

Introduction to the Theory & Practice of Poker

Lecture #5

January 17, 2020

Observations from last night's play

- Pre-flop play much better!
 - Almost no open limping
 - Remember, don't open limp, but okay to limp behind (avalanche)
 - More of you are raising 3x the previous raise
 - Game has gotten tougher almost overnight!
- Wrong Daniel
- Open limping is a much worse play in tournaments
 - There is actually value in taking down the blinds
- Many have tightened their pre-flop range
 - Which is good!
- More are playing in position
 - Which is fantastic!



Observations from last night's play

- Some more advice on bet sizing
 - Why have I been raising more than 300?
 - 300 isn't doing the job
 - Getting 5 callers
 - So I started raising 500 or 600
 - Also, if multiple limpers already in, need to raise more
 - 100 for each limper plus 300
 - So if 4 limpers in, make it 700 instead of 300
 - Goal is to get some folds – otherwise 300 is the new limp
 - If you 3-bet a \$300 raise, you want to actually raise the pot
 - So, if only one person is in for \$300, that's \$900
 - But, if \$300 raise followed by 3 calls, you should raise to \$1,500
 - \$300 call + \$1,200 bet which is approx. the pot
 - You want to be heads up



Bet Types (continued)

Bet Types - review

- Value Bet
 - Make a worse hand call
- Bluff
 - Make a better hand fold
- Semi-Bluff
 - Bet with a drawing hand that is currently behind
 - Fold equity can give you an edge
- Every bet should have a purpose
 - If you can't articulate why you are betting/raising, don't do it
 - Practice describing to yourself the reason for your bet
 - You may find yourself changing your bet size or checking



The probe bet

- Usually when you don't know where you stand
 - Do you have the best hand? Possibly, but possibly not
- Usually smaller than a value bet
 - But don't give away too much with your bet sizing
- Goal is to gain information and control pot size
- Probe bets can accomplish
 - Winning the pot (unexpected, but nice)
 - Establishing control, taking the lead, and maybe getting a future free card
 - Preventing opponent from making a bigger bet (pot control)
 - Narrowing the field – getting weak hands in a multi-way pot to fold
 - Prevents silly suck outs when they draw to a ridiculous hand (e.g. 26 hitting two pair)



The Continuation Bet

- You raised pre-flop and were called
- Flop comes out
- You bet the flop no matter what
 - Called a C-bet
- Heads up, 70% of the time, opponent missed the flop with two unpaired cards.
- If you bet, he might fold

- Caution: Most opponents today expect a continuation bet
 - 70% of the time, you miss the flop

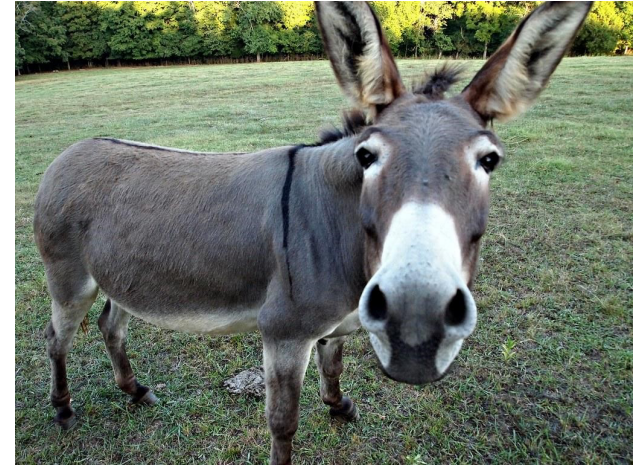
Continuation bet (continued)

- More effective in position
 - Opponents less likely to float out of position
 - You get to see them check first
- Less likely to work mutli-way
 - 3 opponents or more – one of them likely to hit something on the flop
- If you C-bet a lot, you get called more often when you do hit the flop



The Donk Bet

- You are out of position
- Your opponent raised pre-flop & you called
- The flop is dealt
- You are first to act
- You bet – this is called a “Donk bet”
 - Named after the animal that is apparently the worst at poker
- This is an unusual way to play
 - If you have a strong hand
 - More likely to check and let opponent continuation bet
 - If you have a weak hand, no point in putting money in
- Thus, often interpreted as a weak play
 - But advance players know this
 - Sometime will donk bet strong hands to appear weak to a thinking player
 - Some more advanced players will donk bet weak hands to look like a strong hand trying to look weak
 - Etc.

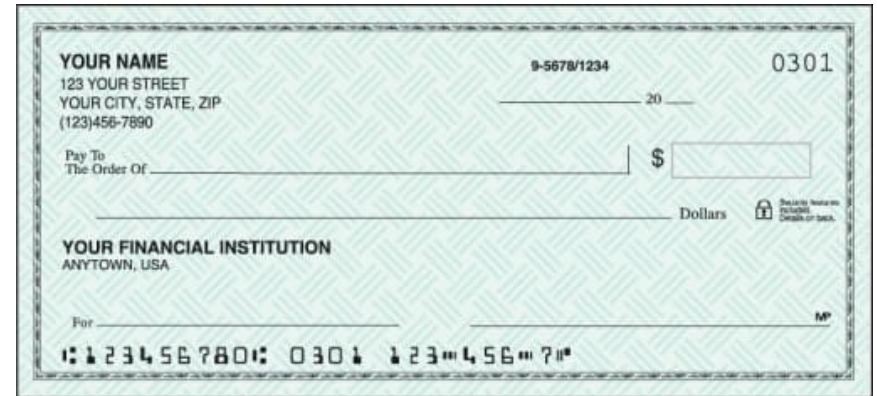


The blind bet

- Some players will bet before a card comes
 - Must be first to act
 - E.g. pre-flop betting is over, player checks “in the dark”
 - E.g. player goes all in before the turn card is turned over (usually short stacked)
- Betting in the dark
 - makes poker easier
 - Takes away your decisions
 - Can compensate for bad position
- I don't like it
 - You are making a decision with less information than you can get by waiting

The Check

- Goals of checking
 - You have a small value hand
 - No better hand is likely to fold
 - No worse hand is likely to call
 - Eliminate a betting street and keep the pot smaller for a small-pot hand
 - Trapping
 - Represent weakness with a strong hand to induce betting from a weak opponent
 - If you think your opponent might be strong, don't trap!
 - One of the most over-used and abused play
 - In general, bet your strength



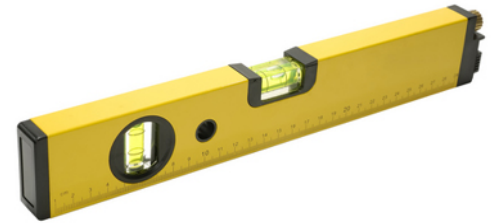
The check-raise

- You check with the intention of raising if someone bets
- A way to get an extra bet out of an aggressive opponent
- You have to believe someone will raise
- Represents a lot of strength
- Sometimes used as a bluff: Check-Raise-Bluff (advanced move)

- When you get check-raised, proceed with caution
- If opponent is known to check-raise a lot, forces you to check back sometimes
- If you are known to check-raise often, you might get free cards



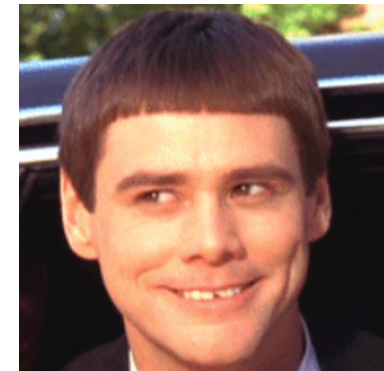
Leveling



Understanding levels

- Level Zero

- Thinking about your hole cards
- Very shallow thinking
- Making all decisions based on your cards alone



- Level zero thinking out loud

- Hmm, I have AQ. This is great! I'm going to bet. Hmm, he just raised me. Well, I have AQ. That's a good hand. I will call. Looks like a Q on the flop. I made a pair! Yippee! I am willing to lose all my money on this hand because I have AQ and there is a Q on the flop. Oh, wait, what happened? How did I lose? Why do I suck at poker?!?

Level One



- Level one thinking:
 - I know my cards
 - Based on my opponent's actions, what do I think he has?
- At level one, you are thinking about your cards and your opponent's cards.
- Level one thinking out loud
 - I have AJs, that's pretty good. I raised pre-flop. My opponent raised me. My hand is too good to fold, but I know he has something. Oh great, a J high flop. I will bet. Oh no, he just re-raised me big. I know he's a tight player and never does this without 2 pair or better. As much as I like my hand, this is a good time for me to fold.

A blue square logo with the words "LEVEL" and "TWO" stacked vertically in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

Level two

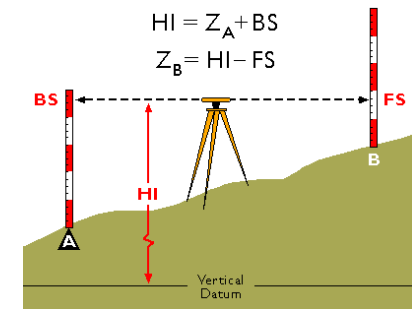
- Most average recreational players don't get past level two
- Thinking about:
 - My hole cards
 - What my opponent is holding
 - What my opponent thinks I am holding
- Level two thinking out loud
 - I have 67o. I have played tight for a while now, and I saw a raise and a call behind me. If I raise now, they are going to think I'm strong. Okay, I got one victim to call me. Let's see. The flop came with an A. I can represent that A because I raised pre-flop, and I have a tight table image. So, I will bet it strong. Yup, I bet, and he folded and showed me an A. I guess he didn't like his kicker. I had nothing, but I knew he thought I had a strong A.



Level 3

- Thinking about
 - My hole cards
 - My opponent's holdings
 - What my opponent thinks I am holding
 - What my opponent thinks I think he thinks I am holding
- Level 3 thinking out loud
 - I have an example, but if I read it to you, your head would explode.

Leveling



- Top pros are said to play at level 7
 - I know what he thinks I think he thinks I think he has, but since he thinks I think he thinks I'm strong, I'll play weak, which will make him think that I think he thinks I'm weak.
- Leveling can get you in trouble
 - What if you play him like a level 2, but he's really at level 1?
- An important skill to develop
 - Try to figure out what level your opponents are playing
 - Against level 0 players, forget about your image
 - They are not watching you nor paying attention
 - Don't underestimate good players' ability to level you

Leveling example

- You make a big bet on the river
- Your opponent thinks and thinks and thinks
- Finally, he says “Will you show me if I fold?”
- Typical idea:
 - If you say “yes” it means you want him to fold
 - So, if you say “yes” he snap calls you
- But if he knows that you know this
 - Then he will think that a “yes” means you want a call
- But if you know that he knows this as well
 - You will say “yes” because you want a fold and you think he will think you want a call because he knows that you know that he knows that you know this.



Leveling in a Hollywood movie

With deadly consequences



Post-flop play

Flop is major milestone in the hand

- On the flop, hand has shaped up
- You know 5 of your 7 possible cards
 - Hand is over 70% defined
- You have seen:
 - Pre flop action
 - Flop action of earlier positions
- This street will probably determine
 - How big the pot will be
 - # of players that will battle
- Many hands end on the flop
- If you get past the flop, you will often see the river



Considerations on the flop

- How many players remain in the hand
 - And types of players
- Your position relative to other players
- Who was the pre-flop aggressor
- Pot size and remaining effective stacks
- Dry or wet flop
- How well pre-flop action/ranges connects with the flop
 - Flop more likely to hit you or your opponent(s) based on pre-flop action



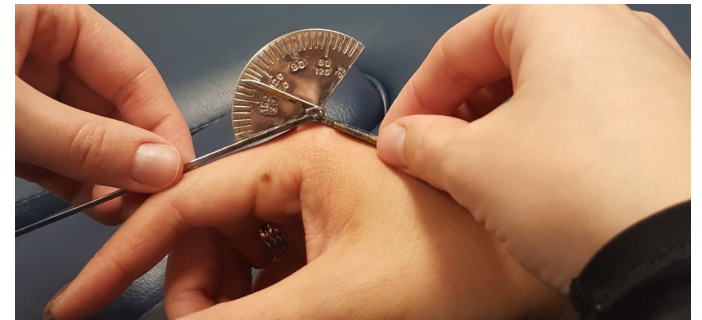
Your hand strength – heads up on the flop

- After the flop, you can have:
 - Monster: E.g. Full House
 - No cards left for opponent to hit anything
 - Very strong hand: E.g. set of two pair
 - Want to build a pot – usually bet
 - Overpairs & top pair
 - Usually bet
 - Not looking to build a huge pot
 - On dry board, can check for pot control
 - On wet board, should usually bet for protection
 - Pairs below top pair
 - Check-calling hands
 - You might still be good, don't give up right away
 - Drawing hand
 - Can play for deception
 - Play when implied odds are good
 - Nothing hands
 - Might beat opponent when he also has nothing



Assessing opponent's hand heads up on flop

- Consider pre-flop action
- Consider opponent type
 - Tight, aggressive, loose, passive, maniac, etc
- Consider opponent's pre-flop hand range
 - E.g. High cards, pairs, suited connectors above 67, etc
- How well does this flop connect with that range?
- Consider how opponent thinks of your range pre-flop
 - Their image of you, their assessment of your range
- Ask:
 - Am I probably ahead or probably behind?
 - If I'm ahead, how likely is opponent to be drawing to beat me?
 - If I'm behind, how many outs might I have?
 - If I'm behind, can I still win without risking too much?



Always take position into account!

Continuation bet

- Most players will C-bet most of the time
- It is very important to assess how players respond to C-bets
- Some players NEVER believe a continuation bet
 - You actually do hit the flop 30% of the time!
- If you are the preflop raiser
 - You have to decide if you will continuation bet
 - If you hit the flop, and if you miss the flop
- Considerations:
 - C-bet more often in position
 - Opponent already showed weakness by checking to you
 - Watch out for players who love to check-raise
 - Especially on continuation bets
 - Do not C-bet as often into multiple players
 - Continuation bet more often on dry boards than wet boards



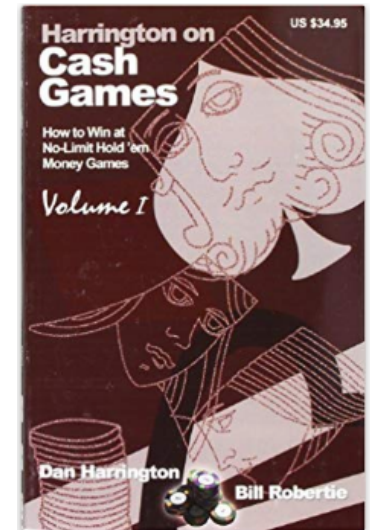
Continuation bet

- If your opponent was pre-flop raiser
 - You have to decide what to do if they C-bet
- Considerations
 - Who has position?
 - How often do they C-Bet?
 - If more than 30% then some of them are bluffs
 - Will they call a raise if they are bluffing?
 - If they C-bet too much, then you can take away the pot
 - Who do you think is ahead?



Post flop strategy

- Primary source: Harrington Cash Games
- Harrington likes to mix up play with percentages
 - E.G. Check 70%, Bet 30%
 - Use second hand on watch to randomize
- There are many ways to play
 - Not all are correct or incorrect
 - None are always absolutely right
 - But some are always wrong
- It is a mostly TAG strategy

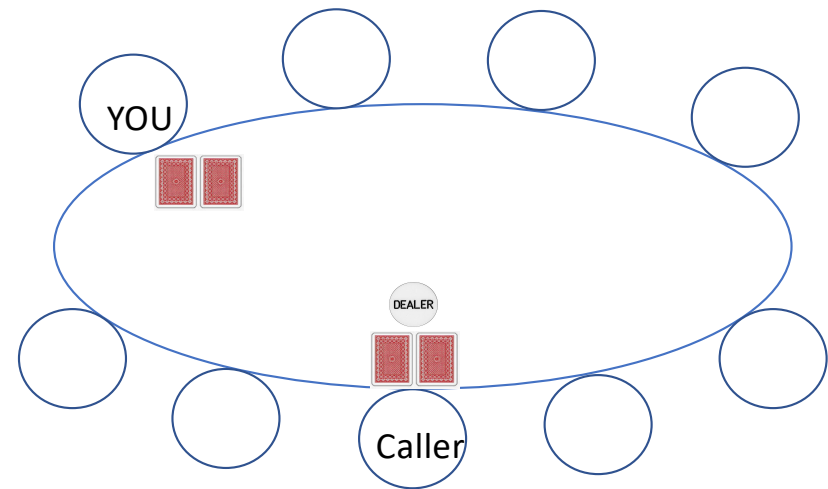


Four different situation

- Assume deep stacks, effective 150 BB
- Two key factors:
 - Position
 - Who was the aggressor pre-flop
- Each of these situations is so different, that we will take them one at a time with hand examples
 - You were aggressor pre-flop, and you are out of position
 - You were the aggressor pre-flop, and you are now in position
 - Your opponent was the aggressor, and you are out of position
 - Your opponent was the aggressor, and you are in position

You were aggressor pre-flop,
and you are out of position

Assumptions



- You raised 3 BB from 3rd position and were called only by an opponent on the button
 - So, you were the aggressor (first bettor) and are out of position for the whole hand
- Consider his button calling range
 - Should be pretty wide

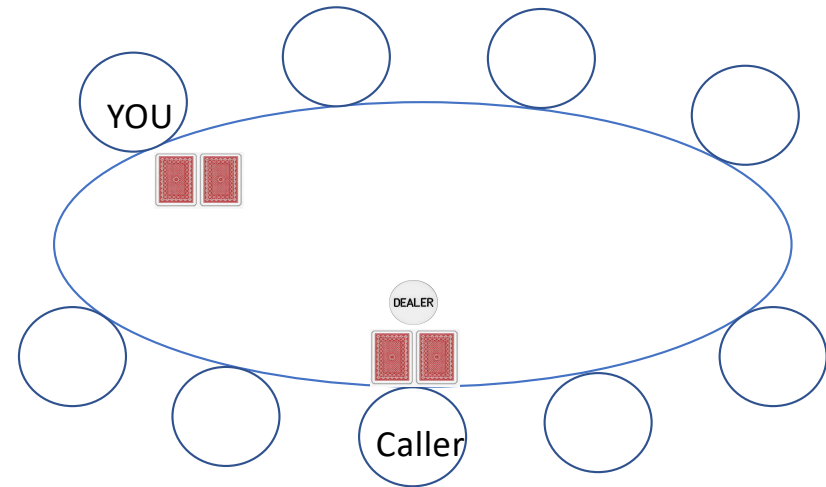
Your hand:



• Flop:



- Strategy: Bet 20% of the time, check 80%
- Analyses
 - Dreaded A came on the flop
 - Hard to make money when you're ahead – he will fear the A
 - He will think he's ahead if he has an A.



