Part I: 4.e3 Various

9...b8!?  As usual Bronstein is inventive. However, the ‘regular’ 9...b6, followed by ...bxc5, ...a5, ...a6, was OK for Black, since 10.b5?! a5 can only bring White trouble. Another logical option was to immediately play 9...e8 and follow Bronstein’s game plan. 10.g3 e8 David is true to himself. 11.h2 f5 12.h1 f6 13.0-0 d7 14.h1 e8 Black now has an excellent Stonewall Dutch. 15.g1 h5 16.f3 xf3+ 17.xf3 a6 18.f5 c6 and White had a good game in A. Zaitsev-Bronstein, Dnepropetrovsk 1970.

B322) Black can also seize the opportunity to start immediate active central play with 8...e5!? 9.g3 b5 exd4 10.exd4 a5 11.f4 0-0 12.d3 b6 13.c6 a6 should not worry Black. 9...h5 10.b5 h4 11.ge2 e4 11...h3 was an alternative to be considered. 12.h3 f5 with a complicated game, Black not being worse, in M. Gurevich-Kogan, France tt 2005.

Based on the existing material, I think that 5.e2 does not lead to a white advantage against Taimanov’s 4...c6.

○ The modest-looking move 5.d2!? was played by Taimanov himself (!) and poses problems for Black.

![Chess Diagram](image)

White is developing his pieces harmoniously and achieving positions where the black knight will prove to be prematurely placed on c6 – for example, think about the line 4.d2 c6 5.e3. With his pawn still on c7, Black is obviously not going to develop his knight to c6 that early in this line. I do not see equality for Black and I think that 5.d2 is one of the roads to a white advantage. Also, White’s play is relatively simple:

A) In case of 5.d5 White logically continues his development, achieving an advantage: 6.f3 0-0 7.c2 e8!? This principled attempt to open up the centre and justify the position of the c6 does not equalize. It is connected with a pawn sacrifice. If 7...b6, White has easy play with 8.a3 xc3 9.xc3 e4 10.d3 f5 11.b4 a6 12.b2 e8 13.cxd5 exd5 14.0-0 c8 15.fc1 d8 16.e5 f6 17.f3 with a clear white advantage in Kortchnoi-I. Zaitsev, Yerevan ch-URS 1962. 8.e2 White may also consider 8.a3. 8...e5 The idea behind Black’s previous move. 9.dxe5 xe5 10.xd5 10.cxd5 is also good. 10...xd2+ 11.xd2 e4 Strangely enough, Black’s play here resembles some ideas from the Budapest Gambit. 12.d4 c6 13.d1 Black does not have enough for the pawn and White went on to win in Taimanov-Barcza, Saltsjöbaden izt 1952;

B) 5...0-0 6.c2 d5 7.a3 7.f3 is also good, simply transposing to 5.d5.

7...xc3 8.xc3 e4 9.f3