



The 1NT Response

1NT is one of the most common responses to an opening bid of one of a suit.

It is a **limit bid**, showing 6-9 HCP.

It denies the ability to raise partner's major or to bid a major suit at the 1-level: **it has no 4+card majors**

But it is not always balanced.

Over 1♠ it is the only weak response you can make (unless you have 4 spades) so it will often be unbalanced with a long suit, lacking the values for a 2over1 response.

Over 1♥ it denies 4 spades, but it may have a long minor.

Over 1♦ it denies a 4-card major, but it may have a 6-card club suit

Over 1♣ it will be balanced: there must be 4 cards in at least one minor, but you have chosen to bid 1NT because it is more descriptive than responding 1♦ or raising to 2♣.

Coping with imperfect hands

Try to avoid responding 1NT with a singleton in an unbid suit, or with two suits completely unstopped

(No need to be concerned about a singleton in **partner's** suit.

The lesser lie may be to raise partner with just 3-card support

♠AQ854 ♥J64 ♦Q ♣KJ3	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	♠K92 ♥8 ♦K109654 ♣965
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West

East

1♠

2♠

Pass

♠KQT ♥A642 ♦K87 ♣A107	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	♠52 ♥KQ3 ♦QJ932 ♣963
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West

East

1♥

2♥

2NT

3NT

♠AJ943 ♥KQ83 ♦2 ♣A63	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	♠105 ♥- ♦KQJ9642 ♣9632
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West

East

1♠

2♦

2♥

3♦

Against NT opponents will cash at least 5 hearts and two aces.

With a balanced hand West makes his game try in NT. East would bid game in hearts with 4 card support

East's sequence shows a long minor and not much else.

Further Bidding after a 1NT response.

With a balanced hand opener should pass with 15-16 points.

Raise to 2NT with a balanced hand of 17-19 points, though you may bid 3NT with a good 19.

With an unbalanced hand opener removes 2NT to his second suit provided it is lower-ranking.

(After 1♥ - 1NT partner has denied 4 spades, so there is no point in looking for an 8-card fit in spades)

This shows at least 5-4. Responder can give **false preference** to the first suit with a doubleton.

He may pass with a singleton in partner's major and 3+cards in the second suit.

He may raise the second suit with 4+cards to show a maximum 8-9 points and invite game

With a 6+ card major opener can remove 1NT by rebidding his suit.

NB: **do not remove 1NT to a 5-card major** – partner may have a singleton.

A jump rebid of 3 of opener's major invites game, but it can be passed.



The 1NT Response

Playing in Responder's Long Suit

After responding 1NT it may be possible to bid a new suit.

This usually shows a 6+card suit in a hand not strong enough for a 2over1 response.

♠KQ854	N	♠3
♥A64	W E	♥Q872
♦Q	S	♦K109654
♣KQ83		♣J5

West

1 ♠

2 ♣

Pass

East

1NT

2 ♦

East suggests a place to play, West does not argue since the hand is an obvious misfit.

♠AQ7	N	♠J85
♥A642	W E	♥3
♦KJ76	S	♦Q32
♣A7		♣QJ9863

West

1 ♥

2NT

Pass

East

1NT

3 ♣

Another hand where East thinks the best spot would be his long suit
West might bid 3NT with ♣AKx

♠AQJ943	N	♠-
♥K83	W E	♥J1076
♦2	S	♦KQJ943
♣A63		♣Q62

West

1 ♠

2 ♠

Pass

East

1NT

3 ♦

Unusual to bid after
West shows a 6-card
major – you must be sure
your suit will play better.