

## Masque On-Line Casino (Poker)

### Keyboard Shortcuts:

<b>Key</b>	<b>Function</b>
F1	Gets Help. If the Help window is already open, pressing F1 displays the "Using Windows Help" topics.

Alt + underlined letter on the button will select that option.

# Texas Hold'em

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# Betting

## LIMIT GAMES

Limit refers to the size of bets allowed. The limit games are described by the two sizes of bets allowed at the different stages in the hand. The lower limit is used for the first two rounds, i.e., the round of betting after the starting cards and the next round, and the higher limit is used for the remaining rounds of betting.

For example, a \$10-\$20 game allows bets of \$10 on the first two rounds and \$20 on the remaining rounds. All raises, increasing the original bet, must also be in the same increments. Limit games allow a maximum of four raises to be made in a particular round unless there are only two players in contention for the pot. In this situation, players may raise back and forth as many times as desired.

## NO-LIMIT GAMES

No-limit games allow bets of any size at any time and have no limitation on the number of raises allowed. However, players may not bet less than the size of the blind or more than they have on the table

## The Basic Rules of Texas Hold'em

Texas hold'em is a variation of seven card stud where players share common cards called "*the board*." Due to the fact that the starting two card hand is comprised entirely of face-down cards, the obligation to open the betting is rotated clockwise after each hand. This is accomplished with the use of a "*dealer button*" and "*blinds*." A dealer button is a round disk with the word *dealer* written on it. Blinds are mandatory bets made by the first two players clockwise from the dealer button.

The blinds posted in all limit games are in the amounts of 1/2 of the lower limit for the first player (small blind) and the lower limit for the second player (big blind). The blinds in a \$10-\$20 game would, therefore, be \$5 and \$10.

Each player receives two cards face-down. The player to the left of the big blind must now call the size of the big blind, raise an amount equal to the size of the big blind or fold his hand.

The next three cards are called the "*flop*." They are delivered all at once, face-up in the middle of the table and are used by all players. The first player to the left of the button is first to act. This will hold true for all remaining rounds of betting. The player being first may check or bet the limit, still the smaller limit at this point. Other players may check, fold, call, or raise as appropriate.

The next card is called the "*turn*." It is delivered face-up next to the first three in the middle of the table. With the turn the betting goes to the higher limit. The final, or "*river*" card, also called "*fifth street*," is now dealt face-up. Together these cards make a five card board. Again, the betting is the higher limit for the game being played.

Once all the betting has been completed and multiple players remain in the round, the hands are shown and the winning hand is established. In Texas hold'em, players may use any five of the seven cards to form their best poker hand. Players may use two, one, or no cards from their hand. When using no cards from the hand produces the best ranking hand from the seven cards available, that player is said to be "*playing the board*."

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## The Rules of Texas Hold'em

Texas hold'em is a variation of seven card stud where players share common cards called "*the board*." Due to the fact that the starting two card hand is comprised entirely of face-down cards, the obligation to open the betting is rotated clockwise after each hand. This is accomplished with the use of a "*dealer button*" and "*blinds*." A dealer button is a round disk with the word *dealer* written on it. Blinds are mandatory bets made by the first two players clockwise from the dealer button.

The player with the button is theoretically dealing the hand. A casino employee will deal the first card to the player on the immediate left of the dealer button. The obligation to open the pot is rotated around the table. As the button moves, all players receive the same benefits of position. This position element, the order in which players are required to act, has a strong influence on proper play in all games where buttons are used. Obviously, the player with the privilege of betting last has a significant advantage.

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Each player receives two cards face-down. The player to the left of the big blind must now call the size of the big blind, raise an amount equal to the size of the bet (the big blind at this time) or fold his hand.

In blind games the money posted for the blinds counts toward the player's bet, and the players posting these blinds have the option to raise even if the big blind has not been raised. An example will clarify this.

The big blind, \$10 in a \$10-\$20 limit game, is called by several players but no one raises. After the player with the button acts the small blind calls for \$5 more, he already had \$5 in for the small blind. The house dealer would now offer an *option* to the big blind who could then raise his own bet even though he had started the action and not been raised. Alternatively, the big blind can check and the hand will proceed.

