

LaMastra's Internet Free Money Guide

*An eBook by Juan LaMastra
As told to H. Walker Andersen*

**Forget the eMail Lists! Forget the MLM Programs!
Forget the “Free” eCommerce Websites!
Forget the “Web Traffic Builder” Schemes!
Forget the “Complete Business Solutions” Hype!
Forget the Sweeps! Forget the Contests!
Forget the Lotteries!**

**Turning Your Computer Into A Personal Money
Machine
Is Easier Than You Think!**



Your Internet Moneymaking Resource

“Things that are complex are not often useful. Things that are useful are always simple.”

Juan LaMastra, 2001

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Introduction

If you've spent any amount of time trying to make money on the Internet you certainly have found out by now that it's not as easy as everyone tries to make it sound. Putting up an eCommerce website is one thing. Getting buying visitors to your website is an entirely different matter! Oh sure, you can pay some company to send out spam for your site. Or you can buy into "guaranteed" email lists. Or you can annoy your friends and family to get them to promote your website. All of that may work to a small degree but does it really work to a large degree?

Or perhaps you've dabbled with the so-called "Fake Wholesalers". These are the companies that put up a "free" website for you selling their products. Then all you have to do is promote "your" website so that you can sell "their" products to collect a commission. Of course, in addition to yourself, they'll have thousands of other "members". And, guess what? Everyone has the exact same website and everyone is selling the exact same products!

If you're a fan of Sweeps and Contests, then you have probably spent a lot of time on-line entering tens or hundreds of sweepstakes and contests trying to win cash prizes or free products. You spend hours on-end and really win very few prizes at all - either cash or product. It's just not worth the effort unless you think of it as a hobby and enjoy it.

Tired of the "Instant Traffic Building" schemes? Tired of the "Complete Business Solution" sales pitch? Tired of non-working MLM "opportunities"? Tired of spending good money for email lists, schemes or techniques that never seem to deliver what they promise?

What if you could spend only a fraction of that time promoting your website, sending out e-mails or entering hundreds of contests and make real cash? **Real cash** - either by check or electronically deposited directly into your checking account! **There's Free Money Available on the Internet!** But only if you know how to work this system.

If you're willing to spend 20 minutes reading this eBook, you'll see that this on-line moneymaking system will require only a couple of hours a week of your time. And, after only 6 to 8 weeks will begin to pay handsome dividends weekly. In fact, your computer will become your **personal ATM machine** with cash rolling in every week just like clockwork!

A few reader comments:

*Great system. I made \$30 in only 4 minutes!
Sean T., St. Louis, MO, USA*

*It took me a little more than 2 months to get fully set up. But since then I'm bringing in \$400-\$500 every week. Thank You!
Melissa C., Salt Lake City, UT, USA*

Will it require any investment? Good question. If you're willing to invest a minimum of only \$20 just to get you started, and you're willing to invest some time reading and understanding this system, typically that will be all it takes! Of course, you still have to "invest" your time working the system. But, that is usually only about 2 or 3 hours a week or less.

This publication will give you all of the knowledge necessary to use your computer to make **cold hard cash!**

This is not, by any means, a "get rich quick" program. Instead, it is a slow and deliberate strategy and technique that, when fully assembled, will create a predictable and routine **cash-flow pipeline** directly to you!

This system is targeted at taking advantage of the super competitive environment in the on-line gaming industry. You've probably seen the banner ads or maybe even visited a gaming website before. If you've recently done that, then you know that they are all offering big bonuses for new customers! These bonuses are nothing more than a "**match play coupon**" that you may already be familiar with. But coupon or not, it still represents **real money! And, Free Money!**

The way it works is that you deposit \$20 and the gaming website matches that giving you \$40 in your account. In other words, **they just gave you \$20 for free!** You play for a while to claim the bonus and cash out keeping the \$20 "match". Now granted, that is a very simplified example (it's a little more involved than that!), but it's presented in that fashion to give you an idea of the overall strategy. There's **Free Money** available on the Web, you should take it!

Spend the next 20 minutes or so evaluating the following material before you make any judgements. This system is geared towards the game of blackjack because blackjack is easily understood and learned. And most people already know how to play blackjack.

But, blackjack is not the "system" itself! The system is not the game, but instead the system is how you generate and manipulate the seemingly constant bonus offers from gaming websites. The "system" will work with any game you like to play!

In the following material, you'll receive all of the information, strategy and techniques you'll need to know to begin to setup and fully construct your personal "structure". And, turn your computer into your **personal cash machine!**

Best of all, this system is not at all complex or complicated to learn! All of the information you need to know is contained in this eBook. The material presented is clear and concise and will only take you minutes to read and understand. Then you'll be fully equipped, knowledgeable and ready to go!

There's **Free Money** available on the Internet, you should take it!

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E-Book Overview

This eBook is not intended as a tutorial to learn the game of Blackjack itself. LaMastra assumes that the reader is an experienced Blackjack Player and fully understands the basics of Blackjack including the game rules and game flow. Novice Players may wish to visit LaMastra's recommended resource website, [Blackjack Secrets](#), to understand the rules and learn the game of Blackjack. [\[Click here to visit Blackjack Secrets\]](#)

Instead of a tutorial, this eBook is intended to act only as an information resource and to educate experienced Blackjack players in the very real differences between Blackjack in land-based, riverboat or cruise ship "physical" casinos and the "virtual" world of on-line casinos.

In on-line casinos, the game of Blackjack is essentially the same as in land-based or riverboat casinos. That is to say that the rules, mechanics and game flow of Blackjack is not really very different at all.

What is different, however, is the way a Player needs to play the game in order to make money and profit from their playing sessions. Physical casinos bear little resemblance to on-line casinos. The lack of any resemblance should be fairly obvious.

As you read the material you'll soon understand that although there are major differences between land-based, riverboat or cruise ship "physical" casinos and the Internet's "virtual" casinos, it is just as possible to make money playing on-line Blackjack as it is to make money in a physical casino using the LaMastra Technique. In fact, it is actually easier to make money in on-line casinos than in their land-based, riverboat or cruise ship counterparts.

Where the differences lie, is in how a Player approaches the Blackjack game depending on the venue. In a "physical" venue (land-based casino) a Player wins using the techniques as taught in LaMastra's Casino Blackjack Guide eBook. In a "virtual" venue, LaMastra's casino techniques are simply not appropriate and will not work. If you've read and studied LaMastra's Casino Blackjack Guide eBook you already know why.

For physical casinos a particular strategy must be applied in order to be successful. For virtual casinos, the same is true. However, for virtual casinos a Player must apply a very different strategy in order to be successful. For either venue, the goal is the same – **Making Money**.

This Internet Free Money Guide eBook will be your information source to creating a successful and profitable personal On-line Blackjack **Money Machine**.

Brick & Mortar Casino Blackjack vs. On-Line Blackjack

Except for the obvious physical differences between a Brick & Mortar, Riverboat or Cruise Ship casino and the computer that sits on your desk, the mechanics of the Blackjack game does not really differ that much between a traditional casino and an on-line gaming site.

Most on-line gaming venues follow the familiar rules found in Las Vegas, Reno, Atlantic City, Mississippi, and most other U.S. casino gambling cities. The rules are pretty much the same except some on-line casinos may play by European rules or there may be slight variations to the traditional rules of Blackjack sometimes found in Caribbean casinos.

It is highly recommended that you spend some time on the on-line gaming site and familiarize yourself with the Blackjack rules played so that there will be no surprises. But, by and large, you'll find that the Blackjack rules are pretty much the same ones that you're already familiar with.

But what about the game-play itself? After all, in a Brick & Mortar casino you're playing with real people. The dealer is dealing real cards. Other Players are real. It is all very "Physical". You can talk to the dealer and other players, touch the table and cards, and flirt with the cocktail waiters or waitress. It's a very "Physical" experience.

However, with On-Line Blackjack nothing is physical (except your computer) – everything is "Virtual". Another thing is that unlike a Physical game of Blackjack, when playing On-Line Blackjack or "Virtual" Blackjack, you're actually playing against a computer software program rather than a live Dealer.

Can you win consistently against a computer program? The answer is - most certainly, **yes!** Although it's entirely possible that a computer can be programmed to make sure that it always wins, on-line casinos would never remain in business if that were the case. As soon as it became widely known that their gaming software was "rigged", they would not have any more customers and be out of business in short order. Not to mention any possible criminal violations and penalties imposed by local regulatory agencies.

As with their land-based counterparts, reputable and "safe" on-line casinos operate an open and above-board gaming operation. After all, it is in their best interest to do so. To survive in this extremely competitive industry, on-line gaming sites, like their land-based counterparts, need repeat customers who keep coming back because they are enjoying themselves while having a unique and satisfying gaming experience.

The software that drives On-Line Blackjack is similar to the software that powers the all-too-familiar video Blackjack and video Poker machines found along side of the Slot machines in traditional Brick & Mortar casinos. The basic logic driving the software is nothing more than what's called a "**R**andom **N**umber **G**enerator". The RNG computer program logic deals out cards to both the Player and the "Dealer" randomly with no

particular rules. Since the cards are “dealt” randomly, the Player and the “Dealer” have an equal chance of getting good cards or bad cards. And like Brick & Mortar casinos, the only “Dealer” or House advantage is built into the Blackjack game rules simply because the Player must play out their hand first.

So do On-Line Blackjack Players have any advantages? Absolutely. Just like with Brick & Mortar casinos, the only House advantage is that the Player must play out their hand first. Typically, a Player will Bust approximately 28 – 30% of the time – a considerable House advantage. When a Player goes first and Busts in the same hand that the “Dealer” Busts, it really doesn't matter. The Player still loses their wager because they Busted first. It is indeed, a considerable House advantage built in to the rules of the Blackjack game. On the other hand, at the same time the Player also has considerable advantages over the House.

As with land-based casinos, the Player's considerable advantages are:

- A Player receives a payoff of 3 to 2 on Blackjacks - the dealer does not.
- A Player has flexible playing options while the dealer does not. (A dealer must take a Hit on hands of 16 or less and must Stand on 17 or greater. A Player can Stand on a 12 or 13 if they choose to do so.)
- A Player has the option of “Doubling Down”, doubling a bet when the situation is favorable to the player.
- A Player can Split pairs, allowing an opportunity to improve poor hands while at the same time taking advantage of the dealer's potentially weaker hand.
- A Player can take Insurance – the dealer cannot.
- When offered, a Player can Surrender a poor hand, forfeiting only one-half of his bet to minimize a loss on a weak hand. The dealer does not have this option.

So just like with Brick & Mortar casinos, On-Line Blackjack is a game of skill rather than a game of chance or luck. The skill is in correctly exercising your game play options and wagering strategy.

However, unlike Brick & Mortar or “physical” casinos, the Player is playing against a computer software program. Several major software development houses provide the computer software programs driving almost all on-line gaming sites. These are [Starnet](#), [Cryptologic](#), [Boss Media](#), [Unified Gaming](#), [Chartwell Technology](#), and [Interactive Gaming](#).

Although each software “brand” seems to be identical in features and functions, each brand seems to behave slightly differently in different situations. Learning the predictable behavior of one or two of the most popular brands of casino software and only playing at those casinos using that software brand can be a huge Player advantage!

Is It Safe to Play On-Line Blackjack?

By and large if a player is careful in choosing legitimate, licensed and established on-line casinos to play at – yes, playing Blackjack on the Internet is extremely safe and secure. For the most part, licensed and established on-line casinos operate an open and above-board operation because it is simply in their own self-interest to do so.

The investment to establish a legitimate on-line casino operation is not a small one. With infrastructure costs (office space, servers, software licenses, telecommunication and data networks, etc.), management employees, customer service employees, gaming licensing fees and promotional costs, the initial investment can easily add up to several millions of dollars. It is imperative that legitimate on-line casinos have satisfied players that keep coming back just like their land-based counterparts in Las Vegas, Reno or Atlantic City. An exciting and satisfying gaming experience for their Players is necessary for any on-line casino to survive.

Because of the uncertain legal status of Internet Gaming in the USA, all legitimate on-line gaming web sites are located outside of the United States of America. In some cases, the parent companies of these on-line gaming sites **are actually U.S. corporations** with headquarters and offices located in the U.S., but their actual on-line gaming operations are located outside of the U.S.A. and its' territories. An exception - the on-line gaming web sites are operated by Native American Tribes in nations within the USA's borders.

