

Heritage Towne Lake Bridge

Roger Burrows' BRIDGE LESSONS

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HAND EVALUTION GUIDELINES

1. Hand evaluation (fixed): 1) High Card Points, 2) Shape, 3) "LTC".
 - Variables: prior bids, partner agreements, vulnerable?, which chair, short suits, ...
2. With a suit fit, Playing Points (PPs) = HCP + shortage points.
 - With fit and a void, PPs = HCP +5; singleton, HCP +3; doubleton, HCP +1.
3. Losing Trick Count (LTC) max 3 per suit. 7- open, 8- respond.
 - Weak Queen, like Qxxx, add 1/2 LTC.
4. 25 combined "points" for Major or NT game, 33 points for Small Slam.
 - HCP in NoTrump and "Playing" Points in a suit.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. If Responder has not passed or bid NT, her new suit is forcing!!!
 - The "Golden Rule" of bidding.
2. "Golden fit" is 8+ trumps total in your hand + Partner's hand.
 - Note: the Law of Total Tricks says total # of trump = total # of tricks.
3. With 2 equal suits, open the higher ranking.
 - For responses and rebids, bid up the ladder.

Bidding in NoTrump

Roger Burrows' Bridge Lesson 1

1. 1NT and Pass
2. 1NT and Stayman
3. 1NT and Jacoby Transfer 1 / 2
4. 1NT and Jacoby Transfer 2 / 2
5. 1NT and 2S
6. 1NT and 3C or 3D
7. 1NT and Texas Transfer



Opening 1 NoTrump Responding with a bust hand

Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

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



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT

All pass

Opening lead: 3♥

Bidding:

1. South has a solid 1 NoTrump opener with 17 HCP, 4-3-3-3, and 7 LTC. She is promising strength and distribution, albeit with no stopper in Clubs.
2. South is promising a stopper in 3 suits.
3. When South opens 1NT, North is obligated to immediately announce the partnership's NT point range (15-17 HCP for American Standard).
4. North has a weak and balanced hand with 6 HCP, 4-4-3-2, 11 LTC. Even opposite the strongest 1 NoTrump opener, it's likely not enough for game.

Play of the Hand:

1. West makes a standard opening lead -- 4th from longest and strongest.
2. Sadly for the defense, it gives declarer a second Heart trick.
3. Now South has 2 Hearts, 4 Diamonds, and the A♠, plus a working finesse on the K♠.

Responding to 1 NoTrump with 8+ HCP and a 4-Card Major “Stayman”

Board 2

South Deals
None Vul

		♠ A K 6 2	
		♥ J 7 6	
		♦ K J 9 5	
		♣ 10 8	
♠ 10 7 5			♠ J 8
♥ K 8 2			♥ Q 10 5 4 3
♦ 8 7 3			♦ 6 4
♣ A 7 5 3			♣ Q J 6 4
		♠ Q 9 4 3	
		♥ A 9	
		♦ A Q 10 2	
		♣ K 9 2	
West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	2 ♠

Opening lead: 7♦

Bidding:

1. South opens 1 NoTrump with 15 HCP and 4-4-3-2. North announces 1NT range.
2. North responds 2C Stayman showing 8+ HCP and a 4-card Major.
3. North has 12 HCP so for sure game-going. North will make forcing bids to game.
4. South's rebid is 2S, showing at least 4 Spades.
5. North has found a golden fit in Spades and goes directly to game.
6. The Stayman convention has done its job by 1) finding the fit in a major and 2) making South the declarer (the strong, 1NT opener).

Play of the Hand:

1. Not wanting to start trump, Hearts, or Clubs, West makes a passive lead of “second-down from nothing”.
2. After a big Diamond, South pulls trump in 3 rounds.
3. Declarer takes 4 Spades, 4 Diamonds, the A♥, and a Club ruff.
4. The indirect finesse with the K♣ fails, but 4 Spades is made.

