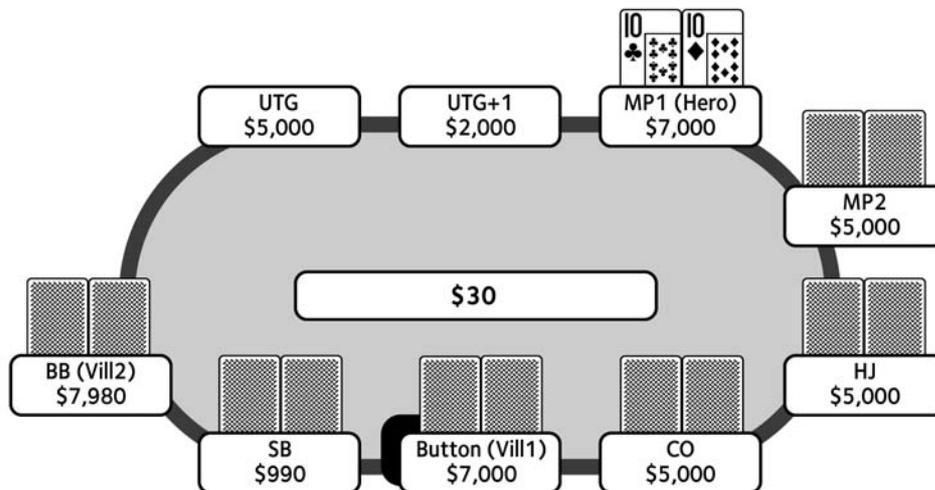


Hand 61: Scared Overpair

Hand: 10♣-10♦
Position: MP1
Players: 9
Blinds: 10/20

Villain1 is a kid you do not know; he appears to be fairly LAG. Villain2 is Gustav, the wild guy.



Question 1

The action is on you in MP1.

What do you do with 10♣-10♦?

- a) Fold b) Call 20 c) Raise to 60 d) Raise to 100

(a) <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) <input type="checkbox"/>	(c) <input type="checkbox"/>	(d) <input type="checkbox"/>	Points:
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You raise to 60. Villain1 and Gustav call.

The flop comes 7♦-4♣-2♣. Gustav checks.

Question 2

The pot is 190 and the effective stack size is 6,940.
What is your action?

- a) Check b) Bet 110 c) Bet 170 d) Bet 250

(a) <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) <input type="checkbox"/>	(c) <input type="checkbox"/>	(d) <input type="checkbox"/>	Points:
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You bet 110 and Villain1 quickly raises to 330. Gustav folds.

Question 3

The pot is 630 and the effective stack size is 6,830.
What is your action?

- a) Fold b) Call 220 more c) Re-raise to 800 d) Re-raise to 1,000

(a) <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) <input type="checkbox"/>	(c) <input type="checkbox"/>	(d) <input type="checkbox"/>	Points:
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You decide to call. The turn is (7♦-4♣-2♣)-J♣.

Question 4

The pot is 850 and the effective stack size is 6,610.
What is your action?

- a) Check b) Bet 200 c) Bet 400 d) Bet 600

(a) <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) <input type="checkbox"/>	(c) <input type="checkbox"/>	(d) <input type="checkbox"/>	Points:
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Both you and Villain1 check. The river is (7♦-4♣-2♣-J♣)-8♦.

Question 5

The pot is 850 and the effective stack size is 6,610.
What is your action?

- a) Check b) Bet 200 c) Bet 400 d) Bet 600

(a) <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) <input type="checkbox"/>	(c) <input type="checkbox"/>	(d) <input type="checkbox"/>	Points:
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You check and Villain1 bets 440.

Question 6

The pot is 1,290 and the effective stack size is 6,610.

What is your action?

- a) Fold b) Call 440 c) Raise to 920 d) Raise to 1,500

(a) <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) <input type="checkbox"/>	(c) <input type="checkbox"/>	(d) <input type="checkbox"/>	Points:
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You call and lose to Villain1's 8♠-7♥.

Discussion and answers

Answer 1

a) 0 b) 4 c) 10 d) 5

The only sensible play is a standard raise to 3 big blinds with a strong pair from early position. You could occasionally limp if you really wanted to mix up your play, but that begs for trouble.

Answer 2

a) 2 b) 10 c) 8 d) 3

You should definitely bet the flop for value with your overpair. You need to bet an amount that many worse made hands can call. Betting too large will force most weak hands to fold, drastically decreasing your equity against your opponents' calling ranges.

Answer 3**a) 0 b) 10 c) 6 d) 2**

When your opponent raises, his range most likely consists of sets, which have you crushed; marginal made hands, which you crush; and draws, in which case you're slightly ahead. You are getting excellent pot odds, so you should continue unless you think his raising range is strongly weighted towards sets.

Pay attention to your opponent when he raises the flop. Some players routinely raise with both premium made hands and draws. If you know your opponent only raises the flop as a semi-bluff, you can continue with a much wider range of made hands than if his range is balanced.

Answer 4**a) 10 b) 4 c) 2 d) 2**

The turn completes the main draw, so you should tend to check. There is no point in leading because it allows your opponent to play well. You will be in a tough spot if he bets. You still beat all weak made hands, and he may opt to turn one of these into a bluff. You also beat the straight draws. Your turn calling frequency should depend entirely on how often you expect your opponent to continue barreling the turn when he misses.

Answer 5**a) 10 b) 3 c) 2 d) 1**

The river is also fairly bad, as you now lose to the obvious straight. This should lead you to check, as you did on the turn.

