

# Jacoby 2NT



Partner (West) opens 1♥ and you hold the following hand, what do you bid?

♠ A K
♥ K 10 8 4
♦ K Q 10 5
♣ 9 8 6

Hand 1

West	East
♠ 9	♠ A K
♥ Q J 9 6 5	♥ K 10 8 4
♦ A J 6	♦ K Q 10 5
♣ A J 6	♣ 9 8 6

Hand 2

West	East
♠ Q 6 3	♠ A K
♥ A Q 9 6 5 2	♥ K 10 8 4
♦ A J 6	♦ K Q 10 5
♣ 5	♣ 9 8 6

If West holds Hand 1 and East bids 2♥ or 3♥, West is likely to pass, with seven losing tricks, although there are eleven tricks in hearts or No Trumps (game missed!)

If West holds Hand 2 and East bids 4♥ West will certainly pass (slam missed!)

The Jacoby 2NT convention addresses this difficult situation.

- After an opening bid of 1♥ or 1♠, a 2NT response is a forcing to game bid. It asks partner to describe their hand. It shows 4+ trumps with 7 or fewer losers, or 12+ HCP (or 13+ HCP with 4333 shape)
- No singleton or void
- **After interference Jacoby 2NT is off.**

When opener's partner responds 2NT and opener has 7 losers he should settle for game. If he has 6 losers, slam might be on if he has a singleton / void in a suit in which partner has no honour strength.

If he has only 5 losers and no singleton/ void then a slam may still be on. And if he has 6 losers and no singleton/void a slam might still be on if partner has only six losers.

## Opener's rebids, after e.g. 1♥ - 2NT

New suit      Singleton or void in bid suit (splinter bid). Extra strength (15+ HCP /6 losers or less), or good trump honours. Slam possible. \*

4♥              5+ hearts. Minimum hand (7 losers). No singleton or void.

3♥              Extra length in trump suit (5+) and extra strength (6 losers or less). No singleton or void.

3NT             Extra strength (15+) balanced. May have four iffy hearts.

Jump in a new suit      Strong 2nd suit (**5+ cards and at least two of the top three honours**)  
The strong 2nd suit takes priority over showing a shortage. Slam possible.

\*Responder discounts all but one loser in partner's short suit. The Ace is never wasted – it provides a potential discard for partner. )

Example 1:

<b>West</b> ♠ K Q 2 ♥ K 9 8 7 5 2 ♦ A K ♣ 8 3	<b>East</b> ♠ A 3 ♥ A Q J 6 ♦ 9 7 4 ♣ K Q 7 5	<b>West</b> 1♥ 3♥ 4♦	<b>East</b> 2NT 3♣ 6♥	West's 3♥ denies a splinter, but shows extra strength (4♥ is weaker). East, needing to find out about diamond control, can start cue bidding with 3♣. When West's 4♦ denies a club Ace East, who is very strong, goes straight to 6♥
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Example 2:

<b>West</b> ♠ Q J 9 6 5 2 ♥ K 6 2 ♦ A K 5 ♣ 6	<b>East</b> ♠ A K 8 3 ♥ A 7 ♦ Q J 7 4 ♣ 8 7 5	<b>West</b> 1♠ 3♣ 4♦	<b>East</b> 2NT 3♥ 6♠	East has the perfect holding opposite the singleton (or void) club (just 5 losers discounting all but one of his Club losers), so his hand goes up in value and he can start cue bidding with 3♥.
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Example 3:

<b>West</b> ♠ Q J 9 6 5 2 ♥ K 6 2 ♦ A K 5 ♣ 6	<b>East</b> ♠ A 8 7 3 ♥ A 7 ♦ J 9 7 4 ♣ Q J 5	<b>West</b> 1♠ 3♣	<b>East</b> 2NT 3♣	East has 7 ½ losers but 12 HCP so bids 2NT. This time, East's club values are wasted opposite West's shortage (East still has 7 ½ losers) so East bids 3♣ with a minimum hand. West has 5 ½ losers so bids 4♠.
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Example 4:

<b>West</b> ♠ K Q 2 ♥ A 9 8 7 ♦ A K 2 ♣ 9 6 3	<b>East</b> ♠ A J 7 3 ♥ K Q 6 4 ♦ Q 7 4 ♣ 8 5	<b>West</b> 1♥ 3NT	<b>East</b> 2NT 4♥	With East's minimum hand (7 losers) opposite West's 15+ balanced hand East bids 4♥.  Note: West is showing a balanced hand, but a 16 HCP balanced hand can have 7 losers, as here. West is not guaranteeing a stopper in every suit, so East shouldn't leave it at 3NT with a known 8 card fit in hearts and poor Clubs.
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Example 5:

<b>West</b> ♠ K J 7 5 2 ♥ A 7 ♦ 9 ♣ A Q 9 8 7	<b>East</b> ♠ A Q 9 8 3 ♥ 6 4 ♦ A Q 4 ♣ K J 5	<b>West</b> 1♠ 4♣ 4♥ 5♣	<b>East</b> 2NT 4♦ 4NT 7♠	West has a shortage in Diamonds but must not bid 3♦. His priority is to jump bid to show his 5 card Club suit <b>with two of the top three honours</b> . (A non-jump bid would show a Club singleton or void.). East cue bids a diamond control. West cue bids a Heart control. East is no longer worried about his small Heart doubleton so instead of having to cue bid he can use RKCB (3014) which East reads as 3 key cards so bids 7♠.
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Example 6:

<b>West</b> ♠ A Q 4 3 ♥ 4 ♦ A K J 8 9 ♣ A 3 2	<b>West</b> 3♦	<b>East</b> 1♠
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West has the requirements for a Jacoby 2NT bid, but has an even better bid available. West can jump in a new suit (a jump shift) , which shows 16+ HCP **and** one of three specific holdigs:

1. Four card support for partner, and a GOOD 5+ card second suit, prepared to bid partner's suit next round, or...
2. A self-supporting 6+ card suit with no interest in any other suit, including partner's suit, or..
3. A balanced hand with a good 5 card suit, prepared to bid 3NT on the next round.

Here West will bid 3♠ or 4♠ on the next round and partner will have a very accurate description of West's hand.