Just because an on-line gaming site is located outside of the U.S. is, in no way, cause for alarm. However, a strong bit of caution is certainly advisable. Some countries allowing on-line gaming sites have extremely strict regulatory laws, licensing and auditing requirements. In these countries on-line gaming is recognized as a source of tax revenue and job creation. And, it is in these countries' best interest that only reputable, reliable and "safe" on-line casinos exist and operate within their borders. On the other hand, unfortunately other countries either do not care or do not recognize the benefits of regulating the industry players doing business in their country.

The countries with the most stringent regulation and oversight of on-line gaming sites are Canada, Australia, Antigua and Curacao. On-line gaming sites operating in these countries are, in all cases, automatically considered to be legitimate, licensed, reputable, reliable and "safe". Now this is not to say the on-line casinos operating in other countries should be avoided. This is only to say that on-line casinos not operating from Canada, Australia, Antigua or Curacao should be thoroughly investigated and researched by Players to make sure that they are legitimate, licensed, reputable, reliable and "safe".

As a Player you need to be extremely careful in choosing your on-line gaming site. There are approximately 1,300 on-line gaming sites on the Internet and the number of on-line casinos is growing monthly. Not all Internet gaming sites can be considered to be "safe" and reliable. In fact, the majority of on-line gaming sites should be treated with a fair amount of suspicion, if not total avoidance.

Does that mean that it is unsafe to play Blackjack on the Internet? Absolutely not. It is extremely safe as long as a Player only plays at only reputable, reliable and “safe” casinos. Typically on-line casinos in this class -

- Are industry leaders and have been in the business since its' inception several years ago
- Are legally licensed
- Are audited by “Big 5” accounting firms such as [Deloitte and Touche](#), or [PriceWaterhouseCoopers](#)
- Are publicly traded companies (sometimes, some are privately held)
- Make their financial reports, audit reports and company management data a matter of public record
- Deploy top-flight gaming software licensed from [Starnet](#), [Cryptologic](#), [Boss Media](#), [Unified Gaming](#), [Chartwell Technology](#), or [Interactive Gaming](#).
- Have their gaming software audited by their accounting firm
- Have 24x7x365 live customer service via email and toll-free telephone numbers

As taught in this eBook, On-Line Blackjack Players need to thoroughly research any “candidate” casino before establishing an account and funding (buying chips) that account (buying chips). Although there are thousands of on-line casinos all clamoring for your business by offering outrageous sign up bonuses, beware! The number of legitimate licensed; reputable, reliable and “safe” casinos are few when compared to the total number of Internet casinos.

There are literally hundreds of unlicensed, unregulated, fly-by-night, rip-off startups running on servers in someone's basement or garage and attempting to make some quick money, then disappear and later re-emerge under a different name - only to do it all over again. These are fairly easy to spot because they don't meet any of the criteria listed above. Don't fall for a rip-off scheme!

Choosing your on-line casinos is, by far, the most important decision you'll be making. There are a tremendous amount of rip-off artists operating on the Internet. Once again, LaMastra suggests that you visit his recommended On-Line Blackjack resource site for up-to-date information and reviews on reputable, reliable and “safe” on-line gaming sites. The on-line gaming landscape is changing so quickly, that it's a good idea to visit frequently to get the latest on-line gaming site information. [Click here to visit and bookmark his recommended resource site: Blackjack Secrets.](#)

Here are two good resources to help you choose reputable, reliable and “safe” casinos: **Interactive Gaming Council** – Gaming sites approved by IGC must be licensed and accredited. IGC also offers dispute resolution services and can be contacted on-line. <http://www.igcouncil.org/>

Internet Gaming Commission - This site has search engine and also maintains lists of on-line casinos where caution is urged. This is a good source for on-line casinos to avoid. <http://www.internetcommission.com/>

Pros and Cons of On-Line Blackjack

There can be little argument that playing On-Line Blackjack is very different than playing Blackjack in a “physical” casino. In some ways it is better and in other ways it may be worse. Below are the Pros and Cons of playing On-Line Blackjack compared to playing Blackjack in a Brick & Mortar, Riverboat or Cruise Ship casino.

The Pros

- On-line gaming is an extremely competitive business and many casinos will offer great incentives to get and keep your recreational gaming business. Many casinos will offer sign-up bonuses to new customers, adding 20% to 50% (or more) of your initial deposit to your gaming bankroll. Some casinos randomly deposit money in their customer accounts. Other casinos give away vacations for specified levels of total money wagered. (Not won or lost, but wagered!)
- The rules are typically as good, if not better, than the rules in Brick & Mortar casinos.
- There are no travel, meals or lodging expenses involved because the casino is in your home.
- You don't have to tolerate common casino annoyances like distracting noise, smokers, drunks or loud and annoying co-players.
- You don't have to tip anyone.

The Cons

- An on-line Player has to be very patient about getting their money after they cash out. In addition to a long waiting period on the casino side of the financial transaction, there can also be delays on the credit card side. Two to four weeks is the typical time between cashing out your winnings and the credit appearing on your credit card. Debit cards or “[alternative methods](#)” are recommended and are much faster - usually taking only about 3 to 5 business days to process a cash-out.
- Customer service can be spotty depending on where you decide to play. Some casinos have great customer service either via e-mail or a toll-free telephone number. Other casinos take several days to reply to a simple e-mail, have no known or public telephone number, and generally just seem like they don't want to be bothered by their customers except for taking their money.
- If a Player has a dispute with a casino it can be a huge hassle and become extremely frustrating. Fortunately, there are a number of on-line sites that will help arbitrate and resolve Player disputes with reputable on-line casinos.
- If you play at several casinos your credit/debit card statement will be nightmare to balance. Credit card statements or bank statements will seldom indicate the name of the casino that you played, but instead specify the merchant bank name. That's why it's recommended to keep a players “diary” to record information on each casino where you play and track all financial transactions between you and each casino. Also recommended are “[Alternative Banking](#)” methods covered later.

What About the Player Bonuses Offered by On-Line Casinos?

To attract your business there are many casinos that will add a “bonus” to your initial deposit when you establish an account with them. Typically the bonuses offered are between 20% to 50%. But because on-line gaming is so competitive, there are casinos offering bonus as high as 100% or more. But be aware that “percentage” bonus offers often times come with a dollar limit. An example would be a casino offering a 50% sign up bonus but only up to \$200.

In some sense, the bonuses offered by on-line casinos are similar to the “perks” offered by their land-based or riverboat counterparts. Brick and Mortar casinos use “comps” (complimentary rooms), free show tickets, match-play coupons, etc., in order to entice new players, and keep satisfied players returning to their casino.

On-line casinos are essentially doing the same thing. Except they have no rooms to “comp” or show tickets to give away. The bonuses they offer are nothing more than a **Match-Play Coupon** (with strings attached). To make up for the lack of “comp” opportunities, some on-line casinos will make random cash “award” deposits directly into player’s accounts, sometimes as much as \$500. Other on-line casinos will offer tremendous contest type or door-prize type of give-aways up to and including **brand new dream cars!** [[Click here to see current Bonus Offers!](#)]

When you accept a bonus from an on-line casino you are always required to meet a certain level of betting action before you can cash out and claim the bonus. A few years back, the required betting level to claim a bonus was sometimes as low as the amount of the bonus itself. But, this is extremely rare now days. Usually the required betting level to claim a bonus is anywhere from four to eight times the sum of the bonus and deposit. So as an example, if the bonus offered is 10% and your initial account funding deposit is \$100, your gaming bankroll would total \$110. If the required betting level was say four times deposit + bonus, you would have to wager bets totaling \$440 before you could claim the bonus. This is not a “big deal”. See [Wagering Strategy](#) to find out why.

The rules surrounding the bonuses offered by casinos vary considerably. It is **strongly recommended** that you read the bonus rules very carefully before you open a casino account, fund the account (buy chips) and start playing Blackjack. After opening an account wait at least 15 minutes for any Welcome e-mail to be received. In some cases this Welcome e-mail will indicate different rules than what you read on the web site about claiming the bonus. If the bonus rules are different, assume that you have to meet the more stringent of any conflicting bonus conditions.

Regardless of what the casino bonus rules are, you should plan on exceeding the minimum requirement before attempting to cash-out and claim a bonus. Mr. LaMastra’s recommendation is to exceed the minimum requirement by at least 50%. Exceeding the minimum requirement by 100% or more is desirable to avoid a hassle. Some on-line casinos claim and exercise the right to deny bonuses to customers they feel are only playing for the bonuses. Casinos do this to protect themselves from the “**spinners**” who

scour the web and attempt to play only long enough to claim a bonus and then “spin” to another on-line casino to do it all over again – never to return. Casinos do not want spinners – they want regular and repeat customers.

If a casino bonus offer seems to be too good to be true, then it is very possible that it really is too good to be true. Some on-line casinos offer “outrageous” bonuses, some as high as 200% - 400% or more.

However, because the on-line gaming competitive landscape is becoming so vast, even reputable, reliable and “safe” casinos are now offering huge and sometimes outrageous bonuses in order to remain competitive. A Player would have to be nearly brain-dead to not take advantage of these offers! But, a word of warning – **Do your research!** Only play at legitimate legal, reputable, reliable, and safe on-line casinos.

But another word of caution – DO NOT choose an on-line casino based on the size of the bonus offer! Investigate and research any “candidate” casinos before you establish a gaming account. There are simply too many reputable, reliable and “safe” casinos on the Internet offering legitimate bonuses to take this risk. Don't fall for a rip-off trap from an unlicensed, fly-by-night casino.

To review the latest bonus information on reputable, reliable and “safe” casinos, visit LaMastra's recommended resource site, [Blackjack Secrets](#). The [Blackjack Secrets](#) website features only the safest and reliable on-line gaming sites on the Internet. The on-line gaming landscape is changing at a feverish pace, so you should visit often for the latest information. [\[Click here to visit and bookmark Blackjack Secrets\]](#).

Do's and Don'ts When Playing On-Line

The Do's

Before deciding to open an account and depositing money to establish a gaming bankroll, there are several things you should check before you actually go forward:

- Pick reputable casino(s) with a decent sign up bonus. There is no point in playing in any on-line casino that does offer at least a 20 percent bonus, if not more. There are too many reputable and "safe" casinos operating on the Internet offering huge and extremely attractive bonuses to pick one that does not. [[Click Here to see current Bonus Offers!](#)]
- Check to see if the casino is legally licensed. Read the "About Us" pages or call their toll-free telephone number to ask. Never establish an account and deposit money at an unlicensed casino!
- Check to see if the on-line casino is listed as a licensee of a major software brand. These are [Starnet](#), [Cryptologic](#), [Boss Media](#), [Unified Gaming](#), [Chartwell Technology](#), or [Interactive Gaming](#).
- Check with <http://www.internetcommission.com/> to see if any obvious problems exist with any "candidate" casino, such as numerous consumer complaints.
- Read every informational item on the on-line casino's web site. Verify the current amount of the bonus offered. If the bonus offered is expressed as a percentage, is there a limit on the bonus dollar amount? What games are offered? Since Blackjack is our game, the casino must offer Blackjack to remain on your list of possible sites. Are there any financial transaction fees and if so, how much are they? What "alternate banking" methods do they support?
- Find out if the on-line casino is audited. If the auditor is a large, well-known accounting firm such as PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC), it is likely a well run, well respected (and safe) on-line gaming site.
- Read everything on the on-line casino's "About Us" page giving information about the operators. If it doesn't have one, you may want to check the WHOIS database at <http://www.internic.net/whois.html> to get more information on the principals or owners. Or you may want to just avoid the casino altogether.
- Find out who processes the credit card transactions. Not all on-line gaming sites show this information, so you may want to send an e-mail or call their toll-free telephone number to find out. This is helpful information when you've played at a lot of different casinos and are trying to reconcile your credit card records.
- Download the Blackjack software and play "free" without depositing any money. If you're still a little uncertain about the on-line casino or if you have problems or questions with the Blackjack software, try phoning the on-line casino. If you can't reach someone right away, you should probably not establish an account or make a deposit with that casino.

