

A few Acol sequences

The following sequences are shown as:

NF Non-forcing

F Forcing

F1 Forcing for one round

GF Game-forcing

1♣ 1♥

1♠ NF but highly encouraging

1♥ 1♠

1NT 15-16 (Unless you play 15-17)

1♥ 1NT 6-9 NF denies 4-♠s

1♥ 1♠

2NT 17-18 NF

1♠ 1NT

2♥ NF but ♠s will be at least a 5-card suit. Responder should bid 2♠ having a doubleton ♠ and Hxx in ♥s!

1♠ 2♣ F to at least 2♠

1♠ 2♣

2♥ F to at least 2♠ - Opener will have at least 5 ♠s

1♠ 2♣

2♥ 2NT NF limit bid (11-12 HCPs, denies 3♠s or 4 ♥s)

1♠ 2♣

2NT 15+ F (hence 2-level bids need to be kept up to strength 10+).

1♠ 2♣

2NT 3♠ F with 3-card ♠ support (unless you play 3♣ as an asking bid)

A few Acol sequences

1♠	2♣	
3NT		NF - best played as a flat 15-16 without 5 ♠s and without 4 ♥s (fast arrival - FA)
1♥	1♠	
3NT		NF - Will not have 5-card ♥ suit, AND will not have 3-card ♠ suit
1♥	1♠	
2NT		NF (classically 17/18, but some would play it as 18-19 depending on your 1NT rebid strength) - may have either; 5-♥s OR 3-card ♠ suit. Further bid by Responder is GF so all 8-card major fits can be found ³
1♥	1♠	
2NT	3♠	F (any bid above 2NT is GF)
1♥	1♠	
2NT	3♠	
4♠		Yes we have our 8-card major fit
1♥	2♦	
3♣		GF with 5-card ♥ suit (High Reverse). ♣ suit may be a short suit!
1♥	2♦	
2♠		GF - Reverse after a 2-level response (5-♥s and 4-♠s)
1♦	1♠	
2♥		F1 - Reverse after 1-level response
1♥	1♠	
3♥		NF - shows a hand which contains 7 tricks with ♥s as trumps

The only times when certain sequences don't show the first suit as a 5-card suit are when opener is 4441. However, it is best for responder to assume the 5-card suit but just the thought of a possible 4-card (4441) suit in the back of their mind. 4441s are a minefield and we would need to discuss these, but basically:

1444 Open 1♦ (some open 1♥, but this is wrong, causes rebid problems)

4144 Open 1♦ occasionally 1♣ if ♦s are weak and ♣s are strong

4414 Open 1♣

4441 Open 1♦

If you open 1♥ the problem arises when it goes:

1♥ 2♣

2♦ Responder expects a 5-card ♥ suit!, and may bid 2♥
with a doubleton

Suit quality has a big influence on how to open these hands. Always think what the most difficult response could be!

1♠ 2♥

2♠ 3♥ non-forcing but highly encouraging