



Bidding Basics

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Responder's actions after opener's non-forcing rebid

In this installment, we are responder and we have bid on the one level. Our partner, the opener, has made his second bid on the two level, but he hasn't shown a strong hand such as a jumpshift or a reverse. So some example auctions for this month would be: 1♣-1♦; 2♣ or 1♦-1♠; 2♣ or 1♠-1NT; 2♥ or 1♣-1♠; 2♠.

Opener repeats his suit

Let's start with the simplest situation where opener has repeated his suit. This is easier because opener has a narrow range. He is showing at least six cards in the suit and a minimum hand (up to about 14 or 15 points counting useful distribution).

With a weak hand (less than 9 points or so), responder is likely done. Even with a void in opener's suit, he will leave well enough alone and pass. After 1♥-1♠; 2♥, for example, responder would pass with:

♠A x x x ♥x ♦K x x x x ♣x x x.

Don't try to correct or improve the contract to 2NT with a hand such as:

♠K x x x ♥x ♦K x x x ♣K x x x!

Responder can invite by raising to three of opener's suit or by bidding 2NT. After, say, 1♦-1♥; 2♦, raise to 3♦ with:

♠x ♥A x x x ♦K J x ♣Q x x x x

or bid 2NT with:

♠K 10 x ♥Q J x x ♦K x x ♣Q 10 x.

Responder can repeat his own suit, but should keep in mind that opener has six or more of his suit, so responder

had better have at least six decent cards of his own. Repeating it on the two level is weak (sort of a signoff). On the three level, however, responder's suit is invitational. After 1♣-1♠; 2♣, bid 2♠ with:

♠A Q 10 x x x ♥K x x ♦x x x x ♣—,

and bid 3♠ with:

♠K Q J 10 9 x x ♥K 9 x x ♦x ♣x.

Responder can insist on game by jumping to it, or can bid a new suit which is forcing (and possibly artificial). After 1♥-1♠; 2♥, bid 4♥ with:

♠A Q x x x ♥K x ♦K x x x ♣x x.

Bid 3NT with:

♠A J 10 x ♥J x ♦K Q 10 x ♣K Q 9.

Bid 3♣ with:

♠K Q 10 x x ♥A ♦x x ♣A J x x x.

Responder can bid 4NT, which would be Roman key card Blackwood in opener's suit. For example, after 1♥-1♠; 2♥, bid 4NT with:

♠A K x x x ♥Q x ♦A K x x ♣K Q.

Opener bids a new suit on the two level

The more difficult situation is where opener changes suit (but not a jumpshift or reverse). This has a wider range than had opener repeated his suit. If opener bids a new suit on the two level, he has at least four cards there (and typically five or more in his first suit, definitely if it was a major). His strength for such a new-suit bid is anything from a minimum up to about 17 or 18. So responder should try to

keep the bidding alive when holding 8 or 9-plus because game is still possible.

Responder can pass with a weak hand and a preference for the second suit. After 1♠-1NT; 2♦, responder can pass with:

♠x ♥A x x x ♦J x x x ♣J x x x.

Responder should go back to the first suit with any hint of a preference, even a "false" preference. With two cards in opener's major and not great support for the second suit, he can make a "delayed" raise to two of opener's major. This is especially useful for keeping the bidding alive with medium (9-ish) type hands. For example, after 1♥-1♠; 2♦, go back to 2♥ with:

♠A x x x x ♥K x ♦J x x ♣J x x.

This lets opener bid again with, say:

♠x ♥A Q 10 x x ♦K Q 10 x x ♣A x,

a hand that wasn't strong enough to jump-shift. Opener would next bid 3♦ and responder could now say 4♥.

Responder can raise either of opener's suits to the three level or bid 2NT to invite. After 1♠-1NT; 2♥, bid 3♥ with:

♠A x ♥K x x x ♦x x ♣Q 10 x x x.

Bid 3♠ with:

♠Q 10 x ♥x ♦A x x x x ♣A x x x,

or bid 2NT with:

♠Q x ♥Q x ♦K J 8 x ♣K 10 x x x.

With a stronger hand, responder can bid game in any suit or notrump or bid a new suit (potentially artificial) to force. After 1♥-1♠; 2♦, bid 4♥ with:

♠ A x x x ♥ A J x ♦ K x x x ♣ x x.

Bid 4♠ with:

♠ K Q J 10 x x x ♥ A x ♦ K x ♣ x x.

Bid 3NT with:

♠ K Q 10 x ♥ x x ♦ Q x x ♣ A Q x x.

Bid 3♣ (fourth-suit forcing) with:

♠ A K Q x x ♥ A x ♦ A x x x ♣ x x.

After Opener Has Raised a 1M response to 2M

Opener has shown a minimum with (usually) 4-card support. Accordingly, responder can pass, invite game, go to game, or even investigate slam.

