

The Pivot Trap

A quick guide for confident, responsive pivoting

Most players fall into the Pivot Trap because they assume that shared patterns or overlapping components on the card mean that switching hands will be easy. In reality, pivoting isn't determined by the card at all; it's shaped entirely by what the *tiles* show you as the game evolves. Use this guide as a quick reference to recognize real pivot opportunities and avoid costly assumptions.

What the Pivot Trap Looks Like

Players fall into the Pivot Trap when they:

- Pre-select a backup hand
- Focus on multiple hands with shared patterns or overlapping components
- Ignore discards and exposures
- Pivot out of panic or indecision
- Overlook timing

These traps come from thinking *ahead* instead of responding to the evolving game in real time.

Before pivoting, ask:

- Has my hand weakened or become wounded?
- Which dependencies have disappeared?
- Are opponents exposing tiles that close this path?
- Do I still have enough wall depth to pivot?
- Does Plan B have more potential than Plan A?
- Will pivoting improve my chance of winning *right now*?

If these answers aren't clear, stay with Plan A.

Otherwise, consider an aligned pivot based on these three conditions:

1. Dependencies; ask:

- Are the tiles you need to pivot still available?
- Do opponents have exposures with your Plan B tiles?
- Have your opponents discarded your Plan B tiles?



2. Feasibility; ask:

- Does your Plan B hand have potential at the pivot point?
- Do you have enough tiles in your hand to pivot with potential?

3. Timing; ask:

- Is there time in the game to gather for a new hand?
- Does switching improve your odds at this point?

Pivoting is responsive, not pre-planned. The tiles—not the card—show the pivot potential.

Quick Truths to Remember:

Shared patterns and overlapping components don't guarantee switchability.

The tiles show what's feasible.

Pivoting is not a backup plan.

It's a real-time response to evolving conditions.

If you need a backup hand early, you probably don't have a hand.

Strength—not fear—guides good decision-making.

Switch only when Plan A weakens, and Plan B has potential.

Anything else is a trap.

Final Thought

A strong player doesn't pivot because the *card* tempts them—they pivot because the *tiles* tell them the moment has arrived. Stay responsive, stay aware, and let the tiles guide you.

