

Opener Bids 1♣ and Responder Bids 1NT to Show Five or More Spades.
Opener's 2♣ Asks, "Tell Me More."

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V. OPENER BIDS 1♣: Responder Bids 1NT to Show an Unbalanced, Positive Response with Five or More Spades.

A. Responder's 1NT shows a positive response with five or more spades but also denies equal or longer hearts. Opener has five rebids:

1. Opener's 2♣ asks Responder to "Tell Me More."
2. Opener's 2♦ is a *Two-Way Minor Suit Support Asking Bid*.
3. Opener's 2♥ is a *Support Asking Bid* in Hearts.
4. Opener's 2♠ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?") in spades.¹
5. Opener's 2NT is a *Point Asking Bid*.
6. Opener's 3♣, 3♦, and 3♥ are *Control Asking Bids* that also confirm spades as trump.

Responder has at least five spades. Opener must choose among *Tell Me More*, a *Support Asking Bid*, a *Point Asking Bid*, and a *Trump Asking Bid*. Ideally, Opener has spade support and moves directly to measure the quality of the suit. If Opener is relatively balanced, *Tell Me More* is usually more useful. If Opener, however, has a specific suit or is two suited in the minors, then a *Support Asking Bid* will clarify the situation.

1. This treatment assumes that 2♣, *Tell Me More*, is a less expensive means to ask for Responder's length. In other words, Opener should use 2♣ if he is unsure of the spade fit and 2♠ if he can commit to spades.

B. Opener's 2♣ asks Responder to "Tell Me More."

1. Summary.

- a. Responder's 2♦ shows exactly five spades, denies four hearts, and promises either a five-card or longer minor or a pair of four-card minors with a heart void. Responder has 5350, 5305, 5260, 5251, 5215, 5206, 5170, 5161, 5152, 5125, 5116, 5107, 5053, 5035, or 5044.
- b. Responder's 2♥ shows exactly five spades and four hearts: 5440, 5431, 5413, 5404.
- c. Responder's 2♠ shows exactly five spades without four hearts and without a five-card minor. Responder is 5332, 5323, 5233, 5242, 5224, 5143, 5134, 5341, or 5314.
- d. Responder's 2NT shows exactly six spades with four hearts: 6430, 6421, 6412, or 6403.
- e. Responder's 3♣ shows exactly six spades and 8-11 HCP but denies four hearts. 6340, 6331, 6322, 6313, 6304.
- f. Responder's 3♦ shows exactly six spades and 12+ HCP but denies four hearts. 6340, 6331, 6322, 6313, 6304.
- g. Responder's 3♥ shows exactly five hearts and six spades. 6520, 6511, 6502.
- h. Responder's 3♠ shows exactly seven spades without at least four hearts.
- i. Responder's 3NT five hearts and seven spades. 7510, 7501
- j. Responder's 4♣ shows six spades and five or more clubs.

Opener Bids 1♣ and Responder Bids 1NT to Show Five or More Spades.

Opener's 2♣ Asks, "Tell Me More." Responder's 2♥ shows exactly four hearts and five spades

- k. **Responder's 4♦** shows six spades and five or more diamonds.
- l. **Responder's 4♥** shows exactly six hearts and seven spades.

2. **Responder has no second, five-card suit.** If Responder has no second, five-card suit, the auction is likely to end with 3NT unless he has more than five spades, which may be good news.

a. **Responder's 2♠** shows exactly five spades without a five-card minor suit and without a four-card heart suit. He may, however, have a four-card minor suit. In standard bidding, opener will likely have opened a strong no trump, accepted a transfer to spades, and now have heard either 2NT or 3NT. If Opener wishes to play 3NT, he can sign off in game. Alternatively, if he wants to explore a minor suit slam, he can ask Responder for a four-card minor by rebidding 2NT. Responder will show a four card minor with or without a side singleton. The hands with the singleton take the cheaper bids to facilitate *Control Asking Bids*. If Responder has no four-card minor, then he answers 3NT.

- 1. **Responder's 3♣** shows five spades, four clubs, and a side singleton. Responder has 5134 or 5314.
- 2. **Responder's 3♦** shows five spades, four diamonds, and a side singleton. Responder has 5143 or 5341.
- 3. **Responder's 3♥** shows exactly 5224.
- 4. **Responder's 3♠** shows exactly 5242.
- 5. **Responder's 3NT** shows 5332, 5323, or 5233.

b. **Responder has six spades.**

- 1. **Responder's 3♣** shows exactly six spades and 8-11 HCP but denies four hearts.
- 2. **Responder's 3♦** shows exactly six spades and 12+ HCP but denies four hearts.
- 3. **Responder's 2NT** shows at least six spades but also promises exactly four hearts.

c. **Responder's 3♠** shows exactly seven spades.

