OPENING BID DISTRIBUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

This document presents tables that show the distribution of opening bids based on the point counts and bidding parameters that are taught by Walter Moreau in his bridge classes.

INTRODUCTION

The tables in this document were produced by a computer program that simulates shuffling and dealing a deck of cards into four hands. The simulated hands were then compared to a sequence of bidding requirements until the hand satisfied the suit lengths, point count, and honor count required to make the bid.

Since it is difficult to program a computer to have the same flexibility that a human has when bidding a hand of bridge, the computer was given a precise definiton for each possible bid and a specific sequence in which the bids should be considered. For example, the computer was programmed to match a hand against the requirements for one no trump before considering any other bid. If the hand was a match, no other bid was considered.

Unlike a human, the computer never deviated from these definitions or the sequence in which they were considered. This means that you must be aware of how each bid was defined in order to understand how the percentages given here might relate to the meaning that you assign to each bid. For example, this document specifies a range of 15-18 HCP to open one no trump. If you open one no trump with a different range, the percents given here will not apply to you.

OPENING BIDS

The opening bids are based on the following system of bidding conventions:
- Convenient Club
- Four Diamonds
- Five Card Majors
- Strong Two Clubs
- Weak Twos with Extension
- Preemptive Threes

OPENING BID DEFINITIONS

BID	HCP	MEANING	CONVENTION
1♣	13-20	The hand has less than four diamonds, less than five hearts, and less than five spades. It may only have two clubs.	Convenient Club
1♦	13-20	The hand has at least four diamonds, less than five hearts and less than five spades.	Four Diamonds
1♥	12-20	The hand has at least five hearts but less than five spades.	Five Card Major
1♠	12-20	The hand has at least five spades. It might also have five hearts.	
1NT	15-18	The hand has stoppers in at least three suits. It does not have a void or a singleton. It has at most one doubleton. If it has a five card major, there is only one honor in the major.	
2♣	21-24	The hand has a strong five card suit or a good six card suit.	Strong Two Clubs
2♦	5-11	The hand has at least six diamonds with two of the top four honors. It does not have a four card major.	Weak Twos
2♥	5-11	The hand has at least six hearts with two of the top four honors. It does not also have four or more spades.	
2♠	5-11	The hand has at least six spades with two of the top four honors. It does not also have four or more hearts.	
2NT	21-24	The hand has stoppers in every suit. It does not have a void or a singleton. It has at most one doubleton.	
3♣	9-11	The hand has at least six clubs with two of the top four honors. It does not have a side four card or longer major.	Weak Two Extension

BID	HCP	MEANING	CONVENTION
3♦	4-9	The hand has at least seven diamonds headed by at least the queen and ten. It does not have a side four card major or an outside ace. It has at most one outside king.	Preempts
3♥	4-9	The hand has at least seven hearts headed by at least the queen and ten. It does not have an outside ace. It has at most one outside king.	
3♠	4-9	The hand has at least seven spades headed by at least the queen and ten. It does not have an outside ace. It has at most one outside king.	
3NT	25-27	The hand has stoppers in every suit. It does not have a void or a singleton. It has at most one doubleton.	
LONG	4-20	The hand has at least eight cards in a suit and it did not match any of the previous bids.	
???	0-37	The hand did not match any of the previous bids.	

OPENING BID DISTRIBUTION

Table 1: OPENING BIDS FROM 10,000,000 DEALS

CONVENTION	BID	HIGH CARD POINTS	HAND COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL HANDS	CUMULATIVE PERCENT	
					Ascending	Descending
Convenient Club	1♣	13 - 20	565,864	5.6586	5.6586	100.0000
Four Card Diams	1♦	13 - 20	675,041	6.7504	12.4091	94.3414
Five Card Major	1♥	12 - 20	554,096	5.5410	17.9500	87.5909
	1♠	12 - 20	582,023	5.8202	23.7702	82.0500
	1NT	15 - 18	463,435	4.6344	28.4046	76.2298
Strong Two Clubs	2♣	21 - 24	41,915	0.4192	28.8237	71.5954
Weak Two	2♦	5 - 11	127,562	1.2756	30.0994	71.1763
	2♥	5 - 11	148,051	1.4805	31.5799	69.9006
	2♠	5 - 11	147,652	1.4765	33.0564	68.4201
	2NT	21 - 24	22,613	0.2261	33.2825	66.9436
Weak Two Ext	3♣	9 - 11	73,890	0.7389	34.0214	66.7175
Preempt	3♦	4 - 9	8,352	0.0835	34.1049	65.9786
	3♥	4 - 9	11,448	0.1145	34.2194	65.8951
	3♠	4 - 9	11,406	0.1141	34.3335	65.7806
	3NT	24 - 26	1,876	0.0188	34.3522	65.6665
	LONG	4 - 20	36,697	0.3670	34.7192	65.6478
	???		35,008	0.3501	35.0693	65.2808
	PASS	0 - 12	6,493,071	64.9307	100.0000	64.9307
	TOTAL		10,000,000	100.0000		

Some of the conclusions that can be drawn from these tables are:

- About 35% of your hands will qualify for an opening bid.
- About 28% of your hands will qualify for an opening bid at the one level. This means that about 80% of your opening bids will be at the one level.
- About 11% of your hands will qualify to open one in a major and about 12% of your hands will qualify to open one in a minor.
- About 4% of your hands will qualify for a weak two opening bid. If you use the weak two extension, this increases to about 5%.