

PS 119: Understanding Advantage Play Slots Live | California Slots in 2020

Opening

Hello! Today's episode #119 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses understanding advantage play slots. Plus, in this episode, I'll be covering the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. state of California.

Thank you for joining me for the Professor Slots podcast show. I'm Jon Friedl and this is the podcast about slot machine casino gambling. It is where I provide knowledge, insights, and tools for helping you improve your slot machine gambling performance.

On Last Week's Episode...

In case you missed it, on my last episode I went over my seven Las Vegas slots secrets from my weekly live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Further, I reviewed Arkansas slot machine casino gambling in 2020.

I hope you enjoyed listening to my last episode as much as I enjoyed making it for you.

Call to Action (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

YouTube Q&A Session from Saturday, November 28, 2020

Here's the audio recording of my latest live stream Q&A session.

OPENING

Hello, slots enthusiasts! How are you? My name is Jon Friedl. Welcome to Professor Slots, a channel that helps you master casino slots so you can win your way to success!

It's great to see you all here again for another Professor Slots podcast episode and live stream. If you're with us live, be sure to say hello and ask your slots-related questions! I'll get to those a little later in the show.

Today we're going to be diving into understanding modern advantage play slots.

COMMERCIAL

But first, I'm announcing a launch for my consultation services. I don't know how you do it, but rumors are already leaking out, I suspect one of my cats is making some money on the side although perhaps they'd do it just for treats, but I've already been getting questions ... and bookings.

Even with the least bit of marketing, in the last week Cynthia and Jerry both somehow saw that I was offering 1-on-1 consultations and booked sessions. I've always offered consultations, for years now, but the only marketing I'd done was pretty much the last item in my YouTube video descriptions, all of them, as well as an old sign-up buried deep in my website. Well, I've spent the last two weeks upgrading the booking experience to something modern and wonderful, making it a smooth and easy process, while preparing a fair bit of marketing to get the word out properly. Starting here and now with you.

If you'd like to do what Cynthia and Jerry did and sit down and do a one-hour private consultation with me, you can do that at Professorslots.com/Consultant and you can go right there and kind of see more about what it entails and just click a session and book it right on our calendar. You can see exactly what my availability is, pick a slot that works for you, and get yourself right on my calendar there and I'd love to sit down with you. For each of those sessions, I spend time before the session looking at signup form answers. You're going to tell me a whole bunch of questions and give me some notes and things you'd like to discuss as a part of the form you're going to fill out. But I'll come prepared to talk about those things as well as some of my own notes and thoughts and maybe questions you didn't even know to ask, things you didn't know to consider, that I think would help you reach your goals with slots gambling. And then we'll just spend an hour going through it. I know an hour doesn't seem like a whole lot, like how much can I really get from an hour, but it's been my experience doing these that most people at the end of an hour are like, "Oh my, I had no idea that we are going to cram this much into it and they usually walk away feeling like six months to a year's worth of work at that point.

Despite all the extra work and cost to improve the booking process, I've left the cost at the same price I've had for a couple of years. However, given the huge growth I'm seeing on my YouTube channel and more, this big roll-out likely means ... bookings will fill up fast. I've set up several afternoon and evening sessions on Wednesdays thru Sundays, excluding holidays, etc., only as far forward as the next four weeks. Always the next four weeks. Get your session booked before I start bumping up the cost, which I will do soon, especially before all the time slots are taken. Again, the booking link is at <https://Professorslots.com/Consultant/>.

BODY

Okay, so today's topic is understanding advantage play slots in the modern casino environment. Let's get into it.

INTRODUCTION

As a slot machine enthusiast, have you heard intriguing rumors of the secret world of advantage players? Perhaps you saw the "Susan B. Anthony" used to reward a poorly treated casino reviewer at the end of the third Ocean's movie? That's where you'd drop coins into a slot machine in a particular sequence or timed pattern to supposedly win the top progressive jackpot. Of course, that ignored so many facts that it's amazing to think about it how. Here, I separate fact from fantasy. Let's start understanding advantage play slots.

WHAT'S AN ADVANTAGE PLAY, ANYWAY?

