

COMPLETE GUIDE

THE 2/1 SYSTEM

NOTES

1



SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS

GAME FORCING AUCTIONS vs. OTHER AUCTIONS

2

GAME FORCING AUCTIONS

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	P	2♥
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	P	2♦
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	P	2♣

CONTRACTS AVAILABLE

				3NT	
			4♥	4♠	4NT
5♣	5♦	5♥	5♠	5NT	
6♣	6♦	6♥	6♠	6NT	
7♣	7♦	7♥	7♠	7NT	

3

OTHER AUCTIONS (NON - GAME FORCING)

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	P	1N
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	P	1N


CONTRACTS AVAILABLE

2♣	2♦	2♥	2♠	2NT
3♣	3♦	3♥	3♠	3NT
4♣	4♦	4♥	4♠	

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TWO OVER ONE

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	P	2♦



1NT SEMI - FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	P	1N



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TOP 5 REASONS TO PLAY THIS SYSTEM

1. 2/1 makes it much easier to explore options when both players have strong hands.
2. This is a natural system that is very similar (but far superior) to standard methods.
3. Most duplicate players are playing this system, so knowing how to play this will increase your partnership opportunities dramatically.
4. Knowing these methods will also help you defend against them when your opponents are bidding. (see number 3)
5. Provides a rock solid base for building a more robust system in the future.

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TWO OVER ONE

GAME FORCING AUCTIONS

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2/1 GAME FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	2♣

YOU

♠ A92

♥ 42

♦ Q82

♣ AKJ73

AGREEMENT

A NON – JUMP RESPONSE OF A NEW SUIT AT THE TWO LEVEL WILL BE GAME FORCING (13+ points) WHEN;

OUR SIDE OPENS 1D – 1H – 1S

OUR SIDE HAS NOT PASSED

NEITHER OPPONENT HAS BID
(non-competitive auctions)

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BASIC 2 over 1 GAME FORCING RESPONSES

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
	1♠	P	2♣	- 13+ total points with 4+ ♣
	1♠	P	2♦	- 13+ total points with 4+ ♦
	1♠	P	2♥	- 13+ total points with 5+ ♥
	1♥	P	2♣	- 13+ total points with 4+ ♣
	1♥	P	2♦	- 13+ total points with 4+ ♦
	1♦	P	2♣	- 13+ total points with 4+ ♣

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RESPONDER

BID 1

10

MAKE YOUR CALLS

AUCTION 1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♠	P	??

♠ K87 1

♥ A72

♦ J2

♣ AJT72

♠ 32 2

♥ AK32

♦ 9842

♣ AQJ

AUCTION 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	??

♠ KT98 3

♥ AQ2

♦ AT82

♣ 98

♠ AQ763 4

♥ 2

♦ KJT9

♣ K96

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MAKE YOUR CALLS

AUCTION 1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♠	P	??

♠ K87 1

♥ A72

♦ J2

♣ AJT72

♠ 32 2

♥ AK32

♦ 9842

♣ AQJ

2♣

2/1 GAME FORCING
We start by showing our 13+ total points and we will support spades next.

AUCTION 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	??

♠ KT98 3

♥ AQ2

♦ AT82

♣ 98

♠ AQ763 4

♥ 2

♦ KJT9

♣ K96

2♦

13+ points - 4+ diamonds
Note we can NOT bid 2H with this hand because that would show 5+ hearts.

2♦

We have a game forcing hand and a major suit fit already. Game Force and raise hearts next.

1♠

Shape should dictate your responses. When we later game force with this hand we will be showing 5+Spades.

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MAKE YOUR CALLS

AUCTION 1				AUCTION 2			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU	WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♦	P	??		1♠	P	??

<p>♠ AKJT87 1</p> <p>♥ 72</p> <p>♦ A2</p> <p>♣ QT2</p>	<p>♠ 2 2</p> <p>♥ AK32</p> <p>♦ 942</p> <p>♣ AQJT2</p>
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<p>♠ KT98 3</p> <p>♥ AQT92</p> <p>♦ A2</p> <p>♣ 98</p>	<p>♠ AT3 4</p> <p>♥ K982</p> <p>♦ KJT</p> <p>♣ K96</p>
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13

MAKE YOUR CALLS

AUCTION 1				AUCTION 2			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU	WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♦	P	??		1♠	P	??

