

the
INSIDE Straight

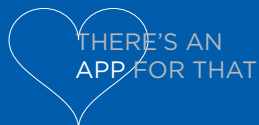
VIDEO POKER NEWS FOR THE MONTH OF

June 2011 ♦

ALL STAR POKER® REIGNS SUPREME



In this issue ♦



THERE'S AN
APP FOR THAT



CONFIGURING
PROGRESSIVES



IT'S ALL ABOUT
THE WHEEL



AN ALL-STAR
FLOOR

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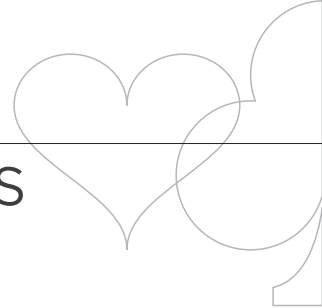
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HELPING YOU TO MAXIMIZE YOUR PROFITS



John Daley *Director of Video Poker* ♦ *IGT*



Welcome to the summer issue of The Inside Straight. Halfway through 2011, the video poker business remains generally strong, and players thankfully remain loyal to IGT's products. Since the last issue, I have been doing a bit of traveling, visiting California, Michigan, Missouri, Mexico and Canada. It was great to talk poker, industry biz, and catch up with everyone in these jurisdictions. The weather was not always that great, but the warmth of the people was.

Because one of our key missions is to help you maximize profits, in this issue we will give you some ideas for setting up some of our more complex games, including how to manage jackpot liabilities. We'll also introduce you to a great game for the High Limit room, offer progressive configuration suggestions, and provide our expertise and ideas surrounding machine maintenance. Finally, it is the 21st century, so we'll show you some exciting new apps for your iPhone®, iPad™, and the Android™.

We would love to hear what articles and subject matter you would like to see in upcoming issues of The Inside Straight. This publication is for your education and reference so please email me with any story requests – John.Daley@IGT.com

I hope you enjoy this issue, and I look forward to hearing from you.

NOW, THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

Verify paytables in the palm of your hand. ♦

NEED BY LINE *Video Poker Product Specialist, Western Region* ♦ **IGT**

You asked for it, and we delivered. Developed by **VideoPoker.com** this app allows you to check the paytables on your video poker games – or perhaps on your competitor's video poker games – with a few easy taps on your iPhone®, iPad®, or Android™ device.

The **VideoPoker.com** folks have created an all-inclusive app that has almost every IGT video poker payable available in today's market, including tricky ones like Ultimate X Poker®, Super Times Pay Poker®, Dream Card™ and Multi-Strike Poker®.

The app is only \$1.99, at **www.VideoPoker.com/Mobile**. Or, visit your device's app store and search for "video poker paytables". Within minutes, you will have an invaluable resource in the palm of your hand.

Anytime you're on the floor and want to know what payback percentage a game is set to, just launch the app, tap the game you are looking for, choose your game family, and all the paytables for that game will appear along with their payback percentages. No more fishing out a piece of paper to write the paytables down, then going back to your office to research the payback percentages. Recently, I was on the road in Michigan visiting our casino friends in the Motor City and outlying areas. This payable app was one of the topics I mentioned, and while showing the app to a few of the operators, they actually downloaded it before I was done demonstrating! Why not make your life easier and download yours today?

In addition to the payable app, **VideoPoker.com** has also developed a number of applications for our most



popular multi-hand games like 3/5/10 Play, Super Times Pay Poker®, Double Super Times Pay®, Hundred Play Draw Poker®, and Hundred Play Draw Poker® Super Times Pay Poker®. And more are on their way, including Ultimate X Poker®, and all the new games being released later this year. These games can be downloaded for free with Jacks or Better Poker being the only active game family. However, if you want the entire game library the game has in the field, along with a simple strategy on how to play the game correctly, you can pay \$4.99 to get the full version. Download the game apps by visiting **www.VideoPoker.com/Mobile** or searching for "VideoPoker.com" in your device's app store.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WHEEL

Rolling Wheel Poker into your high limit room. ♦

Sal Lambert *Video Poker Product Specialist* ♦ IGT



Sam's Town

There are properties that are located throughout the country with at least one Wheel Poker® game in the high limit area. Shreveport properties, Eldorado Resorts Casino and Sam's Town, are seeing great results, as is Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa located near Palm Springs. And in Colorado, properties like Riviera Black Hawk Casino, and Fortune Valley Casino, all offer Wheel Poker Deluxe® in their high limit rooms.

