

APPENDIX I – Tactical Styles

This section outlines different tactical styles as submitted by contributors to this year's guide. There can be, of course, no exhaustive list of tactics. There are thousands of professional clubs around the world, each of whom have had many coaches with many different ideas in many different times. To cover them all would be impossible. However, we encourage anyone who has read and enjoyed the guide to contribute their own ideas and their own favourite tactical styles to us. We also welcome debate on the way we have set out these tactics here. You can discuss, debate and contribute ideas at the forums at [SI Games](#) and [FM-Britain.co.uk](#) or e-mail us at thinktank@fm-britain.co.uk.

This section is split into three sections. **Styles**, covering modern formations and tactical theories. **Contemporary** tactics, covering specific formations used by real world clubs and managers over the past decade. And **Historic** covering classic tactics from the last century and beyond.

All the tactics contained here have their very own thread at the FM-Britain forums. Follow the links to see what other managers have to say about these tactics, and help us develop the most in-depth and accurate folio of football styles on the web!

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Modern Styles

Some tactical styles go beyond the manager and become part of the football cultural framework. The 3-5-2, for example, became the mainstay of international football in the late 80s and early 90s, and still enjoys a swansong in its spiritual home, the Balkans. The 4-4-2 Box is quintessentially Brazilian, while the 4-4-2 is that mainstay of Britain and Scandinavia. Others are a little more specialised than this, but are certainly used by more than just one particular team in one particular epoch.

This section is for these formations. Those systems which are reasonably common in modern football since the start of the 21st century. If you would like to comment on any of these formations or suggest your own for future editions of the appendix, visit the forum links in the relevant chapters.

Updated in 1.1

4-4-2 Box marking settings updated. With thanks to **Jimbo51**.

3-5-2

Manager: Franz Beckenbauer**Country:** West Germany**Modern Notation:** 3-5-2**Era:** Modern, Contemporary**Honours:** World Cup 1990**Forum Discussion:** <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10197.0>**Contributor:** Millie; The next Diaby

The exemplar we've chosen for the 3-5-2 is the classic West German formation which won the 1990 World Cup. The united Germany played it six years later in winning Euro '96. A German side played 3-5-2/5-3-2 in **six** out of eleven possible finals from 1986. Of course, they lost four of them, but we wouldn't want to rub it in.

The 3-5-2 is incredibly versatile. The wingbacks can be attacking, or they can drop back as fullbacks to create a 5-3-2. The midfield three can accommodate defensive, game-killing players, creative attacking types, or mixtures of the two. Coupled with a two-man strike force, it can bang in the goals too.

The 3-5-2 has declined in popularity in nearly all countries but Brazil. The reason for this is the rise of the 4-5-1. In standard mode, the wing backs have to mark the opposition wide attacking midfielders, leaving them unable to push forward constantly. The three central midfielders mark their counterparts. This leaves three central defenders to make one striker. The opposition full backs are therefore free to bomb forward unopposed and leave the 3-5-2s midfield overrun. Still, against a 4-4-2 it can be remarkably effective.

Position	Player (1990/1996)	Role	Duty
GK	Bodo Illgner/Andreas Köpke	Goalkeeper	Defend
SW	Klaus Augenthaler/Matthias Sammer	Libero	Support
DCI	Jürgen Kohler/Thomas Helmer	Centre Back	Defend
DCr	Guido Buchwald/Dieter Eilts	Centre Back	Defend
WBL	Andreas Brehme/Christian Ziege	Wing Back	Auto
WBR	Thomas Berthold/Markus Babbel	Wing Back	Auto
MCI	Lothar Matthäus/Thomas Strunz	Central Midfielder	Support
MCI	Thomas Häßler	Central Midfielder	Defend
AMC	Pierre Littbarski/Mehmet Scholl	Advanced Playmaker	Attack
FCI	Rudi Völler/Stefan Kuntz	Deep-lying forward	Support
FCr	Jürgen Klinsmann	Poacher	Attack

Instructions	
Philosophy	Rigid
Passing	Automatic
Creative Freedom	More Disciplined
Closing Down	Automatic
Tackling	More Aggressive
Marking	Zonal Marking
Crossing	Automatic
Roaming	Stick to Position

4-4-2 Box

Manager:

Country: Brazil

Modern Notation: 4-2-2-2, 4-4-2

Era: Modern, Contemporary

Honours: -

Forum Discussion: <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10296.0>

Contributor: Millie



The 4-4-2 Box has become more defensive in recent years. Even Brazil, where the “magic box” finds its spiritual home, pulled the MCs back to DMC for their World Cup win in 1994. But, in one form or another, the box midfield survives and is, arguably, the formation of choice for the current Real Madrid side.

The system relies on the surging runs of the wing backs to provide width. These guys support a creative “box” up front, consisting of two trequartistas roaming behind two centre forwards. For this reason, the system is incredibly attacking and creates superb movement in the final third, but can come unstuck due to its lack of width and lack of defensive cover. There is, for all that, an amazing amount of creativity in the side, with great movement supported by great balls from the deeper central playmakers.

In many ways, this can be seen as an evolution of the 4-2-4 which won Brazil the 1970 World Cup. The two creative forwards (Pelé and Tostão) dropped deeper, while the wing forwards became more central to fill the gap they had left. Kaká and Cristiano Ronaldo can, therefore, drop deep from Raúl and Benzema to create a new magic box for the 21st Century, ably supplied by Alonso and Diarra.

