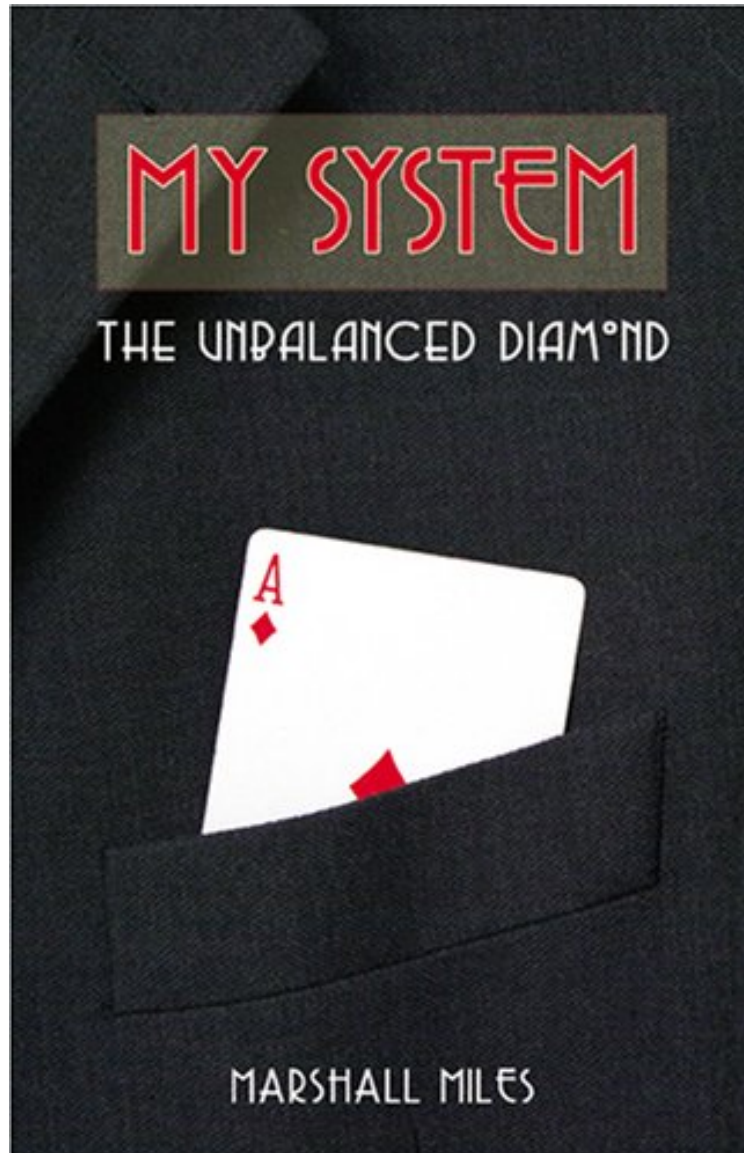


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My System: The Unbalanced Diamond

Marshall Miles

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Marshall Miles : My System: The Unbalanced Diamond before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My System: The Unbalanced Diamond:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Fun System By Pete Matthews, Jr. This is not your normal bidding system - it requires a new way of thinking. There's lots to learn, and I found the system to not be playable from the book alone. I needed tables of bids, responses, rebids - so I wrote one: search the web for "Pete Matthews Unbalanced

Diamond". I also include ideas for improving the system. Take a look at the summary, and if you find it intriguing, definitely buy the book, which explains the whys. I played the system occasionally for about 8 months with some limited success, including winning both sessions of our club's 2-session club championship. I cannot say it's either better or worse than 2/1 methods, but it's definitely different, and it's fun!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. innovative system worth trying, yet could be an easier read

By MMAs context, I have generally been a fan of Kaplan-Sheinwold (with some added science) or modified big club systems. These approaches generally solve bidding problems that SAYC partnerships face regularly. The Unbalanced Diamond system is a rather innovative hybrid of standard, big club and polish club approaches. I have no doubt that players that invest the time to learn and apply this system would benefit, definitely versus standard or K-S and likely also versus big clubs. One of the best features of the UD system is that each opening is fairly well defined in terms of high card value, even more than big club systems do. This would be very helpful in competitive auctions, and it would also deter opponents from competing just to mess with the (limited) 1 club opening auctions. The one drawback to this book is that a number of the transitions between topics within chapters are not smooth. Understanding the implications of different responses and follow-ups will take work and a great deal of discussion with your favorite partner. At the very least, MS:TUD is worth a read by any reader curious about bidding theory.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A sweet innovation!

By Paul C. Perkowski

Marshall Miles comes up with a great single solution to a lot of problem hands in nearly every other system. The unbalanced 1D handles misfitting 4-4-4-1 hands, 5C 4cM hands, and 5-4 minor hands better than any Precision, Polish, Carrot, Blue Team, standard, or 2/1 system I've ever seen at the price of an artificial 1D opening. It's not as hard to give up the natural meaning as I thought, especially when you see all the benefits! Particularly for Precision players (who I'm guessing would be most attracted to this system), the assurance of at least 2 cards was never very reassuring anyway. Also, having the weak NT (a favorite of mine) as an integral part of the system is a huge attraction, as well. I found the suggested strong 2D opening a little clunky and the minimum strength for a 1NT response to 1C unnecessarily too high, but these are maybe minor flaws that can be modified easily, or more likely just a difference in style. As pointed out by other reviewers, he intentionally leaves out details that aren't core to the system (like responses to weak NT) to allow for reader preferences. However, I wish a little more attention was placed on handling interference over 1C, although the general guidelines handle most situations. So, if a well-constructed, yet not overly complex strong club | weak NT | 5-card major system with an incredibly clever unbalanced 1D opening sounds appealing, definitely get this book!!

Book by Miles, Marshall