

The Advancer (part 4): ABC

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1 The situation: LHO opens a suit; partner overcalls; RHO bids a third suit. Ex: (1♦)-1♠-(2♣)-?

1.1 Take stock of the situation:

1.1.1 LHO probably has a reasonably good suit and 12 or more points.

1.1.2 Partner probably has five or more of his/her suit and 8 or more points.

1.1.3 RHO probably has five or more of his/her suit and 10 or more points.

1.2 What is left for you? What if either side was vulnerable or if the bids were higher?

1.3 There are two cue bids available. The “cheaper” one is the one that you can do at the lower level. In the example, 2♦ is cheaper than 3♣.

2 If you have support:

2.1 You should raise (or the equivalent) if you have at least three-card support.

2.2 What does the cue bid mean? Which one should you use?

2.2.1 Partnership agreement. Could deny support. Another possibility:

2.2.2 Cheaper: shows nearly all the remaining points and three-card support.

2.2.3 Other: shows nearly all the remaining points and four-card support.

2.3 What does the double mean?

2.3.1 Partnership agreement. Could deny support. Another possibility:

2.3.2 George Rosenkranz, most interesting bridge player ever.

2.3.2.1 Rosenkranz Double shows three-card support plus ace or king.

2.3.2.2 Reverse (no ace or king).

3 If you don't have support:

3.1 Pass is the most common choice. Opponents may not have a fit.

3.2 If you have the fourth suit, you can bid it. The bid shows”

3.2.1 At least five pieces.

3.2.2 Most of the remaining points.

3.3 Double is **not takeout**. One possibility is a Snapdragon Double:

3.3.1 Shows tolerance for partner's suit and a good suit. Some require six pieces.

3.3.2 Bidding the suit directly then denies tolerance for partner's suit.

4 What does 2NT mean?

4.1 Without agreement, it shows all the remaining points plus stoppers in both opponents' suits plus two of partner's suit. Is this even possible?

4.2 Good-Bad 2NT.

5 If RHO had made a negative double, similar principles apply.

Next week: The balancing seat.