

The Green Card  
by Kim Fanady

It's often said that bridge is a bidder's game. But on many, many hands, one more call is courting disaster. Here are some situations in which you should pull out The Green Card.

I. Misfits.

When you have a weak hand and a misfit, stop bidding. ASAP.

Do not panic.

Do not try to rescue partner.

Do not try to improve the contract.

Do not make it worse.

Pull out The Green Card.

2H (P) ??

Example hand #1

II. When no available bid fits your hand.

Pull out The Green Card.

1D (1S) ? Example hand #2

(1H) 2D (P) ? Example hand #3

### III. When You Have “Shown Your Hand.”

This very important concept occurs in many situations.

To understand it and apply it, you and your partner must know what your bids mean:

how many points a bid shows  
how many cards in a suit a bid shows.

Generally, you have “shown your hand” when your bids have described your point count and length, your hand is what partner should expect from your bidding, and you have nothing more to show. Sometimes you can “show your hand” in one bid; sometimes it takes several bids.

Two of the most common situations in which you have “shown your hand” are:

A. Preempts.

Once you have preempted, you are DONE unless partner makes a forcing bid.

Pull out The Green Card.

2S (P) 3S (P) ??

2S (P) 3S (4H) ??

1S (2D) 4S (5D)

X (P) ??

Example hand # 4

B. Defined bids.

Bids that show a specific type of hand and/or a narrow point range are called “defined bids.” For example, no trump bids are often defined bids. Once you have made a defined bid, you have conveyed your hand to partner, and you should not take another call unless partner makes a forcing bid. Pull out The Green Card.

1C 1H

1NT 2H

??      Example hand #5

1D (P) 1S (P)  
2D (P) 2NT (P) 3D ??

Think about what partner didn't bid; he could have bid 3NT but chose not to

(1D) 2D (P) 3C  
(P) ??

Partner could have bid a major but chose not to

The two reasons players typically go wrong when they have “shown their hand” are:

changing their mind in the middle of the auction, for no real reason  
take a view and stick with it – if you keep getting it wrong, you need to work on your hand evaluation

1S (P) 3D\*\* (P)  
3S (P) ??

## EXAMPLE HAND # 6

\*\*limit raise in S

not trusting that partner understood your bidding, especially when they do something unexpected; for example, in the Michaels example above, not choosing a major

EXAMPLE HAND #1

♠AQJ10542

♥J

♦98

♣Q98

EXAMPLE HAND #2

♠Jxx

♥Qxx

♦Axx

♣Qxxx

EXAMPLE HAND #3

♠Qxxx

♥AJx

♦x

♣Jxxxx

EXAMPLE HAND #4

♠ J 10 9 6 4

♥ 10 7

♦ 8

♣ K J 8 3 2

EXAMPLE HAND #5

♠ QJ3

♥ K

♦ 8642

♣ AK962

EXAMPLE HAND #6

♠ Jxx

♥ KQJxxx

♦ Q107

♣ x