Competitive Bidding III—Negative Double (September 27, 2021)

Your partner opens 1H and you hold one of the following hands. Assume standard bidding methods and <u>NO</u> interference by the opponents. What would you bid holding the following hand?

- 1H (P) ???
- a) Jx Qxx Kxxx Qxxx

With this hand, you probably would make a simple raise to 2H, which promises three card support and 6-9/10 high card points (HCP).

b) Jxx QJx AJxx Qxx

With this hand, you probably would bid 1N (forcing) and then rebid 3H, which promises three card support and eleven plus HCP.

c) Axx KQxx KQ xxx

With this hand, you probably would bid 2NT (Jacoby) which promises four card support and a minimum of twelve HCP.

d) Axx KQx x KQxxxx

With this hand, you might consider making a 4D bid (splinter bid which shows a singleton/void in diamonds) and promises excellent trump support. Or, you might consider making a 2C bid which is a 2/1 game forcing bid. Later in the bidding, you can show your heart support.

Your partner has opened the bidding with one heart. Your right hand opponent (RHO) bids 1S/2C/2D. What would you bid holding the following hands? NOTE: Assume standard bidding.

- 1H (1S/2C/2D) ???
- a) xx Qxx Kxxx Qxxx

With this hand, you might make a simple raise to 2H, promising at least three card support and 6-9 high card points (HCP).

1H (1S/2C/2D) ???

b) xx QJxx Kxx Jxxx

With this hand, you might bid 3H showing 4 hearts and 7-9 HCP (known as a mixed raise.

c) xxx QJxxx x Qxxx

With this hand, you might bid 4H showing 5 hearts, a singleton or void, and not many high card points.

d) Qxx Kxx Axx QJxx

With this hand, you might cuebid your opponent's bid suit. This bid promises heart support and twelve plus high card points. It is the strongest bid you can make in support of your partner after an intervening bid.

Your partner has opened the bidding with 1H. Your right hand opponent bids 1S. What would you bid with the following hand? NOTE: Assume standard bidding.

1H (1S) ???

xxx Qx Kxxx Qxxx

Your problem is that you hold a doubleton in partner's suit; thus, making it impossible to raise to 2H. You do not hold a spade stopper; thus, you cannot rebid 1NT. However, you do hold 7 HCP. You make what is called a NEGATIVE DOUBLE.

NEGATIVE DOUBLE

When your partner has opened the bidding and your (RHO) has overcalled at the one level. His bid has interfered with your natural response. How can you convey to your partner that you have at least 6/7 high card points (HCP) and at least four cards in the unbid suits? Make a **Negative Double.** If an opponent overcalls at the two level, you need about 9/10 HCP and four cards in the unbid suits to make a **Negative Double.**

NOTE: In the following hands. Your partner has opened the bidding with 1D.

Example 1. RHO overcalls 1S.		1D	(1S)	???
You hold the following hand:	10x	O10xx	Axx	Oxxx

If RHO had not bid, you would have responded with 1H. With the above hand, you make a **negative double** to show four hearts and a minimum of 6/7 HCP. You cannot bid 2H without having a five-card suit and a minimum of 10 HCP.

Example 2.	RHO overcalls with 1H.	1	D	(1H)	???
You hold the	following hand:	Q10xx	10x	Axx	Qxxx

Here again, if RHO had not bid, you would have bid 1S holding the above hand. By bidding 1S you would be promising 5 spades (or at least four very good spades). Make a **Negative Double**.

Example 3. RHO overcalls	with 2C. 1D	(2C)	???	
You hold the following hand:	XX	J10xxxx	AK	xxx

In this hand, you do not have the point count requirement to bid 2H. You should begin by making a **Negative Double**. Naturally, your partner will think you have both major suits; but, you plan to bid hearts next at the cheapest level. Partner should now know that you have a long heart suit; but, not enough points to have responded with 2H immediately over the 2C overcall.

