

Teacher's Manual

WHAT DO THESE BIDS MEAN?

A BRIEF BIDDING REVIEW

Timothy LeVan

An Honors eBook from Master Point Press

Text © 2017 Timothy LeVan
Cover Image © powerofforever/iStock

All rights reserved.

Honors eBooks is an imprint of Master Point Press. All contents, editing and design (excluding cover design) are the sole responsibility of the authors.

Master Point Press
214 Merton St. Suite 205
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M4S 1A6
(647) 956-4933

info@masterpointpress.com

www.masterpointpress.com

www.bridgeblogging.com

www.teachbridge.com

www.ebooksbridge.com

ISBN: 978-1-55494-588-7

Cover Design: Olena S. Sullivan/New Mediatrix

1 2 3 4 5 6

20 19 18 17

Table of Contents

FIRST SEAT – Opener Bids	1
Part One – Opening BALANCED Hands (Opponents pass).....	1
<u>Opener Minimum</u>	3
<u>12-14 balanced points</u> – Open One of a Suit, then rebid 1NT	3
<u>Opener Medium</u>	5
<u>15-17 balanced points</u> – Open 1NT	5
Quantitative, Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, Relay to the Minors	13
Quiz – 1NT and Balanced Hand Responses	8-9
Quiz – Stayman or Jacoby Transfer?	14-15
<u>Opener Maximum</u>	16
<u>18-19 balanced points</u> – Open One of a Suit, then <i>jump</i> in NT	16
<u>20-21 balanced points</u> – Open 2NT	18
<u>22+ balanced points</u> – Open 2♣ – only forcing Opening Bid in Standard American.....	19
Quiz – What’s Opener’s Rebid	22-23
FIRST SEAT – Opener Bids	24
Part Two – Opening UNBALANCED Hands (Opponents pass).....	24
<u>Opener Sub-Minimum</u> 6-10 points	24
<i>Preemptive</i> Bids (Opener only rebids after Responder’s 2NT or New Suit below game level).....	24
Quiz – <i>Preemptive</i> Bids & Rebids	28-29
<u>Opener Minimum</u> 12-15 points	30
<u>Opener Medium</u> 16-18 points	31
<u>Opener Maximum</u> 19-21 points.....	32
Quiz – Minimum, Medium, or Maximum?	34-35
Jump Shifts 18-21 (<i>jump</i> in level, <i>shift</i> in suit).....	36
Reverses 16-17 or 18-21	38
Quiz – Jump Shift or Reverse?	42-43
<u>Opener’s Rebids</u> after Responder’s forcing Cuebid (with 10+ points).....	44

SECOND SEAT – Overcalls and Doubles 45

- Suit Overcall 7-17..... 45
- 1NT Overcall 15-17..... 45
- *Preemptive* Jump Overcall..... 46
- Takeout Double 13-17 48
- Strong-Hand Double 17+..... 49
- Overcaller’s Rebids 51
- Doubler’s Rebids 52

Quiz – Pass, Overcall, or Double? 54-55

THIRD SEAT – Responder Bids 56

- Bid New Good Suit 6+ at 1-level; 10+ at 2-level..... 56
- Raise Opener’s Suit 57
- Bid Notrump..... 57
- Negative Double 6+ at 1- or 2-level; 10+ at 3-level..... 58
- Cuebid/Redouble 59

Quiz – Responder’s Bids in Competition 62-63

FOURTH SEAT – Advancer Bids..... 64

Advancer’s Bids after Partner Doubles 64

- Pass is available if Responder bids or redoubles..... 64
- Bid New Suit 64
- Bid Notrump..... 67
- Redouble/Cuebid 68

Quiz – Advancer’s Bids after Partner Doubles 70-71

Advancer’s Bids after Partner Overcalls..... 73

- Pass 73
- Raise Overcaller’s Suit 73
- Bid New Good Suit..... 74
- Bid Notrump..... 75

Quiz – Advancer’s Bids after Partner Overcalls 78-79

Teacher's Notes

What Do These Bids Mean? is a brief bidding **review** for experienced novices, and early intermediate players. The novel concept is the **visualization** of everyone's hands **from their bids only**. What do their bids promise? How many cards? How many points? What do their bids show? What do they deny? Are they forcing?

