

## MODIFIED JACOBY 2 NT

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MODIFIED [Jacoby 2NT](#) (for ADVANCED-EXPERT LEVEL)

Most tournament players use "[Jacoby 2NT](#)" in conjunction with their 5-card major system. After an opening of 1-MAJ, a jump to 2NT is conventional. It promises a [GF](#) hand and at least 4-card support. This convention should not be used by a passed hand and should not be used if there is interference by the opponents. I can't warn you enough how important it is when employing any convention to cover this vital issue (on by PH?--on in comp?).

In the "original" version of this convention, this is the schedule of responses:

4-trump suit=minimum, no shortness  
3-trump suit=non-minimum, no shortness  
3-new suit = shortness  
3NT=varying ways to play this  
4-new suit = good side 5-card suit (some people instead use this to show a void)

Below is a version I played with my regular partner, David Berkowitz. Many top experts have adopted a similar schedule. I will reveal the advantages at the end (if you get that far).

After our 1-MAJ opening and 2NT response (Game-Forcing 4+-card raise):

4 of our MAJOR = the absolute worst dreck imaginable (always 5-3-3-2)  
3♣ = any other minimum (could be 5-3-3-2, but at least some redeeming [Feature](#))  
3♦ = non-minimum, with a side singleton or void somewhere  
3♥ = non-minimum, any 5-4-2-2 distribution  
3♠ = non-minimum, 6+ trumps (no singletons or voids)  
3NT = non-min., 5-3-3-2 (you can use this to show a HCP range such as 18-19)  
4 new suit = decent 5-card side suit (nat.--should have ace or king)

### Follow-ups:

If responder ever jumps to game in the major, it is a sign-off--no further interest.

If responder still has slam interest, he can ask further as follows:

AFTER opener's 3♣ :

Responder bids 3♦ to ask, then (note the similarity to the original responses by opener):

4 of our MAJOR = 5-3-3-2 min., but not total dreck (maybe nice controls)  
3♥ = minimum, with a side singleton or void somewhere  
3♠ = minimum, any 5-4-2-2 distribution  
3NT = minimum, 6+ trumps (no singletons or voids)  
4 new suit = min., decent 5-card side suit (natural--should have ace or king)  
(After opener's 3♥ or 3♠ answer to 3♦, next step asks, using same schedule as below)

AFTER opener's 3♦:

Responder bids 3♥ to ask, then:

Step 1=A VOID somewhere  
Step 2= singleton in lowest side suit (♣)  
Step 3 = singleton in next side suit (♦)  
Step 4 = singleton in highest side suit (other major)  
After Step 1 (VOID)  
Next bid asks where and S1=♣, S2=♦, S3=other major

AFTER opener's 3♥:

Responder bids 3♠ to ask, then:

Step 1= 4 cards in lowest side suit (♣)  
Step 2 = 4 cards in next side suit (♦)  
Step 3 = 4 cards in highest side suit (other major)

This looks a bit complex, but there isn't too much memory. The first set of answers to 2NT must be memorized. After that, the same principle covers all the memory: Next step asks, and answers are "up-the-line."

### INTERFERENCE:

As stated above, this convention is never on if they interfere after our 1MAJ opening. However, we do need to cope if they interfere after the 2NT response:

Opener's double = Shortness in suit doubled  
Opener's new suits = natural or a control  
3NT = Balanced Maximum (Ace or King in their suit)  
Opener's Pass = Nothing special--flat hand, could be 5x3x2 awful after which, responder's X=penalty  
Opener's jump to 4M = dead minimum, but 6x3x2  
If they double Asks or re-asks : XX = business, Pass=S1, etc.  
If they bid after Ask or re-ask : X=Penalty, Pass=S1, etc. (except when double = short as above)

Like any new convention, this can't be taken lightly. Practice and study are required. I am not big on conventions, but this one is worth the effort for a serious partnership. Not only does it provide more accuracy, but the biggest payoff is in concealment. Most times, opener will have a minimum (12 points are statistically more likely than 15 or 19). When opener bids 3♣ to announce a minimum, most times responder will no longer be interested in slam. He will simply jump to sign-off in game. Meanwhile, you have not given away opener's shape to the opponents. It is too easy to lead and defend against standard [Jacoby 2NT](#), when you are told opener has a singleton. It is much better to keep this information concealed on most deals.