Introduction to the Theory & Practice of Poker
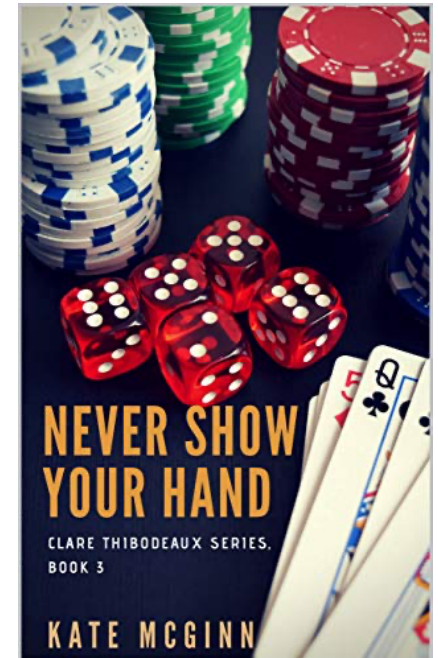
Lecture #8

January 23, 2020

Last night's tourney

- 178 players entered
- Lasted 3.5 hours
- I did not win a single hand (had one chop)
- Final table, please stand up!
- Winner: Shehrya Haris

- Special note: Qualified in both satellites
  - Freda Zhou, Sam Lebowitz, Claudia Moncaliano

Rank ▲	Player	🌐	Results
1	ShehryarHaris1		618K
2	JasonKurlander		453K
3	Bryce2601		341K
4	TanujAlapati		257K
5	JeffreyDing		175K
6	BrunoBDCLanca		136K
7	AndrewMassoud		105K
8	GabrielGivelber		75K
9	ethanroth24		57K
10	CamMarcus		48K
11	NicholasGarza		48K
12	JasenZhang		48K
13	EliKatz		40K
14	PowellPosten		40K
15	ClaudiaMoncalia		40K
16	NathanielCharen		33K
17	MattKleiman		33K
18	SonnyQuaranto		33K
19	CharlieAlmoney		25K
20	FredaZhou		25K
21	SamLebowitz		25K
22	AlexOzbolt1		25K
23	NicholasParente		25K
24	TimothyBedard		25K
25	KemengZhang		25K
26	JohnMcRae69		25K
27	MeganRosen		25K

Meta game

- Should you ever show your hand?
- Simple answer is no
  - You might be providing more information than you think
- If you show a strong hand when someone folds
  - You eliminate some uncertainty they had about whether you were bluffing
  - They may more correctly label you as TAG
- If you show that you folded a strong hand
  - Because you are trying to prove how good a player you are
  - First, you shouldn't let them know if you are a good player
  - Second, now you will get bullied by the good players
  - You don't want anyone to know that you can make good lay downs
    - you want them to be afraid to bluff you because they think you're such a moron that you might always call them.
- Advanced move:
  - The "accidental show your cards on purpose"
- Some pros make a living with meta-play
  - Table talk
  - Selectively showing to advance a particular image

NEVER SHOW YOUR HAND

CLARE THIBODEAUX SERIES,
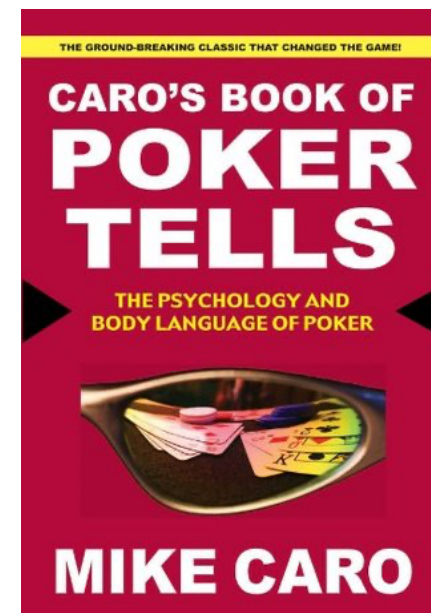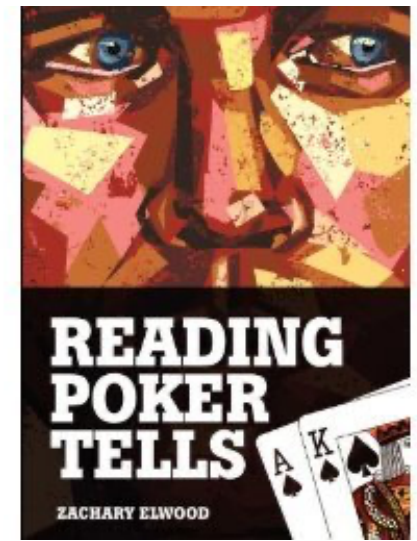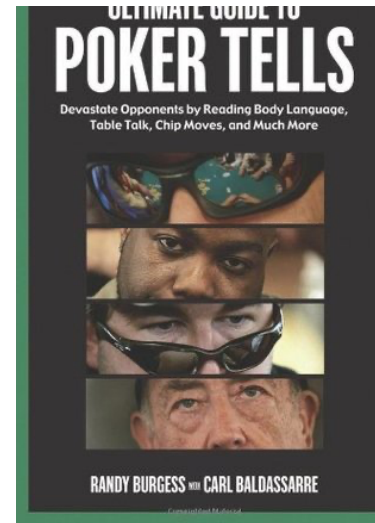BOOK 3

