

with a suit of your own.

No one vul.

1♥ - 2♦ - 2♥ - ?

♠ A 8 7
♥ 4 2
♦ Q 10 7
♣ A J 6 4 2

Again, the cue bid. Either three notrump, four or five diamonds could be right. The cue bid is the only action that both expresses the strength of the hand and which leaves all options open. Raising only to three diamonds would probably end the auction. You have at least an ace more than that.

Case 9

Partner Overcalls at the Two Level. RHO Bids a New Suit.

As usual, when RHO has enough values to bid a new suit, the hand does not belong to your side. The only reason for raising is to get partner off to a good lead or to suggest a save. This means you will have good trump (an honor) or distribution. As in the case where partner overcalled at the one level and RHO bid a new suit at the two level, you can play a jump as pre-emptive.

No one vul.

1♣ - 2♣ - 2♥ - ?

♠ 8 6 5 4
♥ 8 6 2
♦ Q 5 4
♣ K J 7

Three clubs. When the opponents show strength, a raise by you is not particularly forward going. It is more of a small noise. A little squeak. A squeak with a purpose, but a squeak nonetheless.

Not vul. vs. vul.

1♣ - 2♦ - 2♥ - ?

♠ 7 2
♥ J 8 4 2
♦ K Q 6 2
♣ 9 7 3

You could bid four diamonds if it would be understood as pre-emptive. Note the good things that can come of it.

1. LHO can't rebid three hearts or spades.

2. If he chooses to bid four hearts or spades, there will be much ambiguity as to his values. Does he have a strong hand taking a slight underbid? Or does he have a weakish hand just accepting the push as so many players will?

You can be sure that your opponents will misjudge their values frequently on auctions like this one. Sometimes they will misjudge their fits as well. LHO might have six spades and three hearts and decide to raise hearts. Maybe spades was the right spot. When you bid four diamonds, you create guessing games. When the opponents do the right thing, you get about average. When they do the wrong thing, you get a top. Not bad odds.

In the actual vulnerability, you could even try five diamonds. This strikes me as excessive but there is much to be said for it. Note that this is the only vulnerability where three down will still be worthwhile. And then, only if they have a game.

Bidding four diamonds has the advantage of letting partner contribute something to the final decision. He will know more about your hand than you about his.

No one vul.

1♣ - 2♣ - 2♦ - ?

♠ 8 2
♥ J 7 6 5 4 2
♦ 3
♣ Q J 7 2

A good four club bid. If the opponents were vulnerable, a jump to five would be reasonable.

Vul. vs. not.

1♣ - 2♦ - 3♣ - ?

♠ 3
♥ K 6 5 4 2
♦ K 7 5 3 2
♣ 8 3

This vulnerability does not suggest you do anything rash. Five diamonds would be right any other time. Vul. vs. not however dictates second thoughts. Bid only four diamonds. Partner will realize you have a good playing hand and will bid accordingly.

When partner overcalls at the one and two levels and RHO bids a new suit at the two level or higher, it is very important to accept that the hand belongs to the opponents. It follows that there won't be room for constructive bidding by your side. But you can still participate in some of the auctions. By changing the meaning of various bids from strong or invitational to pre-emptive you can harass the opponents on some of your distributional hands where you have a good suit or a good fit. All that is required is an awareness of what various auctions mean.

When the opponents have good hands, you can't, so you change the definition of your bids accordingly. This is an extremely important and worthwhile concept. Successes won't be all that frequent, but they will be big ones. But it won't happen if you don't make the required systemic adjustments.

Case 10 Partner Overcalls at the Two Level. RHO Bids 2 NT.

Don't bother. It's so dangerous to bid anything at all that if you're wondering whether you should bid, you clearly shouldn't. If you think you should be bidding, then you probably shouldn't. Only when you know for sure that you have a bid is it likely to be right. The one thing that is clear here is that you will never be bidding from strength. You will be bidding from shape and fits. Nothing you bid can be construed as forward going. The only thing partner will bid over by you is a cue bid and I have no idea what that would mean.

No one vul.

1♣ - 2♥ - 2NT - ?

♠ 8 6 5 4 2
♥ J 6 5 4
♦ 2
♣ K 9 7

Three hearts. Not because you expect to make it, but because it might cause LHO slight embarrassment. LHO can't rebid 3♣ or 3♦. You have an excellent supporting hand for partner. You should have no less.

Not vul. vs. vul.

♠ 8 6 5 2
♥ 8 6 4 2
♦ 3
♣ K 6 4 3

Pass
serv
Q 8
him?

No one vul.

♠ Q 8 2
♥ 4 2
♦ 3
♣ K Q 10 9 7 6 5

Pass.
trum
offer
actua

Partner O RHO M

This is treated much as after minimum raise, you raise. With no fit can redouble. But be sure event your redouble gets passed.

No one vul.

♠ 8 6
♥ K 8 6 2
♦ K J 4
♣ 10 7 6 5

Three
someth
thing
the ir
let th

Perhaps your partner will be bad to hide your head in the don't even see it coming.

Not vul. vs. vul.

♠ A 8 7 6
♥ 8 6 5
♦ K 5 4
♣ K J 7

1♥
Cue bi
not ou
perhap

No one vul.

♠ 8 5 4 2
♥ 10 6 3
♦ 9
♣ K 10 6 5 4

1♣
A jump
you for
vulnera
clubs.