Balancing after the Opponents Bid and Raise ♠

Reference: Bridge Today (March/April 1991)
Building a better Mouse-Trap: A Better Balance by Kit Woolsey

The Agreement

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARD
1♠	pass	2♠	pass
pass	X			Either 3-suited, or 2-suited with ♥: ♣ + ♦ + ♥ or ♣ + ♥, or ♦ + ♥
	2N			2-suited with ♦: ♣ + ♦, or ♦ + ♥ (longer ♥)

<u>Note</u>: When 2-suited with ♦ + ♥, double with at least as many ♦ as ♥, bid 2**N** with longer ♥.

<u>When YOU balance with 2**N**</u> (2-suited with ♦), PARD has 2 options
   1) Bid 2♦ to play in the known ♦ fit
   2) Bid 2♣ with a preference for ♣s. YOU will pass with the ♣ + ♦ 2-suiter or rebid 2♦ to give PARD a choice between ♦ and ♥

When you balance with 2N: *Either ♣ + ♦, or ♦ + ♥ (with longer ♥)*

A) PARD bids 3♦ to play in the known ♦-fit; you will always pass.

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARD
1♠	pass	2♠	pass
pass	2**N**	pass	3♦
pass			

B) PARD bids 3♣ with a preference for ♣. YOU will pass with ♣ + ♦, or correct to 3♦ with ♦ + ♥

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARD	
1♠	pass	2♠	pass	
pass	2**N**	pass	3♣	PARD prefers ♣
pass	pass			YOU pass with a ♣ + ♦ 2-suiter

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARD	
1♠	pass	2♠	pass	
pass	2**N**	pass	3♣	PARD prefers ♣
pass	3♦	pass	pass	YOU correct to 3♦ with ♦ + ♥(longer), PARD prefers ♦

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARD	
1♠	pass	2♠	pass	
pass	2**N**	pass	3♣	PARD prefers ♣
pass	3♦	pass	3♥	YOU correct to 3♦ with ♦ + ♥(longer), PARD prefers ♥

When You make a Balancing Double: __Either__ 3-suited: ♣ + ♦ + ♥ __Or__ 2-suited with ♥

C) YOU promised ♥ and PARD takes preference to ♥; YOU will always pass

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARD
1♠	pass	2♠	pass
pass	X	pass	3♥
pass	pass		

D) PARD prefers ♣; YOU will pass with ♣ or correct to ♦ with ♦ + ♥, leaving PARD to choose

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARD	
1♠	pass	2♠	pass	
pass	X	pass	3♣	
pass	pass			YOU have ♣ (either 3-suited or ♣ + ♥), so YOU pass

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARD	
1♠	pass	2♠	pass	
pass	X	pass	3♣	
pass	3♦	pass	pass	YOU deny ♣, have ♦ + ♥. PARD prefers ♦

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARD	
1♠	pass	2♠	pass	
pass	X	pass	3♣	
pass	3♦	pass	3♥	YOU deny ♣, have ♦ + ♥. PARD prefers ♥

E) YOU did not guarantee ♦. So with ♦ preference PARD must transfer with 2**N**, which YOU can __accept__ by bidding 3♦ or __deny__ by bidding 3♣ leaving PARD to choose between ♣ and ♥. PARD can insist on ♦ anyway.

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARD	
1♠	pass	2♠	pass	
pass	X	pass	2**N**	PARD announces a preference for ♦
pass	3♦	pass	pass	YOU have ♦, either 3-suited or ♦ + ♥

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARD	
1♠	pass	2♠	pass	
pass	X	pass	2**N**	PARD announces a preference for ♦
pass	3♣	pass	pass	YOU deny ♦ (you have ♣ + ♥) , PARD prefers ♣ over ♥

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARD	
1♠	pass	2♠	pass	
pass	X	pass	2**N**	PARD announces a preference for ♦
pass	3♣	pass	3♥	YOU deny ♦ (♣ + ♥) , PARD prefers ♥ over ♣

RHO	YOU	LHO	PARD	
1♠	pass	2♠	pass	
pass	X	pass	3♦	PARD insists on ♦, YOU should pass