Position	Player (Brazil, 1982 WC)	Role	Duty
GK	Waldir	Goalkeeper	Defend
DL	Júnior	Wing Back	Auto
DCI	Luizinho	Centre Back	Defend
DCr	Oscar	Centre Back	Defend
DR	Leandro	Wing Back	Auto
MCI	Falcão	Deep-lying Playmaker	Support
MCI	Cerezo	Deep-lying Playmaker	Support
AMCI	Zico	Trequartista	Attack
AMCr	Socrates	Trequartista	Attack
FCI	Eder	Advanced Forward	Attack
FCr	Serginho	Deep-lying Forward	Support

Instructions	
Philosophy	Very Fluid
Passing	Shorter
Creative Freedom	More Expressive
Closing Down	Stand-off More
Tackling	Default
Marking	Zonal
Crossing	Default
Roaming	More Roaming

4-4-2 Diamond

Manager: Carlo Ancelotti

Club: AC Milan/Chelsea

Country: Italy/England

Modern Notation: 4-1-2-1-2, 4-4-2

Era: Modern, Contemporary

Honours: Champions League

Forum Discussion: <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10297.0>

Contributor: Millie



The 4-4-2 diamond has been around for many, many years, but it has recently gained more attention in the higher echelons of the game via Carlo Ancelotti's Milan and Chelsea sides. It was briefly used by Sven Göran Erikson with England and was, arguably, the formation of the 1966 World Cup winners.

The formation splits its central midfield distinctively between the defensive player and the attacking player. Usually, this will mean the DMC acts as an anchor man while the AMC is freed to express himself as a playmaker or an incisive forward attacking from deep. Curiously, Ancelotti has broken this mould in recent times by allowing his DMC to act as a deep-lying playmaker when the side needs more passing options from deep.

The 4-4-2 diamond is usually narrow, and therefore open to exploitation down the flanks. However, it is incredibly good at bossing the centre of the park, and as such can be a very effective, and, at times, aesthetic formation.

Position	Player (AC Milan, 2005 CL Final)	Role	Duty
GK	Dida	Goalkeeper	Defend
DL	Paulo Maldini	Full Back	Auto
DCI	Alessandro Nesta	Centre Back	Defend
DCr	Jaap Stam	Centre Back	Defend
DR	Cafú	Wing Back	Auto
DMC	Andrea Pirlo	Deep-lying playmaker	Support
MCI	Clarence Seedorf	Central Midfielder	Attack
MCr	Genaro Gattuso	Ball-winning Midfielder	Defend
AMC	Kaká	Advanced Playmaker	Attack
FCI	Hernan Crespo	Deep-lying forward	Support
FCr	Andriy Shevchenko	Advanced forward	Attack

Instructions	
Philosophy	Rigid
Passing	Default
Creative Freedom	More Expressive
Closing Down	Default
Tackling	More Aggressive
Marking	Default
Crossing	Default
Roaming	Default

Disruptive 4-5-1**Manager:** Sam Allardyce**Club:** Bolton Wanderers**Country:** England**Modern Notation:** 4-5-1**Era:** Contemporary**Honours:** League Cup Runners Up**Forum Discussion:** <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10298.0>**Contributor:** Millie

Allardyce's Bolton became synonymous with the grinding 4-5-1, designed solely to negate the opposition and gain points through physicality and hard work. When looking to attack, Allardyce's shape resembled that of Mourinho's 4-5-1-cum-4-3-3 formation, but in defence it behaved much more like the flat 4-5-1. It is this more cynical disruptive style that we outline here

By flooding the midfield with bodies, this 4-5-1 disrupts any team looking to pass the ball in the centre of the pitch. The use of a big target man up front gives the team the outlet they needed for quick, physical counter attacks.

Allardyce's tactics are all about denying space, so they press and tackle hard. It requires a very physical team with good discipline to be able to pay off, but it can propel a team with limited technical ability above the sum of their parts. The fact that Bolton's players did have some technique meant that the team were able to qualify for European competition.

It is often a harsh simplification to call Allardyce's tactics primitive or "anti-football" – however, this disruptive version of his 4-5-1 is certainly not going to win any prizes for beautiful flowing moves and goals galore.

Position	Player (2004 LC Final)	Role	Duty
GK	Jussi Jääskeläinen	Goalkeeper	Defend
DL	Simon Charlton	Full Back	Auto
DCI	Emerson Thome	Centre Back	Cover
DCr	Bruno N'Gotty	Centre Back	Stopper
DR	Nicky Hunt	Full Back	Auto
DMC	Ivan Campo	Anchor Man	Defend
MCI	Jay-Jay Okocha	Attacking Playmaker	Attack
MCI	Kevin Nolan	Central Midfielder	Support
AML	Youri Djorkaeff	Defensive Winger	Attack
AMR	Per Frandsen	Defensive Winger	Attack
FC	Kevin Davies	Target Man	Support

Instructions	
Philosophy	Very Rigid
Passing	More Direct
Creative Freedom	More Disciplined
Closing Down	Press More
Tackling	More Aggressive
Marking	Man Marking
Crossing	Float Crosses
Roaming	Stick to Position

Contemporary Managers

There are many managers and clubs that seem to have that unique style. While they may be a variation on what has preceded them, the specific players that they had at specific times changed the way their tactics were constructed. In doing so, they have achieved a certain legendary status in world football.

Here are the styles from the past three or four years which have become synonymous with their managers or their clubs. From league titles to world cups, this is where you can try and recreate the real-world styles of your favourite teams in *Football Manager 10*. If you would like to comment on any of these formations or suggest your own for future editions of the appendix, visit the forum links in the relevant chapters.

New to 1.1

SC Braga's current style has been written by **Demo**. His description is long, but well worth a read, so it has been included in full.

Tottenham Hotspur's current formation has been added, with great thanks to **Simulacra**, **Boobo** and **RiffHard** for their work on refining Simulacra's original thread.

Updated in 1.1

Sunderland midfield updated. With thanks to **cagiva** and **Jockie**.

Barcelona thread revised. With thanks to **moj**, **cagiva**, **trian**, **dryg**, **Akontipus**, **Machete82**, **Michlos**, **foomanjee**, **jonjon**, **DirtyACE**, and **majed20**.

Arsenal thread revised. With thanks to **moj**, **mantralux**, **cagiva**, **trian**, **Rodace**, **gazsmith6**, **ezamudin**, **Jimbo51**, **bily_marseille**, **Vermaelen05**, **Ron Burgundy**, **Aust**, and **Dano**.

