



Maximizing Odds *with* **Pokie Machines**

Gambling has always been a very popular activity for many reasons. It can often be a form of entertainment, a way of possibly turning a little bit of money into a whole lot of money (and who doesn't find that appealing?), or a bit of both at the same time.

Some people find gambling relaxing, others enjoy the excitement or use it to get away from the stress of everyday life or even work-related pressure.

Pokie machines are very easy to understand



When it comes to gambling, pokie machines have long been a favorite diversion for many. There are a lot of advantages to playing pokie machines. They are a low pressure choice, since your individual decisions will not affect the outcome, unlike with card games and other types of gambling.

Pokie machines are very easy to understand and play, even if you are not experienced at playing them. Also, another great thing about pokie machines is that there are a great many types of them. You can play them no matter what your budget is, because there are different denominations available, and many have different themes, to boot.

Let us say for a moment, though, that you do not just want to play pokie machines. What if you actually want to win, though? Because pokie machines are very easy to play, many people assume that there is nothing that they can do to maximize their odds of winning or even affect the outcome of their play in any way. This is not true, though. There are a lot of variables involved that can be affected by the player, and that is what we will seek to master before the next time we play.



Ways to improve your winnings from playing pokies

First of all, there are two main ways to improve your winnings from playing pokie machines. The first way is to maximize your odds of winning. Notice that what we say is “maximize your odds”, not “guarantee a win on the first spin”, because that would be unrealistic. The goal is to improve your odds as much as possible, isn’t it?

The second way to improve your winnings from pokie machines is to increase the amount of money that you win when you do win. We will go into greater detail on this later, but the basic idea is that since almost all pokie machines allow you to select how many “lines” you play and so on, you can maximize your winnings by betting more on specific plays.

How many pokies reels

3, 5, 7 or 9?



Let's talk about reels. Reels are the scrolling sets of symbols on a poker machine that run vertically and help determine whether you win anything when you play. In earlier days, three reel poker machines were the norm, because they were more reliable. However, five reel machines were also popular because they presented more possible outcomes. Over time, seven and even nine reel machines have become relatively common, and technology has allowed pokie machines to become even more elaborate than before.

These days, reels are often represented via video, instead of with mechanical reels like we would have seen in the past. It is important to note that more reels may provide you with the impression of a higher probability of wins, but it is not necessarily the case! You must fight the temptation to give in to what may be an obvious impression when playing pokie machines, instead choosing to focus on the odds themselves.

Remember, playing the right pokies is important to maximize your odds. 3 reel pokies (with no jackpots) with a single pay line have better odds than 5 and 7 reel pokies.



Improving your winning odds

Just as important to understand if you want to improve your odds are paying lines. Lines can often be seen to run diagonally or horizontally, though there are exceptions. By playing more lines, you spend more money but also have more possible ways to win, as well. If you play a straight horizontal line on the middle symbols of a three-reel machine, that's one way to win, but let's say you can also play the top and bottom symbols horizontally, or diagonal approaches starting at both the top left and bottom left and moving across to the opposite corners. Now, you have more possible ways to earn the symbols you need to win.

Clearly, with machines that have many reels there can be many possibilities. Some pokie machines, for instance, provide five reels that each have five symbols upon them. This obviously expands the number of possible lines, many of which

can have elaborate patterns. A pattern with five reels that each have five symbols provides 3,125 ways to win! Does playing that way really expand your odds of winning, however? We will talk about that very shortly after we have explained the rest of the basics of understanding how pokie machines actually work

What about bonus rounds and free spins



Other wrinkles that can affect your ability to win on a pokie machine would include features such as bonus rounds or free spins. These incentives generally do not rely on any interaction from the player him or herself and happen automatically at given intervals. Sometimes those intervals are set and happen every so often, and other times they happen randomly. Free spins are pretty self-explanatory, while bonus rounds allow you to win more in most cases. Aside from helping the player succeed, these features also add variety to gameplay and make playing poker machines more fun.



Pokie Jackpots

One other thing that we need to talk about would be progressive jackpots. Many poker machines now feature progressive jackpots, often because they attract a lot of attention by offering players seemingly ridiculous amounts of money for winning. With progressive jackpots, you can often win the jackpot even if you are playing one of the cheaper priced pokie machines available. How can that happen? Furthermore, what is the smartest way to play progressive jackpots?

First of all, the reason that you can win so much money with progressive jackpots is that the jackpot goes up whenever someone makes a bet, all the way up until someone actually wins the jackpot itself. Keep in mind that the progressive jackpot is often separate from individual machine jackpots, and can require you to hit a very specific set of symbols.

