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Poker Chips - A Great Gift Idea!

By Tom Riemersma

Poker, especially Texas Hold'em, has become extremely popular in the last few years. More people

are playing regular games with friends than ever before. Most of the mania has come from the airing of the big time poker tournaments like the world series of poker on several major TV networks. People dream of becoming the next regular guy to make it big like the "Professor," or Chris "money-maker." Another big factor that has fueled the fire of the poker boom is the emergence of several online poker gaming sites. On these sites you can play real people from around the world for money or just for fun. This has allowed people to learn and practice the game with security of relative anonymity. Poker legends have actually been "born" on these internet gaming sites which makes them all the more alluring.

With the recent popularity of this age-old card game, poker chip sets have become a common and very well received gift. The cool thing is that they can be a great gift for someone who really loves playing poker, is just starting to be interested in poker, or simply for someone as a great addition to a game room or display case.

There are many great occasions to give a poker chip set as a gift; Fathers Day, Christmas, Valentines Day, or a Birthday. Another idea, if your loved one already has chips, is to purchase poker accessories which make a valuable addition to any poker chip set. Examples of these accessories include a poker table or table top, a card shuffler, specialized or personalized dealer button, and many others. These poker themed gifts can vary in price from hundreds of dollars for a large 500 chip set in a deluxe storage box to any of the small end poker accessories which can start as low as five dollars. Be assured, you will be able find something to fit any budget.

Poker chip sets are also becoming a very popular groomsman gift. It is often agonizing for the groom to try to come up with a gift that will be well liked by several different guys with different interests and tastes. Because of the wide variety of chip styles and designs and many different options of cases, any groomsman would love this gift, and you can find a great set to fit any budget. Most local printing shops are now able to engrave poker chips or poker cases with each of your groomsmen's initials in them to make this an extra special gift. Once again, problem solved!

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But let's not forget that these poker sets and accessories are not only for men, there are plenty of women who love poker and are often more skilled than their male family and friends. So if you're stuck, trying to figure out what that complicated lady in your life would love to receive—and seems to have everything, think about poker. If she loves poker, she is sure to love these great gift ideas, and you by giving them will have shown your creativity and thoughtfulness.

Maybe the question isn't why should I buy, but rather why wouldn't I purchase a poker chip set or some poker accessories for the next special occasion in my loved one's life?

Tom Riemersma plays a lot of recreational poker and is a poker chip expert. He offers his poker-related advice through Elite Poker Chips, the one and only poker chips destination worth visiting on the web. See more at

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

Poker Chips: The Color Of Money

By Robert Thatcher

They may not look like one, but they certainly represent money. They may seem like good old plastic chips designed to be used as toys for children, but they're really worth millions.

That is what poker chips are all about. They may appear synthetic or even look dazzling with the different colors, but the main idea of the item is that they are actually money.

In a casino, these brightly colored chips are actually illustrative representation of money, each having its own distinctive amount.

Generally, poker chips are constructed with complex "edge spot patterns" and diagrammatic illustrations so that they will be difficult to forge or imitate. The exact procedure in making these chips, other name of poker chips, is an absolute "trade secret." Besides, it uses relatively expensive machines.

In the U.S., the most common colors used in poker chips are white, pink, red, blue, green, black, and purple. Each color represents a particular denomination. For instance, purple represents the highest denomination in the world of casinos, \$500. However, there are some casinos like in Las Vegas, that has larger denominations, \$1,000, and this is represented by the yellow or the orange-colored chips. They also have higher denomination like \$5,000 up to \$25,000 but the colors for these chips may vary from time to time.

How to Buy Chips

Poker chips had revolutionized from the time it was first manufactured. Before, poker chips are made of clay materials. It was during the 60s and the 70s that the brittle chips were used.

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Today, poker chips are made of different quality materials intended to be used for a longer time. These chips now have various kinds and colors. Hence, it is important to know the buying tips in choosing poker chips so that you only get the best.

Here's how:

1. Decide on the kind of material chips you want to buy

If you are not so much after the kind of quality most of the casinos have, then it is best that you get the lightweight plastics. They are actually available at your local "big box store." The best thing about these kinds of poker chips is that they are cheaper and they are also durable.

2. Contemplate on the design

Poker chip designs may vary depending on the color used. There are poker chips that are solid in color. There are those that have 2 to 3 colors. There are also poker chips that have designs on them.

Whatever design you choose, it is important to know that these poker chips should last as long as you want them.

3. The number of chips that you should buy

If you are considering to buy poker chips, you can either choose whether you would buy 500 chips or the 300. There are also sets of 1,000. If you want more customized numbers, you can buy sets of 200, 650, 400, and 700.

The number of chips that you should buy will depend on the kind of poker you will play. For instance, if you will play Texas Hold `Em Poker with more than 7 players, it is best that you buy sets of 500 chips.

The idea here is that 1 player should have a minimum of 35 poker chips and a maximum of 100 for better games.

So now you know what to look for when buying poker chips. It is relatively easy to shop for more if you wish to upgrade the number of chips that you have. Just keep in mind that as your players increase, it is best that you have more poker chips than the usual.

Robert Thatcher is a freelance publisher based in Cupertino, California. He publishes articles and reports in various ezines and provides poker chip resources on

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