

# TACTICAL SITUATION 4



## Synchronised Movements of the Full Back and Wide Midfielder

The content in this section is from analysis of Diego Simeone's Atlético Madrid teams during the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 seasons.

The analysis is based on recurring patterns of play observed within the Atlético Madrid team. Once the same phase of play occurred several times (at least 10), the tactics would be seen as a pattern. The analysis on the following pages are examples of the team's tactics being used effectively.

Each action, pass, individual movement with or without the ball, and the positioning of each player on the pitch including their body shape, are presented.

The analysis is then used to create a session to coach this specific tactical situation.

# SYNCHRONISED MOVEMENTS OF THE FULL BACK AND WIDE MIDFIELDER

## 1a. Creating a 2v1 Situation within the Opposing Full Back's Zone of Responsibility with Synchronised Movements



The synchronised movements of the full back and the wide midfielder can lead to 2v1 situation being created within the opposing full back's zone of responsibility.

In this tactical example, the Atlético left midfielder **Koke** (6) drops back into a central position between the opposition's midfield and defensive lines.

The Atlético left back **F. Luis** (3) makes a forward run at the same time to enter the opposing full back's zone of responsibility, and a 2v1 situation is created out wide (see highlighted area).

## 1b. Opposing Full Back Retains Position and the Wide Midfielder Receives Unmarked Between the Lines



This 2v1 situation can be exploited in 2 different ways, depending on the reaction of the opposing full back.

In this tactical example, the white right back No.2 decides not to follow the dropping back movement of the Atlético Madrid left midfielder **Koke (6)**.

Therefore, **Koke (6)** is free of marking and able to receive the pass from the central midfielder **Gabi (14)** between the opposition's midfield and defensive lines.

**Koke (6)** is able to turn and has 3 options for a pass in behind the defensive line:

1. The forward **Griezmann (7)**.
2. The other forward **Torres (9)**.
3. Switch of play to the full back on the weak side **Juanfran (20)**.

## 2. Opposing Full Back Follows the Wide Midfielder's Movement and Creates Space for the Full Back to Receive High Up the Flank



In this variation, the white right back No.2 follows the dropping back movement of the Atlético left midfielder **Koke (6)**.

This creates space in behind white No.2 (see highlighted area).

The Atlético left back **F. Luis (3)** can receive from the central midfieler **Gabi (14)** via an aerial pass.