KATE MCGINN

There are 2 rules for success in poker

1. Never reveal everything you know

Physical tells

- I'm not a huge fan of using tells
  - Too many books
  - Too many players fake them
- Tells are specific to individuals
- Bet sizing tells
  - Bet strong when weak, and vice versa
- Some commonly known tells
  - Stare hard at someone when weak
  - Hand shakes when strong
    - Be sure hand doesn't always shake
  - Sit back in chair and cross arms when strong
  - Chit chat a lot and seem comfortable when strong
  - Take sip from water bottle when bluffing

THE HOUR   3. Splashes the pot

Tilt

- Tilt is real
- Even very good players go on tilt
- Player loses a one outer for half his stack
- On next play, after a 3-bet goes all in
  - Happens all the time
- Ideal situation
  - You lose a hand that should put you on tilt
  - You pick up a monster next hand
  - Act like you are making a tilting large bet
- When you feel yourself tilt in cash game
  - Get up, walk away, take a break
  - Avoid inclination to win it all back
- When you tile in a tournament
  - Try to play tighter for a while
  - Force yourself to be under control
  - Recognize that you might make bad decisions

Poker Etiquette

Live play

Live games

- Moving chips forward is a bet
- Acting in turn, not out of turn
  - Out of turn bets are binding unless action changes
  - One hand penalty in a casino – and one round if repeated
- Pace of play
  - Calling clock
- Revealing hand in order
  - In tournaments All In players must turn over cards when action is complete
  - In cash games you do not need to show if all in before hand is over
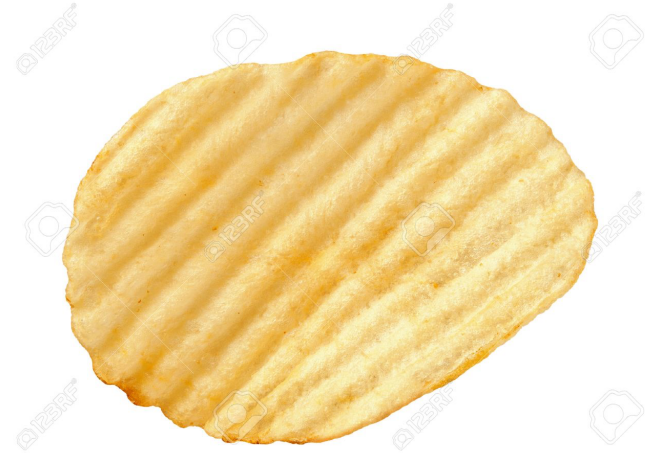- Slow rolling

K♦ Q♦
ANDREAS
177K ▶ ALL IN TO CALL

A♣ 6♣ 18%
DONNACHA
993K BET 300,000

6♦ A♦ 8♦ 🂠 🂠
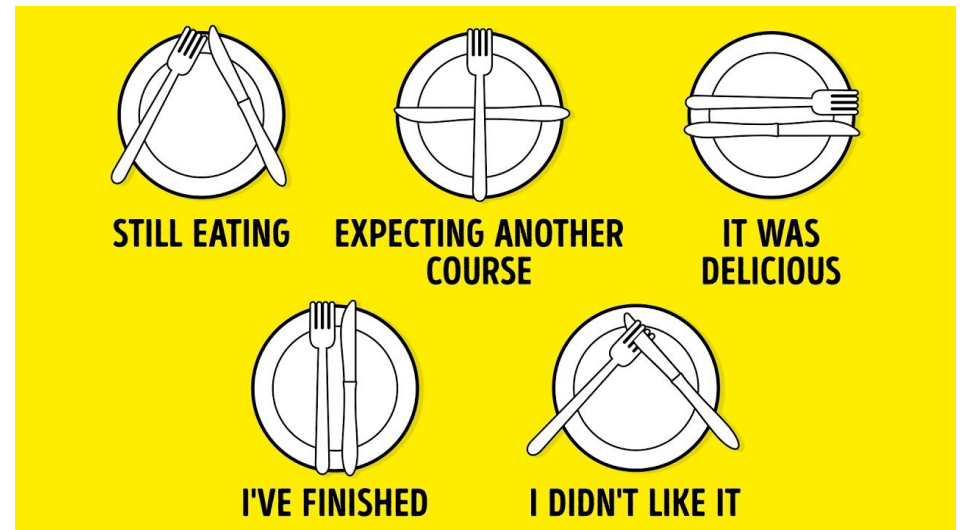
POT 590K HAND 51
BLINDS 25K/50K/5K

At the table

- One chip rule
  - One chip is a call
- No string bets
- Announcing bets
  - Oral statement is binding
- Table talk
  - Heads up to get a read
    - Usually not allowed to talk about your hand in tournaments - controversial
    - "Will you show me if I fold"
  - Angling – bad form
    - E.g. getting someone to fold the best hand by misrepresenting your hand
    - Pretending a raise (mixed in big chip) was accidental
  - Talking over someone who is making a tough decision
  - Telling bad beat stories
    - Nobody cares
  - Saying what you folded
    - Nobody cares

More etiquette

- Protect your cards
  - Card protector
  - Use a chip

- Exposed cards

- Don't splash the pot

- Don't say what you had
  - Even if action is closed, don't say what you folded

- Keep cards on the table at all times

- Keep big denomination chips in front or on top
  - Total stack amount should be clear & visible

