

Table Games Protection Series #2



Roulette Game Protection-Part Two

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Let's get into the basics and complexities of Roulette Cheating. Remember, roulette is the most cheated game in all Casinodom...by far! So there is much to cover if this is going to be a total education in Roulette Game Protection.

At my training session, the first question I ask the group of attendees gathered around the roulette table is, "What type of roulette cheating moves have you seen go down, or heard of? Anything that happened while you were dealing, supervising or working surveillance."

More than not it takes a little prodding to get them to resroulette 2pond, but someone always does, and once that person responds, other members of the group are willing to follow up. As soon as somebody begins to talk, I ask that person to go right up to the table and show the move while he explains it. This is my technique because it immediately gets attendees actively involved in the seminar.

Almost always, the moves I am shown by the attendees are of the amateur or low-grade professional variety, more the former than the latter. The main professional move they show me is the color-up scam, which is so well known that I quickly cover the basics of it and move on. The bet-caps and pastposts they show me are usually with a clumsy distraction made by one cheat while his partner does the move. Once I get the general picture of their roulette cheating knowledge, which usually is rather basic even among most of the experienced people, I begin to show them the most important moves.

I break the roulette moves into three categories: the low-level professional moves, the mid-level professional moves and the blow-your-mind moves done by top professional roulette cheating teams using setups and psychology. The low-level moves I show are recognized by about thirty-five percent of the attendees, the mid-level ones by about twenty-percent, and the blow-your-minders by maybe one or two people in the group at every other casino I go to.

One of the low-level roulette moves I show is the ol' purposely-get-caught-pastposting my \$1 roulette chips straight up on the number so that your pastposted \$5 or \$25 chips straight-up on the same number get paid. It's a straight-up pastpost with your partner's \$5 or \$25 chips hidden underneath yours.

It works it like this: Cheat #1 is at the top of the layout playing blue \$5 roulette chips. Cheat #2 is at the bottom of the layout playing yellow \$1 roulette chips. During play, Cheat #1 makes a series of bets down the layout and drops off four of his blue chips on a bottom number for Cheat #2 to swipe off the layout as he's betting his yellow chips. No one ever sees the swipe.

Then starting the next spin, Cheat #1 bets five or six blue chips straight up on the bottom numbers of the layout. When one of those bets win, Cheat #2 blatantly goes out and pastposts a stack of yellow chips and blue chips directly on top of the winning blue chips bet by Cheat #1. The yellow chips are now on top of all the blue chips.

The dealer catches Cheat #2 redhanded. What does the dealer do ninety-nine out of a hundred times? Exactly...cuts off Cheat #2's \$1 yellow chips and throws them back at him. But what about the four \$5 blue chips belonging to his partner that he pastposted underneath those yellow chips that are now sitting on top of the \$5 blue chips Cheat #1 had legitimately bet? Exactly again...just leaves them on the winning number and pays out...also ninety-nine out of a hundred times! So that's a quick \$700 profit and sometimes the team can do two or three of the these moves at the same table within a few hours if conditions are right. I have seen the move done more than a hundred times and can only remember two incidents when the dealer caught on and refused to pay. How did these two dealers catch it? Because they really cased their layouts! Most of the attendees think they have never seen this. But even knowing they're telling the truth, I know they must have seen it...get what I mean?

Another move I show is the ol' purposely-get-caught-pastposting a loser to protect the pastpost already done on a winner. This move is done by one person working alone at the bottom of the layout. He buys in for a color, then palms a small stack of chips while holding a same-size stack in his fingers. He waits for a bottom number to win. So when 32 wins, he darts out and deftly drops the chips he had palmed on 32, then continues upward and pastposts the chips in his fingers on 29, the number directly above 32. The dealers will catch the pastpost on 29 and throw those chips back at the cheat while the chips pastposted on the winning number 32 usually stay and get paid. This move is difficult to do but those who master it are quite skilled and are both fast and smooth. There is a "tell" to this move, however. I always tell the attendees, "Anytime you catch someone pastposting a loser, if they happen to also have chips on the winner one or two numbers behind, call surveillance! Lots of times it will be this very move."

Now climbing up the ladder to the intermediate moves, I am going to show this very effective one, with you, the readers of this article, now joining my seminar roulette table. So now we have Cheats A, B and C. Cheats A and B are the cheat team; A is a woman. Cheat C is an unwitting participant in the scam, meaning Cheats A and B are going to use him to help them cheat but he will not be aware he is helping them.

