

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 2: OPENING THE BIDDING - QUESTIONS

Time for you to go to work. Fifteen hands follow. If you decide the hand is worth an opening bid, pick the bid you'd make. Answers and explanations follow – no peeking!

- 1 ♠ KJ52 ♥ AQ42 ♦ 72 ♣ Q73
- 2 ♠ AJ82 ♥ K872 ♦ K ♣ J864
- 3 ♠ 7 ♥ A8752 ♦ KQ ♣ Q8532
- 4 ♠ A83 ♥ KJ872 ♦ K6 ♣ KQ4
- 5 ♠ KJ62 ♥ AJ82 ♦ 872 ♣ A4
- 6 ♠ KJ10872 ♥ Q1092 ♦ K5 ♣ 6
- 7 ♠ AQJ1075 ♥ KJ62 ♦ 64 ♣ 3
- 8 ♠ A6 ♥ A3 ♦ K84 ♣ 876432
- 9 ♠ 6 ♥ KJ62 ♦ J872 ♣ AK62
- 10 ♠ J8752 ♥ K4 ♦ AKJ72 ♣ 6
- 11 ♠ KJ4 ♥ 6 ♦ K543 ♣ A10654
- 12 ♠ K5 ♥ K763 ♦ A6 ♣ AQ742
- 13 ♠ KQ975 ♥ AQ6 ♦ AK5 ♣ K5
- 14 ♠ AJ972 ♥ A5 ♦ 7 ♣ K9753
- 15 ♠ AKJ5 ♥ 108742 ♦ A6 ♣ 92

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## STEP 2: OPENING THE BIDDING - ANSWERS

- 1 1♣ 12 HCP, no 5-card major.
- 2 1♣ 12 HCP, no 5-card major.
- 3 Pass Only 11 HCP and the two 5-card suits aren't touching nor are they particularly good. A further negative feature is the 5 HCP tied up in the doubleton KQ.
- 4 1NT 16 HCP in a balanced hand. Don't worry about the 5-card major. It may be temporarily 'lost' but that isn't necessarily a bad thing and we may 'find' it again at a later stage of the auction.
- 5 1♦ The ugly one diamond — no 5-card major, no 3-card club suit but enough strength (13 HCP) to mandate opening.
- 6 Pass The right HCP and good spade suit for a weak two-bid but the good quality hearts on the side should deter you from opening a weak two. Don't 'compromise' by opening a sub-par one-bid! There are hands that seem to have enough strength but don't fit the criteria for either a one-bid or a two-bid. Later developments in the auction will usually allow you the opportunity to bid these hands with greater accuracy if you haven't fudged on your opener.
- 7 1♠ Yes, only 11 HCP but a very good quality 6-card suit that will provide for easy rebids. Another positive feature is the side 4-card heart suit which will offer good prospects for game if we have a fit in either major. We would, however, also open 1♠ if the side 4-card suit was either diamonds or clubs.
- 8 Pass Two distinct flaws – only 11 HCP and a truly awful long suit.
- 9 1♦ Enough strength (12 HCP) and diamonds instead of clubs for ease of rebid; remember, with 4-4 in the minors, open 1♦.
- 10 1♠ You have 12 HCP and you always open the higher of two 5-card suits regardless of relative quality (except with spades and clubs).
- 11 Pass Only 11 HCP (1 flaw) and a poor longest suit (clubs). Also, we would have to consider opening 1♦ with this 4-5 minor shape and the diamonds are sub-par for this action.
- 12 1NT An exception – just to see if you're paying attention – but the semi-balanced pattern and strong stoppers in the short suits make this a hand type best expressed with the notrump opening.
- 13 2NT Also a notrump hand-type notwithstanding the 5-card major. 21 HCP, balanced, all suits stopped = a perfect description!
- 14 1♣ Minimum (12-15 HCP, sometimes 11 HCP) and very good (18+ HCP) black two-suiters are started with 1♣.
- 15 1♥ Enough HCP (12) to open and notwithstanding the relative weakness of the heart suit, it is our longest suit and does have five cards in it!

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## STEP 3: THE 2/1 RESPONSE TO 1♥ OR 1♠ - QUESTIONS

Based on what you've seen so far, would you make a Two-over-One response opposite the indicated opening bid holding the following hands?

♠ K J 6 Partner Opens  
♥ A Q 7 4 1) 1♠  
♦ 8 5 2) 1♥  
♣ K J 6 2

♠ 8 5 Partner Opens  
♥ 7 2 3) 1♠  
♦ A Q J 8 7 3 2 4) 1♥  
♣ J 5

♠ K Q 6 4 Partner Opens  
♥ A 6 5) 1♠  
♦ 6 5 6) 1♥  
♣ A K 10 6 4

♠ 4 Partner opens  
♥ A Q 7) 1♠  
♦ A 8 7 2 8) 1♥  
♣ A K Q 8 7 4

♠ 6 Partner Opens  
♥ A Q 6 2 9) 1♠  
♦ K 7 6 5 2 10) 1♥  
♣ A J 7

♠ K 10 8 Partner Opens  
♥ A J 6 11) 1♠  
♦ K 5 12) 1♥  
♣ Q 7 4 3 2

♠ K Q 6 4 Partner Opens  
♥ 8 7 13) 1♠  
♦ Q 5 14) 1♥  
♣ A 10 8 7 4

♠ A Q 7 2 Partner Opens  
♥ 7 15) 1♠  
♦ K Q 7 2 16) 1♥  
♣ A Q 9 2

♠ 8 Partner Opens  
♥ 7 17) 1♠  
♦ K Q J 8 7 18) 1♥  
♣ A K J 8 7 2

♠ A 7 Partner Opens  
♥ Q J 7 19) 1♠  
♦ K 10 8 2 20) 1♥  
♣ A 10 7 2

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## STEP 3: THE 2/1 RESPONSE TO 1♥ OR 1♠ - ANSWERS

- 1 Yes 2♣ Game-going strength, reasonable clubs and only 3-card support for partner's suit.
- 2 No 4-card support and the clubs, while decent, are not the 5-card length a 'source of tricks' needs to be.
- 3 No You do not have enough strength to bid 2♦ and thereby force to game.
- 4 No See Problem 3.
- 5 Yes 2♣ More than enough strength to force to game and, with 4-card support, a good quality side suit as a 'source of tricks'.
- 6 Yes 2♣ Again, enough to insist on game and with clubs longer than spades, it is better to follow the natural course of bidding your longer suit first (see Problems 13 and 14 below).
- 7 Yes 2♣ You have a great hand and can make the natural and forcing-to-game response which will allow you to develop the auction and eventually make a decision about small slam/grand slam and possible strain. Remember, partner can't pass short of game once you've responded 2♣. Don't panic and don't be in a hurry!
- 8 Yes 2♣ See Problem 7.
- 9 Yes 2♦ Game-going strength and your natural bid.
- 10 No Enough strength but with 4-card support, you need a 'source of tricks' side suit to make the Two-over-One (see Step 4).
- 11 Yes 2♣ Game-going strength and only 3-card support for partner's major. Remember, the quality control 'source of tricks' only applies in responding hands with 4-card support for partner's major.
- 12 Yes 2♣ See Problem 11.
- 13 No Although you have great 4-card support and your side will likely get to game, you don't have the opening bid a 2♣ response would promise. What you should respond will be discussed in the next Step.
- 14 No Your correct response is 1♠. You don't have enough strength to force to game by making the seemingly more natural bid of 2♣ so you can instead make the convenient 1-over-1 response that, as in Standard, promises only a minimum of 6 HCP and 4 cards in the suit bid. (Compare with problems 5 and 6 above).
- 15 No You have 4-card support in a game-going hand without a source of tricks side suit, so you don't qualify for a Two-over-One (see Step 4).
- 16 No Simply bid 1♠. Try always to go 'up the line' with 4-card suits. If you bid 2♣ just to establish a game-forcing auction and later bid spades, partner is entitled to expect a hand something like you had in Problem 3 above while if you don't ever bid spades, a 4-4 fit in that suit may go undiscovered.
- 17 Yes 2♣ Make your natural and forcing-to-game response and be grateful partner won't be passing below game as you try to ferret out your side's best fit.
- 18 Yes 2♣ See Problem 17.
- 19 Yes 2♣ Enough strength for game. In your formative stages as a bridge player, you might have responded 2NT with this type of hand to show 12-14 HCP in a balanced hand with the unbid suits stopped but we're going to use the 2NT response for something else (see the next Step).
- 20 Yes 2♣ Game-going strength and only 3-card support for partner.



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## STEP 4: DIRECT MAJOR-SUIT RAISES - QUESTIONS

Your partner has opened 1♠ as dealer. What is your response on each of the following hands?

- |          |  |          |  |          |   |          |  |
|----------|--|----------|--|----------|---|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | ♠ K 8 7<br>♥ A Q 8 2<br>♦ 10 7 6 5<br>♣ 10 3 | <b>2</b> | ♠ A 8 7 6 5<br>♥ 7<br>♦ J 8 7 6 4<br>♣ 9 2 | <b>3</b> | ♠ K J 6 4<br>♥ 8 3<br>♦ Q 3<br>♣ A K Q 10 5 | <b>4</b> | ♠ K J 4 2<br>♥ 9 2<br>♦ A 7 2<br>♣ K Q 9 2 |
| <b>5</b> | ♠ K J 7 3<br>♥ A J 9 2<br>♦ 8 7 2<br>♣ 9 2   | <b>6</b> | ♠ 7 6 5 2<br>♥ A 4<br>♦ K 4<br>♣ A 8 7 5 2 | <b>7</b> | ♠ J 8 7 2<br>♥ 8<br>♦ 8 7 4 2<br>♣ 10 8 7 4 | <b>8</b> | ♠ A 8 7 6 4<br>♥ 8<br>♦ A Q 4<br>♣ K 8 7 2 |

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## STEP 4: DIRECT MAJOR-SUIT RAISES - ANSWERS

- 1 2♠ A classic 3-card constructive raise.
- 2 4♠ Less than 10 HCP, 5 trumps and some distributional help.
- 3 2♣ Game-going values plus 4-card support and a very real 'source of tricks'. You might survive in the bidding if you chose 2NT as a Jacoby forcing raise instead but you will soon see how valuable it can be to start with 2♣.
- 4 2NT This is the right type of hand for the Jacoby forcing raise — 13 HCP, 4-card support plus no 'source of tricks' and no singleton (or void) on the side.
- 5 3♣ A 4-card Constructive Raise with 4 trumps and 9 HCP. Perfect!
- 6 3♦ A 4-card Limit Raise with 11 HCP.
- 7 3♠ Fun, wow! Preemptive Raises at their finest!
- 8 4♥ A splinter bid promising at least 4-card support, game-going strength and a singleton or void in hearts. Hope partner is awake!



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## STEP 5: THE FORCING INT RESPONSE - QUESTIONS

What is your next bid on each of the following hands?

**1** ♠ 3  
♥ K J 5  
♦ 9 8 7 6 3  
♣ Q 7 6 2

Partner      You  
1♥            ?

**2** ♠ 9 2  
♥ 5  
♦ 8 6 3  
♣ A Q J 7 6 4 2

Partner      You  
1♥            ?

**3** ♠ A J 7  
♥ Q 3  
♦ K 10 6 2  
♣ J 10 6 2

Partner      You  
1♥            ?

**4** ♠ 5 2  
♥ 6  
♦ A J 8 4 2  
♣ K Q 8 4 2

Partner      You  
1♥            ?

**5** ♠ K J 5  
♥ 8 6 3  
♦ A 8 7 2  
♣ J 10 9

Partner      You  
1♥            ?

**6** ♠ 6  
♥ Q 7 5 2  
♦ A 10 6 2  
♣ 9 6 5 4

Partner      You  
1♥            ?

**7** ♠ A K 7 2  
♥ 7 2  
♦ 8 7 4 2  
♣ 10 6 5

Partner      You  
1♥            ?

**8** ♠ K 10 3  
♥ J 3  
♦ K J 6 2  
♣ K J 5 2

Partner      You  
1♥            ?

**9** ♠ A 6  
♥ K 10 6  
♦ A 9 7 5 3  
♣ 8 7 3

Partner      You  
1♥            ?

**10** ♠ A Q  
♥ 9 3  
♦ A K J 4  
♣ 10 8 7 5 2

Partner      You  
1♥            ?

