

Down Under Blackjack

RULES OF PLAY

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

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 and a dealer peeker device.

Cards are placed in three distinct groups:

Small (Blue): 2-3-4-5

Medium (Red): 6-7-8-9

Large (Gold): 10-J-Q-K-A

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. The backs of the cards remain unchanged as do the suits and card ranks.

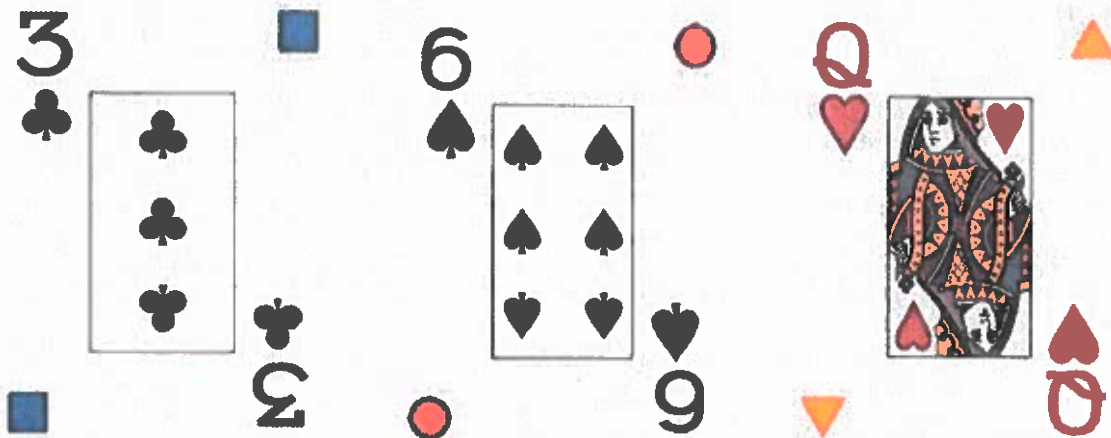


Fig. 1. Down Under Cards.

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.)

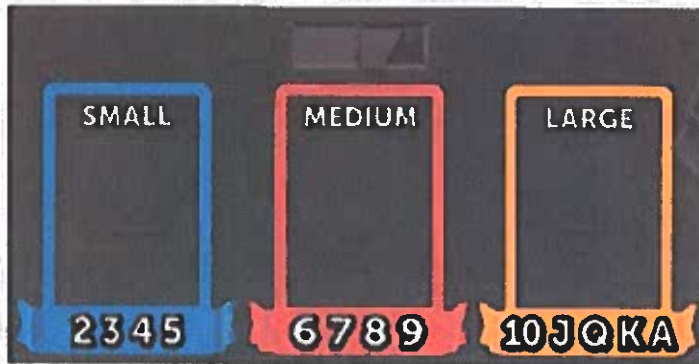


Fig 2. A Peeker or a Masque Card Reader, and the card ranges are part of the felt and sit in front of the dealer.

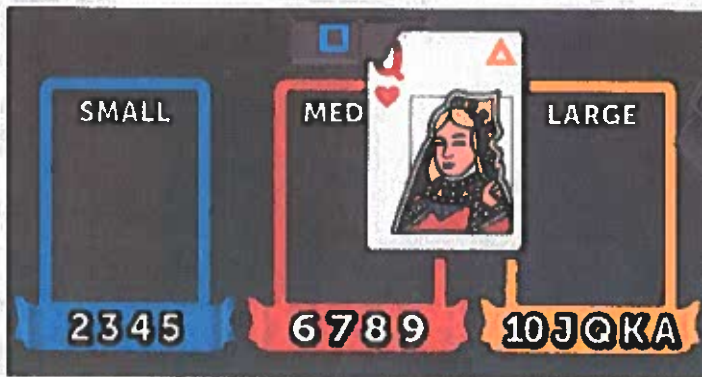


Fig 3. The cards are checked with the peeker or a Masque Card Reader. The shape and/or color on the card, or the lights on the Masque Card Reader, tell the dealer where to place the cards on the layout.

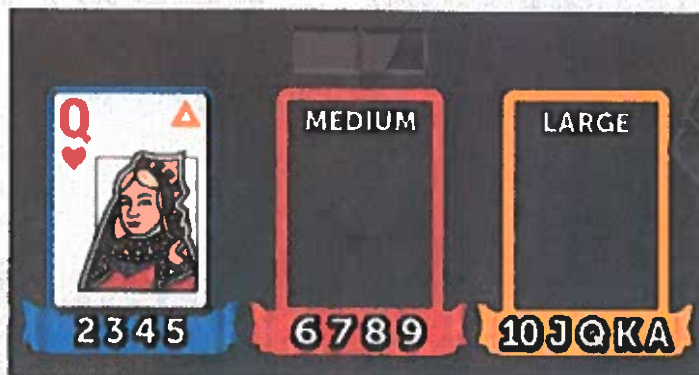


Fig. 4. The cards are moved to the correct range for the hole card. After the dealer has marked the card the action can begin.

- 3. 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:

- 4. Down Under Blackjack does not offer players the option to surrender.**
- 5. Insurance is permitted. Players may bet up to one-half the original bet when the dealer's up card is showing any Ace.**
- 6. Players can split cards of equal value up to three times, creating four hands.**
- 7. 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. When splitting Aces, each Ace will receive only one card.**
- 8. Players can double down on any two cards, including after splitting. Players are allowed to double down for less than a full bet.**
- 9. The dealer will hit soft 17 and stand on all totals of hard 17 or higher.**
- 10. 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.**
- 11. When the dealer's final hand totals 22, all players without exactly two original gold-valued cards (10, J, Q, K, or A) or a total of 21 will push.**
- 12. After all players have acted on their hands, the dealer will complete their hand.**