USER MANUAL

Defense & Prevention

NOVEMBER 2026 · iOS AND ANDROID

READ THE THREAT. PROTECT YOUR KING. CHOOSE YOUR DEFENSE.

From your first profile to reviewing your mistakes. Learn how to train with the full app, step by step.

FULL APP + DEMO SCOPE

01 OBSERVE

02 CALCULATE

03 SOLVE

04 UNDERSTAND

05 REPEAT



Repetition deepens learning

12,000 puzzles · 9 defensive resources · 3 levels

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Your training circuit.

Start with the quick guide or tap a section in the contents. Links and page numbers are clickable.

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How to use this manual

The main walkthrough explains the full app for iOS and Android. Pages 17 and 18 define the DEMO scope. The official screenshots show examples: your figures and progress will be your own.

GETTING STARTED

03

Your first session, in six steps.

You do not need to explore the whole app at once. Start with one theme, understand a position and solve it again.

1. **Create your profile.**
   Open the app, enter your name or nickname, enter an initial Elo as a guide and choose a level. Tap Start training.

2. **Choose a defensive resource.**
   In the Theme index, select a level and open a theme, such as Escape check.

3. **Open a position.**
   On the Puzzle map, tap a number to open that puzzle directly. You can choose where to start.

4. **Solve the complete sequence.**
   Check which side is to move. Tap a piece and its destination square, or drag it. The app plays your opponent's reply; continue when it is your turn.

5. **Understand the result.**
   If you make a mistake, review your move and study the solution. If you solve the puzzle, also check which threat you neutralized and how the line continues.

6. **Try it again.**
   Use Solve again or open My mistakes. Reviewing a puzzle that has already been rated does not change your rating.

The question that guides your training

What is my opponent threatening, which reply neutralizes it, and what happens next? Completing the sequence helps you understand the defense.

> Once installed, the app lets you train offline. You do not need an app account, email address or password to create your local profiles.

FIRST LAUNCH

04

Your name. Your starting point.

The same walkthrough applies to iPhone, iPad, Android phones and Android tablets. The position of some controls changes with the available screen space.

1. **Install and open Defense.**
   Search for Chess Defense & Prevention by Ajedrez de Silicio in the App Store or Google Play, depending on your device. The official catalog on page 20 links to both stores.

2. **Enter your Name or nickname.**
   Choose how you want to appear in the app. This profile is saved on your device; it does not create an online account.

3. **Enter Your initial Elo.**
   Use your FIDE Elo, your rating on the platform where you play most, or an estimate. The field accepts a number between 100 and 3500. It is the starting point for your Silicio rating.

4. **Choose your starting level.**
   The app suggests a level based on the number you entered. You can select Intermediate, Advanced or High Level before you start.

5. **Tap Start training.**
   The index opens and your profile is created. When you return, you can continue with the active user.

Rating and level are different things

Your rating changes with your results. Your training level stays the same until you change it in the index. The initial suggestion is a guide.

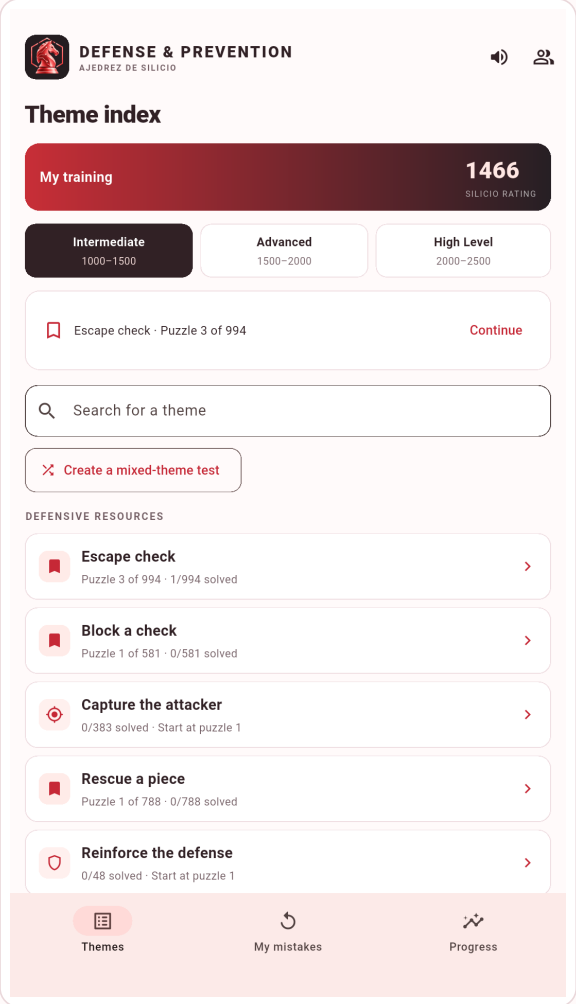
> The interface follows your system language: Spanish or English. There is no language selector inside the app. Language and layout may vary with your device settings.

