

## [Home](#) \* Dedicated Chess Computers



[Mephisto X](#) aka [Mephisto Portorose](#) at [ACM 1989](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

**Dedicated chess computers** are for the sole purpose to play or analyze a [game of chess](#). Minimalistic models provide a rudimentary, modal [user interface](#), realized by [seven-segment displays](#) or [LCD](#) to display move-coordinates and short messages or symbols, and one or more [push-buttons](#) to [enter moves](#) or commands, and to switch modes. Most commercial dedicated [board](#) models, provide a [sensory board](#) to recognize [moves](#), and [light-emitting diodes](#) to indicate coordinates of a move to be made by an operator on behalf of the computer.

The first dedicated chess computer was the [Chess Challenger 1](#), designed and created by [Sidney Samole](#) and [Ron Nelson](#), sold by [Fidelity Electronics](#) since early 1977. In the 80s, [modular systems](#) became quite popular, to make the game playing core component exchangeable and easier and cheaper to update, while leaving the device appearance identifying parts and [user interface](#) the same.

## Table of Contents

[High and Fall](#)

[Nostalgia](#)

[Dedicated Topics](#)

[Dedicated Systems](#)

[Companies](#)

[Tournaments](#)

[See also](#)

[Dynamic Lists](#)

[Dedicated Computers](#)

[Video Game Console](#)

[Publications](#)

[1979](#)

[1980 ...](#)

[1985 ...](#)

[2000 ...](#)

[Forum Posts](#)

[2005 ...](#)

[2010 ...](#)

[2015 ...](#)

[External Links](#)

[Chess Computer Links](#)

[Self-made](#)

[References](#)

## High and Fall

In the 80s and early 90s, there was a competitive market for strong dedicated chess computers, and they dominated the early [computer chess tournaments](#) dedicated for [mikroprocessors](#). [Mephisto Montreux](#) was the last and lonesome competitor of its genre at the [WMCCC 1995](#). Today, most dedicated units sold are

of beginner and intermediate strength, and have to compete with mobile phone chess programs, for instance engines for [Android](#) or [iPhone](#).

## Nostalgia

A trend driven by collectors and enthusiasts of exclusive chess board computers, is addressed by [Ruud Martin](#) and his company [Phoenix Chess Systems](#) with the [Mephisto](#) compatible [Resurrection](#) and his own complete system [Revelation](#).

## Dedicated Topics

- [Module](#)
- [Piece Recognition](#)
- [Robots](#)
- [Sensory Board](#)

## Dedicated Systems

- [DGT Pi](#)
- [Gavon](#)
- [PicoChess](#)
- [Raspberry Turk](#)
- [Revelation](#)
- [Revelation II](#)
- [Square Off](#)

## Companies

- [Applied Concepts](#)
- [Chafitz](#)
- [Excalibur Electronics](#)
- [Fidelity Electronics](#)
- [Hegener & Glaser](#)
- [Heuristic Software](#)
- [Intelligent Software](#)
- [Millennium 2000 GmbH](#)
- [Milton Bradley](#)
- [Newcrest Technology](#)
- [Novag](#)
- [Philidor Software](#)

- [Phoenix Chess Systems](#)
- [Saitek](#)
- [TASC](#)
- [VEB Mikroelektronik Erfurt](#)

## Tournaments

- [American Microcomputer Chess Tournaments](#)
- [European Microcomputer Chess Championship](#)
- [PCW Microcomputer Chess Championship](#)
- [Various Microcomputer Chess Tournaments](#)
- [World Microcomputer Chess Championship](#) until [WMCCC 1995](#)

## See also

- [Arduino](#)
- [El Ajedrecista](#)
- [Hardware](#)
- [Micro-Max](#)
- [Raspberry Pi](#)
- [User Interface](#)

## Dynamic Lists

## Dedicated Computers

To expand this list, create a new engine or dedicated chess computers page with the [tag "dedicated"](#).

