

Audrey Grant Bridge Basics

Chapter Two

No Trump Opening Bid and Responses

Review

Hand Valuation – High Card Points

Ace – Four Points

King – Three Points

Queen – Two Points

Jack – One Point

There are **40** High Card Points in the Deck

Review

Hand Valuation – Length

The Distribution or shape of the hand – the number of cards in each suit, plays a part.

Length Points

5 Card Suit	1 Point Extra
6 Card Suit	2 Points Extra
7 Card Suit	3 Points Extra
8 Card Suit	4 Points Extra

How High?

Hand Valuation

		High Card Points	Length Points
Value this hand:	♠ Q 7 4	2	0
	♥ A J 3	5	0
	♦ Q 10 7 6 4	2	1
	♣ K 4	3	0
	Total	12	1

We count length when valuating a hand for the purpose of opening the bidding.

Game Bonus Levels

Let's look at our Bidding Ladder

Bidding Ladder

What are the game bonus levels?

3 No Trump

4 Hearts or 4 Spades

5 Clubs or 5 Diamonds

Bidding Ladder

Which game requires the fewest tricks?

How many tricks are required?

Bidding Ladder

How many tricks are required to make game in a major suit (hearts or spades)?

How many tricks are required to make game in a minor suit (clubs or diamonds)?

Bidding Ladder

Slam Bonus's

How many tricks are required to make a Small Slam?

How many tricks are required to make a Grand Slam?

Does the suit named make a difference?

Bidding Ladder

Partscore

Any contract that does not receive a game bonus or slam bonus is a partscore.

One way for the partnership to determine whether it belongs in a game bonus or slam bonus is to consider the combined valuation points

**The Partnership makes 2 decisions
during the auction process**

How High?

Where?

How High?

**Approximately how many combined points
does it take to make a contract of ?**

3 No Trump

4 Hearts or 4 Spades

5 Clubs or 5 diamonds

How High?

**Approximately how many combined points
does it take to make a contract of ?**

Small Slam contract

Grand Slam Contract

Where?

How many combined cards would the partnership like to have to consider making that suit a trump suit?

Eight or more

First Priority for Choosing An Opening Bid

One No Trump Opening Bid

15 to 17 High Card Points

Balanced Hand

Why? This bid is Precise and Descriptive

One No Trump Opening Bid

15 to 17 High Card and Length Points

Balanced Hand

No Voids

No Singletons,

At most, one Doubleton

One No Trump Opening Bid

Balanced Hands

Hand 1	Hand 2	Hand 3	Hand 4	Hand 5	Hand 6
♠ XXX	♠ XXXX	♠ XXXX	♠ XXXXX	♠ XXXX	♠ XXXXX
♥ XXXX	♥ XXXX	♥ XXXX	♥ XX	♥	♥ XX
♦ XXX	♦ XX	♦ X	♦ XXXX	♦ XXXXX	♦ XXX
♣ XXX	♣ XXX	♣ XXXX	♣ XX	♣ XXXX	♣ XXX

Let's look at some hands

This is North's hand

♠ K x x
♥ Q x x
♦ A J x x
♣ K Q x

**Does this hand meet the requirements for a
1 No Trump Opening bid?**

How many points?

Is it balanced?

What would North open with this hand?

Another
This is North's hand

♠ K x x
♥ Q J x x
♦ A J x x
♣ K Q x

Does this hand meet the requirements for a
1 No Trump Opening bid?

How many points?

Is it balanced?

What would North open with this hand?

Let's look at some hands

This is North's hand

♠ K x x
♥ Q J x
♦ A J x x x
♣ K Q

**Does this hand meet the requirements for a
1 No Trump Opening bid?**

How many points?

Is it balanced?

What would North open with this hand?

Let's look at some hands

This is North's hand

♠ K x
♥ Q J x x x
♦ A J x x
♣ K Q

**Does this hand meet the requirements for a
1 No Trump Opening bid?**

How many points?

Is it balanced?

What would North open with this hand?

Let's look at some hands

This is North's hand

♠ K x
♥ J x x x
♦ A J x x
♣ K Q x

**Does this hand meet the requirements for a
1 No Trump Opening bid?**

How many points?

Is it balanced?

What would North open with this hand?

Let's look at some hands

This is North's hand

♠ A K x
♥ J x x
♦ A J x x
♣ K Q x

**Does this hand meet the requirements for a
1 No Trump Opening bid?**

How many points?

Is it balanced?

What would North open with this hand?