- Hit & run
  - Know the game you're in

And more etiquette

- Maintain good hygiene
  - Actually a big deal & often a problem in some casinos
- Tipping in live cash games & at end of tourney
  - How to deal with a newbie who doesn't know & doesn't tip
- Checking it down - collusion
  - Playing with friends in cash games
  - In tournaments
- "I raise $50"
  - Does that mean you raise it to $50 total, or $50 on top? Be clear.
- Don't show your cards to your neighbor when you fold
- "Show one show all" rule
- Rabbit chasing in home games
- In chopped pots, player out of position gets extra chip (if any)

And even more etiquette

- Don't help the dealer
  - Dealing with disputes
  - Making side pots
  - Instructing players on action
  - Let the dealer do their job
  - Exception: clueless dealers (often found in charity tournaments)
- Don't "help" in disputes that don't involve you
- Third man walking
- Calling the floor
- Don't give lessons
- Don't tap the glass
- Don't belittle bad play (encourage it)
- Arrange your chips in stacks of 20

How much money?

Behavior

- Next level:
  - Act the same regardless of the outcome
    - Someone hits a 2 outer against you
    - You hit a 2 outer to double up
    - Same demeaner, same expression
  - You will look like a total pro
  - Don't jump up and get excited when you win
    - Remember the other player has just lost

Shades and Hoodies?

- My opinion only
  - This opinion may be wrong & unpopular
  - Shades will not hide whether you are bluffing
  - They actually convey immaturity and insecurity
  - Some people use them as a crutch
  - You might actually be at a disadvantage
    - Don't see the board and the other players as well
    - Might miss out on a visual cue of another player

- Silly tell: some people wear sunglasses on their head
  - And bring them down to their eyes when they have a strong hand
  - I've seen this!

- Don't wear shades at the table, please!

Busted

Play after the turn

Considerations on the turn

- On the turn
  - 4 of 5 community cards already dealt
  - Only 1 card left to come
- How many players remain in the hand
  - And types of players
- Your position relative to other players
- Who has the betting lead
- Pot size and remaining effective stacks
- Dry or wet board
- Ranges considering pre- and post- flop action
- If you are ahead on the turn, you will likely stay ahead
  - E.g. player behind is ½ as likely to make their hand than on the flop

Comparing Flop odds to Turn odds

	After the Flop	After the Turn
Low pair versus high pair	10%	5%
Two overcards versus underpair	24%	13%
Two low cards versus two high cards	26%	14%
Flush draw versus high pair	38%	20%
Open-ended straight draw versus high pair	34%	18%

- Hard to get pot odds to draw
- Any significant bet should price out draws
  - Unless implied odds are huge

Implied odds and board texture

- Certain draws are more likely to get paid off than others.
- Compare two hands:
- Hand A: (A♦ J♣) Board: (7♦ 6♥ 5♦ 2♦)
- Hand B: (8♦ 7♦) Board: (A♥ 9♠ 6♦ 2♠)

- In hand A, if you hit your nut flush draw, will you get paid?
- In hand B, if you hit your straight will you get paid?
    - What if it is the ten of spades? (compare to the ten or five of clubs)
- Lesson: be more inclined to draw to disguised hands on the turn

More implied odds on turn

- The order that flush draws arrive is important
- Say that flop is [A♥] [9♠] [6♦] and turn is [2♠]

- You will be given less credit for a flush if ten of spades comes on river

- But if flop came [A♥] [9♠] [2♠] and then turn is [6♦]

- Opponent is likely to believe you hit your flush if spade on river

- The reason: Players call the flop more often with a flush draw!
  - Always ask yourself about your opponent's holdings on each street

Reasons to bet the turn

- You have a hand, and you checked the flop
  - You checked flop for deception, and now time to get some value
  - Or you had nothing on the flop, but improved on the turn
- You don't have a hand and you checked the flop
  - Two checks is very weak – sometimes you have to stab at the pot
- Double-barreled continuation bet
  - You continuation bet on the flop and were called
    - Now put another bet in to try to take it down
    - Many players "Float" on the flop, so double barrel sometimes
- You want to charge the draw
  - Deny them the pot odds to call
  - Have them make a mistake by calling
  - Get your money in while ahead

Reasons to bet the turn

- Before the cooler comes
  - You don't want river to scare them
  - River can complete draws bigger than your actual hand
- Set up the all-in on the river
  - You have a monster and need to build a pot
  - Or, you're building up a pot to set up the all in bluff
    - (don't do this often and not against calling stations)

Hand example

Turn Decision

Your hand:

- Setup:
  - Blinds $10 - $20
  - You're in the big blind
  - You are LAG, and table knows it
  - Other players are mix of loose and tight
  - You are very deep stacked, at $6,200
  - Player C, in third position is a fine player, mostly TAG, $3,400 stack
  - Small blind seems a little whacky

Action

- First two players fold
- Player C limps for $20
- Everyone folds to SB who calls $10
- Pot is $60
- You check (only reasonable play)
- Flop is
- You flop a straight! Second best possible hand right now
  - Well disguised
- Small blind bets $60
- What do you do? Call or raise?

