



Lesson 5 – Student Notes

Responder's unlimited New Suit Bids & Opener's rebids

If a **LIMIT** bid is not possible, responder can bid a **new suit**, looking for an **alternative suit fit**.

A **major** suit fit is by far the best.

Order of bidding suits for responder

It is just as important for Responder to bid suits in the correct order.

The same bidding rules apply to Responder as they do to Opener.

Bid your:-

- **Longest** suit first (even if this means by passing a 4-card major – you hope to bid this later in the auction)
- **Lower ranking** available of TWO **4-card suits**
- **Higher** ranking of TWO **5-card suit**
- Try and keep the bidding as low as possible to give you room to find a fit.

Responder's Bids

Important! – A **new suit** bid by Responder is **forcing** (i.e. Opener cannot Pass!)

It is an **UNLIMITED** bid. Responder can have anything from **6 - 28 HCP!**

Responses to the Opening 1 of a suit Bid with NO FIT

- Bid a new suit at **the 1 level with 6+ HCP** and **4+ cards in the suit** if you can

e.g. Partner opens 1♥. As responder, what do you bid?

♠ 9 8 4 3 2
♥ Q J 4
♦ Q 7 3 2
♣ K
8 HCP

Bid your own suit - 1♠

- Bid a new suit at **2 level with 10+ HCP or meeting the Rule of 14*** and 4+cards in that suit.

*The Rule of 14 –

What is this?

It's when the sum of responder's HCP added to the number of cards in his longest suit = 14 or more, responder can bid at the 2 level in that suit.

e.g. Partner opens 1♥.

As responder, what do you bid holding the hands below?

♠ K 7 6 3
♥ K 3 2
♦ A Q T 5 3
♣ J
13 HCP

♠ Q J 7
♥ J T 3
♦ T 4
♣ A J T 7 4
9 HCP

Bid your longest suit first - 2♦
(with 13HCP you can bid
spades later)

Only 9 HCP (but meets the **Rule of 14**) so bid your own suit – 2♣

With 10+ HCP, bid your longest suit first even if that means bypassing a major which could be bid at the 1-level! However, with fewer than 10+ HCP, and not meeting the Rule of 14, Responder can only make a 1 level bid.

Remember the bid of a new suit even at the “one” level is forcing. Opener cannot Pass, since you as responder can have anything from 6 – 28 points!

So, you only bid a new suit at the two level when it cannot be bid at the one level and equally importantly, you are unable to support partner's suit!

What happens with two 5 card suits? Although somewhat counter intuitive, responding the higher of two 5 card suits first allows your partner, the opener, to bid suits more freely whilst keeping the final contract at a manageable level.

Bid 1NT with 6-9 points but remember this denies a 4+ card major suit biddable at the 1-level. This is the bid of last resort!

Examples

Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
♠ 95	♠ J8764	♠ 8	♠ AK54	♠ 8	♠ A43
♥ AQ854	♥ K2	♥ AQJ5	♥ 9876	♥ AQJ53	♥ 98
♦ A954	♦ KQJ32	♦ KJ542	♦ AQ3	♦ KJ52	♦ AQ643
♣ K8	♣ 6	♣ K87	♣ 54	♣ K87	♣ Q32
1♥	1♠	1♦	1♥	1♥	2♦

Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
♠85	♠ A943	♠ 8	♠ J76	♠ 8	♠ A43
♥ AQ854	♥ 72	♥ AQJ5	♥ 98	♥ AQJ53	♥ 982
♦ A954	♦ 3	♦ KJ542	♦ AQ	♦ KJ52	♦ Q64
♣ K8	♣ AJ9432	♣ K87	♣ J95432	♣ K87	♣ Q932
1♥	2♣ *rule of 14	1♦	1NT	1♥	1NT

a special case

If Opener's 1♠ bid, then for responder to bid 2♥, he must have a 5+ card heart suit. **Remember this 'special case'**

With only 4 Hearts and 10+ points find another bid! Look at the examples below.

In the example 1, bid clubs and wait for Opener's rebid. In example 2, responder can bid 2♥

e.g.1

♠ J 7
♥ K Q 5 4
♦ J T 3
♣ A T 9 8
11 HCP

e.g.2

♠ J 7
♥ A J T 7 3
♦ J T 3
♣ K Q 5 4
11 HCP

Why?

A bid of 2♥ by responder after a 1 of a suit bid by opener takes up a lot of the bidding space - hence the need for a 5-card suit in hearts.

Opener you also need to recognize if responder bids 2♥ he is promising a 5-card heart suit!

Summary of Responder's New Suit Bids

- Must have 6+ HCP otherwise Pass
- Bid your longest suit (i.e. any 5+ card suit if you can) before any 4 card suit
- Bid your lower ranking of two 4 card suit at the 1 level
- Bid the higher ranking of two 5 card suits
- To bid 2♥ responder MUST have a 5+ cards in hearts – a special case!
- With none of the above and 6-9 HCP range, bid 1NT as a last resort

o To bid at 2 level must have 10+ HCP or, meet the Rule of 14

Opener's Rebid Options after a New Suit Bid by Responder

- 1. Support responder's suit with 4+ cards in that suit**
(at the correct level to show your HCP strength – lesson 4)
- 2. Bid NT** with a balanced hand and **no 4+ card support** for responder's suit
(at the correct level to show your HCP strength – lesson 5)
- 3. Bid a new suit*** (*if you can – there are rules for this – more in lesson 6)
This promises 5+ cards in your first bid suit & 4+ cards in the second
- 4. Rebid your long suit with 5+ cards in the suit** *You
may be forced to do this if you can't bid your second suit because of these rules

When Opener's rebid Supports Responder's SUIT

Opener's rebid is used to show the **shape** and **strength** of his hand.

