

Greg Fletcher

Power Poker Strategy

“The World’s Most Profitable Poker Strategy”



Silverthorne Publications, Inc.

Power Poker Strategy

By Greg Fletcher

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848 N. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 601

Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

United States of America

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Published in the United States of America

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Introduction

My name is Greg Fletcher. My background is in trading stocks, ETFs and commodity futures contracts. **I have learned that the key to successful trading is to follow the trend, plan every trade and then to always limit losses.**

With my approach to trading, if even 40% of my trades are profitable I will make a large amount of money because my profits are always much larger than my losses.

For the past several years I have worked on my own as an independent trader. With my high, consistent trading profits I have had the time and money to pursue many other interests.

One of these interests is poker. I spent over two years devoting a lot of my time to playing poker.

I have played in more poker rooms than I care to remember.

I have spent countless hours playing poker online.

Playing poker is always good for bragging rights. It sounds macho to be a poker player. Most people are envious if you tell them you play poker for a living.

The reality is quite different from what the non-players think –

Playing poker is very time consuming. You will spend a lot of time sitting in uncomfortable surroundings, under a lot of pressure to perform.

You will also spend a lot of time with people you wouldn't normally associate with. Poker tournaments are especially prone to attract some of the crudest, rudest people on earth.

Online play is not much better. You will spend most evenings playing online because that's when most people play. If you have an active social life, you can just forget it. You won't have the time for a social life because you will be playing poker.

You will have to have a sizable bankroll to survive. You can pretty much forget about starting from scratch with a few dollars. In today's poker world you had better have a sizable bankroll or you won't last a month.

You will have to withstand long periods of losses. My longest losing streak was three weeks and it just about drove me crazy. But I know pros who have had losing streaks lasting months and even years. Believe me, they are not having fun!

You will have to endure great fluctuations in your bankroll. You may be up \$5,000 one week and down \$7,000 the next. If you have the bankroll and the stomach for this you may be all right. But, I have seen many very tough players who just couldn't handle the ups and downs and the constant highs and lows of play.

Here is Another Factor I Want to Mention Because It Has Become So Common –

You will have to play with hoards of inexperienced players. Now you may be thinking that this is to your advantage. As a pro, you'll just take money from them.

Not so fast. Sometimes you will be able to beat them and other times their play will be so unpredictable that they are able to steal pots. And, unfortunately, more and more players have become very unpleasant to be around.

I have seen players shouting at each other and even one player who decked the dealer.

Winning at conventional poker is very similar to winning at blackjack using card counting. It requires 100% dedication, long hours of play, sometimes with the scum of the earth sitting next to you. And, you will need a very deep bankroll.

Unfortunately, winning at any of the popular poker games, whether it is Texas Hold'Em, Omaha Hi and Hilo, Five Card or Seven Card Stud, Seven Card Hilo or a host of other poker games, boils down to a lot of luck, the right breaks, being at the right place at the right time and a sizable bankroll.

No one tells you about this. You see championship poker tournaments on TV where winners rake in huge amounts. What about the thousands who consistently lose at poker?

Winning a bundle playing poker the conventional way is a lot like dreaming to be an NBA star. Only a handful of the thousands of talented basketball players ever make it each year.

Many of the others are left disillusioned and many times just plain beaten. They have expended Herculean efforts and many years of their lives to become just another “pretty good” basketball player.

Unfortunately, the payoffs for pretty good basketball players as well as pretty good poker players are not so good.

The Biggest Problem With Playing Poker the Conventional Way Is the Lack of Consistent Winnings

As a successful stock and commodities trader I am used to quantifying and measuring the results of my trades. I can tell you that trading using this particular set up produces average profits of 5.4% per trade. I can prove to you that using certain systems will produce average returns of 38% to 61% a year.

But, with conventional poker, anything can happen. On a given night any player can beat any other player. If you are going to play this game, you have to learn to live with this.

After a couple of very frustrating years playing conventional poker, I knew that there had to be a better way to play.

Why Three Card Poker is My Game of Choice For Making High Profits

Unlike other poker games, Three Card Poker offers some considerable advantages.

You strictly play against the dealer rather than other players. This removes a lot of the uncontrollable aspects of regular poker, such as dealing with loud mouthed ignorant players who spoil the game for everyone else.

But, there are even more advantages to learning to play and win at Three Card Poker.

The game is very easy to learn.

It is fast and fun to play.

It has great house odds.

And, it offers bonus payoffs as high as 40 to 1.

With Three Card Poker a player will play (raise) about 67% of the time. Using the *Power Poker Strategy* you will be in the action every round of play.

Three Card Poker is based on standard poker rules. If you have ever played poker, you will know the hands. If not, you can learn them in less than ten minutes!

However, the Number One Reason to Play Three Card Poker is That You Can Win a Fortune at This Game!

Even though Three Card Poker offered tremendous advantages over playing conventional poker, that was still not reason enough for me to take up the game.

Remember, as a successful trader I measure the success of any strategy in terms of numbers and profits.

With standard poker, there is very little consistency. Wins are followed by losses. Winning days are followed by losing weeks. **For a numbers guy looking for consistency, the game becomes more of a nightmare than a reliable source of profits.**

However, when you play Three Card Poker using the *Power Poker Strategy* an amazing thing happens. Once you know the Power Number for the game you are playing, everything falls into place.

Instead of a volatile game with little predictability, you will have a game that becomes very controllable and become a reliable source of profits!

When you use the *Power Poker Strategy* at Three Card Poker here's what you can expect

—

1. **Low Volatility.** Instead of erratic wins and losses, you will experience very controllable and predictable profits.
2. **Consistent Winnings.** My way of thinking is that if you can't win consistently, you shouldn't be playing. Fortunately, winnings are very consistent using my strategy.
3. **Losses are small and infrequent.** The key to successful trading is to keep your losses very small and let your profits run as large as they can. I apply the same principles here and the results are truly remarkable.

4. **Frequent Jackpot Like Wins.** Because of the high payoffs incorporated in Three Card Poker, you will frequently get bonus wins of \$2,000, \$3,000 or even \$5,000 **on top of your regular winnings.**

Why Playing Three Card Poker is So Profitable

Three Card Poker is really two games in one.

In the Ante/Play part of the game you will play against the dealer.

In addition, you can make a Pair Plus wager where you will be paid on any hand higher than a pair with some hands paying very high bonuses.

When both games are played at the same time, players may wager different amounts in each game.

A key aspect of Three Card Poker is that Ante/Play and Pair Plus are paid separately and win independently of each other.

For example, you can win your Ante and Play bets and lose the Pair Plus bet and still have a winning round of play.

Or, you can lose your Ante bet to the dealer's hand and still win with your Pair Plus bet.

Once I learned this game, I realized that it had the potential to be the most profitable poker game ever offered.

Here's why –

With Three Card Poker, certain hands are paid very high bonuses. For instance, with Pair Plus bets you will be paid 4 to 1 for a flush, 6 to 1 for a straight, 30 to 1 for three of a kind and a whooping 40 to 1 for a straight flush.

What struck me about these payoffs is that they are there for the taking without having to deal with other players or any of the ups and downs of conventional poker.

Most poker experts who have studied this game have only developed a play versus fold strategy for Ante/Play bets and stopped there. In other words, they were pretty clueless about how to turn this game into a very profitable game.

Using conventional poker thinking, that is as far as they could go.

But I didn't stop there. Using the same approaches I have successfully used, time after time to analyze complex stock trading situations and then develop simple, profitable trading rules, I tackled Three Card Poker.

The result is a strategy that has been proven to be very profitable. This manual is a complete guide to using and profiting from the Power Poker Strategy.

I wish you the best of luck with it. If you have any questions, you may contact me by email at orders@silverthornepublications.com

Warmest regards,

Greg Fletcher

Quick Start Guide

If you haven't played poker before, you should read the complete book and then go back and study the chapters dealing with the Power Poker Strategy. The best way to learn this strategy is by using it. I strongly recommend that you practice online at Bodog Casino, (<http://www.bodoglife.com/>) which provides a no download practice game. When you sign up there, look for Tri-Card Poker, the online name for Three Card Poker.

There are many examples in this book. The Chapter "Example Games Using the Complete Power Poker Strategy" is very important. You should follow each game round by round and make sure you completely understand how the strategy was used.

The Power Poker Strategy is not difficult to use but the key to learning it is to process one step at a time, in the order of this manual. The Ante/Play strategy is the most difficult to learn, but you must master it. After learning this strategy, the Pair Plus Strategy will be fairly easy to learn as will the money management rules.

It is critical that you learn how to use the *Power Number*. You will have a specific Power Number for your level of play. Learn how to use it to safeguard your winnings and how to continue to play building up higher and higher profits.

Appendix B. has the Automatic Bet Selector. You will notice that the examples of games throughout the book use the same format. In following the example games presented, you will be learning how to use the Automatic Bet Selector.

There are also several chapters dealing with general casino knowledge and behavior. These chapters focus on play in land-based casinos.

The chapter you are most likely to skip is "Keeping Records" because it sounds like too much work. Don't skip it. Record keeping is essential to your financial health.

Above all, don't be afraid to spend some time learning this strategy. You will be amply rewarded with the most profitable casino strategy ever created.

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About Three Card Poker	Given the background of Three Card Poker, origins of the game and an introduction to playing the game. Good information but not critical to understanding the strategy	14
Three Card Poker Hand Rankings	Reviews Three Card Poker Hands of a Straight Flush, Three of a Kind, Straights and Flushes and a Pair. Each hand is illustrated. Must information for beginners, may be old hat to poker pros. However, you must understand these hands before you play Three Card Poker.	19
How to Play Three Card Poker	Complete review of the game. Ante/Play rules, Player actions for online and land-based games, tables showing full payouts for Ante and Pair Plus winning hands, review of house edge in game. Everyone should study this chapter. It is critical that you thoroughly understand the game before learning the strategy.	22
Ante and Play (Raise) Play	How to make antes. When to play (raise) a hand. Explanation of one-decision rule on when to play hands. Everyone needs to read this chapter.	29
Pair Plus Play	Complete explanation of Pair Plus play, including sample hands with explanations. Everyone needs to read this chapter.	32
The Ante and Play Power Poker Strategy	The Power Poker Strategy for Ante/Play betting. Critical to understanding the Power Poker Strategy.	34
Examples of Making Ante and Play Bets Using the <i>Power Poker Strategy</i>	Examples of using the Power Poker Strategy with Ante/Play bets. You must understand these examples before you can go on.	44
The Pair Plus <i>Power Poker Strategy</i>	The Power Poker Strategy for Pair Plus Bets. There are examples of hands and payoffs given here. You must learn this strategy to be able to use the complete Power Poker Strategy	48
Using the Complete <i>Power Poker Strategy</i>	A Review of the Power Poker Strategy rules covered in the previous two chapters. This chapter pulls together how to use the strategy	55
Money Management With the <i>Power Poker Strategy</i>	More rules are introduced. Here you will learn how to use the Power Bet to take control of the game. This is very essential information.	57
Example Games Using the Complete <i>Power Poker Strategy</i>	We present actual Three Card Poker games with a round by round review of our bets. You can see the complete strategy in action and discover why it is so powerful.	61
Managing Your Money	Discussion of all of key elements of the Power Poker Strategy, including Base Bets, Total Bankroll requirements. Buy-in amounts, Power Numbers, Power Number Levels, Loss Limits, Expanded Loss Limits. Table showing bankroll requirements, Power Numbers and much more for all levels of play. This chapter contains the core of how you will manage your money to win consistently and how you will pick up monster Jackpot wins.	77

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How Much Can You Make Using This Strategy?	Analysis of 4,350 games played using the Power Poker Strategy. Complete information on how much you can expect to win at different levels of play in both land-based and online games.	83
Your Bankroll	The importance of building a separate gambling bankroll. Why you should divide your bankroll into smaller bankrolls. Steps you will take to determine the size of your bankroll. Tips on protecting your bankroll. Pros may know this information, however it is recommended for everyone.	88
Skilful Play	Advice on casino play. Choosing where to play, information on tipping, why you should act like a gambler, playing for cash or credit, becoming a rated player. If you are going to play in land-based casino, you should learn this information.	92
Discipline and Control	Self control, importance of ego needs, gambling superstitions, how to move up in the gambling world, turning a casino into your new office.	99
Casino Comps	Pick one casino and play there, getting and using a player's card, the importance of your casino host, how to ask for comps, how to maximize your comps, using front money to your advantage.	109
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Walking Out a Winner	Has a step-by-step plan you will follow to become a consistent winner	124
Appendix A. Summary of Rules and Strategy	Summary of the Power Poker Strategy. Description of full payoffs, Power Poker Strategy Ante/Play, Pair Plus and Money Management rules, Complete information on play at all levels for Pair Plus bets, Power Numbers, Bankroll levels, Game buy-ins. It also has information on how much you can expect to win based on the size of your bets and the speed of your play.	127
Appendix B. Automatic Bet Selector	How to use the Automatic Bet Selector. Sample use and a blank form you can copy for your own use.	135
Appendix C. Three Card Poker Hand Frequency	Frequency tables for three card poker card hands. This is supplemental material for the mathematically inclined and you don't need to understand this to win with the Power Poker Strategy.	138
Appendix D. Ante/Play and Pair Plus Analysis	Analysis of expected value of different hands. Also has an online odds calculator. Not essential information but interesting if you have a mathematical mind.	140

About Three Card Poker

Have you ever wondered how to play Three Card Poker (sometimes called Tri-Card Poker) or which Three Card Poker strategy works the best? You see this popular table game in just about every casino these days and for good reason. It is a fun, fast game with good odds and a relatively low house advantage. Couple that with the fact that the Three Card Poker rules are easy to learn and you can easily see why it has become one of the most successful table games in recent years. So successful in fact that there is now a Three Card Poker Tournament played every year with a grand prize worth \$500,000.

There are a few variants to the game like Casino Brag (Sometimes called Brit Brag) and Three Card Brag. Casino Brag is commonly seen in European markets and differs from Three Card Poker in that the dealer needs an ace-queen to qualify. Three-Card Brag is a British card game and has very little in common with the Las Vegas or Atlantic City Three Card Poker played in the U.S. (although it is also sometimes referred to as Three Card Poker).

Why Everyone Loves Three Card Poker

Here are a few reasons why this table game is growing so quickly in popularity:

It's Fast. A fast pace is fun but you must be cautious, this can also cause you to lose your bankroll fast.

The Strategy is Easy to Learn. Pair Plus actually requires NO strategy, and Ante/Play requires a fairly simple strategy. However, a player's decisions still have a big impact on how much he or she will win or lose in the long run.

Bonus Payouts! If you make the Ante and Play wager you can still win the bonus payout even if the dealer does not qualify and even if your hand loses to the dealer.

Three Card Poker Odds. The house advantage on Pair Plus is 2.32% and if played properly, the house advantage on the Ante/Play game can be as low as 2.02%.

A player plays (calls or raises) 67% of the time. If you follow our strategy to minimize the house edge, you will still be in the action more than 2/3 of the time.

Three card poker is based on traditional poker. Most people have played poker at some point in their lives and are already familiar with the rankings of various hands. This makes it easier for people to learn the game quickly and start enjoying some level of success.

More About Three Card Poker

Three Card Poker (or tri-card poker as it's also called) is an American version of a British game called Brag. This game originated over three hundred years ago as a game known as Primero, a fast-moving betting game using only three cards. As the game evolved, it became known as Post-and-Pair and then again as Brag. This game made it to the States as Casino Brag and Brit-Brag, but eventually evolved again into the game we now know as Three Card Poker.

Three Card Poker is very similar to the Indian game Teen Patti with some minor differences. The differences are that the ranking of a **straight flush** and **three of a kind** are interchanged, and in teen patti, **high card** and **none** are merged together.

The current version of Three Card Poker was invented by poker player Derek Webb in the 1990s.

Three Card Poker is also called Tri-Card Poker as well as Tri Poker. Why all the different names?

Well, it all started out as a name protected casino table game called Three Card Poker that became very popular. Then it seems that others wanted to offer the game without paying the royalties due so they just renamed it. . So whether it's called Three Card, Tri Card or just plain Tri Poker, the poker rules are the same, the optimal playing strategy for how to play is the same and a lot of players love it. You can play free Three Card Poker online for fun and real money games both online and in regular casinos everywhere.

Three Card Poker is Two Games in One: A seat at the Three Card Poker table offers two separate games to play. You are usually allowed to play either one or both games at the same time, but some casinos will require you to play both while others will make only one optionable. The two games are "Three Card Ante/Play", where you compete against the dealer, and "Pair Plus" that has different bonus payouts for 3 card poker hands of one pair or better. When both games are played at the same time, players may wager different amounts on each game.

The games are played with a standard 52-card deck. The cards are distributed to the dealer in groups of three by an automatic shuffling machine. The player's table layout is shown below.



Three Card Poker
Hand Rankings

Straight Flush
Three of a Kind
Straight
Flush
Pair
High Card

Poker rules and payouts are printed on the table at each player spot, as shown below:

(Note:) These are FULL PAYOUTS. Always look for these!

Play MUST EQUAL Ante	Pair Plus Pays
DEALER PLAYS WITH	PAIR.....1 to 1
QUEEN HIGH OR BETTER	FLUSH.....4 to 1
WHEN DEALER DOES NOT PLAY	STRAIGHT.....6 to 1
Play... PUSH • Ante... 1 to 1	THREE OF A KIND...30 to 1
WHEN DEALER PLAYS	STRAIGHT FLUSH...40 to 1
Play... 1 to 1 • Ante... 1 to 1	Ante Bonus Pays
	STRAIGHT.....1 to 1
	THREE OF A KIND...4 to 1
	STRAIGHT FLUSH...5 to 1

3 Card Hand Values

The first thing you will probably notice from the hand rankings list above is that a straight has a higher ranking than a flush. That's simply because there are fewer ways to make a 3 card straight than a 3 card flush. As in most poker games, aces play both high and low to a straight. An ace high straight flush is the highest hand you can get but unfortunately, this is just the highest straight flush and not recognized as a mini-royal flush with extra bonus considerations or anything of that sort.

The Pair Plus "Non-Strategy" and Unequal Bets Play

Since the only decision the player has to make in Pair Plus is how much to bet. There is no optimal playing strategy involved. However, at full payout the low house advantage of less than 3 1/2% makes it about as attractive as any table poker game you can find. You can't bet five dollars and win a house here, but the payouts are very generous and you should get a pay hand of some sort about 25% of the time. This is a good game but you want to remember that the win/loss swings are much more volatile in Pair Plus than in Ante/Play. Most places allow you to make unequal bets on the two games. A conservative bet would be two units on Ante/Play and one unit on Pair Plus, or equal bets. A more aggressive approach is to place more on Pair Plus than on Ante/Play. Many good players prefer to keep their Pair Plus to Ante/Play ratio on the conservative side and try to get a little ahead before they get aggressive and load up on the Pair Plus.

With the Power Poker Strategy we will use specific strategies for determining the size of each bet. See the appropriate chapters for details.

Three Card Poker, Tri Card Poker - Ante/Play Strategy

This game starts with the players placing bets in the "Ante" spots in the table layouts. The ante can be any amount within the posted table limits. The players and the dealer all get three cards, face down. The players all look at their hands and either fold by giving their cards back and losing their ante bet, or play by placing a bet equal to the ante, in the "play" spot in the layout. The dealer then turns over his cards. If he does not have Queen High or better, he doesn't "qualify" to play and pays the active players even money on their ante bets and those with a straight or better are paid the additional ante bonus shown above. These players get a "push" on their play bets. If he does have a qualifying hand, those who cannot beat it lose their antes and their play bets, but can still win the ante bonus with a straight or higher. Those who can beat the dealer win even money on both their ante and play bets plus the ante bonus, if any.

In Three Card, Tri Card Poker Ante/Play, the only thing the expert player needs to know is how high his or her hand should be to produce the best possible long-term results, if played. The answer to that question is Q-6-4 or higher.

High card only hands between Q64 through KQ10 are loss limit plays. These are hands with negative expectations. They will lose less if played than they will in ante forfeiture losses if they are not played. Ace high hands and better have positive expectations. The house advantage for Ante/Play, against the optimal strategy shown below is a comfortable 3.4%. Not too bad for the player.

However, if you play the game like most players will, you will eventually be ground down by the house edge. We are not going to do that! As you will see, using the Power Poker Strategy will give us a significant edge over the game!

Three Card Poker Hand Rankings

Below is the ranking of hands as used in the casino table game of Three Card Poker.

Cards are drawn from a standard 52-card deck without replacement.

Rankings are listed from highest to lowest.

When a hand qualifies for two ranks, the highest is used.

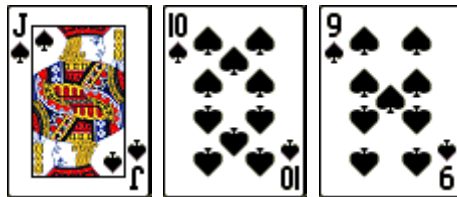
Suits are not used to break ties.

1. Straight Flush

Three cards in sequence of the same suit.

An Ace can count as either high or low - e.g. A♠ K♠ Q♠ or 3♥ 2♥ A♥

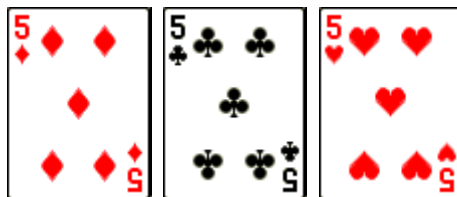
Ties are broken by the highest ranked card in the hand except 3 is used for a 3, 2, Ace straight flush.



2. Three of a Kind

Three cards of the same rank.

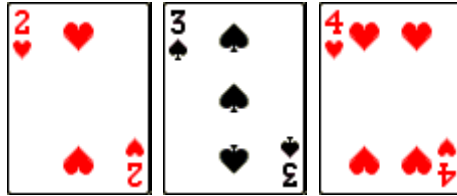
Ties are broken by the rank of the three cards.



3. Straight

Three cards in sequence.

Ties are broken by the highest ranked card in the hand except 3 is used for a 3, 2, Ace straight.



4. Flush

Three cards of the same suit.

Ties are broken by rank of the highest card, if still tied by the rank of the second highest card and if still tied by rank of the third highest card.



5. Pair

Two cards of the same rank and a third card of different rank.