Arsenal 2009-2010**Manager:** Arsène Wenger**Club:** Arsenal**Country:** England**Modern Notation:** 4-3-3**Era:** Contemporary**Honours:** None**Forum Discussion:** <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10299.0>**Contributor:** Millie

At the beginning of the 2009/10 season, Wenger declared that he would continue to use his new 4-3-3 formation throughout the season. Despite experimenting with different midfield shapes, he appears to have gone for the 4-5-1/4-3-3 formation.

The system utilises a defensive midfielder to act as a holding man in the centre of the park. This provides the cover to allow the attacking nature of Fabregas, Diaby and the wide forwards to be encouraged. Playing against a 4-5-1, Vermaelen is also encouraged to come forward from the defence, as are the wing backs. The MCI, usually Fabregas, but sometimes Ramsey acts as the central playmaker, feeding in the three forwards, each of whom can swap positions with the others to create problems in the opposition's defence.

The formation is prone to leaking goals, but then Arsenal's squad lacks a true "anchor man" in the traditional sense. This, combined with a highly creative midfield and skilful forwards, can make this formation score for fun.

Position	Player	Role	Duty
GK	Manuel Almunia	Sweeper Keeper	Defend
DL	Gaël Clichy	Wing Back	Automatic
DCI	William Gallas	Centre Back	Defend
DCr	Thomas Vermaelen	Ball-Playing Defender	Defend
DR	Bacary Sagna	Wing Back	Automatic
DMC	Alexandre Song-Bilong	Defensive Midfielder	Defend
MCI	Cesc Fabregas	Advanced Playmaker	Attack
MCr	Abou Diaby	Box-to-Box Midfielder	Support
AML	Andrei Arshavin	Inside Forward	Attack
AMR	Emmanuel Eboué	Winger	Attack
FC	Robin van Persie	Advanced Forward	Attack

Instructions	
Philosophy	Balanced
Passing	Shorter
Creative Freedom	More Expressive
Closing Down	Press More
Tackling	Default
Marking	Default
Crossing	Default
Roaming	More Roaming

Barcelona 2008-2010

Manager: Josep Guardiola

Club: FC Barcelona

Country: Spain

Modern Notation: 4-3-3

Era: Contemporary

Honours: La Liga, Champions League

Forum Discussion: <http://forums.fmbritain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10300.0>

Contributor: Millie



Continuing on from Rijkaard's 4-3-3, Josep Guardiola won the Champions League in his first season as coach of Barcelona with a very attacking tactic based around the skills of some of the most exciting and technically gifted players on the planet.

The 4-3-3 utilises Henry and Messi as wide forwards who then come inside to cause problems for the defence. Xavi and Iniesta use their supreme passing abilities to fashion chances for the forwards, while the goal scoring skills of Eto'o and lately Ibrahimovic mean that the team can score almost at will. Support is also given by the attacking wing backs, while the defensive midfielder and centre backs hold the fort should any counter-attacks come their way.

Defensively, the formation can be found wanting, especially with squads who do not possess excellent defenders or technically gifted players with vision in the centre of the midfield to really make it work. But it gives so much creative licence to the front three that the goals conceded can be more than made up by the amount of goals scored.

Position	Player	Role	Duty
GK	Victor Valdes	Sweeper Keeper	Defend
DL	Éric Abidal	Wing Back	Automatic
DCI	Carles Puyol	Centre Back	Defend
DCr	Gerard Piqué	Centre Back	Defend
DR	Daniel Alves	Wing Back	Automatic
DMC	Yaya Touré	Defensive Midfielder	Defend
MCI	Andrés Iniesta	Advanced Playmaker	Attack
MCR	Xavi	Deep-lying Playmaker	Support
FL	Thierry Henry	Inside Forward	Attack
FC	Samuel Eto'o/Zlatan Ibrahimović	Complete Forward	Support
FR	Lionel Messi	Inside Forward	Attack

Instructions	
Philosophy	Balanced
Passing	Shorter
Creative Freedom	More Expressive
Closing Down	Press More
Tackling	Default
Marking	Default
Crossing	Default
Roaming	More Roaming

Braga 2009-2010**Manager:** Domingos Paciência**Club:** SC Braga**Country:** Portugal**Modern Notation:** 4-3-3; 4-2-3-1**Era:** Contemporary**Honours:** None**Forum Discussion:** <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10588.0>**Contributor:** Demo

SC Braga has had so far an amazing league campaign, as a paradox to an awful and unexpected European early crash out at the hands of Swedish side Elfsborg. Braga have been consistently in the last 32 and further of the UEFA Cup competition whilst sometimes under performing on league matches. This season everything has changed and Braga are "winter champions " in Portugal, leading the Portuguese league since its start, with the exception of 1 week where they were tied in first place with Benfica, but had a lower goal difference. They went to beat Benfica 2-0 at home to get their leadership back and since then they have been at the top.

Considered by most experts the 4th club and the one who has a shot at challenging the power of the so called Big Three in Portugal (Benfica, Porto, Sporting Lisbon), Braga's campaign has nonetheless been amazing and surprising, and although they are a regular 4th place in Portugal many discredited Braga's chances of clinching the title this season, specially because this season Benfica have been unstoppable with their fabulous style of play. The team of former Porto striker Domingos Paciencia are challenging all odds and game by game they've mounted a serious title challenge and are now considered favorites to win the tittle above Sporting, who have fallen behind after a terrible start to the season. Curiously enough, the only ones who deny their strength to win the tittle are Braga, preferring to adopt a cautious speech of "game-by-game " philosophy as a way to handle the pressure and the expectations.

In an attempt to determine what are the causes of this sudden success one can analyze the tactical nuances of this Braga team in comparison to other Braga teams. The players are basically the same from last year with the exception of 1 important piece: Hugo Viana. The former Valencia and Newcastle player has had a steady contribution to the success of the Arsenalistas (the name by which the club and supporters are known in a reference to the first days of the clubs existence, in which there was some relation with Arsenal. Nowadays there is some kind of reference to this in the Braga logo and also the team kit has the distinct Arsenal type colors and style).

