

JÜRGEN KLOPP TACTICAL ANALYSIS



SOLUTION 2

Break Through Pressing and Play in the Space Between the Lines

Content from analysis of Liverpool F.C. during the 2018-2019 Champions League winning season and the 2019-2020 Premier League winning season

- Analysis based on recurring patterns of play observed within the Liverpool team.
- Tactical solutions displayed as examples of the team's tactics being used effectively.
- Real match examples of Liverpool scoring a goal using this specific attacking tactical solution.
- 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 full progressive session to coach this tactical situation.

Break Through Pressing and Play in the Space Between the Lines

What?

Liverpool look to play through their opponent's pressing and into the space between their midfield and defensive lines.

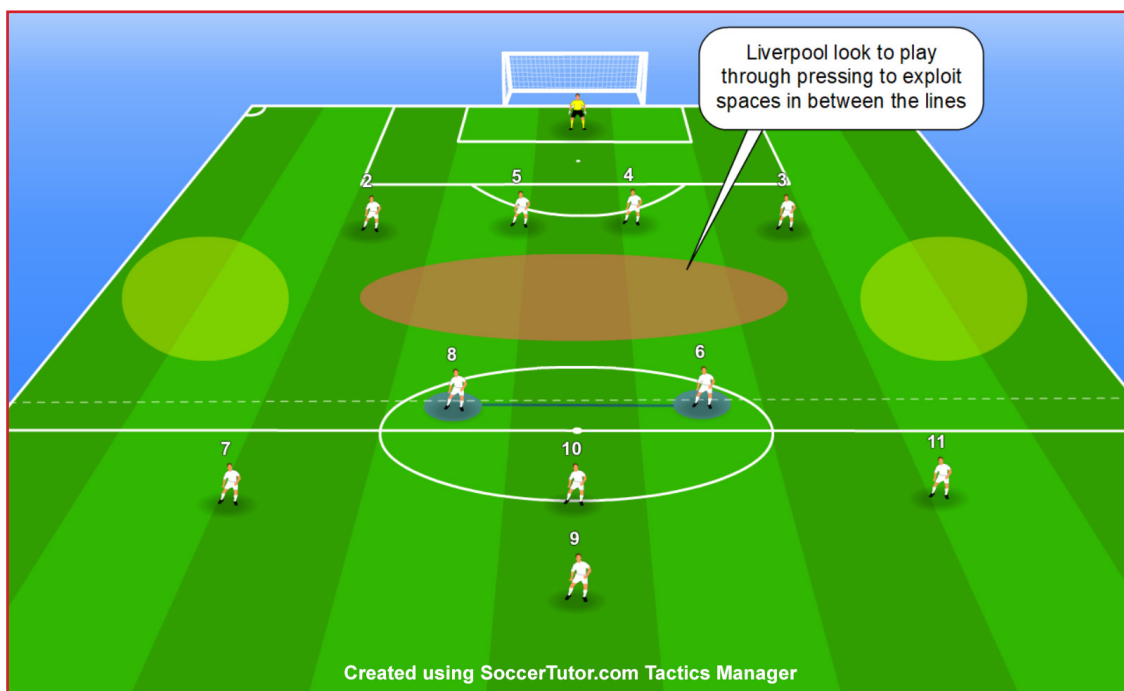
Why?

When opponents press in the middle and high zones, but they have a large distance between their midfield and defensive lines (which can be exploited).

How?

Liverpool circulate the ball in their half with the aim to pass in behind the opponent's midfielders, which neutralises 6 players and leads to an attack against just the back 4.

Target Areas (in Between the Lines)



Tactical Solution: Break Through Opponent's Pressing and Play Through the Midfield Line for a Fast Attack



In this tactical situation, Liverpool (4-3-3) are building up play from the back and their opponents (4-2-3-1) apply pressing in the middle and high zone.

This pressing tactic leaves a large space for Liverpool to exploit in between the opposition's midfield and defensive lines.

