

Effective Stacksize

The smallest stack involved in the hand dictates the largest possible size of the main pot by the value of that stack's size. So the [effective stacksize](#) for the main pot always equals the stacksize of the smallest stack involved.

If multiple players and stacksizes are involved, the next smallest stacksize is the [effective stacksize](#) for the first sidepot minus the contributions to all previous pots, continuing up in stacksize and side pot numbering. So the [effective stacksize](#) for each sidepot moves up through the ranks of the stacksize in ascending order of the involved players minus the contributions made to the previous pots already collected.

As any player only has access to all pots they contributed to before they were [all-in](#), the final sidepot can only be won by the two biggest stacks involved in the hand, so the last sidepot has is always based on the stacksize of the second largest stack.

Example

Steve 100BB
Mike 150BB
Liz 50BB

All three players take part in the pot and get [all-in](#) in the process of the hand.

For the main pot Liz, the smallest stack at the table, is the [effective stacksize](#).

For the side pot Steve, the second smallest stack at the table, is the [effective stacksize](#) minus his contribution to the main pot.

The [effective stacksize](#) for the main pot is 150BB plus the blinds, because the effective contributed size can only be three times the stacksize of the smallest stack which is Liz 50BB stack.

The [effective stacksize](#) for the sidepot is 100BB, because the effective contributed stacksize can only be twice what Steve has left after the main pot is collected from his initial stacksize of 100BBB. So Steve has 50BB left effective to contribute to the sidepot with Mike who is covering him as the biggest stack at the table.