Some progressive jackpots are much larger than others. Why is that? It is because some progressive jackpots come from a larger pool of poker machines. For instance, some progressive jackpots are active for every poker machine in a casino. Others are active for every machine in a casino, plus the other casinos

owned by a specific company. Then, there are sometimes progressive jackpots for all casinos in an area, regardless of ownership, too.

Obviously, the bigger the number of pokie machines that are contributing to the progressive jackpot, the faster the jackpot itself will rise. However, your odds for actually winning will tend to be lesser, as well. It's the same decreased odds for increased winnings trade-off that you might find in a lottery, actually.

What's my chance of hitting the jackpot?



If you just want to win and have a better chance to hit the progressive jackpot, you may want to stick with individual machines that have their own progressive jackpots. Since you will be the only person playing that machine until you decide to stop playing, your odds of hitting the jackpot will be better.

Of course, should you hit the progressive jackpot, it will likely be for a much smaller amount than a casino-wide progressive jackpot. Obviously, if you are playing somewhere that has individual progressive jackpots for different poker machines, you may want to play at the one that has the highest progressive jackpot at the time. This is an easy way to increase your possible winnings, if not your actual odds of winning, which won't really change either way.



Maximize your winning odds at pokies

Let us begin talking about maximizing your odds of winning. One of the first thing you should know in order to maximize your odds is the payout rate of a particular pokie machine. Now, many individual casinos have their own payout rates for their machines, and the information should be readily available either from the casino or on the machine itself. Many video slots have menus where you can find the information.

Obviously, you can begin maximize your odds simply by playing at a machine with a higher payout rate. This may sound obvious, but you would be surprised

at how many people drop coin after coin into pokie machines without knowing what their payout ratio is! In Victoria in particular, it is mandatory for machines to provide information on payout rate, game rules, pay table, and more. Usually, this information can be found by pressing the "I" key.

To win a casino jackpot, you must bet the maximum coins which will cost a lot. Instead, find pokies that gives you longer playing time and smaller but more frequent paybacks.

Pokies payout rates



Furthermore, there are minimum payout rates set by the government in certain areas for pokie machines in particular types of establishments.

For instance, in Queensland, machines that are found in pubs or other types of clubs and similar establishments must only provide a minimum of a 85% payout rate. However, in actual casinos in Queensland, the minimum is much higher, as it is set at 90%.

This means that in general terms, your odds will be better when playing in casinos. Of course, since pubs, clubs and casinos are free to feature higher payout rates than the minimum, this may not always be the case. Nonetheless, it is a helpful rule of thumb if you are gaming in Queensland.

Another type of casino to look at would be online casinos. Now, if you greatly enjoy the atmosphere that a traditional casino provides, you may be hesitant to try out an online casino on your computer. However, when purely speaking in terms of maximizing your odds, online casinos can be a great idea. Why? Because they often offer far better payout rates than traditional casinos and especially the poker machines found at pubs and other similar establishments.



Australian pokies online casinos payout rate

In many of Australia's most popular online casinos, the payout rate for slots is 96% to 97%, which is much better than in most traditional casinos, and is worlds

better than the 85% range that you will find in many poker machines at pubs.

This means that purely from an odds standpoint, you are much better off playing poker machines through online casinos. Again, this has nothing to do with the “casino experience” or other factors. As far as progressive jackpots and other features go, you can find many of those same features in online poker machines, as well. Progressive jackpots are actually a very popular feature in online casinos.

How can online casinos afford to pay out nearly all of what players bet? In simple terms, it is because the cost of running such casinos is much easier. Instead of having to pay expensive rent or building upkeep, they simply have to work on software design.

Instead of having a large staff of employees or expensive utility and other bills, they simply have to have appropriate bandwidth and customer service via telephone and/or e-mail. Since their costs are lower, and they can attract players from virtually all over the world (giving them a larger player base and more income), they can afford to pay out a much higher percentage in order to compete with traditional casinos as well as other online casinos.

Jackpot pokies have lowest payout ratio



Another thing to talk about regards the progressive jackpots we talked about earlier. Now, a lot of people like playing progressive jackpot machines, because if they win, it can truly be a life-changing thing.

However, it is also true that in general terms, the higher the potential prizes, the lower the payout ratio. You may want to stick with machines that don't have the high-end potential if you can make enough money back to continue playing for a longer period of time.

