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## 1. Introduction

Most people do not believe that slots machines can be beaten or that there is any skill needed to play [slot machines](#). "Do you want to know a slot expert? That's someone who can play a slot machine with each hand while carrying on a conversation with her friend, Mabel." "What is there to know about slots? You pull the lever or push the button. If you are lucky you win." "Slot machines were invented for people who want to gamble with the least skill possible." There are many misconceptions about slot machines. First, there is the myth that you can't win or that if you win it is just a matter of luck. Most people who play slots actually believe this. That is one of the reasons that they have no interest in learning anything about the aptly named one-armed bandits.

I am going to show you how to beat slot machines. You will learn how to beat the casinos at their favorite game, and in the process, get tons of [casino](#) freebies thrown your way. You will be able to get a free rooms, have comped meals, use line passes to move to the head of the long show lines and even ride in casino limos - all for free! This book will introduce you to means you can use to live like a king or queen. You will be able to travel extensively, eat and drink far more than is healthy for you and spend as much time in such locales as Las Vegas - all without spending a cent! This book is about beating the casinos at slots and having the time of your life in the process! All this can be yours if you are willing to put some effort into learning more about slot machines. I am going to dispel a number of notions and misconceptions you may have had about slot machines. I am also going to tell you which machines to play and which to avoid, how to find the best machines and how to avoid the ones that are strictly there to attract suckers. After you have read this book you will know enough to put a dint in the casinos' pocketbook and to enjoy yourself immensely in the process.

## 2. Pick the Best Locale for Slots Play

For jurisdictions reporting the paybacks on slots machines, the best paying slots are found in [Las Vegas](#). The poorest paying slots are located Connecticut and Atlantic City. The chart below show the latest payback percentages for quarter slot machines as reported by state gaming regulatory agencies as well as independent industry sources.

### Slot Paybacks for Quarter Slot Machines

Location

Low

Percent

High

Percent

Average

Percent

Atlantic City 89.2% 91.7% 91.0%

Colorado 94.1% 94.4% 94.2%

Connecticut 90.6% 90.8% 90.7%

Nevada: 92.4% 96.3% 94.7%

Boulder Strip 95.8%

Downtown Vegas 94.9%

Las Vegas Strip 92.4%

Laughlin 94.1%

Lake Tahoe 94.4%

North Las Vegas 96.3%

Reno 94.0%

Illinois 92.1% 94.2% 92.8%

Iowa 91.6% 94.0% 93.0%

Mississippi 90.9% 92.9% 92.0%

Coastal Region 92.1%

North River Region 90.9%

South River Region 92.9%

Indiana 90.7% 92.5% 91.7%

Missouri 90.1% 94.4% 93.3%

If you are a quarter slots player, planning a slot playing trip and have a choice of where to play, you will have more opportunities in the State of Nevada than anywhere else. The casinos in Northern [Las Vegas](#), such as the Fiesta and the Santa Fe, offer the highest paybacks for quarter slots play. If you are stuck playing in a particular area, you may question how useful this information is for you. Of course, if the paybacks are low enough, you can always chose not to play slots in that locale and save your slots bankroll for more fertile areas. Say you are in Las [Vegas](#) staying at the new Venetian. You have been playing slots and doing very poorly. You remember that this book had some information on [slot](#) paybacks so you check the copy you placed in your suitcase as you ran out the door to catch your plane.

Your notice that the Las Vegas Strip quarter slots pay back an average of 92.4%, while North Las Vegas quarter machines pay back 96.3%. You catch a cab to the Texas Station and try your luck at slots. You notice the tremendous difference the higher payback makes. You also remember reading in this book that the Stratosphere offers certain machines with 100% paybacks. You catch a cab to the Stratosphere and add even more winnings from the higher pay slots. Believe me, even a small difference in the payback percentage can make a huge difference in how well you do. Look at the comparisons on the following page. This table compares how well you would do after each round of slot play on machines paying 90%, 92%, 94%, 96% and 98%. Most players don't understand what these numbers mean. Many players think that if they play on 90% payback machines, they should only lose about 10% of the money they play, since the casino's payback rate is 90%. However, they forget that they don't play their coins through only one time.

#### The Players' Bankroll After Each Round of Play

Slot Payback % 90% 92% 94% 96% 98%

Starting Bankroll \$100 \$100 \$100 \$100 \$100

Bankroll After Round

of Play:

1 90.00 92.00 94.00 96.00 98.00

2 81.00 84.54 88.36 92.16 96.04

3 72.90 77.87 83.06 88.47 94.12

4 65.61 71.64 78.67 84.93 92.24

5 59.05 65.90 73.39 81.54 90.39

6 53.14 59.32 68.99 78.28 88.58

7 47.83 54.57 64.85 75.14 86.81

8 43.05 50.21 60.96 72.14 85.08

9 38.74 46.19 57.30 69.25 83.38

10 34.87 42.49 53.88 66.48 81.71

If you bought a roll of quarters for ten bucks and played the quarters through a machine programmed to payback 90% only one time, on the average the machine would return 90% of the ten bucks you plunked in it, or nine dollars. Because of the tremendous variability in slot payoffs it would be very rare if you received this exact amount, but if you played ten dollars through a [slot](#) paying back 90% over and over, you would find after many time of repeating this that you averaged getting nine dollars for each ten dollars played. However, you don't play slots that way. You reinsert coins as they are returned, or on the modern slots, you play off of credits.

By playing this way, you are replaying the same money over and over. For our purposes, we will call each complete cycle of inserting all of your session bankroll a round of play. Now lets compare paybacks where we continue to play the same machine round after round. After one round of play our \$100 has been reduced to \$98.00 on the 98% payback machine and to \$90.00 on the 90% machine. After five rounds of play we are down to \$59.05 on the 90% machine. On a 94% machine we still have \$73.39 and on the 98% payback machine, we are looking good at \$90.39. After ten rounds, we will be down to \$34.87 on the 90% machine, feeling pretty discouraged having lost \$65.13 or almost two-thirds of our bankroll. On the 98% machine, we still have \$81.71 to play with.

If we quit this machine, we will have lost \$18.69, or less than twenty percent of our bankroll. Let's assume that we decide to make one more play and we hit a 200 coin payoff and receive \$50.00 in credits. We quit playing. The player on the 90% machine now has \$84.87 and leaves with a loss of \$15.13. The player on the 94% machine has \$103.88, for a win of \$3.88. The player on the 98% machine has a total of \$131.71 for a win of \$31.71. Here's our situation. We have had the same number of plays on each machine. We inserted the same amount in each

machine. On the 90% machine we lose. The 94% machine eeks out a small win. The 98% give us a decent win and we cash in a winner. Do you still think it doesn't matter where you play? Slot pros always prefer to play in slot jurisdictions with higher paybacks. You may have noticed that I didn't show you any numbers for Indian casinos. They don't publish their paybacks. Some are better than others, but all are suspect. In general, the more competition, the better the paybacks will be for the player. And just a couple of percent difference in paybacks can make a huge difference in your ability to win.

### 3. Only Play in a Casino

In the last section we discussed why it is important to only play slots in locales offering the most competitive paybacks. We saw how even a couple of percent difference in [slot](#) paybacks can make a tremendous difference in how much the casino takes (or how much you can win). The better paying slots are invariably located in casinos. You should never play slots where the slot machines are a side line to the main business. These machines only get play from persons who are there for some other purpose. As a consequence, these machines usually have horrific odds. The philosophy behind setting the paybacks for these machines is that:

"The players are only going to plunk a few coins in anyway, so why not take advantage of them?"

What kinds of places have these machines? In the state of Nevada they are all over. You will find slots in airports, grocery stores, bars, laundromats, convenience stores, gas stations, car washes, and assorted other places where the slots will gobble up your coins as fast as you drop them in. In Nevada, the state does not mandate the minimum payback for slot machines. You will find slots paying as low as fifty or sixty percent in off [casino](#) locations. If you do win a jackpot on these machines, you may have to wait for some time to get paid. The machines are usually placed by independent slot operators who split profits with the establishments hosting the slots, and the cute little grocery store where you hit a jackpot has no means of paying off your jackpot. You may end up waiting for some time to receive your jackpot. So, for serious slots play, limit your playing to a casino located in a locale with higher paybacks.

