

Systematic Poker

Solid, unemotional poker. Helping you consistently win at online poker.

No Limit Texas Holdem System

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I. Introduction

Welcome to the No Limit Texas Hold'em System – Core Rules. By the time you are done with this strategy guide, you should have a solid understanding of the skills required to consistently crush the donkeys at online texas holdem. The project of producing a winning and simple holdem system is no easy task. The amount of time and money spent perfecting this system is vast and the knowledge it represents is provided at an extremely low price. Marketed through various means, this manual is a guide for the "aspiring to be profitable" poker player.

Allow me to introduce you to the flow of this manual. Initially some basic poker wisdom is shared, next a general introduction to the No Limit system is revealed, then starting hands to see the flop with, how to play the flop, playing the turn and then finally playing the river. After the core rules are presented, we provide advanced concepts along with follow-up information and closing notes. If you are entirely new to Texas Holdem, get a basic understanding of the game and betting sequences before tackling this system (Intro to Poker).

I would recommend reading the entire manual before starting to play. You must make sure you understand the starting hand requirements as well as how to play the flop, the turn and the river. Furthermore, initially you should play one table at a time at the play limit tables, until you are comfortable with the strange situations that can occur and how the system instructs you to deal with them. As you get more comfortable, start adding tables. If you have never played 3-4 tables at once, things happen fast. You must use the check/fold buttons, raise any, etc. As hands are dealt, if you see they don't meet the betting requirements, simply check the fold box and look at the next hand being dealt at the next table. As soon as you are in a hand, you'll have some time to look at the table and see what's going on. As you start getting a solid feel for the system, then we recommend playing one table with real money. As you start getting used to the play on real money as opposed to play money you can start adding tables.

If there are things in the manual that are unclear, simply email me and I will respond as soon as possible. Also, the results of this system are great, however, why limit ourselves to these great gains only. If you have ideas on better ways to handle different situations, email me

and we can discuss your ideas. I do not wish to come off as some arrogant "know it all" concerning poker. I have played for quite some time now and am very studied in poker, however part of being a winning poker player is knowing when your wrong or when there is a better way of doing something and then adjusting. To think that this system is at its most maximized potential would be foolish, THER IS ALWAYS ROOM TO IMPROVE (in all things). So, with your questions, theories or problems, simply email me and I'll get back with you as soon as possible.

Again, good luck in these things, and may you reap success in all you do.

Don't Play When...

Poker is a fun game, it can also be profitable (only about 10% of all players actually are however). There are also some negatives about poker. For one, it can cause harm to a family and be the source of many arguments if not properly kept in check. If poker is a problem for you please do not play. Simply forget that poker exists and move on with playing video games or hanging out with your family. If you need help with this, please email me and I will attempt to help wherever I can. Other don'ts:

- ◻ Don't play with money you can't loose.
- ◻ Don't play because you are losing and want to make it back.
- ◻ Always recognize the weakness of your hand.
- ◻ Always be looking for a reason to fold.
- ◻ Family ALWAYS has priority.

What is the No Limit System?

The system involves numerous concepts that must be understood in order for it to be effective. The No Limit system is designed to be simple to follow, algorithmic in nature- that is, a robot could play it, and to be profitable. The system can look complex at first examination however after understanding the flow and the why's of the system, playing it should come natural.

The following steps are taken when implementing this system:

1. Game selection. – No Limit Texas Hold Em
2. Table selection - 3-4 tables, with specific guidelines on each table.
3. Odds conversation – a basic look at important odds for No Limit holdem.
4. No Limit Plays – description of various plays used throughout the system.
5. Starting hand requirements - when to bet/ raise/ reraise and fold.
6. Playing the flop - lots of folding here –aggressive play with good hands, strong bets to force the donkeys out.
7. Playing the turn - less folding but look for a reason to- more aggression
8. Playing the river - bagging the profits.
9. After the win/loss - taking notes and keeping in touch

General Comments

In no limit poker you have many advantages over regular limit poker. For one, you can price people out of pots much easier. You have complete control over the pot odds being offered which can be used to your advantage as long as you understand how to apply odds. Because of this, we start our system with a discussion on pot odds.

We also recommend playing the system at lower limits until you can win consistently. At lower limits, there are more players, simply playing for fun - we play for profit only. Our fun comes from tackling the complex game and providing a system that wins long term. These players playing for fun tend to make mistakes, the biggest being, they don't know how to fold when they are clearly beat. Chasing a gut shot str8 to the river might be exciting but its also a good way to loose money long term.

The key to making money in poker is knowing the impact of subtle decisions long term - in particular, what it means to call a bet that you shouldn't and it's long term effect on your bankroll. For example, the small blind in \$1/2 tables is .50 cents. It is tempting to call ANY hand since the call is so cheap. 27o appears to be playable since you might flop a 2 pair. More than likely you will not however. These little .50 cent bets add up. If you play 1000 hands (about 2-days with this system 2-3 hrs/day), you will be posting Small Blind around 100 times. That's \$50 spent only on calling the small blind bet. Some of

these you might hit the high pair or 2 pr however even if you do, someone else might have a higher pair, flush, str8 or some other hand that has you beat. Likewise, you might call a raise, even though your gut tells you your beat. 1 -\$2 raise might not be much but do this 1% of the time when you're beat, and you are throwing away \$20 in this example. When you are trying to hit \$20/hr or more, these mistakes directly impact your profit long term. The system will instruct you when to fold, and when to raise, call SB etc. Some of it might seem counter intuitive, that's ok. Long term it will produce a profit.

II. Type of Game

The system has been tested at various Low Buy-in No Limit tables. Why the lower limits? The answer is simple. As the results displayed suggest, there are many incompetent players at this level. Using this system, you make money when others make mistakes. At higher limits, less mistakes occur. There are plenty of mistakes made at the lower limits. These small mistakes add up as you will see in later sections. People calling your raise when you are strongly favored to win add up. Also, getting free cards is more effective. Furthermore, people tend to bluff more often. Since you are playing your cards - not the person - this is to your advantage - BIG TIME. You don't play junk, therefore any bluff against you is a bad move on the bluffer and we make them pay. Nothing is better than when you are in the sb, no one has bet yet, you are looking at QQ and the big blind raises you with some junk hand (unless of course the flop hits an A or K and they actually flop the high pair).