Considerations

- Pot is $60 and $60 to call
- SB representing strength, Player C called pre-flop in early position
  - A raise might get called
- You are a LAG, so your raise might not be taken seriously
- There is a flush draw on board
  - Against 2 opponents need to charge them if one of them is drawing to flush

- Based on these considerations:
  - You raise to $200
- Pot is now $320
- Player C calls; SB folds
  - Pot is now $520

Action

Flop:

Pot: $520

- Apparently SB was stabbing at the pot or had small value
- Player C must be strong here
  - He is a TAG and called $200 raise
  - He limped in early position
- C's possible holdings:
  - An overpair : Possible, but not likely given that he only limped pre-flop
  - A set : Extremely unlikely – would have raised on the fop for the same reasons we raised
  - Two pair : Possible, but not likely – would have had to limp with very weak hand in early position.
  - Top pair : Not likely. Means early position limp with A6, 67 or 86, followed by a call of a bet and a raise. 56 might make sense – pair and straight draw.

Action

Flop:

Pot: $520

- C's possible holdings (cont.):
  - A flush draw : possible. E.g. AJs or KQs in spades.
    - Strong flush draw and overcards justifies calling raise
  - A straight draw : possible. He could have limped with A5s, 56, 54 and then called after hitting an open ended straight draw with a pair, or even just draw
  - A made straight : if he has 57, we are going to lose a lot of money

- Most likely are straight and flush draws, perhaps with a pair as well
- Two pair and overpair hands are less likely
- Turn card is
- What do you do?

Considerations

- You probably have the best hand
- He is most likely drawing
- The turn is a safe card
- If a spade comes on the river
  - You will check, and he will most often bet if he has it and check back if he doesn't
  - You might get bluffed, although he might fear you have the flush
  - So you won't get paid on the river – thus need to make money on the turn
- If a spade does not come on the river
  - You will value bet but probably won't get called
- You bet $600, slightly over Pot
- Player C calls. Pot becomes $1,720

Action

- River card is 7♠

- Worst possible card in the deck.

- Hits flush draw

- Hits straight for chop if he has a 5

- A classic "cooler" card

- You check. He checks.
  - Both are scared the other has a flush

- He turns over 4♦ 6♦ for two pair

- You win

- The cooler cost you money on the river

You: LAG, $6,200
Player C: TAG, $3,400
SB: Whacky
Your hand: 5♣ 2♦

Board: 6♠ 4♠ 3♦ Q♣ 7♠

Pot: $1,720

Lesson from this hand

- If you are strong on the flop
  - And turn card is safe

  - Bet!

- Beware the cooler

Leverage on the turn

- Concept introduced by "The Professor" Howard Lederer
  - Brother of Annie Duke
- The idea is that when facing bet on the turn
  - You don't know how big a bet you will face on the river
- You don't really know the pot odds you're getting
- You might be willing to call turn bet for X, but not X+Y with unknown river bet, Y
- Facing a bet of X on the river after checked turn, you know the full amount you are risking

Example hand

Demonstrating concept of Leverage on the Turn

Hand example – leverage

- A $5-$10 game
- Players: tight, smart, aggressive
- Your stack: $660
- You are 4th to act, and three players fold
- Your hand in middle position:
- You raise to $30
- Player in 6th position calls
- Big blind calls $20
- Pot is $95, and you'll be in middle position after the flop

Hand example – leverage

Pot: $95

- Flop comes:
- Not a bad flop for you
- Big blind checks, you bet $80
- Player in 6th position folds
- Big blind calls
- Pot is $255, you have $550 left. Big blind has you covered.
- Turn card is:

- Big blind bets $150
- What do you do???

Hand example – leverage

Your hand:

Board:

Pot: $405
Turn bet: $150

- Considerations:
  - If he has a A, you are in bad shape
  - If he does not have an A, you are probably way ahead
  - Problem:
    - Big blind knows if he's bluffing or not
    - You don't know if he's bluffing or not
    - He knows that if you call his bluff, he does not have to bet on the river
    - But you don't know if he's going to bet on the river
  - I repeat: You don't know if he will bet on the river
    - And he does know
  - You cannot risk calling the turn and him shoving the river
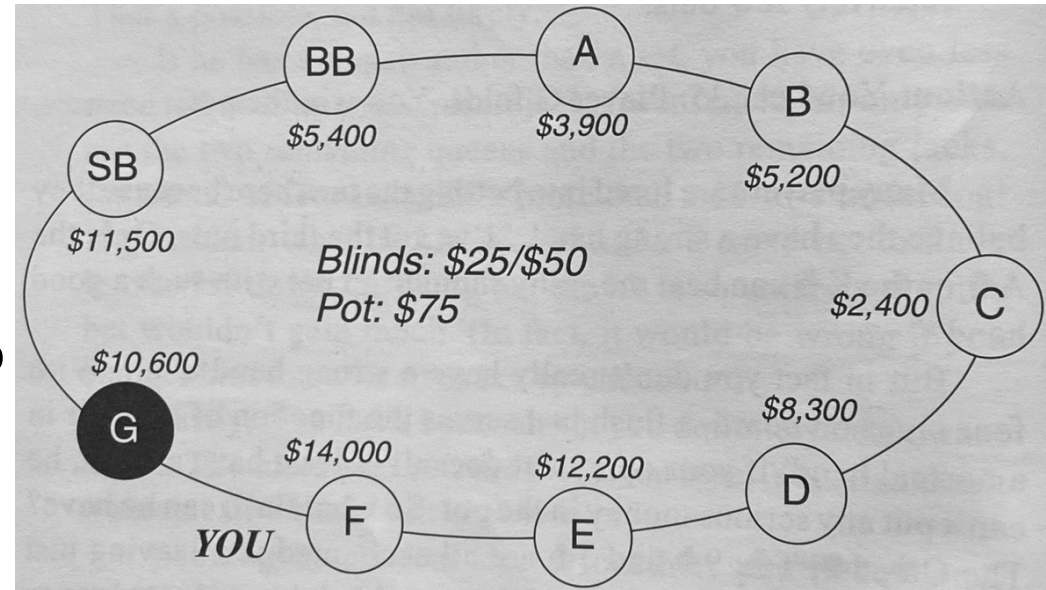 - He has leverage on the turn – the unknown action on the river

