

Board 1



♠ A K 10
♥ K Q J 10 8 6
♦ 6 4
♣ 4 3

Evaluation as Opener:

Action after a 3 ♣ opening bid?

Action after a 4 ♣ opening bid?

Evaluation as Responder:

After a 1 ♦ opening bid?

Action after 1 ♦ - 3 ♣ auction?

Action after 1 ♦ - 4 ♣ auction?

Board 1



♠ A K 10
♥ K Q J 10 8 6
♦ 6 4
♣ 4 3

Evaluation as Opener:

Despite having only 13 HCP, this hand has 7 (almost) sure tricks with hearts as trump. In an uncontested auction I would be conservative and rebid 2 ♥ after 1N. After all I only want to be in game if partner can take 3 tricks.

Action after a 3 ♣ opening bid?

I was willing to rebid 2 ♥ opposite a minimum. Therefore I am willing to bid one more in competition with a good suit. Hence 3 ♥ for me.

Action after a 4 ♣ opening bid?

Bidding 1 more is fine, but bidding 2 more is risky. I would pass 4 ♣ and just try to go plus by defending. Partner has a chance to balance and without short clubs I don't feel like I should be the aggressive bidder in the partnership.

Evaluation as Responder:

After a 1 ♦ opening bid?

With partner having opened I am good enough to force to game. I will show my hearts even by bidding 4 ♥ after interference.

Action after 1 ♦ - 3 ♣ auction?

3 ♥

Action after 1 ♦ - 4 ♣ auction?

4 ♥

Note: This is an example of the idea that preempts are less effective the more information has been passed between the opponents. 4 ♣ without any information makes bidding the hearts risky. After they've opened the 4 ♥ bid is clear.

Board 2



♠ Q 9 5
♥ 8
♦ K J 10 2
♣ 10 9 5 4 3

Evaluation as Responder:

After a 1 ♦ opening bid?

Action after 1 ♦ - 1 ♥ auction?

Board 2



♠ Q 9 5
♥ 8
♦ K J 10 2
♣ 10 9 5 4 3

Evaluation as Responder:

After a 1 ♦ opening bid?

On strength I am only willing to bid to 1N or 2 of a suit with my 6 HCP. However, there are always those pesky opponents. Since partner didn't open 1 ♥ they are unlikely to have 5 of them. This implies that the opponents have at least an 8 card heart fit. So I would commit myself to competing over a 2 ♥ bid by the opponents.

Action after 1 ♦ - 1 ♥ auction?

Our fears are coming true. Since I was willing to bid over 2 ♥ I would bid 3 ♦ here if that showed a weakish hand since I am bidding it not to make, but as a presumed sacrifice over 2 ♥. 2 ♦ and double are also quite reasonable actions. The main thing here is to bid since you were willing to bid if they had passed and your offensive potential has gone up with the singleton in their overcalled suit.

Board 3



♠ 3
♥ Q 10 9 6
♦ J 9 5 2
♣ 10 8 4 3

Evaluation as Responder:

After a 1 ♥ opening bid?

Action after 1 ♥ - 1 ♠ auction?

Action after 1 ♥ - 2 ♠ auction?

Board 3



♠ 3
♥ Q 10 9 6
♦ J 9 5 2
♣ 10 8 4 3

Evaluation as Responder:

Initially I am too weak to bid with my 4441 3-count. Especially since I can support whatever minor partner opens. However that same logic might impel me to bid 1 ♥ over either a 1 ♣ or 1 ♦ opening because I would rather play a major than a minor and no trump over a minor. The worst case scenario for me is if partner rebids 2N. Then he's going to have scramble to try and take 8 tricks with our 21 or 22 combined points. On the plus side the opponents would have at least an 8 card spade fit and might easily be able to get a plus playing in a spade partscore should I pass.

After a 1 ♥ opening bid?

With a known 9 card major suit fit and shortness my hand has blossomed after the 1 ♥ bid. I can add 3 extra points due to my great support. That's 1 point for the fourth trump and 2 points for the singleton. You can combine this math when raising a 5 card suit by subtracting your shortest suit from your trump length yielding 4 hearts - 1 spade = 3 extra support points. for 6 total support points.

Action after 1 ♥ - 1 ♠ auction?

Raise hearts. either 2 ♥ or 3 ♥ whichever appeals to you.

Action after 1 ♥ - 2 ♠ auction?

Raise hearts. In competition I am usually willing to bid one more than I think we can make if I think the opponents can make their bid.

Board 4



♠ 7 5 4 3
♥ J 8 7 2
♦ K 10 8
♣ Q 7

Evaluation as Responder:

After a 1 ♦ opening bid?

Action after 1 ♦ - 1 ♥ auction?

Action after 1 ♦ - 2 ♥ auction?

Board 4



♠ 7 5 4 3
♥ J 8 7 2
♦ K 10 8
♣ Q 7

Evaluation as Responder:

Pretty lousy, but I have 6 HCP so I am a minimum response.

After a 1 ♦ opening bid?

With two 4-card majors I bid up the line and start with 1 ♥.

Action after 1 ♦ - 1 ♥ auction?

I was willing to bid if the opponents had passed and I can still bid at the 1 level. I wouldn't let the opponents push me around and would make my negative double. negative doubles at the 1 level do not promise any more strength than a bid at the 1 level would have.

Action after 1 ♦ - 2 ♥ auction?

I was a dead minimum for bidding at the 1 level. No reason to get overexcited and push us to 2N or the 3 level since I am not sure that they have a fit and can make 2 ♥. Just pass.