

BridgePal User Manual

GAME OPTIONS

There are three ways to play BridgePal. SOLO bridge is for one player. The SOLO game is the only one that lets you replay the hand, if you wish. TWO PLAYER bridge provides scoring for two people, who take turns playing random hands. Similarly, DUPLICATE scores for two, but deals the same sets of hands to both players.

All three game options will ask if you want the "Best Hand (Y/N)"? If you reply Y(es), the hand with the most points is given to you (South) on every round. All options also ask if you want "Automatic Trick Pickup (Y/N)"? If you reply Y(es), the cards will be "picked up" after the fourth card is played on each trick. Reply N(o) and the cards remain on your monitor until you "Push any key to continue."

BIDDING

BridgePal bidding is the same as conventional bridge. Bids which are not legitimate, like one club after three hearts, will cause the message "ILLEGAL BID" to appear. This will repeat until a legal bid is made. BridgePal understands (and makes) the following bids: Preempt, Short Club, Take Out Double, Penalty Double, Overcall, and Blackwood.

Bids are entered into the computer by pressing a number and then a suit, using the first letter of the suit. So, to bid two hearts, push the "2" key and then the "H" key. No-trump bids are made by using the letter "N" instead of a suit letter. The following bids are entered by pushing just the first letter: P(ass), D(ouble), and R(edouble). It is not necessary to push ENTER to make a bid.

Deciding what to bid can be difficult, but HELP is available. Just push "H" and the computer will make your bid for you. To see the point COUNT for your hand, push "C" before you make a bid. To exit the hand press the ESC(ape) key.

PLAYING THE HAND

After the bidding is finished, the play of the hand begins. The "?" symbol will appear next to the appropriate hand when it is your turn to play a card. Cards are played by choosing the letters A(ce), K(ing), Q(ueen), J(ack), or the numbers 2 to 10 (you can also use the letter T to play a Ten). The suit is selected by the first letter of the suit, just like in the bidding. So, to play the ace of spades, just press "A" and then "S". To follow suit and play the lowest card you have in that suit, just press the ENTER key.