



An Icehouse game from The Labor Shed

Objective

Be the first to collect three trees of the same color. A tree is a small pyramid on top of a medium pyramid on top of a large pyramid.

Setup

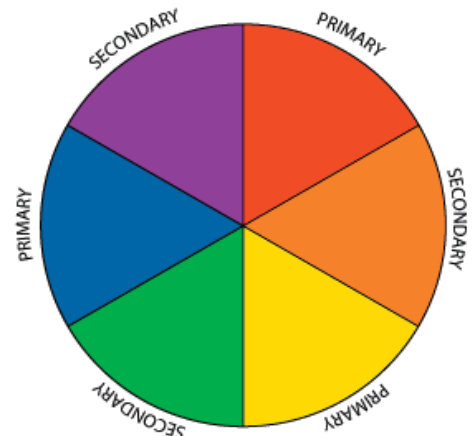
Number of players: 2-6

Equipment: 6 stashes (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple)
 2 black nests (a nest is a large on top of a medium on top of a small)
 2 white nests
 An opaque bag which will hold all of the pieces

Color information

The three **primary** colors are red, yellow, and blue. They can be combined to make the three **secondary** colors: orange, green, and purple. Red and yellow make orange, yellow and blue make green, and blue and red make purple.

Each secondary color is made from only two primary colors. The remaining primary color is called the **complementary** color. For example, blue and yellow make green. Since red was not used to make green, red and green are **complements** of each other. The color wheel will help you remember the color combinations.



The complementary colors are:
 Red and green
 Yellow and purple
 Blue and orange

Play

- Place a large pyramid in front of you to begin the game. Each player must use a different color, but not black or white. Once you create three trees of this color, you win.
- Mix the remaining pieces into the bag, including the black and white pieces.
- Choose someone to go first. Play passes to the left.
- *On your turn you will: take a piece from the bag, make any exchanges you like, and add pieces to your trees. You may do these in any order. When your turn ends, pass the bag to the left.*
- Take a piece from the bag without looking at it. Since you can feel the size of the pieces, you may choose a size which you hope will help you.
 - If the piece matches your tree color, add it to your trees in front of you. You may add pieces to your trees in any order you choose.
 - If you draw a piece which is a different color from your trees, place it behind them for use in exchanges.

The Basic Move - Exchanging

- The basic move during the game of Spectra is exchanging two pieces you do not need for one piece you do need. Use the pieces which are not part of your trees to make exchanges.
- Pieces may only be exchanged for other pieces which relate to them in a particular way. You must consider both color and size.

Color

- If the two pieces you exchange are both primary colors, you exchange them for the secondary color they create. Example: since red and yellow mix to create orange, a small red and a small yellow can be exchanged for a small orange.
- If the two pieces are a primary color and a secondary color, you may exchange them for the "missing" primary color. Example: yellow and blue mix to make green. If you have a large blue and a large green, you are "missing" the yellow. Therefore, you can exchange the large blue and large green for a large yellow. *However, if the primary piece is not a part of the secondary color, you may not use it in an exchange. You cannot exchange a medium orange and a medium blue because blue is not a part of orange. Orange is made from red and yellow.*
- You cannot exchange two secondary color pieces for anything, nor can you exchange two pieces of the same color.

Size

- If you are exchanging two pieces of the same size, you will receive one piece which is also that size. Example: a large blue and a large red can be exchanged for a large purple.
- If you are exchanging pieces of two different sizes, you will receive one piece of the third size. Example: a large green and a small yellow can be exchanged for a medium blue.

Examples of exchanges



A small yellow and a medium blue.
You can exchange them for a large green.

A large purple and a large blue.
You can exchange them for a large red.

A medium orange and a medium green.
You cannot exchange them since they are
both secondary colors.

With whom do I exchange?

- When you exchange two pieces for a piece you need, first check to see if any other player has that piece. If they have the piece, you must exchange your two pieces for their one piece. They cannot refuse to exchange with you. *You may not exchange for a piece which is already a part of their trees.* If no player has the piece you need, return your two pieces to the bag and take the piece you need from the bag.
- You may make as many exchanges as you like during your turn. For example, you can exchange a large green and a small blue for a medium yellow. Then, you can exchange that medium yellow and a medium red for a medium orange.

Black and White

- Black pieces add a primary color to other pieces. For example, if you use a medium black piece on a medium red piece, you can choose to add blue or yellow. If you add yellow, the medium red piece will become orange. If you add blue, the medium red piece will become purple. You exchange the black piece and the red piece for either orange or purple.
- White pieces remove a primary color from other pieces. For example, if you use a large white piece on a large orange piece, you can “wash out” the red or the yellow. If you “wash out” the red, you will have yellow left. If you “wash out” the yellow, you will have red left. You exchange the white piece and the orange piece for either red or yellow.
- The same rules apply to exchanges with black and white pieces: first see if other players have the piece you are creating. If so, exchange with them. If not, return your pieces to the bag and take the piece you need from the bag.
- *Black and white pieces can only be used to change the colors of pieces which are the same size as they are.*

Example of Play

One player is collecting yellow and one is collecting purple. The yellow player draws a small orange. The purple player draws a small yellow. The yellow player draws a small white and uses it to “wash” the red out of the small orange piece he has to make it yellow. Since the purple player has a small yellow piece, the yellow player gives the white and orange to the purple player in exchange for the small yellow piece. Yellow then places the small yellow piece on his trees and his turn ends.

The purple player now has a small white piece and a small orange piece. She draws a large blue piece. The purple player then uses the small white on the small orange to “wash out” the yellow. She returns them to the bag and takes a small red piece. Now she can exchange the small red and the large blue for a medium purple. She puts the red and blue pieces in the bag, takes a medium purple and add it to her trees. Her turn ends.

Strategy

- Your complementary color helps you least of all. Use black and white pieces to change them to more useful colors.
- Choose specific sizes when drawing pieces from the bag. Plan ahead what exchanges you want to make and choose sizes which will have a greater chance of helping you.
- You are not required to exchange pieces on your turn. It may be beneficial to save your pieces for later use.
- Remember that you must exchange pieces with other players first. Since you will be giving your opponents two pieces in exchange for one, you may want to delay some exchanges to avoid helping them.