ChessNoter
Tips and Accessories

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I. A Collection of Tips

- A piece is lit up but you can't press on any other piece.
  - Try pressing on the lit-up piece to de-select it. Then proceed as usual.
- The moves seem off by a move
  - Try playing back a few moves, you may be able to then proceed forward playing in moves to get back to where you should be.
- Feature: If you discover that a piece you want to move can't be moved now because it was played to the wrong square earlier.
  - You can move back to the incorrect move, play in the correct move and then, simply advance forward to the current move. I have seen this work multiple times going back 10 ply or more.
- Always have a score sheet with you in case you discover you can't enter moves correctly anymore or what you have entered is too messed up for you to try and fix it. Also, in case you run out of power. Simply start keeping manual score from where you left off. If you have time you can try and back-fill a few moves from your opponent's score sheet.
  - NOTE: If you import your PGN of the game from the device into ChessBase, ChessBase will correctly import all the moves to the point where an illegal or non-sense move was played and will then put the rest of the moves which it couldn't play as a comment in the game. This lets you see the moves that couldn't be entered to aid you in figuring out what was actually played so you can try and fix the game score.

II. Battery Backup

You may have charging related issues for one or more reasons:

- If you are playing in a "one-day" tournament, your ChessNoter, if you don't turn it off, would likely be on for 8 to 12 hours.
- If you are playing a multi-day and forget to fully recharge your ChessNoter.
- You play one game a week and you forgot to recharge your unit after last week's round.
- You tend to leave your chess gear in your car and thus you forgot to recharge.
- Your device is getting older and the charge seems to be getting shorter.

Phone Battery Banks or Chargers are compact so keeping one or even two in your Chess gear bag is probably feasible for you. Many of these come with cables built in. Make sure you pack spare cables if your charger doesn't come with cables built in

Get two so when you forget rechargeable one, you have a second one you may have remembered.

Here is an example model:

Sethruki Smallest Portable Charger with Built-in Cables 5000mAh – Link – $17.99

III. Pointing Devices - Stylus

Tips can wear out over time, or you may misplace the one you are using so buy several to have spares on hand. Search for **Stylus** on Amazon

Pay attention to:

- Is it "short" or "long" – I recommend longer ones as are easier to reach for
- Is it cylindrical or hex or other shape:
  - Cylindrical can roll unless it comes with a clip on the end.
  - Cylindrical can be much harder to pick up.
  - I recommend non-cylindrical. These may be harder to find
- A rounded wider tip will treat your screen better.
- Is it light weight or "heavy" – I recommend heavy over light
- Make sure it is for Touch Screen use

For the stylus to work it needs to be electrically conductive thus they are made of some kind of metal.

If you want to make the stylus placement back on the table into a thud instead of a clang, you can search for "Small Mouse pad". It will dampen the sound of the stylus as well as provide a firm grip on the table for your stand. However, it will be yet another item to carry, pack and deploy.

Example: Small Mouse pad (5.5" x 7.5") – Link - $3.99

IV. Stands

There are many choices for cell phone stands available.

Probably the most important thing to consider is how you will pack the stand with your chess gear.

If you are very tight on space, you will want to get the most compact and sleek stand. If you don't really care about space, you can go with the more solidly built but bigger stands.

Personal review: I have used all three stands described further below:

- Choice A: This stand packs away really well, but I dislike what happens when you try to pick up and move it or what happens when setting it up.
- Choice B: This unit is great but just too big for my current chess gear bag. I have several of these for regular cell phone use at home at various locations.
- Choice C: While it takes some time and effort to get this Magnetic holder solution put together, I leave the phone attached to the stand even when packed away in my chess gear bag where it just barely fits. It's easy to pick up and move.

A. Adjustable height, very compact

Pros: Adjustable height and angle, Very low profile for storage

Cons: Less stable when used with height. Awkward to setup and fold down. If you need to pick it up and move it or carry it with the phone device, you pretty much have to use two hands as the angle and arm rely on gravity to stay in place.

Despite the cons, if you don't have to move it, once set up it is a nice solid unit and the greatest feature of it is that it folds down flat.

Foldable Cell Phone Stand - Link - $15.99

B. Adjustable height, not very compact

Pros: Very Stable, Wide base, Adjustable height and angle

Cons: Does not fold down flat or smooth making it somewhat bulky

Lamicall Cell Phone Stand for Desk - Link - $7.98

C. Adjustable height, somewhat compact, Magnetic Mount

Update 2026-07-14: After using the device directly below for some time I no longer like it. It's not stable on an uneven surface, which tales may not look it but may indeed be uneven. Also, I grew to hate the folding of the legs because they seem to always not stay fully extended.

See next page for alternative option

This is the original recommendation of 2026-04-09

This solution is specific for the ChessNoter device that is based on the Nexus 5X, the model that lies flat, not the curved back (Nexus 7)

If you like the strength of Magnetic Mounts, then you will like this solution. This solution requires you to make three purchases and do a small bit of assembly.

- The Stand, the case and the magnetic mounting kit for the case.
  - You may want/feel you need one more item, small grippy rubber feet

Pros: You can leave the stand attached to the phone all the time, even when taking it out of your chess gear bag to charge the device.

Cons: The two back legs can take a moment to grip to fold them out. The legs may fold back some if you move the stand, the stand becomes less stable if a leg crosses over to another table. The grip of the legs may slip too much for your liking so you will need to get stick on feet. However, not all stick-on feet are as grippy as others so you might end up buying feet that you end up not using.

ULANZI SK29 Magnetic Phone Tripod – Link - was available for $26.99

LG Nexus 5X Case - Link - $12.99

iOttie Universal MagSafe Ring Adapter for Android 2 pack – Link - $9.99

Update: Alternate Magnetic Mount

This solution is specific for the ChessNoter device that is based on the Nexus 5X, the model that lies flat, not the curved back (Nexus 7)

If you like the strength of Magnetic Mounts, then you will like this solution. This solution requires you to make three purchases and do a small bit of assembly.

- The Stand, the case and the magnetic mounting kit for the case.
    - You may want/feel you need one more item, small grippy rubber feet

Pros: You can leave the stand attached to the phone all the time, even when taking it out of your chess gear bag to charge the device. There are three hinged pieces which will allow you to angle the phone precisely as you like, even some degree of forward and back relative to the base. The base is rectangular and fairly stable

Cons: The folding of the hinges does require effort to fold and unfold but it stays in place well. The grip of the legs may slip too much for your liking so you will need to get stick on feet. However, not all stick-on feet are as grippy as others so you might end up buying feet that you end up not using. Probably the most expensive stand among those being suggested

Dual Magnetic Phone Holder by Mosenvka – Link - $26.09

Additional Option for greater stability:

Solution suggested. Get a steel plate and rubberize it on both sides.

While the base of the stand recommended in this section is relatively stable it might tip over to the right or left if knocked. Also, you may be adding grippy feet to prevent it from sliding. To avoid both of these, you can leverage the fact that the base is strongly magnetic.

Cons: Add greater height when folded. If you think of the "flat solution" mentioned earlier in this stands section as being 1 unit high when folded, this particular mount folds to be two units high. If you now add a base as being suggested here, you are now at three units high when folded. Heavier. More cost to get configured.

Components:

- 1/8 Round Steel Plate Base 12 inch Diameter – Link - $24.99
- Non Slip Self Adhesive Silicone Cuttable Furniture Pads – Link - $6.99