INDEX

05

Choose what you want to strengthen.

The index brings together your themes, active level and access to tests. On a phone, the main navigation usually appears at the bottom; on larger screens, at the side.



Theme index on a phone. The same functions are available on a larger screen.

Level	Displayed guide	Content
Intermediate	1000-1500	4,000 puzzles
Advanced	1500-2000	4,000 puzzles
High Level	2000-2500	4,000 puzzles

1 **Select a level.**

Tap one of the three options. The ranges are a guide to difficulty; they are not an entry requirement or a certification of playing strength.

2 **Search or browse the themes.**

Use Search for a theme or scroll through Defensive resources. Each card shows your progress and where you can continue.

3 **Open a theme.**

Tap its card to enter the map. Start, Continue or Review reflect your progress in that content.

Themes / Theme index returns to the catalog; My mistakes opens your notebook; Progress / My progress shows your results. Users lets you switch profiles.

DEFENSIVE RESOURCES

06

Nine ways to respond.

The theme name guides you towards the resource you will practice. In tests of new puzzles, you will need to recognize it without that initial clue.

Theme	What you need to recognize
Escape check	The precise square to move your king out of check and continue the sequence.
Block a check	How to block a line of attack against your king by placing a piece in between.
Capture the attacker	When capturing the piece giving check is the right response.
Rescue a piece	How to avoid losing a threatened piece.
Reinforce the defense	How to add or coordinate defenders to hold an attacked point.
Protect your king	How to respond to threats against your king, even when you are not yet in check.
Stop promotion	How to stop or neutralize a pawn that threatens to promote.
Defend with counterplay	How to create threats of your own that change the priorities in the position.
Prevent material loss	How to anticipate a threat before it leads to a loss of material.

Defending also requires calculation

Identifying the resource is the beginning. Then check your opponent's strongest reply and complete the moves required by the exercise.

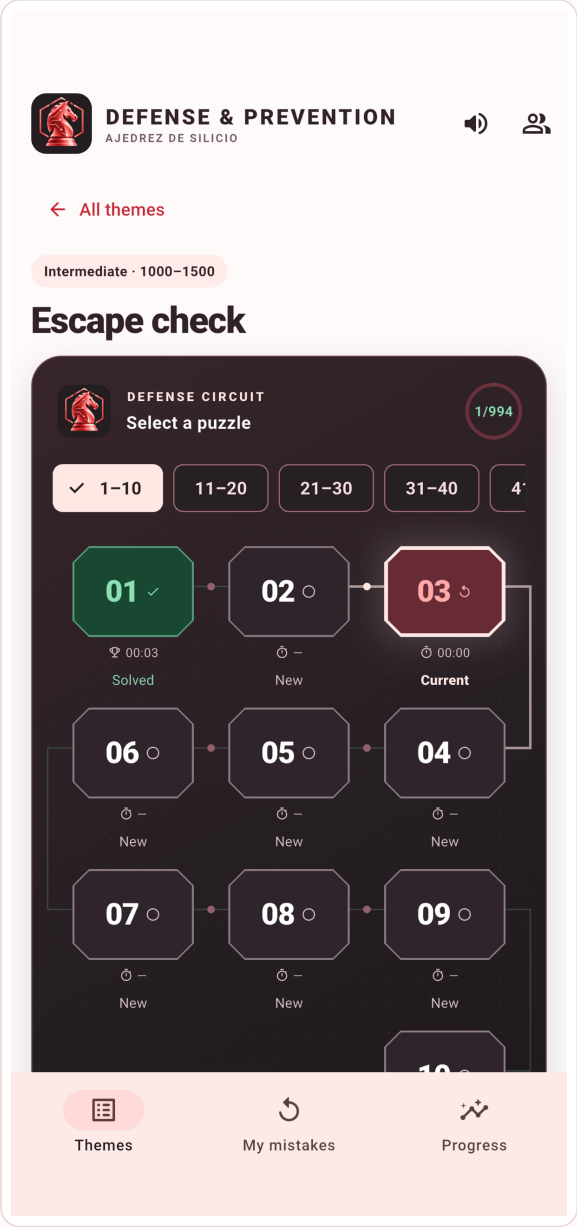
> Themes help you organize your study. Do not assume that every position starts in check: read the specific objective of the exercise.

