

Dec. 19, 1961

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3,013,349

BRIDGE BIDDING DEVICE

Filed July 2, 1959

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

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SLAM POSSIBILITIES EXCELLENT. OPEN WITH 3NT. JUMP TO SLAM IMMEDIATELY IF PARTNER OPENS. BE SURE ALL SUITS PROTECTED

If open bid was:	You bid:
1. Pass	1. 2 NT
2. 1 of suit	2. Jump shift
3. 1 NT	3. Slam

If open bid was:	You bid:
1. Pass	1. 1 of suit
2. 1 of suit or 1 NT	2. Make jump shift
3. 2 of suit	3. Pos. response
4. 2 NT	4. Pos. response
5. 3 NT	5. Slam

If open bid was:	You bid:
1. Pass	1. 1 NT
2. 1 of suit	2. 3 NT
3. 1 NT	3. Slam
4. 2 of suit	4. Slam
5. 3 NT	5. Slam

If open bid was:	You bid:
1. 1 of suit	1. 2 NT
2. 1 NT	2. 3 NT
3. 2 of suit	3. Pos. response
4. 2 NT	4. Slam
5. 3 NT	5. Slam

If open bid was:	You bid:
1. 1 of suit	1. Show new suit; raise; or 1 NT
2. 1 NT	2. 2♣ or 2♦
3. 2 of suit	3. 3 NT
4. 2 NT	4. 4 NT

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OPEN 3NT-BALANCED HAND AND ALL FOUR SUITS PROTECTED. IF NOT, BID TWO OF A SUIT AND THEN CONSIDER SLAM.

OPEN WITH 2NT WITH A BALANCED HAND, GOOD DISTRIBUTION AND ALL FOUR SUITS PROTECTED. OTHERWISE BID 2 OF A SUIT.

OPEN WITH 1 OF A SUIT WITH JUMP BID IN NT OVER PARTNER'S ANSWER.

OPEN WITH 1 NT WITH GOOD DISTRIBUTION AND 3 SUITS PROTECTED. DISTRIBUTION POINTS NOT CONSIDERED.

- 13 points. Optional open
- Bid 1 of suit. Should have 4-5 honor points if opened in a major suit. Otherwise, bid 1 club or 1 diamond.

1. Pass
- Open with 12 points with a good rebid and 2 quick tricks.

Fig. 3

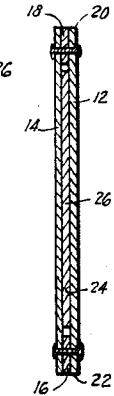


Fig. 5

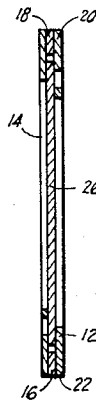


Fig. 6

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SLAM ZONE-MAKE A JUMP SHIFT AT ONCE BY BIDDING ONE MORE THAN NECESSARY IN A NEW SUIT. THIS INDICATES A STRONG HAND TO PARTNER.

POWERFUL HAND-BID 3NT WITH A BALANCED HAND, OR BID A NEW SUIT WITH A JUMP ON THE NEXT ROUND. THESE VALUES SHOW MORE THAN AN OPENING BID.

VERY GOOD HAND-MAKE A GAME FORCING BID OR BID ONE OR TWO IN A NEW SUIT WHICH PARTNER MAY NOT PASS UNTIL IT IS FOUND WHERE THE HANDS FIT.

A GOOD HAND-THIS IS WORTH TWO BIDS. MAKE A BID IN A SUIT THAT FORCES YOUR PARTNER FOR AT LEAST ONE MORE ROUND.

7 points-USE YOUR JUDGMENT

8-9 points. YOU SHOULD BID AGAIN.

PASS WITH LESS THAN SIX POINTS UNLESS YOUR PARTNER'S BID IS FORCING AND INDICATES A STRONG HAND.

EXCELLENT HAND-Should have good slam possibilities at this level. Enter a bid showing partner your intentions. (Blackwood or Gerber)

1. Jump rebid with 3NT with 22 points.
2. Jump shift which cannot be passed and forcing to game. Consider slam at this level.

1. Bid new suit at three level
2. Jump to game-own or partner's major.
3. Jump to 2NT-1/1 response. 19-20 points
4. Jump to 3NT-1/1 response. 21 points.

1. Pass single NT raise.
2. Single raise-own or partner's major.
3. 2 NT over 2/1 response
4. Jump in NT. (Reverse Bid)
5. Raise partners 2/1 to 3 level.

1. Pass NT response.
2. Rebid own suit.
3. Rebid 1 NT
4. Rebid new suit-one level
5. Raise responder-one to two.

A HAND OF MINIMUM VALUES SHOULD NOT BE REBID UNLESS FORCED TO DO SO BY RESPONDER'S ANSWER TO THE OPENING ROUND.

