

BML 5542

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1 Introduction

Welcome to BML! This is a normal paragraph, and above we can see the TITLE, the AUTHOR and the DESCRIPTION of the file. TITLE is the name of the system and DESCRIPTION is a short summary of how the system works. AUTHOR is self explanatory. Introduction above, headed by an asterisk, sets a section at the first level (the second level would have two asterisks etc).

The system presented in this example file is meant to showcase many of the current features in BML. Let's start with the basic opening structure of the system:

1♣	2+♣. Natural or balanced
1♦	4+ suit, unbalanced
1M	5+ suit
2♣	20–21 bal / Any game force
2♦	6+♥ or 6+♠, 5–9 hcp
2♥♠	6+ suit, 10–13 hcp
2NT	22–24
3X	Preemptive
3NT	Gambling

The above is an example of a bidding table; the reason why BML is more suited for bridge system notes than other markup languages. You start by writing the bid, then a number of whitespaces, and then the description of the bid. Simple! C is for clubs, D for diamonds, H for hearts, S for spades and N for no trump. There's also some special cases which you could use, above we use 1M (1H and 1S), 2HS (2H and 2S) and 3X (3C, 3D, 3H and 3S). We'll see more of these later.

The reason why the 1NT opening is left out above is a secret for now!

2 The 1♣ opening

You might have noticed the ♣ in the title of this section? This will be replaced by a club suit symbol when exported. The same is true for ♦, ♥ and ♠ (but these will be converted to diamonds, hearts and spades, ofcourse).

In this example we use transfer responses to the 1♣ opening:

1♣—	
1red	Transfer. 4+ major, 0+ hcp
1♠	INV+ with 5+♦ / Negative NT
1NT	Game forcing, 5+♣ or balanced
2♣	5+♣, 5–9 hcp
2X	6+ suit, 4–8 hcp
2NT	Invitational

By writing 1C— we define that the following bids should be continuations to the sequence 1C. We could write 1C- or 1C– too, the number of dashes only matters to the way the output looks. Also note the 1red response, this defines both 1D and 1H.

2.1 After a transfer

This section has two asterisks, meaning it will be at level two (so its a subsection). You might also have noticed that the paragraphs, the sections and the bidtables are separated by a blank line? This is important in BML, as the blankline are used to separate elements.

1♣-1♦;	
1♥	Minimum with 2–3♥
1♠	4+♥, 4♠, at most invitational
1NT	Sign off
2♣	Puppet to 2♦
2♦	Forced
2♥	Mildly invitational with 5♥
2♠	Invitational, 5+♥ and 4♠
2NT	Strongly invitational with 5♥
3m	Invitational with 4♥ and 5+ minor
3♥	6♥, about 11–12 hcp
2♦	Artificial game force
2♥	6+♥, about 9–10 hcp
1♠	5+♣, 4+♠, unlimited
1NT	17–19 bal, 2–3♥
2♣	5+♣, unbal, 0–2♥, 0–3♠
2♦	Reverse
2♥	Minimum, 4♥
2♠	16+ hcp, 5+♣ and 4+♥
3♦	Retransfer
3♥	
	3♠ Cue bid, slam interest
	4♣♦ Cue bid, slam interest
	4♥ To play
3♥	Invitational

	3♠	Splinter
	4♣♦	Splinter
	4♥	To play
2NT	16+ hcp, 6+♣. 18+ if 3♥	
	3♣	Suggestion to play
	3♦	Relay
	3♥	3♥, 18+ hcp
	3♥	Game forcing with 6+♥
3♣	15–17 hcp, 6+♣ and 3♥	
	3♦	Retransfer
	3♥	Invitational
3♦	17–19 bal, 4♥	
	3♥	To play
3♥	13–15 hcp, good hand, 5+♣ and 4♥	
	3NT	Asking for singleton

This bidding table shows a couple of new features. The most prominent is the ability to add continuations directly in the table, by using whitespaces. We also see another example of appending bids to an existing sequence, by using 1C-1D; in the beginning. There's also the use of 3m, meaning both 3C and 3D.

3 Defense to 1NT

Defining bidding when both sides bid is a little bit more tricky, since you have to write all the bids (even passes). The opponents' bid are indicated by encapsulating them in parantheses. P is used for Pass, D for Double and R for Redouble.

(1NT)—		
D	Strength, ca 15+	
2♣	At least 5-4 majors	
	(D)	
	P	5+♣, suggestion to play
	R	Asking for better/longer major
	2♦	5+♦, suggestion to play
	(P)	
	2♦	Asking for better/longer major
2♦	A weak major or a strong minor	
	(P)	
	2♥	Pass/correct
	2♠	Pass/correct
	2NT	Asking
2♥♠	Constructive	
2NT	5-5 minors	
3X	Preemptive	

Note that the above is only for a direct overcall over 1NT. To define the above also when balancing. We've used BML's copy/cut/paste functionality in order to showcase that you do not have to write it all over again. Take a look below (only visible in the example.txt file, not in HTML, LaTeX or .pdf):

First we used the #COPY command; the text between #COPY and #ENDCOPY got put into a sort of clipboard, with the tag nt_defense which we specified. To paste it into the bidding table above we used the #PASTE command. We also used the #HIDE option. When this is present in a bidding table the table will be exported to Full Disclosure, but not to HTML or LaTeX.

You could also include other BML-files into your main file by using the #INCLUDE command. Just type #INCLUDE <filename> and the entire file will be inserted at the point where you wrote the command. This is a useful way to separate your system into modules, or perhaps just to make it more manageable.

It is also possible to add continuations when the opponents interfere:

1♣-(1♦)—	
D	4+♥
1♥	4+♠
1♠	INV+ with 5+♦ / Negative NT
1NT	Game forcing, 5+♣ or balanced
2♣	5+♣, 5–9 hcp
2X	6+ suit, 4–8 hcp
2NT	Invitational

4 The 1NT opening

Here's the reason why I left out the 1NT opening earlier: I will showcase how to make sequences dependant on vulnerability and seat. This will be a bit messy, so hold tight!

We start by cutting our NT-module, since this will be used on all NT-openings. #CUT is equal to the #COPY command, but using #CUT means that it isn't parsed as a bidding table until it is pasted.

The #VUL command is used to set the vulnerability. It takes an argument of two characters, each can be Y, N or 0. The first character asks if we are vulnerable and the second asks if our opponents are vulnerable. Y is for Yes, N is for No and 0 means that it doesn't matter.

The #SEAT command sets the seat in which the bid should be valid. 0 means that the seat doesn't matter (all seats), 12 means first or second and 34 means third or fourth. 1–4 could also be used.

So when we're not vulnerable we open 1NT 12–14 in 1st and 2nd seat.

But in third and fourth seat it is 14–16.

When we're vulnerable we always open 1NT 14–16.

1NT—	
2♣	Stayman
	2♦ No major
	2NT 4-4 majors, minimum
	3♣ 4-4 majors, maximum
2red	Transfer
2♠	Minor suit stayman
2NT	Invitational

We've been using the #HIDE command, so we don't have to see our NT-system over and over again. This time though we paste it normally, so that we see it at least once.

5 Lists

I'd like to show you how to make lists in BML. It is pretty simple:

- Here's a list!
- With a couple of
- Items in it

You could also make ordered lists:

1. This is ordered
2. Just add numbers
3. To each item