In the gaming industry, an advantage play occurs whenever a gambler improves their odds of winning using gameplay knowledge not ordinarily available.

To help understand the general principle, consider a common non-gaming example: Credit card programs. Credit card companies exist offering cash-back for purchases. Chase Sapphire and Capital One Silver come to mind. Perhaps you've seen the television commercials with Samuel L. Jackson? What's in your wallet!

A credit card advantage play for such programs is to figure out how to make many, and I mean a lot of purchases, to maximize cash-back. For example, perhaps you pay your rent or mortgage with that credit card.

Instead of paying directly with a credit card, which typically isn't possible, you could find a reputable company that pays your rent or mortgage by check while you pay for their service via credit card. If the cash-back exceeds the small fee for the exchange, it's an advantage play.

Or maybe you're an entrepreneur with an Amazon fulfillment business. Perhaps you buy several items, put them together as a nice kit, then sell the package on Amazon. Why wouldn't you purchase those single items with a cash-back credit card? If you sell at high-volume, you could push \$10,000, or a whole lot more, through that credit card each month.

An advantage play example from the gaming industry, for table games, is card counting. This form of advantage play has a long and rich history. There's even a major motion movie about blackjack card counting from 2008, the movie 21.

But we're interested in advantage plays involving slot machine casino gambling. In the next sections, we'll work toward understanding advantage play slots, including my own relatively unique perspective for the modern casino environment.

UNDERSTANDING ADVANTAGE PLAY SLOTS #1: GAME THEMES

The most popular slots advantage plays discussed online are about specific slot machine game themes. Every game theme has gameplay rules, which might have loopholes of which players can take advantage.

The essential approach to game theme advantage plays usually occurs during gameplay, although not always, which I'll discuss in a moment. Class II competition-style slot machine game themes typically include a decision point for the player where there is a right or wrong answer.

Advantage players figure out in advance which answer is correct, sometimes only after extensive effort and research.

The difficulty with this approach is the assumption that it's also an advantage play which applies to Class III Vegas-style games of chance at non-tribal casinos in addition to Class II skill-based games typically only available at tribal casinos.

Do gameplay advantage plays exist for Class III slot machines? Once, they did. It was even somewhat prevalent, even as recently as 30 years ago. But today? Not really.

What is my justification for this position? It's based on thorough gaming regulations, including state-by-state testing of all game themes by independent laboratories. Very, very few game theme loopholes make it through such rigorous testing. See *Advantage Play Against Slots (AP Heat Advantage Play)* by Eliot Jacobson, Ph.D., published on March 6, 2017.

The link to this article is in the podcast show notes and within the description of this YouTube live stream. <https://www.888casino.com/blog/advantage-play-against-slots>

But I didn't state that Class III slot machine gameplay advantage plays don't exist. I said, they don't really exist. What did I mean by this?

What I meant is, there are several circumstances where advantage plays can exist, if you want to expend the effort to find them. Just keep in mind that any serious advantage player carefully balances energy and cost with potential profit.

Put another way, figuring it out must be worth it. Some enterprising online individuals claim to have figured out a few game theme loopholes and share them freely. See *Analyzing 4 Different Slots Advantage Play Methods* by Randy Ray, published on May 11, 2019.

A link to this article is also in the show notes and video description:
<https://www.gamblingsites.com/blog/analyzing-4-different-slots-advantage-play-methods-118766/>

A few, usually new, audience members will ask my opinion for the best slot machines to play. My serious reply is, “Those machines on which you win.”

Most of my audience agrees. In my opinion, looking for mistakes in game themes that made it past gaming regulators is a waste of time given how rare this occurrence has become.

However, lots of slots players think what casinos want them to think: Play your favorite slot machine game theme because, since it’s your favorite, you’ll win. Such an attitude from your casino isn’t gambling advice. It’s purely marketing slots gambling to you.

We’ve discussed game theme decision points and game theme loopholes, but there’s more. Another advantage play is to find slot machines with specific game themes played somewhat. A previous player could have paid for getting a slot machine closer to paying out.

