

## IMPROVE YOUR DECLARER PLAY

S K5  
H AKQ4  
D 8543  
C J107

S QJ  
H 765  
D AK62  
C AK5

South opens 1NT. North bids Stayman and hears 2D from South. North raises to 3NT.

West leads Spade 6. East wins the Spade Ace and leads back another Spade. And now you know that if you lose a trick, you are toast. Any other lead and you would have time to develop an extra trick without being a nervous wreck. BUT foremost in your mind now is: "I cannot lose a trick."

POTENTIAL PROJECT SUITS: Hearts? In hopes they divide 3-3- and the 4th Heart becomes high or is Clubs the project suit in case the Club finesse works.

Actually, if you do this in the right order, you can experiment with both of these.

Win that second Spade and now play Hearts. Watch the opponents' cards. If opponents follow and the Hearts divide 3-3, well now you take your tricks and run.

BUT if the Hearts do not divide (and odds are not high that they will), then try the Club finesse in the interest of MAKING the hand. My bridge teacher used to tell me..."Better you die trying!" Lead the C Jack from dummy and pray that East holds the C Queen.

IF you try the Club finesse first and it loses, it is then too late for the Hearts, which may have divided 3-3 so test the Hearts first.

## TEST YOUR BIDDING

1H

PASS

PASS

2NT

[Link](#)

What does 2NT mean in above auction?

You are in Balancing chair? Or Pass Out chair.

Is this the same meaning as if the auction were to go 1H by RHO (Right Hand Opponent) and you now bid 2NT? This bid would be the Unusual NT showing at least 5-5 in each minor suit.

BUT 1H by LHO - Pass - Pass and it is now your turn. This is different. This bid promises 19-21 HCP and a stopper or two in Hearts. See below for an example of such a bid.

S AQJ  
H KQ6  
D Q4  
C AQ943

AND this one may surprise you also

Pass - Pass - Pass - 2H

What does the 2H bidder have?

This is not weak. We do not preempt in the Pass Out chair. This bid promises 13-15 points and a 6 card decent Heart suit.

e.g.

S 76  
H AKJ652  
D AJ2  
C 86

Yes, it would not have been wrong to just bid 1H but by bidding 2H, you are painting a better description of your hand: 13-15 and a 6 card quality Heart suit.

## IMPROVE YOUR DEFENSIVE PLAY by EDDIE KANTAR

NORTH

86  
KQ95  
97652  
98

S K932  
H J1054  
D KJ3  
C J4

S 54  
H 82  
D AQ10  
C AKQ1063

SOUTH

AQJ107  
A73  
84  
752

East	South	West	North
1C	1S	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Opening lead: S8

Bidding Commentary: West has a choice of responses. 1NT limits the hand to count and distribution but may lose a potential heart fit. A negative double to get hearts into the picture is also flawed. If partner rebids 2C, a follow up bid of 2NT shows 11-12 HCP. 1NT is slightly better.

Lead Commentary: Normal. High-low from a doubleton. Give North S. 862 or S. 8632 and he should lead the deuce if he has not supported the suit, high if he has supported. The lead of a high card in an unsupported suit shows shortness. The lead of a low card in a supported suit shows an honor.

Defensive Commentary: The outcome of this contract is decided early on, like at trick two! South knows that West has the SK and can see 6 quick club tricks plus at least 2 diamond tricks staring him in the face. This gives declarer a minimum of 9 tricks outside of hearts. If the hand is to be defeated, it must be defeated in hearts, not spades- now! The correct defense is to win the SA and shift to a low heart guaranteeing a high honor. Whichever heart West plays, North wins and with three hearts remaining returns the lowest. South wins the ace and plays a third heart allowing the defense to take four heart tricks for down one.

When a defender can count declarer for enough quick tricks in three suits to make the contract, it's not a bad idea to shift to the fourth suit. In fact, it's a very good idea!

## TEST YOUR BIDDING

**Opponents are passing all the way. If only they would in real life!**

a) Partner opens 1H, your RHO (Right Hand Opponent) passes

Your hand is:

S AQ865  
H 752  
D 842  
C 93

What will you bid?

b) Partner opens 1D. You respond 1S. Partner now bids 1NT. What will you bid now?

Your hand is:

S AQ865  
H 752  
D 842  
C 93

c) Partner opens with 1C. Your hand is:

S 9642  
H 75  
D A8532  
C Q7

What will you bid?

d)

S Q87  
H 65  
D AK64  
C QJ98

You open with 1D. Partner responds 1S. What will you bid now?

### ANSWERS BELOW:

a) 2H. With 6-9 points, most of the time you are only allowed to bid once. Tell partner you have a fit with her and 6-9 points. If you bid 1S, partner may have only one or two Spades and you will never have a chance to show her later that you really have 3 card (or longer) support for her suit.

b) 2S. Partner's rebid of 1NT promises a balanced hand and 2 or 3 Spades. NEVER a singleton. Thus you wish to play in your minimum 7 card fit in a major. It is safer. After all, if you had that

hand and partner had opened 1NT, wouldn't you have transferred? It is the same principle. Safe contracts. Trump suit contracts are always safer than NT. Easier to manage, easier to control.

c) 1S. You have 4 of them. Quantity not quality. Just do it! With 6-9 points, it is okay to bypass your 4 card or even 5 card minor suit and bid your major. If you had that hand and 10 or more points, bid 1D first.

d) 2S. When you are unable to make a rebid of 1NT, it is perfectly acceptable to raise partner's suit with only three of them. YOU HAVE RUFFING VALUES in your hand. The Heart doubleton (65) make this hand unacceptable for bidding NT, so raise Spades. If Responder only has four Spades, he may not bid Spades again.

For more information on this last one, go to [www.barbaraseagram.com](http://www.barbaraseagram.com)

On far right and down quite a bit (scroll down), there is a section with ARTICLES and Raising partner is there. All old newsletter articles are to be found there also.