

Craps With Kevin: The Smart Beginner's Table Guide

Quick wins, smart bets, and what to skip at the craps table.

Hi, I'm Kevin from Craps With Kevin—and this guide is for you.

If you're just getting started, this simple one-sheet will walk you through the best bets, what to avoid, and a smart starting plan to help you play with confidence. Stick with me!






Table Layout & How Craps Works

Understand the zones before you bet.

The Basics:

- Game starts with the Come Out Roll
- If the shooter rolls a 7 or 11, Pass Line wins
- If 2, 3, or 12, Pass Line loses
- Otherwise, that number becomes the Point
- Shooter rolls again until Point or 7

Key Table Areas:

-  Pass Line – Your main bet
-  Odds Area – Goes behind your Pass Line bet
-  Place Bets (4–10) – Put chips directly on numbers
-  Proposition Bets / Field – High risk, skip for now
-  Big 6/8 – Worse version of placing the 6 or 8

The Best Bets for Beginners

These are the ones I actually play—low house edge, smart risk.

Bet	What It Is	Why It's Smart
Pass Line	Betting the shooter will win	Simple, low house edge
Odds Bet	Add behind your Pass Line after Point is set	Pays true odds (no house edge)
Place 6 & 8	Pays 7:6	Hit often, steady payback
Buy 4 & 10	Small commission, pays 2:1	Less frequent, but big when they hit

Kevin's Tip:

"I usually take 1x odds on 4, 5, 9, and 10, and full odds on 6 and 8.

I also press up my bets by a dollar when they win."

Bets to Avoid

Keep your chips out of these zones.

- ❌ Proposition Bets – One-roll, high-payout traps (Snake Eyes, Horn, Any Craps)
- ❌ Field Bet – Looks fun, but house edge is rough
- ❌ Big 6 / Big 8 – Use Place bets instead (better payout)
- ❌ Don't Pass – Nothing wrong with it, but not how I play
- ⚠️ Rule of Thumb: If it looks flashy and confusing, the house loves it.

Starting Bet Plan (for \$100 Buy-In)

Here's a smart low-risk setup:

- \$10 Pass Line
- \$10 Odds Bet (once Point is set)
- \$12 Place 6
- \$12 Place 8
- \$10 Buy 4 (or 10)
- Keep ~\$46 in chips to press up bets, follow shooters, or reload
- 💡 If a bet wins, I like to "press" it by \$1 or \$2. If it loses, I reset back to base.

Stick With Me Strategy

How I keep my sessions fun and steady

- ✅ Keep it simple
- ✅ Stick with smart bets
- ✅ Don't chase losses
- ✅ Use winnings to build, not bail out bad bets
- ✅ Have fun—it's a social game

Want to Learn More?

Watch the full 10-part beginner series on YouTube:

Craps With Kevin: Beginner Series – Learn to Play Smart