

NEW MINOR FORCING



nmfpage1.jpg

SOURCES

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2. Bidding Topics by Eric Rodwell pg. 21-41
3. Learning Bridge Larry Cohen's web site
4. Adventures in Bridge, Robert S. Todd, www.advinbridge.com
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7. New Minor Forcing, Bridge Feed
8. New Minor Forcing, Wikipedia
9. New Minor Forcing, Modern Bridge Conventions

NEW MINOR FORCING

Why should we try to learn a new convention? As usual, bridge is not a precise language so we have to create bids to describe certain hands.

Example:

1. You have S-AKxxx, H-Kx, D-xxx, C-Qxx and the bidding goes:

1Club pass 1Spade pass

1NT pass ? What are you to do? Do you bid 2 spades, 3 spades, or 2 no trump? There is no clear bid. Two spades is definitely an under bid. Three spades may be right, if partner has 3 spades. Two or three no trump can be right, if opener has only 2 spades. The problem is how can responder know what to do.

2. You have S- Kxx, H- KQxxx, D-Ax, C-xxx and the bidding goes:

1Diamons pass 1Heart pass

1NT pass ? Again, what to do? There is no good answer.

The answer is new minor forcing. When I say forcing, I mean one round. It is not forcing to game. What are the requirements? The point count is usually 10 plus. If the hand has only nine hcp's, the points should be concentrated in the long suit and not scattered in short suits and not in queens and jacks. "Plus" means there is no upper limit. The majority of the time responder will have 5 cards in the bid major, and there are times that responder wishes to explore for slam.

Here is how the convention works.

1. 1Diamond pass 1 Spade pass
1NT pass 2 Clubs (this is the new minor)

What are the rebids for opener?

- a. Bid a 4 card heart suit.
- b. Bid 2 spades with 3 card support and a minimum.
- c. Bid 3 spades with 3 card support, maximum, and a side doubleton.
- d. Bid 2nt with unbid suits stopped and a minimum.
- e. Bid 3nt with unbid suits stopped and a maximum.
- f. Bid 2diamonds with 5 diamonds.

Some treatments reverse a. and b. and recommend bidding 3 card support first instead of bidding 2 hearts first with 4 hearts and 3 spades. If the partnership decides to show 3 card support first, then

by bidding a 4 card heart suit first opener denies 3 card support for spades.

2. 1Club pass 1 Spade pass
 1NT pass 2 Diamonds pass

Rebids are the same as #1.

3. 1Club pass 1 Heart pass
 1NT pass 2 Diamonds pass

Rebids by opener:

- a. Raise 2 hearts with 3 and a minimum
- b. Raise 3 hearts with 3 and a maximum, plus a side doubleton.
- c. Bid 2 nt with a minimum and unbid suits stopped.
- d. Bid 3nt with a maximum and unbid suits stopped.
- c. By not bidding 1 spade over 1 heart, the opener has denied 4 spades, therefore opener can bid 2 spades, saying I have diamonds stopped, but do not have spades stopped.

4. 1Diamond pass 1 Heart pass
 1NT pass 2 Clubs pass

2diamonds shows 5 diamonds, and denies 3 card support for hearts

Rebids same as above

♠ QJ974
♥ QJ107
♦ A8
♣ 97

♠ AK3
♥ A52
♦ 103
♣ J5432

♠ 102
♥ 8643
♦ K962
♣ Q106

♠ 865
♥ K9
♦ QJ754
♣ AK8

Dealer: South

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	1 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	2 ♠

Opening

♠ AQ765

♥ 765

♦ KQ85

♣ 6

♠

♥

♦

♣

♠

♥

♦

♣

♠ K98

♥ J8

♦ A976

♣ KQJ7

Dealer: South

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Opening			

♠ 109653

♥ 98

♦ J103

♣ Q104

♠ QJ7

♥ AK743

♦ K87

♣ 65

♠ K8

♥ Q65

♦ A9654

♣ K72

♠ A42

♥ J102

♦ Q2

♣ AJ983

Dealer: East

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening

♠ KJ874
 ♥ AJ62
 ♦ Q5
 ♣ A2

♠ A93
 ♥ 97
 ♦ AJ643
 ♣ Q104

♠ 1052
 ♥ 1053
 ♦ 1098
 ♣ J853

♠ Q6
 ♥ KQ84
 ♦ K72
 ♣ K976

Dealer: South

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Opening			

INVITATIONAL BIDS

What is the meaning of jump rebids by responder? To make this easy to remember, all jumps are invitational.

