

Choosing an Opening

Chess

How to build a repertoire without memorising thousands of moves.

The aim is a playable middlegame you understand, not a theoretical advantage.

1

Pick one first move as White

1.e4 or 1.d4. Commit to it for at least a year.

2

Pick a defence to 1.e4

One. Not one per mood.

3

Pick a defence to 1.d4

Same.

4

Learn the ideas, not the moves

Why each move is played, and what the resulting plans are.

5

Review your own games

Add theory only where you actually went wrong.

WHAT MATTERS MORE

Not hanging pieces

Basic endgames

Tactical pattern recognition

All of these outrank opening depth below 1800

Studying an opening 15 moves deep is wasted if games are decided by a hung knight on move 12.