AT 1 LEVEL-Must have 10 points and good suit.

AT 2 LEVEL-Must have 12 points & very good suit.

AT NT LEVEL-Must have 16 points with NT distribution.

Fig. 4

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3,013,349

BRIDGE BIDDING DEVICE

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Filed July 2, 1959, Ser. No. 824,490

1 Claim. (Cl. 35—75)

This invention relates to a device for utilization in the playing of a game of cards, and more particularly, but not by way of limitation, to a slide rule for facilitating bidding in the game of contract bridge.

The game of contract bridge is becoming increasingly popular today, and many systems have been developed for enhancing the bidding therein. The point count bidding system is in widespread use and is normally considered to be one of the easiest and most accurate methods for bidding. As a result, there are many devices, such as tables and the like, available for aiding the bridge player in determining the most accurate and best bidding of his card hand. Most of these devices are designed for assisting in only the first round of the bidding, and the subsequent bidding rounds have been largely neglected.

The present invention contemplates a novel slide rule apparatus for aiding in the determination of bidding through at least two rounds of bidding, which is usually sufficient to determine the end result of the bidding of the bridge hands. The novel slide rule comprises an outer housing having a slidable member cooperating therewith for facilitating the determination of the best bid of the varied bridge hands. One side of the slide rule may be utilized in the opening or first round bidding, while the opposite face or side thereof may be utilized in the second round bidding. The slidable member may be moved in one direction with respect to the outer housing for determining the most accurate opening bid of a bridge hand. The slidable member may then be moved in an opposite direction for aiding in the determination of the best bid by the player's partner in response to the opening bid. The apparatus may then be turned over wherein the opposite face thereof may be utilized in a similar manner for determining the best bids for both partners' hands during the second round of bidding.

It is an important object of this invention to provide a device for facilitating the bidding in contract bridge.

It is another object of this invention to provide a novel slide rule for quickly and easily determining the most accurate bidding for a variety of bridge hands.

Another object of this invention is to provide a novel slide rule for correlating the point count of a bridge hand for determining the best bidding for a variety of bridge hands.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a novel slide rule for aiding the determination of the bidding of a variety of bridge hands through two rounds of bidding.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a novel slide rule for facilitating the bidding in contract bridge which is simple and efficient in operation and economical in construction.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be evident from the following detailed description, read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, which illustrate my invention.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a front view of a slide rule embodying the invention and depicting the face or surface thereof for utilization in the first round of bidding.

FIGURE 2 is a view similar to FIG. 1 and depicts the opposite back face thereof for utilization in the second round of bidding.

FIGURE 3 is a front face view of the slidable mem-

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ber of the slide rule depicting the surface thereof for utilization in the first round of bidding.

FIGURE 4 is a view similar to FIG. 3 and depicts the opposite side thereof for utilization in the second round of bidding.

FIGURE 5 is a view taken on line 5—5 of FIG. 1.

FIGURE 6 is a view taken on line 6—6 of FIG. 1.

Referring to the drawings in detail, reference character 10 generally indicates a slide rule comprising a rectangular front plate 12 and a back plate 14 of a substantially identical configuration. The front plate 12 is slightly spaced from the back plate 14 by a pair of spaced strip members 16 and 18 (FIGS. 5 and 6) and may be secured together in any well known manner, such as the rivets 19. The strips 16 and 18 extend longitudinally between the plates 12 and 14 along the opposed edge portions 20 and 22 of the slide rule 10, thus providing a central chamber 24 between the plates 12 and 14. An elongated rectangular shaped plate 26 is slidably disposed in the chamber 24 and extends longitudinally there-through for a purpose as will be hereinafter set forth.

The front plate 12 is provided with a substantially centrally disposed aperture or window 28 for viewing the slidable plate 26 therethrough. A plurality of longitudinally spaced apertures 30 are provided in the proximity of the left hand edge portion 20, as viewed in FIG. 1. Each of the apertures 30 is enclosed in a box 32 which is printed, or otherwise applied to the plate 12. Each of the boxes 32 is provided with certain data inscribed thereon which facilitates the valuation of the bridge hand (not shown) during the first round of bidding, as will be hereinafter set forth. There are preferably thirteen of the boxes 32 and apertures 30, but not limited thereto. The inscription in the boxes 32 indicate a grouping of point count which may be contained within a bridge hand, and preferably are progressively arranged with the counting of the least value at the top thereof to the counting of the most value in the sixth of the boxes 32. The progression then begins again, with the counting of the least value inscribed in the seventh box 32 and the counting of the highest value inscribed in the last or thirteenth box 32. The groupings of point counting as clearly indicated in the boxes 32 in FIG. 1 have been selected and are considered to be the most advantageous for the bidding determination, as anticipated herein, but it is to be understood that the groupings may be altered without departing from the spirit of the invention.