The aim for Liverpool is to play an incisive forward pass to one of the central midfielders in behind the 2 opposing defensive midfielders, which takes 6 players out of the game and leaves a potential 4v4 attack, as shown.

This can also be a 3v4 (+1), 3v4 (+2), 4v4 (+1) or 4v4 (+2) attack depending on the situation and positioning of Liverpool's players.

Liverpool's right back **Alexander-Arnold** is very adept at playing these kinds of incisive passes, which are shown in the game analysis pages to follow.

In this example, the full back (**66**) plays inside to the central midfielder (**14**), who then plays an incisive forward pass beyond the opposition's midfield line and into the large space between the lines.

The other central midfielder (**5**) receives on the half-turn and dribbles forward to try and finish a quick 4v4 attack with the front 3 against the opposition's back 4. As explained, this can be a 4v4 (+1) or 4v4 (+2) attack if the full backs sprint forward quickly to provide support.

Statistical Analysis of Liverpool Breaking Through Pressing and Playing in the Space Between the Lines

Liverpool scored **8 goals** in this tactical situation
 (Premier League and Champions League 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 seasons)

VS. OPPONENTS PRESSING IN MIDDLE & HIGH ZONES

BREAK THROUGH PRESS AND PLAY IN SPACE BETWEEN THE LINES

DATE	HOME	AWAY	SCORE	GOAL (MIN)	SCORER	ASSIST
12th Aug 2018	Liverpool	West Ham	4-0	1-0 (19')	Salah *	Robertson
12th Aug 2018	Liverpool	West Ham	4-0	3-0 (53')	Mané	Firmino
20th Oct 2018	Huddersfield	Liverpool	0-1	0-1 (24')	Salah	Shaqiri
8th Dec 2018	Bournemouth	Liverpool	0-4	0-1 (25')	Salah	
29th Dec 2018	Liverpool	Arsenal	5-1	1-1 (13')	Firmino	
10th Mar 2019	Liverpool	Burnley	4-2	4-2 (90 +3')	Mané	Sturridge
26th Apr 2019	Liverpool	Huddersfield	5-0	5-0 (83')	Salah	Robertson
14th Dec 2019	Liverpool	Watford	2-0	2-0 (90')	Salah *	Origi

* The full analysis of these goals is shown on the following pages...

Analysis from Liverpool 4-0 West Ham (Salah 19') - 12th Aug 2018, Premier League

Tactical Solution (1): Incisive Pass Through the Opponent's Midfield Line for a Fast Attack (Cross from Left)



Liverpool are building up play and the centre back **Gomez (12)** passes to right back **A-Arnold (66)** near to the side-line.

As **A-Arnold (66)** has a high quality for playing incisive passes, central midfielder **Keita (8)** moves in behind to receive.

A-Arnold's (66) pass neutralises 6 opponents, as they are all now behind the ball.



Left central midfielder **Keita (8)** receives and dribbles forward at the opposition's back 4 with the following support:

- 2 forwards **Mané (10)** and **Salah (11)** in front of him.
- Right central midfielder **Milner (7)** to the right.
- Left back **Robertson (26)** to the left.

This creates a 3v4 (+2) situation for Liverpool to finish the attack. Centre forward **Firmino (9)** is in a deep position in this particular example.



Keïta (8) dribbles at West Ham's back line who move backwards towards the edge of their box.

At the correct time, he passes into the wide channel for the advanced run of the left back **Robertson (26)**, who receives in the box and in behind the defensive line.

Robertson (26) has the advantage and momentum against the opponents who are simply reacting to the situation (delay).

With his first touch, **Robertson (26)** passes the ball across the 6-yard box to the right forward **Salah (11)**, who scores with an easy finish.

