



# ESSENTIAL STRENGTH SHOWING REBIDS BY THE OPENER

presented by

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October 2, 2021

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The “Happy **Jump Shift**”

And

The “Dreaded **Reverse**”



## FIRST SOME BASICS

An opening bid may be **12 -21** points  
and balanced or unbalanced

Let's break that point count down into 3 categories  
which will help determine your rebid

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- 12-15 = minimum
  - 16-18 = invitational
  - 19-21 = game forcing



Next what about distribution

Are you balanced or unbalanced

OH - and then there is semi-balanced!

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Balanced

5-3-3-2

4-3-3-3

4-4-3-2

Semi-balanced

5-4-2-2


6-3-2-2

Unbalanced

All others- basically

single-suited

2-suited



Today we will not discuss balanced hand bidding  
except to say that balanced hands should  
(for the most part) open or rebid NT!!

12-14 open 1 of a suit rebid 1NT

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15-17 open 1NT

18-19 open 1 of a suit and rebid 2NT

20 -21 open 2NT

22-24 open 2C and rebid 2NT

25-26 open 3NT



Of the semi-balanced and unbalanced hands  
we will only look at opener's rebids on hands  
which are **two-suited**.

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Semi-balanced: 5-4-2-2

Unbalanced: 5-4-3-1 5-4-4-0 5-5-3-0 5-5-2-1

6-4-2-1 6-4-3-0 6-5-2-0 6-5-1-1 6-6-1-0

7-6-0-0

The weird one: **4-4-4-1**



Keep in mind that the more distribution you have  
the more powerful your hand is  
especially **if a fit is found!**

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Bear in mind that when you are highly distributional

**A misfit may be more likely!**

Therefore, establishing suits, trumping losers, and  
finding entries may all be more difficult.



First: The happy **JUMP SHIFT**

Opener's rebid is a **single jump** and a **shift**  
into a new **lower ranking suit**  
**or a jump to the two level in hearts or spades**

Simple – isn't it!!

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The strength of this important rebid is often forgotten or simply abused! What is the strength?

19 – 21 points - **Game Forcing**

OK – maybe a great 18!



## Let's review some common examples

1D – 1H	1D – 1S	1H – 1S	1H – 1S
3C	3C	3C	3D

1D – 1NT	1S – 1NT
3C	3H

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All the examples above show an unbalanced

**2-suited hand.**

You will have = length in the two suits or more in the  
1<sup>st</sup> suit than the 2<sup>nd</sup> suit

Your strength is?



These are the same examples but no Jump Shift

1D – 1H	1D – 1S	1H – 1S	1H – 1S
2C	2C	2C	2D

1D – 1NT	1S – 1NT
2C	2H

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Now instead of **Jump Shifting** the opener simply rebids their 2<sup>nd</sup> suit at the 2-level.

Note that these are all still unbalanced 2-suited hands

What is the strength shown now?

**12-18**



# An example hand from play on BBO

Your hand is: Void  
AQ9864  
K7  
AQ432

What is your opening bid?

What do you rebid after partner bids 1S?

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Opening bid 1H – 1S

**2C – 3C – what now?**

What does your partner have and what is your next bid?

My next bid was 6C

Peter Holland's bid was 3H – raised to 4 and played there.



Example  
Hands

South deals

KQ43

K53

A862

95

AT86

2

J953

KJ76

Void

AQ9864

K7

AQ432

J9752

JT7

QT4

T8

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A bit lucky but with hearts 3-3 and clubs 2-2 and West on lead it is an easy make

# Here are the results

Played 15 times:

1H – 1S

2C – 3C

X8

6C x2 making

4NT x1 then 6C making

5C x1 making 6

5C x2 making 5

3H – 4H x2 making

1H – 1S

3C – 4C

X2

5C – 6C x1 making

6C x1 down 1

4H x1 making

1H – 1S

3H – 3NT x1 down 1

1H – 1S

2H – P X3 making 4 x2  
making 3 x1

Void    AQ9854    K7    AQ432

I thought more would bid 3C – only 2 did!

Note also that 5 players never mentioned their clubs

Nice 6-5 hand

Here is another group of examples

1H – 1NT	1H – 1NT	1S – 1NT	1S – 1NT
3C	3D	3C	3D

1H – 1NT	1H – 1NT	1S – 1NT	1S – 1NT
2C	2D	2C	2D

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The top 4 bids all show a 2-suited hand with 19 -21 points (a normal Game forcing JS)

What about the 2-level rebids on this set of hands

**It depends on whether 1NT is forcing or not!!!**

If 1NT is forcing, you must bid again even with a minimum balanced hand

## A final group of examples

1C – 1D	1C – 1D	1C – 1H	1D – 1H
2H	2S	2S	2S

1C – 1D	1C – 1D	1C – 1H	1D – 1H
1H	1S	1S	1S

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Yes: The top 4 bids all show a 2-suited hand with 19 -21 points (a normal GF - JS)

What does it mean when the opener rebids their major suit at the 1-level. Does it show a 2-suited hand?

**Maybe!**

Could also be balanced just looking for a major suit fit!



