

Guts

2-10 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Short

Hold the best hand among players who stay in.

SETUP

- Everyone antes.
- Deal two or three cards to each player.
- Players evaluate their hands secretly.

SCORING

- Winner takes the entire pot.
- Each loser adds an amount equal to the pot.

Tip: A pair of 10s or better is usually worth staying in for in two-card Guts.

ON YOUR TURN

- Simultaneously declare in or out.
- Reveal hands if multiple players stay in.
- Best hand takes the pot; losers match it.

Guts is a fast and intense poker variant where players are dealt a small hand and must simultaneously decide whether to stay 'in' or drop 'out.' Those who stay in compete for the pot, and losers must match it.

Objective

Win the pot by holding the best hand among all players who choose to stay in.

Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 10 players.
2. **Deck:** A standard 52-card deck.
3. **Deal:** Each player antes, then receives two or three cards (depending on the variant).

Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** Each player is dealt their cards (typically two or three) face down.
2. **Step 2:** All players simultaneously declare whether they are 'in' (competing for the pot) or 'out' (folding). This is usually done by holding chips in a closed fist.
3. **Step 3:** All players who stayed in reveal their hands. The best hand wins the pot.
4. **Step 4:** Each losing player who stayed in must add an amount equal to the pot. A new round begins with the refreshed pot.

Scoring

- Standard poker hand rankings apply (pairs, straights, flushes, etc.).
- The pot can grow exponentially since losers must match it.
- The game ends when only one player stays in unopposed, or by group agreement.

Variations

- **Two-Card Guts:** Each player gets two cards; straights and flushes do not count.
- **Three-Card Guts:** Three cards are dealt and three-card poker rankings apply.

Tips and Strategies

- Only stay in with strong hands, as the penalty for losing is steep.
- A pair is often a strong enough hand in two-card Guts.
- Watch for the pot to snowball and be cautious when it grows large.

Tips & Strategy

Only stay in with premium hands. The pot doubles rapidly, so one bad decision can be very costly.

The decision to stay in should factor in both hand strength and the number of opponents likely to compete. Fewer opponents make staying in safer.