



# Winning the Staunton Gambit: 25 crushing blows



edited by Bill Harvey

White quickly offers a pawn in the Staunton Gambit with 1.d4 f5 2.e4. Here are 25 critical positions that allow White to regain not only the pawn but the game as well. Each diagram highlights the position before the winning move.

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1) Olexandr Zakordonets vs Volodymyr Dorosh,  
Lvov, 4/2/2011

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bxf6 exf6  
6.Qh5+ Ke7 7.O-O-O Qe8



8.Nd5+ Kd8 9.Qxe8+ 1-0

3) Luis Palau vs Nollman, Vienna, 1948

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 d6 5.f3 exf3  
6.Nxf3 Bg4 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Qe2 c6 9.Ne4 Nxe4  
10.Qxe4 Bxf3

White mates in 2.

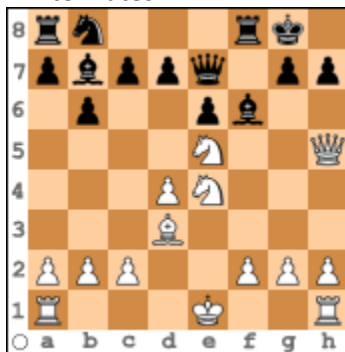


11.Qg6+ hxg6 12.Bxg6# 1-0

2) Edward Lasker vs George Thomas,  
London, 1912

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 e6 5.Nxe4 Be7  
6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nf3 O-O 8.Bd3 b6 9.Ne5 Bb7  
10.Qh5 Qe7

White mates in 7.



11.Qxh7+ Kxh7 12.Nxf6+ Kh6 13.Neg4+ Kg5  
14.f4+ Kh4 15.g3+ Kh3 16.Bf1+ Bg2 17.Nf2# 1-0

4) Wolf-Dieter Menkhaus vs Werner Jung,  
Germany, 1996

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 d5  
6.Ne5 g6 7.h4 Bg7 8.h5 gxh5 9.Bg5 O-O 10.Nxd5  
Bg4 11.Nxf6+ exf6



12.Bc4+ Kh8 13.Qxg4 Qe8 ( 13...hxg4 14.Ng6# )  
14.Rxf5 fxe5 15.O-O-O 1-0

5) Dionisio Bombin Pinera vs Jonathan Alvarez Arguelles, Asturias, 3/19/2004

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.g4 d5 5.g5 Ng8  
6.f3 exf3 7.Qxf3 e6 8.Bd3 g6 9.h4 Bg7 10.h5 Ne7  
11.hxg6 Nxg6



12.Rxh7 1-0

7) Manfred Herzog vs Udo Helscher, Wiesbaden. 1998

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 e6  
6.Bd3 Bb4 7.O-O Bxc3 8.bxc3 O-O 9.Ba3 Re8  
10.Ne5 d6 11.Rxf6 dxe5 12.Qh5 h6

White mates in 3.



13.Qf7+ Kh8 14.Rxh6+ 1-0

6) Raul Cruz vs Osvaldo Bazan, Buenos Aires, 1960

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 g6 5.f3 exf3  
6.Nxf3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c6 8.Qd2 b5 9.Bd3 b4 10.Ne4  
Ba6 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Bxa6 Nxa6



13.Qe2 Qa5 14.Nxf6+ Kd8 15.Ne4 b3+ 16.c3 1-0

8) Manuel Maleki vs Carlos Permuy Lorenzo, Pontevedra, 8/14/2008

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nc6 5.d5 Ne5  
6.Qe2 Nf7 7.h4 c6 8.O-O-O Nxd5 9.Nxd5 cxd5  
10.Rxd5 Qb6 11.Qxe4 e6 12.Rd1 Qxf2

White mates in 3.



13.Qxe6+ 1-0

9) Vitaly Gurvich vs Zeno-Iulius Sarbu,  
Varna, 7/20/2012

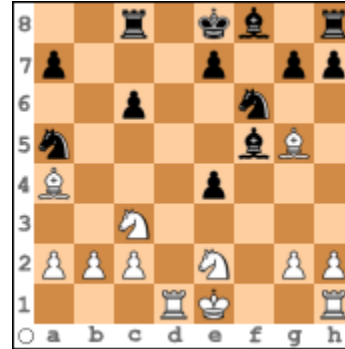
1.d4 f5 2.e4 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bd3 fxe4 5.Nxe4 e5  
6.dxe5 dxe5 7.Qe2 Be6 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.O-O Bg4  
10.c3 Be7 11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 12.Be4 O-O 13.Bxc6  
bxc6



14.Qc4+ Qd5 15.Qxg4 1-0

11) G Codazza vs Passelli, Italy (corr.), 1990

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 d5 5.fxe4 dxe4  
6.Bg5 Bf5 7.Bc4 Nc6 8.Nge2 Qd7 9.d5 Na5  
10.Bb5 c6 11.dxc6 Qxd1+ 12.Rxd1 bxc6 13.Ba4  
Rc8



14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Rd5 1-0

10) J R Capablanca vs Masyutin, Kiev, 3/2/1914

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 c6 5.f3 exf3  
6.Nxf3 e6 7.Bd3 d5 8.O-O Nbd7 9.Ne5 Be7  
10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Qh5+ Ke7 12.Bxh7 Nf8 13.Qf7+  
Kd6

White mates in 8.