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## STEP 5: THE FORCING 1NT RESPONSE - ANSWERS

- 1 1NT Not strong enough for a Two-over-One game force of 2♦ and the wrong combination of trumps and strength for any immediate heart raise. 1NT by default, planning to pass a 2♥ rebid, and to bid 2♥ yourself if partner rebids 2♣ or 2♦.
- 2 1NT Not enough strength for a game-forcing Two-over-One response of 2♣ but certainly enough strength for a response. What you do next, if anything, will depend on what you hear from partner (see Step 9).
- 3 1NT 11 HCP – certainly enough strength for a bid or two but not enough for a game-forcing response of 2♣ so 1NT by default. You will likely bid 2NT next time round.
- 4 1NT Unbalanced but not enough strength for a Two-over-One game-forcing response in a minor. Again, what you do next, if anything, will depend on what you hear from partner (see Step 9).
- 5 2♥ A constructive single raise promising 3 trumps and 8-10 HCP. Even with a flat hand like this one, you are too good to bid 1NT first and then 2♥ (5-7).
- 6 1NT This is a toughie! You're too good for a preemptive raise to 3♥ and not quite good enough for an immediate constructive raise (3♦) which promises about 7-10 HCP with 4 trumps. With more experience playing the system, you might decide that the fourth trump will atone for some of the missing strength and respond 2♥ anyway — a sort of compromise based on the extra trump, as well as an ace and a ruffing value.
- 7 1♠ This one, however, is easy! In this quiz, as in real life at the table, not all bids are difficult to find!
- 8 1NT On the borderline of having enough for the game-forcing response of 2♣ but the hand consists mostly of 'junky' points. With all those K-J combinations, there is also some theoretical value in having the opening lead in a notrump contract coming towards, rather than through, your hand. You will probably bid 2NT next time around to show your strength.
- 9 1NT Nothing else fits. You don't have enough strength for an immediate game-forcing response of 2♦ and you are a trump short for an immediate limit raise of 3♣ (which would otherwise be right on strength).
- 10 2♣ More than enough strength for a natural Two-over-One game-forcing response even though your longest suit isn't as good as you might like. It's worth noting that you might survive with a 1NT response as you will get another turn to bid, but a hand this good will be hard to describe, as you'll see in later Steps.



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## STEP 6: OTHER RESPONSES TO 1♥ OR 1♠ - QUESTIONS

Partner opens 1♥ — what is your response?

1 ♠ K J 10 6  
♥ 10 6 2  
♦ A 6 4 2  
♣ 8 5

2 ♠ A 6 4 3 2  
♥ K 7 5 3 2  
♦ 6 2  
♣ 4

3 ♠ A 10 6 5 3 2  
♥ 6  
♦ J 6 4  
♣ 7 5 2

4 ♠ K J 4  
♥ Q 6 2  
♦ K Q J  
♣ A 10 7 2

5 ♠ K 10 6 2  
♥ A J 4  
♦ K 8 4 2  
♣ 6 3

Partner opens 1♠ — what is your response?

6 ♠ K J 2  
♥ A Q J 6 2  
♦ A 4  
♣ Q 10 4

7 ♠ Q 10 6 2  
♥ A Q 8 4  
♦ Q J 4  
♣ 6 2

8 ♠ K 8 5 2  
♥ 6  
♦ Q 10 6 2  
♣ 8 7 5 2

9 ♠ K J 4  
♥ Q 6 2  
♦ K Q J  
♣ A 10 6 2

10 ♠ 6 4  
♥ A Q J 9 6 2  
♦ K 10 4  
♣ 6 5

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### STEP 6: OTHER RESPONSES TO 1♥ OR 1♠ - ANSWERS

- 1 2♥ 8-10 HCP, 3-card constructive raise. Don't get sidetracked by bidding spades — you'll lose the chance to tell partner about the exact nature of your fit for his major.
- 2 4♥ Again, you have a fit — make the direct game raise that describes your hand very well — less than 10 HCP, 5-card support, distributional help. Perfect!
- 3 3♠ A classic example of a Weak Jump Shift.
- 4 3NT 15-17 HCP, balanced, unbid suits stopped.
- 5 1♠ No direct heart raise describes this hand so you start with your spade suit and, if possible, make a jump preference later to show a 3-card limit raise. Remember, this is the hand type you would have to start with 1NT Forcing if you didn't have four spades.
- 6 2♥ Natural Two-over-One game force with spades to tell about later.
- 7 3♦ 10-12 HCP and 4-card support for partner.
- 8 3♠ A tidy little example of a preemptive raise.
- 9 2♣ This may look familiar (see 4 above). If you think it's the same you might respond 3NT but you really don't have all the unbid suits stopped so you might be better advised to reply 2♣ and support partner's spades at your next turn. Even a great player like you doesn't have to declare notrump on every deal!
- 10 3♥ Natural, 6+ cards and game-invitational, a specialized response that suits this collection very well.



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## STEP 7: AFTER A 2/1 RESPONSE - QUESTIONS

The best way to put all this together is with a Step-ending quiz. This time I'm going to give you both hands, and ask you to construct a good Two-over-One auction for each pair.

- |           |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|
| <b>1</b>  | Opener<br>♠ A Q 4 3 2<br>♥ K 7 3<br>♦ J 9 5<br>♣ K 9   | Responder<br>♠ K 8<br>♥ Q 10 9<br>♦ A 6 4<br>♣ A Q 8 7 6   |
| <b>3</b>  | Opener<br>♠ A K Q J 9 2<br>♥ 10 8 7<br>♦ A 5<br>♣ 6 2  | Responder<br>♠ 10 5<br>♥ 6<br>♦ K Q 6 2<br>♣ A K Q 9 8 5   |
| <b>5</b>  | Opener<br>♠ A J 10 5<br>♥ Q 10 7 6 5<br>♦ K<br>♣ A Q J | Responder<br>♠ K Q 4 2<br>♥ 3<br>♦ A Q J 10 4<br>♣ K 7 6   |
| <b>7</b>  | Opener<br>♠ A K 10 7 6<br>♥ Q J 6<br>♦ 4 3<br>♣ Q 4 2  | Responder<br>♠ Q 4<br>♥ K 7 5<br>♦ A K Q 8 7 6<br>♣ 5 3    |
| <b>9</b>  | Opener<br>♠ K Q 10 6 5<br>♥ A 6 5<br>♦ A 4<br>♣ 8 7 6  | Responder<br>♠ A 8<br>♥ K Q 4<br>♦ K J 8 7 6<br>♣ 9 5 4    |
| <b>2</b>  | Opener<br>♠ K J 10 8 7<br>♥ A Q 4<br>♦ K Q 4<br>♣ A 6  | Responder<br>♠ A 5<br>♥ K 8 7<br>♦ J 10 7<br>♣ K Q J 8 7   |
| <b>4</b>  | Opener<br>♠ A Q J 7 6<br>♥ K J 7 6<br>♦ Q 3<br>♣ 7 2   | Responder<br>♠ K 10 5 4<br>♥ 4 2<br>♦ J 7<br>♣ A K Q 10 8  |
| <b>6</b>  | Opener<br>♠ A J 8 7 6 5<br>♥ K 7 6<br>♦ 4 2<br>♣ A 6   | Responder<br>♠ K Q 3<br>♥ 5 4<br>♦ K 8 7<br>♣ K Q 5 4 3    |
| <b>8</b>  | Opener<br>♠ Q J 7 6 5<br>♥ A Q 4 3<br>♦ K 5 4<br>♣ 2   | Responder<br>♠ A 3<br>♥ K J 8 7 6 5 2<br>♦ A<br>♣ 9 8 7    |
| <b>10</b> | Opener<br>♠ A K 8 7 6<br>♥ A K 8 7 6<br>♦ A 6<br>♣ 6   | Responder<br>♠ 10 4<br>♥ Q J 10 9<br>♦ K Q 10 7 4<br>♣ A 4 |



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## STEP 7: AFTER A 2/1 RESPONSE - ANSWERS

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1 | Opener<br>1♠<br>2♣ <sup>1</sup><br>3NT <sup>3</sup>                           | Responder<br>2♣<br>2NT <sup>2</sup><br>pass                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Rebid of convenience, nothing else fits.</li><li>2. Stalling and forcing.</li><li>3. Really only five spades, looks like good contract.</li></ol>   |
| 2 | Opener<br>1♠<br>2NT <sup>1</sup><br>4NT <sup>3</sup><br>pass                  | Responder<br>2♣<br>3NT <sup>2</sup><br>6NT <sup>4</sup>                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Usually 12-14 HCP, balanced but, as here, may be 18-19 HCP.</li><li>2. Looks like a good spot opposite 12-14 HCP.</li><li>3. Surprise! I've got the big one! This is a quantitative raise.</li><li>4. I accept — 14 HCP with a good 5-card suit should be enough.</li></ol>   |
| 3 | Opener<br>1♠<br>3♣ <sup>1</sup><br>4♦ <sup>3</sup><br>5♠ <sup>5</sup><br>pass | Responder<br>2♣<br>4♣ <sup>2</sup><br>5♣ <sup>4</sup><br>6♠ <sup>6</sup> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Solid suit of 6+cards.</li><li>2. Cuebid in support of spades, first-round control.</li><li>3. Also first-round control.</li><li>4. Continuing to cuebid, can count lots of tricks. Grand slam may be possible if opener has first-round control of hearts.</li><li>5. Nothing more to show, I've said it all!</li><li>6. That's OK, I can handle hearts after the first round.</li></ol>   |
| 4 | Opener<br>1♠<br>2♥ <sup>1</sup><br>4♠ <sup>3</sup>                            | Responder<br>2♣<br>2♠ <sup>2</sup><br>pass                               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Natural, at least four hearts, with or without extra values.</li><li>2. Very strong spade raise, usually with either extra HCP or a 'source of tricks' — unsuitable for an original Jacoby 2NT.</li><li>3. Fast arrival, sorry nothing extra over here!</li></ol>   |
| 5 | Opener<br>1♥<br>2♠ <sup>1</sup><br>4♣ <sup>3</sup><br>5♦ <sup>5</sup><br>pass | Responder<br>2♦<br>3♠ <sup>2</sup><br>4♦ <sup>4</sup><br>6♠ <sup>6</sup> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Reverse, 16+ HCP, longer hearts than spades.</li><li>2. Agrees spades, stronger than bidding 4♠ (which would be fast arrival).</li><li>3. Cuebid of first-round control, slam-try.</li><li>4. Cuebid of first-round control, slam-try.</li><li>5. Second-round control.</li><li>6. Responder knows opener must be concerned about hearts since he was unable to cuebid them over 4♦ or go on to slam on his own but this is one time shortness in partner's first suit is a good thing!</li></ol> |



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## STEP 7: AFTER A 2/1 RESPONSE - ANSWERS (CONT'D)

- |           |  |   |   |
|-----------|--|---|---|
| <b>6</b>  | Opener<br>1♠<br>2♠ <sup>1</sup><br>pass  | Responder<br>2♣<br>4♣ <sup>2</sup>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Usually at least six cards in suit but may be 'bid of convenience' with five.</li><li>2. Fast arrival. I don't care whether you've got five or six. I've got real support but a minimum hand for my original Two-over-One response.</li></ol>  |
| <b>7</b>  | Opener<br>1♠<br>2NT <sup>1</sup><br>3NT <sup>3</sup>                                       | Responder<br>2♦<br>3♦ <sup>2</sup><br>pass                                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Usually 12-14 HCP, balanced, as here.</li><li>2. Really good diamonds, still some mild slam interest.</li><li>3. Not me.</li></ol>   |
| <b>8</b>  | Opener<br>1♠<br>4♣ <sup>1</sup><br>5♦<br>pass  | Responder<br>2♥<br>4NT <sup>2</sup><br>6♥                                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Splinter raise of hearts with 4-card support and club shortness.</li><li>2. Great fit, any aces?</li></ol>   |
| <b>9</b>  | Opener<br>1♠<br>2♠ <sup>1</sup><br>3♦ <sup>3</sup><br>3NT <sup>5</sup>                     | Responder<br>2♦<br>2NT <sup>2</sup><br>3♠ <sup>4</sup><br>pass <sup>6</sup> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Nothing else fits.</li><li>2. Tell me more. This suggests a strain but is also prepared to make delayed raise of spades if possible.</li><li>3. Delayed diamond support, three small or a doubleton honor.</li><li>4. Delayed spade support (fewer than three).</li><li>5. Sorry only five spades, maybe we should play here.</li><li>6. Maybe they won't lead clubs or they'll split. The truly paranoid might fear clubs too much and choose to play 4♣ — that's OK too.</li></ol> |
| <b>10</b> | Opener<br>1♠<br>2♥ <sup>1</sup><br>4NT <sup>3</sup><br>5NT <sup>3</sup><br>7♥ <sup>4</sup> | Responder<br>2♦<br>4♥ <sup>2</sup><br>5♦<br>6♦<br>pass                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. At least four hearts, may have extra values (and how!).</li><li>2. Fast arrival= minimum Two-over-One response with 4-card heart support.</li><li>3. Blackwood</li><li>4. Looks good to me, might need a heart split if you don't have the queen. (Yes, the scientists could use Key Card Blackwood to find out about that trump queen!)</li></ol>   |



