

## How to Play

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## The Game

Video Poker has recently experienced enormous gains in popularity. Today it is played by more people in the casinos of Las Vegas than any other game. Many people are turning to video poker because, unlike slots, a player's knowledge and skill can affect the outcome of the game. Video poker machines not only provide you with hours of entertainment, **expert** video poker play can put your payoff expectations over 100%!

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Related Topics:

[Playing a Simple Game](#)

## Playing a Simple Game

To play a simple game, make a bet of one to five coins. The background of the appropriate column on the payoff table will reflect your bet size. Deal the cards, select the cards you wish to hold and draw cards to obtain your final hand.

Using the mouse, either drag one of the coins into the coin slot or click on the Bet 1 or the Max Bet button to place your bet. Clicking on the Deal/Draw button will cause the cards to be dealt. Your hold card selections are made by clicking on the appropriate Hold/Cancel button found under each card. Clicking the Deal/Draw button once more will supply you with the final draw of the hand.

Your final hand value will be highlighted on the payoff schedule. The payoff schedule matrix has the final hand values as its row designators and the number of coins bet, 1 through 5, defining its payback columns. Your payoff, dependent upon your final hand and the number of coins bet, is determined by this schedule.

You may also use the menu bar Commands selection or the command quick keys to perform all of the above mentioned actions. The Game Menu, Options selection will allow you to program the right mouse button functionality. The options selection also allows you to determine whether clicking with the left mouse button upon the cards will toggle the *Hold/Cancel* selections.

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Related Topics:  
Recommended

## Terminology

<u>EV</u>	Expected value, the average payoff of all possible winning hands.
<u>Full Pay Machines</u>	Machines that have the maximum payback table for its type.
<u>Pat Hand</u>	Any initial hands where you keep all cards of the hand.
<u>Positive Machine</u>	A progressive machine in which the jackpot has become so large that the machine is likely to pay out more than it takes in.
<u>Progressive Jackpot</u>	A machine where the royal flush bonus payout increases with each coin inserted.
<u>RAZGU</u>	RAZGU is a gutter word symbolic of hands that are totally discarded.

## EV - Expected Value

For every version of video poker machine, each initial hand dealt has a certain potential of winning money that can be accurately determined. Assuming the best cards are retained, the average payoff of all possible winning hands is called the ***Expected Value*** or ***EV***.

The EV is expressed numerically as a multiple of the amount bet. For example, an initial hand with an EV of 4.30 will pay, on the average, 4.30 times the amount bet. An EV of 1.00 is the break even point. Any initial hand you receive that has an EV less than 1.00 will cause you to lose money on the average. When the EV is greater than 1.00 you will generally win.

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Related Topics:  
[Recommended](#)  
[Strategy Table](#)

## Pat Hand

Any initial hands where you keep all cards of the hand are known as *pat hands*. These include initial hands containing a royal flush, straight flush, four of a kind or a full house. Your expected return is greatest if you keep all cards in a pat hand. The expected value of such hands cannot be improved upon.

A flush or straight is not necessarily a pat hand in video poker. In many of the games, particularly in the wild card versions, you break them up if you have a reasonable chance of turning them into a royal or straight flush.

## Game Selection

To give you the most value, the strategies selected for the Masque Video Poker game had to meet three criteria:

- 1) The games must be readily available in the casinos of Las Vegas or Atlantic City.
- 2) When expertly played, the games must give the player the highest average payback relative to the other video poker games found.
- 3) One must be able to learn the strategies without unreasonable difficulty.

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Related Topics:  
[Average Payback](#)

## Average Payback

The paybacks on the games included in Masque Video Poker are summarized below. The respective payback tables can readily be found Las Vegas (LV) or Atlantic City (AC). The payback column reflects the average payback you can expect when playing the full pay versions of these machines expertly.

<u>Game Format</u>	<u>Payback</u>
LV Jacks or Better	99.6%
LV Deuces Wild	100.7%
LV Joker's Wild (A-K)*	100.5%
AC Jacks or Better	95.3%
AC Two Pair or Better	94.9%

\*The Joker's Wild (A-K) format pays on pairs of Aces or Kings.

