

II. OPENER BIDS 1♣: RESPONDER BIDS 1♥.

II.A. Summary of Opener's Rebids to 1♥.

Responder's 1♥ in answer to Opener's 1♣ shows at least four hearts, promises a positive response—roughly 8 HCP—denies longer spades, and guarantees *an unbalanced hand*. Responder's 1♥ denies 4432, 4423, 2443, 2434, 3442, 3424, and 3433. Responder shows hearts first with equal length in hearts and spades.

II.A1. Opener's rebids in order include:

- A.1.a. Opener's 1♠ is a *Support Asking Bid* in spades.
- A.1.b. Opener's 1NT asks for more information (“*Tell Me More*”) about Responder's hand. Ordinarily, Opener will have a balanced hand.
- A.1.c. Opener's 2♣ is a *Support Asking Bid* in clubs.
- A.1.d. Opener's 2♦ is a *Support Asking Bid* in diamonds.
- A.1.e. Opener's 2♥ is a *First Trump Asking Bid* (How Many Cards?).
- A.1.f. Opener's 2♠ asks Responder for a four card minor.
- A.1.g. Opener's 2NT asks Responder to show his high card strength by steps.
- A.1.h. All of the above are forcing and leave Opener as Captain.
- A.1.i. Only one higher bid is needed. Opener's 3NT is to play. Opener should have only 16 or 17 HCP and exactly 3244. If Responder has a very long minor suit or a very long heart suit, correction to the long suit may be in order.

When he knows exactly what he needs to know, Opener can use Precision's usual *Asking Bids* to explore Responder's strength and support in clubs, diamonds, or spades, or to obtain more information about Responder's heart suit. Most often, however, Opener will use 1NT to ask Responder for a better description of his hand. Opener's *Tell Me More* inquiries will usually give Responder ample opportunity to describe his hand. Explanation of *Tell Me More* will follow the more

1♣ 1♥: Summary of Opener's Asking Bids

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focused asking bids.

II.A2. Opener's 1♠ is a *Support Asking Bid* in spades.

Opener asks two questions in one bid: Do you have at least three spades and are you more or less than 12 HCP? Responder needs four steps to answer two questions, each with two possible answers.

- A.2.a. Responder's first step, 1NT, denies three spades and shows 8–11 HCP.
- A.2.b. Responder's second step, 2♣, denies three spades but shows 12+ HCP.
- A.2.c. Responder's third step, 2♦, shows at least three spades but denies 12+ HCP.
- A.2.d. Responder's fourth step, 2♥, shows both three or more spades and 12+ HCP.
- A.2.e. Responder's fifth step, 2♠, shows four card support to the Ace, King, or Queen and 12+ HCP.
- A.2.f. If Responder denies possession of three spades, then Opener can ask again with 2♠. Now Responder shows his spades by steps:
 - A.2.f.1. 2NT shows none.
 - A.2.f.2. 3♣ shows one.
 - A.2.f.3. 3♦ shows two.
 - A.2.f.4. 3♥ shows Ax, Kx, or Qx.

II.A3. Opener's 2♣ and 2♦ are also *Support Asking Bids* with similar step responses.

II.A4. Opener's 2♥ is a *First Trump Asking Bid* in hearts, *How Many Cards?* Responders shows his length by steps.

II.A5. Opener's 2♠ asks Responder for a four card minor.

Opener should not use this question unless his only choices are between a minor suit and no trump. It uses room and makes subsequent exploration of the majors almost impossible. If Opener is unsure of the direction

1♣ 1♥: Summary of Opener's Asking Bids II-3

of the hand, *Tell Me More*, 1NT, provides a further opportunity to explore the minors.

- A.5.a. **Responder's 2NT** shows at least four cards in each minor.
- A.5.b. **Responder's 3♣** shows four clubs.
- A.5.c. **Responder's 3♦** shows four diamonds.
- A.5.d. **Responder's 3♥** shows five or more clubs.
- A.5.e. **Responder's 3♠** shows five or more diamonds.
- A.5.f. **Responder's 3NT** denies a four card minor.

II.A.6. Opener's immediate 2NT is a *Point Asking Bid*. It is probably the wrong question unless Opener is sure that no trump is the correct strain, no matter how extreme Responder's shape.

- A.6.a. **Responder's 3♣** shows 8–9 HCP.
- A.6.b. **Responder's 3♦** shows 10–11 HCP.
- A.6.c. **Responder's 3♥** shows 12–13 HCP.
- A.6.d. **Responder's 3♠** shows 14–15 HCP.
- A.6.e. **Responder's 3NT** shows 16+ HCP. Over Responder's 3NT,
 - A.6.e.1. **Opener's 4♣** is Gerber (1,2,3,40)
 - A.6.e.2. **Opener's 4♦** asks by step how much over 16 HCP Responder holds.
 - A.6.e.3. **Opener's suit bids {4♥–5♦}** are *Control Asking Bids* for face cards only.

II.A.7. Opener's 3NT is to play. Opener should have only 16 or 17 HCP and exactly 3244.

- A.7.a. **Responder's Opener's 4♣** is Gerber (1,2,3,40)
- A.7.b. **Responder's 4♦** asks by step how much over 16 HCP Opener holds.
- A.7.c. **Responder's suit bids {4♥–5♦}** are *Control Asking Bids* for face cards only.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "*Tell Me More*." II-4
Responses in Summary

II.B. Tell Me More.

