

Well you have all been screaming for this review so we made it our priority. It has not been an easy site to review as it is so different from any other poker site so we have done this one a little differently with two reviewers.

Reviewer Profiles

Nickname - SuckerPunch
Age - 37
Location - Scandinavia
Profession - Semi professional poker player (Part time factory worker)
Favourite sites - Pacific Poker, Club4Aces, Party Poker
Quote - Knowing when to fold big will make you more money in the long run than knowing when to bet big.

Nickname - MoonDog11
Age - 22
Location - UK
Profession - Accounting
Favourite site(s) - EuroGrand
Quote - It is a sin to allow a fool to keep hold of his money.



SuckerPunch

First of all let me just say WOW! I really wanted to dislike this site but I must admit it is addictive. This is a hybrid of a poker room and a computer game. If you like playing poker and you like computer games with good graphics and sound effects then you will just love this.

It's not all good; I have several criticisms but I'll get to them in a minute. PKR gives you several different playing environments in full 3D to choose from. You can even choose your point of view (zoom in and out or play from a 'first person' perspective).

You start out by designing your player who you can make look like yourself or like anything you want - the interface is a lot like that of *The Sims2* computer game. Once in the game you can laugh, cry, cheer, think, compliment other players on their hands and so on, choose your tone of voice and even do chip tricks! All of this makes for a lot of fun.

Down to business then: PKR has a reasonably good choice of games and stakes but there are not actually that many players on there currently. This means that there are a lot of empty tables, the tables with people on are often full and there does not seem to be any waiting list system. This is not a game that you want to try playing at the same time as playing other tables - there is a lot on the screen and if you shrink it down then tabs and menus start to overlap and obscure your view.

The minimum system requirements are:

Processor	1Ghz Pentium or equivalent
RAM	512 Mb
Hard Drive space	Around 450mb
Graphics Card	32 Mb with DirectX 9.0c compatible drivers (Nvidia GeForce3/ATi Radeon 8500 or equivalent)
Soundcard	Any
Operating System	Windows 2000 or Windows XP
Internet Connection	Broadband
Other	Internet Explorer 6 or higher, DirectX9.0c

These really are bare minimums though. I put it on my laptop (which just meets the requirements) and I had to have the PKR window at a quarter of the screen, any bigger and my CPU could barely handle it. On my desktop machine it ran seamlessly.

A good point to note is the bonuses on PKR. Upon joining you get an impressive 50% up to \$250 dollars. Now on most sites this would not interest me but the bonuses on PKR are much easier to clear than on most other sites, so it's easy to turn the bonus into real cash. You can earn up to 150 points per hand and you need 125 points for each \$1 of bonus so play at a table with decent stakes and the bonus is yours in no time.

Unfortunately, because the game looks so good and there is so much more going on the game play is slower, much slower. My hourly win rate on PKR is down by about 27% just for that reason. You will notice that as you earn PKR points you have more options as to what to do with them. This is a nice way for the site to save some prize money if you use your points to get your player a set of sunglasses rather than use it to buy into a tournament!

In short then, this is a great poker room for having fun on, but still has some kinks to iron out in terms of the serious business of the poker itself.

MoonDog11

Overall I give it 5 out of 5. I just love it. I used the bonus code from Harlequin Poker and got a great bonus but they also gave me a free book (had to earn 3000 points to get this but it did not take long). I am a computer game freak so the graphics and stuff are right up my street. I found the tables are very loose because everyone there is watching the graphics and making their character wink and things so people stay in the hand longer and chase the draws because it's more fun than sitting your character out to wait for the next hand. I even found myself falling into the same trap once or twice chasing silly odds on a straight draw just so I would get a chance to make my character do a little dance! This means, of course, that if you can avoid the temptation and play tight then there is money to be made here.



On the downside, there is not a good choice of tables to play at but I am sure that this is just because there are not so many players yet. The choice of tournaments was particularly bad I thought. Once there are enough players then I think the choice will be good as there are tables starting all the way down at 1c / 2c stakes!

I got my character decked out with a hat and shades and stuff - he looks just like me. ON PKR you can even bluff by acting happy when you have a bad hand and sad when you have a good one -- or vice versa - and you can watch for poker 'tells' from other players. Of course, because the 'tells' come as a result of the player hitting a button on their screen it's a bit different from sitting at a real table but in some cases it's even better. I sat to the left of a character that so over acted that I knew every single time whether he had the goods or not. He cheered and clapped whenever he had nothing and frowned and cried when he had a good hand. The ridiculous thing is that even as I won hand after hand against him he kept it up. I just folded when he acted sad and raised whenever he started dancing in his seat and he continued the overacting all the way until he ran out of chips.

The games are a bit slower than on 'normal' poker sites and it sometimes gets annoying when people waste time yawning and stuff instead of playing their hand. It's also annoying sometimes when people have chosen the same voice for their characters so you get 'I'm gonna check - let's do this!' 5 times in a row in exactly the same voice from all round the table. But overall I cannot get enough of PKR. The graphics are fantastic, the money making possibilities are good because people are there to *PLAY* rather than to *WIN* and the bonus clears quickly. Hope to see you there!