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Video Poker : Playing Tips

By Jason A. Martin

Like to play video poker machines? Step into any casino in Las Vegas and one thing you will

quickly notice is that the casinos spend a lot of layout space on machines. Much of that layout goes to Video Poker. If you have played Video Poker for any amount of time, you know that not all machines were created equal. As the years have gone by, more and more "specialty" video poker machines have come into being. Today, I am going to share some of my Video Poker tips from WiseBettor.com with you. I hope you will enjoy them.

Tip One: Finding a good machine

Finding a good machine is as simple as looking at the payout schedule. You really want to stay away from specialty pay machines that have larger top payouts, but negate the lower payouts. For example, a machine might pay a little more on four of a kind, but will pay less on two pair, flushes and full houses. Since you will rack up lower scale payouts often, because of the probability of receiving these hands, you want a strong lower scale payout system.

Tip Two: Playing strategy

Learning how to play properly (optimally) is a must. Your playing strategy will, in the end, determine your average return and your final bankroll amount. Knowing what to do in a situation where you have, for example, two Kings, but four to the flush is vital. Do you keep the Kings and the guaranteed money or roll the dice for the harder to hit flush? Playing a good machine with a good strategy will give you a great opportunity to win money over the long run.

Tip Three: It's random

Over the years, I have watched people play Video Poker in Las Vegas using all sorts of superstitious movements. Some will only use cold coins to play, some will push the buttons extra hard, some will tap the machine with their money before playing and the list goes on and on. Each hand is setup by a RNG (Random Number Generator). The moment you start to play, the hand is set in stone. The machine will randomly select all the cards from a 52-card deck and deal them out.

Tip Four: There's no memory

This is a big one. Many players believe that if they start to see hands with three of a kind, four to the royal and so forth that the bigger hands are due any moment. This is simply wrong. As explained in tip three, the system uses a RNG to setup the hands. The system has no memory. It does not know that you have not had a full house in 400 hands or that you just received three four of a kind hands in a row. It's possible to go 100,000 hands without a four of a kind and it's possible to get ten in a row. The machine does not keep track, because in the end, the numbers work out.

I hope these tips have helped you grow as a Video Poker player. Misconceptions on how the game works can be far more deadly than simply playing wrong. I have watched people spend (and lose) hundreds of dollars on a machine simply because they believed the machine had a memory and was "due" to hit. Don't fall into traps like this. Understand that Video Poker is random and needs to be

played properly. Now, go have some fun.

<http://www.WiseBettor.com>

is full of articles on gambling, gambling strategies, gambling reviews and

more—from an ex-professional gambler and casino dealer. If you want original gambling content for your website, visit

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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>



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