# HOW TO IMPROVE AT CHESS USING PROFESSIONAL SOFTWARE "CHESS KING™"

## Using chess software will help you win more games.

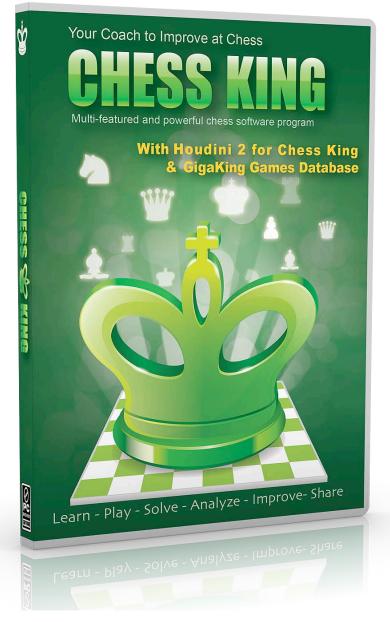
You play chess. You love it. You've played seriously for a few years and have improved a little. Your scoresheet folder is getting thicker, and you're starting to forget the exact moves of each game. You've read a few chess books and watched some chess DVD's. But you're not improving so much anymore. Could it help to use a professional chess software package?

Definitely! Actually nowadays if you don't use modern chess software, you will be at a big disadvantage versus your friends who do.

In this article we will go over the chess tools available with professional chess software, and we will use as example the new, powerful and affordable software package Chess King<sup>™</sup> from <u>www.chess-king.com</u>.

Working with a computer-based analysis, game storage and training tool will improve your chess skills and make it easier to learn.

What can you do with Chess software? In what does chess software help you progress? What does chess software contain?



## An enormous database of master chess games.

The Chess King software contains over 5 million games. That's almost all the relevant master games that have been played since the birth of professional chess until today. Games are continuously being played and added to the database every month. With powerful search functions, you cannot miss a game that was played in the opening line you are studying. The software even takes into consideration opening transpositions, where one player deliberately uses a transposition to avoid variations he or she dislikes.

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2	4235777	Heimann Andreas (GER)	2469	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2592	0-1	1/2/2010	It (open)	Basel (Switzerland)	C41
ames (10) [pgn]	4236510	Hendriks Willy (NED)	2424	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2592	0-1	1/3/2010	It (open)	Basel (Switzerland)	840
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6	4281826	Navara David (CZE)	2722	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2592	0-1	3/8/2010	Ch Europe	Rijeka (Croatia)	C10
7	4319845		2446	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2592	0-1	5/1/2010		France	C10
8	4377209	Ekstroem Roland (SUI)	2489	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2592	0-1	7/13/2010	Ch Switzerland	Lenzerheide (Switzerlan	
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10	4391689	Rosenthal Jonathan (SUI	)2282	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2592	0-1	7/27/2010	It (open)	Biel (Switzerland)	E20
11	4428731	Nideroest Bruno (SUI)	2228	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2592	0-1	8/28/2010	Ch Switzerland (team) 20		C41
12	4473797	Zhu Chen (QAT)	2480	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2592	0-1	10/24/2010	It "Trophee CCAS" (Gr.8)	Cap d'Agde (France)	E36
13	4474540	Lahno Kateryna (UKR)	2539	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2592	0-1	10/25/2010	It "Trophee CCAS" (Gr.B)	Cap d'Agde (France)	D39
14	4484067	Hickl Joerg (GER)	2573	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2592	0-1	11/6/2010	Ch Switzerland (team) 20	Switzerland	A12
15	4516379	Rindlisbacher Lars (SUI)	2190	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2592	0-1	12/26/2010	It (open)	Zuerich (Switzerland)	⊂41
16	4521135	Moser Guido (SUI)	1994	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2584	0-1	1/1/2011	It "Hilton Open"	Basel (Switzerland)	A47
17	4521363	Battaglini Gabriel (FRA)	2452	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2584	0-1	1/2/2011	It "Hilton Open"	Basel (Switzerland)	E56
18	4560939	Huguet Sergio (HON)	2123	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2584	0-1	3/9/2011	It (open)	Reykjavík (Iceland)	807
19	4561789	Bergsson Stefan (ISL)	2135	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2584	0-1	3/11/2011	It (open)	Reykjavík (Iceland)	C01
20	4562883	Zelbel Patrick (GER)	2408	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2584	0-1	3/12/2011	It (open)	Reykjavík (Iceland)	C03
21	4564785	Getz Nicolai (NOR)	2391	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2584	0-1	3/16/2011	It (open)	Reykjavík (Iceland)	B33
22	4567343	Pogosian Vladimir (ARM)	2166	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2584	0-1	3/22/2011	Ch Europe	Aix les Bains (France)	A20
23	4568291	Sreeves Clement (SCO)	2204	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2584	0-1	3/24/2011	Ch Europe	Aix les Bains (France)	C03
24	4569331	Erdogdu Mert (TUR)	2431	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2584	0-1	3/26/2011	Ch Europe	Aix les Bains (France)	E11
25	4605537	Brendel Oliver (GER)	2375	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2584	0-1	5/8/2011	Ch Switzerland (team) 20	Switzerland	C41
26	4618984	Debray Christopher (FRA	2402	Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	2584	0-1	5/31/2011	Ch France (team) 2011	Mulhouse (France)	E32
27	4707511	Schiendorfer Emanuel (St	J2304	Pelletier Vannick (SUI)	2590	0-1	8/27/2011	Ch Switzerland (team) 20	Switzerland	E15
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A screenshot of Chess King's Database Module Search showing Pelletier's games won with black in 2010-2011

