

BRIDGE at SEA

Describing the Count

Bidding guidelines offer a method of description of high-card point count for both the Opener and his/her responding Partner.

Opener's Description

An Opening bid in a suit at the 1-level promises 13-21 points. Subsequent bids by the Opener reduce this count to a 3-point range, either: 13-15, Minimum
16-18, Moderate, or
19-21, Maximum: High-Card Points.

How the Opener can re-bid at his/her second turn to show 13-15 high-card points:

- a) Make a non-jump bid in No-Trump: 1H - 1S
1-NT
- b) Repeat the same suit at the 2-level: 1H - 1S
2H
- c) Raise Partner to the 2-level: 1H - 1S
2S

How the Opener can re-bid to show 16-18 high-card points:

- a) Jump to the 3-level in the same suit: 1H - 1S
3H
- b) Jump to the 3-level in Partner's suit: 1H - 1S
3S

How the Opener can re-bid to show 19-21 high-card points:

- a) Jump to the 4-level in the same suit or in Partner's suit:
1H - 1S (or) 1H - 1S
4H 4S
- b) Jump in No-Trump or Jump-shift in a new suit:
1H - 1S or 1H - 1S
2-NT 3C

If the Opener re-bids in a new suit without jumping, the promised count is 11 - 18 high-card points. A third bid is then necessary to define it as a minimum (11-15) or a moderate (16-18) holding.

Responder's Description

For the Responder the relevant ranges are 6-10 (Minimum), 11-12 (Moderate), or 13-15 (Maximum) high-card points. The first response might express one of these limits (e.g., by raising the Opener's suit or by bidding in No-Trump), but more commonly it requires two bids to define a precise range.

How the Responder can re-bid at the second turn to show 6-10 high-card points:

- a) Bid I-NT, if available: **1D – 1H**
1S - 1-NT
- b) Pass the Opener's second bid: **1H - 1S** or **1H – 1S**
2C – P **2H – P**
- c) Return to the Opener's first suit at the 2-level: **1H – 1S**
2C – 2H
- d) Repeat his/her own suit at the 2-level: **1H – 1S**
2C – 2S

How the Responder can re-bid to show 11-12 high-card points:

- a) Bid 2-NT with or without a jump: **1H - 1S** or **1C – 1D**
2C – 2-NT **IH – 2-NT**
- b) Raise the Opener to the 3-level: **IH – 1S** or **1H – 1S**
2C – 3C **2C – 3H**
- c) Repeat the same suit at the 3-level: **1H – 1S**
2D – 3S

How the Responder can re-bid to show 13-15 high-card points:

- a) Bid 3-NT: **1H – 1S**
2C – 3-NT
- b) Raise the Opener to the 4-level: **IH – 1S** or **1H – 1S**
2C – 4C **2C – 4H**
- c) Repeat the same suit at the 4-level: **IH – 1S**
2C – 4S

If the Responder re-bids in a new suit, the upper limit for high-card points is still non-specific. A third bid is, thus, necessary to define Responder's precise range.