Responding to 1 NoTrump with a 5-Card Major “Jacoby Transfer” 1/2

Board 3

South Deals

None Vul

		♠ J 8 7 6 5	
		♥ 9 8 7	
		♦ K J 4 3	
		♣ 4	
♠ 10 3			♠ K 2
♥ K Q 5 3			♥ J 10 6
♦ 7 5 2			♦ A 8
♣ Q J 10 6			♣ A 9 8 7 5 3
		♠ A Q 9 4	
		♥ A 4 2	
		♦ Q 10 9 6	
		♣ K 2	
West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	1 NT
All Pass			3 ♠
Opening lead: Q♣			

Bidding:

1. South opens 1NT with 15 HCP, 4-4-3-2, and 6 LTC.
2. North has a weak hand with 5 Spades and 9 LTC. The plan is to transfer South to 2S and leave it.
3. For South, the transfer is to her best suit. She has 4 Spades with 2 of the top 3 honors.
4. South “super-sizes” her rebid to 3S.
5. Although strongly encouraged by partner, North passes.

Play of the Hand:

1. West leads from top-of-a-3-card-honor sequence.
2. East will take the A♣ and returns the 6♥ to lead toward weakness on the board.
3. South takes the A♥, and cashes the K♣ with a Heart pitch from dummy.
4. South must lose a Club, a Diamond, and a Heart.
5. South will get to dummy by leading small Diamonds.
6. The finesse of the King of trumps then succeeds, and declarer makes 10 tricks.

Responding to 1 NoTrump with a 5-Card Major “Jacoby Transfer” 2/2

Board 4

South Deals
None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	
Opening lead: 6 ♥			

Bidding:

1. South opens 1NT with 16 HCP, 4-4-3-2 and 7 LTC. It's correct even with the worthless doubleton in Clubs.
2. With 5 Spades, North makes the transfer bid of 2H.
3. South completes the transfer by bidding 2S.
4. North bids invitational 2NT which shows 8-9 HCP and exactly 5 Spades. South can pass or chose Spades or NT. Remember that South could have 2 Spades only.
5. Holding 3 Spades with 2 honors, South jumps to game in Spades.

Play of the Hand:

1. With no better plan, West starts second-down from nothing.
2. Sadly for the declarer, South must eventually lose 2 Clubs and 2 Diamonds for down one.

Responding to 1 NoTrump with a 2S Bid

Board 5

South Deals
None Vul

		♠ J 8	
		♥ 6 3	
		♦ 8 7	
		♣ Q J 10 9 5 4 3	
♠ 10 7 6 2			♠ K 5 3
♥ K J 10 8			♥ Q 9 7 5
♦ K J 3			♦ A 5 4 2
♣ A 7			♣ 8 6
		♠ A Q 9 4	
		♥ A 4 2	
		♦ Q 10 9 6	
		♣ K 2	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	1 NT
All Pass			3 ♣!
Opening lead: AC			

Bidding:

1. South opens 1NT with 15 HCP, 4-4-3-2, and 6.5 LTC.
2. North has a pitiful few HCP and wants South to declare in Clubs. She bids an artificial 2S, a relay by partnership agreement.
3. South must Alert immediately and explain the relay to 3C if asked.
4. South completes the relay (aka “a transfer”) with 3C.
5. North passes. If the long suit was Diamonds, North would bid 3D. The bidding is then over either way.

Play of the Hand:

1. It seems unlikely that the defense will trump in on anything.
2. West decides to start with the A♣ and followed by the 7♣.
3. South will lead the 4♠ toward the J♠.
4. East covers with the K♠ and can only take 2 top Diamonds.
5. Now South will discard the second Heart in dummy on the second top Spade.
6. Declarer makes 10 tricks.

Responding to 1 NoTrump with a 3C or 3D Invite

Board 6

South Deals

None Vul

<p>♠ A 8 7 5</p> <p>♥ 9 8 6 5</p> <p>♦ K</p> <p>♣ 9 6 5 3</p>	<p>♠ 6 3</p> <p>♥ J 7</p> <p>♦ Q J 10 8 6 5 2</p> <p>♣ Q J</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 4 2</p> <p>♥ A 10 4 3</p> <p>♦ 3</p> <p>♣ K 8 7 4</p>	<p>♠ K J 9</p> <p>♥ K Q 2</p> <p>♦ A 9 7 4</p> <p>♣ A 10 2</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>W</p> <p>N</p> <p>E</p> <p>S</p> </div> </div>			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	1 NT
All pass			3 NT
Opening lead: 5♠			

Bidding:

1. South opens with 17 HCP, balanced distribution, and 7 LTC.
2. North, with only 7 HCP but long Diamonds, invites to game with a 3D response.
3. She expects South to pass with a weak doubleton in Diamonds.
4. Because North's 3D bid is natural, South does not owe an Alert to the opponents.
5. South has maximum 1NT HCP, and 4 Diamonds with the Ace! She happily bids 3NT.

