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# Harrington On Cash Games, Volume II: How To Play No-Limit Hold 'em Cash Games



## Synopsis

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dan Harrington began playing poker professionally in 1982. On the circuit he is known as Action Dan, an ironic reference to his solid but effective style. He has won several major no-limit hold em tournaments including the European Poker Championships (1995), the \$2,500 No-Limit Hold em event at the 1995 World Series of Poker, and the Four Queens No-Limit Hold em Championship (1996). Dan began his serious games-playing with chess, where he quickly became a master and one of the strongest players in the New England area. In 1972 he won the Massachusetts Chess Championship, ahead of most of the top players in the area. In 1976 he started playing backgammon, a game which he also quickly mastered. He was soon one of the top money players in the Boston area, and in 1981 he won the World Cup of backgammon in Washington D.C., ahead of a field that included most of the world's top players. He first played in the \$10,000 No-Limit Hold em Championship Event of the World Series of Poker in 1987. He has played in the championship a total of 15 times and has reached the final table in four of those tournaments, an amazing record. Besides winning the World Championship in 1995, he finished sixth in 1987, third in 2003, and fourth in 2004. In 2006 he finished second at the Doyle Brunson North American Championships at the Bellagio, while in 2007 he won the Legends of Poker tournament at the Bicycle Club. He is

widely recognized as one of the greatest and most respected no-limit hold em players, as well as a feared opponent in both no-limit and limit hold em side games. He lives in Santa Monica where he is a partner in Anchor Loans, a real estate business. Bill Robertie has spent his life playing and writing about chess, backgammon, and now poker. He began playing chess as a boy, inspired by Bobby Fischer's feats on the international chess scene. While attending Harvard as an undergraduate, he became a chess master and helped the Harvard chess team win several intercollegiate titles. After graduation, he won a number of chess tournaments, including the United States Championship at speed chess in 1970. He also established a reputation at blindfold chess, giving exhibitions on as many as eight boards simultaneously. In 1976 he switched from chess to backgammon, becoming one of the top players in the world. His major titles include the World Championship in Monte Carlo in 1983 and 1987, the Black & White Championship in Boston in 1979, the Las Vegas tournaments in 1980 and 2001, the Bahamas Pro-Am in 1993, and the Istanbul World Open in 1994. He has written several well-regarded backgammon books, the most noted of which are *Advanced Backgammon* (1991), a two-volume collection of 400 problems, and *Modern Backgammon* (2002), a new look at the underlying theory of the game. He has also written a set of three books for the beginning player: *Backgammon for Winners* (1994), *Backgammon for Serious Players* (1995), and *501 Essential Backgammon Problems* (1997). From 1991 to 1998 he edited the magazine *Inside Backgammon* with Kent Goulding. He owns a publishing company, the Gammon Press, and lives in Arlington, Massachusetts with his wife Patrice.

The Harrington cash game series makes an excellent addition to any poker player's library. Of course, players must realize that cash game play is not as dynamic or exciting as tournament play (the subject of Harrington's three volume hold em series). To profit in cash game play, you need to be patient, avoid serious mistakes and maximize value on each and every hand you play. There's no larger macro-tournament strategy to keep in mind: you simply play the cards that you're dealt and try to wring whatever value you can from your hands. In a lot of ways cash game play is more basic than tournament play, though in practice you need a lot more skill to turn a consistent profit. Raw aggression can often compensate for a lack of subtle hand reading skills and value betting in tournament play; raw, untamed aggression in a cash game will get you felt. Harrington knows his subject well, but he's not an expert cash game player. There have also been many books written on cash game play, starting with Doyle back in the late 70s. So there's not the groundbreaking effect we saw with Harrington's tournament books in these two volumes on cash game play: but as I said with Vol. 1, they're well-worth the price of admission. You can learn a lot about playing the turn and

river for maximum value in Vol. 2 here, and that can make all the difference between a winning and losing session. This may not be a must-read, but you'd be hard-pressed to find too many other capable books on no limit hold em cash game play. I'd also recommend *Poker Tips that Pay: Expert Strategy Guide for Winning No Limit Texas Hold em* for readers that are looking beyond the Harrington series, for additional hand-based poker strategies and techniques.

I was very interested in getting both volumes, but I already reviewed the first one, so I will stick with the second one. I honestly think this is the better of the two, although I was a bit disappointed, as I was hoping he would elaborate more on the Loose-Aggressive style. Granted, he did go into a good amount of detail with the loose-aggressive approach to the game, but I felt it was a bit lacking in elaboration. However, I do think this is the better of the two books, although you need both books to truly understand his version of the Tight-Aggressive mentality. I was debating on giving this a 4/5, but I felt a bit short-changed on the Loose-Aggressive part, which I wanted to learn quite a bit. I would recommend this book, but it's not one of my top favorites.

Great

This book has a lot of information, backed up with example after example. Plus expanded discussions of the reasoning behind the recommended actions. With appropriate study and practice, this book will help your game.

They did it again with another fantastic book--I've read them all & have improved my game immeasurably, but I was pretty bad when the first book came out ;) Harrington & Robertie have truly left a legacy with this series!

Dan steps it up in vol 2. It challenges the reader a bit more than volume 1, which is good. But it was volume 1 that really changed my game for the better. Still love it though!

Excellent book for beginners and experience players..your cash game will definitely improve if you put some dedication and practice the skills and knowledge gain from this excellent source.

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