

# 10 TIPS TO MASTER NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM

# POSTFLOP STRATEGY

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# 10 Tips to Master No-Limit Hold'em Postflop Strategy

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## Introduction

Welcome! I am excited to share with you 10 tips to master no-limit hold'em postflop strategy. This ebook is not meant to be a complete guide on how to play no-limit hold'em. It is instead designed to ensure you do not commit the common mistakes that many small and medium stakes players regularly make postflop that result in them having almost no chance of winning. For a full, in-depth guide on how to crush no-limit hold'em, check out my Cash Game and Tournament Masterclasses in [PokerCoaching.com](https://PokerCoaching.com). Much of this content comes from my extensive book 100 Essential Tips to Master No-Limit Hold'em. If you like this ebook, you will love that book!

## **Crush Straightforward Players on the Flop**

Many of your opponents will make more frequent and more costly mistakes as you progress to the later betting rounds. While most players know how to play decently well preflop (they simply follow preflop GTO charts), they often make numerous mistakes on the flop, and even more mistakes on the turn and river. Because of this, it is crucial to observe and exploit their frequent and costly errors.

In most small and medium stakes games, many players play a little too straightforwardly such that they fold a little bit too often to continuation bets on the flop in heads-up pots. To be clear, a continuation bet is when you raise preflop and then make a bet on the flop. While the GTO strategy is usually to not continuation bet every time in a heads-up pot, if your opponent will fold even a little bit too often, you should adjust your strategy to continuation bet way more often. This is even more true if your opponent will compound their flop error by folding a little too often on the turn and or by not raising often enough.

This chapter only pertains to heads-up pots. As more players see the flop, you must proceed more cautiously because as more players see the flop, someone is more likely to have flopped a strong hand. If you continuation bet too often in multi-way pots, you will quickly lose your bankroll.

If your specific opponent or the players in your games in general continue against flop continuation bets only when they have either a pair or a draw, they will fold to a continuation bet 40% of the time or more (depending on how the flop connects with their preflop range). If they will fold to a continuation bet that is 30% of the size of the pot when they fail to connect, you will immediately profit because your bet only needs to win the pot 23% of the time.

To determine how often a bluff needs to succeed, divide the amount you are risking by the amount you can win plus the amount you are risking, so  $30/(30 + 100) = 23\%$ . This presumes your hand will never win at the showdown, which will obviously not be the case because you will have at least some equity on all flops, and sometimes you will have a lot of equity. To make matters worse for your opponent, most players do not check/raise often enough (especially as a

bluff), allowing you to realize your equity with your marginal and weak hands that would have to fold to a check/raise.

Here is a chart listing how often a total bluff needs to succeed in order to immediately profit, which is  $\text{bet}/(\text{bet} + \text{pot})$ , as well as your opponent's minimum defense frequency ( $\text{MDF} = 1 - \text{bet}/(\text{bet} + \text{pot})$ ), which is how often your opponent has to call or raise in order to not allow you to immediately profit with a bet:

| Your Bet Size       | Required Success % | Opponent's MDF     |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| If you bet 10% pot  | $1/1.1 = 9\%$      | $1 - .09 = 91\%$   |
| If you bet 25% pot  | $.25/1.25 = 20\%$  | $1 - .20 = 80\%$   |
| If you bet 33% pot  | $.33/1.33 = 25\%$  | $1 - .25 = 75\%$   |
| If you bet 50% pot  | $.50/1.50 = 33\%$  | $1 - .33 = 67\%$   |
| If you bet 67% pot  | $.67/1.67 = 40\%$  | $1 - 40\% = 60\%$  |
| If you bet 75% pot  | $.75/1.75 = 43\%$  | $1 - .43\% = 57\%$ |
| If you bet 100% pot | $1/2 = 50\%$       | $1 - 50\% = 50\%$  |
| If you bet 133% pot | $1.33/2.33 = 57\%$ | $1 - 57\% = 43\%$  |
| If you bet 150% pot | $1.5/2.5 = 60\%$   | $1 - 60\% = 40\%$  |
| If you bet 200% pot | $2/3 = 67\%$       | $1 - .67\% = 33\%$ |
| If you bet 300% pot | $3/4 = 75\%$       | $1 - .75\% = 25\%$ |

It is worth noting that the minimum defense frequency should not be stringently followed because you will naturally under-realize your equity when you are out of position and when your opponent has a much stronger range than yours. To be perfectly clear, you do not always have to defend at the minimum defense frequency whenever you are facing a bet!

While continuation betting when heads-up every time for 30% pot is nowhere near the GTO strategy, if your opponent folds too often, you will crush them with

this easily implementable strategy, making it an excellent starting point. Even if your opponent will instead call flop bets far too wide, this 100% continuation betting strategy could still have merit if they will fold too often to turn and/or river bets due to having all sorts of junky holdings like unpaired overcards and backdoor flush draws in their range. If your opponent has clear leaks in their strategy, make a point to get out of line and exploit them.

# Do Not Continuation Bet 100% of the Time

While continuation betting with your entire range on most flops using a small size will crush your weakest opponents, it will fail miserably once your opponents start playing well. While there will be times from a GTO point of view when you should mostly bet frequently and small, that will often not be the case.

