

Black Jack Pro



Black Jack Pro

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Welcome to Black Jack Pro

Over the years, Black Jack has turned in to the most popular casino table game and the reason for that is quite simple. Among all casino table games, Black Jack has the best odds and can actually be beaten! Of course it takes a little practice to do so, but it is not impossible and with putting some of that effort into your play you can expect to walk away from the tables winning money every time you play! “Black Jack Pro” will help you become a better player, teach you strategies and improve your overall winning expectations. Read this manual carefully to learn what the Pro’s already know and use to make money in the game every day!

Who do you want to be?

When you start up “Black Jack Pro” the program will take you to a selection screen that allows you to access your players. If it is the first time you start up the game, only the menu entry “Create Player” will be available to you, together with options to select and delete all the players you have created so far, as well as to exit the game. In any other case, the player you have been playing last will also be listed for quick access.

Create player

Select this menu entry to create an entirely new player. The program will take you to the [Player Option Screen](#), where you can create a new player and select the features for that player before you enter the actual game.

Play ‘Name of Player’

This entry allows you to immediately jump into the game with the player you have been using last. Without much hassle, the game gives you quick access to the [Game Screen](#) that way.

Select a player

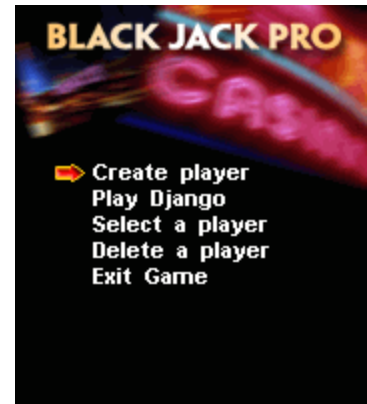
This menu entry takes you to a [List Screen](#) in which all the players you have created are listed for selection. This way you have access to players you have not played in a while.

Delete a player

This menu entry will take you to a listing of all players you have created so far. You can delete selected players by pressing the “OK/SELECT” key on your handset. To return to the Player Option Screen, simply press the “CLR” key on your phone.

Exit

This button exits the game. All data will be saved, including your current player’s status so that you will find it in the same state the next time you start up the game. You will then be returned to the Dashboard screen where you can select to play “Black Jack Pro” or “Video Poker Pro.”



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Creating a player

Once you get to the Player Option Screen you can enter information about the player and customize the many features the game offers you. Making changes is easy. Simply use the up and down keys on your phone to select the different menu entries and use the left and right keys to toggle between selections.

Player Name

Highlight this area to enter or edit your player's name. Player names are limited to 10 characters in length in order to properly fit it on the game screen. Once you select this menu entry, the numeric keys on your phone's keypad will allow you to enter the name one letter at a time. Please use the CLR key to erase letters and use the Pound-key(#) to insert a space.

Purse

In this area you will see how much money your player currently has available to gamble. Once you select this menu entry, the numeric keys on your phone's keypad will allow you to enter the amount of money you want to provide, one digit at a time. Please use the CLR key to erase numbers.

Table

"Black Jack Pro" allows you to select from various tables with different minimum bets, like it is the case in a real casino. A \$5 table has a minimum bet of \$5, which means you have to make at least a \$5 bet in order to be allowed to play the game. Each table also has a limit, which means your bets cannot exceed that amount of money. Here is a list with the table limits for each of the tables for your reference.

\$5 minimum bet	-	\$1,000 table limit
\$10 minimum bet	-	\$1,500 table limit
\$25 minimum bet	-	\$2,500 table limit
\$50 minimum bet	-	\$5,000 table limit
\$100 minimum bet	-	\$10,000 table limit

Decks

Black Jack can be played in various variations with various number of cards. A deck consists of 52 cards and you can select whether you wish to play a game using 1, 2, 4, or 6 decks. The most common variant in casinos is either the single-deck game or games using 6 decks, but all other variations can also be found in select casinos.



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Rules

Depending on where you are playing Black Jack the rules vary slightly. We have incorporated the rule sets for the four American main areas of casino gambling so that you can match your playing style as closely to the rules of your favorite casino as possible. Here is a listing of the rules as they are implemented. Keep in mind however that the house rules change from casino to casino even within these metropolises, so ask your dealer when in doubt and use these general rule sets to practice.

