

# Bart Simpson Club



<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
5.5.	2023-10-15	Added Non-leaping Michaels sequence (3♦) 4♣
5.4	2023-07-24	Added Puppet Stayman to 1NT opening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1NT - 2♠ = range ask; either BAL INV without 4cM or clubs</li><li>• 1NT - 2NT = Puppet Stayman</li></ul> Added Non-leaping Michaels against 3M
5.3	2023-04-26	Changed Optional Minorwood to standard Minorwood Added continuations for Minorwood
5.2	2023-04-17	Added Good-Bad 2NT Changed 1NT - (2♣) defense Clarified non-serious 3NT sequences. Added signalling on A lead in NT contracts.
5.1	2020-08-27	Changed the continuations for the sequence 1NT-2♥-2♠-3♥ Added clarifying sequences for 4m optional keycard
5.0	2020-03-04	Following improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1♦-(1♥)- continuations (NB: 1♠ denies spade suit!)</li><li>• Keycard ask after preempts</li><li>• Optional Minorwood (also for 1♣ -2m-4m)</li><li>• Maximum overcall X against solo bidder</li></ul>

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# Terminology and Abbreviations

A: = 1st/2nd position OR responses to 1st/2nd position opening

B: = 3rd/4th position OR responses to 3rd/4th position opening

Opener = Player who opens the bidding

Responder = Opener's partner

Aggressor = Player who enters the auction after opponent has opened

Advancer = Aggressor's partner

N = NT = no trump

X = double

XX = redouble

m = minor suit, bid minor suit

M = major suit, bid major suit

om = the other minor

OM = the other major

4333 = any 4333 distribution

4-3-3-3 = 4 spades 3 in all other suits

5m332 = 5 card minor, 332 the rest of the suits

➔ = In the subsequent auction; Up to and including

ART = artificial

ASK = asking bid

BAL = balanced

COMP = competitive

DEPO = X=even / pass=odd

FG = forcing to game

F1R = forcing for one round

F<n><D> = forcing to level <n> in denomination <D> F2NT = forcing to 2NT

INV = invitational (INV+ = invitational or better)

Lissabon = bid in minor to agree major or bid in major to agree minor, ♣<=>♥ and ♦<=>♠

NF = not forcing

NV = not vulnerable

P/C = pass or correct

PRE = preemptive

RESP = responsive

ROPI = XX = the 1<sup>st</sup> step, pass = 2<sup>nd</sup> step and lowest bid = the 3<sup>rd</sup> step etc.

SEMIBAL = semibalanced

SPL = splinter

STM = Stayman

SUPP = support

T/O = take out

UNBAL = unbalanced

UPH = unpassed hand

VUL = vulnerable

Xfer = transfer

## General Principles

Non-serious 3NT is used when we have found (and really shown it by supporting) at least 8 card major suit fit below 3NT. The convention works in the following fashion:

- 3M confirms trumps and is neutral; 3NT instead of 3M is natural; if neutral 3M has been bid everything below applies
- if hearts are agreed, 3♠ is neutral and shows control; if neutral 3♠ has been bid, non-serious is on for the partner
- 3NT shows that the hand is not willing to make an active slam-try but is good enough to cooperate if partner has slam-interest
- a four level cue shows active slam-interest: in a limited hand it shows a control rich maximum; in an unlimited hand it shows at least an ace over the already shown minimum
- raise to 4M shows a bad hand for slam

Note that in sequence 1♣ - 1NT - 2♣ - 2(M-1) - 2M - 3M - 3NT is natural as we might have two balanced hands and only 5-3 fit.

Note that in sequence 1♣ - 1NT - 2♣ - 2(M-1) - 2M - 2/3 singleton, opener's 3NT is natural and strongly suggests an alternative contract as 3M can be bid to confirm trump suit (responder follows the serious/non-serious paradigm).

Good-Bad 2NT is in use. In sequences, where 2NT should not be natural, 2NT shows a competitive hand instead of a strong hand. 2NT bidder's partner might bid 3♣ to let the 2NT bidder to clarify intentions or give preference to one of the previously showed suits by the 2NT bidder. So far the identified sequences are those, where opener needs to compete at 3 level after 1/1 response, e.g.: 1♦ - (p) - 1♠ - (2♥) - 2NT = Competitive, either both minors or diamonds only; responder gives preference from minors. Note that if 2NT bidder has already shown a weak hand, 2NT typically shows either minors or two places to play.

After two-over-one, 3M (support/jump preference) as responder's 2<sup>nd</sup> bid is forcing and shows slam-interest. A typical forcing sequence is 1♠ - 2♣ - 2♥ - 3♥. Non-serious 3NT is in use.

If a solo opponent redoubles to show strength, a pass behind shows a penalty pass and seriously suggests defending with at least some hope of beating the contract. Note that this does **not** apply to the mundane (1M) - X - (XX) - pass sequence, where pass simply tells partner to get out of the mess. A typical sequence would be (1M) - pass - (pass) - X - (XX) - pass - (pass).

A positive reaction to a splinter indicates that there are either no wasted values in the splinter suit or there are compensating values for the wastage.

Positive reaction to a limited hand slam-try promises that there are sufficient values for slam. The limited hand is allowed to take control.

Bidding a small slam instead of stalling when facing an unlimited partner promises that a key card is missing.

Fourth suit is forcing to game. Fourth suit by a passed hand is artificial and promises a maximum pass with no clear direction.

When opponents have bid two suits and we are looking for stoppers:

- when both suits can be cued below 3NT, cue shows a stopper and asks stopper in the other

- when only one suit can be cued below 3NT, cue asks for a stopper

Note the changes after 1♦ – (1♥) sequence. See page 29

Note the addition of Minorwood! Supporting partner's minor at the 4 level is an ace ask. See page  
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Note the addition of RKCB for preempts! After a preempt of 3♠ or lower, 4♣ is a special key card ask. See 39.

# 1NT-Module

## *NOT APPLICABLE TO 1♣-1♥-1NT(15-18)*

We have shown 15-18 against 0-6. All 2-level bids are natural and weak. All 3-level bids show 5-6 with a decent 6 card suit; the strong hand is allowed to gamble a game bid. Responder's 2NT is undefined and its use is discouraged.

## *Stayman with Transfers and Puppet Stayman*

The System described here is quite simple and based on Stayman, Smolen transfers and 4-suit transfers with Puppet Stayman 2NT. The system is very loosely based on WJ05 but contains multiple elements from other systems.

The responses to 1NT are

- 2♣ = Stayman; 54/64 majors with INV+ strength start with Stayman
- 2♦ = 5+ hearts, transfer (this contains 55M with invitational values)
- 2♥ = 5+ spades, transfer (this contains 55M with FG values)
- 2♠ = range ask; either 6+ clubs (no 4cM) or BAL INV without 4cM
- 2NT = Puppet Stayman with either 4-3 majors or just looking for 5-3 fit
- 3♣ = 6+ diamonds weak or FG, transfer (no 4cM)
- 3♦ = 6+ diamonds, INV (no 4cM)
- 3♥ = short, at least 54 (up to 76) in the minors
- 3♠ = short, at least 54 (up to 66) in the minors
- 3NT = NAT
- 4m = SA Texas (double transfer to M)
- 4M = NAT, to play
- 4NT = NAT, quantitative invitation to 6NT
- 5m = NAT, to play
- 5NT = F6NT, quantitative invitation to 7NT

Some notes about the responding structure:

1. There's no Gerber. To ask for key cards in a major, use SA Texas and then 4NT as a normal RKCB. To ask key cards in a minor, transfer to the minor and then use kickback to ask for key cards. Note that the kickback is only by the responder to cover the lack of Gerber.
2. There are no weak runaways with both majors. If you want to run, transfer to the 5 carder. The only runaway hand type is 5♦ with 44 or 43 majors where one can pass any Stayman response. 1NT is a difficult contract to defend and a good declarer makes it more often than he should. Finding a "nice" 3-4 fit means easy time for the defence and minus (and sometimes the fit is 2-4 when opener has 2245 and responder runs with 44 majors).
3. I have described the system in more detail than WJ05; an experienced player should be able to understand the nuances. Some basic bidding sequences are omitted
4. There are fail-safes in the re-transfer structure to allow some memory lapses.

