

ICS “Openings Module” Program

White 6 months: Months 1-3 + Months 11-13	Black 7 months: Months 4-10
<p>Month 1</p> <p>1.d4 against: Dutch Defense, Czech Benoni, Volga Gambit, Modern Benoni, Grunfeld, Budapest Gambit <i>AND / OR</i></p> <p>1.e4 against: All openings other than 1...e5 and 1...c5</p> <p>Month 2</p> <p>1.d4 against: King's Indian Defense, Tarrasch, Chigorin, Nimzovich transposition to Catalan, Catalan Closed and Open variations. <i>AND / OR</i></p> <p>1.e4 against: Ruy Lopez against 1...e5</p> <p>Month 3</p> <p>1.d4 against: Albin Gambit, Queen's Gambit Accepted, Slav Defense 1 (3...dc4), Slav Defense 2 (3...e6), Slav Defense 3 (3...Nf6 4.g3 dc4), Slav Defense 4 (3...Nf6 4.g3 Bg4), Slav Defense 5 (3...Nf6 4.g3 Bf5) <i>AND / OR</i></p> <p>1.e4 against: Closed Sicilian against 1...c5</p> <p>Month 11</p> <p>Thoroughly annotated model games - for the repertoire given for White 1.d4 in Months 1-3.</p> <p>Months 12-13</p> <p>An alternative repertoire for White, independent from Months 1-3. Strong systems for White 1.d4 against: Nimzovich Defense, King's Indian, Queen's Gambit Declined and Slav Defense.</p>	<p>Month 4: against 1.e4</p> <p>Scandinavian Defense, the modern system: 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 Easy from theoretical point of view, requires little memorization, leads to a very solid structure and good piece harmony for Black.</p> <p>Anti-Sicilians including Alapin and Moscow; prepares for Sicilian Kalashnikov (month 8)</p> <p>Month 5: against 1.d4</p> <p>Dutch Defense 2 different systems of the Dutch, requires little memorization and offers Black good prospects for a kingside attack. 1. Stonewall system (c6, d5, e6, f5) and 2. modern Ilyin-Zhenevsky system (d6, e6, f5)</p> <p>Months 6-7: against 1.d4</p> <p>Semi-Slav Defense (and Meran) One of the best openings against 1.d4. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 Behind a solid center, Black prepares the dangerous fianchetto, Bb7.</p> <p>Month 8: against 1.e4</p> <p>Sicilian Kalashnikov (B32) A sharp Sicilian variation with a pawn structure (d6 + e5) typical of Sveshnikov and Najdorf. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5</p> <p>Months 9-10: against 1.e4</p> <p>French Defense A very complex and moderately-aggressive opening where positional understanding is much more important than memorization. 1.e4 e6 2.d4 (and other systems) 2...d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 ; 3.Nd2 c5; 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 de4 5.Ne4 Be7 6.Bf6 gf6</p>

About the ICS Opening Repertoire

1. Practical and gradual information

The program is devised so that you can start playing the new openings as soon as possible. In the first 3 months, you learn a complete repertoire for White and, then, in Months 4 and 5 you learn complete openings for Black against both 1.e4 and 1.d4. So, in only 5 months, you have a complete repertoire, for both sides.

In the meantime, by studying the Main Module your positional understanding will improve and beginning in Month 6 we introduce more complex opening systems. So at the end of the program, you will have the repertoire of a strong player including more systems against the same opening.

2. Although complex, do NOT require an excellent memory

The openings in our repertoire lead to complex middlegame positions. Only by playing different kinds of structures including various plans and problems to solve in the middlegame can you broaden your horizons and generally improve your chess. However, we chose solid systems that do not require heavy memorization of variations.

For White, we recommend 1.d4. We also show an 1.e4 repertoire for the fans of this move. Our 1.d4 repertoire for White is based on the Catalan system which meets both Queen's Gambit Declined and Nimzovich Defense. Catalan setup: d4, c4, Nf3, g3, Bg2, 0-0, Nbd2/Nc3, Qc2, and e2-e4 offers a healthy and logical development with clear plans.

In the last 3 months of the course, we take another look at the repertoire for White. In Month 11, we analyze instructive games for the opening systems given in the first 3 months of the course. Then, in Months 12 and 13, we give other very strong systems for White against Black's main openings independent of Months 1-3.

For Black, we first give 2 simple openings: Scandinavian Defense against 1.e4 and Dutch Defense against 1.d4. In this case, simple doesn't mean bad. Both openings are in the repertoires of many top players.

Besides providing an advantage of theoretical knowledge over your opponent, the plans are easy to understand so you can enter the middle game stage with a healthy position.

In Months 6-10 we give complex openings for Black: French Defense and Kalashnikov Sicilian against 1.e4 and Semi-Slav Defense against 1.d4.

With these openings in your repertoire, you can play for an advantage even from the start of the game. White has to play very carefully against you.