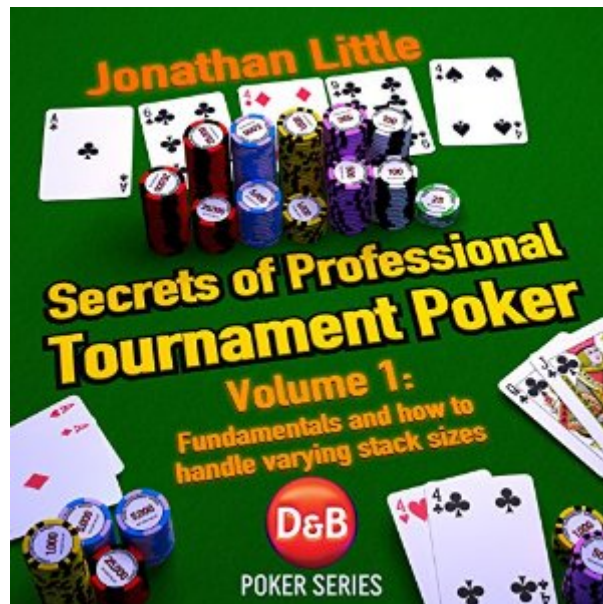


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# Secrets Of Professional Tournament Poker, Volume 1: Fundamentals And How To Handle Varying Stack Sizes



## Synopsis

Tournament poker is a tough game to play, but the rewards for success can be huge. Even regular online tournaments offer substantial prizes running to hundreds of thousands of dollars. If you want to win big at the tables, then you must buy this book. In *Secrets of Professional Tournament Poker: Book 1* you will learn the fundamentals of play and how to handle varying stack sizes. You will learn: Why tournaments are the most profitable form of poker When to play small ball and when to play long ball How to understand effective stack size How to tailor your play to winning, not just cashing... plus much more! Jonathan Little is a professional poker player from Pensacola, Florida who started playing poker when he turned 18 years old. He quickly became one of the biggest winners in online sit-n-go tournaments. He has won two WPT events and final tabled two others, earning him the Season 6 Player of the Year award. He has total earnings in excess of \$5 million. In 2013, he cashed five times in the WSOP, including a 3rd place finish. He has cashed over 20 times at the WSOP. Jonathan is also a poker coach.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jonathan Little really had me intrigued from the opening chapter of his book "Secrets of Professional Tournament Poker" with the premise that cash players have essentially struggled to adapt to the differing stack sizes and dealing with how they constantly change as a tournament progresses. This concept really applied to someone like me who makes a living playing cash games and had just ignored tournaments completely prior to this book, thinking that they were just super

high variance luckfests. However, after some insight, Little makes a strong case for live tournaments actually being the best form of game selection there is in all of poker, which was no small feat considering my mentality prior to reading his book. With that premise in mind, Little has written this book very well as it just appeals so much to cash game players who do not understand tournament poker - as he has tailored his writing in book this with these kinds of players in mind. Thanks JL, won't look back.

I probably have more than 60 poker books and I have read them all at least twice. For people who want to be competitive in MTTs as they are currently played, I think that Little's book is kind of essential. This first volume presents a number of valuable information, mainly about how to play the big stack. It is pretty much on the LAG side from the style perspective, and therefore I would suggest to read it just before reading the Elky's recent book. The reason why I did not give it a 5 stars, is that I found the section on how to play the re-shove stack a bit too short. That section would have profit of a more extensive analysis of different opponents stacks, stats and position opening in order to derive optimal re-shove ranges. I am looking forward the second volume.

This book is absolute gold - in the introduction the author says that he will put a lot of effort into giving away how to play tournament poker and I think that is true. Coming from the Hartington school, this book really opened my eyes to how professional tournament poker is being played today. I read it straight through cover to cover and then played a few tournaments applying the concepts and now constantly refer to it as I review my play. I have seen some criticisms that there are no tabulations of starting hands etc but I feel this misses the point. The book tries to get you to think for yourself, adapt to the table, and, as the author says, 'any hand can conceivably be raised from any position'.

I tend to the LAG style of play and have gone well in getting into the money and often (relatively speaking) with a good sized stack. However, I felt I was hitting and missing some important concepts and not getting to the final table enough nor getting enough firsts out of the final three. This book has shown me where I was leaking and where I was doing good. It's great to read such a strongly affirmative exposition of LAG play and that TAG play is not the only way to win; I never could keep my stats in the recommended ratios. So this book has helped liberate my play and shown me how I could improve. I feel better about my game now, it's more solid, and my 'success' rate has improved. However ... when he explains various points there are a lot of provisos to be

aware of. In my first implementation of some of his advice I had missed one of his provisos and found myself rather deeply in a mess. So if you do read it, study his advice carefully. This book is a serious case of "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing" as his style of play is probably further out than the average player will feel comfortable with. Consequently, you should be willing to make an effort to genuinely understand exactly the principles he espouses. Overall, he helped me learn how to play "my game" sensibly. Thank you, JL. (For the record, I have no affiliations or biased group involvement.)

Jonathan Little's newest book (Secrets of Professional Tournament Poker, Volume 1) is simply an excellent source of knowledge for beginners to professionals. This book is written in a short, concise, easy-to-understand style. Even though I have been playing live-casino poker for 4-decades, as a result of reading this book, I realize that I 'must' study and learn more of the 'math of poker'. This book specializes in why 'tournament play' is more profitable than 'cash-games'. On-line tournaments are basically; all-in pre-flop strategies. Additionally, how 'critical' it is to have a basic/estimated working-knowledge of poker math. He emphasizes that there is little need to 'memorize formulas'. But rather, it is critical to be able to 'quickly estimate' the math of a given situation within a given hand. The first couple of chapters do a wonderful job of; building a strong poker tournament advantage. Again, Jonathan stresses 'understanding the concepts versus memorizing formulas'. Jonathan stresses that in every hand you must consider: your hand, your opponent's range of hands, what your opponent thinks is your range of hands, the blinds, your chip stack size, everyone else's stack size, what level of the tournament you're in, your image, everyone else's image, the prize structure, the pot odds, your expected value within the tourney, your opponent's tells and hiding your own tells. Finally, reading-the-board, calculating pot odds, knowing the remaining stack sizes will, and must, become second-nature. Simply put: this is a must read for everyone from beginners to professional tournament poker players! I eagerly anticipate Volume 2 later this year.

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