



**August: Two Hand Types - Only One Bid
This Month: One Bid - Many Hand Types.**

Last month the entire issue was devoted to situations where there is more than one type of hand that you might hold but only one bid. We discussed in great detail how you must compromise when faced with such a decision. Your choices were simple: 1) you could do nothing and hope for the best; 2) you could invent a convention that allows you to show both hand types; 3) you could choose to use a bid to show one type of hand and not show the other kind.

Here are some review examples that correspond to the numbers above: 1)

South A ♠ A5 ♥ KT75 ♦ KJ5 ♣ 6543	Auction W N E S 1♥ 2♠ ?
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South B
 ♠ 65
 ♥ KT75
 ♦ J5
 ♣ 96543

South C
 ♠ A5
 ♥ KT75
 ♦ J53
 ♣ 9654

Beginners who hold the South A hand have no problem. They jump to 3♥ with their limit raise and they pass or bid 2♥ with hand B. However, they also bid 2♥ with hand C. Of course, their partner never knows if they have hand B or C when they bid 2♥. It should be pointed out that in modern bridge hand A cuebids to show the limit raise, hand B jumps to 3♥ (conventionally intending it as a preempt) and hand C bids 2♥ (a normal raise). The non-sophisticated players don't realize the importance of preempting in this situation, so, in the words of the opening paragraph they "do nothing and hope for the best".

2)

It is interesting to note that those same players who do not cuebid in 1) above nor do they jump with preemptive hands are the first players to differentiate between 1N - 4N being quantitative and 1N - 4C (Gerber) being the convention to use to ask for aces. Interesting. They do nothing to differentiate hands in 1) but are delighted to use Gerber in 2).

South D With South D, raise 1N to 4N. North bids slam with a maximum. South E bid Gerber to ask for aces. The compromise mentioned in the first paragraph is to learn the Gerber convention.

South E
 ♠ 4
 ♥ AKJ98652
 ♦ KQ3
 ♣ 2

3)

In the third case, your partnership picks which way to play. So, when your partner opens and RHO overcalls at the 1-level, everyone in the world plays negative doubles, even the pairs in 1). The old-fashioned way, penalty doubles, no longer exists.

We mentioned it last month and we reiterate it here:

Just knowing that there are situations where there are two possible ways to play, in and of itself makes you more aware and therefore much more careful in undiscussed situations. It also makes you a better and more sympathetic partner.

This month we will discuss some very simple situations but we will explain, in each situation, that not everything is black or white. We will show that there are large variations in hands that not even conventions can help. This issue could change your approach to bridge and turn you into a much better player by helping you recognize problems your partner might be facing.

Situation #1

The first situation deals with an overcall of 2N after your RHO has opened a weak two-bid. Most of us think of that bid as a strong NT type hand with a stopper or two in the opponent's suit. That would be correct thinking. For the next few hands, would you overcall 2NT? If not, what would you bid? Your RHO's opening bid appears above each hand. Write your answers below each question. Our answers follow on page 2.

RHO opens 2♥ South I ♠ AQ6 ♥ KJ9 ♦ QT65 ♣ AJ8 Ans I _____	RHO opens 2♥ South II ♠ J9 ♥ AQ9 ♦ KQT76 ♣ AJ9 Ans II _____	RHO opens 2♥ South III ♠ T ♥ AJT7 ♦ AQ95 ♣ AK96 Ans III _____
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Situation #2

RHO opens 2♠

South IV

♠ T
♥ AJT7
♦ AQ95
♣ AK96

Ans IV _____

RHO opens 2♠

South V

♠ AQ6
♥ J9
♦ AKQT87
♣ T9

Ans V _____

RHO opens 2♠

South VI

♠ T65
♥ A4
♦ AKJ976
♣ K8

Ans VI _____

Answers

I. Classic 2N with hearts stopped and 17 HCPs.

II. Don't be afraid since you don't have spades stopped. Just bid 2N. A 3D bid is quite a bad bid. You should worry that partner doesn't have diamonds. 2N is best.

