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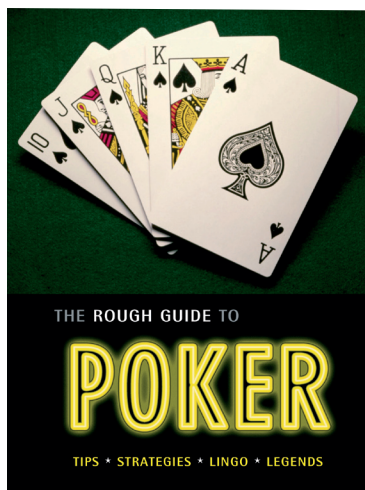
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# The Rough Guide to Poker

by Iain Fletcher

Tips \* Strategies \* Lingo \* Legends



“The next best thing to gambling and winning is gambling and losing.”

-Nick ‘The Greek’ Dandolo

Poker’s roots are shrouded in mystery. Some say it’s based on a 16th-century Persian card game called *As Nas*. Others claim the game began in the saloons and steamboats of New Orleans in the 1800s. Whatever your take may be on the origins of this now-ubiquitous game, there’s no denying that it’s a multi-million dollar online industry, TV tournament staple, and all-around international craze. And who better to deal you a winning hand of tips, tricks and tactics, and tell you the story of the world’s most thrilling game, than ROUGH GUIDES?

THE ROUGH GUIDE TO POKER starts with the rules of the game, then ups the informational ante with sections on the anatomy of a poker pro, where to play, poker greats, and poker on the big screen. There’s even a glossary of common terms and an enlightening Off the Rails section on gambling addiction.

Part practical primer, part tantalizing trivia, and part insider’s guide, this gift-sized tome is pure poker pleasure. Set the mere how-to guides aside and pick up this smart, savvy book to learn, laugh, and obsess more enjoyably about the card game that’s captured the hearts and minds of both the masses and the massively well-off.

## HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- *Mastering the basics*: from Five-Card Draw and Seven-Card Stud to Texas Hold ‘Em and Omaha
- *How to win*: strategies and psychology, bluffing, body language, odds, and secrets from the pros
- The best places to play, from *casinos* to *poker cruises* to *online enclaves*
- *Poker legends* like Nick the Greek and Annie Duke, plus celeb gamers like Brad Pitt and Ben Affleck
- *Quotes* and *pictures* on all things poker
- Feature boxes on the *World Series of Poker*, *Top 10 Poker Songs*, *Online Cheating*, *Tells* and so much more

THE ROUGH GUIDE TO POKER / IAIN FLETCHER

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IAIN FLETCHER has written two books, both on gambling, *Tilt Diary of a Spread Better* and *Game Set and Matched*. He contributes to UK national newspaper *The Independent* as well as numerous magazines including the gambling magazine *Inside Edge*. He is an avid player, both online and in cash games, a member of the Gutshot Poker club in London and frequent guest at media tournaments.

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from **THE ROUGH GUIDE TO POKER** (pg. 124):

## TELLS

Here are some of the more useful tells to bear in mind when assessing your fellow players' behavior.

**THE HANDS HAVE IT** look out for shaking hands when betting. With newer players this normally means excitement because they have a big hand. It is reverse nerves - they are not nervous because they think they are going to lose, but are excited that they might win.

**EYES DOWN** an involuntary glance at their chips just after the flop usually means a player has hit their hand. In contrast, prolonged staring at the flop - desperately searching for something - means they missed. Watch out for a bluff here.

**THE CHIPS ARE IN** watch what chips other players bet with. Large denomination chips often subconsciously indicate strength and confidence, whereas the same size bet but in small denomination chips suggests weakness or a bluff.

**TALKING THE TALK** when holding a strong hand players tend to be confident, affable, talkative and relaxed. Agitated behavior or stilted, broken conversation suggests weakness.

**I'M IN** an eagerness can reveal a lot. A key tell is if a player usually waits, pondering before calling, but then uncharacteristically bets quickly. It is then likely they have a strong hand. Alternatively, taking your time to act can disguise a multitude of ruses, and is definitely unsettling for the rest of the table.



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