

Invitational Bidding by Opener - Minors

Knowing when to go to game and when to stay in part score can be a difficult proposition.

What is an invitational hand?

- 16-18 points and a 5+ card suit OR a four-card raise in partner's suit.

Opener has made an invitational bid. Now what do I do?

- With 8-9 points bid game
- With 6-7 points pass

Let's look at some examples:

Example 1: Opener bids 1C/1D and partner responds 1H (or 1S) promising 4+ cards:

With 4 card support for partner's major:

- Bidding 2H shows a minimum hand (12-15 points);
- Bidding 3H shows an invitational hand (16 – 18);
- Responder should bid game with 8-9 + points and should pass with only 6-7 points.

NOTE: *In this auction a trump fit has been established so both opener and responder can count distributional points.*

Example 2: Opener bids 1C/1D and responder raises opener's suit. This raise shows 5+ cards. Why? Because opener could have only three cards in her suit so responder **MUST** have 5+ cards in the minor to raise.

Possible invitational bids include:

2NT – Shows a balanced 18-19 HCPs and invites game in NT.

Rebidding three of minor:

- Rebidding three in the absence of competition shows an **invitational hand**. (1D/2D/3D)
- Partner should consider 3NT with 8-9 HCP and balanced or semi-balanced hand. Why? **Partner shows at least 5 cards in their minor and these are a source of tricks at NT.** Remember: 3NT is often easier to make than 5 of a minor.
- With extra values and a distributional hand, a bid at the 4 level asks the opener to bid game with a maximum hand (17-18 points)
- With an opening hand raise to game at the 5 level.

Example 3: Opener bids 1C and partner responds 1D promising 4+ diamonds and opener has 4 diamonds in support.

Possible invitational rebids by opener include:

Rebid 2NT: balanced 18-19 HCP hand

With 4 card support for partner's minor::

Rebid 3D: Responder should

- Bid 3NT with a balanced maximum
- Raise to 4 level asking the opener to bid game with a maximum hand (17-18 points)
- Raise to game at the 5 level with extra values.

Example 4: Opener bids 1C/1D. Responder bids 1NT showing 6-9 HCP and no 4-card major:

Rebid 2NT: shows 18 HCP hands or a semi-unbalanced 16-17 hands that could not open 1NT. Responder raises to 3NT on all maximums (8-9 HCP).

Rebidding three of minor: Shows 6-card suit and a hand not suitable for a rebid of 2NT

Responder should:

- Bid 3NT on a balanced maximum
- Raise to 4-level to ask if opener has a maximum hand (17-18 points)
- Bid game with an unbalanced hands and a minor suit fit.

Opening Bidding – Initial Hand Assessment Worksheet

What would you open with these hands?

Your Hand	Your Opening Bid	Responders Bid	Opener's Rebid
1. ♠Q87, ♥AQ43, ♦KJ2, ♣AQ2		2C	
2. ♠Q87, ♥AQ43, ♦KJ2, ♣AQ2		1NT	
3. ♠Q87, ♥AQ43, ♦KJ2, ♣AQ2		1H	
4. ♠82, ♥A73, ♦AKQJ92, ♣K2		2D	
5. ♠82, ♥A73, ♦AKQJ92, ♣K2		1S	
6. ♠87, ♥A10, ♦KQ102, ♣AKJ72		1D	
7. ♠AQ, ♥K10, ♦K1082, ♣AQ972		1D	