

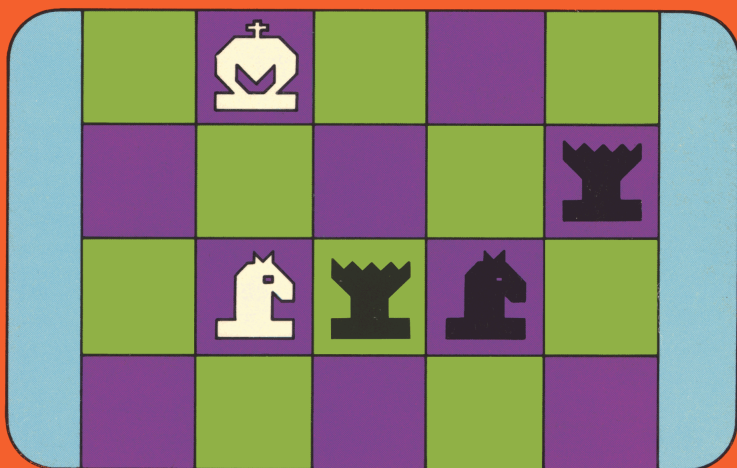


# Video Chess

SOLID STATE  
SOFTWARE™

## COMMAND MODULE

*Choose your own opponent — or play against the computer on any of 3 levels. With this module, your computer can serve as a willing teacher — or a challenging opponent.*



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## Quick Reference Guide

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Note that the key sequences required to access special functions depend on the type of computer console you have. Important keystroke sequences are summarized here for your "quick reference."

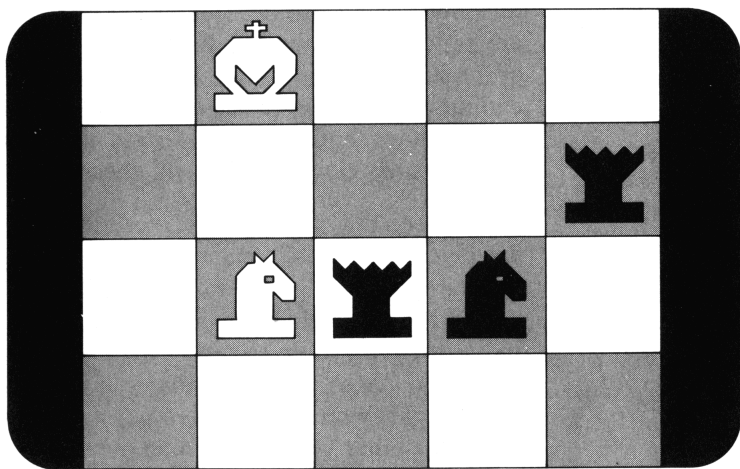
<u>TI-99/4</u>	<u>TI-99/4A</u>	
<b>ENTER</b>	<b>ENTER</b>	To enter moves. <i>Move entries</i> are selected by pressing the file letter (A-H) and rank number (1-8) of the piece's current position, followed by the desired position. Then press the <b>ENTER</b> key.
<b>SHIFT C</b>	<b>FCTN 4</b>	<i>ERASE</i> — To erase your move before pressing <b>ENTER</b> .
<b>SHIFT B</b>	<b>FCTN I</b>	<i>BACK-UP</i> — To cancel your last move (and the computer's if playing against the computer).
<b>SHIFT H</b>	<b>SHIFT</b>	<i>Help</i> — To get advice on your moves.
<b>SHIFT E</b>	<b>FCTN E</b>	<i>Resign</i> — To resign the game.
<b>SHIFT D</b>	<b>FCTN D</b>	<i>Draw</i> — To offer the computer a tie or draw. To use, select your move and press the keys (rather than <b>ENTER</b> ).
<b>SHIFT T</b>	<b>FCTN 3</b>	<i>Time Out</i> — To stop the game temporarily (and the chess clock). Press again to resume the game.
<b>SHIFT R</b>	<b>FCTN 8</b>	<i>Replay</i> — To automatically replay the current game from the start.
<b>SHIFT X</b>	<b>FCTN X</b>	<i>Store</i> — To use a cassette recorder to save the current game on a cassette tape.
<b>SHIFT S</b>	<b>FCTN S</b>	<i>Switch</i> — To change sides with the computer so it can play your move (and vice versa).
<b>SHIFT P</b>	<b>FCTN P</b>	<i>Position</i> — To disregard the status of the game being played and arbitrarily rearrange the board without regard to the legality of the moves taken.
<b>SHIFT M</b>	<b>;</b>	<i>Mode Change</i> — To change the style of play being used by the computer.
<b>SHIFT Q</b>	<b>FCTN =</b>	<i>Quit</i> — To leave the module and return to the computer title screen.

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TEXAS INSTRUMENTS  
HOME COMPUTER

# *Video Chess*



This *Solid State Software*™ Command Module is designed to be used with the Texas Instruments Home Computer. Its preprogrammed solid-state memory expands the power, versatility, and capability of your Home Computer.

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Command Module program and data base contents  
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See important warranty information at back of book.

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# TEXAS INSTRUMENTS HOME COMPUTER

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## PREFACE

Chess is a wonderful game for many reasons. Its rules are simple enough to be learned in a few minutes; yet it is so complex that every game is different. It can be enjoyed equally by beginners and masters. It can be played quickly, with only a few seconds' thought spent on each move, or it can take many minutes, hours or even days to make a move. Chess can be played by telephone or by mail; by people suffering from almost any physical disability; in fair weather or in foul; for fun or for serious competition. It requires no special equipment, apart from the chess clocks used in competitions (and the Video Chess module has its own built-in chess clock). Above all, chess is great fun.

I have been playing chess for more than twenty years. It has given me untold pleasure, just as it has brought pleasure to those many millions of people who have played the game since it was invented, probably in India, some fourteen centuries ago. We have designed the Video Chess module so that you will be able to share in this wonderful experience and improve your game. Whether you are learning chess for the first time or have played before, the Video Chess module welcomes you to its club.

David Levy  
*International Master*





### INTRODUCTION

The Video Chess *Solid State Software*™ Command Module is designed for your enjoyment of chess. It's easy to use — it keeps track of all of the moves, gives you help if you want it, and provides a challenging, tireless opponent. You decide the level of skill for the computer (beginner, novice, or intermediate). And if you just want to use the computer as a chess set when playing against another opponent, the Video Chess module will make the moves for you, keep track of time, note whose move it is and keep a running record of the game. Whether you're playing against a friend or the computer, you can save your game for later replay to review your brilliant plays — or to figure out the crucial move that cost you the game! All of this — and more — is readily available with your Video Chess module.

Because this module is designed not only for the beginner, but also for those who already know how to play chess, we've divided the manual into two major sections:

- *If You're Just Beginning*

The first section briefly describes "How to Play Chess." If you've never played chess before, or if you want to brush up on the rules, we suggest that you read this section before using the module.

