

Bidding Minor Suit Slams After NT Openings

By

Henry Jackson

What's the problem?

- Minor suit slams are hard to bid!
- You do not want to give up on the field's NT game to hunt for a possible minor suit slam.
- It's easier to just bid 3NT and lament about the lost slam in the post mortum.

What's the problem?

- Minor suit slams are hard to bid!
- You do not want to give up on the field's NT game to hunt for a possible minor suit slam.
- It's easier to just bid 3NT and lament about the lost slam in the post mortum.
- **Minor suit slams are the keys to the kingdom!**

Al Fultz

What Most Cards Have

P OPENING BIDS

3♣ WK 5-5 minors

3♦ Puppet Stayman

3♥ WK 5-5 majors

3♠ STR 5-5 majors

4♦, 4♥ Transfer ■

Smolen □

2NT 20 to 21

Puppet Stayman ■

Transfer Responses:

Jacoby ■ Texas ■

3♠ _____

3NT _____ to _____

Improve MS Slam Chances

1P OPENING BIDS

3♣ 6 w/2top3, slam try

3♦ 6 w/2top3, slam try

3♥ 1-/3-/45+♣♦

3♠ 3-/1-45+♣♦

2♣ >♦ : 4♣/4♦ >♥/♠

4♦, 4♥ Transfer ■

Smolen ■ Over 2N/3♣

Lebensohl ■ (fst denies)

Neg. Double □: _____

Other: _____

2NT 21 to 22

Puppet Stayman ■

Transfer Responses:

Jacoby ■ Texas ■

3♠ trsfr 4♣, 6+ ST

3NT=trsfr 4♦, 6+ Slam Try

3NT _____ to _____

gambling _____

Conventional NT Openings

1 or 2NT open, 4♠ rsp

= 4-4mhrs w/4NT strength

After 2 NT Openings

- Need 6+ cards in minor suit headed by 2 of top 3 honors plus additional values for slam try.
- Bid 3 ♠ with ♣'s.
- Bid 3 NT with ♦'s.
- Note that some form of Stayman must be used to play 3 NT.

After 2NT Openings (Continued)

- Opener accepts with a doubleton top honor or any three cards in the trump suit by bidding 4 of the minor suit. This becomes Minorwood (1430 or 3014).
- If opener has a lower doubleton he bids the GAP (3NT for ♣'s or 4 ♣ for ♦'s).

After 2NT Openings (Continued)

Following a 3 NT GAP bid by opener, responder may

- a. Pass to give up on slam.
- b. Bid 4 ♣ for Minorwood if holding a very strong trump suit.
- c. Since opener cannot hold QX in ♣'s his response to Minorwood must allow responder to bid 4 NT to sign off in NT rather than play in 5 of the minor.
- d. Bid 5 or 6 ♣'s to play.

After 2NT Openings (Continued)

Following a 4 ♣ GAP bid by opener, responder may

- a. Bid 4 NT to sign off in NT rather than play 5 of the minor.
- b. Bid 4 ♦ for Minorwood if holding a very strong trump suit.
- c. Since opener cannot hold QX in ♦'s, his highest response to Minorwood is the third step (4NT) which responder may pass to sign off in NT rather than play in 5 or the minor.
- d. iv. Bid 5 or 6 ♦ to play.

Over 1NT Openings

- Give up 3-level Puppet Stayman
- Use other methods to handle 5-5 Majors

Suggested Method for 5-5 Majors

Hand Type	Points	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
Weak	<7 HCP	1NT	2♦	2♥	2♠
Invitational	7-8 HCP	1NT	2♥	2♠	3♥
Game Force	9-12 HCP	1NT	2♦	2♥	3♠
Slam Try	13+ HCP	1NT	2♥	2♠	4♦
With Super Acceptance					
Weak	<7 HCP	1NT	2♦	3♥	pass or 4♥
Invitational	7-8 HCP	1NT	2♥	3♠	4♠
Game Force	9-12 HCP	1NT	2♦	3♥	4♥ or cue or 4NT
Slam Try	13+ HCP	1NT	2♥	3♠	cue or 4NT

After 1NT Openings (Continued)

Responder bids 3 of a 6+ card minor headed by 2 of the top 3 plus appropriate other values.

- a. Opener can retreat to 3 NT if holding less than top honor doubleton or 3+ cards.
- b. Opener can accept and begin slam exploration by bidding 4 in the suggested minor for Minorwood.
- c. Opener can accept and begin slam exploration by bidding any other suit as a cue bid.
- d. Responder with a self-sufficient suit can bid it again over 3 NT to initiate Minorwood or cue bid another suit to probe for slam.

After 1NT Openings (Continued)

Bid 3 of a three-card major with a singleton in the other major and 5-4 or 4-5 in the minors and appropriate other values.

