
Are there any reasons to play moves like 2. ... h3 in the opening?

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I sometimes observe people playing moves like 1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 h3? or 1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 h3? as black and I am wondering about the reasons behind this. Even as chess novice, I know from several sources that playing 2. ... h3 is almost always a bad idea. Nevertheless, I observed several players that always seem to play h3 or a3 or even both regardless of what their opponent does. A typical response of mine to moves like this is to think: "Bad move, I will win this one!" To my annoyance, however, it is not that easy. At the level I play chess, the decisive move is almost always some blunder like hanging pieces. On that scale, loosing a tempo by playing 2. ... h3 does not really matter. Furthermore, I simply do not have the experience to effectively exploit small advantages. Now I do not think that people always playing 2. ... h3 are stupid. In contrary: I do think that there is probably a reason for playing 2. ... h3 in beginner-level chess. So what are the potential advantages? First of all, it may confuse the opponent and get him/her out of the opening book. In correspondence chess games, for instance, it is perfectly OK to look up openings during the game. However, a database search in a collection of master games or opening manual will most likely give zero results after 2. ... h3. Therefore, white has to think for him/herself which is always "risky". Secondly, many novice chess players confronted with 2. ... h3 realize that this is less than optimal. Then they may become overconfident and go for a premature attack because they think they have to use this little advantage immediately instead of developing all pieces before starting an attack. Considering these reasons, playing 2. ... h3 against weak opponents may even turn out as an OK move, albeit playing more the opponent than the board. So, why not playing it? Of course it will be a serious disadvantage against any good player. But most importantly, it prevents learning of proper chess opening play and is therefore a roadblock to improvement.