

Preflop

A Clear Fold PF?

Original Author: J. Stew ([Original Thread](#))

Mp3 is 16/6, SB is 25/6.

SSHE says usually call hands like 88, but fold hands like AJo. I'm getting 5.5/1 on a call cause mp3 is coming. I'm probably dominated but could get lucky and flop trip jacks, three hearts, an oesd . . . I think I should probably lay pf but am wondering how close the pf call here is. If I have one more player putting in four bets pf should I call two back to me?

Party Poker 0.50/1 Hold'em (10 ♥ handed)

Preflop: Hero is UTG+2 with A♥, J♠.

2 folds, Hero raises, 2 folds, MP3 3-bets, 2 folds, SB caps, 1 fold, Hero calls, MP3 calls.

Flop: (13 SB) 2♣, T♣, 3♦ (3 players)

SB bets, Hero folds, MP3 calls.

Turn: (7.50 BB) 7♥ (2 players)

SB bets, MP3 calls.

River: (9.50 BB) 6♦ (2 players)

SB bets, MP3 calls.

Final Pot: 11.50 BB

AJo is total garbage in the situation you present. The problem with calling is that it has really bad negative implied odds. The thing that you have to understand about negative implied odds is that your deficit = frequency x severity.

If you hold AK♦ and the villain has KT♠ on a T♥ 8♥ 4♣ 2♦ board you don't have much in terms of negative implied odds. A king will only come 4.5% of the time and when it does you will lose 2 BB maximum.

When you hold K2♦ and someone else holds A4♦ on a board of T♦ 6♦ 4♥ you have really bad negative implied odds. The flush will come in 29% of the time and when it does you will lose your shirt.

The problem with calling here is that you will oftentimes have to pay a boatload of bets (when you flop something) just to see that someone else had AK. Since you will flop a pair about 32.4% of the time, it will get expensive when you commonly end up paying off the entire way and lose. When your one pair is good on the flop you will get very little action since hands like KK and QQ will slow way down on an A98 board.

If you choose to play weak-tight and fold everytime you don't flop a doozy, you will be losing bigtime on the preflop call.

You will get 3♥'s roughly 1.12% of the time.

The flop will be T98/QT9/KQT about .9% of the time (no monotone flops).

You will hit 2 split 2.02% and trips+ 1.45%.

This amounts to a whopping 5.5% of the time. So you need to be getting about 17:1 to call pre-flop if you play for the monster hand.

Edit: I would much rather call with 54o here than AJo. When you are totally destroyed in terms of domination/high card value, you have to play for the big hands (straights and flushes). Not that I would call here with 54o getting just 5:1, but it is a much better hand in this spot than AJo.

Stats on 54o:

2 split = 2.02%

Trips+ = 1.45%

76x, 63x, 32x (no monotone, x doesn't fill a straight) = 3.1% each

Straight = 1.3%

Total = 14.1% you will flop a big hand or draw with little to no negative implied odds (i.e. you will not dump a lot of \$\$\$ into a AQ5 board since you are cooked here). 54o will make a straight 9.18% of the time, more than any other hand (same as JTo). Connected cards really go up in value here since they make straights more often than suited cards make flushes (so 5 ♥ 4 ♥ > 5 ♥ 4 ♠ > 9 ♥ 2 ♥), and both of those can take down something like top set (big payday :)). Plus they are usually harder to see which makes them even better.

AJo Flops TP

Original Author: David H ([Original Thread](#))

Ultimate Bet 0.05/0.10 Hold'em (8 handed) converter

Preflop: Hero is UTG+1 with A♣, J♦.

UTG calls, Hero raises, MP1 3-bets, 1 fold, CO calls, 3 folds, UTG calls, Hero calls.

Is this a situation to limp, or is a raise okay?

Flop: (13.40 SB) 3♣, A♦, 2♦ (4 players)

UTG checks, Hero checks, MP1 checks, CO bets, UTG calls, Hero calls, MP1 calls.

Wow, I have no idea what I was thinking here. Should I bet out or try a C/R?

Turn: (8.70 BB) 7♥ (4 players)

UTG checks, Hero bets, MP1 folds, CO raises, UTG folds, Hero calls.

Pretty good turn for me. At this point, MP1 is who I am worried about. A check/call on the flop after 3-betting PF. I am glad to see him go. I have no real read on CO, it is very possible that he is on a weak Ace. A flopped straight is possible, but I would expect it to be slowplayed.

River: (12.70 BB) 6♦ (2 players)

Hero checks, CO bets, Hero calls.

The diamond doesn't worry me too much, I doubt that CO was betting/raising with a flush draw, especially when he could have taken a free card on the flop. So, if I was ahead on the flop/turn I feel like I'm ahead here.

Final Pot: 14.70 BB

Comments are appreciated.

(tehmatt) The tighter a table plays, the more inclined I am to raise AJo in early position.

Huh?

