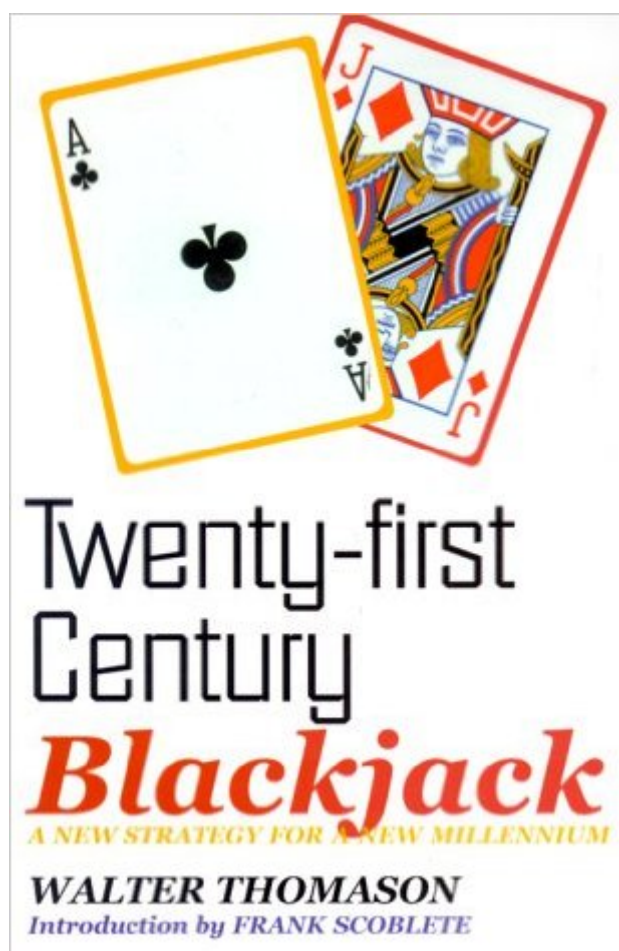


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# Twenty-First Century Blackjack



## Synopsis

Thomason offers a revolutionary alternative to card counting • a betting system that is easy to learn, impervious to casino harassment and, most importantly, more profitable than flat or so-called inspired betting. Thomason conducts live casino field tests joined by several gaming experts.

## Book Information

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Puzzles & Games > Gambling

## Customer Reviews

The most important thing you need to know about this book is that Thomason's system simply does NOT work. Despite Thomason's claims, there is no logical reason to think it should work; there is no convincing (that is, statistically significant) evidence that it does work; and there is CONSIDERABLE evidence, from both math and computer simulations, that it does NOT work. I have simulated this system using CVSim (a popular commercial simulator), with my own simulator, and with a modified version of a "freeware" simulator. All together, I have the results from many billions of hands. All three simulators gave precisely the same result: This progression produces slightly worse results, in terms of amount lost per dollar bet, than flat betting. My own simulator also accumulated results by "sessions" ranging from 100 hands (about an hour of playing time) up to 50,000 hands, and it also compared flat betting to the progression on the same hands, as Thomason does in the book. In ALL cases, the progression had fewer winning sessions than flat betting, and flat betting beat the progression in more than half the sessions. It seems likely that Thomason was merely self-deluded at the time he wrote the book (as a result of the insignificant number of blackjack hands that he used for testing), but he now knows about these results, after lengthy debate with myself and others on Stanford Wong's [...] forum. It's hard now for me to avoid the conclusion that Thomason simply

doesn't care that a lot of people will lose a lot of money playing this system. You don't need to be one of them. Do NOT fall for the idiotic "reasoning" that since card counting is hard, you should play a progression. This is really just an example of Thomason's inability to deal with ordinary logic.

I have won most of my sessions of play since I bought this book. It is very well written and the author does know what he is talking about. he has data to back up his ideas. If you don't want to learn how to count cards, then this is the next best thing. if you do want to count cards and learn advantage play methods I would recommend Best Blackjack by Frank Scoblette, who wrote introduction to this book, or KO Blackjack by Olaf Fuchs and Ken Ventura. But for me, I like the positive progression that the author describes and I really like the money that I've won!

After meticulously dealing 5,000 hands of blackjack and recording the results of three separate betting systems playing the same hands, and after several hundred thousand computer simulations comparing the three betting systems, flat, progressive, and card counting, the author admits he doesn't know why his system works, page 96. This is a very detailed book; Mr. Thomason makes a good argument for his system. Even if you skip over the numerous pages of charts and review the summaries you will be impressed by the amount of effort Mr. Thomason put into the research for this book. It is not a definitive study and in his conclusion, page 173, he admits this is only the "tip of the iceberg". He also admits much more research should be conducted to verify his findings and conclusions. This is not a how to book or for most blackjack players. Readers who enjoy a considerable amount of documentation will enjoy the book. This treatise will turn off readers searching for an easy to read blackjack book. Card counters will not enjoy the book or the results of his tests. Flat bettors eyes will be opened and should profit using this progressive system. I'm glad I bought it and will keep it in my gaming library. I will use some the information in the closing chapters when I return to Las Vegas later this year.

Really a much needed work looking at areas in blackjack that have for much too long been ignored. A fresh approach that could well be the first step in a new path at beating the game. Although the book focusses mainly on a 5000 hand sample (that is much too small) for analyses, this sample is reasonably representative of actual real world expectations. I have played this game for over 20 years and found Mr. Thomason's ideas to comply with my observations - I am glad that someone has at last come forward to share such new ideas in a simple and clear 'no frills' way. This book is certainly not going to go down well with the card-counting community, but then again, their days are

COUNTED and it is good news to know that there is hope to surpass the old expectations in the modern game. My gut feeling is that this book may well become a classic like 'Beat the dealer' did thirtysomething years ago.

I gave this 3 stars because I believe the author was genuine in his intent to test the theories. I am a seasoned card counter that has remained net positive from Day 1. Here's the thing. I don't play anymore. I can't afford to. I live in Ft. Lauderdale, same as the author. We have a few Seminole casinos here (including the Hard Rock in Hollywood, Fl), and judging by the author's conclusions, I'm guessing he's never played in them. I recently attempted to contact Mr. Thomason, but believe he has since passed away. My condolences to his friends and family. Okay, I played 5 separate sessions strictly adhering to the author's rules. Within those sessions, I played 27 shoes. I counted the 1st 5 shoes only for index plays. None of these shoes ever went positive (as expected - see my above statement), ergo I stopped counting. I never raised my bet based on the count so as to keep with the author's betting rules. I lost my entire pocket stake at every session. That's a total of \$2,900 if you're interested to know. The following are my observations of the ideas contained in the book. 1.) You always lose the 2nd bet. Not always, but enough so that you will eventually grind down your bankroll. 2.) The perceived winning streaks, even in the very short term, are almost non-existent. The losing streaks, however, are of biblical proportions. I'll address these shortly. 3.) The 'walk-away' technique, while probably pretty powerful in an honest game, just does not help you in a real game. 4.) The losing streaks will just completely destroy your soul. Now I realize my sample is only a 3rd of what the author's was, I am still not convinced anything he tested will ever work. Know why? Because real card counting makes this a break even game.. at best. We all know what the math says, but casinos have found a way around it. At least the Seminoles have. Great book otherwise, and sincere effort by the author.

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