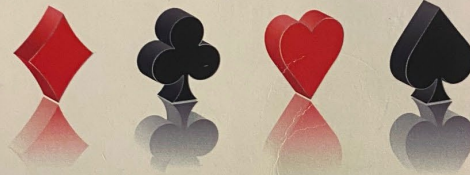


Mel's Two Rules of 23

**How You Can Play
Like an Expert
(Without Having to Be One)**



**Mel's 21st Century Rules
and Other Guidelines
for Playing Winning Bridge
at Your Level and Above**

by
Mel Colchamiro
National Swiss Team Champion
Noted Author and Teacher

The Law of 23

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- If your side has at least 23 hcp you have the Balance of Power (BOP)

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- If you don't, you don't.

The Rules of 23

- If your side has at least 23 hcp you have the Balance of Power (BOP)

If you know your side has at least 23 hcp and the opponents “have the bid,” you have only two options! Double or bid on! Pass is not an option!!

- If you don't, you don't.

Avoid bidding a natural/balanced 2NT unless you know your side has at least 23 hcp.

If you know your side has at least 23 hcp and the opponents “have the bid,” you have only two options!
Double or bid on! Pass is not an option!!

- Do not allow it to be passed out.
- If you are in the direct seat, and you have values partner doesn't know about, tell them. If you have fully told your story, and partner also knows your side has 23+, it's okay to pass and leave it up to partner.
- If you are in the balancing seat, you **MUST** bid or double.

If you know your side has at least 23 hcp and the opponents “have the bid,” you have only two options!
Double or bid on! Pass is not an option!!

- This works well with the Law of Total Tricks:
 - Total tricks is usually approximately equal to the total number of trumps; it's usually safe bid to the level of the number of trumps you have.
 - If they bid 1M 2M don't let them play it there; if they have a fit, you have a fit.
 - Don't bid 3/3 without extra values (23+) or extra trump (9+ fit).
 - The five level belongs to the opponents.

The Muddled State of Doubles

- Penalty
- Takeout
- Negative
- Support
- Maximal
- Redouble
- Responsive
- BOP
- Value showing
- DSI

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Humpty Dumpty:

“It means just what I choose it to mean, neither more nor less.”

Partner, I have enough to bid. I can't pass but I don't know what to do, so do something intelligent.



The Muddled State of Doubles

- Penalty:
 - 1H (1NT) X (penalty, we have BOP)
 - 2S (3C) X (penalty)
- Responsive double*:
 - (1D) X (2D) X (majors)
 - (1H) X (2H) X (minors; denies 4 spades)
 - (1S) 2H (2S) X (minors; denies support)
- Snapdragon double**:
 - (1C) 1D (1H) X (spades, tolerance for D)
 - (1D) 1S (2C) X (hearts, tolerance for S)
 - (1H) 2C (2D) 2S (spades, denies tolerance for C)

[*Responsive Double Bridge Convention - Bidding and Responses](#)

[**Snapdragon Double Bridge Convention - Bidding and Responses](#)

The Muddled State of Doubles

- Penalty
 - Takeout
 - Negative
 - Support
 - Maximal
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 - Responsive
 - BOP
 - Value showing
 - DSI
- 

Humpty Dumpty:

“It means just what I choose it to mean, neither more nor less.”

Partner, I have enough to bid. I can't pass but I don't know what to do, so do something intelligent.

What does south bid?

The image shows a bridge game interface with a green background. In the top left, a red and white card with the number '2' and a 'D' is shown. The top center has a grey box with an 'N' label. The top right has a blue button with three white horizontal lines. The center of the screen displays a bidding sequence table with four columns labeled W, N, E, and S. The sequence is: W passes, N bids 2♠, E bids 3♦, and S bids 3♠. To the right of the S column, the text 'Pass 1♥' is visible. Below the bidding sequence, a grey box with an 'E' label is shown. The bottom center shows South's hand, labeled 'S JACKMILLER' with a score of 38. The hand is: ♠ J, ♥ AQJ765, ♦ 42, and ♣ AK105. The bottom right has a blue box with two '0' scores.

W	N	E	S
Pass			1♥
	2♠	3♦	3♠
			??

S JACKMILLER 38

♠ J
♥ AQJ765
♦ 42
♣ AK105

0 0

BBO Carolina 799er 4/30/26



What does the double show?
What does north bid?

The image shows a digital bridge game interface. In the top left, a card with the number '2' and a small 'D' is shown. The top center displays North's hand: ♠7, ♥K8, ♦AQ10653, and ♣J862. The top right has a blue menu button. The center of the screen shows the bidding sequence: West passes, North bids 1♥, East passes, South bids 2♠, West bids 3♦, North bids 3♠, East passes, South bids 'Dbl', and West bids '??'. The bottom center shows South's name 'JACKMILLER' and a score of 38. The bottom right shows a score of 0 for both sides.

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♥
2♠	3♦	3♠	Dbl
Pass	??		

Now, what does south do?

A screenshot of a Bridge game interface. The interface shows a bidding sequence in the center, with North and South's hands visible. The bidding sequence is as follows:

W	N	E	S
			Pass 1♥
			2♠ 3♦ 3♠ Dbl
			Pass 4♥ PassPass
			4♠ PassPass ??

