

Bidding Conventions Overview and Tips/Tricks

Feel free to comment or ask questions on anything on this document.

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Overview

Thinking about a bidding plan before opening.

Knowing how many points you need to open/respond/invite/accept invitations is essential to develop your bidding plan.

Always try to bid in tempo if possible

1NT Auctions

Three main course of action when your partner opens 1NT

- Jacoby Transfers
 - Your bidding sequence is determined by number of cards in the major and number of points in your hand
 - 0-7 points and 5 card major, transfer and pass
 - 8-9 points and 5 card major, transfer and invite with 2NT
 - 10+ points and 5 card major, transfer and offer choice of games with 3NT (partner can correct to the four level if he has 3 card support)
 - 0-7 points and 6 card major, transfer and pass
 - 8-9 points and 6 card major, transfer and bid 3 level of major
 - 10+ points and 6 card major, transfer and bid 4 level of major
- Super Accepts (subset of Jacoby Transfers) - Opener needs 4 card support and 17 points to do this
 - 1NT-2♦-3♥
 - Shows 4 hearts and 17 points
 - 1NT-2♥-3♠
 - Shows 4 spades and 17 points
 - The point is to try to bid game with less points. A 9 card fit needs less points than an 8 card points for game.
- Stayman - responder needs a four card major and 8+ points
 -
- Bidding NT
 - 2NT with 8-9 points
 - 3NT with 10-14 points
 - 4NT with 15-17 points
 - 5NT with 20+ points

Example auctions and what they mean

1NT-2♦-2♥-3♥: Responder is showing 8-9 points and 6+ hearts

Pass: Opener has 15-16 points

4♥: Opener has 16-17 points

1NT-2♦-2♥-2NT: Responder is showing 8-9 points and 5 hearts

Pass: Opener has 15-16 points and 2 hearts

3♥: Opener has 15-16 points and 3 hearts

3NT: Opener has 16-17 points and 2 hearts

4♥: Opener has 16-17 points and 3 hearts

1NT-2♥-2♠-3NT: Responder is showing 10+ points and 5 spades

Pass: Opener has 2 spades

4♠: Opener has 3 spades

1NT-2♥-2♠-4♠: Responder is showing 10+ points and 6+ spades

1NT-2♣-2♥-2NT: Responder is showing 8-9 points and 4 spades

1NT-2♣-2♥-2NT-4♠: Opener has 17 points and 4 spades to go with responders 8-9 points and 4 spades

1NT-2♣-2♠-3NT: Responder has 10+ points and 4 hearts

Negative Doubles

- Negative Double is done by responder to “deny” the suits bid by opener and an overcaller.
- The format is when partner opens a suit at the 1 level, the opponents overcall up to 4H, and then you double.
- Example Auctions
 - 1♣-1♦-Double: This shows 4 hearts and 4 spades
 - 1♣-1♥-Double: This shows 4 spades and most likely 4 diamonds
 - 1♣-1♠-Double: This shows 4 hearts and most likely 4 diamonds
 - 1♦-1♥-Double: This shows 4 spades and most likely 4 clubs
- What it shows: Always shows 4 cards in a major. May also have 4 cards in minor as well. Best to be 4-4 in unbid suits.
- Consequences
 - 1♣-1♥-X shows exactly 4 spades and likely 4 diamonds
 - Which means that 1C-1H-1S should show 5 or more spades

New Minor Forcing (Alertable)

- One of the more complicated conventions that we will learn. The format of this convention is 1 minor - 1 major - 1NT - 2 other minor with no interference from the opponents. The second minor bid is artificial and forcing.
- What it shows: 10+ points and either 5 of the first major bid or 4 of the other major.
- 1♣-1♥-1NT-2♦-2♥
 - Here opener is showing 3 card heart support
- 1♣-1♥-1NT-2♦-2♠
 - Opener is denying 3 hearts, but showing 4 spades
- 1♣-1♠-1NT-2♦-2♥
 - Opener is showing 4 hearts, but may also have 3 spades.
- 1♣-1♠-1NT-2♦-2♠
 - Opener is denying 4 hearts, but has 3 spades.
- 1♦-1♥-1NT-2♣
- 1♦-1♠-1NT-2♣

4th Suit Game Forcing (Alertable)

- 4th suit forcing is when responder bids a fourth suit and it is completely artificial and game forcing.
- 1♣-1♠-2♦-2♥ is an example auction.
- 4th suit forcing is only forcing for one round when responder is a passed hand.

Michaels Cuebids

- These apply when they open one of the suit and you have a certain 5-5 hands. You bid their suit at the two level.
- 1♣-2♣
 - Shows 5 cards in both hearts and spades
- 1♦-2♦
 - Shows 5 cards in both hearts and spades
- 1♥-2♥
 - Shows 5 spades and a 5 card minor. We don't know if it's clubs or diamonds
 - Can bid 2NT to ask partner to bid their minor
- 1♠-2♠
 - Shows 5 hearts and a 5 card minor.
 - Again can bid 2NT to ask partner to bid their minor.

Unusual 2NT

- This is used to show the "lowest 2 suits" (the lowest two suits that haven't been bid) and 5-5 hands yet again.
- 1♣-2NT
 - Shows 5 diamonds and 5 hearts
- 1♦-2NT
 - Shows 5 clubs and 5 hearts
- 1♥-2NT
 - Shows 5 clubs and 5 diamonds
- 1♠-2NT
 - Shows 5 clubs and 5 diamonds