

The Jacoby 2-No-Trump Convention

The **Jacoby 2-NT Convention** is used primarily in the 5 card Major, **Standard American** bidding system, when Partner has opened **1H** or **1S**. The **Jacoby “2-NT”** bid by Opener’s responding Partner, promises 4-card or better support for Partner’s Major suit and shows an opening hand or better with no upper limit, asking Partner to describe his/her hand further. The ability to make a “*Splinter*” bid, in support of Opener’s Major suit, always takes precedence over the **Jacoby 2-NT Convention**, should Responder hold opening values and a singleton or void (not a singleton Ace) in a side suit. Responder’s bid of “**2-NT**,” being artificial, is alertable, and so are most of Opener’s re-bids!

“**Jacoby 2-NT**” is off if:

- a. Responder is a “*passed*” hand
- b. Opener’s Major suit opening bid is overcalled or “*doubled*” by the would-be Responder’s right-hand Opponent (RHO)

Opener’s second bid following a **Jacoby 2-NT** response from Partner is also part of the convention and must also be alerted. With shortness, Opener bids his/her second 5-card suit, if present, (first priority) at the 4-level, else a singleton or void absent a second, good 5-card or longer suit, (second priority). Without shortness, Opener reflects his/her strength, using the mnemonic: “*love*,” “*like*,” “*hate*.” Opener’s re-bid of “**3**” of the agreed-upon Major is (“*love*”) = **18** {+} HCP’s; “**3-NT**” is (“*like*”) = **15-17** HCP’s; and “**4**” of the agreed-upon Major is (“*hate*”) = **11-14** HCP’s.

The implementation of a **Jacoby 2-NT** response following Opener’s Major suit opening, (1) shows a fit in Opener’s suit and establishes it as the Trump suit, (2) denies that Responder holds either a void or a singleton as a “*splinter*” bid would have taken precedence, (3) is strong, game-forcing and possible Slam exploring, (4) and results in the end of the auction when 4, 5, 6, or 7 in either the Trump suit, or No-Trump has been reached.

There are various versions of responses to this artificial **2-NT** bid, probably the best (and most popular) are as follows:

After 1♥ - “2-NT”

“**3♣**” = ♣ shortage (singleton or void)
“**3♦**” = ♦ shortage (singleton or void)
3♥ = great hand with no shortage
 (“**Slow Arrival**”)
“**3♠**” = ♠ shortage (singleton or void)
“**3-NT**” = average hand with no shortage
4♣ = a 5 card ♣ suit
4♦ = a 5 card ♦ suit
4♥ = poor hand with no shortage
 (“**Fast Arrival**”)

After 1♠ – “2-NT”

“**3♣**” = ♣ shortage (singleton or void)
“**3♦**” = ♦ shortage (singleton or void)
“**3♥**” = ♥ shortage (singleton or void)
“**3♠**” = great hand with no shortage
 (“**Slow Arrival**”)
“**3-NT**” = average hand with no shortage
4♣ = a 5 card ♣ suit
4♦ = a 5 card ♦ suit
4♥ = a 5 card ♥ suit
4♠ = poor hand with no shortage
 (“**Fast Arrival**”)

Note: Should the Opener show shortage, a singleton or void, and the Responder does not have wasted values in the suit in which Opener is short, a Slam-level contract is likely. If, alternatively, Responder holds high-card points (Kings and Queens) in Opener’s short suit, they are of little value and not very useful. Similarly, If the Opener shows extra values with a 3-level bid of the agreed-upon Major or with a “**3-NT**” re-bid, the Responder, once again, might be inclined to seek a higher-level final contract.

All subsequent bids are, thus, Game-forcing. Starting at Responder’s second bid:

- a. Any new suit bid shows first round control (A cue-bid exploring for Slam)
- b. “**4-NT**” by either Partner is either regular **Blackwood** or **RKC Blackwood**, depending upon Partnership understanding and agreement.