

# Responding to a Minor Suit Bid

By Neil H. Timm

Playing 2/1 with 5-card majors, the most frequent bids are 1♣ and then 1♦. Responding to the minor suit bids, many partnerships bid their 4-card major with 6+ points and with 10+ points employ the inverted minor bridge convention with no 4-card major where 1m-2m=10+ and 1m-1NT<10points.

When partner responds with a 4-card major the contract is often wrong-sided and playing the inverted minor convention with perhaps 10-12 points, one often finds themselves in 3NT with a poor result.

Most 2/1 bidders seldom employ transfers; however, some have adopted the Criss Cross inverted minor convention which is off if the opponents X or bid; however, some add the Flip-Flop convention over a X.

Are there better options over 1m bids playing 5-card majors? Yes

## Transfers

With no interference over the better minor 1♣ bid, one should use transfer bids and over 1♦ with 4441/4432 shape hands bids are natural.

**However, if the opponents X over the 1♦ bid, transfers are also used.**

The bidding sequences follow and are like the 5-card major Scanian way of bidding.

**After 1♣ (at least 3-clubs) use transfer responses**

1♦*	4+hearts or 5+diamonds and 6+HCP
	1♥ 3-hearts
	1NT 1-2 hearts
	2♥ 4-hearts
1♥*	4+spades and 6+HCP
	1NT 1-2 spades
	2♠ 3/4spades
1♠*	balanced transfer to NT with 6+HCP with no 4-card major
1NT	10-12 balanced
2♣*	10+HCP with 4+clubs

**After 1♦ (4-diamonds-3clubs) or 4441/4432 use natural responses**

1M	4+major (not xxxx) with 6+HCP
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1NT            6-12 without a good major  
 2♣\*            GF with 10+ and 4+clubs or with 4+ diamonds - no 4-card major

**Other bids in an uncontested auction.**

3m            Preemptive (PRE) with (4)5card support and 6-9HCP  
 3M            PRE with 7-card suit and 10+points  
 3NT            balanced 13-15HCP  
 4X            Splinter 12/13+points (X not equal to m bid)

**What happens over a X of 1m?**

**After 1♣ - X =Take Out**

XX            10+ with/without support for clubs  
 1♦\*/1♥\*/1♠\*    Transfers same as above and 6+HCP  
 1NT\*            Transfer to diamonds with 8+HCP  
 2♣\*            6-10+HCP with 4+clubs  
 2♦\*/2♥\*        9/10+ transfers fit bid showing a 5-card major and 4+clubs  
 2NT\*            9/10+ fit bid with 5-diamonds and 4+clubs

**After 1♦ - X=Take Out**

XX\*            4+hearts  
 1♥\*/1♠\*        Transfer to 5+ spades /NT with 6+HCP  
 1NT\*            Transfer to clubs with 6+HCP  
 2♣\*            Transfer to diamonds with 6+HCP  
 2♦\*/2♥\*        Major suit transfers with 9/10 HCP and may have diamonds  
 2NT\*            9/10 fit showing with 4-4 minors or 4♣-5♦

**Other bids have the same meaning as in an uncontested auction.**

3m            Preemptive (PRE) with (4)5card support and 6-9HCP  
 3M            PRE with 7-card suit and 10+points  
 3NT            balanced 13-15HCP  
 4X            Splinter 12/13+points (X not equal to m bid)

**The above bids may be easily adopted by 2/1 players when the opponents make a takeout double or do not interfere when one opens with minor suit bid.**

**As shown, the responder bidding responses become more complicated if one adds Transfer Jump Shifts which are played with less than 8HCP hands or game-forcing hands. The bidding sequences are discussed further in the 2019 book “5-card Majors the Scanian Way” by Mats Nilslund.**

## Transfer Jump Shifts (TJS)

Over 1♣/1♦ bids responder has three types of hands:

- (1) A weak hand with 3-7HCP
- (2) An invitational hand with 8-12HCP, a jump rebid of the suit
- (3) A Game Force hand with 13+HCP/6-4 in M-m(bid)/very good 6-card major with 1-loser

Jump bids after 1m with no interference are defined:

2♦*	6+hearts weak-less than 8HCP/GF TJS
2♥*	6+spades weak-less than 8HCP/GF TJS.
2♠*	5+support in other minor and 10+HCP
2NT	Natural invitational with 12-13HCP
3m	Preemptive (PRE) with (4)5card support and 6-9HCP
3M	PRE with 7-card suit and 10+points
3NT	balanced 13-15HCP
4X	Splinter 12/13+points (X not equal to m bid)

If the opponents X one uses “fit-showing” bids with a 5+major and 4-card minor support. With a 6-card major, one employs forcing bids like 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing.

The suggested bidding sequences addressed so far are geared toward transfers and fit bids. However, over 1m bids the opponents often interfere with a bid so bidding a new suit is forcing for one round (F1) since one may stop in a part score when responder makes a preference or rebid of his suit.

### When the Opponents Interfere, one bids:

#### 1♣-1♦

X/1♥	6+HCP Transfer to hearts/spades with 4/5cards
1♠	6+HCP Transfer to 1NT
1NT*	8+HCP when 5-4 or 4-5 in the major (2♦ asks for longest)
2♦*/2♥*	10+HCP transfer to H/S with 6+major
2♠*	10+HCP with 5-clubs
2NT*	10+HCP with 5+clubs and 5-card major
3♦*	10+HCP and 5-5 majors
4♦*	slam try and 5-5 in the majors and void in diamonds

#### 1m-1♥

X/1♠	6+HCP Transfer to spades with 4/5-cards
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1NT*	8+HCP with 4+spades and 5/4-card support in bid minor
2♥*	8+HCP transfer 6+spades
2♠*	10+HCP 5-spades and 5-card support for bid minor
2NT	10+HCP with 5-card support for bid minor and 5+spades
3Omi	10+HCP with 5+Omi and 5+spades

### 1m-1♠

X	Negative
1NT	6-11HCP with on stopper
2Omi*	Forcing one round with 5+hearts and 10+HCP/8+HCP and 6+H
2♥*	Forcing one round with 6+Omi and 10+HCP or GF with 5Omi
2♠	10+HCP with 4+support for bid minor
2NT	10+HCP 5M and 5+hearts
3Omi	10+HCP with 5+Omi and 5+hearts

In the above observe that 2Om\*i and 2♥\* bids are switched to show major.

### 1m-1NT

X	8-10HCP
2♣*	Both Majors (45/52/55)
2♦/2♥	8+HCP Transfers H/S
2♠	8+HCP 6-cards in unbid minor
2NT	10+HCP with 5-m
3m	support Preemptive

### 1m-2m

X	Values
Pass	Weak
2♥*	10+HCP with 5+Omi
2♠*	10+HCP with 5-card support
2NT	Forcing with stoppers and 4+card support
2/3Omi	non-Forcing natural

**1m-2X** Then 2NT is Forcing-Invitational with support and a stopper and with minimum bids other minor and 4X show a void with support.

**1m-2NT** Cheapest cue bid show support and other shows 5-cards in other suit.