

## SPLINTER BIDS

Your partner opens 1♥ or 1♠. You have 4 card support for you partner's suit and a singleton or void in a side suit. With 10-13 HCP, make a double jump in your short suit. So, for example, if your partner open 1♥, with 10-13 HCP outside your singleton or void suit and 4+ hearts, you would bid 3♠ with a singleton or void in spades; 4♣ with a singleton or void in clubs and 4♦ with a singleton or void in diamonds.

You do not count any points for your singleton K, Q or J, but you can count 2 points for the singleton A. Thus your partner knows you have either 10-13 HCP outside of your short suit and not the A in your short suit or you have 8-11 HCP outside your short suit and the A in your short suit.

Let's look at some hands:

♠ 3  
♥ K 9 7 5  
♦ Q 5 4 2  
♣ A Q 6 3

1♥ 3♠

Just right

♠ Q 8 7 6  
♥ K Q 7 4  
♦ Q  
♣ A Q 9 3

1♥ 4♦

Don't count HCP in ♦

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

1♠ 4♠

Too few HCP

♠ K Q 6 4  
♥ K Q 4 3  
♦ 7  
♣ A J 8 5

1♠ 2♣

Too many HCP

Now let's look at two example hands that are very similar to one another on the next page. You will see that it is possible to deduce that a slam is almost certain to make in one case, but it is wise not to bid beyond game in the other case.

South Deals    ♠ K 6 5 2  
                   ♥ A 6 4 2  
                   ♦ 6  
                   ♣ K 6 4 3



10    ♠ A Q J 4 3  
       ♥ K Q  
 18    ♦ 9 7 3  
       ♣ A Q 8

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	6 ♠
All pass			

6 ♠ is an excellent contract (about 99%)

South opens 1 ♠ with 18 HCP and North shows 4+ spades, a singleton or void in diamonds and either 10+ HCP outside of diamonds or the ♦ A and at least 8 HCP outside of diamonds.

How did South know to bid the slam?

South has 18 HCP outside of diamonds. If North has 10 HCP outside diamonds, our total is 28 of the 30 HCP outside of diamonds. We can be missing at most two HCP. So North must have the ♠ K, ♥ A and ♣ K and South can count 12 tricks.

If North has the ♦ A and 8 HCP outside diamonds, we can only be missing one of the three key cards, and that is only one trick. However the cards are distributed in North's hand, we have 12 tricks.

The only issue is whether we have 13 tricks if either North has a diamond void or North has the ♦ A and 10 or more HCP outside of diamonds. We have no way to find out.

South Deals    ♠ K 6 5 2  
                   ♥ A 6 4 2  
                   ♦ 6  
                   ♣ K 6 4 3



10    ♠ A Q J 4 3  
       ♥ K Q  
 18    ♦ K Q J  
       ♣ 8 5 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

This hand is almost the same as the last one. The difference is that the ♣ A and ♣ Q have been replaced by small clubs and the three diamonds have been replaced by the ♦ K, ♦ Q and ♦ J. South has 18 HCP. The North hand is exactly the same.

Look at the difference!

Firstly, South will sign off in 4 ♠. South has too much stuff in diamonds (the KQJ opposite a singleton doesn't have full value)

Now 4 ♠ will make more often than not, but it will go down if the opponents manage to take 3 club tricks quickly (the ♣ A has to be with East) and the ♦ A. This is despite a combined 28 HCP and singleton (making 31 TP).

## JACOBI

Your partner opens 1♥ or 1♠. You have 4 card support for you partner's suit and no singleton or void in a side suit. With 12+ HCP, bid 2NT. This bid is totally artificial. You have no intention to play in 2NT. The bid is forcing to game.

It is what you partner does next that may be illuminating.

- With 12-14 TP and no singleton or void, bid 4 of your major. This is your weakest bid. If your partner bids again, he/she is quite strong. Remember the 2NT bid shows 12+ points. It is unlimited.
- With 15-16 TP and no singleton or void, bid 3NT.
- With 17+ TP and no singleton or void, bid 3 of your major. This may seem strange that you bid 3 with the stronger hand, but 4 with the weaker hand. However, you are forced to game. Getting there quickly tends to imply a weaker hand. Once you are forced to game, take your time and possibly get more information with stronger hands. This is a general principle that applies in other game forcing situations.
- With a singleton or void, bid it at the 3 level.
- With a 5-5 or 6-5 or similar two suiter, bid your second suit at the 4 level.

If your partner shows no singleton or void (just a TP range), you should be able to determine if you are at or near the magic 33 TP for a slam.

If your partner shows a singleton, the situation for the responder is similar to the situation for the opener after a splinter bid. You should reevaluate your hand in the light of your partner's shortage.

You are interested in the 30 HCP in the three suits, not the singleton or void suit. If you have most of these, you are in good shape to bid a slam. Be careful though. A missing queen in the trump suit or another key suit where you need length may be a loser, which would be enough for a slam to fail.

♠ A Q 7 5  
♥ 7 2  
♦ A Q 7 5  
♣ J 9 4

1♠ 2NT

Just right

♠ A K 5 2  
♥ K 6 3  
♦ A Q 2  
♣ K 8 5

1♠ 2NT

Unlimited

♠ K 9 6 4  
♥ 6 2  
♦ Q 7 4 3  
♣ A J 8

1♠ 3♠

Not strong enough

♠ A 7 5  
♥ A Q 6 5 2  
♦ 8 2  
♣ K 8 6

1♥ 2NT  
4♥

♠ A Q 8 6 2  
♥ K Q 4  
♦ K Q 3  
♣ K 4

1♠ 2NT  
3♠

♠ A Q 3  
♥ K 9 6 4 3 2  
♦ 7  
♣ A 8 4

1♥ 2NT  
3♦

♠ A Q 7 6 4  
♥ K Q 7 6 5  
♦ K 8  
♣ 6

1♠ 2NT  
4♥