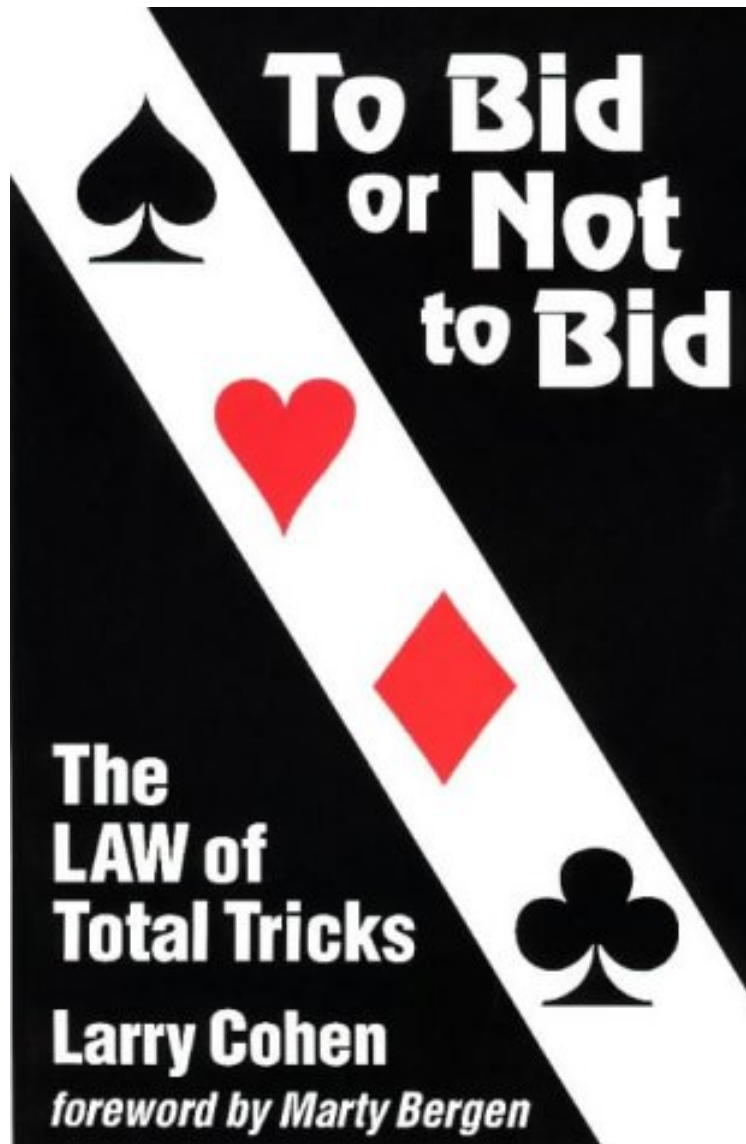


(Download pdf) To Bid or Not to Bid: The Law of Total Tricks

To Bid or Not to Bid: The Law of Total Tricks

Larry Cohen

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Larry Cohen : To Bid or Not to Bid: The Law of Total Tricks before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Bid or Not to Bid: The Law of Total Tricks:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. THE CURSE OF BRIDGE, A SIMPLE RULE WITH NUMEROUS NUANCES....a non-rule?By Charles Huizengai'M NOT CONVINCED THAT THE AUTHOR'S THESIS IS CORRECT. ITS A RULE WITH NUMEROUS SUBTLE MODIFICATIONS. BUT FUN TO READ.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An essential read for serious bridge playersBy Nicholas JongGood partnerships

will have sophisticated mechanisms for finding the right contract when given free rein of the bidding, but in reality the majority of bridge hands lead to competitive auctions. With each side interfering with the other, the situation suddenly becomes much less clear. After reading this book, you will no longer have to rely completely on mere guesswork and intuition to decide whether to bid or not to bid. Larry Cohen introduces and expounds upon the Law of Total Tricks, a single principle which will allow you to estimate the possible scores resulting from almost any competitive auction. He describes some of the corollaries of the Law, as well as some good conventions that make use of the Law. These will improve the game of anybody not already familiar with such maxims as "bid to the number of trump your side has" and "when in doubt bid four spades over four hearts." Even so, this book feels somehow incomplete. It does a good job of conveying the basic idea of the Law, giving examples of its application in relatively straightforward situations. But only in the last two chapters does Cohen begin to describe the adjustments that must be made in situations where the Law is not completely accurate. Furthermore, he doesn't really cover what to do in situations where the Law predicts ambiguous results: when bidding on might produce a better or worse result than passing, depending on the play of the hand. In these cases Cohen leaves us once again to guesswork and intuition. Despite these faults, this book is essential because it does at least reduce the amount of guesswork to which the bridge player must resort in contested auctions. 27 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Required reading for all serious bridge players

By Edward Williams

Before reading this: I open 1 Spade, 2 Heart overcall, partner raises to 2S, RHO raises to 3 Hearts. I automatically bid 3S, just as Pavlov's dog automatically salivated. Down one. 3H would have gone down one. Oops. Wrong guess. Sorry, partner. Next round, I pass 3H and it makes. 3S would have made. Oops. Wrong guess. Sorry, partner.

After reading this: I look less at how many high-card points I have and more at how many hearts and spades I have. Do I have S Q9542 H QJ7 or S KQJ92 H 432? Do I have 5 or 6 spades? Now I bid 3 Spades when it's right and pass when it's right. Buy two copies and give your partner one. Hide it from all opponents. The IMPs will now dribble to your team, five or six IMPs at a time. Likewise, so will the match points: 9x on 12 top instead of 2x on 12 top, again and again on these unspectacular hands.

This guide explains the Law of Total Tricks, invented by the French in the 1950s. It is one of the best-selling and most influential bridge books of the past three decades.