### 4. Find the Best Casino for Slots Play

The best places to play slots are in casinos frequented by locals. The casinos getting regular trade from persons who live in the area are usually the most competitive casinos around. Consider the most competitive city in the world, [Las Vegas](#). Current paybacks for quarter

machines averages 92.4% on the Las Vegas strip. You will not find your best paying quarter slots in places like Caesars Palace, Mirage, Mandalay Bay, the Desert Inn, Bellagio or New York-New York. These places don't cater to locals. To some extent they resemble the slots machines offered at the [Las Vegas](#) airport in that they are dealing with a captive audience and they have to be competitive only with other large strip casinos in order to have a steady and profitable slots clientele.

The second tier properties on the Las Vegas Strip will be far more competitive than the premier joints. Slots paybacks typically are better at Circus Circus, the Riviera, the Sahara and the Stardust. Downtown is a more competitive environment than the Las Vegas Strip and the slot paybacks reflect this. The current payback on quarter machines averages 94.9%, 2.5% higher than the Strip. This makes the trip downtown worthwhile for slots players. You will find much better paybacks at the Stratosphere, Lady Luck, Fitzgeralds, Binion's Horseshoe and the Main Street Station.

Here the mix of action received from locals as well as the ease of changing casinos, as each downtown joint can be walked to, makes for a much better [slot](#) environment. But downtown Las Vegas is still a tourist destination. If you want to find the really high paying quarter slots, you have got to go out to the suburbs. The Boulder Strip casinos are currently paying 95.8% on quarter play. The joints in North Las Vegas hold the record for payouts at a whopping average of 96.3% for quarter machines. Do you think you can find some 98% payback machines here? You bet you will. For the best in North Las Vegas action, try Arizona Charlie's, California, Fiesta, Santa Fe and Texas Station.

#### 5. Find the Best Machines in the Casino

Once you have found a likely [casino](#), which caters to local players, you still have a little more work to do to find the best machine. Not every slot in a casino is created equal. There have been many theories over the years about where the best slots are placed in casinos. Some players believe that the loosest machines are located around the perimeter of the casino, so that persons strolling by will hear the bells and see the flashing lights and be attracted to enter the casino. Some slot experts have postulated that the better paying slot are placed in alternating banks of loose and tight slots. The true is, most experts don't have a clue as to how the casinos have really set up their machines. Lawrence Steele, in Silverthorne Publications Super Slots, exposed many of the myths about where slots are placed. He and his associates systematically played slots in a number of casinos and recorded the results. The results of his study is simply amazing and was part of the basis for his brilliant approach to beating slot

machines detailed in Super Slots. Steele found that the main factor used to determine where to place slot machines was how visible the machines were to other [slot](#) players. He found no pattern to placing machines near the outside doors of casinos or near the show lines as had been believed by many slot experts. The strongest pattern he discovered for placing the better playing slots was that casino bosses place the best machines in the areas most visible to other slot players. Steel also found that casino executives have become experts on human behavior. Whenever humans behave in a sloppy or habitual or less than dedicated fashion in playing slots, the casino bosses have found ways to exploit it.

Many players like to play two slots simultaneously. I have even seen players managing to play three slots at once. Here the grim player was a later than middle aged player wearing her blackened glove and stolidly pacing back and forth feeding her three [slot machines](#) with a look that defied anyone on encroach on her territory. I certainly didn't. While most players don't play three slots machines at once, it is fairly common for players to play two side-by-side machines at once. Don't think the casinos don't know this. It is very rare that you will find two high payback machines next to each other. A good paying or "loose slot" is almost always placed next to a "tight slot."

Besides not playing on adjacent machines, Lawrence Steele discovered a number of other spots to avoid. He found that slot machines located next to table games and sports books were generally lower payers. He reasoned that persons playing table games were not particularly interested in playing slot machines. However, they might plunk a few coins in a slot near a table game as they entered or left a game. The [casino](#) bosses, seeking to exploit this behavior, have decided to place some of the poorer paying slot machines near table games and sport books as the persons playing these machines by and large are not slot players and won't have their behavior affected one way or another by encountering low paying slots. The same rationale has been applied to slot machines located near upscale restaurants, show lines and ticket lines.

Persons waiting in these spots are not primarily interested in playing slots. They may play a little before a table becomes available in a restaurant, or the show line moves. But the [slot](#) machines are only a sideline. So, the bosses reasoned, why waste higher paying slots on persons whose behavior is unlikely to be influenced by slot payoffs. The real reason behind the location of higher paying slots is to attract persons observing an apparent winner on these machines to play a different slot machine. The odds are very good that the person so induced will pick a lower paying slot to play. Even if the new player picks another high pay slot, his



action will just serve as an additional advertisement to entice yet another player into the slot pit. Now you can see why casino bosses don't waste higher paying slots in areas where the players' behavior is unlikely to be influenced by slot payoffs. Table players do not typically switch to slot machines because of a few slot wins. Persons don't forgo dinner reservations because a slot threw a jackpot at them. The most people don't leave show lines because they won a few pulls on a slot machine. "So," the bosses reason, "Why give a sucker an even break?" So they don't. Consider a slot machine found in the men's room in a casino. I assume that the ladies' rooms also have them but being a male I have not personally verified this. Here you are in the john and there stands the slot machine. So you plunk a few coins in. If you get a couple of wins are you going to spend all day in the toilet?

How about the [slot machines](#) adjacent to the ladies rest room. Do you think the best slots will be there? Nope. If you look around, you will see that it is mostly men waiting for their wives, girlfriends, mistresses, lovers or whatever who hang out here. They drop in a few bucks to kill time. Do you think they will take up residence next to the ladies loo because of a few good [slot](#) payoffs. Not likely. Needless to say, avoid rest room slots. Steele also found that slots next to elevators and on the main access aisles used by casino patrons to reach elevators, rest rooms or the hotel desk had tight slots. So, you now know where not to play slots. I hope I haven't disappointed you if your favorite spot to play slots is in the middle of the toilet. Before I forget, don't bother playing the slots next to the slot change booth either.

This is another case of where people are forced to stand in line and you know the story. Exploit human behavior. You may feel like there are no spots left for the good slots. Relax. Lawrence Steele got the low down on the casino bosses and shared with us exactly where to find the better paying slots. The best paying slots are usually found in the main slot playing area, so long as the machine is not too close to the table games. One area which is particularly good for finding higher paying slots are the elevated carousels. Many of these carousels advertise higher paying slots, such as "98% paybacks." Sounds good. However, not all machines on a carousel will pay back at the advertised rate.

[Casino](#) executives have been known to place only one higher paying machine in a group and still advertise the higher rate since at least one member of the group qualifies. However, if you have picked a good casino which caters to locals, the bosses are not likely to try this trick because the regular players would catch on quickly and the trick would generate more bad feelings about the casino than the little addition in revenue gained from fooling a few players for a couple of times. This is why it is so important to play slots in a casino which caters to slots

players. The casino values its slots players and is usually much more straight forward in its placement of slot machines as well as numerous other factors benefiting the players. So, an elevated carousel of slot machines is usually a good place to play. Just don't play on any giant [slot machines](#) or any other gimmicky slot machines featured prominently, as these machines are invariably dogs. Continuing with the casino bosses' philosophy of placing looser slot machines in the areas with greatest visibility to potential slot players, you will find many higher paying slots near coffee shops. Notice I didn't say upscale restaurant, but a coffee shop, located on the casino floor.

Let's say you and your charming companion are taking a break from playing slots. You decide to pop into the [casino](#) coffee shop for some coffee and pie. You are trying to get your mind off of slot machines and enjoy a break. Miss Charming is chattering away and you are starting to get a head ache. Suddenly you notice a sound in the background. It is getting louder. A slot machine near the coffee shop has just hit a jackpot. The happy winner is waiting for casino personnel to complete the payoff. A small crowd has gathered around watching the commotion. Suddenly your head ache seems to have receded into the background. You know that you just need to play a little more to hit that jackpot. You pay the bill in a hurry and drag your puzzled companion back into the casino.

This time you know you are going to win! Don't think I made this up. I observed this very behavior on my last casino visit. A couple had just sat down next to me in the coffee shop. He looked tired, she looked bored. Within a few minutes a slot near the coffee shop starting ringing, its bells announcing a jackpot, and before you could say, "There they go again," they were out the door. And you don't think that the casino bosses aren't brilliant psychologists? You will also find some the better paying slots in small groups of slots, separated from the main banks or slots, but clearly visible to two or more slot banks. These machines match the casino bosses' formula. They are visible to other slot players and may act as inducements to encourage other players to continue playing or to induce bystanders to begin playing slots. You should have a good idea by now on how to zero in on the higher paying slots. But what should you look for in the machine itself? We'll explore that next.

