

The Internet Chess Club and FM Charlie Storey present



Improve your Positional Chess Skills



This is a document that will guide you through the course, with a brief introduction to each video. Read the intro, [watch the video](#) and solve the quizzes, to get the maximum benefit from your purchase!

In his new course, FM Charlie Storey is going to teach you how to improve your positional chess skills.

But, what are positional skills?

It's not easy when it comes to describing a general chess skill. Still, FM Storey, with his long and proficuous coaching experience, presents you with a video-course that tackles all the aspects of positional chess.

Charlie, with his unmistakable style - witty and at times provocative - guides you through 12 chapters:

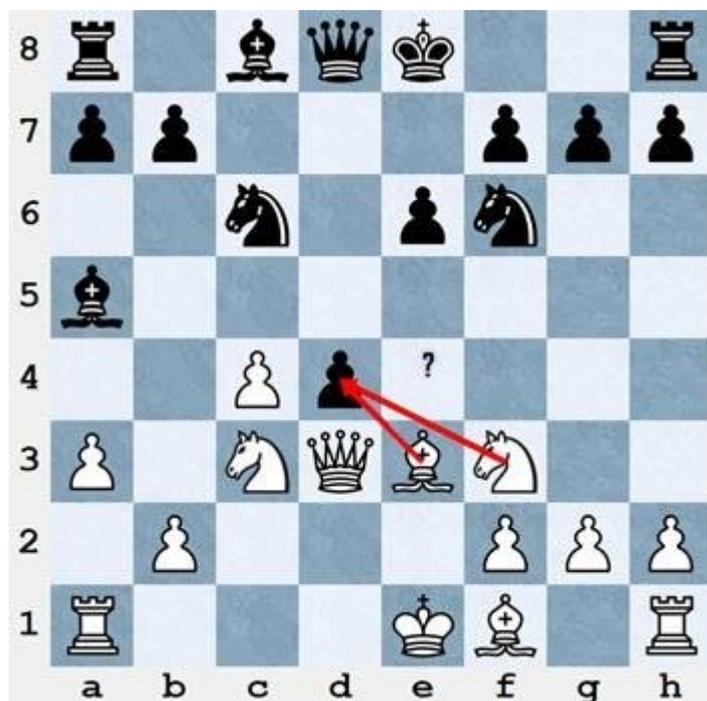
- 1) Assessing / Evaluation is simply your opinion
- 2) Improve your Pieces (including central pawns) from Red to Yellow to Green to Purple
- 3) Pawn Structure is overrated unless the activity (color coding) is equal
- 4) Never touch a pawn unless it is a central pawn
- 5) Never start a "fair trade of pieces" as it will improve the color of one of your opponent's pieces
- 6) Preventing is a last resort. Only when you have an excellent reason. Reduce your opponent's color-coding.
- 7) Small range plans with a tempo are far better than small range plans
- 8) Changing positional advantages to a different positional advantage
- 9) Positional Stereotypes (Precise Calculation is better)
- 10) Popular Positional Plans
- 11) Combinational Skill is needed to execute your good positional plan
- 12) Aiming for an ending with a better position

Video 1 – Assessing your Position



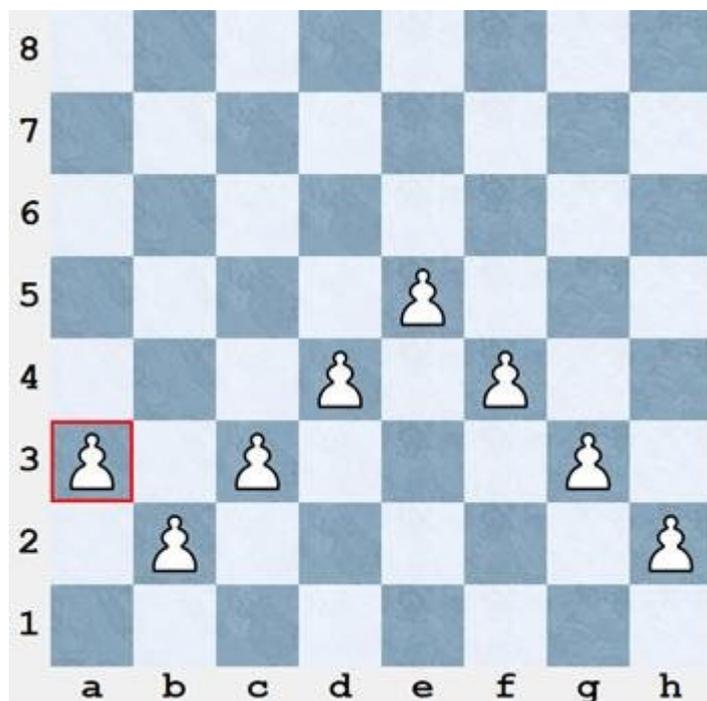
FIDE Master Charlie Sniper Storey looks at Assessing from a Positional point of view. He gives insight into how GM Ulf Andersson, the ultimate positional player, makes his decisions whilst accurately assessing his position. Charlie explains the basics and advanced elements to think about when assessing positions and future positions.