South's hand is shown below the bidding sequence:

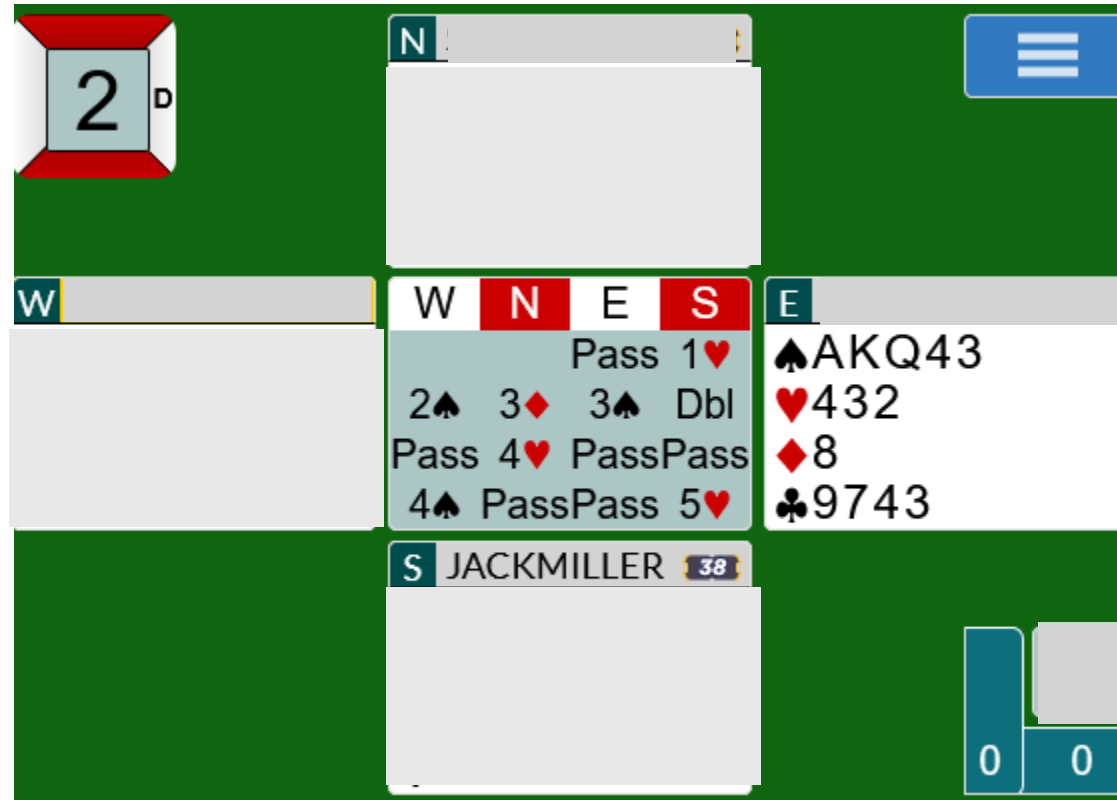
S JACKMILLER 38

♠ J
♥ AQJ765
♦ 42
♣ AK105

The interface also includes a score display in the bottom right corner showing 0-0, and a menu button in the top right corner.

BBO Carolina 799er 4/30/26

For South pass was not a option.
After West and North pass, what does East do?



For South, pass was not an option: 14%
 For East, LOTT and vulnerability says bid 5S.

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	12	11	12	4	7
S	12	11	12	4	7
E	0	1	0	9	0
W	0	1	0	9	0

Par Score: 500
 Par: EW 6♠x-3

No one bid the slam
 in the open game or
 the 3000 game

2

D

N

♠ 7

♥ K8

♦ AQ10653

♣ J862

W

♠ 1098652

♥ 109

♦ KJ97

♣ Q

S JACKMILLER 38

♠ J

♥ AQJ765

♦ 42

♣ AK105

☰

W

Pass 1♥

2♠ 3♦ 3♠ Dbl

Pass 4♥ PassPass

4♠ PassPass 5♥

E

♠ AKQ43

♥ 432

♦ 8

♣ 9743

E

5♥ South

0 0

For South, pass was not an option: 14%
 For East, LOTT and vulnerability says bid 5S.

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	12	11	12	4	7
S	12	11	12	4	7
E	0	1	0	9	0
W	0	1	0	9	0

