

Goblet



*Designed by T. Denoul and made by Blue Orange Games 2000;
augmented with 5 sets of light and dark top 5-nesting clear cups, J. A. Storer 2005.
(wood box and cups where top turns over to be the board, 9.5 square)*

Board: 4x4 rectangular array (1/4 of a chess board).

Pieces: Light and dark nesting cups ("goblets"), 3 each of 4 different diameters.

Terms: A *stack* is a set of nesting cups facing down. Stacks on the table are *external* stacks.

Start: The board is empty, white and black each have 3 external stacks of 4 cups each.

Play: White goes first, players move alternately. An outermost cup of the player's color may be removed from an external stack or from a stack on the board (possibly revealing cups underneath) and placed on a square of the board that is either empty or contains smaller cups (of any combination of sizes and colors).

Play Exceptions:

3-in-a-row rule: The outermost cup of an external stack may be placed on a non-empty square **ONLY** when this square is on at least one row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) already containing 3 stacks with the opponent's color on top.

touch rule: Players may not touch any stacks with the opponent's color on top. Players may touch their external stacks at any time. Players may touch a stack on the board with their color on top **ONLY** when it is their turn, and once touched, that cup **MUST** be moved to a different square.

Win: A player wins if at the completion of a turn, there is a row of 4 stacks (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) with his or her color on top, and the opponent does not have a row of 4.

NOTE: The opponent may temporarily have 4 in a row during a turn (because you move a cup to a different position in the same row), but if at the end of your turn the opponent has 4 in a row, you lose whether or not you have made 4 in a row.

Draw: The game is a draw if a position is repeated three times, or by agreement.

Goblet Variations

- For a compact travel game, use numbered game chips instead of cups.
- Use cups with white / black tops and clear bodies (so you can see inside a stack).
- Eliminate or modify the touch rule (e.g., top cup can be lifted, but no others).
- Eliminate the 3-in-a-row rule.
- Cups may be removed from external stacks in any order.
- Start with a different configuration of external stacks (e.g., three stacks of size 5, 4, and 3).

Goblet Moku

- Play on a chess board (ignore the colors of the squares).
- Each player starts with 5 stacks of 5.
- Play is like Goblet, except the 3-in-a-row rule is now a 4-in-a-row rule.
- Win by getting 5 consecutive stacks in a row (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally).

Building Goblet Pieces From Plastic Pipe

The standard goblet game purchased at the store uses *solid* pieces so you can't see inside a stack. *Clear* pieces remove the "memory" component and allow the player to concentrate on the logical component (more fun for some, less for others).

Basic Idea: Cut up different diameters of plastic tubing and plug the tops with dark or light wood. Use clear plastic for clear pieces. Solid pieces can be made with non-clear tubing (hard or impossible to find in small quantity) or by spraying painting clear pieces.

Common types of rigid plastic tubing: Diameters below 1.5" are most common in 1/8" increments with 1/16" thick walls (e.g., 5/8" inside diameter with 3/4" outside diameter).

Cast Acrylic: High quality, easy to machine, but may be hard to find in diameters below an inch, and costs more.

Extruded Acrylic: Cheaper than cast, and very clear, but a bit brittle to work with.

Polycarbonate: Similar to the brand name "Lexan". Almost as clear as extruded acrylic, as cheap, a bit more flexible, and a bit less prone to chipping.

CAB: Very cheap, but not as clear (a bit of a yellow tint).

A Set of 5 Goblets:

1. 1" long, 1/2" diameter (solid wood).
2. 1+3/8" long, 5/8" I.D., 3/4" O.D., 5/16" thick wood plug in top.
3. 1+3/4" long, 7/8" I.D., 1" O.D., 5/16" thick wood plug in top.
4. 2+1/8" long, 1+1/8" I.D., 1+1/4" O.D., 5/16" thick wood plug in top.
5. 2+1/2" long, 1+3/8" I.D., 1+1/2" O.D., 5/16" thick wood plug in top.

