

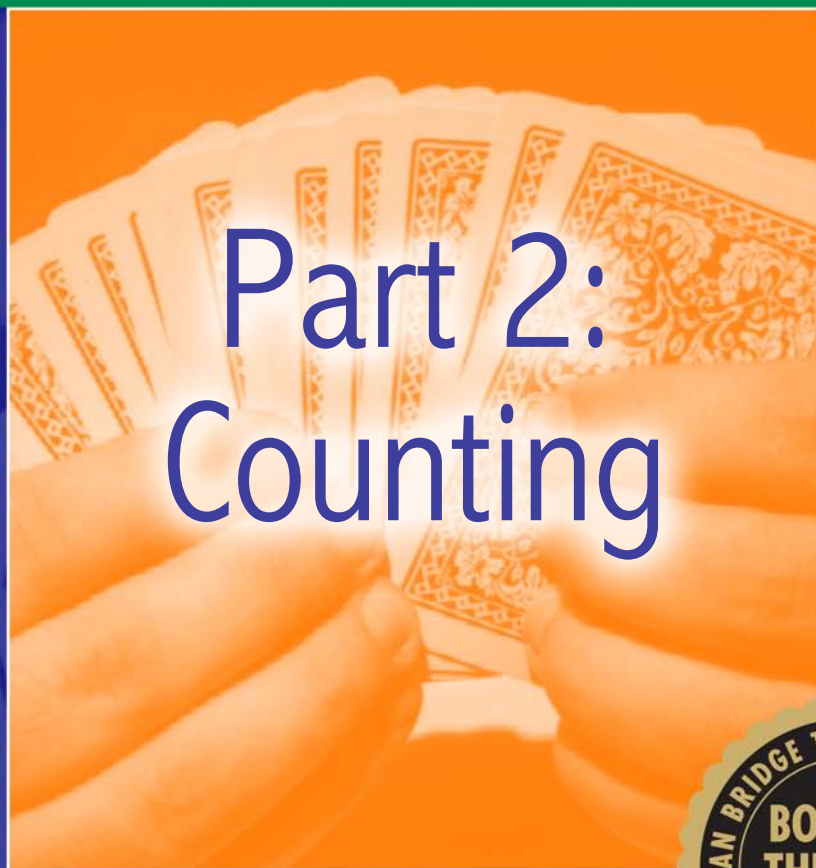


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EDDIE KANTAR TEACHES

Advanced Bridge Defense

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Part 2: Counting



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MASTER POINT PRESS
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I know that it is customary for the author to thank the people who have helped with the book you are about to read. I have two people I wish to thank: Ray Lee, the publisher, whose idea and patience (with me) made this book possible, and Yvonne Snyder, who read every word and told me in no uncertain terms when I wrote something that wasn't clear. Since Yvonne plays at the level at which this book is written, I made every change she suggested. If this book turns out to be a winner, it's because of these two people.

Eddie Kantar

Introduction

Hello again. I'm assuming that you have read (survived) the first book in this series, *Eddie Kantar teaches Modern Bridge Defense*. Well, whether you have or whether you haven't, prepare yourself for some advanced defensive techniques.

The emphasis in this book will be on defensive logic. Trump promotion, card combinations, deceptive play and most of all, counting. In fact, three whole chapters are devoted to counting: counting declarer's tricks, declarer's distribution and declarer's high card points, to be specific.

Having spent a lifetime teaching intermediate players, I can say with some authority that very few can count properly. (I guess if they could count, they wouldn't be intermediate players!) Some say that when they try to count, it slows down the game too much; others says they can't play and count at the same time; others don't think they can do it, so they won't even try. I'm going to ask you to try, because if you are not counting, you are playing a different game.

A warning. Once you start counting, your game will sink a bit. It's almost inevitable. One tends to forget about everything else and make more mistakes than ever. But once you master the basic counting skills, your game will improve so much that you won't even recognize the player you once were. The players you used to think were such hot shots are now suddenly looking human. You can do some of the same stuff they can. This book is going to help you think; it's going to help you count; it's going to turn you into a competent defensive player. But you must make a commitment to hang in there. Don't let me down on this one.

Eddie Kantar

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Counting Distribution

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Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

The opponents have bought the contract and you and partner are on defense. Declarer has an edge because once that dummy appears, she can see her partner's hand and make big-time plans. Your job is to try to thwart those plans (with partner's help, of course). But unless you do some counting (the dreaded word), even the best partner in the world can't save you from yourself.

There are three things you are supposed to count on defense during the play of the hand: (1) declarer's distribution, what this chapter is all about; (2) declarer's potential tricks and (3) declarer's HCP, what the next two chapters are all about.

The quicker you get a read on declarer's distribution, the easier it is to defend a hand without making mistakes. Players who don't count make many more defensive errors than players who do. That's a given.

WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN IN THIS CHAPTER:

- How to draw inferences from the opponents' bidding about their trump length and overall distribution
- How to use information from partner's opening lead to help you figure out the distribution
- How experts use count signals more effectively

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Eddie Kantar's various bridge books have sold hundreds of thousands of copies in ten languages, not least because of his unique style and the humor that he introduces into the learning process. *Advanced Bridge Defense* is intended to cover some of the more complex concepts of defense for the modern novice player, and will undoubtedly be a standard reference work and teaching tool for many years to come. The topics covered here (including defensive strategy, inferences, various ways of counting the hand, developing extra trump tricks, falsecarding, and lead-directing doubles) are handled so thoroughly that even more advanced players will benefit from studying this book.

Designed to be used by students learning on their own or by bridge teachers, this book contains a host of features that help the reader to grasp the material: clearly laid-out concepts, margin notes, practice hands, chapter-end quizzes, key-point summaries at regular intervals, and an index. This book covers more advanced topics than its companion, *Eddie Kantar teaches Modern Bridge Defense*.

Praise for *Eddie Kantar teaches Modern Bridge Defense* and *Eddie Kantar teaches Advanced Bridge Defense*:

'Defensive play has never been explained better'

BOBBY GOLDMAN, four-time World Champion

'Kantar tackles the hardest part of the game and wins hands down'

ZIA MAHMOOD, World Life Master

'These two books are to defensive play what Watson's 'Play of the Hand' is to declarer play'

PAUL SOLOWAY, three-time World Champion
and ACBL all-time leading master point holder

Eddie Kantar is a professional bridge player, writer, and teacher, and has been inducted into the Bridge Hall of Fame. He has been World Champion twice, and has won thirteen North American Championship titles. Among his many books are *Defensive Bridge Play Complete*, *Introduction to Defender's Play*, *Bridge for Dummies* and *Roman Key Card Blackwood*. He writes regularly for numerous bridge magazines around the world, and is a frequent host on bridge cruises. He lives in Santa Monica, CA.



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