

= World Series of Poker bracelet =

The World Series of Poker (WSOP) bracelet is considered the most coveted non @-@ monetary prize a poker player can win . Since 1976 , a bracelet has been awarded to the winner of every event at the annual WSOP . Even if the victory occurred before 1976 , WSOP championships are now counted as " bracelets " . During the first years of the WSOP only a handful of bracelets were awarded each year . In 1990 , there were only 14 bracelet events . By 2000 , that number increased to 24 . As the popularity of poker has increased during the 2000s , the number of events has likewise increased . In 2011 , 58 bracelets were awarded at the WSOP , seven at the World Series of Poker Europe (WSOPE) , and one to the WSOP National Circuit Champion . This brought the total number of bracelets awarded up to 959 . Five additional bracelets were awarded for the first time in April 2013 at the inaugural World Series of Poker Asia @-@ Pacific (WSOP APAC) in Melbourne , Australia .

After the conclusion of the 2014 WSOP APAC , there have been 1083 bracelets awarded , 500 of which were won by 170 players who have won at least two bracelets , with all of the other bracelets being won by one @-@ time winners . This includes (up to this point) 17 Main Event winners : Hal Fowler , Bill Smith , Mansour Matloubi , Brad Daugherty , Jim Bechtel , Russ Hamilton , Noel Furlong , Robert Varkonyi , Chris Moneymaker , Greg Raymer , Joe Hachem , Jamie Gold , Jerry Yang , Peter Eastgate , Pius Heinz , Ryan Riess and Martin Jacobson .

Since Chris Moneymaker won the 2003 Main Event , (through the completion of Event # 58 in 2015) only two players have won and followed it up with a win in another bracelet event , Jonathan Duhamel and Joe Cada .

= = Bracelet description = =

The 1976 bracelet looked " like gold nuggets kind of hammered flat . " The bracelet in 1976 cost approximately \$ 500 . In the 1980s , Las Vegas jeweler Mordechai Yerushalmi became the exclusive manufacturer of WSOP bracelets until Harrah 's Entertainment bought the rights to the WSOP in 2004 . According to 2003 WSOP Champion Chris Moneymaker , the design of the bracelet remained relatively unchanged under Yerushalmi . In 2005 , Gold and Diamond International based in Memphis , TN won the bid from Harrah 's Entertainment to manufacture the 2005 WSOP bracelets . The company also manufactures the WSOP circuit rings .

In 2006 , Frederick Goldman , Inc. made the WSOP bracelets while luxury watch maker Corum introduced some commemorative watches as part of the prize package . In 2006 , the Champion 's bracelet had 259 stones including 7 @.@ 2 carats (1 @.@ 4 g) of diamonds , 120 grams of white and yellow gold . It also used rubies to represent the heart and diamond suits , a sapphire to represent the spade and three black diamonds to represent the clubs .

In 2007 , Corum became the official bracelet manufacturer for the WSOP . Some of the 2007 WSOP champions received both a watch and a bracelet from Corum . Corum designed four variations for the 2007 World Series of Poker Bracelets . The standard version that is presented to 53 winners features 53 diamonds . The Ladies World Champion receives a bracelet that is adorned with four black diamonds , two rubies and 87 blue sapphires . The \$ 50 @,@ 000 HORSE Champion Bracelet has 91 black diamonds and two rubies . The World Series of Poker Main Event Bracelet has 120 diamonds on 136 grams of 18 carat (75 percent) white gold . The value of the 2007 bracelets have not been released , but the typical price of a Corum watch ranges from \$ 1 @,@ 500 ? \$ 30 @,@ 000 + .

In 2008 , the Main Event Bracelet had 291 diamonds , totalling 2 @.@ 81 carats set in 168 grams of 18kt white gold . The other 54 event bracelets consisted of 55 diamonds , totalling 0 @.@ 25 carats set in 80 grams of 14kt yellow gold .