Par Score: 500
 Par: EW 6♠x-3

No one bid the slam
 in the open game or
 the 3000 game

2

D

N

♠ 7

♥ K8

♦ AQ10653

♣ J862

W

♠ 1098652

♥ 109

♦ KJ97

♣ Q

S JACKMILLER 38

♠ J

♥ AQJ765

♦ 42

♣ AK105

≡

W N E S

Pass 1♥

2♠ 3♦ 3♠ Dbl

Pass 4♥ PassPass

4♠ PassPass 5♥

E

♠ AKQ43

♥ 432

♦ 8

♣ 9743

5♥

South

0 0

Pass:
 4S-1 14%

Double:
 4SX-1 33%

Bid 5H 61%
 5H+1 83%

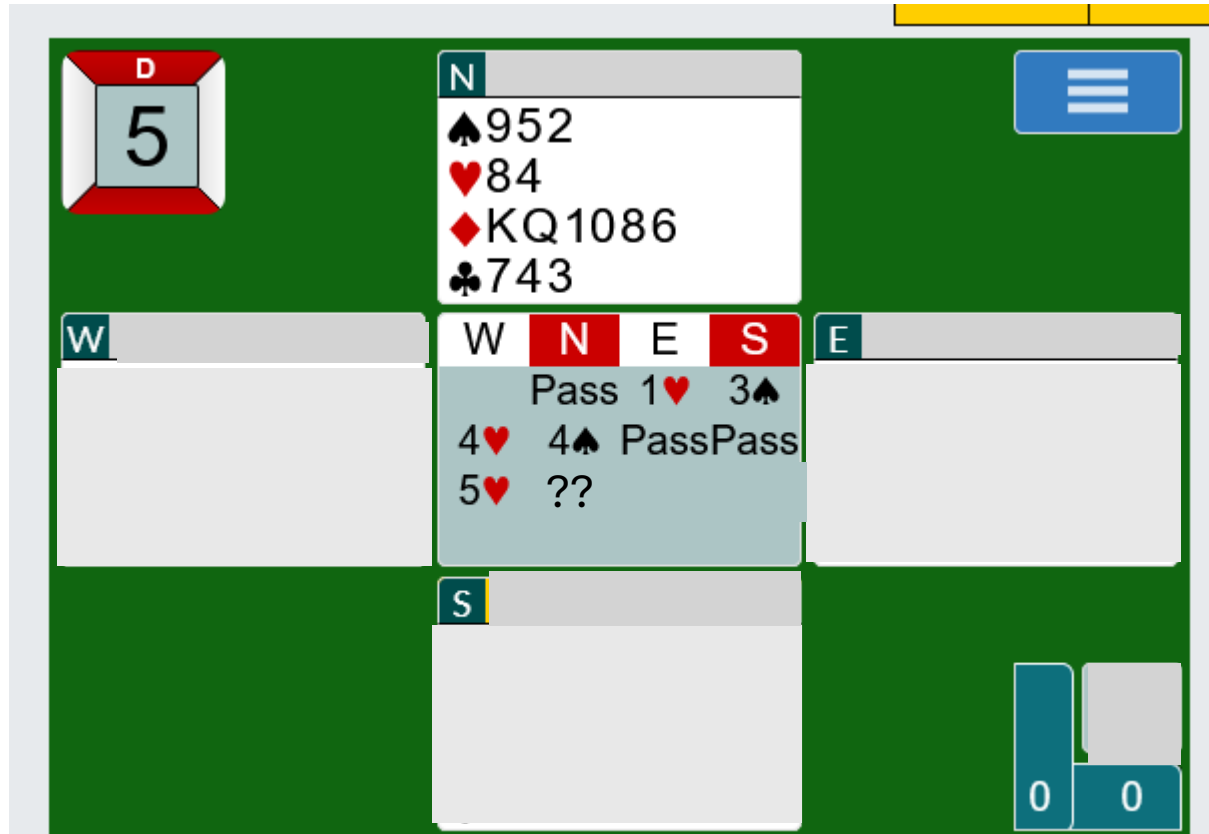
East bids 5S:
 5SX-2 ~50%

What does west do?

The interface shows a bridge game in progress. The layout is as follows:

- Top Left:** A red button with a white 'D' and the number '5'.
- Top Center:** A grey box with a blue 'N' label.
- Top Right:** A blue button with a white menu icon.
- Left Hand (West):** A white box with a blue 'W' label containing the following cards:
 - ♠ 8
 - ♥ AQ72
 - ♦ J92
 - ♣ AQ1085
- Center:** A grey box with a blue 'W' label, a red 'N' label, a red 'E' label, and a red 'S' label. The text inside is:
 - Pass 1♥ 3♠
 - 4♥ 4♠ PassPass
 - ??
- Right Hand (East):** A grey box with a blue 'E' label.
- Bottom Center:** A grey box with a blue 'S' label.
- Bottom Right:** Two blue boxes, each containing the number '0'.

What does north do?
(The five level belongs to the opponents.)



West must bid 5H or double 4S. Pass is not an option.

ACBL card table interface showing a bridge hand. The table has four seats: North (N), South (S), West (W), and East (E). North's hand is shown: ♠952, ♥84, ♦KQ1086, ♣743. West's hand is shown: ♠8, ♥AQ72, ♦J92, ♣AQ1085. South's hand is shown: ♠AQ107643, ♥J5, ♦74, ♣J9. East's hand is shown: ♠KJ, ♥K10963, ♦A53, ♣K62. A double (D) is shown on the table with the number 5. The score is 0-0. The player JACKMILLER is at South. The board is 5♥ East.

EW 6H
NS 2S

	NS	EW
West passes 4S:		
4S-2 200	95%	5%

	NS	EW
West bids or doubles:		
5H 450	92%	8%
5H+1 480	49%	51%
4SX-2 500	7%	93%

	NS	EW
N/S bid 5S:		
5SX-3 800	4%	96%

The five level belongs to the opponents

What does North do?

