

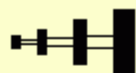
## Chess Symbols

There is a wide range of symbols used in chess. The basic ones were provided in the Chess Notations tutorial. The following tables are provided to assist you in becoming familiar with and being able to identify chess symbols you might encounter. The symbols presented below are: Chess Informant Symbols (CIS), United States Chess Federation (USCF) Symbols, New In Chess (NIC) Symbols, and Miscellaneous Symbols. After the various tables of symbols, there appears a table with the graphic symbols used for pieces and pawns and corresponding names in various languages. Keep in mind the important observation from an earlier tutorial that when looking at annotated games that have been analyzed:

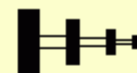
**Analysis is always subjective.**

**-Jon Sveisson, [http://www.MyChessSite.net/ Membership Pages](http://www.MyChessSite.net/MembershipPages)  
("King's Indian Defence - Playing on the flanks")**

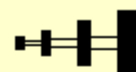
What one person might say is a brilliant move or pawn advance, another might classify as good, or even questionable. He or she might not comment upon it at all! One must remember that a player easily could make a mistake or worse...a **blunder** (extremely overwhelming error in making a move or pawn advance which usually results in a resounding defeat). An excellent move when analyzed, just might turn out to be devastating when attempted in an actual game if followed by a mistake or blunder. Therein lies perhaps the deepest mystery in chess-one that even computers have yet to overcome: the value of subjective thinking coupled with the unknown timing of mistakes and blunders.



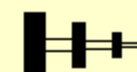
CIS  
Chess Informant Symbols  
Table 1 of 4



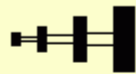
±	White has a slight advantage	∓	Black has a slight advantage
±	White has a clear advantage	∓	Black has a clear advantage
+−	White has a decisive advantage	−+	Black has a decisive advantage
=	Balanced (equal) position	∞	Unclear position
♖	With compensation for the material	♜	Development advantage
○	Advantage in space	→	With attack
↑	Initiative	↔	With counterplay
⊙	Zugswang	#	Checkmate



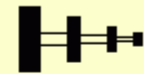
CIS  
Chess Informant Symbols  
Table 2 of 4



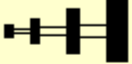
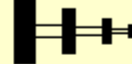







!	A good move	!!	An excellent move
?	A mistake	??	A blunder
!?	A move deserving attention	?!	A dubious move
△	With the idea of ...	□	Only move (forced move)
◐	A better move is ...	↔	Ranks
↗	Diagonals	⊞	Center
»	Kingside	«	Queenside
×	Weak point (weak square at ...)	⊥	End game

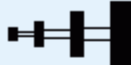
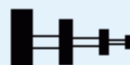


**CIS**  
**Chess Informant Symbols**  
**Table 3 of 4**









	Pair of bishops		Bishops of opposite color
	Bishops of the same color	∞	United pawns
o.o	Separated pawns	8	Doubled pawns
♠	Passed pawn	>	Advantage in number of pawns
⊕	Time pressure	—	See
└	With	┘	Without
	Et cetera (etc.)	N	A novelty
R	Various moves	RR	Editorial comment

 <b>CIS</b> <b>Chess Informant Symbols</b> <b>Table 4 of 4</b> 			
* symbol depicted may vary in style			
<b>(ch)</b>	Championship (national)	<b>(izt)</b>	Interzonal Tournament
<b>(ct)</b>	Candidate's Tournament	<b>(m)</b>	Match
<b>(ol)</b>	Olympiad	<b>corr.</b>	Correspondence Game
<b>1:0</b>	White won	<b>0:1</b>	Black won
$\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$	Draw or Stalemate)	 <b>3/3c</b>	Encyclopaedia of Chess Endings
	Pawn *		Knight *
	Bishop *		Rook *
	Queen *		King *

