

And one more tip from Barbara

You have this hand:

S AK
H J87654
D A874
C 2

You open 1H. 2C by your LHO and 3C by partner. What will you bid?

- a) 3H
- b) 3NT
- c) 4H
- d) Pass
- e) 3D

ANSWER: 4H Count your length points at beginning of auction. You have 14 points including those. Partner supports your suit. NOW ADD ONE EXTRA POINT FOR THE FIFTH CARD IN THE SUIT THAT HAS BEEN SUPPORTED AND TWO EXTRA POINTS FOR EACH REMAINING CARD. You are up to 17 points. Partner has promised you a limit raise or better: 10 or more points and at least THREE card support for Hearts. Add that together and bid 4H right away.

ALEX'S BRIDGE TIPS - Answers follow immediately after

1.You are dealt this hand:

S J864
H AKQ754
D K6
C 9

You open 1H and partner responds 1S. What will you bid next?

- a) 2H
- b) 3H
- c) 2S
- d) 3S

2.This is your hand:

S K8
H KJ7
D KQ74
C Q853

You open 1D. Partner responds 1S. Your RHO bids "Double". What will you bid next?

- a) 1NT
- b) Pass
- c) Redouble
- d) 2C

3. You are dealt this hand:

S KQJ1086
H 87
D K943
C 7

You open 2S. Pass by LHO. 3S by Partner. 4H by your RHO. What will you bid next?

1.
S J864
H AKQ754
D K6
C 9

You open 1H and partner responds 1S. What will you bid next?

ANSWER: 3S is the correct bid. With 4 card support for partner, you know you are to become dummy. Count dummy points. You doubleton Diamond gets 1 point and your singleton Club gets 3 points. You have 16 points. Your long suit points go away when you are going to be dummy. You have an eight-card fit in Spades. Show that and your 16-18 points by bidding 3S. The 4-4 fit is far superior to a 6-1 or a 6-2 fit as with a 4-4 fit as trumps, you can draw trumps and then make discards on that delicious long suit.

2.
S K8
H KJ7
D KQ74
C Q853

You open 1D. Partner responds 1S. Your RHO bids "Double". What will you bid next?

ANSWER: PASS. If you are playing support doubles, your pass states that you have two or fewer Spades. If NOT playing support doubles, you still Pass as this simply says that you have nothing more to say at this moment. You have already told your story. A minimum hand without great support for Spades. Wait to see what your LHO bids next and what partner does after that. But for now, you have nothing further to add. Don't bid 1NT as partner could have the barest 6 points.

3.
S KQJ1086
H 87
D K943
C 7

You open 2S. Pass by LHO. 3S by Partner. 4H by your RHO. What will you bid next?

ANSWER: PASS. Once again, you have already told your story. You already said "I have 6-10 HCP and a good quality six-card Spade suit. You may not bid again unless partner makes a forcing bid. 3S was not forcing AND even if she had bid a new suit, once your RHO bids 4H, now you are off the hook. As you may have heard me tell you before, the only time you can bid again is if you bend over and find an Ace on the floor!!