Suppose when playing 40bbbs deep in a tournament with a 1bb ante (and no rake taken out of each pot) you raise to 2bbs from the button and the big blind calls (40bb single raised pots play similarly to deeper stacked pots as long as the pot does not get too large.) The flop comes Js-6h-5d and the BB checks. Here is your strategy from the button, assuming you are striving to play close to GTO:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

You should only continuation bet 58% of the time using a mix of pot sized bets (dark red) and 25% pot sized bets (light red). Hands in green are checked behind

and hands in gray were folded before the flop and are therefore not in your range. When studying a solver output, you do not need to memorize how each specific hand is played. Instead, get a rough idea of how each type of hand plays on various board textures.

In this situation, the hands that usually bet large for value are overpairs and strong top pairs because they are almost always the best hand but are vulnerable to being outdrawn. These value hands are balanced with two types of bluffs, strong draws that can call raises and want to build a pot for when they improve to the nuts and a few junky draws that benefit from maximum fold equity and do not care if they have to fold when raised. These hands make up a polarized range which is usually your strategy when you use a large size.

The hands that instead want to use a smaller size are premium hands that block the opponent's calling range and welcome being raised, weak top pairs and underpairs that can only get called by worse when betting small, and some Ace and King-high. Notice this strategy is a more linear strategy mostly going for thin value with a less clear separation between value and bluffs.

Finally, check with the pairs that are unlikely to get called by worse (pairs below the middle card on the board,) weaker Ace-high, and absolute junk that almost never improves.

Continuation betting small every time in this situation would be a substantial mistake if your opponent plays well.

It will often be difficult to know exactly how often you should bet and which sizes you should use. The GTO strategy involves more mixing and using more sizes than humans are capable of. Strive to understand why the solver plays how it does and develop simplified strategies that achieve the same goals of the solver in an implementable manner. This is done by considering the effective stack depth, who has position, who has the range advantage, who has the nut advantage, and how often the board will change. These topics are discussed in-depth in the Cash Game and Tournament Masterclasses at [PokerCoaching.com](http://PokerCoaching.com).

# Consider Who has the Range Advantage and Nut Advantage

The concept of range advantage lets you know how much equity each player's range has on a specific flop. In general, as you have a larger range advantage, you should continuation bet more often, and as you have a smaller range advantage or no range advantage, you should continuation bet less often.

Suppose 40bbbs deep in a tournament, the lojack raises and the big blind calls. On Ks-Qs-9h after the big blind checks with their entire range, the lojack has a substantial range advantage to the point that they should continuation bet when checked to every time. If you consider the lojack's range, they have all nut hands as well as many decently strong hands that the big blind does not:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

Lojack should continuation bet this situation every time using mostly small sizes because their range has 64.4% equity against the big blind's range, which is a substantial advantage. This implies that the big blind has 35.6% equity, which is quite low. In general, high card flops and paired flops tend to heavily favor the initial preflop raiser.

Suppose instead lojack raises and the big blind calls, but this time the flop comes 9s-8h-7d and the big blind checks. Here is the lojack's strategy:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

Now lojack should continuation bet far less often, only 64% of the time, because they have far less equity, 54.7%. In general, middle and low connected boards favor the preflop caller.

When someone raises and the big blind calls, the big blind essentially never has a range advantage because they would have 3-bet with their best hands, meaning their range lacks the best overpairs. Their range also contains many

junky hands that should defend from the big blind due to getting excellent pot odds, many of which will fail to connect with the flop. Since the big blind almost never has the range advantage, they should almost never bet into the preflop raiser, especially when playing deep stacked.

It is also important to consider which player's range contains more effective nut hands. In general, as you have a larger nut advantage, you should continuation bet using a larger size, and as you have a smaller or no nut advantage, you should continuation bet using a smaller size. Which hands count as the effective nuts changes as stack depths change. As stacks get shallower, hands like top pair are considered the effective nuts, but as stacks get deeper, even hands as strong as overpairs are often not strong enough to confidently get all the money in.

Suppose 40bbs deep in a tournament, the lojack raises and the big blind calls. The flop comes 6s-3h-3d and the big blind checks. Here is lojack’s strategy, where the only bet size used is a tiny 25% bet (and an even smaller bet of 1bb may be ideal):

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

Even though lojack has a large range advantage of 57.5% due to having lots of overpairs and Ace-high, they have almost no trips. When the initial raiser lacks the nut advantage and they want to bet, they usually bet using a tiny size.

The big blind, however, has lots of trips in their range, which they can use to aggressively check/raise when facing a small bet:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

Notice that in addition to check/raising with a lot of trips, the big blind also check/raises with numerous high equity and low equity draws.

Suppose instead the lojack raises preflop and the big blind calls. The flop comes Qs-Jh-10h and the big blind checks. Now, a larger 60% pot bet is preferred:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

On this board, lojack has all the nuts and they have a 64.3% range advantage, resulting in them betting frequently and large.

The nut advantage heavily impacts your bet sizing. When you have lots of nut hands in your range that want to get all the money in by the river, large bets are usually preferred. When you do not have many nut hands in your range, small bets are usually preferred.