D 16		N ♠ A9742 ♥ 6542 ♦ KQ ♣ 76	W P 2♦	N P ??	E 1♠	S 1NT
W			E			
		S				

Newtown Open, BBO, 5/16/26

Pass was not an option

D 16

N

♠ A9742
♥ 6542
♦ KQ
♣ 76

W	N	E	S
P	P	1♠	1NT
2♦	P	P	P

W

♠
♥ K109
♦ J108642
♣ Q1084

E

♠ QJ863
♥ 873
♦ 73
♣ AK9

S

♠ K105
♥ AQJ
♦ A95
♣ J532

2♦ W NS: 0 EW: 0

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	6	5	8	8	8
S	6	5	8	8	8
E	6	8	5	4	5
W	6	8	5	4	5

Par Score: 120
Par: NS 2NT

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	6	5	8	8	8
S	6	5	8	8	8
E	6	8	5	4	5
W	6	8	5	4	5

Par Score: 120
Par: NS 2NT

Newtown Open, BBO, 5/16/26

Pass was not an option

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	6	5	8	8	8
S	6	5	8	8	8
E	6	8	5	4	5
W	6	8	5	4	5

Par Score: 120

Par: NS 2NT

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	6	5	8	8	8
S	6	5	8	8	8
E	6	8	5	4	5
W	6	8	5	4	5

Par Score: 120
Par: NS 2NT

D 16	N ♠ A9742 ♥ 6542 ♦ KQ ♣ 76	<table> <tr> <th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr> <td>P</td><td>P</td><td>1♠</td><td>1NT</td></tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	P	1♠	1NT	2♦	P	P	P
	W	N	E	S										
P	P	1♠	1NT											
2♦	P	P	P											
W ♠ K109 ♥ K109 ♦ J108642 ♣ Q1084	E ♠ QJ863 ♥ 873 ♦ 73 ♣ AK9													
S ♠ K105 ♥ AQJ ♦ A95 ♣ J532	2♦ W NS: 0 EW: 0													

Pass:
2DW 18%

Double:
2DXW 0%
2HS 73%

Bid:
2SN 73%
2NTS 82%

Top score NS
2SXE-2 100%

What should west do?

The image shows a Bridge game interface. In the top left, a double indicator shows 'D 12'. The player 'N jackmiller' is at the top with a score of 38. The bidding sequence is shown in the center: West passes, North bids 1♦, East bids 1♠, and South bids 2♠. West's hand is displayed on the left: ♠9854, ♥Q7532, ♦7, and ♣732. The bottom right shows a score of 0-0. A menu button is in the top right.

D 12

N jackmiller 38

W N E S

Pass 1♦ 1♠ 2♠

??

W

♠9854
♥Q7532
♦7
♣732

E

S

0 0

West doubled. What should I do?

The image shows a Bridge game interface. In the top left, a double box shows 'D 12'. The North player, 'jackmiller', has a hand of: ♠ 103, ♥ A J 10 9, ♦ A 10 6 4 3, and ♣ A 8. The bidding sequence is shown in the center: West passes, North bids 1♦, East bids 1♠, and South bids 2♠. West has just doubled. The interface includes a menu button in the top right and a score display in the bottom right showing 0-0.

N	jackmiller	38
♠	103	
♥	AJ109	
♦	A10643	
♣	A8	

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♠
Dbl	??		

0 0

East bid 3S. What should South do?

The interface shows a bridge game in progress. In the top left, a double indicator shows 'D 12'. The top center shows North's name 'N jackmiller' with a score of 38. The bottom center shows South's hand: ♠ J7, ♥ K86, ♦ Q982, ♣ KQJ4. The bottom right shows a score of 0-0. The bidding sequence is as follows:

	W	N	E	S
Pass		1♦	1♠	2♠
Dbl		3♦	3♠	??

Rule of 23: pass is not an option

The image shows a Bridge game interface. In the top left, a double indicator shows 'D 12'. The player 'N jackmiller' is at the top with a score of 38. The bidding sequence is shown in the center:

	W	N	E	S
Pass		1♦	1♠	2♠
Dbl		3♦	3♠	4♦

Below the bidding, the South player's hand is displayed:

- ♠ J7
- ♥ K86
- ♦ Q982
- ♣ KQJ4

At the bottom right, there are two score boxes, both showing 0. A blue menu button is in the top right corner.

And east misread west's double...

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	9	10	9	5	8
S	9	10	9	5	8
E	4	1	4	7	4
W	4	1	4	7	4

Par Score: 140
Par: NS 3♥

D 12

N jackmiller 38

☰

W

♠ 9854
♥ Q7532
♦ 7
♣ 732

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♠
Dbl	3♦	3♠	4♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

E

♠ AKQ62
♥ 4
♦ KJ5
♣ 10965

S

♠ J7
♥ K86
♦ Q982
♣ KQJ4

4♦x
North

0

0

And east misread west's double...

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	9	10	9	5	8
S	9	10	9	5	8
E	4	1	4	7	4
W	4	1	4	7	4

Par Score: 140
Par: NS 3♥

D 12

N jackmiller 38

♠ 103
♥ AJ109
♦ A10643
♣ A8

W

♠ 9854
♥ Q7532
♦ 7
♣ 732

W N E S

Pass 1♦ 1♠ 2♠
Dbl 3♦ 3♠ 4♦
PassPass Dbl Pass
PassPass

E

♠ AKQ62
♥ 4
♦ KJ5
♣ 10965

S

♠ J7
♥ K86
♦ Q982
♣ KQJ4

4♦x North

0 0

Pass:	3S-2	43%
Double:	3SX-2	~90%
4D		79%
4DX		100%

When you have the Balance of Power double or bid on! Pass is not an option!!

- Follow the Law when you don't have BOP
- Hands with shape are better for offense
- Balanced hands are better for defense
- Hands with four or more of the opponents' trump are good for defense
- Vulnerability matters
- "Matchpoint doubles": be careful at IMPs



Avoid bidding a natural/balanced 2NT unless you are sure your side has at least 23 hcp.

How can you take almost two-thirds of the tricks with little more than half of the high cards unless you have a long running suit?

Common mistake: bid 2NT because you don't have a fit.

