



Opener's Rebid: The Reverse (or Barrier) Rebid

Opener's rebid is often the most important bid in the auction.

It helps partner decide what to do next if you can *limit* the strength of your hand.

After a Limited Response

When responder has raised your suit all you need do is decide whether to bid on or not.

The rebid after a 1NT or 2NT response was covered in lesson 37.

After an Unlimited Response in a Suit

Your options, in order of preference are:

1. Raise partner's suit with 4-card support - *a limit raise*
2. Rebid 1NT/2NT with a balanced hand without 4-card support - *a limit bid*.
3. Bid a new suit, **promising 5+cards in your first suit and 4+ in your second** - an *unlimited* bid
4. Rebid your own suit with 6+ cards and no second suit - *a limit bid*

Bidding a New Suit

We bid 4-card suits because we are looking for an 8+card trump fit.

When we bid a second suit partner can *raise our first suit* with just 3 cards, since he now knows we have 5.

Or he can *raise our second suit* with 4-card support, just as if we had opened the bidding in that suit.

| West | East |
|---|------|
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 3♥ |
| East shows 9-12HCP with <u>3 hearts</u> . (With 4 he would raise last time) A limit raise | |

| West | East |
|----------------------------------|------|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♠ |
| East shows 6-9HCP with 4 spades. | |

| West | East |
|--|------|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 3♠ |
| East has 9-12HCP with 4 spades. (You need 4-card support to raise a second suit) | |

| West | East |
|--|------|
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2♦ | 2♥ |
| This time <i>East may not have 3-card support</i> . What can he do with 6-9 HCP and 4-2-3-4? | |

| West | East |
|--|------|
| 1♦ | 1♠ |
| 2♥ | |
| East did not respond 1♥. (He <i>may</i> have 5spades and 4hearts.) To return to diamonds he must bid <u>3♦</u> | |

| West | East |
|---|------|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 2♦ | |
| East <i>bypassed</i> diamonds He <i>may</i> have 4 diamonds, probably not. To play in clubs now he must bid <u>3♣</u> | |

| West | East |
|--|------|
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 2♠ | |
| East bypassed spades. Again, to get back to hearts he must bid <u>3♥</u> . | |

| West | East |
|--|------|
| 1♥ | 1NT |
| 2♠ | |
| East has <i>denied</i> 4 spades He has to bid <u>3♥</u> to get back to hearts. | |



Opener's Rebid: The Reverse (or Barrier) Rebid

Reverse Bids

When we bid a new suit *at the 2-level* that is *higher-ranking* than our first suit we call it a *reverse*.

A reverse is a bid in a suit *that partner has by-passed with his initial response*. **He probably does not have support for it.** It forces him to *give preference* to our first suit *at the 3-level*.

Because it raises the bidding so high it is strong: 16+HCP after a 1over1 response; 15+HCP after a 2over1.

The new suit is *shorter* than the first. We promise 5+cards in the first suit, 4+ in the second.

(A reverse shows strength, but do not distort your distribution in order to use it as a way of showing strength)

| |
|------------|
| ♠8 |
| ♥K85 |
| ♦KQJ9 |
| ♣AKJ42 |
| 1♣ 1♠ |
| 2♦ |

17HCP is enough to reverse. (2♦ is a new suit at the 2-level which partner has bypassed)

| |
|------------|
| ♠A974 |
| ♥5 |
| ♦A72 |
| ♣KQJ84 |
| 1♣ 1♥ |
| 1♠ |

A new suit at the 1-level is *not* a reverse. Partner can return to clubs **at the 2-level**

| |
|------------|
| ♠10 |
| ♥Q93 |
| ♦KQ85 |
| ♣AK1032 |
| 1♣ 1♥ |
| 2♣ |

14HCP - not enough to reverse. We just have to rebid 2♣. (**An exception:** normally we show 6+cards when we rebid our first suit.)

| |
|------------|
| ♠AQ97 |
| ♥AK753 |
| ♦9 |
| ♣QJ8 |
| 1♥ 2♣ |
| 2♠ |

Enough to reverse after a 2 over 1. Partner has 10+HCP so you have the values for game.

A Reverse Bid is a strong bid. It is **Forcing**.

Partner *must* respond to it. His weakest option is to return to your first suit at the 3-level.