USER MANUAL

Positional Chess

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I THINK.
I DECIDE.
I UNDERSTAND.

Find the plan. Play with judgment. Learn to use the complete app and understand what each position calls for.

COMPLETE APP + DEMO SCOPE AND LIMITS



01 MY MOVE

02 MY IDEA

03 THE MOVES

First, my move. Then, its purpose.

1,666 decisions · 53 themes · One level

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Your path to understanding.

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

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How to use this manual

Manual for the complete app on Android and iOS. Page 20 explains the DEMO's scope. Official screenshots illustrate different positions and stages; your figures and progress will be your own.

QUICK START

03

Your first session, step by step.

The move is the beginning. The aim is to recognize the plan, explain it and see how it works.

1. **Set up your training.**
   Open Positional Chess, tap Set up my training and create a profile with your name and starting rating. Then tap Save and train.

2. **Choose a training sequence.**
   Open Themes and select an example. A sequence may contain several decisions; each begins from a specific position.

3. **Play your candidate move.**
   In My move, check whose turn it is. Drag a piece, or tap its square and then the destination square.

4. **Explain your choice.**
   In My idea, read the question, choose an answer and tap Check my assessment. If you need guidance, follow the instructions to put the plan on the board.

5. **Understand the continuation.**
   In The moves, go forward one move at a time. Read the explanations and comparisons included in the decision.

6. **Save and continue.**
   When you finish the continuation, tap Save this decision or Finish this sequence. Then continue to the next decision or return to Themes.

The Positional Chess question

What does this position call for, and why does my move meet that need?

> The installed app lets you train offline. Your profile is local: you do not need an online account, email address or password.

FIRST LAUNCH

04

Your name. Your starting point.

These instructions apply to Android phones and tablets, iPhone and iPad. Identify the app's controls by their names.

1. **Open the app.**
   On the welcome screen, read the three training actions: decide, assess and understand. Tap Set up my training.
2. **Enter My name.**
   Enter a name or nickname with 1 to 32 characters. This distinguishes your progress from that of other players on the device.
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. The field accepts a whole number between 100 and 3500.
4. **Tap Save and train.**
   The app creates your profile and opens your training. In later sessions, you can resume the active player's progress.

One level

The collection is recommended for players rated above 1500 FIDE or online. You do not need to choose a difficulty: select the theme and example you want to study.

Your starting rating is the baseline for an internal training scale. It does not award an official rating or change your rating on another platform.

> Each profile keeps its own training progress. Before starting on a shared device, check that the header shows your name.

FIND YOUR WAY

05

Look at the board. Read the position.

The screen brings together your controls, the board and the explanation. Scroll when the content continues below.



Official English screenshot: the opening My move stage. The figures shown are examples.

Header. Your name opens My players. Rating opens its explanation and progress. Themes takes you to the catalog, reviews and backups.

Board. Check which side is to move. Flip changes the orientation; Starting position restores the reference position when available.

Three stages. My move, My idea and The moves become available as you progress. The reading panel tells you what to do at each stage.

Main button. Its wording changes with the next step: understand, check, follow or save. Follow that instruction.