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## STEP 8: AFTER A MAJOR SUIT RAISE - QUESTIONS

On each of the following hands, you've opened 1♠. What is your rebid opposite the indicated response from partner?

|             |   |     |
|-------------|---|-----|
| ♠ A Q 6 5 4 | 1 | 2♠  |
| ♥ K J 9 7   | 2 | 3♣  |
| ♦ A 5       | 3 | 3♦  |
| ♣ 7 6       | 4 | 3♠  |
|             | 5 | 4♠  |
|             | 6 | 2NT |
|             | 7 | 4♥  |

|                |    |     |
|----------------|----|-----|
| ♠ K J 10 9 5 4 | 8  | 2♠  |
| ♥ 8 7 6        | 9  | 3♣  |
| ♦ A K Q        | 10 | 3♦  |
| ♣ 6            | 11 | 3♠  |
|                | 12 | 4♠  |
|                | 13 | 2NT |
|                | 14 | 4♣  |

|               |    |     |
|---------------|----|-----|
| ♠ A K 5 4 3 2 | 15 | 2♠  |
| ♥ A K Q 2     | 16 | 3♣  |
| ♦ 5 3         | 17 | 3♦  |
| ♣ 6           | 18 | 3♠  |
|               | 19 | 4♠  |
|               | 20 | 2NT |
|               | 21 | 4♥  |

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 8: AFTER A MAJOR SUIT RAISE - ANSWERS

- 1 Pass Game prospects are not good.
- 2 3♠ Not enough for game opposite a 4-card constructive raise. Don't forget to 'return' to the agreed suit — if you sign off by passing, clubs will be trumps. Don't laugh, it happens to Bergen players all the time!
- 3 4♠ A little more than a minimum and a bit of shape — enough for game opposite a limit raise.
- 4 Pass Hope you can come close to making nine tricks.
- 5 Pass Game is enough.
- 6 4♠ A minimum, albeit respectable, so that if there are any slam moves to be made, partner will have to be the initiator.
- 7 4♠ Too much wastage in partner's splinter suit to make any slam moves.
- 8 3♥ Ask for help in hearts — there may be a good-fitting game!
- 9 4♠ Enough extra playing strength to bid game.
- 10 4♠ You certainly want to be in game, but slam is unlikely (although certainly not impossible).
- 11 P/4♠ This time both actions have a roughly equal chance of being right. It's probably best to pass non-vulnerable and bid on vulnerable, when you can expect just a smidgin more from across the table.
- 12 Pass Certainly not enough for a slam adventure.
- 13 3♣ Show your singleton and go from there.
- 14 4♦ You might not believe that partner also has shortness in clubs but it does happen. Cuebid and see what happens next.
- 15 4♠ Not many losers in view.
- 16 4♠ Enough for game, not likely for more than that.
- 17 4♠ Game for sure — slam if partner has just the right cards so you might even make a try with 3♥ and see what happens.
- 18 4♠ Playing strength, not HCP, justify this. Partner could have just the four little trumps he's promised and nary a picture card and you'd still be a favorite to take ten tricks.
- 19 Pass Enough already.
- 20 3♣ Show your singleton. Not enough length (five cards required) to show the second suit.
- 21 4NT A lot of wastage opposite partner's shortness in hearts but many reasonable minimums will still produce a slam. You can use Blackwood with a worthless doubleton because you know that partner will have something in diamonds.



# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 9: AFTER A FORCING 1NT - QUESTIONS

What is your next bid on each of the following auctions?

**1** ♠ K 9 8 7 5 4 2  
♥ A 6 5  
♦ A Q  
♣ 6

You Partner  
1♠ 1NT  
?

**2** ♠ K J 8 7 4  
♥ A K  
♦ K Q 6 5  
♣ 7 6

You Partner  
1♠ 1NT  
?

**3** ♠ K Q 9 6 4  
♥ 9 7  
♦ A Q 4  
♣ J 7 6

You Partner  
1♠ 1NT  
?

**4** ♠ K Q J 7 6  
♥ A K Q 7 6  
♦ 8 2  
♣ 9

You Partner  
1♠ 1NT  
?

**5** ♠ A Q J 10 6 5  
♥ A 5  
♦ Q J 10  
♣ K J

You Partner  
1♠ 1NT  
?

**6** ♠ A Q 6 5 4  
♥ 7  
♦ 8 7  
♣ A Q 6 5 3

You Partner  
1♠ 1NT  
?

**7** ♠ A J 10 6 5 4  
♥ 7  
♦ A Q  
♣ A K Q 8

You Partner  
1♠ 1NT  
?

**8** ♠ A Q 8 6 5  
♥ K 6  
♦ A 6  
♣ K Q 7 6

You Partner  
1♠ 1NT  
?

**9** ♠ A Q 8 7 6 4  
♥ K Q J 5  
♦ A 6  
♣ 8

You Partner  
1♠ 1NT

**10** ♠ A K Q J 6  
♥ 8 6 5 4  
♦ 8  
♣ A K Q

You Partner  
1♠ 1NT

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 9: AFTER A FORCING 1NT - ANSWERS

- 1 2♠ Extra spade length but poor quality and not enough HCP to justify stronger action.
- 2 2♦ Some extra strength but not enough to do more. Make the quiet, natural rebid and wait to hear more from partner.
- 3 2♣ The forced rebid of convenience. Don't make the mistake of bidding 2♦ because the diamonds are so much better. Just as an opener prefers to open 1♣ with 3-3 in the minors so too does an opener rebid 2♣ with 3-3 when nothing else is available.
- 4 2♥ Some extra values but nothing worth more than a simple natural rebid.
- 5 2NT A real toughie! You could make a case for each of 2NT, 3NT or 3♠. The spade suit isn't totally solid so 3NT carries some risk but the outside stoppers show some promise for notrump while the 3♠ rebid would normally be made on a more unbalanced hand. Partners will often differ in their opinions in such cases but I would choose the compromise rebid of 2NT — it puts notrump in the picture without overstating the case for playing in spades. Second prize to 3NT, a slightly more aggressive rebid.
- 6 ?? You know there's always going to be one question to try to trick you and this is it! You should have opened 1♣ in the first place with a minimum hand and 5-5 in the blacks – check back to Step 2. If you just came back to the table and a kibitzer had opened 1♠ in your place, you would try to recover by rebidding 2♣.
- 7 3♣ Jump shift to establish a game force and try to sort out in what strain the game should be played.
- 8 2NT This comes closest to describing this semi-balanced 18 HCP with stoppers in the unbid suits.
- 9 2♥ With six spades and four hearts the recommended procedure is to rebid 2♠ with very minimum hands and then, if given a third chance, bid the hearts. With a medium hand like this one, bid hearts at your second turn saving a third bid of spades as a way of showing the extra strength. You might alter this approach if the six spades were very poor and the four hearts were very good.
- 10 3♣ Probably the best way to describe your game-forcing strength and show 'where you live' in terms of your high cards. A jump shift in the emaciated heart suit certainly isn't appealing and a 2NT or 3NT rebid will mislead partner. The 3♣ rebid will be unlikely to get him to rebid 3NT without red-suit stoppers, which is just what you want!

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 10: OTHER AUCTIONS STARTING 1♥ OR 1♠ - QUESTIONS

**1**     ♠ A 7  
          ♥ K J 9 5 4  
          ♦ J 7 6  
          ♣ K 8 7

You     Partner  
 1♥     1♠  
 ?

**2**     ♠ A Q 4  
          ♥ K Q 9 7 5  
          ♦ J 8 7  
          ♣ 9 5

You     Partner  
 1♥     1♠  
 ?

**3**     ♠ Q 3  
          ♥ A K Q 10 9 4  
          ♦ A J 7  
          ♣ K 8

You     Partner  
 1♥     1♠  
 ?

**4**     ♠ A Q 6 5  
          ♥ K Q J 8 7  
          ♦ A 5  
          ♣ K 7

You     Partner  
 1♥     1♠  
 ?

**5**     ♠ K 8  
          ♥ A Q 9 7 6  
          ♦ K J 8  
          ♣ A J 8

You     Partner  
 1♥     1♠  
 ?

**6**     ♠ 7  
          ♥ A Q J 8 7 6  
          ♦ A K 8  
          ♣ Q 8 7

You     Partner  
 1♥     1♠  
 ?

**7** ♠ A 8 7 6 3 2  
      ♥ 8 5  
      ♦ A K 8  
      ♣ K 8

You     Partner  
 1♠     3♥<sup>1</sup>  
 ?

1. Invitational, long hearts.

**8** ♠ A K Q 8 7  
      ♥ K 8 7  
      ♦ A 9 6 4  
      ♣ 9

You     Partner  
 1♠     3♥<sup>1</sup>  
 ?

1. Invitational, long hearts.

**9** ♠ A Q 6 5 4  
      ♥ K J 8 7  
      ♦ A Q  
      ♣ 7 6

You     Partner  
 1♠     3NT  
 ?

**10** ♠ A Q 6 5 4  
      ♥ K Q 8 7 3  
      ♥ J 7  
      ♣ 8

You     Partner  
 1♠     3NT  
 ?



## 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

### STEP 10: OTHER AUCTIONS STARTING 1♥ OR 1♠ - ANSWERS

- 1 1NT You have 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand – what's a diamond stopper among friends?
- 2 2♣ The best alternative of a bad lot as 2♥ should show six cards and 1NT would lead partner to expect a stopper in at least one of the minors. Besides, your partner plays the hands so well that raising on three trumps should be routine!
- 3 3NT The 'source of tricks' rebid to show 6+ cards in a nearly solid heart suit with 17-19 HCP and outside stoppers – perfect!
- 4 4♠ You have 4-card support plus 18-20 HCP with no side suit shortness.
- 5 2NT This shows 18-19 HCP and a balanced hand.
- 6 3♥ This is natural with 6+ cards in the suit plus a medium hand – invitational with 16-18 HCP.
- 7 4♥ Don't let your spade length distract you. The heart fit is proven and you have enough strength for game but it's unlikely that you can fill enough holes for anything but a very lucky slam.
- 8 4NT The fit looks to be awesome – you have first-round control in two suits, second-round control in the fourth suit and a source of tricks in spades. All that remains to be seen is whether you have enough aces to underwrite a slam.
- 9 4NT This is a quantitative notrump raise – you can't have better than a 4-3 heart fit and you know the spade fit is only 5-3. In addition, you won't be able to ruff anything in partner's hand. So notrump will likely be at least as good as a suit contract – go ahead and invite slam.
- 10 4♥ You want to offer partner a choice of majors.



# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 11: THE LIGHT FANTASTIC - QUESTIONS

On each of the following hands (a) What is your call after two passes to you? (b) What is your call after three passes to you?

1 ♠ A Q 10 6 5 4  
♥ A 4 3  
♦ 7  
♣ 9 5 4

2 ♠ K Q 3  
♥ A J 10 5 4 3  
♦ 6  
♣ 10 4 3

3 ♠ 6  
♥ A Q J 6  
♦ A Q 10 5 4  
♣ 7 6 5

4 ♠ A 10 6 5  
♥ K Q J 5  
♦ Q 3  
♣ 9 6 5

5 ♠ K Q J 10 2  
♥ 7  
♦ 8 7 5 4  
♣ K J 6

6 ♠ 4 2  
♥ K Q J 6 4 3  
♦ K 5 4  
♣ 10 6

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 11: THE LIGHT FANTASTIC - ANSWERS

- 1 a) 1♠ Good suit, some defensive strength.  
b) 1♠ Same but some partnerships like a 4th seat 2♠ bid with this type of hand — it's largely a matter of style, a maximum two-bid or a minimum one-bid.
- 2 a) 1♥ Good suit, perhaps more defensive strength than a weak two-bid.  
b) Pass Not enough Cansino Count points (only 13) for a 4th seat one-bid but if you can't bear to pass you might try 2♥ as you do have some defensive strength versus spades if the opponents come back to life.
- 3 1♦ In both seats this is a 1♦ opening just the same as it would be in first or second seat.
- 4 1♥ In both seats, this is the type of hand you should open 1♥. As you'll see in the next Step, nothing bad will usually happen and two positive things might: If the opponents buy the hand, you would greatly prefer a heart lead to a club (your alternative suit for an opening bid) and second, your future with this hand in an offensive sense is in the majors and the heart opening makes immediate headway towards finding a major-suit fit.
- 5 1♠ A toughie in both situations as either Pass, 1♠ or 2♠ could work out best. However, I don't like to be passive with spades and as you'll see, a lot of good things could happen after 1♠, so that would be my choice.
- 6 a) 2♥ A classic weak two-bid.  
b) Pass Don't preempt in fourth seat — especially without spades.

