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Pretty Good Solitaire 1.2

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General Comments

Welcome to Pretty Good Solitaire! This program started because I was unsatisfied with the solitaire programs out there. There's some good ones, but usually they come only 1 or 2 games at a time, with no undo feature, and so on. And so I started to write my own.

This collection of games contains some of my favorite solitaire games. Every game has full undo and redo (except for when the deck is reshuffled). I am continually writing more games, so keep watching where you found this game for more up to date versions with more games.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Microsoft for Visual Basic 3.0, which allowed a humble programmer like myself to write games like this. Thanks to Stephen Murphy for writing QCARD.DLL, the wonderful playing cards that this program uses. Thanks to my beta testers: Michael Calligaro, Lorrita Morgan, Kevin McGillicuddy, Kevin Crowley and others. And thanks to my primary tester, Diane.

Version History

Version 1.0 - released 7/19/95 - contained the original 5 games, FreeCell Towers, Baker's Dozen, Golf, Fourteen Out, and Yukon.

Version 1.1 - released 8/15/95 - bug fixes on FreeCell Towers, Baker's Dozen, and Yukon. Five new games- Busy Aces, 5 Piles, EastHaven, La Belle Lucie, and St. Helena.

Version 1.2 - released 9/25/95 - Five new games- Spiderette, Eagle Wing, Deuces, Perpetual Motion, and Storehouse.

Notes about the AutoPlay feature

AutoPlay

AutoPlay is the feature that moves playable cards from the tableau to the foundations automatically. (Only those games with foundations have this feature, of course.) This feature can be a great time and effort saver, and I highly recommend its use.

However, there are a couple of things about AutoPlay that you should be aware of. First, in some games (such as FreeCell Towers, Yukon, etc) it is not necessarily a good idea to automatically play every possible card to the foundations. In these games, the best strategy is to keep the foundations pile roughly even with each other (for example, don't play the clubs foundation pile up to 5 or 6 when the ace of hearts hasn't come out yet). Because of this, the AutoPlay feature will NOT play a card to the foundations if it determines that that card might be necessary for play on the tableau. You can, of course, override this if you wish by playing the card to the foundations yourself. But remember, if AutoPlay doesn't move a card that it could move, there's a reason.

Secondly, although in many games it is technically cheating, these games allow you to move a card from the foundations back to the tableau, if you wish. However, if AutoPlay is turned on, the AutoPlay feature will promptly play the card back to the foundation! Therefore, if you ever want to do this you will need to turn AutoPlay off.

Auto Play

By selecting Auto Play from the Options menu, any cards in the tableau or cells that can be legally moved to the foundation are automatically moved there. This speeds up play.

[Important Notes about the AutoPlay feature](#)

Benefits of Registration

The registration price for this program is only \$6.95! That's less than 50 cents a game. This program is shareware, and if you use it for longer than a 30 day evaluation period, you should register the program.

How to Register

If you do register this program, this is what you will get for your money:

- FREE upgrades to all future versions, if you have a CompuServe, America Online, or Prodigy account. These upgrades will be sent by e-mail, so be sure to include your e-mail address on the registration form. Sorry, at this low registration price there's no way I can send upgrades by snail mail.
- Immediately, a version of the program without the nag screen. (Also by e-mail)
- Technical support, via e-mail.
- The eternal gratitude of the author.

How to register

Pretty Good Solitaire is a program intended to provide simple and cheap games for Windows. Many more solitaire games are under development.

To register your copy of the Tom's Pretty Good Solitaire, print out the registration form and send \$6.95. This price registers all the games!

Incidentally, the shareware versions of these games are fully functional versions. But since every program can be improved, watch for updated versions along with additional solitaire games. Suggestions for new features and games are always welcome.

[Registration Form](#)

Registration Form

Tom's Pretty Good Solitaire 1.2

(FreeCell Towers, Baker's Dozen, Golf, Fourteen Out, Yukon, Busy Aces, 5 Piles, EastHaven, La Belle Lucie, St. Helena, Spiderette, Eagle Wing, Deuces, Perpetual Motion, Storehouse)

Print out this form. (To print, select Print from the File menu.)

Send this form along with a check for \$6.95 to:

Thomas Warfield

1309 N Hershey Rd #8

Bloomington IL 61704

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

E-Mail address_____

Where did you hear about Pretty Good Solitaire?

Suggestions:

About

Pretty Good Solitaire 1.2: FreeCell Towers, Baker's Dozen, Golf, Fourteen Out, Yukon, Busy Aces, 5 Piles, EastHaven, La Belle Lucie, St. Helena, Spiderette, Eagle Wing, Deuces, Perpetual Motion, Storehouse.