14.Nc4+ dxc4 15.Ne4+ Kd5 16.Rf5+ Kxe4 ( 16...Kxd4 17.c3+ Kd3 18.Nc5+ ) 17.Re1+ Kxd4 18.c3+ Kd3 19.Rd5# 1-0

12) Fabrice Liardet vs Hans Speck, Zurich, 1991

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 d5 5.fxe4 dxe4  
6.Bg5 Nc6 7.d5 Ne5 8.Qd4 Nf7 9.Bxf6 exf6 10.O-O  
Nd6 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Qxe4+ Be7 13.Bb5+  
Bd7



14.d6 Bxb5 ( 14...cxd6 15.Rxd6 Bxb5 16.Rxd8+ Rxd8 17.Qxb7 ) 15.dxe7 Qxe7 16.Qxb7 O-O 17.Qxb5 Qe3+ 18.Kb1 Rab8 19.Qd3 1-0

13) Michael Baron vs Lee Forace,  
Melbourne, 2002

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.f3 e3 4.Bxe3 Nf6 5.Bd3 e6  
6.c4 Be7 7.g4 b5 8.g5 bxc4 9.Bxc4 Nd5 10.Bxd5  
exd5 11.f4 Bb4+ 12.Kf2 O-O 13.Nf3 d6



14.Qb3 1-0

15) Ulf Gohla vs Gerd Densing,  
Dortmund, 7/9/2005

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 e6 5.Nxe4 Be7  
6.Ng3 O-O 7.Bd3 b6 8.Nf3 Bb7 9.Qe2 Nd5  
10.Qe4 Bxg5 11.Qxh7+ Kf7 12.Qg6+ Kg8  
13.Nxg5 Nf6

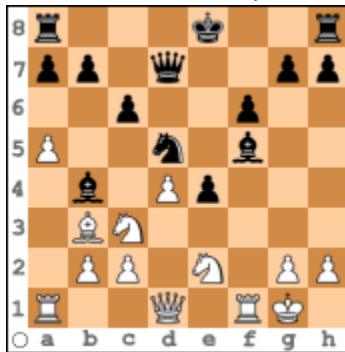
White mates in 4.



14.Nh5 Qe7 15.Nxf6+ 1-0

14) Alexander Diehm vs Felix Werthebach,  
Bad Homburg, 6/11/2004

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 d5 5.Bg5 Bf5  
6.Bxf6 exf6 7.fxe4 dxe4 8.Bc4 Nd7 9.Nge2 Nb6  
10.Bb3 Bb4 11.O-O Qd7 12.a4 c6 13.a5 Nd5



14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Ba4 1-0

16) Mihail Ciortan vs Ionut-Cristian Sorescu,  
Bucharest, 2002

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 e6 5.Nxe4 Be7  
6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nf3 O-O 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.c3 b6 10.Qe2  
Bb7 11.O-O O-O a5 12.h4 a4 13.Nfg5 h6 14.Nh7  
Kxh7

White mates in 5.



15.Nxf6+ Kh8 16.Qe4 g6 17.Qxg6 Rf7 18.Qxh6+  
1-0

17) Ralf Schoengart vs Martin Manner,  
Hamburg, 1995

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nc6 5.Bxf6  
exf6 6.d5 Ne5 7.Nxe4 d6 8.Nf3 Be7 9.Bb5+ Kf7  
10.Nxe5+ dxe5 11.Qf3 f5 12.O-O-O Rf8 13.d6  
cxd6 14.Bc4+ Ke8 15.Qh5+ g6 16.Qxh7 fxe4



17.Bb5+ Bd7 18.Qxg6+ 1-0

19) Gerard Joyeux vs Romain Grange,  
Saint Chely d'Aubrac, 7/14/2011

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.f3 exf3 4.Nxf3 Nf6 5.Bd3 e6  
6.O-O Be7 7.Nc3 b6 8.Bg5 Bb7 9.Bxf6 Bxf6  
10.Ne5 Ke7 11.Ne4 Bxe4 12.Bxe4 d5 13.Bd3  
Bxe5 14.dxe5 Nd7 15.Qh5 g6 16.Qg5+ Ke8  
White mates in 3.

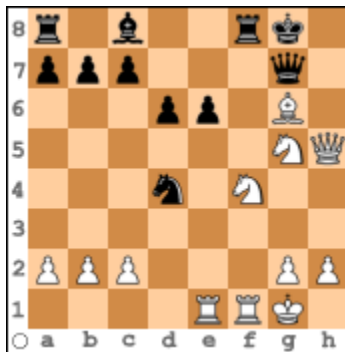


17.Bxg6+ 1-0

18) Klaas De Ruijter vs Teije De Jong,  
Spijkenisse, 5/15/2010

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 e6  
6.Bd3 Be7 7.O-O O-O 8.Bg5 d6 9.Qe1 Nc6  
10.Qh4 g6 11.Rae1 Nd5 12.Nxd5 Bxg5 13.Nxg5  
h5 14.Nf4 Nxd4 15.Bxg6 Qf6 16.Qxh5 Qg7

White mates in 4.



