

# Learn to Play Bridge

## Workshop #4

Responses to Opening Bids of One of a Suit  
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# Agenda:

- Review - Responses to Opening 1 NT bid
  - Stayman
  - Jacoby Transfer (new convention)
- Responding to Opening Bids of One in a Suit (Major or Minor)
- Play hands and discuss strategy

## Pop Quiz Time

- Your partner opens 1 NT. You have 4 ♥. How many HCPs do you need to respond 2 ♣?
- **Answer: 8 HCP are required to initiate the Stayman convention by responding 2 ♣**
- Your partner bids 2NT as Opener. What does that tell you about Opener's hand?
- **Answer: Balanced with 20 - 21 HCP**
- Partner bids 1 NT. You have a balanced hand, NO 4 or 5 card major, how many HCPs do you need to bid 2 NT?
- **Answer: 8 or 9 HCPs**

# Your partner opens 1 NT. What should you be thinking???

- Think about how to communicate the strength and shape of your hand
  - Three categories
    - 0 - 7 (minimal hand - stop - think **red** light)
    - 8 - 9 (invitational - **yellow** light)
    - 10 or more points - (should be thinking game - **green** light)

# Stayman Convention review

Primary purpose - ***“Partner, do you have a 4 card major? I have one or both.”***

- Responder initiates Stayman
  - Responder must have at least 8+ HCP points
  - Responder must have a 4 card major (can have both)
  - Responder initiates convention by bidding 2 ♣ over opener's 1 NT

# Opener's rebid guidelines to Stayman

Remember, Responder bids 2 ♣ - initiates the Stayman convention

- If Opener (originally bid 1NT) has 4 card or longer major, bid the major at the 2 level
- If opener has both majors, bid ♥ first
- Without a 4 card major, Opener bids 2 ♦ (artificial bid, **DENIES a 4 card major** and does not say anything about diamonds)

Summary: Opener has 3 choices after Responder bids 2 ♣

- Bid 2 ♦ shows no 4 card major
- Bid 2 ♥ shows a 4 card heart suit and maybe a 4 card ♠ suit
- Bid 2 ♠ shows a 4 card spade suit and **NO 4 card heart suit**

**Remember - the 1 NT opener cannot pass the 2 ♣ bid!**

## Partner bids 1 NT. What do we do with this hand?

♠ 10 8 6 5 4 2

♥ J 7 5

♦ 8

♣ J 6 2

Points - 4

Level - Partscore

Strain - Spades

# Introducing “Jacoby Transfer” ....another convention to help define Responder’s “value and shape” when opener bids 1 NT

- Initiated by Responder who bids a suit one rank below the actual major suit he holds
- Responder must have 5 or more of suit he suggests partner bid via the transfer
- Responder can initiate Jacoby Transfer with as little as “0” HCPs
- Responder’s 2nd bid will define “value”

## Why use Jacoby Transfer...

It saves bidding space and gives responder an easier, more accurate way to show responder’s strength later in the auction. It also makes the 1NT opener become the declarer, which can be an advantage and therefore allows the “big” hand to remain hidden from the opponents.



## Partner bids 1 NT. What do we do with this hand?

♠ 10 8 6 5 4 2

♥ J 7 5

♦ 8

♣ J 6 2

Points - 4

Level - Partscore

Strain - Spades

**Bid 2 ♥ (Jacoby Transfer) which is a transfer to partner who must bid 2 ♠**

## Responder's 2nd bid after Jacoby Transfer

Responder's HCPs	Goal	Recommended action
0 - 7	Partscore only	Transfer then PASS
8 - 9	Invite game	Transfer then bid 2NT (with a 5 card major) <b>OR</b> bid 3 of the major (with a 6+ card suit)
10 or more	Force to game	Transfer then bid a new suit (forcing) <b>OR</b> 3NT (with a 5 card major) or bid 4 of the major (with a 6 card major suit)

