



Coopers Corner

Basic Bidding 3 - Responding to One of a Suit

One of the primary objectives of bidding is to find an eight card major suit fit and play in it at the appropriate level. The other main objective is to determine whether the partnership should be in a partscore, game, or slam. These are the two questions you should ask yourself every time it's your turn to bid:

1. Do we have an eight card or longer major suit fit?
2. Do we have the 26 points needed for game?

Once either partner knows that there cannot be 26 points, it is their job to stop in a makeable partscore. If we have at least the 26 points needed for a game, there is one more question we ask.

3. Do we have the 33 points needed for a small slam or the 37 needed for a grand slam?

When partner opens one of a major, first look to see if you have three or more cards in that major. If so, recount your points using short suit distributional values (dummy points) rather than long suit points. These are five points for a void, three points for a singleton, and two points for a doubleton.

The next question is "Do I have at least six points?" If the answer is yes, then you must respond to partner's opening bid because game is possible if partner is maximum. As responder, you need to categorize your hand by points, in order to determine what you can bid. Here is a chart that shows these point range categories (adapted from the Audrey Grant teaching methods):

Point Range	Category	Game Prospects
6-10	Minimum	poor
11-12	Medium	possible
13-16	Maximum	bid game

When you have an eight card fit, you can raise your partner immediately and show your point range at the same time. If your hand is better than a minimum and you have only three card support, you usually show another suit first and then raise or jump raise on your next bid.

Point Range	Category	Raise to
6-10	Minimum	two level
11-12	Medium	three level
13-16	Maximum	game*

*Note that advanced players use 3NT or 2NT for a forcing raise in the major in order to leave room for slam explorations. Another way to leave room is to bid a new suit and then jump to game.

What if you cannot raise partner's major (either because you do not have support or because the opening bid was one of a minor)? Here are responder's choices, in order:

1. Bid a new suit at the one level. This says nothing about points other than that you have enough to respond - you could be planning to pass partner's next bid or look for game or slam.

- Bid your longest suit first, unless you are minimum in points. Remember, minimums are too weak to bid new suits at the two level. If your longest suit requires a two level bid see section three, below.
- With two five card or longer suits bid the higher ranking first.
- With only four card suits bid up the line (nearest) but don't bid 1♦ when you have a four card major unless you have more than a minimum hand.

2. Raise partner's minor with five card support (or sometimes four card support for diamonds).

- With a minimum hand raise to two
- With a medium hand jump to three to invite.
- A maximum hand must get to game. So when you are balanced you respond 2NT, if you play that forcing, else 3NT. Or you start by bidding a new suit.

3. If you can't do any of the above:

- A minimum hand that cannot bid a new suit at the one level or raise partner's suit, bids the catchall 1NT (6-10 points any distribution, therefore not necessarily balanced).
- Jump to 2NT with 13-15 balanced. Many players prefer to use 2NT to show 11-12 points.
- Jump to 3NT with 16-18 balanced. If you use 2NT for 11-12 then 3N shows 13-15 points.
- With 11+ bid a new suit at the two level. Minors can be as few as four cards, but majors must be five or more cards.

Consult the Coopers

By Kitty & Steve Cooper

Mike Novack of Humble, Texas asks, "North opens 1♦, South bids 1♠, North rebids 1NT. South holds ♠Kxxxx ♥xx ♦Axxx ♣xx. Does South pass 1NT, rebid spades, or bid 2♦? What is considered the best answer and why? I have always considered the spade rebid as typically showing six - is that correct?"

When your partner bids 1NT he has limited his hand. Thus, the problem on a weakish hand that is not worth an invitation is to play in the right partscore. So you rebid your major whether you have five or six whenever you think that is the best place to play. The weaker your hand, the less you want to play in 1NT. If you have a balanced 5-3-3-2 pattern and nine or more points mainly outside your major you can pass 1NT, but otherwise bid two of your major to play. You would transfer out to your major over a 1NT opening, so this is not much different.

