

# Poch

3-6 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Medium

Win chips across three phases: collecting, betting, and shedding.

## SETUP

- Place chips on each board compartment.
- Deal all cards evenly.
- Determine the trump suit.

## SCORING

- Board compartments pay for matching cards.
- The shedding winner collects one chip per card remaining in opponents' hands.

*Tip: Plan your shedding strategy early, as it is the most rewarding phase.*

## ON YOUR TURN

- Collect from the board if you hold matching trump cards.
- Bet or fold in the Pochen round.
- Shed cards in sequence, aiming to go out first.

*Poch (also known as Pochen) is a classic German card game that combines three distinct phases: betting on specific card holdings, a poker-like bluffing phase, and a shedding phase. It is played on a special board with labeled compartments.*

## Objective

Win chips by collecting from the Poch board during the betting phase, winning the bluffing phase, and being the first to shed all your cards.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 3 to 6 players.
2. **Deck:** 32 cards from a standard deck (7s through Aces) or a full 52-card deck.
3. **Deal:** Players place one chip on each of the board compartments. All cards are dealt as evenly as possible.

## Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** In the first phase, players collect from board compartments if they hold the matching cards (Ace, King, Queen, Jack of the trump suit, or specific pairs and sequences).
2. **Step 2:** In the second phase (Pochen), players bet on who has the best set of matching cards (pairs, triples, or four of a kind). Players may bluff, call, or fold.
3. **Step 3:** The winner of the Pochen phase collects that compartment's chips.
4. **Step 4:** In the third phase, players shed cards in sequence starting from the winner of the previous phase. The first player to empty their hand wins remaining chips.

## Scoring

- Chips are won from each board compartment during the first phase.
- The Pochen pot goes to the best matching set or last player standing.
- The first player to shed all cards in the final phase wins a chip from each opponent per card they hold.

## Variations

- **Poch Board Styles:** Different boards have different labeled compartments, changing which combinations pay out.
- **Full Deck Poch:** Using all 52 cards for larger groups and longer games.

## Tips and Strategies

- Focus on the shedding phase, as it offers the biggest chip rewards.
- In the Pochen phase, only bet with genuinely strong sets.
- Keep track of which trump cards have been played during the first phase.

## Tips & Strategy

Prioritize the shedding phase for maximum chip gains. Only bluff in the Pochen phase with moderate holdings to keep opponents guessing.

The shedding phase is where the biggest rewards lie. Plan your card play sequences in advance so you can empty your hand quickly.