

DB DEALER IN THE NEWS

THE MAGAZINE FOR POKER PLAYERS

DEAL

FALL 2006

DIY: BUILD YOUR VERY OWN POKER TABLE

BOOKS • GAMES • DVDs • REVIEWED

LIZ LIEU
THE EXCITING LIFE OF A POKER DIVA

23-PAGE POKER STRATEGY GUIDE
ENSURE YOUR VICTORY WITH:

- ♦ WINNING SIT-AND-GO SECRETS
- ♦ OMAHA BEGINNER'S TIPS
- ♦ CARDROOM ESSENTIALS

HOST THE WORLD'S BEST HOME TOURNAMENT
COMPLETE GUIDE INSIDE!

JERK!
RULE THE TABLE BY BEING THE BIGGEST FOOL
INSTRUCTIONS ON PG. 96

Future

EZ TECH GUIDES

FIRST DEAL

TOURNEY TOOLS

Handy gadgets make your home tournament a smooth call
BY ALEX CLARK

THE POKER GENIE PRO

GameLine, \$69.95, www.thepokergame.com

BLINDING A HOME TOURNAMENT—style game can be tricky as blind levels are tracked and time limits monitored. This device that registers lobby when everyone wants to focus on playing. We covered the original release of the Poker Genie in DEAL's Summer 2005 issue, and this Pro Edition really packages the Genie, instruction manual, and power adaptor. What you get is a very useful device that in five steps lets you set a few basic parameters for your tournament: how many chips you have, number of players, and how long you want the tourney to last. With this info, the Genie tells you how many chips per player, and then tracks the blind levels and round length to ensure you never schedule. A custom mode lets you set your own blind amounts and round duration (1 to 99 minutes), have scheduled breaks, and save your settings for future tournaments. It all works so adeptly and, following audio alerts at the end of each level approaches, the standard mode is particularly helpful for your first home game, removing the need to spend valuable playing time working out the numbers. If you're planning a regular tourney schedule, the Genie will certainly help start your game smoothly and keep you on time.

CALIFORNIA HOLD 'EM
NEW POKER GAME ADDS NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN CARDS

DO TEXAS HOLD 'EM and Omaha have competition ahead from a new poker variant? California Hold 'Em is a new option that will be unveiled in an original marketing scheme. Fundamentally, California plays like Texas, but with one key addition: eight more cards in the deck. That's right, the deck now includes four 11s and four 12s — unusual — to create more variation in the play mechanics. In essence, the expert's creators believe the extra cards lead to a better game with fewer backbeats — the 11s and 12s can be used in suits and straights, but not in flushes. For example, the mathematics of these eight additional cards means that pocket pairs have a stronger position versus drawing hands. What's interesting about California Hold 'Em is that it's "owned" by its creator, Chad Andrews, and sites or poker rooms offering the game will have to pay a licensing fee — the theory being that those locations will enjoy greater customer loyalty and retention by being part of a more limited source of this game variant. Lastpoker.net launched recently out of Costa Rica as a site offering California Hold 'Em, and was handing out 80-card decks at the recent World Series of Poker Gaming Life Expo, 5100 in its infancy, California Hold 'Em has yet to be adopted by major online-poker sites and cardrooms, but we're bringing you updates on where it's available for those interested in what might theoretically be a more skillful game of poker.

DB DIGITAL DEALER BUTTON

DB Dealer, \$19.95, www.dbdealer.com

BUILDING A BLIND TIMER inside a dealer button makes a lot of sense, and this simple device is very handy. A timer counts down from lobby to start at various five-minute increments, and when the button beeps as the timer gets close to zero. Once around ends and you raise the blinds, you simply restart the countdown timer for another round. For home-tournament use, when you already have your chips organized and your blind increases established, the DB Dealer saves you from having to clockwatch. After trying it out, we've made it a part of DEAL's regular sit-and-go.

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