

The main aim in the bidding is to locate an 8-card major fit if present.

If, between your two hands, you have 8 cards in a major suit you should play the contract in that major.

We refer to it as an **“8-card major fit”**.

Partner’s opening bid of 1NT has fully described her hand in terms of shape and strength.

You are in charge.

Partner has shown 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand.

As responder ask yourself two questions:

Are the points for game present.

Do we have a major fit

If your major suit contains 5 or 6 cards you can pass this information to partner.

There are also ways of locating a 4-4 major fit to be covered in a later lesson.

#### With a weak hand (10 HCP or less)

There are insufficient points for game.

If you have a suit of 5+ cards, other than clubs, you can make a **“weakness takeout”**.

You respond in your suit at the 2-level and the dialogue is as below.

	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="padding: 5px;">W</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">N</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">E</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">1NT</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2♦/♥/♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	1NT	pass	2♦/♥/♠	pass	pass	pass			
W	N	E	S											
1NT	pass	2♦/♥/♠	pass											
pass	pass													
I have 12-14 balanced		<b>I have up to 10 points</b>												
Message received		Game is not possible												
		This is a safer place to play than 1NT												
		Please pass												

A response of 2♣ is reserved for a special purpose discussed in a later lesson.

#### With an invitational hand (11-12 HCP)

Game is possible if partner is maximum.

Hands of this strength containing a 5-card major are difficult to bid in standard Acol.

There is a method which will be described in a later lesson.

For the moment your best approach is to ignore the possibility of a major fit and bid 2NT.

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W	N	E	S											
1NT	pass	2NT	pass											
>														
I have 12-14 balanced		<b>I have 11-12 points</b>												
Appropriate action		Please bid 3NT if maximum												

### With a strong hand (13+ HCP)

You should be in game.

### With a major suit (♥/♠) of exactly 5-cards

You make a “game-forcing bid” showing your suit. Opener cannot pass.

You make a jump response in your major at the 3-level and the dialogue is as below.

I have 12-14 balanced	<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
Sorry only 2 cards	1NT	pass	3♥/♠	pass
In your major	3NT			

**I have 13+ points**

We should be in game

I have exactly 5 cards in the major shown  
Look at your holding in my major  
With 3 cards in my major bid 4M  
With 2 cards in my major bid 3NT

I have 12-14 balanced	<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
I have 3 cards	1NT	pass	3♥/♠	pass
In your major	4♥/♠			

**I have 13+ points**

We should be in game

I have exactly 5 cards in the major shown  
Look at your holding in my major  
With 3 cards in my major bid 4M  
With 2 cards in my major bid 3NT

We do not take the same type of action if our 5-card suit is a minor.

We do not emphasise the minor suits.

Game in a minor requires 11 tricks.

If we make just one overtrick in 3NT we score better (430) than the minor game (5♣ or 5♦) - (400)

### With a major suit (♥/♠) of 6+ cards

We bid the major game directly.

This action is justified because partner, having opened 1NT, cannot have fewer than two cards in any suit.

An 8-card fit must be present.

I have 12-14 balanced	<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
Message received	1NT	pass	4♥/♠	pass
	pass	pass		

**I have 12+ points**

We should be in game

I have 6+ cards in the major shown  
This is the best place to play  
Please pass

Your 6-card suit gives your hand extra power.

You can take this action with 12+ points.

### Note:

For the curious amongst you:

A later lesson will describe how to locate a major fit when, as responder, you hold a 4-card major and you want to enquire whether opener has the same.