

Responses and Rebids When Your Partner Makes a 1NT Opening Bid

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This is our eighth article in the Match Point Precision Club series. In this article, we will discuss some suggestions for bidding after your partner opens the Match Point Precision 1NT bid.

First, a quick review about the 1NT opening bid in our system. In the initial article in this series, we told you:

The Match Point Precision 1NT is opened with specifically 13-15 HCP. The bid requires a balanced hand (at least two cards in each suit). The Match Point bid differs slightly from the regular Precision 1NT. That difference is that you do not open 1NT if you have a four-card major suit; instead, you will open 1♦. The reasoning behind the prohibition on having a four-card major suit when you open 1NT will be explained in a future article about the Match Point Precision 1NT bid.

Here is a brief explanation of the prohibition on opening 1NT with a four-card major suit. One of the cornerstones of this version of the Precision Club system is to try and find at least a 4-4 fit in a major suit; and, you want to find it at the lowest level possible. Thus, if you have a balanced 13-15 hand with a four-card major, instead of opening 1NT, you open 1♦. This gives you the opportunity explore for major suit fits beginning at the one level. [See the sixth article in this series “Responses and Rebids After a Precision 1-Diamond Opening Bid” for more information about the 1♦ opening.]

Let's begin our discussion of the Match Point Precision 1NT bid by seeing whether you understand the opening bid concepts that we discussed in some of this series' earlier articles. Take the following quiz and try to determine which of the hands would be opened with a Match Point precision 1NT opening.

QUIZ #1 Using Match Point Precision, with which of the following hands would you open 1NT?

- 1) ♠ K 9 4 ♥ K J 9 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ A Q 7 6
- 2) ♠ A 10 8 ♥ Q J 8 ♦ K 6 5 4 ♣ J 10 6
- 3) ♠ Q J 3 ♥ A K 8 ♦ J 9 4 ♣ A J 6 3
- 4) ♠ J 4 3 ♥ Q 2 ♦ A K Q 10 ♣ 10 7 6 5
- 5) ♠ K 8 ♥ A 4 ♦ J 7 5 ♣ K Q J 9 8 7
- 6) ♠ Q J 5 2 ♥ K J 3 2 ♦ A ♣ A 10 7 6

The suggested answers to all quizzes appear at the end of the article.

Responding to the opening 1NT bid when the opponents do not intervene

Let's start our discussion of responses to the opening 1NT bid by assuming that our RHO does not intervene with a bid over the 1NT opening. The first thing you should do before RHO takes any action is to announce the range of your opening 1NT bid ("13-15"). By the way, your convention card should be marked to show that the bid denies a four-card major.¹

The 2♣ asking bid after 1NT:

Obviously, there will be many times that you pass your partner's 1NT because you do not have sufficient values to respond. The lowest level response you can make after the 1NT opening is 2♣. This bid is an *asking* bid that should be alerted. We have modified our responses from the original Wei-Andersen approach² to the 2♣ asking bid in order to keep things simple.

In our approach, 2♣ is asking the opener to tell you her exact point-count [opener needs to alert this bid and explain its meaning if the opponents ask]. She would use 2♦ to tell you she has 13 HCP, 2♥ to tell you she has 14 HCP and 2♠ to tell you she has 15 HCP [you need to alert each of these bids and explain what they mean if the opponents ask]. This asking bid is helpful if you want to know exactly how many HCP you have between your two hands in order to determine whether to play at a level less than game, bid game, or bid slam.

The Wei-Andersen approach involves a complex series of asking bids and responses after opener responds to the original 2♣ asking bid. However, they also offer a less complicated approach that is explained in the following chart.

Opener's Response to the 2♣ asking bid	Meaning
2♦	13 HCP
2♥	14-15 HCP & a five-card minor
2♠	14-15 HCP without a five-card minor

Transfer bids after 1NT:

We use all of the following bids as transfer bids: 2♦, 2♥, 2♠, 3♣, 4♦, and 4♥. Opener must alert the opponents by saying "transfer." The chart on the next page shows you what the transfer bids require from opener if your LHO does not intervene.

