



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
♥ Q J 10 7 6
♦ A 2
♣ 3

Sometimes a hand has such a good “shape” that we can “bend” the rule about having at least 12 high card points to open.

This hand meets the Rule of 20 and it could be opened 1♠.

If partner replies with change of suit...

N E S W You (the opener) must bid again.

1♠ P 2♣ P Your bid is called an “opener’s re-bid”, or “re-bid” for short.

?

Depending on your hand, you might:

1. Bid your suit again; or
2. Bid partner’s suit; or
3. Show a 2nd suit in your hand, (a third suit in the auction)
4. Bid No Trumps.

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.

Show a minimum opening hand by: 1 Repeating opening suit

♠ K J 10 7 5

♥ Q J 10

♦ A

♣ Q 9 8 7

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

... 5+ spades; up to 14 HCP and no other biddable four-card suit.

Raising the opening suit at the next level is a limiting bid.



Show a minimum opening hand by: 2 Raising Responder's Suit

♠ K J 10 7 5

♥ Q J 10

♦ A

♣ Q 9 8 7

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

... 5+ spades; up to 14 HCP and a four+ card club suit.

NOTE

Although this re-bid is "above the barrier", it is a limit bid because it is a raise of partner's suit to the next level.



Show a minimum opening hand by:

3 New Suit below Two of the Opening Suit

♠ K J 10 7

♥ Q J 10

♦ A

♣ Q 9 8 7 4

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♣	P	1♦	P
1♠			

... 5+ clubs; up to 14 HCP and 4+ card Spade suit.

Responder Re-bid after Weak Opener's Re-bid

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

With a weak hand 6-10hcp, Responder may show preference by passing or bidding opener's first suit at the two level.

Anything else suggests strength 11+ hcp and 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")

♠ K J 10 8
♥ A J 10 6 5
♦ K Q 3
♣ A

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".

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

Jump Switching

♠ A K 10 4 3
♥ Q J 9 8 6
♦ A 3
♣ A

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>
1♠	P	2♣	P
3♥			



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

♥ A K 10 9 4 3

♦ A 3

♣ A Q 4

Showing at
least 16 points
and a good
quality six-card
suit.

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

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



Example Responder re-bids after Opener shows Strong Hand

Responder has strong hand (10+ HCPs)

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

Responder

♠	A 10 5 4
♥	9 8 6
♦	3
♣	A Q J 10 7

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

Responder has weak hand (6-9 HCPs)

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

Responder changes suit to 1♠. Opener shows a five+ card diamond suit and 4+ heart suit, 16-19 HCPs, forcing a re-bid.

Responder

♠	A 10 5 4
♥	9 8 6
♦	3
♣	Q J 10 7 6

With good clubs, but only 7 HCPs, responder bids 2NT.



Opener's Re-bids with stronger balanced hands

We open 1NT with a balanced hand with 12 to 14 HCP. What if it's a balanced shape but 15-19 HCP?

♠ J 10 9
♥ K Q 9
♦ A K 3 2
♣ K 4 2

Telling the story in two parts

We send the message in two bids:

1. Open the bidding at the one level, bidding your longest suit.
If you have two four card suits, and one of them is hearts then you open 1 Heart. Otherwise, open one of the lower ranking suit.
2. Now bid again ("opener's re-bid"). Bid No Trumps at a level that shows your HCP count:



PR 01 Openers Rebid Mixed

NOTES

With 15 or 16 HCPs

Re-bid 1NT

♠ J 10 9

♥ K Q 9

♦ A K 3 2

♣ K 4 2

N

E

S

W

1♦

P

1♠

P

1NT

With 17 or 18 HCPs

Re-bid 2NT

♠ J 10 9

♥ K Q 9 2

♦ A K Q

♣ K 4 2

N

E

S

W

1♥

P

1♠

P

()2NT

With 19 HCPs

Re-bid 3NT

♠ J 10 9

♥ K Q 9

♦ A K Q

♣ K J 4 2

N

E

S

W

1♣

P

1♥

P

()3NT



If Partner Changes Suit to the 2 Level

Partner promises at least 10 HCP. The partnership almost certainly has a game contract available. You now have a choice of 2NT or 3NT to show the shape and strength of your hand:

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

With 15, 16 or 17 HCPs

Re-bid 2NT


♠ J 10 9
♥ K Q 9
♦ A K 3 2
♣ K 4 2

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♦	P	2♣	P
2NT			

With 18 or 19 HCPs

Re-bid 3NT

♠ J 10 9 8
♥ K Q 9
♦ A K Q
♣ K J 4

N	E	S	W
1♠	P	2♦	P
()3NT			