

UPSWING  POKER

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# PREFLOP GUIDE

## Raising First In (RFI)

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## Welcome to Upswing Poker.

Congratulations on taking a step  
towards playing winning poker!

You have just downloaded the  
very first piece of winning strategy,  
what hands to play preflop.



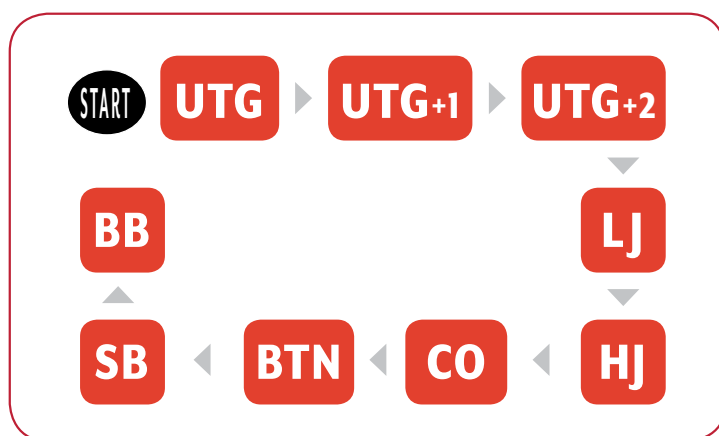
## Preflop Introduction

Preflop is the most common and important street in poker.

The decisions you make on this street will greatly impact the rest of the hand.

The hands are organized by position or the order in which you act at the table.

Play starts out with the Under The Gun (**UTG**) player, then moves to **UTG+1**, **UTG+2**, Lojack (**LJ**), Hijack (**HJ**), Cutoff (**CO**), Button (**BTN**), Small Blind (**SB**), and finally the Big Blind (**BB**).



Refer to the following charts to become familiar with the different positions preflop.

It is important to play different ranges in each position because position is valuable and needs to be treated as such.



The way we chose to display this information was using what is called a **Hand Matrix**.

AA 6	AKs 4	AQs 4	AJs 4	ATs 4	A9s 4	A8s 4	A7s 4	A6s 4	A5s 4	A4s 4	A3s 4	A2s 4
AKo 12	KK 6	KQs 4	KJs 4	KTs 4	K9s 4	K8s 4	K7s 4	K6s 4	K5s 4	K4s 4	K3s 4	K2s 4
AQo 12	KQo 12	QQ 6	QJs 4	QTs 4	Q9s 4	Q8s 4	Q7s 4	Q6s 4	Q5s 4	Q4s 4	Q3s 4	Q2s 4
AJo 12	KJo 12	QJo 12	JJ 6	JTs 4	J9s 4	J8s 4	J7s 4	J6s 4	J5s 4	J4s 4	J3s 4	J2s 4
ATo 12	KTo 12	QTo 12	JTo 12	TT 6	T9s 4	T8s 4	T7s 4	T6s 4	T5s 4	T4s 4	T3s 4	T2s 4
A9o 12	K9o 12	Q9o 12	J9o 12	T9o 12	99 6	98s 4	97s 4	96s 4	95s 4	94s 4	93s 4	92s 4
A8o 12	K8o 12	Q8o 12	J8o 12	T8o 12	98o 12	88 6	87s 4	86s 4	85s 4	84s 4	83s 4	82s 4
A7o 12	K7o 12	Q7o 12	J7o 12	T7o 12	97o 12	87o 12	77 6	76s 4	75s 4	74s 4	73s 4	72s 4
A6o 12	K6o 12	Q6o 12	J6o 12	T6o 12	96o 12	86o 12	76o 12	66 6	65s 4	64s 4	63s 4	62s 4
A5o 12	K5o 12	Q5o 12	J5o 12	T5o 12	95o 12	85o 12	75o 12	65o 12	55 6	54s 4	53s 4	52s 4
A4o 12	K4o 12	Q4o 12	J4o 12	T4o 12	94o 12	84o 12	74o 12	64o 12	54o 12	44 6	43s 4	42s 4
A3o 12	K3o 12	Q3o 12	J3o 12	T3o 12	93o 12	83o 12	73o 12	63o 12	53o 12	43o 12	33 6	32s 4
A2o 12	K2o 12	Q2o 12	J2o 12	T2o 12	92o 12	82o 12	72o 12	62o 12	52o 12	42o 12	32o 12	22 6

This is a Hand Matrix. It displays all the possible hands you could be dealt preflop without accounting for individual suits.

Hands with the letter “o” next to them represent **offsuit** hands, AKo for instance could be **A♣K♦**.

