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## **Force Point (Fp) Counting**

**Your Base Number (B#) is the strength of your hand in contract tricks** (the tricks above the first 6 tricks, which are not counted in the game of bridge)

**The strength of your bridge hand, the B# = all tricks minus 2**

**NOTE: Singleton Ace = 2 contract tricks** (1.5 for the Ace + 0.5 for the Singleton)

**Ace = 1.5**

**King = 1.0**

**Singleton King = 0.5 !!**

**Queen = 0.5**

**Any Singleton = 0.5** (except Singleton Ace)

**Void = 0.5 !!**

**Learn to count visually:** Find an Ace + a Queen or 2 Kings and do not count them. Count only the rest. So, you will never forget to subtract 2 on the end).

**The game's Play Level (PL) is the sum of both partners' Base Numbers (B#)**

**The Control Points (CP) are the values of Controls you have. The values of the real Controls are: K = 4 CP, Ace = 6 CP. The values of the pseudo Controls are: Singleton = 4 CP, Void = 6 CP (10 CP when you do not have any TOP Honor opposite in the same suit).**

## Force Point Explicit Counting

**Singleton Ace = 2 contract tricks** (1.5 for the Ace + 0.5 for the Singleton)

**Ace = 1.5**

**King = 1.0**

**Singleton King = 0.5 !!**

**NOTE:** If you discover an Ace opposite the Singleton King, raise it to 1.0

**Queen = 0.5**

**Any Singleton = 0.5** (except Singleton Ace).

**NOTE:** Do not duplicate the count of the Singleton Queen. **Fp do NOT scan the Singleton Queens at all !!**

**Void = 0.5 !!**

**For 7 card mono suit** (with at least one Honor), **add 0.5, for 8 card suit add 1.0 and so on ...** (for any 7222 add 0.5 for the 3 doubletons in addition to 0.5 for the 7 card suit).

**The Formula is:**  $0.5*(n - 6)$ , where ‘n’ is the sum of the cards in the long suit.

**For 6/5 bi-color add 0.5, for 6/6 bi-color add 1.0, for 7/6 bi-color add 1.5 and so on.** Do not duplicate the count of the 7 card suit by counting it separately from the bi-color !

**The Formula is:**  $0.5*(m - 10)$ , where ‘m’ is the sum of the cards in both long suits.

Subtract 0.5 when you don’t have any Honor in your 5+ card suit

## Adjustments

**Do not make any Positive Adjustment for 8+ by 1 Trump !**  
**Do not make any Positive Adjustment for 7 by 2 Trump if you do not have any Honor in the short Trump !**

### The Positive Adjustments

**Add 0.25\* (force\*point) for 4 Aces (in one or both hands)**

**Add 0.25\* (force\*point) for AQJT+**

**Add 0.25\* (force\*point) for Ax + Ax**

**NOTE: The force\*point can be added only by the Quest (the player who investigate partners hand using Relays, the interrogator)**

**Add 0.5 for your 9 card Super FIT or for 9 card Super FIT in your Opponents' hands !**

**Add 0.5 for 10 card Super FIT if you do NOT have an Honor in the short Trump suit or when your Super FIT consists of 5 by 5 cards or when it is 8 by 2 cards !**

**Add 1.0 for any 6 by 4 or 7 by 3 card Super FIT if you have an Honor in the short Trump suit or for 10 card Super FIT in your Opponents' hands !**

**Do NOT add anything for any 11+ card Super FIT if you have AK in that suit (in one or in both hands)**

**Add 1.5 for any 11+ card Super FIT (in both hands) but only if you have a 6+/5+ bi-color !**

**Immediately add 0.5 to your B# on the fly by the time of the Bidding, when any of the opponents bid your Singleton or Void (do not duplicate it later if you discover that this is a "good" Singleton or a "good" Void).**

**Add 0.5 for any Singleton opposite Axxx suit (no other TOP Honors) or for a FIT in Opponents' hands if you have a Singleton / Void in that suit !**

**Add 1.0 pt for any Singleton opposite Ax(x) !! (no other TOP Honors) or for a Super FIT in Opponents' hands if you have a Singleton / Void in that suit !**

**Do not add anything for a Singleton opposite any Axxxx+ suit**

**Add 0.5 for a Void opposite xx(xx) empty suit ('x' up to Jack) or for a Super FIT in Opponents' hands if you have a Void in that suit !**

**Do not add anything for a Void opposite any Axx xxx+ suit**

**Add 0.5 for 6 by 2 FIT in a side suit with the 2 Controls (not in the Trump)**

**Add 0.5 for the 3 TOP Honors (AKQ) in a side 5 by 2 or 4 by 3 Misfits suits, even 4 by 2 cards with all 4 Honors (not in the Trump)**

