

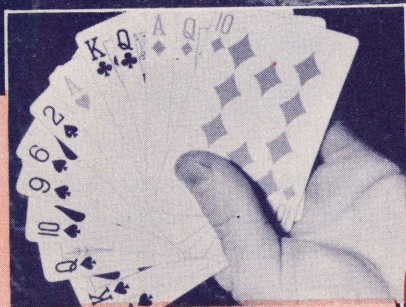
# GULF BRIDGE<sup>3d</sup> LESSONS

Number 4

## SLAM BIDDING

in

CONTRACT  
BRIDGE



THE GULF REFINING CO.



# Slam Bidding in CONTRACT BRIDGE

**T**HE bidding of Slams in Contract Bridge gives to the game one of its most spectacular and dramatic features. The premium in points which are awarded for bidding and making Slams are in proportion to the skill necessary in order to reach them. In other words, Slams bid and made are awards given to the Contract player who exchanges the precise information with his partner.

Before attempting Slams of any kind it is extremely important that three kinds of information be exchanged between the partners:

- (1) Information as to honor-tricks.
- (2) Information as to playing-tricks.
- (3) Information as to the distribution of the combined hands.

In estimating the number of honor-tricks held by the partners, the Rule of Eight, by which it is shown that the number of honor-tricks held in the hands totals between 8 and 8½, is an invaluable guide. As a general rule a Slam should not be bid in cases where the partners do not hold 7 honor-tricks between them.

It having been determined that the hands contain a minimum of 7 honor-tricks, the players then can consider the number of playing-tricks. In notrump playing-tricks are determined by the number of honor-tricks and long-suit tricks held, and in suit contracts by both long-suit tricks and short-suit tricks.

The Slam inferences include the following:

1. Any Forcing bid, indicating great strength in the combined hands, is an indirect Slam suggestion.
2. Any bid above game is a direct Slam suggestion.
3. In higher stages of the bidding an Overcall in the opponents' suit is also a direct Slam suggestion.
4. A Small Slam should be bid whenever there is an even chance of making it. A slightly greater risk may be taken when vulnerable, since the premium is larger.



*A strong team in the 1933 Vanderbilt Cup Competition:  
Don Daniel, Mrs. J. T. Daniel, William K. Barrett,  
Whitmer Carey.*

5. A Grand Slam should be bid when the chances of making it are at least even.

## The Four Notrump Slam Convention

Any four notrump bid (provided either partner has opened the bidding) is absolutely Forcing, requiring partner to respond.

It shows (except after a Forcing two-bid) either

- (a) three Aces; or
- (b) two Aces and the King of any suit previously bid by either partner.

In addition, the hand must contain sufficient values practically to guarantee a contract of five-odd in some previously bid suit.

Do not, as a rule, jump to a four notrump bid before a game contract has been reached.

## Partner's Responses to Four Notrump

Sign off with a five-bid in the lowest ranking suit bid by partner if holding no added values for a six-bid.

Bid six-odd, either in a suit previously bid by partner (when holding adequate trump support) or in own suit if holding sufficient added values but only one Ace in the hand.

Bid five notrump: If holding two Aces or one Ace and the Kings of all suits bid by the partner. A five notrump response to a four notrump bid is obligatory regardless of any other consideration, whenever the hand contains two Aces.

## The Five Notrump Slam Try

Any five notrump bid—preceded by a four notrump bid by the same player—is also absolutely Forcing. It shows all four Aces in one hand.

Any direct five notrump bid—not preceded by a four notrump bid by either partner—is also unconditionally Forcing.

It shows at least—three Aces and the King of a suit previously bid by either partner.

A five notrump bid indicates, of course, that the player has already made up his mind to contract for at least a Small Slam at some bid, and he is showing further that a Grand Slam is possible.

Sign off with a six-bid: If holding no added values sign off with a bid of six in any suit for which you hold adequate trump support; failing this, bid a lower ranking suit that has been previously bid. Sign off, even though holding the fourth Ace, if the hand contains no added values.

Bid seven-odd in a suit: If holding added values, including an Ace, contract directly for seven-odd either in the suit for which you hold adequate trump support, or in a lower ranking suit that is known to be solid.

In signing off, when a choice is available between adequate trump support of partner's bid and a six-card or longer suit bid of his own with not more than one loser, the player should, as a rule, prefer the latter.

An example of a well-bid Grand Slam follows:



The different steps in the bidding are fully analyzed:

North, Dealer.

North and South vulnerable.

♠ K Q J  
♥ K Q 8 7 6 5  
♦ K  
♣ 9 5 3

♠ 10 6 5 4  
♥ 4  
♦ 9 8 7 6 5  
♣ 8 4 2

North		
W		E
e		a
s		s
t		t
South		

♠ 8 3 2  
♥ 3  
♦ Q J 10 2  
♣ Q J 10 7 6

♠ A 9 7  
♥ A J 10 9 2  
♦ A 4 3  
♣ A K

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♥ (1)	Pass	3 ♣ (2)	Pass
3 ♥ (3)	Pass	4 NT (4)	Pass
5 ♥ (5)	Pass	5 NT (6)	Pass
6 ♥ (7)	Pass	7 ♥ (8)	Pass
Pass	Pass		

(1) A very good bid in view of the six-card length in the heart suit and the honor strength in spades.

(2) All roads lead to Rome, but South wanted to have as many opportunities to force his partner as possible, feeling sure that the hand could scarcely suggest the trick-taking probabilities of the combined holdings.

(3) The length suggests the rebid.

(4) Again Forcing. Partner cannot pass.

(5) A sign-off.

(6) Again a Forcing bid.

(7) Of course, these bids by inference imply support for the heart suit.

(8) This bid could have been made much earlier.

Another example of a well bid Grand Slam is that given below where the final contract is notrump.

South Dealer

Neither side vulnerable

♠ Q 9 3  
♥ Q 7 4  
♦ A K Q 9  
♣ A J 10

♠ J 4 2  
♥ 8 6 5  
♦ 10 6 5 3  
♣ 7 4 3

North		
W		E
e		a
s		s
t		t
South		

♠ 10 7 6  
♥ J 10 9 3  
♦ 8 4 2  
♣ 6 5 2

♠ A K 8 5  
♥ A K 2  
♦ J 7  
♣ K Q 9 8

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6 ♣	Pass
7 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Note the use of the Slam convention in the bidding. All of the Aces were located and the strength of the hands determined before the final bid of seven notrump.

*This is No. 4 in a series of 6, including the Culbertson system, the Sims system, the Vanderbilt system, Slam Bidding, Laws of Pivot Bridge, and Conventional Signals used in Contract Bridge.*

# How To Deal Your Car

## A GRAND SLAM HAND



There's one way to be sure that *your* car holds all the top cards! Simply drive it into any Gulf Station and take advantage of Gulf's fine motor products and free services. There's:

- 1. *That Good Gulf Gasoline.*** It's the gas that gives you smooth, silent power on the hills . . . quicker starting on cold mornings . . . and the maximum of peppy miles per gallon. A high anti-knock gasoline at no extra cost!
- 2. *Gulf's 3 Fine Motor Oils.*** A choice to fit your pocketbook. And you can't go wrong no matter which you take. GulfLube, Gulf Supreme and Gulf Pride are all long-wearing high-mileage motor oils. Each one is way out front in its own price class.
- 3. *Gulf Station Service.*** The Gulf man cleans your windshield . . . fills your radiator . . . tests the air pressure in your tires . . . and checks your oil free of charge. And while you're there be sure to ask for the latest copy of Gulf's 4-Page Funny Weekly and the next Gulf Contract Bridge Lesson.

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