MAP

07

Your next move, wherever you choose.

Each theme has a numbered circuit. You do not need to unlock puzzles in a compulsory order.



Theme map in the full app. Numbers and colors show the profile's progress.

1. **Choose a section.**
   Use the numbered tabs, such as 1-10 or 11-20, when a theme has several groups.

2. **Tap a number.**
   This opens the puzzle directly. You can choose a new position or return to one you have already worked on.

3. **Use the continue shortcut.**
   You can also use Continue at puzzle… to resume the selected puzzle. A preview may appear on larger screens.

4. **Go back whenever you need to.**
   Puzzle map returns to the circuit; All themes returns to the index.

Status	How to read it
New	No result recorded yet.
In progress	Started and unfinished.
Solved	Completed; you can review it again.
Review	Worth working on again.

Progress and rating are not the same

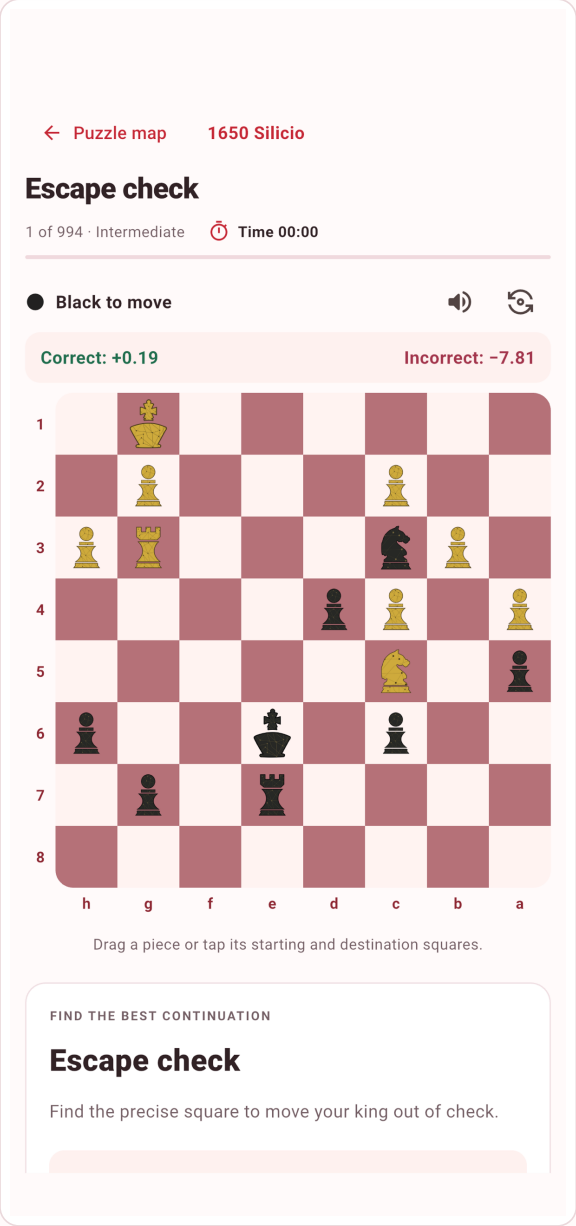
A puzzle you got wrong can be marked as solved after a review. That status change does not recalculate the rating from its first result.

BOARD

08

Before you move, read the threat.

The exercise combines the position, the side to move, the objective and information about your attempt.



Exercise in the full app. Rating figures belong to the profile shown in this screenshot.

1. **Check whose move it is.**
   Read White to move or Black to move. Flipping the board changes the view, not the turn.

2. **Read the objective.**
   Within a specific theme, the resource you are training is shown. Ask what your opponent is threatening before choosing a move.

3. **Move in whichever way suits you.**
   Tap the piece and then its destination square, or drag the piece. When promoting, choose the piece when prompted.

4. **Wait for the automatic reply.**
   After a correct move, the app plays for your opponent. Continue when it is your turn again.

5. **Read the indicators.**
   The timer records elapsed time. Correct and Incorrect show the expected rating change for that puzzle if it can still be rated.