- *If You Already Play Chess*

The second section, "Using the Solid State Software Command Module," gets you right into how to use the Video Chess module. If you're familiar with chess, you can skip the first section, start on page 24, and immediately begin using the module.



### INTRODUCTION

The Video Chess *Solid State Software*™ Command Module is designed for your enjoyment of chess. It's easy to use — it keeps track of all of the moves, gives you help if you want it, and provides a challenging, tireless opponent. You decide the level of skill for the computer (beginner, novice, or intermediate). And if you just want to use the computer as a chess set when playing against another opponent, the Video Chess module will make the moves for you, keep track of time, note whose move it is and keep a running record of the game. Whether you're playing against a friend or the computer, you can save your game for later replay to review your brilliant plays — or to figure out the crucial move that cost you the game! All of this — and more — is readily available with your Video Chess module.

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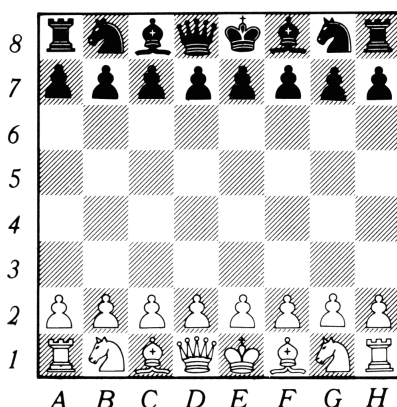
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Looking at the board from White's side we label the vertical columns A through H. These columns are called files. The horizontal rows, called ranks, are labeled 1 through 8, with the first rank being nearest to White and the eighth rank nearest to Black. This method of notation, called algebraic notation, enables us to identify each square of the board by its unique file-rank (column-row) coordinates, such as **A3** or **E5**. It also allows us to record the moves of a game and to describe what is happening in a game situation.

## The pieces and their moves

The opposing armies are made up of 32 pieces, 16 white and 16 black. On your color screen the white pieces appear as white or blue and the black ones as black. At the start of the game these armies face each other on an 8 x 8 board, as shown.



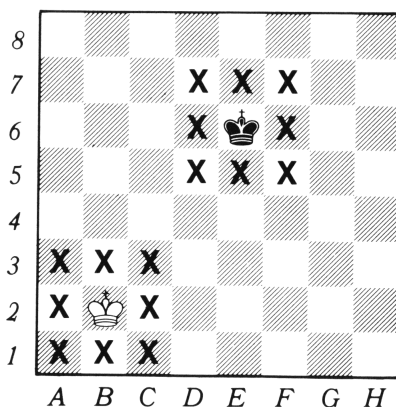
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## The King

Each player has one king (♔ ♚). At the start of the game White's king is on E1 and Black's king is on E8. The king, as its name suggests, is the most important piece in the game, and the game is over when this piece is "captured." The king can move one square in any direction — horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.



*Possible King moves*

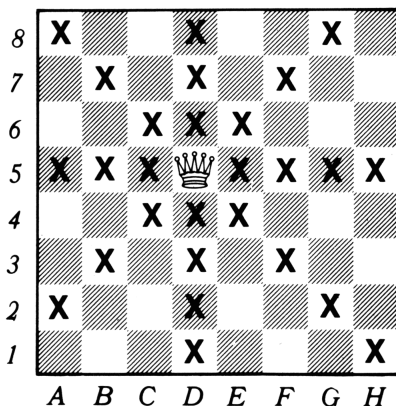


## The Queen

Each player has one queen ( ♛ ♚ ). At the start of the game White's queen is on D1 and Black's queen on D8. Some players get confused about which way the kings and queens are placed at the beginning of the game. An easy rule to remember is "White queen on white square, black queen on black square."

The queen is the most powerful piece on the board, and after the king it is the most valuable. If you lose your queen without capturing an opponent's piece, you will almost always lose the game.

The queen moves horizontally, vertically or diagonally, across as many empty squares as the player wishes.



*Possible Queen moves*

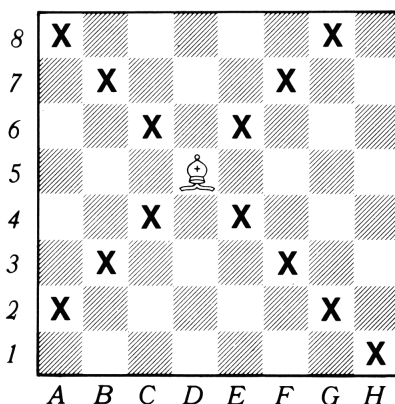
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### The Bishop

Each player has two bishops ( ♖ ♗ ♜ ♝ ). At the start of the game White's bishops are on C1 and F1, Black's on C8 and F8. The bishops move only along the diagonals, but like the queen they can cross as many empty squares as the player wishes.

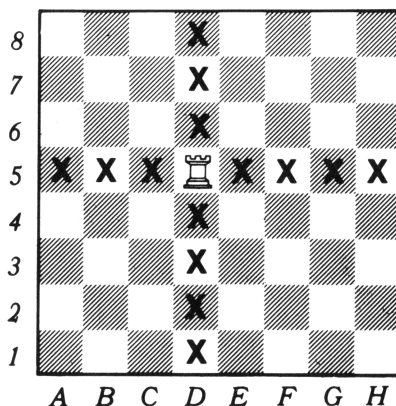


*Possible Bishop moves*



## The Rook (or Castle)

Each player has two rooks ( ♖ ♗ ♜ ♝ ), sometimes called castles. At the start of the game, White's rooks are on A1 and H1, Black's rooks are on A8 and H8. The rook moves horizontally or vertically, across any number of empty squares. Note that the queen combines the moves of the rook and the bishop — this is why the queen is so very powerful and so valuable.



*Possible Rook moves*

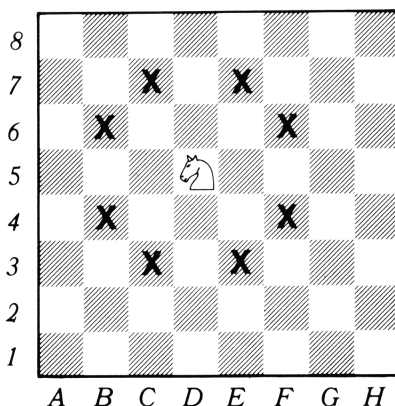
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## The Knight

Each player has two knights (♞♟♘♙). At the start of the game White's knights are on B1 and G1, Black's on B8 and G8. The knight's move is unusual for two reasons: (i) it is the only piece that can jump over an occupied square; and (ii) it moves two squares horizontally or vertically, followed by one square at right angles to the first part of its move. This double maneuver is all part of the same move and counts as one move.



