

ChessBase Cafe

Mig Greengard

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Q&A Marathon:

Advanced Tips and Problems

It's all about you this month. I've been saving (hiding from) the really tough questions that have come in so this time I'm tackling a few of the mind-bending inquiries that have arrived over the past few months. I always try to pick questions that have been sent in by several people or that will be useful for all readers.

First I'll give some short, easy answers to questions we've already covered in earlier columns or that are so specific they wouldn't be of much interest to the audience. If you sent in a brilliant question that I haven't answered yet, feel free to send it again. It may have scrolled by in the piles of mail and spam. On the other hand, as Publilus Syrus wrote two thousand years ago, not every question deserves an answer!

To Chris B: Open the evaluation profile pane with ctrl+alt+p. Also read about this in the past few columns.

To Jan P: No announced date.

To Ned K: No null moves after a check. No workaround other than starting earlier.

To Archie: Read last month's column in the archives.

To Luis/Antonio: Not possible, sorry.

To Antonio L: In ChessBase 8 open the database, go to the Players tab, select a player and press F2 to edit the name.

To Art L: Read my first column in the archives. Let me know if you need a follow-up with something specific.

To Garry K: No time to help you with the Najdorf this week, please stop asking.

To Uma T: Friday at eight would be lovely.

Before you send in a question please check out my previous columns, especially the Q&A section. The **ChessBase Cafe** Archives are here:

<http://www.chessbase.com/archives/archives.htm#ChessBase Cafe>. Instructions for downloading the Adobe Reader you need to view the files are at the top of that page.

Question *I may be able to get my workplace to get me a Pocket PC (probably an HP model). Naturally, I thought of being able to run Pocket Fritz 2. How much memory (and other stuff) is required to run the program? – Geoff McAuliffe*

Answer Let's hope your boss doesn't read this column! "I really need this for, umm, work." We promise not to tell... The web info and Pocket Fritz 2 box state the following for system requirements: "Pocket Fritz runs on Pocket PCs with Windows Mobile 2003 (Pocket PC 2003), Pocket PC 2002, Windows CE 3.0, with the processors MIPS, SHG, ARM or Xscale. Installation requires a PC (notebook or desktop computer)."



The 2003 operating system came out after Pocket Fritz 2 and there is a downloadable patch for minor problems that have been reported by a few users with 2003 machines. You can't really buy a Pocket PC that doesn't have enough memory (and other stuff) to run PF2 and it is compatible with all the processors. The only question is one of strength. There is no way to give an accurate estimation of playing strength because you have to consider time control and processor type more than anything. On a 200MHz ARM processor it plays at around 2400-2500 blitz strength. An Xscale processor at 400MHz has about the same playing strength.

Just be careful not to take it to the tournament floor with you during your games. Your opponents won't be amused to see your mini-computer in your pocket. There have already been several publicized cases of people being caught cheating with this little monster. On the other hand, it's great to have around to enter your games into for post-mortem and pre-game analysis if you don't have a laptop computer, or don't feel like lugging it to the tournament.

Another very handy thing you can do with these portables is use them as electronic magazines. Most players have trouble following games in books and magazines in their head and basically end up just reading the diagrams and text if they can't set up a board or use their computer. But with this you can download the games and go over them on the subway, bus, or anywhere you like, all with a strong kibitzing engine.

If you have a paper magazine with many notes you can read that while going over the downloaded moves on your Pocket PC at the same time. It's time-consuming to enter all the notes into the game file yourself, which is why it's nice to have things like the Megabase and CB Magazine so you have the games

and notes in digital format from the start.

I'm sure there are many other uses, but so far I haven't been able to convince ChessBase to buy me a top-of-the-line Pocket PC to test PF2. Maybe your company is hiring, Geoff?

Question *In Fritz 6 when I search for a player in the database window from the games list it shows at the bottom of the screen: Games found: 294 out of 750671 (for Lasker). In Fritz 8 I can't find a way to show how many games matched my search. Thanks, Mike, Australia*

Answer This seemed like such a handy and obvious thing to do that I couldn't believe they would remove this function in a new version. At first I had the same problem; after any search the status bar at the bottom of the screen just said "Done – Filter Games" instead of the search numbers that used to appear there. (If you don't have a status bar you need to check it in the View menu on the database list screen. You should always have this on because it gives you useful information about commands and other things.)

