



Presents...

**How to Beat
No-Limit Hold 'Em
6-max Cash Games**

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Chapter 15: Limped Pots

Limped pots (when there are no raises preflop but at least one call) are always difficult for a TAG. We're just not used to limping and dealing with hands like top pair no kicker in a small pot. I believe the solution is very simple: just don't worry about them very much.

There's not much value to be made from winning limped pots. You'll usually be in the SB or BB in these pots and you should only really get involved if you flop a very big hand.

Certainly don't bluff in these pots, especially if they're multi-way. A semibluff is ok if you have an 8-out or more draw. Be wary of small flush draws though; a hand like **5♠2♠** on a **T♠9♠8♣** board is pretty worthless and should be check/folded. It's a classic example of **reverse implied odds**.

A very good player once told me that if you're getting all-in on the flop in a limped pot without the nuts, you're probably doing something wrong. And he's right. While that's not a rule set in stone, getting all in with bottom two-pair for 100 BBs when you flopped two pair with **64o** in the BB is going to be a losing play.

My general guidelines for limped pots are:

- When you flop top pair, no kicker, it's only worth one bet at most. **K3** on a **KQ8** flop is a very bad hand. If there are 2 or more players, I often won't even put a dime in the pot.

- When the SB open completes and you check the BB and he checks to you on the flop, it's OK to fire out a small bet to take the pot. Otherwise, never bet into a limped pot with nothing.
- If you bet an 8-out draw and get raised, never 3-bet as a semibluff. Just call and try to hit. Only with a huge combo draw like an open-ended straight flush draw would I 3-bet on the flop as a semibluff in a limped pot.
- Be very careful with two pair. If you have two pair and there are possible straights or flushes on board, getting all-in is usually very bad. If you have top two pair on a dry board, then it's ok to bomb away with bets.
- Be careful with trips, no kicker. A hand like **T3** on a **TT2** board isn't going to be very good when you are getting a lot of action. Proceed with caution.

Part II Summary

- **Play tight, solid and aggressive.** If you are always playing a style that fits this mantra, you will have the foundation of a good poker game. Understand each point and revisit this simple phrase often.
- **Position is huge.** Acting after the other players is a big advantage. You can react to what they have done on each street before you have to act, thus you'll always be outplaying your opponents if you're the one in position.
- **Understanding stats can help you find that tight, solid and aggressive game.** The majority of winning poker players at 6-max all have similar stats. Understand how to analyze the stats of your own play to find the right style.
- **Position is huge preflop.** Play tightly in the blinds preflop. Play loosely in late position.
- **It's better to continuation bet too much than too little.** You will often win the pot uncontested. When you don't, sometimes you'll have a good hand to win a big pot with, and sometimes you'll be able to hit a card on the turn or river to make the best hand. This all adds up to the continuation bet being a profitable play.
- **Value bet more than you think you should.** Your opponents will surprise you with what they're willing to call on the river. Value bet big and value bet often.
- **Limped pots aren't worth much for your win rate.** Don't fight for them very hard unless you have a good hand. In the long run, going after these very small pots just won't be worth it for our win rate.
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