Also, given the semi-predictable play you are doing (after all it is a system), you can rest assure that at these limits, most people are NOT paying attention to your plays. One or two might, but in the end, most will not. The predictability in your play to those who pay attention will still be hard to grasp. You will raise quite often so they will not know if you have AA, KK, or JJ. Informational raises also help make it harder for you to be read as you'll see in the later sections. Many players will say that you should modify your play and play crap every once in a while. The system says to simply change tables if you feel too many people have you tagged as tight or are making you fold winning hands. At these limits, there are plenty of people coming and going. If you are concerned about this, simply change tables (wait till right before you have to post a blind however).

Type of Game Summary:

- Play lower buy-in - No Limit Holdem at any one of the online poker sites.

III. Table Selection

This is the first major decision that must be made. The key to winning consistently at No Limit online poker, is to find a good table filled with aggressive players. You want as many people seeing the pot as possible. Given the super aggressive style of play at most online sites, we play fairly tight but very aggressive when the cards are right. We steal blinds occasionally, bet our draws and top pairs with strength and don't push all-in unless we are a clear favorite.

So, for this system you should buy-in to a limit that you can play comfortably at. Initially when you are building your bankroll and trying to understand and learn our system, this should be the minimum buy-in for the site you play on. Also, we recommend you always have a full buy-in amount at your table. You want to have lots of ammunition for when you nail your hand.

As you play, if you notice that too many are playing way too tight – or seem to have your own style pegged, feel free to change tables. You don't want to be stuck at a table that won't pay you off once you hit your hand.

Table Selection Summary:

- ◻ Play 3-4 tables at once if bankroll supports this
- ◻ Make sure the tables have 9-10 players.
- ◻ Play tables with where lots of people are seeing the flop. YOU Want and aggressive table in our No Limit system.
- ◻ Play at a time when it is convenient –shoot for a 2 hour stretch if possible.

IV. Odds

Pot Odds

The No Limit system requires that you have a decent understanding of pot odds. When multitableting, it can be a little tricky at times to figure out what the correct odds being given are.

One simply method to calculate pot odds is to determine how many outs you have. If you have 2 overpairs –AK and a gutshot str8 draw and the pot has \$10 and someone bets, another person calls what should you do? Calculate your outs A (3 outs) or K(3 outs) plus the str8 gutshot card (4 outs). The pot has \$10 plus the \$2 just added – or \$12.00. The odds of you hitting one of your hands is $3+3+4 = 10$ outs. Double this and you have 20. You can estimate that you have a 20% chance of hitting one of your cards with one card coming. Since calling only costs \$1 you have great odds (calling \$1 to win possible \$12 and you have a 20% chance of hitting a winning card). So add your outs and double that number for a %. This is a rough way to calculate your odds but can be helpful. Remember that just because you might hit an out- doesn't mean you will always win. If you hit the A, someone else might have 2 pr and you lose. Use this as an estimate. To account for this- you can use partial outs. Perhaps only count 4 or 5 outs instead of the full 6 for the AK draws. Using this system using pot odds is beneficial in times where the correct call is unclear.

The other concept is implied odds. You calculated odds for the current pot. Your actual odds are a little better because once you hit your hand, you should get more bets in. This is implied odds. You can use this if you are sure the opponent will call. I normally won't use implied odds – I'll stick to normal pot odds and if its even I make the call since I know in reality I'm getting a little bit more with the implied odds.

Hand Odds

A very common misunderstanding that most novices confuse is the power of aggression vs. playing passive. Aggression is good as long

as there is fold equity. Fold equity is a way of saying that if you raise with a hand, there is a chance the opponent will fold. So your odds of winning a pot if you raise or make the first bet, is the fold equity + the chance you will actually win if you are called. This is very important for the No Limit player.

To be a success at No Limit Holdem you must understand a couple key things concerning hand odds. Here they are:

Drawing Odds

Flush draw 35%

If you have a 4 card flush draw after the flop, you have a 35% chance of hitting your flush if you stay in until the river.

Full house draw 33%

If you have a set or trips (3 of a kind), you have a 33% chance of hitting a full house if you stay in until the river.

Open ended straight draw 31%

If you have an open ended straight draw, you have a 31% chance of hitting your straight if you stay in until the river.

Don't worry too much about knowing the exact percentages. Just remember with these three drawing hands, you are about 30/70 to hit. This means that if you are in this situation 100 times, you'll hit your hand about 30 times and miss your hand about 70 times.

V. No Limit Playbook

The following plays are standard plays that we will use whenever the opportunity presents itself. We explain them in this section.

Total Bluff

The first play is the easiest! You have nothing after the flop and push all-in in an attempt to steal it pot- **IP: NEVER - NEVER - NEVER USE THIS PLAY.** They don't pay off in the long run.

Semi-Bluff

This is when we have a drawing hand and make a fairly strong bet – representing a made hand. This is done usually after the flop when we have an open ended straight draw or a four card flush draw or AK and we missed the flop. We are betting about ½ the pot to the full size of the pot in an attempt to take it down immediately. If someone calls, we play the rest of the rounds passively unless we hit our hand. This is very important since it allows us to win even if we don't hit our hand. We almost always will make semi-bluff bets if we have a decent drawing hand – especially if we are heads up after the flop.

Check Raise

We check raise as often as we can in the No Limit System. Check raise is when you have a very good hand (top pair/top kicker) and you check knowing that a preflop raiser will make a continuation bet. You check to them and they bet. You now raise them and put incredible pressure on them. When we check raise, we typically are raising 3BB.

Slow Play

If you flop a set, trips or two pair **you are allowed to slow play If and only If the following condition is met: The flop must be rainbow (all different suits) and the flop can not have any two connected cards or be paired (flop: 722).** If the flop does have two same suit cards (or more) OR two connected cards (KQx) OR is paired, you will not slow play. Slow playing is rarely done therefore. In each stage exceptions to this are given if needed. If the system says to slow play, then you will check on the flop – trying to look weak. Hopefully, your opponent

sees weakness and bets. If he does, you call immediately. After the turn card comes, your opponent has one more card to look forward to. If you are first to act, make a big bet - **MAKE SURE YOU OPEN FIRE(bet) BEFORE HE GETS HIS LAST CARD.** He'll know he was slow played but we want him to think he has a chance of outdrawing you. Don't wait until the river to bet- this is too late. Only slow play immediately after the flop, betting on the turn. If you are not first to act, hopefully he will bet again into you. If there were no real scare cards on the turn, push all-in or bet the pot. You want to trap him BEFORE the river. Let him draw for his 3 outer - he'll pay to see the river card.