The six boxes 32 provided in the upper portion of the plate 12 are particularly arranged for utilization by the opening bidder in determining the best bidding for his bridge hand, as indicated by the words "Bids By Opening Bidder" inscribed on the plate 12. The seven boxes 32 provided in the lower portion of the plate 12 are particularly arranged for utilization by the player responding to the opening bidder, as indicated by the words "Bids By Responder" inscribed on the plate 12. However, it is to be understood that the number of the boxes 32 may be varied as desired in order to provide substantially any desired point count groupings, and is not limited to the particular depiction disclosed herein.

The plate 14 is provided with a substantially centrally disposed window 34 in parallel alignment with window 28 for viewing the slidable plate 26 therethrough. A plurality of longitudinally spaced apertures 36 are provided in the plate 14 in the proximity of the left hand edge portion 22, as viewed in FIG. 2. Each of the apertures 36 is enclosed in a box 38 which is suitably inscribed on the plate 14. It is preferable to provide thirteen of the boxes 38 and apertures 36, but not limited thereto, arranged in a manner similar to the boxes 32 of plate 12. Each of the boxes 38 is inscribed with appropriate point count groupings, as hereinbefore set forth. The uppermost box

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38 in the preferred embodiment disclosed herein does not contain any point count grouping. However, the second through the seventh boxes 38 are provided with progressive point count groupings for utilization in the rebidding by the opener during the second round of bidding, as indicated by the words "Rebids By Opening Bidder" inscribed on the plate 14. The remaining six boxes 38 are provided with progressive point count groupings to be utilized in rebidding by the responder in the second round of bidding, as indicated by the words "Rebids by Responder" as inscribed on the plate 14.

The front face 40 (FIG. 3) of the slidable plate 26 is provided with a plurality of rectangular boxes 42 inscribed thereon in any suitable manner. Each of the boxes 42 is preferably substantially the size of the window 28. There are thirteen of the boxes 42 provided on the face 40 to correspond to the number of boxes 32 provided on the plate 12. Suitable instructions are printed, or otherwise inscribed in each box 42, which may be viewed through the window 28 when the plate 26 is so positioned for determining the most accurate bid for the bridge hand, as will be hereinafter set forth. It will be apparent that the groups of instructions may be printed on the face 40 and properly spaced thereon without having the lines or boxes 42 enclosing each set of instructions, if desired. A dot 44 is provided on the face 40 of the plate 26 and in alignment with the apertures 30 wherein the dot 44 may be viewed through any one of the apertures 30, as desired, in accordance with the desired results of the slide rule 10.

The rear face 46 (FIG. 4) of the plate 26 is similar to the front face 40, and is provided with a plurality of boxes 43 inscribed thereon, preferably thirteen in number to correspond with the number of boxes 38 on the plate 14. Each of the boxes 43 is preferably substantially the size of the window 34, and suitable information or instructions is inscribed in each of the boxes 43 for utilization in the second round of bidding, as will be hereinafter set forth. A dot 50 is inscribed on the face 46 in alignment with the apertures 36, and may be viewed there-through for facilitating the second round of bidding.

The slide rule 10 is provided with oppositely disposed recesses 52 and 54 for facilitating manual gripping of the plate 26 for sliding thereof within the chamber 24.

Operation

In using the slide rule 10, it is first necessary for the player to determine the point count of the bridge hand being bid. The point count of the various cards and distribution thereof is printed on the plate 12, as clearly shown in FIG. 1, for facilitating the point count determination. The plate 26 is then slidably adjusted with respect to the plate 12 to move the dot 44 into alignment with the aperture 30 of the box 32 containing the point count of the bridge hand. As hereinbefore set forth, in the case of the opening bid, the upper six boxes 32 are utilized. With the dot 44 positioned in the proper aperture 30, a box 42 of the plate 26 will be disposed in alignment with the window 28. The information contained in the box 42 which is viewed through the window 28 will aid in the determination of the best or most accurate bid for the opener.

The plate 26 is then moved slidably in an opposite direction for placing the dot 44 in alignment with the box 32 containing the point count of the bridge hand held by the responder. The lower seven boxes 32 are utilized in the responding bids. With the dot 44 in position in the proper aperture 30 in accordance with the point count of the responder's hand, the box 42 containing information or instructions for the most accurate or best bid in accordance with the point count of the hand will be disposed in the window 28.

