

SECRETS OF [Texas Holdem Poker](#)

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Online Poker - Texas Holdem for beginners

Texas Hold'em has quickly become the standard poker game played.

If you are a beginner to poker, [Texas Hold'em](#) is the perfect game to learn to play. It is a simple game to learn and understand and it offers the perfect balance of luck and skill. Online poker practice tables offer the perfect way for new players to play and learn, and there are always experienced poker games support staff observing the tables ready to help with any questions about the game you may have. Most sites offer chat support and all you need to do is click live chat on the poker site at the table, and a member of the poker support staff will be called to assist you.

Texas Hold'em rules

The object of Hold'em is to create the best five-card hand using seven cards. A list of poker hand rankings can be found on the IPNPoker International Poker Network site. IPNPoker also has an interactive poker tutorial which is great for learning the poker games.

Once the game starts a dealer is assigned. At the end of each hand the dealer changes to the next player to the current dealers left. Knowing who is the dealer is important, as it indicates who posts the compulsory bets (known as blinds) before each hand, it also indicates who is first to act in each betting round.

In [Texas Hold'em](#) there are two compulsory bets that are made before the start of each hand. These are known as the small blind and the big blind. These are important as it means that there are chips to be won in every hand. The player to the immediate left of the dealer pays the small blind and the player to the left of the small blind posts the big blind.

In limit games the small blind is equal to half the size of the small bet, and the big blind is equal to the small bet. So at a \$1/\$2 table the small blind is 0.50c and the big blind is \$1.

In limit games the size of the bet that a player can make in the first and second betting rounds is equal to the amount of the small bet of the table (for example in a \$3/\$6 limit game, the bet players can make in rounds 1 and 2 is \$3). In the third and fourth betting rounds, players can bet the value of the big bet (for example in a \$3/\$6 limit game, players can bet \$6 in the third and fourth rounds).

There is a maximum of one bet and three raises allowed in each betting round. (For example, in the first betting round of a \$1/\$2 limit table, a player will pay a maximum of \$4 - a bet of \$1 and three raises of \$1). The exception to this rule is if there are only two players left in the pot, in which case there is no limit to the number of raises that can be made.

Hole cards and the first betting round

Once the blinds have been posted, two cards are dealt face down to each player at the table (known as "hole cards"). At this point the first betting round begins, players must make a decision on how to act based on the strength of their hole cards only.

The player to the left of the large blind is always the first to act in the first betting round. This player has the option of folding, calling, or raising the amount of the large blind. The play continues clockwise around the table until all players who started in the hand have called, checked or folded, and the amount put in the pot by each player still in the hand is equal.

The Flop and the second betting round

After the first betting round has finished, the dealer places 3 cards face up in the middle of the table - this is known as the flop. These 3 cards are shared by all the players towards make their final hands. Players now have 5 cards out of the 7 available and have a good idea how their hand is developing. At this point the second betting round begins.

In this and all subsequent betting rounds, the action starts with the first player still in the hand to the left of the dealer. This player can either check or bet (he can not raise as no bet has been made in the round, and he shouldn't fold because it costs him nothing at that point to stay in the hand). As in the previous betting round, the play continues clockwise around the table until all players have called, checked or folded and the amount placed in the pot by each player still in the hand is equal.

The Turn and the third betting round

After the second betting round, the dealer places a fourth card face up on the table - this is called the turn card. Like the flop, this is a community card that may be used by all the players to make up part of their hand.

The players should now know the majority of their hand, as there is only one more card to come. The betting round here is the same as the third betting round, with the player to the left of the dealer acting first.

In limit games the size of the bet that a player can make in the third betting round and final betting round is equal the size of the big bet (for example in a \$3/\$6 limit game, the bet players can make in this round is \$6).

The River and the final betting round

After the third betting round, the dealer places a final card face up on the table - this is called the river card. There is a final betting round, which is the same as the third betting round.

After this, each player makes the best possible 5 card poker hand out of the 7 available cards. Each player can use any combination of the 2 cards in their hands and the five cards on the table. The player with the highest ranked hand wins the pot. If two or more players have the same value hand, then the pot is split between them.

And the poker game goes on...

Once the hand has finished, and the pot has been awarded, the dealer button moves to the next player on his left. The cards are shuffled, the blinds are posted by the next two players, and the cards are dealt. The game continues as long as there are at least two players at the table.

