What are the "Top 5 Spots To Go HUGE With Value" in poker, according to Maron?

Maron identifies five key situations where players can maximize their winnings by making large value bets. These spots are: when the turn is a blank, when the bottom card pairs, when the villain takes a bet-bet-check line, when the villain check-raises the flop and then checks the turn when the nuts change, and when you check-raise. The overarching principle in all these situations is to capitalize on the opponent's likely range and tendencies to extract the maximum amount of money.

Why should you bet big when the turn is a blank?

When the turn is a blank, it often means your opponent's range is "capped," meaning their strongest hands are limited to things like top pair (e.g., Ace-Jack or King-Jack). They are unlikely to fold these hands, even to a large bet, because they perceive them to be strong. By betting "absolutely massive" in this spot, you extract more value from their non-folding, capped range, which typically includes hands they are very attached to. The idea is that if they aren't going to fold, you should put in as much money as possible.

What is the reasoning behind betting big when the bottom card pairs on the turn or river?

When the bottom card pairs, opponents are less likely to hold trips (three of a kind) because they typically wouldn't call a flop bet with those holdings. While they might get "stickier" with top pair, they become less so with draws. Therefore, betting big here forces them to fold hands with draws while still getting calls from their top pair hands, which they are less price-sensitive about. This strategy treats the paired board almost like a blank, as opponents' premium holdings (like top pair) are unlikely to fold, and their draws are vulnerable.

Why is it effective to go "absolutely massive" when the villain takes a bet-bet-check line on the river?

Recreational players often check the river in this scenario with the intention of check-calling, either because they have a decent hand (like top pair) or a busted draw they've given up on. If they have a busted draw, you won't get more money regardless of your bet size. However, if they have a decent hand they intend to check-call, they are highly unlikely to fold to a large bet. Maron emphasizes that his past attempts to bluff small in these spots were often called, indicating that opponents are "sticky." Therefore, when you have a value hand, you should blast big to maximize the payout from their non-folding range.

How does "when the nuts change" influence betting strategy after a villain's flop check-raise and turn check?

When a villain check-raises the flop, their range is typically heavily weighted towards strong value hands like sets or two pairs. If the "nuts change" on the turn (e.g., a flush draw comes in), and they check, it's unlikely they have a flush. Aggressive players who would check-raise a flush draw on the flop would likely continue betting the turn if they hit. Therefore, when they check, their range remains strong with sets and two pairs that are highly unlikely to fold, even to massive bets. The goal is to set up a small stack-to-pot ratio (SPR) for the river, making it difficult for them to fold their strong-but-not-nutted hands.

Why is it advantageous to use a "ridiculous" check-raise size (e.g., 9x) when you check-raise the flop?

Live poker players often make mistakes like stabbing too much, telegraphing hand strength through sizing, and having weak check-back ranges. When you check-raise the flop, especially with a very large size, you put opponents in unfamiliar territory. Many of their weaker hands (like pocket sevens) will fold regardless of the size, while their stronger holdings (like top pair or strong draws) are unlikely to fold, even to an exorbitant raise. By targeting the top 10% of their range that is "never folding in a million years," you exploit their tendencies and maximize the value from their committed hands.

What is the overall philosophy behind "going huge for value" in poker?

The core philosophy is to identify specific situations where your opponent's range is either capped, highly committed, or unlikely to fold, and then to bet an "unreasonable" or "massive" amount of betting discs. This strategy aims to extract the maximum possible value from hands that are ahead and exploit opponents' tendencies to call down with weaker hands or their reluctance to fold strong, but not unbeatable, holdings. It emphasizes being aggressive and not leaving "money on the table" by making standard, smaller bets when a larger one would be more profitable.

How does Maron's personal experience inform his advice on bet sizing?

Maron's advice is heavily influenced by his five years of full-time professional poker playing, during which he climbed stakes and netted over seven figures. He frequently references "mistakes I found myself making" or "how do I know?" to highlight his learning process. For instance, he discovered the effectiveness of large value bets when he realized his smaller bluffs were frequently called, indicating that opponents were sticky. This practical experience informs his conviction to "blast it" when he has value, as he understands the typical calling range of opponents in different scenarios.