Caution: opener may only have 11 or 12 (Rule of 20)

2NT is always invitational, never a suggested place to play.

– Gavin Wolpert

Avoid bidding a natural/balanced 2NT unless you are sure your side has at least 23 hcp.

- We all know 1H 1S 1N shows 12-14 and 1H 1S 2N shows 18-19, a hand too strong to open 1NT.
- But sometimes it's not so simple.

What does south bid?

The image shows a digital bridge bidding interface. At the top, a North-South window is visible. Below it, a West-East window shows the following bidding sequence: West bids 1♠, North bids 2♣, East passes, and South is prompted with '??'. At the bottom, a South window displays the hand: ♠ AT3, ♥ A843, ♦ QJ97, and ♣ J2. To the right of the hand, a score window shows 0-0. A blue menu button is located in the top right corner.

Source: Wolpert on Competitive Bidding, Dealing With Overcalls

What does south bid?

The image shows a bridge bidding interface with a green background. At the top, a North window is visible. In the center, a bidding sequence is shown with four columns labeled W, N, E, and S. The bids are: W: 1♠, N: 2♣, E: Pass, S: 1♦. Below the sequence, a South window displays the hand: ♠ AT3, ♥ A843, ♦ QJ97, ♣ J2. To the right of the hand, there are two blue boxes, each containing the number 0. A blue menu button is in the top right corner.

W	N	E	S
1♠	2♣	Pass	1♦

South Hand:

- ♠ AT3
- ♥ A843
- ♦ QJ97
- ♣ J2

Score: 0 - 0

2NT

Partner has shown 10+ with 2C.

We have 12 with spades stopped. We have a balanced minimum, but we know our side has 22+, probably 23+ and do not need 18-19 to bid an invitational, non-forcing 2NT.

What does south bid?

A screenshot of a digital bridge game interface. The interface features a green background with four player positions: North (N) at the top, South (S) at the bottom, West (W) on the left, and East (E) on the right. Each position has a grey rectangular area for cards. In the center, a bidding box displays the sequence: "Pass 2♣ Pass 1♥ Pass ??". The "1♥" bid is highlighted in red. In the top right corner, there is a blue button with a white menu icon (three horizontal lines). In the bottom right corner, there are two blue rectangular boxes, each containing the number "0".

W N E S E

Pass 2♣ Pass 1♥ Pass ??

S

- ♠ AJ7
- ♥ A9752
- ♦ 542
- ♣ A3

0 0

What does south bid?

The image shows a bridge bidding interface. At the top, a North position is visible with a grey box for the hand. Below it, a West position is visible with a grey box. In the center, the bidding sequence is shown: West passes, North bids 1♥, East passes, and South is asked to bid. The bidding sequence is displayed as: Pass 2♣ Pass ??, with 1♥ above the second pass. At the bottom, South's hand is shown: ♠ AJ7, ♥ A9752, ♦ 542, ♣ A3. In the bottom right corner, there are two blue boxes, each containing the number 0.

2NT

Partner has bid 2C, GF.

We can't rebid our hearts, and if we don't have a major suit fit we want to play 3NT.

Here partner knows we have 23+, actually more, so 2NT does not promise 18-19.

What does south bid?

Bridge hand diagram showing a 2/1 system auction. North is the dealer. The auction is: 1♥, Pass, 2♣, Pass. South's hand is: ♠ AJ7, ♥ AKQ92, ♦ 542, ♣ A3. The score is 0-0.

W	N	E	S	E
			1♥	
			Pass 2♣ Pass ??	
			♠ AJ7 ♥ AKQ92 ♦ 542 ♣ A3	

Source: Wolpert, Master Series, 2/1 System Structure

What does south bid?

A screenshot of a bridge bidding interface. The interface shows four players: North (N), West (W), East (E), and South (S). The auction history is displayed in the center: West passed, North bid 1♥, East passed, and South is currently bidding. The bidding sequence is: Pass 2♣ Pass ?? 1♥. South's hand is shown at the bottom: ♠ AJ7, ♥ AKQ92, ♦ 542, ♣ A3. The score is 0-0. A blue menu button is in the top right corner.

2NT.

We could have the hand that planned to bid 1NT after 1H 1S, as in the last slide, or we could have the hand that planned to bid 2NT after 1H 1S.

This could be 12-14, or it could be 18-19. Either way, we bid 2NT here.

We know we have game, but we don't know where.

What does a 2NT rebid mean?

