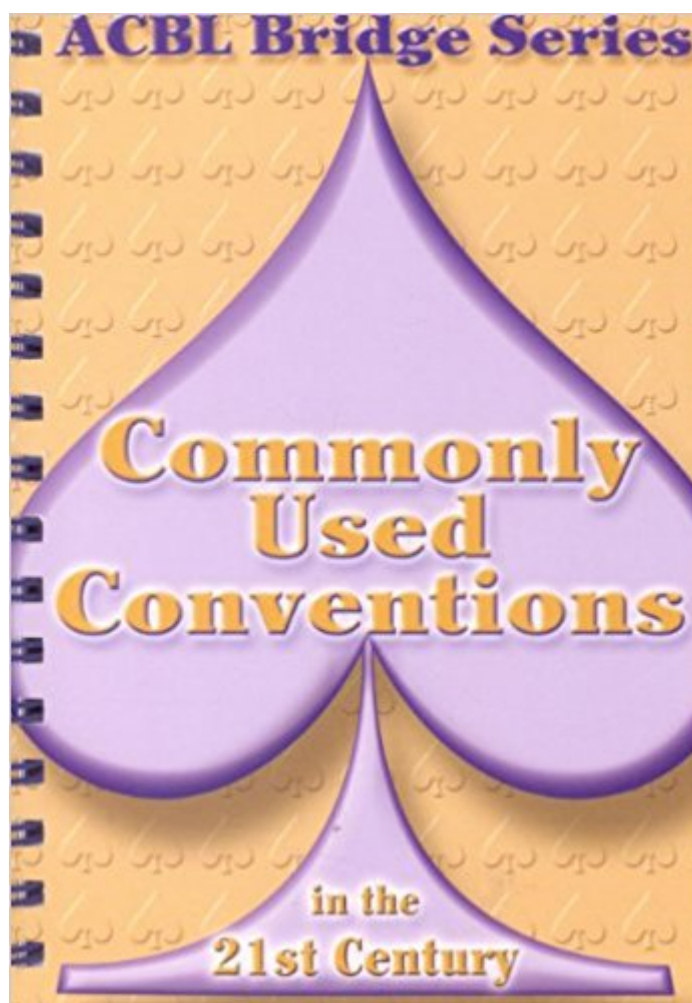


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Commonly Used Conventions In The 21st Century: The Spade Series (ACBL Bridge)



Synopsis

This is the 4th in the American Contract Bridge League's series of bridge books for beginning and advancing players. Successfully used for over 20 years, this edition has been updated to reflect modern theory. Lessons include the Stayman Convention, the Jacoby Transfer, Major-Suit Openings and Responses, Minor-Suit Opening Bids and Responses, the Subsequent Auction, Weak Two-Bids, and Strong 2 Club Opening.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm a big fan of the ACBL bridge series books, particularly the first few books on bidding, play of the hand, and defense. However, the conventions books lacks the clarity of these earlier books. On the positive side, this book includes a nice array of conventions (e.g. transfers, stayman, weak-two bids + strong 2 clubs) suitable for a learning bridge player, and goes into them in a reasonable amount of depth. However, this book spends so much time rehashing the "standard" bidding guidelines (e.g. things like 12 points to open, 6 points and 4+ cards to change a suit) that the actual presentation of the conventions gets lost in the material. It's almost as if the author tried to merge the entire contents of the bidding book into this one. For instance, 40 pages is spent on a chapter discussing responses to 1 of a minor, and not a single new convention is introduced in this chapter (though brief mentions of conventions brought up in earlier conventions are present)! It's all rehashing the material already given in the Bidding book. Surely this space might be better used introducing Blackwood (which is not discussed in this book in any depth) or control-showing cuebids. FWIW, I think the pattern this book has is it feels compelled to give endless examples of the "basic bidding"

system. Surely, this is not needed -- anyone reading this book will be familiar with the material covered in the Bidding book. Instead, just a brief statement of what a given bid means in a given context should be sufficient.

If you want a book to look up conventions, this one is not for you. There is no index, and the 2-page Table of Contents does not mention most of the conventions that are discussed. For example, if you want information on splinter bids, you won't find them listed in the Table of Contents. However, there is a discussion of splinter bids in the Appendix under "Other Conventions", where Splinter bids are listed as a "Supplement to Chapter 3" on major-suit openings and responses. Later in the Appendix there is another discussion of splinter bids - this one as a "Supplement to Chapter 5" on minor-suit opening bids and responses. This discussion begins by referring you to an earlier discussion ("see page 308"), but there is nothing on that page dealing with splinter bids. The easiest way to find a brief reference to a convention in this book is to look in the Glossary, which follows the Appendix. Here there is a one-sentence description of a "splinter bid" but no reference to the more extended discussion earlier in the book. Despite the difficulty in finding information about conventions, this summary of selected conventions is useful if you are willing to read it (not consult it from time to time) from start to finish, as though taking a course (in fact, the book is designed as a textbook for an ACBL-approved course). There are lots of examples, and sample deals. For a book that is much easier to read, and much better organized, try "25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know", by Barbara Seagram and Marc Smith.

As advertised

As an intermediate bridge player I decided to purchase all of Audrey Grant's bridge series. When I opened this last one and read the chapter titles I thought that it will be too basic for me. But as I read, I changed my opinion. This book brings together many concepts from bidding, play & defense and goes into more depth about the various conventions (Stayman, Jacoby transfer, etc.) than is usually found in other books. I recommend it highly if you are willing to take the time to study it.

This is the fourth book in the series by Audry Grant and nicely folds together all bidding information from the previous books. One needs to study the series to gain the most knowledge.

Very informative and easy to understand. I love the exercises afterwards to make sure I apply what I

just learned.

A very understandable book with great practice hands. Highly recommended. Great seller and fast delivery.

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