17.Bh7+ Kh8 18.Ng6+ Qxg6 19.Bxg6+ 1-0

20) Heinrich Burger vs Manfred Keller,  
BRD (corr.), 1972

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 g6  
6.h4 d5 7.Ne5 Bg7 8.h5 gxh5 9.Bg5 O-O 10.Bxf6  
exf6 11.Qxh5 fxe5 12.Qxh7+ Kf7 13.Bd3 Rg8  
14.O-O+ Ke7 15.Rae1 c6 16.Rxe5+ Be6 17.Bf5  
Kd6

White mates in 6.

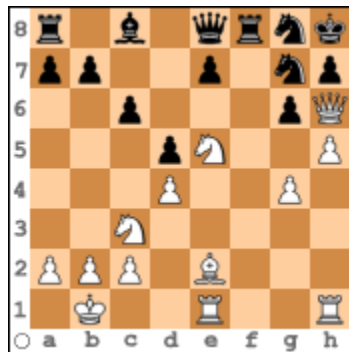


18.Nb5+ ( 18.Rxe6+ Kc7 19.Qh2+ Kb6 ) cxb5  
19.Rxe6+ Kc7 20.Qh2+ Kd7 21.Qd6+ Kc8  
22.Re8+ Nd7 23.Bxd7# 1-0

21) Mann vs Roland Steche, DDR (corr.), 1982

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 g6  
6.Bf4 Bg7 7.Qd2 O-O 8.O-O-O d5 9.Ne5 Nbd7  
10.Kb1 c6 11.Re1 Nh5 12.Bh6 Ndf6 13.Be2 Bxh6  
14.Qxh6 Ng7 15.g4 Qe8 16.h4 Kh8 17.h5 Ng8

White mates in 2.

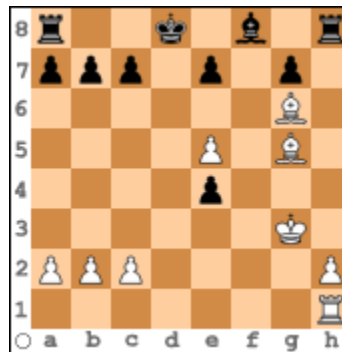


18.Qxh7+ Kxh7 19.hxg6# 1-0

23) Villotte vs Alain Fouquet, Massy, 1993

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.f3 d5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bg5 Bf5  
6.g4 Bg6 7.Nh3 Qd7 8.Nf4 exf3 9.Nxg6 f2+  
10.Kxf2 hxg6 11.Bd3 Qxg4 12.Qxg4 Nxg4+  
13.Kg3 Nf6 14.Bxg6+ Kd8 15.Rae1 Nc6 16.Re5  
Nxe5 17.dxe5 Ne4+ 18.Nxe4 dxe4

White mates in 3.



19.Rd1+ Kc8 20.Bf5+ e6 21.Rd8# 1-0

22) Viktorija Beinoraite vs Aija Upite,  
Liepaya, 8/14/2005

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nc6 5.f3 exf3  
6.Nxf3 d5 7.Bb5 a6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Ne5 Qd6  
10.O-O g6 11.Bf4 Qe6 12.Re1 Nd7 13.Nf3 Qf7  
14.Bxc7 Bg7 15.Ng5 Qf5 16.Ne6 Bf6 17.Qe2 Nf8



18.Ng7+ 1-0

24) Claudia Meissner vs Nicol Zahn,  
Germany, 1998

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 d5 5.Bxf6 exf6  
6.Qh5+ g6 7.Qxd5 Nc6 8.Qxe4+ Kf7 9.Bc4+ Kg7  
10.O-O-O Bd6 11.g4 Re8 12.Qf3 Na5 13.Bd3 Be6  
14.Nge2 c6 15.h4 Nc4 16.h5 Bf7 17.Kb1 a5  
18.hxg6 hxg6 19.g5 fxg5

White mates in 4.

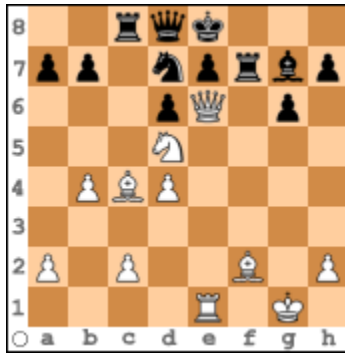


20.Rh7+ Kxh7 21.Qxf7+ 1-0

25) Claus Langmann vs Friedrich Clasen,  
Itzehoe, 4/1/2007

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 d6  
6.Bg5 c6 7.Bd3 Qa5 8.O-O Bg4 9.Qe1 Bxf3  
10.Bxf6 Bxg2 11.Rf5 Bd5 12.Bh4 Nd7 13.Bf2 g6  
14.b4 Qd8 15.Rxd5 cxd5 16.Nxd5 Bg7 17.Qe6  
Rf8 18.Re1 Rf7 19.Bc4 Rc8

White mates in 3.



20.Nc7+ 1-0