Only Bidding Boxes are used – no cards! Really! Only the 15 Quizzes and 36 Final Test Deals show actual hands. By the time students take the Quizzes, and bid the Test Deals, their visualization of everyone's bids will be superb! The Teacher's Manual contains 10 additional Quizzes – again with actual hands – to be copied for the students.

These exercises review **Minimum, Medium, and Maximum** hands and how to bid them based on your bidding position at the table: Opener, Overcaller/Doubler, Responder, or Advancer. We also review **What's Forcing?** and why.

These review lessons move fast, and may be overwhelming for students not already at least *somewhat* familiar with the concepts. Students find these reviews helpful in organizing and refining their knowledge of these bidding basics. Stayman and Jacoby Transfers are the only two conventions used. Examples start simply, but quickly get complicated.

This Teacher's Manual is designed for *experienced* teachers. All activities are designed to be taught at bridge tables. Teachers may simply read from the text. The examples are progressive, and are intended to be presented as written.

Many examples are written in a shortened form. For example, the following bidding sequence shows several rebids by South. Please call out each bid one-by-one and review its meaning and if it's forcing. If students need extra time to understand a concept, you may always choose to say things like: "What does North's 2NT bid mean, and is it forcing? Please **discuss** at your table." Then give them a few minutes. Then say what North's 2NT bid means. Then call out South's rebids one-by-one and discuss their individual meaning, and if they're forcing. A little chart like this may actually take 5 minutes or more to review with the students.

West	North	East	South
			2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥ = rebid original suit with minimum hand – not forcing
			3♣/3♦/3♠ = A or Kx in bid "feature" suit – not forcing
			3NT = solid Trump Suit – AKQxxx – not forcing

Sections often give only one or two examples of each concept, so take time to explain each one carefully. Students always take longer than expected to figure out the meaning of possible bids (and why), before settling on their final answer. It's always better to fully explain and understand one concept, than to rush through too much information incompletely.

What Do These Bids Mean? – Teacher’s Manual – Outline

Introduction:

Let’s look at some possible bids and rebids from the perspective of where we’re sitting.

- **First Seat** Opens the Bidding
- **Second Seat** Overcalls or Doubles
- **Third Seat** is Responder
- **Fourth Seat** is Advancer

Easy, right? But let’s get more complicated. **What’s forcing?** This is easy, too:

- A bid that is *unlimited* is **forcing**.
- A bid that is *limited* is **not forcing**.

What bids and rebids show a **minimum, medium** or **maximum** hand?

These ranges vary depending on where you’re sitting. We’ll review it all. Let’s get started!

FIRST SEAT – OPENER BIDS

Part One – Opening BALANCED Hands, Responses & Rebids. Opponents pass.

Please look at page 1 in your book at the chart titled “**Opener’s Balanced Hand Bids.**”

Let’s **visualize** some bidding sequences to review how Opener and Responder bid Balanced Hands with different point counts. The Opponents will pass for now.

We’ll just use our Bidding Boxes – no hands until we take the quizzes! Really!

Opener’s Balanced Hand Bids

12-14 – Open One of a Suit, rebid 1NT
15-17 – Open 1NT
18-19 – Open One of a Suit, *jump* in Notrump
20-21 – Open 2NT
22-24 – Open 2♣, rebid 2NT
25-27 – Open 2♣, rebid 3NT
28-30 – Open 2♣, rebid 4NT,
(etc. by 3-point ranges)

“**Call and Response**” is a sentence which you start ... and the students finish together.

Supplies Needed per Table

Bidding Boxes, Guide Cards, **What Do These Bids Mean?** books, Notepaper, Pencils.
No cards!

Quiz Copies for Students

Please copy the Teacher’s Manual Quizzes on front-and-back pages (questions on front/answers on back):

First Seat – Part One

- Quiz – 1NT and Balanced Hand Responses
- Quiz – Stayman or Jacoby Transfer?
- Quiz – What’s Opener’s Rebid

First Seat – Part Two

- Quiz – *Preemptive* Bids & Rebids
- Quiz – Minimum, Medium, or Maximum?
- Quiz – Jump Shift or Reverse?

Second Seat

- Quiz – Pass, Overcall, or Double?

