

SHUT THE BOX



1 Player and +



6 and up



10 min

BACKGROUND

Other names/variants: Tric-Trac, Canoga, Batten Down the Hatches and High Rollers
While we do not know the exact origin of Shut the Box, we have found references to the game from 12th century Normandy and England. Merchants would often play this game during long journeys at sea. As a result, Shut the Box and its variants are known across the world. This game is usually played using a wooden counting box lined with velvet. However it can also be played in the sand or on the ground using basic objects such as coins or uncooked beans.

MATERIALS

- A counting box with tiles numbered 1 to 12 attached to the box through a hinged or sliding mechanism
- 2 dice

Objective

To “shut the box”, or to score the lowest possible score.

PROGRESS OF THE GAMES

At the start of the game all levers or tiles are "open" (cleared, up), showing the digits 1-12. A player begins his or her turn by throwing the die or dice into the box.

Then, he can add, subtract, divide or multiply the two dices and close one number of the box

The player continues throwing the dice and shutting numbers until reaching a point at which, given the results produced by the dice, the player cannot shut any more numbers. At that point, the player scores the sum of the numbers that are still uncovered.

Play then passes to the next player. After every player has taken a turn, the player with the lowest score wins. If a player succeeds in closing all of the numbers, he or she is said to have "Shut the Box"—the player wins immediately and the game is over.