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A call is considered made when a bidding card is removed from the bidding box and held touching or nearly touching the table or maintained in such a position to indicate that the call has been made.”  We’ve all seen players fiddling with the bidding box while trying to decide what to bid.  Unfortunately this may give information to their partner; thus it is an irregularity and may result in an adjusted score.  Players are allowed to correct their bid IF it’s a result of a mechanical error rather than a change of mind.  Good habits to develop:   1. Make your choice of bid before touching the bidding box. 2. Look at the bid as you place it on the table to verify that it is your intended call.  If not, immediately announce that you made a mechanical error.   For more information: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bidding_box> |  | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | | | |  | Improving Declarer Play |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | | https://d2zhgehghqjuwb.cloudfront.net/accounts/8512/original/1441739443308-l3sjtfafldte29-8975f653214fcb92d040ee8c0556c5b1.png |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | | | |  | **Card Combinations**  As declarer, many times the ability to make our contract depends on playing one of the suits in a way that maximizes our chance to take tricks.  The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge by ACBL has a section on playing card combinations.  Here is a combination from the Encyclopedia that seems to occur frequently:              A 10 x              Q x x  Our preference is to have the opponents break the suit for us, but that is not always possible.  We can maximize our chances of 2 tricks by leading a small card towards the Q.  If that wins or our right hand opponent rises with the K or J, we have our 2 tricks.  If it loses to our left hand opponent, then finesse the 10.  The probability of taking 2 tricks is 74%. |  | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | | | |  | Demon Defense |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | | https://d2zhgehghqjuwb.cloudfront.net/accounts/8512/original/1441739443308-l3sjtfafldte29-8975f653214fcb92d040ee8c0556c5b1.png |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | | | |  | **Opening Leads**  Auction:                                  You hold: N         E         S         W                                          S – AJ98 1S        P          1NT      P                                       H - 862 2H       all pass                                                      D – A93                                                                                C – J106  What do you lead?  In his book on Modern Bridge Defense, Eddie Kantar writes, “Dummy is likely to have one spade and three hearts.  Lead a heart to cut down on dummy’s ruffing power.  Later, when in with the A of spades, lead another heart.  Every trump you lead translates into one less spade ruff in dummy and another eventual spade trick for you.  When dummy prefers declarer’s second suit, and you have winning tricks or eventual winning tricks in declarer’s first bid suit, lead a trump to protect those winners.”  [www.kantarbridge.com](http://www.kantarbridge.com) ​ |  | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | | | |  | Bidding Tips |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | | https://d2zhgehghqjuwb.cloudfront.net/accounts/8512/original/1441739443308-l3sjtfafldte29-8975f653214fcb92d040ee8c0556c5b1.png |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | | | |  | Responding to 1NT  Your partner opens 1NT and your right hand opponent passes.  You hold: S – Q952 H – K92 D – J83 C – KQ10   What is your bid?  In his CD on Conventions, Mike Lawrence writes, “With 4-3-3-3 shape the hand will often belong in notrump, even if you have a 4-4 spade fit. In the long run, this rates to be the winning bid.  I have faced this situation hundreds of times and the majority opinion of players is that three notrump is best.  One of the reasons is that the opponent on lead does not gain much information from the auction.”  [www.michaelslawrence.com](http://www.michaelslawrence.com) ​ |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | | https://d2zhgehghqjuwb.cloudfront.net/accounts/8512/original/1440775799519-5p1hnccukncul3di-1c2e3f9c252ebd4ccbf478130024b967.png?1440775748?1441805809965?1441805843353 |  |  | | --- | |  | |