Many years ago, IGT introduced Wheel Poker®, followed by Wheel Poker Deluxe®, and most recently Wheel Poker® with Quick Quads Poker™. With three versions available, we'd like to offer a comparison and provide information on why our Wheel Poker® Family is a good fit for your high limit area.

“Wheel Poker® and its game family members remain popular with video poker diehards.”

WHEEL POKER®

- Bonus eligibility requires one additional coin per hand
- Bonus initiated with a natural 4-of-a-kind
- Wheel consists of 11 segments with specific award ranging from 100 – 2000 credits
- Available on Game King® upright and slant machines
- \$75/day or 80/20

WHEEL POKER DELUXE™

- Bonus eligibility requires five additional coins per hand
- Bonus initiated with a dealt 3-of-a-kind, straight, or full house
- Wheel consists of 11 segments with a variety of starting hands to be played in a specific multi-hand game
- **Example:** Bonus awards a round of Hundred Play Draw Poker™ with a starting hand of two pair
- Available on Game King® upright and slant machines
- \$75/day or 80/20

FPO

WHEEL POKER® WITH QUICK QUADS POKER™

- Bonus eligibility requires seven credits bet per hand - (sixth credit Quick Quads Poker™ buy-a-pay feature to seventh credit wheel feature)
- Bonus initiated with a natural 4-of-a-kind
- Wheel consists of 11 segments with specific award values ranging from 100 - 2000 credits
- Available on Game King upright and slant machines
- \$75/day or 80/20

Wheel Poker® games have a key-to-credit feature designed to keep high limit players in the game without W-2G paperwork delays. Wheel Poker®, Wheel Poker Deluxe® or Wheel Poker® with Quick Quads Poker™ performs best when configured in dollar, two dollar, five dollar and above denominations.

With more than 374 units, Wheel Poker® and its game family members remain popular with video poker diehards. For more information contact your IGT Account Manager.

FIVE STAR POKER™

A star performer, indeed. ♦

Michael Drummond

Video Poker Product Specialist ♦ IGT

If your high denomination video poker

players enjoy Super Times Pay Poker®, Ultimate X Poker™ and Double Super Times Pay Poker™, but the thought of them winning up to 800,000 credits goes beyond your comfort threshold, introduce Five Star Poker™ to your floor. This combination of successful multi-hand games (Ultimate X Poker™, Double Super Times Pay™, Super Times Pay Poker®, Quick Quads Poker™, Dream Card Poker™, Good Times Pay Poker™, Double Pay Poker™ and Random Rewards Poker™) is now available as a single hand theme.

When configuring high limit areas, operators spend countless hours perfecting game setup. One of the main factors is jackpot exposure. Fortunately, the top award for Five Star Poker™ is 80,000 credits. This allows operators to offer denominations ranges anywhere from \$2 up to \$5 or greater, while minimizing jackpot exposure. Offering player-proven themes with a variety of denomination ranges delivers entertainment value and provides favorable game play strategies for your high limit player.

Five Star Poker™ is also suited for bar top play. Optimize your bar top space with great games in one suite. These lower wager games (minimum wagers of six credits rather than 18) are an easy way to introduce popular multi-hand favorites at an affordable cost to your single hand player.

Five Star Poker™ bundles 55 popular game families, 229 paytables, and uses the same 10- button panel. The maximum bet is five credits plus a possible side bet. Recommended setup is 25-cent denomination and higher. For more information about Five Star Poker™, contact your IGT Account Manager.

A stylized, cartoonish illustration of a king. He has a large, grey beard and mustache, and is wearing a crown with yellow and red stripes. He is dressed in a blue tunic with yellow and red stripes. He is holding a sword with a yellow hilt and a silver blade. The king is looking down and to the right with a slight smile. The illustration is set against a white background with a faint horizontal line.

Shannon Bloom *Video Poker Product Specialist* ♦ IGT

All-Star Poker® is one of the most powerful and profitable themes of all time. When configured correctly, this game will likely become one of the busiest and highest earning machines on your floor.

