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## Definitive Guide to Small Stakes Exploits (complete)

### **1. More thin value** [CLPPodcast 461 SSE Vol II](#) 23:13

- CLP Podcast 84-87 Extreme value series
- Betting when one liners come with hands that unblock top pair
- Value betting concept on the river of wanting to be in the 60-65% range of having the best hand when called, NOT 90%

#### **Example 1:** \$1-\$3 game w \$600eff

UTG limp. Hero raises to \$20 with Ac Ah CO , limper calls.

FLOP: Ks 6d 2h .. x/bet \$20, call.

TURN: 5d x \$65, call.

RIVER: 4c x Hero bets \$200 call with a K always!

- Sometimes thin value with 2nd pair.
- Exploitable sizing down to target 2nd pair on the board

#### **Example 2:** \$2-\$5 game \$900eff.

We raise CO Ts Tc to \$20, BB calls.

FLOP: Jd 3c 9c. x/\$20, call.

TURN: 2s x/x

RIVER: 6h or Js check, we value bet \$35-\$50. TT on a J high board

- Don't check back in position suit in a hand is valuable

**Example 3:** We raise \$25 over the top of two limps btn w Kd Kc \$1-\$3 game \$500 eff. +1 and HJ call. FLOP: Qc 2c 9d x/x \$50, +1 calls/fold. TURN: 3h x/\$125 call. RIVER: 5c x we bet \$200-\$250 for value with Kc

### **2. Noticing sizing tells** [CLPPodcast 461 SSE Vol II](#) 43:00

- Preflop sizing tells several limpers and a raise that is a standard open without limpers can be attacked 3 betting polar vs this set up
- Concept of same bet

**Example 1:** We raise Ks Kh \$1-\$3 \$600 effective to \$15 from MP1 and SB calls. FLOP: Js 5s 4c x we \$20 check raise to \$60, Hero calls. Turn 9h SB bets less \$60 or less we can raise or call and followed by a check on the river value bet.

**Example 2:** We raise Ks Kd \$20 UTG, CO calls. \$1-\$3 \$600 effective. FLOP: Qd 9d 2c We bet \$25 CO raises us to \$80, we call. Turn 3s Hero checks and CO either checks back or uses same sizing or less again on turn.. Could lead to an upfront bet or if checked back easy value bet at the end.

- Upfront betting [CLPPodcast 206](#) "Upfront betting" at 17:28 and 29:50 extrapolating from bet sizing of your opponent when they are in position that leads to a check call lead on blank or a check raise on the turn very thinly.

### **3. Double barreling more vs weak ranges** [CLPPodcast 461 SSE Vol II](#) 53:10

- Because a high VPIPing player has weak holdings they will connect with a lot of not so strong hands on a fair number of boards.

**Example 1:** We raise As Qs to \$20 +1 and HJ calls.

FLOP: Ks 8h 4c Hero bets \$25, call.

TURN: is Js (best) , Ts, Jx or Tx sometimes even top pair! (live myth players dont understand combo wise

**Example 2:** Dynamic board of 923 with AKss multiple barrels on overcards

- concept of delay double barreling... You can sometimes wait until the river in or out of position to double barrel and risk less...

**Example 3:** We raise CO with Qs Jc and BB calls.

FLOP is 8c 3h 3d .. X/ Bet \$15 call.

TURN: Kc x/x river Ts .. x and now we bet!

**Example 4:** We raise Ad Jd from UTG. LJ calls.

FLOP: 9h 5d 5s we bet \$15 call.

TURN: Kc x/x

RIVER: Qs we bet and they fold vs a high VPIPer

### **4. Betting more volume on scary boards that favor flat callers' range to bet fold**

[CLPPodcast 462 SSE Vol III](#) 12:30

**Example 1:** \$1-3 raise to \$15 Qd Qh +1, MP1 calls, LJ calls, btn calls, BB calls. 5 ways \$75.

FLOP: 9c 8d 6c Betting there instead of checking

**Example 2:** Hero has KK or AJ on Jh Th 9s .. UTG raise to \$15 MP calls button calls. We still should bet often at the small stakes especially with a lot of offsuit broadways represented.

**Example 3:** Paired boards especially where the pair is low 722 vs 772. Higher the pair the more you can check look for the connection in the board to do more betting. Even 7c 7h 6h

**Example 4:** HU vs the blind where they have nut advantage. Open UTG and BB calls. FLOP is 3h 4c 6d or 5s 6s 4d

## 5. Overfolding later streets to raises [CLPPodcast 462 SSE Vol III](#) 29:35

2 Major Concepts:

- A. Betting larger at the end gets more value and decreases your opponents' bluffing frequency
- B. Opponents at the low stakes don't turn bluff catching hands into bluffs.

