

Making Good Bidding Judgements

Partner Opens a Minor Suit

I Will Show You Some Hands

- They will be unusual hands.
- Partner will have opened a minor suit and the next player will have passed.
- I will give you a couple of choices for your bid, then talk about:
 - What you should be thinking about.
 - What you should bid.
 - Some of the bids will be difficult.
 - Some might be debatable.

Partner Opens 1

♠ 4
♥ J 9 7 3
♦ Q J 10 7 5 4
♣ 8 3

Pass

1 ♦
1 ♥
2 ♦


- What should you be thinking about?
- You don't have enough points to bid anything at the 1 level.
- Their side has a spade fit.
- You have 1 chance, and 1 chance only, to make a bid.
- What if partner has hearts?
- 2 ♦

Partner Opens 1

♠ 7 5 4
♥ Q 10 7 3
♦ A J 10 5 4
♣ 8

Pass

1 
1 
2 

- What should you be thinking about?
- This is not a preempt hand.
- Your side has about half the points or more.
- Bid 1 
- If LHO bids spades, partner will know about your hearts.
- If partner bids spades or no trump you will pass.
- You only have 1 bid with this hand. Make the best choice.

Partner Opens 1




♠ 7 5
♥ K Q 7 3
♦ A K 10 9 4
♣ A 10

Pass

1 

1 

3nt

- What should you be thinking about?
- This is a completely different situation.
- You know your side is going to game.
- Bid 1 . You can bid your  later.
- It is possible that 6  is your best contract.

Partner Opens 1

♠ A Q

♥ K J 3

♦ J 9 5 4 2

♣ Q 9 5

1 ♦

2 nt

3 nt

- What should you be thinking about?
- 13-15 points with little interest in slam.
- Both majors stopped.
- A good reason for your hand to be declarer.
- Bid 3nt.



Partner Opens 1

♠ K J
♥ Q J 8
♦ Q 7 5 4
♣ J 9 5 3

2 

3 

1 nt

- What should you be thinking about?
- If you play inverted minors, too strong for 3 
- Diamond suit too weak for 2 
- 1nt (6-10 points) describes this hand.

Partner Opens 1

♠ A K 5 3
♥ 3 2
♦ A Q 4
♣ K Q 9 3





1 ♠
2 ♣
3 nt

- What should you be thinking about?
- Even if you play 2/1, some would suggest 1 ♠.
- But with a hand this strong, you have a slam interest.
- Bid 2 ♣ then your ♠ suit.
- You can take your time to find a fit. And maybe slam.

Partner Opens 1

♠ 3
♥ J 8 3 2
♦ K J 8 5 4 2
♣ 9 3

1 
3 
4 

- What should you be thinking about?
- Your opponents surely have a spade fit.
- Maybe a double fit in clubs and spades.
- 3  might be right.
- Better bid 4 .
- If opponents then bid 4 , partner can make a decision about a  diamond sacrifice.

Partner Opens 1

♠ 3

♥ Q J 10 8 5 3 2


♦ 5 4 2

♣ 9 3

1 

2 

3 

- What should you be thinking about?
- Your opponents surely have a spade fit.
- With 7-cards preempt at the 3-level.
- Bid 3 
- If playing splinters....

Partner Opens 1

♠ K Q J 3
♥ 8 5 3 2
♦ 5 4 2
♣ 9 3

1 
2 
3 nt

- What should you be thinking about?
- Some might argue that your spade suit is so much better than your heart suit, you should bid spades and ignore the hearts.
- Bid your 4-card major suits up the line.
- If partner has spades, she will bid them.

Partner Opens 1

♠ 10 7 5 4 3
♥ A Q J 3 2
♦ 5
♣ 9 3

1 ♠
1 ♥
3 nt

- What should you be thinking about?
- Bidding rules say you should bid 1 ♠ with 5-5 distribution.
- There is no perfect bid here.
- 1 ♥ is probably best.
- If you bid 1 ♠ and partner bids 2 ♣ or 2 ♦, you have no good bid.
- Yes, you might miss a 5-3 spade fit.

Some Final Thoughts

- When partner opens the bidding, you, as responder, are the one in charge.
- You must have an idea of where the hand is going.
- As you think about a response, you must think about what partner might rebid and what you will do when he does.
- If you are the opener, what your partner responds is important.
- What partner could have bid, but didn't bid, is also important.