



Bidding Basics

BY LARRY COHEN larryco.com

Opener's rebid after 1♦ -1♠

This month, we examine opener's rebid after this start:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
?	

Opener can't pass because 1♠ is unlimited. Responder could have, say, 17 points!

With his second bid, opener tries to show two things: strength (minimum, medium or maximum) and shape (balanced, long diamonds, or diamonds and another suit).

Here is a run-through of what opener's rebids mean:

1NT: Any balanced 12–14 HCP hand, no four-card spade support (but could easily have four hearts). Stoppers are not promised. Examples:

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

Don't make the common mistakes of bidding 2♥ with a minimum hand or repeating a five-card diamond suit.

2♣: Both minors, typically five-plus diamonds and four or more clubs. This could be a dead minimum, but also could be quite a decent hand, up to about 17–18 points counting useful distribution.

Occasionally, the clubs will be longer than the diamonds. This would be because 1♦ was opened for fear of a rebid problem. With, say:

♠4 ♥K J 2 ♦K Q 10 6 ♣K 10 6 5 2,
many players would open the bidding 1♦, planning to rebid 2♣ after a likely 1♠ response (because any other rebid

would be a worse lie). However, 1♦ and then 2♣ is typically longer (or equal length) diamonds, something like these:

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

2♦: Six or more diamonds and a minimum hand (roughly 11–15 counting useful distribution). No four-card spade support. Rebid 2♦ with these:

♠6 ♥K 9 4 2 ♦A Q J 7 5 2 ♣Q 8
♠A 2 ♥K J 3 ♦K 10 9 7 6 5 ♣Q 3.

Again (reminder is needed!) do not make the common error of repeating a five-card diamond suit (or reversing into hearts with a minimum).

2♥: A “reverse.” This is a tough topic for newer players, but there is no way to avoid the subject. You can't say, “I don't play reverses.” There have already been several of them in this series – because they just come up. When, after a one-level response, opener rebids two of a suit higher-ranking than the suit he opened, he has reversed. A reverse is a natural bid, so in the auction 1♦ -1♠; 2♥, opener shows four cards in hearts. This reverse implies five or more diamonds and an unbalanced hand. With a balanced hand, the opening or rebid would have been in notrump. A reverse is forcing one round (but not to game). It shows approximately 17-plus counting useful distribution. Examples of 1♦ -1♠; 2♥:

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

2♠: Typically, four-card support (rarely three) with a minimum (up to about 15 counting useful distribution). The opener can be balanced or unbalanced. Examples:

♠K J 7 6 ♥4 ♦A Q 3 2 ♣Q 10 3 2
♠K Q 5 4 ♥K J 7 6 ♦K 8 6 ♣J 4.

When would opener raise with only three spades? If he held an awkward hand where it is the lesser of evils. For example, with:

♠K Q 8 ♥K Q J 2 ♦J 7 6 5 4 ♣2.

The alternatives (1NT with a low singleton, repeating the ugly five-card diamond suit or reversing to 2♥ with a minimum) are all unpalatable.

2NT: 18–19 balanced (says nothing about stoppers and could have four hearts). Don't make this bid with four-card spade support. This rebid 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). Don't reverse into 2♥ with a balanced (notrump) hand. Examples:

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

3♣: A jump shift, so it's strong, game forcing and natural. Opener will be unbalanced with both minors. Examples:

♠A 3 2 ♥— ♦A K J 6 5 ♣A Q 10 6 3
♠K 2 ♥2 ♦A K J 6 5 4 ♣A K 10 6.
3♦: Six or more diamonds and a medium hand (roughly 16–18, counting useful distribution). No four-card major. Rebid 3♦ with these: ➤

THE LONGEST DAY

alzheimer's association

IN 2019, YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR LONGEST DAY!

Clubs can select one day between **June 16-23** to run unlimited Alzheimer's games and help the fight.

CLUBS / TEACHERS

Visit alz.org/acbl and select "start a new team" to officially register to participate. Use the code "ACBL" for free registration!

Sanctions are not required.

Clubs can select only one date for The Longest Day games.

Register to receive a T-shirt and event day kit from the Alzheimer's Association.

PLAYERS

Ask your local club if they plan to participate. If you have a passion for the cause, offer to spearhead fundraising.



acbl.org/longestday

♠6 ♥A73 ♦AQJ1054 ♣A76
♠A7 ♥AJ2 ♦AQ109763 ♣2.

3♥: Don't make this bid (a jump and a reverse). If strong with hearts, just reverse into 2♥.

3♠: Four-card spade support and roughly 16–18 in support. Examples:
♠AQ65 ♥KQ107 ♦AK8 ♣32
♠AKJ7 ♥52 ♦AQ765 ♣K2

3NT: Because a 2NT rebid shows 18–19 and a 2NT opener shows 20–21, this bid isn't needed for a balanced hand. Therefore, it is defined as a very good trick-taking hand (long diamonds and stoppers in the unbid suits), something like:

♠54 ♥AJ ♦AKQ10862 ♣K2.

4♣: Unless your partner will know this is a splinter bid (very strong hand with four spades and short clubs), don't make this bid.

4♦: Don't make this bid (though if you must know, it shows six diamonds, four spades and a game-forcing hand).

4♥: Same as 4♣ (but with short hearts).

4♠: Very strong raise with 4-card spade support (enough for game opposite a 6-count). This is not a "closeout bid." It shows a strong hand such as:

♠AQJ2 ♥32 ♦AKQ43 ♣K2.

When responder's a passed hand: If the responder was a passed hand (therefore limited), opener is allowed to pass the 1♠ response (Pass-1♦; 1♠-Pass) with a hand such as:

♠AQ10 ♥863 ♦KQJ8 ♣1043.

BIDDING BASICS QUIZ

What is opener's rebid after the auction begins 1♦-1♠?

1. ♠KJ3 ♥AQJ2 ♦8762 ♣Q10
2. ♠KQ108 ♥J1032 ♦A32 ♣K2
3. ♠5 ♥A32 ♦AQ432 ♣K1076
4. ♠52 ♥A ♦AQJ8532 ♣K107
5. ♠10765 ♥4 ♦AKQJ8 ♣AQ2
6. ♠KQ2 ♥J65 ♦AK105 ♣AJ6
7. ♠KJ76 ♥A ♦AK765 ♣A65
8. ♠- ♥A654 ♦QJ9876 ♣K32

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 1NT. 12–14 balanced. (Raise with three spades only if absolutely stuck.)
2. 2♠. Normal minimum raise.
3. 2♣. Both minors (usually at least 5–4). Don't rebid 1NT with a singleton.
4. 3♦. Invitational with six-plus diamonds.
5. 3♠. Invitational (16–18) four-card spade raise.
6. 2NT. 18–19 balanced (not required to have everything stopped).
7. 4♠. A very strong four-card spade raise.
8. 2♦. Not strong enough to reverse into hearts.



Memphis TN (NABC) • March 21–23
education@acbl.org

Gatlinburg TN (Regional) • April 23–25
education@acbl.org

Cincinnati OH (Regional) • June 3–4
Steve Moese: moesefamily@aol.com

Penticton BC (Regional) • June 9–10
marv.norden@gmail.com

WORKSHOPS

acbl.org/bpteacher