

JACOBY TWO NO TRUMP

The Jacoby Two No Trump bid serves three purposes:

- 1) immediately agrees to a major suit
- 2) commits your partnership to game
- 3) allows room to find a good fit and explore for slam

The Jacoby 2NT bid can only be used by a responder, and only in response to partner opening one of a major. If your partner opens one heart (or one spade), a Jacoby 2NT bid by you says the following to your partner:

- 1) I have 4-card trump support for you. (Some partnerships play with 3-card support.)
- 2) I have 13 or more HCP, so we are bidding at least to the four level (game) or higher.
- 3) I wish to know more about your hand, to explore for a possible slam. Particularly, the 2NT bid asks: “Do you have a singleton in your hand and, if so, where is it?”

Please note that **if responder has a singleton in his/her hand, then usually a Splinter Bid is most appropriate**. Do not use the Jacoby 2NT response. Responder shows a singleton (or void) by using a Splinter Bid. Also, do not use Jacoby 2NT when you have a good 5-card suit (a source of tricks). Show your good suit **first**, and then show your support. **Responder asks about Opener’s possible singleton by using the Jacoby 2NT.**

The first obligation of the opening bidder is to **show a singleton** if s/he has one. (There is one exception—when opener has side suit of 5 or more cards). Revealing shortness is done by bidding the suit in which you have singleton (or a void) at the three level. Thus: 1H-P-2NT-P-3C shows that opener has a singleton or void in clubs. (3D shows singleton or void in diamonds, etc.)

If the opening bidder has a side suit of 5 cards or longer, opener is obligated to bid that side suit at the 4 level. (Obviously, if opener has a 5-card major and another suit of 5 cards or longer, s/he will have a singleton as well. In this case, however, that information that a second 5-card suit exists is more important than the location of the singleton.) So, the following sequence holds: 1H-P-2NT-P-4C shows that opener has a side suit of 5 or more clubs. (4D would show a 5-card diamond suit, etc.)

If the opening bidder has no singleton, but 15-16 HCP (in the NT range, but choosing to open the 5-card major), opener should bid 3NT (over the Jacoby 2NT). Responder can then decide whether to play 3NT (very rare), 4 of the major, or explore further for slam.

If opener has no singleton, but 17 or more HCP, opener should bid 3 of the major. This is the strongest possible bid. The partnership is almost certainly going for slam, and responder’s next bid will probably be a cue bid or an ace-asking bid.

If the opening bidder has no singleton and just a standard opening hand (usually 12-14 HCP), opener should bid 4 of the major. This follows the principle of “fast arrival.” If Responder has a huge hand, s/he can still choose to take the bidding further.

In all Jacoby 2NT sequences, responder is captain of the auction, because responder has much more information about opener’s hand than opener has about responder’s hand. So, if responder makes close-out bids, opener is obligated to respect them (unless Opener has LOTS of extra values—Responder may have only 13 HCP).

Also Jacoby 2NT sequences only apply with a bid of one of a major followed by pass and 2NT response. If the opponents overcall your partner’s one of a major opening, 2NT by you is NOT Jacoby. It shows an invitational hand (inviting 3 NT) with you holding at least one stopper in the opponent’s suit.