

Arcade and Classic Core Mechanics Workbook - Make Better Decisions

Arcade and Classic | Make Better Decisions | Asset ID GAME-23-02-04

Player goal: compare two options before committing. Success means you can record more decisions with a stated reason.

How to use this download

This is a genre-level learning resource, so it works across original browser games that share arcade and classic mechanics. Read one section, test it in a short session, and write down what happened. Keep the part that helped; change the part that did not.

Planning field	Write or choose
Category	Arcade and Classic
Resource	Core Mechanics Workbook
Player goal	Make Better Decisions
Session length	Choose 10, 20 or 30 minutes
Baseline	Record one normal attempt before changing anything
Review rule	Change one variable, then compare like with like

Category fundamentals

The useful starting point in Arcade and Classic games is to recognise patterns, protect lives and take scoring risks on purpose. These six fundamentals give your practice a clear order.

#	Fundamental	Player cue
1	Movement rhythm	Notice it before acting
2	Pattern memory	Practise it slowly
3	Life preservation	Name the cue
4	Score routing	Use it in one safe attempt
5	Risk timing	Record one result
6	Restart discipline	Retest under light pressure

Before the first attempt

- Write the exact result you want from this session.
- Check the game's own rules and controls; this guide does not replace them.
- Pick one metric from page 3. More numbers are not automatically better.
- Name the safe option, the risky option and the information still missing.
- Stop the session while you can still describe what changed.

Core Mechanics Workbook

Rate each mechanic from 1 to 5 after a normal attempt. Pick the lowest useful skill, run one drill, then rate it again. This makes the workbook a test rather than a confidence survey.

Mechanic	Rating	Observable cue	Focused test
Movement rhythm	___ / 5	I notice it when _____	Next test: play one life for observation
Pattern memory	___ / 5	I notice it when _____	Next test: repeat a safe opening
Life preservation	___ / 5	I notice it when _____	Next test: name the pattern before reacting
Score routing	___ / 5	I notice it when _____	Next test: bank a score instead of extending risk
Risk timing	___ / 5	I notice it when _____	Next test: practise one difficult transition
Restart discipline	___ / 5	I notice it when _____	Next test: review the cause of each lost life

Mechanic breakdown

- Trigger: what appears just before the action?
- Decision: what are the two main options?
- Input: what is the smallest command needed?
- Feedback: what proves the action worked?
- Recovery: what is the safe next move if it fails?

Arcade and Classic Practice Lab

Pick one drill. Run a normal attempt first, then three focused attempts, then one normal attempt again. The final attempt shows whether the practice transferred back into play.

#	Drill	Skill tested	Record	Result
1	Play one life for observation	Movement rhythm	Score per life	Result: _____
2	Repeat a safe opening	Pattern memory	Stage reached	Result: _____
3	Name the pattern before reacting	Life preservation	Pattern errors	Result: _____
4	Bank a score instead of extending risk	Score routing	Safe bonuses	Result: _____
5	Practise one difficult transition	Risk timing	Clean transitions	Result: _____
6	Review the cause of each lost life	Restart discipline	Score per life	Result: _____

Common traps and a cleaner response

Trap	Cleaner response
Restarting instantly	Pause at the trigger and state the intended action.
Chasing every bonus	Return to one dependable input before rebuilding speed.
Breaking rhythm after one error	Use a fixed marker, route or rule for the next test.
Watching score during danger	Compare the attempt with the same starting state.
Using the same route after repeated failure	End the run, write the cause and reset deliberately.

Small signal dashboard

Choose one main signal for the week. A score can rise while decision quality gets worse, so keep one behaviour measure beside the result.

Signal	Start	Latest	Decision
Score per life	Baseline: _____	Current: _____	Keep / change: _____
Stage reached	Baseline: _____	Current: _____	Keep / change: _____
Pattern errors	Baseline: _____	Current: _____	Keep / change: _____
Safe bonuses	Baseline: _____	Current: _____	Keep / change: _____
Clean transitions	Baseline: _____	Current: _____	Keep / change: _____

Session Sheet for Make Better Decisions

Today's focus is to compare two options before committing. Name the safe option, the risky option and the information still missing.

Session field	Entry
Player or initials	_____
Date and game	_____
Input method	Keyboard / touch / gamepad / other
Session target	_____
Main signal	Score per life
Comfort check	Visual / audio / motion / reach / break plan

Twenty-minute practice shape

Time	Action
0-2 min	Warm up with familiar inputs. No score target.
2-7 min	Focused drill: Play one life for observation.
7-12 min	Focused drill: Repeat a safe opening.
12-17 min	Return to normal play and use the skill only when its cue appears.
17-20 min	Record the result, one cause and the next test.

