

## Shape showing bids (5-5, 6-6 and 6-5 patterns)

One reason for Responder to go slowly following opener's initial bid is so opener can show his hand pattern. In order for opener to describe his hand accurately, he requires many bids. Responder should allow opener this flexibility if at all possible.

The following bidding sequences are used to describe the distributional type hands:

### 5-5 patterns

General Rule:

- Open with the higher ranking suit
- Next bid the lower ranking suit
- Rebid the lower ranking suit

Typical auctions:

1	1♦ - 1♥	2	1♥ - 1♠	3	1♠ - 2♣
	2♣ - 2NT		2♦ - 3♣		2♥ - 3♣
	3♣		3♦		3♥

1	5♦s and 5♣s
2	5♥s and 5♦s
3	5♠s and 5♥s

Exception to the general rule:

When the two suits are ♣s and ♠s, open ♣s and follow with two bids of ♠s unless the hand is strong. For example:

♠ AJ1062	♠ K7
♥ K7	♥ A653
♦ 4	♦ 972
♣ K8643	♣ AJ105

The bidding should go:

1♣ - 1♥	
1♠ - 2♦*	2♦* is 4 <sup>th</sup> suit forcing
2♠ - 4♠	

## 6-6 patterns

To describe a 6-6 shape the bidding commences as it did to show a 5-5 pattern, but the lower ranking suit is rebid again on the 4<sup>th</sup> round of bidding.

If you have a very distributional hand containing a 6-6 shape in the minors, it is reasonable to assume that the opposition have a distributional hand in the majors. Therefore, it is reasonable to open 1♦ and rebid 5♣.

## 6-5 patterns

To describe this type of hand you should:

- Open in the 6-card suit
- Next bid the 5-card suit
- Next rebid the 5-card suit

If the 6-card suit is higher ranking than the 5-card suit or the suits are ♣s and ♠s, the bidding is similar to showing a 5-5 pattern. There will now be a doubt as to the exact distribution. However, if the 6-card suit is lower ranking, the pattern will be known to be 6-5, assuming the hand strength is sufficient for a reverse. For example:

1♣ - 1♥	1♥ - 2♣
2♦ - 2NT	2♠ - 3♦*
3♦	3♠

Is it possible to show a 6-5 pattern by making a rebid at the game level? For example:

1♦ - 1♠  
4♥

I'm afraid not. This is best played as a cue-bid agreeing ♠s! Why? Well, you are able to go slower; for example:

1♦ - 1♠  
2♥                      This is a 1-round force

You can next bid 4♥ to show a hand that you want to play in either 4♥ or 5♦.

Or:

1♦ - 1♠  
3♥

This would show an even stronger GF 2-suiter.

Responder can also show a shapely hand, as shown in the following example:

1♣ - 1♦  
1NT - 4♠

Responder is willing to play in 4♠ or 5♦ so he must be longer in ♦s