Pot odds

Knowing your chance of winning is not enough on its own. The question is always: is that chance worth the price your opponent is charging you? That is exactly what pot odds answer.

The basic formula

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(Bet to call ÷ (Pot + Bet)) × 100 = Win chance you need
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The result is the minimum percentage of the time you need to win the hand for the call to pay off in the long run. "Pot" in the formula is what is already in the middle when it is your turn to act — in other words **including** your opponent's latest bet.

A shortcut that avoids the awkward number

Dividing the bet by the total pot (e.g. 50 ÷ 200) is often the fiddliest step, especially with odd amounts. Swap the order instead: divide the pot **before your call** by the bet — that gives you an odds ratio you can look up directly, no exact division needed.

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Step 1: Pot (before your call) ÷ Bet = the odds, rounded to the nearest whole number

Step 2: Look the odds up in the table below (or work out 100 ÷ (odds+1))
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Odds	Win chance
1:1	50%
1.5 : 1	40%
2:1	33%
2.5 : 1	28.5%
3:1	25%
4:1	20%
5:1	16.5%

Example with odd numbers: the pot is $175, the bet $63. 175 ÷ 63 ≈ 2.8 — round to 3:1 → 25%. You do not need to be exact in step 1; rounding to the nearest whole number is plenty for a decision at the table.

Pot odds

Common bet sizes and what they require

Opponent bets	Odds you get	Win chance you need
Half the pot	3:1	25%
2/3 of the pot	2.5 : 1	28.5%
The full pot	2:1	33%
Twice the pot	1.5 : 1	40%

How to make the decision

Compare the two percentages you now have — your chance of winning (Part 2) and what the pot requires (above):

Your win chance compared with the requirement	Decision
Higher	Calling is mathematically correct
Lower	Folding is mathematically correct

An example, start to finish

You have a flush draw (9 outs) on the flop. The pot is $100 before the bet. Your opponent bets $50 (half the pot) — there is now $150 in the pot, and that is the figure that counts as "Pot" in the formula. You have to call $50.

Step	Calculation	Result
Win chance (Part 2)	9 outs × 4	~35%
What the pot requires	50 ÷ (150+50) × 100	25%
Decision	35% > 25%	Calling is clearly correct

If you miss on the turn and the same price is offered again: your win chance drops to ~18-19% (from Part 2), which is now lower than what the pot requires (25%) — folding becomes the mathematically correct choice.

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Cheat sheet — the whole chain in four steps

Step	What you do
1. Count outs	Pocket pair=2, gutshot=4, overcards=6, open-ended=8, flush=9
2. Convert to percent	Flop → outs×4 | Turn → outs×2
3. Work out what the pot requires	Pot ÷ Bet = odds → look up the win chance
4. Compare and decide	Win chance > requirement → call. Otherwise → fold

Congratulations — you now have the whole chain from outs to decision. Practise with the free Odds Calculator at pokerochannat.netlify.app until the sums become second nature.