

Introduction to Jacoby 2NT

To raise Partner's 1♥/♠ bid, the following rules occur:

1♥/♠ – 2♥/♠ = 6-9 HCPs

1♥/♠ – 3♥/♠ = 10-11 HCPs

And

1♥/♠ – 4♥/♠ = ?

The 1st raise is just a token raise, the 2nd raise is invitational to game, and the 3rd is ?

Well, if we said that it ought to be 12+ then we have taken up lots of room and cramped our auction if Partner wants to investigate slam. Therefore, we use it pre-emptively.

Is there any other reasons why we should use it as a preemptive bid?

If we have a big fit and our hand is weak, the opposition must have a big fit and have values, so we are getting in their way – taking up lots of room.

A typical hand for:

1♥/♠ – 4♥/♠

Is:

♠ KJ964

♥ 7

♦ QJ753

♣ 65

Assuming Partner opens 1♠ you bid: 4♠

I'm sure you have seen hands make many tricks when they have lots of trumps. Often Partner will have a 5-card suit when he opens so you will have a 10 card fit and TNT (Total Number of Tricks) states that you should get to the level of your fit ASAP. See Total Number of Trumps document. If your contract goes down, then your loss may be smaller than what you would have received if the Opposition had played in their contract.

Quiz:

Partner opens the bidding with 1♥ and you hold:

1 ♠ J9753
 ♥ 5
 ♦ Q876
 ♣ 975

2 ♠ A6
 ♥ 10862
 ♦ J108
 ♣ K864

3 ♠ 108
 ♥ K975
 ♦ Q75
 ♣ AJ65

4	♠ 5	5	♠ A64	6	♠ 108
	♥ KJ864		♥ Q1086		♥ K97532
	♦ 108642		♦ 6		♦ Q753
	♣ 97		♣ Q8642		♣ 5

Answers:

1 Pass – don't make matters worse

2 2♥

3 3♥

4 2♥/4♥: Don't say you have too many losers – show your values
the value of the hand is correct for 2♥ but bidding 4♥ NV would put tremendous pressure on your opponents

5 3♥

6 4♥

OK so we don't have a normal method of showing game values with a fit (4-card support). However, it is possible to show this fit via a delayed game raise (DGR):

1♥ – 2♣

2♦ – 4♥

This method is not perfect as Opener doesn't know whether you have 3-card or 4-card support AND your partnership hasn't shown the fit below game – so we are not a lot further forward than bidding game immediately.

Let us digress for a while. Are there any other bids that are redundant that we could use to show 4-card support?

1. What does 1♥/♠ - 3NT show?

We are now a level higher and have less room to investigate a slam. However, if the bid was showing a specific type of hand, that may allow the Opener to take charge of the auction. If we use it as a 'pudding raise' (4-card support and a balanced hand – 4333 with 13-15 HCPs), then Opener would have a very good idea where the contract should be placed. If he held:

- A balanced hand (15+) he would know whether game or slam would, possibly, be on (in either NTs or major fit)
- An unbalanced hand again would know lots

In any of these situations, any side suit bid at the 4-level would be a cue-bid (lowest) and ask Responder to cue-bid also. This procedure may be followed by RKCB.

2. What do you use a 2NT response for when responding to Partner's 1♥/♠ bid?

The **worst** bid in Acol says its 11-12 HCPs **without** a fit and without a 4-card suit in the other major. I think that bid is redundant as you can get to it on your 2nd bid: 1♥ – 2♣//2♦ – 2NT. So, since the 2NT bid is redundant we can use it as our:

- Game force
- trump agreement

This is known as a Jacoby 2NT bid.

We now have lots of room to describe our hands in a **forcing** auction.

But what type of hand should we use to make a Jacoby 2NT bid?

So '**fit**' hands, by Responder, would go via:

- 2NT - Jacoby
- Pudding Raise 4333: see Pudding Raise document
- Splinter (singleton/void): see Splinter document
- Distributional raise (1M – 4M) – see above