1. [Blitz Monster](#)
2. [Bogol](#)
3. [Boris](#)
4. [Cassia Chess Mate](#)
5. [Chafitz ARB Sargon 2.5](#)
6. [Chafitz Modular Game System](#)
7. [Chess 2001](#)
8. [Chess Challenger](#)
9. [Chess Champion Mark IV](#)
10. [Chess Champion Mark V](#)
11. [Chess Champion MK I](#)
12. [Chess Champion MK II](#)
13. [Chess Champion Pocket Chess](#)
14. [Chess Champion Super System III](#)
15. [Chess Partner 2000](#)

16. [Chess-Master](#)
17. [ChessMachine](#)
18. [Commodore ChessMate](#)
19. [CompuChess](#)
20. [Conchess](#)
21. [Conic X](#)
22. [Constellation](#)
23. [CT800](#)
24. [CXG Sensor Computachess](#)
25. [CXG Sphinx](#)
26. [CXG Star Chess](#)
27. [DGT Pi](#)
28. [Elegance](#)
29. [Elektronika IM](#)
30. [Elite](#)
31. [Enterprise](#)
32. [Excel](#)
33. [Excellence](#)
34. [Fidelity](#)
35. [Fidelity Phantom](#)
36. [Gedeon](#)
37. [GK 2100](#)
38. [Great Game Machine](#)
39. [Intellect](#)
40. [Intelligent Chess](#)
41. [Kasparov Sparc](#)
42. [L'Empereur](#)
43. [La Regence](#)
44. [Labirint 64](#)
45. [Little Rook Chess](#)
46. [LogiChess](#)
47. [Mephisto](#)
48. [Mephisto \(H\)](#)
49. [Mephisto Almeria](#)
50. [Mephisto Amsterdam](#)
51. [Mephisto Dallas](#)
52. [Mephisto Europa](#)
53. [Mephisto Genius 68030](#)
54. [Mephisto Lyon](#)
55. [Mephisto MM II](#)
56. [Mephisto MM IV](#)
57. [Mephisto MM V](#)
58. [Mephisto Mondial](#)
59. [Mephisto Montreux](#)
60. [Mephisto Polgar](#)
61. [Mephisto Portorose](#)

62. [Mephisto Rebell](#)
63. [Mephisto Risc](#)
64. [Mephisto Roma](#)
65. [Mephisto Vancouver](#)
66. [Mephisto Wundermaschine](#)
67. [Millennium ChessGenius](#)
68. [Milobarus](#)
69. [Milton Bradley Phantom](#)
70. [Mini Chess](#)
71. [Morphy](#)
72. [Novag Citrine](#)
73. [Novag Expert](#)
74. [Novag Forte](#)
75. [Novag Micro Chess](#)
76. [Novag Sapphire](#)
77. [Novag X](#)
78. [Orwell](#)
79. [Par Excellence](#)
80. [PicoChess](#)
81. [Plymate](#)
82. [President Chess](#)
83. [Private Line](#)
84. [Raspberry Turk](#)
85. [RCS Granit](#)
86. [RISC 2500](#)
87. [Robot Adversary](#)
88. [Saitek Brute Force](#)
89. [Saitek President](#)
90. [Savant](#)
91. [SC 1](#)
92. [SC 2](#)
93. [SciSys Explorer](#)
94. [SciSys Leonardo](#)
95. [SciSys X](#)
96. [Sensor Chess](#)
97. [Sensory 9](#)
98. [Square Off](#)
99. [Steinitz](#)
100. [Strategist](#)
101. [Super Constellation](#)
102. [Superstar](#)
103. [Tasc R30](#)
104. [Tasc R40](#)
105. [The Final Chesscard](#)
106. [Turbostar](#)
107. [Y!](#)

## Video Game Console

To expand this list, create a new engine or hardware page with the [tag "gameconsole"](#).

