USER MANUAL

# Opening Insights

SILICON CHESS

NOVEMBER 2026 · PHONE AND TABLET

# UNDERSTAND THE IDEAS. BUILD YOUR REPERTOIRE.

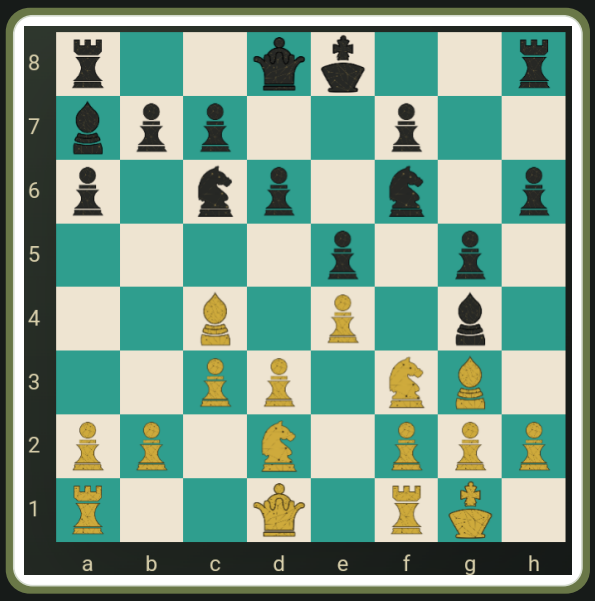
Learn to use the complete app: choose your opening, play your candidate move, explain your idea and understand the continuations.

**COMPLETE APP MANUAL · ANDROID AND iOS**

01 MY MOVE

02 MY IDEA

03 THE MOVES




*First, my move. Then, its purpose.*

6,573 exercises · 35 openings · One level

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# Your path to understanding openings.

Start with the quick guide or tap a section. The contents, references and links back to the contents are clickable.


### START AND CHOOSE

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**How to use this manual**

User manual for the complete Android and iOS app. Authentic screenshots illustrate different states; your figures and progress will be your own. Page 22 explains the DEMO situation, and page 24 brings together help and downloads.

Reference: Official Silicon Chess website

QUICK START

03

# Your first session, step by step.

Start with an opening you play. In each position, your move and your explanation are part of the same learning process.

1 **Create your profile.**

On the welcome screen, tap Create my profile and choose an opening. Enter a name or alias and your starting rating. Save to open the index.

2 **Choose an opening and a lesson.**

Open Openings, find what you want to prepare and tap View lessons. Follow the suggested order or open a specific lesson.

3 **Make your move.**

Check which side is to move. Drag the piece or tap its starting and destination squares. Read the app's response.

4 **Explain your idea.**

In My idea, read the question, choose an answer and tap Check my assessment. If you need to correct it, read the reason before assessing it again.

5 **Follow the moves.**

Study the explanation and work through the continuation. Complete any required comparisons that appear.

6 **Save the decision and continue.**

Tap Save this decision or Finish this sequence. Then move to the next decision or return to the index. Your progress stays on the device.

**The question that guides your training**

What do I want to achieve with this move, and what happens when my opponent replies?