Example 4. RHO overcalls 1S.	1 D	(1S)	???
You hold the following hand:	XXX K.	Jxx xxy	x xxx

PASS. Even with four hearts you don't have enough points to make a bid. Your shape does not qualify for a 2D immediate raise over the 1S overcall. If you make a negative double showing four hearts, your side may get too high. Should your partner make subsequent bids based upon what he thinks you hold, your side may end up in a very bad contract. **Try to fool the opponents; but, never your partner.**

Example 5. RHO overcalls 1H.		1D	(1H)	???
You hold the following hand:	xxxx	x	AQxxx	Qxx

Make a **Negative Double.** The spade suit is not robust; but, if partner makes another bid which does not show spade support, you can now raise his diamond suit. In this hand, you always want to try to find the major suit fit first.

Example 6.	RHO overcalls with 1S.		1D	(1S)	???	
You hold the	following hand:	x	KQxxx	Axxx	Qxx	
Bid 2H. You support for y	have the strength (11+ HC your partner.	CP an	d a five c	ard suit)), plus y	ou have diamond
Example 7.	RHO overcalls with 1S.		1D	(1S)	???	
You hold the	following hand:		AQ10)xx x	x xx	Jxxx
PASS. Partner may reopen with a double and then you can pass and convert the double to a penalty double.						
Example 8.	RHO overcalls with 1S.		1D	(1S)	???	
You hold the	following hand:		AQx	XXX	Kxx	Jxxx
	nis bid shows values and a s ble holding only three hear		spade stoj	pper. Do	on't con	sider making a
Example 9.	RHO overcalls 1S.		1D	(1S)	???	
You hold the	following hand:		AJ10	Kxxx	Qx	Kxxx
Make a Nega	ative Double. Here, even h	oldi	ng a spad	e stoppe	r, you s	hould first try to

Make a **Negative Double.** Here, even holding a spade stopper, you should first try to find a 4/4 heart fit. You can always bid 3NT later if your partner does not rebid 2H. If he does bid 2H, then you should bid 4H.

Example 10. RHO overcalls 2S (weak two bid).		1D (2	2S)	???
You hold the following hand:	X	AJxxx	Axx	XXXX

Make a **Negative Double.** You are not strong enough to bid 3H; but, your singleton spade should prove extremely valuable if your side plays in hearts.

NOTE: All of the above examples cover situations in which an opponent has made an overcall. But, what happens when an opponent makes a takeout double of your partner's opening bid? In another lesson, we will look at examples of the various hands which you might hold as the responder. Let's finish by looking at a complete hand.

	J6 K 1100		Both sides nonvulnerable				
	KJ109 Q63 Q963		Bidding:	South 1C 3H	West 1S P	North Dbl P	East 2S P
AQ1095 753 K2 985		K83 62 A8754 J72	Contract: 3			Г	Г
	742 AQ84 J109 AK4		Opening Lo	ead: Ace	of spade	2S	
Analysis o	f Hand:						
Total Lose		woidable: one can l	he eliminated by	ruffing in	the dur		

Spades:3 (two unavoidable; one can be eliminated by ruffing in the dummy)Hearts:0Diamonds:2 (unavoidable)Clubs:0

West leads the ace of spades. His partner signals with the eight of spades. West leads the ten of spades, hoping his partner will read it as suit preference for a diamond shift. Notice if East underleads the ace of diamonds, and his partner returns the two of diamonds, East can give his partner a ruff for the setting trick. Top players would recognize that leading back a third spade to be ruffed in the dummy cannot be the best line of defense.

If your opponents do not find the "killing" defense, then declarer should have no problem in making this hand. If a third spade is returned, you ruff in the dummy and proceed to pull trumps. The opponents can take two diamond tricks. You make your contract.

If you had let them play in 2S, they will make two for +110; but, if you make 3H you will score+140. Even if you go down one, it is only -50. If they double for penalty and you go down 1, it is only -100.

NOTE: Always try to push the bidding to the three level if you can do so safely!

Assignment: What would you bid with the following hands?

1. 1D (1S) ???

	You h	old the f	ollowing hand: xxx A98x Jxxx					
2.	1D	(1S)	???					
	You h	old the f	following hand:	Jxx	Axx	Qxx	AQ10x	

Next Week: We will focus on partner's rebids after you have made a negative double.