The condensed version: Only play at a casino using well-known software. Only play with downloadable or Flash software. Make sure the casino offers at least a 20 percent bonus if not more, can be contacted by telephone and is licensed. And don't forget to download the software and practice using it before making a deposit and playing. Another shortcut to choosing a reputable, reliable and "safe" internet gaming site is to simply use LaMastra's recommended resource site: [Blackjack Secrets](#). [[Click to Visit](#)]

The Don'ts

These are the things you definitely do not want to do when you play On-Line Blackjack:

- Don't fall for a rip-off trap from an unlicensed casino. If a casino bonus offer seems to be too good to be true, then it's very possible that it really is too good to be true. Some on-line casinos offer "outrageous" bonuses, some as high as 200% or more. However, because the on-line gaming competitive landscape is becoming so vast, even reputable and "safe" casinos are now offering huge and sometimes outrageous bonuses. A Player would have to be nearly brain-dead to not take advantage of these offers! But a word of caution – DO NOT choose an on-line casino based on the size of the bonus offer! Investigate and research any "candidate" casinos before you establish an on-line gaming account. There are simply too many reputable, reliable and "safe" casinos offering legitimate bonuses to take this risk.
- Never open multiple accounts at the same on-line casino in an attempt to collect multiple bonuses. There are an unbelievable number of players who attempt to open multiple accounts at on-line casinos offering bonuses. If you try this, you will get caught - even if you use different credit cards in different names and different addresses. Besides, you don't need to go to all this trouble to get more bonuses. Internet casinos will come to you offering you more bonuses after you've played there a time or two. More on this later.
- Never play with money you'll need right away. Most on-line casinos are pretty slow about paying. In some cases, it may take several weeks for your cash-out to show up on your credit card account. Many casinos have overly cautious procedures, such as requiring you to FAX them a copy of your driver's license before they will mail you a check. While you may think that the casino is stalling you, in most cases they are just being cautious so that someone else doesn't defraud them out of your money. Some casinos claim they will Fed-Ex your winnings in a few days and others will do an electronic transfer in 2 or 3 days. But even in these cases, a week can easily go by before you have your cash. The delay in retrieving your funds is probably the biggest source of aggravation for most on-line gaming enthusiasts. Given the natural distrust most people have of virtual casinos to begin with, this is to be expected. However, there are nearly always several legitimate reasons why it takes a little longer than you expected to retrieve your winnings. Your best bet is to simply never play with money that you will need in the next few days.
- Don't deposit any money before checking to see how the casino pays out the money deposited with them. Believe it or not, some on-line gaming participants are actually too lazy to do any research on a new casino! They'll find any old on-line casino and immediately deposit a \$100 or \$200 just to "try them out." Then they soon discover that the casino requires the money to be left with the casino at least 2 weeks before cashing out. Or, that there is a minimum cash-out or that cash-out fees are applicable. In frustration, they get angry and begin to play stupidly and usually lose it all. A little time spent researching a casino can save you all kinds of aggravation and frustration. After you've played with several casinos, you'll soon find that they will consistently offer you new bonuses and that you will have little incentive to add many more "new" casinos to your list.

- If you want to be extremely careful, only play Blackjack in casinos using downloaded or Flash Player software. HTML browser-based casinos should be strictly avoided as a rule. And even though there are many reputable casinos offering no-download JAVA games, you will almost totally eliminate the possibility of playing at a less than reliable, fly-by-night on-line casino if you stick with casinos using downloadable software.
- Quit while you are ahead. Sounds like a no-brainer, right? But, this is one of the most difficult goals to achieve in both Brick & Mortar casinos and on-line casinos as well. Fortunately, playing at on-line Internet casinos offers the player a greater level of control over the length of time you play. When playing at a Brick & Mortar casino you're usually on vacation or taking a long weekend and staying in the immediate casino area. Even if you're not doing well you tend to feel compelled to continue playing because after all, that's why you're there. When playing On-Line Blackjack that's not the case – you're playing from your home and the Internet casino will always be there, 24x7. Schedule your playing sessions. For example, schedule your playing sessions for say, Wednesday evenings at a specific time. Exercise a bit of discipline and pre-determine the amount of time you will spend in an On-Line Blackjack session, say 1 hour or 2 hours. Plus, decide in advance how much money you will put at risk for that individual session. Also, place a pre-determined winnings “cap” on your Blackjack session. When your session time expires or you've reached your winnings “cap”, whichever comes first, stop playing! Be prepared to quit and walk away even if “you're on a roll” and winning big. Discipline is the key. Make a schedule, determine session length, set a winnings cap and stick to it! Without discipline a player tends to “push” too hard when the session is not going well and also push too hard and continue playing when the session is going extremely well. In either case, a Player tends to begin to take too many chances and begins playing carelessly. Discipline is the key!

As a Reminder: This cannot be stated too many times!

Only play at a casino using well-known software. Only play with downloadable or Flash Player software. Make sure the casino offers at least a 20 percent bonus if not more, can be contacted by telephone and is licensed. And don't forget to download the software and practice using it before making a deposit and playing. Another shortcut to choosing a reputable, reliable and “safe” Internet gaming site is to simply use LaMastra's recommended resource site: [Blackjack Secrets. \[Click to Visit\]](#)

Getting Started

If you've read the previous sections and are familiar with the [Pros & Cons](#) and the [Do's & Don'ts](#) of On-Line Blackjack, you're probably still a little cloudy on how to get started making money playing On-Line Blackjack.

This section covers those basics and will get you started!

When getting started with On-Line Blackjack, there are three tasks that must be cared for before you start making money playing On-Line Blackjack –

- Handling financial transactions between you and the casino(s) of your choice
- Choosing casino(s)
- Understanding and using the gaming interface

Handling Financial Transactions

When registering to play at an on-line casino you will be required to establish an account. And before you can play you must fund this account by making a “deposit” using your credit card, debit card, bank checking account (eCheck) or by an “[alternate banking](#)” method account. By making this deposit you are “funding” your on-line casino account to establish your gaming bankroll at that particular casino (buying chips).

Winnings are added to your casino account and losses are deducted from your casino account. When you “cash-out” you can opt to have your winnings credited to your credit card, debit card, bank checking account or “[alternate banking](#)” method account. Or, you may even request a check be mailed to your address of record.

On-line casinos can handle financial transactions involving credit cards, debit cards, bank drafts, personal checks, electronic currency transfers, and in some cases, even cash. Although some casino's offer play in multiple currencies, legitimate, reliable and “safe” casinos always offer play in U.S. dollars.

Be sure to carefully read and understand the cash-out rules of each “candidate” casino, especially if you'll be funding your casino account (buying chips) with your credit card, debit card, or bank checking account. Cash-out rules may vary by casino. Some casinos will transfer money back to your credit card, debit card or checking account with no problems. Other casinos will only transfer money back to your credit card, debit card or bank checking account up to an amount equal to your initial deposit. For example, if your initial funding “deposit” is \$100 but you've claimed a bonus plus you've been winning and now your casino account totals \$250. Upon a cash-out, the casino will only transfer \$100 back to your credit card, debit card or bank checking account. The remaining \$150 will be paid to you by check and mailed to your address of record.

If you choose to establish your casino account and fund that account (buy chips) using your credit card, debit card or bank checking account make certain that you are dealing

with a legitimate, licensed, reputable, reliable and “safe” casino. If you are, then you have virtually no worries about security, fraud or identity theft. Giving personal financial information to reputable and “safe” casinos in this class is exponentially safer, from a security standpoint, than handing your credit card to a waiter, waitress or bartender to pay for a dinner or round of happy hour drinks!

However if you do decide to establish a casino account using your credit card, debit card or bank checking account and have not taken the time to investigate and research the casino, then you are, without a doubt, taking a serious and unnecessary risk indeed. You are a very brave and trusting person. Good luck.

Maintaining Your Privacy - Alternative Banking Methods

All on-line gaming enthusiasts should seriously consider using “Alternative Banking” methods to transfer funds to and from the casinos of their choice. There are many of these alternative-banking services available. And all reputable, reliable and “safe” on-line gaming sites support these alternative financial services methods. In fact, some on-line gaming sites even offer an additional bonus or “credit” if you use one of these alternative-banking methods because it protects them from credit card or banking fraud, as well as protecting the Players.

There are several reasons that a Player may prefer to use an Alternative Banking Method for completing financial transactions to and from an on-line casino:

- You don't want to give an on-line casino any personal financial information such as credit card, debit card or checking account numbers
- You wish to remain anonymous to the casino
- You wish to keep your gaming records private
- You don't want to mix your on-line gaming money with your regular credit card account, debit card account or your household checking account

Alternative Banking Methods are highly recommended for all on-line gaming players. Even if you're not concerned about security and privacy issues, keeping your gaming accounts separate from your regular credit card accounts or household checking account just makes better sense.

There are many “alternative banking” methods available. These companies provide a way for on-line gaming participants to effortlessly make on-line casino deposits and withdrawals while protecting them from possible privacy breaches and identity theft. These services provide a layer of privacy between the player and the on-line casino. As mentioned above, some on-line casinos even offer a small bonus or “credit” for establishing your on-line casino account using their favored alternative-banking provider.

Depending on the alternative banking provider, there may or may not be a small processing fee for transactions. Even with a small transaction fee, the peace of mind and privacy issues far out-weigh a nominal fee. In some cases, on-line casinos will even reimburse or “credit back” any transaction fees from supported alternative banking

method service providers. In fact, legitimate on-line gaming sites prefer using alternative banking service providers because it protects them from fraud as well as the Players.

The more established alternative banking providers are companies such as NETeller, FirePay, PrePaidATM, Direct Bank Transfer ACH, Gaming Card, 900Pay, Citadel, Central Coin, and traditional bank wire transfers.

With alternative banking providers such as NETeller, FirePay, PrePaidATM, Gaming Card, Citadel and Central Coin you establish an on-line account and fund it with your credit card, debit card or bank checking account. Then you would use this “alternate banking” account to fund your on-line casino account. This places a layer of security and privacy between you and the casino because you are not directly funding (buying chips) your casino account(s) with your credit card, debit card or bank checking account. The on-line casino will not have any of your personal financial information. If you're familiar with **eBay's PayPal** service then you already know how this works.

Not all on-line casinos support all alternative-banking providers. It's best to choose your casinos before establishing accounts with alternative banking providers.

Here is a quick description of the services provided by the most established and supported alternative banking method providers. Their URL (www) is also provided, where appropriate. It's strongly recommended that you visit their website and read the latest information about the services they offer plus any associated fees, if applicable.

NETeller

<https://www.neteller.com/neteller/home.cfm>

NETeller is by far the most widely supported **free** on-line money transfer and ebank account services for on-line gaming. NETeller is like an on-line wallet. Users open a NETeller account and then are able to deposit, withdraw, and transfer funds to and from any on-line casino that supports NETeller. You can fund your NETeller account by a variety of methods, but the most common are by credit card, bank deposit, InstaCash, and Electronic Funds Transfer. NETeller is safe and secure and processes all transactions quickly with no hassles. Typically there are no fees for transfers to and from on-line casinos. NETeller is available to both U.S. and international users.

FirePay

<http://www.firepay.com/>

FirePay is widely used by many on-line casinos as a means for depositing and withdrawing funds by players. Players can securely fund their FirePay personal accounts from a variety of sources, including Visa, MasterCard and electronic checks, and funds can be redeemed at many web merchant sites. Your FirePay personal account works like an on-line debit card. You determine the amount of money you want to deposit into your account and then you can pay on-line with FirePay without revealing your personal credit card details to the on-line casino or any on-line merchant. It's a safe, secure and easy way to transfer funds on-line.

PrePaidATM

<http://www.prepaidatm.com/>

PrePaidATM is the only ATM Card available (at this time) that is not tied directly to a bank account. You can use your PrePaidATM card wherever debit cards are accepted. And, you can also receive funds at thousands of ATM machines worldwide. You can fund your PrePaidATM card with Credit Cards, Electronic Checks, Western Union or bank wire transfer. Currently this service is only available to citizens of the United States.

Direct Bank Transfer (ACH)

An ACH (Automatic Clearing House) is a direct fund transfer authorization from your bank account to a designated beneficiary account (your on-line casino account). This banking method is safe and reliable, but it is currently only available to players with bank accounts in the United States. Check with your bank for details and any possible fees.

Gaming Card

<http://www.gamingcard.com/>

This is a new and exclusive Internet payment account that is designed to ensure hassle free on-line payments for a select group of VIP gaming players. Funding options using the Gaming Card include credit cards, transfers from an ATM account, bank wire transfers and Western Union. Gaming Card eliminates the need for waiting for checks when withdrawing you winnings. All cash-ins are directly deposited into your account for easy ATM withdrawals. Unfortunately, at this time Gaming Card accounts are issued by invitation only. You can apply at their website.

Basic 900Pay

<http://www.ecashdirect.net/ecash/900pay.html>

Basic 900Pay is an extremely convenient method to transfer funds to a casino account. Depositing funds using the 900Pay system is fast, secure, and hassle free. On-line gaming players in the United States can deposit funds by simply using their telephone. Players do not require a credit card for this deposit method. 900Pay is a secure, hassle-free method of purchasing on-line casino chips. It features a simple "click and deposit" payment system that charges the deposit to your telephone bill. No credit card or bank account is required. There are no hidden fees or long-distance charges when using 900Pay to fund your on-line casino account. 900Pay is currently available for U.S. players only. If your telephone has a "900-service block" contact your local telephone provider to have the block removed. Once you can get through to 900 numbers, then you will be able to participate in on-line gaming by charging your on-line casino chips to your telephone bill. One drawback: You can only fund your on-line casino account using 900Pay. When you cash-out your winnings, you'll need to provide a credit card or bank account to receive your winnings by electronic transfer. Or, you can request your winnings by a check mailed to your address of record.