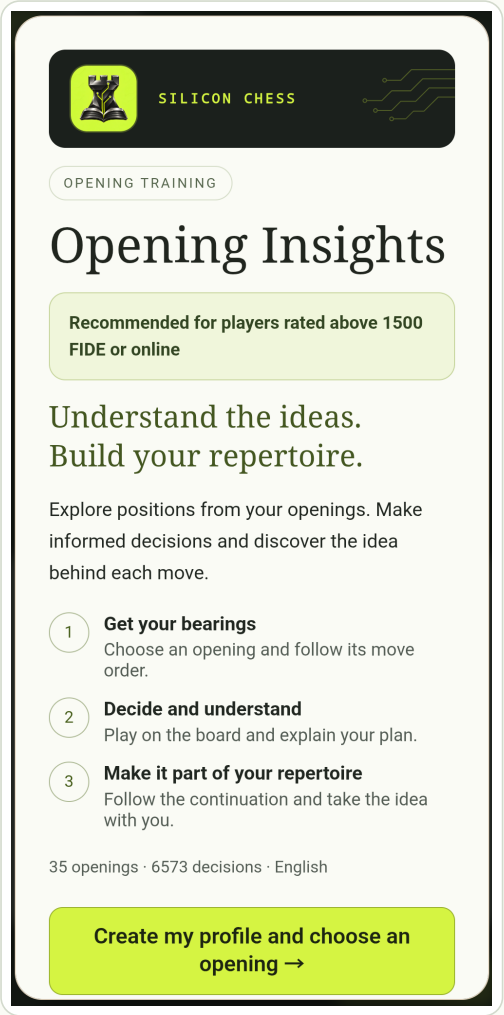
> The installed app works offline. Your profiles are local: you do not need an online account to train.

FIRST LAUNCH

04

# A profile for your training path.

Your profile keeps your decisions, times, reviews and training rating.




The complete app's welcome screen: an introduction to training and access to your profile.

1 **Start from the welcome screen.**
Tap Create my profile and choose an opening.

2 **Enter My name.**
Use a name or alias with 1 to 32 characters. Each profile needs a different name.

3 **Enter My starting rating.**
Use your FIDE or online rating as a reference. If you do not know it, you can start at 1500. Whole numbers from 100 to 3500 are accepted.

4 **Save your profile.**
Tap Save and view openings to choose your first training session.

> You can have up to five local profiles. You can edit the starting rating until a result has affected the rating; afterward, you can change the name.

The starting rating sets the baseline for the scale. The app has a single level of content.

THE COLLECTION

05

# Openings to understand and prepare.

The collection brings together 6,573 exercises in 35 openings and systems, developed from material used in 292 classes.

| What you will find | How to use it |
| --- | --- |
| **35 openings and systems** | Choose an opening from your repertoire or follow the suggested index order. |
| **Lessons** | Each opening groups study examples. A lesson can contain several decisions. |
| **6,573 training decisions** | In each position, propose a move, answer a question and study the continuations. |
| **One level** | Recommended for players rated above 1500 FIDE or online, aged 13 and over. There is no Intermediate / Advanced selector. |
| **Included content available offline** | After installation, you can study the catalog without internet access. |

**Understand the ideas. Build your repertoire.**

Connect each decision with the development, pawn structure, squares and plans that arise in your games.

**Content scope**

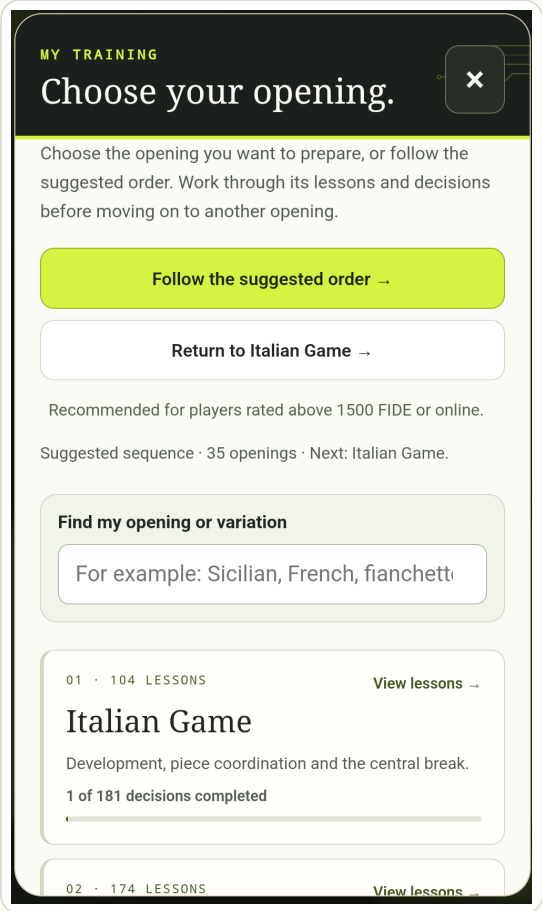
The catalog does not cover every repertoire variation or update automatically. The purchase does not include academy membership or full class videos.

