

L'ÉCUYER – MARCIŃSKI

Superchart Pre-Alerts & Suggested Defenses

Opening bid summary

1♣ = if BAL then any reasonable \geq ~17 HCP's (\geq 16 at FAV and \geq 18 at UNFAV)
 = else ~16⁺ but on marginal strength UNBAL hands likely \geq 5 "A-K points" (A = 2; K = 1)

1♦ = in all seats either

- (a) 2-5 (perhaps 6 if poor) ♦'s with 10⁺-13 HCP (but 13-15 HCP at FAV vulnerability and 12-14 at UNFAV vulnerability) in a BAL hand (we *tend not* to treat (5422) or 6m(322) patterns as balanced), < 1♣ opening (in terms of strength) and wrong range to open 1N in this position and vulnerability, or
- (b) 0-5 (perhaps 6 if poor) ♦'s in an UNB hand without a decent 6m (except in 3rd/4th seat if 4M6♦) if marginal (i.e. MIN strength) likely \geq 3 "A-K points" (A =2; K =1) but < 1♣ opening (may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in long suit(s), and location and "mesh" of high cards)
- (c) may have 55m's

We may choose to Pass on marginal (i.e. MIN strength) hands that fit our opening bid requirements yet present awkward rebid problems should Responder bid 1♠ (showing 4⁺♥'s), e.g. 42(25) or 4144 or 41(35).

We may also choose to open 1♦ in lieu of 1♣ on marginal strength (say 16-17 HCP) if we have an awkward rebid – eg 1444 or (31)45 or 14(35) or 04(45) where the stiff is not an honor and the 5-card suit is mediocre

1♥ = in 1st, 2nd, and 4th (almost all of the time) promises

- (a) \geq 5♥'s (with a MIN or poor ♣/♦, may have longer ♣/♦'s),
VUL with 3415, 4414 or 4405 we can open 1♥
[but we have no means to disclose this divergence from the assumed norm]
- (b) if marginal (i.e. MIN strength) then likely \geq 3 "A-K points" (A =2; K =1),
- (c) denies sufficient strength to open 1♣ instead – ergo ~9-16 HCP,
- (d) may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in long suit(s), and location and "mesh" of high cards

= in 3rd seat could be light, lead-directional, and based on a good 4-card suit

1♠ = in 1st, 2nd, and 4th (almost all of the time) promises

- (a) \geq 5♠'s (with a MIN or poor ♣/♦/♥, may have longer ♣/♦/♥'s),
- (b) if marginal opening bid strength then likely \geq 3 "A-K points" (A =2; K =1),
- (c) denies sufficient strength to open 1♣ instead – ergo ~9-16 HCP,
- (d) may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in long suit(s), and location and "mesh" of high cards

= in 3rd seat could be light, lead-directional, and based on a good 4-card suit

1NT = at FAV (1st & 2nd), shows 10-12 HCP
 = at EQUAL (always) & FAV (3rd & 4th), shows 14-16 HCP (occasional upgrading of 13⁺)
 = at UNFAV (always), shows 15-17 HCP (occasional upgrading of 14⁺)

- (a) we routinely have 5M(332), even if weak doubleton
- (b) we routinely have 5m(422), even if both doubletons are weak
- (c) at Opener's discretion may have 5M4m or (54)m's pattern, but rarely (54)M's
- (d) with 6m(322) we will usually prefer to open 2m, unless the m is of poor quality
- (e) in 1st and 2nd may have 4144/31(54)/41(53) pattern irrespective of the quality of the ♥ singleton (again anticipating an awkward rebid problem after a 1♠ response to the alternative 1♦ opening bid)
- (f) in 3rd and 4th may have 1444/13(54)/14(53) pattern irrespective of the quality of the ♠ singleton (again anticipating an awkward rebid problem after a 1♠ response to the alternative 1♦ opening bid)
- (g) singleton H's (particularly K) are not uncommon, though usually w/o 5M unless 5=3=(4=1)

2♣ = in 1st, 2nd and 4th seat promises

- (a) ≥ 6♣'s
- (b) if only 6♣'s then at least moderate (≥ QT9xxx) strength/texture – else we will open 1♦ instead (whether BAL or UNB) or 1N (or Pass or stretch to open 1♣)
- (c) may have any side suit pattern, including 4 or even 5M/♠, but ♦'s will be the longest suit
- (d) if marginal opening bid strength then likely ≥ 3 “A-K points” (A =2; K =1),
- (e) denies sufficient strength to open 1♣ instead – ergo ~9-16 HCP,
- (f) may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in ♣'s, and location and “mesh” of high cards

