

Bridge Judgment



Some Advice from Marty
Bergen

What Would You Do?

- You are in the second seat.
- For all the following hands, RHO has opened 2 ♦. (Weak)
- 6 diamonds and 5-10 points.

You Wanted to Open 2 ♠

♠ K Q J 6 5 4

♥ K 7 6

♦ 3

♣ 6 4 3

A jump bid is out. You don't preempt a preempt.

Just bid 2 ♠. It is not a perfect two-level overcall, but it is the best you can do.

Would You Make a Takeout Double?

♠ K Q 4

♥ K 7 5 3

♦ 7 4

♣ Q J 6 3

Not good enough over 2 ♦.

Over 1 ♦ maybe, but over 2 ♦ the hand is too weak. Your bid is “pass.”

Would You Make a Takeout Double?

♠ K 10 9 2

♥ K 10 5 3

♦

♣ A 10 9 6 3

- Only 10 high-card points, but so much better distribution. Count your dummy points. You will be supporting the suit partner bids.
- Do Remember, ***Distribution is power in Bridge***

Would You Double and Bid Hearts?

♠ 9 5 2

♥ A Q J 7 6 3

♦ K 5

♣ A Q

- 17 points. Some people would double, then bid hearts.
- Remember a jump bid over a preempt is strong. So, jump to 3 hearts.
- Best to show your strength immediately.

Look at All Those Diamonds

♠ A K 3

♥ 3

♦ A Q 9 7 6

♣ Q 7 5 3

- You cannot make a takeout double.
Partner will surely bid hearts.
- Partner will be in the balancing seat.
Maybe she will make a balancing double.
- When you have strength in the opponent's suit, it is best to pass.
- Called a “trap pass.”

You Wanted to Open 1 nt

♠ J 4 3

♥ A 9 6 3

♦ A Q

♣ A J 5 3

- You bid 2nt.
- A 2 nt bid over an opponent's weak two, shows a 1 nt opening bid.
- Promises at least one stopper in the opponent's suit.
- If partner is busted, you'll go down.

5-5 Come Alive

♠ A J 9 4 3

♥ A 9 6 4 3

♦ 8

♣ K 5

- Best to use a Michael's Cue to show this hand.
- Remember distribution is power.

New Situation

- You are dealer with the following hands.
- What would you bid?

15 Points

♠ K Q 7 3

♥ K J 7 2

♦ Q J

♣ Q J 3

- Would you open 1 no trump?
- No... too many quacks.
- Note the diamond suit. “dubious doubleton.”
- Not worth a 1 no trump opening. I would open 1 ♣.

Now Consider This Hand.

♠ Q 10 8

♥ A J 10 4

♦ K Q 9 6

♣ K 3

- Still 15 points, but a much better hand.
- Note the intermediate cards.
- Look at the heart suit. Marty Bergen calls that a “quality suit.” Add one point for a quality suit.

Would You Open the Bidding?.

♠ Q 10 3

♥ A J 4

♦ K 8 5

♣ Q 7 3 2

- Counts 12 points, but hardly worth 12.
- Note the distribution, 4-3-3-3
- The worst distribution. Subtract a point from a hand with this distribution.
- Better on defense, than offense.

Would You Open the Bidding?.

Hand A

♠ 10 3

♥ A K 9 4

♦ A K 8 5

♣ 10 9 2

Hand B

♠ Q 10 3

♥ K J 9

♦ K Q 6 5

♣ K 9 2

- A:14 points, but probably worth a bit more.
- You have 4 tricks whether on offense or defense.
- Compare to hand B

Would You Open the Bidding?.

Hand A

♠ A J 10 3

♥ 9 4

♦ K Q 9 8 6 5

♣ 2

Hand B

♠ Q J 10 5 3

♥ 9

♦ A K 10 6 5

♣ 9 2

- 10 points, but distribution makes it worth a bit more.
- Meets the “**rule of 20.**”
- If high-card points + the two longest suits equal 20, the hand is worth opening in 1st or 2nd seat.