



## COLUMNISTS

ChessBase  
Cafe

Steve Lopez

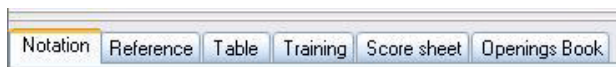


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## The Reference Tab in ChessBase 10

In the last [ChessBase Café](#) column, we began an examination of the tabs at the top of the ChessBase 10 Notation pane:

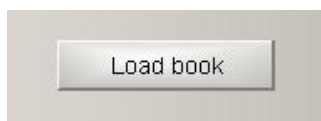


In that column we talked about the Notation, Table, Training, and Scoresheet views for displaying a game loaded in a Game window. In this column, we're going to describe what happens when you click on the "Reference" tab. In order for this tab to work properly, you'll need to designate one of your databases as your Reference database. You'll want to select your largest database, the one you consider to be your "master" database. Right-click on its icon in the database window and select "Properties," then check the box beside "Reference database" in the new dialogue that appears:



Click the "OK" button and your reference database is set.

You'll also wish to click on the "Openings book" tab at the top of the Notation pane. If you've not already loaded an opening book, you'll see this button in the center of the Notation pane:



Clicking this button presents you with the standard Windows File Select dialogue that will allow you to navigate to a drive and folder where you've stored an opening book (such as the "General" book that ships with [Fritz](#), or the separate [Powerbook](#) opening book). Double-click on the book's filename to load it.

After you've completed these steps, you're ready to use the Reference tab. After you've loaded a game and are playing through it, you can click on the Reference tab at any point in the opening. ChessBase 10 will use both the reference database and the opening book to provide you with information about that position. You can also do this after entering a sequence of moves in a new board window, or even after setting up a position from scratch using the "position setup" tools.

Let's look at an example. One of my old games resulted in the following position after the moves **1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3**:

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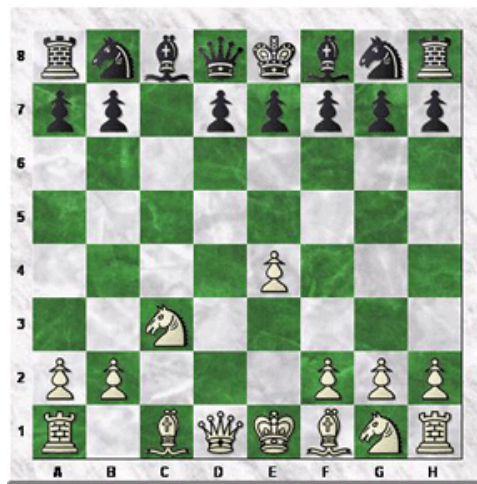


[ChessBase Magazine](#)



[My Career, Vol. 1](#)

by Viswanathan Anand



My opponent played something interesting here, and I was curious to see if it was not only a “proper book response” but also to see how well it fared in other games. To learn more about what’s been played in this position, I just click the “Reference” tab. After a few moments search, ChessBase 10 provides me with a display in three parts – the pane is divided into three sections. The lower section is just a straight search: all of the games from my reference database that reached the same board position. You can double-click on any of these games to load them in a new board window. Below the list of games is a row of buttons and toggles:



The “Good only” toggle removes games of “low quality,” which are defined as follows:

- Games in which neither player was rated 2350 or higher;
- Games in which neither player has an IM or GM title;
- Games played at Blitz or Rapid time controls;
- Games played in simultaneous exhibitions (“simuls”);
- Games lasting less than seven moves;
- Drawn games that lasted less than twenty moves.

The other buttons in this display behave as follows:

**Filter** – clicking this button brings up the standard ChessBase Search mask. Using this button allows you to further refine your search.

**Copy** – you can highlight one or more games in this list and click the “Copy” button. If you then return to the Database screen, right-click on a database icon and select Edit/Paste, you’ll see a dialogue asking you to confirm that you wish to copy the game(s) into that second database. Click “OK” and the game(s) will be so copied. The “Copy” button is a quick way to copy games from one database into another.

**Edit** – if you highlight a game in the list and then click the “Edit” button, you’ll see the same dialogue you receive when you save or replace a game into a database. This will allow you to change the game’s header information.

