

Adventures in Bridge

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Opener's Rebids

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General

"Prepared Rebid" – Plan second bid before making first one.

We think about what partner is likely to respond (often our shortest suit) and make a plan for what to do if that happens. If we cannot come up with a good rebid, then we consider a different opening bid.

Rebids with Balanced Hands

- 1NT Rebid 12-14 pts, Balanced
 - O 1♣ 1♥ 1NT Could Opener have 4-card ♠?
- 2NT Rebid 18-19 pts, Balanced
 - Opener could have 4-card ♠!
- Responder bids 1NT
 - 2NT shows 18-19 pts even if not a jump if Responder could have 6 pts (1 ♦ 1NT 2NT).
 - Problem rebid by opener when playing 1NT Forcing when Opener has balanced 12-14 points (Semi-Forcing fix)

Rebids with Unbalanced Hands

1-Suited Hands

- 12 to 14+ pts, 6+cards (small) Rebid cheaply
- Good 15 to 17+, 6+cards (medium) Jump Rebid
- 18-19 pts with 6+card suit is a problem hand "Lie with Jump Shift."

2-Suited Hands (or 3-Suited Hands)

• Shift by Opener -- 12-17 pts bid second suit cheaply (2-level), wide-ranging bid.

1♥ 1♠ 1♣ 1♥ 2♦ 1♠

With 16-17 pts show maximum with 3rd bid.

- Jump Shift by Opener -- 18+ points, 2-suited with equal length or longer in higher-ranking suit.
- Reverses by Opener 17-22 points, 2-suited with the LOWER-ranking suit longer.

Strong Semi-Balanced Hands

- 5422 and 6322 hands are difficult to show. We need to decide early in the auction if we are going to show these as unbalanced hands or balanced hands.
- How do we make these decisions?
 - How to make auction easy? Lean towards balanced when possible.
 - With long minor suits, best to treat as balanced!
 - Location of honors.

Classic Problem Hands

- Unbalanced minimum with weak 5-card suit: 3-4-1-5, 12-14 points
 - o Raise ♠ on 3-card support with minimum values (reverse into 2♥ with 17+ points.)
- Unbalanced minimum with shortness in ♠: 1-4-3-5, 12-14 points
 - Plan to rebid a good 5c♣ suit OR Open 1NT with ♠A or ♠K values.
- Strong hand with 6-card Major: 6-1-3-3, 18-19 HCP
 - o Jump Shift into 3♣, "Lie in a minor!"
- Semi-Balanced with 6-card minor: 2-3-2-6, 18-19 HCP
 - Open 2NT with scattered values.

Competitive Auctions and Other Advanced Topics

Is it Forcing? -- Partnership Agreements are Important

1♠ 2♦ 2♥ F

- 2♠ Some play as Non-Forcing
- 2NT Most play as Non-Forcing
- 3♣ Most play as Forcing
- 3♦ Game Forcing, asks for a ♦ stopper
- 3♥ Non-Forcing

Competing to the 3-Level

It is important to be able to compete with good shape.

1♣ 1♠ X 2♠ 1♠ X 2♠ 3♣ 3♣

When the opening bidder goes to the 3-level in a competitive auction, it shows some extra playing strength (either length or HCP) but not a significant amount (not like jumping to the 3-level.)

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More Opener Rebids – Is it Forcing

A general rule is that when Responder makes an invitational 2NT bid, Opener passes win a minimum hand. But with additional shape Opener can bid a minor to make a corrective bid (trying to find a partscore that will make), and Opener can bid a Major to show more Major suit shape and accept the invitation (a Major suit is forcing in these auctions).

- 1♠ 1NT
- 2 **♦** 2NT

3♦

Non-Forcing! 5-5 distribution and minimum values. Pass or correct to 3♠.

- 1♠ 1NT
- 2 **♦** 2NT

3♠

Game-Forcing! 6-4 shape with extra values. Choice of Games – 3NT or 4♠.

1♦ 2NT

3♣

Non-Forcing! At least 5/4 in minors and minimum values. Pass or correct to 3 ♦.

1 ♦ 2NT

3♥

"Worry Ask". Game Forcing. Shortness in suit bid (if suit higher ranking than primary suit). 3-1-5-4 with extra values (or similar hand type).

Opener Forced to Make a Difficult Rebid

1♣ 1♠ X P __?

With a balanced 12-14 points, no new 4-card suit to bid, and no ♠ stopper, Opener must rebid 1NT. When forced to make a rebid 1NT does not promise a stopper!

Advanced Topics – Support Doubles, Scrambling 2NT

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