Play of the Hand:

1. West has 2 4-card majors. She picks the 4th down from the longest and strongest.
2. After collecting the first Spade, South should lead the A♦ with 11 trump total. The King falls.
3. Declarer will run 7 Diamond tricks, pitching a Club and 2 Hearts. This maintains stoppers everywhere.
4. South leads the Q♣ from dummy. With the K♣ in East ("on-side"), South only loses the 2 major suit Aces.

Responding to 1 NoTrump with a Texas Transfer

Board 7

South Deals

None Vul

<p>♠ Q</p> <p>♥ K J 10</p> <p>♦ 8 7 5 2</p> <p>♣ Q 9 8 7 4</p>	<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ J 10 9 7 6 5 3</p> <p>♥ 8 7</p> <p>♦ A K</p> <p>♣ 6 5</p>	<p>♠ K 8</p> <p>♥ 6 5 3 2</p> <p>♦ J 4 3</p> <p>♣ A J 10 3</p>
		<p>♠ A 4 2</p> <p>♥ A Q 9 4</p> <p>♦ Q 10 9 6</p> <p>♣ K 2</p>	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	1 NT
All pass			4 ♠
Opening lead: 7♣			

Bidding:

1. South opens 1NT with 15 HCP, 4-4-3-2, and 6 LTC.
2. Opposite 1NT, North knows the hand will be played at 4 Spades. There is no way to find enough for slam interest, and nothing short of game in Spades will do.
3. North bids 4♥, a Texas Transfer to 4♠ from South.
4. This cuts off a chance for East to bid at a low level and find some lucky suit-fit.
5. South completes the transfer to 4♠.

Play of the Hand:

1. West leads 4th from her long suit.
2. East collects her Ace. It would be standard to return the J♣, but look at the dummy's distribution. Declarer might work out a sluff of a Heart on a Diamond.
3. East switches to the 5♥, second from nothing. Partner is also looking at dummy and will understand the switch.
4. South goes up with the A♥ and leads a small Diamond.
5. South unblocks Diamonds in 2 rounds from dummy and leads the J♠.
6. East ducks with 8♠. If South has the A♠ and Q♠, at least make South guess about the K♠. There is no advantage in "covering an honor with an honor" here.
7. South plays the A♠ and the Q♠ falls from West.
8. South plays the Q♦ and pitches the last Heart from the board.
9. South loses only the A♣ and the King of trump, making 11 tricks.

Responding to 1 NoTrump After Opponent's Interfere

Board 8

South Deals

None Vul

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



West	North	East	South
2 ♦	2 ♥	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
All pass			4 ♠

Opening lead: AH

Bidding:

1. South opens 1NT with 16 HCP, 4-3-3-2, and 6 LTC.
2. West overcalls 2♦. Opponents love to interfere with 1NT! North should ask East what understanding they have about that bid. Typically, it's Diamonds and a biddable major.
3. North's understanding with Partner is "Systems on over". Our bids mean the same as if the overcall never happened. 2♥ is a transfer to Spades, announced by South.
4. Note: If West had overcalled with the bid North wanted to make, she would double. The double has a special meaning of "stolen bid". South should "Alert".
5. South completes the transfer with 2♠.
6. North's hand is strong enough for game unless South has a worthless Spade doubleton. North invites game and South is happy to raise to 4♠.

Play of the Hand:

1. West will cash the A-K♥ and try a Diamond.
2. Declarer wins, crosses to dummy, and finesses for the K♠. It wins, and South takes 11 tricks when trump splits.

Notes:

1. Our recommended HCP range for 1NT is 15-17 HCP, 20-21 HCP for a 2NT opener, and 25-27 HCP for a 3NT opener.
2. Stayman and Jacoby Transfer conventions apply after a 2NT opener.