

Lesson 9

Introduction to Standard American Yellow Card Bidding System

(Student pages)

Counting Points

Until today, we've always counted high card points and added estimates for trump tricks. Now we will study standard ways to count hand points in Trump and No-Trump situations.

No Trump – point counting

This is simple. Counting points for no trump bidding and contracts is similar to everything we have learned up to this point. Only HCP are considered.

Aces = 4
Kings = 3
Queens = 2
Jacks = 1

Trump – point counting

When bidding a suit or reaching a Trump contract:

Total points = HCP + distribution points.

Before the partnership decides on a Trump suit:

Distribution points = 1 point for a 5-card suit, 2 points for a 6-card suit, etc....

Once the partnership has agreed on a Trump suit:

Distribution points = 1 point for a doubleton, 3 points for a singleton, 5 points for a void.



Let's see if we understand. How many HCP are in the following hand?

♣ K54 ♦ 6 ♥ AKJ10 ♠ J9864

How many total points are in the following hand (before partner's bid)?

♣ K54 ♦ 6 ♥ AKJ10 ♠ J9864

Now let's assume partner has bid hearts. Since your hand demonstrates a great match, your partnership has agreed on a Trump suit. How many total points are in the following hand now?

♣ K54 ♦ 6 ♥ AKJ10 ♠ J9864

Do you remember how many points are required to bid a game or a slam?

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Points</u>
3NT	
4♥	
4♠	
5♣	
5♦	
Small slam	
Grand slam	



SAYC – General Approach

Names _____ Pair # _____

ACBL STANDARD YELLOW CARD

Strong Forcing Opening: 2♣

General:

The title of the convention card states that you and your partner have agreements according to the ACBL Standard Yellow Card using a **Strong Forcing Opening Bid of 2♣** for all hands over 22 High Card Points. Certain other rules apply to all hands, using this convention system:

- 1. Open in a major suit only if it has five cards.**
- 2. Open the higher of equal length suits.**
- 3. If a hand has no 5-card major or 4-card diamond suit - open 1C.**
- 4. 1-level opening bid requires at least 13 points.**



SAYC – NT Opening

NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS

1NT: 15 to 17 HCP

Responses:

2♣ - Stayman

2♦ - Transfer to ♥

2♥ - Transfer to ♠

2♠ - Transfer to Minors

2NT – Invitation 8-9 points with balanced hand

3♣ - Invitation (natural)

3♦ - Invitation (natural)

3♥ - Slam interest (natural)

3♠ - Slam interest (natural)

3NT – Balanced hand 10+ points

4♦ - Transfer to 4♥

4♥ - Transfer to 4♠

2NT: 20 to 21 HCP

3NT: 25 to 27 HCP

Guidelines:

- 1) No Trump opening bids show a balanced hand. A balanced hand is any hand that has at least two cards in each suit and no more than one doubleton.
- 2) A high card is not needed in every suit.
- 3) If you hold 5-card minor suit and at least two cards in each of the other suits, you should open NT but if you hold a 5 card major suit, it is usually preferred as an opening bid.

Holding 15-17 HCP with balanced hand = open 1 NT

Holding 20-21 HCP with balanced hand = open 2 NT

Holding 25-27 HCP with balanced hand = open 3NT



1. What is the minimum number of points, needed for a 1-level suit opening?

10pts 12pts 13pts 15pts

2. What is the maximum number of points for a 1-level suit opening?

13pts 17pts 21pts 25pts

3. What is the minimum number of HCP, needed for a 1NT opening?

10pts 12pts 13pts 15pts

4. What is the maximum number of HCP, for a 1NT opening?

12pts 15pts 17pts 19pts

5. What is the minimum number of HCP, needed for a 2NT opening?

16pts 18pts 20pts 22pts

6. What is the maximum number of HCP, for a 2NT opening?

19pts 21pts 23pts 15pts

OPENING BIDS - You are the dealer – what is your opening bid with the following hands?

Hand				Select your bid					
♣ K872	♦ A108	♥ AQJ4	♠ Q5	Pass	1NT	2NT	3NT	2♣	Other
♣ AKJ3	♦ KJ76	♥ KQ10	♠ J7	Pass	1NT	2NT	3NT	2♣	Other
♣ Q74	♦ AQ10	♥ QJ42	♠ K75	Pass	1NT	2NT	3NT	2♣	Other
♣ K54	♦ AQ	♥ Q1084	♠ J986	Pass	1NT	2NT	3NT	2♣	Other
♣ AKQ	♦ 6	♥ AKJ106	♠ KQJ4	Pass	1NT	2NT	3NT	2♣	Other
♣ AK2	♦ QJ3	♥ AK106	♠ K84	Pass	1NT	2NT	3NT	2♣	Other



SAYC – NT Responses: Stayman and Jacoby Transfer

1NT: 15 to 17 HCP

Stayman:

2♣ - Stayman

If you and your partner have eight cards together in a major suit, it is usually preferred as a trump suit. The Stayman convention is used after a no trump opening to discover such a fit. A bid of 2♣ is totally artificial and asks the opening NT bidder if he has a four-card major. Opener bids 2♦ to say no; with one major he bids it; and with both majors he bids 2♥.

