



Presents:

CONTROL BIDDING

Control Bidding is an important tool we can use to investigate the possibilities of playing Slam, at relatively low levels.

When can we make a control bid?

RULES: We will only make control bids when **all three** of the below conditions are met.

- 1. We are committed to game.**
- 2. We have established a fit.**
- 3. We want to explore Slam.**

What is a control bid? When all of the above conditions are met, any new suit will show 1st round control in the suit bid. 1st round control means that the 1st time the suit in question is led, we can win the trick. 1st round control can mean one of two things;

- 1. The Ace in the suit we're bidding**
- 2. A Void in the suit we're bidding**

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface. At the top left, a 'Bidding Board 11' is displayed with a 'D' below it. To the right, a hand for player 'N scubapro' is shown with 7 cards. Below this, a bidding log table shows the following bids:

WEST	scubapr	EAST	nycpro
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	2♥

At the bottom, the hand for player 'S nycpro' is shown with 5 cards: A♠, 3♠, A♥, K♥, Q♥, 5♥, 4♥, 3♥, K♣, 6♣, 3♣, A♦, Q♦. To the right of the hand is a bidding box with 'Pass' selected, and buttons for 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. An 'Alert' button is also present.

Take a look at the hand above. Can we make a control bid with this hand? What would you bid?

Bidding Board 11
D

N scubapro 7

WEST	scubapr	EAST	nycpro
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	

W West Robot

E East Robot

S nycpro 5

Pass
3 4 5 6 7
Alert

Yes we can and should make a control bid

We are committed to Game.

We have established a fit.

We have the desire to explore Slam.

Choose your next bid below

4♥

3♠

4♦

4NT

Bidding Board 11

D

N scubapro 7

WEST	scubapro	EAST	nycpro
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	

3♠

W West Robot

E East Robot

S nycpro 5

Pass

3 4 5 6 7

Alert

RULES:

1. When we decide to make a control bid, but have more than one control, we always bid the control that is at the lowest available level.
2. Bidding the trump suit will never show control in that suit. In fact, returning to the trump suit shows no controls below that bid.

The bid of 3 Spades, with the hand to the left, follows the rules. We have 3 controls to show, but we always have to start with the lowest available control. If we decided to bid 4 Diamonds, we would in fact be denying a control in the Spade suit. The bid of 4 Hearts would deny the ability to show a control.

After our 3 Spade control bid, our partner bids 4 Clubs.

This is another control bid.

Partner is showing 1st round control in the Club suit.

Whenever we start a control bidding sequence, any other, **non-trump suit**, bid will show a control in that suit. (and the desire to play slam)

If partner didn't have a control or, lacked the desire to continue to explore slam, they would have returned to the trump suit. (4 Hearts)

The interface shows a bidding board with the following elements:

- Bidding Board 11** (top left)
- D** (top center)
- N scubapro 7** (top right)
- WEST scubapr** and **EAST nycpro** (middle left and right)
- Pass 2♦**, **Pass 2♥**, **Pass 3♥**, **Pass 3♠**, **Pass 4♣**, **Pass** (middle table)
- W West Robot** and **E East Robot** (bottom left and right)
- S nycpro 5** (bottom center)
- Pass** (bottom right)
- 4 5 6 7** (bottom right)
- Alert** (bottom right)

The hand for South (nycpro) is shown at the bottom: ♠A3, ♥AKQ543, ♣K63, ♦AQ.

MAKE YOUR NEXT CALL



4♥

4♦

4NT

The cool thing about control bidding at low levels, is that it frequently gives us the best of all worlds.

We could bid 4NT with this hand, but we still have room below 4NT to make a control bid. Why not use it?

After 4 Diamonds our partner bids 4 Spades. What could this be showing?

RULE:

The 2nd control bid in a suit will show 2nd round control of that suit.

So the 4 Spade bid by partner is showing 2nd round control in the Spade suit.

2nd Round Control

Is either a protected King or a singleton

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface with the following elements:

- Bidding Board 11:** A board with 11 empty slots. Below it, North (N) is 'scubapro' with a score of 7.
- Hand Distribution:**
 - West (W) is 'Robot' with 13 cards.
 - East (E) is 'Robot' with 13 cards.
 - South (S) is 'nycpro' with 5 cards: A♠, 3♠, A♥, K♥, Q♥, 5♥, 4♥, 3♥, K♣, 6♣, 3♣, A♦, Q♦.
- Bidding Log:**

WEST	scubapr	EAST	nycpro
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	
- Controls:** A 'Pass' button and a '4 5 6 7' button are visible. An 'Alert' box is also present.

MAKE YOUR NEXT CALL

So, here's what we know so far;

- Partner has 1st round control in Clubs
- Partner has 2nd round control in Spades

What else do we need to discover?

How do we get the information we need?

It looks like all we need to know now is whether partner has 2nd round control of Diamonds.

We get that information by giving partner the chance to show this control.

We actually have two ways to do this;

1. We can go through Keycard
 - Bid 4NT 1st then 5NT to ask for Kings
2. We can simply continue our control bidding sequence

We continue by showing 2nd round control in Clubs and this allows partner to show 2nd round control in Diamonds 😊

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface with the following elements:

- Bidding Board 11:** A board with 11 columns, labeled 'D' (Diamonds).
- North (N):** Player 'scubapro' has a bid of 7.
- West (W):** Player 'Robot' has a hand of 13 cards.
- East (E):** Player 'Robot' has a hand of 13 cards.
- Bidding Log:** A table showing the bidding sequence for West and East.
- South (S):** Player 'nycpro' has a hand of 13 cards and a bid of 5.
- Alerts:** A panel with 'Pass' selected, and buttons for '5', '6', and '7'. An 'Alert' field is also present.