How to play Texas Holdem Poker

THE BUY-IN You must buy-in a minimum amount of chips when sitting down at your chosen table. The minimum limit is equal to ten times the lower bet limit of the game. For example on a \$3/\$6 table the minimum buy-in is \$30, on a \$10/\$20 table the minimum buy-in is \$100. **THE GAME** Texas Hold 'Em uses a disc called a dealer button to indicate where the cards are to be dealt. Prior to the deal, the two players to the left of the button place live bets called the small and big blinds. It is called a blind because players must pay this amount before seeing their cards. It's called live because it counts as part of any further bets in the first betting round.

The play begins with two cards dealt facedown to each player. Action starts with a betting round beginning with the player to the left of the blind bets and continuing clockwise around the table. Players may bet, check, raise or fold in turn. The big blind has the privilege of last action and may check or raise the bet.

Three community cards called "The Flop" are then dealt up in the center of the table and another betting round takes place beginning with the player to the left of the dealer button. Another card is dealt face up (called "The Turn") followed by a round of betting.

The fifth and last card called "The River" is dealt face up and a final round of betting takes place. Players remaining in the hand will then show their cards and the winning poker hand will be awarded the pot. Any combination of pocket cards and community cards may be used to make the best five-card poker hand. **SIT DOWN** Up to 10 players plus a dealer are seated around a table. **DEALER BUTTON** In front of one of the players is a round disc or button. This disc determines the order of betting (posting the blinds) and moves to the left one player at a time, after each hand. **POST BLINDS** Before the cards are dealt at the beginning of each hand, the two players directly to the left of the dealer button must post "blinds". To post a blind is to place a bet before getting cards. The player to the immediate left of the dealer button posts the "small blind," equal to half of the minimum bet (Example: \$5 for a \$10 / \$20 game). The player to the left of the small blind posts the "big blind," equal to the amount of the minimum bet (Example: \$10 for a \$10 / \$20 game). **POCKET CARDS** Once the blinds have been posted, the first round of cards is dealt. These consist of two cards face down to each player and are called the "pocket cards". Each player can see his or her own pocket cards.

Then the first round of betting takes place, beginning with the player immediately to the left of the big blind and continuing in a clockwise direction around the table. **BETTING** Bet amounts are fixed by the table stakes. For example, in a \$3 / \$6 table, bets are \$3 in the first two rounds and \$6 in the last two. The bet amount can climb a maximum of 3 times in each round of betting. In other words, there can be one bet and three raises in each round. **THE FLOP CARDS** Next, three cards are dealt face up in the middle of the table. These cards are called the "Flop". All three cards are "community" cards and can be used by all the players at the table to make up their best possible hand.

After the flop is dealt, a second round of betting takes place, again beginning with the player immediately to the left of the dealer button. All subsequent rounds of

betting begin with the player to left of the dealer button. THE TURN CARD Following the flop, a fourth "community" card is dealt face up in the middle of the table. This card is called the "Turn" card and can also be used by all players. It is followed by a third round of betting. THE RIVER CARD Finally, a fifth and final "community" card is dealt face up in the middle of the table. It is called the "River" card and is followed by a fourth and final round of betting. SHOWDOWN Once all betting is complete, players determine the best five-card hand that they can make. The player with the best five-card poker hand wins the pot. Should multiple hands tie, the pot is split with any odd amount going to the player immediately to the left of the dealer. START AGAIN After a hand is completed and the pot taken by the winner, the dealer button is moved one player to the left and the next hand begins. The Betting Rules:

Minimum eligible raise: Bet amounts are fixed by the table stakes. For example, in a 3/6 table, bets are \$3 in the first two rounds and \$6 in the last two. Maximum eligible raise: Bet amounts are fixed by the table stakes. For example, in a 3/6 table, bets are \$3 in the first two rounds and \$6 in the last two. The bet amount can climb a maximum of 3 times in each round of betting. In other words, there can be one bet and three raises in each round.