III. This writer bids 2N, even with a stiff spade. Can't overcall a 4-card suit and double is silly with one spade.

IV. Takeout double of 2S.

V. 2N or better yet, 3N. Partner covers you in hearts and clubs all the time.

VI. 3D, not double.

It must be pointed out that at times your bid over their weak two-bid is easy, like on I, II, IV and VI. Other times, like on III and V your bid may not only be unclear but you must take a chance. **IF YOU ONLY BID 2N WITH CLASSIC HANDS, YOU WILL GET MANY BAD RESULTS. WITH THEIR SUIT STOPPED YOU MUST OFTEN TAKE A CHANCE.**

Bid-Em-Ups: Bid these with your partner. North is the dealer. Our auctions are on page 7. South's hands are on page 4.

North 1

♠ J
♥ AKT
♦ K82
♣ KT7543

North 2

♠ KQ52
♥ A9852
♦ AJ83
♣

North 3

♠ AKQ
♥ A95
♦ KT62
♣ T92

North 4

♠ 6
♥ AKJ82
♦ K87
♣ A964

North 5

♠ A73
♥ Q4
♦ KQ32
♣ KQ85

North 6

♠ 2
♥ AK976
♦ 9875
♣ KQ3

There is a simple situation that requires some discussion mainly because it is not as simple as it appears. The bid in question is opener's rebid after his partner makes a 2/1 response in a new suit. Opener has many choices including raising partner's suit, rebidding his own suit, bidding a second suit or bidding NT. Let's consider these hands below. You are opener and your opening bid and partner's response are shown above the hand. Write down your answers and compare with our answers appearing after the hands.

1♥ - 2♣

South VII

♠ AT6
♥ AJT95
♦ KJ6
♣ T7

Ans VII _____

1♥ - 2♦

South VIII

♠ AT6
♥ AKJ95
♦ J6
♣ T72

Ans VIII _____

1♥ - 1♠

South IX

♠ AT6
♥ AJT952
♦ KJ
♣ T7

Ans IX _____

1♠ - 2♣

South X

♠ AQT76
♥ T65
♦ AKJ
♣ 43

Ans X _____

1♠ - 2♦

South XI

♠ AQT76
♥ K98
♦ AT7
♣ 87

Ans XI _____

1♠ - 2♥

South XII

♠ KQJ98
♥ AT
♦ KJ6
♣ 753

Ans XII _____

VII. Easy, classic 2N rebid with each unbid suit stopped.

VIII. This time South has a problem: he can't rebid 2N without a club stopper; he can't raise diamonds with only two; he can't rebid his hearts with only five. It's one of those 'best lie' situations. Rebid your 5-card suit...it looks a bit like a 6-card suit.

IX. Easy, classic 2♥ rebid with a 6-card suit.

X. At first this appears to have the same problem as VIII. Many rebid 2♠ because of the lack of a heart stopper. We would like to suggest a 2♦ bid. Here's why. If you rebid 2♠, partner is unlikely to have a diamond stopper and may find himself with a difficult bid. If South bids 2♦, his partner can now bid NT with a heart stopper. It's what we're trying to do here: realize that partner may have problems and try to make a sensible bid that might help him.

XI. This is easy. Raise partner to 3♦.

XII. Again, just as in VIII, South must rebid his 5-card suit. He does so not because he wants to, but because all other bids are worse.

The last six problems have demonstrated what is often true in bridge: all is not what it sounds like. The opener rebid his 5-card suit twice because he could bid NT or raise his partner. Also, once, in X, opener bid a very strong 3-card suit to make life easier for his partner. Learn from these hands: very little is black or white in bidding. The problem is recognizing those situation that may present a problem.

