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Diane's
Thirty-Minute
Blackjack
Strategy



SILVERTHORNE
PUBLICATIONS

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Printed in the United States of America.

Address all inquiries to the publisher:

Silverthorne Publications, Inc.

848 N. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 601

Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

Email: orders@silverthornepublications.com

Created in the United States of America

The material contained in this book is intended to inform and educate the reader and in no way represents an inducement to gamble legally or illegally.

About this Report. . .

This report is designed to be used as part of the extensive course on playing and beating blackjack described in the manual *Power Blackjack*. The complete manual is available online and may be downloaded in the next five minutes if you like.

Just [click here](#) to get your own copy of what has been called "the ultimate guide to beating the online casinos."



Introduction

Blackjack experts would have you believe that you must spend hundreds of hours learning to play increasingly complex strategies in order to win.

This is just not true. The *Power Blackjack Strategy* is a proven winning strategy that doesn't require card counting, memorizing dozens of charts or any of the other nonsense that many blackjack experts tell you that you must do to win.

It is so simple to learn, yet so powerful that it has been called "the ultimate blackjack strategy."

These seemed like pretty compelling reasons to teach the system to my wife before our recent trip to a southern California casino (about a week before the horrible fires started).

However, Diane refused to spend any time at all learning the blackjack strategy. She has her favorite craps system and she told me she "didn't want to be bothered learning all that blackjack mumbo jumbo."

I explained that the casino where we would be staying doesn't have Las Vegas style craps or roulette. However, their blackjack game is definitely beatable using the Power Blackjack Strategy.

She wouldn't budge. I guess stubbornness must run in our family. She finally told me - "Martin if you can give me a

complete system that doesn't take more than thirty minutes to learn, I will consider it. Otherwise, I will just shop and visit the spa while you gamble."

Well, this is a pretty tough order I thought. But the more I thought about how Diane can shop, the more I decided that I needed to figure out a way to teach her how to play and win at blackjack in less than thirty minutes.

I was about to give up and started reading my e-mail. One of my customers, Greg B., told me that he was using what I call the "Down and Dirty Strategy" for Power Blackjack to play and win. As I thought about Greg's experiences and Diane's request for an "under thirty minute system," I realized that it might just be possible to meet her request.

I studied the Power Blackjack manual. After about half a day of studying and making careful notes, it hit me. I believed that I could capture 99% of the power of the strategy in a simple set of rules that anyone could learn in less than thirty minutes.

I wrote down the rules. My initial list was still too long. I started carefully modifying the "rules of play." When I finally finished it was after midnight. While I was tempted to run down the hall and wake Diane to show her the new simplified playing rules, I realized that she might not be in her most receptive mood being awakened from a deep and peaceful sleep by a very excited husband.

I waited until the next afternoon, and I approached her at what I judged to be a good moment. I asked her if she had thirty minutes to learn how to win at blackjack. She laughed, set one of her kitchen timers to thirty minutes and asked me to give her what I had.

I went back to my office and checked on some of my investments in stocks and mutual funds. The clock seemed to almost slow down. I had really worked hard on this special "streamlined system" and was anxious for Diane to give her blessing.

With only three minutes left, Diane walked into my office. "Well, what do you think?"

"I think you may have convinced me to try blackjack," she told me. Let me keep your report so that I can review it a couple of more times. But I think I've got everything down."

I must have looked like an overly eager puppy waiting for approval, because she flashed me a big smile before she turned and walked out.

Now, I thought, the proof is in the pudding as they say. If Diane could learn this system in less than half an hour and actually win with it, I may have developed something very useful that even you might want to see.

We found out soon enough. We flew out to Los Angeles where I had some business to take care of. After finishing my business, we drove our rented car down I-15 to Highway 76 and then proceeded east to the Pala Casino and Resort.

A couple of my partners and I had decided that the Pala Casino would provide a nice getaway for several overdue, but unfortunately very necessary, meetings. And Diane could try out the new "thirty minute blackjack strategy."

The Pala Casino is located at the foot of Palomar Mountain in Southern California. From our hotel suite we could see the San Luis Rey River. This is quite a resort with its very comfortable hotel, a luxurious spa, an Olympic sized pool and seven or eight restaurants (we only visited three).

Of course, the big drawback for Diane was the lack of craps. That's where my blackjack experiment was supposed to kick in.

We arrived in the evening, had a great meal in Mama's Cucina Italiana restaurant and retired early.

The next morning, after breakfast in the coffee shop, I had a meeting to attend. Diane told me that she would try a little blackjack.

My meeting broke up at 11:30 a.m. We had a luncheon planned for my two partners, their wives, and of course, Diane and me.

When I saw Diane, I had to resist the urge to just blurt out, "How did you do at blackjack?"

Instead, I asked her how her morning went. She talked about meeting one of the other wives, Barbara, at the spa and she told me what a good time that had had. After a seemingly endless description of the spa, I asked her, "And did you get to play any blackjack?"

She looked me directly in the face, winked and said, "I played a little. About an hour and a half."

