

## Using The System

*You Don't Have to be an Expert to Bid Like an Expert*

The backbone of the Orient Bidding System is the hand evaluation method. This should be mastered first. Next is the 'brain' of the System - combined strength count. This must be applied on each and every deal, if proper playing level is to be achieved. Together they constitute the foundation of the System. The control finding bids take guess work and speculative bidding out of bidding. The three components when used in unison, would lead to an accurate, precise and targeted bidding on most occasions - you would start bidding with full confidence and eyes "open" on actual merit of each hand.

Orient Bidding System is perhaps one of the most friendliest of all systems ever devised. Once you get to know the basic principle, bids flow automatically and fluently. All that is needed is some practice and patience. The best place to start is the home, first alone, and then with your partner. Bids for most common situations, including interferences, are fully defined, documented and serially numbered. Unless one forgets some of bids (initially), no confusion in bidding is likely to arise. Accordingly, the System promises greater partnership understanding and harmony in stress-free bidding atmosphere as compared to some of the other systems. With time, you will find yourself being gifted with the '*Art of Bidding*' - guess-free and accurate bidding on most occasions - a hallmark that is exclusive to the bidding styles of the experts.

Even if the Orient Bidding System is not played in its entirety, its finer points, some of the control finding bids and most importantly, the hand evaluation principle can be adopted and incorporated into any system. As stated elsewhere, the playing level is directly related to the combined strength of the two hands - yours and your partner's. Most systems, because of the wide range of the opening bids, are unable to project full or nearly full strength of a hand in one bid. Likewise, many systems do not take distribution into account in the opening bid. This makes the task of conveying actual playing strength/trick taking capacity of the hand even harder. To make the matter worse, a single value is usually taken for a void. In practice, this is far from reality. The value of void actually varies with the playing level - the higher the level, the higher the value of the void. It is for this reason that the Orient Bidding System has assigned three different values of a void: one for part score/game, one for small slam and another for the grand slam. The logic is very simple. If you are void in a suit the high cards of which are with the opponents, they cannot make use of the points in suit contract in which you are playing. In other words, their points are transferred to your account provided you can rough. The more often you rough, the more natural trump tricks you would lose. These have to be adjusted when assigning a value for the void.

It may not be possible to fully incorporate the distribution values in the opening bidding round with the prevailing systems. However, these can be shown in subsequently rebids. For example, armed with the new valuation knowledge, you can make a reverse or jump-shift bid in presence of distribution values, when in normal circumstances, you would perhaps make a simple rebid, thus under-valuing an otherwise "strong" hand. Same forcing technique can be applied by the responder. This would change the entire complexion of your bidding style and you would be less likely to miss out a game or slam on a distributional hand.

Thousands of people play bridge online. If you can find yourself a partner who also plays Orient Bidding System, you will find that playing bridge has never been so easy, simple and enthralling. Chances are, you would discover the true beauty of the the fascinating game that bridge is.

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