**Opener can more easily place the contract after seeing the above responses.**

# Summary: Guidelines for responding to Opener's 1 NT

**Important**



Responder's HCP	Responder's Shape	Recommendation
0 - 7	Balanced	Pass
0+	5 or more in a major	Consider Jacoby Transfer. Bid the lower ranking suit below your 5+ card major
8 - 9	Balanced	2 NT
8+	1 or both 4 card majors	Bid 2 ♣. Initiates Stayman convention
10 or more	Balanced	3 NT

# Examples

## Ex. 1

Partner bids 1NT

Your hand: ♠ Q J 9 7 6 ♥ Q 10 2 ♦ 6 5 4 ♣ 7 4

Your hand values: 5 HCP and 5 ♠

Assessment: Even if partner has 17 HCP ( $17 + 5 = 22$ ), not enough for game

**Recommendation: Initiate Jacoby Transfer: Bid 2 ♥ (transfer to ♠) and then PASS after partner bids 2 ♠**

## Ex. 2

Partner bids 1NT

Your hand: ♠ A 8 4 ♥ K J 9 8 2 ♦ 7 2 ♣ J 9 3

Your hand values: 9 HCP, 5 ♥

Assessment: Not enough for game

**Recommendation: Initiate Jacoby Transfer: Bid 2 ♦ (transfer to ♥) and then bid 2NT after partner accepts the transfer.**

**Opener's rebid: can decide to bid further depending on shape and HCP...ex: PASS, 3NT, 3 or 4 ♥**

## Example 2: Responding with 0 - 7 points

♠ J 9 8 ♥ A 9 6 2 ♦ J 7 6 ♣ 10 9 4
Points - 6 Level - Partscore Strain - NT

**Response is PASS! No 5 card major**

## Responding with 0 - 7 points

♠ Q J ♥ 9 8 ♦ Q 9 8 ♣ 10 9 7 6 3 2
Points - 7 Level - Partscore Strain - NT Response - Pass

**Response is PASS!**

# Conclusions when Responder has 0 - 7 points

- Play in a **partscore**
  - Why?
    - even if you have 7 points, partner's max is 17 - **24 pts is not game**
  - Responder has 2 choices
    - Pass - Opener will play in 1 NT
    - Bid Jacoby Transfer if you think the contract is better in a suit. Responder must have at least 5 in the suit in which you want the contract to be played - Bid 2 ♦ transfers to ♥, 2 ♥ transfers to ♠
    - Why not 2 ♣? Two clubs initiates the Stayman convention
- **Bottom line - there is no room in the bidding scale to explore other contracts with 7 or less points in responder's hand**

## Responding with 8 - 9 total points

- Responder bids 2 NT (no 4 card major)
- Let Opener decide on final contract
  - If opener has 17 points, game is likely
  - If opener has 16 points, judgement is needed
  - If opener has 15 points, Pass



# Conclusions when Responder has 10 - 15 points

- **Take the partnership to a game contract**
- With a 5+ card suit (ex. ♠), **initiate Jacoby Transfer**
  - Ex. 1 NT - 2 ♥ if you have 5 ♠. Rebid 3NT after partner bids 2 ♠. Opener will Pass or bid 4 ♠
  - Ex. 1 NT - 2 ♥ if you have 6+ ♠. Rebid 4 ♠ after partner bids 2 ♠ to show partner you have 6+ ♠
- With a 4 card major suit, **initiate Stayman** by bidding 2 ♣
- With a **balanced hand - Bid 3 NT**

## Chapter 4

# Responding to Opening Bids of One in Suit

## Responding with 6-9 total points to a Major Suit opening

- Raise partner's major suit to the two (2) level with a least three (3) card support
- Bid a new suit at the one (1) level (forcing for one round)
- Bid 1 NT