Opener's **1NT** asks Responder, "*Tell me more*." Opener should not use this inquiry if he is interested only in one or both minors. With interest in only one minor, a *Support Asking Bid* in that suit will get the information efficiently. With interest in both minors but nothing else, Opener's 2♠ will provide information. When Opener is not so focused—by far the majority of *hands*—*Tell Me More* allows him to learn more about Responder's hand.

II.B.1. In summary, Responder's rebids after Opener's rebid of 1NT are:

- B.1.a. Responder's rebid of 2♣ is like *Checkback* and shows exactly four spades.¹
- B.1.b. Responder's rebid of 2♦ is like *New Minor Forcing* and shows exactly five hearts.
- B.1.c. Responder's rebid of 2♥ shows exactly six hearts.
- B.1.d. Responder's rebid of 2♠ promises either a five card or six card minor or two four card minors in addition to the four card heart suit previously shown.
- B.1.e. Responder's rebid of 2NT shows five spades and therefore promises five hearts.
- B.1.f. Responder's 3♣ shows a seven card club suit with only four hearts..
- B.1.g. Responder's 3♦ shows a seven card diamond suit with only four hearts.
- B.1.h. Responder's 3♥ shows a seven card heart suit.
- B.1.i. Responder's 3♠ shows a five card spade suit and promises a six card heart suit.
- B.1.j. Responder's 3NT shows a six card spade suit and at least six cards in hearts.

1. Responder's failure to bid 1♠ originally denies a balanced hand. Showing four spades now suggests either five or more hearts or a side four or five card minor.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "*Tell Me More.*" II-5
Responder's 2♣ Promises Four Spades.

- B.1.k.** Responder's 4♣ shows a two-suited hand in clubs and hearts with at least seven hearts and at least five clubs.
- B.1.l.** Responder's 4♦ shows a two-suited hand in diamonds and hearts with at least seven hearts and at least five diamonds.
- B.1.m.** Responder's 4♥ shows an eight card or longer heart suit.

II.B2. Responder's rebid of 2♣ is like *Checkback* and shows that with his four or more hearts, Responder has exactly four spades. Responder has 4450, 4441, 4414, 4405, 4540, 4531, 4522, 4513, 4504, 4630, 4621, 4612, 4603, 4720, 4711, or 4702. He cannot have 4432 or 4423 because those balanced hands begin with an artificial 1♠.

B.2.a. Opener's Rebids after 1♣-1♥, 1NT-2♣ summarized:

- B.2.a.1. Opener's 2♦** asks, "*Tell me still more.*"
- B.2.a.2. Opener's 2♥** asks, "*How many cards in hearts?*"
- B.2.a.3. Opener's 2♠** asks, "*How many spade honors (faces)?*"
- B.2.a.4. Opener's 2NT** asks, "*How many high card points?*"
- B.2.a.5. Opener's 3♣, 3♦, or 3♥** (a) confirm spades as trump and (b) ask for controls in suit bid.
- B.2.a.6. Opener's 3NT** is to play. Because Responder could have many hearts and therefore be very short in the minors, Opener should not close out the auction prematurely. Opener's 2♦ will usually be the better choice.

B.2.b. Opener's 2♦ asks Responder for more information

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "*Tell Me More.*" II-6
Responder's 2♣ Promises Four Spades.

but tends to deny four spades. ("*Tell me still more.*") If Responder has exactly five hearts, then with nine cards in the majors, he has only four cards in the minors. His clubs and diamonds may be 40, 31, 22, 13, or 04. He has two bids to distinguish the relatively balanced 4522 hand from the unbalanced hand with a singleton or void in one of the minors. Responder's 2NT and 3NT show the semibalanced 4522. Responder's 2♥ shows the unbalanced 4540, 4531, 4313, or 4504. Opener can find out which unbalanced hand Responder holds by asking with 2♠. With six or seven hearts, Responder answers 3♥ or 4♥ respectively. With a longer minor—4450 or 4405—Responder bids 3♣ or 3♦. Responder's 3♠, 4♣, and 4♦ are undefined.

B.2.b.1. After Opener's 2♦ ("Tell me more about your unbalanced hand with exactly four spades and at least four hearts.")

- a. Responder's 2♥** shows exactly four spades, five hearts, and a singleton or void in a minor. Responder has 4540, 4531, 4513, or 4504.
- b. Responder's 2♠** shows a three-suited hand, either 4441 or 4414.
- c. Responder's 2NT** shows 4522 and 8-13 HCP.
- d. Responder's 3♣** shows 4405.
- e. Responder's 3♦** shows 4450.
- f. Responder's 3♥** shows 4630, 4621, 4612, or 4603.
- g. Responder's 3NT** shows 4522 with 14+ HCP. Opener can inquire further:

1. Opener's 4♣ asks for Aces: 4 | 0, 1, 2, 3.
2. Opener's 4♦ asks for Responder's exact

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "Tell Me More." II-7
Responder's 2♣ Promises Four Spades.

HCP: 14, 15, 16, . . .

3. Opener's 4♥ is to play unless Responder has substantial, as-yet, undisclosed assets.
4. Opener's 4♠ is to play unless Responder has substantial, as-yet, undisclosed assets.

h. Responder's 4♥ shows 4720, 4711, or 4702.