It is important to support partner's suit if possible, particularly in a major.

Opener Responder

After 1♥ – 1♠

Opener rebids:

- 2♠ = 11*-15 HCP and 4-card support bid a single raise
- 3♠ = 16-17 HCP and 4-card support jump a level to make an invitational raise
- 4♠ = 18-19 HCP & 4-card support bids a game raise (*Later in the course you will learn how to explore for a slam with a strong hand*)

In all the above cases, Opener MUST do the maths and make the correct level of bid so that responder who has made an unlimited bid can judge his rebid

When Opener Re-Bids No Trumps it shows a balanced hand
(and no fit with responder's major had he bid one)

Opener's rebid is used to show the **shape** and **strength** of his hand

Opener	Responder	Opener's Re-Bid
1♥	1♠	1NT 15-17 HCP
		2NT 18-19 HCP (Forcing)

But if the bidding goes:

1♥	2♣	2NT 15-19 HCP (Forcing)
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Note: Opener's HCP range is now extended as he can't make a 1NT rebid after responder bids at the TWO level!

There will be more on balanced hands next lesson.

When Opener holds 11* - 15 HCP can he rebid a new Suit?

Yes, he might be able to, But within certain rules!

In this lesson, we are considering opener's new suit rebids with a minimal hand i.e. in the 12-15 HCP range. (Lesson 6 will deal with new suit rebids by opener when holding a stronger hand i.e. 16+ HCP)

When Opener rebids a second suit he promises 5+ cards in first bid suit and 4+ cards in second suit bid i.e. an unbalanced hand.

Opener has at least 9 cards in these TWO suits. That only leaves no more than 4 cards in the other two suits.

OPENER has 12-14 HCPs and an unbalanced hand

Holding 12-15 HCP, Opener can ONLY bid a second suit at the TWO level if this suit is of LOWER RANK than his first bid suit

e.g. 1.

Opener	Responder
1♥	2♣
2♦	shows 12-15 points

Diamonds are lower ranked than hearts. Opener has 12-15 HCPs with at least 5 cards in hearts and 4 cards in diamonds.

e.g. 2

Opener	Responder
1♠	2♥
2♥	shows 12-15 points

Hearts are lower ranked than spades. Opener has 12-15 HCP with at least 5 cards in spades and 4 cards in hearts.

Another way to check this out is that if Responder can still rebid Opener's first bid suit at the 2 level, Opener has a minimum hand 12-15 HCP

An exception (There are always some in Bridge!):

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
1♠	(Forcing for 1 round)

Although spades are higher ranked than clubs, the bidding is still at the ONE level. In other words, **Responder can still rebid Opener's first bid suit at the 2 level.**

It does still show that Opener has at least 5 cards in clubs and 4 cards in spades – an unbalanced hand but opener has been able to keep the bidding at a low level to give responder 'more bidding space' to describe his hand.

Opener's HCP are unknown at this stage so remember opener can have anything between 11* - 19 HCP! Responder cannot Pass!

(* Meeting the Rule of 20)

Opener Rebids his Own Suit – shows an unbalanced hand

Opener's rebid is used to show the **shape** and **strength** of his hand.

Opener	Responder
1♥	1♠

If Opener rebids:

- 2♥** shows 11*-15 HCP 5+ suit **(5+ cards in that suit and either unable to bid or doesn't have to a second suit)**
- 3♥** shows 16-17 HCP 6+ suit - **NON Forcing** (a stronger, one suited hand)
- 4♥** shows 18-19 HCP 6+ suit **(As above – opener wants to play in a hearts game!)**

Opener's Dreaded 4,4,4,1 hand!

- ♠ 3 There are always exceptions! Bridge is no different! Here's another one!
- ♥ AK47 **With a hand of this shape, what do you open?**
- ♦ JT76 **What is your rebid?**
- ♣ AQT6 You have an Unbalanced hand but only 4 cards in three suits!
- You must open 1 of a suit and plan to rebid a second suit!**
- This means you have to 'lie' about your 5:4 shape in suits!
- So, if you have to lie, better to lie in a minor suit**

There is no perfect answer to this!

Our advice is:

1. **Only open if you hold 13+ HCP**
2. **Always open with a minor suit**

With both minors, bid the higher Yes, this is another exception but you have to keep your rebid in mind. Invariably responder bids the suit in which you hold 1 card!

So, in the example above, Open 1♦ If responder bids 1♠ as you expect, opener can rebid 2♣ – your lower ranked second suit. Responder will now know your hand is minimal in the 11-15 HCP range. He can return you to your first bid suit – diamonds - at the TWO level. (He will however expect you to have 5 cards in diamonds!) But this is the least worst scenario!

Do not open a 4,4,4,1 shape of hand with only 11* - 12 HCP

Summary

Opener's Rebids after New Suit Bid by Responder

- When **opening**, you must always **have your rebid in mind**
- With a **fit** in partner's major, **support** at the appropriate level (Do the maths!)
- With **no fit** and a **balanced hand** (15+ HCP), **bid NT** at the appropriate level

- With **no fit** and an **unbalanced hand**:
With only **11-15 HCP** you can rebid your **second suit at the 2 level** (showing 5:4) **ONLY if your second suit is of lower rank than your first bid suit** otherwise
rebid your 5+ card suit at the appropriate level
- With the dreaded 4,4,4,1 hand, only open with 13+ HCP always bidding a minor first!