

OPENER'S BIDS

A. OPENER'S INITIAL BID

1NT = 15 - 17 HCP, Balanced hand (no singleton or void); no 5-card major

2NT = 20 - 21 HCP. Balanced hand (no singleton or void; 5-card major OK)

2C = 22+ HCP, or 8 1/2 Quick Tricks, or no more than 4 losers w/ a major suit

1 of a suit = **All opening hands not meeting above (12 - 19 HCP) will fall into 1 of these 3 categories:**

OPENER'S SECOND BID :

Examples

A MINIMUM OPENING HAND

12 - 14 HCP* (MIN)

Raise responder's bid **1 level only**

1C-1H, **2H**

Re-bid opening suit **1 level only** (show 6 card suit)

1H-1S, **2H**

Bid NT **on the same level** (no jumps)

1C-1S, **1NT** or, 1S-2C, **2NT**

Pass a *minimum* bid from Responder (not a new suit)

1H - 1NT, **Pass** 1H - 3D, **Pass**

With a minimum hand, opener will usually have only 1 additional bid after his opening bid.

Opener must show his limitation as soon as possible; if responder shows a minimum, may pass

Grey Area:

Bidding a new suit **on the same level** (no jump)

1D-1H, **1S**

This could show a Min hand (12 - 14) or a Med hand (15-17)

A MEDIUM STRENGTH HAND

15 - 17 HCP* (MED)

Raise responder's bid **2 levels** (same suit jump)

1C-1H, **3H**

Re-bid opening suit **2 levels up** (same suit jump)

1H-1S, **3H**

Bid new suit on the next level (no jump)

1H-1S, **2D**

With a medium hand, opener will usually make an *invitational* bid to responder with his 2nd bid if responder has not limited his hand.

A STRONG OPENING HAND

18 - 19 HCP* (MAX)

Raise responder's bid **to game** level
(this is not a close-out; it is a point count bid)

1C-1H, **4H**

Jump shift to new suit or to 2NT
All jump shift suit bids are forcing unless responder was a passed hand. Jump shift to 2NT is invitational.

1D-1H, **2S** or, 1H-1S, **2NT**

Jump directly to game
(this is not a close-out; it is a point count bid)

1C - 1H, **3NT** or, 1S - 2C, **4S**

With a maximum hand, if responder bids at all, opener should go directly to game with a fit; make a forcing bid to responder (J/S to new suit); or J/S to 2NT (invitational)

* **NOTE:** Opener evaluates his hand initially on HCP only. Distribution points for shortness are added only after a fit has been established.

Opener's 2nd bid will usually indicate the strength of his hand.