

Practise Protective Bidding and Partner's responses



Choose your next bid

Hand: 1 Dealer: West West North East South 1♥ Pass Pass ?	South ♠ A 10 9 4 3 ♥ 7 4 3 ♦ J 6 3 ♣ 6 3
Hand: 2 Dealer: West West North East South 1♥ Pass Pass ?	South ♠ J 6 4 3 2 ♥ A J 3 ♦ Q 7 3 ♣ 6 3
Hand: 3 Dealer: West West North East South 1♥ Pass Pass ?	South ♠ 5 2 ♥ K 3 2 ♦ 5 2 ♣ A J 8 4 3 2
Hand: 4 Dealer: West West North East South 1♥ Pass Pass ?	South ♠ A Q J 6 4 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ A Q 9 ♣ 8 6
Hand: 6 Dealer: North West North East South Pass 1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass Pass ?	South ♠ Q 10 6 4 3 ♥ 7 ♦ A 8 6 ♣ 9 4 3 2
Hand: 7 Dealer: East West North East South 2♥ Pass 1♥ Pass Pass Pass ?	South ♠ Q 10 6 4 ♥ 7 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ K 6 4 3 2

Answer: 1♠

In second seat your hand would be too weak to overcall. Your SQOT is OK (7) but you normally need 8 HCP to overcall in the direct seat. However in 4th seat you can 'borrow a king', which is a euphemism for adding three points to your hand. North could not even muster a dustbin 1NT so has fewer than 6 points. There is a good chance that partner has a good hand but has not got a 5+ card suit with the required SQOT for a suit overcall, or is unable to bid 1NT without a heart stop, or does not have a hand suitable for a takeout double (e.g. a doubleton in an unbid suit) If partner is weak then West will bid again. Est won't double for penalties. Doubling a 1-level overcall for penalties is rarely profitable.

Answer: 1♠

Unlike hand 1, you have the requisite 8 HCP but your SQOT is not good enough (6). Once again you can borrow a king, so you borrow the ♠K.

Answer: 2♣

To overcall at the 2 level you normally need close to opening points and an SQOT of 8+. In second seat you would have to pass. Add three points and you would open with this hand, so with with an SQOT of 8 you can overcall 2♣.

Answer: Double (planning to rebid spades)

'Double, then Bid' normally requires 16+ HCP and a good 6+ card suit, or 18 HCP and a good 5 card suit. In 4th seat you can borrow a king. Partner knows you are protecting and will deduct 3 points from his own hand before considering his bid. However he must not pass, even with a bust. You might have a monster hand ready to rebid 2NT (21-22 HCP)

Answer: 2♠

You are not strong enough for an immediate overcall but in 4th seat you should not sell out to 2♥. Both opponents have shown weakness so the points are fairly evenly divided. Borrow a king and bid 2♠.

Answer: Double

You need shortage in opener's suit and an opening hand on the Rule of 20 to make a takeout double. Here you are well short of that. Borrow a king and you are strong enough to double in 4th (pass-out) seat. If North had your hand he would have had to pass in the direct (second) seat.

Hand: 8 Dealer: South West North East South Pass Pass X Pass ? 1♥	South ♠ A 10 9 ♥ K Q 4 3 ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ 6 3 2
Hand: 9 Dealer: South West North East South Pass Pass X Pass ? 1♥	South ♠ A J 8 6 ♥ 8 7 ♦ A 9 5 4 3 ♣ 4 2
Hand: 10 Dealer: South West North East South Pass Pass X Pass ? 1♥	South ♠ A K 8 6 2 ♥ 8 7 ♦ A Q 5 4 ♣ 4 2

Answer: 1NT

Normally you would bid 2NT with 11-12 HCP but partner has bid in 4th seat so will have borrowed a king. You need to 'give back the king' before deciding what to bid. After deducting 3 points from your hand you have an adjusted 8 HCP so a response of 1NT is enough

Answer: 1♠

In the direct seat you would bid 2♠ with 8-11 HCP. A response of 1♠ to partner's double would show 0-7 points. However partner has bid in 4th seat so will have borrowed a king. You need to 'give it back'. After deducting 3 points from your hand you have an adjusted 6 HCP, so a response of 1♠ is enough

Answer: 3♠

You have a guaranteed 8+ card spade fit and 7 losers, so you can use the LTC. In the direct overcall seat you would have assumed that partner's double had been made with an opening hand and 7 losers, so with your 7 losers you would have raised to 4♠. However in 4th seat partner will have borrowed a king so you should assume he has an 8 loser hand and bid 3♠.