If you're preparing to play somebody in an upcoming tournament, chances are great that you'll have at your fingertips every one of the serious games he or she has ever played. You'll immediately be able to see his or her full opening repertoire, the weaknesses and opening deficiencies, so you can decide which opening choice will give you the better chances. Then you can prepare in depth for that specific opening you have chosen, using as guide Grandmaster games on that theme.

To progress you need to know the right ideas in the openings you play. Don't try to memorize a series of moves, because inevitably you will forget something, and when your opponent will branch out of your preparation you will have a hard time to switch to your own thinking from the memorization stage. Of course you can study an opening in great detail with a book, or study a master game or two at the board with your coach. But with Chess King's large database of games, it will be much faster and easier to search through the games in the opening you wish to study, select only the best grandmaster games from the list, and run through the games, paying attention not to the exact

moves, but to the plans and strategies chosen by the masters. Seeing the result of the game and the engine's evaluation while you look over the games on the screen, you will be forming your "chess intuition", and you will be able in relatively little time to understand which plans have a good chance to work, and which will likely fail. This is the way many masters train, and the computer with its power and enormous number of games is an invaluable help. Nowadays one can study whole openings in days when it took months or years before chess software was created.

Search database	×
gbPlayers White: Black: Pelletier Yannick (SUI)	Ignore colors
gbResult ▼	gbYear ▼ Min: 2010 Max: 2011
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The search box uses to restrict the search to only games won by Pelletier playing black and only in 2010-2011. From the close to 5 million games in the GigaKing database you will instantly find the 27 games that fit the criteria

## An incredibly strong chess analysis engine.

The days of Deep Blue are gone. Now chess engines are considerably stronger than they used to be, even just a few years ago. It has now become clear to everybody that it does not make any sense to have humans play chess with computers, it would be like having a runner racing an automobile. Nowadays, it is only interesting to watch the result of computer programs playing other computer programs, in order to determine which one of the engines is strongest. While it may look like one

could not improve further the already phenomenal strength of chess engines, some programmers have shown great talent, uniting their programming passion with their love and mastery of chess, and have achieved jumps in engine strength that have surprised everybody. That was the case with Vasik Railich, author of the strong chess engine Rybka. Recently, to everybody's amazement, Rybka has been surpassed by the engine named Houdini, created by the talented programmer from Belgium, Bernard Houdart. In a recent, fortygame match between Rybka and Houdini, Houdini won with a score of 23.5-16.5. Even more interesting perhaps was that Houdini showed almost frightening human chess, by playing positional pawn sacrifices in many games. Houdini is now firmly at the top of computer chess engines.

Having a strong chess engine to assist you in analyzing your games is key for you to quickly get a grasp of the position and get instant evaluations of different candidate moves. The world of chess has drastically changed since the last century, where Soviet World Champions had teams of Grandmasters who were working full-time for weeks or months to come up with evaluations and plans for positions that could arise in the champion's games. Nowadays, chess engines can do this work in minutes or even seconds. The more powerful the computer, the larger the number of



cores, the faster and the deeper will the engine give its verdict with detailed variations.

