

## LONG SUIT TRIAL BIDS IN A MAJOR

You open 1H or 1S, partner responds 2H or 2S. Do you pass or go on? Trial bids help you find out more about partner's hand. They help you find game on border line hands and stay out of non making games.

This is a very simple trial bid

1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass

3 ♥ \* Pass Pass# Pass

\* How good are you pard?

# I'm minimum

But what if you need more information? You may be wide open in clubs for example, 3 losers, and if the finesse doesn't work this contract isn't making.

Opener's hand for a trial bid will be 16 – 18 hcp 5 or 6 losers plus shape. With a flat hand you'll pass or bid 2N (17-18).

♠ J 10 3 16hcp, 6 losers and 3 losers in spades

♥ A Q J 9 4

♦ A K J 7

♣ 2

The trial bid will look like this

1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass

2 ♠ \*

\* Partner, I have a good hand, whether we play in game depends on your hand, can you help in spades? After agreeing what suit you're playing in bid the suit you need help in at the lowest level.

These are long suit trial bids because they are usually 3 cards long. There is no need to alert. Short suit trial bids show a singleton or a void or possibly 2 cards and must be alerted.

### Responding to a trial bid

Partner's response depends on their points and losers in the trial bid suit.

If no loser or only one loser in the suit bid game, whether min or max

If two losers in the trial bid suit, sign off in 3 if minimum hcp but go to game if maximum

Three losers in the suit, sign off at the 3 level even if max.....usually

Hand A	Hand B	Hand C
♠ 8 5 3	♠ 5	♠ 6 3 2
♥ K J 6 4	♥ A 7 6 4	♥ A 9 6 4
♦ J 8 6 4	♦ Q 6 4 3 2	♦ K Q 6 5
♣ A 7	♣ 9 8 2	♣ 5 3

A. put partner back to their suit. Max but 3 losers in spades

B. 4 ♥ Min but only 1 loser in spades

C. Use a counter trial bid which enables you to provide more details about your hand

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### Bidding for Hand C

1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♦#	

\*Can you help in spades?

# No but I'm max and have useful diamonds if that helps

Use a counter trial bid

- If you're max
- Can't help in the trial suit but have a useful alternative suit
- But don't go too high. Eg if you've agreed to play in hearts and pard needs help in clubs. Don't now bid 3 spades because you can help there.