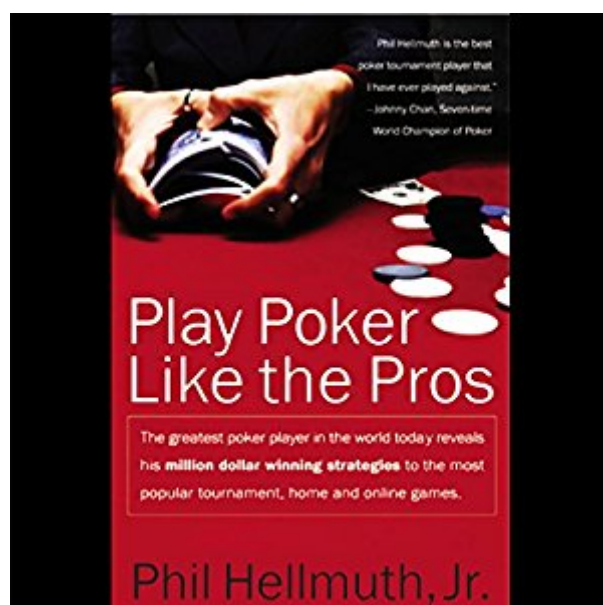


The book was found

# Play Poker Like The Pros



## Synopsis

In *Play Poker Like the Pros*, poker master Phil Hellmuth, Jr., demonstrates exactly how to play and win -- even if you have never picked up a deck of cards -- the modern games of poker, including: Texas Hold'em, Omaha, Seven-Card Stud, and Razz. Phil Hellmuth, Jr., a seven-time World Champion of Poker, presents his tournament-tested strategies to beat any type of player, including: The Jackal (crazy and unpredictable) The Elephant (plays too many hands) The Mouse (plays very conservatively) The Lion (skilled and tough to beat) *Play Poker Like the Pros* begins by laying out the rules and set-up of each game and then moves on to easy-to-follow basic and advanced strategies. Hellmuth teaches exactly which hands to play, when to bluff, when to raise, and when to fold. In addition Hellmuth provides techniques for reading other players and staying cool under pressure. There are also special chapters on how to beat online poker games and an inside look at tournament play. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Phil Hellmuth has created quite a readable book with some interesting insights into pre-flop card values and exceptionally aggressive play pre-flop. However, there are some scary gotchas in the book that I wouldn't want a novice player to read as the gospel truth. All in all, he has come up with a book that is most useful to the intermediate-level hold'em player that is able to sniff out what will and will not work at the skill level of his local game. In the 90's, a great deal of statistical analysis was done on the relative value of pocket cards. As a result, a whole group of books were published that ranked pocket cards into tiers of value. Based on what tier your cards fell into, you were

supposed to bet in different ways. Hellmuth still uses the tier system, but he has re-arranged what cards go into what tiers. His perspective is that while certain hands are statistically more likely to be winners, some hands are more likely to pull down big pots, making them of greater value than a statistically superior hand. In particular, Hellmuth values pocket pairs very highly. His point is that you don't often flop your set, but when you do, look out- here comes a very profitable hand. After playing with his system for a while, I must say that I agree with the inflated values of pocket pairs, given one simple rule. If you don't flop your set or have top pair, fold. It's pretty simple, but really tough to make yourself throw away your pair when you just raised pre-flop. Have some discipline and this system will work. The other main benefit that Hellmuth's aggressive pre-flop play brings to the table is the ability to buy a hand with a single bet after the flop, especially from early position.

My comments relate to the Limit Hold'em content of the book, although I suspect it is fairly consistent with the book in its entirety. I make no pretences about the fact that I am an average Hold'em player. I play limit anywhere from 3/6 to 10/20 and make a nice profit over time, but I am definately not the kind of player that walks from a table to a round of applause :) Phil on the other hand needs no introduction. His reputation (great at cards, shocking at manners!) is known to anyone who takes an interest in the game. Like many players though, I rushed out and bought his book when it hit the shelves, and like most I was hugely disappointed... It's a story of "I'm Phil Hellmuth, I'm great, and I'm gonna keep telling you I'm great, and now I have your money for a book full of rubbish!" I threw it the corner with the same feeling you get when another player draws to an inside straight and hits - bad beat! Let's face it. What separates Mr Hellmuth and other big name players from the rest of us is an instinctive ability to accurately read a player, to the extent that they can almost read the suit of your cards, let alone the value. From there they pressure you when you're weak and back off when you're strong. For us mere mortals we need to rely more on the technical aspects of poker that make the foundation of any good player's game. Play Poker like the Pros is extremely light-on here. In fact more information can be found for free in an hour searching a few online forums. If you want to actually improve your game, any books by Sklansky, Malmuth or "Middle Limit Holdem" by Ciaffone & Brier and the like are the way to go.

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