

## WHEN TO BID ON

When the opponents aren't bidding, your objective during the auction is straight forward, to reach the best contract by deciding HOW HIGH and WHERE the partnership belongs.

In a competitive auction, the objective can change. To prevent the opponents from buying the contract, you may have to bid higher than you would like to.

When you don't think the contract belongs to your side, strive to compete to the level of the number of trumps held by your partnership.

Auction: Opener 1 Heart, RHO 1 Spade, Partner 2 Hearts, LHO 2 Spades:

Opener competes to 3 Hearts with a 6 card heart suit, otherwise they pass.  
Opener can make a Help Suit Game Try by bidding 3 clubs or 3 diamonds

Responder can compete to 3 Hearts if they have 4 Hearts, otherwise they pass.  
Competing this way guarantees a 9 -card fit between your 2 hands. (6-3 or 5-4)

If opener has 2 spades, 5 hearts, 4 diamonds, and 2 clubs, and 13-13 High Card Points, they can break the rule and compete to 3 hearts. Also, look at your vulnerability.

Remember – the opponents aren't forcing you to bid again.

Impact on responder when your opponents intervene.

Responder's preemptive jump raises, partner opens 1 heart, RHO bids a spade,  
You hold: 93 KJ73 J10873 65, your bid should be 3 hearts (preemptive)  
you could raise hearts; you could cue bid spades to show a Limit Raise or better-  
Once the auction becomes competitive, it's more important to show a fit and also  
try to keep the opponents out of the auction, 3 Hearts does this.

Responder's Cue Bid:

1 Hearts by partner, 1 Spade by RHP, opponents' overcall shows a good 5-card suit or longer, responder isn't going to suggest the opponents' suit as the trump suit, responder uses a bid of the opponents' suit as a cue bid, as an artificial forcing bid.

Passing with good hands – Do you deny a good hand when you pass over 1 heart? Not at all. You denied having the right shape to compete in direct position. If partner's pass would end the auction, he is the balancer and must protect your partnership from bad results. Partner might not have had the right shape to compete earlier, but he hasn't denied having a good hand, maybe even an opening hand. You and your partner are going to have to start balancing in the pass out seat.

KQ107 1 Spade  
93 3 Hearts  
K75 5 Diamonds  
AQ94

8652			J94 2 Hearts
K54	Pass		AJ8762 Pass
J4	Pass		9
J876			K53

A3  
Q10 DEALER – 1 Diamond  
AQ108632 3 Diamonds  
102 4 Diamonds

North has a good hand and does want to game but doesn't have great spades, doesn't have a club suit, doesn't want to go in diamonds but doesn't have a heart stopper to bid 3 NT. If South works all that out, he/she should bid 3 NT with a heart stopper, or support spades with 3 of them, but on this hand, has to rebid their diamonds. Over 4 Diamonds, North's 14 HCP are enough to try for 5, which makes easily, just losing A & K of hearts.

---

KQJ9875 Double  
AQ 4 Spades  
J4  
AK

2		A10 DEALER – 1 Diamond
KJ10986 1 Heart		743 2 Diamonds
82 2 Hearts		AKQ109
Q854		J109

643 PASS  
52 Pass  
7653  
7632

East leads the AKQ of diamonds – North has 1 spade loser, 1 potential heart loser, and 2 diamond losers. Nothing he can do about the 2 diamond losers, and can do nothing about losing to the Ace of Spades. PLAY this Hand!

---

Entry management is one of the hallmarks of the careful bridge player. When setting up a long suit in dummy or your hand, make sure you have enough entries to the hand with the long suit, overtaking can sometimes promote extra entries.