

Play Better Bridge

5 Year Curriculum

By:

World Champion
& Master Teacher



Donna
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Table of Contents

Introduction to Bridge	3
Modern Bidding	4
Take More Tricks as a Declarer	5
Become A Better Defender	6
AAG1 ~ Bidding	7
AAG1 ~ Play	8
AAG1 ~ Defense	9
AAG 2	10
AAG 3	11
AAG 4	12
AAG 5	13
AAG 6	14
AAG 7	15
AAG 8	16
AAG 9	17
AAG 10	18
AAG 11	19
AAG 12	20

Introduction to Bridge

6 Week Course

All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton

Lesson 1 Bridge Nuts & Bolts

World Champion and Master Teacher Donna Compton as she work you through the nuts and bolts of the game of Bridge. An introduction to the auction and play, defensive strategies and much more...in just two hours! Live class, video and handout included with lesson.

Lesson 2 Opening the Bidding

Now that you have the mechanics of bridge, this class introduces you High Card Points, Long Suit Points and opening the bidding. The class will also explore Declarer's Thought Process and the two play techniques: Promotion and High Card from the Short Side Live class, video and handout included with lesson.

Lesson 3 Responding to Major and Minor Suit Openings

This class focusses on Responder's first bids whether Opener has started with a major or a minor suit. Short Suit Points will be added to the Hand Evaluation and the play technique of Finesses will be introduced in the play of the hand. Live class, video and handout included with lesson.

Lesson 4 Suit Bidding with Trumping & Discarding

We will compare Long Suit Points and Short Suit Points in hand evaluations, along with a review opening and responding to major and minor suits. The bidding review will be in the context of exploring two play techniques: Trumping and Discarding. Live class, video and handout included with lesson.

Lesson 5 Responding to 1NT Opening Bid

This class will review opening 1NT points and shape requirement, along with responses to an opening 1NT bid. Long Suit Development play technique will be introduced in the play of the hand. Live class, video and handout included with lesson.

Lesson 6 Overcalls & Defender's Check List

In this final class, we will have both sides bidding with an introduction of overcalls. The play of the hand will work through the Defender's Check List. Live class, video and handout included with lesson.

Modern Bidding

All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.

8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis.

Material presentation and Real Time Play of Hands.

Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.

Lesson 1 Modern Hand Evaluation

Join World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton for Modern Hand Evaluation. This class will bring you up to speed with Long Suit Points, Short-Suit Points and Honor Upgrades. Donna will share with you the secret of shape bidding for accuracy.

Lesson 2 Responder's Choices & Hand Evaluation

Join Donna for Responder's Choices. This class will present Responder's ranges and priorities when responding to major and minor suit opening bids. Short-suit hand evaluation is discussed along with length points without support.

Lesson 3 Opener's Rebids

Join Donna for Opener's Rebids ~ her favorite class to teach! This is the most important bidding class you will ever take. We all know how to open the bidding and how to respond...but when it gets back to us as opener, we start looking at the ceiling for guidance. This class solves the rebid mystery as opener by focusing on shape bidding.

Lesson 4 Responder's Rebids

Join Donna for Responder's Rebid. Responder's job is to answer "What Level" and "What Denomination" to decide in which contract to play. To answer these questions, Responder must be able to interpret Opener's rebid. This class is a great review of the Opener's Rebids class.

Lesson 5 Stayman

Join Donna for Stayman. This is one of Donna's Top 4 conventions because it finds 4-4 major-suit fits over notrump openers. Donna will explore Stayman, follow-up bidding, handling interference, introduction to cuebids and more.

Lesson 6 Jacoby Transfers

Join Donna for Jacoby Transfers. Jacoby Transfers helps Opener and Responder find major-suit fits when Opener starts with 1NT and Responder holds 5+ cards in hearts or spades. Donna will walk you through follow-up rebids, signing off in a minor and handling interference.

Lesson 7 Modern Overcalls

Join Donna for Overcalls. We add two new characters to our cast ~ the Intervenor and the Advancer. The Intervenor uses Overcalls to get in the Opener and Responders Auction. Donna will explore four types of overcalls and responding to them.

Lesson 8 Modern Takeout Doubles

Join Donna for Takeout Doubles. The takeout double is another toy for the Intervenor to enter the auction and compete for the contract. How do you know if it is a takeout double or penalty double? This class answers this question. Responding to takeout doubles and rebids by the Doubler are included in the materials.

Take More Tricks as Declarer

All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.

8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis. Material presentation and real time play of lesson hands. Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.

Lesson 1 Declarer's Thought Process

Join Donna for Declarer's Thought Process. Donna shares the secrets of Trick One Thought and avoiding the Squirrel. You will take away step-by-step analysis of the Dummy play in all types of contracts.

Lesson 2 Long Suit Development

Join Donna for Long Suit Developments. Donna shares how to create tricks through the Long Suit Development and Trick Promotion Techniques. Donna also shares the Transportation Techniques of High Card from the Short Side and Ducking to keep transportation open between Declarer's Hand and Dummy.