For the second round of bidding, the slide rule 10 may be turned over whereby the plate 14 is utilized in a similar manner in cooperation with the face 46 of the plate

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26 for facilitating the bidding by both the opener and responder. The plate 26 is adjusted with respect to the plate 14 to position the dot 50 in alignment with the aperture 36 of the box 38 containing the point count of the opener's hand whereby the box 48 will be disposed in the window 34 which contains the information pertinent to the opener's rebid in the second round of bidding. As hereinbefore set forth, the boxes 38 in the upper portion of the plate 14 are utilized for determination of the opener's rebid.

The plate 26 is moved in an opposite direction to place the dot 50 in alignment with one of the lower boxes 38 containing the point count of the responder's hand. In this position, the box 48 containing the information pertinent to the responder's rebid will be disposed in the window 34 for facilitating the responder's bid in the second round.

By way of a specific example, and referring to FIG. 1, assume that an opening bidder has a bridge hand containing twenty-three points. The plate 26 is manually grasped and raised in the chamber 24 until the dot 44 is in alignment with the aperture 30 in the box 32 containing the point count grouping which includes the number twenty-three. As shown in FIG. 1, the fifth box 32 from the top of the plate 12 contains the numbers twenty-two to twenty-four, and thus includes the number twenty-three. The dot 44 is placed in view in the aperture of this box. The instructions or information visible through the window 28 indicates that the opener's bid in this case would be two no trump, with a balanced hand, good distribution and all four suits dropped. Otherwise, the opener should bid two of a suit, and should have six cards in the suit he bids.

As another example, and referring to FIG. 2, assume that the opener has twenty points in his hand, and is ready to rebid in the second round of the bidding in answer to a response by his partner in the first round of bidding. The plate 26 is grasped manually and raised with regard to the plate 14 to position the dot 50 in view of the aperture 36 of the box 38 containing the number twenty. As shown in FIG. 2, the fifth box 38 in the upper portion of the plate 14 contains the point count grouping of numbers nineteen to twenty-one, thus including the number twenty. The dot 50 is disposed in view in the aperture in this box whereby the instructions in view in the window 34 indicate that the opener should rebid as follows:

- (1) Bid a new suit at the level of 3
- (2) Jump to game in his partner's major suit
- (3) Jump to game in his own major suit
- (4) Jump to two no trump with nineteen or twenty points
- (5) Jump to three no trump with twenty-one points.

The bidder may select the bidding advice most appropriate to the cards held in his bridge hand, and the prior bidding of his partner and himself.

The bidding by the responder in the first round of bidding may be ascertained by the cooperating plate 12 and face 40 of the plate 26, as hereinbefore set forth. However, the plate 26 is manually moved downwardly with respect to the plate 12 for use with the lower boxes 32 in the determination of the bidding by the responder. In addition, the bidding by the responder in the second round of bidding may be similarly determined by the cooperating plate 14 and the face 46 of the plate 26. Here again the plate 26 is manually moved downwardly with respect to the plate 14 for utilizing the lower boxes 38 in the determination of the second round bidding by the responder.

Furthermore, general information, such as the most widely used point count ratings, and the like, may be inscribed or printed on the plates 12 and 14 in the spaces 58 and 62, respectively, as clearly shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 to provide a finger tip manual or information guide to the bidding in the game of contract bridge.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that the present

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invention provides a novel slide rule for facilitating the determination of bidding contract bridge hands in both the first and second rounds of bidding by both the opening bidder and the responder. The slide rule utilizes the most widely accepted point count bidding data for correlating the point count of substantially any bridge hand in a manner to indicate or instruct the bidder in the best bid for the bridge hand he is playing. The slide rule is simple and efficient in operation and is of an economical construction.

Changes may be made in the combination and arrangement of parts as heretofore set forth in the specification and shown in the drawings, it being understood that any modification in the precise embodiment of the invention may be made within the scope of the following claim without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

A slide rule for facilitating the bidding of bridge hands, and comprising an outer housing, an inner member slidably disposed within the housing, a plurality of longitudinally spaced apertures provided on one side of the housing, a centrally disposed window provided on said one side of the housing, a plurality of groups of indicia relating to the point count of variable bridge hands provided on said one side of the housing whereby each

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aperture is associated with one of the groups of indicia, a dot provided on one side of the inner member for viewing through one of the apertures upon variable positions of the inner member with respect to the housing, a plurality of groups of indicia provided on said one side of the inner member and correlated with the indicia on the housing whereby one group thereof may be viewed through the window in accordance with the positioning of the dot for determining the bidding of the bridge hands through the first round of bidding, a plurality of longitudinally spaced apertures provided on the opposite side of the housing, a centrally disposed window provided on said opposite side of the housing, a plurality of groups of indicia relating to the point count in variable bridge hands and instructions for bidding the hand in accordance therewith provided on said opposite side of the housing and on the opposite side of the inner member for cooperating with the apertures and window for determining the bidding of the bridge hands in the second round of bidding.

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