

Your needs/

playing to win

Are you the kind of person who spends the time in gambling casinos at the slot machines because you're intimidated by the blackjack tables? Or are you the kind who plays, but panics when dealt twin eights?

If you fit either category, then you might be interested in Phil Lawrence's "Blackjack To Win," an invention designed to make the average person comfortable at the blackjack table and improve the chances of winning.

"The average person isn't fanatical enough to read a 500-page book on how to play blackjack properly," says Lawrence. "So I put together a gimmick which is fun, fast, and relatively effortless."

Lawrence's invention is based on computer studies and designed with 52 cards, the same as a regular deck. The face of each card is divided into a hypothetical example of the dealer's hand and the player's hand. The person decides whether he should stand, take another card, or split his hand. To find out the proper move the person needs only to flip the card over for a correct explanation.

Lawrence, a Staten Island native who averages a dozen trips to Las Vegas and Atlantic City yearly, says that he created "Blackjack To Win" because he was tired of watching the casinos take advantage of the inexperienced tourist with just a few dollars. "Many people are under the assumption that you have to be a card counter to win," claims Lawrence. "But if blackjack is played properly, the house has only a slight 1.7 percent edge over the customer."

Relaxed and beaming with a riverboat gambler's confidence in his Wall Street office, Lawrence, 52, likes to compare blackjack to his other favorite hobby, the stock market. "Before most people will risk their money in the market they thoroughly investigate the stock's potential for return. One hour with my cards and blackjack becomes that same calculated investment."

The cards have already helped a few people Lawrence used to test his product on. A neighbor claimed the cards helped him feel confident and make snap decisions, and that for the first time in five years he broke even playing blackjack. A fellow employee said that he gave the cards to his wife who had never before strayed from the slot machines, and that she did surprisingly well for the first time at a blackjack table.

"What the cards essentially do is make you aware of what the professional gambler already knows," continues Lawrence. "Although positive thinking is important in gambling, it wouldn't be

realistic to suggest that every time you play you will be a winner. However, I do propose that you will win more often and that your money will last much longer."

Along with the cards comes a 20-page manual, which briefly describes and makes suggestions on the other casino games; keno, bingo, chuck-a-luck, baccarat, bingo, slot machines, and craps.

The entire package can be obtained for \$4.95 (plus 75 cents postage) through "Fun and Games," P.O. Box 294, Great Kills, Staten Island, N.Y., 10308.

Lawrence offers one final word of advice to the gambler: "Don't forget to bring that one magic ingredient — luck — even Nick the Greek wouldn't have won ten cents without it."

— BILL GLOVIN



One of the cards from "Blackjack to Win"

Explanation

SPLIT

Always split 8's. 16 is a loser unless Dealer breaks. Split hoping for at least one good hand, Stand or Hit are the less desirable alternatives.