## 6. Avoid Sucker Machines

The original [slot](#) machine dates back to 1887. Its inventor, Charles Fey, designed a machine with three reels featuring bells, hearts, diamonds, spade, horseshoes and stars. These slots accepted one nickel at a time and featured a top payout of ten nickels. Mechanical machines accepting one coin at a time are a thing of the past. Today's slot machines are controlled by

microprocessors which include all aspects of the slot machines, including the reels. Although you will still see spinning reels on the computer controlled slots, it is virtually impossible to calculate the odds of receiving a payoff by observing the reels. With mechanical slots it was possible to calculate the probability of hitting a certain payoff by counting the number of times a symbol appeared on each reel. Once you knew the total number of symbols on each reel, it was fairly easy to divide the total number of times the symbol by the total number of symbols on all the reels to determine the probability of any symbol or combination of symbols occurring.

This type of calculation is virtually impossible with computer chip controlled slots. The reels, if there are any, are strictly there for show. The actual payoffs are determined by complex random number generators. The reels, which appear to spin just like the old mechanical slots, are just there for appearance. Unless you are playing in a venue featuring antique [slot machines](#), you will not be able to avoid computer controlled slot machines. However, there are still a tremendous variety of machines, and not all machines are created equal, at least not for slot pros who win at slot machines.

Certain machines are much more likely to produce profits when played using "Slot Pro" strategies, and these are the machines we are interested in playing. Before we zero in on the "best slots" lets talk about some of the slot machines we will find. Modern [slot machines](#) accept more than one coin and multiply the payoff by the number of coins played. Some of these machines offer paybacks which are roughly proportionate to the number of coins played. The pay lines of the Double Diamond machine below is a good example of a multiplier where the paybacks are almost proportionate.

#### DOUBLE DIAMOND

1 Coin 2 Coins 3 Coins

800 1600 2500

80 160 240

40 80 120

25 50 75

10 20 30

5 10 15

On this particular machine, the top payoff is for 800, 1,600 and 2,500 coins. If the paybacks were exactly proportionate to coins played, the top payback for three coin play would be for 2,400 coins. But this difference is small and for practical purposes this machine can be considered a proportionate multiplier. Many multipliers offer bonuses for maximum coins played. The Red, White and Blue machine's payline, shown on the next page, offers a bonus for the maximum number of coins played. The top payoff for one coin played is 2,400 coins. With two coins, the top payoff is 4,800 coins, which is proportionate to single coin play. But look what happens to the top payoff when three coins are played. The payoff is 10,000 coins, offering a large bonus for playing three coins. Conversely, this machine is also penalizing you for playing fewer than three coins. If you are playing a [slot](#) system which calls for you to vary the number of coins inserted, bonus pay multipliers, like this Red, White and Blue machines are not good prospects, because the penalty for playing fewer than the maximum number of coins is too great.

#### RED, WHITE AND BLUE

1 Coin 2 Coins 3 Coins

2400 4800 10000

1199 2400 5000

200 400 600

150 300 450

80 160 240

50 100 150

40 80 120

25 50 75

20 40 60

10 20 30

5 10 15

2 4 6

2 4 6

1 2 3

Another type of multiplier is the multiple payline machine. The payoffs on these machines resemble bingo cards in that paylines can run in multiple directions. The single payline machine has one line across the machines which shows the combinations of symbols for payoffs. The multiple payline machine has three to five lines and offers different combinations of symbols on each line. On these machines, each coin inserted activates another payline. On a three payline machine, the first coin played typically activates the middle line, the second coin the top line, and the third coin the bottom line. Some of the multiple payline machines accept five coins with insertion of the fourth and fifth coins activating payout lines diagonally. These machines are also called criss-cross machines.

Buy-your-pay machines show different combinations of winning symbols dependent on the number of coins played. One coin plays gets you a basic group of symbols, two coins adds more symbols to the payoffs, three coins gets you even more symbols which offer payoffs. I have been burned more than once on these machines when I did not look carefully enough at them before beginning to play and then learned that less than full coin play was costing me too many payoffs. Wild play machines give players the chance to win double, triple or even four or five times the standard payoff if one or more wild symbols are part of the winning combination of symbols. Progressive slot machines feature jackpots which grow each time an addition coin is inserted.

The lucky winner will receive the accumulated jackpot, which is reset to a minimum jackpot after each winner. Mega progressive machines offer lottery like payoffs in the millions. Many times these progressives are linked together with slots in many different casinos. Wide area progressives offer the largest jackpots. When jackpots get up in the millions of dollars, there well may be thousands of slots linked together contributing to the jackpot. House progressives are owned by a particular casino and linked to other machines throughout the [casino](#). The jackpots on these machines can reach thousands of dollars. None of the progressive [slot](#) machines pay back as well as regular slot machines, as part of every play has to contribute to the jackpot. When you play one of these machines, part of your play is contributing to the ultimate winner. If you don't win the jackpot, then this is just money down the drain. Among the progressive slots, stand alone progressives usually offer better odds than linked

progressives, and house progressives usually pay back better than mega progressive machines. Other varieties of slots include video slots, offering such games as video poker, video blackjack, video keno, and video [craps](#). Some of the video poker games can be beaten. Silverthorne Publications publishes an excellent two volume manual *Winning with Expert Video [Poker](#)*, which has been called the "ultimate guide to video poker."

This manual is highly recommended if you want to learn how to play and beat the video poker machines. I would advise you to stay away from video blackjack, keno and craps. The table versions of blackjack and craps are superior to the video games and if you are interested in learning how to beat blackjack or craps, I refer you to *The Silverthorne Blackjack Strategy and Mini-Max Craps* as two excellent sources of winning systems. All of these invaluable aids to winning can be found at our website at [www.casinogamblersbookcase.com](http://www.casinogamblersbookcase.com) There are also a number of specialty machines, which may be loosely termed "slot machines."

These include giant slot machines called "Berthas," pusher games which have shelves of coins pushed around by paddles, and even horse racing games. For systematic play, [slot](#) pros prefer playing proportionate multipliers. These machines offer the advantage that the number of coin inserted can be varied without sacrificing much if a jackpot is hit. The second type of machine preferred by slot pros are stand alone progressives. There are different strategies which can be used for each category of machine. We will talk about the stand alone progressives or jackpot machines in the next chapter.

## 7. Jackpot Machines

Anna W. of Mesa, Arizona, hit \$2,293,612 at the MGM Grand in [Las Vegas](#) playing on the \$1 Lion's Share slot machine. Betty W. of Longview, Texas, won \$1,220,261 on a \$5 IGT High Roller machine in Bossier City, Louisiana. Robert B. of North Cape May, New Jersey, invested a total of \$7.50 in the Fabulous 50's progressive slot at Trump Marina in Atlantic City and was rewarded with a \$6,716,646 jackpot. Donald R. of Columbia Heights, Minnesota, was playing at Mystic Lake Casino in Prior Lake, Minnesota, when he hit a \$387,357 jackpot after investing a total of two bucks in a \$1 Wild Cherry progressive slot machine.

George W. of Seattle, Washington, turned a \$12 investment into a \$3,338,100 Megabucks jackpot playing at the Flamingo Casino in New Orleans. Patrice K., a homemaker from Hackleburg, Alabama, had a hunch that she was going to hit a jackpot while playing at Harrah's in Tunica, Mississippi. Her intuition paid off when she hit a \$1,877,286 jackpot on a \$1 Wheel of Fortune machine. These are typical payoffs being won every month on progressive slot

machines across the country. Each of these was a real event, announced by the casinos to create more favorable publicity. I took the liberty of using only the winner's initials figuring that they have had more than enough publicity from the press releases. Sounds like hitting a jackpot must be pretty easy when you hear about all these winners. But let's analyze this a little more. Billions of plays are made every month on jackpot machines.

This relative handful of winners may sound like a lot, but it is not when you consider the odds are millions to one against any individual hitting a jackpot. Since jackpot machines typically pay out lower amounts, with part of every play feeds the ever growing progressive jackpots, most of the time when we play these machines we are going to lose. "Casinos received over \$100 million dollars before paying out the latest \$6,000,000 jackpot." You won't read a headline like this, but it puts the jackpot payout more in perspective. I am not going to tell you not to play progressives.