The bet button - You can click the bet button, which will display the minimum amount you can bet or raise The bet box - A text box that allows you to type in the exact amount you want to bet or raise. Once you have entered the amount to bet or raise, the bet button will reflect this amount. Then click the bet button and your bet will be placed. The slider bar - The slider bar is a device that you can use with your mouse to increase or decrease the amount of your bet or raise. Simply drag the bar on the slider to the amount of money you want to bet or raise. As you slide, the bet amount will be reflected on the bet button. When you find the amount you want to bet or raise, simply click the bet button and your bet will be made. The slider bar will start with the minimum raise and will move in increments equivalent to the minimum raise.

Identify Your Opponent at the [Texas Hold'em](#) Poker Table

Texas Holdem Poker players have varying styles of play and different levels of experience. If you can quickly identify the type of player you are up against and their skill level you can use this knowledge to alter your playing style and maximize your opportunities.

There are many types of Texas Holdem Poker player, and, of course, many levels of experience between those players. Texas Holdem the card game is similar to pushing spaghetti around a plate - some will get more, others will get less and the house always takes a slice. The statistics of cards over time dictate that we all have the same opportunities. The key to maximizing our potential gains is to quickly identify your opponent type and skill level. If you can correctly identify your opponent then you will be able to alter your playing style to maximize your win, and just as significantly, minimize your loss.

Let's review the various playing styles that you will come across in an average Texas Holdem Poker cash game. Players will either be:

* Rocks * Tight Players * Calling Stations * Maniacs

And within these styles you will find a range of aggression that goes from passive to aggressive. What follows are some strategic hints and tips to help you play against each form of poker player in an online environment.

Rocks

Rocks are the most common type of Texas Holdem Player. They are the easiest to beat and usually are inexperienced new players who think the game revolves around the cards that are dealt. It's also the most natural playing style and so you will come across them regularly. These are the people you should look to play against. Controlled aggression is the way to proceed. Bet at these players when flops look ugly and they'll most likely fold. If they re-raise you in return, step aside and let them take the hand, coming right back at them next round. A rock who has been sitting folding the last 20 hands, only to come out betting, is the easiest read of all. If you can't see them coming then I'd suggest you take up a different game.

Tight Players

Tight players are usually battle hardened. The difference between a tight player and a rock is that they understand the need to come out more often, with the occasional bluff here and there. More importantly they usually use the time spent sitting out, to identify opponent characteristics in order to play their weaknesses. The best of all players sit in this category - Tight Aggressive No Limit Texas Holdem players need to be identified early on and avoided at all cost. Find one and you should re-examine your table selection (yes you should move table). Real life examples of this type of player would be Howard Lederer and Erick Lindgren.

Calling Stations

Calling stations present an interesting playing style and are the second most common type you'll find in online poker. By definition fairly weak, these players rarely take the initiative and thereby have to rely on the luck of running up against an aggressive player while holding the nut or near nut hand. More often than not these people will lose because they are:

1) Playing their cards and not their opponent 2) Have no initiative 3) Regularly rely on card catching strategies

It's worth pointing out at this stage that card catching is a bad idea in almost any circumstances (except as part of a semi-bluff play).

Maniacs

Maniacs are a rare breed of player seldom seen in low limit or tournament Texas Holdem Poker games. They have no fear of losing, indeed it'll look like they want to, and it is this that sets them apart from most players online today. Difficult to play against, these opponents rely on your fear of losing your stack to gain chips. Often seen with large chip stacks relative to the table, Maniacs will bet large regularly, and whatever hand you choose to play, it is likely that you will have to be prepared to go all-in with it. No card catching against these opponents - if you try you will be punished.

The identification of Maniacs is easy, as is your assault on their playing style. Clearly the weakness these players have is that they are susceptible to large pocket pairs (AA, KK, QQ, even AK). The difficulty is that you will likely have to wait a good number of cards before you get to play such a hand. Maniacs are far from stupid (they often evolve in experience terms from Rocks or Calling Stations that have read Doyle Brunson's Super System books and progressed from there. To hit them properly you have to either get lucky early on with the big

pair or play enough cards so you are not identified as a waiting Rock (obviously you don't want them to get out of your way when the time is right).