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 12: AFTER A 3RD OR 4TH SEAT 1♥ OR 1♠ - QUESTIONS

You've passed in first seat with each of the following hands and partner has opened 1♠ in third seat. What is your response?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 ♠ Q 4<br>♥ K J 8 7<br>♦ Q 9 8 7<br>♣ Q 7 3  | 2 ♠ 5<br>♥ K 8 7<br>♦ J 7 4<br>♣ A Q 10 9 4 3 |
| 3 ♠ Q J 7 6<br>♥ K J 7<br>♦ 7 6 5<br>♣ 5 4 3  | 4 ♠ J 6 4 2<br>♥ 6 5<br>♦ A 8 7<br>♣ J 10 9 8 |
| 5 ♠ A 10 7 6 5<br>♥ 6 5 4<br>♦ K Q 4 2<br>♣ 7 |   |

**6-10** Now go back to the five examples above and respond again, assuming your partner's opening bid was 1♥ in third seat.

You've opened 1♠ in third seat with each of the following hands. What is your rebid opposite the indicated response?

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| ♠ K J 7 6 5<br>♥ A 7<br>♦ Q 7 6<br>♣ K 8 7  | 11 1NT<br>12 2♣<br>13 2♦ |
| ♠ K J 10 4 3<br>♥ A J 6 3<br>♦ A<br>♣ 8 7 3 | 14 1NT<br>15 2♣<br>16 2♦ |
| ♠ A K J 10 5 2<br>♥ K J 7<br>♦ A 4<br>♣ 9 2 | 17 1NT<br>18 2♣<br>19 2♦ |



## 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

### STEP 12: AFTER A 3RD OR 4TH SEAT 1♥ OR 1♠ - ANSWERS

- 1 1NT The same bid you would make as an unpassed hand.
- 2 3♣ Good 6-card suit and a maximum passed hand.
- 3 2♠ This single raise now shows either 3- or 4-card support.
- 4 2♠ This single raise now shows either 3- or 4-card support.
- 5 4♠ Direct game raise just as if you weren't a passed hand. The scientists (chickens?) among you might be content with 2♣ Drury. The problem usually arises when opener signs off at 2♠ over this and you feel you've got too much not to make one more try so you re-raise and leave the last mistake to partner! I prefer the less nerve-wracking approach of the direct game raise and saving more time and energy for the play.
- 6 2♣ Drury.
- 7 2♣ Drury. There's no convenient way to show your clubs anyway.
- 8 2♥ You've found a heart fit so forget about the spades!
- 9 1♠ Sometimes life is simple.
- 10 2♣ Drury. Yes, on occasion opener might have opened with a minimum with both majors (♠KQJ5 ♥AJ1053 ♦87 ♣92) and you will miss a superior spade fit. However, a 1♠ response would be non-forcing and you may get to play right there without having divulged your heart fit. Also, when opener has a good hand your heart support will be almost impossible to show after the 1♠ response even when opener does rebid.
- 11 Pass No need to make that 2♣ rebid any more.
- 12 2♦ The non-sign-off rebid over Drury. Game is unlikely, but not out of the question if partner has four trumps.
- 13 Pass You'd like to bid 3♦ to keep the opponents quiet, but partner might get too excited. You won't make game opposite any hand partner didn't open.
- 14 2♥ Natural rebid with an unbalanced hand. Non-forcing.
- 15 2♦ The non-sign-off rebid over Drury. Game is quite likely, especially if partner has four trumps.
- 16 2♥ Natural rebid with an unbalanced hand. Non-forcing.
- 17 3♠ Natural and invitational.
- 18 4♠ Fit and values are enough for game but slam is very unlikely.
- 19 3♠ Natural and game-forcing now partner has shown 10+ HCP.



# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 13: IN A MINOR KEY - QUESTIONS

What is your next bid on each of the following hands?

**1** ♠ J 7 6 5  
♥ K 7  
♦ J 8 5 4  
♣ K 6 5

Partner You  
1♦ ?

**3** ♠ A 9 7 6 5  
♥ K 10 9 5 3  
♦ 6 5  
♣ 6

Partner You  
1♦ ?

**5** ♠ A Q 4  
♥ 8 7  
♦ A 6 5 4  
♣ K J 5 4

Partner You  
1♦ ?

**7** ♠ K Q 3 2  
♥ Q 3  
♦ 7 6  
♣ A Q J 6 5

Partner You  
1♣ ?

**9** ♠ Q 6 5 4  
♥ 6 4  
♦ A 9 7 6 4 3  
♣ 6

Partner You  
1♣ ?

**2** ♠ K Q 3 2  
♥ Q 3  
♦ 7 6  
♣ A Q J 6 5

Partner You  
1♦ ?

**4** ♠ Q 6 5 4  
♥ 6 4  
♦ A 9 7 6 4 3  
♣ 6

Partner You  
1♦ ?

**6** ♠ J 7 6 5  
♥ K 7  
♦ J 8 5 4  
♣ K 6 5

Partner You  
1♣ ?

**8** ♠ A 9 7 6 5  
♥ K 10 9 5 3  
♦ 6 5  
♣ 6

Partner You  
1♣ ?

**10** ♠ A Q 4  
♥ 8 7  
♦ A 6 5 4  
♣ K J 5 4

Partner You  
1♣ ?



## 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

### STEP 13: IN A MINOR KEY - ANSWERS

- 1    1♠    Natural up the line response.
- 2    2♣    Natural and game-forcing.
- 3    1♠    The right start with 5-5 in the majors.
- 4    1♠    The natural one-level response. This is your best shot to find the major-suit fit and you can fall back on showing support for partner at your next turn (assuming no spade fit is found).
- 5    2♣    Natural and game-forcing.
- 6    1♦    Also the natural response. In accord with “The Principle of Separation” that we’ve encountered previously, the more suits you skip over in reply to your partner’s opening bid, especially at the one-level, the more likely you are to have 5 cards in the bid suit. Thus, don’t be in a big hurry to bid 1♠ over 1♣ with only 4 so-so cards since, in a pinch, partner will sometimes assume you might have 5.
- 7    1♠    Show your 4-card major before you worry about raising clubs.
- 8    1♠    The right start with 5-5 in the majors.
- 9    1♦    As the spades are of unexceptional quality and the diamond suit is two cards longer, follow the up the line length-first approach.
- 10   1♦    Natural, up the line, hoping to hear partner bid hearts so you can seize your beloved notrump.



# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 14: NOTRUMP RESPONSES TO MINORS - QUESTIONS

What is your response if partner opens 1♦?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> ♠ Q J 7<br/>♥ K 10 8<br/>♦ 7 6<br/>♣ A 10 9 8 5</p> | <p><b>2</b> ♠ Q 4 3 2<br/>♥ Q J 7<br/>♦ 7 6<br/>♣ A Q 4 3</p> | <p><b>3</b> ♠ 4 3 2<br/>♥ 8 7 4<br/>♦ 9 6 3<br/>♣ A K 9 5</p> |
| <p><b>4</b> ♠ Q J 10 5<br/>♥ K 7 6<br/>♦ 7<br/>♣ A K 8 7 6</p>  | <p><b>5</b> ♠ 4 3 2<br/>♥ 9 8 7<br/>♦ A Q J 9<br/>♣ 6 5 2</p> | <p><b>6</b> ♠ Q 3 2<br/>♥ K 8 7<br/>♦ J 8 7<br/>♣ A 5 4 3</p> |

What is your response if partner opens 1♣?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>7</b> ♠ Q J 8<br/>♥ 8 5 3<br/>♦ A Q J 7<br/>♣ J 8 7</p>   | <p><b>8</b> ♠ K J 7<br/>♥ A 5 4<br/>♦ A K Q 3 2<br/>♣ 7 2</p>   | <p><b>9</b> ♠ K J 7<br/>♥ A 4 3<br/>♦ K Q J 8<br/>♣ Q J 6</p>   |
| <p><b>10</b> ♠ K J 7<br/>♥ 10 6 5 4<br/>♦ A 5 4<br/>♣ 7 4 2</p> | <p><b>11</b> ♠ Q 10 8<br/>♥ K J 8<br/>♦ Q J 7 6<br/>♣ K 8 7</p> | <p><b>12</b> ♠ K Q 3<br/>♥ Q 6 5<br/>♦ 9 8 7 4<br/>♣ J 10 8</p> |

## 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

### STEP 14: NOTRUMP RESPONSES TO MINORS - ANSWERS

- 1 2NT A 'good' 10 HCP, with something in all the unbid suits.
- 2 1♠ Of course! Just trying to trick you again!
- 3 1NT Nothing else fits and you have to bid something with 7 HCP.
- 4 2♣ Natural and game-forcing.
- 5 2♦ A bit of a preview for Step 15 but even with only 4-card support for partner's possible 3-card minor, this bid shows 'where you live'.
- 6 1NT A bad 10 HCP and nothing to bid at the one-level. Contrast with Question 1 above.
- 7 1♦ Nothing in hearts so don't strain to bid notrump when a convenient and reasonable alternative exists.
- 8 1♦ Right HCP for 3NT but your long suit is too good – a 'source of tricks'.
- 9 3NT Bang on – 17 HCP, balanced, all unbid suits stopped.
- 10 1♥ Don't ignore that major!
- 11 2NT An 'ugly' 12 HCP but something in every suit and remember that the bid is only invitational, plus your hand at least looks 'notrump-ish'.
- 12 1NT Finish this section off with an easy one!



# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 15: RAISING PARTNER'S MINOR - QUESTIONS

What is your next bid on each of these hands?

**1** ♠ A Q 3 2  
♥ 7  
♦ K J 7 6  
♣ J 8 7 6

Partner You  
1♣ ?

**2** ♠ K 7 6  
♥ K 8  
♦ Q 4 3  
♣ 9 7 6 4 3

Partner You  
1♣ ?

**3** ♠ 6  
♥ Q 3 2  
♦ A J 7 6  
♣ K J 8 7 6

Partner You  
1♣ ?

**4** ♠ Q 4 3  
♥ A 3  
♦ Q 4 3  
♣ K 9 8 5 4

Partner You  
1♣ ?

**5** ♠ A 4  
♥ 8  
♦ A Q J 7  
♣ K 9 7 6 4 3

Partner You  
1♣ ?

**6** ♠ A J 6  
♥ Q 4 3  
♦ Q J 7 6  
♣ J 10 7

Partner You  
1♦ ?

**7** ♠ 6  
♥ A 4  
♦ A 10 8 7 4  
♣ K Q J 7 6

Partner You  
1♦ ?

**8** ♠ J 8 7 4  
♥ 10 5  
♦ A Q J 10 9  
♣ 9 2

Partner You  
1♦ ?

**9** ♠ A J 7  
♥ K 10 4  
♦ A Q 3 2  
♣ K 8 7

Partner You  
1♦ ?

**10** ♠ 7 6 4  
♥ 9 5 2  
♦ A Q 9 4  
♣ 7 6 4

Partner You  
1♦ ?

## 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

### STEP 15: RAISING PARTNER'S MINOR - ANSWERS

- 1 1♦ Up the line of course!
- 2 2♣ Show that support! Don't be in too much of a hurry to 'grab the notrump' — supporting partner creates a firm foundation for further bidding — maybe!
- 3 3♣ A sensible limit raise with 5-card support and 11 HCP.
- 4 3♣ Again.
- 5 3♥ A splinter raise of partner's clubs.
- 6 2NT Almost all suits stopped and certainly the most descriptive bid.
- 7 2♣ At first glance, you might bid 3♣ as a Criss-Cross artificial forcing raise or 3♠ as a splinter raise but, just as with our major-suit raises, immediate minor-suit raises should not usually have a great 'source of tricks' on the side, especially if there's a convenient natural alternative — which a response of 2♣ certainly offers in this case.
- 8 1♠ Bid that major!
- 9 3NT To show 15-17 HCP without 5-card diamond support and all unbid suits stopped.
- 10 2♦ If you're too embarrassed to raise with only 4-card support (you really shouldn't be) put a heart in with your diamonds and complain about the lighting if you become dummy.



