



Bridge

ABC XYZ'S
DEF

for the advanced player

A Two Over One Convention Card

Warren Watson

Third Edition ©2019

Last Revised June 30, 2021





Preface

To all bridge players who actively seek improvement. May they keep the game of bridge thriving. They are the advanced and expert players of the future.

This is the third and the final book of my alphabet trilogy. The reader is ready for the XYZ's, if the ABC's and the DEF's have been mastered. This book helps a player master the Two Over One bidding system for the exciting game of bridge. Although it is included here, this is not a book solely on the XYZ bridge convention. Nor is it a book on the Toronto Airport. That is YYZ.

People can enjoy bridge by playing only Standard American, but a special expertise with bidding requires the use of Two Over One. There is more room for bidding below game without worrying that the auction passes out. Not only does Two Over One help ensure finding the correct game, it also gives more room for slam exploration below the level of game. Knowing both Standard American and Two Over One well enhances the bridge experience.

The first part of this book is a checklist of how an advancing player becomes much more advanced. The next two parts are the right and left sides of a convention card filled out with a basic Two Over One system. The examples in the last part of this book are interesting twists to the convention card topics. If the reader struggles with the XYZ's, my book *Two Over One* will help immensely.

Congratulations to those players who master the ABC's, the DEF's and the XYZ's. They are well on their way to being expert players. If the alphabet trilogy has whetted the appetite for more explanations and more examples, my other titles are available as shown in [Appendix A](#).



Contents

Preface	2
Contents	3

The Checklists

1. How to Advance	10
1.1 Signs of a Stagnating Player	10
1.1.1 In the Bidding	10
1.1.2 In Defending	12
1.1.3 In Declaring	14
1.2 The Steps to Advancing	15
1.2.1 Beginning Skill	15
1.2.2 Advancing Skill	16
1.2.3 Advanced Skill	16
1.2.4 Expert Skill	17
1.2.5 Listening to the Bidding	18

The Right Side of the Convention Card

2. General Approach	20
2.1 Standard American in a Nutshell	20
2.1.1 The Keystone	20
2.1.2 The 1NT Response	21
2.1.3 Game Forcing Bids	22
2.2 Two Over One in a Nutshell	23
2.2.1 Game Forcing Two Over One Bids	23
2.2.2 Forcing Notrump	24
2.3 Very Light	25
2.4 The Forcing Opening	25



3.	Notrump Opening Bids	<u>26</u>
3.1	The Possible Bids Over 1NT	<u>27</u>
3.2	Smolen	<u>29</u>
3.3	In Competition	<u>30</u>
3.3.1	Standard	<u>30</u>
3.3.2	Lebensohl	<u>30</u>
3.3.3	The Double	<u>31</u>
3.3.4	FADS	<u>32</u>
3.3.5	A Runout	<u>32</u>
3.4	Over 2NT	<u>34</u>
3.5	Opening 3NT	<u>35</u>
3.5.1	Gambling 3NT	<u>35</u>
3.5.2	Solid Major	<u>35</u>
3.5.3	Strong 3NT	<u>36</u>
3.5.4	The Minors	<u>36</u>
4.	Major Opening	<u>37</u>
4.1	Expected Minimum Length	<u>37</u>
4.2	Points for Distribution	<u>38</u>
4.3	Constructive Raises	<u>38</u>
4.4	Double Raise	<u>39</u>
4.5	1M then 3m	<u>39</u>
4.6	Jacoby 2NT	<u>40</u>
4.7	Splinters	<u>40</u>
4.8	Minisplinters	<u>41</u>
4.9	Forcing Notrump	<u>41</u>
4.10	Reverse One-Way Drury	<u>41</u>
4.11	A 3NT Raise	<u>42</u>
5.	Minor Opening	<u>43</u>
5.1	Minimum Expected Length	<u>43</u>
5.2	Double Raise	<u>44</u>
5.3	Single Raise	<u>44</u>
5.4	Frequently Bypass Diamonds	<u>44</u>
5.5	Rebidding a Minor	<u>45</u>
5.6	Notrump Responses	<u>45</u>



6.	Two Bids	46
6.1	The 2♣ Opening Bid	46
6.2	2♦ Opening Bids	47
6.3	Weak Two Bids	48
7.	Other Conventional Calls	49
7.1	New Minor Forcing (NMF)	49
7.2	XYZ	50
7.3	Weak Jump Shift (WJS)	50
7.4	Fourth Suit Forcing (FSF)	50
7.5	Unusual versus Unusual	51
7.6	AntiMichaels	52
7.7	The Western Cuebid	53
7.8	Lebensohl over Reverses	53
7.9	Reverse Flannery	54

The Left Side of the Convention Card

8.	Special Doubles	55
8.1	Negative Doubles	55
8.2	Responsive Doubles	56
8.3	Maximal Doubles	56
8.4	Support Doubles and Redoubles	57
8.5	Card Showing	58
8.6	Minimum Offshape	58
8.7	Snap Dragon	59
9.	Notrump Overcalls	59
9.1	Systems On	59
9.2	Balancing Notrump	60
9.3	Two-Suited Bids	60
9.3.1	Two Lowest Unbid	60
9.3.2	Sandwich	61
9.4	Higher Strengths	61