Responding to 1 No Trump with 0 – 7 Points

North has bid 1 NT - East has passed

South must decide **How High?** and **Where?**

South has the following hand

♠ X X X
♥ K X X X
♦ J X X
♣ X X X

South has the following hand

♠ X X X
♥ K X X X
♦ J X X
♣ X X X

How many points does south have?

What is the maximum combined strength of the partnership?

How High does the partnership belong?

What call does South make?

Let's change south's hand

♠ x x x
♥ K x x x
♦ A x x
♣ x x x

How many points does south have?

What is the maximum combined strength of the partnership?

How High does the partnership belong?

What call does South make?

Let's try another hand

♠ X X X
♥ K X X X X X
♦ X
♣ X X X

How many points does south have?

What is the maximum combined strength of the partnership?

How High? does the partnership belong?

The Second decision is **Where?** does the partnership belong?

♠ X X X
♥ K X X X X X
♦ X
♣ X X X

The Second decision is **Where?** does the partnership belong?

How many hearts does the partnership have in the combined hands?

What call does South make?

What will opener do after responder bids 2 hearts?

Let's try another hand

♠ X X X
♥ K Q X X X
♦ X X
♣ X X X

How many points does south have?

What is the maximum combined strength of the partnership?

How High? does the partnership belong?

The Second decision is **Where?** Does the partnership belong?

♠ X X X
♥ K Q X X X
♦ X X
♣ X X X

The Second decision is **Where?** does the partnership belong?

How many hearts does the partnership have in the combined hands?

What call does South make?

In general, with a five card or longer suit, responder will choose to play with that suit as trumps when the partnership belongs in part score.

**Partner has opened 1 No Trump
Responder has 0-7 points and a 5 card or longer suit**

In general, with a five card or longer suit, responder will choose to play with that suit as trumps when the partnership belongs in part score. Responder bids:

2 Diamonds

2 Hearts

2 Spades

Opening bidder must pass these bids.

These are called signoff bids

**Partner has opened 1 No Trump
Responder has 0-7 points and a 5 card or longer suit**

In general, with a five card or longer suit, responder will choose to play with that suit as trumps when the partnership belongs in part score. Responder bids:

2 Diamonds

2 Hearts

2 Spades

What about clubs? 2 clubs is reserved for another bid

Let's try another hand

♠ X X X
♥ K Q X X
♦ X X X
♣ X X X

How many points does south have?

What is the maximum combined strength of the partnership?

How High? does the partnership belong?

The Second decision is **Where?** Does the partnership belong?

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One No Trump Opening Bid
15 to 17 Points and a Balanced Hand

Can you open these hands 1 No Trump?

Hand 1	Hand 2	Hand 3	Hand 4
♠ AKxxx	♠ AKxxx	♠ AKxxx	♠ AKx
♥ xxx	♥ xxx	♥ xx	♥ Axxx
♦ KQxx	♦ KQx	♦ KQxx	♦ KQxx
♣ A	♣ Ax	♣ Ax	♣ Ax

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One No Trump Opening Bid
15 to 17 Points and a Balanced Hand

Can you open these hands 1 No Trump?

Hand 5	Hand 6	Hand 7	Hand 8
♠ AQxxx	♠ xxxx	♠ AKxxx	♠ AKxxx
♥ xxx	♥ AJx	♥ xx	♥ xx
♦ KJx	♦ KQx	♦ KQx	♦ AKx
♣ Ax	♣ Ax	♣ Kxx	♣ Kxx

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Bidding Messages

Signoff – asks partner to pass in a part score

Invitational – Invites partner to bid game

Forcing – Asks (forces) partner to bid again

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Responding to One No Trump Opening Bid

Deciding **How High?** Do the Math! **Where?**

0 to 7 Points – Part Score (not enough for game)

Pass or play in a suit contract at the 2 /3 level

Use a **signoff** bid

8 to 9 Points – Invitational

Invite Game – for example, bid 2 No Trump

Responding to One No Trump Opening Bid

Deciding **How High?** Do the Math! **Where?**

10 to 15 Points – Game

Play in **3 No Trump or 4 of a Major**

16 to 17 Points – Invite Slam

Bid 4 NT (Quantitative invitation to Slam)

18 to 19 Points – Small slam

Bid 6 NT – The Person in the Know Goes!

Responding to One No Trump Opening Bid

Deciding **How High?** Do the Math! **Where?**

20 to 21 Points – Invite Grand Slam

Bid 5 NT – this is a Forcing bid to 6 NT
With an invitation to 7 NT

22 up – Grand Slam

Bid 7 NT; Again, The person in the know goes!

