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## FC Barcelona - Playing Out from the Back Against the 4-4-2



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**Description:** FC Barcelona used this formation with three defenders (Pique, Puyol and Abidal) when playing against the 4-4-2 formation (with 2 forwards).

This forces No.7 to move up in order to put pressure on Abidal as soon as he becomes the ball carrier.

The positioning of No.8 is such that it enables him to mark both Iniesta and Busquets. When the ball is passed to Abidal and Iniesta moves towards the sideline to receive, No.8 is unable to put immediate pressure on him.

Iniesta has enough time on the ball to pass to Busquets who then has the options of passing to Messi or Xavi.

**Objective:** To develop playing out from the back using 3 at the back when playing against the 4-4-2 formation.

**Coaching Points:** 1. When playing against 2 forwards, i.e. 4-4-2, Pep Guardiola's tactics was to push Alves up to create superiority in numbers in midfield.

2. Messi joining the midfield allows Barca to have a player free of marking in the centre of the field and an additional playing option.

**Progression:** Refer to: FC Barcelona - A Tactical Analysis: Attacking and Defending Book Set. Available to order now from [www.SoccerTutor.com](http://www.SoccerTutor.com).

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