Blind Defense: 3BB Reraise (Big Blind vs. a calling Small Blind only)

This play is **ONLY VALID IF YOU ARE IN THE BIG BLIND AND SOMEONE FROM THE SMALL BLIND CALLS YOUR BLIND AND NO ONE ELSE HAS ENTERED THE HAND.**

Here's the move: You will RAISE 3x the big blind with any 2 cards. This is a very high probability play. You will take the small blinds bet plus keep your blind about 60-75% of the time. This makes it well worth it. Usually, people calling your blind are wanting to see a cheap flop and are hoping to get lucky. Sometimes they are slow playing a monster. If they call after you raise 3BB- be weary (scared). If they reraise your 3x raise - definitely FOLD unless you have AK or TT+. The other advantage to this move, is that next time this happens, the Small blind will more than likely fold to you- instead of calling your blind. **IP: ONLY USE THIS PLAY IF THE SB IS CALLING YOUR BLIND (not raising). ALSO, IT MUST BE THE SB - not the button.** Furthermore, there can't be anyone else in the pot - you must be heads up. Clear?

Small Blind Play: Call any half bet from small blind if one or more limpers exist.

If you are in the small blind, another common play we use is to call any half bet to see a cheap flop. You usually do this early and middle stages of tournaments when the 1/2 bets are still relatively cheap (50 chips or less typically). The idea behind this play is that with any hand - worst case you are usually around 1:5 favored to lose. It's actually better if you are heads up. In our case, there are others in the pot, so

you are very unlikely to win with any two random cards. You see the flop if its cheap by calling the limpers and the big blind. You already had ½ a bet in the pot so another ½ bet plus the other peoples chips gives good odds usually. You are looking to trap a slow playing premium hand with a miracle flop (trips, two pair, weird straight, etc). If the flop comes and you don't have trips, two pair, straight) then you will not play it further – you will play passive. If you have top pair but its junk, play passive. Check and only call very small bets made into you. Only bet aggressive if you have 2 pair or trips.

Play passive

Our no limit system will occasionally have you make probe bets or reraises just to see where our opponent is at. Many times these will work and our aggressive play will help us win the pot immediately. Other times, our opponent will have a strong hand and call our reraise. It is cases like this where the system might call for you to play passive. When we play passive, you are checking down the hand and hopefully seeing the river for free. You will check if given the opportunity and fold if you are facing a large bet. If you are facing a very small bet, its ok to call if you have any hand at all – any pair, 4 card flush draw. In order to call, the bet must be extremely small – on the order of 10-15% of the pot. Any more than this represents a real threat and you should escape if facing a strong bet. Use judgment at all times!

Getting a free card

The no limit system says that if the flop comes and you have a hand you would normally check with but is worth drawing for, you should do a small raise if you are last to act and no other raises have occurred. For example, you have A5s, flop comes 59Jrainbow. You have a 3 card flush draw and if you hit the Ace or another 5 you have a winning hand (another spade also gives a good draw on the river). Someone bets to you and its your turn to act (AND YOU ARE LAST TO ACT). The system says, to raise them a small amount. What this will do is give you (hopefully) a free card when the betting rounds increase – everyone will check to you. The turn will come and you will either have hit your hand or not. If you hit it (in this case either the 5 or A), then bet again. If you miss your hand, you can check – taking a free card. Of course, now they'll know what you did – that's ok. Next card comes if you hit, they will probably bet and now you can reraise!

VI. Starting Hands

For new players, you must understand the importance of position. You must also be comfortable with raising and re-raising (something most newbies don't like doing - cause they got beat once by doing it. This is why the \$200 bankroll is nice to start with because you will feel much better raising if you know you won't bust out if you miss. Having said that, the No Limit system is considered tight/aggressive meaning you play ONLY good hands and when you do you play as aggressive as you can. If you think you're beat you fold. If you have a good starting hand, you will raise most of the time. With a good drawing hand, you'll be calling a bet.

In general you are in 1 of 4 positions. Early - one of the first 3 players to act (Position 1-3 to the left of the blinds), mid between (4-6 to the left of the blinds), late on the button (7-8) , small blind or big blind. Keep in mind that there are numerous scenarios that can happen in these games. Depending on the scenario, you will play hands in different ways. On first glance, it probably looks more complicated than it is. If you have questions on any of this simply email me.

Print off the next group of pages and make notes on them if you must. You will be referencing these sheets constantly until you have the requirements memorized. The requirements are designed for Low-No limit holdem. This means that lots of people are seeing the flop. In general, if the system is followed concerning starting hands and then played whatever came natural - bet/raise if you have a hand, fold if you sense you are beat, you should be profitable. The starting hands is the base of the system. Understand these requirements. The system values suited cards fairly high. If faced with a raise, you will call many times only if your two high cards are suited. Each hand is carefully calculated judgment call and I strongly recommend following the rules provided.

Early Position (1-3 off the blinds)

NO RAISE YET:

- You will raise 3BB with: AA -TT
 - You will call the blinds (limp in) with: 77-99, AT-AK
- *Yep! We limp in with AK! AK is very overated and should not be played aggressively in No Limit.

ONE RAISE EXISTS(1BB-4BB):

Someone raised before you have acted

- You will reraise with: AA - TT
- You will call the raise: AK, AQs, AJs, ATs, KQs

TWO+ RAISES EXIST(5+BB):

Someone raised and another person reraised before you acted or someone came in with a huge initial raise

- You will reraise the size of the current pot with: AA, KK
- You will call the raise with: QQ, AKs

Other notes on early position

Position is something that takes a while to really fully understand the importance of. If you are acting early, you have the worst possible position. There are many reasons why. For one, if you call the blind with a hand like 77 and someone after you raises, and someone after him reraises again, you are in a tough spot. Normally you would not want to be in the hand – you are probably dominated (someone has an overpair – QQ or better) and need to draw to a set in order to win (2 outs – 5-6% chance). You will more than likely fold in this case – loosing your initial bet. Also, after the flop, you can play much better if you are last to act. You can gauge the strength of other players by their bets (and potential raises) and you are in position to make strength plays – reraise to get a free card later. So position is key.

