



## The major takes priority

### First and second seat opening bids

With a 5 card major and at least 12HCP always open 1 in the major.  
With both majors consisting of at least 5 cards,

- Bid the longest.
- If both are the same length, bid ♠ (always the highest ranking)

One exception: with 5 ♠ and 5 ♣ and a very strong hand open 1 ♣

S	W	N	E
1 ♥			

  

A ♠	10 ♠	J ♥	10 ♥	8 ♥	7 ♥	4 ♥	4 ♣	A ♦	K ♦	Q ♦	10 ♦	7 ♦
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Problem 1845 With a 5 card major you are absolutely obliged to bid it, even with a magnificent minor!

S	W	N	E
Pass			

  

A ♠	4 ♠	J ♥	7 ♥	4 ♥	K ♣	Q ♣	7 ♣	5 ♣	3 ♣	J ♦	6 ♦	2 ♦
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Problem 1783 Pass. Your 11HCP aren't great, especially with the jacks 3rd!



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### First and 2nd seat opening bids,

You can also open 1 in a major if you have a nice 11HCP. :

- If your honors are in your long suit, then your 11HCP is often worth 12 or 13!
- Strong intermediate cards should also be counted.

Therefore, don't just be happy by adding your points... think about the overall distribution.

S	W	N	E
1 ♠			

  

K ♠	Q ♠	10 ♠	8 ♠	7 ♠	A ♥	7 ♥	Q ♦	10 ♦	9 ♦	7 ♦	6 ♦	5 ♦
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Problem E1107

With 6 scrawny cards in a minor, prioritise the major.

S	W	N	E
Pass			

  

J ♠	6 ♠	5 ♠	4 ♠	3 ♠	K ♥	Q ♥	4 ♥	Q ♣	3 ♣	K ♦	6 ♦	5 ♦
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Problem E1782

Pass with this poor 11HCP, no ace and a suit with 5 scrawny cards!



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### Opening bids in 3rd seat

In 3rd position apply the same rules as for opening bids in 1st or 2nd position, but...as from 10HCP instead of 12HCP. In particular, in 3rd position, you can open with a hand which would have justified an overcall.

S	W	N	E
		Pass	Pass
1 ♠			

K	Q	J	10	2	2	A	9	8	6	9	7	4
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦

Problem 1152 In 3rd seat, a 1 ♠ opening bid strikes a double blow: it disturbs the Opponents and indicates the only good suit to lead.

S	W	N	E
		Pass	Pass
1 ♦			

7	5	4	3	A	8	7	6	4	K	Q	J	9
♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦

Problem 9604 1 ♦. Don't pass, you'll never get another opportunity to let your P know what he should lead!



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### In 4th seat

In 4th position only open if you think you will play the contract. This is particularly true for minor openings. When opening you allow your Opponents, who might have been too prudent earlier, to bid and to find the right contract !

S	W	N	E
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♠			

A	Q	10	7	4	A	10	8	10	4	7	6	5
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦

Problem 4763 Don't hesitate! With 5 ♠, 2 high honors and 10HCP, you must open!

S	W	N	E
	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass			

7	4	K	9	7	4	A	Q	J	5	J	8	4
♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦

Problem 4765. Pass. Don't start bidding for the benefit of your Opps. 1 ♣ is tempting, but risky.