

NATURAL WITH A FORCING PASS

Golden rules

- # A bid in a suit, not shown by the opponents, is natural and not forcing.
- # A bid in a suit, shown by the opponents, is artificial and forcing.
- # A jump in a suit, not shown by the opponents, in the first round, is pre-emptive.
- # A bid of 1 NT, is natural and not forcing.
- # Pass is a weak bid.
- # Double is for take out if the opponents bid natural in a suit.
- # Double shows the suit if the opponents bid an artificial bid in a suit and it is forcing.
- # Double is for take out if the opponents bid an artificial bid in a suit and it is not forcing.
- # Double is for penalty if the opponents bid NT without having shown a suit.
- # Double is for take out if the opponents bid NT and have shown a suit.
- # Redouble is showing strength if double was for take out or showing strength.
- # Redouble is for take out if double was for penalty.
- # These rules sadly don't always apply. Especially not if it is stated otherwise or if they are not logical.

General rules

We don't use any artificial sequences if opponents are interfering.

The more complicated route to a bid, the stronger we are.

If there are a force to game, a direct bid in game is weaker than a slower approach.

The higher the bidding and the more we have bidden, the less take-out and the more strength-showing a double is.

Slam bidding

We use Roman Key Card Blackwood with interchanged meaning of five clubs and five diamonds. We play with Italian que-bids, which means that we bid them from below. It is almost always mandatory to bid a que-bid if partner isn't limited. A jump when we have agreed a trump is splinter.

Other conventions

We play with reversed Lebensohl. That is, we bid a weak bid directly. 2NT is always showing some strength.

If a fourth suit or a cue-bid is doubled, then RD is showing xx(xx). A bid in a suit is showing shortness in the doubled suit. NT is a good 1+ stopper. Pass is ½ or one stopper.

If any of our artificial bids is doubled. Pass means that could play that contract. RD means that partner are obliged to bid. Other bids are natural suggestions to play that contract.

Openings

We pass with weak or strong cards. An exception is when we can pre-empt with weak cards. Weak cards are 0-7 p and strong cards are 17+ p. P is hcp +/- some arbitrary points. 8 hcp is minimum for opening at the one-level, due to Swedish regulations. 14 hcp and something like three defensive tricks are minimum for strong cards.

With intermediate strength we open at the one-level. An exception is when we can pre-empt with 8-9 p. Intermediate strength (or opening strength) is 8-16 p.

With medium opening strength (12-14 p) and a (semi-)balanced hand, we open with 1NT. With a five-card suit and balanced, we can choose to open with one in that suit. With a five-card suit and semi-balanced, we can choose to open 1 NT. With a six-card minor suit and semi-balanced, we can choose to open 1 NT. We might open 1 NT with marmic and a single honour.

With 4333 or 3433 we open with one club. This applies to minimum or maximum opening strength. With strong four-card suit and 8-11 p, we could open the four-card suit. This implies that one spade is almost always at least five-card suit. One heart is almost always at least five-card suit or 44 in majors. One club is at least three cards.

With more than one four card suit, we open with the lowest one. Exception could be made with 8-11 p and a stronger higher suit. Exception could be made with a good three-card club and 8-11 p.

With one five-card suit, we open with that one. Exception could be made with (semi)balanced and medium opening strength. Exception could be made with a good four-card side-suit, and 8-11 p. With 8-9 p and a good suit we could open at the two-level.

With two five-card suits, we open with the highest one. With 8-9 p we open 2 NT with fairly good suits.

All bids above 1NT are pre-emptive. By definition they are not that defined. Rules of thumb to stick to are that pre-empt should have 6-9 hcp or less with long suit(s). 2-3-4-rule.

Two NT is showing any two-suiter.

Three NT is showing a six-card major and another five-card suit. If we have both majors we should have at least six hearts. Four NT shows both minors.

Responses

After pass

We bid one club with 0-7 hcp or strong cards. What strong cards are, depends on your judgement. But something like 18 hcp with a balanced hand and 17 hcp with an unbalanced hand is a minimum. We might also bid one club with 8-13 points with no other appetising bid. In that case we have clubs or a balanced hand. With 3334 and 8-12 points there is no other bid, so we are forced to respond one club.

With intermediate strength we bid natural above one club. It's forcing to game opposite a strong hand. And you want to play the contract opposite a weak hand.

One diamond, heart and spades show at least four cards. We prefer to open with the strongest suit and we might open a shorter suit before a longer.

1 NT shows 13-18 points with a balanced or semi-balanced hand. Normally 13 points just at matchpoints.

Two clubs shows at least five clubs. They need to be fairly strong.

