

Watson Bridge Index

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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/bridge-index.htm>

Steps

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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/Steps.pdf>

The faster a bridge player forgets about points the better. Bidding should depend on fits, shape, and controls. It is a bridge cliché created by the great Marty Bergen, but points schmoins.

Some play a system called steps over 2♣ openings. Steps showing controls are good, and steps showing high card points are bad. Steps showing points are simply a point counter's crutch. When partner opens 2♣, how useful are Queens and Jacks? In a side suit, they may be useless. Controls are what are important to a strong partner.

Is the following a negative hand?

♠107654 ♥2 ♦2 ♣987654

No, if trump is either spades or clubs, this is a very strong hand. Slam is very likely. It has distributional controls.

An Ace is two controls, and a King is one control. Consider the following responses to a 2♣ opening. Just high card controls are counted.

2♣	2♦	0-2 controls
	2♥	3 controls
	2♠	4 controls
	2NT	5 controls
	3♣	6 controls

You hold

♠AKQJ5 ♥A43 ♦2 ♣AKQJ

You open 2♣, and partner responds 2♠ showing four controls. Pretty easy bidding now, right? Partner must have the Ace and King of diamonds and the King of hearts.

2♣	2♠
3♠	4♠
7NT	

Steps showing controls is very useful to a strong hand.