

McNamara-Sheumaker Supplement

There are a number of "options" we have swapped around in the system at one time or another. Here I summarize a few of them. At the drop of a hat, these can be swapped in/out of the system without affecting the rest of the system too deeply.

Non Mid-Chart system

When we can't play Multi-2D, then 2D becomes Flannery, 2HS become normal weak-two pre-empts, 2N stays Unusual, and 1C with a 3N rebid shows 23+.

Asking Bids

This is the "complicated" version of followup asking bids, designed to squeeze as much as possible into the bids.

After a direct or useful ask, **followup asking bids** apply.

Any bid by opener which is neither game-or-higher in the agreed suit nor 4NT/6NT is a followup-ask. They are baselines in the candidate suits. All suits are initially candidates--trumps first, then outside suits up the line. Suits are removed from candidacy when opener skips past asking about them or when he can learn nothing more. Outside suits that are skipped past are appended to the end of the candidacy list so they may be asked about later. In every suit but trump, the responses for an ask about that suit are:

- first step: no control (3+ small cards) (no clarification avail.)
- second step: third-round control (doubleton/queen)
- third step: second-round control (singleton/king)
- fourth step: first-round control (void/ace)
- fifth step: great strength (AK or AQ) (update?)

A repeat of a followup-ask in the same suit asks for clarification: first step shows a length response, second step shows a strength response.

Opener uses this to differentiate a king from a singleton, for example.

The trump ask can only be made as the first followup ask of the auction:

- first step: both J and T of trumps
- second step: J or T of trumps
- third step: neither J nor T of trumps

4NT by asker is always RKC.

Here is how to cope with interference during asking bid sequences:

- If there is interference **after a useful ask**, then just bid as you usually would. Useful asks demand that you try to find your slam.
- If there is interference **after a direct/followup ask**, baseline responses apply (Pass,cheapest bid/rdbl,next cheapest...) & double shows a trump stack (penalty). After partner's penalty double, asker can use cheapest bid to re-ask whatever he was orig. asking, else (penalty) pass.
- If there is interference **after any ask response**, then
 - double is for penalty
 - otherwise baseline (Pass,cheapest bid/rdbl,next cheapest...)

Another version:

Direct asking bid responses:

- first step: 5 cards, 2 top honors
- second step: 5 cards, 1 top honor
- third step: 6 cards, 2 top honors
- fourth step: 6 cards, 1 top honor
- fifth step: all 3 top honors
- sixth step: no top honors

Followup ask responses:

- first step: xxx/xx /Q
- second step: K /x /KQ
- third step: A /- /AQ
- fourth step: AK /AKQ/(4+ tricks including AK)

Opener's cheapest rebid is the clarification ask (step responses).

4NT is no longer RKC.

A simpler way to deal with interference would help.

...to opening 1C

- **1D *** is the "negative response" with 7- points.
 - Opener's 1H can be a relay to 1S, doubling the number of hands opener can show. We've never played this, but at some point in the future it might be fun to try.
- **3N GF**: balanced 14-15. Consider adding a Baron bid here.

Baron Bids

I said I would flesh out some of the Baron stuff, so here's the discussion. This impacts Baron, size-ask, and Stayman.

The general opening question is: what do you do if partner opens 1NT and you have one of these good hands:

- a 4-1-4-4 slam-try hand (or any such 3-suiter)?
- a 1-3-3-6 slam-try hand (or any such one-suited minor hand)?
- a 3-1-4-5 slam-try hand (or any such both-minors hand)?
- a 4-1-2-6 slam-try hand (or any such 4CM and long minor hand)?

In other words, hands which should make at least game across from 1NT opener, but which may have slam based on either a long minor or a 4-4 fit.

The answers:

...with a 4-1-4-4 slam-try hand (about 29-33 HCP depending on pard's hand)

Bid Baron 2NT. This asks partner to bid 3NT with a minimum or otherwise bid 4-card suits up the line. If partner bids 3NT, you can stay there, or bid 4C (4H) to try again to bid 4+card suits to find a fit-game. If partner bids a suit that you have, jump to kickback or just bid 6. If partner bids a suit you don't have, bid the next suit you do have.

Keep bidding 4+-card suits up the line until

- a fit is found (NT opener raises a suit, or responder takes control)
- 3NT is reached (to play)

If 3NT is reached and you think you have points for 6, you can bid it or use 4NT quantitative to get one-HCP precision.

...with a 1-3-3-6 slam-try hand

Bid size-ask 2S. Then rebid H/S to show C/D. Opener then baselines the number of trumps he holds (2,3,or4), and then you can kickback to check for aces if you like, or signoff in game or slam.

...with a 3-1-4-5 slam-try hand

Bid Baron 2NT. If partner bids 3NT (min), you can rebid 4D to show both minors. Partner then bids 4H/S to show that major suit ace and a 4-card minor (you then bid 4N to ask which minor he has), 4N to play (no 4cm), or 5C/D to signoff.

If partner bids a minor suit, kickback.

If partner bids a major, you can rebid 4C/D to show 5. Partner can then cue-bid a major-suit ace with such an ace and 3-card support, else bid 4N or 5m to signoff.

...with a 4-1-2-6 slam-try hand

There is currently no way to show this hand. But I think it can be done by modifying Stayman. Currently after "1N 2C 2M", everything from 3oM and higher is a cue-bid. This is unnecessary because we can change it so that in order to begin cue-bidding, you simply have to step through the 3C agreeing-size-ask first. This frees up the bidding room for responder to show a long minor suit naturally.

After "1N 2C 2D", we can make 4C/D natural to show this hand.

The summary then becomes that after

1N 2S x

3C/D signoff

3H/S long C/D, opener baselines # trumps

3N to play

and after

1N 2N 3N

4C try to find fit-game; 3-suiter with C

4D both minors

4H try to find fit-game; 3-suiter short in C

and after

1N 2N 3M

3S 3-suiter short in H

3N to play

4m shows 5/4 this-m/other-m

4M+1 kickback

and after

1N 2N 3m

3X 4-card suit up the line

3N to play

4m+1 kickback

Note that Baron always shows 3-suiters or both minors. Size-ask shows the normal stuff or a single long minor.