Situation #3

Situation #3 deals with what are commonly referred to as ‘free bids.’ The definition of a free bid is a bid made by the partner of the opener after RHO makes a bid directly after the opener. Usually when the ‘free bid’ occurs above the 1-level, the free bidder must have a 5-card or longer suit as well as 10 HCP. Since this month’s topic is variations on standard themes (a different way to put it) we must be aware that some free bids are a bit different than described above: some free bids have fewer points with longer suits (the bidder intends to repeat his suit); some free bids may have only a 4-card suit but with many more than 10 HCPs. Remember: nothing is black or white, be aware of the gray zone. Partner’s bid and RHO’s bid appear above your hand. Write down your bid and check with the answers after the questions.

1♠ - 2♣	1♠ - 2♦	1♠ - x
South XIII	South XIV	South XV
♠ J9	♠ J9	♠ J9
♥ AQJ96	♥ AQJ92	♥ 432
♦ K976	♦ T86	♦ AQJ432
♣ T7	♣ T74	♣ 43
Ans XIII _____	Ans XIV _____	Ans XV _____

1♥ - 2♣	1♥ - 2♦	1♥ - 2♠
South XVI	South XVII	South XVIII
♠ AQ87	♠ AKJ965	♠ 43
♥ T6	♥ T4	♥ 76
♦ AKJ65	♦ J76	♦ AT87
♣ 54	♣ 43	♣ AJT93
AnsVI I _____	Ans VIII _____	Ans IX _____

XIII. Easy, classic free bid of 2♥.

XIV. Not enough for 2♥. A negative double is fine.

XV. 2♦. Such bids are non-forcing over the opponent’s takeout double.

XVI. 2♦ and then bid your spades. This shows a very good hand (which you have). Do not make a negative double.

XVII. 2♠. You will repeat your spades next time suggesting that you bid more with length than with strength. Contrast this with XVI where you kept bidding new suits.

XVIII. Do not bid 3♣. You are not strong enough to bid at the 3-level and you have both missing suits which calls for a negative double unless you have a full opener, such as XVI.

Situation #4

After you open 1N and partner transfers to a major and names a new suit, how should you respond? Certainly you would return to the transfer suit with support. However, there are many facets of these hands that need to be discussed. We will change the format of the answers by showing and discussing one hand at a time. Also, we will show the responder’s hand.

South XIX	Auction 1			
♠ AK6	W	N	E	S
♥ KT7				1N
♦ K6	P	2♦*	P	2♥
♣ QT965	P	3♦	P	?

North’s 2♦ was a transfer and his 3♦ showed a second suit. South should bid 3♥. Such a return to the transfer suit simply shows North that South does indeed have three or more hearts. North would try for slam (see XIXa) or simply bid game (XIXb) depending on his hand.

North XIXa	North XIXb
♠ 54	♠ 54
♥ AQJ98	♥ AQJ98
♦ AJ72	♦ QJ75
♣ K3	♣ K3

THE BIG SWING

by Dr. "J" (Jim Sternberg)
 Bridge Sense Editor

Remember when you were a kid and sat on a swing while someone gave you a push? And you kept saying "higher, higher". Well, here's the big bridge swing! How does going from +1600 to -500 sound? And at the 1 or 2 level to boot! Think it can't happen? Watch and tell me what you would do.

Hand #1

You have your usual:

♠ xxxx ♥ Jxx ♦ xxx ♣ xxx .

The auction goes:

1♠ Pass(you) 2♠ X
 XX ?

Well, of course you want to pass and let partner bid his best suit. So what's the problem you ask? Take a look at hand #2 and you'll see the problem.

Hand #2

This time you have:

♠ AQJ10x ♥ Jx ♦ QJx ♣ xxx

The same auction:

1♠ Pass(you) 2♠ X
 XX ?