## 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

### STEP 16: REBIDS AFTER MINOR-SUIT OPENINGS - QUESTIONS

As you've probably surmised from the layout of the deals following, your assignment is to work out the correct bids for each player – just what you've always wanted to do – bid partner's cards for him!

- |          |   |   |           |  |   |
|----------|---|---|-----------|--|---|
| <b>1</b> | Opener<br>♠ A Q 3 2<br>♥ K 7<br>♦ 9 6 5<br>♣ A 9 5 3  | Responder<br>♠ K J 8 7<br>♥ A 8 6 3<br>♦ 4 3<br>♣ 10 8 2  | <b>2</b>  | Opener<br>♠ 9<br>♥ A K J 6<br>♦ Q J 5 4<br>♣ K 8 7 6   | Responder<br>♠ A 7 6 5<br>♥ 9<br>♦ K 10<br>♣ A Q J 10 5 2 |
| <b>3</b> | Opener<br>♠ K 8<br>♥ K Q J 9<br>♦ A 5<br>♣ A Q 8 7 2  | Responder<br>♠ Q 5 4 3<br>♥ A 10 5 4<br>♦ 9 6 2<br>♣ 9 4  | <b>4</b>  | Opener<br>♠ 7<br>♥ A J 8 7<br>♦ A K 8 7 6 2<br>♣ 8 2   | Responder<br>♠ 9 5 4<br>♥ K Q 10 5<br>♦ 9<br>♣ A K Q 7 6  |
| <b>5</b> | Opener<br>♠ Q 7 6<br>♥ A Q 3<br>♦ Q J 10 5 4<br>♣ K 8 | Responder<br>♠ J 9 5 4<br>♥ 9 2<br>♦ K 7<br>♣ A Q J 5 4   | <b>6</b>  | Opener<br>♠ A K 10 5 4<br>♥ 7<br>♦ A K Q 4 3 2<br>♣ 5  | Responder<br>♠ 9 8 2<br>♥ A Q 9 4<br>♦ J 9 6 5<br>♣ J 6   |
| <b>7</b> | Opener<br>♠ K 8 7<br>♥ J 7<br>♦ A 6 5<br>♣ A 10 8 7 2 | Responder<br>♠ A Q J<br>♥ K Q 9 3<br>♦ K Q J<br>♣ J 9 3   | <b>8</b>  | Opener<br>♠ A 3<br>♥ A J 7<br>♦ A K J 10 5 4<br>♣ 8 7  | Responder<br>♠ Q 10 5 4<br>♥ Q 6<br>♦ 9 2<br>♣ Q 10 9 5 4 |
| <b>9</b> | Opener<br>♠ J 8 7<br>♥ A Q 4 3<br>♦ A Q 3 2<br>♣ 8 7  | Responder<br>♠ 10 5 4<br>♥ K 9<br>♦ K 9<br>♣ A K J 10 6 5 | <b>10</b> | Opener<br>♠ A Q 10 6 5<br>♥ A<br>♦ 6<br>♣ A K J 10 7 2 | Responder<br>♠ J 7 2<br>♥ Q 9 8 7 3<br>♦ K J 7<br>♣ 4 3   |

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 16: REBIDS AFTER MINOR-SUIT OPENINGS - ANSWERS

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1 | Opener<br>1♣<br>1♠ <sup>2</sup><br>pass <sup>4</sup>                               | Responder<br>1♥ <sup>1</sup><br>2♣ <sup>3</sup>                                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Up the line response.</li> <li>2. Continuing the search for a fit.</li> <li>3. I have 4 spades and a weak invitation.</li> <li>4. Minimum for me, too.</li> </ol>  |
| 2 | Opener<br>1♦ <sup>1</sup><br>3♣ <sup>3</sup><br>5♦<br>pass                         | Responder<br>2♣ <sup>2</sup><br>4NT <sup>4</sup><br>6♣                           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. With 4-4 in the minors and potential rebid problems (after 1♣-1♠) the diamond opening is more flexible.</li> <li>2. Game-forcing Two-over-One.</li> <li>3. Splinter raise of clubs.</li> <li>4. Looks like good fit, Aces?</li> </ol>  |
| 3 | Opener<br>1♣ <sup>1</sup><br>4♥ <sup>3</sup>                                       | Responder<br>1♥ <sup>2</sup><br>pass   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Normal opening albeit with extras.</li> <li>2. Up-the-line, 4+ cards, 6+HCP</li> <li>3. Direct game raise with 18+ HCP, 4-card support and no side suit shortness.</li> </ol>  |
| 4 | Opener<br>1♦<br>2♦ <sup>2</sup><br>3♥ <sup>4</sup><br>4NT <sup>6</sup><br>6♥       | Responder<br>2♣ <sup>1</sup><br>2♥ <sup>3</sup><br>4♣ <sup>5</sup><br>5♦<br>pass | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Game-forcing Two-over-One response.</li> <li>2. Not enough strength for reverse to 2♥.</li> <li>3. Hearts as well as clubs.</li> <li>4. I also have hearts.</li> <li>5. Cuebid – club control.</li> <li>6. Aces?</li> </ol>  |
| 5 | Opener<br>1♦<br>1NT <sup>2</sup><br>3NT <sup>4</sup>                               | Responder<br>1♠ <sup>1</sup><br>2NT <sup>3</sup><br>pass                         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Up the line, not enough HCP for a game-forcing 2♣.</li> <li>2. 12-14 HCP, balanced.</li> <li>3. Invitational raise.</li> <li>4. I have a maximum.</li> </ol>   |
| 6 | Opener<br>1♦ <sup>1</sup><br>1♠ <sup>3</sup><br>2♠ <sup>5</sup><br>4♠ <sup>7</sup> | Responder<br>1♥ <sup>2</sup><br>2♦ <sup>4</sup><br>3♠ <sup>6</sup><br>pass       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Longer suit first.</li> <li>2. Up the line.</li> <li>3. I also have 4+ spades.</li> <li>4. I prefer diamonds and don't have any extra strength, heart length or club stopper to show.</li> <li>5. Surprise, I have a fifth spade and therefore a sixth diamond.</li> <li>6. I have 3-card support for your second suit.</li> <li>7. I have enough for game.</li> </ol> |
| 7 | Opener<br>1♣<br>1NT <sup>2</sup><br>pass <sup>4</sup>                              | Responder<br>1♥ <sup>1</sup><br>4NT <sup>3</sup>                                 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Up the line.</li> <li>2. 12-14 HCP, balanced, without four spades or four hearts.</li> <li>3. Quantitative raise, inviting slam.</li> <li>4. Sorry, I'm minimum (as usual!).</li> </ol>  |



# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 16: REBIDS AFTER MINOR-SUIT OPENINGS - ANSWERS (CONT'D)

|           |   |  |  |
|-----------|---|--|--|
| <b>8</b>  | Opener<br>1♦<br>3♦ <sup>1</sup>   | Responder<br>1♠<br>pass <sup>2</sup>                   | 1. Extra values (16+HCP), extra diamonds, but only invitational.<br>2. Nothing extra over here!  |
| <b>9</b>  | Opener<br>1♦<br>2NT <sup>2</sup><br>pass <sup>4</sup>                   | Responder<br>2♣ <sup>1</sup><br>3NT <sup>3</sup>       | 1. Game-forcing.<br>2. Balanced minimum, would like to have both majors stopped but que sera...<br>3. Looks like the best spot.<br>4. Sure, my club finesses always work.  |
| <b>10</b> | Opener<br>1♣ <sup>1</sup><br>2♠ <sup>2</sup><br>3♠ <sup>4</sup><br>pass | Responder<br>1♥<br>2NT <sup>3</sup><br>4♠ <sup>5</sup> | 1. Longer suit first.<br>2. Jump shift, natural and game-forcing but only promising four spades for the time being.<br>3. No real fit yet but I do have a diamond stopper.<br>4. I have a fifth spade and therefore a sixth club.<br>5. I have 3-card support but nothing extra. |

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 17: AFTER NOTRUMP RESPONSES TO MINORS - QUESTIONS

With each of the following hands you've opened 1♣. What is your rebid after each of the following responses (a) 1NT? (b) 2NT? (c) 3NT?

- 1            ♠ A 4 3   ♥ 5   ♦ K J 8   ♣ A J 10 6 5 4
- 2            ♠ A Q 3 2   ♥ K J 7 6   ♦ 6 2   ♣ A 7 6
- 3            ♠ 4   ♥ K 4 3   ♦ A J 6   ♣ A K J 10 5 4
- 4            ♠ A Q 7 6   ♥ 6   ♦ 5 4   ♣ A K 7 6 5 2

For each of the following pairs of hands, try to create the complete auction:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 5 | Opener<br>♠ 4<br>♥ K Q 3<br>♦ A 4 3<br>♣ A K J 10 5 4 | Responder<br>♠ J 7 6<br>♥ A 4 2<br>♦ Q J 6<br>♣ 9 7 3 2  |
| 6 | Opener<br>♠ A 4 3<br>♥ 8<br>♦ A Q 8 7 4<br>♣ K J 7 6  | Responder<br>♠ K J 8<br>♥ Q J 7<br>♦ 9 6 3<br>♣ A 10 5 4 |
| 7 | Opener<br>♠ K Q 4 3<br>♥ A Q J 8<br>♦ 7<br>♣ A Q 7 6  | Responder<br>♠ A 8 7<br>♥ K 9 4<br>♦ J 9 2<br>♣ J 9 3 2  |
| 8 | Opener<br>♠ A 3<br>♥ 7<br>♦ K Q J<br>♣ A Q J 7 6 5 4  | Responder<br>♠ K 9 4<br>♥ Q 10 9<br>♦ A 7 6 5<br>♣ K 8 2 |

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 17: AFTER NOTRUMP RESPONSES TO MINORS - ANSWERS

- 1 a) 2♣ Looks like a better partscore from over here.  
b) 3NT Enough values to accept the invitation but maybe not quite enough overall strength for an eleven-trick contract that the scientists among you might get to 5♣ by rebidding 2♦ and finding out partner doesn't have a heart stopper. I concur with whichever choice works this time! In other words, no approach is perfect all the time!  
c) 4♣ This time it's clear to move forward and issue a slam invitation via 4♣. You're hoping to hear partner cuebid 4♦ over which you'll continue with a 4♠ cuebid, but if he disappears points you by rebidding 4NT respect his signoff and pass.
- 2 a) Pass Balanced minimum, nowhere to go.  
b) 3NT With 14 HCP you have enough for game and really have no safe way to explore for a diamond stopper as there is no obvious alternative strain to play in if you don't find one. Who leads a minor suit when there are two unbid majors anyway?  
c) Pass Obvious to you, I hope!
- 3 a) 3♣ A natural invitational rebid. With a maximum, partner may be able to make another move.  
b) 3♦ Put partner in stopper-showing mode. If he rebids 3♠ (spade stopper, no heart stopper) or 3NT (both majors stopped), 3NT will look right. However, if he rebids 3♥ (heart stopper, no spade stopper), a small slam in clubs looks very likely.  
c) 4♣ Set the suit, and see what partner does. Depending on partner's number of aces and kings, you should be able to count winners for either the small or grand slam.
- 4 a) 2♣ You should give up on spades as the best fit you can hope for in that suit is a 4-3.  
b) 3♠ This time you do want to bid your hand naturally as you have enough values to go to game but it's not yet clear what the strain should be.  
c) 4♣ Your shape and controls make you worth one try. If partner bids 4NT, you will respect his decision and pass.