Third Seat

- Quiz – Responder’s Bids in Competition

Fourth Seat

- Quiz – Advancer’s Bids after Partner Doubles
- Quiz – Advancer’s Bids after Partner Overcalls

Final Test Deals & FULL DEALS

Deals #1-9 – after First Seat – Part One

See book pp. 70 - 82

Deals #10-18 – after First Seat – Part Two

See book pp. 124 - 136

Deals #19-27 – after Third Seat

See book pp. 172 - 184

Deals #28-36 – after Fourth Seat

See book pp. 200 - 212

We'll start our review with Opener showing a:

Minimum 12-14 point Balanced Hand

With 12-14 balanced points, Opener bids One of a Suit, planning to rebid 1NT.

Please put your book aside.

Let's **visualize** the following bidding sequence:

West	North	East	South
	1♣		

Q: How many points does North have?

A: 12-21 points, including length points.

Q: What bids *doesn't* North have?

A: 1NT, 2NT, 2♣, and probably no 5-card or longer major to bid 1♥ or 1♠.

Okay, **East**, please Pass; and **South**, please Pass.

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	Pass

Q: Now, what does South have?

A: Not 6 points to bid anything.

Even if North opened with a maximum 21 points, without 6 points by South, they probably didn't miss game. It's okay! The Opponents will surely **not** let North play 1♣ – they'll bid!

However the bidding continues, North knows that South *does not have* 6 points; so any further bidding by South will be purely **competitive**.

Okay, **South**, please change your Pass to 1♦.

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♦

Q: Now what does South have?

A: 6 or more points, 4 or more Diamonds.

Let's pause a moment to review an important concept: **What is Forcing?** How do we know?

Let's think of **Forcing** like this:

- If your bid is **unlimited**, your bid is **Forcing**.
- If your bid **limits** your hand, your bid is **Not Forcing**.

Let's apply these two ideas so far.

Q: Is North's Opening 1♣ forcing?

A: No, it's limited to 21 points. Without 6 points, South may happily Pass.

Remember: the only forcing opening bid is the strong 2♣.

Q: Is South's 1♦ forcing?

A: Yes, because it shows 6 **or more** points – with no a top limit.

This concept of **Forcing** is very important. South may have a full opening hand, or even more, but does not need to jump in the bidding. South just bids 1♦, knowing that “**A New Suit by unpassed Responder is Forcing.**”

This means that if South had already passed, 1♦ **would not** be forcing.

Please note that any level of Notrump is also **not forcing** because Notrump bids **limit** your hand.

South, please change your 1♦ to 1♥.

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♥

Q: Now what does South have?

A: 6 or more points, and 4 or more Hearts.

Q: Is it forcing?

A: Yes! It is an unlimited bid!

South, please change your 1♥ to 1♠.

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠

Same, right? 6 or more points, and 4 or more Spades. Forcing.

West, please Pass; North, please rebid 1NT.

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT		

Q: What does North's rebid of 1NT show?

A: 12-14 balanced points, without 4 spades.

Q: Is North's 1NT rebid forcing?

A: No, because Notrump bids **limit** your hand, and are therefore **not forcing**.

Q: How do we know North's 1NT rebid shows **only** 12-14 balanced points?

A: Because with 15-17, North would have **opened** 1NT.

Okay, South, please change your 1♠ to 1NT.

North, please put back your 1NT.

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1NT
Pass			

Q: What does South have?

A: 6-9 balanced points; and no 4+ card major.

Q: North, if you have a minimum 12-14 point balanced hand, what's your next call?

A: Pass.

North, please Pass.

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass		

With a minimum 12-14 point balanced hand, Opener wanted to stop in 1NT anyway, and Responder did it for them. So, just Pass!

Later, you may want to take the **Balanced Minimum Opener Rebids** Quiz on page 8.

Everyone, please put back your bids.

Now let's continue with Opener showing a:

Medium 15-17 point Balanced Hand

With 15-17 balanced points, we Open 1NT – **not forcing**.

North has the standard 15-17 High Card Point (HCP) **balanced** hand: no void, no singleton, and not more than one doubleton. We don't count shortness or length points – just High Card Points. Please **do not** open 1NT with 14 or 18 points – there are other ways to bid those hands.

Please note that in this book, we do not open 1NT with a 5-card major. Okay?

