



Saturday 13th February
Trial Lesson (Carl Gorka)

Openings

Studying openings should take up about 25% of a player's study, perhaps less for newer players and possibly more for more experienced players. So why do we learn openings?

- To understand the ideas and traps in the openings you play.
- To understand the best places for pieces and pawns in certain set-up's.
- To learn specific ideas behind openings.
- Develop personal experience so we know openings better than opponents

And how can we learn openings?

- Look at games of top players who will be playing the best openings.
- Choose openings that suit our style eg. Attacking or solid
- Online resources eg. <http://www.eudesign.com/chessops/>
- Develop a repertoire which will make a player more familiar with those openings

Opening repertoires

These are the openings that a player knows and plays. Different openings lead to different types of middlegames so the openings a player chooses should depend on what sort of chess that player wants to play. An attacking chess player should choose different openings to a good positional player and strong tactical player might choose different openings to a good endgame player.

Learning a full repertoire takes a long time and needs to be worked through in a sensible order. The best openings to learn are the ones that are most likely to happen. Here are a couple of opening repertoires presented in the order they should be learned:

Repertoire One: based on White playing 1.e4

- Spanish
- Black opening versus 1.e4
- All other 1.e4 e5 openings
- French
- Sicilian
- Black opening versus 1.d4
- Caro Kann
- Pirc and Modern systems
- Black opening versus English, Reti and King's Indian Attack
- Alekhines Defence
- Other White openings
- Other Black openings

Repertoire Two: based on White playing 1.d4

- Queen's Gambit Declined
- Slav and Semi Slav
- Queen's Gambit Accepted
- Black opening versus 1.e4
- King's Indian Defence
- Nimzo Indian or Queen's Indian Defence
- Black opening versus 1.d4
- Benoni and Benko Gambit
- Dutch
- Black opening versus English, Reti and King's Indian Attack
- Grunfeld
- All other White openings
- All other Black openings

There are 2 methods that all players should use to help them develop an opening repertoire.

1. Openings Trees: these are lists of the openings you play. Repertoire 1 might look like this to start with:

1.e4 e5 [1...e6 French; 1...c5 Sicilian; 1...c6 Caro Kann; 1...d6 Pirc; 1...g6 Modern; 1...Nf6 Alekhine] **2.Nf3 Nc6** [2...Nf6 Petroff; 2...d6 Philidor; 2...f5 Latvian Gambit] **3.Bb5** Spanish

As your opening knowledge grows, so the opening trees will grow. A player should keep revising their opening tree about once a month.

2. Find annotated games and analysis in the openings you choose. This can be done from books, magazines, online resources and from your own games and ideas.

BUT!!!!

Always remember the basics about the opening:

Centre = Pawn Structure

Development = Piece Activity

King Safety

Homework

1. Start an opening tree.
2. Find a game by grandmasters in your main opening from www.chessgames.com
3. Play at least one game in your main opening at one of the approved online playing sites.