

Gops

2 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Short

Win the most points by bidding for diamond prize cards with cards from your hand.

SETUP

- Separate the deck by suit: one player gets Clubs, the other gets Spades.
- Shuffle the Diamonds face-down as the prize pile; Hearts are not used.

SCORING

- Diamonds are worth face value (Ace=1 through King=13, total 91 points).
- Player with more than 45.5 points wins.

Tip: Avoid being predictable; sometimes overbidding on a low prize forces your opponent to waste high cards later.

ON YOUR TURN

- Reveal the top diamond as the prize.
- Both players secretly choose one hand card and reveal simultaneously.
- Higher bid wins the diamond; ties discard it.
- Bid cards are discarded regardless of outcome.

Gops is a card game of pure strategy with zero luck. Players simultaneously bid for prize cards using cards from their hand, making it a fascinating exercise in psychology and game theory.

Objective

Win the most points by bidding for diamond cards (worth their face value) using cards from your hand.

Setup

1. **Players:** 2 players (expandable to 3-4).
2. **Deck:** Standard 52-card deck, separated by suit.
3. **Distribution:** One player gets all Clubs, the other all Spades. Diamonds are the prize pile (shuffled). Hearts are not used.

Gameplay

1. **Prize Reveal:** Turn up the top diamond card as the prize.
2. **Simultaneous Bid:** Both players secretly choose one card from their hand and reveal simultaneously.
3. **Winning the Prize:** The higher bid wins the diamond. If tied, the diamond is discarded (or carried over to the next round).
4. **Card Removal:** Bid cards are discarded regardless of outcome — each card can only be used once.
5. **Continue:** Reveal the next diamond and bid again. Play through all 13 diamonds.

Scoring

Count the face values of diamonds won (Ace=1 through King=13). The 91 total points are split; whoever exceeds 45.5 wins.

Tips and Strategies

- Save your high cards for high-value prizes, but predictability is a weakness.
- Sometimes winning a cheap diamond with a high bid is worth it to force your opponent to waste a high card later.
- Reading your opponent's bidding patterns is the entire game.

Tips & Strategy

The challenge is not knowing which card to play in isolation, but predicting what your opponent will play and responding accordingly.

The mathematically optimal strategy involves randomization, but against human opponents, exploiting patterns and biases is usually more effective.