An Ace Poker Solutions LLC Publication

Pokerby theBook.com

How To Crush Online No Limit Holdem

Volume I

© 2007-2009 Ace Poker Solutions LLC. All Right Reserved

Limit of Liability and Disclaimer of Warranty
The publisher and the author make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this work and specifically disclaim all warranties, including without limitation warranties of fitness for a particular purpose. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for every situation. Neither the publisher nor the author shall be liable for any loss of profit damages or any other commercial damage, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

The fact that an organization or website is referred to in this work as a citation and/or a potential source of further information does not mean that the author or the publisher endorses the information the organization or website may provide or recommendations it may make. Further, readers should be aware that internet websites listed in this work may have changed or disappeared between when this work was written and when it is read.

All rights reserved
No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise), without the prior permission of the publisher. Requests for permission should be sent to support@acepokersolutions.com.

SAMPLE

© 2007-2009 Ace Poker Solutions LLC. All Right Reserved

Table of Contents

Introduction **4**

Chapter 1: Basic Rules of the Game **5**
Pre-flop 5
Flop 5
The Turn 6
The River 6
Additional (Optional) Rules 6
Chopping 6
Straddling 6
Kill and Half Kill 7
Ranking of Poker Hands 7
Counterfeiting 10
Position Definitions 11
Starting Hands 13
Suited 14
Pairs 14
Unsuited 14

Chapter 2: Odds & Outs **26**
Pot Odds 26
Implied Odds 26
Knowing Your Outs 27
4/2 Rule 29
5/10 Rule 31

Chapter 3: The Flop **32**
Raised Pot Out of Position (missed flop) 32
Raised Pot Out of Position (Hit flop) 33
Raised Pot in Position (missed flop) 35
Raised Pot in Position (hit flop) 36
Limped Pot Out of Position (missed flop) 37
Limped Pot Out of Position (hit flop) 37
Limped Pot in Position (missed flop) 39
Limped Pot in Position (hit flop) 40

SAMPLE

© 2007-2009 Ace Poker Solutions LLC. All Right Reserved

Chapter 4: Keys to Winning (Small Stakes) **41**
Small Hand, Small Pot 41
Don't Bluff 41
Don't Slow-play 42
Position 43
Avoid Domination 43
Don't Chase Draws 43
Small Bet & Re-raise 44
Tight-Aggressive 44
Think, then Act 45
Learn to Read 45
Value Bet 46

Chapter 5: Playing Online **47**
Party Gaming (Party Poker & Empire Poker) 47
OnGame Room Network 48
Pacific Poker 48
Bodog Poker 49
Poker Stars 49
Paradise Poker 50
Finding a Table 51
Taking a Seat 52
Online Poker Utilities (Software) 53
Poker Tracker 53
Poker Office 54
Game Time+ 55
RealTime 56
PlayerView 56
Poker Ace HUD 57
Poker Grapher 57
Odds Calculators 58

Chapter 6: Hand Examples **60**
Hand #1a [Your opponent changes your plans] (6-MAX TABLE) 60
Hand #1b [Your opponent changes your plans] (6-MAX TABLE) 63
Hand #2 [Way ahead or way behind] (6-MAX TABLE) 66
Hand #3 [Value Bet or Induce a Bluff?] (6-MAX TABLE) 69
Hand #4 [Float delayed bluff] (FULL RING TABLE) 73

SAMPLE

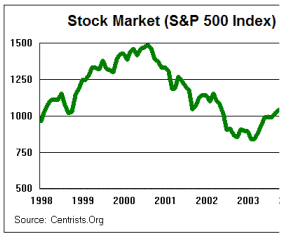
© 2007-2009 Ace Poker Solutions LLC. All Right Reserved

Starting Hands

One of the most important aspects for beginning players to learn about poker is which starting hands to play, and how to play them. Should I just limp (call), raise, re-raise? In this learning module we're going to discuss what hands are most valuable, when to play them, and how to play them. This will not be a definitive guide by any means, but it will provide a general guideline on starting hand requirements. There are no definitive answers in poker, and because of that, you have to adept the following recommendations to the table conditions that you are currently playing on.

One of the keys to winning big at small stakes Holdem' is playing better starting hands than your opponents. Most of the tables that you play at will have a lot of loose pre-flop opponents, who will play far too many hands, and call with their weak holdings all the way to the river. If you consistently play better hands than your opponents, you will give yourself a much better chance to win when the hand goes to showdown.

Think of it this way, winning big at any form of poker is like playing the stock market. You want to invest the most amount of money, when you likely have the best hand at that particular time. This begins with pre-flop, continues to the turn and finally the river. Just like the stock market, your holdings will change as the hand progresses. You will very often have the best hand pre-flop, but after the flop, your holdings might need to be liquidated. Yet if you can consistently get the most money in when you are ahead, even if the value of your hand decreases after the turn of the next card, you will consistently win.



