

Opener's rebid

Typically:

1♣ – 1♥
?

If a trump fit is immediately located, opener revalues his hand using **HCP + SP** (High Card Points + short points) formula. If no trump fit has been located, opener continues with the **HCP + LP** (Long Points) valuation formula.

Short points (SP):

If you have a fit and a shortage in a side suit, then there are ruffing values and the hand becomes stronger than just counting HCPs.

1♣ – 1♥
?

Compare:

xx	x	-
AQxx	AQxx	AQxx
xxx	xxx	xxxx
AQJxx	AQJxx	AQJxx

The 2nd hand may ruff the 2nd spade, and the 3rd hand can ruff the 1st spade that the Oppo attack with, so although each hand has the same HCPs the value of the hand is different.

Opener's rebid will depend on whether his hand is balanced or unbalanced.

Balanced hands (15-19 HCPs)

Opener's hand must be in the 15-19 HCP range since he would have made systematic opening bids with other strengths. For example:

1NT with 12-14 HCPs
2NT with 20-22 HCPs
2♣ with 23+ HCPs

Assuming that opener does not have a 4-card fit, with responder, he will show his strength via the following format:

- Bid 1NT, with 15-16 HCPs, following a 1 over 1 response:
(e.g. 1♦-1♠//1NT)
- Bid 2NT, with 17-18 HCPs, following a 1 over 1 response:
(e.g. 1♦-1♥//2NT)
- Bid 3NT, with 19 HCPs, following a 1 over 1 response:
(e.g. 1♣-1♠//3NT)

- Bids 2NT, with 15-17 HCPs, following a 2 over 1 response:
(e.g. 1♦-2♣//2NT) GF
- Bids 3NT, with 18-19 HCPs, following a 2 over 1 response:
(e.g. 1♥-2♦//3NT)

However when you have more experience these ranges will change – for the better!

1NT rebid by opener (15-16 HCPs)

A rebid of 1NT, by opener, will always show 15-16 HCPs. It will also deny 4-card support of a major bid by responder or a 4-card ♠ suit. For example:

1♣ - 1♥	1♦ - 1♥	1♣ - 1♦
1NT	1NT	1NT

all 1NT bids show 15-16 HCPs (unless you agree to the modern method of 15-17)

1♣ - 1♥	1♦ - 1♥	1♣ - 1♦
1♠	1♠	1♥

opener *may* have 15-16 HCPs, but shows his major as a priority. Our goal in the auction is:

Aim to find an 8-card major fit

Jump rebid in no-trumps

1♦ - 1♠
2NT

This type of bidding requires a 17-18 HCP hand.

Example:

♠ 965
♥ AJ5
♦ AKJ76
♣ A7

If responder should make another bid, say 3♦, you should show your three card ♠ support by bidding 3♠. Responder may now choose between 3NT and 4♠.

Any bid above 2NT is GF

1♦ - 1♠
3NT

This type of bidding requires a 19 HCP hand.

Example:

♠ K5
♥ AJ5
♦ AQJ76
♣ KJ7

Unbalanced hands

With 12-22 TPs you should show your strength via the following format:

- An unbalanced hand of 12-16 TPs
 - Raise responder's suit with 4-card support
 - Bid a new suit at the 1-level
 - Bid a new lower ranking suit at the 2-level
 - Rebid your first suit
- An unbalanced hand of 17-18 TPs
 - Jump-rebid in your first suit, 6-card suit with no second suit, (e.g. 1♥-1♠//3♥). This bid is invitational, it is not forcing
- Jump rebids by opener

Jump rebids are made on a hand with a 6-card suit and approximately 17 TP (5.5 loser hand). If you had had a good 8 trick hand you would have opened an ACOL TWO, so a jump rebid is slightly weaker (7 tricks).

Example:

♠ A7	1♥ - 1♠
♥ AQJ765	3♥
♦ Q65	
♣ K7	

The bidding is not absolutely forcing, but it is highly invitational.

- Jump-raise responder's suit (e.g. 1♥-1♠//3♠). This bid is invitational, it is not forcing
- Bid a new suit (either a lower ranking suit or by making a reverse). A reverse following a 1-level response is forcing for one round (e.g. 1♦-1♠//2♥). A reverse following a 2-level response is forcing to game (e.g. 1♦-2♣//2♥).

