

U3ABD Reinforcement Practice Three: Bidding Commentary

Introduction

This is a summary of the hands you played in the Reinforcement Practice for U3ABD07-U3ABD15. It is complete with Bidding Commentary to help explain the recommended bidding. As always, your mileage might have varied when you played these hands.

The Hands

North East South West

1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ A5		
	♥ QT8653		
	♦ Q3		
	♣ A86		
♠ K832			♠ JT97
♥ 742			♥ A
♦ J94			♦ 8762
♣ Q92			♣ KJT4
	♠ Q64		
	♥ KJ9		
	♦ AKT5		
	♣ 753		

Board: 1 Dealer: North Lead: ♠J #2707

North has 12 HCP and a 6-card major, so opens 1H. This shows 12-19 HCP and 4 Hearts. They intend to rebid Hearts.

South has 13 HCP so expects to bid to game, but can't support partner's major (yet) with just 3 Hearts. Better to bid their longest suit – Diamonds – and get partner to describe their hand further. Bidding a new suit at the 2 level shows 9-15 HCP and 4 cards, and is forcing for one round.

North now knows they have a total of at least 21-27 HCP, so game is possible but by no means certain! They bid 2H, to show 5 Hearts and a minimal (12-15 point) hand.

South now knows that partner has at least 5 Hearts, so they have an 8-card fit. Even if partner has a 12 point hand, they have a total of 25 HCP, just enough to bid 4H.

East South West North

1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ 876		
	♥ 95		
	♦ QJ852		
	♣ K87		
♠ Q432			♠ AKJT9
♥ Q3			♥ 764
♦ A4			♦ K93
♣ J9432			♣ A6
	♠ 5		
	♥ AKJT82		
	♦ T76		
	♣ QT5		

Board: 2 Dealer: East #16

South has 10 HCP and a good 6-card suit, so overcalls with 2H.

A 2-level overcall shows 11-15 HCP and a 5-card suit; South is a little weaker (10 HCP) but that's forgivable as they have a 6-card suit.

North has 6 HCP but only 2 Hearts, so isn't strong enough to raise.

South isn't strong enough to bid over 4S, so passes.

South West North East

1♥	Dbl	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♠ 863		
	♥ T63		
	♦ 94		
	♣ AT954		
♠ AQT5		♠ KJ97	
♥ 9		♥ A752	
♦ KQJ72		♦ 63	
♣ Q82		♣ K76	
	♠ 42		
	♥ KQJ84		
	♦ AT85		
	♣ J3		

West North East South

1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ 9853		
	♥ 2		
	♦ 976		
	♣ KJ865		
♠ AKQT7		♠ J6	
♥ A953		♥ QJT86	
♦ 3		♦ AK842	
♣ Q73		♣ 2	
	♠ 42		
	♥ K74		
	♦ QJT5		
	♣ AT94		

Board: 3 Dealer: South #2725

West has 14 HCP, a shortage in the opponents' suit, and no 5-card suit, so doubles for takeout.

This 1-level double promises 12 HCP, a shortage in the doubled suit, and a tolerance for any of the other three suits; a **Takeout Double**. Or it could be a strong hand with a long suit – see the [Discussion](#) for Board #1.

This double is forcing.

North has just 4 HCP and a decent 6-card major. They're not forced to bid as West has intervened, so their "free" bid of 2S promises 6-9 HCP and a 4-card suit – exaggerating their points because they have a 6-card major. Hmm.

Board: 4 Dealer: West Lead: ♦ Q #3375

West has 14 HCP and a nice 5-card Spade suit, so opens 1S. This shows 4 Spades and 12-19 HCP. Note that, with a 4-card Heart suit and a longer Spade suit, you bid Spades first. (You bid Hearts first if you have 4 Hearts and 4 Spades.)

East has 11 HCP, and two 5-card suits, Hearts and Diamonds. They're strong enough to bid a new suit at the 2 level, but which one? They choose Hearts for two good reasons: it's a lot easier to make game in a Major, and if they get a chance, they can show their Diamond suit on the next round fairly economically. (To show controls and maybe progress to 3NT.)

So East bids 2H, showing a 5-card Heart suit and 9-15 points. This bid is forcing for one round. (Bidding 2H over 1S promises 5 Hearts because by opening 1S, partner has denied having 4 Hearts, unless they have a longer Spade suit – so you must have 5 Hearts to bid 2H over 1S. Phew!)

