Rules for End Game SET®

Brought to us by Gary Gordon & Liz McMahon.

Object
To determine the attributes of the missing card.

The Play
At the beginning of the game, remove one card from the deck and place it face down to the side.

Now play the game according to the standard rules of SET. When no more SETs can be found, you can determine the attributes of the missing card as follows:

Remove SETs considering only one attribute at a time. For example, if eight cards remain (and no SETs can be formed) with one card having 1 symbol, three cards having 2 symbols, and four cards having 3 symbols, consider only the symbol attribute first. You can make one 1-2-3 SET, one 3-3-3 SET, and you are left with 2-2, so you know that the face down card must have 2 symbols. (It doesn’t matter how you break up the SETs. For example, you could have made one 2-2-2 SET, one 3-3-3 SET, and be left with 1-3, so the missing card again had 2 symbols.) Continue this process for each of the remaining attributes and you can uniquely determine the missing card. Amaze your friends! This always works (provided no one has made an error taking SETs during the game).