

A collection of chess pieces is arranged on a light-colored wooden surface against a dark background. The pieces include a light-colored king, a light-colored queen, a light-colored pawn, a dark-colored pawn, a light-colored rook, and a dark-colored rook. The word "OPENING" is overlaid in the center in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

**OPENING**

# Richard RÉTI

"A beginner should avoid the Queen's Gambit and French Defence and play **open games** instead! While he may not win as many games at first, he will in the long run be amply compensated by acquiring a thorough knowledge of the game."



# “I got caught in the opening”

- Three tasks for the opening
  - And two more!
- EXERCISE: 3 systems x 6 moves
- Putting together your systems
  - ~~Dismal Stodgy Openings~~
  - **Proper Threatening Openings:**  
c3/d4 and IQP
  - Surviving the opening as Black

# 3 tasks for the opening

A collection of chess pieces on a wooden board. In the foreground, a white king and queen are lying on their sides. In the background, a white rook and a dark rook stand upright. There are also several pawns, some white and some dark, scattered around. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows.

- Get your pieces out
- Get at least a share of the centre
- Get castled
- ALSO
  - Threaten to take over the centre
  - Open a file for your Rooks

# 3 systems x 6 moves

	White	Black vs e4	Black vs d4
1	e4	e6	e6
2	Nf3	d5	d5
3	Bc4	c5	Nf6
4	c3	Nc6	Be7
5	d4	Qb6	O-O
6	O-O	Nh6	Nbd7

# Being an openings expert



- I believe that all young players should adopt and learn a set of opening systems as early as possible, and stick to them long enough to be a bit of an expert in those systems.
- You need three or four systems to cover White and Black:
  - A system to play as White
  - A system to play as Black against 1.e4
  - A system to play as Black against 1.d4 and other openings
  - A system or set of systems to play as White when Black dodges your main line
  - NB you can play one system for both sides.

# A Basic Opening Repertoire for young players

- You want a standard opening to learn? Probably, you will need at least four! Here is my suggestion:

## 1) System for White:

Scotch Gambit 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4

## 2) When Black avoids your main system:

IQP systems

e.g. 1.e4 c5 2.c3 & d4

e.g. 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4

e.g. 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4

## 3) System for Black against 1.e4:

French Defence 1.e4 e6

## 4) System for Black against 1.d4:

Tarrasch Defence 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 or Swiss Defence

# Opening in style

- Squeeze or smash?

	Beginners	Improvers: Careful players	Improvers: Attacking players	Improvers: Gambit players
System for White	<p><b>Scotch Gambit</b> (as above) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p>	<p><b>Scotch Game</b> (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p> <p><b>Queen's Gambit</b> (1.d4 d5 2.c4) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p>	<p><b>Scotch Gambit</b> (as above) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p> <p><b>Italian Game</b> (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p> <p><b>Colle System</b> (1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 with Bd3, O-O, Nbd2 and e3-e4) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p>	<p><b>Evans' Gambit</b> (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4) (as above) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p> <p><b>Koltanowski Gambit</b> (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d4) (as above) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p> <p><b>King's Gambit</b> (1.e4 e5 2.f4) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p>
When Black avoids your main system	<p><b>IQP systems</b> (as above) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p>	<p><b>King's Indian Attack</b> (e4/d3 /Nd2/g3/Bg2) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p> <p><b>Systems with Bg5</b> after 1.d4 2.c4 [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p> <p><b>Systems with Bg5</b> without 2.c4 [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p>	<p><b>IQP systems</b> [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>] (more detail)</p>	<p><b>Morra Gambit</b> (1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p> <p><b>Wing Gambits</b> (b2-b4) against Sicilian, French and Scandinavian [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p>
System for Black against 1.e4	<p><b>French Defence</b> (as above) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p>	<p><b>French Defence</b> [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p> <p><b>Petroff Defence</b> (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 with 6...Be7) [<a href="#">LINK</a>]</p>	<p><b>Two Knights' Defence</b> (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 b5) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>] and [<a href="#">PDF2</a>] [<a href="#">CBV2</a>] [<a href="#">PGN2</a>]</p> <p><b>Petroff Defence</b> (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 with 6...Bd6) [<a href="#">LINK</a>]</p>	<p><b>Two Knights' Defence</b> (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 b5) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>] and [<a href="#">PDF2</a>] [<a href="#">CBV2</a>] [<a href="#">PGN2</a>]</p> <p><b>Schliemann Gambit</b> (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>] and [<a href="#">PDF2</a>] [<a href="#">CBV2</a>] [<a href="#">PGN2</a>]</p>
System for Black against 1.d4	<p><b>Tarrasch Defence</b> (as above) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p>	<p><b>Swiss Defence</b> (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 O-O 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Rc1 a6) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p>	<p><b>Tarrasch Defence</b> [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>] (more detail)</p> <p><b>Dutch Stonewall</b> (1.d4 f5 with ...d5) (a little bit in [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>], more at [<a href="#">LINK</a>])</p>	<p><b>Albin Counter-Gambit</b> (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p> <p><b>Benko Counter-Gambit</b> (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5) [<a href="#">PDF</a>] [<a href="#">CBV</a>] [<a href="#">PGN</a>]</p>



# Alternatives

	Improvers: Careful players	Improvers: Attacking players	Improvers: Gambit players
<i>System for White</i>	<b>Ruy Lopez</b> (mostly for White) : <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a>	<b>Dial F for Forward</b> (for White: Vienna, Grand Prix, etc.): <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a>	<b>Danish Gambit</b> for White: <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a> <b>Dial G for Gambit</b> (both sides: King's Gambit, Wing Gambit, Schliemann, Benko): <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a>
<i>When Black avoids your main system</i>	<b>Tarrasch Variation</b> against the French: <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a>	<b>Dial F for Forward</b> (for White: Vienna, Grand Prix, etc.): <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a>	<b>Dial G for Gambit</b> (both sides: King's Gambit, Wing Gambit, Schliemann, Benko): <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a>
<i>System for Black against 1.e4</i>	<b>Scandinavian Defence</b> with 2...Qxd5 <b>Sicilian Scheveningen</b> for Black: <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a>	<b>Sicilian Defence</b> : <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a>	<b>Dial G for Gambit</b> (both sides: King's Gambit, Wing Gambit, Schliemann, Benko): <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a>
<i>System for Black against 1.d4</i>	<b>Nimzo-Indian (and Bogo-Indian)</b> for Black: <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a> <b>Queen's Indian Defence (and Neo-Catalan)</b> for Black: <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a>	<b>Benonis</b> for Black: <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a>	<b>Dial G for Gambit</b> (both sides: King's Gambit, Wing Gambit, Schliemann, Benko): <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <a href="#">[CBV]</a> <a href="#">[PGN]</a>