



Quantitative No-trump Bidding

An opening bid of 1NT or 2NT shows a balanced hand with a specific point range. (12-14 or 20-22)
Knowing partner's point count is useful - you immediately know whether to stop in part score (when the partnership has less than 25HCP), or look for game (with 25HCP or more) or slam (33 HCP or more).

When game/slam is possible if partner is maximum but not if he is minimum you make an *invitational* bid.

Raising 1NT to 2NT is *invitational*. It says "bid 3NT if you are maximum. Pass if minimum"

Raising 1NT to 4NT is also invitational. It says "bid slam if you are maximum, Pass if minimum"

The raise to 4NT is called a *quantitative* no-trump bid.

It is **NOT** Blackwood - you can ask for aces *only when you have agreed a suit to play in*.

NB: you can still make invitational NT raises *after* looking for a major suit fit via Stayman or a Transfer.

Hand evaluation in No-trump

When you invite partner to bid on he has no problem with a maximum 14HCP, nor with a minimum 12HCP.
What does he do with 13HCP?

A ♠Q32
♥K432
♦AJ5
♣K62

B ♠AQ
♥65432
♦K42
♣KJ4

C ♠KJ109
♥A2
♦QJ109
♣Q108

D ♠A3
♥983
♦KQJ106
♣K97

In A and B the honours are scattered or in short suits. There are no intermediate cards, no good long suit that can be easily established. These are **minimum** hands which should decline an invitation.

In C and D the honours support one another and are supported by *intermediate cards*, tens and nines. There are two good 4-card suits, or one 5-card suit, from which tricks can be developed. These are **maximum** and should bid on.

Further bidding after a Quantitative 4NT

When we are wondering which game to play in we choose 3NT or 4 of a major in preference to 5 of a minor. This is because we need only 9 tricks to make 3NT, 10 to make 4♥ or 4♠, but 11 tricks to make 5♣ or 5♦. For a small slam level we need to make 12 tricks, whatever the denomination.

A 4-4 fit is worth only 4 tricks in a no-trump contract, *but may produce an extra trick or two if it is trump*.

So over a quantitative 4NT it is a good idea to look for a 4-4 fit.

West East

1NT 4NT West passes with a minimum opener, 12HCP or a bad 13HCP.

? With a maximum he can check on alternative strains by *bidding 4-card suits upwards*.

5♣ shows a 4-card club suit.

With 4-card support East raises to 6♣.

Otherwise he bids 4-card suits upwards in turn - 5♦ with 4 diamonds

5♥ with 4 hearts but not 4 diamonds

5♠ with no 4-card suits except spades

5♦ shows a 4-card diamond suit, denies 4 clubs.

With 4 diamonds East raises to 6♦.

Otherwise he bids a 4-card suit of his own, or 5NT if his only 4-card suit is clubs.

The partners continue to bid 4-card suits upwards until they know there cannot be a fit.

5NT by either player denies support for partner, and says he has no 4-card suits left to bid.

5NT can be passed, so if you want to be in 6NT you just have to bid it.

6♣ When you bid a suit at the 6-level it must be a 5-card suit, offering a choice of slam.

If partner has 3-card support and a doubleton (a *ruffing value*) he can pass.

With only a doubleton in your suit partner converts to 6NT.



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Other Quantitative 4NT Auctions

4NT is quantitative when a natural NT bid is raised to 4NT (no suit is agreed). Auctions like these:

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	4NT	2NT	4NT	1NT	2♦	2NT	3♥
				2♥	4NT	3♠	4NT
<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1♠	2♥	1♣	1♥	1♦	2♠	1♣	3NT
2NT	4NT	2NT	4NT	2NT	4NT	4NT	