OPENING INDEX

06

# Choose what you want to prepare today.

The Openings button opens the catalog and lets you return to the position you were working on.




Part of the index: suggested route, search and the first opening card.

**Follow a path.** Tap Follow the suggested order to use the app's proposed sequence. You can also choose any opening.

**Search for an opening or an idea.** In Find my opening or variation, enter Sicilian, French or fianchetto, for example. The search also considers variations and ideas in the content.

**Read each card.** It shows the name, a description, the number of lessons and your completed decisions. Tap View lessons.

**Resume your session.** Use Return to followed by the opening name when it appears. If a review is active, you can pause it and return to your position.

> If the search finds no matches, try another word or tap Clear. Scroll to see cards farther down.

LESSONS AND DECISIONS 07

# An order to study; freedom to choose.

Within an opening, follow the suggested lessons or open the example you need to prepare.

1. **Open an opening.**
   Its heading shows the number of lessons and decisions. Start this opening or Continue this opening takes you to the corresponding position.
2. **Choose a lesson.**
   Read its title and progress. Use Start lesson, Continue lesson or Revisit, according to its state.
3. **Open a specific decision.**
   Expand View its decision or View its decisions. Tap the position you want to study; the index does not require you to complete earlier positions before opening it.
4. **Load more lessons.**
   If See more lessons appears, tap it to expand the list. The visible count tells you how many have been shown.
5. **Return to the catalog.**
   Tap Opening index to choose another system. Progress is kept for each profile.

| Unit | What it means |
|---|---|
| **Opening** | The group of lessons devoted to an opening or system. |
| **Lesson or sequence** | A study example that can include several positions. |
| **Decision** | A position with a move, an assessment and a continuation. |

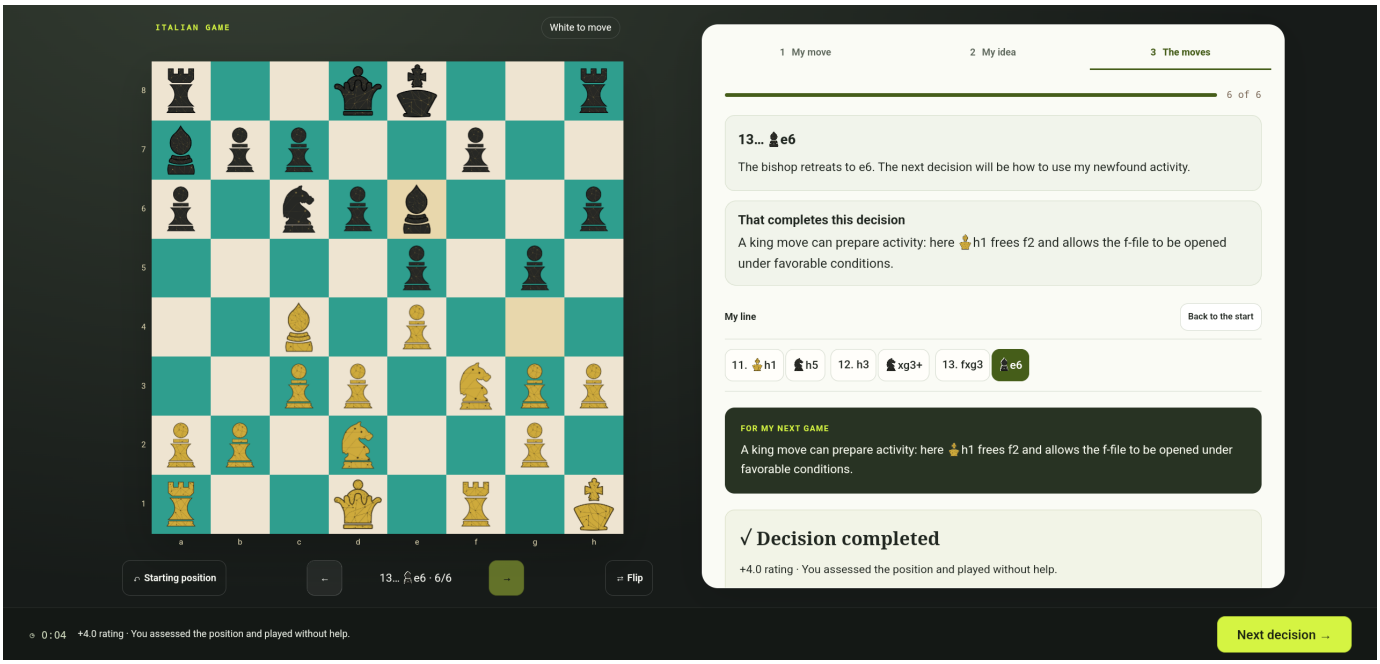
> The required sequence is within each decision: its stages become available first, and then you work through its study continuations.