P (1H) 2C (P)	2NT	with 9 pts and dbl stopper +KC, you can count 8 tricks. Pard's vul 2 lvl overcall is sound (32)
1C (1S) DBL (P)	2NT	15-16; stopper. Invitational. Partner has 8+
1C (1S) X (2S)	2NT	heart stopper; 18-19 balanced (too strong to open 1NT), Wolpert DWO2
1C (P) 1H (2D)	2NT	18-19 https://www.larryco.com/bridge-learning-center/videodetails/bms-bridge-byte-openers-rebid-after-interference
1D (1H) 2H (P)	2NT	heart stopper - minium opener, invites 3NT
1H (P) 1S (2D)	2NT	18-19 - partner only promised 6. Too strong to open 1NT.
1S (P) 1NT (P)	2D (P) 2NT	10-12, balanced (rule of 23) (would respond 2NT directly if not playing Jacoby)
1S (P) 1NT (P)	2NT	18-19, balanced or semi-balanced// agreed 1/18/23
1H (P) 1S (P)	2NT	18-19, balanced. Do not do this with four card spade support (Cohen)
1S (P) 2D (P)	2NT	limited 12-14, stoppers or 18-19 (Wolpert 10/8/24 - B2)
1S (2C) 2H (P)	2NT	2/1 in comp is 10+, 5 card suit. 2NT is 12-14 (10/28/24 to 10/30)
1H (P) 1S (2D)	2NT	responder only promised 6+, or a good 5. 2NT has to be 18-19 (10/28/24 to 10/30)
P (P) 1S (P)	2NT	11-12 balanced, NF, Invitational. Should have doubleton in support. (what if 1-4-4-4?)
P (P) 1S (P)	2C (P) 2NT	don't do this// wny not 18-19 balanced? KW says NT opener - 15-17
P (P) 1S (P)	2D (P) 2NT	don't do this// wny not 18-19 balanced? KW says NT opener - 15-17 -- maybe there is o slam so just bid gamne?
P (P) 1D (P)	2NT	11-12, balanced - but be careful after third seat opener
(1S) P (2S) P	(P) 2NT	balancing, two playable suits(with three DBL) BB 6/23 p69
1D (1H) 2H (P)	2NT	heart stopper - minium opener, invites 3NT
1D (P) 1H (P)	1S (P) 2NT	11-12 invitational. Denies four spades. With 13 bid 3NT (board 8, 6/20/22)
1D (P) 1H (P)	1NT (P) 2NT	11-12 invitational. With 13 bid 3NT
1D (P) 1S (P)	2NT	18-19 balanced; ideally 2 spades; doen not senty three or four card spade support
2C (P) 2D (P)	2NT	22-24, balanced, systems on
(1D) X (P) 2D	(P) 2H (P) 2NT	no four card major
(1D) X (P) 1H	(P) 2NT	Dean 7/5: invitational 22-24
(1H) P (2H) P	(P) 2NT	Balancing, minors - might not be 5-5 (BB 8/22)
(1H) P (P) X	(P) 2NT	14-15

What does a 2NT rebid mean?

P (1H) 2C (P)	2NT	with 9 pts and dbl stopper +KC, you can count 5
1C (1S) DBL (P)	2NT	15-16; stopper. Invitational
1C (1S) X (2S)	2NT	heart stopper: 15
1C (P) 1H (2D)	2NT	15
1D (1H) 2H (P)	2NT	
1H (P) 1S		
1S (P) 1N		
1S (P) 1NT		
1H (P) 1S (I)		
1S (P) 2D (P)		
1S (2C) 2H (I)		
1H (P) 1S (2C)		
P (P) 1S (P)		
P (P) 1S (P)		
P (P) 1S (P)		
P (P) 1D (P)		
(1S) P (2S) P		
1D (1H) 2H (P)		
1D (P) 1H (P)		
1D (P) 1H (P)		
1D (P) 1S (P)	2	
2C (P) 2D (P)	2	
(1D) X (P) 2D	(P)	
(1D) X (P) 1H	(P)	... invitational 22-24
(1H) P (2H) P	(P)	Balancing, minors - might not be 5-5 (BB 8/22)
(1H) P (P) X	(P) 2NT	14-15

*Do you really want to
memorize all this?
Use the Rule of 23!*

[reference](#)

... or four card spade support

What does 2NT show? Use the Rule of 23!

If partner opens and rebids 2NT, and you have shown only 6+, and partner follows the Rule of 23 they must have 17+ so they have a balanced 18-19.

If partner opens and rebids 2NT, and you have shown 10+, partner promises a balanced minimum.

If partner opens and rebids 2NT, and you have bid 2/1 GF, partner shows either a balanced minimum OR a balanced 18-19.

What does 2NT show in each of these auctions?

1C (1S) X (2S)	2NT
1D (1H) 2H (P)	2NT
1H (P) 1S (2D)	2NT
1S (P) 1NT (P)	2NT
1S (2C) 2H (P)	2NT
1D (P) 1H (P)	1NT (P) 2NT

What does 2NT show in each of these auctions?

1C (1S) X (2S)	2NT
1D (1H) 2H (P)	2NT
1H (P) 1S (2D)	2NT
1S (P) 1NT (P)	2NT
1S (2C) 2H (P)	2NT
1D (P) 1H (P)	1NT (P) 2NT

What does 2NT show in each of these auctions?

1C (1S) X (2S)	2NT
1D (1H) 2H (P)	2NT
1H (P) 1S (2D)	2NT
1S (P) 1NT (P)	2NT
1S (2C) 2H (P)	2NT
1D (P) 1H (P)	1NT (P) 2NT

What does 2NT show in each of these auctions?

1C (1S) X (2S)	2NT
1D (1H) 2H (P)	2NT
1H (P) 1S (2D)	2NT
1S (P) 1NT (P)	2NT
1S (2C) 2H (P)	2NT
1D (P) 1H (P)	1NT (P) 2NT

What does 2NT show in each of these auctions?

1C (1S) X (2S)	2NT
1D (1H) 2H (P)	2NT
1H (P) 1S (2D)	2NT
1S (P) 1NT (P)	2NT
1S (2C) 2H (P)	2NT
1D (P) 1H (P)	1NT (P) 2NT

What does 2NT show in each of these auctions?

