

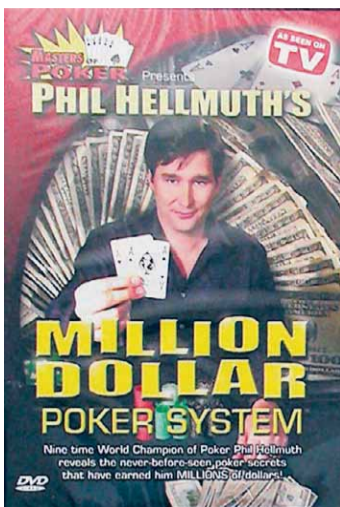
HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN



17 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

WHAT TO BUY GAMES OF CHANCE

Masters of Poker: Volume 1: Phil Hellmuth's Million Dollar Poker System — Ever wished you could become a better poker player? Considered one of the greatest poker players ever, Phil Hellmuth was the youngest person ever to win the World Series of Poker in 1989 at the age of 24. In this 70-minute DVD, he divulges some of the secrets that made him successful. Available where DVDs are sold. Cost: **\$4.99**.



The right combination of skill and luck is necessary when playing and succeeding in games of chance. Those two ingredients also are often needed when looking for the right holiday gifts for those who like to shuffle the deck and roll the dice. Whether your friend or loved one prefers to scratch off lottery tickets, drop tokens into the slot machine, or get together with buddies at the poker table, we've got you covered.

— Zach Silka, BLADE SPORTS WRITER

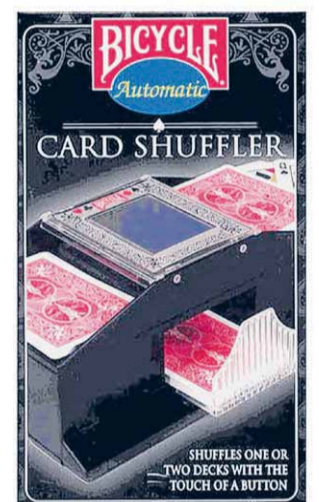
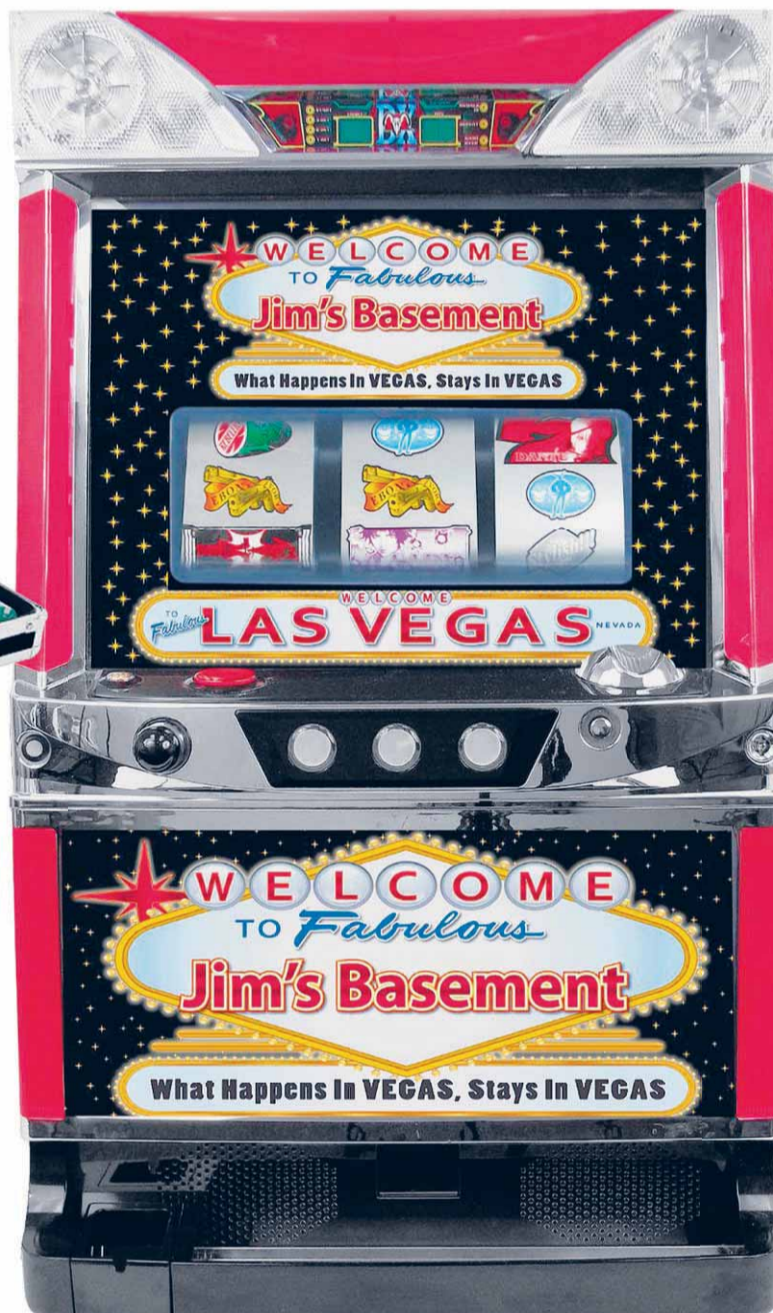


