

Reverses Lesson- page 1

Opener is the first person to make a call that is not Pass.

Responder is the partner to the opener and will normally make a bid with 6 or more points.

After Responder's call, Opener only has 2 forcing bids:

- **Reverse- forcing for one round** (Responder and Opener will each bid again)
- **Jump Shift- forcing to game**

Note: Responder can also bid a reverse or a jump shift- both are forcing to game.

Problem: Many openers do not understand what is required to bid a reverse (wrong shape, too few points). Many responders do not know how to bid correctly when partner bids a reverse.

Opener's Reverse:

Opener bids a **second bid at the 2 level** in a suit that is **higher ranking than the first suit** (bids the suits in reverse order of seniority). This shows:

- 17+ HCPs
- First suit is longer than the second suit
- Unbalanced hand (at least 5-4). With a balanced hand, bid some level of No Trump

Examples of Reverses:

1 ♣ - 1 ♥ - 2 ♦

1 ♦ - 1 ♠ - 2 ♥

1 ♦ - 1 NT - 2 ♠

Not a Reverse:

1 ♦ - 1 ♥ - 2 ♣ (lower ranking suit)

1 ♣ - 1 ♥ - 1 ♠ (higher level suit, but at the 1 level)

1 ♦ - 1 ♥ - 2 ♠ (jump shift)

Note: Some discussion adapted from Larry Cohen teaching notes.

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After Opener's Reverse, Responder must bid (and Opener must also bid again- 1 round). The first question Responder must ask is, "Do we have points for game?" Opener is showing a 17+ point hand. With 8 or more points, Responder must force to game. With 5-7 points, Responder must slow things down.

Consider 1 \spadesuit - 1 \heartsuit - 2 \clubsuit How does Responder bid?

- Any 3 level bid by Responder is forcing to game (shows 8+ points)
 - * 3 \spadesuit shows 3 or more diamonds and 8+ points
 - * 3 \heartsuit shows 4 hearts and 8+ support points
 - * 3 \clubsuit shows 6+ spades and 8+ points
- Responder rebids major 2 \heartsuit to show 5 cards. Asks Opener if she has 3 spades. Could have a minimum hand or a game forcing hand.
- Responder bids 2 NT. Could show minimum hand (5-7 points). Suggests opener rebid first suit.

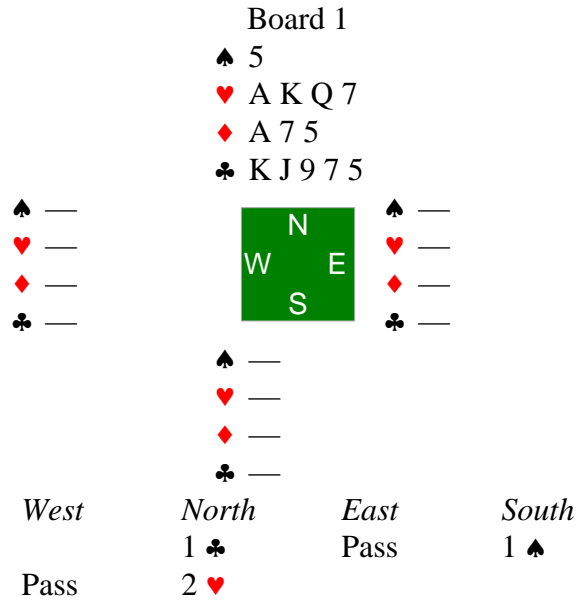
Reverses do not normally apply in a 2/1 auction since that sequence is already forcing to game.

1 \spadesuit - 2 \clubsuit - 2 \heartsuit

The 2 \heartsuit bid shows a spade suit so the pair can look for No Trump. It does not mean opener has 5 diamonds and 17+ points.

1 \heartsuit - 2 \clubsuit - 2 \heartsuit

The 2 \heartsuit bid shows 5-4 shape, but does not guarantee 17+ points. Opener shows shape to describe hand.

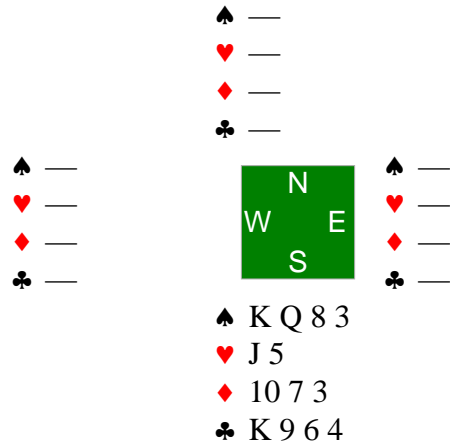


North has 17 HCPs and an unbalanced hand. North should open 1 ♣ with the intention of reversing to 2 ♥ with her rebid.