1C (1S) X (2S)	2NT
1D (1H) 2H (P)	2NT
1H (P) 1S (2D)	2NT
1S (P) 1NT (P)	2NT
1S (2C) 2H (P)	2NT
1D (P) 1H (P)	1NT (P) 2NT

1C (1S) X (2S)	2NT	spade stopper; 18-19 balanced (too strong to open 1NT),
1D (1H) 2H (P)	2NT	heart stopper - minimum opener, invites 3NT
1H (P) 1S (2D)	2NT	18-19 - partner only promised 6. Too strong to open 1NT.
1S (P) 1NT (P)	2NT	18-19, balanced or semi-balanced
1S (2C) 2H (P)	2NT	2/1 in comp is 10+, 5 card suit. 2NT is 12-14
1D (P) 1H (P)	1NT (P) 2NT	11-12 invitational. With 13 bid 3NT

What does North bid?

The image shows a digital bridge game interface. In the top left, a red and white box displays the number 15 and the letter D. The top center shows North's hand: ♠AK8, ♥53, ♦K932, and ♣K964. The top right has a blue menu button. The center features a bidding area with a table header W, N, E, S. The bidding sequence is: Pass, 1♦, Pass, 1♥, Pass, and ??, with the N column highlighted in red. To the left of the bidding area is a box for West (jackmiller) with a 38-point indicator. To the right is a box for East. The bottom center shows South's empty hand area. The bottom right has a score display with two blue boxes, each containing the number 0.

15
D

N

♠AK8
♥53
♦K932
♣K964

W jackmiller 38

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	??		