Lesson 3 Keys to Finesses

Join Donna for Keys to Finesses. The key to a successful Finesse Technique is leading from the right hand which often means paying attention to Entries. Donna explores the Simple Finesse, Repeat Finesse, Leading the Honor vs Leading up to the Honor and Leading to the Lower Finesse. Not all Finesses work, entry management goes a long way to success.

Lesson 4 Trumping and Discarding

Join Donna for Trumping and Discarding. Suit contracts require Declarer to think in losers instead of winners ~ specifically in the Master Hand ~ and then eliminate the losers. Donna examines two new play techniques ~ Trumping and Discarding ~ and shows you how to implement them into your overall plan.

Lesson 5 All About Entries

Join Donna for All About Entries. Transportation between Declarer's Hand and Dummy is the most common reason a contract fails. Donna shares with you the thought process to keep the communication between the two hands and increase your trick count in any contract.

Lesson 6 Rule of 7 & Danger Hand

Join Donna for Rule of 7 & Danger Hand. Defender leads Declarer's weakest suit and Declarer needs to develop a suit by losing a trick. The Hold-Up Play is the technique...The Rule of 7 is introduced which helps Declarer know how long to hold up. Donna shows you how to identify the Dangerous Opponent and then how to avoid them.

Lesson 7 Two Exceptions to Pulling Trump

Join Donna for Two Exceptions to Pulling Trump. To draw trump or not to draw trump is asked and answered in this class. Whether or not to pull trump is based on how many fast and slow losers are in Declarer's Master Hand. Side-suit establishment and trumping are added to Declarer's Technique Box.

Lesson 8 Which Technique is Best?

Join Donna for Which Technique is Best. Working Suits often have multiple Techniques. Donna gives you the thought process to determine which technique to use and in which order to apply. This is a great "wrap-up" class for the Take More Tricks as Declarer Course.

Become a Better Defender

All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.

8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis. Material presentation and Real Time Play of Hands. Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.

Lesson 1 Modern Notrump Lead Strategies

Join Donna for Modern Notrump Lead Strategies. This class will walk through the thought process in choosing the killing opening lead against notrump contracts. You will learn about defensive strategy along with which suit and which card to lead depending on the auction and your choices. All types of leads will be discussed including long-suit leads and sequence leads.

Lesson 2 Modern Suit Lead Strategies

Join Donna for Modern Suit Lead Strategies. This fun-filled class on aggressive vs passive defenses as they affect suit contract opening leads. Short-suit leads, trump leads and which card to lead within the chosen suit will be explored.

Lesson 3 Third Hand Strategies

Join Donna for Third Hand Strategies. We all know the sound bite "Third Hand High". The exceptions oftentimes make the difference between setting the contract or allowing declarer to make the contract. Dummy is the key...This class walks you through the goals and exceptions to 3rd Hand Play.

Lesson 4 2nd Hand Strategies

Join Donna for 2nd Hand Strategies. We have heard the saying "2nd Hand Low" but there are times when one should play high. What about cover an honor with an honor...does it matter how many honors are visible? Join the class and get answers to these questions and more.

Lesson 5 Attitude Signals

Join Donna for Attitude Signals. Attitude signals are the primary signal when partner leads a suit. 3rd Hand uses this signal to guide the defense versus notrump and suit contracts. This is the first of three lessons on signaling and is the most important signal in any defense.

Lesson 6 Count Signals

Join Donna for Count signals. You have attitude signals down when partner leads. What about when Declarer's leads? Well, then the signal is count. We can usually send the signal, but does partner know which signal you are sending? If not, bring them along! This class also explores returning partner's suit, inferences and the hold-up play.

Lesson 7 Suit Preference Signals

Join Donna for Suit Preference Signals. Adding suit preference signals to your defense will turn so-so results into fabulous results! The four types of suit preference signals are discussed along with how to send and read these signals.

Lesson 8 Developing Defensive Tricks

Join Donna for Developing Defensive Tricks. Having the tools doesn't mean your defense will soar. You also need to look at the big picture including taking sure tricks, promoting tricks, long-suit establishment, finesses and trumping declarer's winners.

All Around Game 1 ~ Bidding

These “Preview Lessons” include multiple bidding topics on 12 Hands. No handout.
If you like a topic and want more detail, see PBB’s 5 Year Curriculum for Workshops and Seminars.
All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.