If you beat an aggressive Maniac once, you'll find they go on Tilt really easily, which provides further opportunity for the brave. I recall hitting one for \$800 from \$200 in 3 hands because he went all-in 3 times in a row with no cards at all. He incorrectly judged that I would fold rather than re-stake my entire winnings on each of the next 2 poker hands. Fortunately for me they were fairly solid starting hands in the circumstances but I can tell you it's not easy going all-in pre-flop for \$500 with just King Jack. I'd be mad to do that in any other circumstance but I felt I had a good read on the player type and his hand which turned out to be 92 unsuited didn't stand up.

Hopefully you'll observe playing styles and look to pick off Rocks and Calling Stations. If you come up against a tight (particularly Tight Aggressive) player, with no other easy to beat players around, you should move on. I've been at many tables where the poor players have lost and left, the good ones remain, and one off those triggers the table's break up by saying "no easy money here, the only winner will be the rake, lets move on." If you've not had this said to you, or you've not made the statement yourself then consider that you may be a fish.

Texas Hold'em Strategy - Beginners Guide To Playing Like a Pro

Texas Hold'em is a game where you can make huge amounts of money, if you have the right strategy.

Players who expect to read a few books and become a successful player are going to end up disappointed.

You can't learn how to play successfully from books! Knowledge of the game is only part of the equation in becoming a successful player. Here's why:

Successful Texas Hold'em strategy - Playing your cards and other players

A successful strategy is not just based upon playing your own set strategy, but by learning what your opponent's strategy is and adapting yours to defeat them.

This is the difficult bit of developing your Texas Hold'em strategy there is no optimal hand to play like in Blackjack; you have to BEAT your opponent.

This involves not only knowing the odds and all the basic strategies, but knowing as much about your opponent as you possibly can.

Your strategy & your psychological skills

Your psychology is really the key to winning, the best hand doesn't always win in Texas Hold'em and this is the mistake that many players make.

They bluff or play to many hands and are easily picked off by more experienced players.

Texas hold'em Strategy - practice, practice, practice!

When you play you need practice to get your Texas Hold'em strategy right, it's a psychological game that involves other players and you can't learn psychology from books.

Success comes from playing in the real world and when we mean you need practice we don't mean free games.

You need to know how it feels to lose money. Players play differently when money is on the line and mistakes and rash play cost hard cash, even if its small amounts.

Start at low limits and move up to higher stakes games as your skills increase. Compete at a high level first and you will lose.

5 Tips for successful Texas Hold'em strategy

1. Learn all the basic tips, odds and strategies you can from the resources on the net, there are plenty of them. Then understand these are worth nothing without the right psychological approach!
2. Now you need to adopt the correct mindset to win and beat your opponent.
3. Practice at low limits first, the experience you gain will help you develop a strategy that will allow you to take on and beat your opponents.
4. Attitude is everything! If you have the right hand you need to have the courage to play it for all it is worth and crush your opponents.
5. Don't be in a hurry to win patience is the key, you can't develop your skills without plenty of practice and this does NOT mean free games.

What you need to keep in mind when developing a Texas Hold'em strategy is the key to you winning is having the right mental attitude to defeat your opponent.

All the basics can be learned by anyone, but it's your mindset that will set you apart as a winner.

Don't expect overnight success!

To win at Texas hold'em requires lots of practice and some loses along the way, but with the right attitude, knowing the basics and lots of practice you can win big.

Don't expect overnight success, many novices assume making big money is easy but life is not like that!

It takes hard work, dedication and a lot of practice to become a successful player. You can do it but be prepared to work hard for goals and don't try and do it to quickly.

5 Texas Holdem Tips!

Texas hold Em tips!

Texas Holdem Tip #1

Don't Fall In Love With Your Start

Another very hard lesson to learn. Who doesn't find it nearly impossible to fold two queens, or AKs? Or even a pair of tens? Who doesn't hate the idea of folding on the turn after flopping two pair? Or a set? Everyone wants to see these great starts to the river. Problem is, there are other people in the game. Though it may make your eyes light up when you get top pocket cards, or have three of a kind after the flop, these hands are no guarantee of winning. Failing to re-evaluate the strength of your hand at every step of the way is a sure way to lose a lot of money.

Texas Holdem Tip #2

Stop To Think

Too often players act without thinking, getting carried away by emotion instead of considering a bet calmly and rationally. This happens especially in live poker, where you may feel vaguely defined urges not to "be a coward," "take a shot," or "to go big." These urges often are setting you up to lose. Texas Holdem tip always, when confronted with a big decision, pause to review your reaction, your instinct. Very often our natural instincts need to be rerouted into poker instincts. For the beginner, this process involves a full stop, and an open-minded consideration of the situation. Good players feed on the "natural reactions" of the less skilled. So don't react. Think.