You might believe your opponent has a marginal made hand because he would almost always continue semi-bluffing on the turn with draws. In this case there might be a hint of merit in making a small value-bet.

Answer 6**a) 8 b) 10 c) 1 d) 3**

Your opponent's small river bet probably represents a well-balanced range containing a few busted draws, such as 5♦-3♦ and A♣-3♣, or almost entirely value hands. Most players do not take this line primarily as a

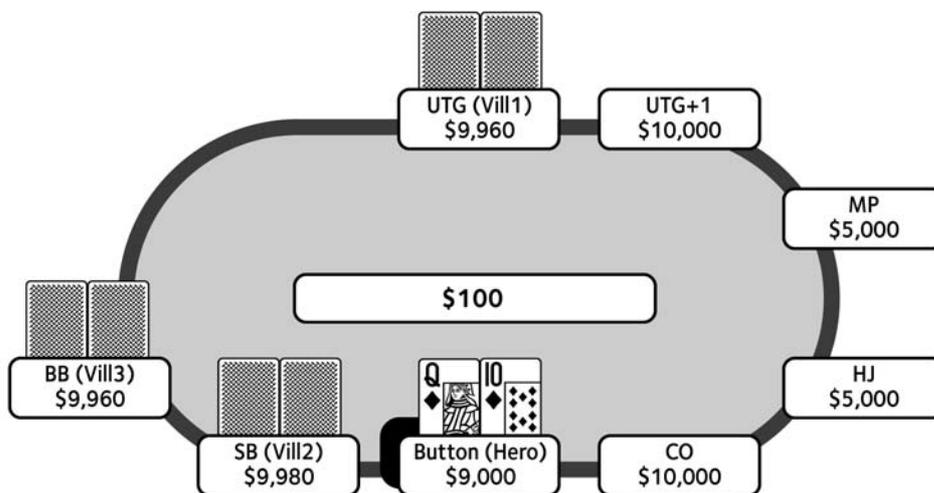
bluff because bluffs tend to be larger as an inducement to fold. You need to win 25 percent of the time to break even. You should probably find a reluctant call against a loose, aggressive player who is capable of getting out of line. You would best fold to a tight, passive player.

While it is never fun to be shown the winner in a sizable pot, you will find that if you are always shown the worst hand when you call a river bet, you are calling way too tightly. It is seldom a huge error to make somewhat speculative calls against players who are capable of a river bluff.

Hand 63: Middle Pair

Hand: Q♦-10♦
Position: Button
Players: 8
Blinds: 20/40

Villain1 is a 40-year-old guy you do not know. So far, he has limped one time in two orbits with A-J, so you have no reason to think his limping range is overly weak. Villain2 is a 30-year-old guy and Villain3 is Peter, the 50-year-old Asian. Villain1 limps and everyone folds around to you.



Question 1

The action is on you on the button.

What do you do with Q♦-10♦?

- a) Fold b) Call 40 c) Raise to 180 d) Raise to 300

(a) (b) (c) (d) Points:

You decide to call. Both Villain2 and Peter see a limped pot.
The flop comes K♣-Q♣-5♠. Everyone checks to you.

Question 2

The pot is 160 and the effective stack size is 7,960.
What is your action?

a) Check b) Bet 60 c) Bet 120 d) Bet 180

(a) (b) (c) (d) Points:

You bet 120 and only Villain1 calls.
The turn is (K♣-Q♣-5♠)-9♦. Villain1 checks.

Question 3

The pot is 400 and the effective stack size is 7,840.
What is your action?

a) Check b) Bet 140 c) Bet 200 d) Bet 320

(a) (b) (c) (d) Points:

You check behind. The river is (K♣-Q♣-5♠-9♦)-8♥. Villain1 bets 200.

Question 4

The pot is 600 and the effective stack size is 7,840.
What is your action?

a) Fold b) Call 200 c) Raise to 500 d) Raise to 760

(a) (b) (c) (d) Points:

You call and beat Villain1's Q♥-6♥.

Discussion and answers

Answer 1

a) 0 b) 10 c) 8 d) 3

Both raising and limping are acceptable. Not knowing if Villain1's limping range is strong or weak, it is best to see a cheap flop in position with a hand that flops well. If you knew Villain1's limping range was weak, raising to 180 would become the best option.

Answer 2

a) 7 b) 4 c) 10 d) 1

If it's checked to you, your hand is likely best. The board that contains numerous draws is usually best to value-bet with the intention of folding to a check-raise. If you think an opponent is planning to check-raise, usually due to some sort of physical tell, it becomes best to check behind to get closer to showdown.

Answer 3

a) 10 b) 7 c) 5 d) 2

The turn is not too bad, but it will be hard to extract additional value from most of your opponent's range. He will probably only call another bet with a king, queen or strong draw. Against that range, your Q-10 is not in amazing shape. You need not fear a check-raise, but you must consider the possibility. Checking behind on the turn will occasionally allow your opponent to outdraw you, but it is the best way to get an additional street of value from a wide range of inferior made hands, and also to induce the occasional bluff.

Answer 4

a) 4 b) 10 c) 2 d) 6

Your opponent bets half-pot on the river, so you only need to win 25 percent of the time to break even. You beat all bluffs as well as a few poorly played made hands, such as 10-10 and J-9, so you should often

call. When you check behind on the turn for pot-control with a decent made hand, be aware that you must call most reasonable river bets if the river card is not too bad. If the river were perhaps the A♣ or the 10♣, you'd probably be wise to fold to a bet.

It is always difficult to assess an unknown player's limping range. Because he showed up with A-J the first time he limped, you should initially assume he is not limping with junk, especially from early position. Sometimes you will be surprised.