It is most useful to analyze one's chess games with a powerful engine

In the screenshot above, a strong chess engine was used in the home preparation of GM A. Kosteniuk in her game against IM A. Huss. The surprising winning move 18...Nc5! was found at home during the preparation. Huss resigned 2 moves later.

## A way to prepare for your next opponents

At chess tournaments, it is quite stressful to start a game and not have any idea of what your opponent will be playing. You might think that your opponent knows the opening better than you do, and that might indeed be the case if you have not revised that specific opening in a long time. It is useful to know the likelihood of which openings may show up on the board, and for that Chess King is invaluable. Just go to the Database mode, search for the player you will be playing, and you will be shown all the openings he or she plays. It's like being shown a choice of 3 questions for the next school examination, instead of the possible hundreds. Of course it's possible that he will play yet another opening, but then he will be in an unfamiliar situation, having never played that opening before, and that will give you, if anything, a psychological advantage.

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	3619103	Kraus Tomas (CZE)	1961	Meylan Andre	(SUI)	1774	1-0	11/18/2007	Ch Wo
	3620903	Ciloglu Dogu (TUR)	1769	Meylan Andre	(SUI)	1774	1-0	11/20/2007	Ch Wo
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	3625769	Akdas Tutku Doruk		Meylan Andre	(SUI)	1774	1/2-1/2	11/24/2007	Ch Wo
Þ	3629629	Tseng Woei Haw		Meylan Andre	(SUI)	1774	1/2-1/2	11/26/2007	Ch Wo
	3631676	Caliskan Kerem (TUR)	1754	Meylan Andre	(SUI)	1774	0-1	11/28/2007	Ch Wo
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A quick search for the games with Black of Andre Meylan will show that he always plays the French defense against 1.e4

## A way to store all your games in one safe place

There is nothing worse than trying to remember a game you played and you know you found the best move... 2 years ago. Now you've forgotten it. If you have all your games in Chess King you have it all with you at all times and all doubts will be dissipated instantly.

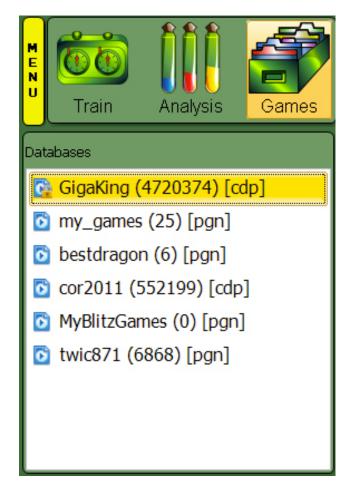
To enter your games into Chess King it's easy, there are many ways to do so. The way most people do is right after their serious games, they come home with their scoresheet, and play the moves on the board. If you just played a national tournament where they have electronic boards, chances are that the games are online and you can download them in PGN format, then import them to Chess

King for analysis. You can also play games against the computer, and Chess King will automatically save all your games into your personal games database. If you like to play chess on the internet, make sure to pick a playing site that offers the feature of saving your games so you can access them in a PGN file. That's very useful, you can them import all your online games to Chess King.

In Chess King you can manage several databases, for example:

- 1) GigaKing Database with millions of games
- 2) Your personal tournament games database
- 3) Your games played against the computer
- 4) Your online blitz games
- 5) Your training games or special analysis
- 6) New games from 2012 that you have downloaded from the web

You can have as many or as few databases as you wish, Chess King allows you to combine them, import and export databases at will.



An example of the database list You can have as many chess databases as you wish

## You need to analyze your games after you play them!

If you don't review your game in detail after playing it, chances are that you will play the same mistakes the next time, you can't allow that to happen. To improve at chess, you should consider each game a lesson, and it should turn into a building block towards playing better the next time.

Analyzing your game allows you to see if you missed something in the opening, i.e. if the "theory" recommends something else, or if you missed something later on in the game.

The key analysis features of Chess King are:

#### 1) The Tree

When you enter a move, you immediately see in the tree how many games were played with that particular move, and as advance in the variation, you continuously see how the numbers go down. At a glance you can see where you went "off theory". That's very useful in studying opening theory, you can select a move and then analyze it with the engine.