Video 2 – Improve your Pieces



In this video, Charlie Sniper Storey looks at Improving your pieces from a Positional point of view. Using his own creation, "the color-coding tempo", he makes it easy to understand how pieces should be improved as they prepare for the mighty battle of tactics. Two of GM Ulf Andersson's games are used to demonstrate.

Video 3 – Pawn structure is Overrated!



The Master says: "c'mon, don't be worried about your pawn structure!". Wait a moment, hold on! I have been studying chess for years, and my teachers have always told me to pay attention and be careful about the pawn structure in my games!

Well, this is Charlie "The Sniper" Storey, not your friendly neighbor chess master.

And Charlie, in this fantastic video, explains to you why in some circumstances, the most important thing you need to care about is the placement and the activity of your pieces rather than your pawn structure.

Of course, saying that the pawn structure does not count is a hyperbole, which the Master uses to get your attention to one of the primary and fundamental positional skills.

Enjoy this third video of the series!

Video 4 – Never Touch Wing Pawns!



It's an order: never touch a wing pawn!

It sounds a bit strange, doesn't it?

What does FM Charlie mean with "Never touch a wing pawn?"

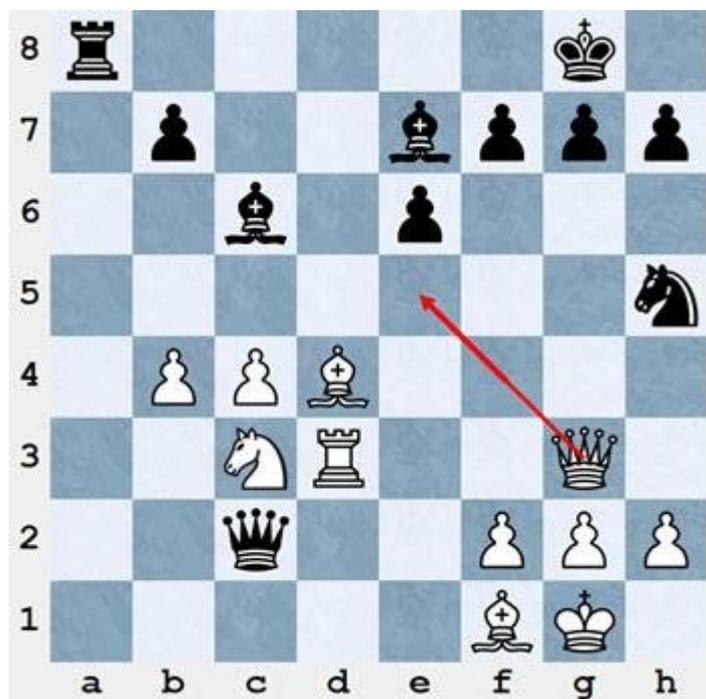
I got to touch a wing pawn at some point, right?

Of course, you will have to.

But, according to Charlie's "policies" to improve your positional skills, you should try to see if there is a chance to increase your pieces' color before you move a wing pawn.

In this fourth video, FM Storey explains that there can be exceptions to this rule, but also that ignoring it can cause problems and damage to your position. To show this critical concept, Charlie uses two games played by the great Ulf Andersson.

Video 5 – Never Start a Fair trade



What is a fair trade?