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Related Topics:  
[Full Pay Machines](#)  
[Game Selection](#)



## Interpreting the Strategy Tables

Playing with a 52 card deck, if you ignore the order of the cards within the hands, there are exactly 2,598,960 unique 5 card hands that can be dealt as your initial hand. For each game format, all the unique 5 card hands are categorized by type and ranked in descending order of *Expected Value (EV)*. The results, in tabular form, are the strategies which govern expert play.

When consulting the strategy tables, start at the top and work your way down. The first category description that fits your hand is the type of hand you should play. For example, say a Jacks or Better machine deals you the following hand:



This hand should be played as a 4 Card Royal Flush, not as a Flush. If you work from the top of the Jacks or Better strategy table you'll see that the 4 Card Royal Flush ranks higher than the Flush.

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Related Topics:

[Strategy Table](#)

[Full Pay Machines](#)

[Game Selection](#)

## How Can the Average Payback Exceed 100%?

How can the casinos survive with machines that operate at nearly even margins? Simple, most players are not playing expertly. Those who are, get the best gaming deal available.

The overall payout on the Las Vegas Jacks or Better version is 99.6% for the expert player. Although casinos consider this payback generous, few of them risk lowering the payout in the extremely competitive gaming environments of Las Vegas.

The perception that a positive return can be found in a game will bring more players with deeper pockets. With quarter play the vogue, and many players a number of percentage points below expert level, the casinos are not complaining.

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Related Topics:

[Average Payback](#)

[Full Pay Machines](#)

[Game Selection](#)

## Bankroll Considerations

Although video poker can be played at close to 100% payback, one must be acutely aware of the fact that 2% of the payback (more for progressives) comes from royal flush bonuses. Since bonus royals show up once every 40,000 hands on the average, expert players know they must play the game at a disadvantage around 2% most of the time. With this in mind, the expert player must begin with an adequate bankroll to get through the cold streaks.

What would an adequate bankroll be? What would an average streak look like? There are no absolute answers to these questions. Any random number game leaves no way of predicting the future simply by a look at the past. The best you can do is apply non-mathematical ingredients to the picture and interpret what the most likely outcome will be.

Based on a series of simulation runs, an 80 bet bankroll appears to be adequate to ride out the adverse streaks. An 80 bet bankroll means \$20 in nickels; \$100 in quarters or \$400 in dollars. And note, you should always play at the 5 coin level to earn the bonus royal flush payout, regardless of how the session is running.

Because of the lower paybacks offered on the Atlantic City machines, a 160 bet bankroll is a minimum recommendation to play.

## Bogus 1 Full Pay Machines

**The help compiler gives bad references at topic 12 & 13. So we duplicate these topics and ignore these 2. This circumvents the bug.**

For each video poker game format there is what is known as a **full pay** schedule. Playing video poker on less than full pay machines must reduce the payback and no change in strategy can offset this reduction. If you want to maximize your chances of winning you must always play the full pay machines. The full pay schedule for each type of game is defined, where the payout is given in multiples of the number of coins wagered.

Each of the payoff tables found in the Masque Video Poker game are full pay schedules. They match exactly schedules that are readily found in the casinos of Las Vegas or Atlantic City.

Do not be fooled. You can find the same type of machine, even made by the same manufacturer, with differing payoff schedules in the same casino. Make sure you can recognize a full pay schedule and play the full payers only!

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Related Topics:

## Bogus 2 Double Down Option

**The help compiler gives bad references at topic 12 & 13. So we duplicate these topics and ignore these 2.**

A double down option is available on a number of machines today. After any winning poker hand, you may elect to apply the proceeds in a series of even-up matching games and successively double the ultimate payout. You may stop the doubling game at any time, reverting back to the video poker mode.

When the double down option is selected, five cards are shown. The left-most card is face up and played by the machine. You select one of the remaining four face down cards. If your card is higher you double your winnings and choose whether to repeat the doubling game. If the dealer's card is higher, you lose and play reverts to poker. In the case of ties, a new double down hand is automatically dealt. An upper payoff limit of 10,000 coins is generally set for the doubling game.

When playing the double down option on a wild card machine, the wild card is generally treated as the highest card in the deck. As such, it even beats an ace. This is logical because the wild card will add more value to a hand than any other card. In any case, wild cards do not affect the odds of the double down option. The dealer has the same chance of drawing one as you do.

