

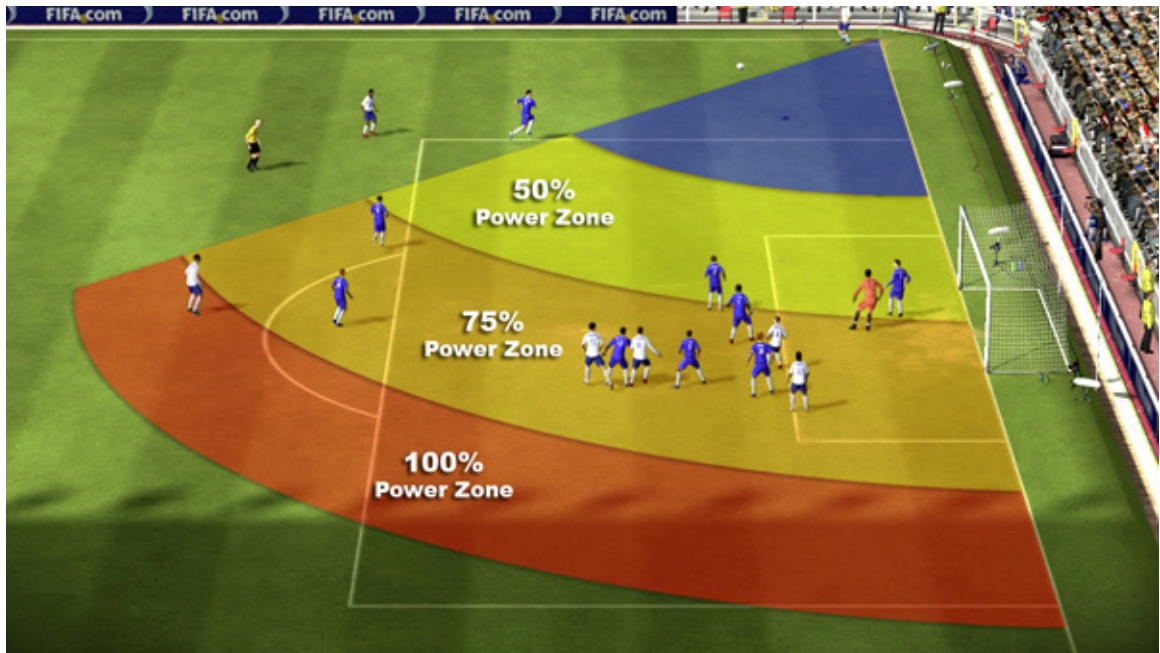
FIFA 09 GUIDE

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SET PIECES

CORNERS

Corner kicks are an extremely effective dead ball opportunity to get a high percentage chance at a goal. The power meter is the key to hitting your target player, so a "Corner Distance Chart" has been provided to give you an average range for the power you select. Other types of crosses can catch your opponent off guard and give you a quick chance at a goal. See below for tips on when to use these most effectively.



Lob Cross

The lob cross is a high arcing corner kick that is best suited to picking out teammates inside the penalty area, either around the penalty spot or the front or back post. How much you charge up the power meter determines how far the cross goes in. A rule of thumb is the front post is a 50% power up on the meter and the back post is a 70% power up. With that in mind, pick out your target, determine the distance aim and let it go. Also, while powering up the right stick can be used to put a curve on the ball. This works well for in-swinging cross because the keeper thinks the ball is too far out, which often will freeze him on the line and prevent him from coming out and making a simple grab, ending your scoring chance.



Low Cross

The low cross is a very effective tool to catch your opponent off guard. The low cross is more of a driven cross that is usually one touched on for another team mate or a direct shot on the net. This cross is usually whipped in with a lot more pace than the typical high arcing cross, and can really cause your opponent problems. A good tip to remember if you are on the receiving end of this is to look around as you see it coming in, and if you do not have a strike at goal, then look to one touch or "flick" the ball onto another player. Use the receiver to change the direction of the ball and set up some interesting opportunities, or just go in with a full volley or header and stretch the old onion bag!



Ground Cross

This is much like the low cross, but is passed in with pace along the ground. The best way to do this is to look at your closest player and see where the defender is marking him. If the defender is playing off of him, then aim at him and strike a firm cross to see if he has a look at the net or can pass again to a teammate in a better position to finish. The ground cross is extremely effective in setting up for a quick attempt on goal and your opponent is usually not expecting it.



