

Good bidding is the result of clear partnership agreements and bidding according to your agreements. Trust your partner and listen to her.

THE BONES OF BIDDING

Jacoby 2NT

A Forcing Major Suit Raise

YOUR PARTNERSHIP IS ON A QUEST TO FIND A MAJOR SUIT FIT.

1. Jacoby 2NT is a bid responder can make when his partner has opened one of a MAJOR, and responder has FOUR TRUMP and 13 or more points. Jacoby 2NT is a game forcing raise of the major and it requires an ALERT because it is considered ARTIFICIAL.

Partner opens 1 of a major.
You have 4 trump and 13 + points.
You bid 2NT, which is a game forcing bid
Partner alerts your bid of 2NT.
This agreement is call Jacoby 2NT.
Your NT bid is artificial.

2. It is articial because it doesn't mean you want to play NT, and because it means that you actually have a FOUR-CARD fit with your partner.

Jacoby 2NT promises 4 trump and 13 or more points.

3. Because it's artificial, you have to REMEMBER it. You have to remember it on the occasions when YOU are responder, and you have to remember it when YOUR PARTNER is the responder.

Partner opens 1 Heart and you have:

AK98 QJ32 K4 873	Respond 2NT
AKQJ9 QJ32 7 873	Respond 2NT
KJ8 AKJ74 2 AQJ2	Respond 2NT
AJ4 KQ7 Q864 K96	Respond 2 diamonds

4. Whenever you have a game-forcing hand, there is an increased chance that you and partner may have a slam. The Jacoby 2NT bid allows you and partner to start exploring for a slam right away. You are only at the 2 level, and already you are checking-up on bidding a slam! That's why you bid Jacoby 2NT – to enable easy slam bidding!

You bid Jacoby 2NT to make it easier to bid slams.

5. When opener hears responder bid Jacoby 2NT, she has specific responsibilities:



- a. Bid a shortness (singleton or void) if she has one
- b. Show her point count if she does not have a shortness

12 to 14 points	Jump to game in the major suit
15 to 16 points	Bid 3 NT (artificial)
17 + points	Bid just 3 of the agreed major suit

You open 1 heart, partner responds 2 NT, what do you rebid

7	AJ874	AQ84	Q42	Bid 3 spades
65	AJ874	AQJ42	8	Bid 3 clubs
J54	AJ874	AQJ42	-----	Bid 3 clubs
J2	AJ874	AQ94	85	Bid 4 hearts
K2	AJ874	AK94	85	Bid 3 NT
AK	AJ874	AK94	85	Bid 3 Hearts

6. THE PRINCIPAL OF FAST ARRIVAL. Remember that responder's bid of 2NT was a game forcing bid. Notice in the point count responses that opener uses, that the weaker opener is, the faster she proceeds to game. And the stronger opener is, the slower she proceeds to game. This is called the Principle of Fast Arrival. Fast arrival means that you're weaker. Proceeding slowly, on the other hand, expresses strength. With weaker hands, you just want to get there. With stronger hands, you're willing to take your time to explore.

THE PRINCIPAL OF FAST ARRIVAL does not apply just to Jacoby2NT. It applies anytime that the partnership has entered a game-going situation. Fast arrival always means the same thing: "Partner, I have my previous bids, but nothing extra, and from my point of view, I just want to get there." Slower bidding always has the opposite meaning: "Gee, Partner, I know we're headed to game, but what's the big hurry? I've got some extra stuff here, so maybe we should be trying for a slam."

7. Now it's back to responder. Responder has heard opener's rebid. Opener either showed shortness, or else she denied it. If she denied it, she showed her point count.

Maybe responder never was interested in slam. Maybe responder had only a minimum 2NT bid. So if opener leaped to game, responder is done too. But if opener made any other rebid, now it is responder's

turn to use the principal of fast arrival, and just sign off by bidding game. Responder may not ever have been interested in slam, but by bidding Jacoby 2NT she has described her hand to Partner. Partner may now want to push on because of extra strength in her own hand.

Likewise, if responder has more than a minimum 2NT bid, she doesn't HAVE to stop if opener shows a minimum. She may still decide to go on.

EVALUATING PARTNER'S SHORTNESS.

But what if opener had a shortness and bid it? Now responder needs to evaluate how the hands fit. Here is a general principle for evaluating your hands when you discover that partner has a shortness: If you have high cards facing partner's shortness, the hands are not fitting together. But if you have weakness facing partner's shortness, your hands ARE fitting together.

You have 6 KQ85 AKJ5 J754

The auction has been

<u>opener</u>	<u>you</u>
1 Heart	2NT
3 Diamonds	

Partner has a void or singleton in diamonds.

Your ardor for slam is dampened. Opener may have

AKJ5 AJ874 ----- Q632

Independently you both have great hands. But you have "duplicated values". Your HCP and his shape points are in the same suit, so his void has little value. In spades you have another "duplication of values," so slam is off.

Now give partner a club shortness

AKJ5 AJ874 Q632 -----

facing the same hand you just had

6 KQ85 AKJ5 J754

This time you can take all 13 tricks. His void "fits" your weakness. No values are duplicated in this suit. That means that all the HCP's in both hands are all working together.