

RON KLINGER'S BRIDGE PACK

Constructive Bidding Quiz #1 – (suitable for novice players.)

Suppose the bidding has started:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

What action should West take with these hands?

(1)	(2)
♠ Q6	♠ J6
♥ AKJ3	♥ AJ73
♦ AQJ95	♦ AQJ95
♣ 43	♣ 43
(3)	(4)
♠ A6	♠ 96
♥ K983	♥ Q7
♦ J9532	♦ AQJ95
♣ KJ	♣ KJ73

Answers to Bidding Quiz #1

When you open with a suit bid, you create a notional 'barrier' for your rebid. This barrier is two-of-the-suit-opened. A new suit rebid beyond your barrier is called a 'reverse' and shows a strong hand, normally 16+ HCP. With excellent shape you may reverse with fewer points, but the hand should not be worse than five losers.

When you open 1♦, your 'barrier' is 2♦. Neither 1♦-1♥, 1♠ nor 1♦-1♠, 2♣ is a reverse. The rebid is not beyond 2♦ and so do not promise more than a minimum opening. 1♦-1♠, 2♠ is not a reverse. It is beyond 2♦ but the 2♠ rebid is not a new suit. 1♦-1♠, 2♥ is a reverse and shows a strong hand. The expected shape will be 5+ diamonds and 4+ hearts. A reverse is forcing for one round after a 1-level response and is forcing to game after a new suit response at the 2-level.

Answers

- (1) Bid 2♥. You have enough to break the 2♦ barrier and 2♥ shows your shape.
- (2) Bid 2♦. It would be unsound to reverse with 2♥. You are not strong enough. In this situation it is better to rebid your suit than 1NT when most of your points are in your long suits.
- (3) Bid 1NT. You are not worth 2♥ and with most of your points in the short suits, 1NT is preferable to 2♦.
- (4) Bid 2♣. Most of your points are in your long suits and so a suit rebid is better than 1NT. It would be poor to rebid 2♦. That shows only one of your suits and only five of your cards, while 2♣ shows both your suits and nine of your 13 cards. Opener's new suit at the two-level means the first bid suit is genuine and opener's pattern will usually be at least 5-4.
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Constructive Bidding Quiz #2

For each of the following hands:

(a) How many total points are held, counting one extra point for a 5-card suit, two extra for a 6-card suit, three more for a 7-card suit?

(b) What is your opening bid?

(1)
♠ AJ9
♥ KQ
♦ QJ7432
♣ 72

(2)
♠ AT953
♥ J7
♦ 985
♣ AK2

(3)
♠ AQJ74
♥ AK9
♦ A5
♣ JT8

(4)
♠ 42
♥ AQ
♦ KQJ7432
♣ K4

(5)
♠ 96432
♥ AKQJ
♦ A83
♣ 5

(6)
♠ Q5
♥ KQ982
♦ AJ873
♣ 9

(7)
♠ KQ965
♥ 6
♦ 732
♣ AKJ62

(8)
♠ KQ965
♥ 6
♦ 7
♣ AKJ632

(9)
♠ 9873
♥ -
♦ AQ652
♣ AK43

(10)
♠ AT86
♥ KQ
♦ J3
♣ 87632

(11)
♠ 9
♥ A87632
♦ AQ8643
♣ -

(12)
♠ 5
♥ AK8732
♦ 963
♣ KJ2

Answers to Bidding Quiz #2:

1. 15 points 1♦
 2. 13 points 1♠
 3. 20 points 1♠
 4. 18 points 1♦
 5. 15 points 1♠. No matter how weak the suit, longest suit comes first when you have a 5-card or longer suit.
 6. 14 points 1♥. The higher of two 5-card suits.
 7. 15 points 1♠. Even with spades and clubs, it works better to start 1♠ with a 5-5 pattern.
 8. 16 points 1♣. Longest suit first, even when a 5-major is held.
 9. 14 points 1♦
 10. 11 points Pass.
 11. 14 points 1♥. Only 10 HCP but more than enough to open with such excellent shape.
 12. 13 points 1♥. No strong player would pass.
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Problem 1

Dealer: South

Vulnerability: N-S

Suppose the bidding has started:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
			1♥
2♠	2NT ¹		

1 Heart raise

What would you do as East with:

♠ 43
♥ 92
♦ KJ865
♣ A432

Solution: This was Board 54 from finals of the 2009 World Teams:

	♠ J T 5	
	♥ Q T 4 3	
	♦ T 2	
	♣ K J T 8	
♠ A Q 9 8 7 6	W	♠ 4 3
♥ 6	N	♥ 9 2
♦ Q 7 3	E	♦ K J 8 6 5
♣ Q 9 5	S	♣ A 4 3 2
	♠ K 2	
	♥ A K J 8 7 5	
	♦ A 9 4	
	♣ 7 6	

Bermuda Bowl:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Versace	Rodwell	Lauria	Meckstroth
			1♣ ¹
1♠	2♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Artificial and strong

West led the ♣5, jack, ace, and East returned the ♠4. West took two spades and played a third, ruffed by East and over-ruffed. South drew trumps and was able to discard two diamond losers on the clubs later.

