

New Minor Forcing

This popular convention is used when the OPENER rebids 1NT or 2NT.

Responder bids the “new” (unbid) minor as an artificial way to ask about (or “check back” on) the majors. (There are other variations such as “two-way” or 2♣ forces 2♦, but this lesson is focusing on plain old “new minor”).

Example Auctions:

1) <u>Opener</u> <u>Responder</u> 1♦ 1♥ 1NT <u>2♣</u>	In each of these auctions, the underlined bid is new minor forcing (artificial). The responder is asking the opener about the majors (typically looking for three-card support).
2) <u>Opener</u> <u>Responder</u> 1♣ 1♠ 1NT <u>2♦</u>	
3) <u>Opener</u> <u>Responder</u> 1♦ 1♠ 2NT <u>3♣</u>	

New minor is used *only by the responder and always as his second bid of the auction*. (After 1♥-1♠-1NT, the “new” minor is 2♣.) The new minor-suit bid promises at least invitational (11+ after a 1NT rebid) strength and some doubt about what the final contract should be. In most cases, the responder will have five cards in his major and be trying to decide if the hand should be played in his suit or in notrump.

Examples for Responder to match the auctions above:

- 1) 1♦-1♥-1NT-2♣: ♠KQ10 ♥AQJ73 ♦Q32 ♣32
- 2) 1♣-1♠-1NT-2♦: ♠AQ1085 ♥KJ75 ♦K2 ♣54
- 3) 1♦-1♠-2NT-3♣: ♠KJ854 ♥5 ♦Q76 ♣7652

With each hand above, the responder is hoping the opener can show three-card support for his major.

New Minor Forcing (continued)

When the new minor is bid, the opener must ALERT. If the opponents ask, you can explain: "My partner's bid is artificial and forcing for one round. He is asking me about my majors." The opener now should show three-card support if he has it (with four-card support he would have raised on the previous round). The opener can also show if he has game interest (extras) or not (a minimum).

Do not use new minor forcing if you don't need to! For example, if you don't have invitational strength, either pass 1NT or correct to two of your major. With six-plus cards in your major, rebid your major (on the three level to invite). After: 1♦-1♠-1NT, rebid 2♠ with ♠KJ1076 ♥2 ♦432 ♣K1032; rebid 3♠ with ♠KQ9876 ♥A103 ♦J32 ♣2. Jump to 4♠ with ♠AQ10973 ♥K76 ♦Q32 ♣2.

Opener's Bid after New Minor is Used

- 1) Opener Responder
1♦ 1♥
1NT 2♣
??
2♥ = 3-card heart support (minimum)
3♥ = 3-card heart support (maximum)
2♦ = Not 3-card heart support, minimum
2NT = Not 3-card heart support, maximum

Note—Not everyone agrees exactly on the minimum/maximum issue/method.

- 2) Opener Responder
1♣ 1♠
1NT 2♦
??
2♠ = 3-card spade support (minimum)
3♠ = 3-card spade support (maximum)
2♥ = 4 hearts (but not 3-card spade support)*
2NT = None of the above, minimum
3NT = None of the above, maximum

New Minor Forcing (continued)

	<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
3)	1♦	1♠
	2NT	3♣
	??	

3♠ = 3-card spade support

3♥ = 4 hearts (but not 3-card spade support)*

3♦ = None of the above

*Note: If you play this convention, make sure partner is playing it the same way as you. I suggest you play it as written here, but some people play that on Opener's third bid he bids his cheapest major (up-the-line). (In other words, he might show four hearts before showing three-card spade support.)

Examples for Opener:

1) ♠KQ2 ♥J432 ♦AQ2 ♣J76

1♣	1♠
1NT	2♦
??	

Bid 2♠ (unless you are playing that you show hearts first with four hearts and three spades)

2) ♠AQ3 ♥KJ ♦KQ1052 ♣K43

1♦	1♥
2NT	3♣
??	

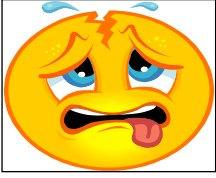
Bid 3♦ as you have no showable major.

3) ♠A2 ♥KJ54 ♦Q1043 ♣K103

1♦	1♠
1NT	2♣
??	

Bid 2♥, showing four cards in hearts and denying three spades.

New Minor Forcing (continued)



If you're still hanging in there we'll go to the next part of the auction.

Follow-ups (Responder's 3rd Bid):

A raise to three is invitational (1♦-1♥-1N-2♣-2♥-3♥)

A bid of 3NT is "Choice of games," promising 5 cards in his major.

(1♦-1♥-1N-2♣-2♥-3N)

A bid of 4 of the major is to play. (1♦-1♥-1N-2♣-2♥-4♥)

Examples:

1) ♠KJ954 ♥AJ3 ♦K54 ♣J2

1♣ 1♠
1NT 2♦
2♠ ??

Bid 3NT—This means you have five spades and you are offering a choice between 3NT and 4♠ (partner knows you'd have bid 3NT directly with only four spades).

2) ♠3 ♥KQJ95 ♦AJ104 ♣Q32

1♦ 1♥
1NT 2♣
2♥ ??

Bid 4♥ – You are not interested in offering a choice with this shapely hand.

3) ♠A9765 ♥AQ32 ♦43 ♣J7

1♦ 1♠
1NT 2♣
2♥ ??

Bid 3♥ to invite (or 4♥ if your partner really plays them well).

**Note: "New Minor" should NOT be on in competition (of any kind). Decide if you wish to use it by a Passed Hand (No strong feelings--just make sure to discuss).