Someone has to win these megawhatever jackpots and it could be you. However, I will offer some advice so that you won't end up flat broke if you don't hit the jackpot. First, you should realize that there is a hierarchy among progressives. The Mega Progressive machines offer the lowest chances of winning a jackpot. With their million dollar jackpots, these machines are much like the state lotteries which offer large jackpots with astronomical odds against winning them. The best progressive slots to play are ones on stand-alone machines or small groups of house progressives linked together. The jackpots are smaller, typically being in the thousands instead of millions, but the odds against the player are much lower.

The way to play progressive slots is to pick out the house progressive with the highest jackpot in the [casino](#) where you are playing. Many players don't even bother to look at the size of jackpots. I have seen players playing stand-alone progressives with \$2,500 jackpots next to machines with \$5,000 jackpots which were not being played! Can you explain why anyone in his right mind would play on the machine with the lower payback? So, the first rule for progressive slot play is surprisingly simple: play on a house progressive with the highest jackpot in the class of machines you are playing.

If you are playing a linked progressive with fifteen or twenty machines on an elevated carousel feeding the same jackpot, you will look for a highest jackpot available among linked house slots. If you are playing a stand alone machine, it pays to look around before beginning play. My second rule for playing progressives is to only play with the part of my [slot](#) bankroll I can afford to lose. As a gambler you might have guessed that I am willing to risk my bankroll on any given day, but this is simply not true. I have found that successful slot pros are some of the

most conservative money managers around. A pro will never risk any more in any [gambling](#) contest than he is willing to lose and this amount will only be a small fraction of his bankroll. Since the risk of losing is always higher when playing a progressive slot, I treat the money set aside for progressive play differently than my money reserved for regular slots play. Money used for progressive slots is money set aside only for progressive slots play. I will only use a portion of my daily winnings for progressive play. Since I only use some of my winnings for playing the jackpot slots, I invariably find myself playing a progressive [slot](#) just before I quit for the day. I look at progressive slot play as my "let down my hair time" when it comes to slots. Play on a progressive is simple.

You must play the maximum number of coins each play. All you really need to determine is how much money you are willing to risk, how long you will play, and then set your loss limit. Here's an example. You decide to play on a quarter progressive which accepts three coins per play. The money you have available for progressive play is \$100. You spot a group of house progressive slots on an elevated carousel and you review the different jackpots amounts. \$2,358, \$4,345, 5,569, \$2,210, \$8,457 and 3,345 are the jackpot amounts on machines which are available. You pick the machine with the highest jackpot of \$8,457 and get ready to play. You decide that your loss limit is two-thirds of the amount set aside for progressive play or \$67. You also decide that you will play your progressive bankroll through the machine five times unless you hit your loss limit first.

You also plan to set aside any winnings which increase your bankroll to an amount larger than \$100. Now you start playing. You only play with coins, cashing out any credits as soon as they appear. You play all of your coins through for one round of play. You count the coins at the end of the round. Let's assume that you play the \$100 through the slot one time and then count your coins. You now have \$86. You play through again and count again. After the second round you are down to \$76. You play the third round and hit a 200 coin jackpot. You now have \$115. You decide to set aside the \$15 in winnings from the progressive and play one more round. After your fourth round your progressive bankroll is down to \$65. You play your final round and finish with \$87 in coins.

Adding back your \$15 in earlier winnings, you end up with \$102, for a net \$2 win. You decide to take a break from slots and play a little [craps](#). You didn't do too badly at the progressive machine. You played five rounds, giving you a reasonable shot at winning the jackpot, and by locking up winnings and quitting after five rounds you managed to win a couple of bucks. This example is fairly typical of the way the [slot](#) pros I know play progressives. They limit the



amount of bankroll risked, and use loss limits to further reduce the risk of losses. We'll learn more about locking up winnings and reducing losses shortly. First, let's consider how we might find the best type of [slot machine](#) to play.

## 8. Picking the Best Type of Slot

You now know quite a lot about slot machines. You know that some locales offer better paying slot machines than others. Quick now, without looking back, would you rather play slots in Las Vegas or Atlantic City? No comments about bums along the boardwalk, we are talking about slot paybacks here. I hope you answered "[Las Vegas](#)." Are you more likely to find high paying slots in a casino catering to slot players, especially locals, or in a grocery store? (I hope you said "the casino.") Once you are in a [casino](#) catering to slot players, would you be better off playing a slot next to the show line or one on an elevated carousel in the slot pit? (I know you know this one.) You know not to get involved with a machine with flippers or horses running around the track. But which slot machines should you really play? Jackpot machines are a special category we already covered.

So we will eliminate any jackpot machines from consideration for our normal slots play. This still leaves us plenty of choices. We can play on nickel, dime or quarter machines. We can play half dollar, dollar or five dollar machines. We can even play machines accepting \$100 and \$500 tokens. It will probably not surprise you to hear that you should play at the level you can afford. I will have a lot more to say about this later, but you will look for a machine geared to the size of your bankroll. Let's assume that you have done your homework. You have identified several likely slot machines that fit your level of play and appear to be equally promising. What do you look for next? We examine the pay boards on the front of the machines. We are looking for a machine which accepts two or more coins and which offers proportionate paybacks. Let's look at three different slot machines.

Machine 1

DOUBLE DIAMOND

1 Coin 2 Coins

800 1600

80 160

40 80

25 50

10 20

5 10

2 4

41

Machine 2

DOUBLE DIAMOND

1 Coin 2 Coins 3 Coins

800 1600 2500

80 160 240

40 80 120

25 50 75

10 20 30

5 10 15

2 4 6

Machine 3

RED, WHITE & BLUE

Progressive

1 Coin 2 Coins 3 Coins

2400 4800 \$2,864

1199 2400 5000

200 400 600

150 300 450

80 160 240

50 100 150

40 80 120

25 50 75

20 40 60

10 20 30

5 10 15

2 4 6

2 4 6

1 2 3

There is one more criteria we will look for. We want a machine which has several paybacks in the range from 20 to 100. Let's take a closer look at Machine 1. Machine 1 looks promising. It accepts two or more coins and the paybacks are proportionate. This looks like an acceptable machine. However, before we start playing this machine we [slot Machine 2](#). This machine is very similar to Machine 1. The paybacks are almost proportionate, the only exception being the top payline where the payoff for 3 coins is 2,500 coins instead of a proportionate payback of 2,400 coins. We decide we can live with the paybacks on this machine. So, do we play on Machine 1 or Machine 2? We should pick Machine 3, because the ability to play a third coin gives us more flexibility on how many coins we can insert in the machine.

With either machine we can play any number of coins without having a penalty for not inserting the maximum number of coins. However, we would prefer Machine 3 because of the additional flexibility we gain from the ability to play from one to three coins. Now lets consider Machine 3. We first notice that this is a progressive machine. Notice that the payoffs for both the top payback and the second highest payoff penalize the player who inserts less than three coins. If we decided to play this machine and vary the number of coins played, we would be at a disadvantage because it is not a proportionate multiplier.

There is one final thing we look for the payback schedule. We look for lots of paybacks in the range of 20 to 100 coins with one coin inserted. Machines 1 and 2 offer paybacks for one coin play of 25, 40 and 80 coins and meets our criteria. Machine 3 offers a range of paybacks with

one coin inserted including payoffs of 20, 25, 40, 50, and 80 coins. However it fails to meet our tests of proportionality. We would select Machine 2 from this group of slots. Because paybacks are constantly changing and because the paybacks vary even on machines with the same name, I cannot give you a single machine with my highest recommendation. If I were to give you such a recommendation, the [casino](#) bosses would change other attributes of the machine so that my recommendation would be outdated almost as soon as it was in print. The best way to select a slot machine is to follow the procedures I will show you. If you do this, then you will not be deceived by the constantly changing plethora of machines being launched by the casinos and slot manufacturers. Instead you will follow a tested set of procedures which will enable you to zero in on the best paying slots regardless of how they evolve.

## 9. Slot Denominations

"The rich get richer and the poor get poorer." This seems to be true for slot players as well as the rest of us. The lowly nickel slots generally offer the poorest payback percentages of any of the slots and the \$5 slots offer the highest. Shifting through the information reported by state gaming regulatory agencies in Nevada, New Jersey, Iowa, Mississippi, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, Colorado and Connecticut we put together the following table. This table shows either the highest or the average [slot](#) payback available in each locale, with the machine types broken down by the size (denomination) of coins accepted.