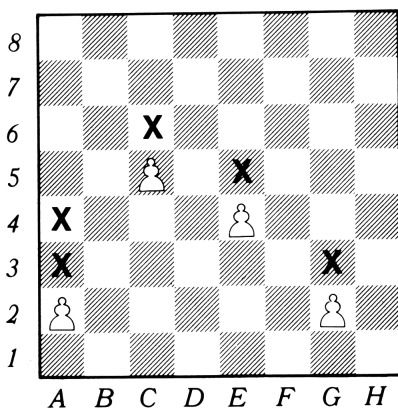
*Possible Knight Moves*





## The Pawn

Each side has eight pawns (♙ ♚). At the start of the game White's pawns occupy all the squares on the second rank (A2, B2, C2, . . . H2) while Black's pawns occupy the seventh rank (A7, B7, C7, . . . H7). The pawn is the most modest and least valuable piece. Normally it moves by advancing one square, but on its first move each pawn has the right to move two squares. *Pawns never move backwards* and cannot move diagonally except when capturing.



*Possible Pawn Moves*

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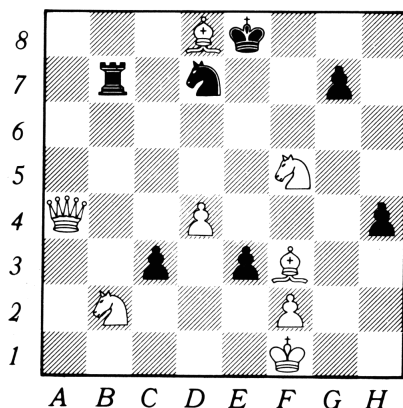
# TEXAS INSTRUMENTS HOME COMPUTER

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## **Capturing**

Sometimes, as part of a move, a player may capture one of his opponent's pieces and take it off the board. This happens when a player decides to move a piece to a square occupied by an enemy piece. The opposing piece is then removed from the board. The pawn captures in a different way than the other pieces. It cannot capture a piece which is directly in front of it, but it can capture something which is *one square diagonally* in front of it.

Here is a layout showing several possible captures as described below.



*Possible Capture Moves*



The white queen on A4 can capture the black knight on D7.

The white knight on F5 can capture the black pawns on G7, E3, and H4.

The white bishop on F3 can capture the black rook on B7.

The white bishop on D8 can capture the black pawn on H4.

The black king on E8 can capture the white bishop on D8.

The black rook on B7 can capture the white knight on B2.

The black pawn on C3 can capture the white knight on B2 but it cannot move backwards to capture the white pawn on D4.

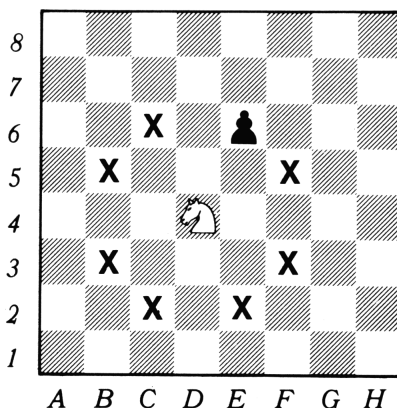
The black pawn on E3 can capture the white pawn on F2 and vice versa, but the white pawn on F2 cannot capture the black pawn on H4 because pawns can only capture on the square diagonally adjacent to them.

*Note:* When a player's piece is in position to capture an opponent's piece it is said to be "attacking" the opponent's piece by attacking the chessboard square occupied by the opponent's piece. Often the term "attacking a square" is used to describe the possible chessboard squares on which a player's piece could capture an opponent's piece.

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For example, the white knight is "attacking" squares C2, B3, B5, C6, E6, F5, F3 and E2 but can only capture the black pawn in square E6. (Note: The black pawn is attacking two squares – D5 and F5, but no captures are available. If the white knight were to move to square F5, it could then be captured by the black pawn.)

If you have a bigger army than your opponent, it will normally be easier for you to win. It is usually an advantage to capture an opponent's piece if you can do so without losing one of your pieces, or if you can capture a piece in return for a less valuable one of your own. As a rough guide the values of the pieces are:

Pawn	= 1
Knight	= 3
Bishop	= 3¼
Rook	= 5
Queen	= 9

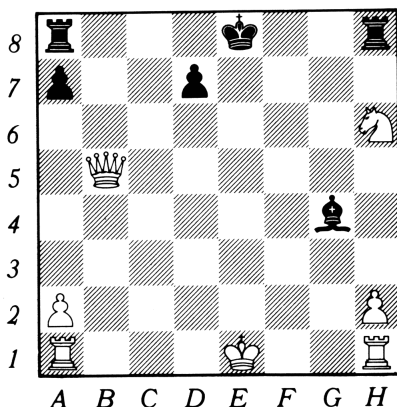
The king is not given a point value because you lose the game if you lose your king.



## Special Moves

There are three special moves which are different from all other moves.

*Castling* – This is a double move (counting as one move) made with the king and one of the rooks, the purpose of which is to put the king in a safer place and to bring the rook into play. To castle, a player moves his king two squares in the direction of the rook and then the rook jumps over the king, landing on the square next to it.



*Possible Castling Moves*

In order for castling to be possible, all of the following conditions must be satisfied:

- (1) Neither the king nor the rook involved may have moved earlier in the game.
- (2) The squares between the king and the rook must all be empty.
- (3) The opponent must not be attacking (checking) the king – more on this in a moment – and he must not be attacking the squares over which the king passes or the square on which it lands.

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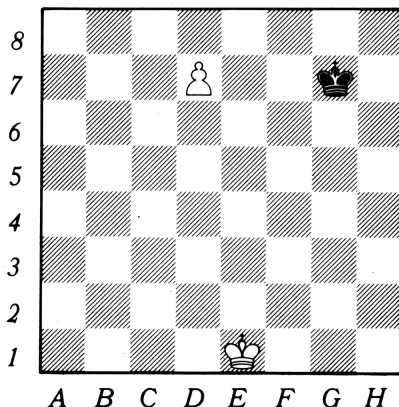
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Here White can castle king-side, (the right hand side of the board) moving his king to G1 and his rook from H1 to F1, but not on the queen-side (the left hand side of the board) because Black's bishop on G4 attacks D1.

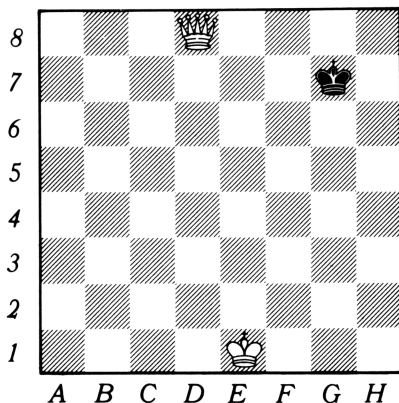
Black cannot castle king-side because the white knight on H6 attacks G8, but Black can castle queen-side, moving his king to C8 and his rook from A8 to D8, even though White's queen on B5 attacks B8.

