

## 2NT rebid by opener

There are three situations where opener may make a 2NT rebid. They are:

- Following a 1-level response from responder
- Following a 2-level response from responder
- Following a 1NT response from responder

### Opener rebids 2NT to his partner's 1-level bid

Opener's 2NT rebid, in this situation, shows a balanced 17-18 TPs. It may be 16 HCPs with a 5-card suit. A rebid of 2NT will always deny a 4-card major that could have been bid at the 1-level. For example:

1♣ - 1♦  
2NT would deny any 4-card major.

1♣ - 1♥  
2NT would deny any 4-card major. If opener had held a 4-card ♥ suit, he would have raised responder's suit to the required level. If he had held a 4-card ♠ suit he would have bid it in preference to bidding 2NT.

1♣ - 1♠  
2NT Opener's bid of 2NT does not deny a 4-card ♥ holding. If responder held 5-♠s and 4-♥s, he would now bid the ♥ suit if having 8+ TPs. The bid of a new suit at the three-level is forcing.

Note: Responder will not have two 4-card majors! If he had, his response would have been 1♥ (bid 4-card suits up the line).

Opener would not rebid 2NT with a singleton or void in a side suit. If opener's 5-card suit is weak and he holds a singleton in responder's suit, it is permissible to reverse. For example:

♠ 9  
♥ KQ7  
♦ AQJ7  
♣ KJ743

The bidding goes:

1♣ - 1♠  
?

2♦ is now the preferred bid. It shows the correct point count 17+ TPs and is forcing for one round. (Note: the 5-4 reverse shape.) If responder had bid 1♥ over opener's 1♣, it would be best for opener to make a reverse bid of 2♦ then give delayed support in ♥s.

### Responder's response to opener's 2NT rebid

The following general principles are used:

- Weak rebid

- Pass showing 5-7 TPs
- Rebid of responder's suit

1♣ - 1♥  
2NT - 3♥

shows a 6-card suit in a weak hand

- Show preference to opener's suit

1♣ - 1♥  
2NT - 3♣

Since 2NT was a non-forcing limit bid, the 3♣ bid is just showing preference.  
For example:

♠ 92  
♥ K1064  
♦ 963  
♣ K753

- Forcing bids - All **new** suits at the 3-level are game forcing

For example:

1♦ - 1♥  
2NT - 3♣

This type of bid is often used with a 5-3-3-2 pattern to see if opener can give delayed support.

1♦ - 1♠  
2NT - 3♥

This type of bidding, by responder, asks opener to:

- Raise ♥s with 4-card support
- Show delayed support (3-card) in ♠s
- Bid 3NT with neither of the above

- Sign-off bids - all game bids are sign-off

1♦ - 1♥                      or                      1♦ - 1♥

2NT- 3NT

2NT- 4♥

Opener rebids 2NT to his partner's 2-level bid

Opener's 2NT rebid following a jump bid by responder shows a balanced 15+ HCPs:  
(1♣ – 2♦//2NT)

Opener's 2NT rebid, following a standard 2-over-1 response, shows a balanced 15-19 HCPs (however see below). It may be 14 HCPs with a 5-card suit.

For example:

1♦ - 2♣  
2NT

Note: This 2NT rebid was once considered to be non-forcing. However, there are good reasons why you should make this 2NT rebid forcing.

If responder keeps his 2-level responses to be a minimum of 10 TPs, and if opener has a minimum of 15 HCPs, there should be sufficient combined values for game. It now causes less strain on the partnership to find 5-3 major fits. Opener can now have more than 16 TPs and still bid a forcing 2NT when he holds a 5-card major. For example:

1♥ - 2♦  
?

With:

♠ J9  
♥ KQ875  
♦ AQ8  
♣ KQ3

opener may confidently bid 2NT without worrying that a 5-3 ♥ fit may be missed, because Responder can now bid 3♥ with 3-card support.

If you don't play 2NT, in this situation, as forcing you may find the following occurring:

♠ J9	♠ 1076
♥ KQ875	♥ AJ6
♦ AQ8	♦ KJ953
♣ KQ3	♣ 42

1♥ - 2♦      or      1♥ - 2♦  
2NT- Pass      2NT- 3NT

In real life, the defence took the first five ♠ tricks plus the ace of ♣s. Note 4♥ is unbeatable!

