

Dynamic Hand Evaluation



Dynamic vs. Static Evaluation

- When you pick up a bridge hand, you give it a static evaluation. You count points.
 - You have not heard any bidding yet, so your hand has a static value.
 - As the bidding proceeds, your hand may grow or diminish in strength.

Suppose Pick Up a Hand With:



K

5



A

Q

J

7

3

Not much 3 points and maybe your doubleton will be worth something.

- Suppose your partner opens 1♥. Or maybe 1nt.
- Partner might have...
- Suppose, instead of partner, RHO bids 1♥.
- Or maybe LHO bids 1♥

Consider this Hand

Your hand

♠ 8 6 4 2

♥ K 7 3 2

♦ Q J 10 5

♣ 3

Partner's hand

♠

♥ A Q J 9 5 4

♦ A K 8 4

♣ A 9 4

When you first see this hand, static evaluation says 6 not so hot points.

- Probably hoping the hand will get over soon, so you can get on to the next hand.
- Then your partner opens 1 ♥.
- Your RHO bids 1 ♠. You say 2 ♥.
- Your LHO says 2 ♠.
- Partner bids 3 ♦.

Consider Another Hand

South's hand

♠ K 8 6 2

♥ K 10 2

♦ 8 7

♣ J 7 5 3

North	East	South	West
-------	------	-------	------

1 ♠	pass	2 ♠	pass
-----	------	-----	------

3 ♥	pass	??	
-----	------	----	--

North	East	South	West
-------	------	-------	------

1 ♠	pass	2 ♠	pass
-----	------	-----	------

3 ♦	pass	??	
-----	------	----	--

North's hand

♠ A Q J 7 4

♥ A Q J 7

♦ A Q 5 2

♣

North	East	South	West
-------	------	-------	------

1 ♠	pass	2 ♠	pass
-----	------	-----	------

3 ♦	pass	3 ♠	pass
-----	------	-----	------

4 ♥	pass	??	
-----	------	----	--

The Box Principle

- Whenever you make a bid that described your hand clearly.
 - High card points within a certain range.
 - Distribution reasonably clear.
 - a. 1 no trump. 15-17 points No voids or singletons.
 - b. 1 ♦ pass 1nt... 6-10 with no biddable major suit.
 - c. 1 ♥ pass 2 ♥... 6-9 with 3 or more hearts.
 - d. 1 ♣ pass 1 ♥ pass 1nt... Opener's hand is in the box 12 to 14 points and balanced distribution.

Are You at the Top or Bottom of Your Box?

- Once you have boxed your hand, partner might ask a question (make an invitational bid).
- Are you at the top of your box?
- Consider these examples of the box principle at work.

The Box Principle – Ex. 1

South's hand

♠ J 9 8 6 3

♥ 10 2

♦ Q 8

♣ Q 7 5 3

♠ K Q 4 2

♥ 7 3

♦ A K J 2

♣ A K 7

North	East	South	West
-------	------	-------	------

1 ♦	pass	pass	1 ♥
-----	------	------	-----

double pass			
-------------	--	--	--

The Box Principle – Ex. 2

South's hand

♠ Q 6 2

♥ J 2

♦ Q 8 5 2

♣ Q 7 5 3

South's hand

♠ Q 10 2

♥ 7 3

♦ A J 10 2

♣ J 10 9 2

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	pass	1nt	pass
2nt	pass		

Opener invites the responder.

- Opener is balanced
- Has 18 or 19.

Your concern is your hand.

- How is your hand with respect to the box you put it in?
- Are there plus or minus features?

The Box Principle – Ex. 3

South's hand

♠ K 10 6 2

♥ K 5 2

♦ 5 2

♣ K Q J 5

North's hand

♠ A Q 10 5 3

♥ Q 8 3

♦ K 10 9 3

♣ 9

North	East	South	West
---	----	1 ♣	pass
1 ♠	pass	2 ♠	pass
3 ♠	pass	??	

