

Win Bigtop by having the most timeslot points at the end of the game. Collect timeslot points by reserving the timeslots in the upcoming circus performance. Reserve expensive timeslots by assembling a showpiece amazing enough to warrant the timeslot. Assemble a showpiece by picking components that synergize well together. Select components from a hand of components that players pass around.

Victory

Have the most timeslot points from your timeslots when the component deck has run for the second time.

Setup

Spread out the timeslot cards face-up between everyone.

Give the youngest player the Ring Leader card.

A Round

Take 11 turns every round. Once you've played two rounds, determine the winner.

Each round, shuffle the components deck and deal a hand of 11 components face-down to each player.

A Turn

During a turn, perform the following phases:

Component Selection Phase

Take the component selection phase of your turn simultaneously with the other players.

Select a component from your hand and decide whether you will use it to create a new showpiece, or use it to expand an existing showpiece. See the Creating a Showpiece and Expanding a Showpiece sections for details.

Set the remainder of your hand of components next to the player on your left. Receive a face-down deck of cards from the player on your right.

Creating A Showpiece

To start building a showpiece, place the component you chose face-up in front of you. Note that the showpiece takes on the type of the component that began it: either Beast, Magic, Gymnastics, or Pyrotechnics.

Create as many showpieces at a time as you would like.

Expanding on a Showpiece

Raise the entertainment value of one of your showpieces by adding components to it. Place the component face-up on top of one of your showpieces. Showpieces may have any mix of component types. Components are considered 'after' any card they are above in the stack of components.

Timeslot Reservation Phase

Take the Timeslot Reservation phase following a turn order. If you have the Ring Leader card, take the first turn of the phase.

During your turn of the Timeslot Reservation Phase, choose whether you'd like to reserve timeslots with your showpieces. You may reserve any number of timeslots in your turn, including none.

Continue clockwise until each player has chosen whether to reserve a timeslot. After everyone has chosen, pass the Ring Leader card to the left.

Reserving a Timeslot

To reserve a timeslot, discard a showpiece whose total entertainment value equals or exceeds the timeslot's timeslot point value. To do this, sum the entertainment value and special effects of each component of the showpiece. You may only reserve a timeslot with a matching showpiece, however, the 20 point finale timeslot matches any kind of showpiece. You cannot use a showpiece for more than one timeslot.

Take the timeslot card you reserved and place it in front of you. Discard the showpiece used to a common discard pile.

Round Resolution

After the final turn of the round, discard any unused showpieces and begin the next round. Keep any reserved timeslots.

Determine the winner when the second round is over or if you've reserved every timeslot.

Winning

Count the total timeslot points of each of your reserved timeslots. Win the game if you have the most timeslot points. If there is a tie, the player with fewer timeslots wins. If there is a tie, the younger player wins.