The hands with the letter “s” next to them represent **suited** hands, for instance KT<sub>s</sub> could be **K♠T♠** or **K♦T♦**.

The **pairs** are not labeled because they are all **offsuit**, you could not have **6♠6♠** because there is only one six of spades in the deck.



AA 6	AKs 4	AQs 4	AJs 4	ATs 4	A9s 4	A8s 4	A7s 4	A6s 4	A5s 4	A4s 4	A3s 4	A2s 4
AKo 12	KK 6	KQs 4	KJs 4	KTs 4	K9s 4	K8s 4	K7s 4	K6s 4	K5s 4	K4s 4	K3s 4	K2s 4
AQo 12	KQo 12	QQ 6	QJs 4	QTs 4	Q9s 4	Q8s 4	Q7s 4	Q6s 4	Q5s 4	Q4s 4	Q3s 4	Q2s 4
AJo 12	KJo 12	QJo 12	JJ 6	JTs 4	J9s 4	J8s 4	J7s 4	J6s 4	J5s 4	J4s 4	J3s 4	J2s 4
ATo 12	KTo 12	QTo 12	JTo 12	TT 6	T9s 4	T8s 4	T7s 4	T6s 4	T5s 4	T4s 4	T3s 4	T2s 4
A9o 12	K9o 12	Q9o 12	J9o 12	T9o 12	99 6	98s 4	97s 4	96s 4	95s 4	94s 4	93s 4	92s 4
A8o 12	K8o 12	Q8o 12	J8o 12	T8o 12	98o 12	88 6	87s 4	86s 4	85s 4	84s 4	83s 4	82s 4
A7o 12	K7o 12	Q7o 12	J7o 12	T7o 12	97o 12	87o 12	77 6	76s 4	75s 4	74s 4	73s 4	72s 4
A6o 12	K6o 12	Q6o 12	J6o 12	T6o 12	96o 12	86o 12	76o 12	66 6	65s 4	64s 4	63s 4	62s 4
A5o 12	K5o 12	Q5o 12	J5o 12	T5o 12	95o 12	85o 12	75o 12	65o 12	55 6	54s 4	53s 4	52s 4
A4o 12	K4o 12	Q4o 12	J4o 12	T4o 12	94o 12	84o 12	74o 12	64o 12	54o 12	44 6	43s 4	42s 4
A3o 12	K3o 12	Q3o 12	J3o 12	T3o 12	93o 12	83o 12	73o 12	63o 12	53o 12	43o 12	33 6	32s 4
A2o 12	K2o 12	Q2o 12	J2o 12	T2o 12	92o 12	82o 12	72o 12	62o 12	52o 12	42o 12	32o 12	22 6

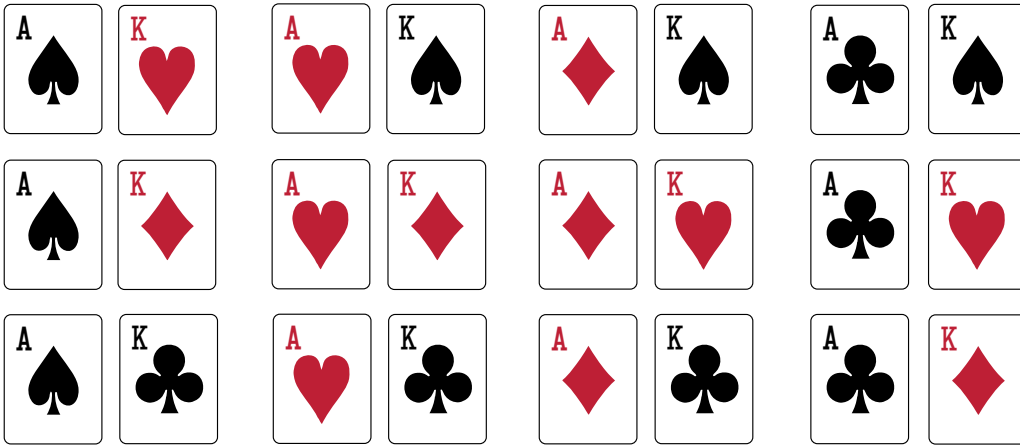
The numbers under each hand represent the number of combinations (combos) of that hand.

There are **12 combos** of each **offsuit hand**,  
**4 combos** of each **suited hand**,  
and **6 combos** of each **pocket pair**.