After 1NT - 2♣ the continuations are



- 2♦ = no majors
  - 2M = NF INV with 5+M & 4OM
  - 2NT = NAT INV (promises at least one major)
  - 3♣ = NAT, 4+ cards, FG
    - 3♦ = 5+ cards, 2-3 clubs
    - 3M = 4+ clubs, stronger major, less than great for slam
    - 3NT = 3343
    - 4♣ = 4+ clubs, great hand for slam
  - 3♦ = NAT, 4+ cards, FG
    - 3M = 4+ diamonds, stronger major, less than great for slam
    - 3NT = 2-3 diamonds
    - 4♣ = 4+ diamonds, control, great hand for slam
    - 4♦ = 4+ diamonds, no club control, great hand for slam
  - 3M = Smolen transfer (5+OM & 4M)
    - 3NT = no fit
      - 4♦ = transfer to the long M promising 6 cards
    - 4m = cue agreeing the 5 card M
- 2♥ = 4-5 hearts, can be 44M
  - 2♠ = 4+ **heart support, FG**, looking for slam or right game
    - 2NT = natural and suggests NT; some slam suitability
      - 3m/3♠ = 4+ side suit, slam interest
      - 3NT/4♥ = to play
    - 3m/3♠ = 4+ side suit with values (potential source of tricks)
    - 3♥ = no good side suit, some slam suitability
    - 3NT = 3433 good hand for NT, bad hand for slam
    - 4♥ = no slam suitability,
  - 2NT = NAT INV with 4 spades
  - 3♣ = NAT, 4+ cards, FG
    - 3♦ = 4 cards, 2-3 clubs => opener can bid 4♣ with 2-4-4-3 (then 4NT=to play)
    - 3♥ = 5 cards, 2-3 clubs => opener can bid 4♣ with 3 cards (then 4NT=to play)
    - 3♠ = 4 cards, 2-3 clubs, sets spades as trumps **unless responder bids 3NT**
      - 3NT = 5 cards in ♣s, 5332-type or 2-2-4-5 mild slam try (about 14-15 hcp)
    - 3NT = 3433
    - 4♣ = 4(5) cards

1NT - 2♣ - 2♥ continued:

- 3♦ = NAT, 4+ cards, FG
  - 3♥ = 5 cards, 2-3 diamonds => opener can bid 4♦ with 3 cards (then 4NT=to play)
  - 3♠ = 4 cards, 2-3 diamonds, sets spades as trumps **unless responder bids 3NT**
    - 3NT = 5 cards in ♦s, 5332-type or 2-2-5-4 mild slam try (about 14-15 hcp)
  - 3NT = 2-3 diamonds
  - 4♣ = 4(5) diamonds, control
  - 4♦ = 4(5) cards, no club control
- 3♠/4m = Splinter
- 3NT = NAT, promises 4 spades
- 4NT = quantitative, promises 4 spades
- 2♠ = 4-5 spades, denies 4 hearts
  - 2NT = NAT INV with 4 hearts
  - 3♣ = NAT, 4+ cards, FG
    - 3♦ = 4 cards, 2-3 clubs => opener can bid 4♣ with 2-4-4-3 (then 4NT=to play)
    - 3♥ = 4(5) clubs, not great hand for slam
    - 3♠ = 5 cards, 2-3 clubs => opener can bid 4♣ with 3 clubs (then 4NT=to play)
    - 3NT = 4333
    - 4♣ = 4(5) cards, great hand for slam
  - 3♦ = NAT, 4+ cards, FG
    - 3♥ = 4(5) diamonds, not great hand for slam
    - 3♠ = 5 cards, 2-3 diamonds => opener can bid 4♦ with 3 cards (then 4NT=to play)
    - 3NT = 2-3 diamonds
    - 4♣ = 4(5) diamonds, control, great hand for slam
    - 4♦ = 4(5) cards, no club control, great hand for slam
  - 3♥ = 4+ **spade support, FG**, looking for slam or right game
    - 3♠ = no good side suit, strong slam suitability
    - 3NT = good hand for NT, bad hand for slam
    - 4m = 4+ side suit with values (potential source of tricks)
    - 4♥ = no good side suit, some slam suitability
    - 4♠ = no slam suitability
  - 4m/4♥ = Splinter
  - 4NT = quantitative (promises 4 hearts, fwiw)

After 1NT - 2♦ the continuations are

- 2♥ = default

- 2♠ = 55 majors, invitational (NF)
- 2NT = invitational, not necessarily balanced
- 3m = NAT, 4+ cards, FG
- 3♥ = NAT invitational (often 6 cards, but 5 cards possible)
- 3♠/4m = autosplinter; 6+ hearts, shortness, slam try
- 3NT = choice of games; often 5332-type
- 4♥ = slam try without shortness (NF)
- 4NT = quantitative, 5332-shape
- 2NT = good hand with good fit, suitable for NT
  - 3♣ = natural or semi-natural slam try without low shortness
  - 3♦ = re-transfer, but can be natural or semi-natural slam try without low shortness
    - 3♥ = forced
      - raise = to play
      - new suit = cue and promises diamonds
      - 3NT = slam try and promises diamonds; no suitable cue bid
  - 3♥ = to play (forgot the re-transfer)
  - 3NT = to play
  - 3♠/4m = splinter
  - 4♥ = to play (forgot the re-transfer)
- 3♥ = good hand with excellent fit; sets hearts as trumps
  - 3NT = slam try, no shortness
  - 3♠/4m = splinter

After 1NT - 2♥ the continuations are

- 2♠ = default
- 2NT = invitational, not necessarily balanced
- 3m = NAT, 4+ cards, FG
- 3♥ = 55 majors, FG
  - 3♠ = support and slam suitability
  - 3NT = no fit
  - 4m = cue agreeing hearts
  - 4M = bad hand for slam
- 3♠ = NAT invitational (often 6 cards, but 5 cards possible)
- 3NT = choice of games; often 5332-type
- 4m/4♥ = autosplinter, 6+ spades, shortness, slam try
- 4♠ = slam try without shortness (NF)
- 4NT = quantitative, 5332-shape

1NT - 2♥ continued

- 2NT = good hand with good fit, suitable for NT
  - 3m = natural or semi-natural slam try without low shortness
  - 3♥ = re-transfer or 55 majors and slam try
    - 3♠ = forced
      - 4m = splinter with 55 majors
      - raise = to play
  - 3♠ = to play (forgot the re-transfer)
  - 3NT = to play
  - 4m/4♥ = splinter
  - 4♠ = to play (forgot the re-transfer)
- 3♠ = good hand with excellent fit; sets spades as trumps
  - 3NT = slam try, no shortness
  - 4m/4♥ = splinter

After 1NT - 2♠ the continuations are

- 2NT = minimum opening (would have passed 2NT invitation)
  - pass = BAL INV; all continuations below show 6+ clubs
  - 3♣ = to play
  - 3♦/3M = shortness, FG
  - 3NT = to play with 6+ clubs and no shortness (original mild slam try in clubs)
  - 4♣ = slam try, no shortness (suit oriented)
    - 4NT = not slam suitable
  - 4♦ = **RKC in clubs**, (later relay asks for ♣Q and 5♦ for specific kings)
  - 4NT = NT oriented slam try (NF)
- 3♣ = maximum (would have raised 2NT invitation to game)
  - 3NT = to play (can be either BAL INV or gambling with clubs)
  - 3♦/3M = shortness, FG
  - 4♣ = slam try with 6+ clubs; no shortness
    - 4NT = not slam suitable
  - 4♦ = **RKC in clubs**, (later relay asks for ♣Q and 5♦ for specific kings)
  - 4NT = NT oriented slam try (NF)

After 1NT - 2NT the continuations are

- 3♣ = no 5 card major
  - 3♦ = 4 hearts
    - 3♥ = slam suitable hand with 4 hearts
    - 4♥ = bad hand for slam with 4 hearts
    - 3NT = 2-3 hearts
  - 3♥ = 4 spades
    - 3♠ = slam suitable hand with 4 spades
    - 4♠ = bad hand for slam with 4 spades
    - 3NT = 2-3 spades
  - 3♠ = balanced slam try with 4-4 minors (about (29)30-32 combined hcp)
    - 3NT = no interest
    - 4m = 4+ support and suitable hand for slam
    - 3NT = to play (was looking for 5-3 fit)
  - 3M = 5 card major
    - 3NT = to play (2M-3OM-44m bids this as theres no primary fit and combined hcp < 33)
    - 4M = to play
    - 4NT = RKCB agreeing the major
    - other = cue bid agreeing the major

After 1NT - 3♣ the continuations are

- 3♦ = forced
  - 3M = shortness, FG
  - 3NT = mild slam try in diamonds; NF
  - 4♣ = shortness, serious slam try
    - 4NT = negative
  - 4♦ = serious slam try, no shortness (suit oriented)
  - 4♥ = **RKC in diamonds**, (later relay asks for ♦Q and 5♥ for specific kings)

After 1NT - 3♥ the continuations are

- 3♠ = 4 good (or any 5) spades; suggests 7 card fit (bad hand for minors)
  - 4m = 6 cards, not suitable for spade play
  - 4♥ = void, lots of minors, not suitable for spade play
  - 4NT = singleton heart, 55 minors
- 3NT = to play with good stoppers in hearts
- 4m = sets the suit
- 4♥ = at least 44 minors, nothing in hearts
- 4NT = 33 or 44 minors, not suitable hand for 4♥