Any game of pure chance where the house offers even odds, with free drinks and no admission fee, appears attractive. This is especially true for the video poker game formats that have an overall payback expectancy less than 100%.

Your payback, identical to the odds against you winning, rises exponentially with each successive double down bet. These are easily computed. Simply take 2 (the double multiple) to the power of the number of double bets. If you intend to make three successive double down bets, your chances of winning all three are 1 in 23, or 1 in 8 ( $2^3 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$ ). If you win all three, your payback will correspondingly be eight times the amount originally won on the poker hand.

Playing the double down option is indeed very exciting because the stakes become large, very fast. Winning a five coin poker payback, or 25 coins with 5 coins bet, can quickly turn into 50, 100, then 200 coins with three quick double down wins. This could easily make you a winner for the night.

Although the average double down payoff expectancy on all game formats is 100% (even odds, no house edge), the option is more favorable on some machines than others. Playing 100% payback options on machines with an average poker payback around 95%, increases your average return. However, selected casino video poker games have an average payback that *exceeds 100%* when expertly played. Playing options with a lower payback is bound to decrease the overall payback expectancy.

Some players set limits on the double down wager. These limits are generally a number of successive double down bets or a cap on the amount wagered on any one double down hand. Remember, the double down option gives the house no advantage, but that also applies to you, the player.

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Related Topics:

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Related Topics:  
[Second Chance](#)

## Full Pay Machines

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Each of the payoff tables found in the Masque Video Poker game are full pay schedules. They match exactly schedules that are readily found in the casinos of Las Vegas or Atlantic City.

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Related Topics:

[Average Payback](#)

[Game Selection](#)

## Second Chance Video Poker

*Second Chance Video Poker* is found only on machines manufactured by Ballys. While most forms of poker play are in the public domain, Ballys own the rights to this option. As many companies, they are protective of their rights. For this reason, the second chance option could not be included in Masque Video Poker.

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Related Topics:

[Double Down Option](#)



## Progressive Jackpots

Some video poker machines are electronically connected to one another to pay an extraordinarily large jackpot to the first player that obtains a Royal Flush with maximum coins bet.

To fund these jackpots, the payout schedule is reduced below full pay level. A percentage, typically 1% of all wagers made on the interconnected machines, is continually added to the jackpot until the Royal is hit. Once someone gets the Royal, the jackpot is reduced to a minimal level and the cycle starts over.

If there is a fairly long interval between hits, the payoff bonus becomes large enough to offset the reduced payout schedule. Once this happens, the player obtains a mathematical edge over the machine, because it is likely to pay out more than it takes in. Such a machine is termed *positive*.

If a total of \$6,000 has been bet on a particular bank of machines since the last Royal, the jackpot would increase by 1% or \$60. It is not unusual to see a jackpot increase to twice or three times its normal payout.

Once an expert player finds a huge jackpot only two problems exist, getting a seat and hitting the Royal. Large jackpots naturally attract a sizable number of players. Besides this, professional teams converge on the best jackpots in droves and their endurance is unbelievable.

A fat progressive is the smartest game of all. Playing machines that offer over 100% return can be very exciting. However, keep two points in mind:

- 1) Progressive jackpots are only paid if maximum coins are played.
- 2) Make sure the payout schedule has not been reduced too much to offset the progressive jackpot. The Masque Video Poker manual gives you a step by step method of calculating when progressives become smart games to play.

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Related Topics:

[Average Payback](#)

[Full Pay Machines](#)

[Game Selection](#)

## RAZGU

Any hand not having a winning potential equal to or greater than the lowest hand listed in the strategy tables must be totally discarded and 5 new cards drawn. Such hands are called RAZGU. RAZGU is a gutter word symbolic of hands that are totally discarded. In the Jacks or Better game, these hands include hands with no high cards, hands with less than a three card straight flush and hand less than a four card straight.

Fortunately, in the Jacks or better game, these comprise only about 3% of the initial 5 card hands. There, the RAZGU payback is 36%. As poor as it may seem, this is far better than trying to draw cards to hands with an EV less than 0.36.

