

# Texas Hold 'Em SECRETS



The Secrets For **Playing** And  
**Winning** Texas Hold 'Em Poker

[www.texas-holdem-secrets.com](http://www.texas-holdem-secrets.com)

Written By Rory Monahan

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### **Texas Hold'em Rules**

It has often been said that Texas Hold'em is the "game that takes a minute to learn and lifetime to master" because the rules of the game are relatively to understand, but the intricacies elude some players forever. In this section of the book, I will teach new players the basics of Texas Hold'em before teaching the intricate strategies later in the book.

A hand of Texas Hold'em starts with each player putting in his ante, or small fee to play in any hand. Then the two players to the left of the dealer must put in *blinds* or forced bets. The player directly to the left of the dealer pays the *small blind* and the player two seats over from the dealer must put in the *big blind*. Blinds are always established before a game starts, and in a home game, make sure everyone knows the rules.

After the antes and blinds are paid, two cards are dealt face down to every player at the table. These are private cards and are the only unique cards you receive. After looking at their cards, the players must choose to fold – and leave the hand, call – and put in the equivalent of the big blind, or raise – and put in even more money. After moving around the table clock-wise starting with the

player to the left of the big blind, the players who have paid the blinds must only put in the difference from what they already put into the pot.

(If you are a true beginner and you choose not to use blinds, have all players put in their ante, then deal the cards and start betting with the player to the left of the dealer. You can play like this when learning the game, but if you ever play online, in community games, or in tournaments, you will need to learn to understand blinds. And the best way to learn blinds is to use them in every game you play.)

After this first hand of betting is complete, the dealer turns over three cards face up for the entire table. This is called the flop, and these cards can be used by any player at the table. Now, there are no more forced bets, and as always, the player to the left of the dealer is the first person to decide to either check – and defer the betting to the next player, or bet. (Remember: after someone has bet, players can no longer check, they must fold, call, or raise)

After this round of betting, another card is turned over. This fourth card turned face up is often known as the turn. And, once again, all players decide how strong their hands are. Finally, after this round of betting is over, the fifth and final card is turned over. This card, known as the river, signals the end of the hand, and all remaining players go through one final round of betting. After the betting is finished, players turn over their cards, and **whoever has the best combination of five cards is the winner.**



Below is a list of the rankings of potential hands starting with the strongest. (A Royal Flush is the best hand, and High Card is the weakest)

- **Royal Flush:** 10, J, Q, K, A of the same suit, this is the strongest hand in all of poker.
- **Straight Flush:** Any series of 5 consecutive cards of the same suit. (i.e. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 of Hearts)
- **Four Of A Kind:** Any hand with four cards of the same rank: like four sevens. It doesn't matter what the fifth card is. (i.e. 7, 7, 7, 7, 3)
- **Full House:** This hand consists of three cards of the same rank and two cards of another equal rank. For example (K, K, K, 4, 4)
- **Flush:** When the hand has 5 cards of the same suit. It doesn't matter the rank of the cards, so long as they are all the same suit – like Spades or Diamonds. If two players have a flush, then the player with the highest card of that suit wins the hand. If the highest cards are equal move to the second, then to the third, etc. (i.e. K, 9, 8, 5, 3 of Hearts is beaten by K, 9, 8, 6, 3 of Hearts because of the six.)
- **Straight:** Five sequential cards of any suit. If two players have straights, the straight with the highest card wins. (5, 6, 7, 8, 9 is beaten by 9, 10, J, Q, K)
- **Three Of A Kind:** Three cards of equal rank.
- **Two Pairs:** Two pairs of cards of equal rank.
- **Pair:** Two cards of equal rank.
- **High Card:** A hand that doesn't form any of these combinations. If comparing two of these hands, whichever player has the highest card is the winner.

In hands where the combinations are the same, (two players have 3 Kings) then the tie is broken with the *kicker* or the highest card that the players have not in the combination (not a king). Whichever player has the higher kicker is the winner of the hand. If two players have the exact same five cards, the pot is *split* and the players equally divide the pot.



### **Glossary Of Terms**

First Position: The first person to act in a hand.

Big Blind: The larger of two forced bets made to the left of the dealer to ensure betting on every hand.

Big Slick: Being dealt Ace-King at the beginning, one of the strongest hands you can get.

Blinded Out: Being forced out of a game by the forced blinds.

Boat: A full-house

Button: The small disc that travels around the table to indicate who is the dealer for the hand.

Buying The Pot: Placing a huge bet to scare everyone into folding.

Chasing: Waiting for a card to be dealt that will complete your hand.

Flop: The first three community cards simultaneously turned over by the dealer.

Feeler bet: A small bet made to get an idea of what the other players are holding.

Fifth Street: The fifth and final card turned over, also known as the river.

Fourth Street: The fourth community card turned over, also known as the turn card.

Heads Up: When all but two of the players have been eliminated and the game is being played "one-on-one"

Hole Cards: The two face-down cards dealt to all players at the beginning of the hand, also known as the pocket cards.

Hooks: Pair of Jacks

Kicker: The card that is used to break ties when two players have the same hand.

Limp In: Only calling a bet, and not raising the pot. This usually encourages another player to raise the pot.

Limping In: Faking weakness to entice another player to bet strong.

Loose Calls: When bad players make the wrong decision to call you when you have a better hand.

Manic: A wild, reckless player who will play as many pots as possible and bets big.

Off-Suit: When two cards are not of the same suit (i.e. Spades and hearts)

Open Ended: A strait that can be completed with a card either higher or lower (i.e. you have 6,7,8,9 either a 5 or a 10 will complete your strait.)

Outs: Possible cards that can be dealt that will give you a winning hand.

Over The Top: Raising another person after they have raised you.

Pocket: The two face-down cards dealt to all players at the start of the hand, also known as the hole cards.

Pot Committed: Staying in a hand against logic because you have already bet too many chips to fold.

Pulling The Trigger: Going all-in with a hand when you are the short stack.

Put Them On A Hand: Guessing what a player is holding without seeing the cards based on their betting patterns.

Put You On: When another player assumes you have a certain hand based on your betting patterns.

Ran Down: Lost a lot of chips in a hand.

Represent The Flop: Betting as though the flop strengthened your hand.

River: The fifth and final card dealt out on the table.

Rockets: A pair of aces.

Short Man Table: When the table that you are playing at has had some players eliminated leaving less than the normal amount of players.

Small Blind: The smaller of two forced bets to ensure betting on every hand.

Suited Connectors: Two sequential cards that are of the same suit (i.e. 8H-9H or JS-QS)

The Nuts: The best possible cards for the hand. You have the nuts when no hand can possibly beat yours

Trap: When you play so another player bets when you have the stronger hand.

Trips: Three of a kind

Turn/River: The last two cards dealt after the flop.



## **Introduction**

Whether you are a novice or a seasoned rounder, you are reading this book to become a stronger poker player. This book will cover all aspects of becoming a successful poker player: betting, bluffing, poker faces, reading players, positioning, and much, much, more.

No matter who you are or what your level of play, this book will give you the "edge" you need to dominate your competition in Texas Hold 'Em. Reading this book through the first time, some of the concepts might "click", but it is vital that you bring what you learned to the table next time you play Texas Hold 'Em.

Once you have a solid understanding of the many different situations that will be presented to you during a game, you will start to rake in dozens of extra pots every night... or maybe even make it to BIGGER games with higher-level players.

Over the course of your poker playing career, this book will be responsible for a substantial increase in your winnings. Read these tips carefully, review them frequently, follow the strategies, practice with friends... and you WILL become a much stronger (and wealthier) poker player. Period.



## **Chapter 1: My Profile**

I began playing cards at a very young age. My grandmother taught me how to play Hold 'Em at the age of 5. In high school, I found a group of friends that also liked to play.

We would play tournament style almost every night. Usually the buy-in was just \$5. Remember, we were broke high school kids.

I was always a strong player. We actually kept stats on how many wins each of us had for an entire year. I ended up winning over half the games that I played in. This is when I knew that I might be able to make some money playing the game. Most of my friends in high school worked about 20 hours a week for \$5-\$6 an hour... while I never had to work a second.

I opened a checking account my senior year that was strictly for my poker winnings. I began college and started to find higher stake games and kept saving. At the age of 21 is when I REALLY began to make money.

I was able to go to the riverboat in St. Louis, Missouri and play No Limit style. I made enough money to pay for school and still didn't have to work at some mindless minimum wage job. Fast



forward to now, and it's been over 15 years that I've been playing and winning Texas Hold 'Em... now at a professional level.

For years, people have been begging me to write a book exposing my secrets, but I haven't had time...I have been too busy winning! But after all these years, it is only fair that I step away from the tables, and let someone else win an occasional pot. So here it is, you are about to learn the EXACT secrets that I have used to win thousands of pots and tens of thousands of dollars.

Using the secrets you learn in this book, you'll be able to make money at poker whenever you need it (or feel like it), and you'll have a new level of financial freedom in your life - if you take it seriously.

Of course, it's up to YOU to devote the time and energy needed to achieve this level of mastery. I've done the "legwork" for you and laid out my techniques in a simple, step-by-step manner through this book. Now it's your turn. Get to work!

Wishing you success and lots of pots,

Rory Monahan, Author

"Texas Hold 'Em Secrets"

[www.Texas-Holdem-Secrets.com](http://www.Texas-Holdem-Secrets.com)



## **Chapter 2: Getting Started**

If you're a "newbie" to Texas Hold 'Em, or if you lack confidence in your own poker skills, listen up:

Clearly, you don't want to jump into a high-stakes no limit cash game and lose your next month's rent. You also don't want to play limit Hold 'Em because it is a COMPLETELY different game that takes out much of the strategy and adventure of the "sport."

