

ALEX'S BRIDGE TIP # 1

Your LHO opens with 2S. Your partner bids 3H. Pass by RHO and you have

S K7
H Q87
D A965
C 8643

What will you bid?

Not all Kings are created equal. You have given yourself 3 points for your S King. In fact, including dummy points (because you have 3 card support for partner's Hearts), you have 4 points in Spades as it is a doubleton. Will your S King pull its weight? i.e. Do you think it has a hope of taking a trick? The worse part is that if you are going to become the dummy and the lead will be through your S King. EXPECT (ASSUME) that your LHO is the one with S Ace and Queen. Your S K is doomed. It has no hope of ever winning a trick.

Do you see the difference if RHO had bid Spades, now your S King is favourably located as you ASSUME the S Ace is in RHO's hand.

So, you should pass with the hand above on the given auction.

Now check the hand below:

Your LHO opens with 2S. Your partner bids 3H. Pass by RHO and you have

S 65
H KQ8
D A976
C 8642

Bid 4H. On the first hand, you have what we call "wasted values in Spades. A useless S King. On the second hand, you have NO wasted values.

ALEX'S BRIDGE TIP # 2

Partner has opened 2C. RHO has passed. You have:

S KQ109
H K876
D K64
C 65

What will you bid?

Bid 2D. If you bid 2S, it guarantees a 5 card or longer suit of quality: that means 2 of the top 3 honours. You have the strength but you don't have the length.

Note that 2D is a waiting bid and does not deny a good hand, it merely denies a good five card suit and 8 or more HCP.

Partner has opened 2C. RHO has passed. You have:

S K10964

H K52

D KQ4

C 76

What will you bid?

You must still bid 2D as your Spade suit lacks substance. You need 2 of the top 3 honours and a five-card or longer suit. This prevents you getting to a slam with lousy trump.

BARBARA'S BRIDGE TIP ON BIDDING:

This is your hand. How will you bid this?

S Void

H AK8765

D 1095

C AQ86

Partner opens 1C, opponents pass throughout. You bid 1H. Partner (opener) bids 1S. Now what will you bid?

If you bid

2H: That shows 6-9 points and long Hearts (NOT forcing)

3H: That shows 10-12 points and long Hearts (NOT forcing)

4H: OK, you are in game but partner could have a Heart void.

3NT: Your opponents may take the first five Diamond tricks.

It is for this reason that Fourth Suit Forcing (the convention) was invented. You now bid 2D. This is alertable as it does not promise Diamonds and asks partner for more information.

Partner's first responsibility is to show you 3 card support.

If she does not have that, she will bid NT if she has a stopper in the 4th suit.

If she has FOUR Diamonds, she now bids 3D.

With none of the above, she rebids her Clubs or describes her hand naturally.

Your hand repeated for convenience:

S Void

H AK8765

D 1095

C AQ86

This was partner's hand:

S AKQ5

H Q4

D 64

C KJ742

1C - 1H
1S - 2D * (FSF)
3C - 3H
4H

The 3C bid denied a D stopper and denied three-card support for Hearts. EW got to their safe 4H contract.

If you do not know this convention, or perhaps only know page one of the convention or just wish to review it, here it is: Click on this link and then print it so you can study this. It is an important convention.

[https://www.barbaraseagram.com/pdf/FOURTH-SUIT-FORCING-Student handout.pdf](https://www.barbaraseagram.com/pdf/FOURTH-SUIT-FORCING-Student%20handout.pdf)

UNDERSTANDING REVERSES

Part one: Part two follows next week

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REVERSES

One of the very first bidding rules we all learn is that when you have two five-card or longer suits, you should bid the higher ranking one first, then bid the lower ranking one. This makes it easier for partner to choose between them at a low level.

Consider these two bidding sequences:

NORTH	SOUTH		NORTH	SOUTH
1D	1S	and	1C	1S
2C			2D	

In the first sequence South can give a preference to North's first suit by saying 2D, remaining at the 2-level.

But in the second sequence if South wants to return to North's first suit he must do so at the 3-level, by bidding 3C.

In the second sequence North bid the two suits in the "Reverse" order, (lower ranking first), and in so doing has potentially forced South to the 3-level.

REVERSE

When a player opens 1 of a suit, then at his second turn bids a **higher-ranking** suit at the 2-level, that second bid is called a Reverse.

Since a Reverse forces the partnership to a higher level you should not make a Reverse bid without a fairly strong hand.

A REVERSE by Opener requires 17+ points.

For Opener to bid his suits in Reverse order the first suit should be longer than the second one.

In other words you should not distort your normal bidding practice just for the purpose of making a reverse.

A REVERSE by Opener shows at least 5-4 in the two suits, with the first suit longer. Do not Reverse with a balanced hand.

Look at some examples.

			NORTH SOUTH
	South		1C 1S 2D
	SA5 HQ8 DKQ109 CAJ874		This is the sequence shown above. With 17 points (one extra for the fifth C) and two excellent suits, you have plenty of strength to make a Reverse. You describe a hand with longer Cs than Ds.

			NORTH SOUTH
	South		1D 1S 2H
	S65 HAKQ7 DAK9642 C8		This is also a Reverse. Here you have 18 points and your Ds are longer than your Hs.

			NORTH SOUTH
	South		1H 1NT 2S
	SAKJ5 HKQ1087 DA6 C4		Opener may also reverse after a 1NT response. You have 18 points and cannot raise notrump with that singleton C. So you describe your hand as best you can by reversing into your S suit even though you know partner would not have bid 1NT if he held four Ss.

Responder's bid after Opener Reverses (weak hand):

A REVERSE by Opener is forcing on Responder for 1 round.

So even with a weak hand, responder to a reverse may not pass. We will call a weak hand one with 6-8 points since you must have had 6 for your original response. Look at some examples where Responder is pretty weak.

			NORTH SOUTH
	South		1C 1S
			2D 3C
	SKQJ5 H876 D1096 CJ97		<p>One bid you can make with a weak hand is to return to Opener's first suit.</p> <p>You only have 7 points, but you do have a 3-card C support.</p> <p>And you know partner has a 5-card suit (more Cs than Ds).</p>

			NORTH SOUTH
	South		1C 1S
			2D 3D
	SKQJ5 H876 D10963 CJ7		<p>Another choice with a weak hand is to support Opener's second suit.</p> <p>You only have 7 points, but with four Ds you bid 3D.</p>

			NORTH SOUTH
	South		1C 1H
			2D 2NT
	SJ1095 HAQ96 D964 C83		<p>Another bid you can make with a weak hand is 2NT. You don't have support for either of partner's suits, and you know he doesn't have 4 Spades.</p> <p>The 2NT bid describes this hand perfectly. If partner has anything extra he can go on to game.</p>

			NORTH SOUTH
			1C 1H
			2D 2H
	South		
	S 7 2		
	H A J 9 6 5 3		
	D 9 6 4		
	C 8 3		
			The final possibility for a weak hand is a rebid of your own 6-card suit.
			You cannot support Cs with only a doubleton, you cannot support Ds with only three, and you don't want to bid Notrump without something in Ss.
			So you rebid your 6-card Hs.
