

Karen Walker's Recommendations on Bridge Books

[Five Weeks to Winning Bridge](#) (Beginner)

By Alfred Sheinwold. This classic has taught millions to play, and it's the very first bridge book I ever read. I read it in one weekend -- and then reread it several times. It teaches 4-card majors, but the principles are easily adapted to a 5-card-major system.

Brian Comments: More popular in Europe, but lots of good ideas for beginners.

[Classic Book on the Play of the Hand](#) (Beginner to intermediate)

By Louis Watson. This is the oldest and most comprehensive guide to understanding the cards, with a wealth of information on suit combinations, basic strategies, end positions and other principles of declarer play. It was the second book I read, and it was slow going -- it requires careful study, but what you learn from it is invaluable.

Brian comments: Excellent book when you're serious about bridge, but a little repetitive and a boring writing style.

[Bid Better, Play Better](#) (Beginner to intermediate)

By Dorothy Hayden (Truscott). It's interesting that in the promotional quotes on the back cover of my very old copy, Alan Truscott (the author's future husband) offered the endorsement "one of the best bridge books ever written by a woman". Quite an understatement, as this is one of the best bridge books ever written by anyone, men included. Hayden's clear approach and sound advice will transform your game. *This is an updated version of this classic.*

Brian comments: Never got to read it when I was starting out, but seems solid.

[Commonsense Bidding](#) [How to Play a Bridge Hand](#) [How to Defend a Bridge Hand](#) (Beginner to intermediate)

By William Root. You can't go wrong with any title from this master teacher, and these are three of his best. *Commonsense Bidding* is the most complete guide to basic bidding, published in 1986 but already regarded as a classic. The *How to* titles are comprehensive guides to every aspect of play and defense, with hundreds of hands that clearly demonstrate strategies, techniques and psychological factors. Each title was named Bridge Book of the Year (*Commonsense* in 1987; *How to Play* in 1990; *How to Defend* in 1994).

Brian comments: If you are going to invest in any bridge book, money or time, these should be it. This is where Gloria and I started, this is where I still go when I have basic questions or wonder what the standard approach is. *Commonsense Bidding* is basically a bible. *How to Play a Bridge Hand* is excellent, the first 8 chapters being stuff we have covered in class, but in a more detailed and complete manner, plus quizzes. The last few chapters are more advanced items. I felt I could read this book for the first 3 years of my bridge career and still get something out of it. *How to Defend a Bridge Hand* is a little weaker in my mind, but does have lots of good problems and is very clear on Standard defense which is useful when playing with new people.

Additionally Bill Root and Richard Pavlicek wrote a book called *Modern Bridge Conventions* which is a little more advanced, but the next book to get after these three.

[Complete Book on Hand Evaluation](#) (Beginner to advanced)

By Mike Lawrence. One of the best books ever written on this subject, from one of the most readable and popular of all bridge authors. Lawrence offers good advice on everything from basic counting to expert-level inferences.

Brian comments: This book is excellent, but a little more advanced. As Karen points out a very readable book and something to keep in your library for years.

Web Recommendations

| Site Name | URL | Description |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Beginning Bridge | http://www.netlink.co.uk/users/pagat/boston/bridge.html | Five introductory lessons – very basic, stuff you have learned, but it never hurts to review. |
| SAYC Simplified | http://www.annam.co.uk/sayc.htm | OKBridge's SAYC system and notes – SAYC is Standard American Yellow Card, which is very similar to what you have been learning. |
| Karen's Bridge Library | http://www.prairienet.org/bridge/ | Library for aspiring bridge players – one of my favorite pages, great book reviews, lots of good lesson broken down in to coffee break sizes. |
| Laws of Duplicate | http://acbl.lunaweb.net/templates/acbl/laws97/index.htm | ACBL's official bridge laws |
| Richard Pavlicek's Page | http://www.rpbridge.net/ | Quiz yourself! – Along with lots of other tools. Maybe a little advanced, but will give you an idea of how crazy people get about bridge. |
| Hand Generator | http://playbridge.com/ | Generate all sorts of bridge hands |
| Great Bridge Links | http://www.greatbridgelinks.com/ | New, information, links etc. |
| Bridge Base | http://www.bridgebase.com/ | A free place to play online. This is where all the cool kids hang out. |
| MIT Draper Club Page | http://web.mit.edu/mitdlbc/www/ | Find Game locations, results, upcoming event for your favorite club |
| District Homepage | http://www.nebridge.org/ | News and information about upcoming event |
| EMBA – Unit Homepage | http://www.acblemba.org/ | News and information about upcoming events. Includes a nice club directory and Novice page. |
| ACBL Home Page | http://www.acbl.org/ | American Contract Bridge League |