1 In a recent ACBL Regional tournament, we had an opponent protest because we did not also alert that the 1NT bid denies a four-card major. The tournament director reviewed the bidding, looked at our convention cards, and had a consultation with the head director. After the consultation, he returned to our table and said that the denial of a four-card major is a "treatment" and does not need to be alerted as it is clearly marked on our convention cards. This confirmed a similar ruling we received in a tournament many years ago.

2 C. C. Wei and Ron Andersen, *Match Point Precision*, Mona Lisa Precision Corporation, copyright 1975, pp 33-39.

Transfer Bids	
Your Bid	Partner's Response
2♦	2♥
2♥	2♠
2♠	3♣
3♣	3♦
4♦	4♥
4♥	4♠

The lower level transfer bids are known as “Jacoby” transfers and the four-level transfers are “Texas” transfers.³ The only requirement that you must meet to make a transfer bid is to have a five-card or longer suit that you want partner to bid after she opened 1NT. There are no other requirements. As far as point-count requirements, you could have anywhere from zero to 27 HCP. Also, when partner makes a transfer bid, you must announce “transfer.”

Transfer bids are useful in various circumstances. They can be used to sign-off in a suit contract when 1NT does not look to be the best place for your final contract. They can also be used as invitational to game, game forcing, invitational to slam, or slam forcing bids. See the following chart for some example bidding sequences and explanations (partner opens 1NT and opponents pass throughout the auction).

Bidding Sequence	Explanation
1NT – P – 2♦ – P 2♥ – P – P – P	Your 2♦ bid asks partner to bid 2♥. Your pass after her 2♥ bid is telling her that you think it is safer to play there than in 1NT.
1NT – P – 2♦ – P 2♥ – P – 3♥ – P	Your 2♦ bid asks partner to bid 2♥. Your 3♥ bid is telling her that you have at least six hearts and that you think you should be in a heart game if she has maximum values for her 1NT opening. Otherwise, she should pass your 3♥ bid.
1NT – P – 2♦ – P 2♥ – P – 3NT – P	Your 2♦ bid asks partner to bid 2♥. Your 3NT bid tells partner that you want to be in game and that you have five hearts. If she has three hearts, she could correct to 4♥.
1NT – P – 2♦ – P 2♥ – P – 4NT – P	Your 2♦ bid asks partner to bid 2♥. Your 4NT is a quantitative raise <u>not</u> Blackwood or Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKC). You are giving partner the option to bid 5♥, 5NT, 6♥, or 6NT depending upon her hand.
1NT – P – 2♦ – P 2♥ – P – 5NT – P	Your 2♦ bid asks partner to bid 2♥. Your 5NT is forcing to slam and allows partner to choose between 6♥ and 6NT.
1NT – P – 4♥ – P 4♠ – P – P – P	Your 4♥ bid asks partner to bid 4♠. You promise at least six spades and sufficient values for game. Your pass tells partner you think the best contract is 4♠.
1NT – P – 4♥ – P 4♠ – P – 4NT – P	Your 4♥ bid asks partner to bid 4♠. You promise at least six spades. Your 4NT bid is Blackwood or RKC exploring for slam.

³ For a good discussion of the Jacoby 2♦, 2♥, and Texas transfer bids see Barbara Seagram's & Marc Smith's book *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know*, Master Point Press Toronto, Copyright 1999, pp.73-80. [This book is available at www.amazon.com]

2NT or 3NT after 1NT:

In Match Point Precision, the 2NT bid is *not* a quantitative or invitational raise of partner's opening bid. We use the bid as minor-suit stayman asking partner to bid her longer minor (with equal length minors, opener should bid 3♣). When you use the 2NT minor-suit stayman bid, you are promising at least 4 cards in both of the minor-suits. Because partner does not have a four-card major when she opens 1NT, she will have at least one four-card or longer minor-suit to answer your 2NT bid.

