| OPENERS $1^{\text {ST }}$ BID |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | 12)13-20(21) OPEN 1 OF |
| LONGEST SUIT - counting long points. |  |
| Rule of 20 may allow opening with $11+$ HCP points (HCP+ no. of cards in longest 2 suits) |  |
| Minimum number of cards in suit for openings: |  |
| 14 or 105 |  |
| 1 - 4 |  |
| 142 |  |
| Open longest suit. |  |
| With $5 / 5$ or $6 / 6$ shaped suits bid higher ranked suit first. |  |
| If $4 / 4$ in minors bid 1 * |  |
| For a balanced hand: |  |
| NO-TRUMP LADDER |  |
| FOR BALANCED HAND$(4333,4432,5332)$ |  |
| HCP + length points |  |
| 12-14 Open 1 of suit and rebid 1NT |  |
| 15-17 Open 1NT |  |
| 18-19 Open 1 of suit then jump rebid 2NT |  |
| 20-21 Open 2NT |  |
| 22-24 Open 24 and rebid 2NT |  |
|  |  |
|  | 25+ Open 2 and rebid 3NT or open 3NT |

## STAYMAN

24response to 1NT opening is Stayman - looking for a 4-
4 major fit.
Normally 8+ points
Responses by opener are:
2 No four card major
20 Yes four hearts (may also
have four spades);
29 Yes four spades only.
WITH FIT FOUND:
8-9 points raise to 3 major 10+ raise to 4 major
WITH NO FIT FOUND (yet): $8-9$ points bid 2 NT
$10+$ points bid 3 NT
Note following 2 response to Stayman, opener with both
majors held can now bid $3 ¢$ or
Similarly, 34 response to a
2 NT opening (or $2 \mathrm{C}: 2 \mathrm{D}, 2 \mathrm{NT}$ ) is Stayman (4+ points required).

| 4NT BLACKWOOD Ace asking |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| If all Aces known, 5NT King ask |  |  |  |
| 4 NT  5 NT  <br> Aces  Kings  <br> 5 $0 / 4$ 6 $0 / 4$ <br> 5 1 6 1 <br> 5 2 6 2 <br> 5 3 6 3 |  |  |  |

## RESPONDING to 1NT (15-17 Total Points)

0-7 BALANCED or 5+card minor - Pass

0-7 UNBALANCED with 5+card Major - TRANSFER
$2 \star$ shows $5+$ hearts
20 shows $5+$ spades
(Response to 2NT opening
similar using $3^{*}$ and $3^{*}$ )
8+ BALANCED HANDS
8-9 bid 2NT (invitational)
10-16 bid 3NT (game)
17-18 Balanced bid 4NT invitational to slam: Opener rebids 6NT with maximum (17) and passes with minimum (1516) 1 NT opening.

8+ UNBALANCED HANDS
$8+$ with 4 card major/s bid 24
(Stayman see left column).
8-9 (invitational) with 5 card major transfer (see above) then bid 2NT
8-9 (invitational) with 6+ card major transfer (see above) then bid 3 of major

10+ with 5 major transfer then bid 3NT - opener passes or bids 4 major with 3+.
10+ with 6+ card major transfer then bid game

## RESPONDING to Opening 2NT

 0-3 Pass4-11 with balanced or long minor bid 3NT
4-11 with 5 major transfer to major then bid 3NT
4-11 with 6+ major transfer to major and bid game in major 4-11 with 4 major bid 34 (Stayman see left column)

## 4\% GERBER

Ace asking bid (how many Aces) only used directly over NT specifically: $1 \mathrm{NT}-4$,
2NT-4
A follow-up of 5 numbers of Kings.

| 4 |  | 5 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aces |  | Kings |  |
| 4 | $0 / 4$ | 5 | $0 / 4$ |
| 4 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| $4 N T$ | 3 | $4 N T$ | 3 |

STRONG OPENING HANDS Open with $2 \$$ (Artificial bid)
$2+22+$ pts balanced or 19+ unbalanced with good playing strength and shape.
RESPONSE
$0-7$ bid $2 \diamond$ negative - waiting Positive response is
$8+$ respond with $5+$ card suit 8+ balanced 2NT