Responding to One No Trump Opening Bid

Deciding **How High?** Do the Math! **Where?**

Partner has opened 1 No Trump.

How do you respond with the following hands?

Hand 1

♠ Q 6 3

♥ K 7 3

♦ Q 7 4 3

♣ 10 4 3

Hand 2

♠ A K 3

♥ 9 8 7

♦ K Q 3

♣ 7 5 4 3

Hand 3

♠ 9 8 7

♥ 8 3 2

♦ K Q 5 4

♣ A 8 2

Hand 4

♠ 9 8 4

♥ 8 6 3

♦ A K Q 4 2

♣ 5 4

Responding to One No Trump Opening Bid

Deciding **How High?** Do the Math! **Where?**

Partner has opened 1 No Trump.

How do you respond with the following hands?

Hand 5

♠ A Q 9

♥ 8 6 3

♦ K J 2

♣ A Q 4 3

Hand 6

♠ A Q 9

♥ Q 6 3

♦ K J 2

♣ A Q 4 3

Hand 7

♠ A K 4

♥ 7

♦ K Q 4 3 2

♣ Q 9 8 4

Hand 8

♠ A Q J

♥ K Q 3

♦ A K 4 2

♣ Q J 9

Responding to One No Trump Opening Bid
Deciding How High? Do the Math! Where?

Partner has opened 1 No Trump.

How do you respond with the following hands?

Hand 9

♠ A 9 8 4

♥ A 3 2

♦ K Q 7 6

♣ 9 8

Hand 10

♠ Q 8 2

♥ 8 7 4 2

♦ K Q 4

♣ A Q 5

Hand 11

♠ AKQJxx

♥ K 2

♦ 8 7

♣ 9 8 7

Hand 12

♠ A K 7

♥ A 8 3 2

♦ K Q 5 4

♣ A 2

Developing Extra Tricks

- **Promotion**
- **Length**
- **Finesse (to be discussed later)**

Developing Extra Tricks

Promotion

1) Declarer ♠ K Q 7 Dummy ♠ 9 6 2

2) Declarer ♥ K 9 5 Dummy ♥ Q J 2

3) Declarer ♣ Q 9 3 2 Dummy ♣ J T 7 6

Developing Extra Tricks

Length

1) Declarer ♠ A K 9 7 Dummy ♠ 8 6 3 2

2) Declarer ♥ Q 9 5 Dummy ♥ J T 8 7 2

Defender's Tip – Attitude Signals

When defender has a choice of cards to play,

A high card is an encouraging signal

A low card is discouraging signal

Defender's Tip – Attitude Signals

The following cards are held:

North - ♥ A 4
East - ♥ K 8 2
South - ♥ 9 7 6 3
West - ♥ Q J 10 5

If South is Declarer in No Trump,
Who leads?
What card do they lead?
What does it mean?

Defender's Tip – Attitude Signals

**If South is declarer in No Trump and West has
The lead, which card would west lead?**

♥ Q

What information does this card tell east?

Top of Sequence

South wins the trick in North's hand with the Ace

What message would East like to send West?

East likes hearts

Defender's Tip – Attitude Signals

Which card should east discard to encourage West to lead hearts again?

With a choice between ?

♥ 8 ♥ 2

East must discard the ♥ 8 to encourage partner to lead the heart suit again.

Defender's Tip – Attitude Signals

Now, the following cards are held:

North - ♥ A 4
East - ♥ 9 8 2
South - ♥ K 7 6 3
West - ♥ Q J 10 5

Defender's Tip – Attitude Signals

Now, which card should East discard to encourage West to lead hearts again?

With a choice between ?

♥ 8 ♥ 2

East must discard the ♥ 2 to discourage partner to lead the heart suit again.

Deal # 5

Sort into suits, and arrange face up dummy style on the table in front of you

Decide which partnership has the most points

Deal # 5

How many combined points does North- South have?

22

How many combined points does East – West have?

18

Which partnership has more combined points?

Sure Tricks

Let's count the sure tricks in North / South hands

**Sure tricks are those that can be taken
without giving up the lead**

Sure Tricks

Let's count the sure tricks in North / South hands

How many sure tricks in the spade suit? (1)

Heart suit? (2)

Diamond suit? (4)

Club suit? (0)

How High?

How High would the partnership want to be on the bidding ladder with 7 sure tricks between the two hands?

Where? Would the partnership want to be at the one level In a suit, or in No Trump

The Opening Lead

**North is declarer, which player
makes the opening lead?**

Which card and suit would you lead?