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Related Topics:  
[Strategy Table](#)

## Strategy Table Abbreviations

Some hand definitions in the strategy tables have been abbreviated due to space limitations. The following list contains all abbreviations used.

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
ROY	Royal Flush
SFL	Straight Flush
Str Flsh	Straight Flush
Str	Straight
Flsh	Flush
4C, 3C, 2C	4 Card, 3 Card, 2 Card
Hi Cds	High Cards
Out	Outside
In	Inside
2In	Double Inside
3In	Triple Inside
RAZGU	Nothing, Draw 5 new cards

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Related Topics:  
[Strategy Table](#)  
[Full Pay Machines](#)

# **Masque Video Poker**

[Menu Commands](#)

[How To Play](#)

[Keyboard](#)

## Menu Commands

The menu bar is the standard Windows interface to all of the Masque Video Poker features. Click the mouse on the action you wish to access or depress the Alt key in conjunction with the underlined letter of the action.

<u>G</u> ame	
<u>C</u> ommands	
<u>V</u> iew	
<u>S</u> trategy Table	
<u>T</u> raining	
<u>T</u> ournament	
<u>H</u> elp	
<u>G</u> ame	Game rules, and environment settings
<u>C</u> ommands	Video Poker game commands
<u>V</u> iew	Controls screen display options
<u>S</u> trategy Table	Allow viewing of the expert strategy tables
<u>T</u> raining	Access to additional tutorial features of the game
<u>T</u> ournament	Challenge others to a Video Poker tournament
<u>C</u> D Player	Play any of your favorite music CDs in your computer CD-ROM player
<u>H</u> elp	Provides access to Help topics, and information about this version of Masque Video Poker

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### Related Topics:

<u>Y</u> our Play Results	<u>C</u> omputer Simulation
<u>Y</u> our Mistakes	<u>H</u> and Selection
<u>S</u> trategy Practice	

## Game Menu

Game	Clicking on Game in the Game menu will allow you to select the type of Video Poker machine you wish to play.
Options	The Options selection displays a dialog box which allows you to customize your game playing environment. These include program timing, message displays, error warnings, sounds and mouse button functionality.
Deck	This selection allows you to choose the type of cards to be used.
Save Settings	Clicking on Save Settings will save all programmable options such as strategy selections, rules, game parameters and environment choices. These will become the default settings for this and any subsequent sessions of Masque Video Poker.
About Video Poker	This option gives you program information about Masque Video Poker for Windows.
Exit Video Poker	Exits from Masque Video Poker. You will be presented with a dialog box asking you whether you want to save the current settings. Selecting <i>YES</i> will save the current settings as the default, <i>NO</i> will leave the default settings as they were when last set and choosing <i>CANCEL</i> will allow you to continue playing Masque Video Poker.

## Commands Menu

The Video Poker game play decisions may be selected through the Commands Menu, however, these are more readily accessed by clicking on the appropriately labeled button on the Video Poker playing screen. Each of the options in the Commands Menu may also be accessed via the keyboard accelerator key noted to the right of each command.

## View Menu

The View Menu has a couple of settings which are represented by a check mark, When checked an item is visible on the viewing screen. Those items not represented by a check mark have multiple settings which are presented in a sub-menu.

Recommended	The Recommendation window shows the expert play recommendation for your situation.
Coins In	This selection simply allows you to get rid of the " <i>Coins In</i> " text in the upper right corner of your play screen.



## Strategy Table

The Strategy Table Menu gives direct access to the expert strategy table. All possible ways to play the current hand will be highlighted. Of course, you should always play the hand in the manner that returns the highest expected value, the type of hand highlighted closest to the top of the table.

From left to right, the non wild card strategy tables show the rank of the hand in the table, the hand description, the expected value of the hand, and the cards you should hold. For example, in the Las Vegas Jacks or Better strategy a hand with two high cards is the 32nd best type of hand to obtain on the initial deal, it has an expected return of 0.49 coins for every coin bet, and the cards in the current hand that comprise this hand are numbers 1 and 3:

<b>32</b>	<b>2 High Cards</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>1 3</b>
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The wild card hands show the number of wild cards in the hand in addition to the above.