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 17: AFTER NOTRUMP RESPONSES TO MINORS - ANSWERS (CONT'D)

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 5 | Opener<br>1♣<br>3♣ <sup>1</sup><br>3♥ <sup>3</sup><br>5♣ <sup>5</sup>         | Responder<br>1NT<br>3♦ <sup>2</sup><br>4♣ <sup>4</sup><br>pass <sup>6</sup>             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Natural, invitational.</li> <li>2. Diamond stopper.</li> <li>3. Heart stopper.</li> <li>4. No spade stopper, some club support.</li> <li>5. Looks like enough.</li> <li>6. Okay, just glad I wasn't in 3NT losing the first five or six spade tricks!</li> </ol>   |
| 6 | Opener<br>1♦<br>3NT <sup>2</sup>  | Responder<br>2NT <sup>1</sup><br>pass <sup>3</sup>                                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 11-12 HCP, invitational to game.</li> <li>2. Enough to accept but not enough overall strength to probe for stoppers as an alternative contract of five of a minor looks too high. Hope you can look after hearts.</li> <li>3. Not to worry, I always guess these two-way club finesses right, especially after a spade lead!</li> </ol>  |
| 7 | Opener<br>1♣<br>2♥ <sup>1</sup><br>3♠ <sup>3</sup><br>pass                    | Responder<br>1NT<br>2♠ <sup>2</sup><br>5♣ <sup>4</sup>                                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hearts stopped, what about you?</li> <li>2. Spades stopped, no diamond stopper else I would have rebid notrump.</li> <li>3. I have spades as well – are you getting a good picture of my distribution?</li> <li>4. Looks like the right game.</li> </ol>   |
| 8 | Opener<br>1♣<br>3♦ <sup>2</sup><br>4♣ <sup>4</sup><br>4♠ <sup>6</sup><br>pass | Responder<br>2NT <sup>1</sup><br>3NT <sup>3</sup><br>4♦ <sup>5</sup><br>6♣ <sup>7</sup> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 11-12 HCP, game invitation.</li> <li>2. Diamond values, what have you got?</li> <li>3. Both majors stopped.</li> <li>4. I really rebid 3♦ to set up this call, a slam try with really good and long clubs.</li> <li>5. Okay, I have a good club fit and the diamond ace.</li> <li>6. Spade cuebid.</li> <li>7. With a spade card, the diamond ace and a trump honor, I must have every thing you need for slam.</li> </ol> |

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 18: AFTER A MINOR SUIT IS RAISED - QUESTIONS

What is your next bid in each case?

**1** ♠ A Q 4 3  
♥ 7 5  
♦ A J 7  
♣ K 10 5 4

You Partner  
1♣ 2♣  
?

**2** ♠ A Q 4 3  
♥ 7 5  
♦ A J 7  
♣ K 10 5 4

You Partner  
1♣ 3♣  
?

**3** ♠ A Q 4 3  
♥ 7 5  
♦ A J 7  
♣ K 10 5 4

You Partner  
1♣ 2♦  
?

**4** ♠ A 4  
♥ K 8  
♦ A Q 7 6 5  
♣ 9 7 5 4

You Partner  
1♦ 2♦  
?

**5** ♠ A 4  
♥ K 8  
♦ A Q 7 6 5  
♣ 9 7 5 4

You Partner  
1♦ 3♦  
?

**6** ♠ A 4  
♥ K 8  
♦ A Q 7 6 5  
♣ 9 7 5 4

You Partner  
1♦ 3♣  
?

Construct a recommended auction for the following pairs of hands:

**7** Opener  
♠ A Q 6 5  
♥ 9 7 5 2  
♦ A J 7  
♣ K 8

Responder  
♠ 8 7  
♥ 6 4 3  
♦ K Q 9 5 4  
♣ A Q 4

**8** Opener  
♠ A  
♥ J 8 7 6  
♦ K Q 4  
♣ A Q 8 7 6

Responder  
♠ K J 7  
♥ 9 4  
♦ A J 8  
♣ K J 10 3 2

**9** Opener  
♠ A Q 3  
♥ 9  
♦ A J 8 7 4  
♣ A K 10 3

Responder  
♠ K 4  
♥ 8 6 5  
♦ K 10 9 6 2  
♣ 9 7 5

**10** Opener  
♠ 8 7  
♥ A Q 9 4  
♦ A 9  
♣ A J 8 7 6

Responder  
♠ 9 5 2  
♥ K 6  
♦ K J 8  
♣ K Q 9 4 3



# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 18: AFTER A MINOR SUIT IS RAISED - ANSWERS

- 1 Pass A balanced minimum.
- 2 3♦ Try for 3NT by showing your diamond stopper hoping partner can show a heart stopper. Remember he has a maximum of three hearts so it would be a bad gamble to shoot out 3NT if there was no semblance of a stopper between you. If he rebids 3♠ to show a stopper there, 5♣ looks like a good chance while if he returns to 4♣ that will mean nothing in either major so that his side-suit values, although scant, will be in diamonds (say ♠87 ♥964 ♦KQ6 ♣AQ972) which will also make 5♣ a reasonable gamble.
- 3 2♠ To show your stoppers in a way that is the most economical use of the auction space, i.e. the 'cheapest bid', not necessarily the lowest-ranked suit.
- 4 Pass A good hand but not enough combined material to make any game sensible.
- 5 3NT With both majors stopped and some protective club length, this seems like a reasonable shot at game.
- 6 3♦ Leave partner room to bid 3♥ if possible and then you can continue with 3♠ leaving the next decision up to him.
- 7
- |                  |                 |   |
|------------------|-----------------|---|
| Opener           | Responder       | 1. Limit raise.                                   |
| 1♦               | 3♦ <sup>1</sup> | 2. Stoppers plus some heart length as protection. |
| 3NT <sup>2</sup> | pass            |   |
- 8
- |                  |                 |                                 |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Opener           | Responder       | 1. Game-forcing club raise.     |
| 1♣               | 2♦ <sup>1</sup> | 2. Diamond stopper.             |
| 3♦ <sup>2</sup>  | 3♠ <sup>3</sup> | 3. Spade stopper.               |
| 3NT <sup>4</sup> | pass            | 4. That's what I wanted to hear |
- 9
- |                 |                 |  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Opener          | Responder       | 1. 6-9 HCP, 5 diamonds.  |
| 1♦              | 2♦ <sup>1</sup> | 2. Game try, spades stopped.   |
| 2♠ <sup>2</sup> | 3♦ <sup>3</sup> | 3. Nothing in clubs or hearts.   |
| 4♣ <sup>4</sup> | 4♠ <sup>5</sup> | 4. Still trying, but now for 5♦.   |
| 6♦ <sup>6</sup> | pass            | 5. I do have a side card — in spades.                                    |
|                 |                 | 6. The truly conservative might bid only 5♦ but the fit looks excellent! |
- 10
- |                 |                 |  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Opener          | Responder       | 1. Limit raise.  |
| 1♣              | 3♣ <sup>1</sup> | 2. Diamonds stopped.   |
| 3♦ <sup>2</sup> | 3♥ <sup>3</sup> | 3. Hearts stopped, but not spades (would have bid 3NT).                      |
| 5♣ <sup>4</sup> | pass            | 4. Er... we seem to be missing a spade control, but game should still be on. |

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 19: FOURTH SUIT FORCING (FSF) - QUESTIONS

Let's do some more 'construct the auction' exercises and in the process we'll get you a little more comfortable with FSF (and when FSF might have been, but wasn't, used!). Note: all the hands in this section come from actual competitions – they are not 'cooked' to fit the system. In some cases, I wish they had been!

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>1</b> Opener<br>♠ K 7 6 4<br>♥ A J 6<br>♦ 9 2<br>♣ A Q 5 4  | Responder<br>♠ Q J 7<br>♥ K 10 9 4<br>♦ A 10 4<br>♣ K 9 7 | <b>2</b> Opener<br>♠ A 9 7 6<br>♥ 8<br>♦ A 10 4<br>♣ K Q 9 7 5 | Responder<br>♠ 8<br>♥ A Q 3 2<br>♦ K 8 7<br>♣ A J 8 4 2   |
| <b>3</b> Opener<br>♠ A Q 9 6<br>♥ K 9<br>♦ 9 5 2<br>♣ A J 8 7  | Responder<br>♠ J 8 7<br>♥ A Q 8 7 5 3<br>♦ A 4<br>♣ K 4   | <b>4</b> Opener<br>♠ A Q 9 6<br>♥ 8 7<br>♦ K 7 6<br>♣ Q J 7 6  | Responder<br>♠ K J 8 4<br>♥ A K 10 5 4<br>♦ A 3<br>♣ 9 4  |
| <b>5</b> Opener<br>♠ K 8 7 4<br>♥ 9 3<br>♦ A Q 6<br>♣ K Q 4 3  | Responder<br>♠ A 6<br>♥ A K Q 10 4<br>♦ K J 7<br>♣ J 9 7  | <b>6</b> Opener<br>♠ K J 8 7<br>♥ Q 5 4<br>♦ 7 4<br>♣ A Q 4 3  | Responder<br>♠ Q 4<br>♥ A J 10 3<br>♦ K J 9<br>♣ 10 8 7 2 |
| <b>7</b> Opener<br>♠ 8 5<br>♥ 10 4<br>♦ A Q 9 6 5<br>♣ A Q 3 2 | Responder<br>♠ A Q 9 4<br>♥ 9 5<br>♦ K J 8 3 2<br>♣ J 7   | <b>8</b> Opener<br>♠ Q 2<br>♥ 6<br>♦ A Q 6 5 4<br>♣ A J 7 5 4  | Responder<br>♠ A J 10 5 4 3<br>♥ Q 9 4<br>♦ K 8<br>♣ 9 2  |
| <b>9</b> Opener<br>♠ 7<br>♥ 10 5 4 3<br>♦ A K 8 7<br>♣ A Q 9 2 | Responder<br>♠ A Q 8 6 2<br>♥ K 9<br>♦ J 5 4<br>♣ K 8 3   | <b>10</b> Opener<br>♠ K 8<br>♥ K 6 5 2<br>♦ Q 4<br>♣ A J 9 5 4 | Responder<br>♠ 9 5 2<br>♥ A J<br>♦ A K 7 6 5<br>♣ Q 6 2   |
| <b>11</b> Opener<br>♠ K 8 7<br>♥ 6<br>♦ A Q 8 6 3<br>♣ A Q 3 2 | Responder<br>♠ A Q 10 5 4<br>♥ A J 5<br>♦ 10 4<br>♣ 9 7 5 |  |   |

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 19: FOURTH SUIT FORCING (FSF) - ANSWERS

- |          |  |  |  |
|----------|--|--|--|
| <b>1</b> | Opener<br>1♣<br>1♠<br>2♥ <sup>2</sup><br>3NT <sup>4</sup>  | Responder<br>1♥<br>2♦ <sup>1</sup><br>2NT <sup>3</sup><br>pass <sup>5</sup>  | 1. FSF.<br>2. 3-card support.<br>3. Heart support wasn't really what I was looking for. Anything else you can tell me?<br>4. Sorry, just the typical balanced junkbox, glad you've got diamonds stopped.<br>5. Looks like our best bet for game.                 |
| <b>2</b> | Opener<br>1♣<br>1♠<br>2NT <sup>2</sup><br>3♦ <sup>4</sup><br>3♠ <sup>5</sup><br>4♥ <sup>5</sup><br>6♣ <sup>6</sup> | Responder<br>1♥<br>2♦ <sup>1</sup><br>3♣ <sup>3</sup><br>3♥ <sup>5</sup><br>4♦ <sup>5</sup><br>4♠ <sup>5</sup><br>pass | 1. FSF.<br>2. Diamonds stopped.<br>3. Forcing raise in clubs (with at least four hearts). What do you think about a club slam?<br>4. I like the idea and I have a diamond control.<br>5. Cuebid.<br>6. I'm worn out and this looks like enough, I've bid my all. |
| <b>3</b> | Opener<br>1♣<br>1♠<br>3♦ <sup>2</sup><br>4♥ <sup>4</sup>   | Responder<br>1♥<br>2♦ <sup>1</sup><br>3♥ <sup>3</sup><br>pass <sup>5</sup>   | 1. FSF.<br>2. No 3-card heart support, no diamond stopper, no fifth club, Help!<br>3. I have six hearts, how does that suit you?<br>4. Great, I have a doubleton honor.<br>5. Must be the right game.  |
| <b>4</b> | Opener<br>1♣<br>1♠<br>2NT <sup>2</sup><br>4♠ <sup>4</sup>  | Responder<br>1♥<br>2♦ <sup>1</sup><br>3♠ <sup>3</sup><br>pass <sup>5</sup>   | 1. FSF.<br>2. I have a diamond stopper.<br>3. But I have a game-forcing spade raise with just enough to ask you about slam.<br>4. Thanks for the raise but I have a dead minimum.<br>5. At least I found all this out below game!                                |
| <b>5</b> | Opener<br>1♣<br>1♠<br>2NT <sup>2</sup><br>6NT <sup>4</sup>   | Responder<br>1♥<br>2♦ <sup>1</sup><br>4NT <sup>3</sup><br>pass   | 1. FSF.<br>2. Diamonds stopped.<br>3. I know you're likely in the 12-14 HCP range so, assuming that, this is a quantitative raise of notrump – are you closer to 12 or 14?<br>4. Tip-top 14 HCP.   |
| <b>6</b> | Opener<br>1♣<br>1♠<br>pass <sup>2</sup>  | Responder<br>1♥<br>2NT <sup>1</sup>  | 1. Invitational in notrump.<br>2. Sorry, minimum as usual. Note that opener doesn't show his 3-card heart support, something he might do on the way to game if he had enough (14 HCP+) to accept the invitation.   |