In 2010 , an Australian @-@ based company OnTilt Designs Pty Ltd won a multi @-@ year contract to become the official bracelet manufacturer for the WSOP . OnTilt jewelers decided that the 2010 bracelet design would return to the tradition of the 70 's and 80 's where the bracelet was a heavy piece of unadorned metal . American jewelry designer Steve Soffa was chosen to design and

manufacture the entire set of bracelets . The goal was to create a bracelet that somebody would actually want to wear every day . In 2011 , OnTilt has also been chosen to manufacture the WSOP Circuit rings .

In 2012 , Jason Arasheben , famed jewelry designer and owner of Jason of Beverly Hills was chosen as the official bracelet manufacturer of the WSOP . Arasheben had designed the championship rings for the 2009 and 2010 Los Angeles Lakers and the 2011 Green Bay Packers , among others . The Main Event bracelet will feature each suit in the deck in either rubies or black diamonds . In terms of sheer mass , it weighs in at over 160 grams of 14 karat gold and over 35 carats of flawless diamonds .

A special platinum bracelet was awarded at the 2012 WSOP to the winner of The Big One for One Drop , Antonio Esfandiari . The event was a \$ 1 million buy @-@ in tournament created as a fundraiser for the One Drop Foundation , a charity established by Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberté .

= = Prestige = =

At first , the bracelets did not have much prestige . Ten @-@ time bracelet winner Doyle Brunson said that his first bracelet " didn 't mean anything " to him and that he did not even pick up two of them .

Some professional poker players believe that there are two types of poker players ; those who have won a bracelet and those who have not . Those who have belong to an exclusive club . " It 's impossible to overstate the value of a World Series of Poker gold bracelet to anyone who takes the game seriously , " stated World Series of Poker Commissioner Jeffrey Pollack during the 2006 bracelet unveiling . " It is the equivalent of winning the Stanley Cup in hockey or the Lombardi Trophy in football . "

Many professional poker players desire the recognition that is associated with the bracelet . Former Celebrity Poker Showdown host and poker star Phil Gordon said , " I want that bracelet more than anything . " Freddy Deeb said that he did not appreciate his first bracelet because he did not recognize what it meant . He said his 2007 bracelet , however , " means everything to me " . Jennifer Tilly says that winning her 2005 Women 's Championship bracelet was " better than an Oscar " . When the World Poker Tour decided to offer a prize to its event champions , they decided to present them with WPT Bracelets . In so doing , WPT Founder , President and CEO Steve Lipscomb said , " The championship bracelet has become synonymous with poker as a symbol of achievement and respect , and we are honored to continue the tradition that Benny Binion [the founder of the WSOP] began over 30 years ago . "

= = History = =

Bracelets have not always been awarded for winning events . In 1970 , the first WSOP Champion received nothing but a silver cup and whatever cash he won during the event . From 1971 ? 1974 , according to Becky Behnen (the daughter of WSOP founder Benny Binion) , the winner received an undescribed " corny trophy " . In 1975 , the winners received a sterling plate . The following year , 1976 , the WSOP started the tradition of issuing bracelets to the event winners .

In 1980 and 1981 , one did not have to win a WSOP event to win a gold bracelet . In 1980 and 1981 , H.D. " Oklahoma Johny " Hale and Chip Reese received a gold bracelet for being the " Best All Around Player " at the WSOP , respectively . These bracelets , however , are not considered in the count of WSOP championship bracelets .

In 2007 , Thomas Bihl became the first person to ever win a WSOP bracelet outside Las Vegas , Nevada . Bihl won the £ 2 @, @ 500 World Championship H.O.R.S.E. at the World Series of Poker Europe in London , England . Days later , Annette Obrestad became the youngest player to ever win a WSOP bracelet at 18 years , 364 days , also becoming the first woman to win a World Series Main Event (WSOPE) . Caesars Entertainment (known until 2010 as Harrah 's Entertainment) , the owner of the WSOP , considers the WSOP Europe bracelet to be the same in prestige as those

awarded every year in Las Vegas .

In 2008 , Jesper Hougaard became the first person to have won both a WSOP and WSOPE bracelet .

