

Responding to an opening of 1 No Trump

1 NT shows a balanced hand with 15 – 17 HCP

A balanced hand contains

- no void or singleton
- no 5-card major
- may have a 5-card minor
- at the most one doubleton

Examples of a balanced hand shape are

4 3 3 3 4 4 3 2 5 3 3 2

Examples of 1NT opening hands

♠ KQ87	♠ A76	♠ K8	♠ 86	♠ A97
♥ KJ2	♥ KQ95	♥ AK6	♥ KQJ3	♥ KQ
♦ K74	♦ J8	♦ K65	♦ Q64	♦ AK962
♣ QJ2	♣ AK65	♣ QJ1053	♣ AK72	♣ 1085

1 NT is a limit bid

Its shape and strength are known. A **Limit Bid** is not forcing. This means that the responder is usually in charge of the final bid and opener rarely bids again

Responses to a 1NT opening

Pass	0 - 7	no 5-card suit
2 ♦/♥/♠*	0 - 7	5+ card suit Opener MUST Pass
2 NT	8 - 9	Opener to bid 3NT with good 16 +
3 ♣/♦**	8 - 9	5+ card suit, unbalanced
3 ♥/♠	8 - 9	5+ card suit, invitation to game in suit or No Trumps
3 NT	10 +	balanced
4 ♥/♠	10 +	good 5 + card suit
5 ♣/♦	10 +	unbalanced

* If responder has a hand such as:

♠ J108754
 ♥ 832
 ♦ 74
 ♣ 52

Responses to 1NT		
5 ♦	10+	5 + diamonds unbalanced
5 ♣	10+	5 + clubs unbalanced
4 NT	Partnership agreement	
4 ♠	10+	5 + spades
4 ♥	10+	5 + hearts
4 ♣/♦	Partnership agreement	
3 NT	10 +	balanced
3 ♠	8 - 9	5 + spades
3 ♥	8 - 9	5 + hearts
3 ♦	8 - 9	5 + diamonds unbalanced
3 ♣	8 - 9	5 + clubs unbalanced
2 NT	8 - 9	balanced
2 ♠	0 - 7	5 + spades
2 ♥	0 - 7	5 + hearts
2 ♦	0 - 7	5 + hearts
2 ♣	8 + 0 +	one or more 4 card major 5/4 or 4/5 in majors
Pass	0 - 7	

and the contract to be played is 1NT, there would be no tricks available from this hand for Declarer. On the other hand, if the contract is played in two of the longer suit (in this case spades) this hand would probably be worth at least three tricks

** with a balanced hand (and 5 clubs or 5 diamonds) bidding 3NT instead of 3 ♣/♦ is often more profitable

Lesson 3

Examples of Responses to 1NT

♠ 98742	♠ 976	♠ KQ754	♠ K8	♠ A97	♠ 9873	
♥ 642	♥ KQJ95	♥ 96	♥ 983	♥ 8	♥ QJ3	
♦ 874	♦ A8	♦ 653	♦ Q64	♦ AQ9652	♦ KQ9	
♣ Q2	♣ 865	♣ KJ3	♣ KQ972	♣ 1085	♣ J86	
Bid	2 ♠	4 ♥	3 ♠	3 NT	5 ♦	2 NT

The only response not listed above is 2♣. This is a **convention** known as **Stayman**. In order to use Stayman you must have either both major suits (one of which is a 5-card suit) or 8+ points and at least one 4-card major suit

Opener's responses to a 2♣ Stayman

- 2 ♦ no major
- 2 ♥ 4 hearts (may also have 4 spades)
- 2 ♠ 4 spades (will NOT have 4 hearts)

Responder's response to 2♦

- with 0 – 7 bid 5-card major at the 2 level
- with 8+ bid 5-card major at the 3 level
- otherwise bid 2NT with 8 – 9
- 3 NT with 10 +

Responder's response to 2♥

- If hearts is your suit Pass with 0 - 7
- If hearts is your suit bid 3♥ with 8 - 9
- If hearts is your suit bid 4♥ with 10+
- If hearts is NOT your suit bid 2NT with 8 - 9
- If hearts is NOT your suit bid 3NT with 10 +

Responder's response to 2♠

- If spades is your suit Pass with 0 - 7
- If spades is your suit bid 3♠ with 8 - 9
- If spades is your suit bid 4♠ with 10+
- If spades is NOT your suit bid 2NT with 8 - 9
- If spades is NOT your suit bid 3NT with 10 +

Examples of hands on which you would bid Stayman 2♣

♠ 98742	♠ KQ76	♠ KQ754	♠ 864	♠ AQ97	♠ 9873
♥ 8642	♥ KJ95	♥ 9643	♥ A1083	♥ 87	♥ QJ3
♦ 74	♦ 98	♦ 653	♦ QJ4	♦ Q952	♦ KQ9
♣ Q2	♣ 865	♣ KJ3	♣ K72	♣ 1085	♣ K86