One position, two orientations

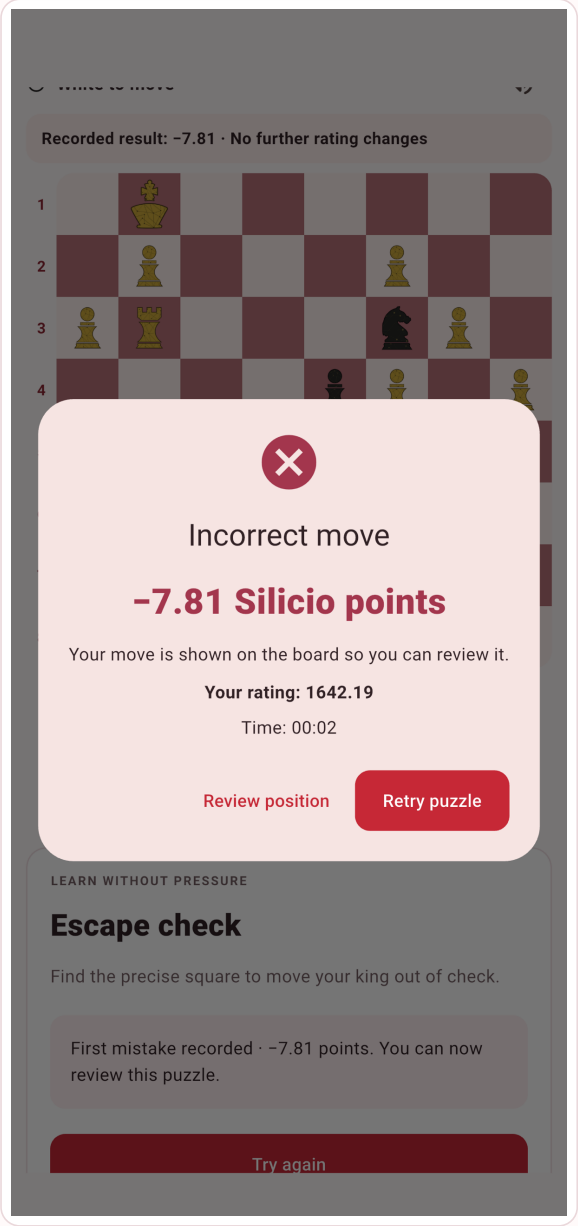
Flip board helps you view the position from the other side. Follow the coordinates and the turn indicator so you do not confuse the squares.

RESULT

09

The first move is not everything.

Solving the puzzle means completing the required continuation. The app alternates your decisions with your opponent's replies.



Incorrect-move alert in the full app. The points deducted depend on the profile and puzzle.

1. **If the move is correct, continue.**
   Read the message and respond to the next position. Your result is confirmed when you complete the entire sequence without mistakes.

2. **If Incorrect move appears, pause.**
   Your mistaken move remains visible so you can examine it. The first mistake deducts points once only.

3. **Decide how to learn from the attempt.**
   Use Review position to return to the board or Retry puzzle to start again. You can then consult the solution.

4. **Distinguish an illegal move from an incorrect one.**
   A move that breaks the rules is not accepted. A legal move can be incorrect if it does not match the required continuation.

A mistake gives you something to work on

Retrying lets you check that you have understood the defense. Reviewing a puzzle that has already been rated neither restores lost points nor applies another penalty.

