

Splinter Bids



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What is a Splinter Bid?

- A splinter bid is a convention, whereby a double jump is a side suit, shows trump support (4 card or better) and a singleton or void in the suit bid.
- The bid shows adequate values for game, but not enough for slam.
- The splinter bid can be made by either responder or opening bidder.

The Following Auctions Show a Splinter

Opener Responder (splinter with shortness in
1 ♠ 4 ♦ diamonds, 4+ spades)

Opener Responder (splinter with shortness in
1 ♣ 1 ♥ clubs, 4+ spades)
1 ♠ 4 ♣

Opener Responder (splinter with shortness in
1 ♣ 1 ♥ diamonds, 4+ hearts)
4 ♦

The Following are Splinter Hands

Hand 1

♠ K Q 7 6

♥ A 3 2

♦ 5

♣ K J 8 7 3

Opener Responder

1 ♠

4 ♦

Hand 2

♠ K 10 7 6

♥ A Q J 9 3 2

♦

♣ K J 8

Opener Responder

1 ♣

1 ♥

1 ♠

4 ♦

The Following are Splinter Hands

Hand 3

♠ 6

♥ A Q 3 2

♦ K J 5

♣ K J 8 7 3

Opener Responder

1 ♣

1 ♥

3 ♠

The Following Are Not Good for a Splinter Bid

Hand 4

♠ K 9 7 2

♥ A 8 3 2

♦ 5

♣ J 10 8 7

Opener Responder

1 ♠

3 ♠

Too weak

Hand 5

♠ A K Q 6

♥ A Q 9 3

♦ 6

♣ Q 10 8 4

Opener Responder

1 ♥

2nt

Too strong

Responding to a Splinter Bid

- The best hand to have after partner's splinter bid is weakness in partner's splinter suit.
- If partner has opening bid strength and shortness in your weak suit, it is likely that your combined high-card strength are working together.

Consider These Hands After Partner Splinters

Hand 5

♠ K Q 8 6 4

♥ A 8

♦ 8 6 4

♣ A K 7

Opener Responder

1 ♠

4 ♦

4 ♥

Hand 7

♠ K Q 8 6 4

♥ A 8

♦ A K 6

♣ 8 6 4

Opener Responder

1 ♠

4 ♦

4 ♠

More Responses to Splinters

Your hand (8)

♠ A K 9 8 2

♥ Q 5 4

♦ K Q 8 6

♣ 7

Partner's hand (8)

♠ Q J 7 6

♥ A 7 3

♦ 2

♣ K Q J 6 4

You

Partner

1 ♠

4 ♦

4 ♠

More Responses to Splinters

Partner's hand (9)

♠ K J 4

♥ A Q J 3

♦ A K 10 5 4

♣ 7

Your hand (9)

♠ A Q 2

♥ K 10 7 5

♦ Q 6 2

♣ J 6 4

Partner

1 ♦

4 ♣

6 ♥

You

1 ♥

4 ♠

More Responses to Splinters

Partner's hand (10)

♠ A 7 5

♥ A K J 7

♦ A Q 10 5 4

♣ 7

Your hand (10)

♠ 8 6

♥ Q 10 9 3 2

♦ 8 7 4

♣ K Q 5

Partner

1 ♦

4 ♣

You

1 ♥

4 ♥

More Responses to Splinters

Partner's hand (11)

♠ A 10 4 3

♥ K Q 7 6

♦ Q 10 5 4

♣ 7

Your hand (11)

♠ K Q J 9 5 2

♥ A 4 3

♦ A

♣ 8 7 3

Partner

You

1 ♠

4 ♣

4 nt

5 ♣

6 ♠

More Responses to Splinters

Partner's hand (12)

♠ A 10 4

♥ K Q 7 6 5

♦ K 10 5

♣ A 3

Your hand (12)

♠ 2

♥ A 8 4 3

♦ A Q 9 6 4

♣ Q J 3

Partner

You

1 ♥

3 ♠

4 ♣

4 ♦

4 nt

5 ♥

7 ♥