



Opening 1 of a suit

Opening one of a suit promises at least 4 cards in that suit and roughly 12-19 high card points. For Example:

♠	K Q 6 5 3
♥	K Q 9 7
♦	A 2
♣	3 2

♠	K J 10 7 5	Sometimes a hand has such a good “shape” that we can “bend” the rule about having at least 12 high card points to open.
♥	Q J 10 7 6	
♦	A 2	This hand meets the Rule of 20 and it could be opened 1♠.
♣	3	

If partner replies with change of suit...

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	You (the opener) must bid again.
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1♠	P	2♣	P	Your bid is called an “opener’s re-bid”, or “re-bid” for short.
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?	Depending on your hand, you might:
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1. Bid your suit again; or
2. Bid partner’s suit; or
3. Show a 2nd suit in your hand, which would be a third suit in the auction.

Each bid shows both the shape and the rough strength of your hand – if you and your partner have the necessary agreements!



Opener's second bids (Re-bids) showing weaker opening hands

Weaker opening hands have from 10 to 14 or a poor 15 HCPs. Sometimes you make a judgement about 15 HCP hands.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>1 Repeat first suit</u>
1♠	P	2♣	P	... 5+ spades; up to 14 HCP and no other four-card suit.
2♠				

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>2 Raise Responder's Suit</u>
1♠	P	2♣	P	... 5+ spades; up to 14 HCP and a four+ card club suit.
3♣				

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>3 Lower Ranking Second Suit Bid below Two Level of the First Suit</u>
1♠	P	2♣	P	... 5+ spades; up to 14 HCP and 4+ card Diamond suit.
2♦				

Responder may pass with a weak hand. Responder may bid opener's first suit at the two level showing a weak hand and preference for the first suit.

Anything else is probably game seeking.



Opener's Re-bids with stronger unbalanced hands

If the opening hand has 16+ HCPs, or a good 15 HCP, opener re-bids higher than 2 of the opening suit.

Bidding above the barrier ("Reversing")

Imagine there's a "barrier" at 2 of opener's first suit. To show a strong hand, bid a 2nd suit above the "barrier". Sometimes without jumping or skipping any levels. This re-bid is "forcing for one round".

♠ K J 10 8	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
♥ A J 10 6 5	1♥	P	2♣	P
♦ K Q 3	2♠			
♣ A				

Jump Switching

♠ A K 10 4 3	Sometimes opener has to jump a level to bid the second suit above the "barrier". This re-bid is "forcing for one round".	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
♥ Q J 9 8 6		1♠	P	2♣	P
♦ A 3		3♥			
♣ A					



Forcing for one Round

When opener's second bid introduces a new suit "above the barrier" it is "forcing for one round". This just means that partner (the responder) must bid again.

Opener needs the chance to find a game, and so wants responder to "keep the bidding open", and provide more information.

Opener Jump Raises Own Suit

Show a strong hand with a single good suit by bidding the suit again jumping a level.

♠ 7 5	Showing at least 16 points and a good quality six-card suit.	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
♥ A K 10 9 4 3		1♥	P	1♠	P
♦ A 3		3♥			
♣ A Q 4					

This is not forcing, but the responder doesn't need much to raise the bidding to game.



Responder re-bids after Opener shows Strong Hand

Responder has strong hand (10+ HCPs)

Responder

♠ A 10 4
♥ 9 8 6 5
♦ 3
♣ A Q J 10 7

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	P	2♣	P
2♠	P	?	

Responder first changes suit to 2♣. Opener shows a two-suited strong hand forcing a re-bid. With four hearts and good HCPs, responder jumps to 4♥.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	P	2♣	P
3♥	P	?	

Responder changes suit to 2♣. Opener shows a six+ card heart suit and ~16-19 HCPs, not forcing a re-bid. With four hearts & 11 HCPs, responder raises to 4♥.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	P	2♣	P
3♦	P	?	

Responder first changes suit to 2♣. Opener shows a two-suited hand and ~16-19 HCPs, forcing a re-bid. With a spade stop and good HCPs, responder bids 3NT.



Responder has weak hand (6-9 HCPs)

Responder

♠ A 10 4 3
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 6 5 4 3
 ♣ Q 5 4 2

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	P	1♠	P
2♠	P	?	

Responder first changes suit to 1♠.
 Opener shows a strong hand with six+ hearts but not forcing a re-bid.
 Responder passes.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	P	1♠	P
3♥	P	?	

Responder first changes suit to 1♠.
 Opener shows a strong hand with six+ hearts but not forcing a re-bid.
 Responder passes.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	P	1♠	P
3♦	P	?	

Responder first changes suit to 1♠.
 Opener shows a two-suited hand and ~16-19 HCPs, forcing a re-bid. Diamonds doesn't score as well as No Trumps, but the partnership is likely to be weak in clubs. Responder bids 4♦.