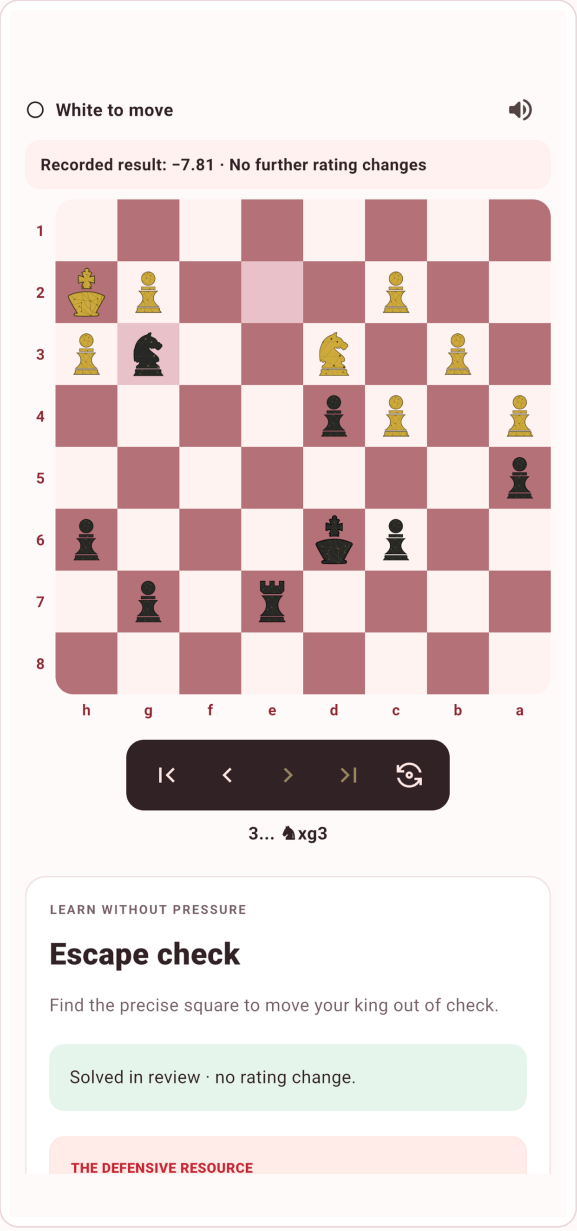
Not every legal move solves the puzzle. If your idea seems possible, compare it with the line shown and the threat it was meant to neutralize.

SOLUTION

10

Understand the line. Solve it again.

The solution is a study tool: work through the sequence and connect it to the defensive resource.



Reviewing a solution, with playback controls and the position corresponding to each move.

1. **Decide when to consult it.**
   Before you complete a new puzzle, View solution · counts as incorrect opens a confirmation. Keep thinking returns you to your attempt.

2. **Confirm only if you want to study it.**
   View solution records a mistake if the puzzle had not yet been rated. You can then review and repeat it without another rating change.

3. **Go through it move by move.**
   Use the start, previous, next and end controls. You can also tap a move in the list to see its position.

4. **Read The defensive resource.**
   Connect the explanation to the squares and pieces on the board. Ask why the reply works and which threat it prevents.

5. **Check that you have learned it.**
   Tap Solve again. To move on to another exercise, use Next unfinished puzzle when it appears.

Learn without pressure

Once the result has been recorded, you can study the line and repeat it. Review by trying to reconstruct the idea, rather than simply remembering the square.

MY MISTAKES

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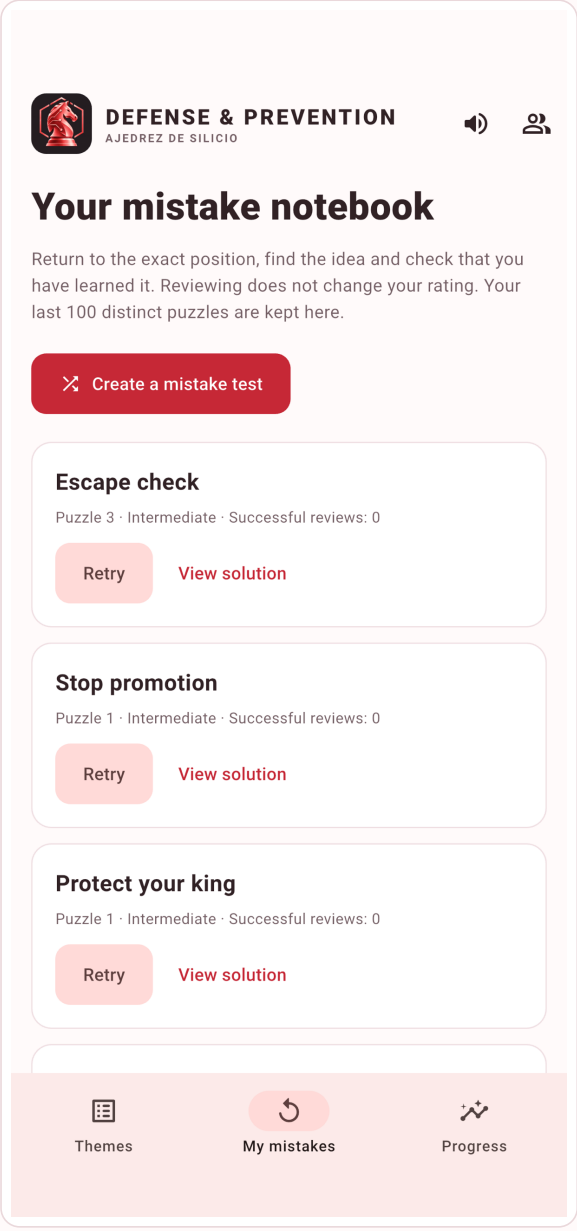
Your notebook has a task for you.

