

New Minor Checkback

Author: Larry Cohen

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This popular convention is used when the OPENER rebids 1NT or 2NT.

Responder bids the **new minor** as an **artificial** way to ask about (or "check back" on) the majors.

Example Auctions:

In each of these auctions, responder's second bid is **new minor** forcing. The responder is asking the opener about the majors (typically looking for 3-card support).

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
1NT	2♣
Opener	Responder
1♣	1♠
1NT	2♦
Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
2NT	3♣

New minor is used only by the responder and always as his second bid of the auction. It promises at least invitational (10 - 11) strength (after a 1NT rebid) and some doubt about what the final contract should be. In most cases, the responder will have 5 cards in his major and be trying to decide if the hand should be played in his suit or in notrump.

Examples for Responder to match the auctions above:

- 1♦-1♥-1NT-2♣: ♠K Q 10 ♥A Q J 7 3 ♦Q 3 2 ♣3 2
- 1♣-1♠-1NT-2♦: ♠A Q 10 8 5 ♥K J 7 5 ♦K 2 ♣5 4
- 1♦-1♠-2NT-3♣: ♠K J 8 5 4 ♥5 ♦Q 7 6 ♣7 6 5 2

In each hand above, the responder is hoping the opener can show 3-card support for his major.

When the **new minor** is bid, the opener must ALERT. If the opponents ask, he can explain: "My partner's bid is **artificial** and forcing for one round. He is asking me about my majors." The opener now should show 3-card support if he has it (with 4-card support he would have raised on the previous round). If the opener doesn't have 3-card support, his next obligation is to show 4-cards in the other major. If he has neither of the above, he makes the cheapest bid he can (over clubs he bids diamonds; over diamonds he bids notrump).

Meanings for Opener:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
1NT	2♣
??	

2♥ = 3-card heart support

2♠ = 4 spades, but not 3-card heart support (unlikely since no 1♠ bid)

2♦ = None of the above

2. Opener Responder

1♦	1♠
2NT	3♣
??	

3♦ = No major

3♥ = 3-card heart support

3♠ = 4 spades (not 3 hearts)

*Note: If you play this convention, make sure partner is playing it the same way as you. I suggest you play it as written here, but some people play that on Opener's 3rd bid he bids his cheapest major (up-the-line). (In other words, he might show 4 hearts before showing 3-card spade support.)

Examples for Opener:

♠K Q 2 ♥J 4 3 2 ♦A Q 2 ♣Q 7 6

OPENER RESPONDER

1♣ 1♠

1NT 2♦

??

Bid 2♠ (unless you are playing that you show hearts first with 4 hearts and 3 spades)

2. ♠A Q 3 ♥K J ♦K Q 10 5 2 ♣K 4 3

OPENER RESPONDER

1♦ 1♥

2NT 3♣

??

Bid 3♦ (Denying 3♥ and denying 4♠)

3. ♠A 2 ♥K J 5 4 ♦Q 10 4 3 ♣K 10 3.

Opener Responder

1♦ 1♠

2NT 3♣

??

Bid 3♥

Follow-ups (Responder's 3rd Bid):

A bid of 3NT is "Choice of games," promising 5 cards in his major.

A bid of 4 of the major is to play.

A re-raise is invitational.

Examples:

1. ♠K J 9 5 4 ♥A J 3 ♦K 5 4 ♣J 2

Opener Responder

1♣ 1♠

1NT 2♦

2♠ ??

Bid 3NT—This means you have 5 spades and you are offering a choice between 3NT and 4♠ (partner knows you would have bid 3NT directly without 5 spades)

2. ♠3 ♥K Q J 9 5 ♦A J 10 4 ♣Q 3 2

Opener Responder

1♦ 1♥

1NT 2♣

2♥ ??

Bid 4♥ – You are not interested in offering a choice with this shapely hand.

3. ♠A 9 7 6 5 ♥A Q 3 2 ♦4 3 ♣J 7

Opener Responder

1♦ 1♠

1NT 2♣

2♥ ??

Bid 3♥ to invite (or 4♥ if your partner really plays them well).

Note: "New Minor" should NOT be on in competition (of any kind). Decide if you wish to use it by a Passed Hand (No strong feelings--just make sure to discuss).