Once partner responds to your 2NT bid, depending upon your hand, you can pass, bid game, or explore for slam.

We use 3NT over 1NT as a signoff bid expecting partner to play and make 3NT.

3♦, 3♥, and 3♠ over 1NT:

Wei-Andersen suggest that 3♦, 3♥, and 3♠ over 1NT be utilized for “difficult-to-describe three-suited hands.” Their usage is described in the following table.

Bidding	Explanation	Opener's Rebids
1NT – P – 3♦ – P	Shows 4♠ - 1♥ - 4♦ - 4♣ distribution, is forcing to game and suggests interest in slam.	Bid 3 of responder's short suit to ask for number of controls (ace=2 and king=1). Responder uses step response with first step=4 controls, second step= 5 controls, and so on.
1NT – P – 3♥ – P	Shows 1♠ - 4♥ - 4♦ - 4♣ distribution, is forcing to game and suggests interest in slam.	Bid 3 of responder's short suit to ask for number of controls (ace=2 and king=1). Responder uses step response with first step=4 controls, second step= 5 controls, and so on.
1NT – P – 3♠ – P	Shows either 4♠ - 4♥ - 1♦ - 4♣ or 4♠ - 4♥ - 4♦ - 1♣ distribution, is forcing to game and suggests interest in slam.	Bids 4♣ to ask which is the short suit. Responder shows singleton diamond by bidding 4♦ or singleton club by bidding 4♥. The opener could then bid the next suit available to ask for controls. Step responses are used to show the exact number of controls.

4♣ over 1NT:

We use the bid of 4♣ over 1NT for the Gerber ace asking convention.

Summary and Quiz Time:

As discussed above, there are many tools you can use after the Match Point Precision 1NT bid to help your partnership arrive at the optimum contract. Here is your opportunity to try some of those tools when you answer the questions in the quiz on the following page.

QUIZ #2 Your partner opens 1NT and RHO does not intervene in the auction. What would you bid with the following responding hands?

- 1) ♠ J 8 6 2 ♥ A J 9 8 ♦ A 5 ♣ K 7 6
- 2) ♠ A 6 2 ♥ - ♦ Q 10 6 5 2 ♣ 9 8 5 3 2
- 3) ♠ K Q ♥ 8 7 4 3 ♦ 10 8 6 5 ♣ Q 10 8
- 4) ♠ A J 9 ♥ J 10 8 7 4 ♦ 9 3 ♣ A 9 6
- 5) ♠ A 9 ♥ A 10 8 7 4 3 ♦ 10 7 5 ♣ K 10
- 6) ♠ J 5 3 2 ♥ 10 3 ♦ A J 8 6 ♣ 10 6 2
- 7) ♠ K J 10 9 5 4 ♥ J 10 3 ♦ 9 ♣ K J 8
- 8) ♠ 8 4 ♥ Q 4 3 2 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ A 9 8 6
- 9) ♠ A 9 2 ♥ K 10 8 4 ♦ Q ♣ 10 9 7 6 2
- 10) ♠ K 4 ♥ A Q 7 3 2 ♦ Q 9 3 ♣ K 7 3
- 11) ♠ - ♥ Q 9 3 ♦ A 9 5 4 3 2 ♣ A J 9 6
- 12) ♠ 7 6 5 2 ♥ K 9 7 2 ♦ K J 8 ♣ Q J

The suggested answers to all quizzes appear at the end of the article.

Responding to the opening 1NT bid when the opponents intervene

RHO bids over partner's opening 1NT

When your RHO intervenes over partner's opening 1NT, your options are pretty straightforward. You can pass, bid your own suit, make a game forcing bid, or double for penalties. Obviously, what you do will depend upon what the RHO bids, your hand, the vulnerability, the type of game in which you are playing (i.e., match points or team game), and your opponent's skill level.

