

# The Foundation System

## Part II. System Practice: Notrump Bidding

### REVIEW

Our notrump bidding structure is based on an opening 1NT bid with 15-17 HCP and 4333, 4432, or 5332 shape, where the 5-card suit is a minor. With some minor exceptions, the same structure, one level higher, applies after a 20-21 HCP 2NT opening bid, and after a strong balanced 2C opening bid when Opener rebids 2NT with 22+ HCP. Purists should note that the true range is best described as a good 15 to a bad 18, since bad 15s are sometimes demoted to a 1C or 1D opening with a 1NT rebid, and bad 18s are sometimes demoted to a 1NT opening. Our NT structure offers Responder the following options:

- **Pass** with 0-7 HCP and no 5+card major
- **2C** (Stayman) with either 7+HCP and at least one 4-card major, or with 0-7 HCP and a weak 6+card minor unsuitable for play in NT
- **2D** (Jacoby Transfer) with 0+HCP and a 5+card heart suit
- **2H** (Jacoby Transfer) with 0+HCP and a 5+card spade suit
- **2S** (Minor Suit Stayman) with 0+HCP and 55 or longer in the minors, or with about 14-17 HCP and 44 or longer in the minors
- **2NT** (Invitational) with about 8-9 HCP and no 4+card major
- **3C and 3D** (Invitational to 3NT) with a 6+card minor headed by 2 of the top 3 honors and no significant strength outside that suit.
- **3H** (55 Majors Weak) with two 5+card majors and no interest in game
- **3S** (55 Majors Strong) with two 5+card majors and interest in slam
- **3NT** (To Play)
- **4C** (Gerber) with a freak hand needing only information about aces for a slam decision
- **4H and 4S** (To Play) if wanting to conceal his distribution from the defense.
- **4NT** (Invitational to 6NT) with about 15-17 HCP and no 4+card major
- **5NT** (Forcing to 6NT; invites 7NT)
- **6NT and 7NT** (To Play)

OK. It's time to go to work.

## QUIZ 1: Responding to 1NT

	Your Hand				HAC/LTC	Auction	Your Call
(1)	984	A109	K106	□ QJ108	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(2)	QJ962	J863	Q64	□ 9	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(3)	K9643	942	102	□ AQ6	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(4)	K6543	63	9	□ QJ652	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(5)	96	K432	J10	□ AQJ64	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(6)	K105	A102	AKJ3	□ KJ6	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(7)	1076	5	QJ876	□ A942	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(8)	98762	K95	AQ3	□ 42	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(9)	KQ83	7643	A1095	□ J	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(10)	A	KJ10874	J10983	□ 6	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____

## QUIZ 1 DISCUSSION

The usual questions (Do we play in a major, a minor, or NT, and at what level?) apply, but we begin with a better estimate of Opener's strength and distribution than we'd have over a one-level opening in a suit.

- (1) (10/9)[HCP/LTC] We start with an easy 3NT with 10 HCP and no 4+card major.
- (2) (6/8) Start with 2C and then pass 2H or 2S, or bid 2S over 2D (shows weak 54 majors).
- (3) (9/8) Bid 2H and follow with 2NT over 2S to show an invitational 5332.
- (4) (6/7) Awkward. Might make game if pard has 4 spades. If he has 3 we want to play 2D, while if he has 2 we want to play 3C. I'd bid 2C and raise 2S to 3S or bid 3C over 2D or 2H. The only alternative is to bid 2H and pass 2S, which is acceptable.
- (5) (11/7) Another easy one. Bid 2C and raise 2H to 4H, or bid 3NT over 2D or 2S.
- (6) (19/7) Just bid 6NT; you're not quite strong enough for 5NT to invite 7NT.
- (7) (7/8) Pass is OK, but I'd probably bid 2S, and pass 3C or 3D, or bid 3D over 2NT.
- (8) (9/8) Your spades could be useless in NT. Pessimists will bid 2H and pass 2S. Optimists will bid 2C, followed by 2S over 2D or 2H, or by 4S over 2S. I'll bid 2C.
- (9) (10/7) 2C is right, of course, and raise either major to game. Over 2D, I don't like this hand, and would bid only 2NT despite the 10 HCP.
- (10) (9/6) Slam is unlikely, so bid 2D and raise 2H to 4H. If you were playing Texas Transfers (we're not), you'd bid 4D instead, which is weaker than the recommended sequence.

## QUIZ 2: Responding to 1NT

	Your Hand				HAC/LTC	Auction	Your Call
(11)	A9	1084	AK42	□ KQ75	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(12)	KQ1095	QJ9	QJ9	□ 8	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(13)	Q4	Q754	K964	□ J72	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(14)	J	A873	Q10843	□ K53	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(15)	9	AQ8642	1086	□ Q94	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(16)	KQ76	7543	7	□ K652	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(17)	9653	KJ962	Q	□ J72	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(18)	852	KQJ102	K9542	□	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(19)	Q7	8763	AQJ93	□ 82	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(20)	KQ7	10	J43	□ QJ7432	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____

## QUIZ 2 DISCUSSION

(11) (16/6) You want to be in a 44 slam if pard has a 4-card minor, so start with 2S. If he denies with 2NT, an invitational 4NT is slightly aggressive but reasonable.

(12) (11/6) Bid 2H and raise 2S to 4S, treating those chunks spades as a 6-carder.

(13) (8/9) Start with 2C and bid 2NT over 2D or 2S. Pass 2H, or raise to 3H if an optimist.

