

Game and Slam Bidding after a No-Trump Opener

Quantitative Bids and Other Approaches

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Opening with No-Trump distribution

15-17 Points bid 1NT

18-19 Points first bid a suit and then bid 2NT as second bid
(assumes partner responded at one level)

20-21 Points bid 2NT

22-23 Points first bid 2♣ and then bid 2NT

24-25 Points first bid 2♣ and then bid 3NT

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Bidding as Responder

You, as responder, should take control because you know opener's hand, but they don't know yours.

1st, add opener's points to yours: game, slam, part score?

3NT: 25 Points

6NT: 33 Points

7NT: 37 Points

2nd, do you have a long suit? Game or slam with fewer high card points?

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Bidding as Responder

3rd, choose an approach

5-card major → Transfer bid (can then use Quantitative Bid)

4-card major → Stayman

Even distribution → Quantitative Bid

Good, Long minor suit → Directly bid game or use Gerber if slam interest.

I'll review one approach. Many partnerships have different approaches.

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Quantitative Bids in response to No-Trump

Opener	Responder	
1NT	2NT	Invites Opener to bid 3NT.
Any	3NT	Closeout
Any	4NT	Invites Opener to bid 6NT
Any	5NT	Requires Opener to choose 6NT or 7NT
Any	6NT	Closeout
Any	7NT	Closeout

"Any" means any of the sequences the opener uses to describe a no-trump distribution hand with a certain point count.

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As Responder: with potentially running minor suit

If opener should be able to run your suit with only one loser
 Bid 3NT directly even with inadequate high card points
 Consider slam – check for aces by bidding 4♣ (Gerber convention)

♠ J 3
 ♥ 9 8 3
 ♦ A K 10 7 6 3
 ♣ 8 2

Opener bids 1NT. What should you, as responder, bid?

3NT

Worst case, opener ducks one trick and then with a 3-2 split there are five diamond tricks.

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Variations, by partnership agreement

Partner	You	
1 NT	2♥	4NT is Quantitative, inviting partner to bid 6♠ or 6NT with a good hand.
2♠	4NT	

Partner	You	
1NT	4♥*	4NT is Blackwood, asking for aces. *4♥ is a Texas Transfer
4♠	4NT	

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Variations, by partnership agreement

Partner	You	
1 NT	4♣	4♣ is Gerber convention asking for aces.
		<div> <p>Your hand</p> <p>♠ K 5 3 ♥ A J ♦ K 3 ♣ K Q J 10 7 3</p> </div> <div> <p>Gerber responses:</p> <p>5♦ - 0 or 4 aces 5♥ - 1 ace 5♠ - 2 aces 5NT - 3 aces</p> </div>

Partner	You	
1NT	2♣	4NT is Quantitative inviting partner to bid 6NT.
2♦	4NT	

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Quiz Problems

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♠ J 9 8
♥ A 6 5
♦ A 9 7
♣ 9 8 6 5

Partner opens 1NT – What do you bid?

♠ J 10 8
♥ A 6 5
♦ A Q 9 7
♣ 9 8 6

Partner opens 1NT – What do you bid?

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♠ A 9 8
♥ K 6 5
♦ K 9 7
♣ Q 8 6 5

Partner opens 2NT – What do you bid?

♠ A 10 9 8 6
♥ A 6
♦ A Q 9
♣ K 10 6

Partner opens 1NT – What do you bid?

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♠ K Q 9 8
♥ A J 6 5
♦ K 4
♣ A 10 7

Partner opens 1NT – What do you bid?

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♠ A 10 5
♥ K 8 3
♦ A Q J 5
♣ A 10 4

Partner opens 2NT. What do you bid?

♠ K 5 3
♥ 8 6 5
♦ 7 6 3
♣ 7 6 3 2

Partner opens 2NT. What do you bid?

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♠ K 5 3
♥ A J
♦ K Q J 10 7 3
♣ K 3

Partner opens 1NT. What do you bid?

♠ 5 3
♥ K 6 4
♦ K J 3
♣ Q 9 8 7 6

Partner opens 1NT. What do you bid?

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♠ Q 10 5
♥ A Q 10 8 3
♦ 5 4
♣ A K 10

You open 1NT and partner bids 3NT.
You have no diamond stopper! Should you correct to 4♥?

♠ K 5
♥ Q J 8 6 5
♦ A Q 6
♣ J 3 2

Partner	You	What do you bid?
1NT	2♦	
2♥	??	

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Recap

- As responder to a NT opening, you need to take control.
 - Add points and look at distribution to evaluate if part score, game invitation, game, slam invitation or slam
 - Look for an 8-card major suit fit
- Most likely responses are Stayman, transfers, or quantitative bids
 - Some partnerships also use Gerber to ask for aces.
 - We haven't covered relay bids, but many partnerships use those.
- NT opener and following bids are descriptive and thus effective in reaching a good contract.

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