

8-Week Pattern Mastery Study Schedule

Based on the framework that helped 60+ engineers land FAANG offers

WEEKS 1-2: FOUNDATIONAL PATTERNS

Daily time: 60-90 minutes

Days 1-3: Study API Gateway & Load Balancer

- Read pattern descriptions, understand triggers
- Watch 2-3 tutorial videos per pattern

Days 4-6: Study Horizontal Scaling & Caching

- Read pattern descriptions, identify use cases
- Practice explaining variations

Days 7-10: Practice Problems (Foundational Only)

- Problem 1: Design URL shortener
- Problem 2: Design Instagram (read-heavy focus)
- Problem 3: Design Netflix (CDN + caching)
- Problem 4: Design simple e-commerce

Days 11-14: Timed Drills

- Given requirements, identify patterns in <60 seconds
- Practice 3-4 drills per day
- Checkpoint: Can explain all 4 foundational patterns without notes

WEEKS 3-4: INTERMEDIATE PATTERNS

Daily time: 60-90 minutes

Days 1-3: Study Database Sharding & Event-Driven

- Focus on complexity justification
- When is each pattern necessary?

Days 4-6: Study CQRS & Microservices

- Practice articulating trade-offs
- What are you giving up?

Days 7-10: Practice Problems (Adding Intermediate)

- Problem 1: Design Uber (sharding + event-driven)
- Problem 2: Design messaging system
- Problem 3: Design Twitter (event-driven + sharding)
- Problem 4: Design analytics dashboard (CQRS)

Days 11-14: Justification Framework Drills

- For each pattern: problem it solves, simpler alternatives, breaking point
- Checkpoint: Can explain when NOT to use each intermediate pattern

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Weeks 5-8: combinations, trade-offs, and timed mocks

WEEKS 5-6: PATTERN COMBINATIONS

Daily time: 60-90 minutes

Days 1-4: Study Pattern Combination Framework

- Natural combinations
- Patterns that create tension
- Review compatibility matrix

Days 5-8: Complex Practice Problems

- Problem 1: Design Amazon (6+ patterns)
- Problem 2: Design Facebook (feed generation)
- Problem 3: Design YouTube (video processing)
- Problem 4: Design ride-sharing app

Days 9-12: Trade-off Articulation Practice

- For each solution: what optimizing for, what sacrificing

Days 13-14: Review All Patterns

- Quick recap of triggers, failure modes, and scaling levers
- Checkpoint: Can solve complex problems using 6+ integrated patterns

WEEKS 7-8: TIMED MOCK INTERVIEWS

Daily time: 90-120 minutes

Days 1, 3, 5, 7: Conduct 45-minute timed mocks

- Use real FAANG questions
- No notes, record yourself

Days 2, 4, 6, 8: Review recordings

- Pattern identification speed?
- Justified complexity?
- Articulated trade-offs?

Days 9-11: Focus on Weak Areas

- Slow pattern ID -> drill decision tree
- Over-engineering -> practice justification

Days 12-14: Final Mock Interviews

- Goal: Complete in 40 minutes
- Reserve 5 minutes for questions
- Checkpoint: Consistent 45-minute completion, senior-level thinking