When you open 1NT, please look at it and decide if it's:

- minimum – 15 or a bad 16 points, or
- maximum – 17 or a good 16 points

You'll need this information if Responder bids 2NT*, 4NT*, or 5NT*.

If Responder Passes, or bids 3NT, 6NT, or 7NT, you're off the hook – you'll Pass!

Let's look at page 3, paragraph 1, in the book and review the Standard **Balanced Hand** Responses to 1NT:

(Call and Response) – “Okay, Everybody, after Partner opens 1NT:”

“With **0-7 balanced** points, Responder” ... Passes

“With **8-9 balanced** points, Responder bids” ... 2NT*

“Which asks Opener to” ... Pass or bid 3NT

“With **10-15 balanced** points, Responder bids” ... 3NT

Okay, that's easy – we're all used to making 2NT and 3NT responses to 1NT.

**Balanced Hand Responses to Opener's 1NT
Point Range Chart**

Standard Bids

0-7 balanced Points = Pass

8-9 balanced Points = 2NT* (asks Opener to Pass or Bid 3NT)

10-15 balanced Points = 3NT

Quantitative Bids (by 2-Point Ranges)

16-17 balanced Points = 4NT* (asks Opener to Pass or Bid 6NT)

18-19 balanced Points = 6NT

20-21 balanced Points = 5NT* (asks Opener to Bid 6NT or 7NT)

22+ balanced Points = 7NT

*Responder's 2NT, 4NT, and 5NT bids ask Opener to further describe his 1NT hand:

- 15 points is minimum
- 16 points requires judgment**
- 17 points is maximum

Note: When both partners have *balanced* hands, it's the “quantity” of points that determines how high to bid (hence “Quantitative” Bids).

****16-Point Hands Requiring Judgment**

- How do I know if my 16 point hand is ‘good’ or ‘bad’?
- Do I **upgrade** or **downgrade** my 16-point hand?

Possible considerations may be:

- If your honor cards are working together in the same suits, perhaps **upgrade** your hand.
- If your honor cards are split up in different suits, perhaps **downgrade** your hand.
- If you have a good 5-card minor suit, perhaps **upgrade** your hand.

Let's **visualize** the Quantitative **Balanced Hand** Responses to Opener's 1NT.

After Partner Opens 1NT, Responder, with 16 or more balanced points, knows that slam is now possible. **Quantitative Bids** let us see if we have enough combined points for a slam. When both partners have balanced hands, it's the "quantity" of points that determines how high to bid in notrump (hence "Quantitative" Bids).

Now, let's look paragraph two – Quantitative Bids. Notice that the responses are in 2-Point Ranges beginning at the "top" of an Opening 1NT Bid – that is, 16 or 17 points.

* Like Responder's 2NT bid, 4NT and 5NT are "asking" bids, asking Opener to further describe her 1NT hand: 15 is minimum, 16 requires judgment, 17 is maximum.

Also, please notice that as Responder's point counts go up by 2-point ranges, Responder's bids seem to be out of order: 4NT, 6NT, 5NT, 7NT. This is correct. Let's see why.

Let's review South's **Balanced Hand** Responses to North's Opening 1NT:
(Call and Response) – "Okay, Everybody, after Partner opens 1NT:"

 "With **16-17 balanced** points, Responder bids" ... **4NT**

 "Which asks Opener to" ... **Pass** or bid **6NT**

 "With **18-19 balanced** points, Responder bids" ... **6NT**

 "With **20-21 balanced** points, Responder bids" ... **5NT**

 "Which asks Opener to bid" ... **6NT** or **7NT**

 "With **22+ balanced** points, Responder bids"... **7NT**

Okay! Please put your book aside.

Later, you may want to take the **Balanced Medium Opener Rebids** Quiz on page 16.

For now, let's do a little review quiz. **Discuss** the answers at your table, and then check the answers on the back of your handout.

(The quiz below may be copied front-and-back for the students.

This quiz is different from the Quiz on page 16 in the book).

What Do These Bids Mean?

1NT and Balanced Hand Responses Quiz

Partner opens 1NT. What do you (South) respond with these balanced hands?