The first thing to do is ask the LHO if there is any special meaning behind RHO's bid. It helps you to make a decision on your call to know whether the bid is some type of convention.

Next, make a quick mental calculation of the total HCP held by you and your partner. You know partner has 13-15 HCP and when you add your HCP to those numbers, you get a good idea who has the balance of strength in the hand. Then, consider the vulnerability. Here's a table that might be helpful to you in making a decision about what action to take over RHO's bid when the bid is an actual suit bid and there is a point count range to the bid (do give consideration to the type of game – it is more dangerous to double in team game).

Your Side's Combined HCP	Vulnerability	Estimated # and Quality of Cards Held in RHO's Bid Suit*	Suggested Actions
= or >25 HCP	Unfavorable Vul. vs. Non	N/A	Make a game forcing bid. If you hold a very distributional hand (length not in opponent's suit), there is a possibility of slam – investigate!

Your Side's Combined HCP	Vulnerability	Estimated # and Quality of Cards Held in RHO's Bid Suit*	Suggested Actions
= or >25 HCP	Equal	1. <6 and few honors 2. = or >6 and 2+ honors	1. Make a game forcing bid. 2. Decision time (how good is your partnership's defense?) – double or make a game forcing bid. Remember, you need to set opponent's three tricks doubled to do better than a game score.
= or >25 HCP	Favorable Non vs. Vul.	1. <6 and few honors 2. = or >6 and 2+ honors	1. Decision time (how good is your partnership's defense?) – double or make a game forcing bid. 2. Double.
20-24 HCP	Any	1. <6 and few honors 2. = or >6 and 2+ honors	1. Decision time (how good is your partnership's defense?) – double or pass. 2. Double.
<20 HCP	Any	N/A	Pass

* "Estimated # and Quality of Cards Held in RHO's Bid Suit" = an estimate the number of cards that you and your partner hold in RHO's bid suit and whether they are honor cards. Remember that partner can have no more than three cards in a major suit.

Bidding goes 1NT – Dbl.

In this situation, you need to know what RHO's double means. More often than not, it means that RHO has a strong opening NT type of hand (either 15-17 HCP or 16-18 HCP). What action should you take, if any? The answer is that it depends upon the type of hand you have.

When RHO's double promises a strong NT, you should have no more than 12 HCP (partner has 13 HCP and RHO has at least 15 HCP). Usually you will have less than 12 HCP.

If you have a very weak (<5 HCP) *non-distributional* (no five-card or longer suit) hand, you could pass and let partner take her chances. Alternatively, if you have two four-card minors, you could use the 2NT minor-suit stayman bid and let partner try to play in her better minor-suit. In addition to minor-suit stayman, we play all of the transfer bids in this situation. So, with a very weak *distributional* hand, we will use the appropriate transfer bid to ask partner to transfer into your long suit.

If you have 6-10 HCP, you need to consider your major suit strength before taking action. If you have at least three cards in each of the majors and at least one of the top three honors in each of these suits, consider making a redouble.

Alternatively, if you have shortness in the major suits and just queens and jacks for your 6-10 HCP, consider the 2NT minor-suit stayman bid or transfers to 2♣ or 2♦ depending upon your distribution. [Note that you could also pass.]

When you have a good, long (5+) minor-suit, consider passing the double with the expectation that partner will be able to take four or more tricks with your minor-suit cards. [If you are not too certain about partner's declarer play at 1NT doubled, think about making a transfer bid to the minor suit.]

Also with 6-10 HCP and a good, long (5+) major suit, think about using a Jacoby transfer to your major suit.

When you have 11-12 HCP, you need to consider whether it is in your interest to redouble or try for a game of your own. Once again, you should consider the vulnerability and your distribution. What you do will depend upon those two factors. Usually, unless you have a very distributional hand, a redouble will gain the best result for your partnership.

