

Responding to the bid of 1M bid?

By Neil H. Timm

Playing 2/1, most hands with a 5+card major are opened one of a major with 12/13-21points. The points normally include 12 HCP and at least one Length point for any 5-card suit headed by an A/K/QJ – called HL points. Some may replace 12HL points with 11HL points if their hand has 2-quick tricks. For Precision/Strong Club Systems the range for 1-level bids is commonly limited to 11/12-15HL points.

Commonly used point ranges for the responder's response to opener's 1-level bid of a Major made by opener in the **1st or 2nd seat** with **4-card support** are:

0-6 Weak/Tactical
7-9 Moderate/Constructive
10-12 Invitational/Limit
13+ Game Force

The Responses are divided into four regions 0-6/7-9/10-12/13+ as labeled to show bidding weakness or strength.

What Toolkits/Conventions are used by duplicate bridge players when responding to the 1-level bid of 1♥ or 1♠ to confirm at least a 4-card fit?

The jargon one often hears at the table are: Double Raises, Bergen Raises (Bergen, Reverse Bergen, Combined Bergen), BROMAD and Reverse BROMAD bids, Jacoby 2NT* and Jordan 2NT* responses, Fit Bids, Swiss Bids, Splinter (Direct/Ambiguous) Bids and Mini-Splinters, Fit Showing Jump (FSJ) Bids, Mixed Raises, the Nebulous/Artificial 2♣* Convention, and others.

In addition, one must address possible modifications by responder when the opponent interferes with a X or a bid, are systems on, off, or modified? or if responder had already passed? How does responder respond when major suit bids are made by the opener in the **3rd or 4th seat**?

I will review several bidding strategies in this bridge bid; the response provided by Claude AI follows and is very incomplete!

"Review conventions that show at least 4-card support when responding to a 1-level major bid of partner (1) made in seats 1 and 2, (2) if the opponents interfere, and (3) made in the 3rd/4th seat"

"The **complete modern toolkit** integrates Bergen + Jacoby + Splinters for seats 1–2, Jordan 2NT for interference, and Two-Way Drury for 3rd/4th seat — giving precise 4-card support messages at every strength level in every context".

Double Raises

(a) Invitational (Very Common)

If 3M is invitational, the bid is used to show a hand with 4-card support with 10-12 **fit** points. The bid is invitational to game with at least 10HCP and requires no alert.

As an example, suppose your partner opens 1♠ and you hold ♠K873 ♥K102 ♦J102 ♣K108. You have **10HCP** with 4-card support for spades and 12 fit points since the 9-card fit adds 3 points with a K honor, while the flat 4333 distribution subtracts -1 point for a total of 12 fit points.

For more on “Fit Points” follow the link:

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/simple%20fit.pdf>

With the Double Raise 3M response, opener will pass with a minimum and bid on with “Extras”. There is **NO** way to ask if partner has a maximum of 12 points which may be required for the major suit game!

If a partnership uses the 3M bid as invitational with 4-card support, many then use the bid of 2M to show 6-10 fit points with 3-card support and 1NT (forcing/ semi-forcing) denies 3-card support (normally 0-2 cards in the major).

With **13+ fit** points and 4-card support, the Jacoby 2NT* game force (GF) bid is used. **YES, GF with perhaps slam interest since hand strength is unlimited and with NO shortness.**

In his 1970 book “Win at bridge with Jacoby Modern” included some caveats for the bid.

- (1) The 13+ points (i.e., Fit Points) should include at least 11HCP
- (2) Three card support is acceptable provided the major suit contains at least 2 of the top 3 trumps suit honors.

After Jacoby 2NT* - Opener's Responses

Rebids by Opener	Suit Length	FIT points (not just HCP)
3 (new suit) *	Singleton/Void	12+
3 (major suit opened)	5/6+ in major bid	18+
3NT* (5-3-3-2)	balanced	15-17
4 (new suit)	4/5+ card suit	12 to 17
4 (major suit opened)	5-card major	12 to 14

*= Alert

(b) Forcing (Uncommon**)

Instead of using the 3M bid as Invitational to game in the bid major, some may use the 3M* bid as a GF bid which now requires an alert (*=alert). With this option, the bid ensures game but with no slam interest.

As an example, suppose your partner opens 1♠ and you hold ♠A873 ♥K102 ♦J10 ♣K872. You have **11HCP** with 4-card support for spades and 15 fit points since the 9-card fit adds 2 points, and the doubleton adds +2 points.

The major advantage of this OPTION is that now the Jacoby 2NT* bid, if used, implies strong slam interest. The meaning of the bid of 2M and 1NT are not changes with the GF 3M* bid.

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4 (new suit)	4/5+ card suit	12 to 17
4 (major suit opened)	5-card major	12 to 14
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** If one uses the 3M* bid as a GF bid, one may not use it as a preemptive 3M* bid. If the 3M* bid is preemptive it normally shows 0-6 or 6-9 HCP with no fit.

Bergen Bids

To address Bergen Raises, we return to the weakness/ strength regions 0-6/7-9/10-12/13+ defined above.

For a comprehensive Review of Bergen bids (Bergen, Reverse Bergen, and Combined Bergen) follow the Link:

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Bergen%20Raises%20-%20An%20Overview.pdf>

The major disadvantage of Bergen raises is that the natural 3-level bids of 3♣* and 3♦* to show 5-card suits may not be used. Note that with the **Forcing 3M* Option**, this is not the case.

Nebulous 2♣* Option

The Nebulous 2♣ Convention developed by Andrew Gumperz is not widely used by many pairs in Clubs but is popular among bridge experts since it is a GF convention invoked at the 2-level to show a GF fit in the bid major or a GF hand with clubs after an artificial relay bid of 2♦. For a discussion of this approach, follow the link:

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/The%20Nebulous%20Two%20Club.pdf>

Splinter Bids (Direct and Ambiguous)

With 13+ fit points and 3/4-card support for partner Major Suit bid, one should not employ the Jacoby 2NT* response, but instead convey to partner your shortness immediately using a Splinter bid.

I have discussed this before in some detail, following the link:

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Void.pdf>

Some pairs that choose not to use Direct/Ambiguous, but instead use Mini-Splinters and Swiss Bids. I discuss these also, follow the link:

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Mini%20Splinters.pdf>

Interference by the Right-Hand Opponent (RHO)

In the Direct Seat, the RHO may overcall with a takeout X or bid a suit at the 1 or 2 level. What is one to do?

Many pairs say conventions are OFF – a big mistake. Why let the opponents destroy your bidding agreements?

Except for a Natural 1NT overcall with 15-18 points, a bid at the 1 or 2-level generally shows a 5-card suit and 10-15 points. Hence there are about 14-18 total points remaining since the opener has at least 12 points. However, the takeout X is more problematic since it shows about 12-17 points or 12-16 total points remaining. This leads to the following simple bids.

XX	10+ points without a 4-card fit
2M/2NT*	10+ with 3-card fit/10+ with 3/4-card support and stopper
Cue bid	10-12 points with a 4-card fit
3M*	GF with a fit

Some pairs use Fit Showing Jump (FSJ) Raises and Mixed Raises over Interference.

Bidding in the 3rd Seat and the 4th Seat

Since partner has passed may pairs use Drury, Two-Way Reverse Drury, or 3-Way Double Reverse Drury.

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/3-way%20Double%20Reverse%20Drury.pdf>

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/drury%20%20with%20SSGT.pdf>

In the 4th Seat, many bid the major at the 2-level to show an opening hand.