

Opening 4-4-4-1 Hands

With a 4-4-4-1 shaped hand you are going to have to bid two four card suits. There is a good chance that partner will respond with your singleton suit, in which case you are going to have to tell a lie about the length of your first suit, holding only four cards instead of the promised five! There is an unwritten Acol rule that if you have to tell a lie with your bid, lie in a minor suit – never in a major. Your No.1 objective should always be to find an 8 card fit in a major if one exists, so the bidding of major suits should always be honest.

There is no perfect solution but a good system to use with 4-4-4-1 hands is:

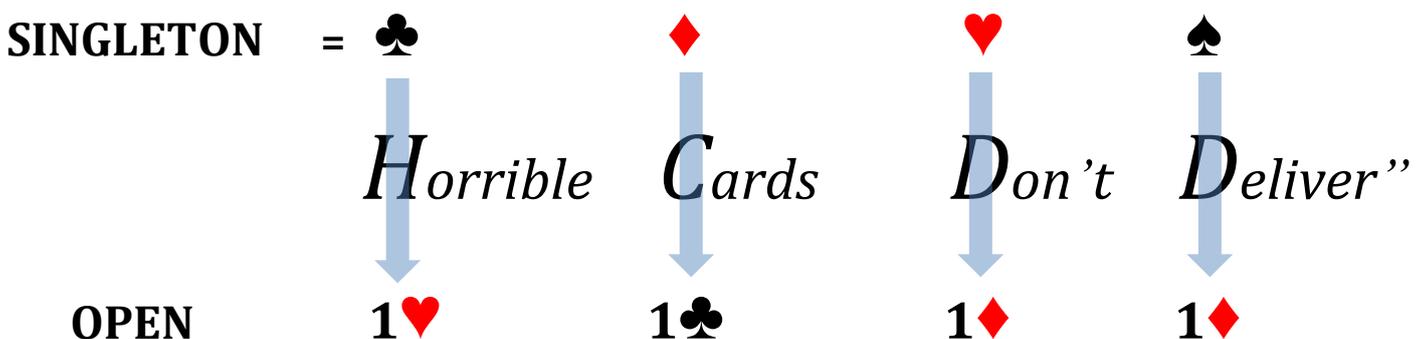
- Singleton club: open 1♥ - if partner responds 2♣ rebid 2♦
- Singleton diamond: open 1♣ - if partner responds 1♦ rebid 1♥
- Singleton heart: open 1♦ - if partner responds 1♥ rebid 1♠
- Singleton spade: open 1♦ - if partner responds 1♠ rebid 2♣

The only slightly awkward situation is the first one, where the singleton is a club. By opening 1♥ (partner responds 2♣) and rebidding 2♦ you are promising 5 hearts so if partner has just three hearts he will raise you to 2♥, thinking he has found an 8 card fit. However his 2-level response promises 10+ points so with a combined 23+ points* a contract of 2♥ has good chances.

There are several mental gadgets you can use to help you remember:

- red suit singleton: open the suit below the singleton
- black suit singleton: open the middle of the touching suits

or remember :



* PS: Good advice: Do not to open a 4441 hand unless you have 13+ HCP.

“*Horrible Cards Don’t Deliver*”

SINGLETON



Horrible

Cards

Don’t

Deliver

OPEN

1♥

1♣

1♦

1♦

♠ A 5 4 3
♥ K Q 7 5
♦ K J 6 3
♣ 7



Horrible

Cards

Don’t

Deliver

Singleton club => Open 1♥. If partner responds 2♣ rebid 2♦

♠ A 5 4 3
♥ K Q 7 5
♦ 3
♣ K J 6 3



Horrible

Cards

Don’t

Deliver

Singleton diamond => Open 1♣. If partner responds 1♦ rebid 1♥

♠ A 5 4 3
♥ 5
♦ K J 6 3
♣ K Q 7 5



Horrible

Cards

Don’t

Deliver

Singleton heart => Open 1♦. If partner responds 1♥ rebid 1♠

♠ 3
♥ K Q 7 5
♦ K J 6 3
♣ A 7 5 4



Horrible

Cards

Don’t

Deliver

Singleton spade => Open 1♦. If partner responds 1♠ rebid 2♣