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Professional Blackjack



Synopsis

This book explains how to win at blackjack. It contains a simple explanation of a powerful winning system plus comprehensive coverage of several related but more complicated systems. It tells how to win without getting kicked out of a casino. It has been thoroughly tested in casinos throughout the world. The major additions to this book in the 1980 revision are a chapter on basic strategy, decision rules for early surrender, and a chapter on double exposure. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Pi Yee Pr; 1994 EDITION edition (March 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0935926216

ISBN-13: 978-0935926217

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (48 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #96,807 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Blackjack

Customer Reviews

To win at Blackjack, you need to do four things:(1) make the appropriate playing decision (e.g. hit / stand);(2) bet more when odds favor that you will win;(3) have a sufficient bankroll available; and(4) play enough roundsThis book covers all four points.Making the appropriate decision (playing strategy) can be achieved by learning basic strategy. Playing strategy -- and hence your win rate -- can be improved by memorizing index numbers, but basic strategy is actually sufficient for winning at blackjack. Basic strategy, as well as index strategies for two card counting systems, are presented thoroughly.Making the appropriate betting decision is necessary for winning at blackjack. In the long term, it is statistically impossible to win at blackjack without varying your bet appropriately. Selecting an appropriate bet is covered thoroughly in this book.Having a sufficient bankroll is essential. While the minimum bankroll size (say \$2500 for playing on the Strip) may be more than you like, the details of calculating the bankroll you need is provided.Playing enough rounds is essential. The details are provided for you to calculate your expected win rates, and their standard deviations, so you know what to expect. You may need to play more than you want (say

100 - 1000) hours to have a reasonable chance of doubling your bankroll, but again, you can calculate it. This book does have math. No calculus, but basic statistics. Everything is explained -- and you will want it explained. The material in the book is not heavily dated (cf Million Dollar Blackjack by Ken Uston). Some readers have expressed concern, but as of the date of this review, it's easy to find games in Las Vegas with odds better than the benchmark rules.

This is a no-nonsense how-to book on how to gain a mathematical edge over the house when playing blackjack. Wong is a solid writer, and relays the information in a direct and straightforward manner. There are several counts outlined in the book. Do yourself a favor: learn the simplest count (the Hi-Lo), and learn it well. A common mistake many beginning players make is to learn the most complicated count available, thinking that this will win them the most money. (In Professional Blackjack, this count is the "Wong Halves.") Don't bother learning this count. Complex counts are worth learning if (1) you are playing single decks almost exclusively where (2) the dealers deal fairly deeply into the deck. While such games existed when Wong originally published this work, they are rare to nonexistent now. One criticism I have is that Wong gives the act short shrift. In order to gain an edge over the casino, you must learn to count. Wong imparts this message admirably, as far as that goes. But counting is a necessary -- but not sufficient -- condition to take what was until recently the casino's money out the door with all of your body parts intact. To do that, you will have to act like someone who is not counting. Developing an act is extremely important (and is another reason to choose a simple count. You shouldn't look like you are counting while you are counting; hence, choose a count that will allow your brain to do more than one thing at a time.) I attempt to wrap up each blackjack book I review on two levels: (1) The **current** practical value of the specific information provided in the book (e.g., basic strategy, counts, betting strategy, etc.

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