My mistakes automatically collects the positions you got wrong. It keeps your last 100 distinct puzzles.



Mistake notebook in the full app: retry a position or consult its solution.

1. **Open My mistakes.**
   Enter from the main navigation. If the notebook is empty, that profile has no recorded mistakes yet.

2. **Identify the exercise.**
   Each entry identifies the theme and puzzle. It may show the level and how many reviews you have solved.

3. **Tap Retry.**
   Try to find the reply before looking at the line. Solve the complete sequence to check your understanding.

4. **Use View solution to study.**
   The position is already part of your results: reviewing and repeating it does not change your rating again.

5. **Bring your review together in a test.**
   Once at least five puzzles are available, Create a mistake test lets you bring them together in a session.

A corrected mistake is still useful

The notebook can keep puzzles you have already solved in review. You can return to them to check that you still remember what you learned.

> The notebook belongs to the active user. When you switch profiles, you will see that user's own mistakes and results.

TESTS

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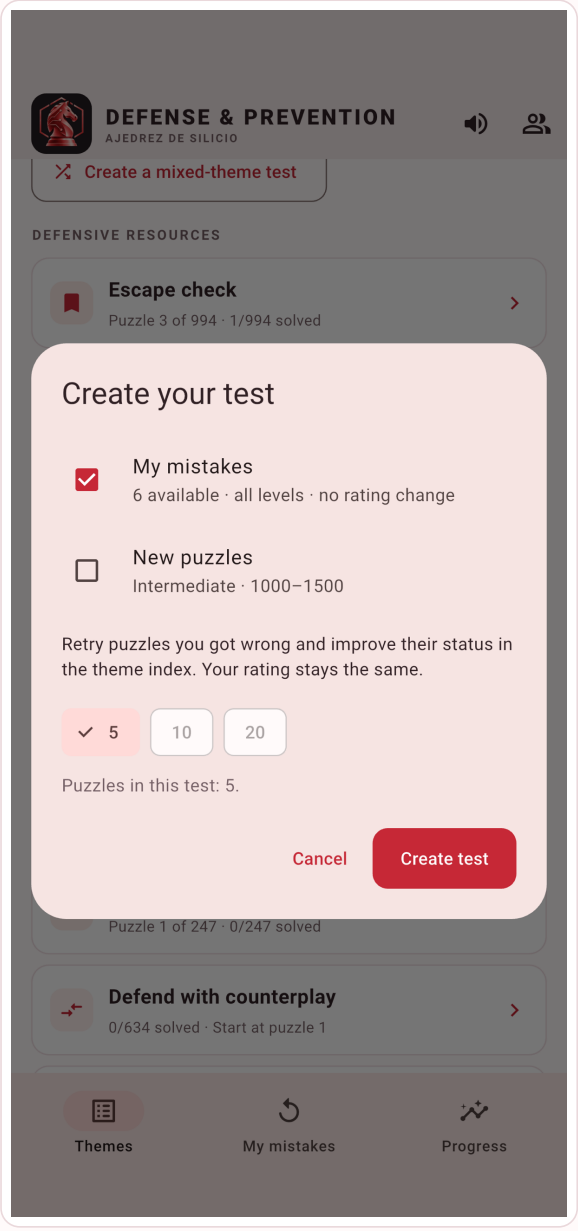
Prepare a session with a purpose.

Open Create a mixed-theme test from the index or Create a mistake test from your notebook.



Test setup in the full app. Available options depend on the profile.

1. **Choose the source.**
   In Create your test, select My mistakes or New puzzles. The dialog shows how many exercises are available.

2. **Check what you will train.**
   My mistakes requires at least five puzzles and can include several levels. New puzzles uses exercises from your selected level that have not yet been rated.

3. **Select the number and create the test.**
   Choose 5, 10 or 20 when enough are available. If fewer new puzzles remain, check the actual number shown before tapping Create test.

4. **Solve the puzzles and review the summary.**
   In tests of new puzzles, the theme is revealed after your attempt. Complete the session and check the summary of puzzles solved and rating change.