### Slot Paybacks Based on Size of Coins Accepted

Location 5¢ 25¢ \$1 \$5

Atlantic City NA 91.7% 93.0% 96.4%

Colorado 93.6% 94.4% 95.4% 96.8%

Connecticut NA 90.8% 92.4% 95.0%

Nevada:

Boulder Strip 92.9% 95.8% 96.4% 95.9%

Downtown Vegas 91.8% 94.9% 95.1% 95.9%

Las Vegas Strip 90.2% 92.4% 94.7% 95.5%

Laughlin 90.2% 94.1% 95.4% 96.1%

Lake Tahoe 91.8% 94.4% 95.6% 96.3%

North Las Vegas 93.6% 96.3% 97.3% 96.3%

Reno 94.2% 94.0% 96.0% 96.2%

Illinois 93.6% 94.2% 95.9% 96.6%

Iowa 92.5% 94.0% 95.8% 97.1%

Mississippi

Coastal Region 91.0% 92.0% 94.1% 95.3%

North River Region 90.8% 90.9% 94.5% 95.8%

South River Region 91.9% 92.9% 95.3% 96.1%

Indiana NA 92.5% 94.7% 97.1%

Missouri NA 94.4% 96.3% 97.9%

If you are a nickel player, Atlantic City really doesn't want your business and we have no information on paybacks for nickel machines, if any, in Atlantic City. In general, the lowly nickel player doesn't get a very decent payback. The best returns for the five-cent players are offered in Colorado and in the casinos in North [Las Vegas](#). I really can't recommend that anyone play nickel slots other than for recreation. The paybacks are just too low. Once you move up to quarter machines, the paybacks become very competitive. The East Coast machines offer the poorest paybacks with Atlantic City paying an average return of 91.7% for quarter machines and Connecticut paying only 90.8%.

The North River Region in Mississippi is almost as bad, with paybacks for 25¢ slots averaging only 90.9%. Iowa offers a competitive 94.0% payback for quarter play. Missouri and Colorado really want your business and pay out 94.4% to quarter players. If you are serious about playing on quarter machines you will play in Las Vegas. North Las Vegas is your best bet, closely followed by the casinos on the Boulder Strip. Dollar players get higher paybacks everywhere. The lowest paybacks of all reporting casinos are the Indian casinos in Connecticut with a payback of 90.8%. Connecticut casinos include Foxwoods and the Mohegan Sun, both operated by Indian tribes. While these paybacks are the lowest in the country for [casino](#) jurisdictions which report their paybacks, remember that I am only reporting information available from casinos which report their [slot](#) payback information. Most Indian casinos don't

answer to anyone in terms of what their slots payback and you can expect to find the lowest paybacks in every category of slots play in Indian operated casinos. Dollar players get an even better deal than the quarter players. Even Connecticut pays out 92.4% for \$1 play. North Las Vegas again leads the country with an average payback of 97.3% for \$1 machines. Missouri wants your business and is willing to pay for it with an average payback of 96.3% for dollar play. All of the Nevada locales offer decent paybacks for dollar play except the [Las Vegas](#) Strip with its stingy 94.7% payback. Five dollar players are not compensated very well considering the risk they take.

The highest reported paybacks are in Missouri which pays 97.9%. Missouri is closely followed by Indiana and Iowa, which tie for second place, paying back 97.1% for five dollar slots. My general recommendations: Don't play either nickel or five dollar slots. Neither denomination pays back enough. I know the 97.9% payback for five dollar play in Missouri sounds tempting, but you can easily lose hundreds of dollars an hour playing five dollar slots, even with a higher payback. I strictly play quarter slots. I never play any slots on the East Coast. My first choice for quarter slots play is Las Vegas, although Colorado, Iowa and Missouri are competitive and should be given some consideration. Dollar slots are good in Nevada, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri and the South River Region in Mississippi. I wouldn't play them anywhere else.

#### 10. Setting up a Bankroll

If you want to play slots you have got to have the money to do it. Your slots bankroll is the amount of money you bring with you for slots play. This money is strictly used for gambling. Notice I said the amount of money for [gambling](#). It is not the total amount of money in your kitty. You've got to have money for cabfares, meals, tips and so on, which is separate from your gambling bankroll. Your slot bankroll is the money you take with you only for slots play. The size of your bankroll governs how you will play. If you have a \$100 bankroll, you are not going to play on \$1 or \$5 slots.

With a bankroll this size you will be limited to quarter slots play or even forced to play nickel slots. With a \$500 bankroll, you may want to play some \$1 slots, but you are better off sticking with quarter slots. But you won't need to play nickel slots. With a \$1,000 bankroll, you can play quarter, half dollar or dollar slots. If you are willing to bring \$2,000 or more, you can play strictly dollar slots. I don't recommend playing \$5 or \$100 or \$500 slots machines. These machines will suck up large amounts of money at a prodigious rate and if you want to play at these levels, you are better off learning how to play craps, blackjack or [roulette](#). In fact, I very seldom even play dollar slots. Quarter slots offer as high a payback percentages as dollar slots

in the better paying locales. There is nothing to be gained by moving up to dollar slots in terms of improving your prospects of winning. And, quite frankly, at this level of play, several of the [casino](#) table games offer better prospects. I will give you information on the bankroll sizes and playing strategies for nickel, quarter dollar and five dollar machines, and you may chose to play on any of these machines. However, I would only play the quarter machines as these machines offer the optimal balance between the payback rates and the amount of bankroll required to play them correctly. Now I am going to share some hard facts with you. If you've only got fifty bucks for playing slots, you are less likely to win \$500 than if you play with a \$1,000 bankroll. But you knew that didn't you? Another one's of life's injustices just reared its ugly head.

It takes money to make money. The rich get richer and the poor get children. The size of your bankroll determines which machines you can play on. If you have a midget bankroll of \$100, you would be foolish to play on dollar machines. If you do, and fifteen minutes after arriving you have lost \$50, you will be sweating bullets wondering what you are going to do with the remaining six hours you planned on staying. The gambler who plays on dollar machines with only a hundred dollar poke is just asking to be wiped out. So your bankroll is going to determine not only which machines you play on, but to a large extent, your winnings. If you want to win big, you've got to bring more money. If you want to play on dollar machines, you've got to bring a large enough bankroll for these machines.

The first thing you will do before you hit the slot machines is to divide your slot bankroll into smaller bankrolls. These are called Session Bankrolls. The idea behind a session bankroll is similar to dividing an army into various components, with some divisions always held in reserve. You want t hit the enemy as effectively as possible, but you can't afford to risk losing all of your men and materials in one massive strike because there is always the possibility that something will go wrong. Being a prudent commander means always considering all the things that can go wrong before ever beginning to envision the fruits of victory. The casino has many advantages over you. It has an almost unlimited amount of money compared to the amount you bring. It has infinite patience. And it has probability on its side.

You have to muster your advantages in your battle to take the casino's money. And one of your most important weapons is to divide your bankroll into smaller stakes, and only offer the casino a shot at one of your smaller stakes in any give session. Here's the logic behind this. When you are playing [slot machines](#) you are looking for a hot trend. You will be looking for that time when a machine starts spitting coins out at you ninety miles an hour, and your adrenaline level is off the chart. But you know that this doesn't happen all the time. It happens

once in a while and doesn't last forever. When it does, you temporarily have the advantage over the [casino](#). But you have got to last long enough to be there when the coins start pouring your way! Dividing your bankroll into five or ten or even twenty little bankrolls gives you more shots at the casino's stash. And more important, it limits your downside in any single contest against the casino. If you have a bankroll of \$1,000, and you divide it into twenty session bankrolls of \$50 each, there is simply no way that the casino can beat you in a single session. But you have twenty shots at the casino's bankroll. And like the wise general who keeps reserves, you will always have your reserves of cash. For reasons which will become apparent when we discuss specific playing strategies, the most practical size for a [slot](#) session bankroll is between 40 and 50 coins. The table below shows the size bankroll you will need based on the number of sessions you plan on playing using 40 coin bankrolls.

Accepted

Session Size

40 Coins

10

Sessions

20

Sessions

30

Sessions

5¢ \$ 2 \$ 20 \$ 40 \$ 60

25¢ 10 100 200 300

50¢ 20 200 400 600

\$1 40 400 800 1,200

\$5 200 2,000 4,000 6,000



I may be going about this a little differently than you might. Most people (if they agree with the session concept) will divide whatever bankroll they have into an arbitrary number of sessions. Divide \$50 into ten sessions and you've got ten \$5 sessions. Or divide \$50 into 20 sessions and you end up with twenty \$2.50 sessions. I want to go about this a little more scientifically. We will use a sort of hierarchy in determining our session size. You can use the table above in several ways. You might want to pick the numbers of sessions based on how long you want to gamble.

