FREE GUIDE FROM AI CRUISE GRANNY™ & CRUISE GRANNY™

Deuces Wild: The Perfect-Play Guide

Every 2 in the deck is wild, so the game plays differently from regular poker. The secret is simple: count your deuces first, then use the matching chart.

THE SHORT ANSWER

Count your deuces, go to that part of the chart, and keep the play that sits highest on the list. Never throw away a deuce. On a full-pay machine this chart pays back 100.75%. Perfect computer play gets 100.76%.

Step 1: Read the pay table first

Read the 1-credit column from wild royal down to full house. Full pay reads 25, 15, 9, 5, 3. Machines that pay 4 for four of a kind return less, so that's the first number to check.

Pay table	Pays back with perfect play and max credits
Full pay	**100.76%**
25/16/10/4/4/3	**99.73%**
25/15/9/4/4/3	**98.91%**

Step 2: How to use the chart

1. Look at your five cards and spot every hand on the chart you could keep.
2. Keep the one that sits **highest** on the chart.
3. Draw for the rest. Bet max credits so the royal pays its full jackpot.

Practice free

Scan for the AI Cruise Granny video poker trainer. It deals the hands and tells you the perfect play.

The full web guide

Scan for this chart online, plus more examples and answers.

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The Deuces Wild strategy chart

Keep the play that sits highest on the list for your number of deuces.

Already a winner · Drawing hand · High cards · Fall-back

Four deuces

1	Keep all four deuces	2♣ 2♦ 2♥ 2♠

Three deuces

1	Wild royal flush: keep it	2♣ 2♦ 2♥ K♠ A♠
2	Otherwise keep just the three deuces	2♣ 2♦ 2♥

Two deuces

1	Four of a kind or better	2♣ 2♦ 9♥ 9♠
2	4 to a royal flush	2♣ 2♦ Q♥ K♥
3	4 to a straight flush with two connected cards, 6-7 or higher	2♣ 2♦ 7♠ 8♠
4	Otherwise keep just the two deuces	2♣ 2♦

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One deuce

1	Four of a kind or better	
2	4 to a royal flush	
3	Full house	
4	4 to a straight flush with three connected cards, 5-6-7 or higher	
5	Three of a kind, straight or flush	
6	Any other 4 to a straight flush	
7	3 to a royal flush (no ace) **PRO TIP**	
8	3 to a straight flush with two connected cards, 6-7 or higher (no ace) **PRO TIP**	
9	Otherwise keep just the deuce	

No deuces

1	Royal flush or 4 to a royal flush	
2	Three of a kind or better, straight or flush	
3	4 to a straight flush	
4	3 to a royal flush	
5	One pair (with two pair, keep just one)	
6	4 to a flush	
7	4 to an outside straight	
8	3 to a straight flush (no ace) **PRO TIP**	
9	4 to an inside straight (not when the missing card is a 2)	
10	Suited 10-J, 10-Q or J-Q	
11	No match? Draw five new cards	*Throw all five*

PRO TIP lines are refinements that take the chart from good to near-perfect. New players can skip them at first.

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Worked examples (perfect play, checked by computer)

DEALT



Keep: the highlighted cards. One deuce plus three royal cards is 4 to a royal flush (one deuce, rule 2).

DEALT



Keep: the highlighted cards. Two pair only pays like a pair, which pays nothing. Keep one pair and draw three (no deuces, rule 5).

DEALT



Keep: the highlighted cards. Two deuces with connected suited 7-8: 4 to a straight flush (two deuces, rule 3).

DEALT



Keep: the highlighted cards. A deuce plus a pair is already three of a kind (one deuce, rule 5).

DEALT



Keep: the highlighted cards. No deuces: 3 to a royal flush (rule 4). Here the ace is fine.

DEALT



Keep: nothing, draw five. No deuces and nothing on the list. Draw five. A lone king is worth nothing in this game.

DEALT



Keep: the highlighted cards. Three deuces: keep just the deuces and draw two. You're hoping for the fourth deuce or a wild royal.

DEALT



Keep: the highlighted cards. Four of a kind: keep the four and throw the jack. That gives you a shot at five of a kind.

DEALT



Keep: the highlighted cards. No deuces: 4 to an outside straight (rule 7).

The mistakes that cost the most

- Throwing away a deuce. Every hand on the chart keeps every deuce.
- Holding two pair. Keep just one pair; two pair pays nothing here.
- Holding high cards. A pair of kings pays nothing, so a lone king or ace is worthless.
- Keeping a kicker with four of a kind. Keep the four and draw for five of a kind.

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- Playing fewer than 5 credits. On most machines the natural royal only pays its 4,000 jackpot on a 5-credit bet.

Words on the chart

Deuce
Any 2. It's wild, so it stands in for whatever card helps you most.

Pat hand
A hand that's already a winner when it's dealt, like a straight or a flush.

Connected cards
Cards next to each other in rank, like 7-8 or 6-7-8.

Outside straight
Four in a row that can be finished at either end, like 5-6-7-8.

Inside straight
Four cards with one hole, like 7-8-10-J. In this game, skip it when the only card that fills the hole is a 2, because the deuces already help you.

> Video poker should stay fun. Set your budget before you sit down. If gambling isn't fun anymore, free and confidential help is there 24/7: call or text 1-800-MY-RESET (1-800-697-3738) or visit 1800myreset.org.

Payback figures and every chart line were calculated by our exact-odds engine across all 2,598,960 possible starting hands. For entertainment and education.

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