

The Jacoby 2-No-Trump Convention

The Jacoby 2-NT convention is used primarily in 5 card major systems when Partner has opened 1H or 1S. The Jacoby 2-NT bid promises 4-card support for Partner's major suit and shows an opening hand or better with no upper limit, asking Partner to describe his hand further. The ability to make a "Splinter" bid, in support of Opener's Major suit, always takes preference over the Jacoby 2-NT convention, should Responder hold opening values and a singleton or void in a side suit. Responder's bid of "2-NT", being artificial, is alertable!

Jacoby 2-NT is off if:

- a. Responder is a passed hand
- b. Opener's Major suit opening bid is overcalled or doubled

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), else a singleton or void absent a second, good 5-card or longer suit, (second priority). Without shortness, Opener reflects his/her strength. Opener's re-bid of "3" of the agreed-upon Major is stronger than an immediate re-bid of "4" of said Major.

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 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:

After 1♥ - 2-NT

3♣ = ♣ shortage (singleton or void)
3♦ = ♦ shortage (singleton or void)
3♥ = good hand with no shortage
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♠ = good hand with no shortage
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")

All subsequent bids are 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.