I'd rather limp AJo at a tight table then raise. The goal is to keep the pot small and then auto bet the flop. Fold AJo at a tough table, but those aren't very common. You also have to understand that I will be limping lots of super good hands at tight tables too (like AA and AKs) so it isn't like I'm weakish when I limp up front. There are many other things that you can do when the table is tight (like check/raise the flop with nothing from the BB on a 753 board after 2 tight players limp in EP and MP) that you can't swing at a loose table.

You should be raising AJo at a loose table because you will get coldcalled with 86s and A5o and [censored]. Yay \$\$\$\$, holla.



(Sir Bruce) You need to bet the flop for protection. You have a strong hand in a large pot but are very vulnerable to draws. With the preflop 3-better on your immediate left, you should bet the flop and expect MP1 to raise, giving the field ~8:1, enough to force bad calls for people drawing to straights.

Okay so you bet out, MP1 raises and everyone else folds. Now what?

The pot is too big to 3-bet "for information" here. If he caps you are going to have to call and then call again on 4th street to try and spike a jack. If the pot were smaller, this might be an okay time to use this play but again it depends. The other problem with 3-betting is that he might just call you down with AQ or AK. So much for information...

Are you going to calldown the flop raise and hope he has KK or QQ? Are you going to fold the turn UI?

I would check the flop and see what happens. The pot will likely be too big to do anything but call if the PFR bets. You will be closing the action, so you won't be able to protect anything by raising, and you can't really check/raise for information since you will make the pot so big that you will have to call all the way in attempt to hit a jack. After you call on the flop, re-evaluate your options on 4th street. If the PFR doesn't bet and someone else does you should raise to try and knock the PFR out. If he has a hand like K ♦ K ♣ you will be pricing him in the pot by calling. Raise to try and knock him out and be careful if he coldcalls and wakes up on 4th street.

Little pair help plz

Original Author: UATrewqaz ([Original Thread](#))

As best I understand if I am playing small pairs (22-66) properly they should be profitable hands, not big time, but very very slightly profitable, correct?

Well I must be doing somethign wrong because every category of hand I feel I should be turning a profit with I am EXCEPT these. I've been doing pretty crappy with them actually.

Hand	Times	Win %	Net	Avg/Hand	BB/Hand	Blind	CCPF	VP\$IP	W\$WSF	PFR %	RFI %	LwPC	WtSD	W\$SD
66	65	16.92	(24.00)	(0.37)	(0.27)	18	5	84.62	16.67	3.08	1.54	35.38	23.33	57.14
55	78	10.26	(53.75)	(0.69)	(0.46)	23	2	78.21	11.59	0.00	0.00	32.05	10.14	42.86
44	53	9.43	(8.25)	(0.16)	(0.15)	14	1	73.58	11.90	0.00	0.00	30.19	19.05	50.00
33	74	9.46	3.50	0.05	0.14	12	4	72.97	11.67	0.00	0.00	45.95	11.67	100.00
22	66	10.61	(6.00)	(0.09)	(0.04)	14	2	59.09	13.33	0.00	0.00	27.27	8.89	50.00
Totals	336	11.31	(88.50)	(0.26)	(0.16)	81	14	73.81	13.04	0.60	0.30	34.52	14.49	60.00

So my question is two fold

1. Am I expecting too much from little pairs?
2. Give me the Dumbass's crash course guide to playing little pairs.

What I try to go by is as follows, I want alot of callers and an unraised pot, because my only real chance of winning is spiking my set on the flop (and cussing furiously when it comes on the turn after i've folded). You only play them upfront if your game is loose/passive and you only play them from late if you have alot of callers in front of you. Middle position you only play them if there have been limpers upfront and you dont' expect raises. In late position it's ok to cold-call with them if several other cold-callers have already entered. Likewise if you limp with them adn it is raised you should always call for 1 more bet. Correct summary?

Change this...

Likewise if you limp with them and it is raised you should always call for 1 more bet.

To - If you limp with them, you should call all raises behind you.

You clearly haven't been running good with them. Here are a few suggestions.

- 1) Limp all pairs up front unless you are in a tough or tight game. The default play should be to limp though.
- 2) Raise 66 more preflop (and even 55 for that matter). Highly consider raising it after 4+ limpers and loose blinds or 5+ limpers and unknown blinds.



(closer2313) Im not sure, but I think you are cold calling way way way too much. But I could be wrong.

Unfortunately, you are wrong (I say that because it would be a quick fix to his problem if it was correct). He is about on par with how often he should be coldcalling these hands.



(Yossalah) Personally, 66 first to act, is a definite raise. UTG I say fold 22-44, possibly 55. In a tight game, or a game were you have a tight image, I am defenitly raising, I don't want callers. Plus even if you do get raised when you bet the ace on the flop, I have found that you will get a lot more action later on better hands.

There 2 problems with this...

1) You are in the wrong game if everyone folds to your UTG raises. These types of games are hard to make \$\$\$\$ in.

2) In most games, you are going to get all kinds of coldcalls when you raise UTG. Sixes are a rough hand to play out of position in a 4 or 5 way pot. Limp with it and hope to get multiway action.



(Paxosmotic) If hero is cold calling with these hands period, it is a mistake, be it 14 times or 81. You need to have like 4 cold callers in front of you just to create the overlay. You have to make up ~10sb for every bet you put in preflop, and making up 20sb is going to be a workout.