After 1NT - 3♠ the continuations are

- 3NT = to play with good stoppers in spades
- 4m = sets the suit
- 4♥ = 4 good (or any 5) hearts; suggests 7 card fit (bad hand for minors)
  - 4♠ = void, lots of minors, not suitable for heart play
  - 4NT = singleton spade, 55 minors
  - 5m = 6 cards, not suitable for heart play
- 4♣ = at least 44 minors, nothing in spades
- 4NT = 33 or 44 minors, not suitable hand for 4♣

## ***In competition***

**If Stayman is doubled, the opener has the following options:**

Pass = stopper in clubs, no majors => XX = to play, 2♦ = to play, the rest as after 2♦ -response

XX = to play (4-5 good clubs) => 2♦ = to play, the rest as after 2♦ -response

2♦ = no majors, no stopper in clubs

2M = as without X

**If a transfer bid to a major is doubled, the opener has the following options:**

Pass = 2 cards in responder's suit => XX = to play; completion = to play; the rest as after completion

XX = to play (4-5 good cards) => completion of transfer = to play; the rest as after completion

completion = 3-4 cards, no super accept

2NT/3M = super accepts as without X

**If 2♠ is doubled, the opener has the following options:**

pass = minimum **without** stopper

2NT = to play with the bal invitation

XX = bal invitation with 5 card minor and no stopper going to 3m

other bids = system on with 6+ clubs

XX = maximum **with** stopper

2NT = bad invitation with spade weakness trying to bail out (opener can raise)

other bids = system on

2NT = minimum **with** stopper

all bids = system on

3♣ = maximum **without** stopper

all bids = system on (bal invitation without a stopper knows that it's down from the top)

**If 3♣ is doubled, the opener has the following options:**

pass = stopper

3♦ = no stopper

**If 3M is doubled, the opener has the following options:**

pass = bad stopper and no fit => XX = good hand, make your system bid; 4m to play (cancel FG)

### **Over Natural 2-level overcall**

After 2♣, stolen bid structure is utilized:

1NT (2♣) =>

- X = Stayman
- 2♦ and above = system on

Over other natural 2-level overcalls modified Lebensohl is played.

1NT (2♦/♥/♠) =>

- X = T/O, typically our side total hcp is at least 22
- 2 any = COMP
- 2NT = puppet to 3♣ =>
  - 3♣ = forced =>
    - cue = Stayman with stopper
    - 3any = to play or INV if the suit was biddable at 2 level
    - 3NT = to play with stopper (should not be bid via this way)
- cue = Stayman, no stopper
- 3new = NAT FG
- 3NT = NAT to play; does not say anything about a stopper
- 4m = SA Texas
- 4M = to play

### **Against 3 level overcalls**

Against 3 level overcalls X=T/O. 3NT tends to show a stopper or some length.

### **Defence against conventional NT defences**

Against X=conventional showing some shape or another:

- XX = Interested to play for penalties (creates F at 2 level)
- System is on (2♣ = Stayman, 2♦ = transfer, etc.)

Against 2♣ = anything but both majors, X = Stayman and 2♦ and above = system on

Against 2-level suit overcalls that show one known suit (also a two-suiter) Lebensohl is used; the stoppers are shown with reference to the anchor suit (if they are shown at all e.g. 1NT-(2any)-3NT is to play and may or may not have a stopper). This is applicable at least against the following defence families: As[pt]ro 2m, Cappelletti 2M, DONT 2m.

Against 2♣ = both majors (Landy) (two known suits):

- X = Card showing (our side total at least 22 hcp)
- 2♦ / 3♣ = COMP

- 2♥ = Any INV hand (generally some minor suit length)
- 2♠ = Any FG hand (generally some minor suit length)
- 2NT = both minors, COMP
- 3♦ = NAT INV
- 3M = SPL, both minors, FG
- 3NT = to play (short stoppers in majors)

Against 2♦ = both majors (Cappelletti) (two known suits):

- X = Card showing (our side total at least 22 hcp)
- 2♥ = Any INV hand (generally some minor suit length)
- 2♠ = Any FG hand (generally some minor suit length)
- 2NT = both minors, COMP
- 3♣ / 3♦ = competitive
- 3M = SPL, both minors, FG
- 3NT = to play (short stoppers in majors)

Against other 2-level bids that show two known suits like DONT 2♥, Brozel, Pinpoint Astro the following applies:

- X = Card showing (our side total at least 22 hcp)
- lowest bid in a free suit = COMP
- 2NT = a COMP 2-suiter in the free suits
- jump in a free suit = NAT FG
- 3NT shows short stoppers both suits and is to play
- cue = stopper in the suit bid, no stopper in the other, FG
- jump cue = SPL, both free suits, FG

Against 2-level overcalls without any known suit e.g. Suction, the following applies:

- X = Card showing (our side total at least 22 hcp)
- 2 any = NAT, COMP
- 3 any = NAT, FG
- 4m = SA Texas
- 4M = to play

**The applicable 1NT sequences for the structure are:**

- 1NT = 12-14
- pass – 1NT = 16-18
- 1♣ - 1♦ - 1NT = 15-16
- pass - 1♣ - 1♦ - 1NT = 19-21
- (1x) - 1NT = 15-18
- (1x)-p-(1y)-1NT = 15-18



## 2NT-Module

The 2NT-module is used when the 2NT bidder has shown a strong balanced hand in our constructive auction. The 2NT-module is also used after non-jump 2NT overcall with some adjustments, see defense against weak two openings.

### **Responses (*Muppet Stayman*)**

2NT

- 3♣ = Muppet Stayman =>
- 3♦ = no 5 card major, at least one 4 card major =>
  - 3♥ = 4 spades, can be 4 hearts =>
    - 3♠ = 4 spades
    - 3NT = 4 hearts, not 4 spades =>
      - 4m = 5(+) cards, slam try =>
        - 4NT = negative
      - 4♥ = 4 hearts, to play
      - 5♥ = 4 hearts, slam-try, NF
  - 3♠ = 4 hearts, denies 4 spades =>
    - 3NT = 4 spades, not 4 hearts =>
      - 4m = 5(+) cards, slam try =>
        - 4NT = negative
      - 4m = cue agreeing hearts =>
        - cue = enough values for slam
        - 4♥ = to play
      - 4♥ = 4 hearts, hand unsuitable for slam
    - 3NT = to play (was looking for 5-3 major suit fit)
    - 4m = 5(+) cards slam-try =>
      - 4NT = negative
    - **4M = Lissabon slam try with a good 6 card minor. Accident prone!**
    - 5m = to play
  - 3♥ = no 4 card majors =>
    - 3♠ = 5+ spades, 4+ hearts
      - 3NT = 2 spades
      - 4m/ = cue agreeing spades
      - 4♥ = no minor suit quacks, 3 spades and lots of goodies in the majors
      - 4♠ = 3 spades, bad hand for slam
    - 3NT = to play
    - 4m = 5(+) cards slam-try =>
      - 4NT = negative
    - **4M = Lissabon slam try with a good 6 card minor. Accident prone!**

## 2NT

- 3♣ = Muppet Stayman =>
- 3♠ = 5 card suit =>
  - 3NT = to play
  - 4m = 5(+) cards slam-try =>
    - 4NT = negative
  - 4♥ = ART slam try in spades
- **3NT = 5 card heart suit =>**
  - 4♣ = **ART slam try in hearts**
  - 4♦ = **transfer to hearts, can RKCB next**
  - **4M = Lissabon slam try with a good 6 card minor. Accident prone!**
  - 4NT = quantitative raise, may include 5cm, or 4144

**NOTE the WTF! convention: whenever responder bids 4M, when he is not supposed to hold a long major, it shows a Lissabon to minor. This is accident prone but the WTF-feeling should be the memory protector.**

## 2NT

- 3♦ = Transfer, at least 5 hearts =>
- 3♥ = neutral =>
  - 3♠ = at least 45, longer hearts =>
    - 3NT = no support
    - 4m = Lissabon
    - 4M = unsuitable for slam
  - 3NT = choice of contracts
  - 4m = 4+ cards, slam-try
  - 4♥ = to play
  - 4♠ = at least 55, slam-try, FIR =>
    - 4NT = RKCB for spades
    - 5m = Lissabon
    - 5M = unsuitable for slam
  - 4NT = Quantitative
  - 5♥ = Slam-try, good suit
- 3NT = Good 4+ support, bad controls, maximum =>
  - 4♦ = re-transfer
  - 4♥ = to play, forgot the re-transfer
- 4♥ = Good 4+ support, good controls, maximum

