

# From Marty Sez - Bergen's Bevy of Bridge Secrets

## Hand Evaluation

### 100 Honors — Awesome

Any suit containing four honors can be bid as though it were one card longer.

### The Forgotten Honor

The 10 is an honor card. Make sure you treat it with respect.

### Just What the Doctor Ordered

If all you need from partner to make a game is a minimum hand with the right card(s) — bid 'em up

### I've Got Plenty of Nothing

When you have a fit, the value of dummy's void is equal to his number of trumps.

### You Can't Be Too Shapely

Five-five, come alive.

### Numero Uno

A hand rich in aces should be upgraded, even if those aces are unsupported.

### Know Your Limit

An ideal limit raise in a major includes four trumps and 10-12 distribution points.

### Hardly Working

Honors in partner's short suit(s) are usually not worth much.

## Opener's Decisions

### Bid More With Less

When you open 1♥ or 1♠ and partner makes a limit raise, never pass if you have a singleton or void.

### A Minor Dilemma

With four diamonds and five clubs, open 1♦ only when your minimum opening bid includes strong diamonds.

### 6-4-6

When opener has 6-4 distribution, he should usually show his four-card suit before rebidding the six-bagger.

### Flat as a Pancake

Once you open 1♣ with a totally flat hand (4-3-3-3), NEVER introduce a four-card major at your second turn.

### Don't Wait for a Fourth

Opener can raise a 1♥ or 1♠ response to the two level with just three trumps.

### **Out of Balance**

When you open 1♣ or 1♦ and partner responds 1♠, it is often right to rebid 1NT with a singleton spade.

### **It's not Necessarily Over**

When partner responds in a new suit, opener's jump to game is NOT a signoff.

### **Play It Again, Sam**

In a competitive auction, opener can rebid a four-card minor once it has been raised.

### **Responder's Decisions**

#### **A Minor Fib**

If you are stuck for a bid, it is okay to lie about your length in a minor suit.

#### **Dance with Who Brung Ya**

With a choice between raising partner's 1♥ opening bid to 2♥ or responding 1♠ — “support with support.”

#### **Just Another Four - Card Minor**

A 2♣ or 2♦ response to 1♣ or 1♦ can be made with a four-card suit.

#### **Do We Have a Future?**

Answering “Yes, no or maybe” to “Do we have a game?” will often help responder decide what to do.

#### **Not Ready for a Commitment**

When responder's major is raised to the two level, he should not jump to game with only four trumps.

#### **I'm Game for Anything**

After your partnership has bid three suits, responder's bid of the fourth suit is an artificial game force.

#### **Have Your Cake and Eat It, Too**

When your partnership has bid three suits at the one level, responder's jump is NOT forcing — it is invitational.

#### **This Honor is No Stiff**

When partner promises a six-card suit, you can support him with a singleton honor.

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