

Responder's rebid

Before deciding their rebid, responder must consider what they know about opener's hand – its suits, shape and strength. After opener has made two bids, responder will know a lot about partner's hand. Before you rebid, ask yourself these questions:

- Have we found a fit?
- Has opener shown a balanced or semi balanced hand?
- Has opener shown a two-suited hand?
- Has opener limited their hand?
- Has opener shown a strong hand by jump rebidding or reversing?
- Is opener's rebid forcing or non-forcing?

Responder must also take into account the strength of their hand. Is it:

- A weak responding hand with less than 10HCP?
- An invitational hand with 10-12HCP?
- A game going or better hand with 13+HCP?

Responder's rebid with a weak hand - some examples

Hand 1:

AQ83
642
97
J532

1D (P) 1S (P)
2S (P) ?

Opener has limited their hand with a single raise of responder's suit showing 11-14/15 TP. Responder should be aware that opener may have raised spades with a three card holding. With no prospect of game, be content to play at the 2 level in a possible 7-card fit.

Hand 2:

QT72
KJ84
J42
86

1D (P) 1H (P)
1S (P) ?

Opener has bid a new suit at the one level. If you are playing Walsh style bidding this shows a 2-suited hand with at least 5 clubs and 4 spades. If not, opener could be 4-4. Show your partner that you have a fit for spades and a weak responding hand by bidding 2 spades.

Hand 3:

974
AJ532
6
Q876

1D (P) 1H (P)
2D (P) ?

Opener has shown a minimum opening hand with at least 6 diamonds (maybe 5 with a very good suit). With no prospect for game and no better option, you should pass. Do not make the mistake of bidding 3C on this weak hand.

Tip: You will always do better in a trump contract when you have limited values, even in a 7-card fit.

Hand 4:

2
K8765
QJ32
QT5

1S (P) 1NT (P)
2C (P) ?

Opener has shown a minimum opening hand with two suits, not suited to playing in 1NT and asking you to give a preference to one of their suits. You should pass 2C and play in a 4-3 fit. Do not rebid a five card suit or bid 2NT with a weak hand.

Hand 5:

QT863
92
6
KQ953

1D (P) 1S (P)
1N (P) ?

After opener has rebid 1NT showing a minimum strength hand, with an unbalanced hand, responder can bid a new suit at the cheapest level, asking opener to choose one of your suits. Bid 2C (non-forcing) here showing 5 spades and 4 clubs. With a preference for clubs opener will pass or bid 2S with a preference for spades. Do not rebid spades with such a weak suit and suitable alternative.

Tip: generally, avoid passing a 1NT rebid by opener when you hand is weak and contains and singleton or void.

Responder's rebid with an invitational hand - some examples

Hand 6:

KJT52
A94
Q83
74

1D (P) 1S (P)
2S (P) ?

Bid 3S inviting to partner to game with 14 or 15 points (you have a fit even if partner has only 3 spades).

Hand 7:

AJT
QT54
K864
J9

1C (P) 1H (P)
2H (P) ?

Rebid 2NT. 2NT here shows a 4-card heart suit and likely stoppers in the unbid suits (remember that opener may only have 3 hearts). With 5

hearts, rebid 3H. After a 2NT rebid, opener can opt to play in NT or hearts.

Tip: After opener supports you major, rebid 2NT to show four cards in the major and rebid your major to show a 5-card suit and invitational values

Hand 8:

Q73
KQ742
J
KT86

1D (P) 1H (P)
1S (P) ?

Rebid 2NT, showing 10-12HCP and inviting opener to bid game. Avoid rebidding a 5-card suit or supporting partner's spades with only 3-card support.

Responder's rebid with a strong hand - some examples

Remember: avoid making a weak rebid with a strong hand.

With a strong responding hand you must:

- Bid game if you know the right spot
- Making a forcing bid to find out more about partner's hand
- Bid the 4th suit to game force partner.

Hand 9:

AQ963
5
AKT63
J4

1C (P) 1S (P)
1NT (P) ?

With this hand the only available option to 'jump shift' by bidding 3D. This shows an unbalanced game forcing hand with spades and diamonds. It is 100% forcing.

Rebidding spades, jumping to 3NT with the poor club holding, or rebidding 2D (not forcing) would be a mistake.

Hand 10:

AQ96
AKJ85
94
4

1C (P) 1H (P)
2C (P) ?

Bid 2S. This is a responder's reverse and shows a 2-suited hand with at least 5+ hearts and 4+ spades and is game forcing.

Tip: A bid of the 4th suit is artificial and game forcing.

Hand 11:

KQ985
A73
K5
Q74

1D (P) 1S (P)
2C (P) ?

Bid 2H.

With this hand you know you want to be in at least game but are unsure of the right contract. A bid of the unbid fourth suit here is the fourth suit forcing convention. It shows 12+HCP and is forcing to game. You can use FSF when you:

- have a no trump oriented hand but are missing a stopper in the unbid suit
- are unsure of the right contract
- you have slam interest.

When responding to FSF, opener should show 3 card support for partner's first bid suit. With no 3-card support show a stopper for the fourth suit or rebid a long suit.

Here are some good videos on FSF:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVODocGEpnQ>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXCGjpsa_m8