With Domingos Paciencia Braga adopted a 4-2-3-1 system, with wide wingers and a very role free AMC, who often either supports the wing or the striker. Usually this role is interpreted by Mossoró, considered one of Braga's best players. Being a fast and creative player, Mossoró can rupture an opponent's defense easily, which can be considered a clinching aspect in this Braga system since it helps them break down teams who would otherwise be very tough to break. Being a relatively poor league, the Portuguese Liga is often powered with teams that defend with great numbers and leave 1 or 2 poor technically but very fast players upfront to catch the other team on the break. Being

Braga a club with high reputation in Portugal most teams focus on defending deep and consider a point against Braga a good result. This causes problems for Braga since usually they don't have the quality of Porto or Benfica and therefore, it's hard for them to get past these tight defenses. However, with Mossoró playing a free role AMC Braga have been able to rupture these defenses, getting wins on a more regular basis.

Another difference is the use of Hugo Viana along side Vandinho. Braga play with a double pivot, like many Spanish teams do (the famous "doble pivote ") where 1 of these players is a ball winning midfielder (vandinho, who excels at this job) and another is more of a creative midfielder (Hugo viana). The truth is last year there wasn't 1 pure creative player in any Braga side, with the exception perhaps of Luis Aguiar, but he was pulled to the wing too much by former coach Jorge Jesus. This year Braga has a controller in the team, someone who can be a true strategist in the pitch.

Last, Braga's back four have a slight difference from a regular back four. The right fullback, usually João Pereira, is an attacking minded player with freedom to go upfront and help the attack a lot. This is also a cause of rupture in many games that Braga play and this particular wing (right) with João Pereira and Alan is considered Braga's main attack side, where Mossoró helps in a lot, allowing Braga to, even if attacking against a defense in numbers, be superior in that wing or clear out the rest of the field.

Position	Player	Role	Duty
GK	Eduardo	Keeper	Defend
DL	Evaldo	Full Back	Support
DCI	Moisés	Centre Back	Defend
DCr	Rodriguez	Centre Back	Defend
DR	João Pereira	Wing Back	Attack
MCI	Vandinho	Ball-Winning Midfielder	Defend
MCr	Hugo Viana	Deep-Lying Playmaker	Support
AML	Paulo César	Winger	Attack
AMC	Mossoró	Attacking Midfielder	Support
AMR	Alan	Winger	Attack
FC	Meyong	Complete Forward	Attack

Instructions	
Philosophy	Balanced
Passing	More Direct
Creative Freedom	Default
Closing Down	Default
Tackling	Default
Marking	Zonal Marking
Crossing	Default
Roaming	More Roaming

CSKA Sofia 2004-2005

Manager: Miodrag Jesic

Club: CSKA Sofia

Country: Bulgaria

Modern Notation: 4-2-3-1

Era: Contemporary

Honours: Domestic league title

Forum Discussion: <http://forums.fmbritain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10301.0>

Contributor: cagiva



The Serbian coach Jesic has achieved one of the major successes in CSKA's modern history. During his two year spell the team played very stable football, with good defensive records and attacking flair. His tactical approach was built on quick counter-attacking movements, made by short, fast and focussed passing, to stretch the opposition.

At the time CSKA had very good players which were defensive literate and with attacking flair. The fullbacks had a supporting role, with the aim to provide the attacking player with through balls down the wing or via deep crossing. In the centre of the park Jakirovic was a pure destroyer, but with very good attacking anticipation and a fearsome long shot. His partner, Hdiouad, was a classic *regista* and architect of the team's attacks. On the wings the team deploy combination of pure right winger (Todorov) and a left inside forward (Yanev). The asymmetric wingers provided variation in the team's attacks. Upfront Jesic possessed a pure advanced playmaker in Gargorov, playing both as a playmaker and a finishing threat from deep. The lone striker (Dimitrov), was a deep-lying forward with the freedom of movement to express himself – either latching onto through balls or feeding in others himself for the team to score goals.

Position	Player	Role	Duty
GK	Dejan Maksic	Goalkeeper	Defend
DL	Tiago Silva	Full Back	Attack
DCI	Ibrahima Gueye	Limited Defender	Stopper
DCr	Valentin Iliev	Limited Defender	Cover
DR	Radoslab Zabavnik	Full Back	Attack
DMCI	Sergei Jakirovic	Defensive Midfielder	Support
DMCr	Mourad Hdiouad	Deep-Lying Playmaker	Support
MR	Yordan Todorov	Wide Midfielder	Attack
AML	Hristo Ianev	Inside Forward	Attack
AMC	Emil Gargorov	Advanced Playmaker	Attack
FC	Velizar Dimitrov	Deep-Lying Forward	Support

Instructions	
Philosophy	Fluid
Passing	Shorter
Creative Freedom	More Disciplined
Closing Down	Default
Tackling	Default
Marking	Default
Crossing	Drill Crosses
Roaming	Default

Juventus 2008-2009

Manager: Claudio Ranieri

Club: Juventus

Country: Italy

Modern Notation: 4-4-2,4-2-2-2

Era: Contemporary

Honours: Title Challenge

Forum Discussion: <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10302.0>

Contributor: cagiva



Last year Ranieri was heavily criticised for defensive approach and lack of beautiful play. However, in terms of football style and tactical approach Juventus played very succesful and methodical style, with tight and solid defence and midfield.

The Ranieri's priority was to keep tight at the middle of the park. To do that he applied two defensive midfielders, two asymmetrical wingers (Camoranesi whose main aim was to act as a link from midfield to attack), and Nedved (a pure winger used to create havoc by attacking the opposition full back and centring the ball). The full backs (Molinaro; Grygera) support the flanks with their runs from deep and crossing, with the aim to give additional width to the team's attacks. Up front Del Piero played the complete forward role, adding a different dimension to the team's attacks and build-up play. His partner, Amauri was charged more with simply putting the ball in the onion bag.

