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## The Evolution Of Video Poker

By David Olsen

Video poker has been around for over 30 years. It started out when casinos noticed that many

people liked to play cards but were too scared to actually sit down at a poker table. Video poker allowed these players to play poker without having to look their opponents in the eye. With the explosion of online casinos Video Poker's popularity grew exponentially. This growth in turn led to the development of new versions of video poker. Here we'll take a look at some of the more important developments in the video poker world.

### 1. Multi Hand Video Poker

Multi Hand Video Poker is like "normal" video poker on steroids. As its name implies, you're playing more than one hand at a time. Common variations include Jacks or Better (of course), 10's Or Better, Deuces Wild and more. The Games come in 4, 10, 50, and even 100 hand versions. Multi hand video poker is an exciting twist on standard single hand video poker. Today, most online casinos have at least one multi-hand version.

### 2. Power Poker

Power Poker is Microgaming's version of Multi-Hand Video Poker and is probably the most popular multi-hand version on the web. Currently there are 11 different Power Poker Games in 4, 10 and 50 hand versions. Playing Power Poker is like playing the single hand version of the game. You start with the same 5 cards in each hand. You then select the card(s) you wish to hold. The remaining cards are discarded and new cards replace the discarded ones. Winning hands are determined by a redefined payout schedule.

### 3. Progressive Video Poker

Progressive Video Poker is yet another exciting variation of good old video poker. Progressive Video poker follows the same rules as a non-progressive version of the same game. The difference is in the payout of the royal flush. Often times, progressive jackpots build through multiple casinos, so potentially the pot can be huge. When playing a Progressive machine, it's crucial to play the max coins

on every play, that's the only way to win the jackpot.

### 4. Online Poker Rooms

Online Poker is not technically a video poker; however, since there are obvious similarities between the two, I felt a brief overview should be included here. In video poker you are playing against a machine, winning and losing hands are determined by a static payout schedule. However, when you're playing online poker, you are playing against real people. There is no predetermined payout schedule, you can win as much as your opponents are willing to wager on each hand. Also, and more importantly, Online poker allows you to bluff, meaning in theory, if you're a good enough bluffer, you can have the worst hand at the table but still win, if you've been able to convince your opponents to fold. This is the main reason for the huge popularity in online poker.

Lastly, as you can see, video poker continues to evolve. What started out as a game for would-be

poker players who were too intimidated to sit down at a real table, has, with the advent of Online Poker, come full circle. Today a poker player can sit down at a virtual table with players from around the world. Amazing.

David Olsen has been writing about online casinos and casino strategy for over five years and is considered an authority in the online gambling world. His latest website is all about the poker and video poker. Visit it at:

<http://www.playvideopoker.us>

## **The History Of Jacks Or Better Poker**

### **By Adel Awwad**

The origins of Poker and Jacks or Better are quite controversial. There isn't any specific ancestor of the game to draw a date from. However, Poker is a very old game indeed. The earliest reference seems to be from JH Green who, in 1834, referred to the 'cheating game' being played on the riverboats in Mississippi of the time. Jacks or Better Poker seemed to be a more legitimate game than Three Card Monte, which was quite popular at the time. Jacks or Better took over with popularity because it was labeled a fair game.

The origin of the name 'Poker' likely comes from the French 'poque' and old French game; while other people claim that the word 'Poker' must have come from Germany's pochspiel. There are still few who also believe the word is derived from the Hindu pukka.

Jacks or Better is one of the more popular original types of Poker that were played, although no information is really available as to its exact origins. Jacks or Better is one of the common rules amongst most types of Poker games that are played with some exceptions in the new variations of Poker that are played at casinos.

## The Evolution Of Video Poker

Jacks or Better Poker is available as a game for video Poker. The concept behind the game is that a pair of Jacks or Better wins: the better hand consisting two pairs, flush, straight, etc. up to a royal flush. Poker was thought of as a game of the men of the underworld in times past however nowadays is played legally in many variations in casinos around the world. It is possible that Poker is derived from many of earlier games that lent influence to the game of Poker we know today. It was reported by English actor, Joseph Crowell, that Poker was played in New Orleans in 1829 with a deck consisting of 20 cards, and with four players betting on which player's hand was the most valuable.

After the spread of gambling from the Mississippi riverboats, the full, 52 card deck was introduced and used to play Poker and the flush hand (five cards of the same suit) was introduced. Poker has been around for nearly 200 years, and there have been many variations that have come about from the game. Jacks or Better Poker is one simple variation of the game that is commonly played, especially in video Poker.

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