

# Escoba

2-4 players

40 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Short

## Capture table cards by making combinations that total 15.

### SETUP

- 2-4 players use a 40-card Spanish deck.
- Deal 3 cards to each player.
- Place 4 cards face up on the table.

### SCORING

- Most cards captured: 1 point.
- Most gold suit cards: 1 point.
- Seven of Golds: 1 point.
- Each escoba (table sweep): 1 point.

*Tip: Prioritize capturing gold suit cards, especially the Seven of Golds, for multiple scoring categories.*

### ON YOUR TURN

- Play one card from your hand to the table.
- If your card plus table cards total exactly 15, capture them.
- Clearing the entire table scores an escoba.
- If no capture is possible, your card stays on the table.

*Escoba is a popular Spanish and Italian fishing card game where players capture cards from a central layout by matching them to values in their hand. The name means 'broom' in Spanish, referring to the prized achievement of sweeping all cards from the table in a single play.*

## Objective

Capture cards from the table by playing cards from your hand that add up to 15 with one or more table cards. Score points for specific achievements like having the most cards, the most golds, and making escobas.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 4 players (partnerships of two for 4 players).
2. **Deck:** A 40-card Spanish deck with values 1 through 10.
3. **Deal:** Each player receives 3 cards. Four cards are placed face up on the table.
4. **Rounds:** After all hands are played, 3 more cards are dealt to each player until the deck is exhausted.

## Gameplay

1. **Playing a card:** On your turn, play one card from your hand to the table.
2. **Capturing:** If your played card plus one or more table cards total exactly 15, you capture those cards and place them in your score pile.
3. **Escoba:** If your capture clears every card from the table, you score an escoba (marked by placing a card face up in your score pile).
4. **No capture:** If you cannot make 15, your card remains on the table for future captures.

## Scoring

- **Most cards captured:** 1 point.
- **Most gold suit cards:** 1 point.
- **Seven of golds (Siete de velo):** 1 point.
- **Highest primera score:** 1 point (based on specific card values).
- **Each escoba:** 1 point.

## Variations

- **Escoba del 15:** The standard version described here.
- **Escoba de la mesa:** Allows capturing the entire table regardless of the total, under certain conditions.

## Tips and Strategies

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- Prioritize capturing gold suit cards and especially the Seven of Golds, as these contribute to multiple scoring categories.
- Try to leave table totals that make it difficult for the next player to make 15, denying them captures.

## Tips & Strategy

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Focus on gold suit cards for maximum scoring potential. When you cannot capture, leave card totals on the table that are awkward for your opponents to combine to 15.

Arithmetic awareness is key. Always scan the table for multiple possible captures before committing, as some captures leave better or worse positions for your opponents.