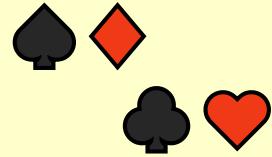


Bridge on Sundays



Opening 4-4-4-1 Hands

The usual convention is that you open the suit BELOW the singleton. This is still taught by the EBU.

- With a singleton club, open 1 spade
- With a singleton diamond, open 1 club
- With a singleton heart, open 1 diamond
- With a singleton spade, open 1 heart

This presents a problem for some players who open 1 spade which always shows a 5-card suit (or longer). It can be far more difficult to reach a fit with a singleton club if spades are opened. Those who play 5 card majors cannot use this scheme.

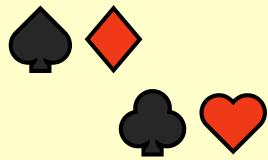
An Alternative Scheme

- With a red suit singleton open 1 club
- With a black suit singleton open the middle suit

A summary of opening bids with a 4-4-4-1 hand

Singleton	EBU.Teaching Open	Alternate. Scheme Open	Playing. 1 Card. Majors Open	Taps.Scheme Open
♣	1♠	1♥	1♦	1♥
♦	1♣	1♣	1♣	1♣
♥	1♦	1♣	1♦	1♣
♠	1♥	1♦	1♦	1♥

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Bridge on Sundays

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A very strong 4-4-4-1 opener

These hands always cause difficulties in showing the shape and strength. Best is to treat the hand as a *reversing* hand which normally shows 5-4 in the two suits bid.

- Open the minor and jump in the major.
- With a singleton ♣ or ♦, bid the minor suit first
- Then bid the ♠ suit next and show the ♥s finally if possible.

With a weak 4-4-4-1 hand where the singleton is a ♣ and you open 1♦ (which, if you play 5 card majors, you have to) there is a re-bid problem should partner bid 2♦. Best option is to *lie* and re-bid 2♦