"And how did you do?" I could tell she was enjoying dragging this moment out, probably as some sort of repayment for talking her into playing blackjack.

"I won over \$500. I decided that this was enough for the day and that I wanted to try out the spa."

I guess I visibly relaxed. "Your short system is great Martin. I think you ought to share it with some of your clients."

Since then, I have had several colleagues try out the special, quick-to-learn blackjack strategy. They have all had good results. I think it's time I shared the good news with you.

Joel R. tried it and made over \$3,500 in Atlantic City playing a few hours a day for three days.

Rob M. has been playing in a local casino with terrible blackjack rules (dealer hits a soft seventeen, and the game is played with six decks with continuous shuffling

machines). However, he has been winning with "great ease," as he put it.

I think there is no question: the shortened version of the Power Blackjack Strategy is very powerful. It has about 99% of the power of the full strategy. As a result of the favorable experiences with it, I have decided to make it available to you.

However, as of last Friday, I still didn't know what to call it. Is it a "Thirty Minute Power Blackjack Strategy" or the "99% Power Blackjack Method."

Diane rolled her eyes at both of these names. "Why don't you just name it after me?" she smiled.

So I did.

I hope you profit mightily from this strategy. This is the same strategy that wins consistently against all types of blackjack games. It wins in single-deck and multiple deck. It wins in jurisdictions with lousy playing rules and conditions. It wins where card counters don't have a chance. It even wins in Internet casinos.

Let me know how you do with Diane's system. I would like to include a story about you in a future letter to my colleagues.



The Down and Dirty Playing Strategy

The optimal way for a player to play each hand against every possible dealer up-card was derived by playing millions of blackjack hands on a simulated basis using computers. Because of differences in playing rules between different locales, such as the difference in the way the game is played in northern Nevada and the Las Vegas Strip, and because the number of decks used in a game can affect playing strategy, most experts present a slightly different playing strategy for each variation in rules, with adjustments for multiple decks versus single deck play.

It is far too complicated to memorize pages of different charts, trying to learn slightly different strategies for each rule variation. It is simply not necessary to take this approach to beat blackjack. Learning every possible difference in how to play your hand will, at best, improve your mathematical probability of winning by 0.03%. If you make a couple of mistakes in playing strategy, because of the complexity of the rules, these will more than negate the slight advantage learning the many variations in playing strategy gives you.

For these reasons, the Power Blackjack Basic Strategy uses only one strategy, which can be used in single as well as multiple deck games, with nearly every rule variation.

If you are strictly a casual player, I don't want you to become discouraged by the time investment in learning the complete Power Blackjack Playing Strategy. For me to tell you that it is much simplified, as compared to learning variations in playing strategy for each slight change in rules, may seem condescending at best. If you want to play blackjack occasionally and still want to have an excellent chance of winning, you can do so without even learning the much simplified Power Blackjack Playing Strategy.

Down and Dirty Strategy

1. If conventional surrender is offered, always surrender any 16 against a dealer 9,10 or Ace and any 15 against a dealer 10.
2. Hard hand hitting and standing rules are:
 - Always stand on 17 or higher
 - Always hit on any hand of 11 or less
 - With a hand of 12 to 16, hit against an up-card of 7 or greater, otherwise stand.
3. Soft hand hitting and standing rules are:
 - With a soft hand of 18 or more, always stand.
 - With a soft hand of 17 or less, always hit.
4. Double down on any hand of 10 or 11 if your total is greater than the dealer's up-card, eg. double on 11 versus a dealer 10 or lower, double on 10 versus a dealer 9 or lower.
5. Split any pairs of 8s unless 8s are surrendered.
6. Never take insurance.

I am presenting a very condensed strategy you can use called the **Down and Dirty Strategy**. You can probably learn this strategy in less than thirty minutes, and for playing blackjack occasionally, you will not sacrifice much. Using this strategy, you will be playing at less than a 1% disadvantage in most casino games. If you combine this with the Power Blackjack Betting Strategy, you will be an overall winner in blackjack.

If you are unfamiliar with basic strategy or you simply don't have the time or inclination to learn the complete basic strategy, just learn the Down and Dirty Playing Strategy. You will play better than 95% of all blackjack players, and you will have an excellent chance of winning.

You if only play blackjack once in while and don't have the time or inclination to play perfect basic strategy, you don't need to go beyond the **Down and Dirty Strategy**. However, when you are ready to gain as much advantage over the house as you can with the best playing strategy, you will need to memorize the complete Power Blackjack Basic Strategy.



Summary of Power Blackjack Betting Strategy

Basic Play

1. The amount of your buy-in determines the betting series you can use.
2. The following betting progression is used with a \$200 buy-in: 5 10 15 20 25 30 40. To use this progression, always start with the lowest bet of \$5.
3. If a wager loses, the next bet will be for the amount one level higher in the betting series. If the highest bet in the series is lost, the game is terminated as a losing game.
4. If a wager wins, the next wager will be for an amount one level lower in the betting series except as modified by rule 5 below.
5. If two consecutive wagers win, or if two out of three bets win, the next wager will be for the amount two levels lower in the series. For example, when using the \$5 betting series, if you wager 25 and win, then drop to 20 and lose, then increase your bet to 25 and win, you will drop the next bet down two levels to 15.

