

JACOBY 2NT RESPONSES TO 1 MAJOR

Assume partner opens 1♥, possible support responses are:

2♥ - limit bid 5 – 8 points (or 9+ losers)

3♥ - limit bid 11 – 12 points (or 8 losers)

2NT – Jacoby response – 13 + points with trump support (see below)

4♥ - pre-emptive 7 – 10 points

Splinter bids (3♠, 4♣, 4♦) – singleton or void plus trump support.

If not using ‘losing trick count’, with 9 – 10 points change suit and show delayed support.

3NT – balanced 13+ points no heart support (three cards or less). (This could of course be passed if responder also has a balanced hand, particularly in pairs).

2NT (Jacoby response):

Shows 13 + points – **game forcing** – support for major (4-card majors – 4-cards; 5-card majors - Hxx). This hand usually controls the contract thereafter.

The opener’s responses focus on showing shape as follows (assume 1♥ opening):

3♣, 3♦, 3♠ - singleton or void in the suit.

4♣, 4♦, 4♠ - secondary good five card suit (ideally two of top three honours)– a source of tricks

3NT – intermediate hand 15-16 points, with no singleton or void.

3♥ - strong hand 17+ points, with no singleton or void.

4♥ - all other minimum hands (12-14 points).

(some partnerships reverse the 3NT and 3M responses)

Note:

- with a good secondary five card suit and a singleton or void, give preference to showing the five card suit (remember this also implies a singleton or void).

- the showing of a secondary five card suit can also show the general hand strength depending on which one was originally opened.

- the 2NT bid is game forcing (in the appropriate major).

- same applies for 1♠ opening.

Examples:

a)	♠ 2	♠ A73
	♥ KJ984	♥ Q1072
	♦ AJ872	♦ KQ
	♣ A8	♣ K953
	1♥	2NT
	4♦ (5 card suit)	4NT (RKCB)
	5♦ (3 key cards)	6♥

Over the 2NT, opener shows his second suit. Responder's ♦KQ are now very useful. With one key-card missing, settle for the small slam.

b)	♠ AK2	♠ QJ3
	♥ KQ984	♥ AJ72
	♦ QJ72	♦ 84
	♣ 8	♣ KQJ3
	1♥	2NT
	3♣	4♥

Opener shows the singleton club, which is not to responder's liking. Settle for 4♥. With a better hand he may progress.

c)	♠ AJ2	♠ KQ3
	♥ K10984	♥ AJ72
	♦ QJ72	♦ 84
	♣ 8	♣ A973
	1♥	2NT
	3♣	3♥

Even with a minimum hand, show the singleton. Since the 2NT is game forcing (in hearts), responder can progress slowly, but opener with a minimum just bids the game.

d)	♠ A2	♠ KQ3
	♥ KQ984	♥ AJ72
	♦ AK73	♦ 84
	♣ 86	♣ A973
	1♥	2NT
	3NT	4♣ (cue)
	4♦ (cue)	4♥
	4♠ (cue)	4NT (RKCB)
	5♦ (3 key cards)	6♥