Texas Holdem Tip #3

Consider The Pot

Something I often see, but will never understand, is players using all-in bluffs to win tiny pots. This, to me, is the height of bad poker playing. Pot odds are a huge part of the game. When you're taking a risk, you want to be entirely sure you'll be justly rewarded for it. That's why some players can make a living at Holdem. They know the odds, and know consistently staying in on gigantic pots, and quickly giving up small pots, will pay off in the end. This concept is closely tied to expected value (EV). These good players may lose the big pot nine out of ten times, but the tenth time more than pays for the other losses. Factor the current and potential size of the pot into every decision you make.

Texas Holdem Tip #4

Strong Players Bet Big On BIG Hands

This is why they're strong players. If you've made your hand, and are up against a tight player who's raising you big, take a good look at the board. Possible flush, straight, full house?

Chances are she's hit something. The best players bet big when chances are very slim that they can be beat. This means you should very often take their implicit advice and get out-- especially as a beginner. Unless you've got the nuts, or near it, yourself, that is. In that case, raise the hell out of them.

Texas Holdem Tip #5

Be A Rock, Except...

This is the best texas Holdem tip I can give you. Being a rock is a very good way to start out. Though it may seem unexciting to some, who long for the high-stakes stack-pushing (highly edited) drama of the TV-poker world, poker is a game of inches. A waiting game. Throwing 80% of your hands, at least, is the only way to win in multi-player games. Bet only on the best hands, semi-bluff very occasionally, and bluff almost never. This is a winning recipe against 90% of the poker players you'll meet at low-limit tables. As a beginner, consider yourself a hunter sitting calmly in a blind, waiting hours for prey to fly overhead. If you go the other way, take your shotgun and go walking around in the jungle, very often you'll get eaten by a lion.

10 Common Mistakes To Avoid When Playing No Limit [Texas Holdem](#)

1. Early Position Raise : One of the biggest mistakes I see players make is not respecting someone who raises in early position. Remember he has another 8 people after him at the table who he has to fade, so chances are that he is holding a big hand.

2. When you have the nuts and someone betting into you : I was watching a friend of mine play a tournament online and although he made several mistakes that I corrected him on, the biggest mistake he made was pushing someone out of the pot by re-raising him on the turn when he should have slow-played the hand. Let me give you the scenario. My friend Mike was dealt 10-hearts and K-hearts. Someone raises preflop and there are 4 callers including Mike. On the flop came K-diamonds, 10-diamonds, K-spades. Yes, he flopped the dead nuts. The first player checks, the second player who was the original preflop raiser bets \$100. Next player re-raises \$100, the third and fourth players fold, lastly it's up to Mike. He just called the bet which was the proper play. Next card on the turn was 3-spades, no help to anyone. Original player in first position bets \$200, second player calls, and what does Mike do, raises the pot \$600 and the other 2 players drop out. You need to ask yourself "What am I trying to accomplish with this bet." What was Mike trying to do, make everyone fold. Number one he has the dead nuts, he already has position so it is imperative to give the other players an opportunity to catch their card. The proper play was to continue letting the player bet into you, then take him off on the river. He might have had 2 diamonds and hit his 3rd diamond on the river and you could have taken all his chips. You want those players to get so committed to the pot that they simply cant lay down their 2 pair or their flush or their set. Remember in no limit poker you can always raise the pot or even go all in on the river so it's really quite simple. If your playing NL Holdem and someone is betting into you when you have the dead nuts and are in position, let him continue betting into you and do the raise on the river as to maximize any chance you have at getting most or all of his chips.

3. Protect Your Hand: Don't give players an opportunity to draw out on you, make them pay for it. If you're holding top pair and there is flush or straight potential, don't let them get any free cards to draw out on you with. Bet the pot or double the pot as to thin the heard.

4. Thin The Heard: If your holding an average hand, say pocket 10s and there have been no preflop bets yet,, go ahead and make a bet, I prefer to triple the pot. You certainly don't want

the guy next to you who has King Deuce to hit his King on the flop and beat you. Your bet should thin the herd down and will lessen your chances of getting out drawn.