<p>♠ AKJT87 1</p> <p>♥ 72</p> <p>♦ A2</p> <p>♣ QT2</p>	<p>♠ 2 2</p> <p>♥ AK32</p> <p>♦ 942</p> <p>♣ AQJT2</p>
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<p>♠ KT98 3</p> <p>♥ AQT92</p> <p>♦ A2</p> <p>♣ 98</p>	<p>♠ AT3 4</p> <p>♥ K982</p> <p>♦ KJT</p> <p>♣ K96</p>
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<p>1♠</p> <p>2/1 IS NEVER A JUMP!</p> <p>1 Spade is forcing and shows 6+ points. We will game force later in this auction for sure.</p>	<p>2♣</p> <p>13+ points - 4+ clubs</p> <p>This is the only 2/1 game force that will start after a 1D opening.</p>
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<p>2N</p> <p>JACOBY 2NT</p> <p>When we have a 9 card major suit fit and game forcing values we use this always!</p>	<p>2♣</p> <p>Sometimes we just have odd hands that don't have a clear bid. We know we are supporting spades next so 2C is a means to an end.</p>
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RESPONDER

BID 2

15

FAST ARRIVAL			
SHOWS A MINIMUM HAND			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	2♣
P	2N	P	4♥

YOU

♠ J92
♥ QT4
♦ KJT
♣ AQ98

SLOW APPROACH			
SHOWS MORE THAN A MINIMUM			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♠	P	2♣
P	2N	P	3♠

YOU

♠ A98
♥ 4
♦ AQ2
♣ AQT972

16

RESPONDER BID 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♠	P	2♦
P	2♥	P	??

♠ AT2 1

♥ AKQ2

♦ J964

♣ 52

♠ AJT 2

♥ A4

♦ AKQT98

♣ 32

♠ A2 3

♥ K92

♦ AQT976

♣ 72

♠ A5 4

♥ J2

♦ AK973

♣ QT92

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RESPONDER BID 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♠	P	2♦
P	2♥	P	??

♠ AT2 1

♥ AKQ2

♦ J964

♣ 52

♠ AJT 2

♥ A4

♦ AKQT98

♣ 32

♠ A2 3

♥ K92

♦ AQT976

♣ 72

♠ A5 4

♥ J2

♦ AK973

♣ QT92

3♥

4-4 is better than 5-3!
When we have two fits, it's a strong position. We slow down to show non minimums.

2♠

Don't get distracted by shiny side suits. Show your Major Suit fit as soon as you can!

3♦

Sometimes you just have to keep making natural bids to get partner to choose or pattern out further.

2N

It's a good idea to grab NT from our side of the table with this semi-balanced hand with good stoppers.

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RESPONDER BID 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♠	P	2♣
P	2♠		

♠ AT2 1

♥ A3

♦ KJ64

♣ A952

♠ 4 2

♥ AJ94

♦ K43

♣ KQJ82

♠ Q2 3

♥ K43

♦ K96

♣ AJ532

♠ 2 4

♥ AJ2

♦ 93

♣ AKJT832

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RESPONDER BID 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♠	P	2♣
P	2♠		

♠ AT2 1

♥ A3

♦ KJ64

♣ A952

♠ 4 2

♥ AJ94

♦ K43

♣ KQJ82

♠ Q2 3

♥ K43

♦ K96

♣ AJ532

♠ 2 4

♥ AJ2

♦ 93

♣ AKJT832

3♠

Slow down with extra values!
While in a game force, the slower you go the more you have.

2N

No need to show your heart suit, or to jump. Just show your ability to play No-Trump and see what partner does.

4♠

Bare minimum game forcing hand. We've found our fit. We get to game quickly.

3♣

No need to do anything but continue describing your hand.

20

OPENER

1ST RESPONSE TO 2/1

21

2/1 AUCTIONS			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♥
P	2♣	P	??

YOU

- ♠ AJ
- ♥ AT842
- ♦ KJ82
- ♣ 73

22

2/1 AUCTIONS			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♥
P	2♣	P	2♦

YOU

- ♠ AJ
- ♥ AT842
- ♦ KJ82
- ♣ 73

4+ cards in diamonds
12 - 21 total points

23

2/1 AUCTIONS			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♥
P	2♣	P	??