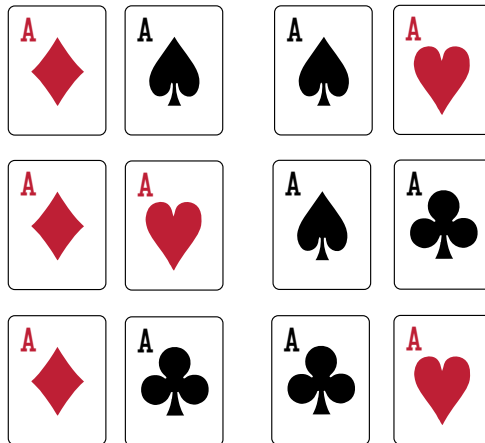


## Examples of Combos

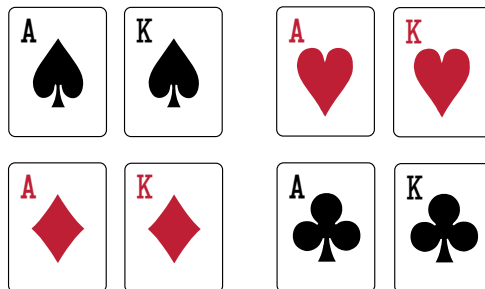
**AKo**  
12



**AA**  
6



**AKs**  
4



We use matrices to display which range of hands you should play from a given situation because it is the best, quickest, and easiest way to know what hands to play.

## Preflop Charts

The ranges that follow, are the hands you should **Raise First In (RFI)**.

In other words, these are the hands you should play preflop when the action folds to you, and you should play them by raising.

The best way to approach **RFI** is to pick a range of hands which you believe is strong enough to play from a given situation, then raise with all of them using raise size.

You should use a consistent size in order to give away as little information about what you might have as possible.

We advocate using a raise size anywhere between **2.5 times** and **4 times the size of the big blind** when you have a hand worth playing.

Generally speaking,  
**smaller raise** sizes work best in **online** games,  
and **larger raise** sizes work best in **live** games.



# Under The Gun ♠ (UTG)

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
AKo	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
ATo	KTo	QTo	JTo	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9o	K9o	Q9o	J9o	T9o	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8o	K8o	Q8o	J8o	T8o	98o	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7o	K7o	Q7o	J7o	T7o	97o	87o	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6o	K6o	Q6o	J6o	T6o	96o	86o	76o	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5o	K5o	Q5o	J5o	T5o	95o	85o	75o	65o	55	54s	53s	52s
A4o	K4o	Q4o	J4o	T4o	94o	84o	74o	64o	54o	44	43s	42s
A3o	K3o	Q3o	J3o	T3o	93o	83o	73o	63o	53o	43o	33	32s
A2o	K2o	Q2o	J2o	T2o	92o	82o	72o	62o	52o	42o	32o	22





# Under The Gun+1 ♠ (UTG+1)

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
AKo	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
ATo	KTo	QTo	JTo	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9o	K9o	Q9o	J9o	T9o	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8o	K8o	Q8o	J8o	T8o	98o	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7o	K7o	Q7o	J7o	T7o	97o	87o	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6o	K6o	Q6o	J6o	T6o	96o	86o	76o	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5o	K5o	Q5o	J5o	T5o	95o	85o	75o	65o	55	54s	53s	52s
A4o	K4o	Q4o	J4o	T4o	94o	84o	74o	64o	54o	44	43s	42s
A3o	K3o	Q3o	J3o	T3o	93o	83o	73o	63o	53o	43o	33	32s
A2o	K2o	Q2o	J2o	T2o	92o	82o	72o	62o	52o	42o	32o	22



# Under The Gun+2 ♠ (UTG+2)

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
AKo	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
ATo	KTo	QTo	JTo	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9o	K9o	Q9o	J9o	T9o	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8o	K8o	Q8o	J8o	T8o	98o	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7o	K7o	Q7o	J7o	T7o	97o	87o	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6o	K6o	Q6o	J6o	T6o	96o	86o	76o	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5o	K5o	Q5o	J5o	T5o	95o	85o	75o	65o	55	54s	53s	52s
A4o	K4o	Q4o	J4o	T4o	94o	84o	74o	64o	54o	44	43s	42s
A3o	K3o	Q3o	J3o	T3o	93o	83o	73o	63o	53o	43o	33	32s
A2o	K2o	Q2o	J2o	T2o	92o	82o	72o	62o	52o	42o	32o	22



