

Balancing

Bid



Pass

Balancing in Bridge

- A balancing bid is one that is made when the opponents opened the bidding and then are willing to stop at a low (one or two level) contract.
- The reason we balance is to fight for a share of a part score that might be available.
- There are a couple of ways that the opportunity to balance arises. The most common is 1 suit, pass, pass. In 4th seat, you must decide to bid and keep the auction open or to pass.

The Best Time to Balance

- You are short in the opponents' suit or suits.
- You have a good suit or some strength in the suit(s) not bid by the opponents.
- When you are vulnerable, you should be careful. Nevertheless, if you have the right hand, you should balance even when vulnerable.

When Not to Balance


- When you have fewer than 8 points.
- When you have length in the opponent's suit. The more cards you have in their suit, the stronger the reason not to balance.
- You are vulnerable and your hand is borderline for balancing.
 - You have just 8 points.
 - The suit you intend to bid is a weak suit.


The Balancing Double Ex-1

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	??

West's Bid
Double

West's Hand


 A 10 8 7

 Q 9 8 3

 Q J 4

 8 3

The Balancing Double Ex-2

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	??


West's Bid
Double

West's Hand

 Q J 7 3

 3

 K Q J 4

 10 8 3 2

The Balancing Double Ex-3

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	??

West's Bid
pass

West's Hand



J



Q J 8 4



K J 10 4





A 8 3 2

What If You Have a Strong Hand

- When you make a balancing double with a weak balancing hand (9-15 points), you don't bid again.
- Your partner decides.
- So if you bid after you had doubled, you have a strong hand (16+ points).
- Remember to **Count Dummy Points**, if you are supporting partner's suit)

The Balancing Double Ex-4

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	double
pass	1 	pass	??

West's Bid
2 

West's Hand

 A J 7 2

 8 4

 K J 10 4

 A K 3

The Balancing Double Ex-5

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	pass	pass	double
pass	2 ♥	pass	??

West's Bid
3 ♥

West's Hand

♠ 2
♥ A Q 9 4
♦ K 10 9 8 4
♣ A K 3

The Balancing Double Ex-6

West's Bid
Double

North	East	South	West
2 	pass	pass	

West's Hand

 K 8 7 3

 A 4

 J 10 8 4

 K J 3

The Balancing Double Ex-7

North	East	South	West
2 ♠	pass	pass	

West's Bid
Double

West's Hand


♠	7 3
♥	K Q 7 2
♦	K 10 8 4
♣	A J 3

Here's Another Balancing Double Sequence

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	1nt	pass
pass	??		


North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	2 ♥	
pass			
pass	??		

The Balancing Double Ex-8

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	1nt	pass
pass	??		

East's Bid
Double

East's Hand

 K 9 5 2

 Q 9 4

 9 8


 A Q 9 3

The Balancing Double Ex-9


North	East	South	West
1 	pass	2 	Pass
pass	??		

East's Bid
Double

East's Hand

 K 9 5 2

 9 4

 Q 10 8

 A Q 9 3

Balancing With a Suit Bid

The Balancing Double Ex-10

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	??


West's Bid
1 

West's Hand

 A K 10 5 2

 9 4

 8 7

 J 10 9 3

The Balancing Double Ex-11

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	??

West's Bid

2 

Acceptable
in the direct
seat or
balancing
seat.

West's Hand

 5 2


 A 4

 A K 10 8 7





 Q J 9 3

The Balancing Double Ex-12


North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	??





West's Bid
2 
Not
acceptable
in the direct
seat but
good in the
balancing
seat

West's Hand


	5 2
	8 4
	A K 10 8 7
	J 9 8 3

The Balancing Double Ex-13


North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	??


West's Bid
1 
Opening bid
2 . In
direct seat
weak jump
2 . In
balancing
seat just bid
1 

West's Hand

 A Q J 9 5 2

 8

 10 8 7 2

 8 3

Balancing With 1 nt

A 1 nt Bid in the Balancing Seat

- Shows 11-14 hcps.
- A balanced hand
- A sure stopper in the opponent's suit.
- With a real 1 nt overcall (15-17) points, double first than bid no trump.
- Systems on.

The Balancing Double Ex-14

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	??


West's Bid
1 nt
You would not bid 1nt in the direct seat, but a good 1 nt in the balancing seat.

West's Hand


 Q J 3

 A 8

 K 8 7 2





 Q 10 8 3

The Balancing Double Ex-15

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	??

West's Bid
1 nt
You would not bid 1nt in the direct seat, but a good 1 nt in the balancing seat.

West's Hand

 Q J 9
 A Q 8
 K 8 7
 10 8 5 3

The Balancing Double Ex-16

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	pass	??

West's Bid
Double
Too strong
for a
balancing
1nt. Double
first then
bid no
trump.

West's Hand

 Q J 3

 A 8

 A 8 7 2

 K Q 8 3

How to Handle a Real Monster Hand in the Balancing Seat (22+ points).

- Double first then make a jump bid after partner bids.
- Jump in no trump with a solid stopper in the opener's suit
- Jump in you suit if you have a 5 card suit or longer.
- Jump in partner's suit with support for the suit.