## 2NT

- 3♥ = Transfer, at least 5 spades =>
- 3♠ = neutral =>
  - 3NT = choice of contracts
  - 4m = 4+ cards, slam-try
  - 4♥ = at least 55, no slam interest
  - 4♠ = to play
  - 4NT = Quantitative
  - 5♠ = Slam-try, good suit
- 3NT = Good 4+ support, bad controls, maximum =>
  - 4♥ = re-transfer
  - 4♠ = to play, forgot the re-transfer
- 4♠ = Good 4+ support, good controls, maximum
- 3♠ = at least 5/4 in the minors, at least a mild slam try or lots of minors in a bad hand
- 3NT = no 4 card minor, not a great hand for slam
  - 4m = good hand, longer minor
    - 4NT = I really don't like the idea of a minor suit slam
  - 4NT = good hand, equal minors, F1R
  - 5m = to play with a bad distributional hand
- **4m = 4 card suit, not a great hand for slam => 4NT to play**
- 4M = Lissabon with 4 card support and good hand for slam => 4NT = RKCB
- 4NT = good fit for minors without 4 card support (33 with no major suit quacks)
- 5m = great hand with good support, high + low stuff in minors and top cards in majors
- 3NT = forces opener to display a green card
- 4m = 6+ cards, slam-try =>
  - 4NT = negative
- 4M = 6+ cards, slam-try, weak suit having at least 2 losers against xx(x)
  - 4NT = RKCB
- 4NT = quantitative
- 5m = to play

## Bidding after Strong Balanced 3NT

This 3NT module is used in following auctions:

- 1♣- 1♥- 3NT ( 24-25)
- pass - 1♣- 1♥- 3NT (26-27)

3NT:

4♣= Baron, F4NT

4♦= Flint, to play a suit game OR slam try with both minors, puppet → 4♥

4♥

4♠/5♣/5♦= to play

4NT = both minors, NF, slam try

**4M = NAT, 5 cards, F1R**

4NT = NAT

5m = 6+ cards, slam try, NF

**NOTE:** there is a different structure for defensive (3x) - 3NT sequence.

# Opening bids and subsequent auction

## *Opening 1 club in 1st and 2nd positions*

1♣ = 15+, F1R

1♣:

- 1♦ = 7-9, any shape, F1NT
- 1♥ = FG relay → as 10+ responses
- 1♠ = 4+ cards
- 1NT = 15-17(18) BAL or 1-4-4-4  
Stayman, Jacoby transfers, (**1NT system**)
- 2♣/♦/♥ = 5+ cards, NF → new suit by responder F1R

1♣:

- 1♥ = 0-6, general negative
- 1♠ = 4+ cards → responder's bids promise 4-6
- 1NT = 15-18 → **responder's bids are NAT NF**
- 2♣/♦ = NAT, 5+ cards
- 2♥ = 5+ cards, better than complete minimum
- 2♠ = 4+ cards, FG
- 2NT = 21-23 → Muppet Stayman (**See 2NT system**)
- 3♣/♦/♥ = NAT, FG
- 3♠ = strong, long suit, about 9 tricks, NF → responder raises with a probable trick
- 3NT = 24-25, BAL

1♣:

- 1♠ = 10+, no 5 card suits
- 1NT = 15-18 BAL or 24+ BAL
  - 2♣ = Stayman
  - 2♦ = Asks 5 card suits (2NT denies)
- 2♣/♦/♥/♠ = 5+ cards
  - Raise, generally 4; Jump = SPL 4441; new suit 4cards, no SUPP
- 2NT = 21-22 BAL
  - 3 suit = 4 cards, 11+, F to 4NT
  - 3NT = 10 hcp, to play
  - 4NT = 11 hcp, invitational, often some 4333
  - 6NT = (12)13-14 BAL
- 3♣/♦/♥/♠ = Solid suit → cue bids

1♣:

1NT = 10+, 5+ card M

2♣ = R

2♦/♥ = ♥/♠, no 5 card side suit

2♥/♠ = asks shortness → 2NT = No shortness, extras, 3M = no shortness, minimum

Jump = Splinter, 15-19

2♠ = ♥+ m at least 55 → 2NT = R

2NT = 55 ♥♠

3♣ = ♣ + ♠ at least 55

3♦ = ♦ + ♠ at least 55

3M = at least 6M + 5OM

3NT = agrees the other (shorter) major, slam try  
new suit (also 3♠) = cue agreeing the longer major

2♦/♥/♠ = NAT

2NT = 6+ clubs & a side suit, no interest to play in one of the majors

3♣ = 6+ clubs, no side suit

1♣:

2♣/♦ = 5+ cards => raise to 4m is minorwood

1♣:

2♥/♠ = 0-4, 6 card suit

2NT = R

3♥/♠ = minimum

3NT = A/K in the jump suit

3new = maximum, feature

1♣:

2NT = Any solid 6 card suit

3♣ = R

3♦ = ♥

3♥ = ♠

3♠ = ♣

3NT = ♦

new suit = NAT

responder's suit = start cue

4NT = Asks if the suit is solid for grand facing singleton

5NT = Asks if the suit is solid for grand facing void

1♣:

3x = HHxxxx(x), not AKxxxxx

4NT = Asks if the suit is solid for grand facing A/K/Q

1♣:

3NT = Any solid 7+ card suit

4♣ = R → 4♦ = ♥, 4♥ = ♠, 4♠ = ♣, 4NT = ♦

new suit = NAT

responder's suit = start cue

4NT = Asks if the suit is solid for grand facing singleton

5NT = Asks if the suit is solid for grand facing void

1♣:

4♣/♦ = 7+ card semisolid ♥/♠ with shortness

4♦/♥ = asks shortness → 4NT = short in relay suit

1♣:

4♥/♠ = 7222 semisolid ♥/♠

## **Opening 1 club in 3rd and 4th positions**

*1♣ = 19+, FIR*

*1♣:*

*1♦ = 4-5, any shape, FINT*

*Subsequent auction similar to the unpassed sequence*

*1♣:*

*1♥ = 0-3, general negative*

*2NT = 24-25 BAL*

*3NT = 26-27, BAL*

*Subsequent auction similar to the unpassed sequence*

*1♣:*

*1♠-2♦ = 6-8, as in the unpassed sequence*

*Subsequent auction similar to the unpassed sequence*

*1♣:*

*2♥/♠ = 0-4, 6 card suit*

*2NT = R*

*3♥/♠ = minimum*

*3NT = A/K in the jump suit*

*3new = maximum, feature*

*1♣:*

*2NT = 6+, at least 55 in the minors*

*1♣:*

*3x = HHxxxx(x), not AKxxxxx*

*4NT = Asks if the suit is solid for grand facing singleton A/K/Q*



## Opening 1 club: opponents compete

### 1♣-(X):

XX = 4+ clubs, FG, interest in penalties  
pass = A: 0-4                      B: total garbage  
1♦ = A: as without X              B: 4-5  
1♥ = A: 5-6                         B: useful looking Q or K  
Others as without X

### 1♣-(NAT overcall):

X = A: 7+    B: 5+ , not good for other bid **(Opponents cannot play ->2m undoubled)**  
New suit = F1R → new suits F1R, cue=FG, bids that sound NAT weak **are weak**  
cue = FG, 3-suiter or semi 3-suiter

### 1♣-(conv/random overcall):

X = as above  
cue = NAT F1R, as new suit above

### 1♣-(1NT):

X = defensive oriented  
2x = (5) 6+ cards, offensive type  
3x = FG, strong 6+ card suit

In sequences where responder has made a 7+/5+ double **and advancer has raised we play take out doubles**. Other doubles when we both have shown values are PEN.

Responder's X=7+/5+ is forcing as long as new suits are bid. Cue by either partner is forcing to game.