New Year's Raffle — Billed as "your best odds to win 1 million dollars," the Ohio Lottery is selling tickets now for a special Jan. 2 drawing, with four winners taking home \$1 million. Another 10 winners will be awarded \$10,000, with an additional 3,320 people winning cash prizes ranging from \$100-\$1,500. Available wherever lottery tickets are sold. Each ticket costs **\$20**.

ESPN Poker Club 300-piece chip set — Shuffle up and deal with this poker set, one of the hottest items every year during the holiday season. Inside the aluminum storage case are 300, 11.5 gram casino-grade poker chips and a dealer button. Two decks of playing cards allow for a steady flow of hands, and five red dice give you and your friends the option to switch up games anytime you want. Available at **Dick's Sporting Goods**. Cost: **\$24.99**.



Las Vegas slot machine — Tired of gimmicks and replicas? Nothing says games-of-chance lover like an authentic Las Vegas slot machine. **Katerno.com** will even let you personalize your own machine, which comes factory refurbished with a lifetime warranty that covers everything but the lightbulbs. It also comes with a key for full access to the machine and a basic operating manual. Cost about **\$190**, plus shipping.



Bicycle automatic card shuffler — This automatic card shuffler shuffles one or two decks of playing cards with the touch of a button. It's a great aid for those who have trouble shuffling by hand and also prevents your sneaky friends from stacking the deck. The device requires one 9-volt battery, which is not included. Available at **Meijer**. Cost: **\$11.99**.



Handheld Casino Games with FM Radio — Take the casino home with you with this portable electronic casino game player with a built-in FM radio. Whether you're a passenger in a car, plane, or train, you'll always have the poker or blackjack table right by your side. Available at **Sears**. Cost is **\$8.99**.

Poker Table — Stop playing Texas Hold'em at your dining room table and start feeling like you're a pro in Las Vegas. This poker table by Trademark Global has positions for 10 players with built-in cup holders, padded arm rests, and folding legs. The table also features a stable metal frame and a padded felt top. Available at **Dick's Sporting Goods**. Cost: **\$214.99**.

Casino slot machine paperweight — This silver-plated paperweight actually works like a real slot machine. Just pull the lever and try your luck at the big jackpot. Standing about 2 inches tall and weighing one solid pound, this paperweight would make a nice addition to any casino junkie's desk or office. Available on **Amazon.com**. Cost is **\$25**.



Dart board cabinet — Hit the bull's-eye this year with a DMI cherry dartboard cabinet. The finger-joint frame construction makes it easy to open and close, hiding the dartboard when not in use. Traditional scoring is found on the inside of one door and an electronic scorer is on the other side. The cabinet holds two sets of darts, and an official 18-inch bristle dartboard is included. Available at **Dick's Sporting Goods**. Cost: **\$99.99**.



Main Event at the World Series of Poker — If you're always beating your friends at the poker table every Saturday night and think you're up to the task, then pony up **\$10,000** for a buy-in at the World Series of Poker Main Event. Held annually in Las Vegas, the World Series of Poker attracted more than 75,000 entrants from 105 countries last year competing for \$191,999,010 over the 58-event, 50-day extravaganza. The Main Event is the culminating event at the World Series of Poker held every November with a prize pool of \$64,531,000 in 2011. Of the 6,865 who entered last year, 693 players cashed in the event with a payout of \$19,359 for 693rd place.