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Technical Support is available by e-mail to: Tomstaaf1@aol.com (note the last character before the @ is a one) or on Compuserve: 75237,254.

FreeCell Towers

In FreeCell Towers, the entire deck is dealt into 8 piles of cards, called the Tableau. Above the tableau are 4 cells (marked with X's), and 4 foundation piles (to the right of the cells). The object of the game is to build up the foundation piles from ace to king, one for each suit. The first cards that go on the foundation are the aces, then a two of the same suit can be placed on an ace, and so on. The game is won if all 52 cards are moved to the foundation piles.

The top card of any tableau pile can be moved to a foundation pile, if possible. The top card of any tableau pile can also be moved to any cell. Only one card is allowed at a time in a cell. Cards in the cells can be moved to the foundation piles, if possible, or back to the tableau, if possible.

Only the top card of any tableau pile can be moved, unless there are enough empty cells or tableau piles that a group of cards could be moved individually. In that case, the entire group can be moved at once as a shortcut. Cards can be moved among the tableau piles according one of two rules: if the FreeCell rule is set, tableau piles are built down by alternating color; for example, a red 7 could be played on a black 8. If the Seahaven Towers rule is set, tableau piles are built down in suit. That is, only a 7 of spades could be played on an 8 of spades. Which rule is in force is set in the Options menu.

All settings are automatically saved each time you exit FreeCell Towers. Once you have the settings you want, you won't need to ever change them again if you don't want to. If you exit the program before finishing a game, the game is automatically saved and you can resume play when you run FreeCell Towers again.

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New Game

Selecting New Game from the Game menu will deal out a new deck. In some programs (such as FreeCell Towers), the program will first ask if you want to resign your current game. If yes, it will add a loss to your statistics.

Restart Game

Selecting ReStart Game from the Game menu will start the current game over again from the beginning. This will not affect your statistics in the programs that keep statistics.

Undo

Selecting Undo from the Options menu will undo the last move. Moves can be undone back to the beginning of the game (of course, ReStart Game would be easier in this case).

Redo

Selecting Redo from the Options menu will replay any moves you have undone. In case you change your mind.

Statistics

Selecting Statistics from the Options menu will show you your current statistics. Depending on the game, It shows how many games you have won or lost, your winning percentage, and the average number of moves of your wins, or how many points you have. You can clear your statistics back to zero at any time.

Rules

Selecting Rules from the Options menu allows you to select between the two move rules on the tableau: FreeCell rules, where the tableau builds down by alternate colors, and Seahaven Towers rules, where the tableau builds down by suit. Obviously, Seahaven Towers rules are somewhat harder.

Card Backs

Selecting Card Backs from the Options menu allows you to select between 6 different card backs. Card Backs are only visible in the foundations before aces are placed there, or in games where some cards are face back. In some games, the change of card back will not go into effect until a new game is started.

King Only

By selecting King Only from the Options menu, you can only fill an empty tableau pile with a King. With this not selected, any card can be placed in an empty tableau pile.

Bakers Dozen

In Baker's Dozen, the entire deck is dealt into 13 piles of 4 cards each. The 4 kings are immediately moved to the bottom of their piles. The top card of each pile is available for play.

The 4 piles at the right of the screen are the foundation piles. The foundation piles are built up in suit from ace to king. The game is won when all 52 cards are moved to the foundation piles.

The 13 tableau piles are built down regardless of suit. For example, a 7 of hearts could be played on an 8 of diamonds. Only one card at a time may be moved. Any spaces left by removing an entire pile cannot be filled.

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Tips: Don't let one foundation get too far ahead of the others. Watch for piles that contain a lower card of a suit below a higher card of the same suit.

Golf

Golf is a very simple game to play, but difficult to win. Seven piles of 5 cards each are dealt face up, forming the tableau. One more card is dealt face up to become the waste pile. The rest of the cards are dealt face down in the stock pile.

Only the top card of each pile is available. To play, build in sequence either up or down regardless of suit on the waste pile. For example, if the top of the waste pile is a 5, you can play either a 6 or a 4 on it. The sequences do not "wrap around." Only a 2 can be played on an ace, and nothing can be played on a king.

Whenever there are no possible plays, turn over a card in the stock by clicking on it. This card goes to the waste pile.

The game is won if the tableau is cleared. If the tableau is not cleared, the object is to leave as few cards as possible.

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Tips: Work out your sequences in advance. Be careful to save queens for kings, and twos for aces.

