

Jacoby Super-Accepts

A New Approach to an Old Problem

By

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Opener's initial rebid after a transfer is a simple matter; he does what he's told. If responder rebids to give opener additional information, opener uses that information and his bridge judgment to make appropriate follow-on calls. There is one exception. Perhaps responder transferred to a **major** suit in which opener has three or four (or five!) cards **and** opener is at the top of his 1NT range. In such a case, opener may "super-accept".

Let's start by noting that super-accepts frequently backfire. About 50 percent of the time responder will have six HCP or less when he transfers. Down one, maybe even two! Therefore, we insist on disciplined super-accepts. Opener's hand must re-evaluate to at least 18+ in support. Here are some examples of opener hands which would qualify for a super accept.

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|----|-----|---------|-------|-----|--|
| 1. | 95, | AK76, | A873, | AQ2 | – Reevaluates to 20 in support of hearts. |
| 2. | A3, | AK1083, | K92, | J98 | – Reevaluates to 18+ in support of hearts. |
| 3. | 953 | AKJ8, | A85, | AQ4 | – With 4½ quick tricks this is 18+. By the way, this is the worst hand you can have to super-accept. |

In all of the above cases, you should be safe in three of responder's major.

You may have learned various super-accept methods in prior study. We like three-pronged super-accepts, in priority order. All types of super accept are ON over interference when possible. But be careful. Opener's double is penalty, showing a concentration of strength in the known suit bid by opener's RHO. Since opener does not know responder's strength, opener should pass a three level bid by RHO if he can't double. Responder can then pass, double for penalty, repeat the transfer if possible, or just bid his suit at the appropriate level. We believe that under current rules our super-accepts and the rebids are alertable. Here are the super-accepts.

1. "Worthless doubleton" (fragment) super-accept. In this case opener bids a suit at the three level when told to bid a major at the two level. This is a super-accept in the suit responder wanted opener to bid, **and** it shows a worthless doubleton (could be 10x but no better) in the suit bid. If responder transferred to hearts and opener bids 2S it shows a super-accept with a worthless doubleton (fragment) in the spade suit. Note that in our system responder can infer that opener does not have a five card major, since the only time we open 1NT with a five card major is when our doubleton is Ax or Kx. **If opener fails to use this super-accept in favor of the other ones we'll show you next, then he denies having a worthless doubleton.** This helps responder evaluate the combined values. Responder

repeats the transfer at the four level if game or beyond is appropriate. If responder wants to stop at the three level, he can pass if opener has bid his suit, repeat the transfer at the three level if possible, or just bid three of his suit if there is no room to repeat the transfer.

2. "Ogust" super-accept. This method is loosely based on the Ogust responses to weak two bids. After 1NT, P, 2D/2H, P opener's rebid of 2NT is the super-accept. Now responder **either** repeats the transfer at the three level to say "Forget it, Pard" (and opener then accepts the transfer at the three level to end the auction), **or** responder bids 3C (game forcing) to ask opener to further describe his hand. Opener's rebids are:

- a. 3D = bad suit (three cards, but in this case they **must** contain at least 5 HCP or this type of super-accept cannot be made), bottom of super-accept range (18 in support). Note that there is no bid for bad suit and top of range, since it is virtually impossible. If it's close, just use this bid and see what develops.
- b. 3H = good suit (4 or 5 cards), bottom of the super-accept range (18 in support).
- c. 3S = good suit, top of super-accept range (19-20 in support).

If necessary, responder now repeats the transfer at the four level, which opener must accept. Then responder either passes, makes a slam try (cue bid or Blackwood), or simply bids slam. If opener has bid responder's major during the process, responder simply raises or takes other appropriate action. Thus, the contract will never be "wrong-sided" at the game level, and rarely at the three level.

3. Bad 3-card support super-accept. This is the "very bad" suit super-accept. It shows 3 card support, no outside fragment, and 18+, but the 3 cards in responder's suit do not contain 5 or more HCP. This looks just like the old-fashioned super-accept; just jump a level when accepting the transfer, e.g. 1NT-2D*-3H (super-accept).

