Precision Bidding System for Contact Bridge

C. A. Serino

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1 Introduction

The Precision Bidding System[1] uses the 1♣ opening to encompass all 16+ HCP hands, *except* a balanced 22–23 HCP hand, a 4-4-4-1 distribution hand, and strong minor hands. The system uses a medium 1 NT (13–15 HCP), five–card majors, a natural 2♣ bid, and multiple 2♢ bids. In the following, all bids marked † are one round forcing and all bids marked ‡ are game forcing. All sequences are assumed uniterupted unless otherwise specified. For example, if North, as dealer opens, the sequence 1♣†–1♡‡means: North opens 1♣(one-round forcing), *East passes*, South responds 1♡(forcing to game). The interuprted sequence 1♣†–1♢, with North opening as dealer, means: North bids 1♣(one-round forcing), *East* overcalls 1♢.

2 Opening Bids

1♣†	Artificial, 16+ HCP, *except* balanced 22–23 HCP, 4-4-4-1 distribution, strong minor suits (at-least 5–5)
1♢	11–15 HCP, 3+ diamonds, no 5–card major
1♡/1♠	11–15 HCP, 5+ card suit
1 NT	13–15 HCP, *no 5–card major*
2♣	11–15 HCP, 6+ ♣ suit *or* 5 ♣'s *with* 4–card *major*
2♢†	Weak–2 in a major suit *or* 22–23 balanced, *or* maxi–Roman (4-4-4-1 shape with 16+ HCP)
2♡	0–11 HCP, *two* 5-card suits *including* ♡'s
2♠	0–11 HCP, *two* 5-card suits: ♠'s and a *minor*
2 NT	Unusual, *at least* 5–5 in the minors: *either* weak (0–11 HCP) *or* strong (less than 5 losers)
3♣/3♢	8+ HCP, 7+ ♣'s/♢'s
3 NT	Gambling, includes one 7+ solid minor suit
4♣/4♢	Namyats
4♡/4♠	Preemptive

Table 1: Opening Bids in the Precision Bidding System

[1]This summary is based on the Precision Bidding System used at ACBL Online.

3 Responses

Unless partner opens with a forcing big (e.g. 1♣) responder should have 6+ HCP to enter the auction.

3.1 Responses to 1♣

The 1♣opening defines the Precision Bidding System. It is the most important part of the system. Responses to 1♣ can be categorized as negative (1), constructive (2), positive(3).

3.1.1 The Sequence 1♣–1♢

A response of 1♢ † is forcing and indicates a hand worth fewer than 8 HCP. After the 1♣–1♢ sequence opener may respond in the following ways.

i. 1 NT — 16–18 HCP balanced, may have 5–card minor

Pass	0–4 HCP, balanced
2♣	5–7 HCP, Stayman
2♢	Jacoby
2♡	Jacoby
2 NT	7 HCP, inviting 3 NT
4♣	Gerber
4♢/4♡	Texas

Table 2: The Sequence 1♣ †–1♢ †–1 NT

ii. 2 NT — 19–21 HCP balanced, may have 5–card minor

Pass	0–3 HCP, balanced
3♣	4–7 HCP, Stayman
3♢	transfer to 3♡
2♡	transfer to 3♠
3♠	transfer to minors
3 NT	4–5 HCP, balanced, sign-off
4♣	Gerber
4♢/4♡	Texas

Table 3: The Sequence 1♣†–1♢†–2 NT

iii. 3 NT — 24–26 HCP balanced, may have 5–card minor

Pass	0–4 HCP
4♣	5–7 HCP, Baron, slam try
4♢	transfer to 4♡
4♡	transfer to 4♠
4♠	transfer to minors
4 NT	Quantitative

Table 4: The Sequence 1♣†–1♢†–3 NT

iv. 1♡/1♠ — *may be* 4–card suit

Pass	0–3 HCP
2♡/2♠	2–4 HCP, minimum 3–card support
3♡/3♠	5–7 HCP, 4+ card support
4♡/4♠	8+ HCP, 4+ card support
1♠	4–7 HCP, 4+ card suit, *does not deny* 3–card support
1 NT	5–7 HCP, no 5–card suit (denies 1♡after 1♠bid), *does not deny* 3–card support
2♣/2♢	5–7 HCP, 5–card suit (non-forcing)

Table 5: The Sequence 1♣†–1♢†–1♡/1♠

v. 2♣/2♢ — 5+ card suit, *may have* 4–card major

Pass	0—3 HCP
2♡/2♠	5+ card suit
2 NT	5–7 HCP, scattered values, balanced
2♢/3♣	5–7 HCP, 6+ card suit
3♣/3♢	non-forcing

Table 6: The Sequence 1♣ †–1♢ †–2♣/2♢

vi. Jumps: 2♡/2♠/3♣/3♢ — 22+ HCP, 5+ card suit

Min NT	0–3 HCP, no support
Min Raise	0–4 HCP, minimum support with 3–card
Jump Raise	Maximum, 3+ card support, no specific values in other suits
New Suit †	4–7 HCP, values in new suit *does not deny* support of partners suit
Jump NT	maximum, denies 3–card support, spread values

Table 7: The Sequence 1♣ †–1♢ †–2♡/2♠/3♣/3♢ (Jumps)

3.1.2 The Sequence 1♣–2♡/2♠

These bids are constructive: neither negative nor positive.