## Opening 1 diamond

1♦(A:) = 9-14, at least xx (9-11 BAL W/O 4cM or 4+ diamonds)

1♦(B:) = 12-18, at least xx ((12)13-15 BAL W/O 4cM or 4+ diamonds)

1♦(A:):

1♥ = 4+ cards, F1R

1NT = 9-11 BAL

2♣ = puppet to 2♦ (any invitational or to play 2♦) =>  
pass to play

2♥ = weakest invitation with 5 card suit, looking for maximum and fit

2NT = invitational with 5 card suit, good invitation

3NT = choice of games with 5332

any other bid = descriptive, invitational and NF

2♦ = ART FG =>

Natural picture bidding

2♥ = to play

2♠ = genuine reverse with strong suits, FG

2NT = INV, only 4 hearts

3♣ = to play

3♦ = at least 5-5, good suits, FG

3♥ = strong 6+ card suit, FG

3♠ = at least 5-6, good suits, FG

1♦(A:):

1♠ = 4+ cards, F1R

1NT = 9-11 BAL

2♣ = puppet to 2♦ (any invitational or to play 2♦) =>  
pass to play

2♥ = NAT INV (4+♥, 5+♠)

2♠ = weakest invitation with 5 card suit, looking for maximum and fit

2NT = invitational with 5 card suit, good invitation

3NT = choice of games with 5332

any other bid = descriptive, invitational and NF

2♦ = ART FG =>

Natural picture bidding

2♥ = NAT NF (4+♥, 5+♠)

2♠ = to play

2NT = INV, only 4 spades

3♣ = to play

3♦ = at least 5-5, good suits, FG

3♥ = at least 5-5, good suits, FG

3♠ = strong 6+ card suit, FG

1♦(A):

1M = 4+ cards, F1R  
2♣ = at least 54/54 minors  
2OM = FG 4th suit

1♦(A):

1M = 4+ cards, F1R  
2♦ = 6+ cards (or 4♥5♦)  
new suit = F1R  
raise = 4 card support, minimum

1♦(A):

1M = 4+ cards, F1R  
2NT = maximum, 6+ solid/semisolid diamond suit, short M  
3♣ = at least 55 minors, maximum

1♦(A):

1♥ = 4+ cards, F1R  
2♠ = maximum, 64 or very concentrated 54  
3♣ = ART FG

1♦(A):

1♠ = 4+ cards, F1R  
**2♥ = at least 54, maximum**  
**2♠ = 5+ cards, F1R**  
**2NT = puppet → 3♣**  
**3♣ = not singleton club**  
**3♦ = to play**  
**3♥/♠ = INV**  
**other bid = NAT FG**

1♦(A):

1♠ = 4+ cards, F1R  
3♥ = singleton splinter, opener may pass 3♠  
4♥ = void splinter

1♦(A.):

- 1NT = 9-12, no 4c M
- 2♣ = both minors
- 2M = maximum, at least 45
- 2NT = NAT, semibalanced/4441
- 3♣ = maximum, at least 55 minors
- 3♦ = good diamonds, unbalanced
- 3♥/♠ = 56, maximum

1♦(A.):

- 2♣ = (12)13+, 4+ cards
- 2♦ = 5+ cards, not maximum
- 2♥ = NAT, maximum, at least 5-4
- 2♠ = 9-11 BAL or 4441**
- 2NT = REVERSE in SPADES**
- 3♣ = NAT raise, not maximum
- 3M = splinter
- 3NT = maximum, 4-4-4-1

1♦(A.):

- 2♦ = 13+, 4+ cards
- 2♥/♠ = stopper, unbalanced, FG
- 2NT = 9-11, BAL, 2-3 diamonds, 4+ clubs
- 3♣ = canape, minimum
- 3♦ = 9-11, 4+ diamonds
- 3M = splinter, 4+ diamonds

1♦(A.):

- 2NT = 6-10 / 15+, both minors
- 3m = preference
- 3M = splinter, 15+

1♦(A.):

WEAK JUMP RESPONSES → 3♠

1♦(B.):

- 1M = NF
- 1NT = (5)6-8(9)
- 2♣ = NF
- 2♦ = generally 5+ diamonds
- 2NT = maximum, both minors
- 3♦ = PRE, generally 6+ diamonds or 5+ with good shape

***In competition:***

Negative X → 2♠, above responder's X shows useful values.

WEAK JUMP RESPONSES → 3♠ **BUT SEE 1♦–(1♥)**

**1♦(A:) – (1♥):**

X = 4 or 5 spades

1♠ = 3 spades, 9-11 BAL equivalent in strength

1NT = 9-11 BAL equivalent, does not promise stopper (1-2 spades)

2♠ = 4 card support, 9-11 BAL equivalent

1♠ = 0-3 spades, either competitive/INV values or BAL FG or FG diamond raise

1NT = 9-11 BAL, does not promise a stoppers

2♥ = 6+ spades, either competitive, NF or FG values (FG cues in hearts next)

3♣ = at least 55 minors (and typically more) and a good hand with short spades

2♠ = 6+ spades, invitational (requests pass from 9-11 BAL unless super great 11)

2NT = accepts invitation, typically 13-14 with short spades

3♣ = natural, accepts invitation, typically 55+

**1♦(B:) – (1♥):**

X = 4 or 5 spades

1♠ = 3 spades, weak

1NT = to play, 1-2 spades

1♠ = 0-3 spades, competitive

1NT = to play

2♥ = 6+ spades, weak

2♠ = 6+ spades, 7-8 hcp, too many flaws for initial weak 2 opening

**1♦(A:) – (1♠):**

2♦ = competitive

cue = diamonds, F1R, can pass 3♦, otherwise bids once more

**1♦(A:) – (jump overcall):**

lowest ♦-bid = F1R !!!!!!!!!!!!!

**1♦- (X):**

1M = F1R

2m = NF

2NT = both minors, can be weakish

WEAK JUMP RESPONSES

**1♦- (1NT):**

X = PEN (generally 12+, or good defensive values)

2♣ = any single suiter → 2♦ = P/C, other bids are NAT with a MAX hand and good distribution

2♦ = both majors

2M = The bid M + m, generally at least 55

2NT = competitive with both minors OR very distributional FG

3X = PRE

## Opening 1M

1M (A:) = 9-14, at least 4 cards, 4M5♣ possible with weak clubs

1M (B:) = 12-18, at least 4 cards, 4M5♣ possible with weak clubs

1♥(A):

1♠ = 4+ cards, F1R

1NT = 9-11 BAL

2♣ = puppet to 2♦ (any invitational or to play 2♦) =>  
pass to play

2♥ = NAT INV (3♥, 5+♠)

2♠ = weakest invitation with 5 card suit, looking for maximum and fit

2NT = invitational with 5 card suit, good invitation

3NT = choice of games with 5233

any other bid = descriptive, invitational and NF

2♦ = ART FG =>

Natural picture bidding

2♥ = NAT NF (3♥, 5+♠)

2♠ = to play

2NT = INV, only 4 spades

3♣ = to play

3♦ = at least 5-5, good suits, FG

3♥ = strong majors, 3-5, bad minors, FG

3♠ = strong 6+ card suit, FG

1M(A):

2M = 3+ support, about 6-11 support points

Relay = Start of a short suit game try (Inverted Romex Trial)

New Suit = Help suit game try (1♥-2♥-2NT = help suit try in spades)

Opener can make a slam try in a similar fashion by bidding one level above. Then short suit slam try shows a void and a long suit try at least 55/64. (E.G. 1♥-2♥-3♠ = unknown void,

1♥-2♥-3NT = 4♠&6♥, 1♠-2♠-4♣ = 55/64)

Opener's reraise is PRE.

1M(A):

2NT = 4+ support, at least invitational

3♣ = minimum

3♦ = asks shortness

3M = no shortness, mildly positive

3NT = no shortness, BAL 9-11, NF

3M = limit raise, can be raised

3<sub>new</sub> = shortness

3♦/OM = NAT/SEMINAT, not minimum

3M = Single suited, not minimum

3NT = 4+ clubs, not minimum

4♣/♦ = void

4♥ = void/♠-void

1♥(A):

3♠ = any singleton splinter with 5+ trumps  
3NT = ask  
4♣/♦ = short  
4♥ = short spades  
3NT = ♠-void  
4♣/♦ = void

1♠(A:):  
3NT = any singleton splinter with 5+ trumps  
4♣ = ask  
4♦/♥ = short  
4♠ = short ♣  
4♣/♦/♥ = void

1M-3M=PRE

#### WEAK JUMP RESPONSES

*1M(B:):*  
*2M = 3+ card support*  
*Inverted Romex game/slam tries (see A:)*  
*3M = 4+ card support, maximum pass + distributional values (this is a really good hand)*  
*New suit = Help suit slam try*  
*jump in new suit = FIT JUMP, 4+ supp*  
*2NT = 4+ support, a bit weaker than 3M (this needs to be a real invitational)*

***In competition:***

Negative doubles → 2♠, above responder's X shows useful values.

Unusual over Unusual NT: 3♣=♥, F1R, 3♦=♠, F1R, 3M/OM = competitive

PREEMPTIVE JUMP RAISES

WEAK JUMP RESPONSES at 3 level; Splinters at 4 level if jump/double jump

Cue is limit raise or better, jump cue is a splinter.

