

# Bidding Judgment 4:



Accepting or Rejecting an  
Invitation

# The Invitational Bid

- Part of bridge bidding is an invitation to game or slam.
- Basically an invitation says: “I think we might have game (or slam) partner. What do you think? Should we go?”
- Generally, partner says no by passing and yes by bidding the game or slam.
- Making the decision to bid on or not involves more than simply counting points.
- It involves making a judgment about the quality of the points in your hand.

# Inviting in No Trump

Hand 1

♠ Q 4 2

♥ A K 2

♦ K Q J

♣ J 7 4 3

- 4-3-3-3 distribution
- Points stacked in the short suits
- No middle cards
- Probably best to pass 2 no trump with this hand.
- 16 points. You open 1 no trump.
- Partner bids 2 no trump.
- Partner has a balanced hand with 8 or 9 points.
- Even if partner has 9 points, the chance of making game 50-60%
- What is wrong with this hand?

# What Makes a Good 16 Point Hand?

- A 5-card suit
- Two 4-card suits
- Points in the long suits
- Middle cards

# Inviting in No Trump

Hand 2

♠ Q 10 9

♥ A Q

♦ K Q 10 9

♣ Q J 9 8

- 4-4-3-2 distribution
- Points stacked in the 4 card suits
- Middle cards
- Game in no trump is worth a try.
- 16 points. You open 1 no trump.
- A much better 16 points.
- What's good about this hand?

# Inviting in No Trump

Hand 3

♠ K J 10

♥ A 8



♦ K Q 10 9 4

♣ Q J 10

- 5-3-3-2 distribution
  - A good 5-card suit
  - Middle cards
  - Game in no trump is worth a try.
- 16 points. You open 1 no trump.
  - A much better 16 points.
  - What's good about this hand?

# Transfer Auctions

- Transfer and invite auctions are another place where judgment comes into play.

North	East	South	West
1nt	pass	2 	pass
2 	pass	2nt	

Partner is inviting you use your judgment to:

Pass and play 2nt

Bid 3 

Bid 4 

Bid 3nt.

1nt      pass      2 ♦      pass  
2 ♥      pass      2nt

Hand 4

♠ A 5 2

♥ J 2

♦ K Q 4 2

♣ A Q 4 3

- What are the pluses and minuses here?
- Partner has a 5-card suit +
- You have a weak 4-card suit –
- Most of your points are in your short suits –
- No middle cards-
- Pass and play 2nt.



1nt    pass    2 ♦    pass  
2 ♥    pass    2nt..

Hand 5

♠ Q 5 2

♥ K J

♦ K Q 4

♣ A J 10 9 5

- Again, you have 16 points.
- There are more pluses on this hand.
- You have two honors in partner's 5-card suit +
- You have a quality 5-card suit of your own.
- I'd bid 3nt.

1nt      pass      2 ♦      pass  
2 ♥      pass      2nt

Hand 6

♠ A J 2

♥ J 3 2

♦ A Q 7

♣ K J 6 2

- You have the dreaded 4-3-3-3 distribution. -
- Points scattered -
- No middle cards –
- No quality 4- or 5-card suit
- Might be best to stop at 3 ♥.

1nt      pass      2 ♦      pass  
2 ♥      pass      2nt..

Hand 7

♠ 8 2

♥ K J 10 2

♦ A J 10

♣ A Q J 10

- This hand has many pluses.
- 4 card support for partner's 5-card suit +
- A quality 4-card suit +
- Middle cards +
- Bid 4 ♥.

# Super Accept After a Transfer

- If you play super accept after a transfer, what agreements do you have with partner?
- Some say super accept with 17 points and 4 trumps.
  - So, you would super accept with the following hand: ♠ K Q ♥ A Q J 10 ♦ J 7 5 2 ♣ K J 3
  - But I think there is a bit more to it than that.

# Exactly What Does Super Accept Say?

- For some pairs, the basic message is:
  - I have great trump support and a max hand.
- But the message should be:
  - We have a good chance for game if you have 6 or 7 points.
  - If you have less, we should be okay at the 3-level.

# What are the Basic Requirements for Super Accept?

- 4 or more trump. Never 3 even if they are A K Q.
- Max strength. 17 points if you play 15-17 no trump openings.
- Your distribution is not 4-3-3-3.
- A weak doubleton is an ideal holding (x-x) or maybe (A-x).

1nt      pass      2 ♦      pass  
??

Hand 8

♠ 8 2

♥ A J 10 2

♦ A Q 10

♣ K Q J 9

- This hand is ideal for a super accept.
- 4 card support. +
- A quality 4-card suit. +
- Middle cards +
- A weak doubleton
- Bid 3 ♥.

1nt    pass    2 ♦    pass  
??

