# One way of dealing with a 4441 for Acol 12-14 players

There is only a problem if you are wishing to open the bidding with less than 15 HcP.  It is not an issue with more than 14 HcP, or as responder to an opening bid, or as a potential overcaller.

Key Point: we do not mislead with majors so
With a **red** singleton open **1C**       With a **black** singleton open **1D**
Open the opposite coloured minor to your singleton - simple and quick.

If you pick up a 4441 and really cannot be bothered with the hassle then consider
a)  Certainly passing with 12 HcP
b)  Perhaps passing with 13 HcP
You can always enter the auction later if
c)  Partner opens, overcalls or doubles oppos opening
If there is Game on, then partner will certainly open.
If partner is weak then opps will probably bid and give you good info about what to do next, if anything
If you are concerned about the hand being passed out, then consider that you still might get a good score by not opening and opps overbid their cards and go down.

4441 is not, and has never been, easy.
It happens roughly 3% of the time and often you are not in an opening-bid seat.
If all else fails remember that the cop-out is just to Pass,
unless you have 15+ HcP (1N rebid?) in which case get on with it!

Try bidding these hands (dealer west) and comment on the chance of making your contract (suggestions below)

| AJ65 | (1) | Q42 | | AJT8 | (2) | Q942 | | QJ73 | (3) | K5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AKT3 | | 75 | | AQ83 | | K75 | | 5 | | A963 |
| J763 | | KT982 | | 3 | | J62 | | AK86 | | QJ743 |
| 8 (13) | | K53 (8) | | AK74 (18) | | T65 (6) | | K864 (13) | | A5 (14) |

| 8 | (4) | AKQ | | AQT3 | (5) | K942 | | K843 | (6) | AT65 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AKT8 | | QJ942 | | T742 | | AKJ | | AQ63 | | J32 |
| KQ73 | | J8 | | A754 | | 95 | | 3 | | K7 |
| K976 (15) | | Q83 (15) | | K (13) | | JT65 (12) | | AJT9 (14) | | 8752 (8) |

Here are my recommended sequences,  eg 1120 is my code for counting losers (1S 1H 2D and no C) when it is a **suit** contract,  and 0152 is my code for counting winners (no S 1H 5D 2C) when it is a **no trump** contract.

| 1D – 3D | (1023 so every chance of making by ruffing 2 clubs) |
| 1C – 1S – 4S | (1112 so a reasonable contract with S finesse a ruff a H or D) |
| 1C – 1H – 1S – 3N | (0152 so just need to avoid losing a S and four H) |
| 1D – 1H – 3H – 4N – 5H | (0012 and discards on D so an easy one) |
| Pass – 1N – 3N | (4210 but a 3rd H and a C is quite likely) |
| 1C – 1S – 2S | (1212 but might well only lose one C with good finessing) |

and all of these contracts have a good chance of success.

Let's take a look at each of the 4 possible singletons – always better if they are rags!

The biggest problem is always when partner bids your singleton (Sod's Law says he will).

**Key Point:** Do not mislead partner into thinking you have a 5-cMajor, if you don't!

a) <u>1444</u>     7 KQ85 KT86 AJ96     Open 1D and when partner bids 1S rebid 2C.
       If partner bids 1H or 2C then Raise his Force.
       You may have misled partner into thinking you have 5-cD - that is all!
       With a normal 1H opening you are going to mislead partner into 5-cH!

So we open 1D

| Partner Responds | 2C | 2D | 1H | 1S | 1N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| We Rebid | 3C | P | 2H | 2C | Por2C |

Now replace the 6D with the AD to give us 17 HcP (19 pts with a fit)     7 KQ85 AKT8 AJ96

| Partner Responds | 2C | 2D | 1H | 1S | 1N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| We Rebid | 5C | 4D | 4H | 1N | 2N |

b) <u>4144</u>     KQ85 7 KT86 AJ96     Could do as in (a) above but more flexibility by opening 1C
       and rebidding 1S over 1H keeping the bidding nice and low.
       Raise partner's forcing 1D or 1S.
       You may have misled partner into thinking you have 5-cC - that is all!

So we open 1C

| Partner Responds | 2C | 1D | 1H | 1S | 1N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| We Rebid | P | 2D | 1S | 2S | P |

Now replace the 6D with the AD to give us 17 HcP (19 pts with a fit)     KQ85 7 AKT8 AJ96

| Partner Responds | 2C | 1D | 1H | 1S | 1N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| We Rebid | 4C | 4D | 1N | 4S | 2N |

c) <u>4414</u>     KQ85 KT86 7 AJ96     Same as (b) above: Open 1C and rebid 1H over 1D etc.
       You may have misled partner into thinking you have 5-cC - that is all!

So we open 1C

| Partner Responds | 2C | 1D | 1H | 1S | 1N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| We Rebid | P | 1H | 2H | 2S | P |

Now replace the 6H with the AH to give us 17 HcP (19 pts with a fit)     KQ85 AKT8 7 AJ96

| Partner Responds | 2C | 1D | 1H | 1S | 1N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| We Rebid | 4C | 1N | 4H | 4S | 2N |

d) <u>4441</u>     KQ85 KT86 AJ96 7     Back to opening 1D etc.
       You may have misled partner into thinking you have 5-cD - that is all!

So we open 1D

| Partner Responds | 2C | 2D | 1H | 1S | 1N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| We Rebid | 2H* | P | 2H | 2S | P |

*Some of you may have difficulty with this one
  if you consider it to be a 'reverse' bid.

Now replace the 6H with the AH to give us 17 HcP (19 pts with a fit)     KQ85 AKT8 AJ96 7

| Partner Responds | 2C | 2D | 1H | 1S | 1N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| We Rebid | 2N | 4D | 4H | 4S | 2N |

Please do contact me with any queries or suggestions for improvement
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