

“Multi-Purpose 2-No-Trump Response” Convention

“*Bergen Raises*,” along with both the “*Jacoby 2-NT*” Convention and “*Splinter Bids*,” all serve to add a competitive edge on deals where Responder holds a 4-piece or greater support for Opener’s Major suit opening bid. In these bidding sequences, Opener retains the Captaincy and directs the Partnership into its final destination. In the “*Multi-2-NoTrump Response*” system, however, the roles are reversed, and Responder becomes the Captain after Opener describes his/her holding with a re-bid which evidences his/her Losing Trick Count (LTC). All of these bidding systems, including the Multi-2-NoTrump Response system, retain the preemptive direct double raise. The minimum requirements that Responder must hold in order to initiate this convention is four or more pieces of Opener’s Major suit accompanied by at least 8 HCP’s (9 or fewer losers). The initiating call by Responder is an alertable “*2-NT*” bid.

Opener’s Responses:

- (1) “*Three of his/her Major*” – Evidences a 7-or 8-Loser hand with no personal interest in game from Opener’s perspective if Responder holds minimum values.
- (2) “*3C*” – Evidences a 6-Loser hand (one trick better than a minimum opening count) with interest in game if Responder holds invitational strength or better.
- (3) “*3D*” – Evidences a 5-Loser hand which forces to game, even if Responder holds a minimum of 9-Losers. This bid denies either an outside singleton or a void.
- (4) “*3-NT*” – Evidences a 5-3-3-2 shape with 5-Losers.
- (5) “*The Other Major*” or “*Four-of-a-Minor*” – Evidences a singleton or a void in that suit, 5-Losers, forcing the Partnership to game, but with a strong interest in Slam.

Responder’s Follow-up Bids:

- (1) *Over Opener’s simple same-suit re-bid* – Responder can “Pass”, “*Raise to Game*”, or “*Cue-Bid*,” the latter of which evidence an interest in Slam
- (2) *Over Opener’s “3C” (6-Loser) re-bid* – Responder can “*Sign-Off*” at the 3- or 4-Level of the agreed-upon Major, or show “*Slam interest*” with any other bid..
- (3) *Over Opener’s “3D”, “3-NT”, or “Splinter Bid”* – Responder can “*Sign-Off*” at 4 of the agreed-upon Major, start “ ”, or ask for Aces or “*Key Cards*.”

Advantages of the “Multi-Purpose 2-No-Trump Response” System

- (1) Avoids losses resulting from lead-directing Doubles made by the Opponents over previous three-of-a-Minor Bergen responses.
- (2) Presents the capacity of using three-of-a-Minor for other purposes.
- (3) Gains some Slam-exploration space when Opener is weak and Responder is strong.
- (4) Distinguishes Opener’s strength-level immediately when he/she has a short suit and Responder holds game-forcing values.
- (5) Provides less incentive for the Opponents to attempt disruption.

Disadvantages of the “Multi-Purpose 2-No-Trump Response” System

- (1) Deprives the Opener of the ability to show a strong second suit, as he/she can with a bid of 4-of-a-Minor after a “*Jacoby 2-NT*” bidding system bid
- (2) Requires a strong Opener to show a Minor suit “*Splinter Bid*” one level higher than after a “*Jacoby 2-NT*” bid