Hand 9

♠ Q 7 2

♥ A J 10 2

♦ A K 5

♣ K 7 2

- Probably should not super accept with this hand.
- 4 card support +
- 4-3-3-3 distribution -
- No middle cards -
- Scattered values -
- Bid 2 ♥.



# The Quantitative 4 No Trump

- You open the bidding 1 no trump and partner responds 4 no trump.
- Partner usually will have 16 points, maybe 17.
  - Some people with 17 will just bid 6 no trump and not give you a choice.
  - Some people will invite with 15, but that is a bit dangerous.
  - What do you need to accept the slam invite?
    - With 15, pass and play 4 no trump.
    - With 17, bid 6 no trump.
    - With 16, use your judgment .

1nt      pass      4nt      pass  
??

Hand 10

♠ 7 5 2

♥ K 6 5

♦ K Q J 5

♣ A K 2

Partner's hand

♠ A K 6

♥ Q J 7

♦ A 10 6 2

♣ Q 4 3

- When you have 4-3-3-3 distribution, it is always a bit risky.
- Here both you and partner have 16 points but you cannot make 12 tricks.
- You will lose a spade and a heart.

1nt      pass      4nt      pass  
??

Hand 11

♠ 7 5

♥ K 6 5

♦ K Q J 5

♣ A K 5 2

Partner's hand

♠ A K 6

♥ Q J 7

♦ A 10 6 2

♣ Q 4 3

- We'll change the hand just a bit.
- Same points, but with this hand, you have a slightly better chance of getting to 12 tricks.
- If the club suit will split 3-3, you have your 12<sup>th</sup> trick.

1nt      pass      4nt      pass  
??

Hand 12

♠ 7 5

♥ K 6 7

♦ K Q J 5

♣ A K 10 2

Partner's hand

♠ A K 6

♥ Q J 7

♦ A 10 6 2

♣ Q 4 3

- We'll change the hand just a bit.
- Same points, but with this hand, you have a slightly better chance of getting to 12 tricks.
- Here you have one additional chance.
- The clubs suit can split 3-3.
- The club jack can drop doubleton.

1nt      pass      4nt      pass  
??

Hand 13

♠ 7 5

♥ K 6

♦ K Q 10 5 3

♣ A K 10 2

Partner's hand

♠ A K 6

♥ Q J 7

♦ A 7 6 2

♣ Q 4 3

- This hand has only 15 points, and yet 12 tricks are all but assured.
- The diamond suit can be 2-2 or 3-1.
- Or the club suit can split for you.

# Invitations in a Suit

- When partner makes a limit raise, it is an invitation to game.
- What are your agreements?
- Can partner make a limit raise with 3-card support?
- What is partner's range?
  - 10 to 12?
  - 11 or 12?

# Accepting The Limit Raise

- Here's the agreements I like to use.
  - 11 or 12 points
  - 4 card trump support.
  - With 3 card support...
    - Bid 1 no trump (forcing) first
    - Then make a limit raise.

1 ♠ pass 3 ♠ pass

Hand 14

♠ A Q 9 7 4

♥ 10 9 2

♦ Q 3

♣ A 9 2

- 12 points.
- Poor distribution
- 9 tricks may not be easy.
- Pass 3 ♠.



# 1 ♠ pass 3 ♠ pass

Hand 15

♠ K Q 10 9 4

♥ 2

♦ A J 10 9

♣ Q 9 2

Partner's hand

♠ A 8 5 2

♥ 7 5 3

♦ Q 6

♣ A J 10 3

- 12 points, but a much better hand.
- strong trump suit.
- Singleton heart.
- Quality 4-card suit.
- No guarantee, but hope to find partner with:

# When You Choose to Make a Limit Raise, You Must Use Judgment

Hand 16

♠ A J 7 4

♥ 9 8 5

♦ A J 10 4 2

♣ 2

- This hand has only 10 high-card points.
- The singleton
- The quality 5 card side suit
- Makes it worth a limit raise.

# When You Choose to Make a Limit Raise, You Must Use Judgment

Hand 16

♠ A 8 7 4

♥ J 8 5

♦ K J 10

♣ K 7 2

- This hand has 12 high-card points.
- 4-3-3-3 distribution
- Zero ruffing value.
- Few middle cards.
- Might not be worth a limit raise.

# Final Thought

- In competition, invitational suit bids are given by cue-bidding the opponent's suit.
- Direct raises of partner suit are competitive, but not necessarily forward going.
- 1 ♥ ... (1 ♠) ... 3 ♥ ... competitive, not encouraging partner to bid again.
- 1 ♥ ... (1 ♠) .... 2 ♠ .... Limit raise or better... encouraging partner to go to game with good values.