

4:4:4:1 Hands

- Slightly awkward hands to bid.
- The only time you will bid 2 suits with no 5+ card suit.
- Special guidelines about which suit to open.

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| ♠ Q J 9 5 ♥ A Q J 4 ♦ Q J 6 2 ♣ 2 | ♠ Q J 9 5 ♥ A Q J 4 ♦ 2 ♣ Q J 6 2 | ♠ Q J 9 5 ♥ 2 ♦ A Q J 4 ♣ Q J 6 2 | ♠ 2 ♥ Q J 9 5 ♦ A Q J 4 ♣ Q J 6 2 |
| Open 1♥ | Open 1♣ | Open 1♦ | Open 1♦ |

With 3 touching suits – open the middle suit

**With 3 non-touching suits – open the suit below the singleton
(Continuing Bridge p91)**

| West (14) | East |
|-----------|------|
| ♠ K J 9 5 | |
| ♥ A Q J 4 | |
| ♦ 2 | |
| ♣ Q J 6 2 | |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1 ♣ | 1 ♥ |
| 3 ♥ | |
| | |

- Open the suit below the singleton.
- If partner responds 1 ♥ or 1 ♠, you will support (6 losers)

| West (14) | East |
|-----------|------|
| ♠ K J 9 5 | |
| ♥ A Q J 4 | |
| ♦ 2 | |
| ♣ Q J 6 2 | |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1 ♣ | 1 ♦ |
| 1 ♥ | |
| | |

- If partner responds 1 ♦, you will rebid 1 ♥. This normally shows 5+ clubs and 4+ hearts, but misleading partner about a minor is not a big deal.

| West (14) | East |
|-----------|------|
| ♠ K J 9 5 | |
| ♥ 2 | |
| ♦ A Q J 4 | |
| ♣ Q J 6 2 | |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | |
| | |

- Open the suit below the singleton.
- If partner responds 1♥ you will rebid 1♠
- This normally shows 5+ diamonds and 4+ spades, but misleading partner about a minor is not a big deal

| West (14) | East |
|-----------|------------|
| ♠ K J 9 5 | ♠ 10 4 2 |
| ♥ 2 | ♥ A Q J 4 |
| ♦ A Q J 4 | ♦ 9 2 |
| ♣ Q J 6 2 | ♣ 10 8 7 3 |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | |
| | |

- Open the suit below the singleton.
- If partner responds 1♥ you will rebid 1♠
- This normally shows 5+ diamonds and 4+ spades, but misleading partner about a minor is not a big deal

| West (14) | East |
|-----------|------------|
| ♠ K J 9 5 | ♠ 10 4 2 |
| ♥ 2 | ♥ A Q J 4 |
| ♦ A Q J 4 | ♦ 9 2 |
| ♣ Q J 6 2 | ♣ 10 8 7 3 |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 1NT |
| Pass | |

- Open the suit below the singleton.
- If partner responds 1♥ you will rebid 1♠
- This normally shows 5+ diamonds and 4+ spades, but misleading partner about a minor is not a big deal

| West (14) | East |
|-----------|------|
| ♠ 2 | |
| ♥ K J 9 5 | |
| ♦ A Q J 4 | |
| ♣ Q J 6 2 | |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1♦ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | |
| | |

- The middle of three touching suits
- If partner responds 1♠, you will rebid 2♣
- This normally shows 5+ diamonds and 4+ clubs, but misleading partner about a minor is not a big deal

| West (14) | East |
|-----------|------|
| ♠ 2 | |
| ♥ K J 9 5 | |
| ♦ A Q J 4 | |
| ♣ Q J 6 2 | |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1♦ | 1♠ |
| 2♥? | |
| | |

- Note: Rebidding 2♥ would be a reverse bid, showing 16+pts, as well as 5 diamonds and 4 hearts.

| West (15) | East |
|-----------|------|
| ♠ 2 | |
| ♥ K J 9 5 | |
| ♦ A Q J 4 | |
| ♣ K J 6 2 | |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1♦ | 1♠ |
| 1NT | |
| | |

- Or if you were a bit stronger, rebid 1NT (balanced 15-16) - a small white lie.

| West (14) | East |
|-----------|------|
| ♠ Q J 6 2 | |
| ♥ K J 9 5 | |
| ♦ A Q J 4 | |
| ♣ 2 | |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1 ♥ | |
| | |
| | |

- The middle of three touching suits

| West (14) | East |
|-----------|------|
| ♠ Q J 6 2 | |
| ♥ K J 9 5 | |
| ♦ A Q J 4 | |
| ♣ 2 | |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1 ♥ | 1 ♠ |
| 3 ♠ | |
| | |

- The middle of three touching suits
- If partner responds 1 ♠ (or 2 ♦) you can support (3 ♠ or 3 ♦).

| West (14) | East |
|-----------|------|
| ♠ Q J 6 2 | |
| ♥ K J 9 5 | |
| ♦ A Q J 4 | |
| ♣ 2 | |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1 ♥ | 2 ♣ |
| 2 ♦ | |
| | |

- If partner responds 2♣, you should rebid 2♦
- But this strongly suggests 5+ hearts, and you might end up in a 7-card heart fit.

| West (14) | East |
|-----------|-------------|
| ♠ Q J 6 2 | ♠ 10 7 3 |
| ♥ K J 9 5 | ♥ A Q 2 |
| ♦ A Q J 4 | ♦ 10 2 |
| ♣ 2 | ♣ A Q J 9 2 |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1 ♥ | 2 ♣ |
| 2 ♦ | 4 ♥ |
| | |

- If partner responds 2♣, you should rebid 2♦
- But this strongly suggests 5+ hearts, and you might end up in a 7-card heart fit.

| West (14) | East |
|-----------|------|
| ♠ Q J 6 2 | |
| ♥ K J 9 5 | |
| ♦ A Q J 4 | |
| ♣ 2 | |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1 ♥ | 2 ♣ |
| 2NT | |
| | |

- Or tell a “small white lie” and rebid 2NT (15-16)

Alternative Approach

| West (13) | East |
|-----------|------|
| ♠ Q J 6 2 | |
| ♥ K 9 8 5 | |
| ♦ A Q J 4 | |
| ♣ 2 | |

| West | East |
|------|------|
| 1 ♦ | 2 ♣ |
| 2 ♦ | |
| | |

- With a singleton club, an alternative is to open 1 ♦, but if your partner responds 2 ♣, you would rebid 2 ♦, which suggests a 1-suited hand 5+ card suit.
- Do not rebid 2 ♥ or 2 ♠, which would be reverse bids, showing 16+points.

My recommendation for 4441 hands

- For most players, I would suggest you stick to the standard guidelines.
- An alternative, with a singleton **club**, you can open 1♦, rather than 1♥. If your partner responds 2♣, rebid 2NT or 2♦.
- There are some other variations on how to bid 4441 hands that you may come across, (but I don't think any of them are any better).