

Learning: No Trump Opening Bids

Opening no trump bids promise that you have no singletons or voids and no five-card major suit.

An opening bid of 1NT shows 15-17 High Card Points

An opening bid of 2NT shows 20-21 High Card Points

An opening bid of 3NT shows 24-26 High Card Points

As responder with less than 8 points and no five-card major or six-card diamond suit you pass.

With 8 or 9 points and no five-card major you invite partner to bid game by bidding 2NT.

With 10 to 14 points and no five-card major you bid game by bidding 3NT.

With a four-card major and 8-14 points is important to find out if you and your partner have a major suit fit – whether you want to play the hand in No Trump or a suit. The conventional bid 'Stayman' is used for these hands.

Learning: Stayman

Stayman is an artificial bid which asks partner a question – 'do you have a four-card major?'

Over an opening bid of 1NT, a bid of 2 Clubs by responder is Stayman. It simply asks 'partner, do you have a four-card major?' Responder may not have any clubs, the bid is completely artificial.

With a four-card major the No Trump opener bids the major at the two level (with four hearts and four spades, bid hearts first). With no four-card major opener bids 2 Diamonds. This says nothing about diamonds, it just says 'No partner I do not have a four-card major.'

If your hands match and you find you have 8 cards in one of the majors between your two hands, then you know you will play in a major suit instead of No Trump.

If you have the 8-9 point hand you simply raise the major to the three level that asks partner if they have 15 or 17. With 15 they pass, with 17 they bid four. The 16 point hand can go either way, that hand is where you look at the kind of points you have and your distribution and decide whether you like your hand.

If you have the 10-14 point hand you simply raise the major to the four level since you already know that you and your partner have enough points to make game.

Board 1 ♠ J 10 3 2
 North Deals ♥ Q 3
 None Vul ♦ 9 5 4
 ♣ K Q 4 2

♠ K 7 6	♠ A 5 4
♥ K J 10 8	♥ 9 5 4 2
6	♦ K 7 3
♦ 8 6 2	♣ J 9 6
♣ 10 5	

♠ Q 9 8
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ A Q J 10
 ♣ A 8 7 3

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead is the ♥J, top of an Interior Sequence.

1NT = 15-17 points, no five-card major and a balanced hand (no singletons or voids).

2♣ = Stayman. Asks a question: Partner do you have a four-card or longer major?

2♦ = An answer: No Partner I do not have a four-card major.

2NT = OK then we'll play NT. I only have 8-9 points. Should we be in game?

3NT = Yes. I have 17 points, we have enough for game.

Board 2 ♠ Q 10 8
 East Deals ♥ A 9 6
 N-S Vul ♦ A K J 7 6
 ♣ 9 3

♠ J 6 5 4
 ♥ 8 7 4 2
 ♦ 3
 ♣ A Q 6 5

♠ 9 7 3 2
 ♥ Q J 10
 ♦ 10 9 8 4
 ♣ 8 2

♠ A K
 ♥ K 5 3
 ♦ Q 5 2
 ♣ K J 10 7
 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♠4, fourth from your longest and strongest.

1NT = I have 15-17 points, no five-card major, no singletons or voids.

3NT = I have enough points for us to be in game, I have no four-card or longer major.

Board 3 ♠ 6 3
 South Deals ♥ K 4 2
 E-W Vul ♦ J 9 7 5 4
 ♣ K 6 2

♠ Q 10 8 2
 ♥ 7 6 5
 ♦ A 2
 ♣ Q J 8 7

♠ J 7 4
 ♥ J 10 9
 3
 ♦ Q 8 3
 ♣ 10 9 3

♠ A K 9 5
 ♥ A Q 8
 ♦ K 10 6
 ♣ A 5 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The opening lead is the ♠2, fourth from your longest and strongest.
 2NT = I have 20-21 points, no singletons, no voids.

3NT = If you have 20-21 I have enough for us to be in game. I do not have a four-card or longer major.

Board 4 ♠ Q 9 6 2
 South Deals ♥ K Q 5
 None Vul ♦ A 6 5
 ♣ 7 6 2

♠ J 7 5
 ♥ 9 3
 ♦ K 10 8 3 2
 ♣ J 8 3

♠ 10 8
 ♥ 7 6 4 2
 ♦ Q J 9
 ♣ K Q 10 9

♠ A K 4 3
 ♥ A J 10 8
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ A 5 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: ♦3

1NT = I have 15-17 points, no five-card major and a balanced hand.

2♣ = Stayman, a question: Partner do you have a four-card major?

2♥ = Answer: Yes, I have four hearts.

3NT = I don't have four hearts, but I do have enough points for game.

4♠ = Since you don't have hearts, I know you have four spades. I have four spades also, so let's play game in spades.

Board 5 ♠ 6 5
 North Deals ♥ K J 5 3
 N-S Vul ♦ K 8 4 2
 ♣ Q 9 5

♠ 8 2
 ♥ Q 10 9 8
 ♦ A J 10
 ♣ K 10 7 3

♠ A Q 7 4 3
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ 7 5 3
 ♣ 8 6 4

♠ K J 10 9
 ♥ A 4 2
 ♦ Q 9 6
 ♣ A J 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening lead is the ♣10.

1NT = I have 15-17 points and a balanced hand, no five-card major.

2♣ = Stayman, a question: Partner, do you have a four-card major?

2♠ = I have four spades, I do not have four hearts.

2NT = I only have 8-9 points, should we go to game?

Pass = I only have 15 points, let's stay low.

Board 6 ♠ Q 8 7
East Deals ♥ J 4 2
E-W Vul ♦ A Q 7 6
 ♣ 9 6 5

♠ 6 3
 ♥ K 8 5
 ♦ J 5 4 3
 ♣ J 10 7
 2

♠ K J 10 9 2
 ♥ 10 9 7
 ♦ K 2
 ♣ Q 8 4

♠ A 5 4
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ 10 9 8
♣ A K 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: ♣2

1NT = 15-17 points and a balanced hand, no five-card major.

2NT = I have 8-9 points and no four- or five-card major, do you think we should be in game?

3NT = Yes we should be in game, I have 17 points!

Prepared Using [BridgeComposer](#)