So what should you do?

Play in tournament after tournament after tournament with small buy-ins. This may sound obvious, but I can't tell you how many card players I've met who want to become the next world poker tour champions but don't even practice on a weekly (or even monthly) basis.

You should have no problem finding a game that is close to your hometown or in your city. Just make sure the tournaments are no limit!

This is the BEST practice you can get in preparation for a no limit cash game. You can sit at the table and play for hours and

you're not going to lose next month's rent. You will develop an understanding for the game, you'll be able to practice my tactics and strategies, you'll be able to refine your skills and "poker face," and you'll be well prepared to jump into a game of higher stakes (which means more MONEY!).



### **Chapter 3: Positioning**

You must understand positioning while at the poker table. This understanding is what separates the good players from the bad.

Your positioning is where you sit in relation to the button. The button is the dealer, and he has the best position at the table because he gets to see what everyone at the table does before he has to act. There is good positioning and bad positioning while at the table and you **MUST** understand them before you jump into a high stakes game.

The next couple of chapters will provide you with the foundation you need in order to not only **UNDERSTAND** positioning, but also to use it to your **ADVANTAGE** to rake in more pots and more cash. So let's get started...



### **Chapter 4: First Position Pre Flop**

If I could make you read any chapter in this book more than once, this would be that chapter.

Poker is all about positioning, betting, and of course, catching a few hands. The absolute WORST position at the table is first to act before the flop. Let's say you're at an eight-man table and the big blind is to the right of you. You are dealt your two cards and you've got a Queen/Jack. This is a very strong hand. It's actually a hand that many players would raise with.

But don't do it in this position!

I'm folding this hand before I have a chance to think twice. Let's say I try to limp in hoping to see a free flop. Now, seven other players have a chance to raise. I'm not prepared to call a large raise with JQ, and chances are, someone at the table WILL raise.

Now, if I call the raise and the flop hits Q, 10, 3, what do I do? I've got a good hand, right? I decide to check. The original raiser comes out firing with an even larger bet just as you thought he would. You know he's got a strong hand. He could have A,Q or K,Q

and many other hands that beat yours and you feel obligated to call his bet because your pot committed.

This is exactly how you get in trouble playing mediocre cards in the first position. Hands that are good in first position are 10's, J's, Q's, K's, A's, AK, AQ, and AJ. These are hands that I would actually recommend limping in with when first to act.

For example, let's say you're in the first position and you are dealt pocket aces. Instead of raising, I would simply call the big blind if you're at an aggressive table. Now you've got 7 players behind you that have the chance to raise, and chances are, someone will.

Johnny fires out a large raise that a couple players call. The action is back to you and you are licking your chops. You go over the top of Johnny by doubling his original raise. Now HE is the player that is pot committed and will either call your raise or hopefully go all in, which is exactly what you want with rockets. (Why not, you've got the best hand in poker!)

This is how you maximize your money and play defensively at the same time... in the toughest position at the poker table.



## **Chapter 5: First To Act / After Flop**

When you are the small blind, the dealer is just to the right of you. This is another position at the table that you must be aware of.

If you don't understand this position while at the table, you are going to get yourself into trouble. Being small blind, you are first to act after the flop.

Let's say you're dealt pocket Kings. You raise before the flop and 4 players call. The flop hits K,Q,7 with no 2 suits being the same. Now everyone at the table is looking at you because you are first to act.

You can't believe that you just hit your trip Kings. You say, "Oh, it's on me," then pound your fist against the table. You're going to trap the hell out of somebody. Chances are, one of your 4 opponents is going to make a stab at buying the pot because it is rather large due to your pre flop raise.

Drew does just that. He throws out a \$20 bet and everyone else folds. The action is back to you. You think for a while, then say, "I'm going to call you. I think you're trying to steal this one."

The turn hits and it's another King, giving you 4 of a kind. You are first to act and know that Drew is going to fire out another bet. You say "I'm going to check to the better."

He doesn't even hesitate and fires out an even larger bet. You think for a while (mainly about what you're going to buy with this money) then call again. You don't want to go over the top of Drew's bet. If you do, he may fold and you win no more money.

Now the river hits, who cares what it is, you're sitting on a monster. You're just hoping that it helped Drew. The action is on you. You play with your chips for a while as though you're going to throw out a large bet. Then, once again, "I'm going to check and see what you do."

This line always seems draw another bet. Drew looks at his down cards only to see that he has absolutely nothing in his hand. He knows that the only way he is going to win this pot is if he tries to buy it one more time, and he has to, he's already got half his chips in the pot.

Drew begins to push in the rest of his stack. Now you're not messing around any longer. Playing more mind games would be against proper poker edict. You quickly call. "Sorry Drew, I flopped a monster, that turned into 4 of a kind. This was the only way I could play the hand being first to act."

This is EXACTLY how you play a monster when you are first to act after the flop. If you flop trips, a straight, or a flush, let



someone else begin the betting. Chances are, one of the seven other players is going to.

Be very conscious of this position at the table. If you play it correctly, you're going to rake your share of VERY large pots.



## **Chapter 6: On The Button**

The button is the best position you can have while at the poker table. You should play your cards more aggressively than usual when you're the dealer.

Let's say you're dealt 10/J while on the button. This is a strong hand, but not a hand that I would raise with every time. It all depends on your positioning at the table. The betting goes around the table before the flop and everyone is limping in.

The action finally gets to you. You're on the button so you raise with your 10/J. Now the betting goes back around the table and 4 of the limpers fold.

Good, you've just gotten rid of the crap hands. Now you've got fewer competitors and increase your chances of winning the hand. Plus, you've taken control of the betting. Now, after the flop hits you have the best position at the table. You get to see what every player at the table does before the action is on you to act. Play your button aggressively and you will increase your chances of winning.



## **Chapter 7: Betting Is Everything**

Betting is what the game of poker is really all about. During a poker game, thousands of bets will be made and every bet has a meaning and was made for a specific reason.

Betting is TRULY what separates the good players from the bad. The most important aspect to betting is mixing your bets up.

You don't want to get stuck in a system of betting that is exactly the same from game to game. One thing to factor into any bet is the size of the pot. I don't understand why a player will bluff at a pot when there is nothing to steal. I'm thinking, OK, you bluffed me, now take my \$2.

If you're going to bluff, make sure the pot size is worth stealing. There are hundreds of situations when TO BET and when NOT to bet. This is why it is very important to mix up what you're betting with. The rest of this book will discuss many different situations of when and when not to bet. Study these strategies closely.



## **Chapter 8: Mix Up Your Raise**

Many players get in trouble at the card table because they fall into a rhythm of only raising with certain hands. In fact, most players play like this.

These players never win consistently. The players that win consistently will mix up their betting. They will raise with their pocket Q's, K's, and Aces, but they will also raise with hands like 9-10, 8-9, suited connectors, and anything else that they feel looks pretty at that particular moment. This is why the great players are great. You can never put them on a hand. Your opponents never have a clue as to what you are holding.

Now sometimes, Jimmy is going to go over the top of your pre flop raise because he knows you raise with all types of hands. Ok, you simply fold. This will happen from time to time, but when Jimmy goes over the top of your raise and your sitting on pocket rockets, he's going to feel a bit salty.

This type of strategy is also what makes you an aggressive player and the table leader. If you play this style of poker, nobody ever knows what the hell you're holding... which means more cash for you at the end of the night.



## **Chapter 9: Feeler Bets**

As I will mention many times during this book, betting is what the game of Hold 'Em is all about. It separates the good players from the bad. There is a reason why the same players make the final table year after year in the World Series of Poker. They have mastered the strategy of the bet.

A "feeler" is a bet that players will throw out to get a vibe as to what is going on in the game. Let me give an example. Let's say you're on the button and you're dealt pocket eights.

Nobody raises before the flop and neither do you. The flop comes 5,J,K. Everyone at the table checks to you. Should you check also? Chances are you are beat at this point. Someone at the table probably has either a Jack or a King.

The answer is yes. Throw out a feeler bet, nothing that is going to get you in trouble, just a small bet. Now you've taken control of the betting and the hand. Two players fold and the others call your small bet. Now you've got rid of the crap hands and those players aren't going to catch something stupid on the turn or the river to give them a winning hand.

You've got 2 players to compete against. Let's say one guy goes over the top of your bet for a large sum of money. OK, your feeler worked. You feel a strong hand so you get out. However, both players may just call because they have Kings with a bad kicker.

The turn hits the table and it's a three, which probably helps nobody. They check to you again because you began the original action and they expect something from you again after the turn. You've already thrown out your feeler bet and you know that your opponents have a hand that probably beats yours. Now you get to see the river card for free. It's an 8 giving you trips. They don't feel this card has helped anybody so now someone decides to bet and they are in big trouble because you're going over the top.

Now let's say you don't hit the 8 on the river. The way the betting has gone, you know they have strong hands but you don't feel as though they may have kicker problems, so you try and steal the pot. The bet must be a large because they are pot committed.

You're not going to steal the pot with a bet that is the same size as the bet you made after the flop. Regardless of what happens, you are the player at the table with the advantage because YOU took control of the betting and have a feel for what is going on. They have no clue what you're holding.

This is the betting strategy you should use in any game. If you master this type of betting you are going to be the table leader. If you check, check, check, you will never know what's going on and you won't get a feel for the game.



## **Chapter 10: Betting Into The Raiser**

Betting into the raiser is a strategy that many good card players will use.

Here is the situation: You're dealt pocket 2's. Old man Johnny, who is sitting across the table from you with his dark sunglasses, like he's all-pro, makes a pre flop raise.