B.2.b.2. Responder's 2♥ shows a fifth heart with a concern about 3NT because of shortness in one minor, either 4504, 4513, 4531, or 4540. Opener has two questions available to clarify Responder's hand. He can ask more about Responder's shape with 2♠ or he can ask about Responder's exact strength with 2NT. Because Opener shouldn't care about Responder's strength unless he is considering a no trump slam, his usual follow up will be 2♠ to learn Responder's exact shape.

a. Opener's 2♠ asks for Responder's minor suit fragment.

1. Responder's 3♣ shows 4513.
2. Responder's 3♦ shows 4531.
3. Responder's 3♥ shows 4504.
4. Responder's 3♠ shows 4540.

b. Opener's 2NT (*Point Asking Bid*) asks for Responder's strength.

1. Responder's 3♣ shows 8-9 HCP.
2. Responder's 3♦ shows 10-11 HCP.
3. Responder's 3♥ shows 12-13 HCP.
4. Responder's 3♠ shows 14-15 HCP.
5. Responder's 3NT shows 16+ HCP. Over

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "Tell Me More." II-8
Responder's 2♣ Promises Four Spades.

Responder's 3NT,

- A. Opener's 4♣ is Gerber (1,2,3,40)
- B. Opener's 4♦ asks by step how much over 16 HCP Responder holds..

B.2.b.3. Responder's 2♠ shows 4414 or 4441.²
Opener can ask for Responder's minor suit with 2NT.

- a. Responder's 3♣ shows 4414 with 8-11 HCP.
- b. Responder's 3♦ shows 4441 with 8-11 HCP.
- c. Responder's 3♥ shows 4414 with 12-13 HCP.³
- d. Responder's 3♠ shows 4441 with 12-13 HCP.

B.2.b.4. Responder's 2NT shows 4522 with less than 14 HCP.

B.2.b.5. Responder's 3♣(4405), 3♦(4450), 3♥(4630, 4621, 4612, or 4603), and 4♥(4720, 4711, or 4702) so fully describe his hand that Opener should be able to set the contract or inquire about controls.

B.2.b.6. Responder's 3NT shows 4522 with 14+ HCP. Opener's 4♣ is *Gerber*. Opener's 4♦ asks how many points more than 14?

B.2.c. Because Responder has not shown his exact length, **Opener's 2♥ is a First Trump Asking Bid** (How Many Cards?). Responder answers 4, 5, 6, . .

2. Incidentally, this bid also limits responder to less than the 14+ HCP we need to show an unusual positive. See Three Suited Responses, *infra*.

3. With 14+ HCP and a three-suited hand, Responder uses the *Unusual Positive*.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "*Tell Me More.*" II-9
Responder's 2♣ Promises Four Spades.

B.2.d. Because Responder's previous 2♣ (1♣-1♥, 2♣-) showed exactly four spades, **Opener's immediate rebid of 2♠ in response to 2♣ Checkback is a *Second Trump Asking Bid***, and thus asks Responder "How many faces in spades?"

B.2.e. **Opener's rebid of 2NT** in response to 2♣ *Checkback* tends to deny four spades, tends to deny a five card minor, and asks for Responder's strength (*Point Asking Bid*). Opener should prefer other questions such as 2♦ unless he is looking for a no trump slam.

- B.2.e.1.** Responder's 3♣ shows 8-9 HCP.
- B.2.e.2.** Responder's 3♦ shows 10-11 HCP.
- B.2.e.3.** Responder's 3♥ shows 12-13 HCP.
- B.2.e.4.** Responder's 3♠ shows 14-15 HCP.
- B.2.e.5.** Responder's 3NT shows 16+ HCP. Over Responder's 3NT,

- a. Opener's 4♣ is Gerber (4 | 0, 1, 2, 3)
- b. Opener's 4♦ asks by step how much over 16 HCP Responder holds.
- c. Opener's suit bids {4♥-5♦} are *Control Asking Bids* for face cards only.

B.2.f. **Opener's rebid of 3NT** is to play. This is a dangerous bid. The downside risk is that Responder has too much distribution for 3NT to be safe. The upside risk is that Responder has enough strength for 6NT. Over 2♣, Opener should prefer either (a) 2♦ *Tell me more* to learn more about Responder's shape or (b) 2NT *Point Ask* to learn more about Responder's strength. Even though

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "*Tell Me More.*" II-10
Responder's 2♣ Promises Four Spades.

there is an advantage in simply bidding 3NT and leaving it to the opponents to find a good lead, that more frequent but modest advantage must be compared to the rare but serious risk of missing 6♣, 6♦, or even 6♥ or going down in 3NT.

Responder has first shown an unbalanced hand with at least four hearts and then added exactly four spades. Responder may have many more hearts and nothing much in the minors. Opener's two hearts opposite seven might make for a good slam. Alternatively, if Responder has but four hearts, then he must have four or five in a minor, for he cannot be 4432. Because Opener lacks a four card major, he can easily have a five card minor. However, unlikely, it is entirely possible to have a ten card club fit. Asking one more question with 2♦ has much to recommend.