Even if the style could be described often as “anti-football” by its critics, it was the first team post *calciopoli* to challenge for the *Scudetto*.

Position	Player	Role	Duty
GK	Gianluigi Buffon	Goalkeeper	Defend
DL	Cristian Molinaro	Wing Back	Automatic
DCI	Giorgio Chiellini	Central Defender	Defend
DCr	Olof Mellberg	Limited Defender	Defend
DR	Zdenek Grygera	Wing Back	Automatic
DMCl	Tiago	Defensive Midfielder	Support
DMCr	Mohamed Sissoko	Defensive Midfielder	Defend
MR	Mauro Camoranesi	Winger	Support
AML	Pavel Nedved	Winger	Attack
FCI	Alessandro Del Piero	Complete Forward	Attack
FCr	Amauri	Poacher	Attack

Instructions	
Philosophy	Very Rigid
Passing	Default
Creative Freedom	More Disciplined
Closing Down	Press More
Tackling	More Aggressive
Marking	Man Marking
Crossing	Default
Roaming	Stick to Position

Levski Sofia 2004-2006**Manager:** Stanimir Stoilov**Club:** Levski Sofia**Country:** Bulgaria**Modern notation:** 4-2-3-1**Era:** Contemporary**Honours:** Bulgarian League x2; UEFA Cup QF**Forum discussion:** <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10303.0>**Contributor:** cagiva

Stoilov's philosophy was based on possession football and a beautiful passing system. In this "golden" period of Levski's history this tactical approach was heralded as "the right football" – aesthetic style mixed with material success.

In this formation the fullbacks were more supportive than attacking, preferring to avoid being caught on the break rather than launching their own attacks. The two defensive midfielders were both intelligent, utilising Borimorov as more of a playmaker and Richard as a pure destroyer. Levski were famous for the attacking flair and good movement off the ball, made by the attacking quad. Yovov and Telkyiski were not classic wingers - they were more inside forwards with the freedom to move into the channels and create chances for themselves and others. The success was largely built on the AMC Cedric Bardon, who played more as a trequartista than a midfielder. Able to roam anywhere, he had the freedom to do whatever he wanted - and that was the great benefit for the team as whole.

Up front, Bardon was paired with Domovckiisky (a complete forward, despite his age). He not only fashioned chances for himself, but also dropped deeper and wider to create spaces and chances for the running of Yovov and Telkyiski.

Position	Player	Role	Duty
GK	Georgi Petkov	Goalkeeper	Defend
DL	Lucio Wagner	Wing Back	Support
DCI	Igor Tomasić	Central Defender	Stopper
DCr	Elin Topuzakov	Central Defender	Cover
DR	Stanislav Angelov	Wing Back	Support
DMCl	Daniel Borimorov	Defensive Midfielder	Support
DMCr	Richard	Defensive Midfielder	Defend
AML	Hristo Yovov	Inside Forward	Attack
AMC	Cedric Bardon	Trequartista	Attack
AMR	Dimitar Telkyiski	Inside Forward	Attack
FC	Valeri Domovchiisky	Complete Forward	Support

Instructions	
Philosophy	Balanced
Passing	Shorter
Creative Freedom	Default
Closing Down	Press More
Tackling	Default
Marking	Default
Crossing	Drill Crosses
Roaming	Default

Liverpool 2008-2010

Manager: Rafael Benitez

Club: Liverpool

Country: England

Modern Notation: 4-2-3-1

Era: Contemporary

Honours: None

Forum Discussion: <http://forums.fmbritain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10304.0>

Contributor: cagiva



This formation and style within it is ostensibly a 4-2-3-1 formation but with an asymmetrical use of players roles. Benitez heavily relies on the Gerrard-Torres partnership, supported by a deep-lying playmaker with great vision and passing ability (formerly Alonso). The two flanks are asymmetrical - the left deploys Fabio Aurelio as full back and Riera as wing forward, with both contributing with crosses as much as possible. The right exploits the work ethic of Kuyt (both in attack and defence), utilising Arbeloa (and later Johnson) as an overlapping wing back to offer some attacking width on this wing.

The midfield is patrolled by the defensive midfielder (Mascherano), who covers the forward runs made by the two full backs. The DMC playmaker is therefore freed up to make raking passes to the forwards, with Gerrard used as an AMC, roaming around looking for space. Torres, the complete forward is given the freedom to roam as he sees fit and link up with Gerrard behind him.

Liverpool have often been accused of lacking width in the Premier League, and this is in part due to neither winger being encouraged to attack the corner flag. Even the full backs are encouraged to tuck inside when surging forward, though all the wide players are willing to put in penetrating crosses from deep.

Position	Player	Role	Duty
GK	José Manuel Reina	Sweeper Keeper	Defend
DL	Fabio Aurelio	Full Back	Automatic
DCI	Daniel Agger	Centre Back	Stopper
DCr	Jamie Carragher	Centre Back	Cover
DR	Alvaro Arbeloa/Glen Johnson	Wing Back	Automatic
DMCI	Xabi Alonso	Deep-lying Playmaker	Support
DMCr	Javier Mascherano	Defensive Midfielder	Defend
AML	Albert Riera	Inside Forward	Attack
AMC	Steven Gerrard	Attacking Midfielder	Attack
AMR	Dirk Kuyt	Inside Forward	Attack
FC	Fernando Torres	Complete Forward	Support

Instructions	
Philosophy	Fluid
Passing	Shorter
Creative Freedom	Default
Closing Down	Default
Tackling	Default
Marking	Default
Crossing	Drill Crosses
Roaming	Default

Manchester United 2007-2009**Manager:** Sir Alex Ferguson**Club:** Manchester United**Country:** England**Modern Notation:** 4-4-2, 4-3-3, 4-6-0**Era:** Contemporary**Honours:** Champions League, Premier League, World Club Championship**Forum Discussion:** <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10200.0>**Contributor:** Millie

Ferguson's tactics which won him his second European Cup were a variation on 4-3-3, 4-5-1, 4-4-2 and 4-6-0. It is uncomfortable to categorise it in the traditional notation. Asymmetric, it attempted to exploit the skills of the supremely talented Cristiano Ronaldo. The diagram provided shows roughly the team that lined up for the 2008 Champions League final, although the starting XI actually played Ronaldo on the left at AML with Hargreaves on the right at MR and Carrick at DMC – essentially a mirror of this diagram.