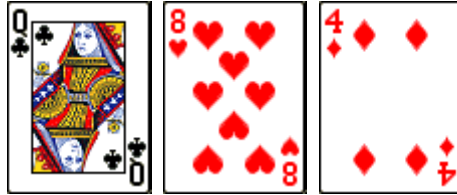
Ties are broken by rank of the paired cards and if still tied by rank of the unpaired card.



6. Nothing

Three cards of different rank and suit, not in sequence - i.e. not any of the above ranked hands.

Ties are broken by rank of the highest card, if still tied by the rank of the second highest card and if still tied by rank of the third highest card.



How to Play Three Card Poker

The game of Three Card Poker is played between a Dealer and a Player with a 52-card deck. Tri-Card Poker is two games consisting of the Ante/Play and Pair Plus. The object in the Ante and Play (raise) portion is to receive a higher 3-card poker hand than the Dealer. The object of the Pair Plus game is simply to bet on whether you will receive a 3-card poker hand with any pair or better. The Player may bet on either or both games for any amount within the posted table limit. The bets do not have to be equal amounts.

Three Card Poker Rules:

- Cards are dealt from a single deck.
- Both Dealer and Player receive three cards. The Dealer's cards are dealt face down.
- Pair Plus winnings are paid based on the pay table located below.
- Cards are reshuffled after each hand.
- Please note: Any three-card straight outranks any three-card flush.

Card Values

Cards are ranked from 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, Jack, Queen, King, Ace, with 2 being lowest and ace being highest.

The Ante Bet

After placing an Ante bet the Player is dealt 3 cards face up and the Dealer receives 3 cards face down. If the Player does not believe the hand can beat the Dealer, the Player can fold the hand and the bet is lost.

If the Player believes his or her hand can beat the Dealer's hand, the Player must Raise with a bet equal to the Ante amount. After Raising, the Dealer will reveal his or her cards. If the Dealer has a Queen or higher he will then compare his hand to the Player, the winner being the highest ranked poker hand. If the Dealer has the higher hand the player loses both the Ante and Play (Raise) bets. If the Dealer does not have at least a

Queen, the Dealer does not compare hands. The Player is paid 1/1 on the Ante bet and the Raise is returned as a push. If the Player has a straight or better, the Player is paid an Ante bonus according to the chart on the left of the table.

The Pair Plus

The Pair Plus is won if the Player's hand is dealt a pair or higher. The Pair Plus bet is a separate bet that is not measured against the Dealer's hand, it is paid out based on the rank of the hand dealt (see chart below). If the Player bets on the Ante and folds the hand, the Pair Plus bet is also forfeited.

The Player can win:

- **Ante** - If the Player's 3-card poker hand outranks the Dealer's hand, or if the Player Raises and the Dealer does not qualify with at least a Queen.
- **Raise** - If the Player's 3-card poker hand outranks the Dealer's hand and the Dealer qualifies by having at least a Queen as a high card.
- *Pair Plus* - If the Player is dealt a pair or higher.

The Player loses:

- **Ante** - If the Player folds or the Dealer has a higher ranked 3-card poker hand.
- **Raise** - If the Dealer has a higher ranked 3-card poker hand.
- *Pair Plus* - If the Player does not receive a minimum of a pair, when dealt three cards.

Player Actions/Button Descriptions for Online Games

Bet - To place an Ante bet, the Player must click on the Ante circle and then the chip value that he or she wishes to bet. To place a Pair Plus bet, click on the Pair+ diamond and then the chip value.

Deal - Press Deal to begin the game once a bet has been placed. The Player gets three cards face up and the Dealer gets three cards face down.

Raise - If the Player feels that he or she can beat the Dealer, he or she clicks Raise to continue. The Raise amount will be equal to the Ante. The Dealer's cards are then revealed and compared to the Player's hand to determine a winner.

Fold - Clicking on the Fold button ends the current game and forfeits the Ante and Pair Plus bets.

Play In a Land-Based Casino

There are two play options: the Ante wager, which pits a player's hand vs. the dealer's hand, and Pair Plus, which involves simply making the best hand you can.

To play the first option, the player places a wager, and the dealer deals three cards, face down, to each player, followed by three cards, also face down, to himself. Based on his own three-card hand, a player can fold and forfeit, or he can make a bet equal to the original ante. Once all players have made their decisions, the dealer reveals his three cards. The dealer must have at least a queen high to stay in play. If he does not, the players' antes are paid even money, and their additional wagers are returned to them.

If the dealer's hand does qualify, and his hand beats a player's hand, the player loses the ante and the additional wager. If the dealer's hand is beaten by a player's hand, the player wins even money on both the ante and the additional wager.

To play Pair Plus, place a wager on the Pair Plus spot on the table. The dealer deals three cards to the player. If the player's hand contains a pair or better, he wins. The Pair Plus payouts: one pair, 1 to 1; a flush, 4 to 1; a straight, 6 to 1; three of a Kind, 30 to 1; a straight flush, 40 to 1.

To play both Ante/Play and Pair Plus, you must make a play wager when you make the ante. The Ante and Pair Plus wagers can be different amounts, but if you fold on the Ante bet, you also lose the Pair Plus wager.

Payouts

Pair Plus Pay Table and Hand Ranks	
Rank	Payout Table 2
Straight Flush	40:1
Three of a Kind	30:1
Straight	6:1
Flush	4:1
One Pair	1:1

Ante Bonus Pay Table and Hand Ranks	
Rank	Payout Table 2
Straight Flush	5:1
Three of a Kind	4:1
Straight	1:1

Pair Plus

Pairplus is a simple bet on the cards with a payout for all hands of a pair or better. Below are probabilities and six examples of actual payout tables used by some casinos.

Hand	Combinations	Percentage
Ways to draw 3 cards out of 52 = 22100		
Straight Flush	48	0.22%
Three of a Kind	52	0.24%
Straight	720	3.26%
Flush	1144	5.18%
Pair	3744	16.94%
High Card	9720	43.98%
None	6720	30.41%

Payoff Tables for Pair Plus						
Hand	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
Straight Flush	40 to 1	40 to 1	35 to 1	50 to 1	40 to 1	40 to 1
Three of a Kind	30 to 1	25 to 1	25 to 1	30 to 1	30 to 1	30 to 1
Straight	6 to 1	6 to 1	6 to 1	6 to 1	5 to 1	6 to 1
Flush	4 to 1	4 to 1	4 to 1	3 to 1	4 to 1	3 to 1
Pair	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1
House Advantage	2.32%	3.49%	4.58%	5.10%	5.57%	7.28%

Ante and Play

Normal Ante and Play Game Play

For ante and play, the player places an ante bet before receiving his cards. The player is then dealt his cards and after seeing them, the player can fold his cards and lose the ante bet, or raise by placing out a bet of equal money to the ante bet. If he chooses to play, there are three possibilities. The first is that the dealer does not 'qualify'. To qualify, the dealer must have a hand of a queen high or better. If the dealer does not qualify, the ante bet is paid out even money, but the play bet is simply returned. If the dealer does qualify, the player wins if his hand is of higher value than the dealer's, and gets paid out even money on both his ante and play bets. If the dealer's hand is of higher value, the dealer takes the Ante and Play bets. Rules vary on what happens when the hands are of exactly equal value: some say that the player simply gets his money back, but others say that the player is paid even money on his bet.

If the player decides to make the Play bet, the dealer's hand is revealed and a showdown occurs. If the dealer has a Queen high or better the hand is said to qualify. The result of the hand is determined as follows with the rank of hands compared if the dealer qualifies:

Result	Ante bet Pays	Play Bet Pays
Dealer does not qualify	Win Even Money	Push
Dealer qualifies, player's hand wins	Win Even Money	Win Even Money
Dealer qualifies, player's hand ties	Push	Push
Dealer qualifies, player's hand loses	Lose	Lose

The Ante Bonus

In addition to normal ante/play gameplay, there is a bonus payout on the ante bet for especially good hands.

Ante Bonus Payouts				
Hand	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4
Straight flush	5 to 1	5 to 1	4 to 1	3 to 1
Three of a kind	4 to 1	3 to 1	3 to 1	2 to 1
Straight	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1
House Edge	3.37%	3.61%	3.83%	4.28%

These bonus payouts are paid only on the ante bet for any player who chooses to play, regardless of whether the dealer qualifies or whether the player wins or loses

Ante and Play (Raise) Play

You will start every round of play making an Ante Bet. You will receive three cards face up. The dealer will have three cards dealt face down. Now you have to make a decision based on the poker values of your three cards.

You can either

- Fold or
- Make the Play (Raise) bet

The correct strategy for determining whether to play (raise) or fold is simply –

You will raise your bet if your hand is **Q-6-4** or better.

Below are some sample hands with the correct play or fold decisions:

Hand 1. Player makes Ante bet. Player's Hand 10-9-2. Player folds and loses Ante bet.

Hand 2. Player makes Ante bet. Player's Hand J-9-1. Player folds and loses Ante bet.

Hand 3. Player makes Ante bet. Player's Hand K-10-8. Player makes Raise Bet. Dealer does not qualify. Player wins Ante bet only since dealer did not qualify.

Hand 4. Player makes Ante bet. Player's Hand 5-5-9. Player raises bet. Dealer qualifies with K-J-9. Player wins Ante and Play bets.

Hand 5. Player makes Ante bet. Player's Hand is A-K-8. Player makes Play bet. Dealer doesn't qualify. Player wins Ante bet only.

Hand 6. Player makes Ante bet. Player's Hand is Q-4-3. Since hand is less than Q-6-4, player folds. Player loses Ante bet.

Hand 7. Player makes Ante bet. Player's hand 9-6-4, all spades, flush. Player continues and makes Play bet. Dealer qualifies with 9-9-6, pair. Since Flush beats pair, Player wins ante and play bets.

Hand 8. Player makes Ante bet. Player's hand is 6-6-9, pair. Player continues and makes Play bet. Dealer qualifies with 2-2-A, pair. Since Player's pair is higher, player wins Ante and Play bets.

Hand 9. Player makes Ante bet. Player's hand is 7-6-5, straight. Player makes Play bet. Dealer does not qualify. Player wins Ante bet only since dealer didn't qualify. However, with straight Ante bet is paid bonus equal to bet.

Hand 10. Player makes Ante bet. Player's hand is K-4-2. Player makes Play bet. Dealer has K-5-3. Dealer wins both bets.

Hand 11. Player makes Ante bet. Player's hand is 5 4 2. Player folds and loses Ante bet.

Hand 12. Player makes Ante bet. Player's hand is 3-2-A, straight. Player makes Play bet. Dealer qualifies with A-K-4. Dealer wins Ante and Play bets. Ante bet is paid bonus equal to bet for hand of straight.

Summary of When to Play or Raise Ante Bet:

1. Player's hand must equal or exceed Q-6-4.
2. Play every hand containing a K or A.
3. Fold every hand less than Q-6-4.

Sample hands:

1. Q-7-3. Fold
2. K-4-2. Play
3. 7-5-4. Fold
4. A-9-7. Play
5. Q-6-3. Fold
6. 9-8-6. Fold

Pair Plus Play

Pair Plus bets are made independently of Ante and Play bets. Pair Plus bets will win or lose on their own, even if the Ante and Play bets lose. Pair bets are paid off in accordance with the schedule offered by the casino. Below is a full payoff schedule for Pair Plus wagers:

Pair Plus Pay Table and Hand Ranks	
Rank	Payouts
Straight Flush	40:1
Three of a Kind	30:1
Straight Flush	6:1
One Pair	4:1
	1:1

While the Player's hand must equal or exceed a hand of Q-6-4 before raising the bet, there is no similar qualification to make the Pair Plus bet. You will either make the bet or not make the bet.

Below are some sample hands with the correct play or fold decisions for both Ante/Play and Pair Plus hands.

Hand 1. Player makes Ante and Pair Plus bets. Player's Hand 10-9-2. Player folds and loses Ante bet. Pair Plus bet loses.

Hand 2. Player makes Ante and Pair Plus bets. Player's Hand J-9-1. Player folds and loses Ante bet. Pair Plus bet loses.

Hand 3. Player makes Ante and Pair Plus bets. Player's Hand K-10-8. Player makes Raise Bet. Dealer does not qualify. Player wins Ante bet only since dealer did not

qualify. Pair Plus bet loses.

Hand 4. Player makes Ante and Pair Plus bets. Player's Hand 5-5-9. Player raises bet. Dealer qualifies with K-J-9. Player wins Ante and Play bets. Pair Plus bet wins even money.

Hand 5. Player makes Ante and Pair Plus bets. Player's Hand is A-K-8. Player makes Play bet. Dealer doesn't qualify. Player wins Ante bet only. Pair Plus bet loses.

Hand 6. Player makes Ante and Pair Plus bets. Player's Hand is Q-4-3. Since hand is less than Q-6-4, player folds. Player loses Ante bet. Pair Plus bet loses.

Hand 7. Player makes Ante and Pair Plus bets. Player's hand 9-6-4, all spades, flush. Player continues and makes Play bet. Dealer qualifies with 9-9-6, pair. Since Flush beats pair, Player wins Ante and Play bets. Pair Plus is paid off 4:1 for a flush

Hand 8. Player makes Ante and Pair Plus bets. Player's hand is 6-6-9, pair. Player continues and makes Play bet. Dealer qualifies with 2-2-A, pair. Since Player's pair is higher, player wins Ante and Play bets. Pair Plus is paid 1:1 for a pair.

Hand 9. Player makes Ante and Pair Plus bets. Player's hand is 7-6-5, straight. Player makes Play bet. Dealer does not qualify. Player wins Ante bet only since dealer didn't qualify. However, with straight Ante bet is paid bonus equal to bet. Pair Plus is paid 6:1 for a straight.

Hand 10. Player makes Ante and Pair Plus bets. Player's hand is K-4-2. Player makes Play bet. Dealer has K-5-3. Dealer wins both bets. Pair Plus bet loses.

Hand 11. Player makes Ante and Pair Plus bets. Player's hand is 5-4-2. Player folds and loses Ante bet. Pair Plus bet loses.

Hand 12. Player makes Ante bet. Player's hand is 3-2-A, straight. Player makes Play bet. Dealer qualifies with A-K-4. Dealer wins Ante and Play bets. Ante bet is paid bonus equal to bet for hand of straight. Pair Plus bet is paid 6:1 for a straight.

The Ante and Play Power Poker Strategy

When to Play (Raise) a Hand

Rule 1. When you are playing Three Card Poker, you will make an Ante bet on every hand. Whether you make the Play or Raise bet depends on whether your hand is Q-6-4 or better. If your hand equals or exceeds this bet you will make the Play or Raise bet. If the hand is lower valued than a Q-6-4, you will fold.

Anytime you elect to Play or Raise a bet, the amount of the raise will equal the size of your Ante Bet.

In other words, if you Ante \$5 and raise, your raise will also be for \$5.

Ante \$10 and raise, you will raise for \$10.

Therefore, the size of the Ante bet will determine the size of both the Ante and Play bets.

Power Poker Betting System

We use a betting system for Ante and Play (Raise) bets. You will play the Ante and Play (Raise) bets seeking to complete a winning run. With the completion of any winning run, you will have won an amount equal to or greater than your Base Bet.

If your Base Bet is 1, then the completion of a winning run will give you a win of at least 1.

With a Base Bet of 2, then the completion of a winning run will give you a win of at least 2.

Rule 2. You will use a registry to record your bets. Start a run by writing down the amount of your Base Bet. Write down the amount of each losing bet to the right of the original Base Bet written down.

Let's look at an example of some plays using 1 as our Base Bet.

We make a bet of 1. We write down the amount of the bet as 1. We now have a series shown as:

1

Assume we win this bet. We will now cancel this bet and have a series of

1

This completes a winning series resulting in the win of a coup. Of course, 1 could represent \$5, \$10, \$25 or even just 25¢, depending on the size of our Base Bet.

Let's take another example. Start with a Base Bet. Write down the amount as:

1

Now, instead of winning the wager, we lose it. We write down the amount of the losing bet next to it and now have –

1 1

We make another wager of 1 and lose. We write down the amount of this losing wager and have –

1 1 1

We bet again and again we lose. We write down the losing bet and now have –

1 1 1 1

Let's say we lose 5 times in a row before we win. Our registry would look like this when we made the fifth bet –

4 1 1 1 1

Our final bet is the total of the bets lost before the win, calculated as $1+1+1+1=4$. If we win this bet, we will complete this series of bets with a win of 1 unit. If this isn't apparent, let's break it down this way.

<u>Round</u>	<u>Bet</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Cumulative Win or Loss</u>
1	1	L	-1
2	1	L	-2
3	1	L	-3
4	1	L	-4
5	1	W	-3
6	4	W	+1

Rule 3. Always start a series by writing down the amount of the Base Bet to start the series. Add the amounts of losing bets to the right-hand side of this bet. Cancel any winning bets by canceling bets on the left-hand side of the registry.

So far we have ignored the effects of making Play bets. We will handle the amounts bet on hands where we elect to make the Play bet by adding the Play bet amount to our registry of bets.

Here is a summary of a series of Ante and Play bets resulting in a winning coup.

Key

W = bet won

F = fold

N = dealer did not qualify

L = bet lost

Round	Ante		Play		Registry
	Amount	Outcome	Amount	Outcome	
1	1	L		F	1 1
2	1	L	1	L	1 1 1 1
3	1	L	1	N	1 1 1 1 1
4	1	L	1	L	1 1 1 1 1 1 1
5	1	W	1	W	1 1 1 1 1 1 1
6	5	W	5	W	1 1 1 1 1

Let's review these rounds of play.

1. We write down 1 to begin the series. We bet Ante 1 and lose. We write down the amount lost and we have 1 1.
2. We bet Ante 1 and Play 1 and lose both bets. We write down the amount lost for each bet. Registry is now 1 1 1 1.
3. We bet Ante 1 and Play 1. Dealer does not qualify so that Play bet does not come into play. We lose the Ante bet of 1 and record it. Registry is now 1 1 1 1 1.
4. We bet Ante 1 and Play 1 and lose both bets. We add both losing bets to the registry and have 1 1 1 1 1 1 1.

5. We bet Ante 1 and Play 1 and win both bets. We strike out amounts of winning bets on the left-hand side of bets and have: 1 1 1 1 1 1

6. Following a winning bet, we bet the sum of the losing bets on the next round. The sum of losing bets is 5, so we bet Ante 5 and Play 5 and win both bets. This completes this series by canceling out all losses, plus a bonus win for the winning Play bet.

Here is a summary of this series of bets:

Round	Ante Win or Loss	Play Win or Loss	Cumulative Won or Lost
1	-1		-1
2	-1	-1	-3
3	-1		-4
4	-1	-1	-6
5	+1	+1	-4
6	+5	+5	+6

In this series of bets we won an amount greater than our Base Bet of 1 because we won both the Ante and Play bets on round 6. With the Play bet win of 5, our winnings for this run exceeded our Base Bet of 1 by the amount of the winning Play bet of 5, giving us a win of 6 rather than 1. The effects of winning the Play bet or winning bonus bets on the Ante will often result in our winnings for completion of a run (or coup) being greater than the amount of the Base Bet.

Let's continue this example and see what would have happened if we had lost our bets in round 6 instead of winning.

Round	Ante		Play		Registry
	Amount	Outcome	Amount	Outcome	
1	1	L		F	1 1
2	1	L	1	L	1 1 1 1
3	1	L	1	N	1 1 1 1 1
4	1	L	1	L	1 1 1 1 1 1 1
5	1	W	1	W	1 1 1 1 1 1 1
6	5	L	5	L	1 1 1 1 1 5 5

Whenever we have a losing bet, we record the amount lost on the right side of the registry. Before starting Round 5, we had 1 1 1 1 1. With the loss of the Ante 5 and Play 5 bets in round 5 we have 1 1 1 1 1 5 5.

This brings us up to another rule -

Rule 4. After a win, you will bet on the sum of the consecutive losing bets prior to the win. If you have seven consecutive losses, then you will bet on the sum of the first eight consecutive numbers (seven losses plus the first amount representing the start of the series). If you lose a wager after you have had a winning bet, you will continue to make a bet equal to the total computed before your first win.

In the present example, we raised our bet to 5 following our win on Round 5. On Round 6, we lost Ante 5 and Play 5 and added these losses to our registry and had 1 1 1 1 1 5 5.

Our next bet will also be for 5. We will continue to bet 5 until we have another win or until we hit our limit for increased bets.

Rule 5. You will limit losses on increased bets following a win to three or four losing bets. If you lose this number of bets, you will go back to making Base Bets until you have another win.

Let's continue our series of bets with rounds 7 and 8..

Round	Ante		Play		Registry
	Amount	Outcome	Amount	Outcome	
6	5	L	5	L	1 1 1 1 5 5
7	5	L	5	N	1 1 1 1 5 5 5
8	1	L	1	L	1 1 1 1 5 5 5 1 1

7. Ante – 5 is lost. Our Play Bet is out of play because dealer did not qualify. We add our losing bet of 5 to right of registry and have 1 1 1 1 5 5 5

8. With Round 7 we have hit our limit of three losing increased bets. If we had lost the Play bet we would have four losing increased bets. Since we hit the limit of acceptance losses on increased bets we revert to making the Base Bets on round 8 and wager Ante 1 and Play 1. Our loss limit of increased bets is equal to 3 to 4 losing bets. If we already have three losing bets when we begin a round of play, we will revert to making Base Bets. If we have two lost bets when we begin a round of play, we will hit our limit of 3 lost increased bets if we lose just the Ante bet for the round and 4 lost increased bets if we lose both the Ante and Play bets.

Rule 6. After reverting to making Base Bets following the loss of three or four increased bets, you will continue to make Base Bets until you have another win. At this time, you will resume making increased bets and may include other losing bets recorded in the registry to determine the size of the new increased bets.