West can rely on East for 5 Hearts and 9 HCP, adding their own 4 Hearts, 14 HCP and 2 Shortage Points for the singleton Diamond (in a Heart contract) they have enough for game, so bid 4H.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

If you don't find a fit with partner (say the bidding goes 1S-2H-2S-3D), your partner's bidding of two suits shows they probably have stops in those suits, which might be all you need to bid 2NT or 3NT. That's why it's sometimes better to bid a second suit rather than rebidding your first suit – it isn't always about finding a fit, sometimes it's about showing stops.

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
♠ K543 ♥ A64 ♦ Q974 ♣ K6			
♠ QJT ♥ KQJT ♦ J82 ♣ 954			
♠ 8 ♥ 9532 ♦ A53 ♣ J8732			
♠ A9762 ♥ 87 ♦ KT6 ♣ AQT			

Board: 5 Dealer: North Lead: ♥5 #1471

South has 5 Spades and 12 HCP, so they start by bidding 2H, asking (telling) partner to bid 2S.

North bids 2S as requested, what does South bid next?

They have 13 HCP, and partner has 12-14, so the partnership has 25-27. You need 25 points for 3NT or 4S, but which is the better contract? South bids 3NT to tell partner:

- I have exactly 5 Spades
- We have enough points for game in NT or Spades
- You decide!

Yes, it's a proper dialogue. North can pass to play in 3NT or bid 4S to play in 4S. With just two Spades, they'd pass 3NT, as they've only got a 5-2 fit in Spades, not enough. With three Spades, they would probably bid 4S unless they hate the idea; with four or more Spades, they would bid 4S.

With four Spades, North is happy to bid 4S, game. (This type of bid is sometimes called a Correction or Preference Bid.)

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

If North had three Spades, they might pass 3NT if they had a 4333 hand and no Honours in Spades, but would usually bid 4S. Then again, some people prefer playing in a suit, some people prefer playing in No Trumps

East	South	West	North
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
♠ A872 ♥ K ♦ 942 ♣ JT982			
♠ KQJ ♥ 862 ♦ 653 ♣ AK63			
♠ 9653 ♥ AT75 ♦ AK ♣ Q54			
♠ T4 ♥ QJ943 ♦ QJT87 ♣ 7			

Board: 6 Dealer: East #2925

East has 13 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 1NT.

The 1NT opening bid shows 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand.

West has 13 HCP, bringing the partnership total to 25-27, enough for 3NT.

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ K3
 ♥ 874
 ♦ AKQJ2
 ♣ 974

♠ AJT984
 ♥ T65
 ♦
 ♣ QT65

♠ 75
 ♥ KQ92
 ♦ 98743
 ♣ J8

♠ Q62
 ♥ AJ3
 ♦ T65
 ♣ AK32

Board: 7 Dealer: South Lead: ♠J #29

South has 14 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 1NT, showing 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand. (They could in principle open 1C, but then would not have a sensible second bid if partner responds!)

North has 13 HCP and a balanced hand. Even if partner has the minimum 12 HCP for their 1NT opening bid, that adds up to 25 HCP, so they can bid 3NT with confidence. 3NT will usually make with 25 HCP.

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ 2
 ♥ QT82
 ♦ QT97
 ♣ KJT9

♠ KJ98
 ♥ 3
 ♦ A85
 ♣ A8653

♠ AQT7
 ♥ A54
 ♦ K63
 ♣ 742

♠ 6543
 ♥ KJ976
 ♦ J42
 ♣ Q

Board: 8 Dealer: West #2691

West has an unbalanced hand with 12 HCP, so they open with one of their longest suit (1C), planning to bid their other suit on the second round to show their shape.

1C promises a four-card suit and 12-19 HCP.

East has a balanced hand with 14 HCP. While they are strong enough to jump straight to 3NT, it's better to allow both partners to bid some more, in case there's other considerations - such as a slam possibility (partner COULD have 19 HCP).

So East bids one of their longest suit. There's no need to jump, as this bid is forcing.

This 1S response promises 6+ HCP and a 4-card Spade suit; it does not deny a Heart suit and it's forcing for one round.

West isn't strong, but does have 4-card support for partner's suit, so they bid 2S.

This one-level raise promises four Spades and 12-15 HCP.

East can see 26-29 HCP and eight Spades, so 4S is the obvious contract.