**Example 1:** Slicer vs JC 9.1k effective 5-10-25 TCH Live

JC opens \$100 Qd Td Slicer 3! SB \$400, call. \$830

FLOP: Kd Jd 7d. Slicer bets \$200 call. \$1230

TURN: 9d Slicer bets \$450, call. \$2130

RIVER: 7c Slicer bets \$1400 JC all-in \$8.1k (more you bet more you can fold)

**Example 2:** Hand w Lex O on Vlog

Hero on btn (\$2265eff) raises to \$35 As Js, SB 3! to \$125, call. \$260

FLOP: Ad Qs 4d SB bets \$100, Hero calls. \$460

TURN: Ks Sb bets \$275, Hero calls. POT: \$1010

RIVER: Td Sb checks, Hero bets \$575, all-in \$1800 total, \$3400, \$1200 to call

**Example 3:** Watch backdoor flushes.

1-3 Hero raises to \$15 MP1 2h 2s (\$1k deep) and BB calls.

FLOP: Qc 6h 2d. z/\$20 call. \$70

TURN: 9c x / \$70, call. \$210

RIVER: 7c x Hero bets \$200.. check raise all-in \$900 total

## **6. Betting more draws multiway on dynamic boards** [CLPPodcast 462 SSE Vol III](#) 52:35

**Example 1:** QJcc and board is Ts 9c 2h multiway

**Example 2:** 89 on 672r if you check you give up chance to barrel turn

**Example 3:** KQdd on say 9d 3h 2d

**Example 4:** not dynamic is As 6s on Ks Qs 3d

## **7. Ultra Fastplaying** [CLPPodcast 463 SSE Vol IV](#) 13:00

- Don't worry about balancing at the higher stakes no one will exploit you (except some of the best)
- Flattening with 67s and flop comes out A77 (static) or 977 facing a bet.. especially with flush draw there will be a large reflection of a check on turn
- Hands that are static even can be fast played because poor players don't barrel or effectively value bet across multiple streets .. 924r with set of 22s or 44s
- Strong hands but non nutted are good candidates for leads. Flopping bottom two out of blinds like 53 on 853 but we should sometimes use backwards semi-bluffing. Check raising to build for value on static boards K72. Stab frequency isn't the same with other hands, besides a King won't fold
- Leading into a 3 bet pot when it's odd. 77 into K72 and opponent holds QQ gets three streets instead of two
- Fast playing trips, sets, nut flushes

## **8. Attacking Limped Pots and Field Bettors** [CLPPodcast 463 SSE Vol IV](#) 34:00

- Attacking limped pots and attacking the field bettor with the same board texture of non-draw heavy dynamic boards where top pair will likely change. 924r w JTs w a backdoor. T24r with J9s w backdoor.
- Positional awareness is key where the field bettor is betting from. Last to act is a weaker overall range than first to act after the preflop raiser checks.

- This assumes that most players who are the preflop raiser that check post flop have missed (not checking overpairs)
- Don't worry too much about what you are representing. Check raising a 924 board where villain has A9 and him realizing that he block top set and you don't have 2 pair in your range

## **9. Rake considerations** [CLPPodcast 463 SSE Vol IV](#) 51:50

- The math of a high drop game
- Playing limped pots or overcalling raises in high commission games is like death as commission is large percentage of the pot
- You should be trying to only play large pots as an extreme example. Juice up good hands preflop and 3 bet or fold preflop is a viable strategy in a high commission structure
- High offsuit cards go way up in value and suited hands go down as the SPR decreases
- Suited hands mean less as continuing opportunities with backdoors are few and far between
- [Why Suited Hands are Better Podcast](#) newer school concept about structuring barreling and continuing

## **10. Art of Isolation** [CLPPodcast 464 SSE Vol V](#) 11:50

- Ignore first limp and open what you would without limp. Don't go overboard iso hands you wouldn't even play if folded to you
- After 2 limps consider raising hands that you would only open in early position

## **11. Not depending on opponent to bet their own hand in position on the river** [CLPPodcast 464 SSE Vol V](#) 25:55

- It's hard to give opponent betting lead all the way through
- Sometimes you need to raise the turn in or out of position to avoid this

**Example 1:** 88 on 8d 7c 7s 6cc

UTG raises to \$20, btn calls Hero calls BB.

FLOP: 8d 7c 7s checked around.

TURN: 6c Hero bets \$30, UTG folds, btn to \$130

**Example 2:** Hand from the call-in show ..8/16/21 (example of the opposite)

\$5/\$10 Lodge Live stream. 1:27 in the live stream

\$3.5k 5-10-20 Straddle.. +2 opens to \$75.. Mp1 calls, Hero completes K2hh call. \$250

FLOP: 6d 3h 2s Hero checks, Chaz bets \$150.. folds Hero calls. \$550

TURN: 9h Hero checks..+2 bets \$325 Hero calls. \$1200

RIVER: Kc Hero checks.. +2 bets \$850 .. Hero calls. +2 Has 98o

- On those boards you get check raised following examples:

**Example 3:** \$1/\$3 \$500eff

CO we raise to \$15, BB calls.