Middle Position (4-6 off the blinds)

NO RAISE YET:

- You will raise 3BB with: AA - 99, AK,
- You will call the blinds with: 22-88, A9s-A2s, AQ, AJ, AT, KQ, KJ, KTs - K9s, QJs - Q9s, JTs - J9s, T9s-98s

ONE RAISE EXISTS(1BB-4BB):

Someone raised before you have acted

- You will reraise with: AA-TT
- You will call the raise: AK, AQs, AJs, ATs, KQs

TWO+ RAISES EXIST (5+BB):

Someone raised and another person reraised before you acted or someone came in with a huge initial raise

- You will reraise with: AA, KK
- You will call the raise with: QQ, AKs

Other notes on middle position

In middle position, you have improved somewhat but are still in a bad position. There are lots of potential callers behind you however at least now you can see how the hand might be developing. Many times if someone calls the blind, everyone else will follow. This can give you an idea of how many people might be in the pot so you can play your draws accordingly. We are still reraising aggressively with top hands but we are also now starting to limp in (call the blind) with other suited connectors and offsuited face cards (KJo for example). Of course if a raise exists, we only what to get involved if we have a premium pair or high suited cards.

Late Position (on the button or one off the button)

NO RAISE YET:

- You will raise with: AA,-99, AKs- A8s, KQs-KTs, QJs, AKo-ATo, KQ
- You will call the blinds with: 22-88, A7s-A2s, K9s, QTs – Q9s, JTs – J9s, T9s-98s, 87s-54s(connected only), KJo, KTo,JTo,QJo,QTo

ONE RAISE EXISTS(1BB-4BB)::

Someone raised before you have acted

- You will reraise with: AA-TT
- You will call the raise: AK, AQs, AJs, KQs (all cases) AND 22-99, QJs, QTs, T9s (only if two or more people have acted – the raiser plus another 2 callers)

TWO+ RAISES EXIST(5+BB):

Someone raised and another person reraised before you acted or someone came in with a huge initial raise

- You will reraise with: AA, KK (same as early)
- You will call the raise (3 bets) with: QQ, AKs (same as early)

Other notes on late position

We are now in the best position possible. In No Limit games, this is a very important position to be in. The biggest is we can see most people act before we do – allowing us to not get involved in big shoot outs with other players when we have just a suited connector. This position also allows you to raise for a free card – when you are drawing. More information on this later. Lastly, post flop you will be last to act. This will allow you to raise a bet if you flop a nice hand or fold if you miss. Follow on sections will address these issues.

Small Blind

NO RAISE YET:

- You will raise 2-3 BB (attempt to steal the blinds) with: Any pair, any two face cards, A9s-A2s, J9s, 9To, Q9s, K9s and any suited connector.
- You will call the big blind with any other two cards (see No Limit playbook) if there are other limpers.

ONE RAISE EXISTS(1BB-4BB):

Someone raised before you have acted

- You will reraise with: AA-TT
- You will call the raise: AK, AQs, AJs, KQs (same as early) AND 22-99 (only if one other player has entered the pot – the raiser plus another 1 caller)

TWO+ RAISES EXIST(5+BB):

Someone raised and another person reraised before you acted or someone came in with a huge initial raise

- You will reraise with: AA, KK (same as early)
- You will call the raise with: QQ, AKs (same as early)

Other notes on small blind

Small blind is the worst position after the flop. Before the flop it is ok. From this position, we have a couple special plays. We can steal blinds as often as possible and limp in with any two cards if the pot is big enough and we only have ½ bet to see the flop. In No Limit this is allowed since our implied odds are much higher given that we can double up at any point.

Big Blind

NO RAISE YET:

- You will raise 3BB with: AA- 99, AKs-ATs, KQs- KJs, AK-AQ

ONE RAISE EXISTS(1BB-4BB):

someone raised before you have acted

- You will reraise with: AA-TT
- You will call the raise with: 22-99, ATs-A2s, K9s, QTs – Q9s, JTs – J9s, T9s-98s, 87s-54s(connected only), KQ, AK, AQ, AJ

TWO+ RAISES EXIST(5+BB):

Someone raised and another person reraised before you acted or someone came in with a huge initial raise

- You will cap out the round (reraise) with: AA, KK (same as early)
- You will call the raise (3 bets) with: QQ, AKs (same as early)

Other notes on big blind

From the big blind there is not much going on. Since we play the cards and not the people in the low limit system, you are only raising or calling raises with decent hands. We do allow the blind defense with any two cards as the only exception to this general principle. Read the details of this play in the play book section for No Limit. This is basically a move where you raise 3BB with any two cards if you are against the SB only and he called your blind. He's looking for a cheap flop and we take advantage of his passivity – making a solid reraise. In most cases, he will fold immediately. If you encounter aggression after making this move, play passive.

Other comments and clarifications regarding starting hands

This section is one of the most important of the system. Many new players don't fully understand the importance of position.

- If the system instructs you to call a bet, and someone acting after you has raised, you should be very careful. Generally speaking, we only call reraises if our hand is suited or if it's a premium hand AK or TT-AA. You should also call if there are a bunch of limpers in the pot.
- If you don't see the hand in question listed above, the correct action is to FOLD.
- If you ignore the rest of this system and only obey the above reqs, you should still do well long term – as long as you play what comes natural post flop– FOLD if you think you're beat, bet/raise if you have top pair(or better with a good kicker) or an incredible draw.
- Any initial hand that does not have an 'o' or 's' by it, means both suited or non-suited. For example, if the system says call AQ, this means call AQo and AQs.

VII. Playing the Flop

The flop is where your AKo gets killed by 72o when the flop is 735 rainbow. Some decisions are easy, others harder. Even still, the system has rules for playing the flop.