RESPONDING TO OPENERS $2^{\text {ND }}$ BID
1 OF SUIT
WITH A SUIT FIT
Add shortage points and
drop length points
Void -5 points
Singleton - 3 points Doubleton-1 point

## After one of a major

 With a major fit (3+ cards)0-5 PASS
6-10 raise to 2 level
11-12 raise to 3 level
$13+$ bid game
$6+$ after 10 opening bid

1. with $4+$ spade suit and no fit in hearts.

With no major fit 6-12 bid 1NT not enough points for 2 level response.
$13+2$ level response unable to bid at 1 level forced to bid new suit at 2 level (minor 4+cards, heart $5+$ ) $=2$ over 1 game force.
13+ balanced - bid 3NT
After one of a minor With a minor fit
(4+ or $5+4$
$6+$ pts bid 1 of major with a 4+ card holding
Otherwise:
0-5 PASS
6-10 raise minor to 2 level 11-12 raise minor to 3 level
$13+$ consider bidding
game in 3NT or 5 of the minor

With no fit in the minor 6+ bid own suit with 4+ cards at 1 level, or 6-10 bid 1NT
11-12 bid 2NT
13-15 balanced bid 3NT
Note: 2 over opener's 1 shows $13+$ game forcing: with $4+$ clubs in suit with no four card major.

REMEMBER: NEW SUIT BID by an unpassed partner is forcing.
10 p 19 Forcing.
10p2 Forcing to game
(2 over 1 bid)
14p10p20 (non-
forcing, as an "old" suit has been mentioned).

COMPETITIVE BIDDING

## SUIT OVERCALLS

8-17 at 1 level $5+$ cards
with two of top three or three of top five (AKQJ10) Relax this requirement if holding opening hand. If forced to bid at 2 level
e.g. $2 \nmid / /<$ need $12-17$ and very good suit.
15-18 1NT overcall balanced with a stopper in opponent's suit
RESPONDING to
overcalls
It is OK to pass without a fit.
Raise partner's suit if you can.
Don't bid a new suit unless you have a good hand or tolerance in overcaller's suit

6-9 (10) and 3 card trump fit, raise to 2 level 6-9 and 4 card trump fit raise to 3 level 6-9 with 5 card trump fit raise to 4 level $10+$ total pts with fit, cue bid opponents suit

## DOUBLES

13+pts no long suit, shows $3+$ cards in other suits preferably 4+ in majors and 2 or less in opener's bid suit.
$18+$ pts Double and bid again with very strong hands

## RESPONDING to DOUBLE

$0-8$ bid longest suit preferably a major at the cheapest level 9-11 jump bid with longest and best suit $12+$ jump to game or bid openers suit (cue bid)

## PRE EMPTIVE BIDS

Beginners guide - long suit with two of top three or three of top five
Open WEAK 2 BIDS
6-10pts
6-card suit: $2 \star, 2 \boldsymbol{2 \bullet}, 2 \varphi$ Open WEAK 3 BIDS 5-9pts
7-card suit: $3 \uparrow, 3 \star, 3 \downarrow, 3 \oplus$, Open WEAK 4 BIDS 5-9pts
8-card suit: 4\$,4৫,4•,4ゅ

Making the opening lead. Decide which suit to lead. Partner's suit is paramount. in general, don't lead suits that the opponents have bid. Use recommended leads e.g. in no trumps: top of a sequence of 3 touching, or near touching; in a suit contract: top of two or more touching; low card from an honour, top of a doubleton, $4^{\text {th }}$ highest of suit with an honour, $2^{\text {nd }}$ highest of 4 card suit without an honour, etc. Remember for opening leads it is ok to underlead an Ace with $4^{\text {th }}$ best in no-trump contract, but do not underlead an outside Ace in a suit contract - opponents may only have a singleton K in suit contract and Aces are to capture high honours. Agree with partner if a Low card or a High card is used for encouragement


