



Opener and Responder Rebids Help Document

Winter 2021

Some Helpful Information Upfront:

When Opener and Responder find a Fit (Major or Minor), partners add Distribution points the minute they know there is a Fit.

Voids + 3 points Singletons + 2 points Doubletons + 1 point

When Opener and Responder find a Fit (Major or Minor), the point ranges Opener and Responder use are:
(including Distribution)

OPENER RANGES

RESPONDER RANGES

12 – 15 points	Minimum Points	Can afford to be on the 2-level	6 – 9 points
16 – 18 points	Medium / Invitational Points	Can afford to be on the 3-level	10 – 12 points
19 – 20 points	Maximum / Game-Going Points	Can afford to be on the 4-level in Major Suits	13+ points

Responder bids a new suit first with 13+ points
See Early Fit information

When Responder bids a new Major suit on the 1-level, Responder has 6+ hcp and 4+ cards in the Major suit.

When Responder bids a new suit on the 2-level, Responder has 10+ hcp and 5+ cards in the new 2-level suit.



Finding an Early Fit with Partner - How High Will We Bid?

Opener bids 1H or 1S.

Responder has 3+-card support in Opener's suit.

- * Responder counts distribution
- * Responder shows how much help in that suit by raising to the appropriate level
- * Opener may then add distribution as well and continue the auction or passing

Responder Point Range for first Response

Opener Point Range for Rebidding after Responder's first bid

Opener bids 1-level suit.

Responder responds a new 4+-card Major suit.

Opener has 4-card support in Responder's new Major suit.

- * Opener counts distribution
- * Opener shows how much help in that suit by raising to the appropriate level
- * Responder may then add distribution as well and continue the auction or passing

Opener Point Range for Rebidding after Responder's first bid

Responder Point Range for any Responder Rebid

Opener bids 1S.

Responder responds 2H.

Opener has 3-card support in Responder's new Major suit - Hearts.

- * Responder is showing 10+ hcp and 5+ Heart cards
- * Opener has 3-4 card support for Responder's new Heart suit
- * Opener adds distribution and continues bidding

Opener Point Range for Rebidding after Responder's first bid

Responder Point Range for any Responder Rebid



Longer Than Usual Suit (may be bid more than once)

Opener bids 1-level suit. Responder bids own suit or NT. Opener bids same Opening suit again

Responder Point Range for any Responder Rebid

- *Opener has at least 6 cards in original suit
- *Opener usually has no fit with Responder's suit
- *Opener usually does not have a 2nd suit
- *Rebid is based on Opener's hcp – does NOT count distribution

Minimum Opening Hand – 12-15 hcp	no jump in bidding; just a rebid on next level
Medium+ Opening Hand - 16+ hcp	jump to show extra strength
- * If Responder has a Fit now with the 6+-card Opening suit, Responder continues bidding in suit.
- * If Responder does not have a Fit with the 6+-card Opening suit, Responder is not forced to rebid.
Responder would rebid with an Invitational or better point count. Responder makes a decision about the next bid.

**Opener bids 1-level suit. Responder bids own new Responding suit (forcing for Opener).
Opener bids. Responder bids own original Responding suit a second time.**

Opener rebids using hcp only if no initial Fit with Responder's first bid.

Responder's Rebid of original Responding suit is made with just hcp. There is no Fit just yet.

- *Responder has at least 6 cards in original Responding suit IF Opener has bid 2 suits.
Responder can have 5 cards in original Responding suit IF Opener has rebid NT.
- *Responder usually has no fit with Opener's suit
- *Responder usually does not have a 2nd suit
- *Rebid is based on Responder's hcp – does NOT count distribution

Minimum Responding Hand	6 – 9 hcp	No jump in bidding; just a rebid on next level
Medium+ Responding Hand	10+ hcp	Jump to show extra strength



2nd Suit Options - OPENER has 2 longish suits

Opener bids 1-level suit. Responder bids own suit or NT.

Opener bids a 2nd suit on the 2-level or higher (lower-ranking)

*Opener's 1st suit is 5+ cards; 2nd suit is 4+ cards.

*Opener ALWAYS opens the higher-ranking suit FIRST when holding 5-5 in two suits

*Opener generally doesn't have a fit with Responder

Minimum-Medium Opening Hand

NO jump when bidding 2nd suit

Maximum Opening Hand

Jump when bidding 2nd suit

JUMPSHIFT

What does Responder Rebid when Opener shows a 2nd suit?

When Opener shows 2 suits, Responder may

--Choose between either suit (sometimes it's choosing the lesser of the evils)

--Bid 2NT or 3NT IF Responder can stop the unbid suits and has the right point count.

IF Opener's 2nd suit is on the 1-level, the Opener is not necessarily showing 5+ cards and 4+ cards. It doesn't limit points. The only example: 1m – 1H – 1S rebid by Opener

Opener rebids using hcp only if no initial Fit with Responder's first bid.

