

# Key to playing poker at a casino



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Given that most poker-style games seem to have originated somewhere in the United States, the idea of a variation coming from ancient China might seem a little strange – and, well, you’d be right. While pai gow in its original form did appear in Song Dynasty China, dated somewhere around the turn of the first millennium, pai gow poker is an American invention.

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Played with a standard deck of playing cards, pai gow poker is a little intimidating at first glance, as it seems to share commonalities with all sorts of casino games, both ancient and modern. It has the player vs. dealer aspect of Casino Hold’em, the hands of Texas Hold’em, and the overall simplicity of 3 Card Poker. However, it’s possible to learn the basics of pai gow in a matter of minutes, even if you’ve never encountered the rules of poker before.

The original pai gow was actually a domino-based pastime, making this game’s evolution one of the more unusual stories in casino lore. It’s also one of the precious few casino games that contain a use for the Joker in the rule-set, either as a Wild card or as a way to complete certain hands. As we’ll see throughout this guide, the Joker turns pai gow from just another poker variant into something truly unique among casino games.

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Let’s start with (another) of pai gow’s odd gameplay features – the player and the dealer both play with two hands each. However, just like every other version of poker out there, the ranking of each hand is the key to victory. Put another way, you’ll win if your hand(s) are stronger than the dealer’s. Learning the strength of the different hands is, therefore, one of the most important parts of the pai gow 101.

We’ll come to that later, though. For now, let’s take a look at a quick step-by-step of a standard pai gow poker game from the player’s perspective:

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As this is a poker game, we’ll refer to the initial bet you make as the Ante wager but you might also find it referred to as the Play bet or, more simply, as just a Bet.

The interaction between the four hands in play is the core of pai gow – but things aren’t quite that simple. For one, the five-card hand is known as the High hand, while the two-card hand is called the Low hand. As you might have guessed by now, the High hand has to be stronger than the Low one. Thankfully, the complex poker terminology you might have encountered in Texas Hold’em is not used in pai gow.

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What happens if your Low hand is stronger than your High hand? You will not be allowed to continue.

The only way to win in pai gow without placing side bets is to have both your hands defeat the dealer’s hands. You will lose if the reverse happens. The far more likely scenario is that the player and the croupier will claim one hand each, which results in what’s known as a Push. When this happens, the player’s bets are returned and the game is effectively void. If all four hands are equal in value, the dealer wins.

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\*Note the difference between a Tie and a Push, as they're superficially similar to each other. In pai gow, a Tie is effectively a loss for the player, while a Push is closer to a true draw.

Just like every other casino game, pai gow has a House Edge that gives the dealer an advantage at all times. This number varies between 2.84% and 1.3% depending on a number of factors, including how skilled the player is and how much the casino takes as a commission from player wins. One of our previous points, that the dealer wins Tied games, is also a contributor to the house edge. In any case, this number should be easy to find, whether you're playing online or offline.

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Before we conclude this section, let's discuss the elephant in the room – the Joker. The Joker (not the Jack) creates pai gow's 53-card deck. In the Low hand, it can only be used as an ace. However, if it's included in the five-card High hand, the Joker can substitute for any card or suit required to complete a Straight or Flush. As in slots gameplay, the Joker is a utility card that doesn't have a set value.

The basic version of pai gow poker has even fewer betting options than Casino Hold'em, which was created as a stripped-down version of Texas Hold'em. In Casino Hold'em, you make mandatory Ante and Raise bets and an optional Bonus bet. Pai gow only demands that you make the initial Ante wager. Having said that, you may find a Bonus bet at some pai gow tables, as well as a (much-rarer) seven-card Fortune wager.

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To summarise, here are all the possible betting options in pai gow poker:

- Ante – this is a bet required to play.

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- Bonus – this is a side bet on whether you'll get a Three of a Kind or stronger hand.
- Fortune – another side bet on the value of a seven-card hand.

## Poker key casino playing at to a

In general, if you want to play the Fortune side bet, you'll need to find a variant of the game called Fortune Pai Gow. This wager actually has a different form at offline casinos, where it is associated with progressive jackpots. There's also an Envy bonus that's related to the Fortune bet at land-based casinos:

- Envy – paid if somebody else at the table has a Four of a Kind hand or better.

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Obviously, in online modes, with only the player and dealer taking part, the Envy bet isn't relevant. Resorts in New York State, California, and Washington have been known to offer it to visitors, however. Be warned – experts actually advise against placing any side bets at all in pai gow, as they give diminishing returns due to the enormous house edge applied (up to 8% for Fortune).

As a final point, side bets are usually paid out (or lost) regardless of whether you managed to beat the dealer or not.

## At poker playing key to a casino

All forms of pai gow are fixed-odds games. Contrast this with Texas Hold'em, in which a player's chance of winning is determined by all sorts of different things. Unusually, quite a lot of pai gow games online have human dealers but there are still plenty of creators that produce the classic RNG-based experiences. For an eye-catching but bare-bones game, try Pai Gow by renowned developer Microgaming, as all side bets are absent from the interface.

We've missed the Bonus bet out because the probability of winning this wager is dependent on the High hand you've managed to put together. This decreases from 0.049 (Three of a Kind) to the nearly impossible Five Aces. Wondering where that fifth ace is coming from? It's a hand made from the four suited aces plus the Joker. Despite the fact that it's just a single card, the Joker adds a new paradigm to the standard poker rules.

## Key poker at a playing to casino

While its standard gameplay is complicated a little by the side bets on offer – and these can vary enormously between one casino to another – pai gow poker manages to provide a more accessible version of poker without retreading ground that's been walked many times before. Sadly, this is something that games like 3 Card Poker and Caribbean Hold'em never quite managed, given their similarities to other games out there.

As with any other casino game, beginners are advised to try demo modes or make use of free-play bonuses before trying to tackle pai gow poker with real money. However, if you'd like to read more about poker or any other casino game before rocking up to a table (real or otherwise), continue browsing our guides section for more information on blackjack, roulette, sic bo, craps, and baccarat.

## **Key poker casino at a to playing**

In Asia, the likes of Korea, Macau and The Philippines have long been generating significant revenues from the gambling industry. Macau is famous for having

Our Bingo guide will tell you everything you need to know about this popular game. From the history of bingo to easy instructions on how

## **Playing poker key casino a to at**

Our comprehensive guide to Keno takes you from the origins of this popular game right up to date with the latest online versions. We teach

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## **At casino poker a key playing to**

Clicking on the download button will lead to the installation of Windows compatible casino software on your PC, which will enable you to register and play on our casino platform. The application can be uninstalled completely cleanly using the normal remove programs options in Windows. No functions of the software will remain after an uninstallation.

Online poker is finally in Pennsylvania! It was first launched in PA by world-renowned poker site, PokerStars. Make sure you stay caught up on the latest poker news in PA by checking our guide for regular updates.

## **A playing key to at casino poker**

Players must be 21 years or older to gamble online. Responsible gambling applies

Live casino games have been growing in popularity amongst PA players, including live dealer poker.

## **Casino key to a playing at poker**

Here, we'll guide you through some tips and tricks on how to beat the House, the different variants of live poker available in PA, and which of PA's top online casinos you can play the game.

PA poker players will almost instantly be drawn to PokerStars PA, but as of April 2021, there are two more options available: Borgata Poker and BetMGM Poker.

## **Poker casino playing a at key to**

Players can head to the online casino and choose between different tournaments or real money poker games. You can access all kinds of online poker games from the desktop site or the PokerStars mobile app.

Sign up to PokerStars PA today and receive \$30 for free after you deposit \$20 or more! You'll get \$10 in tournament tickets and \$20 as a bonus to use at different tables.

## **Casino poker at playing to a key**

PA players can now enjoy daily \$10,000 tournaments at Borgata Poker!

Currently, new players who register at Borgata Poker can take advantage of two exciting welcome packages:

## **Key a to poker playing at casino**

Borgata Online also has one of the best mobile apps available, meaning PA poker players can enjoy gameplay on their mobile devices from any location.

BetMGM Poker and Borgata Poker currently operate on the same platform called PartyPoker, so players can expect to find the same great daily/weekly tournaments and promotions.

