

### Bidding Conventions by Steve Moese

So what bidding conventions are indispensable? Should we use what experts use? How many should we add to our card? 10, 20, 30, more? The way to think about conventions is simple:

Bids inform our decision about strain and level. Strain before Game, Game before Slam.

We adopt a convention when **Benefits > Costs.**

What costs? Add up: memory cost, cost of getting on the same page with partner, and cost of the impacts on existing bidding (*something most players do not do well or frequently enough*). The total cost can be surprisingly high.

The benefit is the product of **frequency x improvement**. If we use the convention infrequently or if the benefit is small, then it is probably more cost than benefit.

Proven methods are better than new, exotic or home-grown bids. We won't run afoul of regulations (Bid Charts) either.

Any convention must be evaluated in the bidding context (Standard American, 2/1 Game Force, Precision, etc.). Let's assume 2/1 Game force. Yes, most start out with Standard American, but 2/1 is so pervasive that you really need to understand it even if you do not use it. 1NT forcing is a hallmark of 2/1 game force so it will not make our list as a separate convention.

Here's [Larry Cohen's](#) Top 16 Conventions:

- 1) Negative Doubles
- 2) RKB/1430
- 3) Stayman
- 4) Jacoby Transfers
- 5) 4<sup>th</sup> Suit Forcing
- 6) Interference over their 1NT (Don't Mod Capelletti)
- 7) Weak Jumps in Competition
- 8) 2N Ask after our Weak 2 Bid
- 9) Unusual NT/Michaels
- 10) New Minor Forcing
- 11) Jacoby 2NT / Jordan 2NT
- 12) Support Double
- 13) Lebensohl
- 14) Drury
- 15) Inverted Minors
- 16) Splinter Bids

### 11/5 – 99er Future Master Leaders

- 1<sup>st</sup> OA: **Charlie Kobida & Ann Blomberg** (63.9%)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> OA: **Pam Campbell & Lisa Eisenstein** (59.5%)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Tie: **Richard Horvitz & Karen Kalla** (58.7%)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Tie: **Martin Gibler & Stacy Vanstone** (58.7%)



### CBA Newcomer Games – Play Often!

Mon 7 PM	Tue 11 AM	Tue 7 PM	Fri 11 AM	Sat 10-12 AM
		Let's Talk BRIDGE 6:30 PM	Free Lesson 10:30 AM	Supervised Play

### Celebrations at the Cincinnati Bridge Center

#### Nov 24 Granovetters Grand Life Master Celebration

Join all 8 District 11 Grand Life Masters to celebrate both Matt and Pam achieving this pinnacle rank. Come meet the greats in the game. \$10 per person includes lunch 7 bridge. **1PM Sunday**

#### Nov 30 John Altman 2013 King of Bridge Game

Join us for a special game honoring Cincinnati's own John Altman, the ACBL 2013 King of Bridge. Take a break from holiday shopping and join us for the fun! **1 PM Saturday.**

#### Dec 11 Holiday Party

Wed. Eve. Drinks 6 PM, Food 6:30 PM, Game 7:15 PM. \$22 per person in advance. See directors or Diane Thaller and Melanie Onen. Details on the web.

### Area Tournaments

<b>Nov 4 – 10</b>	<b>Louisville KY</b>	<b>R</b>
Nov 15-17	Dayton, OH	S
Dec 26-Jan1	Cincinnati OH	STaC
<b>Jan 15-19</b>	<b>Independence OH</b>	<b>R</b>
<b>Jan 25-26</b>	<b>Lexington KY</b>	<b>D11 GNT Finals</b>

ACBL Tournaments <http://tournaments.acbl.org/display.php>



by Steve & Mike  
 Tues Eve  
**6:30 PM Sharp!**

We start with the simplest and best then add complexity and effort as we proceed down the list. Each group of 4 is more important than those that follow.

Why go slow with new conventions? Never outpace your ability to use the information the convention provides. Better to invest in good technique, sound judgment and good defense than worry about adding 1 more toy to the toy box.

Over the next several weeks, Mike and I can review these conventions with you so you know **What you get** and **what you give up**. That way you can decide with partner just what you really want to do. See you at **Let's Talk Bridge**.

This coming Saturday (11/9) Phyllis Bishop and Pat Hoffman will be running our Informal Supervised Play session 10-12. We take a new look at last week’s hand to show how Jacoby 2NT and splinter bids for majors can be used to investigate slams.