To determine if All-Star Poker® is right for you, ask yourself the following:

1 WHAT'S MY MAXIMUM LIABILITY?

This value can span from less than **\$100,000 to more than \$800,000** depending on your comfort level. Once you have this number in mind, you can easily configure the game to meet your specific concerns.

2 AT WHAT DENOMINATION DO I CONFIGURE THIS GAME?

In order to fully address your liability values, often times the denomination varies by game.

Most of IGT's video poker games are operator-configurable. This is extremely important to many of you, but especially those of you with conservative max liability thresholds. One of the greatest benefits of All-Star Poker® is the opportunity to adjust down the denomination value depending on the game. When we speak specifically of All-Star Poker™ and its liability, we need to pay close attention to Super Times Pay Poker® and Double Pay Poker™. In the suite, these are the two games with the highest jackpot liability.

Don't be afraid of top award liability. You can easily adjust the denom to bring the liability to a comfortable range. For example, Super Times Pay Poker® is often set as follows:

- Triple Play Draw Poker® at 25-cent, 50-cent and \$1. Respective top awards at \$30,000, \$60,000 and \$120,000.
- Five Play® Poker at 25-cent, 50-cent and \$1. Respective top awards at \$50,000, \$100,000 and \$200,000.
- Ten Play Poker at 5-cent, 10-cent and 25-cent. Respective top awards at \$20,000, \$40,000 and \$100,000.

The above setup keeps Super Times Pay Poker® in the \$200,000 range, which is often the number operators request.

Although some of the games have high top awards, it is often interesting to see the odds associated with those top awards. Again, focusing on Super Times Pay Poker® and Double Pay Poker™ models since they are the “biggies” in the suite, IGT mathematician, Chris Brune, provides some insight:

- For Double Pay Poker™, the maximum liability would be a dealt Royal Flush on all 10 hands, which pays 640,000 credits with a typical maximum bet configuration. Getting 10 Royal Flushes dealt in a row doesn't happen every day. As a matter of fact, the odds are once every 13,408,989,199,680,900,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 games on average.

GAME THEME	TOP AWARD*	MAX BET †	PAR SHEET CODE
Triple Play Draw Poker®	12,000	15	3P
Five Play® Poker	20,000	25	5P
Ten Play	40,000	50	10P
Bonus Hand Triple Play Draw Poker®	36,000	15	3PBH
Chase the Royal Triple Play Draw Poker®	30,000	15	3P CR
Chase the Royal Five Play®	50,000	25	5P CR
Chase the Royal Ten Play	100,000	50	10P CR
Double Pay Triple Play Draw Poker	192,000	30	3DBP
Double Pay Five Play®	320,000	50	5DBP
Double Pay Ten Play	640,000	100	10DBP
Five Aces Poker® Triple Play Draw Poker®	15,000	15	3P5A
Five Aces Poker® Five Play®	25,000	25	5P5A
Five Aces Poker® Ten Play	50,000	50	TP5A
Spin Poker	36,000	45	9L
Super Times Pay Poker® Triple Play Draw Poker®	120,000	18	3PST
Super Times Pay Poker® Five Play® Poker	200,000	30	5PSTv
Super Times Pay Poker® Ten Play	12,000 400,000	60	TPST
Trade Up Poker® Triple Play Draw Poker®	12,000	15	3P TU
Trade Up Poker® Five Play®	20,000	25	5P TU
ADDITIONAL PAYTABLES			
High Denom/Triple Play Draw Poker®	12,000	15	3P High Denom
High Denom/Five Play®	20,000	25	5P High Denom
Sequential Royal Flush/ Triple Play Draw Poker®	12,000	15	3P SeqRF
Sequential Royal Flush/Five Play® Poker	20,000	25	5P SeqRF
Sequential Royal Flush /Ten Play	40,000	50	10P SeqRF
*Top award in credits refers to games set at the standard setup of 5 credits (plus buy a pays when applicable) per hand. †Max Bet shown in credits			

- For Super Times Pay Poker®, the maximum liability would be a dealt Royal Flush with a 10X multiplier, which pays 400,000 credits. Compared Double Pay Poker™, this happens relatively frequently at once every 243,652,500 games on average.

