



Shooting/Rolling Dice - Dice Control

Rolling the dice in a game can be a contentious issue. A series of lucky throws may lead to resentment from other players who may believe, rightly or wrongly, that the dice are being held and thrown in a special way. Using these controlled dice throws is sometimes known as *honest cheating*. Make no mistake, there is nothing honest about it.

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Home

Craps

Games

Odds

Shooting/Rolling

Magic/Psychic Dice

Types of Dice

History

Collecting

Links & More

Casino Craps Shooting

Brick and mortar casinos require a [Craps](#) player to throw or *shoot* the dice against a backboard so that they rebound before coming to rest (online casinos will simulate the rolls using software). This is supposed to ensure the roll is random but many crapsshooters try to control the outcome and change the odds. The subject of controlled throws on casino Craps tables is a hot topic. It's sometimes called *rhythm rolling* and *dice setting* because players are said to develop a rhythm of holding and throwing the dice in a set way. If anyone could alter the outcome of the dice, even slightly, they would be rich beyond their wildest dreams and casinos *have* been scammed in the past. If you want to learn dice control and how to set the dice for a Craps game, try the links below.

- [Rhythm Rolling And Controlled Shooting - Dice Control](#)
- [Dice Setting](#)

Switching the Dice

If a cheat is going to roll [crooked dice](#) in a game then the problem of switching them for the straight dice originally being used presents itself. An expert dice "*mechanic*" can achieve a switch of the dice almost unnoticeably and with such smooth action that even someone who knows a switch is being made will have trouble spotting it. Of course, the crooked dice will have to be very similar in appearance to the straight ones, but this is always possible for a determined scammer.

A dice *mechanic* will substitute crooked or gaffed dice for the real ones and can quickly switch them back once they have gained their advantage. If you suspect a switch has taken place then you could examine the dice yourself. Remember, the dice you are playing with may not be the dice that started the game and cheats will switch the dice back and forth as it suits them. A cheat may even leave his crooked dice behind, just writing his loss off as part of his scam. .

The links below describe the professional techniques used in secretly exchanging dice, unnoticed.

Techniques for Switching Dice...

- A very discreet method for switching a pair of dice is... [The Casino Thumb Palm Switch](#).
- A very crafty method of switching a single die into a game is... [The Mouth Switch](#).



- An easy way to switch dice in a private game is the... [The Money Switch](#)
- An extremely difficult move to learn and perfect is... [The Palm Switch](#)
- A move used in street games is [The Two-Hand Palm Switch](#).

Hand Rolling Dice in the Private Game

Without doubt it is possible to control throws in a private game and there are a number of techniques around. The best way to prevent a controlled throw is to insist that the dice are rattled and thrown against a backboard, although even this is no guarantee. The Greek shot is a technique of throwing a pair of dice so that they hit a backboard but so the bottom die does not turn. Only a real expert can pull this one off.

Techniques for Controlled Throws by Hand...

- The first move cheats learn is rattling the dice without rotation... [The Lock Grip](#)
- The first, most common, and easiest controlled throw cheats learn is... [The Blanket Roll](#)
- The next most common controlled throw is... [The Whip Shot](#)
- A controlled throw with a backboard is a variation on the Whip Shot... [The Greek Shot](#)
- A crooked throw for private games is... [The Spin Shot](#) ,
- A variation on the Greek Shot that doesn't utilise a backboard is the [Reverse Greek Shot](#).

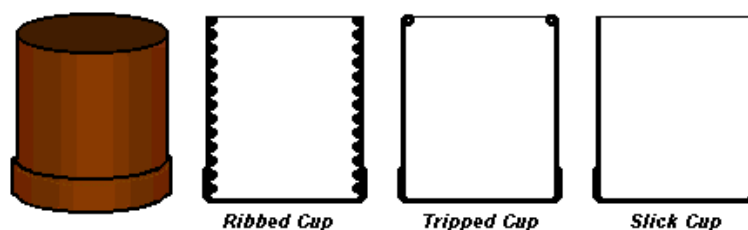


Dice Throwing Cups

A cup to hold and roll the dice *can* help to overcome the problem of controlled throws and *can* help to ensure that the dice are shaken properly and fall at random. However, the use of throwing cups for dice does not always guarantee the dice fall at random. In fact some cheats prefer them. [Crooked dice](#) can just as easily be thrown and even straight dice can be controlled with practice. Cheats develop techniques where the dice are placed in the cup and are then slid out of the horizontally held cup rather than rolled.