THE SCREEN

08

# The board and explanation, together.

On a phone, the content is arranged vertically. On a wide screen, it may appear beside the board.




The same study sequence on a tablet: board, commentary and the action to continue.

| Area or control | What it does |
|---|---|
| **Profile, Rating and Openings** | Switch profiles, consult the training scale and open the catalog. |
| **Board and side to move** | Examine the position and play your candidate when the stage allows it. |
| **My move · My idea · The moves** | Identify the current stage and return to stages that are already available. |
| **Reading panel** | Read the question, answers, comments and notation. Scroll if the content continues below. |
| **Bottom button** | Check, continue or save, according to the current step. Its text tells you what to do next. |

> The screenshots show training examples. Your position, name, rating and progress may be different.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

09

# Before choosing, understand where you are.

Connect the position with the moves that produced it: which pieces developed, which pawns moved and whose turn it is.

1. **Check the side to move.**
   Read White to move or Black to move and check the board's orientation. Flip changes the viewpoint, not the side you must play.

2. **Reconstruct the move order.**
   When See how we reached this position appears, tap it. Follow the sequence with the arrows beside the board or by tapping its notation.

3. **Return to the exercise.**
   Tap Back to my decision. This earlier sequence keeps your answer and does not reveal the exercise's solution.

4. **Form an intention.**
   Before moving, identify a threat, a square, a pawn break or a piece that needs improving.

| Control | Use while following a line |
|---|---|
| Starting position / Start | Return to the start of the line you are viewing. This does not erase the profile's progress. |
| Left and right arrows | Move backward or forward through the available sequence. |
| Flip | View the same position from the other side. |

**Get your bearings**

Understanding how the position arose helps you distinguish a plan from an isolated move.

MY MOVE

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# First, your candidate move.

The app invites you to decide before showing you the explanation of the plan.

1. **Move on the board.**
   Drag the piece to its destination, or tap the starting square and then the destination. If you promote a pawn, choose the piece.

2. **Read the response.**
   If your candidate is among the accepted continuations, you will see Move found or Well played.

3. **Explain why you chose it.**
   Tap Understand my choice to move to My idea. Finding the move does not yet complete the decision.

4. **If you chose another candidate, keep learning.**
   The app says You chose a different candidate move. Tap Discover the plan to study the idea and continue with guidance.

**A different candidate is not marked as a mistake**

Other moves may be reasonable. The app is working through a prepared continuation and guides you toward its plan. Exploring another candidate, by itself, does not lower your rating.

> An illegal move is not accepted. To change a candidate while putting the plan on the board, use Back to the plan when available.

If you would prefer help from the start, tap **I'd like some guidance**. You can complete the learning process through guided practice.

MY IDEA

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# Explain what the position calls for.

The question checks the purpose of the decision: remembering a square is not enough.




The My idea stage. Scroll the reading panel to work through the question and its options.

1 **Read the whole question.**

Scroll the reading panel to see all the answers. There are two or three options, depending on the position.

