## Responding to 1NT

## By Neil H. Timm

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 $2 \boldsymbol{\bullet}, 2 \boldsymbol{\wedge}, 2 \mathrm{NT}$ and $3 \star$ ?
With Jacoby transfers, what is the meaning of the bids $2 \boldsymbol{\bullet}, 2 \boldsymbol{\wedge}$, and $2 N T$ after the sequence 1 NT$2 * ?$

## 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
$2 \vee / 2 \wedge 4 / 5$ card major
2NT $4-4$ in majors and 15 HCP
3* $\quad 4-4$ in the majors with $16-17 \mathrm{HCP}$
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 $2 \boldsymbol{A}$.
With a maximum and 3-3 in the major's bid 2NT
Responder passes or bids $3 \boldsymbol{\&} / 3$ with 4441 or a 5 -card minor
After $2 \uparrow$ 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

3v transfer to spades
(b) After 1NT $-2 \star^{\wedge}=$ transfer to hearts

Opener bids:
2v Minimum or two hearts
2NT* Maximum with three hearts (Bell Convention)
3v Maximum with $4 / 5$ hearts
(c) After 1NT $-2 \nabla^{\wedge}=$ 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 $\wedge^{\wedge} \wedge=$ 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.
$\wedge=$ 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 $\wedge^{\wedge}$

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

Strong hand $10+\mathbf{H C P}$ balanced hand or a distributional 8-loser hand
(a) 1NT -2*
(1) Any balance hand with or without a 4-card major
(2) At least 5-4 or 4-5 in the majors
(3) One 5/4-card major or longer minor, but less than 4-cards in the other minor

If opener denes a major or opener bids 2 M and responder does not have support, jump to $\mathbf{3 N T}$.
If opener shows both majors by bidding 2 NT , transfer to 3 M and then bid game.

## Minor suit Stayman

If opener has no 4-card major, or if opener bids 2 M and responder does not have 4-card support Respond $3 \bullet$ to explore for a minor suit fit.
(a) $1 \mathrm{NT}-2 \boldsymbol{*} ; 2 \bullet-3 \star$ ?
3. $4 / 5$ clubs, less than 4 diamonds
$3 \boldsymbol{A} \quad 4 / 5$ diamonds. less than 4-clubs
3NT 4-cards in the minors
$4 \mathrm{~m} \quad 5-2$ in minors with maximum
(b) $1 \mathrm{NT}-2 \star ; 2 \mathrm{M}-3 *$ ?

3• 4 clubs
3^ 4 diamonds
3NT no 4-card minor
(c) $1 \mathrm{NT}-2 \star$; 2 with 5-hearts

3: GF 5+M
Opener may next bid 3 M or 4 m with a fit and slam interest With 2 M bids 3 NT or 3 OM with 5 or bids 3 to ask for shortness

3v shortness other M
3^ shortness in clubs
3NT shortness in diamonds with game strength
3- 5-5 with clubs
3^ 5-5 with diamonds
3NT 5-3-3-2 opener bids 3NT/4M
(d) $1 \mathrm{NT}-2 \boldsymbol{\star} ; 2 \boldsymbol{*} \boldsymbol{\bullet} \quad 5 \boldsymbol{\downarrow}$ and $4 \boldsymbol{\bullet}$ smolen GF

3^ $5 \boldsymbol{\wedge}$ and $4 \uparrow$ smolen GF
3NT no 4-card minor
(e) 1NT - $2 \boldsymbol{n}^{*}$ = both minors

2NT = minimum hand $3 \%=$ pick a minor
$3 ヵ / 3$ weak
(f) $1 \mathrm{NT}-2 \mathrm{NT}=$ balanced or semi-balanced (5422/6322)

3- with hearts and too weak for NT
3^ 4-card suit
5 m to play
4NT both minor
(g) 4441/ 5440 hands then $1 \mathrm{NT}-3 *=$ minor suit shortness and $3 \vee / 3 \uparrow$ 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
$4 \mathrm{~m} \quad$ 4-card support
$4 \boldsymbol{\wedge} / 5 \mathrm{~m}$ to play minimum
After 3~ - ?
3NT to play
4\% 4-clubs/4-hearts
4 * 4-card support
$4 \vee / 5 \mathrm{~m}$ to play minimum
(h) 1NT-4NT 16-17 with 4-card minor and 333

Opener responds aces and a rebid of $5 \mathrm{NT}=2$ aces missing
Open er 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 Magnun Lindkvist, Mats Nisland and Anders Wirgren who live in the province of Scania.

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

Many may play in $3 \mathrm{NT} / 4 \mathrm{NT}$; however, using the Swedish methods the contract of 6 is easily


