

# Beleaguered Castle

1 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Hard

Duration: Medium

## Build four foundation piles from Ace to King by suit.

### SETUP

- Place four Aces as foundations in the center.
- Deal remaining 48 cards face up in 8 columns of 6.

### SCORING

- Win by completing all four foundations to King.

*Tip: Create empty columns early as they are crucial for maneuvering cards.*

### ON YOUR TURN

- Move top card of a column to a foundation (ascending, same suit).
- Move top card to another column (one rank lower, any suit).
- Fill empty columns with any top card.

*Beleaguered Castle is a challenging solitaire game where all 52 cards are dealt face up into eight columns flanking four foundation piles. With complete information visible from the start, the game is entirely skill-based with no hidden cards or luck of the draw. It is considered one of the more difficult patience games, with a win rate estimated at around 30%.*

## Objective

Build all four foundation piles from Ace to King, one for each suit.

## Setup

- Players:** 1
- Deck:** Standard 52-card deck
- Layout:** Remove the four Aces and place them in a column as foundations. Deal the remaining 48 cards face up into eight columns of 6 cards each, four columns on each side of the foundations.

## Gameplay

- Move to foundation:** Move the top (outermost) card of any column to a foundation pile if it is the next card in ascending sequence of the same suit.
- Move between columns:** Move the top card of any column to the top of another column if it is one rank lower than the card it is placed on, regardless of suit.
- Empty columns:** An empty column can be filled with any available top card from another column.
- No stock or redeal:** There is no stock pile or redeal. All moves must be made using the visible tableau.

## Scoring

- Win:** Successfully move all 52 cards to the four foundation piles.
- Loss:** No more legal moves can be made before completing the foundations.
- Tracking:** Count the number of cards placed on foundations as a progress measure.

## Variations

- Citadel:** Similar layout but Aces are placed on foundations as they appear during the deal, and cards may be played to foundations during dealing.
- Streets and Alleys:** The Aces are not pre-placed but shuffled into the columns, making the game harder.
- Selective Castle:** Choose which cards to place in each column during the deal for more control.

## Tips and Strategies

- Plan several moves ahead since all information is visible from the start.
- Prioritize freeing cards that are needed for foundation building.
- Try to create empty columns early as they serve as valuable temporary storage.
- Avoid burying low-value cards under high-value cards in columns.

## Tips & Strategy

---

Since all cards are visible, plan your moves carefully. Focus on creating empty columns for maneuvering. Free cards needed for foundations early. Avoid blocking low cards behind high cards.

Empty columns are the most valuable resource in Beleaguered Castle. Every decision should consider whether it moves you toward freeing a column or blocks that goal.