On the hand in question, the safest spot to play is 2♦ which is a known eight card fit, presuming your partner only opens 1♦ on three when he has a 4-4-3-2 distribution, so that's where you want to play at IMPs. Since spades outscores diamonds, if your spade spots are good, you might venture 2♠ at matchpoints.

If you held ♠Kxxxx ♥Axxx ♦xx ♣xx you would bid 2♥ over 1NT which is an offer of a place to play. You expect partner to either pass or bid 2♣ over this.

Almost all serious players use the bid of a new minor as conventional after a 1NT rebid. Using New Minor Forcing you would rebid 2♣ with at least a game invitational hand and North would bid 2♥ if he has four, 2♠ if he has three spades without four hearts, and either 2♦ or 2NT if he has neither.

An even better approach is Two-way New Minor Forcing where 2♣ forces partner to bid 2♦, and now you pass or make a natural bid with an invitational hand. With a forcing hand you bid 2♦ as an artificial game force and partner makes a natural response. Using this method with Mike's original hand, you would bid 2♣ at IMPs, but here that would force partner to bid 2♦, which you would pass; at matchpoints you might do that or you might just bid 2♠.



Peach Sectional

ACBL Unit 364

August 5-7, 2011

NEW VENUE!

Museum of Western Colorado - Whitman Education Building
The corner of Ute Ave. (I-70 Business Loop West) and 4th St.
Downtown Grand Junction, CO. Look for the Peach balloons!

Friday, August 5

1 PM - Stratified Open Pairs (single session)
Stratified 199'er Pairs (Single session)

7 PM - Stratified Open Pairs (single session)
Stratified 199'er Pairs (Single session)

Saturday, August 6

10 AM - Stratified Open Pairs (single session)
Stratified 199'er Pairs (Single session)

3 PM - Stratified Open Pairs (single session)
Stratified 199'er Pairs (Single session)

O.P. Strats: 0-500, 500-1500, 1500+
199'er Strats: 0-20, 20-100, 100-200
Members - \$10.00 / Non-Members - \$11.00

Sunday, August 7

9:30 AM and TBA

Swiss Teams - Stratified
0-500, 500-1500, 1500+
199'er Swiss Teams
0-20, 20-100, 100-200
\$110.00 - Includes Lunch

Director in Charge - Bill Michael

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Rooms available @
Hampton Inn.
205 Main Street, Grand Junction, CO
970-243-3222
\$99.00 Includes Breakfast
Ask for ACBL Unit 364 Bridge Rate
Deadline - July 15, 2011
Beverages and Snacks at all Sessions!
Zero Tolerance



Pueblo State Fair Sectional

September 2, 3, 4, 2011
Sangre de Cristo Arts & Conference Center
210 N. Santa Fe (exit 98-B off I-25)
Pueblo, Colorado

Friday—September 2, 2011

1:00 & 7:00 pm Stratified Pairs (Single Session)
Stratified 199er Pairs (Single Session)

Saturday—September 3, 2011

10:00 AM Stratified Pairs (Double Session)
Stratified 199er Pairs (Single Session)

3:00 PM Stratified Pairs (Double Session)
Stratified 199er Pairs (Single Session)

Sunday—September 4, 2011

10:00 AM Stratified Swiss Teams (Two Sessions)

Stratified Events: A - 1500+ B - 750-1500 C - 0-750
199er Pairs: D - 100-200 E - 50-100 F - 0-50
Single Session Entries will be accommodated

Tournament Chair: Judith Lopez (719) 547-1674
Partnerships: Janet Thompson (719) 545-6235
Director-in-Charge: William Michael

Fees: \$10 per person per single session;
An ACBL member with less than 5 MP plays free;
Non and Unpaid ACBL members \$1.00 additional
Swiss Teams Event: \$92.00 per team
Sanction #: S1109069
Snacks at all events -- **LUNCH SUNDAY ONLY**

Enjoy our unmatched hospitality in a friendly hometown atmosphere
@ come early and take in the State Fair

BEST FOOD IN THE SOUTHWEST

Hotels: Marriott - 719-542-3200, We have several other hotels in Pueblo
MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY - SPACE IS LIMITED