This was not the only formation favoured by Ferguson, but it is probably the one which exploited the talents of the front three of Ronaldo, Rooney and Tevez the best. The “swap position” instruction could be used across all three positions, with both Rooney and Ronaldo able to play AML, AMR and FC in the system. Similarly, it took note of Giggs's fading pace, and allowed Evra, the wing back, the opportunity to overlap and help the attack. Hargreaves or Carrick would play as a deeper lying midfielder and patrol the centre of the field, using their supreme passing skills to feed the attack.

Position	Player	Role	Duty
GK	Edwin van der Sar	Goalkeeper	Defend
DL	Patrice Evra	Wing Back	Auto
DCI	Nemanja Vidić	Centre Back	Defend
DCr	Rio Ferdinand	Centre Back	Defend
DR	Wes Brown	Full Back	Auto
DMC	Owen Hargreaves/Michael Carrick	Deep-lying Playmaker	Defend
MCr	Paul Scholes/Darren Fletcher	Central Midfielder	Support
ML	Ryan Giggs/Park Ji-Sung	Side Midfielder	Attack
AMCI	Carlos Tévez/Wayne Rooney	Trequartista	Attack
AMR	Cristiano Ronaldo	Inside Forward	Attack
FC	Wayne Rooney/Carlos Tévez	Deep-lying forward	Support

Instructions	
Philosophy	Rigid
Passing	Default
Creative Freedom	More Expressive
Closing Down	Default
Tackling	Default
Marking	Man Marking
Crossing	Drill Crosses
Roaming	More Roaming

Sunderland 2009-2010

Manager: Steve Bruce

Club: Sunderland

Country: England

Modern Notation: 4-4-2

Era: Contemporary

Honours: None

Forum Discussion: <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10305.0>

Contributor: Millie



A rather traditional 4-4-2, the Sunderland tactics under Bruce are notable for their efficiency and their pedigree as the typically “English” style of play. The system is all about partnerships – the partnership of the centre backs; the full backs and wingers; the strikers; and the central midfielders.

Lee Cattermole and Lorik Cana act as the rocks in the centre of the midfield, which frees the rest of the team to get forward. In games against stronger opponents, one or both can drop to the DMC positions; against weaker opponents, a more skilful and attack-minded midfielder can play alongside a holding player.

When necessary, the whole team can track back and cause issues for the opposition. The “big man-quick man” combination up front is also very difficult to defend against, despite being one of the oldest tricks in the book. The season is still young but already the team have got points from Manchester United and Liverpool.

Position	Player	Role	Duty
GK	Craig Gordon	Keeper	Defend
DL	George McCartney	Full Back	Automatic
DCI	Michael Turner	Centre Back	Cover
DCr	Anton Ferdinand	Limited Defender	Stopper
DR	Phil Bardsley	Full Back	Automatic
ML	Andy Reid	Winger	Attack
MCI	Lee Cattermole	Box-to-Box Midfielder	Support
MCr	Lorik Cana	Ball-Winning Midfielder	Defend
MR	Steed Malbranque	Winger	Attack
FCI	Kenwyne Jones	Target Man	Support
FCr	Darren Bent	Poacher	Attack

Instructions	
Philosophy	Very Rigid
Passing	More Direct
Creative Freedom	Default
Closing Down	Press More
Tackling	More Aggressive
Marking	Default
Crossing	Default
Roaming	Default

Tottenham Hotspur 2009-2010

Manager: Harry Redknapp

Club: Tottenham Hotspur

Country: England

Modern Notation: 4-4-2

Era: Contemporary

Honours: None

Forum Discussion: <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10356.0>

Contributor: Simulacra; Boobo; RiffHard



The current Spurs side has produced an individual approach to a 4-4-2 formation based on the squad's quirks. The squad has no natural left-footed midfielder. "Arry" has tackled this by using Modrić as a wide playmaker; while Assou-Ekotto is told to rush forward and provide width. This creates an asymmetrical system as Lennon, a traditional winger, tends to remain on the right touchline. Corluka remains behind him and rarely overlapping due to his lack of pace.

There is an almost total lack of height and strength in its attacking front-line. Robbie Keane is only 5'9, which has led to Crouch becoming more favoured as a "Plan B". This has tended to mean, when the Defoe/Keane/Modrić/Lennon play together, that the team is forced into quick, short and low passing with a lot of movement. With Keane, more high and long balls can be used.

In central midfield, Palacios is deployed as a ball-winning midfielder to break up play and then use his adequate pace and passing ability to begin attacks. Huddlestone will often sit deep and attempt to spray long-range passes to players in space. In defence the more technical Woodgate is encouraged to sit deeper and cover Ledley King.

Position	Player	Role	Duty
GK	Heurelho Gomes	Sweeper Keeper	Defend
DL	Benoît Assou-Ekotto	Wing Back	Automatic
DCI	Jonathan Woodgate	Centre Back	Cover
DCr	Ledley King	Centre Back	Stopper
DR	Vedran Ćorluka	Full Back	Automatic
MCI	Wilson Palacios	Ball-Winning Midfeilder	Defend
MCr	Tom Huddlestone	Deep-lying Playmaker	Support
MR	Aaron Lennon	Winger	Attack
AML	Luka Modrić	Advanced Playmaker	Attack
FCI	Jermaine Defoe	Poacher	Attack
FCr	Peter Crouch/Robbie Keane	Target Man / Deep-lying Forward	Support

Instructions	
Philosophy	Balanced
Passing	Shorter
Creative Freedom	More Expressive
Closing Down	Press More
Tackling	Default
Marking	Default
Crossing	Float Crosses
Roaming	More Roaming

Historical Tactics

Some players of Football Manager like to look a little further back than the past nine years. What about the 1970s? Or the 1960s? Or even the 1920s? What were those amazing tactical innovations which stunned the world when they were invented, and could they be recreated now? Systems such as Total Football, the Wingless Wonders, W-M, Catenaccio – alongside classic teams such as the 1970 Brazil side, or the Mighty Magyars – become the stuff of legend.