The terminology I use is that for there to be a possible str8 or flush draw possible, you will see 2-3 cards of the same suit on the flop or 2-3 connector cards on the flop. For example, a flop of any two diamonds and a spade is a flush threat to you (unless you have 2 diamonds of course and one is an A). A flop of 9T3 is a str8 threat to you (someone seeing the flop with QJ has an open ended straight against you now). This affects how aggressive you play so pay attention to the flop and quickly determine if there are either of these threats staring you down. A weak flush is 2 of the same suit, strong flush is all 3 cards in the flop are same suit. Likewise, a weak str8 is 2 connectors a strong str8 are 3.

CASE F1: You have the top pair.

eg. You have JJ, flop is 973.

Noone has bet yet.

Generally speaking your play depends on a couple things. If there is no straight or flush threat (weak or strong) then check raise. You are hoping that someone bets to steal the pot, if they do after you've checked, reraise them about the size of their bet. If there is a weak flush or straight threat, you should bet about the size of the pot to try and take it down. We don't want anyone out drawing us. Make the donkeys pay to hit their hand.

Someone bet already.

Make a small raise. This is a bit of a probe bet. More than likely the bettor has something – could be a draw, could be nothing, could be bottom pair. One thing is for sure, most players in the lower limit games that bet strong are more than likely weak. Especially immediately after the flop. A continuation bet on the next round would be a little more scary. After the flop we want to see where they

are at by raising their bet. Make a small raise and observe their play. If they call your raise, then play passive on following rounds unless you have the top kicker. With top kicker you can play more aggressively after the flop but still beware of a set or two pair.

You are facing a raise and have already put money in the pot this round.

If you have already bet, call the raise – reraise if you have top kicker (AK with flop A97) or a backdoor flush draw or gut shot str8 (or better), otherwise call.

You are facing a raise and have NOT put any money in the pot this round.

Only call if your kicker is 10 or better (or if you have a gut shot str8 (or open ended) or flush draw). Note –if there are three suited cards or 3 connectors on the flop and someone is raising into you, FOLD.

Example: You have K9s. Flop comes KJ3rainbow. Someone bets, another person raises. You should FOLD. Your kicker is weak, the person raising has at least a K with high kicker, possibly a set or 2 pr. If you had KQ you call the raise.

CASE F2: You have a pair, but the board shows a higher pair possible.

eg. You have KK, flop is AQ7.

No one has bet yet. You called or raised the previous round.

You are not last to act (others are behind you)

Your pair is middle pair and is ten or better or middle pair with a kicker of ten or better – and there is no flush (2 same color cards) or str8 threat, BET if there are only 3 people in the pot (you plus 2 others OR

less). You might have the top pair. If someone calls or reraises, assume you are beat and play passive for following rounds.

You are last to act

BET about 1/3 the pot. This sets you up for a free card next round if needed. Since you bet here, others will either fold (good for you) or call and check to you next round (when bets increase), if someone check raises you – go ahead and call if its cheap and play passive on following rounds. Betting here gives you a potentially free card in the next round. After the next card comes, if your hand doesn't improve you can check. If it does improve – you bet again. If it doesn't improve and someone bets into you next round – you can fold. Either way the free card was cheap.

You have any pair and have either a gut shot str8 draw or a back door flush(or better) draw.

Note: back door flush draw means you need two cards to hit a flush with two cards to come. Very small chance of hitting but it does give some extra outs for you.

We bet about 1/3 the pot on these because the implied odds are good enough in most cases.

You are heads up

Bet.

All other cases

FOLD or play passive

Someone bet already.

You are not last to act

Your pair is middle pair and is ten or better AND you have either a gut shot draw or a back door flush draw – RAISE. This is a big “expert” play. You will potentially get others to fold. You also have a decent draw to hit either the flush/str8, a set or 2 pair. Many will be uncomfortable doing this.

You are last to act

Make a small raise. This sets you up for a free card next round if needed. Since you bet here, while its cheap, others will either fold (good for you) or call and check to you next round (when bets increase). This gives you a potentially free card in the next round. After the next card comes, if your hand doesn't improve you can check. If it does improve – you bet again.

You are heads up

Raise. If your opponent reraises, assume your beat and play passive. If he calls , assume your beat but stay in if possible – play passive.

Someone bet, another person raised the bettor.

You have not acted yet

FOLD. They have you beat. It is true that they might be bluffing but it is doubtful. This is one reason why you bet as well-to get information on other players hands. It is cheaper to find out now, than to find out later that they had a set or the top pair. You must assume that someone has you beat already and FOLD. Most players at this level (besides us) do not play as experts. If they raise a bettor, they probably have a set or 2 pr. At least top pair with a good kicker.

You have acted already (called the first bet and the raiser check raised)

CALL only if you have pot odds. If you think there is a 10% chance of you hitting your hand and the pot is offering you 10:1 odds – which is the case many times immediately after the flop, go ahead and call. Otherwise FOLD.

CASE F3: You have no pair but both of your hole cards are better than all the flop cards.

eg. You have AJo, flop is 259 – Overcard situation.

You raised previous round(AK for example – flop JJ2).

You are last to act

bet / raise(doing this for a free card setup). Note if the board is one color and you have no flush card – check.

There are 2 or less people in the pot (not including you)

Bet. This continuation bet should take down the pot. Play passive versus any aggression. Assume your opponent has you beat already but see more cards if you can.

More than 3 other people in the pot

only BET if you have a gutshot str8 draw or a back door flush draw as well.

Someone has bet into you

Shows great strength in their hand – given you raised pre-flop. Raise if you have a good str8 or flush draw with the 2 overcards. All other cases you should Fold.

All other cases

This is probably one of the most complicated hands to play. You have usually shown strength(preflop) but the flop is no help. The general principle here is the closer your overcards are to A the better. AK is ideal. An uncoordinated flop is good. If you have a flush draw or str8 draw to go with your overpairs the better. If the flop is coordinated but won't help you (eg flop is 9h3h2d you have AcTc) you should probably fold to any bet made. If you had AhTc in this example you should bet/raise.

Note: If your hand doesn't improve next round – you will be playing passive – unless you have a str8 or flush draw still. In this case, you will check/call.

CASE F4: You have a 4 card flush draw.

35% chance you'll hit it with two more cards coming, eg You have Aspade 5spade, flop is 7spade 4spade 9diamond.

Noone has bet yet.

Bet about 1/3-1/2 the pot. This is our semi-bluff play. We are hoping to take it down without a fight. If we encounter resistance, we're building the pot and hopefully will hit our draw taking down a big pot.