A typical example is progressive slot machines with a must-win-by maximum jackpot. This amount is typically unknown. But extensive observation by an advantage player (an AP) could allow them to figure it out, so they’d then only play progressives close to this limit.

The advantage play approach to progressive slot machines requires a great deal of time and patience to accomplish. If you’re interested in learning more about this approach, see my videos on progressive slots winning strategies:

- [Winning Strategy 2: Progressive Slot Machines](#)
- [Reviewing Peter Liston the Slotz King's Video Interview by ACG](#)

INTERLUDE

Let’s check in with the Live Chat to briefly say hello...

That was excellent!

BODY

UNDERSTANDING ADVANTAGE PLAY SLOTS #2: TEAM APPROACH

Serious advantage players are typically part of closed communities. When an AP figures out how to take advantage of a slot machine, whether progressive, Class II, or Class III, they are quite naturally secretive about its details. This secrecy is separate from trying to collect game by telling others they have a secret advantage approach.

As I'll discuss in a later, many advantage plays are somewhat fragile. They are undoubtedly expensive in either time or money, sometimes both, to figure out. Therefore, APs will protect them just like an investment.

But APs sometimes can't figure out an advantage play without a team. Or they figure out an advantage play, as with a bank of networked progressive machines close to its jackpot limit, where every seat needs a team member sitting in it for the best chance of a return on investment.

Advantage players have figured out the cheapest way to learn a new advantage play is to watch known advantage players, then do what they do. These APs swoop in at the last moment to try to profit, such as taking one of those seats at an about-to-win bank of progressive slot machines.

Finally, it's human nature to brag about our accomplishments. APs can and do make this mistake, but perhaps less often as they gain more experience at advantage plays. However, a regular slots player might put two-and-two together after observing an experienced AP winning. After all, most casinos are typically open to the public and, as I'm been saying more and more, good observational skills in the casino environment is practically a winning slots strategy all by itself.

Another aspect of the team approach is the distraction it can provide. As mentioned previously, card-counting has a rich history. In the early days, one of the difficulties with card-counting was casino recognition from past winning sessions.

What was the card-counting APs first response? Disguises. Nowadays, with modern casinos and a requirement for government-issued IDs, disguising an individual is very limited unless you happen to have an identical twin. Or their I.D. Yes, that's happened.

But you could also explain the advantage play you've figured out to a team of trusted individuals, perhaps family members. They could then perform the advantage play for a pre-determined profit share.

UNDERSTANDING ADVANTAGE PLAY SLOTS #3: MODERN CASINOS

With modern-day casinos and gaming regulations, slot machine advantage plays have undergone a sea change. It's no longer possible to drop coins with a complicated pattern, which might cause a win, if that advantage play ever worked in the first place.

Using terminology from the Ocean's 13 movie, a "Susan B. Anthony" advantage play doesn't matter any longer, whether it once worked or not, because U.S. casinos no longer use coin-operated slot machines. But that doesn't mean advantage plays no longer exist. It means they've changed with the times.

Around 2012, slot machine manufacturers started offering operating systems to help casinos handle vastly larger crowd sizes with ease, efficiency, and a smaller workforce. One of these innovations was a central server hardwired to every slot machine.

With that computer and its slot machine controlling software, casino operators could reduce their army of slots mechanics to a much smaller, and therefore cheaper, team. Instead of the mechanics changing the odds of winning every one or two weeks as needed to meet state gaming requirements, the computer server could do it electronically and remotely several times a day.

In this way, the casino saved money in two important ways: a smaller workforce devoted mostly to machine maintenance and a vast improvement in their abilities to handle huge crowds while still improving the collection of financial performance metrics from multiple weeks to a few hours each day.

Yes, slot machines still operate randomly under these new casino operating systems. But the odds of winning can be remotely adjusted several times daily. Therefore, the odds of winning, while still random, are different before and after these adjustments. And one of these adjustments is better than the other.

The task of the modern-day slot machine advantage player is to figure out which is which. Are the best odds in the morning, afternoon, or evening? Is it on busy days at the casino or non-busy days? Is it on a holiday evening or the morning day after a holiday? What about promotions? And so it goes.

