

## ICS “Openings Module” Program

White 6 months: Months 1-3 + Months 11-13	Black 7 months: Months 4-10
<p><b>Month 1</b></p> <p><b>1.d4 against:</b> Dutch Defense, Czech Benoni, Volga Gambit, Modern Benoni, Grunfeld, Budapest Gambit <i>AND / OR</i></p> <p><b>1.e4 against:</b> All openings other than 1...e5 and 1...c5.</p> <p><b>Month 2</b></p> <p><b>1.d4 against:</b> King's Indian Defense, Tarrasch, Chigorin, Nimzovich transposition to Catalan, Catalan Closed and Open variations. <i>AND / OR</i></p> <p><b>1.e4 against:</b> Ruy Lopez against 1...e5.</p> <p><b>Month 3</b></p> <p><b>1.d4 against:</b> 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><b>1.e4 against:</b> Closed Sicilian against 1...c5.</p> <p><b>Month 11</b></p> <p>Thoroughly annotated model games - for the repertoire given for White 1.d4 in Months 1-3.</p> <p><b>Months 12-13</b></p> <p>An alternative repertoire for White, independent from Months 1-3. Strong systems for White 1.d4 against: Nimzovich Defense, King's Indian, Dutch Defense, Queen's Gambit Declined, and Slav Defense.</p>	<p><b>Month 4: against 1.e4</b></p> <p><b>Scandinavian Defense</b>, the modern system: 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 Easy from a theoretical point of view, requires little memorization, leads to a very solid structure and good piece harmony for Black.</p> <p><b>Anti-Sicilians</b> including Alapin and Moscow prepares for Sicilian Kalashnikov (month 8).</p> <p><b>Month 5: against 1.d4</b></p> <p><b>Dutch Defense</b> Two 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><b>Months 6-7: against 1.d4</b></p> <p><b>Semi-Slav Defense (and Meran)</b> 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><b>Month 8: against 1.e4</b></p> <p><b>Sicilian Kalashnikov (B32)</b> 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><b>Months 9-10: against 1.e4</b></p> <p><b>French Defense</b> 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 made so that you can start playing the new openings as soon as possible. In the first three months, you learn a complete repertoire for White and then, in Month 4 and 5, you learn complete openings for Black against both 1.e4 and 1.d4. So, in only five months, you have a complete repertoire, for both sides.

In the meantime, studying the Main Module, your positional understanding will improve and from Month 6 we start with more complex opening systems. So, at the end of the program, you will have a repertoire like a strong player, with multiple systems against the same opening.

### 2. Although complex, an excellent memory is not required

The openings from our repertoire lead to complex middlegame positions. Only playing different kind of structures, with various plans and problems to solve in the middlegame, you can broaden your horizons and improve your chess in general. So, we chose solid systems that require no heavy memorization of variations.

For White, we focus on 1.d4. We also made a 1.e4 repertoire for the fans of this move. Our 1.d4 repertoire for White is based on the Catalan system which meets both the Queen's Gambit Declined and Nimzovich Defense. The 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 three months of the course, we reprise the repertoire for White. In Month 11, we analyze instructive games for the opening systems given in the first three months of the course. Then, in Months 12 and 13, we give other very strong systems for White against major Black's openings, independent of Months 1-3.

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

Besides an advantage of theoretical knowledge over your opponent, the plans are easy to understand and apply so that you can enter the middlegame stage with a healthy position.

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

With these openings in your repertoire, you will test the White player to the maximum and can also play for an advantage if his opening knowledge is not as solid as yours.