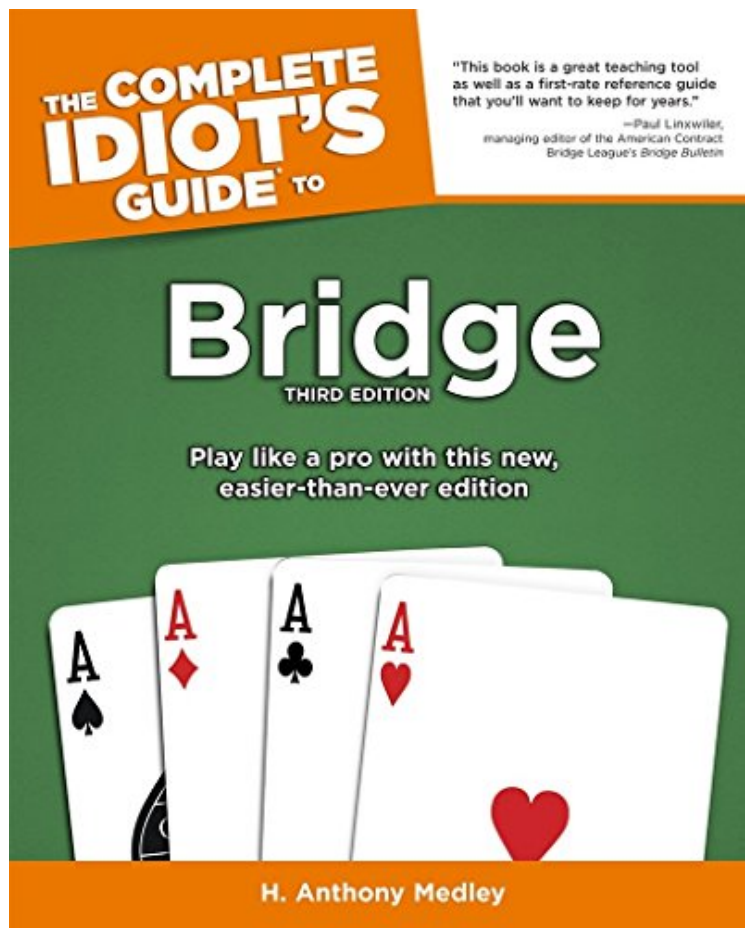


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The Complete Idiot's Guide To Bridge, 3e (Idiot's Guides)

H. Anthony Medley

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H. Anthony Medley : The Complete Idiot's Guide To Bridge, 3e (Idiot's Guides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Idiot's Guide To Bridge, 3e (Idiot's Guides):

16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Excellent information, but somewhat incomplete, and deviates from Standard AmericanBy Galen MenzelThis book is flawed, but is the best introductory bridge book around. What this book gets right it gets really right. More than any other beginner's book I've read, Medley's book covers why you make the bids you do. For example, Medley not only tells you to bid four-card suits up the line and longer suits down the line, he tells you why it's best to do so. His sections on analyzing your partner's bids are wonderful. He discusses captaincy, reversing, cue bids -- just about everything -- and he covers it well. This makes it all the more frustrating that Medley does not cover modern Standard American bidding. The system presented in this book is mostly SA, but with many modern (but not cutting-edge by any means) innovations ignored. For example, Medley teaches strong-two bids (instead of weak-two bids), drop-dead two-level responses to 1NT (instead of Jacoby transfers), and strong jump

overcalls (instead of weak jump overcalls). All of these modern -- that is to say, currently standard -- bidding practices are relegated to PDF chapters on advanced topics that you can download from the Idiot's Guide website. Why weak-two bids are considered "advanced" is not explained. Medley admits in the online chapter that they are "better" than strong-two openings. So why not just put them in the main part of the book as standard practice? Weak-two bidding is no more complicated than reverses, for example, or many other topics that Medley covers. Furthermore, Medley doesn't discuss when or why his system deviates from SA. We are left to puzzle it out for ourselves. I don't mean to say that SA is the only system which should be taught, but when there is a standard you should only deviate from it with good reason. Medley gives no such reason, and if you play just as he teaches, you'll find yourself with some strange bidding habits that could confuse new partners. The book is also marred by some poor editing. Some of the section headers are misleading, such as the section in Chapter 14, "Rebidding with Better Than a Minimum Hand," most of which is devoted to discussing how to not reverse (and thus imply a strong hand) when you have a minimum hand. Some of the bidding charts are just confusing. See, for example, the chart on page 159 that advises you (under certain conditions) to "raise your partner's suit" in response to a 1NT bid. Does this mean 2NT or what? It's unclear. The index is ok, but has some misses. If you look up reverses, for example, the index will correctly direct you to pages 154-155, but it makes no mention of pages 165-166, where reverses are also discussed. Also there is at least one orphan paragraph that should have been deleted, and makes no sense in its current context. So for the excellent explanations of bidding and play the book gets five stars. It gets docked a star for not covering SA -- and in fact covering an inferior system instead, and another star for poor editing and a bad index. I give back one star because despite its flaws it remains the best introductory bridge book I've found, easily surpassing Bridge for Dummies. If the three online chapters were just printed in the book I'd bump the rating up to five stars. If you want a book to just tell you what to do to bid SA, there are better books out there. But if you want to understand the reasoning behind the bids you make, and are willing to root for the information, this book is a good choice. However, the absolute best introduction to bridge I've found is the ACBL's free Learn to Play Bridge software. If you don't mind reading from a screen, it outshines all the intro books.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Obsolete Chapter on Strong Two Opening! By Kathryn M. Miller I thought this book was great -- well explained, very easy to understand. But imagine my dismay when I spent a lot of time on the chapter describing a bidding convention which is no longer used! My bridge group was surprised when I tried to use this bid, and when I looked it up on Google I found that this convention is "old fashioned" and rarely used ("weak twos" are now preferred--which were not even mentioned in this book).

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not the best By Aften P. McKinney My group started using this book to learn bridge. When we began taking lessons from a professional, we discovered the Audrey Grant series is more standard thus more useful.

Revised, now with the wisdom of a world champion! Learning to play bridge is much like learning a new language. But its enormous, worldwide popularity is evidence enough that people aren't discouraged by the game's challenging rules and concepts. And why should they be, when there's The Complete Idiot's Guide to Bridge to teach them the game in a fun and easy-to-understand format? *First two editions have sold well *New edition includes everything from the basics to the latest in bidding techniques

About the Author H. Anthony Medley received his B.S. from UCLA, where he was Sports Editor of the UCLA Daily Bruin, and his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. He is a member of the California Bar. He holds the bridge rank of Silver Life Master, is an American Contract Bridge League Club Director, and has won regional and sectional titles. He is the author of the first and second editions of The Complete Idiot's Guide to Bridge. Medley is also the author of UCLA Basketball: The Real Story and Sweaty Palms: The Neglected Art of Being Interviewed, the first book on the interview aimed at the interviewee with over 500,000 copies in print. As a Motion Picture Association of America accredited film critic, his movie reviews and articles appear in several newspapers, on CWEBnews.com, and on rottentomatoes.com.