1. [Computer Chess](#)
2. [Intelligent Chess](#)
3. [SABA Videoplay 20](#)
4. [Video Chess](#)
5. [Videopac C 7010](#)
6. [Wii Chess](#)

## Publications

[\[2\]](#)

### 1979

- [Evan Katz](#) (1979). *A Glimpse at the World of Micro-Chess*. [Personal Computing, Vol. 3, No. 7](#), pp. 83
- Editor (1979). *A Review of Chess Devices and Programs*. [Personal Computing, Vol. 3, No. 11](#), pp. 73
- [Schachcomputer: Markt und Müll](#), [Der Spiegel](#) 49/1979, December 03, 1979 (German) [pdf](#)

### 1980 ...

- [Schachcomputer: Tricks und Trug](#), [Der Spiegel](#) 50/1980, December 08, 1980 (German) [pdf](#)
- [John F. White](#) (1982). *Review-Chess Computers*. [Your Computer](#), March 1982
- [Schachcomputer: Lästig, nicht lustig](#), [Der Spiegel](#) 49/1982, December 06, 1982, (German) [pdf](#)
- [Tom Fürstenberg](#) (1984). *Micro Chess Computers*. [ICCA Journal, Vol. 7, No. 3](#)
- [Göran Grotting](#) (1984). *The Truth about their Strength*. [ICCA Journal, Vol. 7, No. 4](#)

### 1985 ...

- [Tom Fürstenberg](#) (1985). *Micro Chess Computers (Part 2)*. [ICCA Journal, Vol. 8, No. 1](#)
- [Göran Grotting](#) (1985). *How to Bracket the Truth in Playing Strength*. [ICCA Journal, Vol. 8, No. 1](#)
- [Gute Taktiker, schlechte Strategen](#), [Der Spiegel](#) 25/1985, June 17, 1985 (German)
- [Danny Kopec](#) (1985). *Chess Computers - A critical descriptive Analysis of the currently available commercial Chess Computers*. Abacus Vol. 2 No. 4, Editor-shortened version as [pdf](#), [pdf](#) » [Super Constellation](#), [Elite](#)
- [Hans-Peter Ketterling](#) (1987). *Neuigkeiten aus Nürnberg*. [Europa-Rochade](#), 03-1987, 04-1987, [pdf](#) hosted by [Hein Veldhuis](#) (German)

## 2000 ...

- [Timothée Cour](#), [Rémy Lauranson](#), [Matthieu Vachette](#) (2002). *Autonomous Chess-playing Robot*. [École Polytechnique](#), pdf
- [Stewart Gracie](#), [Jonathan Matthey](#), [David Rankin](#), [Konstantinos Topoglidis](#) (2005). *Lego Chess Robot*. [University of Glasgow](#), pdf <sup>[3]</sup> <sup>[4]</sup> <sup>[5]</sup>

## Forum Posts

### 2005 ...

- [New wooden chess computer by me](#) by [Fernando Villegas](#), [CCC](#), January 28, 2005

### 2010 ...

- [Soviet chess computers](#) by [IvenGO](#), [Hiarcs Forum](#), November 22, 2011
- [It's Magic](#) by [Spacious Mind](#), [Hiarcs Forum](#), November 23, 2011 » [Mysticum](#)
- [Raspberry Pi / Stockfish dedicated chess computer/board](#) by [Jean-Francois Romang](#), [CCC](#), August 26, 2012 » [Raspberry Pi](#)
- [PicoChess stand alone chess computer has born :-\)](#) by [Jean-Francois Romang](#), [CCC](#), August 28, 2012 » [PicoChess](#)
- [PicoChess finally on Raspberry Pi](#) by [Jean-Francois Romang](#), [CCC](#), September 25, 2012
- [The Ultimate Dedicated Challenge](#) by [Harvey Williamson](#), [Hiarcs Forum](#), May 15, 2013
- [The dedicated chess computer thread](#) by [Thorsten Czub](#), [CCC](#), August 12, 2014

### 2015 ...

- [Millennium Chess Genius is here](#) by [Thorsten Czub](#), [CCC](#), October 09, 2015 » [Chess Genius](#)
- [For fans of old chess computers](#) by [Franz Huber](#), [CCC](#), July 31, 2016
- [new chess computer: CT800](#) by [Rasmus Althoff](#), [CCC](#), September 05, 2016 » [CT800](#), [NG-play](#)

