

How to Play Fan Tan: A Comprehensive Guide to the Ancient Chinese Game



Fan Tan is an ancient Chinese gambling game that has been played for centuries. It is a simple game to learn, but it can be challenging to master.

The goal of the game is to predict the number of beads that will remain on the table after a series of divisions.



HOW TO PLAY FAN TAN: Guide On How To Play Fan-Tan For Beginners, Basic Strategy, Variations And Hearts Tan

by Michael Jacobsen

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Equipment

The following equipment is needed to play Fan Tan:

- A large white disc with Chinese characters on it
- 160 small blue and white beads
- A bamboo stick or other object to divide the beads

Setup

To set up the game, place the large white disc in the center of the table. Place the 160 beads around the disc in four rows of 40 beads each.

Gameplay

A player is chosen to be the banker. The banker is responsible for dividing the beads. The banker uses the bamboo stick to divide the beads into four piles of equal size. The banker then removes one bead from each pile. This leaves four piles of beads, each with a different number of beads.

The players then bet on the number of beads that will remain on the table after the next division. The players can bet on the following numbers:

- 1 bead
- 2 beads
- 3 beads
- 4 beads

After the players have made their bets, the banker divides the beads again. The banker uses the bamboo stick to divide the beads into four piles of equal size. The banker then removes one bead from each pile. This leaves four piles of beads, each with a different number of beads.

If a player's bet matches the number of beads that remain on the table, the player wins the bet. The player receives a payout equal to twice their bet.

Variations

There are many different variations of Fan Tan. Some common variations include:

- **Dai Siu Fan Tan:** This variation of Fan Tan is played with two large white discs. The banker divides the beads into eight piles of equal size. The banker then removes one bead from each pile. This leaves eight

piles of beads, each with a different number of beads. The players then bet on the number of beads that will remain on the table after the next division.

- **Ngau Ngau Fan Tan:** This variation of Fan Tan is played with five large white discs. The banker divides the beads into five piles of equal size. The banker then removes one bead from each pile. This leaves five piles of beads, each with a different number of beads. The players then bet on the number of beads that will remain on the table after the next division.
- **Hao Fan Tan:** This variation of Fan Tan is played with a large white disc and a small black disc. The banker divides the beads into four piles of equal size. The banker then places the small black disc on top of one of the piles of beads. The banker then removes one bead from each pile. This leaves four piles of beads, one of which has the small black disc on top. The players then bet on the number of beads that will remain on the table after the next division.

History

Fan Tan is believed to have originated in China during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The game was popular among the Chinese people and was often played in gambling dens. Fan Tan was introduced to the West in the 19th century by Chinese immigrants. The game quickly became popular in the United States and Europe.

Fan Tan is a simple and exciting game that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. The game is easy to learn, but it can be challenging to master. If you are looking for a new game to play, I encourage you to give Fan Tan a try.



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