5. Chip Lead: Listen people, if you have the chip lead tighten up a little. There is no sense in getting involved in too many pots. I see it all too often, someone has the chip lead and calls a raise with crap. Then he catches one of his cards and gets committed to the pot and ends up losing 20% of his chip stack to the pocket rockets. You want to hold on to the chip lead, don't play anything but good cards and let the other players on short stack weed themselves out and you will find yourself at the final table.

6. Common Sense: Common sense supersedes all the advice given to me over the years. Use your head for crying out loud. My friend Mike was on the big blind and there were no raises preflop, so he got to see the flop for free. There were 7 people in the hand and the flop comes A-hearts, K-diamonds, 10-diamonds, now Mike was holding crap, 6-7 off suit. Well nobody bets and it comes around to Mike and he triples the pot. It goes around the table and one guy calls, another raises, then another goes all in. Of course Mike folds but common sense tells me with a flop like that everyone got a piece of it, whether it's a gut shot straight or 4 to a flush or just top or second pair. My experience has been that usually players discard their low cards and stay in with their big cards or pocket pairs. When a big flop like that comes up common sense tells me when there are 7 other people in the pot that a few if not all of them caught some part of that flop. What a horrible time to try to buy one. Chalk another mullet move up to MIKEY lol.

7. Play like a champion: Try to imagine yourself at the WSOP final table playing for 1.5 million. Then ask yourself how would Doyle Brunson play the hand. Take your time and you will probably make the right call. Remember skill will only get you so far, you also have to be lucky and not get too many bad beats to snap a big tournament off so don't get discouraged if you made the right play and lost the hand. If you played the hand like Doyle would have played the hand and you get a bad beat, well that's just part of poker so you might as well get used to it now.

8. SURVIVAL . Your goal of course is to snap the tournament off, but your first priority should be to get into the money. Just use your head and play smart.

9. Study Your Opponents: Study your opponents and make note of their tendencies. For example, if you have a player that calls just about anything, obviously it would not be wise to try to steal a pot against him as he will probably call you with his low pair. Conversely, if you have a player like that and you have a strong hand, bet more than you normally would as you will probably get a call out of him unlike if your playing against a good player that would probably fold his average hand.

10 . Realize The Amount Of Players Left In The Tournament And Where They Stand In The Money: If your in a tournament that pays the top 9 places and you have 11 people left in the tournament, this may be a good time to steal a couple of pots if your in position. They are trying to get into the money and wont risk their chips unless they have a premium hand. On the other hand, once everyone is in the money, if your going to play a hand make sure it is one where you are willing to risk a large part of your chip stack on. My experience is when it gets down to the money players, you see many people on the short stack going all in so although it may be tempting to play that 9-10 suited, it may not be a hand you want to risk a large amount of chips on.

No Limit Texas Holdem Poker - When To Go All In

In the game of no limit texas hold'em poker you can at any time bet all of your chips which is called going all in. There are a number of different situations when going all in may be the best play that can be made. Too many players use the all in bet far too often. While others wait till their chip stack is far too small to make their move. We will discuss the reasons and situations when going all in is in your best interests.

Keep in mind in no limit texas hold'em poker each situation has many variables so the examples listed below may or may not apply to your given situation. They are generalizations under the assumption that other variables are favorable. For example prior acts by players at the table must be taken into account when deciding how to play a given situation.

There are a few things that you have to understand before continuing. The advantage to going all in is two fold really. Not only do they have to call the large amount what ever that is, but they also have to call knowing that your hand will be played all the way to the river. In other words they have to have the winning hand after all the community cards come out. This is an important aspect to understand. Often when you bet you want people to fold their hands. Betting a large amount will get lesser hands to fold and isolate the players with hands of high potential hand strength or made hands. Its important to see the difference because an all in bet will probably get a larger portion of the opponents to fold who have the high potential hand strength hands. For example if a player has \$1000 and bets all in he will potentially have fewer callers than a player in the same situation with \$5000 who makes the same \$1000 preflop bet. However; it must be mentioned that this can be the other way around as well because callers may look at the all in bet as desperation and the other bet as potentially being increased up to the remaining \$4000.