YOU

- ♠ AJ
- ♥ AT842
- ♦ J82
- ♣ K73

24

2/1 AUCTIONS			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♥
P	2♣	P	2N

12 – 14 balanced

...

...

YOU

♠ AJ
♥ AT842
♦ J82
♣ K73

25

2/1 AUCTIONS			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♥
P	2♣	P	??

YOU

♠ AK
♥ AQ842
♦ A82
♣ Q73

26

2/1 AUCTIONS			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♥
P	2♣	P	2N

**WHEN PARTNER MAKES
A 2/1 RESPONSE TO
YOUR OPENING, LET
YOUR SHAPE DICTATE
YOUR CALL. EVEN WHEN
YOU HAVE EXTRA
VALUES!**

YOU

♠ AK
♥ AQ842
♦ A82
♣ Q73

27

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♥
P	2♣	P	2N

YOU

♠ AJ
♥ AT842
♦ J82
♣ K73

OR

YOU

♠ AK
♥ AQ842
♦ A82
♣ Q73

12 – 14

or

18 – 19

28

2/1 AUCTIONS			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♥
P	2♣	P	??

YOU

♠ AJ42
♥ AT842
♦ KJ
♣ 73

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2/1 AUCTIONS			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♥
P	2♣	P	2♠

YOU

♠ AJ42
♥ AT842
♦ KJ
♣ 73

**12 – 21 total points
4+ cards in spades**

****note: This is not a “reverse”, as we are in a game forcing auction already.**

30

2/1 AUCTIONS			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		P	1♠
P	2♦	P	??

YOU

♠ AQT874
♥ K974
♦ A5
♣ 4

31

2/1 AUCTIONS			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		P	1♠
P	2♦	P	2♥

YOU

♠ AQT874
♥ K974
♦ A5
♣ 4

Always show your 4 card heart suit before showing your 6th spade with these types of hands.

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OPENER'S COMMON RESPONSES				AFTER 2/1....	RESPONDER'S COMMON 2 ND BIDS				
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH		WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
1♥	P	2♣		GENERAL CONCEPTS The principle of fast arrival. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slow down with your extra values. Speed up with your minimum hands. BOTH PLAYERS ARE ADHERING TO THIS! Show your shape. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show your secondary suits quickly or reveal balanced shape, without a fit, by bidding no-trump. Establish your fits (especially in the majors) as quickly as possible. You will have an opportunity to show any extra values later in the auction. Shape is the most important initially. Step 1 – Find your Strain (suit fit or NT). Step 2 – Determine if Slam is possible.	1♥	P	2♣		
P	2♥	6+ cards 12 - 21			P	2♥	P	3N	Minimum & no fit
1♠	P	2♦			1♠	P	2♦		
P	2N	bal. 12 – 14 or 18 - 19			P	2N	P	3♠	3 fit & non min.
1♠	P	2♥		1♠	P	2♥			
P	3♥	Fit & non minimum		P	3♥	P	4♣	Control (1 st or 2 nd)	
1♠	P	2♥		1♠	P	2♥			
P	3♦	Natural 12 - 21		P	3♦	P	4♠	3 fit & minimum	

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OPENER

2ND BID AFTER 2/1

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TWO / ONE OPENER

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
P	2♣	P	1♥
P	3♥	P	2N
			??

♠ AT2 1

♥ AKQ82

♦ 964

♣ 52

♠ AT 2

♥ AQT84

♦ A98

♣ KJT

♠ 92 3

♥ K9742

♦ Q76

♣ AKQ

♠ QJ5 4

♥ KQJ92

♦ AK9

♣ QT

35

TWO / ONE OPENER

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
P	2♣	P	1♥
P	3♥	P	2N
			??

♠ AT2 1

♥ AKQ82

♦ 964

♣ 52

4♥

No interest in going forward from this side. We get to game without delay.

♠ AT 2

♥ AQT84

♦ A98

♣ KJT

3♠

CONTROL BID
In game forcing auctions, with a known major suit fit, any new suit is a control bid.

♠ 92 3

♥ K9742

♦ Q76

♣ AKQ

4♥

So happy to get out of a bad NT contract ☺

♠ QJ5 4

♥ KQJ92

♦ AK9

♣ QT

4♦

CONTROL BID
This is a very descriptive control bid. It denies control in the black suits as well ☺.