1M – (X):

1/1 = F1R

2/1 = NF

2♠/3♠/4♠ over 1♥-opening = NAT, PRE

Raise = NAT

Jump raise = PRE

**2NT = 4+ support, limit or better; treated as limit-Stenberg**

3new = PRE

4new = Splinter

1M – (1NT):

X = PEN

2♣= any single suiter → 2♦= P/♣, other bids are NAT with a MAX hand and good distribution

2♦= 3 card support with 5+ cards in the other major

2M = NAT

2OM = The bid suit + a minor, generally at least 55

2NT = competitive with both minors OR very distributional FG



## ***Opening 1NT***

1NT (A:) = 12-14, BAL, can be any 5332, 5m422 or 6m322

*1NT (B:) = 16-18, BAL, can be any 5332, 5m422 or 6m322*

***See 1NT-module***

## **Opening 2 clubs**

2♣(A:) = 9-14, 6+ clubs or 5+ decent clubs with 4 card major

2♣(B:) = 12-18, 6+ clubs or 5+ decent clubs with 4 card major

2♣(A:):

2♦ = Relay, at least invitational values

2M = 4 cards

2NT = FG Relay

new suit = FG

3♣ = weakish invitation, normally 4 cards in OM

Raise = invitational

2NT = 6+ clubs, MAXIMUM

3♣ = F1R

3♣ = 6+ clubs, minimum

3♦/M = 5-6, maximum

3NT = solid suit with side stopper(s)

2♣(A:):

2M = 5+ cards, F1R

3♣ = weak, generally short in responder's M

other = NAT

2♣ (A:):

2NT = nat invitation, does not deny 4cM

3♣ = ~6-9, 3+ support

3♦ = 6+ cards, invitational, NF

3M = 6+ cards, FG, good suit

4♣ = PRE

4♦ = Key Card Ask

2♣(B:):

2♦ = Relay, F3♣, generally 4 card major + club support

2M = 5+ cards, invitational, NF

3♣ = weak, generally short in responder's M

other = NAT, better than minimum or fit

2NT = 7-8, BAL, does not deny 4cM

3♣ = constructive raise with 5-8 hcp

### **In competition:**

Negative doubles → 2♠, above responder's X shows useful values.

3 level cue asks stopper

## **Opening 2 diamonds**

2♦(A:) = EKREN: 5-8, at least 44 majors (would not invite against 14-16NT)

2♦(B:) = EKREN: 3<sup>rd</sup> hand: (0)6-11, at least 44 majors, undisciplined style

2♦(B:) = EKREN: 4<sup>th</sup> hand: 10-13, 55 majors, values in long suits

2♦(A):

2M = to play

3m = NAT, F1R

3M = PRE

3NT = to play

4♣ = SLAM TRY IN HEARTS

4♦ = SLAM TRY IN SPADES

4M = to play

4NT = 4 ace blackwood

2♦(A):

2NT = ART ASK, at least invitational values

3♣ = any minimum

3♦ = ART ASK

3♥ = longer hearts

3♠ = longer spades

3NT = 44 majors

4♣ = 55 majors

3♦ = maximum, 44 majors

3♥ = maximum, longer hearts

3♠ = maximum, longer spades

3NT = maximum 55 majors

In all sequences after 2NT, responder can bid 4m as Lissabon slam try. If responder intends to play in a minor, he has to start with 3m.

2♦(B:):

*No conventions*

### **In competition:**

No negative X

2♦(A:)-(X):

pass = to play with long diamonds

**XX = Asks opener to bid his longer major**

2NT → = as without X

## ***The Weak 2M openings***

2M(A:) = 5-8 6 card suit (NV vs V, 1<sup>st</sup> hand can be 5 card suit)

2M(B:) = 3<sup>rd</sup> hand: *undisciplined weak 2*; 4<sup>th</sup> hand: *10-13, good 6 card suit*

2M(A:)

2NT = ART ASK, at least invitational (Ogust)

3♣ = weak suit, minimum

3♦ = good suit, minimum

3♥ = weak suit, maximum

3♠ = good suit, maximum

2M(B:):

*new suit = FIT NONJUMP with LEAD directing value*

### ***In competition:***

No negative X

2M(A:) – X

XX = PEN

2NT = Ogust

new suit = F1R, either NAT or lead directing

jump in new suit = FIT / LEAD DIRECTING JUMP

## ***Opening 2NT***

*2NT(A:) = 19- 20, BAL*

*2NT(B:) = 22-23, BAL*

The responses and subsequent auction is according to our 2NT module.

## ***The other openings***

3X = PRE, can be very weak when NV vs VUL in 1st/3rd position

3NT = A: PRE in either minor. VUL the suit can be solid.  
B: *to play. Can be based on anything, often though on a solid suit* 😊

3NT:

4♣/5m/6m/7♣= PC

4♦= ASK shortness → 4M = short, 4NT=7222 (yuk), 5m=short in the other m

4♣/♦= Strong 4♥/♠ opening. Solid or semisolid suit with the ace, if the suit is semisolid a side ace is required. Minimum: AKQxxxx without side values, maximum is about 10 playing tricks (3/4 pos VUL)

4♣/♦:

Relay = slam try with 1 key card → 4M = not enough key cards

Relay+2 = slam try with 2+ key cards

4♥/♠ = NAT PRE

4NT = Good 5♣/♦ opening. Denies two quick losers in any suit.

5♣/♦ = NAT PRE

5♥/♠ = NAT PRE when NV vs VUL, otherwise an ACOL style top honour ask

## The slam tools

We cue 1st and 2nd round controls that can be shown most economically. Repeated cue shows 1st round control. XX of a cue shows 1st round control.

Our free 5M asks for good trumps, shows good trumps or asks control in the opp's suit.

### **RKCB**

The used version of RKCB is the standard 0314. The following applies:

- When the RKCB response is 5♣ or 5♦ the relay asks for the queen of trumps. The relay is the lowest non-trump bid at the 5-level.
- Responder denies the queen of trumps by bidding the trump suit at the lowest level
- Responder promises the queen of trumps without side kings by bidding 5NT
- Responder promises the queen of trumps and a side king by bidding the cheapest of the side kings
- After any response to RKCB 5NT guarantees all six keys (4 aces and KQ of trumps) and asks for specific kings. The responder bids the cheapest king suit.
- After a specific king reply (either after 5NT or trump queen ask) a bid in a new suit asks king in that suit. Responder bids grand slam holding the king or six of the trump suit (or 6NT if six of the trump suit is already passed) without the king.
- Response 5NT shows odd number of key cards and a useful void
- Six-level response below six of the trump suit shows two key cards and a void in the suit bid
- Response six of the trump suit shows two key cards and a (useful) void in a higher ranking suit than the trump suit
- 

If RKCB is doubled, ROPI applies.

If RKCB is overcalled below five of the trump suit, DOPI applies.

If RKCB is overcalled with five of the trump suit or above, DEPO allies.

### **Preempt RKCB**

After a preempt of 2M, 3♦ or 3M; 4♣ = key card ask with the following response scale:

- 4♦ = 0
- 4♥ = 1 without trump queen
- 4♠ = 1 + trump queen
- 4NT = 2 without trump queen
- 5♣ = 2 + trump queen

After 3♣; 4♦ = key card ask with similar step scale as above.

## Minorwood

Supporting partner's minor at the four level (jump or non-jump) in power auctions is Minorwood i.e. asking keycards with the supported suit as trumps.

The responses are normal step responses:

1. zero or three key cards
2. one or four key cards
3. two key cards without trump queen
4. two key cards with trump queen
5. odd number of key cards and working void

The higher responses (always with jump as the 5<sup>th</sup> step is the raise) show even number of key cards (can be zero if a very weak hand has been shown; otherwise two key cards) and working void in the bid suit (5NT shows ♣-void after 4♦ ask).

After one step or two step response, a relay (note that after 4♦ - 4♠, 5♣ is the relay) asks for trump queen and side kings. The lowest trump suit denies the trump queen. With trump queen, 5NT shows no kings and the suit bids show the lowest king in the bid suit.

After any response 5m + 1 step guarantees all the keys and asks for kings. 6m denies side kings. Otherwise the king, which can be shown with the lowest bid is shown; suit bid shows the king in the suit and 5NT shows the relay king:

After 4♣ - any - 5♦, the kings are shown in the order:

1. 5♥ = heart king
2. 5♠ = spade king
3. 5NT = diamond king

After 4♦ - any - 5♥, the kings are shown in the order:

1. 5♠ = spade king
2. 5NT = heart king
3. 6♣ = club king

**Note! After Minorwood response, 4NT is to play.**

Examples:

1♠-2♦-3♣-4♣, 4♣ is Minorwood

1♥-2♣-2NT-3♠-4♣ is a preference with a limited hand; not minorwood

1NT-2♣-2♠-3♣-4♣ shows a 4-5 clubs and a great hand for slam; limited so not minorwood

1♥-2♦-2♥-3♣-4♣ is a raise with a limited hand; not minorwood

Any delayed unlimited 4m in an agreed suit is minorwood.