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Moves	Positions	Success	-		
島d7	9,221	44%			
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②xd4	386	36%			
₩a5	275	43%			
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a5	117	51%			
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තිf3	503,237	52%			
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c3	55,643	52%			
d4	13,176	47%			
f4	8,306	47%			
d3	5,466	48%			
b3	4,276	49%			
c4	4,114	42%			
g3	3,332	49%			
තිe2	3,016	54%			
違c4	2,854	32%			
b4	1,894	45%			
a3	422	45%			
ත <sub>a3</sub>	143	47%			
違e2	73	45%			
亀b5	69	15%	-		

"Sicilian tree", i.e. after 1.e4 c5

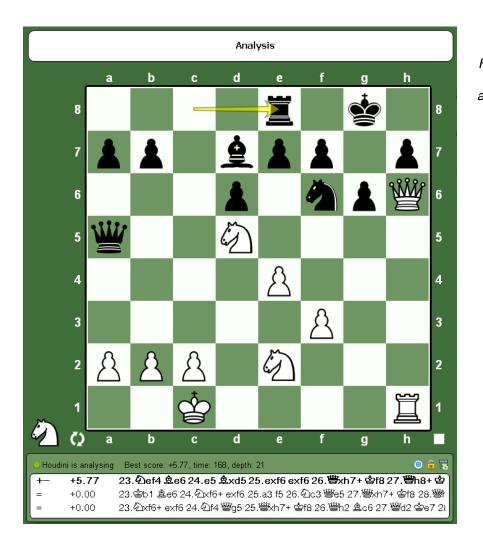
tree after the 9. Bc4 in the Dragon Sicilian

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## 2) The Engine

You can have at all times (except when you're playing, of course) your engine running. Chess King includes the currently most powerful engine available, Houdini 2. Houdini is a state-of-the-art chess engine combining outstanding positional evaluation with the most sophisticated search algorithm. The name Houdini was chosen because of the engine's positional style, its tenacity in difficult positions and its ability to defend stubbornly. Houdini will often use razor-sharp tactics to deny its opponents escape routes when it has the better position. At the time of writing Houdini leads all the major Computer Chess rating lists and is widely considered to be the strongest chess engine on the planet. From numerous interviews it appears that many top Grand Masters including the current chess World Champion Viswanathan Anand use and appreciate Houdini.



Houdini 2 has no trouble finding the winning move 23. Nef4! played by Anatoly Karpov against Viktor Korchnoi in their famous 1974 game.

Houdini 2 is included in Chess King and is the strongest engine currently available. For very powerful computers up to 32 cores, and for getting the maximum engine analysis power in Chess960, an upgrade to Chess King Pro is recommended.

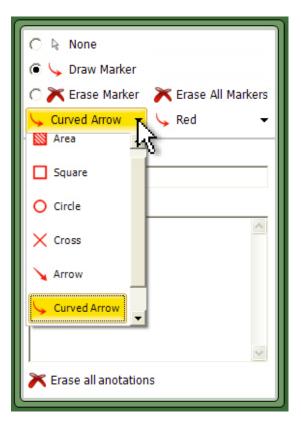
### 3) The ability to enter variations, comments, arrows and more

When you analyze a chess game, undoubtedly you will have comments and variations, you may want to point out blunders, you most likely will find better moves, and maybe whole variations you should have considered. In Chess King you can enter all of those easily.

You can even add arrows, and markers of all kinds, shapes or colors.







Images of an analysis window, a diagram with markers, and the easy-to-use marker window

## Fun playing the computer

There is nothing worse than playing a computer and losing. If you search for the hash tag "#chess" on Twitter, you will find countless tweets of people, depressed because they played chess with their computer (or phone), and lost miserably. They can play 100 times and they will lose every game. That's not fun. I may add that it's not much more fun "tweaking" the engine strength and forcing the computer to play in the lowest of levels, so you can comfortably beat it. That's not so much fun either. Besides the "Pick Your Level Classical Chess", Chess King has a "Random Playing Mode" which has literally thousands of possible starting positions, which guarantees a new situation each game.



One of the hundreds of possible starting positions in the "Random Chess" mode. Variables you can tweak: Total Material, Pawn percent, Advantage

### A way to train your mind by solving chess puzzles

Chess King includes more than 1500 puzzles, from extremely easy to Grandmaster level (25 subcategories), that will keep you or your child busy for hours. Working through those puzzles is sure to raise one's chess level.