Everyone else folds and the action is on you. You've got a few chips to play with so you call his raise while he stares you down. The flop hits 2, A, Q. Bingo, you've just hit your wired pair and you are first to act.

Should you check? You know that Johnny is going to fire again with his Ace.

No.

Instead, unexpectedly, without any type of hesitation, you come out firing. There is nothing that I've seen in poker that will piss a player off more than betting into the raiser.

Now John, who is sitting on AK, is pushing in all his chips. Why not, he's got a great hand. However, he didn't even think about the situation. You threw him off with your bet while pissing him off at the same time. You call his all in and throw over you trip 2's.

The look on his face is going to be a thing of beauty. You rake his money without slow playing or check raising. The reason you came out betting was because you knew Johnny had just hit the ace because of his pre flop raise. You also knew he was going to go over the top of your bet. This is probably one of the most fun plays in poker that seems to throw even the best players off their game.





## **Chapter 11: Check Raise**

Some players feel as though the check raise is morally wrong.

I've even been to a few places that don't allow the check raise.

I turn away and walk right back out the door if this is the case. Check raising is part of the game of poker. It adds strategy to the game. When you are check raised, you think twice about what your next move is going to be.

When players get fired up by this betting strategy, it just shows that they do not possess the skills to be a good poker player. There is nothing wrong with check raising your opponent. It keeps the table on their toes. If your opponent becomes upset with your play, he doesn't have an understanding as to what the game of poker is all about.



## **Chapter 12: Sixth Gear**

I'm sitting at the card game and it seems as though I see the same faces night after night. Most of the guys I play against will play and bet the same each time we play.

I get out when Tight Tim bets and wait to catch Drew on a bluff. These guys never change gears. They are stuck in a betting pattern that is the same from game to game. Players like Josh and Aaron are the guys that I seem to have a problem playing against.

These guys change gears every night. Some nights they are raising \$5 pre-flop with king jack, and the next night they are limping in with the same hand. Some games they will come out firing when the flop hits AA5.

You're thinking, he doesn't have an ace, if he did, he would have checked. Sure enough, you call the bet and Josh throws over his trip aces. Tomorrow, he will check the ace. That is how great poker players play the game. They change gears.

This doesn't have to be from night to night. It can be from hour to hour or even hand to hand. One second Josh is playing very aggressive and throwing out bets left and right, then he

tightens up and you don't hear from him for a couple hours. This is the type of play you should bring to the card table. It frustrates the other players and leaves them guessing. Nobody can ever put you on a hand.



### **Chapter 13: Stealing**

Every time you catch a good hand like AK, AQ, QK, or KJ, you can't seem to win the hand because you never hit any of your cards on the flop.

There is an easy way to rake the pot in situations like this.

Let's say you enter a \$2000 buy-in tournament in which you receive \$10000 in chips. You sit down and the first hand you see is Big Slick suited. The action goes around the table and everyone is trying to limp in. Finally, the betting is on you and you throw out a \$500 bet.

Everyone at the table folds except for Drew, who calls the \$500 raise. The flop hits 2,10,7. Not the flop you want to see with your AK. The action is on Drew first after the flop and he calmly checks to you. What do you do? You throw out a \$2000 bet.

Chances are, Drew didn't hit anything on the board either. Drew looks at his down cards for a few seconds and then mucks his hand. When you throw out the 2nd bet, Drew has to put you on a wired pair that is higher than anything on the board. This is exactly how you play your pre-flop raise when you hit nothing on the flop.

Sure, there are going to be times when the flop hits 2,10,7, and Drew is sitting on Pocket 2's. Now he goes over the top of your post flop raise or simply call and is going to try and trap you. You realize something fishy is going on and you play the rest of the hand cautiously.

Remember that you can't win unless you bet. If you play this type of aggressive style throughout the tournament, you will win much more than you lose.



## **Chapter 14: Play Aggressive**

You've played against Tight Tim before. He's the guy that you don't hear anything from for an hour or two at the poker table and then, unexpectedly, he speaks and throws out a major bet.

You think: what, you're betting, I didn't even know you were at the table.

You then look at your down cards and see AJ. You muck them without thinking twice.

Tight Tim only plays monsters and wonders why the entire table folds and why he can't seem to get any action. This type of player never wins consistently.

Sure, on occasions he will be dealt rockets and be lucky enough that another player has just picked up Kings. Then he's going to make some money. However, this doesn't happen very often, so usually the blinds will eat Tim away as the night progresses.

You must play aggressive and be willing to lose money on hands that you don't have. If you play aggressive you keep the

table on their toes and always guessing. You want to be that guy at the table that always gets action. You raise pre flop with your 8,9 and the flop hits 7,10,J. You come out firing again and the table is thinking, he doesn't have any of that crap out there.

They're right, you don't have a pair, just a straight. When you play aggressive, your opponents can never put you on a hand.

They can always put Tim on a hand. They put him on KQ, or A's when he makes a bet. My friends always ask me why I get so much action at the card table.

I just tell them I must be lucky to catch the hands I do.

The difference is that I'm making bets with hands that others players would be checking. I'm not necessarily making bets to win every pot. I'm making bets to find out what's going on with my opponents. I've never seen a tight player win consistently. Play aggressive and know when to make a move and your going to be a winning poker player. If you are tight like Tim and fear throwing out at bet until you have the nuts, you may need to find another game. You're not going to win at Hold 'Em.



## **Chapter 15: Bluffing Bad Players**

Bluffing is a betting strategy that absolutely **MUST** be utilized if you're going to win at the game of Hold 'Em.

I LOVE to bluff.

It gives me the adrenaline rush that many people find in skydiving and bungee jumping. I steal a good amount of pots, but I also get caught here and there.

I entered a tournament a few years ago when I first began playing Hold 'Em and thought I was going to walk all over the competition. It was a local tournament in a small bar here in my hometown.

I knew the players' weren't going to be very competitive. In fact, they were horrible. They knew nothing about the game and some had never played before. The tournament began at noon.

1pm rolled around and I hadn't seen a hand. I was becoming a bit frustrated and figured I would start buying pots by bluffing. I began to throw out bets left and right, and every time, they were called. I ended up being the first guy knocked out of the



tournament. I had an ace high and went all in. The man across the table called me with a pair of 2's in his hand. There was a K,J,Q,10,7 on the board.

I was in disbelief that he called my all in with deuces. I learned then that bad players could not be bluffed. These guys were calling stations.

It didn't matter what they were holding, if they had a pair, they felt it was the best hand in the world. You can't bluff bad players! Don't even try!

You must be patient and wait for a hand. Once you get a good hand, then it is very easy to get your money's worth. You then let them become calling machines and take advantage of their bad play.



## **Chapter 16: Represent The flop**

I'm on the button and I'm dealt JQ. Everyone at the table tries to limp in. The action is now on me and I raise \$10.

There are three players at the table that call my raise. The flop comes A,9,4. The betting is now on Drew, who is sitting to the left of me. He checks and so does Josh and Proctor.

The action is back on me. I throw out a \$30 bet and everyone folds. I made the bet with nothing because I made the pre-flop raise. When I come out with a bet after the flop, everyone at the table assumes that I'm holding an ace.

I'm representing the ace that is on the board. You will steal many pots if you play this way. You must play this style to maximize your winning. If you play cards for 4 hours, these steals are going to add up. You must bet what you don't have.

Represent the flop!



## **Chapter 17: Pot Committed**

You're at a table of eight and your dealt K10 off-suit. You're positioning isn't great so you decide to limp in before the flop.

You do this successfully and the flop hits JQ3. You've just flopped an open-ended straight draw. The first two players check and the action is on you. You feel as though you have a strong hand and throw out a \$10 bet.

This is where you become pot committed. Your hand really isn't that strong right now. In fact, you have nothing. If you hit the straight, then you're in good shape. If you check, you get to see the next card for free.

Instead, you've made a bet and Aaron, who is sitting on Jack/Queen goes over the top with his check-raise for \$30 more. You think, OK, I've already thrown in \$10 so why not throw in \$30 more and hope to hit the straight.

Now you're invested for \$40 plus the big blind. The turn hits and it's a deuce. Not exactly the card you wanted to see. The action is back on Aaron. He throws out another \$30 bet. Now what

do you do? You've already got half of your money invested and if you hit the straight with either a nine or an ace you're golden.

You call his bet and hope that your card hits giving you the straight. Now you're in deep. The river card hits and it's a king. Now you've got a pair of Kings. Aaron fires out a \$50 bet. You still feel as though you're beat because of the original check-raise.

Usually, when someone check-raises they have a strong hand. You have a pair of Kings and there are many possibilities on the board that easily beat you. However, Aaron has been known to bluff. You don't think he is but you've already put more than half your chips in the pot. You feel as though you have to see his cards and call the bet.

He throws over his 2 pair and you've just lost all of your money mainly because you became pot committed. Let go back to the action after the flop, where the mistake was made.

You hit the open ended straight draw. You have a few outs, but remember you still just had a king high.

Everyone at the table checked to you. Why not check and see a free card?

This would NOT be a situation when you would throw out a feeler bet. You are chasing, and anytime you're chasing, you want to see free cards.

If you had checked after the flop, you would have never become pot committed. The turn hits and Aaron comes out firing. Now you're only invested for the big blind of \$2, so you muck the hand. It's easy to glue yourself to a pot when you're chasing a straight or a flush. If you can see a free card, see it.

If the price of poker gets too high, muck the hand and wait for something better.



## **Chapter 18: Bluffer**

Its 7pm and I just sat down at a table with a group of guys that I had never played against before. I jump right into the action as big blind.

I'm dealt 7,2, off suit, which is the worst hand in poker. Most of the guys fold as the action goes around the table before the flop. There is no raise and I have the option to raise or simply check my monster hand. I raise \$5 and one guy calls me.