# Bet Larger on Dynamic Flops

As the flop is more dynamic, meaning the current premium hands are somewhat likely to be downgraded substantially on the turn or river, the larger you should bet. As the board is more static, meaning hands that are currently premium are likely to stay premium on the turn and river, the smaller you should bet. This will usually result in you betting larger on boards that contain flush draws and straight draws. It will also result in you betting smaller on boards that contain a pair or a possible flush or a straight, as well as on boards that are incredibly uncoordinated.

Suppose 40bbs deep in a tournament, you raise from the lojack and the big blind calls. The flop comes 9s-8h-3d and the big blind checks. Here is lojack’s strategy:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

In this situation, lojack only has a 57% range advantage, so they do not get to bet all the time, and the board is quite dynamic (because there is a straight draw

available), resulting in mostly larger bets being used. When lojack bets, they should bet 120% pot 15% of the time and 60% pot the rest of the time. On most boards that are dynamic, you should check at least some portion of the time, and when you bet, it should be with a polarized range.

Suppose the lojack raises and the big blind calls. The flop comes Ks-9s-3s and the big blind checks. Here is lojack’s strategy:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJs | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

On this extremely static board, lojack should bet frequently due to the 59.9% range advantage while using a tiny size due to the nuts on the flop (flushes) usually remaining the effective nuts on the turn.

## Develop Strong Heuristics

While it is important that you diligently study each situation until you know how to play all the common spots, you should also develop heuristics (mental shortcuts) that ensure you are playing at least decently well in most situations. Putting the previous few chapters together, as the preflop aggressor from in position when checked to, you should:

Continuation bet more often when you have the range advantage.

Continuation bet less often when you do not have the range advantage.

Continuation bet using a larger size when you have the nut advantage.

Continuation bet using a smaller size when you do not have the nut advantage.

Continuation bet using a larger size on dynamic flops.

Continuation bet using a smaller size on static flops.

As you continue studying GTO flop strategies, you will find that these patterns (and my others) repeat themselves and hold true in most situations.

## Check More Often from Out of Position on the Flop

When you raise preflop and are called by a player who has position on you, the in position caller should have a much stronger range compared to when the big blind calls because the big blind is closing the action and getting excellent pot odds whereas the in position caller is not closing the action and is getting worse odds. This, combined with your positional disadvantage, results in you rarely having the range and nut advantage against an in position caller, forcing you to check a large amount of the time in most situations.

Suppose 40bbs deep in a tournament, you raise to 2bbs from the lojack and the button calls. The flop comes As-Jh-9d. Even though you have a bit of a range and nut advantage, here is your strategy:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

With 55% equity and a bit of a nut advantage, you get to continuation bet roughly 64% of the time. Most of your betting range uses a small size except

your best hands and some weak gutshot straight draws. Your checking range contains mostly weak top pairs and worse hands, with a few super nut hands mixed in for protection.

As your range advantage decreases, such as when the flop comes Qs-6s-4h, you should check far more often, and due to your lack of the nut advantage, when you bet, you should bet small:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

On Qs-6s-4h, you are forced to check a ton!

Here is how you should play from out of position on As-5s-5h:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

On As-5s-5h you are again betting somewhat infrequently using a small size despite having a lot of A-x in your range because your opponent also has lots of A-x and you have lots of unpaired hands that have a bit of showdown value.

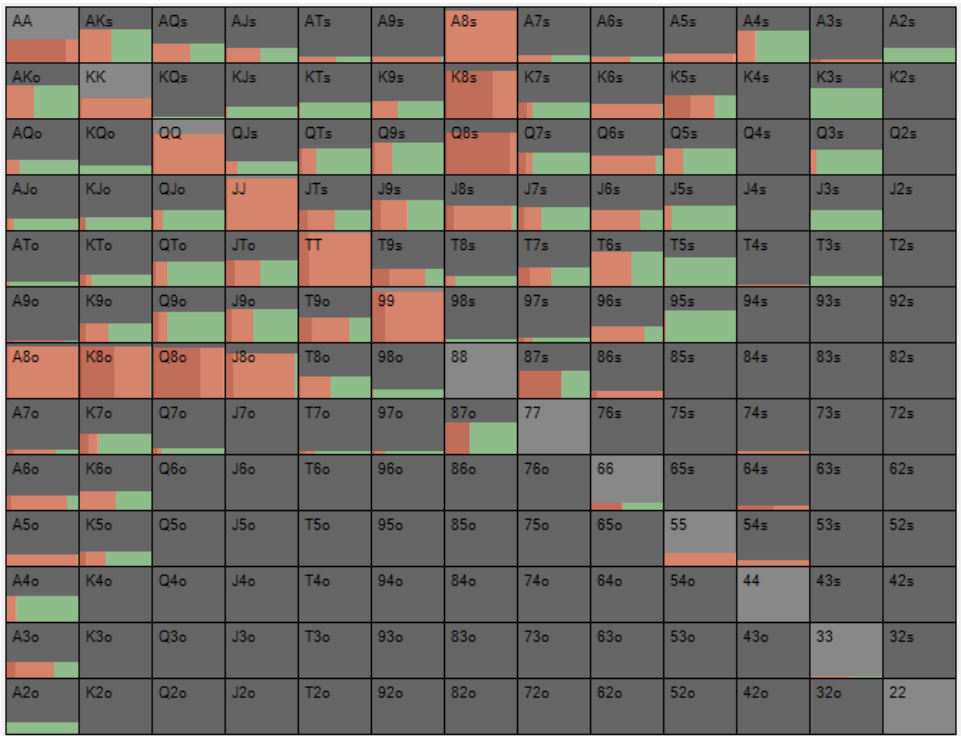
Many players are surprised to see such passive play from out of position as the preflop raiser, but when you are out of position, you should usually not put too much money in the pot unless you have a substantial range and nut advantage. For the most part though, from out of position, you should bet more polarized, making a point to check some portion of the time and bet some portion of the time with each specific hand in your range.

