

Standard English Acol Foundation Level

All balanced hands with 12-14 points open 1NT

Responses to 1NT with balanced hands

0-10	Pass or red suit transfer (RST) as weakness take-out with 5-card major or Stayman with long minor or 4441 with singleton ♣	
11+	Stayman/RST with 4/5 card major.	
11-12	2NT invitational no interest in majors	
13-18	3NT no interest in majors	
19-20	4NT slam try no interest in majors	
21-24	6NT no interest in majors	
25+	7NT no interest in majors	
11-18	2♦/2♥	5-card forcing RST opener must bid major above
15+	3 any	6+ suit with slam interest

Responses to 1NT with unbalanced hands

0-18	2♦/2♥	5-card forcing RST opener must bid major above
13-15	4♥/4♠	6-card suit to play
15+	3 any	6+ suit with slam interest

Stayman - lower part of next column

1-level opening bids

15-19	Balanced
	1♥ with 4♥s and 4♠, otherwise highest of two 4-card suits or bid the 5+ card suit
12-19	Unbalanced
	Open longest suit or higher of equal length suits
	4441 singleton anywhere - RUBM = "Red Under Black Middle" ie Red singleton open suit below; Black singleton open middle suit of the other three. Consider Pass with 12 or poor 13.

Stayman 2♣ response to 1NT

Used with one or both majors, 4 cards, instead of direct raise in NT to check for major suit fit or weak hand with long ♣s or long ♦s or weak 4441 with singleton ♣

Opener's continuation

2♦	no 4+card major. Responder passes with long ♦s
2♥	shows 4♥s, may have 4♠s
2♠	show 4♠s but not 4♥s

Responder's second bid

weak 4441	pass
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0-10	3♣ with long suit
11-12	single raise with 4-card fit
	2NT with no fit
	3♥/3♠ with 5-cards not opener's suit. Opener then bids 3NT with 2-card fit or 4 of major fit with 3+ cards.
13+	4 of a major with a fit, 3NT no fit

Responses to 1-level opening bids

Range	Over	Bid	Showing
6+	1♣/1♦	1♥/1♠	longer suit or lower if equal length
	1♣/1♦	2♣/2♦	4 of opener's suit not 4+♥ nor 4+♠
	1♣	1♦	4+♦ not 4+♥ nor 4+♠
	1♥	1♠	4+♠
6-9	1♥/1♠	2♥/2♠	4+ fit
	1♦/1♥/1♠	1NT	no fit, no 1-level bid available, not always balanced
8-10	1♣	1NT	not 5+♦ not 4+♥s nor 4+♠s
10-12	1♥/1♠	3♥/3♠	4+ trump fit
		2NT	balanced, no 4-card major
	1♣/1♦	3♣/3♦	4+ fit not 4+♥s nor 4+♠s
10+	any		New suit at 1 or 2-level, higher of 5/5 lower of 4/4, prefer a 1-level 4-card major to a 2-level minor; bid again after opener's second bid.
13-15	1♥/1♠	4♥/4♠	4+ trump fit
13-15	any	3NT	balanced no 4 or 5 card major
	1♣/1♦	4♣/4♦	4+ fit not 4+♥s nor 4+♠s
16+	any		As above, take your time or jump-shift with a good 6+ suit and 3 cards in opener's suit

Opener's second bid	
after a non-jump suit response	
12-15	Raise responder's suit
	Bid new suit below barrier
	shows 5+ in first suit, 4+ in second
	Rebid first suit with 5+ cards
15-16	Balanced: NT at cheapest level, forcing if this is 2NT
16-18	Jump raise responder's suit with 4+ cards or with 3+ cards if responder bid 2♥
	Jump 6+ 1st suit below 3NT
	Bid second suit at 2 or 3-level above barrier shows 5+ in first suit, 4+ in second
	Consider bidding NT with a long minor
17-18	Balanced: jump in NT
17+	Bid game with a strong 6+ major
19+	Balanced: 3NT
	Bid game in responder's major with 4+ cards

Below 3NT, make planned second bid but one level higher.

12-15 Jump to game in partner's suit with 4-card support.

Jump to 4NT is Blackwood agreeing partner's suit.

If responder bids NT	
After responder's 1NT	
12-15	unbalanced re-bid 1st suit or bid a new suit below barrier
15-16	balanced Pass
17-18	balanced 2NT
16-19	unbalanced jump in 1st or 2nd suit ie break barrier
19	balanced 3NT
After responder's 2NT	
15+	3NT
	Re-bid 1st suit = non-forcing
	Bid a new suit = forcing
	Jump to game in long minor
After responder's 3NT	
12-18	pass or bid game in long minor
19+	make a slam try

Responder's second bid		
Opener did not break barrier		
6-9	Prefer opener's 1st suit	
	Pass	
	Rebid own suit	6-cards
	1♠ or 1NT if available	
10-12	Jump in own suit	6-cards
	Jump in one of opener's suits	
	2NT	
13+	Bid game	
Opener bid above barrier, non-forcing options		
	Prefer opener's 1st suit - maybe with a Pass	
	2NT implies stop in unbid suit	
Opener bid above barrier		
	Rebid own suit forcing	6-cards
	Game bid to play	
Opener bid above barrier and responder's 1st bid was at 2-level		
	bidding can not stop below game	
11+	Fourth suit forcing (except 1♣-1♦-1♥-1♠) even if below barrier	
After opener completed a transfer		
0-10	Pass	
11+	2♠	5+♥ 4+♠ 11+ forcing for one round
11-12	2NT	invitational
13-15	3♣/3♦	game force 5M 4m
	3♥/3♠	invitational 6-cards
	3NT	pass or correct 5-card
12-15	4♥/4♠	6+ sign off