Ten sessions will probably be adequate for two to three hours of playing slots. If you plan on playing slots two to three hours a day then the amount of money needed for ten sessions will be your daily stake. As a quarter slot player, you will need a daily bankroll of at least \$100 if you plan on playing ten sessions using our approach to playing slots. Following this line of reasoning, if you plan on playing quarter slots for three days, at the rate of ten sessions per day, then you need a bankroll of at least \$300. If you plan on playing slots more you can use the table to determine the bankroll needed.

If you plan on playing four or five hours a day, this will equate to 20 sessions a day, or \$200 for quarter slots play. You can also use the table to determine which denomination slots you should be playing based on your bankroll and the amount of time you play. Assume that you have a bankroll of \$500 and want to know which slots to play. If you plan on playing a five hours a day for three days, you can probably get by with a \$500 bankroll, although \$600 would be better. But what if you only have \$300 and want to play for three days? You could drop down to nickel slots.

However, I would still recommend that you stick with quarter slots because the paybacks on nickel slots are so poor. With a \$300 bankroll, you are going to have to reconcile yourself to less playing time on the quarter slots. With this size of bankroll you will be far better off to play a couple of hours a day on quarter machines that resigning yourself to nickel [slot](#) play. The next table presents the same information, except that it is geared to a 60-coin session size. The advantage of using this larger session size is that it offers a greater chance of hitting a winning streak during a session

#### 60 Coin Slot Session Bankrolls

Coins

Accepted

Session Size

60 Coins

10

Sessions

20

Sessions

30

Sessions

5¢ \$ 3 \$ 30 \$ 60 \$ 90

25¢ 15 150 300 450

50¢ 30 300 600 900

\$1 60 600 1,200 1,800

\$5 300 3,000 6,000 9,000

## 11. Testing Machines

You always want to play on the best possible [slot machine](#). However, even if you have followed all of our guidelines, it is still not possible to determine whether you are playing the best machine without testing the machine. Before I show you how to do this, let's review the process of finding highest paying slot machines. Your first step in finding the best paying slots is to play in a locale which offers the highest average paybacks. If you play quarter slots, which of the following areas offers the highest paying slot machines:

A. Connecticut

B. Atlantic City

C. Mississippi

D. Las Vegas Strip

E. Illinois

F. Iowa

G. Missouri

H. Colorado

I. Downtown Las Vegas

J. North Las Vegas

If you can't remember the answer, this information is covered in chapter 2. I have listed the above locations in order from worst to best for quarter [slots](#) player. Here is the same list with the latest average payback percentages for quarter slots shown:

A. Connecticut 90.7%

B. Atlantic City 91.0%

C. Mississippi 92.0%

D. Las Vegas Strip 92.4%

E. Illinois 92.8%

F. Iowa 93.0%

G. Missouri 93.3%

H. Colorado 94.2%

I. Downtown Vegas 94.9%

J. North Las Vegas 96.3%

You may not always be able to pick your location. However, if you are serious about trying to win at slots, you must recognize the significant disadvantage of trying to win on locations like Atlantic City or Connecticut. Your best paying slot will be in [casino](#). Resist the urge to plop down in a laundromat and play slots. The best casinos are those which cater to [slot](#) players.

One of the best ways to pick a casino which caters to slot players is to play in one which has a clientele of locales. The best examples of casinos fitting this description of those in North Las Vegas and on the Boulder Strip in [Las Vegas](#). Once you have zeroed on a good casino which caters to slot players you need to find a machine in a likely location. You now know to avoid

slot machines next to table games, near aisles which are used to access elevators or the front desk, slots near show or ticket lines, slots near the sports books and slots adjacent to each other. The most likely machines will be slots outside a [casino](#) coffee shop, slots on elevated carousals and slots which are in highly visible locations to other slots players, such at the intersections of [slot machine](#) aisles or on islands of machines visible from two or more slots aisles. Once you have found the best locations in the casino, you still need to find the machines which offer paybacks proportionate to the amount of coins playing, called proportionate multipliers.

You will avoid jackpot machines unless you are specifically looking to play on one using the special rules for jackpot play. Finally you will look at the payback schedules on the front of the machines. You are looking for machines with several paybacks in the range from 20 to 100 coins, with one coin played. I have shown you several examples of machines like this. Let's assume that you have done your homework. You have found three likely looking slots. Two are at the end of aisles in the [slot](#) pit, directly visible to two slot aisles and the third is near the entrance to the casino coffee shop.

Now you need to find the best machine of these three. Here's what you do. Take one of your session bankrolls and divide it into three equal amounts. I prefer to use at least 20 coins on each machine. If you are using 60 coin sessions, you can split your session bankroll into three groups of 20 coins each. Now you will play 20 coins through each machine one time and record the results. If you have picked proportionate multipliers you can play one coin at a time. Hopefully one of the three machines will give you a profit, but don't be discouraged if you don't at this point. We will use a systematic method of playing the best slot machine which will give you an excellent chance of winning. At this stage we are looking for the machine which is paying back the highest amount. Assume your test give you the following results after 20 coins have been played through each machine:

Machine Coins Played Coins Returned Win or (Loss)

1 20 15 (5)

2 20 18 (2)

3 20 23 +3

You won't have any trouble picking the machine to play in this example. You will start playing in machine 3 located next to the coffee shop. Good luck.

## 12. Leaving a Losing Machine

One of my pet peeves is the slot player who won't leave a losing machine. Yet see them all the time. They'll gripe, curse and tell everyone within eyesight about their bad luck, all the while continuing to feed coins into a slot which does nothing but eat coins or credits, with paybacks few and far between. This pattern of play is the nemesis of the slot player. Winners turn into losers because they become stuck on the same machine. Losers did bigger and bigger holes. I will show you a simple trick which will pull you off any slot which goes dead on you. We will use No-Payback Pulls to limit our losses on any slot machine. A No-Payback Pull is a play on a [slot machine](#) where there is no payoff.

It could just as easily be called a zippull or a nada pull. It is a play where absolutely nothing is returned. In general we are looking for a machine which pays out frequently. It is far more interesting to play on a machine which pays off more frequently. I like the sound of coins tinkling into a tray when I play slots (I usually empty the credits after each payoff and play with coins). Play after play with only the normal [slot](#) sounds and no payback sounds is indeed boring. It makes the machine feel like a one-way street where coins enter never to be seen again. Perhaps more important than the sounds of coins spilling out is the fact that, when a machine is paying frequently, we know we are getting something for our money.

One of our major objectives in our quest to win is to avoid losses. I know of no good reason to continue to play on a slot machine play after play with no paybacks. No-Payback Pulls is defined as the number of pulls or plays we will accept without any payback. Once we hit our limit, we are done with that machine. Our number of No-Payback Pulls can be anywhere from seven to twelve pulls. Let's say we decide on eight pulls. Now we have an objective way of knowing when a slot is not giving us our payoffs often enough. We count the number of pulls (plays) from our last payoff. If we hit eight pulls with no additional payoffs, it's hasta la vista baby! We change machines. We will add yet one more weapon to reduce the prospect of losses. We will set a Loss Limit for each session of slot play.

Let's say you decide to use a 40-coin slot session. Your loss limit is the number of coins you will set as your maximum loss for this session. This loss can occur on the first slot you play on, or on the second or third slot in a session, but once you hit it, you need to decide whether to continue playing or to wrap it up and take a break. Say you are using a ten dollar session bankroll on quarter slot machines. You could set your loss limit at 50% of your session bankroll, or \$5 in this case. You are playing on a slot you have picked. You are counting pulls between paybacks using the No-Payback Pull concept. In addition you will count up the number of coins

you have after each round of play. A round consists of inserting all of the counts set aside for your [slot](#) session into the slot machine. I always use coins rather than credits for slot play so that I can keep track of my rounds of play. You will count the coins remaining after each round of play. If you lose half of your session bankroll you will take a break. What do you do when you hit your loss limit? You quit playing slots for a while. You can play some video [poker](#) or [craps](#). Or take a walk. Or go to your room.