We continue our example –

Round	Ante		Play		Registry
	Amount	Outcome	Amount	Outcome	
6	5	L	5	L	1 1 1 1 1 5 5
7	5	L	5	N	1 1 1 1 1 5 5 5
8	1	L	1	L	1 1 1 1 1 5 5 5 1 1
9	1	L		F	1 1 1 1 1 5 5 5 1 1 1
10	1	W	1	W	1 1 1 1 1 5 5 5 1 1 1
11	3	W			1 1 1 5 5 5 1 1 1
12	10	W			5 5 5 1 1 1
13	8	W	8	W	5 1 1 1

9. We lose Ante 1 and record loss at right-hand end of registry. Registry shows - 1 1 1 1 1 5 5 5 1 1 1.

10. We wager Ante 1 and Play and win both bets. We cancel two the left-hand losses in registry and have ~~1 1~~ 1 1 1 5 5 5 1 1 1

11. Following this win we have several choices on the size of the next wager. Here are our options from this series of losing bets – 1 1 1 5 5 5 1 1 1

a. Bet the uncanceled losses from the original uncanceled losing bets.

$$1+1+1 = 3$$

b. Bet all of the remaining uncanceled losses $1+1+1+5+5+5+1+1+1= 16$

c. Divide the uncanceled losses into different groups. We decide to try a 3 bet first and see what happens.

The amount we decide to wager in this situation is really a money management question. In general, we will try to include as many uncanceled losing bets in the new increase bet. However, we need to keep in mind that we want to keep our bets as low as possible, and to meet this goal we can elect to divide the remaining uncanceled bets into smaller

amounts.

We decide to start with option “a” above – wagering the sum of the uncanceled bets in our original group of losing bets. We wager Ante 3 and win. Canceling the amount representing the winning bet, we now have 1-4-4 5 5 5 1 1 1

12. Following this win, we need to decide the amount of our next increased wager. We decide to wager 10 representing the left-hand two uncanceled losing bets of 5 5. We wager Ante 10 and win. We now have 5-5 5 1 1 1

13. We wager the sum of the remaining uncanceled losing bets totaling 8. We win both the Ante and Play bets. This completes this run of bets and gives us a winning coup.

Summary of Power Poker Strategy for Ante and Play Betting

Rule 1. When you are playing Three Card Poker, you will make an Ante bet on every hand. Whether you make the Play or Raise bet depends on whether your hand is Q-6-4 or better. If your hand equals or exceeds this bet, you will make the Play or Raise bet. If the hand is lower valued than a Q-6-4, you will fold.

Rule 2. You will use a registry to record your bets. Start by writing down the amount of your Base Bet. Write down the amount of each losing bet to the right of the original Base Bet written down.

Rule 3. When you have a win, you cancel the amount of the win always striking over the bet on the far left. However, on the next round of play following a win, you will wager the sum of your losing bets prior to having a win. If the registry looks like 1 1 1 1 after canceling out the amount won, your next wager will be for $1+1+1+1=4$. If you win this wager, you will cancel all of the losses covered by this win and have ~~1 1 1 1~~.

Rule 4. After a win, you will bet on the sum of the consecutive losing bets prior to the win. If you have seven consecutive losses, then you will bet on the sum of the first eight consecutive numbers (seven losses plus the first amount representing the start of the series).

Rule 5. You will limit losses on increased bets, following a win, to three or four losing bets. If you lose this number of bets, you will go back to making Base Bets until you have another win.

Rule 6. After reverting to making Base Bets, following the loss of three or four increased bets, you will continue to make Base Bets until you have another win. At this time, you will resume making increased bets and may include other losing bets, recorded in the registry to determine the size of the new increased bets.

Examples of Making Ante and Play Bets Using the *Power Poker Strategy*

We will take a look at several examples showing series of Ante and Play bets. You will see how we used the bet registry to help us determine the size of each bet. In these examples, I will only show the bets for Ante and Play. In the actual games we were also making Pair Plus bets.

Key:

No – Number of round of play

Ante Bets: Amt = Amount Bet; W/L = Amount won or lost

Play (Raise Bets: Amt = Amount Bet; W/L = Amount won or lost; F= Fold, N=Dealer did not qualify.

Bet Registry – Bets recorded in bet units.

Amt W/L – Amount won or lost for round of play

Cum Won – Cumulative won for series of bets.

Comments – Description of play with comments on Registry entries

Example 1

No	Ante Bets		Play (Raise) Bets		Bet Registry	Amt W/L	Cum Won	Comments
	Amt	W/L	Amt	W/L				
1	1	+1	F		1	+1	+1	Start by recording Base Bet of 1. Cancel winning bet. Coup won.
2	1	-1	1	-1	111	-2	-1	Record Base Bet and two losses.
3	1	-1	F		1111	-1	-2	Add additional losing bet.
4	1	-1	F		11111	-1	-3	Add additional losing bet.
5	1	+1	1	+1	1 111	+2	-1	Cancel two winning units.
6	3	-3	F		1113	-3	-4	After win bet sum of uncanceled losses of 1+1+1=3. Write down amount lost.
7	3	+3	3	+3	111 3	+6	+2	Bet 3 on Ante and Play. Both bets win. Cancel wins. Coup won.
8	1	+1	N		1	+1	+3	Start by recording Base Bet of 1. Cancel winning bet. Coup won.
9	1	-1	N		11	-1	+2	Start new coup attempt by writing down Base Bet of 1. Write down loss of 1.
10	1	1	-1	-1	1111	-2	-0-	Write down 2 losing bets.
11	1	-1	-1	-1	111111	-2	-2	Write down 2 losing bets.
12	1	-1	F		1111111	-1	-3	Write down losing bets.
13	1	-1	1	-1	11111111	-2	-5	Write down 2 losing bets
14	1	-1	1	-1	1111111111	-2	-7	Write down 2 losing bets
15	1	-1	1	-1	111111111111	-2	-9	Write down 2 losing bets
16	1	+1	F		1 111111111111	+1	-8	Cancel winning bet of 1.
17	12	-12	F		111111111111 12	-12	-20	Following a win bet total of uncanceled losses of 12. Write down loss of 12.
18	12	+24	12	+12	111111111111 12	+36	+16	Bet 12 on Ante and Play. Won Straight which pays bonus on Ante. Coup won.

Example 2

No	Ante Bets		Play (Raise) Bets		Bet Registry	Amt W/L	Cum Won	Comments
	Amt	W/L	Amt	W/L				
1	1	-1	F		11	-1	-1	Start by recording Base Bet of 1. Record losing bet of 1.
2	1	+1	N		1 1	+1	-0-	Cancel winning bet of 1.
3	1	-1	F		11	-1	-1	Record losing bet of 1.
4	1	-1	F		111	-1	-2	Record losing bet of 1 on right end of registry.
5	1	-1	F		1111	-1	-3	Record losing bet of 1 on right end of registry
6	1	-1	F		11111	-1	-4	Add losing bet to right end of registry.
7	1	-1	N		111111	-1	-5	Record losing bet of 1.
8	1	+1	N		1 11111	+1	-4	Cancel winning bet of 1 on left side of registry
9	5	-5	5	-5	1111155	-10	-14	After win, add up uncancelled bets which total 5. Record two losing bets of 5 5 on right of registry.
10	5	-5	F		11111555	-5	-19	Record losing bet of 5 on right end of registry. With loss of three Increased Bets , resume betting 1 until another win.
11	1	-1	1	-1	1111155511	-2	-21	Record two losing bets of 1 and 1 on right side of registry.
12	1	+1	1	+1	1 11155511	+2	-19	Cancel two winning bets on left side of registry.
13	3	+3	3	+3	1 155511	+6	-13	Bet sum of original uncancelled bets of 1+1+1=3. Cancel two winning bets of 3 and 3. Note this results in the cancellation of 111 and reduction of 5 to 2.
14	14	+14	N		25511	+1	+1	Bet sum of all uncancelled bets. Coup won.

Suggestions on How to Learn Ante and Play Power Poker Strategy

Here are the specific steps I recommend to learn the Ante and Play *Power Poker Strategy*:

1. Learn how Three Card Poker is played. Start your practice just making one-unit bets without recording anything. Your objective is to gain a feel for the game.
2. After playing for a while making one-unit practice bets, start using one of our Three Card Poker Tracking Forms to record your bets. You should continue making one-unit bets, without worrying about keeping a registry of bets.
3. Review the examples again on how to use the Registry. After you feel that you understand it, play some practice games writing down the Registry bets as you go.
- 4 Once you have mastered how to use the Power Poker Strategy for making Ante and Play bets, you can go on to the next section which adds the Pair Plus strategy to the Ante and Play strategy.

The easiest way to learn to play this game and apply our strategy is to practice playing it. [Bodog](#) online casino allows for free practice. I suggest that you practice playing their version of Three Card Poker, which is called Tri-Card Poker. It has excellent payoffs and will give you a realistic appreciation of the game without risking any money.

The Pair Plus *Power Poker Strategy*

The Pair Plus Betting Strategy is a different strategy from the one used for Ante and Play bets. In fact, the Pair Plus is played as a different game than the Ante/Play game. Both games are played at the same time; however, each side wins or loses on its own terms.

With Ante/Play bets, you are playing against the dealer. The outcomes of your plays depend on the value of the dealer's hand, except that bonuses are paid on Ante bets if your hand is a straight or higher, even if the dealer beats you. Of course, if you fold your hand you will not be paid a bonus. But, on any hand of a straight or higher you will never fold.

With Pair Plus you are in your own little world operating separately from dealer hands. You will be paid on hands of pairs or higher. You will lose on any hand with less than a pair.

When you are making Pair Plus bets you will lose most of your wagers. It is fairly common to lose 10 or more consecutive wagers with Pair Plus betting. To eliminate the possibility of immediately starting any game with a long losing streak of wagers, we require at least one hand which would give a Pair Plus a win before we start Pair Plus betting. We call this a **Qualifying Hand**.

Rule 1. Start every game making Ante bets only, following the rules for the Ante/Play *Power Poker Strategy*. Only start making Pair Plus bets following a **Qualifying Hand** of Pair or higher.

You will start making Pair Plus bets in a game only after a Qualifying Hand, that is, one valued at a pair or higher. This applies whether or not your Ante and Play bets win or lose on the round.

Let's assume you are dealt a hand of 5-5-9, a pair. The dealer beats you with 9-8-7, a straight. This is a qualifying hand to begin Pair Plus betting even though the dealer beat your Ante/Play bets.

With Pair Plus betting we will always use a mild progression where we will increase our wagers following a losing wager.

Rule 2. The Pair Plus *Power Poker Strategy* uses a betting progression as follows:

	Bet in Units
1	1
2	1
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	10
8	20
9	30

The rule for this progression is to move up one level after any loss and to fall back to level 1 after any Pair Plus win.

Let's take a look at some examples of a betting series using our Pair Plus betting strategy

Pay Schedule:

Pair	1 to 1
Flush	4 to 1
Straight	6 to 1
Three of a Kind	30 to 1
Straight Flush	40 to 1

Pair Plus Power Poker Strategy – Example 1

No	Hand	Pair Plus Bets		Net Won	Cum Won
		Bet No.	Bet Amount		
1	Q-5-3	-		-	-
2	9-7-6	-		-	-
3	K-Q-3	-		-	-
4	J-10-6	-		-	-
5	A-J-6	-		-	-
6	7-5-2 (Flush)	-		-	-
7	T-8-6	1	1	-1	-1
8	A-T-4	2	1	-1	-2
9	J-T-9 (Straight)	3	3	+18	+16
10	4-4-A (Pair)	1	1	+1	+17
11	Q-7-4	1	1	-1	+16
12	9-6-5	2	1	-1	+15
13	K-7-4	3	3	-3	+12
14	8-6-5	4	4	-4	+8
15	A-7-4	5	5	-5	+3
16	Q-9-3	6	6	-6	-3
17	J-9-6	7	10	-10	-13
18	K-8-4(Flush)	8	20	+80	+67

Let's review this series of plays.

Rounds 1 to 6. We don't make any wagers until we have a Qualifying Hand. With the appearance of a Flush on round 6, we have a qualifying hand and we will start Pair Plus betting on the next round of play.

Round 7. We make our first bet in the Pair Plus progression, labeled Bet 1 in the table above. We wager 1 unit and lose the wager.

Round 8. Following a loss, we move to Bet 2 in the progression and again bet 1 unit. The wager loses.

Round 9. Following the loss on the last round, we move up the progression to Bet 3 and wager 3 units. We are dealt a Straight. Our wager of 3 is paid off at 6 to 1 and we win +18. Our cumulative winnings are now +16.

Round 10. Following the win we start the progression over with Bet 1 and wager 1. We are dealt a pair and win +1.

Round 11. Following a winning wager we revert to Bet 1 and wager 1. Our bet loses.

Rounds 12 to 17. This is a string of losing bets, which is common with Pair Plus betting. Following each loss we move up one bet in the progression for each successive bet.

Round 18. Having lost Bets 1 to 7, we are at Bet 8 and we wager 20. We are dealt a Flush and paid 4 to 1, or 80 for our 20 bet. We finish this series of bets with a Cumulative Win of +67.

Pair Plus Power Poker Strategy – Example 2

No	Hand	Pair Plus Bets		Net Won	Cum Won
		Bet No.	Bet Amount		
1	K-7-3	-	-		
2	8-6-5	-	-		
3	A-J-9	-	-		
4	Q-8-4	-	-		
5	9-9-5 (Pair)	-	-		
6	9-6-4	1	1	-1	-1
7	A-7-3	2	1	-1	-2
8	J-6-2	3	3	-3	-5
9	7-5-4	4	4	-4	-9
10	A-K-8	5	5	-5	-14
11	9-6-5 (Flush)	6	6	+24	+10
12	T-8-4	1	1	-1	+9
13	J-J-9 (Pair)	2	1	+1	+10
14	K-6-4	1	1	-1	+9
15	J-9-5	2	1	-1	+8
16	6-6-4 (Pair)	3	3	+3	+11
17	A-7-4	1	1	-1	+9
18	8-5-3	2	1	-1	+8
19	9-7-5	3	3	-3	+5
20	7-5-4	4	4	-4	+1
21	K-J-8	5	5	-5	-4
22	4-4-2 (Pair)	6	6	+6	+2
23	7-6-4 (St Flush)	1	1	+40	+42

Here's the explanation for Example 2.

Rounds 1 to 5. We don't start betting until we have a Qualifying Hand. On Round 5 we are dealt a pair. We will start Pair Plus betting on Round 6.

Round 6. We start with Bet 1 or 1 unit and lose.

Rounds 7 to 10. We have a string of losing bets. We lose Round 10, ready to move up to Bet 6 for Round 11.

Round 11. We wager Bet 6 for 6 units and win a Flush, which pays 4 to 1 for a win of +24. After this win, our cumulative winnings are +10.

Round 12. Following a win, we start the progression over with Bet 1, wagering 1 unit. Our bet loses.

Round 13. Following the loss, we wager Bet 2 for 1 unit and win with a Pair, which pays off 1 to 1.

Round 14 to 16. We start a new series of bets, losing Bets 1 and 2 and winning Bet 3 on Round 16 with a Pair. Our cumulative win stands at +11.

Rounds 17 to 22. Following the win on Round 16, we start a new series of bets. We lose on Rounds 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21. We win Round 22 with a Pair paying 1 to 1 on our 6-unit bet. Our cumulative win is +2

Round 23. We start a new series of bet with Bet 1 for 1-unit. We are dealt a Straight Flush which pays 40 to 1. We end this series of Pair Plus play up +42.

Pair Plus Power Poker Strategy – Example 3

No	Hand	Pair Plus Bets		Net Won	Cum Won
		Bet No.	Bet Amount		
1		-	-		
2		-	-		
3		-	-		
4		-	-		
5		-	-		
6	7-7-5 (Pair)	-	-		
7		1	1	-1	-1
8		2	1	-1	-2
9		3	3	-3	-5
10		4	4	-4	-9
11		5	5	-5	-14
12		6	6	-6	-20
13	9-9-6 (Pair)	7	10	+10	-10
14		1	1	-1	-11
15		2	1	-1	-12
16		3	3	-3	-15
17	J-9-6 (Flush)	4	4	+16	-1
18		1	1	-1	-2
19		2	1	-1	-3
20		3	3	-3	-6
21		4	4	-4	-10
22		5	5	-5	-15
23	K-8-4 (Flush)	6	6	+24	+9

Here is a review of Example 3:

Rounds 1 to 6. No bets were made waiting for a Qualifying Hand. With a Pair dealt on Round 6 we prepare to start making Pair Plus bets on Round 7.

Rounds 7 to 13. We lose our bets on Rounds 7 through 12. On Round 13 we are dealt a pair and a win.

Rounds 14 to 17. Following the win on Round 13, we start the progression over. We have losses on Rounds 14, 15 and 16 and a win on Round 17.

Rounds 18 to 23. After a win on Round 17, we start the progression over again with Bet

1. We lose our wagers on Rounds 18 to 22. On Round 23 we are dealt a Flush, paying us 4 to 1 for the win. We finish this series of Pair Plus bets with a cumulative win of +9.

Summary of Power Poker Strategy for Pair Plus Betting

Rule 1. Start every game making Ante bets only, following the rules for the Ante/Play **Power Poker Strategy**. Only start making Pair Plus bets following a **Qualifying Hand** of Pair or higher.

Rule 2. The Pair Plus **Power Poker Strategy** uses a betting progression as follows:

Bet Number	Bet in Units
1	1
2	1
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	10
8	20
9	30

The rule for this progression is to move up one level after any loss and to fall back to level 1 after any Pair Plus win.

Using the Complete *Power Poker Strategy*

Before you study this chapter, you need to know how to use the Power Poker Strategies for both the Ante/Play and Pair Plus play.

The best way to learn these strategies is to play some practice games after you understand the individual strategies.

In this chapter we are going to play using both strategies simultaneously. For your convenience I am repeating the Power Poker Strategy Rules here:

Power Poker Strategy Rules for Ante and Play Betting

Rule 1. When you are playing Three Card Poker, you will make an Ante bet on every hand. Whether you make the Play or Raise bet depends on whether your hand is Q-6-4 or better. If your hand equals or exceeds this bet, you will make the Play or Raise bet. If the hand is lower valued than a Q-6-4, you will fold.

Rule 2. You will use a registry to record your bets. Start by writing down the amount of your Base Bet. Write down the amount of each losing bet to the right of the original Base Bet written down.

Rule 3. When you have a win, you cancel the amount of the win always striking over the bet on the far left. However, on the next round of play following a win, you will wager the sum of your losing bets prior to having a win. If the registry looks like 1 1 1 1 after canceling out the amount won, your next wager will be for $1+1+1+1=4$. If you win this wager, you will cancel all of the losses covered by this win and have ~~1 1 1 1~~.

Rule 4. After a win, you will bet on the sum of the consecutive losing bets prior to the win. If you have seven consecutive losses, then you will bet on the sum of the first eight

consecutive numbers (seven losses plus the first amount representing the start of the series).

Rule 5. You will limit losses on increased bets following a win to three to four losing bets. If you lose this number of bets, you will go back to making Base Bets until you have another win.

Rule 6. After reverting to making Base Bets, following the loss of three or four increased bets, you will continue to make Base Bets until we have another win. At this time, you will resume making increased bets and may include other losing bets, recorded in the registry to determine the size of the new increased bets.

Power Poker Strategy Rule for Pair Plus Betting

Rule 1. Start every game making Ante bets only, following the rules for the Ante/Play **Power Poker Strategy**. Only start making Pair Plus bets following a **Qualifying Hand** of Pair or higher.

Rule 2. The Pair Plus **Power Poker Strategy** uses a betting progression as follows:

Bet Number	Bet in Units
1	1
2	1
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	10
8	20
9	30

The rule for this progression is to move up one level after any loss and to fall back to level 1 after any Pair Plus win.

Money Management With the *Power Poker Strategy*

To play both the Ante/Play and Pair Plus strategies simultaneously, we need to add some money management rules to help us win consistently and to limit losses on losing games.

Money Management Rule 1. You will play until you reach the level of your *Power Number*. The *Power Number* is equal to 20 times your Base Bet. If \$1 is your Base Bet, then your *Power Number* will be for \$20. If \$5 is your Base Bet, then your *Power Number* will be \$100.

Anytime you reach your *Power Number*, you will continue to play but will stop playing if either of the following occurs:

- a. Because of a loss your winnings drop below the level of your *Power Number*, or
- b. The loss of the next bet you would be called to make following the system would reduce your win below the amount of your *Power Number*.

Let's take a look at some examples of how you use your *Power Number* to quit a winner. Let's assume that \$1 is the size of your Base Bet.

Example 1. Your winnings hit \$22. You bet \$1 Ante and \$1 Play and \$1 Pair Plus and lose. Your net win is now \$19. You quit playing this game and walk away \$19 ahead.

Example 2. Your net winnings reach \$22. You will be called on to make an Ante bet of 3 and a Pair Plus bet of 3. These bets total \$6 and could be as much as 9 if you make the Play bet too. You do not make the bets, but instead you call the game completed.

Money Management Rule 2. After hitting your *Power Number* amount, you will continue to play so long as you don't violate Rule 1. Each time your winnings grow by 50% of your original *Power Number*, you will consider this a new and higher *Power Number* and use the same rules to prevent losing your winnings.

Example 1. Your Base Bet is \$1. You hit your *Power Number* of \$20. In three more rounds your winnings hit \$33. Fifty percent of your original Power Number is \$10 ($0.50 \times \$20 = \10). Each time your winnings increase by an increment of \$10, you will set a new Power Number level. Using \$1 Base Bets, these levels would be:

Original Power Number	\$20
Level 2 Power Number	\$30
Level 3 Power Number	\$40
Level 4 Power Number	\$50
Level 5 Power Number	\$60

Your Level 2 Power Number is \$30. If your winnings fall below \$30 or if the loss of the next wager in the system would cause your winnings to drop below \$30, you will wrap up the game and walk away with your winnings.

I want to clarify a point here. When you call a game over, you need to physically leave the table if you are in a casino or leave the computer if you are playing online.

For land-based play you should cash out, record your winnings and then take a walk, grab a cup of coffee or take a nap. Do not immediately start playing again.

For online play, you should exit the online casino and engage in a different activity. If you want to check your favorite online news source by all means do so, only don't start another game immediately.

The exception to both of the rules above will occur when you have very short games, have had a winning game, and longer play fits your game plan.

Let's say you plan to play about an hour in your favorite land-based Three Card Poker game. You hit your first win in ten minutes. You decide to keep playing. What you should do is remove your winnings from the rest of your chips, skip a couple of rounds and play and then resume playing counting the continued play as a different session.

Much the same procedure applies to online play. So long as you have a winning game and you have more allotted time to play, by all means do so. However, make sure to reset the software so that you will be starting a new game.