**Add 0.5 for KQJx+ in a side suit (not in the Trump)**

**Add 1.0 for KQJTx+ in a side suit (not in the Trump)**

**Add 1.0 for AKQxx(xx) in a side suit (in both hands, not in Trump)**

- **Add 1.0 for a Singleton King opposite AQx+ (0.5 for the King +1.0 for the 3 TOP Honors). Do not add anything for a Singleton 'x' opposite AQx+**

**Add 1.5 for 5 card AKQJT side suit (not in the Trump, in one hand)**



## The Negative Adjustments

### For NT contracts:

Subtract 0.5 if you do NOT have 5 by 3 or better FIT

• **NOTE: Never play 3 NT contract with 2 by 2 in a suit with only 1 TOP Honor !!**

### For suit contracts:

If you have chosen a Misfit for a Trump, your PL with Majors will go 0.5 down (except with 5 by 2 Misfit with at least 1 TOP Honor between the 2 cards), but with Minors your PL always go 1 Down.

For any 6 card suit opposite a Void, your PL will go 1 Down.

For any 7 card suit opposite a Void, your PL will go 0.5 Down.

**Subtract 1.0 for any two 4+ cards opposite Singletons or Voids (in one hand)**

**Subtract 1.0 for any King opposite a Void** ("bad" Void) except in the Trump suit.

**Subtract 1.0 for any King (no Ace) opposite a Singleton** (except for Singleton Ace; "bad" Singleton) except in the Trump suit.

**Subtract 1.0 for any King + Ace opposite a Void** ("semi-bad" Singleton) except in the Trump suit.

**Subtract 0.5 for any King + Ace opposite a Singleton ("semi-bad" Singleton) except in the Trump suit.**

**Subtract 0.5 for an Ace + a Queen opposite a Void** ("semi-bad" Void)

**NOTE: Do not subtract, nor add anything for an Ace + a Queen opposite a Singleton.**

**Subtract 0.5 for any 2 Mirror suits** (especially when you have only one FIT) if there are not 2 TOP Honors in the suit !!

**Subtract 0.5 for any 5+ card suit without any Honors.**

**NOTE: Mirror suits are 2 by 2, 2 by 3, 3 by 3, 3 by 4 !!**

**Subtract 1.0 for full Mirror hands** despite the TOP Honors in the suits !

**For a Singleton Ace opposite any Singleton do not make any Adjustments !**

Your Trump Play Level is equal to your NT Play Level, but

only if you have any 5 by 3 or better FIT (4 by 4 FIT will not help you !). If you do not have such FIT, your NT PL will be 1 below your suit PL.

**For any contract:**

**Subtract 0.5 when the difference of partners' B#s is  $\geq 5.5$**   
(it works with Negative Bases too)

**Subtract 0.5 when you have 3 or 4 Aces which are more than your Kings and no Queen.**

Do not do that if you have only 1 or 2 Aces !!

## **More Negative Adjustments**

1. For **5 by 2 Trump Misfit in Minors** **downgrade your PL by 1.0**
2. For **5 by 2 Trump Misfit in Majors**, if you do not have a TOP Honor in the 2 card Trump suit, **downgrade your PL by 0.5**
3. For **5 by 2 Trump Misfit in Majors**, if you do have a TOP Honor in the 2 card Trump suit, **don't do anything !**
4. Be aware to apply the **Negative MIRROR Adjustments** with 2 balanced or **ambiguously balanced** hands (**hands that consist of 5+ card suit but no V / S**)

Some ambitious bridge players, mostly mathematicians, have made **Bridge Hand Evaluators**, some of them very good, but **a few** of them have **connected it to a newly created Bidding System**, because it is **hugely time-consuming !**

**It is not easy to create a successful Bidding !**

Fortunately, you already have both the **Fp Explicit Hand**

**Evaluation Counting** and the **Fp Bidding System**, but do not forget:

**The Playing is your own responsibility!**



### **The Simple Theory**

The Bidding space is divided by Bases. Each Base consists of 0.5 points and has a number, so the B# shows the hand's strength.

The sum of both partners' B# will supply the game's Play Level (PL) before the Adjustments (if any).

**Find Your Base Number (B#, the contract tricks, your exact strength)**

**B# = the sum of all Honor & Distributional points minus 2.0**  
**To find your PL (Play Level) for the FIT suit, use the sum of both partners' B#s.**

**Your NT PL = your suit PL if you have a 5 by 3 (or better length) FIT (4 by 4 won't help!), if you do not have a Void or a Singleton. In any other cases your NT's PL is lower (usually by 1) than your suit's PL.**

When your partner discovers your exact distribution using the **SCOR - SCOR** convention (which simultaneously shows the exact length of your Basic suit along with your side suits) and on the next **Relay** your exact shape, your partner may ask you for your exact B#.

