

Brisca

2-4 players

40 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Short

Capture the most points by winning tricks with valuable cards.

SETUP

- 2-4 players use a 40-card Spanish deck.
- Deal 3 cards to each player.
- Place one card face up under the stock to set trumps.

SCORING

- Aces 11, 3s 10, Kings 4, Knights 3, Jacks 2 points.
- Other cards have no point value.
- Player or team with the most points wins the round.

Tip: Save trumps for capturing high-point cards and use low cards to lose worthless tricks.

ON YOUR TURN

- Lead any card; no requirement to follow suit.
- Highest card of led suit wins unless trumped.
- Draw one card from the stock after each trick.

Brisca is a straightforward and fast-paced Spanish trick-taking card game closely related to the Italian game Briscola. It uses a 40-card deck and features a trump suit, making it accessible to beginners while still offering strategic depth for experienced players.

Objective

Capture cards worth points by winning tricks. The player or team with the most points at the end of the round wins.

Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 4 players (partnerships of two for 4 players).
2. **Deck:** A 40-card Spanish deck.
3. **Deal:** Each player receives 3 cards.
4. **Trump:** One card is placed face up under the remaining deck to establish the trump suit.

Gameplay

1. **Leading:** The first player leads any card to the trick.
2. **Free play:** Unlike many trick-taking games, players are not required to follow suit. They may play any card from their hand.
3. **Trick resolution:** The highest card of the led suit wins, unless a trump was played, in which case the highest trump wins.
4. **Drawing:** After each trick, players draw one card from the stock to replenish their hand to three cards.

Scoring

- **Aces:** 11 points each.
- **3s:** 10 points each.
- **Kings:** 4 points each.
- **Knights:** 3 points each.
- **Jacks:** 2 points each.

Variations

- **Brisca Subastada:** Adds an auction phase where players bid for the right to choose trump.
- **Five-player Brisca:** Uses a modified deal and one player sits out each round in rotation.

Tips and Strategies

- Since you are not required to follow suit, use low-value cards to lose tricks you do not want, and save trumps for capturing high-point cards.
- Pay attention to which point cards have been played. Knowing the remaining card values helps you decide when to fight for tricks.

Tips & Strategy

The freedom to play any card is Brisca's defining feature. Use it to sandbag when tricks are worthless and to strike with trumps when point-rich cards are on the table.

The three-card hand limit forces constant decision-making. Each card played is a significant commitment, so weigh the value of every trick against what might come next.