

Practice Session for U3ABDa10: Opening & Rebidding One-suited and Two-suited Hands

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Welcome!

Here is a list of all the hands that you could play in today's Practice Session. It tells you useful stuff about them, like the cards in each hand, the High Card Points, the "correct" bidding and lead. Don't feel bad if you bid the hands a bit differently, or ended up in a different contract. There are new things to learn each week, it will take you a while to get the hang of it, no doubt.

Bridge is a great game, but it can be overwhelming, so much to think about. Don't worry, it will get easier. We're here to help it all make sense; don't worry about making mistakes, we're always happy to explain or answer questions. Remember, you're playing with other people who are just starting out, too. Let's have fun together!

To help clarify some points in this week's lessons, we've added a Lesson Summary. It describes the same topics from a slightly different angle to the online materials handouts, with additional detail where it seems needed. You can find a link to the Lesson Summary next to the link for the Bidding Commentary on our web site.

-Ed

Advanced topics & background information

Anything in green is background information or more advanced than you need right now. But if you're keen, it's worth knowing.

The Hands

Boards 1-16

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ 743
♥ AKQJT
♦ A
♣ A432

♠ T95
♥ 653
♦ KJ96
♣ Q97

♠ AKQ2
♥ 7
♦ T832
♣ J865

♠ J86
♥ 9842
♦ Q754
♣ KT

Board: 1 Dealer: North Lead: ♠A H14

With 18 high card points (HCP) and a 5 card major (which is REALLY solid), North's bid is easy, 1H. They're two-suited, so plan to rebid Clubs on the second round – with a jump to show their 16-19 point count.

With a bare 6 high card points (HCP), South might be tempted to bid 1NT, but they have 4 card support for their partner's major, so raising it is a MUCH better bid; 2H shows 6-9 points and 4 card support.

After South's 2H bid, North knows that between them they have at least 24 high card points and 9 trumps; the "missing" point doesn't matter much when they can see an easy seven tricks in their hand, so they bid 4H

How important is my second bid?

VERY. North could open 1H with a lot less (12 points and a dismal 4 card suit); the 1H (or 1S) opening is right for a wide range of hands; North's SECOND bid will clarify their strength.

Shortage Points?

As South is raising a trump suit bid by partner, and they have four trumps, they can add an extra point (a Shortage Point) for their doubleton, but it makes no difference to their call.

East	South	West	North
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ T8
♥ A95
♦ 986432
♣ A2

♠ Q75
♥ 87
♦ AKJT5
♣ J65

♠ K62
♥ KQJT
♦ Q7
♣ KQT9

♠ AJ943
♥ 6432
♦
♣ 8743

Board: 2 Dealer: East H104

East has a balanced hand with 16 HCP and two 4-card suits, so opens their higher-ranking Heart suit, planning to rebid 1NT to show their point count. The 1H bid shows 12-19 HCP and 4 Hearts.

(If they were unbalanced, they'd rebid their second suit, 2C.)

West has 11 HCP and a nice 5-card Diamond suit, so bids 2D – showing 10+ HCP and 4 Diamonds. Forcing.

East rebids 2NT as planned, showing 15-16 HCP and a balanced hand. They know they have enough points for 3NT, but 2NT leaves partner room to bid again – they might have more to say. Both partners know that game is likely, they can both count those points!

West adds up their points, making at least 26, so bids 3NT with confidence.

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ Q64
♥ KJ9
♦ AKT5
♣ 753

♠ JT97
♥ A
♦ 8762
♣ KJT4

♠ K832
♥ 742
♦ J94
♣ Q92

♠ A5
♥ QT8653
♦ Q3
♣ A86

Board: 3 Dealer: South Lead: ♠J H2707

South has 12 HCP and a 6-card major in an unbalanced hand, so opens 1H. This shows 12-19 HCP and 4 Hearts. To show their points (12-15) and length (5+), they plan to rebid 2H – this also denies a second 4+ suit.

North has 13 HCP so expects to bid to game, but can't support partner's Hearts (yet) with just 3. Better to bid their longest suit – Diamonds – and get partner to describe their hand further. Bidding a new suit at the 2 level shows 10-15 HCP and 4 cards, and is forcing for one round.

South now knows they have at least 22 HCP, but that isn't enough for game! They bid 2H, showing 5+ Hearts and 12-15 HCP, as planned.

North now knows that partner has at least 5 Hearts, so their 3 Hearts are enough to bid game in Hearts as long as they have the points. They can see at least 25 HCP, so raise to 4H.