= in 3rd seat could be light, lead-directional, and based on a good 5-card suit
 = in 3rd and 4th seat, denies 4M

2♦ = in 1st, 2nd and 4th seat promises

- (a) ≥ 6♦'s
- (b) if only 6♦'s then at least moderate (≥ QT9xxx) strength/texture – else we will open 1♦ instead (whether BAL or UNB) or 1N (or Pass or stretch to open 1♣)
- (c) may have any side suit pattern (including 4/5M other than in 4th seat) yet < 5♣'s, but ♦'s will be the longest suit (but with full opening bid values in 3rd/4th seat denies 4⁺M)
- (d) if marginal opening bid strength then likely ≥ 3 “A-K points” (A =2; K =1),
- (e) denies sufficient strength to open 1♣ instead – ergo ~9-16 HCP,
- (f) may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in ♦'s, and location and “mesh” of high cards

= in 3rd seat could be light, lead-directional, and based on a good 5-card suit
 = in 3rd and 4th seat, denies 4M

2M = promises

- (a) usually 6M's (may be 5 at FAV and 7 at UNFAV)
- (b) “classic” (i.e. seat and VUL) suit quality and strength considerations
- (c) may have any side suit pattern, including 4M or 5m
- (d) 6-10⁺ HCP (might be slightly shaded at FAV vulnerability)

= in 3rd seat, it's “anything goes”

2NT = promises xy(55) with 7+-11⁻ HCP, values tend to be concentrated in *m*'s (ergo an initial Pass does not preclude this shape)

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defense req'd)

4NT = a strong 5-level opening in either ♣ or ♦ (10⁺ tricks), stronger than direct 5*m*, F[5*m*]

Mandatory ACBL pre-approved defense (copy provided at the table)

After we open 1♣*

After any GF positive response, relay ("tell me more") options are available, with captaincy residing either with Opener or with Responder.

Should you engage in delayed interference:

(a) directly over the Captain/Asker, relays are off after 3⁺ step interference

(b) indirectly over Puppet/Teller's response, relays are off after a 2⁺ step interference

Immediate response structure (ACBL General Convention Chart, ergo no defenses req'd):

- 1♦ = 0-7 (8 if FAV) HCP's, F1
- 1♥ = GF, either (i) any 5⁺♠ or (ii) 8-10/14-16 HCP's w/ BAL (no 5M)
- 1♠ = GF, either (i) any 5⁺♥ or (ii) 8-10/14-16 HCP's w/ (A) 3-suited (no 5M) or (B) 55m's
- 1NT = GF, BAL (no 5M) and 11-13/17+ HCP's
- 2♣ = GF, either (i) any 6⁺♦'s or (ii) 6♣4any (8-10/14-16)
- 2♦ = GF, 6⁺♣ other than 6♣4any (8-10/14-16)
- 2♥ = GF, 11-13/17+ HCP's, 3-suited (no 5M), short ♥'s
- 2♠ = GF, 11-13/17+ HCP's, 3-suited (no 5M), short ♠'s
- 2NT = GF, 11-13/-17+ HCP's, 3-suited (no 5M), short ♦'s
- 3♣ = GF, 11-13/17+ HCP's, 3-suited (no 5M), 5♦'s + short ♣'s
- 3♦ = GF, 11-13/17+ HCPs, 4=4=4=1♣
- 3♥ = GF, 11-13/17+ HCP's, L=S=5⁺♦5⁺♣
- 3♠ = GF, 11-13/17+ HCP's, S=L=5⁺♦5⁺♣
- 3NT = GF, 11-13/17+ HCP's, V=L=5⁺♦5⁺♣
- 4any = GF, Xfer, < 8 HCP, 8⁺ suit

After we open 1♦***(1♦*) - P - (1♥*)**

1♥ = (a) by UPH it's artificial, F1, 4⁺ ♠'s [may have a longer lower suit, including ♥'s];
(b) natural by PH

→ Opener's 1♠ rebid (if RHO is silent) = 4♥, denies 4♠'s, and is NF

Suggested defense (UPH): X = take-out of ♠'s, equal/longer ♦'s
 1♠ = take-out of ♠'s, longer ♣'s
 2♥ = natural
 Others = whatever it would've meant after a natural 1♠ response

