

Ziginette

2-10 players

40 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Medium

Bet on face-up cards and win when the banker's card is matched before yours.

SETUP

- 2+ players plus a banker with a 40-card Italian deck.
- Banker deals two cards face-up on the table as the layout.

SCORING

- Player wins are paid at even money.
- Banker collects the bet when a player's card matches first.
- Non-matching drawn cards join the layout for new bets.

Tip: Bet on cards with fewer remaining matches in the deck to reduce the banker's edge.

ON YOUR TURN

- Players place wagers on any face-up card on the table.
- Banker draws cards one at a time from the deck.
- If a drawn card matches a player's bet card, the player loses.
- If it matches the banker's layout card, players on that card win.

Ziginette is an old Italian banking card game where players bet against a dealer, wagering on whether their chosen card will appear before the dealer's card in the draw.

Objective

As a player, bet on cards and win when the dealer's matching card is drawn before yours. As the banker, profit when players' cards appear first.

Setup

1. **Players:** 2 or more players, plus a banker.
2. **Deck:** 40-card Italian deck (or standard deck with 8s, 9s, and 10s removed).
3. **Layout:** The banker deals two cards face-up on the table. Players place bets on these or future exposed cards.

Gameplay

1. **Betting:** Players place their wagers on any face-up card on the table.
2. **Drawing:** The banker draws cards one at a time from the deck. If a drawn card matches a player's bet card (same rank), the player loses their wager.
3. **Banker match:** If the drawn card matches the banker's layout card, bets on the corresponding card are paid out to players.
4. **New cards:** Non-matching drawn cards are added to the layout and become available for new bets.

Scoring

- **Player wins:** When the banker's card matches, the player is paid even money.
- **Banker wins:** When a player's card matches, the banker collects the bet.
- **House edge:** The banker has a natural advantage because player cards have slightly higher odds of appearing first.

Variations

- **Monte Bank:** A similar Mexican banking game derived from the same Italian roots.
- **Rotating banker:** The banker role passes after a set number of deals to share risk.

Tips and Strategies

- Bet on cards with fewer remaining matches in the deck to reduce the banker's edge.
- As banker, manage the pot carefully — large payouts can swing the balance quickly.

Tips & Strategy

Track which ranks have already appeared. Betting late when fewer matching cards remain can slightly improve your odds.

Since this is largely a game of chance, focus on bankroll management rather than trying to find a winning system.