With 11-12 HCP and a distributional hand, use transfer bids to have partner bid your long suit. Depending upon your distribution, you could invite to game, force to game, or even explore for slam after making the transfer. [By using a transfer bid, you gain somewhat of an advantage by making the strong hand, RHO, lead up to your partner's hand.]

Bidding goes 1NT – P – P – Dbl. and then P – P

Your partner opens 1NT and her bid gets passed to your LHO. The LHO doubles and then, partner passes and your RHO also passes. Sounds like the opponents have the balance of the points and are counting upon setting your partner's 1NT. Should you take any action and if so, what should it be?

The answer is “it depends” – i.e., it depends upon your hand and also whether you and your partner have agreed upon whether you will open 1NT when you have a five-card minor-suit. [Note that you could agree to open all hands containing a five-card minor-suit either 1♦ or, when you have a good five-card club suit (two of the top three honors), the Match Point Precision 2♣. With a weak five-card club suit, open 1♦ and then rebid 2♣ to show you have longer clubs than diamonds.]

The major factors behind your decision whether to take any action depend upon your distribution and HCP strength. The actions you take will be similar to those which were described in the preceding sections. We use both minor-suit Stayman and transfer bids in this situation.

On the next page are three quizzes you can take if you decide to adopt some the the ideas presented above when the opponents intervene after your partner opens the Match Point Precision 1NT.

QUIZ #3 Partner opens a *Match Point Precision 1NT* and *RHO* bids $2\heartsuit$ (shows a heart suit and opening point count according to their partnership agreement), what would you do with the following hands?

- 1) $\spadesuit 9 8 4 3 2$ $\heartsuit 10$ $\diamondsuit Q J 6 4 3$ $\clubsuit Q 6$
- 2) $\spadesuit 10 8$ $\heartsuit 8 6 5$ $\diamondsuit K 6 5 4$ $\clubsuit J 10 9 6$
- 3) $\spadesuit 7 3$ $\heartsuit A J 9$ $\diamondsuit J 9 4$ $\clubsuit A J 6 3$
- 4) $\spadesuit J 4 3$ $\heartsuit Q 2$ $\diamondsuit A K Q 10$ $\clubsuit 10 7 6 5$

The suggested answers to all quizzes appear at the end of the article.

QUIZ #4 Partner opens a *Match Point Precision 1NT* and *RHO* doubles, what would you do with the following hands?

- 1) $\spadesuit J 2$ $\heartsuit 8 4 3$ $\diamondsuit J 9 7 6 2$ $\clubsuit 8 6 3$
- 2) $\spadesuit K Q 10 8 4 3$ $\heartsuit Q 6 4$ $\diamondsuit J 3$ $\clubsuit 3 2$
- 3) $\spadesuit 10 9 2$ $\heartsuit J 10 7 4$ $\diamondsuit 10 6$ $\clubsuit K Q 4 3$
- 4) $\spadesuit -$ $\heartsuit 10 9 8 7 3 2$ $\diamondsuit K 8 7 5 3$ $\clubsuit A 4$

The suggested answers to all quizzes appear at the end of the article.

QUIZ #5 Partner opens a *Match Point Precision 1NT* and the bidding is passed to your *LHO* who doubles the *1NT* bid. Both partner and your *RHO* pass the double, what would you do with the following hands?

- 1) $\spadesuit 10 2$ $\heartsuit 10 7 6$ $\diamondsuit Q 10 8 3$ $\clubsuit 10 6 5 2$
- 2) $\spadesuit 9 3 2$ $\heartsuit 9 8 7$ $\diamondsuit 2$ $\clubsuit 10 9 8 5 4 3$
- 3) $\spadesuit Q J 9 7$ $\heartsuit 10 7 4$ $\diamondsuit J 9 4$ $\clubsuit 9 6 3$
- 4) $\spadesuit J 10$ $\heartsuit 9 8$ $\diamondsuit J 10 8 7 6$ $\clubsuit 10 7 6 5$

The suggested answers to all quizzes appear at the end of the article.

