

# STRADDLES IN POKER



A straddle is a voluntary bet placed before cards are dealt, which is only used in cash games. Usually, 2 times the big blind bet is used to artificially increase the stakes and generate more action at the table. **There are different straddle types:**

	Who Can Post It	Notes
<b>UTG Straddle</b>	The player immediately to the left of the big blind posts 2x BB	The most common straddle variation in poker letting UTG act preflop
<b>Button Straddle</b>	The dealer button posts a 2x straddle	Button gets to act last preflop adding strong position benefits
<b>Mississippi Straddle</b>	Any player can straddle under Mississippi rules	Can allow late position straddling and change the action order
<b>Sleeper Straddle</b>	Any player may post a straddle of any size, except UTG	Big straddles can lead to very strange game dynamics so be ready to adjust accordingly
<b>Re Straddle</b>	After a first straddle, another player may double it, and so on	Encourages fast action with significantly reduced stack depth

- Pros

  - Increases stakes and action
  - Can loosen tight games
  - Adds an additional fun element
- Cons

  - Negative EV bet in most cases
  - Higher variance and more risk
  - Shorter effective stacks

**Tip 1: Adjust your starting ranges**  
Because pots are larger and variance is higher, tighten the hands you play, especially out of position.

**Tip 2: Exploit passive or weak opponents**  
When players tend to call lightly, aggressive play postflop can yield extra value in straddled pots.

**Tip 3: Watch effective stack sizes**  
A straddle reduces how many big blinds your stack represents, so avoid marginal plays with shallow stacks.

**Tip 4: Read your opponents' tendencies**  
Some players tighten up while others play more aggressively in straddled pots, so adjust your strategy accordingly.

**Tip 5: Maintain discipline**  
Just because more chips are in the pot doesn't mean you have to gamble. Fold in bad spots and do not feel obligated to straddle if you do not feel comfortable.

