

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

## THE BONES OF BIDDING

### Responders NT responses over a minor suit opening bid.

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

1. When partner opens 1 of a minor, our first obligation is to bid our 4-card majors up the line. But sometimes we don't have a 4-card major. This means our attention should turn to NT, especially if we are at all balanced.
2. WHEN YOU HAVE 6 TO 10 HCP. Responding 1NT with 6 to 10 HCP, is one of the first bids new bridge players learn. This bid denies having a 4-card major and usually shows a more or less balanced hand, although at times this is just the only bid responder has available.

Over the 1NT response, opener's first consideration is whether or not a game is still a reasonable objective. If he thinks not, then he typically will either pass 1NT, or else rebid his own minor suit, and then responder must pass. These are the two most typical actions.

If opener raises the 1NT response to 2NT, he is showing the 18 to 19 HCP balanced hand.

If opener jump rebids to 3 of his minor, he shows a 6 card suit and about 16 points. Responder may still bid 3NT if he has a maximum 1NT responding hand and otherwise feels he may make it.

A jump to 4 clubs is Gerber, ace-asking.

3. WHEN YOU HAVE 11 OR 12 HCP. Over partner's opening of 1 of a minor, respond 2NT. You deny a 4-card major. View your point total as invitational to game, and jump immediately to 2NT. Partner should pass with a minimum and raise to 3NT with extra values.

When opener hears this invitation, he should not be eager to avoid NT, especially if there is a chance to make 3NT. It is a common error by opener to bid another suit or to rebid his own suit, when,

in fact, he may feel perfectly comfortable in a NT contract. When responder suggests NT, do not bid a suit unless you REALLY don't want to play in NT.

If opener rebids 3 of her own suit, responder should pass. Responder is declining the game invitation and feels that his suit is a safer part-score than 2NT.

Again, a jump to 4 clubs is Gerber, ace-asking.

4. WHEN YOU HAVE 13 TO 15 HCP. Over partner's opening bid of one of a minor, respond 3NT. You are denying a 4-card major. You know your partnership possesses sufficient high-card strength to be in game, and 3NT is the most accessible game.

Opener's typical action is to pass. Any other action is still forcing to game, and opener may even have slam interest. Opener's rebid of 4 clubs is Gerber, unless he is rebidding his own suit, in which case it is lots of clubs.