

SNAPSHOTS

CHOICE OF OPENING BIDS Seat Position

Bridge Lab

with the Monroes

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| OPENING BID ADVANTAGE | The choice of opening bid forms the basis for the auction conversation. Guidelines are useful to help with the choice. Sometimes we need to color outside the lines. |
| 1-LEVEL OPENING BIDS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPENING BIDS 12-21 HCP follow the system guidelines for priority and begin the auction conversation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New suit by responder is forcing. ○ Opener needs a descriptive strength and shape rebid. • NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS have the same meaning in any seat. Balanced with the defined strength. 1NT=15-17 2NT=20-21. • BORDERLINE HANDS of 10-11-12 HCP and shape may qualify for an opening bid under the guidelines. The choice to open borderline hands is optional. |

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|------------------------------|--|
| OPEN or PASS? | <p style="text-align: center;">1st & 2nd SEAT • BORDERLINE HANDS • 10-11-12 HCP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner has not yet bid. • A new suit by Responder is FORCING. • Opener's bid plans for a shape and strength descriptive REBID. • Partner expects an opening hand with some defensive strength. |
| | <p>Use the Rule of 20+2. Add the number of HCP to the number of cards in the two longest suits. If the total is 20, consider the option to open the bidding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High cards are in your two long suits. • Have 2 Quick Tricks. AK=2 AQ=1-1/2 A=1 KQ=1 Kx=1/2 <p style="text-align: center;">With two 5-card suits, open the higher-ranking suit first.</p> |

5-5 Suits, 10 HCP

Board 1

South Deals

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| ♠ Q 7 2 ♥ J 10 4 3 ♦ A 3 2 ♣ K J 3 | | ♠ 9 8 5 ♥ A 8 6 5 ♦ K 8 5 ♣ A 5 4 | ♠ 4 3 ♥ K Q 9 2 ♦ J 4 ♣ Q 10 9 6 2 |
| 11 11 8 10 | | ♠ A K J 10 6 ♥ 7 ♦ Q 10 9 7 6 ♣ 8 7 | |

West North East South

Pass 1 N¹ Pass 1 ♠

Pass 3 ♠² All pass 2 ♦

1. Forcing
2. 3-♠s, 11-12 Support Points

Contract: 3 ♠ South, 9 Tricks

Lead: ♥ J, 2-card Seq., East plays ♥ 9

Losers: 1-♠, 2-♦, 1-♣ = 4.

Play: South wins the ♥ A and finesses the ♠ Q and ♦ J.

No Spots, Honors Poorly Placed

Board 2

South Deals

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| ♠ Q 10 6 5 ♥ 9 6 ♦ A 4 3 2 ♣ A J 4 | | ♠ A J 7 ♥ K 8 7 ♦ J 10 9 6 ♣ 9 7 5 | ♠ 9 ♥ A J 10 ♦ Q 8 7 5 ♣ K 10 8 6 3 |
| 9 11 10 10 | | ♠ K 8 4 3 2 ♥ Q 5 4 3 2 ♦ K ♣ Q 2 | |

West North East South

All pass Pass¹

1. Meets Rule of 20, not 22

South passes. Meets Rule of 20, but only 1/2 quick tricks. Scattered honors. No spot cards.

4-4-3-2 Hand, 12 HCP, Rule of 20

Board 3

North Deals

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| ♠ A 6 5 2 ♥ J 8 6 ♦ A 5 ♣ 6 5 3 2 | | ♠ J 9 4 ♥ K Q 10 9 ♦ K Q 7 6 ♣ J 10 | ♠ K 10 8 3 ♥ 7 3 ♦ 10 9 3 2 ♣ A 9 7 |
| 12 9 7 12 | | ♠ Q 7 ♥ A 5 4 2 ♦ J 8 4 ♣ K Q 8 4 | |

West North East South

Pass 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♥

All pass 2 ♥ Pass 3 ♥¹

1. Limit raise, 11-12 Points

Contract: 3 ♥ South, 9 Tricks

Lead: ♣ 2, Not away from an ace

Losers: 2-♠, 1-♥, 1-♦, 1-♣ = 5.