Sure, now you want partner to pass for penalties. Great! Let's see: in hand #1 you wanted to pass and have partner bid; in hand #2 you pass and want partner to pass. How can partner determine whether you have #1 or #2. He can't! You need an agreement (convention). In all these situations if you get it right, + 1600; if you get it wrong, - 500. That's a pretty big swing so you better get it right! We'll help you. Here is a simple convention for these situations:

- A) If the bidding is at the 2 level or higher, passing a XX says you want to defend.
- B) At the 1 level, passing the XX is for penalty if you are over (behind) the person who bid the suit.

Let's apply these guidelines to examples #1 and #2 above. In each of those examples, the bidding is at the 2-level. Therefore, if you pass the redouble it means you

(continued on page 8)

South XX Consider these two hands. The auction is exactly as at the bottom right on page 3. South XX has no problem bidding 3N over 3♦ since he doesn't have three hearts. However, look at South XXI. How can he bid 3N? He has no spade stopper and knows his partner has at least nine red cards which suggests that he also may not have enough spades to stop the opponents from running them In fact, that is the case if you

look at the two possible North hands on page 3. South XXI is trapped. He must bid 3♥ even though he doesn't have 3-card support since a 3N bid makes no sense. Now

North XXIa we have yet one more example that shows us that the bids may be gray, rather than black or white. Now that we are on the topic, suppose you had the North hand XXIa as shown left. The auction goes as described above. You, North, transferred to hearts and bid your diamonds. In each case above (XX and XXI), South said 3♥ over 3♦. As you can see, he bid 3♦ in XX because he had 3-card support. However, he bid 3♥ in XXI because he just couldn't bid 3N without a spade stopper. How does North determine whether to bid 4♥ or 3N? He doesn't. He shows his hand by bidding 3♠ to show his strength in spades and to let South decide. It turns out that South will choose 3N on both of the hands shown because his clubs are strong and North has shown weak clubs by bidding the other three suits. When North bids a third suit, although natural, it shows only three cards which means a stiff in the remaining suit. By showing his partner his hand, partner can make the final decision. All this because the 3♥ bid may not show three trump but simply the inability to bid 3N.

Bid-Em-Ups: Bid these with your partner. North is the dealer. Our auctions are on page 7. North's hands are on page 2.

South 1	South 2	South 3
♠ KT6	♠ AJ73	♠ 3
♥ 2	♥ K3	♥ QJT8432
♦ T9754	♦ 2	♦ AJ8
♣ AQJ8	♣ AJ8653	♣ Q3
South 4	South 5	South 6
♠ A74	♠ JT9652	♠ A8765
♥ Q9	♥ KJT5	♥ QJ83
♦ A32	♦ 5	♦ 4
♣ QJ872	♣ J7	♣ A62

What Would You Bid and Why?

This column has appeared from time to time over the years and you will have to decide on the bid that you will make. Much more important than the bid you choose, will be the reasoning that leads you to make your selection. The quality of your decision making can be genuinely improved by understanding the reasoning behind certain actions. Let us take a look at this month's hand.

North 1	Auction 1			
♠ AKQT86	W	N	E	S
♥ J		1♠	P	1N
♦ KT54	P	?	All pass	
♣ AJ				

You (North) open the bidding with the obvious 1♠ bid. (You are not nearly strong enough for a 2♣ opening. We mention this just in case it crossed your mind). In response to your opening, your partner bids 1NT. For the purposes of this hand, it does not matter whether or not you play 1N forcing responses to opening bids of 1 of a major. Now, please read the headline for this column. You must now answer that question for the hand and the auction in the auction box above. Remember, you must not only decide on your bid, but you should also have a good reason for choosing the bid that you decide to make.

Before you decide, make a list of all possible bids and see if you can come up with a good reason not to make that bid or a definitive reason why that should be the correct bid. After you make your list and your reasons, read the remainder of this article.

Possible bid #1: 3N
This is a very bad choice. You have a singleton in an unbid suit and game or even slam potential in two suits, namely ♠'s and ♦'s.

