

practice. (I speak from experience -- until setting my mind to it while writing VIP-OKER, I was a little hazy on the process.) VIP-OKER follows the correct rules for betting, however, and since the program won't let you place an illegal bet, you don't have to worry about making mistakes -- your VIP won't let you! If you do press the wrong buttons, a message will come up asking you to "Try Again."

Two nearly identical rounds of betting are normal for a round of draw poker. The first bet to be placed is called the "open," and all players are given a chance to either match the bet or raise it higher. The player to the immediate left of the dealer is given the first opportunity to open the betting. You do not have to open, and may pass by simply betting zero. Then the next player to the left is given the chance to open or pass. If all players pass on the first round of betting, the ante stays in the pot, and a new hand is dealt with a new dealer. (When it's your turn to deal, by the way, you do not have to do anything -- the computer handles the chores for you.)

To place your bet, enter the amount including any raises on the VIP's hex pad, then press Key E to "enter" your bet. To raise the minimum bet shown in the upper left hand corner, mentally add the amount you wish to