

## WEAK JUMP NEW SUIT RESPONSES

The traditional approach to partner's opening bid is that a jump response in a new suit is strong (16+) and forcing. However this is now being superseded by different treatments, one of which is that the **jump bid in a new suit is weak**.

(This is very much a 'feel' situation, so the foregoing are not explicit rules, merely guidelines).

### Definition

A jump bid in a new suit in response to partner's (opening) bid is **4-8(poor) points** with a **6 or 7 card suit**. The bid is **non-forcing** (and hence is **alertable**).

(On suitable hands it may be made on a 3 point hand).

The bid would tend to be made if there is **no alternative place to play**.

### Deviations:

If vulnerable it should be 6-7 points

If bid at the three-level it should be 6-7 points

If a seven card suit, add extra point(s) (there is a difference between a 7-2-2-2 and a better 7-3-2-1 hand)

### Alternatives

**With an alternative place to play** (dependent on points or fit), prefer a simple (non-jump) response. So with say 7 points and a suit headed by AK, or AQJ just make a simple response. A useful way of deciding whether to bid at the 1-level or bidding a jump shift at the 2-level is to consider what you would respond over a Benji 2♣. If you would respond a positive (~1.5 tricks) then respond at the one level. However if you would respond with a negative 2♦ then bid the 2-level new suit weak jump-shift.

With 8 points, only weak jump-shift on a poor suit and poor hand (e.g. ♠:Qxxxxx; ♥: QJx; ♦:Qx; ♣:Jx)

Examples:

Over partner's opening bid of 1♦

a)	♠ KJ7542 ♥ Q62 ♦ 97 ♣ 84	b)	♠ K97542 ♥ 642 ♦ 97 ♣ 84	c)	♠ K97542 ♥ 85 ♦ A983 ♣ 8	d)	♠ KJ7542 ♥ 85 ♦ 10832 ♣ 9	e)	♠ 7 ♥ Q83 ♦ 852 ♣ Q97542
f)	♠ KJ7542 ♥ Q962 ♦ 97 ♣ 8	g)	♠ AQJ542 ♥ 642 ♦ 97 ♣ 84	h)	♠ AQ10542 ♥ 642 ♦ 97 ♣ 84	i)	♠ 7 ♥ Q83 ♦ 85 ♣ K976542	j)	♠ K87542 ♥ J84 ♦ 72 ♣ 86

- a) - bid 2♠.
- b) - if non vulnerable I would bid 2♠, but if vulnerable I would pass.
- c) - there is an alternative place to play (diamond support), so bid 1♠ rather than 2♠
- d) - even with diamond support, bid 2♠ not good enough for 1♠.
- e) - if non-vulnerable, possibly bid 3♣; if vulnerable – pass.
- f) - similar to (a), but an alternative place to play (partner may have hearts), so bid 1♠
- g) - just prefer 1♠ to 2♠, but...
- h) - in this case probably 2♠

- i) - similar to e), but with the 7<sup>th</sup> club, probably 3♣ at any vulnerability. Replace the ♣K with ♣Q – non-vul 3♣; vul - ??
- j) - playing 5-card majors, bid 2♥. Playing 4-card majors I would prefer 2♠.

### After Intervening Bid or Double

After ‘double’ ignore the double, and in principle treat as above.

With a suit overcall, two situations arise:

If the intervening bid has not taken up any space i.e. you still have three bids available in your six-card suit, e.g. (1♣ - (1♥) – and you hold six spades), treat as above (1♠ - natural; 2♠ -weak; 3♠ splinter agreeing diamonds).

If the intervening bid has taken away one of the levels of bidding your suit (you are in a ‘displaced bid’ situation) e.g. ((1♣ - (1♠) – and you hold six hearts) then:

- If opener’s bid is a **minor** forgo the splinter bid:  
 1♦ - (1♠) - 2♥ is natural (5 hearts, 9 + points)  
 1♦ - (1♠) - 3♥ is weak six-card suit
- If opener’s bid is a **major** forgo the weak bid:  
 1♥ - (2♦) – (3♣) is natural (club suit, 9 + points)  
 1♥ - (2♦) – (4♣) is a splinter bid agreeing hearts.

### Responses To Weak Jump Shift

I would suggest that opener should only progress on 17+ points (maybe with experience 16 + points). The 2NT response should be an Ogust type rebid, similar to responding to a weak-two opening hand.

Poor points – 4-5; good points, 6-7points

Good suit – 2 of top 3 honours; otherwise poor suit.

### Other Considerations

If using the weak jump new suit response you obviously directly lose the 2-level strong hand. With a six-card suit, I suggest the following:

e.g. After 1♦ – 1♠ – 2♦ -:

- 2♠ - 8-9 points (or 5-card suit 6-9)
- 3♠ - 10-11 points
- Change suit - 12-14 points, or 15+ with a fragmented suit
- 4♠ - 15+ points with a solid suit.