For instructions on downloading and installing Chess Forge, please refer to the link in the description to this video.

The best way to familiarize yourself with Chess Forge is to open one of the Workbooks from the distribution. Select File, Open Workbook, from the main menu, locate the folder you have unzipped the program to, and select one of the PGN files there.

The Chapters view will open. This particular Workbook has quite a few Chapters. Each chapter must have one Study Tree and may also contain Model Games and Exercises.

Let’s open one of the chapters by double clicking on its title, or by clicking on the Study Tree label.

We can now explore the variations in the study, add moves, delete or promote lines, add comments et cetera.

We can turn on the engine to see the evaluations as we browse.

The key differentiating feature of Chess Forge is the ability to train and practice against the Study Tree. Right click on any move and select Start Training.

Now make a move and watch the response from the Workbook, or the Coach as it is referred to in this context.

The Coach will tell us if our move was indeed in the Workbook and what were the alternatives if any.

If our move was not in the workbook, the program will immediately roll out the Stockfish engine to play against us from here. We can enjoy the game … or we can click above to go back a move or two, and restart our training.

Let’s exit the training session now and visit the other views. The Games view is exactly what you would expect. Just as in the Study Tree, you can browse and edit the game. If the chapter has multiple games you can move between them by clicking the arrows above the view.

The cool feature here is the ability to generate an exercise from any position. Just right click on a move and select Create Exercise from Here. The program will generate an Exercise and switch to the Exercises view which is exactly where we wanted to go anyway.

By the way, you can create exercise in exact same way from the Study Tree as well.

By default, the text of the Exercise is hidden and will be revealed upon clicking the Show Solution button. Note that we have the same browsing and editing capabilities as in other views.

Chess Forge allows you to import Games and Exercises from PGN files or create them in the program. Let’s make a sample exercise from scratch. Set up the position, declare castling rights, fill out the header and click OK.

Here we go…

That was a super quick tour of Chess Forge’s functionality. Download the distribution, unzip it and discover what Chess Forge can do for you.