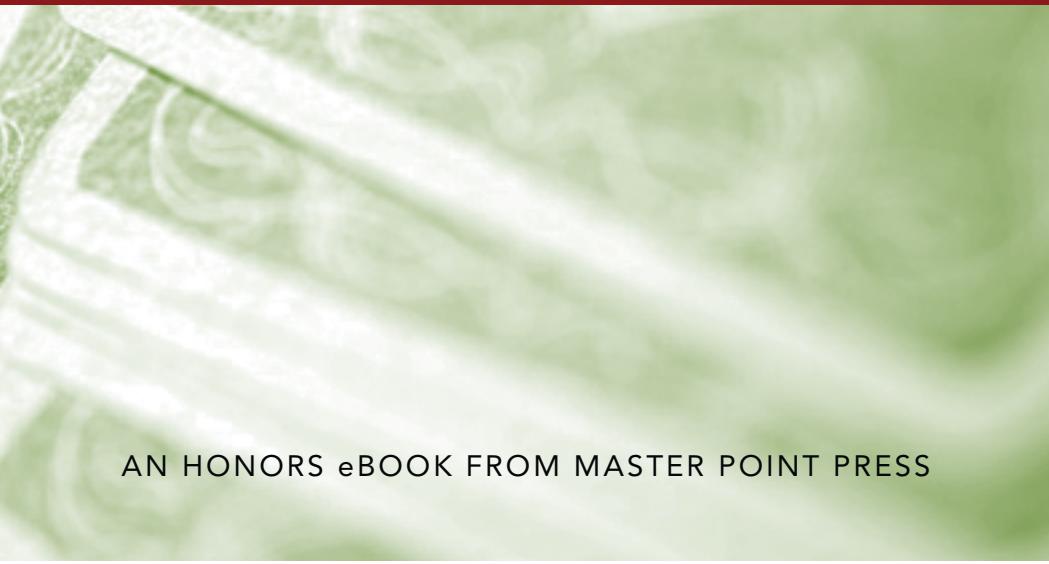


*Ken Rexford*

MODIFIED  
ITALIAN CANAPÉ  
SYSTEM



AN HONORS eBook FROM MASTER POINT PRESS

# Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	1
FOREWORD .....	4
INTRODUCTION .....	7
THE ONE CLUB OPENING .....	8
THE OPENING BID OF ONE NO TRUMP .....	9
OPENING BIDS OF ONE-OF-A-MAJOR .....	10
Theoretical Concerns of Canapé Bidding .....	10
Early Discovery of the Four-Four Fit .....	11
Concealment of Fit Strength (passing the 5-2, 5-3, or 5-4 fit).....	16
General Pattern Concealment (When they get the contract or we find the four-four fit) ....	17
Maintenance of Lead Acceptance .....	19
Disruption of Standard Overcall Practices.....	20
Early Suggestion of a Misfit .....	21
The Opening Bid in First or Second Seat .....	22
Distribution .....	22
Strength .....	23
Summary .....	24
Responding to a First-or-Second-Seat One Spade Opening .....	25
Two-Over-One Responses .....	25
Opener Rebids after 2/1 Response .....	25
Responder's 2NT Rebid After Opener Repeats his Major .....	28
Interference After a 2/1 Response.....	28
The Special Case of the 2♥ Response to a 1♠ Opening .....	29
One No Trump "Semi-Forcing" .....	29
Natural Rebids by Opener.....	30
The Two No Trump Rebid.....	31
The Three No Trump Rebid.....	32
Raises .....	32
Other Major Jump Shifts.....	34
Other Responses.....	35
Special Concerns for Dealing with the Overcall.....	35
Responding to a First or Second Seat One Heart Opening .....	36
Indicating a Void and a Fit - The Alternative Treatment.....	36
The One Spade Response.....	37
The Opening Bid in Third Seat .....	39
The Opening Bid in Fourth Seat .....	39
OPENING BIDS OF TWO-OF-A-MAJOR .....	41
Theoretical Concerns of Intermediate Two-Bids.....	41
The Direct Benefit of Two Hearts and Two Spades Openings.....	42
The Indirect Benefit of the Roman Two Hearts and Two Spades Openings.....	47
Why We Do Not Miss Weak Two Bids.....	48
The Opening Two Heart and Two Spade Bid.....	49
Requirements for the Opening Bid .....	50
Responding to the Two Hearts Opening .....	51