The flop hits AK10. The action is on me first and I fire out a \$10 bet. Why not, I made the original raise and I'm going to try and represent the flop. My opponent across the table thinks for a few moments and then calls the raise. I know he has the ace and I'm not going to be able to buy this pot.

The turn hits and it's a three. We both check. The river hits and it's a King. I know there is no way I'm going to be able to buy this one. What do I do?

I throw out another \$10 bet. Johnny calls the bet and we both throw over our cards. I said "You got me, I was bluffing."

Everyone at the table laughs at me and I begin to laugh myself. I don't usually lose a hand on purpose. However, I wanted these guys to think I was an idiot and that I was going to bluff all night long.

The night continued and I don't think I bluffed at another pot. I didn't have to. These guys were calling every bet I made. I had lost \$20 early on a bluff in hopes of getting loose calls the rest of the night.

The investment paid off. It was a great night of cards for me. I cashed in for \$200 and cashed out for over \$1000. Sometimes you want to show a bluff. There is nothing wrong with letting your opponents think that you're going to be an aggressive player that will bluff. You must bluff if you want to win.



## **Chapter 19: Pot Odds**

You're on the button and you're dealt 9/10. Aaron, who is in first position, raises \$10 before the flop. Your first thought is to fold your mediocre hand.

Josh is next to act and he calls. Then Drew, Danny, Nathan, and Ronnie also call Aaron's \$10 raise. The action is now on you.

Do you still fold your mediocre hand? Not a chance! There is over \$70 in the pot and you only have to pay \$10 to see the flop. You call and the flop hits 8JQ.

You just flopped a straight and you're going to rake a huge pot. It's anybody's game before the flop. You never know what is going to hit. If Aaron had raised \$10 before the flop and everyone had folded, you too should fold the hand.

However, there were 5 callers and the pot size made the hand worth playing. You must always look at the size of the pot when you are making a decision to call, fold, or raise. If the pot is large, see a flop, the turn, or the river, if the price is right.





## **Chapter 20: Leave Yourself An Out**

Outs are the possible cards that you can hit to give you the winning hand. If you decide to go all-in after the flop with four diamonds, you will have 9 outs left.

There are 9 diamonds left in the deck that will give you the flush. This assumes that nobody else at the table is or was holding a diamond. Players are always counting outs.

Some players know their exact odds of catching the card that they need to give them a win. Truthfully, I never count outs and don't know my exact odds on every hand. In fact, I never know my exact odds on anything.

I just make sure I have at least one out if I'm going to bluff at a pot. I entered a tournament a few weeks ago and made the final table. The tournament was down to the final three players and the blinds were eating us up. I was dealt a 2 of hearts and a 5 of spades in my big blind. The flop hit 3,4,5, and every card was a heart. This wasn't a bad flop for me. I had top pair with a possible straight flush draw. I was short stack at this time so I pushed my entire stack into the middle of the table on a semi-bluff.

I knew I could easily be beat at this time. Chad was next to act and he called my all-in before I had a chance to push the rest of my chips in. He threw over a K,Q of hearts which gave him a monster flush.

I stood up from the table and was ready to shake Chad's hand. The turn was a king and you wouldn't believe what hit on the river. I couldn't.

It was the Ace of hearts that gave me the straight flush. Yes, I was very lucky. However, I knew when I went all-in that if I was beat I still had that one huge out. It hit and I raked the pot.

Leaving yourself outs is especially important when you're trying to buy a pot with a bluff. If you plan on pushing your chips in on a bluff or a semi-bluff, leave yourself a chance to win if someone calls.



## **Chapter 21: Slow Playing**

I entered a local \$50 buy-in tournament yesterday here in my hometown and I was catching cards like never before.

I couldn't believe some of the hands that I was being dealt. After a few hours we were down to the final 2 and I am playing heads up against an old man named Bill. He was about 75 years of age and one of the nicest guys I had ever played against.

He really wasn't a very good player, he had just caught a few good hands at the right times over the course of the night. We played for a while and didn't have much action until I was dealt Q4 on my big blind.

He calls his small blind and I check before the flop. The flop comes Q,4,4 and I've just flopped a MONSTER. Bill checks to me and I know he's got nothing.

I know I can't bet; I've got to check in hopes that he catches a hand worth playing, and so I do.

The next card hits, and its a 10. Bill looks as though he wants to bet but continues to check again. I play with my chips for a few seconds, with no intention of betting yet and then proceed to check.

The river comes and it's the Ace of hearts. Poor Bill is holding a KJ which gives his the Ace high straight. Now he is first to act again and throws out a fairly small bet in hopes of simply getting a call out of me.

I think for a few moments and then go over the top by doubling his bet. Immediately, Bill pushes all his chips. I said, "Sorry Bill, I call, I flopped a Boat," as I turn over my cards.

I actually felt bad about the way I had slow played the hand. I'm not trying to make anyone look bad but this is the only way to play a hand when you flop a monster. Even if you're at an eight man table and you flop a boat, you must check, check, check, until the other players catch something worth betting.

Slow playing is a very important aspect to poker. You must know when, and when not to do it. Slow play hands that you know are not going to be beat on a draw.



## **Chapter 22: No Mo Slow**

Slow playing can only be utilized in certain situations. There are times when you can't let your opponents see free cards, and you must throw out a large bet.

Let's say you're dealt pocket Kings and you're on the button. You raise \$50 before the flop. Three guys call your bet and the flop hits K of diamonds, Queen of hearts, and Jack of diamonds.

You've just flopped trips and everyone checks to you. Should you slow play this hand and hope that the other players catch something? Not a chance!

There is a straight draw and a flush draw on the board and chances are someone at the table is chasing. You've got to bring the hammer down at this point. The bet has to be large enough to get the chasers out. If you make a substantially large bet, Drew isn't going to risk his chips on a flush or straight draw.

Rake the pot and be happy with the small win. You cannot risk letting your opponents see another card in this situation. It may result in a large loss to your chip stack. If the flop had hit K, 7, 2,

with no two suits the same, then I would recommend a check in hopes that the other players hit something in their hand.

You must analyze every flop and be aware of situations in which your opponents may be chasing. One of the biggest mistakes that players make is to let their opponents see free cards. This will burn you in the long run and cause major losses.



### **Chapter 23: Let Em Fire**

I'm at the Grand Casino in STL for the first time. Drew, Brian, and I arrive at the poker room at about 8pm and are waiting for a no limit table to open.

Some older guys are standing beside me also waiting to play no limit. One guy with dark sunglasses keeps talking about how good he is. He said that he had one thousands over the last few weeks and that the players that played in the casino were dead money.

This guy was extremely arrogant and probably wasn't very good. Yeah, I was ease dropping on their conversation but I was trying to gain some knowledge as to what type of players they were.

9pm rolled around and the casino finally opened another table for the 10 of us. The cocky guy sat 2 seats to the left of me as they dealt for the button. I got an ace so I was the dealer.

The first hand I looked at was a 10,J suited. The action went around the table and everyone folded to me. I had told myself that I was going to play very aggressive and I made it \$10 to play.

The small blind folded and the action was on big head. He paused for a moment and then went over the top of me for \$20 more. That's not what I wanted to see with my 10,J but I wasn't about to fold and I had positioning so I called the raise.

The flop hits J,J,3. Bingo, I'm just hoping he isn't holding A,J. The action is on him first and he fires out \$30 without a moment of hesitation. Now what do I do?

Do I go over the top right now? No way. I'm going to let him fire and become pot committed. If I go over the top now, he is going to put me on the Jack.

I quickly call the bet without pausing. The next card hits and it's another Jack giving me 4 of a kind. We both look at each other and make eye contact at the same time. I begin grabbing a few chips like I'm ready to call whatever he is going to bet. He fires out a \$50 bet.

Now I pause for a while and act as though I'm debating the call. I'm really thinking about how I'm going to take the rest of his money. I begin to count my chips as though I'm going to go over the top of him. Then I say "I'm going to call you." The river hits and truthfully I don't remember what it was.

Who cares, I've got four Jacks. The action is on big head again and he throws out a black chip, which is the \$100 chip. Before the chips landed in the pot I said the famous line.

"I'm all in."



I said it in a tone that made it sound as though I really had the Jack. This really threw him off. He said, "You ain't got no damn Jack." I said, "Hell yeah I got the Jack, why would I go all in if I didn't have it." I was speaking the dead truth but you can never believe a poker player, right?

He pushed in the rest of his chips just like I knew he would because he had to see my hand. He threw over his pocket aces and I held up the Jack with a grin on my face. Yeah, I didn't make a new friend that night but it was great.

It was probably the most fun hand of poker I had ever played. I just sat back and let him fire. If you're holding a monster and your opponent keeps firing, don't go over the top until he has committed himself to the pot. Then they feel obligated to call when you push you chips in.



## **Chapter 24: How To Play Hands**

Sure, pocket aces is the best hand in poker and almost anyone can win with the hand.

However, most players don't know how to maximize their winnings when they are dealt rockets. There are certain ways to play certain hands. Pocket Jacks is a hand that I see players lose their money with more than any other. It's a very strong hand and if you play it correctly you will win more than you will lose.

The next few chapters will talk about how you should play different hands. If you understand these chapters and use the tactics in the games you play in, you will rake more money every night you play...



## **Chapter 25: How To Play Big Slick**

Ace/King is one of the strongest starting hands in poker. However, I've seen more players get in trouble with this hand than any other.

I'm at the riverboat casino in St. Louis with my good friend Aaron. We are playing in a no-limit cash game. The cards are dealt and an old guy to the right of me named Tony raised \$15 before the flop, which was a large pre-flop raise at this rather tight table. I hadn't heard from this guy all night long so I quickly fold my KJ suited, which I would normally play.

