

Bridge Hand Evaluation

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How good is my hand?

- Mechanical evaluation tools
- Hands in isolation
- Short and long suit holdings
- Defensive values and competitive bidding

Law of Total Tricks

N	E	S
1♥	2♦	?

S: Qxx

S: x

H: Jxxx

H: KJxx

D: Qxx

D: xx

C: Kxx

C: KQJxxx

Losing Trick Count

S: Axx

H: KJxx

D: Kxxx

C: Qx

S: KQx

H: Q10xxx

D: Ax

C: xxx

S: Axx

H: KJxx

D: Kxxx

C: Qx

S: KQx

H: Q10xxx

D: xxx

C: Ax

Hands in Isolation

- Use point count and shape to evaluate your hand before the auction starts
- You **CANNOT** add **PLUS** or **MINUS** values before the auction starts
- Once the auction starts, be prepared to constantly re-evaluate the strength of your hand

Short and Long Suit Holdings

S: xx

H: xxx

D: xxxx

C: AKxx

S: Qx

H: Qxx

D: Qxxx

C: Qx

S: xx

H: xxx

D: xxxx

C: AQxx

S: Kx

H: Kxx

D: Kxxx

C: Kx

Short and Long Suit Holdings

S: xx

H: xxx

D: xxxx

C: Axxx

S: KQ

H: KQx

D: KQxx

C: KQ

S: xx

H: xxx

D: xxxx

C: Kxxx

S: AQ

H: AQx

D: AQxx

C: AQ

The presence of 10s

S: AJxxx

H: AJxxx

D: KJxx

C: KJ10x

S: Qxx

H: Q10x

D: Qxx

C: Qxx

Short and Long Suit Holdings

- The more cards you have in a suit between the two hands, the more valuable your minor honour cards
- Queens and jacks in short suits are MINUS offensive values unless...
- Queens and jacks in partner's suit are PLUS offensive values
- Tens in long suits are PLUS offensive values

Upgrade or Downgrade?

S: xxx

H: Kx

D: AJxxx

C: Qxx

S: Ax

H: AQJ10xx

D: Q10x

C: xx

S: xxx

H: Kx

D: AJxxx

C: Qxx

S: AQ

H: AQJ10xx

D: 10xx

C: xx

Upgrade or Downgrade?

S: A10xxx

H: Qx

D: Jxxx

C: xx

S: QJxx

H: AKxxx

D: x

C: Kxx

S: Qxxx

H: x

D: AKJxx

C: Axx

S: AKJxx

H: Kxx

D: Qx

C: Qxx

Defensive values

- Queens and Jacks in the opponents' suits are PLUS defensive values
- Aces and Kings in short suits are PLUS defensive values
- Aces and Kings in our suit; Queens and Jacks in short suits are NEUTRAL
- Queens and Jacks in our suit are MINUS defensive values

Competitive Bidding

N	E	S
1♥	2♦	?

S: Qxx

S: x

H: Jxxx

H: KJxx

D: Qxx

D: xx

C: Kxx

C: KQJxxx

Summary

- If you think the correct bid is obvious, make that bid!
- When unsure:
 - Offensive Plus Values: Honour cards and supported 10s in partner's suit
 - Offensive Minus Values: Queens and Jacks in short suits
 - Defensive Plus Values: Honour cards in the opponents' suit and Aces and Kings in short suits
 - Defensive Minus Values: Queens and Jacks in your long suits
- Don't rely totally on laws and axioms: develop and use your judgement!