Examples:

a. 1 Club pass 1 Heart
 1 NT pass 3 Hearts

b. 1 Diamond pass 1 Spade pass
 1 NT pass 3 Spades pass

c. 1 Club pass 1 Spade pass
 1 NT pass 3 Clubs pass

d. 1 Diamond pass 1 Heart pass
 1 NT pass 3 Diamonds pass

e. 1 diamond pass 1 spade pass
 1nt pass 3 clubs (invitational 4spades-6 clubs)

f. 1 club pass 1 spade pass
 1nt pass 3 hearts pass

Responder is showing 5-5 in spades and hearts and invitational (10 - 12).

g. With 5 spades and 4 hearts and 10 to 12 points bid nmf and see what opener does.

h. 1 Diamond pass 1 Heart pass
 1 NT pass 3 clubs ? even this bid is non forcing showing 4 hearts and a 6 card or longer club suit(invitational 10 to 12).

i. 1 Club pass 1 spade pass
 1 NT pass 3 diamonds ? This bid like the 3 club bid is not forcing. Even a jump and change of suit is not forcing(invitational). If responder wishes to force the bidding, responder must bid new minor forcing and then rebid 3 of the minor.

Two no trump is the other invitational bid. This denies a 5 card major and shows 11 to 12 hcp's.

♠ AQ1052

♥ J43

♦ J6

♣ J84

♠ 976

♥ AK9765

♦ A94

♣ 5

♠ J8

♥ Q108

♦ KQ75

♣ KQ96

♠ K43

♥ 2

♦ 10832

♣ A10732

Dealer: East

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
Opening			

♠ QJ74
 ♥ 75
 ♦ AK1096
 ♣ 98

♠ 103
 ♥ AQ103
 ♦ 53
 ♣ J10732

♠ AK92
 ♥ J842
 ♦ 84
 ♣ Q54

♠ 865
 ♥ K96
 ♦ QJ72
 ♣ AK6

Dealer: South

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Opening			

♠ A10543

♥ A954

♦ 10

♣ Q32

♠ K9

♥ QJ7

♦ A9765

♣ KJ8

♠ QJ72

♥ 106

♦ KQ4

♣ A976

♠ 86

♥ K832

♦ J832

♣ 1054

Dealer: West

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening

♠ K108
 ♥ 97
 ♦ QJ6
 ♣ AK976

♠ 543
 ♥ A32
 ♦ A853
 ♣ J83

♠ AJ962
 ♥ J5
 ♦ 1074
 ♣ Q102

♠ Q7
 ♥ KQ10864
 ♦ K92
 ♣ 54

Dealer: North

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening

6 to 9 HCP's Non forcing rebids

What to do with hands containing 6 to 9 hcp's? The following bids are non-forcing and are usually passed by opener. Usually other than the new minor any two level bid is non-forcing.

- a. 1 club pass 1 spade pass
1 no trump pass 2 hearts pass

? with 3 spades, rebid 2 spades

With 4 hearts and a minimum pass.

With 4 hearts and a maximum, bid 3 hearts.

With 2 spades and 3 hearts, rebid 2 spades. This may seem counter intuitive. It is safer in 2 spades than 2 hearts, especially if the hearts split 4-2. If responder has 10 plus points, the responder must bid new minor forcing and then bid hearts.

- b. 1 club pass 1 spade pass
1 no trump pass 2 spades
- c. 1 club pass 1 spade or 1 heart pass
1 NT pass 2 clubs (must have 5 clubs)
- d. 1 diamond pass 1 of a major pass
1 no trump pass 2 diamonds (may have only 4 diamonds)

With 5 to 9 point and a balance hand, responder will pass. Responder has to use his judgment with a 5 card major on whether to pass or rebid his major.

♠ AQ2
♥ AJ6
♦ 9542
♣ J42

♠ 75
♥ K109
♦ QJ76
♣ AK86

♠ 109864
♥ Q8
♦ K108
♣ Q97

♠ KJ3
♥ 75432
♦ A3
♣ 1053

Dealer: West

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening

♠ K10765
 ♥ KQ86
 ♦ 87
 ♣ 76

♠ 93
 ♥ 543
 ♦ A103
 ♣ KJ1093

♠ A42
 ♥ 1072
 ♦ J942
 ♣ AQ2

♠ QJ8
 ♥ AJ9
 ♦ KQ65
 ♣ 854

Dealer: South

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Opening			

6. 1 club pass 1 spade pass
 1NT pass 2diamonds pass
 2 spades pass 3diamonds The 3 diamond bid is absolutely forcing.

7. 1diamond pass 1 heart pass
 1 NT pass 2 clubs pass
 Any bid pass 3 clubs Again the 3 club bid is forcing.

Opener can not pass!

There is one sequence that does not get a lot of attention.

1heart pass 1 spade pass
 1notrump pass ? Does new minor or any minor apply? The answer is yes. The partnership can use 2 clubs to mean something and 2 diamonds to mean something different. One treatment could be 2Clubs as forcing only one round and 2 Diamonds to mean forcing to game. A 2 club bid asks for 3 card support for spades. Opener must raise with three and rebid 2notrump with only 2 spades. If responder wishes to force to game, he can bid 2 diamonds. Remember the partnership **must** agree to this treatment.