2 **Choose and check.**

Tap an answer and then Check my assessment. You can change your selection until you check it.

3 **Read the explanation.**

The app explains the reason behind your answer. If you get it wrong, tap Assess it again and choose again.

4 **Continue when you understand.**

If the move was already accepted, go to See the continuation. If you still need to play the plan, use Put my idea on the board.

> The first incorrect assessment is retained for that position's result. Correcting it lets you continue and learn; it does not erase that first result.

GUIDED PRACTICE

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# When you need a hint.

You can ask for guidance, understand the plan and finish studying the position.

| What you choose | What happens |
| --- | --- |
| **I'd like some guidance** | From the start, move to studying the question and idea with guidance. |
| **A different candidate move** | Explore a move outside the prepared continuations and continue with help. This does not lower your rating by itself. |
| **I need a hint · guided practice** | While playing the plan, this shows guidance on what to look for. |
| **Show me the plan** | After requesting the hint, you can open the study continuation directly. |

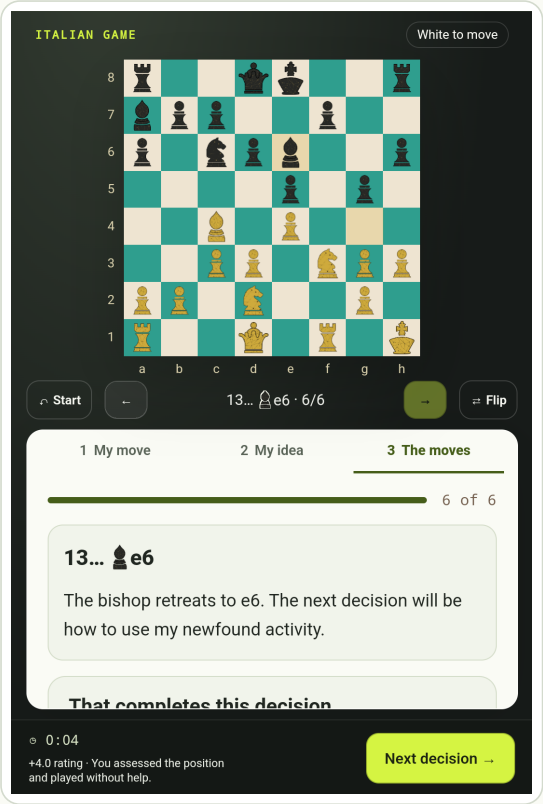
1. **Return to the intention.**
   Read what the position calls for: improving a piece, preparing a pawn break, defending a square or meeting a threat.
2. **Put the plan on the board.**
   If the stage asks for a move, play it and tap See the continuation when it is accepted.
3. **Complete the study.**
   Guided practice also requires you to follow the mandatory continuations before saving the decision.

### Help and scoring

Using help does not earn the rating increase for an independent solution. If your first assessment was wrong, the corresponding loss remains; asking for help does not remove it.

# Follow the idea, reply by reply.

The explanation becomes complete when you see how the position changes on the board.




A study continuation on a phone: board, progress through the line and move commentary.

1 **Read the initial idea.**

When you enter The moves, read the explanation before going forward.

2 **Go forward one move at a time.**

Use the right arrow beside the board or See next move. The bar shows how many moves you have followed.

3 **Connect the board and commentary.**

Watch what changes with each reply. When a move has a comment, read it alongside the position.

4 **Return to whatever you need.**

You can go back and tap moves you have already seen. Future moves become available as you progress.

> Reaching the end of a line may open another required continuation. Follow the bottom button until you have completed the entire study of the decision.

# Compare what changes the plan.

Some decisions need more than one line for you to understand why the idea works.

| Type of continuation | How to study it |
| --- | --- |
| **How my idea works** | Examine the continuation associated with your accepted move. |
| **How the game continues / The study continuation** | Follow the example's main line. It may contrast with the idea you have just seen. |
| **Another reply from my opponent** | Study the comparison the app presents. It may return to an earlier position to compare the ideas. |
| **More ideas to compare · Optional** | These are additional continuations. You can view them after the required sequence or return to them later. |

The bottom button takes you to the next move or pending comparison. Once you have followed every required line, you can save the decision.

