



Beginner Bridge – Building on the Basics

Distribution

Opener and Responder Should Add Distribution Appropriately

Players should still add Distribution in most situations where there are short side suits

Side suits are the 3 non-trump suits when the partnership has a trump contract.

However, players should consider whether certain circumstances really deserve Distribution.

Why Count Distribution When We Have An 8+-Card FIT?

Some of your trump cards will likely take tricks on their own by trumping a voided suit.

For example, if you have 2 trump cards remaining near the end of your hand, it is often possible to play each card separately – not together as in ‘following suit’ – to take 2 separate winning tricks by playing each on a different voided suit.

*We count short **side suits** for Distribution value because they may be voided early and, therefore, trumped early.*

Our trump cards are worth a little more than just their high card point value.

*Side Suits: The 3 other suits that are not the Major Suit Fit.
Don't count Distribution in the trump suit if it is short.*

Adding Distribution

Doubletons Add 1 Dist Point

Singletons Add 2 Dist Points

Voids Add 3 Dist Points

However, there ARE Exceptions.



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DETAILS of DISTRIBUTION

Doubletons – Add 1 Distribution Point

* Add Distribution for	A x	or	K x	or	AK	or	x x
* Do Not Add Distribution for	Q x	or	J x	or			
	A Q	or	A J	or			
	K Q	or	K J	or			
	Q J						

Yes, add Distribution for two small cards.
You are not already giving this suit hcp.

Queen Doubletons and Jack Doubletons are already receiving high-card points.
They are not worth the hcp you are already giving the Queens and Jacks.
Don't give nearly worthless Queens and Jacks extra value and inflate the suit points.

Singletons – Add 2 Distribution Points

* Add Distribution for	A	or	x		
* Do Not Add Distribution for	K	or	Q	or	J

Yes, add Distribution for one small card.
You are not already giving this suit hcp.

King Singletons, Queen Singletons, and Jack Singletons may be given high-card points.
You should not also add Distribution.

These honor Singletons will not likely win a trick.
You are already giving them high-card points. Don't inflate the suit by giving a suit too many points.

Voids – Add 3 Distribution Points

* All Voids Get Distribution