

A Q U I C K L O O K

Burning the Tables in Las Vegas

Keys to Success in Blackjack and in Life
by Ian Andersen

• LIFE IS A GAME—PLAY IT OPTIMALLY •

While in college, Ian Andersen pursued a promising professional career in the traditional fashion. But then he realized what he really wanted to do: capitalize on his strong talent for game playing. Andersen became a successful high-stakes blackjack pro, and in 1975 he described his conquests in the classic *Turning the Tables on Las Vegas* (Vanguard Press). Unlike the early mathematics-based blackjack tomes, *Turning* concentrated on the psychological aspects of winning, and eventually sold more than 250,000 copies.

Soon thereafter, Andersen returned to the casino trenches, where he spent the next 20-plus years, anonymously perfecting his personal program for success in blackjack and poker, as well as life's greater games. In his long-awaited sequel, *Burning the Tables in Las Vegas*, Andersen describes, in-depth, his carefully cultivated techniques for winning at blackjack, health, and happiness.

WHAT THE EXPERTS ARE SAYING:

"...One of the best blackjack books ever written."

Blackjack Confidential

"Now we get the benefit of 20 more years from one of blackjack's most successful big-time players."

Don Schlesinger, author of
Blackjack Attack

"Devious? No. Ingenious, crafty, cunning, and worthy? Definitely!"

Gaming Today

• ABOUT THE AUTHOR •

Considered one of the most successful casino blackjack players of all time, the reclusive Ian Andersen currently splits his time among casinos in Las Vegas, Atlantic City, Europe, and the Pacific Rim. His top-secret (until now!) modus operandi has enabled him to elude casino radar, and remain a welcome guest even as he wins millions of dollars of their money.



THE ULTIMATE GAMBIT ...

"My playing style is now grossly different from basic strategy, and my betting style mimics that of many Asian high rollers—a diabolical combination."

Burning the Tables in Las Vegas

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• EXCERPTS •

Make Peace, Not War ... Many blackjack books use war metaphors—playing for blood, attacking the casinos, you against the house. However, you are not at war and the casino is not your enemy. Blackjack is your business, casino personnel are your business associates, and the casino is your office. So it makes perfect sense to establish excellent relationships with your colleagues.

Mimic the Asian High Roller ... Asians are especially excitable at the blackjack table. When they want the dealer to break, they shout, “Picture! Picture!” and slap the table at the same time that the dealer draws his hit card. Some table slappers are more effective than others, and I’ve actually become an expert myself. My specialty is ace slapping. When my first card is an ace, I slam the table in perfect coordination with the arrival of the second card. I’ve perfected this technique and I’ve gained a bit of a reputation for it.

Be Certain Your Guise will Fly ... The person sitting next to me on the plane will usually ask, “So what do you do?” I’m always ready—not only with a profession, but with a whole life story. By noting my temporary traveling companions’ expressions, tone of voice, and body language, I can discern whether or not my guise is effective. Interestingly, the only story that my seatmates have a hard time believing is when I tell them I’m a professional gambler, traveling around the world playing blackjack and poker.

Don’t Worry, Be Healthy ... In many ways, playing blackjack or poker at the highest levels is analogous to playing a professional sport. The better conditioned the athlete, the better his performance will be. Diet, exercise, supplements, and the use of stress-reduction techniques help preserve physical and mental acuity and well-being. Through reading and experimentation, I’ve identified the regimens and disciplines that work best for me. You’ll need to make your own assessment about incorporating them into your daily playing and living—many, of course, are applicable to pursuits other than professional gambling.

“Keys to Success in Blackjack and in Life” is the imposing subtitle to a new book, *Burning the Tables in Las Vegas* by Ian Andersen. He’s a pro at blackjack and in life.

Harry Schultz; HSL International Newsletter

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