Now the first common situation for going all in is when the blind levels are about 20% or more of your stack size. If you are short stacked you have to start looking for hands to make aggressive plays at. The more the blinds take from your short stack less exponentially you will be able to take when you make your play. For example making an all in bet when short stacked with a medium starting hand strength is a much better play than waiting for a high starting hand strength because even if you win the hand losing even one more round of blinds may result in less potential winnings. I see far too many people let their stack size get too small before making a play. If you let it get to the point where in order to have an average stack size in the tournament you would have to win 4 or more all in bets with one caller each time then you have let your stack get too small without making a play.

Another reason to go all in preflop is to protect your hand when starting hand strength is high. Some starting hands are best played with a large preflop bet. An example of a starting hand that has a good starting hand strength but should be played for a large preflop bet in most cases is pocket jacks. The starting hand of pocket jacks has a high starting hand strength, but if it isn't played aggressively it can easily be beaten by anyone with a queen, king, or ace in their hand. By betting very aggressively, or all in, you can make most opponents with high starting hand strengths to fold because most of the high strength starting hands are draw hands. What this means is the hand that has to get particular cards on the flop in order to achieve a high hand strength. Pocket jacks are already a pretty high pair and so will have an advantage against a hand like ace-king early in a hand. So if your going to play a starting hand like pocket jacks either or a hand of similar starting hand strength I suggest you play it very aggressively preflop, and keep your eye out for the over cards that can beat you.

Keep this in mind when deciding on an amount to bet in no limit texas hold'em poker weather its all in or just limping in. All betting amounts in no limit texas hold'em poker are relative. What I mean by this is a bet of \$1000 may mean a large bet at one point in a poker tournament and only cover the blinds at a later stage in the same tournament. Also from one

hand to the next the amount in the pot also dictates what amounts are more suitable to bet. For example if there is \$5000 in the pot and you bet \$500 for the most part that is far too small a bet in proportion to the pot to make anyone want to fold their hand. It is a common practice in no limit texas hold'em poker to adjust betting amounts taking in to account your likelihood in winning the hand. This practice is commonly referred to as "pot odds". A very basic example of how this is used would be if you were 50% to win the hand then you would bet 50% of the amount in the pot.

A very good reason to go all in in no limit texas hold'em poker is if you think your opponent is bluffing, and you believe you are ahead in the hand. You may think it would be better to slow play and extract as much money as possible. The danger in playing a hand like this is the possibility the cards will give your opponent the winning hand. More often than not when a player bluffs in no limit texas hold'em poker he will have some outs. The more cards he gets to see the more likely he is to hit one of these outs and go ahead in hand strength. By reraising all in you can force him to make the critical decision as to whether he is ahead in hand strength or better yet if he will be ahead in hand strength after all the cards are out. An example of this would be if you had top pair with a high kicker on the flop and your opponent, who has been playing aggressively since he got seated at your table, bet about 5 times the big blind. You figure at best he has middle pair. If you just call he will get another card which may make him a set or give him two pair. Even if you reraise he may be inclined to call to see if he can catch a lucky card. By going all in in this situation he will have to know that if he calls he will have to have the winning hand after all the cards are out.

Understanding the advantages of going all in texas hold'em poker will help you both make better choices about when you should go all in; as well as, why your opponent may be going all in. If you play no limit texas hold'em poker tournaments you will probably go all in from time to time and you will definitely have to face the decision whether or not to call an all in. It is in these situations that are the critical points of texas hold'em poker tournaments. Make the wrong choice and you'll likely be out soon. Make the right choice and you'll one step closer to the prize money.

Texas Holdem Poker - Knowing Your Odds

In texas hold'em poker tournaments there will be situations where you are trying to make a hand and you will be faced with a decision as to fold the hand or call a large bet to stay in. In these situations if you know the odds of you making your hand then you will be able to make an informed decision.

There are many factors to consider when deciding whether or not to "chase" a hand in texas hold'em poker. One factor is if you make the hand will it be the winning hand. Another factor is what does your opponent have and is he chasing a hand. If he is chasing a hand what is it likely to be, and if he makes his hand will it beat your made hand. The final factor to consider is what are the odds you will make the hand your "chasing".

