

WOLD 2NT (aka 3344)

- In the “bridge” world known more commonly as the 3344 convention. In Cincinnati known more commonly as the WOLD convention.
- The “3344” name is attributed to Joe Sacco.

By Dave Tollison
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Your partner opens 1 of a minor and you respond 1♥ and Opener now raises To 2♥.

You have an invitation hand (♠-x x ♥-AKxx ♦- Qxx ♣-Qxxx) and would like to ask partner (1) How many ♥'s do you have? and (2) what is your hand strength? If opener has 4♥'s and a good 14+ HCPs or 6 loser Hand you want to be in game. Otherwise we'll stop at 3♥'s.

Then you remember your opponents won't let you ask these questions Without calling the director and severely penalizing you! What to do? You bid 2NT! (the **Wold** convention).

The responder will use the Wold convention whenever they want to invite to Game or has a hand that wants to investigate slam.

Note: The opener should never raise with just 3-card support unless opener Also has a singleton/void and no better bid.



Your partner opens one of a minor (as usual). You respond with 1♥ or 1♠, and partner (opener) raises your major to the two level. Partner has limited their hand to somewhere in the range of 12-14 HCP (possibly an ugly 15), since they didn't make a jump raise to the three level. When you're responder you'll often hold a hand that wants to invite game, jump directly to game, or investigate a slam. It would be great if there was a way to determine whether your partner has a minimum hand (seven or more losers and fewer than 14 HCP) or a maximum hand (six losers and/or 14 HCP) for their single raise and whether or not they have 4-card trump support. Well you can with the Wold 2NT bid (also called the 3344 Convention)! After 1m – 1M – 2M, a rebid by responder of 2NT is artificial (alertable) and asks for more information about partner's hand. If you're asked to explain your alert, say "Responder is asking for more information about my hand." All responses by Opener to Wold 2NT are also alertable.
(verbiage on this page provided by Bob Fisk).

After 1m-1♥-2♥ or 1m-1♠-2♠, a **2NT!** By responder is a WOLD asking bid

Standard 3344 responses to the 2NT asking bid:

Opener now has four different responses; each is **alertable**:

3♣ shows three-card support and a minimum opening hand

3♦ shows three-card support and a maximum* opening hand

3♥ shows four-card support and a minimum opening hand

3♠ shows four-card support and a maximum* opening hand

An alternative to the 3344 responses is Bob Fisk's version:

Opener now has 8 different responses; each is **alertable**:

3♣ shows 3-card support and a minimum opening hand

3♦ shows 3-card support and a maximum* opening hand

3♥ shows 4-card support and a minimum opening hand

-----**all remaining bids all show 4-card support and maximum* hands**-----

3♠ shows 4/4/3/2 shape

3N shows 4/3/3/3 shape

4♣ shows ♣ shortness or if opener's opening suit it shows 4/2-2-5 shape

4♦ shows ♦ shortness or if opener's opening suit it shows 4/2-5-2 shape

4♥ shows shortness in other major

***Maximum hands are 14+ HCPs or 6 loser hands**

Although the above examples start with opener bidding one of a minor, Wold 2NT works equally well after $1\heartsuit-1\spadesuit-2\spadesuit$ with minor adjustments.

Wold 2NT after Opener Starts With $1\heartsuit$

- 1) Use the 3344 Standard simple responses, or
- 2) Use Bob Fisk's $1\heartsuit-1\spadesuit-2\spadesuit-2NT$ responses. Bob has 2 versions depending on if partnership plays the *Flannery** convention or not.

Below is Bob's verbiage on how to respond to Wold 2NT after a $1\heartsuit-1\spadesuit-2\spadesuit-2NT$! Bidding sequence:

Bob's rule (opener's raise guarantees 4-card support for spades):

Opener will never hold only three Spades on this auction. Why is that?

Well if opener had only three Spades, they'd have one of the following hands:

- 1) Six or more Hearts—they'd rebid $2\heartsuit$ rather than raise Spades.
- 2) A four-card minor—they'd bid their minor at the two level rather than raise Spades.
- 3) With a 3-5-3-2 -or- 3-5-2-3 hand—they'd rebid 1NT rather than raise Spades.

**Flannery* convention is where a 2x opening bid shows exactly four Spades, five Hearts, and 11-15 HCP

Bob Fisk's Wold 2NT responses to 1♥-1♠-2♠-2NT! Sequence

Option #1: *you and your partner don't play Flannery.*

you should play these as your responses to Wold 2NT:

3♣: 4-5-1-3 shape (i.e., three Clubs)

3♦: 4-5-3-1 shape (i.e., three Diamonds)

3♥: 4-5-2-2 shape and a minimum hand

3♠: 4-5-2-2 shape and a max* hand but fewer than half of your points are in the minors

3N: 4-5-2-2 shape and a max* hand with at least half of your points in the minors

4♣: 4-5-0-4 shape (i.e., four Clubs)

4♦: 4-5-4-0 shape (i.e., four Diamonds)

4♥: 4-6-2-1 -or- 4-6-1-2 shape (i.e., a sixth Heart)

Option #2: *you and your partner do play Flannery.*

opener will always have six (or more) Hearts on this auction. With that in mind, opener's responses change to the following:

3♣: 4-6-0-3 shape (i.e., three Clubs)

3♦: 4-6-3-0 shape (i.e., three Diamonds)

3♥: 4-6-1-2 or 4-6-2-1 shape and a minimum hand

3♠: 4-6-1-2 or 4-6-2-1 shape and a max* hand

*Max hand 14+ HCPs or 6 loser hand