

OFFENSIVE PEGGING/DEFENSIVE PEGGING - for Non-Dealer

There are two ways to play most hands in the pegging game. Some call it "playing off" or "playing on". It comes down to playing offense or defense. Board position should determine which you choose. In defensive pegging, you are playing the card you believe least likely to be scored on by your opponent or playing the card which you believe represents greatest danger to you in the pegging game. In defensive pegging, you would play the middle card of a sequence early. In offensive pegging, you would hold cards of sequence together. Let's take a look at how this works.

2-3-4-8*

3-4-5-8*

2-3-4-9*

A-2-3-9

In offensive pegging, lead the larger card. You will often score with the three small cards on end of play and will nearly always do so if your opponent is playing one or more fives with one or more ten-pointers. Apply this pegging logic to your games. Play hands "backwards" if you need pegs. Play them in that conventional defensive mode when pegs are not a factor. Remember you are not varying your play to bring variety to game. You are playing them differently as board position and your score indicates. There is no reason to vary your play simply for the sake of providing a different look.

* If playing defensively, play the middle card of the three in sequence as your opening lead.

