



Adventures in Bridge

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Modern 1NT Opening Bids Notes

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Why Open 1NT?

- My favorite Opening Bid
 - Start of my favorite game auction: 1NT – 3NT.
- Excellent Description of your hand (“Big Picture”)
 - 15-17 points vs 12+ points for other openings
 - Balanced-ish Hand
- Solve Rebid Problems (avoid Reverse)
- Conceal information from the opponents
- Become the Declarer – protect positional honor holdings

What does 1NT Opening Show

- Expected Shape
 - 4333
 - 4432
 - 5332
 - Some Semi-Balanced Hands? – 5422, 6322
- 15-17 Total Points
 - Could have some length points
 - Aggressively upgrade into 1NT, conservatively upgrade out of 1NT

Opening 1NT with a 5-card Major

- Describe Hand
- Solve Rebid Problem
- Show Major Later – Stayman and then rebid Major (or Puppet Stayman)
- Small Doubleton?
- Location of Honors – Strength of Long Suit

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Semi-Balanced Hands

- Rebid Issues – Make a “Planned Rebid”
 - Avoid making a Reverse when only 15 to bad 16 points.
- 5422 – “2-Suiter vs. *Balanced Hand*”
 - Lower ranking 5-card suit
 - Higher ranking 5-card suit
 - 4-5-2-2
 - 2-2-5-4
- 6322 – “1-Suiter vs. *Balanced Hand*”
 - 6-card minor
 - 6-card Major
- Location of Honors

Singleton Honors

- Singleton Ace or King (maybe even Queen) sometimes function like Doubletons (as good as having 2-small in the suit).
- Open 1NT with singleton honor?
 - Don’t like to do it.
 - Only do so because have a rebid problem – need to avoid reverse.
- Singleton Spade Honor
 - 1-4-5/3

Example – Problem Hand

 - ♠ K
 - ♥ AKT3
 - ♦ KJ843
 - ♣ Q83

Adjusting Your Range

- Good 14 to 17 (14+ to 17)? – If you upgrade often
 - Most 5-card suits
 - Lots of 10s or 9s
 - Any excuse at all...