



# Bidding Basics

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## Opener's rebid after high-level responses to 1♣

In this installment, we look at the auction where partner has responded to 1♣ on the two level or higher.

**After 1♣-2♣.** Responder shows 6-10 points in support, no four-card major and usually at least five-card club support. With a minimum, opener will tend to pass. Examples:

♠K Q 6 5 ♥Q J 3 ♦A J 3 ♣J 3 2  
♠K Q J 6 ♥A J 6 5 ♦5 4 ♣Q 3 2.

Don't correct to 2NT with a flat minimum. A bid of a new suit is natural and forward-going (looking for game). For example, bid 2♠ with:

♠A Q J 2 ♥6 5 ♦K 2 ♣A K J 7 6.

Bid 2♦ with:

♠K Q 2 ♥3 ♦A Q J 3 ♣A J 6 5 4.

A bid of 2NT is also inviting game, likely 18-19 balanced. Example:

♠K Q 10 8 ♥A K J 7 ♦K 2 ♣Q 4 2.

A bid of 3♣ is not inviting game - it is just to make life tougher on the opponents. Example:

♠A 4 2 ♥3 ♦K Q 4 3 ♣K J 10 7 6

(Passing 2♣ would make it too easy for them to find their known heart fit.)

A bid of 3NT would show a very good hand with stoppers (enough to play in 3NT opposite a minimum raise). Example:

♠K Q J ♥A Q ♦K J 2 ♣K 7 6 5 2.

**After 1♣-2♦/2♥/2♠.** Your rebid depends on what responder is showing. Most play responder's jump shift as weak. If so, opener would usually pass.

Opener can raise with support (pre-emptively), bid a new suit (forcing and looking for game), or bid game. After 1♣-2♥, pass with these:

♠K Q J 2 ♥2 ♦K 3 2 ♣A Q 7 6 5  
♠A Q 2 ♥5 3 ♦K J 2 ♣K 6 5 4 3.

Raise to 3♥ with these:

♠A 2 ♥K Q 2 ♦K 3 2 ♣J 7 6 5 4  
♠9 ♥Q 9 4 ♦A 4 3 ♣K Q 8 4 3 2.

Raise to 4♥ with these:

♠A 2 ♥K J 6 ♦A 2 ♣A 7 6 5 3 2  
♠4 ♥K J 3 2 ♦A 8 2 ♣K J 6 5 4.

In the latter example, 4♥ likely will go down, but with 10 known trumps, it is a good tactical bid.

Bid 2♠ (a new suit) with:

♠A K 6 5 ♥2 ♦A Q ♣A Q 10 4 3 2,

natural but with a very strong hand.

*Note:* If you play strong jump-shift responses, that obviously changes everything written above.

**After 1♣-2NT.** Your rebid depends on what responder is showing. Most play this jump as natural and invitational (no four-card major). With a balanced minimum, opener passes. Examples:

♠K 4 3 ♥J 7 6 ♦J 10 7 ♣A Q J 6  
♠J 3 ♥6 5 4 ♦K Q 2 ♣A Q 10 7 6.

With a reasonable, balanced minimum (a nice 13 or 14), opener can raise to 3NT. Examples:

♠K 10 ♥K 10 2 ♦5 4 3 ♣A Q J 9 7  
♠A Q 10 ♥K 10 2 ♦Q 10 4 ♣Q J 10 6.

With a minimum offshape hand, 3♣ can be bid to play. Examples:

♠3 ♥A 3 2 ♦Q 5 4 2 ♣A J 10 7 6  
♠3 2 ♥3 2 ♦A K 2 ♣K J 5 4 3 2.

With enough for game, opener can bid game, or bid a new suit on the three level to further explore. For example, bid 3NT with these:

♠K Q J ♥K Q 10 ♦K Q ♣Q 10 7 6 5  
♠A J ♥K 2 ♦J 2 ♣A J 8 7 6 5 2.

Bid 3♥ with:

♠5 ♥A Q 3 2 ♦K 2 ♣K Q 10 7 6 5.

*Note:* If you play the 2NT response as forcing (13-plus), that obviously changes everything written above.

**After 1♣-3♣.** Responder shows 11-12 points in support, no four-card major and presumably at least five-card club support. With a minimum, opener will usually pass. Examples:

♠A 6 5 2 ♥Q 8 3 ♦A J 3 ♣Q 3 2  
♠K Q J 6 ♥A J 6 5 ♦5 4 ♣Q 3 2.

Opener's bid of a new suit is natural and looking for the right game (or possibly a stop in 4♣). Bid 3♦ with:

♠7 ♥A Q 2 ♦A Q 3 2 ♣Q 10 8 7 2

or 3♠ with:

♠A Q J ♥4 3 ♦J 10 ♣A J 10 7 6 2.

With stoppers and extras, bid 3NT. Examples:

♠K 10 4 ♥A J 2 ♦A J 2 ♣J 10 8 7  
♠A Q ♥K 2 ♦K 6 5 ♣K 10 7 6 5 2.

Opener can also jump to 5♣ with shape and a decent opening bid, for example:

♠3 ♥K32 ♦A32 ♣AJ7654.

**After 1♣–3NT.** Assuming this shows 13–15 balanced, opener will usu-

ally pass. However, don't think of 3NT as a "closeout bid." If opener has 19, he shouldn't pass. Raise to 6NT with:

♠A2 ♥AQ2 ♦KJ2 ♣AJ876.

Raise to 4NT to invite slam with, for example:

♠QJ8 ♥KQ2 ♦AK3 ♣A1087.

## BIDDING BASICS QUIZ

What is your call after partner raises your 1♣ opening to 2♣?

1. ♠AQJ6 ♥10543 ♦32 ♣AQ7
2. ♠2 ♥AKQ ♦J765 ♣Q10765

What is your call after partner responds 2♠ to your 1♣ opening?

3. ♠Q1076 ♥2 ♦AQ7 ♣KJ765

What is your call after partner responds 2NT to your 1♣ opening?

4. ♠KQJ7 ♥KQJ7 ♦32 ♣J32
5. ♠43 ♥3 ♦AKJ7 ♣AQ10875

What is your call after partner responds 3♣ to your 1♣ opening?

6. ♠KQJ7 ♥KQJ7 ♦32 ♣J32
7. ♠— ♥5432 ♦A65 ♣AK7654

What is your call after partner responds 3NT to your 1♣ opening?

8. ♠A2 ♥K ♦J765 ♣KQ10765

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Pass. No reason to go further.
2. 3♣. Preemptive; maybe you can keep them out of their spade fit.
3. 4♠. With 10 trumps, the four level is a good level to reach.
4. Pass. You have a minimum and no reason to expect to make a game.
5. 3♦. Describe your excellent hand, and see if partner still wants to play notrump.
6. Pass. See No. 4 (same hand, in fact).
7. 5♣. No reason to want to play notrump. Exploring for a slam is also a possibility.
8. Pass. Enough reasons to want to play notrump. ■

