

Bidding No Trump Contracts

With notrump counts you must not lie no matter how good the temptation.

Why do we bid? 1. Find the right denomination (♠♥♦♣ or NT)
2. How high – game or partscore

What should a bid tell your partner?
1. Distribution
2. Points

No Trump distribution:

XXX.	XXXX	XXX.	No Void
XXX	XXXX.	XX	No singleton
XXX	XXX	XXXXX	Only 1 doubleton
XXXX	XX	XXX	

5-card Major?

Partnership agreement

Summary of Opening Bids

12 – 14 HCP. Open 1 of a suit, rebid NT at the cheapest level (pass partner's non-forcing NT bid)

15 – 17 HCP. BH (balanced hand) Open 1NT. Use Stayman and Transfers

18 – 19 HCP BH Open 1 of a suit and jump into 2NT

20 – 21 HCP. BH Open 2NT Use Stayman and Transfers

22 – 24 HCP. BH Open 2♣. Then bid 2NT on second bid. Use Stayman and Transfers

25 – 27 HCP. BH Open 3NT. Use Stayman and Transfers

Stayman: the 2 – 4 – 8 Bid

When Partner opens 1NT:

Respond **2♣** at least one **4-card** major and **8+** HCP

Who is the boss? Responder because they know more about the hand.

The chart below applies to responder's hand NOT suitable for Jacoby Transfer!

Opener's Initial Bid	Responder's Initial Bid	Opener's Second Bid	Responder's Final Bid	Opener's Final Bid
1 NT	Me	Partner	Me	Partner
Direct Route	(0-7) Pass ***** (8-9) 2NT ***** (10+) 3NT	***** 15 HCP Pass 16 HCP Think 17 HCP 3NT *****		
	2♣ (Stayman) 8+ HCP	2♦ (No 4-card major)	(8-9) 2NT ***** 10+. 3NT	15 Pass 16 Think 17 3NT ----- Pass
	2♣ (Stayman) 8+ HCP	2♥ (May have Spades)	(8-9) Hearts 3♥ ***** 10+ Hearts 4♥ ***** 8-9 Spades 2NT ***** 10+ Spades (Denies ♥)	15 Pass 16 Think 17 4♥ ***** Pass ***** 15 Pass/ 3♠ 16 Think 17 3NT/4♠ ***** 3NT or 4♠ -----
	2♣ (Stayman) 8+	2♠ (Denies Hearts)	(8-9) Spades 3♠ ***** 10+ Spades 4♠ ***** 8-9 Hearts 2NT ***** 10+ Hearts 3NT	15 Pass 16 Think 17 4♠ ***** Pass ***** 15 Pass 16 Think 17 3NT ***** Pass/4♥ -----

Special Cases

♠ QT75.
♥ KJ976.
♦ 5
♣ K43

9 HCP.
Part Score

Bidding sequences: 1NT - 2♣ - 2♥ - 3♥

1NT - 2♣ - 2♠ - 3♠

1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♥

This says I have a
5-card suit and 8-9
HCP.

You would bid spades if you have a 5-card spade suit.
When you bid a new suit at the 2 level, it shows 5+.

♠ KT75.
♥ KJ976.
♦ 5
♣ K43

10 HCP.
Game.

Bidding sequences: 1NT - 2♣ - 2♥ - 4♥

1NT - 2♣ - 2♠ - 4♠

1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ - 3♥

This says I have a
5-card suit and 10+
HCP.

You would bid spades if you have a 5-card spade suit.
When you bid a new suit at the 2 level, it shows 5+.

♠ T754.
♥ T976.
♦ T8954.
♣ ---

Zero HCP. But partner is probably better off playing in a suit.
Bid Stayman. The only suit he will not bid is clubs. Be happy
and PASS!

Note: This hand is why opener must ONLY rebid 2♦, 2♥, 2♠
when responder bids Stayman.

Opener is "just following orders"; responder is captain.

LET'S TRY A FEW RESPONSES TO 1NT OPENINGS (ASSUME YOUR PARTNER OPENED 1NT)

1
 ♠ 75
 ♥ A854
 ♦ A72
 ♣ 9543

Bid 2C (Stayman).
 This hand has 8+ HCP and a 4-card Major.

2
 ♠ J52
 ♥ 976
 ♦ KQ87
 ♣ QJ5

Bid 2NT. This hand has 8-9 HCP and does not have a 4-card Major.

3
 ♠ Q1075
 ♥ 5
 ♦ KJ976
 ♣ K43

Bid 2C (Stayman).
 This hand has 8+ HCP and a 4-card Major.

4
 ♠ 87
 ♥ K1087
 ♦ AQJ3
 ♣ K74

Bid 2C (Stayman).
 This hand has 8+ HCP and a 4-card Major.

5
 ♠ K62
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ J53
 ♣ Q9862

Bid 3NT. This hand has 10+ HCP and does not have a 4-card Major.

6
 ♠ A964
 ♥ KQ10
 ♦ 543
 ♣ K108

Bid 2C (Stayman).
 This hand has 8+ HCP and a 4-card Major.

7
 ♠ J75
 ♥ 95
 ♦ Q73
 ♣ KQJ107

Bid 2NT. This hand has 9 HCP and does not have a 4-card Major.

8
 ♠ Q852
 ♥ AJ93
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 7532

PASS. You have 7 HCP. Not enough HCP to bid.