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ AQJ6
 ♥ QJT9
 ♦ A7
 ♣ 643

♠ 7
 ♥ 87543
 ♦ Q86532
 ♣ 2

♠ T853
 ♥ A
 ♦ KT9
 ♣ QJT95

♠ K942
 ♥ K62
 ♦ J4
 ♣ AK87

Board: 9 Dealer: North Lead: ♣Q #94

North has four Hearts and four Spades, so responds 2H to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Hearts but does not deny four Spades. Notice that you don't choose your best or longest major, if you have both; you bid Hearts.

South doesn't have four Hearts but does have 14 HCP so they can count 26-28 HCP, enough to bid 3NT.

North now knows that South has four Spades (but not four Hearts) - they used Stayman, so must have a 4-card major. As they have four Spades of their own, they correct the 3NT bid to 4S for the 4-4 fit.

4S is usually a better contract than 3NT, if you have a 4-4 fit.

East	South	West	North
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

	♠ K85		
	♥ K95		
	♦ T762		
	♣ QJ2		
♠ QJT6		♠ A74	
♥ J3		♥ Q82	
♦ Q854		♦ AKJ3	
♣ AK9		♣ 765	
	♠ 932		
	♥ AT764		
	♦ 9		
	♣ T843		

Board: 10 Dealer: East Lead: ♥6 #225

East does not have four Hearts or four Spades, so responds 2D to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows less than four Hearts and less than four Spades. It doesn't say anything about Diamonds.

West knows there's no major fit, but with 13 HCP can count 25-27 HCP, so they bid 3NT.

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

	♠ KJ873		
	♥ Q52		
	♦ T43		
	♣ Q9		
♠ 4		♠ A52	
♥ 9763		♥ 84	
♦ K62		♦ Q987	
♣ A8765		♣ T432	
	♠ QT96		
	♥ AKJT		
	♦ AJ5		
	♣ KJ		

Board: 11 Dealer: South Lead: ♦7 #2970

South has 19 HCP and two 4-card majors. With two majors of equal length, you open 1H, to make it easy for partner to show a 4-card Spade suit at the 1-level.

This bid shows 12-19 HCP and 4 Hearts.

North has 8 HCP but only 3 Hearts, so can't raise partner's suit. Their 1S bid shows 4 Spades and 6-15 HCP. This bid is forcing for one round. It doesn't deny support for Hearts.

South now knows they have at least 25 HCP and 8 Spades between them, so bids game (4S) with confidence.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

The doubleton KJ is difficult to value. You could value it as 5 points (3 for the K, 1 for the J and 1 for the doubleton), but most players would take at least one point off.

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Dbl	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

	♠ KT986		
	♥ J5		
	♦ K872		
	♣ AK		
♠ AJ72		♠ 43	
♥ 83		♥ AQ94	
♦ QT94		♦ AJ6	
♣ 853		♣ QJT9	
	♠ Q5		
	♥ KT762		
	♦ 53		
	♣ 7642		

Board: 12 Dealer: West #2734

East has 14 HCP, a shortage in the opponents' suit, and no 5-card suit - an ideal hand to double for takeout.

This 1-level double promises 12 HCP, a shortage in the doubled suit, and a tolerance for any of the other three suits; a **Takeout Double**. Or it could be a strong hand with a long suit - see the [Discussion](#) for Board #1.

This double is forcing.

West has 7 HCP, a balanced hand with a 4-card Diamond suit and a stop in Spades - so they bid 1NT. 1NT is a better bid than showing a 4-card minor.

This 1NT response promises 6-9 HCP, a stop in the doubled suit, and no un-bid 4-card major.

East can see 20-23 HCP and knows West has at most 3 Hearts, so can only pass.

North East South West

1♦	Dbl	3♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♠ 976		
	♥ K		
	♦ AKQJ6		
	♣ 8743		
♠ KT3		♠ AQ85	
♥ AT87		♥ J964	
♦ T7		♦ 5	
♣ KQ96		♣ AJT2	
	♠ J42		
	♥ Q532		
	♦ 98432		
	♣ 5		

Board: 13 Dealer: North #2740

East has 12 HCP, a shortage in the opponents' suit, and no 5-card suit, so doubles for takeout.

This 1-level double promises 12 HCP, a shortage in the doubled suit, and a tolerance for any of the other three suits; a **Takeout Double**. Or it could be a strong hand with a long suit – see the [Discussion](#) for Board #1.