- Lesson 1** Responding to Takeout Double, Hand Evaluation, Stayman Exception, Responsive Double, 1NT Overcall, Weak Major Suit Raises, Pass, Double or Bid, Double, Cuebid or Raise, Lead Direct Double, Lightner Double and Texas Transfers.
- Lesson 2** GF, Limit & Preemptive Raises in Competition, Advancer’s GF and Invitational New Suits, Aggressive Balancing Actions, Responding to a 2♣ Opener, Hand Evaluation, Stayman with Weak Hands, Responding to Quantitative 4NT, Blackwood and Cuebidding and Voidwood.
- Lesson 3** Balancing, Opener’s Raises, Responding to a Weak 2 Bid, Responder’s Choices, Strong 2C Openers ~ Major vs Minors, Jump Raises in Competition ~ Law of Total Tricks, Goldway Slam Try ~ Other Major Flag, Double & Originate by Intervenor and Redouble by Responder.
- Lesson 4** Texas Transfers, Negative Doubles, Tricks vs Points, Bidding Against Preempts, Two Level Responses with Interference, Law of Total Tricks, Opening Preempts, Preemptive Overcalls, Michael’s “Tweeners”, Cuebids & Stoppers and Responding Blackwood with a Void.
- Lesson 5** Two Level Responses in Competition, Responder’s Rebids & Hand Evaluation, Strong Opening Bids, Quantitative Bidding & Five Level Bidding, Responding to Two Level Overcalls, Rebids after a False Preference, Lead Directing Doubles, 4th Seat Takeout Doubles and Passed Hand Bidding.
- Lesson 6** Cuebids in Response to a Takeout Double, Balancing Against an Opening 1NT, Responding with a Weak Hand, Rebids with Five Card Majors, Declarer 3-Card Raises, 2/1 vs Standard American, 4th Suit Forcing, Four-Card Raises in Competition, Major Suit Game Tries, and Invitational Jump Shifts.
- Lesson 7** Competing to the Three Level, High Level Bidding, Competitive Raises, Doubles Over Preempts, Law of Total Trumps, Judgment Rebids, Redoubles, Support Doubles and Strong 2♣ Responses.
- Lesson 8** Judgment Bids, Responses to Takeout Doubles, Responsive Doubles, Big Hand Overcalls, Opening Preempts, Pass, Bid or Double, Soloway Jump Shifts, Big Hand Balancing Bids, Leaping Michaels.

All Around Game 1 ~ Play

These “Preview Lessons” include multiple play topics on 12 Hands. No handout.

If you like a topic and want more detail, see PBB’s 5 Year Curriculum for Workshops and Seminars.

All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.

- Lesson 1** Long Suit Development, Counting HCP in Opponents’ Hands, Choice of Two Lines of Play, Using Vacant Spaces to Find Missing Honors, Deciding Which King to Finesse, Never Ever Suits & Strip Endplays, Entry Management, Loser on Loser Play and Careful Play.
- Lesson 2** Cross Ruff, Suit Division, Deceptive Declarer Play, Entry Management, Hold Up & Danger Hand, High Card Placement, Trump Management, Dealing with Bad Trump Breaks and Discovery Play.
- Lesson 3** Counting Out a Hand, Placing HCP Based on Bidding, Ducking in Notrump, Loser on Loser Avoidance Play, Discarding Losers on Extra Winners, Unblocking to Create Entries, Counting Losers, Long Suit Development, Missing 2 Queens & Danger Hand.
- Lesson 4** Danger Hand, Hold Up Exception, Strip & Endplay, Inevitable Losers, Hold Up Play, Counting Shapes, Counting HCP, Taking All of Your Chances and Trump Control.
- Lesson 5** Danger Hand, Combining Chances, Known Cards, Line with Time, Counting HCP, Failing Finesses, Entry Management, Long Suit Development, Counting Suits and Positive Assumptions.
- Lesson 6** Counting for Honors, Clubs in the Bidding, Entry Management, False Carding, Shape Counting, Strip & Endplay, Card Combinations and Vacant Spaces.
- Lesson 7** Counting Defenders HCPs, Counting Defenders Shape, Spot Cards Rule, Making the Opponents Pay, Entry Choices, Loser on Loser Play, Endplay, Preserving Entries and Hold Up Play Exception.
- Lesson 8** Clues from the Bidding, Repeat Finesse & Entry Management, Endplay at Trick #1, Technique Priorities, Unblock is Key, Timing: Fast & Slow Losers, Clubs from the Opening Lead, Combining Chances: Which Finesse? Cross Ruff Technique and What Could Go Wrong?

All Around Game 2

*All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.
8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis. Material presentation and Real Time Play of Hands.
Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.*

Lesson 1 Preemptive Strategies

Join Donna for Preemptive Strategies. Donna will explore the many facets to preemptive bidding including Seat Positions and Texture requirements. Donna will also discuss the psychology of preempting and Defensive Bidding when the Opponents preempt.

Lesson 2 Responding to Preempts

Join Donna for Responding to Preempts. Donna introduces the concepts of Tricks & Trump when responding to any level preempt along with Raise Only Non Force, 2NT Feature Ask and Law of Total Trumps.

Lesson 3 Trick One Declarer Play

Join Donna or Trick One Declarer Play. Donna will take you through the thought process of making the right play at Trick One. You will be taking more tricks in both notrump suit contracts. Learn how to identify the issue and solve the puzzle.

Lesson 4 Planning the Defense by Counting

Join Donna for Planning the Defense by Counting. Donna will explore how to move from a Passive Defense to an Attacking Defense by counting Declarer's HCPs, Tricks and Distribution. The ah-ha moments are endless!