A reverse bid is said to be made, by opener, if by bidding a second suit his partner is forced to go to the 3-level to show preference for the first suit

- An unbalanced hand of 19-22 TPs (game going hand)

- Jump to game in responder's suit

If responder bids a major, opener may bid game with 4-card support (e.g. 1♦-1♠//4♠)

♠ A987
♥ 6
♦ AKQ7
♣ AK98

If responder bids a minor, opener would jump shift in an unbid major before supporting with 4-card support.

Note the difference in technique with majors and minors

- Jump to game in your major (e.g. 1♥-1♠//4♥)

♠ Q3
♥ KQ107532
♦ AQ7
♣ 7

- Jump shift (e.g. 1♥-1♠//3♣)

♠ A5
♥ AKJ75
♦ 7
♣ KQ1076

A jump shift is forcing (a High Reverse).

♠ 2
♥ AKJ97
♦ 3
♣ AKJ975

1♣-1♦//2♥

If responder has bid at the 1-level the bid is a 1-round force. If responder has bid at 2-level, the bid is game forcing.

Since a jump-shift at the 3-level is forcing and natural, a jump-shift at the 4-level must be conventional. It agrees responder's suit and shows either: a void, singleton or ace of the side suit (splinter style). You will need to agree with your partner which form you play. You cannot play all forms.

Opener's rebid after responder raises to the 2 level

Responder will have raised on a 9-loser hand, therefore if opener is minimum (7-loser hand) he should pass. However, on any better hand (6-loser or 16+ TPs) there are a variety of bidding methods.

1. Firstly, we shall look at opener's bids after a raise of a major, for example, 1♥-2♥.
(Remember that the goal is to finish in a major game in preference to a no-trump game).
 - 17-18 HCP and balanced - bid 2NT. This is just telling Responder the value of the hand in case Responder has raised on a 3-card suit with ruffing values. Opener will only have a 4-card suit
 - 16-18 TPs unbalanced
 - Make a trial bid (for example, 1♥-2♥//3♦). Responder will bid game with values in the trial suit and undisclosed values, else he signs off in three of opener's suit
 - Raise the suit pre-emptively (for example, 1♥-2♥//3♥) trying to keep the Opponents from getting into the auction
 - 19+ HCPs and balanced, bid 3NT
 - 19+ TPs unbalanced, bid game in the suit

Secondly, we must look at a raise of a minor. Many of the above bids are used when opener's minor is raised. However, the difference is that the partnership will now try to steer towards 3NT. Therefore, the trial bid now shows a stop in that suit, and requests partner to show a stop in another suit below 3NT. Only on rare distributional fits will the partnership finish in 5 of a minor.

Opener's rebid after responder raises to the 3 level

- Raises of a major (1♥-3♥ or 1♠-3♠)

Opener should:

- Pass with a minimum <14 TPs
- Raise to game with a distributional 15-19 TPs
- Cue-bid with possibilities of a slam (for example, 1♥-3♥//4♣).

The 4♣ cue-bid shows that game is certain, and that slam is possible. It also indicates the lowest first round control, that is, it discloses that opener does not have a first round control in ♠s

- Bid 4NT (Blackwood) asking for aces

Note: It would be very rare that a slam is possible following 1♥-4♥ or 1♠-4♠ bids. Only on distributional freaks could a slam be made. This is due to the fact that this bid is weak but distributional with an excellent fit.

- Raises of a minor (1♣-3♣ or 1♦-3♦)

The bidding is a strong invitation to bid 3NT: responder has an 11HCPs or an 8-loser hand.

Opener's choices of bid are:

- Pass with a minimum (<14 TPs)
- Bid 3NT
- Bid a higher-ranking suit to show a stop, angling for 3NT. This bid may be on a 3-card suit. It is used to tell partner that 3NT may be the best contract but there may be a weakness somewhere. Responder should help to guide the partnership to 3NT, either by bidding 3NT direct or by showing a stop in a suit. With:

♠ KQ6	♠ 98
♥ 93	♥ AJ10
♦ K107	♦ AJ92
♣ AK1073	♣ Q864

The bidding would go:

1♣	- 3♣	(i) ♦ stop.
3♦ (i)	- 3♥ (ii)	(ii) ♥ stop, but denying
3NT (iii)		values in ♠s otherwise he would have bid 3NT.
		(iii) ♠s covered, thanks partner.

