

Checkmate Patterns

Chess

The named mates worth recognising instantly, and what each needs.

Each pattern needs a specific arrangement — knowing the requirement is what makes it findable.

Pattern	Needs
Back rank	King trapped by its own pawns, rook or queen on the rank
Smothered	King boxed in by its own pieces, knight delivers
Scholar's	Queen and bishop on f7 — beginners only
Anastasia's	Knight on e7, rook on the h-file
Arabian	Rook and knight together in the corner
Boden's	Two bishops on crossing diagonals
Ladder	Two rooks walking the king up the board

Back-rank mate is the most common at every level. Giving your king an escape square is one tempo well spent.