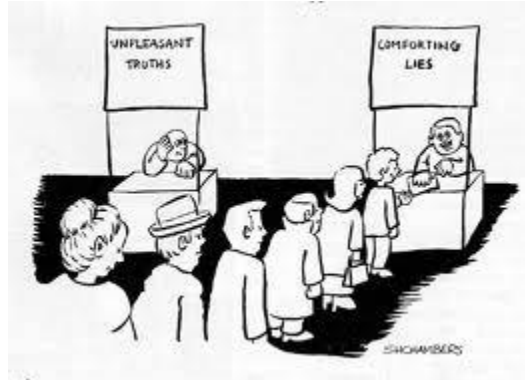




How to Bid 4441 Hands



Never lie to your Partner!

Never lie to your Partner is sound advice and the problem with 4441 hands is that you will have to!

You have no rebid and as you may have to make a second bid you need to tell the least expensive lie possible.

That's the bad news. The good news is that these hands only occur about 3% of the time.

Modern Acol rules for bidding 4441 hands.

If the suits with four cards are touching bid the middle suit.

Example 1 touching suits
♠ A K 9 3
♥ Q 7 5 2
♦ J 9 7 2
♣ K

Here we would open 1♥.

If the suits with four cards are not touching bid the suit below the singleton.

Example 2 non touching suits
♠ A K 9 3
♥ Q 7 5 2
♦ K
♣ J 9 7 2

Here we would open 1♣.

Some people prefer to remember this rule as:-

With a red singleton open the suit below it

With a black singleton open the middle of the other three suits

Telling the cheapest lie.

The least expensive lie is ***“This is a terrible hand with no rebid”***.

The only way to say this is ***“PASS”***.

So **do not open** a 4-4-4-1 hand if you have **12-13 HCP**.

If your partner is strong they will open, make a takeout double or overcall. If they are weak then the opposition will enter the bidding and you can gather good information from their bidding before deciding what to do.

Very rarely this will lead to the board being passed out but even so you may find that it gives you a good score as others bid and fail to make their contracts.

But if I do open what about my rebid?

It will depend upon your Partner's response and combined point count.

Remember that you are bound to lie to your Partner and try to tell the least expensive lie that you can.

You will have to choose whether to lie about suit length or point count.

Unless you have a strong hand it may be as well to keep the bidding low. The Losing Trick Count is likely to be misleading as the hand is not very distributional so be cautious.

If your Partner responds with your short suit it is likely that your rebid is the suit above.

If you are holding 15 or more points and your Partner bids your short suit then 1NT might be your rebid but beware you may have few entries to Partner's hand.

Few words of comfort!

Example 4441 hands.

How would you bid the following hands?

The Answers are in the next section

Questions

Questions

<p> ♠ K965 ♥ Q1072 ♦ KQ76 ♣ K ♠ Q10842 ♠ 7 ♥ A96 ♥ KJ543 ♦ AJ2 ♦ 943 ♣ J2 ♣ A975 ♠ AJ3 ♥ 8 ♦ 1085 ♣ Q108643 </p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all West(12) North(13) East(8) South(7)</p>
<p> ♠ A106 ♥ K98 ♦ 82 ♣ Q7632 ♠ Q8543 ♠ K ♥ Q1072 ♥ A543 ♦ 105 ♦ Q764 ♣ K10 ♣ AJ95 ♠ J972 ♥ J6 ♦ AKJ93 ♣ 84 </p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable West(7) North(9) East(14) South(10)</p>
<p> ♠ 1074 ♥ KJ874 ♦ 86 ♣ J85 ♠ KQ53 ♠ 86 ♥ 963 ♥ AQ105 ♦ Q9 ♦ J10543 ♣ 9764 ♣ Q10 ♠ AJ92 ♥ 2 ♦ AK72 ♣ AK32 </p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable West(7) North(5) East(9) South(19)</p>

<p> ♠ K5 ♥ Q93 ♦ Q76 ♣ AJ743 ♠ A643 ♠ Q1072 ♥ A842 ♥ J7 ♦ A1043 ♦ KJ985 ♣ 8 ♣ KQ ♠ J98 ♥ K1065 ♦ 2 ♣ 109652 </p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable West(12) North(12) East(12) South(4)</p>
<p> ♠ AJ76 ♥ A763 ♦ A643 ♣ 10 ♠ 10 ♠ Q2 ♥ KQ52 ♥ J94 ♦ J1082 ♦ K75 ♣ AQ43 ♣ K9852 ♠ K98543 ♥ 108 ♦ Q9 ♣ J76 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable West(12) North(13) East(9) South(6)</p>
<p> ♠ 862 ♥ Q842 ♦ 873 ♣ 984 ♠ AJ107 ♠ K543 ♥ AK107 ♥ J ♦ A92 ♦ KQ105 ♣ J6 ♣ K1053 ♠ Q9 ♥ 9653 ♦ J64 ♣ AQ72 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable West(17) North(2) East(12) South(9)</p>
<p> ♠ 1076 ♥ Q76 ♦ K108 ♣ J743 ♠ A ♠ Q9843 ♥ A54 ♥ 1082 ♦ AJ9643 ♦ 752 ♣ 952 ♣ Q8 ♠ KJ52 ♥ KJ93 ♦ Q ♣ AK106 </p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable West(13) North(6) East(4) South(17)</p>

Answers.