Citadel

<http://www.citadelcommerce.com/>

Citadel Commerce is one of the latest systems for transferring funds to on-line casino accounts. Citadel allows players to send electronic checks for deposit into your on-line casino account. Players who would like to use Citadel as a purchase option must have a checking account with a bank in the United States. Citadel Commerce provides fast, economical, secure and convenient payment options.

CentralCoin

<https://www.centralcoin.com/>

CentralCoin is a new and exciting on-line payment solution for Internet casino transactions. There are **no fees** for opening an account, depositing funds or using these funds at on-line casinos or other web merchant locations. You can fund your CentralCoin account with your Visa. Support for funding (buying chips) your account with alternative methods is being planned and will be available soon.

Bank Wire Transfer

Traditional bank wire transfers are very similar to ACH designed to transfer funds from your bank account to your on-line casino account. However with wire transfers you typically need to Fax or mail a form to the casino that will allow them to request a wire transfer on your behalf. You must also give your bank authorization to wire the money when requested from the casino. For the most part, this type of fund transfer takes quite a bit longer to transfer any funds. Check with your bank for details and any associated fees.

Evaluating & Choosing Casinos

Choosing your on-line casino or casinos is by far the most important decision you'll need to make. As stated in this eBook over and over (ad nauseum), not all Internet gaming sites are legitimate, licensed and considered to be reputable, reliable and "safe". All on-line gaming enthusiasts should exercise caution when choosing an on-line gaming site, and in all cases, thoroughly investigate and research any "candidate" casinos before establishing an account and funding (buying chips) that account to play On-Line Blackjack.

If you skipped over the section titled "[Is It Safe to Play On-Line Blackjack?](#)", please go back and review this section. This is **extremely important information** and should not be overlooked, nor taken lightly!

It is highly recommended that a bit of research be done before opening a gaming account at any on-line casino and funding (buying chips) that account with your credit card, debit card, checking account or your chosen [alternative banking](#) method. If you don't take the time to do the research you're setting yourself up for a lot aggravation and frustration at best, or getting ripped-off at worse.

It is **highly recommended** that your chosen casino(s) meet the following criteria:

- Are industry leaders and have been in the business since its' inception several years ago
- Are legally licensed
- Are audited by "Big 5" accounting firms such as [Deloitte and Touche](#), or [PriceWaterhouseCoopers](#)
- Are publicly traded companies (sometimes, some are privately held)
- Make their financial reports, audit reports and company management data a matter of public record
- Employ top-flight gaming software licensed from [Starnet](#), [Cryptologic](#), [Boss Media](#), [Unified Gaming](#), [Chartwell Technology](#), or [Interactive Gaming](#).
- Have their software also audited by their accounting firm
- Provide 24x7x365 live customer service by email, chat or toll-free telephone numbers

Once again, LaMastra suggests that you visit his recommended On-Line Blackjack resource site for up-to-date information and reviews on reputable, reliable and "safe" on-line gaming sites. The [Blackjack Secrets](#) website only features only "safe and reliable" gaming sites. The on-line gaming landscape is changing so quickly, that it's a good idea to visit frequently to get the latest on-line gaming site information. [Click here to visit and bookmark his recommended site: Blackjack Secrets.](#)

When choosing your casinos to play On-Line Blackjack, your best strategy is to not only choose reputable, reliable and "safe" casinos offering decent and attractive bonuses, but also to **choose at least three to five casinos** in this class to establish accounts. The reason? Simple – the Bonuses.

Casino Bonus Strategy – Two Way Street

The casino's bonus strategy is straightforward. They offer Players bonuses to entice you to play On-Line Blackjack at their on-line gaming site rather than at their competitors' sites. Because the on-line gaming landscape is currently super-competitive and that competition is intensifying every month, on-line gaming sites are responding with extremely attractive bonus offers to lure new Players to their gaming site.

As an On-Line Blackjack Player, you should be aware of this competitive environment and take full advantage of bonus offers from the casinos you have chosen. If you work things right, you'll be getting bonus offers on a regular and frequent basis!

When you have a selection of "safe" casinos to play at, your "personal bonus strategy" should be to simply rotate your playing sessions between your chosen casinos. But make sure that there are long periods of time between your playing sessions at each individual casino. Depending on how often (not how long) you play On-Line Blackjack, it's advisable to have at least three to five chosen casinos on your personal "approved" list. If you play On-Line Blackjack once a week, three to five chosen casinos should be

enough. However, if you play On-Line Blackjack more often you may even want to have as many as seven to ten casinos on your personal “approved” list.

On-line casinos track how often a Player visits their site and participates in a gaming session where wagers are actually placed. Although they also track how long a Player engages in wagering play, they really key in on how often a Player visits the site for wagering play. If you play (with wagering) for a few times at a particular casino and then do not come back to play again for several days or weeks – they take notice!

Now the on-line gaming industry is such a competitive business that on-line gaming sites want and need frequent and repeat customers. In fact, they’ll do just about anything to entice you to “come back” to their site. When you do not visit their site for what they feel is a “reasonable” amount of time (this varies by casino – sometimes days, sometimes weeks), they’ll assume that they’ve lost you to one of their competitors. In order to lure you back to their on-line gaming site, they’ll offer you additional bonuses via e-mail.

Now certainly you can see the logic of this “personal bonus strategy”! If you simply rotate your playing sessions while engineering in long periods of absence at each individual casino, you will begin to receive a steady stream of additional bonus offers by e-mail from your casino “approved” list. Each time you receive an additional bonus offer be sure to take advantage of it by re-visiting the offering site to claim it. [\[Click Here to see current Bonus Offers!\]](#)

More on this in the [Session Sequencing](#) Section.

Understanding the Gaming Interface

On-line gaming sites will use one of four different types of gaming interfaces to present the game play on your computer: Downloaded software, Macromedia Flash Player, a no-download JAVA applet or browser-based pure HTML.

The gaming interface is nothing more than a presentation layer on your computer that allows you to interface with the Blackjack gaming engine. The actual gaming software (or engine) resides on the gaming site’s servers.

The type of presentation layer really doesn’t make a lot of difference in the game play. The only difference would be in the look and feel, graphics, sound and animations on your computer. Typically, downloaded or Flash Player software presents the best graphics, sound and animations. The HTML (browser based) gaming interface is definitely the cheesiest. And, the JAVA applet gaming interface is somewhere in-between.

One drawback to the sites requiring a downloaded gaming interface is the time it may take to download the software on a dial-up connection. If you have a high-speed connection such as DSL or a cable-modem, this is not a factor. If you have a dial-up connection, try scheduling the download before you go to bed one night, or when you’re

otherwise not planning on using your computer. Another drawback is that many web newcomers are not comfortable downloading and installing software. In all cases, download and installation instructions are given by the site, and all you really need to do is to simply follow the instructions. In some cases the on-line casino will have an automated process where the gaming interface software will download and install itself automatically.

Although the type of gaming interface makes little difference with game play other than look and feel, graphics, sound, etc. It's important to note that downloadable or Flash Player gaming interfaces are the most costly for a casino to utilize because of development and programming costs, software licensing and usage fees. And conversely, a HTML (browser based) gaming interface is practically free. The JAVA applet gaming interface is somewhere in-between, cost-wise.

Now at first this may seem a bit trivial, but the type of gaming interface used by an on-line casino is often times a very big clue as to whether or not the casino is legitimate, reputable, reliable and "safe".

For the most part, casinos using a HTML (browser based) gaming interface should be considered as "highly suspect". Unlicensed, fly-by-night casinos always use a HTML (browser based) interface. This is because these unlicensed (and often illegal) on-line casinos are pretty much a bare bones operation, operating on a shoe-string budget with pirated software, and likely residing in a basement or garage somewhere, kept running by a few pimply-faced hackers.

Casinos using only a JAVA applet gaming interface should be, at the very least, considered as "suspicious". And without a doubt, should warrant serious investigation and research. However, not all casinos using a JAVA applet gaming interface can be, nor should be, considered to be unsafe. It should be noted that many reputable casinos offer a JAVA applet gaming interface as a convenience to their customers. They do this so that their customers do not have long waiting periods downloading gaming interface software. It should also be noted that sometimes reputable casinos will offer both downloadable and JAVA applet gaming interface options to their customers.

The general rule of thumb is to never play at an on-line gaming site that **only** offers a HTML (browser based) gaming interface. All others warrant investigation and research before establishing an on-line gaming account and funding (buying chips) that account.

Where Should You Play?

A most important question. Choosing a legitimate, licensed, reputable, reliable and “safe” casino (or casinos) is, by far, the most important and time consuming decision you’ll need to complete before going forward with making money playing On-Line Blackjack.

There are an enormous number of on-line casinos operating on the Internet. Presently, there are approximately 1,300 or more, and the number is growing every month. There are an awful lot of things that a Player should do before choosing an on-line gaming site, establishing an account and actually funding (buying chips) that account in order to play On-Line Blackjack.

Here are but a few of those things that a player should consider before establishing an on-line casino account, funding (buying chips) the account, and playing at that on-line casino:

- Is there a sign-up bonus? If so, how much? What are the wagering requirements before a bonus can be claimed?
- What about the game rules? (These can vary somewhat in Blackjack.)
- Are there transaction fees for transferring funds? If so how much?
- Is there a telephone number that you can call? Is it a toll-free telephone number? If you call the number does someone actually answer? When you call the telephone number is the line constantly busy?
- Is the casino licensed? If so, where?
- Is there information available about who owns and operates the casino posted on their website?
- Does a well-known accounting firm audit the casino? If so, are the audit results a matter of public record?
- What company provides the gaming software? Is it a known and reliable software house? Or, is it some mystery no-name company?

If you skipped over the section entitled “[Is It Safe to Play On-Line Blackjack?](#)”, please go back and review this section in depth. This is extremely important information and should not be overlooked, nor should it be taken lightly!

Choosing your casino or casinos is probably the most time consuming and difficult tasks to accomplish. And that is so because, not so surprisingly, it will be the most important task you’ll need to accomplish.

Once again, LaMastra suggests that you visit his recommended On-Line Blackjack resource site for up-to-date information and reviews on reputable, reliable and “safe” on-line gaming sites. The [Blackjack Secrets](#) website features only “safe & reliable” on-line casinos. [Click here to visit and bookmark his recommended site: Blackjack Secrets.](#) Because the on-line gaming landscape is changing so quickly, that it’s a good idea to visit frequently to get the latest on-line gaming site information.

The Secrets of On-Line Blackjack

Exposing the Myth

If you've spent any amount of time on the web looking at on-line gaming sites, in addition to the on-line gaming sites themselves, you've undoubtedly encountered several on-line gaming portals and strategy sites.

There are multitudes of sites on the Internet offering tips, advice and strategy information. Some sites even claim that it's possible to count cards in an On-Line Blackjack game and offer to sell you the "secret" for a fee. These sites (and there are plenty of them) continue to promote the myth that you can actually count cards in an on-line gaming site to gain an advantage over the house!

If you've read LaMastra's Casino Blackjack Guide, you became familiar with the overall unified strategy as it relates to land-based or riverboat "brick and mortar" casinos. And, you also learned how card counting is accomplished in a "physical" casino. But, more importantly, you learned that card counting is only one component of the overall strategy.

The overall LaMastra "physical" casino strategy encompasses not only card counting, but also other factors such as Human Factors Engineering. These elements are not present in a "virtual" Blackjack gaming venue. In a "virtual" or on-line casino, the same LaMastra techniques used in physical casinos simply do not work. On-line casinos require a *different strategy* to gain an advantage and make money.

Do not fall for the myth that it's possible to count cards in an On-Line Blackjack game. Unlike in a "physical" casino, the "driver" of an On-Line Blackjack game is not a Dealer; it's a computer software program. The single reason you can't successfully count the cards because of the way the decks are "shuffled".

The computer software program is nothing more than a virtual robot dealing out the cards using some form of a "Random Number Generator (RNG)" algorithm. Now within the software program itself, the "database of available cards" is based on the values of real cards. What this means is that if it is a single deck game, the database of available cards will contain 52 cards with card values equal to a real deck of cards. If it's a six-deck game, the database of available cards will contain 312 cards with card values equal to the cards in six real decks. The cards are dealt randomly from this database, but it's the "shuffle" method that makes On-line Blackjack card counting impossible.