Las Vegas Strip

- Dealer draws on all totals of 16 or less and stand on all totals of 17 to 21
- Players are offered Insurance
- Player may double down on any initial two card combination
- Identical pairs may be split, resplit up to three times, and drawn to as desired with the exception of Aces, on which the player is allowed to hit only once on each Ace
- Player may double down on any split-hand

Las Vegas Downtown

- Dealer must draw on all totals of 16 or less, as well as soft 17
- Players are offered Insurance
- Player may double down on any initial two card combination
- Identical pairs may be split, resplit up to three times, and drawn to as desired with the exception of Aces, on which the player is allowed to hit only once on each Ace
- Player may not double down on split hands

Reno

- Dealer must draw on all totals of 16 or less, as well as soft 17
- Players are offered Insurance
- Player may double down only on initial two card totals of 10 and 11
- Identical pairs may be split, resplit and drawn to as desired with the exception of Aces, on which the player is allowed to hit only once on each Ace.
- Player may double down on any split-hand

Atlantic City

- Dealer must draw on all totals of 16 or less and stand on all totals of 17 to 21
- Players are offered Insurance
- Player may double down on any initial two card combination
- Identical pairs may be split but not resplit
- Player may double down on any split-hand

Tutor

This switch allows you to turn the tutor on and off that helps you practice the [Basic Strategy](#) outlined in this manual. After you have made a decision whether you want to Hit, Stand, Double Down or Split, the game will evaluate your decision and compare it against the recommendation of the Basic Strategy. If your decision was incorrect, the program will display an alarm indicating, which selection should have made.

Score

This switch allows you to turn the score display on and off. The score display displays the totals of both the dealer's and the player's hands for your information.

Sound

This switch allows you to turn the game's sound effects on and off.

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Help

Selecting this button will take you to in game help screens that briefly explain the option outlined above.

Back

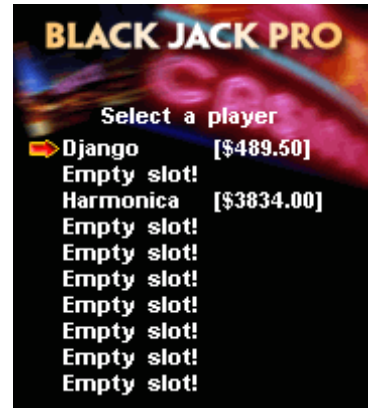
This button will take you back to the game.

Select A Player Screen

“Black Jack Pro” allows you to save up to 10 players. You can create them individually and assign options and features to each one of them. This way you can create players to train card counting, and others to simply have fun with.

In order to get access to all these players, the program contains a Player List Screen. Here the names of all 10 players are listed for easy access. To play one of them, simply select the name using the directional keys on your phone and then press the “OK/SELECT” key.

If you want to leave this screen and return to the loading screen, simply press the “CLR” key on your phone.



Delete A Player Screen

If you feel you no longer need one of the players, go to this menu screen and highlight the player you want to erase. After pressing the “OK/SELECT” key on your phone you will be required to confirm the deletion... just to be sure.

If you want to leave this screen and return to the loading screen, simply press the “CLR” key on your phone.

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Playing the game

Once you enter the actual game you will be presented with the game screen, which features a number of areas for interaction. These areas are important as they give you access to important features of the game.

Name area

In the upper part of the screen you will see your player's name and the amount of money in the player's purse. If you wish to edit your player, changing options associated with this player, adding money or editing the name, simply press the "CLR" key on your phone and a menu will appear that gives you access to the Player Options to do so.



Tokens and Bet areas

In order to place a bet simply press the directional keys on your phone. This will either increment or decrement the current bet by one unit or to the limit. The current bet is displayed on the screen for your review.

Before every round of play the game will request that you make your wager as indicated by the "Place your bet" highlight on the screen. Once you have selected a bet that matches or exceeds the table minimum, a new button will appear on the screen, saying "Deal." Press the "OK/SELECT" key on your phone whenever you are satisfied with your bet and want the game to begin.



The dealer will now deal out the cards to you and himself. After that it is time for you to make your choice. Please click on the buttons names "Hit," "Stand," "Double" and "Split" to tell the game which steps you wish to take next in the game.

For an explanation of the meaning of these terms and their impact on the game, please read the next chapter, [The Play Of The Game](#).

Speedbet

Once you have played one round of the game you will notice that a button called "Speedbet" appears at the bottom of the screen every time the game asks you to place a bet. This button is for your convenience and if you press "OK/SELECT" while this button is visible the game will automatically place the same bet you made in the previous game and

immediately commence the game. This way you do not have to select the chips after every round and confirm them with the "Deal" button.