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Related Topics:

[Expert Recommendation](#)

[Your Mistakes](#)

## Be A Winner

- 1) You must learn which machines to play.
- 2) Use the proper strategy of play for the type of machine you are playing.
- 3) Have confidence in the mathematical foundation that supports your strategy.
- 4) Have a feel for the volatility or streaky characteristics of the game.

Take the manual with you to the casinos, it was sized to fit in your purse or pocket. The manual outlines which machines are full payers, and it contains and explains the strategies of each. The mathematical calculations and statistics found in the manual, as well as running the computer simulation of the game, will give you confidence in the strategies. Playing Masque Video Poker before you go will help you gain a feel for the streaky characteristics of the game. In addition, the manual contains formulae to compute when it pays to play progressive machines.

Sure it's fun just to play, but it's more fun to win. Take the time to read the manual. The more fully you understand your Video Poker strategy and its reasoning, the easier it will be for you to master it!

## Strategy Origins

Special acknowledgment is extended to Leonard Frome for permission to incorporate his video poker strategies and probability calculations into this product. His efforts and valuable suggestions have contributed immensely to the quality of this product.

A math instructor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, Leonard Frome is the author of a number of books on video poker, including *Expert Video Poker for Las Vegas* and *Expert Video Poker for Atlantic City*. Mr. Frome is a consultant to prominent manufacturers of gaming equipment and contributes regular video poker columns to a number of the nation's leading gambling publications. The video poker strategies that he has developed are easy to use, yet extremely accurate and effective.

To order any of his materials write to:

**COMPU-FLYERS  
5025 S Eastern Avenue (16)  
Las Vegas NV 89119  
USA**

## Your Play Results

Your Play Results are recorded statistically for your review at any time, giving you an overview of how well you are doing. Not only can you see what percentage of your hands are expertly played, you get a complete statistical break down of your play this session.

The *Count* column shows you how many of your final hands fell into each category of final hands as well as the percentage of each type of hand. The *Coins Won* column shows you the total payoff for each winning hand type as well as the contribution each winning hand toward your over all payback.

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Related Topics:

[Your Mistakes](#)

## Your Mistakes

The Your Mistakes training feature stores up to 50 of the most recent strategy mistakes you have made this session. Shown on the screen are the original hand, the way you played it and your result, as well as the way an expert would have played the hand and his results.

The information provided also details your payback and the expert's payback for the hand. Not only are you afforded the chance to brush up on the hands you misplay, you can precisely determine what non-expert play costs you.

Scroll through the list of strategy mistakes you have made by clicking on Next Mistake or Previous Mistake. Select Exit Your Mistakes from the training menu to resume play.

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Related Topics:

[Your Play Results](#)

## Strategy Practice

Regular play will randomly give you all types of card situations, some obvious, some not. The strategy practice features allow you to select the level of difficulty that matches your ability. You may elect to practice only beginner, intermediate, advanced or any combination of these hands. When practicing wild card games, you may select the number of wild cards each practice hand will contain.

After your session begins, the number of hands you played correctly, the number played incorrectly and the percentage of hands correctly played are displayed in the upper right corner of the screen. Whenever you do not follow expert strategy, your deviation will be recorded for review at any time during the practice session.

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After your session begins, the number of hands you played correctly, the number played incorrectly and the percentage of hands correctly played are displayed in the upper right corner of the screen. Whenever you do not follow expert strategy, your deviation will be recorded for review at any time during the practice session.

The strategy practice feature is strictly a practice drill. The resulting hand of the draw does not appear, the results from the practice drill are the number of hands encountered, the number of hands correctly and incorrectly played, as well as the percentage of hands correctly played.

The statistical results of the strategy practice drill provide you with a form of measurement for your play improvement. In addition, eliminating the wait for each final hand to be dealt provides you with significantly quicker turn around. The result is a very smooth practice drill.

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Related Topics:

[Your Mistakes](#)

[Strategy Table](#)

[Expert Recommendation](#)

## Computer Simulation

The Masque Video Poker computer simulation will expertly play the recommended strategy of your choice. This affords you a unique and thorough opportunity to quickly analyze and test any of the Masque Video Poker strategies.

Set simulation options, start and stop the simulation from the training menu.

