

Keeping It Simple – How to Open & Respond

If You Have a 5-Card Major

12-21 HCP's

Bid 1♠ or 1♥

If you have a Balanced Hand

15-17 HCP

Bid 1 No Trump

If You Have (12)13-21 HCP

No 5-Card Major

UnBalanced Hand

Bid 1♣ or 1♦

Keeping It Simple – How to Respond (in Majors)

If You Have Major Suit Support

6-9 PP's & 3 or 4 Card Support

Bid 2 of Partner's suit

10-12 PP's & 3 Card Support

Bid 1NT (forcing) ... then Rebid Partner's suit

10-12 PP's & 4 Card Support

Bid 3 of Partner's (limit raise)

6-12 PP's & No Support

Bid 1♠ over 1♥ or Bid 1NT(forcing)

6-9 HCP: Pass on 2nd bid

10-12 HCP: Pass, Bid 2NT or Bid Partner's 1st Suit

First Obligation Responding to Minor Suit Opening

Show 4-Card Major

Support Opener's suit with 4♦ or 5♣ otherwise

6-9 HCP Bid 1NT

10-12 HCP Bid 2NT

13+ HCP Bid 3NT

Bidding Principles:

1. The first two bids by each Partner should be used to show hand shape and size
 - 1st bid shows lowest HCP & a hint toward shape
 - 2nd bid shows highest HCP & refines shape description¹
2. After 2 bids by each Partner there should be sufficient information to decide to go above the 2-level – Apply the Rule of 23
3. All NT bids are Point showing and passable (conventional bids excepted)
 - 1NT → minimum hand for both response and Opener's rebid
 - 2NT → shows Medium Open or Response hand (11-12HCP)
4. **MaFiA** → **M**ajor suits **F**irst **A**lways – The Mafia Rule
 - If possible convert NT Openings to Major suit contracts (stayman & transfers)
 - No Major suit fit – prefer NT Contract over Minor suit contracts
5. With equal length suits generally:
 - Opener's bid Down-the-Line Reversing this order → Big hand or better
 - Responder's bid Up-the-Line i.e. lower ranking suit 1st
6. New Suits at 3-level – absolutely game forcing

¹ 2nd suit by Opener does not promise more points unless it is a jump bid – it is asking Responder to choose one of the suits or NT.