Any delayed supporting and unlimited 4m is minorwood.

1♥-2♣-3♣-4♣ is minorwood as the responder is unlimited.

1♥-2♣-3♦-4♣ is minorwood as the splinter agreed the suit and responder is unlimited.



## **GSF**

The generic response to 5NT GSF is:

- $7\clubsuit$  = two of top three trump honours

All other responses are dependant of the trump suit. The generic feature is that six of the agreed trump suit shows the weakest holding. The responses with different trump suits are:

- $\clubsuit$ :  $6\clubsuit$  = 0-1 of top three trump honours
- $\diamondsuit$ :  $6\clubsuit$  = A/K;  $6\diamondsuit$  = weaker (0 or Q)
- $\heartsuit$ :  $6\clubsuit$  = A/K;  $6\diamondsuit$  = Q;  $6\heartsuit$  = 0
- $\spadesuit$ :  $6\clubsuit$  = A/K;  $6\diamondsuit$  = Q;  $6\heartsuit$  = 0 with extra length;  $6\spadesuit$  = 0

# Doubles, forcing passes and related stuff

We play support doubles & redoubles after 1♦/1M openings when opener can raise a 1/1 response to 2 level. Support X does apply if sandwich position bids 1NT for takeout. If sandwich position bids natural 1NT, X shows a maximum hand with willingness to defend 1NTX.

1M-(MAXIMUM overcall)-raise-(raise)-X = game invitation

1M-(pass)-raise-(MAXIMUM overcall)-X = game invitation

COMP X from 'under', tends to show xx+.

1NT – (p) – p – (any NAT), opener's X is for takeout with shortness (xx) and maximum values.

1NT – (p) – p – (any ART), opener's X shows the suit.

If we have arrived in 1NT and opponent makes a natural overcall, X is for penalties if from behind (direct seat) and for takeout if from under (balancing seat).

X of splinter asks lead in the suit below BUT NV vs VUL shows length.

XX by responder or X of (1NT) creates forcing situation at the 2 level: We double in direct seat with 4+ trumps and in 4th position with 3 trumps with good defense or 4+ trumps. A 4th hand double is removed by singleton or void.

A penalty pass at 1 level (or a penalty pass of 2 level non jump overcall) creates a forcing situation at the 2 level. The weak move by the penalty passer is 1NT or bid in the penalty passed suit.

Our generic rule for forcing situation is: Forcing passes are on if we have established a game force in the auction, we have not yet reached the limit we are forced or opponents are clearly sacrificing. In forcing pass situation pass&pull is a strong move.

**When we are not in forcing situation and opponents compete we use TRANSFERABLE VALUE doubles.**

# Defensive bidding over 1 level openings

## **Overcalls**

One level overcall promises about 8-18 hcp. We frequently overcall with a decent 4 card suit. Two level overcall tends to show a decent hand and at least a 5 card suit.

Advancer's all NT-bids are natural and limited.

A new suit response by advancer is constructive but not forcing. Aggressor can raise or repeat the overcall suit without promising extra values.

A jump shift in a new suit by advancer shows a good 6+ card suit and constructive but NF values.

A double jump by advancer is a splinter.

A cue bid by an unpassed advancer is a general purpose forcing move. It shows either any game forcing hand or an invitational hand with at least three card support. A cue bid is forcing → 2 overcall suit. Aggressor repeats the overcall suit to show a minimum (can still be 4 cards).

A cue bid by a passed advancer shows at least a sound raise to 2 level. If advancer continues, he is showing modest limit raise values.

A simple raise by a passed advancer shows a weakish hand.

A jump raise is PRE.

**A jump cue shows a mixed raise (too few values for limit-R, too much defense for PRE-R).**

Over responder's raise we use responsive doubles which at low level show unbid suits and slide towards transferable values as level increases.

Balancing overcall can be weaker.

## **Jump overcalls**

Jump overcall is weak. Against an unpassed partner a jump overcall is sound. Facing a passed partner a NV vs. VUL jump overcall is random. Advancer's NT-bids are natural and limited.

A new suit response by unpassed advancer is forcing. A new suit response by a passed advancer shows a raise with values (and often also length) in the suit bid.

A cue bid by advancer shows a game invitation with support.

Balancing jump overcall is intermediate (about opening with a good suit)

## ***Take out doubles***

X=T/O shows support to unbid suits or a good (normally 19+) hand. With a good distribution X=T/O can be made with ~9 decent hcp.

Advancer's all NT-bids are natural and limited.

Advancer's jumps are limited. A jump to 2M promises 4+ card suit with about decent 8 hcp. A jump to 3 level shows 5+ cards.

Advancer's cue bid is forcing to suit agreement. Advancer's jump cue after a minor suit opening shows both majors. Advancer's jump cue after a major suit opening asks stopper with a long decent minor.

We use responsive doubles if responder raises. Over a minor X=RESP promises equal length in majors. Over a major X=RESP shows values and tends to deny 4 spades after heart opening.

Balancing X=T/O can be made with a weak hand with good distribution.

4th hand X=T/O in a live auction shows the unbid suits OR a very good hand.

### ***The direct cuebid***

A direct cuebid promises the highest unbid suit and another suit at least 5-5. The hand is either weakish or strong. A minimum NV. cue promises about KTxxx KQxxx.

Advancer's 2-level bids are P/C. Advancer's 3 level bids (not in the known suit) show a long suit and constructive but NF values.

Advancer's cue bid is a general FG move.

Advancer's 2NT asks the 2nd suit. The hand can be weak. After 2NT advancer can raise the new suit invitationally, cue to show a forcing raise in the 2nd suit or prefer to the highest suit to show at least a mild slam try in the highest suit.

### ***The unusual NT***

The unusual NT promises the lowest unbid suits at least 5-5. The strength is similar to direct cue bid.

Advancer's cue is a general FG move.

Advancer's bid in the 3rd suit is constructive

In sequence (1♥)-P-(2♥) 2NT promises minors. In sequence (1♠)-P-(2♠) 2NT promises a two suiter.

### ***The direct jump cuebid***

A direct jump cuebid asks stopper with a solid suit without side voids.

Advancer either bids 3NT with a stopper or bids a P/C bid at appropriate level.

If 3NT reached in this manner is doubled XX by either player shows doubt.

## ***The 1NT overcall***

1NT in 2nd position shows 15-18 hcp, balanced or semibalanced hand and a stopper in the suit opened. We use the normal NT module.

1NT in 4th position in a live auction shows 15-18 hcp, balanced or semibalanced hand and a stopper in the suits bid. We use the normal NT module.

1NT in balancing position shows 11-14. In a pinch no stopper is required. Advancer's cuebid shows at least invitational values and asks more about aggressor's hand.

# The defense against 1NT opening

The NT defence against weak NT is Cappelletti and against strong NT Revised DONT. A passed hand uses always Revised DONT.

**Definition:** 1NT opening is **strong**, if the sum of the lower range and upper range is **29 or more**.

## ***Cappelletti***

- X = PEN (at least 13 hcp with a good lead). The following applies after X:
  - If responder runs to 2m, advancer's X=PEN and pass=FIR giving doubler the chance to X=PEN. (After X opponents cannot play 2m undoubled.)
  - If responder runs to 2M or higher, advancer's X=COMP and pass=NF giving doubler the chance to make X=T/O with extra values. (Opponents can play anything above 2♥ undoubled. Doubler cannot make solo penalty doubles.)
- 2♣ = any one-suited hand, constructive, around 9-13 with good 6+ card suit =>
  - 2♦ = P/C
  - 2M = 6+ cards, to play
  - 2NT = NAT, INV
  - 3NT = to play
- 2♦ = both majors, constructive, around 9-13 with at least 4-4 (44 really rare) =>
  - 2M = preference
  - 2NT = ART, INV+, See Ekren 2♦
- 2M = 5+M and 4+m
  - 2NT = asks minor => if advancer supports major it shows INV
- 2NT = both minors, constructive, around 9-13 with at least 55 OR ANY FG 55+

## ***In competition***

(1NT) 2♣ (X): advancer's pass = P/C and any suit bid shows 6+ cards and to play there

(1NT) 2♣ (2any): advancer's X=PEN and cheapest bid is P/C

## **Revised DONT**

Revised DONT was described in the Bridge World with the name New Millennium DONT; this is very close to what is known as Meckwell; the difference is in 2♣, which in Meckwell shows ♣+M

Revised DONT is a tool to contest part scores in a crude way. For a precision tool it's as suitable as a 5kg sledgehammer.