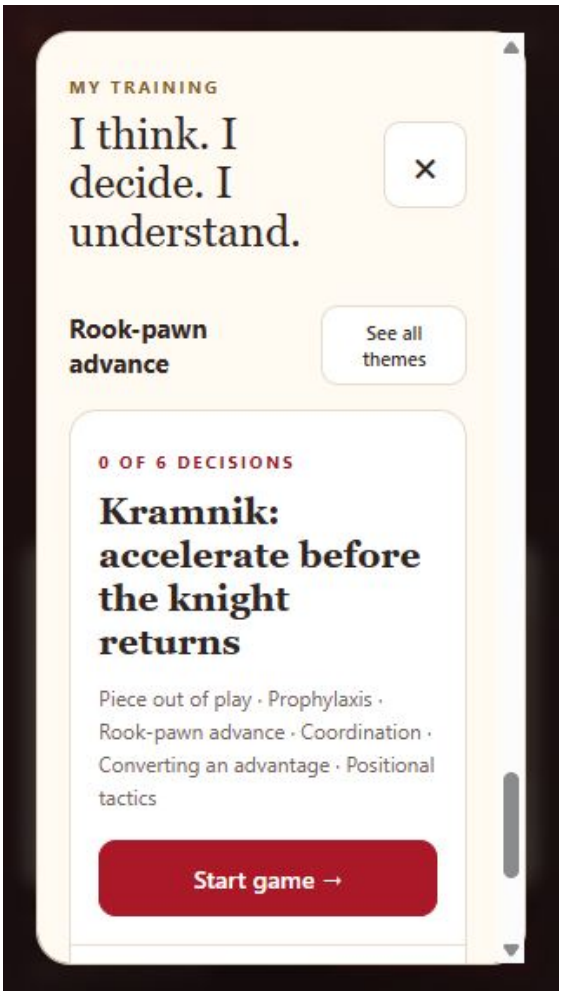
> The screenshot shows the opening My move stage. Later, the same screen structure presents your assessment, explanations and continuation.

THEMES

06

Choose what you want to understand.

Themes organizes your training and lets you return to the sequence you started.



Official catalog: an example filtered by theme. The view adapts to the screen size.

Open Themes. You will find Continue my training, My mistake review, timing information and the collection's cards.

Tap a theme. Filter examples about initiative, maneuvering, pawn breaks, prophylaxis, pawn structure, endgames and other concepts.

Check your progress. Each card shows completed decisions. See all themes returns you to the full collection.

Open an example. Read its title and number of decisions. The button lets you start or continue a game, a study or a position, depending on the content.

> The complete app contains 1,666 decisions across 53 themes. One example may present several decisions.

YOUR TRAINING SEQUENCE

07

One example. Several decisions.

You learn in context: a game, a study or a position that may present more than one question.

Concept	What it means
Theme	The concept you want to work on. It helps you filter and organize the collection.
Example or training sequence	The set of positions and continuations from a game, study or training situation.
Decision	A position in which you propose a move, explain the idea and study the continuation.
Completed / Not yet completed	Shows whether the decision and its continuation have been completed or there is still work to do.

In the example list, tap **View its 1 decision** or **View its N decisions** to expand the positions. Outside an active review, you can select one directly.

Continue my training returns you to training and resumes the current position or a pending one in the selected theme. An example is complete when you have finished all its decisions.

Return to understand more deeply

Revisit opens the example's saved state and lets you reread or replay its continuations. It does not create a new first attempt that affects your rating again.

> The app keeps intermediate states, but a decision is added to your completed progress only when you finish its continuation and tap the final save button.

1 · MY MOVE

08

First, your own candidate move.

When asked “What would I play here?”, make a decision before consulting the explanation.

1. **Check the side to move.**
   Look at the board’s indicator. Consider king safety, piece activity, weaknesses and possible plans for both sides.
2. **Choose a move with a purpose.**
   Ask what it improves, threatens or prevents. Try to express that purpose before moving.
3. **Move the piece.**
   Drag it to its destination, or tap the starting square and then the destination. The app does not accept illegal moves. For a promotion, choose the piece from the selector.
4. **Read the response.**
   If you find a prepared candidate move, you will see Well played and an invitation to explain its idea. Tap Understand my choice to go to My idea.

A different candidate deserves understanding

If You chose a different candidate move appears, the app is telling you that the move is not developed in the exercise. It is not automatically marking it as a chess mistake.

In that case, tap **Discover the plan**. You will compare the prepared idea and continue with guided practice. The app uses explanations and continuations selected for each example.

> If you do not know where to start, you can use I’d like some guidance. The next section explains how to follow that path.

GUIDED PRACTICE

09

Learning also means asking for a hint.

Help lets you understand the plan and complete the sequence even if you did not find it on your first attempt.

