

Divide

A drafting trick-taking game of bluff, scarcity, and careful timing
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Play length: 30–45 min · Players: 3–6 · Ages: 10+

1 · Overview

Each round, players secretly place a bid card that may decide the trump rank, then draft and pass cards to shape their hands before competing in eight tricks.
Tricks earn scoring tokens whose value depends on the suit's remaining supply.
After four rounds, the player with the highest total token points wins.

2 · Components

- 1 standard 52-card deck (54 with Jokers for 6 players)
- 1 personal marker per player
- 15 scoring tokens
    - 3 each of ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ (2 pts each)
    - 3 Divide tokens (5 pts each)
- Score sheet or tracker

Player Count

- 3 – 5 players use 52 cards (no Jokers)
- 6 players use 54 cards (with 2 Jokers)

3 · Goal

Earn the most points from collected scoring tokens after four rounds of play.

4 · Key Terms

Trump Rank – The revealed rank (e.g., 7s) that is trump this round.
Suit Priority (for trumps) – Spades > Hearts > Diamonds > Clubs.
Joker – Suitless wild card; never satisfies must-follow; beats any non-trump but loses to any trump.
Divide Token – 5-point wild token taken when a suit's tokens are gone.

5 · Setup

1. Shuffle the deck. Deal **9 cards** to each player.
2. Give each player their personal marker.
3. Place all 15 scoring tokens in the center, suit stacks visible.

6 · Round Structure

Each round proceeds as follows:

6.1 Trump Bid (before draft)

- Each player secretly chooses **1 card** from hand (face down) and places it in the center pool.
- Jokers cannot be bid.
- This card is removed from play for the round.

6.2 Divide Draft (two-way pass)

- Players now have 8 cards.
- **Pass 2 cards left** and receive 2 from your right.
- Then **pass 2 cards right** and receive 2 from your left.
- You finish with 8 cards again.

6.3 Reveal Trump

- Shuffle the bid pool and reveal one card at random.
- The revealed card's rank is **trump** for this round.
- Return other bid cards to the box.

6.4 Trick Play

1. Player left of dealer leads first trick with any card.
2. Players must follow suit if able; otherwise play any card. (Jokers never satisfy must-follow.)
3. Trick resolution:
    - If any trump ranks were played, highest trump by suit priority wins.
    - Otherwise, highest card of the led suit wins.
4. Winner takes the trick and leads next.
5. Each round is exactly 8 tricks.

6.5 Scoring Tokens

When you win a trick:

- Take one token matching the suit of your **winning card**.
- If that suit's stack is empty, take a **Divide token (5 pts)** instead.
- Keep tokens face-up in front of you.

6.6 End of Round

- Record each player's token points.
- Shuffle all cards and deal new hands for the next round.
- After four rounds, sum points to determine the winner.

7 · Winning the Game

After four rounds, highest total points wins.
Tiebreaks:

1. Most trump-rank trick wins.
2. Most distinct suit tokens.
3. Highest single-round score.
4. If still tied, share the win.

8 · Examples

Example 1: Trump rank = 7s. Trick plays 6♦, 7♣, 7♠, A♦. Both 7s are trump; 7♠ wins by suit priority.
Example 2: Trump rank = 10s. Trick plays 9♥, 10♦, 10♣, A♥. Trump present → compare trumps; 10♦ wins (♦ over ♣).
Example 3: Trump rank = 5s. Trick plays Q♠, J♠, 5♣, K♠. Trump 5♣ beats all non-trumps despite rank value.

9 · FAQ

Q · Can I bid a Joker?
A · No. Jokers cannot be used in the bid phase.

Q · Can I play a Joker even if I have the led suit?
A · Yes. Joker never satisfies must-follow.

Q · What if two players play trump ranks of different suits?
A · Use suit priority (Spades > Hearts > Diamonds > Clubs).

Q · What if all tokens are taken before game end?
A · Add generic 5-point Divide tokens as needed or note points on paper.

Q · Does the winning card's suit always decide which token I take?
A · Yes. Not the led suit or the trump rank—only the actual winning card.

10 · Glossary

Bid Pool – Cards placed face down to determine trump.
Divide Draft – The two-way passing sequence that builds hands.
Follow Suit – Play a card of the same suit as the lead if able.
Trick – One set of cards played, one winner takes them.
Token Stack – The visible supply of scoring tokens by suit.

11 · Quick Player Aid

Setup

- Deal 9 cards each.
- Each player bids 1 face down card (center).
- Pass 2 left → receive 2 right.
- Pass 2 right → receive 2 left.
- Reveal 1 random bid card = trump rank.

Trick Play

1. Follow suit if able. Otherwise any card.
2. Trump beats non-trump. If multiple trumps, apply suit priority.
3. If no trump, highest led suit wins.
4. Jokers beat non-trumps but lose to any trump.

Scoring

- Win a trick → take token of winning card's suit.
- If none remain, take a 5-pt Divide token.
- At end of 4 rounds highest total points wins.

Suit Priority (for trumps only)

Spades > Hearts > Diamonds > Clubs