Okay, Cheats A and B position themselves outside the length of the roulette layout next to Cheat C. Cheat A, the woman, is the farthest from the dealer, standing behind the third-dozen box. B is in the middle, behind the second-dozen box and C, the unwitting participant, is behind the first-dozen box. The dealer is watching the layout as the players place their bets. The table can be moderately full or jam-packed, doesn't really matter. The dealer spins the ball, and while the ball moves toward its final revolution before the dealer waves off the betting, Cheat B bets a purple \$500 cash chip on the RED box. Immediately after placing the bet, he turns to Cheat C on his left and engages him in conversation. He will say something like, "Hey, buddy, you know any good restaurants around here?" Or, "Did you see that basketball game last night?" The key is that he will face Cheat C (remember C is not really a cheat but rather an unwitting participant) and NOT take his eyes off him until the dealer announces and marks the winning number.

At the instant Cheat B turns to engage Cheat C, Cheat A goes out with a stack of ten \$5 cash chips and places them atop Cheat B's \$500 chip on RED. Then in the same motion, unseen by the dealer, she slides the whole stack, her \$5 chips and Cheat B's \$500 chip, over to the BLACK box. This happens quickly and the dealer may or may not call out the presence of the \$500 chip to the supervisor. It really doesn't matter unless he actually asks whose \$500 chip it is, which is rare.

NOW THE RESULTS.

Case #1: the ball lands on 29 BLACK. The dealer calls it out, marks it as Cheat B disengages Cheat C and turns back to the layout. So what happens? Well, the dealer simply pays. He may not know if the chips are one bet of \$550 or two bets, one of \$500 and one of \$50. Usually he takes it as one bet and of course pays it. He should then announce black or purple going out, depending on how he pays, but the bet will be paid, and of course Cheat B is not going to say anything at all about his bet being moved by Cheat A.

Case #2: the ball lands on 14 RED. The dealer calls it out, marks it as Cheat B disengages Cheat C and turns back to the layout. What happens? You can probably guess. Cheat B immediately cries out, "Hey! I had my bet on red! Where is my \$500 bet?" He is highly angry. At that instant, Cheat A, the woman, cracks herself with both hands on either side of her head, grabs Cheat B's shoulder, shakes him, and effusively apologizes, "Oh my god, sir! I'm so sorry! I was going to bet red and then changed my mind and moved my bet to black! I accidentally moved yours too! I'm so sorry! I can't believe I did that to you!"

Well, what does the dealer do? He can only do one thing: call his supervisor to the table. The supervisor arrives at the table as Cheat B is still clamoring that he had bet his \$500 chip on RED. Cheat A continues apologizing to B. What does the supervisor do? Well, there's only one thing he can do: call surveillance. What does surveillance do? They do the video review and report back to the pit exactly what happened, that the man complaining actually did make the \$500 bet on RED and the woman to his right capped his bet with her chips and then slid them all over to BLACK.

What does the supervisor do now? Well, as you all must know, the casino is not responsible for Cheat B's bet. Cheat B is. Gambling statutes everywhere state that each person placing his or her bet is responsible for that bet, therefore the casino is not liable for any damages that are incurred by someone's bet being moved by another player. So the supervisor can simply say to Cheat B, "I'm sorry, sir, but the video evidence shows that the woman next to you moved your bet and we are not responsible for that. You need to keep an eye out on your bet for the totality of the spin."

EASIER SAID THAN DONE?

Absolutely. There's one thing forbidding that correct supervisorial response. It's called Customer Service, which, unfortunately, always takes precedence over game protection. I have seen this move done some two-dozen times, using \$100, \$500 and \$1,000 chips. It was paid every time. Of course it's a one-and-out move as the cheats can't let surveillance receive a second call for the same move.

Now let's examine the power of the move a bit closer. Structurally it's good enough but what really gets it over the top and makes casinos defenseless against it? Well, let me ask you the question a different way: Why did Cheat B engage Cheat C in conversation the instant after he placed his \$500 chip on RED and not take his eyes off him until the dealer called and marked the winning number? I'm sure the majority of you know why. It's best summed up by two words: "plausible deniability." We've all heard that phrase before. So, in this casino-cheating situation, Cheat B, the person claiming the bet, establishes plausible deniability inasmuch that a sharp surveillance operator doing the review sees that Cheat B's eyes were not on his bet when Cheat A moved it. That is the plausible deniability. Had the sharp surveillance operator seen Cheat B facing the layout when Cheat A moved the bet, he would be asking himself, "Why did Cheat B not complain when he saw Cheat A move his bet, or at least move his bet back to RED?" Then he would conclude that Cheat B, having seen Cheat A move the bet, was approving it and accepting the change of his wager. That simple.