Lesson 5 Strong Hand Bidding

Join Donna for Strong Hand Bidding. Strong Hand Bidding focuses on the Strong 2♣ Opener and Responses. There are a couple of wide-spread myths which you may find interesting and find out why they are not theoretically sound. Topics include counting tricks for an unbalanced 2♣ opening bids, modern responses to Strong 2♣ Openers, opener's rebids, handling interference and more!

Lesson 6 Slam Bidding Tools

Join Donna for Slam Bidding Tools. It's nearly impossible to have accurate slam bidding technique without these tools. Donna will explore whether 4NT is Blackwood or Quantitative along with when to use Blackwood or Gerber. Donna will also touch on responding with voids and dealing with the Opponent's interference of Blackwood.

Lesson 7 Counting Losers as Declarer

Join Donna for Counting Losers as Declarer. Donna will explore determining the Master Hand, looking at fast and slow losers, losers in the trump suit, when to draw trumps, and the elements of timing.

Lesson 8 Common Sense Defense

Join Donna for Common Sense Defense. Donna shows you how to look for clues in the Opening Lead, Dummy Distribution, Declarer's Tricks and Show Outs to fine tune Declarer's hand shape. Then explain how to use these clues to take more tricks on defense.

All Around Game 3

*All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.
8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis. Material presentation and Real Time Play of Hands.
Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.*

Lesson 1 Overall Survey

Join Donna for Overall Survey. This class explores the many types of overcalls focusing on the strength and shape requirements. Suit texture and borderline hands are examined. Land verses the opponents opening INT and how to deal with the opponent's are discussed as well.

Lesson 2 Overall Responses & Cuebids

Join Donna for Overall Responses & Cuebids. New ways to respond to overcalls with support and without support. Cuebidding with limit raises or better are introduced along with the Overcaller's rebids.

Lesson 3 Entry Management

Join Donna for Entry Management. Using trump as a transportation suit, how to avoid blocking the suits, the value of small trumps, the flexibility of winning in either the dummy or declarer's hand, setting up a long side suit, unblocking for entry creation and more.

Lesson 4 Using Dummy on Defense

Join Donna for Using Dummy on Defense. Using Dummy on Defense explores the three different types of dummies and how to defend against them! Your defense will never be the same. Partner not required.

Lesson 5 Takeout Doubles Survey

Join Donna for Takeout Doubles Survey. Lots of doubles in our bidding box. We will look at the most common doubles for opener, responder, intervenor and advancer including the classic takeout double, the balancing double, negative doubles, opener's takeout double, takeout doubles by the intervenor and cooperative doubles.

Lesson 6 Takeout Double Responses & Cuebids

Join Donna for Takeout Double Responses & cuebids. A quick review of the requirements for a takeout double and whether to overcall or double. We will then switch to whether we bid, jump or cuebid in response along with rebids by the takeout doubler.

Lesson 7 Declarer's Take on Defender's Breaks

Join Donna for Declarer's take on Defender's Breaks. A lot of notrump stress is the potential of being out of control. This class will focus on counting tricks, determining the opponents' winners based on suit division, the danger hand and the Rules of 7 and 11.

Lesson 8 Trump Tricks on Defense

Join Donna for Trump Tricks on Defense. We will look at short suit leads ~ including the differences between singleton and doubleton leads. Sometimes it is partner's ruff that is the setting trick. We will see when to go for a ruff and when to give a ruff.

All Around Game 4

*All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.
8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis. Material presentation and Real Time Play of Hands.
Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.*

Lesson 1 Major Suit Raises ~ Jacoby 2NT

Join Donna for Major Suit Raises ~ Jacoby 2NT. Fitting hands often take more tricks. In this class, we will explore different ways of finding these hands. Responder knows when there is a fit but needs further information to find out if there is a second suit in common.

Lesson 2 Splinter Bids

Join Donna Splinter Bids. There are some hands that have support for Opener's major but are not designed to be in control. We will focus on Opener and Responder's hand reevaluation based on shortness.

Lesson 3 To Finesse or Not to Finesse

Join Donna for To Finesse or Not to Finesse. There are lots of types of finesses including practice finesses and necessary finesses. But finesses are only 50%, so we are going to look at other options like dropping an honor, long suit development, throw-in suits and trumping out a high honor.

Lesson 4 Balancing, Responsive & Support Doubles

Join Donna for Balancing, Responsive and Support Doubles. B, R & S Doubles gives you three new doubles for your convention card! Balancing Doubles keep the auction alive. Responsive Doubles keep the Intervenor's side in the auction and Support Doubles help the Opener's side compete when it is right with nine trumps.

Lesson 5 New Minor Forcing

Join Donna for New Minor Forcing. I often get asked the question, "If Responder cannot rebid their five-card major, then how do we find a 5-3 fit? Join me for this class and find out how! This toy may be played with Standard American or 2/1 Game Forcing.