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Related Topics:

[Option Limits](#)

[Fast Simulation](#)

[Simulation Termination](#)

[Detailed Stats](#)

[Deal Method](#)



## Hand Selection

The Hand Selection training feature gives you the option of selecting any possible initial hand and having the computer evaluate and tell you the optimal way of playing the hand.

Upon entry to this feature you will see a full deck of cards laying faceup in the upper portion of your screen. Click on the cards you wish to have included in the hand to be evaluated. For keyboard selection, one of the cards in the deck has a highlighted area around it. The highlighted area can be moved from card to card within the deck using the keyboard arrow keys. To select the card hit the Enter key when the highlighted area is around the card to be included.

The hand you have selected will be evaluated for optimum play. Once a five card hand has been evaluated, you can clear the entire hand by clicking on the Clear Hand selection of the menu bar. Or, you may substitute any card in the hand by clicking on that card in the hand, then clicking on a substitute card from the full deck. Using the keyboard, select Pick Card from the menu.

## Tournament Play

Challenge your friends to a test of video poker skills. The tournament feature will help you decide who the real expert is. All initial hands will be identical for each player of a given tournament. The draws will also be identical if the hands are played the same. The element of luck is removed as much as possible, making Tournament Play a real test of skill.

Selecting *New* from the tournament presents you with a dialog that allows you to specify the prevailing rules of a tournament. The rules and parameters of pre-established tournaments can not be changed. Once tournament parameters are specified, click OK. You will be prompted for a tournament file name. Once entered, click on OK again. The Tournament Players dialog will then pop-up. Select New to enter player names.

Selecting *Open* from the tournament menu presents you with a dialog box that allows you to access any preexisting tournament.

The *Player* selection gives any player that has not completed his round the opportunity to do so. This feature means that players do not have to finish tournament play in one setting. Selecting player also allows you to view the tournament scoring or add a new tournament player. The Player selection is only accessible after a tournament has been opened or a new tournament established.

## Training Menu

The Training Menu selections allow you to access features of Masque Video Poker which are designed to improve various aspects of your playing ability and enhance your knowledge of expert video poker strategies. A number of these have detailed explanations in the following pages of this manual.

<u>Your Play Results</u>	Your play results gives you a comprehensive overview of your statistical play and financial performance this session.
<u>Your Mistakes</u>	To improve your playing ability, you need to know your weaknesses. Masque Video Poker records the last 50 mistakes you have made this session for your review.
<u>Strategy Practice</u>	The strategy practice feature will hasten your learning progress by allowing you to select the level of difficulty that matches your ability. You may select to practice only beginner, intermediate, advanced or any combination of these hands. When practicing wild card games, you may select the number of wild cards each practice hand will contain.
<u>Computer Simulation</u>	The computer simulation feature will expertly play the recommended strategy of your choice. This affords you a unique and thorough opportunity to quickly analyze and test any of the Masque Video Poker strategies.
<u>Hand Selection</u>	The Hand Selection feature allows you to pick any five cards of the deck and have the computer evaluate how the hand should be played.

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## CD Player

You may play any of your favorite music CDs in your computer's CD-ROM drive while you enjoy your game. If a CD-ROM drive is present on your system, you will be able to select the *CD Player...* menu item.

Once selected, you may place the CD Player dialog box anywhere on your screen by dragging the CD Player Title Bar to the desired screen location. Clicking on the *System-Menu* box, in the upper left corner of the CD Player dialog, allows you to move, close or alter the dialog box appearance.

Status	shows the current CD track, the total number of CD tracks and the elapsed time into the current track.
Buttons	makes the CD play, stop, previous track, next track and eject control buttons visible.
No Title	shrinks the dialog box by eliminating the Title Bar. Double-clicking on a blank area of the dialog box will cause the Title Bar to re-appear.
Small Buttons	shrinks the dialog box by making the control buttons smaller.

## Help

The Help Menu includes the following selections:

<u>Be a Winner</u>	Gives you tips on a systematic approach to quickly becoming an expert player.
<u>Strategy Origins</u>	Credits the author of the Masque Video Poker strategies, Lenny Frome.
Index	Selecting this option will give you an index of available categories for which you may obtain help.
Using Help	Explains how to use the Windows help system.