Answers to all of the quizzes begin on the next page.

Answers to this article's quizzes

Answers to Quiz #1: In this quiz, you are to determine which of the six hands would be opened with the Match Point Precision 1NT bid.

Hand

1. ♠ K 9 4 ♥ K J 9 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ A Q 7 6

Here you have a balanced hand, no four-card major, and 14 HCP – open 1NT.

2. ♠ A 10 8 ♥ Q J 8 ♦ K 6 5 4 ♣ J 10 6

In this hand, you have a balanced hand and no four-card major. But, you only have 11 HCP – open 1♦.

3. ♠ Q J 3 ♥ A K 8 ♦ J 9 4 ♣ A J 6 3

This hand meets the balanced and no four-card major requirements; but, you have 16 HCP – open the Match Point Precision 1♣.

4. ♠ J 4 3 ♥ Q 2 ♦ A K Q 10 ♣ 10 7 6 5

In this hand, you have a balanced hand and no four-card major. But, you only have 12 HCP – open 1♦.

5. ♠ K 8 ♥ A 4 ♦ J 7 5 ♣ K Q J 9 8 7

This hand meets the requirements for Match Point Precision 1NT and 2♣ opening hands. If you would feel comfortable being declarer in NT with two doubleton major suits, open the hand 1NT; otherwise, open the Match Point Precision 2♣.

6. ♠ Q J 5 2 ♥ K J 3 2 ♦ A ♣ A 10 7 6

This hand does not meet the Match Point Precision 1NT opening requirements – it is not balanced and it contains two four-card majors. But, it does meet the 2♦ opening specifications – open the Match Point Precision 2♦. [Note: responses to the 2♦ opening bid will be covered in a future article in this series.]

Answers to Quiz #2: In this quiz, your partner opens 1NT and RHO does not intervene in the auction. You were to determine what you would bid with the following responding hands.

Hand

- 1) ♠ J 8 6 2 ♥ A J 9 8 ♦ A 5 ♣ K 7 6

You know that partner's 1NT denies a four-card major. With both hands together, the maximum HCP you hold would be 28 (you have 13 HCP and partner's maximum is 15 HCP). Partner's bid also shows a balanced hand. Bid 3NT.

- 2) ♠ A 6 2 ♥ - ♦ Q 10 6 5 2 ♣ 9 8 5 3 2

You know that partner has at least one four-card minor. This hand gives you the opportunity to make the 2NT minor-suit stayman bid.

- 3) ♠ K Q ♥ 8 7 4 3 ♦ 10 8 6 5 ♣ Q 10 8

Doesn't look like you are going anywhere with this hand – pass and let the opponents get into trouble.