We assume that our super-accept methods are new to you, so here are some examples.

| | Opener | Responder | Auction and Commentary | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| 1. | A3 K986 A82 AQ42 | 652 Q10753 75 863 | 1NT, 2NT ¹ , 3H ³ | P, P, all pass. | 2D, 3D ² , | P, P, |
| | | | ¹ Super-Accept ² No thanks, please bid 3H. ³ Too bad. Hope we can make it. | | | |
| 2. | 986 AQ AJ84 AQ42 | K10753 762 K5 J108 | 1NT, 3S ¹ , | P, all pass. ² | 2H, | P, |
| | | | ¹ Bad 3 card super-accept (type 3) ² We may be too high already! | | | |

| | Opener | Responder | Auction and Commentary | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 3. | AQ9 A3 AJ84 AQ42 | K10753 762 K5 JT8 | 1NT, 2NT ¹ , 3D ³ , JT8 | P, P, P, | 2D, 3C ² , 4S ⁴ , | P, P, all pass. |
| | | | ¹ Super-Accept, type 2. ² "I'll play pard." ³ "Got that good "bad" three carder, pard." ⁴ "No guts, no glory. This could fetch." | | | |
| 4. | A3 AQJ AJ1063 742 | 652 K10753 K5 J108 | 1NT, 2NT, 3H ¹ , J108 | P, P, P, | 2D, 3C, 4H, | P, P, all pass. |
| | | | ¹ Good Suit, bottom of super-accept range. | | | |
| 5. | A3 K986 A82 AQ42 | 652 Q10753 K5 J108 | 1NT, 2NT, 3S ¹ , 4H,J108 | P, P, P, all pass. | 2D, 3C, 4D | P, P, P, |
| | | | ¹ Good Suit, top of range (19-20 support). | | | |
| 6. | A3 K986 A82 AQ42 | 642 AQ753 K5 KJ10 | 1NT, 2NT, 3S, 4H, 5C ¹ , J108 | P, P, P, P, P, | 2D, 3C, 4D, 4NT, 6H | P, P, P, P, all pass. |
| | | | ¹ CRO response – 0, 1 or 3 aces. | | | |
| 7. | A32 AQJ AQJ63 42 | 653 K8753 K5 J108 | 1NT, 3C ¹ , 4H, J108 | P, P, all pass. | 2D, 4D ² , | P, P, |
| | | | ¹ Super-accept, club fragment. ² Please bid 4H. | | | |
| 8. | A32 AQJ AQJ63 42 | 732 653 K5 J108 | 1NT, 3C, 3S, J108 | P, P, all pass. | 2H, 3H ¹ , | P, P, |
| | | | ¹ Yikes! Please bid 3S, to play. | | | |
| 9. | A32 AQJ 42 AQJ63 | 53 108753 K5 J108 | 1NT, 3D, J108 | P, P, | 2D, 3H, | P, all pass. |

| | Opener | Responder | Auction and Commentary | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------------|----------|
| 10. | 42 AQJ AQJ63 A32 | 53 108753 K5 J108 | 1NT, 2S ¹ , 3H, ¹ Remember, this shows a spade fragment. | P, P, all pass. | 2D, 3D, | P, P, |
| 11. | A3 K9875 KJ10 A75 | 987 AJ1043 Q84 Q10 | 1NT, 2NT ¹ , 4H, ¹ 15 HCP, plus 2 for the doubleton, plus 2 for the 5th heart equals 19 in support. ² My pard must have cards in every suit, since he didn't use the fragment version of our super accepts. Game should fetch. | P, P, all pass. | 2D, 4D ² | P, P, |

About the Authors

Chris Hasney and Jerry Pottier are co-authors of The American Bridge Series of bridge books. Volumes I and II are primarily standard american introductory books. Volume III and the soon to be released Volume IV feature a completely new approach to bidding designed by Jerry. In these Chris was the student and writer, occasionally suggesting improvements which Jerry sometimes even liked!

Jerry is an inactive duty Marine*, as is Chris, who also served in the Army. He managed the Springfield, MA bridge club under his mentor Bill August. Later he became a high tech headhunter, and still later he entered the ministry after getting his MBA and Doctorate in Religious Education. He and his wife Cher now lives in Bisbee, Arizona, where he is pastor of San Jose Baptist Church.

After completing military service Chris entered the financial services industry, retiring due to chronic illness in 1995. During his financial planning career he became a Certified Financial Planner (CFP, now trademarked), and earned a Master of Science degree in Financial Planning. Prior to his retirement he was a Rotarian, serving his club as Director, Treasurer, Secretary and President. He is a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International. He also taught courses in financial planning, investment management, and finance at Cochise Community College.

Chris is a contract bridge Life Master, awarded based on performance in American Contract Bridge League club and tournament events. He is a Certified Bridge teacher and director, and a member of the American Bridge Teachers Association (ABTA). He has performed well in numerous national and regional competitions. In addition to co-authoring the American Bridge Series, he is the author of the e-book *Simplicity Bridge*, a new approach to introducing people to our wonderful game.

Currently Chris is concentrating on a new way to interest young people in bridge through the medium of film and video. To that end he has created Bridge Productions. You can see his work at www.youtube.com/7ntxx.

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