Lesson 6 Fourth Suit Forcing

Join Donna for Fourth Suit Forcing. Responder has three buckets in which to place their hands. Once the bucket is determined, the Responder has several ways of describing these buckets to Opener. Since Responder has only two forcing bids, we will investigate a new toy to help Responder force the auction.

Lesson 7 Strip Endplays

Join Donna for Strip Endplays. When your contract depends on a finesse, look elsewhere to make the hand. Each suit has a job and this play technique can be seen at trick one! Join Donna as she walks you through the identifying and executing a strip end play.

Lesson 8 Maximal Doubles & Game Tries

Join Donna for Maximal Doubles & Game Tries. Once you have found a fit, the next question is "how high?" As our hand evaluation grows, we need to add toys to help us focus on the things. We will look at blocking bids, specific games tries and random game tries all in the name of more accurate bidding.

All Around Game 5

All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.

8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis. Material presentation and Real Time Play of Hands. Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.

Lesson 1 Negative Doubles

Join Donna for Negative Doubles. Responder's involvement in the auction got a lot better when Negative Doubles came around. Although one of the oldest conventions, it has evolved over the decades to include 5 different types of hands. Who knew Responder could have so much fun!

Lesson 2 Two Suited Overcalls

Join Donna for Two Suited Overcalls. Majors, Minors, Majors/Minors sounds like a musical discussion, but it really does have a place in bridge. Did you know there are 88 keys on the piano and there are 88 5-card endings in bridge? We often bid one suit at a time, but now we are going to show two suits at a time. Shape and point requirements are discussed along with responses to each bid.

Lesson 3 Card Combination Pt 1

Join Donna for Card Combinations, Pt 1. When trying to figure out how to play a suit, the first question is how many? Number of tricks, Squandering entries, Unsupported Honors, Equal Honors and Positional Stoppers will be explored in this workshop. We will play lots of hands to see how it all works.

Lesson 4 Discarding On Defense

Join Donna for Discarding. More tricks are thrown away because of poor discarding. Donna will share a checklist of easy methods you can implement at your next bridge game and see immediate results.

Lesson 5 Inverted Minors

Join Donna for Inverted Minors. Donna will explore this new toy for Responder used to stay out of bad 3NT contracts and reach good minor suit slams. Topics include Simple & Double Raises, Opener and Responder's rebids and Opponent's interference.

Lesson 6 Passed Hand Bidding ~ Drury

Join Donna for Passed Hand Bidding ~ Drury. Donna will explore how Responder's bids change being a Passed Hand including the Drury Convention. Did you know New Suits are non-forcing by a passed hand? Passed Hand bidding is a whole new world!

Lesson 7 Card Combinations Pt 2

Join Donna for Card Combination, Pt 2. Donna will explore Doubleton Honor Plays, Unblock-ing techniques and inferences from Defender's lead. Every day Card Combinations that change your score!

Lesson 8 3rd Hand Play

Join Donna for 3rd Hand Play. Donna will look at which card to lead when returning Partner's suit, which card to play when dummy has the K, Q, J or all small cards, how to interpret 3rd-hand play, unblocking techniques and keeping communication between Defenders. Third Hand has a big job!

All Around Game 6

All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.

8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis. Material presentation and Real Time Play of Hands.

Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.

Lesson 1 2/1 Game Force Opener's Rebids

Join Donna for a discussion of Opener's Rebids after a 2/1 Game Forcing response by Responder. Opener no longer must show points on the rebid, just shape. Donna discusses changes to Standard American Agreements along with Invitational Jump Shifts to the 3 Level and Opener's Rebids.

Lesson 2 2/1 Game Force Responder's Rebids

Join Donna to explore Responder's rebids once in Game Forcing auction. Donna explores Responder's Rebids along with the Principle of Fast Arrival at the 3 Level, Interference Bidding and Passed Hand Bidding.

Lesson 3 Forcing 1NT Opener's Rebids

Join Donna as she discusses what is included in the Forcing 1NT Response. Did you know there are 5 types of hands Responder uses the Forcing 1NT to show? Donna will also explore Opener's Rebids over the Forcing 1NT by Responder.

Lesson 4 Forcing 1NT Responder's Rebids

Join Donna as she looks at Responder's Rebids showing 5 different types of hand, along with how Opponent's interference changes the bidding.

Lesson 5 Avoidance Plays

Join Donna for Avoidance Plays. Often times, declarer must lose the lead to make the hand. In these cases, it is common to have one opponent which is the dangerous opponent and one opponent which is the safe opponent. Join Donna to figure out which opponent is dangerous and how to avoid that opponent.

Lesson 6 More Dummy Uses on Defense

Join Donna for More Dummy Uses on Defense. We know there are three types of dummies. However, if the dummy has a long suit, it will also have a short suit. And how do we tell the difference between a "L" Dummy and a "B" dummy?

Lesson 7 Loser on Loser Plays

Join Donna for Loser on Loser Plays. When Declarer has too many losers, we look to discard a loser on loser to endplay the defender or avoid looming overruff. The lesson hands show how to exchange one loser for two winners and avoiding losing finesses. We will play a lot of hands to see how this technique works.