- 4) ♠ A J 9 ♥ J 10 8 7 4 ♦ 9 3 ♣ A 9 6
Bid a Jacoby 2♦ asking partner to transfer to 2♥. You could then bid 2NT and let partner decide whether to pass, bid 3♥ or try for a “slim” game.
- 5) ♠ A 9 ♥ A 10 8 7 4 3 ♦ 10 7 5 ♣ K 10
Bid a Texas 4♦ asking partner to transfer to 4♥. Alternatively, you could do a Jacoby 2♦ asking partner to bid 2♥ and then bid 3♥ giving partner the option to continue to 3NT or 4♥. Or, you could even start with a 2♣ bid asking partner for her opening point count and then invite to game in hearts with a 3♥ bid if she shows you the minimum 13 HCP or just jump to 4♥ if she shows you 14 or 15 HCP. I would seriously consider either asking the point count and then jumping to 4♥ regardless of partner's point-count or making a Texas transfer depending upon whether we were playing in a Matchpoints or Team game. [Arguably, it would be better to have partner's opening hand as the declarer because it is slightly stronger (point-count) than your hand and it might pay to have the opening lead made up to her hand.]
- 6) ♠ J 5 3 2 ♥ 10 3 ♦ A J 8 6 ♣ 10 6 2
With this hand, you should pass.
- 7) ♠ K J 10 9 5 4 ♥ J 10 3 ♦ 9 ♣ K J 8
Use a Jacoby 2♥ bid asking partner to bid 2♠. With favorable vulnerability, be prepared to compete up to the 4♠ level.
- 8) ♠ 8 4 ♥ Q 4 3 2 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ A 9 8 6
With this hand, you should pass. But, give consideration to doubling the opponents if they wind-up in any contract other than 2♠ (spades will be their likely contract given that they have at least 8 cards in that suit between their two hands).
- 9) ♠ A 9 2 ♥ K 10 8 4 ♦ Q ♣ 10 9 7 6 2
Whether to bid 2♠ asking partner to bid 3♣ or just pass the 1NT is the decision that you need to make with this hand. You know that partner probably has at least 3♣ in her hand (unless this is the time she picked to open 1NT with 3-3-5-2 distribution).
- 10) ♠ K 4 ♥ A Q 7 3 2 ♦ Q 9 3 ♣ K 7 3
Bid a Jacoby 2♦ asking partner to transfer to 2♥. Then, jump to 3NT giving partner the option to pass or bid 4♥.
- 11) ♠ - ♥ Q 9 3 ♦ A 9 5 4 3 2 ♣ A J 9 6
In this hand, you have the option of bidding 3♣ asking partner to transfer to 3♦ or using minor-suit stayman (2NT bid). You should be in at least game in diamonds (or clubs) and possibly slam if you have the correct “gadgets” in your bidding arsenal to investigate partner's holdings after her response to your first bid.
- 12) ♠ 7 6 5 2 ♥ K 9 7 2 ♦ K J 8 ♣ Q J
Pass and plan to double the opponents if they have the temerity to get into the auction with this hand. Alternatively, if you are more aggressive, you could bid 2♣ asking partner for her point count and then either rebid 2NT or 3NT depending upon how she responds.

QUIZ #3 Partner opens a *Match Point Precision 1NT* and RHO bids 2♥ (shows a heart suit and opening point count according to their partnership agreement), what would you do with the following hands?

Hand

- 1) ♠ 9 8 4 3 2 ♥ 10 ♦ Q J 6 4 3 ♣ Q 6

Between the two hands, you and partner have 18-20 HCP. So, you have several options with this hand. The chances are good that, like you, the opponents also have distributional hands and they might make four hearts. Depending upon the vulnerability, you could compete in either spades (knowing that partner has a maximum of three spades) or diamonds. Alternatively, you could pass expecting the opponents to play in a heart contract (you know they have at least nine hearts between their two hands). [Some questions: What is the vulnerability? If you bid 2♠ or 3♦, are these the type of opponents who will compete vigorously? Will partner expect you to have six spades if you bid them at the two level? I would want to know the answers to these questions before jumping into the bidding.]

- 2) ♠ 10 8 ♥ 8 6 5 ♦ K 6 5 4 ♣ J 10 9 6

Pass with this hand. You and your partner have a combined holding of only 17-19 HCP and you have a balanced hand with no long suit to bid.

- 3) ♠ 7 3 ♥ A J 9 ♦ J 9 4 ♣ A J 6 3

You and partner have a combined 24-26 HCP. With favorable or equal vulnerability, consider a double with this hand. However, with unfavorable vulnerability, you may want to bid 2NT inviting partner to bid 3NT (or, if you are optimistic, jump to 3NT).

- 4) ♠ J 4 3 ♥ Q 2 ♦ A K Q 10 ♣ 10 7 6 5

This time, your combined hands have 25-27 HCP. Like "Dirty Harry" said "You've got to ask yourself 'do I feel lucky'" - if so, jump to 3NT hoping that partner has at least a partial stopper in hearts. Before you jump to 3NT, consider the vulnerability. Is it favorable (or equal)? If so, a double may be your best bid.

