

THE WHOLE STRATEGY

PLAY Q-6-4 or better. FOLD everything below it.

That is all of it. It costs 3.3730% of your ante. Never folding costs 7.6538%.

Reading your hand - in order, highest first: any **pair or better**, any **ace or king**, plays. **Jack high or lower** folds. **Queen high**: second card above a six plays, below folds; on a six, your third card must be a four or better.

BEFORE YOU SIT DOWN - three things, under a minute

1. **On Pair Plus, does a flush pay 4 or 3?** That one digit is 2.3167% against 7.2760%. Look at the second number on the panel.
 2. **Is there an ante bonus at all?** No bonus costs you 5.2851% of every ante.
 3. **Is there a fee per hand?** Just ask. If yes and you were going to play the minimum, raise your bet or find another room.
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IF THE DEALER SHOWS A CARD (California)

Showing 2 through J: **play every hand**. Showing Q, K or A: play any pair or better, play if your top card beats his, and if your top card matches his, play with a nine or better. Otherwise fold.

WHAT AN HOUR COSTS

your ante x hands per hour x 3.373%

40 hands an hour in a full pit. 120 at a terminal. That is the same game costing three times as much.

BANKROLL

50 units to survive an evening nineteen times in twenty. Count a unit as your *total* per-hand outlay, not your ante.

NOT SURE? ASK THE DEALER. They will explain the rules, the minimum, the pay tables and any per-hand charge, and they are asked constantly. The only thing they usually cannot tell you is whether to play or fold, and that is at the top of this card.

WIN AT 3 CARD POKER · Keith Adler

Every figure computed by exhaustive enumeration, not simulation. The free Simulator, and the code behind the numbers, are at winat3card.com

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Nothing here beats the house edge, and none of it is advice to gamble. 21+ · 1-800-GAMBLER