

Opening bids and constructive bidding

Opening	Artificial	Minimum length	Negative dbl thru	Description	Responses	Subsequent action	Adjustments after intervention or with passed hand
1♣	☒	2	4♥	a) 12-14 BAL without 5crd ♦♥♠ b) 18-19½ BAL without 5crd ♥♠ c) 11-22 UNBAL, 4+crd ♣	1♦ = 4+ HCP, 4+crd ♥; 1♥ = 4+crd ♠; 1♠ = no 4crd M or GF ♦ 1NT = GF relay; 2♣ = 10+, 5+crd; 2♦♥♠ = INV, 6crd 2NT = weaker than 3♣; 3X = weak	xfer-accept: 11-15, no fit → 2-way CBS 1♣-1red//1NT: 18-20 → transfers Many other artificial rebids	1♣-(dbl/1♦/1♥/1♠): transfers Switch after 2m/2♠/3m overcall Inverted m off after intervention
1♦	☐	4	4♥	11+ NF, 5+crd ♦ or 4441♣	NAT. 2♣ = GF, 2♦ 10+, 4+krt; 3♣ = INV, 6krt	2-way CBS, also after 1♦-1♥//1♠	Switch after black suit overcall
1♥	☐	5	4♦	11+ NF, 5+crd ♥	1♠ = 5+, 4+krt; 1NT = 5-11 NF zonder fit; 2♣ = MF relay 2♥ = 6-9; 2♠3♣♦ = NAT INV; 2NT = INV(+) with 3+crd ♥	1M-1NT//2♣: 'Gazzilli': 11-17 NAT or 16+ 1M-1NT//2NT = 5-5 GF	pass-1M//2♣ = 9+ w/ 3crd supp After 1M-(dbl) 1NT+ transfers
1♠	☐	5	4♥	11+ NF, 5+crd ♠	See 1♥; 2♦♥ = 5+crd, GF	1M-2NT//3♣ = strong relay, -3♦ = INV	1M-(overcall)-3M-1 mixed raise
1NT	☐		4♥	(14)15-17 BAL 5crd M, xton or 6crd m possible	2♣ Stayman, 2♦♥ transfer, 2♠ INV NT or weak/GF with ♣ 2NT ♦ wk/str or weak minors, 3♣ asks 5M, 3♦ 5M332 GF or 64 MM, 3M both minors + short M, 4♣ 55 MM, 4♦♥ transfers	Smolen 1NT-3♣//3♦-3M shows 4crd other major	After dbl: xx= one m or escape After overcall: 2NT+ transfers
2♣	☒	0	5♥	(22)23+ BAL or GF	2♦ waiting; 2M at least KQxxx, 3X at least KQxxxx	Kokish: 2♣-2♦//2♥ = GF 5+krt ♥ or GF NT	
2♦	☐	5		Weak two, can be 5-card suit when 1 st /3 rd seat NV	2NT relay, opener bids short suit when max New suits NF		
2♥	☐	5		Weak two, can be 5-card suit when 1 st /3 rd seat NV	2NT relay, asks min/max and asks for shortness. New suits NF		
2♠	☐	5		Weak two, can be 5-card suit when 1 st /3 rd seat NV	2NT relay, asks min/max and asks for shortness. New suits NF		
2NT	☐		4♥	20½-22 BAL 5krt M, 6krt m, xton possible	3♣ = Puppet Stayman, 3♦♥ xfer, 3♠ = both minors 4♣♦♥♠ are slam-invitational transfers to ♥/♠/♣/♦ resp.		Forcing pass after overcall
3♣	☐	6		Preemptive	3X forcing; 4♦ = ST ♣, 3♦ asks 3crd major	3♣-3♦//3♥=no 3M, -3♠=3crd ♥, -3N=3crd ♠	
3♦	☐	6		Preemptive	3M forcing; 4♣ = ST ♦		
3♥	☐	6		Preemptive	4♣ = ST ♥		
3♠	☐	6		Preemptive	4♣ = ST ♠	High-level bidding and slamgoing auctions	
3NT	☒			Good 7+crd M, better than 4M	4♣ = asks xfer to M, 4♦ = slam try, 4♥ = p/c	3NT with fit normally 'no short suits', sometimes non-serious.	
4m	☐	7		Preemptive	New suit NAT	Last Train and ander quantitative slam tries, 4NT is quanti when in doubt.	
4M	☐	6		Preemptive	New suit NAT	RKC 1430 with known fit; DOPI/DEPO; Exclusion 0341	
4NT	☒			Minors		Sometimes: 4♣ = Slam try for partner's 5+crd M	