Lesson 8 Using the Trump Suit on Defense

Join Donna for Using the Trump Suit on Defense. I get to give Declarer a ruff/sluff? Yes! Let's see how and when to make Declarer ruff. Find out how, when and why you should give declarer a sluff and ruff in order to promote a trump trick in your own hand!

All Around Game 7

*All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.
8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis. Material presentation and Real Time Play of Hands.
Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.*

Lesson 1 Control Asking Bids

Join Donna for Control Asking Bids. Bidding to the five level is unusual, but the five level is exactly where control asking bids are implemented. You might ask, “Why not just use Blackwood?” Join Donna to find out why!

Lesson 2 Slam Cuebidding

Join Donna for Slam Cuebidding. Slam cuebids and Blackwood/Gerber work together to insure you don’t get to slam with a missing AK in the same suit. Avoid those embarrassing moments when the opponents cash the first two tricks against you at the six level! First and second round controls will be explored, along with finding the trump ace when holding a void.

Lesson 3 Notrump Ducking Plays

Join Donna for Ducking Plays in Notrump Contracts. Take your declarer play to the next level with this lesson. Donna will explore the exceptions to the Rule of 7 Hold Up Play including common sense, provisional stoppers, non-dangerous hand, two stoppers and more.

Lesson 4 Play/Defense Inferences 1.1

Join Donna for Play/Defense Inferences 1.1. Bridge is all about inferences, assumptions and conclusions. This fun-filled lesson explores this way of thinking from both declarer and defender’s perspective. You will be approaching play and defense in an entirely different way once you finish this lesson.

Lesson 5 Roman Keycard

Join Donna for Roman Keycard. It is often thought that once you play Roman Keycard Blackwood that you no longer play Blackwood. Donna will walk you through the steps to determine when partner is asking for straight aces and when partner is asking for keycard.

Lesson 6 Trump Queen & Specific Kings

Join Donna for Trump Queen & Specific Kings. Interested in bidding a grand slam? Then join Donna to explore how to find out about the trump queen and specific kings.

Lesson 7 Suit Ducking Plays

Join Donna for Ducking Plays in Suit Contracts. Ducking plays are commonly thought of in notrump contracts but also have many uses in a suit contract: setting up a long suit with no side suit entries, cutting communication between defenders, avoiding a ruff by the opponents, controlling the timing of the ruff as declarer, keeping the dangerous defender off lead and more.

Lesson 8 What Could Go Wrong? 1.1

Join Donna for What Could go Wrong? 1.1. Being a “paranoid” declarer is the best way to take the most tricks. To take extra tricks ~ and score extra points ~ as declarer you must constantly ask yourself “What Can Go Wrong?”

All Around Game 8

*All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.
8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis. Material presentation and Real Time Play of Hands.
Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.*

Lesson 1 Goldway Slam Tries

Join Donna for Goldway Slam Tries. Slam bidding after Stayman is impossible in standard bidding. Other Major Flag “fixes” standard bidding. Donna introduces you to unspecified splinter bids, relay asking bids, hand reevaluation and balanced slam tries following Stayman.

Lesson 2 Major Suit Slam Tries ~ Texas Transfers

Join Donna for Major Suit Slam Tries ~ Texas Transfers. Other Major Flag works over Stayman, but what about when responder has a long major suit slam try? Join Donna to explore the different uses of Texas Transfers to show game only hands, slam invitational hands and slam going hands. Both ace asking and quantitative bids are included in the discussion.

Lesson 3 Card Combinations, Pt 3

Join Donna for Card Combinations Pt 3. Donna shares her thought process regarding number of tricks needed, the form of scoring, when playing a doubled contract or a great contract, clues from the bidding, having a count on the hand and avoidance plays.

Lesson 4 What Could Go Wrong? 1.2

Join Donna for What Could Go Wrong? 1.2. Being a “paranoid” declarer is the best way to take the most tricks. To take extra tricks ~ and score extra points ~ as declarer you must constantly ask yourself “What Can Go Wrong?”

Lesson 5 Misfit Bidding

Join Donna for Misfit Bidding. Have you ever had the auction go back and forth between you and your partner, each bidding your own suits until the opponents start doubling? Misfit hands require more high card points to take tricks. Join Donna to explore Independent Suits, when to keep bidding and when to throw in the towel.

Lesson 6 Advanced Hand Evaluation

Join Donna for Advanced Hand Evaluation. Yes. We know how to evaluate bridge hands with high card points, long suit points and short suit points. Join Donna to explore how the shapes of the hands and the opponents’ bidding increase and decrease the value of a bridge hand.

Lesson 7 4th Round Losers

Join Donna for 4th Round Losers. When you finish a hand and think, “Wow, I thought I was going to make that hand.” Then join Donna to identify 4th round losers and how to get rid of them! Strong and weak side suits, phantom losers along with different types of trump suits will be examined.

