Klacker or Shut the Box

**A fun and easy game of strategy, competition, and basic math facts for ALL ages.**

Klacker (or Shut the Box) can be played by any number of players although it is most enjoyable with two, three or four players. Some people even play the game solo. A player throws the dice into the box and adds up the pips. The player then lays down the available numbers that add up to the total thrown. For instance, if the total is 8, the player may choose one of the following options:

* 8,
* 7 & 1
* 6 & 2
* 5 & 3
* 5 & 2 & 1
* 4 & 3 & 1

No more than three numbers can be laid down at a time. Continue to roll the dice until a number is rolled that is unable to be played.  Add the numbers remaining to determine your score. The goal is to have the lowest number possible or to place all the numbers down!

**VARIATIONS**

**Alternate Scoring-**Rather than adding up the total of the remaining upright tiles at the end of a player’s turn, the player reads the upright tiles from left to right to determine their score. For example, if the remaining tiles are 1, 4, and 9, the player’s score is

**Last Player Standing-**In this version of Shut the Box, play the game over multiple rounds rather than a single turn, adding each player’s score to their total at the end of each round. If a player reaches 45 points, they’re eliminated. The last player standing wins.

**Two Player Battle-**In this two-player version of the game, player 1 tries to lower the tiles while player 2 tries to raise the same set of tiles. The players take turns until all of the tiles have either been lowered or raised.

**Missionary** – A player's score is how many of the tiles remain uncovered at the end of the player's turn. For example, a player scores 3 if, at the end of their turn, 3 tiles remain open. The player with the lowest

* **2 to go** – Standard game, the numbers 1 to 9 start up. On the first roll, the number 2 must be one of the ones dropped. Any player who rolls a 4 on their first roll loses immediately.
* **3 to go** – The same as "2 to go" but the number 3 must be dropped instead.
* **3 down extreme** – Numbers 1–3 are pre-dropped, leaving numbers 4–9 up.
* **Lucky number 7** – The only number up is 7, and the first person to roll a 7 wins.
* **Unlucky number 7** – A standard game, when a 7 is rolled, the game stops.
* **Against all odds** – All odd numbers are up and evens down.
* **Even Stevens** – All even numbers are up and odds down.

MAKE IT INTERESTING: Place a wager on each game. For example, $1.00/game, or lowest score wins the pot if several people are playing.

Traditional pub play

In English pubs, *shut the box* is traditionally played as a gambling game. Each player deposits an agreed amount of money into a pool at the beginning of the game, and the winner of the game collects the money in pool at the end of the game and in some cases the box as well.