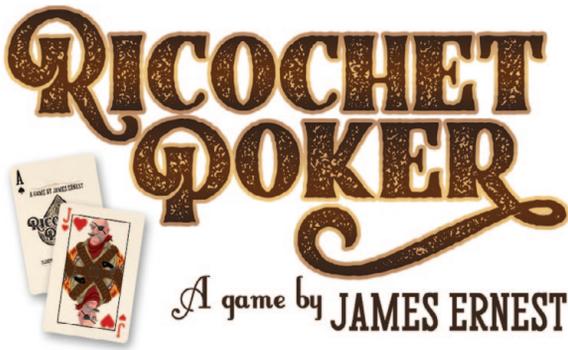


RICOCHET POKER

A game by JAMES ERNEST

The logo for Ricochet Poker is written in a large, ornate, gold-colored font with a textured, metallic appearance. Below the main title, it says "A game by JAMES ERNEST" in a simpler, black font. To the left of the text, there are three playing cards: the Ace of Spades, the Queen of Hearts, and the King of Diamonds, all with a decorative, slightly aged look.

Welcome!

Introducing **Ricochet Poker**, a streamlined card game that is basically poker without the bluffing. In Ricochet Poker, the focus is on calculating odds and pressing your luck.

Ricochet Poker has both a standard game and a casino version. In the standard game, each player has the same odds. In the casino version, there is a dealer who plays by different rules. The dealer pays jackpots and enjoys a slight mathematical edge.

Summary of Play

All players ante, and receive a portion of their poker hand. Going in order by the lowest hand, players may either buy more cards, or fold. At the end, the player with the best hand wins. Each hand takes about 5 minutes.

The name “Ricochet” comes from the speed of the game, as well as the way the action bounces to the *lowest hand*, rather than always moving to the left. This makes all table positions equally fair, so you can never be in a “bad spot” in relation to another player.

Setting Up

Ricochet Poker is a table game similar to any other variety of poker. Everyone starts with their own chips, and players try to win pots by getting the best poker hands. Ricochet just happens to be played entirely faceup.

Players: 2 to 8

Equipment: A poker deck and chips for betting

Just like poker, you can play one game or a hundred. If you’re not playing for money (or even if you are), the goal is to finish with more than you started with!

The Role of Dealer: In the basic game, it doesn’t matter if one player deals all the time, or if the role of dealer passes around the table. The order of play is random, so it doesn’t matter where anyone sits.

The Value of a Chip: The rules below talk about bets in terms of “chips,” not money. You can assign any value you like to the basic betting unit of the game, even zero. We’ll leave that up to you!

Basic Rules

The Deal: To begin, each player makes an *ante* of one chip. This forms the “pot.” Then the dealer deals one card to each player, faceup.

The lowest card will act first, with ties being broken by suit. (Suits are ranked in alphabetical order, with Clubs lowest, then Diamonds, Hearts, and Spades.)

After every turn, the action moves to the *lowest hand*.

On Your Turn: You may either *fold* or *buy cards*.

Folding: If you fold, you’re out. Throw away your cards and wait for the next hand.

Buying Cards: To buy cards, first declare *how many cards* you are asking for, and then put that many chips into the pot. Note that you won’t always get all the cards you paid for, and your hand can *never be more than five cards*.

The dealer will give you cards faceup, stopping when your hand is *no longer the lowest hand*. Even if you paid for more cards than you got, you don’t get any chips back.

If you get all the cards you paid for, and your hand is still beaten, then you’re out.

Breaking Ties: When deciding whose hand is best, a hand with a kicker beats the same hand without a kicker (so for example an Ace-8 is higher than Ace alone), and suit is used to break ties between identical hands until the end, at which point identical winning hands split the pot.

The action always passes to the lowest hand, until there is only one player left (or more than one if there is a tie for best hand). Note that the action might return to the same player several times, as shown in the example on page 2.

Variations: You can play with or without Jokers, or you can play with hand limits of six or seven cards.

In a seven-card game, it is best to start with a *hand of two*, to reduce the length of play and the size of the pots.

If you play with Jokers, use them as *bugs*, which can only be Aces, or to complete a straight or flush. If you use the Joker as a pure wild card, it becomes way too strong.

