

BRIDGE – INTERMEDIATE LESSON II – 15b

The Meaning of Various No-Trump Bids and Re-Bids by a Responder to an Opening Bidder

We have examined the strength, distribution of many of the major No-Trump bids and re-bids available to an Opening Bidder. Equally important are those available and presented by Opener's responding Partner.

The Following Represent Examples of Many of These Important No-Trump Bids and Re-Bids

Initial No-Trump Bids by a Responder to an Opening Bidder

1. A 1-NT Initial Response by a Responder to Partner's Opening Bid of One-of-either-Minor Suit shows 6-10 HCP's, a lack of support for Opener's bid suit, with or without one or more stoppers in any as-yet, un-bid suit. It also denies the presence of any, 4-card, as-yet, un-bid, Major suit.

1C/1D - P - 1-NT

Axx xxx Jxx Kxxx (Respond 1-NT)

2. A 2-NT Initial Response by a Responder to Partner's Opening Bid of One-of-either-Minor Suit shows 11-12 HCP's, is invitational to game, a lack of support for Opener's bid suit, without, necessarily, one or more stoppers in any, as-yet, un-bid suit. This bid is invitational to 3-NT. 1C/1D - P - 2-NT

(a) Axx xxx Axx KJxx (Respond 2-NT)

(b) Kxx Kxx Axxx Jxx (Respond 2-NT)

3. A 3-NT Initial Response by a Responder to Partner's Opening Bid of One-of-either-Minor Suit shows 13-15 HCP's, a lack of support for Opener's bid suit, a balanced distribution, the absence of any, as-yet, un-bid Major, and possible, but not maditory stoppers in all three, as-yet, un-bid suits.

1C/1D - P - 3-NT

(a) AJx Kxx Axx Qxxx (Respond 3-NT)

(b) KQx xxx AKxx Kxx (Respond 3-NT)

4. A 1-NT Initial Response by a Responder to Partner's Opening Bid of One-of-either-Major Suit shows, in (a) "Standard" bidding practice, 6 - 10 HCP's, and is *non-forcing*. If the Partnership is playing "Forcing-NT," however, (a or b), such responses show 5 – 11 HCP's, and are either, (a) *forcing for 1-round*, or, (b) *semi-forcing*, since made by a previously-passed Player, All show a lack of support for Opener's bid suit, and without, necessarily, one or more stoppers in any, as-yet, un-bid suit.

(a) 1H/1S - P - 1-NT

(b) P -- P - P - 1H/1S
P - 1-NT

5. A 2-NT Non-Conventional Initial Responses by a Responder to Partner's Opening Bid of One-of-either-Major Suit, shows, either (a) 11-12 HCP's, a lack of support for Opener's Major suit, an absence of a 4-card Spade suit, in this instance, and is invitational to game.

1H - P - 2-NT

Jxx xx Axxx AQxx (Respond 2-NT, natural,)

(Or alternatively)

6. A “2-NT” Conventional Initial Responses by a Responder to Partner’s Opening Bid of One-of-either-Major Suit. By Partnership understanding and agreement, a “**Jacoby-2-NT**” conventional response which shows support, usually 4-pieces, for Opener’s Major suit, opening HCP count or its equivalent, and is forcing to game, or a “**Muti-Purpose-2-NT**” call showing support for Opener’s suit. (*Conventional responses apply*)

1H - P - “2-NT”

(b) xx Axxx AQx KJxx (Respond “2-NT,”) (Conventional)

7. A “2-NT” Conventional Response by a Responder to Partner’s Opening Pre-Emptive Bid is, by Partnership agreement, a conventional, forcing bid seeking additional information from Opener so as to explore for a game-level or slam-level contract. Responder must hold no fewer than 15 HCP’s or its equivalent. Responder is either asking for a “**Feature**,” or is invoking either the “**Ogust**” or “**Klinger Ogust**” Conventions, which ask for one of several, conventional responses. 2D/2H/2S - P - “2-NT”

8. A 2-NT or 3-NT Initial Response by a Responder to Partner’s 1-NT Opening Bid shows (a) invitational strength (9-10) HCP’s, or (b) game values, 11 (+) HCP’s, with no interest in a suit contract, or Slam.

1-NT - P - 2-NT/3-NT

9. A 3-NT Initial Response by a Responder To Partner’s Opening Bid of One-of-a-Major Suit, shows, either (a) 13-15 HCP’s, or (b) 16-18 HCP’s, either, *by Partnership agreement*, a lack of support for Opener’s suit, and an absence of any as-yet, un-bid suit at the 1-level.

