

**Rationale**

1H – 2H This used to be the only invitational sequence. It didn't take long for players to realize that this should be just a general strength enquiry. Loser devotees realize that 1H-2H is a 9 or 10 loser. 3H by opener is a 5 loser. There should be a meaning attached to a change of suit after major suit agreement.

• After *minor* suit agreement, most pairs treat a new suit as NT probe, showing that the new suit is held. Partner does the same below 3NT

• *Trial Bids* occur when a *major* suit fit has been found at the two level. The two situations are:

1M – 2M or 1B – 1M  
? 2M – ?

• After one of these sequences, to make a **short suit** trial (SST) bid, **bid the short suit directly**. After 1S-2S has been bid, 3C, 3D, and 3H are short suit trial bids. However, after 1H-2H has been bid, 2NT is short trial in spades, 3C and 3D are the usual short suit trial bids.

1H – 2H This is how we make a short suit trial in clubs.  
3C! – ?

However,  
1H – 2H This is how we make a short suit trial in spades. 2S is reserved.  
2NT! – ?

• To make a **long suit** trial (LST) bid, start by **bidding the next higher bid**, ie bid 2S over 1H-2H, or bid 2NT over 1S-2S. **Partner is required to puppet** with the next higher bid (2NT or 3C respectively). Then you bid the long suit trial suit. *The main challenge is to remember that the next bid up is reserved!* e.g.:-

• 1S – 2S  
2NT! – 3C! This is how we make a long suit trial in Diamonds.  
3D!

Most of the LSTs are as clear as that. However,

• 1S – 2S This is how we make a long suit trial in clubs. It was not possible to bid the club suit.  
2NT! – 3C!  
3S! – ?

and  
• 1H – 2H This is how we make a long suit trial in spades. It was not possible to bid the spade suit.  
2S! – 2NT!  
3H! – ?

**When responding to a trial bid:**

- SST – accept if you have few wasted high cards
- LSS  
0 or 1 loser in trial suit, bid game  
2 losers in trial suit, bid game if max no of points  
3 losers in trial suit, forget it.
- The choice of **whether to make a long or short suit trial bid** depends on the hand, but all things being equal you should favour the **short suit trial bid**.

• **Cue Bidding** (See Lesson 34)

..New suits above game are cue bids looking for slam  
..New suits after a game forcing suit agreement are cue bids. e.g.

1M – 2NT! 2C! – 2S 2D! – 2S  
Jacoby 3S 3S  
Benjamin Twos with a positive response.

Try bidding these hands. West is dealer:-

♠AQT42 ♠J76 1S 2S  
♥K3 ♥A9874 3S<sup>1</sup> 4S  
♦AQ4 ♦K86  
♣K74 ♣86

<sup>1</sup>A quantitative raise. *Do you have a maximum or a nine loser?*

♠AQT432 ♠K76 1S 2S  
♥A62 ♥K942 3D!<sup>1</sup> 4S<sup>2</sup>  
♦8 ♦7643  
♣A97 ♣QJ

<sup>1</sup>SST in diamonds by bidding suit directly.  
<sup>2</sup>great – rubbish opposite opener's singleton

♠AQT432 ♠J95 1S 2S  
♥8 ♥QJ42 3H!<sup>1</sup> 3S<sup>2</sup>  
♦A62 ♦Q873 pass  
♣A97 ♣Q2

<sup>1</sup>SST in hearts  
<sup>2</sup>Despite a maximum, the wasted values make game a poor bet.

♠AQT43 ♠K52 1S 2S  
♥432 ♥8 2NT!<sup>1</sup> 3C!<sup>1</sup>  
♦AK6 ♦97543 3H!<sup>2</sup> 4S<sup>3</sup>  
♣A4 ♣K862

<sup>1</sup>start of LST and puppet  
<sup>2</sup>long losers in hearts  
<sup>3</sup>Good news – responder's shortage opposite losers

♠AQT43 ♠K52 1S 2S  
♥K4 ♥QJ6 2NT!<sup>1</sup> 3C!<sup>1</sup>  
♦K3 ♦QJT2 3S!<sup>2</sup> P<sup>3</sup>  
♣A432 ♣987

<sup>1</sup>start of LST and puppet  
<sup>2</sup>long losers in clubs  
<sup>3</sup>bad news – 3 losers in clubs  
Sometimes science gets in the way. After this auction, you will certainly get a club lead keeping you to 9 tricks. Without the LST, you might get away with 4S by pitching clubs on diamonds.

♠6 ♠AQ4 1D 3D  
♥AK52 ♥6 3H!<sup>1</sup> 3S!<sup>1</sup>  
♦AQ54 ♦KT632 3NT<sup>2</sup> pass  
♣K654 ♣T987

<sup>1</sup>not a trial! Shows suit is held for NT  
<sup>2</sup>Worth a shot but no guarantees. 5m are not great

♠AQT64 ♠J32 1S 2S  
♥6 ♥KQ72 3H!<sup>1</sup> 3S<sup>2</sup>  
♦AQ43 ♦76  
♣K86 ♣Q732

<sup>1</sup>SST hearts <sup>2</sup>values appear poorly placed