(1♦*) - P - (1♠*)

1♠ = (a) by UPH it's artificial, F1, 4⁺ ♥'s;
(b) natural by PH

Suggested defense (UPH): X = take-out of ♥'s
 2♠ = natural, good hand [not preemptive as if over 1♦ - (P) - 1♥ natural]
 Others = whatever it would've meant after a natural 1♠ response

(1♦*) - P - (1NT*)

1N = NF, denies 4M, tends to have a higher upper limit than in Std. American (~ poor 11)

(1♦*) - P - (2♣*)

2♣ = by UPH it's
 (a) artificial, GF+
 (b) no restrictions as to pattern, but unlikely to have a self-SPL in any suit
 (c) initially commences a relay sequence where Opener describes his hand
 (d) Responder can break relay chain to opt into a natural dialogue mode

Suggested defense (UPH):

X = ♣'s
 2N = two-suiter, typically m's
 Others = natural

N.B. Should you interfere:

- (a) directly over the Captain/Asker, relays are off after 3⁺ step interference
 (b) indirectly over Puppet/Teller's response, relays are off after a 2⁺ step interference

= by PH it's 7⁺-10 HCP's and 6♣'s (or 5♣ w/ 2⁺TH)

(1♦*) - P - (2♦*)

- 2♦ = by UPH it's F1, ambiguous strength (we assume < INV) w/ either
 (a) < INV (app. 5-9) and 4♠5⁺♥ [1♦ Opener assumes this]
 (b) INV (10⁺-13) w/
 (i) anti-positional BAL (< 4M (but possible if judged best description), may be 22(54)), or
 (ii) good INV (10⁺-13), 31(54) or xx/xx/(54)

Suggested defense:

If UPH: your defence to Flannery 2♦ opening bid
 direct actions are very sound
 w/ less, pass and find out if Responder is weak

If PH:
 2♥ = m's, longer ♣'s
 2♠ = m's, longer ♦'s
 2NT = m's, equal length

= by PH it's 7⁺-10 HCP's and 6♦'s (or 5♦ w/ 2⁺TH)

(1♦*) - P - (2♥*)

- 2♥ = by UPH it's F[2♠], always INV, showing
 (a) 6♠ (usually < 1-loser suit) and denies < 4♥ (but possible if judged best description)
 (b) 6⁺♣ (denies 4M – but may have if judged best description)

Suggested defense:

Pass, then simple	= weaker then direct action
Pass, then jump	= strong
X	= 5 ⁺ ♥'s, unlimited [N.B. direct 3♥ = preemptive]
2♠	= natural
2NT	= Michaels [M's]
3♣	= 4♠5 ⁺ ♥
3♦	= 5 ⁺ ♠4♥
3M	= preemptive
Others	= natural

= by PH it's 31(54)/LS55 and 8-10 HCP's

Suggested defense:

X	= ♥'s
2NT	= 55 M's
3♣	= M's, longer ♥'s
3♦	= M's, longer ♠'s
Others	= natural

(1♦*) - P - (2♠*)

2♠ = by UPH it's F[2NT/3♦], ambiguous strength (we assume < INV), showing 6⁺♦, denies 4M (but possible if judged best description), and either

(a) < INV

(b) INV (denies AKQ 7th)

Suggested defense:

P then X/2NT = 16+ BAL or quasi-BAL, invites Pass or 3/4M

P then X/3m = T/O, any strength

P then 3♦ = Michaels (M's), lighter than direct 3♦

P then 3♣/3M = natural, < direct 3M

X = ♠'s

3♦ = Michaels (M's), sound values

Others = natural, sound (with less, P then bid)

= by PH it's 13(54)/SL55 and 8-10 HCP's

(1♦*) - P - (2NT)

2NT = by UPH it's NF, INV, positional BAL, denies 22(54) or 4M (possible if judged best description)

= by PH it's 55m's, and 4-7 HCP's (if stronger the flawed for initial 2N opening bid)

(1♦*) - P - (3♣*)

3♣ = by UPH it's NF, INV (9⁺-13), SPL[♠] with (54)/55m's

Suggested defense:

X = T/O (other than Michaels (M's)), sound values (since we have app. 20 HCPs)

3♦ = Michaels (M's)

3M = natural

3NT = T/P

4♣ = M's, longer ♥'s (46/56)

4♦ = M's, longer ♠'s (64/65)