As you move up in stakes, there will be times to add deception (or play your hand sub-optimally) in order to disguise the value of your hand in order to win the most money. At small stakes Holdem', you really don't have to concern yourself much with this concept for a couple of primary reasons.

Limping

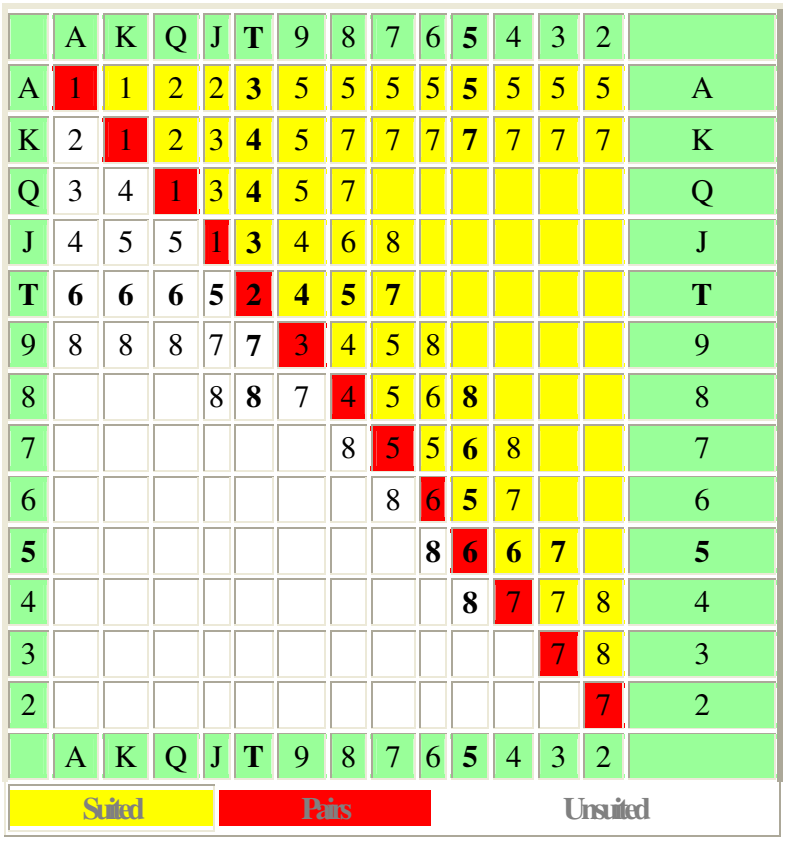
A term used to describe a player who only calls the Big Blind, instead of raising.

- Most of your opponents don't understand the fundamentals of poker, including what hands are best to play with when someone raises a large amount pre-flop. Ex: You can raise a strong hand like AK and commonly get several opponents calling you with dominated hands like A4, or KT.
- You won't play against the same opponents (if you primarily play online) to warrant changing which hands you raise with, and how much you raise with them. You can stick with a fairly standard amount, deviating at times slightly, and get several people calling you with weaker pre-flop holdings.

On the following page is a basic pre-flop starting hand chart. This chart was first developed by the mathematician David Sklansky, and is used by many poker players. The ranking of the hands are based very much like we discussed earlier. The Group I hands are the favorites to win against most hands, thus if a lot of money goes in pre-flop and you hold one of these hands, you are generally in good shape. Group II are very solid hands that you generally want to raise with, and so on. We will discuss each group and their relative values, followed by some simple examples of pre-flop action.

© 2007-2009 Ace Poker Solutions LLC. All Right Reserved

Starting Hand Chart



Group I
This group includes the following hands:
AA, KK, QQ, JJ, AKs

With these hands you generally want to raise and re-raise.

Group II
TT, AQs, AJs, KQs, AK

With these hands you generally raise or call a raise.

Group III
99, JTs, QJs, KJs, ATs, AQ

With some of these hands you raise with position or call a small bet.