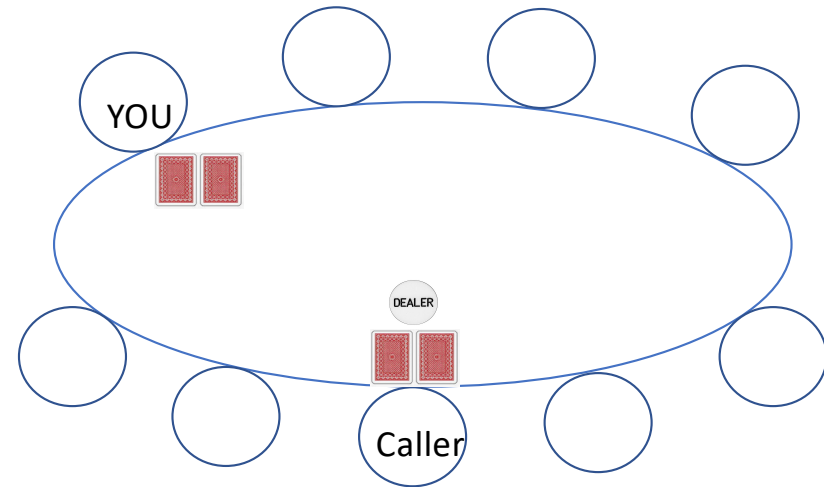
Your hand:



• Flop:



- Variation #1, we bet & he calls
 - You want to keep pot small
 - Occasionally make a bet on the turn
 - Done trying to extract value, hope to get to showdown cheap
- Variation #2, we bet & he raises
 - Fold!
 - Unless you have some kind of strong read on opponent
- Variation #3, we check and he bets
 - Call – can't just fold to just one bet
 - On the turn, check again, and if he bets, probably have to fold



Your hand:

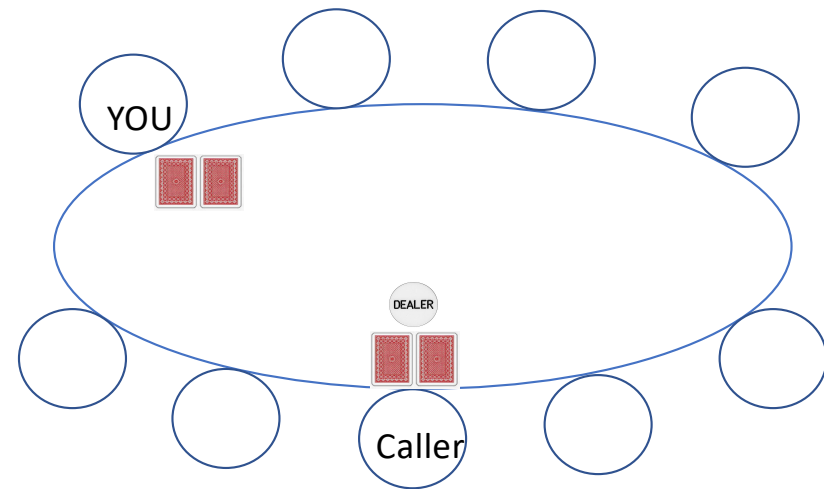


• Flop:



• Variation #4, we check & he checks

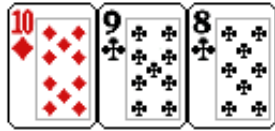
- Very unlikely he has an A
- Most players would bet due to the flush draw & straight draw
- On the turn, bet 50% of the time, check 50% of the time
- Very little reason to bet unless he will call with a worse hand
 - Unlikely with A on the board
 - Rare time it's okay to play passively



Your hand:



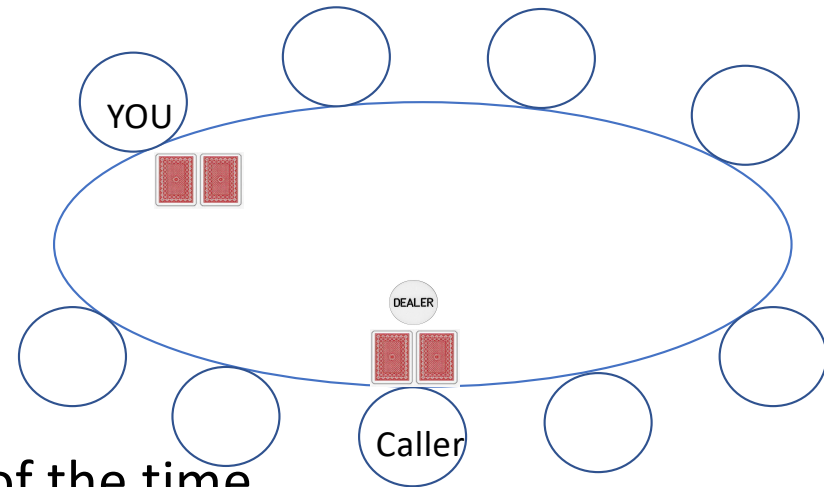
• Flop:



• Strategy: bet 60% of the time, check 40% of the time

• Analysis:

- Lots of hands that would call pre-flop are crushing you
 - 2 pair, sets, straights
- Lots of drawing hands on this flop will continue
- Many hands like JT have a straight draw and a pair
- Recommendation:
 - Make a larger than usual bet to charge the draws
 - 7.5 BB on the flop, so bet around 6 or 7 bigs



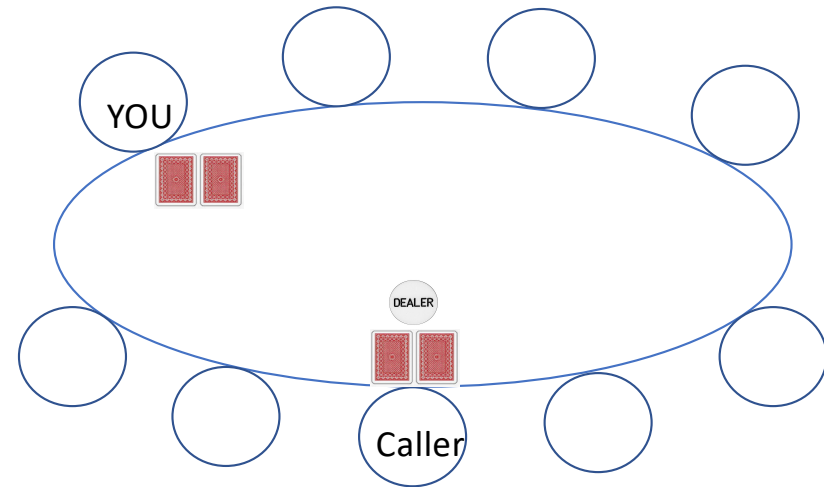
Your hand:



• Flop:



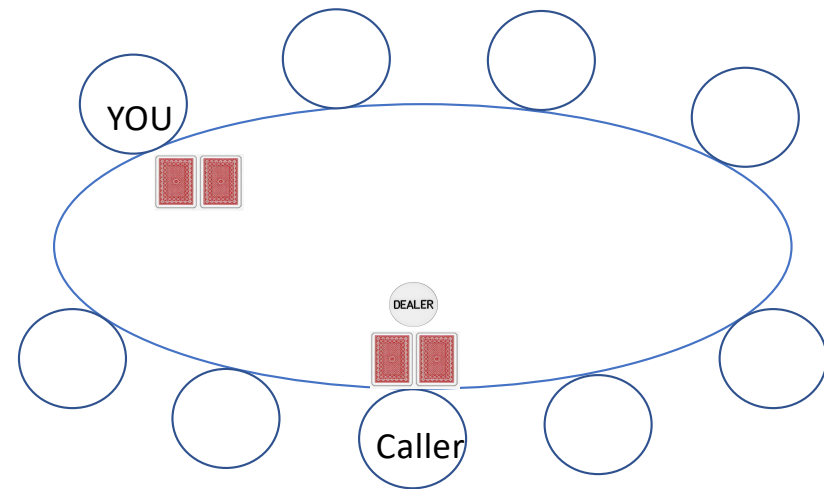
- Variation #1 : We bet and he calls
 - We're mostly done here – no need to bet more in this hand
 - Pot is 21.5 BB if we bet 7 BB on the flop
 - We are out of position
- Variation #2 : We check and he bets
 - Call 70% of the time, and fold 30% of the time
 - Hard to fold an overpair, but mixing in some folds prepares us to let go
 - Lots of scary turn and river cards, so not the worst to cut our losses



Your hand: 

• Flop: 

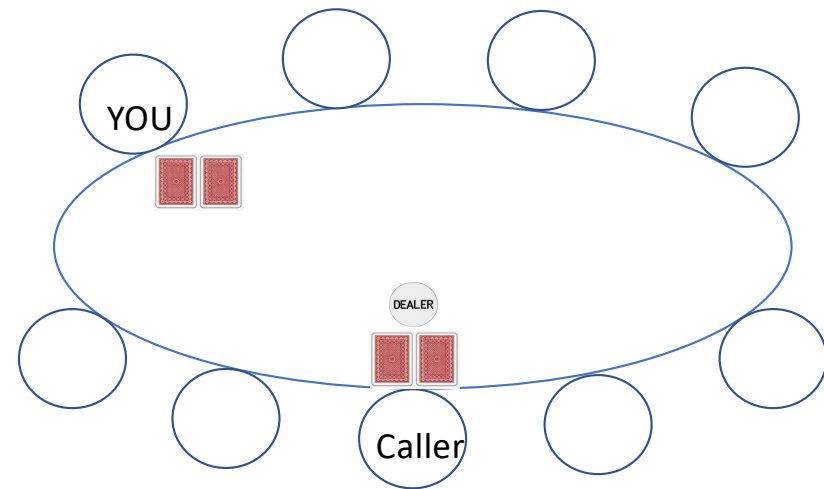
- Strategy: bet 70% of the time, check 30%
 - Always keeping play balanced to not become predictable
 - Most players always bet here, but need to mix in some checks
 - It's very different if there are more players in the hand – in which case always bet
- Analysis:
 - Straightforward situation
 - Good enough to bet
 - Not strong enough to trap (e.g. check-raise)
 - Still just one pair



Your hand: 

• Flop: 

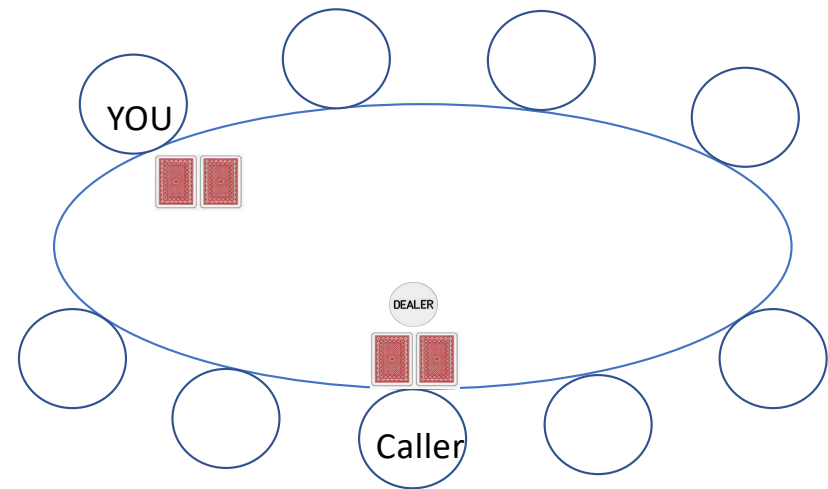
- Variation #1 : We bet and he raises
 - Against a known tight player, have to consider folding
 - Against anyone else, call, but proceed with caution
 - Never re-raise
- Variation #2 : We bet and he calls
 - Now we need to start thinking “small hand – small pot”
 - Should check a future street
 - Although against a calling station, can bet down to river



Your hand: 

• Flop: 

- Variation #3 : We check and he bets
 - Only play is to call
 - Not strong enough to raise
 - Too strong to fold
 - I would also check-call a blank turn
- Variation #4 : We check and he checks
 - Bet turn 90% of the time, check 10% to trap



Your hand: 

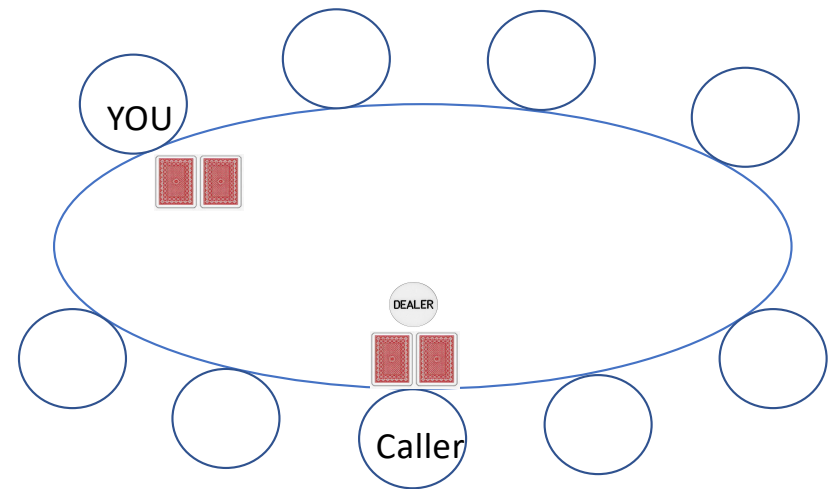
• Flop: 

• Strategy:

- Similar to last hand, bet 70%, check 30%

• Analysis:

- Excellent flop!
- Bet might look like a continuation bet with nothing
- Only checking to balance range
- We have best kicker



Your hand:

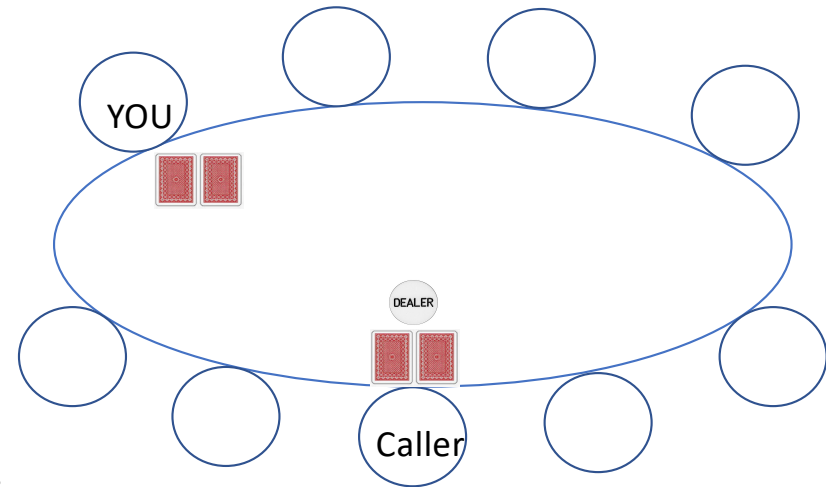


• Flop:



• Variation #1 : We bet & he raises

- Unless he's a maniac, not too many hands we are beating
- His range when he's ahead: QQ, JJ, 77, QJ
- AA, KK beating you, but would have raised pre-flop
- Possible raising hand that you beat: KQ
- He could also have AQ too
- He could be semi-bluffing with AK or T9
- The raising hands that beat you fit the pre-flop action
- Think about the player, your table image and how likely he is to stone cold bluff you with nothing
- With no information on player, fold 30%, call 70% and be careful on turn
 - Can't fold too often and be bullied off such a strong hand



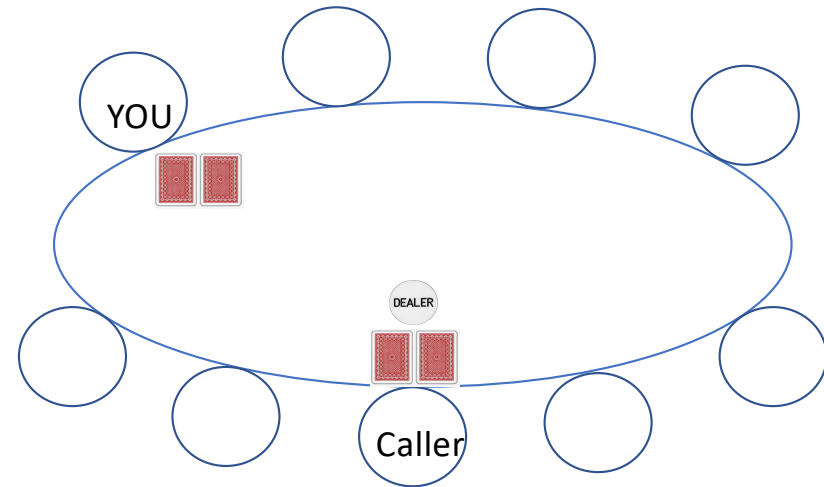
Your hand:



• Flop:



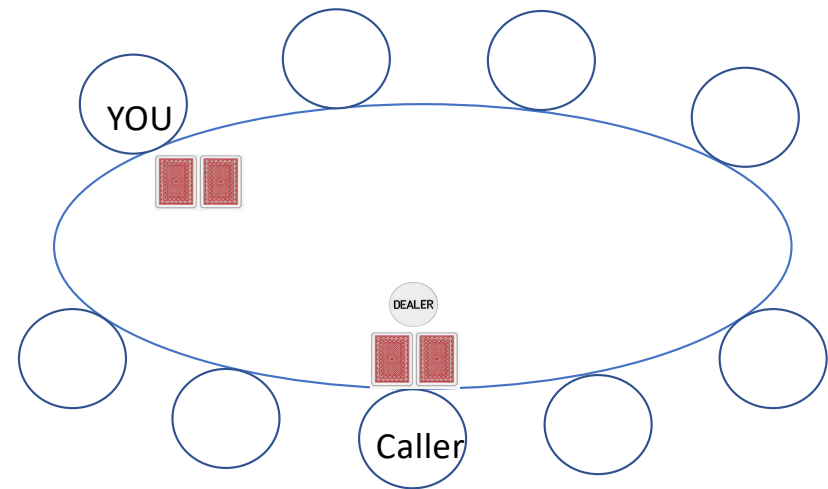
- Variation #2 : We bet, and he calls
 - Lots of calling hands we can beat
 - If blank turn, bet 90%, check 10% (to trap)
 - If K on the turn, just check – KQ & KJ are now ahead (2 most likely holdings)
- Variation #3 : We check and he bets
 - Call. Raise builds too big a pot with one pair. Never folding.
 - Any card below a 9 on the turn, we bet
 - If J on the turn, we check and proceed with caution – scary card for us
 - So many of his pre-flop calling hands that bet the flop could have a J



Your hand: 

• Flop: 

- Variation #4 : We check, and he checks
 - Almost definitely we're ahead
 - Bet any turn for value



2010 WSOP Main Event
Final Table Hand



9♥ 9♣ 10%

JARVIS 500

ALL IN

A♠ Q♠ 90%

MIRZACHI 177

POT 31,500,000

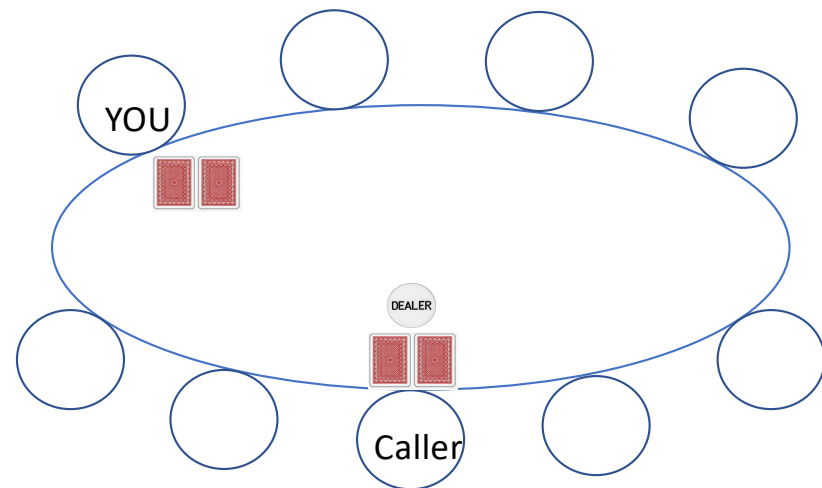
Your hand: 

• Flop: 

• Strategy: Bet 80% of the time, check 20%

• Analysis:

- Losing if opponent has an A, otherwise probably ahead
- Common saying on a flop like this: “First in the pot wins”
- Many overcards to your TT can come on the turn
 - So 80% is a large percentage of the time to bet
- Bet on the larger side – you want to end this now
 - You will get a lot of information from a bigger bet



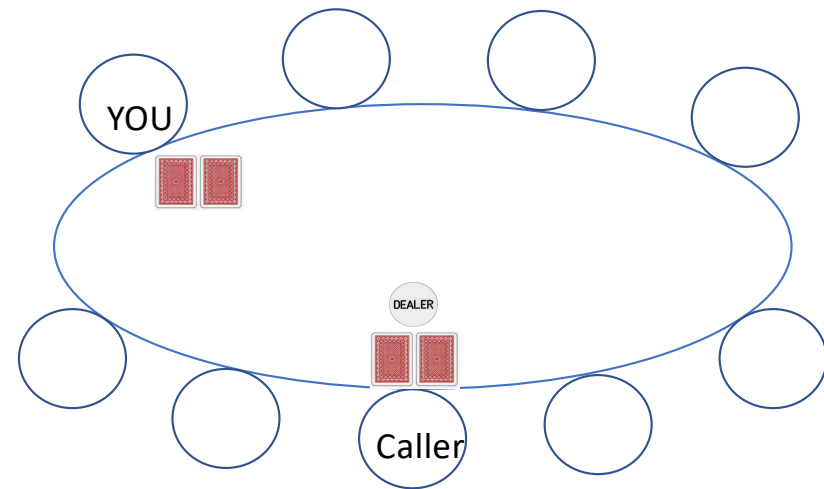
Your hand:



• Flop:



- Variation #1 : You bet and he raises
 - Fold!
- Variation #2 : You bet, and he calls
 - He's representing an A with possibly a weak kicker or a middle pair
 - There are no draws on this flop
 - On the turn, bet 30%, check 70% for pot control



Your hand:



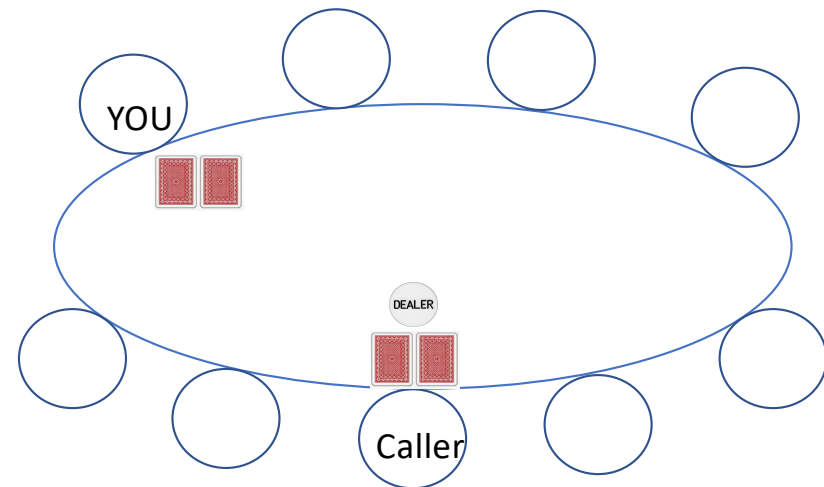
• Flop:



• Strategy: Bet 70% of the time, check 30%

• Analysis:

- We hope he has an A
- We bet a high percentage because of the straight draws and likelihood of getting called and winning a big pot
- Since we frequently C-bet when we miss, we balance by also frequently betting when we crush it



Your hand:

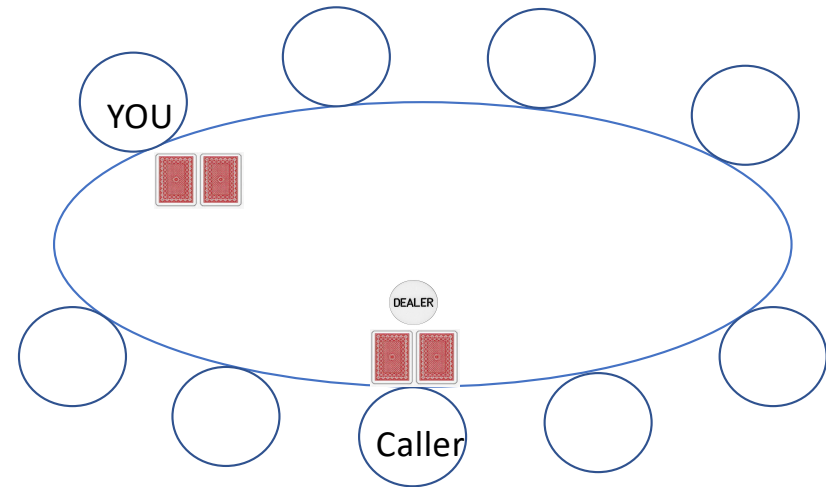


• Flop:



• Variation #1 : We bet, and he raises

- 20% re-raise – gives away strength of hand, but gives us cover for occasional bluff-re-raise.
- 80% call
- Re-raising post-flop is rare. If our hand is so strong, we want to keep opponent in and make more money on turn & river
- More often re-raise when board is draw heavy, especially with combo draws



Your hand:



• Flop:

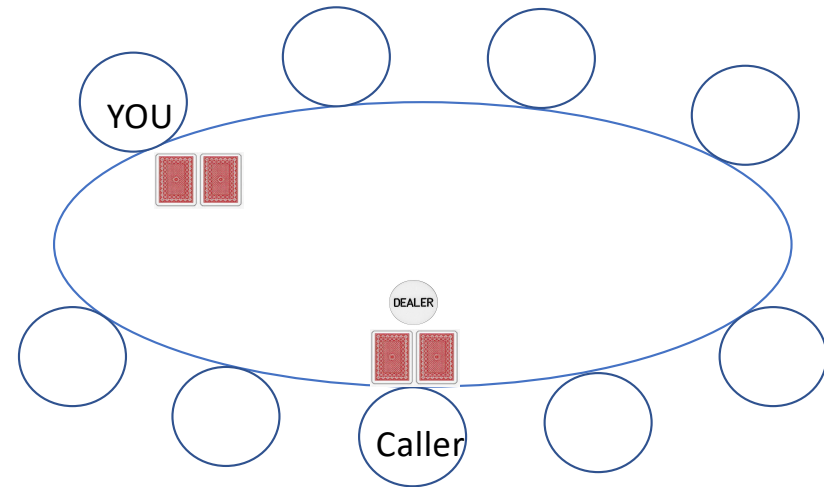


• Variation #2 : We bet. He calls.

- Most likely he has a A or some kind of straight draw
- Very unlikely he has a naked 9 or T – that would be a very loose call, given the action
- If a straight card comes on the turn (K, Q, J, 8) we must bet to charge those draws
- Blank turn, bet 50%, check 50% to balance ranges. Bet about half pot to keep him around with a weak A or any hand he likes

• Variation #3 : We check, he bets

- Raise 40% of the time, call 60%
- If he calls my raise, lead out on the turn 70% and check 30%

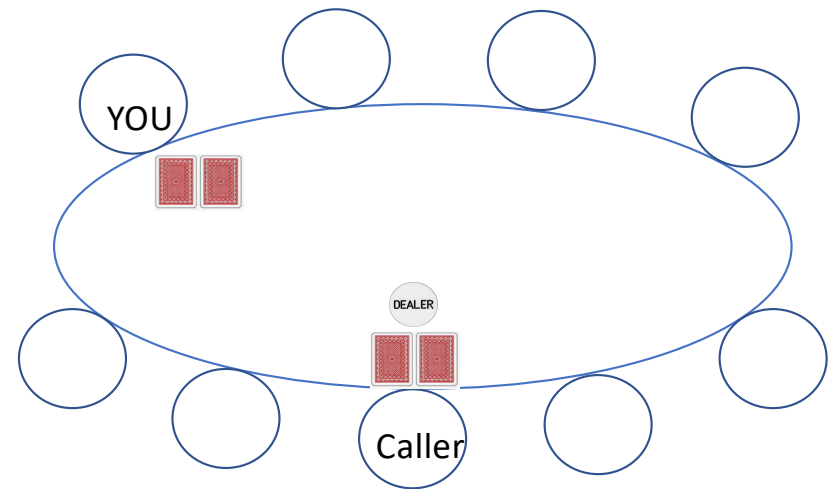


Your hand: 

• Flop: 

• Variation #4 : We check and he checks

- Bet on the turn and hope he has something or thinks you're bluffing
- Not likely to win much in this hand



WSOP Day 1B, 2017
Memorable hand

(people still talking about it)

The key players in this hand

Vanessa Selbst

- 3 WSOP bracelets
 - First and only female to do this
- \$11.8 million in live earnings
- BA, JD from Yale, Fulbright scholar



Gaelle Bowmann

- 14 WSOP cashes
- Live WSOP earnings: \$691,927
- Two masters degrees



Setup

- First day of Main Event, \$10,000 buy-in
- One hour into an 8 day event
 - Halfway through first 2-hour level
- Selbst is a favorite to go deep
 - She's a huge poker celebrity, with good reason
- A couple of other top pros at the table

WORLD SERIES
OF
POKER



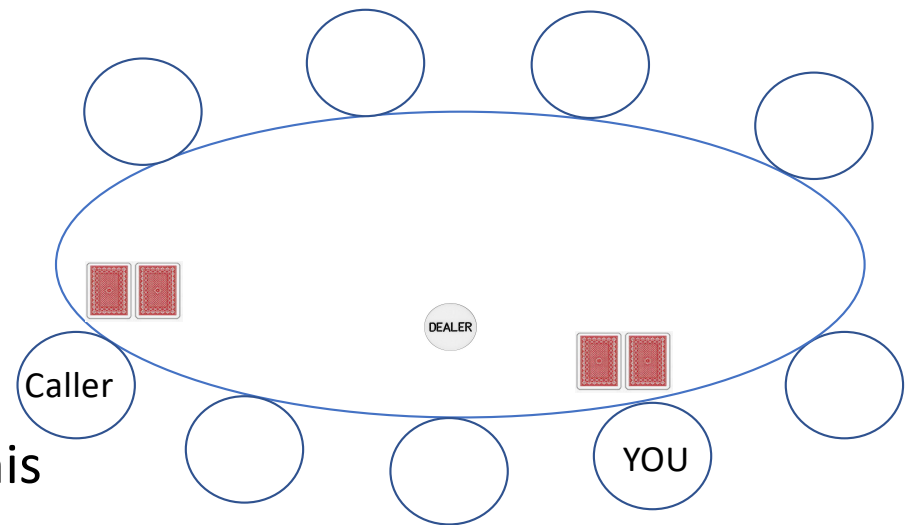
POKER
STARS
NET



You were the aggressor pre-flop,
and you are now in position

Assumptions

- You raised 3 BB from the cutoff
 - Only Big Blind calls
- You will act last on every street after this
 - Huge benefit of position, as we will see
- You can put him on a wider than usual range of hands
 - Most players “defend” their big blind
 - Better pot odds
 - Discourage future blind stealing against you
 - But this is really more of a tournament thing than a cash game thing.
- He can put you on a wide range
 - You opened in late position



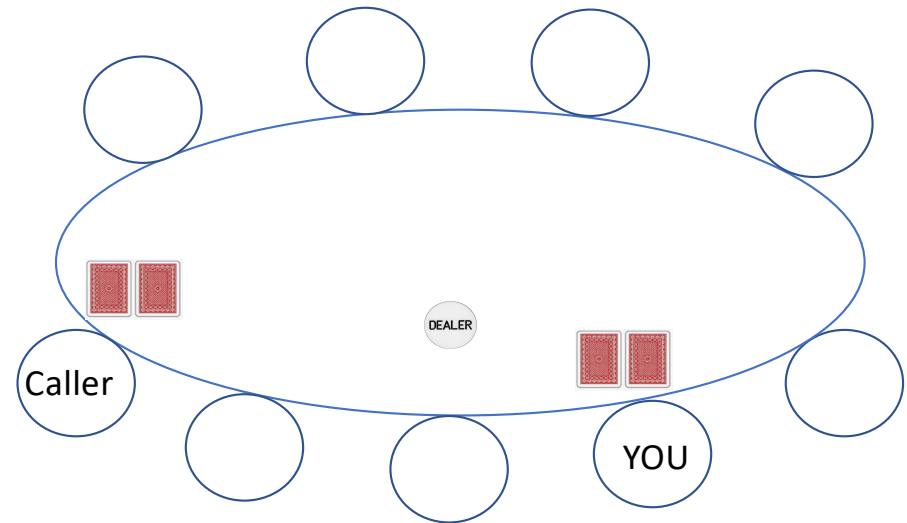
Your hand:



• Flop:



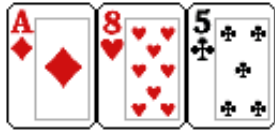
- He bets 3 blinds
- (Try not to look too excited)
- Call (Harrington recommends raise 10% of the time)
- Board has no draw, you have the nuts right now
- How to maximize return
- Opponent is representing an A. We want to give him more chances to try to steal
- And if he really has an A, we will get some chips!