6. The effects of blackjacks, splits and double downs are ignored in deciding to move up or down the betting series, unless you are near the end of a game and using either the conservative betting rules or table departure rules. For example, if you bet \$20 and double down, wagering another \$20, and you win the bet for \$40 in winnings, your next wager will still be either \$15, or dropped two levels to \$10 if you have just won two out of three bets.

7. The progression may be started over at any time. However, this option should be used sparingly. It is better to call a game completed and set aside any winnings before starting a progression over.

Conservative Starting Rules

1. Each game will start with the lowest level wager in the betting series. If the first wager loses, do not immediately raise your wager to the next level in the series. When starting a game, you will repeat the first level bet until you have a win. The maximum number of losses you will tolerate when starting a game is three consecutive losses.
2. If you lose three consecutive hands, the game is over and you will leave the table. Three hands can consist of three or more bets as you may create more than three bets from three hands because of splitting pairs or doubling down.
3. If you have a win before finishing the first three test bets, treat that win like any other win of the first bet in the betting series and parlay the winning wager.
\$10 or \$15.

Departure Rules:

1. You will always leave the table following the loss of the last bet in the betting series.
2. You will always depart if you lose the first three hands when starting a game.
3. When winning, you can either use the conservative betting rules, or, if you like, go to absolute lock up mode to preserve and win and still keep playing. In lock up mode, you will not parlay any winning bets, and you will limit your bets to bets at levels one and two in the betting series (\$5 and \$10 for the \$5 betting series).
4. After a large win you may switch to using the conservative betting rules, go into lock up mode, or just call the game and leave the table, winnings in hand.



Bankroll Requirements

The betting series you will use is geared for the size of the bankroll utilized for each game. The following table summarizes the minimum bet for each betting series, the required buy-in amount, the suggested buy-in amount and the betting progression you will use. You will notice that I have included more betting levels in this chart than in the previous examples. This is to give you even more flexibility in your levels of play.

Game Bankrolls and Betting Progressions

Minimum Bet	Required Buy-in	Suggested Buy-in	Betting Progressions
\$2	\$ 80	\$ 160	2 4 6 8 10 12 16
\$5	\$ 200	\$ 400	5 10 15 20 25 30 40
\$10	\$ 400	\$ 800	10 20 30 40 50 60 80
\$15	\$ 600	\$1,200	15 30 45 60 75 90 120
\$25	\$1,000	\$2,000	25 50 75 100 125 150 200
\$35	\$1,400	\$2,800	35 70 105 140 175 210 280
\$50	\$2,000	\$4,000	50 100 150 200 250 300 400
\$75	\$3,000	\$6,000	75 150 225 300 375 450 600
\$100	\$4,000	\$8,000	100 200 300 400 500 600 800

I recommend that you use the higher *suggested buy-in amounts* when you play. For instance, if you are playing with a \$5 minimum bet, you should use \$400 as your game bankroll instead of buying in for the minimum of \$200. This is an application of the "50% rule" I mentioned as a better way of managing your money. The benefit of buying in for a higher amount is twofold. First, you if you lose the betting series, you will not have to suffer the indignity of losing most of your game bankroll. When you buy in for the larger amount you know that so long as you follow the rules and leave immediately after losing a betting series, you will always leave with chips in your hand.

A second benefit is that by having more chips in reserve you will help alleviate any hesitancy you might have about playing your hands correctly when you have larger bets out. You can safely split pairs, double down, or even double on split pairs, with even your largest wagers when you use the higher bankroll amount.

Total Bankroll Requirements

<i>Minimum Bet</i>	<i>Required Buy-in</i>	<i>Required Bankroll</i>	<i>Suggested Buy-in</i>	<i>Suggested Bankroll</i>
\$ 2	\$ 80	\$ 400	\$ 160	\$ 800
\$ 5	\$ 200	\$ 1,000	\$ 400	\$ 2,000
\$ 10	\$ 400	\$ 2,000	\$ 800	\$ 4,000
\$ 15	\$ 600	\$ 3,000	\$1,200	\$ 6,000
\$ 25	\$1,000	\$ 5,000	\$2,000	\$10,000
\$ 35	\$1,400	\$ 7,000	\$2,800	\$14,000
\$ 50	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$4,000	\$20,000
\$ 75	\$3,000	\$15,000	\$6,000	\$30,000
\$100	\$4,000	\$20,000	\$8,000	\$40,000

Once you decide to use the higher buy-ins, you should also increase the size of your total blackjack bankroll. The next table shows the size of bankroll you should use for each betting level. This table should be self explanatory. If you are a \$5 bettor and decide to take my suggestion and use a \$400 bankroll for each game, then you should also increase your total bankroll for this level of play to \$2,000.

