



## Beginner Bridge – Building on the Basics

### *Opener and Responder Ranges with a Fit*

The minute Opener and Responder know they have found an 8 + card Major Suit Fit, they begin telling each other how they each help the partnership.

#### **FIT? Add Distribution Before the Next Bid**

##### Distribution

Responder, you now get to count Distribution value for the shortness in your other / outside suits (not the trump suit)

**ONLY add Distribution when you have an 8+-card Fit. No Fit? No Distribution**

**Add the following Distribution points to your high-card points when you have 3+ card support:**

**1 for Doubleton**

**2 for Singleton**

**3 for Void**

***New!***

Do NOT add Distribution for

Jack-Doubletons

Queen-Doubletons

Jx Qx

King, Queen, or Jack Singletons

K Q J

*When adding distribution, do NOT add extra value for Jx or Qx (Doubletons).*

*The 1pt and 2pt values are you giving them for hcp are quite enough.*

*They are really not even worth that hcp value because they are less likely to win any tricks.*

*Giving distribution value for Ax – great, Kx – fine. Not Jx or Qx. Likewise, don't give distribution value to singleton Kings, Queens or Jacks. Again, they aren't going to win tricks and are not worth the hcp value you are already giving them*

#### **Why Count Distribution When We Have An 8+-Card FIT?**

*Some of your trump cards will likely take tricks on their own by trumping a voided suit.*

*For example, if you have 2 trump cards remaining near the end of your hand, it is often possible to play each card separately – not together as in 'following suit' – to take 2 separate winning tricks by playing each on a different voided suit.*

*We count short suits for distribution value because they may be voided early and, therefore, trumped early.*

*Our trump cards are worth a little more than just their high card point value.*



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#### RESPONDER RANGES WITH A FIT

**Minimum Responder**                      **6-9 total points**                      Raise to 2♥, 2♠  
*You have minimum help for Opener's suit.*

**Medium/Invitational Responder**                      **10-12 total points**                      Raise to 3♥, 3♠  
*You have invitational help for Opener's suit.*  
*Invitation = One Level Below Game level*

***New!***

**Maximum /Game-Going Responder**                      **13+ total points**                      Bid a New Suit  
*DON'T jump to 4♥ or 4♠! You don't know if Opener has 12 or 20 hcp.*  
*Instead, make a forcing bid to hear Opener's 2<sup>nd</sup> bid.*  
*If it's a jump, partnership might have Slam – you'll have to explore.*  
*If not a jump, now you should bid Game in partnership suit.*

#### OPENER RANGES WITH A FIT

Did Responder bid 2H or 2S – a Minimum amount of help?

Opener now show where in the 12 – 20 Opening Range he/she sits

12 – 15	Minimum Opener	Can afford to be on the 2-level
16 – 18	Medium Opener	Can afford to be on the 3-level
19 – 20	Maximum Opener	Can afford to be on the 4-level

Did Responder bid 3H or 3S – a Medium amount of help?

Opener should add Opening points to Responder's 10 – 12 points.

Does the partnership have 25 points?	Bid Game
Is the partnership short of 25 points?	Pass