ChessClip.io User Manual

The purpose of this application is to empower any chess player to efficiently create high-quality .MP4 chess videos that meet modern social media standards. Whether for TikTok, Instagram Reels, Twitter/X, or YouTube Shorts, our application converts uploaded chess games into video format automatically. Users can then easily make edits, adjust start/end positions, add titles, and include time-synchronized elements like text, audio, or images (coming soon).

The content created can be educational or humorous, allowing users to showcase an entire game or highlight a specific sequence of moves. With options to export in vertical or horizontal formats, your videos will be ready for seamless sharing on your preferred social media platforms.

By sharing high-quality videos, you can grow your social following and enhance your influence in the chess world. This is an effective strategy for coaches to attract new students and for comedic creators to expand their reach and engagement within the chess community.

There are a few sections in the Video Editor that you should familiarize yourself with.
1. **Main Chessboard:** This interactive board allows you to visualize the game as it plays out. Edits made here will appear in your exported video. Note that you currently cannot diverge into separate lines from the initial uploaded game; however, that feature is in development.
2. **Playback Buttons** - The playback buttons below the Main Chessboard allows users to scroll through the moves of the game. These buttons also have keyboard hotkeys for increased efficiency.
   1. **Space Bar Hotkey / Play Button**: Automatically plays out the video on the Main Chessboard. Clicking it again pauses the video.
   2. **Right Arrow Hotkey / Single Right Arrow:** Transitions to the next move/frame on the Main Chessboard.
   3. **Left Arrow Hotkey / Single Left Arrow:** Transitions to the previous move/frame on the Main Chessboard.
   4. **Down Arrow Hotkey / Double Right Arrow:** Transitions to the last move/frame on the Main Chessboard.
   5. **Up Arrow Hotkey / Double Left Arrow:** Transitions to the first move/frame on the Main Chessboard.
3. **Chess Timeline** - This displays each consecutive chess move in a framed format, side by side. The square board highlighted in red represents the current frame that is shown on the Main Chessboard and able to be edited. This move is also highlighted in red on the Game Tab on the Main Menu, described below. Clicking the arrow hotkeys described above allows you to scroll through the timeline.
4. **Main Menu** - There are several tabs within this menu, each with their own purposes, to allow for further customization of your video.
   1. **Game Tab:** This tab displays the game in modified Portable Game Notation (mPGN) format (e.g., 1. White e4, 1. Black e5, 2. White Nf3, etc.). The left and right arrow hotkeys scroll through the mPGN and the Chess Timeline simultaneously. The move highlighted in red corresponds with the frame highlighted in red on the Chess Timeline, and the position that appears on the Main Chessboard.
      - **Default* Frame Length:** Adjust the default frame length (0.5s to 2s) for the video, applicable to all moves unless individually overwritten.
      - **Set As First/Last Frame:** Define the start and end positions of the video segment to be displayed.
   2. **Move Settings Tab:** Clicking this tab allows you to make edits to the specific chess move/frame highlighted in the Timeline/Game Tab.

- **Individual** Frame Length:** Adjust the frame length for the specific highlighted move.
- **Set As First/Last Frame:** Define start and end positions for the video, similar to the Game Tab.
- **Add Text:** Add descriptive text to the position. Frame length adjusts proportionally to text length, but can be manually overridden.
- **Add Transition:** Apply visual effects to the transition from the previous frame to the currently highlighted frame (e.g., Shake).
- **Add Element:** Layer images or GIFs onto the video, uploaded from your files or common elements like the "!! Brilliant" icon.
- **Record Audio:** Record microphone audio for the individual frame. Individual frame length adjusts to accommodate the length of the recording. Synchronized with webcam if enabled.

3. **Settings Tab:** Adjustments for the entire video are made here.
   - **Default* Frame Length:** Same as in the Game Tab.
   - **Video Title:** Text appears above the chessboard in the exported video as a title.
   - **Flip Board:** Swap between white or black's perspective.
   - **Font:** Set font type and color.
   - **Move Annotations Toggle:** Display moves in mPGN format as they play out on the board. (e.g. 1. e4 —> 1. e5 —> 2. Nf3 —> 2. Nc6)
   - **Engine Suggestions Toggle:** Display the best move arrows from the Stockfish engine.

   Coming Soon:
   - **Microphone:** Add VoiceOver to your video.
   - **Webcam:** Add webcam recordings synchronized with microphone audio.
   - **Speech To Text:** Automatically annotate voice recordings into text.
   - **Text To Speech:** Convert written text to robotic voice.
   - **Board & Piece Library:** Customize the colour and style of the board and pieces.