If you have a losing game, I strongly recommend that you take a break even if you had originally planned to play longer. The psychological aspects of losing are strong enough to influence your play negatively, and you will do better if you quit playing as a way to clear your head.

The next two Money Management Rules deal with controlling losses.

Money Management Rule 3: Whenever you experience a losing game with a loss greater than two times your Power Number level and then have a winning round which eliminates all or at least most of the loss, you will call the game completed, even if your win is less than the Power Number level.

Along with a Power Number level you should also set a **Loss Limit** for each level of play. If you hit your Loss Limit, you will quit playing and take a break.

Money Management Rule 4. Each level of play has its own **Loss Limit** based on both the size of your bets and the amount of your prior winnings. If your Base Bet is \$1, you will have a lower Loss Limit than if you make \$2 or \$5 your Base Bet. When you reach a Loss Limit for your level of play or if making and losing the next round of bets would cause you to exceed your Loss Limit, then you must quit playing this game and depart immediately.

Setting and controlling the size of your bankroll as well as setting Loss Limits is so important that we will dedicate a whole chapter to it. You will also see an example of how we applied the Loss Limit concept to limit our losses in one of the example games we present.

Example Games Using the Complete *Power Poker Strategy*

Let's take a look at a real game played using \$1 as the Base Bet. These games were played in online casinos, but the principles are the same for games played in land-based casinos.

Information Common to All Games

Key:

No – Number of round of play

Ante Bets: Amt = Amount Bet; W/L = Amount won or lost

Play (Raise) Bets: Amt = Amount Bet; W/L = Amount won or lost; F= Fold, N=Dealer did not qualify.

Bet Registry: Ante/Play Bets recorded in bet units.

Pair Plus Bets: Bet No = Number of bet in progression; Amt = Amount of Bet; W/L + Amount won or lost on Pair Plus bet.

Net Amt W/L: Amount won or lost for round of play including Ante, Play and Pair Plus Bets

Cum Won: Cumulative won for series of bets.

Pair Plus Qualifying Hand: P=Pair, Fl=Flush, St=Straight, 3K- Three of a Kind, StFl = Straight Flush

Base Bet: \$1

Power Number: \$20

Bankroll: \$100

Pair Plus Betting Series:

Bet No	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9
Bet in Units	1	1	3	4	5	6	10	20	30

Pay Schedules

Play **MUST EQUAL** Ante

**DEALER PLAYS WITH
QUEEN HIGH OR BETTER**

WHEN DEALER DOES NOT PLAY
Play... PUSH • Ante... 1 to 1

WHEN DEALER PLAYS
Play... 1 to 1 • Ante... 1 to 1

Pair Plus Pays

PAIR..... 1 to 1
 FLUSH..... 4 to 1
 STRAIGHT..... 6 to 1
 THREE OF A KIND... 30 to 1
 STRAIGHT FLUSH... 40 to 1

Ante Bonus Pays

STRAIGHT..... 1 to 1
 THREE OF A KIND... 4 to 1
 STRAIGHT FLUSH... 5 to 1

Power Poker Strategy – Game 1

No	Ante		Raise		Registry	Pair Plus			Net Won	Cum Won	Qual Hand	
	Amt	W/L	Amt	W/L		Bet No	Amt	W/L				
1	1	-1	1	-1	111				-2	-2		
2	1	+2	N		41				+2	-0-	St	
3	1	+1	N		4-	Coup Won	P1	1	+1	+2	+2	P
4	1	-1	F		11		P1	1	-1	-2	-0-	
5	1	+1	1	+1	44	Coup Won	P2	1	+4	+6	+6	Fl
6	1	+1	N		4	Coup Won	P1	1	-1	-0-	+6	
7	1	-1	F		11		P2	1	-1	-2	+4	
8	1	-1	F		111		P3	3	-3	-4	-0-	
9	1	-1	1	-1	11111		P4	4	-4	-6	-6	
10	1	-1	1	-1	1111111		P5	5	-5	-7	-13	
11	1	+1	1	+1	4111111		P6	6	+6	+8	-5	P
12	5	-5	5	-5	11111 5 5		P1	1	-1	-11	-16	
13	5	-5	F		11111 5 5 5		P2	1	-1	-6	-22	
14	1	-1	1	-1	11111 5 5 5 11		P3	3	+3	+1	-21	P
15	1	-1	1	-1	11111 5 5 5 1111		P1	1	-1	-1	-22	
16	1	+1	N		41111 5 5 5 1111		P2	1	-1	-0-	-22	
17	4	+4	4	+4	4111 5 5 5 4111		P3	3	-3	+5	-17	
18	15	+15	15	+15	5-5-5	Coup Won	P4	4	-4	+26	+9	
19	1	+1	1	+1	44-	Coup Won	P5	5	+20	+22	+31	F
20	1	-1	F		11		P1	1	-1	-2	+29	

In Game 1 we stopped the game with a +29 win. Our game high was +31. Our Power Number for this level of play was +20. The first time our win exceeded our Power Number of +20 was on round 19, following the large win with a Flush (pays 4 to 1 for the Pair Plus bet).

With a win of +31 we exceeded our Power Number of +20 by more than 50% of the win, which is 10 units for a Level 2 Power Number of +30. On Round 20 our loss of -2 reduced our winnings below our Level 2 Power Number of +30 and we stopped the game.

If these rules for calling a game complete after exceeding and then dropping below a Power Number are not clear, you should reread the section on using the Complete *Power Poker Strategy* and review the money management Rules 1 and 2.

Let's review this game round by round to make sure that you are clear on how we applied the Power Poker Strategy.

Round 1. We start the game making a 1 unit Ante bet. We don't make a Pair Plus bet because there has not yet been a Qualifying Hand for Pair Plus. We receive a hand better than Q-6-4 and Play (Raise) the hand. We lose both bets. In the Registry we record one mark to start the Coup Attempt as 1. With the loss of two 2 unit bets we update the registry, showing the losses to read as 111 following the round.

Round 2. We start with a 1 unit Ante bet and are dealt a Straight. We raise the bet 1 unit and win. We are paid a 1 unit bonus on the Ante bet for the Straight and win the round with +2. This does not complete a coup because after canceling the two units won, we will have 1 unit remaining. We will begin Pair Plus betting on the next round since we had a Qualifying Hand of Straight on this round.

Round 3. We make a 1 unit Ante wager and a 1 unit Raise. The dealer does not qualify, so we are paid on the Ante bet only. This 1 unit win cancels the remaining unit in the Registry for a Coup Win. We make our first level Pair Plus bet, P1, 1 unit and win.

Round 4. We start a new Coup attempt with a 1 unit Ante bet. We fold the bet and lose. We record one unit for a new coup attempt and one unit for the loss and the Registry reads 1 1. Following the Pair Plus win, we start over with a P1 bet of 1 and lose. Our net loss for the round is -1 for Ante and -1 for Pair Plus, for -2.

Round 5. We make a 1 unit Ante bet, receive a hand of Q-6-4 or better, raise the bet and win both bets. We cancel the 2 units won and our Registry reads ~~1 1~~ for a Coup Win. We make a P2 Pair Plus bet and are dealt a Flush. Our 1 unit Pair Plus bet gives us a 4 unit win. We win +6 for the round winning a coup and finishing the Pair Plus progression.

Round 6. We Ante 1 unit and raise the bet 1 unit. Dealer doesn't qualify. Our Ante bet wins giving us a new Coup Win. For Pair Plus we make the P1 bet of 1 and lose.

Round 7. We make an Ante bet of 1 and fold the bet for a 1 unit loss. We record the loss and the new coup and our Registry reads 1 1 after the round. We make a P2 Pair Plus bet of 1 unit and lose.

Round 8. We Ante 1 unit and fold for a loss. We record the loss and our Register reads 111. We make a P3 Pair Plus bet of 3 and lose. Our loss is -4 for the round.

Round 9. We Ante 1 unit and raise the bet 1 unit and lose the bets. Updating the Registry, we have 11111. We make a P4 Pair Plus bet of 4 and lose.

Round 10. We ante and raise 1 unit each and lose both bets. The Registry now reads 1111111. We make a P5 Pair Plus bet of 5 and lose for a -7 loss for the round.

Round 11. We ante and raise 1 unit each and win both bets with a Pair. After canceling the winning bets, our Registry reads 11111. We make a P6 Pair Plus bet of 6 and win $+6$ with the Pair. Total round win is $+8$.

Round 12. Following a win we increase the Ante bet to 5, the total of our uncanceled bets of 11111. We raise the bet and lose both the Ante and Play bets. Recording our losses, the Registry reads 11111 5 5. Following our win, we start over with a P1 Pair Plus bet of 1 unit and lose. Net loss for the round is -11 .

Round 13. Ante bet of 5. We fold and lose -5 . Registry is updated to read 11111 555. We make a P2 Pair Plus bet of 1 unit and lose.

Round 14. We have now lost three 5 unit bets. With the loss of three to four Increased Bets we revert to making 1 unit bets until we have another win. If this rule is not clear, review Rule 5 for Ante and Play bets. Ante bet of 1 unit and Raise bet of 1 unit lose. Updated Registry is 11111 5 5 5 11. We make a P3 Pair Plus bet of 3 and win $+3$ with a Pair.

Round 15. Ante bet of 1 unit and Play bet of 1 unit both lose. We update Registry and have. 11111 5 5 5 1111. We make a P1 Pair Plus bet of 1 unit and lose.

Round 16. Ante and Raise 1 unit each. Dealer does not qualify and we win Ante $+1$. We update Registry and have \pm 1111 5 5 5 1111. We make a P2 Pair Plus bet of 1 unit and lose.

Round 17. Following a win, we increase our Ante bet to sum of the first four uncanceled bet of 1111 or 4 units. We raise the bet 4 units and win both the Ante and Play bets. We update the Registry and have: ~~1111~~ 5 5 5 ~~1111~~. Please notice that we cancelled the four units on the right-hand end instead of staying with the rule stating that we always cancel the left most bets first. We did this for convenience to match our win of 4 units and 4 units. If we had followed the “cancel from the left first rule,” we would have had 1 5 5 1111 remaining uncanceled, instead of 555. In either case we have a total of 15 remaining uncanceled units. Our P3 Pair Plus bet of 3 loses. We net +5 for the round, which still leaves us with a new loss of -17 for this game.

Round 18. We have a total of 15 units left uncanceled in the Registry. We decide to wager the total units of 15. The amount we wager is judgmental. I like to keep the amount reasonably small but at the same time, not too small. While we could have continued making 5 unit bets here, a decision to go to 15 units is not unreasonable. We Ante 15 and Raise 15 and win both bets. This cancels all remaining units in the Registry and gives us a Coup Win. We make a P4 level Pair Plus bet of 4, which loses. Our net win for the round is +26, raising our Cumulative Win to +9.

Round 19. We make Ante and Raise bets of 1 each and win both bets, completing another Coup Win. We make a Pair Plus bet level P5 for 5 units and win +20 with a Flush. Net win for the round is +22, bringing our cumulative win for this game up to +31. With +31 we have hit a Level 2 Power Number. With this level of win we will stop play if we drop below +30 in winnings.

Round 20. We Ante for 1 unit and fold. We make a P1 Pair Plus bet P1, 1 unit and lose. With a loss of -2, our Cumulative Win falls to +29 and we stop play because our net win fell below our Level 2 Power Number.

Power Poker Strategy – Game 2

No	Ante		Raise		Registry	Pair Plus			Net Won	Cum Won	Qual Hand	
	Amt	W/L	Amt	W/L		Bet No	Amt	W/L				
1	1	-1	F		11				-1	-1		
2	1	-1	F		111				-1	-2		
3	1	+1	1	+1	441				+2	-0-		
4	1	-1	F		11				-1	-1		
5	1	-1	1	-1	1111				-2	-3		
6	1	+1	1	+1	4411				+2	-1	F	
7	2	+2	N		44-	Coup Won	P1	1	-1	+1	-0-	
8	1	-1	1	-1	111		P2	1	-1	-3	-3	
9	1	-1	1	-1	11111		P3	3	-3	-5	-8	
10	1	-1	F		111111		P4	4	-4	-5	-13	
11	1	+1	1	+1	441111		P5	5	-5	-3	-16	
12	4	+4	4	+4	1111	Coup Won	P6	6	+24	+32	+16	F
13	1	-1	F		11		P1	1	-1	-2	+14	
14	1	+1	1	+1	44-	Coup Won	P2	1	+1	+3	+17	P
15	1	+1	N		4	Coup Won	P1	1	+1	+2	+19	P
16	1	-1	1	-1	111		P1	1	-1	-3	+16	
17	1	-1	F		1111		P2	1	-1	-2	+14	
18	1	-1	1	-1	111111		P3	3	+3	+1	+15	P
19	1	-1	F		1111111		P1	1	-1	-2	+13	
20	1	-1	F		11111111		P2	1	-2	-2	+11	
21	1	+1	1	+1	44111111		P3	3	-3	-1	+10	
22	6	+6	6	+6	44444-	Coup Won	P4	4	-4	+8	+18	
23	1	-1	1	-1	111		P5	5	-5	-7	+11	
24	1	+1	1	+1	441		P6	6	+6	+8	+19	p
25	1	+5	N		44-	Coup Won	P1	1	+40	+45	+64	StFl
26	1	+1	N		4	Coup Won	P1	1	+4	+5	+69	F
27	1	+1	1	+1	4	Coup Won	P1	1	+1	+3	+72	P
28	1	-1	F				P1	1	-1	-2	+70	

With Game 2 we ended up with a nice win of +70. With \$1 as our Base Bet, this represents a \$70 win. With \$5 Base Bets, this would be a \$350 win. For \$10 Base Bets, it would be a \$700 Net Win. I am mentioning this to give you an idea of the power of using the *Power Poker Strategy*. This game would have taken about 30 minutes to play in a land-based casino and no more than 15 minutes online. As food for thought, as a \$25 Base Bettor you would have won \$1,750 in this game. Playing online, this works out to an hourly win rate of \$7,000 an hour!

We stopped this game when our winnings fell from +72 to +70 units, again demonstrating how we use the Power Number concept to allow us to continue playing without risk of losing back our profits.

Let's go through the game round by round. If you thoroughly understand how to use the *Power Poker Strategy*, you can skip going through the round by round play for this game and for the games which follow. However, if you are still working on gaining a full understanding of how to use this strategy, you should follow this game round by round making sure you understand why we made every wager, how we updated the registry and how we used the Pair Plus betting progression.

Round 1. We start the game with a 1 unit Ante bet and fold. We update the Registry, recording 1 unit for the coup and 1 for the loss and have 11. No Pair Plus bets are made until we have a Qualifying Hand.

Round 2. Ante 1 and fold. We update the Registry to 111. No Pair Plus bet yet.

Round 3. Ante 1 and Raise 1. We win both bets, and update the Registry to 111. Without a Qualifying Hand we don't make a Pair Plus bet.

Round 4. Ante 1 unit and fold, for a loss. Register now reads 11. No Pair Plus bet.

Round 5. Ante 1 unit, Raise 1 unit. Update Register to read 1111. No Pair Plus bet.

Round 6. We Ante 1 unit and Raise 1 unit, winning both with a Flush. We cancel the left-hand units in Registry and have 111. No Pair Plus bet this round, but with a Qualifying Hand of a Flush, we will start Pair Plus betting on next round.

Round 7. We Ante for 2 units, total of uncanceled units in Registry and win. We cancel all bets in the Registry for a Coup Win. We make a Pair Plus P1, 1 unit bet and lose.

Round 8. Ante 1, Raise 1 and lose both. Update Registry to read 111. We make Pair Plus P2, 1 unit bet and lose.

Round 9. Ante 1, Raise 1, and lose both. Update Registry to read 1111. We make a Pair Plus P3, 3 unit bet and lose.

Round 10. Ante 1 and fold for a loss. Update Registry to 111111. Pair Plus we make a P4 bet of 4 units and lose.

Round 11. We Ante and Raise 1 unit each and win. We update Registry to read 441111. For Pair Plus, we make a P5 bet of 5 units and lose.

Round 12. We make an Ante bet of 4, equal to the sum of the uncanceled units in the Registry. We raise the bet by 4 and win both Ante and Raise bets. This cancels all units in the Registry, giving us a Coup Win. Since we are dealt a Flush, we win the P6 Pair Plus bet of 6 units for a nice 4 to 1 win of +24. Our win for the round is +32, bringing our Cumulative Win to +16.

Round 13. Ante is 1 unit. We Fold and lose. Registry reads 11. Pair Plus, we make a P1 bet of 1 which loses.

Round 14. Ante and Raise of 1 each win. Coup is won. Pair Plus P2 bet of 1 wins with a Pair.

Round 15. Start of new coup attempt. Ante 1 wins for a Coup Win. Dealer does not qualify. Pair Plus's P1 bet of 1 wins with a Pair.

Round 16. Ante and Raise bets of 1 each lose. Registry includes a 1 for a new Coup Attempt and 1 each for our losses, read 111. Pair Plus bet of P1 for 1 unit loses.

Round 17. We Ante 1 and Fold. Registry now reads 11111. Pair Plus P2 bet of 1 unit loses.

Round 18. Both Ante and Raise bets of 1 unit each lose. We update Registry to read 111111. Pair Plus bet of R3 for 3 wins with a Pair. Cumulative Win is now at +15.

Round 19. Ante 1 unit loses. Registry updated to 1111111. Pair Plus P1 bet of 1 loses.

Round 20. Ante of 1 unit loses with a Fold. Registry now reads 11111111. Pair Plus bet of P2 for 1 unit loses.

Round 21. Ante and Raise of 1 unit each win. Registry updated to ~~4~~1111111. Pair Plus bet of P3 for 3 units loses.

Round 22. Following a win, we increase the Ante bet to 6 units, the total of the uncanceled losing bets in the Registry. Ante and Raise of 6 each win. This cancels all units in the Registry for a Coup Win. Pair Plus bet of P4 for 4 units loses. Cumulative Win is +18. Since this is a long game, we could call this game over at +18 reasoning that it is close enough to a Power Number of +20. But instead we decide to continue.

Round 23. Both Ante and Raise of 1 unit each lose. We record 1 unit for new coup attempt and 1 unit each for each losing bet. Registry reads 111. For Pair Plus we wager a P5 bet of 5 and lose.

Round 24. We make 1 unit Ante and Raise bets, winning both. Updated Registry reads ~~4~~1. Pair Plus bet of P6 for 6 wins with a Pair.

Round 25. We make a 1 unit Ante bet and Raise. Dealer does not qualify. We are dealt a Straight Flush. We are paid 5 units for the Ante bet and 40 units for the Pair Plus P1 bet of 1-unit, winning +45 for the round. This brings our Cumulative win up to +64. We set our Power Number level at 60 and continue to play.

Round 26. We set up a net coup attempt making a 1 unit Ante and Raise bets. Dealer does not qualify, so we win Ante of +1. This gives us a winning coup. With a Flush we are paid 4 to 1 on our Pair Plus P1 bet of 1, winning +4 on the Pair Plus wager. We win +5 for the round bringing our Cumulative Win up to +69.

Round 27. We make a 1 unit Ante and Raise bets and win both with a Pair, winning a coup. We win the Pair Plus P1 bet of 1. We win +3 for the round, bringing our Cumulative Win up to +72. We move our Power Number to +70 and continue playing.

Round 28. We make a 1 unit Ante Bet and lose. We make a Pair Plus bet of P1 for 1 unit and lose. We lose -2 for the round, reducing our Cumulative Win to +70. We quit playing for this game since losing another wager would drop our winnings below our Power Number of +70. We take a break with another +70 locked up.

Power Poker Strategy – Game 3

No	Ante		Raise		Registry	Pair Plus			Net Won	Cum Won	Qual Hand	
	Amt	W/L	Amt	W/L		Bet No	Amt	W/L				
1	1	-1	F		11				-1	-1		
2	1	+1	N		11				+1	-0-		
3	1	+1	1	+1	11	Coup Won			+2	+2		
4	1	+1	1	+1	11	Coup Won			+2	+4		
5	1	-1	1	-1	111				-2	+2		
6	1	+1	N		111				+1	+3	P	
7	2	-2	F		11 2		P1	1	-1	-3	-0-	
8	2	+2	2	+2	11 2	Coup Won	P2	1	-1	+3	+3	
9	1	-1	F		11		P3	3	-3	-4	-1	
10	1	-1	F		111		P4	4	-4	-5	-6	
11	1	+1	N		111		P5	5	-5	-4	-10	
12	2	+2	N		111	Coup Won	P6	6	-6	-4	-14	
13	1	+1	1	+1	11	Coup Won	P7	10	+10	+12	-2	P
14	1	-1	F		11		P1	1	-1	-2	-4	
15	1	+1	1	+1	11	Coup Won	P2	1	-1	+2	-2	
16	1	+1	1	+1	11	Coup Won	P3	3	-3	-1	-3	
17	1	+1	1	+1	11	Coup Won	P4	4	+16	+18	+15	Fl
18	1	+1	N		11	Coup Won	P1	1	-1	-0-	+15	
19	1	+1	1	+1	11	Coup Won	P2	1	-1	+1	+16	
20	1	+1	N		11	Coup Won	P3	3	-3	-2	+14	
21	1	-1	1	-1	111		P4	4	-4	-6	+8	
22	1	-1	F		1111		P5	5	-5	-6	+2	
23	1	+1	1	+1	1111		P6	6	+24	+26	+28	Fl
24	2	+2	2	+2	1111	Coup Won	P1	1	-1	+3	+31	
25	1	-1	F		111		P2	1	-1	-3	+28	

Game 3 is similar in outcome to Game 1. In each of these games we came back from a losing position to a winning game. This is the result of the strength of the strategy we use as well as the money management principles used to lock up a win once we achieve it.

Our breakthrough to the profit side occurred with Round 15 where our Cumulative Winnings reached +15. Round 24 put our winnings up to +31, achieving a Level 2 Power Number of +30. When we dropped below this on Round 25, we stopped play with a win of +28.