The Stayman bidder should have at least 8-9 HCP to use this convention. If the NT opener bids 2♦ or a major suit in which the Stayman bidder doesn't have four cards, he re-bids 2NT with 8-9 HCP or 3NT with 10-15 HCP.

If the NT opener bids responder's four-card major suit, responder raises to three with 8-9 total points or to game with 10 or more.

Examples:

♠ Ax x x

♥ K J x x

♦ Q x

♣ x x x

Respond 2♣ and then force a game

♠ x x x

♥ A Q x x

♦ Q x x x

♣ x x

Respond 2♣ and then invite a game

1NT: 15 to 17 HCP
Jacoby Transfers:
2♦ - Transfer to ♥
2♥ - Transfer to ♠
2♠ - Transfer to Minors

4♦ - Transfer to 4♥
4♥ - Transfer to 4♠

When responder has a five-card or longer major suit, another convention called **Jacoby transfer** should be used, regardless of point count. For instance, let's say responder has the following hand:
 ♠ xxxxxx ♥ xx ♦ xxx ♣ xx (0 HCP). This hand should not be played in 1NT. No matter what partner has he will almost certainly be able to make more tricks in spades.

After 1NT opening, a bid of 2♦ is a transfer to hearts and 2♥ is a transfer to spades. Opener accepts the transfer and may jump to the three-level with 17 points and four card support for responder's major.

Example of a transfer: 1NT (Opener) -- 2♦ (Responder)

Opener re-bids:

- 2♥ = normal acceptance of the transfer (more typical)
- 3♥ = showing 17 HCP and four-card heart support.

Responder re-bids:

- 0-7 - Pass
- 8-9 – 2NT (with 5 hearts) or 3♥ (with at least 6 hearts); opener decides whether to pass, bid 3NT or 4♥.
- 10-15 – 3NT (with 5 hearts) or 4♥ (with at least 6 hearts)

Another example: 1NT (Opener) -- 2♥ (Responder)

Opener re-bids:

- 2♠ = The typical response

Responder re-bids:

- 0-7 - Pass
- 8-9 – 2NT (with 5 spades) or 3♠ (with at least 6 spades); opener decides to pass, bid 3NT or 4♠.
- 10-15 – 3NT (with 5 spades) or 4♠ (with at least 6 spades)

More examples (responder's hand):

♠ K 10 x x x	♠ x	♠ A K J x x
♥ K x	♥ J 10 x x x	♥ x x
♦ Q 10 x	♦ K x	♦ K x x
♣ x x x	♣ A J 10 x	♣ x x x
1NT-2♥-2♠-2NT	1NT-2♦-2♥-2NT	1NT-2♥-2♠-3NT

RESPONSE BIDS – Look at the bidding sequence and your hand, what is your bid? What will be your next bid?

Bidding Sequence	Your hand				Your bid
1NT – Pass	♣ AQJ54	♦ K8	♥ 1097	♠ 847	_____
1NT – Pass	♣ 54	♦ AKQJ8	♥ A97	♠ 847	_____
1NT – Pass	♣ 54	♦ QJ8	♥ A973	♠ K847	_____
1NT – Pass	♣ 54	♦ J83	♥ AQ973	♠ 847	_____
1NT – Pass	♣ A4	♦ J83	♥ AQ973	♠ 847	_____
1NT – Pass	♣ AQ43	♦ J	♥ 1042	♠ A8472	_____
1NT – Pass	♣ AQ7432	♦ J	♥ 1042	♠ 842	_____
1NT – Pass	♣ 2	♦ QJ8765	♥ 1042	♠ 842	_____
1NT – Pass	♣ 872	♦ QJ87	♥ K42	♠ 842	_____
1NT – Pass	♣ 8762	♦ KJ87	♥ A42	♠ 82	_____
1NT – Pass	♣ AKQ2	♦ KJ87	♥ AJ	♠ 842	_____
2NT – Pass	♣ 10752	♦ KQJ7	♥ 83	♠ 842	_____
2NT – Pass	♣ AJ642	♦ J873	♥ 87	♠ J2	_____
2NT – Pass	♣ Q2	♦ KJ8	♥ 102	♠ J87542	_____
3NT – Pass	♣ AKQ2	♦ 10987	♥ AJ	♠ 842	_____



