

## The Next Level

### 1. Basic opener strategy

#### (iii) Coping with Intervention

When the opponents intervene, the basic principle is to make your planned bid if you are able, otherwise to pass. In general, when making a bid to limit your hand, don't be pushed up by the opponents.

*Exercise:* You opened 1♣, left-hand opponent passed, partner responded 1♥ and right-hand opponent made a nuisance of himself by overcalling 2♦. Now what?

♠ KJ2	♠ AJ3	♠ K2
♥ A3	♥ J2	♥ K3
♦ QJ2	♦ QJ4	♦ Q42
♣ AK432	♣ AQ762	♣ AJ6432

With the first, go ahead and rebid 2NT, the bid you'd have made if right-hand opponent had passed. The one extra requirement that has become relevant is having a stopper in the opposing diamonds.

In contrast, you must pass with the second, because you are unable to make your planned INT rebid. Rebids 2NT, and partner will (should) place you with a hand that was planning to rebid 2NT and will raise to 3NT with some seven-point hand that renders 3NT hopeless. Remember, your pass does not end the auction — partner is still there and has heard you open the bidding; he will not go quietly unless he has a poor hand.

You must also pass with the third, because you cannot make your planned 2♣ rebid. If you bid 3♣, partner will place you with a hand that was planning to jump to 3♣ — 16+ points.

Now the basic principle is understood, you can exercise a little nous. On the same 1♣-(P)-1♥-(2♦) auction — here are two more hands that were planning to rebid INT:

♠ K2	♠ A93
♥ AJ3	♥ 82
♦ J42	♦ AQ10
♣ AQ932	♣ AQ1092

With the first, you can swerve into 2♥. With the second, ♦AQ10 is effectively ♦AKQ, sitting over the 2♦ bid. Also loving ♣109, your hand is worth way more than 16 points and you can bid 2NT.

Dealer: North	♠ A2
Vul: Neither	♥ 42
	♦ AK10542
	♣ AJ2
♠ KJ96	♠ Q104
♥ A109863	♥ Q7
♦ 3	♦ J876
♣ 65	♣ Q1098
	♠ 8753
	♥ KJ5
	♦ Q9
	♣ K743

S	W	N	E
		1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	3♦(1)	Pass
3NT(2)	End		

(1) 16+ points. With a hand that was merely planning to rebid 2♦, North should pass.

(2) There are 25 combined points, a heart stopper and a simply beautiful ♦Q9.

After ♥10, ♥2, ♥Q, you win ♥K (duck and East may switch to a spade). ♥J is protected from a second heart lead from West but East is the danger hand, leading through ♥J5.

You cross to ♣A and lead ♦2 to ♦9, not minding if West wins ♦J. Here, your safety play is crucial. After ♦9 wins, you cash ♦Q, cross to ♠A and cash ♦AK105 then ♣K. Game made plus one.

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