FLOP Jc 2c 4d BB checks we bet \$10, BB raises to \$450 we call.

TURN: 9h. BB bets \$50.. should we raise or call?

**Example 4:** 45cc open from btn and BB calls.

FLOP: Jc Tc 3h .. check we bet \$20 BB raises to \$70 we call.

TURN: 2c BB bets \$60.. We raise or call?

## **12. Flop Cbet sizing for value based upon hand composition** [CLPPodcast 464 SSE](#)

[Vol V](#) 48:50

- Board of Q72r. It's better to bet larger with 77, 22 AA than having a queen that blocks top pair.
- JJ-88 on a board of Q67hh. Notice that protection betting can and should go on but you unblock top pair which gives your opponent's more of a chance of having it.
- Combinations work; multiple remaining cards by possible kicker to get total combos of a specific hand. If we have AQ on Q72 there are 2 Qs left in the deck so for KQ it's  $2 \times 4 = 8$  combos. Also 8 combos of QJ, 8 combos of QT, etc. If we have AA on Q72 there is 3 queens left so  $3 \times 4 = 12$  combos of KQ, 12 combos of QJ etc.

## **13. Don't check call the river with the betting lead** [CLPPodcast 465 SSE Vol VI](#)

17:05 + [CLPPodcast 466 SSE Vol VII](#) 34:50

- Only two reasons to check call river
  - a) Induce a Bluff
  - b) Get villain to value own themselves (very rare will a small stakes player bet a hand for value that they would otherwise fold) almost nonexistent
- Annie Duke says, "If your hand can't stand a raise you shouldn't bet." One of the worst pieces of poker advice anyone has ever given

**Example 1:** Bart's first tough spot at \$5-\$10 No Limit from 2005  
<https://archives2.twoplustwo.com/showthread.php?t=400175>

Hero is in the small blind with \$1500. Villain is under the gun and has me covered. Table is fairly passive not much preflop raising. Villain is a non-tricky fairly loose passive prop-- Mr. Kim for those of you that know me. Villain limps under the gun. Folded around to hero in the SB with Qd Qh. Hero makes it \$40 to go. Villain calls.

Flop: As Kd Qs Hero bets \$75. Villain calls.

Turn: 8d Hero bets \$225. Villain thinks for a moment and calls. Pot size~\$680

River 2d Plan for river here?

**Example 2:** \$1/\$3 Hard Rock

Hero in sb. +1 to \$12, 3 calls... Hero in SB Ad Kd (\$1200eff) \$72.. CO and the BTN... \$240

FLOP: Jc 6d 8d Hero bets \$160, CO calls, btn (\$600) folds. \$560

TURN: Ks Hero bets \$350 call.. \$1260

RIVER: Tc Hero bets \$300... BTN calls.. JT ..

## **14. Bluff catching OOP bets on high disconnected run outs (after checking back the turn) [CLPPodcast 466 SSE Vol VII](#) 01:01:15**

**Example 1:** \$1/\$3 (\$300eff) game

Hero raises CO with 6c 6h to \$15, BB calls. \$30

FLOP: 9s 2h 3c BB checks, Hero bets \$15, call. \$45

TURN: Kd x/x

RIVER: Qh BB bets \$35. Hero slam dunk calls. What possibly can the BB be betting here?

**Example 2:** \$1/\$3 (\$300eff)

Hero raises HJ w As 9s \$12 and BB calls. \$25

FLOP: 8d 3d 3s BB checks, Hero \$10, call. \$45

TURN: 2c x/x

RIVER: Ks or Qh or Jc. BB bets \$40. Hero should call with any sliver of showdown value ace highs, 44-77, etc.

**Example 3:** \$1/\$3 (\$300eff)

Hero raises MP1 Ks Js to \$12, BB calls. \$25

FLOP: 8d 7d 2s BB checks, Hero bets \$10, call. \$45

TURN: 3c .. x/x

RIVER: Qh or 3h BB bets \$35.. Hero should absolutely snap call here with K high. On a 3h river Hero can still call but king high is an even better call on the Qh river

**15. Overfolding when bluffs would be paired** [CLPPodcast 468 SSE Vol VIII](#) 15:00

**Example 1:** \$1/\$3 NL (\$1200 eff)

+1 raises to \$12, 3 callers in the field.