4M = natural

= by PH it's natural, NF, preemptive

(1♦*) - P - (3♦*)

3♦ = by UPH it's NF, light INV (9⁺-12), 55m's with SPL[♥]

Suggested defense:

X = Michaels (M's)
 3M = natural
 3NT = T/P
 4♣ = M's, longer ♥'s (46/56)
 4♦ = M's, longer ♠'s (64/65)
 4M = natural

(1♦*) - P - (3♥*)

3♥ = by UPH it's F[3NT/4m], 12-14⁺ HCP's and at least 55 m's,

Suggested defense:

X = ♥'s
 3♠ = natural
 3NT = Michaels (M's)
 4♣ = M's, longer ♥'s (46/56)
 4♦ = M's, longer ♠'s (64/65)
 4M = natural

= by a PH it's natural, NF, preemptive

(1♦*) - P - (3♠*)

3♠ = by UPH it's F[3N/4m], AKQ 7th in either m w/ no side A/K

Suggested defense:

P, then X = transferable values, strong NT or better strength, BAL or quasi-BAL
 X = ♠'s, but not enough to venture 4♠ directly
 3NT = Michaels (M's), equal length
 4♣ = M's, longer ♥'s (46/56)
 4♦ = M's, longer ♠'s (64/65)
 4M = natural, NF

= by a PH it's natural, NF, preemptive

(1♦*) - P - (3NT*)

3NT = by UPH it's preemptive, at least (65) in m's

Suggested defense:

- X = transferable values, strong NT or better strength, BAL or quasi-BAL
- 4♣ = Michaels (M's, equal length or longer ♥'s (55/46/56)
→ Advancer's 4♦ = 33 M's (or a Q-bid)
- 4♦ = M's, longer ♠'s (64/65)
- 4M = natural

= by PH it's to play ("I forgot to open")

After we open 1♥**(1♥) - P - (1NT)**

IN = NF, denies 4♠, tends to have a higher upper limit than in Std. American (~ 11)

(1♥) - P - (2♣*)

2♣ = by an UPH it's an artificial GF⁺, without any restrictions as to pattern (tends to deny a V), commencing a relay sequence where Opener describes his hand

N.B. Should you interfere:

- (a) directly over the Captain/Asker, relays are off after 3⁺ step interference*
- (b) indirectly over Puppet/Teller's response, relays are off after a 2⁺ step*

Suggested defense:

- X = ♣ suit and values
- 2♦/2♠ = natural
- 2♥ = two-suiter with ♠ + either *m*
- 2NT = two-suiter in the *m*'s
- 3*m*/3♠ = natural

= by a PH it's 3⁺-card support Reverse Drury

(1♥) - P - (2♦*)

2♦ = by UPH it's artificial, F[2♥], ambiguous strength with

- (a) < a constructive ♥ raise [could be quite weak] – usually only 3♥'s, or*
- (b) INV w/ (i) BAL/semi-BAL w/o 4♠/3♥, (ii) THx[♥](64)/55*m*'s, or (iv) 3♥ L/R*
- (c) GF (no slam interest) with a “soft” 3=3=(43), stoppers in each side suit*

Suggested defense:

- X = take-out of ♥'s, good hand [with a “pre-balance”, simply P and balance back in later]
- 2♥ = Michaels, i.e. a two-suiter with ♠'s and either *m*
- Others = whatever it would've meant after a natural (1♥) - P - (2♥) auction

= by a PH, it's natural

(1♥) - P - (2♠*)

2♠ = F[3m], INV, (55/64)m's but denies Hx[♥]

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defense req'd)

= by a PH it's "fit-showing" (i.e. typically 4♥5♠), INV but NF

(1♥) - P - (3m*)

3m = NF, INV, 6⁺m, tends to deny 4♠'s and definitely denies 3⁺♥'s

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defense req'd)

= by a PH it's "fit-showing" (i.e. typically 4♥5m), INV but NF

(1♥) - P - (3♠*)

3♠ = F[3NT/4m], either (a) a solid 7-card m or (b) SPL[♣], F[4♥]

Suggested defense:

P then X = transferable values, strong NT strength

X = ♠'s

3NT = m's

4♥ = Michaels (5♠ + 5m)

Others = natural

= by a PH, SPL[♣]

After we open 1♠**(1♠) - P - (1NT)**

IN = F1, up to < GF (ergo < 14 HCP)

