

How would you open this hand using the bidding system Standard American?

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In the Standard American bidding system, the most common approach to opening the hand you provided (Spades: A752, Hearts: A4, Diamonds: AJ86, Clubs: Q43) would be to make an opening bid of "1 Diamond." Here's the rationale behind this choice:

1. Evaluate your hand: The total point count of this hand is 15 high-card points (HCP), which falls within the range for an opening bid.
2. Suit quality: The Diamond suit is the longest suit in your hand with a strong holding of AJ86. Opening with your longest suit is generally preferred, especially when it has good high-card values.
3. Secondary suit: The Hearts suit is relatively weak with only one honor card (Ace). It is generally advisable to prioritize opening with your longest and strongest suit.
4. Distribution: Your hand doesn't have a long suit, and the Clubs suit is relatively weak. Opening with the Diamonds suit, which has the longest length and stronger holdings, is a reasonable choice.

Therefore, the recommended opening bid in the Standard American system for this hand would be "1 Diamond." This bid communicates the approximate strength of your hand and the presence of a 4-card or longer Diamond suit to your partner.

But this is a balanced hand with 15 HCP. Are you sure that this is the right opening?

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Apologies for the incorrect recommendation in my previous response. You are correct in pointing out that the hand you provided is a balanced hand with 15 high-card points (HCP). In the Standard American bidding system, a balanced hand with 15-17 HCP is typically opened with a "1 No Trump" (1NT) bid.

Therefore, the appropriate opening bid for the given hand in the Standard American system would be "1NT." This bid communicates the balanced nature of the hand, indicating to your partner that you have a range of 15-17 HCP and a balanced distribution across all four suits.