JACOBY 2NT RESPONSES TO 1 MAJOR

Assume partner opens 1♥, possible support responses are:

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2♥ - limit bid 5 - 8 points (or 9+ losers)
3♥ - limit bid 11 - 12 points (or 8 losers)
2NT - Jacoby response - 13 + points with trump support (see below)
4♥ - pre-emptive 7 - 10 points
Splinter bids (3♠, 4♠, 4♠) - singleton or void plus trump support.
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If not using 'losing trick count', with 9 - 10 points change suit and show delayed support.

3NT – balanced 13+ points no heart support (three cards or less). (This could of course be passed if responder also has a balanced hand, particularly in pairs).

2NT (Jacoby response):

Shows 13 + points - game forcing - support for major (4-card majors - 4-cards; 5-card majors - Hxx). This hand usually controls the contract thereafter.

The opener's responses focus on showing shape as follows (assume 1♥ opening):

- $3\clubsuit$, $3\diamondsuit$, $3\diamondsuit$ singleton or void in the suit.
- 4♣, 4♠, 4♠ secondary good five card suit (ideally two of top three honours)— a source of tricks

3NT – intermediate hand 15-16 points, with no singleton or void.

- 3♥ strong hand 17+ points, with no singleton or void.
- **4**♥ all other minimum hands (12-14 points).

(some partnerships reverse the 3NT and 3M responses)

Note:

- with a good secondary five card suit and a singleton or void, give preference to showing the five card suit (remember this also implies a singleton or void).
- the showing of a secondary five card suit can also show the general hand strength depending on which one was originally opened.
- the 2NT bid is game forcing (in the appropriate major).
- same applies for 1♠ opening.

Examples:

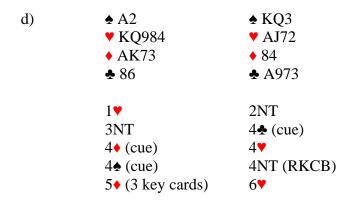


Over the 2NT, opener shows his second suit. Responder's •KQ are now very useful. With one key-card missing, settle for the small slam.



Opener shows the singleton club, which is not to responder's liking. Settle for 4. With a better hand he may progress.

Even with a minimum hand, show the singleton. Since the 2NT is game forcing (in hearts), responder can progress slowly, but opener with a minimum just bids the game.



Tony Haworth