

WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

We offer our thanks to Washington Bridge league as we, present a copy from their 2013 March -Apr bulletin minor suit Bidding 3:how high ? by columnists > Ron Zucker and Shawn Stringer. Read original - [Here](#)

Two key elements of successful bidding include knowing what strain and how high to bid. Last month we discussed various strains that Opener can rebid after an auction that has begun 1m - P - 1M. These strains include 1) rebidding the minor; 2) rebidding some number of NoTrump; 3) supporting responder's major; and 4) bidding a new suit.

Now, we will discuss various levels of strength the opener can show with his rebid - in other words, how HIGH to bid. In all hands, assume the bidding has gone 1\$-- P - 1·-- P:

1) Rebidding your minor

- a. A rebid of 2\$· shows a six+ card suit and 11 to a bad 15 HCP. Ideally your points are in your long suit, because partner can pass with a minimum hand, and may be very short in your suit. A typical hand would be ^aQxx ·xx "Ax \$AQTx. Even opposite a singleton club, you have a shot. That is why you should have a six card suit to rebid it. Make sure to discuss with partner if and when a new suit by responder is forcing.
- b. A rebid of 3\$· shows a hand stronger than the two-level rebid, but not enough to force to game. It shows a six+ card suit and a good 15-18 HCP. Usually you will have a singleton somewhere - otherwise with 18 HCP you could jump to 2NT. Remember that with honors in the other suits, partner may try 3NT, so try to have a decent suit when you jump to the 3level. Partner will not be happy when dummy comes down with \$A98643, but sometimes you have no choice but to jump to 3\$· to show your overall strength.

2) Rebidding NT

- a. 1NT - a rebid of 1NT shows a typical flat opening hand such as ^aKx ·AJxx "Qxx \$QJxx, a balanced 13 count. This rebid always shows a hand with fewer HCP than a 1NT opening - namely 12-14 HCP.
- b. 2NT - Because the ranges for 1NT (15-17 HCP) and 2NT (20-21) are so well defined, opening 1\$· and rebidding 2NT shows the range in between (18 or 19 HCP) and balanced distribution (including 3226 shape with points in your short suits.)
- c. 3NT - make sure to discuss with your partner to avoid surprises at the table. Many people play that a rebid of 3NT shows seven or more solid cards in clubs with an outside ace or (sometimes) king. It is a hand too good to open 3\$, but with the long, solid minor, 3NT is often the best contract as long as partner has some outside stoppers.

3) Raising partner's major

- a. 2·-- a raise to 2· shows about 12-15 playing points (counting distribution), a hand such as ^aKxx ·AJxx "xx \$KQxx. ··
- b. 3·-- a jump to the 3-level shows about 16-18 playing points. Change the above hand just slightly to ^aKJxx ·AJxx "x \$KQxx, and you are too good to bid 2·, so you must jump to 3·. Opposite as little as ^aQx ·Kxxxx "xxx \$Jxx you have a great chance to make game.
- c. 4·-- With 19 or more playing points, either jump to game or, if you are playing splinters and have a singleton or void, show it a the 4-level. Partner will be able to judge if you are in slam territory. Holding ^aAQ ·Aqxx "xx \$AQJxx, you do not want to miss game.

With these ranges in mind, let's look at a few hands. In all of these, you opened 1\$· and partner responded 1^a. You hold:

<p>♠ T ♥ KJ52 ♦ Q9 ♣ AQJ532</p>	<p><i>Rebid 2♣.</i> You have 13 HCP, and can't count the stiff spade as an asset when it's partner's suit. With the same hand, except the ♣2 is in with the diamonds, you have a tough rebid. Discuss with partner which lie to tell - 1N (which should show two spades) or 2♣ (which should promise six clubs.)</p>
<p>♠ T ♥ KQ52 ♦ Ax ♣ AQJ532</p>	<p><i>Rebid 3♣.</i> You hope partner can bid something to suggest 3NT, and will probably bid 3NT if partner doesn't pass.</p>
<p>♠ 96 ♥ K87 ♦ A43 ♣ KQJ63</p>	<p><i>Rebid 1NT.</i> 13 HCP and values in diamonds and hearts. Perfect.</p>
<p>♠ 86 ♥ AQJ ♦ AQ6 ♣ AJT76</p>	<p><i>Rebid 2NT.</i> 18 HCP, a balanced hand, and values in the unbid suits.</p>
<p>♠ 84 ♥ AT ♦ J5 ♣ AKQJ832</p>	<p><i>Rebid 3NT.</i> A long, solid club suit with a side ace. Partner can pass with ♠ATxxx ♥xxxx ♦Kxx ♣x, and you will have found your 22 HCP game.</p>
<p>♠ KJ52 ♥ QT ♦ Q53 ♣ AJ84</p>	<p><i>Rebid 2♠.</i> You have a flat hand with four spades and 13 HCP. If you made the ♦5 the ♠A, then you would rebid 3♠.</p>

A Difficult Bid/Rebid Situation: One of the hand patterns that stumps many players is a hand with four diamonds, five clubs and 3-1 in the majors.

If you hold ^a8 ·QT3 "KQJ5 \$AJ864, with 13 HCP, you certainly want to open the bidding. Say you open 1\$, and partner responds 1^a, showing six or more HCP and four or more spades. Based on the guidelines in our last article, you have no good rebid. You don't want to rebid 1NT with a singleton spade, and you don't want to rebid 2\$ without a sixth club. You are not strong enough to bid 2".

There are three "standard" approaches to this problem. Some people will go ahead and rebid 1NT with a singleton in partner's suit. Others will rebid 2\$· with only five of them. Still others open this hand 1"· and rebid 2\$ over 1^a. While we won't tell you that any of these is wrong, and each approach has adherents among some of the best players, we can say that option two, rebidding 2\$ with only five of them, is the rarest among expert players.

We would both open 1", planning to rebid 2\$. We accept the fact that partner will not be sure of our minor suit shape as the lesser of all evils.

Next month, we'll cover Opener's rebid of a new suit - reverses and jump shifts.

Please feel free to email Ron or Shawn with any questions.