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Chapter 9

DEFENCE AGAINST A PRE-EMPTIVE 3♣ OPENING BID

Sequence

W	N	E	S
3♣	?		
	dbld	–	take out double
	3♦	–	transfer to hearts
	3♥	–	transfer to spades
	3♠	–	transfer to no-trump
	3NT	–	to play
	4♣	–	two-suited hand with hearts and spades
	4♦	–	natural – constructive
	4♥/♠	–	constructive

How do we solve a problem of a two suiter – 5♥/♠ + 5♦?

A transfer to the major suit will allow us to show the diamonds on the next round.

We lose the chance to bid diamonds at the level of three. We have to reduce this deficiency. What do we gain? Where is the advantage of transfers after 3♣ opening, compared with classical bidding?

Let's see the examples below:

Example 1

♠ 8 7	N W E S	♠ Q 9 5 3 2
♥ A K 2		♥ Q 6 2
♦ A K Q J 10 8		♦ 3 2
♣ 10 8		♣ Q J 3

S	W	N	E
3♣	?		

- 3♦ – the hand is too powerful for such a modest bid
- Double – the partner will bid 3♠ and the situation will be even worse
- 3♠ – transfer to no-trump solves our problems

Example 2

♠ A 6	N W E S	♠ J 10 9 7 5
♥ A K Q 9 7 4 2		♥ J 8
♦ J 3		♦ Q 10 4 3
♣ 9 8		♣ A 5

S	W	N	E
3♣	?		

- 3♥ – too passive
- 4♥ – I do not recommend such a bid with this distribution
- 3♠ – transfer to no-trump and the problem is solved

9. Defence against a pre-emptive 3♣ opening bid

Example 3

♠ A	N W E S	♠ K Q 10 4
♥ A J 8 7 4 2		♥ 3
♦ A K Q 8		♦ J 10 9 7 3
♣ 6 2		♣ J 10 8

Classical version

S	W	N	E
3♣	?		

Double – we are exposed to a 4♠ jump

3♥ – too passive

4♥ – not with this hand

Transfer version

S	W	N	E
3♣	3♦	pass	3♥
pass	4♦	pass	5♦
pass...			

3♦ – transfer to hearts

4♦ – natural

Example 4

♠ A K J 10 6 4	N W E S	♠ Q 5
♥ 4 2		♥ Q 9 8 6 5
♦ A K 7		♦ J 7 3
♣ K 6		♣ J 9 8

Classical version

S	W	N	E
3♣	?		
	3♠	– too passive	
	3NT	– guess	

Transfer version

S	W	N	E
3♣	3♥	pass	3♠
pass	3NT	pass...	

3♥ – transfer to spades

3NT – proposal of the final contract

If East held the following hand:

♠ Q 9 5 2 ♥ J 6 ♦ Q 8 6 4 3 ♣ 9 7

he would correct the contract to 4♠.

9. Defence against a pre-emptive 3♣ opening bid

Example 5

♠ 9 8	N W E S	♠ A 10 4 3
♥ A Q 6		♥ K 7
♦ A Q J 9 6 3		♦ 10 8 5 2
♣ 7 6 2		♣ J 9 5

Classical version

S	W	N	E
3♣	3♦	pass....	

Transfer version

S	W	N	E
3♣	pass	pass	pass

Transfers after a pre-emptive opening provide substantial profits.

No possibility to overcall with 3♦ with an ordinary hand will result in losses.

We have to make a reliable profit and loss account.

Holding the following hand

- 1)
- | |
|----------------|
| ♠ A Q 6 |
| ♥ K 10 4 |
| ♦ K Q 10 8 4 2 |
| ♣ 6 |

we may risk a double. You may say that 3♦ is a better call – true, but this call is blocked by transfers.

- 2)
- | |
|------------------|
| ♠ A 9 2 |
| ♥ A K |
| ♦ K 10 9 8 7 4 2 |
| ♣ 3 |

We may jump to 4♦ – natural, constructive

- 3)
- ♠ K 9
 - ♥ A 10 7
 - ♦ A K J 10 9 3
 - ♣ Q 5

We may daringly use a transfer to no-trump – 3♠

- 4)
- ♠ J 7 4
 - ♥ A 6
 - ♦ A K J 9 8 3
 - ♣ K 4

3NT is an alternative.

