

# RED CHIP POKER



## LATE POSITION

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# Red Chip Poker: Late Position

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# 1) Betting Straights on Flush Boards



(Villain's flaw)



(Difficulty rating)



(Hero's exploit)

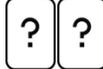
Often a third flush card will slow down the action. Even when you have a straight, it can feel too dangerous to bet. A fourth straight card will often slow down the action even more. If you hand read well, you can still push the action when these action-killing cards come. You might get paid off by a hand that is strong in an absolute sense, yet is very weak on the given board.

\$2-\$5 Mohegan Sun	Image:	Action:	Hand:	Starting Stack:
Hijack	Hero	\$25/Call	 	Covers
Cutoff	TAG	Call/Fold	 	\$600
Big Blind	Bad Player 	\$55	 	\$755

We do not like being squeezed here, but the player in the Big Blind is not savvy enough to be doing this as a bluff. Our read is he has a hand, but he has poor bet sizing. We have seen him size bets poorly in the past and make many post-flop calling mistakes. A bet of this size will rarely fold out the competition; it just bloats the pot. A raise to \$100 would have made our call incorrect, given the stack sizes. Bad players are notorious for sizing their three-bets poorly, and so we cannot fully exclude hands like AA and KK.

Bad player's small three-bet from the Big Blind												
<b>AA</b>	<b>AKs</b>	<b>AQs</b>	<b>AJs</b>	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
<b>AK</b>	<b>KK</b>	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
<b>AQ</b>	KQ	<b>QQ</b>	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
<b>AJ</b>	KJ	QJ	<b>JJ</b>	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
AT	KT	QT	JT	<b>TT</b>	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9	K9	Q9	J9	T9	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8	K8	Q8	J8	T8	98	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7	K7	Q7	J7	T7	97	87	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6	K6	Q6	J6	T6	96	86	76	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5	K5	Q5	J5	T5	95	85	75	65	55	54s	53s	52s
A4	K4	Q4	J4	T4	94	84	74	64	54	44	43s	42s
A3	K3	Q3	J3	T3	93	83	73	63	53	43	33	32s
A2	K2	Q2	J2	T2	92	82	72	62	52	42	32	22

The flop comes out.

	<b>Pot: \$137</b>	<b>Range:</b>	<b>Starting Stack:</b>
Bad Player (Big Blind) 	Check/Call		\$700
Hero (Hijack)	\$80		Covers

This is a good flop for us: top pair with an open-ended straight draw. When checked to, we should be even happier. One thing to consider is the range he would check on the flop. Some players would default continuation bet with their top pairs, or overpairs. Others get nervous on this texture and check-call more often. In this instance, we cannot be sure what his check-call means.

We decide to bet the flop for \$80. This bet will likely fold out his equity with AK, but will never fold out a better hand like AJ or QQ. However, when he calls the \$80, we will often see both the turn and river for that price. We have to acknowledge that we are behind most of the time when he calls our \$80, but we have position, initiative, and lots of equity. This cannot be stressed enough; this is closer to a semi-bluff than a value bet.

	<b>Pot: \$297</b>	<b>Range:</b>	<b>Starting Stack:</b>
Bad Player (Big Blind)	Check/Call		\$620
Hero (Hijack) 	\$200		Covers

Unfortunately, the flush came in. If the Villain had KT, it would give him a better straight. Should we take the free river card? No.

Let us consider the two biggest fears here: a flush and a higher straight with KT. Hand reading is a multi-street process. You should not put hands back into the Villain's range out of fear. We should get value from a Turned set also.

**Flush draw:** The Queen of Hearts on the turn makes him holding AhQh impossible. Given his three-bet range pre-flop, he can only make a flush here with exactly AhKh. How would he have played this on the flop? Most players would either continuation bet with AhKh on the flop or go for a check-raise. His check-call reduces the likelihood of him having a flush.

**Better Straight:** What about KT? We do not see him three-betting into two people with that pre-flop.

Why bet? What is he going to pay us off with? Top pair, top kicker is reasonable if he calls the flop with a gutshot and overcards. Maybe he has turned a set with QQ or has a slowplayed JJ. He could also have AA or KK with a Heart that he decided to play cautiously on the flop. His second call is good for us. It fits with all our reads thus far.

	<b>Pot: \$697</b>	<b>Range:</b>	<b>Starting Stack:</b>
Bad Player (Big Blind)	Check/Fold		\$420
Hero (Hijack) 	Shove		Covers

This very well could be our money card. We have seen this Villain pay off with bluff catchers that were unlikely to even beat many bluffs. If he has top two pair or a set, he could pay us off. It is unclear what he folded, but we got value for our second nut straight on a flushed board. Weaker players miss the bet on the turn and do not even try for the river value.

It is fun to say, “I should have bet the river. I knew you had two pair.” But, it is far more profitable to do something about it. As you become more confident with your hand reading, the next step is to take action. If you are good 51% of the time when called on your river bet, it is a profitable bet that should be made.

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