



## **RULES OF PLAY**

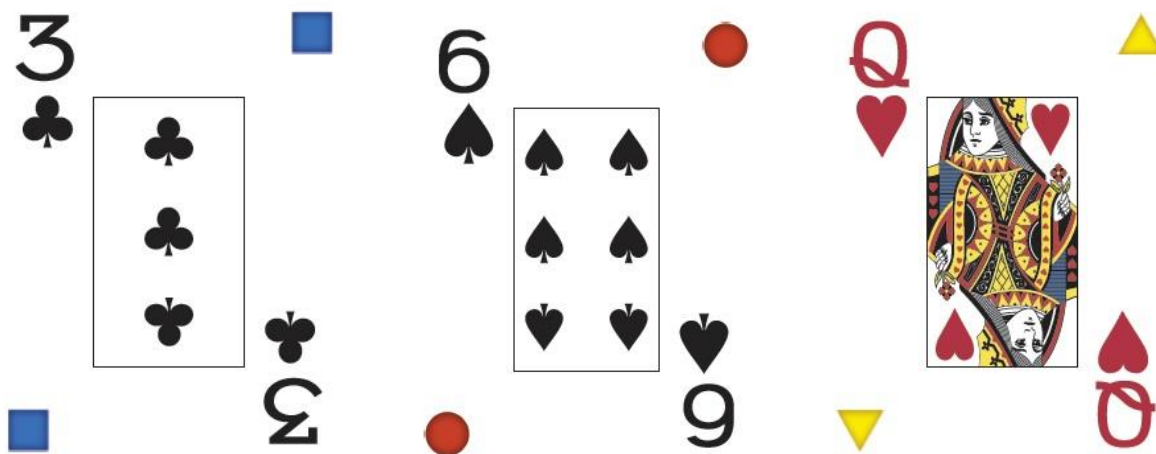
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# Down Under Blackjack

## RULES OF PLAY

Down Under Blackjack is a variant of the standard game of blackjack. The game is played using two, four, five, six or eight decks of cards. Down Under Blackjack permits the player to identify a range of values for the dealer's hole card prior to any player action.

1. To begin, players make the primary blackjack wager and optionally any side wager(s) made available. Down Under Blackjack is dealt per traditional blackjack rules.
2. Down Under Blackjack is played with either regular cards and a Masque Card Reader, or specially-modified Down Under Cards (see Fig. 1) and a dealer peeker device. The backs of the Down Under cards remain unchanged as do the suits and card ranks.

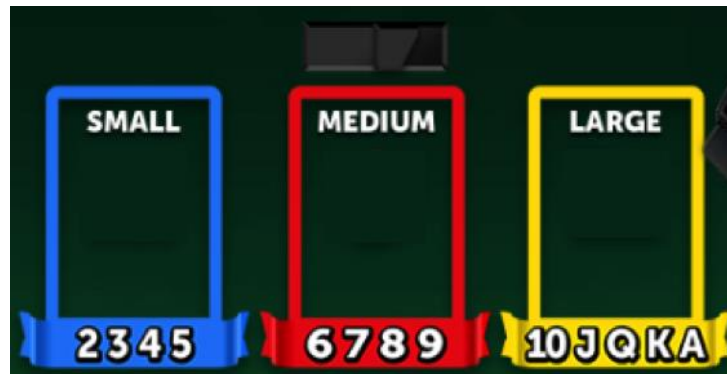


*Fig. 1. Down Under Cards.*

3. When the dealer's hand is placed in the Masque Card Reader the appropriate colored light will illuminate to indicate to the players the range of possible values for the dealer's hole card. Likewise, Down Under cards give the player the ability to see a range of possible values for the dealer's hole card when used with a peeker.