# Example Hands

North deals

AQJ8

JT6

A

AK652

T962

82

KQ5

Q974

K754

KQ74

T832

T

3

A953

J9764

J83

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1C – P – 1H – P

2S – P – 4S – all pass

South is close to bidding 3S which would be stronger than 4 because we are in a game forcing auction.

Example  
Hands

West deals

AK4  
4  
KQJT6  
AJT3

753  
KQ98  
98  
Q742

QJ8  
JT6532  
72  
65

T962  
A7  
A543  
K98

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1D – P – 1S – P

3C – P – 3D – P

3S – P – 4NT – P


5D\* – P – 6D – all pass \*0 or 3



## The Happy Jump Shift - Things to remember

1. The bid shows **19-21 points** and is game forcing
2. Is a single jump into a **new lower ranking suit or a major at the 2-level**
3. Always 2-suited with **= length or longer 1<sup>st</sup> suit**
4. Bidding a new lower ranking suit or a major without jumping covers two ranges of opener's points  
**may be 12 – 18 points**





Q & A

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Now on to the dreaded **REVERSE**

What do we mean by a **Reverse**?

It is when your rebid is a non-jump **new suit**  
at the **two level**  
which is **higher ranking** than your first suit!  
That's a mouthful!!!

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Think of it this way: To support the suit you opened  
your partner will have to do so at the **3-level**.

Like the Jump Shift, the reverse always shows  
an **unbalanced 2-suited hand**.

Unlike the Jump Shift, the reverse always shows  
**more in your first suit than your second suit**

The reverse is a **one round force – partner can not pass!**

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Do you play reverses?

**Yes - you do!**

If you have ever bid a new suit at the 2-level  
which is higher ranking than your first suit!



What strength does opener's reverse bid show?

The reverse bid covers two ranges of opener's hand strength - May have **16-21 HCP**

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Many who say they do not reverse  
only mean that their reverse does not show  
the required values!

Here are the most common opener's reverses

1C – 1S	1D – 1S	1C – 1H	1C – 1S
2H	2H	2D	2D

On all these rebids the opener is 2-suited with more cards in the 1<sup>st</sup> suit than the 2<sup>nd</sup> suit and **16 – 21 HCP**

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The opener may be:

**5-4 or 6-4 or 6-5 or 7-6**

But not

**5-5 or 6-6** because on those hands you should open your higher-ranking suit

— These are also examples of opener's reverses

1C – 1NT

2D

1C – 1NT

2H

1C – 1NT

2S

1D – 1NT

2H

1D – 1NT

2S

1H – 1NT

2S

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With insufficient values to reverse  
consider passing.

However, if **1NT is forcing after 1H** – may  
have to bid 2C with only two if you are  
4=5=2=2

— Oh No – my partner just reversed – what do I do now?  
First rule – do not pass!

If your suit is 5-cards or longer – rebid your suit!

If your suit is only 4-cards long and you have  
9 or more points you will make a game forcing bid.  
With fewer points, bid 2NT.

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Some play that if responder rebids their suit,  
it shows fewer than 9 points.

I like rebidding the suit regardless of strength



OK, but what bids are forcing?

**9+ points**

1. Raising partner's 1<sup>st</sup> suit – need only 3-card support
2. Raising partner's 2<sup>nd</sup> suit – need 4-card support
3. Bidding 3NT – but not with enough for slam
4. Bidding the only unbid suit.

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Showing support without bidding game allows the partnership to explore for slam.

# What about that 2NT bid?

With any hand lacking adequate values to insist on game,  
bid **2NT which asks the opener to bid 3C!**

After the opener bids 3C you as responder may:

1. Pass with clubs (your own long suit) or support for clubs if partner's opening bid was 1C
2. Support one of opener's red suits at the 3-level

**maybe no game partner!**

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The opener may ignore your request if he has:

Game values (19-21)

Or

A 6-card diamond suit.

## Raising partner after a reverse

Your hand: 1. K5432    2. K5432    3. K8642  
KT86            T862            76  
54                54                K94  
A5                K7                JT9

The bidding: 1D – 1S  
2H

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1. I have 10 pts. and 4-cd support so 3H!
2. Oops bad hand – 2NT then support hearts.
3. Bad hand so I'll show my 5<sup>th</sup> spade.

## Some odd situations involving reverses

The 4-4-4-1 hand that is obviously difficult to bid

This one has a  
singleton spade!

How would you bid  
after 1D -1S?

7

KQJ8

AKT7

AT96

17 HCP

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If you rebid 2C (could be 12-18), the  
responder can pass!

I like a tiny white lie of 2H showing 5-4 and  
16+ points

Some odd situations involving reverses

What does the 3H bid show on this bidding?

1D – 1S

**3H**

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Since 2H shows 16-21 points why would I need to Jump Shift to show hearts?

**I don't!** The 3H bid here is a **splinter** in support of spades!



## Some odd situations involving reverses

How would you bid this hand?

K2

AQ874

Only 15 HCP

Void

KQJ982

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I would open my 6-cd suit planning to bid my 2<sup>nd</sup> suit twice thus showing 6-5 distribution.

