

# Opening 3NT\*

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Strong balanced hands with 25-27HCP playing 2/1 are opened 2♣ with a re-bid of 3NT to show 25-27HCP; one never opens 3NT with a strong balanced hand. So, what is the meaning of 3NT\* as an opening bid where "\*" = alert?

There are several options for the bid of 3NT\* to show strong long running 7+card suit like AKQxxxx with a LTC of 3/4.

- (1) Some may use it to show a solid 7-card minor hand with no outside A/K (Gambling 3NT\*).
- (2) Some may use it to show a solid 7-card major hand with no outside A but may have an outside K (Kantar 3NT\* or Reverse NAMYATS).
- (3) Some may use (1) in seats one or two and use (2) in seats three or four.
- (4) A few may use 3NT\* as Kabel 3NT\* which is used to ask for SPECIFIC aces to handle "freak" hands. This is not Baby 3NT/1430 Baby Blackwood.

What do you do with a suit like AQJ10xxxx (8-cards) that is too strong for a 4-level major suit preempt and not strong enough for an opening bid of 2♣?

Many use NAMYATS for these hands where 4♣\* shows hearts and 4♦\* shows spades where the LTC for the hand is no more than 5 with a "trump" suit that has no more than two quick losers and is headed by an A/K.

The bid is a 4-level preemptive bid for the major and with the appropriate hand, responder may try for slam or just sign-off in the major suit.

The bid of 3NT\* like 2NT is used by many 2/1 players and must be discussed. What follows are links that you may help you decide on your use if the 3NT\* bid.

Link to Gambling 3NT\* [https://www.bridgewebs.com/pershore/bridge\\_tips2.pdf](https://www.bridgewebs.com/pershore/bridge_tips2.pdf)

Link to Kabel 3NT\* <https://esvc006636.swp0002ssl.server-secure.com/ibr/b06a.htm>

Link to NAMYATS <http://www.aeyec.com/BidBase/Notes/Namyats.htm>

What about an opening bid of 4NT?

Some may use it as a super minor preempt bid or as a super two-suiter preempt; however, the common natural meaning to the bid shows a balanced 28-30HCP hand. However, some again use it to ask for specific aces known as the ACOL 4NT bid (no alert is required).

The bid may be used with unusual or freakish hands (hands with a very unusual distributions). Yes, they do occur, as shown in the following link.

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/richmond/PatternsFreakness.pdf>

A hand with distribution 4-3-3-3 has a Freakiness value  $F=0$  and a hand with distribution 13-0-0-0 has Freakiness a value 20. The average Freakiness deal hand shape is about 12 or hands with shape 9-2-1-1 or 9-2-2-0 or 9-3-1-0.

A hand like ♠AKQJ9873 ♥AK ♦76 ♠- may occur and if so, one may employ the aggressive bid of 4NT.

A hand with 9-2-2-0 distribution is highly valuable for its **distributional strength**, especially if a long suit can be made the trump suit. The void (0-cards) and doubletons (2-cards) allow for "ruffing" (using a trump card to win a trick when you are out of the suit led) in the short suits, which can generate extra tricks beyond those indicated by high card points alone. Its frequency is rare or occurs only about once in every 12,000 bridge hands