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GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF BIDDING METHODS

BENJI ACOL; WEAK 2♥/♠; WJOs; ITALIAN DISCARDS; REVERSE ATTITUDE SIGNALS

1NT OPENINGS AND RESPONSES

Strength	12-14		
Shape constraints	Can have 6-card minor	Tick if may have singleton <input type="checkbox"/>	
Responses	2♣	Stayman (Note 2)	
2♦	Transfer to Hearts	2♥	Transfer to Spades
2♠	Transfer to Clubs / Diamonds (bid 3♣)	2NT	Invitational
Others	3-level responses are slam-invitational, good 6+ card suit. With good support (Hxx+), opener raises if minimum, and bids a first-round control if maximum. Without good support, opener rebids 3NT.		
Action after opponents double	After opponents double 1NT, <u>pass</u> normally denies a 5-card suit and asks partner to <u>redouble</u> , after which responder either passes for penalties, or 4-card suits are bid in ascending order until a 4-3 or 4-4 fit is found. An immediate <u>redouble</u> is a transfer to 2♣, and 2♦ & 2♥ are normal transfers. 2♣ is Stayman.		
Action after other interference	Lebensohl (Note 3)		

TWO-LEVEL OPENINGS AND RESPONSES

	Meaning	Responses	Notes
2♣	Weak 2♦, 8PT or 20-22 pts balanced with a 5-card major	2♦ relay. If 2NT rebid, 3♣ asks for the 5-card major; Transfers; Gerber. Only break the transfer if very strong. Forcing.	
2♦	Game Force or 23+ pts balanced	2♥ relay, Stayman, Transfers after 2NT rebid	
2♥	Weak (6-9) 6-card suit	2NT Response = OGUST: 3♣ = Weak hand, Weak suit; 3♦ = Weak hand, Strong suit, 3♥ = Strong hand, Weak suit; 3♠ = Strong hand, Strong suit, 3NT = AKQ in bid suit. Weak Suit = 1 top honour (AKQ); Strong Suit = 2 top honours. Weak Hand = 6-7; Strong Hand = 8-9	
2♠			
2NT	20-22 Balanced, denies a 5 card major	Stayman, Transfers, Gerber	

OTHER ASPECTS OF SYSTEM WHICH OPPONENTS SHOULD NOTE

Italian Discards (McKenney on Even Cards, Odd Card asks for that Suit)

5th Feb 2026

OTHER OPENING BIDS

	HCP	see Note *	Min length	CONVENTIONAL MEANING	SPECIAL RESPONSES	Notes
1♣	R19	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Natural	Jacoby 2NT: Game raise with 4-card support, no shortage and possible slam interest. Opener's rebids show a shortage. 3NT rebid by opener is NOT to play but shows a balanced hand too strong to open 1NT. Splinters: Mini / Maxi where space allows (Single Jump = singleton, Double Jump = void). If no space for double jump below game, a single jump shows either singleton or void.	
1♦	R19	<input type="checkbox"/>	4			
1♥	R19	<input type="checkbox"/>	4			
1♠	R19	<input type="checkbox"/>	4			
3♣♦	5-9	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	3♣ / 3♦ in 1st or 2nd Position must have 2 of top 3 Honours. 6 Tricks Non-Vulnerable & 7 Tricks Vulnerable		
3♥♠		<input type="checkbox"/>	7			
3NT	Acol	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Solid 7-card suit with no outside defensive trick		
4 bids		<input type="checkbox"/>	8	7 Tricks Non-Vulnerable & 8 Tricks Vulnerable		

DEFENSIVE METHODS AFTER OPPONENTS OPEN

NATURAL ONE OF A SUIT	CONVENTIONAL MEANING	SPECIAL RESPONSES	Notes
Simple overcall	Natural		
Jump overcall	Weak (6 card suit); 3♣ CRO		7
Cue bid	CRO		7
1NT	Direct: 15-17 Protective: 12-14	Responses as to opening 1NT	
2NT	Both CRO		7
OPPONENTS OPEN WITH	DEFENSIVE METHODS	SPECIAL RESPONSES	Notes
Strong 1♣	Double for majors, NT for minors		
Short 1♣/1♦	Treat as natural		
1NT	Modified Cappelletti (over weak or strong NT)		4
Weak 2	Dixon + Lebensohl		1,3
Weak 3	Natural (x = T/O)		
4 bids	Optional double		
Multi 2♦	Dixon + Lebensohl		1,3

SLAM CONVENTIONS

Name	Meaning of Responses	Action over interference
GERBER (rolling)	4♦=0 or 4 aces, 4♥ = 1 ace, 4♠ = 2 aces, 4NT = 3 aces	DOPI & ROPI
RKCB	14, 03, -/+Q, except with ♣ trumps, when 03/14. After 5♣ or 5♦ response, 5♦ / 5♥ asks for trump Q. With the Q, or extra length, bid a feature. 5NT after 4NT: K ask. Bid the (non-trump) K you've got or not got.	DOPI & ROPI
Exclusion Blackwood	Jump above game in a new suit. Showing void in bid suit. Responses are steps as RKCB but ignoring A of the bid suit.	
GSF	5NT without RKCB. Bid 7 of Trump suit with 2 of top 3 trump honours.	

