

Passed hand bidding

- 1) Negative inferences from failure to open
- 2) Negative inferences from failure to overcall
- 3) Passing then bidding
- 4) Passing then doubling

Uncontested auction

- 1) Drury
- 2) Fit Jumps

Contested auction

- 1) Responses to bids and overcalls
- 2) Fit non-jumps (facing overcalls/preempts)

Passed hand bidding

Do we open preemptively whenever we have the right shape? If so the failure to open means we will never have a good long suit or we would have opened. If we don't have a good enough suit to open, how can we want to preempt later?

Remember; a preempt works best when you get in first – so if you don't open, why bid later when the opponents already know too much?

Which hand is consistent with:

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

Do we overcall at the one-level on little more than a wing and a prayer? Do we overcall preemptively when it is our turn to speak? If so, our failure to act, coupled with a later re-entrance into the auction will be one of two hand-types. If partner has overcalled, we show fit or decent tolerance for partner, together with length and/or strength in the bid suit.

Which hand is consistent with:

1♦	Pass	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♣		

(1)	(2)	(3)
♠ J 9 3	♠ 3 2	♠ Q 9 4
♥ 4	♥ Q 9 4	♥ Q 7 4
♦ J 7 2	♦ J 7 2	♦ J 7
♣ K Q 10 8 7 6	♣ K Q 10 8 4	♣ K 10 8 7 6

If partner has NOT bid, an initial pass followed by bidding in a live auction shows real length in the opponents' suit. Delayed no-trump calls in live auctions should be unusual, but one of the suits will be declarer's first bid suit.

Most but by no means all experts play the following doubles as penalty based on length in RHO's suit; do you?

1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Dbl.		
1♦	Pass	Pass	1♠/1NT/Dbl.
2♦	Dbl.		

And what about the following:

1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Dbl.		

Presumably this is take out of clubs with length in diamonds. But what does it say about spades? I'd assume the auction suggested the red-suits.

Which hand is consistent with:

1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dbl.		

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

1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	2♣		

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

1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass
 1NT Dbl.

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

Which hand is consistent with:

1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass
 2♠ 2NT

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

The Uncontested Auction

In the section that follows, 'M' stands for the major-suit opened.

REVERSE DRURY:

Opener's responses, no interference:

2M = no game interest.

2♦ = only game try

(Then after Pass-1M-2♣-2♦-2M: 2M+1 = unspecified singleton, game try, next suit asks. In the same sequence: higher bids by opener = long suit game try)

2♥ (if opener's suit is ♠) 4+4+ non-forcing.

2M+1 by opener at 2nd turn, over Drury = unspecified singleton, slam try, next suit asks. Higher bids = long suit slam try.

3M GF -- slam-try; asks Q-bid of 1st round control.

Opener's responses after interference:

Pass = weak; rebid of 2M = extra length, not invitational.

Responder's continuations:

After 1♠-2♣-2♦: 2♥ by responder = 5♥, 3♠.

New suit by responder after 1M-2♣-2♦ = help suit game try. (Also applies (but very rarely!) after Pass-1M-2♣-2M – this would be four trumps plus extra shape 10-11).

Pass-1M-3M is five trumps 6-9 or 4 trumps extra shape not suitable for fit jump. Opener should be able to relay to ask his partner for side-suit shortage, or make a help-suit slam-try.

Passed Hand Jump Shifts facing a major-suit opening:

3♣:	6+ card club suit, invitational values.
2NT:	5+ card good club suit, 4+ card support for opener.
other jumps:	Fit showing; forcing to three of the major

Opener's rebid:

After your partner passes you open the bidding in third seat with one spade in the first instance, one heart in the second two. What do you rebid after Drury?

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

- 1) 2♥ shows both majors, weak – no game interest. Always bid 2♦ when you have game interest – this hand is at the minimum end of the spectrum and you will pass a reversion to 2♥ from partner, which would deny extras.
- 2) With a slam-try and short spades you make a call higher than 2♥ at your first opportunity. The suggested approach is that calls of 2NT, 3♣ and 38D* are long-suit slam tries, 2♠ initiates a short-suit slam-try. Partner bids 2NT to ask you where your shortage is.

After your partner passes you open the bidding in third seat with one spade what do you rebid after using Drury?

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

- 1) When the auction starts 1♠ - 2♣ - 2♦: this is a perfect 2♥ call, showing this precise pattern in the majors. Pass a sign-off to 2♠, of course.
- 2) Use a fit jump to 3♥ not Drury (fooled you!)

- 3) Drury followed by a 3♥ advance over a 2♠ sign-off will get your values across – but don't be surprised to go down in 3♠!

The contested auction; bids by passed hand facing an opening or overcall

As soon as we pass partner will not play us a for a single-suiter; so when he bids and we take high-level action (even a jump to game in a new suit) promises fit.

Pass Pass 3♣ Dbl.
3♥

In my book this is a raise to 4♣ asking for a heart lead – in just the same way that it would be without your Right Hand Opponent's double. And a jump to 4♥ would not be a trap pass, it would be good hearts and real club support.

More controversial is this auction:

Pass Pass 1♠ 2♥
2♠ 3♣

Does this guarantee spade tolerance? It does in my book but I admit that if I had passed:

♠ ---
♥ K 4
♦ K 7 5 4
♣ A 9 6 5 4 3 2

I'd feel awkwardly placed now.

Most of the passes we have looked at refer to staying silent at your first turn to speak, when partner has not had a chance to speak, or has stayed silent. But an important class of hands arise when you have passed in competition facing an opening bid, and then come back in. Consider that passed hand bidding 2NT as unusual comes up in more positions than you'd expect. For example:

1♦ 1♠ Pass 2♠
Pass Pass 2NT

This surely cannot be natural, and you can't hold hearts or you would double to start with. So it must be the minors – and yet you can't have four diamonds or you would have raised initially. Maybe a hand such as:

♠ J 7 4
♥ 8 4
♦ Q 10 4
♣ K Q 9 6 3 is possible?

Equally, whenever both you and your partner have passed at your first turn to speak you can't sensibly want to declare 2NT. Consider:

1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl.
Pass	2NT		

This sounds like take-out, oriented to the minors. Why not:

♠ Q 6 4
♥ K 3
♦ K 8 6 4 2
♣ Q 6 4

Or even a hand 4-4 in the minors in case the doubler is a little off shape.