Power Poker Strategy – Game 4

No	Ante		Raise		Registry	Pair Plus			Net Won	Cum Won	Qual Hand
	Amt	W/L	Amt	W/L		Bet No	Amt	W/L			
1	1	-1	1	-1	111				-2	-2	P
2	1	-1	1	-1	11111	P1	1	-1	-3	-5	
3	1	-1	F		111111	P2	1	-1	-2	-7	
4	1	-1	1	-1	11111111	P3	3	-3	-5	-12	
5	1	+1	1	+1	41111111	P4	4	+4	+6	-6	P
6	6	-6	F		111111 6	P1	1	-1	-7	-13	
7	6	+6	6	+6	411111 6	P2	1	-1	+11	-2	
8	1	+1	1	+1	4	P3	3	+3	+5	+3	P
9	1	+2	N		4	P1	1	+6	+8	+11	St
10	1	-1	1	-1	111	P1	1	-1	-3	+8	
11	1	-1	1	-1	11111	P2	1	-1	-3	+5	
12	1	-1	F		111111	P3	3	-3	-4	+1	
13	1	-1	F		1111111	P4	4	-4	-5	-4	
14	1	+1	1	+1	4111111	P5	5	-5	-3	-7	
15	5	-5	5	-5	11111 5 5	P6	6	-6	-16	-23	
16	5	-1	5	-5	11111 5 5 5 5	P7	10	-10	-20	-43	
17	1	-1	F		11111 5 5 5 5 1	P8	20	-20	-21	-64	
18	1	+5	1	+1	41111 5 5 5 5 4	P9	30	+900	+906	+842	3K
19	5	-5	F		555555	P1	1	-1	-6	+836	

You can't beat Game 4 for excitement. It also demonstrates how quickly your profits can improve in Three Card Poker.

The most interesting aspect of this game is the turnaround that occurred in Round 18 when we were dealt Three of a Kind. This hand pays a 5 to 1 bonus for the Ante bet and a whooping 30 to 1 for the Pair Plus bet. Prior to this round things were looking a little grim as by Round 17 we were down -64. In fact, if we had lost Round 18, we would have called the game over with a loss.

I don't want to give the idea that we don't ever have losing game as we do. However, the winning games not only far out number the losing ones but we occasionally have wins like the one in Game 4 which can offset many losing games.

Power Poker Strategy – Game 5

No	Ante		Raise		Registry	Pair Plus			Net Won	Cum Won	Qual Hand	
	Amt	W/L	Amt	W/L		Bet No	Amt	W/L				
1	1	-1	F		11				-1	-1		
2	1	-1	F		111				-1	-2		
3	1	+2	1	+1	44	Coup Won			+3	+1	St	
4	1	-1	1	-1	111	P1	1	-1	-3	-2		
5	1	Push			111	P2	1	+1	-0-	-1	P	
6	1	-1			1111	P1	1	-1	-2	-3		
7	1	+1	N		4 111	P2	1	-1	-0-	-3		
8	3	+3	3	+3	44	Coup Won	P3	3	-3	+3	-0-	
9	1	-1	1	-1	111	P4	4	-4	-6	-6		
10	1	-1	1	-1	11111	P5	5	+5	+3	-3	P	
11	1	-1	1	-1	1111111	P1	1	-1	-3	-0-		
12	1	+1	1	+1	4 11111	P2	1	+1	+3	+3	P	
13	5	-5	F		11111 5	P1	1	-1	-6	-3		
14	5	+5	N		444 5	P2	1	-1	+4	+1		
15	5	+5	N		5	Coup Won	P3	3	+3	+8	+9	P
16	1	-1	F		11	P1	1	-1	-2	+7		
17	1	-1	F		111	P2	1	-1	-2	+5		
18	1	+1	1	+1	4 1	P3	3	+3	+5	+10	P	
19	1	-1	F		11	P1	1	-1	-2	+8		
20	1	+1	N		4 1	P2	1	-1	-0-	+8		
21	1	+1	1	+1	4	Coup Won	P3	3	+3	+5	+13	P
22	1	+1	N		4	Coup Won	P1	1	+1	+2	+15	P
23	1	-1	1	-1	111	P1	1	-1	-3	+12		
24	1	-1	1	-1	11111	P2	1	-1	-3	+9		
25	1	+1	N		4 1111	P3	3	-3	-2	+7		
26	4	-4	4	-4	1111 4 4	P4	4	-4	-12	-5		
27	4	+4	N		444 4 4	P5	5	-5	-1	-6		
28	8	-8	N		4 4 8	P6	6	-6	-14	-20		
29	8	-8	F		4 4 8 8	P7	10	-10	-18	-38		
30	8	-8	8	-8	4 4 8 8 8 8	P8	20	+20	+4	-34	P	
31	1	-1	1	-1	4 4 8 8 8 8 1 1	P1	1	+1	-1	-35	P	
32	1	-1	1	-1	4 4 8 8 8 8 1 1 1 1	P2	1	-1	-3	-38		
33	1	-1	F		4 4 8 8 8 8 1 1 1 1 1	P3	3	-3	-4	-42		
34	1	+1	N		4 4 8 8 8 8 1 1 1 1 1	P4	4	-4	-3	-45		
35	8	+8	N		4 4 8 8 8 8 1 1 1 1 1	P5	5	-5	+3	-42		
36	24	+24	24	+24	8 8 8 8 1 1 1 1 1 1	Coup Won	P6	6	-6	+42	-0-	
37	1	-1	1	-1	111		P7	10	+10	+8	+8	p

I decided to present Game 5 to illustrate another money management rule that we will incorporate when using the *Power Poker Strategy*. This money management rule, simply stated, is:

Money Management Rule 3:

Whenever you experience a losing game with a loss greater than two times your Power Number and then have a winning round which eliminates all or at least most of the loss, you will call the game completed, even if your win is less than the Power Number level.

Game 5 is a good example of quitting a game with a small win. We struggled in this game to ever get our heads above water. With our wins on rounds 36 and 37, we were able to go into the black coming up from a loss of -42 to a win of +8. Seeing how long we had played, this seemed like a good spot to call the game over and so we did.

Power Poker Strategy – Game 6

No	Ante		Raise		Registry	Pair Plus			Net Won	Cum Won	Qual Hand
	Amt	W/L	Amt	W/L		Bet No	Amt	W/L			
1	1	+1	1	+1	4				+2	+2	
2	1	-1	F		11				-1	+1	
3	1	-1	1	-1	1111				-2	-1	Fl
4	1	+1	1	+1	4411	P1	1	+1	+3	+2	P
5	2	+4	N		44				+10	+12	St
6	1	-1	F		11	P1	1	-1	-2	+10	
7	1	-1	F		111	P2	1	-1	-2	+8	
8	1	-1	F		1111	P3	3	-3	-4	+4	
9	1	-1	F		11111	P4	4	-4	-5	-1	
10	1	-1	F		111111	P5	5	-5	-6	-7	
11	1	+1	1	+1	441111	P6	6	+6	+8	+1	P
12	4	-4	F		1111 4	P1	1	-1	-5	-4	
13	4	-4	F		1111 4 4	P2	1	-1	-5	-9	
14	4	-4	4	-4	1111 4 4 4 4	P3	3	+3	-5	-14	P
15	1	-1	1	-1	1111 4 4 4 4 11	P1	1	-1	-3	-17	
16	1	-1	1	-1	1111 4 4 4 4 111	P2	1	-1	-3	-20	
17	1	-1	1	-1	1111 4 4 4 4 1111	P3	3	-3	-5	-25	
18	1	+1	1	+1	4411 4 4 4 4 1111	P4	4	-4	-2	-27	
19	4	-4	F		11 4 4 4 4 11111 4	P5	5	-5	-9	-36	
20	4	-4	F		11 4 4 4 4 11111 4 4	P6	6	-6	-10	-46	
21	4	+4	4	+4	11 4 4 4 4 11111 4 4	P7	10	-10	-2	-48	
22	4	-4	4	-4	11 4 4 4 4 11111 4 4	P8	20	-20	-28	-76	

This is a losing game. We stopped after playing round 22, having lost –76. You may wonder why we stopped at this point. We stopped after reaching our Loss Limit of –80. This is in accordance with Money Management Rule 4.

Money Management Rule 4. Each level of play has its own **Loss Limit** based on both the size of your bets and the amount of your prior winnings. If your Base Bet is \$1, you will have a lower Loss Limit than if you make \$2 or \$5 your Base Bet. When you reach a Loss Limit for your level of play or if making and losing the next round of bets would cause you to exceed your Loss Limit, then you must quit playing this game and depart immediately.

If we had continued playing after Round 22, we would have made an Ante bet of 4 and possibly raised it 4. We would have been called upon to make a Pair Plus wager of 30. The loss of these bets (either totaling 34 for Ante and Pair Plus or 38 for Ante, Raise and Pair Plus) would have caused us to have a loss much greater than our Loss Limit of – 80. So we stopped playing.

If you have skimmed over these example games, you should go back and review them now. Make sure that you understand all of the actions taken for each round of play. If you have trouble understanding how we determined the size of the Ante bets, for instance, be sure to go back over the rules used in the *Power Poker Strategy*.

Managing Your Money

Winning at Three Card Poker consists of applying our betting rules and strictly adhering to our money management rules.

Money management may be the most important aspect of winning at Three Card Poker. Proper money management will give you complete guidelines for your play.

You will know how much money you need to use to buy in for a game of poker.

You will also know the total bankroll you need to correctly and safely play and beat the game.

You will know bet sizes and be able to set Power Numbers and Loss Limits for every level of play.

Let's get started.

Before you ever start playing Three Card Poker, you will have to have the correct amount of bankroll.

You will need to raise the **Total Bankroll** needed for your level of play. The amount of your Total Bankroll depends on your betting level which may depend on where you play.

If you play online, you will find that \$1 is a common minimum wager required.

If you play in land-based casinos, you may be required to make \$5 minimum wagers.

Before you determine the amount of bankroll you need, you will need to know the size of the bets you will be making.

Your bankroll for Three Card Poker should be separate from other money you have on hand. If you are traveling to a casino your Three Card Poker Bankroll should be separate from money kept for expenses.

One of the tricks I have used is to carry my poker bankroll in a hidden money belt. Before I start a poker session I remove the money needed to play the game from the money belt.

If you are carrying a large amount of money, you may want to deposit it in the casino's safe deposit box.

For online play you should either use a separate bank account for your gambling bankroll or maintain accounting records so that you keep gambling and regular money separated.

Here are the principle concepts you will be dealing with on managing your Three Card Poker Bankroll.

Base Bet. The size of your smallest poker bet is your Base Bet. All of the examples we have shown are based on \$1 Antes which is the same as a \$1 Base Bet.

Total Bankroll. This is the amount of money set aside only for Three Card Poker play. As discussed above, your playing level determines the amount of bankroll you need. I suggest that you start making \$1 Base Bets, which carries the lowest bankroll requirements.

Game Buy-in. This is the amount you will use for a game of Three Card Poker. In a land-based casino, this is the amount of cash you will convert to casino chips. In online casino play, this can either be the amount of your deposit with the casino, or better yet, a portion of the total amount deposited that you will use for play in a single game.

Power Number. This is the level of a win needed to start applying special lock-up rules to reduce the risk of giving back your winnings. If you don't remember these rules, you should review the rules on money management.

Power Number Levels. We don't advocate that you limit your winnings to your Power Number amount. Instead of stopping play after reaching a Power Number, you will continue playing, moving up your Power Number Levels as your winnings increase. For a \$1 Base Bettor, your Power Number is \$20. As you continue to play and as your winnings increase, you will add on additional target levels in increments of \$10. Here is an example of additional Power Number Levels added as your winnings increase:

Power Number	\$20
Original Power Number	\$30
Level 2 Power Number	\$40
Level 3 Power Number	\$50
Level 4 Power Number	\$60
Level 5 Power Number	\$70
Level 6 Power Number	\$80
Level 7 Power Number	\$90

Loss Limits. This is the maximum loss you will accept in a game. The Loss Limit is always less than the Game Buy-in. The reason is that you won't ever lose all of your chips in a single game. By setting a Loss Limit lower than the Game Bankroll, you can walk away with some chips even after a losing game.

Loss Limits come in two varieties. When you first start playing Three Card Poker you will want to use tighter or smaller loss limits (called ***Beginning Loss Limits***). This is not only to protect your bankroll but to protect you from impulsively losing more than you should lose in a single game.

After you have doubled your Total Bankroll, you should double your Loss Limits. These larger loss limits are called ***Expanded Loss Limits***. However, if you want to play more conservatively, you can stick with the ***Beginning Loss Limits***.

Using larger loss limits after you build up your bankroll will ensure that your overall profits will be larger. .

While smaller loss limits protect your bankroll, they also limit the full power of the *Power Poker Strategy*.

The best example of this occurs when you win a larger Pair Plus bet with a hand of Straight or higher. With a Straight paying 6 to 1, Three of a Kind paying 30 to 1 and a Straight Flush paying 40 to 1, I have found that it pays to use Higher Loss Limits. However, you must be sure that you have the requisite Total Bankroll before you move from the Original Loss Limits to the Higher Loss Limits.

Below are shown the Base Bets, Game Bankrolls, Total Bankrolls and Power Numbers for Beginning Loss Limits.

**Power Poker Strategy Bankroll Levels
for Beginning Loss Limits**

Base Bet	Game Bankroll (Buy-in)	Beginning Total Bankroll	Power Number	Beginning Loss Limits
\$1	\$100	\$300	\$20	\$80
\$2	\$200	\$600	\$40	\$160
\$3	\$300	\$900	\$60	\$240
\$4	\$400	\$1,200	\$80	\$360
\$5	\$500	\$1,500	\$100	\$400
\$6	\$600	\$1,800	\$120	\$480
\$8	\$800	\$2,400	\$160	\$640
\$10	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$200	\$800
\$15	\$1,500	\$4,500	\$300	\$1,200
\$20	\$2,000	\$6,000	\$400	\$1,600
\$25	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$500	\$2,000

After your winnings are equal to or greater than your Total Bankroll, you may decide to use Expanded Loss Limits as discussed above. If you do so your Game Bankroll, Total

Bankroll and Loss Limits will change. However, your Power Numbers will remain the same.

The following table shows the Base Bets, Game Bankrolls, Total Bankrolls, Power Numbers and Loss Limits when you play with higher Loss Limits using an Expanded Bankroll.

**Power Poker Strategy Bankroll Levels
for Expanded Loss Limits**

Base Bet	Expanded Game Bankroll (Buy-in)	Expanded Total Bankroll	Power Number	Expanded Loss Limits
\$1	\$200	\$600	\$20	\$160
\$2	\$400	\$1,200	\$40	\$320
\$3	\$600	\$1,800	\$60	\$480
\$4	\$800	\$2,400	\$80	\$720
\$5	\$1000	\$3,000	\$100	\$800
\$6	\$1,200	\$3,600	\$120	\$1,060
\$8	\$1,600	\$4,800	\$160	\$1,280
\$10	\$2,000	\$6,000	\$200	\$1,600
\$15	\$3,000	\$9,000	\$300	\$2,400
\$20	\$4,000	\$12,000	\$400	\$3,200
\$25	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$500	\$4,000

Power Numbers remain the same for Beginning or Expanded play. Below is a summary of Power Numbers and the Lock-up Levels for each Power Number level win.

**Power Poker Strategy Base Bets,
Power Numbers
and Power Number Lock-up Levels**

Base Bet	Power Number	Power Number Lock-up Levels
\$1	\$20	30 40 50 60 70 and so on
\$2	\$40	60 80 100 120 140 and so on
\$3	\$60	90 120 150 180 210 and so on
\$4	\$80	120 160 200 240 280 and so on
\$5	\$100	150 200 250 300 350 and so on
\$6	\$120	180 240 300 360 420 and so on
\$8	\$160	240 320 400 480 560 and so on
\$10	\$200	300 400 500 600 700 and so on
\$15	\$300	450 600 750 900 1050 and so on
\$20	\$400	600 800 1000 1200 1400 and so on
\$25	\$500	750 1000 1250 1500 1750 and so on

How Much Can You Win Using This Strategy?

The *Power Poker Strategy* produces high profits. At this time, I have the results of 4,350 games played in both land-based and online casinos.

These games were played with various Base Bets, ranging from \$1 in several online casinos, to \$5 in land-based games. To facilitate comparability, I have converted all of the results of these games to the equivalent results of using \$1 Base Bets with \$160 Game Buy-ins.

These games were played using the following payoffs:

Play MUST EQUAL Ante	Pair Plus Pays
DEALER PLAYS WITH QUEEN HIGH OR BETTER	PAIR..... 1 to 1
WHEN DEALER DOES NOT PLAY	FLUSH..... 4 to 1
Play... PUSH • Ante... 1 to 1	STRAIGHT..... 6 to 1
WHEN DEALER PLAYS	THREE OF A KIND... 30 to 1
Play... 1 to 1 • Ante... 1 to 1	STRAIGHT FLUSH... 40 to 1
	Ante Bonus Pays
	STRAIGHT..... 1 to 1
	THREE OF A KIND... 4 to 1
	STRAIGHT FLUSH... 5 to 1

If you confine your play to games offering the same payoffs and follow the *Power Poker Strategy*, you should have results close to ours.

The following table presents the results of these games, adjusted to \$1 Base Bet units.

We used the Expanded Game Bankroll for our buy-ins in all cases. If you are unclear on this, you should review the chapter on bankroll.

We played 4,350 games, winning 3,523 games and losing 827 games. Our overall win rate was 80.99% winning games. With our strategy, the number of games won is less critical than with other strategies as we won higher amounts per game on the average so that we were easily able to offset the results of losing games with winning games.

Summary of Games Based on Using \$1 Base Bets

Game Buy-in (using Expanded Game Bankroll)	\$160
Total Games	4,350
Games Won	3,523
Games Lost	827
Win Percentage - $3,523/4,350 =$	80.99%
Total Rounds Played	92,394
Average Number of Rounds per Game	21.24
Total Winnings	\$154,338
Average Winnings per Game	\$35.48
Average Winnings per Round - $\$154,338/92,394 =$	\$1.67

The total number of rounds played was 92,394 rounds. These are actual rounds of Three Card Poker played, not simulated ones.

We kept our games short with the average game lasting just 21.24 rounds. You should keep this in mind when you play. If your games are taking a lot longer than our average, you probably need to adjust your play. Longer games are usually the result of not following the strategy correctly. For example, if you do not call a game over as soon as your winnings fall below a Power Number, you will have longer, but not necessarily more profitable, games.

Another very important rule to keep in mind is calling a game over if you have had a net loss and a single win brings your winnings into the black. When this happens, you should be prepared to call the game complete and lock-up your winnings even if you have not reached your Power Number. Game 5 of our example games demonstrates this. We were down -42 after completing round 35. At this point we were experiencing a longer than average game. When this happens to you, you should be looking for a reason to call the game over as longer games are not usually in your best interest. In this case we hit +42 and +8 payoffs in the next two rounds and decided to quit with a Net Win of +8. Even though this win was less than our Power Number amount of +20, it took us 37 rounds to reach it, and it was time to take our profits and run.

Our Total Winnings, adjusted to be comparable to making \$1 Base Bets, was \$154,338. Our average winnings per game were \$35.48 per game. Rather than looking at winnings per game, the better way to analyze our results is to convert Net Winnings to the Amount Won per Round of Play.

In this series of games our average winnings per round were \$1.67 per round.

Incidentally, if you are trying to get a feel for the profitability of this system, you should consider that about 90 hands per hour is the number of hands dealt in a typical land-based Three Card Poker game.

If \$5 was your Base Bet, instead of \$1, then your net winnings per round of play would be: $5 \times \$1.67 = \8.35 per round.

At 90 rounds per hour, you should average making \$751.50 an hour, computed as $\$8.35 \times 90 \text{ rounds} = \751.50 .

With online games, you can play even faster. You may also run into slower games in land-based casinos.

The next table shows how much you can expect to make per hour with different Base Bets playing at different rates of speed.

Take a look at the first row showing play for \$1 Base Bettors. Here with Winnings per Round of \$1.67, we see that you can expect to make \$83.50 per hour in a game played at 50 hands per hour. Increase the speed of the game to 100 rounds per hour and your hourly win rate increases to \$167.00 per hour. At 200 rounds per hour which is easily achievable playing online, you can expect to make \$334.00 per hour.

In case I haven't been clear, all of these amounts are Net Win amounts. The table above, showing the summary of 4,350 games shows Net Wins after deducting any losing games. Therefore all of the win rates I have computed in the following table are Net Win Rates with losses already deducted.

**Expected Hourly Win Rates at
Various Levels and Speeds of Play**

Base Bet	Winnings Per Round	Number of Rounds Played Per Hour		
		50 per hour	100 per hour	200 per hour
\$1	\$1.67	\$83.50	\$167.00	\$334.00
\$2	\$3.34	167.00	334.00	668.00
\$3	\$5.01	250.50	501.00	1002.00
\$4	\$6.68	334.00	668.00	1336.00
\$5	\$8.35	417.50	835.00	1670.00
\$6	\$10.02	501.00	1002.00	2004.00
\$8	\$13.36	668.00	1336.00	2672.00
\$10	\$16.70	835.00	1670.00	3340.00
\$15	\$25.05	1252.50	2505.00	5010.00
\$20	\$33.40	1670.00	3340.00	6680.00
\$25	\$41.75	2087.50	4175.00	8350.00

You can safely use the amounts shown in this table to estimate your winnings. To keep your estimates conservative, let's assume the following rates of speed:

Land-based games: 50 rounds per hour

Online games: 100 rounds per hour

These are both slow rates of play, but in using them you will keep your calculations simple.

You can use this information to set up your own forecast of winnings, based on where you play.

Let's assume that you will play online and play about ten hours a week, making \$1 Base Bets as follows:

Online Play

Base Bet = \$1

Hours per week = 10

Forecast Winnings: 10 hours x \$167 per hour = \$1,670 per week

You can try different combinations to determine the right mix of play to achieve your win goals.

Assume that you decide that you want to win \$5,000 a week and you have a large enough bankroll to make \$2 Base Bets online. You want to determine how long you will have to play each week to make \$5,000 in Net Winnings.

In summary, you would have –

Online Play

Base Bet = \$2

Weekly Profit Goal = \$5,000

Expected Hourly Win at 100 Rounds per Hour = \$334.00

Calculation: \$5,000 / \$334 an hour = 15 hours a week (rounded)

You can pretty much set up your own profit goals and then reach them by balancing the size of your bets, the speed of your play and the time you invest in the game.

Your Bankroll

Your bankroll is the amount of money you bring with you for gambling. Without it, you can't even start the game. If you lose your bankroll, the game is over. The object of gambling should be to increase your bankroll. I define "increase" to mean leaving the area where you have been gambling with more money than you came with when you began the gambling excursion.