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Nickell	Nunes	Katz	Fantoni
			1♥
2♠	2NT ¹	3♦!	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Heart raise

East's 3♦ lead-directing bid did the trick. West led a diamond and now the defence was able to score a diamond, a club and two spades for one down.

In other matches it often began 1♥-1♠, 2♥ : and now East doubled to show both minors. South went on to 4♥ and when West led a club, 4♥ made.

I never knew an enemy to puns who was not an ill-natured man. (Charles Lamb)

Problem 2.

You are South, dealer, with East-West vulnerable. What action would you take with these cards:

♠ AKQ9762
 ♥ J953
 ♦ 72
 ♣ -

The worst result for North-South:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
			1♠
Pass	Pass	Dbf	3♠
All Pass			

Eleven tricks scored +200 but minus 32 Imps.

For New Players:

Problem 1

Dealer: West

Vulnerability: Both

Suppose the bidding has started:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	??		

What would you do as North with:

♠ J765
♥ AKQJ3
♦ 853
♣ A

Solution:

Bid 3♠. You have 15 HCP + 3 for the singleton = 18. It would be much too timid to bid only 2♠ and a bit of a stretch to jump to 4♠ (although 4♠ would be better than just 2♠). If you are used to counting losers (see 'The Modern Losing Trick Count'), opener's jump-raise shows about 6 losers. Even 14 HCP would be acceptable if the hand has 6 losers. A jump to 4♠ would show 5 losers. Here North has three losers in spades and three in diamonds (maximum number of losers in a suit = 3).

2.

Dealer: West

Vulnerability: Both

Suppose the bidding has started:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

What do you lead as West from:

♠ Q4
♥ T852
♦ AK7
♣ J872

Solution:

Start with the ♦A. When you have a suit headed by the A-K to lead against a trump contract, you will rarely have a better choice. Certainly with this hand there is nothing better. From a 3-card or longer suit headed by the ace-king, the recommended lead against a trump contract is the ace. This allows you to see dummy and partner's signal and decided what to do next.

THE OLD MASTER PLAYS BRIDGE #1

Dealer North : East-West vulnerable

North

Nathan

♠ AJT76

♥ T43

♦ 952

♣ T3

South

Old Master

♠ Q2

♥ AJ76

♦ AK43

♣ KQ5

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Playing a 15-18 1NT, the 2NT rebid showed 19-20 points and was forcing to game. With five spades, North might have rebid 3♠, but he felt that with a balanced hand and such limited values, the nine-trick contract might be easier, especially with the Old Master at the helm.

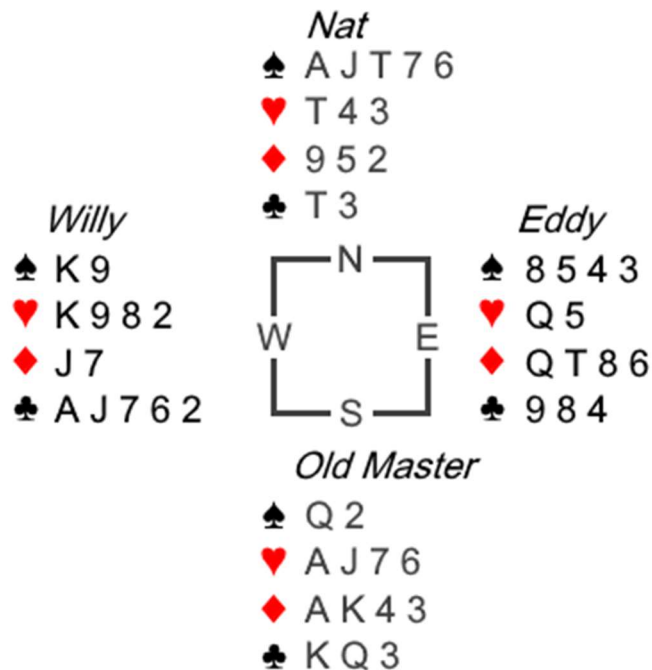
West led the ♣6 and the Old Master instantly put on dummy's ten. 'No point in playing low,' he thought, 'when I can score two club tricks if West has led from an A-J suit.'

