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## **Glossary**

## To C-Bet Or Not To C-Bet

We already know a lot about when we should adjust our range during pre-flop action, based on the player types at our table. Now it's time to develop a similar approach to our post-flop game.

### Introduction

Since we have adopted a rather aggressive style of play pre-flop, we most likely will see the flop with just one or two opponents. Now we need to decide whether to bet or to check. To judge this, it's important to know at which range our starting hand hits the flop. We differentiate between top range (great flops), middle range (fair flops) and bottom range (bad flops).

- ♠ Top range: The top range includes the best boards for our starting hand. As a general rule of thumb, the top range consists of made hands (with Nut Draws) that we will gladly stack off with for 200bb or less. An example for top range would be  $K\heartsuit-K\spadesuit-Q\heartsuit-J\heartsuit$  on  $A\heartsuit-K\heartsuit-9\heartsuit$ .
- ♠ Middle range: The middle range is the most difficult range to play. It contains hands with potential. It's often tough to decide if we can call a large bet or raise with those types of flops, because they are usually ahead of most of the villain's flop calling ranges (unless he changes up his game and slowplays stronger hands) but behind their raising range. When I do my hand evaluations, the toughest hands to analyze are these middle range spots. A typical middle range scenario would be holding  $Q\heartsuit-Q\heartsuit-J\heartsuit-10\heartsuit$  on  $7\heartsuit-7\heartsuit-4\heartsuit$ .
- ♠ Bottom range: Last is the dreaded bottom range. This range includes everything from complete whiffs, to trouble hands, like nonnut draws with weak blockers. A simple example for bottom range is  $A\heartsuit-7\heartsuit-6\heartsuit-5\heartsuit$  on  $10\heartsuit-9\heartsuit-3\heartsuit$ .

## *Strategies to Beat Small Stakes Pot-Limit Omaha*

Note that there will be hands with certain flops that don't clearly fall into one of these categories, like  $8♥-8♠-6♥-5♣$  on  $K♥-10♦-8♣$  would be "lower top-range," or  $J♠-9♦-8♠-7♦$  on  $7♥-5♦-2♦$  could be considered "upper middle-range." In such cases, it's recommended to choose the lower of the two respective ranges, unless reads of your players tell you otherwise. Both of these hybrid "sub-ranges" should be played like your middle range. Your task will now be to think about these ranges in certain scenarios and decide whether to c-bet or check around with them.

### **Exercises**

- 1) Give examples for top range, middle range and bottom range on the flop  $K♠-10♠-8♥$ .
- 2) In general: when should we c-bet our a) top range, b) middle range, c) bottom range?
- 3) How would the player types, a) Passive Fish, and b) Regular, influence our decision of c-betting with our middle range?
- 4) What statistics influence our decision to c-bet?

### **Solutions**

*1) Give examples for top range, middle range and bottom range on the flop  $K♠-10♠-8♥$ :*

Top range:  $K♥-K♣-4♥-3♦$ ,  $K♦-Q♠-J♠-10♣$ ,  $A♠-K♣-Q♠-J♦$

Middle range:  $A-Q-J-8$ ,  $Q-J-10-x$ ,  $10-9♠-7♠-6$ ,  $10-10-x-x$ ,  
 $A♠-J-J-x$

Bottom range:  $7-6-5-4$ ,  $Q-Q-6-5$ ,  $A-8-7-5$

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*2) In general: when should we c-bet our...*

*a) Top range*

Always, unless we have a good reason to trap or to slow play, like when spiking quads on dry boards

*b) Middle range*

### **Heads Up:**

When we've have fold equity vs. villain's range (J♥-J♣-4♥-3♦ on 6♠-6♦-2♠)

When the risk of getting check-raised is low (10♦-9♥-8♦-7♠ on K♦-7♥-5♠ vs. loose-passive)

### **Heads Up + Multiway:**

Showdown-Value (SDV) hands (i.e. hands that have a reasonably high likelihood at the current state to win at showdown) with only a few good turn cards to improve (A♥-K♠-8♠-6♥ on 8♥-6♦-3♦)

Strong blockers (A♥-A♣-5♦-5♠ on 6♥-4♥-3♣)

Hands that have an easy decision against a raise (A♠-8♣-7♥-6♥ on K♠-8♥-4♠)

### **3-way:**

To "buy" ourselves position (i.e. betting in the CO to make the BTN fold in order to play IP against the third player for the rest of the hand)

*c) Bottom range*

Only for auto-profit – betting solely on fold equity to exploit opponents who fold too often (e.g., On a dry board against an opponent with 65% F2CBet).

Rarely in multiway pots

## *Strategies to Beat Small Stakes Pot-Limit Omaha*

3) How would the player types,

a) *Passive Fish*, and

b) *Regular*, influence our decision of c-betting with our middle range?

a) *Passive Fish*

Against passive fish, we should c-bet almost everything in our middle range. This is because these players seldom semi-bluff. Therefore, we are not worried of ever having to fold the best hand with our middle range when we face a raise against this player (i.e., we are fairly certain we are beat).

However, we should c-bet less of our bottom range. That is because these players tend to call almost every single share of the board they hit, like bottom pair with gutshots or pure flush draws, so you should at least have some good turn cards for your hand to be able to fold out their weaker hands on later streets. In short, there is generally less danger to get x/r and a higher likelihood to get check-called (x/c) by those players.

b) *Regulars*

Against regs, it is a lot harder to define fixed c-betting strategies because the two types – TAG and LAG – are basically only pre-flop tendencies. What we do know is that the TAG plays stronger pre-flop hand ranges than LAGs typically do. That's why we should generally bet low card boards, that don't hit the playing range of TAGs, like 2♥-5♣-6♠ with a higher frequency against them. Other than that, it strongly depends on their x/r value:

- ♠ <10%: C-bet/fold almost our entire middle range
- ♠ 12-18%: Important to have a solid check-back range
- ♠ >20%: Bet/raise our highest equity middle range

If we don't have any reads on that stat, we should generally check back more hands of our middle range due to a higher semi-bluff tendency.

## *Strategies to Beat Small Stakes Pot-Limit Omaha*

### *4) What statistics influence our decision to c-bet?*

**VPIP/PFR:** In the last exercise we already discussed how tight ranges enable us to c-bet low card boards with a high frequency. Also against passive fish players with VPIPs as high as 70%, c-betting almost any board is a winning strategy. That's because the starting hands of those players are so disconnected, they rarely hit any strong hands on the flop.

**Check-Raise:** The importance of the x/r value has already been discussed at length in the last exercise.

**Fold to C-Bet F/T:** The F2CBetF tells you how big your direct fold equity with a c-bet is (on average). Note that you should also consider the board structure to better be able to judge your fold equity on this specific board (the wetter the board the lesser FE). The F2CBetT is a very good indicator in determining your FE, when planning on betting a lot of turn cards that likely don't hit Villain's range.

**Bet vs. Missed C-Bet:** If this stat is significantly high, then we might consider mixing in check-raises as PFA against this player to punish him for his loose betting against our perceived weakness. Also, when this value is low, we can get to showdown cheaply to realize our equity.