COMPETITIVE AUCTIONS

Agreements after opening of one of a suit and overcall by opponents

Level to which negative doubles apply	3♠
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Special meaning of bids

Exceptions / other agreements

Agreements after opponents double for takeout

Redouble: 9+pts	New suit: Weak	Jump in new suit: Natural, Forcing
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Jump raise: Natural 6-9	2NT: Good raise to 3 (Truscott; Note 6)	Other:
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Other agreements concerning doubles and redoubles

All doubles up to 3♠ are for take-out, except where a penalty double of 1NT has been made or when there are no options for take-out. Doubles of jump raises (eg. 1♥ - 4♥) are for take-out. Doubles of conventional bids are usually lead directing.

OTHER CONVENTIONS

1. Fourth Suit Forcing: Exploratory; 2-level, 11+; 3-level game-forcing; 1♠ is a natural suit.
2. Unassuming Cue Bids: show, depending on the situation, either (a) a sound raise to the next level in partner's suit after opponents' overcall, or (b) asks about the quality of partner's overcall.
3. Trial Bids: After major suit agreement: asks for help in the suit bid. In response, jump to game with 0-1 losers in the suit, else bid agreed suit at lowest level. After minor suit agreement: shows a stopper – angling for 3NT.
4. Leads: Higher of touching honours, except a J shows no higher honour and usually promises the 10; lead of a 10 shows two or no higher honours. Fourth highest from an honour.

SUPPLEMENTARY DETAILS

(Please cross-reference where appropriate to the relevant part of card, and continue on back if needed).

1. DIXON DEFENCE TO MULTI 2♦ AND WEAK 2♥ / 2♠

- Double: 12-15 pts fairly balanced or first move on a very strong hand
- 2♥/2♠/3♣/3♦: Natural
- 3♠/3♥: Strong & Natural
- 2NT: 16-18 pts balanced; “Systems on” – ie. Stayman, Transfers + Gerber

2. STAYMAN (2♣ OVER 12-14 1NT) - need 11+. Responses:-

- 2♦ = minimum, no 4-card major; 2♥ = minimum 4♥, 2♠ = minimum 4♠. 2NT = non-maximum 6-card minor; 3♥ = maximum 4♥, 3♠ = maximum 4♠; 3NT = maximum, no 4-card major.
- Over 1NT - 2♣ - 2♦: 2♥ / 2♠ = weak, to play. Other bids below game are invitational.

3. LEBENSOHL AFTER OPPONENTS BID A SUIT OVER OUR 1NT OR WE DOUBLE A WEAK 2♥ / 2♠

- After opponents' overcall of our 1NT, Dbl is an invitational raise in NT, 11-12pts – invites a penalty pass. Suit bid at the two level natural and weak. 2NT requires opener to bid 3♣ and responder bids his suit, weak. Jump suit bid or direct bid at the three level is natural & forcing to game.
- After opponents bid weak 2♥ / 2♠ and we “Dixon double”, 2-level responses are weak. Direct 3-level bids by responder are encouraging (7+) but not forcing. 2NT is a weak bid by responder (0-6) asking doubler to bid 3♣, which responder will pass or convert. If doubler has a very strong hand, he makes some bid other than 3♣.

OPENING LEADS

Card led is highlighted in **bold**

v Suit contracts	A K	A K x	K Q 10	K Q x	K J 10	K 10 9	Q J 10
	Q J x	J 10 x	10 x x	10 9 x	9 <u>8</u> 7 x	10 x x x	H x x
	H x x x	H x x x x	H x x x x x	x x	x x x	x x x x	
v NT contracts	A K x (x)	A J 10 x	K (Q) 10	K (Q) x	K J 10	K 10 9	Q J 10
	Q J x	J 10 x	10 x x	10 9 x	9 <u>8</u> 7 x	10 x x x	H x x
	H x x x	H x x x x	H x x x x x	x x	x x x	x x x x	

Other agreements in leading, e.g. high level contracts, partnership suits:-

CARDING METHODS

	Primary method v. suit contracts	Primary method v. NT contracts
On Partner's lead	Ace / Queen asks for encourage/discourage; King asks for Count / unblock; Reverse attitude signals	
On Declarer's lead	High Low = Even number of cards	
When discarding	Italian (McKenney on Even Cards, Odd Card asks for that Suit)	

Other carding agreements, *including secondary methods (state when applicable) and exceptions to above*

Discards may be natural.

SUPPLEMENTARY DETAILS (continued)

4. MODIFIED CAPPELLETTI:

- 2♣ = Both majors (2♦ response = 'equal length'). 2♦ = unspecified 6-card suit; 2♥ asks which. 2♥ = Hearts and a minor; 2NT asks for the minor. 2♠ = Spades and a minor; 2NT asks for the minor. 2NT = Both minors. X = Penalties. Against Weak NT: 9+; Against Strong NT: 13-15
- System on after x if partner weak. Respond as to opening 1NT.

5. CHECKBACK:

- NT Rebids: 15-16, 17-18, 19.
- After a 1NT (or 2NT) rebid, 2♣ (or 3♣) asks opener to show "extra length" – 5 cards in opener's suit, 3-card support for responder or an unbid 4-card major. Suits are bid up the line. With nothing to say, bid 2♦ (or 3♦).

6. TRUSCOTT:

- After opponents' double of our suit opening, a 2NT response shows a good raise to three (ie. 10-12 points, primary support, 8 losers). Suit responses are pre-emptive.

7. CRO

- Cue Bid = Two suits of the same Colour
- 2NT = Two suits of the same Rank
- 3♣ = The two Odd suits.