



3 Hand Poker

2-6 players

Summary:

Wager on three hands at once: your Light hand, your Dark hand, and a Combination hand of both!

The Object:

Win all the poker chips from your opponents.

Note: Before you begin, all players should already have a basic understanding of the rules for poker. This game is based on the way I was first taught to play Poker. You may want to add your own house rules for a more personal experience.

The Deck:

Remove the Jokers and put them face up in the center of the table for the pots. Everyone starts with 100 poker chips.

The Ante:

Each player puts in 3 chips for the ante: One chip goes on the Light Joker that represents the Light Hand, one chip goes on the Dark Joker that represents the Dark Hand, and one chip goes in a pile in between or above the Jokers to represent the hand where both light and dark cards are combined to make the best hand of the table.

The Deal:

Choose your first dealer at random. After each hand the player to the dealer's left becomes the new dealer. The dealer may announce any wild cards or house rules before they deal.

Each player gets 5 cards. After reviewing their cards players can trade up to three cards from their hand for new cards or if they hold an Ace they may trade the remaining four cards.

The Play:

Each player determines their three poker hands (Light, Dark, and Combined) and wager on the hands they think can win by adding chips to the appropriate pot.

Players may raise, call, or fold for each hand independently. For example, if you hold a strong Light hand but a weak Dark hand you may raise the wager for the Light hand and fold your Dark hand when it is your turn to bid.

You may want to assign a "Banker" with pen and paper to track the progress of all three bids during the game.

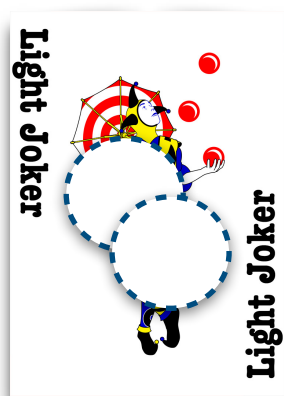


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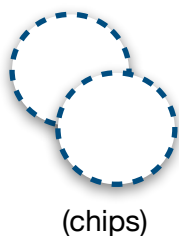
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At the end of each hand, Players reveal their cards to determine the winners of all three pots. The players with the best hand in each category (who have not folded) collect their respective pots.

Light Hand pot



Combination Hand pot



Dark Hand pot



The Combination Hand:

While the Light and Dark hands have the same odds as a standard poker hand, the Combination hand has special rules.

The Combination hand is the best hand that you can make with all 5 cards using either the light or dark sides of each card.

You can not use both the light and dark side of the same card.

The Combination hand may have "Twins". For example, if you have a King of Diamonds in both light and dark, they can count as a pair of kings. It is possible to hold a five of a kind without using wild cards.

You do not need to use both shades for a combination hand. In other words, your combination hand can use all light cards if that is the best poker hand you can make.

The End:

When a player runs out of chips they are out of the game. The game ends when one player holds all of the chips to win the game.



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This diagram shows a 5 card hand.

The Light Hand shows a pair of 5s and the Dark Hand shows a pair of 9s.

The Combination Hand can not make a full house with 5s and 9s though because the 5 of clubs and 9 of hearts are both on the same card.



You can rearrange the cards to make 2 pair with 9s and 5s, 2 pair with 9s and 8s, or 3 of a kind with 5s. The best Combination hand you can make with these cards is a flush in clubs.

Notice that this hand uses Twin 8 of Clubs (one light, one dark).



There are lots of different versions of Poker that you can try!

If you are playing a version where the lowest hand wins, remember that your Combination Hand is the Highest hand you can make by rearranging the cards. Dealing a Combination Hand with no pairs is a bigger challenge now!



Poker Hands

from High to Low

5 of a Kind

5 Cards with the Same Rank.

Only possible as a Combination Hand or if you use Wild cards.



Royal Flush

Ace, King, Queen, Jack & 10 in the same suit



Straight Flush

5 Cards in the Same Suit & in Rank Order



4 of a Kind

4 Cards in the Same Rank



Full House

3 Cards in one Rank, & 2 Cards in another Rank



Flush

5 Cards in the same Suit



Straight

5 Cards in Rank Order



3 of a Kind

3 Cards with the same Rank



2 Pair

2 Cards with the same Rank and 2 more Cards with the same Rank



Pair

2 Cards with the same Rank



High Card

The Highest Ranking card in a hand that doesn't fit another category.

