

A Basic Modern Acol Bidding System

LESSON 6: Bidding as Opener at Level Three and Level Four

These bids NORMALLY show a weak hand with less than opening points (3-10), with a 7 card suit at level three and an 8 card suit at level four. That suit should be headed by 2 of the top 3, or 3 of the top 5 honours. You might consider opening a 7222 shape hand in ♦, ♥ and ♠ at level two and a six-card club suit with 3 of the top 5 honours at level three. 2♣ is always your strong game-forcing) bid.

- The bid tells partner that there is just one possible trump suit for the partnership
- It removes bidding space from the opposition (PFA): it is a “pre-empt”
- The best position to pre-empt is in third seat, after 2 passes, as fourth seat is almost certain to have a good hand. Don't give him a chance to describe his hand at a low level
- You may have a partnership agreement NOT to bid at 2/3 level with a weak hand in seat 1 or 2 before partner. Here we are suggesting is you do!
- Partner will either “Put up”, continue the pre-empt or (more likely) “Shut up”, even with a good hand
- You are expecting to go down so check vulnerability .Vulnerable undertricks, especially doubled, are costly

SPECIAL HIGH LEVEL OPENERS

- 1) **Opening 3NT:** The gambling 3NT opener shows a solid seven/eight minor card suit, with no more than a queen outside. You are looking for the 9 trick NT game which may make and score better than the 11 trick minor suit game. Your primary objective is to find game in 3NT.

Responder will only pass with three suits stopped

Responder will bid 4♣ if he wants to play at level 4, opener will pass or correct to his suit

Responder will bid 5♣ if he wants to play in game, again opener passes or corrects

- 2) **Opening 4NT:** This leaves little room for dialogue, so the meaning is very specific.

I have an extremely strong hand partner and this is the best way for me to find out if you have what I need to bid ‘slam’. The bid asks for SPECIFIC ACES.

Responses to an opening 4NT bid are

5♣: No ace

5♦/♥/♠: Ace of the bid suit

5NT: Two aces

6♣: Ace of clubs

Opener has the hands below:

♠KQ	♠KQJ10842
♥AKQJ742	♥
♦	♦AKJ
♣KQJ2	♣KQJ

Applying the different responses allows opener to accurately place the final contract.