If your major objective is to leave with more money than you started, then a corollary objective must be not to lose all of your money. In between these two objectives of not losing everything and leaving a winner, I have developed a number of rules to help me achieve my two major objectives.

First, let's consider the "not losing" side of the equation. It is actually easier to not lose at gambling than to win. This one is easy. In order not to lose at gambling, you don't gamble at all. If you have \$100 and want to keep it, just don't gamble to begin with.

This approach sort of defeats the purpose of trying to learn how to win at casino gambling. It is more than a little cynical to state that if you don't want to lose at gambling, then don't play. However, there are a number of precautions we can take to never lose our bankrolls and still be in the game.

Perhaps the first thing to do is to decide that it is important to you to never lose every single cent on you in any single gambling contest. I don't know how you reach this conclusion, but if you decide to agree with me that it is important not to lose all of your bankroll in any single gambling excursion, then it is easier to learn to apply some rules I am going to show you to prevent this from ever occurring.

First, I have to convince you that losing all of your gambling bankroll in a single session, or even during one casino excursion, is a bad idea. Perhaps the main reason that losing all of your bankroll is a bad idea is that it feels bad. Or rather, you feel bad. It is simply bad psychology to lose all of your money in a gambling contest.

I know all the statements that you can make to rationalize that it is all right to lose a sum of money brought exclusively for gambling.

"It's OK to lose because it's my gambling money."

"I don't plan to win anyway."

"What the heck, it's only money."

Notwithstanding these statements, trust me for a moment that losing all of your gambling money is a bad idea. Maybe I can convince you if I tell you that not losing is the first step to becoming a winner. Let me give you an example.

You have just come off a table with an additional \$600. Are you a winner? Answering this question depends on a number of factors, not the least of which is "how much have you lost before winning?" If you have only lost \$100 prior to this win, then you are definitely a winner. If you have lost \$2,000 prior to this session, you are still in the hole.

This is a simplistic example, but it will serve to make a point. When you are gambling, controlling your money is the key to winning. Of course knowledge of the game is important. Strategy is important. Self-discipline is important. But the way I look at it, if you are knowledgeable and use planned strategies and employ self-discipline, then it is impossible not to control the amount of money used for gambling.

Controlling your bankroll for long-term play means bringing a large enough bankroll to outlast the inevitable lengthy losing periods.

The most important thing you can do with your gambling bankroll is to divide it up into smaller bankrolls. Each of these smaller bankrolls will be used for one session, which is typically played during a set period of time, or even at a single table.

The idea behind this is to give you several opportunities to develop some winnings without being overexposed to losses during any single session.

It is also part of our strategy for controlling losses and preserving our bankrolls.

Using smaller bankrolls also will allow you to accept losses. If you are playing with \$300 at a table and have lost half of it, it is not too difficult to walk away with a \$150 loss. But what if you are playing with \$3,000 at a time? You will be less likely to walk away with a \$1,500 loss even though we are talking about the same concept.

Game bankrolls (I use the terms "game bankrolls" and buy-ins interchangeably) do more than allow you to accept smaller losses. They also become an important part of your plan to take some of the casino's money and run. By splitting your gambling bankroll into smaller game bankrolls, you will have several shots at the casino's bankroll with limited risk on each try. Meanwhile, you will never give the casino a single shot at winning all of your bankroll.

Using game bankrolls helps control the emotional aspect of gambling. When you lose a portion of a smaller bankroll, it is fairly easy to take a break, change tables or even stop for the day. After all, winning at gambling is all about controlling emotions.

Game bankrolls can act like guides and tell us when to take a break from a losing session, or on a happier note, when to take our winnings and run.

Game bankrolls can be any size within certain limits. Our objective in setting the size of your buy-in is to have a large enough bankroll to have a reasonable chance of winning, but not so large that we jeopardize our gambling bankroll.

For a typical casino excursion, you should divide your bankroll into four game bankrolls. I have found this to be the optimum number of sessions for several days of continuous play using the Power Poker Strategy.

You can approach determining the size of your bankroll several different ways. Here are a few of the acceptable approaches:

1. Determine your optimal starting bet level. The size of your session bankroll is directly related to the betting level you chose. Once you know “how you want to play” you can easily determine how much money you need to play at this level.
2. Base the size of your bankroll on the minimum bets allowed where you play.
3. Set aside a certain amount of money for gambling and then determine which level of play best fits your comfort level.
4. Use a combination of all of these rules to decide on your bankroll.

Your Gambling Bankroll

I recommend that your permanent gambling bankroll be at least four times the size of your average table buy-in.

What you must never do after suffering losses is to think that your luck must change and start pushing your bets to higher levels. This is a trap many gamblers fall into. Don't go for it.

If you have some losses, the best prescription is to quit playing. As hard as it may be to leave the casino after suffering a loss, it is ten times better than staying and piling up losses rapidly because you momentarily lose control.

Casinos are masters of illusion. They can create an aura of self-confidence not supported by reality. It is not unusual for gamblers, under the casino's spell, to think they are doing pretty well, and to be almost shocked when they finally realize that they have lost most of their money.

There is much more to becoming a winner than just learning a system. How you act and how you apply the system will ultimately determine how much you win. Let's take a look at some of the skills you need to bring to the casino.

Skilful Play

There are a number of decisions you can make in becoming a successful Three Card Poker winner. For example, you must decide where to play and whether you will tip or not.

You will also need to make decisions on setting up and using a casino credit line as well as having your play rated. How you handle these situations can have a great bearing on your long-term success as a winning gambler.

Picking where you play

Your first choice in deciding to become a Three Card Poker winner is deciding where to play. I rate casinos on several different aspects. My first concern is whether the casino offers games that I find playable.

Many casinos will change their minimum wagers depending on the time of day and day of the week. Minimum bets are raised in the evenings and on weekends. If you are an Atlantic City player looking for tables with lower minimum bets, you will find more tables with lower minimums if you play during the week instead of on weekends.

Besides table limits, I also consider the atmosphere of a casino. I absolutely refuse to play in casinos with rude dealers. I can tolerate slow dealers, dealers still in training and dealers who don't talk much. But I refuse to put up with dealers who make sarcastic remarks to other players or criticize my play. Life is too short. Change tables or, if necessary, change casinos.

Fortunately, casino employees are reasonable people and problematic dealers are not seen too often.

Some casinos have other annoying quirks. Can you tolerate a lot of smoke? Some casinos have poor ventilation systems so that a dull cloud of smoke seems to permeate the casino area. If this bothers you, don't play there.

Other casinos are dirty or have crowded, uncomfortable playing conditions. For several years there was a casino less than ten minutes from my house where I absolutely refused to play because the place resembled a dump (it has been updated and is now acceptable).

These are choices you must make. If you play in Las Vegas, you have just about every choice you can imagine available. If you want to play in a real players' joint, try Binion's Horseshoe downtown. Would you like some real elegance? You'll like the Venetian or Bellagio's.

One thing I don't do is discuss my system while I play. Some dealers will comment on it; most don't. You may get questions from other players. If you decide to discuss your system, keep it simple. You might state that you like to make the outside bets and you vary your bets depending on how the table is going.

If you start talking about the system, you will undoubtedly lose your concentration. In addition, it is almost a given that if you are trying to demonstrate the system to someone, you are going to have a loss. Call it bad luck or bad karma, but you can believe that discussing the system while you are playing is not a good idea.

Tipping

If you don't like to tip, most international play will suit you fine. Most casinos in Asia, Europe and Commonwealth countries like England, Australia and New Zealand forbid tipping the dealers.

In the U.S. you really have no choice but to tip. Many players refuse to tip, arguing that tips come right off their bottom line. I can't argue with the logic, but I will question the results of a no-tipping policy.

I personally have a great deal of respect for most casino personnel and especially dealers. I enjoy tipping them in exchange for good service, and once it is established that I am a "George" (slang for a good tipper), the level of service increases appreciably. When I tip, I never just give the dealer the tip. I only tip by making bets for the dealer.

I tip by making an outside bet for the dealers if I have been winning. The dealers appreciate this type of wager as they realize that they are much more likely to win the wager and get the tip with an even-money wager than one with high odds against it.

Act like a gambler

Play like a loser. If you are in a prolonged winning streak, don't rub it in the casino's face by continuing to play at the same table. If you do, make sure that you consistently make the kinds of moves which will throw the pit off. But your best ploy is not to overstay your welcome, especially if you are winning a bundle.

If you have a nice win and a floorman comments on it, you can casually mention that you dropped a bundle at craps last night and you are still not close to even. But don't do this if you never play craps. Make your story plausible.

Hide Chips

As a winning player, you will want to look for ways to disguise the amount you are winning. The easiest way to do this is to pocket chips.

This is harder to accomplish if you are playing alone, and is easiest to accomplish if you have a playing partner.

How to Survive and Prosper as a Professional Gambler, published by Silverthorne Publications, has some excellent suggestions on chip hiding routines. With a female accomplice, it is easy to slip chips to her and let her hide them in her purse. Sometimes my wife carries a shopping bag with her, which is a great place to stash chips and offers additional cover to help us look like a pair of happy, typical tourists.

If you are a black chip player, you are better off hiding green chips, as the bosses are more concerned with watching your stack of black chips. If you commonly wager \$500 or more, then you can get away with hiding \$100 chips, but don't try to stash the \$500 chips as the bosses may catch on.

Play for Cash or on Credit?

There are many advantages to establishing credit with several casinos. Once you have established credit, it is there any time you want to use it. You don't have to carry cash, arrange for wire transfers or try to talk casinos into cashing checks. You generally will not be able to even cash a cashier's check in a casino until it has been verified. If you show up on a Saturday hoping to cash a cashier's check, you will be out of luck until your bank reopens on Monday and can verify the check.

Another advantage to establishing credit is that when you use casino credit, you get to sign markers at the table. You will look like a gambler, since most gamblers who play with black chips have casino credit lines.

I'll let you in on a dirty secret. Casinos are not in the business of loaning money to gamblers, at least not now. If you have a bad gambling habit and a weak bank account, your local friendly loan shark is more likely to accommodate you than your not-so-friendly casino.

When you establish a credit line, the casino is agreeing to advance you no more than the average balance in your checking account for the last six months.

Your creditworthiness has nothing to do with getting casino credit. These guys don't care whether you are employed, just filed for bankruptcy or are dodging your other creditors. Casino credit is based on how much bread you keep in your checking account.

Do you feel a little better about the high rollers signing the markers? They are signing magnetically coded checks which can be run through their checking accounts. Normally markers are not handled this way as the casino prefers to be paid by check, but if necessary, the casino markers can and will be deposited by the casino and will be presented for payment at your bank just like any other check you have written.

If you are a black chip player, casino credit is almost mandatory unless you want to carry a large amount of cash with you, which I don't recommend. If you know where you will be

playing, you can arrange to have cash deposited with the casino cashier and sign markers against your own *front money* on deposit with the casino.

Rated Players

Once you start playing with green or black chips, you are going to be asked by a floorman if you want to be rated. Many novice counters resent the intrusion of a floorman and answer evasively or even negatively. This is a big mistake. By rating your play, the casino is evaluating your ability to receive comps or freebies from the casino. Comps can really add to your bottom line and can be very profitable once you learn to play the comp game. Another reason to become rated is that being rated and receiving comps from the casino is what gamblers normally do. And you want to look like just another gambler.

Even if you are a low to mid-range player and want to get *full RFB*, which stands for Room, Food and Beverages comped; there are many casinos which will accommodate you.

Using casino comps, you can travel just about anywhere and get full VIP treatment. Many casinos will even pay your airfare. But you have to know how to work the system to maximize these benefits. I suggest that you learn how to get the maximum amount of comps and let a casino pay for all of your gambling excursions.

As a winning Three Card Poker player, you are in the perfect position to get and benefit from comps. No matter what your level of play, you can increase your enjoyment and profits by availing yourself of casino comps

Learn to play another casino game

I highly recommend that you learn to play at least one other table game besides Three Card Poker. My number one choice of the game to learn is blackjack.

Blackjack is still a favorite game of many high rollers. Just by learning basic strategy you can play almost even with the house. If you add a winning strategy on top of this, such as the unique betting system revealed in *Power Blackjack*, then you are on the way to having a second casino game you can beat.

Blackjack, using the Power Blackjack Strategy, is an excellent game for using hit and run tactics. If you have been gambling and are tired of concentrating on your wagers, blackjack may give you just the break you need. This can't hurt your reputation with the casino. Because many high rollers now favor blackjack, you will enhance your appearance as a high roller when you add this game to your repertoire. By mixing a little blackjack play in with your Three Card Poker games; you will look more and more like another gambler to the casino bosses.

You may be surprised how well you do at blackjack. On a typical casino visit, I usually make almost as much money playing blackjack as I do playing poker. Silverthorne Publications is the premier publisher for winning blackjack systems. You can check out the Power Blackjack Strategy at <http://www.silverthornepublications.net/PBJ/>

If your casino offers craps, you may want to learn to play the game.

You can play craps for fun and relaxation, but even when I relax I enjoy winning money. I use an intriguing craps system which wins over 90% of the time and throws off nice winnings even against the American wheels. It is described in *Power Craps*, published by Silverthorne Publications (See <http://www.silverthornepublications.com/PowerCraps/>).



And so, you are almost ready to start beating the casinos, but . . .

You are almost ready to take on the casinos. I have presented a system which has been proven to win against Three Card Poker. Perhaps you have been practicing the *Power Poker Strategy*. You have figured out how to put together your bankroll. However, the greatest battle still awaits you. The casinos have even more powerful weapons at their disposal than the house edge. They are masters at a whole number of psychological traps set to ensnare you, with the end goal of relieving you of as much of your money as they can in the shortest and most pleasant way possible. Let's take a look at the casino's battery of weapons and see what you can do about them.

Discipline and Control

At this point, you should have a good understanding about how to use the *Power Poker Strategy* to win money. You should know when to bet, how much to wager, and when to quit. You know about how your bankroll determines the size of your wagers and about using game bankrolls. You should have some definite ideas about how you want to interact with casino personnel. You have learned some ways to improve playing conditions by interacting with and tipping the dealer. You also have been introduced to the idea of playing on casino credit and playing for comps.

Now you have to deal with the largest obstacle to your success. The greatest single threat to your success is not the casino personnel. It is not a bad run at the tables. It is not the risk of consecutive losses eating up your bankroll. It is not the wine, the women, and the atmosphere. The greatest single threat to your playing career will be yourself. Surprised? Read on.

Self Control

Ultimately, success at casino gambling, business, romance or life, for that matter, largely depends on self-control. Winning at gambling is all about self-control. It is about controlling the amount of money used for gambling. It's about reducing losses. It's about limiting the amount of money used for any session of play. And ultimately, it's about walking out the door a winner.

Gamblers are a lot like fishermen. They like to talk about the one that got away. How many times have you been in a casino winning and ended up leaving a net loser? In the real world, the only wins that count are the ones you go home with.

Actually, it is no great feat to get ahead playing Three Card Poker. Probably over 75% of all players are ahead sometime in their play. But do they walk out the door winners? No. Probably close to 95% of all Three Card Poker players end up losing money.

Winning at gambling is first about controlling yourself. It is about accepting responsibilities for your own actions. In the long run, you don't win because you were

lucky, and you don't lose because you had a string of bad luck. Using the ***Power Poker Strategy*** will help you create your own luck. Used properly, you will be able to play at an advantage over the casino and be a net winner.

If you think about the times you were ahead in a casino and ended up giving it all back plus whatever additional cash you scrounged, who is to blame? The casino? The game? The house edge?

Don't get angry with me for pointing this out. What is wrong with setting aside your winnings when you are ahead? And what is wrong with limiting your losses when you hit a losing streak? And what is wrong with leaving a losing table?

I hope you answered "nothing." Doing these things requires self-control. They are easy to think about doing but may be much harder to actually accomplish.

Trust me, winning is habit forming. Losing, especially at a game like Three Card Poker, when you know you are using a winning strategy, is tough. Some professional gamblers, especially traditional blackjack card counters, will lose for months at a time. I am not sure that I could continue to play blackjack under those circumstances. The documented losing streaks for the ***Power Poker Strategy*** are very short. If you play this game regularly using this strategy, it is highly unlikely that you will ever encounter two back-to-back losing sessions. But, it can happen.

Once you are in a losing streak, you will be hard pressed to continue with your set game plan. You will begin to question everything about the strategy. You will be dealt lousy hands. You may feel like the dealer has it in for you. You will start to think that no matter how you wager, your bets will lose. When your larger bets lose, you will begin to question the betting strategy.

Trends are a dominant factor in gambling. Every Three Card Poker game has streaks. If you are in a winning streak, you may begin to feel omnipotent. However, when a losing streak hits, you may start to question every aspect of your playing strategy.

Perhaps the best thing you can do whenever you encounter losing tables is to first change tables. Your next option is to quit playing for a time. Depending on your feelings, you should either quit gambling altogether during your break, or if you are still in the mood to play, switch casino games. I have found on many occasions that a switch of games was exactly what I needed to improve my mood.

Many players seem to become chained to a particular table at some point in their play. This may be fine when the table is winning, but could spell disaster during a prolonged losing spell.

While losing is tough, winning may be even tougher for some people. Many players subconsciously feel that gambling winnings are "ill begotten gains." Many times persons raised with a strong work ethic cannot adjust to the reality that winning at gambling requires a great deal of effort too. Gambling winnings may not seem real or may even seem shameful. Many people feel guilty when they win. For these people, walking out with some of the casino's money doesn't feel right.

Gamblers never cease to amaze me. Gambling falls into some special category of human behavior that escapes the normal rules we usually live by. People change their behavior dramatically in casinos. Consummate misers can't wait to throw their money away in casinos. People who clip coupons every week to save ten bucks on groceries think nothing of dropping a hundred, five hundred or even a thousand in a casino.

Discipline is all about the ability to develop a winning plan. Control is about being able to follow it.

Ego Needs

We all share a need for recognition. We like to talk about our triumphs. Once you become a successful consistent winner at Three Card Poker, you are going to feel the need to talk about it occasionally.

Obviously, you should never discuss your casino winnings with any casino employees. Your goal is to look as much like another losing gambler as possible. Casinos don't like winners, and you are much more likely to get the royal treatment if you look like another losing gambler.

Occasionally, outside of the casino, I have been asked about how my strategies work. When I first learned to beat the casinos, I was quite enthusiastic and wanted to share my enthusiasm with other people. The typical reaction when I have revealed that I have a winning poker system is total disbelief. I am simply not believed. My best advice is to act like the vast majority of casino patrons who don't have a clue as to how to win.

Play the Part

I have given a number of suggestions about looking like a gambler. Everyone has his own style, and I am not suggesting that you disguise yourself physically or change your identity. However, persons who look serious, never drink, never tip, or don't talk to dealers or floormen do not look like gamblers and will not get the full benefit of casino generosity, including comps.

I have tried to give you as much ammunition as I can, but you can add your own finishing touches. Using casino credit is a must if you are a black chip player. You simply don't want to walk around with ten thousand dollars or more on your person. Not only are you literally risking your life should a mugger decide to target you, but you could run afoul of U.S. laws if you leave the country with more than \$10,000 in cash on you and don't declare it. Using the casino's credit and signing markers will make you look much more like a gambler, and it actually is a very convenient way to play.

You should also play for comps. Once you are playing with black chips, you will have comps offered to you and you might as well enjoy them. Even mid-range gamblers and low rollers can avail themselves of substantial comps.

The Casino is Not Your Enemy

The dealers, floor persons, cocktail waitresses, pit bosses, shift bosses and casino hosts are not your enemy. While pit bosses often scrutinize the play of high rollers, they are just doing their jobs. Many of the casino employees are actually rooting for you to win. We

have discussed how to get a dealer on your side by being friendly and using your tips advantageously. But your floorman, who, incidentally, is just as likely to be a woman called a floorman, is not against your winning. As long as you are not perceived as a threat to the casino's bankroll and are not engaged in behavior the casino objects to, e.g. card counting, you are free to win occasionally. Just don't rub it in their faces.

Floormen are the primary decision-makers on the amount of comps you get, and I always chat with the nearest floorman. Starting a conversation is easy. Once you are a credit player, you will interact with the floorman as soon as you buy in, by signing a marker. After establishing some rapport with a floorman, I will occasionally ask him or her for advice on certain poker wagers. It is always better to down play just how knowledgeable you are. Most floormen enjoy helping players and like to show off their own expertise.

In dealing with all casino personnel, your goal is to always be a polite, friendly person who likes the casino, enjoys talking to pit personnel, is impressed by the floorman's tremendous knowledge of poker, makes large wagers and doesn't quite know how to play poker correctly. This act will buy you a tremendous amount of unrestricted playing time, and your comp rate should go up exponentially. You are the perfect player from the casino's viewpoint, and the casino bosses will be willing to pay to ensure that you play in their casino.

Things to Avoid

There are some things I just won't tolerate when I gamble. Top on my list of "the things I like least" are rude dealers. If a dealer starts making comments about my play, or is rude to other players, my advice is to just leave.

You don't need this kind of aggravation. If you have a bad feeling about the table, trust your instincts and leave.

I also refuse to play with rude players.

Drinking

You've been waiting for this part, haven't you? I have yet to read a book on gambling where the author does not admonish the reader not to drink. Professional players, I guess, are too engrossed in observing the game to even lift a glass to their beleaguered lips. If they do manage a drink, it has to be Evian water. For the bosses and for most players, having a drink while you play is part of the fun. Gamblers do it for sure. And you want to look like a gambler, right?

I generally have a few drinks while I gamble. I also drink straight orange juice, coffee, iced tea and even ice water at the tables.

Drinking something alcoholic at the craps table is one more signal to the pit that you are not a threat. I generally go slow on the alcoholic drinks and time my drinks. In general, the fact that you are a poker player will go a long way towards enhancing your reputation as a gambler.

Superstitions

Superstitions really have no effect on the outcome of cards or dice or little balls spinning around inside of larger wheels or do they? Most gamblers and many pit personnel are superstitious. Gambling itself seems to breed superstitions.

What happens is that we remember certain events that occurred prior to, or in connection with other events, and we assume that there is a causal relationship between two seemingly unrelated occurrences.