Aaron is on the left-hand side of me and is next to act. He goes back over the top of Tony for \$50. I'm thinking, OK, Aaron's got pocket Q,K, or aces and is begging for an all in from Tony.

Everyone else at the table folds and the action is back on Tony. He thinks for a few moments while shuffling his chips and then goes over the top of Aaron's \$50 bet with an all-in for \$125 more. Aaron thinks for a while and then calls. They flop over their cards and Aaron has AK while Tony has American Airlines flight \$500 or pocket aces as some people may call it.

I was a bit confused at Aaron's play. He of course, lost the pot and was done for the night. On the ride home I asked him what he was thinking by going over the top of a very tight player with Big Slick. He said, "AK is one of the strongest starting hands that you can be dealt."

Yes, I agree, but the hand is still just an Ace high if you don't hit anything on the flop. You're taking a huge risk if you put all your chips in before the flop with AK. That is where players get in trouble with Big Slick. They go all in before the flop and get ran down by pocket 2's. Don't be afraid to fold AK before the flop if the action gets too crazy. If you've got good table positioning, make a pre-flop raise and hope to hit one of your cards.

If the action gets silly and people are going over the top of you and pushing all their chips in, don't be afraid to muck the hand and live to see another.



## **Chapter 26: How To Play Ace Ten and Under**

Every week it seems as though I am at the table with players that have just began to play poker. These newcomers always get themselves in trouble by playing Ace/10 through Ace/2.

This even seems to be a problem with people who have been playing for years. Yes, the ace is the best card in the deck and its pretty, but playing it with a 10 and below will only get you in trouble. Let's say your dealt A9 and someone raises before the flop.

You decide to call the bet because you've got the almighty Ace. Now you've just become pot committed and the flop hits A, 3, 8.

Hey, you just hit your ace and your feeling good. The original raiser is first to act and he comes out firing. His bet isn't too large, so you call and the turn is a king. You've still got high pair but your opponent fires out an even larger bet at you.

Now you're in deep and you're not so confident with your nine kicker. Half of your chips are now in the pot so you decide to call. The river hits and it's a 10. You look across the table at Bill only to see him pushing in the rest of his chips.

You then look down at your stack and see that most of your chips are already in the pot. Now what? Do you fold and leave yourself with the short stack or do you call and hope that Billy is a bluffer? You call the all in and Billy flips over his AQ.

He has you out kicked and rakes the pot. Players are going to raise before the flop with strong hands. A good portion of pre-flop raises will include hands like AK, AQ, and AJ. If you're calling a raise before the flop with your A10 and under, you are committing yourself to the pot when the ace hits.

The only time these hands should be played is if you can limp, if have good positioning, or are at a short man table. If you're playing A10 and under in any other situation, your asking for trouble.

Of course, Ace/ten through Ace/two are not ALWAYS bad hands to play. I play these hands if I'm able to limp in with good positioning or if I'm in a tournament that is down to just a few players. Let's look at the first situation.

You're at a table of eight and your dealt Ace/six while on the button. This is a good time to limp in. When the flop hits A, K, 3, you've got good positioning and you get to see what all 7 players at the table do before the action is on you.

Remember, if someone raises before the flop, get rid of your ace/six. If you can see the flop for free, your Ace/six is no longer a trouble hand. Just play it cautiously.

If you hit your ace and everyone checks to you, don't be afraid to throw out a feeler bet to see what's going on.

The other time to play your Ace bad kicker is at a short man table. This is a table with 4 players or less. Now your Ace/three is a strong hand. If you're at the table with eight or more players, chances are someone is holding a hand that kills your Ace/six.

When you're at a short man table, your ace/three has a good chance of being the best hand before the flop. You may even want to raise before the flop with your ace. Just remember that Ace/ten through Ace/two should only be played with good positioning or if you're down to just a few players. If you follow these rules you will increase your chances of winning and you won't get yourself into trouble.



## **Chapter 27: How To Play Pocket Jacks**

Pocket Jacks may be one of the most hated hands in poker. This seems to be a hand that people lose large sums of money with.

I've even got a friend that will fold his Jacks without even seeing a flop!

Jacks are a very strong hand but they are very tough to play. They are beaten all the time because it seems that every flop will have a queen, king, or ace, and usually someone at the table holds one of these cards. Many players will raise with their jacks just enough to get a few players to call.

Then when the flop hits Q,10,3, and they are in trouble because one of the callers is holding the queen. Other players will limp in with Jacks which is an even bigger mistake. You don't want 7 other players at the table seeing a free flop only to hit their junk cards.

Here is the best way to play Jacks:

You raise a very large amount before the flop. Now you only get one guy to call your pre-flop raise and the pot size is rather



large. If you have just one player call your raise, you greatly increase your odds of winning the hand. The flop hits Q,10,7. Now you don't risk the chance of 5 players holding the queen.

When you're playing heads up, chances are your opponent will not be holding the queen. You fire out an even larger bet after the flop and rake the pot. You still must play it cautious, but you can't be afraid to throw out another bet.



## **Chapter 28: How To Play Low Wired Pairs**

Usually low wired pairs aren't worth much. However, these hands can easily end up being your biggest moneymakers.

I was playing at the riverboat a few days ago and was dealt pocket threes at a no limit game. The guy just to the left of me raised \$10 pre-flop. I had planned on mucking the hand but 4 other players called the raise and the action was on me.

Now I'm thinking, OK, if I hit my three on the flop, the pot size is large enough to make some money. Now of course, I hit my three, or I wouldn't be telling the story.

The flop was actually A, K, 3. This was a perfect flop for me. I knew the other players at the table had high cards. Everyone at the table comes out firing and I'm licking my chops. The action finally gets around to me and I push in all my chips which was about \$300.

I had one guy call me with his big slick. Two pair doesn't beat my trips and I rake the largest pot of the night with my crap threes. Small wired pairs are great hands to play if you can limp in or if the

pot size is large enough to make money. When you hit, you're golden.

No one can ever put you on trip threes and you rake huge pots. Just remember the chances of hitting you wired pair is very low. Play these hands correctly and you can turn your entire night around if you hit.



## **Chapter 29: How To Play Pocket Kings**

Pocket kings seem to be another hand that players will lose money with. This shouldn't happen. It's one of the strongest hands in poker.

Players lose money with their kings because it's such a pretty hand and its tough to fold. I see it all the time. Adrian is dealt pocket kings and raised \$10 before the flop. Two players call the raise and the flop hits A,7,J.

Nathan comes out firing with a \$20 bet and the action is back on Adrian. He knows that Nathan probably has an ace but can't seem to get rid of his Kings. Adrian calls the \$20 bet and is now pot committed. Of course, the hand plays out and Adrian loses all his money.

Kings are very strong. You must raise with them before the flop. When you get a few callers and an ace hits you're probably beat. You must muck the kings even though they look so pretty. That's the problem players run into with their kings. It's just so hard to muck, but you MUST. Your hoping to get a flop like Q,J,4. Then you're in great shape to win some money. Just be cautious of the ace and let the kings go if it hits.



### **Chapter 30: How To Play Pocket Rockets**

Everyone has a story about his or her aces being run down. It's going to happen. However, you can decrease your chances of a bad beat if you play the hand correctly. You're dealt aces and you are fourth to act before the flop.

You must make a raise. You raise to get rid of the crap hands at the table. You don't want Brian, who is big blind with his 7/2 off-suit to see a free flop only to hit two pair or trips.

You make a raise to get rid of these crap hands at the table. There are 2 players that call your pre flop raise and the flop hits 2,2,5. The action is back to you.

Don't mess around. You can't be afraid of the deuces on the board. If your raise was large enough before the flop, nobody is going to be holding a deuce. When you come out firing after the flop, make sure the bet is at least double the pre flop raise.

You don't want the straight and flush chasers to catch against you. Make your bets and avoid any possible bad beats.



### **Chapter 31: How To Play Suited Connectors**

Every player loves suited connectors. These are hands such as 8/9 of diamonds, 5/6 of hearts, and K/Q of spades. These hands are always fun to play.

If you've got good positioning with these hands, don't be afraid to throw out a pre-flop raise. These hands are strong because of the many possibilities that you possess after the flop. You usually end up hitting one of your cards or flopping either a straight or flush draw.

When the flop hits 7 of diamonds, 10 of diamonds, 2 of hearts, and you hold the 8/9 of diamonds, you've got more outs than you can count. You've got an open ended straight flush draw, a straight draw, and a flush draw. But just remember you've still only got a 10 high up to this point.

Don't go pushing all your chips in on a draw. Try to see the turn and the river for a cheap price. Once you catch one of your many outs, you're in a great position to rake a large pot.



### **Chapter 32: Burnt**

I've got a friend named Matt who seems to catch better hands than anyone I know. He also seems to be bad beat more than anyone I've ever played against.

The reason he gets beat with his monster hands is because he tries to play sneaky by limping in before the flop. He will be dealt pocket Aces and let everyone see a flop for the price of the big blind.

Now all eight players are limping in and the flop hits 2, 8, 10. Now Matt comes out firing with his rockets and is run down by someone at the table with 2 pair, 8's and 10's.

He starts whining about how he always gets beat by crap hands. I don't say a word.

I just think to myself, if you had raised before the flop, Timmy wouldn't have been in the hand with his 8/10 off-suit.

You have to raise with aces when you get them. The only time I may limp in is if I am in the first position. Then, chances are, someone else will do the raising for you and you can go over the top of that raise. Some players like Matt like to limp with their aces

because they are afraid that they will bet everyone out and win nothing.