The software program uses what's sometimes referred to as a "continuous shuffle". As cards are played out in an On-Line Blackjack hand and the hand is over, the cards that were just played are "re-shuffled" and randomly returned to the deck. What this means is that for each and every hand that is dealt, the "database of available cards" will always contain the full compliment of cards for the Randomizer to choose from. If the robot "Dealer" stops game play periodically to "shuffle" the cards, this is nothing more than a façade designed to provide the same look and feel of a "physical" Blackjack game.

In a “physical” Blackjack game the technique of card counting relies on being able to determine the values of the cards that HAVE NOT yet been played. In a “virtual” game, all cards in the deck(s) are in play and available for each and every hand. This would be equivalent to a dealer operating from a six-deck shoe in a land-based casino re-shuffling all six decks after each and every hand is played.

Because of the “continuous shuffle” method in On-Line Blackjack, it’s simply impossible to count cards. Don’t waste your time trying or worse, waste your money buying some “secret” that claims that you can.

Overall On-Line Blackjack Strategy

Since card counting in On-Line Blackjack is impossible, how can anyone really win at On-Line Blackjack? Just like slot machines, video Poker and video Blackjack, it is **very** possible to win. But the question should not be, “How can anyone win?” The question should be, “How can anyone consistently make money” at On-Line Blackjack? The answer is shockingly simple.

In order to make money at Blackjack in a land-based or riverboat “physical” Brick and Mortar casino, you must win at the game of Blackjack. You make money by employing different strategies such as card counting, money management and human factors engineering to insure that you win more hands and more money than you lose. In other words, you must increase your win-loss ratio in order to maximize your winnings in order to make any money. The idea is to walk out with more money than when you arrived!

In an on-line “virtual” Blackjack game, the strategy is similar – you’ll want to win Blackjack hands and have as high a win-loss ratio as possible. But just as important or maybe even more important, you’ll want to claim the bonuses.

Say you were on vacation and went to a land-based casino with a \$500 bankroll and played for several hours only to break even. At the end of your session, you would still have \$500. You neither won any money, nor lost any money and you cashed-in and went home with \$500. You had a lot of fun but you didn’t make any money.

Now let’s say you went to an on-line casino offering a 50% bonus and funded your account with \$500. You would receive an initial bankroll of \$750. You play for several sessions over several days to satisfy the bonus requirements, but in end you did no better at your game play than you did at the land-based casino – you broke even. However, even though you actually broke even on your game-play, you get to claim the bonus and cash-in \$750! So although you broke even, you still walked away with \$250 in profit. Technically, you did not win. But just as technically, **you made money!**

There are essentially only two simple components related to consistently making money at On-Line Blackjack:

- Bonus Strategy
- Game Play Strategy

On-line Blackjack Bonus strategy was discussed in the [Casino Bonus Strategy – Two Way Street](#) Section. If you skipped over this section, it's advisable that you go back and review this section in detail.

In the super-competitive market that on-line casinos operate, they have no choice but to offer extremely attractive bonuses in order to attract and retain regular and repeat players. A few years ago, legitimate established casinos notoriously offered only small bonuses while the newer, less established casinos and fly-by-night rip-off casinos were offering outrageous bonuses.

However, in the last few years the on-line gaming landscape has changed immensely. With new on-line gaming sites going live just about every week, the field is so crowded and competitive now, that even the long established industry leaders are forced to offer outrageous bonuses just to stay competitive.

In the past, if a casino was offering bonuses of 100%, you could pretty much know that it was not a safe place to play. After all, if it sounded too good to be true, it usually wasn't true. **No more!** Even the best of the best legitimate casinos are now offering 50% - 100% bonuses or more. As mentioned in the [Casino Bonus Strategy – Two Way Street](#) section, a Player would have to be very foolish to not take advantage of the bonuses offered in this super-competitive industry. [\[Click Here to see current Bonus Offers!\]](#)

When you claim a bonus, it's essentially **Free Money!** Once you've fulfilled the "bonus requirement" the money is yours to cash-in or to continue playing. (Bonus requirements are explained in the [What About the Player Bonuses Offered by On-Line Casinos?](#) Section.) If you implement the Player Bonus Strategy as described in the [Casino Bonus Strategy – Two Way Street](#) Section, you will soon find yourself regularly receiving additional bonuses just like clockwork. It's free money – take it!

Now from the casino's perspective, if they continue to entice your repeat business with repeated and regular additional bonus offers, you'll eventually play long enough to lose your initial deposits plus any bonus money. In fact, that's usually exactly what happens to most surf-through, casual Blackjack players! Now educated and "smart" players avoid the traps and end up making money. But the casinos don't really notice or care. For every Player who makes money playing On-Line Blackjack, there are literally thousands, if not tens of thousands, who are surf-through, casual Players that always end up losing.

But be advised - claiming the bonuses and hanging on to the bonuses (and your deposit) are two different things. In order to consistently make money in On-Line Blackjack you must do two things: (1) Use your "personal bonus strategy" to insure a steady stream of bonus offers (**Free Money**), and (2) play well enough to either win or break even when playing Blackjack to meet the bonus requirements. If you win when playing On-line Blackjack, Great! So much the better! If you break even, Good! Either way, you claim the bonus and the bonus either adds to your winnings or becomes your winnings!

Game Play Strategy

Since you're playing against a computer program that utilizes the "continuous shuffle" method to construct the "available card database" and a Random Number Generator (RNG) algorithm to deal out the cards, you are essentially playing an even-odds, one-on-one game against the "Dealer". You have as much of a chance of receiving good cards or bad cards, as does the "Dealer".

But even though it is theoretically an even-odds game, you have to go first. This is what automatically puts you, the Player, at a disadvantage. If you go first and Bust, you lose – even if the Dealer also Busts. (You will Bust on approximately 28% of your hands where you take a Hit or Hits.) Those are just the rules and the structure of the Blackjack game – and they are the same game play rules as in a land-based or physical casino.

To overcome this disadvantage while at the same time maximizing your money winnings, you'll need to play "smart" game play options, **plus** use your Double-Down and Split options relentlessly where the "Dealer" is showing a "weak" hand. This will nullify the "go first" disadvantage by increasing your money winnings where you have the advantage over the house. Maximizing your money winnings by Doubling and Splitting will counter-act the effect of Busting on 28% of your hands.

Contrary to most beliefs, in on-line "virtual" Blackjack the only real strategy is not really a strategy at all in the true sense of the word. Keep in mind you will be playing against a computer program that will be doing things mechanically (hit on 16 or less, stand on 17 or more) and dealing the cards randomly. In response, the Player must also do things mechanically – take Hits in certain situations or Stand in other situations, Double and Split where the "Dealer" is showing a weak hand. Players should avoid "playing hunches" and work hard to stifle the urge to take a Hit just because you "feel lucky".

Where you will gain a money winning advantage is by exploiting dealer "weak hands" with the Player's Double-Down and Split options. The idea is not necessarily to win more hands than the Dealer does. The idea is to **make money** by having an overall money winning On-line Blackjack session.

The material in the following section covers the exact actions that a Player should take depending on the "card situation" – your cards and the Dealer's "showing card". The material is presented in multiple and progressive modules to aid in understanding.

Remember that you'll be playing against a computer program using the continuous shuffle method and utilizing a Random Number Generator algorithm to deal out the cards indiscriminately. In order to be successful at making money at On-Line Blackjack, you'll need to follow the Game Play Action Tables exactly. Unlike a human, the software driving the On-Line Blackjack game engine will make mechanical and often times predictable moves. As a Player, you must do the same even when you would play the hand differently in a "physical" casino.

Game Play Actions

Game play actions in this section is presented in a “modular” structure in order to create somewhat of a “building block” approach using the individual Action Tables. It’s very important to read, think through and understand the logic in each individual module before moving on to the next module.

Hitting or Standing on Hard Hands

When making the decision to Stand or take a Hit, the first rule is to always consider the Dealer’s showing card before making your decision. In other words don't always take a Hit just because you have a low hand. The Dealer may have a very weak hand that eventually leads to the Dealer Busting.

Here is the Action Table for Hitting or Standing on Hard Hands. A Hard Hand is where your hand does not contain an Ace or a Pair.

	Dealer Showing									
Your Hand	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
17 thru 21	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
13 thru 16	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
12	H	H	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
5 thru 11	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H

H=Hit, S=Stand

Hitting or Standing on Soft Hands

A Soft Hand is where you have an Ace in your hand. It’s called a Soft Hand because the Ace can count as either a one or an eleven. A Soft Hand will affect your decision to take a Hit or Stand. Taking Hits on a Soft Hand is less risky than on a Hard Hand. The following Action Table outlines what you should do with an Ace in your hand:

	Dealer Showing									
Your Hand	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
A, 8 thru 10	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
A, 7	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H
A, 2 thru 6	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H

H=Hit, S=Stand

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Doubling Down on Hard Hands

To maximize your winnings you must take advantage when you have a strong hand and the Dealer is showing a weak hand. Doubling is one of the primary ways of offsetting the House advantage. Casino rules may vary on what type of hands you can Double Down. In some casinos you can Double Down on any hand you wish, and in other casinos you may only Double Down on hands of ten or eleven. Check the casino rules to understand their Double Down rule. The following Action Table shows you when to take advantage in all situations when you have a Hard Hand:

	Dealer Showing									
Your Hand	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	X
10	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	X	X
9	X	D	D	D	D	X	X	X	X	X
8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

D=Double Down, X=Don't Double

Doubling Down on Soft Hands

The considerations for Soft Hands are a little bit different from the Doubling Down actions for Hard Hands. For example, you would certainly not want to Double Down if you have soft 19 or 20 (which would be A, 8 or A, 9) even though these hands could be also be counted as 9 and 10. The following Action Table shows you when to Double Down where you have a Soft Hand:

	Dealer Showing									
Your Hand	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
A, 8, 9	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A, 6, 7	X	D	D	D	D	X	X	X	X	X
A, 4, 5	X	X	D	D	D	X	X	X	X	X
A, 2, 3	X	X	X	D	D	X	X	X	X	X

D=Double Down, X=Don't Double

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Splitting Pairs

Like Doubling, Splitting is also very important in order to maximize your winnings, nullify the House advantage and coming away a winner by making money. Most on-line casinos will allow you to Split any pairs any number of times. Some casinos will allow you to Split Aces only once, but will allow multiple Splits on other pairs. Some casinos may even offer Doubling after a Split! It's best to check the on-line casino's rules related to Splitting pairs – they will vary by casino.

The general rule of thumb is never Split Ten card pairs (10, J, Q, K) or a pair of Fives. And, always Split Aces (giving a possibility of 2 Blackjacks) and Eights (16 is the weakest possible hand – splitting 8's gives a possibility of 2 18's). One possible exception: Do not split 8's if Surrender is offered and the Dealer is showing a 9, 10 or Ace. (See Surrender below.) Along with that rule of thumb, this Action Table shows the rest of the card combinations and what action to take in order to maximize your winnings:

	Dealer Showing									
Your Hand	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
A, A	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
10, 10	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
9, 9	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	X	SP	X	X
8, 8	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
7, 7	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	X	X	X	X
6, 6	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	X	X	X	X	X
5, 5	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4, 4	X	X	X	X	SP	SP	X	X	X	X
3, 3	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	X	X	X	X
2, 2	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	X	X	X	X

SP=Split, X=Don't Split

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Surrender

Surrender is becoming less and less common in on-line casinos. Read the on-line casino's rules to see if Surrender is allowed. If it is, you should be aware of it because Surrender allows you minimize money losses when you have a weak hand against the Dealer's strong hand by "giving up" and forfeiting one half of your wager.

If Surrender is allowed, the general rule of thumb is always Surrender a hand of 16 when the Dealer is showing a 9, 10 or Ace. Always Surrender a hand of 15 when the Dealer is showing a 10 card. If Surrender is not allowed, hands of 15 or 16 should be played as normal according to above the Game Play Action Tables.

Insurance

Insurance is never recommended. Never take Insurance.

Master Action Table

Now that you've reviewed the actions to take in various situations one module at a time, you should have a better feel for what to do in any given situation. This Master Action Table summarizes all the previous tables and will maximize your winnings at on-line casinos. With this Master Action Table, you should easily be able to play "even-win" or better sessions enabling you to fulfill the requirements to claim an on-line casino bonus.

The Action Tables must be followed to the letter in order to be successful. But also remember, it is technically impossible to win each and every hand. To continuously play "even-win" or better Blackjack sessions, you must be willing to "push" your Doubling and Splitting options in order to nullify the House advantage and maximize your money winnings, even if you would normally play the hand differently in a "physical" casino.

