

## Balanced Opening Hands

### No Trump Openings



Lesson 5

#### No Trump – the primary bidding option

No Trump hands are "balanced" and stronger than a minimum  
4/3/3/3 3/3/5/2 4/4/3/2 Flat Distributions

- ✓ 15 - 17 hcps
  - ✓ Only use High Card Points(hcps) to open
  - ✓ Do Not Count Distribution
  - ✓ No Singletons or Voids
  - ✓ At most 1 doubleton(may be worthless)
  - ✓ Denies 5 card major (♥/♠)
  - ✓ May have 5 card minor (♣/♦)
- |        |           |
|--------|-----------|
| 1NT    | = 15 - 17 |
| 2NT    | = 20 - 21 |
| 2♣/2NT | = 22 - 24 |
| 2♣/3NT | = 25 - 27 |

NT takes precedence over suit bids / Failure to bid NT denies a NT hand

Lesson 6

#### Response to 1 No Trump - No Majors

##### With No 4+ card major, flat hand

- |              |                                         |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 0 - 7 hcp    | PASS                                    |
| 8 - 9 points | 2 No Trump                              |
| 10-15        | 3 No Trump                              |
| 16-17        | 4 No Trump                              |
|              | (not Blackwood, Invites 6 with maximum) |
| 18-19        | 6 No Trump                              |
| 20-21        | 5 No Trump                              |
|              | (Invites 7, forces 6NT)                 |
| 22+          | 7 No Trump                              |

Stayman and transfers apply over all NT opening ranges

The difference between "Duplicate" bridge and "Social" Bridge is that the cards are duplicated, thus eliminating the luck of the deal. The game is the same.

Recommended Reading "Common Sense Bidding" by William S Root.

ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy – You are not allowed to get mad at your partner or anyone else or to give "constructive" criticism at the bridge table – Bridge is a game. Enjoy it.

Lesson 7

#### Response to 1 No Trump - With a Major(s)

**With a 4 card major and 8+ hcps**  
Bid 2♣ (Stayman) asks for 4 card major

1NT Opener Re-bids  
2♦ denies having a 4 card major  
2♥ Shows 4♥  
2♠ Shows 4♠  
(with 4/4 in both majors bid 2♥)

**7** Responder limits hand with re-bid / show or deny support  
8 - 9 hcps Raise to 3 with support or 2NT without  
10-15 hcps Raise to 4 with support or 3NT without

##### With a 5 card major - transfer

To Show 5♠ bid 2♥  
To Show 5♥ bid 2♦

Opener automatically accepts the transfer - over  
2♦ bid 2♥ - over  
2♥ bid 2♠

Responder limits hand  
0 - 7 hcps PASS  
8 - 9 hcps 2 No Trump  
10-15 hcps 3 No Trump

Over 2NT, with 15 hcps  
OPENER minimizes and corrects to  
3♥ with 3+♥ or PASS without 3+♥

Over 2NT, with 16-17 hcps  
OPENER corrects to 4♥ and 3+♥ or  
bids 3NT without 3+♥

Over 3NT, OPENER corrects to  
4♥ with 3+♥ or PASS without 3+♥

##### With a 6 card major - transfer then limit hand with 2nd bid

8 - 9 hcps 3♥/♠  
10-15 hcps 4♥/♠

##### With both (a 4 card and a 5 card major) bid Stayman (2♣)

**With 5/5 in the majors, transfer to ♠ with a 2♥ bid first, then bid 3♥ to show 5 hearts.** The No Trump opener will know it is 5/5 because you did not bid Stayman (2♣) to show a 4 card major.

**Gerber Convention** - When partner has opened 1NT or 2NT, a jump to 4♣ is "Gerber" and asks for Aces.

- 4♦ = 0 or 4 Aces
- 4♥ = 1 Ace
- 4♠ = 2 Aces
- 4NT = 3 Aces

Then 5♣ asks for Kings with the same responses at the 5 level.

**Blackwood Convention** (4NT) asks for Aces when a suit has been bid and does not apply over NT openings. A jump to 4NT over 1NT or 2NT is "quantitative" and shows 16/17 hcps as a "Response to 1NT" and invites opener to bid slam with a maximum NT opener.



## Bridge Bidding Basics Beginning Series #1

www.bridgewebs.com/borderlinebridge

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| #1 – Bridge Bidding Basics   | #11 – Strips and Squeezes |
| #2 – Six Basic Conventions   | #12 – Blackwood           |
| #3 – Play of the Hand        | #13 – Cue-bids            |
| #4 – Defense                 | #14 – Flannery            |
| #5 – Intermediate Bidding    | #15 – Carding             |
| #6 – Advanced (Two over One) | #16 – Four Suit Transfers |
| #7 – Stayman and Transfers   | #17 – Weak No Trump       |
| #8 – Lebensohl               | #18 – Wolf Sign-off & XYZ |
| #9 – Doubles and Overcalls   | #19 – Unusual/NMF/4SF     |
| #10 – Online Bridge          | #20 – One Level Transfers |



**Grafton Duplicate Bridge Club**  
Thursday Noon – Ameriprise Financial Bldg  
Stratified Pairs – Bridge lessons at 11am  
Director – Michael Leighton (701) 520-0753

**Grand Forks Duplicate Bridge Club**  
Monday 6:30pm – GF Senior Center  
Stratified Pairs – Bridge lessons at 5:45pm  
Friday 12:30pm – EGF Senior Center  
Director – Tom Rand (701) 742-3676