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ 4
♥ 9763
♦ K62
♣ A8765

♠ QT96
♥ AKJT
♦ AJ5
♣ KJ

♠ KJ873
♥ Q52
♦ T43
♣ Q9

♠ A52
♥ 84
♦ Q987
♣ T432

Board: 4 Dealer: West Lead: ♦7 H2970

West has 19 HCP and two 4-card majors in a balanced hand. With equal length majors, you open 1H, to make it easy for partner to raise (with 4 Hearts) or bid 1S (with 4 Spades). They plan to rebid 3NT to show their shape and 19 points (you don't plan to bid your second suit in a balanced hand).

The 1H bid just shows 12-19 HCP and 4 Hearts.

East has 8 HCP but only 3 Hearts, so can't raise partner's suit. They bid 1S to show their 4 card major and 6-15 HCP. This bid is forcing for one round.

Change of plan! West knows they have at least 25 HCP and 8 Spades, so bids game (4S) with confidence.

How much is a doubleton KJ worth?

The doubleton KJ is difficult to value. You could value it as 5 points (3 for the K, 1 for the J and 1 for the doubleton), but most players would take at least one point off.

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
		♠ AKQJT8	
		♥ A64	
		♦ 8	
		♣ Q32	
♠ 92			♠ 64
♥ KQ32			♥ T98
♦ T3			♦ J9765
♣ KJ976			♣ A85
		♠ 753	
		♥ J75	
		♦ AKQ42	
		♣ T4	

Board: 5 Dealer: North Lead: ♥T H2120

North has 16 HCP and a good 6-card Spade suit in an unbalanced hand, so opens 1S. This shows 4 Spades and 12-19 HCP. They plan to jump rebid their Spades to show 16-19 points and 6+ trumps.

South has 10 HCP but doesn't have 4-card support for partner's major, so bids their longest suit, 2D. Bidding a new suit at the 2 level shows 10+ HCP and a 4-card suit.

North adds up their points, making 26+. With such a strong trump suit, they don't need much support from partner, so they jump to 3S as planned. A jump rebid shows 16-19 points and 6+ trumps; it is a game invitation (not a game force), it's asking partner to bid 4S if they have at least 2 Spades. (Both partners can count 26+ points, so they are unlikely to stop short of game.)

South has 3 Spades and a really nice Diamond suit, so is happy to raise to 4S.

Should I bid Game or let partner decide?

I think many players would bid 4S over the 2D bid, rather than leave the decision up to partner. Even if partner has 0 Spades, North's suit is so strong they still draw trumps.

East	South	West	North
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
		♠ KQ	
		♥ AT63	
		♦ J5	
		♣ 98654	
♠		♠ AT98652	
♥ 9854		♥ 7	
♦ QT64		♦ AK98	
♣ KQ732		♣ J	
		♠ J743	
		♥ KQJ2	
		♦ 732	
		♣ AT	

Board: 6 Dealer: East Lead: ♥K H1540

East has 12 HCP and a 7 card Spade suit in an unbalanced hand, so they open 1S (showing 12 HCP and 4 Spades, denying 4H+4S). They could plan to rebid 2S to show their length, or show their second suit by rebidding 2D. Hmm.

West has 7 HCP and NO Spades – a terrible fit. 1NT is the obvious response, showing 6-9 points and denying 4 Spades.

East hears the bad news. In principle they could make 4S with a lot of luck, but with limited HCP (18-21) and no idea whether partner has 0, 1, 2 or 3 Spades, it looks grim. 1NT looks like a terrible contract with your two singletons, so East bids 2S which is a sign-off bid; West must not bid again.

Should I rebid my long suit, or my (shorter) second suit?

In principle, East should rebid 2D over 1NT, to show that they are two-suited. This would show five Spades and four Diamonds and allow West to pass (choosing Diamonds) or bid 2S, depending on the fit. However, East has SEVEN Spades, not five, so West's decision would be based on misleading information. I'd bid 2S in this situation.

When you look at the hands, E-W will probably lose one Heart, one Club, no Diamonds and two Spades, making 3S. The only way to make 4S is to set up the Clubs quickly and discard the losing Heart on the second round of Clubs – you lose 2 Spades and 1 Club. Risky!

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
♠ 953 ♥ KT743 ♦ 72 ♣ Q84			
♠ AT8 ♥ ♦ QJ986 ♣ 97532			
♠ 7642 ♥ J92 ♦ 43 ♣ AKJT			
♠ KQJ ♥ AQ865 ♦ AKT5 ♣ 6			

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
♠ 2 ♥ QT82 ♦ QT97 ♣ KJT9			
♠ KJ98 ♥ 3 ♦ A85 ♣ A8653			
♠ AQT7 ♥ A54 ♦ K63 ♣ 742			
♠ 6543 ♥ KJ976 ♦ J42 ♣ Q			

Board: 7 Dealer: South Lead: ♦Q H1532

With 19 high card points (HCP) and a 5 card major, South's opening bid is easy, 1H. They're two-suited, so plan to rebid Diamonds on the second round – with a jump to show their 16-19 point count.

