

JACOBY 2NT FORCING MAJOR SUIT RAISE

A popular modern agreement is that when partner opens 1♥ or 1♠, a jump response of 2NT is an artificial, forcing raise—the Jacoby 2NT convention.

Responder's 2NT bid shows a game-forcing hand with four-card (or longer) support in the major and at least opening points. The Jacoby 2NT is only used when partner opens the bidding in first or second seat.

For example, partner opens 1 spade and you respond 2NT holding

♠ Q 10 8 7

♥ A 8 4

♦ K Q 10

♣ K 9 2

Opener's Rebid After 2NT

To help the partnership decide whether a slam is possible, opener's rebid describes the distribution and strength of opener's hand:

Opening Bid	Your Response	Opener's Rebid	Meaning of Opener's Rebid
1 ♠	2 NT	3 ♣	<i>Shortage (void or singleton) in ♣</i>
1 ♠	2 NT	3 ♦	<i>Shortage (void or singleton) in ♦</i>
1 ♠	2 NT	3 ♥	<i>Shortage (void or singleton) in ♥</i>
1 ♠	2 NT	3 ♠	<i>No Shortage (void or singleton) but 18+ points</i>
1 ♠	2 NT	4 ♠	<i>No Shortage (void or singleton) but 13-17 points</i>

EXAMPLE 1

	♠K J 9 5 3	
	♥A 5 2	
	♦7	
	♣K Q 7 4	
♠10 4		♠6 2
♥963		♥QJ 10 8 7
♦A Q10 2		♦K J 8 5
♣10 8 6 5		♣9 3
	♠A Q 8 7	
	♥K 4	
	♦9 6 4 3	
	♣A J 2	

N	E	S	W
1S	P	2NT	P
3D	P	4NT	P
5D	P	6S	

Finding out that Partner has a void or a singleton diamond means that there is only one loser in that suit, and after checking for aces, South bids the slam.

Sometimes finding partner with the wrong singleton is not so good news as in this example.

EXAMPLE 2♠

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

S	W	N	E
1H	P	2NT	P
3C	P	4H	

This time, South shows a void or singleton clubs, a suit in which North has roughly a third of his points. The K and Q of clubs are wasted values, two small clubs would be as useful, and with this knowledge North signs off in Four Hearts (fast arrival).

EXAMPLE 3

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

S	W	N	E
1S	P	2NT	P
4S	P	P	P

When South shows a minimum hand after the Jacoby 2NT, slam is unlikely and North passes the game bid.

This time East has a strong hand:

EXAMPLE 4

	♠643	
	♥2	
	♦10 8 3 2	
	♣A 10 8 5 3	
♠K 8 5 2		♠A 7
♥K 7 6 4		♥A Q J 9 5 3
♦A Q 5		♦K 9 6
♣7 4		♣K Q
	♠Q J 10 9	
	♥10 8	
	♦J 7 4	
	♣J 9 6 2	

E	S	W	N
1H	P	2NT	P
3H	P	4H	P
4NT	P	5D	P
6H			

West adds a point for his doubleton and has enough to respond 2NT. After East shows a good hand, West shows his minimum by bidding 4H, but with a known 10 card fit, East pushes on to the slam.

JACOBY 2NT EXTENDED

Some partnerships use modified responses after the Jacoby 2NT bid, these are two well used examples:

1. Because the four heart rebid shows such a wide range of 12-17 points, a rebid of 4 hearts is used to describe a hand of 12-14 points with no singleton or void. A rebid of 3NT is now used for a hand of 15-17 points, again with no singleton or void. Using these ranges can help in deciding to merely bid game or whether there are sufficient points to bid a slam.
2. With a second five card suit, one cannot bid it at the three level after the 2NT bid as that would show a singleton or a void in the suit.

The answer is to bid the suit at the four level, thus holding five spades and five clubs the bidding would go:

N	E	S	W
1S	P	2NT	P
4C			

