

HSOG Bridge
Bidding for Feb 2021 Peggy Bayer
Expanded Version



General System

- Weak NT (12-14)
You may meet opponents who play Strong NT (15-17) instead
- Four card majors
*This means we only need four of a major to open it
You may meet opponents who play five card majors instead*
- Three weak twos
*Only three weak twos of course as 2C is strong
Some people play Strong twos where e.g. 2D is strong*
- Standard attitude in defence
That means we throw high spot cards (e.g 6,7,8,9) to encourage partner

1NT opening

- Can have a weak five card major or a weak six card minor
*With a good five card major e.g. ♥KQJxx you can open 1H then rebid 2H
With a weak five card major e.g. ♥KJxxx prefer to open 1NT*
- Responder bids:
 - Stayman 2C with 11+ and a four card major
*e.g. with ♠AJ74 ♥AT3 ♦AT54 ♣Q2 if partner opens 1NT start with 2C Stayman
If opener bids 2S you raise to 4S.
If opener bids 2D or 2H you settle for 3NT instead*

e.g. with ♠64 ♥T3 ♦T54 ♣AQJT52 just pass the 1NT – you can't bid 2C!

*e.g. with ♠9654 ♥J643 ♦Q754 ♣2 bid 2C Stayman
Then pass whatever partner bids – it will be better than 1NT*

*e.g. with ♠J9654 ♥AJ43 ♦T54 ♣2 bid 2C Stayman
If partner bids 2H or 2S you can pass, you've found a good fit
If partner bids 2D you settle for 2S*
 - Transfer 2D/2H with 0+ and a five card major
*e.g. with ♠AJT74 ♥AT3 ♦AT4 ♣Q2 if partner opens 1NT you start with a 2H transfer
After partner bids 2S you jump to 3NT
Opener corrects to 4S with three Spades (you have an eight card fit), else passes 3NT*

*e.g. with ♠KT764 ♥T32 ♦T54 ♣Q2 bid 2H
After partner bids 2S you pass. It will be better than 1NT*

*e.g. with ♠AQ764 ♥AQ32 ♦T54 ♣2 bid 2H
After partner bids 2S you bid 3H.
You have shown a good hand with 5 Spades and 4 Hearts. Opener will choose 3NT, 4H or 4S*

- 2NT invitational with 11-12

*e.g. with ♠KQJ ♥J52 ♦T954 ♣AJ2 bid 2NT
Opener will raise to 3NT with a good 1NT opener else pass*

- 3C/3D/3H/3S with 16+ and a good suit

*e.g. with ♠Q2 ♥A2 ♦AKJT954 ♣A4 bid 3D
Opener will bid 3NT with a minimum hand, else maybe 4D and you might get to 6D*

Other NT openings

- Stayman and transfers apply whenever the partnership's first natural bid is NT, i.e.

- 1NT opening (12-14) and 2NT opening (20-22)
- 1NT overcall (15-17) and 2NT overcall (about 16-20)

NT overcalls also require a stopper

E.g. if the opponents open 1S you can overcall 1NT with ♠KT3 ♥A52 ♦AQ95 ♣QJ2

If you have ♠73 ♥AK52 ♦AQ95 ♣QJ2 (no stopper) you should double instead

E.g. if the opponents open a weak 2D you can overcall 2NT with ♠KT3 ♥A52 ♦AQ95 ♣QJ2

E.g. if the opponents open a weak 2D you can overcall 3NT with ♠KT3 ♥A2 ♦AQJ95 ♣AQ2

- 2NT rebid after a 2C opening (23-24)

E.g. with ♠AKQ3 ♥K2 ♦AKQ9 ♣QT2 plan to open 2C then rebid 2NT

They open 1NT

- Double is penalties (any hand stronger than their 1NT opener)

E.g. with ♠A73 ♥32 ♦KQJT93 ♣A2 double 1NT and lead a Diamond. You expect 5 Diamonds and 2 Aces

- Partner normally leaves in the double, only escapes with a weak hand with a long suit

