

The Labouchere System

This is a betting system that has been around for many years and used with varying degrees of success by generations of gamblers it's also known as the cancellation method. It is a system that is applied to even money outcomes, for example red or black in roulette. One man, Norman Leigh, even claims to have broken several casinos in Nice during the 60's with a reverse Labouchere system.

The system is relatively easy system to learn and apply. Firstly you need to write yourself a list of single digit numbers, they need not be sequential. For this article we will use the numbers 1, 3, 3, 2, 6, 4, 3, 6. The amount you get when all the numbers are added together is the total you are looking to win, in this case \$28 – The key is not to be too greedy and pick a selection of small numbers. The player then stakes the sum of the first and the last digit on the list, for our list that would be \$7. If only one number remains then this is the amount that is staked. If the bet is won then both numbers are crossed off the list. If the bet is lost then the amount lost is added to the end of the list.

The theory behind this system works like this. The player crosses off 2 numbers every time he wins and adds only one every time he loses. Therefore you only need your colour to come in 33% of the time. The odds of winning on a red/black bet are just over 47% (not 50% because of the green 0) so on the surface it would seem like you are on to a winner here. The major problems you will come across will be either your bank roll and/or the table limits. For example, using our numbers above, if your result sequence was to go win, loss, loss, loss, loss then your then you would have won \$14 with your first bet and then lost $6+9+12+15$. So you would have won \$14 but lost \$42 and your next 50/50 bet will need to be a further \$18 and seeing as you were only going to win \$28 to start with the risk would be considered too high for some.

There are 2 keys to this system either not be too greedy, pick a small selection of low numbers and work from there or to find a table online or off line that allows you to bet large amounts of money and make sure you have the bank roll to support you.

In short there are numerous systems to apply when gambling, none are 100% efficient if they were we'd all be doing them and the casinos would have closed down a long time ago. However, good betting systems and structured wagers will, if nothing else, give a feeling of security to your bets.

Always set yourself a win and loss limit and never gamble with money you can't afford to lose.

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