No matter what game you are interested in, you can always set it

up to meet your needs. Consider changing denomination or making other changes to get you into that sweet spot.

If you have any questions on the above information, please feel free to reach out to me at

Shannon.Bloom@IGT.com or any of the other product specialists in your territory.

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POPULAR PROGRESSIVE CONFIGURATIONS

Sal Lambert *Video Poker Product Specialist, Western Region* ♦ IGT

Video poker players love when they walk into their favorite casino and find a multi-level progressive game complemented by a great payable. In this article, we discuss different ways to configure popular and profitable video poker progressives.

First, let's start with some terminology:

STANDALONE PROGRESSIVE

The standalone progressive machine is not linked to any other machines and has its own internal progressive that is funded by the individual player's wagers.

LINKED PROGRESSIVE

The linked progressive system is comprised of several progressive machines linked together by a progressive controller, like the IGT Progressive Controller, on the same bank, or throughout the casino floor. Anyone playing a linked game will contribute to the progressive jackpot amount.

MULTI-LEVEL PROGRESSIVE

The multi-level progressive system (MLP) is very popular throughout the country. In the western territory, Double Double Bonus Poker® is the most popular MLP poker family. In the southern California market where video poker is strong, having a bank of Double

Double Bonus Poker® games configured at a quarter denomination with five progressive levels will achieve a return of 97.88% (9/5) with a half percent going to the meter.

The levels used in this format are:

- 1 Royal Flush
- 2 Four Ace's with any 2,3,4
- 3 Four Deuces, 3s,4s with Ace 2,3,4
- 4 Four-Aces
- 5 Four Deuces, 3s, 4s

You can also run MLP and link different game families together just as long as the themes have common paytables. For example, you can add a four-level progressive to Double Double Bonus Poker® and Double Bonus Poker®.

Paytables for this configuration:

- 1 Royal Flush
- 2 Straight Flush
- 3 Four Aces
- 4 Four 5s thru Kings

The two configurations above can also be used as a multi-level, multi-denomination progressive. This can be accomplished with the use of the IGT Progressive Controller. The IGT Progressive Controller is a communication controller, designed to enable operators



to configure and run up to 32 progressive levels on a bank of up to 63 linked and local IGT slots, video slots, and video poker machines.

SINGLE-LEVEL PROGRESSIVE

Single-level progressive games are also very popular. In this format, you can designate one game family to progress. For example, some customers will enable Double Bonus Poker®, quarter denomination, with a game return of 96.38 (9/6/4), with anywhere from a ¼%, ½%, to a full 1% to the meter. Another option is to link several game families (Double Double Bonus Poker®, Double Bonus Poker®, Deuces Wild Bonus Poker™, and Jacks or Better) together and have them share the Royal Flush as the top award. However, when the Royal Flush is won on one game family, all game families reset to the base amount.

MULTI-HAND PROGRESSIVE

VideoPoker.com (Action Gaming) games perform well as progressives, too. Triple

Play Poker™ is the most popular game to progress, in compared to IGT's single-hand Game King® themes. Triple Play Poker™ can be configured as a standalone progressive, or a linked progressive. With Triple Play Poker™, the operator can option the game to progress one hand, or all three hands including an "all hands progressive" feature. The "all hands level" can be won when a customer is dealt the Royal Flush; the progressive award for the "all hands" will equal the sum of hands A, B, and C.

- All Hands – \$6,350.00
- Hand "C" – \$1,075.00
- Hand "B" – \$1,125.00
- Hand "A" – \$1,150.00

Popular multi-hand progressive games include: All Star Poker™, Triple Play Dream Card™, Spin Poker, Spin Poker Deluxe®, Spin Poker Dream Card®, Triple Spin™ Poker, Hundred Play Draw Poker® and Fifty Play Draw Poker™, Super Triple Play Poker, Multi Strike Poker®, Multi-Strike Poker® Ultra Deluxe, and Double Down Stud® 3/5/10 Play Poker.

For questions specific to your territory, please contact your IGT Account Manager, Video Poker Product Specialist, or John Daley, Director of Video Poker at **John.Daley@IGT.com**.

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