

SCOPA

Description

The Play

The Scoring

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Scopa - Italian Card Game

In this game an Italian deck of 40 cards (tens, nines, and eights are stripped from the deck) is used. Each king counts 10, each queen 9, each jack 8, each ace 1, and each other card its numerical value.

This game can be played by two, or by four players in two partnerships.

The Deal.

Three cards are dealt to each player and four cards are exposed on the table. After the cards have been played three more cards are dealt to each player; and so on until all of the cards have been dealt and played. The rotation in dealing is counterclockwise or to the right.

The Play

Playing in counterclockwise rotation, each player must play one card starting with the player at dealer's right. In turn, a player may take in one card from the table with a card of the same rank played from his hand. Also he may take in two or more cards from the table whose sum equals the count of the card played from his hand.

If a player has a choice between taking a single card or a combination of cards from the table, he must take the single card. Cards taken in are placed face down before the player who took them. Cards remaining on the table after the last card has been played go to the player who last took any cards.

The Scoring

When play is completed, the points are scored as follows:

Cards - Carte (greatest number taken in)	1 Point
Golds - Denari (greatest number taken in)	1 Point
The seventh of Golds	1 Point
Scopa (taking in all cards on the table)	1 Point
Primiera	1 Point

Primiera is scored for the highest-counting four cards, one of each of the four suits, taken in by a player (or side). To determine the highest ranking primiera, each card counts:

Seven	21
Six	18
Ace	16
Five	15
Four	14
Three	13
Two	12
Face	10

Thus the four sevens would constitute the highest primiera.

The game consists of 11 points. If both players (or partnerships) reach 11 or more points, the game goes on until someone wins.