Modern casino operating systems have much more excellent control over slot machines than ever. While this slot machine control is by a computer, the algorithm it uses to execute its programming is itself controlled by humans. And humans love to tinker. But humans also make mistakes.

Rather than explain here my winning slots strategies based on casino business practices, I'll refer you to my many website articles, podcast episodes, and YouTube videos on this topic. Or sign up for a 1-on-1 consultation and we'll work together to create a strategic game plan for your individual needs.

SOONER OR LATER, ADVANTAGE PLAYS STOP WORKING

The types of advantage plays are effectively endless, but they all have one common disadvantage: Sooner or later, they stop working. Why? Because sometimes an advantage play is a disadvantage for someone or something else.

If a business practice is an advantage play, or even if it's going too well, it's not uncommon for that business to shut it down. Sometimes, there's also a time limit on how long it lasts, making it more of a promotion than a business practice.

Because individual advantage plays stop working eventually, successful APs keep working on the next advantage play. For APs, figuring out advantage plays is a never-ending process.

But there's an advantage play for this, too. Some advantage plays go unnoticed because they are not dramatic. Sometimes, any disadvantage to the casino is so small that it goes unnoticed. Yet it's enough of an advantage that it's not too small for you to go home with a tidy profit.

Put another way the weakest advantage plays last the longest. One massive jackpot would be wonderful, but does it matter if it takes a year or two to make the same gaming profit at a much less noticeable level? Being less noticeable now is better for future advantage plays.

Some advantage plays are a change in perspective. Casino operators see a reduced workforce and daily performance metrics as their HUGE advantage play. That a modern APs such as myself have turned those business practices on their head doesn't matter to the casinos. ...Not until my audience is the millions and they're making a profit at every casino out there. But that's still years away.

As I've previously mentioned, advantage players consider the time and cost of an advantage play versus its potential profit. As advantage players, casino operators make these same calculations with their millions or billions of dollars in gaming revenue.

As with card-counting, casinos adapted to players using that advantage play. In return, card counters wore disguises. Then casinos added more decks. Then, players figured out the math for using more decks.

And, so it went, back and forth, until we now have casino surveillance which does card game pattern recognition, automatic shufflers of a large number of decks, or even infinite decks.

Slot machine advantage plays, although more secretive, have already had to deal with counter-responses from casinos. While casinos had good business reasons to switch over from coins to ticket-in, ticket-out readers, doing so had a major impact on coin drop sequence advantage plays, whether they were effective advantage plays or not.

Modern slot machine advantage plays which currently work will stop working because casinos will develop counter-measures or change their business practices for some other reason. They do that, you know.

I've seen this happen. For me, some significant advantage plays went away after nine months. But I responded by figuring out the next advantage play. That's what all APs, modern or not, do.

And maybe the new slot machine advantage plays I've figured out and used successfully, my winning slots strategies, will work at other casinos for you. I'm sharing them for two reasons. First, I have a (well-paid aerospace engineering) day job, which prevents me from using my winning strategies elsewhere, outside of an occasional weekend getaway.

Second, I'm doing that thing which APs do. I've determined that it is an advantage play to share this information with you. With enough time and effort, there is a potential profit in serving a community of slots players. I hope so, anyway. I've got massive student loans to pay.

SUMMARY

Advantage plays have always been a bit mysterious because sharing them is counter-productive to winning at slots when using them. But sharing is caring, so I've produced this video on understanding advantage play slots from a modern-day perspective.

CLOSING

Let's switch over to the Live Chat again and see what questions they might have....

Watch more of my videos to improve your slots gambling performance.

Call to Action (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

Introduction

This is the next segment of the show on slot machine casino gambling. Here, I provide a brief overview of the current state of gambling in a U.S. state, territory, or the federal district emphasizing, by far, anything of interest to slot machine casino gamblers.

Up next is California slot machine casino gambling in 2020. Here goes!

