

## ANDREA'S ALL TIME FAVORITE BRIDGE BOOKS

When I was asked to prepare this list two or three authors, columnists and bridge teachers came to mind. In no particular order, they are Marty Bergen, Eddie Kantar and Audrey Grant.

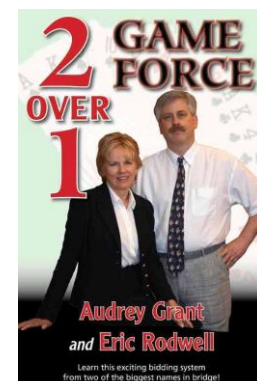
Marty Bergen's style, humor and easy-to-understand presentation are perhaps the reasons his books have sold so many copies. Among them, *Points Schmoints* is probably my favorite. This book is a great help for hand evaluation and the importance of distribution, which is not well understood by beginners and intermediate players such as we are in the Statesboro Pairs club. One of Marty's favorite sayings is "Five Five Come Alive." Indeed, this kind of distribution can make a low-point-count hand suddenly have game-going value. Marty often has specials on his website: [www.martybergen.com](http://www.martybergen.com). Some great titles you may want to check out: *Bergen for the Defense*, *Slam Bidding Made Easier*, *Declarer Play the Bergen Way*, *Bergen's Best Bridge Quizzes* and *Secrets to Winning Bridge*. I have not read them all but highly recommend this author not just for bridge but also for entertainment! Marty also publishes a column in the monthly ACBL Bridge Bulletin. Check out a small slam bid and made on 15 combined points, taken from *Points Schmoints*. on the last page of this article.

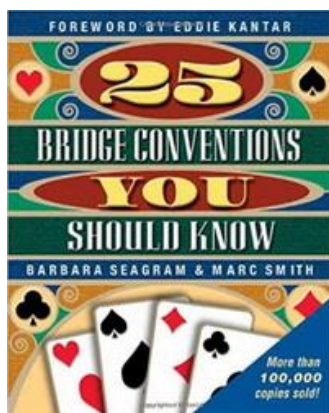


Eddie Kantar is also a very well-known teacher, author and columnist. You will find his books listed on [www.kantar.com](http://www.kantar.com). *Kantar on Kontract* is entertaining and full of interesting stories and tips from hands he has played. *Introduction to Declarer Play* and *Introduction to Defense* are well worth going back to early bridge days for things we've forgotten or maybe never learned. Check them out! And you can read Eddie's column in the Bridge Bulletin every month.

Audrey Grant has been called the world's greatest bridge teacher and I believe it! Her five books, which make up the ACBL Bridge Series, are: *Bidding* (Club Series), *Play of the hand* (Diamond Series), *Defense* (Heart Series), *Commonly Used Conventions* (Spade Series) and *More Commonly Used Conventions* (Notrump Series). They are among the most in demand books on bridge. Why? Because she is a great teacher. The books include lessons, exercises, sample deals and answers to the exercises. They are for newer players but also a great review for intermediate and more advanced players. I have enjoyed reading and rereading these books many times over the years.

For those who would really like to up their game I highly recommend the Two-Over-One bidding system, which requires an opening hand to respond at the two level to your partner's opening bid. Audrey Grant has a great book for that, also. *2 Over 1 Game Force* was written in collaboration with Eric Rodwell and, like her other books, has lots of exercises with solutions.





Finally, because you may want to learn a bit more than Blackwood, transfers and Stayman, there are two books with exercises on common conventions, entitled *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know* and *25 More Bridge Conventions You Should Know*, written by Barbara Seagram and David Bird. On the other hand, there are many very advanced players who use very few conventions. Conventions are tools and the more tools you have, the more you can know what your partner's hand looks like and consequently what is in the opponents' hands. However,

do not make the mistake of trying to use more tools than you and your partner can remember and use properly. Our late friend Ree Bailey regularly used many of these conventions with Verna Hickman, her longtime partner, and they used them well. That partnership was a great success and I loved playing against them because I learned something every time. I still love playing against Verna and her partner, Jane Sack.



Andrea Leonardi  
May 23rd, 2021

Here is a small slam bid and made on 15 HCP, taken from *Points Schmoints* by Marty Bergen



Dlr: North

Vul: None



♥ AQ743

♦ K965

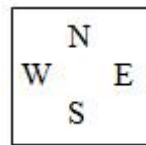
♣ J1095

♠ KJ107



♦ J107

♣ A87632



♠ AQ98632

♥ 9852

♦ 3

♣ 4

♠ 54

♥ KJ106

♦ AQ842

♣ KQ

North	East	South	West
Pass	3 Spades	Double	4 Spades
6 Hearts	Pass	Pass	6 Spades
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead Club King

I was north. I started innocently with a pass. East opened 3 spades. Even with a 4 card major on the side this is okay with 7 good spades and a weak 4 card heart suit. South had a tough hand to bid and doubled, a reasonable choice.

West trotted out 4 spades, and I tried 6 hearts, a rather unusual bid for a passed hand. It was passed around to west, who bid 6 spades. Can't say I blamed her. I doubled, ending that portion of the proceedings.

On the led of the king of clubs declarer started on a crossruff that seemed to go on for 20 minutes. There was no way to beat 6 spades. Even a trump lead , which is what south should have done, wouldn't work. Declarer can set up the clubs.

A slam bid and made on 15 high card points. And what would have been the result of 6 hearts. East can beat it on the lead of the singleton club, but she did have 2 singletons to choose from. A diamond lead would make 6 hearts cold. Wouldn't it be great if this happened in a team game? You could have the result be one team making a slam at both tables.