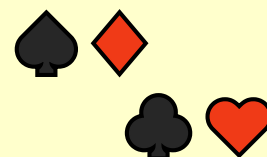


# Bridge on Sundays



## 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

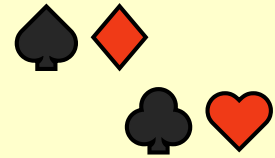
- With a red suit singleton open 1 club
- With a black suit singleton open the middle suit

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

| Singleton   | EBU.Teaching<br>Open  | Alternate.<br>Scheme<br>Open  | Playing.1Card.<br>Majors<br>Open  | Taps.Scheme<br>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 ♦