

## **Poker Tip #2**

**Dec. 15, 2012**

### **Tip Subject:            Suggested Starting Hands**

Situation:     In poker, the very first decision you need to make with each hand is:

Should I play this hand based on:

1. The strength of the cards
2. My Position
3. The situation in general

Chart:        The attached chart provides a suggestion as to which hands to play (and therefore which hands to fold) and is broken down by position.

The key here, is by position.

Note:        If you can't open the chart, there will be hard copies at the club.

Source:      The suggested "Starting Hands" are taken from Phil Gordon's "Little Green Book."

Foundation: As you read in Poker Tip #1, Larry Phillips states that you need a solid foundation for the game.

These starting hands are very close to what most professional poker players recommend.

If you stick to them, it will be the cornerstone of that foundation and you will be light years ahead of your usual game.

Remember: Bill Burton states that the biggest mistake that losing poker players make is playing too many hands.

Question:    How many starting hands will I be playing if I follow the hands in this chart?

Answer:      Approximately 1 of 7.     Or, folding approximately 6 of 7.

Persevere:   If you would truly like to improve your game, you must spend a lot of time with the attached chart. You can't just read it through once and say "That's too much to learn. I'll just skip this one."

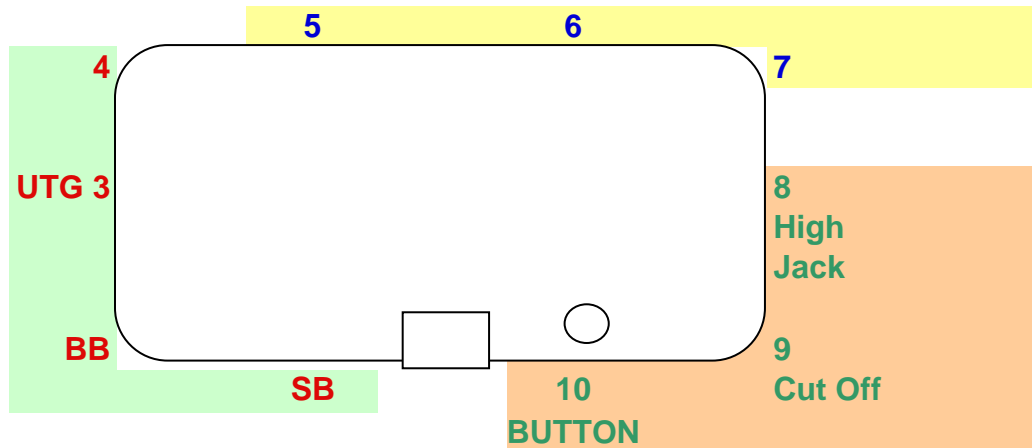
Persist. Persevere and your game will be light years ahead of where it is now.

# STARTING HANDS -- NECESSARY HOLE CARDS

BE PATIENT WAIT FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLE CARDS

Hole Cards																		
Position	PAIRS	A's	K's	Q's	J's	NOTES												
Early	AA KK QQ JJ	AK AQ				1. In early position, pay to see a flop with (ONLY) these cards. 2. A raise is suggested if you are the first to enter the pot. 3. Folding AQ is suggested if there is a raise before, or after, you act. 3. Beware of Overcards ---> <table><tr><td>ex. 1</td><td>ex. 2</td><td>ex. 3</td></tr><tr><td>Flop AJ 3</td><td>K 8 7</td><td>K Q 4</td></tr><tr><td>Your Hole K K</td><td>Q Q</td><td>J J</td></tr><tr><td>Overcard A</td><td>K</td><td>K and Q</td></tr></table>	ex. 1	ex. 2	ex. 3	Flop AJ 3	K 8 7	K Q 4	Your Hole K K	Q Q	J J	Overcard A	K	K and Q
	ex. 1	ex. 2	ex. 3															
	Flop AJ 3	K 8 7	K Q 4															
	Your Hole K K	Q Q	J J															
Overcard A	K	K and Q																
An overcard = card on flop that is higher than your highest hole card																		
Middle	TT 99 88 77  T = 10	AJ AT A9	KQ KJ	QJ		1. All of these Hole Cards are potentially TRAP cards. 2. Be Very Careful. 3. Pay attention to Overcards. 4. Fold all of these hands if there is a raise before you act, or after. 5. You might choose to play them aggressively if you are first to act.												
Late	66 55 44 33 22	A8s A7s A6s A5s A4s A3s A2s	KT K9	QT Q9	JT	1. All of these Hole Cards are potentially TRAP cards. 2. Be extremely careful. 3. Be aware of the higher Overcards. E.g. A K Q J 4. You must recognize that all of these cards are "Weak" and that you will commonly choose to not play them. 5. Fold all of these hands if there is a raise before you act, or after. 6. These hands are best played when you are the first to enter the pot. 7. You might choose to play them aggressively, if you are first to act.												
s = suited Note = Do not play A8 (and lower) unless they are suited.																		

Position		
Early	<b>SB</b>	Small Blind
	<b>BB</b>	Big Blind
	<b>3</b>	UTG
	<b>4</b>	
Middle	<b>5</b>	
	<b>6</b>	
	<b>7</b>	
Late	<b>8</b>	High Jack Seat
	<b>9</b>	Cut Off
	<b>10</b>	Button



Note: If you can play a hand in "Early" position, then you can also play it in Middle or Late position.

If you can play a hand in "Middle" position, then you can also play it in Late position.  
Those hands listed in "Late " position, can be played (only) when in late position.

**Scroll Down -- for Additional Reading**

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### Starting Hands -- Additional Reading

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The above chart is going to be an eye-opener for some players.  
For others, it's going to be a downright shock.

Many will question things like:

- a) Folding AQ if there is a raise before you act, or after.
- b) Folding AJ or KQ from early position.
- c) Never playing A-Rag (unsuited) --- A9, A8, A7, etc.

What you must understand is, some hands in some positions are not as strong **as you have always thought**.

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### Paramount

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Playing the correct "Starting Hands" for your position, is the very root of successful poker.  
It can't be emphasized enough how important the above chart is.  
It can't be emphasized enough how important it is for a player to take it very seriously.

For a better understanding of the chart, there are four areas to be considered:

- 1 Bad Habits**
- 2 Discipline**
- 3 Solid Foundation**
- 4 Patience**

#### **Bad Habits:**

Many players worldwide have numerous bad habits in poker.  
In most cases, the player doesn't realize that his bad habit, is in fact a bad habit.  
That includes things like playing any Ace, any 2 painted cards from any position, playing AJ from out of position, etc, etc, etc.  
So, to break the bad habit, he must first recognize that it is a bad habit.  
Conclusion = Learn the above starting hands (by position) and play only those hands.

#### **Discipline:**

Any poker book you read will discuss, over and over again, the importance of discipline.  
It will require discipline to follow the above chart and fold hands that you are accustomed to playing.  
Without that discipline, your game will never advance to the next level.  
You will be forever stuck in a state of frustration.

#### **Solid Foundation:**

Any undertaking requires a solid foundation to achieve success.  
As Larry Miller writes in Poker Tip No. 1, a solid foundation is required to excel in poker.  
Playing too many hands will negate any possibility of establishing a solid foundation.

#### **Patience:**

Poker Tip No. 4, which you will read in a couple of weeks, deals exclusively with the importance of PATIENCE. You can not break the **bad habit** of playing too many hands without the necessary PATIENCE. You can't develop **discipline** without the necessary PATIENCE. You won't build a **solid foundation** for the game without the necessary PATIENCE.