This double is forcing.

West has 12 HCP and a moderate 4-card major, with no stop in Diamonds so they can't bid NT. With 24+ HCP and assumed Heart support, they jump to game over South's 3D raise.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

That 3D bid really messed up the bidding for E-W. Well done South!

West's 4H bid is rather questionable. What if partner has a Double Then Bid hand, with a long suit in Clubs or Spades and no support for Hearts? You just have to hope they overrule your 4H and bid their suit; you've got good support for the other suits too!

I think West should bid 3H, not 4H. Their suit isn't long but they do have points; the fact that they've made a free bid shows that they've got points, so they should bid game.

Tricky!

East South West North

1♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠		
	♥ KJT6		
	♦ QJ83		
	♣ 87652		
♠ AK84		♠ QJ953	
♥ Q74		♥ 82	
♦ A2		♦ 97	
♣ T943		♣ AKQJ	
	♠ T762		
	♥ A953		
	♦ KT654		
	♣		

Board: 14 Dealer: East #17

East has 13 HCP, an unbalanced hand, and a 5-card Spade suit – so they bid 1S.

The 1S opening bid shows 12-19 HCP and 4 Spades (but see the [Discussion](#) for Hand 1). The hand may be balanced or unbalanced.

West has 13 HCP and 4-card support for partner's Spades. They can add another point for their Doubleton Diamond, if playing in Spades.

West can see a total of 26 points and 8 Spades, so bids 4S; game is almost certain.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

What's the difference between High Card Points and Points?

High Card Points indicate the Honours you hold. An Ace is worth 4, a King is worth 3, a Queen is worth 2 and a Jack is worth 1. A Ten is (maybe) worth ½. Add up your HCP to evaluate your hand in a NT contract.

Points are calculated by adding your HCP and your shortage points, **but only if you're playing in a suit contract and have at least 3 trumps (preferably 4) and you are going to be Dummy, not Declarer**. Shortage points are 3 for a Void, 2 for a Singleton, and 1 for a Doubleton. (Although experienced players might upgrade that to 5, 3 and 1.)

South West North East

1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ J6		
	♥ QJT86		
	♦ AK842		
	♣ 2		
♠ 9853		♠ 42	
♥ 2		♥ K74	
♦ 976		♦ QJT5	
♣ KJ865		♣ AT94	
	♠ AKQT7		
	♥ A953		
	♦ 3		
	♣ Q73		

Board: 15 Dealer: South Lead: ♦ Q #3375

South has 14 HCP and a nice 5-card Spade suit, so opens 1S. This shows 4 Spades and 12-19 HCP. Note that, on this occasion, South has a 4-card Heart suit, but bids the 5-card Spade suit because it's longer. They plan to show their second suit, Spades, with their rebid.

North has 11 HCP, and two 5-card suits, Hearts and Diamonds. They're strong enough to bid a new suit at the 2 level, but which one? They choose Hearts for two good reasons: it's a lot easier to make game in a Major, and if they get a chance, they can show their Diamond suit on the next round fairly economically. (To show controls and maybe progress to 3NT.)

So North bids 2H, showing a 5-card Heart suit and 10-15 points. This bid is forcing for one round.

South can rely on North for 5 Hearts and 10 HCP, adding their own 4 Hearts and 14 HCP and 2 Shortage Points for the singleton Diamond (in a Heart contract) they have enough for game, so bid 4H.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

If you don't find a fit with partner (say the bidding goes 1S-2H-2S-3D), your partner's bidding of 2 suits shows they probably have stops in those suits, which might be all you need to bid 2NT or 3NT. That's why it's often better to rebid a second suit than rebidding your first suit – it isn't always about finding a fit.

West North East South

1♣	1♠	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ AKQT98		
	♥ 7		
	♦ JT976		
	♣ 6		
♠ 764		♠ J5	
♥ AK43		♥ 982	
♦ K		♦ AQ43	
♣ QJ743		♣ AK52	
	♠ 32		
	♥ QJT65		
	♦ 852		
	♣ T98		

Board: 16 Dealer: West #910

North has 10 HCP and a good 6-card Spade suit, so they're strong enough to overcall at the 1-level.

The 1-level 1S overcall shows 8-15 HCP and a 5-card suit.

South has just 3 HCP and 2 Spades, so isn't strong enough to bid.

North isn't strong enough to bid again.

