



### Introduction

You and your partner have agreed that an opening bid of 1NT shows 12, 13 or 14 high card points, and is balanced.

If partner opens 1NT and our hand is balanced, we start looking for the right level at which to play in No Trumps.

However, if our hand is NOT balanced, we must find the best suit contract at the right level.

The good news is that opener must have at least two cards in each suit so any suit in our hand with five or more cards is a potential trump suit.

### Weak Take Out

If we have 0-10 points, we know the total between the hands is at most 24, and therefore there is no game contract available.

We bid our longest suit at the two level, asking partner to pass, and to allow us to play the contract at the two level.

This is often called a "Weak Take Out", because you are showing a weak hand (could have zero points) and are simply "taking" a disastrous 1NT contract "out" into a less disastrous suit contract!

♠	K 9 8 7 6 5
♥	A 2
♦	7 6
♣	7 6 5
Reply	2♠



### Game in a Major Suit (Hearts or Spades)

♠	A 2
♥	K Q 9 8 7 6
♦	A K
♣	7 6 5
Reply	4♥.

If we have 6 or more cards in either Hearts or Spades and 11, or more, high card points, we know that between the hands there are at least 8 trump cards and enough high card points for a game score. We bid 4♠ or 4♥.

### Game in a Minor Suit (Clubs or Diamonds)

If we have 6 or more cards in either Clubs or Diamonds and 16, or more, high card points, we know that between the hands there are at least 8 trump cards and enough high card points for a game score needing to win eleven tricks. We bid 5♣ or 5♦.

### When you need partner to decide.....

♠	A 2
♥	K Q 9 8 7
♦	A K 2
♣	7 6 5
Reply	3♥.

With a five card major and 12, or more, high card points, bid 3♥ or 3♠. This asks partner to choose between 3NT and 4♥ or 4♠. With 2 in the suit, they will choose no trumps. With 3 or 4 in the suit, they will choose the major game.