E.g. with ♠73 ♥762 ♦976532 ♣J2 if partner doubles 1NT you should remove to 2D

E.g. with ♠73 ♥762 ♦A76532 ♣J2 if partner doubles 1NT you should leave it in

- Other overcalls of their 1NT are natural two level overcall

E.g. with ♠KQT43 ♥752 ♦A532 ♣J you are just about worth overcalling 1NT with 2S

Suit openings

- 1C/1D/1H/1S openings all about 12-19 with at least a four card suit

Open the lower of two four card suits, the higher of two five card suits

E.g. with ♠J53 ♥AJ62 ♦A2 ♣AJ42 open 1C, with ♠3 ♥AJT62 ♦A2 ♣AJT42 open 1H

- Rebid NT with 15-17 balanced, jump rebid 2NT with 18-19 balanced
When you choose your opening bid plan your rebid too
E.g. with ♠KQ3 ♥AJT52 ♦AK2 ♣J3 you plan to open 1H then rebid 2NT
- Respond 1NT with 6-9, respond 1 suit with 6+, respond at 2 level with 10+
With a weak hand with a long suit sometimes you have to bid 1NT
E.g. with ♠73 ♥AJT542 ♦742 ♣J3 if partner opens 1S you must be disciplined and reply 1NT
- **The 2H response to a 1S opening promises 5+ Hearts (else bid NT)**
This is because with only four Hearts you can bid 2C/2D/2NT instead
- **Reverse with 16+ only**
A reverse is when opener's rebid is in a suit higher than his first
For example opening 1D then rebidding 2H
This shows five Diamonds, four Hearts and 16+ as it forces the bidding up high
If you only have 12-15 with five Diamonds and four Hearts you can't make this bid

Another sort of reverse is opening 1D then, suppose partner bids 1H, bidding 3C.
This shows five Diamonds four Clubs and a really good hand (18-19) as the bidding is forced so high

2C opening

- Any hand with 23+ or game in your own hand
Then rebid 2NT (23-24) or show your suit
E.g. with ♠AK3 ♥AQT942 ♦AJ2 ♣AJ plan to open 2C then bid 2H
- Responder usually bids 2D, except with a very good suit of his own
E.g. with ♠74 ♥AQT942 ♦32 ♣652 you can respond to partner's 2C opening with 2H

Weak openings

- 2D/2H/2S all 5-9 with six card suit
- 3C/3D/3H/3S all 5-9 with seven card suit (or six with really good shape)
E.g. with ♠3 ♥5 ♦KQJT65 ♣JT965 you are definitely worth a 3D opening bid
- Open at 4 level with eight card suit (or seven with really good shape)
- Responder raises with trump support even with weak hand
E.g. with ♠Q43 ♥Q542 ♦JT632 ♣J if partner opens 2H raise to 4H!

Responder bids a new suit or NT only with a very good hand
E.g. with ♠AKQ43 ♥2 ♦AT632 ♣K2 if partner opens 2H you can bid 2S (forcing)

Overcalls

- At the one level, 8+ and at least a five card suit
- At the two level, 10+ and at least a five card suit
- Jump overcalls are weak
E.g. with ♠743 ♥654 ♦KQJ632 ♣J if they open 1C jump to 2D. If they open 1H/1H jump to 3D!
- Responding to overcall: weak raises, *cuebid* with good hand, new suits forcing, NT needs strength
You can raise partner even with a weak hand if you have good support
With a good hand you instead need to cuebid (bid their suit)
E.g. with ♠Q43 ♥Q542 ♦JT632 ♣J if partner overcalls 1H raise to 3H
E.g. with ♠AQ3 ♥Q52 ♦AT632 ♣J if partner overcalls 1H cuebid the enemy suit

E.g. with ♠J3 ♥Q2 ♦AK632 ♣KJT if partner overcalls 1H start with 2D
This new suit is forcing. If the overcaller is weak you just end up in 2H

E.g. with ♠J3 ♥Q42 ♦AT632 ♣KJT if partner overcalls 1H bid 1NT
You need to be a bit stronger to reply 1NT as partner has only shown 8+
- **Overcalls (and doubles) may be made a bit lighter when re-opening**
Reopening is when it's about to be passed out, e.g. 1D-(1H)-P-(P)
You have opened 1D, they have overcalled 1H and it's back round to you
If you pass the auction will end
So you know partner must have some points. You should often re-open with a double or bid, especially if you are short in the enemy suit

Double

- Doubles of their NT bids are always penalty
Partner normally leaves it in, escapes with a weak hand with a long suit
- If one partner has a well defined hand (made a pre-empt or NT bid) partners doubles are penalty
E.g. if partner opens 1NT and the enemy overcall it, you can double for penalties
E.g. if partner opens 3H and the enemy overcall 3S, you can double for penalties
- Otherwise, doubles of low suit bids (1C-3S) are takeout
If the opponents have bid one suit, double shows the other three (especially majors), e.g. (1H)-x
If the opponents have bid two suits, double shows the other two (especially majors), e.g. (1H)-P-(1D)-x

