

WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE

We offer our thanks to Washington Bridge league as we, present a copy from their 2013 Jan -Feb bulletin on
MINOR SUIT BIDDING : OPENER'S SECOND BID
by columnists > [Ron Zucker and Shawn Stringer](#). Read original - [Here](#)

You open one of a minor and partner responds one of a Major. Now what? This is your opportunity to define or "limit" the strength of your hand as well as its shape - information that will help partner know where the auction should end.

Many opening bids tell immediately the strength and shape of the hand: 1NT (15-17 HCP and balanced distribution);

2♠ (5 – 10 HCP and 6 card suit);

playing Flannery, 2♦ (11-15 HCP, 5 hearts and 4 spades.)

An opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦, however, covers a wide range of sizes and shapes and requires subsequent bids to further define the hand.

1♣ can show from 12 HCP up to about 21 HCP (a difference of more than two aces!) and can be flat as a pancake or very shapely.

So opener's second bid must start to answer two of the most important questions in any auction:

In what strain (suit or notrump) and at what level should opener rebid. We will focus on strain now and level in our next article.

What strain should we rebid?

To make the bid that best describes your shape and suggests the best strain, consider the following questions:

1) Can you support partner's Major? If you have four cards in partner's suit, show that support with your next bid.

If the bidding has gone 1♣ -P - 1♥ - P and you have a typical opening hand with four hearts, then bid 2♥. Just as your first responsibility when responding to partner's 1♥ or 1♠ opening was to raise where possible so, too, does opener raise partner's 1M response.

2) If you can't raise partner's suit, do you have a four card major suit that you can bid at the same level? For example, after 1♣ - P - 1♥ - P, do you have four spades? If so, rebid 1♠. If partner responded 1♦ to your 1♣ opening, (hands we will discuss in more detail in the future) do you have four hearts or four spades? If so, rebid in that suit.

3) If you don't have a four card major to rebid at the one level, do you have six cards in your minor? If so, rebid the minor. Some players rebid 2♣ with only five cards, but we recommend that you promise a sixth card when you rebid that suit. With only five, try very hard to find a better bid.

4) If you have neither a four card major nor a six card minor to rebid, can you bid NT? Most players try very hard to avoid rebidding NT with a singleton or void anywhere, and we recommend that you follow that practice. The more you play, the more comfortable you will be with running through this thought process to come up with the best rebid to describe your hand. Remember that you will constantly be dealt hands that don't fit the rules. If you work on how you think about various hands, you will be able to sort your options faster and more consistently reach the best contract. With the above guide lines in mind, look at some actual hands and plan your rebids.

In all of these cases, opener has a minimum hand, so is not going to jump. Assume you open 1♣ and partner responds 1♥.

♠ KT53 ♥ T4 ♦ AT9 ♣ AQ62	Rebid 1♠. While you are flat enough to rebid 1NT, partner might have bid 1♥ with four hearts and four spades.
♠ KJ ♥ T543 ♦ AT9 ♣ AQ62	Rebid 2♥. Support with support. You know that you have an eight card heart fit.
♠ QT9 ♥ K9 ♦ QJ5 ♣ AJT84	Rebid 1NT. You are balanced with 12-14 HCP. Perfect. Partner knows you don't have more, since, with 15-17 HCP, you would have opened 1NT.
♠ QT8 ♥ 7 ♦ AT6 ♣ AQJ862	Rebid 2♣. You have a 6 card suit and a minimum. The singleton in partner's suit is a bad holding. If partner holds something like ♥KQ94, some values are wasted opposite your shortness.
♠ 86 ♥ KQ8 ♦ KJ5 ♣ AJT42	This is not covered well by our guidelines. Many bid 1NT and hope partner has spades stopped (or that opp's will take their spade tricks and declarer will get the rest.) Others bid 2♥. They don't have four card support but with a small doubleton in spades, a heart contract rates to play better than notrump, since partner can trump some spade losers. Be sure to discuss with partner!

Next month, we'll look at opener's strength for different rebids. Until then, please contact us with any questions, and we look forward to seeing you at the table!