Short Corner

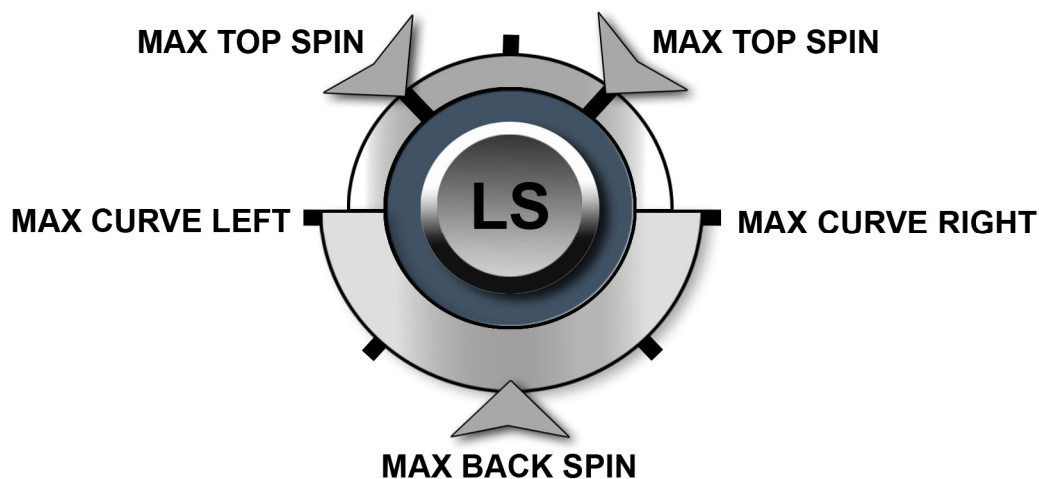
Sometimes the best chance you might have is to play the ball short to a player running up from the back, who then launches his own cross from the crossing zone or passes the ball to another target player. This tends to catch most teams off guard, and can force them to rush the player and may leave some key target players inside the box for a possible goal.



FREE KICKS

There is a built in feature in the arena mode that allows you to work on your free kicks, and it is strongly recommended that you take advantage of it to hone your skills. Simply move your chosen arena player anywhere on the pitch and hit the D-pad in any direction and you will immediately be set up to take the free kick from that spot. If you are anywhere in the penalty box, you will immediately be set up to hit a penalty kick. When aiming, use the exact screen center as your aiming point and target. Play with various types of power on the meter to judge distances.

Also, the Left thumbstick can be used to put spin on the ball while the meter is powering up. Holding the thumbstick left/right will create maximum curl on the ball. Holding the thumbstick to the Upper/Left or upper/right will create a shot shaped with topspin. You can hold down on the thumbstick to create backspin.



Play with how long to hold the stick over to hit that sweet spot on the goal. Hold the stick all the way over until the player strikes the ball; you can put a seriously nasty arc on the ball, catching the keeper completely unaware it will even be on goal and usually catching him flatfooted. Other types of free kicks are mentioned below.

Short Pass

This is a simple touch pass restart which allows your team to maintain possession and continue on to the attack. Keep an eye on the positioning of the opposition's players to determine where best to hit the short pass.



Lob Pass

The lob pass is used to hit target players to continue the attack a little further down field. Use the radar to notice which of your players has the best position and is under the least threat by the defending team.



Shot

If the free kick is within target range for a shot on goal, sometimes a direct shot is a possibility. This shot is more of a controlled instep shot for deadly accuracy, aimed usually at one of the upper corners of the goal. Take time in the arena to really practice from various locations. Remember to use the screen dead center to aim, and practice distances to learn how much to power up the meter. Also while the meter is powering up, lean the left thumbstick either left or right to put curve on the shot and catch the keeper off guard. There is the possibility of putting a dramatic arc on the ball if you hold the stick all the way over until the ball is struck. You can also push the stick upper/left or upper/right for a topspin blast. Again, practice in the arena until you become a deadly sniper.



Driven Shot

The driven shot is a straight powerful shot directly at the goal taken full force with the laces of the boot. This takes some planning to avoid the wall, so scan the area carefully before choosing the best angle to hit the shot. Also, see the "Shot Power/Elevation Chart" in the Attacking Controls section to determine how to power up the meter. Once again, use the arena to practice various distances and get comfortable with what works best for you.



Call Lay-off Player

Simply put, you can bring another player right next to you to confuse the defence as to which player is actually going to hit the shot. Usually, one player will approach from the right and one from the left, and each has the potential to hit opposite arcs on the ball. You will see below that you can choose either player to hit the shot. By adding curve to the ball on power up, it will be tough for your opponent to tell which way the ball will go. It is a good idea to bring the second player in; even if you do not intend to use him, it creates confusion for your opponent and adds to your unpredictability.



Lay-off Player Pass

Once you bring in the second player depending upon your range from goal, see if you have a close by player that could receive a simple pass and start a quick attack again. Again, check the radar and what you see on the screen to find the right target player.



Lay-off Player Shot

Use the layoff player to strike the shot on goal. Switch between your original player and the added target player randomly throughout the game so your opponent never knows who will play the ball. Locate your best angle with the best look at goal. Note the preferred foot of the shot taker and which player has the best angle to hit a critical target area on the goal. Judge your power on the meter carefully and add enough arc on the ball so it is difficult for the keeper to judge where the final path of your shot might end up. Take note of the positioning of the keeper and what location (near post or far post) looks like the best option.



