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HOLIDAY ISSUE

Gambling Lessons - **Roulette**

If you're heading to Las Vegas for the Consumer Electronics Show (**CES**) in January, you will no doubt have the opportunity to try your luck gambling since just about every hotel has a casino. But where to begin? One of the easiest games to play is Roulette, perhaps the most popular European casino game for about four centuries. Roulette can be played in almost every Las Vegas casino as well as in most online casinos, so you can even practice at home! Here is how the game is played:

Your goal as a roulette player is to predict on which of the roulette wheel numbers the ball lands at the end of the wheel spin. Simple right? However, in order to play in roulette in a casino you should be acquainted with the different betting types and the different roulette wheels.

There two different types of roulette wheels are the European and the American wheel. The European wheel has 37 numbers on it from zero to 36 while its American equivalent contains 38 numbers including two zeros and the numbers from 1 to 36. This difference is significant since when you are playing a European roulette you can enjoy better odds and a lower house edge comparing to the American roulette. Keep in mind if the ball lands on zero, then everyone loses and the house wins. (Unless you actually bet on zero which you can do). Some Las Vegas Roulette wheels only have one zero but most have a double zero (00) which doubles the house advantage.

When you sit down at a table, you will buy chips from the dealer or "croupier". The roulette chips come in different colors to allow players to place bet on the same number or column without mixing each other bets. In each roulette game, you can bet only within the minimum and the maximum table limit, typically \$5 - \$100 minimum bet in Las Vegas. Lesson continued [HERE](#).

-by Michael Lindsay, Staff Writer,
Digital Times®

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**Free Shipping
Issue
with Amazon*



Thinking of splurging on a **Blu-ray** player? The **Sony Blu-ray** player I ordered from **Amazon** on **Black Friday** arrived today. To my horror, when I lifted the box from the front porch the player 'rattled' and 'slid' around in a box apparently much larger than the box the Blu-ray was in. The 'shipping' box measured 24 x 18. The Sony box, marked **FRAGILE**, is only 19 x 12 and there were no packaging materials in the larger box to protect the Blu-Ray whatsoever.

Will the Sony player work after sliding around in the Amazon box for 4 days?
postscript: 12.15.08

Sony did a great job of packaging. My BDP-S550 installed like a dream, plays like a dream and upconverts my old DVDs like a dream...highly recommended.

PayPal is on my bad side again...

In *Ausust* I received notification that I had **\$14.22** in my 'seller' account and **PP** offered to send it to me. I updated my contact information, including address. I then asked PayPal to send my check. I **waited** for my check; and **waited**; and **waited**. In *October* I contacted them about this. **PP** claimed that the check was returned in the mail and an accurate address was needed. I faxed them the **confirmation email from PayPal, showing my current address**, with a note pointing out that they *have* what they require, and to send my check. That was over three months ago. One month ago I inquired again and received a message that my docs were received and my case is 'under review.' I will never get my \$\$\$ from PayPal.

-editor

Google Shopping

Finding Christmas gifts and comparing prices online isn't always easy or to-the-point. I usually go to Epinion.com, but seldom find the information I need. With Google's NEW **Holiday Shopping Product Search** I can easier find the item I want and exclusive discounts from participating stores.



To try the shopping search engine out, I searched for **WII FIT** and a timely list of retails, resources and price ranges for that product presented itself. Taking it further, I entered **Wii Fit + free shipping** and WOW! A wonderful list of vendors offering free shipping appeared.

By clicking on the **Special Offers** tab, I discovered deals on *Wii Music*, *Guitar Hero*, etc...the images change every few seconds. Find more ways to celebrate the holidays with Google's **Countdown to 2009**.

GIZMINE

Looking for a USB 'Hello Kitty' foot warmer? Or any other *cool gadget* like the ones I find at the Consumer Electronics Show every year, but have no way to buy? [GizMine](http://GizMine.com) is where you will find over 500+ sleek and often strange gadgets from Japan. Sponsored by parent company DYNAMISM.COM, [GizMine](http://GizMine.com) a new eCommerce website considered to be the world's largest Japanese gadgets and lifestyle shop. Here, you will find affordable and quirky holiday gifts.

You will find popular products and categories such as home/office, ipod accessories, watches, cameras, phones, USB drives/toys, video games, speakers, robots and much more, all with a savvy design or quirky twist on the original.

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'Exclusive to Japan' brands such as Swarovski, Hello Kitty and Casio G-shock and Baby-G are available at [GizMine](http://GizMine.com). Searchable themes include "color," "theme," "popular," "brand" and "his/her/kids."

-editor

"The Search for the Right Satellite TV Vendor"

Once again, **DirectTV** is creating problems for their customers. Due to high prices [\$104/mo. -- basic] and contractual misunderstandings, some of our dissatisfied friends have *cancelled* their DirectTV accounts and gone elsewhere...

DirectTV advertises that they beam ALL, or most, of their programs in High Definition. We have used their services for many years and recently decided to upgrade to High Def. We set an install appointment with DirectTV and purchased a High Definition television set.

DirectTV brought out a 'free' HD satellite dish and appropriate receiver. What they did not tell us, is that by accepting the receiver we are tied to a new, 2 year contract and that if we cancel before that time, there is a **\$200.00+** charge.

The NFL football package we purchased in July cost us \$279.00 [6 payments, at \$46.50/mo]. Now, we learn there is an extra charge for the football package in High Definition. This was not mentioned previously.

Anyone have DISH Network Satellite TV service and are YOU happy? -editor

The information contained in Digital Times is a combination of original editorial content and information pulled from wire services, research and various online resources.