5. **Resume an unfinished session.**
   Use Continue or Resume test in the index. If you create another test while one is unfinished, the app warns you: it keeps your results and mistakes but replaces the unfinished test.

The source determines whether puzzles are rated

Your own mistakes are reviewed without changing your rating. New puzzles do record their first result, just as they do when you open them from a theme.

RATING AND TIME

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Understand what changes and why.

Your Silicio rating is an internal training measure. It starts from your initial value and changes in fractions of a point.

Situation	What happens
New puzzle, complete sequence without mistakes	Adds the points shown for that puzzle.
First incorrect move	Immediately deducts points once only.
Consulting the solution before completing it	Counts as a mistake, with confirmation, if no result had yet been recorded.
Repeating an already rated puzzle	Neither adds nor deducts points, even if you improve the result.
Solving more or less quickly	Time is recorded but does not affect the rating calculation.
Your rating goes up or down	Does not automatically change your training level.

Read Correct and Incorrect before you start

The change depends on your rating and the puzzle's difficulty. Figures in screenshots are examples; there is no fixed reward for every exercise.

No time limit does not mean no timer. You can think calmly; the clock provides a record to help you review your work.

Your Silicio rating is not equivalent to FIDE Elo or a conversion from Chess.com or Lichess. Use it to track your training within the app.

MY PROGRESS

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Every session counts. Every figure, too.

Open Progress or My progress from the main navigation to see the active user's results.

Indicator	What it means
Silicio rating	Your current training rating.
Rated puzzles	Distinct puzzles for which a first result has already been recorded.
Solved without mistakes	Puzzles completed without mistakes on the attempt that counted towards your rating.
First-attempt accuracy	The percentage of rated puzzles solved without mistakes.
Reference Elo	The number your profile started with.
Chosen level	The difficulty you selected; you change it manually.
Recent results	Up to 20 recent results showing the rating change and the values before and after.

1. **Compare figures that mean the same thing.**
   First-attempt accuracy and the current map status answer different questions: how you did when the puzzle was rated, and what you have managed to solve since.

2. **Use the information to choose your next session.**
   If a resource frequently appears among your mistakes, return to that theme and review its positions before opening another test.

Improvement can be visible without earning points

Solving a mistake in review improves your understanding of that position even when your rating and initial result stay the same.

USERS AND DATA

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One device. Up to five paths.

Each user keeps their own name, rating, progress, sessions and mistake notebook independently.

1. **Open Users.**
   Tap the people icon, Users or Manage users from My progress, depending on the screen.
2. **Choose or create a profile.**
   Tap a name to make it active. To add another, use Add user and complete the details; the maximum is five.
3. **Edit carefully.**
   The pencil lets you edit the name. Initial Elo can be adjusted only while the profile has not yet rated any puzzles; its history is retained afterwards.
4. **Check the user before training.**
   Your session results are saved to the active profile. This is especially useful if you share the device with family or students.

Progress is saved on this device

The app does not provide its own cloud synchronization or export and import of progress backups. A local profile is not an account shared between iOS and Android.

Deleting a user removes that user's data from this device and cannot be undone in the app. Clearing the app's data or uninstalling it may erase your progress. Buying or reinstalling the app does not recover it by itself.

General system backups depend on the platform and its settings. They are not a backup or synchronization feature provided by Defense.

PRACTICE METHOD

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Observe. Understand. Repeat.

This is a suggested routine for using the tools in this manual. You choose how much time to spend; it is not an automatic app mode.

1. **Start with a specific objective.**
   Choose a resource you want to strengthen. For example, Escape check if you tend to move your king without calculating what comes next.
2. **Solve with a question in mind.**
   Before touching a piece, identify the threat and compare replies. Continue calculating beyond the first move.
3. **Study a position you found difficult.**
   Play through the solution slowly. Explain in your own words which resource works and which detail you overlooked.
4. **Solve it again without consulting the solution.**
   Use Solve again or Retry from the notebook. Check the complete sequence, not just the first move.
5. **Mix the themes when you are ready.**
   Create a test of new puzzles to recognize the resource without the theme name giving it away.
6. **Finish with a decision for tomorrow.**
   Review My mistakes and My progress. Choose a position or resource worth revisiting in your next session.

Before moving on to the next puzzle

- [ ] I know what the threat was in the position.
- [ ] I can explain why the defense works.
- [ ] I have followed my opponent's reply and the continuation.
- [ ] I know where to find the exercise to review it.

