

Summary of Oddball System Sequences

Here is a list of the principle sequences that have truly odd meanings relative to standard systems.

One Club Sequences

1 Club - 1 Diamond, 2 Diamonds

This bid creates a game forcing auction and is used on hands that, in traditional methods, would open 2♣. The responder's only strong rebid at this point is 2♦, which shows 4+ points (within the limits of the initial 1♣ response) and any distribution. All of the remaining responses show 0-3 points and imply length in the next higher suit, or, in the case of 2♣->2NT, a balanced hand. 3♣ shows 5-5 in the Minors, 0-3, and 3NT shows 5-5 in the Majors, 0-3. The subsequent auction is natural except after opener's 2NT rebid (1♣-1♦, 2♦-2♣, 2NT and 1♣-1♦, 2♦-2♣, 2NT) the No Trump system is on.

A variety of other systems are possible after 1♣-1♦, 2♦. Alternatively, the responder can continue naturally after 2♦.

1 Club – 1 Heart/Spade, 2 Clubs

In this sequence the opener will always have at least 16 points and either long Clubs or a hand that is otherwise awkward to develop, usually a three-suiter or Minor two-suiter with shortness in partner's Major. After 2♣, the responder's jump shift rebids are forcing, non-jump rebids are not, except 2♦ is artificial and of at least invitational strength to which opener rebids naturally.

1 Club – 1 Heart/Spade, 2 Diamonds

This bid shows 19+ points and support for the responder's Major, at least three, and asks the responder to clarify his hand. The responder rebids his suit with five or more - at the 2 level with 10+ points and at the 3 level with 6-9. With only four cards in the initial suit the responder rebids a second suit or 2NT with 4-3-3-3. When the responder's suit has been rebid, either by the responder, or the opener, a fit has been confirmed and the auction proceeds with cuebids and/or some form of Blackwood.

1 Club - 1NT, 2 Clubs and 1 Club - 2NT, 3 Clubs

These Club rebids show a Club suit. In the first case it shows 16-18 points and is not forcing. In the second case it shows 16+ points and is forcing.

1 Club – 1 NT, 2 Diamonds and 1 Club – 2 NT, 3 Diamonds

These Diamond rebids show Minor suit interest, 19+ points (after 1NT) and request

shape clarification. The responder necessarily has at least seven cards in the Minors (3-3 at most in the Majors). He rebids minimum NT to show no five card Minor and a Major to show five in the corresponding Minor (Hearts show Clubs, Spades show Diamonds). After 1♣-1NT, 2♣ the responder may have a six or seven card Minor. This can be shown with three level rebids, 3♣ and 3♦ showing six and 3♥ and 3♠ showing seven.

1 Club – 2 Clubs

This shows 10+ points and at least five Clubs. The opener's rebids are nominally No Trump oriented with 2♣ used on balanced hands which would accept an invitation and 2♦ / 2♥ (a stopper) used to start weaker hands. The 2♠ rebid is also used as the first move on 19+ point hands.

1 Club – 1 Diamond On More Than 5-6 Points

There are five cases where a 1♦ response is made holding more than six points. These are hands that could not easily be bid with an available positive response. These hands are distinguished from their weak brothers by the responder's unusual rebid. The problem hand types are:

7-10 point hands with shortness in one or both Majors. After the opener's minimum rebid, show a long Minor.

10-12 point hands with 6+ Diamonds. After the opener's minimum rebid, jump to 3♦.

10-12 point hands with 5+ Diamonds and 4+ Clubs. Rebid 2♥ over the opener's 1♠; 3♥ over 1♣.

13+ point hands with a powerful 6+ Card club suit. Jump rebid to 3♣ or 3♦ / 3♥ / 3♠ : a singleton or void.

16+ point hands without a four card Major or five card Minor. Jump to 2NT after the opener's 1♣ / 1♦ rebid.

1 Club – 1 Spade, 3 Hearts and 1 Club - 1M, 3NT

These unusual jumps show 19-21 point hands containing five Diamonds and shortness in the responder's suit. The 3♥ rebid shows four Hearts, thus 1-4-5-3; the 3NT rebid shows four Clubs, thus 1-3-5-4 or 3-1-5-4. The remaining distribution with five Diamonds, 4-1-5-3, presents no problem as the opener can simply rebid 1♣ (forcing) after 1♣-1♦.

1 Diamond, 1 Heart and 1 Spade Sequences

1m - 1M, 1NT - 2 Clubs and 1m – 1 Heart, 1 Spade – 2 Clubs

This is the checkback auction where opener shows three card support for the responder's Major. The responder must be at least invitational strength. In the 1♣-1♥, 1♣ case the opener could be strong. In this case he must make a rebid above 2♣.

A useful checkback adjunct after the 12-15 point 1NT rebid exploits the fact that the opener has three rebids available below 2NT. When the opener has only two of the responder's suit, we use 2♣ to show a minimum hand and 2♥ of the other Major to show a maximum hand. This allows the responder to sign off in a seven card suit when the opener is weak and 2NT might be risky.

1m - 1M, 1NT - 2NT and 1m – 1 Heart, 1 Spade - 2NT

These 2NT bids are NOT balanced No Trump invitations. They complement the checkback structure above, providing a vehicle to show strong or weak hands with a long Minor (usually Clubs - depending on the preceding auction.) After 1♣-1M, 1NT-2NT the opener must rebid 3♣; the responder now passes with the weak Club hand, rebids 3♦ with the strong Diamond hand and rebids anything else with the strong Club hand. After 1♥-1M, 1NT-2NT the responder will always bid Clubs as there are other ways to show the Diamond hands. This method also works after 1♣-1♥, 1♣-2NT, but the opener must not rebid 3♣ if his is the 19+ hand.

1 Diamond - 1M, 2NT or 1 Heart – 1 Spade, 2NT

These sequences show 16-18 points, six cards in the opened suit and less than three card support for the responder's suit. In contrast, 1x-1y, 3x promises three card support for the responder's suit.