(14) (10/7) Start with 2C and raise 2H to 4H, or bid 3NT over 2S. Over 2D, a raise to 3D would normally show a weak 6-carder, but you could have passed 2D with that, so 3D is invitational with some sort of weakness for NT, probably a major suit singleton.

(15) (8/7) Just right for 2D, followed by 3H over 2H.

(16) (8/7) We'll bid 2C here and raise either major to the 3-level, or bid 2NT over 2D.

(17) (7/9) Try 2C, and bid 2H over 2D. Over 2S, you're barely strong enough for 3S.

(18) (9/6) Bid 2D, and rebid 3D (forcing) to suggest some concern about the black suits. Your hearts are good enough that just rebidding 4H will usually be OK, but 3D lets pard choose 3NT with double stoppers in spades and clubs.

(19) (9/8) Bid 2C and raise 2H to 4H. Over 2D or 2S, it's a tossup between 2NT and 3NT. I'd vote for 3NT over 2S and settle for 2NT over 2D.

(20) (9/7) My vote goes to a direct 3NT. It usually pays to bid aggressively over NT openings when you have a 6-card suit.

### QUIZ 3: Responding to 1NT

	Your Hand				HAC/LTC	Auction	Your Call
(21)	7	43	A962	□ KQ9542	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(22)	1062	KJ6	J10972	□ K7	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(23)	AQJ86	A10963	A10963	□ 873	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(24)	J87643	K54	J92	□ Q	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(25)	5	J4	87632	□ A9432	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(26)	65	7542		□ KJ108752	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(27)	3	KQ653	AJ	□ J10984	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(28)	10974	AJ8	QJ6	□ AK3	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(29)	AQ65	A9854	43	□ 96	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(30)	K	AKJ942	KQ4	□ 876	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____

### QUIZ 3 DISCUSSION

(21) (9/6) You'll start with 2S. You'll raise 2NT to 3NT, while over 3D you'll raise to 5D, but over 3C you'll just raise to 4C, unless you decide to gamble on 3NT. (44 diamonds with clubs as a side suit is more powerful than a 64 club fit.)

(22) (8/9) The 5th diamond makes this worth an invitational 2NT.

(23) (11/6) Bid 2H and rebid 4H over 2S. You want pard to choose between 4H and 4S.

(24) (7/9) Bid 2H, and if optimistic raise 2S to 3S because of the 6-card suit. But I'd vote for passing 2S, with no aces and only one king and one queen.

(25) (4/7) No one would object to a pass here, but if adventurous you could try 2S and hope to find a 4-card minor. If not, you'd bid 3C to show a weak 55 and hope no one decides to double.

(26) (5/6) I'd bid 2C and then bid 3C over any reply (including 2H, since if you play in hearts there may be no entry to the clubs after you ruff a couple of losers).

(27) (11/6) You'll bid 2D and follow with 3C to show 5 hearts and a problem for NT in either diamonds or spades. With only 2 hearts, pard will bid 3NT with both problem suits under control, or he'll bid one of those suits if he can't handle the other one.

(28) (15/8) Just bid 3NT. If pard has 4 spades you'll probably make as many tricks in NT.

(29) (10/7) Bid 2C here and raise either major to game. Over 2D, bid 3H (forcing) to show a good hand with 4 spades and 5 hearts.

(30) (16/6) You want to be in 6H unless 2 aces are missing, but pard needs to be declarer, so start with 2D. Then bid 3D (forcing) and follow with 4NT (RKC or Blackwood). 4NT if not preceded by 3D is merely invitational, not RKC.

### QUIZ 4: Responding to 1NT

	Your Hand				HAC/LTC	Auction	Your Call
(31)	109832	K6	9876	□ K9	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(32)	AJ	KJ3	K7	□ AQJ1083	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(33)	K10972	Q9874	Q9874	□ 3	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(34)	98642	Q9642	Q9642	□ 4	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(35)	KJ93	A7	KJ9	□ K976	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(36)	K82	KQ984	4	□ AK109	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(37)	J9	975	975	□ KQ10974	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(38)	A86	KQ7	Q7	□ AQ1074	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(39)	AK74	K97	AK1072	□ 7	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____
(40)	AK1087	AQJ62	3	□ 7	___/___	1NT/P/?	_____

### QUIZ 4 DISCUSSION

(31) (6/8) Just bid 2H and pass the 2S reply.

(32) (19/5) This is an easy 4C Gerber bid. If he has one ace, you'll rebid 6C to protect whichever of your kings in vulnerable. If he has two, check on kings with 5C and play 6NT if he has only one, and 7C (or 7NT at pairs, if you're greedy) if he has both.

(33) (5/7) This is a typical 3H bid (55 Majors Weak).

(34) (4/8) This is a little weak for 3H, so try 2C and pass 2H or 2S, but bid 2H over 2D.

(35) (15/7) Bid 2C and follow with 3NT over 2D or 2H. Over 2S (nice partner!), bid 4C Gerber to try for slam if he has 2 or 3 aces.

(36) (15/5) Start with 2D, and follow with 3C over 2H, and then 4NT RKC or Blackwood.

(37) (6/8) This is a routine 3C bid to invite 3NT if pard has the club ace.

(38) (17/6) Try 4C if you're worried about the remote possibility that we're missing 2 aces. Otherwise, just bid 6NT and let them guess what to lead. Or you might start with 2S and follow with 6NT, implying something in diamonds to scare off a diamond lead.

(39) (17/5) Start with 2C, then over 2D an invitational 4NT; over 2S, a Gerber 4C; and over 2H, try 5H (go to slam with good hearts, pard).

(40) (17/4) This is a typical 3S (55 Majors Slam Try).