Responder's Rebid with a Fit:

Use Responder Ranges

Responder's Rebid without a Fit:

No Distribution without a Fit

* Choose one of Opener's suits

* Rebid Responder suit again following information on next page

* Rebid NT if you are confident in the unbid suits



2nd Suit Options - RESPONDER has 2 longish suits

**Opener bids 1-level suit.
Opener bids.**

Responder bids a different suit (forcing for Opener).
Responder bids a 2nd suit (lower ranking)
MUST HAVE 10+ hcp to rebid Responder 2nd suit

*Responder's 1st suit is 5+ cards; 2nd suit is 4+ cards.

*Responder ALWAYS bids the higher-ranking suit FIRST when holding 5-5 in two suits

*Responder generally doesn't have a fit with Opener

Responder MUST have 10+ hcp (Invitational) to bid 2 different suits.

Opener WILL be forced to bid again after Responder's change to a new suit.

When Responder shows 2 suits, Opener may

--Choose between either suit (sometimes it's choosing the lesser of the evils)

--Bid 2NT or 3NT IF Opener can stop the unbid suits

Responder rebids using hcp only if no initial Fit with Opener's 1st or 2nd bid.

**Responder's Rebid
No Distribution without a Fit**

*** 6 – 9 hcp**

- Choose one of Opener's suits

- Rebid Responder's suit again
with 6+ cards but only
on 2-level with 6 – 9 hcp

*** 10+ hcp**

- Choose one of Opener's suits
Can bid on 3-level (Invitational)

- Rebid Responder's suit again
with 6+ cards.

*Can rebid Responding suit
on 3-level with Invitational hcp
but if 2-level is still available,
it is not necessary to rebid on 3-level.
Just the act of Rebidding the
Responder suit shows 10+ hcp.*



Rebidding NT – Opener or Responder CHOOSES NT as best option

Sometimes the partnership bids back and forth, trying to find a resolution.
Often, Opener rebids 1NT showing 12-14 hcp and a balanced Hand.
Sometimes, Opener jump rebids 2NT showing 18-19 hcp.

When either Opener or Responder decides to bid 2NT or 3NT, it is NEVER a desperation bid:

*It identifies tolerance for any unbid suits – specifically, *usually* at least one stopper in those suits

*2NT is always an invitation to 3NT in these situations

*The bidder's hand might be unbalanced in the partner's suit(s)

* Often, if the partnership has reached 3C or 3D, the next bidder looks to slide over to 3NT with stoppers in other suits.
3NT is often makeable with you already have 3C or 3D. The long Minor suit will take a bunch of tricks.
3NT scores better than Minor suits.

*It says, "This is our best choice in my opinion, based on our conversation thus far."
It does NOT say, "I give up...I don't know what else to bid."



An Alternate Way of Viewing Opener and Responder Bidding Options

OPENER STARTS WITH A MINOR SUIT

Opener bids 1C or 1D.

Responder has 4+ Hearts
Respond 1H

Responder has 6-9 hcp.

Responder has 4+ Spade but not 4+ Hearts
Respond 1S

Responder has no 4+ card Major
Respond 1NT – Junk Drawer

Opener bids 1C or 1D.

Responder has 4+ Hearts
Respond 1H

Responder has 10-12 hcp.

Responder has 4+ Spade but not 4+ Hearts
Respond 1S

Responder has no 4+ card Major
*Responder has a balanced hand
Responder responds 2NT.*

Opener bids 1C or 1D.

Responder has 4+ Hearts
Respond 1H

Responder has 13+ hcp.

Responder has 4+ Spade but not 4+ Hearts
Respond 1S

Responder has no 4+ card Major
*Responder has a balanced hand
Responder responds 3NT.*



An Alternate Way of Viewing Opener and Responder Bidding Options

OPENER STARTS WITH A MAJOR SUIT

Opener bids 1H or 1S Responder has 6-9 hcp.

Responder has 3+ cards in same Opening Major suit
Responds 2H or 2S to show a Minimum raise

Responder does not have 3+ cards in same Opening Major suit -
Respond a new Major suit on 1-level 6+ hcp and 4+ cards in Major
Respond 1NT 6 – 9 hcp – Junk Drawer

Opener bids 1H or 1S Responder has 10-12 hcp.

Responder has 3+ cards in same Opening Major suit
Responds 3H or 3S to show a Medium raise

Responder does not have 3+ cards in same Opening Major suit -
Respond a new suit on 2-level 10+ hcp and 5+ cards in suit
Respond 2NT with balanced hand 10-12 hcp

Opener bids 1H or 1S Responder has 13+ hcp.

Responder has 3+ cards in same Opening Major suit
Responds in a NEW suit. Do NOT Respond 4H or 4S.

Responder does not have 3+ cards in same Opening Major suit -
Respond a new suit on 2-level 10+ hcp and 5+ cards in suit
Respond 3NT with balanced hand 13-16 hcp
With 17+ hcp, Responder bids thinking about Slam

*Responder already knows the partnership has Game.
Responder forces Opener to bid again to gain information
About a possible Slam.*