

Responding to Partner's Opening 1NT

Opening 1NT – 12-14 Balanced

You must always check if you have a 1NT opener, before you open 1 of a suit.

A balanced hand contains:

- no void or singleton
- one doubleton at most

- There are only three types of balanced hand:
- 4333; 4432; 3325

RESPONDING TO AN OPENING BID OF 1NT

The most important thing is to decide whether or not you have enough points to make a game in a No Trumps (i.e. 3NT). Don't forget you get a bonus for bidding and making game. But if you don't have at least 25 points between you and your partner, then you want to keep the bidding as low as possible.

Response	Point Range	Number of Cards in suit	Type of bid
PASS	0-10; No 5-card suit		
2♣/2♦/2♥/2♠	0 - 10	5+	Sign Off (Weak takeout)
2NT	11 - 12	Balanced hand or 5+ minor	Invitational to Game if opener has 14 points
3♥/3♠	11 - 18	Exactly 5	Forcing to Game
3NT	13 +	Balanced hand or 5+ minor	Sign Off (Game)
4♥/4♠	11 - 18	6 +	Sign Off (Game)
* 5♣/5♦	13 - 18	6 +	* Bid 3NT if possible, unless totally unsuitable

Opener rarely bids again. Here are the exceptions:

1NT ?	2NT	This is as a game invitational bid by responder. Opener bids 3NT with 14 points otherwise passes
1NT ?	3♥ or 3♠	This is a game forcing bid. Responder has exactly five cards in the suit. Opener rebids 3NT with two of responder's suit, or rebids 4♥ or 4♠ with three+ of responder's suit