

The Match Game

Bidding describes two features of your hand to your partner:

1. Shape, and
2. Strength.

Every bid you make should tell your partner something about your hand they don't already know...and something that is useful for them to know.

Shapely hand are hands that are two-suited... 5-5, 6-4, 6-5 and 6-6 are unusual hands and need to be expressed to partner and even some three-suited hands...5-4-3-1, 4-4-4-1 or 4-4-5-0 should be fully described **IF** your hand is strong. Look at the charts below. Understand the likelihood of holding strong hands and shapely hands.

Distribution of the Hand	Total Any Suits %
4-4-3-2	21.55
5-3-3-2	15.52
5-4-3-1	12.93
5-4-2-2	10.58
4-3-3-3	10.54
6-4-2-1	4.70
5-5-2-1	3.17
4-4-4-1	2.99
6-4-3-0, 5-4-4-0, 6-5-3-0, 6-5-1-1, 6-5-2-0, 6-6-1-0, 7-3-2-1 and all others	28.02

61.12%

10.86%

When you hold unusual hands, those hands need to be described to partner in the bidding whenever possible.

What is a **Strong** hand? Strong is a relative term. What is strong for Opener? Opener promises ~12 HCP when he opens the bidding. Responder expects 12 to 15 or so. Therefore, 16+ HCP is a strong hand for a player that has opened a suit at the one-level.

What is strong for Responder? When Responder bids a new suit at the one-level he promises ~6 HCP. Opener is expecting 6 to 9; maybe, on a good day, 10 to 12. Therefore, 13+ HCP is a strong hand for a Responder that has bid a suit at the one-level.

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High Card Points	Frequency of Holding HCP		High Card Points	Frequency of Holding HCP
5 or less	14.00		13	6.91
6	6.55		14	5.69
7	8.03		15	4.42
8	8.89		16	3.31
9	9.36		17	2.36
10	9.41		18	1.61
11	8.95		19	1.03
12	8.03		20 or more	1.45
Likelihood of 6 to 12 HCP	59.22%		Likelihood of 13 to 15 HCP	17.02%
			Likelihood of 16 to 17 HCP	5.67%
			Likelihood of 18 to 19 HCP	2.64%

****ALL OF THE % HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP OR DOWN TO TWO DECIMAL POINTS.**

The hands with 18+ HCP we have special bids to describe. Jump Shifts, Reverses, the Strong 2C Bid or a 2NT Opening Bid. The 16 and 17 HCP hands can fall through the cracks if you're not careful! Not strong enough for the Jump Shift and (some) not shapely or strong enough to rate a Reverse.

When you hold these 16-17 HCP hands game becomes very likely if Responder is at the top of their expected range. It becomes very important for Opener to describe their shape and convey their strength.

When you hold a Shapely AND Strong hand, it can be MAGIC!

By keeping the bidding open, bidding new suits and bidding your long suits first....we can get our message across. Let's look at how we can accomplish this communication.

Board 1

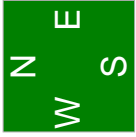
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 7
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K Q J 3 2
 ♣ A Q 10 3 2

♠ K 9 2
 ♥ 4 2
 ♦ A 9 7 6
 ♣ K J 7 6

♠ J 10 8 6 3
 ♥ A Q 9 3
 ♦ 8 4
 ♣ 9 5

♠ Q 5 4
 ♥ K J 10 8 7 6
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ 8 4



West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣		

Board 1B

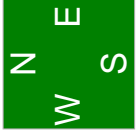
North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 7
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K Q J 3 2
 ♣ A Q 10 3 2

♠ K 9 2
 ♥ 4 2
 ♦ A 9 7 6
 ♣ K J 7 6

♠ A J 8 6 3
 ♥ A Q 9 3
 ♦ 8 4
 ♣ 9 5

♠ Q 5 4
 ♥ K J 10 8 7 6
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ 8 4



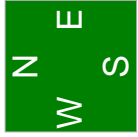
West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass		

