

Understanding the auction

Hands to suit Acol sequences

List suitable cards, in the last bid hand, that fit the sequences below:

1.

1♣	1♥
1♠	

♠	KJxx
♥	KQx
♦	x
♣	QJ10xx

2.

1♥	1♠
1NT	

♠	Kx
♥	KQJx
♦	Axxx
♣	Kxx

3.

1♥	1NT

♠	Kxx
♥	Kxx
♦	xxx
♣	xxxx

4.

1♦	1NT

♠	Kxx
♥	Kxx
♦	Jxx
♣	xxxx

5.

1♥	1♠
2NT	

♠	Kx
♥	KJ10x
♦	AKxx
♣	Kxx

6.

1♠	1NT

♠	xx
♥	QJxx
♦	Qxx
♣	QJxx

7.

1♠	2♣

♠	Qx
♥	KJx
♦	xxx
♣	AQxxx

8.

1♠	2♣
2♥	

♠	AQxxx
♥	AQxx
♦	xx
♣	Qx

9.

1♠	2♣
2♥	2NT

♠	xx
♥	Qxx
♦	Kxxx
♣	AQxx

10.

1♠	2♣
2NT	

♠	AQxxx
♥	Kx
♦	AKxx
♣	Kx

11.

1♠	2♣
2NT	3♠

♠	KJx
♥	xx
♦	Kxxx
♣	KJxx

12.

1♠	2♣
3NT	

♠	KJxx
♥	KQx
♦	Axx
♣	Qx

13.

1♥	1♠
1NT	

♠	Kx
♥	KQJx
♦	Axxx
♣	Kxx

14.

1♥	1♠
2NT	

♠	KJx
♥	KQJx
♦	QJxx
♣	Ax

15.

1♥	1♠
2NT	3♠

♠	KQ10xx
♥	Kx
♦	xxx
♣	xxx

16.

1♥	1♠
2NT	3♠
4♠	

♠	Ax
♥	AQxx
♦	KJx
♣	Axxx

17.

1♥	2♦
3♣	

♠	Ax
♥	KQJxx
♦	Qx
♣	AQx

18.

1♥	2♦
2♠	

♠	KJxx
♥	AQxxx
♦	AQx
♣	J

19.

1♦	1♠
2♥	

♠	Kx
♥	KQxx
♦	AQxxx
♣	Qx

20.

1♥	1♠
3♥	

♠	Ax
♥	KQJxxx
♦	QJx
♣	xx

21.

1♥	2♣
2♦	

♠	Qxx
♥	AJ10xx
♦	AJ10x
♣	x

Which of these auctions are: Game forcing (GF), forcing (F) or non-forcing (NF)?

	State whether forcing or not? And to what level?
1♠ - 2♣ 2♥	F
1♠ - 2♣ 3♥	GF
1♠ - 2♣ 3♥ - 4♠	NF To play (fast arrival)
1♠ - 2♣ 2♥ - 2♠	NF
1♠ - 2♣ 3♥ - 3♠	GF

Reverses

Although there are some special partnership agreements that differ from the standard agreements, it is normal to treat the following Low Reverses as standard:

1♦ - 1♠ 2♥	F1 – After 1-level response. Opener's reverse is a 1-round force
1♦ - 1♠ 2♥ - 2♠	NF (6-7 HCPs + 5+ card suit)
1♦ - 1♠ 2♥ - 2NT	NF (6-7 points with stop in 4 th suit)
1♦ - 1♠ 2♥ - 3♦	NF (Rebid of Opener's 1 st suit is generally NF) unless specific other agreement
1♦ - 1♠ 2♥ - 3♥	GF (Raise of Opener's 2 nd suit is GF)
1♦ - 1♠ 2♣	This is not a reverse. Some partnerships play this as NF (old methods), others play it as forcing (1-round)
1♦ - 1♠ 3♣	GF Acol auction – not a reverse. GF

What typical distribution does a low reverse show?

With Low Level reverses, Responder has to respond at the next level in order to offer choice to Opener's suits. The 1st suit will always be longer than 2nd suit.