**Not every line ends in checkmate**

The example may stop once the idea has been demonstrated or when another decision in the same lesson begins. You do not need to finish an entire game.

> An optional alternative does not prevent saving. Skipping a continuation that forms part of the required study leaves the decision unfinished.

SAVE AND CONTINUE

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# Make the studied decision your own.

Reading the explanation and following the moves prepares the result. The save button completes the decision.

1. **Finish the required study.**
   Follow every line the exercise asks you to study. At the end, the For my next game takeaway appears.
2. **Save the decision.**
   Tap Save this decision or Finish this sequence, according to its place in the lesson.
3. **Read the result.**
   Check Decision completed or Training sequence complete and the message about your rating. The result is recorded when you complete the position.
4. **Move to the next one.**
   Use the bottom button to go to the next decision or sequence. Labels can change according to the content.
5. **After completing the opening, choose what comes next.**
   Prepare another opening, return to the index or review what you have just studied.

> Local saving also keeps intermediate steps so you can resume your work. This is separate from marking a decision complete and recording its first result.

**For my next game**

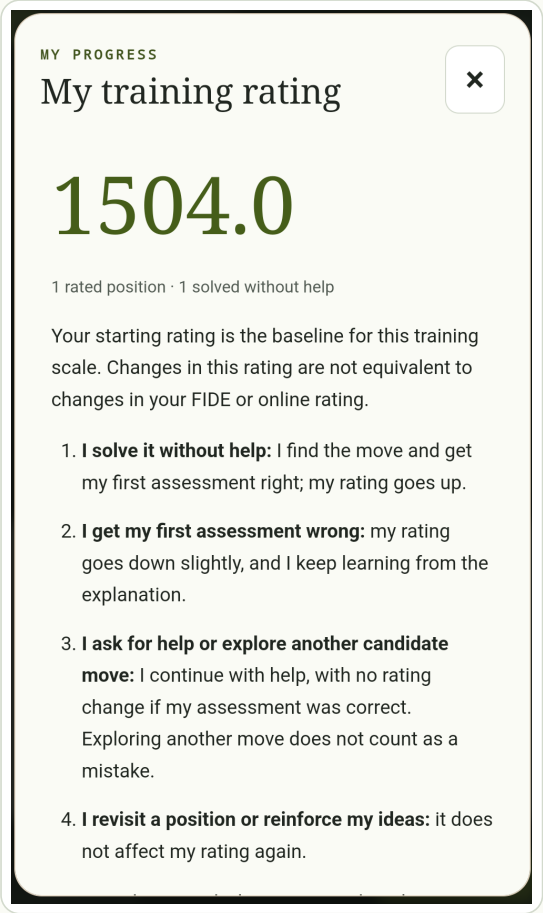
Before moving on, express in one sentence which condition makes the plan work and which opponent's reply you must consider.

TRAINING RATING

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# Understand what your rating measures.

Tap Rating in the header to see the figure and the rules of the scale.




Part of the Rating panel. The figure in the screenshot belongs to an example profile.

**It rises when you solve without help.** Find an accepted move and get your first assessment right, without hints or exploring other candidates.

**It falls if your first assessment is wrong.** You can correct it and finish the learning process, but that first mistake is retained.

**It stays the same in guided practice.** Asking for help or exploring another candidate adds no points if your assessment was correct.

**Reviews do not affect the rating again.** The first result for each position is what counts. Time does not change the score either.

> The scale changes gradually. The adjustment depends on your training rating; it is not a fixed amount for every profile.

> This is an internal reference for your training. It is not equivalent to your FIDE, Chess.com or Lichess rating.