Lesson 8 High Level Pass, Bid or Double?

Join Donna for High Level Pass, Bid or Double? Donna will help you fine tune your judgement regarding 3, 4 and 5 level decisions using the Law of Total Tricks.

All Around Game 9

All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.

8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis. Material presentation and Real Time Play of Hands.

Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.

Lesson 1 Bidding Inferences

Join Donna for Bidding Inferences. To be a great declarer or defender and ultimately count out a hand, you must be able to gather inferences and assumptions from your opponents' bidding. Inferences from suits bid and unbid, artificial bids, passed hand and unpassed hand along with many other bidding situations will be discussed.

Lesson 2 Card Combination Inferences

Join Donna for Card Combination Inferences. This class explores the clues to look for as declarer and defender. Inferences may be found in the opening lead or what's not led, the way declarer plays the hand, the card played from dummy, discarding and signaling.

Lesson 3 Play & Defense Inferences 1.2

Join Donna for Play & Defense Inferences 1.2. Donna takes a further look at inferences, assumptions and conclusions including counting points, shape and opening lead inferences. Discover Loser on Loser plays and Morton's Fork using these counting methods.

Lesson 4 Placing the Defenders Honors

Join Donna for Placing the Opponents' Honors. This class take a look at discovery plays, playing to make, opening/subsequent leads, signals and fall of the cards. Donna will be sharing her insight on how to place the opponents' honors through inferences, assumptions and conclusions.

Lesson 5 Introduction to Counting

Join Donna for Introduction to Counting as she introduces you to the world of counting. After four lessons of inferences, assumptions and conclusion, you are now ready to start counting out a bridge hand as declarer and defender. Thinking in hand and suit patterns will become second nature. The division of the remaining cards will also be incorporated into your thinking.

Lesson 6 Counting Defenders Hands

Join Donna for Counting Defenders' Hands. This lesson will use 9 lesson hands to see clues to look for when counting out a hand as declarer. Donna shares her checklist of clues with a focus on two-way plays. Group play and hand counting will be the focus of this lesson.

Lesson 7 Counting Declarer's Hand

Join Donna for Counting Declarer's Hands. Defense is all about counting out the hidden Declarer hand. This class focuses on pattern counting, declarer's bidding, inferences from what is not bid, partner's bidding, partner's opening lead and count signals along with second plays by you and partner.

Lesson 8 Putting it all Together ~ Practice Counting

Join Donna for Putting it all Together ~ Practice Counting. It's time to put it all together! Join Donna for a fun-filled class of counting out a bridge hand whether it is declarer's hand or the defenders' hands...you are on your way to counting out every hand you play! We will spend the class playing 8 hands and counting!

All Around Game 10

*All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.
8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis. Material presentation and Real Time Play of Hands.
Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.*

Lesson 1 Law of Total Tricks

Join Donna for Law of Total Tricks. You and your Opponents are bidding, bidding, bidding. Join Donna to learn the expert tricks to competing to the two, three and four level.

Lesson 2 LOTT Conventions

Join Donna for LOTT Conventions. The Responder does delay raises all the time. Join Donna to explore Opener's delay raises and how they find 5-3 fits on the third round of bidding.

Lesson 3 Deceptive Declarer Plays

Join Donna for Deceptive Declarer Plays. As declarer, your partner is dummy so you can play any cards you want to deceive the defenders. You can't fool dummy! This lesson looks at playing known cards, hiding lower spot cards, playing higher of touching cards while making your play believable and feigning weakness among other techniques.

Lesson 4 Suit Defense, Pt 1

Join Donna for Suit Defense, Pt 1. You are on lead again a suit contract. We will look at the elements of deciding when to lead trumps, when to lead partner's suit and when to lead sequence combinations. Leading unsupported aces, AK combinations or short-suit leads are also explored.

Lesson 5 Reverses & Lebensohl Defense

Join Donna for Reverses & Lebensohl Defense. I hear players say, "I don't do reverses." The problem with reverse is the name! If we could go back to the 1940s and rename the reverse the "forcing partner to a higher level" bid, it would make more sense. Logic is the way to go. Once we take care of the name, we will look at follow -up bids to reverses including Lebensohl. I always say, "if you can spell it, you can play it!" You are in luck...it is logical, and you will be explaining it to your partner when you leave class! Better yet, bring your partner with you!

Lesson 6 Unusual vs Unusual

Join Donna for Unusual vs Unusual. Your Opponents bid a Michaels cuebid or unusual 2NT against you and what you were going to bid is no longer available. It's time to add Unusual vs Unusual to your convention card. Join Donna for the cutting-edge defenses to these bids including silent cuebids, showing stoppers and asking for stoppers.

Lesson 7 The Simple Squeeze

Join Donna for The Simple Squeeze. Donna will layout the elements of a simple squeeze ~ threat, non-threats, number of tricks, ducking tricks, number of threats, and order of suits played. Executing a squeeze takes time and practice but you will have the tools you need to begin your squeeze adventures!