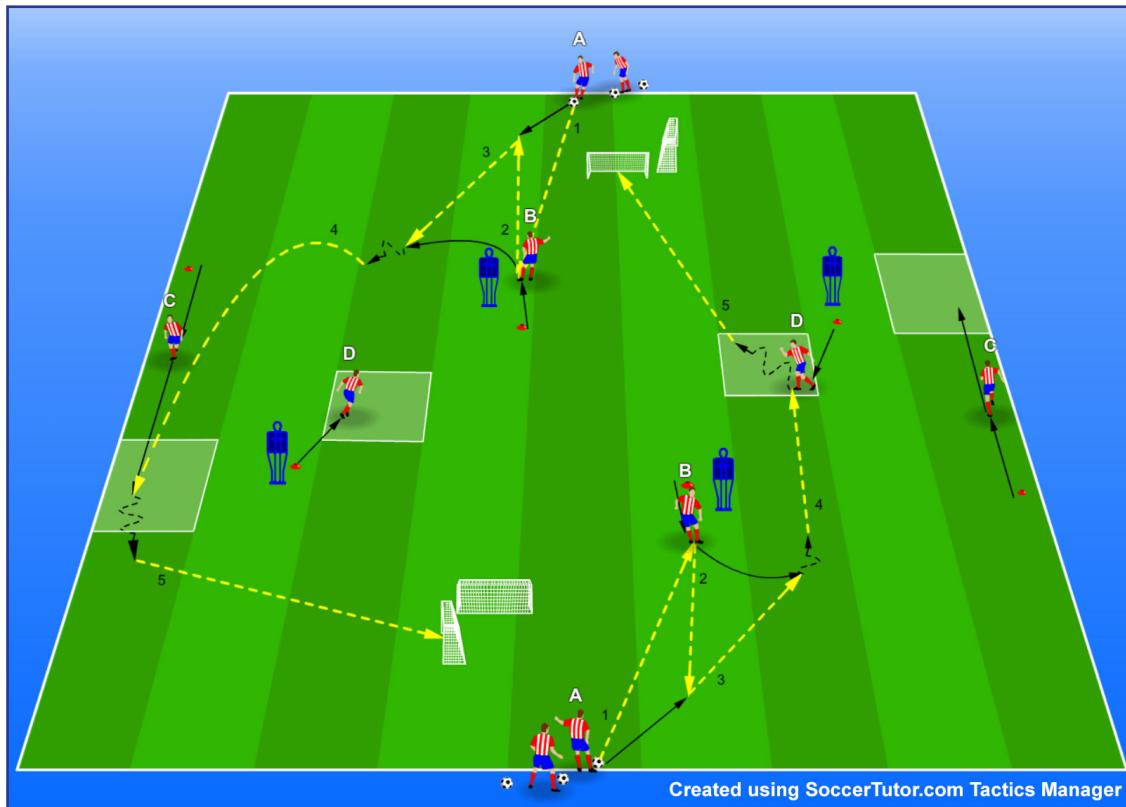


The Atlético left back **F. Luis (3)** receives within the created space, dribbles forward and delivers a cross for his oncoming team mates.

# **SESSION (4 PRACTICES) FOR "SYNCHRONISED MOVEMENTS OF THE FULL BACK AND WIDE MIDFIELDER"**

## SESSION FOR THIS TACTICAL SITUATION (4 PRACTICES)

### 1. Synchronised Movements of the Full Back and Wide Midfielder in a Technical Practice



**A** = Centre back, **B** = Central midfielder,  
**C** = Full back, **D** = Wide midfielder.

#### Description (1/2)

- Within a 35 x 45 yard area, the wide areas are 5 x 8 yards and the central areas are 4 x 4 yards. The practice starts at both ends simultaneously with Player A.
- A starts by passing to B, who drops back. B then plays a 1-2 with A, opens up and turns.
- As soon as B receives the third pass, D drops back, and C moves forward.

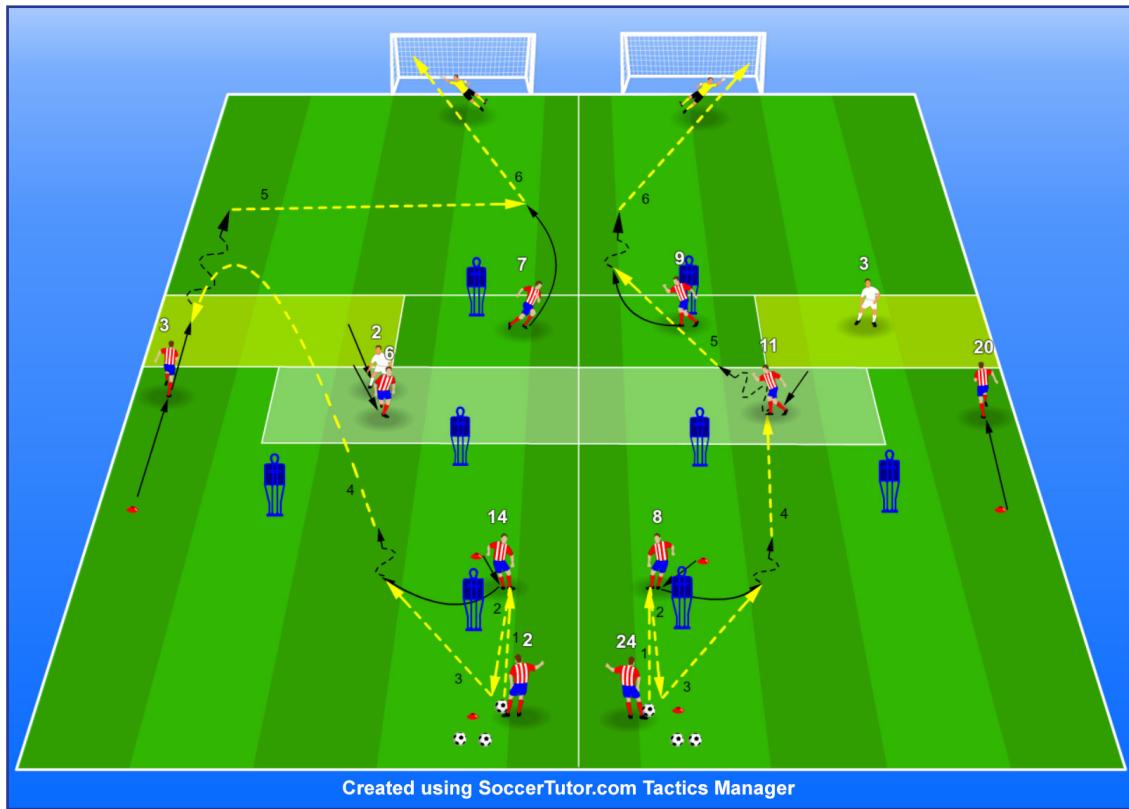
Player B has 2 options for where to direct the ball:

