

Thinking Counting Defence 2

So partner opens the bidding 1S
playing 5 card majors and we ?

We place 13 high card points and 5+
spades up there. We say it out loud
but only in our minds.

It's the same methods of thinking if its
4 card majors. Most of the time a 1S
opening has 5+ anyway as it did not
open a lower suit so is probably short
in those.

If playing weak NT then partner also
probably does not have a weak NT.

Tip ..make sure you know if partner
opens 1NT always with 12-14 or only
without 5 card major.

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠		

S	You			
	10	2		
	10	7	5	3
	J	8	4	
	J	10	9	6

Thinking Counting

Defence 2

So now lets say 1NT shows 15-17 and 2D shows Hearts by transfer.

What do we do ??

North 13 hcp and 5+ spades

West we assign 16 points the middle of expected values

East we give 5+ hearts and we don't know the points yet

(We understand a balancing 1NT often shows like 11-14 points) but for this exercise lets call it 15-17

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	pass	pass
1 NT	pass	2 ♦	
		transfer to ♥	

S	You		
10	2		
10	7	5	3
J	8	4	
J	10	9	6

Thinking Counting Defence 2

So not we give East 5+ hearts and 0 to a bad 8 high card points

Did we remember to put our own starting shape in our mind .

2434 shape

Soon out partner will lead and we get to see dummy

Then we can do more sums

Master Ryan would be proud of me but I don't think he ever got to play the bridge

- Count the shapes and points

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	pass	pass
1 NT	pass	2 ♦	pass
2 ♥	pass	pass	pass

S	You			
10	2			
10	7	5	3	
J	8	4		
J	10	9	6	

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Defence 2

Queen of spades lead .. So Jack with partner and Ace with West probably

So how are we doing ..

8 points in dummy and 16 in West leaves 16 for our side so we give partner 14 and 5 card spades for now

The dummy shape ..have we got it stored away for future use .. 2533

Our own 2434

Thus 9476 if you want it that way

Spades maybe 4522

Hearts 2254 or 3154

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	pass	pass
1 NT	pass	2 ♦	pass
2 ♥	pass	pass	pass

E	
	K 7
	Q 9 8 6 4
	K 7 6
	8 7 3

10 2
10 7 5 3
J 8 4
J 10 9 6

Thinking Counting Defence 2

We note East has a very reasonable 8 hcp and a well placed spade King.

And we have done as many sums as we can. 8 points east 16 points including spade Ace West ..14 points with our partner.

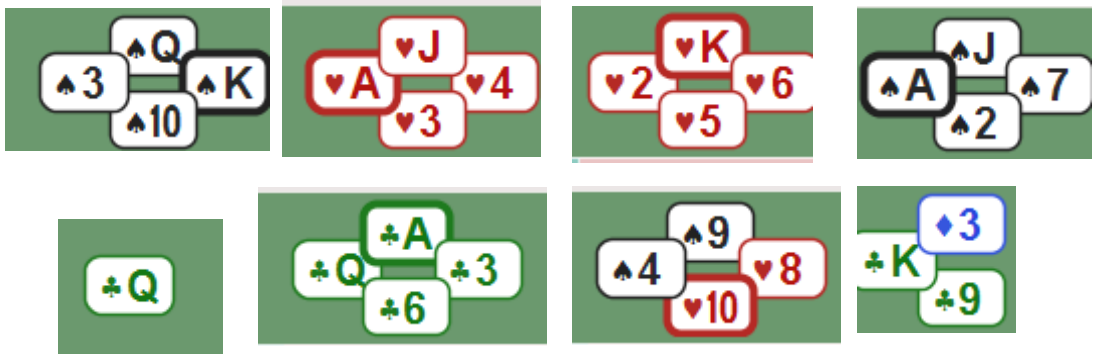
Partner might have competed a bit more with 6-7 card spades so maybe we can call partner for 5 card spades.

Also some Wests would play super accept bid if they own 4 card heart support so we can also forget that.

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	pass	pass
1 NT	pass	2 ♦	pass
2 ♥	pass	pass	pass

E
K 7
Q 9 8 6 4
K 7 6
8 7 3

♠ Q
You
10 2
10 7 5 3
J 8 4
J 10 9 6



Tricks 1-4 above and trick 5 declarer leads. Everything is going as expected and we now know declarer started with only 2H. We decided earlier partner might compete with 6+ spades.

So we might be looking at declarer with 42 starting in the majors

So partner started with 1 club so declarer got not loads but exactly 5.

- Clubs from East 3451
- Spades from East 2235
- Hearts from East 5422

♠ Q

You

10 2

10 7 5 3

J 8 4

J 10 9 6

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	pass	pass
1 NT	pass	2 ♦	pass
2 ♥	pass	pass	pass

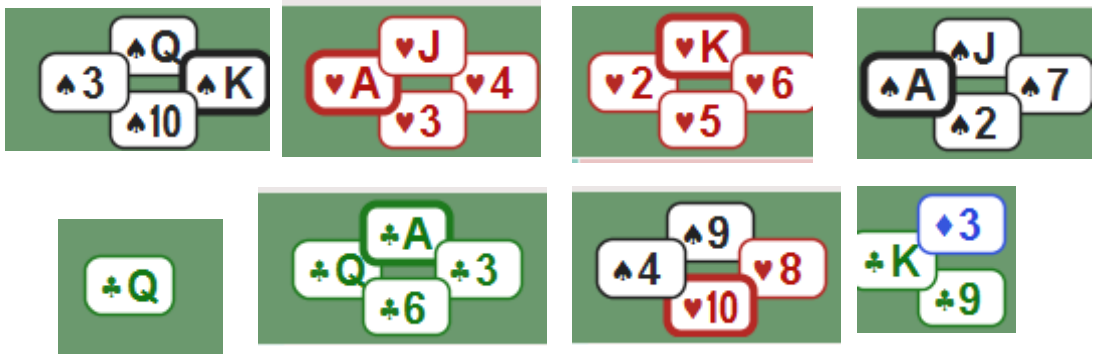
E

K 7

Q 9 8 6 4

K 7 6

8 7 3



Thus as long as partner does not play Diamond Ace on thin air we get the contract down 1

This is why we say Aces for Kings and Kings for queens.