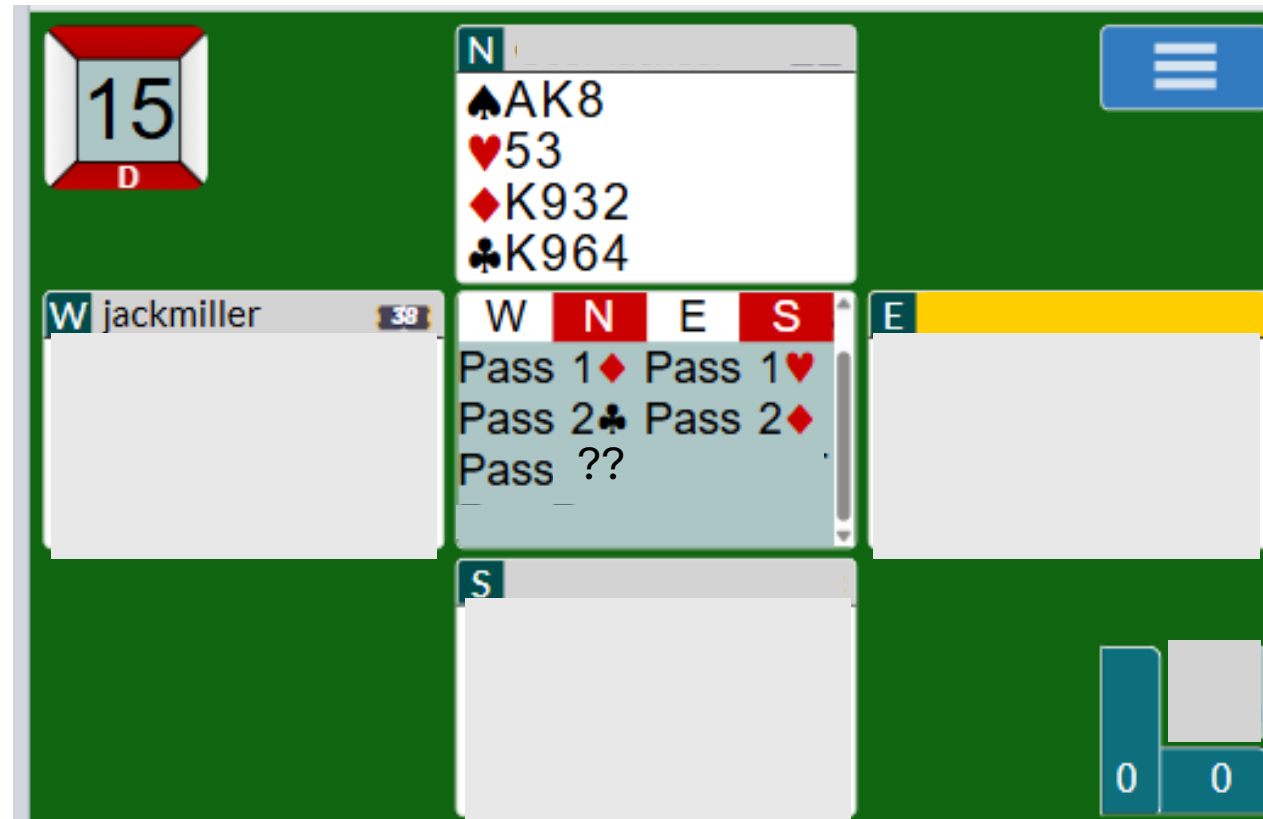
E

S

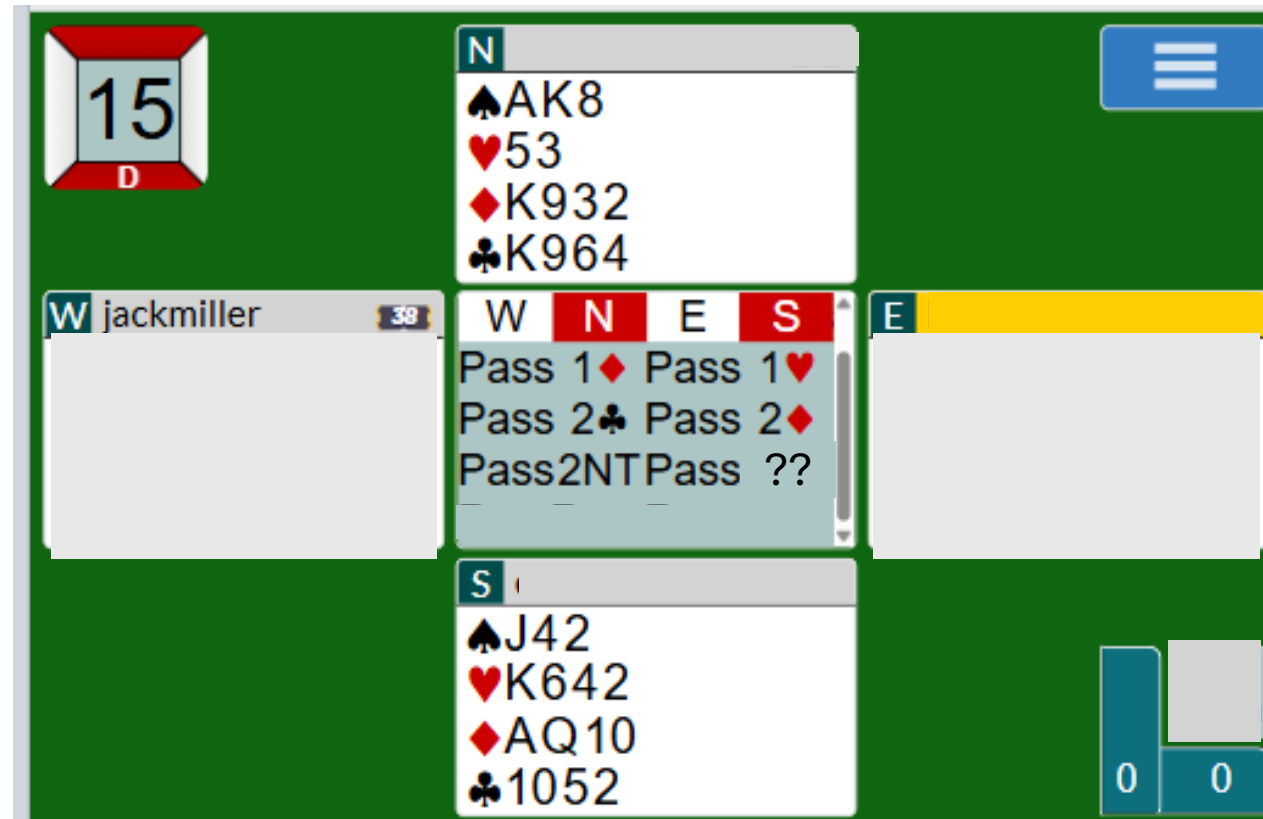
0 0

BBO 5/8/26, Carolina 3000, AM

Now what?



BBO 5/8/26, Carolina 3000, AM



BBO 5/8/26, Carolina 3000, AM

BBO 5/8/26, Carolina 3000, AM

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	9	9	8	8	8
S	9	9	8	8	8
E	4	4	5	5	5
W	4	4	5	5	5

Par Score: 120
Par: NS 1NT+1

15
D

N

♠AK8
♥53
♦K932
♣K964

W

♠Q53
♥Q109
♦854
♣AQJ3

W

N

E

S

Pass 1♦ Pass 1♥
Pass 2♣ Pass 2♦
Pass 2NT Pass 3NT

E

♠10976
♥AJ87
♦J76
♣87

S

♠J42
♥K642
♦AQ10
♣1052

0

3NT
North
0

BBO 5/8/26, Carolina 3000, AM

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	9	9	8	8	8
S	9	9	8	8	8
E	4	4	5	5	5
W	4	4	5	5	5

Par Score: 120
Par: NS 1NT+1

15
D

N

E

♠AK8
♥53
♦K932
♣K964

W jackmiller 39

♠Q53
♥Q109
♦854
♣AQJ3

♠10976
♥AJ87
♦J76
♣87

♠J42
♥K642
♦AQ10
♣1052

W N E S

Pass 1♦ Pass 1♥
Pass 2♣ Pass 2♦
Pass 2NT Pass 3NT

♠J42
♥K642
♦AQ10
♣1052

♠J42
♥K642
♦AQ10
♣1052

S

♠J42
♥K642
♦AQ10
♣1052

♠J42
♥K642
♦AQ10
♣1052

3NT North

0 0

3N-2	2%
2N-1	12%
1N+1	67% (par)
1N	35%
2D	35%
2D+1	~50%

Mel's Two Rules of 23

- If you know your side has at least 23 hcp and the opponents “have the bid,” you have only two options! Double or bid on! Pass is not an option!!
- Avoid bidding a natural/balanced 2NT unless you are sure your side has at least 23 hcp.

Recap

- Follow the Law when you don't have BOP
- Do not allow it to be passed out if you have BOP.
- If you are in the balancing seat, you MUST bid or double.
- If you are in the direct seat, and you have values partner doesn't know about, tell them. If you have fully told your story, and partner also knows your side has 23+, it's okay to pass and leave it up to partner.
- Hands with shape are better for offense.
- Balanced hands are better for defense.
- Hands with four or more of the opponents' trump are good for defense
- Vulnerability matters.
- "Matchpoint doubles": be careful at IMPs.