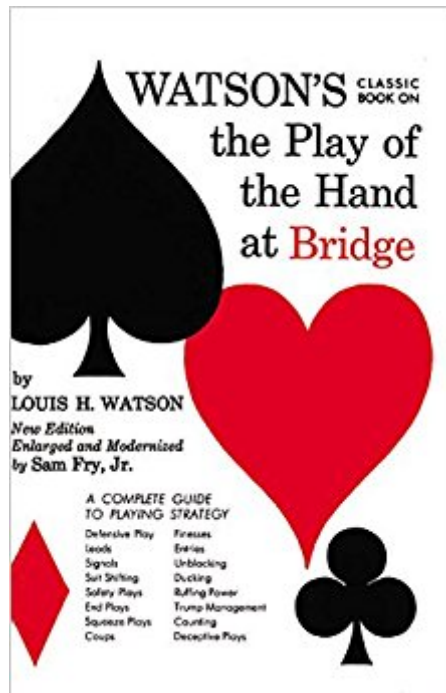




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# Watson's Classic Book On The Play Of The Hand At Bridge



## Synopsis

This book, by one of the first and foremost authorities on contract bridge, is regarded as the classic exposition of playing strategy. Practically all variations of play, both in attack and in defense, are explained and illustrated in it.

## Book Information

Paperback: 496 pages

Publisher: William Morrow Paperbacks (1959)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064632091

ISBN-13: 978-0064632096

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.1 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 103 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #68,025 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Bridge

## Customer Reviews

Bidding systems come and go but the play of the hand never changes. This book will never go out of date. I bought my first copy in 1970 or so for maybe 50 cents. Now they are a little more, but I buy them a few at a time and give them to my friends. There is no better book.

Classic addition to any library on bridge. Many books on bidding and conventions but that is only half of the game. Easy to read. I am an intermediate player, and continue to refer to it for an as needed refresher.

This is a heavy work to get through, but well worth it to me. His review of basic techniques of play helped me to have a better understanding in ways I hadn't thought of before. His dry British wit often cause me to laugh out loud. I stuck with it through the advanced play sections. I now have a much better understanding of end plays, squeezes and coups (still over my head for the most part), but I wish he could have given me more insight into when to recognize the opportunity to implement these advanced plays. He stresses the importance of "counting the hand" each board, but since I still struggle to do this (when I'm trying to think of so many other things) I somehow wish he had given me some secret to doing this easily (there probably is no such secret).

This is the basic truth about how to play good bridge. No matter what your style of partnership or your bidding system, the fundamentals are the same. I am a beginner and I plan to reread Watson regularly. You can take one small section at a time and start applying his advice to your game. Master players have told me that they keep this book as their bible. I can see why.

Required Reading for anyone who wants to improve his game. Classic.

This is the best bridge book I have read, and I have read a lot of bridge books. Watson is concise and thorough -- this is a hard balance to strike but Watson is pitch-perfect. While the last third of the book is marked as "advanced" (it covers endplays, squeezes and counting), the right audience for this book is someone who is relatively new to the game. That said, I'm an intermediate/advanced player and I learned quite a bit from this book. I suspect that this is a book that you learn from again-and-again. Perhaps if I read this again in a year, I'll pick up more fine points.

Watson's book is totally serious. It makes no attempt to entertain; rather it maintains a steady focus on the subject: how to play your cards in bridge. Starting with fundamental concepts of card rank Watson leads you gradually and carefully through the details of trick taking and defense, illustrating each new concept with excellent examples of actual hands, perfectly constructed to illustrate the point and thoroughly explained in the accompanying text. It is a book to be studied slowly, moving forward to the next section only after understanding the current one. You cannot "skim" through this book. This is a book for the serious student of bridge and fully deserves its reputation as the "classic book" on the subject.

This 1934 book is still in print because it is the best and most essential book for anyone who wants to play better. Crystal-clear writing style.

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