3.1.3 The Sequence 1♣–1♡/1♠/2♣/2♢ ‡

These bids are positive and indicate 8+ HCP, a 5+ card suit, and are game forcing *unless* absolutely not fit is found. Opener may re-bid in the following ways.

i. New Suit † — 5+ card suit

Opener Re-bid	**Interpretation**	**Responder-Rebid**	**Interpretation**
Pass	Game Unlikely		
Raise to Game	Sign Off		
New Suit †	Strength in Suit	 Raise Rebid ♡/♠ Cue-bid *under* 3 NT	 3+ support (or Q-x) minimum, no support singleton or void
2 NT †	Support in Suit	 Rebid ♡/♠ New Suit	 Minimum Singleton or Void in that Suit
3 NT	Suit with A-Q or K-Q		
4 NT	Blackwood		

Table 8: The Sequence 1♣ †–2♡/2♠

New Suit	4–card suit
Rebid Orig. Suit	6+ card suit, semi-solid for minors
Raise	3+ card support
Min NT	5332 distribution with values in the unbid suits

Table 9: The Sequence 1♣ †–1♡/1♠/2♣/2♢ ‡–New Suit †

ii. 2♡/2♠/3♣/3♢ † (Single Raises) — Trump Asking

1 Step	none
2 Steps	one honour
3 Steps	two honours
4 Steps	AKQ

Table 10: Trumping Asking and the Sequence 1♣ †–1♡/1♠/2♣/2♢ ‡–2♡/2♠/3♣/3♢ ‡

iii. 1 NT — 8–13 HCP, balanced, no 5–card major

iv. 2NT — 14+ HCP, balanced

2♣ †	Relay (See Table 12)
2♢/2♡/2♠/3♣ †	Shows a good suit (See Table 13)

Table 11: The Sequence 1♣ †–1♡/1♠/2♣/2♢ ‡–1 NT

iv. 3♣— 8–10 HCP, 4441 shape with *black* singleton

v. 3♢— 8–10 HCP, 4441 shape with *red* singleton

vi. 3♡/3♠/4♣/4♢ — 11+ HCP, singleton *above* the suit bid
If the singleton suit is subsequently bid, partner is asking for controls.

3.1.4 After Posative Response Sequences

i. 1♣ †–Posative Suit Bid–Single Raise: Trump Suit Asking Bids

After a 1♣ † opening and a *posative* response in a suit, operner's *direct single raise* of partner's suit requests responder to define his trump holding. Responder bids:

ii. Asking for Controls (A=2 , K=1)

After trump-asking bids (as above), any new suit bid by opener is asking partner for his holding in that suit.
Any subsequent new-suit bid is also control asking, *however*, for lack of room, the responses are now:

2♢	8–10 HCP, 4 hearts, does not deny 4 spades	2♡	Relay	Bid Other 4–card suit No Other 4–card suit bid NT
2♡	8–10 HCP, 4 spades, denies 4 hearts	2♠	Relay	Bid Other 4–card suit No Other 4–card suit bid NT
2♠	8–10 HCP, denies 4–card major	2 NT	Relay	3♣ – 3334 (4 clubs) 3♢ – 3343 (4 diamonds) 3♡ – 4–4 in minors 3♠ – 4–4 in minors + 3 spades 3 NT 5–card minor (4♣ response is relay)
2 NT	11–13 HCP, 4333 shape	3♣	Relay	Bid 4–card suit (use NT for clubs)
3♣	11–13 HCP, 4432 (4 clubs)	3♢	Relay	Bid 4–card suit (use NT for diamonds)
3♢	11–13 HCP, 4432 (4–4 in diamonds and hearts)			
3♡	11–13 HCP, 4432 (4–4 in hearts and spades)			
3♠	11–13 HCP, 4432 (4–4 in spades and diamonds)			
3 NT	11–13 HCP, 5–card minor suit (4♣ response is relay)			

Table 12: Relay Bids After 1♣ †–1♡/1♠/2♣/2♢ ‡–1 NT–2♣ †

iii. Asking for Total Controls (A=2 , K=1) ??? (use NT) ???