Taking advantage of transfer-derived profits, we must try to reduce the losses stemming from the lack of the 3♦ call.

A 3♦ pre-emptive bid precludes an option of transfers. A take out double is needed and it cannot play the role of a transfer.

Chapter 10

DEFENCE AGAINST A PRE-EMPTIVE 3♥ OPENING

In my opinion, the transfer version is most useful after a 3♥ pre-emptive bid.

Sequence

S	W	N	E
3♥	?		

- dbld – transfer to spades (at least 4)
- 3♠ – transfer to no-trump
- 4♣ – 6 clubs and 4 spades
- 4♦ – 6 diamonds and 4 spades
- 4♥ – 5+ spades – 5 minor shape
- 4♠ – a good hand with six spades
- 4NT – at least 5-5 in the minors

Why do I like this scheme? Double as a transfer to spades only slightly distorts reality.

Indeed, occasionally we may end in 3♠, with only six trumps between the hands.

We have to complete a transfer to spades. A jump to 4♠ will therefore be more flexible. It will promise a good hand with six cards. The 4♣, 4♦ and

4♥ bids also limit the number of hand shapes included in a transfer to spades.

What next after the transfer to spades?

Sequence 1

<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	
3♥	dble*	pass	?	* – transfer to spades (at least 4)
			3♠	– I would pass to a natural 3♠ bid
			3NT	– to play
			4♣	– natural, NF
			4♦	– natural, NF
			4♥	– cue bid with a fit
			4♠	– this is how I would bid after natural 3♠

Sequence 2

<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	
3♥	dble	pass	3♠	
pass	?			
			3NT	– proposal of a final contract
			4♣	– natural
			4♦	– natural
			4♥	– slam invitational cue bid
			4♠	– too strong to jump directly to 4♠

Solutions to the bidding quizzes

Sequence 3

S	W	N	E	
3♥	3♠*	pass	?	* – transfer to no-trump
			3NT	– to play
			4♣	– negative – let's save ourselves however we can
			4♦	– positive if the partner has clubs, negative if diamonds
			4♥	– show three spades or your own suit
			4♠	– six spades
			4NT	– bid your own suit

We need to explain the 4♣ and 4♦ bids. East has to assume that the partner bid a transfer to no trump based on a minor suit.

The 4♣ bid is a typical 'pass or correct'. The intention is clear – partner, I'd rather you pass.

4♦ also says pass or correct. A correction to clubs will be made at the level of five.

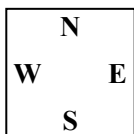
However, all these inconveniences relating to a transfer to a 4+ suit are generously compensated.

- A) After accepting a transfer to spades (3♠), West player gets still another chance, for example with a powerful hand, to carry on bidding.
- B) Transfer to no-trump provides options that are unavailable when using classical methods.

All strong hands without a heart stopper and slight support in spades are suitable for a transfer to a no-trump contract.

Example 1

♠ A K 6 5
 ♥ A 10 8
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ K Q 8 7



♠ Q 6
 ♥ Q 5
 ♦ J 8 7 6 5
 ♣ J 10 4 3

Classical version

S	W	N	E
3♥	dble	pass	4♦
pass	?		

The best thing is to pass.

Transfer version

S	W	N	E
3♥	dble	pass	3♠
pass	3NT	pass...	

dble – transfer to spades

3♠ – accepting transfer means that if the partner bid natural 3♠ then I would pass.

3NT – proposal of the contract

Solutions to the bidding quizzes

Example 2

♠ A 7	N W E S	♠ J 8 4 3 2
♥ 8 4 3		♥ 3
♦ A K 10 8		♦ Q J 4
♣ A Q J 9		♣ K 10 6 5

Both sides vulnerable

Transfer version

S	W	N	E
3♥	3♠	pass	4♥
pass	4NT	pass	5♣
pass...			

3♠ – transfer to no-trump

4♥ – bid the suit underlying your transfer, you may show three spades on the way

4NT – I have two suits

5♣ – then I prefer clubs.