Someone bet already.

Raise if you have any overcard to what is on the board or a pair already and you have pot odds. Also raise if you have any gutshot or open ended str8 along with the flush draw.

You are facing a raise.

Call the raise if you have pot odds. Reraise if you have a pair as well.

CASE F5: You have an open ended str8.

eg You have TJ, flop Q93 -->31% chance you'll hit it.

Noone has bet yet.

Bet about 1/3-1/2 the pot. This is our semi-bluff play.

Someone has bet.

If you have overcards or a backdoor flush draw to go with your str8 draw (or a pair) raise. If there is a strong flush threat or your str8 draw is the bottom str8 only call.

Note: Str8 draws can be a pain. They are beat so often even if you hit. Because of this, we only play them aggressive if there is no real threat out there. Otherwise, treat them as ok hands. When the entire flop is one suit, it is wise to fold because more than likely, another card of that suit will come up. When it does someone will have the flush (if they don't already). You are drawing dead at this point. The

only exception is if you have a flush draw as well (with a fourth same suited card that is T or higher).

CASE F6: You have a set OR 2 pair.

eg You have AA flop is AQ3 OR K9 with flop K9A

No flush or str8 threat is on the flop or you are heads up
Slow play your hand.

A flush or str8 threat is on the flop and you are not heads up
Go ahead and bet about 1/2 the pot. You want to make them pay for their draws. Don't risk checking as this could end up giving them their hand – a free card. Note, if they have a flush or str8 draw and you have a set or 2 pair, you have a fullhouse draw which will crush them if they hit. There's an equal chance of both happening so this can be a good situation to be in.

CASE F7: Some combination of the above.

You have a str8 and flush draw or high pair with a flush draw, etc..
bet aggressive, raise/reraise any bet

CASE F8: Flopped a full-house, str8 or flush

The correct thing to do in this case is to slow play. Call any bet made to. If you are heads up check – you don't want to scare your buddy. This is a deception play. We are raising/betting the next round.

CASE F9: GARBAGE

Anything else, YOU should check/FOLD. Folding is hard to do at times but is the best option. Don't chase a pot with a pair that is not the highest pair possible. If you start with 22-99 and don't flop the set or have top pair FOLD. If you have AXs and don't hit the 4 flush or pair a card, FOLD. If you have KK and flop has an A and someone bets into you (after you raised pre-flop) or raises your bet, FOLD. If you have JQo and flop is K34, check/FOLD.

Playing the Flop Summary:

You are choosing to put money in the pot ONLY if:

- Your hand has improved to a flush or open ended str8 draw,
- Have a great draw with middle pair or overcards and everyone else seems passive
- If you are interested in gaining information about everyone elses hands - the semi-bluff continuation bet (only done if you raised pre-flop with a very nice starting hand)
- If you have the top pair so far
- If you have some other monster hand (set, flopped a str8 or flush).

VIII. Playing the Turn

General Turn Strategy

If you are still in, you either had:

- ◻ High pair
- ◻ Premium starting hands (KQ, AKo) but no help on the flop - you bet once post flop, no one raised - but some called and now you are forced to either bet or check (happens often) after seeing a fourth card.
- ◻ A set (three of a kind)
- ◻ Some nice draw
- ◻ Open ended str8
- ◻ 4 Card Flush draw
- ◻ High cards (no pair though), both your hole cards are higher than the flop and no one was betting after the flop, or you also had a 3 card str8/flush draw.
- ◻ Garbage that no one betted with. Maybe you were blind with 72s and everyone checked the flop that was 9J3rainbow.

The key to playing the turn is knowing when to FOLD and when to stay in because you have perfect odds or implied odds make it worth it.

CASE T1: HIGH PAIR -You Still have the top pair

eg. You have JJ, flop is 973, turn is 6. OR your premium pair hit - you had AKo flop (723) turn (A).

Everyone checks to you

should happen most of the time.

Bet about the same amount as last round.

Suddenly someone bets into you and a 3rd str8 or flush card just hit.

If someone who wasn't betting suddenly starts betting into you and it looks like a final flush or str8 card hit, FOLD (the strength that they are now showing in the face of your raises and aggressive betting, says your beat). So if there are now 3 cards of the same suit or a 3-4 card open ended str8 possible and someone starts betting into you (when they weren't before), simply FOLD. Low limit players are predictable in this way. Usually they won't bluff at this stage (that happens at the river more than here).

Suddenly someone bets into you but no threatening card has landed or they raised you after you bet (they didn't check raise you though).

Call their bet if it's a small one. They probably have a set or 2 pr. Especially if you raised them on the previous betting round –but it should be a low 2 pr or low set. Anyone betting into you again has a nice hand and probably does have you beat. However, Calling a single raise is good at this point (on the chance you'll hit a set or 2 pr). If you have a str8 draw or flush draw even better.

You have bet and someone who just checked to you suddenly raises you. (check raised)

FOLD. You are beat. This is a dead give away and will happen every once in a while. They know you are betting and will check raise to get an extra bet in. They will only do this if they have a monster hand (usually – every once in a while you see some psycho donkey

checkraise in order to bluff) Only call if you have an awesome draw with your high pair(1 card to hit the flush and you have the A).

Note: You will see that the ideal situation here is that people simply call your bets. This is what will happen most of the time. When suddenly a raise pops up, or some one else starts betting instead of checking to you, beware and fold/call the bet as stated above.

CASE T2: Premium starting hand (AKo), but still no pair

eg. AKo flop (723) turn (Q).

No one has bet yet – everyone has checked to you.

If you still haven't hit a card, simply check and get ready to FOLD. Does this look weak? YOU BET IT DOES. Do you care? NOPE. This is extremely hard to do. It is tempting to keep betting. This is a stone cold bluff at this point and is very irrational at low limit holdem. Don't do it. Simply check, someone will bet, and you will FOLD- if noone bets, you might still have the top hand but probably not. More than likely someone has a small pair already. Your AKo is worthless if someone has a pair of 9's. With only one more card to come, and even hitting it won't guarantee a win at this point, it is silly to bet on a hope. If you have AK and one card to come, the odds of making a AorK are about 12%.

Someone bets into you.

