

No trump openings and responses

Opening 1NT

Shows 15-17 balanced or semi-balanced

Hand shapes are 4333, 4432 and 5332. Some people will even open 1NT with 2236 and 2245 shape

Don't worry about the weak doubleton, open 1NT

What if my 5-card suit is a major?

Modern method is to always open INT even where the five-card suit is a major

- Provides more information to partner
- Makes it more difficult for your opponents
- Prevents a rebid problem when you have a strong hand

The negative to opening 1NT with a 5-card major is that it is difficult to find a 5-3 major fit.

Responding to 1NT

The partner of the 1NT opener usually decides that contract as the opener has already described their hand.

With a balanced hand

All you need to consider is what level NT to play in. Pass, invite game by bidding 2NT, bid game, slam or grand slam. Remember, 4NT is quantitative and invites partner to bid 6NT if maximum.

Respond in NT where you have a 4333 shape, even with a 4-card major, as it will play better in NT.

With unbalanced hand - transfers

With a five-card major, responder should ***always*** transfer to the major, regardless of how weak or how poor the major suit is.

Transfers with invitational hands

Transfer to your 5-card suit then bid 2NT – shows 8 or 9 HCP and asks partner to choose. Opener can correct back with 3 of P's major, pass 2NT, or bid game in NT or the major suit with a fit.

With a 6-card suit raise to 3 level:

1NT – 2H	
2S – 3S	invitational

Transfers with enough for game

Transfer then bid 3NT, giving your P the choice of 3NT or game in the major.

What do I do if I have 5/4 in the majors?

Transfer to the 5-card major and then bid your second suit – game forcing

What do I do if I have a 6-card major and enough for game?

You can transfer then bid game or use Texas transfers – transfer at the four level then pass

What if I have a long minor suit?

Can use minor suit transfers i.e. spades to clubs and NT/clubs to diamonds

Or can you 2S to show weak hand with a long at least 6 card minor.

Bid 2S asking partner to bid 3C, pass or correct. If your suit is clubs pass but if its D correct to diamonds

Transfers after interference – on or off? Most partnerships play transfers are OFF after an intervening bid by the opposition.

With unbalanced hand – three level bids by responder

A jump response at the 3 level shows a 6+-card suit and is game force with slam interest – otherwise would transfer and then bid game.

Stayman

Use Stayman with invitational hand (8-9 HCP) or better and at least 1 four-card major.

Use even with a balanced hand as a 4-4 major suit fit is likely to make one more trick than NT (but with 4333 prefer to play in NT)

Replies to 2C

2D = no 4-card major

2H = 4 H, maybe 4 S

2S = 4S, not 4H

There is no 2NT response.

If opener bids 2D or the major you don't have, rebid 2NT showing 8-9HCP or 3NT with game values.

What if opener has two 4-card majors?

Bid the cheaper major. A response of 2H promises 4 H but doesn't deny 4S. If responder rebids NT you know they have 4-card spade suit.

Stayman on strong unbalanced hands

1NT – 2C

2H – 3D

Shows 4 spades and 5+D with slam interest.