



Larry Teaches Modern Bidding
(Volume 2 of 3)

Opener's Rebid



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Introduction

Many years ago, I was teaching a seminar with my friend and fellow teacher, Jerry Helms. He boldly stated to the class: "Opener's Rebid is the most important bid of the auction." I had never heard it put that way, but I have come to agree with him 100%.

In Volume 1, we covered the Opening Bid and the Response. In Volume 3, we will cover the fourth bid of the auction (and competitive auctions). Here in Volume 2, the entire book is devoted to Opener's Rebid, and could have been subtitled "the most important bid of the auction."

Why so important? Because when we open 1♣, for example, partner is in the dark. We could have a flat minimum. We could have almost enough for a strong two-bid. We could have three clubs or we could have seven or more clubs. We could be 6-4. We could have 18-19 balanced. It is on opener's second bid that we hone in on both our distribution (flat or a long suit or multi-suited) and our strength (minimum, medium, maximum).

When opener chooses his rebid, he will jumpshift or reverse (two prominent topics in this book) with a very big hand. He will jump in his (or responder's) suit with a medium hand. He will do neither of the above with a minimum. With a balanced hand, his rebid will be in notrump. With six or more of his suit, he will repeat it. With a two- (or three-) suiter, he will bid a new suit.

If you want to explore fancy conventions, you've bought the wrong book. What you'll see here are bidding essentials. Too many players make egregious mistakes with opener's rebid. You can't be a good bidder if you don't know the material in this book like the back of your hand.

Note: This material originated in the ACBL Bulletin running from 2017-2021. The content in this book has been updated and enhanced with added and modified quiz questions.

Opener's Rebid After 1♣--1♦

In all auctions in this book, the opponents are passing. In Volume 3, they will annoy us by entering the auction. This section, the auction starts:

<u>OPENER</u>	<u>RESPONDER</u>
1♣	1♦
??	

The opener can't pass, since the 1♦ bid is unlimited (responder could have, say 17 points!).* I've seen experienced players (who should know better) open 1♣ with, say: ♠QJ5 ♥KJ2 ♦Q43 ♣KJ43 and then pass their partner's 1♦ response! I ask why and they tell me because they have a minimum. You can't do that! The 1♦ bidder could have a huge hand.

With his second bid, opener tries to show two things:

- 1) Strength (minimum, medium, maximum)
- 2) Shape (balanced – or maybe one long suit, or more than one long suit)

Here is a run-through of what opener's rebids after 1♣--1♦ show:

Pass: Not allowed (unless your partner is a passed-hand and therefore limited).

1♥ or 1♠: Four cards in that major (with 4-4 in the majors, bid hearts first), but not a flat/notrump hand. In the modern style, after a 1♦ response, it is recommended that with a notrump (balanced) hand, opener skip over a four-card major. In other words, rebid notrump with: ♠KJ76 ♥Q1032 ♦KJ ♣A64 (rebid 1NT) or ♠AJ ♥KQ87 ♦K103 ♣AJ32 (rebid 2NT). Opener shows the four-card major only without notrump shape. For example, show the major with: ♠AQ32 ♥K86 ♦4 ♣K10874 (bid 1♠) or ♠8 ♥KQ32 ♦87 ♣AQ9762 (bid 1♥).

1NT: Any balanced 12-14 HCP hand. Opener could easily have a four-card major(s). The 1NT rebid does not promise stoppers in all suits. It simply means: "I would have opened 1NT, but I don't have 15-17; I have 12-14." Rebid 1NT with: ♠KQ85 ♥AJ52 ♦K2 ♣965 or ♠1076 ♥852 ♦AK2 ♣AQ76. This is all based on the assumption that the player who responded 1♦ won't have a four-card major (or will be strong enough to take another bid and show it later in the auction).

2♣: Six or more clubs and a minimum hand (roughly 11-15 counting useful distribution). No four-card major. Rebid 2♣ with: ♠K96 ♥4 ♦Q85 ♣AQJ752 or ♠AJ2 ♥KQ3 ♦3 ♣K109765. Do not make the common error of repeating a five-card club suit. With: ♠KJ2 ♥Q76 ♦J2 ♣AJ1087, rebid 1NT.

2♦: Four-card diamond support and a minimum (this rarely occurs). Maybe something like: ♠98 ♥A2 ♦K1076 ♣AJ1032.

2♥/2♠: Four-card suit and a very strong hand (roughly 19+ counting useful distribution). This promises an unbalanced hand (with a balanced strong hand, the rebid would be 2NT as below) and is forcing to game. Examples: ♠AQ65 ♥2 ♦A5 ♣AKJ876 (bid 2♠) or ♠-- ♥AQJ2 ♦A98 ♣AQ10762 (bid 2♥). This rebid is called a “jumpshift”; when opener skips a level and changes to a new suit, it is forcing to game.

