

The Foundation System

Part II. System Practice: Competitive Bidding

INTRODUCTION

Once the auction becomes competitive, additional information becomes available to you about the opponents' suit lengths and the distribution of the unseen high-cards. Of course, the absence of competitive bidding provides similar information, albeit in a less concrete form. Be sure to take advantage of this information as you work through these quizzes. If necessary, go back and review the chapter on Visualization first.

Always remember to continue describing your hand as long as you can do so safely, and you are reasonably sure that partner can use the information you provide in selecting a final contract, or in choosing to subside and hope to defeat the opponents. Once you become reasonably certain about which contract you would prefer to play, it usually pays to bid to that contract immediately. Any additional information you may provide to partner will prove to be more useful to the opponents than to your partner, since on this particular hand, it is you, rather than your partner, who is making the final decision for the partnership.

QUIZ 1: Negative Doubles

| Your Hand | HCP/LTC | Auction | Your Call |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| (1) ♠ 5 ♥ Q1064 ♦ 10632 ♣ K976 | ___/___ | 1C/1S/? | ___ |
| (2) ♠ QJ2 ♥ 1086532 ♦ Q10 ♣ K9 | ___/___ | 1C/1S/? | ___ |
| (3) ♠ K5 ♥ A98643 ♦ Q8 ♣ Q103 | ___/___ | 1C/1S/? | ___ |
| (4) ♠ J8 ♥ J642 ♦ K642 ♣ K75 | ___/___ | 1C/1S/? | ___ |
| (5) ♠ 54 ♥ J8532 ♦ KQ43 ♣ 76 | ___/___ | 1C/1S/? | ___ |
| (6) ♠ 4 ♥ K1087 ♦ 10654 ♣ KQJ10 | ___/___ | 1C/1S/? | ___ |
| (7) ♠ AQ ♥ QJ652 ♦ 10532 ♣ 76 | ___/___ | 1C/1S/? | ___ |
| (8) ♠ 9654 ♥ J108 ♦ AKQ5 ♣ 96 | ___/___ | 1C/1S/? | ___ |
| (9) ♠ 85 ♥ AQ9862 ♦ J76 ♣ J9 | ___/___ | 1C/1S/? | ___ |
| (10) ♠ A742 ♥ 1065 ♦ AK93 ♣ 107 | ___/___ | 1C/1S/? | ___ |

QUIZ 1: DISCUSSION

- (1) (5/8) This is barely worth a negative double because of the club fit and the singleton S.
- (2) (8/8) Another minimum double. You'll bid Hs next to show a minimum with long H.
- (3) (11/7) This time you're strong enough to bid 2H immediately.
- (4) (8/9) An absolute minimum double. A conservative P could be a winner if vulnerable.
- (5) (6/8) Another minimum double, but better than #4 because of the 5th heart.
- (6) (9/7) Double. Raise to 4H if pard bids 2H, or raise clubs if he does not.
- (7) (9/8) An awkward hand. Not strong enough for 2H, so double, and then bid 2H if pard bids 2C, but pass 2D. NT is tempting because of your spade holding, but where will the tricks come from?
- (8) (10/8) Pass, despite the 10 HCP! Pard will reopen with a double if he's short in spades, and then you can bid 2D.
- (9) (8/8) This is a bare minimum double, to be followed by 2H.
- (10) (11/8) Despite your 3 quick tricks, this is only worth 1NT, not 2NT. There will not be a game unless pard can bid over 1NT.

QUIZ 2: Negative Doubles

| Your Hand | HCP/LTC | Auction | Your Call |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| (11) ♠ 10863 ♥ K7 ♦ J9 ♣ A9876 | ___/___ | 1D/1H/? | ___ |
| (12) ♠ A64 ♥ 82 ♦ 752 ♣ KQJ98 | ___/___ | 1D/1H/? | ___ |
| (13) ♠ 9732 ♥ KQ108 ♦ 97 ♣ 862 | ___/___ | 1D/1H/? | ___ |
| (14) ♠ 109764 ♥ 4 ♦ KJ4 ♣ Q1063 | ___/___ | 1D/1H/? | ___ |
| (15) ♠ AQ ♥ 105 ♦ J1076 ♣ AJ987 | ___/___ | 1D/1H/? | ___ |
| (16) ♠ Q8654 ♥ K ♦ J6 ♣ K10964 | ___/___ | 1D/1H/? | ___ |
| (17) ♠ 6543 ♥ 3 ♦ 1075 ♣ KQJ105 | ___/___ | 1D/1H/? | ___ |
| (18) ♠ J732 ♥ K32 ♦ AJ ♣ K1094 | ___/___ | 1D/1H/? | ___ |
| (19) ♠ AQ72 ♥ 43 ♦ J2 ♣ AK962 | ___/___ | 1D/1H/? | ___ |
| (20) ♠ K984 ♥ KQ3 ♦ KQ42 ♣ 42 | ___/___ | 1D/1H/? | ___ |

QUIZ 2: DISCUSSION

(11) (8/8) Be grateful for the overcall. This lets you show both suits with a double.