Supporting bids are made with weak cards and other bids are forcing to game with strong cards. Two diamonds could be bidden with diamonds or support in clubs. Suit jump shifts is natural with a strong suit.

Higher bids in a suit, show at least six cards. These bids are made with a minimum of 8 points and might be quite strong. The most important is that it is a good suit. Bids in game might of course be made with cards that are stronger than intermediate strength.

Supporting bids are made with weak cards and other bids are forcing to game with strong cards. Two no trump could be bidden with trump support. Suit jump shifts to three-level is natural with a strong suit. Four in a minor on a major is splinter.

Two no trump shows two suits. After that three in a minor is preferred with weak cards and higher bids are semi-natural with strong cards.

After pass when opponents bid.

With weak cards we pass and with strong cards we double. We might of course bid game or slam with strong cards. If opponents bid an artificial bid that is forcing, we pass with strong cards. Double of such bids shows the suit (and is unlimited).

With intermediate strength we pass or bid. Double could be bidden with at least three cards in any unbidden suit. A suit at the lowest level shows at least five cards or rarely it might be four very strong cards. A jump in a not shown suit is at least six fairly good cards. One no trump shows 13-18 p. If opponent is strong, 1 NT shows two suits with at least four cards each. A simple que-bid is bidden with any unbidden two-suiter. 2 NT after a two-bid is about 19-20 points. Partner raises with 6-7 points. If opponents are strong 2 NT is a two-suited hand.

Responses after one in a suit.

Pass is about 0-7 points.

A bid in an unbidden suit at the lowest level is forcing, other bids are natural and not forcing. Four in a minor after a major is splinter with ca 8-12 points. Four NT is RKCB.

Direct support in any level is about 6-12 points. The better the shape the higher you bid. Two clubs shows at least four cards, higher in clubs at least five cards. In the other suits a support promises at least three at the two-level. At higher levels, you promise at least four-card support.

A jump in a suit above the opener is weak with at least six cards. The bid is limited to about 9 hcp. At the three-level or above the bid promises about 2-3 tricks less than bidden. The same applies to natural bids above 3 NT.

A jump in a lower suit at the three-level is a complement to 1 NT. The strength is about 8-12 points. You want to play there if partner has minimum and higher if he has maximum. If opener have medium strength you are dependent on his judgement. Two diamonds on one club is at least five cards and about 6-12 points.

1 NT is about 8-14 points.

2NT is invitational if partner is minimal.

A major is always shown before a minor suit. After one club, one diamond shows hearts and one heart shows spades. With a bad four-card major and a good four-card support, you raise with 6-12 p.

One spade on one club denies a major and shows good cards or diamonds. About 13+ p without major and any distribution otherwise. With 8-12 p you have 4-5 diamonds and about three clubs.

Two clubs over one denies a major and shows good cards. If opener is above minimum it is forcing to game (ca 13+ p). Two clubs over one heart denies three hearts. On one spade one might have four (five) hearts with a longer minor.

Two diamonds over one show hearts and good cards. If opener is above minimum it is forcing to game (ca 13+ p). On one heart it is at least three hearts. On one spade it denies three good spades. On one spade it is at least five hearts or four without a longer minor.

Two hearts over one spade shows at least three spades and good cards. If opener is above minimum it is forcing to game (ca 13+ p).

Responses, after one in a suit, when opponent bids.

Double of a suit is for take out. Normally it is four cards in an unbidden major or strong cards. If there are two unbidden majors it is at least four/three or strong cards. If the bid is artificial and forcing, double shows the suit.

A bid at the lowest level in a not shown suit is constructive but not forcing. It shows at least five cards in the suit. The higher the bid the higher lower level of points of the bid.

Bid in no trump is natural up to the three-level. Two no trump is invitational to a minimum opener. Bid in no trump after opponents double is always showing some kind of trump-support.

Bidding after one no trump.

We play Double Stayman.

In contested bidding double is for take out. Double of bids in no trump is for penalty. Double of an artificial bid in a suit that is forcing shows the suit.

Two no trump is reversed Lebensohl with at least invitational strength.

A bid in a suit at the lowest level is to play.

A jump in a suit is invitational.

Bidding after higher suit bids

Two diamonds on two clubs is an artificial bid. Two NT is always forcing. It is quite natural on two clubs, but still forcing. On two diamonds we might force artificial with three clubs, if we believe 3NT on opener's card is interesting.

On all these bids three of the opened suit is the weakest bid. With medium cards we bid as natural as possible lower than three in the opening suit. With maximum we might bid above three in our opened suit.