 <b>United States Chess Federation</b> <b>(USCF) Symbols</b> 			
≈	The position is roughly level	→	Transposes to
	Or ...	¬	Not ...
♖	Player of White pieces	♜	Player of Black pieces
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♚	Championship Game	♙	Match Game
♞	Fork	♣	Pin
♛	Trap	♠	Player in serious trouble
✉	Sealed move	✉	Postal game
⌚	Time pressure	⌚	Time control

New in Chess (NIC) Symbols			
	Compensation	$\uparrow\uparrow$	Development advantage
$>$	Strong	$<$	Weak
$\geq$	Better is	$\leq$	Weaker is
	Center		Space
	Kingside		Queenside
	Pair of bishops	X	Mate

Miscellaneous Symbols					
	Time control		Game score		Chess theory
	White won		Black won		Draw
$\in$	Belongs...(has..)	$\notin$	Does not belong (have...)	$\approx$	Similar to
$\neq$	Different from		Pinned		Hole
	Discovered check		Gambit		Fianchetto
	Pawn chain		Pawn attack (storm)	$\updownarrow$	Files

LANGUAGE	FIGURINES - NAMES (DESCRIPTIVE LETTERS)					
						
CROATIAN	Kralj (K)	Dama (D)	Top (T)	Lovac (L)	Skakac (S)	Bijeli
NORWEGIAN	Konge (K)	Dronning (D)	Tårn (T)	Løper (L)	Springer (S)	Bonde
ENGLISH	King (K)	Queen (Q)	Rook (R)	Bishop (B)	Knight (N)	Pawn (P)
GERMAN	König (K)	Dame (D)	Turm (T)	Läufer (L)	Springer (S)	Bauer
SLAVONIC	Kralj (K)	Dama (D)	Trdnjavi	Lovca (L)	Skakaca (S)	Kmetov
SWEDISH	Kung (K)	Dam (D)	Torn (T)	Löpare (L)	Springare (S)	Bonde
YUGOSLAVIAN	König (K)	Dame (D)	Turm (T)	Läufer (L)	Springer (S)	Bauer
FRENCH	Roi (R)	Dame (D)	Tour (T)	Fou (F)	Cavalier (C)	Pion (P)
ITALIAN	Re (R)	Donna (D)	Torre (T)	Alfiere (A)	Cavallo (C)	Pedone (P)
POTUGUESE	Rei (R)	Dama (D)	Torre (T)	Bispo (B)	Cavalo (C)	Peao (P)
ROMANIAN	Rege (R)	Dama (D)	Turn (T)	Nebun (N)	Cal (C)	Pion (P)
SPANISH	Rey (R)	Dama (D)	Torre (T)	Alfil (A)	Caballo (C)	Peón (P)
DUTCH	Koning (K)	Dame (D)	Toren (T)	Loper (L)	Paard (P)	Pion
FINNISH	Kuningas (K)	Daami (D)	Torni (T)	Lähetä (L)	Ratsu (R)	Sotilas
HUNGARIAN	Király (K)	Vezér (V)	Bástya (B)	Futó (F)	Huszár (H)	Gyalog (G)
DANISH	Konge (K)	Dronning (D)	Tårn (T)	Løber (L)	Springer (S)	Bonde

**Notes regarding above table:**

The names and descriptive letters provided for Norwegian and Danish are the official names provided by the Norwegian Chess Federation (Norges Sjakkforbund, [www.sjakk.no](http://www.sjakk.no)), and by the Danish Chess Federation (Dansk Skak Union, [www.dsu.dk](http://www.dsu.dk)). Dronning is sometimes also called, unofficially, dame (lady), as for the Knight it's often called Hest (horse). The use of Komge (K) for the King, Sten (S) for the Rook, and Boude (B) for the pawn, in Danish, are outdated, but sometimes unofficially used.

Also, at <http://www.chessvariants.com/d.chess/chess-norwegian.html> the names for the Rook, Bishop, and pawn in Norwegian are stated incorrectly as Raket, Biskop, and pawn. The page is a translation by a web-based engine similar to Altavista's babelfish, and such translations are often inaccurate and unreliable.