

Poker Tip #13

March 03, 2013

Subject: Burning-Through-Chips

Burning through chips simply means:

- a) Going-through-your-chips.....too quickly.
- b) Going-through-your-chips.....with “poor” play.

The problem with Burning-Through-Chips is obvious; i.e. your stack shrinks too quickly and you are in trouble too early in the tournament.

However, the “Root” of the problem is deeper than that.
It means that a player is doing numerous things that hurt his game.

Causes: There are many reasons that a player will burn through their chips too quickly.

1. Playing too many hands.

Remember the contrast with Blackjack, whereby you are required to play every hand dealt to you.

Hope other people play the weak and moderate hands, but don't you do it.
To be a successful poker player, patience can not be emphasized enough.

2. Playing hands that are not strong enough for your position.

Remember, Position is generally considered to be the single most important aspect of poker.

It's paramount that you play only those hands that are strong enough for your position.

3. Getting too involved in the “Early Stage” of the tournament, just because your stack is large relative to the size of the blinds.

This is where the weaker players are playing way-too-many hands.
Don't be one of them.

4. Not giving enough credit to “Overcards.”

5. Playing weak cards just because they are suited.

In their books, the pro's tell us that if you won't play two cards that are not suited, don't play them just because they are suited.

6. Playing those tempting (and dangerous) Aces that have a lousy kicker.

Remember, in Phil Gordon's suggested starting hands (Tip No. 2), A9 unsuited, and lower, are not even listed as playable hands.

7. Playing the small-medium pairs that have a much greater chance of losing the hand, than they do winning it.

8. Limping with weak-moderate hands and then calling a raise of most any size.

This is one of the most common problems weaker players make.

Remember, people raise with pairs and higher cards.

When you limp with weak-moderate cards and then call a raise, you are (almost always) starting the hand as an underdog.

9. Chasing Cards. This is a real "Chip-Burner."

Say, after the flop you have an open-ended straight draw.

There are 2 cards that will complete your straight and thereby give to you the probable winning hand.

You call a bet on the flop, and again on the turn, hoping to hit the straight, and of course miss it both times.

You can not be a winning player by doing this, unless you are a more advanced player that understands "Pot Odds."

You will simply not hit the straight often enough to make a profit.
Get out of the bad habit of "Chasing."

Conclusion: Poker is a game of patience.

A solid foundation can not be achieved without patience.

Without patience, you are playing too many hands that start-out as the Underdog.

Protect Your Soldiers.

You will need them when the appropriate starting hands come along.