

Badugi

2-6 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Hard

Duration: Medium

Make the lowest four-card hand with all different suits and no pairs.

SETUP

- 2-6 players with a standard 52-card deck.
- Post small blind and big blind.
- Deal 4 cards face-down to each player.

SCORING

- Any four-card badugi beats any three-card hand.
- Lowest cards win; A-2-3-4 rainbow is the best hand.

Tip: Draw aggressively for a badugi early, but protect a strong three-card hand in later rounds.

ON YOUR TURN

- Bet, then draw (discard and replace any number of cards).
- Repeat the betting and drawing cycle three times.
- Final betting round, then showdown.

Badugi is a draw poker variant of Korean origin where the goal is to make the lowest four-card hand with all different suits and no pairs. A perfect badugi — four unpaired cards of four different suits — beats any three-card or two-card hand. The game features triple draw mechanics and unique hand rankings unlike any other poker variant.

Objective

Make the lowest four-card hand with no pairs and no two cards of the same suit. The best possible hand is A-2-3-4 with all four suits represented.

Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 6 players.
2. **Deck:** Standard 52-card deck.
3. **Blinds:** Small blind and big blind are posted.
4. **Deal:** Each player receives 4 cards face-down.

Gameplay

1. **First betting round:** Betting begins with the player to the left of the big blind.
2. **First draw:** Each player may discard any number of cards (zero to four) and receive replacements.
3. **Second betting round:** Another round of betting occurs.
4. **Second draw:** Players may draw again.
5. **Third betting round:** Betting takes place again.
6. **Third draw:** A final draw opportunity is given.
7. **Final betting round and showdown:** After the last betting round, remaining players reveal their hands.

Scoring

- **Badugi:** A four-card hand with all different suits and no pairs. The lowest badugi wins.
- **Three-card hand:** If two cards share a suit or rank, the higher of the duplicated cards is removed, leaving a three-card hand.
- **Hierarchy:** Any four-card badugi beats any three-card hand, which beats any two-card hand.
- **Comparison:** Hands are compared from the highest card down; lower is better.

Variations

- **Badacey:** Combines Badugi with ace-to-five triple draw, splitting the pot between the best badugi and the best A-5 low hand.
- **Badeucey:** Combines Badugi with deuce-to-seven triple draw.

Tips and Strategies

- Starting with three low cards of different suits is a strong beginning — you only need one card to complete your badugi.
- Be cautious about breaking a three-card hand to draw for a badugi if your three-card hand is already strong.
- Pay attention to how many cards opponents draw — standing pat or drawing one usually indicates strength.

Tips & Strategy

The key decision in Badugi is whether to break a good three-card hand to draw for a badugi. Generally, draw for the badugi early and protect your three-card hand in later draw rounds.

Position is extremely valuable in Badugi because you can see how many cards opponents draw before acting. Standing pat with a weak badugi can be a powerful bluff when opponents are still drawing.