Both the Greeks and Romans used specially made throwing cups and some incorporated cross bars inside to prevent controlled rolls.

Today purpose made *ribbed dice cups* can be purchased with a rubber *ribbed* interior. *Tripped cups* have a lip around the rim. A *slick cup* is polished and smooth on the inside to facilitate controlled throws. Cheap dice cups are available in plastic while more expensive deluxe dice cups can be bought made from real leather.



The best safety check against controlled throws with a cup is to insist that the dice are vigorously rattled and that the dice cup is completely tipped upside down.

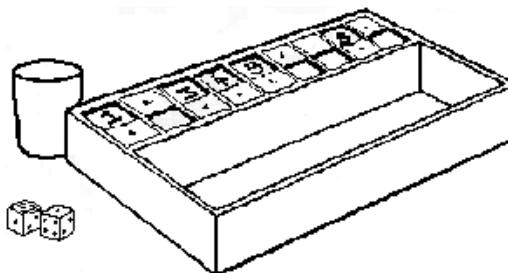
Techniques for Controlled Throws with a Dice Cup...

- A relatively simple crook's move with a dice cup is a... [Dice Cup False Shake](#)
- A crooks move to control a single die of several with a dice cup is... [The Dice Hold Up](#)
- A variation on the Hold Up is... [The Dice Hold Up & Slide](#)

Dice Trays and Bowls

Dice trays are used to prevent dice rolling off or outside the playing area. Usually wooden, they come in various shapes, often hexagonal, octagonal, rectangular, etc, and have a surrounding wall an inch or few high, often with a green felt-lined base. Sometimes a groove is included in the surround for holding out-of-play dice.

The French game of [Shut The Box](#) is usually played with a traditional wooden box which incorporates a throwing tray.



Chinese dice games (like [Cockfighting](#), [Grasping Eight](#), [Strung Flowers](#), [Heaven and Nine](#), [Pursuing Sheep](#) and [Sic-Bo](#)) are often traditionally played with a flat-bottomed porcelain bowl to throw the dice into. Highly decorative antique dice bowls from the Ming and other dynasties often fetch high prices at auction.



Ming dice bowl (1426 - 1435) valued at £80,00 to £100,000

selection from.

There are crescent-shaped wooden bowls available for storing out-of-play dice and for presenting them to players. You may come across them in casinos on their [Craps](#) tables holding a number of special [casino dice](#) for the shooter to make a



Dice Presentation Bowl

Dice Rolling Devices

Operators of the game [Chuck-A-Luck](#) often use a specially made *chuck cage* (an hourglass-shaped wire cage that rotates) to roll the dice. This is supposed to assure players that the outcome is random. However, [crooked dice](#) could be substituted



for straight ones including *electric dice* with an electromagnet placed underneath the *chuck cage*.

The games of [Grand Hazard](#) and [Chuck-A-Luck](#) used to be played using a special *hazard chute*. This was a cone or horn shaped device that often had inclined trips inside to ensure random rolls of the dice. (For more on *hazard chutes* see [The Wild West term "Tinhorn"](#).)

Spring loaded transparent domes with dice inside have been used for children's dice and board games. They are operated by pushing down on the plastic dome and then releasing it. The base then snaps or springs up causing the dice to jump and bounce around inside.

Many patents exist for other dice rolling devices that haven't succeeded in gaining widespread use. Maybe some of these ingenious contraptions will be featured in the future on *dice-play*.



Beware of [crooked dice](#) and controlled throws. Don't play with strangers but rather stick to a friendly game with people you know well and trust. Should you ever find that you are in a crooked dice game the best advice is to cut your losses and take no further part. Even if you are positive the game is rigged the situation could rapidly turn ugly if you were to accuse someone.

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