

How to beat me in Euchre

*I realize some of this stuff is basic knowledge, but I included it because I see some of these moves/errors being made when I play euchre online.

Please note this info is not ‘my opinions’ (except for #7... which I learned by observation in tourney play) but rather info I have gleaned from reading about Euchre. Hat tips to: OhioEuchre.com, VegasEuchre.com, and EuchreLinks.com. Links to all of this info can be found at EuchreInfo.com. (on the “Strategy” tab and on the “Rookie Mistakes” document located under the ‘Information’ tab.)

*Bidding notes:

1. If you feel you can take 2 tricks, then bid it. You can usually count on your partner to take 1 trick, so that makes you good to go!
2. Bid not only based upon what you hold in your hand but ALSO by what the odds say your partner is likely to be holding. **This is especially true during the 2nd round of bidding from 1st seat and 2nd seat.**

definitions:

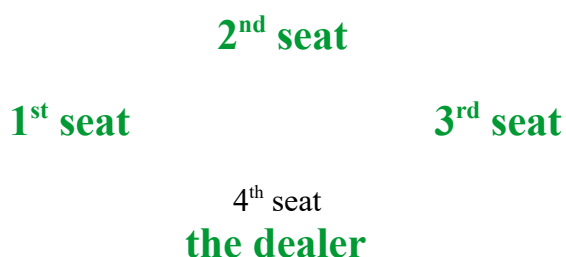
1. **block** – same thing as a donation. When you order up trump to your opponents knowing there is little chance of making a point. The one and only reason to bid a block is to stop an opponent from going alone and making 4 points.
2. **boss card** – the highest UN-played card in any suit.
3. **boss trump** – the highest UN-played trump card.
4. **donation** – same thing as a block. When you order up trump to your opponents knowing there is little chance of making a point. The one and only reason to bid a donation is to stop an opponent from going alone and making 4 points.
5. **doubleton** – you are holding TWO cards in a particular suit.
6. **“green suit” bid** – the same thing as a “reverse next” bid. It is a bid made in the 2nd round of bidding. A green suit bid is one of the suits OPPOSITE in color to the former up-card. For example, if the former up-card was a HEART then a green suit bid would be SPADES or CLUBS. It is recommended that a green suit bid be made from 2nd seat or 4th seat (the dealer.)
7. **guarded ace** – having the ace of the trump suit PLUS any 2 trumps smaller than the ace. The ace is protected because the player can sacrifice both lower trump cards (if the bowers are led), leaving the ace as the highest remaining trump card. (ie: guaranteed to take it’s trick.)
8. **guarded left** – same thing as a protected left. Having the left bower AND another (smaller) trump card in the player’s hand; the left bower is guarded because the player can sacrifice the lower trump card, if the right bower is led, leaving the left bower as the highest remaining trump card. (ie: guaranteed to take it’s trick.)
9. **“next” bid** – is made in the 2nd round of bidding. A “next” bid is declaring the trump SUIT to be the SAME color as the former up-card that everyone declined to order up. Ie: If the former up-card was a HEART then the “next” bid would be DIAMONDS. It is recommended that a “next” bid be made from 1st seat or 3rd seat.
10. **protected left** – same thing as a guarded left. Having the left bower AND another (smaller) trump card in the player’s hand; the left bower is protected because the player can sacrifice the lower trump card, if the right bower is led, leaving the left bower as the highest remaining trump card. (ie: guaranteed to take it’s trick.)
11. **“reverse next” bid** – the same thing as a “green suit bid”. It is a bid made in the 2nd round of bidding. Reverse next is a bid of a “green” suit (the suits OPPOSITE in color to the former up-card.) For

example, if the former up-card was a HEART then a reverse next bid would be SPADES or CLUBS. It is recommended that a reverse next bid be made from 2nd seat or 4th seat (the dealer.)

12. **side ace** – any ace that is not in the trump suit.
13. **side suit** – any suit that is not the trump suit.
14. **singleton** – you are holding only ONE card in a particular suit.
15. **slough** – playing a card that is neither of the suit led nor trump, and therefore cannot win the trick.
16. **stick the dealer** – a game option that forces the dealer to declare the trump suit if all other players pass in the 2nd round of bidding.
17. **void** – having no cards in a particular suit.

Positions of each player:

the person sitting across from you is your partner.