Lesson 8 Notrump Defense, Pt 1

Join Donna for Notrump Defense, Pt 1. The first on defense has the clues needed to take maximum tricks on defense. We will explore interpreting opening leads, signaling, exceptions to 3rd hand high and hold-up play.

All Around Game 11

*All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.
8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis. Material presentation and Real Time Play of Hands.
Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.*

Lesson 1 Four Suit Transfers

Join Donna for Four Suit Transfers. Once you add four suit transfers to your convention card, your minor suit notrump bidding will come to life! Bidding minor suit slams and aggressive 3NT games comes to light.

Lesson 2 Notrump/WK 2 Bid Lebensohl

Join Donna for Notrump/WK 2 Bid Lebensohl. This class focuses on notrump interferences and when the opponents open a weak two bid. Many players find the Lebensohl convention baffling, but Donna presents it in a logical, methodical manner with lots of memory aids. It's time to add it to your convention card.

Lesson 3 Modern Uses of Cuebids

Join Donna for Modern Uses of Cuebids. There are hundreds of cuebids that have all different meaning depending on the bidder's seat position, whether majors or minors are being raised and how the Opponents' bids have gone up to the point of the cuebid. Join Donna to untangle the most common cuebids in modern bidding.

Lesson 4 Suit Defense Pt 2

Join Donna for Suit Defense Pt 2. Signals! But wait...there is more! Join Donna to play 10 lesson hands while exploring encouraging, discouraging and false come-on signals, along with lowest spot card, second highest spot card and trump suit count.

Lesson 5 Modern Uses of Redoubles

Join Donna for Modern Uses of Redoubles. Ah. The blue card. Rarely sees the light of day. However, there are a lot of uses for redoubles in your bidding system. Join Donna to explore the most common use of redoubles and add them to your convention card ASAP.

Lesson 6 Opener's Delayed Raise

Join Donna for Opener's Delayed Raise. Opener uses a Delayed Raise of Responder's major to show extra values ~ 17-18 total points and 3-card support. An example auction of Opener's Delayed Raise is 1♦-1♥-2♣-2♦-2♥ ~ Opener's shape is 1-3-5-4. This is key to uncovering 5-3 fits when Responder holds a 5-card major.

Lesson 7 2NT Means What When?

Join Donna for 2NT Means What When? It is amazing how many meanings 2NT can have when bid by Opener, Intervenor, Responder and Advancer. Join Donna to explore all of the different meanings!

Lesson 8 Notrump Defense, Pt 2

Join Donna for Notrump Defense, Pt 2. Time to join Donna to take your game to the next level with notrump defense. Clues from the bidding, opening lead interpretation and type of dummy are just a few "big ideas" Donna will cover in this class. The topics of unblocking, overtaking, counting declarer's tricks and signals just for notrump will also be explored.

All Around Game 12

All course materials designed by World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton.

8 Week Course ~ Classes may be taken on an individual basis. Material presentation and Real Time Play of Hands.

Live class, video and handout included with lesson. Replay lesson hands on Shark Bridge following live class.

Lesson 1 Balancing Seat Pass, Bid or Double?

Join Donna for Balancing Seat Pass, Bid or Double? Balancing Seat bidding is super aggressive because the Partnership does not want to allow their Opponents to play any contract at the two level and below. Donna explores different methods of balancing and responding to achieve the goals of either buying the contract in Partscore or pushing the Opponents up a level too high.

Lesson 2 Puppet Stayman

Donna for Puppet Stayman. Puppet Stayman gives Responder a tool to ask Opener for 5-Card Majors to ensure the Partnership uncovers the 5-3 major suit fit when Opener bids 1NT with a 5-card major.

Lesson 3 Opener's Reverses

Join Donna for Opener's Reverses. Donna explores the shape and strength of a reverse along with Responder's responses. I know, your Partner does not "do reverses." However, reverse are part of standard bidding. So best to know what the opponents are showing when they reverse!

Lesson 4 Winning Bridge Tips

Join Donna for Winning Bridge Tips. There are so many pitfalls to fundamental bidding and are easy to fix. Join Donna to find out what those pitfalls are and how to fix them!

Lesson 5 Common Bidding Errors

Join Donna for Common Bidding Errors. Donna explores Opener and Responders common mistakes and shows you how to fix them.

Lesson 6 Bidding Traps to Avoid

Join Donna for Bidding Traps to Avoid. You are going along in the auction when you come to a fork in the road. One choice is the right bid and the other, well is a trap! Join Donna as she explores these traps and shows you how to avoid them!

Lesson 7 Overcall or Double

Join Donna for Overcall or Double. It's frustrating when you find yourself as Intervenor and cannot decide whether to overcall or make a takeout double. Donna will share her thoughts on when to overcall and when to double.

Lesson 8 Clues from the Bidding on Play/Defense

Join Donna for Clues From the Bidding. Unless a hand is passed out, there will be bidding. Good bidders generally try to describe their hand. Good Listeners use these descriptions as a guide to both play and defense. Donna will train your ear to hear these clues.