It's important to compete when the opponents have found a fit, e.g. (1H)-P-(2H)-x
- Double is normally any opening hand short in their suit
But also any really good hand with 16+ should double then bid a suit
E.g. with ♠J3 ♥Q542 ♦AT2 ♣AQ74 if they open 1S double, expecting to pass partner's response
E.g. with ♠A3 ♥AKQ542 ♦AT2 ♣Q74 if they open 1S double, then bid Hearts. This shows a hand too good to overcall 2H
- Responding to a double: normally bid your best suit, jump with 10+, NT needs strength
Responder can pass the take out double to defend if he has lots of trumps

E.g. with ♠Q543 ♥J32 ♦32 ♣JT74 if partner doubles their 1S you reply 2C

E.g. with ♠Q543 ♥A32 ♦K2 ♣JT74 if partner doubles their 1S you reply 1NT (needs 8+)

E.g. with ♠Q54 ♥J32 ♦K2 ♣AQT74 if partner doubles their 1S you jump to 3C showing a good hand

E.g. with ♠Q54 ♥AT32 ♦K2 ♣AQ74 if partner doubles their 1S you jump to 4H expecting to make it

E.g. with ♠QJT54 ♥T32 ♦A2 ♣A32 if partner doubles their 1S you pass, hoping for a big penalty

- Double of their artificial bids show you have that suit (e.g. doubling Stayman shows Clubs)

E.g. with ♠Q54 ♥T32 ♦A2 ♣AJT32 if they bid 2C Stayman you double. Partner may raise Clubs, or at the very least lead them for you if you end up defending

Competitive auction

- If they double/overcall a raise of partner's suit is pre-emptive; weak hand lots of trumps
- With a genuine raise of partner's suit cuebid the enemy suit, which is always forcing

See section on overcalls

In general in a competitive auction raise to the level of the fit

That means if your side has 9 trumps bid for nine tricks (the three level)

Blackwood

- After a suit bid, 4NT asks for Aces (5C=0/4, 5D=1 etc.)

Only bid Blackwood if you know your side is strong enough for slam

Otherwise bid naturally e.g. 5H to invite partner to 6H

If your side has 3 or 4 Aces you bid the slam

- Follow up bid 5NT asks for Kings (6C=0/4, 6D=1 etc.)

This is when your side has all the Aces and there is a chance for a grand slam

In general you only want to bid a grand slam if you can count 13 tricks

- But 4NT immediately after another NT bid is a natural invite to 6NT (e.g. 2NT-4NT)

E.g. in the auction 1NT-2H-2S-3NT-4NT the 4NT follows 3NT so is just a natural invite to 6NT

E.g. in the auction (2D)-2NT-4NT the 4NT follows 2NT so is just a natural invite to 6NT

E.g. in the auction 1NT-2H-2S-4NT the 4NT is Blackwood asking for Aces (with Spades as trumps)

Defensive Carding

- Standard attitude – play a high spot-card to encourage a suit

From the cards 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 play the highest you can afford to encourage partner

E.g. if you have KQ932 and partner leads the suit you encourage with the 9

E.g. if you have 9732 and partner leads the suit you discourage with the 2

Applies when partner lead's a suit (e.g. cashes an Ace) and also on your first *discard*

You have to watch your partner's discards!

If he throws the 8 of Spades you may want to switch to Spades later

If he throws the 3 of Spades there is probably another suit he prefers

- **Play high-low with an even number on declarer's lead**

Defensive Leads

- Opening leads vs NT are normally fourth highest from longest and strongest suit
If declarer has bid a suit normally avoid that unless you have more than him
If partner has bid a suit lead that
If you are very weak consider abandoning your long suit and trying to hit your partner's suit
- Opening leads vs suit contracts can also be doubleton or singleton
Lead high from a doubleton
These leads might get your side a ruff, but are also safe leads
- Lead top of touching honour e.g. KQ3, follow suit with lowest e.g. KQ3
So if partner begins a trick with the King he denies the Ace
If partner follows suit with a King he denies the Queen
Get into the habit of watching your partner's cards and working out what he has!
- Lead
 - high from a doubleton e.g. 92 or Q3
 - low from an honour e.g. K32
 - middle-up-down (MUD) from three small 873
 - second highest from four small e.g. 9843

These rules apply throughout the defence

After your partner has lead try and work out what holding he has in the suit