You're probably limping in too many marginal situations without enough people in the pot to pad it for when you hit your set. Hit it or quit it, of course. If you're doing both of those things, then chalk it up to sample size, because low pocket pairs are the simplest hand in poker to play.

Come on dude, look at what you are saying. I used to think the same thing, and it was clearly wrong. I don't want all of you to go through the same -EV learning process that I did (basically trial and error).

1) Limping with pairs is not a leak. It is a +EV play that can be proven by taking a collection of PT databases of micro 2p2ers (filter 66-22 and UTG to UTG+2). If you don't want to listen that is fine, but it creates a lot of confusion for people who don't know what to do in this spot and are looking for answers. Telling them to fold up front isn't going to help them.

2) Cold calling with pairs is not a mistake in many situations. If someone raises and gets 3 cold-callers, you should coldcall with all pairs. Again, we can do a study amongst 2+2ers using PT (BB/100 when coldcalling) and figure out that it is +EV when done in the right spots.



(Paxosmotic) Something I don't do because I don't exercise table selection

I could pick any random 2/4 right now (let alone .5/1) and it would be correct to limp 22 UTG. Unless you like playing in tight or tough games, these hands are .05 BB+ limps in EP.



(oreogod) Similarly, it is an S&M myth that you should raise with baby pairs like 33 after six (or fewer) limpers, even if you know the blinds will call. Although you will flop a set more than 1 in 9 times, you will win the pot less than 1 in 9 times. Since you will win the pot less than your fair share, you should not raise. A possible exception is when the raise has a decent chance of buying you a free card on the flop, as this now improves your chance of winning to better than 1 in 9, but it is normally rare that all 8 opponents would check to the raiser.

Yeah but there is another key element here...pot size.

Let's say that if you limp in a 6 way pot, you will win a 10 BB pot if you end up flopping a set. When you raise though, the pot will end up being 20 BB even though only another 3 BB went in preflop. By raising preflop (and creating better odds to chase) you collected an extra 7 BB from

people calling on the flop/turn with hands that are drawing thin/dead like middle and bottom pair. All of this extra chasing will rarely cost you the pot since people trying to improve to trips or 2-pair are anywhere from 20 to 350-1 underdogs to outdraw you (people will also chase backdoor draws more in big pots and they are about 20-1 so I had to include that). Of course the amount of extra action that you generate is arbitrary so don't take the 7 BB number and set it in stone. But by making the pot bigger you tend to get people chasing more when they shouldn't if they knew what you were holding (similar comments apply to a hand like T9s).

(Paxosmotic) Raising 66 after limpers simply can't be correct, because you're not gaining overlay. I'm almost certain we've discussed this before, if you're picking up what I'm putting down.

Too bad CDC won't pay this thread a visit.

Try to search for his post where he raised preflop with 44 and it WON HIM THE POT! Everyone checked to him and he took the free card. Sure enough the turn was a 4 and he ended up winning a monster pot.

There are essentially two reasons to raise pairs preflop:

- 1) To look at four cards instead of three.
- 2) To build a pot for those times that you flop a set. People will be willing to give you more action in a raised pot than an unraised pot.

Similar comments apply for those times that we raise QJ:heart: after 5 limpers. If we can flop a :heart: draw, we can expect a ton of action on it. Since we make money on all bets that go into the pot on the flop, we can make a ton of money there (if it goes say 3-bets five ways). We also then make a ton of money if and when the flush does come in. You might want to make the argument "well I want to see a flop cheap since I usually miss", but it just doesn't hold there either as you pass up too much value by not raising.

Call?

Original Poster: GTSamIAm ([Original Thread](#))

I just sat down and posted blind.

Party Poker 2/4 Hold'em (10 handed) converter

Preflop: Hero is MP3 with 5:spade:, 4:spade:. Hero posts a blind of \$2.

5 folds, Hero (poster) checks, 2 folds, SB raises, 1 fold, Hero folds.

Final Pot: 2 BB

Simple preflop golden rules:

- 1) Never fold a pocket pair when you have one small bet invested. It makes no difference how the bet gets there, but once it is in the middle you are seeing a flop.
- 2) Always raise your post when it is folded around to you. Any two cards are worth a raise. And don't say something like "there are too many people to fold out to make it profitable" since you should be posting in the CO everytime (barring a really good table). If you posted in UTG+2 or something then no you should not raise 5:diamond: 4:heart: , but you never should have posted in that spot in the 1st place.

Flop

Betting a draw on the flop into an aggressive player

Original Poster: QTip ([Original Thread](#))

I'm really sick of seeing this happen, and I'm thinking I need to start paying more attention to who's on my left when I bet these. Here's a made up example.

I have 8 :heart:5 :heart: in the sb

3 limpers, I complete, TAG in the bb checks.

Flop: Q :heart:4 :heart:9 :club:

I bet, bb raises

Hate this but I really want a bet in on this flop. What are some things to consider in this situation? I'm sure board texture plays some role, as likely to be bet and things of that nature.