© 2007-2009 Ace Poker Solutions LLC. All Right Reserved

Group IV
T9s, KQ, 88, QTs, 98s, J9s, AJ, KTs

Group V
77, 87s, Q9s, T8s, KJ, QJ, JT, 76s, 97s, Axs, 65s

Group VI
66, AT, 55, 86s, KT, QT, 54s, K9s, J8s, 75s

Group VII
44, J9, 64s, T9, 53s, 33, 98, 43s, 22, Kxs, T7s, Q8s

Group VIII
87, A9, Q9, 76, 42s, 32s, 96s, 85s, J8, J7s, 65, 54, 74s, K9, T8

PokerbytheBook.com Recommended Starting Hands

Group I hands **– AA-JJ, AKs.**
First to enter - Anytime that you're first to enter the pot, meaning no one has limped into the pot or raised, it's best to raise with these hands. Raise 4x-6x BB. If you are playing 50NL and below, raise 6x BB unless the table is playing very tight. Sometimes it is correct to raise to 8xBB, but you have to read the table to determine what amount people are calling, and folding to. If you are at a very aggressive table, occasionally limp AA and KK in early position with the intention of re-raising. When someone raises, make sure you raise the correct amount. It's best to raise ~3.5x what the raise amount was (or make a pot sized raise).

Ex1: It is folded to you in middle position with AKs. Raise 4-6x BB, depending on the limit you are playing, and whether the table is playing loose or tight.

Ex2: The UTG player limps and the action folds to a player in middle position who raises 6xBB. The action folds to you in the CO and you hold KK. You make a pot sized raise of 20BB total ***(The limper (1BB) + the Big Blind (1BB) + the initial raiser (6BB) + Your call of the raise (6BB) makes the pot 14BB. So you raise 14BB more PLUS your call of the raise (6BB) which equals 20BB****).*

First to enter, you raise and are re-raised – If a re-raise by you nearly commits your opponents whole stack (meaning a re-raise would be ¾ of your opponents stack or more), then push all-in with AA and KK. If your opponents re-raise and your call would leave them roughly a pot sized bet on the flop, then call for deceptive purposes to ensure that you get maximum value out of your hand. If a re-raise by you would still leave a good amount of money behind both you and your opponent, then re-raise. Sometimes calling for deceptive purposes is also good, but it's usually best to just re-raise unless you know your opponent is a thinking opponent.

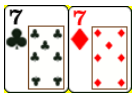
© 2007-2009 Ace Poker Solutions LLC. All Right Reserved

Chapter 6: Hand Examples

Hand #1a [Your opponent changes your plans] (6-MAX TABLE)

From an actual online 3/6nl hand

My opponent: [MP - 175 BB's] This player has been playing very loose and aggressive (playing over 27% of his hands, and raising around 20% of them). After several rotations at the table, it's clear pretty clear that he's making a good amount of bluffs. I've seen him continuation betting at a very high frequency (likely over 90% of the time), and he's been following it up by betting the turn a large amount of the time as well.

My hand:  sitting in the Small Blind (SB) with 120BB's.

Action: The action folds to the player in MP, who opens the pot for 3.5BB's. Everyone folds to me in the SB, you call, and the BB folds.

My thoughts pre-flop: This is an easy call out of position against any player. With our stack sizes, I easily have good implied odds. Against an aggressive opponent, there aren't going to be a lot of really good flops I'm going to feel confident playing post flop however if I don't hit a set.

I see the flop heads up, and it comes:

© 2007-2009 Ace Poker Solutions LLC. All Right Reserved

My thoughts after seeing the flop:

The Good

- Only one over card to my hand.
- No broadway cards.
- I have a backdoor flush hand straight draw.

The Bad

- I'm out of position.
- My opponent is aggressive, and firing a lot on the turn.
- There are a lot of possible scare cards for me on the turn and river (Diamonds, 2,5,T,J+)
- Turning or rivering a set may carry some heavy reversed implied odds (two reasonable straights come in when I hit a set - 45 and T8, less reasonable and not as likely 85).

How I played the flop: I take the betting lead by betting 6.5BB's into an 8BB pot, my opponent folded, and I won the pot.

© 2007–2009 Ace Poker Solutions LLC. All rights reserved.

Final Reasoning: As soon as I see a flop I'm immediately considering the above good and bad. If I check this flop into my opponent, he will continuation bet with any two cards almost always. Additionally, there are a lot of turn cards I'm not going to want to see. Since my opponent has shown when he has the lead he will continue to apply the pressure, I can't allow him to take the lead, so I take the play away from him by betting.

My hand is ahead of someone who is raising 20% of his hands pre-flop on that flop. If I go into check and call mode, he will likely bet again on the turn, and I will be in a tough spot. When I'm out of position, I want to keep the pot as small as possible unless I have a big hand. Thus, my best return on investment in this situation is to bet, and look to win the pot.

If I'm called on the flop, I may lead again on the turn, depending on the turn card, since I know my opponents range is wide, and he would likely raise with a hand like TT+ on that flop. With his range, I'd put most of it on draw, or pair and combo draw. If it's a card that fits more of the range I believe him to have, then I'd check and fold.

© 2007–2009 Ace Poker Solutions LLC. All rights reserved.