The dice game is rife with superstitions. Lady shooters are lucky, as are virgin shooters, who have never rolled the dice before. If a die or the dice fly off the table, many old pros call their odds, place and buy bets off on the next roll, as everyone knows that sevens come after the dice fall on the floor.

Blackjack players have their own superstitions. Many of these concern upsetting the natural order of the cards. If you have been playing one hand of blackjack and suddenly spread to two hands, the other players may become unglued at the move. Likewise playing a hand differently than they would have can cause a barrage of negative comments.

Poker players may wear their lucky hats, and where would a slots player be without her lucky charm bracelet?

Many casino bosses have lucky and unlucky dealers. A craps crew which loses too much money may find itself fired, or at least broken up and the members rotated into different crews. If a blackjack player is winning too much money, a boss may bring in a lucky dealer. In the good old days when Vegas was mobbed up, the lucky dealer may well have been dealing seconds, with a real reason behind the luck.

In this day of corporation controlled casinos, a cheating dealer is unlikely, as a casino is not willing to risk its license over one winning player. However, many bosses believe certain dealers are lucky for the house, just as other dealers are unlucky. If a boss decides a dealer is unlucky, the hapless dealer is not likely to have a fruitful career with that casino.

Because gamblers and bosses are superstitious, it makes sense for you to at least appear to be superstitious too. If you lose, it is because the table is too cold, or in the alternative, if you win, you are on a hot streak. Hot and cold streaks do occur, but it doesn't hurt to play them up.

In addition to enhancing your conversation with bosses, you can use your superstitions to influence dealers as well.

Use superstitions to justify certain plays when you are talking to the bosses. Just don't get caught up in believing too many casino superstitions yourself. Your lucky hat is not likely to have been responsible for your last win, nor is a particular casino necessarily unlucky.

I will admit that I partially subscribe to the "unlucky casino syndrome." There are some casinos where I never seem to do well. I have no rational explanation for this. However, since I tend to play in Las Vegas where dozens of casinos vie for my attention, I can easily avoid the casinos that are unlucky for me.

Moving Up Your Betting Levels

If you devote much time to using the *Power Poker Strategy*, at some point you will want to increase the size of base bets — jumping from a betting series with a \$5 Base Bet to a higher level, for example. Many players find that an emotional adjustment is required to make these moves.

The size of the wagers required may intimidate them to the extent that they feel compelled to modify the betting strategy.

Of course, you must adhere to all of the requirements I have described before you decide to increase the size of your base wagers. You never want to over-bet your bankroll, and you should only increase the size of your wagers when your bankroll is large enough to justify it.

If you are undercapitalized, then you clearly are out of your league to jump from green chip to black chip play.

However, once you have built the prerequisite bankroll, you should be able to increase the size of your wagers. To acclimate yourself to making larger wagers, try moving in steps. You might increase from being a \$5 Base Bet bettor to using \$6 wagers as your starting point.

Probably your biggest hurdle will be moving up to black \$100 chip play. You will receive a great deal more attention from the casino than when you were a red chip or green chip player. Most of the attention will be positive. When you play with black chips, you automatically join an exclusive club with significant casino comps to be made available. However, your play will also be under greater scrutiny, and this bothers many players.

In addition to being showered with comps, you will also find that black chip play has other privileges. It is usually much easier to find uncrowded tables as a black chip player.

I suggest that you start wagering at a comfortable level for you. Your comfort level may be as a \$3, \$5 or a \$10 player. Stay at this level until you have thoroughly mastered, not only the technical side of playing correctly, but the emotional side of dealing with players, bosses and dealers. When you are ready, both psychologically and with adequate bankroll,

try moving up just one step and then playing at this level for awhile. Continue to hone your casino people skills at each new level and don't forget to look and act the part. Black chip players do act differently than nickel chip players.

The Casino As Your New Office

Walking up to a Three Card Poker table the first time can be an intimidating experience. If you have not played much, you will not fully understand the roles of the dealer, the floorman, the pit boss, the other casino personnel, and the eye-in-the-sky cameras following your every move.

If you are unfamiliar with casino surroundings, you may want to progress into your new role as a winning player on a step-by-step basis.

You can first play using the lowest level bets allowed. This is an excellent approach, and you will win plenty of money using this approach.

Once you feel very comfortable with the game, you can gradually increase your betting level, using casino profits to build your bankroll. It may take a number of trips before you feel confident enough to move up to higher-level play.

Only after you have completely mastered our strategy should you consider moving up to higher bet levels. At this point, you should feel that the casino is your new office, and the casino personnel are your fellow workers.

Remember that the casino is not your enemy. The primary functions of modern casino personnel, including bosses, are to make sure the casino patrons have a good enough experience that they will become repeat customers.

Once you become known in a casino, you will find yourself interacting with the casino personnel even more. Dealers will welcome you by name. Cocktail waitresses will remember your favorite drink. Bosses will invite you to coffee. A casino host will work with you to make sure that you get all of the comps to which you are entitled.

Once you sense that everyone in the casino is genuinely rooting for you to win, you will know that you have done your job well.

In order to reach this level, there is no substitute for putting in your hours. You will need to demonstrate that you are not only friendly, but reliable, honest and consistent in your fair treatment of all you encounter.

Too many players complain to bosses, dealers and anyone else who works in the casino. Grumpy players are all too common, and you want to make sure that you don't present this face to your "fellow workers." If you are tired or grumpy, don't play. It is important to take breaks frequently and use the time to relax. You should be at your peak emotionally when you play, and this includes having a positive mental attitude and interacting with players and casino personnel on a friendly and helpful basis.

Eventually the casino will recognize you as congenial, reliable and dependable. And, if you decide to make playing poker your new profession, your relationship with your new associates will serve as the foundation for your new business.

Casino Comps

Whether you chose to become a rated player at the casino table games, join a slot club or both, once you get into the system, you can start getting your share of comps. There are a number of tried and proven ways to multiply the number of comps you get. Here are some pointers.

Choose a primary casino and then play there.

A basic premise of the whole comp system is to reward loyal players. Casinos offer comps to lure new players to their casino and to make sure that their current customers remain their customers. If you think you have it tough trying to use the comp system to your advantage, just think what the casinos are up against with new competition springing up every day.

If you are a whale, you can ignore my advice. Just plan on either bringing or setting up a credit line of \$100,000 or larger, and wherever you decide to land will be glad to comp you. If you are in the million dollar plus range, the casino will not only comp you, but anyone else you chose to bring with you. They'll even charter a 737 and fly in as many of your friends as you want to bring along.

If you are not quite in this range, then it will pay to find a primary casino and reward it with your patronage. A player with as little as \$1,000 can get RFB treatment in some of the downtown casinos in Las Vegas. A player with a \$2,500 bankroll will have an even greater choice of hotel casinos. Move up to the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range, and a whole other batch of casinos become available.

But, in order to get noticed and adequately comped with a bankroll from \$1,000 to \$10,000, you have to be willing to reward a casino with your playing time.

A friend of mine visits Las Vegas about ten times a year. He usually takes \$5,000 to \$10,000 and manages to lose between half and three quarters of it per trip. I won't comment on his approach to gambling. Quite frankly, it stinks. Anyway, the subject is comps.

Believe it or not, he doesn't get any. He stays at a different casino every trip. I think he believes the constant changes might improve his luck. This is not necessarily bad, if he would play at the casino where he stays. He invariably changes casinos every hour or two and ends up playing in ten to twelve different establishments over the course of two or three days.

Because of the size of his buy-ins, he is constantly asked if he wants to be rated. He always declines. He confesses that he doesn't want the casinos to know how much he is losing. I think that he is trying to kid himself about his losses.

I have explained the comp system to him. As long as he is losing, he might as well have the casinos kick in \$750 to \$1,000 per trip. This money is there for the asking if he would only pick a primary casino and give it a reasonable amount of play.

I can't convince him to change his ways. But, maybe I can influence you.

There are many other benefits to playing more in a primary casino. The first benefit is the application of the old saw, "If you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours."

The casino will accelerate the rewards offered you the more you play. Some casinos formalize this process and actually accelerate the comps to slot club members as their total number of points increases. Many casinos offer more and more free rooms and entertainment the more you patronize them.

The key to maximizing your benefits from this whole process is to find a casino that matches your needs and then start playing there. If you have picked correctly, your loyalty will be well rewarded.

Join a slot club and/or get a VIP (Player's) card.

The start of getting comps is to be into the casino comp system. If you bet \$25,000 a hand, the host will find you. If you bet \$5 to \$25 a pop, you have to get the casino's attention.

And the easiest way to do this is with a little piece of plastic which looks just like a credit card.

Once you have a card, getting comped will become part of your play. The first thing you will do as a machine player is to insert your club card in the card reader.

When you sit down at a craps, blackjack or the Three Card Poker table you will present your VIP card when you buy in.

Your card will go down with your cash at the poker table when you lay five hundred in front of the dealer and tell him, "Chips please."

Once you have the cards and use them, all of your play will count towards something.

Get to know your casino host.

The casino host or the slot host will be your key to getting the most comps in most casinos.

If you are a member of the casino's slot club, you will get nearly all of your comps by asking the casino slot host. Many times comps for food, rooms, shows and merchandise are built right into the slot club payoffs. If you have just joined a slot club, try giving them some play for an hour or two and then asking the slot host for a buffet comp.

My experience with comps from playing slots or video poker is that the slot hosts are much more likely to be generous with comps than the personnel at the slot club booths. If you want brochures on the slot clubs or general information on the slot club, talk to the clerks at the booth. If you want a particular comp, ask the slot host.

Casino hosts, catering to the table game players, are at the top of the casino pecking order for granting comps. Their top priority is to cultivate new customers and to keep the current customers happy.

The casino hostesses are the persons working for VIP Services who help you check in, arrange your limo service, make dinner and show reservations and so forth.

The hostesses will handle most of your scheduling and reservation needs. The casino hosts are the people you need to talk to arrange RFB and airfare reimbursement.

You can meet a casino host a number of ways. One way is to call a casino before coming and ask to speak to a host. This is a good way to ask about the casino's comp policy and to tell the host that you are interested in playing there.

If you are playing with front money, you should meet your host after depositing your money with the cage but before you begin play.

If you are a cash player and make a large enough buy-in, you may have a chance to meet a host when the casino sets you up with a VIP card.

After you have played in a casino, you can make reservations through the casino host. Making a reservation through a host who knows you is a good way to get a room even if the front desk claims that no rooms are available. Casinos always reserve a block of rooms for their best customers, and a casino host can get you a room when a reservation clerk can't.

I recommend taking a little time to develop a relationship with a host. Part of developing a relationship is consistency. If you make one casino your primary casino and visit several times a year, it will be easier to become known to a host than if he only sees you every other year.

If you are using a casino credit line, the host will introduce himself to you. With front money or cash, you will want to make a point of meeting the host.

Treat your host with respect and nurture the relationship. He can shower you with all kinds of freebies, including gifts, food, a free room and VIP treatment. And he is paid to do this. For your part, you have to convince your host that your action is sufficient to justify the comps you want. And being a nice person won't hurt either.

Be a nice person.

Or have I said that? You can get enormous leverage out of maintaining friendly relationships with the people who work in casinos.

Start with the dealers and cocktail waitresses. These people have a couple of the hardest jobs in the casino and are at the bottom of the casino hierarchy. A smile and a reasonable tipping policy will do wonders to get these folks on your side. I believe that creating a positive atmosphere starts with how you act towards the casino personnel. A positive atmosphere is conducive to winning as well as to getting your fair share of comps.

You might look at it this way. If you are a grump, the dealer will probably reciprocate. This is contagious behavior, and soon the whole table will act the same way. The pit personnel not only will not be impressed with your play, they probably will be put off by the whole scene at your table. Not only will your rating likely suffer, you won't have nearly as much fun.

You can't always control how dealers and other customers act. If I join a table where no one is talking, and the dealer barely grunts when spoken to, I will make my departure very quickly. Usually a few cheerful words followed by a toke for the dealer will turn the atmosphere around. However, if this fails, you can't be faulted for not trying. Life is too short to play under miserable conditions. It is always better to change tables than to continue to play with an out of sorts crew and crabby complaining customers. Under these conditions, you should just leave.

Visit the casino at off times.

I nearly always schedule my casino trips for the middle of the week. I will typically arrive on a Monday afternoon and stay until Thursday afternoon. The benefits of visiting during the week are many. If there are any drawbacks to avoiding the weekend crowds, I haven't found them.

I don't like waiting and I hate lines. By timing my visits to the middle of the week, I can usually walk into any coffee shop, make reservations for a gourmet restaurant just about any time I chose and get show tickets to the shows I want to see.

If you want to really reduce the size of the crowds, travel in the middle of the week during off-season. Las Vegas is slower during the middle of summer when it is hot and in the late fall and early winter when it's colder. The slowest time in Vegas is usually between Thanksgiving and Christmas. But watch out for conventions. The Comdex is usually in town in November. Then it's impossible to get a room (unless you are a rated player or belong to a slot club).

If you like to visit Atlantic City, try visiting during the middle of the week in the dead of winter. You'll not only avoid the larger crowds, but you'll find that the minimum wagers on many tables have been reduced.

Visiting during an off time is also an excellent way to get noticed for purposes of getting rated and getting your comp career off to a roaring start.

With fewer players to contend with, a host or a floorman is easier to meet and to visit with. Also, during slow times, casinos tend to be more generous with comps. After all, they are more likely to have a slew of vacant rooms just waiting to be given away to qualified players on a Wednesday night in December.

Ask for comps.

If you play \$10,000 a hand at baccarat, you do not have to ask for comps. The casino will shower you with them. If you are like the rest of us wagering anywhere from \$5 to several hundred a hand, you need to ask for comps.

Slot players have the more systematic approach as the card readers on the machines are tied into a centralized computer system, and comps are based on points. If you are a slots or video poker player getting a comp is pretty straightforward with this system.

Table game players have to deal more with people. And unless you are a whale, a boss will almost never offer you a comp unless you have just won big in a smaller casino which watches every loss. Facing a player who might walk out with their money in hand, some

casinos will start throwing comps at the player. But most of the time, even rated players can play and play and never be offered a comp unless they ask for it.

My advice? Always ask for the comp. I have given you several examples of how to do it.

Maximize your comps.

Anyone who follows the steps I have described can get comps. Your first step is to pick your primary casino and give it most of your business. Before you pick your casino you want to make sure that the casino has a reasonable comp policy and that it has beatable games. You should also like the casino as you will be receiving a lot of invitations there once you get into their comp system.

After picking your primary casino, you need to join its slot club and get a VIP card. I usually do both. Some casinos, like Rio in Las Vegas, combine rating slot, video poker and table players on one card. Others track machine and table action separately. However, it usually pays to join the slot club, even if you are mostly a table game player.

In many ways, slot club players have an advantage over the table game players. Their rating is automatic; they don't have to get the attention of some boss. By joining the slot club, they start receiving mailing from the casino. I have received offers of free rooms from casinos where I had never played a slot machine, but had joined their slot club.

If you are just establishing your rating and want to get a room on a crowded weekend, your slot club membership can be invaluable. After the reservation clerk tells you there are no rooms available, tell her you are a member of the slot club or ask to speak to a slot host. Chances are, the casino will find a room for you.

Getting to know the casino personal is critical. The more the casino personnel know and like you, the more comps are likely to flow your way. This is even true for slot players with their automated rating system. A slot host can easily "bump up" your comp from a buffet for two to a coffee shop comp for two, even if your rating is not quite there.

With table players, interacting with the pit personnel is critical. A boss can make or break you in terms of your rating. If your average wager is \$25, your goal is to be rated as at least a \$50 to \$75 player. It is not enough to increase your wagers when the boss is looking; you need to be a nice person.

Playing with front money gives the casino a real shot at beating you. When you deposit the money in the cage, the casino knows that they have a shot at winning all of your front money. If you are willing to risk \$10,000, this will open the door to full RFB at most establishments.

When you play with front money, be sure to put it all in play. If you deposit \$10,000, draw markers for the full ten grand. This doesn't mean you should lose the money. If you look like a loser and the casino sees that you have put all of your front money into play, your rating will increase.

Remember to look like a loser. You can save your bragging for when you get home. Appear to lose, but lose gracefully. Dealers and bosses hear players gripe about losing every day. Look like a loser but don't complain.

If you run into a fantastic winning streak, don't worry about disguising the fact that you are a winner. The bosses will know that you are winning. If you try to hide enough chips to turn a big win into a loss, they'll know. When you have a big win, act like a winner. Go ahead and tip a little more. If you are playing craps, shouting is not out of line. I have had some of my best comps come out of big wins as casinos hate to see winners walk out the door with their money.

Once you know how to play the comps game, you will be able to milk the casinos for every dime your action entitles you to. I have given you some pointers on how to get a quarter's worth of comps for a dime's worth of action.

When you combine getting the maximum number of comps with the **Power Poker Strategy**, you are in the best position to maximize your profits from casino gambling.

If you at least break even, then the comps you receive constitute a profit for your play. If you are able to win money at the casino games, then your profit will be even greater.

Casino Etiquette

If you know how to dine in a fine restaurant without making a scene, or automatically open doors for others and say thanks when someone holds open a door for you, you will probably not have any trouble knowing how to conduct yourself in a casino. I normally don't think much about etiquette until I see some jerk raising hell with a dealer about his losses, or chewing out a cocktail waitress for taking too long with an order. Then I have to wonder how the concept of manners has escaped him completely.

I said *him*, because boorish, obnoxious behavior nearly always comes from males, with very few females managing to become the perfect asses that males seem to delight in being.

Casinos seem to attract a higher than normal number of persons with a need to blow off at some unfortunate casino employee. The times I have somehow gotten in the middle of these disputes, I nearly always take the side of the dealer or floorman, especially if a male patron is unjustifiably berating a female employee for no reason other than he has poor control over his gambling, managed to lose much more than that should have, and is now looking for a scapegoat.

For most persons who visit casinos, etiquette is simply a matter of common courtesy. It's okay to get a little wild in a casino. These are supposed to be places of fun, and drinking a little too much may be part of the entertainment. But for a successful ***Power Poker Strategy*** player, the rules are not quite the same. The casino is your place of employment and drinking should be limited. It goes without saying, courteous behavior should be practiced at all times.

At all casino table games, the rules of etiquette are pretty simple. Treat the dealers and other players with respect and avoid being loud, pushy or belligerent. If you get into a disagreement with a dealer, stay calm and be gracious even if the dealer really is wrong. It does not make sense to win an argument over a single payoff and create an enemy for life. Whatever the problem is, you don't want to be cast as the bad guy - by the casino employees or by other players.

Here are some specific tips that apply to the playing the Three Card Poker game.

1. To enter a game, find an empty spot or seat around the layout and put your money on the table for the dealer to exchange for chips. Make sure the dealer knows your intentions. Do not place your money anywhere on the layout where bets are made as it could be misconstrued as a wager. The best time to facilitate this exchange of cash for chips is right after the dealer has paid off all of the winning bets from the previous round of play.
2. Once you have received your chips and the previous round of play is finished you can make your wagers. Be sure to observe the previous decision so that you know if a Qualifying Hand for Pair Plus betting.
3. Please keep your hands away from your wager until the dealer has either removed a losing bet or paid you for a winning bet.
4. When you have finished playing, you can ask the dealer to color you up before leaving the table.
5. Watch your own bets at all times.
6. Don't slow down the game by constantly asking the dealer basic questions about how the game is played or how bets are made. There are many books on how to play Three Card Poker including this one. You should learn the correct payoffs for the bets you will be making.
7. Try to be discrete about your wins and losses. No one really cares to know how much you are willing, and it doesn't do you any good to advertise that you are a consistent winner.
8. While playing, conduct yourself courteously at all times. If you drink, refrain from overdoing it and never get drunk. You will need to stay alert to correctly make the

wagers required by the *Power Poker Strategy*, and contrary to the opinion of some drunks, alcohol does not make you think clearer.

9. Toke the dealers. Dealers call tips "tokes" as in a token of appreciation. Many players don't realize that dealers are not paid much more than minimum wage. Many dealers try very hard to please the public. Most dealers want the players to win and have a good time. They know that if the players enjoy themselves and win, they will get toked. I always toke the dealers. If I win more I will toke them more, but even if I lose, I will make several bets for the dealer. This is not only the right thing to do but will pay you off in spades if you do it consistently. Even floor personnel know who the tippers are, and my experience has been that if you tip, you will be more than repaid by hard working dealers, who will watch out for your bets and by casino complimentaries, controlled by and large by pit personnel who rate your play.

Keeping Records

Along with all of the new habits I am asking you to form, I am going to add one more. I want you to start keeping written records of how you do playing poker. Actually, you want to keep a written record of all of your gambling, but since this book is about how to win at Three Card Poker, we'll just focus on poker play.

There are a couple of reasons you will want to keep records. One is to honestly measure how well (or how badly) you are doing. Most players wince at this suggestion. They know that they have been long-term losers. They like to remember the occasional jackpots, and they will tell you all about them. But, they know that they are net losers at poker

I am going to ask you to be honest and start writing down how you actually do. You don't have to show this to anyone else. But, aren't you at least a little curious about your poker wins and losses?

Another reason I am suggesting that you start keeping written records is that you will eventually need them for income tax reporting. I'll tell you more about this later.

I have given you a couple of good reasons to start keeping written records of your gambling. They are –

First, to honestly measure how well (or badly) you are doing, and

Second, to have a record for income tax reporting.

How you set up your records is up to you. You may want to purchase a small notebook which fits in your pocket or purse. I like to keep records on individual sheets of standard size 8.5" x 11" accounting paper. I usually carry one sheet with me, neatly folded in my pocket. After each session of play, I will update the information I like to record on the piece of paper. Eventually, after I have returned home, the sheet will be filed in a loose-leaf notebook.

Whatever system you use is fine with me: just make sure that you start using some kind of recording system.

Before I start a gambling excursion, I like to record some basic information about what I plan to do. This information will outline my strategy and would look like this:

Location	Las Vegas
Profit Goal	\$3,000
Three Card Poker Bankroll	\$3,000
Base Bet Size	\$5
Game Buy-in	\$1,000
Days of Play	3 days
Number of Sessions	10 a day
Power Number	\$100
Power Number Lock-up Levels	150 200 250 300 etc
Loss Limit per Game	\$800
Pair Plus Bets	5 5 15 20 25 30 50 100 150

The results of each session should be recorded as soon as possible after finishing play. The following information should be recorded:

Location: (City, casino, etc.)