Finally, if you go to a traditional casino, be mindful of the fact that poker machines in high traffic, busy areas often have lower payout rates. This means you may maximize your odds by playing away from where drinks, food, or major aisles are located. Again, you can always check the payout rates to make sure.

The lower the jackpot, the more frequency the smaller paybacks and the better the odds.

So, we have discussed that deciding where you play, as well as what particular poker machines you play, can have a huge impact on your ability to maximize your odds. What else can players do to maximize their odds, though? What can you do once you've actually sat down to play or started playing on a particular machine from your home computer? Now that you've maximized your odds by playing the right pokie machine, what more can be done to get some kind of edge?



Things that you shouldn't do

First, let's talk about what you should not be doing. One thing that you should understand is that with most modern poker machines, the odds do not swing in your favor simply because you play for a longer period of time. In the old days, if you stuck with a slot machine long enough, it was bound to pay you eventually.

Now, with the way that odds are calculated, each spin is its own unique event with the same odds as every other spin. The more spins you play, the more likely you are to win, but that's true whether you stick on the same machine, move around and try different ones, or play one spin on each machine and rotate, for that matter.

How can we translate that knowledge into a better and more profitable playing experience? Well, for one, it means that when you play, you can think more in terms of being where you are comfortable or playing machines that you like. If you aren't happy with a certain slot, you do not have to "stick with it" worrying that it is about to pay out, because modern machines don't work that way.

Increase your bets



A lot of players like to increase their bets when things are going well and they are up, and they decrease their bets when things are not going so well. Now, while we already discussed that the odds generally do not change for individual spins, this can still be a good idea. Does that seem contrary to what we discussed? Well, to explain why you may want to use this strategy, let's talk about setting limits for yourself.



Keep track of time and money

Time can fly when you are playing pokie machines, and it is also easy to lose track of how much you have spent. Not just with playing pokies, but with all types of gambling it is important to set limits for yourself before you begin playing.

Ideally, your limit will not be spending everything that you have, but a reasonable amount. What most people do not do, however, is to set a minimum that they will leave with after a big win. If you quadruple your money, you will feel foolish if you end up leaving with the same amount you came with because you gambled it all back. Instead, figure out how much you will spend after a big win so that you leave with a nice profit no matter what.

Once you've done that, you can work with those limits by adjusting your bets according to how things are going for you. Obviously, you want to get as many plays as you can when your money is getting low, so you will bet less or even play fewer lines when you aren't doing well. You may even switch to a pokie machine with a smaller denomination.

Playing more lines



On the other hand, if it is going well, you can increase your chances of winning by playing more lines or increase the amount that you will win if you do win by betting more on each spin. It does make sense to bet more on occasion in order to maximize what you make when you do win, and you might as well use that strategy when you have more money to play with, right?

Since you are more likely to win if you play more times, you also have to maximize your odds by playing pokie machines that have an appropriate cost to them. Do not play a pokie machine where you can only afford to play a couple of dozen spins, for instance. You will have better odds of hitting something and taking home a profit if you play a machine where you can afford to play for a while. Pokie machines very rarely pay off for those who simply play a few times and then leave.



Start by playing cheap pokies

One good strategy is often to start off playing machines that cost less and have a higher payout ratio, but with smaller jackpots. This makes sense because you can use it to hopefully get a nice return and leave the machine with more than what you started playing with.

Now, with your increased bankroll, you can go to a higher cost poker machine and use a portion of your money to play there. Ideally, you will be able to play for a while and win a greater amount that you would at a machine that costs less to play.

In general, it is a good idea to follow your instincts. You may not always maximize your odds by doing so, but you will feel better later. If you do not play that machine that you want to play deep down, you will regret it later if you do not end up doing well at another pokie machine.

Similarly, if you feel like it is time to increase your bet and you have the money to do it, go ahead and increase your bet. If you do not, and you win you will be upset that you could have actually won more money. In the long run, these morale-related setbacks can make playing a lot less fun and can affect your ability to win as much as you should be able to.

Really, as long as you follow the basic guidelines that you have read about here, you will have already set yourself up to get better results than most of the people who play pokie machines will be able to attain. Knowing how the machines work and where to find the best pokie machines to play in order to get a nice return on your money (while having a good time) is very important and often overlooked.

Ultimately, it can be very hard to make a profit on poker machines in the long run. Therefore, it is important to at least play smart and have a good time.

You probably would agree that you have more fun when you win consistently, right? So follow the rules we talked about and use some of this advice and you will have a better time when you do decide to gamble, and you may even find that you have some extra money when it is all said and done, too!