

CHESS · VARIANT 27 OF 153

Carrera's Chess

10×8

BOARD

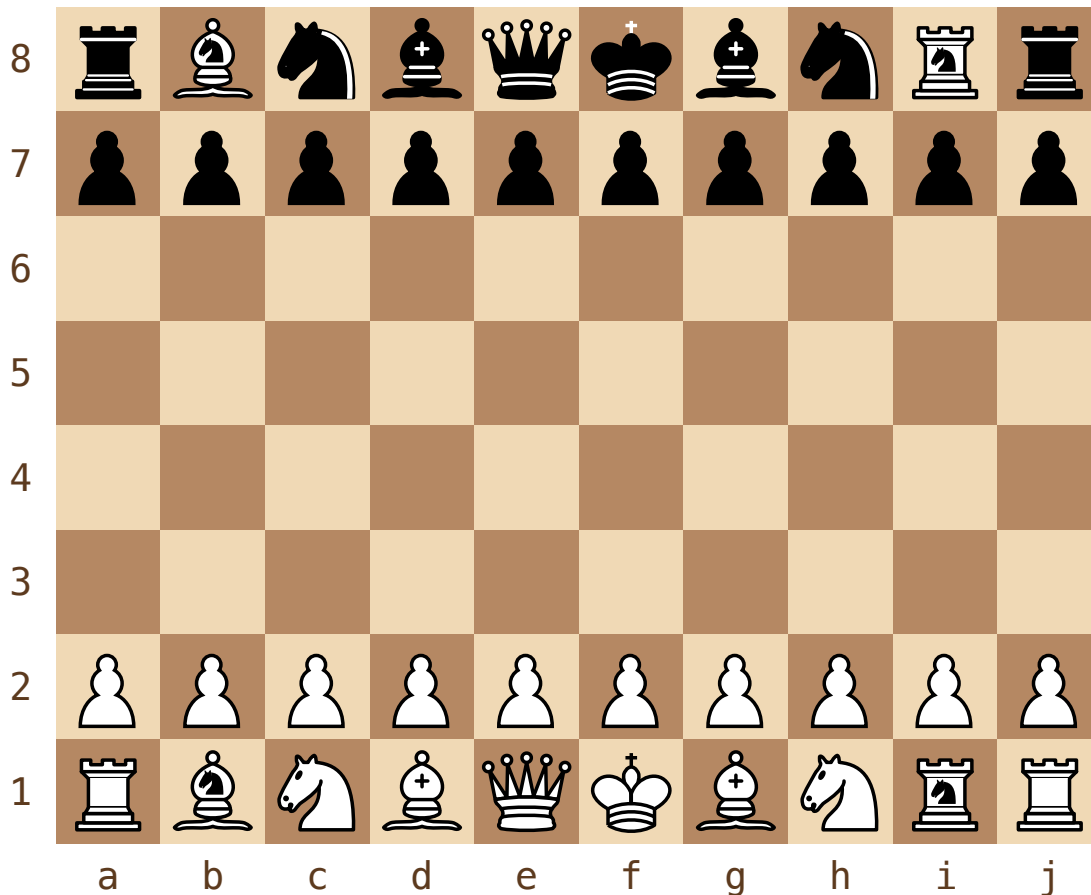
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PLAYERS

Carrera's Chess

Invented by Pietro Carrera, 1617. Described in *Il Gioco de gli Scacchi*. One of the earliest large-board chess variants with compound pieces.

OVERVIEW



Carrera's Chess – starting position

<https://engine.moddable.games/play/?game=chess&variant=carrera>

Carrera's Chess extends standard chess to a 10x8 board by adding two compound pieces per side: the Champion (Rook + Knight) and the Centaur (Bishop + Knight). It predates Capablanca's Chess by three centuries and uses the same general concept.

SETUP

10-file board (files a–j), 8 ranks. The right corner on each player's side is light-coloured. The Centaur is placed between the Rook and Knight on the Queen-side; the Champion is placed between the Knight and Rook on the King-side.

FEN: rAnbqkbnCr/pppppppppp/10/10/10/10/PPPPPPPPP/RANBQKBNCR w - - 0 1
(A/a = Centaur, C/c = Champion)

White (rank 1, a–j): Rook(a1), Centaur(b1), Knight(c1), Bishop(d1), Queen(e1), King(f1), Bishop(g1), Knight(h1), Champion(i1), Rook(j1) **White Pawns (rank 2):** a2–j2

Black (rank 8, a–j): Rook(a8), Centaur(b8), Knight(c8), Bishop(d8), Queen(e8), King(f8), Bishop(g8), Knight(h8), Champion(i8), Rook(j8) **Black Pawns (rank 7):** a7–j7

PIECES

All standard FIDE pieces move as usual. Two additional pieces:

CHAMPION (CAMPIONE)

Moves as a **Rook** (slides orthogonally any distance) **or** a **Knight** (L-shape leap). Also known as Chancellor.

CENTAUR (CENTAURO)

Moves as a **Bishop** (slides diagonally any distance) **or** a **Knight** (L-shape leap). Also known as Archbishop. Not colour-bound due to the Knight component.

RULES

NO CASTLING

Castling is not used in Carrera's Chess. Murray confirms Carrera followed Sicilian rules in which the King had no power to leap.

NO EN PASSANT

En passant captures are not used. Italian Chess of Carrera's era did not permit en passant.

RESTRICTED PAWN DOUBLE MOVE

Pawns may make an initial double-step move from their starting rank, with one restriction: **a double move is forbidden if it would simultaneously block a check against the player's own King AND would land on a square where an enemy Pawn in an adjacent file could capture it.** In that specific situation only, the double move is not permitted.

PAWN PROMOTION

A Pawn reaching the far rank promotes to a Queen. Whether promotion to Champion or Centaur is permitted is historically uncertain; playing promotion to Queen, Champion, or Centaur is recommended.

DRAW CONDITIONS

Stalemate (draw), insufficient mating material, perpetual check, threefold repetition, and the 50-move rule all apply as in modern chess.

MODERN VARIANT

Modern Carrera's Chess uses the same setup but applies Capablanca's Chess rules: castling is permitted (King moves 3 squares toward the Rook), and promotion may include Champion and Centaur.

Source: chessvariants.com/historic.dir/carrera.html