Alves becomes the ball carrier and as he does not have the chance to make the cross, he moves towards the centre. Messi gives support and Alves goes for the one-two.

In a similar situation Messi passes back to Xavi who makes a long pass to Iniesta in order to change the point of attack (diag. 63.3.1).

**ASSESSMENT**

Messi would often have the choice between a final pass into the penalty area or to a free player out wide.
FC Barcelona - Quick Combination Play Around the Box

**Objective**
To develop quick combination play in and around the penalty area

**Description**
Simple and effective practice focusing on quick combination play in and around the penalty area.

The coach should rehearse 4-6 different sequences of combination play with the final aim of finishing on goal.

After practicing these combinations, let the players play freely.

**Coaching Points**
1. Movement to create space - Checked runs
2. The quality of movement - Body shape, timing, angle and direction.
3. Quality of passing - Weight, direction and timing.
**Objective**

To develop quick combination play in and around the penalty area

**Description**

This progression we add 4 defenders.

In this example you will see 2 possible playing options from the forward:

1. Lay back to the central midfielder who quickly switch play
2. Lay the ball forward for the right winger to advance into the penalty area

**Progression**

Introduce 1-2 more defenders
FC Barcelona - A Tactical Analysis: Attacking and Defending Book Set

Learn to Coach the ‘Barca’ Way!

A Tactical ‘Pattern of Play’ Blue-Print of Pep Guardiola’s Barcelona Team - The Most Successful Team in History!

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