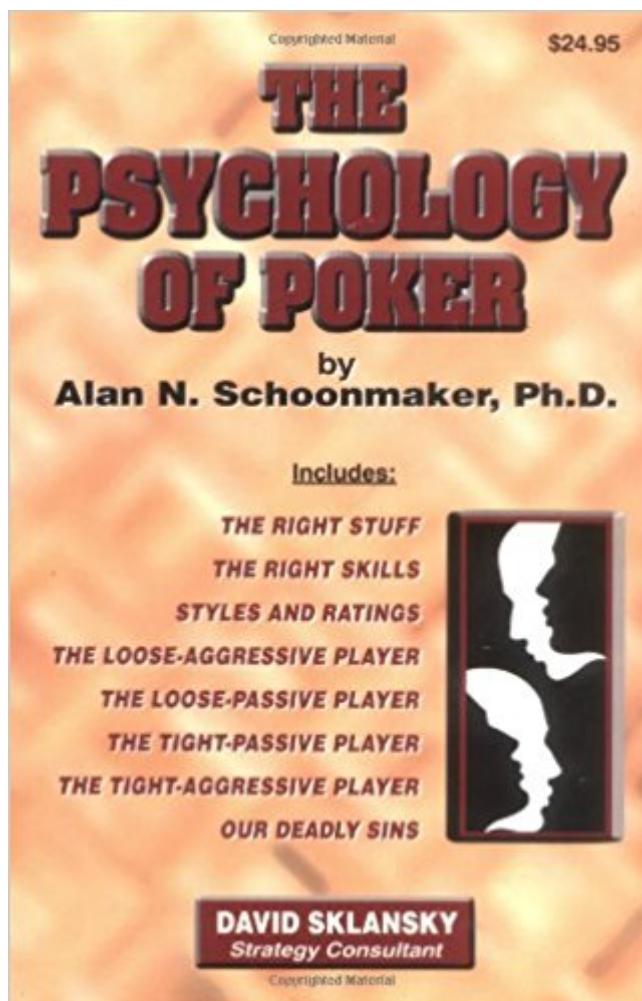


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# The Psychology Of Poker



## Synopsis

Poker demands many skills and strategies. To be successful, you must be able to master all of them and then apply them at the appropriate times. They include proper hand selection, bluffing, semi-bluffing, understanding tells and telegraphs, and reading hands. These skills do not come easily since they require unnatural actions. You cannot win just by "doing what comes naturally," Dr. Schoonmaker is concerned "only with the way that psychological factors affect your own and your opponents' ability to play properly. For example, have you ever wondered why some players seem extremely aggressive while others are passive? Why some are tight and others loose? Furthermore, have you ever wondered why some tactics seem to come naturally to you while others don't? This text will answer many of these questions. It will explain why you and your opponents play the way you do. The author also suggests strategic adjustments that you should make to improve your results against different types of players, and he suggests personal adjustments that will help you to play better and enjoy the game more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Consider that there are three categories of poker books; technical books such as those that Sklansky, Harrington, and Malmuth write, "tells" books such as Caros Book of Tells, and "head game" books. This is the best I've read in the "head games" category. The author does a very good job of categorizing different styles of play into four "corners" similar to a Gartner box; Tight Passive, Tight Aggressive, Loose Passive, Loose Aggressive. He then discusses and describes these and includes a short "preview" section you can use as a review before you go play. The author does a very good job of framing this psychological information strictly in the context of a poker game. It is a

very readable and very interesting book. Unless you really believe you know everything there is to know (and there are a lot of those types of people out there) you will learn something new from this book. I am developing a few books that I will reread and use as references; Sklansky and Malmuth's new No Limit Holdem, Caro's Book of Tells, and The Psychology of Poker.

It's okay, nothing to get excited about though.

This book has several topics that most other poker books fail to express. Hence the name The "Psychology" of Poker. It discusses in detail on "why" you play the way you do, whether you're a winning player or not. It also teaches you how to correct your inner flaws and mannerisms that you never even knew about. The book has several grid charts to plot yourself and other players you encounter in the game. I personally view the charts to be flawed and a waste of time. There are several ways players can mix their game up, to be considered plotted on a chart of this scale. The book does not discuss basic strategy's (which is a blessing) and starting hand structures. It assumes most readers are already seasoned players. It more so, discusses methods on playing different types of players (4 types, tight-passive, tight-aggressive, loose-passive, and loose-aggressive) and different games. And how to spot the 4 types of players without even playing a single hand against them. The topics are refreshing and original. The only downfall of the book, is the author's tendency to berate himself! (for example... The author states, "because I nor you, have excellent card reading talents, we must fall on a set of standardized guidelines on whether to determine the "maniac" is bluffing or not." blah blah blah.) This kind of talking makes me think about how credible the author is on the poker table! If the author himself doubts his talents, how can I take advice from him!? Overall, If you want a book to become a better poker player on the felt. There are many other books that are worth their weight in gold (or more!) But if you want a book that brings a refreshing look into the mental game of poker. This is hands down the best one I have read so far. I have to admit, even with all its gripes and annoyances, the book has made me a much more knowledgeable player, and has shown me how to defeat the biggest and most dangerous opponent in the card table... "Yourself!"

Once you've read all the endlessly repetitive how-to's and studied the probability charts, starting hands, yada yada yada, this is your next step. Schoonmaker, a practicing psychologist who also plays a mean game of poker, has written a book that describes the motivations behind WHY people play poker. The various "types" he describes are those we've seen in varying degrees at every

table, and his insights guide you toward infusing your own game with the basic glimmerings of playing the people, not just the cards. He also insists on a ruthless self-assessment, convincingly arguing that the penalty for ignoring one's own short-comings leads to leaks that will cost a player considerable money in the short and long run. This is a book that indirectly explains why Sammy Farha can get away with playing 9 2 suited against a raise, because it works at taking the mysticism out of intuition and makes awareness a replicable skill. Like Harrington's volume III workbook, this text offers interactive quizzes and charts that provide opportunities for self-examination that will inevitably lead to self-discipline and discovery. Highly recommended for the intermediate to advanced player of both cash and tournament games.

I've read several poker books at this point - and this is the only one to reasonably address playing against different styles of aggression and tightness. It changed how I thought about poker for the better. My only gripe is that it repeats a lot of the information - with better formatting the book could be two thirds as long and still convey the same amount of information. Still, a worthwhile buy.

This is one of the first books on the psychology of poker and one of the most widely read. Schoonmaker divides players into four general groups: loose passive players, loose aggressive, tight passive, and tight aggressive players. Extreme and nominal versions of each type are also discussed, as are the ways to identify each type. The theme of the book is to decide what type of player your opponents are and then to play accordingly. There is also a section on ways to identify what type of player you are and ways to minimize the weaknesses associated with your type of playing. This is one of those books that is best suited to beginning players because more experienced players have probably developed a similar system on their own. The experienced player will, however, also benefit from the book as it is so widely read that it will tell him how his opponents view the game. Thus, even if you are an experienced player who does not agree with Schoonmaker, you should read this book to learn what others may know and try to apply against

I found it boring

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