

7. Video Poker

In this section video poker pros Bob Dancer and John Robinson compare blackjack to video poker.

7.1. VIDEO POKER VS BLACKJACK

By Bob Dancer

*Bob Dancer (www.BobDancer.com) began his gambling career as a blackjack card counter. He then tackled video poker and together with his wife Shirley, won one million dollars playing video poker over a 6-month period. Dancer has become America's best-known video poker writer and teacher. He has a variety of "how to play better video poker" products, including Winner's Guides, strategy cards, videos, and the award-winning computer software, **Bob Dancer Presents WinPoker**, and **Million Dollar Video Poker** book. BJI features a wide selection of Bob's fantastic books, guides, and software for sale in our [web store](#). [Click here](#) to view our catalog of Poker products.*

The personality skills of successful blackjack players and successful video poker players are quite similar. Good players in both games are bright, have excellent memories, and can sit and play for hours. Each player is playing a winning game, although certainly not every session.

Memorizing the strategy for 9-6 Jacks or Better is approximately as easy (as difficult?) as learning basic strategy in blackjack. Memorizing how to play 10-7 Double Bonus Poker is as difficult (as easy?) as all the matrix numbers in a 3-level blackjack count system. In each case, the game that is more difficult is more lucrative.

In blackjack, the strategy changes as you go through the deck. In video poker this is generally not true. Each hand is independent of the last one. Getting four aces in a video poker hand does not affect your chances of getting them again the following hand.

Video poker is always played off the top of a single deck. "Penalty cards" in video poker have similarities to top-of-deck plays made in blackjack. For example, a good blackjack player, at the start of single deck, would hit a 16 against a K if the 16 consisted of a 9 and a 7, but not if it consisted of 3,3,5,5. In jacks or better, with $K♥ J♦ T♣ 5♠ 3♣$ a good player plays JT. But with $K♥ J♦ T♣ 5♠ 3♦$, that same player would play KJ. The blackjack player varied his play because there were fewer low cards remaining in the deck. The video poker player varied his play because there were fewer diamonds left in the deck.

Break points for video poker progressives are analogous to matrix numbers in blackjack. That is, you play more aggressively for a royal flush as the progressive increases just as you double more frequently in blackjack as the true count rises.

You can stop and talk to someone while playing video poker without losing your place. Whenever you get back to the game, it will be ready. In blackjack, this distraction would likely cause you to lose the count.