Date and Time Played

Table Number.

Base Bet Size

Won (Lost): Amount that you won or lost for the session.

Total Won (Lost): A running total of the amount you have won or lost.

Your actual record might look like the record shown below:

Location	Date & Time	Table No.	Base Bet Size	Amount Won (Lost)	Cumulative Won
LV – Golden Nugget	12-9-08 10 to 11 AM	31	\$5	\$121	658
LV – Golden Nugget	12-9-08 11 to 11:30 AM	31	\$5	\$237	895
LV – Orleans	12-9-08 2:10 to 2:40 PM	27	\$5	\$567	1462
LV – Orleans	12-9-08 3:30 to 4:10 PM	27	\$5	\$83	\$1545
LV - Orleans	12-9-08 5-20 to 5:50 PM	27	\$5	\$194	\$1739

For US players the basic rules for gambling are that all gambling winnings should be reported on your tax returns as other income. Gambling losses are deductible only to the extent that you report gambling winnings and then only as an itemized deduction. Home ownership with the attendant home mortgage interest is usually the deductible expense which allows people to itemize their deductions. If you don't own a home, or if your home mortgage interest is too low, or you have paid off your mortgage, you may not have enough expenses to itemize deductions, which could mean that you end up reporting gambling winnings as income but are not allowed to deduct gambling losses.

As a practical matter, most folks ignore their gambling wins and losses when filling out their tax returns because all they have is losses, and they couldn't document them if their lives depended on it. Because of the skill you now have with the *Power Poker Strategy* you are more likely than ever to have reportable gambling income.

The easiest way to meet the IRS guidelines for documentation is to keep the daily record of video poker play, as well as invoices, receipts and other documentation from your trip. File this information in an envelope, a file folder or a notebook.

Walking Out a Winner

The object of playing Three Card Poker is to walk out of the casino with more money than you came in with. That's what this book has been about. If you want to have fun playing Three Card Poker, be my guest. It's supposed to be fun. But, if you have consistently been losing to the casinos, then I question how much fun you have really been having.

There is no substitute for winning. Can I guarantee that you will always be a winner? No. But I will guarantee that your play will improve immensely and that you will have a better chance of winning than ever before if you follow the suggestions I have given you. Here is a brief rundown of what you should do to become a skilled three card poker winner:

1. Learn all of the rules for the ***Power Poker Strategy***. Don't shortchange the rules dealing with money management because they don't deal with betting. These rules are the key to winning with this strategy and you must learn and adhere to them.
2. Be sure to review all of the example games in this book. I would start with games illustrating Ante/Play betting as this is the most difficult part of the strategy. Be sure that you completely understand how to use the Bet Registry with Ante/Play betting. After becoming proficient with this part of the strategy, move on to Pair Plus betting and review the examples of using the Pair Plus Strategy. Finally, review the complete Example Games, making sure that you completely understand how to determine each bet and why we stopped play in each game.
3. Play three card poker for free in an online game. The game is called tri-card poker in the online games. At first, don't try to apply the strategy. Just make flat bets for Ante/Play and Pair Plus bets, such as \$1 bets. Be sure that you only play (raise) hands when you have a Q-6-4 or higher. You should record each game as you play, using our tracking form (the ***Automatic Bet Selector***).
4. After gaining a feel for the game through free play, try using the Ante/Play betting rules. At this stage, don't bother making Pair Plus bets, just stick with the Ante/Play part of the

game. Once again, be sure to record each round of play using the *Automatic Bet Selector* as a tracking form.

5. Once you feel that you really understand how to use the Ante/Play part of the strategy, you should add Pair Plus betting and use the complete strategy in practice mode. Be sure to record each round of bets and each game.. At this stage you should be able to beat the game. If you are not winning, you should review this manual again. You may not be using the Power Number correctly or adhering to the loss avoidance rules correctly.

6. If you haven't done so already, make sure that you are using the *Power Number* correctly in your practice games. This number will help you lock up profits as well as give you the means to continue to play when you are in a winning streak, with no risk of giving back your profits.

7. Play a series of games in practice mode using the *Automatic Bet Selector*. You will see how easy it is to play using it.

8. Keep good records of your practice games. Be sure that you are consistently winning before starting to play for real money.

9. Get ready for real play. The easiest way to do this is to deposit money in the online casino where you have been practicing and start playing for real. You will have to adhere to our bankroll requirements. If you are a \$1 base bettor, make sure that you have at least \$300 on deposit before you start play. Part of this deposit can be in the form of a bonus from the online casino.

10. Be sure that you keep accurate records. I employ record keeping mainly to keep score. If I have a Profit Goal in mind, I want to know when I have reached it. I know for a fact that most gamblers underestimate the amount of their losses and overestimate how much they are ahead. Record keeping will not only keep you honest, but it will also improve your winnings.

11. Set modest goals when you first start playing for real. It is always better to start playing with a lower bankroll so that if you do make mistakes your losses will be smaller. Only move up in play after you have built up the bankroll needed out of winnings. If your winnings are not growing, then you are not using the strategy correctly.

12. Finally, learn to play another casino game. I suggest craps for a real change. You'll get the chance to stand while you play and even cheer the shooter if you like. If cards are more your cup of tea, try blackjack. A much over-looked game is baccarat. Try it. It is a great game. You can try the Mini-Baccarat version on tables with \$5 minimum wagers. My point is that your casino experience will be much more enjoyable if you learn another game.

13. Play for blood. The best way to do this is to start out small and then increase the size of your wagers as your bankroll grows. I suggest that you study the bonus manual - ***How to Build a \$250,000 Bankroll Using the Power Poker Strategy!***

I hope you enjoyed this book and picked up some useful pointers. It's tough to win at gambling. But the real trick is not to lose too much. If you keep your losses low, then when the large payoff comes (and it will if you are around long enough to enjoy it), you will end up a net winner.

I know how hard it is to use discipline in a casino environment. But once you leave the casino and arrive home with real winnings, you will see the value in the strategies. I wish you the very best in your gambling endeavors.

Appendix A. Summary of Rules And Strategy

Full Payouts

Play MUST EQUAL Ante	Pair Plus Pays
DEALER PLAYS WITH QUEEN HIGH OR BETTER	PAIR.....1 to 1
WHEN DEALER DOES NOT PLAY	FLUSH.....4 to 1
Play... PUSH • Ante... 1 to 1	STRAIGHT.....6 to 1
WHEN DEALER PLAYS	THREE OF A KIND...30 to 1
Play... 1 to 1 • Ante... 1 to 1	STRAIGHT FLUSH...40 to 1
	Ante Bonus Pays
	STRAIGHT.....1 to 1
	THREE OF A KIND...4 to 1
	STRAIGHT FLUSH...5 to 1

Ante and Play (Raise) Power Poker Strategy Rules

Rule 1. When you are playing Three Card Poker, you will make an Ante bet on every hand. Whether you make the Play or Raise bet depends on whether your hand is Q-6-4 or better. If your hand equals or exceeds this bet you will make the Play or Raise bet. If the hand is lower valued than a Q-6-4, you will fold.

Rule 2. You will use a registry to record your bets. Start a run by writing down the amount of your Base Bet. Write down the amount of each losing bet to the right of the original Base Bet written down.

Rule 3. Always start a series by writing down the amount of the Base Bet to start the series. Add the amounts of losing bets to the right-hand side of this bet. Cancel any winning bets by canceling bets on the left-hand side of the registry.

Rule 4. After a win, you will bet on the sum of the consecutive losing bets prior to the win. If you have seven consecutive losses, then you will bet on the sum of the first eight

consecutive numbers (seven losses plus the first amount representing the start of the series). If you lose a wager after you have had a winning bet, you will continue to make a bet equal to the total computed before your first win.

Rule 5. You will limit losses on increased bets following a win to three or four losing bets. If you lose this number of bets, you will go back to making Base Bets until you have another win.

Rule 6. After reverting to making Base Bets following the loss of three or four increased bets, you will continue to make Base Bets until you have another win. At this time, you will resume making increased bets and may include other losing bets recorded in the registry to determine the size of the new increased bets.

The Pair Plus Power Poker Strategy Rules

Rule 1. Start every game making Ante bets only, following the rules for the Ante/Play **Power Poker Strategy**. Only start making Pair Plus bets following a **Qualifying Hand** of Pair or higher.

Rule 2. The Pair Plus **Power Poker Strategy** uses a betting progression as follows:

	Bet in Units
1	1
2	1
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	10
8	20
9	30

The rule for this progression is to move up one level after any loss and to fall back to level 1 after any Pair Plus win.

Power Poker Strategy Money Management Rules

Money Management Rule 1: You will play for a *Power Number* equal to 20 times your Base Bet. If \$1 is your Base Bet, then your Power Number will be for \$20. If \$5 is your Base Bet, then your Power Number will be for \$100.

Money Management Rule 2: After hitting your Power Number amount, you will continue to play so long as you don't violate Rule 1. Each time your winnings grow by 50% of your original Power Number, you will consider this a new and higher Power Number levels and use the same rules to prevent losing your winnings.

Money Management Rule 3: Whenever you experience a losing game with a loss greater than two times your Power Number level and then have a winning round which eliminates all or at least most of the loss, you will call the game completed, even if your win is less than the Power Number level.

Money Management Rule 4: Each level of play has its own **Loss Limit** based on both the size of your bets and the amount of your prior winnings. If your Base Bet is \$1, you will have a lower Loss Limit than if you make \$2 or \$5 your Base Bet. When you reach a Loss Limit for your level of play or if making and losing the next round of bets would cause you to exceed your Loss Limit, then you must quit playing this game and depart immediately.

Pair Plus Betting Series

Bet No	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9
Base Beet									
\$1	1	1	3	4	5	6	10	20	30
\$2	2	2	6	8	10	12	20	40	60
\$3	3	3	9	12	15	18	30	60	90
\$4	4	4	12	16	20	24	40	80	120
\$5	5	5	15	20	25	30	50	100	150
\$6	6	6	18	24	30	36	60	120	180
\$8	8	8	24	32	40	48	80	160	240
\$10	10	10	30	40	50	60	100	200	300
\$15	15	15	45	60	75	90	150	300	450
\$20	20	20	60	80	100	120	200	400	600
\$25	25	25	74	100	125	150	250	500	750

Bankroll, Power Number Levels, and Expected Win Rate

Power Poker Strategy Bankroll Levels for Beginning Loss Limits

Base Bet	Game Bankroll (Buy-in)	Beginning Total Bankroll	Power Number	Beginning Loss Limits
\$1	\$100	\$300	\$20	\$80
\$2	\$200	\$600	\$40	\$160
\$3	\$300	\$900	\$60	\$240
\$4	\$400	\$1,200	\$80	\$360
\$5	\$500	\$1,500	\$100	\$400
\$6	\$600	\$1,800	\$120	\$480
\$8	\$800	\$2,400	\$160	\$640
\$10	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$200	\$800
\$15	\$1,500	\$4,500	\$300	\$1,200
\$20	\$2,000	\$6,000	\$400	\$1,600
\$25	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$500	\$2,000

**Power Poker Strategy
Bankroll Levels
for Expanded Loss Limits**

Base Bet	Expanded Game Bankroll (Buy-in)	Expanded Total Bankroll	Power Number	Expanded Loss Limits
\$1	\$200	\$600	\$20	\$160
\$2	\$400	\$1,200	\$40	\$320
\$3	\$600	\$1,800	\$60	\$480
\$4	\$800	\$2,400	\$80	\$720
\$5	\$1000	\$3,000	\$100	\$800
\$6	\$1,200	\$3,600	\$120	\$1,060
\$8	\$1,600	\$4,800	\$160	\$1,280
\$10	\$2,000	\$6,000	\$200	\$1,600
\$15	\$3,000	\$9,000	\$300	\$2,400
\$20	\$4,000	\$12,000	\$400	\$3,200
\$25	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$500	\$4,000

Power Numbers and Win Lock-up Levels

Base Bet	Power Number	Power Number Lock-up Levels
\$1	\$20	30 40 50 60 70 and so on
\$2	\$40	60 80 100 120 140 and so on
\$3	\$60	90 120 150 180 210 and so on
\$4	\$80	120 160 200 240 280 and so on
\$5	\$100	150 200 250 300 350 and so on
\$6	\$120	180 240 300 360 420 and so on
\$8	\$160	240 320 400 480 560 and so on
\$10	\$200	300 400 500 600 700 and so on
\$15	\$300	450 600 750 900 1050 and so on
\$20	\$400	600 800 1000 1200 1400 and so on
\$25	\$500	750 1000 1250 1500 1750 and so on

**Expected Hourly Win Rates at
Various Levels and Speeds of Play**

Base Bet	Winnings Per Round	Number of Rounds Played Per Hour		
		50 per hour	100 per hour	200 per hour
\$1	\$1.67	\$83.50	\$167.00	\$334.00
\$2	\$3.34	167.00	334.00	668.00
\$3	\$5.01	250.50	501.00	1002.00
\$4	\$6.68	334.00	668.00	1336.00
\$5	\$8.35	417.50	835.00	1670.00
\$6	\$10.02	501.00	1002.00	2004.00
\$8	\$13.36	668.00	1336.00	2672.00
\$10	\$16.70	835.00	1670.00	3340.00
\$15	\$25.05	1252.50	2505.00	5010.00
\$20	\$33.40	1670.00	3340.00	6680.00
\$25	\$41.75	2087.50	4175.00	8350.00

Appendix B. Automatic Bet Selector

How to use the Automatic Bet Selector.

You have seen numerous examples in this manual of games played using a tracking form. To turn the Tracking Form into an Automatic Bet Selector all you have to do is set the form up as follows:

1. Fill in your Base Bet, Power Number and Bankroll Amounts.
2. Fill in the Pair Plus bets you will make following the appearance of a Qualifying Hand.
3. Be sure that you have practiced the game enough that you understand the rules. You will not be able to use the Automatic Bet Selector correctly if you don't understand the playing rules.

On the following pages we have:

1. A blank Automatic Bet Selector. You may copy this form and use it as often as you like.
2. A sample game played using the Automatic Bet Selector. This game was played using \$1 Base Bets, with a \$20 Power Number and a Bankroll of \$100.

Power Poker Strategy Automatic Bet Selector

Date: _____ Location: _____ Amount Won: _____

Base Bet: _____ Power Number: _____ Bankroll: _____

Pair Plus Betting Series:

Bet No	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9
Bet in Units									

No	Ante		Raise		Registry	Pair Plus			Net Won	Cum Won	Qual Hand
	Amt	W/L	Amt	W/L		Bet No	Amt	W/L			
1											
2											
3											
4											
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Power Poker Strategy Automatic Bet Selector Sample Game

Date: 02-19-09 Location: Orleans, Las Vegas Amount Won: +29

Base Bet: \$1 Power Number: \$20 Bankroll: \$100

Pair Plus Betting Series:

Bet No	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9
Bet in Units	1	1	3	4	5	6	10	20	30

No	Ante		Raise		Registry	Pair Plus			Net Won	Cum Won	Qual Hand	
	Amt	W/L	Amt	W/L		Bet No	Amt	W/L				
1	1	-1	1	-1	111				-2	-2		
2	1	+2	N		41				+2	-0-	St	
3	1	+1	N		4-	Coup Won	P1	1	+1	+2	+2	P
4	1	-1	F		11		P1	1	-1	-2	-0-	
5	1	+1	1	+1	4	Coup Won	P2	1	+4	+6	+6	Fl
6	1	+1	N		4	Coup Won	P1	1	-1	-0-	+6	
7	1	-1	F		11		P2	1	-1	-2	+4	
8	1	-1	F		111		P3	3	-3	-4	-0-	
9	1	-1	1	-1	11111		P4	4	-4	-6	-6	
10	1	-1	1	-1	1111111		P5	5	-5	-7	-13	
11	1	+1	1	+1	411111		P6	6	+6	+8	-5	P
12	5	-5	5	-5	11111555		P1	1	-1	-11	-16	
13	5	-5	F		11111555		P2	1	-1	-6	-22	
14	1	-1	1	-1	1111155511		P3	3	+3	+1	-21	P
15	1	-1	1	-1	111115551111		P1	1	-1	-1	-22	
16	1	+1	N		411115551111		P2	1	-1	-0-	-22	
17	4	+4	4	+4	444555444		P3	3	-3	+5	-17	
18	15	+15	15	+15	555	Coup Won	P4	4	-4	+26	+9	
19	1	+1	1	+1	4-	Coup Won	P5	5	+20	+22	+31	F
20	1	-1	F		11		P1	1	-1	-2	+29	
21												
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Appendix C. Three Card Poker Hand Frequencies

If you have a mathematical bent, you may want to read this chapter. However, you don't need to know any of the information in this chapter to beat Three Card Poker using our strategy.

The table below lists the frequency and probability by percentage for the different hand ranks in Three Card Poker.

Rank	Frequency	Probability (%)
Straight Flush	48	0.2172
Three of a Kind	52	0.2353
Straight	720	3.2579
Flush	1096	4.9593
Pair	3744	16.9412
Nothing	16440	74.3891
Total	22100	100.0000

Calculating Frequency of Three Card Poker Hands

The following describes a method for calculating the frequency of 3-card poker hands. The calculations make extensive use of the combinations without repetition formula (combin formula in Excel) ${}^nC_r = n! / (r! \times (n - r)!)$

Any Hand - Total number of 3-card poker hands drawn from a 52 card standard deck.

$${}^{52}C_3 = 22100$$

Straight Flush - There are 12 differently ranked straight flushes from A-2-3 up to Q-K-A in each of the 4 different suits.

$${}^{12}C_1 \times {}^4C_1 = 48$$

Three of a Kind - There are 13 differently ranked three of a kinds using 3 of the 4 suits.

$${}^{13}C_1 \times {}^4C_3 = 52$$

Straight - There are 12 differently ranked straights from A-2-3 up to Q-K-A. Each of the cards can be 1 of the 4 suits with the straight flushes being excluded.

$$^{12}C_1 \times (^4C_1)^3 - 48 = 720$$

Flush - A flush contains 3 of the 13 ranks, each card belonging to 1 of the 4 suits. The straight flushes are excluded.

$$^{13}C_3 \times ^4C_1 - 48 = 1096$$

One Pair - There are 13 differently ranked pairs using 2 of 4 suits, the third card being 1 of the 12 remaining ranks using 1 of the 4 suits.

$$^{13}C_1 \times ^4C_2 \times ^{12}C_1 \times ^4C_1 = 3744$$

Nothing - Any hand not being one of the above type of hands.

$$^{52}C_3 - 48 - 52 - 720 - 1096 - 3744 = 16440$$

Appendix D. Ante/Play and Pair Plus Analysis

If you have a mathematical bent, you may want to read this chapter. However, you don't need to know any of the information in this chapter to beat Three Card Poker using our strategy.

Ante and Play Strategy

Calculating Strategy

To determine the correct strategy for any hand of Three Card Poker it is necessary to calculate the expected value (E.V.) for each possible decision, in this case either to:

- Fold
- Make the Play bet

The correct strategy is to make whichever decision has the highest expected value.

For the purpose of these calculations the conditions are:

- Use the Standard Rules of Three Card Poker.
- The player has no information other than the three cards dealt to their hand.
- Expected value is calculated on the basis of an Ante bet of 1 unit as opposed to the total amount bet (i.e. Ante + Play bet).
- The Ante Bonus is ignored as it is awarded independently of the result of the hand.

The expected value of the player folding is simply equal to losing the ante bet which is -1.

The expected value of the player making the Play bet is calculated by cycling through all possible dealer hands (${}^{49}C_3 = 18424$ possible dealer hands) and determining the frequency of each possible result. The table below illustrates the calculations involved in determining the expected value for making the Play bet given the frequency of each

result. While it might be possible to do this calculation by hand, computers can easily and quickly calculate the frequencies and expected value.

Result	Frequency	Probability	Win/Loss	Expected Value
Dealer does not qualify	f_1	$p_1 = f_1/18424$	1	$EV_1 = 1 \times p_1$
Dealer qualifies, player's hand wins	f_2	$p_2 = f_2/18424$	2	$EV_2 = 2 \times p_2$
Dealer qualifies, player's hand ties	f_3	$p_3 = f_3/18424$	0	0
Dealer qualifies, player's hand lose	f_4	$p_4 = f_4/18424$	-2	$EV_4 = -2 \times p_4$
Total	18424	1.00000000		$EV = EV_1 + EV_2 + EV_4$

Optimal Strategy

By calculating the expected value of each possible player hand it is determined that the optimal strategy is for the player to make the Play bet on all hands ranked Q-6-4 High or better. Any other hand should be folded. Below are the expected values for making the Play bet for Q-6-3 High, Q-6-4 High, and Q-6-5 High. Note that there are only 4 distinct suit combinations with other suit combinations being equivalent to the ones listed (e.g. $Q\heartsuit 6\heartsuit 4\clubsuit$ is equivalent to $Q\spadesuit 6\spadesuit 4\heartsuit$).

Hand	No Qualify	Win	Tie	Lose	Play E.V.
$Q\spadesuit 6\heartsuit 3\clubsuit$	5747	271	26	12380	-1.002551
$Q\spadesuit 6\spadesuit 3\heartsuit$	5747	270	25	12382	-1.002877
$Q\spadesuit 6\heartsuit 3\spadesuit$	5747	268	25	12384	-1.003311
$Q\heartsuit 6\spadesuit 3\spadesuit$	5739	271	25	12389	-1.003962

Hand	No Qualify	Win	Tie	Lose	Play E.V.
Q♠ 6♥ 4♣ 5758	305	26	12335	-0.993378	
Q♠ 6♠ 4♥ 5758	303	25	12338	-0.993921	
Q♠ 6♥ 4♠ 5758	302	25	12339	-0.994138	
Q♥ 6♠ 4♠ 5751	305	25	12343	-0.994627	

Hand	No Qualify	Win	Tie	Lose	Play E.V.
Q♠ 6♥ 5♣ 5754	339	26	12305	-0.986648	
Q♠ 6♠ 5♥ 5754	336	25	12309	-0.987408	
Q♠ 6♥ 5♠ 5754	336	25	12309	-0.987408	
Q♥ 6♠ 5♠ 5748	339	25	12312	-0.987733	

Calculators

- [Pair Plus Odds Calculator](#)
- [Ante and Play Strategy Calculator](#)

[Ante and Play Odds Calculator](#)