Note that if South were to bid 1 ♥ instead of 1 ♠, North would show support and jump to 3 ♥.

North has enough points to open 1 NT but cannot make that bid with a singleton small spade. If North had a different layout with ♠ K5 and ♦ A7, she might consider a 1 NT opening because both doubletons are protected from the opening lead.

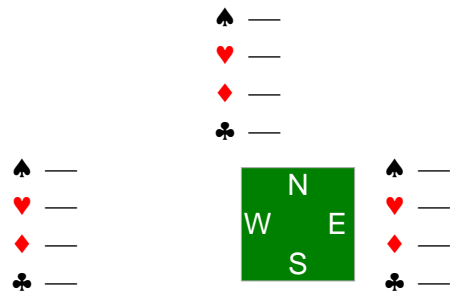
Board 2



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣

After North opens 1 ♣, South bids 1 ♠ (promises 6+ points and 4+ spades). North then bids a reverse, 2 ♥, showing at least 5 clubs and 4 hearts and 17+ points. South has 9 HCPs and knows that there are points for game. South bids 3 ♣ showing a club fit and is forcing to game.

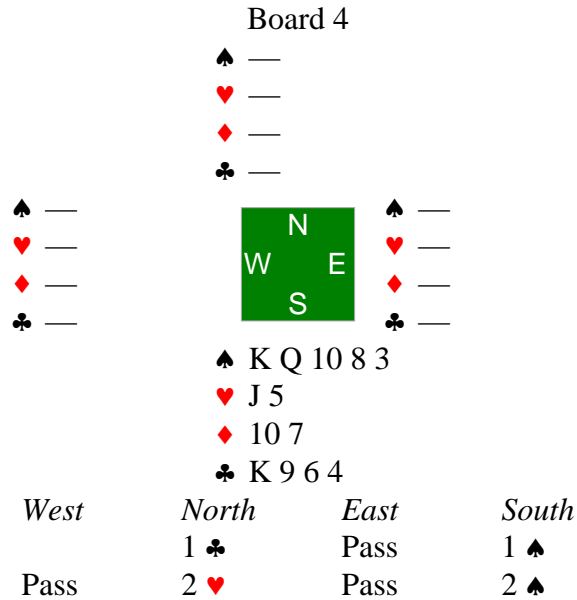
Board 3



♠ K Q 8 3
 ♥ J 5
 ♦ 10 7 3
 ♣ 9 6 4 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In a similar auction, North reverses to 2 ♥. South only has 6 HCPs and wants to slow things down. South bids 2 NT which suggests that North rebid their minor. After North's bid of 3 ♣, South passes and hopes that is the best contract.



After North's reverse to 2 ♥, South knows there are points for game. South first wants to see if North has 3 spades. South's rebid of 2 ♠ shows 5 spades. If North has 3 spades, she will bid 3 ♠ and South will raise to 4 ♠. If North does not, she will bid 2 NT and South will raise to 3 NT.

Notes:

- if South had 6 spades, she could bid 3 ♠ as her second bid. That would show 6 or more spades and would be forcing to game.
- if South had only 6 points (assume the ♣ K was a small card), she would still bid 2 ♠ on the second bid to ask North if she has 3 spades. If North bids 3 ♠ to say she has three spades, South will likely pass. If North bids 2 NT to deny having three spades, South will likely bid 3 ♣ expecting North to pass.

Board 5

♠ 9 5
 ♥ K 8 3
 ♦ J 9 7
 ♣ A K Q 5 2



♠ K Q 8 3
 ♥ A Q J 9 6
 ♦ 3
 ♣ J 9 7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This is an example of a Reverse by Responder. North opens 1 ♣. South has an opening hand and starts with 1 ♥. North bids 1 NT- this bid denies 4 hearts and 4 spades and shows a balanced hand with 12-14 HCPs. South now bids 2 ♠, a Reverse. This bid is forcing to game. South bids 2 ♠ even though she knows North does not have 4 spades. However, North can tell from South's Reverse that the first suit, hearts, is longer than the second suit, spades. Now, having three hearts, North supports hearts and South proceeds to game, 4 ♥. NS could also find this game by using New Minor Forcing.