We've begun to compile some of these immortal tactical styles in this final section of the appendix. Our work will never be done because there are simply so many different clubs and managers that are interesting enough to want to recreate. If you want to see whether Brazil's magical side could be reborn, or if you simply want to see just how defensively unsound the W-M would be in the modern Premier League, then this section is for you. If you would like to comment on any of these formations or suggest your own for future editions of the appendix, visit the forum links in the relevant chapters.

Updated in 1.1

Brazil 1970 forward settings updated. With thanks to **Jaswarbrick**.

Totaalvoetball goal keeper updated. With thanks to **gazsmith6**.

Brazil 1970

Manager: Mauro Zagallo

Country: Brazil

Modern Notation: 4-2-4

Era: Early Modern

Honours: World Cup 1970

Forum Discussion: <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10306>.

Contributor: Millie



The 1970 World Cup had arguably the greatest England side of all time, one of the greatest West German sides of all time and, of course, *the* greatest side of all time. Brazil played an almost naïve brand of incredibly attacking and attractive football which marked the last hurrah of the early-modern era and the beginning of the new. Oh, yeah – and it scored *that* goal.

The side had a very simple philosophy – you score two, we’ll score five. The creative talents of the forward players were supplemented by attacking intelligence from all over the pitch. Carlos Alberto went on to become the template for attacking full backs; Pelé the greatest forward of all time. The team attacked from all areas of the pitch, and was so good at holding on to the ball that the defensive frailties in the side were rarely exposed. Here we have expressed the formation as 4-2-4, but you could also call it a 4-2-3-1, with Tostão as the lone striker and Rivellino, Pelé, and Jairzinho as attackers just behind him.

To say there were no tactics in the 1970 side is a gross exaggeration. But there is certainly a fluency here which excelled because the players were, by in large, just told to do what they did best. It is difficult to see this philosophy working in the modern era, but that hasn’t stopped people trying.

Position	Player (1970 World Cup Final)	Role	Duty
GK	Félix	Goalkeeper	Defend
DL	Everaldo	Wing Back	Auto
DCI	Piazza	Centre Back	Defend
DCr	Hércules Bito	Centre Back	Defend
DR	Carlos Alberto	Wing Back	Auto
MCI	Gérson	Deep-lying Playmaker	Support
MCI	Clodoaldo	Ball-Winning Midfielder	Defend
FL	Rivellino	Winger	Attack
FCI	Pelé	Trequartista	Attack
FCr	Tostão	Trequartista	Attack
FR	Jairzinho	Inside Forward	Attack

Instructions	
Philosophy	Very Fluid
Passing	Default
Creative Freedom	More Expressive
Closing Down	Stand-off More
Tackling	Default
Marking	Default
Crossing	Default
Roaming	More Roaming

Catenaccio

Manager: Helenio Herrera

Club: Internazionale

Country: Italy

Modern Notation: 4-5-1

Era: Early Modern

Honours: European Cup 1965

Forum Discussion: <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10307.0>

Contributor: Millie



Catenaccio is infamous. Hated by some (including Bill Shankly) for its cynical, game-killing nature, others find it one of the most fascinating tactical evolutions for the way it grinds out the necessary results. Often thought of as the default setting for Italian sides, in reality true catenaccio differs from the modern Italian 5-4-1 in that it is asymmetrical.

The left wing back is encouraged to run from deep to give width on the left when attacking. The right winger, on the other hand, is encouraged to track back and cover the right hand side when defending. The sweeper or “libero” acts as a catenaccio or bolt deep in the centre of the field, while his two centre backs patrol the defensive line. The midfield acts as a shield for the defence, with one of the midfielders winning the ball and the other playing penetrating passes from deep. Finally, the left-most attacking midfielder uses his vision to pick out passes for the two forwards; one a deeper lying inside forward surging from midfield, and the other a lone striker.

The example used here is the team that lost the European Cup final to Celtic in 1967. Other versions of catenaccio may vary from this model, including the Inter side which won the European Cup in 1965. One of the MCs is often dragged back to DMC.

Position	Player (vs Celtic, 1967 EC Final)	Role	Duty
GK	Giuliano Sarti	Goalkeeper	Defend
SW	Armando Picchi	Sweeper	Defend
DL	Giacinto Facchetti	Wing Back	Automatic
DCI	Aristide Guarneri	Centre Back	Defend
DCr	Tarcisio Burgnich	Centre Back	Defend
MCI	Giancarlo Bedin	Ball-Winning Midfielder	Support
MCI	Mauro Bicieli	Deep-lying Playmaker	Support
MR	Angelo Domenghini	Defensive Winger	Automatic
AMCI	Mario Corso	Advanced Playmaker	Attack
AMCr	Sandro Mazzola	Inside Forward	Attack
FC	Renato Cappellini	Advanced Forward	Attack

Instructions	
Philosophy	Very Rigid
Passing	Default
Creative Freedom	More Disciplined
Closing Down	Press More
Tackling	Default
Marking	Man
Crossing	Default
Roaming	Default

England 1966**Manager:** Alf Ramsey**Country:** England**Modern Notation:** 4-3-3, 4-1-3-2**Era:** Early Modern**Honours:** World Cup 1966**Forum Discussion:** <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10198.0>**Contributor:** Millie

The “wingless wonders” of 1966 brought England their only international success. They were a development of Ramsey’s 4-2-4 which had brought him success at Ipswich Town. The wingers were pushed inside and star player Bobby Charlton was asked to play deeper than the front line and create a link between attack and the midfield. Crucially, Nobby Stiles was pulled back and acted as the hard defensive midfielder, as willing to kick his opponents as the ball.

