

## ALEX'S BRIDGE TIP:

All of you know that when you open 1NT and partner raises you to 2NT, he/she is asking you to bid 3NT with 17 or with a good 16: i.e. any 5 card suit. This is called a Quantitative raise: "Partner, if you have a minimum, please pass but bid 3NT with a maximum."

So if you are the opener with this hand:

S K5  
H AQ875  
D AJ8  
C Q84

and the auction goes 1NT by you and 2NT by partner, you plan on accepting and could now bid 3NT.

BUT how about, along the way, bidding 3H, just in case partner has three Hearts to go with your five Hearts.

1NT - 2NT

3H - If she has three Hearts, she will bid 4H, if she only has two or fewer, she will bid 3NT.

This is based on the concept that it is safer to play a hand in a trump suit contract than in NT because you can control the hand better with a trump suit.

Note that you must open the above hand with 1NT as if you open with 1H and partner bids 1S, you have no rebid to now describe your hand. 1NT will show 12-14 HCP while 2NT would show 18-19 HCP.

Alex's Quiz is to the right.

What is your opening bid on these hands and plan a rebid:

a)	b)	c)	d)	e)
S KJ6	S AKJ	S KJ6	S KJ6	S KJ6
H Q95	H 975	H AQ5	H A95	H AQ5
D A108	D AQ8	D AQ8	D AQ8	D AQ8
C QJ96	C Q1096	C Q1096	C AQ96	C AQ96
f)	g)	h)		
S K9	S 94	S K9		
H Q1043	H AQJ3	H AQ4		
D K8	D 98	D K8		
C AJ942	C AK942	C K98432		

a) Open 1C and plan to rebid 1NT after partner responds 1 in a suit. If partner responds 1NT, Pass.

b) Open 1NT. Do not be worried about the Heart suit. You promise 15-17 HCP and a Balanced hand. If you had 5 Clubs and two little Hearts, Still open 1NT.

c) Open 1C and if partner responds 1 of a suit, plan to bid 2NT. If partner responds 1NT, plan to bid 2NT which will show 18-19 HCP balanced.

d) Open 2NT.

e) Open 2C and plan to rebid 2NT showing 22-23 HCP and a balanced hand. If partner makes a positive response and bids 2H or 2S (natural showing that suit and 8 or more HCP) then raise their suit.

f) Open 1C. If partner responds 1H, bid 2H. If partner responds 1D or 1S, bid 1NT.

g) Open 1C. If partner responds 1H, bid 3H, showing 16-18 and 4 Hearts. If she bids 1S instead, bid 2C. You are not strong enough to bid 2H now which would be a reverse.

h) Open 1NT to avoid a rebid problem. It is okay to do this with a 6 card minor as long as your majors are stopped.

**BARBARA'S BRIDGE TIP:** Here's your hand. You open 1S. Your LHO bids 2C and partner bids 3C. This shows a limit raise or better i.e. 3 or more Spades and 10 or more points. Pass by RHO. Back to you. Your bid.

S AJ109754  
H AJ  
D AK3  
C 5

Do you bid

3S  
4S  
4NT  
6S

You have 17 HCP and 3 length points. = 20 points including distribution. That makes you almost a 2C opener. You could have opened 2C and not be faulted for it.

When partner supports your suit, now add (on top of those initial length points) 1 extra point for the 5th card in the suit partner has supported and 2 extra points for each remaining card. Now you have 25 total points. Add partner's 10+ to yours and you hear the SOUND OF SLAM!

ALWAYS do this when partner supports your suit and you will never miss your games and slams.

Bid 4NT, in case partner happens to have the Club Ace AND the Spade King. If she does, you will likely head to 7S. If she does not, you bid 6S. As it turns out, partner shows you one key card and you bid 6S.

Here are the two hands:

S K863  
H Q  
D J108  
C K10987

S AJ109754  
H AJ  
D AK3  
C 5

Once you have pulled trump, you will plan to lead a small Club from the South hand towards the Club King in dummy. If your LHO goes up with the Club Ace, then you can discard a Diamond loser on the Club King in dummy. It is an easy slam. Would you have bid it?

Always remember to revalue.

## DEFEND WITH EDDIE KANTAR

	S. 75	
	H. K86	
	D. 7432	
	C. AQJ10	
West		East
S. AKJ83		S. Q1042
H. 75		H. 32
D. A106		D. QJ98
C. 872		C. 963
	South	
	S. 96	
	H. AQJ1094	
	D. K5	
	C. K54	

West	North	East	South
1S	Pass	2S	3H
Pass	4H	All Pass	

Opening lead: Spade Ace

Bidding Commentary: West should not compete to 3S with five spades and a **balanced** minimum. To compete with a minimum, West needs **six** spades or five spades with a side four (or five) card suit.

Defensive commentary: East plays the S10 at trick one to show an equal honor. West frantically wants East on lead to lead a Diamond through Declarer so must not cash the S King at trick two. West must now lead a low spade to East's promised queen. East shifts to the DQ giving the defense the first four tricks.

When a suit has been supported, an encouraging signal in response to a king lead shows an equal honor- in this case: the queen . It is the equivalent of playing the queen from the queen-jack when partner's lead shows the ace-king. Give East the QJ52 and East plays the SQ at trick one promising the SJ-**in blood**. These signals allow the opening leader to make seemingly daring, but actually safe, underleads if a lead in another suit is desired.

Play Commentary: If the defense doesn't cash the first four tricks, declarer makes the hand easily-six hearts and four clubs.