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 19: FOURTH SUIT FORCING (FSF) - ANSWERS (CONT'D)

|    |   |  |   |
|----|---|--|---|
| 7  | Opener<br>1♦<br>2♣<br>pass <sup>2</sup>                     | Responder<br>1♠<br>3♦ <sup>1</sup>                     | 1. Delayed limit raise with 5+ diamonds, 4+ spades and invitational values.<br>2. Invitation cheerfully declined!   |
| 8  | Opener<br>1♦<br>2♣<br>4♠ <sup>2</sup>                       | Responder<br>1♠<br>3♠ <sup>1</sup><br>pass             | 1. Invitational with the focus on spades.<br>2. Enough to accept with a doubleton trump, aces and a ruffing value. Note that if opener's majors were reversed his proper move would be to pass, not bid more clubs, since responder doesn't seem interested in anything but spades. |
| 9  | Opener<br>1♦<br>2♣<br>3♥ <sup>2</sup><br>pass <sup>4</sup>  | Responder<br>1♠<br>2♥ <sup>1</sup><br>3NT <sup>3</sup> | 1. FSF.<br>2. Raising the fourth suit is the natural thing to do, especially with length and no stopper.<br>3. Spades look to be out of the picture and I do have something in hearts with the lead coming up to my hand.<br>4. Looks ugly but nothing else looks better.           |
| 10 | Opener<br>1♣<br>1♥<br>2NT <sup>2</sup><br>pass <sup>4</sup> | Responder<br>1♦<br>2♠ <sup>1</sup><br>3NT <sup>3</sup> | 1. FSF.<br>2. Spades stopped.<br>3. Another somewhat ugly game but at least as good as anything else.<br>4. From the right side anyway!   |
| 11 | Opener<br>1♦<br>2♣<br>3♠ <sup>2</sup><br>pass               | Responder<br>1♠<br>2NT <sup>1</sup><br>4♠ <sup>3</sup> | 1. Natural game try.<br>2. Enough to accept the try and oh, by the way, I have 3-card spade support.<br>3. Looks better than notrump (maybe).   |

**Note:** Hand 11 is the type of set-up that those who want to play FSF as not always 100% forcing to game point to — the 5-3 spade fit might get lost. As long as opener has enough to accept any invitational sequence, he can always 'check back' by showing his spade support along the way to game.

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 20: WEAK JUMP SHIFTS - QUESTIONS

Yes or No, do the following hands qualify for a WJS over partner's 1♦ opening bid?

- 1 ♠ A K 10 5 4 2 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ 9 5 ♣ J 8
- 2 ♠ 9 7 6 5 3 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ 10 4 ♣ 4 3 2
- 3 ♠ 10 5 ♥ 8 7 6 ♦ 7 2 ♣ K Q J 10 4 3
- 4 ♠ Q 10 9 5 4 3 ♥ 8 7 ♦ Q 3 ♣ 10 5 4
- 5 ♠ 10 9 7 6 4 3 ♥ 8 7 6 ♦ 9 ♣ K 10 4

WJS in action! Construct an auction for each pair of hands in problems 6-14. With the suggested auction in the Answers, this time I'll include information about the entire deal since all of these samples were taken from actual competition and I know you're curious to see how all of this is going to work in real life.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>6 Opener      Responder</p> <p>♠ 7            ♠ J 10 8 6 4 3</p> <p>♥ A Q 8 7 6   ♥ 4</p> <p>♦ K Q J 6 5   ♦ 9 4 2</p> <p>♣ 8 7        ♣ Q J 5</p> | <p>7 Opener      Responder</p> <p>♠ A Q 9       ♠ K 10 7 5 4 3</p> <p>♥ 9 7         ♥ 10 5 4</p> <p>♦ K Q J 8 6 5 ♦ 9 3</p> <p>♣ 8 5        ♣ 9 4 3</p> |
| <p>8 Opener      Responder</p> <p>♠ 9 2         ♠ J 10 7 6 5 4</p> <p>♥ A Q         ♥ 8 7 4</p> <p>♦ AKQJ765   ♦ 8</p> <p>♣ Q 4        ♣ K 10 3</p>   | <p>9 Opener      Responder</p> <p>♠ A 8 7 6     ♠ 10 9 5 4 3 2</p> <p>♥ 9            ♥ J 7 3</p> <p>♦ K Q 10 3   ♦ 9 4</p> <p>♣ A K 8 2   ♣ Q 9</p>     |
| <p>10 Opener     Responder</p> <p>♠ K 9 7       ♠ Q 10 8 6 3 2</p> <p>♥ A 5         ♥ 9 6 3</p> <p>♦ A K 8 7     ♦ J 4</p> <p>♣ K J 10 5   ♣ 8 4</p>  | <p>11 Opener     Responder</p> <p>♠ A J 8 5 4   ♠ 10 9 7 6 3 2</p> <p>♥ 9 5 3       ♥ 6</p> <p>♦ —           ♦ K 10 4 3</p> <p>♣ A K Q 7 2 ♣ 8 4</p>    |
| <p>12 Opener     Responder</p> <p>♠ K Q 4       ♠ J 10 8 7 5 2</p> <p>♥ A K Q 10 9 ♥ 6 3</p> <p>♦ 7 3         ♦ Q 10 8</p> <p>♣ A 10 5     ♣ 9 4</p>  | <p>13 Opener     Responder</p> <p>♠ 2            ♠ K J 8 5 4 3</p> <p>♥ A K Q 5     ♥ 9 3</p> <p>♦ K J 8 7     ♦ 4</p> <p>♣ Q 8 7 4     ♣ 10 6 5 2</p>  |
| <p>14 Opener     Responder</p> <p>♠ A 8 7       ♠ 9 5 4</p> <p>♥ K 8         ♥ Q 9 7 5 4 3</p> <p>♦ A K J 7     ♦ 9 4</p> <p>♣ Q J 8 7     ♣ K 2</p>  |   |

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 20: WEAK JUMP SHIFTS - ANSWERS

- 1 No The hand is too strong.
- 2 No This hand is too weak but I have to admit that, not vulnerable, a 2♣ response is the kind of adventure that occasionally appeals to WJS addicts!
- 3 No Of course not – WJS's are only made in major suits, silly!
- 4 Yes A fair prototype for a WJS.
- 5 Yes Just right – suit quality should not be a real issue when considering a WJS.
- 6
- |                   |                 |   |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| Opener            | Responder       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Normal opening with 5-5 — open the higher-ranked suit.</li> <li>2. WJS.</li> <li>3. The disciplined and sensible thing to do. There's not enough compensating high card strength or extra suit length to go looking for a superior contract on this apparent misfit.</li> </ol> |
| 1♥ <sup>1</sup>   | 2♣ <sup>2</sup> |   |
| pass <sup>3</sup> |                 |   |

### *What Happened*

The opponents had been frozen out of the auction although they could make ten tricks in clubs. Further, 2♣ was hard to defend accurately, and the final result was only down one. Note that a 3♦ rebid would have located a fit but a trump lead and continuation (obvious) would have produced down three!

- 7
- |                 |           |  |
|-----------------|-----------|--|
| Opener          | Responder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The opponents must be able to make a lot of tricks in hearts and/or clubs! To make their task even more difficult, opener should make the preemptive re-raise to 3♠ and, since this is not invitational, responder should pass.</li> </ol> |
| 1♦              | 2♣        |  |
| 3♠ <sup>1</sup> | pass      |  |

### *What Happened*

The opponents were vulnerable versus not, and as a result were somewhat conservative in not getting into the auction sooner. They would certainly have reopened with a takeout double if opener had passed at his second turn, but the spade raise kept them out. Although 3♠ went down one trick, that was scant compensation for the sure game and possible small slam available to the non-bidders!

- 8
- |                  |                 |  |
|------------------|-----------------|--|
| Opener           | Responder       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Asking for a side feature.</li> <li>2. Club card.</li> </ol> |
| 1♦               | 2♣              |  |
| 2NT <sup>1</sup> | 3♣ <sup>2</sup> |  |
| 3NT              | pass            |  |

### *What Happened*

3NT made ten tricks on a heart lead when declarer forced out the club ace at Trick 2 and the defense couldn't untangle three spade tricks.

- 9
- |                 |           |   |
|-----------------|-----------|---|
| Opener          | Responder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The wealth of high cards looks like just enough, even not vulnerable, to give game a shot.</li> </ol> |
| 1♦              | 2♣        |   |
| 4♠ <sup>1</sup> | pass      |   |

### *What Happened*

4♠ just made when trumps split 2-1 and there was no defensive ruff available with the singleton honor. Aren't you glad you weren't either defending hearts or passed out in 1♦ — frequent results when this deal was played in a Regional Pairs game?

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 20: WEAK JUMP SHIFTS - ANSWERS (CONT'D)

- |    |                 |           |  |
|----|-----------------|-----------|--|
| 10 | Opener          | Responder | 1. Asks for shortness.<br>2. Shortness in hearts.<br>3. Wow – a perfect fit! |
|    | 1♦              | 2♠        |  |
|    | 4♠ <sup>1</sup> | pass      |  |

### *What Happened*

As it turned out, this contract depended on declarer guessing the location of the missing club honors (assuming they were split, otherwise it wouldn't matter). However, the opening leader, with little to go on, led a club from Q976 and declarer simply played for him not to have underled an ace.

- |    |                 |                 |   |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| 11 | Opener          | Responder       | 1. No money-back guarantees but great playing strength and a known nine-card fit. |
|    | 1♣              | 2♠              |   |
|    | 3♣ <sup>1</sup> | 3♥ <sup>2</sup> |   |
|    | 6♠ <sup>3</sup> | pass            |   |

### *What Happened*

One of my favorite 'system' hands of all time! Alas, the trumps were 2-0 and a heart lead would have meant down one but the lead was actually a diamond and declarer's heart loser disappeared on the clubs just in time. You'd have to ask our opponents why they weren't in the bidding but our teammates played in five hearts, down one on a club lead.

- |    |                 |           |   |
|----|-----------------|-----------|---|
| 12 | Opener          | Responder | 1. With a clear misfit, pass before anything more serious develops. |
|    | 1♥              | 2♠        |   |
|    | 4♠ <sup>1</sup> | pass      |   |

### *What Happened*

The defense led a diamond, took two diamond tricks and forced out the club ace. However, declarer simply ran the hearts now to discard his club and the defender short in hearts could find nothing lower to ruff in with than the trump ace!

- |    |                   |           |
|----|-------------------|-----------|
| 13 | Opener            | Responder |
|    | 1♦                | 2♠        |
|    | pass <sup>1</sup> |           |

### *What Happened*

This was not a pretty contract as both the spades and diamonds were stacked over our length in those suits, so the final result was a dismal down two vulnerable. However, this turned out to be not so bad in the comparison scoring when a popular contract was one diamond passed out and down four!

- |    |                  |                 |  |
|----|------------------|-----------------|--|
| 14 | Opener           | Responder       | 1. Asking for a feature.<br>2. Club card.<br>3. Since the fit was only eight cards and the great heart suit opener had been hoping for hasn't been delivered, he settles for 3♥. |
|    | 1♦               | 2♥              |  |
|    | 2NT <sup>1</sup> | 3♣ <sup>2</sup> |  |
|    | 3♥ <sup>3</sup>  | pass            |  |

### *What Happened*

Virtue was rewarded (of course!) when the defender over the strong hand held ♥AJ10 and even 3♥ was in jeopardy (but just made!).

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 21: NEW MINOR FORCING - QUESTIONS

Try to construct the auctions on these hands, using your new NMF weapon.