The creativity of Alan Ball, as well as the defensive skills of Bobby Moore helped the side retain its defensive shape and create space despite the lack of wide players. The other DC, Jack Charlton, was not the most talented defender in the country, but his height and ability to clear the ball were complementary to Moore’s unsurpassed ability to read a pass and remain cool under pressure.

Some may argue for the MCs to be pushed up to AMCI/r alongside Charlton to create more of a 4-1-3-2, which is how Stiles described the formation in his autobiography. However, it is clear that Charlton played in a more advanced role than the two central midfielders, though not quite as a forward in his own right.

Position	Player (1966 World Cup Final)	Role	Duty
GK	Gordon Banks	Goalkeeper	Defend
DL	Ray Wilson	Full Back	Automatic
DCI	Jack Charlton	Centre Back	Stopper
DCr	Bobby Moore	Centre Back	Cover
DR	George Cohen	Full Back	Automatic
DMC	Nobby Stiles	Ball winning midfielder	Defend
MCI	Alan Ball	Advanced Playmaker	Support
MCI	Martin Peters	Central Midfielder	Support
AMC	Bobby Charlton	Trequartista	Attack
FCl	Roger Hunt	Complete Forward	Attack
FCr	Geoff Hurst	Poacher	Attack

Instructions	
Philosophy	Rigid
Passing	More Direct
Creative Freedom	Default
Closing Down	Stand-off More
Tackling	More Aggressive
Marking	Man Marking
Crossing	Default
Roaming	Default

Totaalvoetball

Manager: Rinus Michels

Country: Netherlands

Modern Notation: 4-3-3

Era: Early Modern

Honours: European Cup x3, World Cup Final

Forum Discussion: <http://forums.fm-britain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10308.0>

Contributor: Millie



Total Football is the Holy Grail for a lot of Football Manager players. I guarantee you that this will cause a lot of debate. So, as disclaimer, I am not saying that this is *the* way to re-create the Ajax/Netherlands style of the early 1970s. But it is one way, taken mainly from *Brilliant Orange* by David Winner.

Total Football used a lot of player swapping and overlapping, especially in the “columns” up and down the pitch. So, the wingers and full backs would swap, the central midfield and the forwards, and so on. It was not a free-for-all, however, with a good structural framework marshalled by the enigmatic captain Johan Cruyff.

The system requires very well rounded and exceptionally gifted technical players, but it also requires stamina – the Dutch system introduced modern “pressing” to Western Europe, and relied on squeezing the opposition heavily when on the defence and exploding wide and deep once the ball was regained.

For this reason, it is difficult to equate the “role” and “duty” system with Totaalvoetball. But it is possible – for all the interchanging and swapping there was a definite system in place with the Dutch over this period. Much like the real thing, however, I doubt there is one “right” answer as to how to go about it.

Position	Player (Ned., 1974 World Cup Final)	Role	Duty
GK	Jan Jongbloed	Sweeper Keeper	Defend
SW	Arie Haan	Libero	Attack
DL	Ruud Krol	Wing Back	Automatic
DC	Wim Rijsbergen	Ball-Playing Defender	Stopper
DR	Wim Suurbier	Wing Back	Automatic
MCI	Willem van Hanegem	Advanced Playmaker	Support
MCC	Johan Neeskens	Box-to-Box Midfeilder	Support
MCI	Wim Jansen	Advanced Playmaker	Support
FL	Rob Rensenbrink	Winger	Attack
FC	Johan Cruyff	Complete Forward	Support
FR	Johnny Rep	Winger	Attack

Instructions	
Philosophy	Very Fluid
Passing	Shorter
Creative Freedom	More Expressive
Closing Down	Press More
Tackling	More Aggressive
Marking	Default
Crossing	Default
Roaming	More Roaming

“W-M”**Manager:** Herbert Chapman**Club:** Arsenal**Country:** England**Modern Notation:** 3-4-3, 3-2-2-3, 3-2-5**Era:** Pre-War**Honours:** Football League, FA Cup**Forum Discussion:** <http://forums.fmbritain.co.uk/index.php?topic=10309.0>**Contributor:** Millie

In response to the new offside law in the 1920s, Herbert Chapman dropped one of his centre halves into the defence and the modern centre back was born. To add more coverage in the midfield, the inside forwards were told to drop into the hole left by the centre half. This created a W at the back and an M up front.

This formation would probably come unstuck quite quickly in modern football, but given that many teams now only play with one forward it may give opportunities for one of the centre backs in the 4-3-3 to push into the midfield when attacking – this would create a similar shape to this, though it is probably better to designate a centre back as a ball playing defender to achieve this effect than permanently excluding him from the defensive line.

Chapman was the first, and remains only one of three men to win the English title with more than one club. The W-M formed the basis of what would become the 4-4-2 in England, as another centre-half was sacrificed to the defence and the wingers were pulled back from their ultra-attacking positions.

Position	Player (Arsenal, 1930 FA Cup Final)	Role	Duty
GK	Charlie Preedy	Goalkeeper	Defend
DL	Eddie Hapgood	Full Back	Defend
DC	Bill Seddon	Centre Back	Cover
DR	Tom Parker	Full Back	Defend
DMCl	Bob John	Defensive Midfielder	Automatic
DMCr	Alf Baker	Defensive Midfielder	Automatic
AMCl	Alex James	Inside Forward	Support
AMCr	David Jack	Inside Forward	Support
FL	Cliff Bastin	Winger	Attack
FC	Jack Lambert	Poacher	Attack
FR	Joe Hulme	Winger	Attack

Instructions	
Philosophy	Rigid
Passing	More Direct
Creative Freedom	Default
Closing Down	Stand-off More
Tackling	More Aggressive
Marking	Man Marking
Crossing	Default
Roaming	Stick to Position