

RESPONDING TO TWO NO-TRUMPS (direct or via 2♦)

Assumptions:

A direct 2NT opening bid **denies** a five-card suit;
2NT via 2♦ opening **shows** a five-card suit.

Summary of Responses:

3♣	- Stayman
3♦, 3♥	- Transfers
3♠	- Slam interest in either minor (at least 5-4)
3NT	- To play
4♣, 4♦	- Slam interest in the appropriate minor
4♥, 4♠	- Natural weak (probably a 7-card suit)
4NT	- Quantative – 11/12 points.

3♣

Over 2NT this is four-card Stayman
Over 2♦ - 2♥ - 2NT, this is five-card Stayman

Unlike responses to 2♣ Stayman, over 3♣, 3NT shows both majors.

Following opener's direct 2NT opening bid, over 3♣ - 3♦ (no major), a bid of a minor by responder would show at least a 5-minor/4-major hand (and slam interest).

But if opener shows a five card suit, a sequence such as ...2NT, 3♣, 3♥, 4♣ would be a club cue-bid.

3♦, 3♥

Standard transfers, with responses:

- Pass – weak
- 3NT – five card suit
- 4♣, 4♦ - four card suits alternative (good) suit.
- 4♥, 4♠ - six card suit.

3♠

Showing at least 5-4 in the minors:

Opener responds:

- 3NT – no four-card minor
- Responder now bids:
 - 4♣/4♦ - one five-card minor and still slam interest
 - 4♥/4♠ - 5-5 in minors and a singleton or void in ♥/♠ and slam interest
 - 4♣/4♦ - at least four clubs/diamonds (followed by cue-bids, RKCB).

4♣/4♦

Opener cue-bids to agree the minor (followed by possible other cue-bids from responder), otherwise bids 4NT (to play, **not Blackwood**).

4♥/4♠

Guarantees a seven-card suit and weak.