- 1. **Opener's 3NT** is to play.
- 2. **Opener's 4♣ and 4♦** are *Control Asking Bids*.
- 3. **Opener's 4♥ and 4♠** are to play.
- 4. Opener's 4NT is *Roman Keycard Blackwood* for hearts and spades with six key cards.
- 5. **Opener's 5♣ and 5♦** are *Exclusion Two Suit Roman Keycard Blackwood*.

3. **Responder has at least four hearts but longer spades.**

a. **Responder's 2♥** shows exactly four hearts and exactly five spades.

- 1. **Opener's 2♠** is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* and asks *How faces* in spades?
- 2. **Opener's 2NT** is a *Point Asking Bid*.
- 3. **Opener's 3♣** is a *Control Asking Bid*.²
- 4. **Opener's 3♦** is a *Control Asking Bid*.

2. Do 3♣ and 3♦ here imply a four-four or better heart fit?

Opener Bids 1♣ and Responder Bids 1NT to Show Five or More Spades.
Responder also has clubs, diamonds or both.

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5. Opener's 3♥ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* and asks *How many faces* in hearts?
 - b. Responder's 2NT shows exactly four hearts with at least six spades.
 1. Opener's 3♣ is a *Control Asking Bid*.³
 2. Opener's 3♦ is a *Control Asking Bid*.
 3. Opener's 3♥ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* and asks *How many faces* in hearts?
 4. Opener's 3♠ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* and asks *How many faces* in spades?
 - c. Responder's 3♥ shows exactly five hearts and six spades.
 1. Opener's 3♠ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid (How many faces?)*.
 2. Opener's 3NT is to play.
 3. Opener's 4♣ and 4♦ are *Control Asking Bids*.
 4. Opener's 4♥ and 4♠ are to play.
 5. Opener's 4NT is *Roman Keycard Blackwood* for hearts and spades with six key cards.
 6. Opener's 5♣ and 5♦ are *Exclusion Two Suit Roman Keycard Blackwood*.
 - d. Responder's 3NT shows five hearts and at least seven spades.
 1. Opener's 4♣ and 4♦ are *Control Asking Bids*.
2. Opener's 4♥ and 4♠ are to play.
3. Opener's 4NT is *Roman Keycard Blackwood* for hearts and spades with six key cards. With two keycards and both queens, Responder replies 5NT.
 - e. Responder's 4♥ shows six hearts and seven spades.
 1. Opener's 4♠ is to play.
 2. Opener's 4NT is 3014 *two-suited Roman Keycard*. With Responder holding two voids, the only cards of interest are the ace and king in each major. Responder bids 5NT with two key cards and both queens.
 3. Opener's 5♣ and 5♦ set the corresponding major as trump, and asks for the three key cards available to Responder.
 4. Responder's 2♦ shows he has something in one or more minors.

Responder's 2♦ shows exactly five spades, denies four hearts, and promises at least one minor suit. Responder holds 5071, 5062, 5053, 5044, 5035, 5062, 5071, 5170, 5161, 5152, 5143, 5134, 5125, 5116, 5107, 5260, 5251, 5242, 5224, 5215, 5206, 5350, 5341, 5314, or 5305. Opener can accept spades as trump, ask for point count, or inquire further about the minors. Because Responder's 2♦ promises at least one minor suit that could be very long, Opener should always ask for the additional information rather than assume flattish shape in Responder's hand. The one cost to asking Responder to tell Opener still more is that Opener cannot use 2NT as a *Point Asking Bid*. It is more important, however, to determine the correct strain than the total strength, for strength is also a function of fit. For example, assume that Opener has

3. Do 3♣ and 3♦ here imply a four-four or better heart fit?

Opener Bids 1♣ and Responder Bids 1NT to Show Five or More Spades.
Responder also has clubs, diamonds or both.

♠Kx, ♥KQJx, ♦Jxx, ♣AQxx and hears this auction: 1-1NT, 2♣-2♦. If Opener then jumps to 3NT but Responder has ♠QJ1098, ♥Ax, ♦-, ♣KJxxxx, then Opener will have to explain why 3NT down one is better than 6♣ making.