Reasons to check the turn

- After continuation bet on the flop
  - Your flop bet was called, now you may give up on the hand
- As a trap
  - You must mix up bets and check on the flop
  - Checking turn sometimes when strong adds deception to your game
  - Only betting turn after checking flop when you hit turn gives away your hand
- As a de-leveraging play
  - You have a hand, and if you bet, opponent will call due to leverage
  - He might call river bet but not turn bet
- You have modest hand, and no draws are on the board
  - Small hand – small pot
- You have a bluff catching hand
  - Strong enough to beat a bluff, but not strong enough to bet for value
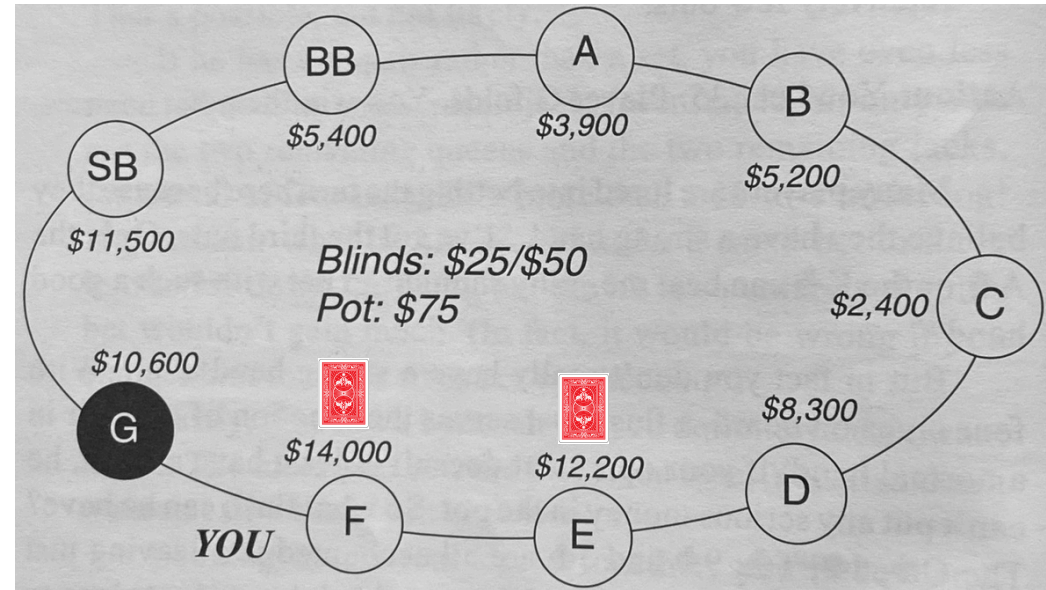 - Pick the right opponents for this one

Example hand

Turn strategy

- Setup:

- High stakes game: $25 - $50

- Player E
  - Loose pre-flop aggressive post-flop

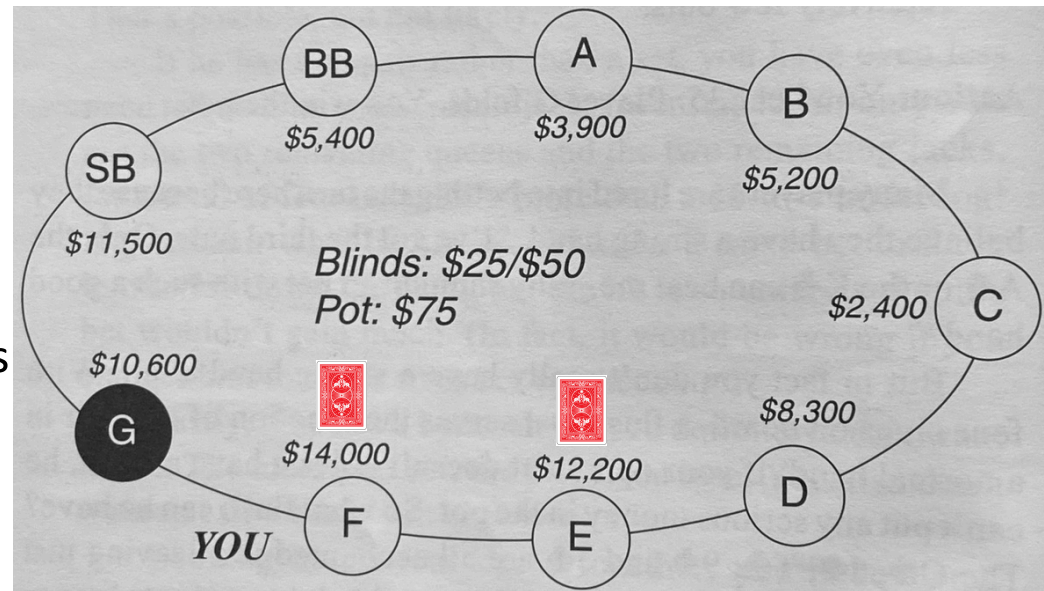- Your image
  - Good player who likes to trap

- Your hand:

- Players A-D fold, Player E raises to $200

- Do you fold, call, raise?