With a bare 5 high card points (HCP), North might be tempted to pass or bid 1NT, but they have 5 card support for their partner's major, and 1 Shortage Point for their doubleton if playing Hearts, so raising 1H to 2H is a MUCH better bid; 2H shows 6-9 points and 4 card support.

After North's 2H bid, North knows that between them they have at least 25 high card points and 9 trumps; more than enough to bid 4H

Should I show my second suit if partner raises my first suit?

If your first suit is a major and partner raises it, you should ignore your second suit and decide whether to pass, bid a Game Invitation (e.g. 1H 2H 3H), or bid Game in your major.

If your first suit is a minor and partner raises it, they don't have another suit they can bid, so you will usually pass or bid NT, unless your hand is strong enough to make Game in your minor. If you bid a second suit, partner will assume it's 5+ cards long and bid accordingly.

Board: 8 Dealer: West Lead: ♣Q H2691

West has 12 HCP, a 5-card Club suit and a 4-card Spade suit in an unbalanced hand. They bid their longest suit, Clubs, even though majors are generally preferable, don't lie to your partner! They plan to rebid Spades, their second suit, if possible but they're too weak to bid above the barrier, so can't rebid 2S.

East has 13 HCP so game is likely. In NT? Even though their hand is balanced, they bid their 4-card Spade suit before choosing NT, just in case partner has four Spades. This 1S bid shows 6-15 points and 4 Spades. It's forcing, so East will get another chance to bid, to clarify or choose the contract.

West has a good fit in Spades (4 cards including 2 honours) but doesn't know East's point count yet (6-15!), so bids 2S to show the fit. This indicates 4 cards in Spades and 12-15 points. This bid is not forcing.

Now East has the good news about the fit, they can bid game in Spades; if West had bid anything else, they could probably bid 3NT.

Who ought to choose the contract?

As a general rule, the person who knows more about their partner's hand is better placed to choose the contract. That's usually the responder, not the opener.

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
		♠ T94	
		♥ KJ9752	
		♦ 7	
		♣ AK6	
♠ AQ5			♠ 732
♥ A83			♥ 64
♦ KT52			♦ J843
♣ 732			♣ Q985
		♠ KJ86	
		♥ QT	
		♦ AQ96	
		♣ JT4	

Board: 9 Dealer: North Lead: ♣5 H2702

North has 11 HCP and a decent 6-card heart suit in an unbalanced hand. This is just enough to open 1H (remember the Rule of 20?), but it's a bit aggressive, as it promises 12-19 HCP and 4 Hearts. They're single-suited and weak, so plan to rebid 2H.

South has 13 HCP and only 2 Hearts, so can't raise partner's suit. Game is very likely, so they need to make a forcing bid. They bid 1S to show their 4-card major at the lowest level, indicating 6-15 HCP, 4 Spades, and less than 4 Hearts. It's forcing for one round, so they will be able to show their points on the next bid.

North still has a weak hand, but South's bid is forcing; they must bid. They can't support partner's Spades with 3 cards, but their Heart suit is long enough to bid again. So they rebid 2H bid as planned, showing 5+ Hearts and 12-15 points.

South thinks that game ought to be on with 25+ HCP, but hasn't found a fit. 3NT is a bit tempting but with a minimum of 7 Hearts, 4H seems safer, so that's the bid they chose. The Queen and Ten should be quite useful.

With a 6-card major, should I ever play in 3NT?

Rarely! But I'd prefer to play this hand in 3NT, even without seeing all the cards. What do you think?

East	South	West	North
1♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
		♠	
		♥ JT74	
		♦ T8742	
		♣ AK92	
♠ Q9642		♠ KJ8753	
♥ K8		♥ A5	
♦ K		♦ AQ5	
♣ QT853		♣ J6	
		♠ AT	
		♥ Q9632	
		♦ J963	
		♣ 74	

Board: 10 Dealer: East Lead: ♣7 H3421

East has 15 HCP and a 6-card Spade suit in an unbalanced hand, so opens 1S (showing 12-19 HCP and 4 Spades). They're single-suited, so plan to rebid 2S to show 5+ trumps and 12-15 points.

West has 10 HCP and 5-card support for Spades, including an honour. They can add 3 more points (Shortage Points) for their singleton and doubleton, making 13 points – enough for game in Spades.

How much are unsupported Honours worth?

West's two Kings could easily turn out to be worthless, if the partner doesn't have the Ace of Diamonds and Ace of Hearts. While you can add 3 Shortage Points for these two suits, some players take High Card Points off for honours in short suits. Luckily, partner has both those aces. Phew.

As a rule, K, Q and J in suits bid by your partner are worth more; K, Q and J in suits bid by the opposition are worth less – as they're less likely to be supported.

