

# Responding to 1NT

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Playing 2/1 with 5-card majors, many partnerships open 1NT with 15-17HCP and use Stayman and Jacoby Transfers.

With Stayman how do you define the bids 2♥, 2♠, 2NT and 3♣?

With Jacoby transfers, what is the meaning of the bids 2♥, 2♠, and 2NT after the sequence 1NT-2♦?

## Weak Hand less than 9HCP and a 4-card major

Responder employs Stayman with a weak hand and holds:

- (1) 4-4/5-5 in the majors
- (2) 4-card major with a 5-card minor
- (3) a hand with short clubs (e.g., 3-4-5-1)

### (a) After 1NT-2♣ opener bids:

- 2♦ No 4-card major
- 2♥/2♠ 4/5 card major
- 2NT 4-4 in majors and 15HCP
- 3♣ 4-4 in the majors with 16-17HCP

If opener bids 2♦

Responder bids:

- Pass to play
- 2♥\* Pick your best major (crawling Stayman)
  - With 3-hearts opener passes with a minimum and with 3-spades bids 2♠.
  - With a maximum and 3-3 in the major's bid 2NT
    - Responder passes or bids 3♣/3♦ with 4441 or a 5-card minor
    - After 2♠ and 4=5 in the majors bid 2NT (invitational)
- 2NT Transfer to 3♣
- 3♣ Transfer to 3♦

After 1NT - 2♣; 2NT shows both majors

Opener bids:

- 3♣ transfer to diamonds

- 3♦ transfer to hearts
- 3♥ transfer to spades

**(b) After 1NT -2♦^= transfer to hearts**

Opener bids:

- 2♥ Minimum or two hearts
- 2NT\* Maximum with three hearts (Bell Convention)
- 3♥ Maximum with 4/5 hearts

**(c) After 1NT -2♥^= transfer to spades**

- 2♠ Minimum or two hearts
- 2NT\* Maximum with three hearts (Bell Convention)
- 3♠ Maximum with 4/5 spades

**(d) After 1NT -2♠^= transfer to minor**

Opener rebids 2NT with all minimum hands if he prefers diamonds and bids his long minor at the 3-level with a maximum.

^=an announcement

\*=aleert

**Invitational hand 8/9HCP balanced hand**

**(a) After 1NT-2♣**

Responder has

- (1) 4 hearts and 5 spades (4=5)
- (2) 5 spades and a distributional hand

**(b) After 1NT-2♦^**

Responder has

- (1) 4-4 in the majors
- (2) 4-hearts, balanced or a longer minor
- (3) 5+hearts

**Strong hand 10+HCP balanced hand or a distributional 8-loser hand**

**(a) 1NT -2♣**



2NT = minimum hand  
3♣ = pick a minor  
3♣/3♦ weak

(f) 1NT – 2NT = balanced or semi-balanced (5422/6322)

3♥ with hearts and too weak for NT  
3♠ 4-card suit  
5m to play  
4NT both minor

(g) 4441/ 5440 hands then 1NT – 3♦ = minor suit shortness and 3♥/3♠ shortness

After 3♦-?

3♥ relay to 4-card major  
3♠ 4-card suit  
3NT strong minors  
4m 4-hearts cue bid with maximum  
4M 4-card support minimum

After 3♥ - ?

3♠ 4-card suit slam interest  
3NT to play  
4m 4-card support  
4♠/5m to play minimum

After 3♠ - ?

3NT to play  
4♣ 4-clubs/4-hearts  
4♦ 4-card support  
4♥/5m to play minimum

(h) 1NT-4NT 16-17 with 4-card minor and 333

Opener responds aces and a rebid of 5NT= 2 aces missing  
Opener may pass, bid 6NT or 6 of a suit

The bidding sequences is a review of some bidding sequences in the book “Notrump Bidding - the Scanian Way”, a book printed in Sweden (1990) Swedish Expert Methods Volume Two by Magnus Lindkvist, Mats Nisland and Anders Wirgren who live in the province of Scania.

Coping with interference, artificial overcalls, high level overcalls; slam tries, and much more are covered in the book.

Playing 2/1: Opener ♠AK62 ♥Q873 ♦K96 ♣K Responder ♠93 ♥AK2 ♦A8754 ♣A94

Many may play in 3NT/4NT; however, using the Swedish methods the contract of 6♦ is easily achieved: 1NT - 2♣; 2NT=both majors -3♣\*; 3♦-3NT; 4♣- 4♥=0/3 aces; 4♠ =cue bid-6♦; Pass