

3-Level Bids Over 1NT

JANUARY 10, 2025

Your Convention Card

- ▶ What is the meaning of 3C, 3D, 3H, or 3S in response to partner's 1NT opener?
- ▶ Have an agreement with your partner how you will use these bids.
- ▶ Let's look at some options.

NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS	
1NT	3♣ _____
_____ to _____	3♦ _____
_____ to _____	3♥ _____
5-card Major common <input type="checkbox"/>	3♠ _____
System on over _____	_____
2♣ Stayman <input type="checkbox"/> Puppet <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
2♦ Transfer to ♥ <input type="checkbox"/>	4♦, 4♥ Transfer <input type="checkbox"/>
Forcing Stayman <input type="checkbox"/>	Smolen <input type="checkbox"/>
2♥ Transfer to ♠ <input type="checkbox"/>	Lebensohl <input type="checkbox"/> (____ denies)
2♠ _____	Neg. Double <input type="checkbox"/> _____
2NT _____	Other _____

Three Options

- ▶ 5/5 Majors/Minors
- ▶ Puppet Stayman
- ▶ Fragments

5/5 Majors/Minors

3C = 5/5 Minors Non-forcing

- Partner can pass 3C or correct to 3D

3D = 5/5 Minors Forcing

- Forcing one round. Possible responses include 3NT, 4m, or 5m
- Responder with extras can still pursue slam with a quantitative or ace-asking bid

5/5 Majors/Minors

3H = 5/5 Majors Invitational

- Partner can—
 - pass 3H
 - correct to 3S
 - bid game in NT or one of the majors to accept the invitation

3S = 5/5 Majors Game Forcing

- Partner bids game in either a major or NT
- Responder with extras can still pursue slam with a quantitative or ace-asking bid

Examples

▶ 1NT—3C

- x
- xx
- Kxxxx
- Axxxx

▶ 1NT—3D

- x
- Qx
- KQxxx
- Axxxx

▶ 1NT—3H

- Kxxxx
- KJxxx
- xx
- x

▶ 1NT—3S

- Axxxx
- KJxxx
- Jx
- x

Puppet Stayman

3C = Puppet Stayman

- Asks opener if they have a 4 or 5-card major
- Give up the 5/5 minors weak bid

3D = 5/5 Minors Forcing (same)

- Forcing one round. Possible responses include 3NT, 4m, or 5m
- Responder with extras can still pursue slam with a quantitative or ace-asking bid

Puppet Stayman

3H = 5/5 Majors Invitational (same)

- Partner can—
 - pass 3H
 - correct to 3S
 - bid game in NT or one of the majors to accept the invitation

3S = 5/5 Majors Game Forcing
(same)

- Partner bids game in either a major or NT
- Responder with extras can still pursue slam with a quantitative or ace-asking bid

Responses to Puppet Stayman

- ▶ 1NT—3C
 - 3D = one or both 4-card majors
 - ❖ 3H/3S = responder bids the major they DO NOT have and opener places the contract
 - ❖ 3NT = responder was looking for a 5-card major
 - ❖ 4D = responder has both majors 4/4, opener places the contract
 - 3H = 5 hearts
 - ❖ 3NT = responder was not looking for hearts
 - ❖ 4H = found a fit
 - 3S = 5 spades
 - ❖ 3NT = responder was not looking for spades
 - ❖ 4S = found a fit
 - 3NT = no 4 or 5-card major
 - Responder with a good hand can go on to ask for aces or make a quantitative bid

Examples

▶ 1NT—3C—3D—3H

- ▶ AJxx
- ▶ Qxx
- ▶ Kxxx
- ▶ Jx

▶ 1NT—3C—3H—3NT

- ▶ Kxx
- ▶ Jx
- ▶ Axxx
- ▶ QJxx

▶ 1NT—3C—3D—4D

- ▶ KQxx
- ▶ QJxx
- ▶ A
- ▶ KJxx

▶ 1NT—3C—3S—4S

- ▶ Kxx
- ▶ Jx
- ▶ QJxx
- ▶ AJTx

Fragments

3C = 5/5 Minors Non-forcing
or Puppet Stayman

- Partnership agreement

3D = 5/5 Minors Forcing
(same)

- Forcing one round. Possible responses include 3NT, 4m, or 5m
- Responder with extras can still pursue slam with a quantitative or ace-asking bid

Fragments

3H = 3-1-5/4 (singleton heart)

- Partner can—
 - bid 3NT with stoppers in hearts
 - bid 4S with 5 spades
 - raise one of the minors

3S = 1-3-5/4 (singleton spade)

- Partner can—
 - bid 3NT with stoppers in spades
 - bid 4H with 5 hearts
 - raise one of the minors

Examples

▶ 1NT—3H—3NT

➤ Responder's hand:

- ❖ Qxx
- ❖ X
- ❖ AJxx
- ❖ KQxxx

➤ Opener's hand:

- ❖ AJx
- ❖ AQJx
- ❖ Kxx
- ❖ Jxx

▶ 1NT—3S—4D

➤ Responder's hand

- ❖ X
- ❖ Qxx
- ❖ AJxx
- ❖ KQxxx

➤ Opener's hand:

- ❖ Jxx
- ❖ KJx
- ❖ KQxx
- ❖ AJx