# Understand your progress.

Completing, solving without help and reviewing describe different aspects of your training.

| Indicator | How to interpret it |
| --- | --- |
| **Completed decisions** | Positions whose study you have finished and saved. This can also include guided practice. |
| **Completed lesson or opening** | Every decision in that example or opening has been followed and saved. |
| **Rated positions** | Solutions that have increased or decreased your rating. Guided practice with no change does not count as a win. |
| **Solved without help** | Independent results recorded by the training scale. |
| **Solving time** | Active time during your decision. There is no limit, and it does not affect your rating. |
| **Average and time per position** | Times from the first completion are kept. A review has its own session time. |

The timer pauses when you open dialogs, switch to another app, follow the route to the position or enter the explanation and continuation in The moves.

**Completing and understanding**

A completed card means you have worked through the material. Explaining it again without help lets you check how much you have learned.

> Reopening a completed decision keeps its state and first result. It does not reset the score or create a new personal best.

MY REVIEW OF IDEAS

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# Return to ideas that need reinforcement.

The review brings together positions from the selected or active opening where you got an assessment wrong, explored another candidate or asked for help.

1. **Open Openings.**
   Choose the opening you want to reinforce and find the My review section with its name.

2. **Check pending ideas.**
   The app distinguishes assessments to reinforce from plans to review. You can start with one pending position.

3. **Tap Review this opening.**
   If a session was already saved, you will see Continue my review. It resumes without losing your main training progress.

4. **Solve from the beginning.**
   Propose your move again, explain the idea and study the continuations. Tap Save my review after each position.

5. **Check the result.**
   Positions solved without help leave the pending list. Those completed with guidance remain available for reinforcement. Your history is kept.

> The review does not change your rating. Its size depends on pending ideas in that opening; you do not choose tests of 5, 10 or 20 positions.

To interrupt it, open Openings and use **Pause the review and return to my position**. You can continue the saved review later.

**Repeat with a specific question**

What detail did I miss the first time, and how does it change my decision now?

# Your training, on your device.

You can share the app while keeping a separate training path for each player.

1. **Open My profiles.**
   Tap the name or profile selector in the header. The active profile is marked Current.
2. **Switch players.**
   Tap another name. That player's rating, decisions, times and reviews are loaded.
3. **Add or edit a profile.**
   Use Add profile or Edit. Up to five are allowed. You can change the name; the starting rating is locked after a rated result.
4. **Delete only when you need to.**
   Delete this profile asks for confirmation. It affects the chosen profile, not the others. Save a backup first if you want to keep its progress.

| System | Language and navigation |
|---|---|
| Android | The interface, questions and explanations follow the device language: English or Spanish. Use the app's controls to follow the study sequence. |
| iOS / iPadOS | The app uses the language selected for it in iOS Settings. The same study sequence works on iPhone and iPad. |

> There is no online account that automatically synchronizes these profiles. To move your progress, use the manual backup explained on the following pages.

PROGRESS BACKUP

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# Save a backup you can restore.

Automatic saving keeps your session in this installation. A JSON backup lets you keep a separate file.

1. **Open Openings.**
   Scroll to the controls at the bottom of the panel.
2. **Tap Back up my progress.**
   The app prepares a backup of the local profiles and their training. This does not export games or study content.
3. **Choose where to save it.**
   Use the Android or iOS document picker. Choose a location you can find later; the picker's appearance depends on the system.
4. **Keep the JSON file.**
   Save it in a local folder or a file provider you have chosen. This does not enable automatic synchronization.
5. **Update the backup as you progress.**
   Save a new backup before changing devices, clearing the app's data or uninstalling it.

**What the backup keeps**

Profiles and their progress: study states, results, starting rating, times, pending ideas and review history.

> The backup contains progress for every profile in the installation. Keep it somewhere you trust, and check that it restores before deleting the previous installation.

The file is yours to keep: you can retain several dated backups to recognize the most recent one.

# Restore your progress from the file.

Use an Opening Insights backup. The process checks the contents before merging them into local profiles.

