

4. Attacking from the Flanks

When the opposition had many players in the centre of the pitch, Spain would use the full width of the pitch. They would often switch play from side to side to change the point of attack and exploit the weak side of the opposition.

In this case, depending on the opposition they were playing, Spain would use crosses with a mid-height (1) or low crosses (2).

When crosses with a mid-height were used, the opposition were positioned on the edge of the penalty area and the cross would go in behind the defensive line (mostly to the far post).

When using low crosses Spain would first create a numerical superiority (2v1) on the flank with an overlapping (or under-lapping) movement and the cross could go to either the near or far post.

5. 1v1 / 2v2 Play (individual creativity)

Finally we show Spain's creativity where one player has the ball in a 1v1 or 1v2 situation. The player/s used their technical quality and speed to exploit the opposition and finish the attack.

GOAL ANALYSIS

Attacking in and Around the Penalty Area (1)

06-Sep-2011: European Championship 2012 Qualifying

Spain **3-0** Russia (2nd Goal): Guiza - Assist: Fabregas

Spain in a 4-4-2 vs Russia in a 4-1-3-2



Guiza (like Bojan for the third goal against Armenia) has the opposition's left back in front of him and passes to Ramos inside and then makes a diagonal run into the penalty area.

Russia have the 4-1-3 part of their formation in the defensive half.

Fabregas moves to the right and provides support to Ramos.



Ramos is under pressure from the defensive midfielder and the centre back.

Ramos passes to Fabregas and while the ball is travelling, Guiza and Silva make third man runs into the penalty area.

Fabregas plays a technical chipped 1 touch pass in behind the defensive line (in between the left back and right centre back).

Guiza gets there ahead of the left back and controls with his chest. He executes a chipped shot over the goalkeeper to score.

GOAL ANALYSIS

Attacking in and Around the Penalty Area (2)

29-Mar-2011: European Championship 2012 Qualifying

Lithuania 1-3 Spain (3rd Goal): Mata - Assist: Silva

Spain in a 4-3-3 vs Lithuania in a 4-4-2



Alonso is under pressure from the right midfielder on the flank and passes to Xavi. Xavi has the 2 Lithuanian strikers left and right of him and the other 7 opposition players in front of him.

There are 5 Spanish players in behind the opposition's midfield line and level with the defensive line.

Silva drops off at a good angle to support Xavi.



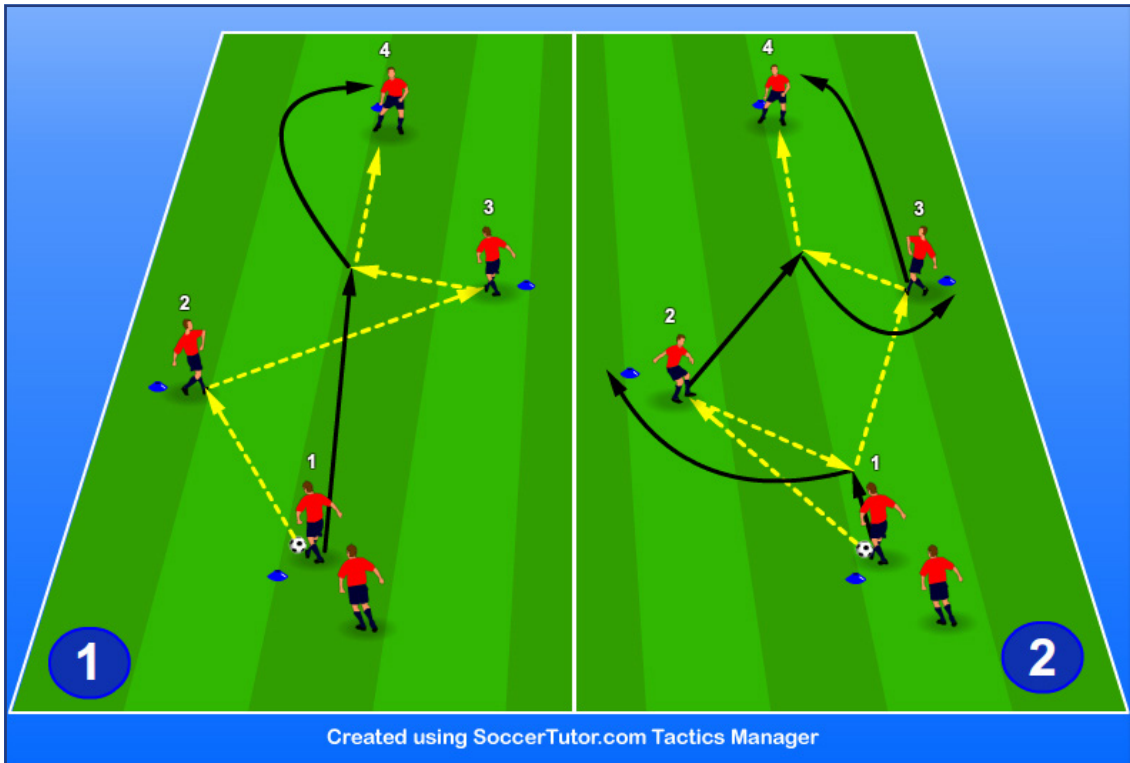
Xavi passes to Silva and while the ball is travelling, Mata makes a third man run into the penalty area.