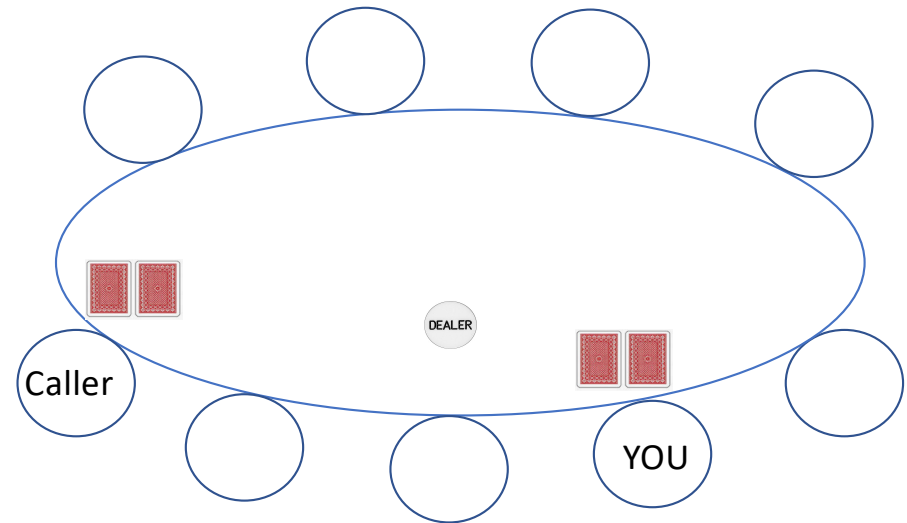
Your hand:



• Flop:



- He checks
- Bet 25%, check 75%
 - Too strong to bet.
 - No draws to worry about
 - Hope he catches something on the turn
 - Big hand – big pot breaks down when there's little he can have
 - Middle set tends to make more money than top set
 - Because he can have top pair more often



Your hand:



• Flop:



• Variation #1 : He checks, you bet, he calls

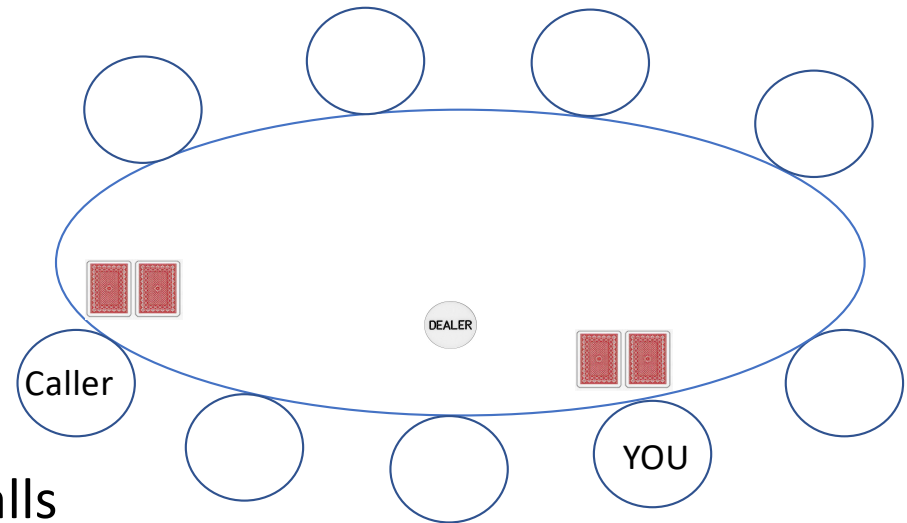
• Turn plan:

- Raise if he bets
- Bet if he checks

• His call indicates he has something, so find out how much you can get from him

- Best case, he has 88 or 55

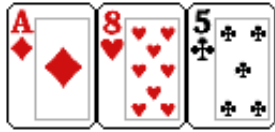
• No slow play. If he has it, you get paid, if not, you never were going to



Your hand:

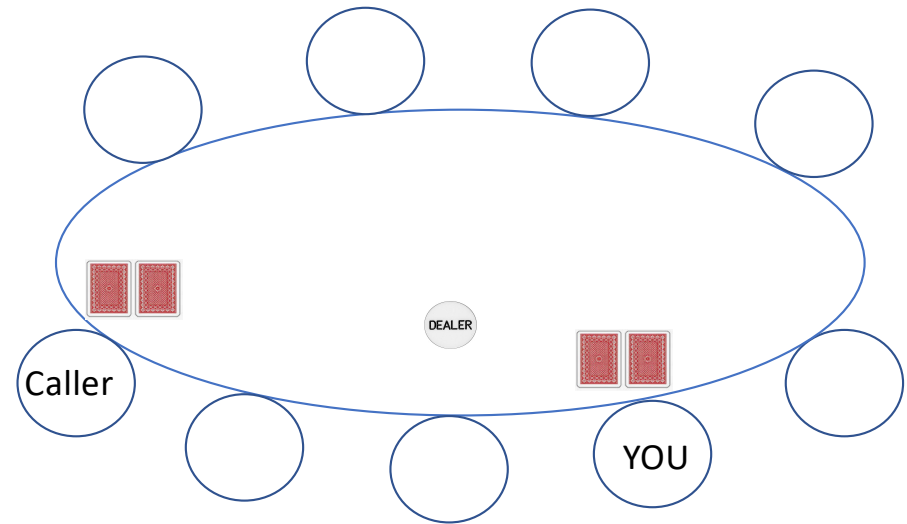


• Flop:



• Variation #2 : He checks and you check

- Plan for turn is 70% bet, 30% check
- Reasons to bet turn
 - Value
 - Avoid a “freezer card” that stops the action
- Reasons to check turn
 - Deception, so opponent knows that you can have a monster even if you check to the river



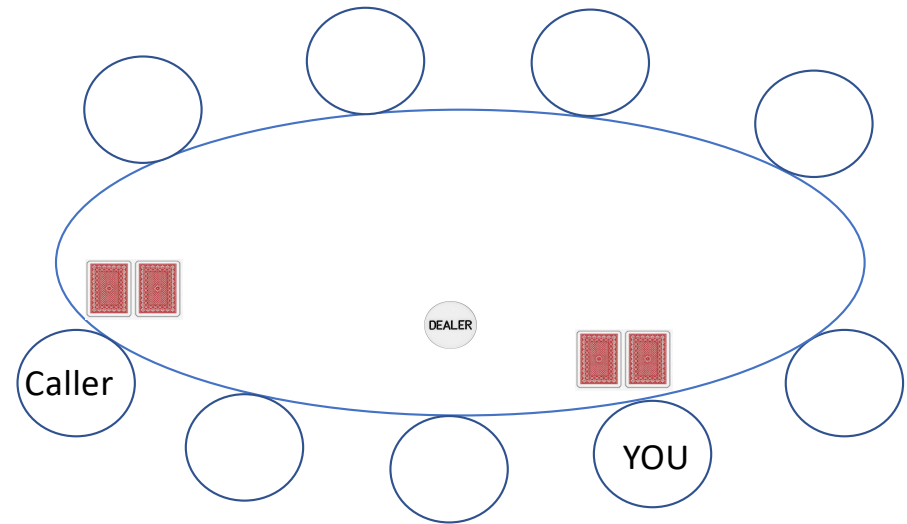
Your hand:



• Flop:



- Action: He bets 3 big blinds
- Strategy: Raise 10%, call 90%
- Analysis:
 - Difficult flop
 - Board is full of draws
 - He might have 2 pair already
 - If you hit an A, there are 4 to a straight
 - You have a draw too if a T hits (but you won't get paid)



Your hand:



• Flop:

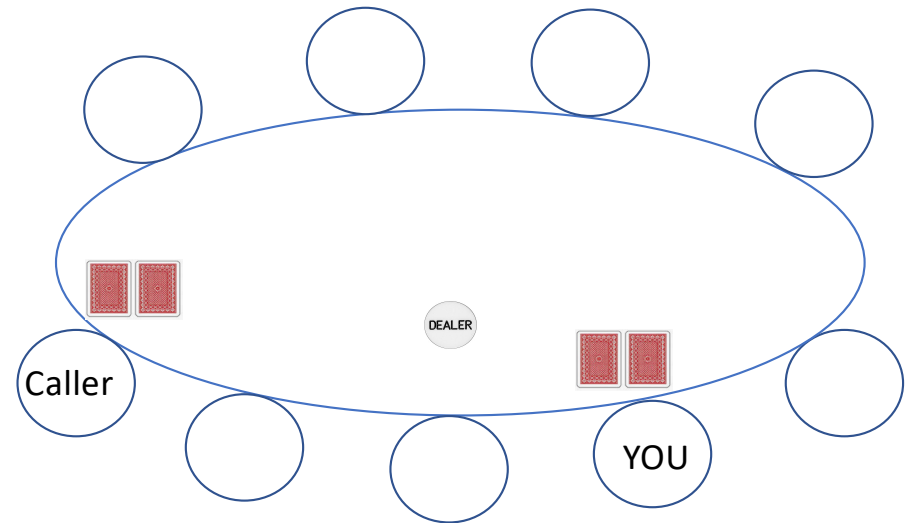


• Action: He checks

• Strategy: Bet 80%, check 20%

• Analysis:

- Bet for value, but proceed with caution
- Bet larger than usual – want to take it down now and charge draws
 - Maybe 80% to 100% of the pot



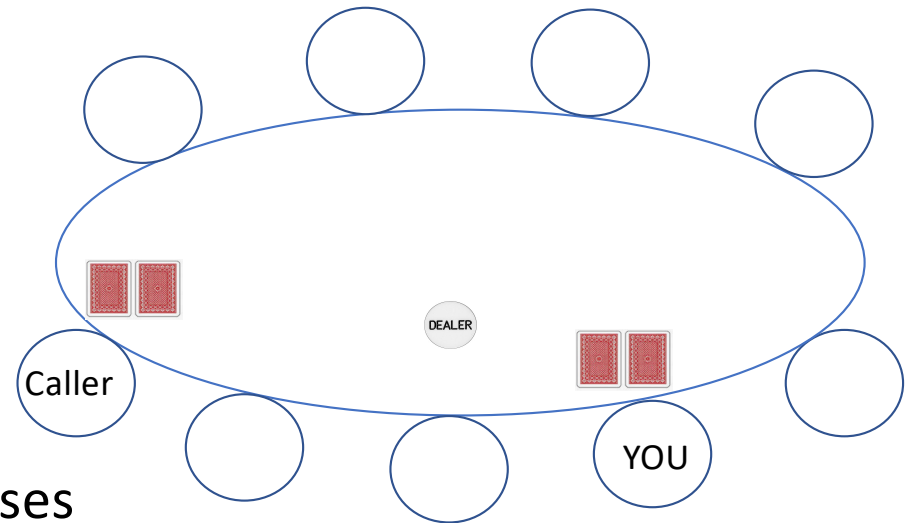
Your hand:



• Flop:



- Variation #1 : He checks, we bet, he raises
 - Call 30%, fold 70%
 - Can't always fold to a raise, but probably beat
 - Position lets us call 30%
- Variation #2 : He checks, we bet, he calls
 - We hope for a blank on the turn (e.g. 2 of diamonds)
 - We want to check it down if possible



Your hand:

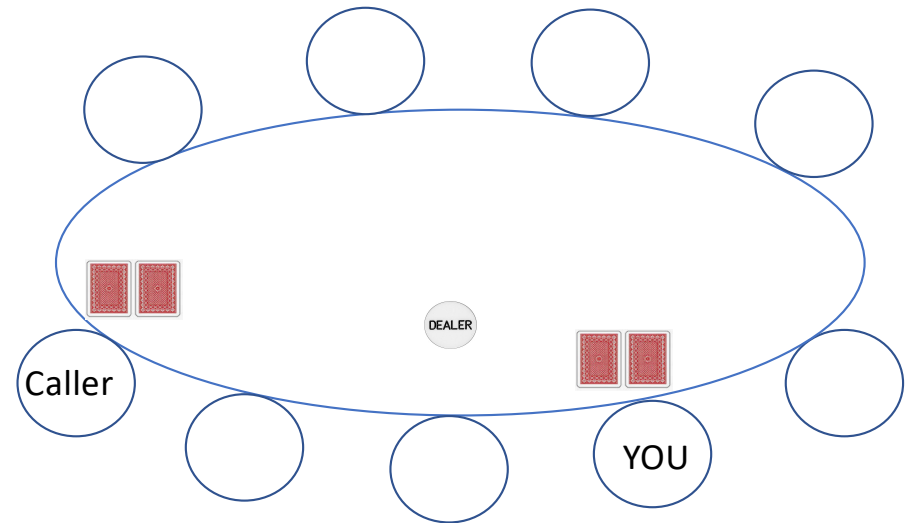


• Flop:



• Variation #3 : He checks and we check

- An A on the turn makes life difficult
- Worst card on the turn is a 9
 - Gives him possible straight we can't match
- Most turns, bet 75% of the time if he checks
 - Need to get value from AA if we have the best hand



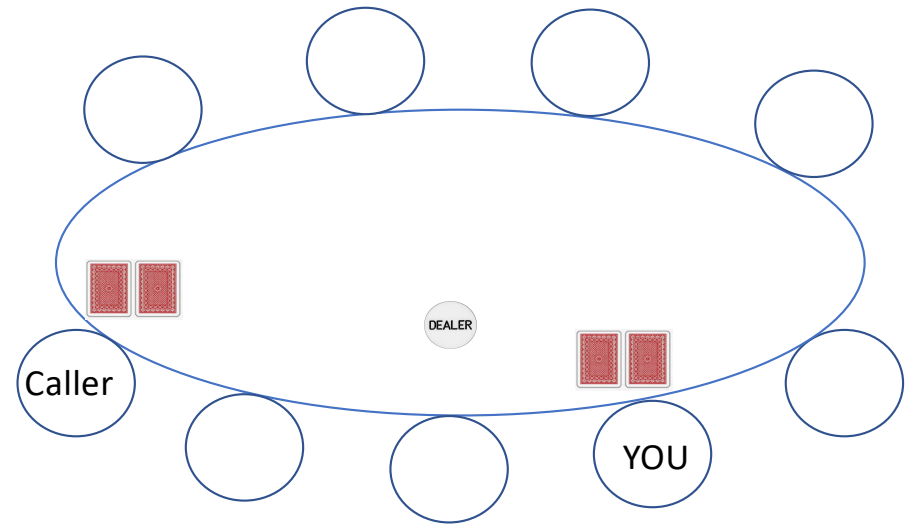
Your hand:



• Flop:



- Action: He bets 3 big blinds
- Strategy: Raise 40%, call 60%
- Analysis:
 - This is a good flop and a good result
 - Some straight draws
 - Most likely he has a weaker Q or J (worse kicker)



Your hand:

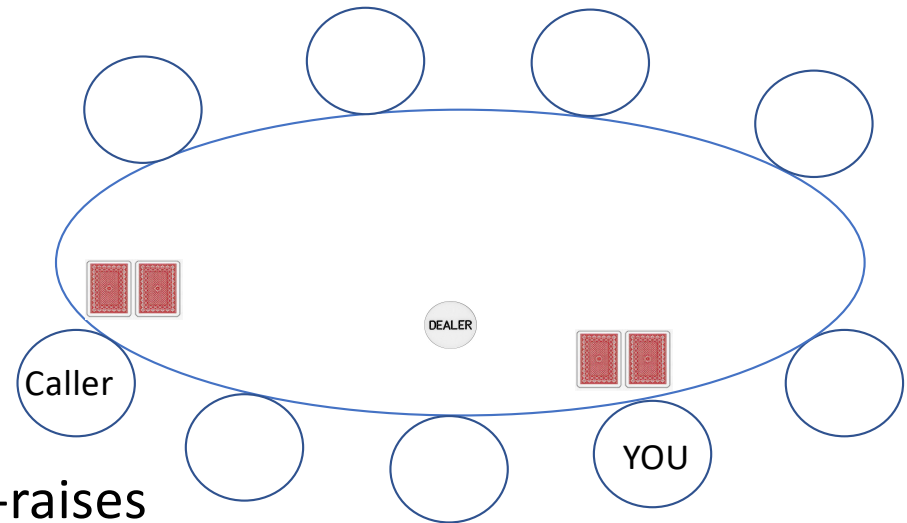


• Flop:



• Variation #1 : He bets. We Raise. He re-raises

- Need to take player type into account
- Against a good, tight player, fold
- Against a weak player, you can call
 - Weak player could have KQ, QT, KT
- Against a wild maniac, you probably call
 - He might get all your money, but most often you'll get his
 - Hi variance to play against maniacs, but this is the result you want against them



Your hand: 

• Flop: 

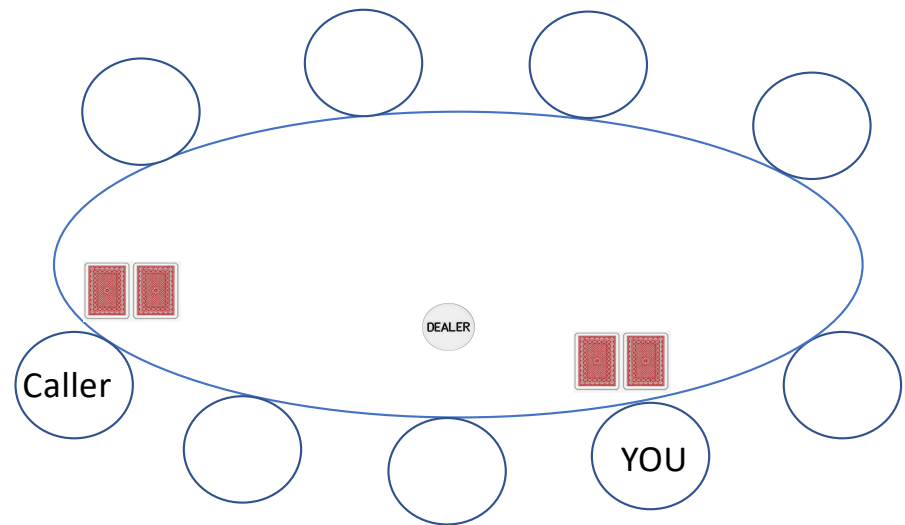
• Variation #2 : He checks

• Strategy:

- Bet 70%, check 30%

• Analysis:

- Standard value bet with what's probably the best hand
- Check for deception and to mix up your game
 - Be less predictable
 - Harder for him to put you on a hand now
 - Harder for him to assume you don't have anything when you check later



Your hand:



• Flop:



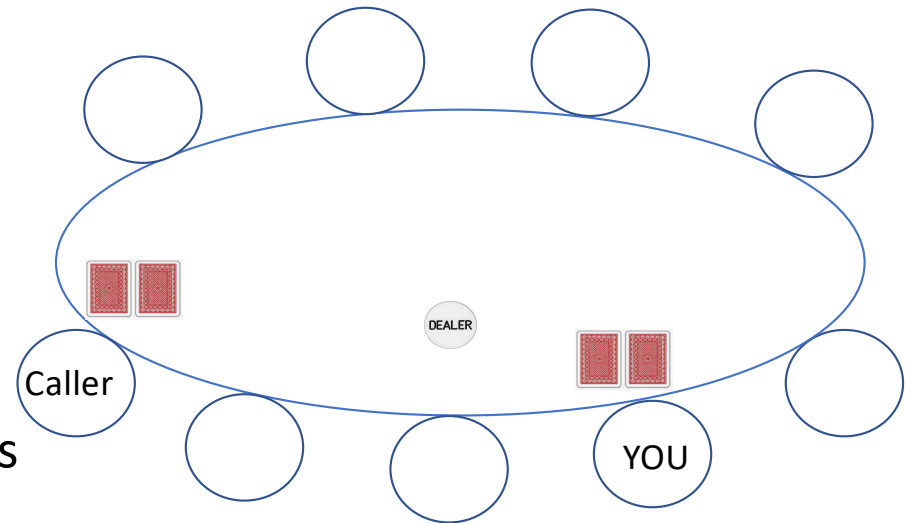
• Variation #3 : He checks, you bet, he raises

• Analysis:

- Usually represents great strength
- His story is that he can beat one pair
- Many players also do this with TK here
- Would be less scary if 7 were diamond or club
 - Because he could have even more draws

• Strategy

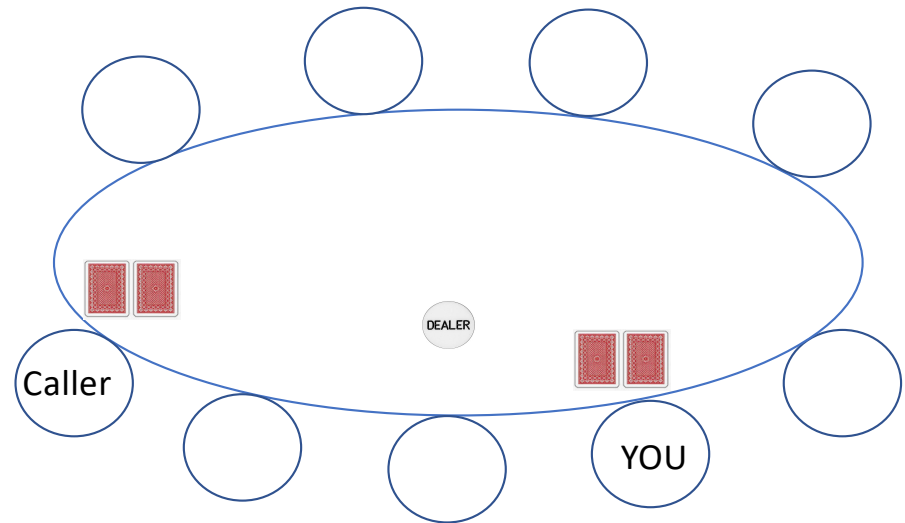
- Call 40%, Fold 60%
- Fold more often against tighter players



Your hand: 

Flop: 

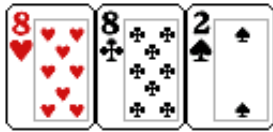
- Action: He bets 3 big blinds
 - A donk bet
- Strategy: Raise 20%, call 60%, fold 20%
- Analysis:
 - Great flop for bluffing
 - Unlikely to have an 8
 - A good player will know you also missed
 - If he had an 8, wouldn't he let you continuation bet?