1. On the left side, the ball is passed to C in the wide area, who dribbles the ball forward and crosses into the mini goal.
2. On the right side, the ball is passed to D in the central area, who receives, turns, and passes into the mini goal.

Each player moves to the next position (A → B → C → D → A). After practicing these different options on one side of the pitch (right), switch to practice them on the left side.

# PROGRESSION

## **2. Synchronised Movements of the Full Back and Wide Midfielder in a Functional Practice with Finish**



There can be 2 players in the wide midfield and forward positions to keep a high tempo. The centre back and central midfielder switch positions after each repetition.

## Description

- Within a 40 x 50 yard area, there are 12 x 5 yard wide areas and a 25 x 5 yard central area. The practice is played simultaneously in the 2 equal halves.
  - The centre back (**2/24**) starts by passing to the central midfielder (**14/8**), who drops back. The central midfielder then plays a 1-2 with the centre back, opens up and turns.

- As soon as the central midfielder (**14/8**) receives the third pass, the wide midfielder (**6/11**) drops back and the full back (**3/20**) moves forward.
  - **LEFT SIDE:** If the white full back No.2 follows the red left midfielder's (**6**) movement, the central midfielder (**14**) passes to the left back (**3**) in the wide area, who dribbles forward and delivers a cross for the forward (**7**) to score.
  - **RIGHT SIDE:** If the white full back No.2 doesn't follow, the pass is played to the right midfielder's (**11**) feet in the central area. He turns and plays a final pass for the forward (**9**).

## PROGRESSION

### 3. Synchronised Movements of the Full Back and Wide Midfielder in a 10v4 (+GK) Functional Practice

#### Scenario A: Opposing Full Back Follows the Wide Midfielder's Movement



#### Description (Scenario A)

- In this progression of the previous practice, we add 2 white centre backs to increase the difficulty and play in 2/3 of a full pitch.
- The reds again aim to create and exploit an overload out wide.
- The practice starts with the Coach's long pass to a centre back (2/24). The players combine until the central midfielder (14/8) opens up to receive and play forward.

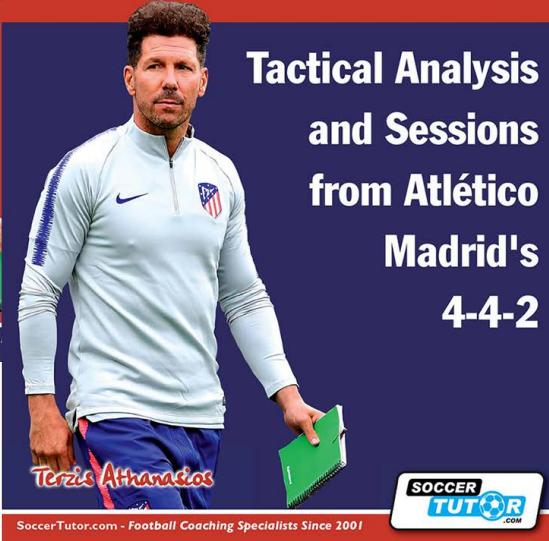
- Decision making is extremely important, as the central midfielder (14/8) reads the reaction of the opposing full backs in order to direct the ball towards the right area.
- In this first example, the white right back No.2 follows the red left midfielder's (6) movement back into the central area.
- Therefore, the central midfielder (14) passes to the left back (3) in the wide area, who dribbles forward and delivers a cross.

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