Each player may castle only once during a game. Normally this is done during the first ten or fifteen moves.

*Pawn Promotion* — If a pawn succeeds in marching all the way up the board to the far rank, it is given a special bonus. It is removed from the board and changed, as part of its last move, into a queen, rook, knight, or bishop at its owner's choice. This is called "promoting" a pawn. Since the queen is by far the most valuable of these pieces, a pawn is almost always promoted to a queen.



*White's Pawn advances from D7 . . .*



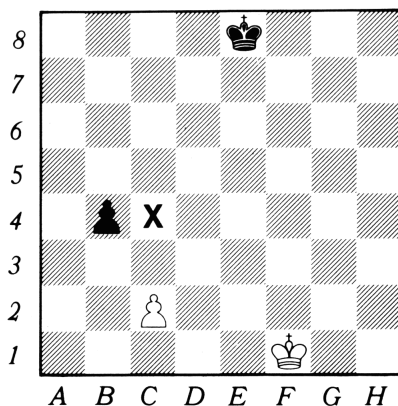
... to D8 and becomes a queen.

*En Passant Captures* – If a pawn advances two squares (on its first move) and lands on a square adjacent to an enemy pawn, the pawn which has just moved may be captured by its new neighbor, as though it had advanced only one square. This type of capture is called an *en passant* capture (from the French, meaning "in passing"). If a player wishes to make an *en passant* capture he must do so *immediately* when the opportunity presents itself. If the player makes any move other than the *en passant* capture, the right to make that *en passant* capture is lost, though he may be able to make another *en passant* capture later on.

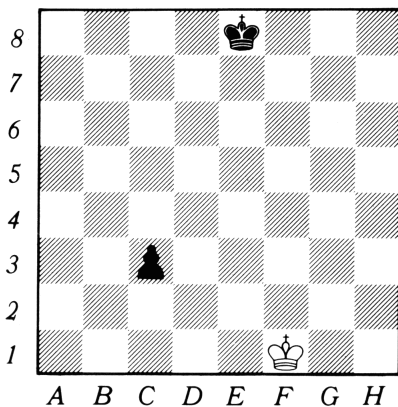
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*White's pawn advances  
from C2 to C4,*



*and is captured, en passant,  
by Black's pawn from B4.*





## Being in Check

A player is "in check" when his king is attacked by an opposing piece. He *must* then move "out of check" immediately. This may be done in one of three ways:

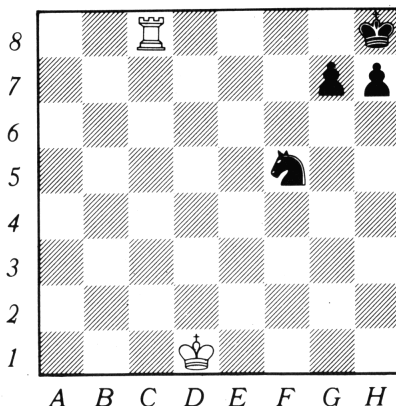
- 1) Capture the enemy piece which is giving check.
- 2) Move the king to an unattacked square.
- 3) In the case of a check from a rook, bishop or queen, interpose a piece between the king and the checking piece.

When you check your opponent, it is considered polite to say "check" in case the move was not noticed. In tournament play, however, it is considered polite *not* to say "check" – you would not wish to insult your opponent by suggesting that the move went unnoticed.

*Note:* A player is *never* allowed to move into check.

## Closing Moves

**Checkmate** – If your king is in check and there is no way out of the check, you have been checkmated. No matter what you do, your opponent could capture your king on his next move. The object of the game is to checkmate your opponent's king – once you have done so you have won the game.



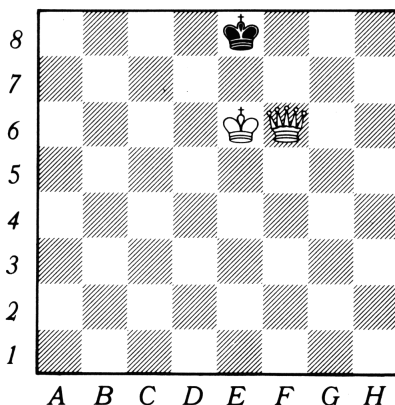
*Black has been checkmated*

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*Stalemate* – If a player is *not* in check, and all possible moves result in check, then that player is "stalemated" and the game is a draw – neither side has won. In tournament play a win counts as 1 point, a draw as  $\frac{1}{2}$  and a loss as zero. Therefore, a stalemate is an advantage to a player in a potentially hopeless situation.



*Black to move*

*Black is stalemated. He is not in check  
and has no legal move.*



### **The Rules of the Game**

The players move alternately, White having the first move. The game is won by the player who gives checkmate, or whose opponent declares that he resigns. If you have many fewer pieces than your opponent and you know enough about his ability to be absolutely sure that you will lose, it is considered good manners to resign the game. To continue would only be to insult your opponent's skill.

If neither player wins the game, the result is a draw. In addition to stalemate there are four other ways in which the game can end in a draw:

1) *The Players Agree to a Draw*

One player, when making a move, asks "Do you want a draw?" To turn down the offer of a draw, the opponent will normally say "No thank you," or simply make a reply move on the board. Making this reply move automatically rejects the draw offer. Once an offer of a draw has been made, it cannot be revoked, but when it has been declined the offer is no longer valid until it is made again. It is considered bad manners to offer a draw more than twice in a game. Once your opponent knows that you want a draw, he will offer you a draw when he also wants one.

2) *Repetition of Position*

If the same position for both players occurs three times with the same player having the right to move each time, the game is a draw.

3) *The 50-move Rule*

If each player makes 50 successive moves without capturing anything and without moving a pawn, the game is a draw.

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## HOME COMPUTER

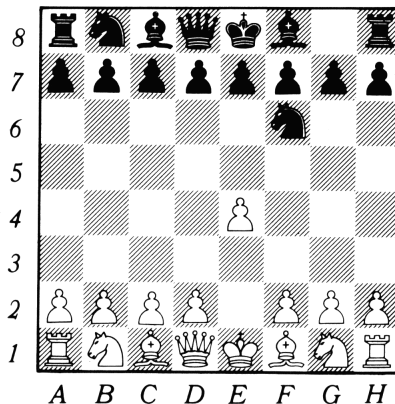
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### 4) *Insufficient Mating Material*

If neither side has sufficient material on the board for checkmate to be possible, the game is a draw. For example, two lone kings, or king and bishop against a lone king.

