

# Tresillo

3 players

40 cards

Difficulty: Hard

Duration: Medium

As the **hombre**, win at least 5 of 9 tricks against two defenders.

## SETUP

- 3 players with a 40-card Spanish deck (no 8s, 9s, or 10s).
- Deal 9 cards each; remaining 13 cards form the stock.

## SCORING

- **Sacada**: hombre wins and collects from both opponents.
- **Puesta**: hombre fails and pays into the pot.
- **Codille**: a defender wins more tricks than the hombre, costing even more.

*Tip: Hold at least two matadors before declaring — they are nearly unbeatable trick winners.*

## ON YOUR TURN

- Declare as hombre and optionally exchange cards with the stock.
- Name the trump suit after picking up stock cards.
- Play tricks following suit; highest trump or suit card wins.
- Spadille, Manille, and Basto are always the top three trumps.

Tresillo is a historic Spanish three-player trick-taking game that was once the most popular card game in Europe. It uses a 40-card Spanish deck with an unusual trump hierarchy.

## Objective

As the declarer (hombre), win the majority of the nine tricks. The two defenders work together to prevent this.

## Setup

1. **Players**: 3 players.
2. **Deck**: 40-card Spanish deck (or a standard deck with 8s, 9s, and 10s removed).
3. **Deal**: Each player receives 9 cards. The remaining 13 cards form the stock.

## Gameplay

1. **Declaring**: The first player willing to be hombre announces their intention and may choose to exchange cards with the stock.
2. **Trump choice**: The hombre names the trump suit after picking up stock cards.
3. **Matadors**: Certain cards (Spadille, Manille, Basto) are always the top three trumps regardless of the trump suit chosen.
4. **Trick play**: Standard trick-taking with mandatory follow-suit. The highest trump or suit card wins each trick.
5. **Winning**: The hombre must win at least 5 of 9 tricks to succeed.

## Scoring

- **Sacada**: The hombre wins and collects from both opponents.
- **Puesta**: The hombre fails, and must pay into the pot.
- **Codille**: A defender wins more tricks than the hombre, which is even more costly for the hombre.

## Variations

- **Ombre (Hombre)**: The more well-known international name for the same game family.
- **Mediator**: A four-player version where the fourth player acts as a silent partner.

## Tips and Strategies

- Hold at least two matadors before declaring — they are nearly unbeatable and guarantee trick wins.
- Choose a trump suit where you have the most length to maximize your control over later tricks.

## Tips & Strategy

Never declare without at least two matadors. Choose your trump suit based on length and the presence of high cards.

Lead your matadors early to strip defenders of their trumps, then use your suit length to control the remaining tricks.