	WEST	scubap	EAST	nycpro
	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
	Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
	Pass	5♦	Pass	

South (S) nycpro 5

Alert:

MAKE YOUR NEXT CALL

D
Bidding Board 11

S scubapro **7**

EAST	scubapro	WEST	nycpro
	2♣	Pass	2♦
	Pass	2♥	Pass

E East Robot

W West Robot

N nycpro **5**

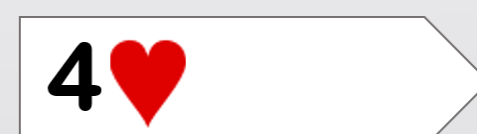
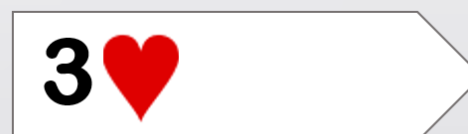
10♥ 7♥ 6♥ 2♥ K♠ 9♠ 8♠ 5♠ 2♠ K♦ J♦ 10♦ 9♦

Pass
2 3 4 5 6 7
Alert

Before we get to our final contract, let's look at this problem from the other side of the table.

Our partner has opened 2 Clubs, we've responded the obligatory 2 Diamonds and now partner bids 2 Hearts.

Choose Your Call from the options below;



D Bidding Board 11

S scubapro 7

EAST	scubapro	WEST	nycpro
	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	

E East Robot

W West Robot

N nycpro 5

10♥ 7♥ 6♥ 2♥ K♠ 9♠ 8♠ 5♠ 2♠ K♦ J♦ 10♦ 9♦

Pass 3 4 5 6 7

Alert

Remember, we can not begin to control bid until we've established a fit

We bid 3 Hearts with this hand because we actually have a lot of extra values, and we know we have a good Heart fit. If we bid 4 Hearts, we would be showing a very weak hand, that just has enough for game opposite partner's strength.

Partner next bids 3 Spades. What is that bid?

Let's see.....

Are we in a game forcing auction? **YES**

Have we established a fit? **YES**

This must be a control bid!! Now we also know that partner has interest in playing Slam. (She would have simply bid 4 Hearts with no Slam interest)

YOUR CALL NEXT

D
Bidding Board 11

S scubapro **7**

	EAST	scubapr	WEST	nycpro
		2♣	Pass	2♦
		Pass	2♥	Pass
		Pass	3♠	Pass
		Pass	4♦	Pass
		Pass	4♣	Pass

E East **Robot**

W West **Robot**

N nycpro **5**

10♥ 7♥ 6♥ 2♥ K♠ 9♠ 8♠ 5♠ 2♠ K♦ J♦ 10♦ 9♦

Pass
4 5 6 7
Alert

Now that partner has made their control bid, we can assess our hand. The question we should always ask is; Do we think we have a chance to play slam?

Our partner has 22+ points and, by making a control bid, shows an interest in exploring slam. Our hand is outstanding because of our fit and our shape. We want to cooperate with our partner in the pursuit of slam. We do this by showing a control of our own.

We have a 1st round control on this hand, and it's in Clubs. Remember, a void is just as good (usually better) than an Ace of a suit. We show this to partner by bidding 4 Clubs. We are communicating our interest in slam as well.

MAKE YOUR NEXT CALL

D
Bidding Board 11

S scubapro **7**

EAST	scubapr	WEST	nycpro
2♣	Pass	2♦	
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	

E East **Robot**

W West **Robot**

N nycpro **5**

10♥ 7♥ 6♥ 2♥ K♠ 9♠ 8♠ 5♠ 2♠ K♦ J♦ 10♦ 9♦

Pass
5 6 7
Alert

MAKE YOUR NEXT CALL

Our partner has shown another control in Diamonds, so what now?

Both of partner's control bids look really good with our hand. They have shown 1st round control of two suits that we have 2nd round control in 😊

Here we can continue our description by bidding 4 Spades!

RULE:

The 2nd control bid in a suit will show 2nd round control of that suit.

Our partner already showed 1st round control of Spades, so our 4 Spade bid should be showing 2nd round control at this point. Notice we also have 2nd round control of Diamonds, but Spades is the lowest available bid

D
Bidding Board 11

S scubapro **7**

EAST	scubap	WEST	nycpro
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass			

E East Robot

W West Robot

N nycpro **5**

10♥ 7♥ 6♥ 2♥ K♠ 9♠ 8♠ 5♠ 2♠ K♦ J♦ 10♦ 9♦

Now we simply complete the description of our hand. The only thing left to tell partner is our 2nd round control of the Diamond Suit.

We do this by bidding 5 Diamonds.

Tip: Don't rush these situations. We could have bid 6 Hearts a long time ago, but why not use the room to investigate even greater possibilities.

Now back to our final bid....

The final bid was
7 Hearts!!

After North's 5
Diamond bid, the
South hand has
enough to give this
Grand Slam a shot.

Looks like our
control bidding got
us to a terrific
Grand Slam!!

Bidding Board 11

N scubapro 7

WEST	scubapro	EAST	nycpro
P	3♥	P	3♠
P	4♣	P	4♦
P	4♠	P	5♣
P	5♦	P	7♥
P	P	P	P

9 8
♥ ♥

J 7 6
♠ ♠ ♠

4 3 2
♦ ♦ ♦

Q J 10 8 7
♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

W West Robot

E East Robot

A K Q 5 4 3 A 3 A Q K 6 3
♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♠ ♠ ♦ ♦ ♣ ♣ ♣

S nycpro 5

7♥ S NS 0 EW 0

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