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ K76		
	♥ A76		
	♦ 94		
	♣ KJT76		
♠ T82		♠ J943	
♥ QJ32		♥ T95	
♦ KJ632		♦ QT7	
♣ 2		♣ A98	
	♠ AQ5		
	♥ K84		
	♦ A85		
	♣ Q543		

Board: 11 Dealer: South H113

South has 15 HCP and a balanced hand, so bids 1C (their longest suit), planning to rebid NT. Their 1C bid shows 12-19 HCP and 4 Clubs.

North has 11 HCP and excellent support for South's Club suit, so wants to bid strongly. Their jump to 3C shows 4 Clubs and 10-12 HCP, but is not forcing. If partner is really weak they can pass.

South now knows they have enough points for game in NT and maybe enough points for game in Clubs. But their Club suit is short and they have a balanced hand with stops in all the suits; 3NT looks like a much easier contract and may well score better.

Should I raise partner's Minor or bid my Major?

If North had a 4-card major to bid, they would bid that instead of 3C, as a change of suit bid is forcing (so they won't miss game) and game is a lot easier in a major than a minor. Partner could have 4 Spades.

North can add a Shortage Point for their doubleton, playing in Clubs, but that doesn't change their bid.

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ 532		
	♥ K843		
	♦ Q874		
	♣ K5		
♠ AQ87		♠ KJT96	
♥ Q		♥ A52	
♦ A93		♦ K52	
♣ JT743		♣ 62	
	♠ 4		
	♥ JT976		
	♦ JT6		
	♣ AQ98		

Board: 12 Dealer: West Lead: ♥J H597

West has 13 HCP in an unbalanced hand, so bids their longest suit, 1C. This shows 4 Clubs and 12-19 points. They intend to rebid their second suit, Spades, if they can – they may not be strong enough.

East has 11 HCP and 5 Spades, so bids 1S. This shows 4 Spades and 6-15 points. Note that East is strong enough to jump, but there's no need to do that (yet) as their bid of 1S is forcing for one round; this leaves more room for bidding.

West has 4-card support for partner's suit, so can raise it – but how high? Partner might only have 6 points, making a total of 21 (even with two 2 Shortage Points for their Heart singleton). West raises partner to 2S, showing 4-card support and a "weaker" (12-15 point) hand.

East can see game is possible in Spades, but it's a close call. Partner has shown 12-15 points and 4 Spades, so they have a minimum total of 9 Spades and 24 points between them. With so many small cards, they're a bit pessimistic and bid 3S as a game invitation, rather than bidding 4S.

West has a few more points than the minimum for their bidding, so raises 3S to game, 4S.

How much is a singleton Honour worth?

West's singleton Heart is worth two Shortage Points playing in a suit, but most players reduce the value of a singleton Queen from 2 to 1, as it's unlikely to make a trick or help make a trick.

Which should I open, Clubs or Spades?

With the same number of Clubs and Spades, open 1C and bid Spades if you get the chance. Otherwise, open your longer suit.

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

	♠ AQJ	
	♥ KQJT9	
	♦ Q54	
	♣ A8	
♠ T65		♠ 9432
♥ 5		♥ A8432
♦ AJT97		♦ K6
♣ J975		♣ T2
	♠ K87	
	♥ 76	
	♦ 832	
	♣ KQ643	

Board: 13 Dealer: North Lead: ♦ J H1353

North has a strong, balanced hand with 19 HCP. The way to show that is to bid 1 of a suit, then on the second round, jump to 3NT. So North starts by bidding their longest suit, 1H. However, as this is a major and 5 cards, game could be in NT or in Hearts. Let's see...

North's bid shows 12-19 HCP and 4 Hearts – they're much stronger than the minimum, but can show that with their second bid; if partner has less than 6 points then they will pass and North won't get to bid again, but then they didn't have enough points for game anyway.

South has 8 HCP, so is not strong enough to bid their long suit, 2C (bidding a new suit at the two-level shows 10+ points), doesn't have 4 Hearts, so can't raise partner to 2H, so their only sensible bid is 1NT (showing 6-9 HCP). This bid denies 4-card support for Hearts, and denies 4 cards in Spades. A lot of information for partner to use.

North now knows they have enough points (25+) for game in Hearts or NT, but which? They chose 3NT, as partner might have 0 Hearts!

Should I rebid my 5-card major or raise a NT response?

Some partnerships take a different approach to a 3NT hand with a 5-card major, rebidding 3H/S, not 3NT. This is (by agreement) a Game Force: partner must bid 3NT if they have 0-2 cards in the suit, or bid 4H/S if they have 3.

Once again, the strongest hand is going to be dummy. Rats.

Can I really only open one of a suit with 19 points?

