

LESSON 2 - DISCARDING EFFECTIVENESS OWN CRIB  
(SUPPLEMENT)

There is often some confusion as to whether a pair with guaranteed two points of value is superior to own crib than cards of sequence. In some cases, the pair has the greater potential value to the crib. In other cases, two cards of sequence have greater projected value. Let's take a look at the 13 pairs arranged in descending values.

DISCARD	AVERAGE	PREFERABLE CARDS OF SEQUENCE	COMMENTS
5-5	8.821	none	best discard in cribbage
3-3	6.058	2-3 preferable at 7.169	3-4 lower average
7-7	5.887	7-8 is preferable at 6.424	6-7 lower average
2-2	5.832	2-3 is preferable at 7.169	A-2 lower average
6-6	5.756	5-6 is preferable at 6.805	6-7 not as good
4-4	5.538	4-5 is preferable at 6.569	3-4 lower average
A-A*	5.513		A-2 lower average
8-8	5.512	7-8 preferable at 6.424	8-9 not as good
J-J	5.288		10-J & J-Q lower
9-9	5.245		8-9 & 9-10 lower
Q-Q	4.958		J-Q & Q-K lower
10-10	4.750	10-J better at 4.779	9-10 lower average
K-K	4.226		Q-K not as good

Two clues to determine if cards of sequence are preferable to pairs is to remember that cards of sequence which include a five or form a five point combination (2-3) will have higher averages. The 7-8 among middle cards has higher average than do any possible pair, cards of sequence, or 15 point combinations (6-6, 7-7, 8-8, 9-9, 6-7, 8-9, or 6-9).

*\*Consider loss of pegging potential when discard A-A to own crib. If holding a hand of six points or less you might want to reconsider the discard of A-A. In the case of small hand score, the loss of pegging potential is likely to exceed the point value of the A-A to the crib.*

DISCARDING EFFECTIVENESS - PONE - LESSON #3 SUPPLEMENT  
DISCARD PROBLEMS

CARDS HELD	DISCARDS TO PONE	COMMENTS
3-3-4-7-K-J	7-K	Can only hold 2 points -hold 3-3-4 since open on both ends for double run. 7-K are best balking cards.
2-3-4-6-7-8	3-4	Hand has 16-point potential. You do not have a defensive discard. Safest is 2-6 leaving 4 points. Board position might suggest a defensive discard even though hand has 16-point potential.
5-6-Q-2-8-3	3-6	You can only hold 4 points anyway. The 6-8 to pone could result in a crib of 20-24. Not worth the risk!
8-Q-K-4-9-Q 6-2-J-A-9-K	9-K A-K	Hold the points in such a small hand. You can only keep two. Choose safest discard and retain the two.
2-3-4-5-6-9	2-9	On hands such as this, the best discard choices are at top and bottom of hand. Six cut gives you 16!
3-3-3-9-5-5 7-7-8-8-5-5	5-5 5-5	You have twelve points with potential for 24. GO FOR IT! In a few cases you might destroy the hand and we'll review such instances in lesson #5.
5-5-2-2-9-9	9-9	If dealt three pairs, toss the safest pair if you need points. You do have the potential of 12 points.
A-4-4-10-2-5	A-10	Why keep six and give away two? The 2-5 averages nearly 6 points to pone. Note the 4-4-2-5 has a potential of 14 points with the 6 cut.
7-3-6-J-4-A	6-J	Can only hold two points. 6-J is safest discard in hand. Cut the 7 or 4 for a deceptive eight hand!
5-J-Q-8-9-2	9-Q	You can hold 4 points maximum. 9-Q are good balking cards.
A-A-4-10-7-8	4-10	Too dangerous on a six point hand to toss 7-8. Hold A-A-7-8. Cut the 7 for 12 or the 6 for 13! Play pone's crib safe as you have 2 aces.
A-4-4-J-6-9	9-J	You hold 4 points with a potential of 14 with the five-spot cut.
8-K-3-4-5-10	10-K	By holding the 8-3-4-5 you have a potential of 14 points with the 3 cut and discard the safest discard in cribbage. By the way the 3-4-5-7 works the same way and you have retained better pegging cards.
2-3-J-K-6-7	6-K	The risk of the 6-7 discard is too great when holding a mere 4 points in the hand.