Example 3

♠ A K Q 8 7 5	N W E S	♠ J 4
♥ 3		♥ Q 10 6
♦ A K Q		♦ J 8 5 3
♣ A J 6		♣ K 8 3 2

Classical version

S	W	N	E
3♥	dble	pass	3NT
pass	?		

West faces a difficult task; how can he inform a partner about a powerful 6-card spade suit and slam intentions?

Transfer version

S	W	N	E
3♥	dble	pass	3♠
pass	4♥	pass	5♣
pass	6♠	pass...	

dble – transfer to spades

3♠ – accepting a transfer, I would pass to a natural 3♠ bid

4♥ – cue bid, slam invitational

5♣ – cue bid

In this case, the double informed about a spade suit; the cue bid showed slam intentions.

Solutions to the bidding quizzes

Example 4

♠ A 6	N W E S	♠ Q 9 8 7 3
♥ 10 7		♥ A J 4
♦ A K Q 9 6 3		♦ J 10
♣ K J 2		♣ 10 5 3

Classical version

S	W	N	E
3♥	dbld	pass	4♠

or

S	W	N	E
3♥	4♦	pass	pass...

No sensible way to an optimal 3NT contract

Transfer version

S	W	N	E
3♥	3♠	pass	3NT
pass...			

3♠ – transfer to no-trump solves the problem!.

Example 5

♠ A	N W E S	♠ Q 9 8 3 2
♥ 8 7 5		♥ K J 2
♦ J 4		♦ A 10 7 5
♣ A K Q J 9 7 5		♣ 3 2

Classical version

S	W	N	E
3♥	4♣	pass	?

- 4NT – if this is to play
- 5♣ – if 4NT would be *Blackwood*

I am all for a 3NT contract but there is no way to get there.

Transfer version

S	W	N	E
3♥	3♠	pass	3NT
pass...			

You may say that only specific hands are suitable for a transfer.

It concerns a situation when a decision is obvious – we want to play 3NT and nothing else.

Solutions to the bidding quizzes

Example 6

♠ J	N W E S	♠ K Q 9 8 3
♥ 10 4 3		♥ K 9
♦ A K 5		♦ 7 5 3
♣ A K 10 9 6 5		♣ Q 8 7

Classical version

S	W	N	E
3♥	4♣	pass	?

A difficult choice for East now:

To show spades?

To pass?

To raise to 5♣?

To bid 4NT – will the partner understand it as a contract proposal?

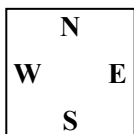
Transfer version

S	W	N	E
3♥	3♠	pass	3NT
pass...			

We may venture with much worse cards. This time it has paid off.

Example 7

♠ 4 2
♥ 8 7
♦ A K J 9 8 4
♣ A Q 8



♠ 9 8 7
♥ K 9
♦ 6 3 2
♣ J 10 9 4 3

Classical version

S	W	N	E
3♥	4♦	pass...	

The result – two off.

Transfer version

S	W	N	E
3♥	3♠	pass	3NT
pass...			

A spade lead. The result – down eight. This may also happen!

Solutions to the bidding quizzes

Example 8

♠ A K 9 5	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 6 4
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ 8 7	♥ Q 8										
♦ 4	♦ Q J 9 8 6 5										
♣ A K 10 8 4 2	♣ J 9										

Classical version

S	W	N	E
3♥	?		

A difficult choice:

A double will be a good shot if the partner has four spades.

A 4♣ call – we may happen to overlook spades.

Transfer version

S	W	N	E
3♥	4♣*		

* – 6 clubs and 4 spades distribution

An agreement that uses a double as a transfer to spades could be acceptable because with the majority of club hands we would drive towards 3NT contract via a 3♠ transfer bid.

With hands containing a club suit that are not suitable for a transfer to no trump:

♠ 6	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 6 5
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ 2	♥ —										
♦ A K J 10	♦ A Q 5										
♣ K 10 8 7 5 4 3	♣ A 10 9 7 6 5 4 2										

we will either have to pass or jump to 5♣.