



Richard Hoadley

Richard *ChipsFool* Hoadley joined Pocarr in September 2014 as an already successful low stakes grinder, looking to improve his game and move up the stakes, both of which he has achieved.

With over \$2,000,000 in winnings, his consistent results and volume earned him a role as a “Peer Coach” in early 2016. Due to excellent feedback from many Pocarr backees, he was promoted to Main Coach in 2017. Richard continues to excel in his coaching duties, constantly staying ahead of the game and always looking for ways to improve both himself and his students.

Outside of poker, Richard has a keen interest in all things food and drink related. He also loves politics and is a member of the UK’s Labour Party. You can follow him on Instagram @ediblepilch.

Good Punt or Bad Punt?

Triple Barrel Bluffing

I love triple barrel bluffing, but I don't enjoy losing my entire stack, so let's take a look at some of my recent bluffs to see if they were good punts or bad punts.

While some of your bluffs are certain to get called, getting called does not mean your bluff was "bad", and if your opponent folds, it does not mean it was "good". Fundamentally sound poker involves a decent amount of bluffing; don't be afraid of it. That said, don't blast off every single time you have the opportunity, either!

Example 1

I min-raised to 2bbs out of my 36bb effective stack from the button and the big blind called. The flop came 10♣-4♥-3♦ and my opponent checked (*Diagram 148*).

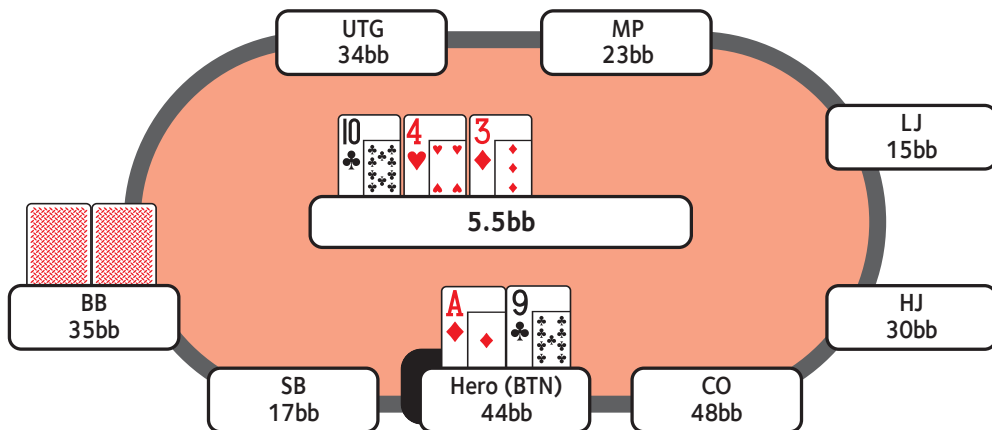


Diagram 148

This is a flop I should bet quite often due to having a decent range advantage. The solver recommends betting 71% of the time using a mix of small 25% pot bets and medium 50% pot bets (Diagram 149).

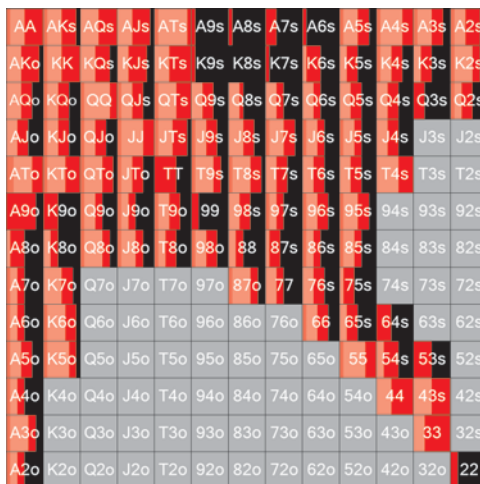


Diagram 149

- Bet 75% 5.5% / ● Bet 50% 32.0% / ● Bet 25% 33.5%
- Check 29.0% / ● Not in Range

The checking range includes some Ace and King-highs, a few give-ups with hands like 9♠-7♠, plus a few strong hands like top set, weak top pairs and strong underpairs to protect the range. If instead I had raised from early

position, I would bet with my entire range due to having a significant range advantage.

I bet 30% pot and my opponent called. The turn was the (10♣-4♥-3♦)-J♦ and my opponent checked.

If I played this spot today, I would not continue betting on this turn card because, if I bet all my Ace-highs, I am bluffing too often. I should keep betting with A-2 and A-5 some portion of the time because they are the worst Ace-highs, and they have additional equity with the gutshot. A-9 has a bit too much showdown value to justify bluffing. Hands with worse showdown value like A-6o and K-2s would be much better candidates to bluff. When choosing which hands to bluff, take a moment to confirm how many weaker potential bluffing combinations are in your range. If there are a lot, perhaps you should instead check, especially if you have reasonable showdown value.

