



# Bidding Basics

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## Opener's rebid after higher-level responses to 1♦

In this installment, we look at the auction where partner has responded to 1♦ on the two level or higher. Disclaimer: There are some topics in this installment where no 100% agreed method exists. My suggestions, however, are based on the way the majority plays in the 21st century.

### After 1♦ -2♣

Assuming 2♣ is natural and game-forcing, this is not a situation where opener needs to show strength. Opener should show shape instead. This is a rare situation in bidding where opener can actually rebid a five-card (or longer) diamond suit. In a 2/1 game-forcing auction, don't pay attention to "reverses." Bid a major with either length or strength there. For example, after 1♦ -2♣, bid 2♥ with:

♠5 4 ♥A Q 7 6 ♦K 10 7 6 ♣A 3 2.

This also denies five-plus diamonds.

Bid 2NT with a flat, notrump-looking hand such as:

♠Q 10 7 ♥K J 7 ♦A J 5 4 ♣K 9 2.

### After 1♦ -2♦

Responder shows 6-10 points in support, no four-card major and at least four-card diamond support. (Note: Many experienced players use "inverted minors," but we are dealing here with "standard.") With a minimum, opener will tend to pass. Example:

♠K Q 6 ♥A J 6 5 ♦J 8 5 4 ♣Q 3.

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 ♦A K 10 7 6 ♣K 2.

Bid 2♥ with:

♠2 ♥A K J ♦A K J 9 3 2 ♣6 5 4.

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

♠Q 10 8 5 ♥A K J 7 ♦K Q 2 ♣K 2.

A bid of 3♦ is not invitational, it is just to make life tougher on the opponents. Example:

♠A 4 2 ♥3 ♦K Q 4 3 2 ♣K J 10 6.

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

Opener's rebid of 3NT would show a very good hand with stoppers (enough to play in 3NT opposite a minimum raise):

♠K Q 10 ♥A Q ♦K J 7 6 2 ♣K 7 6.

### After 1♦ -2♥/2♠/3♣

Most play responder's jump shifts 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 this:

♠A Q 2 ♥5 ♦K 6 5 4 3 ♣K J 3 2.

Raise preemptively to 3♥ with this:

♠9 ♥Q J 4 ♦K Q 8 4 3 2 ♣A 3 2.

Raise to 4♥ with this:

♠A 2 ♥K J 6 ♦A 7 6 5 3 2 ♣A 2.

Bid 2♠ (a new suit) with:

♠A K J 5 ♥2 ♦A Q 10 4 3 2 ♣A Q.

This is natural, but with a very strong hand.

### After 1♦ -2NT

Most play this jump as natural and invitational (11-12 HCP, no four-card major). With a balanced minimum, opener passes. Example:

♠J 3 ♥6 5 4 ♦A Q 10 7 6 ♣K Q 2.

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

♠A Q 10 ♥K 10 2 ♦Q 10 4 2 ♣Q J 10.

With a minimum, offshape hand, 3♦ can be bid to play. Example:

♠3 2 ♥3 2 ♦K J 5 4 3 2 ♣A K 2.

Opener can bid a new suit on the three level to further explore. Bid 3♥ with:

♠5 ♥A Q 3 2 ♦K Q 10 7 6 5 ♣K 2.

### After 1♦ -3♦

Responder shows 11-12 points in support, no four-card major and at least four-card diamond support (usually five-plus). With a minimum, opener will usually pass. Example:

♠K Q J 6 ♥A J 6 5 ♦Q 3 2 ♣5 4.

A 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 7 3 2 ♣Q 10 8 7.

Bid 3♠ with:

♠A Q J ♥4 3 ♦A J 10 7 6 2 ♣J 10.

With stoppers and extras, bid 3NT:

♠A J 10 ♥K 2 ♦Q 10 7 6 5 2 ♣K 5.

Opener can also jump to 5♦ with shape and a decent opening bid: ➤

♠3 ♥K 3 2 ♦A Q 7 6 5 4 ♣A 3 2.

### After 1♦-3NT

Assuming this shows 13–15 balanced, opener will usually pass. However, don't think of 3NT as a "closeout bid." If opener has 19, he shouldn't pass. Raise to 6NT with:

♠A 2 ♥A Q 2 ♦A J 8 7 6 ♣K J 2.

Invite slam with 4NT holding:

♠Q J 8 ♥K Q 2 ♦A 10 8 7 ♣A K 3.

## BIDDING BASICS QUIZ

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

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

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

3. ♠A Q J 2 ♥10 5 4 3 ♦A Q 7 ♣3 2

What is your call after partner responds 2♠ (weak) to your 1♦ opening?

4. ♠A ♥K 2 ♦K Q 7 6 5 3 ♣J 6 5 2

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

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

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

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

### QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 2♠. Bid where you live for now (no rush to bid notrump with two low hearts).
2. 2NT. Showing a notrump hand not in the 15–17 range.
3. Pass. No reason to get higher.
4. Pass. No reason to assume diamonds (a level higher) is any better.
5. Pass. Not enough to go higher.
6. 3♣. See what partner thinks opposite your minor-suit hand.
7. Pass. Same as No. 5 (same hand, same answer).
8. 5♦. You could get scientific, but this seems practical.