The next three cards are called the "*flop*." They are delivered all at once, face-up in the middle of the table and are used by all players. The first player to the left of the button is first to act. This will hold true for all remaining rounds of betting. The player being first may check or bet the limit, still the smaller limit at this point. Other players may check, fold, call, or raise as appropriate.

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## Tips

The key concept in Texas hold'em is improvement. How much your hand improves the board cards determines the quality of your hand. Remember that all players are using the board.

For example, if you hold two fours (4,4) as your starting hand and the flop is three kings, you have flopped a full house. This is, however, not as big a hand as having the same hand in a seven card stud game in the first five cards. You would almost surely have the best hand in the seven card stud game but many hands will beat your hand in Texas hold'em because of the shared cards aspect of the game.

In the example above, any pair larger than fours in the hole will not only beat your hand, but will also have you nearly drawing dead, having no way to win regardless of the next cards. Here you would need to make four fours to beat your opponent.

A similar situation occurs when the board shows four to a suit and you hold a card of that suit. You have a flush but so would anyone else with a card of the required suit. Here you must be very conscious of the size of your flush. If you have the ace, great! If not, be more cautious.

You are looking for big cards, suited cards close together, and pairs before the flop. Small pairs are not as valuable as in stud. You will need to flop three of a kind to have a competitive hand.

A hand with an ace and a king will win much more money than a small pair in the long run. Flush and straight draws are fine after the flop, but are in danger if the board is paired (e.g., 9,9,4).

Remember the importance of position. The last player to act is a big favorite. Play more hands when you are in this position. Play only premium hands when you are in first position as you have no information about your opponents' hands because they haven't acted yet. You will win many pots that are checked to you, when you are last and are able to make a bet. Be selective with this maneuver, as some opponents like to check-raise.

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## Hand Rankings

<b>Royal Flush</b>	An Ace, King, Queen, Jack and Ten suited.
<b>Straight Flush</b>	Five cards in sequence of the same suit.
<b>Four of a Kind</b>	Four cards of the same value combined with any other card.
<b>Full House</b>	Three cards of the same value combined with two cards of like value.
<b>Flush</b>	Five cards of the same suit not in sequence.
<b>Straight</b>	Five cards in sequence not of the same suit.
<b>Three of a Kind</b>	Three cards of the same value combined with two unmatched cards.
<b>Two Pair</b>	Two sets of cards with the same value combined with one card of a different value.
<b>One Pair</b>	Two cards with the same value combined with three cards of differing values.
<b>High Card</b>	No matching values, cards not in sequence, multiple suits.

## Terminology

<b>Blind</b>	an ante wager by the two players clockwise from the dealer button
<b>Flop</b>	the three cards dealt face up in front of the dealer and usable by all
<b>Turn</b>	fourth card delivered face-up next to the first three in the middle of the table
<b>River</b>	the final card dealt face-up common to all players
<b>Board</b>	the five cards dealt face up and usable by all players
<b>Fourth Street</b>	same as the turn, the fourth card on the board
<b>Fifth Street</b>	same as the river card, the fifth card on the board
<b>Wheel</b>	The lowest straight possible, A through 5.



## **Blinds**

Blinds are similar to antes in that they are bets made before the starting hand is received, but these bets are only made by the first two players to the left of the dealer button in games where there are no up-cards in the starting hand, i.e., Texas hold'em and Omaha hold'em.

The blinds posted in all limit games are in the amounts of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the lower limit for the first player (small blind) and the lower limit for the second player (big blind). The blinds in a \$10-\$20 game would, therefore, be \$5 and \$10.

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**Fundamentals of Craps** (70 pg); by: Mason Malmuth & Lynne Loomis **\$3.95**

Covers getting started, right bets, wrong bets, taking odds, discussion of systems and more.

**Awesome Profits** (383 pg); by: George "Profit" Elias **\$29.95**

Poker from A to Z. One book covering all the games, including tells, tournaments, money management, and home games. Excellent and highly regarded.