Partner will need to be aware that I may be a tad light for my reverse.

## Some odd situations involving reverses

Here is a common situation where your hand is 2-suited but not big enough to reverse. How would you bid these hands?

K32

8

KJ87

AJ765

K32

8

J874

AKQ65

K3

Q6

KJ87

AJ765

- 
1. Open 1D - raise a spade response or rebid 2C after 1H or 1NT
  2. Open 1C – raise a spade response or rebid 2C after 1H/1NT
  3. Open 1C – planning to rebid 1NT after a major suit response

In summary let's look at a nice opening hand  
Do you open 1C or 1D

**17 points**

8

KJ3

AKT42

AQT43

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Not big enough to Jump shift but big enough to reverse! But remember a reverse shows more in the first suit than the second suit – if equal open your higher-ranking suit. So open 1D and rebid 2C to show two suits and **12-18 points**.

**Jump shift is 19 - 21      Reverse is 16 - 21**





South deals  
 Example  
 Hands

JT86  
 98  
 T8754  
 K7

KQ32  
 AKT653  
 2  
 98  
 A  
 Q72  
 AKQ9  
 AJ652

How would you bid  
 this hand?

9754  
 J4  
 J63  
 QT432

1C – 1H  
**2D** – 2H  
**4H** – 4NT  
 5D – 5NT  
 6D – 7H

1D – 1H  
**3C** – 3NT

Our bidding - left  
 Friend's bidding - right



West deals  
Example  
Hands

AK5  
AJT7  
8  
AK764

J82  
853  
AKT7  
J8  
T6  
K962  
Q9542  
52

How would you bid  
this hand?

Q9743  
Q4  
J63  
QT3

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1C – 1S

**2H** – 2S

4S – P


## The dreaded **Reverse** - Things to remember

1. The bid shows **16-21 points** and is **forcing for one round**.
2. Is a **non-jump** bid of a **higher-ranking suit** at the **2-level**
3. Is always **2-suited** with your **1<sup>st</sup> suit longer than your 2<sup>nd</sup> suit**
4. Responder needs **9+ points** to make a positive bid
5. After a reverse, responder's **2NT bid is a relay to 3C** - used to show a **weak hand** which may not make game.

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Hopefully, the dreaded reverse is  
now the dream reverse





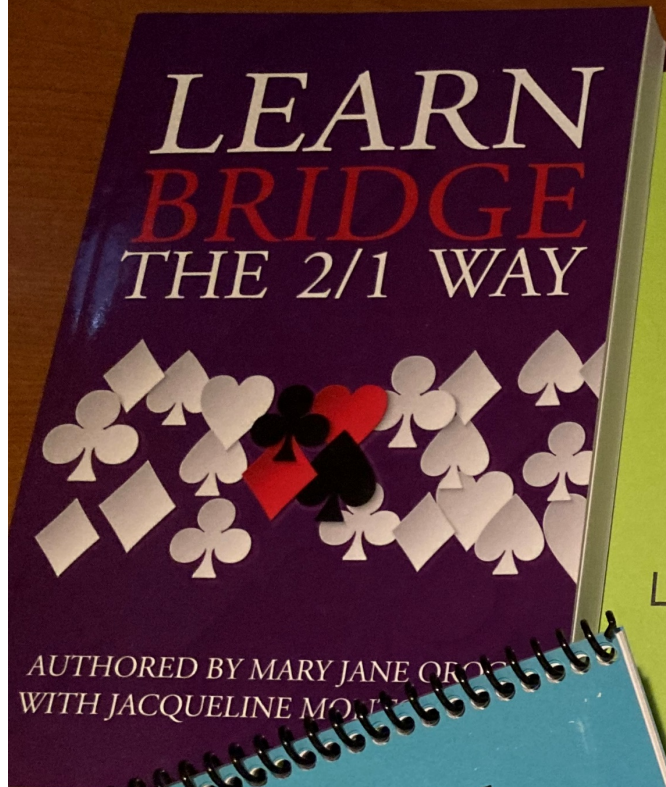
# Q & A

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U183 teacher/player/mentor

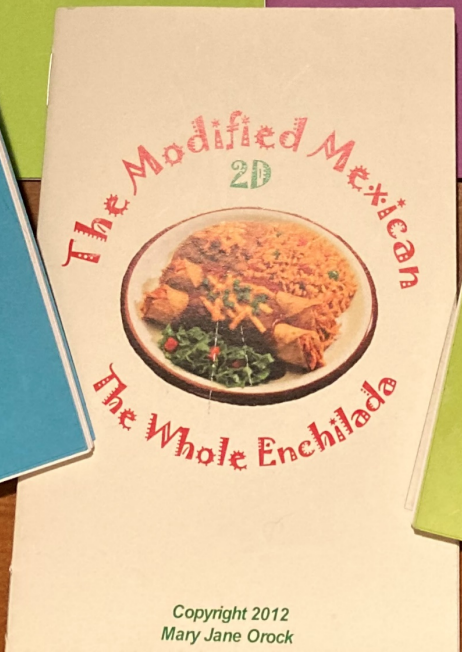


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