## Example 1: Partner opens 1 ♥. What do you bid as Responder?

♠ 3

♥ Q J 10

♦ Q 8 7 6 2

♣ J 10 9 8

HCP: 6

Distribution points: 3

Total points: 9

Answer: 2 ♥

## Example 2: Partner opens 1 ♥. What do you bid as Responder?

♠ J 10 7 6

♥ Q 3

♦ K Q 8 7 4

♣ 9 6

HCPs: 8

Distribution points: 1

Total Points: 9

**Answer: 1 ♠**

### Example 3: Partner opens 1 ♥. What do you bid as Responder?

♠ K 3 2

♥ J 10

♦ Q J 9 6 4

♣ 5 3 2

HCPs: 7

Distribution points: 1

Total points: 8

**Answer: 1 NT**

## Responding with 6-9 total points to 1 of a minor suit opening

- Bid the higher ranking of two 5 card majors. If only one 5 card major, bid it.
- Bid the lower ranking of two 4 card majors. If only one 4 card major, bid it.
- Bid 1 NT with no 4 card majors
- Raise Partner's minor suit (lower priority - you should have five (5) of Opener's minor)

**Ex: Partner opens with 1♦. What would you respond with these hands?**

♠ 9 8 4 2  
♥ Q 8 7  
♦ K J 4 3  
♣ J 3

**Answer: 1 ♠**

♠ J 10  
♥ J 4 3  
♦ Q 9 8  
♣ K 9 7 5 3

**Answer: 1 NT**

♠ 9 5 3  
♥ Q J 10 8 7  
♦ Q 6  
♣ J 5 3

**Answer: 1 ♥**



## Responding to a major suit opening bid with 10-11 total points

- With 4 of your partner's suit, jump to the 3 level - Ex. 1 ♥ by Opener, Responder should bid 3 ♥ with 4 hearts and 10 points
- Bid a new suit at the one or two level. Ex. 1 ♥ by Opener, Responder can bid 1 ♠ with 4 spades or 2 ♦ with at least 4 good diamonds (preferably 5 diamonds)
- Support your Partner's opening bid on second bid with three in partner's suit

## Responding to a minor suit opening with 10-11 total points

- Bid your four (4) card major - if two 4 card majors, bid the lower ranking one first
- Bid the higher ranking of the two five card major suits
- Bid 2 NT
- Raise Partner's minor suit to the three level (low priority - you should have five (5) of Opener's minor. Invitation to Opener to consider game in NT

Partner opens bidding with 1 ♠. What would you respond with these hands?

♠ 10 9  
♥ A Q J 6 5  
♦ K 4  
♣ 8 6 4 3

**Answer: 2 ♥**

♠ J 9 8 4  
♥ K Q  
♦ J 6 3  
♣ K 10 7 5

**Answer: 3 ♠**

♠ 8  
♥ 10 6 3  
♦ Q J 10 8 6  
♣ A Q J 9

**Answer: 2 ♦**

## Responding to a MAJOR suit opening bid with 12+ total points

- Responder as “captain” knows that contract should be at **game level!**
- Responder should make “forcing” bids:
  - Responder with 13 - 15 HCP, balanced hand, bid 2 NT
  - Responder with 16 - 18 HCP, balanced hand, bid 3 NT
  - Bid a new suit

Partner opens with 1 ♠. What would you respond with these hands?

♠ A Q 8 3  
♥ A 5  
♦ Q J 10 6  
♣ 7 6 4

**Answer: 2 ♦**

♠ J 7  
♥ K Q 10  
♦ A J 8 4  
♣ K J 6 3

**Answer: 2 NT**

♠ 8  
♥ K 5 3  
♦ A Q 10 8 6  
♣ K 9 6 3

**Answer: 2 ♦**

## Responding to a MINOR suit opening with 12+ total points

- Responder as “captain” looks for the “golden fit”, a **major** if possible
- Forcing bids
  - Bid a new suit - preference to a major
  - With 13 - 15 HCP, balanced hand, Responder bids 2 NT
  - With 16 - 18 HCP, balanced hand, Responder bids 3 NT