In 2011 , a World Series of Poker bracelet was awarded for the first time to the WSOP Circuit National Championship winner in the 100 @-@ qualifier event from May 27 ? 29 . The following year , the Circuit National Championship moved to New Orleans , where it will also be held in 2013 .

Starting in 2013 , bracelets are also awarded in Australia at the World Series of Poker Asia @-@ Pacific , held at Crown Melbourne .

= = Bracelet legacy = =

Of the three top WSOP bracelet winners , only Johnny Chan still has them all . He keeps them locked in a vault because they are worth , according to him , " millions . " Brunson did not pick up two of his . Fourteen @-@ time bracelet winner Phil Hellmuth gave away ten of his . " To me , " Hellmuth said , " the bracelets have always been a really huge deal , to me more than the other guys , because I knew that they represented history . "

Three @-@ time WSOP Bracelet winner Hamid Dastmalchi and five @-@ time winner Ted Forrest had been playing for four days non @-@ stop at the Mirage when Hamid started to complain about the 1992 Main Event Championship Bracelet he received . Bitter about a dispute with the Binion 's Horseshoe , the owners of the WSOP at the time , Hamid told the table that the Binion 's " say it 's worth \$ 5 @,@ 000 , but I 'd take \$ 1 @,@ 500 for it . " To which Forrest responded " Sold " and immediately tossed Hamid \$ 1 @,@ 500 in chips . Dastmalchi mailed Forrest his bracelet . Ted Forrest also reported that three of his five bracelets have been stolen over the years , and that he gave his daughter one .

In November 2010 , Peter Eastgate put his main event bracelet up for auction on eBay with a starting bid of \$ 16 @,@ 000 . It eventually sold for \$ 147 @,@ 500 and this money was donated to UNICEF .

= = Multiple bracelet winners = =

As of the end of the 2013 World Series of Poker , 22 players have earned five or more WSOP bracelets . Of those , the top bracelet winners are as follows :

(bold = won Main Event)

Johnny Moss , with a win at the 1971 WSOP , became the first person to have won multiple lifetime WSOP " bracelets " (as mentioned above , the first actual bracelet was given in 1976) .

Moss also was the first person to win five lifetime WSOP bracelets , with a win at the 1975 WSOP .

Johnny Chan , with a win in Event No. 25 at the 2005 WSOP , became the first person to win 10 lifetime WSOP bracelets , just a few days before Doyle Brunson won his 10th bracelet in Event No. 31 of that same WSOP .

The first person to win two bracelets in the same WSOP was Johnny Moss at the 1971 WSOP .

The first person to win three bracelets in the same WSOP was Walter " Puggy " Pearson , at the 1973 WSOP . As of the start of the 2016 WSOP , only five other players have won three bracelets in a single WSOP .

Bill Boyd and Doyle Brunson are the only players to have won bracelets in four consecutive years (Boyd from 1971 to 1974 , and Brunson from 1976 to 1979) .

= = WSOP rings = =

In 2005 , the WSOP started hosting Circuit Events at many of their casinos around the country . In order to differentiate these events and to ensure the prestige of the WSOP Bracelet , the circuit events present a ring to the winners . In 2011 , the WSOP awarded a bracelet to the winner of the Circuit Event National Champion . The Circuit Event National Champion was an invitation only event that used the standings of players from the various circuit events in determining who was invited .

= = Circuit National Championship = =

Starting with the 2011 WSOP Circuit , the Circuit National Championship was held as a closed event for participants of various circuit events .

Starting in 2012 , qualification for the Circuit National Championship was significantly changed . A total of 100 players now receive automatic seats in the National Championship . The winners of each Circuit main event and the highest point earner at each circuit stop receive seats , with the remaining automatic seats filled by the top points earners throughout the Circuit season who are not already qualified . Additionally , the top 100 players in the " WSOP World Rankings " , a points race determined on results in open events of the previous two WSOPs , are eligible to enter . The Circuit qualifiers play the National Championship on a freeroll , while the WSOP World Rankings qualifiers must pay a \$ 10 @ , @ 000 buy @ - @ in .

The winner of the Circuit National Championship wins a World Series of Poker bracelet .