This will seldom happen if you are one of those aggressive players that will mix up the betting. You may only get one caller that has AK or AQ, but when the flop hits A, 9, 3, you are going to take every chip that your opponent has in front of him.

This is what you want with a monster hand like K's or A's. You don't want to let the big blind see a flop with his 2, 7 off-suit, only to get ran down. If you play like Matt, you're going to be one of those players that think they have the worst luck in the world. Don't be that guy!





### **Chapter 33: The Short Stack**

Nobody ever wants to play the short stack but its going to happen many times throughout your poker career. I see people playing the short stack that dwindle away.

You can't play tight with the short stack. You must be willing to push your stack in hoping to double up. You cannot sit and wait on pocket rockets before pushing your chips in.

If you're dealt pocket 3's or KQ, you better be pulling the trigger. If you're the short stack, but still have a good chunk of money, you are probably only going to have one player call your all in. This is exactly what you want.

You don't want 4 callers, which will happen if you let your stack get to low before making a move. Sure, you could quadruple up, but that's not going to happen. Your pocket 4's don't stand a chance against 4 callers. They do stand a chance heads up against AQ. In fact, you would have a pre-flop advantage. What if nobody calls your all-in? Oh well, you just stole the small and big blind, which is huge for your short stack.

You must make a move when you're the short stack. You cannot let yourself get to the point that your all in is the size of the big blind. If you let your stack get this low, you better have a ride home.



### **Chapter 34: Watch For Suits**

You must analyze every flop when you're playing the game of Hold 'Em.

You're at the card table and you're dealt pocket aces. You make a large raise before the flop and there are 4 players that call your bet.

The flop hits ace of hearts, 4 of hearts, and a 2 of diamonds. This is a monster flop for you and you've probably got the best hand at this time. What do you do?

Do you slow play the hand by trying to trap someone? Not this time! There are two diamonds on the board and someone can easily be holding 2 diamonds in their hand waiting for the flush to hit. They are waiting to burn you trip aces with a diamond on either the turn or the river.

You now throw out a very large bet. The bet must be large enough to keep Drew from chasing the flush. You may look at the pot when deciding on how much to bet. If the pot size is \$50, and you bet \$200, Drew will not chase.

If he does, he's an idiot. Most players won't chase if the bet is twice the size of the pot. However, if you throw out a \$5 bet, Drew will chase all day long and you're going to get burnt. When at the poker table, always look for suits on the flop. If 2 of any suit are on the board, someone is probably looking to hit the flush.



### **Chapter 35: Know the Money**

I recently played in a local tournament that paid only the top three places. After about 3 hours the field was down to the final four players. The four of us were in a battle to secure a payout for the top three.

I was chip leader and my good friend Aaron also had a large chip stack. I didn't have him by much. The other two players were very low on chips and fighting the blinds to stay alive. It was just a matter of time before they were both blinded out. I was big blind as the cards were dealt. Matt, who was one of the short stacks, raised \$500 pre-flop, which was about half of his chips. Ronnie folds and the action is now on Aaron.

He pauses for a moment and then says "I'm all in," which caught me off guard. The betting is now on me. All of my friends that had been knocked out already come running over to the table to see what's going on.

I decide to pick up one card at a time. The first card was the Queen of hearts. I slowly pick up the next card and it's the Queen of diamonds. I looked at Aaron and smiled. My first thought was to push my stacks in and end this tournament right now. However, I

began to look at everyone's chips. If I go all in and lose, I'm now the short stack and I may not even make the final three.

If I fold, I'm still the chip leader and Matt may be knocked out securing my position in the top three. Queens are a very strong pre-flop hand, and I've never folded them before without seeing the flop. I begin to think, what could Aaron possibly have.

My guess was AK, AQ, or AJ. If he's got Big Slick, my chances of winning the hand is just over 50%. I had played my cards great for 5 hours and didn't want my fate to be decided by the luck of the draw. I laid my queens down.

Matt ended up pushing the rest of his chip in with his pocket sevens. Aaron throws over AQ and wins the hand with an Ace on the river. I would have been sick if I had called and was beaten on the river. I'm not saying you should fold pocket queens. Believe me, I've never done it before and may never do it again.

You simply must be aware of the situation. This time, it just wasn't worth calling due to the chip counts. Always know your chip stack and the stacks of you opponents. If you're going to bump heads with another player, be aware of what you could lose and where it will put you.



### **Chapter 36: Manic**

I'm at the poker table and something doesn't seem right. Then Josh yells, "Where the hell is Drew?"

That was it, Drew wasn't at the table. Drew is a tall, skinny guy that has a personality like nobody else.

He is a very good friend of mine that I would do anything for. Drew brings more life to the table than anyone I've ever played against. He is very talkative and is always joking with everyone at the table. He has lots of money and isn't afraid to throw it around at the table. He will play every hand and chase straights and flushes to the river like there is no tomorrow.

This type of player is known as a Manic. You never know what the hell they are holding or what they are going to do next. A manic can be very frustrating to play against. I'm sure you've run into a few of these players if you've been playing on a regular basis.

The best way to play Drew is to let him kill himself. His reckless style will catch up to him in the long run. You can't try to outplay or bluff a manic. It does not work. I just try to avoid Drew

when he's at the table. I wait patiently until I flop a monster on him. Then I let him fire away.

He ends up doing something stupid to become pot committed and I take his money. Don't worry, I don't take his rent money or anything like that. We usually play very low limit games against one another. I wouldn't want to take money from a good friend.

I take money from the rich old manics at the riverboat. I don't feel so bad then. The key to playing a manic is to be patient and pick the right opportunities to attack, then let them chase and get themselves in trouble.





### **Chapter 37: Go With The Gut**

You're born with the instincts to become a great poker player. Everyone who sits at the table will catch some type of vibe from the other players.

You get this instinct through your everyday activities. Usually, it comes from the actions of your parents, brother/sister, friends, and boyfriend or girlfriend. I believe mine came from an ex-girlfriend.

She was a drama queen. When she called me, all I had to hear was "hi" and I knew exactly what kind of mood she was in. I'm sure you've experienced this.

How about a first date: you know right away if this girl is into you just by the way she crosses her legs. You just know.

This is a skill that you can bring to the poker table. I just hope Bill isn't crossing his legs in my direction. Let's say you're at the poker table and you're in a huge hand. Drew fires out a large bet and you pick up something in his voice that says he's bluffing.

Don't be afraid to go with the gut instincts. Usually you will be right. Of course, sometimes you going to make bad call, but you have to take that chance. Don't second-guess yourself. Don't think that the players on TV are the only people in the world that are good at reading people.

You posses this skill. You just have to find it. When you call Drew's bluff, he is going to be asking, "How did you know". That's the greatest compliment that someone can give you while at the poker table.



### **Chapter 38: Socialize**

You don't have to play poker in hopes of becoming rich or famous. The game of poker is a great form of socialization. Every Sunday here in my hometown we have a \$20 buy-in tournament.

I've met so many people through this game. I'll go to school and see people that I played against from the night before. In fact, I've met some of my best friends at the poker table. Many players play the game entirely too seriously. They come to our friendly \$20 buy-in tournament with their dark sunglasses and serious poker faces.

Try to have a good time and make friends while doing it. Of course, the money doesn't hurt either!



### **Chapter 39: Home Games**

I used to host games at my house once a week. This was just a friendly game I would host to socialize with friends and watch Monday night football.

As the year rolled along, many different players came through and I met some of my best friends through these games. One Monday night came to an end and there were just four of us left to cash out.

My friends cashed in their chips first. I paid them off and realized I had no money left to pay myself. I then noticed that I had more chips in my case than I should have had. I put 2 and 2 together and realized that someone had brought in their own chips and had stolen from me.

I never thought something like this would happen. I'm the type of person that places trust in everyone and I learned my lesson. There is always that guy out there that will do anything to make a few dollars. I ended up finding out who took the money a few months later. He was someone that had heard about the game and only played once.

Now his reputation is ruined and he has a tough time finding a game around here. If you're going to host games like this, you may want to buy a personalized set of poker chips. You can find a nice set on the Internet for about \$150. It's well worth the price if you are going to hold games on a regular basis.



## **Chapter 40: Re-Buy Tournaments**

Many tournaments you enter into will offer re-buys. If you get knocked out early you can re-buy and jump right back into action. Re-buys are usually offered for the first hour.

Here was my strategy at the last re-buy tournament I entered:

I bought in for \$50 and re-buys were offered for the first 60 minutes for an additional \$50. There were about 100 players that entered the tournament and I was easily the youngest. The first hand I saw on the night was 10/J. I was on the button and everyone had limped in. The action finally was on me and I came out firing with a pre flop raise.

I wanted to let these guys know who the table leader was going to be. I also wanted them to know that I was going to play very aggressively. The flop hit A, 9, 7. The three callers of my pre flop raise all checked to me again.

I fire out another raise that is twice the size of my pre-flop raise. Why not, I'm going to represent the ace that is on the board. My three opponents fold. One guy said "How good was your kicker

with your ace." I threw over my 10/J and said "I was looking for the eight on the river to give me the straight."

The old man didn't look too happy with my play. I wanted to double or triple up in the first hour so I was going to play very aggressively. I must have bluffed 20 times within the first 30 minutes and must have showed half of them. I don't think the other player liked me very much.

Oh well, I wasn't trying to make friends this time. I never doubled up and was knocked out with pocket tens by a guy that hit an ace on the river against me. I never doubled up like I wanted to.

If I had doubled up then I would have tightened up. However, I did get knocked out due to my aggressive play. But hey, I've still got a re-buy, right? Now I was ready to play some cards.

I had the table exactly where I wanted them. I went and bought a new stack of chips with my re-buy and sat back down at the table. My opponents probably thought I was the most reckless player in the world. However, now I go back to my normal style of play. Now I would play my monster hands and everyone was quick to call me. They all thought I was dead money and each was eager to take each and every chip that I had.

Now I'm catching a few hands and everyone is ready to jump in a pot with me. I ended up finishing 3rd place and made a good chunk of money. I don't normally recommend this style of play, but if you can re-buy, there is nothing wrong with playing a bit more aggressively than usual.



### **Chapter 41: Bad Beats**

Drew and I are driving to a local tournament here in our hometown. We are best friends but love to compete against one another so we are talking trash the entire way there.

We enter the tournament and end up making the final table and are sitting across from each other. We begin knocking out players one by one. Before we knew it, we were the final two players and playing heads up against each other.

The action began when I was dealt pocket Kings. I make a pre flop raise and Drew goes over the top of me. I quickly push my entire stack into the middle of the table and Drew calls without hesitation.

We both throw over our cards and Drew has AK against my kings. I'm thinking, OK, no ace and I'm going to win this tournament and have bragging rights for the next year. The flop hit 222. Wow, I just flopped a full boat.

The turn hits and it's a king. What the hell is going on?! My twos over kings just turned into kings over twos. Meanwhile, Drew looks as though he has just seen a ghost. Now an ace won't help



him. That would give him 2's over aces full. Right now, he has a full house, 2's over kings. Are you confused yet? It gets better.

Everyone has gathered around the table because of all the yelling that has been going on. Everyone is amazed at our hands and the cards that are on the board. I'm ready to take my first place money and go the home after this crazy roller costar hand. The river comes and it's another 2. This gives Drew 2222A and gives me 2222k. I was in disbelief.

I think THIS hand would qualify as a bad beat! Of course, this is going to happen to you throughout your poker career. You just have to take the beats and keep your emotions under control. If you let a hand like this put you on tilt, you're not going to be a successful poker player.



## **Chapter 42: Emotions**

Danny is dealt pocket kings and raises \$10 before the flop. Josh calls the raise with his pocket Jacks.

The flop hits KJJ. Danny just flopped a full house and Josh just flopped 4 of a kind. Danny can't believe he just hit a boat and he checks to Josh.

Josh is in disbelief and looks at his down cards one more time to make sure he was holding hooks. He too, is going to slow play his hand so he taps his fist against the table. The turn is a 2.

Now Danny wants to make some money on his monster so he throws out a small bet in hopes of getting a call. Josh simply calls the bet. He knows that Danny is going to fire again after the river card. The final card is flopped and it's a 10.

Danny throws out a \$10 bet and Josh goes over the top for \$50 more. Without hesitation, Danny says "I've got to go all in." Josh calls quickly and throws over the nuts.

Danny looks as though he has just seen a ghost. His entire stack is now gone and he sits and watches a few hands before

getting up and leaving. The game continues and Danny comes back after about 10 minutes with another \$200.

This is usually a big mistake. It's very hard to win any money after you've taken a bad beat. You usually play your cards differently and dig an even bigger hole. That's exactly what happened to Danny on this night. He played very reckless and was done after about an hour.

Usually I will leave the table after a bad beat. You can always play the next day when you're more than likely to leave your emotions behind. If you must continue to play, make sure you put the bad beat in the past and play your cards as you normally would.



### **Chapter 43: Confidence**

Josh walks into the poker room and everyone's eyes are on him. People begin to whisper, that's Josh S.; you have to watch out for that guy.

Josh gets his chips and walks slowly to his poker table with his head held high. He can't get to his table without people stopping him to talk poker. Once he finally gets to his table, he sits down and everyone is eyeing him and sparking up yet another conversation.

A few hours go by and I look over to see how many chips Josh is sitting on. I can't see his chips but I can tell that he is dominating the table just by his body actions. Josh plays with confidence and everyone that sits at the table fears his style of play. He feels and acts as though he is better than you are and he's not afraid to let you know it.

This is the type of style you too should play. You must have confidence in your game and expect to win every time you sit down. This arrogance rubs off on the other players and intimidates them into playing differently against you because they want to beat you

more than any other player that is in the tournament. Never go into a poker game intimidated by another player.

If you don't feel as though you're the best player at the table, then you better not sit down.



### **Chapter 44: Demeanor**

There is always that guy at the table and he always seems to have the largest stack in front of him. I knew exactly who that guy was when I walked toward the no-limit table at the Excalibur in Las Vegas.

He was an Asian kid that was about the same age as me at the time. Just old enough to actually step inside the casino.

He wore a pair of sunglasses that were tinted just enough that you could still see his eyes. These weren't your everyday sunglasses. They looked as though they should have been on the head of a major Hollywood star.

He also a black NY Yankees hat with the bill cocked to one side. This guy had style. I knew before I sat down that this was the guy that I was going to stay away from, and I did. We played from 11pm until the sun came up and saw players come and go all night long. I don't think we bumped heads once the entire night. We just kind of played off each other.

This guy didn't seem to lose a pot the entire night and he's style of play was flawless. When I play, I usually get under the skin

of the other players by being rather talkative. Not this guy. He didn't talk at all. He would get under the skin of the other players through his demeanor alone. It was the little things. The way he would shuffle his chips, muck his cards, call a bet, raise, or even the grin on his face when the action was on him during a monster hand.

I think every guy that sat down went straight after him like he had a target on his chest. Nobody at the table liked this guy, except me.

I LOVED the way this guy carried himself while at the table. I wanted to learn as much from this guy as possible. He was confident and wanted you to know that this was his table. He carried himself and wore the clothing he wore for a reason. He was not trying to pick up chicks while at the table. It's all part of his game (the POKER game, of course).

He gives off a vibe that is very hard to explain... but it worked. The night ended up being very good. I learned a lot and won a good chunk of money. I ended up talking to Yung afterward. He spoke fluent English and had lived in Vegas his entire life.

His mother moved to the U.S. before he was born and got a job as a dealer. He ended up hanging out with me the entire week I was in Vegas. We both had a lot in common when it comes to poker and had a very similar style of play. However, when you're at the poker table with Yung, you would think he was very arrogant and cocky.

It's all part of his game plan. It's all part of his demeanor.

It's really tough to explain this type of player. However, when you go to Vegas and see Yung, tell him Rory said hey. You'll know who he is the moment you see him.





## **Chapter 45: Keep Guessing**

One of the most important aspects to poker is to make your opponent think incorrectly. There are many things you can do to give the other players an incorrect vibe.

You may try to look nervous when holding a monster, or look calm on a stone cold bluff. There are many things you may do to make your opponents think incorrectly.

Sometimes I will grab a few large chips only to check and other times I will look as though I'm going to muck my hand only to go all in.

Here is an example of a trick I may use:

I'm dealt 8,9 of diamonds and I'm able to limp in. The flop hits 7,10,3. I've got an open ended straight draw. I'm first to act and I quickly check. Aaron throws out a small bet and I call.

The turn is a J. This gives me the nut straight. I've got the best hand possible. The action is again on me first and I know that Aaron is going to fire out another bet.

I play with my chips for a while and then decide to throw out a small bet. I don't want to check the turn and then the river because I'm afraid that Aaron might also check the river card and I won't maximize my money.

Aaron calls the bet and the river card is a 2. Now I must decide how to play the hand to get the most out of my straight. The action is on me and I begin to count my chips out loud as though I'm about to go all in. This process takes about 3 minutes.

After I finish counting the last chip, I said "I'm going to check and see what you do." This line seems to work every time and Aaron begins to push in all his chips. I call quickly and rake the pot. I won the pot because I gave Aaron the wrong vibe. He really felt as though I didn't have a strong hand. This is how you play poker. You make you opponent guess wrong. You are always trying to send the wrong vibe to your opponents, and if you master this skill you are going to be a great (and rich) card player.



## **Chapter 46: Limit or No Limit**

Limit and no-limit Texas Hold 'Em are completely different games.

Many casinos around the country offer limit Texas Hold 'Em. The blind ranges from \$1, \$2, to \$10, \$20, or even higher. Limit is entirely different from no limit.

A limit game involves much less skill and strategy. Many big hands like pocket Aces and Kings will be run down in a limit game. This is because you cannot bet your opponents out of the pot.

When a player is chasing a straight or a flush to the river, you're not going to bet him or her out with your \$4 maximum bet. That's why limit is called no fold 'em Hold 'Em. If you're dealt pocket rockets in a limit game, you may only be able to raise a couple dollars before the flop.

Every player at the table will see a flop for this price. Even the guys with crap hands will see a flop. Now 2,7,3 hits on the flop and Travis runs your aces down with is 2,7 off suit. Or maybe Phil is holding 2 diamonds and there are 2 on the board. There is no

way to bet Phil out. He and 4 other players are going to chase, chase, and chase.

This is why many players prefer playing no limit Hold 'Em, where at any moment you can push your entire stack into the middle. That will make Phil fold his flush draw. A \$25 bet before the flop is also going to make Travis muck his 2,7 off suit.

I'm not trying to bash limit games. If you are a beginning player, limit is where you need to be. You will develop an understanding for the game. You won't win a fortune but you're also not going to lose much money either if your at a \$1,\$2 limit game.

Once you've played the game for a while and get tired of your aces being ran down, jump into a small no-limit game and see what you think.



### **Chapter 47: Quit Chasing**

Many players lose most of their money at the poker table by chasing straights and flushes. There are certain times to chase and there are times you should simply muck the hand.

You're dealt a K,9 of hearts and the flop hits A,J,6 with the ace and the Jack being hearts. Should you chase the flush?