- B.2.f.1.** Responder's 4♣ is Gerber (4 | 0, 1, 2, 3)
- B.2.f.2.** Responder's 4♦ asks by step how much over 16 HCP Opener holds.
- B.2.f.3.** Responder's suit bids {4♥-5♦} are *Control Asking Bids* for face cards only.

B.2.g. **Opener's three level suit after a check back** 2♣—either 3♣, 3♦, or 3♥⁴— is a *Control Asking Bid* and confirms spades as trump.

4. If Opener wanted information about heart length, he could use 2♥ immediately after Responder's 1♥. Asking about controls in hearts implies that spades are trump. Once Opener knows Responder has at least four hearts, there will be no ambiguity in the basis for Responder's control, for he cannot be short. Thereafter, if Opener returns to hearts, his bid will confirm that hearts are to be trump. Opener's 4♥ and 6♥ will be to play. Opener's 5♥ likely will ask a question unless it follows a disappointing Blackwood response.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "Tell Me More." II-11
Responder's 2♦ Promises a Fifth Heart.

II.B3. Responder's rebid of 2♦ is like *New Minor Forcing* and shows a fifth card in the heart suit but denies a four-card spade suit. Responder has 3550, 3541, 3532, 3523, 3514, 3505, 2560, 2551, 2542, 2533, 2524, 2515, 2506, 1570, 1561, 1552, 1543, 1534, 1525, 1516, 1507, 0571, 0562, 0553, 0544, 0535, 0526, or 0517.

B.3.a. In summary,

- B.3.a.1.** Opener's 2♥ asks "How many faces?"
- B.3.a.2.** Opener's 2♠ asks for Responder's holding in the minors.
- B.3.a.3.** Opener's 2NT is a *Point Asking Bid*.
- B.3.a.4.** Opener's 3♣, 3♦, and 3♠ are *Control Asking Bids*.

B.3.b. Having heard Responder's length in hearts to be exactly five, **Opener's 2♥ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid*** (How Many Faces?). Responder shows his royal honors {A, K, Q} by steps.

- B.3.b.1.** The first step, 2♠, shows none of the three.
- B.3.b.2.** The second step, 2NT, shows one of the three.
- B.3.b.3.** The third step, 3♣, shows two of the three.
- B.3.b.4.** The fourth step, 3♦, shows all three.

B.3.c. Opener's 2♠ asks Responder for a four card or longer minor.⁵ This question should not be idle, for it risks stopping in a major suit game. Before

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "Tell Me More." II-12
Responder's 2♦ Promises a Fifth Heart.

asking this question, Opener must be sure that he can handle a response of 3♠ showing a five card or longer diamond suit. The problem is that 4♥ over that 3♠ is *Redwood* in diamonds not game in hearts.

B.3.c.1. Responder's rebids in summary.

- a.** 2NT shows both minors. Responder is 0544.
- b.** 3♣ shows four clubs. Responder is 3514, 2524, or 1534.
- c.** 3♦ shows four diamonds. Responder is 3541, 2542, or 1543.
- d.** 3♥ shows five or more clubs. Responder is 3505, 2515, 2506, 1525, 1516, 1507, 0535, 0526, or 0517
- e.** 3♠ shows five or more diamonds. Responder is 3550, 2560, 2551, 1570, 1561, 1552, 0571, 0562, or 0553.
- f.** 3NT denies a four card minor. Responder is 3532, 3523, or 2533.

B.3.c.2. Responder's 2NT promises both minors, 0544. With Responder's exact shape fully identified, Opener can either select the contract or ask about controls. Opener's 3♣, 3♦, or 3♥ establishes the trump suit and asks about suit strength. Alternatively, Opener's 3♠, 4♣, 4♦, and 4♥ all ask for key cards. To play 4♥, however, Opener must first use 3♥. After setting the trump suit, Opener can use a *Control Asking Bid* to investigate the fourth suit, use 4NT as *Roman Key Card Blackwood*, or sign off in game or slam. If Opener has a void as well, then Opener should first set the trump suit with a *Second*

5. If Opener has a spade suit, he should bid 1♠ over Responder's 1♥ to determine support before getting any higher. If he has four spades and preferred 1NT *Tell me more* over 1♥, then Responder's failure to bid 2♣ should end that quest. In short, after 1♣, 1♥, 1NT, 2♦, Opener's 2♠ can only be asking for Responder's minors, if any.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "*Tell Me More.*" II-13
Responder's 2♦ Promises a Fifth Heart.

Trump Asking Bid ("How many faces?").

- a. Opener's 3♣ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?").
- b. Opener's 3♦ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?").
- c. Opener's 3♥ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?").
- d. Because of Responder's spade void, Opener's 3♠ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood* in reverse. Because Opener has not specified the trump suit, Responder's answer should count key cards across all three suits using 3NT to deny any, 4♣ to show one Ace or King, 4♦ to show two, 4♥ to show three, and 4♠ to show four etc. Opener's 4♠, 4NT, or 5NT, whichever is cheapest, then asks for Responder's Queens.
- e. Opener's 3NT is to play.

B.3.c.3. Responder's 3♣ shows a four card club suit. Responder has 3514, 2524, or 1534. If Opener is happy with clubs, then he can set clubs as the trump suit using a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?"), a *Control Asking Bid*, or *Redwood*. Opener can also sign off in 3NT. Opener's 4♦, *Redwood*, asks for key cards in clubs. If Opener wants to return to hearts, however, he must use 3♥ as a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?").

