

# My Bridge and Yours



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## Non-system bidding issues — part 8

### Discipline

Discipline in the bidding is taking the action you know is best when a tiny voice in your head is urging you to take a flyer. Discipline is having a reason to bid and being willing to pass when no bid is just right. Discipline is acknowledging that you have a partner and letting him use his judgment.

♠K J 4 3 ♥8 4 ♦A K 10 3 ♣K 5 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	4♥	1♦ ?

Neither vulnerable. You were about to raise to 2♠, but don't bid 4♠ because the auction is unexpectedly high. Pass. If North doubles 4♥ (which will promise values, not necessarily 100 honors in hearts), you can reconsider bidding.

With neither vulnerable, you hold:

♠K 10 ♥K J 7 ♦9 6 4 2 ♣J 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	?	

Some players would feel compelled to act and would try 2♠. The sound call is pass. You need not distort your hand when North, who is probably short in diamonds, will not sell out to 2♦. He might make 2♠, but the bidding may not end. If you raise without a fit, North may make a losing competitive decision later.

A disciplined player doesn't try to make final decisions too soon:

♠A Q 9 5 2 ♥K Q 6 ♦K Q 10 3 ♣J

You	Partner
1♠	1NT
2♦	2♠
?	

Game is possible. Bid 3♥. Partner will not play you for a four-card suit since you bid 2♦ over 1NT. If he raises to 4♥, pass. He will have a hand such as:

♠J 10 ♥A 9 7 4 2 ♦7 2 ♣K 10 8 3.

West	East
♠A Q J 9 3	♠10 8 4
♥A J 2	♥K Q 7 3
♦2	♦8 7 4
♣K J 8 2	♣Q 10 3
1♠	2♠
3♣	3♠
Pass	

The spade finesse failed, but West lost only three tricks. East, with poor trumps and minimum values, couldn't jump to 4♠ over 3♣, but he could have tried 3♥, letting West assess the fit. With a fragment in hearts, West would jump to 4♠. Note that 4♠ would be poor if West's red suits were interchanged.

♠A 7 5 ♥10 6 ♦K 8 4 ♣A J 7 6 4

West	North	East	South
2♠	4♥	Pass	?

Slam is possible. Instead of guessing whether to pass or bid 6♥, involve your partner. Cuebid 4♠. When you think you may have a slam, make a try.

A principle of discipline: Once you make the opponents guess, your best chance for a good score is to hope they've guessed wrong.

♠K Q J 10 8 5 3 ♥— ♦Q 10 5 4 ♣4 3

West	North	East	South
Dbl	Pass	4♥	3♠ ?

Neither vulnerable. The urge to bid 4♠ may be strong since South might have opened 4♠. But after you preempt, don't bid again. Your partner is in charge; maybe he has 4♥ beaten.

♠Q 10 3 ♥J 9 6 4 2 ♦7 ♣K 8 5 3

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♥	2♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	?

East-West vulnerable. I don't know if your 4♥ bid was correct. If North likes to overcall light, you might have jumped directly to 5♥. But once you bid 4♥, you must pass 4♠. West may have stretched to bid game, and you may be slated for a plus on defense.

The literature is full of deals where a player sacrificed after the opponents bid game or slam under pressure. Such undisciplined saves often come to grief. □