

OPENING HAND EVALUATION

1. Count your high card points. Computer analysis says your honors are worth:

A	4.5
K	3
Q	1.5
J	.75
10	.25

If you can add fast enough, you can use this method of counting. That's hard in the heat of battle. Alternatively, you can use Marty Bergen's method:

- Add your HCP using the traditional 4,3,2,1 method.
- If the difference between the number of undervalued honors (A's & 10's) and overvalued honors (Q's & J's) is three or more add or subtract a point.

Example 1.

KJx
KQx
Jxx
AJxx

Downgrade to 14 points. Open 1C.

Example 2.

Kx
AJ10
K10x
K109xx

Upgrade to 15 points. Open 1N, particularly in view of your tenaces – you want to be the NT bidder, so that the lead comes to you from your left.

2. Deduct one point from the following honor doubletons or singletons:

KQ
KJ
QJ
Qx
Jx
K
Q
J

If your partner later bids this suit, add the point back.

3. Add a point for any "quality suit". That is a suit of at least 4 cards and at least 3 honors.
4. Add a point for every card after the 4th in any suit having at least 5 points. Therefore:

AQJ10xx = 10 points

NOTE: Do not credit shortness points until/unless a fit in a suit has been established. That shortness may be a liability, rather than an asset.

Neal McKinney adaptation of Marty Bergen's system