Or have some coffee and pie. But when you hit a loss limit you walk away from the slot machine. I will cover another more pleasant aspect of playing slots, that of winning in the next chapter. But for now I want you to absorb the concept of leaving the [slot machine](#) whenever your number of No-Payback Pulls is hit or you hit your Loss Limit. Generally, if I hit the number No-Payback Pulls and still have not hit my Loss Limit, I will change slot machines and continue to play. However, once I hit my loss limit, it is time to take a break.

### 13. Locking up Winnings

Most slot players tend to think about the huge payoffs possible and then blow their bankrolls and walk out broke. If you are in this camp, I am going to try to change your attitude. I want to share with you a great secret of how to win at [gambling](#). The secret of winning is to set realistic win goals and then learn to accept them. Another way of saying this is that the amount you are likely to win is directly related to the amount you bring with you for slots play — your slots' bankroll. If you bring \$1,000 as your bankroll, you may easily win \$100 or even \$300. If you bring \$5,000 to play slots, you might want to shoot for a \$500 or even a \$1,000 win. If you are like most slots players and bring \$300 to \$500, you can't expect to win the same amount as someone who puts more money into play.

Notice I didn't say won't win the same amount. Anything can happen once in a while. These long shot wins are the stories the casinos like to play up. We have all read about the player who puts three bucks in a jackpot machine and wins ten gazillion dollars. These things do happen. People win lotteries. Or find oil in their backyards. Or are left millions by long forgotten rich uncles. When you look at millions of people and then focus on the events that happen to a mere handful, the improbable seems probable. But we want to deal with the probable. The methods I am going to show you will not prevent you from becoming one of the fortunate handful who win millions. But we want to deal with the probable.

With what is likely to happen nearly every time you play. And you know you are not going to win a million bucks every time you plunk three bucks in a slot machine. What you want to do is

set a reasonable Win Goal related to your bankroll size. A reasonable Win Goal is an amount such as 30%, 40% or 50% of your bankroll. Before you sneer at amounts as low as 30%, I want you to remember that the lower the Win Goal, the easier it is to hit it! Let's say you decide on a Win Goal of 50%. Fine. If you bring a bankroll of \$500, then you will be sooting for a win of \$250. If your bankroll is \$1,000, your Win Goal will be for \$500. And, if you bring only \$100, and your Win Goal is 50%, you will have to be satisfied with a win of \$50. However, your Win Goal is not an absolute upper limit on your winnings.

Instead, it acts as a signal telling your that it is time to start locking up profits. Here's one way you can use a Win Goal. You have just finished a round of play on a [slot machine](#). One round consists of playing all the coins in your session bankroll. You count your coins at the end of the round and discover that you have reached your win goal of 50%. Now what you do is critical. You will set aside all of your original session bankroll and at least one-half of your winnings. You can continue to play, but only with your Excess Winnings. Let's put some numbers to this approach. You just ran fifty coins through a quarter slot, and after this round of play you count coins and come up with 80 coins, for a net win of 30 coins.

Take 15 coins from your winnings and add the fifty coins you started with. Place all 65 of these coins in a separate coin bucket. You will not touch these coins again. You can add more coins to the bucket, but you will never take any of these coins out until you cash them in. Your second bucket with 15 coins is your Excess These coins you will use to continue to play the slot machine. At the worst, if you lose all of your Excess coins, you will have a win of 15 coins, locked up with your original session bankroll. But you might keep on winning. Let's say your next round produces a 10-coin win. There are several moves you can make now. You could place all ten coins in your Lockup bucket, bringing it up to 75 coins. You could place one-half of your 10-coin win with your Lockup.

Or, you could call it quits and leave with a total win of 40 coins, representing a win of (40 coins won/50 coins original bankroll) 80% of your bankroll. Once you set a Win Goal you will have an automatic way of knowing when it is time to start locking up your winnings. Notice that using a Win Goal will never prevent you from continuing to play and win. I will continue to use No-Payback Pulls after a win and in addition I may set other limits to prevent me from giving back a win. I may decide to limit my losses to a set number of coins, such as ten coins. Now I have the best of all worlds. I know that I will walk away from this session a winner, yet there is nothing to prevent me from continuing to win. Neat huh?

#### 14. Learn to Play Another Casino Game

Many slot winners become slot losers because they overplay slot machines. If they haven't learned to play another [casino](#) game the temptation may be there to continue to play slot machines simply because that is all they know how to do in a casino. I highly recommend that you learn to play at least one other casino game. My number one choice for a second game to learn is craps. Craps is still the favorite game of many high rollers. There is no other game in the casino where fortunes can be won or lost as quickly as craps. Yet many of the bets on the craps table offer some of the lowest odds in the casino. Pass Line and Don't Pass wagers only give the casino an advantage of 1.41% and 1.40% respectively.

Put in the terms slot players are used to seeing, these wagers have paybacks of 98.6%, better than almost any slot machine you will find. Odds wagers can also be made which give the house no advantage whatsoever. [Craps](#) is an excellent game for employing hit and run tactics. If you have been playing slots and are tired of sitting and staring at a machine, craps will give you the break you need. You can stretch your aching legs, as players customarily stand around the table rather than sitting. You can yell and make many exciting [wagers](#) and in general have a terrific time. Just make sure that you learn how to win at the game. I highly recommend the Mini-Max Craps System. It is an excellent system which can be used with a bankroll as small as \$30. It is perfect system for a slots player who wants to learn how to play and win at the most exciting [gambling](#) game of all. Silverthorne Publications offers this excellent manual at their website. Click here to link to it - <http://www.casinogamblersbookcase.com/craps.htm>

The most popular casino table game is blackjack. There is a popular misconception that you have to learn to count cards in order to win at blackjack. However, there is another option you might want to try. Silverthorne Publications offers a 100% proven way to beat blackjack which does not rely on card counting. This strategy, described in the book, The Silverthorne Blackjack Strategy, is designed to beat blackjack over short periods of time — usually in about thirty minutes. And unlike most blackjack systems it doesn't take much money to use — \$75 will get you started. This manual is available at the publisher's website. Here's a link to find out more about this strategy -

<http://www.casinogamblersbookcase.com/blackjack.htm>

You also may want to consider learning how to play and beat the game of roulette. Your best chance of winning at [roulette](#) is at a wheel with a single zero. Single zero wheels with the en prison rule are the standard game in international casinos with house odds of only 1.38%,



about the same as the line wagers in [craps](#). If you play on American double zero wheels, you will be bucking a house odds of 5.26%, which is a harder game to beat. You can play roulette for relaxation, but even when I relax I enjoy winning money. I use an intriguing [roulette](#) system which wins over 90% of the time and throws off nice winnings even against the American wheels. It is described in Target Roulette, available at the Silverthorne Publications website. Click here to link to the roulette strategy!

<http://www.casinogamblersbookcase.com/roulette.htm>

You may also want to learn some winning video [poker](#) strategies. With this game you can learn to beat the house and still win jackpots of \$10,000 or more, usually paid on royal flush hands. What most people don't realize is that video poker is a game of skill. While you may have no control over what cards are dealt to you, I have proven through extensive computer analysis of the game that how you play your hand will turn the tables on the casinos and allow you to play at an advantage over the casinos. There is no question that with the player advantage strategies shown in Winning With Expert Video Poker that you will win large amounts of money. Click here to find out more about this successful winning strategy!

[http://www.casinogamblersbookcase.com/Video\\_Poker.htm](http://www.casinogamblersbookcase.com/Video_Poker.htm)

## 15. A Winning Slots System

You should now have a good idea about the type of machine you will want to play and where it may be found. Assume you are in North [Las Vegas](#) at the Fiesta. You have surveyed the [casino](#) and picked out a proportionate three coin multiplier, located at a junction of two slot aisles in a small group of four machines in plain sight of two slot banks. You have tested the machine and it qualifies as a probable good payer. The pay schedule on the front of the machine shows a number of jackpots from 20 to 100. You noticed when you were testing the machine that the machine seemed to have a tendency to pay 10-coin payoffs, and you decide to use a system to take advantage of these payoffs.

One of the most effective ways of playing any slot is the Ladder Approach. With this strategy you will vary the number of coins played using a pattern designed to produce a win whenever a certain size payoff occurs. You will start with one coin per play, increase each play to two coins and continue to climb a "ladder" of coins invested in the machine by starting at the lowest rung and increasing your wagers as you move up the ladder. The ladder of bets can be set up for any size payoff — 10-coins, 20-coins, 25-coins or even 50-coins. The ladder of bets is set up in such a way that hitting the targeted payoff at any time will produce a profit. We set

up a ladder of bets for the three coin machine, targeting a 10-coin payoff. We use the following [wagers](#) for this ladder: The first nine plays will be for 1 coin each. The next five wagers will be 2 coins per play. The final three wagers will be 3 coins per play. The table below shows how this ladder works with any win of 10 to 1 or greater. In this case we may make 17 individual plays to complete a round if no payoffs of 10 to 1 or greater occur. Completion of a round of play will require inserting 28 coins, as shown on the next page.