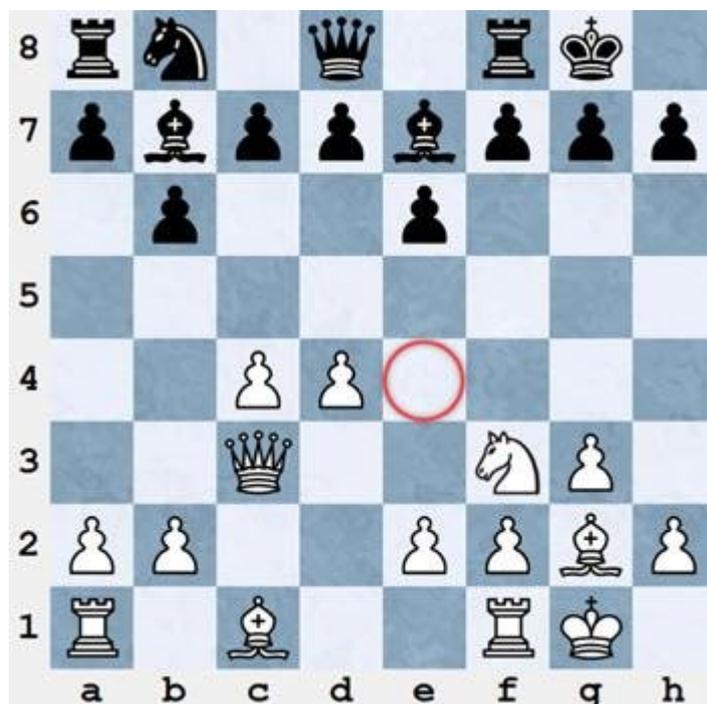
It's a trade of pieces or pawns, where neither player loses material.

In this course, FM Charlie Storey teaches you how to think like a positional player, and following his philosophy, Charlie tells us never to initiate a fair trade. OK, but why is that?

Because of the piece color coding, of course! In many situations, starting a fair trade can increase your opponent's recapturing piece's color-coding, leaving you a tempo behind in the battle to have your pieces more effectively positioned.

As usual, there are exceptions to the rule, but in general, do not start a fair trade of pieces or pawns, unless you see a valid reason to do so!

Video 6 – Prophylaxis



What is Prophylaxis? Let's not get confused by this word: it means "preventing.". Now, you have already understood that FM Storey is here to destroy all our chess concepts and make us better players by having us think outside the box. Preventing, according to Charlie's philosophy, is another "last resort," when we talk about positional chess. Sounds odd? No worries! There are reasons for FM Storey affirms such a thing. In reality, it's **BALANCING** that counts; balancing between increasing the color-coding of your pieces, and preventing your opponent's pieces from enhancing their color-coding. In this video, which is going to have you think and rethink what you already know about chess, Charlie guides you through a couple of games from his "inspirational muse" Ulf Andersson, to show that preventing is not always the only thing to do!

Video 7 – Threempo!

All you need is a small plan with a tempo.

Yes, a tempo to allow your pieces to increase their color-coding.

Color-coding is the key here: it's a fantastic way to decide on which kind of small plan to go.

How can you ensure that your plan involves a color-coding tempo?

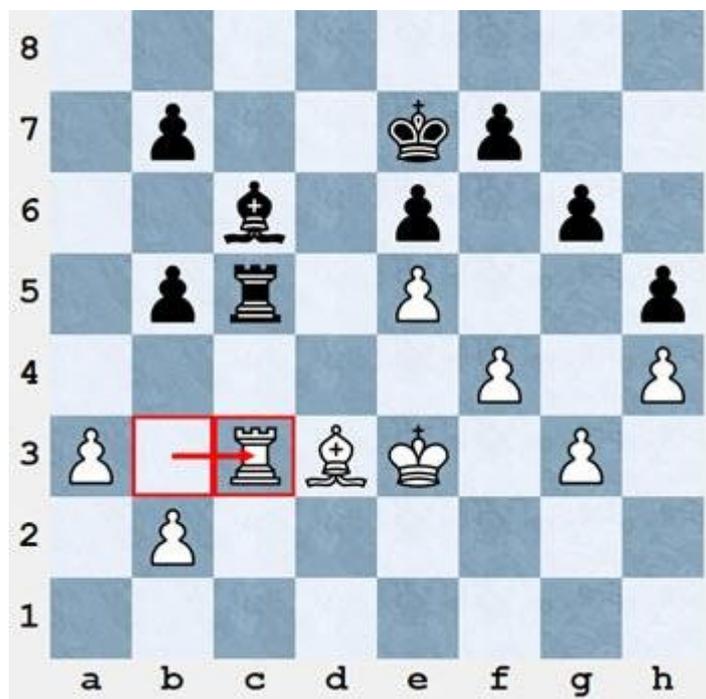
FM Storey calls this particular tempo a Threempo because the small plan should gain a tempo within three moves.