With a 2'n ♠ Responder can pass 1♠ when < INV, hence may be stronger than Standard

Denies (i) 6⁺♥ (any strength), (ii) good 6⁺m INV, (iii) 3⁺♠'s

(1♠) - P - (2♣*)

2♣ = by UPH it's artificial, GF⁺, without any restrictions as to pattern (tends to deny a void), commencing a relay sequence where Opener describes his hand

N.B. Should you interfere:

(a) directly over the Captain/Asker, relays are off after 3⁺ step interference

(b) indirectly over Puppet/Teller's response, relays are off after a 2⁺ step

Suggested defense:

X = ♣ suit and values
 2♦/2♥ = natural
 2♠ = two-suiter with ♥ + either m
 2NT = two-suiter in the m's
 3m/3♥ = natural

= by PH it's 3⁺-card support Reverse Drury

(1♠) - P - (2♦*)

2♦ = by either UPH or PH it's F1, constructive, showing 5⁺♥'s and ambiguous strength

(a) < INV, 6⁺♥'s

(b) INV, with (i) 5♥'s BAL or quasi-BAL, (ii) 5♥'s + 5m, or (iii) 6⁺♥'s (possibly 3♠)

(d) GF⁺, 6⁺♥'s

Suggested defense:

X = a good hand, take-out of ♠'s
 2♥ = both m's
 2NT = natural, 17-19
 Others = natural

(1♠) - P - (2♥*)

2♥ = by UPH it's artificial, F[2♠], ambiguous strength with

(a) < constructive ♠ raise – usually only 3♠'s, or

(b) INV w/ (i) BAL/semi-BAL w/o 4♥/3♠, (ii) 55m's, (iii) Hx♠55/64m's, (iv) 3♠5♥, or (v) 3♠ L/R

(c) GF (no slam interest) with a “soft” 3=3=(43)

Suggested defense:

X = take-out of 2♠, good hand [with a “pre-balance”, simply P and balance back in later]

2♠ = Michaels, i.e. a two suiter with ♥'s and either m

Others = whatever it would've meant after a natural (1♠) - P – (2♠) auction

= by a PH, it's 3-card support Reverse Drury

(1♠) - P - (3m*)

3m = by an unpassed hand it's constructive, NF but INV with 6⁺m's

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defense req'd)

= by a PH it's “fit-showing” (i.e. typically 4♠5m), INV but NF

(1♠) - P - (3♥*)

3♥ = F[3NT/4m], either (a) a solid 7-card suit, or (b) SPL[♣], F[4♠]

Suggested defense:

P then X = transferable values, strong NT strength

X = ♥'s

3♠ = Michaels (5♠ + 5m)

3NT = m's

Others = natural

= by a PH it's “fit-showing” (i.e. typically 4♠5♥), INV but NF

After we open 2♣

(2♣) – (P) – (2♦*)

2♦ = F[2N/3♣], INV⁺ inquiry about size and shape

Suggested defense:

X	= T/O[♣], but oriented to M's
2M	= natural, sound values
2NT	= natural, sound values
3♣	= Michaels for M's
3♦	= natural, sound values
3M	= preemptive

(2♣) – (P) – (2NT*)

2NT = ART, F[3♣], INV⁺:

- (A) CONST SUPP[♣], INV
- (B) 6+♦'s, GF⁺
- (C) SPL[any] SUPP[♣], GF⁺

Suggested defense:

P then bid	= weaker than immediate action
X	= T/O[♣], but oriented to M's
3♣	= Michaels for M's
Other	= natural, sound values

(2♣) – (P) – (3♦*)

3♦ = F[3M], INV⁺, at least 55 in M's

Suggested defense:

X	= ♦'s
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After we open 2♦

(2♦) – (P) – (2NT*)

2NT = ART, F[3♣], INV+:

- (A) CONST SUPP[♦], INV
- (B) GF+, no 5+M
- (C) SPL[any] SUPP[♦], GF+

Suggested defense: Pass, X[3♦] = T/O [♦], weaker than immediate X
X = T/O [♦], 14+ but oriented to M's
3♦ = Michaels for M's
Others = Natural

(2♦) – (P) – (3♣*)

3♣ = F[3♦], INV, 5♠4♥/5♠5♥

Suggested defense: X = ♣'s
3♦ = showing ♦ stopper and asking for ♠ stopper
3♥ = natural
3♠ = showing ♠ stopper and asking for ♦ stopper