Free Kick Defence/Wall

By default, the correct amount of players to go in the wall will be determined for you and is based on distance from your goal. To judge if you should have the wall jump, stay where it is or have a player rush the wall is based solely on where you feel the kick taker has the best opportunity to take a shot or lay off a pass. A good tip is to determine what you would do based on the players available to take the shot and work from there.

Jump

If you look at how your opponent is set up and it looks like from the position of the ball he might have a good shot at goal, or if further out might have a target player where he will more than likely play the ball over the wall with a lower trajectory, a jump might be a good option. Time it so that right as he strikes the ball, you jump the entire wall to try and stop the ball from making it to its target.



Wall Player Charge

With the selected player you can charge the wall again to try and keep the kick taker from getting the ball to its target. Take a look at what angle looks best for the shot taker to take, and switch to the right player to try and cut that off. Watch for potential lay off players and you could possibly be better served to charge a possible target player as well. Press and hold the X button on the PS3 and the A button on the XBOX 360 to perform this control.

THROW INS

Throw ins are not really rocket science, and usually do not involve a lot of trickery. However, it is a good idea not to aim at the player you want to throw the ball to right away; try to provide at least a little deception for your opponent. One good tip to use especially if there is a lot of player traffic around is to not aim at the intended target player until the last second before throwing, thus giving your opponent the least amount of time to react.

Throw Direction

The direction you aim is the direction in which the ball will be thrown. As mentioned above, try not to be too predictable. Attempt to fake out your opponent to committing to a player you do not intend to throw the ball to, and then change direction. Hit your target player and build the attack once again.



Short Throw

Use the X button on the PS3 and the A button on the XBOX 360 to hit the closest player in the direction your player is facing. A good tip if the player is marked is to immediately pass the ball back to the thrower to build the attack up once again.



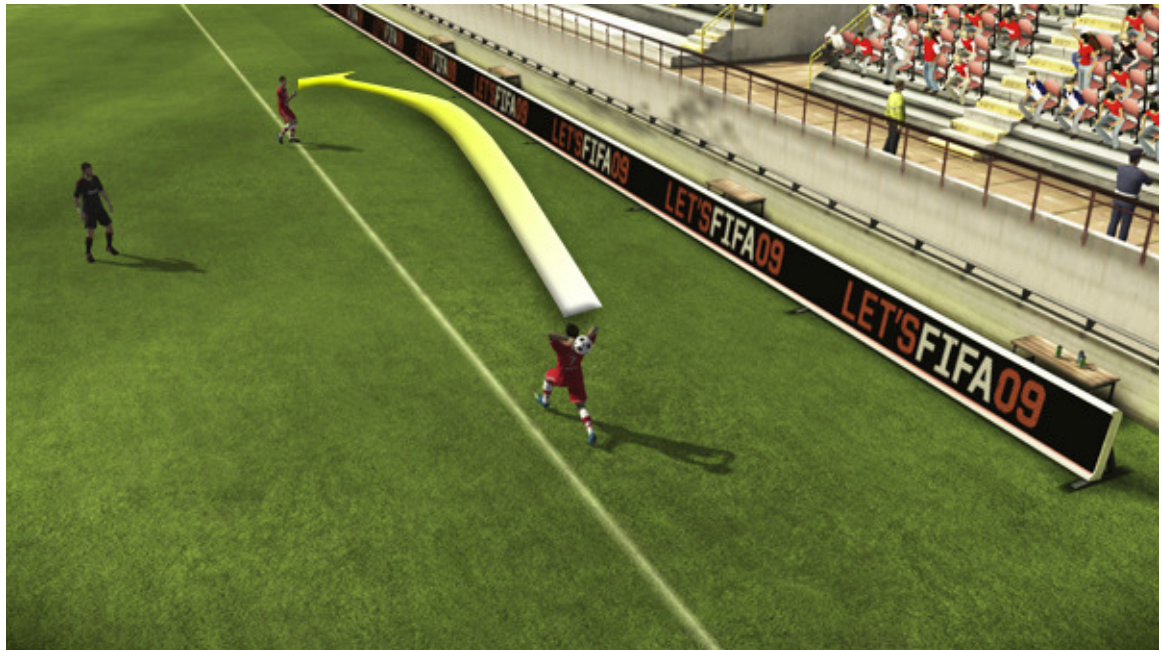
Manual Short Throw

A manual short throw throws the ball into space rather than to a player to allow one of your players to run on to the space to get the ball on the fly rather than receiving the throw from a standing position. Press the Triangle button on the PS3 or the Y button on XBOX 360 to trigger this short throw.



Long Throw

Press and hold the Square button on the PS3 or the X button on the XBOX 360 to achieve the desired distance to hit the intended player. The longer you hold the button, the further he will throw the ball. Again, make sure you are not obvious right away where you are aiming, so you do not give your opponent much time to set up.



Move Receiver

Tap the L1 button on the PS3 or the LB button on the XBOX 360 to gain control of a receiving player closest to the throw. Move the player where you want him to go, preferably to the most open space, and then tap the same button a second time to regain control of the thrower put the ball back in play.

