**Let’s Play Cards**

A comprehensive desktop application of single and multi player card games. Most features of this game are restricted to the first version of this application which implements the popular casino game: Blackjack. Future releases of this application will support a variety of networked multiplayer card games and possibly support for iPhone and Android.

**Blackjack**

This game is designed purely for entertainment purposes and does not involve use of actual currency. Read further for game rules, tips and tricks of the trade. Once you become an expert at the game, you are all set to turn tables at the casino. So go on, read ahead and turn tables! Let’s get started.

The game of blackjack or 21 is by far the most popular table game in the world. Blackjack is a comparing card game played with one or more deck of cards. A typical deck consists of 52 cards of 4 suits- Clubs, Diamonds, Hearts and Spades. The player draws cards to an initial two card hand with the object of bringing the total hand value as close as possible to 21 without exceeding it, so that the dealer (computer), which plays after the player, will stop short of the player's total, or will lose by exceeding 21.

Blackjack is played with chips. A player can buy $500 worth of chips from the bank and start playing, with a minimum bet of $10. A player leaves the table when his chips are over. He may buy more chips from the bank and rejoin the table. The application keeps tracks of the win-loss statistics of each player. The five top scoring players enter a Hall of Fame.

**Rules of the Game**

The first step is to enter a username and password. Next, would be to request to join a table and the table owner will respond to your request and accordingly you will be directed to the table. Once done, enter the bet amount. Remember that the maximum bet is $500 and the minimum being $10. After you place a bet, the dealer will deal you cards and read further for more rules.

**How are the cards valued?**

In blackjack, the cards are valued as follows:

* An Ace can count as either 1 or 11, as explained below.
* The cards from 2 through 9 are valued at their face value.
* The 10, Jack, Queen, and King are all valued at 10.

The suits of the cards do not matter, and the value is determined by the number written on the card (see above). The value of the hand is the sum of values of all cards in the hand.

**How does the dealer/computer play his hand?**

The dealer must play his hand in a specific way, with no choices allowed. There are two popular rule variations that determine what total the dealer must draw to. In any given casino, you can tell which rule is in effect by looking at the blackjack tabletop. It should be clearly labeled with one of these rules:

* **"Dealer stands on all 17s"**: In this case, the dealer must continue to take cards ("hit") until his total is 17 or greater. An Ace in the dealer's hand is always counted as 11 if possible without the dealer going over 21. For example, (Ace,8) would be 19 and the dealer would stop drawing cards ("stand"). Also, (Ace,6) is 17 and again the dealer will stand. (Ace,5) is only 16, so the dealer would hit. He will continue to draw cards until the hand's value is 17 or more. For example, (Ace,5,7) is only 13 so he hits again. (Ace,5,7,5) makes 18 so he would stop ("stand") at that point.
* **"Dealer hits soft 17"**: Some casinos use this rule variation instead. This rule is identical except for what happens when the dealer has a soft total of 17. Hands such as (Ace,6), (Ace,5,Ace), and (Ace, 2, 4) are all examples of soft 17. The dealer hits these hands, and stands on soft 18 or higher, or hard 17 or higher. When this rule is used, the house advantage against the players is slightly increased.

The dealer has no choices to make in the play of his hand. He must simply hit until he reaches at least 17 or busts by going over 21.

**What is a blackjack?**

A blackjack, or natural, is a total of 21 in your first two cards. A blackjack is therefore an Ace and any ten-valued card, with the additional requirement that these be your first two cards.

**Player’s choices:**

1. **Hitting/Standing**

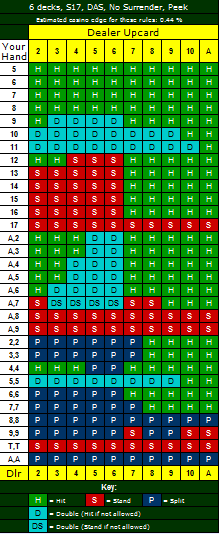
The most common decision a player must make during the game is whether to draw another card to the hand ("hit"), or stop at the current total ("stand"). The method you use to indicate your decisions to the dealer depend on which kind of game you are playing.

1. **Splitting pairs**

When you are dealt a matching pair of cards (remember, ignore the suits), you have the ability to split the hand into two separate hands, and play them independently. Let's say you are dealt a pair of eights for a total of sixteen. Sixteen is the worst possible player hand, since it is unlikely to win as is, but is very likely to bust if you draw to it. Here's a great chance to improve a bad situation.

1. **Doubling down**

Among the more profitable player options available is the choice to "double down". This can only be done with a two card hand, before another card has been drawn. Doubling down allows you to double your bet and receive one, and only one, additional card to the hand.



References:

1. <http://www.blackjackinfo.com/blackjack-rules.php>
2. Mycourses WebCT/ LetsPlayCards requirement specifications
3. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackjack>