



## LESSON 5 – STUDENT NOTES

# RESPONDER'S UNLIMITED NEW SUIT BIDS & OPENER'S REBIDS

If a **LIMIT** bid is not possible, responder can bid a **new suit**, looking for an **alternative suit fit**.

A **major** suit fit is by far the best.

### ORDER OF BIDDING SUITS FOR RESPONDER

It is just as important for Responder to bid suits in the correct order.

The same bidding rules apply to Responder as they do to Opener.

Bid your:-

- **Longest** suit first (even if this means by passing a 4-card major – you hope to bid this later in the auction)
- **Lower ranking** available of TWO 4-card suits
- **Higher** ranking of TWO 5-card suit
- Try and keep the bidding as low as possible to give you room to find a fit.

### RESPONDER'S BIDS

**Important!** – A **new suit** bid by Responder is **forcing** (i.e. Opener cannot Pass!)

It is an **UNLIMITED** bid. Responder can have anything from 6 - 28 HCP!

### RESPONSES TO THE OPENING 1 OF A SUIT BID WITH NO FIT

- Bid a new suit at **the 1 level with 6+ HCP** and **4+ cards in the suit** if you can

e.g. Partner opens 1♥. As responder, what do you bid?

♠ 9 8 4 3 2  
♥ Q J 4  
♦ Q 7 3 2  
♣ K  
8 HCP

Bid your own suit - 1♠

- Bid a new suit at **2 level with 10+ HCP or meeting the Rule of 14\*** and 4+cards in that suit.

### \*The Rule of 14 –

What is this?

It's when the sum of responder's HCP added to the number of cards in his longest suit = 14 or more, responder can bid at the 2 level in that suit.

e.g. Partner opens 1♥.

As responder, what do you bid holding the hands below?

♠ K 7 6 3  
♥ K 3 2  
♦ A Q T 5 3  
♣ J  
13 HCP

♠ Q J 7  
♥ J T 3  
♦ T 4  
♣ A J T 7 4  
9 HCP

Bid your longest suit first - 2♦  
(with 13HCP you can bid  
spades later)

Only 9 HCP (but meets the **Rule of 14**) so bid your own suit – 2♣

With 10+ HCP, bid your longest suit first even if that means bypassing a major which could be bid at the 1-level! However, with fewer than 10+ HCP, and not meeting the Rule of 14, Responder can only make a 1 level bid.

**Remember the bid of a new suit even at the “one” level is forcing. Opener cannot Pass, since you as responder can have anything from 6 – 28 points!**

So, you only bid a new suit at the two level when it cannot be bid at the one level and equally importantly, you are unable to support partner's suit!

**What happens with two 5 card suits?** Although somewhat counter intuitive, responding the higher of two 5 card suits first allows your partner, the opener, to bid suits more freely whilst keeping the final contract at a manageable level.

**Bid 1NT with 6-9 points but remember this denies a 4+ card major suit biddable at the 1-level. This is the bid of last resort!**

### EXAMPLES

Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
♠ 95	♠ J8764	♠ 8	♠ AK54	♠ 8	♠ A43
♥ AQ854	♥ K2	♥ AQJ5	♥ 9876	♥ AQJ53	♥ 98
♦ A954	♦ KQJ32	♦ KJ542	♦ AQ3	♦ KJ52	♦ AQ643
♣ K8	♣ 6	♣ K87	♣ 54	♣ K87	♣ Q32
1♥	1♠	1♦	1♥	1♥	2♦

Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
♠ 85	♠ A943	♠ 8	♠ J76	♠ 8	♠ A43
♥ AQ854	♥ 72	♥ AQJ5	♥ 98	♥ AQJ53	♥ 982
♦ A954	♦ 3	♦ KJ542	♦ AQ	♦ KJ52	♦ Q64
♣ K8	♣ AJ9432	♣ K87	♣ J95432	♣ K87	♣ Q932
1♥	2♣*	1♦	2♣* or 1NT	1♥	1NT

\*rule of 14

### A SPECIAL CASE

If Opener's 1♠ bid, then for responder to bid 2♥, he must have a 5+ card heart suit. **Remember this 'special case'**

With only 4 Hearts and 10+ points find another bid! Look at the examples below.

In the example 1, bid clubs and wait for Opener's rebid. In example 2, responder can bid 2♥

e.g.1

♠ J 7
♥ K Q 5 4
♦ J T 3
♣ A T 9 8
11 HCP

e.g.2

♠ J 7
♥ A J T 7 3
♦ J T 3
♣ K Q 5 4
11 HCP

### WHY?

A bid of 2♥ by responder after a 1 of a suit bid by opener takes up a lot of the bidding space - hence the need for a 5-card suit in hearts.

Opener you also need to recognize if responder bids 2♥ he is promising a 5-card heart suit!