<p> ♠ K965 ♥ Q1072 ♦ KQ76 ♣ K ♠ Q10842 ♠ 7 ♥ A96 ♥ KJ543 ♦ AJ2 ♦ 943 ♣ J2 ♣ A975 ♠ AJ3 ♥ 8 ♦ 1085 ♣ Q108643 </p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West(12)</th> <th>North(13)</th> <th>East(8)</th> <th>South(7)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North opens 1♥ (we are trying to find a major suit fit) but gets the "dustbin" 1NT response.</p> <p>No point bidding a major and so 2♦ is the best choice. If South had 3♥s they might bid 2♥s but any contract is doomed.</p> <p>Leaving 1Nt is not a good idea, you have no clue from Partner about shape other than no four card majors.</p>	West(12)	North(13)	East(8)	South(7)		1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	All Pass					
West(12)	North(13)	East(8)	South(7)														
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<p> ♠ A106 ♥ K98 ♦ 82 ♣ Q7632 ♠ Q8543 ♠ K ♥ Q1072 ♥ A543 ♦ 105 ♦ Q764 ♣ K10 ♣ AJ95 ♠ J972 ♥ J6 ♦ AKJ93 ♣ 84 </p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West(7)</th> <th>North(9)</th> <th>East(14)</th> <th>South(10)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>If East rebids 2♥ they will have bid above their barrier and that is a pretty expensive lie! Better to tell the cheaper lie by bidding 2♣ (the lie being that you have 5♦s).</p> <p>It all comes right when West shows ♥s.</p> <p>Remember the Losing Trick Count is not to be trusted and keep the bidding low.</p>	West(7)	North(9)	East(14)	South(10)			1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass		
West(7)	North(9)	East(14)	South(10)														
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West(7)	North(5)	East(9)	South(19)														
			1♦														
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<p> ♠ K5 ♥ Q93 ♦ Q76 ♣ AJ743 ♠ A643 ♠ Q1072 ♥ A842 ♥ J7 ♦ A1043 ♦ KJ985 ♣ 8 ♣ KQ ♠ J98 ♥ K1065 ♦ 2 ♣ 109652 </p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable West(12) North(12) East(12) South(4) 1♥ 2♣ 2♠ All Pass</p> <p>With a 4441 hand and points only in 3 aces it would be worth considering passing but with 2 four card majors it is worth a chance. It pays off when East bids ♠s.</p> <p>Don't advance the bid – the hand is weak!</p>
<p> ♠ AJ76 ♥ A763 ♦ A643 ♣ 10 ♠ 10 ♠ Q2 ♥ KQ52 ♥ J94 ♦ J1082 ♦ K75 ♣ AQ43 ♣ K9852 ♠ K98543 ♥ 108 ♦ Q9 ♣ J76 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable West(12) North(13) East(9) South(6) 1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass 2♠ All Pass</p> <p>Here is why you open the ♥ suit. If South had ♥s you have your contract and when they respond ♠s you are home and dry.</p>
<p> ♠ 862 ♥ Q842 ♦ 873 ♣ 984 ♠ AJ107 ♠ K543 ♥ AK107 ♥ J ♦ A92 ♦ KQ105 ♣ J6 ♣ K1053 ♠ Q9 ♥ 9653 ♦ J64 ♣ AQ72 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable West(17) North(2) East(12) South(9) 1♦ Pass 2♥ Pass 2♠ Pass 4♠ All Pass</p> <p>Bidding up the line finds the ♠ fit and West bids game.</p>
<p> ♠ 1076 ♥ Q76 ♦ K108 ♣ J743 ♠ A ♠ Q9843 ♥ A54 ♥ 1082 ♦ AJ9643 ♦ 752 ♣ 952 ♣ Q8 ♠ KJ52 ♥ KJ93 ♦ Q ♣ AK106 </p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable West(13) North(6) East(4) South(17) 1♣ 2♦ Pass Pass 2♥ All Pass</p> <p>When West overcalls it is worth a second bid with 17 points. Bid up the line looking for a major suit fit. North has an appalling hand and passes 2♥</p>