	Dealer Showing										
Your Hand	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A	
5 thru 8	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	HH AA RN DD S
9	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H	
10	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H	
11	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	
12	H	H	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H	
13	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H	
14	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H	
15	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	Y/H	H	
16	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	Y/H	Y/H	Y/H	
17 thru 21	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
A, 2	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H	
A, 3	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H	
A, 4	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H	
A, 5	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H	
A, 6	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H	
A, 7	S	D	D	D	D	S	S	H	H	H	
A, 8	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
A, 9	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
A, 10	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
2, 2	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	H	H	H	H	P A I R S
3, 3	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	H	H	H	H	
4, 4	H	H	H	SP	SP	H	H	H	H	H	
5, 5	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H	
6, 6	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	H	H	H	H	H	
7, 7	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	H	H	H	H	
8, 8	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	
9, 9	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	S	SP	SP	S	S	
10, 10	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
A, A	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	

S=Stand, H=Hit, D=Double, SP=Split, Y=Surrender

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Wagering Strategy

On-Line Wagering

The amount of your wagering will depend on your acceptable level of risk. Remember that it is impossible to win each and every hand. Also, all Blackjack players must be prepared to suffer through multiple consecutive losing hands. Given these realities, a player's acceptable level of risk has a direct bearing on their wager dollar amounts.

If you don't have a very high tolerance for risk, then perhaps your basic wager may be \$1 or \$2. However, if you're an experienced Player and have a high tolerance for risk, your basic wager may be \$5, \$10 or \$25. If you're a Black Chip Player your basic wager would be \$100. Each Player is different. Because of this, wagers will be referred to in terms of "units" rather than dollar amounts. A "unit" could represent \$1 or a "unit" could represent \$100 – it's up to you as a Player and your personal level of risk tolerance.

When playing On-line Blackjack the most important part of your overall money making strategy is to continuously qualify for and claim the casinos' bonuses. To do this successfully, you will have to play well enough to not lose your initial funding deposit and the bonus offer.

Now you'll be playing against a computer program so technically it will be an even-odds game with you being at a slight disadvantage because you'll have to go first and will Bust on approximately 28% of hands where you take a Hit or Hits. To nullify this built-in disadvantage, you'll be using your Doubling and Split options to counter-act the effect of any losses due to the built-in House advantage. Since cards are being dealt randomly by a computer program, if you properly exercise your Double and Split options, this method of play will always result in an "even-win" or better outcome over the long term by exactly following the Game Play Actions Tables.

If you follow the previous Game Play Action Tables to the letter, your On-line Blackjack gaming sessions will always result in "even-win" or better outcomes over a period of time. The question is: How long a period of time? As a serious Internet Blackjack Player, you must be prepared to play regularly scheduled sessions of at least one-hour duration. If you schedule your on-line session for more than one hour, that's fine. But one hour should be the minimum. You'll need at least one hour to overcome any losses sustained by a bad run of cards early in the session. Hopefully, a bad run of cards early in the session will not happen very often, but sometimes it will so just be prepared for it.

Low Risk Method

If you are a risk averse Player, a recommended wagering method is simple "flat" betting. Flat betting means that your wager would be one "unit" and you would never increase your wager no matter what. Using flat betting is a low risk wagering solution and guards against taking a large loss on any single hand. On the other hand, if you play according to the Game Play Action Tables and always use your Doubling and Split options when the Dealer is showing weak hands, you should easily end your sessions in an "even-win" or better state.

But there's a bit of a trade-off when you elect to use a flat betting method. Although a flat betting method reduces risk and guards against taking a large loss on any single hand, it may require multiple and lengthy Blackjack sessions to meet the wagering requirements to claim any bonuses.

Negative Progression

Another wagering strategy that is fairly well known, is the Negative Progression method. This method is also sometimes called the Martingale method named after Henry Martingale, a 18th century Englishman.

This wagering strategy correctly takes note that any winning streaks or any losing streaks are temporary. This method is designed to recoup all losses incurred during a losing streak while retaining the money from all winning streaks. The way it works is to "flat bet" (one unit) until you lose a hand. When you lose a hand you double your wager on the next hand. If you lose again – you double again and continue doubling until you win a hand. When you win a hand you then retreat back to your original bet of one unit.

By doubling your wager each time you lose a hand, you will always recover all of the losses sustained during a losing streak while at the same time retaining all of the money from your winning hands. If this sounds confusing, it will make more sense when you see how it works later.

Now this wagering strategy is certainly not for you if you are risk averse. For instance, if your initial wager is one unit and you suffer a losing streak of 4 hands in a row, you would be required to wager sixteen units on the next hand. To some Players, this is an unacceptable risk. However, to those with a high-risk tolerance or to those whose basic "unit" is a small dollar amount, this is a perfectly acceptable wagering solution that will always guarantee a highly profitable and winning On-line Blackjack session!

Losing streaks of three or four hands can occasionally be somewhat common. Losing streaks of five or six hands is possible but extremely rare. A losing streak of seven hands or greater in On-line Blackjack, although theoretically possible, is practically unheard of. But no matter how many hands in a losing streak, **you will always recoup all of your losses, plus retain all previous winnings** using the Negative Progression wagering method. Additionally, the Negative Progression wagering method will accumulate the wagering "credits" needed to claim the bonus at a much faster rate than the "flat" wagering method.

To make more sense of this, let's walk through a game play example. In the example, we will play 20 hands of On-line Blackjack and suffer through losing streaks of 3 hands, 4 hands and 5 hands to illustrate how this method works.

Now in the 20 hands of play, let's assume you win 2 hands, lose 3 hands in a row, win 2 more hands, lose 4 hands in a row, win 2 more hands, lose 5 hands in a row and finally finish up by winning 2 more hands. The purpose of this example is to illustrate how the

Negative Progression method will always recoup all losses incurred during losing streaks.

Let's also assume that you establish a gaming account with a casino that is offering a 50% bonus. You fund your account with 30 "units" and receive a bonus of 15 units, giving you a starting bankroll of 45 units. The casino requires a wagering requirement of 4 times your deposit plus bonus in order to claim the bonus offer. In this case, you will have to play long enough to have wagered 180 units to claim the bonus.

Now in this example, you will have won 8 hands and lost 12 hands, while suffering through losing streaks of 3 hands, 4 hands and 5 hands. Now in any Blackjack session, this is probably a pretty poor performance. After all, you lost 60% of your hands!

Now let's see how the numbers work out using the Negative Progression method:

Hand #	Wager in "Units"	Outcome (Win/Loss)	Win/Loss in "Units"	Bankroll in "Units"	Wager Credit to Meet Bonus Requirement
1	1	W	1	46	1
2	1	W	1	47	2
3	1	L	-1	46	3
4	2	L	-2	44	5
5	4	L	-4	40	9
6	8	W	8	48	17
7	1	W	1	49	18
8	1	L	-1	48	19
9	2	L	-2	46	21
10	4	L	-4	42	25
11	8	L	-8	34	33
12	16	W	16	50	49
13	1	W	1	51	50
14	1	L	-1	50	51
15	2	L	-2	48	53
16	4	L	-4	44	57
17	8	L	-8	36	65
18	16	L	-16	20	81
19	32	W	32	52	113
20	1	W	1	53	114
Hands Won					8
Hands Lost					12
Initial Deposit (in Units)					30
Profit (in Units)					23
Profit Percentage					77%
Bonus Requirement Attainment					63%

As you can see from the above 20-hand example, using the Negative Progression method always recoups all losses incurred during a losing streak while retaining all winnings.

There are a few other important points that should be noted about the example:

- Even though we had a run of bad cards and lost 60% of the hands played, we still nearly doubled our money! Our initial deposit was 30 units and we finished up our 20-hand session with 53 units in our Bankroll. This is a **77% profit** with a relatively poor win-loss ratio.
- In only 20 hands of Blackjack, we attained 114 units “credit” towards the 180 units wagering requirement needed to claim the bonus. We’ve met 63% of the requirement in only 20 Blackjack hands! ***
- If 20 hands of Blackjack seems like a lot, think of it this way: If we were playing a relatively slow paced game of 1 hand every 15 seconds, that’s 4 Blackjack hands a minute. At that pace, the 20 Blackjack hands in the example would represent only 5 minutes of play! Not bad action for 5 minutes. (If you were playing at a pace of 1 hand every 10 seconds, these 20 hands would represent only 3 minutes of play!)
- If we had established our gaming account at a casino offering a 100% bonus (and there are plenty of them), we would have finished up our 20-hand On-line Blackjack session with 68 units in our Bankroll instead of 53 units. The poor showing in the example would have resulted in a **profit of 127%! This would have more than doubled our initial deposit in only 5 minutes!!!**

To summarize, in a mere 5 minutes of play, we are showing a 77% profit and have completed 63% of the requirement to claim the 50% bonus offer. **Not bad!**

*** On-line casinos often have a “time” requirement in addition to a wagering requirement. This means that you must wait a certain time period of time before you can cash-in and claim a bonus. Sometimes it’s a few weeks; sometimes it’s longer. But it’s not likely that you can claim a bonus when you’ve only played for a few minutes. (Remember “[spinners](#)”?) Be sure to read and understand the bonus offer rules.

Session Sequencing

Timing is Everything

Session Sequencing addresses two different game playing session methodologies. The first methodology addresses sequencing your game play at a single casino within the same playing session. The second methodology addresses sequencing your individual gaming sessions between different casinos, or Rotational Sequencing.

You'll need to exercise these methods to minimize any losses when your session at any single casino is less than normally profitable. And, to maximize your profits when the cards are running in your favor. And also another important reason is to "establish" periodic playing histories at each casino on your personal "approved" list, which in turn, will automatically generate additional bonus offers.

Same Session Sequencing

Changing up your game play within the same session at a single casino simply refers to taking periodic breaks. As you play your Blackjack sessions, you'll soon notice that sometimes the cards are good to you and other times they're not as good to you.

Keep in mind that you're playing against a computer program that is using continuous shuffling and a randomizer algorithm to deal out the cards indiscriminately. You have as much of a chance of receiving good cards or bad cards, as does the Dealer. This is just the nature of the randomizer algorithm used by the gaming software. Sometimes the cards can be good to you and other times not so good.

If your Blackjack session is not going well and you seem to be losing an inordinate number of hands compared to the hands you're winning, take a 10 minute break. But, as you take your break, log out of the casino to break your connection to the gaming software engine. After 10 minutes, log back in and resume your game play. When you log back in and resume your session, usually (but not always) the cards will be more in your favor. This happens because you broke your connection to the gaming engine and are essentially "starting over" fresh.

If, after your second log in, the cards are still not in your favor, log out and either play again another day or "rotate" to another casino on your "approved" list. If the cards are running "cold" for you there's no sense in continuing game play at that particular casino for the moment.

Rotational Sequencing

As you will recall from the [Getting Started](#) Section, the recommendation was to have at least three to five casinos on your personal "approved" list. If you play more frequently, you may have as many as seven to ten casinos on your personal approved list. There are several reasons why you should have several casinos on your personal approved list.

The main reason was discussed in the [Casino Bonus Strategy – Two Way Street](#) Section. This is to rotate your game play sessions between your approved casinos engineering in long periods of absence between sessions at any single casino. This “**absence**” method alone will generate frequent and regular additional bonus offers from each casino on your personal approved list.

A second reason for having multiple casinos on your personal approved list is to allow you “**rotate**” to another approved casino when your present game play session is less than profitable. Remember, the idea here is to make money – not have fun – and not be entertained. If you're having a less than profitable game play session at one casino, then move on to another casino where your session will be more successful and profitable. You can always come back later.

More on this in the [Multi-Channel Cash Flow Pipeline](#) Section!

Pulling Everything Together

Putting Things into Focus

This entire section is dedicated to putting things into perspective and also as a recap of all of the information previously discussed.

There are some who feel that playing Blackjack in a land-based, riverboat or cruise ship casino is nothing more than recreation. These Players are often simply on vacation and really don't mind spending a few days "messing around" on the Blackjack tables only to lose a few hundred dollars and have a good time. These "recreational" Players are the life-blood of the gaming industry. To these Players, losing a few hundred dollars is nothing more than the price of having a good time. And, they're glad to do it. After all, they had a great time and had a lot of fun.

This is no different in on-line "virtual" casinos. There are literally tens of thousands, if not millions, of recreational Players who are out to just have a good time playing On-line Blackjack and don't really mind dropping a few hundred dollars in the process. After all, it's just good fun.