(12) (10/8) Just bid 2C. You'll play a minor suit partscore unless pard can bid NT.

(13) (5/9) Don't even think about 1S here; you'll have no place to run if pard doesn't like spades. Pard won't bid 1NT, and you don't want to play 2NT, so just pass.

(14) (6/8) Double is best here, to get both black suits into play. If pard rebids 2D, your diamond fit and H singleton make you strong enough to bid 2S in search of a 53 fit.

(15) (12/8) Bid 2C now, and raise pard if he rebids 2D or 2NT. If he bids 3C, try 3D. If he bids 3H over that, you can bid 3S so he can bid 3NT and protect a possible Kx H stopper.

(16) (9/7) Double first, to get both suits into play; then rebid 2S next to show the 5th spade.

(17) (6/8) Don't bid 1S when you can double to show both suits. If pard bids 1NT, it would be wise to bid 2C, since 2C or 2D will surely be better than 1NT.

(18) (12/8) A negative double, followed by a 2NT rebid, will describe this hand well.

(19) (14/6) Do not bid 1S or double. Start with 2C, rebid 2S, and then let pard decide where to play the hand.

(20) (13/6) Start with 1S here. If pard doesn't raise, he must have club strength, so a 3NT rebid is probably best. If you torture partner with a 3D rebid, he won't be able to bid 3NT without a H stopper. He'll probably find a 3H bid, to ask you to bid 3NT, but why make him work that hard when you know where the hand belongs.

QUIZ 3: Negative Doubles

| Your Hand | HCP/LTC | Auction | Your Call |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| (21) ♠ K8 ♥ J94 ♦ KQ109753 ♣ 8 | ___/___ | 1C/2S/? | ___ |
| (22) ♠ A7 ♥ QJ743 ♦ AK10 ♣ 932 | ___/___ | 1C/2S/? | ___ |
| (23) ♠ KQ6 ♥ 985 ♦ QJ632 ♣ A10 | ___/___ | 1C/2S/? | ___ |
| (24) ♠ A102 ♥ KJ1093 ♦ KJ65 ♣ 9 | ___/___ | 1C/2S/? | ___ |
| (25) ♠ 95 ♥ K532 ♦ AQJ102 ♣ 63 | ___/___ | 1C/2S/? | ___ |
| (26) ♠ AKJ7 ♥ 943 ♦ 974 ♣ 872 | ___/___ | 1C/2S/? | ___ |
| (27) ♠ K5 ♥ KJ1074 ♦ J72 ♣ K104 | ___/___ | 1C/2S/? | ___ |
| (28) ♠ A74 ♥ K652 ♦ 107542 ♣ Q | ___/___ | 1C/2S/? | ___ |
| (29) ♠ AQ65 ♥ A1032 ♦ K32 ♣ 65 | ___/___ | 1C/2S/? | ___ |
| (30) ♠ Q2 ♥ A10942 ♦ AJ1093 ♣ 5 | ___/___ | 1C/2S/? | ___ |

QUIZ 3: DISCUSSION

(21) (9/6) 3D is OK here, since you can play 4D if pard doesn't move toward 3NT.

(22) (14/7) Double and then 3H is a little weaker than an immediate 3H bid. I'd choose the double because of my weak holding in partner's club suit.

(23) (12/7) 2NT looks about right here. Pard surely has something in hearts.

(24) (12/7) Double and then 3H is better than an immediate 3H because of the possible game in diamonds or NT as well as in hearts.

(25) (10/7) This is an easy double, since you can bid diamonds if pard doesn't bid hearts.

(26) (8/10) Pass! This hand is going nowhere, but you can make a penalty pass if pard reopens with a takeout double.

(27) (11/8) The club fit and favorably placed SK makes this barely worth a 3H bid.

(28) (9/8) This is about a minimum double at this level. If pard rebids 3C, you'll have to pass and pray.

