

Omaha

Omaha - A Quick Look:

Omaha has long been popular in Europe and is growing in popularity in the US and elsewhere.

Play in Omaha goes through four sequential rounds of betting: pre-flop, on the flop, the turn and the river. Each of these rounds is described below in a separate section.

To start the hand, the deck is shuffled, the blinds are posted and each player is dealt four cards face-down, his hole cards. There is a round of betting that is limited to one bet and three raises.

When this first round of betting action is complete, the dealer will place three cards face-up on the table. These three cards are called the flop. All cards dealt face-up on the table are community cards.

In Omaha and Omaha Hi/Lo, all legitimate hands consist of two hole cards and three board cards. A player may use any two of his four hole cards but he must use exactly two of his hole cards combined with any three of the five board/community cards to make his best hand.

The flop is followed by another round of betting. In limit games this second round of betting is the last round at the lower limit. After this round all bets and raises will be at the higher limit.

After the action on the flop is complete, the dealer will place a fourth card, face-up, on the table. This is the turn card and is another community card that any player may combine along with any two other board cards, and any two of his hole cards.

After the turn card is dealt the third round of betting begins. In limit games all bets and raises on the turn are for the higher amount. The action on all rounds is limited to one bet and three raises.

When the betting on the turn is complete the fifth and final card, the river card, is dealt face-up on the board. All remaining players now have nine cards from which they may make their best hand. Of these nine cards players must use any two, but exactly two, of their four hole cards plus any three of the five board cards to make their hand.

Once the river card has been dealt, the final round of betting begins. This last, fourth, round of betting is at the higher limit. When the action is complete, the pot is awarded to the best hand.

The pot is awarded, the dealer button moves one position in a clockwise direction, the blinds are posted and another hand begins.

Conduct of the Game

In the text and graphics below you will see a clear demonstration of the look of the table and the conduct of play for each of the four rounds of betting in a typical limit Omaha game.

For each hand of Omaha, the cards are shuffled, the dealer button is placed, the blinds are posted and four cards are dealt face-down to every active player at the table beginning with the first player in a clockwise (to the left) direction from the dealer button. These four cards are each player's hole/private cards.

After the cards are dealt the pre-flop betting action begins. On this round only, the betting begins with the first player to the left (clockwise) from the big blind. On all subsequent rounds the action begins with the first player to the left of the dealer button.

Pre-Flop



Seats at poker tables are numbered from the dealer box in a clockwise direction.

In Texas Hold'em and Omaha games there is an advantage in having a late position at the table. The advantage is that players in late position get to act after players in earlier positions and thus have information about the other players' intentions.

Because of this advantage, the cards are dealt and action begins from a dealer button that rotates around the table in a clockwise direction. This rotation takes the blinds, early, middle and late position to all players equally.

In limit games the big blind is equal to a small bet. The small blind is usually $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the big blind. In the game pictured above the stakes are \$2/\$4. The big blind is \$2, which is equal to a small bet and the small blind is \$1, which is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the big blind.

Omaha is very much like Texas Hold'em with 3 exceptions:

1. Each Omaha player gets 4 hole cards instead of 2,
2. Each Omaha player must use exactly 2 of his 4 hole cards, and
3. Each Omaha player must use exactly 3 of the 5 community or board cards.

In Hold'em a player is permitted to use one, both or none of his hole cards to make his hand.

Before the flop, because of the blinds, there is no option to check. Players must call the blind, raise the blind or fold the hand.

Before the flop, all bets and raises will be for \$2. Action before the flop is limited to one bet and three raises.

In the table above:

The player in seat #10, CaptNMuck, holds the dealer button. The players in seat #1 and seat #2, BigSam785, posted the blinds. Before the flop the first player to act is the first player to the left, clockwise, from the big blind.

The action pointer indicates that the next player to act is player nthistle in seat #3.

The action flows around the table to Player ENEPort.

The player in seat #9 has four cards to the best straight, is double suited and has a suited ace. This player will certainly participate in the action.

When the bets and raises before the flop are complete the action is over and the dealer will deal three cards, the flop, face-up on the board. At this point the action on the flop will begin.

Pre-Flop Tips for Beginner:

- Make sure all four hole cards connect to each other, or add value to the hand in some other way. Fold hands with three or four of a kind in the hole.

On the Flop



On the flop is the last round of betting at the lower level, \$2. All bets and raises on the flop are for \$2 and the action is limited to one bet and three raises.

The action on the flop begins with the first player to the left, clockwise, from the dealer button.

From the above game:

In the above hand this is the player in seat #1. The player has elected to check. The player in seat #2, BigSam785, has bet and the player in seat #3 has called the bet. Player #4 is out and the player in seat #5 has also called.

remaining players with chips put their action into a side pot. For more information about All In, Table Stakes or Side Pots click here.

The action pointer indicates that player ENEPort is next to act. With one card to come, ENEPort, in seat #9 has a king-high straight, which is the best possible hand. ENEPort also has two pair and thus a draw to a full house. That player will surely bet and raise.

When the action on the turn is complete the dealer will place the last card, the river card, face-up on the board and the last round of betting will begin.

Turn Tips for the Beginner:

- Don't chase with the bottom set or the second best flush.

The River



On the River, the last card has been dealt and all hands are complete. All bets and raises on the River are at the higher limit, \$4. The action on the River is limited to one bet and three raises.

The above game:

The action on the River begins with the first player to the left, clockwise from the dealer button. The player in seat #1 is first to act and that player has checked. The rest of the players have checked around to ENEPort, the player in seat #9.

The action pointer indicates that the player in seat #9 is next to act.

With no more cards to come, no flush possible, no full house possible and no quads possible then player ENEPort has the best possible hand with an ace-high straight. That player will surely bet and raise until the action is complete and she wins the pot.

River Tips for Beginners:

- With a hand of moderate strength and a big pot be prepared to make a value call. With the nut hand, raise and re-raise until the action is complete.

General Omaha Poker Tips for Beginners:

- Be very selective in the hands you play.
- Tight and aggressive is the style that usually does the best.
- To continue with any Omaha hand you must have the nuts or be drawing to the nuts.
- Don't play hands with three of a kind in the hole.
- Be very wary of chasing with bottom set or second flush.
- Top poker pros and all of us at PartyPoker.com agree that good poker manners make good poker sense, make the game more enjoyable and can add to your poker bottom line. Professional players know that to anger or offend other players can sometimes cause an otherwise very loose player to play more conservatively, or a bad player to play better. When the game flow is adversely affected he sees fewer hands/opportunities per hour. [Click here](#) to learn more about poker etiquette, and PartyPoker.com's standards of acceptable behaviour at the table.

You will find further information on a PartyPoker.com Site Tour, from our PartyPoker.com Site FAQs or our Poker Glossary.

Most poker variations including Omaha are played according to one of 4 betting schemes or protocols. These are: limit, pot-limit, no-limit and spread limit. [Click here](#) to see a complete explanation of each.

At PartyPoker.com, Omaha is offered at 6- and 10-handed tables. Omaha is offered in cash game, multi-table tournament and play money formats. [A click here](#) will show all of the Omaha cash game stakes offered at PartyPoker.com. Cash games are subject to minimum buy-in requirements and are played as table stakes games.

In these links you will find a complete description of all of the tournament fees, and cash game rakes collected at PartyPoker.com.

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