

Diana's Fun With Bridge

May, 2020



Are you all getting a bit antsy and anxious to get back to bridge, either at the club or with friends? I know I am. BBO is great but it can't begin to compare to playing with friends face to face.

Lessons, new and old will start as soon as the clubs feel safe to open. Some repeat lessons and some fantastic new lessons for Level 11 players.

Level 1 Defence will be a repeat

Level 1 Play of the Hand will be a repeat.

Level 2 Defence new, will cover many topics such as:

Unblocking, covering an honor with an honor, mastering signals, attacking dummy's entries, trump promotion plays, mastering the hold-up play. The final lesson will be a fun class on deception.

Level 2 Play of the Hand new. Each lesson will cover only one subject. Possible subjects are: dummy reversal, throw in plays, squeezes, full and partial cross ruffs, false carding. Let me know what you would like. Each lesson may also contain a bit of deception for added fun.

Slams – two informative lessons on how and when to bid your slams.



This is a fantastic video, not only for newer players but experienced players as well on reading the cards to figure out, not only what the opponents are holding but your partner as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hT-hrzd0HY4>

Touching Honors From Declarers Point Of View

1. When winning with touching honors in the closed hand, it is usually right to win with the top card. E.g. holding KQ7, you win with east's jack with the king. From west's point of view, east may then hold the queen.
2. When your touching honors are bare, it may be advantageous to let the defenders know you hold two honors. E.g. with a stopper of KQ doubleton in NT, you might choose to win east's jack with the queen.
3. Before leading touching honours from the closed hand, ask yourself if you want your left hand opponent to cover. If the answer is 'yes', then lead your top honour. If 'no', the second highest honour is better.
4. Similarly, play a high card from dummy when you want to encourage the defender in the third seat to play an honour.
5. Remember that the picture you are trying to create in the defender's mind must be consistent with what she already knows about the hand

We all know the expression, ‘2nd hand low, 3rd hand high.’

There are perfectly good reasons why this is so. Playing 2nd hand low you do this to:

1. Conserve high cards.
2. Make declarer guess the location of high cards.
3. Create entry problems for declarer.

However, there are situations when playing 2nd hand low is the wrong card to play.

Play 2nd hand high to:

1. Prevent declarer from winning a trick too cheaply, (splitting honours).
2. Take the setting trick.
3. Cover an honour with an honour to promote winners.
4. When not to cover an honour with an honour.
5. Choosing which honour to cover.

Splitting honours. If declarer leads a low card towards dummy.

	Dummy ♠ A10	
Partner ♠KQJ3		You ♠965
	Declarer ♠8742	

DO NOT play the 3, split your honours, play the jack.



Cover an honor with an honor.

	Dummy ♠ Q65	
Partner ♠7432		You ♠KJ10
	Declarer ♠A98	

Suppose declarer leads the Q from dummy and you play second hand low. What happens? If declarer plays a low card, the Q will win the trick since partner does not have a higher spade. Declarer gets 2 tricks. Instead of playing low, you must cover declarer’s honour, the Q, with a higher honour, the K.

	Dummy ♠ QJ1065	
Partner ♠874		You ♠K32
	Declarer ♠A9	

There is no point in covering an honour with an honour if you can see that there is nothing to promote for your side.

When there are two honors in dummy and you hold.

	Dummy ♠ QJ65	
Partner ♠1074		You ♠K32
	Declarer ♠A98	

Suppose declarer leads the Q from dummy and you play low. The Q wins the trick since partner does not have the A. When the J is led, however, you can now cover and partner’s 10 is promoted into a winner.



BBO Tips

Third hand high works well most of the time, however, there are situations when it is not the correct play. E.g.

When you want to trap a high card in dummy.

	Dummy	
	♠ K8	
Partner		You
♠Q1064		♠AJ73
	Declarer	
	♠952	

Partner leads the four of spades. The lead promises an honor card. You see the king in dummy and you hold the ace and jack. Partner should hold the queen. Do not play the ace, play the jack and your ace will drop the king.

Unblocking your high card.

	Dummy	
	♠ 942	
Partner		You
♠KQJ75		♠A3
	Declarer	
	♠1086	

Partner plays the king from his sequence and you hold the Ace doubleton. Play the ace so you have a card to return to partner.

Play the lowest of touching honors.

	Dummy	
	♣ A93	
Partner		You
♣ <u>5</u>		♣QJ10

10 – the lower of touching equals.

	Dummy	
	♣ J83	
Partner		You
♣ <u>5</u>		♣KQ10

10. Dummy's jack is trapped so you play only as high a card as necessary.

Once you have played the hand you can access the hand by clicking History on the side bar. The results will be displayed right away.

If you are playing in a club game, click History, click the game you want. Up pops the 18 boards played. Click the board you want information on.

Now it gets really cool. You will see the board and if you want to see how you and the opponents played the hand (discover where you were great and not so great) click next trick and keep clicking until you have gone through the hand.

