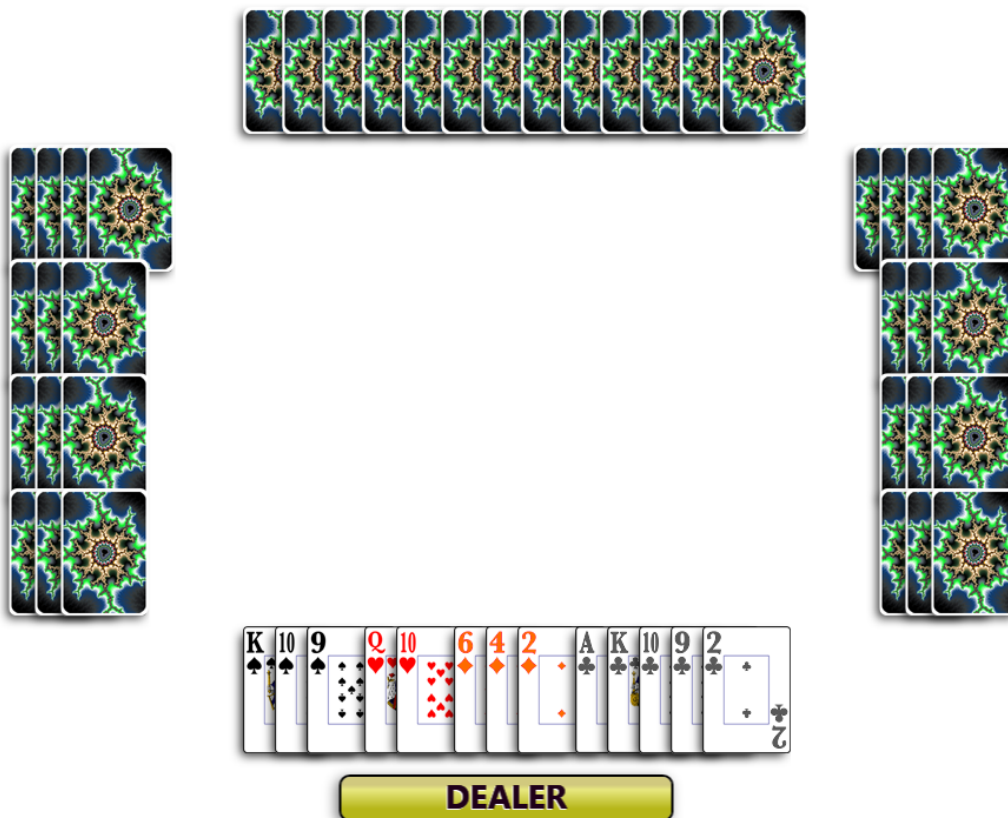


REVISION EXERCISE 1

You are south as dealer:



Should you open the bidding?

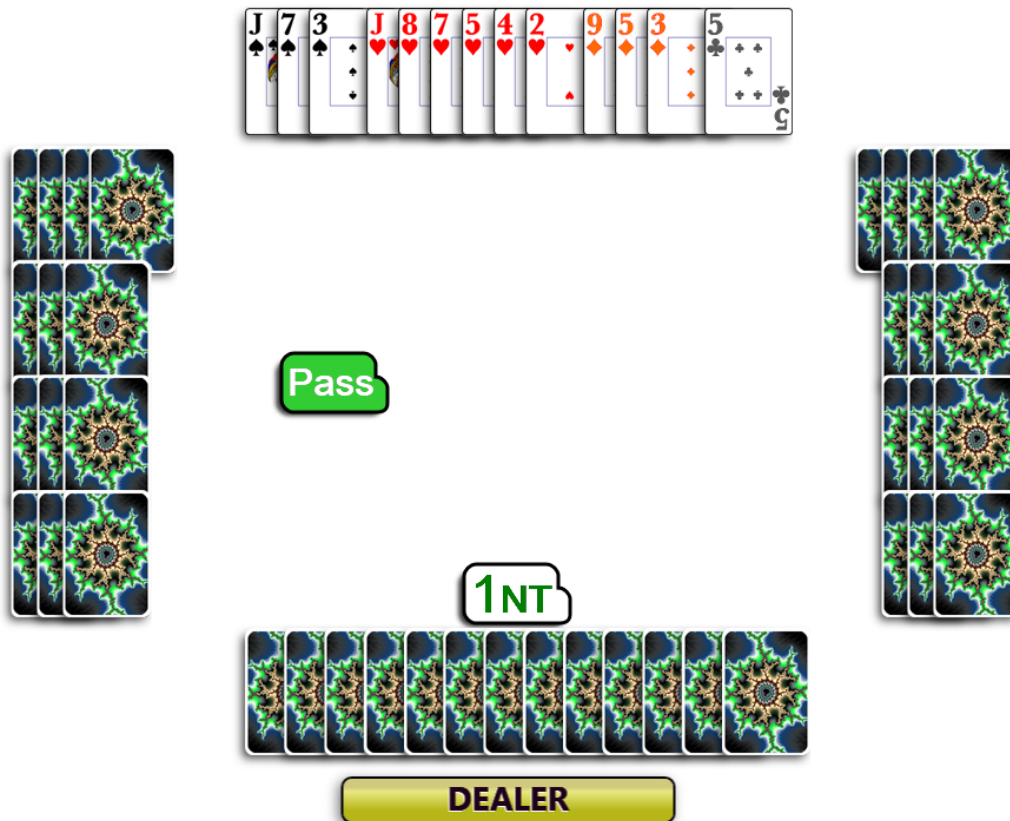
If you said 'yes', what should you open?