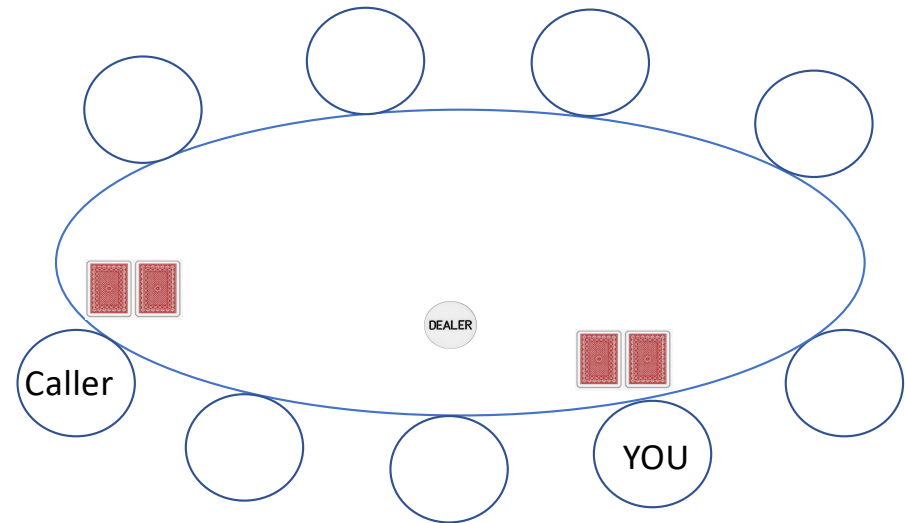
Your hand:



• Flop:



- Variation #1 : He bets, you raise, he re-raises
 - You have to fold
 - You have A high, and he's representing something stronger
 - Don't want to lose your stack with not even a pair
- Variation #2 : He checks
 - Bet 60%, check 40%
 - Check for pot control with A high hand that's probably good
 - Not much value in betting
- Variation #3 : He checks, you bet, he raises
 - 50% fold, 40% call, 10% re-raise
 - You have to mix up your play and keep him honest sometimes

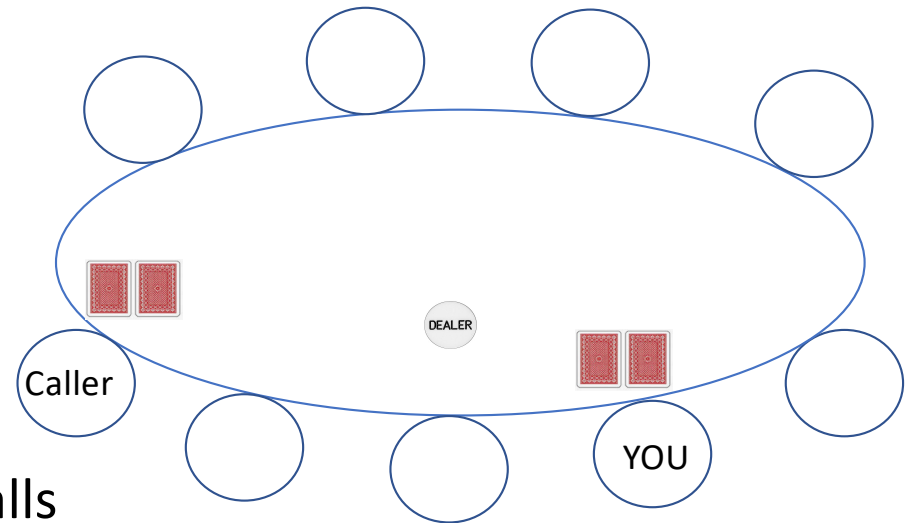


Your hand: 

• Flop: 

• Variation #4 : He checks, you bet, he calls

- Most likely he just has 2 high cards
- If a high card that misses you comes on turn
 - Mostly fold to his bet
- Keep the pot small



An interesting hand

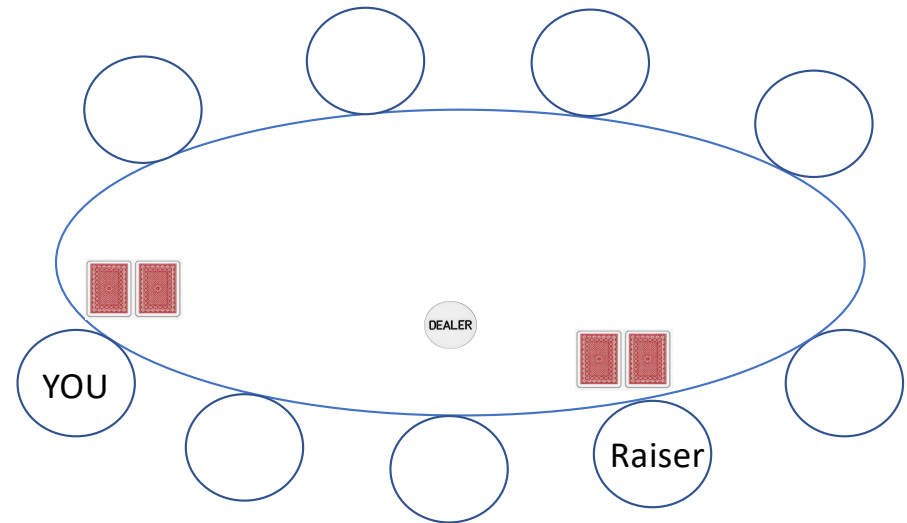
Daniel Negreanu vs Alec Torelli



Your opponent was the aggressor,
and you are out of position

Assumptions

- Opponent was aggressor pre-flop
- You are out of position after the flop
- He raised 3 BB from cutoff
- You called in the big blind
- Our betting and calling percentages should be lower
 - Since we'll be out of position
- Consider opponent's opening range from the cutoff
 - Much wider than UTG



Your hand:



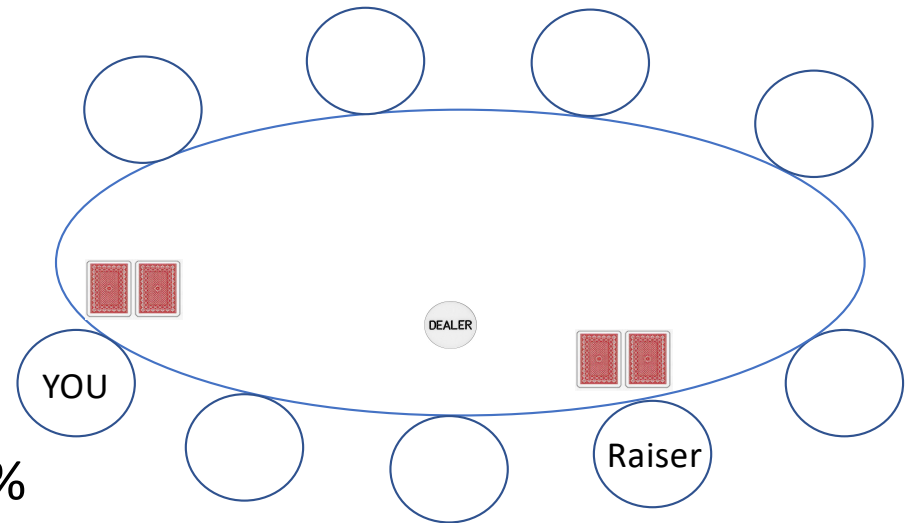
• Flop:



• Action: Bet 30% of the time, check 70%

• Analysis

- Strong flop for you
- Some concern about straight draws
- You hope he has a A
- Check more often because he was aggressor pre-flop
- You expect him to continuation bet and represent the A even if he missed
- You have a monster, unless a Q or K comes on the turn



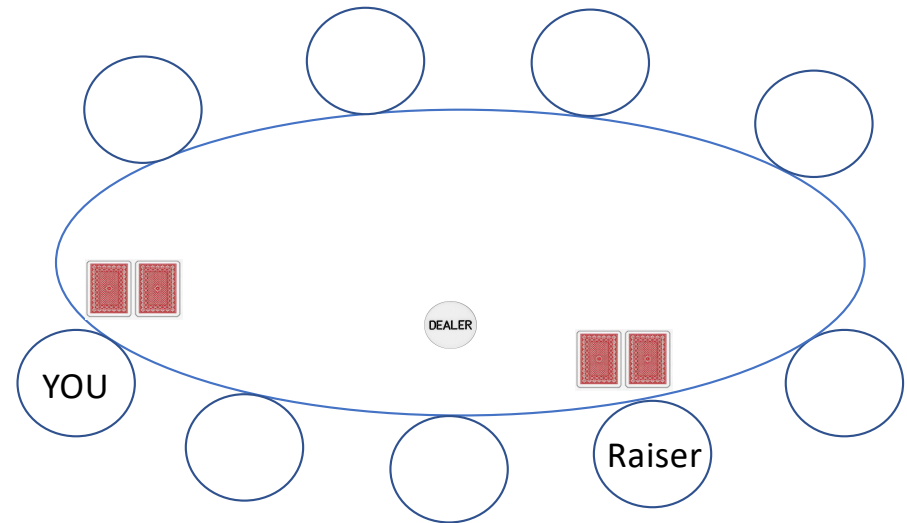
Your hand:



• Flop:



- Variation #1 : We bet, he raises
 - His most likely range: AK, AQ, AT, TT
 - We are a huge favorite
 - Reraise 40%, call 60%
 - Balance the play and build a pot
- Variation #2 : We bet, he calls
 - On the turn, we should bet again
- Variation #3 : We check, he bets
 - Raise 80%, call 20%
- Variation #4 : We check, he checks
 - Bet the turn 80%, check turn 20% (to induce bluffs and balance our play)



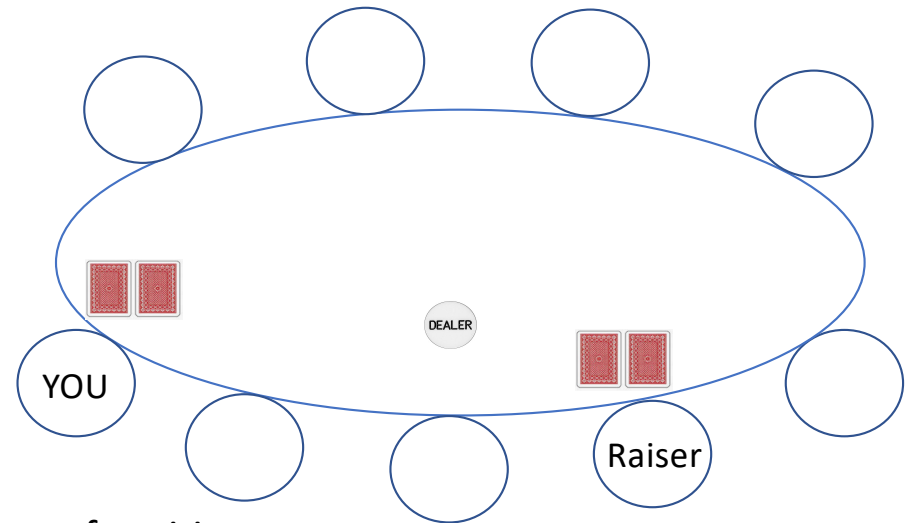
Your hand:



• Flop:



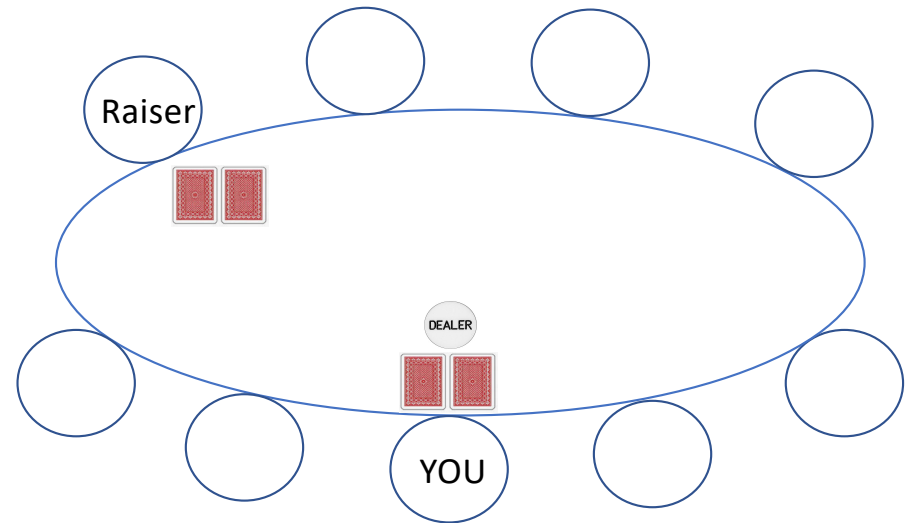
- Strategy: Bet 20%, check 80%
 - Don't like donk betting
 - This is a difficult flop to play against an aggressor out of position
 - He often has an A
 - But you don't want to fold the best hand if he doesn't
- Variation #1 : You bet, he raises
 - You fold
 - Note that if you hit two pair, that could give him a straight
- Variation #2 : You check, he bets
 - Call 90%, raise 10%
 - You don't fold second pair to one bet
 - Raising occasionally as a bluff on such a coordinated board
 - Might get him to fold an A, especially a weaker A



Your opponent was the
aggressor, and you are in position

Assumptions

- Opponent was aggressor pre-flop
 - You are in position after the flop
 - He raised 3 BB from third position
 - You called on the button
 - You act after him on the flop
-
- Consider opponent's UTG opening range throughout the hands
 - Tighter than cutoff range



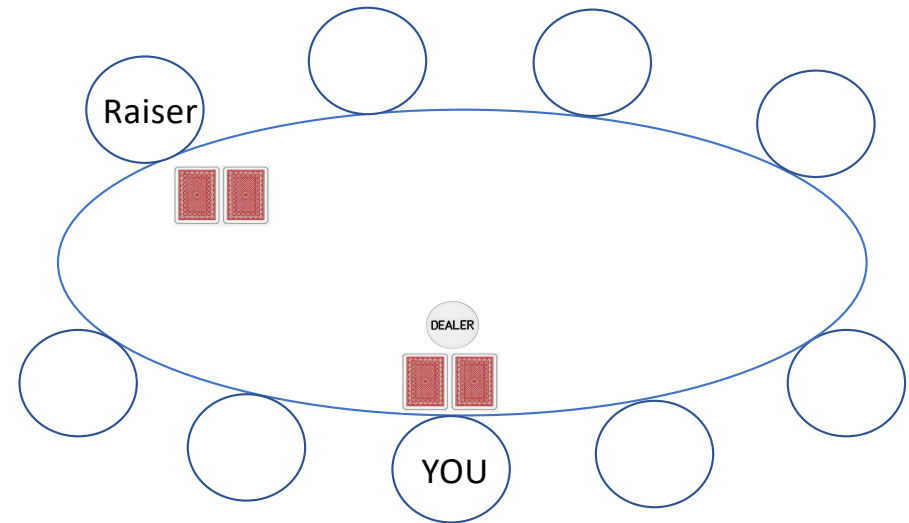
Your hand:



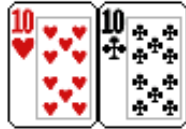
• Flop:



- Action: He bets 3 big blinds
- Strategy: Raise 40%, call 60%
- Analysis:
 - You have an overpair and are probably good
 - Lots of turn cards can come that you won't like
 - Your main worry would be a higher pair



Your hand:



• Flop:

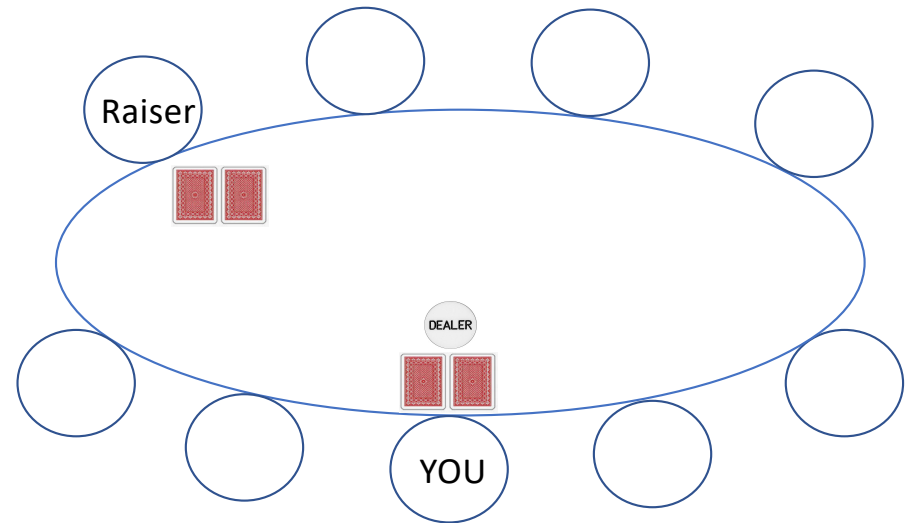


• Variation #1 : He bets. You raise. He calls

- If a blank comes on the turn and he bets
 - Seriously consider that he has a bigger pair
 - Call 30%, Fold 70% on that turn
- If he checks turn, you should check behind
 - Very few hands worse than your will call a bet
 - Not many hands better than yours will fold

