

Quick Start

Playing Wednesday's Hands in Bridge Baron

Download the Deal file from the Unit 503 web site.

- Click on the “(D)” following Name of Game of interest.
- **Save** the file in a convenient location you can remember.
- In the **Save As** box, look at name of the file you are saving. **Remember the Last 3 letters** of the name. The file probably will have a name like “*Dyymmdd.PBN*” or “*Dyymmdd.PPL*”.

Setup Bridge Baron for your **Conventions** and the **Direction** you played

- Open **Bridge Baron**
- From the Main Menu bar, select **Options** and set the **N/S & E/W Options** to correspond to the **Conventions** you play
- From the Main Menu bar, select **Options->Game Play Settings...**
 - Select the **Player Types** tab in the **Gameplay** window.
 - Check **Human** for the **Direction (Seat)** for which you played the boards;
 - Check **Computer** for the other **Directions**.
 - Click **OK**

Bid and Play the hands

- Select **Tools** and **Deal Library** from the **Main Menu**
- Select **Retrieve Deal from Library File** from **Personal Play Library** menu
- In the **Open** dialog
 - Depending on the **Last 3 Letters** of your file's name, select “**PPL Files**” or “**PBN Files**” for the **Type of Files** at the bottom of the Open dialog window.
 - Steer to the location where the downloaded PBN file was stored.
 - Highlight the file name, e.g. “*Dyymmdd.PPL*” or “*Dyymmdd.PBN*”;
 - Click **Open**
- Select the **Deal (Hand)** to play (e.g., Board 1); Click **OK**.
- Ignore the message that there is “No auction saved.”, Click **OK**
- If a **Start Bidding** window appears, select “**Bid for the Contract**”
- **Bid and Play** the hand using any of the standard Bridge Baron features.
- When finished with the Hand, using the Main Menu bar,
 - Select **Actions->Go to Next Deal** to bid and play another hand
 - Or, Select **Actions ->Return to Main Menu** to do something else.

Detailed Guide

Using Game Results from the Unit 503 web-site

Standard Option:

Show Total Score and Board-by-Board Scores for each partnership.

- Click on Name of Game for date of interest, e.g. "Wed Aft 49er"
- The Game Results Summary will be opened in a Browser Window.
- Results can be **Viewed** by scrolling the Browser Window and **Printed** using Browser Print function.

(C) Contract Analysis option

Show Hand Records, Makeable Contracts and Game Results for boards.

Note: This is a great way to analyze your play. Some players use this option to review key hands by telephone with their partners.

- Click on the "(C)" following Name of Game for date of interest.
- A Contract Analysis for the first board will be opened in a Browser window.
- Analyses for other boards can be viewed by scrolling the Browser window.
- The Analysis record consists of the Hand Record, a list of Makeable Contracts, and the Play Results obtained by each table playing the board.

Note: Results are listed for all sections, with best N/S at the top and best E/W at the bottom of each section.

Note: When the cursor is moved over any of the hands, a pop-up window displays evaluations of the strength of the hand using several different methods.

(H) Hand Records option

Show Hand Records with Makeable Contracts for all boards.

Note: An Adobe Reader or Adobe Browser Add-in is needed to view and print the Hand Record PDF files; these can be obtained from Adobe as free downloads.

- Click on the "(H)" following Name of Game for date of interest.
- The Hand Records will be opened in a Browser window.
- Hand Records can be **Viewed** by scrolling the Browser Window and **Printed** using Browser Print function.

(D) Playable Hands (Deal) option – PPL or PBN files

Download hands so they can be Bid and Played in BridgeBaron.

The following details are for Windows users; special exceptions for Macintosh users can be found below. **See also:** <http://www.paloaltobridge.com/education/bridgebaron.html>

- Click on the “(D)” following Name of Game for date of interest.
- **Save** the file in a convenient location you can remember.
- In the **Save As** box, look at name of the file you are saving. **Remember the Last 3 letters** of the name. The file probably will have a name like “*Dyymmdd.PBN*” or “*Dyymmdd.PPL*”.

- To **Bid and Play** the hands:
 - Open **Bridge Baron**
 - From the Main Menu bar, select **Options** and set the **N/S & E/W Options** to correspond to the **conventions** you play
 - Select **Tools** and **Deal Library** from the **Main Menu**
 - Select **Retrieve Deal from Library File** from **Personal Play Library** menu
 - In the **Open** dialog
 - Select “*PBN Files*” for the **Type of Files** option at the bottom of the Open dialog window.
 - Depending on the **Last 3 Letters** of your file’s name, select “*PPL Files*” or “*PBN Files*” for the **Type of Files** at the bottom of the Open dialog window.
 - Steer to the location where the downloaded file was stored.

