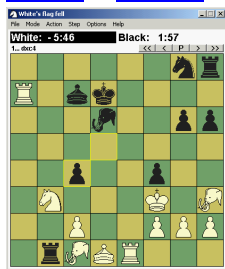


## [Home](#) \* [Games](#) \* **Shatranj**



Shatranj with [WinBoard](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

### **Shatranj**,

the Arabic and Persian precursor of [Western Chess](#) and one successor of the ancient [Indian strategy game Chaturanga](#). Chaturanga developed in the [Gupta Empire](#) during the [6th century CE](#) and was adopted as Shatranj in [Sasanian Empire](#) in the [7th century](#). In computer chess, due to extensions of the [Chess Engine Communication Protocol](#), [XBoard](#) and [WinBoard](#) support Shatranj with [Elephants](#) and General instead of Bishop and Queen <sup>[1]</sup>.

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## Pieces

- [Shāh](#) ([King](#))
- [Fers](#) or [Wazīr](#) (General) - moves one square diagonally, often represented by a [Queen](#) symbol
- Rukh ([Rook](#))
- [Pīl](#) or [Alfil](#) (Elephant) - a [\(2,2\) Leaper](#), often represented by a [Bishop](#) symbol
- Faras or Asb ([Knight](#))

- Baidaq ([Pawn](#))

## Rules

- No [castling](#)
- No [double pawn push](#), [promotion](#) to Fers only
- [Stalemate](#) counts as a win
- Two bare Kings count as a [draw](#)
- One Bare King counts as a win, provided the other King cannot be bared on the very next move
- The initial setup (array) is similar to Orthodox Chess, with Elephants replacing Bishops and Generals replacing Queens, but Shāh on the d-file.

## Engines

To expand this list of engines able to play Shatranj, create a new engine page with the [tag "Shatranj"](#), or assign the tag to appropriate existing engine pages.

1. [ChessV](#)
2. [Dabbaba](#)
3. [Fairy-Max](#)
4. [Nebiyu](#)
5. [Pulsar](#)
6. [Rival](#)
7. [Sjaak \(Glebbeek\)](#)
8. [Zillions of Games](#)

## See also

- [Shatranj \(toolkit\)](#) by [Sam Tannous](#)

## Forum Posts

- [Any WB Shatranj engines out there?](#) by [Harm Geert Muller](#), [CCC](#), July 31, 2008
- [Shartranj!](#) by [Harm Geert Muller](#), [CCC](#), August 14, 2008
- [Shatranj perfts](#) by [Paul Byrne](#), [CCC](#), February 24, 2012 » [Perft](#)
- [Chess variant tournament: Shatranj](#) by Ola Mikael Hansson, [CCC](#), February 24, 2013

## External Links

- [Shatranj from Wikipedia](#)
- [Shatranj](#) by [Hans L. Bodlaender](#) from [The Chess Variant Pages](#)

- [Abu Bakr bin Yahya al-Suli from Wikipedia](#)  
[Al-Suli's Diamond](#)
- [ICC Help: shatranj](#) (Wild 28)
- [Shatranj](#) from [BoardGameGeek](#)
- [Shatranj, the medieval Arabian Chess](#) by [Jean-Louis Cazaux](#)
- [The Time of Shatranj and the Aliyat](#) by Miguel Villa
- [Chess Engine Communication Protocol - 8. Commands from xboard to the engine - variant shatranj](#)

## References

1. [^ Chess Engine Communication Protocol - 8. Commands from xboard to the engine - variant shatranj](#)
2. [^ WinBoard 4.7 - Shatranj, the Arabic precursor of modern Chess](#) by [Harm Geert Muller](#)

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