BIDDING BASICS QUIZ

What is responder's rebid after 1♥-1♠; 2♥ with:

1. ♠ K J 7 6 3 ♥ - ♦ J 7 6 5 ♣ Q 4 3 2

2. ♠ A 10 3 2 ♥ K 10 ♦ K 9 5 4 3 ♣ 4 3

What is responder's rebid after 1♠-1NT; 2♠ with:

3. ♠ - ♥ A 3 2 ♦ Q J 10 8 7 6 5 ♣ 4 3 2

4. ♠ K 10 ♥ Q J 8 7 ♦ Q 10 7 6 ♣ Q J 6

What is responder's rebid after 1♦-1♥; 2♣ with:

5. ♠ A 6 5 4 ♥ Q 7 6 5 4 ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ 3

6. ♠ K Q 8 ♥ K 8 7 6 5 ♦ K 2 ♣ Q J 4

What is responder's rebid after 1♠-1NT; 2♥ with:

7. ♠ A 5 ♥ K Q 10 8 5 ♦ 9 8 3 2 ♣ 7 4

8. ♠ Q 7 ♥ Q 6 ♦ A 10 7 6 5 ♣ J 9 4 2

-
1. Pass. At least you don't have to play it.
 2. 3♥. Invitational.
 3. 3♦. Yours are likely better than partner's. This is "to play."
 4. 2NT. Invitational.
 5. 2♦. Don't go any deeper towards trouble.
 6. 3NT. Make sure to reach game.
 7. 4♥. Too good for only an invitation-al 3♥.
 8. 2♠. Go back to the known five-card suit. And don't bid 2NT: It won't play well, and it invites 3NT.



International Fund Game winners

An Iowa pair won the ACBL-wide International Fund Game held Dec. 16, 2019. Alice Gross and Scott Sorensen of Sioux City scored 75.41% playing at Siouxland DBC. Gross is a Silver Life Master and Sorensen is a Sectional Master with under 100 masterpoints who joined the ACBL last year.

With 378 tables of play, the game raised \$2400.30 to support North American teams in international competition.

1. Alice Gross – Scott Sorensen, Sioux City IA	75.41%
2. Egda Delaney, Placitas NM; Athena Kelly, Albuquerque NM	70.25%
3. John Bodish, St. Joseph MI; Cappy Gagnon, Notre Dame IN	69.21%
4. John Chiles – Dennis Phillips, Raleigh NC	69.01%
5. Robert McCosh – Neil O'Brian, Miramichi NB	68.86%
6. Rita Prince – Eileen Williamson, Granbury TX	67.71%
7. Thomas Teeters, Bloomington IL; Steve Wulfers, Normal IL	67.36%
8. Joyce Birdoff – Ann Block, Westbury NY	67.30%
9. Chanok Chalifoux, Sandwich MA; Anita Johnston, Buzzards Bay MA	66.67%
10. Brad Meinhold, Florence MT; Ralph Stone, Missoula MT	66.61%

Top scores by district

1. Robert McCosh – Neil O'Brian, Miramichi NB	68.86%
3. Laine Maurer – Maria Zazzera, New Providence NJ	59.26%
Griffith Smith – Katherine Smith, New Providence NJ	59.26%
4. Jinan Bahia, Hummelstown PA; Lee Morrison, Camp Hill PA	59.38%
5. Donna Steffan, East Amherst NY; Fred Yellen, Buffalo NY	61.98%
7. John Chiles – Dennis Phillips, Raleigh NC	69.01%
8. Thomas Teeters, Bloomington IL; Steve Wulfers, Normal IL	67.36%
9. Rhoda Levine, Tamarac FL; Diane Stern, Weston FL	65.00%
10. Ronald Berenger – Paul Freese, Metairie LA	60.83%
11. Phyllis Allmacher, Powell OH; Karen Angelou, Gahanna OH	61.80%
12. John Bodish, St. Joseph MI; Cappy Gagnon, Notre Dame IN	69.21%
13. Tom Fogarty, Chicago IL; Mark Ginsburg, Buffalo Grove IL	63.22%
14. Alice Gross – Scott Sorensen, Sioux City IA	75.41%
16. Rita Prince – Eileen Williamson, Granbury TX	67.71%
17. Egda Delaney, Placitas NM; Athena Kelly, Albuquerque NM	70.25%
18. Brad Meinhold, Florence MT; Ralph Stone, Missoula MT	66.61%
21. Mindy Kane – Wayne Vondera, Livermore CA	65.22%
22. Joan Kaye, Corona Del Mar CA; Sally Murphy, Fountain Valley CA	65.38%
23. Mori Taylor, Marina Del Rey CA; Katherine Weisberg, Los Angeles CA	63.10%
24. Joyce Birdoff – Ann Block, Westbury NY	67.30%
25. Chanok Chalifoux, Sandwich MA; Anita Johnston, Buzzards Bay MA	66.67%