If this happens…	Follow this path
You cannot find a candidate move	Tap I'd like some guidance to open the explanation of the position.
You played a different candidate move	Tap Discover the plan. Compare the prepared idea without mistaking this message for a refutation of your move.
You understand the idea but need guidance to play it	Use I need a hint · guided practice. Show me the plan may then appear.
You want to consolidate it later	Complete and save the decision. The plan becomes available for review in My mistake review.

In guided practice, first choose the explanation in **My idea**. When it is correct, **Put my idea on the board** asks you to carry out the plan. You can then study **The moves**.

Help, assessment and rating

A different candidate move or help, combined with a correct assessment, leads to guided practice: your rating stays the same. If your first assessment is wrong, that result takes priority and can lower your rating when you save the decision.

> A pending plan does not necessarily mean a bad move. It may also identify an idea you studied with help and should solve without guidance another time.

2 · MY IDEA

10

Explain what the position calls for.

The question changes with each decision. Your task is to recognize the explanation that supports the plan.

1. **Read the full question.**
   It may focus on activity, a pawn break, the king's shelter, a weakness or the immediate priority. Focus on the specific position.

2. **Compare the answers.**
   You will see two or three options, A/B or A/B/C. Tap the explanation that best answers the question about that position.

3. **Tap Check my assessment.**
   Selecting an option and confirming are separate steps. Before confirming, check the answer against the board.

4. **Read the explanation.**
   If you are correct, continue using the button shown. Otherwise, read Look at this detail before moving on and tap Assess it again to correct your understanding.

The idea must belong to this position

A general rule may be true and still fail to address the immediate priority. Look for what has changed, what your opponent intends and which opportunity you need to use.

Your first assessment is recorded. Correcting it lets you learn and continue, but does not turn that first result into a correct answer for your rating.

> If your initial candidate was already the prepared move and you now get the idea right, See the continuation takes you directly to The moves. You do not need to play the same candidate again.

APPLY THE PLAN

11

Put the idea on the board.

This step appears when you need to carry out the plan after discovering it. It remains within the My idea stage.

1. **Tap Put my idea on the board.**
   After you choose the correct explanation, the app brings your attention back to the position and the purpose you need to carry out.

2. **Turn the purpose into a move.**
   Identify which piece, advance or maneuver achieves the objective. Move by dragging or tapping the starting and destination squares.

3. **Check the connection.**
   A prepared candidate move lets you continue. If you choose another, use Back to the plan and review the specific need your move should meet.

4. **Ask for guidance if needed.**
   Use I need a hint · guided practice for guidance. If you tap Show me the plan, you will go directly to The moves to study the continuation.

Example from the first training sequence

If the opposing king is heading for a shelter you cannot prevent it from reaching, you may need to anticipate where it will be. The move makes sense because of your opponent's plan, not just the square the king occupies now.

When your first candidate move was already correct, this extra step is unnecessary: explaining the idea correctly takes you directly to the continuation. Both paths lead to the same goal of understanding.

> A move and an idea need to fit together. Before continuing, try to explain in your own words what your move is preparing.