Possible bid #2: 3♠
This is another bad choice. Your partner is allowed to pass a jump rebid in your opening suit. Your hand is too strong to not get to game.

Possible bid #3: 2♦ or 2♠
Here are two more bad choices. Neither of these bids come close to disclosing the great strength of your hand.

Possible bid #4: 4♠
In all likelihood, the jump to 4♠ will be one of the

choices most often selected. It certainly makes a great deal of sense. None of the bids, which were previously discussed, forces partner to bid on. Allowing partner to pass short of game would, in our opinion, be a gross mistake. Choosing 4♠ as your second bid has the advantage of not allowing partner to "pass short of game" since your bid is a game contract. In addition, it has the advantage of not divulging the exact nature of your hand. Another good reason for bidding 4♠ is that you will probably make it as long as partner has just a bit of help. After all, you might make 4♠ if partner's hand were limited in high card points to just the ♦QJx. Everything we just mentioned points toward 4♠ as the correct bid. However, there is one large drawback to a 4♠ rebid. It prevents your partnership from getting to 6♦ whenever it turns out that that contract is cold.

Possible bid #5: 3♦
The jump shift to 3♦ seems to encompass the best of all worlds. Partner might bid 3N, in which case you could pass or bid 4♠. Should partner bid 3♥, you could still make your 4♠ bid. In fact, no matter what your partner bids, you will still be able to bid 4♠, should you choose to do so. So, why bid 3♦? The answer is quite simple. There is one bid that partner might make after your jump shift to 3♦ that would prevent you from bidding 4♠. That bid is 5♦. You can not bid 4♠ over 5♦. BUT YOU CAN BID 6♦ SHOULD YOUR PARTNER JUMP TO 5♦. It should not be too difficult to imagine a hand with lots of diamonds. Certainly, that is what you would expect partner to have for his jump to the 5-level. Here is the entire layout. The key, again, is to be able to visualize what your partner has for a jump to the 5-level.

We realize that it is a bit scary, but North-South is ice cold for 6♦. Therein lies the main reason that ♦'s must be mentioned. You just might have a slam.

	North		
	♠ AKQT86		
	♥ J		
	♦ KT54		
	♣ AJ		
			East
			♠ J975
			♥ AK65
			♦ Q
			♣ T984
			South
			♠ 2
			♥ 987
			♦ A98732
			♣ 765

kExperts have a secret to which anyone can become privy. They count. They count suit length, distribution, and HCP. It's not easy. Keep at it...it's worth it.

Below is a 'picture' (from South's point of view) of what South believes he knows about the hand at this point in the play.

North	Auction				South
	W	N	E	S	
♠ AJ	3♠	3N	P	5♥	♠ 32
♥ AQ6	P	5♠	P	7♥	♥ KJT8742
♦ KJT8	All pass				♦ A7
♣ KJ64	Opening lead: ♠K				♣ A5

This month's hand has a very interesting auction. One of the purposes of preempting is to make it hard for the opponents to exchange information accurately. When North overcalled 3N, all South knew for certain was that North had a very good hand. It certainly didn't have to be a 19-pointer. South also had a good hand and thought slam might be possible. His jump to 5♥ set trump and asked North to bid 6♥ with 2nd round spade control. Admittedly South was taking a chance. North's 5♠ bid showed 1st round spade control, in case South wanted to bid 7♥. With both side aces, South decided that the grand might be a good contract. He bid it. This time there are only 12 tricks off the top. How should South play to make 7♥?

South has two places to look for his 13th trick: diamonds and clubs. On the surface, it appears that South need only guess which finesse to take (♣ or ♦). This is not correct. Such a guess will be correct only 50% of the time. Proper play can increase that percentage quite a bit (and might even result in 100% certainty) when combined with some good, old-fashioned counting. After drawing trump, East has two and West has one, South should play ♣A, ♣K and a third club, ruffing in hand. Perhaps the ♣Q was singleton (♣Q), doubleton (♣Qx) or third (♣Qxx). If it was, then the ♣J is now high and there will be no need for any finesses. It turns out that each opponent follows to three rounds of clubs, but no queen appears.