High reverses:

1♠-2♦ 3♣	Could these suit lengths be equal?	GF yes or No
1♠ – 2♥ 3♦	Could these suit lengths be equal?	GF yes or No
1♠ – 2♥ 3♦	Could these suit lengths be equal?	GF yes or No
1♣ – 1♥ 2♠	Could these suit lengths be equal?	GF yes or No

Are any of these auctions not High Reverses? (4th)

Splinters

Splinters are used to agree Pard's suit (to be trumps) and show a singleton/void. It is possible to use these bids by both Responder and Opener. It is also possible to use them agreeing the minor suit, but normally it is best to only use them agreeing majors. (You could start with inverted minor raises before using splinters agreeing the minor suit.)

1♥ – 4♣*

1♦ – 1♠
4♣*

I've used ♣s here as a shortage, but of course it isn't always ♣s that are shown as the splinter bid.

You will note that there is a double jump to show the splinter bid.

1♠ – 4♦	splinter
1♠ – 4♥	splinter
1♥ – 4♣	splinter
1♥ – 3♠	splinter (there are 1♠ & 2♠ natural bids so 3♠ is a splinter)
1♥ – 2♠	Natural and GF, not a splinter
1♠ – 3♦	Natural and GF, not a splinter
1♣ – 1♥ 3♦	Natural and GF, not a splinter
1♣ – 1♥ 3♦	As 2♦ would be a reverse, there is no need for 3♦ to be natural. Many players use this bid as a mini-splinter allowing 4♦ as a full void splinter.
1♣ – 1♥ 4♦	
1♣ – 1♥ 3♠	Splinter. 1♠ would be natural, 2♠ as GF so 3♠ is a splinter.
1♣-1♥ 2♠	2♠ is a natural GF.

The splinter bid is always at a higher level than any possible natural bid:

1♠ – 2♥; 1♠ – 3♥; are both natural, so 1♠ – 4♥; is a splinter. This is difficult to comprehend for novice players (and many experienced players!)

Which Responder hand is stronger?

1♥-2♣ 2♠-4♥	Fast arrival in a GF auction is weaker than going slowly. After the 2♠ bid the auction is GF, so Responder can bid below game (3♥) to show a stronger hand.
1♥-2♣ 2♠-3♥	

Bidding 2NT as an Opener rebid

Bidding 2NT after all 2-level responses are game forcing:

Principle: 1M – 2m//2NT is game forcing	The basis is that the partnership can find any 8-card major fit + strength.
1♠ 2♦ 3NT	15-16 must have only 4-card ♠ suit – no chance of 8-card major fit
1♠ 2♦ 2NT 3♠ 4♠	2NT = GF (15+); 3♠ = 3-card ♠ support; 4♠=5 ♠s 1S – 2D//2H = 11-14 Going through 2NT and bidding 3H is 15+ 1S – 2D//3H is at least 5-5 and 6-loser or better 1S – 2D 2NT 3H 4H 5422 1S – 2D 2NT 3H 3S 5-spades denies 4Hs
1♠ 2♦ 2NT 3♠ 3NT	2NT = GF; 3♠ = 3-card ♠ support; 3NT=17-19 why else go through 2NT to show no 5-card suit or no 8-card major fit
1♠ 2♦ 2NT 3♥ 3♠ 4♠	Responder bids ♦s (may have only 3!) to enquire Opener's hand Responder bids his 4-card ♥ suit to try and find 4-4 ♥ fit 3♠=Opener bids his 5-card suit and with 3-card support (4♠=) Responder places contract.

		Note: Opener may, just may, be 5-4-2-2. Responder maybe 3-4-3-3 or 3-4-4-2. With a minimum 5422 hand Opener would have responded 2♥ after the 2m response, but maybe 15+ hence the slow enquiry from Responder.
1♠	2♦	Responder does not have 3-card ♠ support – might have as much as poor 6-card ♦s but only game going hand 1H – 2D 2NT – 3H if Opener is 4423 say, then he should now bid 3S to possibly find the 4-4 spade fit when Responder is: 4351 say with values
2NT	3NT	
1♠	2♦	slam going in ♦s – else would have bid 3NT
2NT	3♦	