North really does have a maximum hand for a 1H opening, is very keen to bid game, but 19 points isn't quite enough for a strong opening bid that FORCES game (we haven't taught you these yet).

South's 1NT bid does NOT promise a balanced hand.

East	South	West	North
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ J76		
	♥ 632		
	♦ QJT9		
	♣ 432		
♠ 8542		♠ KQ	
♥ KQJT95		♥ A8	
♦ K85		♦ A76	
♣		♣ KJ8765	
	♠ AT93		
	♥ 74		
	♦ 432		
	♣ AQT9		

Board: 14 Dealer: East H2692

East has 17 HCP and a decent 6-card club suit in an unbalanced hand. They open 1C, showing 12-19 HCP and 4+ Clubs. They intend to rebid their strong single-suited hand by a jump rebid of Clubs.

West has a good 6-card Heart suit and 9 HCP – and a void in Clubs. Their 1H bids shows 4 Hearts and 6+ HCP. Forcing.

East can now show their strength by jumping to 3C, as planned. This jump rebid promises 16-19 HCP and 6 Clubs, but it isn't forcing.

West has a problem. While they have enough HCP for game in Hearts, or (maybe) Clubs, they have no Clubs and partner hasn't shown any support for Hearts. They have a weak stopper in Diamonds, no stopper in Spades, and their Heart suit will need setting up – 3NT does not look likely.

Their best bid is to show their Hearts again, promising six, and hope partner can bid game in NT or Hearts. Their 3H bid shows 6 Hearts and 10-12 HCP.

Phew. East now knows that they've got 8 Hearts between them, as well as 27 HCP, so can bid 4H.

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ 73
♥ Q752
♦ 974
♣ A652

♠ J5
♥ K643
♦ QT6
♣ KQJ7

♠ AKQ92
♥ T9
♦ AKJ853
♣

♠ T864
♥ AJ8
♦ 2
♣ T9843

Board: 15 Dealer: South H1441

South has 17 HCP in an unbalanced hand, with two suits, so they open one of the longer suit, Diamonds, intending to rebid their second suit, Spades. The 1D bid promises 4 trumps and 12-19 HCP. They plan to rebid 2S, which is "above the barrier" to show 16-19 HCP.

(The barrier is one trick higher than their opening bid of 1D i.e. 2D. So 2S will be above this barrier, showing a stronger hand.)

North has a bare 6 HCP, just strong enough to bid their 4-card Heart suit at the 1 level. 1H promises 6+ HCP and 4 Hearts. Forcing for one round.

South can now bid their second suit, Spades, as planned. Their 2S bid promises 16-19 HCP, 5+ Diamonds and 4+ Spades and is forcing.

North is forced to bid, but is too weak to bid their second suit. They have 3 Diamonds and 2 Spades; Diamonds is a better fit, so they make a preference bid, 3D. This tells partner that they think the partnership has more Diamonds than Spades, and that they are weak (6-9 HCP). (With 10+ they would jump.)

South now knows they have enough points for game, but prefers 4S to 5D, despite North's preference bid. They bid 3S to show they have 5 Spades (and therefore 6 Diamonds); a game invitation, not forcing.

North chooses Diamonds as they can now count at total of 9 Diamonds and 7 Spades. Again, they bid 4D rather than 5D because they're weak. South gets the message and bids 5D.

When should I bid above the barrier?

Bidding "above the barrier" is one way to show you have a strong (16-19 HCP) two-suited hand. It simply means bidding a second suit that's a higher rank than the first!

If your second suit isn't above the barrier, you can convey the same information by jumping when you bid your second suit.

Bidding above the barrier used to be called a "reverse", because it's a reverse of the normal bidding order.

How do I bid a 6-card suit plus a 5-card suit?

Not always possible, but in this hand South's 3S bid shows 6 Diamonds rather than 5: with 5 Diamonds and 5 Spades, because they would open the higher of two equal-length suits.

Should I bid Game or let partner decide?

I think South's 3S bid is rather strange. Do you? Partner has already bid their preference for Diamonds and shown that they're weak (they didn't jump). South's 3S bid isn't forcing, their 2S bid (a jump) showed 16-19 points but North could still pass! I think instead of 3S, South should bid game (5D or 4S) and stop messing about.

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ 64		
	♥ T52		
	♦ AT42		
	♣ JT92		
♠ A9853		♠ QJ	
♥ AKQ98		♥ J7643	
♦ KQ		♦ 75	
♣ Q		♣ K853	
	♠ KT72		
	♥		
	♦ J9863		
	♣ A764		

Board: 16 Dealer: West H3168

West has around 19 HCP and two 5-card suits, Hearts and Spades, so opens the higher-ranked suit, 1S. This bid shows 12-19 HCP and a 4 card Spade suit. (It may look like 20 HCP, but the singleton Q may be worthless and the KQ is worth less than KQx.)