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What is Black Jack, anyway?

After shuffling the cards, the dealer will offer one of the players to cut the cards. For convenience in "Black Jack Pro" the program is automatically cutting the cards for you after shuffling. Once the dealer reaches the cut card that was previously inserted in the deck, he will reshuffle the deck once the game in progress is completed. The dealer then removes the top card, which is called "burning" it, and takes it out of the game. If you are playing multi-deck Black Jack, the game is typically dealt out of a "Shoe" as there are - quite obviously - too many cards for the dealer to hold in his hands.

After the bets for the game are made, the dealer then deals one card face up to every player and deals himself a card face down. Then each player and the dealer each are dealt a second card face up. This second card is called the "Up card" while the covered one is usually referred to as the "Hole card."

The dealer will then check both his cards – invisible to the player – and may ask the players for insurance if he is showing an Ace as his up card, since he may have a Black Jack. If the dealer does indeed have a Black Jack, all hands are lost but all players who accepted the insurance are paid out their insurance wins. If the dealer does not have a Black Jack, the game resumes.

The player now has the opportunity to exercise his options and can decide whether he wants to Hit, Stand, Double Down or Split his cards. Once the player has finished his play, the remaining players at the table will play their hands. When the last player is finished, the dealer will turn over his hole card and begin to play his own hand according to the rules.

Once the dealer has finished playing his hand, he will either pay out the winners or collect the bets of those players who lost. This concludes the round and the dealer will ask for new bets to commence the next round of play.

One note on the side - if you are playing Black Jack in a casino, never touch the cards, unless you are playing a game in which cards are dealt face-down!

How do you play the game?

The object of Black Jack is very simple. You will have to beat the dealer, which can be achieved in different ways. Your hand has a higher total than that of the dealer but does not go over 21. The dealer goes over 21 and "busts," or you are dealt a two-card 21, called a "Black Jack." If player and dealer have the same total without exceeding 21, the hand is a push and neither one wins. That's all there really is to the game, but as you'd expect, the catch lies in the details, meaning, how you achieve one of the three goals above.

Show me the money – Black Jack

Whenever the first two cards you are dealt make up a total of 21, your hand is a Black Jack. In practice this means, every time you are dealt an Ace and a 10 or one of the face cards, you have an automatic winner, which pays 3 to 2. There is one caveat however. If the dealer also has a Black Jack, the hands are a push and neither one wins. If the dealer is dealt a Black Jack, all other players lose their bets – with the exception of those who can push the Black Jack, of course. In casino play, the dealer will immediately pay out your wins before commencing with the game.

Down the drain – Busting a hand

As pointed out, the objective of the game is to get as close to 21 as possible without going over. This means every time you are dealt an additional card to your hand that causes its total to exceed 21, your hand is "busted" and your bet is automatically and irreversibly lost. On the other hand, if the dealer busts you automatically win your bet, no matter how good or bad your own hand is. This is important to keep in mind because later on we will learn how to "anticipate" the dealer to bust depending on his up card.

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Card Values

In order to properly calculate one's hand, one first needs to know how to count it. Generally all cards are counted at face value. A 7 is worth 7 points, a 10 is worth 10 points and so on. All face cards - that includes Jacks, Queens and Kings - are counted as 10 points. Aces take on a special role in Black Jack, as they can be counted as 1 or 11 points, although all the Aces in a hand are counted the same points. This means, they're either all 1s or all 11s. You cannot count one Ace as 11 and the second as 1 point. A hand consisting of two Aces is automatically worth 2 points, since 22 points would bust the hand.

If an Ace is counted as 11 points, the hand is called "Soft" whereas all other hands are called "Hard," because their value will not change.

The dealer has no choice

Unlike the player, the dealer is very much locked into rules that he cannot deviate from. Unlike the player, the dealer has no choice. He must draw on any hand totaling 16 or less and he must stand on all hands over 17. Depending on the casino rules, the dealer may be required to draw on "Soft 17." (See [Rules](#) for specific details)

Power to the player

Unlike the dealer, the player has a variety of options how to play his hands, which makes room for different strategies – and mistakes, I'm afraid. Understanding the importance and effect these options have on the game makes the difference between a successful player and a clueless basher. Here are the options the player has during the game.

Hit me!

As long as you are unsatisfied with your card total you can draw additional cards. This is called "Hitting" named after the gesture made in casinos to indicate the need for additional cards by tapping a finger on the table or slightly scratching the felt of the table.

