Balancing



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.

North East South West 1 **p**ass pass ?? West's Bid Double

West's Hand A 10 8 7 Q 9 8 3 Q J 4 8 3

North East South West

1 **v** pass pass ??

West's Bid Double

West's Hand QJ73 3 KQJ4 10832

North East South West

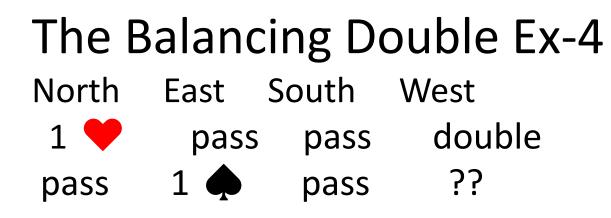
1 **v** pass pass ??

West's Bid pass

West's Hand J QJ84 KJ104 A832

What If You Have a Strong Hand

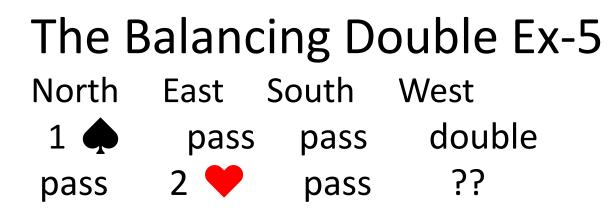
- When you make a balancing double with a weak balancing hand (9-15 points), you don't bid again.
- Your partner decides.
- So if you bid after you had doubled, you have a strong hand (16+ points).
- <u>Remember to Count Dummy Points, if</u> you are supporting partner's suit)







West's Hand
A J 7 2
8 4
K J 10 4
A K 3





West's Hand 2 A Q 9 4 K 10 9 8 4 A K 3

North East South West

2 **v** pass pass

West's Bid Double

West's Hand
K 8 7 3
A 4
J 10 8 4
K J 3

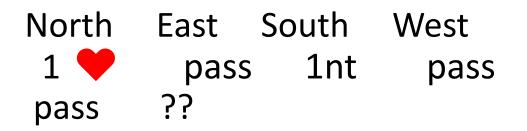
North East South West

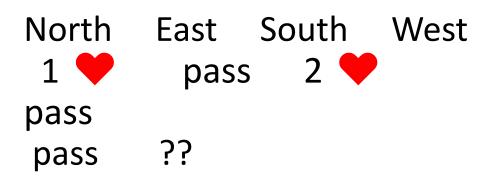
2 **•** pass pass

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





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



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

North East South West

1 **v** pass pass ??





West's Hand A K 10 5 2 9 4 8 7 J 10 9 3

North East South West 1 **v** 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

North East South West 1 **v** pass pass ?? West's Bid 2 Not acceptable in the direct seat but good in the balancing seat

North East South West 1 **v** 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

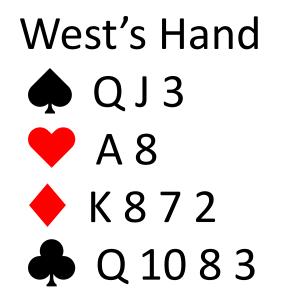
Balancing With 1 nt

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.

North East South West 1 **v** 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.

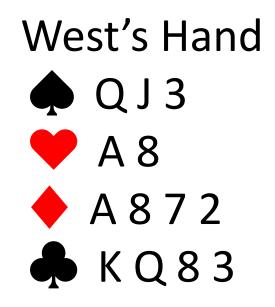


North East South West 1 **v** pass pass ??

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

North East South West 1 **v** pass pass ?? West's Bid Double Too strong for a balancing 1nt. Double first then bid no trump.



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.