## **To key poker playing a casino at**

Online poker is legal at any online casino licensed and regulated by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

Offshore and illegal casinos are not held to the same high standard, so you will never see such sites listed on our pages.

## **Key casino playing at a poker to**

Online poker games are not rigged thanks to the Random Number Generators (RNG) software online casino game providers use.

RNG's keep each game fair by randomizing the outcome. A big company, like PokerStars, is not going to risk losing a \$10 million license and reputation off of one faulty game.

## **Key at a poker casino to playing**

Many game providers, like Evolution and NetEnt, have their games evaluated by third-party agencies like eCOGRA. These agencies check all RNG software and live casino equipment to certify the game's fairness.

There are many reasons to play online instead of at the land-based venue.

## **At playing a to key casino poker**

Thanks to mobile casino apps, players can now play their favorite poker games on their mobile devices from any location.

PA players can play at home, the coffee shop, the sports bar, or wherever else they may be so long as they have access to a strong wifi connection.

## **Playing to a poker key at casino**

This also allows players to go at their own pace and save money on travel, parking, and accommodations usually spent at a brick and mortar casinos.

PA players can take advantage of some of the best poker welcome bonuses available in the US.

## **Casino key to a playing at poker**

These welcome packages allow players to save a little money when trying out a new casino or game.

All of the poker-centric casinos provide returning players with regular ongoing promotions to enjoy. Players can expect to find match deposit bonuses, leaderboards, daily prizes, and more.

## **To key at casino playing poker a**

Live casino games seek to give PA players the ultimate casino experience via their laptop or mobile device. It has everything you love about land-based casinos within a virtual format.

There are tournaments for every type of poker player in Pennsylvania. PA players can enjoy daily tournaments with low buy-ins or enjoy more high-stakes weekly tournaments.

## **Casino to playing at key a poker**

Thanks to advances in gaming technology, live poker can give PA players all the things they love at land-based casinos within a virtual platform.

This section will discuss the differences between live dealer poker and RNG virtual poker. Which one you choose is solely dependent on your preferences in gameplay.

## **A key poker playing to casino at**

Live poker tables are streamed directly from a professional studio to your device in real-time.

You'll join a live table, and the dealer will start the game. You will only be playing versus the dealer, not other online players.

## **Playing a casino to key poker at**

Live poker tables are meant to provide the total casino experience virtually.

Virtual poker allows you to play against other players and uses RNG software to randomize game outcomes.

## **At to a playing poker casino key**

Virtual poker has more aspects similar to a video game as all aspects of gameplay are digital.

Playing live poker in PA is easy! Here's all you have to do:

## **To poker at a playing casino key**

Here are our top three tips every player should know before betting real money with online poker:

Every player should understand basic terminology and the rules of the game before they start playing.

## **Poker playing casino to key a at**

The game's objective is to beat the hand(s) of the dealer/other players.

The actual play of the game can vary based upon which version of poker you prefer to play.

## **Casino to a at poker key playing**

However, you should have a clear understanding of the term "blinds." The blinds are the two players closest to the dealer. They must always place a wager. Once the blinds have placed their bets, the rest may decide to call, raise, or fold. These terms are explained in the next section below.

You will need to know the following terminology to play poker successfully:

## **Playing to casino poker a at key**

In PA, players will find most RNG games to be provided by NetEnt, and nearly all live poker games are provided by Evolution. The variant you choose is up to you.

The most popular live poker games in PA include variations of:

## **At casino to playing a poker key**

PA players who use mobile apps and turn on push notifications get all the updates on the latest poker tournaments and promotions instantly.

Remember, you will need an excellent data plan or a strong wifi connection to stream mobile casino games to your device.

## **Poker at key to a playing casino**

PA players have excellent poker options to choose from. You'll find live casino or RNG poker variants at most of the top casinos in the state.

You'll find excellent welcome bonuses, regular promos, and plenty of tournaments to enjoy.

## **Key a casino to playing poker at**

Online casinos in Pennsylvania offer a world of opportunities for local gamblers! With multiple casinos available to sign up with, how does one decide where to go? pacasino.com is here to help make that decision a little easier.