

# Weekly Study Session





# VALUE BETTING MASTERCLASS

## How To Know If You're Betting For Value

### **The Biggest Winning Poker Skill**

Most players spend:

- 90% of study time on bluffs
- 10% on value

The best players do the opposite.



- What Is A Value Bet?
- A value bet is:
- **A bet that gets called by worse hands often enough to make money.**
- Key concept:
- A hand does NOT need to be the nuts to value bet.





## • Three Levels Of Value

### • *Thick Value*

- Getting called by many worse hands.
- Examples:
- Sets
- Straights
- Overpairs

### ***Medium Value***

Getting called by some worse hands.

Examples:

- Top pair top kicker
- Top pair good kicker

### ***Thin Value***

Getting called by only a few worse hands.

Examples:

- Second pair
- Weak top pair
- Ace high in rare spots



- The Value Bet Formula
- Ask:
- What worse hands call?
- What better hands continue?
- This question should drive every river decision.



## Range Construction

Board:

A♦ J♣ 7♣ 5♥ 2♣

Hero:

AK

Villain calls flop and turn.

River checks to Hero.

List:

### Worse Hands

AQ

AJ

AT

A9

### Better Hands

AA

JJ

77

55

22

Now compare frequencies.

With two cards to come



Why Players Miss Value

Fear.

Players imagine:

"He's got a set."

Reality:

Most players arrive at rivers with bluff  
catchers.

Not monsters.



## Understanding Bluff Catchers

A bluff catcher:

A hand that only beats bluffs.

Examples:

- One pair
- Weak top pair
- Second pair

These hands **LOVE** calling.

Which is why value betting works.





- **Bluff Catcher Example**

- \$1/\$3 Live Cash
- Hero opens CO to \$15
- BTN calls
- Everyone else folds
- Flop (\$33)
- K♠ 8♦ 4♣
- Hero bets \$15
- BTN calls

**Turn (\$63)**

K♠ 8♦ 4♣ 6♥

Hero bets \$40

BTN calls

**River (\$143)**

K♠ 8♦ 4♣ 6♥ 2♣

Hero checks.

**BTN shoves \$120.**

Hero holds:

K♦ Q♣

**What Is KQ?**

Not a value hand.

Not a bluff.

It is a **bluff catcher**.

Why?

KQ beats:

- Missed flush draws
- Missed straight draws
- Random bluffs

But loses to:

- AK
- KJ
- KT
- Sets
- Two pair

KQ is not calling because it beats value.

KQ is calling because it thinks villain is bluffing enough.



- Population Tendencies
- Most live players:
- Call too much
- Fold too little
- Hate being bluffed
- This means:
- Value bigger.
- Bluff less.



- River Sizing
- Not all value bets are equal.
- Pot = \$100
- Would villain call:
  - \$30?
  - \$50?
  - \$80?
- Your goal:
- Find the biggest size that still gets called.



- Thin Value Example

- Board:

- K♥ T♦ 7♣ 4♠ 2♣

- Hero:  
KQ

- Villain checks.

- Is this:

- Value bet?

- Check back?

- Discussion.



- Summary:
- Thin Value Is Where Crushers Separate
- Everyone bets sets.
- Everyone bets flushes.
- The difference between break-even players and crushers:
- Extracting value from marginal hands.

**Practical DCP Checklist**  
**Before every river bet:**

1. What worse hands call?
2. How many?
3. What better hands continue?
4. Is villain a station?
5. What size gets maximum value?



"The name of the game is  
No-Limit Texas Hold'em: The  
game that takes a minute to  
learn but a lifetime to  
master." - Mike Sexton