Therefore, among the thousands of mini-plans you can see in a given position, always choose those that give you a tempo!

Get proficient in playing your threempo plans, and you'll see your game improving dramatically.

In this seventh video of his series, FM Charlie explains how to see, perform, and take advantage of threempos, by using two games of his inspirational guru: Ulf Andersson.

Video 8 – Changing Positional Advantage



A positional advantage can be something hard to spot, especially when the player is not an expert. But, following FM Storey's lessons, at this point, you can recognize a positional advantage. This new piece of know-how makes you ready to appreciate how to change a positional advantage into a different kind of it and to convert a game into a win when you realize that changing approach to your advantage can lead to a greater one. In the first game Charlie shows us in this video, the Master of Positional Chess Ulf Andersson plays a much lower-rated player. It is quite impressive how Andersson, using his positional skills, doesn't need to calculate at all to win the game.

Video 9 – Stereotypical Positional Advantages

You have already guessed, haven't you?
And your guess is right!

FM Charlies, in the ninth chapter of his fantastic series, is going to destroy another way of thinking of us poor chess players.

What is a positional stereotype?

It is a commonly understood middlegame advantage. Most of the books and videos out there teach you how to realize that in the middlegame, you've got a positional advantage, right? To make a very well-known example, if you have the bishop pair, it's considered a small but significant advantage. Or, if your opponent has weak points around his king, that's another stereotypical kind of advantage.

Now, all these types of advantages, of course, exist, but there are always exceptions for each of them.

So, should we renounce to a stereotypical advantage in the middle game, if our plan allows us to improve the color-coding of our pieces?

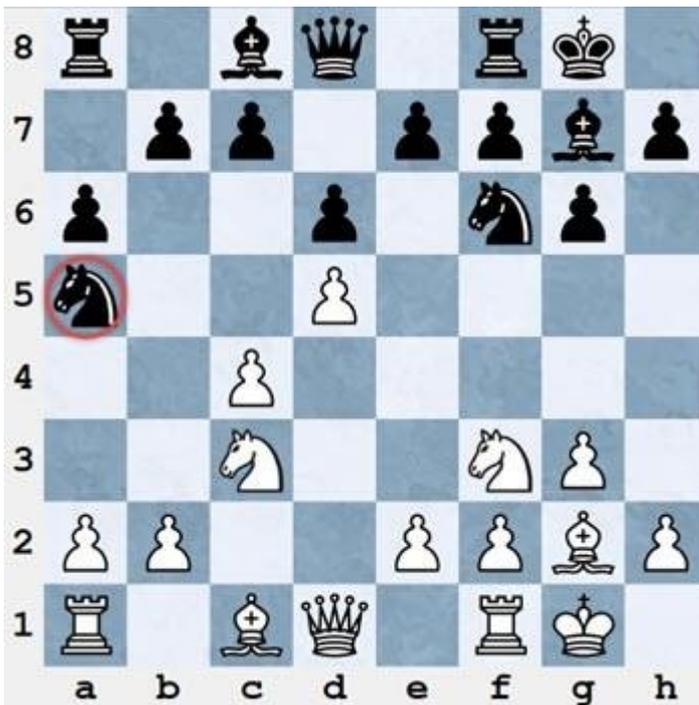
Silly question, isn't it? We not only should, we actually must!

Video 10 – Positional Plans

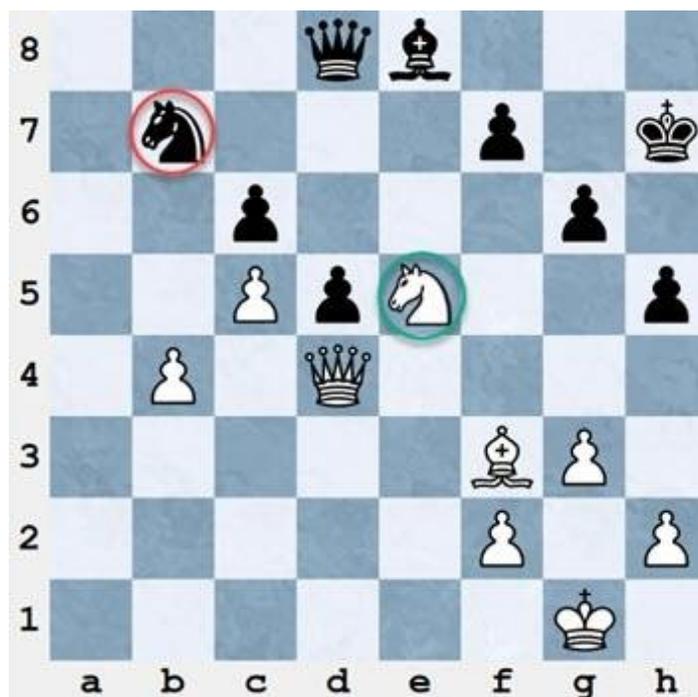
In the 10th installment of his series on Positional Skills, FM Charlie Storey tells us about a fascinating topic: Positional plans.