That said, there's more to this psychological con job. Why did Cheat A, the woman, perform that I'm-so-sorry routine, slapping herself in the head with embarrassment and shaking Cheat B's shoulder in effusive apology?

Of course you know that as well. This is part of the crucial act directed especially for the benefit of the sharp surveillance operator. It completes the movie. The surveillance operator watches the whole thing go down like a choreographed dance. Cheat B makes the \$500 bet on RED, Cheat A caps it with her \$5 chips, then slides the whole stack to BLACK while Cheat B engages Cheat C in conversation, never taking his eyes off him until the dealer announces and marks the winner, then Cheat B continues his role claiming the bet as Cheat A slaps herself in the head, grabs Cheat B by the shoulder apologizing and...SOLD!

And don't go telling me that your sharp surveillance operators would have caught on without having previous knowledge of the move!

Now all that said, here's a question for you that's a little bit more difficult. There is only one way for the roulette dealer to stop this move dead in its tracks. How?

Clue: the answer is already given in the description above.

Oh! By the way, remember I said I'd seen this move done two-dozen times and it got paid every one of them? Well, actually, the very first time it didn't get paid. You know why? Because it was not in a live casino but rather in the training room of a US casino during my seminar. I had asked the attendees like always to show me some moves they had seen. Then out of nowhere came the casino's surveillance director who'd been a roulette dealer some years before. He went to the table and showed me the move. This proved two things: One; I didn't know everything and still don't. Two; despite my belief that American game protection lags far behind the Europeans, there are plenty of US table games and surveillance people who know quite a bit about game protection and cheating.

So how does the dealer protect against this move even though he doesn't see the actual slide of the bet from red to black? The answer is quite simple, and like most other game protection safeguarding implementations, it comes down to proper casing of the layout.

Pay special attention here to what properly casing the layout entails. In this situation, the cheats make the rapid-motion double-bet in less than a second during which the dealer's eyes are off that part of the layout. Most adequate dealers will spot the purple \$500 chip underneath the red \$5 chips after they've been moved from red to black (unless the cheat hides it by jutting the reds outward during the slide). At that moment, just before the dealer waves off the betting, he should and probably would call out the \$500 chip in play. But does that alone hinder the move? No. The dealer by calling out the presence of the chip on the layout is merely doing just that. If a supervisor heeds the dealer's call and comes over to the table, he normally will just take a look at the \$500 chip to verify it is a legitimate bet. But he, just like the dealer, is oblivious to the move that had taken place. So when the ball lands, the outcome is still the same. If it lands on BLACK, Cheat B will just remain silent and collect his \$500 payoff. If it lands on RED, he will make his claim that he had bet RED and then the process that ends with surveillance will initiate.

But, if the dealer had done more than just announced the purple chip, that would change the denouement, excuse my French. Now let's say the dealer spots the \$500 chip as the ball is nearing its drop from the cylinder and quickly calls out the purple chip and then asks the table, "Whose \$500 chip is that?" Or "Whose bet is that?" At that point, Cheat B has to acknowledge the question and admit that it's his. Now he is facing the dealer and has looked at his bet in front of the dealer. So this event nullifies the move. Why? Because if the ball lands on BLACK, where his \$500 chip now sits underneath Cheat A's \$5 chips, he cannot (or I should say "should not") claim payment by saying Cheat A moved his bet. That's because the dealer has made him turn back to the layout before the ball drops. It would be clear that Cheat B saw his bet on BLACK, and were he to claim the move after the ball lands on red, the dealer would question why he didn't move his bet back to RED once he realized it was errantly lying on BLACK. Some cheats might go ahead with the claim anyway, but casinos that understand basic game protection would be less likely to pay it.

So what should you get out of this from a game protection standpoint? Two things: One; dealers should properly case a layout and know who bet what when it comes to large bets. Two: dealers should properly case a layout and know who bet what when it comes to large bets. The repetition is not an error!

Now we arrive at the end of my roulette training segment, where I demonstrate the blow-your-mind roulette moves. I am not going to do the Savannah because you all already know it, and for me to get into that ultra-simplistic deadly move would, ironically, take fifty pages of space to go through. What I am going to do now is introduce you to the complexity of sophisticated roulette high-denomination pastposts that are fueled completely by psychology, THE most important weapon in the professional roulette cheat-team's arsenal.

WAIT!

I just realized something! I got carried away! This article is already too long, so let's continue our Roulette Game Protection Training Class in Part Three of this 20-article series. Stay tuned because what you read in that upcoming article will blow your minds! And also make you see how far psychology can take roulette cheating...

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