FOLD – They just made it easy on you. You're definitely beat. No one bets into someone who is raising unless they have a great hand.

CASE T3: You have a Set

Everyone checks to you or one person bets and they have always been betting (you called their first bet in the prior betting round – the deceptive play)

Bet and raise/reraise(once). These are your money makers. Bet/raise and reraise. They will probably put you on high pair or 2 pair. Some might think set and fold but anyone who has already been betting, you should be able to beat. If they have been betting before, assume they have 2 pr or high pair (AA, KK). You want to bet and raise them in this case. If they come back with a reraise, simply call (unless you have the high set and no str8/flush threat exists, in which case you cap out the bets).

Someone bets into you and they have just hit a str8 or flush (3rd suited card appears or 3rd connector and they suddenly start betting into you).

Call their bet. You are looking for a full house now. You can tell they hit because they will not betting prior rounds, and then suddenly the third spade hits the board and they wake up and start raising you. Could be another set however, in which case you might still be ok. Don't take the chance by reraising them though. You call these raises because they might only have 2pr as well. Don't FOLD.

CASE T4: Open ended str8 (2 cards will give you the str8 with one card to come)

Everyone checks to you
Check

Someone bets(the board is not all one suit)

Call if the bet is small enough – you're probably beat, but you might river the str8. With implied odds, its ok to call here. Only fold if the pot is extremely small or his bet is really big (the size of the pot). Knowing when to call is always tricky here.

Someone bets(the board is one suit)

FOLD. Unless you hit the flush with a 10 or better high card, otherwise assume someone has the flush.

You are faced with a raise. No flush or fullhouse threat.

Call. Another tough call, it could be ok to fold if the pot is small. Only call if you have decent odds. Refer to odds section for more details.

You are faced with a raise from a new better. A strong flush (3rd suited card lands) or fullhouse threat exists.

FOLD if you see a strong chance of a flush. Strong chance would be a third flush card hit the board. Normally you continue looking for the str8 on these, what makes you fold is his raise. Many people will wait until they raise until the turn (bets increase). Respect raises on the turn.

CASE T5: You Hit the str8

You have a str8 and noone has bet/raised yet.

BET and bet aggressively (raise any bets into you)

You have a str8 and someone has raised the bettor (flush or fullhouse threat just popped up).

Call the raise. Hoping they have a 2 pr or set. Don't get aggressive here- your are going to the river now, but play passively –just in case they do have a flush or fullhouse. Straights must be played passive if there is an aggressive better and there is a flush or fullhouse threat.

CASE T6: Flush draw (one card gives you the flush, one more card is coming)

Everyone checks to you
Check

Someone bets
Call if you have odds, pot is small fold.

You are faced with a raise.
Call if you have odds, pot is small fold.

CASE T7: You hit the flush

You have a flush and no one has bet
BET

You have a flush and someone has raised the bettor (or you)
Call the raise if your flush is not the nut flush or if there are any paired cards in the community pile (full house threat). Otherwise reraise.

The board is one suit. Your flush card is less than 10.
Check. If someone bets into you, FOLD (unless you are heads up in which case you'll call) . You are beat by a better flush.

CASE T8: You have 2 pr

Everyone checks to you, or the same guy that's always been betting keeps betting.

Bet and or raise/reraise. make it hard for the drawing players to keep chasing their gutshot str8 draw. Make them pay. You more than likely have the best hand, especially if you have the top pair.

4 cards of the same suit or a 4 card open ended str8 now exists on the board

If there are 4 cards of the same suit, or an open ended str8 on the board, simply check or call. Still call any bet however, looking for the full-house on the river – or the chance that they hit 2 pr and yours is better.

CASE T9: High cards(no pair)

both your hole cards are higher than the flop and turn card
Everyone checks to you

Check.

You face any bet

If any one bets into you, simply FOLD. Again, many continue here. It is not worth it. Anyone betting into you has a pair at least. Probably one of the low pairs and they think they'll close the deal here and prior to the river. Overall, this is a bad bet in low limit holdem. As you move up in limits, you can play these more aggressively – refer to those systems once you get there!

CASE T10: You hit a Full House or Better

Easy, on the turn you bet/raise and reraise. You're hoping that they got trapped with a A high flush or straight/trips. Don't wait until the river to bet. Also, they might not have even hit their hand yet. You want them to think they have a chance and continue to the river.

CASE T11: Garbage

Anything else, YOU should FOLD. for example, you were in the blind and hit a small pair (not the top pair however). You should not bet. Simply fold. You can get into lots of trouble with blinds be careful.

Also, if you had the Axs and the x paired and your hand didn't improve with the turn card, FOLD. If your hand didn't improve or isn't the top pair anymore, you must FOLD any one betting into you.

Playing the Turn Summary:

You are choosing to put money in the pot ONLY if:

- You currently have a winning hand (flush, str8, 2 pr, top pair (good kicker) or full house
- You are calling a bet or a raise (in some cases) if you have a good drawing hand.
- Fold if you don't have a hand. Don't worry about playing tricky in low limits. The donkeys will gladly give you their money without you having to play fancy.

IX. Playing the River

Try to see all the possible straights, flushes, etc. on the board. Consciously do that because when you are focused on your hand it is sometimes very easy to miss a straight or flush that just appeared. Especially if you are focused on your opponent having a similar (but smaller) hand than your own. Be especially careful if you make a straight and a third flush card has also fallen even if that third flush card was a backdoor flush.

General River Strategy

Playing the river is fairly straight forward. If you made it this far, you should have either (after getting the river card):

- High pair
- Premium starting hands (Ako) but no top pair. You bet aggressively early on, but then started checking, everyone else checked as well (otherwise you would have folded before the river).
- Missed your open ended str8 draw.
- Hit your open ended str8 draw with the river card.
- Missed your 4 card flush draw.
- Hit the flush with the river card.
- Have a set
- Have a full house
- High cards (still no pair though), both your hole cards are higher than the flop and no one was betting after the flop (otherwise you would have folded), or you also had a 3 card str8/flush draw.
- Garbage and no one bet into you (otherwise you would have folded). Maybe you were blind with 72s and everyone checked the flop that was 9J3rainbow, turn was Q and river 4.