- X = both majors or one-suited in a minor
  - Pass = at least -180
  - 2♣ = P/C
  - 2♦ = P/C with equal length in the majors and ♣-support for 3♣
  - 2M = 6+ cards, to play
- 2♣ = clubs and another suit (aggressive, generally 9+ cards in the suits) =>
  - 2♦ = P/C
  - 2M = 6+ cards, to play
- 2♦ = diamonds and a major suit (aggressive, generally 9+ cards in the suits) =>
  - 2♥ = P/C
  - 2♠ = 6+ cards, to play
- 2♥ = NAT => 2NT is Ogust in context of vulnerability
- 2♠ = NAT => 2NT is Ogust in context of vulnerability
- 2NT = FG, very distributional hand

### ***In competition***

(1NT) X (XX): advancer's pass = P/C and any suit bid shows 6+ cards

(1NT) 2m (X): advancer's XX = asks the 2<sup>nd</sup> suit and any suit bid shows 6+ cards

(1NT) X (2any): advancer's cheapest bid = P/C

(1NT) 2m (2any): advancer's cheapest bid in the potential aggressor's suit = P/C



# Defenses against preempts

## ***The defense against weak 2 diamonds***

X=T/O, no lebensohl

2NT = 16-19 BAL → Muppet Stayman, 3♦/♥= Xfers, 3♠ = 5♠&4♥

3♦= Stopper ask with a solid suit

3M = good hand, good suit

4♣= ♣+ Major at least 55, FG

4♦= Both majors

4M = very good hand, good suit, creates forcing situation if opps compete

## ***The defense against weak 2M***

X=T/O, lebensohl on (See below)

2NT = 16-19 BAL (See below)

3M = Asks stopper

4m = at least 55 m + unbid major, FG

(2♥)

3♠ = good hand, good suit

4♠ = very good hand, good suit, creates forcing situation if opps compete

4♥= minors, not equal length, advancer's 4NT asks longer suit

(2♠)

4♥= very good hand, good suit, creates forcing situation if opps compete

4♠ = minors, not equal length, advancer's 4NT asks longer suit

(2♥) - X

2♠ = nat, weak

2NT = puppet → 3♣

3♣= normal, aggressor breaks only with a huge hand

pass/3♦= weak

3♥= 4 spades + stopper

3♠ = 5 spades + stopper

3NT = NAT, but shows doubt

3m = constructive (generally ~8)

3♥= 4 spades, no stopper

3♠ = NAT INV

3NT = to play with good stopper

(2♠) - X

2NT = puppet → 3♣

3♣

pass/3♦/3♥ = weak

3♠ = 4 hearts + stopper

3NT = NAT, but shows doubt

3m/♥ = constructive

3♠ = 4 hearts, no stopper

3NT = to play with good stopper

(2M) - 2NT

3♣ = Muppet Stayman

3♦ = Xfer<sup>1</sup>

3♥ = Xfer<sup>1</sup>

3♠ = both minors, FG

<sup>1</sup>Transfer to opponent's suit promises a shortness there, no 4 card major, 4+ 4+ in the minors and at least invitational values. Aggressor's 3NT shows willingness to play there, 4m shows a bad hand and willingness to stay below game.

## **Defences against other natural preempts**

The generic defence against natural preempts is: X=T/O => 4♥. Against 4♠/5m X shows cards; advancer is supposed to take out with equivalent of 6331 with AK in the long suit (Bridge World MSC early 2006).

The following applies against natural preempts:

- Jump to game shows a very good hand with good suit and creates a forcing situation if opponents compete.
- Against 3♣ jump to 4♦ shows at least 55 diamonds + major and FG values
- Against 3m cue shows at least 55 majors and does not create forcing situation. Aggressor can make later a transferable values double to show FG values.
- Against (3♦) 4♣ shows at least 55 clubs + major and FG values (Non-leaping Michaels)
- Against 3M cue shows an 11 trick one-suiter; responder's relay is weak requesting the overcaller to show the suit. A suit bid higher than the relay is a cue bid showing the ace in the bid suit.

## **Non-leaping Michaels**

Against 3M-opening, both direct and balancing 4m shows 5+m with 5+OM and is F1R. Over 3♥ the minimum hand needs to be good, typically a 4 loser hand like ♠AKJT<sub>x</sub> ♥<sub>x</sub> ♦AQJ<sub>xxx</sub> ♣<sub>x</sub>. Over 3♠ the requirements are a bit less; the minimum hand should be a good 5 loser hand like ♠<sub>x</sub> ♥AKJT<sub>x</sub> ♦AQJT<sub>x</sub> ♣<sub>xx</sub>.

Non-leaping Michaels is unlimited F1R. Responder's 4NT is RKCB in the major and cue is RKCB in the minor. Otherwise responder makes a judgement based call.

## **3NT System**

The 3NT system is played in situations, where aggressor has bid 3NT over opponent's preempt. The 3NT bid has a very wide range in both the texture and strength. The hand can be balanced in range of 16-22 or unbalanced with good suit, stopper and range of some 15-20. In multiple situations, advancer does best by passing and hoping for the best.

If advancer wants to continue, these are the options:

- 4♣ = Size and type ask; shows slam interest (11+ hcp)
  - 4♦ = low end of running suit type => 4NT to play
  - 4♥ = low end of BAL (16-18)
  - 4♠ = middle of BAL (19-20)
  - 4NT = top end of BAL (21-22)
  - 5suit = natural long suit, high end of running suit type
  - 6NT = crazy end of BAL (23+)
  - 7NT = Clas Nyberg version of BAL (requires squeeze to make)
- 4♦ = Flint, puppet to 4♥; responder passes or bids 4♠ to play
- 4M = 5 cards, F1R, aggressor bids 4NT without support and cue bids with 3+ support

## The Defense against strong 1 club

(1♣)

X = good overcall in clubs or bad in diamonds

1♦ = good diamonds or bad hearts

1♥ = good hearts or bad spades

1♠ = good spades or bad clubs

1NT = both majors at least 54 (see 2♣ and 2NT)

2♣ = both majors, a good hand, willing to be in a game against 4 card support

2♦ = Two level PRE in either major

2♥ = at least 55 ♣&♥ OR ♦&♠

2♠ = at least 55 ♦&♥ OR ♣&♠

2NT = at least 55 ♥&♠ OR ♣&♦

3♣→ = NAT PRE

This defense is also used against two-way club opening. The good hand is then worth a sound natural system opening.

# Carding agreements

## Opening Leads

We lead 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> from any combination with the following exceptions:

Vs. NT:

- **AKJT/KQT9** asking for unblock
- **KQx** if we want to lead an honour

Vs. suit:

- **AK** bare

We may lead 4<sup>th</sup> from 4 card suit if we want to spare the 3<sup>rd</sup> card for trick taking purposes.

From low cards we lead the top card if we want show attitude and 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> if we want to show the length. In supported partner's suit we tend to lead the top card from worthless holding.

## Later Leads

Our later leads are like opening leads (not K in NT). In cash out situations we may use attitude switches if that seems to be the proper thing. From AK we sometimes lead the king if dummy has a worthless holding. From AKJ we lead the king if we are sitting behind dummy's Qxx+.

## 2nd Hand Plays

We play the highest of touching honours if we decide go up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand unless we play a sure winner when the normal card is the lowest.

## Signals

Low-high is either encouraging or shows even number of cards. The first discard is Roman (odd=encouraging, even=SP)

On partner's lead attitude has the highest priority with the following exceptions:

- If K is lead against NT, 3<sup>rd</sup> hand either unblocks or gives count
- If A is lead vs suit and dummy holds singleton in the suit, 3<sup>rd</sup> hand gives suit preference.
- If dummy's holding tells that 3<sup>rd</sup> hand does not have the hoped for strength we give count.

Examples:

- A lead vs suit: Qxx+ on dummy → count
- K lead: Jxx+ on dummy → count (we learn about the ace quite soon)
- A lead: dummy has KQ+ → count or SP depending on who is short **BUT**
- A lead: dummy has Kx+ → attitude for Q
- x lead, 3<sup>rd</sup> hand cannot beat dummy's J or lower → count **BUT**
- x lead, 3<sup>rd</sup> hand cannot beat dummy's Q from Q(x+) → attitude for J
- If a singleton is lead → SP
- If K-A is lead vs suit the 2<sup>nd</sup> card by 3<sup>rd</sup> hand is SP

If an A is lead against “normal”<sup>1</sup> NT contract, 3<sup>rd</sup> hand gives an encouraging signal, if the continuation of K and a small seems a good idea.

1 Normal in this context means something else than a gambling type 3NT; gambling type could be either a gambling 3NT opening or 3m-3NT sequence.

We give count only when we think that partner needs that information. All count signals are 'present count'. We often include suit preference into count signal from xxx or xxxx.

Our first discard is Roman. The later discards show either count, or are the cards nearest the thumb. Discarding first a high odd card and then a low odd card of the same suit the encouraging message is canceled.