### SUMMARY OF RESPONDER'S NEW SUIT BIDS

- Must have 6+ HCP otherwise Pass
- Bid your longest suit (i.e. any 5+ card suit if you can) before any 4 card suit
- Bid your lower ranking of two 4 card suit at the 1 level
- Bid the higher ranking of two 5 card suits
- To bid 2♥ responder MUST have a 5+ cards in hearts – a special case!
- With none of the above and 6-9 HCP range, bid 1NT as a last resort
- To bid at 2 level must have 10+ HCP or, meet the Rule of 14

When you open the bidding, you must have your rebid in mind. What does this mean? It means, if responder bids, you as opener need to know what you will say when the bidding comes around to you. This is known as opener's rebid?

## OPENER'S REBID OPTIONS AFTER A NEW SUIT BID BY RESPONDER

- 1. Support responder's suit with 4+ cards in that suit**  
(at the correct level to show your HCP strength – lesson 4)
- 2. Bid NT with a balanced hand and no 4+ card support** for responder's suit  
(at the correct level to show your HCP strength – lesson 5)
- 3. Bid a new suit\*** (\*if you can – there are rules for this – more in lesson 6)  
This promises 5+ cards in your first bid suit & 4+ cards in the second
- 4. Rebid your long suit with 5+ cards in the suit**  
\*You may be forced to do this if you can't bid your second suit because of these rules

## WHEN OPENER'S REBID SUPPORTS RESPONDER'S SUIT

Opener's rebid is used to show the **shape** and **strength** of his hand.

It is important to support partner's suit if possible, particularly in a major.

Opener                      Responder

After 1♥      –      1♠

Opener rebids:

- 2♠      = 11\*-15 HCP and 4-card support bid a single raise
- 3♠      = 16-17 HCP and 4-card support jump a level to make an invitational raise
- 4♠      = 18-19 HCP & 4-card support bids a game raise (*Later in the course you will learn how to explore for a slam with a strong hand*)

**In all the above cases, Opener MUST do the maths and make the correct level of bid so that responder who has made an unlimited bid can judge his rebid**

**WHEN OPENER RE-BIDS NO TRUMPS IT SHOWS A BALANCED HAND**  
(and no fit with responder's major had he bid one)

Opener's rebid is used to show the **shape** and **strength** of his hand

Opener	Responder	Opener's Re-Bid
1♥	1♠	1NT 15-17 HCP
		2NT 18-19 HCP ( <b>Forcing</b> )

But if the bidding goes:

1♥	2♣	2NT 15-19 HCP ( <b>Forcing</b> )
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Note: Opener's HCP range is now extended as he can't make a 1NT rebid after responder bids at the TWO level!

**WHEN OPENER REBIDS HIS OWN SUIT – SHOWS AN UNBALANCED HAND**

Opener's rebid is used to show the **shape** and **strength** of his hand.

Opener	Responder
1♥	1♠

If Opener rebids:

- 2♥ shows 11\*-15 HCP 5+ suit (**5+ cards in that suit and either unable to bid or doesn't have to a second suit**)
- 3♥ shows 16-17 HCP 6+ suit - **NON Forcing** (a stronger, one suited hand)
- 4♥ shows 18-19 HCP 6+ suit (**As above – opener wants to play in a hearts game!**)

## OPENER'S DREADED 4,4,4,1 HAND!

- ♠ 3                    There are always exceptions! Bridge is no different! Here's another one!
- ♥ AK47                With a hand of this shape, what do you open?  
What is your rebid?
- ♦ JT76                You have an Unbalanced hand but only 4 cards in three suits!  
You must open 1 of a suit and plan to rebid a second suit!
- ♣ AQT6                This means you have to 'lie' about your 5:4 shape in suits!  
So, if you have to lie, better to lie in a minor suit

There is no perfect answer to this!

Our advice is:

1. **Only open if you hold 13+ HCP**
2. **Always open with a minor suit**

With both minors, bid the higher Yes, this is another exception but you have to keep your rebid in mind. Invariably responder bids the suit in which you hold 1 card!

So, in the example above, Open 1♦ If responder bids 1♠ as you expect, opener can rebid 2♣ – your lower ranked second suit. Responder will now know your hand is minimal in the 11-15 HCP range. He can return you to your first bid suit – diamonds - at the TWO level. (He will however expect you to have 5 cards in diamonds!) But this is the least worst scenario!

**Do not open a 4,4,4,1 shape of hand with only 11\* - 12 HCP**

## SUMMARY

### OPENER'S REBIDS AFTER NEW SUIT BID BY RESPONDER

- When **opening**, you must always **have your rebid in mind**
- With a **fit** in partner's major, **support** at the appropriate level (Do the maths!)
- With **no fit** and a **balanced hand** (15+ HCP), **bid NT** at the appropriate level
- With **no fit** and an **unbalanced hand**: (To be covered in lesson 6)
- With the dreaded 4,4,4,1 hand, only open with 13+ HCP always bidding a minor first!