- Player E raises to $200

- Do you fold, call, raise?

- Considerations:
  - 4 BB is on the large size
  - You have position on player E
  - A medium pair is too strong to fold
  - Stacks are very deep > 240 BB
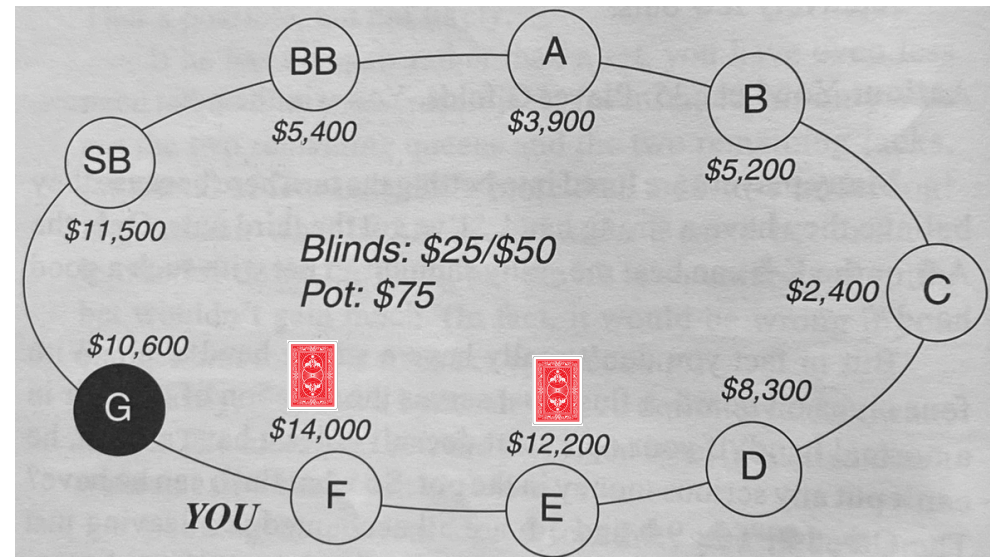 - Implied odds are great if you hit a monster

Blinds: $25/$50
Pot: $75

BB $5,400
A $3,900
B $5,200
SB $11,500
C $2,400
G $10,600
YOU $14,000
F
E $12,200
D $8,300

Your hand: 7♥ 7♦

- Action: You call $200, Button & blinds fold

- Heads up: Pot is $475

- Flop: 9♠ 7♣ 3♥

- Player E bets $350. Pot is now $825. What do you do?

- Player E bets to $350
- Do you call or raise?
- Considerations:
  - Dry board – no need to deny draws
  - Two scenarios:
    - He has something
      - Overpair, QQ, JJ, TT or A9
    - He has nothing
      - Pair below nines, squadoosh
  - Ignore the possibility of 99
    - If he has that - "That's poker" and you go broke

Blinds: $25/$50
Pot: $75

BB $5,400
A $3,900
B $5,200
C $2,400
D $8,300
E $12,200
F $14,000
G $10,600
SB $11,500
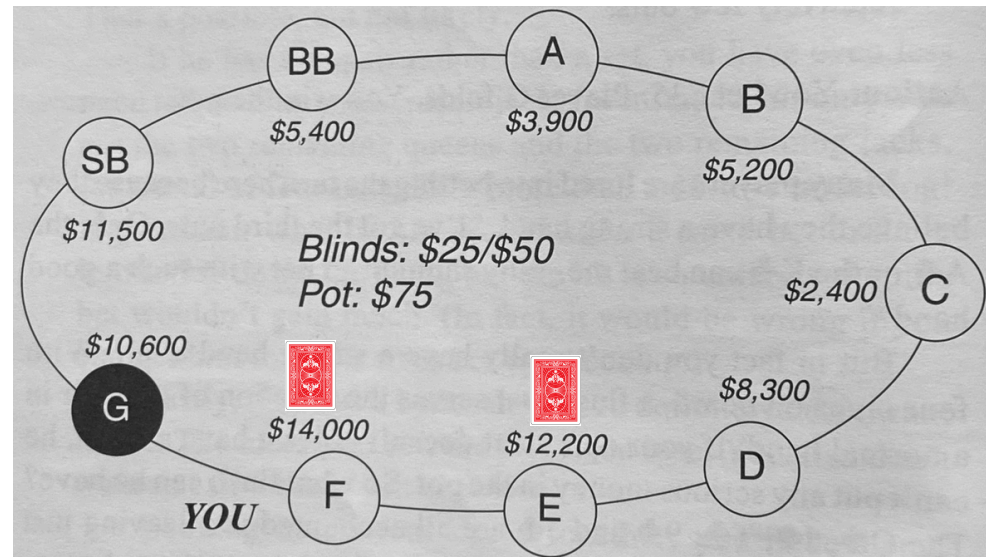
YOU