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have opened 1NT.

Because of your obvious club strength, it is tempting to open 1♣ instinctively. Using standard Acol, the correct opening is definitely 1NT.

You are responder to south's 1NT opening:



Should you bid or pass?

If you decide to bid, what is your bid?

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have responded 2♥.

The idea behind this bid is that generally your contract will fail less badly when played in hearts rather than letting partner play in 1NT. It is damage limitation.

You should use a weak takeout in a hand with:

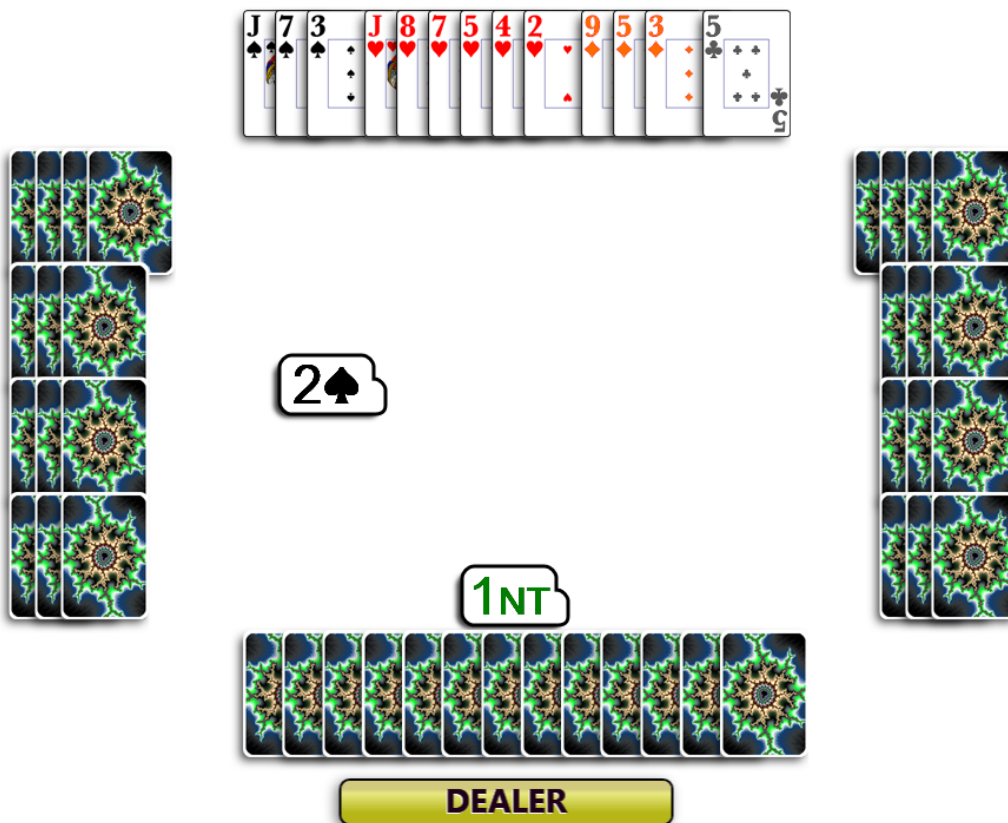
1. No more than 10 HCPs
2. A 5+ card suit which is not clubs (bidding 2♣ would be Stayman)

With 9 or 10 HCPs, you may consider passing as you know your side has over half the HCPs in the pack (partner has 12–14). If in any doubt, err on the side of the weak takeout.

In the example, you hold a poor hand and a 6-card heart suit, so the weak takeout in hearts with the 2♥ is clear.

IT IS ESSENTIAL that opener passes whatever the hand.

Remember: DAMAGE LIMITATION.



Should you bid or pass?

If you decide to bid, what is your bid?

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have passed.

You may have chosen to bid 2♥ as a weak takeout but remember that this is a damage limitation bid. West has bid, relieving you of the burden of playing the contract, so damage limitation is simply unnecessary.

Bidding here is a very common mistake, almost invariably leading to a bad result – especially if east has a decent hand and doubles for penalties.

So what would a 2♥ bid mean if it is not a weak takeout?

This can of worms will have to wait for another day!

END