West plans to rebid their second suit with a jump to show their stronger (16-19 point) hand.

East has 7 HCP, so is too weak to bid their Hearts at the 2 level, and doesn't have 4 Spades, so can't raise partner. They bid 1NT, showing 6-9 HCP and denying 4 Spades. This bid is not forcing.

West has a strong two-suited hand, so indicates that with a jump shift i.e. they rebid a new suit (Hearts) one level higher than necessary. Their 3H bid shows 16-19 HCP, 5+ Spades, and 4+ Hearts. This bid is forcing.

East is forced to bid. They aren't strong enough to change suit, but can make a suit preference bid: partner has shown 5 Spades and 4 Hearts, so they have at least 7 Spades and 9 Hearts between them. They bid 4H, the better fit.

Should I jump or bid above the barrier to show strength?

West had a choice. They could have opened 1H, planning to show their strength by rebidding 2S which is "above the barrier". The bidding would then have been much simpler: 1H 2H 4H.

I would have opened 1H; did you?

Boards 17-32

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
 2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
 Pass Pass

♠ AKT972
 ♥ A65
 ♦ 976
 ♣ 4

♠ 843 ♠ 5
 ♥ Q7 ♥ JT9432
 ♦ A42 ♦ QJT5
 ♣ QJT73 ♣ K5

♠ QJ6
 ♥ K8
 ♦ K83
 ♣ A9862

Board: 17 Dealer: North Lead: ♦Q H7

North has 11 HCP and a good 6-card Spade suit in an unbalanced hand, so opens 1S (under Rule of 20, eek). This shows 4 Spades and 12-19 HCP. They plan to rebid their Spades to show 12-15 points and 5+ trumps (probably 6).

South has 13 HCP but doesn't have 4-card support for partner's major, so bids their longest suit, 2C. Bidding a new suit at the 2 level shows 10+ HCP and a 4-card suit.

North adds up their points, making 21+. With a good strong trump suit, they don't need much support from partner, but 21 points isn't enough for game, so they rebid 2S as planned.

South has 3 Spades, so they know they have enough Spades (5+3) for game, and enough points (12+13) for game, so they're happy to raise 2S to 4S.

Should I bid Game or let partner decide?

Some players would only bid 3S, not 4S in this situation - leaving it up to partner, but if you're fairly certain of Game, bid it! Don't make partner guess.

East South West North

1 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
 Pass Pass

♠
 ♥ KJT6
 ♦ QJ83
 ♣ 87652

♠ AK84 ♠ QJ953
 ♥ Q74 ♥ 82
 ♦ A2 ♦ 97
 ♣ T943 ♣ AKQJ

♠ T762
 ♥ A953
 ♦ KT654
 ♣

Board: 18 Dealer: East Lead: ♦5 H17

East has 13 HCP and a 5-card Spade suit in an unbalanced hand, so opens 1S (showing 12-19 HCP and 4 Spades). They're two-suited, so plan to rebid Clubs without a jump if they can, to show 5 Spades, 4 Clubs, and 12-15 points.

West has 13 HCP and good 4-card support for Spades, including two Honours. They can add 1 Shortage Points for their doubleton, making 14 points - more than enough for 4S.

Which should I open, Clubs or Spades?

If you have the same number of Clubs and Spades, you open 1C and plan to rebid Spades.

BUT you have 5 Spades and 4 Clubs, so you open 1S, your longer suit. You plan to rebid Clubs, but might not be able to, might have to rebid your Spades.

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ J6		
	♥ QJT86		
	♦ AK842		
	♣ 2		
♠ 9853		♠ 42	
♥ 2		♥ K74	
♦ 976		♦ QJT5	
♣ KJ865		♣ AT94	
	♠ AKQT7		
	♥ A953		
	♦ 3		
	♣ Q73		

Board: 19 Dealer: South Lead: ♦Q H3375

South has 14 HCP and a nice 5-card Spade suit, so opens 1S. This shows 4 Spades and 12-19 HCP. Note that, on this occasion, South has a 4-card Heart suit, but bids the 5-card Spade suit first because it's longer. They plan to show their second suit, Hearts, with their rebid.

North has 11 HCP, and two 5-card suits, Hearts and Diamonds. They're strong enough to bid a new suit at the 2 level, but which one? They choose Hearts for two good reasons: it's a lot easier to make game in a Major, and if they get a chance, they can show their Diamond suit on the next round fairly economically. (To show controls and maybe progress to 3NT.)

So North bids 2H, showing a 5-card Heart suit and 10-15 points. This bid is forcing for one round.