### Chess Notation

The algebraic system of notation has many forms, but all are based on the use of the square identifiers, A1, C6, E3, etc. We shall use a simple system in which every move is recorded by naming the square from which a piece moves, followed by the square to which it moves. For example:



White has opened the game by moving his pawn from E2 to E4, and Black has responded by moving his knight from G8 to F6. We would write these moves E2 E4 and G8 F6 respectively.

Castling king-side is written 0 0 and castling queen-side is 0 0 0.



### **Ten Hints on How to Play**

In the opening phase of the game:

- 1) Bring out your pieces quickly, starting with the knights and bishops, and then castle to put your king into safety.
- 2) Do not bring out the queen too early – it can easily be attacked by your opponent's pieces.
- 3) Try not to move the same piece many times – it wastes moves which might be useful for something else.

In the middle phase of the game:

Once you have brought out your pieces and castled, you are ready to engage your opponent's army. You should:

- 4) Keep your king well protected – do not advance the pawns near your king unnecessarily because the king will then be more vulnerable to attack.
- 5) Try to place your pieces so that they attack as many squares as possible, particularly squares in the center of the board and squares near your opponent's king.
- 6) If you want to protect a piece do so with something of lesser value (pawn, knight or bishop) rather than a high valued piece (rook or queen).
- 7) Play actively – make every move count. If in doubt about what to do, improve the position of your worst placed piece by bringing it nearer to the center of the board or to your opponent's king.

Near the end of the game:

When there are few pieces on the board:

- 8) It is important to advance pawns in an attempt to promote them to queens.
- 9) If you think it is safe to do so, use your king as a fighting piece – with fewer pieces on the board the chances of a surprise checkmate are much lower.

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All the time:

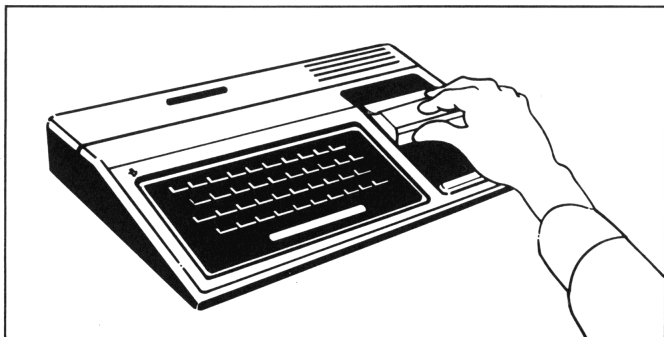
- 10) Swap off pieces when you are ahead, but avoid exchanges when you are behind. Exception — near the end of the game, if you are in bad shape and fighting for a draw, try to swap off as many pawns as possible so that your opponent has less chance of promoting his pawns to make new queens.

Now you're ready to use the Video Chess module.

### USING THE *SOLID STATE SOFTWARE™* COMMAND MODULE

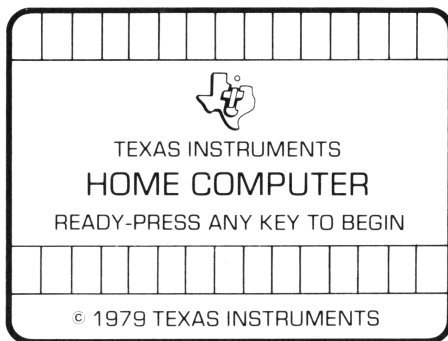
Once you know how to play chess, you are ready to use the Video Chess module. But first of all you probably want to know something about your opponent. Many people think that chess programs have "all the moves stored in them," but this is far from the truth. Programs do store certain opening moves, just as a human chess player learns important openings, but most of the thinking of a computer program is based on general principles. The Video Chess module thinks by looking ahead at hundreds or thousands of "continuations" (or play sequences). At the end of each continuation the program assesses the position. If it likes what it sees, it may aim for that position. If it does not like what it sees, the computer will try to avoid that particular continuation and choose an alternate one. Different general principles govern play in different phases of the game, in much the same way that a human player varies his strategy according to the type of position on the chess board.

Now let's begin. First you'll need to plug in the Command Module following these directions.



*Note:* Before inserting a module, be sure that it is free of static electricity.

1. *If the computer is OFF*, slide the module into the slot on the console, and turn the computer on. The master title screen should then appear.



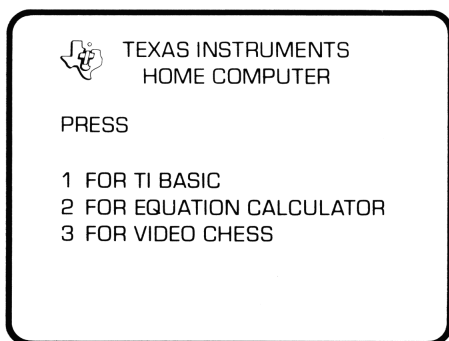
*If the computer is ON*, hold down the SHIFT key and press Q to make the master title screen appear. Then slide the module into the slot on the console.

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2. Press any key to make the master selection list appear. The title of the module will be third on the list.



3. Press the **3** key to select the module.

*Note:* To remove the module, *first* return the computer to the master title screen by pressing **SHIFT Q**. *Then* remove the module from the slot. If you have any problem with inserting the module, or if it is accidentally removed from the slot while in use, please see "In Case of Difficulty" on page 39.

After you press **3**, a title screen sequence appears (press **ENTER** if you want to skip this) and then you'll see the six options available with this module, as indicated below. With these six functions, you will have occasion to use several of the keys and special key options available through your computer keyboard. These are listed in the Quick Reference Guide and are summarized on page 28 immediately following these descriptions.





## **PRESS VIDEO CHESS**

### **1 TO PLAY BEGINNER GAME**

The computer will select black or white at random and will start to play at the beginning level of difficulty in the normal style of play. Now turn to "Playing a Game" on page 30.

### **2 CHOOSE GAME TYPE**

This option allows you to choose the type of game (level of difficulty, style, and color) you want to play against the computer. See "Playing a Game," page 30.

### **3 USE CHESSBOARD**

This choice allows you to play a game against a friend, using the Video Chess module's chessboard. Now turn to "Person vs. Person," page 33.

### **4 SET UP A PROBLEM**

You can use this option to set up a special chess position other than the normal starting position. You can then play a game from this special position, or you can use the computer while solving a particular chess problem. See "Setting Up a Problem," page 33.

### **5 PLAY SIMULTANEOUSLY**

Your TI-99/4 Home Computer can use its 16K byte memory to play as many as nine separate games at the same time. Turn to "Simultaneous Play," page 36.

### **6 LOAD CASSETTE GAME**

This allows you to load in (via cassette tape) a previously stored game for replay and study, or for continuation of an unfinished game. See "Load Cassette Game," page 38.

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## THE KEYBOARD

With your Video Chess module, you will be using the keyboard for making selection choices and entering the individual chess moves. In addition there are several special functions available as you need them. The keyboard functions are summarized here.

