

A Guide to Betting and Sizing

Bet sizing and when to bet seem to be some of the most common questions I see and hear. Some people have very broad factors that they are determining bet size with while others have more or want more. So I decided to put what I know about bet sizing in a document to share with the community. I hope everyone can learn something from this.

I. GENERAL INDICATORS

A. Range Advantage

- 1. Determines bet frequency**
- 2. The larger the advantage the more often we can bet.**

B. Nut Advantage

- 1. Determines Size**
- 2. With the Nut Advantage we can choose large sizings.**

C. How Dry or Wet the board is

- 1. On Dry boards we bet small**
- 2. On wet boards we can bet large**
- 3. On super wet boards we must bet small again.**

D. Number of opponents in the pot

- 1. As the number of villains increase, our size should decrease**

E. Value of Fold Equity

- 1. If the value of getting a fold is low, bet small**
- 2. If the value of getting a fold is high, bet large**

II. WHEN TO BET SMALL

- A. Villain can have many nutted hands**
- B. Villain has few hands with good equity vs our range**
- C. The Value of getting a fold is low**
- D. We have a lot of middling hands in our range to protect**
- E. We don't have many nutted hands in our range.**
- F. Static boards we are range betting**
- G. With value hands that need little protection**
- H. When the flop is super wet including monotone**
- I. Paired boards when villain can have several trips hands**
- J. When the board hits the callers range.**

III. WHEN TO BET LARGE

- A. Villain has few nutted hands**
- B. Villain has many reasonable hands with good equity vs top of our range.**

- C. The value of getting a fold is high
- D. We have many nutted hands in our range.
- E. When we are naturally polar
- F. High Equity hands on dynamic flops
- G. Our value hands need protection
- H. With thick value that unblocks top pair or they have many hands to call with.
- I. The board hits our range much more than the callers range.
- J. When we have very few middling hands in our range.

IV. OVER BET INDICATOR

- A. When a large portion of our range is ahead of most of the villain's range but our equity is lower due to draws we can over bet the pot.
- B. This discrepancy of being ahead now and not so much later creates the incentive to play very aggressive and fast.
- C. We have vulnerable nut hands

V. NOTES

- A. Villain having nutted hands prevents us from overbetting them all the time. This is why nut advantage is a strong indicator.
- B. Dry boards tend to have low incentive to bet because of the low value of fold equity and lack of draws vs the top of our range.
- C. Wet boards have a high incentive to bet due to the high value of fold equity and having more draws with good equity vs the top of our range.
- D. Value of fold equity is how valuable it is for us to get a fold. If they have low equity vs most of our range then the value of fold equity is very low. If they have many hands with equity vs our range then the value of fold equity is high.
- E. Super wet boards have a wide variety of nutted hands in both ranges which prevents us from betting large.
- F. The middle of our range drags our nutted hands down as it needs protection. The more middling hands we have the more protection needed meaning we have to bet small with more of our nutted hands.

VI. Exploits

- A. Bet large when our hand is very nutted and the board smashes a call range.
- B. Bet large when our hand is very nutted and it's a very multiway pot.
- C. Bet large with the nuts on very wet boards.
- D. Bet large when we are targeting stronger hands because fold equity is more valuable as is getting a call.
- E. Bet large with thick value hands that unblock top pair.
- F. Bet small with very thick value hands that block top pair or block the villain from having the hand to call with.
- G. Set up geometric sizings when you are not polar.

- H. Depolarize yourself in spots where betting already looks polar with hands that are good the majority of the time. EX- Betting a set with a 1 liner on board.

VII. GEOMETRIC BET SIZING

- A. Geometric bet sizing is when you bet equal % of the pot on each street to get stacks in on the river.
- B. It's the ideal bet size when 1 person is polar.
- C. In theory it maximizes the villain calling range.
- D. Even Live when villains don't understand it makes them naturally call down lighter against our thick value for the 1st 2 streets and then make a decision on the river.
- E. We should do this when we have mostly nutted hands and bluffs and their range is mostly bluff catchers.
- F. G2 is betting across 2 streets and G3 is betting across all 3. G1=all in.
- G. As an exploit we can choose a flop size to set up a g2 on turn or river.

VIII. STACK DEPTH AND STACK OFF RANGES

- A. A stack off range is the % of a range that can play for stacks.
 - 1. Deeper stacks = tighter stack off ranges
 - 2. Shorter stacks = wider stack off ranges
 - 3. MDF can give you a quick calculation for % of range to stack off with.
- B. SPR—STACK OFF % (or how much they should defend with)
 - 1. SPR 30+ = 5% or less
 - 2. SPR 22-29 = 5-9%
 - 3. SPR 15-21 = 7-12%
 - 4. SPR 9-14 = 10-15%
 - 5. SPR 6-9 = 14-21%
 - 6. SPR 4-5 = 18-25%
 - 7. SPR 2-3 = 25-38%
 - 8. SPR 1.5 = 39-43%
 - 9. SPR 1 = 50%
 - 10. How to exploit this
 - a) If villain doesn't defend to these percentages we can set up playing for stacks wider.
 - b) If villain is a call station we can set up playing for stacks only with the parts of our range that is clearly ahead.
 - c) As stacks get deeper nut advantage matters much more and we want to play for stacks with our nutted hands as much as possible.

IX. HOW MEDIUM STRENGTH HANDS INFLUENCE SIZING

- A. Medium strength hands act as an anchor to the top of our range. The more we have the more strong hands we need to protect them with small sizing or checks.

- B. We have no need to defend a check range when we have little to no medium strength hands.
 - 1. This is more common in multi bet pots.
- C. This can influence us to donk bet as a preflop caller as this puts the PFR in a spot when they have a wide variety of medium strength hands in their range. We have a high value fold equity spot as the pre flop caller.
 - 1. When we do donk these spots, our check range should be very polar and we should have all check raises or folds if the PFR decides to bet.
- D. Exploits to this are to just ignore the middle of our range or to use the middle of our range for checks or a particular size so the top of our range isn't anchored down by it. Most live villains will never notice. Do not just blast off with the middling hands like they are top of range hands.

X. SPR AND BET SIZING

- A. Our stack depth plays a major role in bet sizing.
 - 1. Not as much in the "bet big" or "bet small" way we think about.
 - 2. SPR influences how big or small our big and small bets are.
- B. As a default at 100BB our small bets should be about 30% pot and our large size about $\frac{2}{3}$ pot.
- C. At 200BB our small size should be 33-40% and our large size 75-80%
- D. In multi-bet pots our sizings should be smaller.
- E. This is just a guide, at all stack depths we want to consider the sizing of our small and large bets based on what we want to accomplish later in the hand and try to avoid leaving ourselves with awkward stack sizes on later streets.

XI. CONCLUSION

- A. Bet sizing can be very complicated.
 - 1. The incentives around bet sizing largely relate to nut advantage and the value of fold equity.
- B. SPR and portion of nut hands in each range dictates which hands can play for stacks.
- C. Middle of range holds back the top of our range because we have to defend it.
- D. The value of fold equity acts as an incentive to bet. If the bet folds out many hands that have little to no equity vs that part of our range then it is the wrong size or the wrong bet. We want to get folds from hands that have good equity against that part of our range to make the bet valuable.
- E. Knowing the fundamental strategies of bet sizing and why we implement those strategies helps our exploits to be much more effective.

