

[Home](#) * [Engines](#) * **Ruffian**



[Ruffian](#), 1975 ^[5]

Ruffian,

a chess engine developed by [Perola Valfridsson](#) since 1998, which appeared in July 2002 as a surprisingly strong newcomer playing on [ICC](#) and [FICS](#) ^[1], supporting both, the [Chess Engine Communication Protocol](#) and [UCI](#).

With portability and performance in mind, Ruffian is written in [C](#), and a hybrid between [bitboard](#) and [8x8 board](#). It performs a [PVS](#) with [null-move-](#) and other [forward pruning](#) techniques as well as a few own algorithms and tricks ^[2]. One of the major [evaluation](#) terms is [mobility](#) based on pre-calculated tables considering various patterns ^{[3] [4]}.

Table of Contents

[Photos](#)

[Achievements](#)

[Free Ruffian](#)

[Commercial Ruffian](#)

[See also](#)

[Forum Posts](#)

[2002](#)

[2003](#)

[2004](#)

[2005 ...](#)

[2015 ...](#)

[External Links](#)

[Chess Engine](#)

[Misc](#)

[References](#)

[What links here?](#)

Photos



[ICT 2004](#) winners: [Chrilly Donninger](#), [Erdogan Günes](#) ([Hydra](#) 2nd), [Stefan Meyer-Kahlen](#) ([Shredder](#) 1st), [Johan Havegheer](#) ([Ruffian](#) 3rd), [Vincent Diepeveen](#) ([Diep](#) 3rd) ^[6]

Achievements

Ruffian was shared winner of the [CCT5](#) and lonesome winner of the [DOCCC 2003](#) supported by [book author Đorđe Vidanović](#), operated by [Johan Havegheer](#), [Frank Quisinsky](#) and [Leo Dijksman](#) ^[7] ^[8], winner of the (unofficial) Swedish Championship in 2003 ^[9], and further played a strong [CCT6](#) and [ICT 2004](#).

Free Ruffian

The free [Windows](#) versions 1.0.0 and 1.0.1 from September 2002 are still available for download ^[10].

Commercial Ruffian

In 2003, Ruffian 2 went commercial, first bundled with [Chess Assistant](#) by [Convekta](#), where [Victor Zakharov](#) mentions [Dann Corbit](#) was a big help ^[11], and further with the otherwise free [Arena GUI](#), CD production by [Frank Quisinsky](#) and distribution by [Schachversand Niggemann](#) ^[12], and soon as bundle with [ChessPartner](#) by [Lokasoft](#) ^[13]. Ruffian is base of the chess AI in [Kasparov Chessmate](#) ^[14] ^[15], with [Perola Valfridsson](#) credited as author by [MobyGames](#) ^[16]. The initial hype about Ruffian's commercialization was apparently detrimental to its authors motivation to continue the development ^[17]. In conjunction with the upcoming strong free engines catching up, this was slowly but surely the fall of the commercial endeavor ^[18].

See also

- [Chester](#)
- [Kasparov Chessmate](#)
- [King of Kings](#)
- [Mammal](#)
- [Tinker](#)

Forum Posts

2002

- [What is Ruffian?](#) by [Bas Hamstra](#), [CCC](#), July 24, 2002
- [Some info about Ruffian](#) by [Benny Antonsson](#), [CCC](#), July 29, 2002
- [Ruffian 0.76 is still playing incredible strong!](#) by [Jouni Uski](#), [CCC](#), September 19, 2002
- [Ruffian is here - Make your move Bob Hyatt!](#) by [Peter Fendrich](#), [CCC](#), September 23, 2002
- [Interview with Ruffian programmer Per-Ola Valfridsson available!](#) by [Frank Quisinsky](#), [CCC](#), October 09, 2002

2003

- [Dutch Open Leiden final ranking - Ruffian Champion](#) by [Theo van der Storm](#), [CCC](#), October 26, 2003
- [Arena 1.0 / Ruffian 2.0 ... information!](#) by [Frank Quisinsky](#), [CCC](#), November 21, 2003
- [Ruffian's Secret?](#) by [Steve Maughan](#), [CCC](#), November 23, 2003
- [The America/Ruffian ordeal...](#) by [Slater Wold](#), [CCC](#), December 03, 2003
- [Questions about Ruffian2 and other platforms](#) by [Daniel Clausen](#), [CCC](#), December 17, 2003
- [One more post on Ruffian 2.0](#) by [Đorđe Vidanović](#), [CCC](#), December 19, 2003

2004

- [Ruffian on a G5 isn't bad!](#) by [George Sobala](#), [CCC](#), January 31, 2004
- [Ruffian 2.1.0 ...](#) by [Frank Quisinsky](#), [CCC](#), February 09, 2004

- [Good news for Ruffian Lovers from outside europe](#) by [Johan Havegheer](#), [CCC](#), February 21, 2004
- [Ruffian 2.1.0 or Ruffian 2.0.2 ...](#) by [Frank Quisinsky](#), [CCC](#), February 23, 2004
- [Ruffian 2.0.2 copy protection](#) by [Jouni Uski](#), [CCC](#), March 02, 2004
- [Ruffian's most peculiar way of pondering](#) by [Peter Berger](#), [CCC](#), March 27, 2004

2005 ...