## **After you Bet the Flop, Bet the Turn Polarized**

When you continuation bet the flop and your opponent calls, your opponent presumably folded the bottom portion of their range, meaning their range going to the turn has been strengthened. However, your flop range may or may not have been strengthened because if you continuation bet the flop with all or most of your range, then you have all or most of your entire preflop range on the turn, which will inevitably contain many junky hands. Your range containing a lot of junk is in bad shape against your opponent's range that does not contain junk. This should result in you doing a lot of checking on the turn, with almost all of your bets coming from your best made hands and draws (some high equity, some low equity). Also, when your opponent calls a large flop bet, you should be more inclined to check behind decently often on the turn, because again, their flop continuing range should be quite strong.

Alternatively, if you continuation bet the flop with a polarized range, then most of your range will be either premium made hands or draws of various strengths on the turn, most of which can continue betting because your polarized range should fare well enough against your opponent's strengthened range.

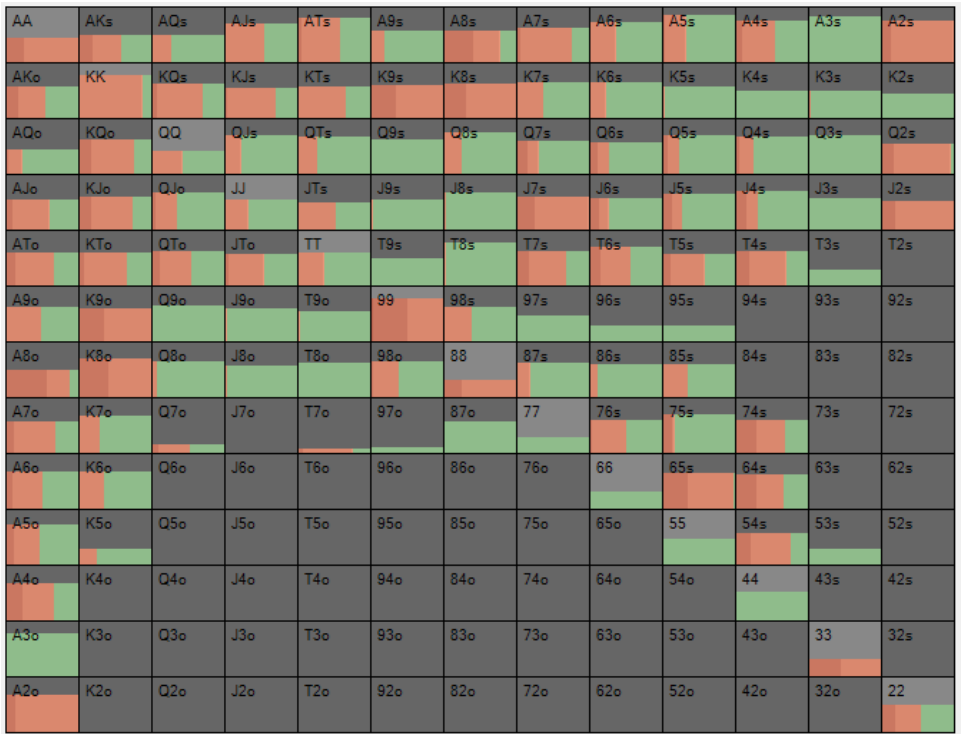
Suppose 40bbs deep in a tournament, you raise from the button and the big blind calls. The flop comes 8s-4h-2s. The big blind checks, you bet pot (as is often ideal with a polarized range on a dynamic board), and the big blind calls. The turn is the 3c and the big blind checks. When your opponent check/calls your large flop bet, their range became substantially stronger, forcing you to check with your marginal made hands and many hands that have almost no equity:



It may feel tight, but the plan with all your junk is to check behind and fold to a bet if you fail to improve. You will be drastically over-folding compared to the minimum defense frequency, but that is fine because you forced your opponent to drastically over-fold to your flop continuation bet due to their lack of position and poor equity realization.



Suppose instead the flop is Ks-9s-3s and your opponent check/calls your 1.5bb bet (you should bet tiny with roughly 65% of your range). The turn is the 8c and your opponent checks. Here is the GTO strategy:



You should continue betting the turn with most of your flushes, sets, two pairs, and best top pairs for value. You should bluff with your Ace-high, Queen-high, and Jack-high flush draws as well as most of your straight draws. Everything else should be checked.