(29) (13/7) A double is OK here, planning to bid 3NT if pard can't bid hearts. But don't be surprised if 3NT goes down.

(30) (11/7) This could be a total misfit, but you have to double anyway, bid 3H next, and hope pard has 3-card support. If not, you'll end in 3NT or 4D and hope you're not doubled.

QUIZ 4: Support Doubles

| Your Hand | HCP/LTC | Auction | Your Call |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------------|-----------|
| (31) ♠ A108 ♥ 43 ♦ KQ9 ♣ A10843 | ___/___ | 1C/P/1S/2H/? | ___ |
| (32) ♠ A92 ♥ 10 ♦ KJ84 ♣ KQJ104 | ___/___ | 1C/P/1S/2H/? | ___ |
| (33) ♠ K54 ♥ A7 ♦ 9652 ♣ AKJ7 | ___/___ | 1C/P/1S/2H/? | ___ |
| (34) ♠ 976 ♥ KQ62 ♦ J6 ♣ AKQ6 | ___/___ | 1C/P/1S/2H/? | ___ |
| (35) ♠ K4 ♥ J975 ♦ K9 ♣ AK742 | ___/___ | 1C/P/1S/2H/? | ___ |
| (36) ♠ AQ7 ♥ 9 ♦ A954 ♣ AQJ98 | ___/___ | 1C/1H/1S/2H/? | ___ |
| (37) ♠ 98 ♥ K98 ♦ A ♣ AKQJ732 | ___/___ | 1C/1H/1S/2H/? | ___ |
| (38) ♠ KQ10 ♥ KJ7 ♦ 65 ♣ A10873 | ___/___ | 1C/1H/1S/2H/? | ___ |
| (39) ♠ 754 ♥ AKQ ♦ QJ8 ♣ K1054 | ___/___ | 1C/1H/1S/2H/? | ___ |
| (40) ♠ 843 ♥ A8 ♦ A103 ♣ KQ643 | ___/___ | 1C/1H/1S/2H/? | ___ |

QUIZ 4: DISCUSSION

(31) (13/7) This is a classical support double. Unless pard makes a game try, you will be content to play a partscore or to defend a 3H contract.

(32) (14/6) After a support double, you can bid 3D next, implying 3145 shape with better than a minimum in high-cards.

(33) (15/7) Bid 2S! You want to play in spades even if it's a 43 fit, with your prime values, 3 trumps, and a ruffing value. Reserve the support double for hands where you only want to play in pard's suit if he has 5 of them.

(34) (15/6) Go ahead and make a support double, but don't get excited. If LHO has a singleton H, even 2S might not be making. If they go to 3H, pass and let them play it.

(35) (14/6) Best to pass here. If pard bids again, you will bid a reluctant 2NT, or else just let pard play 2S.

(36) (17/5) Start with a support double; then if pard rebids 2S jump to 4H (a splinter) to show a good hand with 3 trumps and a H singleton.

(37) (17/4) No need to mess around here. Just jump to 3NT. It may go down on a bad day, and it may make 6C on a good day, but there's no good way to investigate.

(38) (13/7) With your hearts possibly worthless, a pessimistic pass could be a winner here. But your spades are good, so make the support double, but tread lightly thereafter.

(39) (15/7) With your hearts wasted opposite pard's singleton or void, just pass here and hope they go to 3H.

(40) (13/7) A routine support double. Let pard decide how high to compete.

QUIZ 5: Support Doubles

| Your Hand | HCP/LTC | Auction | Your Call |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------------|-----------|
| (41) ♠ 7 ♥ 982 ♦ AKQJ9 ♣ K653 | ___/___ | 1D/P/1H//2S/? | ___ |
| (42) ♠ AKJ ♥ KJ4 ♦ 10742 ♣ Q32 | ___/___ | 1D/P/1H//2S/? | ___ |
| (43) ♠ A75 ♥ QJ5 ♦ Q843 ♣ A72 | ___/___ | 1D/P/1H//2S/? | ___ |
| (44) ♠ J4 ♥ KQ8 ♦ AK65 ♣ 8754 | ___/___ | 1D/P/1H//2S/? | ___ |
| (45) ♠ Q6 ♥ J6 ♦ AJ974 ♣ A543 | ___/___ | 1D/P/1H//2S/? | ___ |
| (46) ♠ AQ107 ♥ Q52 ♦ A85 ♣ Q54 | ___/___ | 1D/P/1H//2S/? | ___ |
| (47) ♠ AQ ♥ QJ ♦ AK9742 ♣ 762 | ___/___ | 1D/P/1H//2S/? | ___ |
| (48) ♠ AK98 ♥ KQ ♦ QJ75 ♣ K94 | ___/___ | 1D/P/1H//2S/? | ___ |
| (49) ♠ KJ5 ♥ K7 ♦ A843 ♣ QJ32 | ___/___ | 1D/P/1H//2S/? | ___ |
| (50) ♠ J10 ♥ KJ ♦ KQJ65 ♣ AQ72 | ___/___ | 1D/P/1H//2S/? | ___ |