Fourteen Out

Fourteen Out is a simple game to play, and is fairly easy to win. The entire deck is dealt face up into 12 piles (8 piles of 4 cards, 4 piles of 5 cards). Only the top card of each pile is available for play.

The object of the game is to discard all the cards in pairs that total to 14. For example, a king and an ace, a queen and a 2, or an 8 and a 6. To remove a pair, pick up one card with the mouse and drop it on the other.

The game is won if the entire deck is discarded.

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Yukon

Yukon is a relative of Klondike, the Windows Solitaire game. 28 cards are dealt into 7 piles, the same as Klondike. Then the remaining 24 cards are dealt face up in the rightmost 6 piles, 4 in each pile.

The 4 blank spots with the X's are the foundation piles. The foundation piles are built up in suit from ace to king. The game is won if all 52 cards are moved to the foundation piles.

The tableaux are built down by opposite colors. For example, a red 6 can be dropped on a black 7 (no cards can be built on an ace). Any face up card in the tableau may be built upon another, no matter how deep it is in a pile. All cards covering it are moved together. When a face down card is uncovered, it is automatically turned face up and is available for play. Spaces created by moving an entire pile can be filled only with kings.

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Tips: Uncover the face down cards as soon as possible. Don't let one foundation get too far ahead of the others.

Busy Aces

Busy Aces uses two decks of cards. It is easy to play and fairly easy to win. The eight foundations are across the top of the screen (with the X's). To win the game, build the 8 foundations up in suit from Ace to King.

Below the foundations on the right are 12 tableau piles. On the left (face down) is the deck and below that is the discard pile. To play, turn over cards from the deck one by one to the discard pile by clicking on the face-down deck. The top card of the discard pile is always available for play. The top card may be moved from the discard pile to a tableau pile by dragging. The tableau piles are built down by suit. For example, a six of diamonds can go on top of a seven of diamonds. Cards can be played from one tableau pile to another, if possible. Play aces immediately to the foundations, as well as any other cards that are possible. There is no reason to not play cards to the foundation.

When all 8 foundations are filled, the game is won.

Note: The AutoPlay feature will automatically play cards to the foundation, if possible. This is a big time saving feature in this game. However, you should be aware that there are situations where there are two possibilities for play on the foundations, since there are two decks. There may be two eights of Spades, for example, that could be played on a certain foundation. The AutoPlay function may not move the same eight to this spot that you might.

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5 Piles

5 Piles is an easy game to play, but fairly difficult to win. The deck is on the upper right of the screen. At the beginning of the game, 5 cards are dealt, forming the 5 piles. Any pair of cards out of these 5 whose values add to 13 can be discarded. For example, a 10 and a 3 form a pair. To discard them, drag one of the cards onto the other. Kings are discarded singly. To discard Kings, simply click on them. When all possible pairs are discarded, deal another set of 5 cards onto the piles by clicking on the deck. The last 2 cards in the deck form their own piles and can be discarded with cards from any of the 5 piles.

The game is won if all 52 cards are discarded. The game will inform you if you win, or if you have no more possible moves.

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EastHaven

EastHaven is another variation on Klondike (as is Yukon).

There are 4 foundations at the top of the screen. To win, build the foundations up in suit from Ace to King. There are 7 tableau piles and 1 deck pile. At the beginning of the game, 3 cards are dealt face down in each pile. Then 1 card is dealt face up on each pile. The tableaux are built down in alternating colors (as in Yukon). For example, a black 5 can be played on a red 6. Groups of cards in the tableau may be moved, as long as they form an descending sequence of alternating colors (different from Yukon). When the KingOnly option in the OPTIONS menu is set, an empty space can only be filled by a king or a legal group of cards with a king at the bottom. When KingOnly is not set, an empty space can be filled by any legal group of cards. Whenever there are no more possible plays on the tableau, another group of 7 cards is dealt to the tableau by clicking on the deck above the tableaux. One card from the deck is then placed face up on each tableau pile (note that this may block out the previous cards). The last 3 cards of the deck are dealt to the first 3 tableau piles.

The difficult part of this game is that the new cards dealt can completely ruin the tableau. Good luck. Not checking the KingOnly option makes the game somewhat easier to win.

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La Belle Lucie

(including Shamrocks)

The La Belle Lucie program is actually two games in one. One game is La Belle Lucie itself, and the other is called Shamrocks. To change from one game to another, select which game you want from Rules option in the OPTIONS menu. Changing the rules will begin a new game. The rules for each game are very similar.