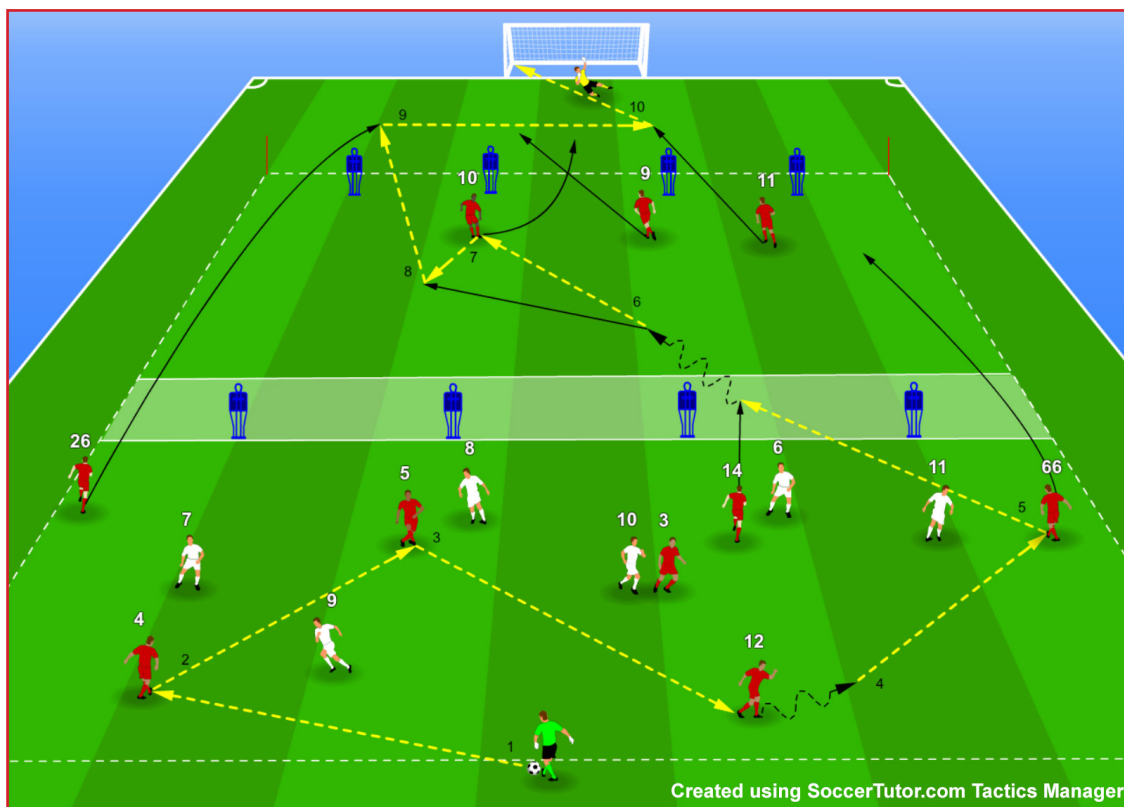
SESSION 2 BASED ON THE TACTICS OF JÜRGEN KLOPP

Break Through Pressing and Play in the Space Between the Lines



PROGRESSION

2. Break Through Pressing and Play in Between the Lines in a Position Specific Functional Game



Description

- The low zone is 40 x 15 yards, the middle zone is 40 x 5 yards, and the high zone is 40 x 15 yards. The two end zones are 40 x 10 yards.
- There are 2 goals with GKs, 4 mannequins in the middle zone (midfield line) and 4 mannequins in the high zone (defensive line).
- The red attacking team use Liverpool's 4-4-3 formation and the white defending team have the front 7 players in a 2-3-1 formation.
- The practice always starts from the red team's GK and the reds aim to build-up play through the low zone against the white's pressing.
- The reds then aim to pass into the middle zone, where one of the central midfielders moves in behind the midfield line (mannequins) to receive.
- The player that receives (**No.14** in diagram) dribbles into the high zone. The 2 full backs make advanced runs into the high zone.
- The reds use predetermined patterns of play (**see analysis pages in this section for examples**) to get in behind the defensive line and score past the GK in the end zone.

Progression: Remove the predetermined patterns and play freely to finish the attacks.



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