1 Step	no fit, 8–10 HCP
2 Steps	3+ card fit, 8–10 HCP
3 Steps	no fit, 11–13 HCP
4 Steps	3+ card fit, 11–13 HCP

Table 13: Relay Bids After 1♣†–1♡/1♠/2♣/2♢‡–1 NT–2♢/2♡/2♠/3♣†

3♣	Baron
3♢/3♡	Jacoby
3♠	Minor Suit Stayman

Table 14: The Sequence 1♣†–1♡/1♠/2♣/2♢‡–2 NT

3♢	Relay		
		3♡/3♠	club / spade singleton, respectively
If the singleton suit is subsequently bid, partner is asking for controls.			

Table 15: The Sequence 1♣†–1♡/1♠/2♣/2♢‡–3♣

3♡	Relay		
		3♠/3 NT	diamond / heart singleton, respectively
If the singleton suit is subsequently bid, partner is asking for controls.			

Table 16: The Sequence 1♣†–1♡/1♠/2♣/2♢‡–3♢

1 step	No Top Honor
2 steps	5–card suit, 1 top honor
3 steps	5–card suit, 2 top honors
4 steps	6–card suit, 1 top honor
5 steps	6–card suit, 2 top honors
6 steps	5+ card suit, 3 top honors

Table 17: Trump Holdings after the Sequence 1♣†–Posative Suit Bid–Single Raise

1 step	3+ low cards (no control)
2 steps	Doubleton or Qxx (3rd round control)
3 steps	Singleton or Kx (2nd round control)
4 steps	Void or A (1st round control)
5 steps	AK or AQ (2 top controls)

Table 18: Asking for Controls after Asking for Trump Holdings

1 step	no control
2 steps	Singleton or Kx (2nd round control)
3 steps	Void or A (1st round control)
4 steps	AK or AQ (2 top controls)

Table 19: Asking for Controls a Second Time

1 step	0–2 control(s)
2 steps	3 controls
3 steps	4 controls
⋮	⋮

Table 20: Asking for Total Controls

3.1.5 After Interventions

i. 1♣–X

Pass	0–4 HCP
1♢	5–7 HCP
XX	8+ HCP, 4–4 in majors

Table 21: The Interupted Sequence 1♣[†]–X

ii. 1♣–1♢/1♡/1♠

Pass	0–4 HCP
New Suit	5–8 HCP, 5+ card suit
Jump in New Suit	8–10 HCP, 6+ card suit
1 NT	9–11 HCP with a stopper in overcall suit
2 NT	12–14 HCP with one or two stoppers in overcall suit
X	5–8 HCP *or* 9+ HCP, no 5–card suit, takeout, with 9+ followed by cue bid
Cuebid ‡	(e.g. 1♣ †–1♢–2♢ ‡) 9+ HCP (game forcing)

Table 22: The Interupted Sequence 1♣ †–1♢/1♡/1♠

iii. 1♣–1 NT

Pass	0–4 HCP
Suit	5–8 HCP, 5–card suit
X	5+ HCP

Table 23: The Interupted Sequence 1♣ †–1 NT

iv. 1♣–2♣/2♢/2♡/2♠

Pass	0–4 HCP *or* 9+ HCP with strength in opponents suit
Suit	5–8 HCP, 5–card suit
X	5–8 HCP, *or* 9+ HCP

Table 24: The Interupted Sequence 1♣ †–2♣/2♢/2♡/2♠

v. 1♣–3♣/3♢/3♡/3♠

X	5+ HCP, takeout

Table 25: The Interupted Sequence 1♣ †–3♣/3♢/3♡/3♠

vi. 1♣–4♣/4♢/4♡/4♠

X	weak hand
Pass †	forcing

Table 26: The Interupted Sequence 1♣ †–4♣/4♢/4♡/4♠

?? Figure this out: ??

After intervention to asking bids (P0D1):
Double - 1 step
Pass - 2 steps

3.2 Responses to 1♢

Since partner only shows 11–15 HCP, with less than 8 HCP, would-be repsonder should pass. With 8+ HCP, responder may bid the following.

3.2.1 The Sequence 1♢–1♡/1♠ †

The one round forcing response 1♡/1♠ † shows 8–15 HCP and a 4+ card suit. The bid 1♠ denies a 4–card heart suit. After the *uninterrupeted* sequence 1♢–1♡/s † openers re-bids specify his point holding.

i. 11–14 HCP

1♠ over 1♡	4–card spade suit, denies 4–card heart suit	1 NT 2♣ †	sign off fourth-suit forcing
1 NT	balenced, denies 4–card diamond suit	2♣ † 2♢	new-minor, check-back 6+ card suit *or* good 5–card suit, *no* 4–card major
2♣	unbalenced, 5–4 in minors, no 4–card major		

Table 27: The Sequence 1♢–1♡/1♠ † with Opening Hand Worth 11–14 HCP

ii. 15+ HCP
With a minimum holding of 23 HCP in the partnership, game should be considered after these bids.