• Variation #2 : he checks

- Bet 80%, check 20%
- Most people would never check here
 - Which is why you should do it for deception, occasionally
 - Also, pot control with a small hand



Your hand:

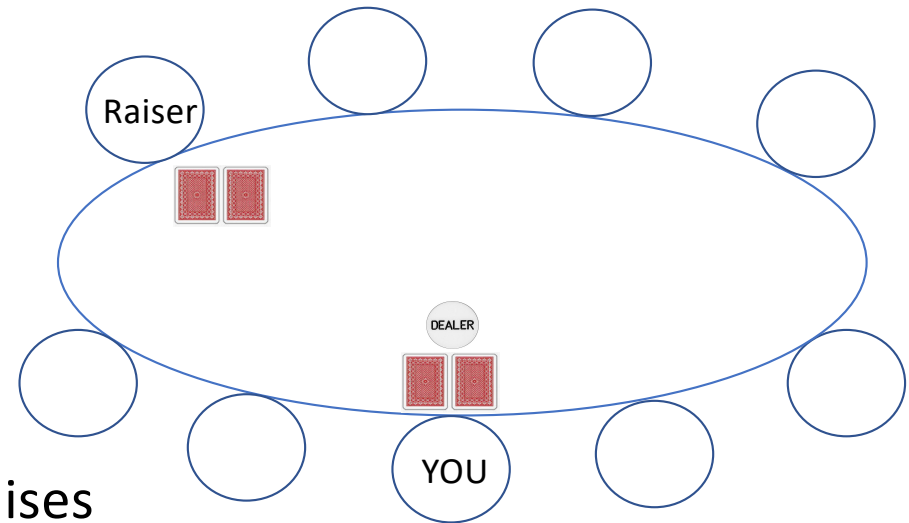


• Flop:



• Variation #3 : He checks, you bet, he raises

- Getting check-raised is scary here
- You have to use your read on the opponent
- Fold 80% of the time
- Call more against wild maniacs
 - Have to keep wild bluffers honest
- Never re-raise here
 - No value, and doesn't work as a bluff



Summary post flop lessons


- Considering who is Pre-flop aggressor is important
- Position is important
- Use these 2 factors to help with ranges
- Important to mix up play
 - But most often take the standard play
- Critical lessons:
 - Don't bet if there is
 - no value (worse hand won't call) and
 - no bluff possibility (better hand won't fold)

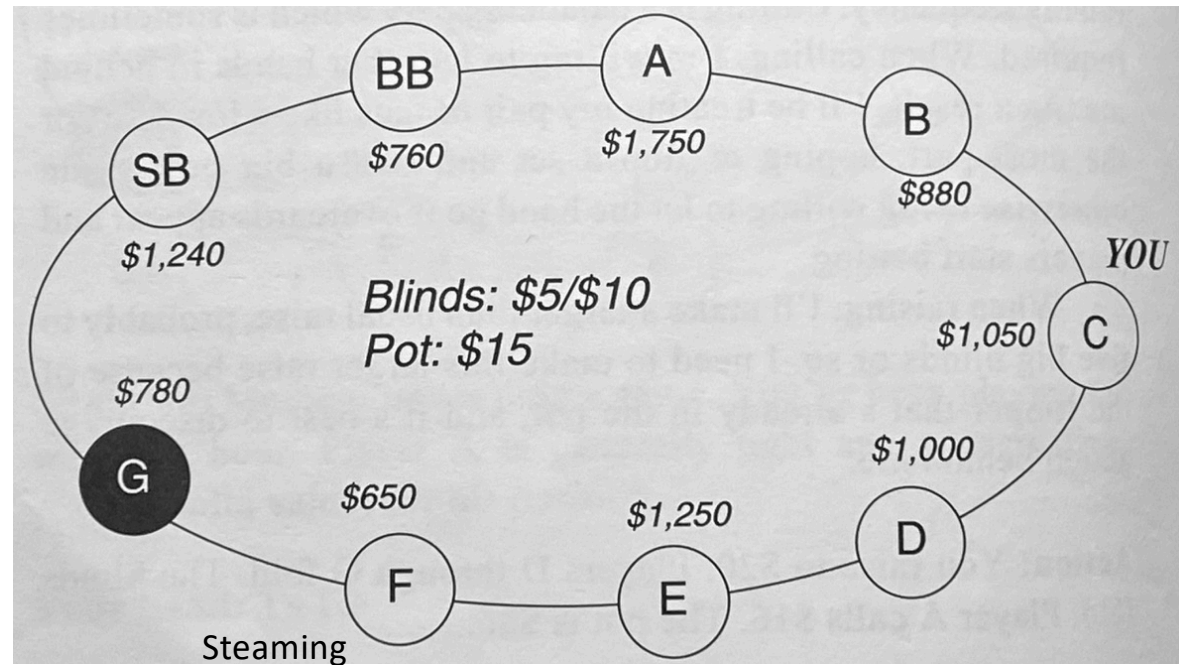
Post-flop is much more complicated

- We only looked at heads up – 2 players to the flop
 - Multi-way pots are very different
 - You have to put multiple players on ranges
 - Different players can have different stack sizes
 - More types of players in the hand – exponentially complicated
 - They are all leveling each other
- We only looked at very simple action pre-flop
 - Bet and a call
 - It's more complicated with 3 bets pre-flop
- We only looked at 150BB stacks
 - In practice some short stacks, some deep stacks at table

Hand Exercises

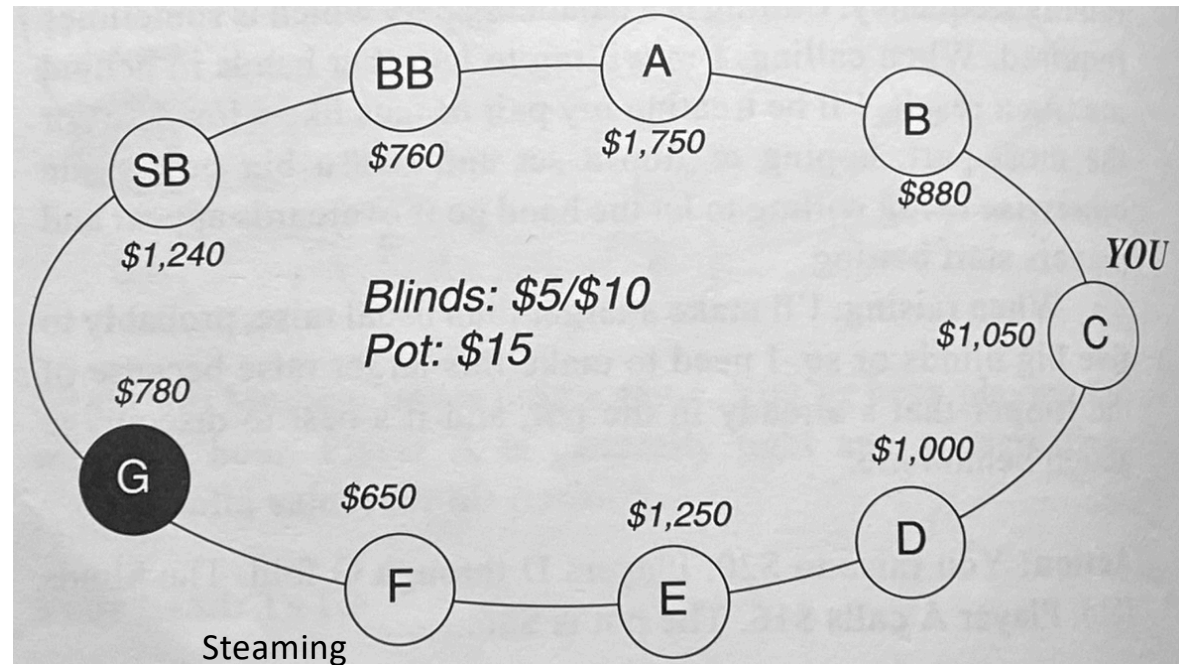
Post-flop strategy


- Your hand: 
- Player F is steaming after
 - Some bad beats
 - Losing half his stack
- Action: Players A & B fold
- Do you check or Raise?





- Your hand:
- Action: Players A & B fold
- Do you check or Raise?
- Considerations:
 - QQ is a very strong hand
 - You don't want raggedy aces or kings, e.g K7 to get in cheap
 - Raise on the higher end to eliminate riff raff
 - You are in early position
 - Will probably be out of position for the hand
 - Proceed with caution on flop if A or K comes



- Your hand: 

- You raise to \$35

- Players D & E fold

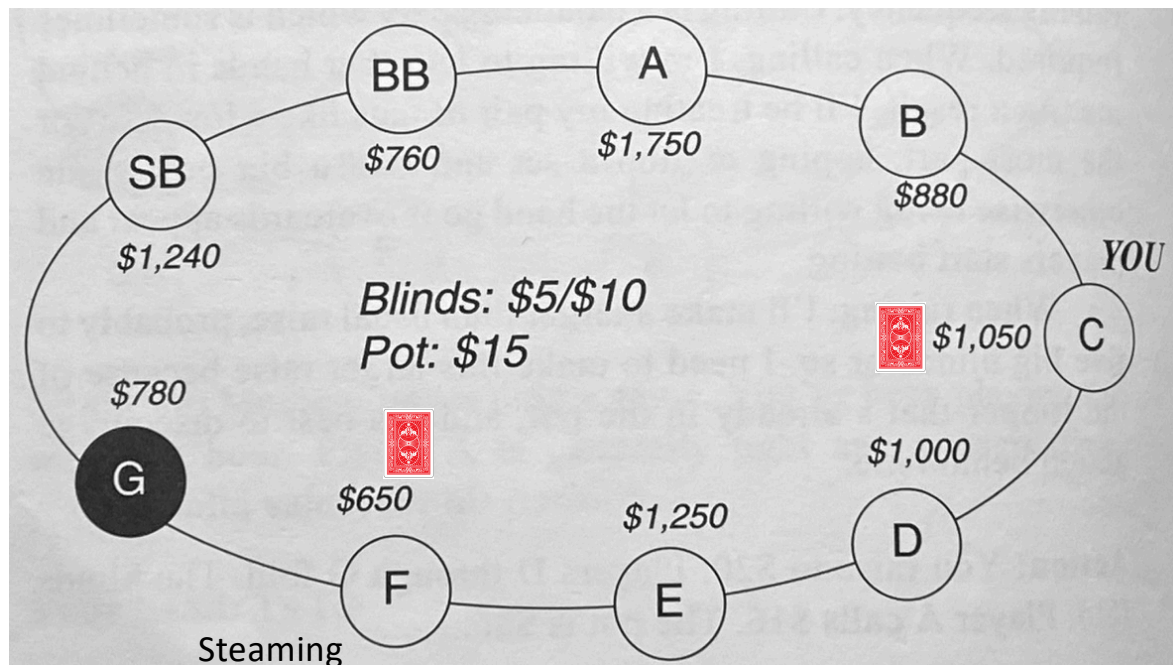
- Player F calls

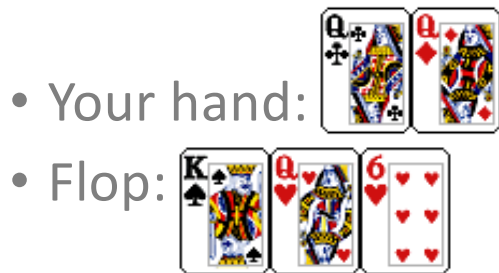
- Player G & the blinds fold

- You are heads up, out of position, pot is \$85

- Flop: 

- After you do a little dance in your head (don't show it outwardly)
 - What do you do? Bet or check?

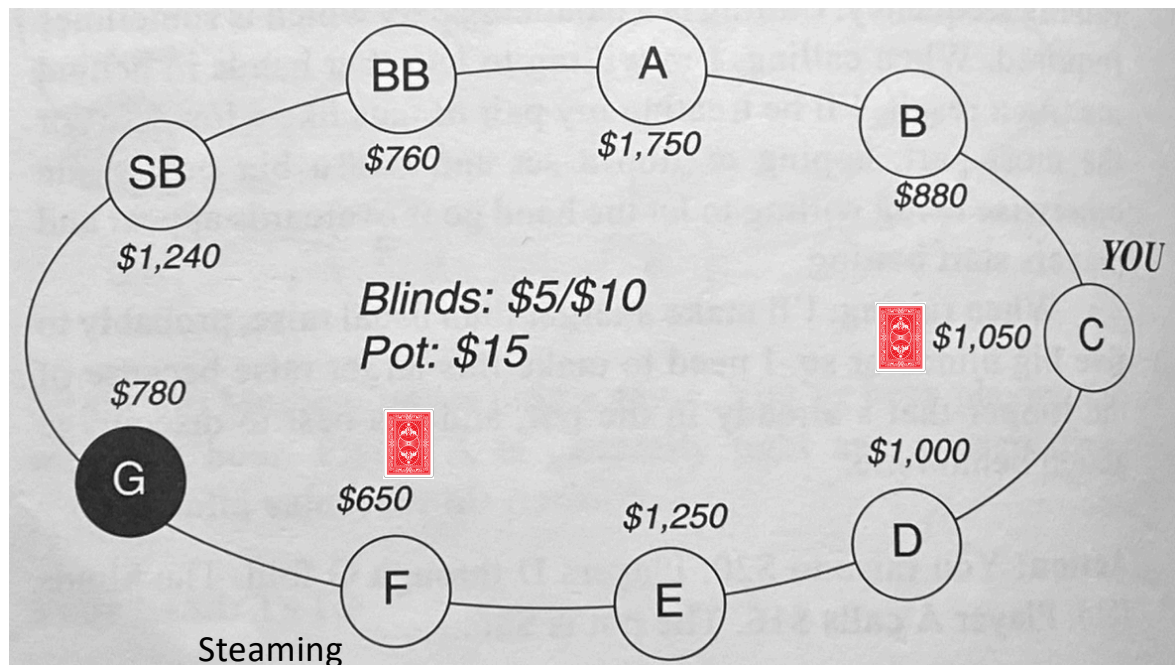




- Pot: \$85

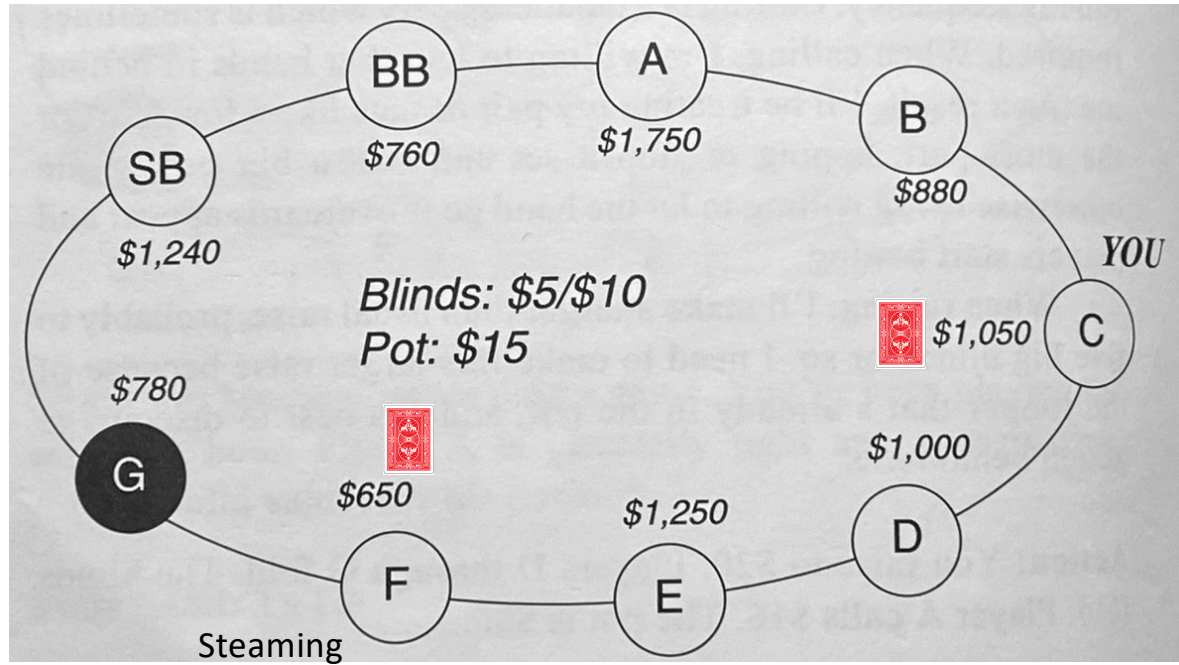
- Considerations:

- Hope he has a K or Q
- General rules:
 - Don't slow play flops with lots of draws
 - Don't slow play flops where you are likely to get action
 - Slow play more often against weak players
 - Don't slow play steamers



- Your hand: 
- Flop: 

- Pot: \$85
- You bet \$45
- Player F raises to \$150
- What do you do?