Hero 3! \$72 in SB w Ad Kd. CO and btn call. POT: \$240

FLOP: Jc 6d 8d Hero \$160, CO calls, btn fold. POT: \$560

TURN: Ks Hero bets \$350 CO call. POT: \$1260

RIVER: Tc

**Example 2:** Lodge Stream \$5-\$10 w \$20 Straddle, \$12k eff.

UTG1 \$75, CO calls, Hero calls in straddle with 7h 6d. Pot: \$240

FLOP: 9h 5d 7d Straddle checks, +1 checks, CO bets \$175, straddle calls, + calls. \$765

TURN: Tc checked through. \$765

RIVER: 2d. Hero straddle bets \$525.. +1 calls w Ad As

**16. Chip Spiking** [CLPPodcast 468 SSE Vol VIII](#) 42:30

- Using large denomination chips to bet in the pot to increase the number of large chips in the pot so your opponents can properly calculate pot size
- Most humans can't estimate things in clumps so a pile of small chips like \$5 chips are hard to decipher
- Most money at the small stakes is made through value betting so when we bet large we usually have it, which is why we want our opponents to know the accurate size of the pot

### **17. Breaking 3 bet sizing threshold preflop** [CLPPodcast 469 SSE Vol IX](#) 16:40

- Once we commit more than 1/3 our stack preflop if our opponent shoved we get at least 2-1. \$100eff 1/2 game. Raise to \$10, 3! To \$33, if opponent shoves it for \$100 total so pot is 133, 66 to call plus blinds
- \$100eff.. \$10 to \$25, we cold 4! to \$45 and break the threshold!
- Straight open to \$45 w \$300 behind if 3! To 120 past the threshold no appearance of fold equity..
- \$5-10 \$300 effective... UTG opens \$35, MP1 (\$300) 3! to \$85 instead of going all win we go to \$135 with AA or KK

### **18. Absolute value in sizing not percentage** [CLPPodcast 469 SSE Vol IX](#) 31:45

- When someone bets full pot when pot is small in \$\$ it means far less than a 100% bet when pot gets larger
- \$500 into \$1000 is a HUGE bet at 1/2 we shouldn't think about MDF or pot odds in these spots
- Mega straddles and how poorly players play in typical straddle is the BB scenario. Say 5-10-20-40-80-160 day someone has 3500 in BB. Button opens and guys not gonna ship those threshold hands like a 99 AJss etc.

### **19. Leaving some behind** [CLPPodcast 469 SSE Vol IX](#) 48:50

- Consider betting a little smaller than all-in when playing against a non reg or a player that you are not familiar with. For example if pot is \$500 and player has \$350 left, a bet of \$325-\$340 may get called at a higher frequency than a bet of \$350 all-in.

### **20. Attacking small preflop raise sizing after limps** [CLPPodcast 472 SSE Vol X](#) 11:30

- After one or two limps if opponent uses sizing that is small you can attack that raise it is rarely strong

- \$2-5 \$800 two people limp and the CO makes it \$20 where his normal open is straight \$20 and hero is on button. This can be attacked quite liberally

## **21. Over folding to 3 bets from players that are not 3betting the right frequencies**

[CLPPodcast 472 SSE Vol X](#) 20:30

- [CLP Episode 403](#) 6-06-20 In Defense of 3bets live starts at 23:00
- Defending to 3 bets calculation is a function of your opening range % and 3 bet sizing. You defend X% of your opens depending on your opponent's 3 bet sizing. You do more defending from in position than out of position
- Loose live players do not split off their VPIP% correctly between flatting and 3 betting... Most will flat way more than 3bet optimally
- You should be defending far less to 3bets if they are only 3 betting good hands. If it should be a 50% defend to a 3x 3 bet sizing... you could go down to 15-20% if they are only 3 betting premiums

## **22. Avoiding underestimating the value of draws when opponents are likely to pay off**

- Players at the lower stacks pay off far too much when they have hands like over pairs, and to an extreme to two pair plus
- Many players underestimate their equity and implied odds specifically when in position but also may apply out of position. Especially when players don't have an over-bet sizing on the turn
- If someone bets POT on turn and you have 20% equity you only need to bet 66% of pot size on river and get called for the draw to be break even.
- If someone bets POT on turn and you have 25% equity you only need to bet 33% of pot size on the river and get called for the draw to break even

**Example 1:** \$2/5 500 effective.

UTG opens to \$25 and we flat button 56ss. HU \$55.

FLOP: As Ks 8h UTG bets \$40 and we call. \$135

TURN: 2d UTG bets \$100.. if we call we are calling \$100 for \$235 we need 4-1 (9/45) so we need to win \$400. So we need to make an additional \$175 to break even. But if we

call the pot is \$335. If we make spades at the end can we bet \$175 into \$335 and get called?

**Example 2:** \$2/5 \$800 effective. UTG opens \$25 we call btn 56ss. \$55 FLOP: As Ks 8h UTG bets \$50 we call. \$155. TURN: 2h UTG bets \$150 we call pot is \$450. He has \$300 left and we need to make \$600 from pot.. we already made \$300 can we bet \$300 at the end?