

## HOW FAR TO PUSH WHEN BALANCING

No one vulnerable  842 942    2 Diamonds AJ102   Pass K64    Pass	K10653   Pass KJ53    2 Spades 3        3 Hearts J85	J7    DEALER - 1 Diamond A7        Pass KQ765    3 Diamonds A932     Pass  AQ9 Q1086   Pass 984    Double Q107    Pass
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West can bid 1NT or 2 Diamonds, bad idea to bid 1NT with zero high cards in the majors. Assuming they don't play 2 diamonds as a convention, bid 2 diamonds. North wants to bid, but any bid would show greater values. South has 10 HCPs plus 3 or 4 cards in the unbid suits. South makes a balancing double. Your goal is not to make a contract but to push the opponents a level higher. West has no reason to act and passes. North has a 5 card major and bids 2 spades. East does something he might have done earlier, he competes to 3 diamonds. South passes, west passes, it's uncommon for North to bid again. Here, he has something to think about. He knows that with 5-4 in the majors, he has a good fit somewhere. No one's vulnerable, if he's doubled, down 1, (100). East will have to pass, he failed to buy the contract but pushed them up a level. South shouldn't view North's bidding as constructive he's competing and pass.

	Q43    DEALER- 1 Club K107        Pass A72        2 Spades A1086	A7    1 Diamond 853    Pass KJ1064   Pass K43
J95 A62    2 Diamonds Q983   Pass J92    Pass	K10862 QJ94    1 Spade 5        2 Hearts Q75     Pass	

North should realize South must have 5 spades. Why? Because if South had been 4-4, Would have made a negative double over 1 diamond. North can compete to 3 spades.

AKJ65	DEALER – 1 Spade
1064	3 Diamonds (shortness)
10	5 diamonds (3 controls)
A764	Pass

72 Pass  
 J73 Pass  
 AQJ5 Pass  
 9832

103 Pass  
 Q9852 Pass  
 K963 Pass  
 105 Pass

Q984 2 NT (Jacoby)  
 AK4 4 NT  
 8742 6 Spades  
 KQJ

North has a singleton or void in diamonds, what should South be thinking? Look at your holding in diamonds. If you held the A, that's excellent opposite partner's singleton. If on the other hand you held KQJ or KJX or QJX, these points are wasted. On this deal you hold 8742. What do you think of your diamond holding? It's wonderful. Why? Because you have no wasted points in your hand. The points you do have are not in partner's short suit, but in his long suits where they'll be helpful. 4NT response shows 3 controls, only missing 1 control. 6 Spades should be cold.

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Tip of the day:

If your R.H.O. opens 1 of a suit, you might occasionally hold a hand with 7-8 running tricks, (usually with a solid minor). If your hand has all suits stopped EXCEPT OPENER'S SUIT, jump to 3 of opener's suit. This jump cue bid asks partner to bid 3 NT with a stopper in opener's suit, NOTHING ELSE, just a stopper in opener's suit.

When there is a short suit in dummy and declarer draws all of dummy's trumps. The inference is that declarer doesn't have any losers in that suit to trump. Translation: It is safe to discard that suit.

When declarer ignores a strong suit in dummy that is lacking one honor, assume declarer has the honor. If he doesn't, that would be the first suit he would be leading – the rule of "Unattended Strong Suits."

We're going to review the left hand side of the convention card during this lesson.