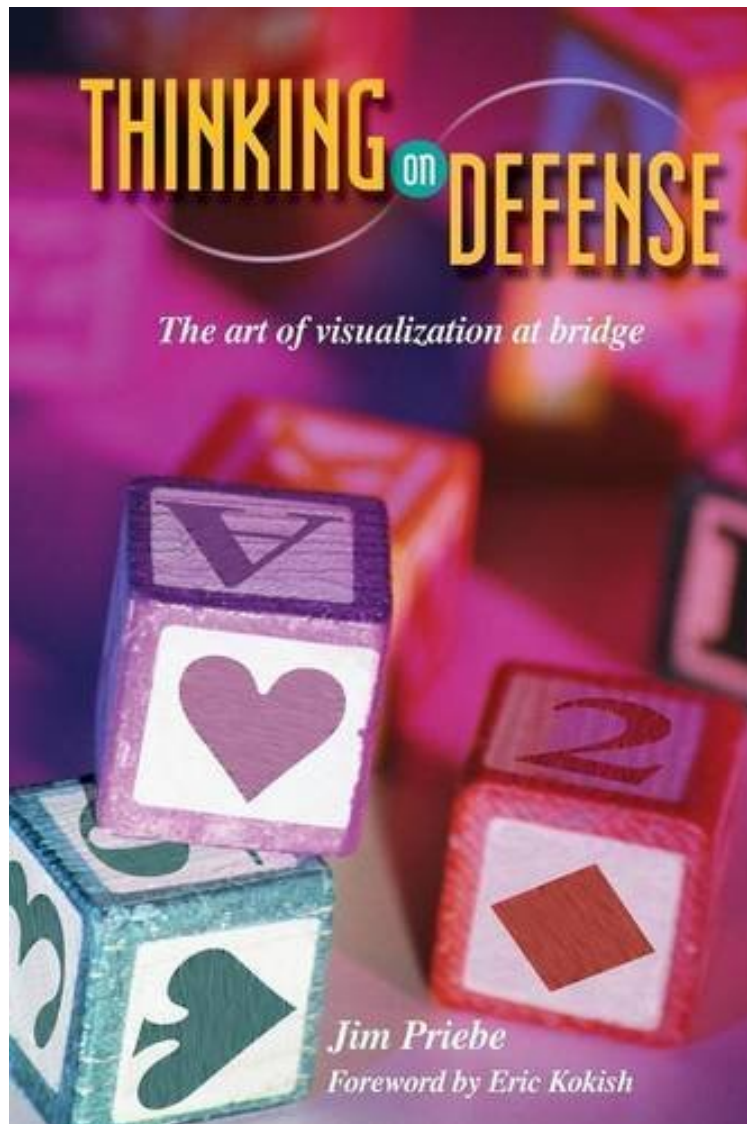


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Thinking on Defense

Jim Priebe

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#3989289 in Books Master Point Pr 2001-10-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.98 x .43 x 6.10l, .62
#File Name: 1894154371192 pages | File size: 15.Mb

Jim Priebe : Thinking on Defense before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thinking on Defense:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Huge Potential, didn't pull it offBy B. EinhornThis is an advanced book. The emphasis is not just on simple counting, but looking deeply at the spot cards played, the line of play, and trying to come up with some plausible hands that declarer has. Some of the hands will be impossible to set, so reject them. Others will be set regardless of your action (i.e. declarer over bid). But some will require a specific line of

play. Also - the point of the book is to not take the "obvious" action, but to think about what you know about the hand. Lots of examples from real life top level play. The reader will have to estimate shape and strength, and use small clues. All this is excellent practice, and helps improve your thinking. I love books like this and was eagerly looking forward to reading it. I had put off reading it while I first improved my Bridge skills and read other easier books on defense. While a number of the hands were solvable based on deep thinking, some were a bit far fetched, and some had mistakes or just plain stupid bidding (or were they typos?) There is a hand where declarer bids 2 Spades (a weak 2 preempt). This hand was from 1971 so I expected a 6 card suit, probably 3 of the top 5 honors. Instead it was a 7 card suit headed by the A J 9. While that's "legal" it's not a typical auction and no one today would bid 2 Spades with that (unless super sound), it would be bid 3 Spades or even 4. It's VERY HARD to solve a bridge puzzle if the inferences you are making are invalid because the author picked an odd ball hand. Some of the other hands were also a bit far fetched in terms of reasoning involved. I didn't really get anything out of this book, that I couldn't find in many other intermediate plus books on defense. The sole exception is the concept of generating a few plausible hands. I do that anyway, but the book reinforced the concept. I preferred Hugh Kelsey's book "Test Your defense" and other books like that. The author's other book "Match Point Defense" is better - I recommend it. This book is not appropriate for casual intermediate players. You will solve very few problems, and be lost. Start with simpler books. With better hands I would rate the book a 4. It had great potential, just didn't pull it off.

Defense is the most difficult part of bridge, and for most players, the hardest part of defense is figuring out what kind of strategy they should be pursuing. In this book, the reader is shown step-by-step how to visualise declarer's cards from the bidding and play, and then how to use this information to form a plan for the defense. This book is based on Jim Priebe's popular articles 'Visualisation on Defense' which appeared in the ACBL Bulletin in early 2001.