When the ♣10 held, the Old Master played a diamond to his ace and then led the ♠Q. When West produced the king, the Old Master thought, 'This is a lucky day. I had better not waste my good fortune.'

How would you continue?

Solution to THE OLD MASTER PLAYS BRIDGE #1

This was the full deal:



When the ♠K covered the queen, the Old Master played low from dummy and let the king hold. He won the club continuation and when the spades produced four tricks, he had nine tricks.

"Why did you not capture the ♠K, Old Master?"

"Only four spade tricks were needed and so I could afford to lose one. If I capture the king and spades are 4-2, the most likely break, I can make only three spade tricks as dummy has no entry outside spades. It was just good business: they make a trick and we make an extra trick."

"Maybe so," said Eddy, "but it is not a win-win situation, just Old Master-win, Old Master-win."

"Winners are grinners," said Nat with a smile, "and losers are whingers."

THE OLD MASTER PLAYS BRIDGE #2

"Old Master, would you say there is a universal, common characteristic for all mankind?"

"Yes, the one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we all believe that we are above-average drivers."

Dealer West : East-West vulnerable

North

Nathan

♠ Q65

♥ -

♦ AKQJ95

♣ J964

South

Old Master

♠ AT9732

♥ A92

♦ T72

♣ 3

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Pass	1♦	Dbl	1♠
3♠	Dbl	4♥	4♠
5♥	Pass	Pass	5♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Willy started by leading the ♣A and continued with the king, ruffed by the Old Master who paused to consider his next move.

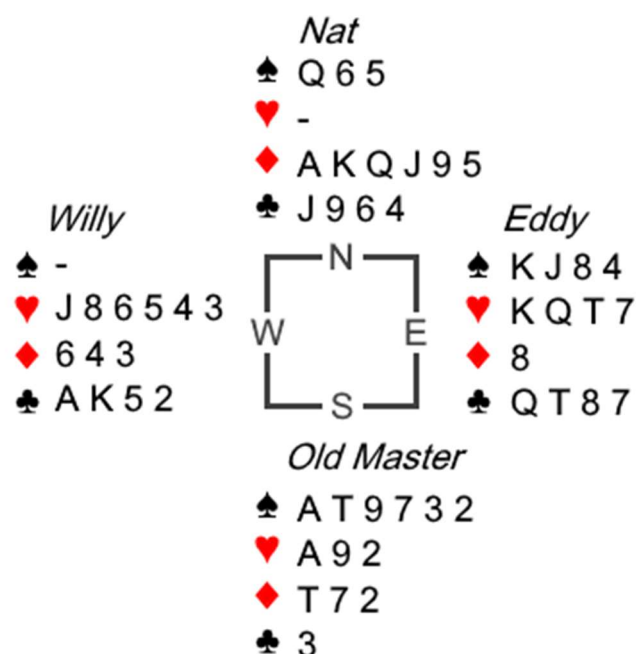
"So, what did Willy mean by bidding 3sx over my 1♠?" thought the Old Master. 'If he really had spades, he would have doubled 1sx. Since he is a passed hand, he must be trying to tell Eddy that he has an excellent hand, perhaps enough for

a slam. Yes, I think Willy must have a void in spades and support for hearts and clubs. I can afford to lose only one trump trick, so how do I manage that?'

It did not take the Old Master long to find the solution. *Can you find it, too?*

Solution to THE OLD MASTER PLAYS BRIDGE #2

This was the full deal:



After ruffing the second club, the Old Master played a diamond to dummy and led the ♠Q, covered by the king and taken by the ace. He then ruffed a heart in dummy and led dummy's last spade. Whether Eddy took the spade jack now or not, the Old Master could restrict the trump losers to just one and still keep control of the hearts and trumps with no problem in returning to dummy's diamonds later.

"I can see that the one thing that unites all bridge players, regardless of standard, is that deep down inside, we all believe that we can play this game properly. In the Old Master's case, that observation is accurate."

(The deal arose in the 1998 Spingold (USA Open Teams) and Bobby Levin played 5♠ doubled after the given auction. He made it in the manner described. At the other table, after the same start, West jumped to 4♥ over South's 1♠. This was passed to South who doubled, and everyone passed. Declarer made eleven tricks for a double doubled game swing.)