**Move Entries** Moves are selected by pressing the file letter (A-H) and rank number (1-8) of the piece's current position, followed by the desired file and rank for the piece's new position. The move is completed by pressing the **ENTER** key. (*Note:* The move can be erased by pressing **SHIFT C** before pressing the **ENTER** key.)

**Back-up (SHIFT B)** This function allows you to cancel your last move (and the computer's) and return to the previous setup before the move. The computer keeps track of how many times you back up and will indicate this at the completion of each game. In Person vs. Person, **SHIFT B** only backs up one player's move. (*Note:* The clocks do not back up.)

**Help (SHIFT H)** This option allows the computer to act as a chess tutor by evaluating your move and suggesting alternatives if better moves were available. If you press **HELP (SHIFT H)** instead of entering your move, the computer will suggest a move for you to enter (for this move only). Then enter your move in the usual way. If you press **HELP** to enter your move by pressing **SHIFT H** rather than **ENTER**, the computer will go into an automatic help mode and evaluate your move. It then tells you if it's a good move — or indicates what another move could have been. Once you place the computer in this "automatic help" mode, it will continue to evaluate each of your moves until you again press **HELP (SHIFT H)** to turn off the Help feature. (*Note:* The computer's



thinking time will be doubled while in the Help mode. Also, if the computer is playing in the losing mode, it will give losing advice.)

### **Resign (SHIFT E)**

This function allows you to resign the game.

### **Draw (SHIFT D)**

This option allows you to offer the computer a tie or draw. You use this feature by selecting your move and pressing **SHIFT D** (rather than **ENTER**). The computer then has the option of accepting the **DRAW** or continuing to play. If it continues to play, the **DRAW** has been refused.

### **Time Out (SHIFT T)**

This feature allows you to stop the chess clocks (for breaks, phone calls, etc.). At this point all keys are disabled except **SHIFT Q** and **SHIFT T**. Press **SHIFT T** to restart the clocks and resume the game.

### **Replay (SHIFT R)**

This allows you to replay the current game from the start, displaying each move for about 2 seconds before the next move appears. During this you can pause for examination of a particular position by pressing and holding **Replay** again until **STOP** is displayed in the message section at the bottom of the screen. To restart the action, press **Replay** once more.

### **Store (SHIFT X)**

This function allows you to use a cassette recorder to save your current game on a cassette tape, following the prompting instructions given by your computer. This can be used during a game when **ENTER MOVE** is displayed, or at the end of a game.

### **Switch (SHIFT S)**

This function lets you change sides with the computer so it can play your move (and vice versa). The computer will play itself if you use this option each time it's your move. (*Note:* Switch does not work in the "setting up a problem" mode.)

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### **Position (SHIFT P)**

This option allows you to disregard the status of the game being played and rearrange the board without regard to the legality of the moves taken. Anytime the computer displays "ENTER MOVE," **SHIFT P** can be used. When first pressed, the current positions on the chess board remain, but the computer allows you to make changes to the board following the sequences used in the "Setting Up a Problem" section on page 33. (Note: Once **SHIFT P** is used, you cannot use the replay, back-up, or record features.)

### **Mode Change (SHIFT M)**

This option allows you to change the style of play being used by the computer. During a game you can press **SHIFT M** when it's your turn and then change the skill level, "thinking time" (if intermediate level chosen), and the computer's style of play. When these choices are completed, the computer returns you to the previous board set up. It's still your move, and play will resume with the new changes in place. (Note: **SHIFT M** cannot be used in "Person vs. Person" except to replace one of the players with the computer.)

### **Quit (SHIFT Q)**

This key sequence tells the computer to leave the module and return to the main title display.

## **GAME OPTIONS**

### **Playing a Game**

Two basic options are available for playing a game against the computer. Option 1, playing a beginner's game, is automatically started by the computer. With option 2, choosing a game type, several selections are required before the game begins. These selections include:

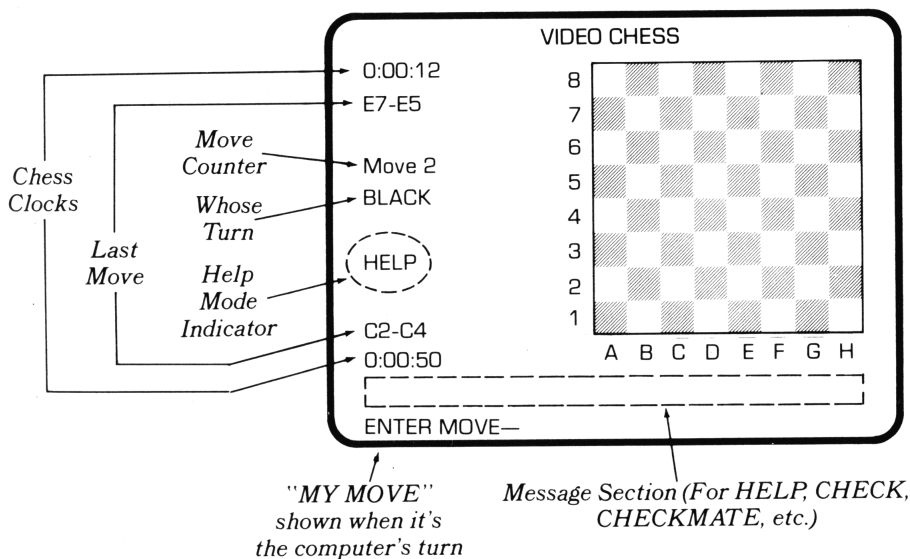
- Choosing level of play for the computer (beginner, novice, or intermediate)



- Choosing computer "thinking time" (between 30 and 200 seconds per move). This is offered only when the intermediate level is chosen. The longer the time allowed, the better the computer plays.
- Choosing the style of play for the computer (normal, aggressive, defensive, or losing. *Note:* Losing style of play is available only with the beginner level.)
- Choosing the color you want to play (white or black – white moves first).

With option 1, the beginner's game, the computer automatically sets up the chessboard for a beginner-level, normal style of play. The computer randomly picks white or black for itself – if it chooses black, it waits for your move; if the computer chooses white, it makes the first move and then indicates it's your turn by showing "ENTER MOVE" on the bottom of the screen.

A typical playing screen is shown here:



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Each time it is your turn to move, the message ENTER MOVE is displayed. You indicate your move by typing the square from which your piece moves, then the square on which it lands. (Remember to enter the letter before the number.) Then press the **ENTER** key to register the move.

If you wish to castle king-side, you enter 0 0; castling queen-side is 0 0 0. You can also enter the king's move in standard notation to accomplish castling, i.e., E1G1, E1C1, E8G8, or E8C8.

The computer will not accept illegal moves. Play will continue until a checkmate, stalemate, draw, or resignation is reached.