But when you look really closely you can see that the numbers are there while the search is going. When it's completed the "Done" message is written over them! Not very useful unless you have super-vision and can read those numbers flashing by the instant before the search is completed. After some experimenting I found a way to get the numbers back on top.

The tab key toggles a search mask on and off. After you run your search, press tab twice to re-run your search in the database. This time when it finishes you'll have two numbers in the status bar. The number on the left is the game number of the last game to match the search mask. I can't think of much use for this. It's the second number you are looking for. This is the total number of games that match your search.

The number of matching games will also appear in the "Foot Line," which you might never have heard of. If you right-click in the game list and go to List Format and then Properties you can change some display options. If you check "Foot Line" a new white bar will appear above the status bar at the bottom of the database list screen. Normally this shows the moves of any game you select in the list. This can be handy if you have your list format as "full game header" but want to be able to glance at the first moves without opening a game board.

When you run a search the foot line will still usually show the moves of the first matching result. But if you do the tab trick, pressing it twice to re-run the search, it will change to "N=X" with X the number of results. I say "usually" because several times while I was playing with this the foot line stopped showing the moves and continued to show the number of results even if I clicked different games, when it should go back to showing the moves. Regardless, this is redundant with the status bar. The above image shows a search in a database of 30 games. The last game in the list to match was number 22 and 6 games matched the search.

Players	
1	Kasparov,G 2830
11	Alekseev,E 2613
16	Ivanchuk,V 2711
18	Acs,P 2600 - Pol
21	Anand,V 2774 - I
22	Anand,V 2774 - I
game list	
n=6 footer line	
22 6 status bar	

That you have to run the search twice, once with the tab key, to get it to display the results is clearly not the way it should be. The status bar will always show the latest activity, but there's no point in erasing the results before you have time to read them! The total number of games in the database is always displayed in the window title next to the name of the database.

Question *How do I use ChessBase Reader to edit an article on the Latvian Gambit? It includes verbal text, analysis & complete games. Yours faithfully, Prof. Nagesh Havanur*

Answer ChessBase programs have great output features for print and web publishing. We looked at several of them in depth in my first ChessBase Café article. Input, however, is a much trickier thing. Professor Havanur's e-mail included a nice article on the Latvian Gambit in Word format. There is no way to even get close to automatically importing something like that into ChessBase, whether it be Reader, 8, or Fritz.

Individual games in PGN or with consistent annotation formatting can usually be cut and pasted into a new board window, but that's about it. If you only want to include a document in a ChessBase file you can copy-paste it into a database text document, but obviously plain text not what you want. Scanning a magazine or book and having ChessBase put all the moves and text together correctly in a board window is not even close to possible.

This is why most people end up writing articles in ChessBase first, and then exporting them to Word. The reverse is not much faster than writing it twice. You'd have to take your Word document, enter all the moves and variations into a new game board, and then copy-paste all of the annotations one at a time. Not fun. This is the main reason I've suggested that ChessBase make the "text before/after move" window much more robust. It should be resizable with font selection, spell-check, like a real text editor. The tiny box you get now is not adequate for writing articles. A powerful input parsing engine would be great too, but that would likely be very hard to do accurately.

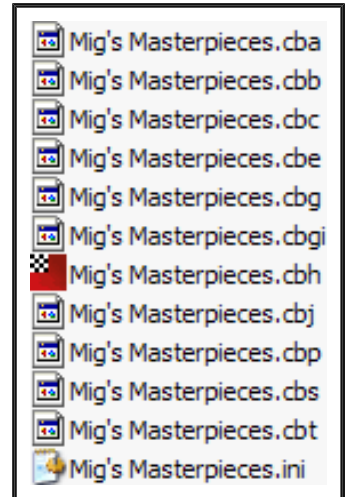
Question *In Fritz 8, I tried to find games in the database (my personal games), by position and it doesn't come out. It says zero games found and that is not right, because I know I had the position in my games because it's my favorite opening (English Opening). If I look by the ECO code, it comes out fine, but for me it is easier by position, and I like that better. I don't have this problem with the ChessMaster, why does Fritz 8, my favorite program let me down in this? Can you help me please? Thank you very much for your help! – Jose E. Ramirez, USA*

