

Lesson Summary for U3ABD10: Opening & Rebidding One-suited and Two-suited Hands

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Welcome!

To help clarify some points in this week's lesson, we're giving you this Lesson Summary. It describes the same topics from a slightly different angle and is more portable than videos. We've also included some additional detail where it seems needed.

I hope it helps!

-Ed

Bidding Principles

Weekly summary

A VERY brief overview of each week so far:

1. Open a 12-14 point balanced hand with 1NT. Respond according to your points if you don't have a long (5+) major
2. Respond to partner's 1NT opening bid if you have a long major by using a Red Suit Transfer, then rebid according to your length and strength
3. Open a 12-19 point unbalanced hand with one of your longest suit: 1C, 1D, 1H or 1S. Respond to partner's bid according to your points and shape: support a major if you have 4+, bid your own suit or 1NT or pass
4. Open a 15-19 point balanced hand with one of a suit, planning to rebid 1NT (15-16 points), 2NT (17-18 points) or 3NT (19 points). But if partner raises your suit or bids a suit of their own and there's a suit fit you may change your plan – especially if it's a major suit
5. Open a 12-19 point unbalanced hand with one of your longest suit:
 With a 6-card suit, plan to bid it again (twice).
 With a 5-card suit, plan to bid your second (4+) suit next **if you can**.
 With 12-15 points, your second bid should not be a jump or reverse.
 With 16-19 points, your second bid should be a jump or reverse.
 I say **plan** because partner might pass, or raise your first suit, or bid your second suit, or bid NT giving a point count, or change suit with a jump showing length and strength.

(We are ignoring 4441 hands for now because they are rare and awkward.)

If you can? The Barrier (Reversing)

If you have a 5-card suit in an unbalanced hand, you ALWAYS have a second, 4-card (or 5-card) suit. (5332 is the only shape that doesn't, but that's balanced so you open 1NT, or 1x and rebid 1NT, 2NT, or 3NT.) But you can only bid your second suit if:

- It's lower-ranked than your 5-card suit (e.g. 5 Hearts and 4 Clubs, 5 Spades and 4 Hearts)
- Or you opened 1C and your second suit is Spades (e.g. 5 Clubs and 4 Spades)
- Or you have 16-19 points - why?

Your first bid sets a **Barrier** one higher e.g. 1D sets a barrier of 2D. If your rebid is **pAbove the Barrier**, you are promising a strong hand of 16-19 points. Why? Because you're asking partner to choose between your two suits. If they are weak and prefer your second suit, they can pass, choosing an easy two-level contract. But if they are weak and prefer your first suit, you have forced them to bid at the three-level - so you need extra points to bid above the barrier (also called **reversing**) because you may end up in a difficult 3-level contract even though partner is weak.

If you can't bid your second suit, you may have to rebid your first (5-card) suit. Sadly, this means partner can't be sure that you're showing a 6-card suit when you rebid it.

This week's lessons

Opening an unbalanced hand

Hand shape

Combine shape with points, and there are 6 types of hand that you open with a one-level bid:

Strength	Balanced	One-suited	Two-suited
Weaker	12-14	12-15	12-15
Stronger	15-19	16-19	16-19

This week we're focussing on that blue bit!

Hand type

All unbalanced hands with 12-19 points are opened with one of a suit. There are four main types:

Shape:	One-suited (6+ suit and no 4+ suit)		Two suited (5+ suit and a 4+ suit)	
Points:	12-15	16-19	12-15	16-19
Type:	A	B	C	D
Opening bid	1x	1x	1x	1x
Planned Rebid:	2x	3x	1y / 2y	2y / 3y

Choosing a suit

You ALWAYS open your longest suit. With two suits of equal length, open the higher-ranked suit, but:

- With 4 Clubs and 4 Spades (or 5 Clubs and 5 Spades), open 1C and plan to rebid 1S.
- With 4 Hearts and 4 Spades, open 1H so partner can bid 1S with a weak hand - although you must have a 4441 hand! (With 5 Hearts and 5 Spades, open 1S and rebid 2H.)

Bid a 5-4-4-0 hand as a two-suited hand with a choice of second suit; ignore 4-4-4-1 hands for now.

Responding to one of a suit

Responding to a one-of-a-suit opening bid was covered 2 weeks ago, but briefly:

- With 0-5 points: pass
- With 6-9 points: and 4-card support for their major, raise to 2x, otherwise bid your own suit at the one-level or 1NT
- With 10+ points: and 4-card support for their major, raise to 3x, otherwise bid your own suit at the one-level or two-level (if you have to), or bid 2NT
- With 13+ points: and 4-card support for their major, raise to 4x, otherwise bid your own suit at the one-level or two-level, or bid 3NT
- Any change of suit is forcing, so is often a better bid than NT or raising partner's suit, as you will get another bid after partner has told you more about their hand
- Don't support a major with 0-3 trumps, only support a minor if you have no other sensible bid

Opener's Rebid - showing length and strength

Your second bid, your **rebid**, should reveal a lot more about your hand:

- With a weaker single-suited hand: bid your suit e.g. 1H 1S 2H
- With a weaker two-suited hand: bid your second suit e.g. 1H 1S 2C
- With a stronger single-suited hand: jump bid your suit e.g. 1H 1S 3H
- With a stronger two-suited hand: either bid your second suit if it's **Above The Barrier** (e.g. 1H 1NT 2S), or jump bid your second suit if it's below the barrier (e.g. 1H 1NT 3C).

The barrier is one higher than your first bid. For example: if you open 1H, the barrier is set at 2H.

Changing your plan

But these rebids are what you PLANNED at the outset; partner's response to your first bid may require a rethink and change of plan. For example: partner might pass, or raise your first suit, or bid game, or bid your second suit, or make a weak bid showing game is unlikely, or bid your short suit making NT possible.