

## Don't Rebid a Five-Card Suit

I encounter many players at Triangle Bridge Academy who rebid five-card suits, especially minors. That's usually a bad idea.

### For opener

Richard Pavlicek, <http://rpbridge.net/3c00.htm>, says, "Opener usually has six cards when he repeats the same suit, however, there are times when it is necessary to repeat a five-card suit. With 5-4 shape and insufficient strength to make a reverse bid, it is permissible to rebid a decent five-card suit. Be sure to understand that rebidding a five-card suit is the exception, not the normal practice." For example, if opener holds S:2 H:AK42 D:653 C:KQT94 the bidding might go 1c-1s; 2c. Opener is too weak to rebid 2h, a reverse. Rebidding 2c is the best of bad alternatives.

Karen Walker, <https://kwbridge.com/rebids.htm>, says if the bidding has gone 1c-1h,

- if you hold S: KQ4 H:A8 D:T83 C:KJ732 "1nt is a better description than a 2c rebid, which suggests a 6-card suit ..."
- if you hold S:AQ H:Q62 D:KQ7 C:KQJ94 bid 2nt.

Note her reluctance to rebid a 5-card suit, even one as good as KQJ94.

Larry Cohen, [https://www.larryco.com/uploaded/pdf/pdfup\\_271.pdf](https://www.larryco.com/uploaded/pdf/pdfup_271.pdf), says after 1c-1s, 2c shows "six or more clubs and a minimum hand. ... Do not make the common error of rebidding a five-card suit ..."

### For responder

Richard Pavlicek, <http://rpbridge.net/3d00.htm>, says, "Do not rebid your original suit with only 5 cards. ... Rebidding the same suit indicates six or more cards."

Karen Walker, <https://kwbridge.com/rebids2.htm>, says if the bidding has gone 1c-1s, 2c and you hold S:KT643 H:Q942 D:QJ5 C:3 you should "Pass. This hand rates to be a misfit. ... Your spades aren't long enough or strong enough to rebid." Note: do not try to rescue partner.

Larry Cohen, [https://www.larryco.com/uploaded/pdf/pdfup\\_428.pdf](https://www.larryco.com/uploaded/pdf/pdfup_428.pdf), says

1c-1d, 1h-2d shows "... six-plus diamonds, up to about 10 points ..."

## Examples

- S:AQ2 H:2 D:KJ87 C:Q8532. After 1c-1s, rebid 2s. Yes, raise with only three spades. Don't rebid the five-card suit. (From [https://www.larryco.com/uploaded/pdf/pdfup\\_271.pdf](https://www.larryco.com/uploaded/pdf/pdfup_271.pdf).)
- S:KQ H:KQJ D:J32 C:AQ765. After 1c-1s, rebid 2n. Don't rebid the five-card suit. (From [https://www.larryco.com/uploaded/pdf/pdfup\\_271.pdf](https://www.larryco.com/uploaded/pdf/pdfup_271.pdf).)
- S:KJ H:KQ32 D:Q2 C:Q6543. After 1c-1s, rebid 1n. Don't rebid the five-card suit. (From [https://www.larryco.com/uploaded/pdf/pdfup\\_271.pdf](https://www.larryco.com/uploaded/pdf/pdfup_271.pdf).)
- S:43 H:A97 D:AK874 C:K82. After 1d-1h, rebid 2h. Don't rebid the five-card suit and be wary of rebidding 1n with a small doubleton. (From <http://rpbridge.net/3c00.htm>.)
- S:QJT653 H:863 D:K74 C:3. After 1c-1s, 2c, rebid 2s. "This is the suit quality you need to insist on your own suit." (From <https://kwbridge.com/rebids2.htm>.)
- S:QT543 H:J5 D:A63 C:742. After 1h-1s, 2c, rebid 2h. "Partner has at least 9 cards in his two suits ... so his hand doesn't have much room for spade support. Your choice is between a 5-2 heart fit and a 4-3 club fit. When in doubt, choose the 5-2 fit ..." (From <https://kwbridge.com/rebids2.htm>.)
- S:KQ2 H:KJ2 D:T6542 C:32. After 1c-1d, 1h, rebid 1n. (From [https://www.larryco.com/uploaded/pdf/pdfup\\_428.pdf](https://www.larryco.com/uploaded/pdf/pdfup_428.pdf).)
- S:AJ974 H:93 D:432 C:AQ2. After 1h-1s, 2c, rebid 2n. Invitational. If opener wants to accept the invitation and has three-card support, he can bid 3s. (Adapted from <http://rpbridge.net/3d29.htm>.)