

Weekly Study Session





Bluffing Masterclass

When to Fire... and When to Give Up

Dads Crush Poker

"The best bluff isn't the one that gets called. It's the one that never has to show its cards."



- Tonight's Goal
- By the end of this session you should know:
 - • When bluffing is profitable
 - • Which players to bluff
 - • Which boards to bluff
 - • When NOT to bluff
 - • How professionals choose bluff hands
 - • When to shut it down





Biggest Bluffing Mistake

Most players ask:

"Can I make him fold?"

Winning players ask:

"Should I even be bluffing here?"

Huge difference.

Not every missed draw should
become a bluff.





- Bluff Checklist
- Before betting ask yourself:
- ☒ Can better hands fold?
- ☒ Do I block strong hands?
- ☒ Does my story make sense?
- ☒ Is villain capable of folding?
- If you answer NO to even two...
- Don't bluff.



Who Should You Bluff?

Bluff Often

- ✓ Tight regulars
- ✓ Thinking players
- ✓ Players who overfold
- ✓ Players protecting bankrolls

Bluff Less

- ✗ Calling stations
- ✗ Recreational players
- ✗ Tilted players
- ✗ Players who "have to see it"

Golden Rule:

Never bluff someone who hates folding.

Watch for cards to come.





Good Bluff Boards

Good bluff boards for pre flop raiser:

A♠ 7♦ 2♣

K♣ 4♥ 2♦

Q♦ 8♣ 3♠

Reason:

These hit the preflop raiser's range.

Your story is believable.

Bad Bluff Boards

9♥ 8♥ 7♣

8♠ 6♠ 5♦

T♦ 9♦ 8♣

These smash the caller's range.

Villain has:

- Two pair
- Sets
- Straights
- Pair + draws

Not great bluff spots.



Position Matters

In position:

- ✓ Better information
- ✓ Pot control
- ✓ Easier bluff opportunities

Out of position:

- ✗ Harder to represent strength
- ✗ Easier to get called

Stay more in position.





Tell a Story

Good bluffs make sense.

Example:

Preflop Raise



C-bet flop



Barrel scary turn



Jam river

Looks believable.

Bad bluff:

Check

Call

Check

Suddenly shove river.

Your story makes no sense.



- Good bluff example
- Hero (Button): A♠5♠
- Hero opens to **2.5 BB** from the Button.
- Big Blind calls.
- **Flop: K♠ 7♦ 2♠**
- BB checks.
- Hero bets **33% pot**.
- BB calls.
- **Turn: Q♥**
- BB checks.

Hero?

- **Continue betting!**

- Why?
- ✓ We have the **nut flush draw** (9 flush outs).
- ✓ The Q♥ is a good overcard that improves our perceived range more than the BB's.
- ✓ We block strong Ace-high hands like **AK** and **AQ**.
- ✓ If called, we still have excellent equity.
- **This is a textbook semi-bluff.**





Bad Bluff Example

Hero (Button): J♠ T♠

Hero raises to **2.5 BB**

Big Blind calls.

Flop

A♦ 8♣ 3♥

BB checks.

Hero bets **33% pot.**

BB calls.

✓ Standard c-bet.

Turn

6♠

BB checks.

Hero checks back.

Nothing wrong with checking back.

River

2♣

BB checks.

Hero?

✗ Do NOT bluff. Why? - Next slide



- • We have no showdown value.
- • We have no meaningful blockers.
- • Nothing changed on the river.
- • Villain called the flop on an Ace-high board.
- • Our story doesn't make sense.
- We're simply hoping villain folds.
- **Hope is not a strategy.**

Better Play

✓ Check back.

Lose a small pot.

Move on.

Save your chips for a better bluff.

Key Lesson

Not every missed hand should become a bluff.

Sometimes the highest EV play is simply giving up.



Bluffing: Key Takeaways

Bluff with a purpose — not because you missed.

Before every bluff, ask yourself:

- ✓ **Who am I trying to make fold?**
- ✓ **Does this board favor my range?**
- ✓ **Does my line tell a believable story?**
- ✓ **Do I have blockers or equity if called?**
- ✓ **Is this opponent actually capable of folding?**

Winning Players...

- ✓ Bluff less, but bluff better.
- ✓ Choose opponents carefully.
- ✓ Use position to their advantage.
- ✓ Know when to shut down.
- ✓ Think in ranges—not hope.



"Poker is a lot like sex.
Everyone thinks they are
the best, but most don't
have a clue what they are
doing." - Dutch Boyd



Remember...

"Every chip you save by not making a bad bluff is
worth just as much as every chip you win with a good
one."