**Winning Low Limit Hold'em** (176 pg); by: Lee Jones **\$19.95**

A solid foundation with which you can be a winner at low-limit hold'em.

**Winning Strategies for Video Poker (53 Games)** (120 pg); by: Lenny Frome **\$15.95**

Covers pay tables, best strategies, vital stats and insights for over 50 of the best paying Video Poker games nationwide. Frome's most popular book, a must for video poker players everywhere!

**America's National Game of Chance, Video Poker** (200 pg); by: Lenny Frome **\$19.95**

A collection of Lenny Frome's best articles from leading gambling publications. Frome's second most popular book. Very highly regarded and fun reading, too!

**Expert Strategy for Caribbean Stud Poker** (12 pg); by: Lenny Frome **\$5.95**

How to bet. How to play. What to expect and the payback for the game. The only book that tells you how to play this game expertly, very popular!



**Expert Strategy for Let It Ride** (9 pg); by: Lenny Frome **\$4.95**

One of the newest, most popular table games in Las Vegas. Know which bets to let ride and which to pull down. An expert's strategy guide.

**Expert Video Poker for Las Vegas** (54 pg); by: Lenny Frome **\$9.95**

Strategies, and stats for the highest paying LV games: Jacks, Tens, Deuces, Jokers 2nd Chance, Progressives, Deuces/Joker. 99%-100.6% return.

**Expert Video Poker for Atlantic City** (48 pg); by: Lenny Frome **\$7.95**

Strategies, stats and theories for the AC machines: Jacks, Two Pairs, Deuces Wild plus 3 top paying Jokers.

**Pokermania AC** (2 pg); by: Lenny Frome **\$2.95**  
Strategy for the Pokermania, linked Jackpot machines of AC.

**Las Vegas Video Poker Buffet** (12 pg); by: Lenny Frome **\$6.95**

Covers 11 novelty high paying games for the daring.

**Jacks / Deuces for Colorado / Minnesota (2 pg);** by: Lenny Frome **\$4.95**  
Strategies to obtain 95%-97% return in these casinos.

**Deuces Wild Supplement/Double/Triple Pay Deuces (4 pg);** by: Lenny Frome **\$2.95**

Strategy for 100.6% return on full-pay LV games and near-optimum strategy for CO & MN games. Also covers the double and triple pay deuces machines.

**50+ Tips on Video Poker** (8 pg); by: Lenny Frome **\$2.95**

The basics of the game for Jacks or Better.



**Megapoker Progressives** (2 pg);      by: Lenny Frome      **\$2.95**  
For bars / supermarkets.

**Sequentials / Reversibles / Crazy Eights** (4 pg);  
Covers sequential royal and crazy eight machines.

by: Lenny Frome

**\$2.95**

**Atlantic City Double Joker** (2 pg);      by: Lenny Frome      **\$3.95**  
A Popular Atlantic City game.

**Double Bonus Poker** (2 pg); by: Lenny Frome **\$3.95**

A popular addition for your casino library collection.

**Fundamentals of Video Poker** (70 pg); by: Mason Malmuth & Lynne Loomis **\$3.95**

Covers the most important strategy considerations for Jacks or Better, Tens or Better, Deuces Wild and Joker Wild.

**How to Beat Winning Hold'em Players** (56 mins); by: Ben Tracy **\$39.95**

For players who dramatically want to improve their game. Interviews with winning hold'em players. "If you want to improve your game, this video is well worth watching." Poker Authority Mason Malmuth.

**Sklansky, The Video** (90 mins); by: David Sklansky and Ben Tracy **\$59.95**

David is considered by many to be the world's premier poker author, strategist and analyst. "Watching this video is like taking private lessons from David Sklansky."

**The World Series of Poker Event** (60 mins); by: Binion's Horseshoe Casino **\$14.95**

Exciting hand-by-hand coverage of the final table action for the World Championship Event at Binion's Horseshoe Casino. Always the most recent available.



**Winning at Video Poker** (45 mins); by: Lenny Frome **\$24.95**

In 45 minutes you can become a better player than 80% of those who have played for years.