Play the hand

**Each team (but south – dummy),
pick up your cards**

East – lead the Ace of Clubs

Play the hand

Play point

East and West – turn your cards over

**North – south – turn over all cards
but the diamond suit**

There is a challenge in taking all four diamond tricks

Play Point

How to get four diamond tricks?

Play the Ace first, then play to the King...

**Now there is no way to get back to the
diamond winners in South's hand**

Play Point

How to get four diamond tricks?

Unevenly divided suits require special care when taking sure tricks

A useful guideline when taking sure tricks is:

Play the high card from the short side first

Exercise 3 – Deciding How High & Where? Drawing Trumps

**Deal out hand # 6 and place face up
Dummy style in front of you**

**Talk among yourselves and fill
out the contract card**

The Contract

How many combined points does North-South have?

17

How many combined points does East-West have?

27

Which partnership has more combined points?

The Play

(North and South – turn your cards over)

How many sure tricks in the **spade** suit? **(1)**

How many sure tricks in the **heart** suit? **(6)**

How many sure tricks in the **diamond** suit? **(3)**

How many sure tricks in the **club** suit? **(0)**

The Play

How many sure tricks total?

How High would East – West want to bid?

Partscore or game?

Where would East – West want to play?
In No trump or hearts?

What contract would east – west bid?

The Opening Lead

If west is the declarer, which player will make the opening lead?

What is north's opening lead?

Go ahead and play the deal

Play Point

East & West – turn over the spades, hearts & clubs

**North leads the ♦ J against
West's contract of 4 Hearts.**

**Is there anything that would prevent declarer
from taking 3 tricks in diamonds right away?**

Play Point

Yes, the opponents could trump a diamond trick.

**A useful guideline when we have
the tricks we need is :**

Draw Trumps First
(unless there is a reason not to)

Drawing the defenders trump

Means to play the trump suit until the defenders have none left.

Deal out hand #7

Place cards face up, dummy style in front of you

Use the contract cards to add up the points

Hand # 7

How many combined points does North-South have?

21

How many combined points does East-West have?

22

Which partnership has more combined points?

Hand # 7 - Play

North & South – turn your hands face down

How many sure tricks in the **spade suit? (0)**

How many sure tricks in the **heart suit? (2)**

How many sure tricks in the **diamond suit? (2)**

How many sure tricks in the **club suit? (0)**

Hand # 7 - Play

How many sure tricks in total?

Is there a possibility of developing extra tricks?

Let's look at the spade suit

Hand # 7 – Play - Promotion

**How many tricks can be developed
from the spade suit?**

**What is the difference between promoting
and taking sure tricks?**

Hand # 7 – The Contract

How many potential tricks does East-West have?

How High does East – West want to be on the bidding ladder? **Game or Part Score?**

Where does East- West want to play?
No Trump or Trumps?

With 8 possible tricks, what would be a **good choice of contract** for East-West?

Which player would suggest spades as trump suit?

Hand # 7 – The Contract

If east is declarer, which player makes the opening lead?

What would south lead?

Deal out Hand # 8

Place the hands face up dummy style in front of you

Hand # 8 - How High & Where; Length

**Place the hands face up dummy
style in front of you**

How many combined points does North- South have?

27

How many combined points does East – West have?

13

Which partnership has more combined points?

**Which partnership is more likely
to win the auction?**

Hand # 8 - How High & Where; Length

**Place the hands face up dummy
style in front of you**

(East & West – turn your cards over)

How many sure tricks in the **spade suit? (3)**

How many sure tricks in the **heart suit? (2)**

How many sure tricks in the **diamond suit? (2)**

How many sure tricks in the **club suit? (1)**

How many sure tricks in total?

Hand # 8 - How High & Where; Length

**Is there any possibility of developing
extra tricks in spades?**

Hearts?

Clubs?

Diamonds?

Hand # 8 - How High & Where; Length

Diamonds – yes

A second technique used to develop extra tricks is **length.**

By playing a suit until defenders have none left, any remaining cards declarer holds are winners.

Which suit has this possibility?

Hand # 8 - How High & Where; Length

Turn the hearts, spades and clubs face down

East – West – turn your diamond suit face up

**What does declarer have to do to develop
an extra diamond trick through length?**

Play the suit out

Hand # 8 - How High & Where; Length

What is similar about length and promotion?

**You have to give up the lead to opponents
to set up extra tricks.**

Hand # 8 - The Contract

**If North and South can take nine tricks,
what is a good choice of contract?**

**Which player might open the bidding
and suggest no trump as the contract?**

**Opening Lead – If south is declarer, which
player makes the opening lead?**

Play the hand