

Opener's Rebid

15/4/15

Balanced Hands

With 15-16 balanced rebid NT at the lowest level

With 17-18 balanced jump rebid in NT

♠ K Q 7

♥ J T 3

♦ A Q 5 2

♣ K J 8

This hand is 16 points. Open it 1♦

If partner responds 1♥ or 1♠ then rebid 1NT (showing 15-16 balanced)

If partner responds 2♣ then rebid 2NT (showing 15-16 balanced)

♠ Q T 7

♥ A Q T 3

♦ K J 4

♣ A Q 7

This hand is 18 points. Open it 1♥.

If partner responds 1♠ then rebid 2NT (showing 17-18 balanced)

If partner responds 2♣ or 2♦ then rebid 3NT (showing 17-18 balanced)

Some hands become "balanced" when you hear partner's first bid. It will be often in a suit which you are relatively short and thereby takes care of the suit you are worried about. It will then allow you to make a rebid in NT.

♠ 9 7

♥ A Q

♦ K Q 7

♣ K J T 9 7 2

Although this hand is not a classic example of a balanced hand, after a 1♠ opening bid and a response of 1♠ from partner, there is little doubt that a 1NT rebid well describes the hand.

Hands in the 11-14 point range

When the opener rebids his suit at a minimum level, he suggests a hand in the 11-14 point range.

♠ K 7

♥ A Q T 7 6 5

♦ Q 7

♣ Q 5 2

The rebid here is clear. Open this hand 1♥ and rebid 2♥ over a response of 1NT or a change of suit response.

♠ K 7

♥ Q 9 7 5 4

♦ K Q 3

♣ Q 5 2

Open this hand 1♥ and rebid 2♥ over a response of 1NT or a change of suit response.

Although the hearts are not strong, it is still correct to rebid them. A bid of no trumps would show a stronger hand.

A change of suit when you rebid does not promise extra strength if it does not take the bidding beyond 2 of your first-bid suit.

♠ K Q 8 7 3

♥ A 4

♦ K T 9 3

♣ J 5

Open 1♠. If partner replies 1NT or 2♣, rebid 2♦. This promises no more strength than a rebid of 2♠ and describes your hand much better. A rebid of 2♣ instead would be wrong.

If, instead, partner responds 2♥ to your opening bid of 1♠, then you must simply rebid 2♠. A rebid of 3♦ takes the bidding too high and shows a stronger hand, as we shall see later.

Although we know the importance of looking for a major suit fit, the temptation to bid a new suit must, on occasions, be resisted:

♠ K J 7 3

♥ A Q T 6 4

♦ K 4

♣ 9 5

Open 1♥. If partner replies 1NT or 2 of a minor suit, rebid 2♥. A rebid of 2♠ would take the bidding past the safety level of 2 of your long suit.

If partner has a spade suit, then either he has the strength to continue with a bid on the second round of 2♠, or, if he is more limited, he would have responded 1♠ in preference to 2♣ or 2♦.

Stronger single-suited hands

A jump rebid in your suit shows about $6\frac{1}{2}$ - 7 playing tricks

When opener rebids his suit with a jump, he has a 6-card suit and a hand in the 15-17 point range (perhaps slightly less with a longer suit). If the response was at the 2-level, then the jump rebid is forcing.

♠ A Q 3

♥ 4

♦ A K J T 7 4

♣ J T 6

Open 1♦ and over 1NT or a minimum suit response, rebid 3♦. As you can make 3NT opposite many 8 or 9 point hands, a 2♦ rebid would be inadequate.

♠ A 6

♥ K Q J T 8 4

♦ J 4

♣ A J 6

Open 1♥ intending to rebid 3♥. This bid will be non-forcing if partner has responded 1NT or 1♠, but forcing opposite a response at the 2-level in a minor.

♠ K 6

♥ J 9 8 5 4 2

♦ A K

♣ A Q 5

After 1♥ - 1♠ this is an awkward hand to bid. You are too good to simply rebid 2♥, but although your 6-card suit is too poor for 3♥. The best rebid is 2NT (17-18 balanced).

♠ A K T 9 7 6

♥ K Q 8 5

♦ 4

♣ A J

Open 1♠. However, your intention is not to jump rebid the suit. You will instead jump in hearts so that a possible fit in this suit may be found.

♠ K 6

♥ A K J T 8 5 3

♦ 4

♣ K T 4

With a long, strong major suit, you may even rebid at the 4-level. After 1♥ - 1♠ you rebid 4♥. If partner had responded at the 2-level, save space by rebidding 3♥ (forcing).

Opener raises responder's suit

This is fairly easy: the higher you raise him, the better you are. Suppose you open 1♦ on

♠ K T 6 3

♥ 5 3

♦ A Q 9 8 4

♣ K 4

If partner responds to your opening bid with 1♠, raise him to 2♠. This indicates a minimum hand. Usually you will hold 4-card support for his suit.

♠ K T 6 3

♥ A 3

♦ A Q 9 8 4

♣ K 4

Now you have rather more than a minimum opening bid, and should raise to 3♠. If you had held AK or AQ in hearts, you would be worth a raise to 4♠.

Raising partner's major suit is a priority. When it is a minor suit, however, prefer to bid a new major cheaply if possible.

Opener's rebid after his suit has been raised

When opener's suit has been raised by his partner, he is often in a good position to know how high the partnership should go. This decision is helped by the limit raises that partner employs.