3 · THE MOVES

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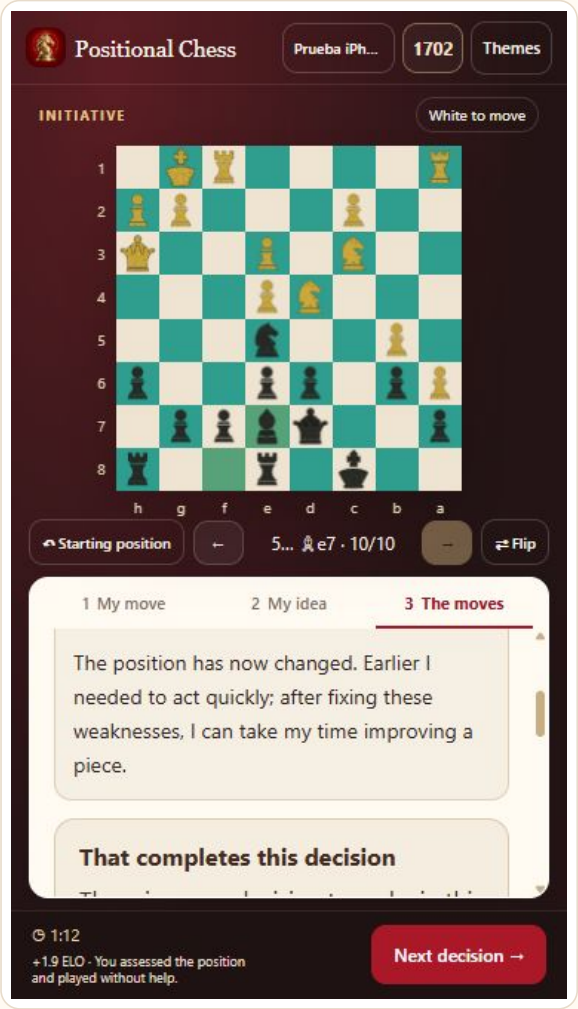
See how the plan makes sense.

The continuation turns the explanation into a sequence of decisions on the board.



Official screenshot: The moves and the end of a decision. On a phone, scroll to read the full panel.

Advance one move. Use the → arrow (Next move) or See next move. Future moves become available as you follow the line.

Go back and compare. The ← arrow (Previous move) and moves already viewed let you review. Back to the start restarts playback of the line.

Read the comments. Check how priorities change and which of your opponent's replies justify the plan.

Follow every required line. If Compare with the game or Compare with the main continuation appears, complete that comparison too.

> The sequence is the teaching continuation included in the example. It does not have to reach the actual end of the game.

CONSOLIDATE WHAT YOU LEARN

13

Complete the idea. Save the decision.

Finding a correct move is not enough to complete the exercise: follow the explanation through to its conclusion.

At the end, read **For my next game**. This summary captures an idea you can recognize and apply in your own positions.

Final button	When it appears
Save this decision	When you have finished the continuation and more decisions remain in the same example.
Finish this sequence	On the example's final decision, after completing the required lines.
Save my review	When you complete a position within My mistake review.

1. **Tap the final button.**
   The app marks the decision as completed and records the applicable result. You will see Decision completed or Training sequence complete, together with the rating information.

2. **Choose your next step.**
   Next decision continues within the example. Next training sequence leads to another example or returns to Themes when the set is complete. From Themes, you can choose what to study next.

If you cannot save yet

Check the move counter and any pending comparisons. Continuations are followed in order; you cannot jump to a move you have not yet viewed.

> Automatically saving a session lets you resume it. The final button marks the decision as complete. These are two different functions.

REVIEW

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Your review begins with what is pending.

My mistake review brings together assessments to reinforce and plans you should solve without help.

1. **Open Themes → My mistake review.**
   Check how many assessments and plans are pending. Review my mistakes is available from one pending position and includes all pending positions.

2. **Tap Review my mistakes.**
   Work through the move, idea and continuation. This review creates a fresh learning attempt without affecting your rating again.

3. **Complete and save each position.**
   Tap Save my review after following the continuation. A prepared candidate on the first try, a correct first assessment and completion without help remove the position from the pending list. Then use Next decision or Next training sequence to continue the review.

4. **Review what still needs work.**
   An incorrect assessment or guided practice remains pending for another review. Simply revisiting a position outside the review is not enough.

5. **Check the summary.**
   After advancing from the last saved review, Review complete shows how many positions you solved without help and the total time. Tap Return to my training to go back.

Pause and return later

From Themes, use Pause the review and return to my training. To resume it, tap Continue my review. Pause the review before freely choosing another position from the catalog.

> The review's size depends on your profile's pending positions. When none remain, return to the training sequences and keep practicing.

MY TRAINING RATING

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Keep your progress in perspective.

Tap Rating in the header to view its information. It is an internal reference, independent of FIDE or online platforms.