- a. Opener's 3♦ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- b. Opener's 3♥ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* in hearts ("How many faces?").
- c. Opener's 3♠ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- d. **Opener's 3NT is to play.**

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "*Tell Me More.*" II-14
Responder's 2♦ Promises a Fifth Heart.

- e. Opener's 4♣ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?").
- f. Opener's 4♦, *Redwood*, asks for key cards in clubs.
- g. Opener's 4♥ is to play.
- h. Opener's 4♠ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- i. Opener's 5♣ is to play.
- j. Opener's 5♦ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- k. Opener's 5♥ invites to slam but asks about suit quality.

B.3.c.4. Responder's 3♦ shows a four card diamond suit. Responder has 3541, 2542, or 1543. Opener's 4♥, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in diamonds. If Opener wants to return to hearts, he must use 3♥ to let Responder know.

- a. Opener's 3♥ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* in hearts ("How many faces?").
- b. Opener's 3♠ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- c. **Opener's 3NT is to play.**
- d. Opener's 4♣ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- e. Opener's 4♦ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?").
- f. Opener's 4♥, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in diamonds.
- g. Opener's 4♠ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- h. Opener's 5♣ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- i. Opener's 5♦ is to play.
- j. Opener's 5♥ invites to slam but asks about suit quality.

B.3.c.5. Responder's 3♥ shows a five card or longer club suit. Responder has 3505, 2515, 1525, 2506, 1516, 1507, 0526, or 0517.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "*Tell Me More.*" II-15
Responder's 2♦ Promises a Fifth Heart.

- a. Opener's 3♠ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- b. Opener's 3NT is to play.
- c. Opener's 4♣ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?").
- d. Opener's 4♦, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in clubs.
- e. Opener's 4♥ is to play.
- f. Opener's 4♠ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- g. Opener's 5♣ is to play.
- h. Opener's 5♦ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- i. Opener's 5♥ invites to slam but asks about suit quality.

B.3.c.6. Responder's 3♠ shows a five card or longer diamond suit.⁶ Responder has 3550, 2551, 1552, 2560, 1561, 1570, 0562, or 0571. Opener's 4♥, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in diamonds.

- a. Opener's 3♠ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- b. Opener's 3NT is to play.
- c. Opener's 4♣ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- d. Opener's 4♦ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?").
- e. Opener's 4♥, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in diamonds.
- f. Opener's 4♠ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- g. Opener's 5♣ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- h. Opener's 5♦ is to play.
- i. Opener's 5♥ invites to slam but asks about suit quality.

B.3.c.7. Responder's 3NT denies both minors.

6. Responder's 2♦ denied even four spades.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "*Tell Me More.*" II-16
Responder's 2♥ Promises a Sixth Heart.

Responder has 3532, 3523, or 2533

B.3.d. Opener's 2NT is a *Point Asking Bid*.

- B.3.d.1.** Responder's 3♣ shows 8–9 HCP.
- B.3.d.2.** Responder's 3♦ shows 10–11 HCP.
- B.3.d.3.** Responder's 3♥ shows 12–13 HCP.
- B.3.d.4.** Responder's 3♠ shows 14–15 HCP.
- B.3.d.5.** Responder's 3NT shows 16+ HCP. Over Responder's 3NT,

- a. Opener's 4♣ is Gerber (1, 2, 3, 4 | 0)
- b. Opener's 4♦ asks by step how much over 16 HCP Responder holds.
- c. Opener's suit bids {4♥–5♦} are *Control Asking Bids* for face cards only.

B.3.e. Having heard of extra length in hearts, Opener's 3♣, 3♦, and 3♠⁷ are *Control Asking Bids* that imply acceptance of hearts as trumps.

II.B4. Responder's rebid of 2♥ shows a sixth heart.
Responder has 3640, 3631, 3622, 3613, 3604, 2650, 2641, 2632, 2623, 2614, 2605, 1660, 1651, 1642, 1633, 1624, 1615, 1606, 0670, 0661, 0652, 0643, 0634, 0625, 0616, 0607. Responder denies four or more spades.

B.4.a. Opener's 2♠ asks for a four card or longer minor suit. Again, Opener should not ask this question without considering the risks to being able to stop in 3♥ or 3NT.

B.4.a.1. Because a six card heart suit makes two four-card minors impossible, Responder's 2NT

7. Opener's 2♠ immediately following 2♦ asks for Responder's minors.

1♣ 1♥: **Opener's 1NT Asks, "Tell Me More."** II-17
Responder's 2♥ Promises a Sixth Heart.

denies a four card minor and limits his hand to 8-13 HCP.

- a. Opener's 3♣, 3♦, or 3♠ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- b. Opener's 3♥ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?").
- c. Opener's 3NT is to play.

B.4.a.2. Responder's 3♣ shows four clubs. Responder has 3604, 2614, 1624, or 0634. Opener's 4♦, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in clubs. If Opener is happy with clubs, then he can set clubs as the trump suit using a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?"), a *Control Asking Bid*, or *Redwood*. Opener can also sign off in 3NT.

