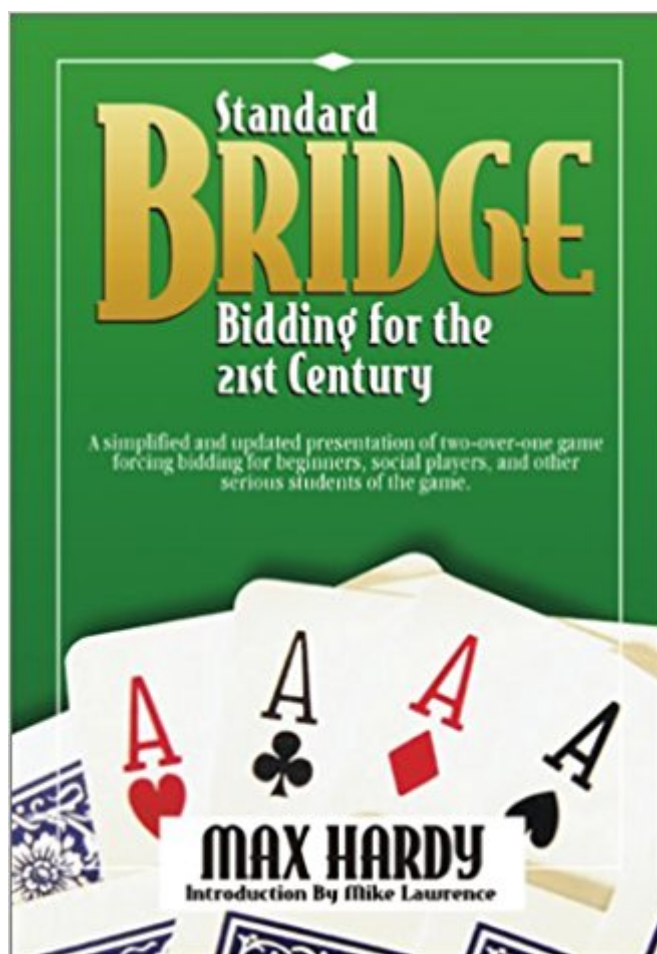


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Standard Bridge Bidding For The 21st Century



Synopsis

..an easy recommendation for all but experts as the new 2/1 reference manual. American Contract Bridge League Magazine.

Book Information

Paperback: 296 pages

Publisher: Vivisphere Publishing (October 9, 2000)

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Customer Reviews

A broad and comprehensive book that will turn a lot of not so accurate bidders into players... -- Mike Lawrence: World Champion and successful bridge author Max incorporates recent bridge bidding into the top system of the past 25 years... -- World Champion John Swanson The five card major reference book for the foreseeable future. -- Eddie Kantar: World Champion and successful bridge author

First published in 2000, this book is designed for bridge players who either want to advance from the Standard American bidding structure to 2/1, or who play 2/1 but want to improve their bidding results. Hardy starts out by discussing how to evaluate hands, focusing on how the location of honors and the "shape" of one's hand affects its quality. He moves forward with how being in 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th seat affects the decision of whether (and with what suit) to open, the importance of planning the re-bid before opening, how to handle hands that aren't "perfect", what kinds of bids are forcing, when to "reverse", and other situations. Hardy doesn't get to 2/1 responses until Chapter 4. This makes his book especially valuable in learning how and when to move forward following a bid from responder. He then moves forward to various bidding situations including the all-important forcing 1NT, jumps, splinters, invitations, cue, and other options. Common bidding conventions are

presented. We read how to continue when the opponents intrude with bids of their own, and when to make pre-emptive bids. Hardy also deals with intruding with bids of our own when the opponents have opened the bidding. The book covers 1NT opening bids and continuations. Slam bidding and basic slam conventions are covered. Every chapter has a summary of major points, and thorough examples are presented and discussed. The quizzes are invaluable for learning whether one has understood the topics. I recommend careful study of the book, with liberal use of notations, highlighting, and reminders throughout. The book should be studied carefully by every intermediate player who wants to improve his/her bidding, and kept as a reference for refreshing what should be common bidding understandings. Max Hardy's bidding approach is closely aligned with that of Marty Bergen in which hand "shape" is critical in trick-taking ability. This approach is in contrast to that of Mike Lawrence (another early 2/1 proponent), who is more "value" oriented. Furthermore, bidding "science" is a moving target that has advanced since this book was published. Nevertheless, I recommend careful study of the book, with liberal use of notations, highlighting, and reminders throughout. Unfortunately for the player, it eventually will be time to move on to Hardy's more advanced book, which treats the same topics but in a more advanced and subtle way. Thus, the book is but a stepping stone along one's bridge bidding path rather than a destination.

A little behind times for duplicate players. It is easy to get behind with all the yo-yos making up new stuff...

This book is often recommended as a standard for the 2/1 GF system. While its treatment of that specific subject is not the best, it's a great book for bidding. There are good treatments of how to think about the value of your hand beyond points, opening in 3rd/4th seat and good coverage of standard conventions like NMF and 4SF. Some of the organization is questionable, and you probably want to read up some other source on actual 2/1 sequences elsewhere, but as a whole, the book is definitely worth reading.

I found this to be an excellent book for me, an intermediate player using the Standard American approach to bidding. The style of writing is very clear with lots of examples. The style of writing is interesting and not at all dry. Although I have not finished reading it, I have picked up quite a few valuable tips which has helped to refine my bidding. Quite a few grey areas in my bidding have been highlighted and explained. This has helped me improve my game and get me extra points. The most notable example of this which I have read so far is how to determine whether to open 1 of a major

vs. opening 1 NT when you are dealt a five-card major, have a balanced hand and 15 to 17 points. I am looking forward to picking up some more good tips which I can share with my partner as I read further. A very worthwhile and interesting book to own which should be on every up-and-coming bridge player's bookshelf.

I, Lucille P., play Bridge several times per week -- including both Duplicate and "Party" Bridge. This book has improved my game, esp in Duplicate. While it is pretty "basic" in content, it has become a good reference for me.

Arguably the best book to use as your guide to standard (2/1 style) bidding in the United States. In his last work before his death, Max Hardy revised his classic text - 2 over 1 game force into two volumes. This book is the first volume which gives the basic system used by a large consensus of club players. The special material of the previous mentioned classic like Hardy raises are put into Volume 2 - Advanced Bidding for the 21st century which has various parts written by guests - like 2 way checkback (a major elaboration of new minor forcing convention). This second volume is important for advanced players who like scientific bidding.

Learned a lot

A definitive and readable instruction to modern bridge.

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