



Bidding Basics

BY LARRY COHEN larryco.com

Opener's rebid after preempting

You have opened with a preempt and partner has responded. In this installment, we examine the preempter's action at his second turn.

If responder raises the preempt, opener is done, never to be heard from again. For example, after 2♥-3♥, opener must pass (the raise is not invitational). After 2♥-4♥, opener will pass; and if the opponents come in, he will not compete to 5♥ or double.

What if responder bids a new suit over opener's preempt? In "standard," a new suit is forcing. Opener can raise with support (with three-card support for sure, also maybe with a doubleton honor). Without support, opener will usually retreat to his own suit. Occasionally, opener will have a second suit to show, or might bid notrump. For example, after 2♥-2♠, opener can try one of the following:

Bid 2NT with:

♠x ♥K J 9 8 x x ♦Q 10 x ♣Q x x.

Bid 3♣ or 3♦ with 6-4 shape in hearts and that minor.

Rebid 3♥ with something like:

♠x ♥K Q J 10 x x ♦x x x ♣x x x.

Raise to 3♠ with:

♠K x ♥K J 10 x x x ♦x x ♣x x x.

If responder bids 2NT to opener's

weak two-bid, it is presumably conventional. If you play Ogust, you must memorize the schedule of responses. If it is the more common feature-showing convention, opener rebids as follows:

- With a minimum, repeat your suit on the three level.
- With a non-minimum, show an ace or king (not shortness) as a feature.
- With extras, but no feature, bid 3NT.

For example, after 2♦-2NT, bid as follows:

3♣ with:

♠x x ♥x x x ♦K Q J 10 x x ♣K x

3♦ with:

♠x x ♥x x ♦Q J 10 x x x ♣K x x

3♥ or 3♠ with a decent hand and the ace or king in that major

3NT with:

♠x x ♥x x ♦A K Q 10 x x ♣x x x

Note: If responder bids 2NT and then 3NT after your response, opener is allowed to use judgment and either pass or go back to his suit. For example, after 2♠-2NT; 3♦-3NT, pass with:

♠K Q 10 x x x ♥x x ♦K x x ♣x x,

but remove to 4♠ with:

♠A J 10 8 x x ♥— ♦K 10 x x ♣x x x.

If responder bids 3NT after opener's preempt, he is not asking opener's opinion. It is a signoff. You've shown your hand, and responder is showing where he wants to play. Do not bid again. For example, if you open 2♥ with:

♠— ♥K J 10 x x x ♦Q 10 x x ♣x x x,

and partner bids 3NT, you should pass. Responder could hold something like:

♠A Q ♥x ♦K x x ♣A K Q J x x x.

Bidding Basics Quiz ►

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Falk chose to rebid 1NT to limit the hand and facilitate reaching a heart partscore. In their methods, responder will not rebid a five-card spade suit without extra shape or suit texture willing to play opposite a singleton. That approach served them well here, though it is not without its drawbacks. With his continuations over 1NT, Lusky showed an invitational hand with five spades and at least four hearts, and the top spot was reached when Falk did not move over 2♥.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♦-1♠; 2♣-3♥?; Pass.

Scores: 2♥ 11; 3♥ 9; 1NT 5; 4♥ 4; 2♠ 3; 2NT 2; 3NT 1

Final score: Bitterman-Bendure 45, Falk-Lusky 69

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BIDDING BASICS QUIZ / ANSWERS

What is opener's next action after 2♦-2♠ with:

1. ♠Jxx ♥xx ♦KJ10xxx ♣xxx
2. ♠x ♥Q10x ♦KJ10xxx ♣Kxx

What is opener's next action after 2♥-2NT (feature-asking) with:

3. ♠x ♥J109xxx ♦KJx ♣xxx
4. ♠Ax ♥KJ109xx ♦x ♣Jxxx

What is opener's next action after 2♠-3NT with:

5. ♠? ♥? ♦? ♣?
(Yes, a blank hand.)

What is opener's next action after 2♠-2NT; 3♦-3NT with:

6. ♠QJ98xx ♥xx ♦KQx ♣xx
7. ♠QJ10xxx ♥x ♦KQxx ♣xx
8. What is opener's next action after 2♦-4♦ with: ♠? ♥? ♦? ♣?

1. 3♠. Good enough to support, but not enough for 4♠.
2. 2NT. Natural, no spade support.
3. 3♥. With a minimum, don't show a feature
4. 3♠. Show the feature. The feature is the high card, not the shortness.
5. Pass. The first-ever bridge problem without a hand shown! 3NT is 100% signoff.
6. Pass. Partner has given you a choice, and with your flat hand, you choose notrump.
7. 4♠. With a choice and a hand good for suit play, you choose spades.
8. Pass. The second-ever bridge problem without a hand. You are not to bid when raised.



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