- a. After 1♣-1NT, 2♣-2♦, Opener's 2♠ sets spades as trump and is a *second trump asking bid* (How many faces?). Opener might hold three spades and four hearts and have wanted to look for a four-four fit before settling on a five-three fit.
 - b. After 1♣-1NT, 2♣-2♦, Opener's 2NT is a *Point Asking Bid*. Opener must be wary that Responder may have extreme shape when he bids 2♦. Unless Opener has sufficient strength to search for a no trump slam, the *Point Asking Bid* may risk more than it can gain. One risk is a lead directing double of an artificial response. Another is creating inferences to help the defenders count Opener's strength. If Opener signs off in 3NT, Responder can continue with invitational bids of 4NT or 5NT or ask about Opener's strength with 4♦.
 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 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.
- c. Opener's suit bids {4♥-5♦} are *Control Asking Bids* for face cards only.
- c. After 1♣-1NT, 2♣-2♦, Opener's 2♥ asks "*Tell Me Still More.*" Responder has promised the equivalent of two bids in the minors. Opener should no longer be interested in spades as a trump suit.
 1. Responder's 2NT shows both minors. Responder has 5044. Opener's 3♣ or 3♦ chooses a trump suit and is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* (How many faces) because Responder's length is known exactly. Opener's 3♠ is a *Control Asking Bid* that leaves Responder ignorant of the intended trump suit.
 2. Responder's 2♠ shows one five card minor. Opener can ask which one with 2NT. Responder uses split range calls to show both his suit and his strength.
 - a. 3♣ shows five clubs and 8-11 HCP. Responder has 4315, 4225, or 4135.
 - b. 3♦ show five diamonds and 8-11 HCP. Responder has 4351, 4252, or 4153.
 - c. 3♥ shows five clubs and 12+ HCP. Responder has 4315, 4225, or 4135.
 - d. 3♠ shows five diamonds and 12+ HCP. Responder has 4351, 4252, or 4153.
 3. Responder's three level bids show longer suits.

Opener Bids 1♣ and Responder Bids 1NT to Show Five or More Spades.
Responder's four level bids show big two-suited hands.

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- a. **Responder's 3♣** shows a six card club suit with only five spades. Responder has 5206, 5116, or 5026.
- b. **Responder's 3♦** shows a six card diamond suit with only five spades. Responder has 5260, 5161, or 5062.
- c. **Responder's 3♥** shows a seven card club suit with only five spades. Responder has 5107 or 5017.
- d. **Responder's 3♠** shows a seven card diamond suit with only five spades. Responder has 5170 or 5071. **December 2, 2003**

5. Responder's four level bids show big two-suited hands.

- a. **Responder's 4♣** shows six spades and at least five clubs.
 1. **Opener's 4♦ and 4♥** are *Control Asking Bids*.
 2. **Opener's 4♠ and 5♣** are to play.
 3. **Opener's 4NT** is *Two-Suited Roman Keycard Blackwood*.
 4. **Opener's 5♦ and 5♥** are *Exclusion Two Suit Roman Keycard Blackwood*.
- b. **Responder's 4♦** shows six spades and at least five diamonds.
 1. **Opener's 4♥** is a *Control Asking Bid*.
 2. **Opener's 4♠ and 5♦** are to play.
 3. **Opener's 4NT** is *Two-Suited Roman Keycard Blackwood*.

4. Opener's 5♣ and 5♥ are *Exclusion Two Suit Roman Keycard Blackwood*.

C. After 1♣-1NT, Opener's 2♦ asks Responder for Three Card Support in the Minors.

This should be a rare bid. Opener should be looking for a minor suit slam. Because Responder will answer positively with only three cards in a minor, Opener should be five-five or better in the minors so that three card support in either minor produces an eight card fit with a five card side suit in each hand, for additional tricks and discards. If Opener has but one minor suit, it may be better to use 2♣ to ask Responder for more information. If responder has four cards in Opener's minor, it will emerge. Alternatively, Responder may have enough spades to provide a fit. Finally, in the absence of a fit, the prospects for no trump will be clarified, albeit occasionally to direct a lead, more often to confirm stoppers. If Opener has a minor suit of six or more cards, it may be more profitable simply to use the *Support Asking Bid* of 3♣ or 3♦ immediately. If Responder has no support, Opener's retreat to 3♠ will test Responder's length.

1. In summary, Responder uses *split range responses*:

- a. Responder's 2♥ denies holding either three clubs or three diamonds.
- b. Responder's 2♠ shows both minors. Opener's subsequent 2NT is a *Point Asking Bid*.
- c. Responder's 3♣ shows clubs, denies diamonds, and promises 8-11 DP.
- d. Responder's 3♦ shows diamonds, denies clubs, and promises 8-11 DP.
- e. Responder's 3♥ shows clubs, denies diamonds, and

Opener Bids 1♣ and Responder Bids 1NT to Show Five or More Spades.
 After 1♣-1NT, Opener's 2♦ asks Responder for Three Card Support in the Minors.

promises 12+ DP.