If you repeatedly need to steer back to the location where you stored the PBN file, see the Windows Location note below

- Highlight the **Deal (Hand)** to play, e.g. “*Dyymmdd.PPL*” or “*Dyymmdd.PBN*”; Click **Open**
- Ignore the message that there is “No auction saved.”, Click **OK**
- In the **Start Bidding** window, select **Rotate the Hands**
- In the **Rotate Hands** window, select the direction you played. Click **OK**

If the **Start Bidding** window does not appear, see the **Rotating the Hands** note below.

- **Bid and Play** the hand using any of the standard Bridge Baron features.
- When finished, from the menu bar, select **Actions->Go to Next Deal** to bid and play another hand or select **Actions -> Return to Main Menu** to do something else.

Notes

Unit 503 Types of Deal Files

There are two **Types** of Deal files – files containing playable hands -- which are downloaded through the (D) option on the Unit 503 Game Results page.

- The **File Type** is indicated by the last three letters of the file name and will be either **PPL** or **PBN**.
- Only one **Type** will be available for a particular game; the **Type** is determined by the Director when the file is created.
- **PBN Types** can be used with a wide variety of Bridge Programs; however the Macintosh versions of Bridge Baron sometimes have problems with PBN files.
- **PPL Types** are used primarily by Bridge Baron and generally work better the PBN Types on Macintosh versions of Bridge Baron.
- One of several programs can be used to convert between **PPL** and **PBN Deal files**, including
 - BridgeConverter: freeware, www.backas.fi/index_to_bridge.htm
 - BridgeManager: www.thebridgemanager.com

Special Locations for PPL or PBN files in Windows

If you repeatedly need to steer back to the location where you stored the PBN file, try using the following special Windows folders.

In Windows Vista or 7:

“C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Bridge Baron 18\My Saved Deals”

Or, for Windows xP:

“C:\Documents and Settings\<username>\Application Data\Bridge Baron 18\My Saved Deals”

Rotating the Hands

If the **Start Bidding** window does not appear, there are two options for rotating the hands:

Option 1: Rotates the hands so your hand appears at the south seat. All hands, bidding and play occurs as if the players, dealer, vulnerability and cards had simply been rotated around the table.

- From the Main Menu bar, select **Options->Game Play Settings...**
 - Select the **Game** tab in the **Gameplay** window.
 - Un-Check the **Always Bid for Contract** box..
 - Click **OK**

Or, **Option 2:** Doesn't actually rotate the hands, but displays and lets you bid and play the hand you selected and hides, bids and plays the other hands.

- From the Main Menu bar, select **Options->Game Play Settings...**
 - Select the **Player Types** tab in the **Gameplay** window.
 - Check **Human** for the **direction (seat)** for which you played the boards; Check **Computer** for the other **directions**.
 - Click **OK**

Special Macintosh Considerations

Macintosh Download Procedure:

- Click on the “(D)” following Name of Game for date of interest.
- Select **Save File**. Your computer will provide the name of the program necessary to save the file. Select **OK**.

Your browser will download files into a folder specified in your browser preferences; usually the *Downloads* folder. To find where your browser stores downloaded files, then type the name of a downloaded file into the search area of your Finder window (e.g., *Dyymmdd*). The location will be shown at the bottom of the window.

Optionally, create a folder in your *Documents* folder to save your (D) files; e.g., a folder named *Bridge Baron My Saved Deals*.

If your Mac supports Smart Folders you can do the following:

- Create a New Smart Folder
- Click on the + button
- Select *Name, ends with*, and enter *PPL* or *.PBN*
- Save the file in a convenient location

Your Smart Folder will automatically contain all the .PBN and PPL files on your computer no matter where they were downloaded.

If you have created a special folder to store your lesson files, move the file or files ending with PPL or *PBN* (e.g., *Dyymmdd.pbn*) to your special folder.

Note: If you have created a Smart Folder for your files you do not need to move the files - the **Smart Folder** will automatically contain all your .PPL or PBN files.

Macintosh “Actions->Go to Next Deal” Operation:

Bridge Baron is not particularly Mac-friendly. One of the problems with the Macintosh version is that you will have to go back to the **Main Screen** and navigate to the lesson file each time you want to play a new deal.