- [Re: CSVN Leiden \(Ruffian and Sjeng missing\)](#) by [Johan Havegheer](#), [CCC](#), June 01, 2005
- [SSDF\(Fruit 2.2.1 - Ruffian 1.0.1\)A1200, 2½-2½, ended 26-14](#) by [Tony Hedlund](#), [CCC](#), January 09, 2006 » [Fruit](#)

2015 ...

- [Computer Chess Progress: Stockfish 7 vs Ruffian 1.0.5](#) by [Martin Fierz](#), [CCC](#), March 17, 2016 » [Stockfish](#)
- [Ruffian support ...](#) by [Frank Quisinsky](#), [CCC](#), May 16, 2017

External Links

Chess Engine

- [Arena Chess GUI for Linux and Windows - Ruffian](#)
- [Ruffian, the replacement to ABBA](#), Interview with [Perola Valfridsson](#), October, 2002, by [Frank Quisinsky](#) et al., hosted by [Ed Schröder](#) and [playwitharena](#)
- [Shredder and Ruffian lead in Leiden](#) by [Eric van Reem](#) and [Theo van der Storm](#), [ChessBase](#), April 24, 2004 » [ICT 2004](#)
- [Ruffian 2.1.0](#) in [CCRL 40/40](#)

Misc

- [ruffian - Wiktionary](#)
- [ruffiano - Wiktionary](#)
- [Ruffian \(horse\) from Wikipedia](#)
- [Ruffian \(1972 - 1975\) - Find A Grave Memorial](#)

References

1. [^ What is Ruffian?](#) by [Bas Hamstra](#), [CCC](#), July 24, 2002
2. [^ Ruffian, the replacement to ABBA](#), Interview with [Perola Valfridsson](#), October, 2002, by [Frank Quisinsky](#) et al., hosted by [Ed Schröder](#) and [playwitharena](#)
3. [^ Ruffian 2.0: 3 Euro](#) - [Schachversand Niggemann](#)
4. [^ Ruffian's Secret?](#) by [Steve Maughan](#), [CCC](#), November 23, 2003
5. [^ Ruffian, Filly Triple Crown](#) winner, Image courtesy of John Bellucci, from [On the 30th Anniversary of Ruffian's Last Race](#) by Lyn Lifshin

6. [^ Photos](#) from the old [CSVN](#) site
7. [^ Participants 23rd Open Dutch Computer-Chess Championship 18, 19, 25, 26 Oct. 2003; Leiden, Netherlands](#) old [CSVN](#) site
8. [^ Dutch Open Leiden final ranking - Ruffian Champion](#) by [Theo van der Storm](#), [CCC](#), October 26, 2003
9. [^ iSMDS-03 \(unofficial\) Swedish Championship 2003](#) by [Albert Bertilsson](#)
10. [^ ruffian chess engine | Downloads](#)
11. [^ ChessAssistance.com A talk with Victor Zakharov, head of Convekta development, part b](#) by [Robert Pawlak](#), February 14, 2003
12. [^ Arena 1.0 / Ruffian 2.0 ... information!](#) by [Frank Quisinsky](#), [CCC](#), November 21, 2003
13. [^ Good news for Ruffian Lovers from outside europe](#) by [Johan Havegheer](#), [CCC](#), February 21, 2004
14. [^ Kasparov Chessmate review](#) by Alastair Scott, [CCC](#), July 12, 2003
15. [^ Kasparov Chessmate from Wikipedia](#)
16. [^ Perola Valfridsson](#) from [MobyGames](#)
17. [^ Re: CSVN Leiden \(Ruffian and Sjeng missing\)](#) by [Johan Havegheer](#), [CCC](#), June 01, 2005
18. [^ Ruffian 2.0: 3 Euro - Schachversand Niggemann](#)

What links here?

Page	Date Edited
Arena	Mar 16, 2018
Benny Antonsson	Aug 17, 2014
Bookup	Feb 4, 2018
CCT Tournaments	Jan 29, 2017
CCT5	Feb 22, 2013
CCT6	May 29, 2014
Chess Assistant	Jul 16, 2017
Chester	Feb 15, 2014
Crafty	Jan 28, 2018
Diep	Jan 28, 2018
DOCCC 2003	Aug 17, 2016
Dutch Open Computer Chess Championship	Sep 25, 2014
Eigenmann Endgame Test	Jun 1, 2017
Engines	Mar 10, 2018
Frank Quisinsky	May 3, 2017
Fruit	Sep 27, 2016
ICT 2004	Aug 17, 2016
Jeroen Noomen	Jul 21, 2017
Johan Havegheer	Feb 2, 2013
Kasparov Chessmate	Sep 6, 2015
King of Kings	Sep 4, 2013
Lokasoft	Jul 14, 2012
Martin Fierz	Apr 26, 2018
Perola Valfridsson	Jun 6, 2017

Page	Date Edited
Playing Strength	Mar 31, 2018
PocketGrandmaster	Sep 17, 2015
Pondering	Dec 9, 2017
Revelation	Jul 15, 2016
Revelation II	Jan 8, 2018
Ruffian	Jun 6, 2017
Stockfish	Apr 7, 2018
Tinker	Aug 29, 2015
Tony Hedlund	Jun 19, 2017
Đorđe Vidanović	Feb 20, 2017

[Up one Level](#)