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AUCTION 1				AUCTION 2			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU	WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♠				1♥
P	2♦	P	2♥	P	2♣	P	2♦
P	3♥	P	??	P	3♣	P	??

♠ QT986 1 ♥ AQ82 ♦ A6 ♣ 72	♠ QJT82 2 ♥ AKT42 ♦ 8 ♣ AK
♠ KT9 3 ♥ AQT92 ♦ AJ52 ♣ 8	♠ 3 4 ♥ KJ982 ♦ KJT42 ♣ A9

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AUCTION 1				AUCTION 2			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU	WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♠				1♥
P	2♦	P	2♥	P	2♣	P	2♦
P	3♥	P	??	P	3♣	P	??

♠ QT986 1 ♥ AQ82 ♦ A6 ♣ 72	♠ QJT82 2 ♥ AKT42 ♦ 8 ♣ AK
♠ KT9 3 ♥ AQT92 ♦ AJ52 ♣ 8	♠ 3 4 ♥ KJ982 ♦ KJT42 ♣ A9

4♥ FAST ARRIVAL Show your minimum hand by proceeding to game quickly.	4♣ SLOW APPROACH This is a control bid which shows 1 st or 2 nd round control in clubs and interest in slam.
3N WE HAVE FOUND OUR SPOT We have the spade suit stopped and have not found a fit yet.	3♦ NO DESTINATION? – KEEP GOING The beauty of 2/1 is that we can take our time. Keep describing and see if partner can bid 3NT.

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ADVANCED

2/1 GAME FORCING RESPONSES

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MORE ADVANCED TWO OVER ONE GAME FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
	1♠	P	2♣	- 13+ total points with 2+ ♣
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
	1♠	P	2♦	- 13+ total points with 5+ ♦
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
	1♠	P	2♥	- 13+ total points with 5+ ♥
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
	1♥	P	2♣	- 13+ total points with 2+ ♣
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
	1♥	P	2♦	- 13+ total points with 5+ ♦
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
	1♦	P	2♣	- 13+ total points with 4+ ♣

40



1NT SEMI - FORCING

AFTER OUR 1 LEVEL MAJOR SUIT OPENINGS

41

1NT SEMI - FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1N

YOU

- ♠ T92
- ♥ J2
- ♦ Q82
- ♣ AKJ73

AGREEMENT

A RESPONSE OF 1 NO - TRUMP TO A MAJOR SUIT OPENING WILL SHOW;

~6 – 12 TOTAL POINTS
(~6 – 11 if passed hand)

ALMOST ANY SHAPE
(especially if unpassed hand)

“HIGHLY SUGGESTS” PARTNER BID
(but can be passed)

42

RESPONDER

43

MAKE YOUR CALLS

AUCTION 1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♠	P	??

♠ 87 1

♥ A72

♦ J2

♣ AJT972

♠ 832 2

♥ J32

♦ Q842

♣ QJ7

AUCTION 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	??

♠ KT98 3

♥ 32

♦ AT82

♣ KJ8

♠ A 4

♥ J82

♦ KJT92

♣ QT82

44

MAKE YOUR CALLS

AUCTION 1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♠	P	??

♠ 87 [1]

♥ A72

♦ J2

♣ AJT972

1N

When we play 2/1 as a game forcing bid, we must use 1NT as our response with some unbalanced hands like these.

♠ 832 [2]

♥ J32

♦ Q842

♣ QJ7

1N

****SPECIAL USE****
With some really bad 3 card raises, we can go through the 1NT forcing sequence first.

AUCTION 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	??

♠ KT98 [3]

♥ 32

♦ AT82

♣ KJ8

1♠

When you bid 1NT over 1H, you are always denying a 4 card spades suit! Don't miss this one ☺

♠ A [4]

♥ J82

♦ KJT92

♣ QT82

2♦

Don't forget to evaluate your hand properly once you've found a fit in a suit.

45

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♠	P	??

YOU

--

♥ 832

♦ KJT73

♣ T9754

FEWER THAN 6 POINTS

We do not always need 6 points to respond to an opening bid by partner. The expert treatment (particularly when non-vulnerable) is to be somewhat aggressive with our responses when we feel we can improve our situation.

Bidding with these types of hands can also be somewhat preemptive to our opponents.

