

Forty Thieves

1 players

104 cards

Difficulty: Hard

Duration: Long

Build 8 foundation piles from Ace to King by suit using 2 standard decks.

SETUP

- Use 2 standard decks (104 cards).
- Deal 10 columns of 4 face-up cards each (40 cards visible).
- Remaining 64 cards form the stock.

SCORING

- Win by completing all 8 foundation piles (Ace to King by suit).
- Win rate is only about 10%, making it extremely difficult.

Tip: Create empty columns early and protect them; they are your only way to reorganize.

ON YOUR TURN

- Move only one card at a time between columns.
- Build tableau columns in descending order of the same suit.
- Draw one card from stock to the waste pile; top waste card is playable.
- Fill empty columns with any single card.

Forty Thieves is a notoriously difficult double-deck solitaire game where 40 cards are dealt face-up across 10 columns. With strict building rules and low win rates, it is a challenging puzzle for experienced solitaire players.

Objective

Build 8 foundation piles from Ace to King, each in a single suit, using 2 standard decks.

Setup

1. **Players:** 1 player.
2. **Deck:** 2 standard 52-card decks (104 cards).
3. **Tableau:** 10 columns of 4 face-up cards each (40 cards visible).
4. **Stock:** 64 remaining cards, drawn one at a time to a waste pile.
5. **Foundations:** 8 empty piles, one for each suit (two per suit since there are 2 decks).

Gameplay

1. **Building:** Only one card may be moved at a time. Build tableau columns in descending order of the same suit.
2. **Stock:** Draw one card to the waste pile. The top waste card is always playable.
3. **Foundations:** Build up by suit from Ace to King.
4. **Empty Columns:** Any single card may fill an empty column.

Tips and Strategies

- With same-suit building and single-card movement, this is extremely restrictive — plan meticulously.
- Empty columns are your lifeline. Create them early and protect them.
- Playing cards from the waste pile to free up tableau moves is essential.
- Estimated win rate is around 10%, so celebrate every victory.

Tips & Strategy

Plan many moves ahead. The single-card movement restriction means repositioning is costly and sometimes impossible.

The stock pile is enormous (64 cards). Managing the waste pile order and finding opportunities to play from it are critical skills.