Two in a major is natural but not forcing. Opener bid with maximum or some sort of support.

Three in the opened suit is pre-emptive.

Three in a new suit is natural and forcing to game. If there is a jump then the suit is quite strong. Three clubs on two diamonds and three diamonds on three clubs might be artificial. After three-over-three partner supports with Hx. If he has xx or less in support and a singleton in a side-suit, he rebids his suit.

Further bidding after higher NT-bids.

On 2NT three in a minor is just preference. Three in a major is semi-natural with at least three cards and forcing to game. Three NT on 2NT shows at least three cards in both minors and are not forcing.

On 3NT four clubs is preference and four diamonds are artificial and forcing. The rest of the bids are natural and not forcing.

Openers reply and some further bidding

Openers re-bid after pass - one club, and further bidding

With 0-7 points opener re-bids one diamond. If the responder don't have any strong cards, he has to pass. If the responder has strong cards, he bids in the same way as opener do in this round. The bidding then continue in the same manner.

With strong cards opener re-bids above one diamond. With a balanced hand, he bids one no trump with 17-20 points. After that we continue with double Stayman. Two no trump shows 21-23 points and a balanced hand. After that three clubs is Baron and four in a minor is transfer to the corresponding major.

With 17-23 points and an unbalanced hand, we open one in a major or two in a minor. One in a major guaranties a four-card suit, and two in minor guaranties a five-card suit. If opener has a four-card major and a five-card minor, he might open one in the major.

The bidding continue quite natural. Responder continue with 4-7 points or lower with support in trump. He bids a new suit or no trump at the lowest level or bids a supporting bid at any level. A jump in a new suit or no trump, is semi-natural with 8-13 or 17+ points.

With 24 or more points, we force to game. Two in a major shows at least four cards and three in a minor at least five cards. It is the same here that we can open in two of a major with four in that major and a five-card minor. We continue as natural as possible.

Three in a major and four in a minor establish that suit as the trump suit and demands que-bidding.

Three no trump shows 24-27 points, four no trump 28-30 points and five no trump 31-33 points. Normally this is without a four-card major or a five-card minor.

Openers re-bid after pass – one natural suit, and further bidding

With weak cards opener bid pass or raises the suit to a suitable level.

If opener has strong cards, he bids something else and a force to game is established.

First of all he shows a four-card trump-support if he has one. This is done with two no trump. After that responder shows minimum with three clubs.

Otherwise we continue in old fashion ways. Five-card suit is shown, before a four-card suit. One-over-one promises a four-card suit and two-over-one a good five-card suit. One no trump is bidden if there is no other bid available. Two hearts over one spade tend to be a six-card suit.

In the further bidding we show extra-length at lowest possible level. We have to give special attention to the fact that responder might have responded with a four-card suit, having a longer side-suit. A direct bid at game is of course weaker than a slower approach.

Openers jump in a new suit, show at least six good cards in that suit. A double jump in a new suit shows void and four-card support. Four no trump is RKCB.

Openers re-bid after pass – one no trump, and further bidding

We play with transfers and two no trump is transfer to three clubs. Two spades is showing four spades and a longer minor with 6-7 points. Three in a suit is to play.

With 6-7 points and a five-card major, opener can transfer to two diamonds and then bid his major. With 6-7 points and a four-card heart with a longer side-suit, opener transfer to two hearts and then bid his side-suit.

Any other sequences show the strong hand by opener. We bid as natural as possible. If opener do not have a five-card suit to transfer to, he bids two clubs.

Openers reply after one red-over-one club

The nearest bid is just showing minimum. Other bids are natural with natural modern continuation. An exception is reverse which could be made with intermediate opening strength and trump support. On that bid responder bids the nearest bid with weak cards. Otherwise he bids about the same as partner has raised the suit. After one club-one diamond-one heart, one spade is artificial and forcing. It is weak with spades or at least invitational strength. On that one NT denies spades, two clubs shows spades but denies three-card support in hearts. Two diamonds is 43xx with minimum and two hearts is 43xx with maximum. On one club-one heart-one spade, two hearts is at least invitational with four spades or at least six spades. Two spades is at least invitational with exactly five spades.

Openers reply after one-over-one

The difference from a natural system is that two clubs could be bidden with trump support and intermediate strength or stronger with three-card support. Responder bids nearest bid with minimum. Openers direct support to the three-level is maximum. Reverse by opener could also be trump support. Responder bids nearest bid with minimum.

Openers reply after two-over-one

The nearest bid shows minimum and if opener bids above that bid he is forcing to game.