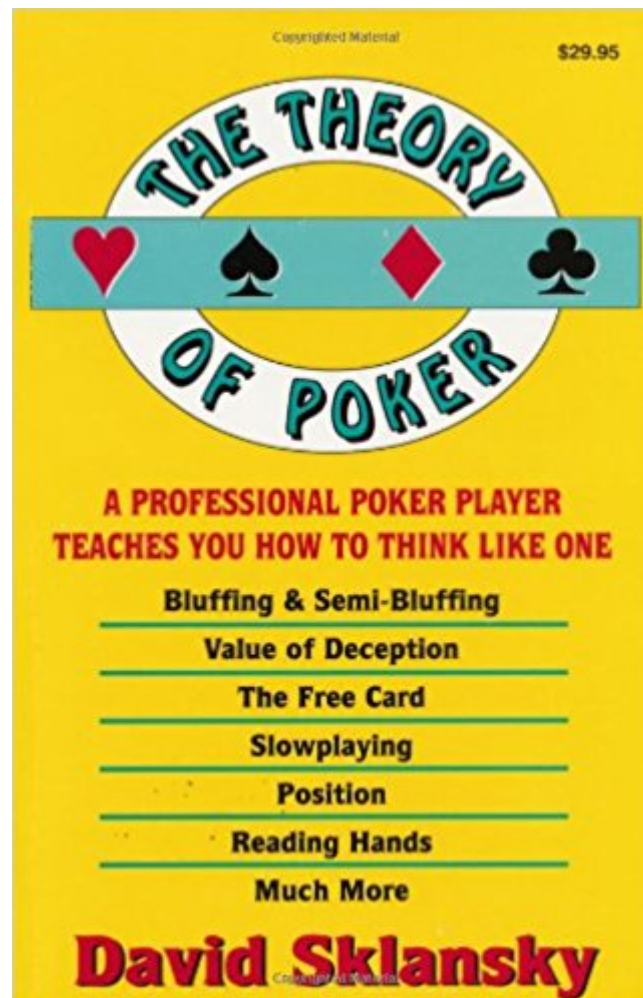




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# The Theory Of Poker: A Professional Poker Player Teaches You How To Think Like One



## Synopsis

Discusses theories and concepts applicable to nearly every variation of the game, including five-card draw (high), seven-card stud, hold 'em, lowball draw, and razz (seven-card lowball stud). This book introduces you to the Fundamental Theorem of Poker, its implications, and how it should affect your play. Other chapters discuss the value of deception, bluffing, raising, the slow-play, the value of position, psychology, heads-up play, game theory, implied odds, the free card, and semibluffing. Many of today's top poker players will tell you that this is the book that really made a difference in their play. That is, these are the ideas that separate the experts from the typical players. Those who read and study this book will literally leave behind those who don't, and most serious players wear the covers off their copies. This is the best book ever written on poker.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David Sklansky is generally considered the number one authority on gambling in the world today. Besides his ten books on the subject, David also has produced two videos and numerous writings for various gaming publications. His occasional poker seminars always receive an enthusiastic reception, including those given at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City and the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. More recently, David has been doing consulting work for casinos, Internet gaming sites, and gaming device companies. He has recently invented several games, soon to appear in casinos. David attributes his standing in the gambling community to three things: 1. The fact that he presents his ideas as simply as possible (sometimes with Mason Malmuth) even though these ideas frequently involve concepts that are deep, subtle, and not to be found elsewhere. 2. The fact that

the things he says and writes can be counted on to be accurate. 3. The fact that to this day a large portion of his income is still derived from gambling (usually poker, but occasionally blackjack, sports betting, horses, video games, casino promotions, or casino tournaments). Thus, those who depend on David's advice know that he still depends on it himself.

Not the easiest book to read, at least not in one setting. A lot of math, some made more complex than it need be IMO. Good for out of game analysis though, and will help you catch your leaks. It promotes more defensive style than what many of today's pro's style, but it also should allow less variance. So if you are looking to understand poker from the perspective of a longtime well-respected pro player, this one that you need in your library. I have read it and reread sections as I come across situations for which I need more analysis.

If you're expecting a book you can read on the flight to Vegas and suddenly be adequate at poker, you need to look elsewhere. This book is not a fast read and it is not for beginners. Instead you need to be ready to work on inferential logic and think carefully about why decisions are made. Some concepts are easy, the fundamental theorem of poker is as simple an idea as any fundamental theorem can be; players who deviate from the perfect information strategy lose money. However, putting such a theorem into action is difficult. At times this book delves into abstraction which will put many player off. If you like to play based on reads, this type of poker analysis will feel foreign. However, to succeed at poker, even with a read based approach, this type of logic still forms the basis of winning. Reads let you update the prior distribution of hands but there is still a logic in how each class of hands is played. I'll be honest I hated reading this book the first time. I didn't play many of the forms of poker that were used as examples and I wanted more cut and dry advice. However, once I finished a careful study two things were clear. First, there isn't much cut and dried about poker and second, learning the reasoning behind various plays would allow a superior analysis and strategy than a bunch of one off plays. In taking macro view of the game the hard spots became easier.

Sklansky's Theory of Poker is a poker classic, for a serious player. Add SuperSystem, and then of course Cowboy's Full for a historical perspective, and you have a good brew to chew on. If you just need a crash-course in hold'em, then take a look at Hellmuth's (yes, indeed) basic book on Texas Hold'em. And, if you want a good look at mixed-games overview, try Steiner's Thursday Night Poker.

There seems to be, once again, a flurry of books purporting to teach you how to play poker, but you have to wonder about the quality of many of them. Don't wonder about the quality of this book as it is the gold standard of poker books. It does something better than teaching you how to play poker. It teaches you how to think about poker. Mrs. Naylor, like me, is a poker player but she hadn't taken the game as seriously as I had. Until now. I recently asked her if she would be willing to read a few poker books and she agreed. This is the first book I am having her read.

This one was one of my first buys (I now have more than 30 poker books, this one was my second or third buy) Well, after many years in my library, I can review it for anyone interested. If you are a beginner, this one is THE MUST !!!! I remember when I first read it I was amazed from the issues it covered. Terms like Blocking Bet, Semi-Bluffing and defense against it, and so many more were all all new to me, and will open a bright new world to any newcomer who wants to actually study and learn poker beyond the basics! I know that in 2013, many of these topics seem so basic and obvious that might not raise that big of an interest but thinking that this book was written so many years ago, shows how important it is. One big plus of it is that it is not written with No Limit Holdem Hands only as examples! This is extremely important, cause it proves that its subjects are not applicable in NLHE only but in any form of poker. It also helps us get a better look at the big image, as knowing other forms of poker is always important if one wants to improve as a player overall. Even many years after its original release, this one remains a buy-or-die book for poker readers.

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