North East South West

1♥	2♣	2♠	3♣
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ 984		
	♥ K98632		
	♦ AK		
	♣ KT		
♠		♠ K752	
♥ AT54		♥ J7	
♦ JT9653		♦ 8	
♣ 542		♣ AQJ973	
	♠ AQJT63		
	♥ Q		
	♦ Q742		
	♣ 86		

East South West North

1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ T8		
	♥ A95		
	♦ 986432		
	♣ A2		
♠ Q75		♠ K62	
♥ 87		♥ KQJT	
♦ AKJT5		♦ Q7	
♣ J65		♣ KQT9	
	♠ AJ943		
	♥ 6432		
	♦		
	♣ 8743		

Board: 17 Dealer: North #2471

East has 11 HCP and a good 6-card Club suit, so is strong enough to overcall at the 2-level.

A 2-level overcall shows 11-15 HCP and a 5-card suit.

West has 5 HCP and 3 Clubs; with the Spade void, they're just strong enough for the limit raise to 2C.

East isn't strong enough to bid again.

Board: 18 Dealer: East Lead: ♠4 #104

East has 16 points and a balanced hand, with two 4-card suits, so they open the major (1H) intending to rebid 1NT to show their points. With a choice between a major and a minor, you will usually open the major; partner might have four or more, giving you a fit.

West has 11 points, a unbalanced hand, and a nice 5-card minor suit. They don't have 4-card support for partner's Spades, so they bid 2D.

West's 2D bid over 1H shows 10+ points, less than four Hearts, less than four Spades, and a 4+ Diamond suit. That's a lot of information!

East adds partner's promised 10+ points to their 16, making 26 – more than enough for 3NT. However, they rebid 2NT to show partner their balanced shape and point range (15-16) to allow partner the chance to show another feature; West won't pass, because they can add up too!

West is happy to raise to 3NT as they can't see any other prospect for game and have the minimum points for their bid.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

East's bid of 2NT (rather than 3NT) allows partner another bid without going past 3NT. On this occasion West's next bid was 3NT, but they might have a hand that would play really badly in NT (such as a long Diamond suit with gaps and no entries) or a very powerful hand with potential for a slam.

We'll cover bidding to the slam level later in this course, but for now just remember to give partner that extra bidding space in this situation by bidding 2NT rather than 3NT when you **both** know that you have enough points for 3NT. Phew.

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ KJT4		
	♥ 643		
	♦ Q7		
	♣ KQT4		
♠ Q987		♠ 6	
♥ QJT		♥ A975	
♦ AT86		♦ KJ932	
♣ 95		♣ 732	
	♠ A532		
	♥ K82		
	♦ 54		
	♣ AJ86		

Board: 19 Dealer: South Lead: ♥Q #1618

South does not have four Hearts, but does have four Spades, so responds 2S to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Spades and denies four Hearts.

North has 11 HCP so can count 23-25 HCP and 8 Spades, so bids 3S as a Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 4S if they have the maximum 14 HCP for their 1NT bid.

South has 12 HCP, two less than the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so passes as requested.

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ T		
	♥ Q87		
	♦ J976		
	♣ QJT54		
♠ AKQJ64		♠ 752	
♥ KJ93		♥ 542	
♦ 54		♦ AKQ3	
♣ 7		♣ K86	
	♠ 983		
	♥ AT6		
	♦ T82		
	♣ A932		

Board: 20 Dealer: West Lead: ♣Q #1541

West has 4 HCP in a two-suited unbalanced hand, so they open one of their longer suit, planning to rebid Hearts.

The 1S opening promises four Spades and 12-19 points. It doesn't deny a biddable Heart suit, but they probably have more Spades than Hearts.

East has 12 points in a balanced hand. They bid their longest suit, 2D, to show 10+ points and 4+ Diamonds; you usually bid your longest suit on the first round in preference to a NT response, as it shares more information.

The 2D response promises 10+ points and 4+ Diamonds, denying 4+ support for Spades. It is forcing for one round.

West rebids 2H as planned, showing 5+ Spades and 4+ Hearts and 12-15 points.

East can see 24+ HCP and 8+ Spades. The Spade fit means they can raise partner's suit (option 1) but they can't see enough points to be sure of game, so they bid 3S, a Game Invitation.

West has a powerful Spade suit AND two more HCP than the minimum for their bid, so they are happy to accept the invitation and bid 4S.