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Opener<br>♠ K 8 7<br>♥ Q J 9<br>♦ K 8 7<br>♣ Q J 9 2  | Responder<br>♠ A 9 5 4 2<br>♥ A 3 2<br>♦ A 9 2<br>♣ K 4  |
| 2 | Opener<br>♠ Q 4<br>♥ A J 8 7<br>♦ Q J 5 4<br>♣ K 9 3  | Responder<br>♠ A K 9 5 2<br>♥ K 9 3 2<br>♦ K 10 2<br>♣ 6 |
| 3 | Opener<br>♠ K 8 7<br>♥ 9 2<br>♦ A 9 3<br>♣ A K 10 6 4 | Responder<br>♠ Q 9 2<br>♥ A K 10 7 5<br>♦ K 4<br>♣ Q 7 5 |
| 4 | Opener<br>♠ Q 9 5<br>♥ Q 4<br>♦ K J 9 5 4<br>♣ A 9 5  | Responder<br>♠ 8 7<br>♥ A J 8 7<br>♦ 2<br>♣ 10 9 8 7 6 4 |
| 5 | Opener<br>♠ Q 7 6<br>♥ 7 6<br>♦ A K 9 6 5<br>♣ K Q 3  | Responder<br>♠ K J 10 4<br>♥ A K J 5<br>♦ Q 4<br>♣ A J 7 |

# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 21: NEW MINOR FORCING - ANSWERS

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1 | Opener<br>1♣<br>1NT<br>2♣ <sup>2</sup><br>pass | Responder<br>1♠<br>2♦ <sup>1</sup><br>4♣ <sup>3</sup>  | 1. NMF.<br>2. 3-card support.<br>3. Thank you.  |
| 2 | Opener<br>1♦<br>1NT<br>2♥ <sup>2</sup><br>pass | Responder<br>1♠<br>2♣ <sup>1</sup><br>4♥ <sup>3</sup>  | 1. NMF.<br>2. I have four hearts without three spades.<br>3. Looks like the right game and that's all I was interested in exploring.  |
| 3 | Opener<br>1♣<br>1NT<br>3♣ <sup>2</sup><br>pass | Responder<br>1♥<br>2♦ <sup>1</sup><br>3NT <sup>3</sup> | 1. NMF.<br>2. Good five-card club suit without three hearts.<br>3. Thanks but no thanks, let's play the obvious game.   |
| 4 | Opener<br>1♦<br>1NT<br>pass                    | Responder<br>1♥<br>3♣ <sup>1</sup>                     | 1. Natural and to play, with a weak hand.   |
| 5 | Opener<br>1♦<br>1NT<br>6NT <sup>2</sup>        | Responder<br>1♥<br>4NT <sup>1</sup><br>pass            | 1. After opener's rebid, responder knows there is no suit fit worth pursuing so he invites slam in notrump with a purely quantitative raise of notrump (more about this kind of thing in my next book!).<br>2. Opener accepts with his maximum and good diamond suit. |



# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 22: INGBERMAN OVER REVERSES - QUESTIONS

What is your next bid in each case?

1 ♠ K Q 9 2  
♥ 9 4 2  
♦ 5 4 3  
♣ J 10 2

| Partner | You |
|---------|-----|
| 1♦      | 1♠  |
| 2♥      | ?   |

2 ♠ K J 8 4  
♥ 8 4  
♦ J 9 6 5  
♣ A 8 6

| Partner | You |
|---------|-----|
| 1♦      | 1♠  |
| 2♥      | ?   |

3 ♠ K Q 9 4 3 2  
♥ 9 4  
♦ J 8 3  
♣ 10 9

| Partner | You |
|---------|-----|
| 1♣      | 1♠  |
| 2♥      | ?   |

4 ♠ K 10 9 4 3  
♥ 9 5  
♦ J 7  
♣ A 8 7 2

| Partner | You |
|---------|-----|
| 1♦      | 1♠  |
| 2♥      | ?   |

5 ♠ Q 8 7 6  
♥ 7 5  
♦ 10 4 2  
♣ K J 8 4

| Partner | You |
|---------|-----|
| 1♦      | 1♠  |
| 2♥      | ?   |

6 ♠ 6  
♥ A K Q 6 5  
♦ A K Q J 7 2  
♣ 9

| You | Partner |
|-----|---------|
| 1♦  | 1♠      |
| 2♥  | 2NT     |
| ?   |         |

7 ♠ 7  
♥ Q J 10 2  
♦ A K Q 4 3  
♣ K Q 4

| You | Partner |
|-----|---------|
| 1♦  | 1♠      |
| 2♥  | 2NT     |
| ?   |         |

8 ♠ 8 7  
♥ A Q 10 2  
♦ K 7  
♣ A K J 7 6

| You | Partner |
|-----|---------|
| 1♣  | 1♠      |
| 2♥  | 2NT     |
| ?   |         |

9 ♠ K 10 3  
♥ A Q J 10  
♦ A K J 7 6  
♣ 9

| You | Partner |
|-----|---------|
| 1♣  | 1♠      |
| 2♥  | 2NT     |
| ?   |         |

10 ♠ 9  
♥ A K J 10  
♦ A K Q 9 6 5 3  
♣ Q

| You | Partner |
|-----|---------|
| 1♦  | 1♠      |
| 2♥  | 2NT     |
| ?   |         |



## 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

### STEP 22: INGBERMAN OVER REVERSES - ANSWERS

- 1 2NT You will sign off in 3♦ unless partner shows something extra.
- 2 3♦ For now just tell partner about your diamond support. Remember that this is game-forcing since you didn't go through Ingberman 2NT.
- 3 2NT You intend to rebid 3♠ and play there. If you play 2♠ as non-forcing, you would bid this instead. Also, if you play WJS (Step 20), you would have bid 2♠ in the first place and got this hand off your chest!
- 4 2♠ Natural and forward-going (unless you've agreed it isn't, in which case use the 2NT gadget here and rebid 3♠).
- 5 2NT You'll get out in 3♦ unless partner has extras.
- 6 3♥ Much too much to obey partner and bid 3♣ – he might be planning to pass! Your rebid promises five hearts, and therefore at least six diamonds.
- 7 3♣ A good hand, but not enough to force to game opposite a 6-count.
- 8 3♣ Again, a good hand, but not enough to force to game opposite a 6-count. Discipline!
- 9 3♠ Too much to go quietly with 3♣ this time, especially with the spade fit. If partner has five spades, you must be a favorite to make 4♠.
- 10 4♦ A strong hand with lots of diamonds – a simple, natural bid.



# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 23: OVER A TAKEOUT DOUBLE - QUESTIONS

Pick your response to partner's indicated opening bid in each case:

**1** ♠ K J 8 7  
♥ Q 4 3  
♦ 8 7  
♣ 10 6 4 3

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ pass ?

**2** ♠ K J 8 7  
♥ Q 4 3  
♦ 8 7  
♣ 10 6 4 3

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ dbl ?

**3** ♠ K J 8 7  
♥ Q 4 3  
♦ 8 7  
♣ 10 6 4 3

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♦ pass ?

**4** ♠ K J 8 7  
♥ Q 4 3  
♦ 8 7  
♣ 10 6 4 3

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♦ dbl ?

**5** ♠ 5 4  
♥ A Q 4 3  
♦ K Q 9 4  
♣ J 9 6

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ pass ?

**6** ♠ 5 4  
♥ A Q 4 3  
♦ K Q 9 4  
♣ J 9 6

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ dbl ?

**7** ♠ 5 4  
♥ A Q 4 3  
♦ K Q 9 4  
♣ J 9 6

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♦ pass ?

**8** ♠ 5 4  
♥ A Q 4 3  
♦ K Q 9 4  
♣ J 9 6

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♦ dbl ?

**9** ♠ 9  
♥ K 7 4  
♦ 6 4 2  
♣ K Q 10 6 5 4

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ pass ?

**10** ♠ 9  
♥ K 7 4  
♦ 6 4 2  
♣ K Q 10 6 5 4

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ dbl ?



# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 23: OVER A TAKEOUT DOUBLE - QUESTIONS (CONT'D)

**11** ♠ 9  
♥ K 7 4  
♦ 6 4 2  
♣ K Q 10 6 5 4

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♦ pass ?

**13** ♠ 8  
♥ K J 9 2  
♦ A Q J 10 2  
♣ K 8 4

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ pass ?

**15** ♠ 8  
♥ K J 9 2  
♦ A Q J 10 2  
♣ K 8 4

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♦ pass ?

**17** ♠ K J 7 6  
♥ 6 2  
♦ A Q 4 3  
♣ 10 4 2

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ pass ?

**19** ♠ K J 7 6  
♥ 6 2  
♦ A Q 4 3  
♣ 10 4 2

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♦ pass ?

**12** ♠ 9  
♥ K 7 4  
♦ 6 4 2  
♣ K Q 10 6 5 4

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♦ dbl ?

**14** ♠ 8  
♥ K J 9 2  
♦ A Q J 10 2  
♣ K 8 4

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ dbl ?

**16** ♠ 8  
♥ K J 9 2  
♦ A Q J 10 2  
♣ K 8 4

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♦ dbl ?

**18** ♠ K J 7 6  
♥ 6 2  
♦ A Q 4 3  
♣ 10 4 2

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ dbl ?

**20** ♠ K J 7 6  
♥ 6 2  
♦ A Q 4 3  
♣ 10 4 2

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♦ dbl ?



## 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

### STEP 23: OVER A TAKEOUT DOUBLE - ANSWERS

- 1 1NT Forcing one round, weak raise will be shown on next round.
- 2 2♠ 6-9 HCP, 3- or 4-card support.
- 3 1♠ Natural 1-over-1 up the line response.
- 4 Pass Discretion is the better part of valor (sometimes!).
- 5 1NT Forcing 1 round.
- 6 Redbl I smell blood and I hope it's theirs!
- 7 1♥ Natural 1-over-1, forcing one round.
- 8 Redbl If you don't bid 1♥ here, you may lose a heart fit to the opponents' possible spade bidding, while if you don't redouble you may have a hard time convincing partner you have this much strength. On balance, with a queen more than a minimum, go ahead and redouble and hope the hearts look after themselves!
- 9 1NT Forcing 1 round.
- 10 2♣ Natural and non-forcing.
- 11 1NT No other choice, as you're too weak for a game-forcing 2♣.
- 12 3♣ Preemptive — put it to them!
- 13 2♦ Natural and game-forcing.
- 14 Redbl 10+ HCP, possibly heading for penalty versus opponents.
- 15 1♥ Natural 1-over-1 up the line response.
- 16 Redbl Similar to Problem 8 but with substantial extra strength this time and a strain to go to (diamonds) if all else fails.
- 17 3♦ A Bergen limit raise.
- 18 3♦ A Bergen limit raise.
- 19 1♠ Natural 1-over-1 up the line response.
- 20 1♠ Not enough overall strength to plan to redouble and introduce spades later on as that would be forcing.



# 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

## STEP 24: THE OPPONENTS OVERCALL - QUESTIONS

What is your next bid with each of the following hands?

**1** ♠ A Q 5 4  
♥ K Q 3  
♦ 8 7 6 5  
♣ 10 3

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ pass ?

**2** ♠ A Q 5 4  
♥ K Q 3  
♦ 8 7 6 5  
♣ 10 3

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ 2♦ ?

**3** ♠ Q 3  
♥ K J 10 2  
♦ 5 4 3  
♣ A J 7 6

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ pass ?

**4** ♠ Q 3  
♥ K J 10 2  
♦ 5 4 3  
♣ A J 7 6

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ 2♦ ?

**5** ♠ 5 4  
♥ K J 7  
♦ K J 7 6  
♣ K 10 3 2

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ pass ?

**6** ♠ 5 4  
♥ K J 7  
♦ K J 7 6  
♣ K 10 3 2

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ 2♦ ?

**7** ♠ 6  
♥ A 7 6  
♦ K Q J 9 3  
♣ J 10 5 3

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ pass ?

**8** ♠ 6  
♥ A 7 6  
♦ K Q J 9 3  
♣ J 10 5 3

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ 2♦ ?

**9** ♠ A K 8 4  
♥ K 7  
♦ 9 6 5 4  
♣ A Q 3

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ pass ?

**10** ♠ A K 8 4  
♥ K 7  
♦ 9 6 5 4  
♣ A Q 3

Partner Oppt. You Oppt.  
1♠ 2♦ ?



## 25 STEPS TO LEARNING 2/1

### STEP 24: THE OPPONENTS OVERCALL - ANSWERS

- 1 3♦ A 4-card limit raise of spades with 10-12 HCP.
- 2 3♦ Also to show a limit raise via a cuebid. Note this neither promises nor delivers a control in diamonds.
- 3 1NT A one-round force.
- 4 Dbl A negative double showing competitive values and support for the unbid suits — most particularly hearts, the unbid major in this auction.
- 5 1NT A one-round force.
- 6 2NT 11-12 HCP, natural and invitational with diamonds stopped. While you might pass and seek an eventual penalty (see Problem 8) your diamond length is a little suspect for that action — but it could work out!
- 7 1NT A one-round force.
- 8 Pass This is the type of hand you love to hold when they've overcalled. In line with negative double practices, you're hoping your partner can reopen the auction with double (for takeout) and you will pass for penalties, blood (theirs) and pleasure (yours).
- 9 2NT A Jacoby forcing raise of spades.
- 10 3♦ Initially showing at least a limit raise of spades, an impression you will correct subject to how the rest of the auction unfolds. For the time being, partner will at least know of the fit if not the total strength of your hand.

