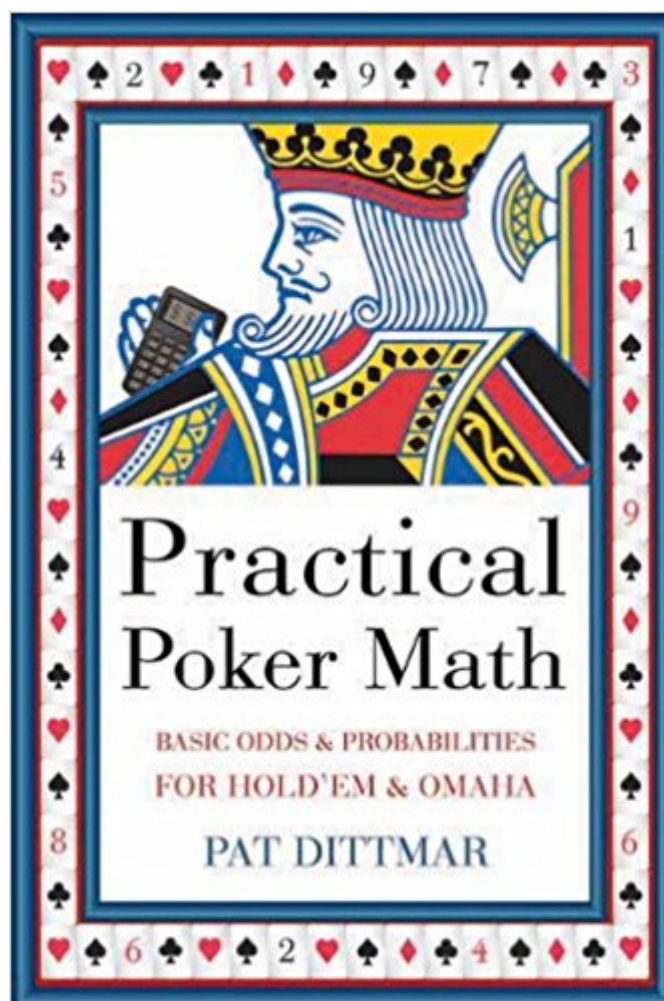


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# Practical Poker Math: Basic Odds & Probabilities For Hold'em & Omaha



## Synopsis

What are the odds of winning at poker if you don't know the odds in poker? Practical Poker Math provides a complete and easy-to-understand explanation of the basic odds, probabilities and expectations in Hold'em and Omaha. All the formulations are completely open and are demonstrated via easy-to-follow, colour-coded calculations. Pat Dittmar has aimed this book at beginning through semi-pro players who want to improve their results and who know that there is not much chance of improvement without a fundamental understanding of poker odds, probabilities, and expectations. Pat Dittmar is head of trading and development at TradePointTechnologies.com, an organization that develops and deploys state-of-the-art proprietary trading technologies. Pat feels that successful poker players possess the skills required to play in the one true fast action, around the world, around the clock & Big Game • the world financial markets, and TradePointTechnologies recruits its traders exclusively from the poker world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The poker world needs more books like Practical Poker Math. This book made difficult topics like odds, probabilities and game theory easy to understand for a beginner like me. But I almost didn't buy the book because of the review by Herman Jackson and now I'm glad I ignored his review in favor of all the other unanimously favorable ones. And, after having read Practical Poker Math, I know I made the right decision. In Herman's example of the Nut Low, he says the author is talking about flopping a wheel when plainly the author is talking about flopping the nut low to a random board i.e., to a board of 6,7,8,J,J an A2xx is indeed the nut low hand and it is not a wheel. This obvious distortion of the author's intent caused me to look for other reviews he'd done. It seems

suspicious that for another odds book (where he was the only reviewer) he gave it a great review while distorting the presentations in Practical Poker Math. Makes me wonder about Herman's hidden agenda. Anyway, I for one got great value from Practical Poker math and give it 5 stars. I loved the tables and presentation and already it's helped my game as much or more than any other poker book.

I started playing poker with some friends about 1 1/2 years ago. After going through a learning curve I was winning more than I was losing. I then thought I'd try online poker and found that the caliber of players was higher than I was used to and realized I needed to improve my chances. I happened upon Pat Dittmar's book Practical Poker Math and thought I'd take a look at it. I'm a computer professional and the book struck a chord with me because it's very logical. It also doesn't get so complicated that you lose interest and put it aside. After putting some of Dittmar's ideas into play I soon found I was holding my own with the online players. As I get more disciplined about sticking to the math and not letting my adrenaline carry me away I'm winning more and more. This book has paid for itself many times over.

This book is actually far shorter than it would first appear because the bulk of the book is taken up by rote calculations of most of the hand possibilities the author discusses. The use of this abc building block-simple method of breaking down the probabilities/odds is really great for anyone without an extensive understanding of how odds/probabilities in poker hands are calculated because it really breaks it down in an easily understandable step-by-step formulaic way, that allows one to create his own calculations of poker odds and probabilities. The author also includes his calculations in table form for use as a quick reference. My only negative comments upon this truly helpful book are that, like the critic below, I believe that there may be some minor inaccuracies in the calculations, and the listed retail price of this book is rather high. Having said that I strongly believe this book is very helpful to anybody who wonders how Texas Hold 'em odds/probabilities are made, and likely that the cost of the book may be recouped in a short time by any novice money-player who takes the probabilities calculations to heart and uses them appropriately.

This book has useful information, much of which is summarized in a few tables and pages I have dog-eared, and it is helpful to see a derivation of the probabilities and to see how odds relate to percentages, but the vast majority of the book is filled with these derivations and calculations... Once or twice was enough. The useful parts of this book could be cut down to about 12 to 20

pages, and then it would have been nice to have more applications, hand examples, and concepts (how reverse implied odds comes into play, etc). I have to say, though, that it's still worth getting as a reference and as an exercise in understanding how to come up with the odds yourself if necessary. Tables of poker odds, whether or not you can find ones online as full as the ones in this book (e.g. straight draw, one vs two cards to come..) are not going to give you the understanding and practical knowledge that this book does.

Finally, a book that makes odds, probabilities and expectation easy to understand. The book is well written and the math is easy to follow. Also, it is the only book I know of that deals with the odds in Omaha. Well worth the money!

This book essentially (leaving out the vague and unuseable jibber-jabber on game theory) contains tables with poker odds and detailed calculations to derive each and every line of these tables. These calculations, whose mathematical principle is always the same, take up approximately 80% of the pages. Now, let's think about the effect this has: a) If you don't understand the calculations, you can throw away almost all of the book, except for the odd-tables (which can be found everywhere on the internet for free). b) If you do understand the calculations, you don't need more than a hundred repetitions to get the principle. Two or three examples are enough. In addition, the tables themselves are unnecessarily blown up with special cases which make you memorize unneeded things. Example: If the odds that you pair a certain hole card on the flop is approximately 5:1, what would be the odds that you pair an ace on the flop? Did you answer "5:1 as well"? Bingo! Dittmar gives this special case its own line in the table. To sum up: You'll learn more by reading the relevant Wikipedia-article and should spend your money in the poker room instead of wasting it on this overpriced book! PS: If you want some serious stuff, buy a Sklansky book.

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