♠ K 3

♥ Q J T 5 3

♦ A 4 3

♣ K 4 2

You open 1♥ and partner responds 2♥

Pass. You have a minimum opening, and no real prospects of a game facing a simple raise by partner.

♠ J 3

♥ K J T 5 3

♦ A 4 3

♣ K Q 2

You open 1♥ and partner responds 3♥

Bid 4♥. You are not dead minimum, and partner has invited game with his raise to the 3-level.

♠ A Q

♥ K J T 5 3

♦ A Q 4

♣ K 7 2

You open 1♥ and partner responds 2♥

Bid 4♥. Even opposite a single raise you are worth a game bid. Any high cards partner holds will be useful.

Sometimes, however, it is not so clear. Partner's bid may have told you how strong he is, but whether or not you can make a game will depend on how well the hands fit. Consider this example:

♠ T 2

♥ A K Q 5 3

♦ K 7 6 4

♣ A 5

You open 1♥ and partner responds 2♥

Do you bid again? If so, what?

Clearly there are good chances of game if partner holds the right cards. However, there is little chance of game if his values are in the wrong place.

Should you play safe and pass - and perhaps miss a game? Or jump to 4♥ and hope that it makes? Perhaps you could bid 3♥ and hope that partner makes the right decision - but how does he know that help in diamonds is what you need?

The solution is to bid 3♦. You tell partner where you need help, and allow him to look at his hand and make an informed decision. This is known as a trial bid.

You make a trial bid when partner has supported your major suit and there is a chance of game, but you are worried about a poor quality side suit. It asks partner if he can help in the side suit, either with high cards or with a shortage and four or more trumps so that he can ruff losers in the suit.

If partner has the required help he is able to go to game. If not, he can sign off in 3 of the major suit.

Partner will assume that you have a suit with a couple of losers in in, so holdings such as K 7 6 or A 8 3 2 are suitable for a trial bid. So going back to the hand we were looking at:

Bid 3♦, the suit where you need help, not 3♣ where you have only one loser, and not 2♠ where you have a doubleton

Replying to a trial bid:

Partner is asking for help in a particular suit.

- Bid game with no loser or only one loser in the suit, whether maximum or minimum
- With two losers in the trial bid suit, sign off in 3 of the major with a minimum hand but go to game with a maximum
- With three losers in the suit, sign off at the 3-level even with a maximum hand.

Note: if opener's minor suit opening bid has been raised, a bid of a new suit is used as a move towards a possible 3NT contract, showing where opener has a stopper.

Opener rebids in a new suit

Suppose the bidding starts:

West	East
1♦	1♠
?	

West may make three different types of rebid in a new suit:

2♣ a rebid below 2 of opener's suit covers a wide range of hands (about 12-17 points). The bid is not forcing.

2♥ a reverse (i.e. a bid above 2 of opener's first suit) shows 16+ points or very strong distribution.

3♣ a jump rebid in a new suit, forcing to game.

♠ T 5

♥ A 3

♦ A Q 9 8 4

♣ Q T 9 2

This is a minimum opening hand. After 1♦ - 1♠ you would rebid 2♣. This is not a stronger bid than 2♦ but it does give a better description of the hand.

We have seen already that with a minimum hand opener may simply rebid his long suit (e.g. 1♦ - 1♠ - 2♦). If he instead rebids a new suit below this "safety level" of 2 of his first suit, he promises no extra strength.

♠ 5

♥ A J

♦ A Q 9 8 4

♣ K Q 9 7 2

What do you bid over 1♦ - 1♠ ?

With 16 points, this is a good hand. However, a 3♣ rebid, forcing to game, is a little excessive. You will have to rebid just 2♣. Maybe you will get another chance to show your extra strength.

♠ 5

♥ A J

♦ A Q J 8 4

♣ A Q T 7 2

What do you bid over 1♦ - 1♠ ?

Now the clubs are a little stronger than before, and you are worth the forcing to game rebid of 3♣. Even opposite a minimum response, it is worth pushing on to game.

The reverse

This is an important area of bidding and we will be giving up a whole work-shop session in the future to look at this topic. Just to mention it here.

The reverse most often involves bidding above the "safety barrier" of 2 of the suit that we have opened.

♠ Q 5

♥ K Q 7 5

♦ A J 8 4 2

♣ J 2

Again, this is a minimum opening hand. After 1♦ - 2♣ you must rebid 2♦, not 2♥ (a reverse) which would show a stronger hand.

♠ A 5
♥ A Q T 7
♦ K Q J 8 2
♣ J 2

Here, you are strong enough to reverse. After 1♦ - 2♠ you can rebid 2♥. When you reverse, your first suit is always longer than your second.

Opener jumps in a new suit at the 2-level

Another strength showing rebid is where opener, after a response at the 1-level, jumps to the 2-level in a new suit:

West	East
1♦	1♥
2♠	

This bid is forcing to game - it is comparable to the sequence

West	East
1♦	1♥
3♠	

which we have already considered.

♠ A Q J 7 5
♥ 7
♦ Q
♣ A K J T 7 2

What do you bid over 1♠ - 1♥ ?

Bid 2♠ (forcing to game)

You intend to bid 3♠ on the next round to complete the picture of the distribution of the hand (i.e. six clubs and five spades, as with 5-5 you would have opened 1♠).

