



The Responder's first bid after a level 1 Major opening

Responses to a level 1 Major opening.

There are 4 categories of responses :

- 1-PASS with less than 5HCP
- 2-RAISE Make the appropriate raise of partner's major if you have 4-card support (single, limit or forcing raise) or 3-card support with 5-10 points (single raise)
- 3- suit ~~Strong forcing~~ 1♥/1♠ with 4 or more HCP values, bid a new suit at the 2-level.
- 4- NO TRUMP Forcing With all other hands (5-11 points without support or 10-11 points with 3-card support) bid 1NT to direct support points.
- 5-Splinter with a 4 cards fit, game force or more and a shortness

S	W	N	E
		1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣			

7	3	8	6	A	K	J	6	4	K	Q	8	5
♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦

Problem E40002 2♣ With 14HCP, a ♥ doubleton, not 4 cards in ♠... bid your longest minor.

S	W	N	E
		1 ♥	Pass
1 NT			

8	5	10	8	3	A	K	Q	J	4	7	4	2
♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦

Problem E40009 1♠ With 13HCP, a ♥ doubleton, and 4 cards in ♠... bid 1♠ and show your strength later.



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RAISES

Apply the law of total tricks ! The number of trump cards you hold matters more than your HCP :

Simple raise to the 2-level. With at least 3 cards in the Major and 5-9 HCP. With 3 cards support and 10-11HCP, give preference to a 1NT forcing bid...

Limit raise at level 3 With 11-12 HCP and 4 cards.

2/1 then support.

at level 4 With 13-14 HCP and 3 trumps.

at level 3 With 15+ HCP and 3 trumps.

Jacoby 2NT with 4+ trumps & 13+ support points

Splinter 4+ trumps & 13+ support points and a singleton.

Raises or jump (simple or double) raises are not forcing. The opener may pass. Shifts are the only forcing bids :
- for one round at the 1-level, - autoforcing at the 2-level, - jump shifts are game forcing.

S	W	N	E
		1 ♥	Pass
4 ♣			



Problem E40011 4♣ With 13 HCP you could bid 2♦, forcing to game, or even a Jacoby 2NT ... but here it is probably wiser to show your 4 cards in ♥ and your ♣ shortness by using a splinter

S	W	N	E
		1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥			



Problem E40153 2♥ With 5-10 HCP and a 3 cards fit with the opener, bid a simple support at 2♥



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Suit Shift

When you don't have support, you may bid another suit :
at level 1 with a minimum of 5 HCP and at least 4 cards in the suit .
at level 2 (2/1) with game force values (13+ HCP)

Caution !

- In response to a 1♠ opening, 2♥ promises 5 cards.
- In the minor suits, 4 cards are enough.
- All shifts are forcing.

S	W	N	E
		1♥	Pass
2♦			



Problem E40004 2♣ With 14HCP, a ♥ doubleton, not 4 cards in ♠... bid your longest minor.... Here, with two 5-cards suits respond in the higher-ranking suit...You might then bid 3♣ in the next round.

S	W	N	E
		1♥	Pass
2♣			



Problem E40003 2♣ With 14HCP, a ♥ doubleton, not 4 cards in ♠... bid your longest minor.... Here, with two 4-cards suits bid up-the-line..



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NT bidding

- 1NT 'forcing' shows 6-12 HCP and doesn't give any other indication. Sometimes this is the only possible bid when you are not strong enough to shift to the 2-level
- Jacoby 2NT. This is a very precise bid, 4+ trumps & 13+ support points.
- RKC Blackwood 4NT. With a strong hand, to directly ask about the opener's key cards count.

S	W	N	E
		1 ♥	Pass
1 NT			



Problem E40015 1NT Forcing (and catch all) You are not strong enough to force with 2♣....Which would be game forcing 2/1

You are not fitted and do not have 4 cards in ♠... Bid 1NT, round forcing.



S	W	N	E
1 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass



Problem E40042. Here is the famous Jacoby 2NT in response to a Major opening. It shows 13+ points and 4+ spades - game forcing!