We don't want to waste our ace on 432 value cards. We want to take some value out of opponents hand.

♠ Q

You

10 2

10 7 5 3

J 8 4

J 10 9 6

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	pass	pass
1 NT	pass	2 ♦	pass
2 ♥	pass	pass	pass

E

K 7
Q 9 8 6 4
K 7 6
8 7 3

The diagram illustrates a bridge hand with the following details:

- Deal:**
 - North (N):** 8 5 (spades), A 10 9 5 (hearts)
 - West (W):** 15 (trumps), 6 (spades), Q 2 (hearts), 5 4 2 (clubs)
 - East (E):** 8 (trumps), Q 9 (hearts), K 7 6 (clubs), 8 7 (diamonds)
 - South (S):** You (2 trumps), 7 (spades), J 8 4 (hearts), J 10 (clubs)
- Bidding:**
 - 1NT: pass
 - 2♥: pass
 - 2♦: **2♦** (highlighted)
 - pass: pass
- Card Play:**
 - Trumps: ♦ 3 (North), ♣ 9 (South)
 - Hearts: ♠ K (South)
- Score:** W You 3 EW 3

We have 3 tricks so we get 3 more for 1 down

However the deal here is about doing some counting .. We are not fully focused on beating the contract. Just attempting to demonstrate some counting technique

Thinking Counting

Defence 2

West	North	East	South
1 NT	pass	2 ♣	pass
2 ♥	pass	2 ♠	pass
3 NT	pass	pass	pass

And here we go again

West 16 points

East 4 spades and less than 4 hearts

East 9-10 upwards as went to game

West 4 hearts and less than 4 spades

♠5		E
You		Q 10 8 5
		10 8 4
		A 9 5
		Q 9 4

And Partner North leads club 5

Must have some clubs

How many ??

Whats going on in the clubs

East only 8 points ..so we can give partner about 10

S	You
J 9 6	
Q J 6 3 2	
Q 3	
8 3 2	

Thinking Counting Defence 2

West	North	East	South
1 NT	pass	2 ♣	pass
2 ♥	pass	2 ♠	pass
3 NT	pass	pass	pass

You did of course memorize your own distribution.

3523 was it .. I know you done it.

I know 2 players who say lots and few eventhough they know the exact number of a suit held. One of them is even an accountant. However when goes to bridge its switch off the counting.

What about the clubs or diamonds ..
Anything happening there ..

Nope I did not think so

You	E
♠5	Q 10 8 5
	10 8 4
	A 9 5
	Q 9 4

S	You
	J 9 6
	Q J 6 3 2
	Q 3
	8 3 2

Thinking Counting Defence 2

West	North	East	South
1 NT	pass	2 ♣	pass
2 ♥	pass	2 ♠	pass
3 NT	pass	pass	pass

3523 ...whats that ...oh its your shape

4333... oh its dummys shape

Say it loud say it clear

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hr64MxYpgk&ab_channel=Mike%2BTheMechanics

You	E
♠5	Q 10 8 5
	10 8 4
	A 9 5
	Q 9 4

Before we do any counting ..have a go yourself.. Can you go all the way

What about the clubs

Anything there

S	You
	J 9 6
	Q J 6 3 2
	Q 3
	8 3 2

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So did you get the clubs ...you noted partner led a low one or a small one or a non high one ..

Did you get that partner has most likely 4 clubs ..

We play 4th highest ...and it's the 5 of clubs

And you see 4 in dummy and 32 in your own hand ..

So do the sums .. 4333 around the table..

And the hearts 1354 around the table

West	North	East	South
1 NT	pass	2 ♣	pass
2 ♥	pass	2 ♠	pass
3 NT	pass	pass	pass

You	E
♣5	Q 10 8 5
	10 8 4
	A 9 5
	Q 9 4

S	You
	J 9 6
	Q J 6 3 2
	Q 3
	8 3 2

So did we get all that. We did some counting and eventually found out the whole hand. We are not experts but I know many who call themselves expert but cannot do this or could not be bothered. So try to count...its no loss if you have to give up on first 100 hands but it will generate a top some day.

The image shows a bridge hand simulation interface with the following components:

- Example B D**: A label for the hand.
- West (W) 16**:
 - ♠ K 3
 - ♥ AK 9 5
 - ♦ J 10 7 6
 - ♣ A J 7
- South (S) You 6**:
 - ♠ J 9 6
 - ♥ Q J 6 3 2
 - ♦ Q 3
 - ♣ 8 3 2
- East (E) 8**:
 - ♠ Q 10 8 5
 - ♥ 10 8 4
 - ♦ A 9 5
 - ♣ Q 9 4
- North (N) 7**:
 - ♠ A 7 4 2
 - ♥ 7
 - ♦ K 8 4 2
 - ♣ K 10 6
- Bidding Table**:

1 NT	pass	2 ♣	pass
2 ♥	pass	2 ♠	pass
3 NT	pass	pass	pass
- Score**: 3N W You 0 EW 0
- Trick Count**: A green box with **+5** indicates the result of the hand.