South now must turn to the diamond suit. His plan is somewhat similar to the club suit, but this time he has the added benefit of the ♦T. After cashing the ♦AK, no ♦Q appeared (both opponents followed). The dummy has the ♦JT, and when South leads one of them (East following low) he has a choice. He can ruff and hope to drop West's supposed ♦Q, or he can discard a loser hoping that East has the ♦Q. Just before South was about to make his decision, a thought entered his mind. South realizes that he knows quite a bit about the hand.

	North		
	♠ J		
	♥ Q		
	♦ JT		
	♣ J		
West		East	
♠ QT98		♠ ??	
♥ ?	N	♥ ??	
♦ ?	W	♦ ??	
♣ ?	S	♣ Q	
	South		
	♠ 3		
	♥ JT87		
	♦		
	♣		

He knew West had started with three clubs, one heart and at least two diamonds (he had seen all six of these cards). West's opening bid surely suggested a 7-card spade suit, which would mean that all 13-cards had been "seen": seven spades, one heart, three clubs and two diamonds. The hand was counted out. South confidently discarded his losing spade on the ♦T and watched as West helplessly pitched a spade. Making seven! Good technique and some simple counting combined to deliver the contract. The final position is shown below, left. [*Ed. note: the play of 'finessing' East for the ♦Q is called a ruffing finesse, a common declarer technique.*]

The Complete Hand is Below

	North		
	♠ AJ		
	♥ AQ6		
	♦ KJT8		
	♣ KJ64		
West		East	
♠ KQT9875		♠ 64	
♥ 3	N	♥ 95	
♦ 43	W	♦ Q9652	
♣ 972	S	♣ QT83	
	South		
	♠ 32		
	♥ KJT8742		
	♦ A7		
	♣ A5		

North 1 ♠ J ♥ AKT3 ♦ K82 ♣ KT754	Auction 1 W N E S 1♣ P 3♣* All pass	South 1 ♠ KT6 ♥ 2 ♦ T9754 ♣ AQJ8
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The old-fashioned limit raise (South's 3♣ bid, yes, even with only 4-trump) worked out really well on this hand. Too many pairs routinely get to 3N with hands like this and routinely find themselves going set. The pairs that play inverted minors would start by bidding 2♣ with the South hand. North (who can't pass 2♣) would likely bid his strength by saying 2♥. This doesn't excite South who would now say 2N. North doesn't like NT (unless South overrides him) and repeats his clubs. South has no reason to go on so, they get to 3♣ playing inverted minors also.

North 2 ♠ KQ52 ♥ A9852 ♦ AJ83 ♣	Auction 2 W N E S 1♥ P 2♣ 2♦ P 2♠ 3♠ P 4♠ All pass	South 2 ♠ AJ73 ♥ K3 ♦ 2 ♣ AJ8653
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All that has to be said about this auction is that the bidding would be as you see it regardless of whether North-South were playing standard or 2/1 game forcing. It should be noted that slam (6♠) is a mighty poor contract...not many losers but how could you take 12 tricks? A special point: generally speaking, it is much better to have a singleton in partner's side suit than it is to be void. Being void means it takes longer to set the suit up by ruffing (see the clubs).

North 3 ♠ AKQ ♥ A95 ♦ KT62 ♣ T92	Auction 3 W N E S 1N P 2♦* 2♥ P 3♠^ 4♥ All pass	South 3 ♠ 3 ♥ QJT8432 ♦ AJ8 ♣ Q3
--	---	--

South had a dilemma. He could simply have bid 4♦ (Texas transfer to 4♥) or as he actually did bid. South's 3♠ bid showed a stiff spade, a very long heart suit (6+) and a slam try. On this hand South would probably have slam if North could change the ♠A into the ♣A; the ♠K into the ♥K; and the ♠Q into the ♦Q. Needless to say, North signed off with his almost entirely wasted spade strength. Admittedly this was a light slam try but why not if you have the weapons.

