

Marty Ronemus' advice for beginners

Bid 'Em Up

You can learn to play bridge ... that's the easy part. The hard part is having the courage to plunge right in there and do it!! We learn a little piece at a time, and it's not like a jigsaw puzzle. Fortunately, you can play without all the pieces! If you wait until all the pieces are there, you'll be too old to hold the cards.

I remember playing when I was a complete rookie. I was terrified! I sat there praying I wouldn't have six points so I wouldn't have to bid. Then I thought: What am I afraid of? I worked in midtown Manhattan for 10 years. I dealt with foreign cab drivers and snippy waiters on a daily basis. I taught reading in prison for the Literacy Council and had run the gauntlet of prison guards ..scarier than the prisoners. How hard could playing bridge be in comparison to that? Game bids, here I come!!

Be brave! Be fearless! Sooner or later, the math and the mechanics will come. Until then, have fun and bid 'em like you actually know what to do with em!!!