PGN-Capture

User Manual

Browser-based tool for recording chess games (including Chess960) by voice, board clicks, PGN import, and scoresheet scanning — then exporting standard PGN.

Version 1.2 · File: pgn-capture.html

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1. Introduction

PGN-Capture is a single HTML file application. Open **pgn-capture.html** in a modern browser. Recommended: **Google Chrome** or **Microsoft Edge** for speech recognition, microphone access, and the File System Access API (save/overwrite PGN files).

Main features: interactive board, voice input (English/German), Chess960 start positions (0–959), automatic ECO for standard chess, PGN save/load/append, scoresheet OCR, and a link to Blunder Check.

2. Screen layout

• **Title** — PGN-Capture
• **Header fields** — Event, Site, Date (defaults to today), Round, White, WhiteElo, Black, BlackElo, Result, ECO
• **Board** — pieces, status line (Start #, last move in figurine notation, side to move), Undo / Flip / New game
• **Voice input** — language, microphone; availability shown in brackets after the section title
• **PGN area** — live preview and buttons (Save, Load, Append, Copy, Scan, Blunder Check)

3. Getting ready to enter moves

When the app starts, a **Loading board…** overlay appears on the board. Clicks are disabled until the chess library and piece images are ready. When ready, the overlay disappears and a short message confirms that move entry can begin.

> *The opening book used for ECO is loaded in the background a moment later, in small steps, so it does not freeze board clicks.*

4. Game headers

Field	Description
Event, Site, Round	Free-text metadata (empty by default)
Date	Defaults to today’s date; can be changed with the date control
White / Black	Player names
WhiteElo / BlackElo	Optional ratings; only values 0–3999 (below 4000)
Result	* (ongoing), 1-0, 0-1, 1/2-1/2
ECO	Opening code; auto-filled for standard chess only; hidden for Chess960

New game clears all headers, sets Date back to today, and resets the board to start position 518.

5. Starting position and Chess960

Under the board, **Start #** accepts Chess960 numbers **0–959** (digits only, right-aligned). Clicking the field clears it for easy entry. Default is **518** (standard chess).

Changing the number loads that setup (with confirmation if moves exist). Non-518 games write [Variant "Chess960"], [SetUp "1"], and [FEN "…"] into the PGN. ECO is hidden for Chess960.

> *Note: Piece placement is correct for all 960 positions. Castling in non-standard setups may be limited by the chess library.*

6. Entering moves

6.1 Board clicks

Tap your piece, then a highlighted legal destination. Tap the same piece again to cancel. Promotions default to queen.

6.2 Voice input

Choose English or Deutsch, then Start listening. Allow the microphone if prompted. Examples: e2 e4, Nf3, castle; German: Springer f3, Rochade.

6.3 Status under the board

The last move is shown in figurine notation (e.g. 1. ♞f3). Turn and game-end messages appear on the right.

6.4 Undo, flip, new game

• **Undo move** — takes back the last move
• **Flip board** — reverses orientation only
• **New game** — next to Flip board; confirms if needed, clears headers, Date = today, start # = 518

7. PGN export and import

Save PGN — choose location and file name (Chrome/Edge) or download with a prompted name.
Load PGN — load a file and continue the game; headers are filled when present.
Append to PGN — append the current game to an existing file; may overwrite in place when permitted.
Copy PGN — copies the full text to the clipboard. A live preview is shown above the buttons.

8. Scan scoresheet (OCR)

Scan scoresheet → crop the move area → Recognize → correct text if needed → Apply moves. Printed sheets work better than handwriting.

9. Blunder Check

Opens https://thomasheyl.de/chess/tools/blunder-check.html with the current game as the **pgn** parameter.

10. ECO codes

For start position 518 only. The opening book loads in the background without blocking move entry. The deepest matching position (including transpositions) sets ECO. You can edit it manually. For Chess960 the field is hidden and omitted from the PGN.

11. Troubleshooting

Issue	What to try
Board still loading	Wait for overlay to clear; check network for chess.js / images
No microphone	Allow permission; Chrome/Edge; prefer https or localhost
Clicks feel slow at start	Wait for Ready message; ECO loads later and should not block
OCR poor results	Crop tightly; good light; edit text before Apply
Elo rejected	Only values below 4000 (0–3999) are allowed
Cannot overwrite PGN	Chrome/Edge + write permission; or Save as new file
ECO empty	Only for start 518; wait for book; set manually if needed