The first positional plan Charlie tackles is "Superior Knight."

To play positional chess means to be extremely careful about how you place your pieces over the board. Having a knight better placed than that of your opponent can lead to a sizeable advantage. The game Charlie uses to show us the importance of having a better Knight is again from his positional hero Ulf Andersson. In this game, played against a strong opponent, Andersson forces Black to play Na5 very early, and then keeps playing, in a divine show of positional play, to take advantage of his better Knight.



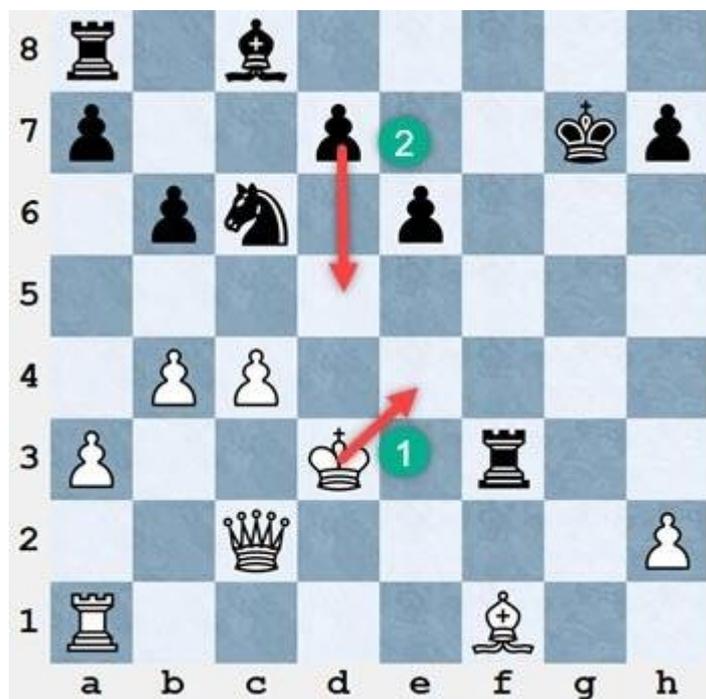
It's easy to see that the Knight that had to be placed on a5, through the entire game, can't improve its color-code.



FM Storey notes how having a superior Knight since the opening, is a great advantage, that allows you to play an easy and risk-free game.

The second positional plan Charlie illustrates is how to take advantage of a better-placed Rook. In a game with the same material, and with apparently equal chances, Andersson improves the color-coding of his rook, which allows him to win the game.

Video 11 – Combinational Skill



Combinational skill is something a player can exercise, like a muscle. But, let's not deny it, it's also a matter of talent. It is a gift if you will. Like many other talents, it needs to be cultivated with patience, willpower, and a lot of studying, but once a player masters this skill, the impact it can have on a game is enormous. In this 11th video of the series, FM Charlie shows how an excellent positional player can fight a gifted combinational talent.

A positional approach, as FM Storey has taught us in the previous videos of the series, can help face a lot of different situations. As always, look at the color-coding of your pieces, and never miss a chance to improve it!

Video 12 – Aiming for an Ending

In the final chapter of his series on Positional Skills, FM Storey starts incredibly enough - stating something "normal."

The best thing you can do when playing as White is to get a slight advantage in the opening, then transform it into a positional advantage in the middlegame while simultaneously stopping any counterplay. And finally having a superior endgame, in which you can keep cranking up the pressure and win the game.

Sounds easy, doesn't it?

Too bad, we all know it isn't at all!

But if you have followed Charlie's lessons on positional skills, you know by now that you can just do this, and make your chess experience as pleasant as it gets. Aiming for an ending in which you have a superior position, is what you should try to do when playing White.

In this video, Charlie is going to show you how to achieve that essential transition from middlegame to endgame, without rushing things up, risking to give up on your positional advantage.