South can rely on North for 5 Hearts and 10 HCP, adding their own 4 Hearts and 14 HCP and 2 Shortage Points for the singleton Diamond (in a Heart contract) they have enough for game, so bid 4H.

Why bid two suits - is it always about finding a fit?

If you don't find a fit with partner (say the bidding goes 1S-2H-2S-3D), your partner bidding two suits shows they probably have stops in those suits, which might be all you need to bid 2NT or 3NT. That's why it's often better to bid a second suit than repeat your first suit – it isn't always about finding a fit.

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ T		
	♥ Q87		
	♦ J976		
	♣ QJT54		
♠ AKQJ64		♠ 752	
♥ KJ93		♥ 542	
♦ 54		♦ AKQ3	
♣ 7		♣ K86	
	♠ 983		
	♥ AT6		
	♦ T82		
	♣ A932		

Board: 20 Dealer: West Lead: ♣Q H1541

No bidding commentary.

North East South West

1 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
 5 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

♠ AK
 ♥ 32
 ♦ AK43
 ♣ QT943

♠ 9764 ♠ QT53
 ♥ KQT4 ♥ AJ86
 ♦ Q62 ♦ JT97
 ♣ 87 ♣ 5

♠ J82
 ♥ 975
 ♦ 85
 ♣ AKJ62

Board: 21 Dealer: North Lead: ♦ J H330

No bidding commentary.

East South West North

1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 2 ♣ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
 4 ♥ Pass Pass Pass

♠ JT6
 ♥ A7
 ♦ QJ95
 ♣ QJT6

♠ A975 ♠ 8
 ♥ KT8 ♥ QJ965
 ♦ K874 ♦ A62
 ♣ 84 ♣ AK93

♠ KQ432
 ♥ 432
 ♦ T3
 ♣ 752

Board: 22 Dealer: East Lead: ♠ K H333

No bidding commentary.

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
 Pass Pass

♠ Q875
 ♥ 543
 ♦ AQ7
 ♣ 843

♠ K3 ♠ 96
 ♥ KQJ2 ♥ T986
 ♦ JT984 ♦ 632
 ♣ 65 ♣ KQJT

♠ AJT42
 ♥ A7
 ♦ K5
 ♣ A972

Board: 23 Dealer: South Lead: ♥ K H340

No bidding commentary.

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Board: 24 Dealer: West Lead: ♣Q H1613
No bidding commentary.

	♠	
	♥ T874	
	♦ AT954	
	♣ QJT9	
♠ KJ7642		♠ Q953
♥ J5		♥ AK932
♦ KQJ6		♦ 73
♣ 8		♣ K6
	♠ AT8	
	♥ Q6	
	♦ 82	
	♣ A75432	

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Board: 25 Dealer: North Lead: ♠J H358
No bidding commentary.

	♠ AKQ	
	♥ 2	
	♦ 832	
	♣ QJ9863	
♠ 754		♠ JT93
♥ T7643		♥ J985
♦ AJ6		♦ QT95
♣ 75		♣ A
	♠ 862	
	♥ AKQ	
	♦ K74	
	♣ KT42	

East	South	West	North
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Board: 26 Dealer: East Lead: ♠K H390
No bidding commentary

	♠ A93	
	♥ 73	
	♦ T742	
	♣ KJT5	
♠ 654		♠ J8
♥ 9654		♥ AKQJT
♦ KQJ6		♦ A985
♣ A4		♣ 98
	♠ KQT72	
	♥ 82	
	♦ 3	
	♣ Q7632	

South **West** **North** **East**
 1 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
 Pass Pass

Board: 27 Dealer: South Lead: ♦A H533

No bidding commentary.

♠ QJ76
 ♥ AKQ
 ♦ JT7
 ♣ 765

♠ 52 ♠ 43
 ♥ 98753 ♥ JT642
 ♦ AKQ ♦ 982
 ♣ JT2 ♣ KQ9

♠ AKT98
 ♥
 ♦ 6543
 ♣ A843

West **North** **East** **South**
 1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
 4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Board: 28 Dealer: West Lead: ♠3 H534

No bidding commentary.

♠ 8543
 ♥ 8654
 ♦ 875
 ♣ AJ

♠ AKT96 ♠ QJ72
 ♥ AT92 ♥ QJ3
 ♦ K ♦ AQ9
 ♣ T76 ♣ 832

♠
 ♥ K7
 ♦ JT6432
 ♣ KQ954

North **East** **South** **West**
 1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
 4 ♥ Pass Pass Pass

Board: 29 Dealer: North Lead: ♣J H596

No bidding commentary.