## A way to learn to play chess in Quest style

You like to go up levels and conquer trophies? The Quest mode is for you. You start from very easy starting positions, and keep unlocking levels, until you meet your match. More than 100 types of games will keep you challenged and entertained. While at the start you get a very large advantage, your opponent is no one else than the extremely strong Houdini, who is unforgiving for any mistake, so you really have to give it your best!

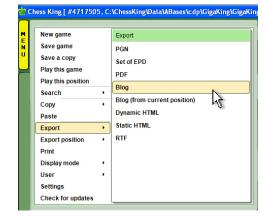


Example of Quest Mode starting position

## Share your wins with the world

Anatoly KARPOV – Viktor KORCHNOI

Chess King has several export modes, so you can easily share your games with your friends on the web. Just select the kind of export you'd like to do, for example to your blog, and you get the code to be copied and pasted in a post, resulting in an instant beautiful playable chess applet.





[...] 1.e4 c5 2. ①f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ②xd4 ②f6 5. ②c3 g6 6. 鱼e3 鱼g7 (6... ②g4? 7. 鱼b5+! 鱼d7 8. 豐xg4) 7.f3 (7. 豐d2? ④g4) 7... ②c6 8. 豐d2 O-O 9. 鱼c4 鱼d7 10.h4 互c8 11. 鱼b3 ④e5 12.O-O-O ④c4 13. 鱼xc4 耳xc4 14.h5 ③xh5 15.g4 ④f6 (15... ④g3 16. 트h3) 16. ④de2! 豐a5 17. 鱼h6 鱼xh6 18. 豐xh6 트fc8 19. 트d3! (19.g5 ④h5 20. ④g3 耳xc3!) 19... 耳4c5 (19... 豐d8) 20. g5! 耳xg5 21. 트d5! 耳xd5 (21... Qxd5 22. 豐xh7+ �f8 23. 豐h8#) 22. ④xd5 互e8 23. ④ef4 鱼c6 24.e5! 鱼xd5 (24... dxe5 25. ④xf6+ exf6 26. ④h5 gxh5 27. 트g1+ �f8 28. 豐xf6#) 25. exf6 exf6 26. 豐xh7+ �f8 27. 豐h8+ resigns 27... �fa 28. ④xd5+ 豐xd5 29. 트a1+ �d7 30. 豐xe8+ "wins easily"

generated by CHESS WKING

#### Kosteniuk, Alexandra – Stopa, Jacek

Result: 1-0 Site: Saint Louis Chess Club Date: 2011.09.14



SPID#:763 [...] 1.f4 f5 2.g4 g6 3.e4 fxe4 4.효xe4 d5 5.효g2 신d6 6.d3 신c6 7.신b3 O-O-O 8.신c3 (8.효c3) 8...e6 9.효h4 프d7 10.신e2 (10.신c5 효d4 11.효f2 효xc3 12.bxc3) 10...b6 11.c3 e5 12.O-O-O e4 (12...exf4) 13.신ed4

#### IM Jacek Stopa (2482) – GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (2467)

Result: 0-1 Site: Saint Louis Chess Club Date: 2011.09.14



[...] 1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4. 公xc3 e6 5. 公f3 公c6 6. 盒c4 盒b4 7.O-O 公ge7 8. 盒g5 響a5 9. 公b5 d5 10.exd5 exd5 11. 盒f4 O-O 12. 盒d3 響d8 13. 盒c7 響d7 14.a3 盒a5 15. 盒xa5 公xa5 16. 公e5 響d8 17. 罩e1 公ac6 18. 公f3 公g6 19. 響a4 盒d7 20. 彎b3 公f4 21. 盒f1 彎b6 22. 響a4 公g6 23. 彎d1 a6 24. 響xd5 盒e6 25. 罩xe6 fxe6 26. 彎xe6+ 含h8 27. 公d6 彎xb2 28. 罩d1 公ce5 29. 盒c4 公xf3+ 30.gxf3 公e5 31. 盒d5 罩f6 32. 彎e7 響e2

From now on, you can publish in just a minute all your games as soon as they are played. Chess960 is supported!