Responding with Intermediate or Better Values .....	51
Two Spades .....	51
Two No Trump .....	53
Three Diamonds .....	54
Immediate Slam Exploration .....	55
Responding with Weak Hands .....	56
Handling Interference .....	58
After the Double .....	58
After the Suit Bid .....	58
After Artificial Two-Suiters .....	59
Other Interference Situations .....	59
Responding to the Two Spades Opening .....	60
THE OPENING BID OF ONE DIAMOND .....	62
Theoretical Concerns Regarding the One Diamond Opening .....	62
When Opener Has the "Normal" Canapé or Long Diamonds Hand .....	62
When Opener Has the Long Clubs Hand .....	64
Requirements for the One Diamond Opening Bid .....	66
Responses to the One Diamond Opening Bid .....	67
The One, Two, and Three No Trump Responses .....	67
The 1NT Response .....	68
The 2NT Response .....	69
The 3NT Response .....	70
The Constructive Minor Responses .....	70
The Game-Forcing Two Clubs Response .....	71
The Preemptive Major Responses .....	72
The One of a Major Responses .....	72
Responder with a Weak Hand .....	72
Responder with a Constructive Hand .....	73
Responder with an Intermediate Hand .....	73
Responder with a Strong Hand .....	74
Opener's Rebids after One-of-a-Major Response .....	74
Handling Interference After a One Diamond Opening .....	76
If Opener's LHO Interferes - Responder's Options .....	76
Reopening/Rebids by Opener .....	79
The Lebensohl Convention by Opener .....	80
Reopening "Michaels" Cuebid by Opener .....	81
"Reopening" Double by Opener .....	82
THE TWO CLUBS OPENING BID .....	83
Theoretical Concerns of the Two Clubs Opening .....	83
Two Clubs as a Better Three-Suiter than Two Diamonds .....	83
Why Use a Three-Suited Opening at all? .....	84
Requirements for a Two Clubs Opening Bid .....	85
Responses to the Two Clubs Opening Bid .....	86
The Two Diamonds Asking Bid .....	86
Opener Has a Minimum .....	87
Opener Has a Maximum .....	89

Interference after the 2♦ Asking Bid.....	90
The Weak Responses .....	90
The Unusual Leaps .....	91
The Leap to Three No Trump .....	92
Handling Interference .....	92
The Special Circumstance of the Third Seat or Fourth Seat Two Clubs Opening .....	93
Optional Idea for Expanding the Utility of a 2♣ Opening.....	93
<b>MINOR-SUITED OPENINGS: TWO DIAMONDS AND TWO NO TRUMP .....</b>	<b>95</b>
Requirements for the Two Diamonds Opening Bid .....	96
Distributional Requirements .....	96
Strength Requirements.....	97
Fourth Seat.....	97
Responses to the Two Diamonds Opening Bid .....	98
Responding with Weak Hands.....	98
Intermediate Hands .....	101
The Natural and Invitational 2♠ Response.....	102
The Natural and Invitational 2NT Response .....	103
The Artificial 2♥ Asking Bid.....	103
The Three-of-a-Major Response (and 4M):.....	109
Competitive Auctions .....	109
After Direct Interference:.....	109
After Interference over the Two Hearts Convention: .....	110
Some Actual Hands in Play .....	110
Requirements for the Two No Trump Opening Bid .....	119
Strength Requirements.....	119
Pattern Considerations .....	120
Responses to the Two No Trump Opening Bid .....	121
Responding to First or Second Seat Openers.....	121
Responding to Third Seat Openers .....	123
Fourth-Seat Openers .....	123
Handling Interference .....	124
How to Learn Canapé in Stages – An Idea for the Timid.....	125
Standard or 2/1 GF Players .....	126
Precision Players.....	127

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

ISBN 978-1-55494-501-6

## AN EASY, EFFECTIVE STRONG CLUB SYSTEM

In this book, Ken Rexford introduces the strong club relay system with canapé bidding that he played successfully for years. His approach is novel, but it is also one that is easy to learn and play. Most importantly, the entire system fits within the ACBL General Convention Chart. As with his first book, *Cuebidding At Bridge*, Ken Rexford spends much time explaining the theory and thinking behind canapé sequences, so that the reader will understand the approach rather than simply memorizing a list of conventions.

The author also includes a basic scheme for converting your system from Precision to Canapé, or even from Standard all the way to Canapé, all in easy steps. For those who are intrigued but intimidated by Canapé, this extra material should help to ease the transition.



**KEN REXFORD** (Ohio) is a bridge player with 30 years of tournament experience. His first book, *Cuebidding at Bridge: a modern approach*, and his blog, [www.cuebiddingatbridge.blogspot.com](http://www.cuebiddingatbridge.blogspot.com), introduced the bridge world to a modern approach to Italian cuebidding. Using more than conventions and definitions, he introduced the reader to the theory and thinking you need to actually use cuebidding to your advantage.



AN HONORS eBook FROM MASTER POINT PRESS