



Eddie Kantar

**TEST YOUR
BRIDGE PLAY
VOLUME 2**

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INTRODUCTION

This book was not designed for expert players. However, nobody will ever become an expert until they can handle the types of hands that are presented here.

The hands are designed for players who would like to improve their play of the cards relatively painlessly.

Most of the problems have mates. In other words you will have more than one opportunity to grapple with an end play or an avoidance play. In fact the book was written with just that in mind—seeing if the reader can learn to RECOGNIZE hand types as he sifts through the book.

At the end of this book each problem will be categorized by its central theme or themes.

What the reader should do is carefully mark which problems have given him trouble. He should then check to see if they have a central theme. In that way he will determine which areas need to be stressed.

These problems contain NO catches. They are all straightforward. The reader is asked to forget temporarily the word “overtricks”. Just worry about making the contract. Do not get greedy. Play each hand as safely as possible.

It has always been my feeling that most players who rush into tournament bridge because it is more fun and/or social than rubber bridge have missed out on the fundamental nature of the play of the cards.

Rubber bridge or money players do not worry about overtricks—neither do Team of Four players. They only think in terms of making their contract. It is a good habit to form. Later you can start worrying about overtricks.

The bidding is fairly straightforward. Anytime a convention, even a simple one like Stayman, is used, it is noted.

As at the table, one should pay particular attention to what the opponents have or have not bid. Original passes are important as are opening leads and the subsequent revelation of honor card holdings in the opponents' hands. It is assumed that the defenders are leading fourth best and king from ace-king.

You can feel you are making progress if you err on a particular theme the first time that type of hand appears, but pick it up when it reappears. It will reappear—not to haunt you—to help you.

Finally, if you have a friend and/or a partner who is tired of going down in cold contracts, give him/her this book. You couldn't do them a bigger favor—he said modestly.

Edwin Kantar

(1) FIRST THINGS FIRST

East-West vulnerable
Dealer South

North

♠ A
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ A Q 3 2
♣ K Q J 5

South

♠ Q J 10 9 8 7 6
♥ A 6 5
♦ 4
♣ 8 6

South
3 ♠

West
Pass

North
4 ♠

East
All Pass

Opening lead: ♥ K

East plays the deuce. What is your plan?

BECOME A BETTER DECLARER — AND EDDIE KANTAR PROMISES IT WILL BE RELATIVELY PAINLESS!

The problems in this book are not for experts — they are, however, for anyone whose ambition is to become a better bridge player. The problems involve the everyday cardplay maneuvers you have to master if you are going to improve as a declarer.

As you work through this book, you will encounter more than one example of each theme — endplay, avoidance play, etc. This is intentional — it is important to recognize these situations, and by the end of the book you will be able to do just that. You are making progress if you get a problem wrong the first time a theme appears, but spot it the next time it comes around.

And if you have a friend who consistently goes down in cold contracts, you could not do him/her a better favor than to give them a copy of this book.



EDDIE KANTAR (Santa Monica) is one of the world's best-known and best-loved bridge writers. He is a World and National champion, and has been inducted into the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame.

