

Playing Tricks

Playing tricks (PT) is a bridge hand-assessment that determines “*How many tricks your hand is expected to take **if you declare with your long suit as trumps.***”

You also assume normal breaks and average card positions.

It is a **practical, trick-based measure of offensive strength**, not a point count. It is primarily used when bidding with a strong hand that requires a specified number of playing tricks. E.g. the **classic Acol 2♣ opening**, requiring 23+hcp or 8/9 playing tricks.

Example;

♠	A K Q J 9 8 2
♥	A Q
♦	3
♣	A 10 7

HCP	LTC	PT
10	0	7*
6	1	1½ [#]
0 (20)	1 (4)	0 (9)
4	2	1

* 4 top ♠s & unlikely 5-1 break

K♥ finesse ~ ½PT?

This hand, with < 23 hcp, still qualifies for an Acol 2♣ opening bid