

When to Bid

(basic bidding strategies)

holding these cards in your hand is generally good for at least one point

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When bidding, please keep the 2nd commandment of Euchre in mind, “Thou shalt counteth upon thy partner for one trick.” When you are evaluating your hand, you are deciding, “Can I take 2 tricks?”

*see the [10 Commandments of Euchre](#)

Note: This is only basic bidding strategy. As you become more experienced, you will find other bids that are riskier and work for you as well. The score can make a big difference in when you bid and how you play. You will get euchred with these bids from time to time; however, you are more likely to make your bid.

Some Terminology Used in This Document:

Seats: (position of each player.) The person sitting across from you is your partner.

	2nd Seat	
1st Seat (Eldest Hand)	Dealer (4 th Seat)	3rd Seat (Pone)

1st Seat is to the **LEFT** of the dealer and is his opponent. 1st Seat is also referred to as the “**Eldest hand.**”

2nd Seat is across from the dealer and is his partner.

3rd Seat is to the **RIGHT** of the dealer and is his opponent. 3rd Seat is also referred to as the “**Pone.**”

4th Seat (the dealer) is 2nd seat's partner.

First Round of Bidding – when the up-card is offered as the trump suit. The up-card is offered first to the player to the LEFT of the dealer – if he declines to order it up, the card is offered to the next player and so on. If the up-card is ordered up it goes to the dealer and he discards one card. If no one orders up the card the 2nd round of bidding begins.

Loner – same thing as ‘Going Alone.’ – “opting to play without your partner on a particular hand.” **see endnote #1.

Next – the other suit of the SAME color as trump. ie: If CLUBS are trump then the “next” suit is SPADES.

Next (Bid) – is made in the 2nd round of bidding. A “next” bid is declaring the trump suit to be the SAME color as the former up-card that everyone declined to order up in the 1st round of bidding. ie: If the former up-card was a HEART then the “next” bid would be DIAMONDS. It is recommended that a “next” bid be made from the 1st seat or 3rd seat.

Order up – declaring the trump suit.

Second Round of Bidding – begins when the up-card is declined as trump by everyone in the 1st round of bidding. Starting with the player to the LEFT of the dealer, players are asked to declare the trump suit. If the

1st player declines to declare the trump suit, the next player is asked to declare and so on. Any suit may be named trump except for the suit of the former up-card. The dealer does NOT discard a card in this round.

Side Ace – any ace that is not in the trump suit.

Two-suited – a hand consisting of two suits only.

Up-card (or Turn-card) – the top card from the kitty which has been turned face up. The up-card is offered as the trump suit in the 1st round of bidding.

Void – having no cards in a particular suit.

Regardless of who's the dealer, order up the card or suit when you hold (or will hold after you order up) any of the following hands:

- 1) **any FIVE trump (even the lowest five ie: 9, 10, Q, K, A)** *you should strongly consider a loner bid especially if you are the dealer. **see endnote #2.
- 2) **any FOUR trump (even the lowest four ie: 9, 10, Q, K)** *you should strongly consider a loner bid especially if you are the dealer. Having a side ace increases your chance of a successful loner. **see endnote #3.
- 3) **THREE trump** when:
 - one is a bower
 - side ace OR void in one suit
- 4) **any THREE trump** when: (even the lowest three ie: 9, 10, Q)
 - side ace
 - void in one suit
 - do not do if you are ordering up to your opponents
- 5) **any THREE trump** when: (even the lowest three ie: 9, 10, Q)
 - two-suited
 - do not do if you are ordering up to your opponents unless you have a bower
- 6) **TWO trump** when:
 - one is a bower
 - side ace
 - void in one suit
 - do not do if you are ordering up to your opponents
- 7) **“Next” Bid – is made in the 2nd round of bidding.** A “next” bid is declaring the trump suit to be the SAME color as the former up-card that everyone declined to order up in the 1st round of bidding. ie: If the former up-card was a HEART then the “next” bid would be DIAMONDS. It is recommended that a “next” bid be made from 1st seat or 3rd seat. **see endnote #4.

Bid “next” when you have:

- any **THREE** or more trump in the “next” suit
 - any **TWO** or more trump in “next” with **ONE** side ace
 - any **ONE** or more trump in “next” with **TWO** side aces
 - **ZERO** trump in “next” but have **THREE** side aces
- 8) Advanced strategy: the [K-9 Kicker](#). **This is a bid made in the 2nd round of bidding.** **see endnote #5.

Order up the trump suit when you meet these requirements:

- you are sitting in 2nd seat. (the dealer's partner)
- your King and 9 are the **OPPOSITE** color of the former up-card and will become the trump suit
- you must hold a **MINIMUM** of the King and 9 in the trump suit. (ie: an Ace and Queen is fine)
- side ace that is the **SAME** color as the former up-card
- void in one suit

endnotes:

1. OhioEuchre.com see “Euchre Terminology” section – Going Alone (Loner)
2. OhioEuchre.com see “What Type of Hands Are Playable as a Lone?”
3. OhioEuchre.com see “What Type of Hands Are Playable as a Lone?”
4. OhioEuchre.com see “The art of calling 'Next'” (The Art of the Next Call aka Hoyle)
5. The [K-9 Kicker](#) – Edwards & Lapp

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