If you want to see how others played the board click Other Tables. Look at the results and if you are curious as to why someone received a top you can click on them and now go through how they played the hand and how the opponents defended, trick by trick.

Playing in a club game the results are displayed on the History tab after the round has been completed.



Short suit leads

1. Lead of a singleton is often good; however, it can expose partners holding.
2. Don't lead a singleton if you have a natural trump trick.
3. Don't lead a singleton honor.

Tip

Be on the alert to double artificial bids, Stayman, Jacoby, Transfers, Blackwood responses and cue bids. These are all lead directing doubles.

I have several books for sale from new to advanced players. They are discounted 10% and I look after the taxes. What could be better? For pick up I could meet you at the front door of the club, 380 Leathead Rd. All books will be wiped before I give them to you. Another great bonus: I have a few Aloe Vera plants looking for homes. If you are looking for a great plant to go along with your book, I am happy to give you one, while supplies last.

FOR NEWER AND ADVANCED NEWER PLAYERS

1. **Barbara Seagram's - Beginning Bridge** - This books takes players from bidding right up to several more advanced techniques like, the takeout double, bidding bid hands, and pre-emptive bidding. A fantastic book. \$20.00
2. **Barbara Seagram's Cheat Sheet** - A super handy reference that most newer players can use at the table. \$10.00
3. **Defensive Play at Bridge** - Quizbook - this book feature amazing quizzes and hands, that if studied, will advance a player to new heights in their bidding and play of the game. Numerous hands to play. \$14.00 One copy only
5. **Jeff Bayone - A Taste of Bridge** - Jeff owns the largest bridge club in NA and created this book for beginning players. A great book. \$20.00
7. **Patty Tucker - Defense Carding & Opening Leads** - A must for players struggling with their opening leads, signals, count, Rule of 11, as well as 2nd and 3rd hand play. Numerous hands to play. \$15.00 One copy only

INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED PLAYERS

8. **Patty Tucker - After a Notrump Opening** - Patty's book not only teaches Stayman & Jacoby but several additional conventions, Texas transfers, Smolen, four suit transfers, 3 level responses to 1NT openers, 3 spades over 2NT and Lebensohl. \$18.00
9. **Audrey Grant - Five Steps to Simplify the Endplay** - this little book simplifies the mysteries of the end play and will greatly improve your playing skills. \$8.00
10. **Joan Anderson - Hands on Weak Two Bids** - Joan's book was the ABTA (American Bridge Teachers Association) book of the year in 2008. It teaches you a disciplined approach to opening weak two bids in all four seats. \$12.00
11. **David Bird & Larry Cohen - On The Other Hand - This** amazing book has 100 pairs of deals that look very similar; however, different techniques are required for each deal. Don't go onto the next deal until you have mastered the why's of the two you are studying. \$22.00
12. **Eddie Kantar Teaches Advanced Bridge Defense** - Take your defence to another level with this book. One copy only. \$28.00
13. **Barry Rigal - Step-by-Step Deceptive Declarer Play** - Barry teaches everything you always wanted to know about deception. \$15.00. One copy only.

What is a Reverse Bid?

You can make a reverse bid when ALL of the following criteria are met:

1. You open the bidding with 1-of-of-a-suit and partner responds at the 1-level.
2. Your hand is unbalanced so you can't rebid no-trump.
3. You lack 4-card support for partner and therefore can't raise them.
4. You have a second suit whose rank is higher than your first suit.
5. Your second suit is shorter than your first suit.
6. You have a strong hand worth 16+ (or 17+) points.

Examples

West				
♠ 4				
♥ AK52	West	North	East	South
♦ KQJ83	1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
♣ A87	2♥			

2♥ is a reverse. (You can check it against all the rules above.) It's a new suit at the 2-level that bypasses a simple rebid of 2♦.

West				
♠ KJ3	West	North	East	South
♥ 5	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
♦ AKJ4	2♦			
♣ AJT98				

Again, 2♦ is a reverse.

West				
♠ -	West	North	East	South
♥ AK83	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
♦ KQ8	2♥			
♣ KQT732				

What to do with a 6-card minor? Holding a 4-card major, it's worth investigating a major-suit fit rather than rebidding clubs.

Responses to a reverse.

Holding a weak hand, 6-8 points.

1. 3-card support simply raise partner 1-level.
2. Bid 2NT without support and a stopper in the 4th suit.
3. If you were able to bid a suit at the 1-level, rebid it if you cannot support partner.

Holding a strong hand, 9+ points.

1. Jump raise in partner's 1st suit holding 3+ card support.
2. Jump raise in partner's 2nd suit holding 4+ in the suit.
3. Bid 3NT if holding a stopper in the 4th suit and without support for partner's suits.
4. Bid a 4th suit. This is natural and forcing after partner's reverse.

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