



# Bidding Systems



For the Exciting Game of Bridge

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## Preface

How often is a bridge player at a tournament, and the opponents are playing a system he does not know? He can express interest, but it is hardly the time to investigate. He readily recognizes that even with a little knowledge, he would, at the very least, be able to ask better questions.

This is a definitive guide to various bidding systems, natural and artificial for the exciting game of bridge. There is enough for a working familiarity. Nothing is terribly in depth except a transfer Precision system and a strong club canape system. Goren and Kaplan-Sheinwold (KS) are more historical. This book is the result of the research of several different systems, and the play of various forms of Precision.

The primary purpose of this book is to take away any advantage due to unfamiliarity with the opponents' bidding system. The secondary purpose is to allow the reader to develop a new system for himself.

People who want to play a strong club system, can choose a system here or cherry pick bits they like from different systems. Except for the basic natural systems, the systems in this book are fairly memory intensive. A particular system must be played at least a couple times a week. The ideal situation is the formation of a group of people playing exactly the same artificial system. This will likely lead to sufficient practice and increased enjoyment of the game.





## Acknowledgements

This book would not be possible except for the help from the following users of a big club system. Rashid Khan of Toronto (York), Ontario, developed his system Bangladesh Blue in [chapter fifteen](#). His system is loosely based on the Italian Blue Club.

Tom Edwards of Tri-Cities, Washington, developed his transfer Precision system that is described in [chapter eleven](#). Edwards still plays his system regularly but also plays *Standard Modern Precision* by Daniel Neill<sup>1</sup>.

Murray & Marilyn Haggins of Calgary, Alberta, use *Enhanced Precision* by Ron Beall<sup>2</sup> with their own modifications. Peter Crawley of Penticton, BC uses Berkowitz's *Precision Today* with his own variations.

Kelly Meenagh of Kelowna, BC, also helped, and his system was based on Berkowitz's book. The [Osoyoos slam](#) hand that is used to compare different systems was originally played by him in a South Okanagan sectional in Osoyoos, BC.

Gard Hays of Veradale, Washington also deserves thanks. His Two Over One [system](#) is included here because his 2♣ opening is a weak two.





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# Introduction

## Various Bidding Systems

### Natural Systems

#### • Four-Card Majors

- Goren
  - See [chapter one](#).
- Acol
  - Played in Britain and other parts of the world.
  - The four-card major opening scheme can be used of [section 5.1.2](#).
  - See [chapter five](#).
- EHAA
  - Every Hand an Adventure
  - See [chapter six](#).

#### • Five-Card Majors

- Kaplan–Sheinwold (KS)
  - 1960s
  - See [chapter two](#).
- Standard American
  - See [chapter three](#) of this book and the books *Standard Canadian, eh!* And *Bridge DEF's* ([Appendix A](#))





- Two Over One game forcing
  - See [chapter four](#) of this book and the books *Two Over One*, *Simply Two Over One* and *Bridge XYZ's* ([Appendix A](#)).

There are several precursors and variations of these natural systems. Some players may have heard names such as Culbertson, Roth-Stone, Hardy, Walsh, Eastern Scientific and Western Scientific.

Then, there are subsystems such as the short club (5542 system), weak Notrumps, like used by KS, the Montréal relay (5551 system) and Romex<sup>3</sup> which is based on the Mexican 2♦ opening. Systems are also played based on the Multi 2♦ opening outside of the ACBL<sup>4</sup> and in Open+ chart events of the ACBL.

The Bridge World Standard<sup>5</sup> was developed for casual and first-time partnerships. It is similar to SAYC (Standard American Yellow Card) and includes aspects of Standard American and Two Over One. In addition to the natural systems, players come against artificial systems such as the following.





## Artificial Systems<sup>6</sup>

### • Strong Club Systems

- Vanderbilt Club
- Precision
  - See chapters seven through sixteen.
- Blue Team Club
  - See [chapter fourteen](#).
- Neapolitan Club
- Bangladesh Blue
  - See [chapter fifteen](#).

### • Small Club Systems

- Vienna Club
- Polish Club
  - See [chapter seventeen](#).

### • Strong Diamond Systems

- Similar to Precision
- The 1♣ and 1♦ openings are flipped, so there is more room to investigate the nebulous 1♣ opening which, in Precision, is the nebulous 1♦ opening.
- See [chapter eighteen](#).





## • Forcing Pass Systems

- Delta
  - See [chapter nineteen](#).
- Banned in the ACBL

## • Relay Systems

- Moscito
- Symmetric relays
- See [chapter twenty](#).
- Banned in the ACBL.

