

Find My Mahjong

where players gather

American Mahjong • Course 1: First Steps • Lesson 1.2

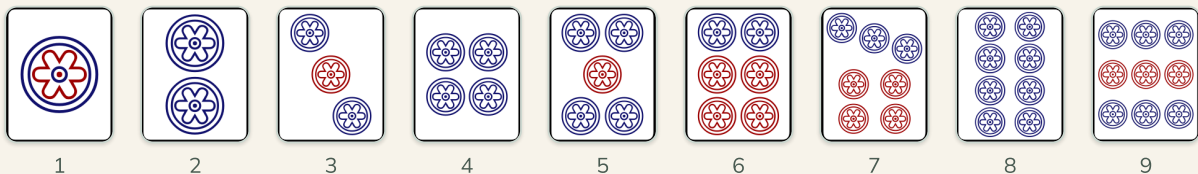
Meet the Tiles

What you'll get from this lesson: Recognize every tile in the set on sight — the three suits, the Winds and Dragons, the Flowers, and the joker.

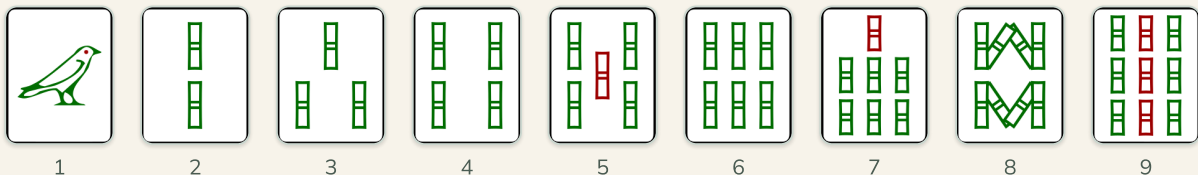
Before we play, let's get to know the pieces. A set has 152 tiles. That sounds like a lot, but they fall into just a handful of easy groups, and you'll recognize them all faster than you expect.

The American Mahjong Tile Set

Suit Dots (circles) — numbered 1 to 9, four of each. Look for circles.



Suit Bams (bamboo) — numbered 1 to 9, four of each. Look for bamboo.



Suit Cracks (characters) — numbered 1 to 9, four of each. Look for a number over a character.



Honors The four Winds — four of each.





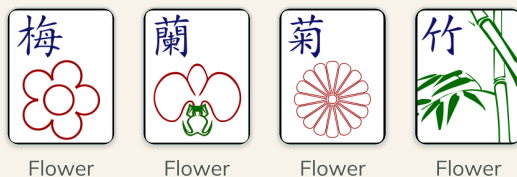
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Honors The three Dragons — each pairs with one suit. The White Dragon is nicknamed “Soap.”



Flowers Eight Flower tiles — used inside certain hands, not set aside as bonuses.



Wild Eight Jokers — wildcards that stand in for a tile inside a group of three or more.



Original visual glossary composed for Find My Mahjong. 152 tiles: 3 suits × 9 × 4, 16 Winds, 12 Dragons, 8 Flowers, 8 Jokers. Tile art is public domain.

The three suits

Most of the set is three number suits, each running 1 to 9, with four copies of every tile. **Bams** show stylized bamboo. **Dots** show clusters of circles. **Cracks** show a number sitting above a Chinese character. When a player says “three Bam” or “seven Dot,” they just mean that number in that suit.

Winds, Dragons, Flowers, Jokers

There are four **Winds** — North, East, West, South. There are three **Dragons** — Red, Green, and White; each Dragon links to one of the suits. The White Dragon has a fond nickname, “**Soap**,” because the tile often looks like a plain white or blue-framed bar. **Flowers** are used inside certain hands, not set aside as bonuses. And the eight **jokers** are wildcards you’ll come to love.

Add it up — three suits, Winds, Dragons, Flowers, and jokers — and you get all 152 tiles. Don’t memorize them tonight. Glance at the pictures, and recognition will come with play.