The River is easy, because we are either value betting (we have the best hand), Folding (we had garbage or missed altogether and someone just bet) or Making a decision using our rough estimate pot odds.

CASE R1: HIGH PAIR -You Still have the top pair

eg. You have KJ, flop is K73, turn is 6, river is Q

Everyone checks to you – should happen most of the time.
Check.

Everyone checks to you – someone who raised you the previous round is behind you.
Check. He probably will bet again.

A 3rd card of the same suit just appeared or a 4th card for a str8 draw just appeared or someone suddenly bets into you.

Check or call the bet(if faced with one). People might still check even though they hit their hand – they are looking for a check raise. Don't give them the chance. The better probably hit a set or two pair. In most cases though you should call in the low limits.

You get check-raised

If someone check raises you, call - you have just been beat by probably 2 pair or they had a set and were waiting until now to let you know about it. Still, the chance that it's a bluff makes it worth the call. You have odds to call.

You face a single bet

Call. You've come too far to back down now. You're probably beat, but just in case...

CASE R2: Hit the str8 (or already had it).

You have a str8

BET about the size of the pot if you have top straight and ½ the pot if its bottom. Call any raise made into you at this point unless you have the nuts. Then reraise all in. If you just hit the str8, and no flush or full house threat exists, raise any bet that was made. Make the guy with the top pair pay to see your str8. Usually they will, even though they know they are beat.

You had a str8 last turn and raised someone who was betting. They now bet again (even though you raised them the prior betting round)

Simply call them. Again, respect the strength they are showing. If you have the nuts reraise all in (nuts would be no flush possibility and no fullhouse and top straight).

You have a str8 and someone has raised the bettor (flush or fullhouse threat just popped up).

Call the raise. Hoping they have a 2 pr or set. Don't get aggressive here.

CASE R3: Hit the flush(or already had it)

You have a flush.

BET about ½ the pot. Only Call any raise made into you at this point. Obviously if you have the nuts, reraise all in. If you just hit the flush, and no fullhouse threat exists, raise any bet that was made. Make the guy with the top pair pay to see your flush. Usually they will, even though they know they are beat.

You had a flush last turn and raised someone who was betting. They now bet again (even though you raised them the prior betting round)

Simply call them. Again, respect the strength they are showing. If you have the nuts, raise.

You have a flush and someone has raised the bettor (flush or fullhouse threat just popped up).

Call the raise. Hoping they have a 2 pr or set. If you have the A – high flush, reraise if you have the nuts. You have the nuts if you have

the Ace and NO paired cards are on the board(NO full house possibility).

CASE R4: You Have a set

No flush or str8 possible.

Raise once . If you have the high set(and they are all in your pocket – not trips), cap out the betting round if possible – you have the nuts.

Otherwise, call any reraise. They could have the full house.

Str8 or flush.

CASE R5: Full house or better

Bet, Raise and reraise allin. It is possible that they have a higher full house or better, but its unlikely. If they are reraising, they probably have a str8/flush.

CASE R6: You have 2 pr.

Everyone checks to you, or the same guy that's always been betting keeps betting.

Check/call. Good chance you are beat here by a set or better but just in case, pot odds say you must call.

4 cards of the same suit or a 4 card open ended str8 now exists on the board

If there are 4 cards of the same suit, or an open ended str8 on the board, simply check or call.

You have been betting every round, at least one person has been calling you. No real str8 or flush threat exists

In this situation, we want to bet again if our pair is top pair. We are hoping they don't check raise (if they do, we still need to call). In low limit, many people will go all the way with a single top pair, we are hoping to have someone like this against us. At higher limit games, things change – refer to our other systems for details.

If there is more than one person left (besides you), check. Odds are one of them has you beat with at least a set.

CASE R7: Anything else... GARBAGE

Check and FOLD any bet made to you. Don't bet if you have the medium pair. Its not worth it. If you have AK, sometimes you can call. Your best bet is to fold though.

Playing the River Summary:

In general, if you make it this far, you should have a winning hand (or got here for free).

- Place a value bet if your hand continues to look good.
- Get into raising matches only if you have the nuts or extremely close to it. For example, if you have a K-high flush, only raise once. Simply call any reraise against you.
- Beware if someone bets and another person calls behind them. This is not a bluff-they must have something. In order to call on the river, they have to have some type of hand. Be willing to throw your weak hand away if you see this.

X. Follow Through

Take notes

I have great confidence in this system. To summarize it, you are playing tight aggressive. While the system is being tested as objectively as possible, sometimes something might happen when you violate the protocols of the low limit system. When this happens, take note and jot down what happened. Did it work out for you or not? Early on, I took great pleasure in watching the results of the decisions I made. For example, when you fold KK or KQ because an A appeared and they were betting against you after you raised pre-flop, watch how many times they really do flip over another Ace. When you fold your 2 pair because there was a raise ahead of you before you bet, watch the flop. How often does the set occur? Note how much this happens and you saved an extra bet by not calling the raise. Use this feedback to help plug holes – or find ways to improve on the current system.

Start your own blog

Share your results with the world. Let me know your blog address and fill me in on how its going. Blogs are easy to set up, simply go to www.blogger.com and follow the directions.

Keep in touch

Let me know how it is going. Also, if you have any questions or suggestions email me at info@systematicpoker.com.

XI. On a final note..

I want to thank you for expressing interest in this system. This system is extremely hard to come by and can't be reproduced. This makes the systematic poker players a unique group in the online poker realm. Not many people use this system. If you have interest in playing sit-n-gos (small 10 person tourneys that last 30minutes to an hour), we have systems on these as well. Refer to all of our different systems related to poker for more details! We also have a multi-table tournament system which can be used to crush big online tournaments. Also, since you purchased products from us in the past, use the following promo if you decide to buy more of our products:

PROMO30 – this will give you a 30% discount on all of our products.

Systematic Poker is an educational experience. It is somewhat flying in the face of traditional poker education that says you must play the person, not the cards. Many are convinced that to win at Low limit holdem, the opposite is true. You play the cards, not the person. Solid, unemotional poker is what we strive for. This site/project was started with the intent of proving or disproving this theory. Attempting to optimize play in the most ways possible with no regard for your opponents playing style. This is ok to do at lower limits – however in our other systems we address how to play the opponent along with the cards (while multi-tabling).

Take care and regards....