



**Presents**

# **Skat-101**

**A Gentle Introduction to Skat,  
the Ultimate Card Game**

**FUN for  
the whole FAMILY!**

We recommend playing the game we call “Skat-101” for a while before learning the full 3-handed Skat game. Playing the simpler 2-handed game (“one-o(n)-one”) will teach you the basics, such as declaring a game type, making tricks, counting card points, memorizing played cards, and scoring games, without the need of learning how to bid. All you need is a 32-card Skat deck (7,8,...,Ace in 4 suits). Such decks can be purchased at your local club or at <http://skatlink.com>.

### Playing a Single Skat-101 Hand

1. Shuffle the Skat deck and have it cut by your opponent
2. Deal all 32 cards as follows:
  - a) One row of 4 cards **face down** to your opponent
  - b) One row of 4 cards **face down** to yourself
  - c) Repeat steps a) and b) – creating two more rows
  - d) 4 cards **face up** on top of your opponent's first row
  - e) 4 cards **face up** on top of your first row, and finally
  - f) 4 cards **face up** on your opponent's second row and the last 4 cards **face up** on your second row.
3. Your opponent declares a trump game: ♣, ♠, ♥, ♦ or Grand. In suit games, Jacks and all cards in the chosen suit are trump (see Card Rankings below). In Grand games, the only trump cards are Jacks. Note that the Jacks are always the highest trump cards in the order ♣J ♠J ♥J ♦J .
4. The trump declarer now leads the first of 16 tricks to be played (see Playing a Trick)
5. To determine the winner both players count their trick card points (see Card Points below)
6. Keep score by recording the declarer's game result (see Scoring below)

### Card Rankings (highest to lowest)

|                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Grand-game trump    | ♣J ♠J ♥J ♦J                           |
| Clubs-game trump    | ♣J ♠J ♥J ♦J ♣A ♣10 ♣K ♣Q ♣9 ♣8 ♣7     |
| Spades-game trump   | ♣J ♠J ♥J ♦J ♠A ♠10 ♠K ♠Q ♠9 ♠8 ♠7     |
| Hearts-game trump   | ♣J ♠J ♥J ♦J ♥A ♥10 ♥K ♥Q ♥9 ♥8 ♥7     |
| Diamonds-game trump | ♣J ♠J ♥J ♦J ♦A ♦10 ♦K ♦Q ♦9 ♦8 ♦7     |
| Non-trump cards     | A 10 K Q 9 8 7 in each non-trump suit |

## Playing a Single Trick

1. The trick leader picks up one of his remaining face-up cards and places it on the table.
2. His opponent responds by selecting one of his face-up cards and putting it on top of the first card. In doing so, the opponent must follow suit: if possible, the suit of the card he plays must match that of the led card. Note, that trump cards form their own suit. For example, if a Jack is led (a trump) the opponent must play a trump card – if possible.
3. If the opponent can follow suit, the player who played the highest card according to the card rankings above wins the trick. E.g. ♥10 beats ♥K, and ♠J beats ♦J.
4. If the opponent can't follow suit, he is allowed to play any of his face-up cards. If the card he plays is a trump, the trick belongs to him. Otherwise, the trick is won by the trick leader.
5. The trick winner collects the played cards on his pile – face down.
6. Any face-down card that just became exposed is turned over.
7. The trick winner is the next trick leader, if there are cards left.

## Card Points

|             |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Card Rank   | A  | 10 | K | Q | J | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| Card Points | 11 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Total: 120 card points

## Scoring

When the game is over, both players count their card points according to the table above. The declarer wins if he collected **at least 61** points, otherwise he loses. The scores added to the declarer's running total are as follows:

| Game Type | Points if Won | Points if Lost |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| Diamonds  | 18            | -36            |
| Hearts    | 20            | -40            |
| Spades    | 22            | -44            |
| Clubs     | 24            | -48            |
| Grand     | 48            | -96            |

## Where to go from here?



The International Skat Server <http://skatgame.net/iss> . On ISS you can play Skat with people and a variety of Skat programs. This is a perfect learning tool!



The Skat-Link game box contains a booklet that explains how to play Skat, four reference cards which summarize the rules, score sheets, and a Skat card deck. This great gift can be ordered at <http://skatlink.com>



Skat is a very social game. Join ISPA Canada or ISPA USA, the North-American branches of the International Skat Player Association. Benefits include a regular newsletter and reduced tournament fees. Please visit <http://www.skatcanada.ca> for more information, such as tournament schedules and results, and Skat club locations and playing schedules. E.g.:

The **Edmonton Spree Asse** play every Tuesday at 7pm at the Ramada Inn & Waterpark, 5359 Calgary Trail NW. We have Canada's biggest group of beginners! Contact: Ron Link, 780-907-1936, [skatlink@shaw.ca](mailto:skatlink@shaw.ca)

The **Calgary Skat Jungs** play every Wednesday at 7pm at the German Canadian Club (2626 - 23 Street NE). Contact: Eric Luz, 403-861-4644, [skatmeister@shaw.ca](mailto:skatmeister@shaw.ca)

## All Skat clubs welcome beginners!