La Belle Lucie is a challenging game. The entire deck is dealt face up into 17 groups (called fans) of 3 cards, with 1 card left over. There are 4 foundation piles at the top of the screen. To win, build the foundations up in suit from Ace to King.

Only the top card of each fan is available for play. One card at a time can be moved from a fan to a foundation, or to another fan. The fans are built down in suit. For example, a 8 of spades can be played on a 9 of spades. Spaces made by playing all the cards of a fan are not filled.

There are two redeals. After all possible plays have been made, redeal by clicking on the O in the upper left corner. All the cards in the fans are reshuffled. The foundations remain. When the O becomes an X, there are no more redeals. You cannot undo a redeal.

This game is tough. Once you move a card onto a fan, the cards below are blocked until a redeal, unless they can be played to a foundation. Kings block all cards below them as well. Play cards to the foundation when they are available.

Shamrocks is easier to win. In Shamrocks, the deck is dealt exactly as in La Belle Lucie. The objective of building the foundations up from Ace to King is the same.

The play in the fans is different. In Shamrocks, the fans are built either up OR down by sequence, regardless of suit. For example, any 4 could be played on a 5, and so could any 6. However, there is a limitation of 3 cards in any one fan at any one time. Like La Belle Lucie, empty fans cannot be filled. Unlike La Belle Lucie, there are no redeals.

The maximum of 3 cards in a fan means that at the beginning of the game, if no ace can be played to a foundation, and no card can be played on top of the single card, the position is blocked. Also, in Shamrocks the foundations should be kept as even as possible; don't play cards to the foundation until necessary.

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St. Helena

St. Helena uses two decks. First, one Ace and one King from each suit are removed from the deck and placed in the middle of the screen. These form the beginnings of 8 foundations, 4 "King-foundations" and 4 "Ace-foundations". The remaining 96 cards are dealt into 12 tableau piles circling the foundations. Four piles are placed above the King-foundations, 4 piles below the Ace-foundations, and 2 on each side of the foundations.

The objective is to build the King-foundations down in suit to aces, and the Ace-foundations up in suit to Kings. When all the cards are in the foundations, the game is won.

The top card of each tableau pile is always available for play on the foundations, with one exception: until the first redeal, cards from the piles above the King-foundations can only be played to the King-foundations, and cards from the piles below the Ace-foundations can only be played to the Ace-foundations. Cards from the sides can be played anywhere, and after the first redeal, cards from any tableau pile can be played to any foundation.

The tableaus are built up or down in sequence, regardless of suit. The top card of any tableau can be so moved to any other tableau. For example, a 9 can be played on an 8, as can a 7. However, only a Queen can be played on a King, and only a 2 can be played on an Ace. An empty tableau pile cannot be filled.

Two redeals are allowed. In a redeal the cards are not shuffled. Rather, each tableau pile is picked up in counter-clockwise order, and then the cards are dealt back to each pile clockwise. You cannot undo a redeal.

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Spiderette

Spiderette is a cross between the popular games Klondike and Spider. There are no foundations. All building is done on the 7 tableau piles. In regular Spiderette, 28 cards are dealt to the tableau as in Klondike. The tableaus are built down in sequence, regardless of suit. However, building down by suit is preferable. The top card of each pile is always available for play on another pile, and multiple cards at the top of a pile that are of the same suit and down in sequence may also be moved as a unit.

A space created by moving an entire pile may be filled by any card or any legal group of cards. Whenever there are no more possible plays, a row of 7 cards can be dealt to the tableaus by clicking on the face down card above the tableaus. All empty piles must be filled before the deal.

The object of the game is to get all 13 cards of each suit in sequence in a pile. Whenever the 13 cards of suit are assembled in sequence, the program will automatically remove them from play. You win by getting all 52 cards removed.

Will o' the Wisp and Baby Spiderette

Since pure Spiderette is fairly difficult to win, the program offers 2 other rules options that are easier to win. To change the rules, select "Rules" from the Options menu.

Will o' the Wisp is a variation of Spiderette with exactly the same rules, except that 21 cards are dealt to the tableau at the beginning of the game instead of 28. (The cards are dealt in the same fashion as EastHaven). With fewer face down cards to clear, the game becomes slightly easier.

Baby Spiderette is considerably easier than regular Spiderette. In Baby Spiderette, the tableau is the same as regular Spiderette, as are all the rules except one. In Baby Spiderette, you are allowed to move a group of cards as a block if they are in sequence regardless of suit. In Spiderette, they must all be of the same suit. This makes it easier to move cards around, and easier to win the game.

