we are talking about when it comes to positional play. He created some of the greatest positional masterpieces of his time, maybe of all time.

*Henrik Lilleso Jensen*

**Nimzovich, Karpov, and Carlsen.**

For obvious reasons the first is Nimzovich. His books changed our way of thinking, and his ideas were very formative for new generations, in addition to the excellent teaching in his books. The next great positional player was Karpov. His dominance over decades is proof of this. I close my list with the incomparable Carlsen. Many times, the subtleties in his games are difficult even for other great masters to explain.

*Israel Krueger*

**Capablanca, Botvinnik, and Fischer.**

It is a very interesting question to identify the three best positional players. There are many, but I would single out Capablanca, Botvinnik and Fischer. Capablanca deepened positional thinking and introduced certain rules. Botvinnik raised positional play to a scientific level, while Fischer adapted positional play to a specific game. Morphy, Steinitz, Rubinstein, Nimzovich, Karpov and Kramnik also made a great contribution.

*Giorgi Macharashvili*

**Only Karpov!**

His opponents didn't understand his moves until it was too late!

*Ioannis Nanakis*

**Capablanca, Botvinnik and Fischer.**

Capablanca deepened positional thinking and introduced certain rules. Botvinnik raised positional play to a scientific level, while Fischer adapted positional play to a specific game. Morphy, Steinitz, Rubinstein, Nimzowitsch, Karpov, Kramnik also made a great contribution.

*Giorgi Macharashvili*