

# Russian Bank

2 players

104 cards

Difficulty: Hard

Duration: Long

Be the first to empty your reserve pile and stock by playing to foundations and opponent's piles.

## SETUP

- Each player uses their own 52-card deck.
- Each player deals 13 cards face-down as a reserve, top card face-up.
- Deal 4 shared tableau columns of 1 face-up card each.

## SCORING

- First player to empty their reserve and stock wins.
- Opponents can call 'Stop!' if you make moves out of mandatory order, ending your turn.

*Tip: Master the mandatory play order to avoid violations; dumping cards on your opponent's piles is a powerful tactic.*

## ON YOUR TURN

- You **MUST** play to foundations before other moves; reserve before waste.
- Build tableau descending in alternating colors.
- Play cards onto your opponent's reserve or waste if they match by suit and rank.
- Draw stock cards one at a time to your waste pile.

Russian Bank is a competitive two-player patience game with strict rules about play order and mandatory moves. Players build on shared foundations while managing personal tableaux, reserves, and waste piles, with violations penalized by loss of turn.

## Objective

Be the first to empty your reserve pile and stock. Cards are played to foundations, your opponent's piles, and tableau columns.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 2 players, each with their own 52-card deck.
2. **Reserve:** Each player deals 13 cards face-down, top card face-up.
3. **Tableau:** 4 columns of 1 face-up card each, shared between players.
4. **Stock:** Remaining cards for each player.
5. **Foundations:** 8 shared foundation piles (Ace to King by suit).

## Gameplay

1. **Mandatory Moves:** You **MUST** play to foundations before making other moves. You **MUST** play from your reserve before your waste pile.
2. **Building:** Tableau built descending, alternating colors. You may also play cards onto your opponent's reserve or waste pile if they match by suit and rank.
3. **Stock:** Turn stock cards one at a time to your waste pile.
4. **Violations:** If your opponent catches you making a non-mandatory move out of order, they call 'Stop!' and your turn ends immediately.

## Tips and Strategies

- Follow the mandatory play order meticulously — getting stopped costs you your entire turn.
- Dumping cards on your opponent's piles is a powerful aggressive tactic.
- Empty your reserve before focusing on your stock.

## Tips & Strategy

The mandatory move rules are what make Russian Bank unique. Master the priority order to avoid costly violations.

Playing cards onto your opponent's waste pile is a devastating tactic — it increases their workload while reducing yours.