

# Alert!

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## What, When, & Why

reference:

<http://acbl.org/acbl-content/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/AlertPamphlet.pdf>

<http://acbl.org/acbl-content/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/AlertChart.pdf>

# Alert!

## Common Alerts

- \* **Announcements (when the bid is made)**
  - \* Appear in **blue** on the Convention Card
  - \* Exactly 4: NT opening range, major suit transfers, semi/forcing NT response, and short ♣/♦
  - \* Make announcement, and use the **blue** alert card
- \* **Immediate Alerts (when the bid is made)**
  - \* Almost all conventional calls (usually in **red** on CC)
  - \* Natural bids that have side suit implications
  - \* Only say, "alert", and use the **blue** alert card

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## Less Common Alerts

- \* **Delayed Alerts (after the auction is over)**
  - \* Alertable bids 3NT & higher beginning with opener's 2nd call
  - \* Declarer: alerts before the opening lead is selected
  - \* Defenders: alert after the opening lead is selected
- \* **Pre-Alerts (before the auction begins)**
  - \* 3 level preempts with short (5) or bad suits (Qxxxxx)
  - \* Regularly open with <10 HCP or overcall with <6 HCP
  - \* Mid/Super Chart conventions
  - \* Unusual or Two System methods
  - \* Lead low from doubletons

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## Balance

- \* Alerting rules walk the fine line between:
- \* Game Tempo
  - \* If every bid were described in full ... zzzzz
- \* Complete Disclosure to Opponents
  - \* Bridge is a game of logic, not secret messages
- \* Unauthorized Information to Partner
  - \* "Partner I have 2 aces, so I bid 5♥"
  - \* "2NT-P-3♣ (alert!)-" (Partner I recognize your bid as Puppet, so treat my rebid accordingly)

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## NT Auctions

- \* Alert if ♣ bid is: Stayman Puppet Natural
- \* INT-(P)-2♣ Convention Alert Exception Alert
- \* 2NT-(P)-3♣ Convention Alert Exception Alert
- \* (1♥)-INT-(P)-2♣ Convention Alert Exception Alert
- \* INT-(P)-3♣ Alert Alert Alert
  
- \* INT-2♣-2(♦♥♠)-2NT!
  - \* alert (if responder may NOT have a 4 card major)

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## Natural Suit Bids

- \* Bids with unexpected meanings are generally alertable
- \* Expected length when a suit is first bid:
  - \* minor suit: 3+ cards
  - \* major suit: 4+ cards
  - \* 1 level overcall: 4+ cards
  - \* 2 level overcall: 5+ cards
  - \* 2 level preempt: 5+ cards
  - \* 3 level preempt: 6+ cards
- \* 5 card majors are as common as Stayman
  - \* neither require an alert
- \* Weak jump shifts are deemed less common
  - \* still require an alert when NOT in competition

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## Natural Suit Bid Examples

\* Typical expectations set the alert rules for natural suit bids

\* 1 ♠-(P)-3 ♠ alerted only if weak

\* 1 ♠-(X)-3 ♠ NOT alerted

\* 1 ♦-(P)-2 ♠ alerted if NOT forcing

\* 1 ♦-(X)-2 ♠ NOT alerted

\* 2 ♥<sub>(weak)</sub>-(P)-3 ♥ alerted if invitational or better

\* 2 ♥<sub>(weak)</sub>-(P)-2 ♠ alerted if NOT forcing

\* 2 ♥<sub>(weak)</sub>-(P)-2NT alerted if NOT forcing

Convention Alert Exception

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## Treatments

- \* A treatment is a natural call with a specific meaning about the suit mentioned, e.g. 5 card majors or constructive raises
- \* Most treatments are NOT alerted unless they convey highly unexpected information regarding strength or length (e.g. weak jump shift/raise NOT in competition)
- \* In the spirit of complete disclosure, information from a treatment should be disclosed before the opening lead



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## Treatment Examples

- \* Don't alert most treatments

- \* 1♣-(P)-1♠ if 5♠ promised, disclose before lead

- \* 1♦-(P)-1♠-(2♣)-X alerted if support double

- \* 1♦-(P)-1♠-(2♣)-2♠ NOT alerted

- \* Unless the meaning is unexpected

- \* 1♣-(P)-1♠-(P)-1NT alerted if strong (weak NTs)

- \* 2♣ alerted if NOT forcing (precision)

- \* 1♦-(P)-2♦ alerted if invitational or better (inverted minor raise)

Convention Alert Exception

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## Conventions

- \* A convention is an artificial call that does NOT propose the call as a final contract, e.g. Jacoby 2NT or Bergen raises
- \* Almost all conventional calls are alerted
- \* Exceptions are the very common ones, e.g. Stayman, some ace asking, cue bids, strong 2♣, most doubles & redoubles

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## Conventional Calls & Exceptions

\* 2♣-(P)-2♦

\* neither bid is alertable

\* most conventional bids

\* alertable: bergen, mccabe, mini-roman, etc.

\* exceptional: unusual, stayman, strong 2♣

\* cue bids

\* alertable: only if natural

\* not alerted: michaels, western, limit raise, etc.

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## More Conventional Calls & Exceptions

### \* ace asking

- \* (delayed) alertable: kickback, redwood, minorwood, etc.
- \* not alerted: 4NT over suits, 4♣ over NT

### \* splinters

- \* alertable: 1♥-(P)-4♣
- \* (delayed) alertable: 1♦-(P)-1♥-(P)-4♣
- \* not alerted: 1♥-(1♠)-3♠

### \* help suit game tries

- \* not alerted if promising at least 3 cards