QUIZ 5: DISCUSSION

(41) (13/6) Start with a support double. If pard bids 2NT, you can rebid 3C.

(42) (14/8) If we have a game, it's probably 3NT rather than 4H, so start with 2NT rather than a support double.

(43) (13/8) Start with a support double, but let pard decide how high to go.

(44) (13/7) A support double is OK, but you're willing to play 3H on a 43 fit, so bid it.

(45) (12/8) Just pass. Unless pard can bid again, this hand has no future.

(46) (14/7) You'd like to make a penalty double here, but you have to choose between a support double and a pass, hoping pard can reopen with a double. I like the pass.

(47) (16/7) QJ is as good as xxx, so make a support double, and then rebid 3NT.

(48) (18/6) This is worth a support double, followed by a jump to 3NT.

(49) (14/7) An immediate 2NT is probably best here.

(50) (17/5) 3C will be OK if pard bids again, but it's better to start with a support double in order to be sure of hearing another bid from pard.

QUIZ 6: Law of Total Tricks

| Your Hand | HCP/LTC | Auction | Your Call |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| (51) ♠ AK76 ♥ KQ105 ♦ K94 ♣ 32 | ___/___ | 1NT/P/2H/DbI/ 2S/3H/P/? | ___ |
| (52) ♠ 10764 ♥ K10 ♦ AJ7 ♣ J1043 | ___/___ | 2S/P/? | ___ |
| (53) ♠ 98764 ♥ 1032 ♦ AJ ♣ K75 | ___/___ | 1D/P/1S/P/ 2S/DbI/P/3H/ P/P/? | ___ |
| (54) ♠ QJ53 ♥ Q954 ♦ 83 ♣ KJ7 | ___/___ | 1D/1S/DbI/2S/ 3H/P/P/? | ___ |
| (55) ♠ 108652 ♥ QJ103 ♦ A4 ♣ 109 | ___/___ | 1NT/P/2D/2S/ 3H/? | ___ |
| (56) ♠ J1086 ♥ Q106 ♦ AQ973 ♣ 2 | ___/___ | 1H/1S/2C/? | ___ |
| (57) ♠ KQ8743 ♥ 54 ♦ 986 ♣ K7 | ___/___ | 1C/1H/1S/2H/ DbI/3H/? | ___ |
| (58) ♠ A8 ♥ AQJ1054 ♦ 76 ♣ 875 | ___/___ | 1D/P/1S/2H/ DbI/RDbI/2S/? | ___ |

QUIZ 6: DISCUSSION

(51) (15/6) Pard has a weak hand with 5 spades, so with 9 combined trumps 3S should be safe. If they go to 4H you are prepared to double them.

(52) (9/9) With 10 combined trumps, you have an obvious 4S bid. It might make, and if not it will be a good sacrifice against a probable 4H game by the opponents.

(53) (8/9) We have 9 spades and they likely have 8 hearts, so someone can make 9 tricks. If it's us, we should bid it; if it's them, 3S will be a good sacrifice. So a 3S bid stands out.

(54) (9/8) Again we have 9 spades and they have at least 8 hearts, so a 3S bid is obvious.

(55) (7/8) This time we have at least 10 spades and they have at least 8 hearts. We'd be willing to bid 4S, except that we think we can set 4H, so we'll just bid 3S and plan to double them if they bid 4H.

(56) (9/7) Here we don't know whether they have a fit, but we have at least 9 spades, so bid 3S here and make it hard for them to find their fit.

(57) (8/7) After pard's support double, you can afford to bid 3S because of your 6th spade.

(58) (11/7) After the support double of your 2H bid, partner's redouble shows 3-card support, so you have 9 hearts and the opponents are known to have at least 8 spades. Someone can make 9 tricks, so a 3H bid here is safe, either making or a good sacrifice against their 140 partscore, unless, of course, you are vulnerable and get doubled.