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Eagle Wing

Some number of cards (13, 15, 17, 19 or 21, depending on the setting in the Options menu) are dealt face down into what is called the trunk (in the box in the center of the screen). The top card of the trunk is turned face up. Then 8 cards are dealt face up into what are called the "wings". Finally, one card is dealt face up on the foundation (in the box at the top of the screen).

All cards of the same rank as the first foundation card are played to the other spaces in the foundation as soon as they become available. The foundations are built up in suit until they contain 13 cards, aces wrapping around on top of kings. To play card on the foundation, pick it up and drop it on the foundation with the mouse.

Any top card in the wings can be played to the foundation. Cards can be placed on other cards in the wings if they are of the same suit and one lower in rank. (For example, a 3 of hearts can be played on a 4 of hearts). Kings wrap around on top of aces. There is a limit of 3 cards in each wing. To play a card on the wings, pick it up and drop it on the desired wing with the mouse. Cards can be moved from one wing to another, if this is possible by the rules about suits and ranks, and if the 3 card limit is not exceeded. Any open spaces in the wings are automatically filled from the trunk until the trunk is empty. Then open spaces can be filled from the stock, wastepile, or other wings.

The remainder of the deck is placed in the stock at the bottom left of the screen. Click on the stock to move the top card to the wastepile. The top card of the wastepile is always available for play on the wings or foundation.

When the stock is empty, the wastepile can be redealt by clicking on the empty stock, assuming that a redeal is allowed. The number of redeals is in the Options menu (none, 1, or 2).

The game is won if all 52 cards are placed on the foundation.

Eagle Wing can be very easy or very difficult depending on the settings. A 13 card trunk with 2 redeals is fairly easy to win. A 21 card trunk with no redeals is very difficult to win. A happy medium, with a 17 card deck and 1 or 2 redeals, is generally the best to play.

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Deuces

Deuces is played with two decks. It is very similar to Busy Aces.

At the beginning of the game, the eight 2's (the Deuces) are removed from the deck and placed in the middle of the screen, inside the box. These are the 8 foundation piles. They are to be built up in suit, with Aces as the highest card, above the Kings. Ten cards are dealt around the foundation box. These are the 10 tableau piles. The tableaux are built down in suit (for example, a 4 of diamonds is played on a 5 of diamonds). The remaining cards in the deck are dealt to the stock, and the first card in the stock is turned over to form the waste pile. The top of the waste pile is always available for play on the tableau or foundations. The top card of each tableau pile is always available for play on another tableau pile or the foundations.

Cards are turned up from the stock to the wastepile one at a time by clicking on the stock. The game is won if all 104 cards can be played to the foundations.

Deuces is slightly harder to win than Busy Aces. Although in the beginning the first card in each foundation is already played for you (unlike Busy Aces, where you must wait for all the aces to come out), because there are only 10 tableau piles rather than the 12 of Busy Aces, it is harder to win.

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Perpetual Motion

Perpetual Motion is a very simple game. In fact, there is no strategy to it at all. But totally mindless games have their uses.

In Perpetual Motion, the entire deck is placed in the stock pile (at the far right of the screen). Four cards are dealt to form 4 tableau piles. If any cards in the tableau have the same rank (such as, two of the cards are Jacks), the rightmost of the pair is moved on top of the leftmost (pick up the right card with the mouse and drop it on the left). Once all possible pairs have been doubled up in this way, deal another row of 4 cards on top of the tableau by clicking on the face-down stock pile.

After all 52 cards in the deck have been dealt out and moved (if possible), click on the ReDeal button. This starts a complicated process that puts all the cards once again back in the stock. (note that the cards are not reshuffled, just picked up in a certain way).

Any time an entire row of 4 cards are of the same rank (4 Jacks, for example), click on one of the 4 cards. The 4 cards are then removed from play. The object of the game is to get the entire deck removed from play.

Storehouse

Storehouse is a variation of the popular game Canfield.

The 4 twos in the deck are removed and put in a row. These are the 4 foundation piles. 13 cards are dealt in a pile below the foundations, called the storehouse. A row of 4 cards are dealt below the foundations. These are the 4 tableau piles. The remainder of the deck is dealt face down to the stock, with the top card of the stock turned over for the waste pile.

The foundation piles are built up by suit, wrapping around Ace on top of King. The tableau piles are built down by suit. Spaces created in the tableau are immediately filled by the top card of the storehouse. The top cards of the storehouse, tableaux, and wastepile are always available for play on the tableaux or foundations.

Turn over cards in the stock one at a time by clicking on the stock. There is no redeal.

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