Defensive bidding	
Take-out doubles (style, special responses)	
On 1-level: dbl first and bid later: stronger than an overcall	
Response: cue = 10+ asking, jump cue = GF, 4M + stopper	
Against preempts: dbl first, bid later is flexible → 2NT Lebensohl	
In 4 th seat	Comparable, can be weak with ideal shape
Simple overcall (style, special advances)	
Normal style, with high upper limit (only rarely 4crd suit)	
→ 2NT = INV, 4+crd fit; 3cue is mixed raise (7-9, 4crd)	
In 4 th seat Same	
1NT overcall (style, responses)	
15-17(18) HCP (generally BAL and with stopper)	
Raptor (5+m 4M) only with passed hand.	
Responses	System on (as on 1NT opening)
(1X)-(1Y)-1N	(15)16-18, take-out with passed hand
In 4 th seat	(11)12-15(16), 10-12 with passed hand
Jump overcalls	
Weak, style dependant on vulnerability	
In 4 th seat Intermediate (12-15)	
Twosuiters	
(1m)-2m = 5+♥, 5+♠; (1M)-2M = 5+OM, 5+♣	
(1m)-2NT = 5+om, 5+♥; (1M)-2NT = 5+OM, 5+♦	
(1M)-3M = 5+♣, 5+♦ (normally 6-5)	
In 4 th seat	Cue bid = two unbid suits (not both minors)
vs. 1NT opening	
Dbl = values, partner responds as on 1NT opening	
2♣ = Landy (both Majors, at least 5-4 when vulnerable)	
2♦ = natural overcall (different approach vs weak NT)	
2NT = 5+♣, 5+♦	
In 4 th seat	Landy; dbl = 5m4M with passed hand
vs. preemptive opening bids	
(Non-)leaping Michaels (4m shows twosuiter)	
Lebensohl after partner's take-out double of 2M	
vs. artificial strong openings (i.e. 1♣ & 2♣)	
vs 1♣: dbl=majors, 1NT=minors	
vs 2♣: dbl=majors, 2NT=minors	
Competitive bids not mentioned elsewhere	
Transfer Lebensohl after opponents overcalling our 1NT opening	

Leads and signals				
Opening leads style				
vs. suit	3 rd and low, but top from (internal) sequence			
vs. NT	Attitude, top from xx, 2 nd from bad 3+crd			
	K/Q promises Q resp. J (or asks for unblock)			
In partner's suit	1 st /3 rd /5 th , also from honours, attitude if supported			
Leading later on	1 st /3 rd /5 th thru dummy, 2 nd /4 ^e thru decl.** (+attitude)			
Special leads	K from AK on 5+level or if preemptor declares 4X			
Against suit: K from AK-tight or with a singleton in a side suit				
Leads				
Lead card	vs. suit	vs. NT		
Ace	AK+	AK+		
King	KQ+, AK or AK+ w/ x-ton	KQ+, AKJT+, AKQ		
Queen	QJ+,	QJ+, KQT9+		
Jack	(K)JT+	JT+, (A/K)JT+		
Ten	(K/Q)T9+, T9+	HT9+, T9+		
Nine	1 st /3 rd	Possibly from (Q/J)98+		
High spot card	1 st /3 rd /5 th (Xx, xxXx)	Xx, xXx (Xxx), (x)xXxx(x)		
Lowest card	1 st /3 rd /5 th (xxX, xxxxX)	Promises face card (or T)		
**2 nd /4 th through declarer in an unplayed suit, e.g. J from QJx				
Low from doubleton, but of course playing H from Hx is allowed.				
Signals in order of priority				
		Partner's lead	Declarer's lead	Discards
Suit	1	Low = enc	Low-High = even	Low is enc (even)
	2	Low = even	Lavinthal	(Lavinthal)
	3	Lavinthal		
NT	1	Low = enc	Lavinthal or Smith	Low is enc (even)
	2	Low = even	Low-High = even	(Lavinthal)
	3	Lavinthal		
Special signals				
Count later in defense		☒ Current ☐ Original		
Suit preference method		Lavinthal (low shows lowest remaining suit)		
Signals in trump suit		Lavinthal		
2nd hand blocking/split		Count or low from 2, top from 3 adjacent		
Other signals		Smith against NT by partner of opening ldr:		
high encourages led suit if it's unclear if you have a remaining honour				
(you had to insert an honour or gave a count signal)				

System Card	
	
NBO:	Netherlands
10024006	Aarnout Helmich
10001480	Jacco Hop
Representing	BC de Lombard (Rotterdam), Netherlands
Version date	November 2025
General approach and style	
Summary	Natural, 2 over 1 GF, Transfer Walsh
1NT opening	15-17
1♥/♠ = 5+crd, 1♦ = 5+crd or 4441♣ (4+crd ♦ in 3 rd hand)	
Transfer responses to 1♣ (accept = 11-15, 2/3crd support)	
Preempts: style dependant on vulnerability and position	
Bids that may require defense	
Opening bids	
2♣	23+ BAL or GF
2♦/♥/♠	Weak twos. 1 st /3 rd hand NV: 5crd suit possible
3NT	Namyats: good 4M opening
Special responses and competitive actions	
1♣-1♦/♥: 4+HCP, 4+crd ♥/♠, longer minor possible	
1♣-1♠: 5+pt, no 4crd M or GF 5+♦	
1♣-1NT = GF relay	
Transfers after 1♣/1♥/1♠/1NT-(dbl) or after their 1X overcall	
After other overcalls: Switch other suits if a M profits	
Special doubles, redoubles, and forcing passes	
1X-(dbl)-rdbl = business (9+ without clear fit), after which doubles	
are take-out and passes are forcing through 2♥	
Support (re)doubles only on 1-level, also over 1♣-1red	
Game-try double, SOS redouble, Lightner	
Psyches	☐ Never ☐ Rare ☒ Incidentally ☐ Frequent
Important notes that don't fit elsewhere	