An Example of Play

There are four players. Their starting hands are **K♦**, **J♣**, **8♥**, and **7♠**. The starting pot contains 4 ante chips.

Player	1	2	3	4	Pot
Hand	K♦	J♣	8♥	7♠	4

Player 4 is lowest with the **7♠**, and he buys three cards. He pays three chips into the pot, and receives a **2♥** and a **9♣**, at which point the dealer stops, because Player 4's hand is no longer the lowest. The action moves to Player 3.

Player	1	2	3	4	Pot
Hand	K♦	J♣	8♥	9♣7♠2♥	7

Player 3 is now lowest with the **8♥**. She folds. This puts the action back on Player 4, who must now beat a **J♣**. He buys two cards (the maximum, because he already has three). The first card is a **2♦**, which gives him a pair.

Player	1	2	4	Pot
Hand	K♦	J♣	2♥2♦9♣7♠	9

The action moves to Player 2, whose **J♣** is now the low hand. He may buy up to four cards, or fold. He buys two cards, receiving the **9♥** and **Q♦**. This is not enough to beat the next-lowest hand, the **K♦**, so Player 2 is out.

Player 1 is up next, and buys four cards trying to beat the pair of 2s. She gets three cards, drawing **5♥-8♦-8♠**.

Player	1	4	Pot
Hand	8♠8♦K♦5♥	2♥2♦9♣7♠	15

It is Player 4's turn once again, and he can now buy one more card, trying to catch either a **2**, **9**, or **7**. But even if he does, the hand is not quite over...

More Games for This Deck

James Ernest can't stop designing card games! He posts many of these fine games for free at Cheapass Games, cheapass.com. Look for the **Poker Suite**, a collection of mostly non-poker games that you can play with a standard poker deck, here:

cheapass.com/free-games/poker-suite/

Credits

Ricochet Poker was designed by **James Ernest**, with help from **Paul Peterson**, **Joshua Howard** and **Joe Kisenwether**. This deck illustrated by **Cheyenne Wright**. Rules edited by **Carol Monahan**, **Cathy Saxton**, **Cassidy Werner**, and **Mike Selinker**.

Casino rules for use under U.S. Patent 10,029,170. To learn more about the game, including side bets and options for the casino game, visit jamesernest.com/ricochet

Casino Rules

Ricochet Poker can be played as a traditional casino game, with the dealer acting as the "house" and banking all bets. There is still a shared pot, contested by everyone including the dealer, but the dealer plays by different rules, and players can win bonus payouts with high hands.

The casino version is played without Jokers.

The Deal: Everyone, including the dealer, antes one chip. Players get two cards faceup, and the dealer gets five.

Dealer Kickout: If the dealer's hand is too *high*, she folds. This is strictly a benefit for the players; the dealer's ante stays in the pot. The dealer's minimum "kickout" hand varies depending on the number of players, as follows:

1 Player:	KKQ	A pair of Kings with a Queen
2 Players:	AAQ	A pair of Aces with a Queen
3 Players:	TTxx	Two pair, tens up
4 Players:	AAxx	Two pair, Aces up
5 Players:	222	Any three of a kind
6 Players:	QQQ	Three Queens
7 Players:	A2345	Any straight

The Play: Action begins on the lowest player hand.

Players do not buy individual cards. Instead, they have just one chance to act, and they may either fold or spend one chip to receive exactly three more cards.

When a five-card hand is losing to another five-card hand, the lower hand is out. Play continues until just one hand remains, and that hand takes the pot.

Bonus Hands: If a player's five-card hand is high enough, the dealer pays a bonus to that player, whether or not they win the pot. These bonuses are as follows:

Straight:	2 chips
Flush:	5
Full House:	10
Four of a Kind:	25
Straight Flush:	100
Royal Flush:	1000

Note: If all other hands have folded, a player who wins with two cards automatically receives the rest of her cards, to see if she qualifies for a Bonus Hand payout.

The dealer has a slight edge over the players, but takes a significant risk because of the high hand bonuses. If you play at home, you can keep the game fair and low-risk by capping the bonuses at 10 chips and rotating the role of dealer.

We certainly hope you will find Ricochet Poker in a real casino someday. Let us know if you see it!