Answer by steps. Your 1st step answer must show your initial B# shown by the Opening bid. For any of the next steps, you must show a higher B# with 0.5 increments.



## Control Points (CP, the Controls)

**Ace = Void = 6 CP**

**King = Singleton = 4 CP**

NOTE: The Void must be count for 10 CP (when you are sure that it is opposite an empty TOP Honors suit).

Also, when asked for CP, show only your **real CP**, if your partner is aware of your exact distribution.

## How to show all of your CP & EQ with 1 answer only

With up to 6 card suit or 5/5 bi-color, to discover **the 1st step CP correct answer**, both players must use the Formula:

**The 1st step CP = 4\*B#, along with 4 EQ (Equivalent Queens)**

The 1st step answer will show **CP = 4\*B# along with 4 EQ**

The 2nd step answer will show **CP = 4\*B# + 2 along with 3 EQ**

The 3rd step answer will show **CP = 4\*B# + 4 along with 2 EQ**

The 4th step answer will show **CP = 4\*B# + 6 along with 1 EQ**

The 5th step answer will show **CP = 4\*B# + 8 along with no EQ**

Then divide the rest of your CP by 2 to discover how many additional steps to add to show the total of your CP

For example:

Suppose you have **5 card suit, B3 and 20 CP** and your partner use **4♣ bid** asking you for your all TOP Honors

Your 1st step answer for **CP = 4\*B# = 4\*3 = 12**, so the rest of your **CP = 20 - 12 = 8**

Now **divide the rest of your CP by 2** to find the additional steps:  
**8/2 = 4** (for a total of 5 steps)

For example: The **1<sup>st</sup> step** after **4♣ Relay** is **4♦**. So, 4 more steps are: **4♥, 4♠, 4NT, 5♣**. Your answer after **4♣ Relay** must be the **5<sup>th</sup> step = 5♣** showing a total of **20 CP** along with **zero EQ**.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

With **7 card suit or 6/5 bi-color**, to discover the 1st step CP correct answer, both partners must use the Formula:

**The 1st step CP = CP = 4\*B# - 2, along with 5 EQ**

The 1st step answer will show **CP = 4\*B# - 2** along with **5 EQ**  
The 2nd step answer will show **CP = 4\*B#** along with **4 EQ**  
The 3rd step answer will show **CP = 4\*B# + 2** along with **3 EQ**  
The 4th step answer will show **CP = 4\*B# + 4** along with **2 EQ**  
The 5th step answer will show **CP = 4\*B# + 6** along with **1 EQ**

Then divide the rest of your CP by 2 to discover how many additional steps to add to show the total of your CP

For example:

Suppose you have **7 card suit + a Singleton, B(3.5) and 18 CP** and your partner use **4NT** bid asking you for your all TOP Honors

Your 1st step answer for **CP =  $4 * B\# - 2 = 4 * 3.5 - 2 = 12$** , so the rest of your **CP =  $18 - 12 = 6$**

Now **divide the rest of your CP by 2** to find the additional steps:  **$6/2 = 3$**  (for a total of 4 steps)

The **1st step** after **4NT Relay** is **5♣**. 3 more steps are: **5♦, 5♥, 5♣**.

Your answer must be 4th step = **5♣** showing a total of **18 CP along with 2 EQ**.



With **8 card suit or 6/6 bi-color or 7/5 bi-color**, to discover the 1st step CP correct answer, both partners must use the Formula:

**The 1st step CP = CP =  $4 * B\# - 4$ , along with 6 EQ**

The 1st step answer will show **CP =  $4 * B\# - 4$**  along with **6 EQ**

The 2nd step answer will show **CP =  $4 * B\# - 2$**  along with **5 EQ**

The 3rd step answer will show **CP =  $4 * B\#$**  along with **4 EQ**

The 4th step answer will show **CP =  $4 * B\# + 2$**  along with **3 EQ**

The 5th step answer will show **CP =  $4 * B\# + 4$**  along with **4 EQ**

The 6th step answer will show **CP =  $4 * B\# + 6$**  along with **3 EQ**

**In all cases, for any of the next step answers, raise the CP by 2 and lower the EQ by 1.**

**That way, you will discover the exact number of all partner's TOP Honors with 1 question - 1 answer only !**

**No other bridge system in the world can do it !**



## **How to show your TOP Honors by SCOR**

After discovering the exact number and kind of partner's **CP** and **EQ**, the **Quest** may ask for the colors of the TOP Honors. The answers are by **SCOR** and will show the "**2 of a kind**" by **priority**:

**2 Kings**

**K + Q**

**K + A**

**A + K + Q** (1st show **K + Q**, then show **K + A**)

**1 King**

**3 Kings** (show naturally the omitted suit, the suit where you do not have a King)

**2 Queens**

**3 Queens** (show naturally the omitted suit, the suit where you do not have a Queen)

**2 Aces**

**3 Aces**



**To make 3 NT you will need PL  $\geq 4.0+$  & 22+ CP**

**To make 4 HE or 4 SP you will need PL = 3.5 or PL  $\geq 4.5$  & 22+ CP**

**NOTE: NEVER play 4 HE or 4 SP with an exact Play Level (PL) = 4.0 if you do not have a Singleton or a Void; play 3NT instead !**

**That area is the Fp Bermuda Triangle and your contract will be sink !!**

**To make 5 CL or 5 DI you will need PL  $\geq 5.0$  & 28+ CP !**

**To make a small SLAM in a suit, you must have PL  $\geq 6.0$  & 32+ CP**

**To make a small SLAM in NT, you must have PL  $\geq 5.5$  ! & 34+ CP**

**NOTE: Never play a SLAM with PL= 6 & 30 CP only! A small SLAM is possible even with 30 CP when you have a side card suit with all 3 TOP Honors or 2 good FITs or if you have 1 good FIT + 1 Super Fit of 10+ Trumps with both Controls.**

**To make a GRAND SLAM you must strictly have PL  $\geq 7.5$  & 36 or 40 CP (not 38 which are physically impossible and must be lowered immediately to 34 CP !)**

**NOTE: A GRAND SLAM is possible with 36 CP (all 4 Aces) 2 good FITs (with all TOP Honors) or 1 good FIT + 1 Super Fit of 10+ Trumps with both Controls.**

**If your partner asks you directly for your Controls (before asking you for your exact B#) use the Formula to calculate it:**

**$B\# = \text{any CP} / 4 - 1$ , where any CP = real + pseudo CP**

The Table below shows the **approximation between HCP and the Fp B#s** (courtesy of **Mr. Aleksander Dulevski**).

**It is useful only when you plan to play NT Contract !!**

Notice the arithmetical HCP progression by rising with 3 HCP for any 1.0 Fp count up for easier remembering !

<b>B# .... HCP .....</b>	<b>B# ... HCP .....</b>	<b>B# ... HCP</b>
-1.5 = ~ 2 .....	1.5 = ~12 .....	4.5 = ~21
-1.0 = ~ 4 .....	2.0 = ~13 .....	5.0 = ~22
-0.5 = ~ 5 .....	2.5 = ~15 .....	5.5 = ~24
+0.0 = ~ 6 .....	3.0 = ~16 .....	6.0 = ~25
+0.5 = ~ 8 .....	3.5 = ~18 .....	6.5 = ~27
1.0 = ~ 10 .....	4.0 = ~19 .....	7.0 = ~28

**NOTE: The table's HCP shown are for balanced hands (no 5 card suit, no Singleton by Fp requirements).**

• If you persist in knowing your HCP for mild to ambiguous unbalanced hands, **expect 1 HCP less than the shown HCP**. With more unbalanced hands, expect 2-3 HCP less than the shown HCP.

• **Remember that  $B\# = 1.0 \sim 10$  HCP for balanced hands (no 5 card suit, no Singleton by Fp requirements) &  $B\# = 1.0 \sim 9$  HCP for unbalanced hands. That will help you to find the HCP very fast for any B#.**

**Go to:** <http://force-point> to obtain the complete Force Point bridge bidding system set for 4 Team players for \$26.10 via PayPal (tax included, no hidden fees):

- 4 e-Books '**Slam after Slam with Force Point**' about the **Force Point** bidding system.
- The digital version - 4 'Sysnotes' computer programs (no installation necessary) for use by the time you play live or on the Internet. Lifetime free upgrade of the 'Sysnotes' data file.
- 4 **licenses** for the right to use the Force Point Bidding on International Tournaments

**NOTE:** For a Teams of 6 or 8 players pay x2 respectively (for including the coach stuff)

No licenses are needed for using Force Point Bidding in domestic Pair or Team Tournaments.

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The corrected 7<sup>th</sup> final edition of the book "**Slam after Slam with Force Point**" will be sent for publishing in standard color on 12/18/2025. After that date, the format of PDF eBook along with the DEMO Counting & the Sysnotes computer programs (the digital book of the Force Point Bridge Bidding System for the Windows operating system) will be on sale for the Holidays on:

<http://force-point.com>