Your chances of hitting are about 35%. There really isn't a yes or no answer. I certainly wouldn't risk all of my chips on a draw. You must look at the pot size when making the decision to chase or not. If you're able to chase for a cheap price, pay the price and hope to hit.

Let's say that the pot size is rather large because there was a raise before the flop and there were 5 callers. You are holding 2 hearts and there are 2 on the flop.

Luke throws out a small bet and the action is on you. The large pot size and the small raise make this situation well worth chasing.

If you hit, you're going to rake a substantially large pot. Just remember that you only have an ace high after the flop. Don't get crazy and push all of your hard-earned chips into the middle on a draw. I've seen players play great poker for an entire night, only to lose every chip on a draw. It's not worth the risk. If you're going to chase, make sure the price is right and you won't get yourself into too much trouble.



### **Conclusion**

Now you are ready for some real action. Follow the strategies talked about in this book and you'll rake in more pots with ease... night after night after night.

You are now prepared for situations that will be presented to you at a Texas Hold 'Em poker table.

Remember: go into a poker game with confidence. Always push the action with your betting, and know your positioning at the table. If you can master these three areas of the game then you are going to be a stronger player.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this book. If you have any questions or comments you can email me at [rory@texas-holdem-secrets.com](mailto:rory@texas-holdem-secrets.com). I'd love to hear about your success, or just some fun stories from the card tables.

Now go rake some pots!



### **Bonus Chapter: Chip Tricks**

It's true: if you can't spot the sucker at the table within the first few moments, you're the sucker.

You don't want to be that guy. You want your opponents to fear you... and most of all, you want RESPECT at the card table.

Knowing how to do a few chip tricks can actually help. This lets your opponents know that you have experience and that you just may know what you're doing...

#### **Shuffle**

The most popular chip trick is the shuffle.

When you're at or watching a poker game, you're going to see players shuffle their chips. You can shuffle anywhere from 4-20 chips at a time. If you've practiced for a while, you may even be able to shuffle more than 20 in one shuffle. Here is how you do the shuffle:





First, you're going to place a stack of chips side by side. Each stack should be the same height and touching one another. Next, place your ring finger and middle finger toward the top of the chips with the tips of your fingers slightly touching the table.

Your thumb will be vertical to your middle and ring finger on the other side of the chips with the top of the thumb also touching the table. Your pinkie and index finger should be placed in-between each stack of chips with the tips also touching the table.

Now your hand is in the correct position and you are ready to shuffle. The pinkie and the index finger are going to be used to pull the chip stacks upward.



While pulling the chips upward from the bottom, you're going to push the chips inward toward each other until they slide into the shuffle position. It takes practice but once you get the shuffle down its like riding a bike. I suggest beginning with stacks of three and working your way up.

### **Out and In Flip**

My personal favorite chip trick is the out and in. This trick only uses three chips.



Hold the three chips in a stack on top of one another. The chips should be held at the top of your index finger and thumb.



Use the end of your ring finger to pull the center chip out from the middle of the stack. The center chip should now be resting on the end of your index finger and the end of the ring finger.



You're now ready to flip the chip with your middle finger. Place the end of your middle finger on the side of the chip and

apply pressure downward until the chip has done a 180 turn with it now resting on the top of you middle finger.



Now push the chip back into the center of the stack with your ring finger that should is still touching the chip.

### **Roll Over**

The next chip trick that you must master is the roll over.



You begin the trick with a chip placed on top of your pinkie finger just above the knuckle toward the end of the finger.



Use your ring finger and apply pressure on one half of the chip until it flips over and is lying on the top of the ring finger.



Follow the same process and move the chip across the top of your fingers in a continuous motion. This will catch the eye of your opponents and give you the respect you need while at the poker table.

### **Chip Roll**

The last trick that I will discuss is the chip roll. You can do this trick with as many chips as you desire. I usually grab a stack of about 5 or six.



Hold the stack toward the palm of your hand with your index finger and the thumb. Slowly release one chip at a time, beginning with the chip that is closest to the end of the index finger.



Each chip should roll off your middle finger, then ring finger, and finally the pinkie.



The chip should roll across the table and into your other hand. The chips should be released one after another. This is a fun trick to do when you're not catching any cards and you looking for a way to entertain yourself.



### **Online poker**

Online gaming seems to be taking over the poker world. Everybody I know is playing Hold 'Em online.

It's growing in record numbers year after year. If you plan on testing your luck online, there are a few things you should know. Here are the pros and cons of online poker from my personal perspective...

**Pro:** The online game is easy to play. Many people complain that they have problems finding games in their hometown.

You won't have a problem finding a game online. You're just a click away from any type of game you would like to play. Most online sites offer limit games that range from .25 -. 50. These sites also offer pot limit and no limit.

There is no wait list with the online game. If you go to the casino you may have to wait for hours to get on a table. This isn't true with the online game. You can jump into a game at any time. This makes online gaming very attractive to many people.



**Pro:** We've all heard the story about Chris MoneyMaker turning his \$40 online investment into \$2.5 million. It's possible.

He entered what is called a satellite tournament. These tournaments are offered just about every hour of every day. Some are rather expensive to enter and some are free.

These tournaments give you the opportunity to win your way into a bigger tournament. If you catch some cards and play your hands right, you may find yourself in a major tournament through these satellites.

**Pro:** You're sitting on your couch and you're bored out of your mind. You've done all your daily activities and are looking for something to do.

You jump on your computer and play Hold 'Em. You play on your own time. You don't have to schedule your activities around a game. This may be one of the primary reasons the online game is growing in record numbers.

**Con:** I've heard some scary stories about the online game. People can and will find ways to scam.

Here is an example. You jump into an online no limit game and everyone else at the table is on a cell phone talking to one another. They are giving each other information about the cards that they are holding. They team up on you and take your money illegally.

Admittedly, this PROBABLY won't happen to you but there are going to be people that will take advantage of the online game. This keeps some people from playing online.

**Con:** I'm the type of player that likes to see my opponents. I have to get a vibe from my opponent when deciding to call a large bet or to bluff at a pot. This is all taken out of the game when you play online. You're not going to get a read on your opponents.

This is THE reason I don't like to play online. Of course, this could be an ADVANTAGE for the player that has no poker face and is easy to read.

**Con:** I like meeting people while at the poker table. I also like to joke with people and talk about different strategies and tactics. This is taken from the game if you play online.

In the end, it's completely up to YOU whether or not you choose to play online poker. Of course, I recommend choosing the activity which makes you happy, on top of bringing in some cash!



### Poker Odds

- You will have no Ace 85.07% of the time
- If you hold suited cards a flush will flop
  - ♦ **118 to 1**
- If you hold a pair, 4 of a kind will flop
  - ♦ **407 to 1**
- If you have 4 parts of a flush after the flop, you will make it
  - ♦ **1.86 to 1**
- If you have 4 parts of an open-end straight-flush after the flop, you will make a straight flush
  - ♦ **10.9 to 1**
- Flop being all one kind
  - ♦ **424 to 1**
- AK dealt preflop and hitting an A or K by the river
  - ♦ **8 to 5 favorite**
- Open Ended straight flush completing to flush or straight by river
  - ♦ **13 to 7**
- Open Ended straight completing
  - ♦ **2 to 1**
- Two pair on flop improving to full house
  - ♦ **5 to 1**
- Three of a kind improving to full house or 4-of a kind

- ♦ **3 to 2**
- Pocket pair improving to three of a kind on flop
- ♦ **7 to 1**
- No pair hand preflop improving to a pair on the flop
- ♦ **3 to 2**
- One pair on flop improving to two pair or three of a kind by river
- ♦ **4 to 1**
- Pocket Pair improving to three of a kind after flop
- ♦ **10 to 1**
- Two over cards improving to a pair by river
- ♦ **3 to 1**
- 5 players on flop, that someone has an Ace when one is on board
- ♦ **1 in 1.9**
- 4 players on flop, that someone has an Ace when one is on board
- ♦ **1 in 2.1**
- 3 players on flop, that someone has an Ace when one is on board
- ♦ **1 in 2.9**
- 2 players on flop, that someone has an Ace when one is on board
- ♦ **1 in 4.3**

**The probability against being dealt:**

2 Aces	<b>220 to 1</b>
Ace with less than Jack, suited	<b>35.8 to 1</b>
Ace with less than Jack, offsuit	<b>11.3 to 1</b>
Any hand with a Pair or an Ace	<b>3.91 to 1</b>
Pair preflop	<b>16 to 1</b>
Suited cards preflop	<b>3.2 to 1</b>
Suited connectors preflop	<b>24 to 1</b>

AA or KK preflop	<b>110 to 1</b>
AK preflop	<b>82 to 1</b>
AK suited preflop	<b>331 to 1</b>
A in hand preflop	<b>5.25 to 1</b>
7 2 offsuit preflop	<b>109 to 1</b>

*Outs* - are the number of cards that will give you a winning hand. For example, if you have a pair of Jacks, and you are up against a pair of Queens, you have 2 outs – the other two Jacks. So, you have a 8.4% chance of winning the hand.

<b># of Outs</b>	<b>Percentage Chance of Completing</b>
1	4.4%
2	8.4%
3	12.5%
4	16.5%
5	20.3%
6	24.1%
7	27.8%
8 (Open Ended Straight)	31.5%
9 (Flush Draw)	35.0%
10	38.4%
11	41.7%
12	45.0%
13	48.1%
14	51.2%
15 (Straight Flush Draw)	54.1%
16	57.0%
17	59.8%
18	62.4%

19	65.0%
20	67.5%

- ◆ A Pair vs. two over-cards is a 55% to 45% favorite pre-flop

*Over cards are cards that have a greater value than the paired card. So, if your opponent has a pair of Nines, and you have Ace/King, you have two over cards.*