- f. Responder's 3♠ shows diamonds, denies clubs, and promises 12+DP.

2. **Responder's 2♥** denies three card support. Responder has neither three clubs nor three diamonds. He must therefore have at least nine cards in the majors, including at least five spades.

- a. **Opener's 2♠** is a *First Trump Asking Bid* in Spades (*How many cards?*).⁴ Responder's first step, 2NT shows exactly five.⁵ Following Responder's 2NT:

1. **Opener's 3♣, 3♦, and 3♥** are *Control Asking Bids*.
2. Opener's 3♠ is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* (*How Many Faces?*).
3. Opener's 3NT is to play.

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

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 Responder's 3NT,

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4. Opener first sought support for a minor suit. Now, in returning to spades, the first inquiry is for length to determine if a fit exists. In contrast, 1♣-1NT, 2♠ declares an adequate fit and immediately asks for faces.
5. Do we want to use 3♣ here as a *Point Asking Bid* or as a *Second Support Asking Bid* in clubs? Further, would 3♥ be a *Control Asking Bid* or ask for a stopper?

- a. **Opener's 4♣** is Gerber (1,2,3,40)
- 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.

3. **Responder's 2♠** shows both at least three clubs and at least three diamonds.

- a. **Opener's 2NT** is a *Point Asking Bid*.

- b. **Opener's 3♣ or 3♦** is a *Special Support Asking Bid*. Because Responder has shown at least three card support, good trump support for Opener's minor will begin with at least xxxx or Qxx. **** (or should it simply be a *Second Support Asking Bid*?) ** Thus:**

1. **First Step (3♦ or 3♥):** xxx and 8-11 DP.
2. **Second Step (3♥ or 3♠):** xxx and 12+ DP.
3. **Third Step (3♠ or 3NT):** xxxx, Qxx, or better and 8-11 DP.
4. **Fourth Step (3NT or 4♣):** xxxx, Qxx, or better and 12+ DP.
5. **Fifth Step (4♣ or 4♦):** AKx, AQx, KQx, or better and 12+ DP.

4. **Responder's 3♣** shows at least three clubs, at least five spades and 8-11 HCP, but denies three diamonds.

- a. **Opener's 3♦** is a *Control Asking Bid* in diamonds.

Opener Bids 1♣ and Responder Bids 1NT to Show Five or More Spades.
Opener's 3♣, 3♦, and 3♥ over 1NT are *Control Asking Bids*.

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Opener implies clubs are trump if he later uses some form of *Roman Key Card Blackwood*. If Opener has a long diamond suit headed by the AKQ, he can use a *Control Asking Bid* to determine Responder's length in diamonds. If he doesn't have that good a suit, he should not plan on slam in diamonds.

- b. **Opener's 3♥** is a *Control Asking Bid* in hearts. Opener implies clubs are trump if he later uses some form of *Roman Key Card Blackwood*.
 - c. **Opener's 3♠** is a *First Trump Asking Bid* in Spades (*How Many Cards*).
 - d. **Opener's 3NT** is to play.
5. **Responder's 3♦** shows at least three diamonds, at least five spades, and 8-11 HCP, but denies three clubs.
- a. **Opener's 3♥** is a *Control Asking Bid* in hearts. Opener implies diamonds are trump if he later uses some form of *Roman Key Card Blackwood*.
 - b. **Opener's 3♠** is a *First Trump Asking Bid* in Spades (*How Many Cards*).
 - c. **Opener's 3NT** is to play.
6. **Responder's 3♥** shows at least three clubs, at least five spades and 12+ HCP, but denies three diamonds.
7. **Responder's 3♠** shows at least three diamonds, at least

five spades, and 12+ HCP, but denies three clubs.

- D. **Opener's 2♥** is a *Support Asking Bid* in hearts. Responder needs three trump to show support.
- E. **Opener's 2♠** is a *Second Trump Asking Bid* ("How Many Faces?"). By asking about spades immediately, Opener—in this one instance—confirms a spade fit. If opener is unsure of the spade fit, 2♣, *Tell Me More*, will be less expensive.
- F. **Opener's 2NT** is a *Point Asking Bid*.
 - 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 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.
 - c. **Opener's suit bids {4♥-5♦}** are *Control Asking Bids* for face cards only.
- G. **Opener's 3♣, 3♦, and 3♥** are *Control Asking Bids* that also confirm spades as trump.

January 6, 2004