This pattern of betting the turn with a polarized range after you continuation bet the flop holds true in all situations unless the turn card is extremely good for your flop betting range (and thus terrible for your opponent’s range), and even then, you will rarely bet with your entire range on the turn.

## Lead When the Board is Good for Your Range

A “lead” is when you bet into the aggressor from the previous betting round. This implies that you check/called a bet on the previous betting round and get to act before the previous aggressor on the current betting round.

From a GTO point of view, you should lead only when you are not too deep stacked (such as in single raised pots when you started with 40bbs or fewer) on the turn or river when it substantially increases your equity and expected value because you will then have the range and/or nut advantage. You should not lead when the turn is neutral or bad for your range even if it is good for your specific hand. You get to lead more often as stacks get shallower because getting all the money in behind with a hand like top pair or a weak flush is far less costly compared to when stacks are deeper. When stacks are deep though (which is often the case in cash games), you should almost never lead. Most of the time when you lead on the turn, you should use a small bet size because you are pushing an equity advantage.

The most common spots to lead on the turn are when:

A middle or low 4-straight comes.

A middle or low 3-straight comes.

The middle or bottom card on the flop pairs.

An Ace-high 4-flush comes.

While there are a few other less common spots where leading is ideal, these are the four main situations that happen over and over. Playing these spots well will increase your win rate substantially while also making you much more difficult to play against.

One of the best times to lead on the turn is when the flop contains all middle or low cards and the turn brings a 4-straight, assuming you have lots of combinations of straights in your range and your opponent does not.

Suppose 40bbs deep in a tournament, the lojack raises, you call from the big blind, and the flop comes 6s-3s-2h. You check, the lojack bets 55% pot, and you call using this strategy:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

On any 5 or 4 that is not a spade, you should lead for 25% pot with your entire range. On the 5s or 4s, you should lead for 25% pot with roughly 90% of your range. You get to lead a ton because you have a lot of straights and two pairs in your range while your opponent has almost none, giving you a substantial range advantage. It is worth noting that if you were against the button instead of the lojack, on the 5d turn, you should lead less often (85% of the time instead of 100%) because the button will have proportionally more combinations of straights in their range since they will raise preflop with more hands containing a 4 than the lojack does.

Suppose 40bbs deep the lojack raises, you call from the big blind, and the flop comes 9s-8h-7d. You check, the lojack bets 55% pot, and you call. On the 5c turn, you should lead for 25% pot with your entire range because you have many combinations of straights and the lojack has almost none. However, on the Jc or 10c turn, you should never lead because the lojack would then have many combinations of straights. Similarly, on the (Ks-Qs-9h)-10d turn, you should also never lead.

When you turn lots of combinations of straights, lead frequently (often 100% of the time when your opponent has close to no straights) using a small bet size. When your opponent turns lots of combinations of straights, check every time.

# Be Willing to Bluff on the River

Many players bluff the river far too infrequently because they hate the idea of losing a lot of money with a weak hand. However, in pretty much all spots where you have some premium hands, the GTO strategy recommends bluffing a decent amount of the time.

Suppose 40bbs deep in a tournament, you raise from the lojack and the big blind calls. The flop comes Js-6h-5d. The big blind checks, you bet 1.5bbs, and the big blind calls. The turn is the (Js-6h-5d)-Qc and the big blind checks. Here is your GTO strategy:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

When the turn brings a high overcard to the board that should connect well with many of your unpaired flop bluffs, you should bet frequently for a large amount (the size of the pot in this case). Notice all sorts of very junky hands like A-3s and K-8s bluff the turn.

Suppose you bet pot and the big blind calls. The river is the (Js-6h-5d-Qc)-Kd and the big blind checks. Here is your GTO strategy:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

On this river that connects well with many of your turn bluffs, you should continue betting quite frequently using mostly an all-in size. Pretty much every hand that cannot expect to win at the showdown should bet.

Suppose instead the river was the (Js-6h-5d-Qc)-2s and the big blind checks.  
 Here is your GTO strategy:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

Since the river does not connect quite as well with your range, you do not get to bluff as often. However, you still bluff a large amount of the time with hands that cannot win at the showdown such as A-3s, K-9s, and 8-7s. Many players bluff far too infrequently in this spot, allowing their opponent to over-realize their equity.

Suppose 40bbs deep the lojack raises and you call from the big blind. The flop comes 7s-6c-5d and both players check. The turn is the (7s-6c-5d)-3s. Here is your GTO strategy:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

You should bet this turn frequently because you have many straights and two pairs while the lojack has almost none.

