



Topics In Bidding

The Major Fit Auction

Jacoby 2NT

Notes

Partner opens 1♠ and you hold:

1.	or	2.
♠ A K 6 4		♠ Q 10 7 5 4
♥ J 5		♥ 4
♦ A J 3		♦ 9 3
♣ Q 9 7 5		♣ K 9 7 6 5

You want to bid game with both.

With 1, you will make game and, if partner is above minimum, a slam is possible.

With 2 you want to bid 4♠ as a 2-way shot.

It might make but, if not, you keep the opposition out of their heart game.

You do not want partner to go any further.

Clearly the same bid cannot be used for both.

We reserve the direct game raise of partner's 1M opening for hand 2.

This is described as:

The weak shapely raise.

That means we need a bid that copes with hand 1.

The traditional solution was to use a delayed game raise.

Bid another suit as a waiting bid and then jump to game in partner's major.

Partner now gets the message of the type of hand you hold.

But this method has flaws and could lead to problems.

The solution with hand 1 is to use the Jacoby 2NT response.

Artificial and alertable.

Please be sure you have discussed it with partner and you are both on the same wavelength.

W	E
1 ♥/♠	2NT

After partner opens 1M a response of 2NT shows:

4+ card support for partner's major

A game going hand (about 12+)

The great merit in this approach is:

You have confirmed the denomination

You have established that game is achievable

You have left plenty of room to determine if a slam is possible with suitably fitting hands.

This prevents the natural use of 2NT to show 10-12 points but this bid should, in any event, be avoided.

Note: With a singleton or void in a hand of 10-13 HCP use a splinter bid in preference to Jacoby 2NT.

Responding To Jacoby 2NT

By using 2NT to show a game forcing raise, the 3-level is left free to further describe opener's hand.
For example:

W	N	E	S
1♠	pass	2NT	pass
?			

Opener describes their hand further as follows:

3♣ / 3♦ / 3♥	New suit at the 3-level	Shortage - singleton or void
3♠	Repeat the suit at the 3-level	Extra shape - extra values : 15+
3NT		Extra values - no extra shape : 15-19 HCP
4♣ / 4♦ / 4♥	New suit at the 4-level	5-5 with two good quality suits
4♠	Repeat the suit at the 4-level	Minimum hand - nothing further to say

Michael Byrne in English Bridge October 2014 gives the following examples.

W	N	E	S
1♠	pass	2NT	pass
?			

A

♠ J 9 7 6 4
♥ K Q J 5
♦ A 2
♣ J 3

B

♠ J 9 7 6 4
♥ K Q J 5
♦ A 4 3
♣ 6

C

♠ J 9 7 6 4
♥ K Q J 5
♦ A 2
♣ K J

D

♠ K 9 8 7 4 3
♥ 6
♦ A K J 10
♣ 6 5

- is a poor hand with poor spades and not much shape.
A jump to 4♠ describes it well.
Minimum with no singleton or void.
- is another poor hand but answer the question with a bid of 3♣ to show the singleton.
- is not great with poor spades but warrants more than 4♠.
Show the extra shape and extra values with a bid of 3♠.
Essentially a waiting bid.
- has an excellent diamond side suit but 3♦ would be shortage and 4♦ would be a good 5-card suit.
Show the heart singleton with a bid of 3♥.
Opener will now downgrade heart honours.

Responder then reviews his own hand in light of opener's response.

His options are:

- With no further interest - bid game
- Use Blackwood
- Make a control showing cue bid.

The Effect Of Intervention

Jacoby does not apply after intervention over partner's opening bid.

You revert to the standard methods within acol.

1. RHO overcalls at the 1-level or 2-level

W	N	E	S
1♥	1♠	2♥	
		3♥	
		4♥	
1♥	1♠	2♠	
1♥	1♠	1NT	
		2NT	

As with normal methods -
Direct raises are pre-emptive.
They show up to 9 points.

A cue bid of the opposition suit shows
support in a hand of 10+ points

Natural 6-9 points with a good stop in spades
Natural 10-12 points with a good stop - preferably 2 stops -
In spades.

2. RHO makes a takeout double

W	N	E	S
1♥	1♠	2NT	

2NT is no longer Jacoby.

It retains its normal (Acol) meaning showing the values for at least a good raise to the 3-level.