Answer This is not a common problem but I've seen it before. **MAKE SURE TO BACK-UP YOUR DATABASE FIRST BEFORE TRYING THIS.** ChessCafe, ChessBase, Mig, Mig's cats, and Mig's cats' fleas are NOT

RESPONSIBLE for any harm you do to your databases if you fool around with their files without backing them up first!

ChessBase databases are actually many files on your computer. It is possible one of the database files was lost or damaged and that can cause problems like the one you describe.

Sometimes the database keys (or the search booster) are corrupted and you can make a new one. First, make a backup of the database. (ctrl+z) Now go to Tools – Database – and select Create Search Booster. If that option is in gray, select Delete Search Booster. If you delete it, go back and create a new one. Creating or deleting/creating usually solves this problem. (You can manually delete a search booster in Windows Explorer by deleting the *.cbb file of the database in question.)



If the problem persists you can create a new database (ctrl+x) and copy all the games from the old one into the new one using the Clip Database. (Select all the games, copy them, create a new database, paste the games.) That should solve the problem, although can be a slow process with a large database. Then create a search booster for it to speed up your searches.

In general you should create a search booster for all of your large databases. ChessBase 8 prompts you to do this, Fritz does not. You should create a new one each time you add a substantial number of new games to the database. It speeds up position searches tremendously.

Question *I have the Nalimov Endgame Tablebases but I am unsure of how to install them so they can be used by the three chess engines that I have – Fritz, Junior, and Shredder. I think Fritz uses them but not Shredder 5.32 and Junior 7.0. – Wane Inkpen*

Answer Please include the name and version of the program you are using! If you are using the engines in ChessBase you need to tell the program where you have the tablebase files. The first thing, if you have the free space, is to copy them all from the CDs to your hard drive. This speeds up their use dramatically. Put in the CD, open Windows Explorer, and drag and drop the tablebase folder to your hard drive. It can take a while to copy so much data depending on the speed of your CD-ROM drive.

Then in ChessBase, go to Tools – Options and then to the Folders tab. The fourth field is “Tablebases” and there you need to enter the directory path of the folder where you put all the tablebase files. (Or click the browse button and navigate to the folder where you put them.) For example: C:\CB\TBS. Then all the engines that use tablebases will know where to look.

There is a similar process in the Fritz programs. Go to Tools – Options then to the Tablebases tab. There you can enter up to three paths in case you have the

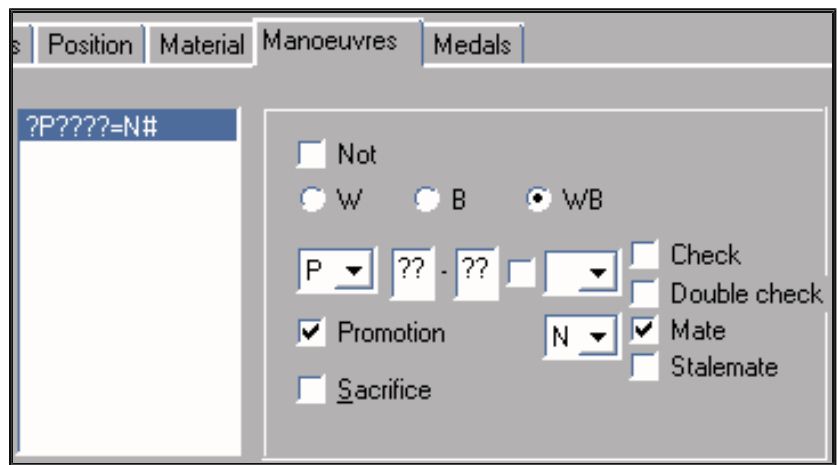
tablebases in separate folders or hard drives. The only way to be 100% sure an engine is using them is to create a position such as king and pawn vs. king and rook and see what the engine says. If it's hitting the tablebases it should simply announce checkmate in X moves instead of "thinking." Open the main engine pane and turn on infinite analysis to check.

