

Rook Endgames

Chess

The most common endgame, and the two positions that decide most of them.

Lucena — winning

- You have a pawn on the 7th
- Your king is in front of it
- Their rook is checking from the side
- Technique: build a bridge
- Rook to the 4th rank, then interpose

Philidor — drawing

- You are defending
- Their pawn is not yet on the 6th
- Rook on your OWN third rank
- When the pawn advances, drop the rook back
- Check from behind, endlessly

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

These two positions decide an enormous share of rook endgames. They are the highest-value memorisation in chess.

The general rule: put your rook **BEHIND** the passed pawn — yours to push it, theirs to restrain it.