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# Introduction

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## What is a sitngo?

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A sitngo is a poker tournament that, as the name suggests, begins as soon as the required number of players have registered, and as with all tournaments pays players based on their finishing positions according to a pre-advertised payout structure. Whereas most regular multi-table poker tournaments begin at a specific time and can accommodate a large number of players, a sitngo is designed to fulfil the needs of players who want their poker action immediately or with only a small waiting period. With the large numbers of players now taking part in them online this will often mean only seconds or minutes on the largest sites.

This demand has also led to diversity in the types of sitngo that are available. The standard format is a full table of 9-10 players but you can now also play six-max and one-on-one (heads-up) games, or multi-table formats catering for between 18 and 180 players. Similarly, there are different options available in terms of the speed of the sitngo with most sites offering 'standard' speed games with blind levels of 6-10 minutes and 'turbo' games where the levels are usually five minutes or less. For the purposes of this book we will be looking mostly at the one table no-limit hold'em format with 9-10 player games and a 50%/30%/20% payout structure for the top three players since this is by far the most popular. However, other formats are addressed in the section 'Strategies for non-standard sitngos'.

## **Why play sitngos?**

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Since the rise of internet poker, new players have had an unprecedented amount of choice over the games and formats they can play at the click of a button. So, why should someone who is just starting out in poker choose to play no-limit hold'em sitngos? As you will realise by reading this book there are many reasons, both from a practical and a strategic perspective.

If you are new to poker, sitngos will give you the opportunity to experience a number of different poker situations without the risks or the frustration of other formats. You will get to experience playing with deep stacks similar to cash games at the start for a fixed buy-in, but with around one-third of the players in an event getting paid you will experience far less frustration and variance than you will in multi-table tournaments. And as players are eliminated you will get to experience short-handed and (if you make it) heads-up play cheaply, which will also be good preparation should you ever make the final table of a large multi-table tournament.

As the sitngo progresses, the quickly rising blinds will allow you to employ some basic winning strategies to beat your opponents that can be easily learnt, as well as a few more expert ones that many players are not aware of which will increase your profit even more. They are also an efficient way for players on a limited bankroll to increase it quickly as is discussed in the chapter 'Bankroll considerations based on ROI and variance' on page 120. The question most players are interested in hearing the answer to however is 'how much money can I expect to make?' which we will turn to now.

## **How much money can I expect to make?**

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As with all things in poker, the amount of money you can expect to make is to a large extent dependent on the amount you are prepared to risk, and with sitngos regularly available online with buy-ins ranging from a few cents to over \$5000 there is plenty of scope for choice and moving up the ladder as you progress. They also offer an excellent risk/reward proposition and so players starting out at the lower buy-ins can expect a healthy return and to rise quickly through the ranks as a consequence of this.

In sitngos profit is typically measured in terms of Return on Investment

(ROI), which refers to the amount of money you expect to make on average as a percentage of the overall cost of the event (i.e. the buy-in plus the entry fee). So, if a player in a \$210+\$15 sitngo has a 10% ROI they are making an average of \$22.50 per sitngo. This is certainly a realistic return for the best players in the mid-level games with buy-ins of \$100-\$499, with the maximum realistic return tending up towards 15% for the lower stakes where there are many weak players, and down towards 5% for the higher stakes where there are often many expert players in each.

Also, since sitngo play becomes quite straightforward in the late stages there is good scope for multi-tabling them and combining a high ROI with high volume, for one of the best money-making propositions available in poker. Some players routinely manage to play hundreds of games per week (and as many as 16 simultaneously), with the highest stakes and highest-volume players making well into six figures on an annual basis from sitngos alone.

As an illustration of what is achievable by a dedicated player you should refer to the section 'From \$200 to \$100,000 in one year (and 5000 sitngos)' on page 125, where the progress of a player with a \$200 bankroll is considered according to standard assumptions about achievable win rates and bankroll considerations. As the title of this section suggests, it is more than possible to go from very little to a great deal in a short period of time, although this will certainly take a lot of hard work and study.