

7. Notrump rebids

♠ NT rebids

With 12-14 points and a balanced hand, you can open 1NT which describes your hand in just one bid. With 15-19 points it will take you 2 bids to show your hand. Start by bidding your longest suit. If your partner changes the suit, then you rebid notrumps at different levels to show your strength accurately.

Balanced Hands

12 - 14 open 1NT
15 - 17 open 1-suit, rebid NT at minimum level
18 - 19 open 1-suit, rebid NT and jump a level

♠ J43
♥ AQ72
♦ K973
♣ AJ

1♦ 1♠
1NT (15-17. Don't bid 2♥. Show your balanced shape)

♠ J432
♥ AQ7
♦ K973
♣ AJ

1♦ 1♠
2♣ (You should always support partner's major suit)

♠ A432
♥ AQ7
♦ K973
♣ AJ

1♦ 1♥
2NT (18-19)

Rebid notrumps with a balanced hand. If you bid two different suits, you show an unbalanced hand. You will have at least 5 cards in the first suit and 4 in the second suit.

Responding to a NT rebid

Responder simply calculates the total point count and makes a decision...

- whether to bid game
- whether to play in a suit or notrumps

Examples:

♠ J43	♠ K876
♥ AQ74	♥ K3
♦ K97	♦ J542
♣ AJ6	♣ K52

1♥ 1♠
1NT (15-17) 3NT (enough for game)

The next example is a very important one. After opener shows 15-17 hcp, responder calculates there are not enough hcp for game and the 2♥ bid on the second round is a weakness takeout. This is responder's decision. Opener should never bid again.

♠ AQ5	♠ J3
♥ K5	♥ Q98754
♦ AQ43	♦ 652
♣ J542	♣ A6

1♣ 1♥
1NT (15-17) 2♥ (no interest in game)

On the next example, opener has enough to jump to game on the second round, but that doesn't mean the auction is over. Responder is still allowed to keep bidding and, in this case, bids 4♠. Knowing that opener has a balanced hand means that responder can be certain of a spade fit.

♠ AQ5	♠ KJ7653
♥ K53	♥ Q982
♦ AQ43	♦ J52
♣ KJ5	♣ -

1♦ (12-19) 1♠ (6+)
2NT (18-19) 4♠ (best game partner)