First of all you should take some time to study some of the common hold'em strategy and tactics. This way you will know what starting hands are likely played in given situations. Also you should have some understanding of the common methods of hold'em poker. This will help you to identify opponents hand strengths by the way they play a given hand.

I think it would be good to cover a few of the common hold'em poker hands you will find yourself chasing. Below are some of the most common situational hold'em hand odds: 1. Your starting hand is ace of clubs and 4 of clubs. The flop contains two clubs. Now you have four clubs of a flush and you only need one more club from the next two community cards. What are the chances you will make your flush? The answer is you will make your flush 54% of the time. If you miss the club on the turn then you are down to a 24% chance of getting it on the

river. 2. Your starting hand is ten of hearts and ten of diamonds. The flop comes and there are no tens in it. What are your chances of making your set. The answer is only 9% of the time will you make your set on the turn or river. If you miss your third ten on the turn your chances of making your set on the river drops to 4%. 3. Your starting hand is eight of clubs and nine of spades. The flop is 7-10-2 all of different suits. This gives you an open-ended straight draw. You now only need a jack or a six to make your straight. Your chances of making your straight in this situation is 46% to make it on one of the next two community cards. If you miss it on the turn you are still 21% to make it on the river.

Another important factor when determining your odds of making a given poker hand is how many players folded their hole cards and what that can tell you about their starting hand strength. This information can give you some idea of cards that may still be in play. Also the number of people in any given Texas hold'em poker hand greatly affects the hand strength of many starting hands. An example of this is that with a table of ten players playing Texas hold'em poker the top five starting hands according to hand strength and hold'em hand odds are A-A, K-K, Q-Q, J-J, A-Ks. However; when only six players are in the hand the top five starting hands according to hand strength and hold'em hand odds are A-A, K-K, Q-Q, J-J, T-T. Notice when less players are in the hand the pocket tens have a higher starting hand strength and better hold'em hand odds than the ace-king suited. When there are only two players in a hand (heads-up) the top five starting hands according to hand strength and hold'em hand odds are A-A, K-K, Q-Q, A-Ks, A-K. Notice in heads up play the ace king suited and ace king off suit have a higher starting hand strength and better hold'em hand odds than pocket jacks and pocket tens. This should give you some insight into what pocket cards are best in different situations. Your hole cards may have a great starting hand strength at a full table, but the same pocket cards may be at a disadvantage just because there are less people at the table or in on the poker hand.

Texas hold'em hand odds have to be put into the right context. Just because your starting hand strength is higher than your opponent's doesn't mean you will win. It doesn't even mean you are necessarily more likely to win. The only thing starting hand strength means is just that. Starting hand strength. To illustrate my point I will use an example. Say your starting hand is pocket aces. Your opponent's starting hand is also a pocket pair. You have only a relatively small advantage over your opponent. This is because you will win the hand if no one improves their hand or if you improve your hand. Your opponent has the same hold'em hand odds of making a set as you. So even though your opponent has his pocket twos against your pocket aces if there is a two in the community cards and no aces you will lose just the same as if he had pocket kings and made a set of kings. The mathematical probabilities are the same. However; it is more likely the aces will win because in two of the three possible outcomes the aces would have the higher hand strength. Perhaps a better example would be the same starting hand of pocket aces against a king and queen of the same suit. The starting hand of pocket aces can only be improved for the most part by one of the two aces remaining in the deck coming out in the community cards. The king queen suited has a higher probability of making two pair than the aces do of making their set. Also the king queen suited has the possibility of much higher hand strengths like a flush and straight. Again the starting hand strength of pocket aces is very high, but as you can see there would be many cards that could come that would give the king queen suited the winning hand in the end. In this example the pocket aces still have the starting hand strength and hold'em hand odds to their advantage so more often the pocket aces would win.

Finally you have to understand that all the hold'em hand odds take for granted that your two hole cards are known, the community cards are known, and treats the remaining cards as unknown. What this means is if your starting hand is pocket queens and two of your opponent's starting hands contain a queen then your chances of making a set of queens isn't very good. In any given poker hand the cards of your opponents can only be guessed at and it is in studying their behavior over time that will help you make this determination. Taking into account hold'em hand odds and starting hand strength are tools to be part of any Texas

hold'em poker players decision making process. In doing so your chances of winning any given texas hold'em poker hand will be greatly increased.

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