4. **Layout Tab:** Set the dimensions and template of the video.
   - **Vertical/Horizontal Dimensions:** Choose 9:16 Vertical for TikTok/YouTube Shorts/Instagram Reels/Twitter Video or 16:9 Horizontal for YouTube Widescreen.
   - **Templates:** Select a template for organizing elements like the Title, Move Annotations, and Text.
5. **Export Tab:** Steps to finalize and export your video.
   - **Generate Video:** Create the final video output with the chosen edits, dimensions, and template. Preview the video by clicking play.
   - **Export Video:** Download the generated video in .MP4 format. If unsatisfied, continue making edits before re-generating and exporting.

How To Make Your First Video

Step 1 - Input Your Game:
Each video begin at the Dashboard, where you can import the chess game which you wish to edit using one of the following methods:
1. **Upload PGN File:** Click the 'Upload PGN File' button to browse and select a PGN file from your computer.
2. **Paste Game Link:** Paste a game link from either chess.com or lichess.org into the provided field.
3. **Paste PGN Text:** Manually paste the complete PGN text (e.g., 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. etc.). Ensure it matches this format for proper recognition.

If you wish to view the game from Black's perspective, click the 'Flip Board' button.

Once your game is uploaded, click 'Start Editing Your Game' to proceed to the Video Editor. Please note that it may take a moment to load, depending on the length of the game.

Step 2 - Adjust The Frames & Their Lengths:
By default, the entire game will be displayed from start to finish at '1 Second Per Frame'. This default setting can be modified to better suit the purpose of your video.
- **Set First and Last Frames:** Navigate to the Game Tab or Chess Timeline and select the frame you wish to mark as the starting point of your video. Click 'Set As First Frame'. Similarly, highlight the frame you wish to mark as the endpoint and click 'Set As Last Frame'. Your video will now begin and end at the specified frames, showing only the chosen segment of the game. If you wish to display the entire game from start to finish, ignore this step.
- **Adjust Default Speed:** Modify the overall pace of your video by adjusting the Default Frame Length in the Game Tab or Settings Tab. This setting will define the duration for each frame unless specified otherwise. Warning: Changing the

Step 3 - Customize Individual Video Frames:
- **Select and Highlight Frames:** Choose a specific move/frame to be highlighted in red by clicking on it in the Game Tab or Chess Timeline. This move will also be displayed at the bottom of the Main Menu.
- **Edit Move Settings:** Click on the Move Settings Tab at the bottom left of the Main Menu to access customization options for the selected frame.
  - Adjust the Individual Frame Length for a detailed explanation or emphasis on a particular move.
  - Add text annotations to describe the position or the significance of the move. The duration of the frame will automatically adjust to accommodate the text length, but you can manually reset it if needed.
  - Include transitions between frames for smooth visual effects, like a shake or fade-in.
  - Add elements such as images or gifs to highlight important moments. You can upload your own or select from a library of common elements like the "Brilliant Move '!!' " icon.
  - Record audio directly within the frame to provide commentary or explanations to that move. If the Webcam feature is enabled, your webcam recording will also sync with the frame.

Step 4 - Adjust Final Global Settings:
- **Set Video Title:** In the Settings Tab, input a title for your video. This title will be displayed above the chessboard in the exported video.
- **Toggle Features:**

- Enable Move Annotations to display the mPGN format of each move as they are played out on the board (e.g., 1. e4, 1. …e5).
- Enable Engine Suggestions to show arrows representing the best moves as suggested by the Stockfish engine.

Step 5 - Finalize & Export:
- **Select Layout:** Go to the Export Tab and choose the layout of your video. You can select Vertical (9:16) for platforms like TikTok or YouTube Shorts, or Horizontal (16:9) for YouTube widescreen or long-form content. Explore different templates within the chosen layout to find the most visually appealing arrangement of elements like the title, move annotations, and text.
- **Generate Video:** Click 'Generate Video' to create a preview of your edited video. Watch the video to ensure it meets your expectations.
- **Make Further Edits (If Necessary):** If you need to make further adjustments, return to the previous steps and continue editing. After each round of edits, click 'Generate Video' again to update the preview with the most recent changes.
- **Export Final Video:** Once you are satisfied with the video, click 'Export .MP4 Video' to download the final version. Your video is now ready to be shared on social media platforms.

WARNING: Be prepared to go viral.