

how many points are needed in general for bidding a slam?

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In general, bidding a slam in bridge typically requires a combined point count of at least 33 high-card points (HCP) or more between partners. However, it's important to note that the point count alone is not the sole determining factor for bidding a slam. The distribution of the cards and the quality of the suits also play a significant role in evaluating the possibility of success.

Here is a general guideline for slam bidding based on point ranges:

1. Small Slam (6-level contract): A small slam generally requires a combined point count of around 33-36 HCP. This can vary depending on the distribution and strength of the individual hands.
2. Grand Slam (7-level contract): Bidding a grand slam typically necessitates a higher combined point count, usually in the range of 37-40 HCP. Again, the distribution and strength of the hands are critical factors in determining the feasibility of bidding and making a grand slam.

It's important to remember that the point count is not the sole consideration for bidding a slam. Other factors, such as the quality of the suits, the presence of key cards (aces and kings), and the presence of voids or singletons, also impact the decision-making process.

Bridge players often use various bidding systems, conventions, and cue-bidding methods to exchange information about their hands and evaluate slam possibilities more accurately. These systems help partners communicate their strength, distribution, and specific holdings, allowing for a more informed decision on whether to bid a slam contract.