But, there are those Players who see and realize an opportunity and seize that opportunity. These are the serious Players. And, they are relatively few.

Those few serious Players view On-line Blackjack as nothing more than a moneymaking opportunity. In their view, it is not recreation and it is not a hobby. It is a very serious way to make very serious long-term money from the comfort of their own home. For some, it's extra income. For others, it's their job - and, this job is their main source of income.

Setting Expectations

Diligence. Dedication. Control. Discipline. Skill. Cunning. Smarts. Perseverance. Patience.

All of those words are the hallmarks of a serious On-line Blackjack Player. Serious Players are not playing On-line Blackjack for recreational purposes just to have some fun. A serious Player's goal is to **make money** playing On-line Blackjack!

As a serious Player, you must be willing to work hard to incorporate all of those above mentioned hallmarks into your personal playing "style" in order to consistently make money at the art of playing On-line Blackjack. It will take some work on your part to successfully and consistently make money playing On-line Blackjack. No doubt about it.

When you play Blackjack in a land-based or riverboat "physical" casino, you play your session, cash-in your winnings at the cashier's cage and place your winnings in your pocket, wallet or purse and then leave. It doesn't work that way in the world of on-line "virtual" casinos.

As you will recall from the [Pros and Cons](#) Section, it will sometimes take a fair amount of time to receive a “cash-out” from an on-line casino. (There are legitimate reasons for this and it’s nothing to be concerned about. This was discussed previously.) Sometimes it will take days and sometimes it will take weeks, depending on your banking method and the on-line casino itself. In other words, unlike in a land-based or riverboat physical casino, you can’t just cash-out your chips and go home. But then again, from an On-line Blackjack moneymaking perspective, this is certainly not what you want to do anyway!

In the on-line world of virtual casinos, a large part of your moneymaking strategy is receiving and claiming frequent and on-going bonus offers. On-line casinos will oftentimes deny bonus claims if they feel you are only playing for the bonuses. First of all, they’ll deny the bonus claim and secondly, they’ll never send you another bonus offer again. This is exactly what you, as a serious moneymaking On-line Blackjack Player, will want to avoid.

To successfully and consistently make money playing On-line Blackjack, you must keep your casino accounts open and constantly producing a cash flow. (Never do a total cash-out and close a gaming account unless you plan to never play at that casino again!)

Think of things this way: Consistently making money playing On-line Blackjack is NOT a “quick hit” proposition. Instead, it is a long-term strategy that will take several weeks to build. But once you’ve successfully built your “gaming structure” consisting of gaming accounts at multiple on-line casinos, it will then be time to begin to “siphon” off your winnings using partial cash-outs, while at the same time keeping the accounts open. The open accounts will continue to generate additional bonus offers allowing you to constantly replace the funds that you siphon off.

Your active casino accounts should be thought of as your [personal money machine](#).

Multi-Channel Cash Flow Pipeline

As discussed previously, the recommendation is that you, as a serious Player, establish at least three to five casino gaming accounts. If you will be playing frequently, seven to ten gaming accounts may be advisable.

If this sounds like a lot of gaming accounts, don’t let that alarm you! This is much easier than most newcomer Players think. Most serious Players simply do the sensible thing and “start small” and then work their way up.

Starting small means to establish only two or maybe three gaming accounts and fund those accounts with minimum deposits, say \$50 or so, just to get things started. After “working” these accounts for a few weeks and you’ve claimed a few bonuses, then you can do a partial cash-out to establish additional accounts at other casinos on your personal “approved” list. This strategy minimizes any large cash outlay to just get things started.

Once your personal On-line Blackjack gaming “structure” has been built and consists of gaming accounts at multiple casinos, you should continue to “work” these accounts on a rotational basis as previously described in the [Casino Bonus Strategy – Two Way Street](#) Section.

As you work your gaming accounts in different casinos, you’ll not only be increasing the gaming account balances or bankrolls, you’ll also be claiming bonuses and accumulating additional bonus offers along the way. But, you should also understand that this “process” will take several weeks, if not months. Especially if you’ve scheduled minimal sessions for yourself, plus engineered in long periods of absences from each casino where you have an active account.

Make no mistake – a great deal of patience, perseverance and work is required. This is not a “get rich quick” program. This is a deliberate long-term strategy to establish an on-going source of regular money through playing On-line Blackjack!

As a serious moneymaking Player, you must also be prepared to deal with occasional “ups and downs” along the way. In the course of establishing your personal On-Line Blackjack “structure” consisting of gaming accounts at multiple on-line casinos, you will have good On-line Black sessions and you will have bad On-line Blackjack sessions. Get used to that – that’s just the nature of the beast. But the key is to avoid the bad On-line Blackjack sessions to the greatest extent possible. And also, to capitalize on the good On-line Blackjack sessions to the greatest extent possible.

Once your personal On-line Blackjack structure fully constructed, consisting of gaming accounts in multiple on-line casinos, it will become relatively easy to avoid less than profitable On-line Blackjack sessions. When the cards are not running in your favor, you simply “rotate” to another casino on your personal “approved” list. If the cards are running in your favor during a particular session, stay with it until the cards turn against you. When the cards turn sour, either terminate your gaming session entirely or rotate to another casino on your personal approved list.

Now once you’ve fully constructed your personal On-line Blackjack structure and your accounts have been “beefed up” with by game play and qualified bonus claims, it becomes time to “**harvest**” the fruits of your perseverance and hard work.

Keeping in mind that it may take several days or weeks to receive a cash-out in your credit card account, bank account, alternate banking method account or by mail, begin to make small partial cash-outs at only a few of your accounts where you have surplus funds. Be sure to not “gut” any one account to the extent that you don’t have enough funds left in the account to continue “working” that account!

Now this does not mean to request partial cash-outs from ALL of your working accounts. Only request small partial cash-outs from those few accounts where you have the most surplus funds available. Additionally, small partial cash-outs do not attract any attention from casinos on the alert for Players only playing for the bonus offers.

Once you've requested a partial cash-out from a casino, avoid that casino and rotate to one or more of the other casinos on your personal approved list, and then work only those accounts. Furthermore, intentionally plan a long absence from the casinos where you requested the partial cash-outs. They will notice that you have an active account, requested a partial cash-out, and have not participated in wagering play since your small cash-out. And in a very short time, they will try to entice you back with several very lucrative additional bonus offers. [\[Click Here to see current Bonus Offers!\]](#)

After you've made partial cash-out requests from a group of accounts, you'll need to continue working the accounts where you DID NOT request a partial cash-out. In a week or so, you repeat the process with another group of your gaming accounts. This process should continue on a timed rotational basis. In time, you'll eventually rotate back to the group of casinos where you made your first cash-out requests, pick up those additional bonus offers, and repeat the whole process all over again.

The idea here is to create a "cash flow pipeline" from all of your casino gaming accounts as you continue rotating through those gaming accounts. Once you have this "rotational process" in play, you'll begin to receive your first cash-outs in a few weeks. From that point going forward, you'll begin to receive your partial cash-outs on a regular basis. (Be sure to keep a "log" or "diary" of your cash-out requests. This helps keeping things reconciled once the checks begin rolling in!)

This is what's called the "**Multi-Channel Cash Flow Pipeline**". Once you've set up this rotational process and the "flow" begins, you'll be receiving your cash-outs regularly, in synch with your cash-out requests from multiple casinos on a rotational basis! **Your personal Money Machine!**

Road Rules

As you embark down the road that leads to “earning” consistent, predictable and regular money by “working” your on-line gaming accounts, be sure to always adhere to the following “rules of the road”.

- Decide on how you will handle financial transactions between you and the on-line casinos – credit card, debit card, bank checking account or alternative banking provider. Seriously consider using “alternative banking method” provider, such as NETeller, for handling financial transactions between you and on-line casinos. You’ll find that legitimate and safe casinos always support alternative banking methods. Using an alternative banking method provider also adds a layer of security between you and the casino, especially if you wish to remain anonymous to the casinos or not give personal financial information to a casino. Additionally, it will keep your gaming transactions separate from your credit card, debit card or everyday bank account. Another benefit is that typically you’ll receive your cash-outs a lot sooner when using a casino supported alternative banking method provider. Plus, some casinos even offer additional “credits” if you use an alternative banking provider because it protects them from credit card fraud as well as protecting their customers. Keep in mind that with alternative banking method providers, such as NETeller or FirePay, just like with PayPal, there is typically no cost to you when you establish an account with them. So if you choose to handle your financial transactions using alternative banking providers, it’s not uncommon for on-line Blackjack Players to use more than one provider. See the [Alternative Banking Methods](#) Section for more on this.
- **Do your research!** Legitimate, licensed, reliable and safe casinos always post extensive information pages on their site telling you where they are licensed, what the bonus and cash-in policies are, and how to contact them with questions. Or you can simply check with [Blackjack Secrets](#) that only features legitimate licensed, reliable and safe casinos. [\[Click here to visit and bookmark Blackjack Secrets\]](#)
- Only consider playing at casinos that offer substantial and lucrative bonus offers. There are just too many legitimate on-line casinos offering great bonuses. It would be foolish to not take advantage of these offers. Bonus offers range from signup and player referral bonuses to frequent-player gift bonuses. The on-line gaming landscape is super-competitive and the competition is fierce. Bonus offers are everywhere. This is **Free Money**. Take it. [\[Click Here to see Bonuses\]](#)
- Always test their Customer Support staff. Legitimate casinos offer toll-free telephone support 24x7x365. Place a telephone call to their number to ask a simple question. You’ll want to make sure someone answers the telephone. Some legitimate casinos offer 24x7x365 customer support via Live Agent Chat rather than by telephone. This is not a red flag by any means. But take the time to request a Chat with a customer service representative to ask a simple question. The idea is to make sure that someone will be there should you ever have a real question or problem.

- Read and understand the Cash-Out options. Most casinos will send out a cash-out payment in one to two weeks. A few casinos even offer overnight delivery by courier (FedEx, DHL, and UPS). Make sure you find out what the Cash-Out policy is so that there are no surprises later.
- Based on your research, create your personal “approved” list of casinos. You can have as many casinos as you want on your list. At this stage, these are only “candidate” casinos. As you create your personal approved list, be sure to note each site’s URL (www.etc.etc), toll-free customer support telephone number, customer service email address, bonus policy, cash-out policy, and banking methods supported by each candidate casino.
- From your personal approved list, choose a few of the more attractive or interesting gaming sites (consider their Bonus offers, too) and download the Blackjack gaming interface for some “Play for Free” action. Always “Play for Free” before opening and funding (buying chips) a gaming account to play Blackjack. Playing for free gives you a chance to “test drive” the gaming interface to discover any computer problems that you may have before they have your funding deposit. If you experience any problems with the Blackjack gaming interface, you may want to contact the gaming site’s technical support staff for help. If you continue to have problems with the Blackjack gaming interface, you may want to consider removing the casino from your personal approved list. If their Blackjack gaming interface is not working properly for you, it’s usually not worth the aggravation and time trying to force it to work.
- Once you’ve installed several Blackjack gaming interfaces from the casinos on your personal approved list, and you’ve verified that there are no problems using the Blackjack gaming interfaces by “Free Play”, it’s time for the next steps.
- Determine your personal “gaming session schedule”. As mentioned previously, to consistently make money playing On-line Blackjack, a fair amount of discipline is required. Unlike when you’re on vacation for a few days in, say Las Vegas or Reno; your chosen on-line casinos will always be there 24x7x365. Avoid “getting the fever”. Pre-determine which days or evenings you will play and pre-determine how long your On-line Blackjack sessions will be. And, stick to your schedule!
- Out of those casinos that you’ve “tested”, choose a minimum of at least 2 or 3 casinos, establish gaming accounts and fund the accounts using your chosen financial transaction method. ([Alternative Banking](#) Methods are recommended, but the choice is yours.)
- **Now for the fun part!** Adhering to your gaming schedule, begin to “work” your gaming accounts to increase your bankroll(s) and qualify for the bonus offers!

As described in the [Multi-Channel Cash Flow Pipeline](#) Section, in a few short weeks you’ll build and nurture your personal On-line Blackjack “structure”. And, a few short weeks after that, you’ll begin to “harvest” the fruits of your labor. You will have created your own **Personal On-line Blackjack Money Machine!**

Good Gaming !!!