Question *I am still using Fritz 7. I came across your tip on creating an Evaluation Profile of a game but I am not able to get it to work. Yes, I have Store Evaluations turned on under Options and Threshold is set to zero, but Fritz 7 enters the values as text in the variations instead. I have played around with the various options under the Analysis/Blunder Check window but to no avail. What am I missing here? Is this only a Fritz 8 feature? Thank you for your great articles keep it up! With metta, Joseph Toh*

Answer Sorry, no metta for you this time! Yes, this is only a Fritz 8 feature and I'm afraid that the "store evaluations" you are checking in the main options isn't going to help. Fritz 8 (and the other programs of that generation) has that checkbox on the Blundercheck option screen; the Fritz 7 generation does not. The evaluation profile needs that data on every move and I don't see any way to accomplish this in Fritz 7.

Question *My problem is the following: a friend of mine is trainer of half-beginner schoolboys and I offered to him to find examples where an underpromotion to knight gives mate on the move. After having checked the appropriate boxes in the window "Manoeuvres" of "search mask" of CB8 (Mega Database 99) I don't obtain the hoped for result. The program gives me examples of underpromotion with check by the new knight, but no mate. It even includes many drawn games yet the box "mate" is checked. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Kindly, Jean-Marie*

Answer Well, the first problem is that mating with a knight underpromotion is incredibly rare. You see it in the occasional study or puzzle, but in a real game the chance of this happening is roughly the same as my playing in goal for Real Madrid next year. So even if your search worked, and it looks fine to me, there aren't many games with this result in the Megabase. The "mate" checkbox in the "game data" search mask finds games in which mate is imminent, not necessarily played in the game. You need to check the mate box on the Manoeuvres tab.



I was surprised to find a few examples in the Megabase 2003 by going to the Manoeuvres tab in the search mask, checking Promotion, setting the piece to “N” and checking the Mate box. (See above image.) The first game to come up is this one:

Sandrin,A - Le Cornu,P [A16] US op Omaha (10), 1949

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Be6 6.Nf3 Nxc3 7.bxc3 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.d4 c6 10.e4 Bc4 11.Re1 Nd7 12.Be3 Qa5 13.Nd2 Ba6 14.Qb3 c5 15.e5 cxd4 16.cxd4 Nb6 17.Rac1 Rac8 18.Rc5 Rxc5 19.dxc5 Nd7 20.e6 Nxc5 21.exf7+ Kh8 22.Qd5 b6 23.Bd4 Nd3 24.Rxe7 Qxd2 25.Re8 h6 26.Rxf8+ Kh7 27.Rh8+ Bxh8 28.f8N# 1-0

It found six more in the 2,356,516 games, making “=N#” one of the rarest moves I can imagine in a real game. It’s possible that these seven games aren’t in the Mega ’99, but that would be a tremendous coincidence. I found more examples of mate by promotion to a knight in the ChessBase Study Database 2000. These are usually intricate compositions that are poorly suited for teaching beginners. For example: Efron,A, 1956

The position in FEN notation: 5K1k/7B/6P1/5pPp/7P/p7/b7/8 w - - 0 1

1.Bg8 Bxg8 2.g7+ Kh7 3.g6+ Kh6 [3...Kxg6 4.Kxg8 a2 5.Kf8 a1Q 6.g8Q+ Kh6 (6...Kf6 7.Qg7+) 7.Qg5+ Kh7 8.Qxh5#] 4.Kxg8 a2 5.Kf7 a1Q 6.g8N# 1-0

All the ChessBase software described by Mig in this column, as well as many more ChessBase programs, are available in the [ChessCafe Online Catalog](#).

Mig wants your questions!! Send it along and perhaps it will be answered in an upcoming column. Please include your

name and country of residence. Yes, I have a question for Mig!



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