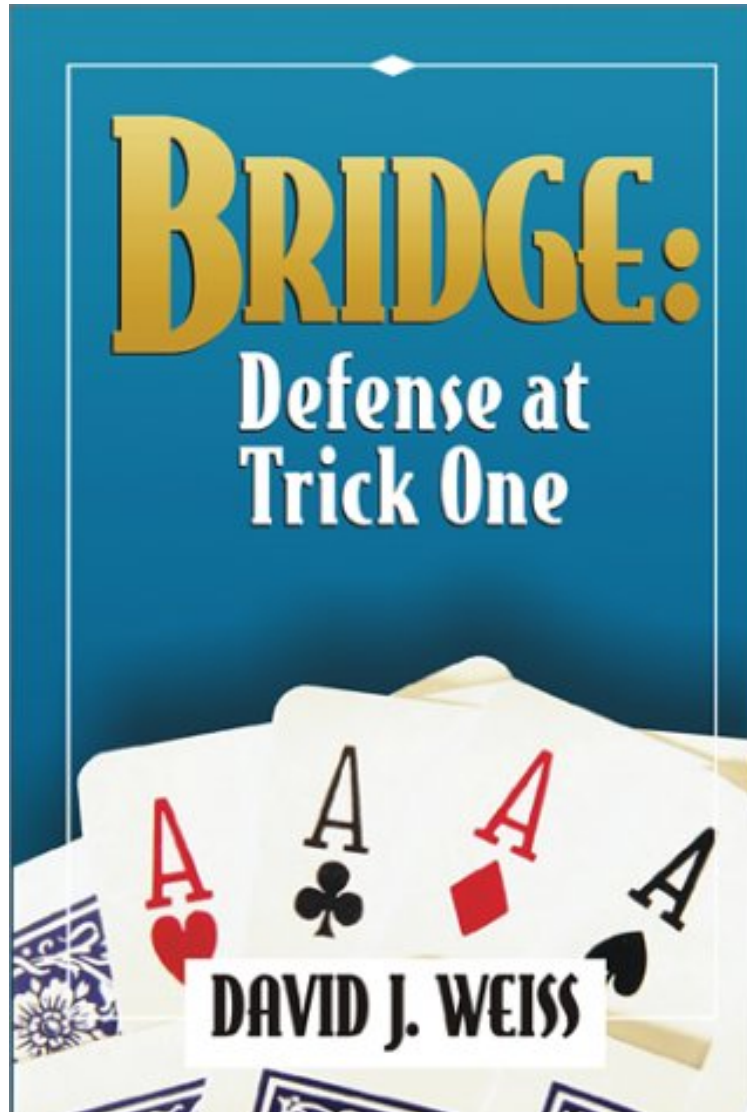


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Bridge : Defense At Trick One

David J. Weiss

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David J. Weiss : Bridge : Defense At Trick One before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bridge : Defense At Trick One:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Startling suggestionsBy Craig HemphillWeiss produces a book that is too dangerous to fall into the hands of beginners, but is of considerable interest to advanced/experienced players. The danger for beginners is twofold. First, the suggestions of opening lead methods flies in the face of conventional wisdom. Second, the plays suggested require a skill level unattainable without many years of strong competition.The lead convention introduced in this book is radical -- "parity leads" are the authors solution to providing immediate

information regarding the length of the suit led, to the detriment of attitude implications. The normal lead from K832 is the deuce, showing three or four cards in the suit, with an implication that the suit is worth leading, hence possessing an honor (AKQ or J). Against a suit contract, many would lead the three, beginning a count showing sequence of cards -- those who do so are playing either "third and fifth" or "low from odd, third best from even." The latter methods share the benefit of guaranteeing an odd number of cards when partner can see that the lead is the lowest card in the leader's possession. Weiss takes that tendency to the extreme, by leading the 8 in the example suit, a method not previously encountered by this reviewer. The benefit is clear: In most cases the length in the suit led is known, far more often than in the other practices. However, it may not be clear that the lead is not from the top of a doubleton, say 82, rather than from a suit headed by an honor, and that failure may overwhelm whatever benefit the length ("parity") information may impart. The lead also violently opposes the concept of "attitude" leads, espoused by yet another school of thought on the subject. And so the reading of this book by the inexperienced would be terribly confusing. All that having been said, and warnings issued, the hands generally make use of the "parity" information imparted, and so are an excellent presentation of the benefits of the methods. The plays suggested by the author are pretty uniformly intelligent, drawing appropriate inferences from the bidding and play, and often difficult, drawing on subtle inferences or providing information to an intelligent partner. For experts only.

Bridge: Defense at Trick One covers the most important aspects of the game of bridge: counting and defending intelligently based on the information available. The collection of 60 deals is presented as problems for the third hand player at trick one. In a brief introduction the author presents his opening lead methods and shows how they can assist partner. But regardless of your preferred methods you will find this set of hands instructive and interesting.

"an important theoretical work. It carries forward substantially the argument that the historical trend toward the opening leader's giving count against suit contracts should be extended dramatically." --Jeff Rubens, *The Bridge World* "a book on the most important aspect of the game of bridge: counting and defending intelligently based on the information available...a book worthy of any player interested in improving his game." --John Swanson, *World Champion*