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## Precision

Date - 3/2/2004 & Level: Intermediate

[Precision](#) is a wonderful (and in my opinion, easier than "Standard") bidding system.

All "strong" hands start with 1♣. A 1♣ opener shows approximately 16 or 17+ points.

All other 1-level openings are natural and limited (11-15).

A 1NT opening bid is 14-16.

The beauty of this system is two-fold:

1. You get to start your strong hands at the lowest possible starting point (1♣).
2. All the other 1-level openings deny good hands, making the rest of the auction simpler.

After the strong 1♣ opening, the main responses are:

1♦=0-7 any distribution

1♥/1♠/2♣/2♦=8+ Natural (5+ card suit and forcing to game)

1NT=8-13 balanced

After any opening bid other than 1♣, all bidding is natural/normal -- as it would be with any natural system. [2/1 GF](#) is still used as are any other modern methods such as [negative doubles](#), [Inverted Minors](#) (only diamonds in this case), [Jacoby 2NT](#), [Drury](#), limit raises, etc. There isn't much need to worry about opener reversing or jump-shifting since he is limited to a maximum of 16 points.

The (slight) main downsides of [Precision](#):

- 1) The 1♦ opener could be made on a doubleton and it is tough to find diamond partscores (on the flip-slide, you sometimes keep your opponents out of diamonds when they belong there!).
- 2) If the opponents preempt the 1♣ opening, there is often a lot of guessing needed to catch up.

If I were teaching beginners, I would want to start them with [Precision](#)--the easiest-to-learn bidding system. But, this isn't practical as 98% or more of their peers will be playing "Standard."

As a testament to how good this system is, in my estimate, in 2007, 4 of the top 5 pairs in America used [Precision](#)!

To read more details, see the [summary in Wikipedia](#).