Showdown-Value

Showdown value means that there is a solid chance to win the pot at showdown.

Usually a made hand is required to have showdown value, but depending on the situation even Ace high can have thin showdown value. In other cases even a single pair has no to little showdown value. The relative handstrength of a holding in relation to the handrange of the opponent, the betting history of the hand and the community board texture decide on how much showdown value a hand has.

In some cases a hand has enough showdown value to call a bet, but is not strong enough to valuebet on their own. This is a classical bluffcatching situation or potcontrolling situation, where the EV of the hand stems from reaching the showdown as cheap as possible while keeping the opponents range as wide as possible to retain a lot of showdown value.

Example:

NLH1000

SB Steve $1000
BB Martin $1000

Steve posts the small blind $5
Martin posts the big blind $10

Steve has 9♠ 8♠

Steve raises to $30
Martin calls $20

Pot: 60

Flop is A♥ T♠ 2♦

Martin checks
Steve bets $30
Martin calls $30

Notice how Steve has 9 high, absolutely no showdown value whatsoever, but he flopped a backdoor flush and straight draw and has some foldequity versus better hand that might already fold to a bet. He decides to continuation bet
Pot: $120 Turn is A♥ T♠ 2♦ 9♣

Martin checks
Steve checks

Steve improves to a pair of nines, but cannot really bet for value due to the board already showing two overcards and him cbetting the flop has narrowed his opponents range already towards value combos and bluffcatchers. But his pair of nines still has some showdown value against some lower pocket pairs and draws

Pot: $120 River is A♥ T♠ 2♦ 9♣ 6♣

Martin bets $65
Steve calls $65

Steve has a decision to make if he thinks he has enough [showdown value](#) to win the pot often enough against Martin's [bet](#). He decides on calling after thinking a lot about what bluffs his opponent could have!

Martin shows Q♠ J♥ , ace high queen [kicker](#)
Steve shows 9♠ 8♠ , a pair of nines ace [kicker](#)
Steve wins the pot $250

His opponent actually had a busted [gutshot](#) he decided to [bluff](#) at the river. Steve is still unsure though about his river [call](#). At least he saw the [showdown](#) with his hand and in this case got his [showdown value](#)!