3♡/3♠	4–card support
3♢	6+ card suit *or* good 5–card suit, *no* 4–card major
3♣	unbalenced, at-least 5–5 in the minors, no 4–card major

Table 28: The Sequence 1♢–1♡/1♠ † with Opening Hand Worth 15+ HCP

3.2.2 The Sequence 1♢–2♣/2♢ †

This sequence uses the inverted minors convention and shows 11–15 HCP with a 4+ card suit. The 2♣/2♢ bid is one round forcing and *denies a 4–card major*. Rebids are as follows and, again, specify opener's point holding.

i. 11–14 HCP

ii. 15+ HCP
With a minimum holding of 23 HCP in the partnership, game should be considered after these bids.

2♡	stopper in hearts, no stopper in spades
2♠	stopper in spades, no stopper in hearts
2 NT	stopper in *both* majors
2♢/3♢	no stopper in either major

Table 29: The Sequence 1♢–2♣/2♢ † with Opening Hand Worth 11–14 HCP

3♡	stopper in hearts, no stopper in spades
3♠	stopper in spades, no stopper in hearts
3 NT	stopper in *both* majors
3♣	no stopper in either major

Table 30: The Sequence 1♢–2♣/2♢ † with Opening Hand Worth 15+ HCP

3.2.3 The Sequence 1♢–2♡/2♠ †

These bids are weak jump shifts. They show a 5+ card suit and are *non*-forcing.

3.2.4 The Sequence 1♢–2 NT

This bid shows a hand without a 4–card major worth 11–12 HCP. Rebids by opener are as follows.

3♣	both minors, asking partner to pick 3♣/3♢/3 NT
3♢	longer diamonds, asking partner to pick 3♢/3 NT

Table 31: The Sequence 1♢–2 NT

3.2.5 The Sequence 1♢–3♢

This bid shows *up to* 10 HCP. It is to be treated as preemtive with 5+ card support in diamonds.

3.2.6 The Sequence 1♢–3 NT

Very simply, a balenced hand worth 14–15 HCP.

3.2.7 After Intervention

i. 1♢–X[2]

Pass	0–4 HCP *or* 9–10 HCP
New Suit	5–8 HCP
1 NT	6–8 HCP, balenced
2♢/3♢	*at most* 8 HCP, preempt, 4+ card support
XX	11+ HCP

Table 32: The Interupted Sequence 1♢–X

i. 1♢–1♡/1♠/2♣/2♢/2♡/2♠

X	8–10 HCP, 4–card major (unbid suit), negative
New Suit	5–card suit ?????
2♢	6–9 HCP, with diamond support
3♢	10–11 HCP, with diamond support
1 NT	8–10 HCP, balenced, stopper in opponent's suit
2 NT	11–13 HCP, balenced, stopper in opponent's suit
XX	11+ HCP (denies 2 NT bid)

Table 33: The Interupted Sequence 1♢–1♡/1♠/2♣/2♢/2♡/2♠

3.3 Responses to 1♡/1♠

Openings of 1♡/1♠ show 11–15 HCP with a 5–card suit. Openng 1♠ denies a 5–card heart suit. Would-be responder should have at least 8 HCP to enter the auction. Repsonses to 1♡/1♠follow.

3.3.1 The Sequence 1♡/1♠–2♡/2♠

A contructive response showing 7–10 HCP with 3–card support.

[2]Meka Double

3.3.2 The Sequence 1♡/1♠–3♡/3♠

This response shows 0–6 HCP with 4+ card support. This bid should be treated as preemptive.

3.3.3 The Sequence 1♡/1♠–3♣

Contructive Bergen raise, 6–8 HCP, 4–card support.

3.3.4 The Sequence 1♡/1♠–3♢

Limit Bergen raise, 9–11 HCP, 4–card support.

3.3.5 The Sequence 1♡/1♠–4♡/4♠

This response shows 0–7 HCP with 5+ card support.

3.3.6 The Sequence 1♡/–1♠ †

3.4 Responses to 1 NT

3.5 Responses to 2♣

4 Conventions

4.1 Jacoby Transfers 2♢/2♡

4.2 Texas Transfers 4♢/4♡

4.3 Inverted Minor

4.4 Barron

4.5 Stayman

4.6 Gerber 4♣

4.7 Blackwood 4 NT

4.8 Roman Key-Card Blackwood 4 NT

4.9 Unusual 2 NT

4.10 Jacoby 2 NT

4.11 Gambling 3 NT

4.12 Doubles

4.12.1 Takeout Double

4.12.2 Negative Double

4.12.3 Meka Double

4.13 Namyats

4.14 Bergen Raise

4.15 Splinter Bid