## Computer Simulation Option Limits

<u>Option Feature</u>	<u>Range</u>
Credit	1 to 1,000,000 coins
Maximum Number of Hands	1 to 50,000,000 hands
Hands Between Statistic Updates	1 to 1,000,000 hands
Double Down Strategy, Count	1 to 20 times
Double Down Strategy, Winnings	1 to 20,000 coins

## Running a Fast Simulation

To run a simulation at blazing speeds, set the *Hands Between Statistic Updates* to a high number, do not display the *Simulation Cards* nor *Simulation Statistics*. Once the simulation starts, toggle the statistics display *On*, via the *View Menu* whenever you need an update of the statistics. If the statistic display is already *On*, toggle it *Off* then *On* again.



## Simulation Termination

Select Stop Simulation from the Computer simulation Training menu. There are two other conditions under which the simulation will terminate:

- 1) The current credit falls below the simulation bet size.
- 2) The number of hands played reaches the preset maximum number of hands.

## Detailed Simulation Statistics

The Detailed Stats of a simulation run give you the outcome of each initial hand. The initial hand statistics will show the exact number of times each hand was dealt, the frequency and type of improvement the hand obtained, the expected value and the actual value of the hand for this session. The initial hand data is presented over several screens. The ranking of the hands in the strategy table determines the order the hands are presented.

Detailed Simulation Analysis		
Original Hand: [16] Low Pair		
Resulting Hand	Return:	# Hands
Royal Flush	4000.00	0
Straight Flush	250.00	0
Four of a Kind	125.00	78
Full House	45.00	228
Flush	30.00	0
Straight	20.00	0
Three of a Kind	15.00	2550
Two Pair	10.00	3537
High Pair	5.00	0
No Value	0.00	16065
Actual Value	0.83	22458
Expected Value	0.82	
<div>PreviousNextDone</div>		

The figure shows initial hand simulation statistics for a low pair using the Las Vegas Jacks or Better strategy. A low pair, ranked #16 in the strategy table, can be found on the 16th screen of the initial hand statistics.

In this particular run, a low pair was dealt 22,458 times as the initial hand. From these, 16,065 saw no improvement with the draw and ended as no value. The remaining distribution was 3,537 two pair hands, 2,550 three of a kinds, 228 full houses and 78 four of a kinds.

The payback on the low pair for this run was 93,630 coins on 22,458 hands. This amounts to an actual return, or value, of 0.83 coins per hand ( $93,630 / (22,458 \times 5)$ ). In other words, the payback on the low pair was 83% of the amount bet when this type of hand was received. Since the EV for the low pair is 0.82, the low pair for this simulation run performed slightly better than expected.

## Recommended

The Recommend window, at the bottom of your screen, will show you how an expert would play the current hand. It shows the rank of the hand in the table, the hand description, the expected value of the hand, and it shows you the cards you should hold. In wild card games the recommend window also shows the number of wild cards in the hand.

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Related Topics:

[Strategy Table](#)

## Deal Method

The method of deal choices are: *Sequential* and *Parallel*. There are two methods that actual video poker machines deal. Neither has a mathematical advantage over the other and both use a full deck with each new hand.

The sequential method of deal is the one you might expect the machine to deal. It is like your home card games, the next card drawn comes off the top of the deck.

However, many video poker machines actually deal 10 cards from the deck at the start of each hand. You see the initial five cards dealt and the second five are positioned immediately behind the first five. If you discard your third card it is replaced with the eighth card dealt, and so on.

## Masque Video Poker Keyboard Play

Key(s)	Function
F1	Gets Help and displays the Help Index for Masque Video Poker. If the Help window is already open, pressing F1 displays the "Using Windows Help" topics.
Alt-F4	Exit Masque Video Poker.

Accelerator Keys	Function
Ctrl+G	Select a different type of video poker machine.
Ctrl+O	Video poker game options.
Ctrl+S	Save settings.
Ctrl+B	Bet 1 coin.
Ctrl+X	Bet max coins.
Enter	Deal / Draw cards.
1-5	Hold / Cancel cards.
Ctrl+R	Display the expert recommendation.