Moves to make:

1. **If your partner bid it, you lead it.** *Read info below to see exceptions to this.
2. **If your partner bid trump, and he is sitting in 3rd seat, it is considered mandatory that you lead trump (in order to prevent a possible euchre.)** *See how to lead on the 1st trick below.
3. **If you hold a ‘guarded left’ do NOT play your left bower before the right bower is played. Also, do not play a ‘guarded ace’ before the right and left bowers are played.**
4. **Play 2nd Hand Low.**
5. **If you are sitting in 1st seat, and you declare trump in the 2nd round of bidding you are most likely making a “next” bid.** *See how to lead on the 1st trick below. The lead on the 1st trick is very important and should be played a specific way.
6. **The proper time to double lead a suit.**

Moves to make - explanations:

1. **If your partner bid it, you lead it.** Lead trump at your 1st opportunity. About the only time you WOULDN’T want to lead trump is when your partner is the dealer, ‘stick the dealer’ is in effect, and he got stuck declaring trump in the 2nd round of bidding. DON’T lead trump in this instance ‘cuz your partner is possibly holding very few trump cards. *See #1b below on what to lead when your partner got stuck with an std bid (and he’s the dealer.)
 - a) **What to lead when your partner bid:**
 - i. If you hold a bower, lead it.
 - ii. If you hold both bowers, lead the bower your partner did NOT give you.
 - iii. If you hold both bowers, and your partner did not give you one, lead the LEFT bower. Your partner will see that the RIGHT bower did not get played, so he can assume that:
 1. you hold the right bower

2. nobody has the right bower – and he can adjust his play accordingly.

iv. **If you do NOT hold a bower, lead your lowest trump.**

v. Hat tip: If you lead a bower and win the trick, do NOT lead trump a 2nd time, EVEN IF you hold the other bower (or the **boss trump**.) You could be pulling what may be necessary trump from your partner's hand.

1. **Situation: you won the 1st trick.** When you lead the next trick, if you hold 2 **side aces**, lead a **singleton side ace**. If you only have one **side ace with 2 (or more) cards in that suit**, then do not lead it. Lead a loser card from another side suit (where you do not hold an ace) instead. This will hopefully give the lead to your partner. *Your partner may need the cards to be played a certain way in order for you guys to make the bid, so giving him control of the cards is a good thing. **Note:** If you lead a **side ace** from a suit in which you hold 2 or more cards, chances are high it will get trumped. Wait for more trump to be played before you lead it.

b) **What to lead when your partner is the dealer and he got stuck with a 'stick the dealer' bid in the 2nd round of bidding.**

i. **Do NOT lead trump, as your partner probably has very few trump cards.** Lead a singleton side ace. If you don't hold a **singleton side ace**, lead a loser card from another side suit. If you have a **side ace** that is a **doubleton** (or more cards,) do not lead that suit as your ace is likely to get trumped. (You want to wait until a round of trump has been played <or is depleted> before leading this suit.)

2. **If your partner bid trump, and he is sitting in 3rd seat, it is considered mandatory that you lead trump (in order to prevent a possible euchre.)** You have the lead on the 1st trick. Lead trump as per the info above in #1a. *If you do not lead trump on the 1st trick, you are communicating to your partner that you hold no trump.

3. **If you hold a 'guarded left' do NOT play your left bower before the right bower is played.** (Exception: if your partner bid, then lead your left bower as per #1a above.) If your opponents bid trump and you are holding only 2 trump (with one being the left bower) do NOT play either of your trump cards UNTIL the right bower is played. Why? Because you can stop your opponents from taking all 5 tricks, IF you play your left bower at the proper time. The same principle applies to a '**guarded ace**' - ie: do not play your ace of trump until both the left and right bowers have been played (or wait until the 3rd round of trump is led.)

4. **Play 2nd Hand Low.** (specific instance: Your partner is the dealer and either you or he ordered up trump in the 1st round of bidding.) *fyi: you can play 2nd hand low in other instances, too.

a) Situation:

b) It's the 1st trick.

c) You are sitting in 2nd seat.

d) Either you or your partner bid.

e) 1st seat leads the 1st trick.

f) Since you are in 2nd seat, **you are the 2nd person to lay a card on the trick.**

g) If 1st seat leads a card that is NOT TRUMP and is NOT a **side ace**, AND you are **VOID** in that suit, **do NOT trump, even if you have a trump card.** Why? Because you are 'giving your partner a chance' to win the trick. Euchre is a partnership game, and you need your partner to take trick(s), so you need to give him the opportunity to win trick(s). **Slough** a loser card from another suit.

h) You can also play **2nd hand low** on tricks 2-4, but it's most commonly used from 2nd seat on the 1st trick.