- a. Opener's 3♦ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- b. Opener's 3♥ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?").
- c. Opener's 3♠ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- d. **Opener's 3NT is to play.**
- e. Opener's 4♣ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?").
- f. Opener's 4♦, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in clubs.
- g. Opener's 4♥ is to play.
- h. Opener's 4♠ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- i. Opener's 5♣ is to play.
- j. Opener's 5♦ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- k. Opener's 5♥ invites to slam but asks about suit quality.

B.4.a.3. Responder's 3♦ shows four diamonds. Responder has 3640, 2641, 1642, 0643. Opener's 4♥, *Redwood*, then asks for

1♣ 1♥: **Opener's 1NT Asks, "Tell Me More."** II-18
Responder's 2♥ Promises a Sixth Heart.

key cards in diamonds. If Opener wishes to return to hearts, he must use 3♥ to let Responder know.

- a. Opener's 3♥ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?"). If Opener prefers hearts, **he must use 3♥ to set the trump suit.**
- b. Opener's 3♠ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- c. **Opener's 3NT is to play.**
- d. Opener's 4♣ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- e. Opener's 4♦ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?").
- f. Opener's 4♥, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in diamonds.⁸
- g. Opener's 4♠ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- h. Opener's 5♣ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- i. Opener's 5♦ is to play.
- j. Opener's 5♥ invites to slam but asks about suit quality.

B.4.a.4. Responder's 3♥ shows five or more clubs. Responder has 2605, 1615, 0625, 1606, 0616, or 0607. Opener's 4♦, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in clubs. If Opener is happy with clubs, then he can set clubs as the trump suit using a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?"), a *Control Asking Bid*, or *Redwood*. Opener can also sign off in 3NT.

- a. Opener's 3♠ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- b. **Opener's 3NT is to play.**
- c. Opener's 4♣ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?").

8. If Opener has decided to play a heart game, he must use the *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?") first to set hearts as the trump suit.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "Tell Me More." II-19
Responder's 2♥ Promises a Sixth Heart.

- d. Opener's 4♦, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in clubs.
- e. Opener's 4♥ is to play.
- f. Opener's 4♠ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- g. Opener's 5♣ is to play.
- h. Opener's 5♦ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- i. Opener's 5♥ invites to slam but asks about suit quality.

B.4.a.5. Responder's 3♠ shows five or more diamonds. Responder has 2650, 1651, 0652, 1660, 0670, or 0661.

- a. Opener's 3NT is to play.
- b. Opener's 4♣ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- c. Opener's 4♦ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?").
- d. Opener's 4♥ is to play.
- e. Opener's 4♠ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- f. Opener's 4NT is *RKC* in diamonds.
- g. Opener's 5♣ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- h. Opener's 5♦ is to play.
- i. Opener's 5♥ invites to slam but asks about suit quality.

B.4.a.6. Responder's 3NT also denies a four card minor but shows more than 13 HCP.

B.4.b. Opener's 2NT a is *Point Asking Bid*.

- B.4.b.1.** Responder's 3♣ shows 8 or 9 HCP.
- B.4.b.2.** Responder's 3♦ shows 10 or 11 HCP.
- B.4.b.3.** Responder's 3♥ shows 12 or 13 HCP.
- B.4.b.4.** Responder's 3♠ shows 14 or 15 HCP.
- B.4.b.5.** Responder's 3NT shows 16+ HCP.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "Tell Me More." II-20
Responder's 2♠ Promises Something in the Minors.

- a. Opener's 4♣ is *Stayman* 4 | 0, 1, 2, 3.
- b. Opener's 4♦ is *Point Ask* 16, 17, 18 . . .

- B.4.c.** Opener's 3♣ is a *Control Asking Bid* in clubs.
- B.4.d.** Opener's 3♦ is *Control Asking Bid* in diamonds.
- B.4.e.** Because Responder has shown his exact length in hearts, Opener's 3♥ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?").
- B.4.f.** Opener's jump to 3♠ is a *Control Asking Bid* in spades.⁹
- B.4.g.** Opener's jump to 4♣ is *Exclusion Blackwood* confirming hearts as trump and asking Responder for his keycards outside of clubs. The responses are 30, 14, 2-, and 2+.
- B.4.h.** Opener's jump to 4♦ is *Exclusion Blackwood* confirming hearts as trump and asking Responder for his keycards outside of diamonds. The responses are 30, 14, 2-, and 2+.
- B.4.i.** Opener's jump to 4♥ signs off. Responder needs 16+ DP to continue.

II.B5. Responder's rebid of 2♠ denies more than four hearts, denies four spades, and having previously denied a balanced hand, therefore promises either a five or six card minor or two four card minors in addition to the four card heart suit. Responder has 3460, 3451, 3415, 3406, 2461, 2452, 2425, 2416, 1462, 1453, 1444, 1435, or 1426. Opener can next ask for the minor(s) with 2NT.

B.5.a. Opener's 2NT asks for the minor.

B.5.a.1. Responder's answers in summary:

9. Because Opener is irrevocably Captain, there is no point in Opener making a *Splinter Bid* in a 1♣ auction.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "Tell Me More." II-21
Responder's 2♠ Promises Something in the Minors.

- a. 3♣ shows five clubs.
- b. 3♦ shows five diamonds.
- c. 3♥ shows six clubs.
- d. 3♠ shows six diamonds.
- e. 3NT shows four clubs and four diamonds.
- f. With seven or more clubs or diamonds, Responder's answer to Opener's first *Tell Me More*, 1NT, is 3♣ or 3♦ respectively.

