

Bidding After Partner Responds 1NT

If you open the bidding with one of a suit and partner responds 1No Trump they are saying that

- they do not have a 4 card suit that they can bid at the one level.
- they cannot confirm a fit with your suit.
- they have enough HCP to respond (so 6 or more).
- they do not have enough HCP to respond at the 2-level (so 9 or fewer).

What Should Opener Rebid?

If opener has a balanced hand they can

- pass, if there is no chance of game.
- bid game with a strong enough hand.
- invite game by bidding 2NT if they want to find out whether responder is maximum or minimum for their 1NT response.

If opener has an unbalanced hand they can

- rebid their suit at the 2-level to show extra length and a hand not interested in bidding game.
- bid 2 of a new suit below the level of their opening suit to show a 4-card suit and a hand not interested in game.
- rebid their suit at the three level to show a strong hand with a good suit. This is generally not played as absolutely forcing.
- bid 2 of a new suit above the level of their opening suit to show a 4-card suit and a strong hand. This is forcing – responder must find a bid – but is generally not played as game forcing.
- bid a new suit at the 3-level to show a new suit and a game forcing hand.

	♠ J 6		
	♥ Q 2		
	♦ A Q J 6 4		
	♣ K Q 5 4		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	1 NT
Pass	?		

Bid 2 ♣. Show your second suit but no game interest.

	♠ A J 3		
	♥ 6		
	♦ A K J 10 8		
	♣ K Q J 8		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	1 NT
Pass	?		

Bid 3 ♣. Shows your second suit and is game forcing.

	♠ A Q 8 6 5		
	♥ Q 10 9		
	♦ A J		
	♣ J 5 4		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	?		

Pass. You have a balanced hand with no game interest. Do not rebid your spades - you showed a 5 card suit with your opening bid so bidding them again should show 6 or more.

	♠ A Q J 9 7 6		
	♥ A Q		
	♦ K 8		
	♣ K 7 4		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	?		

A difficult hand using natural methods. You don't want to bid 3 ♠ because, while it shows a good hand, it is not game forcing - partner can pass. Bidding a direct 3 NT may miss a 6-2 spade fit where 4 ♠ is a better contract. Bidding 3 ♣ is game forcing and allows partner to bid 3 ♠ to show doubleton support (they deny 3-card support when they bid 1 NT) but it runs the risk of partner bidding 5 ♣ where other contracts may be preferable. On balance a 3 ♣ bid is probably best. If partner raises to 4 ♣ you can bid 4 ♠ to show a 6 card suit.