QUIZ #4 Partner opens a *Match Point Precision 1NT* and RHO doubles, what would you do with the following hands?

Hand

- 1) ♠ J 2 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ J 9 7 6 2 ♣ 8 6 3

With this hand, you know that your combined partnership holding is only 15-17 HCP. Your distribution does not add much to the strength of your hand when you discount the value of your doubleton spade jack. Pass is probably your best bid if the double is for takeout. But, if the double shows a strong NT hand with 15-18 HCP or if you are worried about partner playing a doubled 1NT with your hand as the dummy, you could bid 3♣ asking partner to bid 3♦.

- 2) ♠ K Q 10 8 4 3 ♥ Q 6 4 ♦ J 3 ♣ 3 2

This time, your combined partnership holding is 21-23 HCP. You could redouble and see where the opponents run (most likely to hearts where they hold at least seven cards between the two of them). But, your six-card spade suit (plus at least two spades in partner's hand) should make it tempting for you to bid 2♥ asking partner to bid 2♠.

There may even be a play for game in spades with your RHO on lead and leading into partner's 1NT opener. So, if you do not redouble, bid 2♥ and give partner a game invite by bidding 3♠ after she bids 2♠.

- 3) ♠ 10 9 2 ♥ J 10 7 4 ♦ 10 6 ♣ K Q 4 3

With this balanced hand, pass. You and partner have a combined 18-20 HCP and a doubled 1NT contract should have a play. If LHO gets into the auction and forces RHO to the three level, you may be able to set their contract.

- 4) ♠ - ♥ 10 9 8 7 3 2 ♦ K 8 7 5 3 ♣ A 4

This hand will probably not play well in 1NT doubled. Bid 2♦ asking partner to transfer to 2♥. You have at least eight trump (partner has 2-3 hearts) and you have good ruffing values with the void in spades and doubleton ace of clubs. However, the opponents will probably bid their spades (they hold at least ten spades between their two hands). If they do bid spades, you could compete with a diamond bid which show partner that you are at least 5-5 in the red suits.

QUIZ #5 Partner opens a *Match Point Precision 1NT* and the bidding is passed to your LHO who doubles the 1NT bid. Both partner and your RHO pass the double, what would you do with the following hands?

Hand

- 1) ♠ 10 2 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ Q 10 8 3 ♣ 10 6 5 2

Be certain to ask what the double means. Sounds like your RHO may have passed with an opening (or near opening) hand and expects to set partner's 1NT contract. You have a tough decision to make. You know that combined your hands have only 15-17 HCP. If you don't pass, you could make a 2NT minor-suit stayman bid asking partner to bid her better minor – either way, good luck.

- 2) ♠ 9 3 2 ♥ 9 8 7 ♦ 2 ♣ 10 9 8 5 4 3

You obviously did not take any action after RHO passed the 1NT opening bid. Before LHO got into the auction, it might have been better to bid 2♠ asking partner to bid 3♣. However, you didn't. So make the transfer now.

- 3) ♠ Q J 9 7 ♥ 10 7 4 ♦ J 9 4 ♣ 9 6 3

This is one of those hands where you wish partner had not opened 1NT. Pass and keep your fingers crossed that partner doesn't go set too many tricks.

- 4) ♠ J 10 ♥ 9 8 ♦ J 10 8 7 6 ♣ 10 7 6 5

Once again, you could have taken action after RHO passed the 1NT opening bid by bidding the 2NT minor-suit stayman (might have kept the opponents from doubling partner). But, you didn't; so, do it now.

Coming next: The Match Point Precision Opening 2♣ and 2♦ bids.

Any comments or questions about Match Point Precision, send us an email.

Send your emails to:

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