Suppose you bet 1.5bbs and the lojack calls. The river is the (7s-6c-5d-3s)-2d.  
 Here is your GTO strategy:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AA  | AKs | AQs | AJs | ATs | A9s | A8s | A7s | A6s | A5s | A4s | A3s | A2s |
| AKo | KK  | KQs | KJs | KTs | K9s | K8s | K7s | K6s | K5s | K4s | K3s | K2s |
| AQo | KQo | QQ  | QJs | QTs | Q9s | Q8s | Q7s | Q6s | Q5s | Q4s | Q3s | Q2s |
| AJo | KJo | QJo | JJ  | JTs | J9s | J8s | J7s | J6s | J5s | J4s | J3s | J2s |
| ATo | KTo | QTo | JTo | TT  | T9s | T8s | T7s | T6s | T5s | T4s | T3s | T2s |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o | J9o | T9o | 99  | 98s | 97s | 96s | 95s | 94s | 93s | 92s |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o | J8o | T8o | 98o | 88  | 87s | 86s | 85s | 84s | 83s | 82s |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o | J7o | T7o | 97o | 87o | 77  | 76s | 75s | 74s | 73s | 72s |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o | J6o | T6o | 96o | 86o | 76o | 66  | 65s | 64s | 63s | 62s |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o | J5o | T5o | 95o | 85o | 75o | 65o | 55  | 54s | 53s | 52s |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o | J4o | T4o | 94o | 84o | 74o | 64o | 54o | 44  | 43s | 42s |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o | J3o | T3o | 93o | 83o | 73o | 63o | 53o | 43o | 33  | 32s |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o | J2o | T2o | 92o | 82o | 72o | 62o | 52o | 42o | 32o | 22  |

You should bet almost every time on this river using mostly a small size because you have a large range advantage, allowing you to go for thin value as long as you are sure to protect your small betting range by including some straights, sets, and two pairs.

Especially when the turn or river is good for your range, be sure to include many bluffs in order to make as much money as possible in the long run. Sometimes your bluffs are going to fail, and that is fine!

## **Call Down Wide when Draws Miss on the River**

When all the draws miss, the aggressor's range will naturally have a lot of busted draws in it. Many players feel inclined to bluff when they have no chance to win at the showdown resulting in you being able to over-call when all the draws miss. This becomes especially true as your opponent plays a more loose, aggressive strategy.

Suppose 40bbs deep the button raises and you call from the big blind. The flop comes Qs-Jh-3d. You check, the button bets 1.5bbs and you call. The turn is the (Qs-Jh-3d)-7h. You check, the button bets 13.3bbs (roughly 1.5x pot) and you call. The river is the (Qs-Jh-3d-7h)-2c. After you check, here is the button's strategy:

|                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| AA<br>0.9979<br>0.0021  | AKs<br>0.0028<br>0.9972 | AQs<br>0.9981<br>0.0019 | AJs<br>0.0009<br>0.9991 | ATs<br>0.0027<br>0.9973 | A9s<br>0.0039<br>0.9961 | A8s<br>0.0054<br>0.9946 | A7s<br>0.0030<br>0.9970 | A6s<br>0.0032<br>0.9968 | A5s<br>0.0033<br>0.9967 | A4s<br>0.0061<br>0.9939 | A3s<br>0.0024<br>0.9976 | A2s<br>0.0074<br>0.9926 |
| AKo<br>0.0031<br>0.9969 | KK<br>0.9981<br>0.0019  | KQs<br>0.9982<br>0.0018 | KJs<br>0.0010<br>0.9990 | KTs<br>0.0191<br>0.9809 | K9s<br>0.1807<br>0.8193 | K8s<br>0.6259<br>0.3741 | K7s<br>0.0023<br>0.9977 | K6s<br>0.6499<br>0.3501 | K5s<br>0.6995<br>0.3005 | K4s<br>0.9612<br>0.0388 | K3s<br>0.0021<br>0.9979 | K2s<br>0.0044<br>0.9956 |
| AQo<br>0.9981<br>0.0019 | KQo<br>0.9982<br>0.0018 | QQ<br>1.0000<br>0.0000  | QJs<br>0.9995<br>0.0005 | QTs<br>0.9981<br>0.0019 | Q9s<br>0.9981<br>0.0019 | Q8s<br>0.9977<br>0.0023 | Q7s<br>0.9995<br>0.0005 | Q6s<br>0.9955<br>0.0045 | Q5s<br>0.0953<br>0.9047 | Q4s<br>0.0035<br>0.9965 | Q3s<br>0.9994<br>0.0006 | Q2s<br>0.9992<br>0.0008 |
| AJo<br>0.0009<br>0.9991 | KJo<br>0.0010<br>0.9990 | QJo<br>0.9995<br>0.0005 | JJs<br>1.0000<br>0.0000 | JTs<br>0.0010<br>0.9990 | J9s<br>0.0010<br>0.9990 | J8s<br>0.0012<br>0.9988 | J7s<br>0.9988<br>0.0012 | J6s<br>0.0013<br>0.9987 | J5s<br>0.0016<br>0.9984 | J4s<br>0.0016<br>0.9984 | J3s<br>0.9987<br>0.0013 | J2s<br>0.9988<br>0.0012 |
| ATo<br>0.0031<br>0.9969 | KTo<br>0.0154<br>0.9846 | QTo<br>0.9981<br>0.0019 | JTo<br>0.0010<br>0.9990 | TT<br>0.0025<br>0.9975  | T9s<br>0.6300<br>0.3700 | T8s<br>0.9676<br>0.0324 | T7s<br>0.0028<br>0.9972 | T6s<br>0.6201<br>0.3799 | T5s<br>0.5276<br>0.4724 | T4s<br>0.9823<br>0.0177 | T3s<br>0.0026<br>0.9974 | T2s                     |
| A9o<br>0.0035<br>0.9965 | K9o<br>0.0778<br>0.9222 | Q9o<br>0.9981<br>0.0019 | J9o<br>0.0010<br>0.9990 | T9o<br>0.5668<br>0.4332 | 99<br>0.0023<br>0.9977  | 98s<br>0.6149<br>0.3851 | 97s<br>0.0025<br>0.9975 | 96s<br>0.2574<br>0.7426 | 95s<br>0.2838<br>0.7162 | 94s                     | 93s                     | 92s                     |
| A8o<br>0.0039<br>0.9961 | K8o<br>0.2126<br>0.7874 | Q8o<br>0.9977<br>0.0023 | J8o<br>0.0011<br>0.9989 | T8o<br>0.8198<br>0.1802 | 98o<br>0.9176<br>0.0821 | 88<br>0.0023<br>0.9977  | 87s<br>0.0026<br>0.9974 | 86s<br>0.6825<br>0.3175 | 85s<br>0.7867<br>0.2133 | 84s                     | 83s                     | 82s                     |
| A7o<br>0.0028<br>0.9972 | K7o<br>0.0023<br>0.9977 | Q7o<br>0.9995<br>0.0005 | J7o                     | T7o<br>0.0026<br>0.9974 | 97o<br>0.0025<br>0.9975 | 87o<br>0.0025<br>0.9975 | 77<br>1.0000<br>0.0000  | 76s<br>0.0027<br>0.9973 | 75s<br>0.0027<br>0.9973 | 74s<br>0.0033<br>0.9967 | 73s                     | 72s                     |
| A6o<br>0.0043<br>0.9957 | K6o<br>0.6022<br>0.3978 | Q6o                     | J6o                     | T6o                     | 96o                     | 86o                     | 76o                     | 66<br>0.0019<br>0.9981  | 65s<br>0.9928<br>0.0072 | 64s<br>0.9957<br>0.0043 | 63s                     | 62s                     |
| A5o<br>0.0053<br>0.9947 | K5o<br>0.7429<br>0.2571 | Q5o                     | J5o                     | T5o                     | 95o                     | 85o                     | 75o                     | 65o                     | 55<br>0.0020<br>0.9980  | 54s<br>0.9957<br>0.0043 | 53s<br>0.0042<br>0.9958 | 52s                     |
| A4o<br>0.0202<br>0.9798 | K4o                     | Q4o                     | J4o                     | T4o                     | 94o                     | 84o                     | 74o                     | 64o                     | 54o                     | 44<br>0.0026<br>0.9974  | 43s                     | 42s                     |
| A3o<br>0.0024<br>0.9976 | K3o                     | Q3o                     | J3o                     | T3o                     | 93o                     | 83o                     | 73o                     | 63o                     | 53o                     | 43o                     | 33<br>1.0000<br>0.0000  | 32s                     |
| A2o<br>0.0077<br>0.9923 | K2o                     | Q2o                     | J2o                     | T2o                     | 92o                     | 82o                     | 72o                     | 62o                     | 52o                     | 42o                     | 32o                     | 22<br>0.9995<br>0.0005  |

The button's all-in for value range is quite intuitive, with them going all-in with any Queen and better made hand, as most players will naturally do. However, the button should check behind and concede the pot with numerous hands that many players automatically bluff, such as K-10o, K-9o, K-8o, 10h-6h, and 8h-6h. If your opponent will bluff with all of these hands, be prepared to call off far wider

than the GTO strategy. That said, note that the GTO strategy does bet 150% pot on the turn and then go all-in with a few combinations of unintuitive bluffs such as Kd-6d and 10d-4d. If your opponent will not bluff off with those hands, consider calling a bit tighter than the GTO strategy.

Suppose the button goes all-in using the GTO strategy. Here is your response:

|     |     |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
|-----|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| AA  | AKs | AQs                     | AJs                     | ATs                     | A9s<br>0.0741<br>0.9259 | A8s<br>0.0101<br>0.9899 | A7s<br>0.9936<br>0.0064 | A6s<br>0.2144<br>0.7856 | A5s<br>0.1874<br>0.8126 | A4s<br>0.3272<br>0.6728 | A3s<br>0.9887<br>0.0113 | A2s<br>0.9785<br>0.0215 |
| AKo | KK  | KQs<br>0.9998<br>0.0002 | KJs<br>0.1046<br>0.8954 | KTs<br>0.0021<br>0.9979 | K9s<br>0.0017<br>0.9983 | K8s<br>0.0015<br>0.9985 | K7s<br>0.0101<br>0.9899 | K6s<br>0.0012<br>0.9988 | K5s<br>0.0007<br>0.9993 | K4s<br>0.0006<br>0.9994 | K3s<br>0.0092<br>0.9908 | K2s<br>0.0050<br>0.9950 |
| AQo | KQo | QQ                      | QJs<br>0.9999<br>0.0001 | QTs<br>0.9997<br>0.0003 | Q9s<br>0.9995<br>0.0005 | Q8s<br>0.9990<br>0.0010 | Q7s<br>0.9999<br>0.0001 | Q6s<br>0.9983<br>0.0017 | Q5s<br>0.9983<br>0.0017 | Q4s<br>0.9984<br>0.0016 | Q3s<br>0.9999<br>0.0001 | Q2s<br>0.9999<br>0.0001 |
| AJo | KJo | QJo                     | JJ                      | JTs<br>0.9080<br>0.0920 | J9s<br>0.1004<br>0.8996 | J8s<br>0.2083<br>0.7917 | J7s<br>0.9999<br>0.0001 | J6s<br>0.1053<br>0.8947 | J5s<br>0.0566<br>0.9434 | J4s<br>0.7646<br>0.2354 | J3s<br>0.9999<br>0.0001 | J2s<br>0.9999<br>0.0001 |
| ATo | KTo | QTo                     | JTo                     | TT                      | T9s<br>0.0004<br>0.9996 | T8s<br>0.0004<br>0.9996 | T7s<br>0.0275<br>0.9725 | T6s<br>0.0004<br>0.9996 | T5s<br>0.0004<br>0.9996 | T4s<br>0.0004<br>0.9996 | T3s<br>0.0102<br>0.9898 | T2s<br>0.0066<br>0.9934 |
| A9o | K9o | Q9o                     | J9o                     | T9o                     | 99                      | 98s<br>0.0003<br>0.9997 | 97s<br>0.0097<br>0.9903 | 96s<br>0.0003<br>0.9997 | 95s<br>0.0003<br>0.9997 | 94s<br>0.0003<br>0.9997 | 93s<br>0.0090<br>0.9910 | 92s<br>0.0047<br>0.9953 |
| A8o | K8o | Q8o                     | J8o                     | T8o                     | 98o                     | 88                      | 87s<br>0.0132<br>0.9868 | 86s<br>0.0003<br>0.9997 | 85s<br>0.0003<br>0.9997 | 84s<br>0.0003<br>0.9997 | 83s<br>0.0068<br>0.9932 | 82s<br>0.0046<br>0.9954 |
| A7o | K7o | Q7o                     | J7o                     | T7o                     | 97o                     | 87o                     | 77                      | 76s<br>0.0102<br>0.9898 | 75s<br>0.0101<br>0.9899 | 74s<br>0.0241<br>0.9759 | 73s<br>0.9999<br>0.0001 | 72s<br>0.9999<br>0.0001 |
| A6o | K6o | Q6o                     | J6o                     | T6o                     | 96o                     | 86o                     | 76o                     | 66                      | 65s<br>0.0003<br>0.9997 | 64s<br>0.0003<br>0.9997 | 63s<br>0.0102<br>0.9898 | 62s<br>0.0051<br>0.9949 |
| A5o | K5o | Q5o                     | J5o                     | T5o                     | 95o                     | 85o                     | 75o                     | 65o                     | 55                      | 54s<br>0.0003<br>0.9997 | 53s<br>0.0107<br>0.9893 | 52s<br>0.0050<br>0.9950 |
| A4o | K4o | Q4o                     | J4o                     | T4o                     | 94o                     | 84o                     | 74o                     | 64o                     | 54o                     | 44                      | 43s<br>0.0143<br>0.9857 | 42s<br>0.0065<br>0.9935 |
| A3o | K3o | Q3o                     | J3o                     | T3o                     | 93o                     | 83o                     | 73o                     | 63o                     | 53o                     | 43o                     | 33                      | 32s<br>0.9999<br>0.0001 |
| A2o | K2o | Q2o                     | J2o                     | T2o                     | 92o                     | 82o                     | 72o                     | 62o                     | 52o                     | 42o                     | 32o                     | 22                      |

Against the GTO strategy, you should call off with hands as weak as A-3 some portion of the time. Notice Ah-xh even calls a tiny portion of the time. If you think your opponent bluffs far more often than the GTO strategy (such as with all their busted draws), as many maniacal players will, you should call off far wider, perhaps as wide as with any Ace-high. Against someone who simply refuses to give up when they cannot win at the showdown, when all the draws miss, be prepared to call down with an extremely wide range.

If the river was instead the (Qs-Jh-3d-7h)-2h bringing in the backdoor flush, the weakest hand you should call the all-in with would be J-x with a heart blocker. If the river was the (Qs-Jh-3d-7h)-10h bringing in the flush and straight, the weakest hand you should call off with would be a Jack with a straight blocker, while some Queens with the least relevant blockers are folding.

## Conclusion

Thanks for taking the time to read this ebook. To continue your journey to poker mastery, I strongly suggest you go through my Tournament or Cash Game Masterclasses in [PokerCoaching.com](http://PokerCoaching.com), depending on the form of poker you want to play. After mastering the content in that 40-hour-long interactive course, you will understand no-limit hold'em and be prepared to have an edge in pretty much any small or medium stake game you enter. If you want many more tips similar to these in this ebook, be sure to check out my book *100 Essential Tips to Master No-Limit Hold'em*.

Thanks for reading and good luck in your games!



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