As the solver shows (*Diagram 150*), A-9 is simply never a bet, although when it does bet, it uses an 80% or 110% pot bet. Notice how the best bluffs are those with relatively little equity, with most of the marginal made hands 9-9 to bottom pair doing a lot of checking.

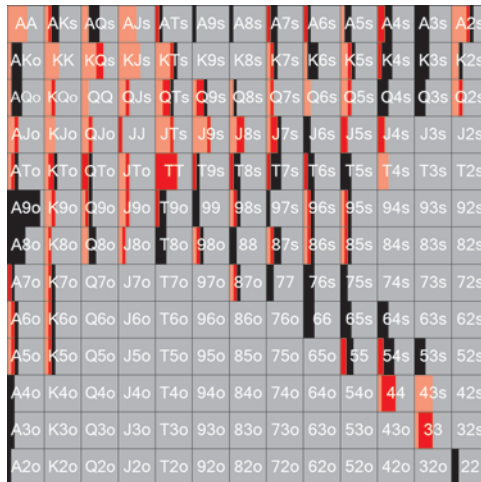


Diagram 150

● Bet 188 34.5% / ● Bet 112 20.5% / ● Check 45.0% / ● Not in Range

I bet the size of the pot and my opponent called, leaving one pot-sized bet remaining in the stacks. The river was the (10♣-4♥-3♦-J♦)-Q♥ and my opponent checked.

The King and Queen are the best cards for me to bet on the river because they connect the best with my range. They are also quite bad for my opponent's range, which will mostly be middle pair and worse made hands. Therefore, I should bet frequently using an all-in size. Notice though how the solver does not bet the unpaired A-x too often because there are plenty of worse K-x, 9-x and 8-x to bluff. If the solver had A-9 in its range, it would check (*Diagram 151*).

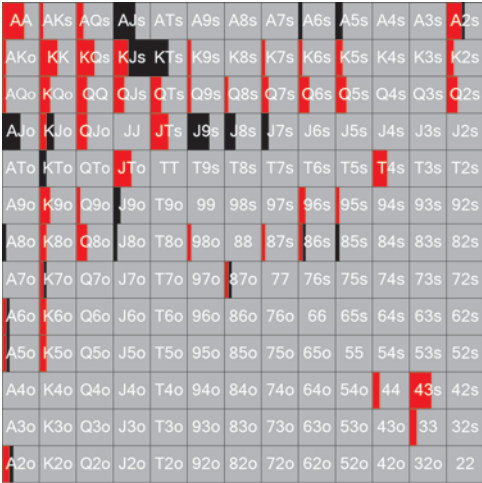


Diagram 151

● Bet 437 71.5% / ● Check 28.5% / ● Not in Range

Instead, I compounded my turn mistake and bluffed all-in on the river. My opponent made the easy call with Q-10. This was an absolutely bad punt. It is important to review your play because if I played this hand today, I would not have made this mistake.

Example 2

I raised to 2.1bbs out of my 35bb effective stack from first position with 8♠-7♠ and the big blind called. The flop came Q♦-J♠-2♣ and the big blind checked (*Diagram 152*).

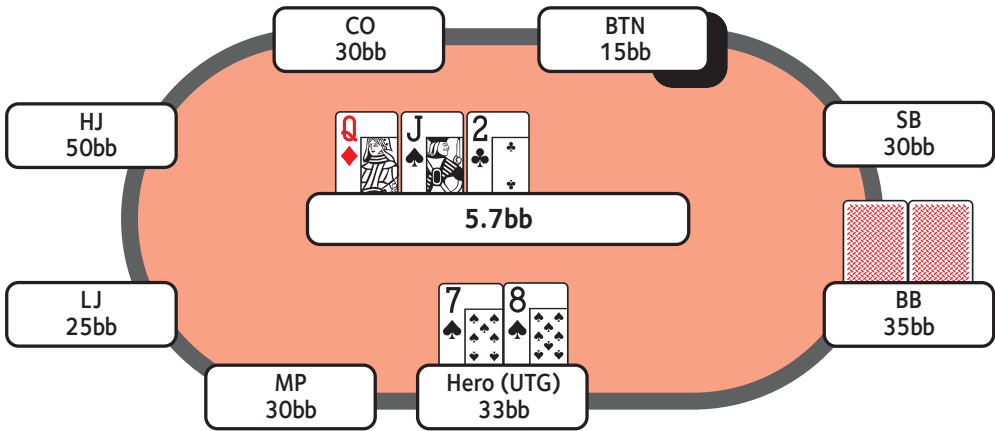


Diagram 152

Given that I raised from early position and the board contained two big cards, I should bet with almost my entire range, especially with bluffs that have a bit of backdoor equity (*Diagram 153*).