**Ambassador Bridge Club Winnipeg**  
Tuesday 12:15pm – MB Bridge Centre  
Stratified Pairs  
Wednesday 7pm – MB Bridge Centre  
Invitational Pairs and Swiss Teams  
Thursday 1pm – (0 – 200) Temple Shalom  
Play and learn  
Saturday 12:30pm – MB Bridge Centre  
Swiss Teams  
Director – Bill and Sue Treble (204) 669-1458

# Unbalanced Opening hands

## Suit Opening Bids



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High Card Points	Suit Rank	Opening Values
Ace = 4	No Trump	12+ High Card Points (hcp)
King = 3	♠ Spades	
Queen = 2	♥ Hearts	
Jack = 1	♦ Diamonds	
	♣ Clubs	

- ✓ Hands with 5+ card majors and 12 - 21 hcps, open 1♥ or 1♠
- ✓ Balanced hands with no 5+ card major and 12 - 14 hcps or 18-19 hcps open the longer minor 1♣ or 1♦ (See Lesson 5 for definition of "balanced")
- ✓ Unbalanced hands with 12 - 21 hcps, and no 5 card major, open the longer minor
- ✓ Hands with 22+ hcps open 2♣; partner makes a waiting 2♦ bid and then you name your suit at the 2 level or bid NT
- ✓ Hands with 5 - 10 hcps & a 7 card suit open 3 (pre-empt)

### Hand Revaluation

After a fit is found, add distributional playing points.

	Opener	Responder
Void	3	5
Singleton	2	3
Doubleton	1	1

### Playing Points needed for game or slam

25 points	3 No Trump
26 points	4♥ or 4♠
29 points	5♣ or 5♦
33 points	6 (small slam)
37 points	7 (grand slam)

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### Opener Point Ranges

Minimum Opener	12 - 15 hcps
Invitational Range	16 - 18 hcps
Strong	19 - 21 hcps
Game Force	22+ hcps

(A minimum opening hand with 12 hcps has a "feature" - either a 5 card suit, an ace or shortness with most hcps in 2 longest suits)

### Opener Re-bid Limits the hand (in support of Responder's suit)

Simple Raise	12 - 15 hcps Minimum Opener
Jump Raise	16 - 18 hcps Invitational Hand
Jump Shift	19 - 21 hcps Game Force Strong Hand

### Responder Point Ranges

Minimum Range	6 - 9 hcps
Game Invitational	10 - 11 hcps
Game Force	12+ hcps

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### Over-calls

At the **ONE** Level 7+ hcps (with AK in suit bid)

At the **TWO** Level 12+ hcps

Over-calls have length and strength in the suit bid. Overcalls at the one level are lead directive and when hcps are dispersed throughout the hand, the overcall needs to be stronger with more hcps.

♥ and ♠ are called the majors

♣ and ♦ are called the minors

**Five Card Majors** - An opening bid of 1♥ or 1♠ indicates a minimum of five cards in the suit. With two five card suits, bid the higher ranking suit first. With both ♥ and ♠, bid 1♠ so that you may rebid 2♥ and partner may show preference at the same level.

**The Convenient Minor** - An opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦ indicates that you do not have the criteria to open 1 of a major and the suit bid is your longest minor. With 3/3 in the minors bid 1♣; With 4/4 in the minors bid 1♦

**Length before Strength** - bid your longest suit first

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### Responding to 1 of a major

#### Show Support and limit hand

It is your objective to find an 8 or more card major suit fit.

When partner has bid a 5 card major, you raise with 3+.

2♥/♠ Minimum Raise 6 - 9 hcps

3♥/♠ Invitational Raise 10-11 hcps

2NT Game Force 12+ hcps

(Jacoby 2NT)

4♥/♠ Pre-emptive Raise less than 11 hcps and 5♥/♠

#### Deny Support and limit hand

1NT 6 - 10 hcps

2♣/♦ followed by 2NT 11 hcps

2♣/♦ followed by 3NT 12-15 hcps

Deny Support and show ♠ when partner opened 1♥

Bid 1♠ shows 6+ hcps and 4+ ♠

Deny Support and show ♥ when partner has opened 1♠

Bid 2♥ shows 10+ hcps and 5+♥; with 6-9 hcps bid 1NT over 1♠

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### Responding to 1 of a minor

It is your objective to find an 8 or more card major suit fit.

**With 6+ hcps responder must bid**, bid a 5+ card major if you have one, otherwise bid your 4 card majors "up the line". (♥ first), Unless you have a strong ♦ suit and 9+ hcps. Theory being that 6/9 hcps has only one bid in the hand, therefore, bid your major.

Since partner can open the convenient minor with only a 3 card suit, you must have 5 in a minor to raise partner and no 4 card major.

Opener and Responder bid 4 card suits "up the line" at the one level to find an 8 card fit.

**4 After Opener has Re-bid; Responder limits hand with re-bid** Support or deny 4 card fit with re-bid.

Example - Opener bids 1♣, respond bids 1♦, Opener rebids 1♥/♠ Simple Raise 1♥/♠ - 2♥/♠ shows 6 - 10 hcps and 4♥/♠ Jump Raise 1♥/♠ - 3♥/♠ "limit Raise" shows 11 hcps and 4♥/♠ Game Force 1♥/♠ - 4♥/♠ shows 12+ hcps and 4♥/♠

#### With no 4 card major fit and balanced distribution

1NT = 6 - 10 hcps

2NT = 11 hcps

3NT = 12 - 15 hcps

Strong responding hands may make slam invitational bids or ask for aces with the Blackwood Convention.