B.5.a.2. Responder's 3♣ shows five clubs. Responder has 3415, 2425, 1435, or 0445. Opener's 4♦, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in clubs. If Opener is happy with clubs, then he can set clubs as the trump suit using a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?"), a *Control Asking Bid*, or *Redwood*. Opener can also sign off in 3NT. **If Opener wants to return to hearts, however, he must use 3♥ as a Second Trump Asking Bid ("How many faces?").**

- a. Opener's 3♦ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- b. Opener's 3♥ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?").
- c. Opener's 3♠ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- d. **Opener's 3NT is to play.**
- e. Opener's 4♣ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?").
- f. Opener's 4♦, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in clubs.
- g. Opener's 4♥ is to play.
- h. Opener's 4♠ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- i. Opener's 5♣ is to play.
- j. Opener's 5♦ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- k. Opener's 5♥ invites to slam but asks about suit quality.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "Tell Me More." II-22
Responder's 2♠ Promises Something in the Minors.

B.5.a.3. Responder's 3♦ shows five diamonds. Responder has 3451, 2452, 1453, or 0454. Opener's 4♥, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in diamonds.

- a. Opener's 3♥ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?"). If Opener prefers hearts, **he must use 3♥ to set the trump suit.**
- b. Opener's 3♠ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- c. **Opener's 3NT is to play.**
- d. Opener's 4♣ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- e. Opener's 4♦ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?").
- f. Opener's 4♥, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in diamonds.¹⁰
- g. Opener's 4♠ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- h. Opener's 5♣ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- i. Opener's 5♦ is to play.
- j. Opener's 5♥ invites to slam but asks about suit quality.

B.5.a.4. Responder's 3♥ shows six clubs. Responder has 3406, 2416, 1426, or 0436. If Opener is happy with clubs, then he can set clubs as the trump suit using 4♣ as a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?"), 3♠ as a *Control Asking Bid*, or 4♦ as *Redwood*.

- a. Opener's 3♠ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- b. **Opener's 3NT is to play.**
- c. Opener's 4♣ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?").

10. If Opener has decided to play a heart game, he must use the *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How many faces?") first to set hearts as the trump suit.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "Tell Me More." II-23
Responder's 2♠ Promises Something in the Minors.

- d. Opener's 4♦, *Redwood*, then asks for key cards in clubs.
- e. Opener's 4♥ is to play.
- f. Opener's 4♠ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- g. Opener's 5♣ is to play.
- h. Opener's 5♦ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- i. Opener's 5♥ invites to slam but asks about suit quality.

B.5.a.5. Responder's 3♠ shows six diamonds. Responder has 3460, 2461, 1462, or 0463. Opener cannot use *Redwood*. His 4♥ is not *Redwood* but is to play in hearts. Opener must use 4NT to ask for key cards in diamonds.

- a. Opener's 3NT is to play.
- b. Opener's 4♣ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
- c. Opener's 4♦ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?").
- d. Opener's 4♥ is to play.
- e. Opener's 4♠ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- f. Opener's 4NT is *Roman Key Card Blackwood* in diamonds.
- g. Opener's 5♣ is *Exclusion Key Card Blackwood*.
- h. Opener's 5♦ is to play.
- i. Opener's 5♥ invites to slam but asks about suit quality.

B.5.a.6. Responder's 3NT shows four cards in both minors. Responder has 1444. Opener then chooses the trump suit.

- a. Opener's 4♣ and 4♦ are *Second Trump Asking Bids* ("How many faces?").
- b. Opener's 4♥ is to play.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "Tell Me More." II-24
Responder's 2NT Promises Five-Five in the Majors.

- c. Opener's 4♠ asks how many of the seven key cards Responder has in his three suits. He answers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.¹¹
- d. Opener's 4NT is standard *Blackwood*.

II.B6. Responder's rebid of 2NT shows five spades and promises five hearts. Responder has 5530, 5521, 5512, 5503. This bid is unlimited.

- B.6.a.** Opener's 3♣ or 3♦ is a *Control Asking Bid*. Opener's subsequent mention of a major will set the trump suit and be a *Trump Asking Bid, How Many Faces*.¹²
- B.6.b.** Opener's 3♥ or 3♠ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid, How Many Faces?*, and establishes the trump suit.
- B.6.c.** Opener's 3NT is to play.
- B.6.d.** Opener's 4♣ or 4♦ *Roman Key Card Blackwood: 03, 14, 2, 2+Q in the corresponding major*.¹³
- B.6.e.** Opener's 4♥ or 4♠ is to play.
- B.6.f.** Opener's 4NT is *Two-Suit Roman Key Card Blackwood*. Because Opener has not told Responder which major is the trump suit, the key cards include the four aces and both major suit kings. Responder can use the fourth step to show either Queen with two key cards and the fifth step to show two key cards and both queens. Opener is checking for a grand slam.¹⁴

11. Go back through all *Roman Key Card Blackwood* sequences to establish the queen ask responses.

12. One should be careful here. Saving space with an immediate CAB is nice. Confusing Partner is not.

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14. Id.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "*Tell Me More.*" II-25
Responder's More Shapely Hands.

II.B7. Responder's 3♣ shows at least seven clubs but only four hearts. Responder has 2407, 1417, or 0427.