California slot machine casino gambling consists of 65 tribal casinos, the third-largest number of casinos in any U.S. state after Nevada and Oklahoma.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in California

The minimum legal gambling age in California depends upon the gambling activity:

- Land-Based Casinos: 18 or, if serving alcohol, 21
- Poker Rooms: 18 or, if serving alcohol, 21
- Bingo: 18
- Lottery: 18
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: 18

Slot Machine Private Ownership in California

Next up is a usually short statement about slot machine private ownership, which I have included in case you live in this U.S. state and are considering owning a slot machine. Here it is: It is legal to own a slot machine privately in California if it is 25 years old or older.

Gaming Control Board in California

The California Gambling Control Commission supports the regulation of tribal gaming through oversight activities as defined in California's 61 tribal-state compacts.

Further, the Bureau of Gambling Control within California's Department of Justice provides state law enforcement authority with jurisdiction over gambling activities.

Non-slots-related gaming control boards include the California Horse Racing Board and the California Lottery Commission.

Casinos in California

In this section, I'll discuss California gambling establishments.

California has 65 American Indian tribal casinos, ten racetracks without gaming machines, numerous card rooms also without gaming machines, and cruise ships with onboard casinos to Hawaii, Alaska, and international destinations.

The largest casino in California is San Manuel Casino having 4,800 gaming machines. The second-largest casino is Pechanga Resort Casino with 4,000 gaming machines.

Non-Tribal Casinos in California

There are no commercial casinos with slot machines in California.

American Indian Casinos in California

California's 65 tribal casinos are far too many to mention here, but a complete list with a casino map are on my webpage for this state at professorslots.com/CA.

Other Gambling Establishments

As an alternative to enjoying California slot machine casino gambling, consider exploring casino options in a nearby state. Bordering California is:

- North: Oregon
- East: Nevada and Arizona
- South: The country of Mexico
- West: Pacific Ocean

To visit any of my articles on these U.S. states, simply visit ProfessorSlots.com followed by its two-letter postal designation. For example, my Oregon slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/OR.

Our California Slots Community Facebook Group

Are you interested in sharing and learning with other slots enthusiasts in California? If so, join our California slots community on Facebook at professorslots.com/FBCA. All you'll need is a Facebook profile to join this private Facebook Group freely.

There, you'll be able to privately share your slots experiences as well as chat with players about slots gambling in or near California. Again, use this convenient link I've created to go directly to our Group on Facebook: professorslots.com/FBCA. Join us!

Payout Returns in California

Tribal-state gaming compacts negotiated between the state of California and its 61 tribes do not include theoretical payout limits nor require public reporting of return statistics.

Summary of California Slots in 2020

In summary, California slot machine casino gambling consists of 65 tribal casinos generally located on remote tribal reservations throughout the state.

Annual Progress in California Slot Machine Casino Gambling

Over the last year, Thunder Valley Casino Resort has fallen from second-largest casino to fourth largest after San Manuel Casino, Pechanga Resort Casino, and Graton Resort & Casino.

Also, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain has, at long last, opened.

Finally, Lucky Bear Casino in Hoopa has permanently closed and Paiute Palace Casino in Bishop changed its name to Wanaaha Casino.

Call to Action (add sound effect afterward)

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On the Next Episode of Professor Slots

Part I of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast will include a live stream Q&A session on YouTube. Next week's live stream will be about video poker – aren't they just another kind of skill-based slot machine? We'll talk about that and more.

Remember, my weekly Q&A session on YouTube is on Saturdays from Noon until 1 p.m. Eastern Time. Bring whatever slots questions you have, and I'll do my best to answer them.

An easy-to-remember link to my YouTube channel is YouTube.com/ProfessorSlots. Feel free to stop by anytime during my hour-long live Q&A session.

Part II of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast is another brief overview of the current state of gambling in a U.S. state, territory, or the federal district. Next time, I'll be talking to you about the great U.S. state of Colorado.

Closing (closing music)

That's the end of another great episode of the Professor Slots podcast. Thanks so much for listening!

Show notes for this episode are on my website at professorslots.com/episode119.

I plan to have the next episode come out very soon for you, where I'll have more amazing content for the show.

Until the next episode: Have fun, be safe, and make good choices! Bye!