

AUDREY GRANT'S WEEKLY DUPLICATE GAME HELPFUL HINTS

“How to Alert A Bid” on BBO

During the auction, when your bid has a special meaning, you need to disclose that to the opponents by using the Alert procedure. In face-to-face games, the partner of the bidder alerts the bid. However, the procedure is different when playing online. **The bidder self-alerts – but must do so BEFORE the bid is made.** Here’s an example of how to correctly alert a bid.

The screenshot shows a bidding interface with the following elements:

- North (N):** idblu (star icon)
- West (W):** allbridge
- East (E):** greatgame
- South (S):** jcheung72 (crown icon), 4 points
- Bidding:** North has bid 1♠, South has passed.
- Hand (South):** ♠ A 9 7 5, ♥ 6 2, ♣ A Q J 9, ♦ A K 10
- Alert/Explain box:** Contains "Alert" and "Explain" buttons.

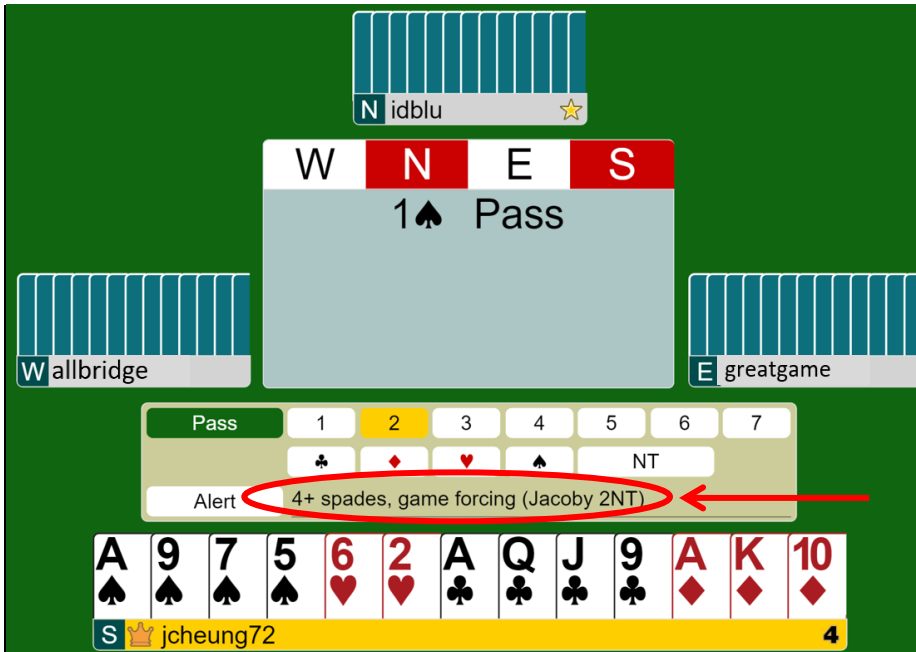
1 Suppose partner, North, opens the bidding 1♠. East passes. Sitting South, you have four-card spade support and 18 high-card points, plus 1 dummy point for the doubleton heart suit. That’s enough for game and possibly slam.

This screenshot is identical to the one above, but with the following changes:

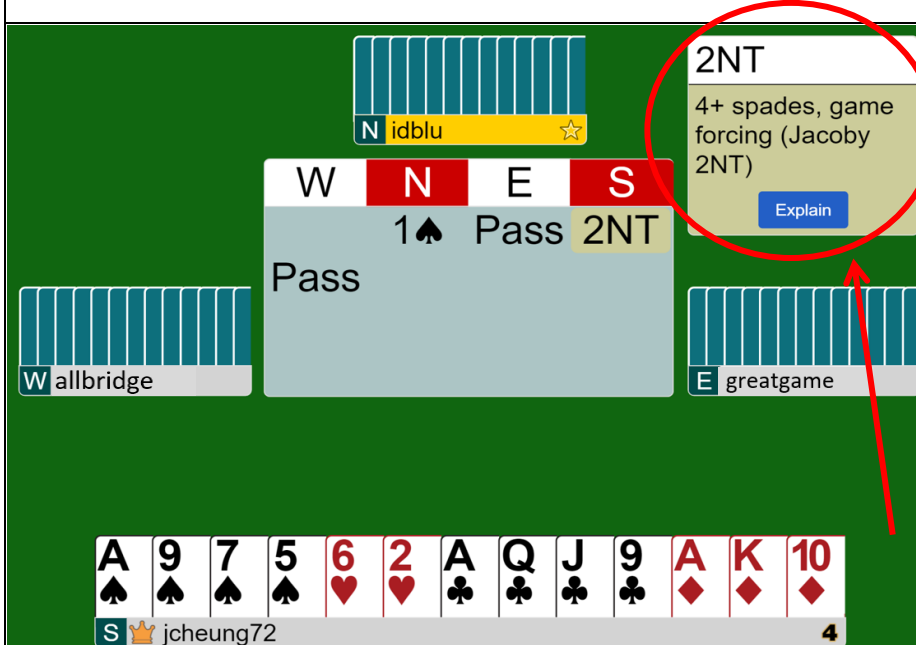
- Bidding:** North has bid 1♠, South has passed.
- Alert/Explain box:** The "Alert" button is circled in red, and a red arrow points to it. The text next to it reads "4+ spades, game forcing (Jacoby 2NT)".

2 Your partnership has agreed to use the Jacoby 2NT convention to show four-card support in the major-suit and values for game. So, you should respond 2NT. However, **before bidding 2NT**, you need to explain the 2NT bid.

Look for the line that is next to the Alert button in the bid box.



3 Make sure the explanation is a good description of the bid, not simply the name of the convention. On this hand, select the bid – 2NT.



4 After bidding 2NT, the opponents will see a pop-up box with your alerted bid and explanation. Partner, North, will not see it.

The auction proceeds.

For further questions about rules and procedures, please email Martin Hunter, Better Bridge Game Director: martinhunter@rogers.com