10.	Simple Overcall	62
10.1	Point Ranges	62
10.2	The Overcall Cuebid	63
10.3	Notrump Ranges	63
10.4	Shortness in Partner's Suit	63
10.5	Negative Free Bids (NFB)	64
11.	Jump Overcall	64
12.	Defense versus Notrump	65
12.1	Interfering over 1NT	65
12.1.1	Over a Strong Notrump	65
12.1.2	Over a Weak Notrump	66
12.1.3	Bidding the Transfer Suit	66
12.2	Interfering over Other Strong Bids	67
12.2.1	Precision	67
12.2.2	Strong 2♣	67
13.	Over Opponent's Takeout Double	68
14.	Opening Preempts	69
15.	Double Versus Opening Preempt	69
16.	Direct Cuebid	70
17.	Slam Conventions	71
17.1	Keycard Ask	71
17.2	King Ask	71
17.3	D0P1 and DEPO	72
17.3.1	1430 D0P1	72
17.3.2	DEPO	72
18.	Leads and Defensive Carding	72
19.	Style	74





Examples

20. Examples	77
20.1 Tricks Versus Points	77
20.1 Two Moose and Two Mice	77
20.2 Points are Shared	78
20.3 Tricks Not Points	79
20.4 A Powerful Two Suiter	80
20.5 The Losing Trick Count	81
20.6 A Strong Two-Suited Hand	82
20.2 General Approach	83
20.7 Standard American Falls Short	83
20.8 One for Standard American	84
20.9 One for FSF One Round	85
20.3 Notrump Bidding	86
20.10 Single-Suited Minor Slam Try	86
20.11 Six-Four, Say Some More	87
20.12 Double is Stayman	88
20.13 FADS	89
20.14 Do Not Take the Transfer	90
20.4 Major Opening	91
20.15 Not a Preempt	91
20.16 A Minisplinter	92
20.5 Minor Opening	93
20.17 A Trouble Opener	93
20.18 The Stopper System	94
20.19 A Minimum Responder	95
20.20 A Delayed Raise	96
20.6 Two Bids	97
20.21 Hard to Find	97
20.22 No Surprise There is a Preempt	98
20.23 Five-Card Weak Two	99





20.7	Other Conventional Calls	100
20.24	Slam Try in the Minor	100
20.25	The Western Cuebid	101
20.8	Special Doubles	102
20.26	The Negative Double	102
20.27	Support Double	103
20.9	Notrump Overcalls	104
20.28	No Stopper	104
20.29	Transfer to the Opponent's Suit	105
20.30	Balancing is Not Lead Directive	106
20.31	Unusual by a Passed Hand	107
20.10	Simple Overcall	108
20.32	A Misfit	108
20.11	Jump Overcall	109
20.33	Feature Ask	109
20.12	Defense versus Notrump	110
20.34	Meckwell	110
20.13	Over Opponent's Takeout Double	111
20.35	To Play	111
20.36	Like Jacoby 2NT	112
20.14	Opening Preempts	113
20.37	Us or Them	113
20.38	Pass and Pull	114
20.39	Who is Sacrificing?	115
20.15	Double Versus Opening Preempt	116
20.40	Equal Level Correction	116
20.16	Direct Cuebid	117
20.41	An Abused Bid	117

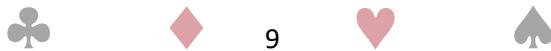




20.17 Slam Conventions	118
20.42 1430 and the Queen Ask	118
20.43 Cuebidding	119
20.18 Leads and Defensive Carding	120
20.44 Only on Lead Once	120
21. Conclusions	121
 Epilogue	122
E.1 Two Effective Unbid Suits	122
E.2 Let Them Play Doubled	123
E.3 All Roads Lead to a Grand	124
E.4 A Double then a Cuebid	125
E.5 Bidding an Unstopped Suit?	126
E.6 Bidding Ahead of Partner	127
E.7 A Choice of Bids	128
E.8 A Support Double	129
E.9 Another Support Double	130
E.10 Weissberger	131

Appendices

A. My Titles	132
A.1 Self Published	132
A.2 Master Point Press	132
B. Online Information	133
C. The Chicago Scorer	134
D. Glossary	138
E. References	148





Epilogue

Example E.1: Two Effective Unbid Suits

Neither vul.

♠1097 ♥K72 ♦AQ1095 ♣K5
♠532 ♥AQ95 ♦K842 ♣43  ♠AJ86 ♥1063 ♦73 ♣AJ82
♠KQ4 ♥J84 ♦J6 ♣Q10976

W	N	E	S
P	1♦	P	P
P	P	??	1NT

South could have diamonds, and he could be four-triple-three, but the odds favour South having a club suit. A player should be unwilling to defend 1NT when he has a hand suited to a trump contract, especially when his partner will likely not lead his long suit. However, since South likely has clubs, East is effectively four-three in the unbid suits and should not balance.





Trail, BC, Pencil on Paper, 24.5cm x 17.5cm, 2016

Warren Watson is a former Aerospace Engineer and is currently an artist, with a diploma in Fine Arts from Okanagan University College in Kelowna, BC, and an avid bridge player. He is an ACBL Diamond Life Master, an ACBL accredited bridge teacher, a writer of 347 columns in the Trail Times, a published author, an ACBL director, an accredited ACBL tournament assistant and the Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club manager (10 years). He currently resides in Trail, BC, and in winter, likes to ski Grey Mountain or Red Mountain Resort.



Self Portrait, Pencil on Paper
25cm x 20cm, 2015