- B.7.a.** Opener's 3♦ and 3♠ are *Control Asking Bids*.
- B.7.b.** Opener's 3♥ and 4♣ are *Second Trump Asking Bid, How Many Faces?* Either bid establishes the trump suit.
- B.7.c.** Opener's 4♦ and 4♠ are *Exclusion Roman Two Suit Key Card Blackwood*.

II.B8. Responder's 3♦ shows at least seven diamonds.
Responder has 2470, 1471, or 0472.

- B.8.a.** Opener's 3♥ and 4♦ are *Second Trump Asking Bid, How Many Faces?* Either bid establishes the trump suit.
- B.8.b.** Opener's 3♠ and 4♣ are *Control Asking Bids*.
- B.8.c.** Opener's 4♠ and 5♣ are *Exclusion Roman Two Suit Key Card Blackwood*.

II.B9. Responder's 3♥ shows a seven card heart suit.¹⁵
Responder has 3730, 3721, 3712, 3703, 2740, 2731, 2722, 2713, 2704, 1750, 1741, 1732, 1723, 1714, 1705, 0760, 0751, 0742, 0733, 0724, 0715, 0706. With so much room expended, Opener must choose his sequence of questions carefully. Assuming a tolerable fit, Opener should first check on controls in any suit he lacks at least a king. If Responder does not control the suit, then 4♥ may be the limit of the hand. If Responder can control the suit that concerns Opener, then a *Roman Key Card Blackwood (1430)* sequence should clarify Responder's heart holding.

15. If Responder lacks all the top three honors, he may be better advised to count his hand as only six hearts to save Opener room.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "*Tell Me More.*" II-26
Responder's More Shapely Hands.

- B.9.a.** Opener's 3♠, 4♣, and 4♦ are *Control Asking Bids*.
- B.9.b.** Opener's 3NT and 4♥ are to play. If Responder has substantial undisclosed strength, he may continue onward.
- B.9.c.** Opener's 4♠, 5♣, and 5♦ are *Exclusion Roman Key Card Blackwood*.

II.B10. Responder's 3♠ shows a five card spade suit and promises a six card or longer heart suit. Responder has 5620, 5611, 5602, 5710, or 5701.

- B.10.a.** Opener's 3NT is to play.
- B.10.b.** Opener's 4♣ and 4♦ are *Roman Key Card Blackwood* in the corresponding major.
- B.10.c.** Opener's 4♥ and 4♠ are to play.
- B.10.d.** Opener's 4NT is *Roman Key Card Blackwood* for both suits. The Responses consider four Aces, the heart and spade Kings, and the heart and spade Queens.

- B.10.d.1.** Responder's 5♣ shows zero or three key cards.
- B.10.d.2.** Responder's 5♦ shows one or four.
- B.10.d.3.** Responder's 5♥ shows two key cards without either Queen.
- B.10.d.4.** Responder's 5♠ shows two key cards with at least one Queen.
- B.10.d.5.** Responder's 5NT shows two key cards and both major suit Queens.

B.10.e. Opener's 5NT then asks for Responder's minor suit kings. With neither, he rebids 6♥. With both, he rebids 6NT. Opener can then pick the final

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "*Tell Me More.*" II-27
Responder's More Shapely Hands.

contract.¹⁶

II.B11. Responder's 3NT shows either 6610, 6601,¹⁷ or 6700.

Opener's bids are the same as over 3♠ immediately above.

II.B12. Responder's 4♣ shows seven hearts and at least five clubs. Responder has 1705, 0715, 1706 or 0706.

B.12.a. Opener's 4♦ and 4♠ are *Control Asking Bids*.

B.12.b. Opener's 4♥ and 5♣ are to play. If Responder has substantial undisclosed values, he can continue.

B.12.c. Opener's 4NT is *Roman Two Suit Key Card Blackwood*.

II.B13. Responder's 4♦ shows seven hearts and at least five diamonds. Responder has 1750, 0751, 1760, or 0760.

B.13.a. Opener's 4♠ and 5♣ are *Control Asking Bids*.

B.13.b. Opener's 4♥ and 5♦ are to play. If Responder has substantial undisclosed values, he can continue.

B.13.c. Opener's 4NT is *Roman Two Suit Key Card Blackwood*.

II.B14. Responder's 4♥ shows an eight card or longer heart suit. Responder has 3820, 3811, 3802, 2830, 2821, 2812, 2803, 1840, 1831, 1822, 1813, or 1804. Because Opener may pass this bid, if Responder has substantial values, he may be wiser to respond initially with 4♣ (*Gerber*) or 4♦ (*Point Asking Bid*) to take control of the auction.

1♣ 1♥: Opener's 1NT Asks, "*Tell Me More.*" II-28
Responder's More Shapely Hands.

B.14.a. Opener's 4♠ is a control asking bid.

B.14.b. Opener's 4NT is *1430 RKC*.

B.14.c. Opener's 5♣ and 5♦ are Control Asking Bids.

B.14.d. Opener's 5NT is the *Roman Grand Slam Force*.¹⁸

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17. To help remember, Responder's 2NT shows 5530, 5521, 5512, 5503 so 3NT shows 6610 or 6601.

18. If Opener has the other three aces and two other winners, the *Roman Grand Slam Force* may provide the information to decide between bidding six and seven.