Attempt log

Attempt	Outcome	Observation	Decision
1	Result: _____	Cue noticed: _____	Next change: _____
2	Result: _____	Cue noticed: _____	Next change: _____
3	Result: _____	Cue noticed: _____	Next change: _____
4	Result: _____	Cue noticed: _____	Next change: _____
5	Result: _____	Cue noticed: _____	Next change: _____

Close the session

- What improved when I slowed down? _____
- Where did the first avoidable error begin? _____
- What setting or instruction should stay the same next time? _____
- Next session's single focus: _____

Controls, Comfort and Accessibility Lab

A strong setup removes friction without playing the game for you. Record the current setup, change one option and replay the same short section before deciding what to keep.

Area	One option to test	Question after the replay
Visual clarity	Text size, contrast, effects or camera	Can I read the next cue in time?
Audio clarity	Cue balance, captions or output device	Can I identify the useful sound comfortably?
Input reach	Binding, grip, gesture area or handedness	Can I repeat the input without strain?
Motion comfort	Camera speed, shake, blur or field of view	Can I track movement without discomfort?
Session pace	Pause points, reminders or break length	Can I finish focused rather than fatigued?
Interface load	Notifications, clutter or pointer size	Is the objective easier to find?

One-change comparison

Test field	Record
Short test section	_____
Original setting	_____
Single change	_____
Old result	Score per life: _____
New result	Score per life: _____
Comfort before / after	___ / 5 ___ / 5
Decision	Keep / revise / restore / test again

Stop-and-adjust signals

- Repeated wrong inputs after slowing down
- Text, targets or hazards remain hard to distinguish
- Headache, eye strain, dizziness, numbness or pain
- Audio is uncomfortable or masks the cue you need
- Frustration makes the next attempt less deliberate

Arcade and Classic Scenario Cards

Use these cards away from a live attempt first. Say what you notice, choose one action and name the evidence that would make you change course. There is rarely one universal answer; the value is in making the decision visible.

#	Situation	First question	Small response
1	The opening plan stops working earlier than expected.	Check movement rhythm	Use: play one life for observation
2	A tempting reward appears while the safe route is still available.	Check pattern memory	Use: repeat a safe opening
3	One mistake has just broken the rhythm of the run.	Check life preservation	Use: name the pattern before reacting
4	The useful cue is visible, but the input keeps arriving late.	Check score routing	Use: bank a score instead of extending risk
5	The result improves once, then drops on the next two attempts.	Check risk timing	Use: practise one difficult transition
6	You have enough time for only one more focused attempt.	Check restart discipline	Use: review the cause of each lost life

Work one card fully

Decision field	Notes
Chosen card	_____
What is known	_____
What is assumed	_____
Safe option	_____
Higher-risk option	_____
My choice and reason	_____
Evidence to watch	Stage reached: _____
Goal connection	This helps me compare two options before committing.

Debrief

- What did I notice early enough? _____
- Which assumption was wrong? _____
- Did the result come from the decision or the input? _____
- What would make the safer option too passive? _____

Seven-Session Evidence Tracker

Use the same main signal for all seven sessions. The purpose is to see whether work on make better decisions transfers into normal play, not to manufacture a perfect upward line.

Session	Focus	Signal	Result	One useful note
1	Movement rhythm	Score per life	_____	_____
2	Pattern memory	Stage reached	_____	_____
3	Life preservation	Pattern errors	_____	_____
4	Score routing	Safe bonuses	_____	_____
5	Risk timing	Clean transitions	_____	_____
6	Restart discipline	Score per life	_____	_____
7	Movement rhythm	Stage reached	_____	_____

Compare the pattern

Review	Value	Context
Baseline result	_____	Conditions: _____
Typical result	_____	Based on sessions: _____
Best repeatable result	_____	Repeated how often? _____
Largest drop	_____	Likely trigger: _____
Comfort pattern	_____	Break or setup change: _____

Evidence-based decision

- Keep: the routine that produced a repeatable gain.
- Change: the smallest cause linked to the repeated error.
- Pause: a metric that adds logging but no useful decision.
- Next target: one behaviour and one result for the next seven sessions.

Personal Playbook and Next-Step Plan

Finish by turning your notes into a short playbook you can actually remember. Write actions in your own words and keep only the cues that changed a decision or result.

Moment	My rule
Before play	I will check the objective, comfort and movement rhythm.
Opening cue	When I notice _____, I will test pattern memory.
Pressure rule	When the plan breaks, I will _____.
Recovery rule	After an error, I will use practise one difficult transition.
Risk rule	I will take the higher-risk option only when _____.
Stop rule	I will pause or finish when _____.
Review rule	I will record score per life and one cause.

Two-week continuation plan

Session	Practice	Purpose
Session 1	Play one life for observation	Set a clean baseline
Session 2	Repeat a safe opening	Repeat one visible cue
Session 3	Name the pattern before reacting	Apply under light pressure
Session 4	Bank a score instead of extending risk	Retest the weak section
Session 5	Practise one difficult transition	Check transfer to normal play
Session 6	Review the cause of each lost life	Review: Make Better Decisions

Completion review

- I can now record more decisions with a stated reason: yes / partly / not yet
- The clearest evidence is: _____
- The most useful page in this workbook was: _____
- My next small target is: _____

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