

Blog Example 002

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The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface with the following elements:

- Deal:** A box labeled 'D' containing the number 17.
- North (N):** Hand with ♠ 76, ♥ A82, ♦ Q7652, ♣ J82. Score 22.
- West (W):** Hand with ♠ KJ985, ♥ J6, ♦ J9, ♣ 10964. Score 4+.
- East (E):** Hand with ♠ 43, ♥ KQ109543, ♦ A104, ♣ K. Score 4+.
- South (S):** Hand with ♠ AQ102, ♥ 7, ♦ K83, ♣ AQ753. Score 7.
- Bidding Log:** A table showing the bidding sequence:

	W	N	E	S
		Pass	1♥	Dbl
	1♠	2♦	2♥	3♦
	Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
	Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
- Score:** A box showing 0 for West and 0 for East.
- Contract:** A box showing 3♥x East.

What is the bidding error(s) above?

3♦ is incorrect. Every other bid is 100% correct. If South doubles and bids 3♦, North would be a fool not to double 3♥.

The proper bidding is as follows.

W	N	E	S
	P	1♥	Dbl
1♠	2♦	2♥	PASS!!!!
P	3♦	3♥	P
P	P		

The double is the most misunderstood bid there is.

A double has the following:

- Two cards or fewer of the doubled suit
- Three or four cards in every unbid suit.
- An unbid five-card minor is fine.
- There is no unbid suit of two cards or fewer.

Can a double have two of an unbid suit?

Yes, with a suit of his own and 18+

A hand with three cards or more of the doubled suit passes unless a 1NT overcall is appropriate or 18+ is held.

If a player passes with points because he has the wrong shape, he will not explode. Trust me. Try it, and you will discover I am right.

What are the point ranges?

W	N	E	S
	P	1♥	Dbl
1♠	2♦		5 to 7
	3♦		8 to a bad 12
	Dbl		four spades with 8+
	2♥		a good 12 or more

Is South's hand a static 15 HCP?

No, after 1♠ by West, South has 13 HCP.

South doubles and passes from then on unless North cuebids. North saw the double, and South need not remind his partner that he has a double.

A player tells the story once.

The following hand happened at my Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club in Warfield.

W	N	E	S
1♣	dbl	P	1♥
1♠	P	P	P

South asked North, “Why did you not bid 2♥?”

“Because I do not have 18+”

“But how do I know you have four hearts if you do not bid 2♥?”

“My initial double showed that. I do not bid a minimum hand more than once.”

Balancing:

A player can pass with points and the wrong shape, but his partner must not allow the opponents to play at the one or two-level if he is short in the opponent’s suit. In other words, he bids with the correct shape and his partner’s points.

If the auction is passing out at 2♠ or lower, partner has points if you do not. Shape drives the bidding.

How weak can a hand be that balances?

A couple of entries would be nice. Notice that the answer is not in HCP. However, a hand of five-points or less rarely takes the initiative. If you cannot respond to a 1♣ opening by partner, you usually do not mind defending.

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