

1/1 Bridge System Chapter 2

Responding to 1 Level Suit Opening Bids:

A 1NT response to a 1C, 1D, 1H, or 1S opening bid

is GAME FORCING, with no reference to any particular suit or denomination.

Bidding after this continues in the normal way, but a rebid in a *major* shows at least a six card suit, 2C or 2D should be natural but can be a good three card suit, though with a balanced 5332 hand the rebid should be 2NT.

In such a game forcing situation, any suit agreement or a *new suit* by the 1NT responder, can be treated as a KEY CARD ASK, with modified responses, a NT response being the 'default setting' showing no more than two cards in the 'key' suit and 0 or 1 key cards. With at least three card support, step responses (remember that this has to bypass 3NT) as follows: Step 1 two key cards without queen, Step 2 two key cards plus Q, Step 3 three key cards, step 4 three key cards plus queen. So many key cards are unlikely and you may as well just bid 7NT when your responses get that high!

1D is natural and therefore after the GF 1NT, there are no reverses and bidding is pretty well natural, with 2NT showing a balanced hand and no other four card suit. BUT, a jump to 3C can be used as a 'splinter' to show 4441 or 4450 (see next, the 1C opening for treatments)

1C Can be as short as TWO cards: when opener is 4-4-3-2. 11-19 HCP. After the 1NT game force, all two level bids are natural and suggest 5+ clubs, 2NT is balanced (may have one 4 card major); BUT.... 3D is an exception and best be used to show a singleton or void in diamonds (i.e. like a splinter) and both majors, i.e. 4414 or 4405. A bid of 3H or 3S now agrees the suit and is a key card ask. 3NT is again the 'default' setting and shows 4414, whereas all step responses start with 1 key card and 4405.

2NT response to all 1 level suit openings is a balanced 10-12 HCP but if in response to 1H or 1S obviously denies at least three cards in partner's suit.

Weak Twos: All two level openings are WEAK TWOS, 6 card suits. Strength must be in keeping with vulnerability, can be very weak NV vs VUL and should be reasonably strong VUL vs NV. All responses to weak twos are FORCING, 2NT can be used to check for max or min or suit quality though because of the discipline imposed on the weak twos, their strength will, or should be, apparent anyway. Most important though to play any SUIT response to a weak two as *forcing*.

Next chapter: responding with weaker hands.