♠ AK2
 ♥ AJ9862
 ♦ A53
 ♣ 7

♠ QJ3 ♠ T9654
 ♥ 754 ♥ 3
 ♦ Q84 ♦ KT6
 ♣ AK63 ♣ JT94

♠ 87
 ♥ KQT
 ♦ J972
 ♣ Q852

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ 3
♥ T872
♦ AK63
♣ QT72

♠ 754	♠ AKQJ96
♥ AJ6	♥ K4
♦ J94	♦ T872
♣ AK95	♣ 6

♠ T82
♥ Q953
♦ Q5
♣ J843

Board: 30 Dealer: East Lead: ♥3 H1554
No bidding commentary.

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ 862
♥ J953
♦ KT75
♣ A3

♠ A953	♠ KJT4
♥ AT84	♥ KQ6
♦ QJ4	♦ 863
♣ T5	♣ 964

♠ Q7
♥ 72
♦ A92
♣ KQJ872

Board: 31 Dealer: South Lead: ♦Q H1241
No bidding commentary

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ 942
♥ J732
♦ AT982
♣ 7

♠ AKQ873	♠ J65
♥ T54	♥ K8
♦	♦ Q65
♣ A986	♣ KQJ54

♠ T
♥ AQ96
♦ KJ743
♣ T32

Board: 32 Dealer: West Lead: ♣7 H1311
No bidding commentary.

Synopsis

Boards 1-16

NOTE: Some of these hands do not support the **Plan the Play** feature of **My Hands** at this time, as indicated in the table below.

Hand Types:

- Types A-D are unbalanced hands that are opened with one of a suit and usually rebid by repeating the first suit or bidding a second suit: A=12-15 points, one suit; B=16-19 points, one suit; C=12-15 points, two suits; D=16-19 points, two suits. (For details, see the Lesson Summary).
- Types X-Z are balanced hands that are opened with one of a suit and usually rebid in NT: X=15-16 points (1NT); Y=17-18 points (2NT); Z=19 points (3NT).

SYNOPSIS					
Opening & Rebidding One-suited and Two-suited Hands					
Board	Dealer	Bidding Sequence	Hand #	Hand Type	Plan The Play?
1	N	1H, 2H, 4H	H14	D	Y
2	E	1H, 2D, 2NT, 3NT	H104	X	N
3	S	1H, 2D, 2H, 4H	H2707	A	Y
4	W	1H, 1S, 4S	H2970	Z	N
5	N	1S, 2D, 3S, 4S	H2120	B	N
6	E	1S, 1NT, 2S	H1540	C	Y
7	S	1H, 2H, 4H	H1532	D	Y
8	W	1C, 1S, 2S, 4S	H2691	C	Y
9	E	1H, 1S, 2H, 4H	H2702	A	Y
10	E	1S, 4S	H3421	A	Y
11	S	1C, 3C, 3NT	H113	X	N
12	W	1C, 1S, 2S, 3S, 4S	H597	C	Y
13	N	1H, 1NT, 3NT	H1353	Z	N
14	E	1C, 1H, 3C, 3H, 4H	H2692	B	Y
15	S	1D, 1H, 2S, 3D, 3S, 4D, 5D	H1441	D	N
16	W	1S, 1NT, 3H, 4H	H3168	D	N

Boards 17-32

NOTE: These hands all support the **Plan the Play** feature of **My Hands**, as indicated in the table below.

Hand Types:

- Types A-D are unbalanced hands that are opened with one of a suit and usually rebid by repeating the first suit or bidding a second suit: A=12-15 points, one suit; B=16-19 points, one suit; C=12-15 points, two suits; D=16-19 points, two suits. (For details, see the Lesson Summary).
- Types X-Z are balanced hands that are opened with one of a suit and usually rebid in NT: X=15-16 points (1NT); Y=17-18 points (2NT); Z=19 points (3NT).

SYNOPSIS

Opening & Rebidding One-suited and Two-suited Hands

Board	Dealer	Bidding Sequence	Hand #	Hand Type	Plan The Play?
17	N	1S, 2C, 2S, 4S	H7	C	Y
18	E	1S, 4S	H17	C	Y
19	S	1S, 2H, 4H	H3375	C	Y
20	W	1S, 2D, 2H, 3S, 4S	H1541	C	Y
21	N	1C, 3C, 5C	H330	D	Y
22	E	1H, 1S, 2C, 3H, 4H	H333	C	Y
23	S	1S, 2S, 3S, 4S	H340	B	Y
24	W	1S, 4S	H1613	C	Y
25	N	1C, 3NT, 5C	H358	C	Y
26	E	1H, 3H, 4H	H390	C	Y
27	S	1S, 4S	H533	C	Y
28	W	1S, 3S, 4S	H534	C	Y
29	N	1H, 2H, 4H	H596	A	Y
30	E	1S, 2C, 2S, 4S	H1554	A	Y
31	S	1C, 1H, 2C	H1241	C	Y
32	W	1S, 2C, 3C, 4S	H1311	C	Y