You can use the standard green board color or even create a board color that fits your design. There is no more beautiful and functional pgn applet on the web.

## Create YouTube videos!

Now that your games are well organized in your Chess King database, and you've analyzed them with the strongest engine Houdini, and shared them on your blog, why don't you do the ultimate and publish your games on YouTube?

For that all you need to do is record the screen of your PC or Mac, and use any microphone to run through some audio comments as you advance. On the PC, we recommend CamStudio, and for the Mac ScreenFlow.

Have a look at these two channels which use Chess King: <u>www.YouTube.com/ChessKing</u> The official YouTube channel of Chess King™

www.YouTube.com/ChessQueen The official YouTube channel of Chess Queen™ Alexandra Kosteniuk

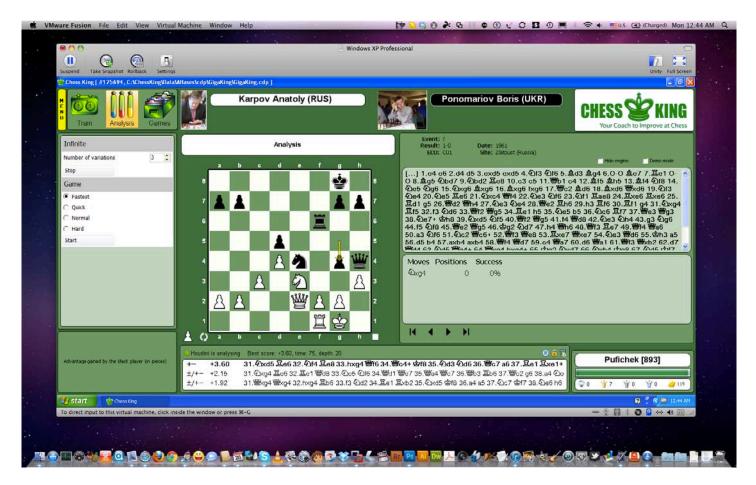
ChessKing's YouTube Channel Subscribed Playlists					
Bobby FISCHER	Bent LARSEN				
	Event: Match Result: 1-0 Date: 1958 ECO: 872 Site: Portoroz				
	g6 6.≗e3 ≗g7 [6ऄg4? 7.≗b5▲] 7.f3 O-O 8.₩d2 ᡚc6 9.≗c4 ᡚxd4 10.≗xd4 ≗e6▲				
	11.≗b3 ∰a5 12.0-0-0 b5 [12≗xb3 13.cxb3▲]				
	×				
Engres is analyzing     Benet score: +0.24, time 6, depth: 11     ● # €       ±/=     +0.24     13. 0.xe6 fxe6 14.a3 Ifc8 15. 0.b1 Iab0 16. Ihf1 Ic4 17. 0.e2       ±/=     +0.24     13. 0.b1 b4 14. 0.d5 0.xd5 15. 0.xd5 16. Ihf1 Ic4 17. 0.e2       =     +0.03     13. 0.d5 15. 0.xd5 15. 0.xd5 Iac8 16. 0.05 IIc7 17. Ihd1 0.xd5 18. 0.xd5 14. 0.05 18. 0.05 14. 0.05 18. 0.05 14. 0.05 14. 0.05 14. 0.05 14. 0.05 14. 0.05 14. 0.05 14. 0.05 15. 0.05 15. 0.05 15. 0.05 16. 0.05 11. 0.05 11. 0.05 14. 0.05 14. 0.05 15. 0.0					
● <b>■</b> ) <b>01:48</b> / 10:13	360p 5.3				



# Can Chess King work on the Mac?

You know by now that Chess King is a program for the PC, that is, for Windows PC's. But that does not mean that it does not work with the Mac, it certainly does!

For that, you just need to use any emulator, for example VMWare Fusion, which we have tested and verified it works fine. VMware Fusion is recommended for home users, students and business professionals who are looking for the easiest, fastest and most reliable way to run Windows programs on their Macs without rebooting. On your Mac, you'll need to buy a copy of VMWare Fusion and of course any version of Windows you'd like to run. Once you've installed them, you can install Chess King as if you were on a Windows PC.



Screenshot of Chess King running on a Mac

For any questions relating to Chess King support, feel free to write the author to <a href="mailto:support@chess-king.com">support@chess-king.com</a>

Article by Pufichek