Sometimes partner will make a rebid we don't love, but we will also improve our situation quite often by making one response and then letting it go after a rebid from partner.

Correct Bid: 1N

46

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♠	P	??

YOU

♠ T42

♥ QT4

♦ K942

♣ J42

"THE BAD RAISE"

The modern method for the direct raise of partner's major (i.e. 1S – 2S) is to play this as a constructive raise. (good 7 – 10).

This is an improvement over our standard methods (single raise = 6 – 10) because it provides a bit more specificity to our raising structure.

With these "bad raises" we start with 1NT and then correct to 2 of partner's major on our next bid.

This method can also serve as another way to preempt the opponents. They are less likely to balance or enter the auction when they think we may not have a fit.

Correct Bid: 1N

47

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♠	P	1N
P	2♦	P	??

YOU

♠ T42

♥ QT4

♦ K942

♣ J42

"THE BAD RAISE" STEP 2

Correct Bid: 2♠

48

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 ♠	P	??

YOU

♠ A82
 ♥ T4
 ♦ KT982
 ♣ QJ7

THE 3 CARD LIMIT RAISE

These hands can not be shown with one direct bid. So, we must take two steps to show these invitational hands with 3 card spade support to partner.

Step one is to bid 1N (semi-forcing now) and then, if given the opportunity, jump to the 3 level of partner's major with our next bid.

Correct Bid: 1N

49

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 ♠	P	1N
P	2 ♣	P	??

YOU

♠ A82
 ♥ T4
 ♦ KT982
 ♣ QJ7

THE 3 CARD LIMIT RAISE FOLLOW UPS

The classic. Just jump to 3 of partner's major to show this invitational raise with 3 card support.

Correct Bid: 3♠

50

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 ♠	P	1N
P	2 ♠	P	??

YOU

♠ A82
 ♥ T4
 ♦ KT982
 ♣ QJ7

THE 3 CARD LIMIT RAISE FOLLOW UPS

After partner rebids their major suit (always showing 6 cards or longer), our invitational hand becomes much stronger. So, when we see this rebid we jump to game instead of just bidding 3S.

Correct Bid: 4♠

51

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 ♠	P	1N
P	3 ♥	P	??

YOU

♠ A82
 ♥ T4
 ♦ KT982
 ♣ QJ7

THE 3 CARD LIMIT RAISE FOLLOW UPS

Sometimes our partner will have a very strong hand and make a jump shift in response to our 1NT bid. In these situations, we have to clarify to partner that our hand is more than a preference for spades. Jumping to 4S now will show this hand to partner.

Correct Bid: 4♠

52

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	??

DO NOT BYPASS SPADES

When partner opens 1H, we should not bypass our 4 card spade suit to bid 1NT. Remember, the 1S response is still forcing so we will always have another bid on these auctions. Show your hand naturally and maybe you can find an even better fit with partner in these situations.

YOU

♠ JT42
♥ K93
♦ AT3
♣ K92

Correct Bid: 1♠

53

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1♠
P	1N	P	??

MAKE YOUR CALL NOW

YOU

♠ JT42
♥ K93
♦ AT3
♣ K92

Correct Bid: 3♥

54

1NT SEMI - FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1N
P	2♦	P	??

TAKING A PREFERENCE

With 2 of partner's major and 4 of partner's minor suit response;

ALWAYS PREFER THE MAJOR SUIT

Partner may only have 3 cards of that minor suit response to our forcing 1NT bid.

YOU

♠ 832
♥ 92
♦ K753
♣ AJ42

Correct Bid: 2♥

55

1NT SEMI - FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	??

YOU

♠ 83
♥ 2
♦ QJ3
♣ AJT9842

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1NT SEMI - FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1N
P	2♦	P	??

YOU

♠ 83
♥ 2
♦ QJ3
♣ AJT9842

SIGNING OFF

Another 2 step process;

Step 1: Bid 1NT
Step 2: Bid new suit at lowest level

This always says "Stop bidding!".
Shows 6+ cards and less than
invitational values.

Correct Bid: 3♣

57

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♠	P	1N
P	2♣	P	??

YOU

♠ 3
♥ 843
♦ KJ54
♣ A7532

THE COURTESY RAISE

COVER FOR PARTNER'S RANGE

When opener rebids a new suit, their range is quite wide (11 – 18). They can't jump shift without their best hands so, with certain strengths, we owe it to them to give them a courtesy raise if we think we could have game opposite their potential higher point totals.

