



THE 10 BEST STARTING HANDS

- 1

AA
- 2

KK
- 3

QQ
- 4

JJ
- 5

TT
- 6

AKs
- 7

AKo
- 8

AQs
- 9

KQs
- 10

AJs

Always raise/re-raise these from any seat.

s = suited (same suit) · o = offsuit · T = Ten

HAND TIERS

- PREMIUM

AA, KK, QQ, JJ, AKs, AKo

Raise from any position, re-raise aggressively
- STRONG

TT–88, AQ, AJs, ATs, KQs

Raise from most positions, slow down vs heavy 3-bets
- SPECULATIVE

Small pairs 77–22 · suited connectors (JTs, T9s, 98s) · suited aces (A2s–A9s)

Late position only; need cheap flops + position
- TRASH · FOLD

Weak offsuit aces (A4o) · king-rag (K3o) · low offsuit junk

Fold preflop — no exceptions

OPENING CHART BY POSITION (9-MAX)

POSITION	OPEN RANGE	KEY HANDS TO ADD
UTG Early	Top ~12%	TT+, AJs+, AKo, KQs
MP Middle	Top ~17%	Add 88, 99, ATs, KJs, QJs, JTs
CO Cutoff	Top ~26%	Add 55–77, A9s+, KTs+, suited connectors (T9s, 98s)
BTN Button	Top ~42%	Add 22–44, A2s+, suited broadways, weaker offsuit hands

The later you act, the wider you open. 6-max: every seat plays ~one position wider.

- ♥

~80% of hands you're dealt should be folded preflop.
- ♦

Suited adds only ~2–3% equity — position matters more.
- ♠

Worst hand: 7-2 offsuit.

Full guide + interactive chart

holdemmaster.com/en/blog/holdem-starting-hands-chart