Your hand: 7♥ 7♦

Flop: 9♠ 7♣ 3♥

Pot: $825

- 2 possible hand types
  - He has nothing or something
- 2 possible plays: call or raise

- He has nothing and we raise:
  - He will fold & we win pot
  - Hand ends here
- He has nothing and we call:
  - We may win more money
  - He could hit one of his overcards on the turn
  - He could hit a lower set
  - Say, 10% of the time he improves on turn and can call another bet
  - If we call $350 that creates a pot of $1,175
  - Say we bet $700 on the turn, on average we pick up another $70
- He has something and we raise
  - He has JJ type hand
  - Say we raise $1,100, calling his $350 and adding another $750
  - Say he calls 1/3 of the time, then pot is $2,675
  - Blank on the turn, will he call $1,200 bet?
    - Maybe 1/3 of the time. We win extra 750 on flop & $400 on turn, so extra $1,150

BB
A
$5,400
$3,900
B
SB
$5,200
$11,500
Blinds: $25/$50
Pot: $75
$2,400 C
$10,600
G
$14,000
$12,200
$8,300
D
YOU F
E

Your hand:

Flop:

Pot: $825

- He has something and we call
  - Our call makes pot $1,175
  - No draws on board, our range:
    - Top pair or middle pair like 88
    - Made hand but not too strong
  - Say turn is blank
    - If he bets, we raise and win pot
    - If he checks, we bet, and he calls
    - But he won't call river bet without improving
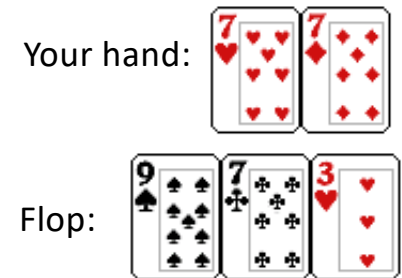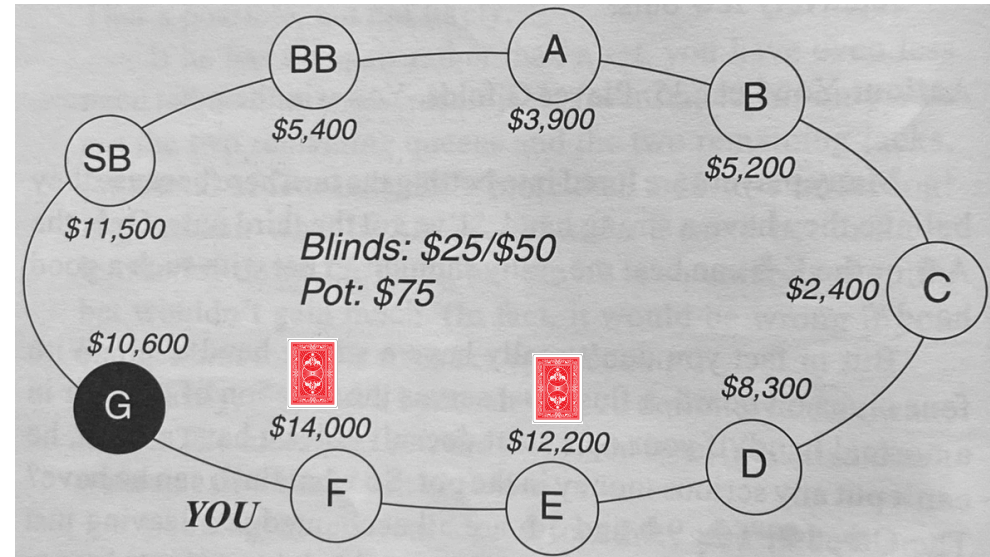   - Either way we win another bet, say $700
  - Breaking down the scenarios

Your hand:

Flop:

Pot: $825

	We Call	We Raise
He Has Nothing	+$70	$0
He Has Something	+$700	+$1,150

	We Call	We Raise
He Has Nothing	+$70	$0
He Has Something	+$700	+$1,150

- Even if "nothing" is more likely
  - Amount we win if "something"
    - Greatly favors raising to calling
- You raise to $1,100
- He calls the extra $750
- Pot is now $2,675, his stack is $10,900
- You have him covered
- Turn:

- He checks. What do you do?
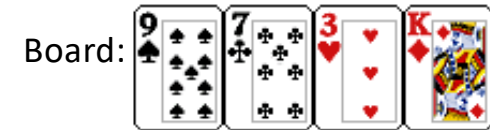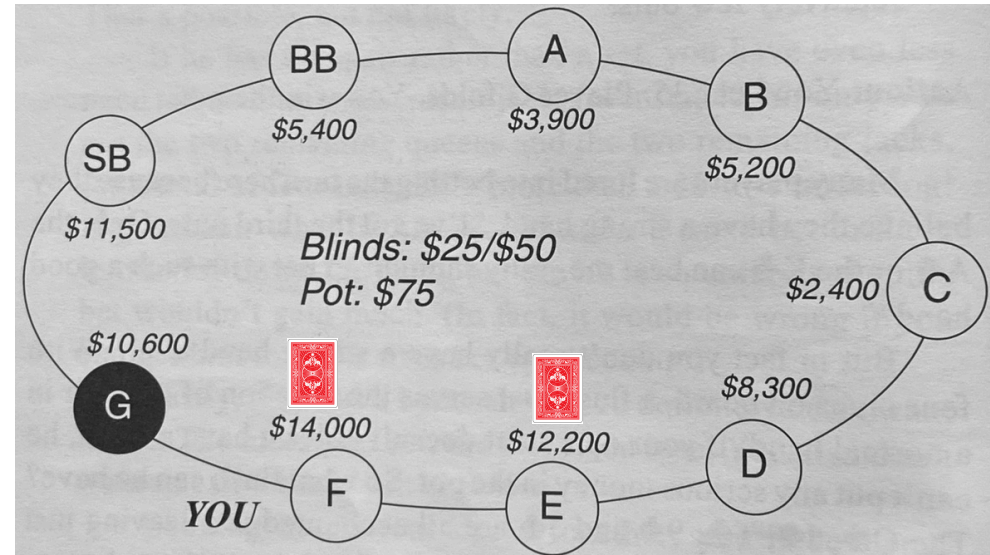
Your hand:

Flop:

- Considerations
  - Re-evaluate his range
  - He called raise on the flop
    - But checked the turn
  - Possibilities
    - Overpair
    - A9, K9, Q9
    - 99 seems a little more likely now
    - Also, T8 and 86 are possible, semi-bluff and calling with open ender
  - You are ahead of all these except KK and 99
  - Goal is to get his whole stack
  - Half pot bet gives draws wrong price to call
    - Might get called by some of his holdings

- You bet $1,400

- He raises to $5,500, Pot is now $9,575, and $4,100 to call.

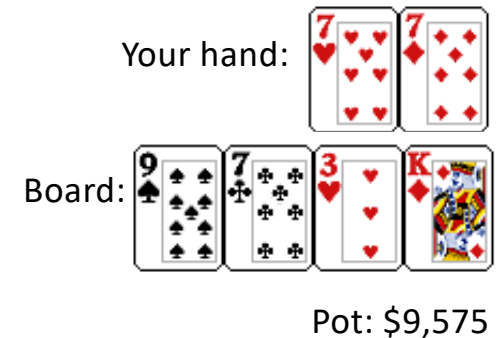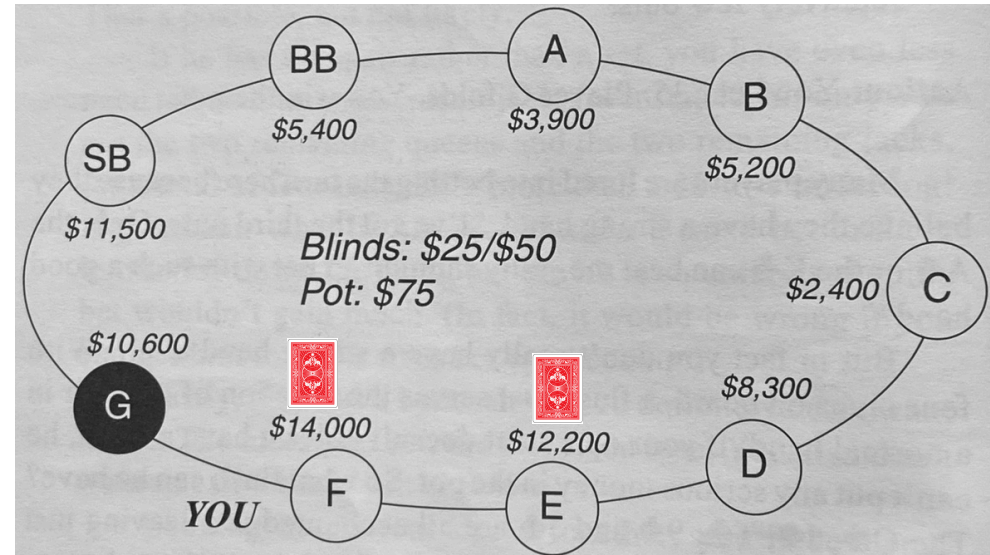- He has $5,400 left.   What do you do?

Your hand:

Board:

Pot: $2,675

- Considerations
  - Folding is not an option
  - Don't fold sets on dry boards!
  - If you call:
    - Pot will be $13,675
    - Would you call a river shove?
    - If so, pot would be $19,000
    - It would be $5,400 to call
    - So, pot odds of almost 4-1 with middle set
  - If you can't fold river, and pot is larger than stacks
    - Then shove on the turn
      - Charge him the maximum to hit his river card
      - Avoids a scare card that might freeze your action
- You push all in & he folds
  - Looks like he was bluffing all along
  - Surprising, but you won the maximum

Blinds: $25/$50
Pot: $75

BB $5,400
A $3,900
B $5,200
SB
$11,500
C $2,400
$10,600
G
$14,000
$12,200
$8,300
D
YOU
F
E

Your hand: 7♥ 7♦

Board: 9♠ 7♣ 3♥ K♦

Pot: $9,575

- Lessons:
  - Always evaluated ranges
  - Base decisions on:
    - What you think he has
    - Pot sizes & stack sizes
    - Most profitable scenario
      - E.g. raising vs. calling & expected action
  - Don't fold sets when board does not:
    - Have straight, flush
    - Have a pair on board
  - Think about how to win the maximum when you have a monster