Stand and deliver

Whenever you are confident that your hand is strong enough to beat the dealer's it is time to "Stand." In casino play, the game then shifts to the next player, who is sitting to your left. Once all players took their turns, it is the dealer's turn to play his hand. If you are playing Black Jack in a casino, wave your hand palm down over the cards to signal that you want to "Stand."

Double or nothing

"Doubling Down" allows the player to double his original bet. The kick is that you will be dealt one more card after you "Double Down" and one card only!

In casino play, simply place the additional bet next to the original bet so that there are two identical bets side by side. The dealer will then deal you the additional card.

Splitting Pairs

If your hand is showing two cards of identical value, such as 7-7, 9-9 or such, you can split these cards and play them as two separate hands. You are allowed to split any combination of 10s, Jacks, Queens and Kings as their values are all 10 points. An equally sized bet has to be placed on the new hand.

In casino play, simply place the additional bet next to the original bet so that there are two identical bets side by side.

It is then time to play the split hands one by one. You will be dealt an additional card to the first hand and receive as many additional cards as you wish. Once you decide to "Stand," the dealer will deal out the additional card for the second hand and give you the choice to add additional cards to that hand.

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Depending on the casino rules (See [Rules](#) for more details) you may be allowed to re-split a hand if you are dealt another card of the same value.

Insurance

If the dealer's upcard is an Ace he will ask the players if they want insurance. If you decide to take insurance you are in effect betting that the dealer has a Black Jack. In casino play, simply place a bet that is half your original next in the area marked "Insurance."

If the dealer has a Black Jack, you will be paid 2 to 1 on the insurance bet while losing the original bet. In this case, no money is lost, as the insurance bet is making up for the loss of the hand. If the dealer does not have a Black Jack however, your insurance bet is lost and the game simply continues.

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Basic Strategy

There are some interesting dynamics at play in a Black Jack game. Understanding these dynamics and reacting to them will help you make the right playing decisions at any given time.

The dominance of tens

The most striking feature of Black Jack is the disproportionate amount of 10s in the game. 10s, Jacks, Queens and Kings all count for 10 points, making the number 10 very dominant in the game. Think about it. 16 out of the 52 cards in a single deck count 10 points. That's almost one third of all cards. With that in mind, as a player you should always be aware of the fact that any new card that is coming into play has a fairly high probability of being a 10. Since we only see the dealer's upcard, we always anticipate his hole card to be a 10, to determine our next moves.

If, for example, the dealer's upcard is an 8 and we assume his hole card is a 10, we anticipate that 18 is the hand to beat – and in over 36% of all cases we will be correct.

Since the dealer has to play according to very strict rules, knowledge of this 10 dominance can help us even further, as it allows us to categorize the dealer's upcard into to groups. 2s through 6s are cards that will force the dealer to draw another card because the total of his hand will be most likely less than 16 (or Soft 17 depending on the casino rules). 7s through Aces bring the dealer's total to or above 17, which means the rules dictate for the dealer to stand.

For the player this means that we will play defensively whenever the dealer shows a 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 as his upcard. Why? The rules dictate that he has to take another card and, in part as a result of the dominance of 10s in the game, there is a good chance that he will bust. Since we know that, there is no need for us to take a risk and we will stand even on comparably weak hands. Remember, when the dealer busts we win, regardless of our total.

On the other hand, whenever the dealer shows a 7, 8, 9, 10, J, Q, K or Ace we are forced to play more aggressively. On every one of these cards, chances are good that the dealer will reach 17 or more, causing him to stand. As a result we have to try and beat his hand, which forces us to play up our hand to the point that we feel confident we have the dealer beat.

There are some general rules however that you should apply at any time, regardless of what the dealer's upcard is showing.

- If your hand totals 11 or less, always draw another card. No matter what the card turns out to be, there is no risk of busting, and the additional card will always improve your hand. So, why take chances?
- Always stand on hands with a total of hard 17 or more. The risk of busting is too high and jeopardizes your game unnecessarily.
- If you are dealt a hand of two 8s or two Aces, always split them! Both have great potential for strong hands of their own and are more valuable when split rather than as a combined total. On the other hand, never split two 10s! Their combined total is 20, which makes them a hand that is very hard to beat – only Black Jack is better, and what are the odds of that?

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What to do with any given hand?