*Pawn Promotion* — If your move puts a pawn in the far rank you have the choice between making it into a knight, bishop, rook, or queen as part of the same move. The computer will display a screen asking for your choice.

*Offering a Draw* — If you wish to offer the computer a draw, you may do so by pressing DRAW (**SHIFT D**) after you type your move instead of pressing **ENTER**. The computer will consider your offer; if it decides to accept, it will display DRAW BY AGREEMENT. If it declines your offer, it will reply to your move in the usual way.

*Backing Up* — If you wish to go back one move, press BACKUP (**SHIFT B**). This will reset the board to your previous position. If you're playing the computer, both the computer's last move and your last move are backed up. In Person vs. Person, the computer will only back up one move.

*Switching Sides* — If you wish to switch sides with the computer, so that you play from the computer's position and it plays from your position, press SWT (**SHIFT S**).



*Game Over* — When the game is over, the status is shown (checkmate, draw, etc.), the number of times back up was used is displayed, and the option is given to press **ENTER** for a new game. If you would like to see an action replay of the game, press **REPLAY (SHIFT R)**. You can also record your game on a cassette tape at this point using the **STORE (SHIFT X)** option.

### **Person vs. Person**

Two people can use the Video Chess module simply as a chess set and board for playing a game between themselves. When this option is chosen, the computer will set the clocks at zero and start White's clock running. When White enters a move, the white clock stops and the black one starts, and vice versa. Play will then follow all normal rules with the computer moving the pieces, checking for legal moves, etc., until game completion. If during the game, one player needs to leave the game, play can continue by pressing **SHIFT M** and turning over one of the positions to the computer.

### **Setting up a Problem**

Sometimes you will wish to set up a special position, other than the normal starting position. This might be because you wish to start from a particular position, or because you wish to resume an unfinished game that began some time back, or because you want the computer to try to solve a chess problem such as those found in the chess column of your newspaper.

Special positions are entered with the help of prompting messages on the screen after you choose this option. For each piece in the special position it is necessary to supply three items of information: its color, the type of piece and the square it is on. Suppose that you wish to put a white bishop on C6. The first choice that you see says **ENTER COLOR OF PIECE**. You then press **1**, to

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signify White. You are then asked to ENTER PIECE, whereupon you press **3** for bishop. You are then asked on which square you wish this bishop to stand, by ENTER POSITION, and you respond with C6. The program places the white bishop on square C6 and returns you to the ENTER COLOR OF PIECE choice.

Once the position of all desired pieces has been set up and you are satisfied that it is correct, press **4** on the "Enter Color of Piece" screen to start. *Note:* The computer will not start until both kings are placed on the board and are not adjacent to each other. Also, the defending king cannot be in check.

If your setup includes a possible castling move, the program will ask you questions such as: IS CASTLING POSSIBLE?, WHITE 0 0, and you will respond with **1** or **2** for yes or no depending on whether the side in question has lost the right to castle in your special position.

After pressing **4** for **START**, you are given these choices:

Press/For

**1** *Mate in Two*

The program will search for all moves that force checkmate in no more than two moves by the player whose turn it is to move. (See important note following.)

**2** *Mate in Three*

Same as Mate in Two but looks for checkmate in no more than three moves. (See important note following.)

**3** *Play a Game*

This option allows you to start and play the computer from this special starting position. You are also allowed to choose the level of difficulty.





## 4 Use as Board

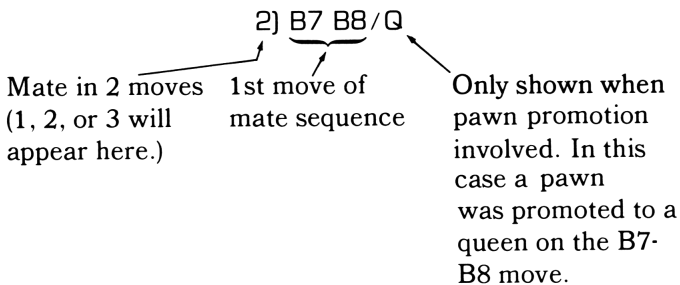
This choice allows you and a friend to play from the special starting position with the computer being used as a chess set.

After pressing **1**, **2**, **3**, or **4** you are shown a screen that asks you to choose the piece color for the starting play. It asks "White to play?" You press **1** for yes to select white or **2** for no to select black. Then play begins automatically with the computer *always* making the first move. (*Note:* Play cannot begin if the starting player can capture the opponent's king.)

### *Important Note:*

If you choose Mate In Two or Mate in Three, these points should be noted:

- The color choice determines the side the computer uses to search for possible checkmate. For example, if white is chosen, the computer searches for all possible checkmates by *white* in 2 or 3 moves as previously selected. This search process can be rather lengthy, particularly if there are many possible checkmates.
- To let you know the computer is searching, a flashing asterisk will appear in the upper left of the screen below the word PLAYS.
- When the computer is finished, the possible mates are listed below the word PLAYS in this format:



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If no mates are found, the message **NO MATES** appears. If more mates are possible than can be shown on one screen, then **PRESS ENTER FOR MORE SOLUTIONS** is shown. After all have been listed, the message **NO MORE MATES** appears at the end of this list.

- The search for checkmates can be halted only by pressing and holding **SHIFT Q**. This returns you to the main title screen.

When you're through using these options, press **ENTER** to return to the main selection list.

### **Simultaneous Play**

One of the amazing feats that can be performed by outstanding human chess players is that they can play a number of games simultaneously against different opponents and still play each game well. The Video Chess module used with the TI-99/4 can also play simultaneous games (16K bytes of memory required). Up to 9 games may be played simultaneously, although certain options (**BACKUP**, **HELP**, **SWITCH**, **REPLAY**, **RECORD**, and **TIME OUT**) are not available to the players.

When this option is used, the computer first asks for the player number. (Active player numbers are **displayed** on the screen.) Once entered, the computer checks to see if this is an "active" player. If so, the computer instructs the player to enter the move. The computer will give its corresponding move and then advance to the next player by asking for player number. If the player number entered is for a new player, the computer asks for that opponent's selection of level of play, thinking time (if required), style of play, and color choice. Then



play begins for that player. After the player's move and the computer's move are both entered, the computer asks for the next player number. If for some reason, the next player is not ready to enter a move, press **SHIFT C** instead of move entry, and the computer asks for player number again. (*Note:* An illegal move also causes the computer to ignore the move and ask for player number again.)

Up to 9 players can be active at any one time. If less than 9 players are active, a new one can join by entering an unused player number. However, if all 9 positions are active, a player must finish a game before a new player can be added. If a player wants to resign, follow this procedure. When the computer asks for player number, enter the player number. Then press **SHIFT E** for that player to resign. That player's number is now available for any new player that's ready to play.

