

BlackJack

Contents

- [About BlackJack](#)
- [History of BlackJack](#)
- [BlackJack Variants](#)

About BlackJack

BlackJack , also known as twenty-one is one of the most popular casino card games in the world. This card game requires skill and decision making. Most of blackjack's popularity is credited to the mix of chance with elements of skill and decision-making, and the entertainment that comes with the skill of card counting. This is a skill that is not always easily attained. Card counting is a skill that players can turn the odds of the game in their favor by making bets based on the values of the cards. Counting cards must be done in a very fast fashion, but without letting anyone know that the cards are being counted.

History of Blackjack

The question is always presented, where did blackjack originate? The history of blackjack is disputed although it is known that it was born out of the French games such as chemin de fer and French Ferme. Blackjack originated in French casinos around the 1700's but the exact year is difficult to determine. Blackjack has been in the United States since the early years of the 1800's. The name of blackjack originated from an early bet that involved a player getting a jack of spades and an ace of spades, both of the black suit as the first two cards. As you can see a combination of history is where blackjack really has originated from.

Mathematics was applied to the game of Blackjack in the year of 1953. The pioneers of Blackjack used calculators and probability to reduce house advantage, which in that time was legal. Roger Baldwin wrote a paper in the Journal of American Statistical Association titled "The Optimum Strategy in Blackjack". This really was not the best strategy because they really needed a computer to refine their system. The calculator was slow in figuring and computing so the game could take much longer.

In the year 1962, Edward O. Thorp refined the basic strategy and understanding of blackjack and developed the first card counting techniques without the use a calculator.

What was done from that point, was he wrote a book to share all the information he had gathered about blackjack. He added his results in his book “ Beat the Dealer”. This book was hated by the casinos because they were starting to lose more money because of this book. The casinos were not happy because it told the public how to beat the house and money was paid out over and over again. They wanted to change the rules of blackjack to make it harder to win. However, this did not last long due to people protesting the new rules of blackjack that made it more difficult for gamblers to win. The loss of revenue forced the casinos to go back to the old rules quickly even if the gamblers were using books to beat the odds of losing.

To better the Casinos odds, they did make some changes to the game of blackjack over the years. The casinos introduced new technology like shuffling machines, and multiple decks to help beat the odds of those who were counting cards and watching decks. These changes along with the realization that the methods in the books were hard to master brought back the casinos edge to which they considered acceptable.

Blackjack Variants

There are many different forms of the blackjack card game that have been brought into the casinos from all over the world. Spanish 21 is one variant of blackjack that many find exciting, as it requires skills in decision-making. This form provides players with many liberal blackjack rules, such as doubling down any number of cards, payouts and bonuses, which is different from other blackjack variants where the payouts may be different. With the correct strategy, a Spanish 21 game has a lower house edge than a comparable blackjack game that a gambler would enjoy taking on the house.

With new variants of game, there are also new rule changes, which a gambler will have to learn before playing the card game. These changes increase the house edge so it is more likely that the gambler will lose if not skilled at this game. Take for example, the game of Double Attack Blackjack. This game has liberal blackjack rules and the option of increasing one’s wager after seeing the dealer’s up card.

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