

1NT OPENER

15-17 balanced, may have 5cd suit

Usually 5cd suit is "ratty"

Rarely, may have singleton in certain cases: where singleton suit is "above" the biddable 4- or 5-card suits (eg., 1444, 3145). Best if singleton is honor. Otherwise, open 1 of suit.

RESPONSE SCENARIOS

Responder's options:

- 2C Stayman – promises 4-card major, 9hcp (in case opener has 17HCP opener and drives to game). May be 5-4 in majors – see "Stayman convention" below.
Because 2N is not invitational, 2C may also be an 8-9 balanced hand with no 4-card major.
- 2D Transfer, promises 5cd Hearts
- 2H Transfer, promises 5cd Spades
- 2S Minor suit stayman, promises 10hcp, 5-4 in minors with mild slam interest
- Opener bids
- 2N no 4-cd minor, both majors stopped
- 3C/D lowest 4cd minor
- 3H/S <na>
- 3N no 4-cd minor, maximum strength, both majors stopped
- 4C/4D maximum strength with 4cd minor
- 2N Weak hand with a long minor. Opener bids 3C, responder corrects to 3D. This is the only way to show a weak minor-suit hand.
- 3C Puppet Stayman, have one or both 3-card majors. 11+hcp strength. Do not have any 4-card majors. See below.
- 3D 6cd minor, invitational
- 3H 5-5 in majors, invitational
- 3S 5-5 in majors, game forcing
- 3N 10-14hcp semi-balanced
- 4C Gerber
- 4D Texas transfer, promises 6cd Hearts, no slam interest
- 4H Texas transfer, promises 6cd Spades, no slam interest
- 4S <na>
- 4N Quantitative, opener bids 6N with max
- 5N Grand Slam Force, opener bids 6N with min, 7N with max
- 6N 19-21hcp, no interest in suit contract
- 7N 22+hcp

Stayman convention

Opener responds to 2C:

2D No 4cd major

Responder options:

2H/S Garbage stayman – weak hand with 4+cd suit --- see below

2N invitational to 3N

3C/D 2nd suit, retreat from NT

3H/S (Smolen) other major is 5cd, forcing to 3N

2H 4cd major

Responder options:

2S have 4cd suit, invitational

2N have no 4cd major, invitational

Raise invitational

Bid Game (with 10+ pts)

2S 4cd major

Responder options:

2N may have 4cd hearts, invitational

Raise invitational

Bid Game (with 10+ pts)

2N <na>

Over major-suit transfer (1N-2D-2H-, or 1N-2H-2S-) Responder rebids:

Pass Bust with 5cd major
2S Also 5cd Spades
2N Exactly 5cd major, invitational
3C/3D 4cd minor, game forcing
3H over heart transfer, 6cd heart suit, invitational
3S over spade transfer, 6cd spade suit, invitational
3N Exactly 5cd major, game values
4C/D Cue bid, slamming
4H Over transfer to hearts, shows 6cd hearts, slam interest
Over transfer to spades, shows also 5cd hearts, slam interest
4S Over transfer to spades, shows 6cd spades, slam interest
4N RKC
5C/D Splinter, slam invite
5major Bid 6 with 2 of top 3 honors
5N Grand Slam Force
6C/D void with slam forcing values
6H/S Hand that doesn't want to fool around after transfer

Gerber response sequence:

4D 0 or 4 aces (asker ought to know which!)
4H 1 ace
4S 2 aces
4N 3 aces

Over 4D/4H/4S, responder aborts by bidding 4H/4S/4N

Responder asks for kings by bidding 5C

Responder aborts in 5N by bidding 5S

Garbage Stayman

For weak hands with no 5-card major to transfer into (might use garbage if 4-5).

If you have Diamonds and Opener responds 2D to 2C, you drop there.

If you don't have Diamonds, you must have both majors, because you need to correct if Opener bids 2D.

If 4-5 in majors, bid Hearts over 2D, then Opener can correct to Spades if needed. Or Opener can bid 3C if has not-too-common 2-2-4-5 distribution.

Puppet Stayman

Opener responds to 3C:

3D No 5-card major

3H/S 5-card suit

Responder either bids game in the major, or 3N if no fit. Benefit is that defenders don't know whether declarer has a 4-card major.

INTERFERENCE

Over 1N-X penalty double (if opponents are playing DONT, use normal responses)

Rdbl transfer to clubs

2C transfer to diamonds

2D transfer to hearts

2H transfer to spades

Responder may continue after transfer, showing values

Over 1N-2C

Lebensohl is OFF, everything else is ON

2D/H transfer

2S Minor suit stayman

2N Weak minor

Etc

Over 1N-2D/H/S

Double is Negative, showing other suits PLUS EXACTLY 2 cds in overcalled suit

Lebensohl is ON

2H/S Drop dead

2N Relay to 3C. After opener bids 3C, responder bids:

3-level, below interference: invitational, have stopper in their suit

3-level, cue bid: forcing, stayman, with stopper

3-level, above interference: forcing, with stopper

3-level, below interference: invitational, no stopper

3-level, cue bid: forcing, stayman, no stopper

3-level, above interference: forcing, no stopper

3N 11-15hcp, no stopper

Rest is standard

Over 1N-2N Unusual 2N

Over 1N-3C "they are messing with us"