5. **If you are sitting in 1st seat, and you declare trump in the 2nd round of bidding** you are most likely making a "**next**" bid (which is the recommended bid from 1st seat in the 2nd round of bidding.) **Assuming you made a "next" bid**, if you only hold one of the bowers, do NOT lead it, even if it's the right bower. **Lead your SMALLEST trump.** The theory is, that IF the opposition held a bower, they would of ordered up the upcard in the 1st round of bidding. Since they did NOT order up in the 1st round

of bidding, it is highly likely that YOUR PARTNER is holding a bower. You lead your smallest trump on the 1st trick, 'cuz you want your partner to win it with his bower. It would be a mistake for you to lead a bower, because, if your partner's only trump card is his bower, then you 2 have 'stepped on' each other and lost a 2nd trick that his bower could of taken. Exception: if you hold three trump, with 2 of them being the bowers, go ahead and lead a bower on the 1st trick.

6. **The proper time to double lead a suit.** *When you know your right hand opponent is out of trump, this is an excellent time to double lead a suit, as your partner is the last one to have an opportunity to trump the trick. ***Advanced:** You are in 1st seat. If you win the 1st trick, AND you have a 2nd card in the same suit, double lead this suit. The dealer is highly likely to have 2 cards in this suit, too, so your partner can trump (or over-trump) 2nd seat and win the trick. Note: normally double leading a suit is not a good idea. The specific instances above are exceptions to the rule.

Bonus/ Advanced Moves:

7. **It's the 1st round of bidding. You are sitting in 1st seat and a JACK is the upcard. (*Depending upon the score*) if you CANNOT stop a loner, then order up the trump card to the dealer.** (This is called a '**donation**' or '**block**'.) Why would you do this? Because odds are pretty good that 2nd seat or the dealer may have a loner in that suit. It is much better to give up 2 points than 4 points. Now, if you CAN stop a loner (ie: you hold a '**guarded left**' or a '**guarded ace**') then it is fine to pass on ordering up the dealer BECAUSE you CAN stop a loner. In summary: If you order up the jack to the dealer, you have communicated to your partner that you cannot stop a loner. **Hat tip:** Lead trump if you have it. You could get lucky and take out all of your opposition's trump on that first lead, thereby allowing both your's (and your partner's) **side aces** to take tricks without getting trumped. **Ask me about the score and when to call a **block/ donation**.*
8. **Legally communicate with your partner – by telling him you hold both the ace and king in a side suit.** *This is also a good move to make when you are defending against a lone call by the other team.
- During the course of play, your partner is winning a trick in which you are void in. You hold a singleton side ace and a doubleton side ace (which is the ace AND the king.) Slough you ACE in the ace-king combo. Why? By sloughing your ace, you are telling your partner one of two things:
 - You are now void in this suit and can trump it when it is led.
 - You hold the king in this suit, (which is now the boss card in this suit,) therefore you can win the trick with your king.
 - Example:**
 - You are sitting in 3rd seat.
 - Clubs are trump.
 - You hold:
 - Hearts – Ace, King
 - Diamonds – void
 - Spades – Ace, 10, 9
 - Clubs – void
 - Your partner, in 1st seat, leads the 1st trick. Your partner leads the Ace of diamonds. You hold no diamonds. You decide to slough the Ace of hearts. Why? By playing the ace, you are communicating to your partner that you also hold the KING in this suit, (which has now been promoted to the '**boss card**,' since you are playing the ace,) OR you are saying that you are now **void** in this suit. **In other words, you are telling your partner that when this suit is led, you can win the trick with your KING OR you can trump the suit...** so your partner should not trump this suit when it is led... you can win the trick. **Hat tip:** ask me about sloughing an ace when your team is defending against a loner.

Now, there are other ‘tricks up my sleeve’ but these are the easiest moves to make. By employing these moves on a regular basis, you should up your winning ratio. There are some aggressive bids I make, but I didn’t want to overwhelm folks with too much info in this document. As per aggressive bidding (ie: bidding with very few trump cards)...it is important to note that when you are playing against ‘shy bidders’, this will increase your likelihood of getting euchred as this type of player is passing on many biddable hands and they are more likely to euchre you. In this instance, you probably don’t want to make such aggressive bids with slim trump holdings.

If you want more info on bidding ask me about:

1. **“next” bids**.... “How low can you go” with your trump holding to most likely be successful with this bid? You might be surprised! Hint: there is actually a ‘next’ bid (that is recommended) where you hold ZERO trump!
2. **“reverse next” bid**
3. **bidding as the dealer in the 1st round of bidding** - “How low can you go” with your trump holding?”

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