North 4 ♠ 6 ♥ AKJ82 ♦ K87 ♣ A964	Auction 4 W N E S 1♥ P 2♣ 3♠* P 4N 5♥ P 6♣	South 4 ♠ A74 ♥ Q9 ♦ A32 ♣ QJ872
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North-South were playing some simple expert conventions. North's jump to 3♠ was one. It was a splinter bid and showed a singleton or void in spades and support for South's club suit. The key to this bidding is the fact that they were playing 2/1 game forcing. Playing that way, South's 2♣ forced to game (somewhere) which means North need not jump to show strength, HE JUMPS TO SHOW SHORTNESS. A very clever approach. Notice how South simply bid Keycard Blackwood and finally the superb club slam. We see the hearts but that's too tough.

North 5 ♠ A73 ♥ Q4 ♦ KQ32 ♣ KQ85	Auction 5 W N E S 1♣ P 1♠ 1N P 2♠ All pass	South 5 ♠ JT9652 ♥ KJT5 ♦ 5 ♣ J7
--	---	--

Some pairs play weak jump shift responses in majors when their partner opens a minor. Some who play this way would respond 2♠ immediately to North's 1♣ opening. Others would argue that a weak jump in spades should not be made when you have a decent 4-card heart suit. They have a point but we're not so adamant. We would probably jump to 2♠ playing weak jump responses or, playing normally, bid as shown in the diagram above.

North 6 ♠ 2 ♥ AK976 ♦ 9875 ♣ KQ3	Auction 6 W N E S 1♥ P 4♦ 4N* P 5♠* 6♥ All pass	South 6 ♠ A8765 ♥ QJ83 ♦ 4 ♣ A62
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This expert pair play very special rules for their 'splinter' (4♦) bids. They play that when you splinter you must have first or second round control of each side suit (not necessarily in trump). Note that this hand was perfect for their systemic agreement. North knew South had the club ace as his 'control'. He realized that if South had the spade ace also, there would be a slam. He tried Keycard Blackwood and was duly rewarded with both aces and the trump queen.

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want to play in the redoubled contract. Hand B is a good example. Your pass means, "OK. Let's play in 2♠XX." Hand #1 is a different story. You can't pass because that means you want to play there redoubled. Therefore, you must bid. Since your only suit is their suit, experts would bid 2N which is simply a cry for help. Bid something partner, please.

This one is different. The auction:

1♠ X(you) XX P

Since we are at the 1-level and partner is in front of the bidder, his pass means you should run away from the redouble by bidding (his pass is not for penalty).

Consider this auction:

1♠ P(you) P X
XX ?

Since you are over the bidder and we are at the 1-level, if YOU pass it is for penalty.

Quiz

If you pass at the "?", is it for penalty or should your partner bid? Is it guideline A or B from page 4.

Answer follows each question.

I. 1♠ P(you) 2♠ X
XX ?
Guideline A; pass is for penalty (2-level)

II. 1♣(you) 1♠ X XX
?
X was negative. Pass by opener in FRONT of spade bidder says he has nothing to say; it is not for penalty, guideline B.

III. 1♠ X(you) XX ?
Partner is in front so if partner passes it is not penalty; guideline B.

IV. 1♥ P P X
XX ?
Guideline B; pass is penalty behind the bidder at the 1-level.

So going back to the beginning, hand A (♠ xxxx ♥Jxx ♦xxx ♣xxx), bid 2NT and let partner pick since a pass is for penalty. With hand B (♠ AQJ10x ♥ Jx ♦QJx ♣xxx), you can pass for penalty because it's the 2-level.

Whew, scary!

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