"It's always nice to show partner the proper courtesy" ©

Correct Bid: 3♣

58

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1N
P	2♦	P	??

YOU

♠ 32
♥ A4
♦ AK754
♣ 8532

THE IMPOSSIBLE 2 SPADE BID

ADVANCED

We all know that we will not bypass a 4 card spade suit to bid 1NT (forcing or semi-forcing). So, we get to use this understanding to our advantage in certain situations.

The 2 Spade bid, after partner rebids a minor suit, will show our best hand with a fit in the minor suit that partner just bid.

This is a terrific agreement to have because now we can differentiate this call from a courtesy raise to 3 of the minor suit directly.

Correct Bid: 2♠

59

1 NO – TRUMP SEMI – FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	??

♠ K2 1

♥ T84

♦ AJ76

♣ K532

♠ AJT 2

♥ Q8

♦ 9873

♣ AT98

♠ J42 3

♥ 972

♦ QJ96

♣ Q72

♠ AT54 4

♥ 82

♦ QJ9

♣ J873

60

1 NO – TRUMP SEMI – FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	??

♠ K2	1
♥ T84	
♦ AJ76	
♣ K532	

1N

We do not have a game forcing hand and we can't raise hearts directly.

♠ AJT	2
♥ Q8	
♦ 9873	
♣ AT98	

1N

We do not have a game forcing hand.

♠ J42	3
♥ 972	
♦ QJ96	
♣ Q72	

1N

We could raise hearts, but when our hand is this bad, it is best to go through 1NT and then sign off in 2 of major.

♠ AT54	4
♥ 82	
♦ QJ9	
♣ J873	

1♠

Always show your 4 card spade suit over 1H if you have one. 1NT would deny 4 Spades.

61

1 NO – TRUMP SEMI – FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1N
P	2♦	P	??

♠ K2	1
♥ T84	
♦ AJ76	
♣ K532	

♠ AJT	2
♥ Q8	
♦ 9873	
♣ AT98	

♠ J42	3
♥ 972	
♦ QJ96	
♣ Q72	

♠ AT5	4
♥ 82	
♦ AQJ92	
♣ 873	

62

1 NO – TRUMP SEMI – FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
P	1♥	P	1N
	2♦	P	??

♠ K2	1
♥ T84	
♦ AJ76	
♣ K532	

3♥

This is step 2 of your limit raise with 3 card support. Don't forget to jump.

♠ AJT	2
♥ Q8	
♦ 9873	
♣ AT98	

2N

Balanced and invitational.

♠ J42	3
♥ 972	
♦ QJ96	
♣ Q72	

2♥

Step 2 of your terrible raise for partner. This sequence does not guarantee a fit in the major (usually denies)

♠ AT5	4
♥ 82	
♦ AQJ92	
♣ 873	

2♠

The Impossible 2S Bid
Shows our best possible raise of partner's minor suit.

63

THE MOST COMMON FOLLOW UPS AFTER 1NT SEMI - FORCING

TAKING A PREFERENCE			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	P	1N
P	2♣	P	2♥

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	P	1N
P	2♦	P	P

When we are "taking a preference", we are frequently going to be doing so without a fit in a suit. When doing this we stay as low as we possibly can!

INVITING TO GAME			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	P	1N
P	2♣	P	3♥

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	P	1N
P	2♦	P	3♥

SIGNING OFF			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	P	1N
P	2♣	P	2♦

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	P	1N
P	2♦	P	3♣

After making the 1NT forcing response, the responder can sign off (show a bad hand and 6+ in the suit) by bidding a new suit at the lowest available level.

64

OPENER

1ST RESPONSE TO 1NT

65

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♠
P	1N	P	??

YOU

♠ KJ632
♥ J2
♦ KT3
♣ A97

THIS IS WHY WE PLAY THE 1NT RESPONSE AS SEMI – FORCING

If we were playing the 1NT response as forcing, we would be forced to bid 2C with this hand. Now we get to pass 1NT with a great hand for that contract.

We risk playing 1NT when partner has a 3 card limit raise or some unbalanced hand that had to bid 1NT but, on average, these are rare occurrences.

No system is perfect but, our gains with this treatment far outweigh our potential losses.

