

ALEX'S BRIDGE TIP:

When partner preempts at the 3 level, do not automatically bid when you have a full opening bid. There are many hands where you will pass with 13 or 14 points especially when you are short in partner's suit.

e.g.

S AQ76

H KJ87

D 6

C A1098

Partner opens 3D. You must not bid 3NT as partner is most unlikely to have D AKQJ876

and you will end up not scoring a single Diamond trick.

Misfits are a major issue to be concerned about.

This time you are dealt:

S AJ10

H KQ10

D Q87

C KJ98

This time, partner has opened 3D, NOW you can bid 3NT. You have a fit with partner: Odds are high that you can get to partner's Diamonds.

Next one: Partner opens 3C. What will you bid with this hand?

S AKJ108

H 65

D A87

C K98

Bid 3S. This is 100% forcing. If partner has three Spades, she will raise to 4S. If not, she will likely bid 4C. (She actually could even raise to 4S with Ax or Kx on a different hand as you promise a quality suit 5 cards or more.)

Responder to a preempt: If you have a singleton in partner's suit, then, in order to bid a new suit in respond to partner's preempt, you had better have 16 or more points. Tread carefully with a misfit.

Have a look at one more hand:

Partner opens 3C and you have

S A5

H K87

D AKQ7654

C 6

Bid 3NT. This time, you have what is called "a source of tricks." That Diamond suit looks a lot like 7 tricks. The lead will come up to you so they cannot hurt you if they lead a Heart.

COMMON PITFALLS IN BRIDGE

by Barbara Seagram

S AKxxx
H AKxxx
D Kx
C x

You are the Dealer. What will you open?

You have a good hand. You still must start by bidding 1 S as opening bidder. If you open with 1 H and then bid Spades later, you will have promised to have more Hearts than Spades and you will have distorted the shape of the hand. A reverse (when you bid a new suit at the 2 level higher in rank than the suit you opened) always promises more cards in the first suit than in the second.

1S - 1NT

3H will describe this hand perfectly.

S Qxxxx
H AQ10xx
D x
C Kx

You are the Dealer. What will you open?

You must open with the higher ranking suit even with this weak hand and better Hearts than Spades. It is all about quantity, not quality. If you start with 1 H and partner bids 2 D ,now what? Open 1S and if partner bids 1NT or 2C or 2D, now bid 2H as your rebid.

S KQ32
H 432
D AKJ
C 876

You are the Dealer. What will you open?

You must open with 1C . If you start with 1D (tempting) then what do you now bid when p responds 2C .

With 3-3 in minors, always open with 1C . With 4-4 in minors, always open with 1D .

S 32
H 432
D Kxxx
C AKQx

You are the Dealer. What will you open?

Open with 1D.

If you open with 1C and partner now bids either 1S or 1H , you do not have a rebid. The rules of opening the bidding are all based on having a legal rebid later. When you open with 1D, if partner bids 1H or 1S, now you bid 2C.

S AQJxxx
H x
D Kxxx
C xx

You are the dealer. What do you bid? DO NOT open with 2S . Your hand is way too good. It adds to a full opening bid, using the Rule of 20. Either way you have a full opening bid. Start the bidding with 1 S .

S AQxxx
H KJxx
D xx
C xx

Partner opens 1 NT. Now what?

You must use Stayman. If you use a transfer, your H suit will remain undiscovered forever.

Here is partner's hand:

S xx
H AQxx
D AKxx
C Qxx

You transfer to S 's (not knowing that you should always bid Stayman with 5-4 in the majors) and then when partner bids 2S , you now bid 3 NT. Your opponents take the first 5 C tricks. You should be in the safe contract of 4H .