Repetition deepens learning

Repetition is more useful when you recall the idea behind the position and check that you can apply it on your own.

DEMO AND APP

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What you can try. What the app includes.

The DEMO reproduces part of the training in your browser. The main manual describes the full app for iOS and Android.

Feature	Browser DEMO	Full app
Puzzles	27	12,000
Themes	3 available themes	9 defensive resources
Levels	All 3 levels	All 3 levels
Distribution	3 puzzles per theme and level	4,000 puzzles per level
Repetition	Unlimited repetitions	You can return to the puzzles
Trial duration	No expiry or time limit	No time limit for solving
Solutions and mistakes	Yes, for the included content	Yes, for all content
Tests	Using available exercises and the mode's requirements	Using available content and mistakes
Profiles and progress	Local to this browser	Local to this device
Sync between versions	No	No synchronization provided by the app
Access	No registration	App Store or Google Play; a purchase in its store
Offline use	Needs to load the demo and its resources	Training is available after installation

Purchases belong to their respective platforms

A Google Play purchase is for Android; an App Store purchase is for iOS. Do not assume that one purchase unlocks both stores or transfers your DEMO progress.

> The full app has no ads, subscriptions or additional in-app purchases. Check the current price in your device's store.

USING THE DEMO

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Try the method. Know its scope.

Open the DEMO from the Apps de Silicio catalog. You can try it before installing the full app.

1. **Enter the trial.**
   Tap Probar ahora, sin registro (Try now, no registration), or personalize a local profile with a name, initial Elo and level.

2. **Choose one of the included themes.**
   You can practice Escape check, Block a check and Capture the attacker. There are three puzzles in each theme at each level: 3 × 3 × 3 = 27.

3. **Work through the complete cycle.**
   Open a puzzle, try to solve it, review the solution and practice again. You can also explore My mistakes and My progress.

4. **Try tests when enough content is available.**
   My mistakes requires five available puzzles. New puzzles depends on what you have not yet rated at your chosen level.

5. **Recognize what is outside the demo.**
   The remaining puzzles and the other six themes are shown as full-version content. The DEMO does not expand over time.

You can repeat all 27 exercises without limit

This is not a one-session or a few-minutes trial. The limit is the available content. Repeating an already rated exercise does not change your rating again.

> The DEMO saves progress in that browser. Clearing its data erases progress; it is not transferred to the iOS or Android app. If you return from another browser or device, do not expect to find the same profile.

Open the Defense DEMO

TROUBLESHOOTING

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If something does not go as expected.

Start with the active user, the selected level and the message shown on screen.

What happens	What to check
I cannot start my profile	Enter a name and a numeric initial Elo between 100 and 3500.
I cannot find a theme	Clear the search text. Only three themes are available in the DEMO.
The piece does not move	Check whose turn it is and whether the move is legal. Tap the starting and destination squares, or drag. Wait if your opponent is replying.
My legal move is marked incorrect	The exercise requires a specific continuation. Review the threat, the objective and the solution line.
I solved the puzzle but earned no points	If a result was already recorded, you are reviewing. Improving its status does not rate it again.
I cannot create a mistake test	You need at least five puzzles available in the notebook.
There are no new puzzles left	Change the level or open content that has not yet been rated. You can keep reviewing what you have worked on.
I cannot hear sounds	Enable the app's speaker and check your media volume. On iPhone, also check Silent mode.
The language is different	The app follows the system language. Check your device's language settings.
I cannot see my results	Check your profile and that you are using the same device or browser. The app does not provide synchronization.
A loading or saving error appears	Tap Retry if it appears. If the issue persists, keep the app's data and contact support before deleting it or reinstalling the app.

> When asking for help, note your operating system, app version, theme, level, puzzle number and the exact message. A screenshot helps identify the step.

HELP

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Your next defense starts here.

Return to the index, choose a position and follow the same sequence: observe, calculate, solve, understand and repeat.

Need help?

Tell us what happened and at which step. Include your device, iOS or Android, your version of Defense and the puzzle details so we can locate it.

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Silicio apps

Official links

Apps de Silicio catalog

Defense in the App Store · iOS

Defense in Google Play · Android

Browser DEMO

Official help for iOS

Official help for Android

November 2026 edition. Manual for the full app on iOS and Android, checked against its official help and current interface. Controls may move with the screen size or version.

Screenshots come from the official App Store and Google Play listings. Their names, positions, times and points are examples. The English guide preserves the interface terminology and the chess meaning of the original.