Silva plays a 1 touch pass into Mata's path.

Mata shows good control and finishes well past the rushing goalkeeper.

SESSION FOR THIS TOPIC *(6 Practices)*

1. One Touch Combination Play and 3rd Man Run



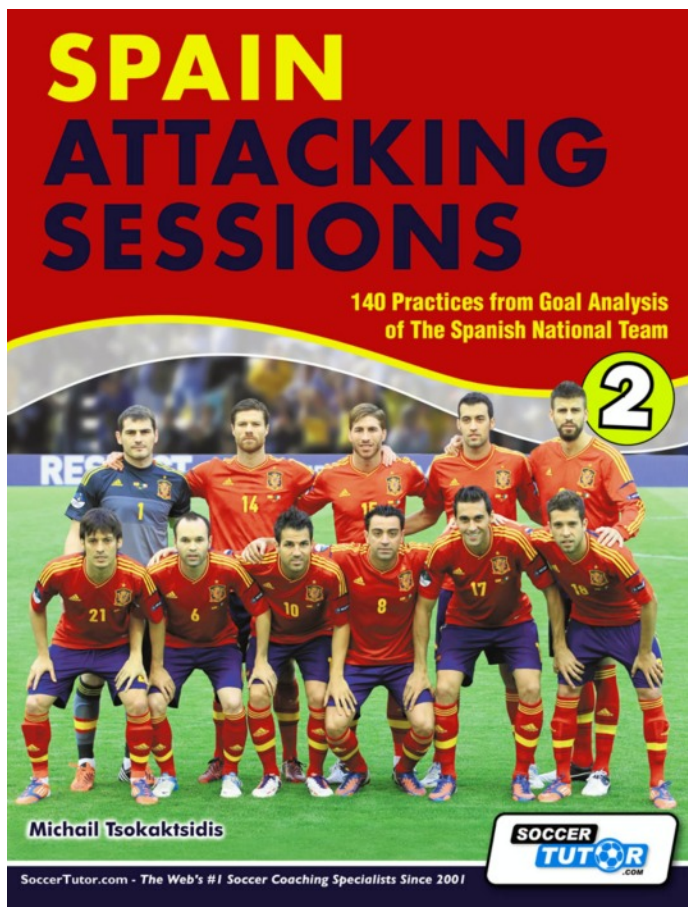
Objective

We work on our passing, timing and movement in one touch combinations, with the focus on 3rd man runs.

Description

1. We have 6 players and use 4 cones (in the positions shown). Player 1 starts with 1 ball and passes to player 2 who passes to Player 3. As soon as Player 1 has played his pass, he moves forward (3rd man run) and receives the next pass from Player 3 and passes to Player 4 using 1 touch.
The practice continues from player 4 now as he passes to player 3. Players 2 and 3 stay in their positions until the coach changes them.
2. Player 1 plays a one-two combination with Player 2. Player 1 passes to player 3. As soon as Player 2 has played his pass, he moves across (3rd man run) to receive the next pass from Player 3 and passes to Player 4 using 1 touch. All players now move up one position (1 to 2, 2 to 3, 3 to 4). Now the practice continues from this side.
Both drills must be executed from both sides.

140 Practices from Goal Analysis of the Spanish National Team



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