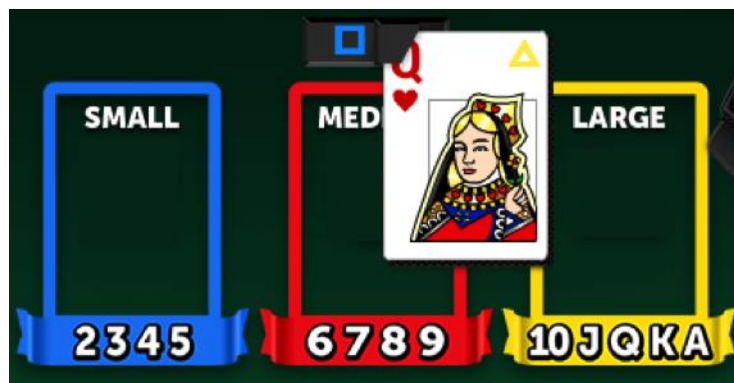
Based on the colored light from the Masque Card Reader (or the indication given from the Down Under Cards in a dealer peeker device), the dealer's hand is placed in one of three distinct groups to indicate the range of values for the dealer's hole card:

- Small (Blue): 2-3-4-5
- Medium (Red): 6-7-8-9
- Large (Gold): 10-J-Q-K-A



*Fig. 2. A dealer peeker device or a Masque Card Reader, and the card ranges are part of the felt and sit in front of the dealer.*

Before the action begins, the dealer will check the range of the hole card (Fig. 3.). The corresponding boxes on the layout allow the dealer to mark the range of the dealer's hole card on each hand. (Fig. 4.)



*Fig 3. The cards are checked with the peeker or a Masque Card Reader. The shape and/or color on the card, or the lights on the Masque Card Reader, tell the dealer where to place the cards on the layout.*



*Fig. 4. The cards are moved to the correct range for the hole card. After the dealer has marked the card the action can begin.*

4. Down Under Blackjack is played in the same manner as regular blackjack; players can hit, split and double down. In Down Under Blackjack all winning bets pay 1:1 with the exception of blackjack which can pay either 6:5 or 3:2.

Additionally, the following rules apply:

5. Down Under Blackjack does not offer players the option to surrender.
6. Insurance is permitted. Players may bet up to one-half the original bet when the dealer's up card is showing any Ace.
7. Players can split cards of equal value up to three times, creating four hands. (Exception: when a casino stands on all dealer-hand totals of 17, casinos may choose that there is no re-splitting allowed.)
8. When splitting Aces, casinos have the option to allow players to either split Aces up to three times to create 4 hands, or split Aces only once. In any case, when splitting Aces each Ace will receive only one card.
9. Players can double down on any two cards, including after splitting. Players are allowed to double down for less than a full bet.
10. Casinos can choose to have the dealer either (a) hit a "soft 17" and stand on all totals of hard 17 or higher; or (b) stand on all totals of 17.
11. When the dealer's hand is two gold-valued cards (10, J, Q, K, or A), the cards will be turned face up and exposed to the players before the beginning of action.

12. When the dealer's final hand totals 22, casinos must choose one of the following 3 rule configurations:
- a. all player hands will push, except any player hands with exactly two original (non-split) gold-valued cards (10, J, Q, K, or A), or any player hands with a total of 21 still win and get paid.
  - b. all player hands will push, except any player hands with a total of 21 still win and get paid.
  - c. all player hands will push, except any player hands with a total of 20 or 21 still win and get paid.
13. After all players have acted on their hands, the dealer will complete their hand.
14. In addition to the base bet of Down Under Blackjack, casinos may offer the Match The Dealer bonus wager.

A Match The Dealer bonus wager is a wager that one or both of a player's original two cards of the hand will exactly match the dealer's up card in rank. There are two payoff amounts for each bonus wager, a suited rank match and an unsuited rank match. In order to play the Match The Dealer bonus wager, the player must make a regular 21 wager. The house determines the Match The Dealer minimum and maximum bet sizes.

The dealer deals two cards face up to each player and two cards to himself, with one of the dealer's cards exposed as the up card and the non-exposed card as the dealer's down card. The dealer checks the original two cards of all players with the Match the Dealer bonus wager to see if either of the player's two cards match the dealer's up card in rank. Players are paid for each card where there is a match, if both of the player's original two cards match the dealer's up card both cards are paid. Payouts for each card match will be made according to the following payout schedule.