



## B3 L06 The Protective Position NOTES

### A Few Definitions

<u>Opening Bid</u>	The first bid in the auction that is not a pass. There is only ever one opening bid in any auction.
<u>Overcall</u>	The first bid (not pass, not double) by either player on the non-opening side.
<u>Reply</u>	The first bid (not pass, not double) by opener's partner.
<u>Advance</u>	The first bid by the overcaller's partner.
<u>Re-bid</u>	A second bid by any player. E.g. Opener's re-bid is the second bid by the opener.
<u>Direct Position</u>	The player seated on the opener's left, and next to bid, is said to be in the direct position.
<u>The protective position</u>	The player on opener's right when a pass would mean the end of the auction.



### Competitive Bidding in the Direct Position

<u>A Take Out Double (X) by East</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
<u>shows:</u>	<b>1♦</b>	<b>?</b>		

- Shortage of Diamonds
- Opening Values (12+ HCP); **7 or fewer losers**
- Support for any un-bid suits

It's Forcing if South passes.

Respond with a raise in your best suit to level indicated by losing trick count, if your best suit is the opener's suit and you have at least 6 HCP, respond 1NT.

A Suit overcall at the "one level" (e.g. 1♠) by East would show:

- At least 5 spades
- A quality suit, for example, adding the number of cards in the suit, and the number of honour cards in the suit gives a total of at least 7
- **9 losers or fewer (8-15 HCP)**

It's not a forcing bid.

Respond:

- With 9+ HCP, and three cards in partner's suit, raise to level indicated by LTC
- If less than two cards in overcalled suit, but 10+ HCP, change suit to a six-card suit, else bid 1NT



## B3 L06 The Protective Position NOTES

A Suit overcall at the "two level" (e.g. 2♣) by East would show:

- At least 5 clubs
- A quality suit, for example, adding the number of cards in the suit, and the number of honour cards in the suit gives a total of at least 7 (preferably 8)
- **8 losers or fewer** (10-15 HCP)

It's not a forcing bid.

Respond:

- If holding three cards in partner's suit, and 9+HCP raise to level indicated by losing trick count
- If holding less than two cards in partner's suit, but 10+ HCP, change suit to a six-card suit, else bid 2NT

A Jump Suit overcall at the "two level" (e.g. 2♠) by East would show:

- At least 6 spades, including at least 2 honours
- 11-15 HCP; **7 losers or fewer**

It's not a forcing bid.

Respond:

- If holding two cards in partner's suit, raise to level indicated by losing trick count
- If holding less than two cards in overcalled suit, but 10 HCP, change suit to a six-card suit, otherwise bid 2NT



## B3 L06 The Protective Position NOTES

A 1NT overcall by East would show:

- Balanced Hand;
- 16-18 HCP
- At least one stop in opener's suit

It's not a forcing bid.

Respond:

- Balanced, count HCP, estimate level of NT contract and bid it
- Unbalanced and weak, bid long suit at 2 level for a weak take out
- Unbalanced and strong (7 losers or fewer), bid game in long suit. **16-18 balanced is generally 6/7 losers.**



## Bidding in the Protective Position

What's the "protective position"? What kind of bid is often made especially in this position?

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♣	P	P	?

If the auction would end if a player passes, he or she is said to be in the protective position. In both these situations, West is said to be in the

protective position.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
P	P	P	?

Partnerships often agree that bids have slightly different, often lower, values in the protective position.

For example, a 1NT overcall in the protective position is often agreed to show a balanced hand with 12-14 high card points. This allows

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♣	P	P	1NT

East/West to get into the auction. On this bidding, the points may well be evenly distributed and 1NT should be feasible. East could bid two of any suit with five cards or more, if he is weak, as a weak take out. If North has a very strong hand, he or she will probably bid again. **Treat as 8 losers.**



## B3 L06 The Protective Position NOTES

### Suit overcalls in the Protective Position

Bid similarly to suit overcalls in the direct position. **Expect 9 losers.**

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♣	P	P	1♠

### Doubles in the Protective Position

- Shortage of Clubs
- Sub-opening Values (10+ HCP); **8 or fewer losers**
- Support for all un-bid suits OR
- Waiting to show stronger values.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♣	P	P	X

### If your partner doubles a 1NT opening

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	X		

Partner is showing 16-18 balanced hand. This double is for penalties. Remember that the penalties may be worth more than any part score you can make.

You may choose to do a "weak take out", if you have few points and a long suit.

You may raise to 3NT with 8+ points and a balanced hand.

It's not usual to discount this meaning in the Protective Position.