♠ J1053
 ♥ 73
 ♦ A85
 ♣ 8432

♠ A7
 ♥ K85
 ♦ Q10742
 ♣ AJ5

♠ K6
 ♥ AQ1042
 ♦ K63
 ♣ K97

♠ Q9842
 ♥ J96
 ♦ J9
 ♣ Q106

Dealer: West

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
?			
Opening			

♠ AKJ76

♥ A9

♦ K6

♣ K854

♠ 843

♥ Q1086

♦ Q852

♣ 102

♠ 102

♥ K7532

♦ 10943

♣ J3

♠ Q95

♥ J4

♦ AJ7

♣ AQ976

Dealer: South

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	?		

Opening

♠ 1098743

♥ 92

♦ 7

♣ A1083

♠ KQ

♥ AKQ84

♦ A52

♣ Q96

♠ A52

♥ 75

♦ KQJ63

♣ KJ4

♠ J6

♥ J1063

♦ 10984

♣ 752

Dealer: East

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 NT	Pass
?			
Opening			

♠ K7
 ♥ 976
 ♦ AJ853
 ♣ KQ9

♠ 1098432
 ♥ J5
 ♦ 7
 ♣ J1043

♠ AJ6
 ♥ 10432
 ♦ 109
 ♣ 8752

♠ Q5
 ♥ AKQ8
 ♦ KQ642
 ♣ A6

Dealer: North

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	?		

Opening

Now let's look at another sequence.

1 club	pass	1heart	pass
2 no trump	pass	?	

Does new minor forcing apply to this sequence? The answer is yes. Although the answer is yes, there is a little difference. The partnership must discuss whether it really is new minor or something different. If the partnership plays Wolff relay, then all 3club bids will mean opener will bid 3 of the major responder bid if he has 3 card support and will rebid 3 diamonds with only 2 and all 3 diamond bids are asking about 3 card support for the major bid by responder. The 3 diamond bid is forcing to game. If the partnership does not play the Wolff relay, then new minor forcing is in play. However, I personally like to bid 3 clubs as a check back, asking for 3 card support. By doing this treatment a new meaning can be given the 3 diamond bid. One meaning could be, 3 clubs is asking about 3 card support and 3 diamonds could mean the same thing but interested in slam. Ever which version you use, how do you answer the question? Some authors say if opener has 4 cards of the other major, he bids the 4 card major first. With no 4 cards in the other major and 3 cards in the responder's major, he bids 3 of the major. With neither, opener bids 3 no trump. Other authors recommend just the opposite. I like showing 3 card support first and 4 cards in the other major without 3 card support. Here are some examples.

1. 1 club pass 1heart pass
 2nt pass 3clubs pass
 3hearts(I have 3 hearts)
 3spades(4spades and not 3 card support for hearts)
 3nt denies 3 hearts or 4 spades

2. 1 diamond pass 1 spade pass
 2nt pass 3 clubs pass
 3spades(I have 3 spades)
 3hearts (4 hearts and no 3 card support)
 3nt (neither 3 card support or 4 hearts)

3. 1 diamond pass 1 heart pass
 2nt pass 3 clubs pass
 3 hearts pass 3 nt(I am really looking for 4 spades)
 Pass(I don't have 4 spades)
 4 spades (I have 3 hearts and 4 spades)

4. 1 club pass 1 spade pass
2nt pass 3 hearts (I have 5 spades and 5 hearts)
? bid 4 hearts with 3 hearts or correct to 3 spades with 3 spades. With both
use your judgement.

**ONE LAST POINT, NEW MINOR FORCING DOES NOT APPLY IN COMPETITION,
EVEN AFTER A TAKEOUT DOUBLE!!!**

♠ A54
 ♥ KQ63
 ♦ A976
 ♣ AJ

♠ K2
 ♥ J1097
 ♦ J1053
 ♣ K82

♠ 1083
 ♥ A42
 ♦ Q4
 ♣ 109643

♠ QJ976
 ♥ 85
 ♦ K82
 ♣ Q75

Dealer: North

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Opening			

♠ A64
 ♥ 1053
 ♦ 63
 ♣ Q10942

♠ 75
 ♥ KJ872
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ K876

♠ KQ83
 ♥ A96
 ♦ KJ104
 ♣ AJ

♠ J1092
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ A9752
 ♣ 53

Dealer: East

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening			

♠ Q9654

♥ 87

♦ K862

♣ A8

♠ K3

♥ 9542

♦ 1075

♣ 10932

♠ A72

♥ K103

♦ QJ43

♣ 654

♠ J108

♥ AQJ6

♦ A9

♣ KQJ7

Dealer: South

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Opening			

♠ K5
 ♥ A962
 ♦ 10985
 ♣ 1094

♠ A9
 ♥ KQJ7
 ♦ QJ6
 ♣ AJ82

♠ Q108764
 ♥ 8
 ♦ K72
 ♣ Q75

♠ J32
 ♥ 10543
 ♦ A43
 ♣ K63

Dealer: West

Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
Opening			