

Tools to Upgrade Your Game

In general, focus on bridge logic rather than conventions. Best to add conventions organically once you're comfortable with them.

PEOPLE

- **Partners:** Develop strong partnerships with like-minded players. Develop communication in bidding and on defense
- **Mentors:** Find a nice person who has more experience than you and ask for a game.
- **Classes:** Local club, cruises, etc

APPS

- **Bridge Baron**
- **Bridge Base Online**
- **Others** (but I don't find them very useful...)

SOFTWARE

- **Random play software:** Bridge Baron or Jack or others. Play hands, practice bidding, play past tournaments and compare your results against actual results.
- **Lawrence:** Counting At Bridge (**Excellent!**)
- **Lawrence:** Conventions
- **Seagram:** Planning the Play, Declarer Play Quizbook, Defensive Play Quizbook
- **Kantar:** Modern Bridge Defense and Advanced Bridge Defense
- **Over-the-shoulder software:** Larry Cohen, Mike Lawrence or Eddie Kantar
- **BridgeMaster 2000.** Excellent play problems. Audrey Grant version is geared towards I/Ns. Gitelman version is Intermediate+

ONLINE

- **GreatBridgeLinks.com:** Useful site for finding anything and everything bridge-related
- **BridgeBase.com:** Play bridge online against people or bots
- **BridgeWinners.com:** Great community, daily articles from top authors and others, excellent **online conv card editor**
- **Reference sites for conventions, etc:** BridgeGuys.com, BridgeHands.com, BridgeBum.com, Wikipedia.org
- **Articles and lessons:** LarryCo.com, MartyBergen.com, KantarBridge.com, MichaelSLawrence.com, Karen Walker (search on "Karen Walker Bridge")
- **BridgeDrills.TournTables.com:** Practice basic counting skills such as distribution, opp's point count, losers, 4th best leads, etc.
- **ACBL.org:** Find clubs or tournaments, look up your masterpoints, etc.
- **Website for your local district or unit** for local news, results and events.
- **For books, club supplies, etc,** check out my website, **TournTables.com**. (Or Baron-Barclay.com or Amazon.com ...)

Lots of opinions throughout this doc.

There are plenty of other great materials available. Come by the bookstore to find more, or browse around some of the resources listed under "Online".

Tools to Upgrade Your Game: Books

BIDDING BASICS

- **Lawrence:** Partnership Understandings
- **Probasco:** Bidding Charts
- **Cohen:** Doubles
- **Diamond:** Mastering Hand Evaluation
- **Anderson:** Lebensohl Complete
- **Seagram:** 25 Bridge Conventions

2/1

- **Basics:** Cohen or Grant/Rodwell
- **More advanced:** Hardy
- **Excellent reference:** Dee Berry

INTERMEDIATE

- **Hall/Hall:** How the Experts Win at Bridge (**Excellent!**)
- **Klinger:** Modern Losing Trick Count
- **Lawrence:** Complete Book of Overcalls (as well as Takeout Doubles, Balancing, Passed Hand Bidding)
- **Lawrence:** Judgment at Bridge
- **Parker:** Win at Duplicate Bridge
- **Stewart:** What's Your Call
- **Treble:** Getting into the Bidding

BRIDGE LOGIC

- **Bourke/Smith:** Countdown to Winning Bridge (**Excellent!**)
- **Dormer:** Dormer on Deduction (**Will be re-released this fall!**)
- **Truscott:** Card Combination Flash Cards

DECLARER PLAY

- **Seagram:** Planning the Play and Declarer Play Quizbook
- **Kantar:** Topics in Declarer Play
- **Truscott:** Winning Declarer Play
- **Watson's** Classic Book on Play of the Hand

PROBLEMS/STORIES

- **Problems:** O'Connor (1st Book of Problems), Laderman, Kantar
- **Stories (fun and instructive!):** Menagerie series by Mollo, Abbot series by Bird, Auken's I Love this Game, Simon's Why You Lose at Bridge, Parrish's Cranmer Club

INTERMEDIATE

- **Rubens:** Secrets of Winning Bridge (**Excellent!**)
- **Mollo/Gardener:** Card Play Technique
- **Laderman:** A Bridge to Simple Squeezes
- **Lawrence:** Card Combinations

DEFENSE

- **Kantar:** Modern Bridge Defense
- **Cohen:** Defense (**New!**)
- **Seagram:** Defensive Play Quizbook
- **Boehm:** Demon Defense and Demon Doubling.
- **Lawrence:** Dynamic Defense
- **Woolsey:** Partnership Defense

LEADS

- Both Cohen's book and Lawrence's book do an excellent job of covering the basics.
- For intermediates+: Bird's Winning NT Leads

STRATEGY

- **Woolsey:** Matchpoints. A terrific classic (**Just re-released!**)
- **Bird:** Winning Duplicate Tactics. A newer book targeting intermediate players
- **Boehm:** Matchpoints versus IMPs.
- **Kantar:** Gamesmanship Bridge