

Good & Bad Bishops

Chess

What makes a bishop bad, and the three ways to fix one.

Good bishop

- Own pawns on the opposite colour
- Open diagonals
- Active outside the pawn chain
- Often better than a knight in open positions

Bad bishop

- Own pawns on its own colour
- Blocked diagonals
- Trapped behind the pawn chain
- Common in the French and closed centres

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Three fixes: move the blocking pawns, trade the bishop off, or reroute it outside the chain before locking it in.

A bad bishop that defends important pawns is not always worth trading. Sometimes it is doing an unglamorous but necessary job.