2NT opening shows a 20-22 balanced hand		
Responses		
0-3	pass	
4-20	Balanced - do the arithmetic and bid NT with no interest in majors	
4-20	3♣	Stayman with one or both 4-card major(s) Normal responses but at 3-level
	3♦/3♥	5-card forcing RST opener must bid major above
4-11	4♥/4♠	with 6-cards to play

Responder's second bid		
After opener completed a transfer over 2NT		
0-2	Pass weakness take-out	
3+	3♠	5+♥ 4+♠ forcing
4-10	3NT	Opener passes or corrects to major
	4NT	slam invitational or Blackwood

Opening bid of 2♣ shows either a balanced 23+ or any strong game forcing hand		
Responses		
2♦	0-7	negative slam unlikely
2♥ 2♠ 3♣ 3♦	8+ game forcing	Good 5+ cards
3♥ 3♠	8+ game forcing	solid 6+ cards
2NT	8+ game forcing	poor or no 5-card suit
Opener's second bid after 2♦ response		
2NT	23-24	
	Responder may pass with 0 or 1	
3NT	25-27	
4NT	28-30	
2♥ 2♠	longest suit game forcing (except when responder bids 2NT 0-1)	
3♣ 3♦	longest suit game forcing	

Blackwood			
Responses to 4NT		Responses to 5NT	
5♣	0 or 4 Aces	6♣	0 Kings
5♦	1 Ace	6♦	1 King
5♥	2 Aces	6♥	2 Kings
5♠	3 Aces	6♠	3 Kings

Opening bids of 2♦ 2♥ 2♠ are weak with 5-9 HCP		
6-card suit with two of the top four honours		
Responses		
Pass		
Raise suit	7-14	Pre-emptive
New suit	10-14 2-level	non-forcing good 5+
	15+ 3-level	forcing good 6+
2NT	16+ forcing game enquiry	
	Opener rebids: suit with 5-6;	
	bids a feature with 8-9;	
	3NT 8-9 AQJxxx or better	
3NT	Natural to play	

Opening bids at 3-level or higher are weak and pre-emptive	
3♣ 3♦ 3♥ 3♠	7 cards 6-9
	with two of the top three honours
	Responder: 3NT to play
4♣ 4♦ 4♥ 4♠	8 cards two honours
5♣ 5♦	9 cards two honours

Competitive auctions

Overcalling

Direct 1NT Overcall

After RHO has opened

15-17 balanced with stoppers in suit opened

Further bidding Stayman, Transfers etc

Protective 1NT Overcall

After an opening bid then two passes

11-14 balanced

Further bidding Stayman, Transfers etc

Overcalling with a balanced 18-19

With stoppers in opponents suit:

Double first; then 1NT on second bid

2NT Overcall

20-22 balanced with stoppers in suit opened

Further bidding Stayman, Transfers etc

Suit overcall

8-9	1-level	5+ card suit AKxxx or better
10-16	1-level	5+ card suit
12-16	2-level	6-card suit

After partner has overcalled

Advancing after partner's 1-level Overcall

When RHO has bid: Raise partner to level of fit

When RHO has not bid, with a 3+ fit:

0-5	Pass	
6-9	Raise to 2-level	
10-12	Raise to 3-level	
13-15	Raise to 4-level	

When RHO has not bid with stops in opener's suit but no fit for partner:

0-8		Pass
9-12	1+ stop(s)	1NT
13-15	2+ stops	2NT
16-19	2++ stops	3NT

Advancing with a new suit

With about 8-12 points only change suit if you can guarantee your suit is better than partner's suit - a good six card suit or longer with two high honours (eg K Q 10 9 6 4) - encouraging not forcing.

With more points encourage with a good 5-card suit.

Advancing after partner's 2-level Overcall

When RHO has bid: Raise partner to level of fit

When RHO has not bid:

	Fit	Stops
0-9	Pass	Pass
10-12	Raise to 3-level	2NT
13-15	Raise to 4-level	3NT

Responding to opener after opponent overcalls

Responses after an opponent Overcalls up to 2♠

3+ fit	Support partner preemptively if weak
4+ fit	Bid opponent's suit = forcing limit raise
New suit	5+ cards
NT	with stop(s) in opponent's suit
Double for take-out with values in unbid suits	

After an opponent Overcalls above 2♠

All doubles are for penalties

New suit below game is forcing

Doubling

Double of opponents 1NT opening for penalties

15+	any further double also penalties
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Take-out double

12+	at most 2-cards in opponent's suit
17+	any distribution

Responses to Take-out double

0-8	simple suit bid, prefer major to minor	
9-12	jump in a suit	
6-9	1NT	1+ stoppers
10-12	2NT	2+ stoppers
13-15	3NT	2+ stoppers
Pass	Strong holding in opponent's suit	