#### Ladder Betting for 3 Coin Multiplier, 10 to 1 Minimum Win

Play Coins

Total

Coins

Any

10x Win

Minimum

Win (10x)

1 1 1 10 9

2 1 2 10 8

3 1 3 10 7

4 1 4 10 6

5 1 5 10 5

6 1 6 10 4

7 1 7 10 3

8 1 8 10 2

9 1 9 10 1

10 2 11 20 9

11 2 13 20 7

12 2 15 20 5

13 2 17 20 3

14 2 19 20 1

15 3 22 30 8

16 3 25 30 5

17 3 28 30 2

The table above demonstrates the power of this approach. Assume we are on Play 4 and hit a payoff at 10 to 1. We will have inserted a total of 4 coins. With a payoff of 10 coins, our net win is 6 coins. Please note that the amounts shown for payoffs and the minimum win is only for 10x payoffs. If you hit a higher payoff, such as 20 to 1 or 50 to 1, your winnings will be much greater. Also note that smaller payoffs can contribute to your winnings even though they are not computed in the table. Wins of 5x, 3x and even 2x can really add up, especially if the machine pays off frequently. The next table shows the results of playing ten rounds on this machine. A round of play consists of the number of plays needed to hit a 10x or greater payoff, or to complete all seventeen [wagers](#) if no qualifying payoffs are hit. We hit wins of 10x or greater five times in this session.

Our first win occurred in Round 1 after only 9 plays. The next 10x win happened in Round 4, with a total of 45 plays made between the first and second win. Twelve pulls later we hit again. This win was followed by another dry stretch, with 41 plays required to hit our next big win in Round 8. Finally, another 28 plays were needed to hit our final 10x or greater win and wrap up the session. We won 69 coins in 135 plays in this session. Assuming our playing rate is about 300 plays per hour, then this win is equivalent to a win rate of 153 coins per hour. On a quarter machine, this is \$38.25. On a dollar machine this works out to \$153 an hour and an impressive \$765 on a \$5 machine! This is an excellent method for short-term slots play. It tends to hold its own against a variety of machines so long as they frequently have payouts of 10x or greater. You can also construct ladders for 5 coin multipliers as well as the infrequently found 7 coin machines. Ladders can also be made for 2 coin multipliers, but these ladders are less effective than ladders set up for the 3-coin and higher machines. Ten Actual Rounds on a 3 Coin Multiplier Using 10x Ladder

Round  
 Number  
 of Plays  
 Plays to  
 10x Win  
 Net Won  
 for Round  
 Net Lost  
 for Round  
 Net  
 Winnings  
 1 9 9 +13 +13  
 2 17 (4) +9  
 3 17 (9) -0-  
 4 11 45 +17 +17  
 5 12 12 +31 +48  
 6 17 (10) +38  
 7 17 (5) +33  
 8 7 41 +7 +40  
 9 17 +4 +44  
 10 11 28 +25 +69

The Ladder Approach works fairly well because it reduces the size of the average [wager](#), while it attempts to increase the amount wagered, and therefore the amount won, for winning wagers. However, there is a much more powerful approach which can be used with

devastating effectiveness against today's microprocessor controlled slots. A practical way of using the cycle betting approach is completely described in Super Slots, available through Silverthorne Publications. If you have enjoyed this introduction to using a proven scientific approach to beating the slots you will thoroughly benefit from the Super Slots strategy for beating [slot](#) machines. Click on the link below and find out just what this powerful winning method can do for you!

<http://www.casinogamblersbookcase.com/Slots.htm>

#### 16. Let a Casino Pay for Your Next Vacation

You can travel to [Las Vegas](#), the Caribbean, or wherever your favorite casino is absolutely free or at such a low cost that traveling may cost you less than staying at home. Casinos are offering more and more "comps" or freebies to more and more people. And these comps are not just for the few high rollers willing to [wager](#) \$1,000 a hand. Because of the intense competition, almost anyone can get enough comps to vacation for free with the [casino](#) picking up the tab. Casinos used to offer RFB comps (room, food and beverage) to just a handful of players. Now they are courting even the [slot](#) players and literally throwing comps at them. Here are the steps you need to take to start raking in the maximum number of casino giveaways:

1. Choose a primary [casino](#) and then play there. Casinos offer comps to attract new players and to reward their current customers and keep them returning. Many casinos increase the number of comps offered the more you play there. They are rewarding loyalty because they know that you have plenty of choices of where to play, and if they don't reward your play, then another casino will. Find a casino where you enjoy playing which has a reasonable comp policy. Your loyalty should be rewarded. If not, find a casino which will "pay you to play."

2. Join a slot club and/or get a VIP Card. If you are a large bettor (what the casinos call a "whale"), the bosses will find you. If you are a small to mid-range bettor you need to get into the [casino](#) comp system. Slot and video poker players should always join the slot club. A [slot](#) club card looks much like a credit card and is inserted into the machine when you play. Your play is tracked and comps are built into the system. Every casino is different, but it is not unusual for three or four hours of quarter slot play to earn the casino rate on your room, which may be 50 to 70% below the listed rate. Play a little longer and you'll get free meals and a free room. Table game players need to get a VIP card and have their play rated by a casino floorman. The easiest way to accomplish this is to buy in for at least \$300 in a small to midsize

casino, and a [casino](#) host or boss may offer to rate your play. Once you have the VIP card, you should present it each time you begin play so that all of your play is rated. Rated play counts toward comps. Some casinos use one card for both machine and table game play. If you are not sure what your favorite casino does, just ask.

3. Get to know the casino personnel. Comps, as well as other casino policies are controlled by the people who work there. Here's a quick quiz. Do you think friendly customers who know and talk to the casino employees or nasty customers who treat casino employees like door mats get more comps? (Hint, try nice and friendly).

4. Visit the casino during the middle of the week. If you love crowded conditions, long lines, overworked employees, higher table minimums and in general a high hassle level, then you will want to arrive at your favorite casino on Friday afternoon and leave on Sunday evening. You'll get plenty of all of the above. If you want more personal attention, uncrowded casinos and restaurants and more relaxed casino employees around you, you will schedule your visits between Monday and Thursday. You find that the difference is similar to the difference between driving on the freeway during rush hour and driving down a country lane on a Sunday afternoon.

It is also easier to get comps during the middle of the week. The reason? Less competition for everything. A hotel casino may have vacant rooms in the middle of the week and be filled up on weekends. If you are looking for a free room, you'll have a much better chance of landing one during the middle of the week.

5. Ask for comps. For some reason,

many people feel that the casino bosses will notice them and walk over and offer a meal comp or some other benefit. In reality this hardly ever happens. For one thing, the bosses are too busy to worry about giving a single player a meal comp. For another, why should they? Knowledgeable players know that they have to ask for comps. The key thing about asking for a comp is to back up the request with the type of action a casino will reward with a comp. If you are playing slots, ask a [slot](#) host for a meal comp after a couple of hours of play, not when you first start playing. If you are playing a table game, make sure that your play is rated and ask for a comp after giving the casino some good action.

6. Learn how to beat certain casino games. Don't expect to win if you exclusively play Big Six or Keno. These games offer terrible odds. Machine players will find their best chance of winning by playing on high pay out slots or the higher paying versions of video [poker](#). Table game

players can win at craps, blackjack, [roulette](#) or baccarat. Winning consistently requires a winning strategy and good money management techniques. A starting point is to pick a game that is familiar to you that is offered in your favorite casino. Learn a proven strategy for beating the game and practice the strategy before setting foot in a casino.

If you want to vacation for free, it makes no sense to have the casino comp \$800 worth of room and meals and then drop \$2,500 playing blackjack. This is what the [casino](#) expects you to do and is the basis behind offering comps in the first place. However, if you win \$500 at blackjack and are comped \$800 worth of freebies, you really have come out on top. If you want to learn how to master these techniques and more, I highly recommend the expert guide to free vacations, Gamble for Free. You'll learn exactly how to get full RFB treatment and even free airfare. Plus, a number of casinos offering particularly good deals are named.