We recommend that the simultaneous exhibitions be controlled by someone who is not playing. This person enters the playing choices for each player and then goes through the players in rotation. When the controller calls out "PLAYER 1" and presses 1, the appropriate position appears on the screen. Player 1 calls out his move (e.g., A7A6) and this move is entered. When the computer replies, the controller calls back the reply move and then passes on to player 2, and so on, though it is not necessary to play in any particular order. If the controller is energetic, he can walk back and forth between the console and the players, each of whom has his own board and chess set, so that the moves can be made in silence. This avoids disturbing the players. (*Note:* It is important that each player remembers his number!)

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#### **Load Cassette Game**

During simultaneous play, any player has the option of changing the style and level of computer play. To do so, first enter the player number and then press **SHIFT M**. The computer then asks for the new level of play and style of play. Then the game resumes at the same point.

One of the options available is the use of a cassette tape to save or store a game for future reference. This option can be used by pressing **SHIFT X** and following the instructions shown. Once a tape has been used to store a game (or part of a game) the **LOAD CASSETTE GAME** option can be used. When this is chosen, the computer will give you the step-by-step instructions for loading the cassette tape data into your Home Computer. (See the *User's Reference Guide* for complete cassette loading and saving details.) Once the tape is loaded, the game will begin at the last move entered. To see the complete game, press **SHIFT R** for replay.

#### CARING FOR THE MODULE

These modules are durable devices, but they should be handled with the same care you would give any other piece of electronic equipment. Keep the module clean and dry, and don't touch the recessed contacts.

#### *CAUTION:*

The contents of a module can be damaged by static electricity discharges.

Static electricity build-ups are more likely to occur during the cold winter months (or in areas with very dry climates) when the natural humidity of the air is low. We've all had the experience of walking across a carpet, reaching for a metal doorknob, and having a quick, painful spark jump from our fingertips to the metal



surface. This is static electricity. To avoid possible damage of the module, just touch any metal object (a doorknob, a desk lamp, etc.) before handling the module. If static electricity is a problem in your locale, you may want to purchase a special carpet treatment that reduces static build-up. These commercial preparations are usually available from local hardware and office supply stores.

### IN CASE OF DIFFICULTY

If the module activities do not appear to be operating properly, return to the master title screen by pressing **SHIFT Q**. Withdraw the module, reinsert it carefully, and press any key to make the master selection list appear. The title of the module should show up in the third position. Press **3** to select the module. (*Note: In rare instances, it may be necessary to turn the computer off, wait several seconds, and then turn it on again.*)

If the module is accidentally removed from the slot while the module contents are being used, the computer may behave erratically. To restore the computer to normal operation, turn the computer console off, wait a few seconds, reinsert the module, and turn it on again.

If you have any difficulty with your Texas Instruments Home Computer or the Chess module, please contact the dealer from whom you purchased the unit and/or module for service directions.

Additional information concerning use and service can be found in your *User's Reference Guide*.

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## **THREE-MONTH LIMITED WARRANTY HOME COMPUTER SOFTWARE MODULE**

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Texas Instruments Incorporated extends this consumer warranty only to the original consumer purchaser.

### **WARRANTY COVERAGE**

This warranty covers the electronic and case components of the software module. These components include all semiconductor chips and devices, plastics, boards, wiring and all other hardware contained in this module ("the Hardware"). This limited warranty does not extend to the programs contained in the software module and in the accompanying book materials ("the Programs").

The Hardware is warranted against malfunction due to defective materials or construction. **THIS WARRANTY IS VOID IF THE HARDWARE HAS BEEN DAMAGED BY ACCIDENT OR UNREASONABLE USE, NEGLIGENCE, IMPROPER SERVICE OR OTHER CAUSES NOT ARISING OUT OF DEFECTS IN MATERIAL OR CONSTRUCTION.**

### **WARRANTY DURATION**

The Hardware is warranted for a period of three months from the date of the original purchase by the consumer.

### **WARRANTY DISCLAIMERS**

**ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES ARISING OUT OF THIS SALE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ARE LIMITED IN DURATION TO THE ABOVE THREE MONTH PERIOD. TEXAS INSTRUMENTS SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR LOSS OF USE OF THE HARDWARE OR OTHER INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL COSTS, EXPENSES, OR DAMAGES INCURRED BY THE CONSUMER OR ANY OTHER USER.**

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of implied warranties or consequential damages, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you in those states.

### **LEGAL REMEDIES**

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights that vary from state to state.

### **PERFORMANCE BY TI UNDER WARRANTY**

During the three month warranty period, defective Hardware will be replaced when it is returned postage prepaid to a Texas Instruments Service Facility listed below. The replacement Hardware will be warranted for a period of three months from date of replacement. Other than the postage requirement, no charge will be made for replacement.



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TI strongly recommends that you insure the Hardware for value prior to mailing.

#### **TEXAS INSTRUMENTS CONSUMER SERVICE FACILITIES**

Texas Instruments Service Facility  
P.O. Box 2500  
Lubbock, Texas 79408

Texas Instruments Service Facility  
41 Shelley Road  
Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada

Consumers in California and Oregon may contact the following Texas Instruments offices for additional assistance or information.

Texas Instruments Exchange Center  
831 South Douglas Street  
El Segundo, California 90245  
(213) 973-1803

Texas Instruments Consumer Service  
10700 Southwest Beaverton Highway  
Park Plaza West  
Beaverton, Oregon 97005  
(503) 643-6758

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER REGARDING THE PROGRAMS**

The following should be read and understood *before* purchasing and/or using the software module.

TI does not warrant the Programs will be free from error or will meet the specific requirements of the consumer. The consumer assumes complete responsibility for any decisions made or actions taken based on information obtained using the Programs. Any statements made concerning the utility of the Programs are not to be construed as express or implied warranties.

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For centuries, chess has been a challenging game enjoyed equally by beginners and masters. The Video Chess Command Module brings a new dimension to the game through your TI Home Computer. Now you'll always have a tireless opponent whose skill level you can set — from beginner, through novice, to intermediate. And if you want, you and a friend can play chess, with your computer making the moves, keeping track of time, noting whose move it is, all while keeping a complete record of the game.

**Video Chess** module activities are designed to give you several playing options:

- **Play Beginner Game** — Play against the computer at the beginning skill level in a normal style of play.
- **Choose Game Type** — Choose the type of game you want to play against by selecting the computer's skill level and style of play (from losing to aggressive).
- **Use Chessboard** — Use the Video Chess module's chessboard to play a game against a friend.
- **Set up a Problem** — Set up a special chess position other than the normal starting position.
- **Play Simultaneously** — Play as many as nine simultaneous games with your TI Home Computer (with 16K bytes of memory).
- **Load Cassette Game** — Use a cassette tape recorder to store and then re-enter a favorite game or an unfinished game for later completion.

***Adds 28K bytes of active memory with stored program to your TI Home Computer***

Command Module program and data base contents  
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