1H - P - 3-NT

(a) Axx xx AKxx Qxxx (Respond 3-NT)

(b) AKx Qx xxxx AKJx (Respond 3-NT)

10. A 3-NT Response by a Responder to Partner’s Opening 2-Level or 3-Level Pre-Emptive Bid is to play. It shows no fewer than 17-18 HCP’s or a long running, self-sufficient suit, with likely stoppers in all of the other three, as-yet, un-bid suits. If Opener’s pre-emptive bid was in a Major suit, Responder shows a lack of support for that Major.

2D/2H/2S/3C/3D/3H/3S - P - 3-NT

11. A 3-NT Initial Response by a Responder to an Opening Bidder, Following an Intervening, Pre-emptive Overcall by the Would-be-Responder’s RHO, shows opening count (13-15 HCP’s), a likely lack of support for Opener’s suit, and an evenly-balanced hand with at least one stopper in the pre-emptive suit bid by the Opponent.

(a) 1C - 2H - 3-NT

(b) 1D - 3S - 3-NT

(a) Axx KJxx AQxx xx (Respond 3-NT)

(b) AJx Qx xxxx AKxx (Respond 3-NT)

12. A 4-NT Initial Response by a Responder to Partner’s Opening Bid of 1-NT This bid is *not* “*qualitative*”; i.e., not an initiation of the Ace-asking, “**Blackwood**” convention. It is a “*quantitative*” bid seeking a possible 6-NT final contract if Opener holds the top of his/her opening No-Trump point count. The number of HCP’s required is directly related to the Partnership’s HCP range for Opener’s initial 1-NT opening bid.

1-NT - P - 4-NT

13. A 5-NT Initial Response by a Responder to Partner’s Opening Bid of 1-NT This bid, like the previous one, is also “*quantitative*,” asking for a 6-NT re-bid from Opener if holding a minimum of his/her HCP count, else to bid 7-NT, if holding a maximum HCP count. Once again, the number of HCP’s required is directly related to the Partnership’s HCP range for the initial 1-NT opening bid. 1-NT - P - 5-NT

No-Trump Re-Bids by a Responder to an Opening Bidder

1. A 1-NT Re-Bid by a Responder to an Initial Opening of One-of-a-Suit, is non-forcing, and shows 6-10 HCP's, an evenly-balanced hand, lack of support for Opener's bid suit or suits, without necessarily having one or more stoppers in any, as-yet, un-bid suit.

1D - P -- 1H - P
1S - P - 1-NT
Ax xxxx Kxx Qxxx (Re-Bid 1-NT)

2. A 2-NT Jump-Re-bid by a Responder to an Opening Bidder of One-of-a-Minor Suit shows 11-12 HCP's, is invitational to a game-level contract, and does not necessarily guarantee a stopper in any, as-yet, un-bid suit.

1C - P -- 1H - P
1S - P - 2-NT
Axx Jx AQx xxxxxx (Re-Bid 2-NT)

3. A 3-NT Jump-Re-bid by a Responder to an Opening Bidder of One-of-a-Suit shows 13-15 HCP's, and does not necessarily guarantee a stopper in any un-bid suit, although one or more is statistically likely.

1D - P -- 1H - P
2C - P - 3-NT
Ax Qxxx Jxxx AKx (Re-Bid 3-NT)

4. A 3-NT Re-Bid by a Responder to an Opening Bidder following three suits having been bid by the two Partners, shows opening count, a lack of support for Opener's two bid suits, and at least one stopper in the fourth, as-yet, un-bid suit.

1D - P -- 1H - P
2C - P - 3-NT
AJx Qxxx xxx AQx (Re-Bid 3-NT)

5. A "4-NT" Re-Bid by a Responder, Subsequent to a "Jacoby Transfer" sequence is a "quantitative" bid seeking a potential Slam-level contract in either the referenced Major suit, else in No-Trump. The opening Bidder responds with any of the following re-bids: (5H/5S, 6H/6S, 5-NT, or 6-NT)

1-NT - P -- 2D/2H - P
2H/2S - P - "4-NT"

6. A "4-NT" Re-Bid by a Responder, Subsequent to a "Texas Transfer" sequence is a "qualitative" bid; i.e., an initiation of a conventional "Blackwood," Ace-asking sequence, seeking a potential Slam-level contract.

1-NT - P -- 4D/4H - P
4H/4S - P - "4-NT"

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