The Box Principle – Ex. 4

South's hand

♠ A 10 9 8

♥ Q 5 2

♦ A 2

♣ K Q J 5

North's hand

♠ K Q 3

♥ J 10 3

♦ K 10 9 5

♣ 9 7 4

North	East	South	West
---	----	1 nt	pass
2 nt	pass	??	

The Box Principle – Ex. 5

South's hand

♠ 10 5 3

♥ Q 5 2

♦ A 7 2

♣ K Q J 5

North's hand

♠ K Q 6 2

♥ J 10 3

♦ K Q 9 5

♣ 9 7 4

North	East	South	West
---	----	1 ♣	pass
1 ♠	pass	1nt	pass
2nt	pass	??	

What does north have?

- 11–12 points.
- Only 4 spades or he would have used NMF.

Think about your hand. Where is it with respect to the box you have placed it in?

The Box Principle – Ex. 6

South's hand

♠ J 5 3

♥ Q 5

♦ A 7 2

♣ K Q J 8 5

North

1 ♠

2nt

East

pass

pass

South

1 ♣

1nt

??

West

pass

pass

North's hand

♠ K Q 6 2

♥ J 10 3

♦ K Q 9 5

♣ 9 7 4

The Box Principle – Ex. 7

South's hand

♠ K J 3

♥ 9 5

♦ A Q J 4

♣ K J 8 5

North	East	South	West
---	----	1 nt	pass
2 ♦	pass	2 ♥	pass
3 ♥	pass	??	

North's hand

♠ Q 6 2

♥ A K 8 6 4 3

♦ 9 5

♣ 4 3

Look at your hand... Trust your partner to have:

- 6 hearts
- 8 or 9 points

How does your hand fit into the box you have placed it in?

The Box Principle – Ex. 8

South's hand

♠ A 3

♥ Q 9 5

♦ A K 10 2

♣ K 10 9 8

North

2 ♦

3 ♥

East

pass

pass

South

1 nt

2 ♥

??

West

pass

pass

North's hand

♠ Q 6 2

♥ A K 8 6 4 3

♦ 9 5

♣ 4 3

The Box Principle – Ex. 9

South's hand

♠ Q J 10 3

♥ K J 10 4

♦ A 10 2

♣ A 10

North

4 nt

East

pass

South

1 nt

??

West

pass

North's hand

♠ A 9 2

♥ A Q 3

♦ K 9 5

♣ K 9 4 3

The Box Principle – Ex. 10

South's hand

♠ K Q 9 3

♥ K J 10

♦ A 6 2

♣ A 10 9

North	East	South	West
---	----	1 nt	pass
4 nt	pass	??	

North's hand

♠ A 10 2

♥ A Q 3

♦ K 9 5

♣ K 8 4 3

The Box Principle – Ex. 11

South's hand

♠ K 10 9

♥ K 8

♦ Q 10 2

♣ A K J 10 8

North

4 nt

East

pass

South

1 nt

??

West

pass

North's hand

♠ A 8 2

♥ A Q 3

♦ A 9 5

♣ Q 9 4 3

The Box Principle – Ex. 13

South's hand

♠ A Q 10 9 4 3

♥ J 8 4

♦ 2

♣ Q 7 2

North

1 ♠

3 ♠

East

pass

pass

South

1 ♣

1 nt

West

pass

pass

North's hand

♠ 8 2

♥ K Q 3

♦ A 9 8 5

♣ A 9 4 3

The Box Principle – Ex. 14

South's hand

♠ A Q 10 9 4 3

♥ J 8 4

♦ 2

♣ Q 7 2

North

1 ♠

3 ♠

East

pass

pass

South

1 ♣

1 nt

West

pass

pass

North's hand

♠ K J 2

♥ 3

♦ J 9 7 5

♣ A K J 4 3

The Box Principle – Ex. 15

South's hand

♠ A Q 10 9 4 3

♥ Q J 8

♦ 9 7 2

♣ 2

North

1 ♠

2 ♠

East

pass

pass

South

1 ♣

1 nt

West

pass

pass

North's hand

♠ K J 2

♥ 9 3 2

♦ J 8

♣ A K J 4 3