

Omaha

2-10 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Hard

Duration: Long

Make the best five-card hand using exactly 2 of your 4 hole cards and exactly 3 community cards.

SETUP

- 2-10 players with a standard 52-card deck.
- Post small blind and big blind.
- Deal 4 hole cards face-down to each player.

SCORING

- Standard poker hand rankings apply.
- In Hi-Lo, pot splits between best high and best low hand.

Tip: Choose starting hands where all four cards connect with each other — avoid hands with unrelated dangles.

ON YOUR TURN

- Bet, call, raise, or fold in each round.
- Flop, turn, and river are dealt as in Hold'em.
- Must use exactly 2 hole cards and 3 community cards.

Omaha is a community card poker game similar to Texas Hold'em but with a crucial twist: each player receives four hole cards and must use exactly two of them combined with exactly three of the five community cards. This constraint creates bigger hands and more action-packed pots than Hold'em.

Objective

Form the best five-card poker hand using exactly two of your four hole cards and exactly three of the five community cards.

Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 10 players.
2. **Deck:** Standard 52-card deck.
3. **Blinds:** Small blind and big blind are posted by the two players to the left of the dealer.
4. **Deal:** Each player receives 4 cards face-down (hole cards).

Gameplay

1. **Pre-flop:** Betting begins with the player left of the big blind after hole cards are dealt.
2. **The Flop:** Three community cards are dealt face-up, followed by a betting round.
3. **The Turn:** A fourth community card is dealt face-up, followed by a betting round.
4. **The River:** A fifth community card is dealt face-up, followed by the final betting round.
5. **Showdown:** Players must use exactly 2 hole cards and exactly 3 community cards to form their best hand.

Scoring

- **Hand rankings:** Standard poker hand rankings apply.
- **Mandatory card usage:** Players must use exactly two hole cards and three community cards — this is the key rule that distinguishes Omaha from Hold'em.
- **Pot split:** In Omaha Hi-Lo, the pot is split between the best high hand and the best qualifying low hand (8 or better).

Variations

- **Omaha Hi-Lo (8 or Better):** The pot is split between the highest and lowest qualifying hands, making for complex strategic decisions.
- **Pot-Limit Omaha (PLO):** The most popular format where the maximum bet is the current pot size.
- **Five-Card Omaha:** Each player receives five hole cards but must still use exactly two.

Tips and Strategies

- Look for hands where all four cards work together — connected, suited, and double-suited hands are strongest.
- Remember the two-card rule: even if four community cards match your suit, you can only use two hole cards.
- In Hi-Lo, aim for hands that can scoop both the high and low pots to maximize your winnings.

Tips & Strategy

Starting hand selection is even more critical in Omaha than Hold'em because all four hole cards should work together. Avoid hands with dangles — cards that do not connect with the rest of your hand.

Position and hand coordination are paramount — hands with double-suited connectors and high pairs have the most equity. Drawing to the nuts is essential since second-best hands are costly in Omaha.