- Raise to the 4-level (1♣-3♣//4♣ or 1♦-3♦//4♦)

This forcing bid (note auction has gone past 3NT) asks partner to start cue-bidding

- Raise to game (1♣-3♣//5♣ or 1♦-3♦//5♦)

On an unbalanced hand, opener can make a shut-out game bid

Responder bids 1NT

With a distributional hand, you should bid another suit (at the required level) to give a clear meaning of your holding. For example,

- 12-15 TPs
 - Rebid your first suit
 - Rebid a second but lower ranking suit

1♠ - 1NT
2♦

Generally, opener should remove 1NT if he is 5-4-3-1 or 5-4-2-2 distribution and if his 4-card suit can be shown without reversing.

Exception - Pass if many of your honours are in the short suits.

- 17-18 TPs
 - Bid a second suit (a lower ranking suit or it may be via a reverse). Note, to reverse, your first suit must be longer than your second suit. But a High-Reverse can have similar length suits

A reverse following a 1NT response should show the same values (17+ TPs) as normal. However, it is not 100% forcing since responder has limited his hand.

1♥ - 1NT
2♠

Responder is known not to possess a 4-card ♠ suit, so opener is trying to obtain delayed support for ♥s (3♥ or 4♥)

- Jump in your first suit, showing a good 6-card suit
- Jump in a second lower ranking major suit

1♠ - 1NT
3♥

Shows 5-5 and is non-forcing

- 19-22 TPs
 - Make a game forcing jump shift (e.g. 1♥-1NT//3♣)
 - Jump to game in your first or second suit (5-5 or better in the majors)

You would only jump to game in your first suit if it was very strong. A 7-card suit headed by 3 honours, or a 6-card suit headed by 4 honours would be suitable.

♠ KQJ1076	or	♠ AQJ9863
♥ AQ3		♥ K7
♦ 5		♦ 5
♣ K76		♣ Q73

With these hands, you may bid 4♠ if partner responds 1NT to your opening 1♠ bid.

Opener raises responder's 1 over 1 bid

Normally opener will have 4-card support with a maximum of 15 TPs for his bid. For example:

Example 1:

1♣-1♥
?
with: ♠ 73
♥ AJ73
♦ J7
♣ KQJ64

Tell partner that you have 4-card support and 12-15 TPs. Bid 2♥.

Example 2:

1♥-1♠
?
with: ♠ QJ97
♥ AQ1086
♦ Q7
♣ A7

Again, you have 4-card support but you have a much stronger hand. Bid 3♣ showing 16-18 TPs and a 6-loser hand (see below)

However, there may be a need to raise on a 3-card suit with ruffing potential. For example:

1♣-1♠
2♠
with: ♠ AJ3
♥ 7
♦ J764
♣ KQJ64

What should responder rebid after having his suit raised?

- Pass with 6-9 TPs
- Raise with 10-12 TPs or a poor 8-loser hand (typically 1♥-2♥//3♥)
- Make a trial bid with 10+ TPs and a hand close to a game bid
- Bid game with 13-17 TPs
- Investigate a slam with 18+ TPs

Opener jump-raises responder's 1 over 1 bid

Opener will always have a minimum of 4-card trump support in a 6-loser hand. For example:

1♣-1♥
3♥

with: ♠ 73
 ♥ AK73
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ KQJ64

What should responder rebid after having his suit raised to the 3-level?

- Pass with 6-7 TPs (or a 9-loser hand)
- Bid game with 8-15 TPs (or an 8-loser hand)
- Investigate a slam with 16+ TPs or 6-loser hand

Opener jumps to game following a 1 over 1 response

Opener will need a 19 TP hand to warrant this bid (or a superfit). For example:

1♦-1♠
4♠

with: ♠ A973
 ♥ 6
 ♦ AKQ3
 ♣ KQJ7

Opener raises responder after a 2 over 1 response

The two possible situations are:

1. Raise to the 3-level (1♠-2♣//3♣) with 4-card support and a maximum of 14 TPs
2. Raise to the 4-level (1♥-2♦//4♦) with 4-card support and 17+ TPs (forcing) – Note: gone past game in 3NT.

After a raise to the 3-level, Responder should pass with 10-11 TPs. It will be rare that opener will raise with 15-16 TPs, he will try to make a stronger bid. With a balanced 15-16 HCPs, he will bid 2NT. With a distributional 15-16 TPs hand, a new suit, even a 3-card suit may be introduced.

With 12 TPs, responder should investigate game. 3NT could be bid or a new suit at the 3-level could be bid to show a stop for no-trump purposes. For example:

1♥-2♦
3♦-3♠

with: ♠ AQ7
 ♥ 76
 ♦ KQ987
 ♣ J87

It is conceivable that responder bid his minor in preparation to raising opener's major to game (DGR). So, when the bidding goes:

1♥-2♣
3♣-4♥ a slam is likely if opener has any decent 6-loser hand. The double fit must give the partnership a very good shot at slam if sufficient controls are held in the side suits.

Responder may have:

♠ 76
♥ AQ7
♦ J87
♣ KQ987

Opener raises responder's forcing bid

Following:

1♣ - 2♠
?

opener can go slowly because responder's jump has guaranteed a hand strong enough to go to game. Therefore, the bidding cannot stop short of game.

Since responder will only force in a suit with at least a 5-card suit, opener should be happy to raise on Hxx or better. For example, following:

1♣ - 2♠

opener should raise to 3♠ with:

♠ K975
♥ A7
♦ K7
♣ KJ972

Similarly:

1♣ - 2♥ opener should raise to 3♥ with:

♠ KQ97
♥ A75
♦ 7
♣ KJ972

On both auctions there is room to investigate a slam via cue-bidding.

What if opener does not have Hxx support or better? He may:

- Rebid no-trumps at the lowest level with 15-16 HCPs
- Jump in no-trumps with 17-18 HCPs
- Rebid his original suit, or
- Bid a second suit

whichever is the most suitable bid to describe his hand.

Note: Some people do reverse the NT hands. But you should bid naturally:

Bid lowest NT with minimum NT rebid & jump a level with higher HCPs. c.p. to 1♣-1♥//1NT & 1♣-1♥//2NT.

Rule: It is important to show support (Hxx or better) for responder's ♥ suit before trying to state your own suits. (You know that you have a fit for partner's suit, he may not have support for your suit (♣)).

Opener gives delayed support

Since opener will only (well occasionally will raise with three) raise responder's suit with 4-card support, delayed support shows 3-card support. Note also, that a delayed support bid is forcing if going past 2NT.

Example 1:

1♦-1♠
2♦-2♥
?

Responder is showing 5-♠s and 4♥s, so if opener now bids 2♠, he is showing a 3-card suit or Hx!

How does opener know that responder has 5-♠s and 4♥s? Well, if responder was 4-4 in the majors, he would have initially bid 1♥ (bid 4-card suits up-the-line) with 15+ or opened 1NT with 12-14.

Example 2:

1♦-1♥
1♠-2NT
?

Opener does not know whether responder's ♥ suit is of 4 or 5 cards long. However, he does know that responder has 11-12 HCPs. Therefore, if opener has sufficient values for game, 14 TPs, he can now show delayed support with a 3♥ bid. Using delayed support allows the partnership to find a 5-3♥ fit. If responder has 5♥s he bids 4♥, else he bids 3NT.

Example 3:

You open 1♦, partner responds 1♥, and you rebid 2♦. What do you bid when partner rebids 2♠ (1♦-1♥//2♦-2♠//?)?

♠ K7
♥ Q84
♦ AK8764
♣ J3

Partner may have 5-♥s, so you should show delayed support with a 3♥ bid. Partner now chooses to bid 4♥, with a 5-card ♥ suit, or else bids 3NT with a club stop.

Example 4:

The bidding progresses:

1♣ -1♠
1NT-2NT
?

With:

♠ K82
♥ Q742
♦ A3
♣ AK62

what do you bid?

You should accept the game invitation, because you are not minimum, **and** you should offer partner a choice of contracts by bidding 3♣. Partner can now bid 4♣ if he has a 5-card suit or else bid 3NT.