2NT: 18-19 balanced (says nothing about stoppers and could have four-card majors). This just means you would have opened 1NT if you had 15-17, but you have 18-19. It is not forcing (responder can pass with a dead minimum).

Examples: ♠AQ2 ♥KQ4 ♦AKJ ♣8654 or ♠KJ42 ♥K2 ♦K86 ♣AKQ2.

3♣: Six or more clubs and a medium hand (roughly 16-18 counting useful distribution). No four-card major. Rebid 3♣ with: ♠A76 ♥3 ♦A76 ♣AQJ1054 or ♠A75 ♥AJ ♦2 ♣AQ109763.

3♦: Four-card diamond support and a medium hand (this rarely occurs). Maybe something like: ♠A76 ♥2 ♦AQ54 ♣AK762.

3♥/3♠: Don't make these bids. There is no need to jumpshift *and* reverse (this term will be explained on page 10).

3NT: Because a 2NT rebid shows 18-19 and a 2NT opener shows 20-21, this bid doesn't make sense with a balanced hand. Therefore, it is defined as a very good trick-taking hand (long clubs and stoppers in the unbid suits) – something like: ♠K2 ♥AJ ♦72 ♣AKQ10862. In practice, it often means “19 balanced and I didn't trust my partner to know that 2NT shows such a hand.”

4♣ or higher: Don't make these bids.

* If the responder was a passed hand (therefore limited), opener is allowed to pass – for example:

<u>OPENER</u>	<u>RESPONDER</u>
---------------	------------------

--	Pass
----	------

1♣	1♦
----	----

Pass...(with something like: ♠Q2 ♥KQ2 ♦K64 ♣Q8632).

Advanced Study

The style advocated above is called “Walsh.” This is the modern (and recommended) method whereby the focus is on finding a 4-4 major fit. After a 1♣ opening, the responder will skip diamonds (unless he plans to bid twice) to show a four-card major. Accordingly, when it starts 1♣--1♦, the opening bidder should rebid 1NT with a 12-14 balanced hand. There is no fear of missing a 4-4 major fit. Either responder has no four-card major, or he is strong enough (opening bid strength) to show it on his next turn. This takes a little study and getting used to, but you might as well use the modern way.

QUIZ

What is opener’s rebid on this auction:

<u>OPENER</u>	<u>RESPONDER</u>
---------------	------------------

1♣	1♦
----	----

??

- 1) ♠KJ3 ♥1087 ♦A2 ♣KQ654
- 2) ♠QJ2 ♥KQ2 ♦2 ♣AJ9876
- 3) ♠A1076 ♥K2 ♦3 ♣AQ9765
- 4) ♠4 ♥A32 ♦A654 ♣A7654
- 5) ♠AK76 ♥J654 ♦2 ♣AJ102
- 6) ♠AK76 ♥J102 ♦Q43 ♣AKQ
- 7) ♠-- ♥AKJ4 ♦A32 ♣KQJ765
- 8) ♠K32 ♥AJ ♦Q ♣AKQ7654
- 9) ♠KQ1087 ♥A2 ♦-- ♣AKJ876
- 10) ♠K2 ♥2 ♦KJ2 ♣AKJ10765
- 11) ♠KJ76 ♥J876 ♦K2 ♣AQ2
- 12) ♠4 ♥A2 ♦AQ87 ♣AK8765

ANSWERS

- 1) 1NT. A balanced 12-14 (don't repeat the five-card club suit).
- 2) 2♣. A minimum hand with six-plus clubs.
- 3) 1♠. Four spades (not balanced, wide point range).
- 4) 2♦. Four-card support and a minimum.
- 5) 1♥. Show four-card majors up the line with an unbalanced hand.
- 6) 2NT. 18-19 balanced (with or without a four-card major).
- 7) 2♥. GF (Game-forcing) natural jumpshift (unbalanced hand).
- 8) 3NT. Strong hand with very good long clubs and stoppers in the majors.
- 9) 2♠. Opening 1♣ with the intention of bidding spades twice was fine, but this hand is so strong that opener should jumpshift (GF) and next turn repeat the spades (showing 6-5).
- 10) 3♣. Shows six-plus good clubs and a medium hand.
- 11) 1NT. Remember that in modern bridge, it is responder's job to show the major. He either doesn't have one, or will show it next turn.
- 12) 3♦. Four-card support and a medium hand.

To Purchase this book, click [here](#).