**About Jacoby 2NT Convention over Major Openings**

Jacoby 2NT is when responder bids 2NT (alertable) in response to partner major suit opener to show a game-forcing hand with four-card (or longer) support in the major. This convention allows you to explore for distribution and key stoppers to determine if slam is possible. Opener responds as follows:

- **New suits at the 3 level** – Shows a singleton or void in suit bid (alertable). If partner does not have wasted values in this suit, slam may be possible on fewer HCP than normal. If they do have wasted values, like KJ or QJ, they can stay out of slam on close calls.
- **New suits at the 4 level** – Shows a solid 5 card 2<sup>nd</sup> suit. What is a solid suit? That can be a partnership agreement but think holdings like KQJxx or AKxxx or better.
- **3NT** – shows a balanced hand with 14-15 HCP.
- **3 of the Openers Major** – Shows a balanced hand with 16+ HCP.
- **4 of the Openers Major** – Shows a balanced minimum hand.

**Continuation Bids** – new suits are cue bids showing controls. 4NT is keycard asking. 4 of opener’s major is to play. For more information: [http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/Commonly\\_Used\\_Conventions/jacoby2NT.pdf](http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/Commonly_Used_Conventions/jacoby2NT.pdf)

**Board 7** ♠ A 10 5 2  
 South ♥ A 7 5  
 Deals ♦ K J 8 5 2  
 Both Vul ♣ K

♠ 9 6 4	N W E S	♠ 3
♥ K J 9 8		♥ 10 6 3 2
♦ 6 3		♦ Q 10 7 4
♣ Q J 6 4		♣ 9 7 5 3

NS 7♠; 2♥;  
 S 6N; 6♦; 3♣;  
 N 4N; 5♦; 2♣

♠ K Q J 8 7  
 ♥ Q 4  
 ♦ A 9  
 ♣ A 10 8 2

**Board 7 (Tues 10/29) With Jacoby 2NT Convention**

South with 16 HCP and 5 spades will open 1♠. North has 15 HCP and 4 card support for partner. They can bid Jacoby 2NT (Alert). South with a balanced 16 HCP will rebid 3♠ per the convention to show extra values. Immediately North’s hand with ♣K singleton and an extra trump, arguably worth 17 support points for spades, should be thinking slam. If you play cue bids, you can do this or go straight to asking for keycards with 4NT. You will find all 4 Aces and 3 kings landing in 6♠ with confidence.

**About Splinter Bids over Major Openings**

A splinter is a double jump shift showing a hand that wants to be in game (12+ support points), 4+ trump and singleton or void in the suit bid. Typically if you have a singleton honor you should not splinter. Since the bid is not natural it is alertable. This bid helps you find slams where the opener does not have wasted

values in partner’s singleton or void.

For more information: [http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/Commonly\\_Used\\_Conventions/splinters.pdf](http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/Commonly_Used_Conventions/splinters.pdf)

**Board 7 (Tues 10/29) With Splinter Bidding**

South with 16 HCP and 5 spades will open 1♠. North has 15 HCP, 4 card support for partner and a singleton club. With a ♣K singleton, we should not splinter with this hand. Jacoby 2NT is preferred. For the sake of showing how the convention works though, let’s assume North splinters with a 4♣ bid (Alert). South with extra values and little wasted in clubs should push for slam asking for keycards. Like before you will find all 4 Aces and 3 kings and most will land in 6♠. If South decides North does not have the ♣K (per the rule for splinters) and therefore has the ♦K and ♥K, they may end up in 7♠ which is very hard to make on this deal. Case in point on why we avoid splintering with a singleton honor.

**Post Mortem** – Jacoby 2NT and Splinter Bids are nice conventions to explore slam below the level of game. They can help you discover slams that make on lower HCP than normal and in some cases stay out of questionable slams.

Bd 7	Scores		MPs	
	NS	EW	NS	EW
6 ♠ S	1460		5	0
6 ♠ S	1430		3.5	1.5
6 ♠ S	1430		3.5	1.5
4 ♠ S	680		1.5	3.5
4 ♠ S	680		1.5	3.5
6 NT S		100	0	5
6 ♠ S	1460		4.75	0.25
4 ♠ S	680		1.75	3.25
4 ♠ S	680		1.75	3.25
4 ♠ S	680		1.75	3.25