First attempt	Effect when the decision is completed
Prepared candidate on the first try + correct first assessment + no help	Your rating improves gradually when you complete and save the decision.
Incorrect first assessment	Your rating goes down on completion, even if you later correct the explanation.
Different candidate move or help, with a correct assessment	Guided practice: your rating stays the same. The plan remains available for review.
Previously recorded decision or mistake review	It does not affect your rating again or change the original result.

Each decision is rated **once per profile**. The adjustment is recorded when you finish that position's sequence, not when you first tap an answer.

Points depend on the profile's rating and the exercise's reference rating. There is no fixed amount to expect for every correct or incorrect assessment.

Understanding is progress too

A guided session can teach you a plan without adding points. The review lets you consolidate it later; its value lies in solving independently, not recovering rating points.

> The header rounds the rating, while the dialog may show one decimal place. These are two displays of the same value. Solving time does not affect your rating.

TIME AND PROGRESS

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Train attentively, without a countdown.

The clock accompanies your solving. The figures help you recognize your learning progress.

Indicator	How to interpret it
Solving time	Measures the active time spent solving. It does not impose a deadline or penalize you for taking longer.
Paused clock	Stops when you open menus, leave the app or study The moves.
Average in Themes	Summarizes the first recorded times for completed positions. Replaying a line does not turn it into a contest for a new record.
Completed decisions	Counts your saved progress. A decision still in progress is not the same as a completed decision.
Review summary	At the end of the review, shows positions solved without help and the total time; Themes keeps a summary of the latest review.

When resuming a session, check the **profile name**, **example** and **decision**. This tells you whether you are continuing your training or revisiting a completed sequence.

Your practical reference

Before closing a session, try to explain which idea you now understand better. Consider that answer together with your progress and pending positions; a single figure cannot describe everything you learned.

> You do not need to rush to protect your rating. Take the time you need to compare the answers and read why the plan works.

PLAYERS AND LANGUAGE

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Up to five individual training paths.

One device can keep several players' training without mixing their results.

1. **Open My players.**
   Tap the name in the header. You will see the local profiles and which one is active.
2. **Switch players or create one.**
   Select the player you want to use or tap Add player. You can keep up to five profiles per device.
3. **Edit carefully.**
   Edit lets you review the profile's details. The starting rating can no longer be edited once the profile has results that affect its rating.
4. **Keep a backup before deleting.**
   Delete this player asks for confirmation and deletes that profile's local progress. Save a backup first if you want to keep it.

Each profile keeps its name, rating, decisions, pending positions, solving times and review state. A local profile is not an online account and does not appear automatically on another phone.

Spanish or English

The app follows your device's language preference. To change it, check the language settings available on Android or iOS and reopen the app. There is no language selector inside the app.

> Before lending your device to someone, switch to the appropriate profile. If you are changing phones or reinstalling, see backups on the next page.

BACK UP YOUR PROGRESS

Take what you learned with you.

You can keep and manually transfer your progress between Android and iOS using an app backup.

1. **Save a backup.**
   Open Themes → Back up my progress. When the system file picker appears, choose a location and keep the JSON file outside the app.
2. **Transfer the file to the other device.**
   Use a location or transfer method you can access from the destination. The JSON includes profiles and their progress, results, pending positions, solving times and review state.
3. **Restore it from the app.**
   On the destination device, open Themes → Restore backup and select that JSON. The app checks compatibility and combines compatible progress with what is already there.
4. **Check your profiles.**
   Open My players, select your name and review your progress. If you train again on the original device, you will need to save and import another backup to transfer later changes.

A backup is not automatic synchronization

Android and iOS support the app's backups. Each installation keeps its own local data; changes on one device do not appear on the other by themselves.

Restoring combines compatible data and adds profiles up to the maximum of five; it does not erase and replace all progress. If the file is invalid, incompatible or exceeds that limit, the app tells you and keeps the current data.