Additional Resources

As previously discussed throughout this eBook, choosing your on-line casinos is, by far, the most important decision you'll be making. There are a tremendous amount of rip-off artists operating on the Internet. **Never play at a "questionable" on-line casino!**

- [Blackjack Secrets](#) – Mr. LaMastra suggests that you visit his recommended On-Line Blackjack resource site, [Blackjack Secrets](#), for up-to-date Bonus information and reviews on reputable, reliable and "safe" on-line gaming sites. The on-line gaming landscape is changing so quickly, that it's a good idea to visit frequently to get the latest on-line gaming site information. [Click here to visit and bookmark LaMastra's recommended resource site: Blackjack Secrets.](#)

Here are two good resources to help you choose reputable, reliable and "safe" casinos:

- [Interactive Gaming Council](#) – Gaming sites approved by IGC must be licensed and accredited. IGC also offers dispute resolution services and can be contacted on-line.
<http://www.igcouncil.org/>
- [Internet Gaming Commission](#) - This site has search engine and also maintains lists of on-line casinos where caution is urged. This is a good source for on-line casinos to avoid.
<http://www.internetcommission.com/>

About the Author

“Things that are complex are not often useful. Things that are useful are always simple.”

Juan LaMastra, 2001

Juan LaMastra was born in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico in August, 1922. Because the city of Juarez, Mexico was directly across the border from El Paso, Texas, as a young boy, Mr. LaMastra frequently illegally crossed the Mexico/U.S. border to earn money by shining boots in El Paso. It was here that Mr. LaMastra learned to speak English.

During World War II, Mr. LaMastra, now 20 years old, saw and seized an opportunity that shocked his entire family and changed his life forever. He illegally crossed the border into El Paso and took a city bus to Fort Bliss, Texas where he enlisted in the American Army as a Private in 1942. After Basic Training, he was assigned to a Combat Engineering unit as a bulldozer operator and saw action in the Pacific Theater.

It was his decision to join the U.S. Army that paved the way for Mr. LaMastra to become a U.S. citizen. After the war and now a U.S. citizen, he returned to El Paso, Texas in 1945 and worked at the ASARCO Mining Plant as a laborer.

In the early 1950's, Mr. LaMastra heard that there was good construction work with good pay in some far away place called Las Vegas, Nevada. He promptly quit his job at ASARCO and took a Greyhound bus to Las Vegas in search of a good paying construction job.

While in Las Vegas, Juan LaMastra worked as a member of a road crew that laid the original pavement that is now known as the famous Las Vegas “strip”. Mr. LaMastra was also a member of the construction crews that built the original Sands, The Royal Nevada and Tropicana.

Mr. LaMastra soon found out that although construction work in Las Vegas paid well, it was not necessarily “steady” work. Construction workers tended to hop from job to job with occasional long periods of unemployment between jobs.

It was during one of these periods of unemployment in 1958 that Mr. LaMastra decided to try his hand at becoming a professional gambler. He immediately ruled out Craps and Roulette as being “too given to pure chance”. He decided that Poker was how he was to make his living.

When he first tried his hand at Poker he literally lost his shirt, along with his hat, watch, belt, bolo tie and boots. After several losing sessions at the Las Vegas Poker tables, it became painfully apparent to Mr. LaMastra, that Poker was just not his game. Then he tried the game of Blackjack.

At first, Mr. LaMastra didn't do very well at Blackjack. But, he did recognize that at least he had a fair chance to win at this game. Although he was flat broke most of the time, he would spend days and days in different Casinos – not to play (because he had no money), but only to watch and observe as long as he could before he was asked to leave.

It was during this time Mr. LaMastra determined that it was possible to make money playing the game of Blackjack - as long as you were, in his words, “smart about it”.

Over many years of trial and error, Mr. LaMastra developed and honed his personal Blackjack strategy, which he likes to call his Unified Tres Cruces (Three Crosses) Technique. He calls it the Unified Tres Cruces Technique because it is a single strategy composed of three separate components or “crosses”, as he prefers to call them.

From the mid 1960's until he decided to retire in 1994, Mr. LaMastra made his living as an inconspicuous and anonymous professional gambler, and quietly accumulated enough wealth to comfortably retire as a Gentleman Rancher in Honduras. During this period, he played the Casinos of the U.S. west, Central America and the Caribbean. And, playing one game and one game only – Blackjack.

Although now retired, Mr. LaMastra still feels the lure of the Casinos and frequently travels to the Casinos of Tegucigalpa, Honduras and San Jose, Costa Rica to keep his Blackjack skills sharp.

In 1998, Mr. LaMastra's grandson gave him a computer as a Christmas gift and then spent many months teaching him how to use it and how to access the Internet. Once he got comfortable with this new technology, Mr. LaMastra quickly discovered a new challenge – **On-Line Blackjack**.

For several years now Mr. LaMastra has studied and experimented with On-Line Blackjack. And now he is convinced that it is very possible to win against computers as long as you know how to do it. In fact, he says, “It's really pretty easy.” The discovery of On-Line Blackjack has given Mr. LaMastra a new pursuit he likes to refer to as *aplear maquina* or “beat the machine”.

Today Mr. LaMastra is in his 80's and is a Gentleman Rancher who owns a 660 hectare Finca (Ranch) outside of La Ceiba, Honduras. When not traveling to the Casinos of Honduras or Costa Rica, and not studying On-Line Blackjack, he spends most of his time overseeing his Finca's operations and spends as much time as possible with his wife, Martha, and his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Postscript

This eBook is dedicated to my loving grandson, Jorge. I will be forever grateful to Jorge because he opened new worlds to me by his gift of a computer and his patience to teach me how to use a computer and the Internet! For this, I shall be forever grateful in the time that I have left.

Juan LaMastra, 2001

A few words from H. Walker Andersen

The author of this eBook is Mr. Juan LaMastra; I only assisted Mr. LaMastra with putting his concepts, thoughts and experience into written words.

I first met Mr. LaMastra in El Paso, Texas in early to mid 1982. I was fresh out of college and working as a manager at a nationwide electronics retail store in El Paso's Cielo Vista Mall.

Mr. LaMastra came into my retail store wearing a wrinkled flannel shirt, a straw western hat, dusty western boots and faded bib overalls. He was a very quiet and soft-spoken man who nodded at me politely and then went quietly and slowly through my retail store as if he were studying each individual product. After about ten or fifteen minutes, I asked if I could help him, he politely whispered that he was just looking.

My initial thought was that he was a bit of an eccentric, and that he'll probably just leave the store in a few minutes. So I left him alone to wander the aisles of my store unassisted. After all, he was an elderly gentleman who was very polite and quiet. So to me, he seemed harmless enough and I just pretty much ignored him.

As I was later assisting another customer in the rear of the retail store, I took notice of Mr. LaMastra again. He was in the back corner of the store and since he is very short in stature, he was jumping up and down trying to get a look at an electronics product that was displayed on an upper shelf. It was tremendously funny to see this short little man jumping up and down stiff legged like a pogo stick, but I was able to control my urge to laugh and asked again if I could help him. Once again, he replied in a quiet, almost whispered voice, "No, thank you. I'm just looking."

Several minutes later as I was finishing up with another customer at the cash register in the front of the store, Mr. LaMastra appeared out of nowhere to stand in line behind the customer I was in the process of helping. He waited patiently for a minute or so until I finished with my customer. Then in that same quiet, whispered voice, he asked, "When does the store close?"

I thought that this was somewhat of an odd question. Doesn't everyone know that all of the stores in the mall close at the same time, and that the mall closes at 9PM? But since he was polite, I was polite too and simply said, "9PM". He smiled and nodded and promised to come back before closing. My thoughts at the moment were, "Yeah. Sure".

About twenty minutes before closing, Mr. LaMastra came back as promised. Except this time, he was not alone. He had this absolutely gorgeous woman with him! She was in her early twenties, extremely well dressed and draped in what appeared to me to be very expensive jewelry! I was certain that her clothes were more valuable than my car.

I later found out that this was his granddaughter, Guadeloupe (she goes by Loupe). But at the time, I had no idea and I was absolutely stunned!

Mr. LaMastra and Guadeloupe went through my store with me “in tow” from end to end. From time to time as we walked the aisles, Mr. LaMastra would point to a display product and say, “Yes, that’s nice. I need that. I’ll take that.” And, I would dutifully take a note of what he wanted.

While all of this was going on, I was constantly wondering “Am I just being taken for a ride here? After all, he doesn’t really look like can afford all of this!” But on the other hand, I couldn’t take my eyes off of Guadeloupe! So I continued to follow them through my store. (I later found out that Guadeloupe was married and had two children of her own. It broke my heart!)

In the end, Mr. LaMastra purchased a little over \$3,100.00 in electronics equipment ranging from component stereo systems to indoor home intercoms. And as he paid for his purchases with cash, he asked me if I would be kind enough to deliver his purchases.

Now normally my store does not deliver. But, in this case I was willing to personally deliver for two reasons. First of all, it was a huge single purchase that put me way over my store quota for the month. And secondly, I wanted to see Guadeloupe again! I agreed to deliver his purchases and Mr. LaMastra wrote down his home address and drew a little map so that I wouldn’t get lost.

The next day I made my way to Canutillo, NM (just outside of El Paso across the Texas State line) and was stunned again when I found Mr. LaMastra’s house at the end of a dirt “levy” road. It was an absolutely stunning home in the Spanish Territorial style with polished terrazzo entryways leading into cathedral ceiling rooms. I won’t describe the entire house except to say it was as stunning to me as was Guadeloupe!

Mr. LaMastra greeted me in the driveway wearing the same clothes that he had on the day before. But, instead of being quiet and soft-spoken like he was the day before, he was loud, laughing and excited. He reminded of a small child on Christmas day. In some sense, this is exactly what he was at that moment. After all, I had just personally delivered all of his “new toys”!

After I helped Mr. LaMastra unload and unpack his new purchases, and his excitement had died down a bit, he invited me to stay and have dinner with he and his wife, Martha. It was a very quiet and subdued dinner with just the three of us. (Guadeloupe was nowhere to be found and of course, at the time, I didn’t know that she was married and had a home of her own. And, I was also afraid to ask about her!)

After Mrs. LaMastra's very nice but spartan dinner, Mr. LaMastra and I went out back so that he could puff on his pipe while we both enjoyed a Dos Equis beer. It was during this little "talk" with Mr. LaMastra that he thanked me for not only delivering his purchases, but also for not "pre-judging" him because of the way he chose to dress. Although this was a very awkward moment for me, I continued to listen to him as he shared with me that most people he comes into contact with tend to ignore him or discount him because they think he's just a crazy old coot! But he also shared with me that he actually goes out of his way to make people think he's a crazy old coot. When I asked him why? He answered mysteriously, "It's just easier that way." I didn't press the point.

As I was leaving, Mr. LaMastra walked me to my Chevrolet Chevette Scooter parked in his driveway and he asked for my business card. Mr. LaMastra thanked me again for being so polite to him and then as he shook my hand, he said something very profound to me. As he held my hand tightly, he said to me in a whispered voice, "Mi casa, su casa".

Now when somebody like Mr. LaMastra tells you that "My House is Your House", they are not merely being polite. They actually mean it. And, this is the highest of honors and compliments, and not to be taken lightly. Especially for me – an "Anglo" from Minnesota who just happened to go college at UTEP in El Paso!

Over the years since then, I have become an "honorary" member of the LaMastra family. I am always invited to, and attend family Quinceañeras, baby showers (Mexican baby showers are a 2-day family keg party!), weddings, birthdays, Christmas and New Years celebrations and yes, funerals, too.

It took several years before I found out how Mr. LaMastra actually made his money. I never asked before because I just assumed it was probably either inherited, or land wealth, or by a means that I really didn't want to know about anyway. Besides, if Mr. LaMastra wanted me to know, he would tell me. When I finally found out that he was a practicing Professional Gambler, I was again stunned! This sweet little man? He just didn't fit into my mental stereotype of a Professional Gambler!

Even though Mr. LaMastra retired to Honduras in 1994, I still make it a point to visit with him at least once a year, if not twice a year. Over the years he has become a surrogate Grandfather to me. In a lot of ways, I feel a lot closer to the LaMastra family than my own.

Since 1995, I have been "pestering" Mr. LaMastra to write a book about his life and his adventures. He has always refused. He says, "Who would want to read that crap?" After my relentless pestering over the years, in 2001 Mr. LaMastra finally agreed to allow me to capture at least one small portion of his life. He agreed to make his gambling techniques known, but only upon **two non-negotiable conditions**. The first condition is that his winning Blackjack Techniques must have the widest possible dispersal. In his words, "Those thieves make enough money anyway." The second condition? In his own words, "Nothing about the women. Martha will get mad." **H. Walker Andersen**

Publisher Notes

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The publisher strongly recommends that potential players consult the appropriate authorities in their country of residence prior to registering and playing at any on-line gaming site to insure compliance with any laws related to on-line gaming.

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First edition: October, 2002. Revised edition: September, 2003.