1. **Prepare the file.**
   Bring the JSON backup to the destination device through a location you can access.
2. **Open Openings → Restore backup.**
   Select the file with the system's document picker.
3. **Read the confirmation.**
   Wait for the Backup restored message. If an invalid-file warning appears, your current progress has not been replaced.
4. **Check the profiles.**
   Open My profiles and select the restored profile. Check its rating and the lessons you had completed.
5. **Keep the backup and the previous device.**
   Delete old data only after checking that the expected progress is available.

| Situation | What to keep in mind |
| --- | --- |
| **Profile already recognized by the backup** | Its progress and results are merged, keeping the relevant earlier records. Restoring does not award points again. |
| **New profile** | It is added if the total does not exceed five profiles and its name does not conflict. |
| **Profile limit, conflicting name or incompatible rating** | The app rejects the import and explains why. Your current progress is kept. |

> If the file cannot be read, check that it is a JSON backup from this app and was saved completely. Do not edit its contents manually to force a restore.

A STUDY ROUTINE

22

# Take an idea into your next game.

You can build a short, complete session around one lesson from your repertoire.

1. **Choose an opening with a purpose.**
   Find a structure or variation you have played or want to prepare.
2. **Get your bearings before answering.**
   Follow how the position arose and identify the side to move, threats and pieces that need activity.
3. **Decide and explain.**
   Make your move and answer My idea. If you get it wrong or ask for help, identify the detail that changed your reading of the position.
4. **Follow the replies.**
   Work through the continuations and compare plans. Explain in your own words the idea you want to remember.
5. **Return to review.**
   In a later session, work on pending ideas from that opening to check whether you can solve them without guidance.

### A useful conclusion to a session

Today I understood the conditions under which this plan works and which reply from my opponent I must calculate.

### Complete app and DEMO

This manual describes the full app. The web DEMO includes the complete Italian Game and Najdorf lessons: four decisions, explanations and continuations. All other openings are locked. Local progress and unlimited replays.

COMMON QUESTIONS

23

# Find the next step.

These answers help you continue while keeping the purpose of the study sequence in view.

| What happens | How to continue |
|---|---|
| **I cannot see every answer.** | Scroll the reading panel. The two or three options may extend below the visible area. |
| **I cannot open a stage.** | Complete the current step. My idea and The moves become available as you work through the decision. |
| **I cannot jump to a future move.** | Go forward one move at a time. You can then return to moves you have already seen. |
| **I finished a line but cannot save.** | Another required comparison may remain. Follow the bottom button until you complete the study. |
| **My candidate was not accepted.** | Continue to the explanation of the plan. A different candidate is not penalized by itself; it leads to guided practice. |
| **My rating did not rise at the end.** | Check whether you used help, explored another candidate or already had a result. Reviews do not score again. |
| **A position is still pending in review.** | It leaves the pending list when you complete the review without help. With guidance, it stays for reinforcement. |
| **I cannot find my progress on another device.** | Restore your JSON backup. Profiles do not synchronize automatically. |
| **The backup could not be restored.** | Read the reason: wrong file, profiles, conflicting name or incompatible rating. Keep the original file and contact support if it continues. |

> If a warning says progress could not be saved, keep a backup from Openings before clearing data or reinstalling.

# Keep building your repertoire.

Silicon Chess · www.siliconchess.com

**Help inside the app.** Open Openings → Help and privacy. There you can consult Help and support, privacy, terms and credits without leaving your training.

**If you need help.** Include the app, version, your device, opening, lesson and the step where your question arose. The official contact is listed in Help and support.

Opening Insights

## Official website and resources

Silicon Chess · www.siliconchess.com

App catalog and availability

Silicon Chess support

## Verified download

Android · Google Play

This guide covers the complete Android and iOS versions. Check the official website for current download links for each platform. Documented compatibility: Android 8.0 or later; iOS 16 or later.

Edition: November 2026. Based on the app interface, help and authentic screenshots reviewed on November 15, 2026. System controls and layout may vary between phones and tablets.

**For your next session**

Choose an opening. Make an informed decision. Keep an idea you can recognize on the board.