

No Trump Bids & Rebids by Maritha Pottenger

The following are the point ranges (with balanced hands) apply:

15-17: open 1NT

18-19: open a suit and jump to 2NT if partner responds at one level

20-21: open 2NT

22-24: open 2C and rebid 2NT

25-27: open 3NT

Therefore, **any time opener bids a suit; responder bids a suit (at the one level) and opener rebids 1NT, opener should have exactly 12-14 HCP.** (With fewer points, opener would not have opened unless on distribution in which case opener would not have rebid NT. With more points, opener would have opened 1NT.)

No Trump Bids by Responder

When Opener bids a suit and Responder bids 1NT, Responder denies having a 4-card major that s/he could show at the one level and promises 6-10 HCP. Responder does NOT promise a balanced hand!

Thus, if Opener bids a club and Responder bids 1NT, responder must have at least 4 clubs (because Responder did not bid 1D, 1H, or 1S over 1C).

If Opener bids a diamond and Responder bids 1NT, responder does NOT have 4 hearts and does NOT have 4 spades.

If Opener bids a heart and Responder bids 1NT, responder does NOT have 4 spades.

When Opener bids a minor and Responder bids 2NT, Responder has 11-12 HCP, a balanced hand, and no 4-card major. This is invitational to 3NT. (Example: 1C-P-2NT-P-either pass or bid 3NT unless your hand is very unbalanced.)

When Opener bids a major and Responder bids 2NT, this is Jacoby 2NT—forcing major raise promises (3 or) 4 trump, opening hand and asking for Opener to further describe his/her hand.

When Opener bids a minor and Responder bids 3NT, Responder has 13-15 HCP, a balanced hand, and no 4-card major. Should have stoppers in unbid suits.

When Opener bids a major and Responder bids 3NT, Responder has 13-15 HCP, a (relatively) balanced hand, does not usually have 4 cards in other major and does usually have 2 (or 1) cards in partner's major.

When Partner opens a Weak Two bid, 2NT by Responder is Forcing and asks for a “feature” (an Ace or King).

No Trump Overcalls

When an opponent opens one of a suit, a NT overcall promises a stopper in that suit and 15-18 HCP.

When an opponent opens a Weak Two bid, a 2NT overcall promises a stopper in that suit and 15-18 HCP.

When an opponent opens one of a suit, a 2NT overcall is “unusual” promising 5/5 in the two lowest, unbid suits.

When an opponents opens one of a suit, a 3NT overcall is usually “semi-gambling” promising a stopper in the opponent's suit, a solid 6 or 7-card minor, and at least a couple tricks on the side.

When an opponent starts the bidding with 4H or 4S, 4NT is either (1) a generalized take-out for all 3 other suits; or (2) a take-out for the minors. Discuss with your partners and decide. (Double can be passed for penalty.)