**Clip** – clicking this button sends the highlighted game(s) to the ChessBase 10 Clipboard.

**Delete** – clicking this button will mark the highlighted games for deletion.

**Stop** – this button allows you to stop a search that is currently in progress.

Moving now to the upper third of the pane, we see that it offers a lot of varied information that was previously only available in separate

functions in older versions of ChessBase:

Moves	Games	Score	Last played	Best Elo	Best players	Frequent players
4...Nb8-c6	41	0.0%			Gustafsson	
4...e7-e6	14	0.0%			Gustafsson	
4...d7-d6	11	0.0%				
4...a7-a6	2	0.0%				
4...Ng8-f6	1	0.0%				

If you're replaying a game from a database when you click the Reference tab, you'll see the move from the actual game highlighted by dotted lines. My opponent had played 4...d6; I'd expected 4...Nc6 (which was, in fact, the genesis of my exploration of the position via the Reference tab).

Since I'm playing the Smith-Morra Gambit, I really didn't expect to find many games in the database; my suspicions were correct, as the box at the top of this display shows that only sixty-nine games reached this position. We see a list of the candidate moves in this position, that is, the ones that were played in actual games found in the database (there are obviously many other possible moves, but the five moves displayed are the only ones that are found in actual tournament practice from the games in my master database). For each candidate move we see the exact number of games in which that particular move was played.

The next column displays the success rate as seen from White's point of view. White wins are scored as 100%, Black wins as 0%, and draws are scored as 50%; the higher the value in this column, the better the move did from White's perspective.

The final four columns may or may not contain information. The more GM-level games that are found in ChessBase 10's search, the more information you'll see displayed in these columns:

- **Last played** – the most recent year in which a move appeared in tournament practice;
- **Best Elo** – the highest rating found among players who made a particular move;
- **Best players** – the highest-rated players who made that particular move;
- **Frequent players** – players who have made the move a regular part of their repertoires, as determined by the number of times they've played it in games from the database.

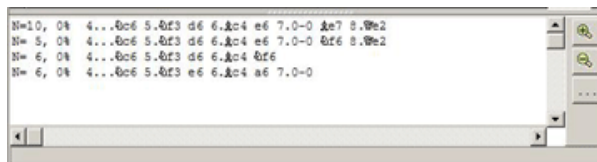
Again, I'll reiterate that the more games that turn up in the search (and the more games of a higher quality), the more information will appear in this display. Here's an example that occurs after three full moves in the Caro-Kann Exchange Variation:

Moves	Games	Score	Last played	Best Elo	Best players	Frequent players
4.c2-c4	14138	55.8%	2007	2805	Kasparov, Anand, Morozevich, To...	Vajda, Potkin, Br...
4.Bf1-d3	7214	52.8%	2007	2851	Kasparov, Svidler, Morozevich, Sa...	Degraeve, Yudas...
4.c2-c3	593	51.5%	2007	2695	Turov, Larsen, Sulskis, Kharlov	Kovalevskaya
4.f2-f4	14	50.0%	2006	2208		
4.Ng1-e2	3	50.0%	2002	1389		
4.Qd1-f3	2	50.0%	2004			
4.b2-b3	2	50.0%	2004	2098		
4.Bc1-f4	130	47.3%	2007	2678	Morozevich, Neumann	

As you can see, a data pool of more than 24,000 games in which the position occurred gives ChessBase 10 much more information to work with, and we're provided with a lot more information in return.

Note that the width of the columns can be adjusted by dragging the lines separating the column headers. The columns can also be re-sorted by clicking on a column header; for example, clicking on "Score" (as is the case in the illustration immediately above) will re-rank the games in order of success (here again as viewed from White's perspective).

At last we come to the middle pane in the Reference display. This pane displays information as found in the opening book we selected earlier:



N	Color	Move	Success Rate
10	0%	4...0c6 5.0f3 d6 6.2c4 e6 7.0-0 2e7 8.0e2	
5	0%	4...0c6 5.0f3 d6 6.2c4 e6 7.0-0 0f6 8.0e2	
6	0%	4...0c6 5.0f3 d6 6.2c4 0f6	
6	0%	4...0c6 5.0f3 e6 6.2c4 a6 7.0-0	

The ChessBase software has gone into the opening book and listed the most popular variations played from the present board position, along with the number of games in which they appeared, and the success rate (also given from White's point of view). This is different from clicking on the "Openings book" tab, which just lists candidate moves (not variations) along with additional statistical information.

What I've learned today is that it really didn't matter which move my opponent chose; statistically speaking, the position was "bad" for me and any of the listed candidates was as good for him as any other. Hopefully what you've learned today are the basics of how the Reference tab works. There are additional advanced features available and you can read about them in the ChessBase 10 Help files when you're ready for them.

Here's wishing you a happy and safe holiday season! Until next year, when we get together here again, have fun!

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

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**ChessBase Cafe** welcomes readers' questions. Send one along and perhaps it will be answered in an upcoming column. Please include your name and country of residence.

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