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# How To Crush Online No Limit Holdem

## Volume II

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## Module Review

Getting accustomed to betting your hands after the flop correctly will take some time and practice. With experience, you will soon be able to put your opponent on a small range of hands. When you are able to do this efficiently, you will maximize the value of your good hands and be able to minimize the losses on your losing hands. By alternating between two primary bet sizes on the flop, you will be able to keep your opponents guessing, while adding value to your hand when you are ahead, risking less when you are behind, but still remain intimidating.

The primary goal of good post flop betting is making sure that you charge people to draw out on you and you get the most from the hands when you get a good flop. You rarely slow play and you continue to bet and raise with solid hands in order to build the pot when you likely have the best hand.

Finally, you want to make sure to maximize the value of your marginal hands by betting on the river. It will take some time to get used to knowing when to bet and when to check instead, but it is usually correct to bet if your opponent had been calling your bets the entire time.

## Module Overview

- Vary your flop bet sizes between 2/3rds the size of the pot and 3/4ths of the pot, while occasionally betting near full size with very strong hands.
- When you flop top pair, typically bet 3/4ths of the pot. If you are called, play cautiously and try to control the size of the pot.
- Make sure to bet 3/4ths to near full sized pot bets when there are lots of draws. It is almost never incorrect to even slightly over bet the flop if it is VERY draw heavy.
- Don't slow play your hands.
- Get money into the pot by betting and raising.
- Do your best to not play drawing hands until you feel more comfortable at the table.
- Bet your marginal hands for value on the river and fold to raises on the end.

## Test Your Skills

Now that you've learned important concepts about proper post-flop betting, you can test your knowledge in the following questions. Apply what you've just learned to the following common poker situations to the best of your ability. Answers are offered at the end of the test in white.

### Question #1

**Your table image:** You've been at the table for about 5-6 orbits. You've been a tight and aggressive style of poker. You've shown down two hands since you've been at the table. One was a winner, and another hand you were out drawn, but you played the hand well.

**Your opponents:** [UTG+1] This player has been playing a tight-aggressive style of poker as well. He hasn't made any moves as far as you can tell and has been playing a pretty straight forward ABC style of game.

**[Button]** This player has been playing fairly loose. You've noticed he's called a lot of raises in position. You also watched him overplay top pair with a mediocre kicker.



**Your hand:** sitting MP2.

**Action:** UTG player folds and the UTG+1 player(115BB) raises to 4BB. Everyone folds to you sitting in MP2(100BB) and you call the raise. The action folds to the player on the button (85BB) who also calls the raise. The flop comes:



## Chapter 2: Continuation Bets

Continuation bets are exactly what the name implies. They are a continuation of pre-flop aggression, designed to win the pot if the pre-flop raiser missed the flop, or to continue to build a pot when ahead. When continuation bets are used successfully, they are an important money making weapon for a poker player. When continuation bets are used incorrectly, typically by beginners who over use the concept, they can become a marginal, or even money losing play. This module is going to look at how to maximize your continuation bets by examining pre-flop situations, flop textures, betting sizes, and opponent player types in order to make your continuation bets as successful as possible.

The primary goal of solid continuation bet play should be to win your missed flops with continuation bets 50% of the time or more. The proper use of pre-flop raises, betting sizes, and balance are important components in achieving better than break even numbers with your continuation bets. You can however, win only 35% of your continuation bets and still be profitable with them, as long as you make your continuation bet sizes small enough to provide for a higher failure rate. For example, here are the 3 common continuation bet sizes:

- **(1/2 the pot)** If the Pot is 12BB and you make a continuation bet of only 6BB then you need to be successful only 34% of the time.
- **(3/4 of the pot)** If the pot is 12BB and you make a continuation bet of 9BB, then you need to be successful 41% of the time.
- **(Full pot size)** If the pot is 12BB and you make a continuation bet of 12BB, then you need to be successful 51% of the time.

When determining the appropriate continuation bet size when you miss, you want to choose the minimum size you think will win you the pot with the least amount of risk. In an ideal world you could bet 1/4 of the pot when you miss and win the pot over 50% of the time. Then you could bet the full pot size when you connect with the flop and get called over 50% of the time. Unfortunately, most opponents that are paying attention at all will soon catch on to your varying bet size. So the best way to combat this is to use two very similar bet sizes for your continuation bluff bets and vary between them depending upon the flop texture and the types of opponents you face. This will create a randomizing effect that will be very difficult for your opponents to pick up and at the same time maximize your profits.

At small stakes No-limit Holdem cash games, the most optimal play is to vary your continuation bet sizes between 3/4 of the pot and the full size of the pot. Alternately at some small stakes games, and mid-stakes games, you can vary your continuation bet size between 2/3 of the pot and 3/4 of the pot. If you do this effectively enough, you can vary your bet sizes to provide you with slightly better odds when you do miss and build an effective pot when you do connect. For example, when you miss the flop, if you don't bet at all ~20% of the time, bet the full size of the pot ~50% of the time, and 3/4 of the pot the remaining ~30% of the time, you are keeping your opponents guessing, while remaining intimidating at the same time. Also, if you bet the

## Players NOT to Continuation Bet Against

While there are several types of players you want to continuation bet against, there are others that you don't want to continuation bet against as often. This doesn't mean that you won't ever continuation bet against them, you'll just have to apply much more discretion. Here are a few of those player types:

- ❖ **The Maniac** – A true maniac needs no introduction and you'll have little difficulty spotting him at the table. He'll be involved in a lot of pots, raising quite often before the flop and going too far with mediocre hands. The maniac knows little about calling. He's usually either raising, raising, or raising. If he just calls, then you should definitely slam on the brakes. Against these opponents you just have to wait for premium hands and play a little bit of a rope a dope strategy. Don't be too afraid of chasing them off though. Even check-raises on the turn don't faze the maniac very often. I'd recommend not continuation betting against the maniac for he's likely to call or raise you with any two. You can wait for better spots against these guys. That doesn't mean you should just let them run you over of course. If you do continuation bet, make sure you have some good outs.  
**Typical Stats: VP\$IP => 65 / PFR =<12 / AGR =< 10 / WTSD =< 24**
- ❖ **The Gambler** – The gambler is fairly similar to the maniac, except he won't be raising as many pots and he won't be quite as aggressive. He will however gamble and take shots at gut-shot draws and overplay his second pair. Both the maniac and the gambler will be easy to spot, as they'll be involved in a lot of pots. The main distinction between the gambler and the maniac is that the gambler will fold a little more often when he knows he's beat. If however he has any chance to outdraw you, he will often take that chance. When you do happen to come across a big hand with the gambler it's best to bet your hand strong. You could employ a similar rope-a-dope strategy of checking your hands to him and letting him do the betting for you, but the gambler, unlike the maniac, will check behind sometimes. Thus the most optimal play is to bet into him and hope to be raised. You can continuation bet against the gambler a little more often than the maniac, but make sure the flop is fairly draw-less if you do.  
**Typical Stats: VP\$IP => 50 / PFR =<10 / AGR =<7 / WTSD =< 24**



## Chapter 5: Taking Notes and Making Reads

Playing good poker is more than just playing your cards and perhaps your opponent's cards. It's really about playing the opponent you're up against. What that means is that while the cards are important, you can win a lot more pots if you pay attention to how your opponent plays the game. When you pay attention by taking good notes, you can apply this information to sometimes win when you don't have the best hand. In some cases, this information can also be used to get away from a good hand, but an obvious second best hand, push a marginal hand, or make a bold bluff that you wouldn't normally make against most opponents.

In this module, we'll focus on what kind of notes to take on your opponents and how to apply these notes in order to make good reads on your opponents. The reads you make influence the action you should take on your hand. We'll discuss how your reads translate into making the best play in order to maximize the value of your hand and minimize your losses.

### Types of Notes to Take



One of the biggest advantages of playing online for the good poker player is the amount of data and notes you can take on an opponent, seemingly instantly. Most sites offer an area where you can click on an opponent's name and type in some notes about that player. It's not quite as easy to do in live play and when you do this in live play people know that you are aware of that hand and how it was played. In online play, no one knows if you're watching TV or intently watching every hand and making pages of notes.

It's best to view taking notes on your opponents as the "work" aspect of playing profitable poker. While it's possible to play profitable poker without taking notes, it will inevitably be more profitable to take as many notes as possible for the following reasons:

1. When a similar situation or hand arises, you'll have more information available that can help you make the best decision possible.
2. It will help you in getting an overall read on how your opponent is playing.
3. Even if you never play against that particular opponent again, it will help you in understanding how to play against a similar player in the future.

We're going to begin by outlining some of the *general* things you should look for while playing poker. Each type of play will have an abbreviation that you can use which will help if you are multi-tabling and only have a couple of seconds to jot in a note. You can expand these and/or type in the entire meaning of the play when you actually make your own notes during play.



## HUD Stat Layout Overview (Advanced)

Here's a breakdown of what the numbers mean for the advanced HUD:

* 23/17/5.6/34	-----> VPIP(26) / PFR(19) / 3-bet %(5.6) / Steal %(34)
3.2/34/35/28/5	-----> Agg (3.2) / Agg % (34) / Turn Agg%(35) / River Agg % (47) / Steal % (5)
60/60/39/44/40	-----> Flop CB% (60) / Fold to flop CB% (60) / Turn CB% (39) / Fold to turn CB% (44) / W\$WSF (40)

## HUD Stat Layout Overview (Simple)

Here's a breakdown of what the numbers mean for the simple HUD:

* 26/19/6.4/40	-----> VPIP(26) / PFR(19) / 3-bet %(6.4) / Steal %(40)
3.3/40/64/56/35	-----> Agg (3.3) / WWSF % (40) /Flop CB% (64) / Fold to flop CB% (56) / Turn CB% (35)

## Applying HUD Stats at the Table

Once you have stats on your opponent, you'll want to know how to use that information, and apply it at the poker table. Since poker is a game of information gathering, and make the best decisions possible based on that information, the more stats and information you can accumulate, the more precise your decision making will be.

**VPIP (Voluntarily put \$ in pot)** - The larger this number is, typically the fishier and opponent is going to be. Anything over 30%, unless you're playing against Phil Ivey, there will be money left on the table.

*Adjustments* - When the VPIP gets over 30%, raise in position with a wider range, and also look to bet the turn with slimmer hands, and value bet slimmer.

When the VPIP gets under 18% (at 6-max), or 14% (at full ring), fold more marginal hands pre-flop such as AJ/KJ/KQ etc... since most of the time you'll be dominated, or won't get much value from your hands.