Board 2

North Deals
None Vul

♠ KQ
♥ K1042
♦ 97
♣ QJ863

♠ 109763
♥ 95
♦ J84
♣ 1095



♠ 54
♥ AJ76
♦ AQ1065
♣ K4

West

North

East

South

Pass
Pass
All pass

1 ♣
1 ♠
3 ♦

Pass
Pass
Pass

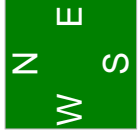
1 ♦
2 ♥
3 N

Board 2B

North Deals
None Vul

♠ KQ5
♥ 1042
♦ 97
♣ QJ863

♠ 1097643
♥ 985
♦ J8
♣ 104



♠ —
♥ AKJ76
♦ AQ10654
♣ K5

West

North

East

South

Pass
Pass
Pass

1 ♣
1 ♠
3 ♦
4 ♦

Pass
Pass
Pass
Pass

1 ♦
2 ♥
3 ♥
?

The Match Game

On the following hands match the hand on the right with Opener's (North) bidding in the auctions on the left.

1.	<p><u>North</u> 1♦ 2♣ 3♦</p>	<p><u>South</u> 1♥ 2♥</p>	<p>A ♠AK52 ♥KQ953 ♦AQJ ♣5</p>
2.	<p><u>North</u> 1♥ 2♣ 3♦</p>	<p><u>South</u> 1NT 2NT</p>	<p>B ♠AKJ532 ♥AKQ3 ♦54 ♣5</p>
3.	<p><u>North</u> 1♥ 2♣ 2♠</p>	<p><u>South</u> 1♠ 2♥</p>	<p>C ♠KJ2 ♥KQ953 ♦3 ♣AQJ5</p>
4.	<p><u>North</u> 1♠ 2♥ 3♠</p>	<p><u>South</u> 1NT 2♠</p>	<p>D ♠A2 ♥5 ♦KQJ432 ♣AK95</p>

On the following hands match the hand on the right with Responder's (South) bidding in the auctions on the left. (Assuming you is playing Standard American.)

5.	<p><u>North</u> 1♦ 2♦</p>	<p><u>South</u> 2♣ 2♥</p>	<p>W ♠AK532 ♥KQ9543 ♦5 ♣5</p>
6.	<p><u>North</u> 1♦ 1NT 2NT</p>	<p><u>South</u> 1♥ 2♠ 3♠</p>	<p>X ♠AK532 ♥K943 ♦5 ♣AQ5</p>
7.	<p><u>North</u> 1♦ 1♠ 3NT</p>	<p><u>South</u> 1♥ 2♣ 4♠</p>	<p>Y ♠2 ♥KQ95 ♦Q43 ♣AQJ53</p>
8.	<p><u>North</u> 1♦ 2♣ 2NT</p>	<p><u>South</u> 1♠ 2♥ 3♣</p>	<p>Z ♠AJ42 ♥KQ95 ♦AQ3 ♣93</p>

The Match Game

Answer Page

On the following hands match the hand on the right with Opener's (North) bidding in the auctions on the left.

1.- D	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>		A ♠AK52 ♥KQ953 ♦AQJ ♣5
	1♦	1♥		
	2♣	2♥		
	3♦			
2. - A	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>		B ♠AKJ532 ♥AKQ3 ♦54 ♣5
	1♥	1NT		
	2♠	2NT		
	3♦			
3. - C	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>		C ♠KJ2 ♥KQ953 ♦3 ♣AQJ5
	1♥	1♠		
	2♣	2♥		
	2♠			
4.- B	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>		D ♠A2 ♥5 ♦KQJ432 ♣AK95
	1♠	1NT		
	2♥	2♠		
	3♠			

On the following hands match the hand on the right with Responder's (South) bidding in the auctions on the left. (Assuming you is playing Standard American.)

5.- Y	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>		W ♠AK532 ♥KQ9543 ♦5 ♣5
	1♦	2♣		
	2♦	2♥		
6.- W	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>		X ♠AK532 ♥K943 ♦5 ♣AQ5
	1♦	1♥		
	1NT	2♠		
	2NT	3♠		
7.- Z	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>		Y ♠2 ♥KQ95 ♦Q43 ♣AQJ53
	1♦	1♥		
	1♠	2♣		
	3NT	4♠		
8.- X	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>		Z ♠AJ42 ♥KQ95 ♦AQ3 ♣93
	1♦	1♠		
	2♣	2♥		
	2NT	3♣		