> Save a backup before reinstalling, clearing data or changing devices. The file is a progress backup, not a PDF or PGN. Avoid creating duplicate profiles before restoring.

PRACTICE SUGGESTION

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A position that leaves you with an idea.

This is a suggested routine for making the most of the app; it is not a mode or a requirement of the program.

1. **Choose a specific objective.**
   Select a theme you find difficult to recognize in your games: prophylaxis, activity, pawn breaks, exchanges or endgames.

2. **Decide before reading the solution.**
   In My move, identify a candidate and its purpose. Ask what your opponent wants and which aspect of the position needs attention.

3. **Explain before confirming.**
   In My idea, compare the options and work out why one answers the question better.

4. **Connect each move to the plan.**
   Follow The moves carefully. If a reply surprises you, go back and check what has changed.

5. **Finish with a useful sentence.**
   Read For my next game and express it in your own words. Then save the decision.

6. **Return to your pending positions.**
   In another session, use My mistake review. Aim to solve the plan without help and understand it in context.

I think. I decide. I understand.

You do not need to finish many examples at once. One well-understood sequence can help you recognize an idea you previously overlooked.

If you share the app with a student or fellow player, use separate profiles. Each person should choose a candidate move before comparing the explanations.

DEMO AND COMPLETE APP

20

How far the DEMO takes you.

The DEMO lets you experience the complete learning process within a limited part of the collection.

Aspect	Browser DEMO	Complete app
Content	The first two complete examples: five decisions in total.	1,666 decisions across 53 themes.
What you can do	Play, assess, read explanations and follow the continuations in those examples.	Follow the same process throughout the collection.
Other examples	Shown with a padlock; reserved for the app.	You can choose them from Themes.
Level	One level; recommended for ratings above 1500.	One level; recommended for ratings above 1500.
Connection	Required to load the DEMO.	Offline training after installation.
Progress	Local to the browser and profile used.	Local to the installation and profile; manual JSON backups.

The published restriction concerns content: **two examples and five decisions**. You can freely revisit these two examples. The other examples require the complete app.

> Progress does not synchronize automatically. Clearing browser data can delete your DEMO progress. The transfer explained in this manual refers to compatible backups from the complete app.

Open the official Positional Chess DEMO

COMMON QUESTIONS

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Find the next step.

Use the app's message to see what remains to be completed.

What you see	What to do
"Different candidate move"	This does not automatically mean a bad move. Tap Discover the plan and continue with guided practice.
The save button does not appear	Follow all required moves and comparisons. The final button will then appear.
You cannot jump to a move	You must first advance to it. You can return to moves you have already viewed.
You correct an answer but your rating does not rise	The first assessment and first result are kept. Repeating does not affect your rating again.
The review keeps a position pending	Complete the review without help, with a prepared candidate on the first try and a correct first assessment, then save the result.
You cannot choose another position	Pause the active review from Themes and return to your normal training.
The clock has stopped	This is normal in menus, outside the app and during The moves.
Progress does not appear on another phone	Use Back up my progress and Restore backup. There is no automatic synchronization.
You cannot restore a backup	Use a compatible Positional Chess JSON file and check the five-profile limit. If there is an error, your current progress is kept.

If you need help, give your device, app version, example title, decision and the steps that led to the problem.

HELP AND REFERENCES

22

Continue with sound judgment.

The built-in help and official catalog are your reference points.

Inside the app: open Themes → Help and privacy. You will find information about training, rating, local storage and backups.

To ask for help: describe what you wanted to do, what you tapped and which message appeared. Include Android or iOS, the app version and the example or decision.

Positional Chess

Official contact

Email: gpacheco@ajedrezdesilicio.com

Reference links

Official catalog · Positional Chess

Official DEMO · two complete examples

Edition: November 2026. Manual for the complete app on Android and iOS. Prepared from the interface, built-in help and official screenshots, with the DEMO walkthrough checked on November 13, 2026. Layout may vary with the screen and version.

For your next game

Study the position. Understand what matters. Choose a move you can explain.