

## OPENING 1 NT VS. a 5 CARD MAJOR

Bidding 1 NT is better than opening a five-card major when you are in NT range. There's a big difference between when you could open 1 NT as opposed to when you should open 1 NT.

A major goal for the opening bidder is to choose an action or plan a series of actions that best describe the values and shape of his hand. Never opening 1 NT with a five-card major creates more problems than it solves. How would you suggest opener plan his bids holding:

Q5 KQJ64 AJ4 K106

Always plan a second bid before you choose a first. If you choose to open 1 heart, My question is, how do you plan to rebid over a 1 spade response? There is no answer, 2 NT would show 18-19 on your 16. On most 15-17 point hands, where your shape includes a five-card major, two three-card suits and a doubleton, I open 1 NT in anticipation of a potential rebid.

If you hold a five-card major with specifically one doubleton and two three-card suits, along with 15 or 16 HCP's, open 1 NT. With 17, use some judgement – if you think it's a good 17, treat it like 18 planning to open at the one-level, and jump in NT.

J5 AQ85 KQJ43 K4 – I would open 1 NT in anticipation of a probable 1 Spade response from partner over a 1 diamond opening.

AQ85 J5 KQJ43 K4 – You could open 1 NT, but why? If you open 1 diamond, and hear a 1 heart response, you have an easy rebid of 1 spade.

Anytime you add a conventional treatment to your methods, surrendering the natural meaning, consider gain versus loss of the new method and frequency or occurrence of either the natural or artificial meaning

What do you do when you have an invitational hand – 9 points and a 4 card spade suit? You bid 2 clubs, Stayman. If partner bids 2 hearts, your bid of 2 NT invites game and denies 4 spades. Your bid of 2 spades, invites game with 4 spades. Remember, partner may be 4/4 in the majors, her their first obligation is to bid 2 hearts if they're 4/4 in the majors.

Reminder, you're playing Smolen, 2 clubs by you is Stayman, if partner bids 2 diamonds no 4 card major, you jump in your 4 card major suit, shows 5 of the other major. If you don't play Smolen, then over partner's 2 diamond response, you jump in your 5 card major, this way you can play a 5/3/ major suit fit. If you don't play Smolen, then the NT opening hand is the dummy. Smolen doesn't give up anything.

		AQ		
		KQ765	2 Diamonds	
		Q72	3 NT	
		987		
10864				KJ975
3	PASS			42
K1084				A93
6542				J103
		32		
		AJ1098	Dealer – 1 NT	
		J65	2 Hearts	
		AKQ	4 Hearts	

Lead is the 6 of spades. Question? Do you super accept the transfer with 3 hearts?  
 I do, you're declaring 4 hearts, 4 of spades led, plan your play?

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- K2 A3 KQ1098 KJ76 I would open this hand 1 NT
- KJ76 KQ1098 K2 A3 I would not open this hand 1 NT because of my major suits.  
I would open 1 Heart, and reverse to 2 SP. if partner bids 1 NT
- J5 AJ3 K2 KQJ1032 I would open this hand 1 NT
- 10765 KJ3 A109 K87 I would respond 3 NT when partner opens 1 NT – balanced,  
no shortness
- A1082 KQ10987 Q2 J3 I would bid 2 clubs, Stayman, if partner responds 2 diamonds,  
I would bid 4 diamonds (Texas transfer) partner bids 4 hearts