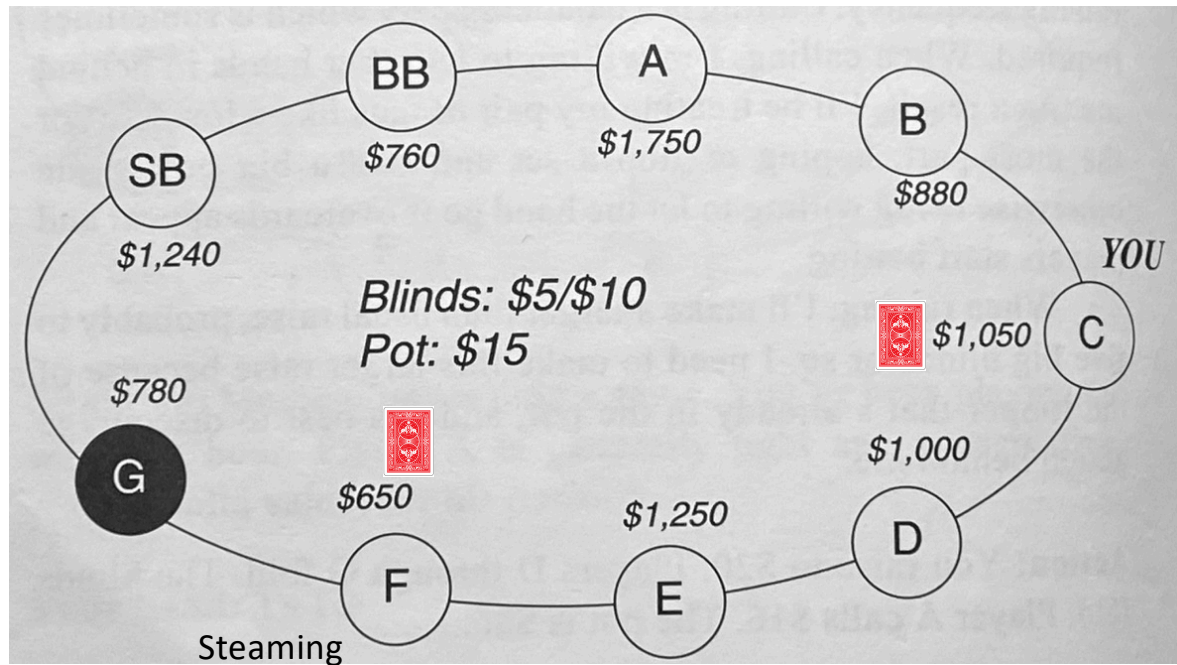


- Your hand: 


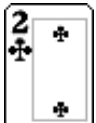
- Flop: 

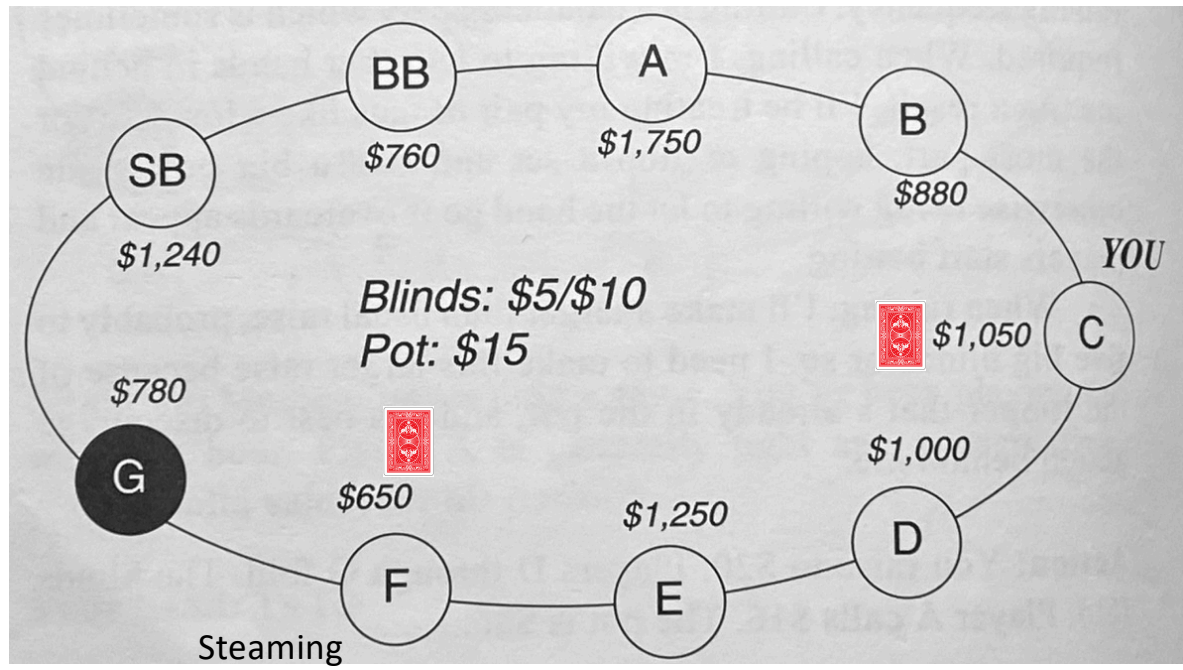
- Pot: \$85
- You bet \$45
- Player F raises to \$150
- Considerations:

- After the bet, he has \$465 left and there is \$280 in the pot
- Your choice is to raise all in or call
- If he has anything, he'll call your bet because he's steaming
- If he has nothing, he might fire again on the turn or river
 - However, turn & river might bring in draws
 - Those could either complete his hand or scare him
 - And you are out of position
- Best chance of getting money in good is to just shove here
 - If I had position, I might just call





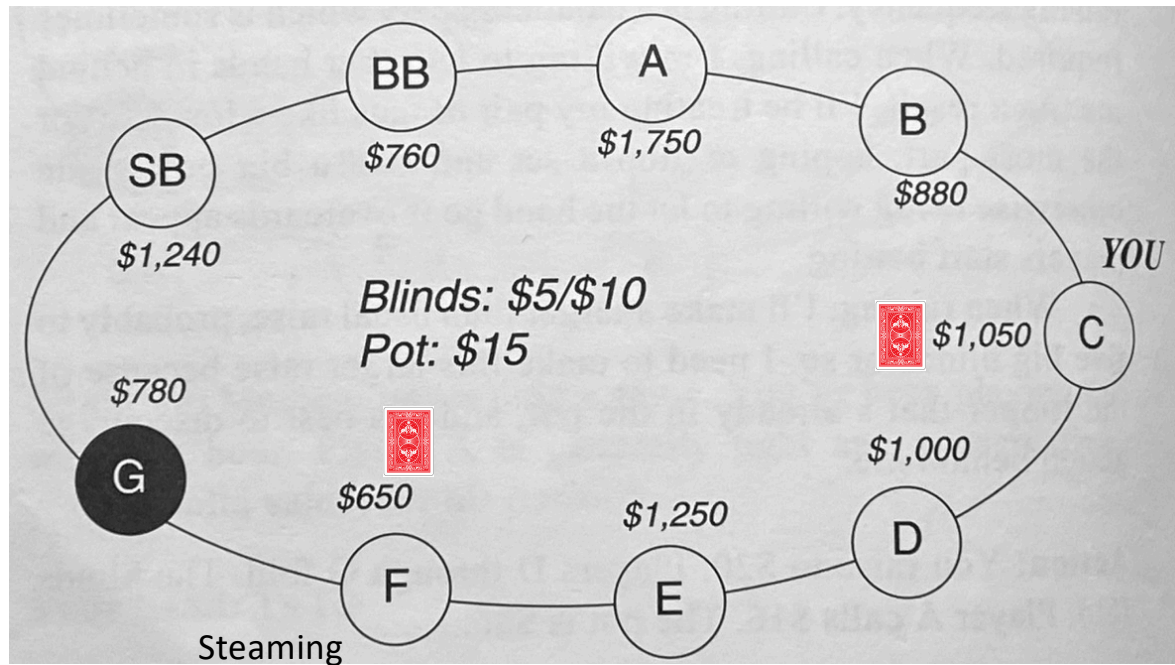
- Pot: \$85
- You bet \$45
- Player F raises to \$150
- You shove all in, and he calls and turns over:
- Turn:  River: 
- And you win his whole stack



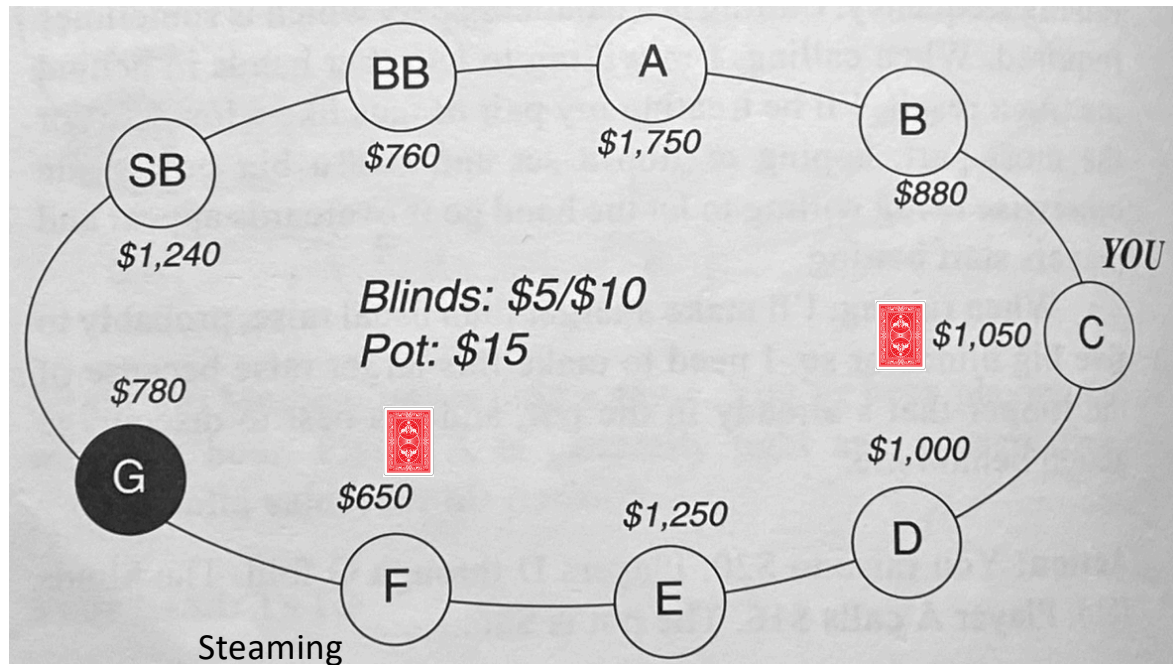
- Your hand: 
- Board: 

- Breaking it down (his view)

- He started hand with 65 BB
 - And lost his whole stack
- His pre-flop call – ok
- His raise on the flop – pretty standard
 - Is a better hand folding – never
 - Is a worse hand calling that raise – only really AK
 - Main reason for raising is to price out or chase away the draws
 - Or give them wrong pot odds
- His call on your shove?
 - Difficult, but standard
- Ultimately he was coolered



- Your hand: 
- Board: 
- His hand: 



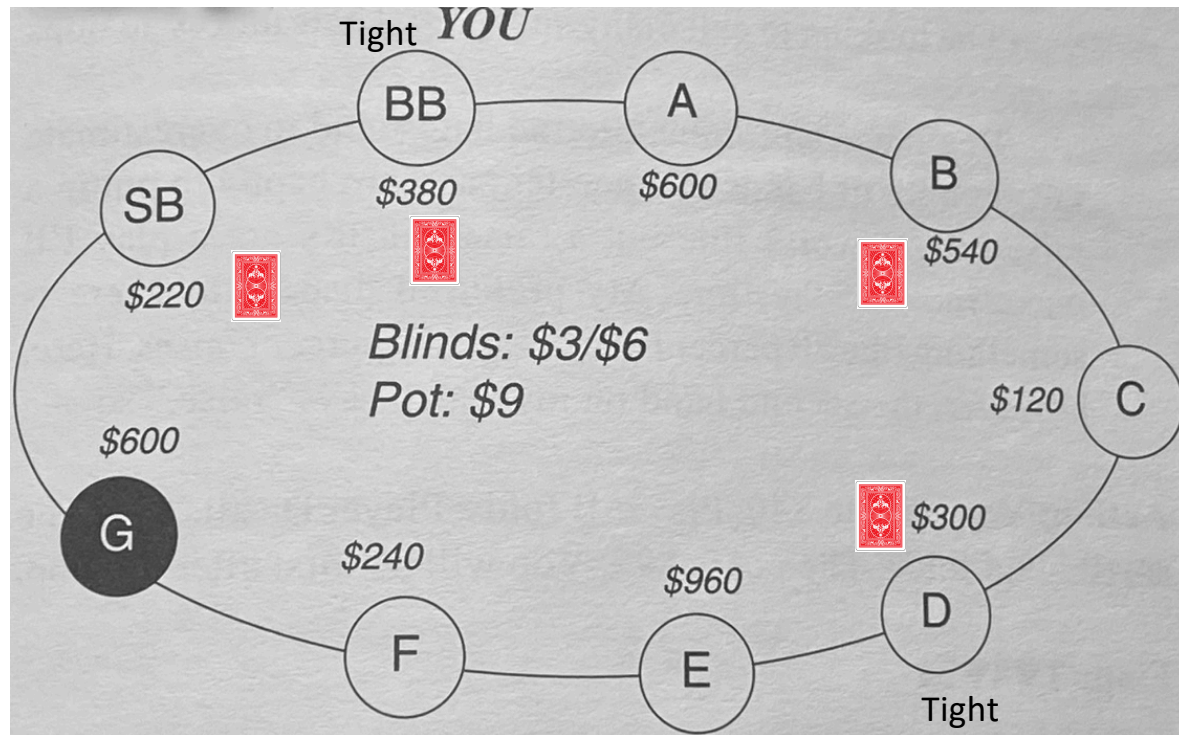
- What happens if he just calls the flop?
- On this runout he still goes broke
 - You bet turn & shove river & he calls all the way
- But what if ten of hearts comes on the turn?
 - You might slow down
 - And he doesn't go broke

Another hand

Post-flop strategy

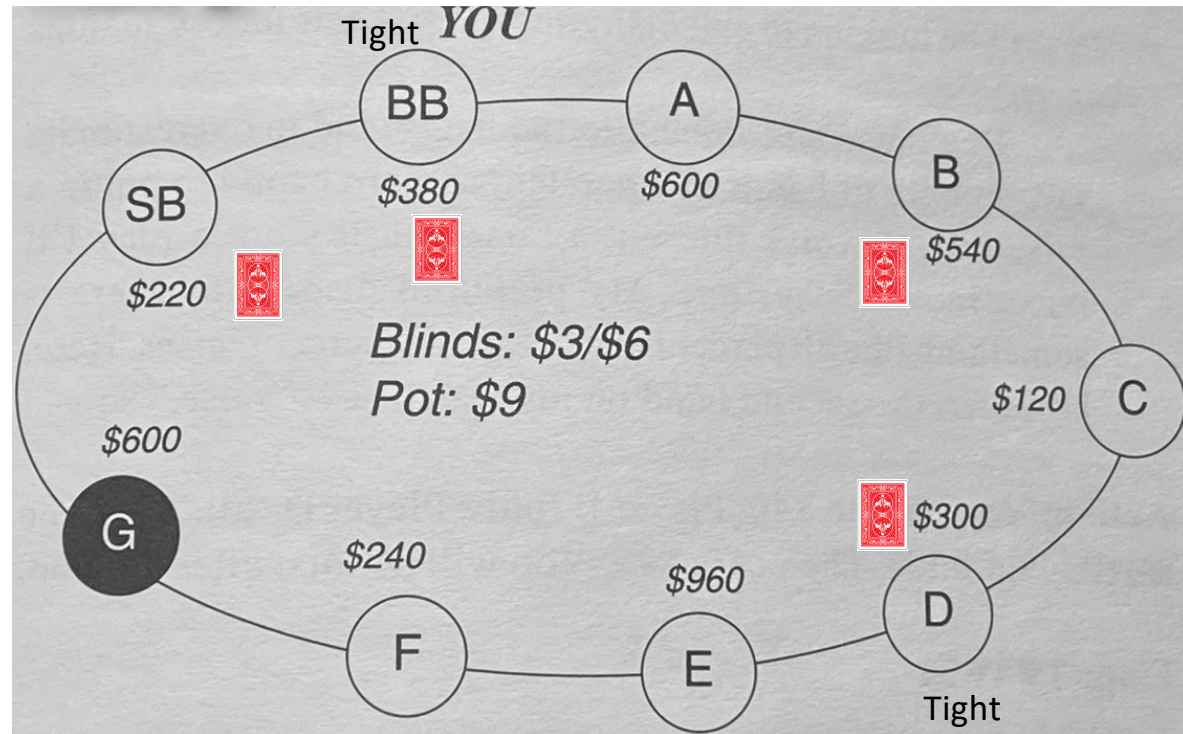
- Your hand: 

- Player A folds
- Player B calls \$6
- Player C folds
- Player D call \$6
- Players E,F,G fold
- Small blind calls \$3
- \$24 in the pot
- Do you check or raise?



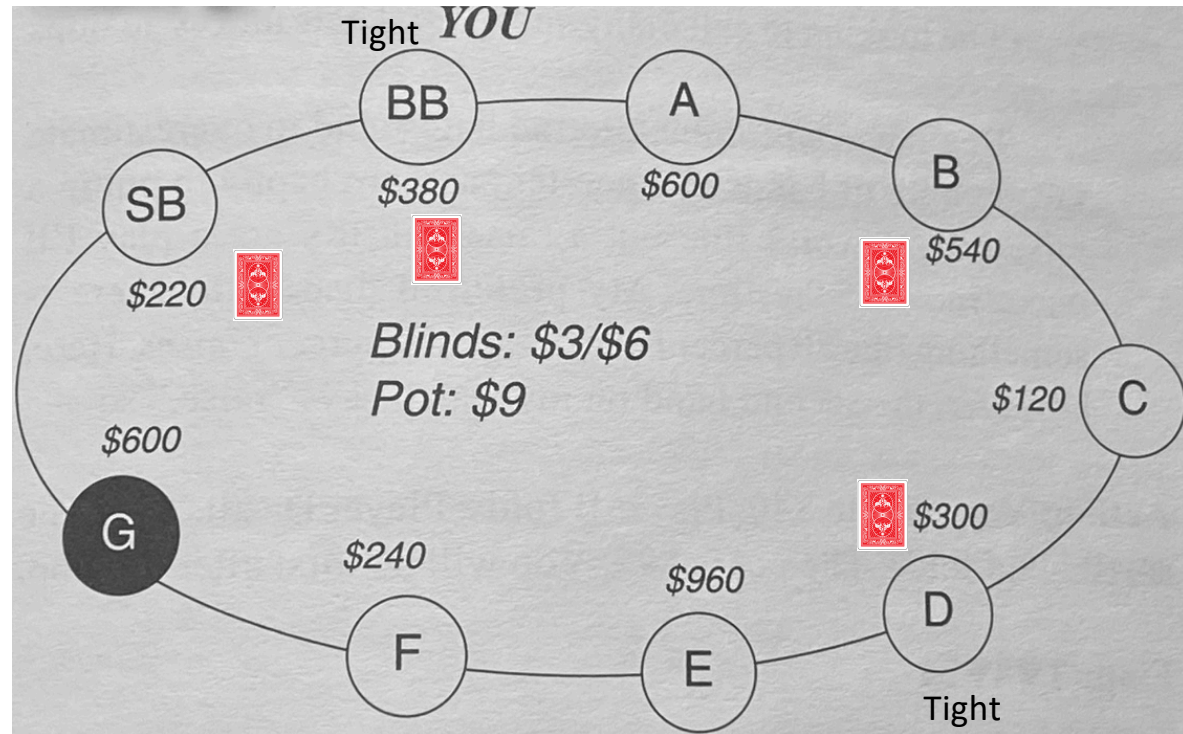


- Your hand:
- Considerations:
 - 2 early position limpers
 - SB got a good price
 - AT is good but not great
 - You will be out of position
 - Your A is medium strength
 - Nice implied odds hand
 - Based on Straights or flushes
 - Better play is probably to check
 - Your hand strength may be disguised if you hit
 - Not looking to build a pot with medium strength
 - Many beginners overvalue this hand and will raise



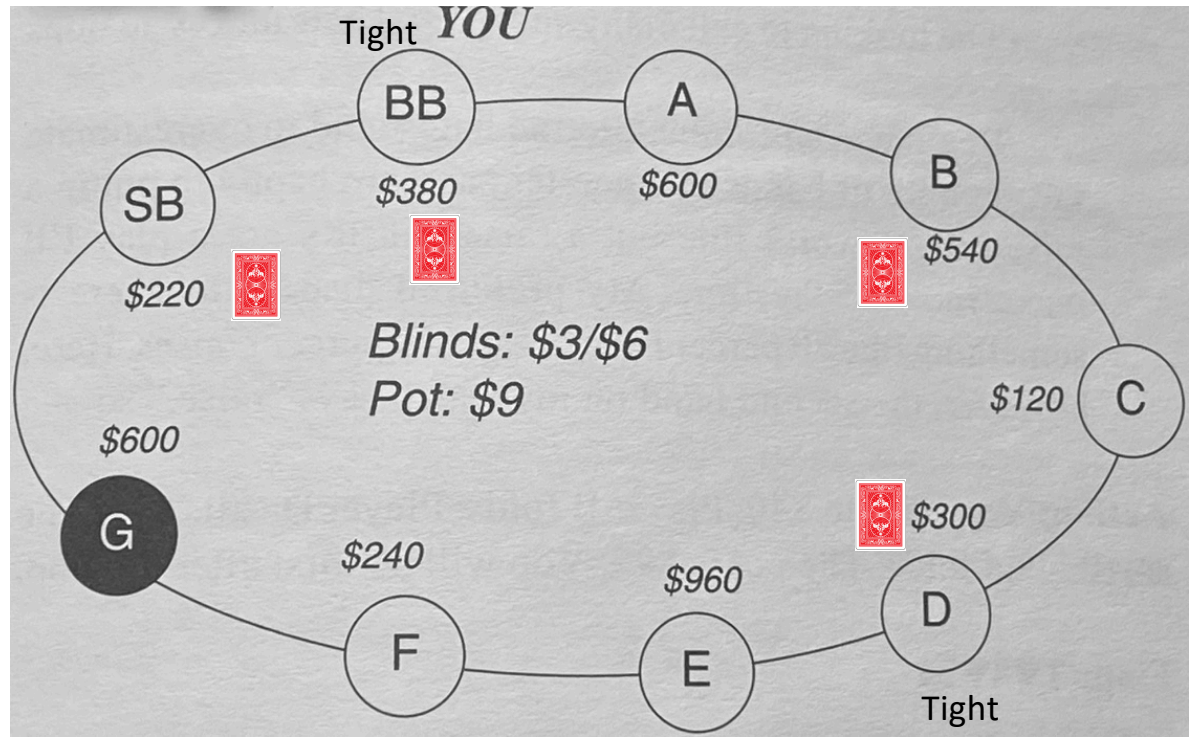


- Your hand:
- More considerations:
 - A raise might chase out
 - Riff raff (good)
 - Weaker aces (bad)
 - You will be out of position
 - So a raise can end it here
 - Raise means fewer players
 - On the flop
- Neither play is wrong
 - I like to check more often here, maybe 70% check 30% raise



- Your hand: 

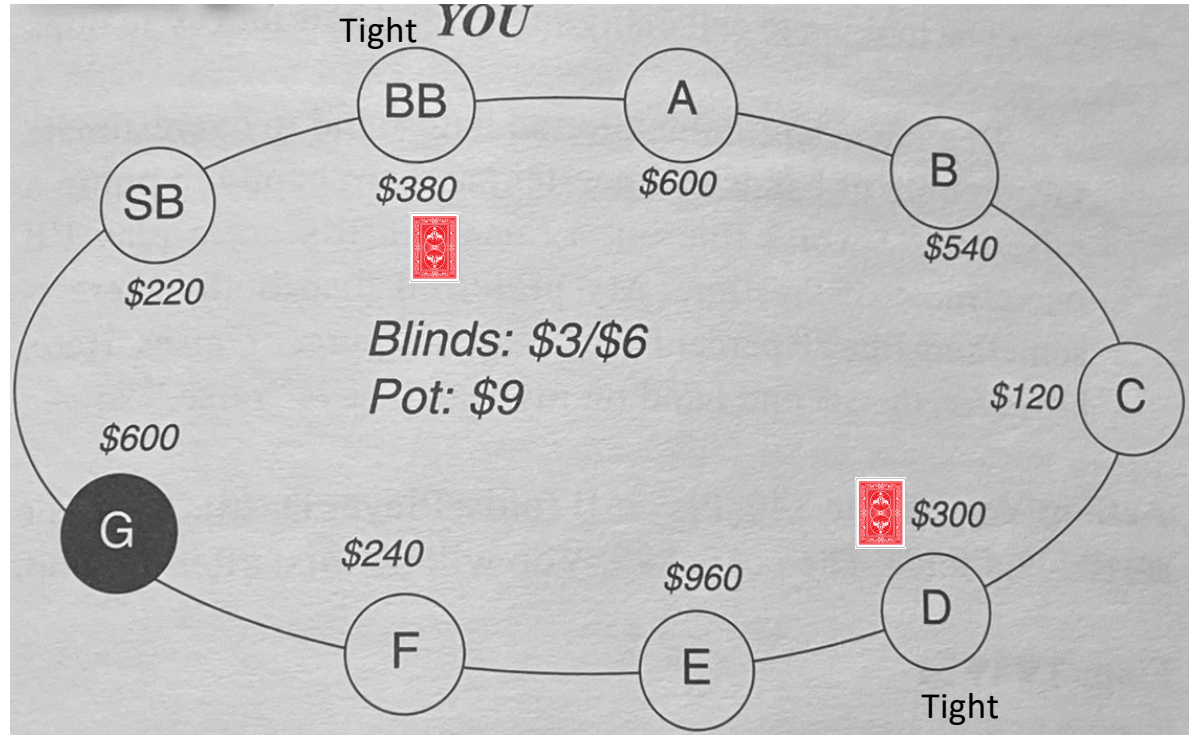
- You raise to \$40
- Player B folds
- Player D calls \$34
- Small blind folds
- Pot is \$92
- You act first after the flop



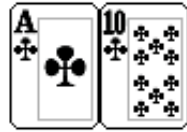
• Your hand: 

• Flop: 

- What do you do?
 - Check or Bet?



• Your hand:

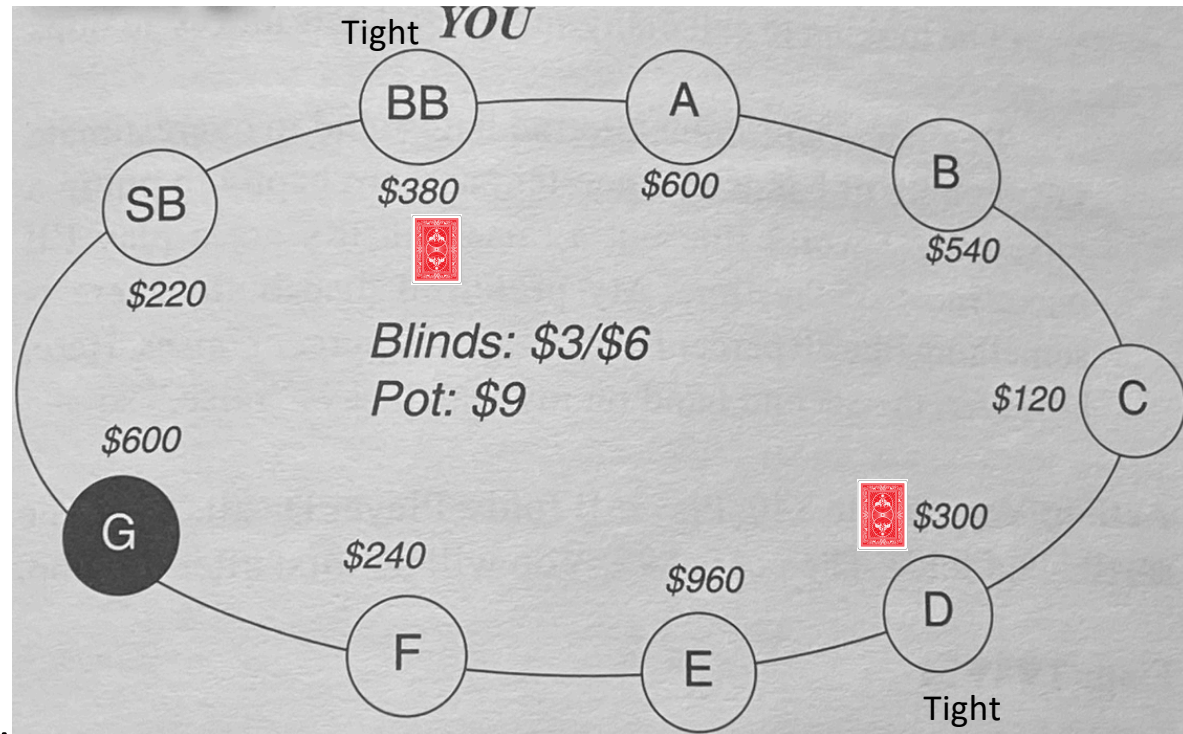


• Flop:



• Consideration

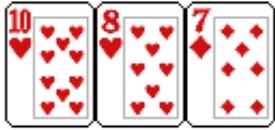
- What is his range?
- Let's consider possibilities
- Group 1 : High pairs
 - Unlikely, because he limped
 - And did not re-raise preflop
- Group 2 : Medium to low pairs
 - Very consistent. Limped to see a cheap flop, then called your raise
- Group 3 : two high cards
 - Not consistent for a tight player
 - Most likely would fold to our raise
 - Possibility exists if he's a loose player or if he didn't notice that I was tight
 - Can't always assume they are paying attention
 - Good skill is to notice if they are paying attention



- Your hand:



- Flop:

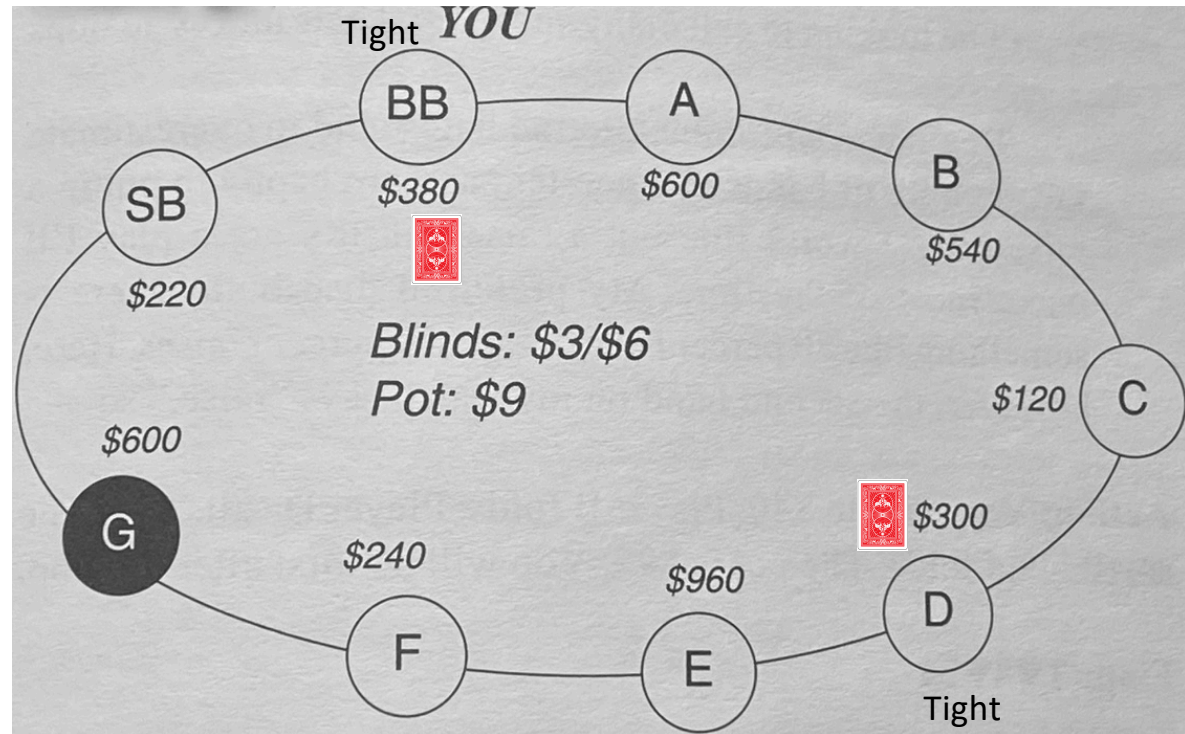


- Consideration

- What is his range?
- Let's consider possibilities

- Group 4 : suited connector, type hands

- Mostly would not call raise
- But can't rule them out

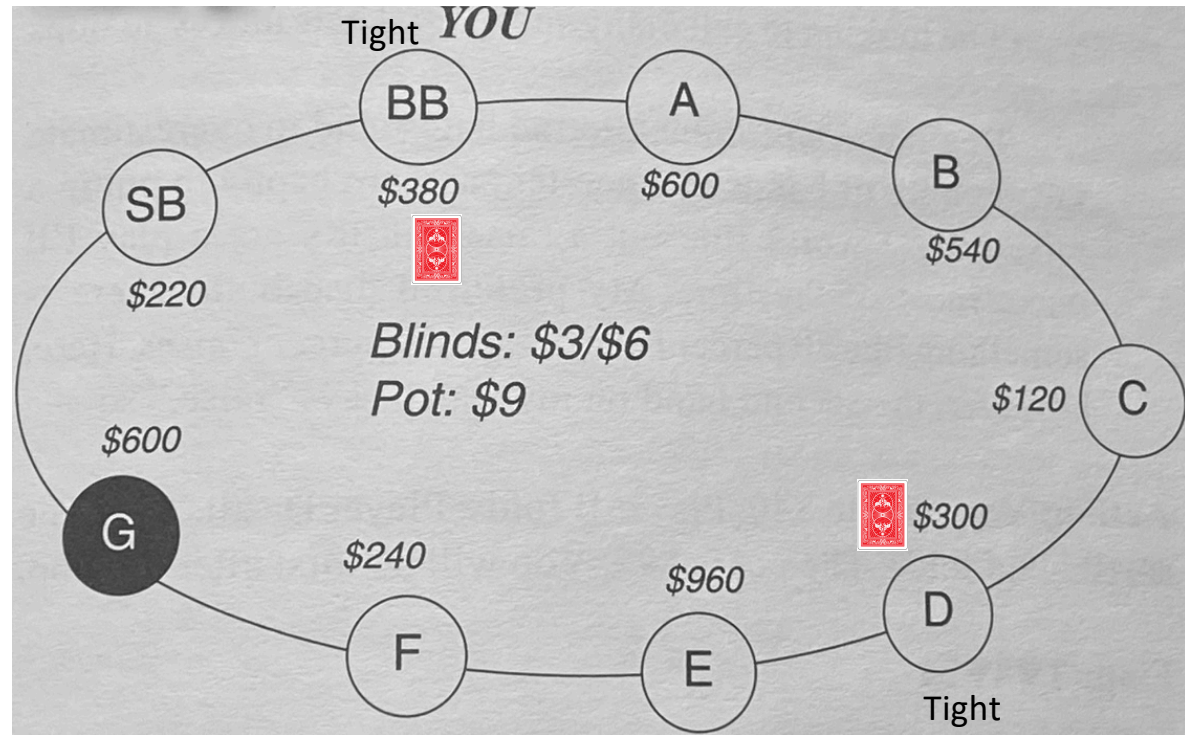


• Your hand: 

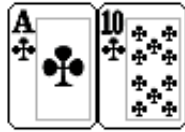
• Flop: 

• Consideration

- Flop is draw heavy
 - Two hearts, straight draws
- We have top pair top kicker
- His most likely holding
 - Small to medium pair
- If he has a set we are crushed
- We have a good hand now
- Unlikely we will improve
 - Many overcards can come
- We are out of position



- Your hand:



- Flop:



- You bet \$70

- Player D folds

- You win

- Thoughts:

- When you flop TPTK OOP
 - (top pair top kicker out of position)
- Not looking to build a big pot
 - It's a good idea to check a street or two (assuming deep stacks)
- But board texture matters
 - Wet board, lots of draws, you should bet more often
 - Dry board, check more often
- Position matters
 - Out of position, bet more often
 - In position, check back more often if he checks
 - Which he often will if you were the aggressor pre-flop