Following is a table that tells you exactly what to do for each combination of cards in a single-deck game. The top row marks the dealer's upcard, while the left column marks your own cards, either as a hand total (13) or as two separate cards (6-6). Take a look.

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
7/less	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
6-2	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
4-4/5-3	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
9	D	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
10	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H
11	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
12	H	H	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
13	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
14	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
15	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
16	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
A-2	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-3	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-4	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-5	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-6	D	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-7	S	D	D	D	D	S	S	H	H	H
A-8	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
A-9	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
2-2	H	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	H	H	H	H
3-3	H	H	Split	Split	Split	Split	H	H	H	H
6-6	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	H	H	H	H	H
7-7	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	H	H	H	H
8-8	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split
9-9	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	S	Split	Split	S	S
A-A	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split

In this table, "H" stands for Hit, "S" stands for Stand, "D" stands for Double Down and "Split" stands for... well, I let you guess.

Let's assume the dealer shows a 10 as his upcard and we have just been given a total of 8, consisting of a 6 card and a 2 card. According to the table above (see second row), we need to Hit. The next card we get is a 10, which brings our total to 18. As we learned before, we always Stand on any hand with a hard total between 17 and 21.

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Since multiple deck games have a different balance, we need a different table for these games. Once again, the top row indicated the dealer's upcard while the left column indicates your hand.

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
7/less	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
8	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
9	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
10	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H
11	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H
12	H	H	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
13	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
14	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
15	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
16	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
A-2	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-3	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-4	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-5	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-6	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-7	S	D	D	D	D	S	S	H	H	H
A-8	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
A-9	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
2-2	H	H	Split	Split	Split	Split	H	H	H	H
3-3	H	H	Split	Split	Split	Split	H	H	H	H
6-6	H	Split	Split	Split	Split	H	H	H	H	H
7-7	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	H	H	H	H
8-8	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split
9-9	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	S	Split	Split	S	S
A-A	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split

The table has slightly changed as you may notice, so let's run another example. If you have been dealt an Ace and a 6, while the dealer shows a 2 as his upcard, the table above tells us to Hit. (In a single-deck game we would have Doubled Down at this point.) The next card we receive is a 10, turning the Soft 17 we had before into a Hard 17 because the Ace now counts only one point. As we learned before, we stand on all Hard 17s.

You will notice that a hand of two 4s is not listed in the table. These cards are treated as a combined total of 8 and are not Split. A hand of two 5s is also not Split but instead treated as a combined total of 10, on which we double down.

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If you are playing a multi-deck game to the stricter Atlantic City rules the following table will help you make the right choices at any given time. Once again, it slightly varies from the regular multi-deck table in some details, as the dynamics of the game are shifted as a result of the changes in the rules.

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
7/less	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
8	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
9	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
10	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H
11	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H
12	H	H	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
13	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
14	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
15	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
16	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
A-2	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-3	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-4	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-5	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-6	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A-7	S	D	D	D	D	S	S	H	H	H
A-8	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
A-9	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
2-2	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	H	H	H	H
3-3	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	H	H	H	H
4-4	H	H	H	Split	Split	H	H	H	H	H
6-6	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	H	H	H	H	H
7-7	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	H	H	H	H
8-8	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split
9-9	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	S	Split	Split	S	S
A-A	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split	Split

That's all you need to know to become a better Black Jack player. Unlike what you might expect, casinos actually encourage players to play according to these basic strategies. The reason is simple, better players enjoy the game better, and happy players leave more money at the tables. In many casinos, dealers may even assist you and explain the most basic rules, like the dominance of 10s in the game, to you, and nowadays almost all Las Vegas Strip casinos offer free table game lessons for beginners, during which the dealers explain the basic strategies we just outlined, and assist the player to learn them and put them to practice.

You can even buy a copy of the tables above in most casino gift shops as small, handy wallet cards. Get one if you're insecure and use it whenever you are unsure. Casinos and dealers don't mind if you pull them out when in doubt, and it indicates to them that you are serious about your playing.

BLACK JACK PRO

It is possible to make money in Black Jack and it is one of the reasons why it has become the most popular casino table game. We hope we have been able to whet your appetite toward these sophisticated Black Jack strategies. If you want to learn more about how you can become a more proficient Black Jack player overall, you should visit [Cardoza Publishing on the Web](#). Avery Cardoza has long been the leading authority on the subject and has devised a number of different strategies for Black Jack players of varying levels of proficiency, all of which are available in his books.

Please play responsibly!