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**Playing QQ In No Limit Texas Holdem**

**By Wes Young**

While there is no argument that QQ is one of the most powerful starting hands in no limit Texas

holdem, it also can be challenging to play correctly. The trademark of a good player is one who can win big pots while losing small ones. What this means is that the best players minimize their losses when they do lose a hand and maximize their profit when they win. QQ is one of the starting hands that separate the winning players and the losing ones.

When you are first to act or the first player who hasn't limped into the pot, you should raise most of the time. There are two reasons for this. The first is you don't want anyone to see the flop for cheap, especially hands with an Ace and small kicker. The second reason is that you need to do everything you can to find the strength of your opponents hands. By raising, if one of your opponents re-raises and/or moves all in, you will have a difficult decision to make, but you may be able to get away from the hand if you think your opponent has AA or KK. This is the absolute worst position to be in. In addition, QQ plays best against one or two opponents. You should keep all of your pre flop raises roughly the same to not give away the strength of your hand, usually three or four times the big blind.

Playing QQ after the flop is usually straightforward. If you have shown strength by raising pre flop, continue to show strength until one of your opponents convinces you that they have a better hand. This includes when an Ace hits on the flop. You must bet to represent an Ace in your hand. If you check, you are giving your opponents permission to steal the pot from you, as you will have to fold to a bet. When you bet and an opponent calls or raises, you then must decide if they actually have a better hand or not. In most cases they will have a better hand because you have shown strength two times and they should respect your hand, unless you have been playing too loose.

There are a few situations in which I will check after the flop. They both happen when I am in the hand with an aggressive opponent and I feel I have the best hand. The first is when a Queen hits on the flop giving me trips. By checking, rarely will a free card hurt me if my opponent doesn't bet and this gives them a chance to bluff off more chips to me. The other situation is when the flop doesn't have an Ace and appears ragged. My plan when this happens is to move all in when my opponent bets after I check. There is danger in both of these situations, especially the later one. Your opponent may have hit a set, in which case you will be drawing almost dead. However, I have found that the times they

can't beat my hand far outweigh the times they can, so these situations are profitable. The key to both of these is that you must be sure your opponent will take the bait and bet. Giving free cards can be harmful. I do not do this when two cards of the same suit are on the flop unless I did flop a set. When you flop a set, you have many outs to a full house, even against a flush. The other thing is that these plays do not work very well against the best competition. They will respect your hand and will be less likely to bluff at the pot after you check unless you do a great job of acting weak. After showing pre flop strength, this is often difficult.

Wes Young works with Tom Ake of Royal Poker Online at

<http://www.royalpokeronline.com>

Take a

look at the online poker room reviews today.

**Texas Holdem Players: Play Texas Hold em Online at the best internet sites for Texas Hold em at <http://www.texas-holdem-online-poker.com>**

**By Chris Ferguson**

Are you looking to play Texas Holdem online? The following poker websites will allow you to play Texas Holdem on the internet.

Click on each of the links below to play Texas Hold Em online.

Party Poker – <http://www.partypoker.com/index.htm?wm=2032830>

Let me take a minute to introduce you to PartyPoker.com ...the number # 1 Texas Hold em poker site on the internet for people who like Texas Holdem!!!

Since launching in 2001, we have been the fastest growing Texas Holdem player site in the world. Thousands of players play Texas Hold em daily on our site—especially those who like to play Texas Holdem with other internet players who also like to play Texas Hold em. We offer a variety of poker games and tournaments for your pleasure for people who enjoy Texas Holdem. We also offer FREE internet Texas Holdem play at our play money tables. You can learn how to play Texas Hold em for free and see how our games/tournament work at no cost. Play access and getting started is easy. If you enjoy playing Texas Holdem games, we have something for you. Texas Holdem fun and excitement is what we are all about! To play Texas Hold Em at Party Poker, please click the following link:

<http://www.partypoker.com/index.htm?wm=2032830>

## Playing QQ In No Limit Texas Holdem

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Do you love Texas Hold em ? We bet you'll love playing Texas Holdem at Empire Poker.

Thousands of players interested in playing Texas Holdem play cards daily at Empire, and there are many good reasons why they play Texas Hold em there!

We offer a variety of Texas Hold em games and tournaments for people interested in playing poker online. We also offer FREE Texas Holdem play at our play money tables, for as long as you like. Play Texas Holdem on our free software live with other players at no cost while you learn the rules.

In addition, we make every effort to ensure a fair and safe environment for all Texas Holdem players who play poker. To play Texas Hold Em at Empire Poker, please click on the following link:

<http://www.empirepoker.com/index.htm?wm=1701693>

Poker Room – <http://www3.pokerroom.com/?ref=4097>

Poker Room --- the #1 Website on the Internet for people who love Texas Holdem!

At Poker Room, we are committed to giving you, the Texas Hold em player, the ultimate gaming experience. That's why we provide a full free "play money"

Online Demo version of our internet Texas Holdem software. It is identical to the Real Money version, so that you can get the true feel of our software

before playing Texas Hold em for Real Money on the internet. You will receive \$1,000 in free play poker money to play Texas Holdem with. However, if

you spend it all, your Demo Account will be replenished automatically so you can play more Texas HoldEm. No obligations, no limits – just loads of

fun for the Texas Holdem fan. We offer players who love to play Texas Holdem on the internet the chance to play the most popular games and our

software is easily downloaded and free of charge. The graphics are smooth and the Texas Holdem gaming is sharp, fast and hassle-free.

To play Texas Holdem at Poker Room, please click on the following link:

<http://www3.pokerroom.com/?ref=4097>

Any of the above poker rooms are excellent options for those looking to play Texas Holdem...click thru to each of the links to play Texas Holdem with other poker players.

Chris "Jesus" Ferguson got his PhD in Computer Science from UCLA, specializing in artificial intelligence. His analytical mind serves him well at the poker table, and at UCLA as a guest lecturer in Game Theory.

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