SNAPSHOTS

IMPROVE YOUR JUDGMENT OPENING BIDS 1 NoTrump



with the Monroes

	PENING BID VANTAGE	The choice of opening bid forms the basis for the auction conversation. Guidelines are useful to help with the choice. Sometimes we need to color outside the lines.				
NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS are the #1 priority when opening the bidding. NT opening bids are narrowly defined and create a unique auction framework based on the shape and strength expected for the opening bid. The definition applies to ALL seat positions. • Expected Shape: Balanced 5-3-3-2 4-4-3-2 4-3-3-3 • Expected Strength: 1NT=15-17 HCP 2NT=20-21 HCP • Invitational – Not Forcing • Narrowly defined. Opener does not need a rebid. • Responder is the Captain and takes control of the auction. • Quantitative bids are used throughout the auction. • More difficult for opponents to compete.						
ON RARE OCCASION, THE EXPECTED STRENGTH AND SHAPE MAY BE SLIGHTLY OUTSIDE THE GUIDELINES TO AVOID POOR REBID OPTIONS AND FRAME THE AUCTION.						
UPGRADE STRENGTH OR NOT?		14 HCP may be upgraded +1 with a good quality 5-card suit. The choice to upgrade is optional. ♠KJ3 ♥A 8 ♣9 6 5 3 2 ◆A Q 4 OPEN 1♣, PLAN TO REBID 1NT (12-14) ♠K 8 6 ♥A Q J 8 5 ♠K J 10 ◆10 9 OPEN 1NT. NO REBID NEEDED 14 HCP UPGRADE +1 GOOD 5-card ♥ suit. Features: controls, 10s & 9s				
SEMI- BALANCED SHAPE		UNEXPECTED SHAPE 5-4-2-2 • 5-4-3-1 • 6-3-2-2 • Long suit is a minor • Hand is too weak to rebid a reverse • Hand is too strong to open at 1-level and rebid 1NT (12-14) • 6-3-2-2 • K 7 ▼A 10 6 4 ♣ A 8 ↑ A J 9 8 4 • A ▼K 10 6 ♣ A 8 7 6 3 ↑ A J 4 3 • A J ▼K 10 6 ♣ Q 8 ↑ A J 10 7 4 3				
	ACBL DEFINITION	Semi-balanced hands MAY NOT contain a VOID. Semi-balanced hands MAY contain a singleton A, K, or Q IF there is a minimum of 3 cards in each of the other suits (no doubleton).				

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CONVENTIONS

STAYMAN or TRANSFER? Responder's Options



with the Monroes

When partner opens 1NT, Responder becomes the "Captain" and is responsible to decide How High and Where the contract belongs. With interest in a major suit, how does Responder know whether to use Stayman or a Transfer bid?

Number of cards in	RESPONDER'S POINT RANGE			
the MAJOR SUIT	0-7 Points Partscore Signoff	8 or 9 Points Invitational	10-15 Points GAME FORCING	
6 OR MORE CARDS	TRANSFER, then Pass	TRANSFER, then Raise the major suit	TRANSFER, then bid game in the major suit	
5 cards	Transfer, then Pass	TRANSFER, then Bid 2NT	TRANSFER, then Bid 3NT	
4 CARDS	Pass	2. STAYMAN	2. STAYMAN	
5-4 IN THE MAJOR SUITS	TRANSFER to the 5-card, then Pass	2♣ STAYMAN 2♥/2♠ RESPONSE Raise the major suit to 3-Level with a fit. 2♠ RESPONSE Bid the 5-card major (NF Invite)	2♣ STAYMAN 2♥/2♠ RESPONSE Raise opener's major suit to 4-level with a fit. 2♠ RESPONSE Jump Bid the 5-card major to 3-level (GF) OPT Smolen Convention	
5 CARDS IN BOTH MAJOR SUITS	TRANSFER to better suit, then pass	TRANSFER to hearts, then bid spades at the 2-level	TRANSFER to spades, then bid hearts at the 3-level	

CONVENTIONS

STAYMAN or TRANSFER? **Responder's Options**



with the Monroes

FORCING!

A new suit by Responder at the 3-level is forcing after Stayman and Transfer.

SLAM ZONE

With 16+ points, Responder explores for slam. Do the math!

GARBAGE STAYMAN

0-7 Points, Short in Clubs

The Stayman convention can be used by Responder with a very poor hand, short in clubs and willingness to pass Opener's response to set a trump suit.

- Use **STAYMAN** when holding:
 - 8+ points and 4-card major suit. 4-4 or 4-5 majors
- **SUMMARY** • Use a **Transfer** when holding:
 - 5-card major suit, no 4-card major suit.
 - 0-7 pts 5-card major and 4-card major (transfer and pass).