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
AKo	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
ATo	KTo	QTo	JTo	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9o	K9o	Q9o	J9o	T9o	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8o	K8o	Q8o	J8o	T8o	98o	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7o	K7o	Q7o	J7o	T7o	97o	87o	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6o	K6o	Q6o	J6o	T6o	96o	86o	76o	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5o	K5o	Q5o	J5o	T5o	95o	85o	75o	65o	55	54s	53s	52s
A4o	K4o	Q4o	J4o	T4o	94o	84o	74o	64o	54o	44	43s	42s
A3o	K3o	Q3o	J3o	T3o	93o	83o	73o	63o	53o	43o	33	32s
A2o	K2o	Q2o	J2o	T2o	92o	82o	72o	62o	52o	42o	32o	22

Diagram 153

- Bet 70% 5.8% / ● Bet 50% 6.0%
- Bet 30% 82.8% / ● Check 5.4% / ● Not in Range

The solver agrees, betting 94% of its range using a small sizing, opting to check only a tiny portion of its range, which can essentially be ignored in order to make your strategy easier to implement in-game.

I bet 30% pot and my opponent called. The turn was the (Q♦-J♠-2♣)-4♠ and my opponent checked.

To many players, this appears like an excellent turn card to continue bluffing, given I have no showdown value but a decent amount of equity. Whenever that is the case, it is tough for betting to be too bad. However, I have so many bluffing combinations with less equity to the point that I should check with this hand (*Diagram 154*).

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
AKo	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
ATo	KTo	QTo	JTo	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9o	K9o	Q9o	J9o	T9o	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8o	K8o	Q8o	J8o	T8o	98o	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7o	K7o	Q7o	J7o	T7o	97o	87o	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6o	K6o	Q6o	J6o	T6o	96o	86o	76o	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5o	K5o	Q5o	J5o	T5o	95o	85o	75o	65o	55	54s	53s	52s
A4o	K4o	Q4o	J4o	T4o	94o	84o	74o	64o	54o	44	43s	42s
A3o	K3o	Q3o	J3o	T3o	93o	83o	73o	63o	53o	43o	33	32s
A2o	K2o	Q2o	J2o	T2o	92o	82o	72o	62o	52o	42o	32o	22

Diagram 154

● Bet 200 17.4% / ● Bet 112 35.4% / ● Check 47.2% / ● Not in Range

The solver opts to bet using either a large pot sized bet or a medium 70% pot bet with all the high equity hands like top pair and better, as well as many of the relatively low equity bluffs like A-6s, K-8s and 8♣-7♣. It checks marginal made hands like 10-10 and A-4s as well as draws with decent equity like 10-9s and 8♠-7♠.

An important takeaway from this spot is that if I bet and get raised with my marginal draw, I am quite unhappy, so I prefer to check. My betting range should be more polarized, including strong made hands and strong draws that can call a raise, plus junky bluffs that do not mind bet/folding.

I instead bet 90% pot and my opponent called, leaving a pot sized bet remaining in the stacks. The river was the (Q♦-J♠-2♣-4♠)-K♥ and my opponent checked.

The river should be excellent for my range and I have no showdown value at all, so this hand seems like an obvious bluffing candidate (*Diagram 155*).

AA	AKs	ADs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
AKo	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
ATo	KTo	QTo	JTo	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9o	K9o	Q9o	J9o	T9o	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8o	K8o	Q8o	J8o	T8o	98o	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7o	K7o	Q7o	J7o	T7o	97o	87o	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6o	K6o	Q6o	J6o	T6o	96o	86o	76o	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5o	K5o	Q5o	J5o	T5o	95o	85o	75o	65o	55	54s	53s	52s
A4o	K4o	Q4o	J4o	T4o	94o	84o	74o	64o	54o	44	43s	42s
A3o	K3o	Q3o	J3o	T3o	93o	83o	73o	63o	53o	43o	33	32s
A2o	K2o	Q2o	J2o	T2o	92o	82o	72o	62o	52o	42o	32o	22

Diagram 155

● Bet 308 86.3% / ● Check 13.7% / ● Not in Range

As expected, the solver frequently bets, checking only 14% of the time almost entirely with Q-x, which has been downgraded to middle pair. When the river nails your range (which is the case on an Ace, King or 10 river in this spot), you should keep betting with everything besides your marginal made hands due to not having many potential bluffs in your range.

I bluffed all-in and my opponent called with 2-2, bottom set, which the solver recommends check/raising on the flop, due to me having lots of strong hands that can call the raise. However, if you know that your opponent enjoys running big bluffs, check/calling bottom set makes a lot of sense because you want to strengthen your calling range by adding in hands that you know you are almost never folding. If my opponent raised the flop, I would have folded, making it impossible for me to run a sizable bluff with relatively little equity.

I am happy enough with the way I played this hand, especially since most players generally don't check/raise the turn often enough. If I knew my opponent was especially prone to check/raise the turn, then betting the turn with my weak flush draw would be quite bad.