

Under the gun

[Under the gun](#) means first to act. The imagery of having a gun pointed demanding action coins the term.

[Under the gun](#) is often abbreviated as [UTG](#), [UT](#) or EP (early [position](#)). It denotes the first to act [position](#) of a player on the first street in a any given [poker](#) hand.

At a 6-handed [poker](#) game, the six positions starting left of the [big blind](#) are typically denoted as

- [UTG](#) ([under the gun](#), [UT](#), EP)
- [MP](#) ([middle position](#), [hijack](#), [HJ](#))
- [CO](#) (cutoff)
- [BTN](#) ([button](#), [dealer](#), [BU](#), BT)
- SB ([small blind](#))
- [BB](#) (big blinds)

[Under the gun](#) always denotes the first player to act in a [poker](#) hand. In long handed games, such as 10-handed, positions are often written as [UTG](#), [UTG+1](#), [UTG+2](#), ... , referring to the seats after [UTG](#). In [heads up](#) games, the term is not used.

Calling the first player to act on later streets [under the gun](#) has faded out of style.