- a. Opener can retreat to 3 NT without a four-card minor.
- b. Opener can accept by bidding a 4-card minor (Minorwood) or by cue bidding a major. Note that opener will know if honors in the majors are wasted opposite Responder's short suit.

After 1NT Openings (Continued)

c. Responder holding a good (2 of top 3) 5-card minor can continue slam explorations after Opener's 3 NT by bidding 4 of that suit (not Minorwood).

1. Opener lacking 3-card with a top honor support can retreat to 4NT (not Blackwood).

2. Opener can accept by cue bidding another suit or raising Responder.

After 1NT Openings (Continued)

d. If Responder has 5-5 in the minors, he can continue slam explorations by bidding 4 of his short major.

1. Opener lacking 3-card with two honors support can retreat to 4NT (not Blackwood).

2. Opener can accept by cue bidding a major to accept EITHER minor.

3. Opener can accept by bidding a minor at the 5 or 6 level.

After 1NT or 2NT Openings

Holding values for a quantitative raise to 4 NT along with two good (at least two honors) 4-card minors, Responder bids 4 ♠.

a. Opener at the bottom of his range and lacking a 4-card minor bids 4 NT to play.

b. Opener at the top of his range bids 6 NT

c. Opener with a suitable 4-card minor can bid slam in that minor.

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1. After 2 NT Openings with one long minor:
 - a. With 6+ cards headed by two of the top three honors in a minor and additional values to justify a slam try
 - i. Bid 3 ♠ with ♣'s
 - ii. Bid 3 NT with ♦'s
 - iii. Note that some form of Stayman must be used to play 3 NT.
 - b. Opener accepts a doubleton top honor or any three cards in the trump suit by bidding 4 of the minor suit. This becomes Minorwood (1430 or 3014).
 - c. If opener has a lower doubleton he bids the GAP (3NT for ♣'s or 4 ♣ for ♦'s).
 - d. Following a 3 NT GAP bid by opener, responder may
 - i. Pass to give up on slam.
 - ii. Bid 4 ♣ for Minorwood if holding a very strong trump suit.
 - iii. Since opener cannot hold QX in ♣'s his response to Minorwood must allow responder to bid 4 NT to sign off in NT rather than play in 5 of the minor.
 - iv. Bid 5 or 6 ♣'s to play.
 - e. Following a 4 ♣ GAP bid by opener, responder may
 - i. Bid 4 NT to sign off in NT rather than play 5 of the minor.
 - ii. Bid 4 ♦ for Minorwood if holding a very strong trump suit.
 - iii. Since opener cannot hold QX in ♦'s, his highest response to Minorwood is the third step (4NT) which responder may pass to sign off in NT rather than play in 5 of the minor.
 - iv. Bid 5 or 6 ♦ to play.
2. After 1NT give up 3-level puppet Stayman, use other methods for 5-5 majors and
 - a. Responder bids 3 of a 6+ card minor headed by 2 of the top 3 plus appropriate other values.
 - i. Opener can retreat to 3 NT if holding less than top honor doubleton or 3+ cards.
 - ii. Opener can accept and begin slam exploration by bidding 4 in the suggested minor for Minorwood.
 - iii. Opener can accept and begin slam exploration by bidding any other suit as a cue bid.
 - iv. Responder with a self-sufficient suit can bid it again over 3 NT to initiate Minorwood or cue bid another suit to probe for slam.
 - b. Bid 3 of your three-card major with a singleton in the other major and 5-4 or 4-5 in the minors and appropriate other values.

- i. Opener can retreat to 3 NT without a four-card minor.
 - ii. Opener can accept by bidding a 4-card minor (Minorwood) or by cue bidding a major. Note that opener will know if honors in the majors are wasted opposite Responder's short suit.
 - iii. Responder holding a good (2 of top 3) 5-card minor can continue slam explorations after Opener's 3 NT by bidding 4 of that suit (not Minorwood).
 - 1. Opener lacking 3-card with a top honor support can retreat to 4NT (not Blackwood).
 - 2. Opener can accept by cue bidding another suit or raising Responder.
 - iv. If Responder has 5-5 in the minors, he can continue slam explorations by bidding 4 of his short major.
 - 1. Opener lacking 3-card with two honors support can retreat to 4NT (not Blackwood).
 - 2. Opener can accept by cue bidding a major to accept EITHER minor.
 - 3. Opener can accept by bidding a minor at the 5 or 6 level.
3. After 1 NT or 2 NT opening and holding values for a quantitative raise to 4 NT along with two good (at least two honors) four-card minors, Responder bids 4 ♠.
- a. Opener at the bottom of his range and lacking a 4-card minor bids 4 NT to play.
 - b. Opener at the top of his range bids 6 NT
 - c. Opener with a suitable 4-card minor can bid slam in that minor.

