



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 bypassed diamonds He may 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 denied 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.