## External Links

- [Commercial Dedicated Chess Computers from Wikipedia](#)
- [The Turk from Wikipedia](#)
- [Dedicated chess computers - Home of the Dutch Rebel](#) by [Ed Schröder](#)
- [Chess Computer Patents](#) from [Chess Computer UK](#) by [Mike Watters](#)
- [Dedicated Chess Computers - SSDF list](#) from [Schachcomputer.info Wiki](#)
- [Ein Vierteljahrhundert Mikroschachcomputer](#) by [Hans-Peter Ketterling](#), [Schachklub Tempelhof](#) (German)

## Chess Computer Links

- [Blitzchess Nostalgie](#) by [Eric Belot](#) (French)
- [chesscomputers.org](#) by [Ismenio Sousa](#)
- [ChessComputers - World's Strongest Dedicated Chess Module](#)
- [Chess Computer](#) by Pit (mostly German) <sup>[6]</sup>
- [Chess Computer UK](#) by [Mike Watters](#)
- [Chess Computer | Collectors Magazine](#)
- [ChessEval Journal](#), Editor of Chief: [Maurice M. Ohayon](#), Associate Editor: [Hans van Mierlo](#)
- [Computer Collection on Flickr](#) by [Steve Blincoe](#)
- [Electronic Chess Computers & Computer Chess](#) by [The Spacious Mind](#)
- [miclangschach.de](#) by [Michael Lang](#) (German)
- [Museo Computadoras](#) (Spanish)
- [Schaakcomputers en computerschaak](#) by [Luuk Hofman](#) (Dutch)
- [Schaakcomputer database](#) by [Hein Veldhuis](#)
- [Schachcomputer.info Wiki](#) (German)
- [Tom's Chess Computer Collection](#) by [Thomas McBurney](#)
- [Welcome to Phoenix Chess Systems](#)

## Self-made

- [Arduino & Raspberry PI Chess Computer](#) running [Stockfish](#) on [Raspberry Pi](#), by [Max Dobres](#) » [Arduino](#), [Sensory Board](#)
- [Berger's Projects - DIY](#) » [SolusChess](#) by [Berger](#)
- [Mysticum](#) by [Michael Lang](#) (German) » [Mysticum](#) <sup>[7]</sup>
- [Sish - Computer Interfacing DIY Chessboards](#) » [USB Chess Board](#)
- [Sish - Computer Interfacing DIY Chessboards: Building a Sish Board, a tutorial](#)
- [Self-made Chess Computer SHAH](#) based on an [Atmel-ATmega88 Microcontroller](#) and [Micro-Max](#)-port by [Andre Adrian](#) (German)
- [AVR-Max-Schachzweig](#) from [Schachcomputer.info - Wiki](#) (German)
- [ATM18 Mini Chess Computer](#) from [ELEKTOR.com – Platform for electronics and microcontrollers](#)  
[Der CC2-Schachzweig - ELEKTOR.de](#)  
[Mini-ajedrez con AVR-Max - ELEKTOR.es](#)  
[CC2, le génie des échecs - ELEKTOR.fr](#)  
[Schaakmat gezet! - ELEKTOR.nl](#)
- [Harm Geert Muller's Matchbox Computer](#) <sup>[8]</sup>
- [Tiny Chess Playing Computer](#) by [James Hobson](#), [Hackaday](#), September 15, 2013
- [Lonely? Build Yourself a Chess Robot!](#) by [Will Sweatman](#), [Hackaday](#), March 15, 2015

## References

1. ^ [Mephisto X computer chess board at the 20th ACM North American Computer Chess Championship in Reno, Nevada](#), Gift of [Monroe Newborn](#), [The Computer History Museum](#)
2. ^ [Publication Archive](#) from [Chess Computer UK](#) by [Mike Watters](#)
3. ^ [LegoLab](#)
4. ^ [Lego](#) from [Wikipedia](#)

5. ^ [Lego Mindstorms from Wikipedia](#)
6. ^ [Excellent Chess Computer Web Site](#) by [Chessmaster Ireland](#), [Hiarcs Forum](#), February 08, 2014
7. ^ [It's Magic](#) by [Spacious Mind](#), [Hiarcs Forum](#), November 23, 2011
8. ^ [Harm Geert Muller](#) (1990). *A Matchbox Chess Computer*. [ICCA Journal](#), Vol. 13, No. 4

[Up one level](#)