# LoJack ♠ (LJ)

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
AKo	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
ATo	KTo	QTo	JTo	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9o	K9o	Q9o	J9o	T9o	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8o	K8o	Q8o	J8o	T8o	98o	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7o	K7o	Q7o	J7o	T7o	97o	87o	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6o	K6o	Q6o	J6o	T6o	96o	86o	76o	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5o	K5o	Q5o	J5o	T5o	95o	85o	75o	65o	55	54s	53s	52s
A4o	K4o	Q4o	J4o	T4o	94o	84o	74o	64o	54o	44	43s	42s
A3o	K3o	Q3o	J3o	T3o	93o	83o	73o	63o	53o	43o	33	32s
A2o	K2o	Q2o	J2o	T2o	92o	82o	72o	62o	52o	42o	32o	22



# HiJack ♠ (HJ)

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
AKo	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
ATo	KTo	QTo	JTo	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9o	K9o	Q9o	J9o	T9o	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8o	K8o	Q8o	J8o	T8o	98o	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7o	K7o	Q7o	J7o	T7o	97o	87o	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6o	K6o	Q6o	J6o	T6o	96o	86o	76o	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5o	K5o	Q5o	J5o	T5o	95o	85o	75o	65o	55	54s	53s	52s
A4o	K4o	Q4o	J4o	T4o	94o	84o	74o	64o	54o	44	43s	42s
A3o	K3o	Q3o	J3o	T3o	93o	83o	73o	63o	53o	43o	33	32s
A2o	K2o	Q2o	J2o	T2o	92o	82o	72o	62o	52o	42o	32o	22



# CutOff ♠ (CO)

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
AKo	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
ATo	KTo	QTo	JTo	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9o	K9o	Q9o	J9o	T9o	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8o	K8o	Q8o	J8o	T8o	98o	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7o	K7o	Q7o	J7o	T7o	97o	87o	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6o	K6o	Q6o	J6o	T6o	96o	86o	76o	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5o	K5o	Q5o	J5o	T5o	95o	85o	75o	65o	55	54s	53s	52s
A4o	K4o	Q4o	J4o	T4o	94o	84o	74o	64o	54o	44	43s	42s
A3o	K3o	Q3o	J3o	T3o	93o	83o	73o	63o	53o	43o	33	32s
A2o	K2o	Q2o	J2o	T2o	92o	82o	72o	62o	52o	42o	32o	22



# Button ♠ (BTN)

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
AKo	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
ATo	KTo	QTo	JTo	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9o	K9o	Q9o	J9o	T9o	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8o	K8o	Q8o	J8o	T8o	98o	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7o	K7o	Q7o	J7o	T7o	97o	87o	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6o	K6o	Q6o	J6o	T6o	96o	86o	76o	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5o	K5o	Q5o	J5o	T5o	95o	85o	75o	65o	55	54s	53s	52s
A4o	K4o	Q4o	J4o	T4o	94o	84o	74o	64o	54o	44	43s	42s
A3o	K3o	Q3o	J3o	T3o	93o	83o	73o	63o	53o	43o	33	32s
A2o	K2o	Q2o	J2o	T2o	92o	82o	72o	62o	52o	42o	32o	22



# SmallBlind ♠ (SB)

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
AKo	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
ATo	KTo	QTo	JTo	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9o	K9o	Q9o	J9o	T9o	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8o	K8o	Q8o	J8o	T8o	98o	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7o	K7o	Q7o	J7o	T7o	97o	87o	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6o	K6o	Q6o	J6o	T6o	96o	86o	76o	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5o	K5o	Q5o	J5o	T5o	95o	85o	75o	65o	55	54s	53s	52s
A4o	K4o	Q4o	J4o	T4o	94o	84o	74o	64o	54o	44	43s	42s
A3o	K3o	Q3o	J3o	T3o	93o	83o	73o	63o	53o	43o	33	32s
A2o	K2o	Q2o	J2o	T2o	92o	82o	72o	62o	52o	42o	32o	22



## Preflop Charts FAQ

Where is the chart for the **Big Blind** ?

**A** These are **Raise First In** charts, meaning you raise with these hands when the action folds around to you.

When the action folds around to you in the **Big Blind**, the hand is over and you win the pot.

If I choose which hands to play based on these charts, won't that make me predictable ?

**A** It's very unlikely you will become predictable to your opponents by using these charts.

Your opponents would have to be paying very close attention to you over thousands of hands in order to figure out the exact hands you are playing.

So, should I always stick to these charts exactly when choosing which preflop hands to raise ?

**A** No. Think of these charts as your baseline strategy, and be ready to adjust based on the play at your table.

- If your table is full of **loose and aggressive players**, you should play **tighter** than these charts indicate.
- If your table is full of **tight and passive players**, you should play **looser** than these charts indicate.





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