

## The Fishing Hook / Fishing Pole Opening: R I P

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The Berlin Defense is well known as an effective answer to the Spanish Opening, also named the Ruy Lopez. The Fishing Hook or Fishing Pole is a variation at the fourth move for black where a black knight is presented as bait to be taken by the rook pawn of white. The move order is C65: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 4 Bb5 Nf6 4 0-0 Ng4 5 h3 h5. Black challenges white to take the black knight at g4 with the pawn at h3. If white takes the bait, then white loses rapidly. However, if white avoids taking the bait, then black loses but only less rapidly.

This article presents the lines developed by computer analysis using a dual Opteron 240 with 2 GB ECC RAM and Deep Fritz 8 through level 19. It should be noted that the software running in single processor mode produces significantly different and spurious results than those here. The format adopted for presentation of moves is that of ECO. Alternate lines are also presented that attempt to preserve the outpost of black's knight at g4 for as long as possible which is consistent with the intention of the opening.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
e4	Nf3	Bb5	0-0	h3							
e5	Nc6	Nf6	Ng4	h5							
				+1.46	c3	Ba4	d4	Bc2	Bg5	Nbd2	Re1
					a6	Nf6[a]	b5	Qe7	Bb8	d6	Qd7
				+1.98	--	Bb3	d4	Ng5	f4	Bxf4	
					[a]	b5[b]	Qe7	Nf6	Nd8	exf4	c6
				+1.79	--	d4	Re1	Bxc6	dxg5	Qa4	
					[b]	Bc5	Bd6	Nh6	dxg6	Be7	Qd7
				+1.24	d3	Bc4	Nc3	Nd5	c3	d4	Bg5
					a6	Nh6	Bc5	d6	Ba7	Be6	Qd7
				+1.13	Nc3	Bc4	d4	Nxd4	Bb3	Nf5	Nd4
					a6	Nf6[c]	exd4	Ne5	Bc5	g6	d6
				+1.12	--	Re1	Nd5	d4	dxg5	Ng5	
					[c]	d6	Bd7	Nf6	Be7	dxg5	Rf8
				+1.05	Ba4	Nc3	d4	d5	Be3	Nb5	Nd2
					Nf6[d]	d6	Nd7	Ncb8	Be7	b6	a6

+1.07	--	d3	Nbd2	Nc4	Bg5	Bb3	Nxd6+
[d]	Bd6	Nf6	Qe7	a6	Qe6	Qe7	Qxd6
+1.02	d4	Bf4	c3	Ba4	Qd2	Bxh6	exf5
	exd4	Nh6	a6	Be7	f5	Rxh6	Rf6
+1.01	Qe2	Bxc6	c3	b3	d4	Qd3	Bg5
	a6	dxd6	Bc5	Bd6	Qe7	Nf6	Qe6
+0.94	Bc4	Nc3	d3	Na4	Nxb6	Bg5	Bxe6
	Bc5	Nf6[e]	d6	Bb6	axb6	Be6	fxe6
	+1.05	--	Nd5	c3	exd5	d4	Nxd4
	[e]	d6	Nf6	Nxd5	Ne7	exd4	h4

The net result of computer analysis of the lines above is that the Fishing Hook or Fishing Pole opening is unsound and should rest in peace (RIP).

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