Play: South draws trump and promotes ♣ s and ♦ s. East wins the ♣ A and lead ♠ s, the weakest suit in dummy.

4-3-3-3 With 12 HCP

Board 4

South Deals

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| ♠ A 10 8 3 ♥ 4 3 ♦ 10 4 ♣ K J 10 9 7 | | ♠ 9 5 ♥ A J 10 8 ♦ J 7 6 3 2 ♣ A 5 | ♠ K J 7 2 ♥ K 7 5 2 ♦ K 9 8 ♣ 3 2 |
| 10 8 10 12 | | ♠ Q 6 4 ♥ Q 9 6 ♦ A Q 5 ♣ Q 8 6 4 | |

West North East South

All pass Pass¹

1. 1 1/2 Quick Tricks, no rule of 20

South has 12 HCP but pass 4-3-3-3 hands with scattered honors. North does not add to Rule of 20 either.

Which Minor Suit?

Board 5

South Deals

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| ♠ A Q 9 5 4 | ♠ K J |
| ♥ K 6 | ♥ Q J 9 7 3 2 |
| ♦ 10 7 6 | ♦ 8 3 2 |
| ♣ 10 9 7 | ♣ Q 3 |

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| ♠ 10 8 6 3 2 | ♠ 7 |
| ♥ 5 4 | ♥ A 10 8 |
| ♦ A 9 4 | ♦ K Q J 5 |
| ♣ A K 5 | ♣ J 8 6 4 2 |

| | | | |
|------|-------|----------|------------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass | 1 ♦ ¹ |
| Pass | 2 ♦ | All pass | 2 ♣ |

1. ♦s stronger than ♣s

Contract: 2 ♦ South, 8 Tricks

Lead: ♥ 5, unbid suit

Losers: 1-♥, 1+♦, 3-♣ = 5+.

Play: South has only 7 ♦s in the combined hands so does not draw trump. South loses 3 ♣s and ruffs when needed.

Which Minor Suit?

Board 6

North Deals

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ♠ A J 8 | ♠ 10 9 4 3 2 |
| ♥ 8 | ♥ K Q 4 3 |
| ♦ Q 10 6 3 | ♦ A 2 |
| ♣ A Q J 10 4 | ♣ 5 2 |

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| ♠ 7 5 | ♠ K Q 6 |
| ♥ 9 7 6 2 | ♥ A J 10 5 |
| ♦ K 9 8 4 | ♦ J 7 5 |
| ♣ K 6 3 | ♣ 9 8 7 |

| | | | |
|------|------------------|----------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 ♥ |
| Pass | 2 ♣ ¹ | Pass | 2 N |
| Pass | 3 N | All pass | |

1. Only 5-♣s, too weak to reverse

Contract: 3 NT South

Lead: ♦ 4, 4th highest

Sure Tricks: 3-♠, 1-♥, 1-♣ = 5.

Play: South plays low on opening lead. South finesse ♣s to win 4 more tricks.

Which Minor Suit?

Board 7

South Deals

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| ♠ K Q 6 | ♠ 7 5 |
| ♥ A J 10 5 | ♥ 9 7 6 2 |
| ♦ J 7 5 | ♦ K 9 8 4 |
| ♣ 9 8 7 | ♣ K 6 3 |

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ♠ 10 9 4 3 2 | ♠ A J 8 |
| ♥ K Q 4 3 | ♥ 8 |
| ♦ 3 2 | ♦ A Q 10 6 |
| ♣ 5 2 | ♣ A Q J 10 4 |

| | | | |
|----------|-------|------|------------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | 1 ♥ | Pass | 1 ♣ |
| Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass | 2 ♦ ¹ |
| Pass | 5 ♦ | Pass | 4 N |
| All pass | | | 6 ♣ |

1. Reverse, 17+ points, 4-♦s, 5+♣s

Contract: 6 ♣ South, 12 Tricks

Lead: ♠ 10, unbid suit

Losers: 1-♦, 1-♣ = 2.

Play: Dummy wins the ♠ K and finesses ♣s. Dummy is entered and ♦s are finessed.