

Short Videos of High-Level Hockey Illustrating Different Ways to Play

The videos we will analyze are from strong international teams playing on fast turf. While we may not be able to execute all the skills you see, the most important takeaway is to improve our ability to understand the game, by looking at:

- Where is the space to attack, or to be defended?
- Who is open, and who is being marked? How do people move off-ball for their teammates?
- How do the teams organize themselves to be open to receive passes and to make it difficult for the opponent?
- How do teams react to a turnover?

Week 1: Themes - formations, finding space

Formations (e.g. 4-3-3 or 2-3-5) describe how many players are in each row of defense/midfield/attack, and are easy to understand. However, what often matters most is how individual players accomplish their team goals with their playing tactics and positioning. This is the 'system of play' and is what brings a formation to life.

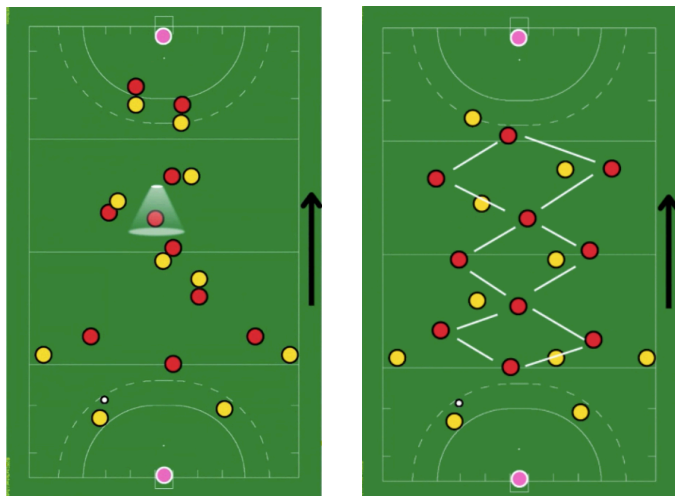
At the link at the end of this document there are four short clips of Germany men in black against Australia in gold shirts. Pause the video whenever you want during the clips to see the setup of the teams, and also to see the movements of the players to find space and to create overloads in different areas of the field.

What formation do you think Germany (black) is playing in each clip? Do you see anything unusual, or differences among the clips? What do you think Germany is trying to do in their buildup?

Is the Australian defense in the video clips playing man v. man marking or zonal? In the images below the defensive team is in red.

Man

Zonal



Is the Australian (gold) defense trying to shape play to a particular area of the field? What works well for the Australian defense, and what could be better?

In the **first clip**, Germany gets a circle penetration but the defense makes a stop. Do you see anything that Germany could have done better?

In the **second clip**, you can see the German formation being set up. Do you notice anything unusual? When Germany gets a circle penetration, why does this happen (both the actions of the attack and defenders). Again, pause the video as frequently as you need so that you can see where overloads are being created in attack.

In the **third clip**, there is a lot of swapping going on, but again there is a similar structure for Germany visible when you pause the video at different times. In this clip the attack did not progress but the outlet was successful and an opportunity to advance was created.

In the **fourth clip**, the outlet was not successful with a long aerial going over the sideline. What other options did black have?

The video clips: https://youtu.be/Tdbu1j4Ja_8