

Opening Bids	Artificial?	Min. Cards	Neg. Dble. Thru	Description	Meaning of Responses	Subsequent Auction	Modifications over Competition
1♣ 1♦		3	3♠	11-20 HCP or 5 playing tricks No 5-card Major, Longer Minor (1♣ with 3-3, 1♦ with 4-4)	Limit Raises New suit F1	4th Suit Forcing F1 'Trial bids' show Stoppers for NT.	After overcall : raises pre-emptive, cue-bid strong support, After double : raises pre-emptive, redouble strength not support
1♥ 1♠		5	3♠	11-20 HCP or 5 playing tricks Five Card Major	Limit Raises New suit F1	4th Suit Forcing F1 'Trial Bids' ask for help for major suit game	As above
1NT				15-17 HCP Balanced	2♣ Stayman, 2♦ 2♥ major suit transfers 2♠ minor suit transfer	After opening and response mostly natural	All bids natural after interference (Systems 'Off')
2♣	✓		3♠	Artificial, = Acol 2-bid (8 playing tricks in a 1- or 2-suited hand) or balanced 21-22	2♦ = relay response	After 2NT rebid (bal. 21-22), Stayman and transfers apply.	All bids natural after interference (Systems 'Off')
2♦	✓		3♠	Strong Force, balanced 23+ or game forcing hand	2♥ = negative response Other responses positive, natural	After 2NT rebid (bal. 23+), Stayman and transfers apply.	As above
2♥ 2♠		6	3♠	Weak 2-bid 5-10 HCP 6 card suit in principle	2NT 'Ogust' asking about strength, suit quality—step responses Other responses natural	Natural	
2NT				19-20 HCP Balanced	3♣ = Stayman 3♦, 3♥, major suit transfers 3♠ = minor suit transfer	Other responses and subsequent bidding natural	As above
3♣ 3♦ 3♥ 3♠		7/6		Natural Pre-empt Could be 6 cards if a minor	Raises Pre-emptive New suit = not forcing		
3NT	✓	7		'Gambling' with long solid minor Denies outside stopper 1st/2nd seat. In 3rd/4th may have one.	Pass = hope to make 3NT 4♣ = weak takeout for pass/correct		
4♣ 4♦ 4♥ 4♠		8/7		Stronger Pre-empt	natural		
Other				Natural Pre-empt			

Defensive and Competitive Bidding:

Simple Overcalls at 1 or 2 level:

General Style: Competitive, 8+ HCP or 4+ playing tricks at 1-level; 10+ or 5 playing tricks at 2-level.

Responses: Natural, Raises pre-emptive

Cue-Bid Response: unassuming cue-bid, some support

1NT overcall

Good 15-17 maybe 18 with stopper(s).

Systems are 'On' (Stayman and Transfers)

Systems are 'off' after any interference/double

(i.e. all bids revert to natural)

Jump Overcalls

Generally weak, Pre-emptive, 6+ card suit

Double jump pre-emptive, 7+ card suit

Other Conventional Overcalls

Unusual No-trump: 2 lowest ranking unbid suits

Michaels Cue-Bid: 2-suited hand, any unbid majors

Defence to Pre-empts:

Double for takeout at 2/3/4-level

Second Double for Penalties

Otherwise natural

Conventional Doubles:

Takeout doubles of a suit opening up to 3-level

Negative doubles over interference up to 3-level

Leads and Signals:

Opening Leads: (4th and 2nd)

Ace from AK unless doubleton

Top of sequence or internal sequence

4th best from 4+ with an honour

Lowest from 3 with an honour

2nd Best from 3+ card with no honour

Top of doubleton

vs. Suit Contracts:

AK	KQ10	KJ10	QJ10	J10x
AKx	KQx	K109	QJx	109x
10xx	987x	xxx	Hxx	Hxxx
10x	xxx	xx	Hxx	Hxxx

vs. No-Trump Contracts (2nd and 4th)

AKx	KQ10	KJ10	QJ10	J10x
AJ10x	KQx	K109	QJx	109x
10xx	987x	xxx	Hxx	Hxxx
10x	xxx	xx	Hxx	Hxxx

Signalling:

On Partner's Lead:	'Reverse Attitude' (lowest card 'encourages')
On Declarer's Lead:	'Count' (high-low even, low-high usually odd)
When Discarding:	'Revolving' discards show preference (High=suit above, Low=suit below)

Slam Bidding:

RKCB (0314) 4NT when suit agreed or implied, asks for 4 Aces and K of trumps. If no suit agreed then last bid.

Gerber 4♣/5♣ (over any natural NT bid) for Aces/Kings

Quantitative raise of NT to 4NT/5NT, (slam tries)

Cue-Bidding after suit agreement

System Card:

Alan Reid

John Skillen



System Summary:

General Approach and Style:

Strong no trump (15-17 HCP Balanced)

5-card Majors,

Limit Raises, Benjamin 2-bids

Special Bids that may require defence:

2♣ 2♦ openings = Artificial, Strong, forcing (Benjamin)

2♥, 2♠ = 'Weak Twos' 5-10 HCP 6-card Suit

3NT Opening = 'Gambling' with solid minor

Other Conventions:

Stayman and Transfers

Fourth suit forcing

'Unusual' No-Trump

'Michaels' Cue-Bids

Cue-bid of opponents overcalled suit

—forcing with good support agrees trumps

Cue-bid after partner's overcall

—Unassuming Cue Bid F1 with some support

New suit by responder forcing if not already passed

New suit at 3-level always forcing

'Natural' defence to 1NT Opening

Negative doubles up to 3-level

Psychics: very rare.