

48K Spectrum

**BRIDGE
PLAYER 2**

MANUAL

 software

Loading Instructions

1. Set up your 48k Spectrum as normal.
2. Type LOAD" " and press the enter key.
3. Start the cassette player at a volume you have found effective.
In case of difficulty refer to your Sinclair computer manual.
4. The program options are explained on-screen after loading.
5. You will find a full summary of the commands explained in this manual on the last page.

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BRIDGE PLAYER 2

General Description

This program allows you to play bridge without having to get in three friends for the purpose. By using randomly dealt hands it simulates bridge as realistically as is possible, allowing you first to bid your hand and then to play the cards, as declarer or defender according to the result of the bidding. The program will provide useful practice, particularly for beginners and intermediate players, and endless enjoyment for everyone.

Bidding is in accordance with the Acol system, with a limited number of additional conventions (see below).

The program contains a number of other features, including:-

- a post-mortem facility, enabling you to rebid and/or replay any hand.
- full scoring both of the result of the last hand and on a cumulative basis.
- the ability to input a hand of your own choosing and then bid and play it as usual (this makes the program especially useful as a teaching aid).
- any player who has a printer can get a hard copy of the hand.
- during the play of the cards you can, if you wish:-
 - review the bidding;
 - see the play to the earlier tricks; and
 - peep at the opponents' hands.
- you can dispense with the bidding and simply decide on the appropriate contract and declarer (particularly useful for those whose bidding tends to land them in the wrong contract!)
- full information during the play of the cards as to the contract, how many tricks each side has won, the score, the cards played to the last trick, etc.
- the ability at any time to go on to the next hand or to review the list of options.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

Options

After successfully loading the program you will be asked to choose between various options given. These are self-explanatory and your choices will continue to apply until you enter "0" at any later stage.

One of the options available relates to the distribution of high card points. As you will see you can decide (perhaps because you prefer to be declarer than to defend) that you and your partner should always (option 1) or usually (option 2) have the majority of the points or you can simply let the points be distributed at random (option 3). In fact the hands are dealt at random anyway, but when option 1 or 2 is selected the computer will, having dealt the hands, in appropriate circumstances rotate them (so that East gets the hand North would otherwise have held, etc.) so as to achieve the desired result.

The bidding

You are always South and your hand will be shown on the top half of the screen, with the bidding beneath it. All legal bids are allowed, including doubling and redoubling.

The Acol system is used, with a weak, strong or variable no-trump as selected by you initially. (Note that your opponents (East/West) always play the same no-trump range as you are using at the time). Opening bids at the two level are strong, 2 clubs being conventional and showing, normally, 23 or more high card points. Opening bids at the three level are pre-emptive and weak. A bid at the two level over partner's 1 no-trump is considered as a weak takeout.

The program understands and accepts Stayman (over 1NT and 2NT) and Blackwood, although it will not initiate them. Thus if the computer bids 2 clubs over its partner's 1 no-trump this is a weak takeout, not Stayman.

To make your bid when it is your (South's) turn to do so, enter first the level (1,2 etc.) then the suit, i.e. S, H, D, C or N (for no-trumps). Thus to bid 2 no-trumps enter 2N; to bid 6 Spades enter 6S.

The remaining possible bids are entered as follows:-

Pass (no bid)	— P (or simply press the “ENTER” key)
Double	— D
Redouble	— R

Once you have entered your bid, press the “ENTER” key.

The play of the cards

You are always South but, in order to avoid your being dummy and merely watching the play of the cards when your partner has become declarer, you will be able to play both the North and South hands whenever you (South) or your partner (North) are declarer.

Once the bidding is complete your hand (or North's hand if he is declarer) will be shown in a new display. The opening lead will then be made, dummy's hand will go down and play will proceed.

When it is your turn to play, you can play any legally permissible card: revoking is of course not allowed. Note that if there is only one card which you can legally play (i.e. you hold a singleton in the suit led, or you have only one card left in your hand) the computer will, to speed up the game automatically play this card for you.

The standard way of entering the card you want to play is to enter first the suit to be played (S, H, D or C) and then the card (A, K, Q, J, T (for 10), 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 or 2). Once you have entered the card press the “ENTER” key.

To speed up the play, however, you can, if you wish, take advantage of the following facilities:-

- (a) to play the lowest card held in any suit you need only enter the suit (followed by the “ENTER” key): indeed if you are following suit and want to play the lowest card which you hold you need only press the “ENTER” key and there is no need even to enter the suit;
- (b) if you are following suit, you need not enter the suit itself but can simply enter the card.

To take an example, the player on your right has led the Queen of Hearts. You hold the K, 10, 7, 4 of Hearts. If you want to play the 4 of Hearts you can (because it is your lowest card of the suit led) simply press the "ENTER" key to play this card. If on the other hand you want to play the King of Hearts you can, if you wish, simply enter K and then press the "ENTER" key. It is worth experimenting with these abbreviated entering procedures since they are quicker, thereby speeding the game up.

The time taken by the computer to play a card will vary. It will range from perhaps, 10 seconds (sometimes more) when it is considering what to lead (especially when the computer is declarer) or to discard.

When you are on lead during the play of the hand you can review the bidding before playing your card (by entering "E") or peep at the other players' hands (by entering "P"). This information will be deleted from the screen once you have played your card.

If, while playing the hand as declarer, you hear a single "beep", this will be to alert you that a defender has ruffed.

Scoring, review of the hand, etc.

At the end of each hand the score on that hand will be shown in the customary format, together with the score brought forward from previous hands during that rubber. The scoring is the same as in normal rubber bridge and includes penalty points, honours, slam and rubber points. A replayed hand will not be scored, nor will a hand which has been abandoned.

At the end of a hand you can see North's and South's (and if you wish, East's and West's) original hands and can then rebid and/or replay the hand or print it out, together with the bidding, on your printer. Alternatively you can, if you prefer, go straight on to the next hand or back to the list of options.

Other main options

A. By pressing the appropriate key when the various options are described, you can dispense with the bidding and go straight on to the play of the cards. In this case you will have to nominate both the contract and the declarer. Having selected this option the computer would in the ordinary way play the East/West cards, but if you have elected to see all four hands you can, if you wish, decide to play from all four hands yourself.

B. You can input a deal of your own choosing and then bid and play it as usual. If you decide to do this, please note that (i) you will first be asked to enter North's Spades, then his Heart's, etc., but the cards in any suit can be entered in any order; (ii) after entering all the cards in the suit press the "ENTER" key; (iii) where the holding is a void, press the "ENTER" key without first entering any cards; and (iv) for presentational reasons no player may hold more than eight cards in any one suit.

General

Please note that:-

- (a) the computer only accepts CAPITAL LETTERS as input; and
- (b) you can, at any time when it is your turn to bid or play, abandon the current hand (enter "N") and, if you wish, revert to the list of options (enter "O").

KEYS TO USE IN ENTERING YOUR BID OR CARD ETC.

Bidding

S Spades	N No trumps
H Hearts	P Pass (no bid)
D Diamonds	D Double
C Clubs	R Redouble

Play of the cards*

S Spades	A Ace
H Hearts	K King
D Diamonds	Q Queen
C Clubs	J Jack (Knaive)
	T Ten

- B to review the Bidding
- E to see the play to Earlier tricks
- P to Peep at the other hands

At any time

- N Abandon current hand and proceed to Next hand
- O Abandon current hand and return to list of Options.

CAPITAL LETTERS must be used for all the above.

*See also the abbreviated system of entering cards described in the text under "The play of the cards".

(suit) ENTER plays lowest card of that suit.

(value) ENTER follows suit to last player.