Example 5:

The bidding progresses:

1♦-1♥
1♠-2NT
?

With:

♠ AQ86
♥ Q32
♦ AK982
♣ 4

what do you bid?

Show delayed support with a 3♥ bid.

Example 6:

The bidding progresses:

1♠-2♦
2♥-2NT
?

With:

♠ A8643
♥ AK74
♦ A93
♣ 4

what do you bid?

Show delayed support with a 3♦ bid. This bid tells partner that you have little or no help in ♣s for no-trump purposes. With this knowledge, responder is in a good position to judge the best final contract.

2♥ over 1♠

Since a response of 2♥ shows a 5-card suit, opener can raise with 3-card support. Therefore, delayed support of a known 5-card suit would show only a doubleton.

1♠-2♥
3♥ would show 3-♥s in a minimum hand.

1♠-2♥
4♥ would show 3+ ♥s in a non-minimum hand.

Therefore:

(i) 1♠-2♥ (ii) 1♠-2♥ (iii) 1♠-2♥ denies 3-card support
 2♠ 2NT 3♣

- (i) Responder, with a 6-card suit, could now bid 3♥ asking for delayed support with a doubleton and inviting game.
- (ii) It is best to treat this auction as game forcing
- (iii) game forcing (high-reverse)

Example 1:

The bidding progresses:

1♠-2♥
2♠-3♦
?

With:

♠ AQ8643
♥ A2
♦ K3
♣ 432

What should you bid?

Bid 3♥, delayed support, showing a doubleton. If partner has a 6-card suit he will bid 4♥. If he has a doubleton ♠ and only a 5-card suit, he will bid 3♠ and you can bid 4♠.

Example 2:

The bidding progresses:

1♣ -1♠
2♣ -2♥
2NT-3♥
?

With:

♠ K2
♥ 72
♦ A83
♣ AQ8642

What should you bid?

You should now bid 3♣. You cannot have 3-♠s because you would have bid 2♠ on the last round (2NT) so you must have a doubleton.

Example 3:

The bidding progresses:

1♠-2♦
2♥-2NT
3♦-?

With:

♠ K2
♥ 72
♦ A10942
♣ A732

What should you bid?

Partner seems to be showing a 5-4-3-1 hand. You can now bid 3♠ showing your doubleton support. The bidding has highlighted a weakness in the ♣ suit, for no-trump purposes, so 4♠ may prove to be a better contract (in a 5-2 fit) than 3NT.

Exercises

1 You opened 1♣ and partner responded 1♦. What is your rebid on each of the following hands?

(a)	♠ K764	(b)	♠ AK98	(c)	♠ AJ	(d)	♠ AQ72
	♥ Q732		♥ AJ64		♥ K63		♥ -
	♦ J		♦ -		♦ A76		♦ K862
	♣ AK97		♣ K9732		♣ QJ854		♣ AQ973

2 You opened 1♣ and partner responded 1♥. What is your rebid on each of the above hands?

3 You opened 1♦ and partner responded 1♥. What is your rebid on each of the following hands?

(a)	♠ K742	(b)	♠ J764	(c)	♠ J64	(d)	♠ A
	♥ 3		♥ KQ		♥ 5		♥ A863
	♦ KQ9873		♦ AKQ3		♦ AK432		♦ AQ975
	♣ A2		♣ 632		♣ KQ54		♣ 872

4 You opened 1♦ and partner responded 1NT. What is your rebid on each of the above hands?

5 You opened 1♠ and partner responded 2♠. What is your rebid on each of the following hands?

(a)	♠ A8753	(b)	♠ AQ764	(c)	♠ KQ8643	(d)	♠ QJ7532
	♥ KQ		♥ AK		♥ AK4		♥ A2
	♦ A74		♦ AJ93		♦ KJ3		♦ A43
	♣ 642		♣ J3		♣ 5		♣ J6

6 You opened 1♠ and partner responded 1NT. What is your rebid on each of the above hands?

7 You opened 1♥ and partner responded 2♣. What is your rebid on each of the following hands?

- (a) ♠ AQ73 (b) ♠ AQ73 (c) ♠ 4 (d) ♠ A73
 ♥ KQ1053 ♥ AQ854 ♥ K8742 ♥ AQ764
 ♦ AJ2 ♦ 742 ♦ A52 ♦ 8
 ♣ 4 ♣ 3 ♣ AJ43 ♣ AK43
- (e) ♠ 7
 ♥ AQJ742
 ♦ AK8
 ♣ Q93