The bidding should go:

1♥ - 2♦  
2NT- 3♥

4♥ - Pass

Responder's response to opener's 2NT rebid

The following general principles are used:

- Forcing bids - All suits bid at the 3-level are game forcing

For example:

1♠ - 2♥  
2NT- 3♣

This type of bid is often used to show a 5-4 pattern or better, waiting to see if opener can give delayed support for ♥s.

1♠ - 2♣  
2NT- 3♠

This type of bidding, by responder, shows 3-card support. Opener should bid 4♠ with a 5-card suit or bid 3NT.

- Sign-off bids - all game bids are sign-off

(a) 1♠ - 2♥      or      (b) 1♦ - 2♣  
    2NT- 4♥                      2NT- 3NT

(a) Responder would have a 6-card suit or better in a minimum hand

(b) 10+ TPs with scattered values

#### Raising partner's 1NT response (to 2NT)

A raise to 2NT invites responder to bid 3NT with 8-9 HCPs. If responder has less points he should pass. Opener would need 17-18 HCPs to make this invitational bid. Don't do it on 16 HCPs.

If responder has 8-9 HCPs he should always show delayed support for opener's major on his way to 3NT. For example:

1♥ - 1NT  
2NT- 3♥

Responder is now offering opener a choice of games. If opener has a 5-card ♥ suit, he should bid 4♥, else bid 3NT.

### Partnership bidding

1	♠ AJ6 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K8432 ♣ K4	♠ K8542 ♥ K973 ♦ 7 ♣ QJ3	2	♠ K863 ♥ K952 ♦ 72 ♣ Q83	♠ AJ52 ♥ A6 ♦ K83 ♣ AJ104
3	♠ Q7 ♥ A842 ♦ Q85 ♣ AKQ2	♠ J108654 ♥ - ♦ KJ62 ♣ J43	4	♠ KJ542 ♥ J4 ♦ K97 ♣ Q84	♠ Q76 ♥ A32 ♦ A842 ♣ AK7
5	♠ K74 ♥ Q85 ♦ AK6 ♣ AJ62	♠ QJ1032 ♥ K10964 ♦ 83 ♣ 5			

### Appendix 1

1	1♦ - 1♠ 2NT - 3♥ 3♠ - 4♠ No	2	No - 1♣ 1♥ - 1♠ 2♠ - 3♠ 4♠ - No	3	1♥ - 1♠ 2NT - 4♠ No	4	No - 1♦ 1♠ - 2NT 3♣ - 3♠ 4♠ - No
5	1♣ - 1♠ 2NT - 4♥ 4♠ - No						

### Bid and play problems using a 2NT rebid by Opener

1. Rebidding a 5-card suit after opener's 2NT - Not leading a honour card for a finesse

Dealer South: Both Non-vulnerable

	♠ A93 ♥ KQ3 ♦ A83 ♣ KQ86	
♠ Q ♥ 10764 ♦ QJ96 ♣ 9543		♠ K876 ♥ J8 ♦ 10752 ♣ AJ10
	♠ J10542 ♥ A952 ♦ K4 ♣ 72	

Bidding:

W	N	E	S
			P
	1♣		1♠
	2NT		3♥
	3♠		4♠

Lead = ♦7

Note: 10 tricks should be made when you play a small ♠ towards the A9. You now only lose one trump instead of two.

2. Rebidding over opener's 2NT rebid - Play at trick 1 - Double finesse

Dealer West: North/South vulnerable

	♠ KQJ10	
	♥ 94	
	♦ A765	
	♣ 853	
♠ 953		♠ A8742
♥ AQ106		♥ 8732
♦ K3		♦ Q2
♣ AKQ6		♣ J2
	♠ 6	
	♥ KJ5	
	♦ J10984	
	♣ 10974	

W	N	E	S
1♥		2♥	
2NT		3♠	
4♥			

Lead = ♦J

Since Declarer has 2 spades and a diamond to lose, he needs to pick up the trump suit so needs entries to the East hand, therefore he should play the ♦K so that he can get to hand with the ♦Q.

## Bidding exercise

After the following bidding, what do you rebid?

1♦ - 1♠  
2NT- ?

1	♠ K76432	2	♠ A762	3	♠ QJ732	4	♠ A9742	5	♠ AQ875
	♥ 3		♥ AQ		♥ KJ72		♥ J		♥ 2
	♦ 64		♦ 643		♦ 87		♦ 86		♦ 943
	♣ K973		♣ QJ32		♣ 85		♣ K9732		♣ K643

## Appendix 2

1 4♠    2 3NT    3 3♥    4 3♣    5 3♣