

# Razz

2-8 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Long

**Make the lowest five-card hand from seven dealt cards; A-2-3-4-5 is the best hand.**

## SETUP

- 2-8 players with a standard 52-card deck.
- All players post an ante.
- Deal 2 face-down and 1 face-up card to each player.

## SCORING

- Lowest unpaired five-card hand wins.
- Aces are low; straights and flushes do not count against you.

*Tip: Only enter pots with three cards to an eight-low or better and steal aggressively with a low door card.*

## ON YOUR TURN

- Highest door card posts the bring-in.
- Receive face-up cards on fourth, fifth, and sixth streets.
- Seventh street card is face-down.
- Lowest exposed hand acts first from fourth street onward.

Razz is a lowball variant of Seven-Card Stud where the lowest hand wins the pot. Aces are always low, and straights and flushes do not count against you, making the best possible hand A-2-3-4-5 (the wheel). Razz is one of the most patience-testing poker variants and is a staple of mixed-game formats.

## Objective

Form the lowest five-card hand from your seven dealt cards. The best possible hand is A-2-3-4-5, known as the wheel.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 8 players.
2. **Deck:** Standard 52-card deck.
3. **Ante:** All players post an ante before the deal.
4. **Deal:** Each player receives 2 cards face-down and 1 card face-up (the door card).

## Gameplay

1. **Third Street:** The player with the highest door card posts the bring-in (opposite of regular Stud). Betting proceeds clockwise.
2. **Fourth Street:** Each player receives another face-up card. The player with the lowest exposed cards acts first.
3. **Fifth Street:** A third face-up card is dealt. Bet limits typically double.
4. **Sixth Street:** A fourth face-up card is dealt with another betting round.
5. **Seventh Street:** A final card is dealt face-down, followed by the last betting round and showdown.

## Scoring

- **Low hand rankings:** The lowest unpaired five-card hand wins. Aces are low.
- **Straights and flushes:** These do not count against you in Razz — only card ranks matter.
- **The wheel:** A-2-3-4-5 is the best possible hand.
- **Comparison:** Hands are compared from the highest card down. For example, 6-4-3-2-A beats 6-5-3-2-A.

## Variations

- **London Lowball:** Uses the A-to-6 low ranking where straights and flushes count against you.
- **Razz in H.O.R.S.E.:** Razz is the R in the popular mixed-game format H.O.R.S.E., where players rotate through five poker variants.

## Tips and Strategies

- Start with three cards eight or lower — hands starting with high cards are rarely worth playing.
- Watch opponents' door cards carefully; if their low cards are pairing your hand, your draws are weakened.
- Patience is key — Razz often involves long stretches of folding before finding a playable starting hand.

## Tips & Strategy

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Starting hand discipline is paramount in Razz — only enter with three cards to an eight-low or better. Steal antes aggressively when you show a low door card and opponents show high ones.

Ante-stealing is a crucial part of Razz strategy — when your door card is lower than every opponent's, a raise will often take the pot immediately. Track exposed cards to know your live outs.