

1NT Forcing

Following an opening of a Major, a 1NT response means Responder does not have an opening hand. Most play this as Forcing OR (you must choose) some play it as Semi-Forcing – meaning in some special circumstances 1NT can be passed.

1NT Forcing is [Announced]

First of all, you **do NOT bid 1NT** if:

1. You have 4-card support (assuming you use Bergen)
2. You have 3 card support and 6-9 HCP (make a simple raise – i.e., 1♥ > 2♥)
3. You have 12+ HCP (2/1 make a game forcing bid)
4. Your partner bid Hearts and you have 4 Spades and 6+ HCP (bid the Spades)

1NT FORCING - Opener Responses are as follows:

Bid	Typical Meaning
1♠ > 1NT > 2♥ (12-15 HCP)	Regardless of which Major was opened, if Opener's 2 nd bid is the other Major, it promises a 4-card 2 nd suit.
1♥/♠ > 1NT > 2 of Same Major (12-15 HCP)	Opener has a 6-Card holding in the opening Major.
1M > 1NT > 2 of minor (12-15 HCP)	Opener does not have a 4-Card holding in the other Major (or CANNOT show the suit – 1♥ > 1NT > 2♠ would show a big hand). Opener's minor bid only promises a 3-Card suit.
1♥/♠ > 1NT > 3 of Same Major (16-17 HCP)	Opener has a 6-Card holding in the opening Major and 16-17 HCP.
1♥/♠ > 1NT > 2NT (16-17 HCP)	Opener has a 5-Card holding in the opening Major, a balanced hand.
1♥ > 1NT > 2♠ (16+ HCP)	Opener is showing a reverse – Opener has 5+ Hearts, 4+ Spades.

1♥/♠ > 1NT > 3NT (18-19 HCP)	Opener has a 5-Card holding in the opening Major.
1♥/1♠ > 1NT > 3 New suit (18-19 HCP)	Opener is showing strong jump shift – Opener has 5+ card Major, 4+ card new suit.

With 6-9 HCP Responder is searching for the safest contract to pass. With 10-11 HCP Responder is searching for the best contract to issue an invitation to game.

Responder Rebids (assuming Opener didn't show extra HCP) are as follows:

Bid	Typical Meaning
PASS (6-9 HCP)	With 6-9 HCP and 5 of opener's 2 nd suit (minor), responder can pass.
2♥/♠ (6-9 HCP)	Responder bidding 2 of the Opening suit shows 2-Card support and 6-9 HCP.
Any New Suit (6-9 HCP)	Shows a lack of support for either of Opener's suits and 6+ Card Holding in the new suit. A new suit by responder is a drop bid – meaning it is to play.
3♥/♠ (10-11 HCP)	Responder bidding 3 of the Opening suit shows 3-Card support and 10-11 HCP (referred to as a 3-Card limit raise).
Raise Opener's 2nd suit (10-11 HCP)	Responder raising opener's 2nd suit shows 10-11 HCP and support for Opener's 2nd suit (showing 5-Card support if a minor and 4-Card support if the other Major).
2NT (10-11 HCP)	Responder bidding 2NT shows a lack of support for either of Opener's suits.
New Suit at the 3-level (10-11 HCP)	Shows a lack of support for either of Opener's suits and 6+ Card Holding in the new suit.