We can pass when;
We do not have a 4 card side suit and when we have a minimum opening hand.

Correct Bid:

66

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♠
P	1N	P	??

YOU

♠ KQT432
♥ 7
♦ AJ43
♣ 97

WEAK 6 – 4?
REBID YOUR MAJOR SUIT

This is a good general rule to follow. When you are relatively weak, it is best to rebid your major.

This treatment has several advantages with the main one being that major suits will achieve higher scores than minor suits (great for matchpoints scoring).

Correct Bid:

67

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♠
P	1N	P	??

YOU

♠ AJ7632
♥ A
♦ AK43
♣ 97

GOOD 6 – 4?
REBID YOUR 4 CARD SUIT & THEN BID AGAIN (IF POSS)

This is a different situation than a weak 6 – 4. Many times, we will have another call after this. We will use this extra call (if available) to show our extra values.

Correct Bid:

68

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♠
P	1N	P	2♦
P	2♠	P	??

GOOD 6 – 4?
REBID YOUR 4 CARD SUIT & THEN BID AGAIN (IF POSS)

Now the stage is set for you to show your extra values by making another call.

When we take this extra call (after partner's clear sign off), they will know we are showing extra values and have this shape.

YOU

♠ AJ7632
♥ A
♦ AK43
♣ 97

Correct Bid: 3♠

69

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♠
P	1N	P	??

ALWAYS SHOW HEARTS
****ALWAYS****

Whenever we are 6 – 4 (spades – hearts) we rebid 2H!
We are way more likely to find a fit in hearts and will almost never be able to recover if we do not advertise our shape in this way!

We're OK (usually) missing a minor suit fit when we have a 6 card major. We are not OK when we miss a good major suit fit when we have one!

YOU

♠ KQT432
♥ AQ43
♦ 3
♣ 97

Correct Bid: 2♥

70

OPENER

2ND BID AFTER 1NT SEMI - FORCING

71

AUCTION 1				AUCTION 2			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU	WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♠				1♥
P	1N	P	2♦	P	1N	P	2♣
P	2♠	P	??	P	2N	P	??

♠ AT986 1

♥ A2

♦ AJ96

♣ J2

♠ AQT94 2

♥ A2

♦ A832

♣ K4

♠ AJ2 3

♥ AKT92

♦ 2

♣ QT83

♠ Q3 4

♥ KJ982

♦ Q2

♣ A942

72

AUCTION 1					AUCTION 2				
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU		WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU	
			1♠					1♥	
P	1N	P	2♦		P	1N	P	2♣	
P	2♠	P	??		P	2N	P	??	

<p>♠ AT986 1</p> <p>♥ A2</p> <p>♦ AJ96</p> <p>♣ J2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p><small>PARTNER'S PREFERENCE Partner is signing off and saying "I prefer Spades". They may not even have a fit.</small></p>	<p>♠ AQT94 2</p> <p>♥ A2</p> <p>♦ A832</p> <p>♣ K4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2N</p> <p><small>SHOW EXTRAS When we bid, in these spots, this is the type of hand we need. Lots of extras.</small></p>
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<p>♠ AJ2 3</p> <p>♥ AKT92</p> <p>♦ 2</p> <p>♣ QT83</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3N</p> <p><small>WE HAVE A MAXIMUM We accept our partner's invitation to game even though our shape isn't ideal.</small></p>	<p>♠ Q3 4</p> <p>♥ KJ982</p> <p>♦ Q2</p> <p>♣ A942</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p><small>WE HAVE A MINIMUM Just like every other invitation right? With a max you accept with mins like this you decline.</small></p>
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73

AUCTION 1					AUCTION 2				
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU		WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU	
			1♠					1♥	
P	1N	P	2♦		P	1N	P	2♣	
P	3♣	P	??		P	2♠	P	??	

<p>♠ AT986 1</p> <p>♥ A2</p> <p>♦ AJ96</p> <p>♣ J2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p>	<p>♠ AQT94 2</p> <p>♥</p> <p>♦ AT832</p> <p>♣ J42</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p>
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<p>♠ 2 3</p> <p>♥ AKT92</p> <p>♦ AJ2</p> <p>♣ QT83</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p>	<p>♠ Q3 4</p> <p>♥ KJ982</p> <p>♦ Q2</p> <p>♣ A942</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p>
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74

AUCTION 1					AUCTION 2				
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU		WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU	
			1♠					1♥	
P	1N	P	2♦		The impossible spade	1N	P	2♣	
P	3♣	P	??		P	2♠	P	??	

