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## **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 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 forged or imitate. The exact procedure in making these checks, 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, 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.

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.

## Poker Chips: The Color Of Money

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

<http://www.about-poker-chips.info>

## **Poker Chips: Design And Tips**

**By Kathryn Whittaker**

## Poker Chips: The Color Of Money

Poker chips, or poker tokens, are used to keep track during gambling and replace money during the game. Even though poker chips are called clay chips, poker chip sets are not entirely made of clay. Sometimes clay is used as filler, but it is always mixed with some synthetic material for durability. Clay composite chip sets were popular in the early 1800s and today are rarely used mainly because they are more expensive and tend to break easily.

Today the most popular poker chip sets are made of plastic, clay composite, and acrylic. Since 1930s poker chip sets were decorated with metal foil for extra durability and security. Ten years later, poker chip sets were printed in the center and along the edges.

Since 1950s most casinos introduced their own designs and logos imprinted on the poker chip sets, and these chips became collectable items. To add extra security and prevent counterfeiting, casinos started to use unique blends and materials in their poker chips. Most often, it's a top-secret blend of synthetic polymer acrylic composite, sometimes with added clay or kaolin.

All casinos have their own unique colorful designs or at least a logo on their poker chip sets. These sets are produced only by a few specially appointed companies in the US, and the designs are protected by copyright.

For home gambling metal core poker or plastic chip sets are used. The metal core ones are heavier, can be customized in design and color scheme, which adds that special casino feel to them. Plastic poker chip sets are more lightweight and can be damaged more easily. On the other hand, they are less expensive and can be bought anywhere in any quantity. Plastic poker chip sets are the best choice for beginners in gambling, or for people who play occasionally. When people become serious about poker and start playing regularly, they prefer to invest in metal core poker chip sets or even in composite clay poker chip sets.

Poker chip sets are widely available on the Internet. Most companies when you place an order send a sample chip. You can also collect a nice poker chip set if you buy one-dollar chips from casinos - these would be of much better quality than any chips you could buy in stores, plus, they are a great conversational piece! And you can always trade them back for money in the casino or even play with them.

If you decide to keep your casino poker chip set, you need to provide them with a good "home". To keep your poker chips safe you need a poker chip case with lock and key where you would store your set during a poker session. Most often, you will get a complementary poker chip case when you place an order for a poker chip set. If you buy one separately, look for a case made of metal or hard wood, with a reliable lock and soft interior lining to protect chips and cards. Plastic or vinyl cases are easily damaged and do not provide enough protection for heavier poker chip sets.

When you are ready to buy your poker chip set, make sure you go for the best quality you can afford and that you order enough chips to accommodate the number of players you usually have. As a rule, you cannot have too many chips, but if you order not enough of them, you can easily add more. Store them in a reliable poker chip case and enjoy the game!

Kathryn Whittaker writes articles on a number of different topics. For more information on Poker chips please visit

<http://www.poker-chips-guide.com>

and for additional poker articles please visit

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