ATTACKING
POSITIONAL
PATTERNS OF
PLAY
(3-5-2)

Missed the Previous Sample with Pep's Positional Patterns of Play with the 4-3-3?

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PEP GUARDIOLA’S MANCHESTER CITY FORMATION (3-5-2)

- **5. Stones**: Left Centre Back
- **4. Kompany**: Middle Centre Back
- **30. Otamendi**: Right Centre Back
- **19. Sané**: Left Wing Back
- **2. Walker**: Right Wing Back
- **25. Fernandinho**: Defensive Midfielder
- **21. Silva**: Left Attacking Midfielder
- **17. De Bruyne**: Right Attacking Midfielder
- **7. Sterling**: Second Forward
- **10. Agüero**: Centre Forward

*Source: Pep Guardiola’s Manchester City training session during preseason tour of USA - Nissan Stadium, Nashville 29th July 2017*
POSITIONING AND RECEIVING IN THE "HALF SPACES" (3-5-2)

If the Manchester City attacking midfielders receive unmarked within the "Half Spaces" and are able to turn, they then try to play a final ball in behind.

Pep Guardiola wants his wing backs (19 & 2) to stay wide and leave space for his attacking midfielders to receive within the "Half Space" and turn unmarked.

In this example, Manchester City are using the 3-5-2 formation and the second forward Sterling (7) passes to the attacking midfielder De Bruyne (17) within the "Half Space."

From this point, De Bruyne (17) has options to play a pass in behind.

In the diagram example, De Bruyne (17) passes in behind for the right wing back Walker (2) to run onto.

Source: Pep Guardiola's Manchester City training session during preseason tour at Nissan Stadium, Nashville, USA - 29th July 2017
This diagram shows Pep Guardiola's set-up for practicing positional patterns of play in training with his Manchester City team.

There are coaches behind with many balls, ready to pass to the centre backs to start the pattern.

There are also 5 mannequins in a line outside the penalty area and 3 passive red defenders in the centre.

In each position, there are 2 players (1 blue and 1 yellow), which forms 2 teams of 10 outfield players to practice patterns.

The 2 teams run the patterns outlined by Pep Guardiola alternately.

As soon as one team finishes, they jog back to their positions and the next team goes.

Source: Pep Guardiola's Manchester City training session during preseason tour at Nissan Stadium, Nashville, USA - 29th July 2017
Switching the Point of Attack and Passing in Behind to the Wing Back

Direct from Pep Guardiola's Manchester City Training Session
1. Switching Play for the Wing Back to Receive in Behind with Overlap Run

**Description**

1. The right centre back (30) passes inside to the middle centre back (4).
2. The middle centre back (4) passes across to the left centre back (5).
3. The left centre back (5) passes to the left wing back (19), who receives out wide.
4. The left wing back (19) passes to the attacking midfielder (21) within the "Half Space."
5. The defensive midfielder (25) moves across and forward to receive the lay-off pass.
6. The defensive midfielder (25) passes to the forward (7), who drops back to receive.
7. The forward (7) lays the ball back to the other attacking midfielder (17), who also receives within the "Half Space."
8. The attacking midfielder (17) passes in behind for the right wing back's (2) overlapping run.
9. The wing back (2) crosses for oncoming teammates to score.

**Source:** Pep Guardiola’s Manchester City training session during preseason tour at Nissan Stadium, Nashville, USA - 29th July 2017
Consolidating Possession Before Playing a Decisive Diagonal Aerial Pass in Behind

Direct from Pep Guardiola's Manchester City Training Session
5. Fast Combination Play in the Centre with Lay-offs + Diagonal Aerial Pass in Behind to the Wing Back (2)

Description

1. The right centre back (30) passes back to the middle centre back (4).

2. The middle centre back (4) dribbles forward.

3. The middle centre back (4) passes to the left centre back (5) within the "Half Space."

4. The left centre back (5) passes to the forward (7), who has shifted across to receive within the "Half Space."

5. The attacking midfielder (21) moves forward (curved run) to receive the lay-off.

6. The attacking midfielder (21) passes to the forward (10).

7. The attacking midfielder (17) on the right side moves across to receive the lay-off.

8. The attacking midfielder (17) passes out wide to the left wing back (19).

9. The forward (7) moves across to receive the lay-off.

10. The forward (7) plays an aerial pass in behind to the wing back (2) on the other side, who cuts the ball back to No.10.

Source: Pep Guardiola’s Manchester City training session during preseason tour at Nissan Stadium, Nashville, USA - 29th July 2017