<p>♠ AT986 1</p> <p>♥ A2</p> <p>♦ AJ96</p> <p>♣ J2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p><small>PARTNER IS SIGNING OFF After the semi – forcing NT, a new suit by responder, at the lowest level, is a signoff.</small></p>	<p>♠ AQT94 2</p> <p>♥</p> <p>♦ AT832</p> <p>♣ J42</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p><small>YOU'RE HAPPY No need to rebid diamonds here. You found a great club fit.</small></p>
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<p>♠ 2 3</p> <p>♥ AKT92</p> <p>♦ AJ2</p> <p>♣ QT83</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3♦</p> <p><small>SHOW SOME INTEREST We may still want to play No-Trump so let's investigate. Game in clubs is possible also.</small></p>	<p>♠ Q3 4</p> <p>♥ KJ982</p> <p>♦ Q2</p> <p>♣ A942</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3♣</p> <p><small>SAFE CONTRACT We know we don't have game and NT now looks ugly with our hand. Bail out in our minor suit fit.</small></p>
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75

1X	1Z
1Y	2W

4TH SUIT FORCING

GAME FORCING LATER IN THE AUCTION

76

YOUR CALL			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	??

YOU

♠ AQ975
♥ 82
♦ K84
♣ KQ9

YOUR CALL			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	??

YOU

♠ AQ975
♥ 82
♦ K84
♣ KQ9

77

4TH SUIT FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	2♦

YOU

♠ AQ975
♥ 82
♦ K84
♣ KQ9

4th SUIT FORCING

IN AUCTIONS THAT ARE NOT ALREADY GAME FORCING, THE BID OF THE 4TH SUIT BY RESPONDER WILL BE;

- GAME FORCING**
(13+ TOTAL POINTS)
- ARTIFICIAL**
(COULD BE ANY SHAPE)
- SUGGESTING UNCERTAINTY**
(ABOUT STRAIN and/or LEVEL)

78

4TH SUIT FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	2♦

YOU

♠ AQ975
♥ 82
♦ K84
♣ KQ9

RULES

- ONLY IN NON-COMPETITIVE AUCTIONS
- NEVER WHEN EITHER PLAYER HAS PASSED
- ONLY WHEN NEEDED
(IF YOU KNOW WHERE YOU BELONG YOU DON'T USE THIS)
- NOT USED WHEN ALREADY GAME FORCED
(2/1 AUCTIONS FOR EXAMPLE)

79

4TH SUIT FORCING			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♥
P	1♠	P	2♣
P	2♦	P	??

YOU

♠ 82
♥ AQ987
♦ AQ4
♣ J92

RESPONDING

2 PRIORITIES AS RESPONDER;

1. SHOW 3 CARD SUPPORT
(DO THIS BY BIDDING PARTNER'S ORIGINAL MAJOR SUIT)
2. SHOW A STOPPER IN 4TH
(DO THIS BY BIDDING NO-TRUMP)

**FAILING TO DO EITHER OF THE ABOVE DENIES BOTH

80

YOUR CALL			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♦	P	??

YOU

75
 AK983
 842
 AQ9

81

YOUR CALL			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♦	P	1♥
P	1♠	P	2♣
P	2♥	P	??

YOU

75
 AK983
 842
 AQ9

82

YOUR CALL			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1♣
P	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♦	P	??

YOU

QT75
 K92
 Q2
 AQ92

83

YOUR CALL			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	2♦
P	2♥	P	??

YOU

AK752
 A8
 KQ3
 J92

84

RESPONSES			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♣	P	??

YOU

♠ Q975
♥ 3
♦ AK8642
♣ K9

85

SPECIAL SPOT			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♣	P	1♦
P	1♥	P	??

YOU

♠ Q975
♥ 3
♦ AK8642
♣ K9

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE

This auction is special and can be played a number of different ways. Below is my agreement suggestion, but make sure you discuss this with your partner, as there are myriad ways to play this.

1♠ = GAME FORCING & NATURAL
2♠ = GAME FORCING & ARTIFICIAL

86