1 NT Opener - Stayman, 5-4 Majors Board 1 ♠ QJ754 South Deals ♥ Q965 ♦ A Q 6 **♣** J **∧** K 3 **A** A 9 8 6 Ν 7 ♥ K32 ◆ J 10 7 5 432 S **♣** 10 5 4 3 ♣ K9872 **▲** 10 2 12 A J 10 8 4 7 7 ♦ K98 14 ♣ A Q 6 West East North South 1 N 2 **♣**¹ Pass Pass 2 🔻 Pass 4 **v**² All pass 1. Stayman

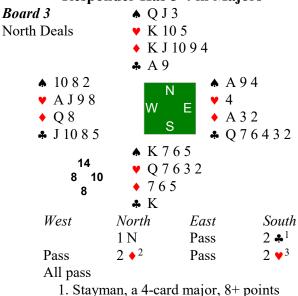
Contract: 4 ♥ South, 10 Tricks

2. 4+ ♥s, 10-15 points

Lead: ♦ J, Seq. unbid suit. **Losers:** 2-4, 1-4, 2-4=5.

Play: South wins the ♦ Q, finesses the ♥ K (loses), wins the ◆ return, draws trump, plays the ♠ 10 to promote a ♠ for a ♣ discard. Dummy ruffs a ♣.

Responder Has 5-4 in Majors



2. No 4-card major

3. 8-9 points, 4-♠s, 5-♥s

Contract: 2 ♥ South, 8 Tricks

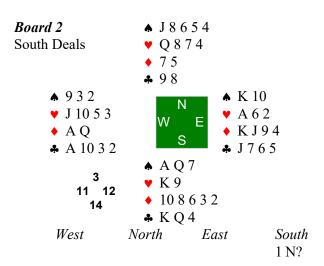
Lead: ♣ J, seq.

Losers: 2-4, 3-4, 2-4=7.

Play: South wins the ♣ K, finesses the ♥ J, leads

the \blacktriangle 3, and leads toward the \blacktriangledown K.

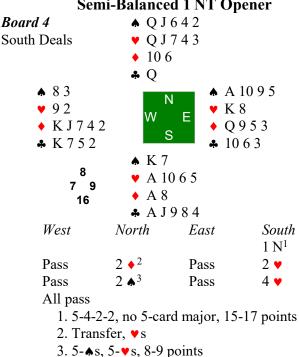
Balanced 14 HCP With poor 5-card Suit



Should South open 1 NT? With 14 HCP and a 5card suits, south might open 1 NT but the • suit is so weak that it will be hard to promote the 5th • and the 1 NT opening bid is rejected.

If South opened 1 NT, North would not bid Stayman (5-4 majors) with only 3 HCP, but would transfer to the 5-card ♠ suit.

Semi-Balanced 1 NT Opener



Contract: 4 ♥ South, 10 Tricks **Lead:** ♦ 4, 4th highest, East plays ♦ Q

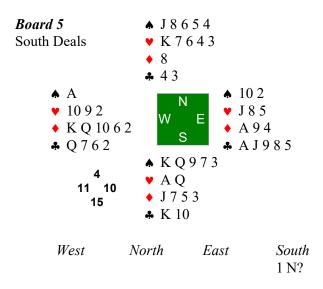
NorthLosers: $3-\spadesuit$, $1-\heartsuit$, $1-\spadesuit=5$.

Play: South wins the • A and • A, ruffs a •,

finesses the \vee K, and promotes \blacktriangle s.

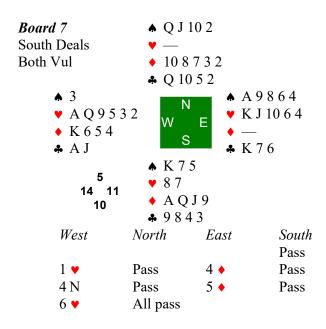
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Unbalanced 1 NT?, Responder 5-5 Majors



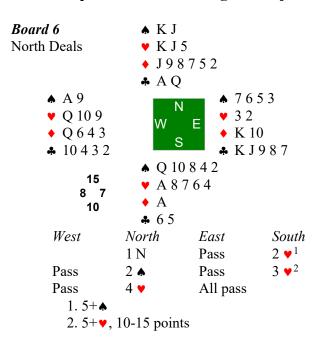
Should South open 1 NT? No. With a 5-card major and a 4-card ◆ suit (good rebid), it is better to open the 5-card major.

If South opens 1 NT, North transfers to a major (North chooses) and passes. 5-5 in majors, less than 8 points.



Splinters next week.

Responder - Game Going 5-5 Majors



Contract: 4 ♥ South, 10 Tricks

Lead: \clubsuit 2, 4th highest **Losers:** 2- \spadesuit , 2- \blacktriangledown , 1- \clubsuit = 5.

Play: The ♣ finesse loses. South wins the ♥ Q

finesse, and promotes As.