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	???
1. ♠ AQ9 ♥ KQ2 ♦ J752 ♣ AK8		2. ♠ KQ4 ♥ KQ2 ♦ AK54 ♣ A82	
		3. ♠ AQ4 ♥ QJ2 ♦ AKQ4 ♣ KQ8	
		4. ♠ KQJ ♥ KQ2 ♦ KQ4 ♣ 9842	
_____		_____	_____

You (South) open 1NT. What's your rebid after partner responds 4NT?

West	North	East	South
Pass	4NT	Pass	1NT ???
5. ♠ AQ4 ♥ QJ2 ♦ QJ9 ♣ K942		6. ♠ KQJ ♥ KQ2 ♦ K43 ♣ K974	
		7. ♠ AQ4 ♥ QJ2 ♦ A964 ♣ K42	
		8. ♠ KQ ♥ KQ72 ♦ AQ4 ♣ 9754	
_____		_____	_____

You (South) open 1NT. What's your rebid after partner responds 5NT?

West	North	East	South
Pass	5NT	Pass	1NT ???
9. ♠ AQ4 ♥ QJ2 ♦ QJ9 ♣ K942		10. ♠ KQJ ♥ KQ2 ♦ K43 ♣ K974	
		11. ♠ AQ4 ♥ QJ2 ♦ A964 ♣ K42	
		12. ♠ KQ ♥ KQ72 ♦ AQ4 ♣ 9754	
_____		_____	_____

1NT and Balanced Hand Responses

Answers to Quiz

1. **6NT.** Add your 19 points to Opener's 15-17, and you have 34-36. Small slam.
2. **5NT.** With your 21 points, you ask partner to bid 6NT (min) or 7NT (max).
3. **7NT.** With your 23 points, you total 38-40 points. Just bid the grand slam!
4. **4NT.** With your 16 points, ask partner to Pass (min) or bid 6NT (max).
5. **Pass.** You have a minimum hand. Partner's 16-17 isn't enough for slam.
6. **6NT.** Your 17 and partner 16-17 is enough for small slam.
7. **6NT/Pass.** It's up to you. Judgment is required. Some days 6NT will make.
8. **6NT/Pass.** It's up to you. Judgment is required. Some days 6NT is down!
9. **6NT.** Your 15 and partner's 20-21 totals only 35-36. Small slam only.
10. **7NT.** Your 17 and partner's 20-21 totals 37-38. Bid the grand slam!
11. **6NT.** Your 16 and partner's 20-21 totals 36-37. You could be missing an Ace.
12. **6NT.** Your 16 and partner's 20-21 totals 36-37. You could be missing an Ace.

After 1NT Opener – Responder's Quantitative Bids (by 2-Point Ranges)

- **16-17 *balanced*** Points = 4NT (asks Opener to Pass or Bid 6NT)
- **18-19 *balanced*** Points = 6NT
- **20-21 *balanced*** Points = 5NT (asks Opener to Bid 6NT or 7NT)
- **22+ *balanced*** Points = 7NT

STEP-BY-STEP EXERCISES

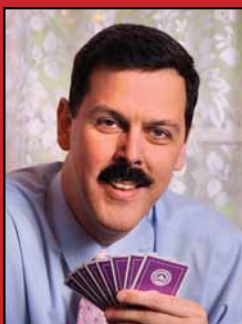
Teacher's Manual to accompany *What Do These Bids Mean?*

Step-by-step exercises **visualize** everyone's hands from their **bids only**. No cards! Multiple possible Bids and Rebids show **minimum**, **medium**, or **maximum** hands.

Only the book's **15 Quizzes & Answers** show actual hands.
36 Final Test Deals give all four hands to bid and compare with **Suggested Bidding**.

Chapters may be taught individually or as sets of classes.
All activities are taught at bridge tables with just Bidding Boxes.

This Teacher's Manual contains 10 additional **Quizzes & Answers** to hand out. They show just one hand, and how the surrounding bidding changes how that hand is bid.



Timothy LeVan is owner & founder of the Camp Hill (Pennsylvania) Bridge Club, and an ACBL-accredited club director, teacher, and soon Silver Life Master. He is also accredited by Easybridge!, and Audrey Grant's Better Bridge.

Formerly a classical pianist, he has performed with many singers from the Metropolitan and New York City Opera companies. He has two piano CDs, and two classical song translation books available on Amazon.com.



An Honors eBook from
Master Point Press