

## Combined Strength Count

Combined strength count is the brain of the Orient Bidding System. In association with artificial limit opening bids and formula style of bidding, it provides a unique opportunity for precise and targeted bidding by transforming the complex art of bidding into a simple scientific process. It eliminates the age-old controversy as to what should and should not have been the correct bid thereby fostering greater partnership harmony. Orient Bidding System is probably one of the most friendly system. As you will come to know yourself, playing contract bridge has never been so easy and enjoyable as with the Orient Bidding System.

### Why Combined Strength Count?

- The playable contract level is directly related to the combined strength holding. Bidding without the knowledge of combined strength count is like sailing on a dark night without the North Star or a lighthouse to serve as direction giving guide.
- Knowledge of first round combined strength count allows a partnership to assess in the very first round of bidding whether there is a part score, game or a slam.
- Combined strength count enables a partnership to know when to, and when not to apply the brakes.
- Combined strength count places a partnership in a commanding position with powers to dictate their own terms. If you know the combined strength then the opponents can neither steal a contract from you nor can they push you overboard. You know exactly where you stand, what you have to do and what you are capable of doing.

The Orient Bidding System's opening bids are artificial and point showing with a very narrow margin. Once the opener shows the full strength of the hand through the opening bid, the responder counts his/her high card points and adds to the minimum points shown by the opening bid. The total, barring extra values (one singleton/void), shows the full strength of the combined hands. The responder then takes a decision as regards the approximate playable level on the basis of the Combined Strength Scale.

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