8 You opened 1♠ and partner responded 2♦. What is your rebid on each of the following hands?

- (a) ♠ AK762 (b) ♠ AK763 (c) ♠ AJ643 (d) ♠ KQJ74
 ♥ KQ43 ♥ 732 ♥ 72 ♥ AQ
 ♦ 6 ♦ 6 ♦ AK95 ♦ A83
 ♣ 743 ♣ KQ43 ♣ 83 ♣ K52
- (e) ♠ AQJ8643
 ♥ KJ2
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ 2

9. You open 1♠ and partner responds 2♥. What rebid would you make on the following hands?

- (a) ♠ KJ10864 (b) ♠ KQ1096 (c) ♠ AQ964
 ♥ A4 ♥ Q4 ♥ J4
 ♦ K93 ♦ KQ1083 ♦ K4
 ♣ 63 ♣ A ♣ AQ96

10. Are these auctions forcing or not?

(a)

W	N	E	S
	1♠		3♠

(b)

W	N	E	S
	1♠		2♣
	3♦		

(c)

W	N	E	S
	1♣		1♥
	2♦		

(d)

W	N	E	S
	1♥		2♣
	2♥		2♠

(e)

W	N	E	S
	1♦		1♠
	3♦		

(f)

W	N	E	S
	1♦		1♥
	1♠		

Appendix

1 (a) 1♥ (b) 1♥ (c) 1NT (d) 1♠

2 (a) 2♥ (b) 4♥ (c) 1NT (d) 1♠

3 (a) 1♠ (b) 1♠ (c) 2♣ (d) 3♥

4 (a) 2♦ (b) Pass (c) 2♣ (d) 2♦

5 (a) Pass (b) 4♠ (c) 4♠ (d) Pass

6 (a) Pass (b) 3NT (c) 3♠ (d) 2♠

7 (a) 2♠ (b) 2♥ (c) 3♣ (d) 4♣ (e) 3♥

8 (a) 2♥ (b) 2♠ (c) 3♦ (d) 3NT (e) 3♠

9 (a) 2♠ (b) 3♦ (GF) (c) 2NT

10 (a) No (b) Yes (c) Yes (d) Yes (e) No (f) No

Quiz to opener's rebid

1 1♥ - 1♠

What is your rebid on:

- ♠ AQ2
- ♥ AQJ96
- ♦ 53
- ♣ AQ3

2 1♠ - 1NT

What is your rebid on:

- ♠ AJ864
- ♥ K1086
- ♦ 5
- ♣ A53

3 1♠ - 1NT

What is your rebid on:

- ♠ KQJ1098
- ♥ Q4
- ♦ A5
- ♣ A53

4 1♠ - 1NT

What is your rebid on:

- ♠ AK975
- ♥ Q4
- ♦ J76
- ♣ A53

Appendix to opener's rebid quiz

1. You have 20 TPs and partner has 6+ so you want to be in game, but which game? You can't bid no-trumps because partner may pass and you may find yourself in the wrong contract! You can't raise ♠s even if you have AQ2, partner may only have 4! **You should make a jump-shift of 3♣.** This bid is forcing to game and allows the partnership to locate the best fit. You never know, partner may have a strong hand just short of a force or he may have only 6 TPs. Now that you have disclosed a strong hand partner may be able to direct the following auction.
2. You should not pass because the defence may be able to attack ♦s! You should not rebid 2♠ because your suit is not very strong and it stops any chance of finding a ♥ fit. **You should make a non-forcing 2♥ bid.** Partner may pass if he has a 4-card (even 5-card) ♥ suit or show preference to 2♠. Note: Partner may have had a 5-card ♥ suit with a weak hand.

3. You have a hand just short of an Acol Two in ♠s. **You can now tell partner with a jump to 3♣.** **Although** this bid is not 100% forcing it is highly encouraging.
4. **Pass!** The hand is not shapely enough to rebid 2♣. There is no guarantee that 2♣ will play better than 1NT.