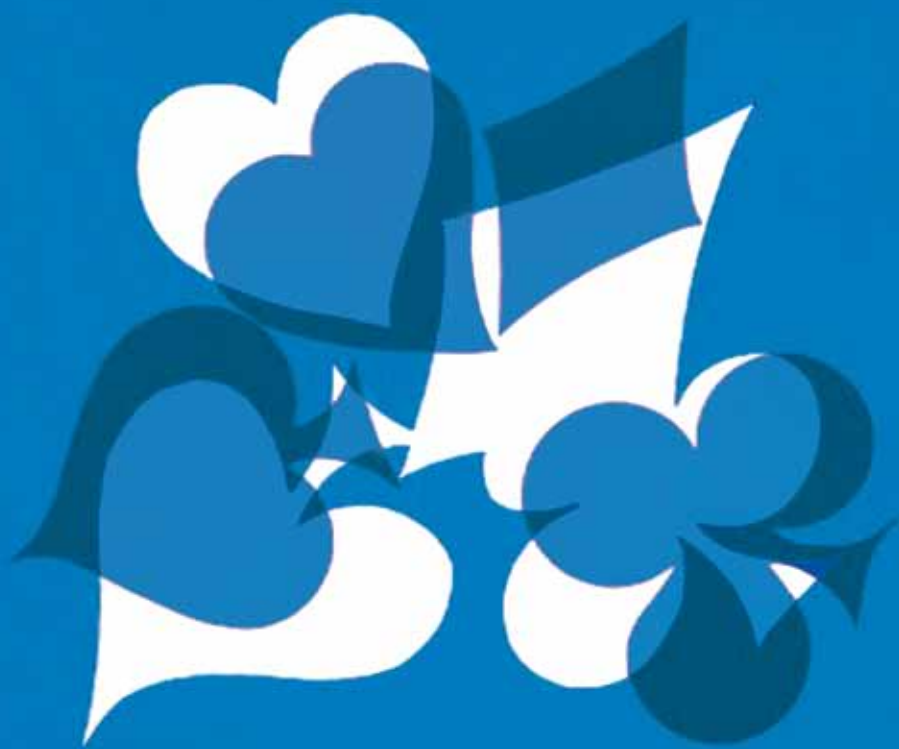


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

SERIOUS 3NT

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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Master Point Press

331 Douglas Ave.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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Email: info@masterpointpress.com

www.masterpointpress.com

www.bridgeblogging.com

www.teachbridge.com

www.ebooksbridge.com

ISBN: 978-1-77140-538-6 (PDF)

978-1-77140-688-8 (EPUB)

978-1-77140-850-9 (MOBI)

Editing: Patty Tucker, Shaleen Baze and Frances Davis

Layout: Natalie Hynson

Cover Design: Olena S. Sullivan/New Mediatrix

eBooklet on Slam Bidding Conventions

Serious 3NT

Cuebidding Controls

Roman Key Card Blackwood (with Specific Kings)

Kickback Key Card (Kickback)

These booklets may be purchased as a single volume in digital or paper format under the title *Slam Bidding Conventions*, one of eight books in Patty Tucker's Winning Bridge Conventions Series.

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Serious 3NT

Serious 3NT

Originally devised by Eric Rodwell, Serious 3NT is a bid used predominately in 2/1 auctions when you and partner:

- Have discovered a fit in a major suit;
- Are at the three level (or, by partnership agreement, at the two level in a 2/1 auction); and
- One or both of you have not limited your hand to a specific range of points.

The idea behind the concept is that in many 2/1 auctions you and partner know that you have enough for game but don't know:

- The exact limit (in either high card point strength or distribution) of partner's hand;
- Are unsure about bidding slam; or
- Trying to reach slam.

Serious 3NT gives you the chance to tell partner whether, given the auction, you "like" or "don't like" your hand for slam. Serious 3NT can be bid by responder or by opener.

This is the way it works. After you and partner have discovered a major fit and both know that you are bidding at least to the game level:

- Bidding the next bid in the bidding ladder directly above your major suit (3NT if your suit is spades; 3♠ if your suit is hearts) shows stronger hands (hand that you “like”) and asks partner to cuebid an Ace;
- Direct bids of a new suit (other than spades over hearts) are cuebids of a control (an Ace) and are weaker hands (hands that you “don’t like”); and
- Direct bids to game in your major suit deny an Ace to cuebid and show minimum hands (hands that you “don’t like”).

You will know that you and partner have committed to game in auctions where:

- Jacoby 2NT has been bid;
- A raise of opener’s major suit followed a 2/1 auction;
- A fourth suit forcing bid followed by raise of partner’s major suit;
- You and partner have bid and raised spades and then either opener or responder bids 3NT over a bid of 3♠; or
- You and partner have bid and raised hearts and then either opener or responder bids 3♠ over a bid of 3♥.

An example of an auction:

North **South**

1♥

2♣

2♥

3♥

?

- A bid of 3♠ by North would say, “Given the auction I like my hand. Partner (South) cuebid an ace (a control)”.
- A bid of 3NT by North would say, “Partner I have the ♠A but given the auction my hand is weak. I don’t like my hand.” (Note that this bid would not deny any other aces.)
- A bid of 4♦ by North would say, “Partner I have the ♦A but given the auction my hand is weak. I don’t like my hand”. (Note that this bid would deny the ♠A and the ♣A.)

Another example:

<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
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1♠	2♥
----	----

3♥	?
----	---

- A bid of 3♠ by South would say, “Given the auction I like my hand”. Partner (North) cuebid a control.
- A bid of 3NT by South would say, “Partner I have the ♠A but given the auction my hand is weak. I don’t like my hand”. (Note that this bid would not deny any other aces.)
- A bid of 4♦ by South would say, “Partner I have the ♦A but given the auction my hand is weak. I don’t like my hand”. (Note that this bid would deny the ♠A and the ♣A.)

Another example:

North

South

1♦

1♥

1♠

2♣*

*Fourth Suit Forcing.

2N

3♠**

**Raising spades this way,
South shows interest in slam.

- A bid of 3NT by North would say, “Given the auction I also like my hand. Partner (South) cuebid a control”.
- A bid of 4♦ by North would say, “Partner I have the ♦A but given the auction my hand is weak. I don’t like my hand”. (Note that this bid would deny the ♣A.)

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Serious 3NT

Bridge students quickly discover that ‘basic’ bidding’ will only get them so far. If they really want to improve, it is necessary to master a certain number of bidding conventions, and be prepared both to play them and play against them. This ebooklet covers the Serious 3NT convention.



PATTY TUCKER (Dunwoody, Georgia) is an ABTA Master Bridge Teacher and cofounder of Whirlwind Bridge and Atlanta Junior Bridge. Her success at the bridge table culminated in her victory in the 2000 Baldwin Flight A North American Open Pairs with long-time bridge partner Kevin Collins. Patty and Kevin were married in 2006.